

April 1945: Form 541

203 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	7/4/45				
Liberator VI EV939	P/O. Law, J. A.	Capt.	F.G. 0020	F.G. 1437	Anti-shipping sweep – Andaman Islands. Aircraft was on patrol at Cinque Island at 50 ft. and patrolled Northwards up the East Coast of the Islands. The aircraft was briefed to investigate Stewart Sound, and after circling amongst the Islands in the Sound for ten minutes without opposition, sighted and attacked a heavily camouflaged wooden vessel of approximately 50 ft. length with 4 bombs and M.G. fire. The bombs exploded 20 ft to port and parallel with the ship, and the front mid-upper and rear gunners scored hits. No positive results were observed but the ship was probably damaged.
	F/S. Olden, D. E.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Pierson, L. C.	NAV.			
	F/S. West, P.	WOM.			
	F/S. Walters, J.F.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rosenberg, A.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Fuller, J. R.	A.G.			
	F/S. Burns, J. A.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Birnie, W.	A.G.			
	F/S. Keys, R. W.	WOP.			
Liberator VI KH195	F/O. McKay, W. A. C.23507	Capt.	F.G. 0020	F.G. 1400	Anti-shipping sweep – Andaman Islands. On patrol at Cinque Island and thence Northward. A coaster of approx. 500 tons was sighted at the entrance to Port Blair harbour. As the aircraft was briefed to avoid Port Blair this ship was not attacked. Port Cornwallis was thoroughly investigated but no sightings were made. Bombs were dropped on Great Coco Island but no hits observed. No opposition of any kind was encountered.
	F/S. Glendinning, T. J.	Co-Pilot			
	F/O. Middleton, G. N. A.422610	NAV.			
	P/O. Race, A. J. A.421935	WOP.			
	P/O. Skewes A.418013	WOP.			
	F/S. Freeman, H. C.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Keith, J. L.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Robertson, J. W.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Lloyd, W. P.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Simmons, W. H.	WOM.			
Liberator Vi ¹	F/L. Ensom, V. R. J.14346	Capt.	F.G. 0045	F.G. 1350	First Light anti-shipping sweep – Andaman Islands. On patrol at Cinque Island and thence Northward flying at 50 ft. and skirting Port Blair to avoid the A.A. defences. Patrol was continued up the East Coast to Great Coco Island without sighting any shipping. Weather fair, with unlimited visibility.
	F/S. Tydeman, L. L.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Brown, A.D. A417276	NAV.			

¹ Neither serial nor code given in record.

	W/O. Briscoe, P	WOP			
	W/O. Kirkpatrick, R.	WOP			
	W/O. Gibbs, D. M.	WOP			
	Sgt. Kirke, A. L.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Beattie, A. J.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Morgan, R.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Starr, C.	A.G.			
	8/4/45				
Liberator VI. (B)	F/L. Sandall, P.	Capt.	F.G. 0031	F.G. 1231	First light Anti-shipping strike Nancowry. Primary target (Naval patrol craft) not sighted. Attacked secondary target (wooden coaster) with 8 bombs and M.G. fire, from 50 ft. All bombs were seen to undershoot by at least 50 ft. but many strikes with M.G. fire were observed on the hull and superstructure. Further runs were made over the ship, attacking with all guns. No opposition encountered.
	F/O. Scott, W. L.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Rimmer, S. A.	NAV.			
	F/S. Taylor, C. W.	F/E.			
	W/O. Callaghan, E.	WOP			
	F/S. Collison, H. E.	WOP			
	F/S. Mitchell, N. F.	WOP			
	Sgt. Muschamp, V. L.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Milne, D. S.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Brooks, K. B.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. (G)	W/O. Hudson, C. D.	Capt.	F.G. 0038	F.G. 1307	First light Anti-shipping strike Nancowry. Searched for primary target in position 0802N 9330E. No sighting, so proceeded into Nancowry harbour and attacked the secondary target (wooden coaster) with bombs and machine guns from 500 ft. Bombs undershot by 200 ft. but strikes on the ship were scored with M.G. fire. Some L.A.A. and M.G. fire was encountered from the Naval Point and Spiteful Bay areas, but the aircraft was not hit. On leaving the target area a small coaster and patrol vessel were sighted concealed close to the N.E. shore of Katchall's Island, but were not attacked.
	F/S. McReavy, A. G.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Loxley, J. A.	NAV.			
	W/O. Ffoulkes, H.	WOP			
	F/S. Rouncefield, P. G.	F/E.			
	F/S. Cairnduff, E. N.	WOP			
	F/S. Norris, W. S.	WOP			
	Sgt. Gillespie, G. A.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Walter, D. J.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Wawkins, S. S.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. (A)	S/L. Gane, V. B. R.	Capt.	F.G. 0030	F.G. 1220	First light Anti-shipping strike Nancowry. Searched for but did not sight primary target (naval patrol craft) at 0802N 9330E. Attacked wooden coaster (the secondary target) which was sighted close inshore almost covered by trees. 8
	P/O. Cree, E.	Co-Pilot			
	F/S. Jones, W.	NAV.			
	F/O. Fox, R. M. A.410884	WOP			

