

**May 1945: Form 541**

203 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	13?/5/45				
Liberator VI KH123	F/L. Russell, J. A. J.20593	Capt.	FG 06.09	FG 15.07	Briefed for parallel track sweep in search of Japanese Nachi class Cruiser and escorting destroyer East of the Nicobars. Recalled before commencing patrol.
	Sgt. Leake S. R.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Bain I. R150888	Nav.			
	W/O. Eillen P. D.	WOP.			
	F/S. W/O Carroll	"			
	F/S. Shepperd C. J. W.	"			
	F/S. Rawlinson A.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Hodges C.	AG.			
	Sgt. Challans G. N.	AG.			
	Sgt. ?utler, R. W.	WOM.			
	12?/5/45				
Liberator VI (M) KG911	F/L. Fletcher G. L. J9275	Capt.	FG 06.13	FG 15.00	Briefed to carry out parallel track sweep East of the Nicobar Islands in search of Japanese Nachi Class Cruiser and escorting destroyer reported to be proceeding from Singapore to Port Blair. Recalled before commencing patrol.
	F/S. Ford R. M? A436455	Co-pilot			
	F/S. Jones W.	Nav.			
	F/S. Walker F. A437988	WOP.			
	F/S. Polhner S. A. A437571	"			
	Sgt. Elrick R. A.	WOM.			
	F/S. Norris W. S.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Miners G. A.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Ingram C. C.	AG.			
	Sgt. Templeton K.	AG.			
Liberator VI (N) KH307	P/O. Law J. A.	Capt.	FG 06.06	FG. 15.07	Briefed to carry out parallel track sweep in search of Japanese Nachi Class Cruiser and escorting destroyers East of Nichobars. Recalled before commencing patrol.
	F/S. Olden D.	Co-pilot			
	P/O. Pierson L. G.	Nav.			
	F/S. West P.	WOM.			
	F/S. Walters J. F.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rosenberg A.	WOP.			
	F/S. Keys H. W.	WOP.			
	F/S. Burns J. A.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Perkin C.	AG.			
	Sgt. Birnie W.	AG.			

	13?/5/45				
Liberator VI. (C) KH307?	W/O. Hudson G. D.	Capt.	22.35	04.30	Briefed for parallel track sweep in Andaman Sea. The undercarriage would not remain locked in the retracted position and the aircraft returned after four hours and landed safely after circling base for a further two hours to lighten the fuel load.
	F/S. Rouncefield	Co-pilot			
	W/O. Loxley J. A.	Nav.			
	W/O. Ffoules H.	WOP.			
	F/S. Norris W. S.	WOP.			
	F/S. Cairnduff E. N.	WOP.			
	F/S. Timbrell G. T.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Butler T. W.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Birnie W.	AG.			
	Sgt. Gillespie C. A.	AG.			
(N?) KH219	F/L. McKay W.A. C23507	Capt.	22.37	06.55	Briefed for parallel track sweep in Andaman Sea. Recalled before commencing patrol.
	F/S. Glending T. J.	Co-pilot			
	F/O. Middleton G. H. A422610	Nav.			
	P/O. Race A. J. A421935	WOP.			
	P/O. Skewes D. W. A418013	WOP.			
	F/S. Freeman H. G.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Lloyd W.	WOP. <sup>1</sup>			
	Sgt. Keith J. L.	AG.			
	Sgt. Robertson J. W.	AG.			
	13/5/45 to 14/5/45				
Liberator VI. (A) KG849	F/L. Elmes C. R. H. A412842	Capt.	22.40	07.18	Briefed for parallel track sweep in Andaman Sea. Recalled before commencing patrol.
	F/O. Prosser J. F.	Co-pilot			
	F/O. Hill P.	Nav.			
	P/O. Upton R. G.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Cook K. T. A430973	WOP.			
	Sgt. Hamilton C. H. A438264	WOP.			
	Sgt. Francis H. B. A ??2421	WOP.			
	Sgt. Churchill J. F. D.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Brown R. J. R123323	AG.			
(M) KH123	F/L. Russell J. A. J20593	Capt.	22.30	07.00	Briefed for parallel track sweep in Andaman Sea. Recalled before commencing patrol.
	Sgt. Leake S. R.	Co-pilot			
	W/O. Bain I. R150888	Nav.			

