

March 1945: Form 541

203 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	20/3/45 to 21/3/45				
Liberator VI (F?) KG980?	F/O Morris, S. W. J.22813	Capt.	F.G. 1110		Anti-shipping strike at Oelehleh. This aircraft approached the target from the direction of Sabang in company with Liberators "D" and "X???", and was seen to be subjected to A.A. fire over the harbour. It was also seen to be flying very close to the water. When just east of Peonasoe? Island, the aircraft was seen by Liberator "D" to drop into the sea and break up. On circling the position only the port wing was seen and some other dark objects. There was no sign of the crew.
	F/O. Grant, L. M. J. 153776	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Smith, A. P. Aus.421460	NAV.			
	F/S. Collins, W. A. 1512970	WOP.			
	F/S. Leftwick?, E. F. 1387779	WOP.			
	F/S. Silkstone, J. D. 1318346	WOP.			
	Sgt. Lang, A. M. 1120918	WOM.			
	Sgt. N?eed?, A. 1829311	A.G.			
	Sgt. Oakdek? D. G. 1895383	A.G.			
	Sgt. Peters, R? 1894482	F/E.			
Liberator VI (G?) KG?910	P/O. Lyons, W. J.	Capt.	F.G. 1109	F.G. 0120	Anti-shipping strike Oelehleh in company with Liberators B? D, N? P and M??. approach was made from the Westward at 50 ft. leading the first formation in and coasters and patrol craft were sighted in the Bay to the West of the town. The attack was made on a coaster alongside the main jetty with 8 bombs, the ship was seen by a following aircraft to have been hit, and subsequently capsized. This vessel was also attacked with gunfire and a sailing vessel and motor boat were also hit.
	W/O. De Frktas??, R. A.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Parker, C. S. Aus420041	NAV.			
	W/O. Fox, L. (DFC)				
	W/O. Buckley, C. K. Aus.426525	WOP.			
	W/O. Daniels, W. G. Aus.425283	WOP.			
	Sgt. Hilrs?? D. W.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Corkmill??, K.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Prmye?? D. K?	A.G.			
	Sgt. Billings, G. M?	A.G.			
					frame above hard to read do not trust names.

Liberator VI (B) KH289	F/L. Sandall, P.	Capt.	F.G. 1110	F.G. 0055	Anti-shipping strikes at Oelehleh with 5 other Liberators. The target was approached from the direction of Sabang and 11 vessels sighted anchored off the jetty and in the Bay to the Westward. Six of these were standard wooden coasters of approx 250 tons, one of which was attached with a stick of 8 250 lbs. G.P. T.D. bombs set to 11 secs. delay and spaced 30 ft. Three other coasters were attacked with gunfire, from 50 ft. The bombs were seen to straddle, the mast to break off and a red explosion was observed at the stern of the ship, strikes were obtained on at least on ship with M.G. fire. Return fire, including small red tracers, was observed form one coater.
	F/O. Scott, W.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Rimmer, S. A.	NAV.			
	F/S. Taylor, C. W.	F/E.			
	W/O. Callagman, E.	WOP.			
	F/S. Mitchell, W. F.	WOP.			
	F/S. Collison, N. ?	WOP.			
	Sgt. Mischamp??, V. L.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Milne, D. S.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Brookes, E. L.	A.G.			
Liberator VI (N) KH219	S/L. Mosher, G. W. J.6182	Capt.	¹		Attack on railway bridge at Oelehleh in company with Liberators B, D, G?, H?, & F. on shipping strike. The target was approached up the rive on a westerly course, and on the first run was not sighted owing to tall coconut palms growing in the vicinity. The third run was accurate, but all bombs hung up. Two more unsuccessful runs were made, and on the sixth run 8 bombs were released by jettison switch in salvo. All runs at 50 ft., and accurate M.G. and L.A.A. fire was encountered, the aircraft being hit by M.G. and 20 mm. P/O. Hartley was injured in the foot by a small splinter. Photographs were unsuccessful due to lack of light, but the bombs were seen to overshoot by at least 15 ft. and owing to the trees no results were observed.
	F/O. Field, G? J.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Conners, T. E. A.410456	NAV.			
	P/O. Hartley, E.	WOP.			
	F/S. C?lars, H. B. B?	WOP.			
	F/S. Blackbourne, S. K?.	WOP.			
	F/S. Sheldon, C. B?	F/E.			
	Sgt. Wright, A. J.	A.G.			
	F/S. Peastone??? J. G?	A.G.			
Liberator VI (H) KH195	F/O. McKay, W. A. C.23507	Capt.	F.G. 1112	F.G. 0030	Anti-shipping strike at Oelehleh in company with Liberators B, D, G, F, and N. Approach was made from the westward at 50 ft. and shipping sighted in the bay to west of Oelehleh. One of these standard wooden coasters was attacked with 4 x 250 lb. Bombs. The aircraft then made a
	F/S. Glendinning, T. J.	Co-Pilot			
	F/O. Middleton, G. H. Aus.422610	NAV.			

