

May 1945 Form 540

203 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			first page of record is unreadable
			submarine chasers on an o??? to L cou??. Shortly after, aircraft U/354 also made contact and indicated on R/T that they would send the sighting report. After transmitting the report from 50 miles distance in accordance with Tactical Instructions, this aircraft developed engine trouble and was forced to set course for base, without regaining contact with the enemy.
	15 May		Meanwhile M/203 (F/Lt. Aldcroft) had made contact with the Force, which had apparently split in two. He first sighted a submarine chaser escorting a coaster of about 300 tons on a southerly course, and 20 minutes later in position 0704N 9653E he sighted the enemy cruiser and destroyer in line astern. The weather in the area was squally, and W/T reception was bad. Accordingly, as this aircraft had not picked up any previous signals they set course to 50 miles distance to make their first Sighting Report. Having done this, they regained contact with the C.R. and D.D. which were continuing on course 120 at 15 knots. P.L.E. had by then been reached, and course was set for base.
			A/203 and N/203 (P/O. Law and F/L. MacDonald) on intercepting the First Sighting Reports set course for the position given and having made contact and taken photographs returned to base in accordance with instructions.
			All aircraft were instructed to return via the last estimated position of L/354, but visibility was bad and no sighting was made or S.E. contact picked up.
			The news was later received that this enemy cruiser had been sunk with torpedoes by a force of five British Destroyers of the East Indies Fleet.
K.K.S.	19 May		Three aircraft {balance of paragraph unreadable}
			This? is the ????unreadable??? target on this sweep?{unreadable}
			Two? aircraft ??????? Little Andaman Island and set course thence for Car Nicobar at 200 ft. The ?????? was sighted in Saefi?? Bay in an apparently derelict condition, but in the absence of ??? target?? ??? by all aircraft. As has happened on previous attacks on ships close ??? ???? pull up over the target ??? trees, the bombing of all aircraft ??? bad?, and only the gunners could claim any strikes.
			Two of the aircraft reported? opposition from M.G. positions hidden among trees on ????, but in each case the fire was inaccurate..
	22 May		Four Liberators were detailed to carry out a parallel track anti-shipping sweep ??? of Great Nico?? Islands?? ??? of small cargo ships having been reported in the area
			{balance largely unreadable}
			(Next frame (0077))

			{frame 0078}
			II Administration.
			Health.
			Skin ailments have continued to form the bulk of patients requiring treatment. Slightly improved climatic conditions have reduced to some extent the incidence of Prickly Heat.
			Sports.
			The soccer fields are now available on which games are played every evening. Cricket is less popular owing to the time needed for a satisfactory game, but regular matches are played. Swimming runs are still arranged every afternoon and more popular than ever
			Entertainment.
			The station cinema continues to be well patronised although the majority of the film shows are not of a very high quality. An ENSA show has been put on for two nights in the cinema.
			Celebration of Victory In Europe.
			The celebration lasted for three days (May 8th – 10th) and included a victory dinner served by the officers and S.N.C.O.'s, free cinema shows, fireworks displays and a very successful Victory Swimming picnic at Ballasingham Beach. These celebrations were enjoyed and enthusiastically written of but the majority feel that the only proper time to celebrate will be when the Japanese war is over.
			III. – Personnel
			The following amendments to establishment No. LWE/SEA/276/A were made during the month.
	8.6.45 <sup>1</sup>		1 AC Photographer deleted (Amendment No. 15)
	11.6.45		1 F/Lt. Guner (G) deleted from Headquarters Flight and 6 F/Os and 26 Sergeants – Gunner (G) and Air Gunners respectively, - deleted from the two flights (Amendment No. 16)
			With the departure of these gunners each complete crew will number 9, when

<sup>1</sup> The record shows the month as June on this and the next two entries.

			sufficient navigators arrive to allow two for each aircraft.
	29.6.45		Daily Servicing Echelon. 2 Corporals and 1 AC ACH/GD deleted and 1 Cpl. armament assistant and 2 Cpls. Maintenance Assistants added.
			III – Personnel (Promotions)
			F/Lt. F. B? Waddy? R.C.A.F. (J.10234) appointed to rank of Acting S/Ldr. (Flight Commander) wef. 5.5.45.
			P/O. E. Hartley (185077) to F/O wef. 23.3.45.
			F/Lt. G. L. Fletcher (J.9275) appointed to the rank of Acting S/Ldr. (Flight Commander) wef. 20th May, 1945.
			Commissioning.
			1389157 F/Sgt. J. C. Hindley appointed to a commission wef 27.11.44. (Officers number 187778).
			1288981 F/Sgt. P. G. Statt appointed to a commission wef 9.1.45. (Officers number 196359)
			(b) Casualties.
			1316918 F/Sgt. Watkins (Nav.W) and 2207596 F/Sgt. Burns (F/Eng) were very slightly injured during a low level attack on a motor vessel on 22nd June. The sustained a bruised shoulder and cuts in the forehead respectively.
			IV. Honours and Awards.
			Nil.
			Wing Commander Commanding,
			No. 203 Squadron, R.A.F.