

January 1946 Form 540

203 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Kankasanturai			I. Operations
			Operations during a month of uniformly good weather were chiefly taken up with flights to Cocos Is. and the ferrying of the new Mk.8 aircraft down from India. Obsolete Mk.6 aircraft were flown up to Cawnpore. During the month of January 6 (six) Mk. * Liberators arrived at the squadron, the first arriving on January 24th.
			Aircraft P/203, flown by F/Lt. J. Wright D.F.C. reached Sydney, Australia, from Perth on 1/1/1946, proceeded to Kalgoorlie on 5/1/1946, and returned to the Cocos on 11/1/1946. The aircraft arrived back at the squadron on 12/1/1946.
			The squadron took part in the Cocos ferrying commitment as usual, five trips in all were made. In addition three trips were made to Madras, and one to Santa Cruz.
			43 passengers were flown from Cocos with full kit. 4 " " " " to " 5 " " " " from Madras. 7 " " " " to "
			The ferrying of repatriated and released personnel to Santa Cruz continues, during January 14 personnel with full kit were carried.
			Aircraft R/203 carried out a test flight on H/F calibration, on 9/1/1946.
			Flying Times.
			KKS to Cocos 114:30 " to Santa Cruz 9:20 " to Madras 7:30 Australia Flight 61:05
			Non-Operational
			The ferrying of the new Mk.8 aircraft curtailed the training programme. Two navigation exercises were carried out. Night circuits and landings were carried out by two crews.
			Technical
			Flying during the month was sufficient to necessitate 12 Minor inspections on Squadron aircraft. This is considerably higher than preceding months. Besides this considerable amount of time was spent on preparing aircraft for disposal. S, V, P and F went to the breakers yard at Cawnpore, and B, C, J, and G were allotted for use on other flying units.
			Aircraft A was made ready for dispatch and just prior to going was found to have a fuel cell leak. This has been fixed, and it is now awaiting a few spares before being given an air-test. P and F gave trouble on route to Cawnpore. P had an engine change at Mauripur, and F collapsed fuel cells at Chaklala.
			A considerable amount of trouble was experienced during the month with collapsed oil pressure screens on Pratt & Whitney engines. Most trouble was found on engines which have done around 500 hours. Ground staff are now instructed to pay more careful attention to checking of filters, and the trouble seems to have died down.
			The Squadron Harvard became serviceable during the month. It has now been air-tested and found satisfactory without any rigging adjustments, despite the fact that new starboard mainplane and aileron were fitted during repair.
			Four new Mk.8 Liberators were received during the month. All are at present undergoing equipment check and maintenance acceptance check. No serious snags have so far been reported on them.

			Administration.
			Considerable interest during the month was centred on the two Station football pitches. Both "A" and "B" league competitions were completed, the respective champions being No 2 Sergeants Mess and Flights. The leagues were succeeded by the knock-out cup competition, the cup having been presented by Pamela Carr. 7203 were successful, beating S.H.Q. in the final.
			Two fine recitals were given by the E.N.S.A. pianist Patrick Cory, in the Station Cinema.
			A welcome innovation was that of "off-ration" beer in the Officers Mess at Sunday lunch times.
			The Station Cricket team commenced a series of matches against the various colleges in Jaffna.
			Medical.
			The general health of personnel on the station during the month was well up to standard. There were no outbreaks of infectious diseases. The Vaccination state is now practically up to 100%. There were no outstanding difficulties regarding Anti-Malaria control, or Hygiene and Sanitation.
			Personnel and Movements.
	3/2/46		F/O. R. A. M. Light, 165730, detached to U.K. on Signals Leader Course.
	4/1/46		P/O. R. H? Adams, 199909, arrived to take up duties as Radar Leader.
	5/1/46		F/O. G. Niven 167362, detached to Jungle School, Bhopal.
	5/1/46		S/Ldr. D. A. Stewart, 41220, assumed command of Squadron vice F/L. Bowler.
	13/1/46		W/Cdr. G. R. Brady, O.B.E. assumed command of Squadron vice S/Ldr. Stewart.
			F/Lt. H. J. O'Brien, D.F.C. 52658, arrived to take up duties as Loran Officer.
	18/1/46		F/O. A. Fitch, 153745, Posted to A.H.Q./Intelligence/Ceylon.
	20/1/46		F/Lt. A. J. Bowler, 127180, F/O. J. G. Green, 190761, and F/O. A. Puller, 165790, detached to Aircrew Mountain Centre, Kashmir.
			Casualties.
			There were no casualties this month.
			W/Cdr.
			O.C. No. 203 Squadron, R.A.F.