¹ No times given.

	F/S. Freeman, H? J.	WOP?			second attack over the jetty with the remaining 4 bombs, directed at the ship previously attacked by aircraft "G". The results of the attacks were not observed.
	P/O. Race, A. J. Aus.421835	WOP.			
	P/O Skewes, D. W. Aus.418013	WOP.			
	Sgt. Lloyd, W. P.	F/E			
	Sgt. Simmons, W.	WOM			
	Sgt. Keith, L	A.G.			
	Sgt. Robertson, J.	A.G.			
Liberator VI (D) KG911	F/L. Fletcher, J. L. J.9274	Capt.	F.G. 1115	F.G. 0132	Anti-shipping strike - Oelehleh in company with Liberators B, G, N?, F, and H. Approached target from the North at 50 ft. and sighted 6 wooden coasters (Sea Trucks) a Patrol Craft and other small craft, in the Bay to the West of the town. The attack was made on one of these coasters and the bombing was considered accurate but the results of the attack were not seen. Three other coasters were attacked with M.Gs.
	F/S. Ford, R. M.	Co-Pilot			On leaving the target area Liberator "F" was seen to fall into the sea just East of Peunasoe Island, possibly as a result of hits by A.A. shell fire. Aircraft "D" circled the position of the ditched aircraft and saw the port wing still floating, and other dark objects.
	F/O. Paltridge, A. Aus.417407	NAV.			
	P/O. Nener, A. Aus437600	WOP.			
	Sgt. Elrick, M?	WOM.			
	F/S. Pohlner, S. A. Aus.437571	WOP.			
	F/S. Walker, F. Aus.437988	WOP.			
	Sgt. Miners, J.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Ingram, C. G.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Templelton, K.	A.G.			
	22/3/45 to 23/3/45				
Liberator VI. (A) KG849	S/L. Gane, V. B. R.	Capt.	F.G. 1130	F.G. 1410	Crew were briefed to attack Railway Bridge at Oelehleh in company with Liberator J, M? and X? on shipping strikes. Immediately on take off No. 4 engine cut dead, but the Captain was able to maintain control and headed to seaward at 100 ft. No. 4 airscrew was feathered and the load of 8 x 250 lb. bombs was jettisoned with the long range fuel tank over the sea. Then height was gained to 1000 ft. and the aircraft circled over the coast keeping in touch with base for two hours until the Captain decided weight had been reduced sufficiently for a safe landing.
	P/O. Cert??, M?	Co-Pilot			
	F/S. Jones, W. T.	NAV.			
	F/O. Fox, R. H. Aus.410884	WOP			
	W/O. Cur??, H. K?	WOP			
	F/S. De Pirna?, L. D.	WOP			
	Sgt. Wilkinson, F. W.	WOM			
	Sgt. Mallums?, R.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Chantler??, G. M.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Burgess, M?	A.G.			

