

215 Squadron RAF

April 1943

Form 540

Initial Draft transcription from Air 27/1329 (National Archives, Kew)
As typed, not proofread for either typing errors or transcription errors.

R. Quirk

February 1, 2013

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Digri	1.4.43		"A" Flight carry out training programme. F/Sgt. W. D? A? Young on Night Cross Country made forced landing near Asansol. The crew were safe but aircraft burnt out.
Jessore	3.4.43		"A" Flight recalled from Digri. Visit from G/Capt Wilson S.A.S.O. accompanied by G/Capt Wingate C.O. M.Q. 175 Wing, who addressed the aircrews and outlined a short training programme before the Operational Programme began. F/O Barton (Obs) 159 Squadron arrived to assist in Navigation Training.
	6.4.43	2359	Two aircraft detailed for Army Co-op on Arakan coast. Each A/C dropped 20 flares. The crews were detailed as follows:- H?B 472 "X" S/Ldr James, F/Sgt. Eustace, F/O Judd, F/Sgt. Jefoate, Sgt. Burns, F/Sgt. Errington Time 0440 Hours. H? B 507 "U" F/Lt. Fardell, F/O Bear, F/O Rodgers, F/Sgt. Graham, Sgt. Brown, F/Sgt. Ufflaman, 0520 Hours.
	8.4.43		3 A/C detailed to search for Liberator missing from Night Flare movement. Negative result.
	9.4.43		Following received from A.H.Q. (B) on Night Flare movement 14 Div Front last night. Following message received for 14 Div. "Thanks a lot. Pass on our congratulations for speed at which task was carried out"
	13.4.43		Operations Target Akyab. Cancelled due to bad weather.
	16.4.43		Operations Target Japanese villages on Akyab Island. Eight Aircraft. HF885 "E" W/Cdr. Webster, F/S Butt, F/Lt. Ryan, F/O Logan, F/S Venner, F/S Brown, Time 0520 Hrs. Target not sighted Bombs brought back. HX773 "U" S/Ldr. Clough, P/O Leigh, F/S Walker, Sgt. Trocos, F/S Ark????ght, F/Lt. Woodruff, 0500 Hrs. Target Bombed. F/Lt. Guest, F/S Wilmore?, W/O Edwards, Sgt. Whyte, F/S Barnes, F/S Cross, 04?30 Hours. Target Bombed. M?E134 "B" W/O Parsons, P/O Sutton, F/O Dow?, Sgt. Knight, Sgt Beard, F/S Pentecoate? 0520 Hours, Target Bombed. ?S?985 "C" F/S Dowding, F/S Ringer, F/S Skinner, Sgt Gisbourne, Sgt. Foster, F/S Heir, 0430 Target Bombed. HF857 "J" F/S Kearns, F/S Jetten, F/O Grant, F/S Clarke, Sgt. O'Connell, Sgt. Henry, 0445 Target Bombed. HX567 "Q" F/S Valentine, Sgt. Lanta?ke, P/O Hillyard, Sgt. Stoner, Sgt. Mather, Sgt. Landner, Returned after 30 mins. - unable to trim A/C due to open petrol tank flaps. DW645 "Z?" F/S Williams, Sgt. Johnson, F/O Fellows, F/O Bloxam, Sgt. Dillon, Sgt. Kershaw, 0520 Target Bombed. Bomb Load 4 x 500 lbs G.P.T.I., 1 x 250 lbs G.P.L.D.
	18.4.43		Operations Target He Ho. Ten aircraft. Cancelled due to bad weather.
	21.4.43		Operations Target Meiktila Satellite Fourteen aircraft. Cancelled due to bad weather.
	22.4.43		Operations Target Meiktila Satellite Fourteen aircraft. Bomb Load 8 x 250 lbs G.P.T.I. 1 x 250 G.P.L.D. HF900 "Y" W/C Webster, F/S Butt, F/Lt. Ryan, F/O Logan, F/S Venner, Sgt. Brown, 849 1910 Target Bombed, No results. H?B 474 "A" P/O Sutton, Sgt. Maddox, P.O M?ellefont, Sgt. Abe?on, P/O Dobson, Sgt. Rainger. 1925 Target Bombed. No results. HE134 "B" F/S Jones, F/S Young, P/O Phillips, Sgt. O'Grady, Sgt. Baldry, Sgt. Daniel. 1915 Target Bombed. Trail of smoke and small fire observed. M?B456 "D" F/Lt. Guest, F/S Wilmore, W/O Edwards, Sgt. Whyte, Sgt. Barnes, Sgt. Cross. 1900 Target Bombed. No results. HF885 "E" S/Ldr James, F/Sgt. Eustace, F/O Judd, F/S Jefcoats, Sgt. Burns, F/S Errington, 1940 Starboard engine U/S Bombs jettisoned near Zayeykon? village.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			?B141 "F?" W/O Parsons, Sgt. Leake, F/O Dow, Sgt. Knight, Sgt. Beard, Sgt. Pentecoat. 1940 Bombed Akyab town. 5 Bombs hung up. Later jettisoned.
