

October 1945 Form 540

203 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Kankesanthurai			I. Operations
			The ferrying commitments to Singapore using Kallang airfield were continued until the seventh of the month, with similar loads as carried during the end of September. The trip was made direct from base, with the exception of I/203 who took off from Minneriya and returned there after 5 ¼ hrs. u/s.
			Seven aircraft were engaged in these operations. S/Ldr. Stewart, F/Lt. Bowler, F/Lt. Steele, F/O. Webster, F/O. Pryce, and F/O. Stewart.
			Flying Times Singapore 71 hrs 15 mins.
			Non-Operational
			After the seventh, flying training and transit flights were resumed with a large programme of Navigation Exercises, Low Level Bombing and Local Flying.
			Technical
			Minor Inspection turn-out during Oct. was not so high as that of Sept. This was caused by considerable delay in getting M/203 cleared the adaptor plugs having broken off while being removed.
			One failure arose during the month J/203 had a Main Engine Bearing failure, and is undergoing an engine change.
			II. Administration.
			Sport.
			Rugger, Soccer, and Swimming increase in popularity and keen rivalry exists between the Officers, Senior N.C.O's and Airmen.
			Swimming facilities are available every evening at 1600 hrs.
			Personnel & Movements.
			Three new crews arrived this month, under the following captains.
	16th. Oct.		F/Lt. J. Wright 81929
	26th. Oct.		F/Lt. R. J. Cole 152267 and F/Lt. G. W. Guy 152365.
	21st. Oct.		F/Lt. H. C. Bowker 147145 replaced F/Lt. H? Cheetham 11702 who is due for Class A. Release.
	31st. Oct.		F/O. A. Fitch 153745 G.D. Posted to the Squadron for Intelligence duties.
			Casualties.
			Loss of Liberator VI. G.R. N/203 on the 2nd October.
			Crew.
			Pilot F/O. Stewart G. A. 184025.
			Co-Pilot Sgt. Stewart W. 1685213
			Nav. F/O. Ball E. R. 164683
			W/OP. F/S. Lennox G. L. 1801628
			F/Eng. F/S. Bernard. W. 182539
			WOM/AIR. F/S. Willis J. V. 1231312
			F.M.E. LAC. Taylor W. R. 1507318) 7203 Servicing
			F.M.A. LAC. Richardson W. R. 1043272) Echelon
			Passengers
			Bryan Reynolds War Correspondent.
			Lt./Col. R. I. Tremlett 52505) Force 136
			" D. A. Norton 145801) Ceylon
			" Horny

			Major Thomas A.E.S.T.I.C.
			The aircraft took off from Kallang A/F. Singapore on the second of October and has not been heard of since. A.S.R. operations first from Singapore and later from Ceylon were unsuccessful in locating any trace of aircraft, crew, or passengers.
			W/Cdr.
			Commanding 203 Sqdn.