

357 Squadron
RAF

A Record of Their Operations in SEAC
February to December, 1944

Transcriptions of records from the National Archives, Kew, England
Air27 1760

Compiled by
R. G. Quirk

Dedicated to all those who served on 357 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Notes:

This is a preliminary transcription.

There are errors in it, especially where the microfilm was difficult to read.

The "?" symbol is used where the film was unclear or where the transcript is suspect.

Names and initials are always a problem in transcribing these records. Not only is it difficult to read the copies and discern an "F" from a "P", but the records themselves are not consistent. In addition, most of the 357 records for this period were hand written, which can cause additional problems in transcribing.

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February 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			Part I – Operations
Dum-Dum	Feb 6/7		F/L. G? A. King, D.F.C., in a Hudson "Spiers IV" was successful. The weather & visibility was good.
	Feb 11/12		F/L. G? A. King, D.F.C., in a Hudson on "Bantam/Bullrel?" was successful.
	Feb 12/13		P/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C., on "Bantam/Bullrel?", W/O. J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. on "Blow", Can.J10015 F/O. R. B. Palmer, on "Dilwyn V" & Aus. 408527 F/O. O. S. Shave on "Dilwyn VI" were all successful in their sorties. Hudson aircraft were used for all sorties.
			Bombing Cover Raids for these operations were carried out on Katha & Bhamo.
	Feb 14/15		P/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C., operating in a Hudson on "Backhand" proved successful. A Bombing cover raid was supplied for this operation on Hezata? W/O. J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C., in a Hudson on "Blast" was successful. A bombing cover raid was carried out on Bassein for this operation.
			Operational Hours Flown Feb/44. 52.34.
			Operational Sorties Flown Feb/44. 8
			Part II Administration
Chaklala	Feb 1		Formation order No. 52 dated 16th Jan. 1944 expressed A.Q. A.C., S.E.A.'s intention to reform No. 1576 (Special Duties) Flight as No. 357 (S.D.) Squadron with effect from 1st Feb. 1944. It was stated that Headquarters & "A" Flight comprising Liberators & Hudsons would be situated at Digri & that "B" Blight comprising Catalinas, would be situated at Red Hills Lake. No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. was put under the command of S/Ldr. J. R. Moore.
			Duties – Officers
			The under-mentioned duties on 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. were delegated to the Officers shown
			Commanding Officer --- S/Ldr. J. R. Moore.
			Adjutant --- P/O. T. C. Currie
			P.M.C. --- F/L. J. C. S. Ponsford
			Mess Secretary --- Aus.408527 F/O. O. S. Shave
			Bar Officer --- Can.J16354 F/O. W. Prosser
			Food Member --- F/O. R. C. Powell
			Officer i/c Sgts. Mess --- P/O. R. C. Auckland
			P.S.I. --- F/L. J. A. King, D.F.C.
			Sports Officer --- P/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C.
			Welfare Officer --- P/O. A. W. C. Cumming
			Airmen's Messing Officer --- Can.J8624 F/O. L. Patterson
			Security Officer --- Can.J11179 F/O. S. G. Gradiner
			Entertainment Officer --- Aus.411553 F/O. S. D. Titterington
			M.T. Officer --- F/O. J. S. Watson
			Censor Officer --- P/O. A. J. Floyd, D.F.C.
			Savings Officer --- Aus. P/O K. Buchanan
			Education Officer --- F/L. E. F. French
			Armament Officer --- Can.J10663 F/O. M. W. Wiggett
			S & C Publications --- P/O. T. C. Currie
			Parachute Officer --- Can.J10015 R. B. Palmer
	Feb 13		Can. J10663 F/O. M. W. Wiggett assumed command of No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn vice S/Ldr. J. R. Moore w.e.f. 13/2/44.
	Feb 24		Can. J10015 F/O. R. B. Palmer was detailed to make a report on the Night Flying Equipment available to this unit at this Station, & was to take immediate

		steps to bring this up to full requirements.
	Feb 23	S/Ldr. J. R. Moore re-assumed command of No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn vice Can. J10663 F/O. M. W. Wiggett.
	Feb 28	F/L. J. C. S. Ponsford assumed command of No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn vice S/Ldr. J. R. Moore.
	Feb 1	A Letter was received from the Air Officer i/c Administration, H.Q. Third Tactical Air Force referring to Formation Order No. 52, stating that the Group Accountant Officer, H.Q. No. 231 Group would be responsible for the Cash & Pay Accounting Administration of "A" Flight No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. Digri.
		Part III Personnel
Chamlala?	1944	R.A.F. P.O.R's 9/2/44
	Feb 3	F/O. C. L. Flitton, A & S.D. (I) was posted from 347 Sqdn to S.H.Q. Korangi Creek w.e.f. 3/2/44.
	Feb 6	P/O. A. W. C. Cumming, A & S.D. (I) was posted from No. 185 Wing to No. 357 Sqdn. w.e.f. 6/2/44.
		R.C.A.F. P.O.R's 9/2/44
		Can. J.16854 P/O. W. Prosser was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer (Temp) w.e.f. 19/8/43.
		Can. J.17432 P/O. J. W. Moreland was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer (Temp) w.e.f. 5/9/43.
		Can. J.7345 F/O. I. K. McKenzie was promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant (Temp) w.e.f. 13/9/43.
		Statement of Personnel Strength – February 1944
		Airmen Officers Total
		R.A.F. 173 11 184
		R.C.A.F. 8 4 12
		R.A.A.F. 5 6 11
		207
		W/Cdr.
		Commanding No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn.
		Part IV Honours & Awards.
	Jan 8	The immediate award of the D.F.C. to F/L. J. A. King, was graciously approved by H.M. the King. This was awarded for Meritorious Service while serving with 1576 (S.D.) Flight.
	Jan 22	The immediate award of the D.F.C. to P/O. B. Floyd & P/O. J. Churchill was graciously approved by H.M. the King on the recommendation of the Air Commander-in-Chief, A.C., S.E.A. for Meritorious Service while serving with 1576 (S.D.) Flight.

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357 Squadron

note page 1 may be missing from film

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
Hudson III "D"	F/Lt King (Capt)	Bantam Bulbul	112220	120525	This operation was successful. Target was Kokang area. The weather was good and A/C arrived over target at 0112 hrs. and at 0115 hrs dropped 2 agents and 2 containers, all chutes were seen to open correctly and a signal was received from the ground that the drop had been a success. A/C then set course for base.
	P/O Floyd		at Chittagong	at Chittagong	
	W/O Scattergood				
	F/Sgt Langton				
	Sgt Booker				
	Sgt Warren				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill (Capt)	Bantam Bulbul	122245	130600	This operation was successful. Target was Kokang area. The weather was good and the A/C had no trouble in finding D.Z. 0118 In 3 runs 7 containers and 1 package were dropped, all chutes of the containers were seen to open correctly but it is not known whether the chute of package opened. A/C then set course for base.
	W/O Hough		at Chittagong	at Dum Dum	
	W/O Emery				
	F/Sgt Harris				
	Sgt. Newham				
Hudson III "G"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Blow	122240	130512	This operation was successful. Target was Katha area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0140 hrs. In 2 runs 4 agents, 2 containers and 2 rucksacks were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. Bombing cover was made on Katha and at 0120 hrs bomb bursts were observed in this area.
	F/Sgt Manser		at Dum Dum	at Chittagong	
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	F/Sgt Page				
	Sgt Wells				
Hudson III "E"	F/O Palmer (Capt)	Dilwyn V	122316	130600	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0153 hrs. In 1 run 8 containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. Bombing cover raids were made on Katha and Bhamo at 0120 hrs the crew saw 3 flashes from the direction of Bhamo.
	F/O Prosser		at Chittagong	at Dum Dum	
	F/O Patterson				
	W/O Ogilvie				
	Sgt Morgan				
Hudson III "D"	F/O Shave (Capt)	Dilwyn VI	122214	130137	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over DZ area at 0137 hrs and found reception waiting. In one
	F/O Titterington		at Dum-Dum	at Dum-Dum	

	F/O Powell				run 8 containers were dropped and 7 of the chutes were seen to open correctly. Bombing cover raids were made on Katha & Bhamo and at 0120 hrs bomb flashes were seen from Bhamo
	Sgt. Warren				
	F/Lt Ponsford				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill (Capt)	Backhand	0110	0840	This operation was successful. Target was Hengada area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0515 hrs. There was haze over the original DZ so an alternate one was used. In one run 1 agent and 2 containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. A bombing cover raid was made on Hengada which was seen at 0456 hrs.
	W/O Hough		at Dum-Dum	at Dum-Dum	
	W/O Emery				
	Sgt. Newham				
	Sgt. Warren				
	F/Lt Ponsford				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Blast	0135	0825	This operation was successful. Target was Bassein area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0453 hrs. In one run 2 agents were dropped and both chutes were seen to open correctly. A bombing cover raid was made on Bassein but nothing was observed of this.
	F/Sgt Manser		at Dum-Dum	at Dum-Dum	
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	F/Sgt Page				
	F/Sgt Harris				

Appendix II to Form 540, February 1944

3219/ORG..3.

Secret

Headquarters, Air Command, S.E.A.
Date 16th January 1944.

Formation Order No. 52
Formation of No. 357 (Special Duties) Squadron
(Formerly No. 1576 (Special Duties) Flight)

Intention

1. To reform No. 1576 (Special Duties) Flight as No. 357 (Special Duties) Squadron.
(Liberators 6; Hudsons 3; Catalinas 6 and 3)
Date effective. 1st February, 1944.
Location. Headquarters & "A" Flight (Liberators and Hudsons) Digri.
"B" Flight (Catalinas) Red Hills Lake.

Execution

Function

2. Special Duties. The Squadron will be initially equipped with the following aircraft: Liberators III, 3, Hudsons VI, 7, Catalinas, 4.

Operational Control:

3. Headquarters, Air Command, South East Asia.

Establishment:

4. L/W/E/SEA/264 to be issued in due course.

Administrative Arrangements

Administrative Control:

5. Headquarters No. 231 Group through Headquarters No. 185 Wing.

Personnel

6. To be posted by Headquarters, Air Command, South East Asia "P" Staff and B.P.O. in accordance with revised Establishment requirements.

Priority

7. "A"

Equipment

8. To be drawn from No. 313 Maintenance Unit through H.Q. No. 185 Wing.

Equipment Accounting.

9. Headquarters No. 185 Wing.

Administrative Services and Initial Issues.

10. Responsibility has been allocated as shown and the authorities named will issue instructions accordingly:

Accommodation and Rations)	
Discipline)	H.Q. No. 231 Group. (Note No. 225 Group
Pay Issue and Accounting)	will be responsible for local administrative
Security)	services in respect of "B" Flight whilst
Medical)	located at Red Hills Lake.
Welfare)	
Works Service)	
Defence)	
<hr/>		
Returns)	G.R. & P.
Sanction for Office Equipment)	A.H.Q. India.
Office Allowances)	
<hr/>		
Initial Issue of Forms and Pubs.)	
Stationery)	Equipment section, H.Q., A.C., S.E.A.
Issue of Pack up of Stationery)	
<hr/>		
Postal arrangements and the forwarding to this unit of folio of all R.A.F. Postal Instructions issued to date.)	No. 5 Base Postal Unit (Rafpost, Calcutta)
<hr/>		
Inter communications)	C.S.O., H.Q., A.C., S.E.A.

Correspondence

11. Will be addressed: No. 357 Squadron, R.A.F. India.

General

12. The advice of H.Q. No. 231 Group is to be obtained without delay on any question that may arise which is not specifically covered by this Formation Order.

Signed B.A.. Chacksfield G/C.

for Air Vice Marshal,
Air Officer i/c Administration,
Headquarters, A.C., S.E.A.

