

# 159 Squadron RAF 1942

Transcription of records from the Public Records Office, Kew.  
Air 27

Robert Quirk

Winnipeg, Canada

Draft April 2005

## Table of Contents

January - February, 1942.....	3
Form 540 (U.K.) .....	3
March, 1942 .....	4
Form 540 (U.K.) .....	4
April, 1942 .....	5
Form 540 (India).....	5
May, 1942 .....	6
Form 540 (Middle East - India).....	6
June, 1942 .....	7
Form 540.....	7
July, 1942.....	8
Form 540 (India).....	8
June – July, 1942 .....	9
Form 540 (India).....	9
June, August – September 1942.....	10
Form 540 (India).....	10
July, August, and September, 1942 .....	11
Form 540 (India).....	11
August, 1942.....	12
Form 540 (Middle East).....	12
Form 541 (Middle East).....	15
September, 1942.....	29
Form 540 (Middle East).....	29
Form 540 (India).....	32
Form 541 (Middle East).....	33
October, 1942 .....	46
Form 540 (India).....	46
November, 1942.....	48
Form 540 (India).....	48
December, 1942.....	52
Form 540 (India).....	52

## January - February, 1942 Form 540 (U.K.)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Molesworth	2/1/42	Instructions issued by Air Ministry to the effect that 159 Squadron was to form at Molesworth for subsequent despatch overseas to the Middle East – to be equipped with Liberator Mk.11 aircraft (16 I.E.).
		Establishment to be War/ME/448.
	15/1/42	Air Officer i/c Records notified that the formation of 159 Squadron was to be done by means of No. 3812 Draft.
	16/1/42	Approximately 140 other ranks reported to Molesworth from No. 1 P.D.C. West Kirby, having been withdrawn from 22 Squadron. This party formed the nucleus of 159 Squadron.
	16/1/42 to 12/2/42	The Squadron was brought up to strength; personnel were inoculated, vaccinated, granted embarkation leave and kitted out to scale.
	1/2/42	The Squadron was divided into two parties – Boat Party and Air Party.
	16/1/42 to 12/2/42	Maintenance personnel proceeding to Polebrook daily for instruction on Liberator aircraft under the direction of 1653 Conversion Unit.
		Air Party medically examined as to fitness for a long air journey. All found fit.
	12/2/42	8 Officers, 3 Warrant Officers, 12 F/Sgts. & Sgts. and 511 other ranks proceeded to Thrapston Railway station and entrained in two special trains for Liverpool, part of embarkation; the first train leaving Thrapston at 0250 hours and the second at 0830 hours.
		The Air Party (2 officers and 64 other ranks) attached to Molesworth.
Postings	14/1/42	F/O. C. V. G. Usher posted from 142 Squadron for Engineer Duties (F/Lt. Post)
	15/1/42	P/O. T. K. Neal posted from 10 A.G.S. for Electrical Engineer Duties.
	21/1/42	F/O R. C. Hedger posted from Thurleigh for Adjutant duties (F/Lt. Post).
	21/1/42	P/O. R. A. Plank posted from Linton-on-Ouse for Defence duties.
	21/1/42	F/O. J. N. M. Heffer posted from Honington for Int/Ops. duties.
	21/1/42	P/O. C. B. E. Morgan posted from Wattisham for Int/Ops. duties.
	21/1/42	P/O. B. K. Cooper posted from 22 O.T.U. for signals duties.
	21/1/42	P/O. J. C. Weir posted from 13 O.T.U. for Defence duties.
	22/1/42	P/O. J. Walden posted from Dishforth for Equipment Duties.
	22/1/42	P/O. C. B. E. Morgan posted to 160 Squadron for Int/Ops. duties.
	23/1/42	P/O. J. C. Weir posted to 160 Squadron for Defence duties.
	23/1/42	A.P.O. H. R. Cocker and A.P.O. J. G. R. Vosper posted from Molesworth for Code and Cypher duties.
	26/1/42	P/O. B. K. Cooper posted to 22 O.T.U. for signal duties.
	26/1/42	P/O. T. K. J. Farns posted from 21 O.T.U. for signals duties.
	26/1/42	P/O. J. Walden posted to Molesworth for Equipment duties.
	26/1/42	P/O. J. I. Coleman posted from Molesworth for Equipment duties.
	28/1/42	F/Lt. E. B. Davies posted from 8 Group (Pool) for Medical Duties.
	10/2/42	P/O. J. H. Dingle posted from St. Eval for Adjutant's duties.
	10/2/42	F/O. R. C. Medger posted to Molesworth supernumerary.
	12/2/42	F/O. J. B. Coleman posted from Molesworth for medical duties.
	12/2/42	F/Lt. E. B. Davies posted to Molesworth supernumerary.

Signed on behalf of the Officer Commanding 159 Squadron  
Wing Commander, Commanding,  
R.A.F. Station, Molesworth  
(end of frame orb006)

## March, 1942 Form 540 (U.K.)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Freetown Harbour	1.3.42	Arrived in Freetown Harbour yesterday morning at 07.30 hours. (On "S.S. Cuba") Lecture given to the Squadron on the composition of the German Air Force.
	4.3.42	Lecture given by the M.O. on the effects of the Tropical climate, and the various precautions to take. Concert and variety show given by those possessing talent on the ship.
At sea	6.3.42	Moved out of Freetown Harbour this morning.
	8.3.42	Church Service at 10.00 hours. Crossed equator at 14.00 hours.
	9.3.42	The crossing of the Equator was celebrated today. Certificates were given to those who were initiated.
	12.3.42	Practice Air Raid Alarm was held. A Concert was given at 15.00 hours and a Boxing match was held after tea.
Durban	21.3.42	Drew into Durban port at 09.15 hours.
	22.3.42	Squadron disembarked of "S.S. Cuba" and proceeded to Clairwood Transit Camp, near Durban.
	26.3.42	A trip was organised for the members of the Squadron to one of the beauty spots just outside Durban.

Signed Hopkins  
Wing Commander, Commanding  
No. 159 Squadron, R.A.F. India.

## April, 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Durban	6.4.42	Squadron entrained at Clairwood Station and proceeded to Durban Docks. Embarked on the "Nieuw Amsterdam". The ship steamed out of Port about 17.00 hours.
At Sea	11.4.42	Entertainment given in the Dining Hall at 14.00 hours.
	12.4.42	Church Service held in Dining hall at 10.00 hours.
	13.4.42	Personnel of the Squadron went to the Cinema Show, which was being given on the Ship. "French Without Tears".
	15.4.42	Disembarked on Egyptian soil. Alighted from the ship on to small ferrying craft which conveyed personnel to landing stages in shallow water. Squadron proceeded to Fayid Camp in transport and were billeted under canvas.
Fayid (Egypt)	17.4.42	Facilities afforded to Squadron personnel for sending letters and cables home.
	19.4.42	Bathing parades organised. Film shows and Y.M.C.A. Canteen close at hand for the enjoyment of Squadron personnel.
	25.4.42	Air raid alarm sounded at 20.00 hours. All personnel were ordered to the slit trenches. One or two enemy aircraft were heard and flashes of gunfire were seen.
	26.4.42	Squadron personnel camouflaged all tents with patches of sand.
	28.4.42	First batch of private mail received for the Squadron.
	30.4.42	Pay parade: free issue of cigarettes and matches was also made.

Signed Hopkins  
Wing Comander, Commanding,  
No. 159 Squadron, R.A.F. India.

## May, 1942 Form 540 (Middle East - India)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Fayid (Egypt)	1.5.42	Sandstorm blew up. Sand swept into Cookhouse and penetrated into the food.
	3.5.42	Many airmen reported sick with illness brought about by sand in the food etc.
	9.5.42	First posting out, in the Squadron; W/O. Discip. Warrant Officer Wright, posted to H.Q. Middle East Pool. Squadron today received moving instructions. Paraded at 16.00 hours. Pay was exchanged and personnel departed by train for Tewfig. Stayed the night at Tewfig under canvas.
	10.5.42	Proceeded to Port of Embarkation in transport and boarded H.M.S. "Dunera" at 09.00 hours. Steamed out of port about 11.30 hours.
At Sea	13.5.42	P.T. Parades organised. Climate exceedingly sultry.
Aden	14.5.42	Hove to at Port of Aden. Private and official mail was sent on to land.
At Sea	17.5.42	Tug of War between 159 and 160 Squadron teams. 159 Sqdn. won.
	21.5.42	Approached Bombay Harbour at 0900 hrs. Remained at anchor.
Deolali	24.5.42	Disembarked at 10.000 hrs. and proceeded to Deolali transit Camp.
India	27.5.42	Entrained at 20.00 hours at Deolali en rout for Chakrata.
	30.5.42	Arrived at Dehra Dun and loaded on to transport up to No. 4 Hill depot Chakrata.

Signed Hopkins  
 Wing Commander, Commanding,  
 No. 159 Squadron, R.A.F. India.

## June, 1942 Form 540

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Chakarata (U.P.) India	2.6.42	Periods of drill and marching arranged, together with P.T. Parades and route marches.
	4.6.42	Instructional Trade lectures held for the benefit of airmen on the Squadron with a view to their taking a future reclassification Board.
	9.6.42	Sports: Heats for the Sports were eliminated.
	10.6.42	Sports day. The Squadron was well represented and many of the members won cups and medals for running, jumping and racing. The prizes were presented by S/Ldr. Sleightholme, Commanding Officer, No. 4 Hill Depot, Chakrata.
	18.6.42	Large batch of private mail for Squadron personnel.
	20.6.42	Fine weather broke and there were heavy rains and violent thunderstorms.

Signed Hopkins  
Wing Commander, Commanding,  
No. 159 Squadron, R.A.F. India.

## July, 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Chakrata (U.P.) India	7.7.42	Twenty-three airmen ACH/GDs. posted to No. 308 M.U. Allahabad. Proceeded by transport at 08.00 hours.
	11.7.42	60 airmen of the trades of Fitter IIE, Fitter IIA, F.M.E., F.M.A., Electricians, and Armourer, were detached to No. 302 M.U. and proceeded at 08.00 hours in the charge of P/O T. Farns.
	25.7.42	Lecture given by Medical Officer on the varieties of poisonous snakes generally encountered in India, also a lecture on diet, and foods which should be avoided.
	28.7.42	Two Clerks G.D. Detached to A.H.Q. India. Photographic lecture given. Full training programme in force. Lectures and periods of instruction in all trades. Physical Training and recreational team games organised. Football matches arranged between the teams of different units in the Hill Depot.

Signed Hopkins

Wing Commander, Commanding,  
No. 159 Squadron, R.A.F. India.



## June – July, 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

(not a repeat of previous frame – form still called 540, but typed, rather than printed form; no place given)

Place	Date	Summary of Events
	27/6	S/Ldr Austin (O. C., No. 4 Hill Dep.) inspected No. 159 Sqdn. Billets confirmed that address of Sqdn now 159 Sqdn. R.A.F. India.
	1/7	P/O. Newsome (No. 4 H.D.) app. Station Equip. Off.) vice P/O. Coleman. DRO 94 – 2/7/42.
	4/7	159 Sqdn billets inspected by W/Cdr. Sleightholme (O.C. No. 4 H.D.)
	7/7	23 ACH/GD's proceeded on detachment to No. 302 MU. Allahabad Sgt. MacLarg NCO. i/c.
	8/7	159 Sqdn. C.O., Adjt, Orderly Room, move to East Hill No. 6 Block.
	10/7	Sqdn. T.A.B. inoculation for all ranks, HMH. Chakrata.
	11/7	159 Sqdn. billets inspected by W/Cdr. Sleightholme. 99 Elect. Arms. & Fitters proceeded to 302 & 308 M.U's on detachment. P/O Farns i/c.
	17/7	P/O Coleman proceeded on posting to No. 155 Sqdn. Karachi.
	18/7	159 Sqdn. billets inspected by W/Cdr. Simpson, AFC, MM, AFM.

## June, August – September 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

(form still called 540, but typed, rather than printed form; no place given)

Place	Date	Summary of Events
	13/8	F/O. Heffer assumes command of Sqdn vice F/O. Dungle.
	14/8	15 W/Ops. proceeded on detachment to A.H.Q. Bengal.
	15/8	159 Sqdn billets inspected by S/Ldr. Jarvis.
	17/8	Troop movements stopped to stations east of Benares on K.I.R. Squadron detachments of W/Ops held at Dehra Dun pending lifting of ban.
	25/8	P/O's Cocker and Vosper proceeded on detachment to A.H.Q.
	1/9	192164 Sgt. Corson takes over station police vice Sgt. Murray. D.R.O. 151 – 1/9/42.
	3/9	P/O. Dingle assumes command of the Sqdn vice F/O. Heffer. F/O. Heffer proceeded on posting to HQ. 221 Group.
	5/9	159 Sqdn billets inspected by W/Cdr. Blandford.
	6/9	P/O. Plank assumes duties of Stn. Adj.
	12/9	159 Sqdn billets inspected by W/Cdr. Blandford.
	14/9	P/O. Plank proceeded to Ambala on posting as Stn. Defence Off.
	16/9	P/O. Dingle promoted F/O. wef. 1/4/42.
	1/6 <sup>1</sup>	Squadrons 3rd day at No. 1 Hill depot.
	3/6	F/O Heffer granted powers of sub commander vide KR & ACI's 1141 D.R.O. 69 – 3/6/42.
	6/6	P/O Coleman appointed P.A.M.C. P/O Cocker i/c Sgts. Mess, P/O Vosper M.T. Officer P/O Farns – P.A.D. D.R.O 72 – 6/6/42.
	9/6	Station Sports Meeting, No. 159 Sqdn entrants gained majority of prizes.
	16/6	159 Cpls Club formed with F/O Dingle as present. 1079241 Cpl. Jackson Chairman, 936351 Cpl. Stanier, Sec.
	17/6	P/O Coleman app. Equip. Officer. 512224 Sgt. Goode app. Equip. N.C.O. DRO 81 – 17/6/42.

<sup>1</sup> This is given as "6, as are the subsequent entries on this frame of microfilm, but perhaps it should be "9"?

## July, August, and September, 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

(this is how it was in the record – again, a typed form, not printed)

Place	Date	Summary of Events
Chakrata	19/9	159 Sqdn Billets inspected by W/Cdr. J. A. Blanford.
	22/9	1st part of 120 airmen proceeded to Dehra Dun. i/c Sgt. Ferris.
	23/9	2nd party of 166 O.R. proceeded to Dehra Dun. i/c F/O Dingh Sqdn entrained 2100 hrs for R.A.F. Station, Salbani.
Dehra Dun	24/9	Sqdn. Left Behra Dun 0705 hrs.
	25/9	En. route Salbani.
	26/9	do.
	27/9	Arrived Salbani 0300 hrs. Sqdn. Transported to RAF. Salbani.
Salbani	28/9	Sqdn. C.O., Ajdt., & Orderly Room Staff located in No. 5 Block. Weather: Sultry, 8/10 cloud. heavy rain 14-1500 hrs.
	29/9	Weather: - Sunny periods, light wind 2-4/10 cloud. heavy shower 1500 hrs.
	30/9	Weather: Blight, light winds visibility 00. Liberator AL544 landed 1315 hrs with W/Cdr. C. G. Skinner, F/Lt. Usher, F/Lt. J. M. O. Dyer, F/O Humphries, P/O. Ashworth, P/O. Muirhead, 551364 F/Sgt. McCreery, W/Op.A.G. 1164379 Sgt. Christmas W/Op.A.G. 1064111 A/F/Sgt. Reid, A.G. 947752 Sgt. Deak A.G. 328645 Sgt. Warren Arm. 938011 Sgt. Smedley, Elect I. 532287 Sgt. Watson I. M.
	July	
Chakrata	20/7	P/O Heffer app. Statn. Security Officer, P/O Farms app. Ass. Stn. Adj. DRO 109 – 20.7.42.
	25/7	159 Sqdn billets inspected by W/Cdr. Simpson, AFC,MM,AFM. P/O T. E. J. Farms (Sigs) proceeded on posting to A.H.Q.
	7/8	P/O Dingle assumes command of Sqdn vice F/O Heffer.
	8/8	Sqdn. Kit inspection.
	12/8	13 ACH/GD. proceeded to ATU. Bairagarh on detachment. Sgt. Ball i/c.

## August, 1942 Form 540 (Middle East)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Malta	Night. 1/2nd August	0033	One Liberator left to attack an M/V thought to be in Navarino Bay (Greece). The target area was reached but the M/V could not be seen in the position given. Four other ships were seen there and a bombing run at 10,000 feet was started. Unfortunately as the bombs were being selected they were accidentally dropped into the sea. The four ships put up a smoke screen. A.A. came from ships in the harbour and from land, but it was ineffective. Time over target 0230 to 0320 hrs L.T. Bombs dropped 4 x 1000 lbs GP. Weather was good. The aircraft went on and landed at Fayid (Egypt) at 0730 hours.
St. Jean. (Palestine)	Night. 2/3rd.		Four Liberators were detailed to attack shipping in Tobruk harbour. One aircraft had engine trouble and did not leave base. The remaining three aircraft reached the target. Aircraft "R?" located a ship of approximately 7,000 tons in the harbour and dropped 4 x 1000 lbs bombs at it, but could not observe results. The captain dropped his other four bombs on the jetty area, claiming a direct hit on a jetty. The other two Liberators aimed at the jetty area, but could not see results owing to evasive action and searchlight dazzle. Two large explosions were seen but not claimed., by these crews – one near the Naval Fuel Tanks and one in the dock area. Heavy A.A., moderate. 12 searchlights working in cones. Bombs dropped 24 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Hours flown 22.52. Over target 0220 to 0304 hrs L.T. Weather was good.
Fayid	4th		Three Liberators were ordered to take part in a daylight attack on a convoy in co-operation with 15 B. 24 aircraft of 98th Bombardment Group (American). One Liberator failed to take off. The other two turned back and landed at Fayid as the American aircraft flew too slowly to enable a safe formation to be maintained. They each jettisoned 4 x 1000 lb. bombs in the Sinai Desert and brought two back.
St. Jean.	Night. 4/5th.		Two Liberators operated from Fayid (Egypt) to attack Tobruk. No shipping was seen though weather was good. Each aircraft carried 4 x 1000 lbs and 6 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD. One aircraft bombed the harbour area but could not see results owing to evasive action. The other bombed the area of the Naval Fuel tanks. One bomb hung up but was immediately jettisoned. This bomb was claimed to have hit and silenced a heavy A.A. battery, North of the storage tanks. A.A. was not so intense as usual. 16 searchlights were operating. Time over target 0205 to 0245 hrs. L.T. Bombing height 14/15,000 feet. Both aircraft returned to St. Jean (Palestine).
St. Jean.	Evening. 6th.		Six Liberators took off to attack shipping at Tobruk. One large vessel, thought to be 500 feet and of 10,000 tons was seen moving in the middle of the harbour. A medium vessel at the West end of the harbour and some smaller ones near jetties were also seen. Aircraft 'D' claimed a possible direct hit and one near miss on the large ship, followed by black smoke from the bows. The crew thought it was left on fire. This claim was supported by crews of the other aircraft. Bombs were seen to fall very near a ship at the mouth of the harbour, while an explosion with smoke and flames was seen in the dock area. A.A. was fairly intense but inaccurate. No fighters were encountered. Time over target 1934 to 1940 hours L.T. Bombs dropped 36 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 14/15,000 feet. Hours flown 52.27. Weather was good. Aircraft 'T?' crashed on landing, owing to undercarriage collapsing. The crew were not injured.
St. Jean	Night 9/10th		Five Liberators were detailed to attack shipping at Tobruk. 7.10ths to 10/10ths cloud over the target made observation of results difficult, but it was thought that a small fire was started in the dock area. Aircraft 'D' brought his bombs back. They hung up on his first run over the target which he could see through a hole in the cloud, but when he made his second run he could see nothing to bomb owing to cloud. Two probable dummy fires were seen and a mass of red, white and green lights in the shape of a large vessel – but on land – suggest a