	W/O. Orr, R. E.	WOP			bombs were dropped, and the attack was considered a good one, but owing to the tall trees surrounding the target the results could not be observed. On the evidence of subsequent photographs no direct bomb-hits were obtained. No enemy opposition. Weather fine. Visibility 15 to 20 miles.
	F/S. De Pinna, L. D.	WOP			
	F/S. Hallums, R.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Chantler, J. H.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Burgess, H.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Wilkinson, T. W.	WOM.			
	10/4/45 to 11/4/45				
Liberator VI. (L)	F/L. Ensom, V. R. J.14346	Capt.	F.G. 0054	F.G. 1231	First light anti-shipping strike against convoy reported by P.R. on course 160° ex Port Blair. On patrol at 0654N 9428E at 100 ft. In position 0900N 9340e an M/V. of approx. 400 tons was sighted, escorted by a Submarine Chaser of PC.1 Class. The M/V. was attacked out of the sun with 8 bombs from 20 ft. Two bombs were seen to fall on each side of the ship. Front and mid-upper gunners scored numerous strikes, and the ship was seen to catch fire at the stern. During the attack the aircraft struck the main mast of the ship, and the nose and No. 1 Engine cowling were extensively damaged. The Navigator was injured in the face by broken glass. The No. 1 engine oil tank was damaged, and the airscrew was feathered. Everything possible was jettisoned and the aircraft was able to gain height and land safely at China Bay.
	F/L. Taylor, D. A.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Brown, A.D. A417276	NAV.			
	W/O. Kirkpatrick, R.	WOP			
	W/O. Briscoe, P	WOP			
	F/S. Austin, A. E.	WOP			
	Sgt. Kirk, A. L.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Beattie, A. J.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Starr, C.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Morgan, R.	A.G.			
Liberator VI (J)	W/O. Hudson, C. D.	Capt.	F.G. 1818	F.G. 0845	First light anti-shipping strike, east of Nicobars. This aircraft was the second to attack. The attack was made from 50 ft. with 8 bombs on the M/V. already damaged by Liberator "L". It was made directly across the ship from the port beam and a direct hit was obtained. The gunners also scored hits both on the M/V. and the escorting Sub-Chaser, and AA fire from both ships was encountered. The aircraft was extensively damaged around the bomb-bay, but none of the crew were injured. The M/V. was seen by the following aircraft in the act of sinking as a result of this attack.
	F/S. McReavy, A. G.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Loxley, J. A.	NAV.			
	F/S. Rouncefield, P. G.	F/E.			
	W/O. Ffoulkes, H.	WOP			
	F/S. Cairnduff, E. N.	WOP			
	F/S. Norris, W. S.	WOP			
	Sgt. Walters, D. J.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Birnie, W.	A.G.			

