

June 1945 Form 540

203 Squadron Detachment, Akyab.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Cuttack	13th June		Operational transit from KKS to Cuttack was flown by 7 Liberators:- S/Ldr. Waddy, F/Lt. Brown, F/Lt. MacDonald, F/O. Law, F/O. St.John, F/Lt. Aldcroft, W/Cdr. Fox. Proposed to spend one night and continue to Akyab, to operate against 10,000 ton enemy tanker.
Cuttack	14th June		Delayed in transit to Akyab owing to weather and lack of information concerning facilities available.
Akyab	15th June		All aircraft completed the transit to Akyab, to find that SAF squadrons were operating against the tanker and escorts. These crews reported the tanker destroyed, but that E/Vs took effective evasive action.
	17th June		5 aircraft (together with 5 of 159 Squadron) briefed to search for enemy destroyer, possibly damaged whilst escorting the tanker on 15/6/45, and since reported off Singora on southerly course: thought to be making for nearest port (Thepa or Patani).
			4 aircraft carried 4 x 500 lb. bombs each for medium level attacks. 5th aircraft (F/Lt. Aldcroft) not fitted with bombsight, carried no bombs, and was detailed to patrol down the coast southward from Ko Samui, searching all possible anchorages.
			This aircraft searched as far as Patani without sighting, and thence returned northward for further investigation.
			Remaining aircraft carried out a parallel track sweep southward from Ko Samui in conjunction with 159 Squadron Liberators. Two small escort ships (submarine chasers or minesweepers) were sighted by F/O. St.John, who reported on W/T. and R/T. and attempted Wide Wide homing. This aircraft's Mk.XIV. bombsight was unserviceable, so that an attack was impracticable, but attacks were made by F/O. Law and F/Lt. MacDonald, the latter claiming a possible hit on the stern of one ship, and that the ship was stopped. During attacks ships put up considerable inaccurate HAA and 25mm. fire and took violent evasive action.
			S/Ldr. Waddy attacked a wooden coaster, missing with bombs but damaging by low level MG. attack. F/O. St.John dropped his bomb load on the Singapore-Bangkok Railway, and though without bombsight, scored a direct hit on the track and a near miss on a train.
	19th June		W/Cdr. Fox and F/Lt. Aldcroft returned direct to KKS in Liberators "K" and "R".
Akyab	22nd June		Three Liberators carried out an anti-shipping sweep of the West coast of the Kra Isthmus from Victoria Point to Puket Island. F/O. St.John attacked a wooden coaster and estimated hits with bombs on his second run, but no bomb explosions were seen. The ship was escorted by a MTB, and both opened fire with Machine Guns from very close range. This caused damage to the aircraft, and three of the crew were slightly injured.
			F/O. Law sighted an MTB escorting two powered sampans, and attacked and sank the MTB with bombs. The sampans were also attacked with MG. fire, and men were seen to jump overboard. One sampan beached at full speed. Accurate MG. fire was put up by the MTB, and the aircraft sustained damage which caused failure of the breaks on landing. The aircraft overshot the runway and was badly damaged, Cat. III.
			F/Lt. MacDonald in the third aircraft also attacked the sampans after the sinking of the MTB. His bombs missed, but further damage was inflicted by gunfire. This aircraft was also damaged (Cat. II.) by accurate MG. fire from the shore.
Akyab	23rd June		Two aircraft carried out an anti-shipping sweep of the East coast of the Kra

			Isthmus southward from Prachuab Kirikhand. A wooden coaster was attacked off Chumphorn by S/Ldr. Waddy, and hits were scored on two bombing runs, which destroyed the ship. Another coaster was sighted to the southward, the position of which was reported to the other Liberator (F/Lt. Brown)
			F/Lt. Brown attacked this with 4 bombs and MG fire, scoring direct hits and setting the ship on fire. The ship was last seen 40 minutes later, burning with black oil smoke to the water-line, and capsized.
	25th June		After the operation of June 23rd. the squadron was recalled to base, and on this date two aircraft returned. Owing to minor repairs and unserviceability the other aircraft were delayed, and returned individually when they could be made ready.
	28th June		Two medium-sized merchant ships and escorts having been reported in the Northern Gulf of Siam a second detachment of 3 Liberators was ordered to Akyab to deal with them.
			Again the detachment was routed via Cuttack.
			No further sightings of these ships were reported, although regular ?????? recce's covered the area, and for six days the detachment remained at readiness.