<sup>1</sup> On this entry Lloyd is listed as a WOP, but on other entries he is listed as a F/E.

	W/O. Ellen P. D.	WOP.			
	W/O. Carroll W. E.	WOP.			
	F/S. Allford W.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rawlinson A.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Walter D. J.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Hodges C.	AG.			
	Sgt. Challans G. N.	AG.			
	15/5/45				
Liberator VI. KG849	F/O. Law J. A.	Capt.	FG 04.40	FG 20.45	<p>Parallel track sweep in search of Japanese Naval Force in Northern Malacca Strait.</p> <p>Aircraft commenced patrol at 0614N 9803E on track 312 at 300 ft. At 12.25 a First Sighting Report from Liberator Y/354 was intercepted and 2 minutes later in position 0705N 9705E a Nachi Class heavy cruiser, Kamikase Class old type destroyer and a Submarine Chaser were sighted in line ahead on course 340. The aircraft descended to 200 ft. undulating and circle to check the identities.</p> <p>The Force was seen to alter course 90 degrees to starboard, and for 2 minutes the Destroyer made smoke ineffectively. The Cruiser opened inaccurate fire from 6 miles range.</p> <p>The aircraft had mean while intercepted a second Sight Report (from U/354) and accordingly returned to base as instructed. Weather in the area was squally with 10/10 cloud down to the sea in places. Average visibility 8 miles. Useful photographs were taken.</p>
	F/S. Olden D. E.	Co-pilot			
	P/O. Pierson L. G.	Nav.			
	F/S. Walters J. F.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rosenberg A.	WOP.			
	F/S. Keys H? W.	WOP.			
	F/S. West P.	WOM.			
	F/S. Burns J. A.	F.E.			
	F/S. Penstone G.	AG.			
	Sgt. Perkin C.	AG.			
	15/5/45				
Liberator VI. KH219	F/L. MacDonald K. R. J8956	Capt.	FG. 04.50	FG. 23.25	<p>Parallel track sweep in search of Japanese Naval Force in Northern Malacca Straits.</p> <p>A British force of 5 destroyers was sighted in the channel between Great Nicobar and Salang.</p> <p>Patrol commenced in position 0540N 9730E on track 322 at 400 ft. At 12.37 the aircraft intercepted a First Sighting Report re-transmitted from base, and set course for the position given. Radar contact was obtained at 26 miles ahead.</p> <p>At. 13.20 in position 0725N 9704E sighting was made of Japanese Nachi Class Heavy cruiser and 1 old type destroyer on course 180 at 20 knots. After</p>
	F/S. Bassford H. E. R198404	Co-pilot			
	Sgt. Goddard E. J.	Nav.			
	Sgt. Fowler B. G. R192?679?	F.E.			
	Sgt. Mundrick C. E. R269200	WOP.			
	Sgt. Ford E. J. R158679	WOP.			
	P/O Di Profio? K. R. 347615	WOP.			
	Sgt. Langille A. N. R280773	AG.			
	Sgt. Sacrae? D. E.	WOM.			