	Sgt. Gillespie, C. A.	A.G.			
Liberator VI (K)	F/O. McKay, W. A. C.235507 ²	Capt.	F.G. 1821	F.G. 0712	Anti-shiping strike in Nicobar area. At 0017 (GMT) aircraft "J"s first sighting report was intercepted, and course was set for the enemy's position. Eighteen minutes later an M/V was sighted in the act of sinking with survivors in the water. A sub-chaser was manoeuvring in the area and immediately opened fire (at extreme range) with shells. The a/c went into attack down sun, firing front and mid-upper guns, and taking undulating evasive action. Bomb doors were not opened on the first run and a second run was made (again down sun) whilst the sub-chaser took violent evasive action. Attack was made with 8 G.P. bombs and M.G. fire and the ship was set on fire at the stern. Intense and accurate LAA and MG fire was encountered and the aircraft was hit repeatedly on second run, starboard wheel, afterpart of fuselage, rear turret and starboard fin, sustaining damage. The a/c. then circled out of range to observe and take photographs. Landed at base with Starboard tyre damaged. A/C came to rest partly obstructing runway. No injuries.
	F/S. Glendinning, T. J.	Co-Pilot			
	F/O. Middleton, G. N. A.422610	NAV.			
	P/O. Race, A. J. A.421935	WOP.			
	P/O. Skewes, D. W. A.418013	WOP.			
	F/S. Freeman, H. G.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Lloyd, W. P.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Robertson, J. W.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Keith, J. L.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. "A"	W/O. Fox, L.	Capt.	F.G. 1810	F.G. 0740	
	Sgt. Senhen, P. G.	Co-Pilot			
	F/S. Jones, W.	NAV.			
	W/O. Defir, J. R.171819	WOP.			
	P/O. Lyons, R. A.423704	WOP.			
	F/S. De Pinna, L. B.	WOP.			
	F/S. Jarvis, A.	F/E.			
	F/S. Harper, W. K.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Denholm, R.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Green, F.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. "H"	P/O. Law. J. A.	Capt.	F.G. 0047	F.G. 1505	First light anti-shiping strike – Nicobar area. On Patrol at 06334 in position 1020N 9329E at 50 ft. 10 minutes later intercepted R/S. sighting report, and set course for position 0657. Sighted enemy
	F/S. Olden, D. E.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Pierson, L. C.	NAV.			
	F/S. Walters, J.F.	WOP.			

² There appears to be an extra "5" added to the service number.

	F/S. Rosenberg, A.	WOP.			submarine chaser in position 0900N 9340E and made two attacks with 4 bombs on each run. The target was circling as the aircraft attacked out of the sun at 20 ft. The first bombing run straddled the stern of the ship, causing an explosion and slowing the ship down. The second attack again scored hits amidships, and the ship was left at a stand still, and down by the stern. The ship maintained fairly accurate AA fire with at least 4 guns, but the aircraft escaped damage.
	F/S. West, P.	WOM.			
	F/S. Burns, J. A.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Fuller, J. R.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Perkin, C.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. "D"	F/L. Fletcher, G. L. J.9375	Capt.	F.G. 0044	F.G. 1525	Anti-shipping strike in Nicobars area. At 0551 hrs. (F.G.) this A/C. pinpointed Little Andaman Island and set out on patrol, flying at 200 ft. on a course of 157 degrees. A 1st sighting report, without position was intercepted from A/C. "L" at 0602 hrs. Thirty minutes later a distress message from A/C. "K" was picked up and the position given understood to be that of the enemy. This and the position given in A/C "J"s attack report, were inaccurately received. Since this position was out of the patrol area, and R/T had already indicated a successful attack, the patrol was continued. Great Nicobar was sighted at 0825, indicating a u/s compass. It was therefore decided to return to base. A.T.A. base 1440 hours. Hand held photographs were taken of W. Coast of Gt. Nicobar Island – North of Pygmalion Point. Weather around Little Andaman area fair but hazy, reducing visibility to 6 miles.
	F/S. Ford, R. M. A.436455	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Dawes, W. A.425134	NAV.			
	F/S. Walker, F. A..437988	WOP.			
	F/S. Nagle, W. B.	WOP.			
	F/S. Pohlner, S. A. A.437571	WOP.			
	Sgt. Elrick, R. A.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Miners, G. A.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Ingram, C. C.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Templeton, K.	A.G.			
	17/4/45				
Liberator VI (B) KH289	F/L. Sandall, P.	Capt.	F.G. 0025	F.G. 1130	First light shipping strike, Nancowry. Aircraft was briefed to attack a wooden coaster sighted by P.R. at western entrance to the harbour. The ship was sighted on the run in, concealed close inshore, and well camouflaged. Eight bombs were dropped from 50 ft. on the first run. These overshot, the first bomb being estimated close to the ship, the remainder over land. Hits were scored by gunners. A second attack was made with guns and further strikes obtained. On returning an allied submarine was
	F/O. Scott, W. L.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Rimmer, S. A.	NAV.			
	F/S. Taylor, C. W.	F/E.			
	W/O. Callaghan, E.	WOP.			
	F/S. Collison, H. E.	WOP.			
	F/S. Mitchell, N. F.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Muschamp, V. L.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Milne, D. S.	A.G.			

