

From: 292 Squadron Ceylon Flight,  
R.A.F. Sigiriya  
To: C.O. 292 Squadron,  
R.A.F. Jessore  
Date: 29th June, 1944.

Weekly Report – 22 Jun to 28 June.

1. This Unit is now working smoothly so far as administration is concerned. Bodies to implement our ground personnel are still coming in steadily although considerable chasing is necessary even after the postings have been notified. The units from which these bodies are posted seem to be as keen to hang on to them as we are keen to get hold of them. However, our strength at the moment is 25 ground personnel of all trades, and there are six or seven not yet arrived whose posting notices have been received.

2. I have at last been successful in working the posting to us of a Cpl. Fitter II E., whom I have earmarked as my N.C.O. i/c Flight. He is an excellent all rounder who for some time now has been a bulwark of the Ratmalana Detachment. He did not belong to them, but was loaned by the Station, and as he was third on the Group promotion roster to the rank of Sergeant, I thought it better to rob the Ratmalana Detachment rather than that he should be posted away altogether. This man has not yet arrived and until he does, we have been lent a very good Sergeant by another unit on this station.

3. The stores situation is now very good – almost all of the stuff which we are likely to get has now arrived. The list of “inabilities” is somewhat disturbing, but with a little ingenuity in local manufacture I think we shall pull through O. K.

4. One matter which I think is likely to prove troublesome is the high rate of wastage of aircraft tyres. I visited Group on Saturday last, and on arrival at Ratmalana both main tyres were found to be u/s, and the aircraft has been there ever since, there being no jacking pads in Ceylon. (No, it was not a bad landing: The trouble is entirely flint holes.). F/O Fulton's aircraft, also, on arrival here, was found to have one main tyre like a colander.

5. F/O Fulton and crew in a/c HF943 arrived here on 29th June from Pharparsau(????). He has an astounding story to tell of inefficiency and downright crookedness at that station. One or two points necessitate action, and I propose taking such action through Group. I will let you have copies of the complaints as soon as I have sorted the ‘wheat from the chaff’.

6. China Bay Sub-Detachment pranged a Walrus (Hd807???) on 24th June – the same pilot as pranged another Walrus a short time ago in similar circumstances. After making a cursory inquiry, it seemed possible that there was some ‘finger trouble’, so I requested the Station Commander at China Bay to institute an Investigation officially. R/Lt. Bird is now at China Bay on this enquiry. I have requested Group to make the findings and proceedings reports available to me, so I will advise you on the results in due course.

S/Ldr.  
O.C. 292 Squadron Ceylon Flight.