

December 1945 Form 540

203 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Kankesa nturai			I. Operations
			The first 10 days of the month were fairly quiet owing to the intense monsoon rainstorms. During this period, however, 4 ferrying trips were made to Yellahanka, and 13 personnel were ferried there.
			The Squadron took part in the Cocos ferrying commitment, and these flights became even more productive with the incorporation of loads both ways. A most satisfactory result was obtained. Seven trips were made in all.
			41 personnel were flown from Cocos to KKS, with full kit. 9 " " " " " Cocos to Negombo, with full kit. 15 " and stores were flown in to Cocos from KKS.
			The ferrying of repat and released personnel to Santa Cruz continues, and 17 bodies, with full kit, were carried.
			A mail carrying flight was made to Pegu by one a/c.
			A ferrying trip was made to Delhi with 9 passengers, carrying aircrew for the Kashmir Ckung? course.
			"P"/203 was despatched on a mail carrying trip to Australia, but went u/c to Cocos. It was serviced there, and proceeded to Australia on the 31st.
			A flight was made to Calcutta using Barrackpore airfield, to obtain welfare supplies.
			A photographic flight was made by "P"/203, to obtain aerial photographs of the airfields at Negombo, Koggala, China Bay, and KKS.
			Flying times
			KKS to Cocos 156:55 hrs.
			" Santa Cruz 32:15 hrs.
			" Yellamanma 15:55 hrs.
			Non-Operational
			The ferrying commitments greatly curtailed the training programme. On navigation exercise was carried out. Night circuits and landings were carried out by 4 crews.
			Technical.
			Flying during the month, although not high, was consistent, aircraft being despatched to different places almost every day. The flying carried out maintained a steady flow of aircraft into R. & I. for minor inspections. They are being cleared rather more quickly now, in view of recent postings in. We have recently acquired 3 sergeants and a number of corporals. The position looks much brighter.
			Big snags which have cropped up during the month are, a mainplane change on the Squadron Harvard, the parts re now to hand and the job is well underway: a fuel cell change on aircraft "F": - found collapsed on return from Cocos trip and an engine change on aircraft "P" - found u/s at Cocos and being done there.
			Average serviceability for the month was approximately six. Minor Inspection turnout was 8 aircraft - an improvement on November. Trouble is still being experienced with sparking plugs breaking off during removal. Aircraft "R", "G", and "C" all had to have a cylinder change on account of this snag.
			Weather is not now interfering with the maintenance work to any degree. Five days holiday over the Christmas period made its impression, but with the exception of Christmas Day, small parties of airmen had to work on different aircraft, to prepare them for trips on Boxing Day.

		Orders have been received that all Mk.VI. Liberators are to be prepared for disposal, and arrangements are being made for the intake of the new Mk.VIII's.
		Administration.
		Over the Christmas period, a very enjoyable time was had by all personnel. Football matches took place on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and our own Station Concert Party – "Kristmas Krackers" – gave really fine performances on the 24th., 25th., and 26th. On the same evenings, cinema performances were also given, and all shows were very well patronised.
		the food and beer supplies were appreciated by all personnel, during the Christmas period, and all Station efforts were well rewarded.
		Medical.
		The general health of the squadron has been satisfactory during the month under review. Numbers on sick parade have not been great.
		General hygiene has remained satisfactory and feeding arrangements continue adequate, special commendation being due to the Xmas fare.
		Personnel & Movements.
	4th. Dec.	S/Ldr. D. A. Stewart 41220 assumed command of the Squadron vice W/Cdr. G. R. Brady 37832 who went on leave.
	12th. Dec.	F/O. F. W. Bryant 165378 arrived to take up duties as Loran Leader.
	12th. Dec.	F/O. Chadd 166800 left the Squadron to attend the Jungle Course.
	17th. Dec.	F/O. P. Hill 164853 & F/O. T. Webster 164348 left to attend the Aircrew Mountain Course at Kashmir.
	18th. Dec.	W/Cdr. G. R. Brady reassumed command of the Sqdn. from S/Ldr. D. A. Stewart.
	24th. Dec.	Two new skippers arrived. F/Lt. Hammat, D.F.M. 48465 & F/Lt. Winterschluden 153178.
		Casualties.
		There were no casualties this month.
		for W/Cdr.
		Commanding No. 203 Squadron R.A.F.