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			dummy lighted ship. A double row of white lights was noted in the position of the P/W camp. One possible Ju. 88 seen over the target at 11,000 feet but no attack was made. Time over target 0155 to 0259 hrs. L.T. Bombs dropped 48 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD from 10,500 to 15,000 feet. Hours flown 43.25. A.A. was not as intense as usual.
Malta	Evening 11th.		Three Liberators were detailed to attack shipping at Navaring Bay (Greece). One failed to take off owing to tyre trouble. The remaining two located the target. One (Captain F/Lt. Dyer) obtained a direct hit on a cruiser moored with two others on the East side of Sphantina Island. A terrific explosion resulted. A quantity of white smoke or steam was later seen coming from the cruiser. Bombs of the other aircraft fell on land. A.A. come mainly from the cruisers. The heavy was accurate at times. Bombs dropped 12 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 13,000 to 13,500 feet. Time over target 1930 to 1944 hour L.T. Hours flown 20.30.
	12th		The Squadron moved from St. Jean to Aqir.
Aqir	Night 15/16th		Nine Liberators were detailed to attack a convoy at 32°14'N: 33°35'E, at 1501 hours. Aircraft 'P' lost 3 x 1000 lb bombs on take off, jettisoned 3 bombs in the sea and returned to base. Aircraft 'U' returned early owing to excessive fuel consumption, having jettisoned his six bombs in the sea. Six other aircraft, unable to locate target or find any other shipping, jettisoned bombs and returned to base. Aircraft 'C' (Captain, Wing Commander McNair) made square search, then started for secondary target – Suda Bay. On the way he found and bombed a large ship in position 34°50'N: 22°30'E. It was apparently on fire from the bows. A destroyer or corvette was near. Near misses (50 to 100 yards) were seen. Bombs dropped 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Hours flown 70.25.
Malta	Night 16/17th		One Liberator left Malta at 2255 hours to attack aerodrome at Catania (Sicily). The landing ground was located and bombs were seen to the NE of and possibly across the Landing Ground Green flares, suspended from parachutes, were seen at the same height as the aircraft i.e. 12,000 feet. It was not clear whether they were dropped by enemy aircraft or shot from the ground. Time over target 23.25 to 2346 hours L.T. Bombs dropped 4 x 500 lbs and 8 x 250 lbs GP from 12,000 feet. Hours flown 7.00. The aircraft landed at Fayid (Egypt).
Aqir	Night 19/20th.		Nine Liberators were detailed to attack Tobruk. One aircraft did not take off owing to engine trouble. The remaining eight aircraft located target and dropped many bombs on the dock area. Three large explosions were seen, followed by a fire seen 50 miles away. A deep red fire was also started in the dock area. A small shop at the main jetty was attacked by two aircraft. Bursts were seen near. Two other aircraft attacked a ship of about 10,000 tons seven mile NE of the harbour entrance. Bursts within 50 yards. A.A. was fairly intense but not accurate. Flares lit up target extremely well. Bombs dropped 48 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 9,000 to 13,500 feet. Time over target 2335 to 0019 hours L.T. Hours flown 65.36. Cloud 6/10ths over North of harbour, but clear out to sea.
Aqir	21st		Nine Liberators were detailed to carry out shipping strike. Two aircraft did not take off – engine trouble – and one aircraft abandoned task owing to airscrew trouble and jettisoned his bombs. The remaining six aircraft located the convoy at 33°52'N: 24°37'E. It was thought to comprise one tanker and two M/V, and one escort vessel (possibly a destroyer). All bombs were seen to burst in the vicinity, the nearest being 150 yards. One Ju. 88 and two Breda aircraft were observed but no interception took place Slight light flak. Weather good. Time of attack 1817 to 1832 hours L.T. Bombs dropped 12 x 1000 lbs and 53 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. Hours flown 44.17.
Aqir	Evening 23rd.		Six Liberators were detailed to attack a tanker at Tobruk. No news of aircraft 'S'. The remainder reported locating Tobruk and attacked a ship, believed a tanker, near the jetties and small M/V further out in the harbour. No bursts were seen on the ships, but bursts were seen on jetty No. 2 and a light A.A. battery there was silenced. A small motor boat disappeared after being bombed. A fire with smoke trail 300 yards long was seen at Square S. 10 (Target map T/1 (1)). Two

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			of our aircraft reported seeing our aircraft 'S' losing height with smoke and debris coming from it. Flak moderate but accurate. Three fighters were seen, with one short interception. Time over target 1945 to 2009 hour L.T. Bombs dropped 26 x 1000 lbs and 8 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD from 15,000 to 16,500 feet. Hours flown 42.09 Weather was good, but there was a low haze.
Aqir	Night 24/25th.		Three Liberators were detailed to attack Tobruk. One aircraft abandoned task owing to hydraulics trouble, having jettisoned 8 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD bombs. The captain brought back 2 x 1000 lbs bombs. The other two aircraft located the target in spite of 9/10ths cloud and bombed the harbour. It was impossible to observe the results owing to weather conditions. A.A. was slight. Heavy was inaccurate. Only 4 searchlights. The defences did not appear to wish to betray exact locality of target. Time over target 0003 to 0025 hours. L.T. Bombs dropped 12 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 14,000 to 15,000 feet. Hours flown 16.52.
Aqir	Night 25/26th		Four Liberators attacked the pontoon bridge at the NW end of the Corinth Canal. The target was clearly identified in the moonlight and bombs were seen falling towards the canal. As the bombs were all delay, results ere of course not seen. Flak, mainly light up to 8,000 feet fairly accurate, mostly from ends of canal. Many fires were seen on the mainland of Greece – thought kindled by friendly inhabitants. Time over target 0042 to 0129 hours. Bombs dropped 8 x 1000 lbs GP 12 hour delay; 4 x 1000 lbs GP 36 hour delay; 8 x 1000 lbs 72 hour delay; 4 x 1000 lbs GP 144 hour delay – from 4,000 to 6,000 feet. Hours flown 37.25.
Aqir	26th		F/Lt. D. D. Maynard posted to No. 242 Wing H.Q. Remained attached to Squadron for Adjutant duties.
Aqir	27th		Approximately 290 men of 454 Squadron arrived to take over servicing duties of squadron from 458 Squadron.
Aqir	Night 28/29th		Eleven Liberators were detailed to attack Tobruk. Five failed to take off, one having been damaged by slight fire on ground. The other six aircraft located the target and started a large red fire and some other fires in the harbour area. One aircraft claimed to have set a medium sized ship on fire. Three other white fires were seen on the South side of the harbour but not claimed and a series of reddish fires were seen on the North bank. The heavy A.A. was more intense than usual, but was not very accurate. Time over target 0105 to 0135 hours L.T. Bombs dropped 36 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 12,000 to 14,500 feet. Total hours flown 48.33. The weather was good.
Aqir	30th		P/O. W. D. Goodhan arrived from No. 205 Group on posting as Equipment Officer.
Aqir	Night 30/31st		Seven Liberators were detailed to attack a tanker in Tobruk. One aircraft returned early owing to fuel leak and jettisoned his bombs. The other six aircraft were unable to find the tanker but bombed harbour installations. Bursts were seen and a fire started near No. 1 jetty. A big red fire NE of the town was seen and green explosions coming from it. The fire seem to last 50 minutes. A.A. moderate. The beam gunner of aircraft 'K' (F/Sgt. Lewis) was hit in the arm. Time over target 0210 to 0247 hours. Bombs dropped 36 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 11,000 to 15,000 feet. Hours flown 48.21. Weather good, but 4/10ths cloud at times over target.

## August, 1942 Form 541 (Middle East)

159 Squadron

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
Night 1/2nd August	Liberator AL579	F/Lt. Dyer	Attack shipping Navarino Bay.	2123 (GMT)	0430 (GMT)	Took off from Malta and located target area, but did not find the primary target, an M/V thought to be in the harbour. Four cruisers were seen but as bombs were selected they all fell off into the sea. The cruisers put up a moderate smoke screen. Light and heavy flak from ships and land – inaccurate. Bombs dropped 4 x 1000 lbs GP. Landed at Fayid (Egypt). Weather good.
		Sgt. Morris				
		P/O. Sutton				
2/3rd. August	AL531	S/Ldr. MacKay	Shipping and dock installations – Tobruk	2250	0630	Reached and located Tobruk. As no shipping was seen, bombs were dropped along the harbour area. Bursts only were observed. The A.A. was not so intense as usual. Ten searchlights, with two blue masters – went on and off together. Two were sweeping low over the water. Bombs dropped 8 x 1000 lbs GP. .12 TD.
		P/O. Mahoney				
		F/Lt. Reid				
"	AL536	F/O. MacDonald	"	2312	0715	Located target but saw no shipping. Aimed at dock installations but could not observe results owing to searchlight dazzle. Bombs as above.
		F/O. Evans				
		P/O. Teague				
"	AL548	F/O. Tannahill	"	2245	0645	Reached target. Ship seen SW of jetty 6. Aimed four bombs at this, but results were not seen. The captain continued his run Northwards and dropped his other four bombs at jetty 6 claiming a direct hit. Aircraft was held by searchlights, but the A.A. did not fire at this aircraft. A large explosion was observed on the South shore of the harbour. Twelve searchlights in cone. A.A. moderate. Bomb load as above.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		P/O. Malley				
4th August	AL531	S/Ldr. Boffee	Attack Enemy Convoy	1530	1820	Operated from Fayid (Egypt), in conjunctions with one other Liberator of same Squadron and B. 24's of 98 H.B.G. After flying one and a half hours the captain ordered the R.A.F. aircraft to break formation as the Americans were flying too slowly. Returned to base, having jettisoned 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Brought two back. Nil Operations.
		P/O. Muirhead				
		W/O. Boteler				
"	AL ? <sup>2</sup> "T"	F/Lt. Willatt	"	1536	1832	The same as above – AL531.
		P/O. Rostance				
		F/Sgt. Winfield				
"	AL ? "U"	F/Sgt. Brown	"	-	-	Did not operate. Engine trouble.
		F/Sgt. Carter				
		F/Sgt. Coe				

<sup>2</sup> The "?" mark is what is in the Form 541 for this aircraft and the next.  
159 Squadron

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
4/5th August	AL531	S/Ldr. Beck	Shipping and harbour installations – Tobruk	2300	0600	Located target and made complete circuit of harbour but could see no shipping. Made bombing run aiming at dock installations. Results not seen. 16 searchlights. Several dummy fires were seen. A.A. not intense. Heavy batteries chiefly on North side of harbour. Light mainly from South of harbour. Bombs dropped (in one stick) 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD and 6 x 500 lbs GP. Returned to St. Jean (Palestine).
		P/O. Muirhead				
		P/O. Thomas				
"	AL540	F/Sgt. Brown	"	2310	0625	Located target and made a tight circle round harbour but saw no shipping. Glow of small fires, thought dummies jut West of harbour area. Bombing run made at Naval Fuel Storage. Bursts seen, one bomb hung up but was immediately salvoed. It was seen to burst near a heavy A.A. battery which had been very active on this and previous raids. It was not seen to fire again after the burst. It was noticed that the 12/15 searchlights came on immediately after the A.A. started. Bomb load 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD and 6 x 500 lbs GP.
		F/Sgt. Carter				
		F/Sgt. Coe				
6/7th August	AL544	P/O. Austin	Attack shipping at Tobruk	1517	2355	Operated from St. Jean. Reached target and saw a ship of approximately 5,000 tons in middle of harbour. It was moving SE. Two larger ships seen in harbour. Made bombing run at first named vessel, but only one bomb dropped. Two more fell off a moment later and the remainder were salvoed but fell outside harbour. First bomb fell near Naval Fuel Installations. No other results seen. A.A. very slight. Bombs dropped 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		P/O. Moxham				
"	AL564	F/Sgt. Russell	"	1520	0015	Reached target area and saw a ship approximately 10,000 tons just South of jetty 5. As the navigator had this vessel in his sights he did not bomb with the leader of the formation. Only two bombs fell: the rest were salvoed immediately. First bomb fell right beside ship and second on it. Black smoke was later seen pouring from it and was "though" to be on fire. A.A. very inaccurate. Bombs dropped 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		P/O. Mahoney				
		F/Lt. Reid				
"	AL517	S/Ldr. Boffee	"	1515	0040	Led first formation over target, saw ship of 5,000 tons leaving harbour. Attacked it but bombs thought to have fallen short. Many bombs from other aircraft seen to burst in dock area. A.A. fairly intense but not accurate. Bomb load as above.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		F?/O. Humphries				
"	AL580	F/Sgt. Corney	"	1520	0030	This aircraft was in the second formation over the target. Saw a large ship South of jetty 5 straddled by a stick of bombs from first formation.
		Sgt. Corless				



Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		P/O. Budden				Its bows were enveloped in smoke. Bombs were dropped in one stick aiming at this ship. They fell just short on land in the jetty area, with much smoke and dust resulting. Bomb bursts were seen near a ship on the South side of the harbour. The aircraft was the first to reach base but when a landing was attempted the undercarriage was damaged. In order not to risk obstructing the runway and so endanger the remaining aircraft, the captain decided to fly round till the others had all landed. He then made a second approach and on touching down the wheels folded up and the aircraft crashed on the runway. The crew were not hurt. Bomb load as above.
"	AL537	F/O. Duplex	"	1516	0005	This aircraft was in the leading formation and saw two ships in the middle of the harbour and four on the South side of the harbour. Bombs were released on signal from leader of formation, causing a large explosion on the jetties. Much smoke and flame was seen. Near misses were seen on a ship in the SW corner of harbour by bombs from another aircraft. Exploding tracer seen from heavy batteries South of the town. Bomb load 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		F/O. Mackie				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
"	AL548	F/O. Tannahill	"	1520	2350	This aircraft was the leader of the formation. A ship was seen apparently on fire just South of Jetty 5 (see claim of AL564 above). Much grey smoke was rising from its bows. Two other ships (one of 10,000 tons) seen near jetty 4. Bombs were aimed in one stick at this large ship and the rest of the formation did likewise. Bombs fell short and were seen to burst among buildings in the dock area. Clouds of dust or smoke arose. Excellent photos taken. The heavy Battery NE of the town was not firing (see claim of AL531 on 4/5th August).
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		P/O. Malley				
9/10th August	AL517	F/Lt. Willatt	Shipping at Tobruk	2220	0640	Operated from St. Jean (Palestine). Reached target area but found thick cloud (7-8/10ths at about 2,000 feet). After a search of about half an hour it was possible to identify the West end of the harbour through a gap in the cloud with the aid of a flare. Bombs were dropped at the estimated position of the jetties, as no shipping could be seen. Bursts were observed but no detailed results. A mass of green, white red and blue lights were seen in the shape of a large ship, but the crew thought it was on land and suggest it may have been a "dummy ship". A fire thought to be a dummy was noticed near Memgar Shansak. Each time bombs burst, this fire flared up as though petrol had been poured on it. The A.A. was only moderate in intensity. Bombs dropped 12 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD.
		F/O. Rostance				
		F/Sgt. Winfield				
"	AL582	F/O. MacDonald	"	2225	0730	Thick cloud obscured the target and the captain circled searching for 45 minutes. A.A. and searchlights finally revealed the position of the target,
		P/O. Evans				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/O. Teague				as other aircraft had been dropping many flares. One stick of six bombs was aimed at the installations in the jetty area. Bursts only were seen. A second run was started over the same area, but four of the remaining 6 bombs fell off prematurely. No results were seen from the last two, which were aimed at the jetties. The A.A. appeared to hold fire in order not to betray position of target until it was clear that aircraft had found it. 12 searchlights in cones. Bomb load as above.
"	AL564	F/O. Tannahill	"	2230	0715	Difficulty experienced in locating target owing to 8/10ths cloud at 3,000 ft – until A.A. and searchlights started up. On the first bombing run over the dock area the bombs hung up. A turn was made and another run over the same area was started, but this time the cloud was 10/10ths and nothing worth bombing could be seen. The captain then decided to bring his bombs home and did this successfully. As the aircraft approached the target a green very light was seen jut off the coast North of Tobruk. 15 minutes later another aircraft was seen 100 feet above our aircraft (which was at 15,000 feet), but no engagement took place. Bombs carried 12 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		P/O. Malley				
"	AL537	P/O. Bettridge	"	2225	0700	Owing to extreme darkness and thick cloud the target was at first overshot, but was identified later by A.A. and searchlights. Activity in horse-shoe shape round Tobruk harbour. The searchlights appeared to act independently and not to be predictor controlled. Six bombs were dropped over the estimated position of the dock installations. Bursts only were seen. Some incendiaries were seen burning North of the town. A second run on which the six other bombs were dropped was made 15 minutes later when the harbour was partially illuminated by flares. No accurate pinpoint was possible for the bursts which are seen. Bomb load as above.
		Sgt. Hall				
		F/Sgt. Peterson				
"	AL564	Sgt. Wilson	"	2220	0700	Target identified by flak and searchlight activity. A double row of white lights was seen at the P.O.W. camp. Flares dropped were not found very helpful owing to thick cloud. The bombs were dropped at the estimated position of the dock installations and a red fire was started which lasted five minutes. Bomb load as above.
		Sgt. Hogan				
		Sgt. Broder				
11/12th August	AL544	F/Lt. Dyer	Shipping in Navarino Bay	1425	0055	Operated from Malta. Three cruisers were seen in the Bay and a stick of 3 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD were aimed at these. A terrific explosion came from the centre. White smoke came from it. Three more bombs were salvoed without results. A.A. was moderate – chiefly from ships. The aircraft was followed by a twin engined machine for 200 miles on the return journey but no attack was made. A hit was seen on the centre cruiser from bombs of another aircraft – followed by a red and yellow explosion. Landed at Fayid (Egypt). Bombs carried 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		P/O. Fulton				
		Sgt. Morris				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
"	AL517	F/Sgt. Wilkes	"	1415	0015	Operated from Malta. Four cruisers seen and also a large ship. Bombs (as above) dropped in one stick, but fell on land 200 yards from shore. Landed at Fayid (Egypt).
		Sgt. Arvan				
		Sgt. Williams				
		Sgt. McCulloch				
		P/O. Thomas				
		Sgt. Temple				
		Sgt. Corbb				
		Sgt. Jones				
Night 15/16th August	AL565	W/Cdr. McNair	Shipping strike approximately 34°40'N: 25°35'E.	1335	0155	Reached estimated position of target and made a square search for one hour. Then set course for secondary target (Suda Bay). On the way saw a large ship accompanied by destroyer or corvette and another large ship about four miles away. The first ship appeared to be on fire at the bows with smoke and an orange red glow (2030hours). Bombed in one stick 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Bombs fell 50 – 100 yards from ship. No A.A. Bombs carried 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. Hogan				
		Sgt. Brewer				
"	AL600	F/O. Jenner	"	1344	0205	Followed leader of formation (W/Cdr. McNair). When no shipping was found, returned home as petrol was running short. Bombs jettisoned at sea (6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD).
		Sgt. Beach				
		P/O. Crapper				
"	AL582	P?/O McDonald	"	1345	0130	As above.
		F/O Evans				
		P?/O Teague				
"	AL537	P/O Bettridge?	"	1347	0120	As above.
		Sgt. Hall				
		F/Sgt. Peterson				
"	AL564	F/O. Tannahill	"	1343	0200	As above.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		P/O. Thomas				
"	AL536	F/Lt. Pearson	"	1346	0155	As above.
		P/O. Kimmins				
		Sgt. Laker				
"	AL544	F/Lt. Willatt	"	1345	0145	As above
		F/Sgt. Winfield				
		F/Sgt. Appleby				
"	AL540	F/Sgt. Carter	"	1349	2220	Abandoned task owing to excessive fuel consumption – over 200 gallons an hour. Bombs jettisoned (6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD).
		P/O. Moxham				
		Sgt. Rocket				
"	AL525	F/Sgt. Russell	"	1350	1449	Abandoned task as 3 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD fell off on runway as aircraft took off. Other three bombs jettisoned in sea. Bombs carried as above.
		F/Lt. Reid				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
16/17th August	AL531	S/Ldr. McKay	Aerodrome at Catania	2255	0555	Operated from Malta. Located aerodrome and dropped 4 x 500 lbs GP and 8 x 250 lbs GP in one stick from 12,000 feet. It was thought that they fell across the D.G. A.A. was fairly intense – heavy chiefly from the town and light from the L.G. itself. Returned to Fayid (Egypt). Green flares suspended by parachutes were seen over target.
		P/O. Wood				
		W.O. B?oteler				
19/20th August	AL636	F/Sgt. Russell	Shipping at Tobruk	1916	0325	Saw some ships near main jetty and dropped 5 x 500 lbs GP bombs on them. Three bursts seen. After completion of bombing run, another ship seen seven miles from Mengar Shonbak??. The remaining seven bombs were dropped at this, and the nearest falling about 50 yards from the ship. A.A. was mainly heavy and accurate for height. 15 searchlights seen. One aircraft thought twin engined fighter seen over target.
		P/O. Mahoney				
		F/Lt. Reid				
		F/Sgt. Brock				
		F/Sgt. McCriery				
		Sgt. Stocking				
		Sgt. Chivers				
Sgt. Springall						
"	AL544	F/Lt. Dyer	"	1915	0330	Reached target and a flare from an illuminating aircraft lit up the harbour. A fire was seen burning at base of jetty 4, and a ship of 1500/2000 tons was seen near. 6 x 500 lbs bombs were dropped at this ship. Results not seen. Six more bombs dropped at fire on jetty 4. Results not seen owing to searchlight dazzle. A.A. not intense or accurate. Several fires and explosions seen.
		Sgt. Morris				
		P/O. Sutton				
		F/Sgt. Erickson				
		Sgt. H?urring				
		Sgt. Rochford				
		F/Sgt. Reid				
F/Sgt. Stanton						
"	AL540	F/Sgt. Wilkes	"	1910	0321	On reaching target, run in over jetties but was held by searchlights. Accurate A.A. bumped the aircraft. 5 x 500 lbs bombs were dropped on this run, but it was impossible to observe results. After this attack, two ships, one of which was fairly large, were seen near the harbour boom. A second bombing run (1 x 1000 lb and 5 x 500 lbs) was made aiming at a ship by the "Y?" shaped jetty. The aircraft was again caught by searchlights and subjected to concentrated A.A. Results of bombing not seen.
		Sgt. Owen				
		F/Sgt. Burr				
		Sgt. McCulloch				
		Sgt. Jones				
		Sgt. Temple				
Sgt. Williams						
Sgt. Crabb						
"	AL565	S/Ldr. Beck	"	1908	0410	All bombs were dropped in one stick, aiming at jetties. Owing to searchlight dazzle bursts were not seen, but after the run was completed a fire was noticed in the dock area. A balloon was seen at about 8,000 feet over harbour.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		P/O. Thomas				
		Sgt. Kent				
		Sgt. Whitney				
Sgt. McKinley						

