

August 1945: Form 541

203 Squadron Cocos Detachment

| Date | Aircraft type and No. | Crew | Duty | Time up | Time Down | Remarks |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------|---------|-----------|--|
| 2nd. Aug. | Liberator VI. "R" | F/Lt. St. John | Capt | 1930Z | 0450Z | Unarmed reconnaissance of Sunda Straits area. |
| | | F/O. Comfort H. | Co-Pilot | | | On patrol at 0900S 105.30E. |
| | | F/O. MacKinnon K. O. | Nav. | | | Whilst investigating a coaster off the Java coast two enemy aircraft |
| | | F/O. Hassell A. S. | W/Op. | | | approached, a Pete and a Val. The |
| | | W/O. Leitch R. O. | W/Op. | | | Val made as if to attack but was |
| | | W/O. Looten M. S. | W/Op. | | | driven off by bursts from the tail and |
| | | F/Sgt. Farr O. V. | WOM. | | | mid-upper gunners at 1,500 yds. |
| | | F/Sgt. Benson D. E. | F.E. | | | range. Off patrol at 0549S 106.30E. Weather fine. Visibility 10 miles. |
| | | F/Sgt. Taylor J. | A.G. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Pinnington M? | A.G. | | | |
| 4th. Aug. | Liberator VI. "N" | S/Ldr. Fletcher | Capt | 0330Z | 1510Z | Unarmed reconnaissance of Sunda Straits, thence coastwise to Emmahaven. |
| | | F/Sgt. Ford | Co-Pilot | | | Nothing sighted in Sunda Straits. At |
| | | W/O. Jones | Nav. | | | Benkoelen a 150 ft. Sugar Charlie |
| | | F/Sgt. Miners | F.E. | | | and an 80 ft. Tug were anchored, |
| | | Sgt. Elrick | WOM. | | | outside the harbour. A 110 ft. Sugar |
| | | F/O. Nener | W/Op. | | | Dog was alongside the jetty. At |
| | | F/Sgt. Walker | W/Op. | | | 0240S 101.10E two Sugar Dogs and |
| | | F/Sgt. Pohlner | W/Op. | | | Submarine Chaser escort were |
| | | | | | | sighted. The E/V. opened fire with |
| | | | | | | 20mm. guns, at 2 miles range, falling |
| | | | | | | short. |
| | | | | | | Nothing seen at Bengoes Bay and |
| | | | | | | Emmahaven. |
| | | | | | | Failure of No. 1 engine occurred at |
| | | | | | | 1320Z. The airscrew was feathered |
| | | | | | | and signals were sent to base each |
| | | | | | | ½ hour giving position, height, |
| | | | | | | course and speed of aircraft. |
| 4th. Aug. | Liberator VI. "R" | F/Lt. MacDonald | Capt. | 0338Z | 1532Z | Shipping strike at Tjilatjap, thence on reconnaissance to Java Head. |
| | | F/Sgt. Bassford | Co-Pilot | | | Attacked Fox Tare Charlie (200 ft.) |
| | | Sgt. Goddard | Nav. | | | alongside the docks, scoring near |
| | | F/O. De Profino | W/Op. | | | misses with 3 x 250 lb. bombs. |
| | | Sgt. Ford | W/Op. | | | A Sugar Charlie (150 ft.) in mid-river |
| | | Sgt. Mundrick | W/Op. | | | was also attacked with MG fire, and |
| | | F/Sgt. Chambers | WOM. | | | hits scored on the bridge. |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|--|
| | | F/Sgt. Fowler | F.E. | | | Fire from a single MG on the dock was encountered, but this gun was silenced. Observation towers along the coast were the only other sighting of interest. Weather showery. |
| 7th. Aug. | Liberator VI. "H" | S/Ldr. Fletcher | Capt | 1845Z | 0720Z | Photographic reconnaissance of Kebatu Island, including armed recce of Soenda Straits and investigation of ditching position in Welkomst Bay. Attack was made on a 60 ft. motor launch at Thwartway Island (0557S 105.52E). Bombs overshot by 200 yds., falling on jetty. 25 vertical and 40 oblique photos taken. |
| | | F/Sgt. Ford | Co-Pilot | | | |
| | | W/O. Jones | Nav. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Miners | F.E. | | | |
| | | Sgt. Elrick | WOM. | | | |
| | | F/O. Nener | W/Op. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Walker | W/Op. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Pohner | W/Op. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Chambers | W/Op. | | | |
| 12th. Aug | Liberator VI. "M" | F/O. Webster T. | Capt. | 2200Z | 1005Z | Armed reconnaissance. On patrol at Varkenshoek 0555S 105.43E. At position 0310S 106.14E a convoy comprising 3 large and 2 small M/Vs, and 1 E/V. was sighted at anchor. There was meagre inaccurate AA from the E/V. At position 0425S 106.36E a tanker (estimated 4,000 tons) and two submarine chaser E/Vs, were sighted. Attack was made on the tanker, but bomb-doors were not opened. Fairly accurate AA from E/Vs. Off patrol at 0605S 105.20E. Weather fair. Visibility 15 miles. |
| | | F/O. Neal L. | Co-Pilot | | | |
| | | F/O. Steele | Nav. | | | |
| | | W/O. De La Rocque | Nav. | | | |
| | | P/O. MacDonald A. V. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | P/O. Johnson V. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | Sgt. Bradley W. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Brindley R. | WOM. | | | |
| | | Sgt. Devine T. | F.E. | | | |
| 13th. Aug | Liberator VI. "P" | F/O. Tetlock L. M. | Capt. | ¹ | | Anti-shipping strike on convoy reported by M/203 on 12/8/45. Aircraft was to rendezvous with M/203 (F/O. Law) at position 0610S 104.20E but bailed to make contact despite intensive search. Failure of W/T. transmitter also occurred and aircraft returned to base. S.O.S. from M/203 was picked up at 0200Z. |
| | | F/O. Mulligan W. V. | Co-Pilot | | | |
| | | W/O. Pearson | Nav. | | | |
| | | W/O. MacLean | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Wooley | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. MacMillan | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Doonan R. D. | WOM. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Burn A. A. | F.E. | | | |
| 13th. Aug | Liberator VI. "M" | F/O. Law G. A. | Capt. | 2000Z | Missin g | Anti-shipping strike on convoy sighted by M/203 on 12/8/45. Intention: to rendezvous with P/203, sweep through Soenda Straits tip of Sumatra thence to Two Brothers |
| | | F/Sgt. Olden D. E. | Co-Pilot | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Watkins G. T. | Nav. | | | |
| | | W/O. Walters J. F. | W/OP. | | | |