	Sgt. Balfour D. M. R288049	AG.			circling to identify and ascertain that other aircraft were carrying out shadowing, the aircraft returned to base as ordered; searching West of the Nicobar Islands for the missing Liberator L/354.
	15/5/45				
Liberator VI. KH123	F/L. Aldcroft H. R.	Capt.	F.G. 0445	F.G. 22030 <sup>2</sup>	Parallel sweep to search for and shadow Japanese Naval Force in accordance with Tactical Instructions. Aircraft commenced patrol in position 0660N, 9748?E at 500 ft. on course 317 with Radar. At 12.20 aircraft sighted an enemy Submarine Chaser escorting a coaster of approx. 300 tons on course 160 in position 0642N 9646E. The aircraft circled at 4 miles to identify and after drawing ineffective fire from the E/v, continued patrol. At 12/45 in position 0722N 9655E sighting was made of an enemy Heavy Cruiser (Nachi Class) accompanied by a destroyer on course 120. After identifying, the aircraft set course to 50 miles distance to send First Sighting Report. At 13.52 the aircraft again made contact with the CR and DD on the same course. The aircraft had by this time reached its P.L.E. and set course back to base. Search was made during the return for Liberator L/354 without result.
	Sgt. Atkins H.	Co-pilot			
	W/O. Pickering K. R.	Nav.			
	W/O. Pearson D.	Nav.			
	F/S. Allford W.	WOP.			
	F/S. Statt P. G.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Pearson J. F.	WOM.			
	F/S. Taylor S.	F.E.			
	F/S. Stephens N. T.	AG.			
	Sgt. Hope R.	AG.			
	19/5/45				
Liberator VI KH123	F/L. Aldcroft H. R.	Capt.	F.G. 1235	F.G. 0009	Anti-shipping strike, Sawi Bay, Car Nicobar.
	Sgt. Atkins H.	Co-pilot			Attacked a beached wooden coaster, apparently derelict, with 2 bombs and MG fire. All bombs overshoot, but numerous strikes were obtained with MG fire. Attack made from 50 ft.
	W/O. Pickering K. R.	Nav.			
	F/S. Allford W.	WOP.			
	F/S. Bennett R. P.	WOP.			
	F/S. Statt P. G.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Pearson J. F.	WOM.			
	F/S. Taylor S.	F.E.			
	F/S. Stephens N. T.	AG.			
	Sgt. Hope R.	AG.			
Liberator VI KH307	F/L. McKay, W. A.	Capt.	F.G. 1241	F.G. 2344	Anti-shipping strike – Sawi Bay, Car Nicobar.
	F/S. Glendinning J. J.	Co-pilot			Landfall was made at Little Nicobar Island,

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2 An obvious error.

	F/O. Middleton G. H. A422610	Nav.			and thence a southerly course was set for Car Nicobar.
	P/O. Race A. J. A421935	WOP.			The Sugar Dog reported by P.R. was sighted in apparently derelict condition.
	P/O. Skewes D. W. A418013	WOP.			Search was made for any other shipping without result, and accordingly the attack was made on the coaster with 8 bombs and MG fire. All bombs overshot considerably.
	F/S. Freeman H. G.	WOP.			During the attack ground fire was encountered from four MG positions along the shore. AI fire was inaccurate.
	Sgt. Lloyd W.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Keith J. L.	AG.			
	Sgt. Robertson J. W.	AG.			
Liberator VI. KH289	F/L. MacDonald K. R. J8956	Capt.	F.G. 1236	F.G. 2352	Anti-shipping strike – Sawi Bay, Car Nicobar.
	F/S. Bassford H. E. R198404	Co-pilot			Attacked derelict wooden coaster with 8 bombs and MG fire from 50 ft. During attack ground fire was encountered from MG positions on shore, all inaccurate.
	Sgt. Goddard E. J.	Nav.			Aircraft returned fire from maximum range. Bombing results were unobserved.
	Sgt. Ford E. J. R158679	WOP.			
	Sgt. Mundrick C. E. R269200	WOP.			
	P/O Alexander J. W. J.43156	WOP.			
	Sgt. Sacrae? D. E.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Fowler B. G.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Langille A. N. R280773	AG.			
	Sgt. Balfour D. M. R288049	AG.			
	22/5/45				
Liberator VI KH289	S/L. Waddy	Capt.	F.G. 0713	F.G. 2030	Anti-shipping Patrol – Great Nicobar Area. 1253 sighted in position 0640N 9400E 2 wooden coasters, one of which was seen to be destroyed by Liberator "A".
	F/O. Hermanson	Co-pilot			Attack was made on the larger ship immediately after aircraft "C" and eight bombs were dropped from 50 ft scoring direct hits.
	F/O. Kaufman	Nav.			Immediately afterward the ship burst into flames following an explosion amidships and sank shortly after.
	F/O. Hughes	WOP.			Some inaccurate MG fire from the bridge of the ship was encountered.
	F/O. Rawthorne	"			
	F/S. Mercer	"			
	F/S. Wheeler.	WOM.			
	F/S. McGarry	F/E.			
	Sgt. Sawyer	AG.			
	Sgt. Sweeney	AG.			