March 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Dum-Dum	Mar 5/6		F/O R. B. Palmer in a Hudson completed successful sortie on "Dilwyn VIII". Weather fine.
	Mar 6/7		F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. in a Hudson on "Spiere? V" was unsuccessful owing to hazy weather cond. over dropping zone. AUS.408527 F/O O. S. Shave & W/O J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. both in Hudson aircraft on "Spiere? V" were successful.
Digri			Aus.421561 F/O J. Brand in a Liberator on "Appreciation? I" was unsuccessful owing to low cloud over the dropping zone. Can.J.17432 F/O J. W. Moreland in a Liberator on "Sum??" was successful. No trace however of the Bombing cover raid on Bangkok.
Dum-Dum	Mar 7/8		F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. was successful on "Spiers V": - F/O R. B. Palmer was successful on "Boffin". Weather was good & aircraft used on both sorties were Hudsons.
	Mar 10/11		Can.R.90925 W/O N. F. Moore in a Hudson was successful on "Bug III" :- W/O S. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. also in a Hudson on "Blow" was unsuccessful owing to their being no reception signals over the dropping zone;- Weather conditions good.
	Mar 11/12		W/O J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. operating in a Hudson on "Spiere V A"? was successful. F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. also operating in a Hudson was successful on "Spire". Weather good.
	Mar 12/13		F/O R. B. Palmer was successful operating in a Hudson on "Dilwyn IX";- Weather fair.
	Mar 13/14		Can. R.90925 W/O N. F. Moore in "Bug III B" :- W/O J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. on "Blow" were both successful in their sorties Hudson aircraft were use in both instances.
Dum-Dum	Mar 14/15		F/L J. A. King D.F.C. on "Dilwyn IX" :- W/O J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. on "Dilwyn X", Aus.408524 F/O O. S. Shave on "Dilwyn X" were all successful in their sorties. Weather was good & Hudson aircraft were used for above mentioned sorties.
Digri			Aus. 431561 F/O J. Brand in a Liberator aircraft on "Appreciation I" was successful.
Dum-Dum			F/O R. B. Palmer in a Hudson failed to return from an operation on "Boffin" subsequently a signal was received form I.S.L.D. to the effect that an R.A.F. aircraft had crashed at approx. 0300 hours at position 23°44N 98°48E & that 4 members of the crew were dead & 2 seriously injured, a doctors presence ? being urgently requested. The aircraft had apparently dropped 4 containers & had the burst into flames. Crew of aircraft as follows:
			F/O R. B. Palmer (Captain) F/L J. C. S. Ponsford (2nd Pilot) Can.J.16354 F/O W. Prosser (Nav) Can.J.8634 F/L L. Patterson (Wop/Ag) Can.R.82044 W/O B. A. Ogilvie (2nd Wop) 537086 F/S J. Wilkinson (Despatcher).
			The details of this crash were not established but it is believed that one engine was giving trouble over the D.Z. & that aircraft crashed into hillside.
	Mar 15/16		F/O O. S. Shave on "Dilwyn XI";- F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. on "Dilwyn XI" in Hudson aircraft were both successful although weather conditions over the dropping zone were poor.
	Mar 16		News was received that the Hudson containing F/O W. Prosser & crew had crashed on the night of the 14/15 March & that 4 of the crew were killed & the remaining 2 who were seriously injured required urgent medical assistance. As the C.O. Wing Commander J. R. Moore was away at Digri & F/L J. C. S. Ponsford was in the crashed aircraft, F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. assumed command of the establishment. F/L Carr, No 117 Squadron Medical Officer was heard to

		have made a parachute descent on a previous occasion but all efforts to contact him were unsuccessful: H.Q. S.E.A.C. had given their consent to such an operation when at 1500 hours Wing Commander J. R. Moore arrived from Digri & assumed command. F/L G. D. Graham Medical Officer for the Squadron arrived also & despite the fact that he had only been on the squadron for a few days & had never made a parachute descent, on receipt of the news immediately volunteered to be dropped at the scene by parachute. At late the operation was arranged:- F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. (Pilot) P/O A. J. Floyd, D.F.C. (Nav) Sgt. B. Booker & Sgt. H. Lindley (Wags) despite the fact that they been on operations the two previous nights, volunteered to fly the M.O. to the scene of the crash. F/S T. E. White a fully qualified parachute jumping instructor who had also been on operations the two previous nights volunteered to accompany the M.O. to assist him to identify the deceased. The aircraft left Dum-Dum at 23.40 hours for Chittagong where it was refuelled & the mission set off from there at 03.15 hours "Sumers????? was the order of the day."
	Mar 17	A signal was received from "Boffin" that F/L G. D. Graham & F/S "Chalky" White had both landed safely. That was good news but there was also bad news as only F/O W. Prosser was alive: F/L J. C. S. Ponsford had died at 10.25 hours in the morning of the 15th March.
	Mar 18	A signal was received from "Boffin" stating that F/O W. Prosser could not be moved for at least 4 days:- (also F/L G. D. Graham's report on "Rescue Mission")
		Operational Hours Flown – March/44. 192.01
		Operational Sorties Flown – March /44. 23
		Part II – Administration
Digri	Mar 2	S/Ldr J. R. Moore reassumed command of 357 (S.D) Sqdn vice F/L J. C. S. Ponsford
	Mar 8	Can.J.10663 F/O M. W. Wiggett assumed command of 357 S.D. Sqdn. vice S/Ldr J. R. Moore who was called away on temporary duty.
	Mar 10	Can.J.17432 F/O. J. W. Moreland assumed the duties of N.T. Officer vice F/O. J. S. Watson.
	Mar 11	A letter dated March 11 was received from the Staff Officer i/c Administration H.Q. 231 Group, reading as follows:-
		Equipment Accounting
		With reference to the Formation Order No. 52 dated Jan. 16, 1944, authority has been granted for 357 Sqdn. to be self accounting for equipment.
	Mar 13	A football match was played between Sergeants & Airmen.
		S/Ldr. J. R. Moore reassumed command of 357 S.D. Sqdn vice Can.J.10663 F/O. Wiggett.
	Mar 14	Aus. 421561 F/O. J. Brand was appointed to the duties of Squadron Training Officer.
	Mar 15	There was a B.E.S.A. concert held in the Station Cinema at 20.00 hours. Prices of admission were Officer 2 rupees – Other ranks 8 annas. It was a good show & enjoyed by all.
	Mar 19	A sectional football game was played between teams from Flights & M.T.
	Mar 22	F/L. J. A. King, D.F.C. assumed command of the Squadron vice S/Ldr. J. R. Moore who was called away on temporary duty.
		Duties – Officers
		F/L. J. A. King, D.F.C. assumed the duties of P.M.C. vice F/L. J. C. S. Ponsford (deceased)
		F/L. E. F. French assumed the duties of P.S.I. vice F/L. J. A. King, D.F.C.
		P/O. A. J. Floyd, D.F.C. assumed the duties of Airmens Messing Officer vice Can.J.8624 F/L. L. Patterson (deceased).
	Mar 24	S/Ldr. J. R. Moore returned to the Squadron & reassumed command vice F/L. J. A. King, D.F.C.

			A sports Meeting was held in the Canteen for all interested persons.			
	Mar 25		A football match was played – Officers & Sgts v The Rest.			
	Mar 26		The first of a series of "Gramophone Concerts" was held in the Reading Room, all ranks being invited.			
	Mar 27		A Football match was played – 357(Sqdn) Airmen v M.T.			
			Roman Catholic Church services were held on the 12th, 19th, 26th March			
			C of E & O.D. Church services were held on the 19th & 26th March.			
			The Rev. C. W. Banner C of E Chaplain visited the Squadron on the 7th, 23rd, & 30th March for the benefit of all personnel wishing to interview him.			
			Part III Personnel			
Digri	Mar 4		R.A.F. – PORS 4/3/44			
			118470 F/O. K. A. W. Morris GD(Pilot) was posted to 357 S.D. Sqdn from No. 1580 Calibration Flight w/e/f 25.1.44			
			Part IV Honours & Awards			
	Mar 14		New Years Honours List, 1944			
			His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the name of the under mentioned in London Gazette as having been commended --			
			For Valuable Service in the Air			
			146518 Sgt. W. R. H. Yexley			
			Statement of Personnel Strength. March 1944.			
			Airmen	Officers	Total	
			R.A.F.	257	14	271
			R.C.A.F.	9	4	13
			R.A.A.F	4	6	10
			R.NZ.A.F.	--	1	1
			Polish	--	1	1
						296
			W/Cdr.			
			Commanding No. 357 S.D. Squadron.			

March 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	5/6th March 1944				
Hudson III "A"	F/O Palmer (Capt)	Dilwyn VIII	1728 at Dum-Dum	0135 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2133 hrs and found reception waiting. In 3 runs, 5 agents and 4 containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. At 2115 hrs bomb bursts were seen in the direction of Bhamo.
	F/O Prosser				
	F/Lt Patterson				
	W/O Ogilvie				
	F/Sgt White				
	6/7th March 1944				
Hudson III "G"	F/Lt. King (Capt)	Spiers V	1835 at Dum-Dum	0140 at Dum-Dum	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the pilot was confident that he reached the DZ by DR but owing to the great number of bush fires in the area, he was unable to find any reception despite a one hour 20 minutes search of the area.
	P/O Floyd				
	Sgt. Bocker				
	Sgt. Lindley				
	F/Sgt White				
Hudson III "F"	F/O Shave (Capt)	Spiers V	1843 at Dum-Dum	0323 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2252 hrs. In 2 runs 9 containers were dropped and 8 of the chutes were seen to open correctly by the rear gunner.
	W/O Hough				
	F/O Powell				
	W/O Arnull				
	F/Sgt Wilkinson				
Hudson III "A"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Spiers V	1840 at Dum-Dum	0230 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fine and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2208 hrs. In one run 9 containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open by the rear gunner.
	F/Sgt Manser				
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Surey				
Liberator Mk III "X"	F/O Brand (Capt)	Appreciation I	1635 at Digri	0710 at Digri	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Bangkok area. The weather was generally fair but there were low clouds and
	Sgt Bain (2nd Plt)				

	Sgt Piggott				mist around the DZ area which was searched for 25 minutes but the DZ could not be seen so pilot abandoned the search and set course for base. The conducting officer stated that every effort was made to find the DZ nothing was seen of the cover raid on Bangkok.
	P/O Buchanan				
	Sgt Allen				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt Antram				
	Sgt Cannin				
	Sgt Harvey				
	Capt Read				
Liberator Mk III "Z"	F/O Moreland (Capt)	Sun	1615 at Digri	0625 at Digri	This operation was successful. Target was Bangkok area. The weather was fine and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2244 hrs. In one run 5 agents and 1 container were dropped. The chutes were seen to open correctly. The conducting officer considered the operation very successful. Nothing was seen of the cover raid on Bangkok.
	Sgt Coles (2nd Plt)				
	Sgt Quinn				
	Sgt Harris				
	Sgt DGLISH				
	Sgt Longman				
	Sgt Masters				
	F/Sgt Hoare				
	Sgt Hill				
	Major Tarr				
	7/8th March 1944				
Hudson III "F"	F/Lt King (Capt)	Spiers V	1825 at Dum-Dum	0240 at Dum-Dum	
	P/O Floyd				
	Sgt Booker				
	F/Sgt White				
	Sgt Lindley				
Hudson III "A"	F/O Palmer (Capt)	Buffin			This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2242 hrs. In 3 runs 9 containers & 3 bundles were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly by the rear gunner A/C then set course for base.
	F/O Prosser				
	F/Lt Patterson				
	W/O Ogilvie				
	F/Sgt Wilkinson				
	10/11th March 1944				
Hudson III "J"	W/O Moore (Capt)	Bug III	2012 at Dum-Dum	0402 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bassein area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DX area at 2355 hrs. In one run 2 agents and 1 container

