

No. 292 Squadron Weekly Bulletin. No. 8??

Monday, August 28th.

Here is a copy of a signal sent by the A.O.C. Strategic Air Force to A.C., S.E.A.

REQUEST POSITION REGARDING FORMATION OF "E" FLIGHT 292 SQDN AND STATE OF THE OTTERS. IT IS DESIRABLE THAT FLIGHT SHOULD MOVE TO DHUBALIA FROM JESSORE AS SOON AS AIRCRAFT FIT TO MAKE TRIP ESSENTIAL "E" FLIGHT BECOMES OPERATIONAL UNDER SUPERVISION OF C.O. 292 SQDN PRIOR TO MOVE FURTHER FORWARD.

2. This was as a result of a personal talk with the A.O.C. He has the facts a bit muddled in the signal, but he has the important thing, and that you move over here to form. The reason why nothing has been done as a result of letters to Group, is that the S.A.S.O. has been away, the deputy S.A.S.O. went sick, they are very busy with the movement of a lot of Squadrons, and I had to go right to the A.O.C. to get anything done. Everybody at Group is back now, so we should be all right again. By the way the A.O.C. said he was certain the Sea Otter was a 'bitch' cross-wind, and he is going to try and find out whether water facilities can be found at Cox's Bazaar.

3. Copy of letter from A.C., S.E.A. to Eastern Air Command Copy to us and Eastern Air Command (ref: Air/6015 date 20/8/44)

An investigation into the possibilities of evacuating casualties by either Sea Otter or Walrus type amphibians, operating from rivers and lakes in the forward area is being considered by this Headquarters.

2. The following information is requested:-

- (i) Can Neil Robertson stretchers be lowered through the rear hatch.
- (ii) Is modification to the hull necessary to do this.
- (iii) If (ii) affirmative, can the modifications be carried out locally.
- (iv) The number of Walrus type aircraft 292 Squadron can accept without additional personnel.
- (v) Comment on the performance of Walrus or Sea Otter operating from rivers in conditions of no wind.

4. Will O.C. "E" Flight send a letter to me (Copy to A.C., S.E.A. and Eastern Air Command) written something like this:- "With reference to A.C., S.E.A. letter Air/6015 dated 20/8/44, the following are the answers to the queries regarding Sea Otters"

5. Will O.C. "C" Flight do the same regarding Walrus.

6. The only answer I know is that to para.2 (iv) and that is NONE.

7. To get back to things here, W/Cdr Laye from Air Ministry paid us a visit, gave us a "Walter" which we tried out with great success. No wonder they will not allow the A.S.V. to be taken off the Swatters. It is so small that it can be fitted inside a "K" Type Dinghy, homing range 25 miles at 5,000 ft over the sea, and the battery will give 48 hrs continuous running. In a months time they hope to be turn them out at the rate of 5,000 a week.

8. S/Ldr Pollock is now at Dhubalia with the Advanced Party, and I am going over in my Hurricane today to have lunch with him. The rest of us go on the 2nd.

9. The bombslips have at last arrived back duly hardened. I am getting hold of the formula, and will send it on to you. It appears that the metal though soft as lead was of the finest quality – they had just

forgotten to do the hardening processes. I say "on to you" I naturally mean "C" Flight, who are sure to be having trouble with them.

10. Re Swatters I see that two have been allotted to "C" Flight at the expense of "E" Flight. It is very important that "C" Flight let me know as soon as possible what they think of them, the snags, improvements or alterations required, so that I can have something??, benerey??? With which to back Almack. It is a pity a Ware appears? to be developing between us an Heshe??, but with the backing of 222 Group I think we will have no trouble in winning. It is as well the "C" Flight, who have proved themselves, should have the opportunity of doing operational trials, before "E" Flight get stuck up forward.

11. "E" Flight Report Aug. 12th. Para. d. You have the signal about the dual sets. All the rest of the report would be dealt with ???ily if we get you over here.

12. I have no new "C" Flight Report.

13. Last but not least. Because there was a job yesterday which necessitated a boat, it has suddenly been realised that our boat would be better here than in a late at Calcutta. I have been very rude about this in several letters and personally to the S.A.S.O. As I expected, somebody would have to go for a 'Burton' before anything was done. It is now being rushed out to us from Calcutta.

Wing Commander. Commanding.
No.292 Squadron. R.A.F.