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. D?oak?				
		Sgt. Gilham				
"	AL582	Sgt. Wilson	"	1917	0336	Searched round outside the harbour for shipping, as the aircraft arrived jut too late for the first batch of flares over the target. A ship was then seen at jetty 4 and 6 x 500 lbs bombs were aimed at it – without observed results. The lights at the P.O.W. camp South of Tobruk were seen going out one by one. A second bombing run, over the jetties, resulted in a fire being started – deep red – visible for 20 minutes after leaving the target A balloon was seen at 10,000 feet, 50 feet from the aircraft. A.A. not very intense but accurate.
		Sgt. Hogan				
		Sgt. Brewer				
		Sgt. Morrison				
		Sgt. Christmas				
		Sgt. Forster				
		Sgt. Maule				
		F/Sgt. Henderson				
"	AL564	F/Lt. Willatt	"	-	-	Did not take off. No. 3 engine unserviceable
		P/O. Crapper				
		Sgt. Beach				
		F/Sgt. Parr				
		Sgt. Swains?				
		F/Sgt. DaCosta				
		F/Sgt. Box				
		Sgt. O'Keefe				
"	AL537	S/Ldr. Boffee	"	1909	0309	Reached target area, but could see no shipping. Smoke coming from the North of the harbour made it difficult to see in spite of good illumination by flare dropping aircraft. The Eastern part of the area was bombed, bursts being seen among existing fires. A.A. was very slight. The attack was from 14,000 feet. Weather – 5/10ths cloud at 3,000 feet over target.
		P/O. Muirhead.				
		P?/O. Humpries				
		F/Sgt Gregson				
		Sgt. Rhodes				
		F/Sgt. Yarranton				
		F/Sgt. Corrin				
"	AL536	P/O. Austin	"	1912	03320	A run was made West to East over the jetties, 4 x 500 lbs bombs being dropped. No bursts were seen. About 7 miles E.S.E. from the entrance to Tobruk harbour a vessel of approximately 10,000 tons was seen, with a flare illuminating it. 8 x 500 lbs bombs were dropped in one stick. Four bursts were seen near the ship. A.A. not intense. 10 searchlights.
		P/O. Moxham				
		P/O. Story				
		Sgt. Ward				
		Sgt. Ganks				
		F/Sgt. Clegg				
		F/Sgt. Rudale				
		F/Sgt. Campbell				
"	AL525	F/O Duplex	"	<sup>3</sup>		Arrived too late to take advantage of first batch of flares, dropped by illuminating aircraft. Some shipping was seen near jetty 4 by the light of second batch of flares. One stick of 6 x 500 lbs bombs was aimed at

<sup>3</sup> Times not given.  
159 Squadron

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
						those ships. Flashes were seen, but searchlight dazzle prevented detailed observation. On the second run over target, 5 x 500 lbs bombs and 1 x 1000 lb were dropped. Seen to fall near ships, but again dazzle prevented observation of details. Searchlights very troublesome.
		F/O Mackie				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		F/Sgt. Murdoch				
		Sgt. Warren				
		Sgt. Watson				
		F/Sgt. Bowen				
21st August	AL540	W/Cdr. Skinner	To attack a convoy South of Crete	1420	1505	Returned to base having abandoned task owing to air screw motor trouble. Bombs jettisoned in sea.
		P/O. Moxham				
		F/O. Humphries				
		F/Sgt. McCreery				
		Sgt. Dunlop				
		Sgt. Cheshire				
		P/O. Coates				
		F/Sgt. Clegg				
"	AL537	F/Lt. Pearson	"	1421	2140	Located convoy at 33°52'N: 24°37'E. It appeared to consist of two large M/V, one smaller M/V and a destroyer. Two aircraft believed Breda 88 circled low over it, but made no interception. Bombed in one stick (2 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD and 8 x 500 lbs). The bombs overshot about six ships length ahead of one M/V, but a dirty yellow patch was seen where bombs burst. Other bombs seen bursting round ships, but no direct hits seen. Light A.A. well behind and below the aircraft.
		P/O. Kimmins				
		Sgt. Laker				
		F/Sgt. Richard				
		Sgt. Young				
		Sgt. Yarranton				
		F/Sgt. Lewis.				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL638	F/O. Jenner	"	1425	2145	Located convoy at 1831 hours. Thought to be two M/V and two destroyers. Bombs (as above) dropped in one stick, but fell approximately 250 yards from large M/V.
		Sgt. Beach				
		P/O. Crapper				
		Sgt. Elliot				
		Sgt. Swain				
		F/Sgt. Palmer				
		F/Sgt. Box				
		F/Sgt. DaCosta				
"	AL565	F/Lt. Willatt	"	1426	2140	Located target heading SW, but as attack approached it broke up and went round in circles. Bombed in one stick (as above) but bombs fell 150 yards from port side of large M/V. Other near misses seen. After the attack the convoy appeared to be heading back towards Crete.
		P/O Rostance??				
		F/Sgt. Winfield				
		F/Sgt. Appleby				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Ward				
		F/Sgt. Frost				
		F/Sgt. Taylor				
		Sgt. Rochford				
"	AL564	F/O. Powell??	"	1425	2105	Located convoy and dropped bombs with test of the aircraft in the two formations. Seen to fall ahead of an M/V. One aircraft thought Ju. 88, seen about 3,000 feet above convoy – no interception. Little A.A.
		P/O. Billingham				
		F/O. Coates				
"	AL548	P/O. Tannerhill	"	1427	2150	As above. Bombs seen to overshoot by approximately 100 yards.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		P/O. Thomas				
"	AL582	S/Ldr. MacKay	"	1424	2200	The convoy was thought to comprise troopships, a tanker and a destroyer. Attacked with other aircraft in formation. Missed by 250 yards. One Ju. 88 seen over convoy. A.A. very weak. Convoy seem to return to Crete after the attack.
		P/O. Muirhead				
		F/Sgt. Burr				
		F/Sgt. Gregson				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		Sgt. Killops				
		Sgt. Hoyland				
		F/Sgt. Corrin				
"	AL525	F/O. Duplex	"	-	-	Did not take off. Bombs not loaded in time.
"	AL579	F/Sgt. Corney	"	-	-	Did not take off. Supercharger unserviceable.
Evening 23rd August	AL55?1	P/O. Austin	Attack Tanker at Tobruk	1510	2315	Found thick haze in Tobruk area. Turned NW and came in over harbour out of sun. Saw a large M/V of 6/8,000 tons heading slowly out of harbour, South of the main jetties. No sign of tanker. Visibility very poor. The bombs from the leader of the formation seen to fall on land North of jetties. Own bombs fell just North of the jetties and hit a building. Debris seen flying up. A.A. very intense and accurate. One aircraft, thought Liberator "S" seen with pieces falling off it over target area. Saw two Me. 110 and one possible Ju. 88 near target. Attacked by one Me. But no damage resulted.
		P/O. Moxham				
		P/O. Story				
		Sgt. Ward				
		Sgt. Banks				
		Sgt. Ridedale				
		F/Sgt. Cake				
F/Sgt. Clegg						
"	AL525	F/O. Duplex	"	1501	2309	Observed ship, presumed tanker, South of jetties. Bombed in one stick, but did not observe results. Three other ships seen in harbour. One Me. 109 and an unidentified radial engine aircraft seen over target. The latter intercepted with cannon from 600 to 300 yards. It attacked from 5,000 feet above and from astern. No damage to our aircraft. Over target Liberator 'S' was seen well behind and below with smoke or vapour from his port wing. It was thought to be under control but was losing height.
		F/O. Mackie				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		Sgt. Warren				
		Sgt. Watson				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL564	S/Ldr. Beck	"	1455	2325	Four ships seen in harbour. On the bombing run, aiming at ships South

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Carrigan				of jetties, two bombs fell but the rest were salvaged after a few seconds. The first tow bombs fell on land in dock area, the rest in the sea. One single engine aircraft seen over target. No interception. A.A. very accurate, especially from heavy guns North of harbour.
		P/O. Thomas				
		Sgt. Kent				
		Sgt. N?oainley??				
		Sgt. Gilham				
		P/O. Coates				
		Sgt Doak				
"	AL537	F/Sgt. Wilkes	"	1502	-	Did not return from operation.
		Sgt. Owen				
		F/Sgt. Peterson				
		Sgt. McCulloch				
		Sgt. Crabb				
		Sgt. Williams				
		Sgt. Jones				
		Sgt. Temple				
"	AL548	F/O. Tannahill	"	1457	0002	Unable to see ships owing to cloud and haze. Dropped bombs (2 x 1000 lbs and 8 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD) in one stick at Western end of harbour installations. Two bursts seen in sea – others not seen. After bombing saw one large ship and two small ones near coast North of harbour. A.A. very accurate. No fighter opposition. From 33°N: 24°E – No. 2 engine failed and the aircraft was brought home on three engines.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		F/O. Humphries				
		Sgt. Marjoram				
		F/Sgt. Roberts				
		Sgt. Roberts				
		Sgt. Wark				
"	AL582	F/Sgt. Russell				Could not see tanker but could see several other ships in the harbour. Bombs were aimed at the largest ship, but were seen to fall near the base of No. 2 jetty. A light A.A. battery was claimed to have been silenced and a small motor boat approaching the jetty vanished. A.A. intense but not accurate at this aircraft.
		P/O. Mahoney				
		Sgt. Gurling				
		F/Sgt. Erskine				
		Sgt. Brooks				
		Sgt. Springall				
		Sgt. Stocking				
		Sgt. Chivers				
Night 24/25th August	AL565	F/Sgt. Corney	Dock Installations at Tobruk	1940	0330	Had difficulty in finding Tobruk owing to cloud (9-10/10ths at 4/5,000 feet). A.A. fire ultimately revealed position. Ran in over harbour, seen through gap in clouds. Bombs (6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD) fell on North side of harbour, North of No. 1 jetty. A.A. fairly intense but not accurate.
		Sgt. Corless				
		P/O. Budden				
"	AL550	F/O. Jenner	"	1935	2030	Abandoned task. Hydraulics trouble.
		Sgt. Beach				
		P/O. Crapper				
		Sgt. Elliot				



Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Palmer				
		F/Sgt. Box				
		F/Sgt. Da Costa				
		Sgt. Swain				
"	AL638	W/Cdr. Skinner	"	1935	0340	9/10ths strato-cumulus over target at 5,000 feet made observation very difficult. Saw SW of harbour through a gap and bombed NW corner. Bursts seen. Also saw one other bomb burst followed by a short flare up. A.A. not intense. No searchlights.
		Sgt. Morris				
		F/O. Sutton				
25/26th August	AL564	W/Cdr. McNair	To drop delay bombs at NW end of Corinth Canal	2045	0615	This aircraft on being "run-up" was found unserviceable. W/Cdr McNair then selected aircraft 'G' which was on standby. On reaching a point halfway down the runway this aircraft became unserviceable, and he then returned to AL564 which was now serviceable and took off almost an hour after the original time. Target was located and the bombs (2 x 1000 lbs GP .12 hour delay, two of 26 hour delay, and two of 72 hour delay and 1 of 144 hour delay) were dropped. They were thought to fall in the canal.
		Sgt. Hogan				
		Sgt. Brewer				
		Sgt. Forster				
		Sgt. Christmas				
		Sgt. Morrison				
		F/Lt. D'Alton				
	Sgt. Male??					
"	AL565	F/Sgt. Brown	"	2000	0550	Reached Canal and dropped bombs (as above) during an excellent run. Slight A.A. opposition was encountered from the two ends of the Canal. Bright moonlight.
		W.O. K?upper				
		F/Sgt. Coe				
		F/Sgt. Smith				
		Sgt. Crook				
		Sgt. Moore				
		F/Sgt. Martin				
		F/Sgt. McCreery				
"	AL638	F/O. Duplex	"	2005	0510	While passing Milos Island, saw a ship of 8/10,000 tons in the harbour. On reaching target, dropped all bombs on second run. The bomb doors would not open in time on the first run. It seemed as if a smoke screen was starting from the South side of the canal. Canal clearly seen in the moonlight.
		F/O. Mackie				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		F/Sgt. Murdoch				
		Sgt. Warren				
		Sgt. Watson				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL540	F/O. MacDonald	"	2010	0510	The target was reached and a good bombing run made. The bombs were seen almost all the way to ground and it appeared as if they would fall in the Canal. It was estimated that there were 10 heavy A.A. positions along the canal and light A.A. at the ends.
		F/O. Evans				
		F/O. Teague				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		Sgt. Moore				
		Sgt. Tassell				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Robson				
		Sgt. Goodgame				
28/29th August	AL579	P/O. Mahoney	Attack shipping at Tobruk	-	-	Did not take off. No. 4 engine unserviceable.
"	AL600	F/O. Jenner	"	-	-	Did not take off. Supercharger unserviceable.
"	AL582	P/O. Bettridge	"	-	-	Did not take off. Damaged by fire on ground.
"	AL525	F/Lt. Pearson	"	-	-	Did not take off. Hydraulic booster pump unserviceable.
"	AL531	S/Ldr. Boffee	"	-	-	Did not take off. No. 3 engine unserviceable.
"	AL638	F/O. Mackie	"	2120	0510	Reached target area and bombed a ship in mid – harbour, which was seen to be burning fiercely after the bombing run. A.A. heavy – moderate only. Light A.A. fairly intense. Fifteen searchlights. Weather good. 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		P/O. Thomas				
		Sgt. Whitney				
		Sgt. Kent				
		Sgt. McKinley				
		Sgt. Davis				
		F/Sgt. Gilham				
"	AL550	F/Lt. Willatt	"	2100	0515	Reached target area. Aimed at jetties but could see no results owing to searchlight dazzle A.A. slight at this aircraft. Weather good. Bomb load as above.
		Sgt. Morris				
		F/Sgt. Winfield				
		F/Sgt. Ward				
		F/Sgt. Taylor				
		F/Sgt. Appleby				
		P/O. Coates				
		F/Sgt. F?rost				
"	AL548	F/O. Tannahill	"	2117	0445	Reached Tobruk after seeing A.A. from 40 miles away. Bombs dropped at jetties. 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Results not seen. Opposition not strong. Weather up to 5/10ths cumulus over target at 5,000 feet.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		P/O. Sutton				
		F/Sgt. Parsons				
		F/Sgt. Marjoram				
		F/Sgt. Robberts				
		Sgt. Roberts				
		F/Sgt. Wark				
"	AL564	F/O. Towell	"	2040	0450	Reached target area. A series of fires on the North side of harbour caused smoke to drift over the harbour. No shipping seen so aimed at jetties. 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Results not seen owing to searchlight dazzle. A.A. not intense, but became more so after this aircraft left.
		P/O. Musgrave				
		F/Sgt. Coates				
		F/Sgt. Parr				
		F/Sgt. Smith				
		Sgt. O'Keefe				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Read				
		Sgt. Gunn				
"	AL540	F/Sgt. Carter	"	2045	0530	Reached target area and dropped 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD in one stick aiming at jetties. Results not seen. A.A. not intense.
		Sgt. Bellingham				
		Sgt. Rockett				
		Sgt. Fleming				
		Sgt. Dunlop				
		Sgt. Nightingale				
		Sgt Cheshire				
		F/Sgt. Clegg				
"	AL565	F/Sgt. Brown	"	2115	0520	Reached and identified target area. No shipping seen. Bombed aiming at Main Jetty. Results not observed. Only about four heavy guns firing – on North side of harbour. Inaccurate.
		W.O. Tupper				
		F/Sgt. Coe				
		F/Sgt. Smith				
		Sgt. McCreery				
		Sgt. Crook				
		Sgt. Moore				
		F/Sgt. Martin				
Night 30/31st	AL550	F/Lt. Dyer	Shipping in Tobruk harbour	2206	0617	Reached target area. No shipping seen so bombed jetties. Fire burst seen (6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD). Large fire seen NE of town, lasting 50 minutes. A.A. – 7 heavy batteries and some slight light A.A. Weather 4/10ths cumulus at 5,000 feet and low haze. Flares would have been a great help. Circled round target area for about 50 minutes.
		Sgt. Morris				
		P/O. Sutton				
		F/Sgt. Stanton				
		F/Sgt. Erickson				
		F/Sgt. Reid				
		Sgt. Hurring				
		Sgt. Rochford				
"	AL540	P/O. H?ettridge	"	2205	0550	No shipping seen. Bombed jetties, but bombs (6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD) fell just North of them. A large fire seen NE of town, with green explosions coming from it. A.A. less intense than usual.
		Sgt. Hall				
		W.O. S?oteler?				
		Sgt. Nixon				
		F/Sgt. Barrell				
		Sgt. Ridsdale				
		Sgt. Rhodes				
		F/Sgt. Davidson				
"	AL548	P/O. Mahoney	"	2210	0610	No shipping seen. Dropped bombs NW of jetties (6 x 1000 lbs). Three bursts seen. Large fire North of town. Light A.A. up to 15,000 feet. Weather, 7/10ths strato-cumulus at 3,000 feet over target.
		F/Sgt. Russell				
		F/Lt. Reid				
		F/Sgt. Erekin				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Brock				
		Sgt. Stocking				
		Sgt. Chivers				
		Sgt. Springall				
"	AL531	S/Ldr. Boffee	"	2200	0545	No shipping seen. Aimed at No. 1 jetty and saw bursts. After bombing a fire was seen in that area. A.A. became intense at this aircraft. Beam gunner (F/Sgt. Lewis) hit in arm.
		P/O. Kimmins				
		Sgt. Laker				
		F/Sgt. Rickard				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		F/Sgt. Lewis				
		Sgt. Yarranton				
		Sgt. Allwood				
"	AL631	F/O. Evans	"	2215	0555	No shipping seen (6-7/10ths strato-cumulus) at 2,000 feet). Aimed bombs at jetties. 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Three bursts seen. A terrific white explosion was seen near tank workshops North of town. A.A. and searchlights working together. A.A. inaccurate.
		P/O. Champain				
		F/Sgt. Curling				
		F/Sgt. Fraser				
		F/Sgt. H?adford?				
		Sgt. Crozier				
		F/Sgt. Henderson				
		F/Sgt. Marshall				
"	AL525	P/O. MacDonald	"	2203	0603	No shipping seen. Bombed dock installations – 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Saw three burst near water's edge. A very large explosion was seen East of the tank workshops, starting a large reddish fire which lasted half an hour at least. A.A. medium intensity, accurate for height, but not for direction. Eight or nine searchlights came on together at times. Some cloud at 4,000 feet.
		P/O Rostance				
		F/O. Teague				
		Sgt. Tassell?				
		Sgt. Worden				
		Sgt. Moore				
		Sgt. Goodgame				
		F/Sgt. Robson				