	W/O Scattergood				were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly by the rear gunner. The conducting officer was quite satisfied with the operation. Nothing was seen of the cover raid on Bassein.
	W/O Woolsey				
	Sgt Smith				
	F/Sgt Wilkinson				
	Capt Baldwin				
Hudson III "E"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Blow	2035 at Dum-Dum	0335 at Dum-Dum	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2330 hrs but no ground signals could be seen so at 0005 hrs A/C set course for base without dropping containers.
	F/Sgt Manser				
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Surey				
	11/12th March 1944				
Hudson III "A"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Spiers V A	2030 at Dum-Dum	0445 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0020 hrs. In 2 runs 7 bundles were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly and actually land on the ground in the DZ area.
	F/Sgt Manser				
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Surey				
Hudson III "F"	F/Lt King (Capt)	Spiers	2025 at Dum-Dum	0440 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0022 hrs. On the first run over the target the dispatcher was not ready and on the circuit 2 of the containers fell out about 3 miles SE of the DZ. In 2 more runs 5 containers were dropped. On container broke the static line and went straight down, all other chutes were seen to open correctly.
	P/O Floyd				
	Sgt Booker				
	Sgt. Lindley				
	F/Sgt White				
	12/13th March 1944				
Hudson III "F"	F/O Palmer (Capt)	Dilwyn IX	1937 at Dum-Dum	0257 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2308 hrs. In one run 8 containers were dropped from 500 ft and all chutes were seen to open correctly by the rear gunner. A/C then set course for base.
	F/O Prosser				
	F/Lt Patterson				
	W/O Ogilvie				
	Sgt Harvey				
	13/14th March 1944				
Hudson III "J"	W/O Moore (Capt)	Bug III	2200 at Dum-Dum	0537 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bassien area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ at 0139 hrs and found reception waiting, this DZ was actually 8 miles NE of the intended one and was much better. In one run 2 agents and 3
	W/O Scattergood				
	W/O Woolsey				

	Sgt Smith				containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open except No 3 of the containers which did not open fully and went down much faster than the others, this container was full of batteries. A/C then set course for base.
	F/Sgt Wilkinson				
	Capt Baldwin				
Hudson III "B"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Blow	2255 at Dum-Dum	0555 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ at 0206 hrs and found reception waiting. This DZ was 6 miles SE of the intended one. In one run over the target 4 containers were dropped and all the chutes were seen to open correctly by the rear gunner.
	F/Sgt Manser				
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Surey				
	Capt Brown				
	14/15th March 1944				
Hudson III "G"	F/Lt King (Capt)	Dilwyn IX	2330 at Dum-Dum	0645 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0258 hrs. In one run 8 containers were dropped from 700 ft. The rear gunner did not see all the chutes open but the navigator counted 8 chutes on the ground A/C then set course for base.
	P/O Floyd				
	Sgt Booker				
	Sgt Lindley				
	F/Sgt White				
Hudson III "B"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Dilwyn X	2315 at Dum-Dum	0635 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0244 hrs. In 2 runs, 8 containers were dropped from 900 ft. 2 chutes were seen to open and then collapse, and one chute did not open at all, the rest were seen to open correctly.
	F/Sgt Manser				
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Surey				
Hudson III "F"	F/O Shave (Capt)	Dilwyn X	2350 at Dum-Dum	0717 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0324 hrs. In 2 runs 8 containers were dropped from 600 ft. and all chutes were seen to open correctly over the area, by the rear gunner.
	F/O Titterington				
	F/O Powell				
	W/O Arnull				
	Sgt Hill				
Liberator III "Y"	F/O Brand (Capt)	Appreciation I	1830 at Digri	0645 at Digri	This operation was successful. Target was Bangkok area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2359 hrs. In one run 3 agents and 4 containers were dropped from 400 ft and all chutes were
	F/Sgt Piggott				
	P/O Buchanan				
	Sgt Allen				

	Sgt Nelson				seen to open correctly. At 0001 hrs 2 of the crew saw an unidentified A/C, after slight evasive action the A/C was not seen again. A cover raid was made on Sagom Sauram and bomb bursts were observed. The conducting officer stated that the operation was very satisfactory.
	Sgt Antrim				
	Sgt Canvin				
	Sgt Harvey				
	Capt Read				
Hudson III "A"	F/O Palmer (Capt)	Buffin	2330 at Dum-Dum		This A/C failed to return from this operation. A Signal was received from I.S.L.D. that an R.A.F. A/C had crashed at approx 0300 hrs at 23°44'N & 98°48'E, four people were dead and 2 seriously injured and a doctor was urgently required. A further signal from I.S.L.D. stated that the A/C had dropped 4 containers and shortly afterwards burst into flame. Further details will be furnished when received.
	F/Lt Ponsford				
	F/O Prosser				
	F/Lt Patterson				
	W/O Ogilvie				
	F/Sgt Wilkinson				
	15/16th March 1944				
Hudson III "J"	F/O Shave (Capt)	Dilwyn XI	0012 at Dum-Dum	0735 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0330 hrs. In 2 runs 10 small containers were dropped from 500 ft and all chutes were seen to open correctly by the rear gunner A/C then set course for base.
	F/O Titterington				
	F/O Powell				
	W/O Arnull				
	Sgt Hill				
Hudson III "B"	F/Lt King (Capt)	Dilwyn XI	2355 at Dum-Dum	0715 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0310 hrs. In 2 runs 8 containers were dropped from 600 ft. and all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base.
	P/O Floyd				
	Sgt Booker				
	Sgt Lindley				
	F/Sgt White				
	16/17 March 1944				
Hudson III "F"	F/Lt King (Capt)	See remarks	0315 at Chittagong	1025 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The purpose of this operation was to drop F/Lt Graham M/O 357 Sqdn to attend to personnel injured in crash on night 14/15th March, also F/Sgt Whit to assist M.O. and identify the personnel who were
	P/O Floyd				
	Sgt Booker				

	Sgt Lindley				killed also 2 containers with medical supplies. The weather was fair and the A/C arrive over the DZ area at 0610 hrs. In one run 2 men and 2 containers were dropped from 600 ft. All chutes were seen to open and 2 men were seen to gather up parachutes and walk away. A/C then set course for base.

Appendix

Report on:
A/C Accident Hudson AM949
Evacuation of Survivor

19.4.44

Sir,
I have the honour to submit a report on the above:

The dropping area was reached at 05.45 hrs 17/3/44, just as dawn was breaking, and ground signal was seen. Dropping then proceeded, 1st pack, self, F/Sgt White, 2nd pack, tin that order. All landed successfully, which was due to the skill and instructions of F/L King. – Pilot – and F/Sgt Whit??? – Paratroop instructor.

The party was met on the ground by Kokang guerillas, dressed in blue uniforms under the control of Col. Yang Wan Sang. Mule transport was provided and a guerilla escort, and after 1 hour journey to the North, the scene of the accident was reached 2 ½ miles N. of S.-S, and ½ mile W. of Nam Po Ko village. At a mountain hut directly opposite the crash, the last survivor, F/O Prosser was found and contact established with Major Leitch and Lt Parsons U.S. Forces. These officers had rendered extremely efficient first aid and organised shelter, food and guerilla service. We were informed that the other survivor of the crash, F/L Ponsford, had died of his injuries at 1000 hour 15/3/44 before they had been able to arrive, as they were not aware of the accident until 1900 hours 15/3/44. Also the aircraft and personal property of the crew had been looted by natives.

The patient was immediately examined on arrival and found to be in a comatose condition and suffering from a fractured skull, lacerations of forehead and face, and multiple fractures of R. ankle. There was also fever, due to infection of his wounds. Treatment was instituted. In this Major Leitch, Lt. Parsons and F/Sgt White gave all possible help, maintaining a 24 hour watch. After 3 days there was some improvement in his condition, but this was followed by a relapse. Capt. Hockman, U.S. Medical Officer stationed at T Etang arrived on the evening of the 20th Mar. having journeyed 5 days south by mule, in response to the signal received from Major Leitch on 15/3/44. I invited him to remain and to a great extent the ultimate recovery of the patient was due to his help.

The wrecked aircraft was examined, and the following points noted: It was lying nearly horizontal on the top of a ridge below the main crest at the S.W. and closed end of the Nam Po Ko valley at a height of approx. 4,600 ft. Prior to crashing, it had turned sharply to port, from 270 to 225, to avoid the crest of 6000 ft., it then struck several trees on a lower ridge with the outer part of the mainplanes, the outer part of the starboard wing being ripped off and finally the nose of the aircraft struck the summit of the ridge and the machine came to rest. Scallop marks on the ground showed where port propeller had struck. None found for the starboard engine. The port engine was hurled into the valley below, the starboard engine was pushed underneath the mainplane. Forward of the W/Op cabin the a/c was entirely wrecked. The port mainplane had been pushed into the despatch compartment and the floor thrust upwards. The rest of the a/c and rear gun turret was relatively undamaged. There was no sign of fire and little smell of petrol.

	Direction at impact	225 mag
	A.B.I.	220
	Manifold P.	24 24
	Altimeter	? 4600
	Mixt. Control	Off, in locked position.
	Dump Fuel Handle	Out
	Throttles	Indefinite
	Undercarriage	Up
	Flaps	Up
	Propellers	Not feathered
Engines	Starboard:	Propellers blades bent straight back. One nicked on leading edge.
	Port:	Propeller blades curved sideways.

Evidence from Guerillas:

Natives said that a/c was on fire and that engines were making a banging noise.
A/c dropped second stick 4 miles away from dropping area.

Time of crash, 03.20-03.30 China Time (- ½ hr.)

Statements made by F/O Prosser while semi-conscious.

"If you can't land, you've got to climb to 8000 11° off track makes a hell of a difference.
The starboard engine was burning away all the time."

Documents, The following documents were found and destroyed by myself in the presence of Flt/Sgt. White.

Code of the day 14th.
R.A.F. Code.
Rekoh Car. M.
Naval Section and amendments.
Frequency channels.
Naval Section No 2.
Combined Ops. signals.
Naval ship Identification.
Station Call sign list.
Control Signals.
Aviation Maps – Arakan and Assam.
Air Almanac.

The W/Op. log and Navigators log were brought out.

Graves

These lie in a fenced clearing on the ridge by the crash ½ W. of Nam Po Ko. A military funeral was conducted by Major Leitch and a Burmese Pastor.

In order from South to North.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. F/O Palmer. | 2. F/Sgt. Wilkinson. |
| 3. F/O. Patterson | 4. W/O. Ogilvie |
| 5. F/L. J. S. C. Ponsford. | |

Salvage

The few remaining personal belongings of the crew were handed to me by Major Leitch.
Wireless sets had already been removed and were handed over to a British Unit further N. No trace of an I.F.F. set could be found. Guns and ammunition were taken by the same unit.
All serviceable a/c instruments were brought out.
3 wheel tyres remain but could not be salvaged owing to weight.

The Journey Out.

28th March '44

Received a report from guerillas that a Jap force of 200 had crossed river at Kunlong south of us and were advancing N.E. Approx. 4 hours away. Party packed ready for evacuation, but in view of patients condition it was decided not to leave until more definite news was received. Major Leitch advised immediate departure.

30th March

further message received to say Jap force had increased to 400.

31st March

A vague report come in of a Jap attempt to cross the river 30 miles North. Major Leitch engaged for the party:-
 12 coolies to carry the litter,
 4 baggage and 3 riding mules,
 1 Guerilla
 2 Chinese army men.
 2 muleteers.

1st April '44

1400 hours it was decided to depart to E. as the coolies supply might deteriorate rapidly, even though there had been rain for 48 hours and it was not possible to ride. Food supply for 4 men for 7 days was carried.

The tracks were bad, and the baggage mules, rolled downhill several times, carrying one or two men with them. After 3 hours march, stayed the night at Pahntang, all personnel wet and covered with mud.

2nd April

8 hours march made to Ma-Ung-Sang direction generally to the N.E. The Burma-China border was crossed. The going was much improved, as the weather had lifted and the track widened. Food was scarce and natives few in number as soon as the border was cross. The Sheriffs house was very dirty and a den of Opium smokers, and the Sheriff and his personnel looked very unreliable, and were not friendly. No trouble was experienced as the party was ostentatiously armed, and one white remained on guard all night.

3rd April

Nine hours mule ride brought the party to Meng Peng. No villages were passed during the day, and the country appeared to be deserted. Two steep passes were crossed. The night was passed without incident in the village schoolroom. Food was scarce and too expensive to buy \$ 5,000 for a meal for 4 (Rs100).

4th April

Journeyed 4 hours to Er Tai Pu where we were supposed to engage fresh coolies and mules. This was a Chinese Army Post. There were plenty of soldiers available, but no sign of coolies or mules, and no one was willing to help. On the other hand the Kokang coolies etc, resolutely refused at first, to go any further from home, being afraid of conscription into Chinese Army. After some argument, and increase of pay and a drink of Rum and some aspirins, they agreed to continue to Meng Bawn. A high pass of approx. 6,000 ft, was crossed and Meng Bawn entered after 9 hours total journey. It was noted that the aviation map and Zoot Suit maps were very inaccurate.