¹ No times given in record.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|---|-----------|-------|-------|---|
| | | W/O. Keys R. | W/OP. | | | Islands (0510S 106.07E) and Banka Straits (0300S 106.20E) M/203 failed to make contact with this aircraft at 0610S 104.20E as pre-arranged. The following signals were received:- "425 – 2 MV – 2 EV – RXLF 1100 – 0135Z" "0-A –511 – 1 MV – RXLF 1100 – 0140Z" "S.O.S. – RXLF 0501 – WDM – GREEN ABLE" "S.O.S. – RXZW 1545" "GREEN BAKER" (Ditching position i Welkomst Bay). Nothing further was heard, and A.S.R. searches were unsuccessful. The last S.O.S. position 0545S 105.45E) was over land. |
| | | W/O. Rosenberg A. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | Sgt. West P. | WOM. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Miners G. A. | F.E. | | | |
| | | P/O. Elsee B. H. J. 170957 | Passenger | | | |
| | | Appended to the above was the following note. | | | | Note: F/Sgt. Miners, encountered at Palembang on 23rd Sept., reported that the aircraft had been damaged by flak from an unobserved E/V during the attack, which killed the navigator R/S. Watkins and set the main plane and an engine on fire. The aircraft crash landed off Sebesi Island (0557S 105.28E) when F/O. Law, F/Sgt. Olden, and Sgt. West were killed. The remainder of the crew escaped, and were taken by the Japanese to Palembang on the following day. W/O. Rosenberg suffered a spine injury, and was also beaten up for information. W/O. Walters broke an arm, W/O. Keys was wounded by shrapnel, and F/Sgt. Miners was slightly injured. P/O. Elsee escaped unhurt. |
| ² | Liberator VI. ³ | F/O. Webster T. | Capt. | 1454Z | 0245Z | A.S.R. search for Liberator M/203 in Soenda Straits. On patrol at 0613S 105.33E, thence through 0530S 105.50E, to St. Nicholas Point, coastwise to Peper Bay, thence north to Varkenshoek. Off patrol at 0650S 105.27E. Nothing to report. Weather fine. |
| | | F/O. Neal L. | Co-Pilot | | | |
| | | F/O. Steele | Nav. | | | |
| | | W/O. De La Rocque | Nav. | | | |
| | | P/O. MacDonald A. V. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | Sgt. Bradley W. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | P/O. Johnson V. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | Sgt. Chambers | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Brindley R. | WOM. | | | |

² Date covered by note added about previous sortie.

³ No serial number or code letter given.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|-------|--|
| | | Sgt. Devine T. | F.E. | | | |
| 16th Aug. | Liberator VI. "P" | S/Ldr. Fletcher | Capt | 1455Z | 0235Z | <p>A.S.R. search for M/203. On patrol at 0555S 104.35E and searched along Sumatran coast of the Sunda Straits. At 0547Z 105.19E (Legoendi Island Group) sighted flashing white light from hillside. The aircraft circled, and the light moved down to the beach and signalled unintelligibly whenever the aircraft flew past. Aircraft continued to circle for 40 minutes, attempting to discover the meaning of the signalling. Visibility was impaired by ground haze, and the position could not be illuminated with Aldis lamp. No other sightings.</p> |
| | | F/Sgt. Ford R. M. | Co-Pilot | | | |
| | | W/O. Jones W. | Nav. | | | |
| | | Sgt. Elrick R. A. | WOM. | | | |
| | | F/O. Nener A. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Walker F. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Pohlner S. | W/OP. | | | |
| | | F/Sgt. Chambers | W/OP. | | | |
| | | | | | | |