

No. 292 Squadron Weekly Bulletin. No. 9

August 30th.

As the whole place will be in a complete state of 'flap' next Monday, owing to the move, and as I now have two reports to reply to, I am writing this early.

2. "E" Flight Report Aug 15th. As I said in a previous bulletin, being so far away all my information is old and there is little effective chasing up I can do. Your local Group have been asked to, and should do all this for you. I still maintain the only solution is to get you here under our direct control, and under a Group which is rapidly becoming Air Sea Rescue conscious. There are full water facilities at Calcutta, including an U.S.A. A.S.R. Catalina, and a B.O.A.C Empire Boat base. I have actually seen Sunderlands landing there. The sea Landing would of course have to be arranged further away. My real point is that where you are now, the only advantage is that you have opportunities to do sea landings. You seem to meet appalling difficulties about everything else, and get little useful local support. Come here and you will be under an A.O.C. who is very keen to get you going – and can do it. To quote his words. "Who the Hell is W/Cdr. Hoche? He thinks he runs A.S.R. He is just a Staff Officer at Delhi who does what we tell him. I am certain the Sea Otter is a pig cross-wind." If you come here, he will come charging out from Calcutta in his Hurricane to see the machine, and I bet in no time will have arranged everything for us at Cox's Bazaar. In such quicker time we will have you equipped., modified, and all that, and can go forward with just you sea landings to polish up. Here A.C., S.E.A. do what No. 231 Group say. Where you are, it appears that your local Group do what A.C.,S.E.A. (in other words W/Cdr Hoche) says.

3. "C" Flight Report, Aug. 15th. A very entertaining and informative report, and I repeat my congratulations. AS regards those dammed soluble plugs, if I signalled that we had some there must be some mistake in the signal. W/Cdr Hoche, by the way, said that owing to the trouble being experienced in getting these plugs and the speed with which they are 'soluble' in the monsoon, they are being scrubbed altogether. The idea is that the crew in the water blow the dingy up. For this purpose the barrel is being covered with arrows pointing to the release.

4. While we have not officially been given Jungle Rescue, it looks as if the Sunderbans are going to give us a lot of trade, and once 'Walters' are on general issue Swatters can just land on the nearest creek. Without the aid of Walter it is hopeless trying to find individuals as we found when we were sent to look for the pilots of eight Spitfires who flew into a big black cloud, got all tangled up together and all bailed out. When they eventually walked home, they said they saw our Warwicks but we were too low and fast. I doubt whether we would have seen them anyway.

5. The Air Party leaves here for Dhubalia on the first, and the Main Party on the second of Sept.

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