5th April

Fresh coolies and mules were engaged. The Kokang personnel departed rapidly the minute they were paid, as they are not on friendly terms with the Chinese Army and this was a regimental H.Q.

One high pass crossed today, and the descent made to the fertile valley of Tetang – the first we had seen. Americans post entered at 1800 hours and Col. Albin contacted. He did everything possible to make the party comfortable.

6th April

One day of rest was taken here. Prosser became rational, but could remember nothing of the journey. Capt. Hockmann, who had been acting as interpreter, left us here, as this was his base.

7th April

Set out with fresh coolies etc. and reached Cheng Kaung Ba without incident. 6 hours.

8th April

The coolies who had been engaged for 2 days deserted in the night, as the Americans had paid them in advance. Four hours of the morning was wasted trying to get 12 coolies. Eventually the Sheriff collected 4, and promised another 4 to follow later. Set out with 4, sent White ahead with baggage to bring fresh coolies when he reached our night's destination, Mangway; left the Chinese interpreter behind to bring up 2nd four coolies. 3 hours later, was overtaken by interpreter to say that no further coolies could be found. Diverted from main track to village in distance in hope of rounding up some men. Despatched interpreter to another village as coolies were now in an exhausted condition and lying on the ground owing to the heat. After 1 hour, there being no reply, I issued a benzedrine tablet to each man, and forced them to carry the litter to the river, so that the patient might be cooled, as he was showing signs of heat exhaustion. This was done and a neighbouring Chinese Army section post reached (Mengteba) after 5 hours argument, 2 fresh soldiers were engaged, and the patient and coolies fed. It was now 2200 hours, and quite cool. As White would now be on his way back from Mengway, I decided to get back onto main track and continue journey. This was done and Mengway was entered at 01.30 hours, 8/8/44¹ and White contacted. He had marched back for three hours descending some 5,000 ft. waited another 2 hours and reascended the pass. Lt. Warren U.S. Army, engaged Chinese soldiers and mules for us and journey to Ypankai of 7 hours passed without incident. 8/4/44 Col. Albin of U.S. Army, fed and refreshed the party and provided 10 Chinese soldiers and mules.

9th April

Departed 9/4/44 for Gypai. There was a considerable amount of climbing this day, 7,00 ft (?) and in the evening after 9 hours, it transpired that we had by-passed Gypai and the soldiers were unwilling to carry the litter back up the mountain. They were drawn back at the point of the revolver, and Gypai was found.

11th April

Another day of hard climbing and a pass of 7,000 ft. crossed. At this point a storm overtook the party, and the weather was somewhat cold. After 7 hours Shunning was entered at 17.30 hours and the American H.Q. there under Major McMorrogh, refreshed, cleaned, fed, and refitted the party. The jeep road had now been reached.

12th April

Rested. Despatched signal to 231 Group, O.C. 357 Squadron.

13th April

Transported in Weapons Carrier to Yunshin stayed at the 22 Field Hospital.

14th April

Transported 120 miles (10 hours journey) across 2 ranges and the Mekong river to Medu. 22nd Field H.Q. Hospital, similar hospitality.

15th April

Easy journey on Burma road to Yunnanyi Airfield, contacted U.S.A.A.F. Air Transport Command. They had no knowledge of our requirements, but promised Air transport to India the next day.

¹ 8/8/44 is typed in the document, but probably should be 8/4/44.

16th April

Emplaned C 46. Weather closed down. Aircraft landing gear failed to retract, and patient became collapsed and airsick, despite oxygen. Aircraft returned to Kuming. Patient and party refreshed and accommodated by Major Brickle O.C. Station Hospital.

17 April

Emplaned 0745 C 46. Disemplaned Chabua 1100 hours. Emplaned DC 3. 1330 hours. Disemplaned Dum Dum 18.30 hours. Patient taken to 47 B.G.H. and admitted in good condition. Party reported to H.Q Hazrah Road, 20.00 hours.

Throughout this journey F/Sgt White rendered praiseworthy service in looking after the patient, organised coolies, etc.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Signed;- G. D. Graham, F/Lt.

April 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

{check operation names against 541}

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			Part I - Operations
Digri	April 4/5		Aus.421561 F/O J. Brand in a Liberator was successful on "Appreciation II"
	April 5		Can.J.17432 F/O J. W. Moreland in a Liberator operating on "Aggression??" force landed at Fort Hertz owing to bad weather conditions Aircraft stripped in order for take off on short runway. Operation abandoned & aircraft flown back by skeleton crew.
	April 5		Sgt. Sullivan, F. (Pilot), Sgt Graham, J. A. (2nd Pilot) Sgt. Vanes, F. L. B. (Nav), Sgt. Ridley J. W. G. Sgt. Rutter, T. C. (Wop/Ag) Sgt Ju?sworth, F. S. (Flt. Eng.) Sgt Dunn, R. A. G. Sgt. Hughes H. R. (Ags) Cpl Dugdale, C. F. Ac. Hut, C. H. Ac. Jones, S. G. Ac. Stewart, J. A. AC2 Leonard, D. M. (Ground Crew) were the crew of a Liberator ferrying petrol to Kunming for refuelling of aircraft engaged on operations on I.S.L.D. This aircraft landed Chabua at 1100 hours I departed again at 15.50 hours. This was the last seen of this aircraft but a report received from "????? Kunming?" states that a British bomber burnt out with 8 dead in the wreckage had been found by the Chinese??, there being no survivors and the Chinese had buried the remains: Approx. posn of wreck 27 20 N 103 45 E.
Dum Dum	April 5/6		P/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C. in a Hudson on a "Spire" was unsuccessful as owing to electrical thunderstorms & ten tenths cumulus cloud, dropping zone was not located.
	April 6/7		Can.R.90925 W/O N F Moore was successful in a Hudson on "Bug III Plagg??III" Cover bombing raid for this operation was carried out on Bassaein?
	April 7/8		W/O J R. Dodwell D.F.C. in a Hudson carried out a successful sortie on "Blow"
	April 8/9		F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. in a Hudson was successful on "Spiers VII"
			W/O J R. Dodwell, D.F.C. & P/O J. Churchill, D.F.C. were also successful on Spiers VII & aircraft used were Hudsons. Reception fires reported as being excellent guides.
Digri			Aus.421561 F/O J. Arand completed a successful sortie in a Liberator on "Aruep????".
Dum Dum	April 10/11		F/L J. A. King, D.F.C in a Hudson was unsuccessful on "Boffin III", having to turn back when 30 minutes from D.Z. owing to extremely bad weather conditions.
	April 12/13		P/O J. Churchill, D.F.C. in a Hudson on "Boffin" experienced very bad visibility over the DZ so released from 300' above ground. Sortie apparently successful as acknowledgement was received from the ground.
Digri			Sgt. F. C. Cooke in a Liberator in a combined operation on "Suaphin?" & "Appreciation III", was successful on "Sereppin?" but was unable to locate "Appreciation III" owing to evasive action having to be taken to avoid single engined fighter whilst over the D.A. Search proved unsuccessful owing to ground haze.
Digri	April 22		Aus.421561 F/O J. Brand in a Liberator ferried 5 passengers & petrol etc to Kunming for "????"
	April 25/26		Aus.421561 F/O J. Brand in a Liberator transported stores from Kunming to Digri.
			Operational Hours Flown April/44 114.35
			Operational Sorties Flown April/44 16
			Part II - Administration
Digri	April 9		A concert of Gramophone music was held in the Aircrew Dining Hall at 1500 hours. Church services were held in the Church Hut for C of E & O.D. (Easter Sunday)

		W/Cdr.
		Commanding 357 S.D. Squadron
		Part II Personnel
Digri		R.A.F. P.O.R.S.
	April 17	61855 F/L. G. D. Graham (Med) attached to No. 357 S.D. Squadron from No. 135 R & S.V. w.e.f. 6/4/44.
		Promotions
		144146 P/O A. W. C. Cummings (A & SD) Int. promoted to the rank of F/O w.e.f. 8.1.44.
		52301 P/O T. C. Currie (A & S.D) promoted to F/O w.e.f. 17.1.44.
		118470 F/O K. A. W. Morris. (GD-P) promoted to F/L w.e.f. 7.2.44.
		R.A.A.F.
		Aus.408524. F/O. O. S. Shave (G.D.-P) promoted to F/L. w.e.f. 16.1.44.
		Statement of Personnel Strength. April 1944.
		Airmen Officers Total
		R.A.F. 260 16 276
		R.C.A.F. 9 3 12
		R.A.A.F 7 7 14
		R.N.Z.A.F. 1 1 2
		Polish -- 1 1
		305
		Honours & Awards. Part IV.
		W/Cdr.
		Commanding 357 S.D. Squadron

April 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	4/5th April 1944				
Liberator III Y/357	F/O Brand (Capt)	Armor	04/1810 Digri	05/1630 Digri	This operation was successful. Target was 15° 53' N 99° 29' E. The weather was fair with odd patches of cloud. The A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0010 hrs and in one run dropped 3 men and 5 containers, all chutes were seen to open correctly. The pilot suggested that the maximum length of the static line should be 15 ft. After dropping the flaps of the A/C would not retract. A cover raid was seen at the mouth of the Sittang river at approx. 2200 hrs. The conducting officer was entirely satisfied with the operation.
	F/Sgt Bain				
	F/Sgt Piggott				
	F/O Titterington				
	P/O Buchanan				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt Allen				
	P/O Van Patter				
	Sgt Harvey				
	5/6th April 1944				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill (Cap)	Spiers VII	1897 at Dum-Dum	0230 at Alipore	This operation unsuccessful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair to fine but there were electrical thunderstorms and 10/10 cu cloud over the DZ area, so pilot was unable to locate the DZ. A/C then set course for base.
	W/O Hough				
	W/O Emery				
	Sgt Newham				
	F/Sgt Clapp				
Liberator III "Z" BZ956	F/O Moreland (Capt)	Aggressive	050730 at Digri	051050 At Chabua	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Tourane area. This A/C was detailed to carry out the operation from Kunming. It left Digri at 05/0730 and arrived at Chabau at 05/1050 where it was to be briefed by the Americans for the flight to Kunming. After briefing the A/C left Chabua at 05/1545 hrs and set course for Kunming, at 1700 hrs the A/C ran into very heavy weather and icing conditions at 11,000 ft. after this the weather was very bad and each time the Captain tried to climb through the clouds the A/C was thrown into a spin. This happened three times so the pilot then decided the A/C was trapped and that he would have to make a forced landing in the valley. Fortunately at 1745 hrs a landing ground
	Sgt Coles		051545 at Chabua	041815 at Fort Hertz	
	Sgt Quin		101350 at Fort Hertz	101530 at Chabua	
	F/O Gardiner		190950 at Chabua	191330 at Digri	
	F/Sgt Hoare				
	Sgt Masters				
	Sgt Harris				
	Sgt Daghish				
	Sgt Longman				
	Sgt Fowler				