## September, 1942 Form 540 (Middle East)

159 Squadron,

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Aqir	1st. Sept.		No. 458 Squadron ceased to be servicing unit and proceeded to Shallufa (Egypt), having handed duties to No. 454 Squadron.
Aqir	Night 1/2nd		Seven Liberators attacked Tobruk harbour installations. A heavy explosion and two good fires were caused in the target area, and many bomb bursts were also seen there. There was unfortunately 6/10ths to 10/10ths cloud at 2/3,000 feet over the target and results could therefore only be observed through holes in this cloud. Suspected dummy fires were seen both North and South of the harbour and crews said that these could be used as guides. Flak was moderate but light tracer was going as high as 15,000 feet. Orange bursts were noted up to the same height. Only six searchlights were counted. Time over target, 0307/0333 hrs L.T. Bombs dropped 49 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 11,500 to 14,500 feet. Total hours flown 54.32. All aircraft returned safely.
Aqir	2nd		F/Lt. Maynard (Adjutant) admitted to hospital.
Aqir	3/4th		Nine Liberators were detailed to attack Tobruk harbour installations. Aircraft 'G' and 'U' abandoned task, the former with No. 2 engine stub from exhaust ring broken and the latter with No. 4 aircrew fixed in fine pitch. The remaining seven located the target but found 6 – 8/10ths cloud at 3/4,000 feet which made complete observation of results impossible. One fire was started in the dock area – many bomb bursts were also seen there. A.A. was only moderate but there was light flak up to 12,000 feet. 7/10 searchlights were working in cones. Dummy fires were again seen as on night 1/2nd Sept. Time over target 0240/0310 hrs L.T. Bombs dropped 56 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 12/14,500 feet. Hours flown 59.09. All aircraft returned safely.
Aqir	4th		F/Lt. Pearson T. (44794) arrived on posting from No. 205 Group for duty as Adjutant.
Aqir	5th		P/O. Clark (Aus. 403500), seven aircrew (airmen) and four ground staff arrived by air from U.K. on posting in Liberator AL518. P/O. Wood (Aus. 407023) proceeded on detachment to Special Liberator G. (R) Flight.
Aqir	5/6th		Ten Liberators took off to attack dock installations at Tobruk. Aircraft 'P' developed engine trouble and returned early, jettisoning two bombs but bringing back 6 x 1000 lbs bombs. The remaining nine located and bombed the target. Three orange fires and one red were claimed started in the dock area and another orange fire just North of these near the Power Station. One aircraft was attacked by a night fighter which gave one short burst from the rear, but no damage resulted. Two other Liberators confirm seeing a fast twin engine plane over the target. Flarepaths were seen lighted on the two El Guebi landing grounds. Haze and 5 – 8/10ths cloud partially obscured target. Heavy flak moderate and inaccurate. 15 searchlights working in cone., with light A.A. firing up beams to 11,000 feet. Time over target 2316/0005 hours L.T. Bombs dropped 72 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD from 9,000 to 14,000 feet. Hours flown 83.27. The crews considered this a successful operation.
Aqir	7th		Six Liberators took off to attack an enemy convoy of three M/V

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			each 8,000 tons escorted by eleven destroyers in a position SW of Crete. Aircraft 'J' had hydraulics trouble and returned to base bringing his bombs back. One formation of three aircraft, led by Wing Commander Skinner located the target and bombed it at 1910 hours with pattern bombing. The bombs fell very near one of the M/V and a probable direct hit scored on it. After bombing, our aircraft were attacked by enemy fighters but each successfully fought off the attack. As darkness was falling, our formation split up, sought cloud cover and returned to base at low altitude. The remaining two aircraft 'U' and 'P' piloted respectively by Flight Lieutenant Barclay and Flying Officer Duplex were attacked by an Me. 110 before reaching the convoy. The Me. 110 made his first attack from the rear, dead level and followed up with beam and quarter attacks. Sgt. Warren, beam gunner in aircraft 'P' was twice wounded but continued to operate his gun. 'P' sustained the brunt of the attack which lasted 25 minutes by which time the Me. 110 had expended all his ammunition. All but one of 'P's guns were unserviceable by this time and the Me. Made off. Though one of his tyres was burst by a bullet in addition to other damage – F/O. Duplex successfully landed his aircraft on return to base. F/Lt. Barclay accompanied him to base, both aircraft jettisoning their bombs. Bombs carried by each aircraft 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
Aqir	8th		Flying Officer P. Price <sup>4</sup> , Pilot Officer B. Samuel and six aircrew and four ground staff arrived ex U.K. on posting in Liberator AL620.
Aqir	Night 9/10th		Six Liberators took off to attack a large M/V in Tobruk harbour. Alternative target was jetties and dock installations. One aircraft abandoned task 150 miles from target – No. 2 engine fixed in fine pitch. The captain jettisoned two bombs and brought six back. The remaining five aircraft located the target area, but 8/10ths cloud over the harbour made it impossible to locate the ship. Certain aircraft of another Squadron were acting as flare droppers, but they did not drop their flares in the correct position. Bombs were therefore aimed at jetties. Observation of results almost impossible. A.A. was moderate. Time of attack 0232 to 0242 hrs L.T. from 11,000 to 15,000 feet. Bombs dropped 40 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Hours flown 46.33.
Aqir	13/14th		Ten Liberators took off from Aqir to carry out diversion attack at Benghazi. All aircraft located and bombed harbour area as briefed, but cloud up to 10/10ths at times and thick low haze prevented observation of detailed results. One aircraft bombed a ship of 8,000 tons in the harbour without noticeable results. Ten of the aircraft landed back at Fayid (Egypt) but one landed by error at Deversoir. A.A. was mainly heavy, intense at times but not very accurate. Some light A.A. to 13,000 feet. 16 searchlights in cone. Each aircraft stayed over the target for approximately an hour and a half. Time of attack 2045 to 0010 hrs L.T. Bombs dropped 132 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD from 11,000 to 15,000 feet. Hours flown 122.11.
Aqir	14th		Liberator aircraft Nos. AL603 <sup>5</sup> , AL630 and AL555 <sup>6</sup> arrived ex U.K. with F/O. D. P. MacIntyre (J5998) <sup>7</sup> , P/O. A. D. Smith

<sup>4</sup> 1445 Flight (Lyneham, U.K.) ORB lists Price as being with 160 Squadron.

<sup>5</sup> 1445 Flight ORB list Sgt. Pearce, 159 Squadron as the pilot of this aircraft.

<sup>6</sup> 1445 Flight ORB list F/Sgt. Hogan, 159 Squadron as the pilot of this aircraft.

<sup>7</sup> 1445 Flight ORB lists MacIntyre as being with 160 Squadron, and was the pilot of AL630.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			(111962), P/O. G. C. B?arwell (111425), 21 N.C.O. aircrew and 9 ground personnel.
Aqir	16th		Nine Liberators, together with bombers of 98th H.B. Group and the 1st P.B. Group, were detailed to attack shipping at Benghazi in a daylight raid. One aircraft was unserviceable at base. Aircraft 'J' (Captain: F/O Duplex) had engine trouble when South of Mersa Matruh and received permission from the leader of his formation to turn back. He decided to bomb Mersa and scored direct hits on the barracks there. Photographs taken on his bombing run supplied proof. He also supplied useful information concerning M.T. concentrations in enemy territory. The remaining seven aircraft reached Benghazi, but the bombs, dropped in pattern fell outside the harbour. The defences were late coming into action: heavy A.A. only. One hostile aircraft was seen to approach our second formation but no combat took place. Weather was good and excellent photographs were taken over the target. Time over Benghazi 1400 to 1402 hours: Mersa Matruh 12.38 hrs. L.T. Bombs dropped at Benghazi 42 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD at Mersa 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Total hours flown 84.57.
Aqir	16th		From this date No. 159 Squadron commenced to operate under No. 160 Squadron. Wing Commander C. G. Skinner 29145 (Officer Commanding. No. 159 Squadron) left for India in Liberator AL544 to join No. 159 Squadron, Main Party. The following personnel went with him: F/Lt. J. M. O. Dyer (Pilot) (33564), F/Lt. V. C. G. Usher Eng. O. (44643), F/O. G. R. Humphries Navigator (82962), P/O. M. J. C. Muirhead Pilot (A. 407724), P/O. F. E. Ashworth, A.G. (114041), 551364 F/Sgt. McCreery, H. B. W/O. AG., 1064111 F/Sgt. Reid N? AG., 1164379 Sgt Christmas F. M. W/O. AG., 947752 Sgt. Doad D. P. AG., 328645 Sgt. Warren A. Armr., 532284 Sgt. Watson A. Inst. Mkr., 938011 Sgt. Snedley E. Elect I.
Aqir	16th		Pilot Officer K. C. Duncan (101659) was posted to No. 242 Wing as Senior Intelligence Officer.

## September 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Chakrate	Sat. 19th.		159 Sqdn. billets inspected by W/Cdr. J. A. Blanford.
"	Tues. 22nd.		1st Party of 120 airmen proceeded to Dehra-Dun. l/c Sgt Ferris.
"	Wed. 23rd.		2nd party of 166 O.R. proceeded to Dehra-Dun. l/c F/O G. H. Dingh. Sqdn. entrained 21.00 hrs. for R.A.F. Stn. Salbani.
Dehra Dun.	Thurs. 24th.		Sqdn. left Dehra-Dun 07.05 hrs.
	Fri. 25th.		En route Salbani.
	Sat. 26th.		do.
	Sun. 27th		Arrived Salbani 03.00 hrs. Sqdn. transported to RAF Salbani.
Salbani	Mon. 28th.		Sqdn. C. O. Adj. & Orderly Rm. Staff located in No. 5 Block. Weather: Sultry, 8-10/10ths cloud, heavy rain 14-1500 hrs.
	Tues. 29th.		Weather: Sunny periods, light wind 2-4/10's cloud. Heavy shower 15.00 hrs.
	Wed. 30th.		Weather: Blight, light winds visibility 00. Liberator AL544 landed 13.15 hrs. with W/Cdr. C. G. Skinner, F/Lt. C. W? Usher, F/Lt. J. M. O. Dyer, F/O Humphries, P/O Ashworth, P/O Muirhead, 551364 F/Sgt. McCreery W.Op/A.G. 1164379 Sgt. Christmas Wop/A.G., 1064111 A/F/Sgt. Reid A.G., 947752 Sgt. Doak A.G. 328645 Sgt. Warren Arm. 938011 Sgt Smedley Elec.I., 532267 Sgt. Watson l/Mr.



## September, 1942 Form 541 (Middle East)

159 Squadron

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
Night 1/2nd	Liberator AL550	F/O. Tomil???	Attack shipping and dock installations – Tobruk	2330	0700	Located target and aimed between existing fires in dock area. Seven bomb bursts observed in area T (dock area). A large explosion followed by fire seen as this aircraft approached. Thought to be just West of pp. 10 (target map T/1). Bombs carried 7 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Used IFF successfully over target – on five seconds and off ten.
		P/O. Musgrave				
		F/Sgt. Coates (Nav)				
		F/Sgt. Parr				
		F/Sgt. Smith				
		Sgt. Gunn				
		Sgt. O'Keefe				
		Sgt. Read				
"	AL638	Sgt. Wilson	"	2315	0705	Located target and dropped bombs in one stick aiming at docks and jetties. Bursts claimed in area E. A line of fires seen on North side of harbour and bombs from other aircraft were seen bursting near pp.6 (T/1). Bomb load as above.
		Sgt. Hogan				
		Sgt. Brewer (Nav)				
		Sgt. Foster				
		Sgt. Christmas				
		Sgt. Morrison				
		Sgt. Doak				
		Sgt. Maule				
"	AL540	F/Lt. Barclay?	"	2330	0730	Reached and located target. A bombing run was made heading 160°, but as bomb doors were opened all bombs dropped off and fell into the sea. Bomb load as above.
		F/O. Rostance				
		F/Sgt. Burr (Nav)				
		F/Sgt. Hinks				
		Sgt. Killips				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		F/Sgt. Hocker				
		F/Sgt. Corrin				
"	AL525	F/O. Duplex	"	2327	0720	Reached target area, but a roll of cloud at 2/3,000 feet obscured details of harbour. Dropped bombs where it was thought jetties were. Seven flashes seen, but results not observed owing to cloud. Quick firing bursts 60 ft from aircraft at 12000 ft. Bombs as above.
		F/Sgt. Bellingham				
		Sgt. Stuchberry (Nav)				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		F/Sgt. Murdoch				
		Sgt. Warren				
		Sgt. Watson				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL517	P/O. Bettridge	"	2330	0705	Reached and identified target. Layer of cloud partially obscured target

159 Squadron

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Hall				area, but fires were seen on North side of harbour. Aimed at these fires. Three bombs were seen to burst together, causing large explosion followed by large fire – thought to be NW of jetties. Two flak ships outside harbour (Crew of AL550 – F/O Towell?? - reported large fire in the same area at same time).
		W.O. Boteler (Nav)				
		Sgt. Nixon				
		F/Sgt. Barrell				
		Sgt. Ridedale				
		Sgt. Rhodes				
		Sgt. Woods				
"	AL548	S/Ldr. Beck	"	2310	0730	Reached target area, but cloud obscured details of harbour. Aimed at point P – dock area – but no results were observed. After bombing, the captain circled round and saw a red fire in area E. Five or seven bomb bursts seen on North side of harbour. Small lights seen along coast West of Tobruk.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		P/O. Thomas (Nav)				
		Sgt. Kent				
		Sgt. Whitney				
		Sgt. Gilham				
		Sgt. McKinley				
		Sgt. Nuttridge				
"	AL563	F/Sgt. Carter	"	2320	0730	Approached target area and saw a fire near pp. 6 as on previous occasions. Thought to be a dummy fire site. Fires noticed also near pp. 13 and pp. 18. Bombed area F heading 050° but cloud make observation difficult. Circled target afterwards and claim that a fire was burning in target area (docks) which was not present before bombing.
		P/O. Muirhead				
		Sgt. Rockett (Nav)				
		Sgt. Fleming				
		Sgt. Dunlop				
		Sgt. Cheshire				
		Sgt. Nightingale				
		F/Sgt. Glegg				
Night 3/4th	Liberator AL563	P/O. Austin	Jetties and Harbour at Tobruk	2235	0635	As bomb doors were opened bombs were jettisoned accidentally. Navigator thought that the catch on bomb lever did not engage. Fires seen to be started in target area by other aircraft. Bombs carried 8 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. Hall				
		P/O. Story?				
		Sgt. Ward				
		Sgt. Banks				
		Sgt. Cumbrill				
		Sgt. Cake				
		F/Sgt. Corrin				
"	AL531	F/O. McDonald	"	2239	0644	090°. Bombed where thought jetties were – 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Same course 0 dropped 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD in area E aiming at fires already started. Saw two bursts. Saw stick of bombs in area F. Made four dummy runs before dropping first stick. Bombs carried as above.
		F/O. Rostance				
		F/O. Teague				
		Sgt. Worden				
		Sgt. Moore				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Goodgame				
		F/Sgt. Robson				
		Sgt. Tassel				
"	AL517	F/Lt. Pearson	"	2233	0635	045°. Dropped 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD on to fires seen near jetties. Saw tree sticks burst but not certain if one was ours. 350°. Aimed for fires near pp. 10 and area F. Saw burst but not sure if ours. Bombs carried as above.
		F/O. Kimmons				
		Sgt. Laker				
		F/Sgt. Rickard				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		Sgt. Hoyland				
		Sgt. Allwood				
"	AL548	F/O. Tannahill	"	2240	0655	Ran over target 090° and dropped stick of 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Four searchlights in semi-circle NW of jetty 1. Bombs fell North and South of these searchlight. Second run heading 070° - same area. A fire was seen to start a few seconds after bombs went. Dropped a flare on this run – effective Bombs carried as above.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		F/O. Marjorm				
		F/Sgt. Parsons				
		F/Sgt. Robbert				
		Sgt. Robert				
		F/O. Wark				
"	AL525	F/O. Duplex	"	2238	0648	Ran up on area E – no results. Second run up – bursts observed. Observed two small fires in area F. Bombs carried as above.
		F/Sgt. Bellingham				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		F/Sgt. Murdoch				
		Sgt. Warren				
		Sgt. Watson				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL564	F/O. Jenner	"	2255	0655	040°. Dropped 7 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD aiming across jetties. Fires seen on North and South of harbour. No results of own bombing observed. One bomb fell off on way home. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Beach				
		P/O. Crapper				
		Sgt. Elliot				
		Sgt. Swain				
		F/O. Palmer				
		F/Sgt. Da Costa				
		F/Sgt. Box				
"	AL638	P/O. Evans	"	2246	0655	Aimed at jetties and dropped 5 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. Four burst seen North of jetty 4. Second run 070°. Bursts seen and thought further North than first stick. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Champain				
		F/Sgt. Curling				
		F/Sgt. Fraser				
		F/Sgt. Radford				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Marshall				
		Sgt. Crozier???(faint)				
		Sgt. Henderson???(faint)				
"	AL579	F/Sgt. Corney	"	2317	0026	Abandoned task. No. 2 engine stub from exhaust ring broken.
		Sgt. Corless				
		P/O. Budden				
		F/Sgt. McCreery				
		Sgt. Ford				
		Sgt. Watford				
		F/Sgt. Waterhouse				
		Sgt. Perris				
"	AL540	F/Sgt. Carter	"	2236	2355	Abandoned task. No. 4 airscrew fixed in fine pitch.
		P/O. Muirhead				
		Sgt. Rockett				
		Sgt. Fleming				
		Sgt. Dunlop				
		Sgt. Cheshire				
		Sgt. Nightingale				
		F/Sgt. Clegg				
5/6th	AL525	W/Cdr. McNair	Jetties and Harbour at Tobruk	1910	2255	Abandoned task. Engine unserviceable. Bombs carried 8 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		F/Sgt. Bellingham				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		F/Sgt. Murdoch				
		Sgt. Warren				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL563	S/Ldr. Boffee	"	1902	0324	Thick cloud over target. Ran in heading East Bombed in one stick aiming at jetties. Some bursts were seen – impossible to say where. Bombs Carried as above.
		P/O. Kimmins				
		Sgt. Laker				
		F/Sgt. Rickard				
		Sgt. Young				
		Sgt. Yarranton				
		Sgt. Hoyland				
		Sgt. Allwood				
"	AL531	F/O. McDonald	"	1906	0336	Perfect run up on course East. Cropped 7 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD in one