Liberator VI. (M) KH123	F/L. Russell, J. A. J.20593	Capt.	F.G. 1132	F.G. 0056	Owing to Liberator "A"s engine failure on take off, the Railway Bridge at Oelehleh became this aircraft's objective. Approach was made over the anchorage where two wooden coasters were strafed, and the ships opened fire with M.G. on the aircraft. The first run was made at 50 ft. from the Westward and a stick of four bombs straddled the bridge. Two unsuccessful runs were then made. The bridge being obscured by palm trees, was difficult to run over in a good position for attack. Remaining four bombs were dropped on the fourth run, and two appeared to burst on the bridge. During bombing runs Railway Buildings and Godo??ns were strafed and many strikes seen. L.A.A. and M.G. fire was returned from around the target and M.G. fire from the ships near the jetty, all inaccurate for height.
	Sgt. Leake, S. R.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Bain, I. R.150888	NAV.			
	P/O. Shepherd, R. G?	WOM.			
	W/O. Ellen?, F. D.	WOP.			
	F/S. Sheppherd, G? J.	WOP.			
	W/O. Carrgill??, W. E?	WOP.			
	F/S. Ranlinson? A.	F/E.			
	Sgt. ????llaws, G. N.	A.G.			
	Sgt. H?odges, G?	A.G.			
Liberator VI. (J) KG909	P/O. Roigard?, N. L. NZ.42460	Capt.	F.G. 1133	F.G. 0100?	Anti-shipping strike at Oelehleh. Approached target at 50 ft. with Liberators "H?" and "M" and sighted two wooden coasters in the Bay to West of Oelehleh. After attacking one of these ships with 4 bombs aircraft turned along the sea front and dropped the remaining four bombs across the main jetty where 3 sailing ships were anchored and scaffolding at the end of the jetty appeared like the masts of other ships. The eleven second delay on the bombs prevented observation of resulting damage, but bombs were seen to explode close to the Jetty. The gunners strafed the jetty and shore A.A. positions and claimed strikes on a small P.T. boat in the Harbour.
	F/S. McKeavy, A. G.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Pierson, L. G.	NAV.			
	P/O. Tatchell, J. W.	WOP.			
	F/S. Burnell, L. M?	WOP.			
	F/S. Fensom? G. J.	WOP.			
	F/S. Walter, D. J.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Wells, C?	F/E.			
	Sgt. Bryant, C. E.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Hawkins? S? S.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. (N?) KH195	F/L. Enson, V. R. J.14346	Capt.	F.G. 1130	F.G. 0035	Anti-shipping strike at Oelehleh with Liberators "M" & "J". Approached to the target was made at last light at 50 ft. skirting the Northern tip of Sumatra, and on the run a wooden coaster was sighted at anchor in the bay, and what appeared to be the masts of ships alongside the jetty. The bombing run was made across the jetty, when the masts were seen to be
	F/S. Ty???ian, L. L.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Brown, A. D. A.417176 ²	NAV.			
	W/O. Kriscoe? R.	WOP.			
	W/O. Kirkpatrick, R.	WOP.			
	W/O. Gibbs, D. M.	WOP.			

	Sgt. Kirk? A. L.	WOM.			those of a ship sunk during the raid on 20th/21st March, and scaffolding on the jetty. Hits on the jetty with at least 2 bombs were claimed and A.A. positions and buildings on shore were attacked with gunfire, and a fire seen to break out on the foreshore.
	Sgt B?eattie, A. J.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Morgan? A.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Starr, O.	A.G.			
	23/3/45 to 24/3/45				
Liberator VI. (M?) KH123	F/L. Fletcher, T. L. J.9274	Pilot	F.G. 1505	F.G. 0547	Last light anti-shipping sweep South Eastwards from Nancoury. Owing to unserviceability of the compass the aircraft was on patrol north of its correct course for an hour, but subsequently pinpointed its position and patrolled for 30 mins. on the correct course. No sightings were made. Visibility good with occasional cloud. Some bad weather was encountered on the homeward track.
	F/S. Ford, R. M.	Co-Pilot			
	F/O. Paltridge, A. Aus.417407	NAV.			
	P/O. Nener, A. Aus437600	WOP.			
	F/S. Pohlner, S. Aus.437571 ³	WOP.			
	F/S. Walker, F. Aus.437988	WOP.			
	Sgt. Elrick, M?	WOM.			
	Sgt. Miners, J.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Ingram, C. G.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Templeton, K.	A.G.			
Liberator VI (B?) KH289	F/L. Sandall, P.	Capt.	F.G. 1500	F.G. 0355	Anti-shipping sweep at last light South Eastward from Nancowry. On patrol at 0750N 9338E on course 140 at 1000 ft. Off patrol at 0614N 9500E. No sightings. Weather Fair. Visibility 10 miles.
	F/O. Scott, W.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Rimmer, S. A.	NAV.			
	F/S. Taylor, C? W.	F/E.			
	W/O. Callagman? E?	WOP.			
	F/S. Collison, R. V.	WOP.			
	F/S. Mitchell, W.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Muschamp??, P?	WOM.			
	Sgt. Milne, D. S.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Brookes, N?. L.	A.G.			
	24/3/45 to 25/3/45				Next frame clear and could be trusted
Liberator VI. (G) ⁴	P/O. Lyons, W. J. Aus420473	Capt.	F.G. 1445	F.G. 0350	Night anti-shipping strike – Andaman Islands. Aircraft made landfall at North Sentinal Island and was on patrol at 1120N
	W/O. De Freitas, R.	Co-Pilot			

