

August 1944 Form 540

292 Squadron, Ratmalana

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Ratmalana	1.8.44		Lindholme operating head forwarded to S/Ldr. Spencer? (222 Group) for tests of soluble plugs. Allotted a 550 gall. refueller to be collected from Minneriya. Allotment received for Tractor to be kept at Station M.T. F/Lt. Primrous?, Adjutant, posted to India leaving 5.8.44 and being replaced by F/O. Smerdon. Mr. Meyers, Pratt & Witney representative arrived to speak to ground personnel.
	2.8.44		LAC. Crook left by air to collect "Jeep" from Koogala, only to return as no allotment had been received at Koogala. F/Sgt. Bodi-Meade air tested Warwick HF971 for 40 minutes.
	3.8.44		F/O. Funai reported on posting for pilot duties. F/Sgt. Bodimeade? air tested Warwick HF971 for 30 mins.
	4.8.44		F/O. Donne admitted SSQ. F/Lt. Bird landed in Walrus from Kankasanturai. W/O. Blackmore despatched to KKS by air. "Jeep" collected from HQ(Unit) 22 Group. F/O. Smerdon assumes duties of Adjutant.
	5.8.44	1100	F/L. Bird, P/O. Frisby departed by Walrus to KKS.
	7.8.44	0935	Warwick HF971 (S/L. Alcock & S/L. Spencer) to China Bay.
		1035	Landed China Bay. Arranging for forthcoming detachments of Warwicks.
		1340	Warwick HF971 airborne China Bay to Ratmalana.
		1555	Landed Ratmalana. F/O. Donne discharged from S.S.Q.
	8.8.44	1620	Warwick BV469 (F/O. Melnyk) airtested, but dinghy blew out in air wrecking Mid-upper turret, and landed at 1640. Decided to make HF943 serviceable from BV469.
	9.8.44		Signal received from HQ. 292 Squadron that no soluble plugs available.
			F/L. Primro?re?? left by air for Delhi.
Ratmalana	10.8.44		Warwicks HF971 & HF945 due off 0830 hours but delayed by heavy rains and flooding of airfield. Warwicks V airborne 0900 hours; B airborne 0910 hours. Ground personnel being conveyed by 3 Ansons.
		1010	Aircraft landed. Crews briefed at 1200 hours for an early morning take-off on 11.8.44. Aircraft D unable to take off due to suspected ignition trouble. Aircraft P unserviceable – A.O.C. spares.
China Bay	11.8.44		Aircraft V airborne and on patrol 0730 hours. Box patrol carried out along track of B.29's. Nothing seen. Duration of flight 8 hrs. 46 mins.
			Aircraft B airborne and on patrol 0736 hours. Box patrol carried out. Periscope sighted at 1122 hours and at 1130 hours, a destroyer informed of its position. Faint S.O.S. picked up on 500kcs. at 1255 hours, circled position for 2 ½ mins. and resumed course. At 1300 hours circling again for 3 mins but nothing seen. Duration – 9 hrs. 50 mins.
			Aircraft V airborne at 1544 hrs to patrol given area where B.29 was suspected to have ditched. Box patrol carried out but nothing sighted. Duration of flight 3 hours 20 mins.
			Work being carried out on Warwick D aided by Pratt & Witney representative.
China Bay	1.8.44	0930	Aircraft B airborne to search given area for B.29. At 1017 hours two dinghies sighted as on of B.29's was circling in position 09 16N 82 43E. After sighting report to base one lindholme container gear was dropped and seen to operated immediately. During the drop their dinghy aerial and kite was out by our starboard wing but caused no damage. HMS. Redoubt was successfully homed on to dinghy position and rescue was completed at 1400 hours. Duration of flight 5 hr. 20 mins. Both aircraft returned to Ratmalana that evening.
			F/O. Fulton carried out air tests in Warwick D for 1 hour.

Ratmalana	13.8.44	1025	F/O. Melnyk took off in Warwick B to China Bay to bring back ground staff. One Mitchell used for same purpose. Duration 2 hrs. 40 mins. Warwick D serviceable. S/L. Alock ¹ visited HQ 222 Group (Photography).
	14.8.44		Visit by W/C. Ley and S/L Finch of A.M.A.S.R. Directorate. F/O. Fulton carried out test with "Walter" in Warwick D lasting 1.15 hrs. Obtained "Walter" transmitter to continue test. Group Armament Officer visited the Unit to discuss containers for operation "Make Believe". Containers found to be suitable for dropping from Warwick. Dinghy lost on 8.8.44 now retrieved.
	15.8.44		F/O. Lindsay carried out tests with "Walter" over jungle in Warwick D duration 1 hr. 45 mins. Aircraft B on minor inspection.
	16.8.44		F/O. Fulton carried out further tests with "Walter" which were successful.
	17.8.44		F/O. Melnyk & F/O. Howard proceeded to Sigiriya in Tiger Moth NL728? to collect Tiger Moth.
	19.8.44		Warning by Operations Controller that parachute reported 210° Colombo 3 miles. Warwick V airborne at 0950 hours. Nothing sighted so was recalled. Request received from S.A.S.O. No.222 Group for one aircraft to search for Government Agent. Aircraft V airborne at 1352 hours. Nothing seen.
	20.8.44		Operation "Make Believe" for today postponed until 22.8.44.
	21.8.44		Warwick D proceeded to KKS. for oleo pump loaned to Walrus Flight. Aircraft was scrambled at KKS to position near coast. Group navigation Officer, 222 Group visited the Unit. F/O. Fukai appointed Air/Jungle Rescue officer of this Squadron.
	24?.8.44		Warwick D airborne at 1135 hours, proceeded to position 225° Katurunda 15 miles; two Barracudas had collided and one dinghy reported in the sea. On arrival the dinghy had been picked up by a M.V. Warwicks D and P serviceable; V & B on minor inspections.
	25.8.44		F/O. Smith arrived in Walrus from China Bay and returned at 1615 hrs.
	28.8.44		F/O. Lindsay airborne in Warwick P at 1050 hours on "Walter Supply Dropping Test". Container overshot mark due to hang-up. Duration: 1 hr. 50 mins.
	29.8.44		Difficulty being experienced in fixing position of "Walter". Suggested by C.O. that smoke trail be laid into wind by the aircraft before and after reaching positions of "Walter" and then homing again at 90° to wind and where track crosses smoke is exact fix.
	30.8.44		F/O. Fulton in Warwick D airborne at 1000 hrs. to search for Beachcraft but recalled after 35 mins. flying.
	31.8.44		Information to hand that first actual supply drop for Operation "Make Believe" will be on 1.9.44.
			for Squadron Leader, Commanding,
			No.292 Squadron Ceylon Flight

¹ As spelt in record.