	Sgt Edwards				was sighted in the valley and at 1815 hrs the A/C landed at Fort Hertz. From here the operation was abandoned owing to the short length of the runway (800 yds). The A/C had to be stripped of guns, tanks and accessories to attempt take-off. The A/C took off from Fort Hertz at 1350 hrs on the 10/4/44 and landed at Chabua at 1530 hrs. Eventually the guns, tanks, and accessories were refitted at Chabua and the A/C took off at 0950 hrs 19/4/44 and landed at Digri at 1330 hrs.
	Cpl McCairns				
	F/O McGregor				
Liberator III "X" BZ952	Sgt Sullivan (Capt)	See Remarks	050730 at Digri	051100 at Chabua	This A/C failed to arrive at its destination. Its duty was to ferry petrol to Kunming to refuel A/C BZ956. The captain was briefed with F/O Moreland by the Americans at Chabua. The A/C was last seen by F/O Moreland in flight approx 1600 hrs. A report was received from Kunming that Chinese had identified a burnt out British bombe A/C and that there were 8 dead in the wreck and no survivors. The Chinese buried the remains. The approx co-ordinate was 27°20'N 103°45'E. The nearest airfield was Choatung approx 6 miles away. Further details are awaited as there were 13 men in the A/C and only 8 have been accounted for.
	Sgt Graham		051550 at Chabua		
	Sgt Vanes				
	Sgt Ridley				
	Sgt Rutter				
	Sgt Unsworth				
	Sgt Dunn				
	Sgt Hughes				
	Cpl Dugdale				
	A.C.1. Hutt				
	A.C.1. Jones				
	A.C.1. Stewart				
	A.C.2. Leonard				
	6/7th April 1944				
Hudson III "J"	W/O Moore (Capt)	Bug III	2342 at Dum-Dum	0750 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bassein area. The weather was showery to Chiduba but cleared from there to the DZ the a/C arrived over the DZ area at 0407 hrs and in one run 2 containers were dropped from 800' all chutes were seen to open correctly. There was a cover raid on Bassein and flares were seen in that direction at 0320 hrs. At 0210 hrs 18°58'N 93°38'E from 6000' a flashing white light was seen on the water travelling in a North-Westerly direction.
	W/O Scattergood				
	W/O Woolsey				
	Sgt Smith				
	Sgt Alcock				
	7/8th April 1944				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Blow	1830 at Dum-Dum	0130 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Kath? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2154 hrs. In tow runs 7 containers were dropped from 1000' and 800', all chutes
	F/Sgt Manser				
	F/Sgt Rigg				

	Sgt Page				were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base.
	Sgt Coope				
	8/9th April 1944				
Hudson III "C"	F/Lt King (Capt)	Spiers VII	1900 at Dum-Dum	0315 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 23?04 hrs and found a good reception waiting. In two runs 1 agent and 8 packages were dropped from 700' and all chutes, except on of the packages were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base.
	P/O Floyd				
	P/O Langton				
	Sgt Booker				
	F/Sgt Clapp				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Dodwell (Capt)	Spiers VII	1930 at Dum-Dum	0340 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2314 hrs and found good reception waiting. In two runs 9 packages were dropped from 1000' and 7 of the chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base.
	F/Sgt Manser				
	F/Sgt Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Coope				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill (Capt)	Spiers VII	2000 at Dum-Dum	0435 at Dum-Dum	This operation was successful. Target was Bhamo area. The weather was fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0001 hrs and in three runs 9 packages were dropped from 1000', all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base.
	W/O Hough				
	W/O Emery				
	Sgt Newham				
	Sgt Alcock				
Lib III BZ901	F/O Brand (Capt)	Armor?	082100 Digri	090545 Digi	This operation was successful. A/C arrived over target 23°05'N, 98°04'E & dropped 12 "C" – type containers at 0110 hrs.
	F/L Shave				
	F/S Bain				
	F/S Piggott				
	F/O Titterinton				
	P/O Buchanan				
	F/O Wiggett				
	Sgt Allen				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt Harvey				
Hudson III "C"	F/L King (Capt)	Buffin III	102055 Dum-Dum	110320 Dum-Dum	This operation was unsuccessful as the flight had to be abandoned ½ hr from the DZ owing to extremely bad weather. The intention was to drop 7 containers for

					Buffin III, E. of Bhamo, gross weight 931 lbs.
	P/O Floyd				
	P/O Langton				
	Sgt Booker				
	F/S Clapp				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill (Capt)	Buffin	122305 Dum-Dum	130755 Dum-Dum	9 Packages weighing 900 lbs. were dropped at 0345 hrs. for Buffin, S.E. of Bhamo. It was not possible to see the immediate surroundings of the DZ and the captain of the A/C decided it was too dangerous to descend below 8000'. Drop was therefore mad from the Right – about 3000' above DZ. Haze obscured parachutes & it was impossible to see them properly. "V"s were flashed from the ground after drop.
	W/O Hough				
	Sgt Newham				
	W/O Emery				
	F/S Clapp				
Liberator III "V"	Sgt Cooke (Capt)	Seraphin & Appreciation III	122030	130930	Seraphin operation was successful. One container weighing 90 lbs. was dropped at 0020 hrs. for Seraphin in the Okkan area. Ground signals were clearly seen. The parachute on the container was seen to open & develop normally. Appreciation III operation was unsuccessful. 6 Mk. VA containers weighing 600 lbs. were taken to be dropped for Appreciation III, W. of Nagorn Sawarn. Bombing cover raid was made on Nagorn Sawarn & at 0245 hrs 15°40'N. 100°08'E at 3000' an orange flash was seen from the direction of Nagorn Sawarn, at 0250 hrs 15°54'N 99°52'E at 2000' a "T" of white lights was seen on the ground. This position did not agree with the Briefing Instructions given to the Sqdn. by G.S.I.(K). The pilot was about to investigate the position when the rear gunner reported a single-engined clipped-wing monoplane on port quarter. As an attack was expected, evasive action was taken, & afterwards the pilot was unable to locate the "T" of lights again. Owing to extreme ground haze in vicinity & proximity of S/E A/C the search had to be abandoned.
	F/L Shave				
	Sgt Newiberry?				
	F/O Titterinton				
	Sgt Neal				
	Sgt Robertson				
	Sgt. Bryden				
	Sgt McGregor				
	Sgt Pearce				
	Sgt Harvey				
Liberator III "U"	F/O Brand (Capt)	Hainton	220240 Digri	220810 Kunming	This operation was successfully carried out. 5 passengers, petrol & stores were transported to Knuming for Hainton. It was suggested that passengers be suitably clothed for high-altitude flying, as the passengers on this trip were exceedingly cold at 15000'.
	F/S Bain				
	F/S Piggott				
	F/O Wiggett				
	P/O Buchanan				

	F/S Allen				
Liberator III "U"	F/O Brand (Capt)	Trans. Stores from Kunming to Digri	250882 Kinming	261400 Digri	A/C returned from transporting personnel & stores for Hainton to Kunming & transporting stores from Kinming to Digri. Took off from Kunming at 0832 hrs 25/4 landed at Shingbuiyang at 1200 hrs 25/4 Took off from SHingbuiyang at 1345 hrs. 25/4. Landed at Chabua 1448 hrs 25/4. Took off Chabua 0957 hrs on 26/4 Landed Digri at 1400 hrs on 26/4. The weight of the stores was 800 lbs. The A/C landed at Shingbuiyang as the pilot saw bad weather ahead & wanted a weather report. Being satisfied with weather, took off & refuelled at Chabua, 26°02'N, 97°33'E, 1100 hrs 25/4 on main road leading from Myitkaja? near Sopka a great amount of motor-transport was seen proceeding both N & ²
	F/S Bain				
	F/S Piggott				
	F/O Wiggett				
	P/O Buchanan				
	F/S Allen				
	Sgt Nelson				

² Writing runs off the edge of the page on the original.

May 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			Part I Operations
Dum-Dum	May 5/6		P/O. J. Churchill D.F.C in a Hudson was successful on "Spiers VIII"
			W/O. J. R. Dodwell D.F.C. in a Hudson was unsuccessful on Spiers VIII owing to low cloud over the D.Z.
	May 6/7		W/O. J. R. Dodwell D.F.C. completed a successful sortie in a Hudson on Spiers VIII.
Digri			Aus.421561 F/O. J. Brand:- Sgt. J. C. Cooke were both unsuccessful in their sorties on "Spiers" owing to bad weather conditions over D.Z. Liberator aircraft were used for both sorties.
			Sgt. Elliot, T. O. in a Liberator was successful on "Appreciation III"
			F/L K. P. Jones in a Liberator was unsuccessful in "Spiers" owing to bad weather conditions over D.Z. This aircraft crashed at Burdwan on return journey.
	May 9/10		Sgt. J. C. Cooke :- Aus 421561 J. Brand F/O. operating on a "Spier" were both successful in these sorties & aircraft used for these sorties were Liberator aircraft.
			Sgt. Elliot, T. O. was unsuccessful in a sortie on "Bing??" owing to operation being abandoned due to automatic pilot of Liberator aircraft becoming unserviceable.
Dum-Dum			P/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C. in a Hudson was unsuccessful on "Blow"
			W/O. J. Taylor in a Hudson was successful on "Dilwyn VIII"
Digri	May 10/11		Sgt. Elliot, T. O. was unsuccessful on "Bilup??" owing to no reception signals. Liberator aircraft was used for this operation.
	May 11/12		Aus.421561 F/O. J. Brand in a Liberator was unsuccessful on "Spier". Bad weather ???????
			Sgt. T. C. Cooke was successful in a Liberator on "Spiers".
Dum-Dum	May 11/12		W/O. J. Taylor was unsuccessful on "Blow":- W/O J. R. Dodwell DFC was unsuccessful on "Spier VIII". Aircraft used were Hudsons & operations were abandoned owing to valley fog over D.Z's.
	May 13/14		P/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C. on "Spiers VIII" :- W/O J. R. Dodwell DFC on "Blow" were both successful in their sorties. Hudson aircraft were used for both operations
Digri			Aus.421561 F/O. J. Brand in a Liberator on "Spiers V" was unsuccessful owing to low cloud over D.Z.
			Sgt. T. C. Cooke in a Liberator on "Spiers" was successful. Acknowledgement received.
Dum-Dum	May14/15		P/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C. & W/O. J. R. Dodwell D.F.C. were both successful on "Bittwan?? Boffin" Hudson aircraft were used on both of these operations.
			Operational Hours Flown May/44 191-13
			Operational Sorties Flown May/44 28
Digri	2/5/44	1700	Conference was called for all navigators by H.Q. No. 185 Wing navigation officer. This was attended and some useful information obtained therefrom.
	2/5/44	1930	It was unfortunate that the above conference affected the attendance of some aircrew to a lecture on "Liberator Hydraulics" given by Sgt. Langfield. However, those who could attended and heard a most interesting talk.
	3/5/44	1500	A detachment of 3 Hudson III's and ground crew left for the usual operational detachment at Dum Dum.
	4/5/44	0900	R.A.A.F. Personnel had to report to the Orderly Room to read a letter on overseas tours – much excitement – but little joy!

	5/5/44	1300	Bad weather reports prevented operations on this the first night of the operational period. The thermometer had risen, too, and was it Hot? Weather at base was OK, but the monsoon is reported to have arrived in Burma!
Calcutta		1700	News was heard late in the day that 2 Hudson IIIs "B" P/O Churchill & "C" W/O Dodwell – despite the weather were having a crack at Spiers! P/O Churchill found a gap in the clouds over the DZ, and did his job – W/O Dodwell was not as lucky and had to give up his attempt.
	6/5/44	0800	Court of Inquiry had into the illegal absence of 3 E/Fs 59232 Kickhapper, 580402 Kale and 5653 Fazil Rabi. F/L Shaw Pres. & F/O Litterington? member.
Calcutta		1800	Hudson III "C" W/O Dodwell had another crack at Spiers – this time he was lucky.
Digri	6/5/44	1732	Liberator III BZ956 F/Sgt. Elliot left to attempt operation Appreciation III This was a successful op. The monsoon doesn't seem to have affected Southern Burma or Thailand!
		1905 to 2010	Three Liberator III's "V" Sgt. Cooke, "U" F/O Brand and "W" F/L Jones set out in an abortive attempt to do operation Spiers. The weather was really bad and not an a/c could get through. "V" thought to have reached area but weather too bad to say. "U" & "V" landed safely back at base but "W" had much trouble. Due to fuel trouble the a/c had to be forced landed at Bundwan? only 46 miles from base. A most unfortunate occurrence on F/L. Jones first op. with the Squadron as Aus.400527 F/L W?J. Corbett (N) and W/O. Spense? WAG were killed and Can J.27958 P/O G.D. Van Potts? died from his injuries in Asamed? Hospital and the other five members of the crew 88708 F/L K. P Jones GD(P), Can.J.11179 F/O. S. G. Gradiner? G.D.(N), 152022 F/O. T. L. G?adne? GD(P) Can. J. W/O Carlson, WAG and W/O ??joch? WAG were all injured. The injured were all taken to Asansal Military Hospital, including P/O G. D. Van Pott? and were quite comfortable except P/O Van Pottes? who was very seriously ill.
	7/5/44		On receipt of news of the crash of Liberator "W" at Bundwan? the C.O. M.O. Engineering Officer and others set out from Digri to investigate. G.S.I.(K) also set out a party to collect the containers which were being carried. The Liberator was in a terrible mess and the 'locals' had ha??? a good share of 'pickings' from the crash. It was learned that Americans were first on the scene and they gave valuable aid to all concerned. It was also learned, much later, that P/O? ??????oish? had spared no effort, although himself injured to make everyone was comfortable after the crash and to safeguard equipment. The funeral took place of Aus.400527 F/L W. J. Corbet, GD(N) and W/O Spencer? L. A. G?? with full military honours at Assnsol? Cemetery.
	7/5/44	1700	No operations tonight. Liberator III BZ923 allotted to 135 R&IU after the crash.
	8/5/44		Can.J.27958 P/O. G. D. Van Potts? G.D. (G) succumbed to his serious injuries after an operation in Assonal? Military Hospital.
			P/O. G. D. Van Patter was buried with full Military honours in Asansol Cemetery.
		1700	The Squadron had a quiet day from operations – everyone trying to settle down after the disquieting crash. As relaxation the Squadron wiped up the Squadron I.O.Rs at soccer, 7-0.
	9/5/44	0900	News that because of the extreme heat we could all wear sandals or chaplis without stockings – good work by the S.M.O.
Digri & Dum Dum		1730	Mixed success obtained on operations for to-day. 3 Liberators III from base and 2 Hudson II from Dum Dum set out but only 2 Liberators and one Hudson successful.
			One Liberator III 'Z' abandoned the flight on Belief operation after one hours flying, as "George" was u/s. Hudson "B" didn't find any Reception Committee on Blow DZ. and as instructed didn't drop. F/O. Brand Liberator III "U" dropped successfully on Spiers D.Z. but had trouble on return. Got well South of track

