

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events																																																
Digri.	Oct.44.	This month's operations have been very varied. First there was a low level attack on the railway line running North from Bangkok from which two of our aircraft were missing. Following this there were several sorties carried out searching for a dinghy from one of the missing aircraft but without success. Apart from one operation against Taungup carried out by news crews, the rest of the month has been filled with mining operations. After being recalled from an operation against Victoria Point, this was successfully carried out. Another daylight operation mining the approaches to YE and a night mining of Mergui Harbour were successfully accomplished. The outstanding operation of the month was mining Penang. For this the aircraft were taken to Khargpur to use a longer runway, as the all-up weight of the aircraft was higher than usual. This operation entailed a round trip of more than 3000 miles.																																																
	2.10.44.	1064871 Cpl. R. Senior died from injuries caused through an accident. A Court of Inquiry was set up to enquire into events leading to the accident and subsequent death of Cpl. Senior.																																																
		F/O. F.D. Kinsey assumed the duties of Sqdn. Adjutant vice F/Lt. J.L.S. Fry who was tour expd.																																																
		F/Lt. G. Pendleton assumed the duties of O.C. "B" Flight vice F/Lt. W.L. Quinn.																																																
		F/O. T.C. Seabrook assumed duties as Squadron Fire Officer vice W/O. Ware.																																																
	6.10.44.	Two aircraft failed to return from operations and the following are missing:- W/O. L.A. Barr; Sgt. K.G. Pritchard; F/L. D.M. Bruce; F/S. RW. Derrick; Sgt. T.W. Rutter; Sgt. J.S. Ratcliffe; F/O. R.T. Hockings; Sgt G. Kernohan; Sgt. P. Nogan. W/O. J. McKinnon; F/Sgt. L.J. Roper; W/O. C.S. Swans; W/O. E.P. Ford; Sgt. S. Hill; Sgt. J.A. Nelson; F/Sgt. W.N. Paterson; F/Sgt. H.F. Richardson.																																																
	8.10.44.	W/Cdr. Pape, R.A.A.F. Liaison Officer visited the Squadron and stayed overnight.																																																
	9.10.44.	Telegram received from A.O.C. Strategic Air Force congratulating Squadron on putting out full strength on operation on 6.10.44.																																																
	12.10.44.	F/O. J.D. Goody appointed to take Summary of Evidence in case of 1345067 F/S. W. McCabe.																																																
	14.10.44.	F/Lt. Blondel and F/O McMurphy, Group Radar Officer, visited Sqdn.																																																
	16.10.44.	W/Cdr. J. Blackburn D.S.O. D.F.C. resumed command of Squadron vice S/Ldr. R.A. Robertson.																																																
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	21.10.44.	Congratulations from A.O.C. 231 Group for operation on 20.10.44., (Mining at Victoria Point).																																																
	23.10.44.	12th Hill Party left for Chakrata.																																																
	24.10.44.	A B.E.S.A. Show "Mainly Music" was given in the Station Cinema.																																																
	28.10.44.	P/O. Miller, Public Relations Officer, visited the Squadron to cover the operation against Penang.																																																
	29.10.44.	Congratulatory telegram received from A.O.C. 231 Group for operation on Oct. 27th, (Mining at Penang).																																																
		Medical Notes.																																																
		F/Lt. J.P. Kelly left the Sqdn. on 5.10.44. on posting to Adv.Hqs. A.C.S.E.A. and F/Lt. G.S. Grant, who arrived on 2.10.44. took over the Medical Charge.																																																
		No aircrew have been admitted to hospital or sick quarters as battle casualties although two crews are reported missing. There has been a small increase in the total number of sick, due chiefly to a rise in the Malaria figures. Below are the figures for the month.																																																
