

April May 1945 Form 540

203 Squadron Cuttack Detachment

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			203 Squadron Detachment Cuttack
Cuttack	29th April		Two aircraft (F/L Russell and F/L. Elmes) carried out reconnaissance in the Northern Bay of Bengal to guard against possible enemy interference with the landing of our amphibious forces at Rangoon. No sightings were made.
	1st. May		One aircraft (S/L. Mosher) carried out a cross-over patrol in the Andaman Sea on the lookout for enemy shipping, which might be escaping from Burma. The aircraft landed at Akyab to refuel en route, and again on the return trip. The only shipping sighted comprised some of our own light forcers.
	2nd. May		P/O. Lyons carried out a similar patrol again from Akyab. One large M.T.B. was sighted and presumed friendly. Weather was bad, with frequent heavy squalls which reduced visibility to nil.
	3rd. May		Two aircraft (F/L. Aldcroft and F/L. MacDonald) continued the cross-over patrols from Akyab without making sightings. Again the weather was generally stormy, with heavy squalls.
	4th. May		Once again patrols were carried out in connection with the Rangoon operations, and sightings confined to our own forces. The two aircraft (S/L. Mosher and F/L. Russell) took off from Akyab and landed at Cox's Bazaar returning to Cuttack the following day.
	7th. May		F/L. Elmes flew an anti-shipping reconnaissance of the Tenasserim Coast, taking numerous photographs. Take off was from Akyab and shipping was sighted at anchor near Tavoy. Some A.A. was encountered here and H.A.A. off Mergui. The patrol extended to Puket Island and thence northward, landing at Akyab.
	9th. May.		Two aircraft took off from Cuttack on an anti-shipping strike at Moulmein. Seve aircraft of 354 Squadron took part in the operation, which was to be carried out from 6500 ft. F/O Lyons was delayed on take-off and arrived on the target after the other aircraft had completed their attacks. A heavy and accurate A.A. Barrage was put up and the aircraft was hit by a shell near the beam window, but returned safely. F/L. Aldcroft experienced trouble with the Artificial Horizon before reaching the target, and returned to Akyab to make a daylight landing.