			and was the first to encounter A.A. on this Squadron "thrown up" at Myingyan and at Chauk. Sgt. Cooke was successful on operation Spiers but the worst? hand worked in the a/c was Sgt. Bryden – the bombing release gear and jettison toggle wouldn't work – so he manhandled 10 Containers & 2 Packages!! W/O? Taylor in Hudson "D" had his first trip as 1st Pilot and had a 'bullseye' on Dilwyn op.
	10/5/44	1730	Liberator III Y Sgt. Elliott set out on an abortive long "stooge" for operation Belief. After a round trip of 12 hours 20 mins. the a/c returned and reported that although everyone was satisfied that the D.Z. was reached – no reception committee awaited there & they had to return – very tired.
		2000	A Liberator on Op. Spiers had to be cancelled as thunderstorm at base interfered with take off.
Digri & Dum Dum	11/5/44	2135	3 aircraft, 2 Liberators II and 1 Hudson III set out for operation Spiers but only Liberator "V" Sgt. Cooke was successful. Liberator III "U" F/O Brand and Hudson III "C" W/O. Dodwell encountered very bad weather and had to return. Another Hudson III "D" W/O Taylor on op Blow had to return unsuccessful because of bad weather at the DZ.
Digri	12/5/44	0900	The temperature was increasing slowly but surely and everyone was walking around in a very damp condition. An "Eat-more-salt" campaign was started by the M.O. One or two people were going under the weather.
		1700	There were no operations today as the weather was most unfavourable.
	13/5/44	0800	The weather had improved slightly and operations were being laid on.
			Preparations were in hand for the 2nd Hill party to Chakrata who leave on ?
		0900	The C.O. left the Squadron en suite for "Blighty" on his quest for gen on S.D. work. Everyone very envious. Flown to Bellis?? by F/L Cast & crew who continues to Chablala for {unreadable in margin}
		0915	F/Lt. E. F. French GD (N) coming back on the Squadron after some 3 months T.D. and leave, having travelled all night finds himself acting C.O. of the Squadron. W/?C. J. R. Hrome? having left!. This was the first of many "Acting C.O.'s" and F/Lt. French had the distinction of being the first on the duty roster.
Digri & Dum Dum	13/4/44	2200	2 Liberator III's and 2? Hudson III's hopefully set out on ops. – the weather report is not too bad!! Liberator "Z" Sgt. Cooke successfully completed a Spiers op. but "U" F/O Brand came upon the 'usual' bad weather and "brought 'em back alive". Of the Hudsons "B" P/O Churchill had a success on Spiers op. and "D" W/O Dodwell had a success on a blow Operation.
			An E.N.S.A. Concert "Happy Go Lucky" the second to be seen at Digri was certainly an 'eyeful' – whit women – real live white women. You couldn't get near them, though!
Dum Dum	14/5/44	2350	Operations had 'closed down' at base but the Detachment had a further shot. 2 Hudson III's, "B" P/O Churchill and "D" W/O. Dodwell had successes on Operation Bittern/Bufin – a good finish to a trying time, not a bad show, 12 successful operations and 11 unsuccessful, considering the breaking weather over Burma!
	15/5/44		The Squadron settles down to a spot of cleaning up – ready for June.
			The heat doesn't help conditions though.
	15/5/44		The poor Orderly Officer has been given a special room with a telephone!
	16/5/44		A L.T.T.B. being held to-day for F.M.A, F.M.E, M/A, Fitt.IIA and E – many hopeful candidates. The Squadron Soccer team fought another 0-0 with 185 Wing.
	16/5/44		With immediate effect the Squadron will be known as 357 S.D. Squadron vice 357 S.D. (O) Squadron – another change!
	17/5/44		Awards of the 1939-43 (Chowningher) Star were announced, subject to confirmation in D.R.Os.
	17/5/44		No. 3 Hill party is being mustered – lucky people!
	18/5/44		Routine day – with only a Dental Parade to 'liven' things up!

			Can.J17432 F/O Moreland?? GD(P) leaves the unit for Bombay. Ex – India with Sceptic Prickly Heat.
	19/5/44		Another Dental Parade. It is amazing where all the sweets came from to ruin the teeth!
	22/5/44		F/L. H. Cast returns with his crew from training at Chuklala – he assumes command of the Squadron . No-2!
	20/5/44 ³		The Hudson detachment from Dum Dum returned to base: W/C de Raszto from H.A. G.S.(K) U.K. visited Digri and spent a night.
	22/5/44		F/L. K. P. Jones, F/O J. W? Gandnew? and F/O Gradiner? were discharged from hospital & sick leave followed.
	24/5/44		The Squadron is warned in D.R.Os of the dangers of careless talking and writing and our new Adjutant to be 147845 P/O. J. H. Copley arrives at last after a few bogus postings!
			The formation of a Squadron Dance Band was ???voted – but lack of materials proved a big stumbling block!
	25/5/44		An inter squadron soccer match resulted in a 2-1 win for the A's against the B's
	26/5/44		No. 3 Hill Party postponed until 1st June – Hudson III FH333 arrived on allotment from 326 M.U.
	26/5/44		F/L. K. P. Jones promoted to A/S/L. whilst filling Flight Commander vacancy. 2 Libs III BZ850 & BZ906 arrived to-day from 327 M.U.
	27/5/44		52302 F/O. T. C. Currie? – the Adjutant for approx 12 months leaves for Blightly- after 5 ½ years experience in the Far East! The new Adjutant is installed in office. After a short stay Lib III BZ850 is allotted to No. 1673 H.C.U.
	29/5/44		The results of the L.T.T.B. are announced and there were 18 new L.A.C's and 4 new A.C.1s. In addition 17 promotions of N.C.O. aircrew were announced two to W/Os and 15 to F/Sgts.
	31/5/44		The usual Hudson detachment to Dum Dum of 3 Hudsons left to-day with ground personnel under the charge of F/L King.
			The month ended with same really terrific heat.
			Part II Administration Recreation E.T.C.
Digri	May 5	1400	A Conference was called
		19.30	It was unfortunate that the
	May 6	08.00	Court of Inquiry was held into the illegal absence of three E/Fs. F/L. O. S. Shave, Aus.408527 was President & Aus.411532 F/O. S. D. Titterington – Member.
			Powers of Punishment
			The following officers are granted the power of Subordinate Commanders with immediate effect:
			Wing Com. J. R. Moore – Commanding Officer
			F/O. T. C. Currie – Officer i/c S.H.Q. Flight
			F/L. K. P. Jones – Flight Commander
			Polish F/L. O.244 J. L. Stokowski – Officer i/c Maintenance Ft.
			Duties – Officers
			The under mentioned were appointed to the following duties as from 6.5.44
			F/O. J. Gardner – Oxygen Officer
			P/O. G. D. Van Patter – Aircraft Rec. & Training Officer.
	May 13		F/L. E. F. French asumed Command of No. 357 S.D. Sqdn vice Wing Com. J. R. Moore w.e.f. 13.5.44 (Temporary Duty)
	May 13		An ENSA Concert "Happy Go Lucky", the second to be seen at Digri found to be a great show
	May 16		Organisation:- With immediate effect the Squadron will be known as No 357

³ The records are difficult to interpret on this page; the return may have occurred on the 22nd.

		S.D. Squadron vice 357 S.D. (O) Sqdn.
		The Squadron Soccer team fought a draw 0 .0 with No. 185 Wing.
	May 20	Wing Commander De Laszeo from H.Q. R.S. (K) U.K. visited the Squadron & stayed one night.
	May 22	F/L. N. Cast returned from training at Chaklala & assumed command of 367 Sqdn. vice F/L. E. F. French.
	May 24	The formation of a Squadron Dance Band was decided upon but lack of materials formed a big stumbling block
	May 25	Duties – Officers
		F/O. A. W. C. Cumming was appointed "Security Officer" vice F/O. J. Gardner.
		Part III – Personnel
Digri	Nov 15	R.A.F. P.O.Rs dated 15/5/44
		F/L. H. Cast (GD.-P) posted to 357 Sqdn from U.K. wef. 13-4-44.
		F/L K. P. Jones (G.D.P) " " " " " " 21. F.C. Navripur wef. 31-3-44.
		P/O. J. Gardner (G.D.P) " " " " " " " " " " " "
		P/O G. P. Thomas (TGEH)S " " 357 Sqdn. from U.K. wef. 1-4-44.
		F/O S. J. Vamplew (TGEH)S posted from 357 Sqdn to S.H.Q. Chaklala wef. 13-2-44.
		Promotions.
		P/O. J. Churchill DFC. (GD-P) was appointed to the War Subs Rank of Flying Officer w.e.f. 6.1.44.
		Acting Ranks:-
		F/L J. R. Moore (GD.P) was posted to No. 357 Sqdn from S.H.Q Chaklala wef. 29.3.44 & appointed to the rank of Acting Wing Commander, whilst filling Wing Commander O.C. Post.
		Polish P.O.Rs. dated 15.5.44
		Polish 0244. F/L J. L. Stokowski (Tech.E) posted to No. 357 Squadron from No 322 H.Q. Stafing F/L Eng post wef 9.3.44.
		R.A.A.F. P.O.Rs dated 15.5.44
		Aus.400527 F/L. W. J. Corbett (GD.N) was posted to 357 Sqdn from H.Q. Air C.S.E.A. (Supy) wef. 3.5.44.
		Aus.423804 P/O. E. T. Mayley (GD.P) " " " " " " from U.K. wef 13.4.44.
Digri		Casualties.
		Aus.400784? F/L. W. J. Corbett (GD.N) died as result of a Flying Accident on 7.5.44 & was struck off the strength of the R.A.A.F. & No. 357 Sqdn. wef. same date
		R.C.A.F. PORs
		Can.J.24958 P/O. G. D. Van Patter (GD.G) was posted to No. 357 Sqdn from No. 21 F.C. Mauripur wef 31.3.44.
		Casualties
		Can.J.24958 P/O. G. D. Van Patter (GD.G) died as the result of a Flying Accident on 7.5.44 & struck off the strength of R.C.A.F. & No. 357 Sqdn wef same date.
		Can.R.10433 W/O. J. D. Spencer (Wop.Air) died as the result of a Flying Accident 7.5.44 & struck off the strength of the R.C.A.F & No. 357 Squadron wef. same date.
		Statement of Personnel Strength. May 1944.
		Airmen Officers Total
		R.A.F. 302 17 319
		R.C.A.F. 9 3 12
		R.A.A.F 8 7 15