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Disease</th> <th colspan="3">Admissions</th> <th colspan="3">Remaining in Hosp.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Total</th> <th>*G.S.</th> <th>*A.C.</th> <th>Total</th> <th>*G.S.</th> <th>*A.C.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Malaria.</td> <td>21</td> <td>15</td> <td>6</td> <td>11</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. N.Y.D. Fever.</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>--</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Dengue.</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Injuries.</td> <td>19</td> <td>9</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Acute Tonsilitis.</td> <td>7</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>--</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Disease	Admissions			Remaining in Hosp.			Total	*G.S.	*A.C.	Total	*G.S.	*A.C.	1. Malaria.	21	15	6	11	6	5	2. N.Y.D. Fever.	4	4	--	5	4	--	3. Dengue.	8	7	1	--	--	--	4. Injuries.	19	9	2	2	2	--	5. Acute Tonsilitis.	7	5	2	2	2	--
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Place	Date	Summary of Events						
		6. Skin Disease	8	5	3	2	1	1
		7. Respiratory T.I.	5	2	3	2	1	1
		8. Ear Disease.	3	1	2	1	--	1
		9. Orthopaedic Cases.	1	1	--	1	1	--
		10. Infective Hepatitis.	2	2	--	1	1	--
		11 Gastro Intestinal Disease (All)	4	4	--	6	5	1
		A. Dysentery.	2	2	--	5	4	1
		12. Kidney Disease.	1	--	1	1	--	1
		13. Venereal Disease.	1	1	--	1	1	--
		14 Dental Cases.	1	--	--	1	--	1
		Total: Ads. 77. G.S. 56. A/C 21.						
		Remng. in Hosp. Total: 36. GS 25; A/C 11.						
		Five latrines were condemned during the month owing their becoming unserviceable. Various new latrines are being constructed and the S.D.O. has promised completion within a month. Various structural alteration have been carried out in the Sgts' Mess and the kitchen has been whitewashed; new whites have been issued to cooks. A daily inspection of the fruit and the hawkers as well as the barber was instituted by the Medical Officer and a great improvement in their cleanliness was obtained. A committee was formed for the purpose of centralising and improving the distribution of flying rations. the M.O. will act in an advisory capacity. There was one case of V.D. this month, contracted from a native women labourer on the camp. Two other airmen reported for blood tests in view of the fact they had also had intercourse with the women and it was ascertained that a civilian cook had been acting as "agent". He has now been removed and the Police have been warned to keep a sharp look out for further incidents of this nature. There was an increase in the malaria figures: almost all the B.T. cases were contracted on camp; one case of M.T. was probably contracted whilst on leave and others were undoubtedly due to their habit of working at night with entire disregard of personal protection. Steps have been taken to improve discipline in this direction and there is a squad of coolies cutting down undergrowth and generally cleaning up the site which help to eliminate malaria.						
		Inoculations were carried out as below:						
		T.A.B. 60. Tet. Tox 40; Cholera 20.						
		No vaccinations have been carried out during the month but a list is in course of preparation.						
		The health of the Squadron remains satisfactory. Sick parades average about 2 per cent. There has been one death on the Squadron and two airmen have been repatriated on medical grounds.						
		Sports Notes.						
		Hockey and football continued as usual with games nearly every free evening. Maintenance still maintain their lead in the football, whilst in Hockey, "A: flight Ground Crew are at the top with the Officers close behind and a game in hand. A number of inter-squadron and wing games were played with varying results. A certain amount of cricket material was obtained and games between Aircrew teams, Australian and English and also inter-squadron games were arranged. It is hoped to organise even more games next month for the ground crews.						
		Welfare Notes.						
		The Squadron Canteen continued to operate successfully. At the four-monthly audit it was found that the venture was proving highly successful and it is hoped that the loan will be completely paid off shortly.						
		Concert party rehearsal continued. It has been decided to extend the cinema stage and a curtain has been purchased by 185 Wing. It is hoped that work on the extension will commence very soon. A number of band parts were obtained from Command Welfare and this formed an excellent basis for band rehearsals which it is hoped to use in conjunction with the concert party.						
		(J. Blackburn)						

Place	Date	Summary of Events
		Wing Commander Commanding
		No.159 Squadron, R.A.F.