

February 1946 Form 540

203 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Kankasanturai			Operations
			Flying during a busy month was once more chiefly taken up by flights to the Cocos Islands, and the ferrying of Mk.6 aircraft to Cawnpore.
			Three more new Mk.8 aircraft were delivered to the Squadron during February.
			The Squadron made five flights to the Cocos as its part of the ferrying commitment.
			Three separate trips were made to Santa Cruz with homebound personnel, and in addition two Mk.6 aircraft, on their way up to Cawnpore, landed at Santa Cruz with release and repat personnel.
			One flight was made to Dum-dum to transport an E.N.S.A. party to Ceylon.
			11 personnel were flown from Cocos.
			28 " " " to Santa Cruz.
			Flying Times.
			KKS to Cocos 103 hrs. 05 mins.
			" " Santa Cruz 15? hrs. 02 mins.
			" " Chaklala-Salawas 8?2 hrs. 00 mins.
			Non-Operational.
			The heavy ferrying commitments during the month rendered impossible the carrying out of any Navigation Exercises. Towards the end of the month only two crews were on the station at one time.
			Night circuits and landings were carried out by ten crews.
			Technical.
			Flying during the month consisted mainly of the bi-weekly Cocos service and a batch of trips to Santa Cruz with repat. The Mk.8 Liberators were in service, having completed arrival and acceptance checks. Five more Mk.8 Libs. were received and these are all now in service. P, L, M, and T of the old Mk.6's were disposed of, to the breakers yard at Cawnpore. Four are now left, one of which K, we hope to sell to 1346 ASR Flight. The remained we hope to get away quickly, this being considered one of the most satisfactory ways of alleviating the manpower situation. Production for the month consisted of 4 Minor Inspections and 5 acceptance checks.
			No serious snags developed on any of the aircraft, but a somewhat difficult situation arose when one of the Fitter N.C.O.s reported a considerable amount of water in the lubricating oil, being issued fro aircraft use. This was at first thought to be due to condensation, but further investigation revealed that oil containers in some case held almost a quart of water. The consignment concerned was scrapped and a fresh supply obtained. This was satisfactory.
			Aircraft F mentioned as having a fuel cell change at Chaklala, but has been put up for write-off, no spares being available to service it.
			A serious event of the month was the crash of aircraft G, KL471, on the 20th. Investigations have been held and the wreckage is in process of being cleared. Airframe and Engines were written off, but it is hoped that a few parts may be salvaged for further use.
			Failures of oil pressure screens reported for January do not appear to have been so prevalent this month. They are now being regularly checked.
			The squadron Harvard is again U/S with engine oil leaks. New sealing washers for rocker boxes are required and all possible sources are being tried with a

		view to obtaining new parts.
		Administration.
		This month was fairly quiet from a recreational point of view. Entrants for the two new football leagues were received and both leagues will be larger than previously. These competitions will open during the first week of March. A new hockey league brought to light unexpected enthusiasm for this game, which had not hitherto been played on the station.
		Considerable excitement was caused by a speed-up in demobilisation at the end of the month five groups of aircrew NCO's were being cleared at the same time. Several well known personalities returned home, including F/O. Farrell, the Station Sports Officer. Another noticeable departure was that of S/Ldr. Alexander, Squadron "B" Flight Commander, who, after spending since the middle of December at Kandy Hospital, returned home on Medical Repat.
		Squadron Strength
		Officers 76 Senior NCO's 150 O.R.'s 6
		Medical.
		The general health of the station continues to be good. There was one case of Anterior Polscmyelitiz, and one case of smallpox among the B.O.R.'s. Both were of moderate severity and were immediately isolated at No. 45 I.G.H. Kandy. Vaccination and revaccination, together with the surveillance of the contacts were carried out. All new arrivals are vaccinated, and brought up to date with their T.A.B. and A.T.T. inoculations.
		Personnel & Movements.
	17/2/46	F/O. Evans, Nav/B. returned to U.K. on mid-tour leave.
	10/2/46	One new skipper arrived, F/O. T. E. Kynnerslye, 172759.
		Casualties.
		There were no casualties this month.
		W/Cdr.
		O.C. No. 203 Squadron, R.A.F.