	Sgt. Brooks, K. B.	A.G.			sighted from 6000 ft, which appeared to open fire, and dived shortly afterwards. Weather in the area was stormy, and heavy cloud made photographs unsatisfactory. 400 miles from base No. 2 engine began to vibrate and was feathered. The aircraft returned to base safely on 3 engines.
Liberator VI (D) KG911	F/L. Fletcher, G. L. J.9375	Capt.	F.G. 0035	F.G. 1205	First light shipping strike – Nancowry. The aircraft was briefed to attack a wooden coaster sighted by P.R. close to western entrance to harbour. This was not seen, but a larger vessel of approx. 400 tons was sighted in Spiteful Bay with steam up, and this was attacked with bombs and guns from 50 ft. One bomb burst on the stern and one amidships on the superstructure. Smoke and debris rose 100 ft into the air. Numerous MG strikes were obtained, and the ship was left in a sinking enveloped in smoke. The ship returned fire with MG and 20 mm. from positions fore and aft. AA fire was also encountered from HAA, LAA and MG positions on shore.
	F/S. Ford, R. M. A.436455	Co-Pilot			
	F/S. Jones, W.	NAV.			
	F/S. Pohlner, S. A. A.437571	WOP.			
	F/S. Walker, F. A..437988	WOP.			
	F/S. Nagle, W. B.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Elrick, R. A.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Miners, G. A.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Ingram, C. C.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Templeton, K.	A.G.			
Liberator VI (G) KG910	P/O. Lyons, W. J. A.420473	Capt.	F.G. 0030	F.G. 1330	Strike on vessel off India Point, Nancowry, Bad weather, which it was found impossible to skirt, completely covered the target area. The rendezvous point was reached, however, and search for target began. Bad visibility caused an overshoot of India Point, and in the vicinity of Twin Islets shore based gun positions opened up with H.A. and MG fire. All the aircraft's guns were brought to bear on the enemy gun emplacement with good results. Direct hits were observed and the guns completely silenced. The aircraft then continued southwards to India Point, but no sightings were made. Returned to base complete with bombs. Weather at target: Rain Squalls, thunder and lightening. Visibility 4 to 5 miles.
	W/O. De Freitas, R. A.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Parker, C. S. A.420041	NAV.			
	W/O. Budkley, C. K. A.426525	WOP.			
	W/O. Daniels, W. G. A.426263 ³	WOP.			
	F/S. Ryce, B.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Corkhill, N.	F/E.			
	Sgt. N?iles, B. W.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Freye, D. W.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Billings, G. W.	A.G.			

³ This service number is incorrect.