Liberator VI. KH1955	F/L. Aldcroft H. R.	Capt.	F.G. 0710	F.G. 2030	Anti-shipping Patrol – Great Nicobar Area. Landfall was made at Pygmalion Point (Southern tip of Great Nicobar) and after rendezvous with other Liberators course set for patrol. 2 coasters were sighted in position 0640N 9400E and attack was made on the larger ship but all bombs hung up. Both ships were seen to be sunk after attacks by the other Liberators, and photographs of the wreckage were taken.
	Sgt. Atkins H.	Co-pilot			
	W/O. Pickering	Nav.			
	F/S. Allford W. C. H.	WOP.			
	F/S. Statt P.	WOP.			
	F/S. Bennett R.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Pearson J.	WOM.			
	F/S. Taylor S.	F.E.			
	F/S. Stephens W. T.	AG.			
	Sgt. Hope R.	AG.			
Liberator VI. KG849	F/L. Fletcher G. L. J9275	Capt.	F.G. 0715	F.G. 1850	Anti-shipping Patrol – Great Nicobar Area. Sighted 2 wooden coasters position 0639N 9400E and attacked the smaller ship with 8 DCs at 50 ft. from abeam. A straddle was obtained and amidships and the ship appeared to be thrown out of the water, and disintegrated. The aircraft was hit by MG fire during the bombing run. The Navigator was injured and the rear turret put out of action.
	F/S. Ford R. M? A436455	Co-pilot			
	F/O. Paltridge, ? A.426495?	Nav.B			
	F/S. Jones W.	"			
	F/S. Walker F. A437988	WOP.			
	F/S. Polhner S. A. A437571	"			
	Sgt. Elrick R. A.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Miners G. A.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Templeton K.	AG.			
	Sgt. Ingram C. C.	AG.			
Liberator VI. KH307	F/O. Law J. A.	Capt.	F.G. 0712	F.G. 2025	Anti-shipping Patrol – Great Nicobar Area. At 1250 position 0640N 9400E sighted 2 wooden coasters on course 310. While aircraft "A" attacked and destroyed the smaller ship this aircraft attacked the larger one (approx. 120 ft length) from 40 ft. 4 Bombs were released prematurely in error, but the remaining four bombs were thought to have straddled. Before these exploded aircraft "B" also attacked and scored hits, causing the ship to catch fire and sink.
	F/S. Olden D. E.	Co-pilot			
	P/O. Pierson L. G.	Nav.			
	F/S. Walters J. F.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rosenberg A.	WOP.			
	F/S. Keys H? W.	WOP.			
	F/S. West P.	WOM.			
	F/S. Burns J. A.	F.E.			
	F/S. Penstone G.	AG.			
	Sgt. Perkin C.	AG.			
	4/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment Cuttack
Liberator VI KH123	F/L. Russell J. A. J20593	Capt.	F.G. 1330	F.G. 1620	Anti-shipping patrol – Andaman Sea. Aircraft flew to Akyab on 2.5.45. British forces were seen, but no enemy sightings made. Aircraft landed at Cox's Bazaar. Weather bad, frequent heavy rain reducing visibility to nil.
	Sgt. Leake S. R.	Co-pilot	0620	1900	
	W/O. Bain I. R150888	Nav.	1015	1250	
	W/O. Carroll W. E.	WOP.			

