

**July 1945: Form 541**

203 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	5/7/45				
Liberator KH195 "H"	F/Lt. Elmes	Capt.	(04) 2336Z	(05) 1233Z	Carried out anti-shipping sweep in area bounded by Puket Island, Sonkla, Chumphorn. Another Liberator should have operated, but was U/S, so A/C H carried out the patrol alone. At 0700Z 2 wooden coasters (SD) were sighted, lying off shore in position 0905N 9954E: there was no sign of life aboard. The bomb doors, which had been tested previously, had to be opened by hand, but the bombs hung up. All guns opened up, and 1,550 round of .5 were used. Numerous strikes were seen on one vessel, and a few on the other, but no further results observed. The aircraft then continued coastwise to Chumphorn where 2 Sandoway type schooners and some small fishing vessels were seen. 8 x 250 lb. 11 sec. T.D. were aimed at these, but the bursts were seen to be ½ mile from the ships. The bombs were dropped from 3,000 ft. There was no enemy opposition. The weather was mainly good.
	F/O. Prosser	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Coinner D.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Cook K.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Hamilton N?	W/OP			
	Sgt. Francis G.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Churchill J.	F.E.			
	F/Sgt. Brown R.	A.G.			
	W/O. Pearson B.	Nav.			
	6/7/45				
Liberator VI. "P" KH189 <sup>1</sup>	F/O. Cocks E. H.	Capt	0004Z	1245Z	An anti-shipping sweep was made (with aircraft "M") on the east coast of the Kra Isthmus. The object of the sweep was to sink the wooden coasters, sighted by aircraft "H" on 5/7/45. These were not found. At Bandon 5 wooden coasters (SD) were seen side-by-side across the mouth of the river. These were stationary, and several men were working on the decks. The aircraft dropped a stick of 8 x 250 lb. bombs across the coasters and a
	F/Sgt. Jackson C. R.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Taylor O. K.	Nav.			
	F/Sgt. Betteridge C. H.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Taylor R. C.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Pavey E. J.	WOM			
	Sgt. Preston G. S.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Brennan	A.G.			

1 Although the official record says KH189, "P" was KH185, and KH189 did not serve in SEAC.

	Sgt. Edwards T. P.	A.G.			perfect straddle was estimated. Bursts were seen and debris was flung high into the air. Numerous men dived into the water. There was another wooden coaster on the shore (under construction); direct hits were scored on this with MG fire, buildings also being strafed. The aircraft continued its sweep northwards and at 0625Z sighted a wooden coaster (SD) stationary, in position 1014N 9915E, well camouflaged, approx. 75 ft. Having no bombs left, the vessel was strafed, and may hits observed; there was no sign of life aboard. The aircraft had damaged its undercarriage on take-off, and when over base on return had difficulty in dropping the undercarriage. The wheels were eventually dropped, and after circling base for 1 ½ hrs., in landing the aircraft burst a tyre, and swung off the runway, damaging a wheel. A/C Cat. 1, crew unhurt. There was no enemy opposition, the weather was overcast.
Liberator VI. "M"	S/Ldr. Fletcher G.	Capt	0035Z	1133Z	Together with Liberator "P" made an anti-shipping sweep along the east coast of the Kra Isthmus, the object being to attack the wooden coasters sighted by aircraft "H" on 5/7/45. these were not seen. However, at 0537 a 100 ft. wooden coasted (SD) heavily camouflaged and slightly listing, was found in position 0956N 9911E, stationary, with a rowing boat alongside. Three 250 lb. bombs were dropped from 50 ft. but overshoot. The
	P/O. Steel R.	Nav.			
	F/Sgt. Ford R. M.	Co-Pilot			
	F/Sgt. Pohlner S. A.	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Walker F.	W/OP			
	F/O. Nener A.	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Ingram C.	A.G.			
	F/Sgt. Templeton K.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Elrick H.	WOM			

	Sgt. Miners G.	F.E.			target was well strafed, and many gun strikes seen. The aircraft then continued southward, and at 0555 hrs. position 0950N 9910E sighted a newly-painted wooden coaster (SD) of 120 ft., moving on a course of 180, speed 5 knots. 3 bombs were dropped, and two of these were direct hits: the coaster was seen to sink. The decks of the coaster were loaded with oil drums; there was no sign of the crew. The aircraft then proceeded back to its former target at 0956N 9911E, two bombs ere dropped, but again these overshot by 10-20 ft. The rowing boat was seen, containing 6 members of the crew, making for the shore; all six jumped overboard as the Liberator attacked. The gunners strafed the coaster with several rounds of .5 ammo., damaging the decks and superstructure. Other sighting were made as follows:- 0540Z: Vessel presumed wooden coaster was seen in the distance, approx. position 0948N 9912E. 0625Z, position 1012N 9912E, camouflaged wooden coaster, 100 ft., course 240. 0626Z, position 1015N 9908E, camouflaged wooden coaster, stationary, 80 ft., and barge, stationary, believed the same as attacked by M/203 on 23rd. June, 1945. There was no enemy opposition; the weather was overcast.
	8/7/45				
Liberator VI. "M"	F/Lt. Brown R. J.	Capt.	0035Z	1159Z	One of 4 Liberators which made an anti-shipping sweep in the Kra Isthmus.
	F/O. Ziebarth C. G.	Co-Pilot			At 0537Z 1003N 9911E a wooden coaster of 120 ft. was seen being attacked by another Liberator (this coaster was also attacked by "H", "R", and "B"). 4 x 250 lb. bombs were dropped but overshot. Hits were scored with MG fire and a fire started. The coaster was later seen by other aircraft blazing and sinking. At 0540Z a barge of 80-100 ft. loaded
	P/O. Goodyear J. R.	Nav.			
	Sgt. Bernard W.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Chambers A. G.	WOM.			
	P/O. Sol?lows G.	W/OP.			
	P/O. Alexander J. W.	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Seddon C.	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Grainger R. K.	A.G.			