		R.N.Z.A.F.	5	1	6
		Polish	--	1	1
					353
		Part IV – Honours & Awards			
Digri		His Majesty the King most graciously approved the following awards to the under mentioned personnel in recognition of services rendered whilst serving with 357 S.D. Squadron.			
		F/L. G. D. Granam - Distinguished Service Order			
		F/L J. A. King DFC - Bar to Distinguished Flying cross			
		F/Sgt. T. E. White - Conspicuous Gallantry Medal			
		W/Cdr.			
		Commanding No. 357 S.D. Squadron			

May 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
Hudson III "D"	W/O Taylor	Blow	112155	120550	This operation was unsuccessful as when a/c arrived over the target area the reception fires were obscured by the valley fog & drop was not made. Intention was to drop 8 containers weight 950 lbs.
	F/S Payton		Dum	Dum	
	P/O Langton				
	F/S Taylor				
	Sgt. Southwood				
Hudson III "C"	W/O Dodwell	Spiers VIII	112240	120550	This operation was also unsuccessful owing to bad weather being encountered & the sortie having to be abandoned. Intention was to drop 6 containers weight 1000 lbs.
	F/S Manser		Dum	Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	F/L McNeill				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill	Spiers VIII	132340	140745	This operation was successful. 6 containers wt. 950 lbs were dropped at 0325 hrs in two runs for "Spiers" & E. of Bhamo. Most of the parachutes were observed to open and develop normally.
	F/S Payton		Dum	Dum	
	F/S Murray				
	Sgt Newman				
	Sgt Southwood				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Dodwell	Blow	130020	140735	This operation was successful. 8 containers weight 950 lbs were dropped in 2 runs at 0345 hrs. Parachutes were not observed.
	F/S Manser		Dum	Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Natton				
the pages are out of sequence on the microfilm what follows is page 1 of the 541's for May					
Hudson III "?" C ⁴	W/O Dodwell (Cpt)	Spiers VIII	051805	060155	This operation for "Spiers VIII" in the Bhamo area was unsuccessful, flight being abandoned when crew were unable to find gap in cloud through which to descend in the vicinity of dropping zone. Intention was to drop 8 containers weighing 950 lbs.
	F/S Manser		Dum -	Dum -	

⁴ Is the C entered as a correction to the previous letter which is unreadable?

			Dum	Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	F/L. McNeill				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill (C)	Spiers VIII	051755	060245	This operation was successful:- 5 agents & 3 packages 300 lbs in 3 runs for "Spiers VIII" in the Bhamo area. One agent almost refused others made excellent exit & all parachutes were seen to open.
	W/O Hough		Dum – Dum	Dum - Dum	
	F/S Murray				
	Sgt Newman				
	Sgt Hadden				
Hudson III C	W/O Dodwell (C)	Spiers VIII	061850	070220	Operation was successful. 8 containers weight 850 pounds were dropped at 2142 hours in 2 runs for "Spiers VIII" S. of Bhamo.
	F/S Manser		Dum – Dum	Dum - Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	F/L. McNeill				
Liberator III "U"	F/O Brand (Cpt)	Spiers	062010	070325	This operation was unsuccessful:- Aircraft took off from Digri at 2010 hours to drop 10 "e" style containers & 2 oblong containers weight 3,840 pounds for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area. The flight however was abandoned at Pos. 23°1'-N 9621E owing to bad weather conditions & aircraft landed at Digri at 0325 hrs.
	F/S Bain		Digri	Digri	
	F/S Piggott				
	P/O Buchanan				
	F/S Allen				
	Sgt. Nelson				
	Sgt Antram				
Liberator III V	Sgt. Cooke (Capt)	Spiers	061905	070454	Operation was unsuccessful; Intention was to drop 12 'c' type containers weighing 3840 lbs for "Spiers" E. of Bhamo. The 2nd pilot F/L Shave who knows the DZ well was of the opinion that DZ was reached but could not be certain owing to the bad weather. Area was search for 1 hour but pre arranged aldis sig. not seen. After 15 mins over area red fire appeared with much smoke but no aldis sig.
	F/L Shave		Digri	Digri	
	F/O Powell				
	Sgt Newberry				
	Sgt Bryden				
	Sgt Neal				
	Sgt. Robertson				
	Sgt Pearce				
Liberator III "Z:	Sgt. Elliott (C)	Apprec. III	061732	070622	Operation was successful:- 7 Mk. V A containers & 2 packages weight 997 lbs were dropped for "Appreciation III" W. of Nakorn Sawarn at 2353 hrs in 2 runs. Light was seen at S. edge of area when
	F/L Cast		Digri	Digri	
	F/O Titterington				
	Sgt Quinn				

	Sgt Farish				aircraft arrived but was not flashing .V. Pilot had been briefed to drop is he was satisfied that DZ was reached irrespective of ground sigs. Drop was made & all chutes were seen to open & conducting officer was satisfied with the operation.
	Sgt. Dablbh?				
	Sgt Masters				
	Sgt Longhan				
	Sgt Harvey				
	Major Peace				
Liberator III "W"	F/L Jones	Spiers	061940	070515	This operation was unsuccessful:- The operation which was to drop 12 containers weight 3800 lbs for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area, was abandoned owing to bad weather over N. Bhamo. This aircraft crashed at Burdwan on the return flight due to lack of fuel at 0515 hrs. Aus.400527 F/L J. W. Corbett & Can R107333 W/O Spencer J. D. were both killed and CanJ.27958 P/O G. D. Van Patter died of injuries. All the other members of the crew were injured, but recovered.
	F/O Bardiner		Digri	Buldwan	
	F/O Gradiner				
	F/L Corbett				
	P/O Van Patter				
	W/O Spencer				
	W/O Carlson				
	W/O Duvyjhonck				
Liberator III "V"	Sgt. Cooke (C)	Spiers	092147	100743	The operation was successful:- 10 "e" type containers & 2 packages were dropped at 0250 hours for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area. Captain had been briefed to expect a diamond of double fires & not to drop if a "T" of fires was displayed. On the DZ a "T" of 3 or 4 fires was displayed also Adlis lamp flashing "Yes". Aircraft made 12 runs over the target as bomb release mechanism & jettison toggle would not work. On the first 6 runs every attempt was made to get the mechanism to function but eventually the Flight Engineer had to stand on the catwalk & release manually 2 containers at a time. All parachutes developed.
	F/L Shave		Digri	Digri	
	Sgt Newberry				
	Sgt Robertson				
	Sgt Bryden				
	Sgt Pearce				
	Sgt Neal				
	Sgt Cox				
Liberator III "Z"	Sgt. Elliott (C)	Belief	091730	092115	This operation which was to drop 1 agent & 10 containers weighing 1200 lbs for "Belief" S.W. of Lao Kay was abandoned owing to automatic pilot of aircraft becoming unserviceable after an hours flying. Pilot returned to Digri & landed at 2115 hours.
	F/L Cast		Digri	Digri	
	F/O Titterington				
	F/S Keenan				
	Sgt Masters				
	Sgt Quinn				
	Sgt Daghish				
	Sgt Longman				
	Sgt Farish				
	Sgt Williams				

Liberator III V ⁵	Sgt. Cooke (C) ⁶	Spiers	092210	100725	This operation was successful, 10.e. type & two oblong containers weighing 3840 lbs were dropped for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area at 0346 hours. The captain was briefed to drop upon diamond of double fires but not for "T" of fires. Over the DZ a "T" of 6 fires was seen but a green aldis lamp was flashing "Yes". Captain decided to drop & all parachutes were seen to develop normally. After drop adlis was seen flashing O.K. Heavy & medium A.A. fire of moderate intensity was encountered at Miyingyan at 0500 hrs at 10000 feet. Fire was accurate but pilot managed to make it inaccurate bu using full evasive action. Aircraft landed at Feni at 07.25 hours.
	F/L Shave		Digri	Feni	
	F/O Brand (C)				
	F/S Bain				
	F/S Piggott				
	F/S Allen				
	Sgt Antran				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt Chapman				
	Sgt Neil				
	Sgt Brown				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill	Blow	092915	092335	This operation was unsuccessful:- Intention was to drop 8 containers 900 lbs for "Blow" in the Bhamo area but in accordance with briefing instructions the drop was not made as the Reception Committee was not bound at the rendezvous:-
	W/O Hough		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	Sgt Newham				
	Sgt Murray				
	Sgt Hodder				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Taylor	Dilwyn 13	092020	100400	This operation was successful:- 10 containers weighing 1040 lbs were dropped in 2 runs for "Dilwyn XIII" at 0005 hrs. All parachutes were seen to develop normally.
	P/O Auckland		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	P/O Langton				
	F/S Taylor				
	F/S Southwood				
Liberator III "Y"	Sgt. Elliott (C)	Belief	101420	110540	Operation was unsuccessful. One agent & 10 containers weight 1200 lbs were to be dropped for "Belief" in the Lao Kay area. The captain & 2 navigators were confident that the DZ was reached but were unable to distinguish ground features to confirm & prearranged ground signals ere not seen. Search was abandoned after 35 minute & return journey at 0141 hours at Posn 2137N 0716E an aerodrome was seen with N.S. runway, apparently concrete with dispersals & taxi tracts. Aircraft landed at Digri at 0540 hours:-
	F/L Casy?		Digri	Digri	
	Sgt Quinn				
	F/O Titterington				
	F/S Keenan				
	Sgt Longman				
	Sgt DGLISH				
	Sgt Masters				
	Sgt Williams				

⁵ Cooke and Shave are listed above as being on V same date but at a slightly earlier time – there is a problem with one of these two entries.

⁶ Cooke's name appears to be crossed out on the record.

	Captain Laure?				
Liberator III "U"	F/O Brand	Spiers	112140	120500	This operation was unsuccessful:- 12 "E" type containers weighing 2840 lbs were to be dropped for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area but bad weather was experienced East of Irrawaddy & the operation had to be abandoned at Posn. 23°40'N 96°40'E. Aircraft returned & landed at Digri at 0500 hours.
	F/S Bain		Digri	Digri	
	F/S Piggott				
	P/O Buchanan				
	F/S Allen				
	Sgt. Mosse-Robinson				
	Sgt Chapman				
	Sgt Chapman				
	Sgt Antran				
	Sgt Nelson				
Liberator III "V"	Sgt. Cooke (C)	Spiers	112135	120645	The operation was successful: 12 containers weighing 3840 lbs were dropped for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area at 0209 hours. A "T" of 6 or 7 fires were seen on the D.Z. & a green aldis lamp flashed "Yes". After the drop the rear gunner could not count all the parachutes but all that he saw opened & developed O.K. : Yes was flashed from the ground on the aldis lamp & white light flashed but could not be read in morse. At 0100 hrs in Posn 2350N 9500E at 10,000 feet 3 sets of headlights were seen on a rod, moving North.
	F/L Shave		Digri	Digri	
	Sgt Newberry				
	Sgt Pearce				
	Sgt Bryden				
	Sgt Robertson				
	P/O Carlton				
	Sgt Neal				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Taylor (C)	Blow	112155	120505	This operation was unsuccessful:- The aircraft carried 8 containers 950 lbs for "Blow" in the Bhamo area but owing to the reception fires being obscured by the valley fog no drop was made & containers were brought home.
	F/S Payton		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	P/O Langton				
	F/S Taylor				
	Sgt Southwood				
Hudson III "C"	W/O Dodwell	Spiers VIII	112240	120550	This operation was unsuccessful & flight was abandoned owing to bad weather over D.Z. Intention was to drop 6 containers weighing 1000 lbs. for "Spiers VIII" in the Bhamo area.
	F/S Manser		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	F/L McNeill				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill	Spiers VIII	132350	140745	The operation was a success. 6 containers 950 pounds weight were dropped in two runs at 1325 ⁷ hours for "Spiers VIII" in the Bhamo area:- All the
	F/S Payton		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	

⁷ This is time given in record, but does not make sense.