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/O. Rostance				stick – areas E and F. 1 x 1000 lbs jettisoned. No results observed owing to taking evasive action. Saw hospital ship – dropped flare over it. Bombs carried as above.
		F/O. Teague				
		Sgt. Worden				
		Sgt. Moore				
		Sgt. Goodgame				
		F/Sgt. Robson				
		Sgt. Tansell				
"	AL579	F/Sgt. Russell	"	1915	0340	Over target area. Run up – areas E and F. Dropped bombs in one stick. At least three bursts observed in target area, claiming one red fire. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Mahoney				
		F/Lt. Reid				
		F/Sgt. Erakine				
		F/Sgt. Brook				
		Sgt. Sprinall				
		Sgt. Chivers				
		Sgt. Stocking				
"	AL564	F/O. Towell	"	1900	0345	West end of harbour not covered by cloud. Stick of bombs seen West of harbour – left light (fire?) on water's edge. Two flares right over harbour. Bombed on these flares – stick of 4 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD heading 180°. First noticed South of pp. 12 and also East of pp. 3. Second run heading 010°. Bursts seen. Ship near T.25 (fairly large). Big ship heading NE – position 31°40'N: 33°58'E. Bombs carried 8 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		P/O. Musgrave				
		F/Sgt. Coates				
		F/Sgt. Parr				
		F/Sgt. Smith				
		Sgt. Read				
		Sgt. O'Keefe				
		Sgt. Gunn				
"	AL600	F/O. Mackie	"	1915	0405	Only 3/10ths cloud over target Harbour identified – approached from West. Bombs accidentally dropped in one stick as bomb doors were being opened – near pp. 13. Started another run from East to take photo. Was attacked by hostile aircraft but continued photo run. Smoke and oil from No. 3 engine – smoke in bomb bays, so Captain decided not to stay and take photo. Stick of bombs seen North of pp. 8 and stick in water South of jetties 3 and 4. Stick of eight North to South of pp. 8. Three burst North of pp. 6. Hospital ship 25 miles NW of Tobruk going out. Flarepath seen South of Harbour. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		P/O. Thomas				
		Sgt. Kent				
		Sgt. Whitney				
		Sgt. Gillham				
		Sgt. McKinley				
		Sgt. Nuttridge				
"	AL540	F/Sgt. Carter	"	1909	0421	Hospital ship near Tobruk. Lights on shore near Gazala. Turned North of jetties – bombed in one stick just East of pp. 13 starting big fire. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Muirhead				
		Sgt. Rockett				
		Sgt. Fleming				
		Sgt. Dunlop				
		Sgt. Cheshire				
		Sgt. Nightingale				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Clegg				
"	AL548	F/Lt. Dyer	"	1912	0420	Bombed in stick – bursts, areas E and F. Fires observed but does not claim. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Morris				
		P/O. Sutton				
		F/Sgt. Stanton				
		P/O. Coates				
		Sgt. Hurring				
		Sgt. Rochford				
		F/Sgt. Reid				
"	AL517	P/O. Betteridge	"	1905	0420	Located target – ran round for 25 minutes. Saw gap in cloud right over target area. Four flares burning and showing up clearly. Dropped bombs in one stick. All bursts seen. One orange and one red fire claimed area F. Orange fire claimed near pp. 10. Saw hospital ship about 10 miles West of Tobruk. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Hall				
		W.O. Boteler				
		Sgt. Nixon				
		F/Sgt. Banrel??				
		Sgt. Ridsdale				
		P/O. Ashworth				
		F/Sgt. Davidson				
"	AL638	F/Sgt. Brown?	"	1915	0430	Lost height over target – supercharger on No. 1 unserviceable. Circled trying to regain height. Bombing run 090°. Five bombs dropped – three hung up. Fire seen North of jetties. Cloud made it difficult to observe results. Other three bombs jettisoned thought East of pp. 8. Bombs carried as above.
		W.O. Tupper				
		F/Sgt. Coe				
		F/Sgt. Appleby				
		F/Sgt. Ward				
		Sgt. Cook				
		Sgt. Moore				
		F/Sgt. Martin				
Day 7th Sept.	Liberator AL550	Sgt. Wilson	Convoy, SW of Crete	-	-	Cancelled. Fuel Cell trouble.
		Sgt. Hogan				
		P/O. Budden				
		Sgt. Forster				
		Sgt. Christmas				
		Sgt. Morrison				
		Sgt. Doak				
		Sgt. Maule				
"	AL600	F/O. Jenner	"	-	-	Did not take off. Engine change??
		Sgt. Beach				
		P/O. Crapper				
		Sgt. Elliott				
		Sgt. Swain				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Palmer				
		F/Sgt. Da Costa				
		F/Sgt. Box				
"	AL517	P/O. Austin	"	1427	1915	Abandoned task. Hydraulics trouble. Bombs brought back – 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. Hall				
		P/O. Story				
		Sgt. Ward				
		Sgt. Banks				
		Sgt. Gumbrell				
		Sgt. Cake				
		F/Sgt. Campbell				
"	AL540	F/Lt. Barclay	"	1435	2235	Intercepted 12 miles NW of 34°N: 24°E by Me. 110 at same height – 10,000 ft. attacked from starboard, beam and quarter. Aerial shot away after first attack. Rear and beam gunners got in two burst over three seconds each from 2/300 yards. Smoke from both engines and hits observed. Six attacks by enemy aircraft altogether. On return found our aircraft had been hit on starboard side near beam guns. Bombs carried 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD. <sup>8</sup>
		P/O. Muirhead				
		Sgt. Brewer				
		F/Sgt. Gregson				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		Sgt. Killips				
		Sgt. Hoyland				
		Sgt. T??el				
"	AL525	F/O. Duplex	"	1437	2210	When approximately 30 miles SE of Cape Lithinos this aircraft, at 10,000 ft and in loose formation with aircraft U, was attacked by a Me. 110 from quarter, beam and rear at distances varying from 1,000 to 100 yards. At an early stage Sgt. Warren (beam gunner) was twice wounded but he continued to fire his gun. All our guns except one then went u/s, and the aircraft was damaged – two engines hit, hydraulics u/s, rudder wires hit, one tyre flat – but by this time the Me. 110 had expended his ammunition and broke off. Gunner of Me. 110 thought hit as free gun fired once only. On landing aircraft ran off runway, but Captain kept it on the wheels. Bombs jettisoned. Bombs carried as above.
		F/Sgt. Bellingham				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		F/Sgt. ?urdoch				
		Sgt. Warren				
		Sgt. Watson				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL638	F/O. Evans	"	1424	2355	Spotted target 20 miles North of point given. Composition as stated. Bombed across line of convoy. Blackish smoke from first ship but no hits definitely claimed. Two bombs from other aircraft near destroyer (50 yards). Attacked by Ju. 88 at 11,000 ft Returned his fire – saw puff of whitish smoke from his starboard engine. 33°33'N: 26°18'E – possible
		Sgt. Carrington				
		F/Sgt. Curling				
		F/Sgt. Fraser				
		F/Sgt. Bedford				

<sup>8</sup> Shores, Fighters Over the Desert gives the following account:

"7 th Sept. 1942 -- on Crete, Fw Wegmann of III/ZG 26 was scrambled and alone after two B-24s. He had a long battle with the bombers which fought most expertly, frequently changing position to cover each other. Wegmann finally shot one down into the sea, but did not see the result of his attacks on the other" 159 Squadron

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/Sgt. Marshall				convoy seen, 4 or 5 ships thought. 34°42'E: 22°38'E – seaplane flying low and another apparently on water. Bombs carried 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		F/Sgt. Henderson				
		Sgt. Crozier				
"	AL563	F/Lt. Pearson	"	1415	2332	1912 hrs – saw shipping forward. Turned on heading 050° and attacked with 6 x 1000 lbs. Ships were heading 140°. Smoke seen from one M.W. No other results observed. Bursts from other aircraft seen in sea 150/200 yards from M.V., particularly one in centre. Attacked by Ju. 88, Breda 88 and Me. 110 – no results. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Kimmins				
		Sgt. Laker				
		F/Sgt. Rickard				
		Sgt. Young				
		Sgt. Yarranton				
		Sgt. Nightingale				
		Sgt. Allwood				
"	AL579	W/Cdr. Skinner	"	1420	2340	Ju. 88 seen South of Crete heading North and three unidentified aircraft. Convoy seen at given position. Composition as per Form 'B'. approached down south and bombed at right angles to convoy. Bursts seen in front of middle ship. After bombing attacked by Ju. 88 which broke away after firing tracer at this aircraft. Three Ju. 88's were circling and previous one made another attack – no results. Then attacked by Me. 110. Gave long burst – our aircraft turned into him and he broke away. After bombing, clouds of white steam or smoke seen over the M.V. in the middle. Bombs carried as above.
		F/Sgt. Corney				
		F/O. Humphries				
		Sgt. Austin				
		Sgt. Ford				
		Sgt Watford				
		F/Sgt. Waterhouse				
		Sgt. Perris				
Night 9/10th	Liberator AL550	Sgt. Wilson	Tobruk	222?5	0448	Abandoned task 32°48'N: 26°43'E, 0137 hrs at 5,500 ft – 150 miles from target approximately. Trouble with pitch control – No. 2 engine. Two bombs jettisoned safe just East of bombing line well out in sea. Six bombs brought back. Bombs carried 8 x 1000 lb GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. H?olan??				
		Sgt. Brewer				
		Sgt. Forster				
		Sgt. Christmas				
		Sgt. Morrison				
		Sgt. Doak				
		Sgt. Maule				
"	AL517	P/O. Austin	"	2223	0615	Visibility bad. 0232 hrs, 11,000 ft – target identified. Nine flares seen SW of harbour – bombing run made heading 330°. No shipping seen, but flares in wrong position so not positive of nil report. Bomb bursts not seen owing to cloud. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Moxham				
		P/O. Story				
		Sgt. Ward				
		Sgt. Banks				
		Sgt. Goodgame				
		Sgt. Cake				
		F/Sgt. Campbell				
"	AL56?4	F/O. Jenner	"	2230	0615	Bombed E and F areas – no bursts observed, haze below obscured. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Beach				
		P/O. Crapper				



Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Elliot				
		Sgt. Swain				
		F/Sgt. Palmer				
		F/Sgt. Da Costa				
		F/Sgt. Box				
"	AL531	W/Cdr. McNair	"	2215	0623	Flares off Mengar Shansak – circuit North of town. 10/10ths cloud over target at times but North side of harbour lit up by gun flashes. Ran over target. 0236 hrs, 14,000 ft – circuit North again and approached from West again. Bomb bursts not seen owing to cloud but aimed approximately at jetties. Thought fell short near pp. 13. As target was left a very big explosion and flash seen near pp.6. Bombs carried 8 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. Hall				
		W.O. Boteler				
		Sgt. Nixon				
		F/Sgt. Barrell				
		Sgt. Ridedale				
		P/O. Ashworth				
		F/Sgt. Davidson				
"	AL579	S/Ldr. Beck	"	2240	0648	Bombed areas E and F – four bursts observed which were on the land. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		P/O. Thomas				
		Sgt. Kent				
		Sgt. Whitney				
		Sgt. Gillham				
		Sgt. McKinlay				
		Sgt. Nuttridge				
"	AL518	W.O. Carter	"	2217	0635	Made run 300°. Flare dropped by other aircraft lit up end of harbour which was clear of cloud. Two largish ships seen F. 4 and E/F 5.6. Aimed at these – no results observed owing to cloud North of harbour obscuring vision after bombing. Large fire seen approximately between pp. 2 and 3 with small explosions from it. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Clarke				
		Sgt. Rockett				
		Sgt. Fleming				
		Sgt. Dunlop				
		Sgt. Cheshire				
		Sgt. Nightingale				
		F/Sgt. Clegg				
Night 13/14th Sept.	Liberator AL620	F/O. Mackie	Benghazi – Diversion	1610 Aqir	0400 Fayid	Made six bombing runs and four dummy runs dropping two bombs on each run aiming at Central, Cathedral, Guiliana Moles. Some bursts seen but no results. Gun flashes from Tobruk. IFF used and very effective – five seconds on and ten off. Bombs carried 12 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		P/O. Thomas				
		Sgt. Kent				
		Sgt. Whitney				
		Sgt. Gillham				
		Sgt. McKinley				
		Sgt. Nuttridge				
"	AL517	F/O McDonald	"	1510	0246	Dropped bombs in eight runs and one dummy run, aiming at Guiliana

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		F/O. Rostance		Aqir	Deversoir	and Central Moles. Some bursts seen but no results. Very large flash and activity at Tobruk also fires going. Bombs carried as above.
		F/O. Teague				
		Sgt. Worden				
		Sgt. Moore				
		Sgt. Goodgame				
		F/Sgt. <sup>9</sup>				
"	AL548	F/O. Tannahill	"	1610	0340	Dropped 2 x 500 lbs in first stick heading 020° and aiming at Central Mole area. Bombs seen to burst but no further results seen. Second run aimed two bombs at large ship approx. 8,000 tons in position S/T/U 30/31/32 ref. target map B/2 (5). Results not observed. Remainder of bombs dropped in harbour area without any results being seen. Considerable activity in Tobruk area. Bombs carried as above.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw		Aqir	Fayid	
		F/O. Melley				
		F/Sgt. Marjoram				
"	AL531	S/Ldr. Boffee	"	1510	0210	Dropped 2 x 500 lbs aiming at Central Mole area. Bombs not seen to burst owing to bad visibility. Remainder of bombs dropped in harbour area, on various headings. Some bombs seen to burst but no further results seen. Saw large red fire at Tobruk – considerable flak also going up – seen from 50 miles away. Bombs carried 12 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD.
		F/O. Price		Aqir	Fayid	
		F/Sgt. Burr				
		F/Sgt. Hinks				
		F/Lt. D'Action <sup>10</sup>				
		Sgt. Killips				
		Sgt. Hoyland				
		Sgt. Martin				
"	AL544	F/O. Jenner	"	1720	0405	Dropped bombs in four runs and one dummy run aiming at Cathedral and Guiliana Moles – some bursts seen but no results. Flak seen and fires, 30 miles SW of Tobruk. No fires burning at Benghazi. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Beach		Aqir	Fayid	
		P/O. Crapper				
		Sgt. Elliot				
		Sgt. Swain				
		F/Sgt. Palmer				
		F/Sgt. Da Costa				
		F/Sgt. Box				
"	AL540	W.O. Carter	"	1719	0412	Dropped bombs in four sticks of three bombs and made further three dummy runs – aiming at base of Central and Guiliana Moles. No results seen. Activity ground and air in Bir Hachiam area. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Muirhead		Aqir	Fayid	
		Sgt. Rockett				
		Sgt. Fleming				
		Sgt. Dunlop				
		Sgt. Cheshire				
		Sgt. Nightingale				

<sup>9</sup> No name given.