	Sgt. Marchant F.	A.G.			with oil drums was seen stationary (believed the same as attacked by this aircraft on 23rd June). Strafing runs were made, and explosions and fires seen. At 0606Z 1008N 9912E sighted one deserted wooden coaster, listing, hit with guns. At 0713Z 1157N 9952E sighted and attacked one motor launch, course 180. Hits observed and 15 people jumped in sea. Launch appeared sinking when left. All attacks on shipping were carried out from between 50 and 75 ft. At 0743Z (having found no more shipping to attack) aircraft aimed bombs at the single railway track, position 1236N 9954E south of Bhejbuh. Bombs undershot by 50 yds., and fell near some buildings. This bombing was done from 5,500 ft. Aircraft then returned to base.
Liberator VI. "H"	F/Lt. Elmes C.	Capt.	0030	1054	One of 4 Liberators which made an anti-shipping sweep in the Kra Isthmus. Sighted and attacked one wooden coaster of 120 ft. (SD) on position 1003N 9911E, course 180, 4 knots. Bombing and strafing runs were made from 50 ft., between 0005 and 0055Z hrs. The vessel was also attacked by "M", "R", and "B". "H" experienced trouble with the bomb release, and the 8 x 250 lb. bombs did not release as selected. Actual hits were not observed, but a straddle is estimated. The vessel was left blazing (all guns fired from "H", scoring hits), and sinking by the stern. Aircraft then returned to base.
	F/O. Prosser J.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Coinner D.	A.G.			
	F/Sgt. Brown R.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Churchill J.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Hamilton C.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Francis H.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Cook K.	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Pearson B.	Nav.			
Liberator VI. "R"	F/Lt. Aldcroft H. R.	Capt.	0032Z	1112Z	One of 4 Liberators which made an anti-shipping sweep in the Kra Isthmus area. Between 0532 and 0542 hrs. attacked in position 1003N 9911E on stationary wooden coaster (SD) of 120 ft. Bombing and MG attacks were made from 50 ft. 5 bombs were dropped in the first run and 3 in the second. A straddle is estimated, and many hits with gunfire. The coaster was left blazing and sank. Also attacked by aircraft "B", "H", and "M". Continuing the patrol southwards the aircraft attacked one 100 ft. wooden coaster which was beached in position 0957N 9911E; there was no sign of crew, but did not appear to have been damaged previously. Hits were scored amidships with gunfire. "R" then returned to base.
	F/Sgt. Brooks W. J.	Co-Pilot			
	Sgt. Pearson J.	WOM.			
	F/Sgt. Taylor S. C.	F.E.			
	F/Sgt. Stephens W. J.	A.G.			
	F/Sgt. Hope R.	A.G.			
	W/O. Allford	W/OP.			
	W/O. Pickering	Nav.			
	P/O. MacDonald	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Bradley	W/OP.			
Liberator VI. "B"	S/Ldr. Fletcher G.	Capt	0027Z	1020Z	One of 4 Liberators which made an anti-shipping sweep in the Kra Isthmus area. At 0508 while passing over Chumphorn
	F/Sgt. Ford R. M.	Co-Pilot			