² Brown's service number was A.417276.

³ Pohlner's service number was A.437571.

⁴ Serial not given.

	W/O. Parker, C. S. Aus.4200?41	NAV.			9244E on course 015. Numerous S.E. contacts on rocks and small islands were investigated. Near Rongal Bay a suspected ship was sighted. The aircraft returned to attack, but the contact disappeared. This is assumed to have been an Allied submarine. Weather cloudy. Visibility 3 miles.
	W/O. Buckley, C. K. Aus.426525	WOP.			
	W/O. Daniels, W. G. Aus.425283	WOP.			
	F/S. Ryce, B.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Corkhill, H.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Hiles, B. W.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Freye, D. W.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Billings, G. H.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. KG909 ⁵	W/O. Hudson, C. D.	Capt.	F.G. 1500	F.G. 0447	Night anti-shipping sweep – Andaman Islands. On approach to the area of search, sots appeared on the Radar screen which for ten minutes rendered scanning of one sector impossible. This may have been due to enemy jamming. The aircraft was on patrol at 1120N 9244E on course 015 at 1500 ft., and numerous blips were investigated which proved to be rocks and small islands. Patrol was continued East of the Islands to Landfall Island. No enemy sightings. Bombs were jettisoned on the return leg to consume fuel.
	F/S. Rouncefield, P. J.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Loxley, J. A.	NAV.			
	F/S. Wells, C.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Butler, F. W.	WOM.			
	W/O. Foulkes, H.	WOP.			
	F/S. Norris, W. S.	WOP.			
	F/S. Cairnduff, C. N.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Gillespie, G. A.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Birnie, W.	A.G.			
	29/3/45 to 30/3/45				
Liberator VI. (B) KH289	F/L. Sandall, P.	Capt.	F.G. 1014	F.G. 0032	Anti-shipping strike – Sabang area. On approaching the target the aircraft closed formation with Liberator A and J at 50 ft. and led the formation North of Kr?uen? Island lighthouse, over Roeroe? light to position 0540N 9537E (Pedro Point) on North Sumatra coast. Visibility was good (up to 20 miles) but no shipping was sighted. The formation returned northward of Sabang.
	F/O. Scott, W.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Rimmer, S. A.	NAV.			
	F/S. Taylor	F/E.			
	W/O. Callaghan, K.	WOP.	{clear}		
	F/S. Collison, R. V.	WOP.			
	F/S. Mitchell, W.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Muschamp??, F.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Milne, D. S.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Brookes, K?. L.	A.G.			

⁵ Code letter not given.