<sup>10</sup> This may be an error – and should be F/Lt. D'Alton.  
159 Squadron

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Clegg				
"	AL518	F/Lt. Pearson	"	1717	0348	Dropped first stick heading 270° and aiming at base of Guiliana Mole. Bombs seen to burst but no further results seen. Second stick, 180° aiming at centre of Cathedral Mole. No results seen. Third stick, 240° aiming at base of Cathedral Mole. No results seen. Remainder of bombs in harbour area. No results observed. Saw flares and A.A. fire with bombing in progress in Bir Hacheim area. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Kimmins		Aqir	Fayid	
		Sgt. Laker				
		F/Sgt. Rickard				
		P/O. Ashworth				
		Sgt. Young				
		Sgt. Yarranton				
		Sgt. Allwood				
"	AL579	P/O. Mahoney	"	1510	0220	First run – one bomb – seen to explode. Left target having made eleven runs, two of which were dummy. Dome bursts seen, no further results. Flak seen at Tobruk fires on ground and much activity. Bombs carried as above.
		F/Sgt. Russell		Aqir	Fayid	
		F/Lt. Reid				
		Sgt. Erskine				
		F/Sgt. Brooke				
		Sgt. Stocking				
		Sgt. Chivers				
		Sgt. Springall				
"	AL550	F/Sgt. Corney	"	1719	0408	Four runs, three bombs each and one dummy run. Bursts only seen – last run. Saw large red fires and ground gunfire thought about five miles SW of Tobruk. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Corless		Aqir	Fayid	
		P/O. Budden				
		F/Sgt. McCreery				
		Sgt. Ford				
		Sgt. Watford				
		F/Sgt. Waterhouse				
		Sgt. Perris				
"	AL564	F/O. Towell	"	1614	0305	2210 hrs, 15,000 ft, first run made. Selected six but eight fell off. 2235 hrs, 15,000 ft, another run – selected two four came off. Results not seen owing to evasive action. Activity at Tobruk seen. Bombs carried 12 x 500 lbs GP .12 TD.
		P/O. Musgrave		Aqir	Fayid	
		F/Sgt. Coe				
		F/Sgt. Parr				
		F/Sgt. Smith				
		Sgt. Read				
		Sgt. O'Keefe				
		Sgt. Gunn				
"	AL600	F/Lt. Dyer	"	1612	0325	Fourteen runs over target. All bombs were dropped in target area except first which was out to sea. Some bursts seen but no further results. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Morris		Aqir	Fayid	
		P/O. Sutton				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		F/Sgt. Erickson				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Hurring				
		Sgt. Rochford				
		F/Sgt. Reid				
Day 16th Sept.	Liberator AL517	F/O. Duplex	Benghazi – shipping	0815	1517	From take off the No. 2 engine did not seem satisfactory. Kept with formation until approximately 26°30' N. Decided to set course Northwards towards Mersa as aircraft would not climb. 1238 hrs, 11,000 ft, aimed at pp.7 (map M/25). Dropped in one stick. Bursts seen and one orange fire started. Ship about 2/3,000 tons beside wreck and another smaller one just SW of this. Stationary M.T. (about 300) seen 745229. Lesser concentrations approximately 706215. Approximately six aircraft (possibly CR. 42) seen on aerodrome. No activity. Bombs carried 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		F/Sgt. Bellingham				
		Sgt. Stuchberry				
		Sgt. Bullen				
		F/Sgt. Murdoch				
		Sgt. Watson				
		F/Sgt. Moore				
		F/Sgt. Bowman				
"	AL565	F/Lt. Willatt	"	-	-	Did not take off. Burst Hydraulics pump.
		F/Sgt. Winfield				
		Sgt. Corless				
		F/Sgt. Appleby				
		F/Sgt. Ward				
		F/Sgt. Waterhouse				
		F/Sgt. Taylor				
		F/Sgt. Frost				
		P/O. Bardwell				
"	AL603	F/O. Tannahill	"	0815	1920	1350 hrs, 17,000 ft – reached target. Tanker G. 3 (B/2) and small ship beside it. American bombs near tanker and just inside Outer Mole near M/V at D. 5. Aimed bombs at ships near 'Harry' heading 350°. Results not observed owing to steep turn to left. Bombs carried as above.
		F/Sgt. Hindshaw				
		F/O. Malley				
		F/Sgt. Marforam				
		F/Sgt. Parsons				
"	AL582	P/O. Betteridge	"	0812	1915	Heading 030° in formation (Blue No. 2). Dropped 6 x 1000 lbs in one stick when No. 1 dropped his, aiming at tanker – target No. 1. All bursts seen off Outer Mole. Two sticks from rest of formation in same place – ¼ mile from Mole. Saw bursts of first formation between Central and Outer Moles. (Three ships in position as briefed.) Five seaplanes in sea around area J.7 (B/2). Bombs carried 6 x 1000 lbs GP .12 TD.
		Sgt. Hall				
		W.O. Boteler				
		Sgt. Nixon				
		F/Sgt. Barrel				
		Sgt. Ridsdale				
		Sgt. Moverley				
		F/Sgt. Davidson				
"	AL600	S/Ldr. Beck	"	0810	1930	Reached target area. Ship fairly large (6/8,000 tons) area P. 3 (B/2). Also East of 'Harry'. Aimed at ship P. 3. Results not seen owing to steep turn to left but thought to have fallen outside Outer Mole. American bombs seen D? 6 G. G I. 9 and F.G.1. 30°15'N; 30°00'E – aircraft looking like Wellington, SW of Wasdi Natrum lakes. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Carrigan				
		F/Sgt. ?????????				
		F/Lt. Reid				
		Sgt. Kent				

Date	Aircraft	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Remarks
		Sgt. Gilham				
		Sgt. McKinley??				
		Sgt. Nuttridge				
		F/Lt. D'Alton				
"	AL555	F/O. Evans	"	0820	1935	Bombed in formation. Formation appeared to be aiming for 'Harry' on heading 350° approximately. Bombs appeared to overshoot North of Outer Mole. (Crew dissatisfied with bombing formation.) Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Champain				
		F/Sgt. Curling				
		F/Sgt. Fraser				
		F/Sgt. Radford				
		F/Sgt. Marshall				
		F/Sgt. Henderson				
		Sgt. Crozier				
"	AL630	F/Lt. Pearson	"	0815	1925	Saw target and altered course to 20°. In formation aimed at tanker but all bursts seen about 50 yards outside Outer Mole. Burst of rest of formation seen in same place. Counted fifteen large vessels (some possibly wrecks) in Outer Harbour. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Kimmins				
		Sgt. Laker??				
		F/Sgt. Rich?ard				
		Sgt. Young				
		Sgt. Yarranton				
		P/O. Shawyer				
		Sgt. Allwood				
"	AL550	Sgt. Wilson	"	0808	1940	Turned towards target. Ship seen E. 4 and another at D. 6 (B/2). Bombed with leader of formation. Bursts seen near Cathedral Mole from other aircraft, but own bursts not seen owing to turning from harbour Westwards with formation. Bombs carried as above.
		Sgt. Hogan				
		Sgt. Brewer				
		Sgt. Forster				
		Sgt. Whitney				
		Sgt. Perris				
		Sgt. Maule				
		Sgt. Morrison				
"	AL579	F/O. Towell??	"	0800	1830	Landed at Fayid. This was No. 3 in a formation of four aircraft. Primary target (4,500 ton) seen at M/N 24. Bombs released when leader's bombs seen to go at 13.58 hours heading North. Bombs seen to fall about a mile outside harbour. Ship seen alongside Harry. At 11.54 hours 30°30'N: 25°00'E, many tracks seen running East to West of road South of Sellum. Bad oil leak in No. 3 engine causing loss of pressure at 1530 hours. Engine had to be feathered. Aircraft therefore landed at Fayid. Bombs carried as above.
		P/O. Musgrave				
		F/Sgt. Coates				
		F/Sgt. Parr				
		F/Sgt. Smith (836)				
		Sgt. Gunn				
		Sgt. O'Keefe				
		Sgt. Morrison				

## October, 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Salboni	Thur. 1		Weather, bright, light winds, visibility oo. W/Cdr. C. G. Skinner assumes command of 159 Sqdn. vice F/O G. H. Dingle.
	Fri. 2		Weather bright, light winds, visibility 6. Liberator AL544 took off for Group Headquarters at 09.00 hrs with W/Cdr. Skinner. Returned – 18.30 hrs.
	Sat. 3		Weather bright, light winds, visibility o. Sqdn. billeted on N.2. site by trades.
	Sun. 4.		Weather sunny, light winds backing and increasing to 10-15 m.p.h. at ground level, visibility oo.
	Mon. 5		Liberator AL500 (W?) arrived from M.E. Command. Captain: S/Ldr. N. H. Boffee D.F.C. 2/Pilot: Sgt. Morris. Nav: W/O. Boteler. W/Op. F/Sgt. Stanton. 2/W.Op. Sgt. Rochford. Rear Gnr. F/Sgt. Erickson. Beam Gnr. Sgt. Tassell. M.Up. – Sgt. Hurring. Passengers. F/Sgt. Stevenson. F/Sgt. Grossey. Sgt. Simpson. P/O. Neal (Sick at Karachi).
	Tues. 6		Weather sultry, temp. approx. 95° Wind Nil. Cloud Nil.
	Wed. 7		Temperature lower. Humidity still high until afternoon. Fain at 16.00 hrs. with wind increasing 20-25 m.p.h.
	Thur. 8		Few airmen reporting back from detachment. Weather fine & sunny, light winds increasing to 15 m.p.h. Cloud Nil.
	Fri. 9		R.A.F. Stn. Salboni now officially known as No. 170 Wing R.A.F. Weather fine, light winds W to N.W.
	Sat. 10		Sqdn. now well advanced in the transition from non-operational to operational. Men settling down well to their own trades after months of being in transit, promising a good standard of efficiency in a short time. Weather fine. Wind Nil. Cloud – Nil.
	Sun. 11		Liberator AL564 "D?" arrived from Karachi in the afternoon having taken off at dawn. Crew & passengers as under. Capt. F/O Towell D.F.M. 2nd Pilot. P/O. Musgrave. Nav. F/Sgt. Coates D.F.M. W/Op. F/Sgt. Parr D.F.M. 2nd W/Op. F/Sgt. Smith. Rear Gunr. Sgt. Gunn. Controller P/O. Coates. M.Upp. – Sgt. Read. Fitt.II. Sgt. Smith. Inst. A/C Dugdale. Elec. AC Locks. Rigger. Cpl. S?lenn. The aircraft carried 5000 lbs. Of spares which were eagerly awaited by the Engineer Officer, F/Lt. Unger. Some long awaited personal mail was carried & delivered accordingly. Cloud Nil to 4/10 C.St.
	Mon. 12th.		The Station is being gradually knocked into shape and the energy of personnel is being expended on this direction. Weather fair. Wind N. W.
	Tues. 13		Weather fair. Cloud 5/10, 3000 feet. Vis. good. Wind N.W. 20 mph.
	Wed. 14th.		Weather fine. But oppressive. Wind Nil. Cloud Nil. Humidity exceptionally high.
	Thur. 15th.		Weather cloudy and oppressive. Wind N.W. 35/33. Vis. 30 m. 10/10 1000 feet. At dusk wind increased to 30/35 m.p.h. and there were occasional driving rain storms.
	Fri. 16th.		Weather conditions worse than yesterday. Wind slightly stronger and continuous rain. Cloud 500 feet 10/10. Wind gusting to 60/70 M.P.H. Aircraft were turned into wind but not picketed down. After dusk wind increased to steady 70/80 m.p.h. with gust to 100/110. Continuous heavy rain. Buildings began to leak and sleeping accommodation became almost untenable. A typhoon with all its attendant damage and discomfort! The wind dropped at dawn and the rain stopped. Damage to buildings and equipment considerable. A/C all O.K. Native huts and native labour stopped.
	Sat. 17th.		Communications U/S. Road & rail U/S. W/T and landline. Wind calm. Cloud

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			8/10, 2000 feet. Vis. 20 miles. Repairs under way. Decided to repair damaged buildings before continuing construction of others.
	Sun. 18th.		Weather fair. Cloud 5/10. 3000 ft. Wind N.W. 10/15 m.p.h. Vis. 10 miles.
	Mon. 19		Weather fine cloud nil. Wind N. 15/29. vis. 10 miles.
	Tue. 20		Weather fair. 4/10 2000 ft. Visibility 20 miles. Wind W.N.W. 20 m.p.h.
	Wed. 21		Weather fine. Wind N. 10 m.p.h. Vis. 30 m. Cloud 5/10. A.O.C. Bengal Command & A.O.C. 221 Group arrived a.m. by car then flew with W/Cdr. Skinner in AL500 to Ondal where the latter, and F/O Towell, P/O Muirhead, P/O Musgrave, F/Lt. Usher, F/O Ashworth P/O Coates attended a lecture on Japan give at 221 Group H.Q.
	Thur. 22.	<sup>11</sup>	W/Cdr. Skinner, P/O. Muirhead, P/O A?n?worth, F/Lt. Dyer to Calcutta on leave. S/Ldr. N? M? Boffee D.F.C. still on sick list, leaving F/O Towell, P/O Musgrave i/c flying and general. P/O. Muirhead and Sgt. Morris to Ondal for tyres by air. Weather fine. Wind S?W 10/15 Vis 20 m. Cloud Nil.
	Fri. 23		Fine, cloudless, calm. Vis. unlimited.
	Sat. 24th.		Fine???? 2000 ft. 10/10 m.p.h. Vis. 20 miles F/O. Towell F/Lt. Usher, ?/O Coates to Ondal for visit to Group H.Q. at Asansol.
	Sun. 25		W/Cdr. Skinner and F/Lt. Dyer returned from leave in Calcutta. Weather fine, cloudless, hot and 300° wind oloying?? 5-10 mph Vis 10 miles. Party of 50 men went to Salboni Station to unload spares from train.
	Mon. 26		S/Ldr. N. M. Boffee D.F.C. now off sick list. Flight accommodation re-arranged. Weather Fair. 6/10 cluris 3000 ft. wind ? 10/15 m.p.h. Vis. 20 miles. The two of Fortress crews 'intercepted' at Karachi by W/Cdr. Skinner reported today. They are as follows: S/Ldr. Mc??ren, F/O A?t?ick Cu? F/O Stuart?? F/O Stevenson, F/O. Morfatt, F/O. Struthers, F/Sgt. Hollisworht??, F/O. ?????il, F/Sgt. Brailsford? Sgt. Wallace, Sgt. Sayers? Sgt. ??????ert, Sgt. ?ouro?or?? Sgt. Wilson?? Sgt. ??wyhn.
	Tues. 27		Weather Good ????? cloudy. Vis ? miles. Wind 015/?? m.p.h. P/O Musgrave assumes temporarily the duties of wing adjnt.
	Wed. 28		Weather cool and cloudy. Wind inclined to be gusty. Vis. – majority unlimited. W/Cdr. Skinner accompanied the C.O. Wing on a tour of the Wing Aerodromes. S/Ldr McLaren assumes the duties of Wing Admin Officer during the temporary ??? disposition of S/Ldr. Terry. F/Lt. Usher proceeded to Calcutta on leave-own-business.
	Thur. 29		Weather fine & sunny. Wind Nil. Cloud Nil. F/O Dinge???? Proceeded to Chakrata on course ??????????????
	Fri. 30		Weather fine and sunny. Cloud Nil. Wind ?????? m.ph. W/Cdr. Skinner & G/Capt. B?roughail inspected low flying areas by air.
	Sat. 31		????? cloud to 4000 ft Wind S.W. visibility app. 10 miles. Bengal Command Photographic Officer visited Sqdn.

<sup>11</sup> This section from orb054 very light print (very hard to read)  
159 Squadron

## November, 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Salboni	Mon. 2nd		10/10ths cloud at 2000 feet. wind westerly, W – 5-10 mph. Visibility 10-15 miles. Liberator AL550 M landed at Ondal in error. F/O R. F. Body A&SD (AD) arrived for Adjutant Duties.
	Tue. 3rd.		10/10ths cloud, Wind south westerly at 10-15 mph. Visibility 10 miles. Intermittent showers. Liberator AL550 M landed at 16.40 hrs. Passengers and crew: F/O. Jenner Capt., Sgt. Beach 2nd Pilot, F/O. Crapper Nav. F/Sgt. Hurring 1st W/Op, Sgt. Swain 2nd W/Op, F/Sgt. Box R/Gunner, F/Sgt. Palmer, Beam Gunner, F/Sgt. Da Costa Mid Upper, Sgt. O'Brien, Cpl. Harper. Cpl Charneck, AC Hutton passengers on arrival from A.R.C. Karachi ex M.E.
	Wed. 4th		Weather 10/10ths cloud until mid-day. Wind 15/20 m.p.h. Cloud 2/10ths at 16.00 hrs. Wind 5-10 m.p.h. Squadron paraded at 07.40 hrs for inspection by Orderly Officer – march past. Liberator AL544 B, took off 08.30 hrs. for mosaics of Salboni and Digri aerodromes. Capt. F/Lt. Dyer, 2nd Pilot P/O Muirhead, Nav: F/O Humphries. Conditions difficult for photography. Digri impossible to photograph owing to cloud.
	Thur. 5th		Liberator AL544 B took off at 08.30 for Mosaics of Digri aerodrome. Crew as on previous day. Aircraft flown by P/O Muirhead 11 (eleven) runs made over Digri. Weather fine, cloud and wind nil. Visibility unlimited.
	Fri. 6th		Weather fine and sky cloudless. Wind Nil. Visibility unlimited. Squadron paraded for Commanding Officer's inspection and march past at 07.45 hrs. on N.2 Site.
	Sat. 7th		Weather fine, high humidity, cloudless and windless. Small party of airman returned from detachment at Allahaba. Aircraft Lib. AL579 G?? landed at 16.30 on arrival from Karachi. Crew and passengers: P/O. Bettridge, S/Ldr. Beck, Sgt. Hall, P/O. Barton. Sgt. Nixon, F/Sgt. Barrell, F/Sgt. Robson, F/Sgt. Goods, Sgt. Larbey, Sgt. Da Santos, Cpl. O'Brien, AC Farrow. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 09.05 hrs and landed at 12.05 hrs. Local flying and demonstration of control. Crew: W/Cdr. Skinner, F/O Towell, F/O Stevenson, Sgt. Reid, F/Sgt. Stanton, Sgt. M?ellingworh, W/O Boteler. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 14.40 and landed at 15.40 on circuits & landings. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Morris, F/O. Cox, F/Sgt. Wallace, F/Sgt. Brailsford, Sgt. Tassell, P/O. Wilson, Sgt. Gwynn.
	Sun. 8th.		Weather clear and sunny. Cloud and wind Nil. Activity Nil.
	Mon. 9th		10/10 cloud, weather dull, wind fresh 15-30 m.p.h. Heavy rain during afternoon and evening. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 08.40 and landed at 10.30 local flying (solo if fit). Crew: S/Ldr. Boffee, F/O. Towell, P/O. Musgrave, F/O. Stevenson, F/Sgt. Panell, Sgt. Rochford, Sgt. McCreery ( P/O. Musgrave Captain). Same aircraft and crew took off again at 10.30 – landed at 12.00 hrs. also on local flying. Liberator AL544 (B) with crew: F/O. Musgrave <sup>12</sup> , F/O. Stevenson, F/O. Moffatt, F/O Struthers, P/O Ashworth, Sgt. McRoberts, Sgt. Gwynn, Sgt. Ericksen, Sgt. McGregor, took off at 14.30 and landed at 17.00 hrs on cross country – Renpurbalsi – Asansol – Base. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 19.50 – landed 21.00 hrs for circuits and landings (2 each pilot). S/Ldr. Boffee, F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Morris, W/O Boteler, F/Sgt. Stanton, Sgt. Rochford.
	Tue. 10th		Weather fine & sunny. Wind and cloud nil. Visibility unlimited. F/O. A. J. J. Kirk proceeded to Calcutta to visit H.E.T. specialist. Liberator AL564 (D) with P/O. Muirhead, F/O. Stokes, AC Parkes, AC Ellis, Cpl. Slinn took off at 15.10 hrs and landed at 15.40 hrs. on air test. Liberator AL564 (D) with F/O Towell, P/O Musgrave, F/Sgt. Coates, F/Sgt. Parr, Sgt. Reid, took off at 15.45 hrs. and landed at 19.25 hrs. night circuits, lands. "Operation" impeded by cattle on the runway.
	Wed.		Weather still fine and sunny. Cloud and wind nil. Visibility unlimited.

<sup>12</sup> The original shows these pilots as P/O's in the first mention and F/O's on the next flight.



Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
	11th		Liberator AL600 (W), Crew P/O. Musgrave, F/O. Stevenson, F/Sgt. Brailsford, Sgt. Wilson, F/O. Struthers, F/Sgt. Pannell, Sgt. McGregor, Sgt. Gwynn, Sgt. McRoberts, took off at 10.00 hrs. Landed at 13.20 on a cross country route. Base – Moeghyar – Gaya – Base. Liberator AL600 (W) with crew P/O Muirhead, Sgt. Wallace, F/O. Humphries, Sgt. Sayers, and F/Sgt. Raltman took off at 15.30 and landed at 16.40 hrs on compass swinging and air check. Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 16.00 hrs and landed at 16.20 on dual circuits and landings. Crew: F/O Towell, F/O. Cox, F/O. Stokes, Cpl. Slynn, F/Sgt. Hollingworth. Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 18.25 and landed at 20.05 on night circuits and landings. Crew: F/O. Towell, Sgt. Wallace, W/Cdr. Skinner, P/O Musgrave, F/Sgt. Coates, F/Sgt. Parr, F/Sgt. Read. Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 20.15 hrs. and landed at 21.15 hrs. on night circuits and landings. Crew: P/O Bettridge, P/O. Muirhead, F/O. Stevenson, F/O. Struthers, F/Sgt. Pannell, Sgt. McRoberts.
	Thur. 12th		Weather fin and sunny. Wind gusty 10-15 m.p.h. visibility almost unlimited. Liberator AL600(W) took off at 08.45 hrs. and landed at 10.15 on local flying dual for second pilots. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Wallace, Sgt. Brailsford, Sgt. Rochford. Liberator AL600 (W) took off at 14.45 and landed at 17.00 hrs on local flying. Crew: P/O. Musgrave, F/O. Stevenson, Sgt. Wallace, F/Sgt. Brailsford, F/O Struthers, F/Sgt. Pannell, Sgt. McGregor, Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Gwynn. Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 20.20 hrs and landed at 22.00 hrs. on night circuits and landings. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, F/O. Stevenson, F/Sgt. Brailsford, F/O. Struthers, F/Sgt. Pannell, Sgt. Gwynn. Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 22.00 hrs and landed at 23.10 on night circuits & landings. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, P/O. Musgrave, Sgt. Wallace, F/O. Struthers, Sgt. McGregor, Sgt. Gwynn.
	Fri. 13th		Weather fine & sunny. No wind or cloud visibility unlimited. H.E. Govr. Of Bengal and party landed and departed from the aerodrome at approximately 10.30 hrs.
	Sat. 14th		Weather dull. 10/10ths stratus cloud at 5,000 feet. Light wind 10-15 m.p.h. from NE. Liberator AL600 (W) took off at 09.00 and landed at 09.45 hrs. on air test. Crew: W/Cdr. Skinner, F/O. Muirhead, F/O Humphries, F/Sgt. McCreery, P/O. Ashworth, Sgt. Doak, Sgt. Christmas, Sgt. Wilson. Liberator AL566 (B) took off at 08.30 and landed at 09.00 hrs. on air test. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Morris, W/O. Boteler, F/Sgt. Stanton, F/Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Rochford, Sgt. McRoberts, F/Sgt. Read. Liberator AL579 (G) took off at 09.05 hrs. and landed at 09.25 on air test. Crew: P/O. Bettridge, Sgt. Hall, P/O Barton, Sgt. Nixon, F/Sgt. Barrell, Sgt. Tassell, Sgt. Gwynn, F/Sgt. Robson.
	Sun. 15th		Weather dull 9/10ths cloud, wind strong 15-20 m.p.h. Cyclone warning received and reported to be heading our way. Cyclone apparently 're-directed' no further developments.
	Mon. 16th		Weather dull. 10/10ths stratus cloud at 6,000 ft. wind slight.
	Tue. 17th		Weather fine and sunny. Wind and cloud nil, visibility unlimited. F/O. Evans and crew arrived from Karachi by rail. Liberator AL600 W took off at 17.15 hrs and landed at 01.30 hrs (18.11.42) on night operations as ordered. Crew: W/Cdr. Skinner, A.V.M. Stephenson, P/O Muirhead, F/O. Humpries, P/O. Ashworth, F/Sgt. McCreary, Sgt. Doak, Sgt. Christmas, Sgt. Wilson. Liberator AL544 B took off at 17.20 and landed at 01.20 (18.11.42) on night operations as ordered. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Morris, W/O. Boteler, F/Sgt. Stanton, F/Sgt. Erickson, Sgt. Rochford, Sgt. McRoberts, F/Sgt. Read. Liberator AI564 (D) took off at 17.23 and landed at 01.43 (18.11.42) on night operations as ordered. Crew: F/O. Towell, P/O. Musgrave, F/Sgt. Coates, F/Sgt. Parr, F/Sgt. Hellingworth, P/O. Coates, Sgt. Gunn, Sgt. Read <sup>13</sup> . Liberator AL579 (G) took off at 17.21 and landed at 01.21 (18.11.42) on night operations as ordered. Crew: P/O. Bettridge, Sgt. Hall, P/O. Burton, Sgt. Nixon, F/Sgt. Barrell, Sgt. Tassell, F/Sgt. Robson, Sgt. Gwynn. The operation was carried out over Mingaldon Aerodrome; all bombs were observed to land in the target area and several fires were left burning. These

<sup>13</sup> Should this be Sgt. Reid?  
159 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			were probably either parked aircraft or store dumps. Searchlight but no anti-aircraft opposition was encountered; some night fighters made attacks but were driven off without activity and results. One was probably hit.
	Wed. 18th		Weather fine and sunny. No cloud or wind. Visibility unlimited. A.V.M. Stephenson departed by air at 09.15 hrs. Liberator AL579 (G) took off at 18.40 hrs. and landed at 22.45 on a night cross-country. Base. – N. Baugdpur Sasarum – Base. Crew: P/O Musgrave, Sgt. Wallace, F/O. Moffatt, F/O Humphries, F/Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Sayers, Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Tassell, F/Sgt. Box.
	Thur. 19th		Weather fine and sunny – no cloud and visibility unlimited. Liberator AL579 (G) took off at 18.00 hrs. and landed at 20.10 hrs. on dual circuits and landings. Crew: F/O. Jenner, F/Sgt. Brailsford, F/O Struthers, F/Sgt. Da Costa, F/O. Stokes, F/O Cox, F/Sgt. Irving, F/Sgt. McGregor.
	Fri. 20th		Weather fine and sunny – wind and cloud nil. Visibility unlimited. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 15.00 hrs. and landed at 15.45 hrs. on compass swinging and air test. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Morris, Sgt. McRoberts, F/O. Struthers, W/O. Boteler, F/Sgt. Erickson, Sgt. Laslett.
	Sat. 21st		Weather sunny. 4/10ths cumulous cloud at 2-3000 feet. Visibility 10,15 miles. Wind light – variable mainly from the S.E. Cloud lessened to 2/10ths by the afternoon and cleared to nil by evening. Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 14.15 and landed at 15.00 hrs on air test. Crew: F/O. Evans, Sgt. Collins, Sgt. Rockett, Sgt. Fleming, F/Sgt. Hollingworth, Sgt. Cheshire. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 19.17 hrs and landed at 03.55 hrs. 22.11.42. on night operations as ordered. Crew: P/O Musgrave, Sgt. Wallace, F/O. Moffatt, F/Sgt. Smith, Sgt. Sayers, Sgt. Rochford, Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Tassell. Liberator AL600 (W) S/Ldr. Boffee, G/Capt. Broughall, F/O. Cox, F/O. Humphries, F/Sgt. McCreary, Sgt. Gwynn, Sgt. Doak, P/O. Ashworth, took off at 19.15 – landed at 04.00 hrs. 22.11.42. on night operations as ordered. Liberator AL579 (G) took off at 19.20 hrs. and landed at 03.40 (22.11.42.) on night operations as ordered. Crew: F/O. Jenner, F/O. Stokes, F/O. Struthers, F/Sgt. Irving, Sgt. Swain, F/Sgt. Palmer, F/Sgt. Da Costa, F/Sgt. Box. Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 19.21 and landed at 04.00 hrs (22.11.42) on night operations as ordered. Crew: P/O. Evans, Sgt. Collins, Sgt. Rockett, Sgt. Fleming, F/Sgt. Hollingworth, Sgt. Cheshire, Sgt. Nightingale, F/Sgt. Robson. The operation was carried out on Mingaladon Aerodrome. Bombs were seen to land in the target area – several fires were observed to break out seven of which were still visible ninety miles away. Again no anti-aircraft fire was experienced. Searchlights were active but the formation was flying too high to be caught in the beam. One night fighter was seen to take off but did not attack. F/Lt. Dyer and F/O. Body proceeded on "42".
	Sun. 22nd		Weather fine and sunny .. Cloud nil – wind light mainly from the S.E. visibility unlimited. W/Cdr. Skinner & S/Ldr. Beck proceeded to Calcutta on 48 hr. pass. S/Ldr. N. M. Boffee D.F.C. assumed command.
	Mon. 23rd		Weather again fine and sunny. Cloud and wind nil. Visibility unlimited. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 16.00 and landed at 17.20 on Air Test. Crew: P/O Bettridge, F/O Cox, Sgt. Nixon, F/Sgt. Barrell, P/O. Barton, Capt. Walker (R.E.) and Mr. Roy (camouflage expert).
	Tue. 24th		Weather still fine and sunny, cloud and wind nil. Visibility unlimited. P/O. J. I. Coleman joined Unit on posting for Equipment Duties. Liberator AL600 (W) took off at 15.00 hrs. and landed at 16.20 hrs. on air and height test. Crew: P/O. Muirhead, Sgt. Wallace, F/O. Humphries, F/Sgt. McCreery, F/Sgt. Clifton, F/Sgt. Rich, P/O. Ashworth, Sgt. Laslett. Liberator AL579 (G) took off at 10.00 hrs. and landed at 10.45 hrs. on air test. Crew: P/O. Bettridge, Sgt. Hall, P/O. Barton, Sgt. Nixon, F/Sgt. Barrell, F/Sgt. Robson, Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Gwynn.
	Wed. 25th		Weather fine and sunny. Wind and cloud nil. Visibility unlimited. P/O. Crapper joined Unit. Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 09.00 hrs. and landed at 09.30 hrs. on air test. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Morris, W/O. Boteler, F/Sgt. Stanton, F/Sgt.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			<p>Erickson, Sgt. Rochford, F/Sgt. McRoberts, Sgt. Reid.  Liberator AL544 (B) took off at 19.00 and landed at 04.10 for operations as detailed. Crew: F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Morris, W/O. Boteler, F/Sgt. Stanton, F/Sgt. Erickson, Sgt. McRoberts, Sgt. Rochford, F/Sgt. Reid.  Liberator AL564 (D) took off at 19.00 and landed at 04.15 on operations as detailed. Crew: F/O. Towell, F/O. Stokers, F/Sgt. Coates, F/Sgt. Parr, F/Sgt. Hollingworth, Sgt. Reid, Sgt. Gunn, F/Sgt. Rich.  Liberator AL579 (G) took off at 19.10 and landed at 03.50 on night operations as detailed. Crew: P/O. Bettridge, Sgt. Hall, P/O. Barton, F/Sgt. Nixon, F/Sgt. Barrell, Sgt. Cheshire, Sgt. Laslett, F/Sgt. Robson.  Liberator AL600 (W) took off at 19.10 and landed at 03.35 on night operations as detailed. Crew: F/O. Jenner, F/O. Cox, F/O. Struthers, F/Sgt. Irving, Sgt. Swain, F/Sgt. Palmer, F/Sgt. Da Costa, F/Sgt. Box.  Encountered enemy opposition over target. Three machines badly damaged and casualties, three wounded, two seriously and one slightly. Target area for these operations was Mingaladon Aerodrome. One enemy fighter shot down. Names of wounded F/Sgt. Erickson wounded R. knee, F/Sgt. Robson wounded, compound fracture left tibia and Tibula. Sgt. Laslett wounded in buttocks. All wounded admitted to B.M.H. Calcutta.</p>
	Thur. 26th		Weather fair, clouds high, visibility unlimited. No flying; all machines unserviceable. F/O. Dingle posted to A.H.Q. Delhi. F/O. Body assumes duty as Adjt.
	Fri. 27th		Weather fine. Visibility unlimited. No flying, all machines unserviceable.
	Sat. 28th		Weather fine, slight wind. Cloud nil, visibility unlimited. A.O.C. in C. India Sir Richard Edmund Charles Pierse, K.C.B. D.S.O. D.F.C. accompanied by Air Vice Marshal D. F. Stevenson C.B.E. D.S.O. M.C. and Air Commodore H.J. F. Hunter C.B.E M.C. & G/Capt. Hawtrey visited the damaged aircraft.
	Sun. 29th		Weather fine, slight wind. Slight cloud, visibility unlimited. No flying. All machines unserviceable.
	Mon. 30th		Weather fine, moderate wind. Slight cloud visibility unlimited. Three N.C.O. observers and one Sgt. A.G. joined the Sqdn. from 221 Group. Strength of Sqdn. Officers 27, Airmen 551. Airmen in hospital 15, three of which, through enemy action. Strength of aircraft, five, all unserviceable.

## December, 1942 Form 540 (India)

159 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Salboni	1.12.42		Weather fine. Slight wind visibility unlimited. No flying.
	2.12.42		Weather fine. Cold wind. Visibility 10-15 miles. No flying. F/O. Sharpe with crew of AL581 arrived from Karachi and Sgt. Box with crew of AL560 <sup>14</sup> arrived from Karachi by air.
	3.12.42		Weather fine but cloudy with fairly strong wind. Vis: 10-15 miles. No flying. W/Cdr. Skinner & S/Ldr. Boffee proceeded to 221 Group for conference.
	4.12.42		Weather fine: vis. unlimited. Slight wind. Lib. AL550, Pilot F/O. Jenner & F/O. Cox took off at 10.15 hrs. on E & A Test. Duration of flight 45 minutes. Machine landed at 10.55 <sup>15</sup> hrs. W/Cdr. Skinner & S/Ldr. Boffee returned from 221 Group.
	5.12.42		Weather fine. Vis. unlimited. Slight wind, little cloud. No flying. W/Cdr. Skinner assumed command of 170 Wing vice G/Capt. Broughall, on leave.
	6.12.42		Weather fine, cloudy, vis. about 10-15 miles. No flying.
	7.12.42		Weather fine, vis. good, slight cloud. Lib. M. 550, Pilot F/O. Jenner & F/O Stevenson took off at 12.00 hrs. and landed at 14.10 hrs. Test of R.T. and Compass survey. Duration of flight 2 hr. 30 mins. Night flying commenced at 18.10 hrs, Lib. M. 550 Pilot F/Lt. Dyer & F/O. Muirhead took off at 18.10 hrs, and landed at 19.40 hrs. duration of flight 1 ½ hours, 45 mins and 1 ½ hrs. Total flying for night – 3 hrs. 45 mins. M 550 landed at 21.20 hrs. Finish of night flying.
	8.12.42		Weather fine, vis good, slight, cold wind. Air Marshal Edward accompanied by six staff officers arrived by air at 11.45 hrs. Lunch at the Officers' Mess. Left again at 13.45 hrs. Air Marshal Edward in Commander in Chief, Royal Canadian Air Force Tornadees. Officers' Mess, No. 159 Sqdn. opened. Guests invited: G/Capt. N. S. Groughall <sup>16</sup> M.C. D.F.C., and Cpt. Walker R.E. All Officers were transferred from 170 Wing Officers' Quarters to 159 Sqdn. Officers' Quarters. W/Cdr. Skinner hands over command of 170 Wing on return of Group Captain Broughall. No night flying.
	9.12.42		Dull morning but fine from 12.00 hrs. Vis. good – Lib AL550. Pilot W/Cdr. Skinner took off 15.00 hrs. Duration of flight 30 mins. F/O. Dance, Gunnery Officer, reported to Sqdn. on posting from 20 Sqdn. No night flying.
	10.12.42		Weather fine. No cloud. Vis Unlimited. Lib. AL550 took off 08.15 hrs. Pilot F/Lt. Dyer. Duration of flight 1.0 hour. No night flying.
	11.12.42		Weather fin. No cloud. Vis unlimited. G/Capt. Broughall flew to Cuttack in AL550 Pilot – W/Cdr. Skinner. Took off 16.00 hrs. landed at Cuttack 19.00 hrs. AL.560 Pilot F/O Muirhead took off at 18.15 hrs on Cross Country Flight, duration 4 hours.
	12.12.42		Weather cold, wind. Vis. good. Lib AL58?1 took off at 11.30 on Bomb test. Duration of flight 4 hrs. No night flying.
	13.12.42		Weather fine – no cloud. Vis. unlimited, cold wind. AL560 N Pilot W/Cdr. Skinner took off at 11.00 hrs for Kanchrapara. Night Flying commenced at 18.15 hrs (Cross Country) and finished at 23.15 hrs. Lib. AL581 Pilots S/Ldr. Beck and F/O. Sharpe.
	14.12.42		Weather fine. No clouds. Visibility unlimited. Cold wind. Visibility good. Lib. AL 550 Pilot F/O Towell took off 09.30 hrs. for Bangalore. Duration of flight 5 hrs. No night flying.
	15.12.42		Weather dull early morning with cold wind, warming later. Visibility unlimited Lib. 581 F/O. Stevenson compass test 1 hr. 50 mins. duration. AL550 landed at 17.30 from Bangalore. Duration of flight – 5 hrs. 15 mins. Pilot F/O. Towell. No night flying.

<sup>14</sup> Could be AL550??—check M.E. records.

<sup>15</sup> This does not add up to a 45 min. flight, but this is what the record says.

<sup>16</sup> Should this be Broughall – and the "G" is a typo in the original?