	W/O. Ellen P. D.	WOP.			
	F/S. Shepperd, C. J. W.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rawlinson A.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Hodges C.	AG.			
	Sgt. Challans G. N.	AG.			
	2/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment Cuttack
Liberator VI D	F/L. Aldcroft H. R.	Capt.	F.G. 1325	F.G. 1640	Anti-shipping patrol – Andaman Sea. Operation carried out from Akyab.
	Sgt. Atkins H.	Co-pilot	0735	2240	No enemy sightings. Weather stormy.
	P/O. Connors T. E.	Nav.	1050	1355	Aircraft returned from Akyab on 3.5.45.
	F/S. Allford W. C.	WOP.			
	F/S. Bennett R.	WOP.			
	F/S. Statt P.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Pearson J.	WOM.			
	F/S. Taylor S.	F.E.			
	F/S. Stephens W. T.	AG.			
	Sgt. Hope R.	AG.			
	1/5/45 to 2/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment Cuttack
Liberator VI K 289	F/L. MacDonald K. R. J8956	Capt.	F.G. 1325	F.G. 1620	Anti-shipping patrol – Andaman Sea. Operation carried out from Akyab, landing being made at Cox's Bazaar on return.
	F/S. Bassford H. E. R198404	Co-pilot	0210	1545	no enemy sightings. Weather bad.
	Sgt. Goddard E. J.	Nav.	1735	2005	
	Sgt. Fowler B. G.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Ford E. J. R158679	WOP.			
	Sgt. Mundrick C. E. R269200	WOP.			
	P/O. De Profino K. F. J47615	WOP			
	Sgt. Langille A. N. R280773	AG.			
	30/4/45 to 2/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment, Cuttack
Liberator VI. KG910	P/O. Lyons, W. J. A420473	Capt.	F.G. 0800	F.G. 1200	Anti-shipping patrol east of Andaman Islands.
	W/O. De Freitas, R. A.	Co-Pilot	0505	1835	Operation carried out from Akyab. No enemy sightings. Bad weather. Frequent heavy squalls.
	W/O. Parker, C. S. A420041	Nav.	0945	1315	
	W/O. Daniels, W. G. A425263	WOP.			
	W/O. Budkley, C. K. A426525	WOP.			
	F/S. Ryce, B.	WOP			
	F/S. Corkhill, H.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Hiles, D. W.	WOM			
	Sgt. Freye, D. W.	AG.			
	Sgt. Billings, G. W.	AG.			
	30/4/45 to 1/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment, Cuttack

Liberator VI KH219	S/L. Mosher, G. W. J6182	Capt.	F.G. 0800	F.G. 1145	Anti-shipping patrol east of Andaman Islands.
	Sgt. Pantry, D. F. W.	Co-Pilot	2105	0245	The operation was carried out from Akyab, where the aircraft also landed before returning to base. 6 ships of our light forces were sighted, but no enemy vessels.
	W/O. Pickering, K. R.	Nav.	1335	1620	
	W/O. Clare, M.	WOP.			
	W/O. Blackbourne, S. J.	WOP.			
	F/S. Ward, W. G.	WOM			
	F/S. Sheldon, C. B.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Wright, A.	AG.			
	Sgt. Penstone, G.	AG.			
	29/4/45				203 Squadron Detachment, Cuttack
Liberator VI KH123	F/L. Russell, J. A. J.20593	Capt.	F.G. 1610	F.G. 1820	Anti-shipping patrol in the Northern Bay of Bengal. No enemy sightings, Weather showery.
	Sgt. Leake S. R.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Bain I. R150888	Nav.			
	W/O. Eillen P. D.	WOP.			
	F/S. W/O Carroll	WOP.			
	F/S. Shepperd C. J. W.	WOP.			
	F/S. Rawlinson A.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Hodges C.	AG.			
	Sgt. Challans G. N.	AG.			
Liberator VI KG849	F/L. Elmes C. R. H. A412842	Capt.	F.G. 0615	F.G. 1835	Anti-shipping patrol – Northern Bay of Bengal. No enemy sightings.
	F/O. Prosser J. F.	Co-pilot			
	F/O. Hill P.	Nav.			
	P/O. Upton R. G.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Cook K. R. A430973	WOP.			
	Sgt. Hamilton C. H. A438264	WOP.			
	Sgt. Francis H. B. A ??2421	WOP.			
	Sgt. Churchill J. F. D.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Brown R. J. R123323	AG.			
	4/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment, Cuttack
Liberator VI N	S/L. Mosher, G.	Capt.	F.G. 0755	F.G. 1050	Anti-shipping patrol – Andaman Sea. No enemy sightings. Weather showery. Visibility 6 to 8 miles. Operation carried out from Akyab, landing at Cox's Bazaar and returning to Cuttack the following day.
	Sgt. Pantry, D. E. W.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Pickering, K. R.	Nav.			
	W/O. Clare, M.	WOP.			
	W/O. Blackbourne, S. J.	WOP.			
	F/S. Ward, W. G.	WOM			
	F/S. Sheldon, C. B.	F/E.			