Liberator VI. (A) KG849	S/L. Gane, V. B. R.	Capt.	F.G. 1016	F.G. 0121	Anti-shipping strike – Sabang area. The outward trip was made in loose formation with Liberators M, G?, H, B & J. On approaching the target area the aircraft went down to 50 ft. in close formation with J and B and flew over Bokloe?? lighthouse, thence along coast of N. Sumatra to Pedro?? Point where the formation turned northward, and swept round the North of Sabang. Visibility was good, but no shipping of any kind was sighted. Owing to an error in navigation, landfall on the homeward leg was made North of Pondioherry, whence the aircraft returned to base along the coast.
	P/O. Cree??, E?	Co-Pilot			
	F/S. Jones, W. T.	NAV.			
	F/O. Fox, R. H. Aus.410884	WOP.			
	W/O. Onr?? R. P.	WOP.			
	F/S. De Pinlia, L. D.	WOP.			
	F/S. Wilkinson	WOM.			
	F/S. Mallo?ms?, R.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Chamtler??, C. M.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. (H) KH195	P/O. Law, J. A.	Capt.	F.G. 1011	F.G. 0212	Anti-shipping strike – Sabang area. This aircraft approached the target area with Liberators M? and G, passing south of Peunasoe Island, along North Sumatra coast to 0536N 9512E, rounded Boeroe? Lighthouse and thence out through Bengal Passage. On the return journey, owing to incorrect operation of the fuel cocks, No. 2 fuel tank was emptied, the engine commenced to out, and the fuel in No. 3 tank became low. A signal was sent to base requesting immediate readiness of A.S.R., but was subsequently cancelled. The aircraft failed to make landfall on Ceylon, and flew on to the coast of India where it altered course northward searching for land marks and requesting QDMs. Numerous QDMs were sent, but were not correctly received by the aircraft, which continued in the general direction of Madras and landed (with fuel for 30 minutes) at Arkonam?? without a flare path, after sending a S.O.S. for landing lights.
	W/O. Ellison, H? L.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Pierson, L. G.	NAV.B.			
	F/S. Walters, J. F.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rosenberg?, A.	WOP.			
	F/S. Keys, R. W.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Perkin, C.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Fuller, J.	A.G.			
	Sgt. West, P.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Burns?, J. A.	F/E.			
Liberator VI. (G?) KG910	P/O. Lyons, W. J. Aus420473	Capt.	F.G. 1007	F.G. 0025	Anti-shipping strike – Sabang area. Approach made at 50 ft. in close formation with Liberators M? and H South of Peunasoe Island, along the North Sumatra coast (4 miles off shore to 0540N 9525E and thence out through the Bengal
	W/O. De Freitas, R.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Parker, C. S. Aus.420041	NAV.			

	W/O. Buckley, C. K. Aus.426525	WOP.			Passage. Inaccurate A.A. fire was observed from Olenleh?, also from the South shore of Sabang. Visibility good. Nil sightings.
	W/O. Daniels, W. G. Aus.425283	WOP.			
	F/S. Ryce, B.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Hiles, D?. W.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Corkhill, H.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Billings, G. H.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Freye, D. W.	A.G.			
Liberator VI (N) KH219	S/L. Mosher, C? W. J.6182	Capt.	F.G. 1004	F.G. 0014	Anti-shipping strike – Sabang area. The target area was approached south of Peunasoe Island at 50 ft. in close formation with Liberators H? and G, thence along the North Sumatra coast to 5440N 9525E, where the formation turned northward, rounded Boeroe Lighthouse and out through the Bengal Passage. No sightings were made and no opposition encountered.
	F?/O. Field, C. J.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Conners, T. E. Aus.410456	NAV.			
	W/O. Clare?, M.	WOP.			
	F/S. Blackbourne?, S. J.	WOP.			
	F/S. Statt?, F. G.	WOP.			
	F/S. Penstone, G.	A.G.			
	F/S. Sheldon, C. B.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Wright, A.	A.G.			
Liberator VI. (J) KG909	P/O. R?oigard, H. L. N.Z.42460	Capt.	F.G. 1019	F.G. 0043	Anti-shipping strike – Sabang area. The target area was approached through the Bengal Passage at 50 ft. in formation with Liberator A and B (B leading) to within 4 miles of North Sumatra coast, and along the coast to Pedro Point. Thence the formation turned northward, and around the North side of Sabang. No sightings were made, and no opposition encountered.
	F/S. McR?eavy, A. G.	Co-Pilot			
	P/O. Paltridge, A. L. Aus.417407	NAV.			
	Sgt. Miners, G.	F/E.			
	P/O. Tatchell, J. W. 409767	WOP.			
	F/S. Burrnell?, L. N.	WOP.			
	F/S. Femsom??, G. J.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Ingram, C. G.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Hawkins, S. S.	A.G.			
	Sgt. Walter, D. G.	WOM.			