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
	16.12.42		Weather fine. No cloud, slight wind. Vis. unlimited. AL550 Pilot F/O Muirhead, took off 10.05 hrs. Air to air firing, duration of flight 3 hrs. AL581 Pilot F/O Musgrave took off 10.10 hrs. Target towing, duration 3 hrs. AL550 F/O Bettridge took off 15.25. Air to air firing duration of flight 3 hrs. AL581 Pilot F/O Jenner took off 15.20 hrs duration of flight 3 hrs. Target Towing. AL560 Pilot F/O Stevenson took off 15.15 hrs. Cross Country flying, duration of flight 4.00 hrs.
	17.12.42		Weather fine but cold wind blowing. AL560 Pilot W/Cdr. Skinner air bombing practice. Duration of flight 3 hours, AL550 F/O Stevenson took off at 15.00 hrs.
	18.12.42		Weather fine. Cold wind blowing. Vis. unlimited. All personnel confined to camp owing to suspected outbreak of small pox amongst enrolled followers. Flying. Lib AL550 (W??) took off 09.30 hrs. for drougue towing in the air firing area of Alipore, Capt. F/O Jenner. Landed 12.40. AL581 (G?) took off 10.20 hrs. for air to air firing off Sagar Island. Landed 12.40 Capt F/O Musgrave. Lib. AL581 (G??) took off 15.00 hrs. duty air firing off Sagar Island; landed 17.35 hrs. – Capt. Sgt. Morris. Al550 took off 14.45 for target towing. Landed 17.30 – Capt. P/O Muirhead.
	19.12.42		Visibility unlimited. Commanding Officer took Parade and inspected Domestic Site. Ban on movement of personnel from camp lifted. 2 Libs. Took off on ops. at 18.40 hrs. and landed back at 06.00 and 06.10 hrs. No opposition; certain amount of flak. Fires started – burning well.
	20.12.42		Visibility 20 miles. 9 more W/Op's and W.Mechs returned from attachment to Air H.Q. Bengal. Sgt. Laslett (WOP/AG) discharged N/E to 190 Wing.
	19.12.42 <sup>17</sup>		Lib. AL581 (O?) took off on ops 18.45 hrs. landed 05.05. Crew: (Capt) Sgt. Morris, F/O. Sharpe, Sgt. Websell, Sgt. King. Sgt. Buchanan, Sgt. Hopkins, Sgt. Fayle, Sgt. Woodward. Lib. AL560 (N) took off 18.45 landed 02.45. Crew: (Capt) F/O. Muirhead, Sgt. Cox, W/O. Bourque, Sgt. Fryde, Sgt. Blackburn, Sgt. O'Connor, Sgt. Seymour, Sgt. Pisani. AL544 "B" took off 16.30 landed 17.15 – duty engine and airframe test. Capt. F/Lt. Dyer.
	21.12.42		All Squadron vaccinated at 14.00 hrs. Visibility 20 miles. No Flying. Congratulatory message rec'd from A.O.C. Bengal Command on operational Flight of the 19th.
	22.12.42		Remainder of Sqdn. vaccinated at 10.00 hrs. Flying – Lib 550 W? took off on air test 10.40 landed 11.00 F/O Bettridge. 560 took off 12.30 air test, landed 12.50 hrs. – Sgt. Morris. Lib 581 took off on air test 14.30 landed 15.35 – Capt. S/Ldr. Beck. AL544 took off on practice bombing 14.50 – 17.30 – F/Lt. Dyer.
	23.12.42		Slight cloud – full moon. Preparations well in hand for giving airmen enjoyable time at Christmas. C/O took a full muster parade and addressed men on the operations. AL581 (G?) took off 11.30 – 12.45 – Compass swinging – S/Ldr. Beck. Al544 (B) 15.00 – 17.25 High level bombing – S/Ldr. Beck. Al544 17.30 – 17.45. Circuit Landing – F/O. Stevenson.
	24.12.42		No flying. Warm – slight cloud. Half day holiday for all Sqdn. personnel except few remaining on essential duties. Decided to mount a guard on A/c. this was done by O.C. & Eng. Officer at about 23.59 hrs. Concert given in the open air on Domestic Site 20.20 hrs. followed by Carol Service and Holy Communion administered by Padre. Fire broke out among native huts – quickly under control. P/O Corbin rejoined Sqdn.
	25.12.42		Christmas morning was very misty. Visibility 200 yds. Clearing by 10.00 hrs. and usual sunny weather persisted until sundown. 10.20 hrs. Comic Football Match – Officers & Snr. NCO's V Airmen, result under dispute. Airmen's Xmas Dinner 12.20 hrs. Officers & Snr. NCO's waited on the airmen and the Stn. Commander, C.O. and Flight Commanders visited all 4 Dining Halls. Gift parcels received from Governor of Bengal etc. Arrangements made during the morning for a guard to be placed on the aerodrome every night from dusk t dawn. Xmas Message received from A.V.M. D. F. Stevenson C.B.E. D.S.O. M.C. A.O.C. Bengal.

<sup>17</sup> This entry follows that for the 20th in the original; it is not certain these are the crews for the operation listed in the first entry for the 19th.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
	26.12.42		Weather – fine, slight cloud. Visibility infinity. Following A/c took off on ops. as ordered. Lib AL581 (O?) Took off 18.30-2.00 S/Ldr. Beck, F/O Cox, F/Lt. Humphries, F/Sgt. Smith, F/Sgt. Templeton, F/Sgt. Maul, F/O. Coates, Sgt Doak. Lib. AL560 (N) Took off 18.30-02.15 hrs. F/O Stevenson, F/O. Brailsford, F/O Moffatt, F/Sgt. Pannell, Sgt. Wardill, F/Sgt. Rich, Sgt. Gwynn, Sgt. Hurring. Lib. AL550 (W?) 18.30-01.10. F/O. Bettridge, Sgt. Hall, F/O Barton, Sgt. Nixon, F/Sgt. Barrell, Sgt. Nicholls, Sgt. Wadsworth, Sgt. Ercolani. Lib. AL544 (B) 18.45-04.15 F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Westmoreland, W/O. Boteler, F/S. Stanton, Sgt. McGregor, Sgt. Rochford, F/O. Dance, F/Sgt. Reid. Target Heho aerodrome. No enemy opposition encountered. An uneventful trip for all crews. F/Lt. Dyer and crew over two hrs late on return due to difficulty in locating target.
	27.12.42		Weather fine. Flying None. P/O. Crapper returned from Sick Leave. P/O. Ashworth B.M.H. Calcutta.
	28.12.42		Weather cold early in morning, fine. Flying: AL560 took off on air test, compass swinging, I.F.F. test 15.25 – 16.50. Capt. Sgt. Morris. P/O. Compton posted to Unit for Electrical Engineering. F/O. Morgan loaned to Sqdn. form 160 Sqdn. Khargpur placed in bounds to troops. Mysterious fires still breaking out, only native huts affected. All personnel had vaccinations inspected.
	29.12.42		Practice air raid warning 10.30 hrs. All clear 11.30 hrs. Xmas messages received fro A.C.M. Sir Richard Edmund Peirse K.C.B. D.S.O. A.F.C. A.O.C. in C. and A/Cdr. Hunter C.B.E. M.C. A.O.C. 221 Group. AL581 M? took off 2030 hrs. landed 04.00 hrs. F/O. Towell, F/O Stokes, F/Sgt. Coates, F/Sgt. Parr, F/S. H?ellingworth, Sgt. Read, Sgt. Major, Sgt. Gunn. Lib. AL550 (M) Took off 20.25 hrs. landed 04.35 hrs. F/O Jenner, Sgt. Ellis, P/O. Crapper, F/Sgt. Irwing, Sgt. Swain, F/Sgt. Da Costa, F/Sgt. Palmer, F/Sgt. Box. Lib. AL544 (B) Took off 20.35 hrs landed 04.05 hrs. F/Lt. Dyer, Sgt. Westmoreland. W/O. Boteler, F/Sgt. Stanton, Sgt. McGregor, Sgt Rochford, F/O. Dance, F/Sgt. Reid. Two aircraft bombed target – Taungoo Aerodrome. Crew of AL550 were unable to locate target and bombs were brought back to the aerodrome. Indian Concert was given on Station, not meeting with same appreciation as our English Xmas Eve concert. There was an average attendance. Lib. AL581 took off on air test 09.15 hrs. – 98.45 hrs. Capt – F/O. Towell.
	30.12.42		Weather – Cold, wind blowing 15-20 m.p.h. Visibility unlimited. AL581 took off on air test 15.45 hrs. landed 16.45 hrs. Capt. Sgt. Collins. AL600 took off on air test 17.30 hrs. landed 18.10 hrs. W/Cdr. Skinner (Capt.).
	31.12.42		Still cold mornings and sunny during the day. An operational aircrew was taken out into the open country for some 10-15 miles and was left to find its own way back; which was done quite successfully.

(end of frame orb065)

## Index of Names

Allwood .....	28, 35, 36, 40, 43, 45
Appleby .....	19, 22, 26, 38, 44
Arvan .....	19
Ashworth .....	11, 31, 32, 38, 41, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54
Austin .....	9, 16, 21, 23, 34, 39, 40
Ball .....	11
Banks .....	23, 34, 39, 40
Banrel .....	38
Barclay .....	29, 33, 39
Bardwell .....	44
Barrel .....	44
Barrell .....	27, 34, 41, 48, 49, 50, 54
Barton .....	48, 49, 50, 54
Beach .....	19, 21, 22, 24, 35, 38, 40, 42, 48
Beck .....	16, 20, 23, 34, 41, 44, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54
Bedford .....	39
Bellingham .....	27, 33, 35, 36, 39, 44
Betteridge .....	38, 44
Bettridge .....	18, 19, 26, 33, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54
Billingham .....	23
Blackburn .....	53
Blandford .....	10
Blanford .....	11, 32
Body .....	48, 50, 51
Boffee .....	15, 16, 21, 26, 28, 36, 42, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52
Boteler .....	15, 34, 38, 41, 44, 46, 48, 49, 50, 54
Bourque .....	53
Bowen .....	22
Bowman .....	22, 23, 25, 33, 35, 36, 39, 44
Box .....	21, 22, 25, 35, 39, 41, 42, 48, 50, 52, 54
Brailsford .....	47, 48, 49, 50, 54
Brewer .....	19, 21, 25, 33, 39, 40, 45
Brock .....	20, 28
Broder .....	18
Brooke .....	43
Brooks .....	24
Broughall .....	50, 52
Brown .....	15, 16, 25, 27, 38
Buchanan .....	53
Budden .....	17, 24, 36, 38, 43
Bullen .....	22, 23, 25, 33, 35, 36, 39, 44
Burr .....	20, 23, 33, 42
Cake .....	23, 34, 39, 40
Campbell .....	21, 39, 40
Carrigan .....	16, 20, 23, 24, 26, 34, 37, 41, 44
Carrington .....	39
Carter .....	15, 16, 19, 27, 34, 36, 37, 41, 42
Champaign .....	28, 35, 45
Charneck .....	48
Cheshire .....	22, 27, 34, 36, 37, 41, 42, 50
Chivers .....	20, 24, 28, 37, 43
Christmas .....	11, 21, 25, 31, 32, 33, 38, 40, 49, 53
Clark .....	29

Clarke	41
Clegg	21, 22, 23, 27, 36, 38, 41, 43
Clifton	50
Coates	22, 23, 24, 26, 33, 37, 38, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54
Cocker	3, 10
Coe	15, 16, 25, 27, 38, 43
Coleman	3, 9, 10, 50
Compton	54
Cook	38
Cooper	3
Corbb	19
Corbin	53
Corless	16, 24, 36, 43, 44
Corney	16, 23, 24, 36, 40, 43
Corrin	21, 23, 33, 34
Corson	10
Cox	48, 50, 52, 53, 54
Crabb	20, 24
Crapper	19, 21, 22, 24, 35, 38, 40, 42, 48, 50, 54
Crook	25, 27
Crozier	28, 36, 40, 45
Cumbrill	34
Curling	28, 35, 39, 45
Da Costa	25, 35, 39, 41, 42, 48, 50, 54
Da Santos	48
DaCosta	21, 22
D'Action	42
D'Alton	25, 42, 45
Dance	52, 54
Davidson	27, 38, 41, 44
Davies	3
Davis	26
Deak	11
Dinge	47
Dingh	11, 32
Dingle	3, 10, 11, 46, 51
Doad	31
Doak	24, 32, 33, 38, 40, 49, 50, 54
Dugdale	46
Duncan	31
Dungle	10
Dunlop	22, 27, 34, 36, 37, 41, 42
Duplex	17, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35, 39, 44
Dyer	11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 27, 31, 32, 38, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54
Edward	52
Elliot	22, 24, 35, 41, 42
Ellis	48, 54
Erakine	37
Ercolani	54
Erekine	27
Ericksen	48
Erickson	20, 27, 43, 46, 49, 50
Erskine	24, 43
Evans	15, 17, 19, 25, 28, 35, 39, 45, 49, 50
Farms	11
Farns	3, 8, 9, 10



Farrow .....	48
Ferris .....	11, 32
Fleming .....	27, 34, 36, 37, 41, 42, 50
Ford .....	36, 40, 43
Forster .....	21, 25, 38, 40, 45
Fraser .....	28, 35, 39, 45
Frost .....	23, 44
Fryde .....	53
Ganks .....	21
Gilham .....	21, 24, 26, 34, 45
Gillham .....	37, 41
Goode .....	10
Goodgame .....	26, 28, 35, 37, 40, 42
Goodhan .....	14
Goods .....	48
Gregson .....	21, 23, 39
Grossey .....	46
Gumbrill .....	39
Gunn .....	27, 33, 37, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 54
Gurling .....	24
Gwynn .....	48, 49, 50, 54
Hall .....	5, 18, 19, 27, 34, 38, 39, 41, 44, 48, 49, 50, 54
Harper .....	48
Hawtrey .....	51
Hedger .....	3
Heffer .....	3, 10, 11
Hellingworth .....	49
Henderson .....	21, 28, 36, 40, 45
Hindshaw .....	15, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 35, 42, 44
Hinks .....	33, 42
Hocker .....	33
Hogan .....	18, 19, 21, 25, 30, 33, 38, 45
Hollingworth .....	48, 50
Hopkins .....	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 53
Hoyland .....	23, 35, 36, 39, 42
Humphries .....	11, 16, 22, 24, 31, 32, 40, 48, 49, 50, 54
Humpries .....	21, 49
Hunter .....	51, 54
Hurring .....	27, 38, 44, 46, 48, 54
Hutton .....	48
Irwing .....	54
Jackson .....	10
Jenner .....	19, 22, 24, 26, 35, 38, 40, 42, 48, 50, 52, 53, 54
Jones .....	19, 20, 24
Kent .....	20, 24, 26, 34, 37, 41, 44
Killips .....	33, 39, 42
Killops .....	23
Kimmins .....	19, 22, 28, 36, 40, 43, 45
Kimmons .....	35
King .....	53
Laker .....	19, 22, 28, 35, 36, 40, 43, 45
Larbey .....	48
Laslett .....	50, 53
Lewis .....	14, 22, 28
Locks .....	46
MacDonald .....	15, 17, 25, 28

MacIntyre.....	30
MacKay .....	15, 23
Mackie .....	17, 22, 23, 25, 26, 37, 41
Mahoney.....	15, 16, 20, 24, 26, 27, 37, 43
Major .....	54
Male.....	25
Malley.....	15, 17, 18, 44
Marforam.....	44
Marjoram.....	24, 26, 42
Marshall.....	28, 36, 40, 45
Martin.....	25, 27, 38, 42
Maule.....	21, 33, 38, 40, 45
Maynard.....	14, 29
McCreery.....	11, 22, 25, 27, 31, 32, 36, 43, 48, 49, 50
McCriery.....	20
McCulloch.....	19, 20, 24
McDonald.....	19, 34, 36, 41
McGregor.....	48, 49, 50, 54
McKay.....	20
McKindey.....	45
McKinlay.....	41
McKinley.....	20, 26, 34, 37, 41
McNair.....	13, 19, 25, 36, 41
McRoberts.....	48, 49, 50
Medger.....	3
Moffatt.....	48, 50, 54
Moore.....	25, 27, 28, 34, 37, 38, 42, 44
Morfatt.....	47
Morgan.....	3, 54
Morris.....	15, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 38, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54
Morrison.....	21, 25, 33, 38, 40, 45
Moverley.....	44
Moxham.....	16, 19, 21, 22, 23, 40
Muirhead.....	11, 15, 16, 21, 23, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 42, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53
Murdoch.....	22, 25, 33, 35, 36, 44
Musgrave.....	26, 33, 37, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53
Neal.....	3, 46
Newsome.....	9
Nicholls.....	54
Nightingale.....	27, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 42, 50
Nixon.....	27, 34, 38, 41, 44, 48, 49, 50, 54
Nuttridge.....	34, 37, 41, 45
O'Brien.....	48
O'Connor.....	53
O'Keefe.....	21, 26, 33, 37, 43, 45
Owen.....	20, 24
Palmer.....	22, 25, 35, 39, 41, 42, 48, 50, 54
Pannell.....	48, 49, 54
Parr.....	21, 26, 33, 37, 43, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 54
Parsons.....	26, 35, 44
Pearson.....	19, 22, 26, 29, 35, 40, 43, 45
Peirse.....	54
Perris.....	36, 40, 43, 45
Peterson.....	18, 19, 24
Pisani.....	53
Plank.....	3, 10

Price .....	30, 42
Radford .....	35, 45
Raltman .....	48
Read .....	27, 33, 37, 43, 46, 48, 49, 54
Reid .....	11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 27, 31, 32, 37, 38, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 54
Rhodes .....	21, 27, 34
Rich .....	45, 50, 54
Richard .....	22, 51
Rickard .....	28, 35, 36, 40, 43
Ridedale .....	23, 34, 41
Ridsdale .....	27, 38, 44
Robbert .....	35
Robert .....	1, 35
Roberts .....	24, 26
Robson .....	26, 28, 35, 37, 48, 49, 50
Rochford .....	20, 23, 27, 38, 44, 46, 48, 49, 50, 54
Rocket .....	19
Rockett .....	27, 34, 36, 37, 41, 42, 50
Rostance .....	15, 17, 22, 28, 33, 34, 37, 42
Roy .....	50
Rudale .....	21
Russell .....	16, 19, 20, 24, 27, 37, 43
Samuel .....	30
Sayers .....	47, 48, 50
Seymour .....	53
Sharpe .....	52, 53
Shawyer .....	23, 25, 28, 33, 35, 39, 43, 45
Simpson .....	9, 11, 46
Skinner .....	11, 22, 25, 29, 31, 32, 40, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54
Sleightholme .....	7, 9
Slynn .....	48
Smedley .....	11, 32
Smith .....	25, 26, 27, 30, 33, 37, 43, 45, 46, 50, 54
Snedley .....	31
Sprinall .....	37
Springall .....	20, 24, 28, 43
Stanier .....	10
Stanton .....	20, 27, 38, 46, 48, 49, 50, 54
Stevenson .....	46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54
Stocking .....	20, 24, 37, 43
Stokes .....	48, 50, 54
Story .....	21, 23, 34, 39, 40
Struthers .....	47, 48, 49, 50
Stuart .....	47
Stuchberry .....	17, 22, 23, 25, 33, 35, 36, 39, 44
Sutton .....	15, 20, 25, 26, 27, 38, 43
Swain .....	22, 25, 35, 38, 41, 42, 48, 50, 54
Swains .....	21
Tannahill .....	15, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 35, 42, 44
Tannerhill .....	23
Tansell .....	37
Tassel .....	35
Tassell .....	25, 28, 46, 48, 49, 50
Taylor .....	23, 26, 44
Teague .....	15, 18, 19, 25, 28, 34, 37, 42
Temple .....	19, 20, 24

Terry .....	47
Thomas .....	16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 34, 37, 41
Towell .....	26, 33, 37, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54
Tupper .....	27, 38
Unger .....	46
Usher .....	3, 11, 31, 32, 47
Vosper .....	3, 10
Wadsworth .....	54
Walden .....	3
Walker .....	50, 52
Wallace .....	47, 48, 49, 50
Ward .....	21, 23, 26, 34, 38, 39, 40, 44
Wardill .....	54
Wark .....	24, 26, 35
Warren .....	11, 22, 23, 25, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39
Waterhouse .....	36, 40, 43, 44
Watford .....	36, 40, 43
Watson .....	11, 22, 23, 25, 31, 32, 33, 35, 39, 44
Websell .....	53
Weir .....	3
Whitney .....	20, 26, 34, 37, 41, 45
Wilkes .....	19, 20, 24
Willatt .....	15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 26, 44
Williams .....	19, 20, 24
Wilson .....	18, 21, 33, 38, 40, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50
Winfield .....	15, 17, 19, 22, 26, 44
Wood .....	20, 29
Woods .....	34
Worden .....	28, 34, 37, 42
Wright .....	6
Yarranton .....	21, 22, 28, 36, 40, 43, 45
Young .....	22, 36, 40, 43, 45