	Sgt. Wright, A.	AG.			
	Sgt. Penstone, G.	AG.			
	7/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment, Cuttack
Liberator VI A	F/L. Elmes C. R. H. A412842	Capt.	F.G. 0620	F.G. 2130	Anti-shipment reconnaissance – Tenasserim coast. Take-off from Akyab. Patrol commenced at 1500N 9745E. Photographs taken of Fenton Point Airfield. Coasters were sighted at anchor near Tavoy Point, where some A.A. M.G. fire was encountered. H.A.A. encountered off Mergui. Photographs of buildings on west coast of Fuket Island. At 0745N 9820E aircraft returned northwards, investigating Auriol?, Clara, Farquhar and Elephistone Islands. Thence up Tavoy River to Heinze Basin and Ye. Landed Akyab.
	F/O. Prosser J. F.	Co-pilot			
	F/O. Hill P.	Nav.			
	P/O. Upton R. G.	WOM.			
	Sgt. Cook K. T. A430973	WOP.			
	Sgt. Hamilton C. H. A435624	WOP.			
	Sgt. Francis H. B. A442421	WOP.			
	Sgt. Churchill J. F. D.	F.E.			
	Sgt. Brown R. J. R123323	AG.			
	9/5/45				203 Squadron Detachment, Cuttack
Liberator VI D	F/L. Aldcroft H. R.	Capt.	F.G. 1250	F.G. 1740	Anti-shipment strike – Moulmein. Before reaching target the artificial horizon became unserviceable and the leader of the formation ordered the aircraft to return to base. Course was set for Akyab to make a daylight landing, and the aircraft returned to Cuttack the following day.
	Sgt. Atkins H.	Co-pilot			
	P/O. Connors T. E.	Nav.			
	F/S. Allford W. C.	WOP.			
	F/S. Statt P.	WOP.			
	Sgt. Pearson J.	WOM.			
	F/S. Taylor S.	F.E.			
	F/S. Stephens W. T.	AG.			
	Sgt. Hope R.	AG.			
Liberator VI G	P/O. Lyons, W. J. A420473	Capt.	F.G. 1300	F.G. 0030	Anti-shipment strike – Moulmein. Take-off was delayed, causing the aircraft to arrive over target after other aircraft had made their attacks. The attack was made from 6500 ft. with 8 x 250 bombs, without bombsight. 2 coasters were sighted near the jetties. Owing to the failing light the bombing results were not observed. Heavy and accurate A.A. fire was encountered, and the aircraft was hit by a shell in front of the port beam window, damaging the elevator control
	W/O. De Freitas, R. A.	Co-Pilot			
	W/O. Parker C. S. A420041	Nav.			
	W/O. Buckley, C. K. A426525	WOP.			
	Sgt. Ford, E. J.	WOP			
	Sgt. Hiles, D. W.	WOM			
	F/S. Corkhill, H.	F/E.			
	Sgt. Freye, D. W.	AG.			
	Sgt. Billings, G. W.	AG.			