

November 1944 Form 540

203 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			I. Introductory.
			At the end of November all aircrews but three had completed Conversion training at H.C.U. Kolar and returned to base, together with the detached ground personnel.
			For the first time since the beginning of the year the whole Squadron are at one Station. There has also been an intake of new aircrew N.C.O's. 12 WOM/AGS and 17 Flight Engineers to make the Liberator crews up to ten members. Some additional ground personnel have been posted, but the Squadron is still considerably below establishment on the latter. 37 airmen became tour expired, and left for B.R.D. Worli.
			Each aircrew has been assigned to a specific aircraft in order that they may become thoroughly familiar with its lay-out. In most cases this has been on the basis of two crews per aircraft.
Madura	1st Nov		First two Liberators arrived, one from 352 M.U. Allahabad flown in by a ferry crew, and the second flown from Kolar by F/Lt. Taylor.
	3rd Nov		S/Ldr. Mosher brought in 3rd Liberator from Kolar.
	6th Nov		4th Liberator arrived from Kolar flown by F/Lt. Sandall.
	10th Nov		2 more Liberators from 342 M.U. One of these aircraft is fitted with Leigh light.
	12th Nov		S/Ldr. Gane flew another Liberator from Kolar.
			A Party of 50 arrived from Kolar by rail.
	23rd Nov		3 Liberators arrived from 200 Squadron, St. Thomas' Mount.
	25th Nov		F/Lt. Waterton flew a Liberator to Yellahanka and returned the same day.
	26th Nov		1 Liberator from 352 M.U. making 11 in all. One Squadron aircraft remains at Kolar awaiting tanks.
			II. Training.
Madura	16th Nov		A full ground training programme was commenced, lectures being given to "A" and "B" flights alternately. A special course of lectures to individual crews on the MK.V Radar equipment was also initiated.
			Flying training has been very limited, being confined to a few air tests and local flights. In the course of the latter some W/T exercises and practice photography has been carried out.
			III. Serviceability.
			Owing to a combination of circumstances the standard of serviceability has been low, which has accounted for the small amount of flying training carried out.
			Several aircraft were received from the Maintenance Unit overdue for inspections and requiring Modifications. The ground crews below establishment in almost every trade, particularly Electricians and Fitter II E's. Added to this is a shortage of urgently needed spares such as fuel tanks, inner tubes and electrical equipment.
			IV. Operations
			The Squadron is not yet operational.
			V. Sports and Entertainments.
			In view of the limited facilities for entertainment outside the camp an extensive programme of games and other activities has been drawn up each week. Soccer, Rugger, Hockey and Soft-Ball matches have all been played, and some soccer and hockey matches have been played against outside teams.
			Regular Whist Drives and Tombola evenings have been arranged. Concerts have been given of Swing Music by Squadron players, and on gramophone

		records. A piano recital of classical music has also been given, but this is handicapped by the lack of a good instrument.
		A "Quiz" between officers and Sergeants, and a "Brains Trust" have been held, both well supported.
		VI. Personnel.
		Strength    Officers    - 42
		N.C.O's    - 257
		Airmen     - 263
		Postings
		Arrivals"
	6th Nov	F/O. Edwards, E. A.
	24th Nov	F/O. McNeil, J. G. C.22181 (Radar)
		Departures:
	17th Nov	F/O. Hayward, H. B. NZ.421049 (Pilot)
	25th Nov	F/Lt. Thomas, M. 121252 (Nav.)
	29th Nov	F/O. Moodie, W. C.21348 (Radar)
		Commissioned:
		P/O. Hartley, E. 185077 WOP/ASV/AG.
		P/O. Tatchell, J. W. A.409767 WOP/AIR/SE
		P/O. Roigard, H. L. NZ.42460 Pilot
		P/O. McLachlen, J. E. J.90004 (NAV.B.)
		P/O. Pierson, L. G. 184465 (NAV.B)