	P/O. Steele W.	Nav.			railway junction saw 2 locos. and many goods wagons. Gave one short burst, and hits were seen on the wagons. At 0519Z, 1003N 9911E sighted one wooden coaster (SD), which was on a course 070 – 4 knots, and heavily loaded. Attacked with guns, and hits started a fire near bridge. Coaster was also attacked by "R", "M", "H", and left sinking. In turning to make bombing run, trouble was experienced with no. 1 engine rev. counter, so bombs were jettisoned, also beam guns and bomb bay tank, and returned to base.
	F/O. Nener A.	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Pohlner S.	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Walker F.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Elrick H.	WOM			
	F/Sgt. Ingram C.	A.G.			
	F/Sgt. Templeton K.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Miners G.	F.E.			
	23/7/45				
Liberator VI. KH267 "C"	F/O. Rau R. B.	Capt.	FG 0840 1137	FG 0940 0115	Anti-shipping strike off Northern Sumatra. The operation was carried out via China Bay for re-fuelling. Patrol commenced from Pidie Point eastwards along coast, ½ mile from shore. A convoy of 5 coasters and 1 small escort was sighted south of Sigli, and 3 attacks were made at low level. One bombing run was a hit or very near miss, and the second undershot. Effective MG attacks were also made. The bomb explosions were not seen, but one ship was left smoking, and another low in the water. Intense but mainly inaccurate MG fire was put up by the convoy. The aircraft was hit once on its third run in No. 4 engine. The engine was feathered, and the aircraft was able to maintain height, and return to China Bay, after jettisoning loose equipment.
	F/O. Hulbert R. F.	Co-Pilot.			
	F/O. Nelson A. W.	Nav.			
	Sgt. Phillips L.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Kirke L.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Hughes G. K.	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Pitt R. A.	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Thomson K. W.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Wilkinson W. A.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. KG911 "D"	F/Lt. Elmes C.	Capt.	FG 0845 1130	FG 0935	Anti-shipping strike off Northern Sumatra. Refuelling was carried out at China Bay, and the aircraft briefed to patrol from Pidie Point to Meuradoc, but did not return. No messages were received from the aircraft, and it was not seen by R/O. Rau during his patrol; but he reported seeing a large fire near the scene of his attack, which might have been a petrol fire.
	F/O. Prosser J.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Pickering K. C.	Nav.			
	Sgt. Francis H.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Hamilton C.	W/OP			
	Sgt. Cook K.	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Churchill J.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Grainger R.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Marchant F.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. "P"	F/O. Webster T.	Capt.	0037Z	1120Z	Armed reconnaissance of Emmahaven. 4,000 ton M/V sighted in Bengoes Bay and attacked from 100 ft. with 7 x 250 lb. G.P. bombs. Hits were seen, and the ship was set
	F/O. Neal L.	Co-Pilot			
	F/O. Steele	Nav.			

	W/O. De La Rocque	Nav.			on fire. Weather good.
	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.			
	24/7/45				
Liberator VI. "H"	F/Lt. MacDonald	Capt.	0001Z	1100Z	Reconnaissance of Emmahaven and Bengoes Bay. No shipping was seen in Emmahaven. The M/V. attacked by P/20e on 23/7/45 was still in Boengoes Bay apparently undamaged. Two bombing runs were made at 200 ft., and 120 ft., but in each case bombs failed to release. Some damage was possibly caused by MG fire. Weather good.
	F/Sgt. Bassford	Co-Pilot			
	Sgt. Goddard	Nav.			
	F/O. De Profio	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Ford	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Mundryck	W/OP.			
	F/Sgt. Chambers	WOM.			
	F/Sgt. Fowler	F.E.			
	28/7/45				
Liberator VI. "H"	S/Ldr. Fletcher	Capt	0307Z	1425Z	Unarmed reconnaissance of Tjilatjap Harbour, Java. Landfall was made east of the port, and many coastal defences were observed. A probable P.O.W. camp was sighted. In the harbour a Sugar Charlie and a Sugar Dog were seen, also two wrecks off South Point. Photographs were taken. Weather over target was poor, with visibility down to 1 mile.
	F/Sgt. Ford	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Jones	Nav.			
	Sgt. Miners	F.E.			
	Sgt. Elrick	WOM			
	F/O. Nener	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Walker	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Pohlner	W/OP			
	31/7/45				
Liberator VI. "R"	F/Lt. St. John	Capt.	0157Z	1141Z	Armed reconnaissance, Henkoelen to Sunda Strait, in company with P/203. Sighted Sugar Charlie in Benkoelen, also schooners and fishing vessels. Patrol was carried out to 0558S 104.30E Photographs were taken. Weather good.
	F/O. Comfort H.	Co-Pilot			
	F/O. McKinnon K. O.	Nav.			
	F/O. Hassell A. S.	W/OP			
	W/O. Leitch R. O.	W/OP			
	W/O. Looten H. S.	W/OP			
	F/Sgt. Farr O. V.	WOM.			
	F/Sgt. Benson D. E.	F.E.			
	F/Sgt. Taylor J.	A.G.			
	F/Sgt. Pinnington H.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. "P"	F/O. Webster T.	Capt.	0200Z	1150Z	Armed reconnaissance, Henkoelen to Sunda Strait, in company with R/203. Sighted Sugar Charlie in Benkoelen. Off patrol at 0558S 104.30E Weather good.
	F/O. Neal L.	Co-Pilot			
	F/O. Steele W.	Nav.			
	W/O. De La Rocque J.	Nav.			
	P/O. MacDonald A. V.	W/OP.			
	P/O. Johnson V.	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Bradley W.	W/OP.			
	Sgt. Devine T.	F.E.			

	F/Sgt. Brindley R.	WOM.			