Jessore	22.4.43		DV549 "H?" F/S A.W. Ringer, F/Sgt J.R? Clarke, Sgt. N. Yaw, Sgt ?C. Singleton, Sgt Stevens H. Sgt T?E? Pritchard 2025 Target Bombed No results.
			HF857 "J" F/S J.M?E. Kearns, F/S C. E. Jeton?, F/O D?J. Grant, F/S J.G. Clarke, Sgt. N? O'Connell, Sgt J. Carr, 1920Target Bombed No results.
			HF890 "P" F/S Dowling K?C. F/O L.N. Bear, Sgt E.A? F. Thomas, Sgt. N.A.J. Ovenden?, P/O R. J. Messer, Sgt J. Hyde, 1945 Target Bombed no results.
			HX567 "Q" F/S A.R? Valentine, Sgt A?W. Lentke?, F/O Hillyard, Sgt G.F? Stoner, Sgt. W. Mather, Sgt M.C. Lardner 1900 Target Bombed no results.
			HD961 "S" P/O C.A? Enright, Sgt W.F. Johnson, F/O F?S. Starr, Sgt E?F. Sadler, Sgt R.H. Rowe, F/S J.E. Meech, 1845 Target Bombed Buildings seen in light of bursts.
			HX773 "U" F/S J. Williams, F/S E. Crosswells, F/O D? Fellows, Sgt F.A. Richards, Sgt. J.R? Dillon, Sgt. F.? Kershaw 1915 Target Bombed No results.
			LA988 "V" W/O ?A. Clarke, F/S B?J. Stanford, W/O C.E. Ising, Sgt J.A. Murray, Sgt H.T. Smithson, Sgt. H?E. ??oe. 1950 Bombed Meitkila Drome bursts seen west of main runway. No Results.
			B?B 472 "X" F/S E?H. Gillis, Sgt R?O. Devine, Sgt W?G. Whitehead, F/S E?F. Rodgers, F/S F?W. Holcombe, F/S J.H. Patterson 1935 Bombed Meitkila Drome bursts seen on new runway. No results.
			The above was a record sortie for H.Q. No. 221 Group and the following congratulatory message was received from the A.O.C. Bengal Command.
			"You have celebrated your return to active operations on this front by putting out a splendid effort last night. Warmest congratulations and Good Hunting. Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin A.O.C. in C. asks me to add his congratulations."
Jessore	24.4.43		F/Lt Anderson, J.D. Medical Officer arrived from 99 Squadron to replace F/Lt Ashforth posted to Chaklala.
	23.4.43		F/O Sykes and crew arrived from Chaklala having flown from Lahore in E?S985 "R".
	24.4.43		Operations Target He Ho Seven aircraft.
			Bomb Load 4 x 250 lbs G.P. N. I. Rods 1 x 250 L?D. 4 x 250 S.B.C. Nickels carried.
			BB474 "A" F/S Dowling, P F/S W.W? Ringer, F/S ? Skinner, Sgt K.D? Gisborne, Sgt V?F? Foster, F/S J. Heir. 1830 Bombed secondary target Yenangyaung – Excessive consumption.
			HX?134 "B" F/O A. Sykes, F/O L?A. Cowling, F/S A.? Baxter, Sgt. M.R? Watling, Sgt. S.W. Riddle, Sgt. ?? Robson, 2000 Petrol flaps open – excessive consumption Jettisoned near Yenangyaung.
			H?B456 "D" S/L A.W.D? James, F/S R. Eastace, P?/O E. F? Judd, P/O R?W. Jefcoate, Sgt ? Burns, F/S K?V? Errington 1950 Bombed target on E.P.T. Yellow fires from incendiaries.
			HF890 "P" F/Lt A.S?F. Fardell, Sgt A.V. Lantudse? P?/O W.J? Rodgers, F/S ?T? Graham, F/S A.?? Iff;e,am. Sgt ?A. Brown 096 2050 Bombed Yenangyaung – Cloud at He Ho Incendiaries Start fire.
			HX773 "U" F/S ?? Gillis, Sgt. ?G? Devine, Sgt ?? Whitehead, F/S E.F. Rodgers, F/S F.W. Mclocome?, F/S S.?? Patterson 1925 Engine trouble. Bombs jettisoned.
			LA988 "V" F/S E.J. Davies, F/S S.T. Stanford, W/O H/P. Champain, F/S C.E.G? Wadham, F/S J.H. McDonald, F/S K.T. Amos 2050 Bombed target inendiaris start fire.
			H?472 "X" F/S W.E. Lewendon, F/S C.H? Pawthrop?, F/S H. Galpin, F/S H.E? McClung, Sgt. J.H. Addey, Sgt J. Newell 1950 Bombed Kyong (15 Miles West of He Ho) Incendiaries start fire.
	27.4.43	2300	Operations. Target Neitkila satellite. 11 aircraft. Cancelled Bad weather.
	30.4.43		Operations target:- Yaungup village and road transport. 11 A/C detailed. Cancelled due to bad weather.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			30.5 ¹ .43 (signed) Squadron Leader, Commanding, No. 215 Squadron, R.A.F.

¹ Although the report is for April 1943, the date by the signature is for May 1943.