	F/S Murray				parachutes were seen to open & develop normally.
	Sgt Newham				
	Sgt Southwood				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Dodwell (C)	Blow	130020	140735	The operation was successful, 8 containers weighing 950 lbs. were dropped at 0345 hrs in 2 runs for "Blow" in the Bhamo area. The parachutes were not observed.
	F/S Manser		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Hadden				
Liberator III "U"	F/O Brand	Spiers	132200	140640	This operation was unsuccessful as low cloud in the valleys prevented pinpoint & cropping zone therefore could not be located. Intention was for aircraft to drop 12 "e" type containers & 4 packages weighing 3840 pounds for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area.
	F/S Bain		Digri	Digri	
	Sgt Quinn				
	P/O Buchanan				
	F/S Allen				
	F/S Mosse-Robinson				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt Antram				
Liberator III Z	Sgt Cooke (C)	Spiers	132223	140410	The operation was successful, 8 'e' type containers & 4 packages weighing 3840 lbs. were dropped in one run at 0213 hours for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area. A "T" of 6 fires was seen on the D.Z. & a green aldis lamp flashed "Yes". The rear gunner saw all the parachutes develop normally.
	F/L Shave		Digri	Digri	
	Sgt Newberry				
	Sgt Pearce				
	Sgt Bryden				
	Sgt Robertson				
	Sgt Neal				
	F/S McGregor				
Hudson III "B"	P/O Churchill (C)	Bittern/Bufin	142350	150830	This operation was successful, the aircraft carried 2 agents & 5 packages 600 lbs weight for "Bittern/Bufin" in the Bhamo area. These were dropped at 0347 hours in 2 runs & all parachutes were seen to open & develop normally.
	F/S Payton		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Murray				
	Sgt. Newham				
	Sgt. Southwood				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Dodwell (C)	Bittern/Bufin	150010	150825	This operation was a success; 9 packages weighing 1050 lbs were dropped for "Bittern/Bufin" at 0400 hrs in 2 runs. All parachutes were seen to open & develop normally.
	F/S Manser		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	F/L McNeill				

June 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

note – there may be one frame of this month in the Mar files on the film

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			Part I – Operations
Dum-Dum	June 1/2	1805	W/O. J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. in a Hudson on "Foffin" was unsuccessful due to cloud over D.Z.
		1813	Aus.408524 O. S. Shave, F/L. was successful in a Hudson on "Boffin"
Dum-Dum	June 2/3	1845	Aus.408524 F/L O. S. Shave was successful in a Hudson on "Dilwyn"
Dum-Dum	June 5/6		Two sorties were attempted but proved unsuccessful. Aus.408524 F/L O. S. Shave in a Hudson on "Hainton" saw no reception lights owing to valley fog & abandoned the attempt. W/O. J. R. Dodwell, DFC. in a Hudson on "Boffin" encountered trouble in the bomb bay petrol tank installation & had to abandon the operation.
Dum-Dum	June 6/7		Three Hudsons were detailed for a "Hainton" (Aus.408524 F/L O. S. Shave) & "Blow" (W/O. J. R. Dodwell DFC) & Can.R09025 W/O N. F. Moore) Shave & Dodwell were successful but Moore was forced to turn back owing to excessively high oil temperature on the starboard engine.
Digri			Two Liberators on "Hainton" (Sgt. F. C. Cooke & Aus.421561 F/O J. Brand) were both unsuccessful.
Dum-Dum	June 7/8		Can.R90925 W/O. N. F. Moore on "Blow" was unsuccessful in a Hudson as sortie was abandoned owing to engine trouble.
Dum-Dum	June 8/9		Can.R.09025 W/O N. F. Moore again set out to carry out operation on "Blow" again however the sortie was abandoned, this time due to extremely bad weather near the D.Z.
	June 8/9		All other operations this night were unsuccessful too:- namely :-
Dum-Dum			W/O. J. R. Dodwell in a Hudson:- Aus 408524 F/L Shave, O. S. & Aus.41256
Digri			F/O. J. Brand & Sgt. F. C. Cooke in Liberators all operating on "Hainton". The failure was due to extremely bad weather conditions in each case.
Digri	June 10/11		Aus.421561 F/O J. Brand in a Liberator on "Spiers" was successful. Sgt. F. C. Cooke was unsuccessful in a Liberator on "Hainton" due to 10/10 ths cloud over the D.Z.
Dum-Dum			Aus.408524 F/L O. S. Shave was successful in a Hudson on operation "Hainton"
Dum-Dum	June 11/12		Aus.408524 F/L O. S. Shave in a Hudson was unsuccessful on operation "Hainton" due to ten tenths cloud over D. Z. W/O J. R. Dodwell in a Hudson was successful on "Blow"
is this were the "missing page goes? or did period of opps end june 11th??			
Digri Chabua	June 24		F/S. F. C. Cooke proceeded to Kunming in a Liberator ferry flight to ferry petrol for P[eratom "???la". The flight was accomplished without incident 600 gallos fo petrol were left at Kunming.
Kunming	June 25		F/S. F. C. Cooke successfully returned from Ferrying trip on June 24th.
	June 26		Aus.421561 F/O J. Brand successfully carried agents & stores to Kunming for operation "????le" in a Liberator.
Kinming	June 27		F/O J. Brand returned to Chabua to pick up petrol to ferry to Kunming.
Chabua	June 29		F/O J. Brand in a Liberator successfully ferried 600 gals of petrol to Knuming for operation "Mule?".
Dum-Dum	June 29/30		F/L. J. A. King DFC in a Hudson successfully carried out operation "??inghouse?"
Dum-Dum	June 30/31		F/S. Reed in a Hudson on "Blow" successfully reached D.Z. but on arrival the triangle of fires were extinguished & this in conjunction with the fact that

		several M.T vehicles were observed in the vicinity of the D.Z. forced the crew to the conclusion that the reception party had been compromised & therefore no drop took place.
		Total Operational Hours Flown During June/44. 177.26
		Total Operational Sorties Flown During June/44. 29
		Part II – Administration
Digri	June 5	The Entertainment Committee held a meeting in the games Room at 1900 hours with a view to providing more entertainment on the Sqdn.
	June 10	The Squadron soccer team drew 2-2 with No. 185 Wing.
	June 11	A special Intersession Service for Success of Forces was held at 2000 hrs.
	June 13	S/L K. P Jones assumed command of No. 357 Squadron Vice F/L H. Cast w.e.f. 18/6/44.
	June 14	The Station Cinema started to operate on a full tie basis.
	June 23	A meeting of the Airmens Messing Committee was held in the Games Room at 1945 hours.
	June 24	A visit was made to the station by Capt. R. G. Parker A.D.C. to H.E. Governor of Bengal. During his visit he interviewed all R.A.A.F. personnel.
	June 27	In the Airmens Games Room at 2000 hrs a Whist Drive was held. There was a very large attendance & a very enjoyable evening was had by all.
	June 29	A gymnasium was opened on the Station for the benefit of those wishing to indulge periodically in a little exercise:- All ranks were made welcome.
Digri		Duties – Officers
		The following Officer were appointed to the duties as follows:-
		Welfare Officer -- P/O G. P Thomas
		Airmens Messing Officer -- Aus.423804 P/O E. T. Matley
		Sports Officer -- W/O Duyvejunk
		Entertainment Officer -- F/O R. C. Auckland
		Fire Officer -- W/O Williams
		Oxygen Officer -- F/O J. W. Gardiner
		Training Officer -- Aus. 421561 F/O J. Brand
		Parachute Officer -- W/O Cooper
		Armament Officer -- Can.J.10663 F/O M. W. Wiggett
		Gas Officer -- W/O J. R. Dodwell, DFC
		Officer i/c Sgt. Mess -- F/L E. F. French
		Officer i/c P.S.I. -- F/L E. F. French
		Education Officer -- F/L E. F. French
		Salvage Officer -- W/O Arnall
		Part III – Personnel
Digri	June 15	R.A.F. P.O.Rs. dated 15/6/44
		Promotions.
		158342 P/O A. J. Floyd D.R.C. (GD.N) confirmed in appointment & appointed Flying Officer (W.S.) w.e.f. 6.1.44.
		158095 P/O R. C. Auckland (G.D.-N), confirmed in appointment & promoted t Flying Officer (W.S.) w.e.f. 18.12.43.
	June 15	Postings
		P/O J. N. Copley (A&S.D.) ADJ. posted to No. 357 S.D. Sqdn ex U.K. w.e.f. 18.2.44.
		F/O. T. C. Currie (A&SD) Adj. posted from No. 357 Sqdn to B.R.D. Worli w.e.f. 27.5.44.
		P/O T. R. Straker DFM. (GD-F/E) posted to No. 628 Sqdn. from No. 357 S.D. Sqdn. w.e.f. 16.6.44.

		The following were posted to No 357 S.D. Sqdn from 1576 Flight w.e.f. 29.3.44.
		F/L. J. A. King DFC. (GD-P) ----- F/O. J. Churchill, DFC. (GD-P)
		F/L E. F. French (GD-N) ----- F/O A. J. Floyd, DFC. (GD-N)
		F/O. R. C. Auckland (GD-N)
		The following Officer was posted to 357 SD Sqdn (F/O Flying Vacancy) from 357 SD Sqdn (Sup) wef 29-3-44:-
		F/O. J. W. Gardiner (GD-P)
		W/Cdr
		Commanding No. 357 S.D. Squadron.
Digri	June	Statement of Strength of Squadron Personnel. June/44.
		Airmen Officers Total
		R.A.F. 257 12 269
		R.C.A.F. 4 -- 4
		R.A.A.F 5 3 8
		R.N.Z.A.F. 5 1 6
		Polish -- 1 1
		288
Digri		Part IV – Honours & Awards.
	June 20	His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the Distinguished Flying Cross to 1382596 W/O. J. R. Dodwell (Pilot) vicle??? the London Gazette dated 20/6/44. This pilot completed many successful sorties during adverse weather & his persistence & determination has been of the highest order.
		W/Cdr
		Commanding No. 357. S.D. Squadron.

June 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	June 1944				
Hudson III "B"	W/O Dodwell (C)	Buffin	011805	020250	This operation was unsuccessful. Intention was to drop 1 agent 7 7 packages for "Buffin" in the Bhamo area: The sortie was abandoned owing to cloud over the D.Z. & nature of surrounding terrain which makes accurate dropping into small DZ essential.
	F/S Manser		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Rigg				
	Sgt Page				
	Sgt Grimm				
Hudson III "D"	F/L Shave (C)	Buffin	011813	020337	This operation was successful:- 8 containers weighing 1050 lbs were dropped in 2 runs for "Buffin" at 2254 hours. All parachutes were observed to open normally.
	F/O Titterington		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/O Powell				
	W/O Bolinbroke				
	Sgt Digby				
Hudson III "D"	F/L Shave (C)	Dilwyn	021845	030235	The operation was a success:- The aircraft carried 8 containers weighing 950 lbs. & these were dropped at 2237 hours in 2 runs for "Dilwyn" in the Bhamo area:- No 2 parachute of the first stick was not observed to open, otherwise the drop was a partial success:-
	F/O Titterington		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/O Powell				
	W/O Bolinbroke				
	Sgt Rhodes				
Hudson III "K"	F/L Shave (C)	Hainton	052235	060640	This operation was unsuccessful owing to the reception lights not being visible through valley fog. Intention was to drop 3 agents & 4 packages for "Hainton" in the Mandalay area.
	F/O Titterington		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/O Powell				
	W/O Bolinbroke				
	Sgt Rhodes				
Hudson III "N"	W/O Dodwell (C)	Buffin	052240	060110	This operation was unsuccessful owing to the aircraft developing a fault in the bomb bay petrol tank installation & sortie having to be abandoned. Intention was that 8 containers be dropped for "Buffin" in the Bhamo area.
	F/S Manser		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Page				
	F/S Booker				
	Sgt. Grimm				
Hudson III "K"	F/L Shave (C)	Hainton	062225	070625	This operation was successfully carried out:- 3 agents & 4 packages were dropped at 0206 hrs in 2 runs for "Hainton" E of Mandalay. All parachutes were observed to open.
	F/O Titterington		Fenny	Dum-Dum	
	F/O Powell				
	W/O Bolinbroke				

	Sgt Digby				
Hudson III "H"	W/O Dodwell (C)	Blow	062245	070625	This operation was successful:- 8 containers weighing 1050 lbs were dropped in 2 runs at 0210 hours for "Blow" in the Bhamo area. All parachutes were seen to open & develop normally.
	F/S Manser		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Page				
	F/S Murray				
	Sgt. Grimm				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Moore (C)	Blow	062300	062310	This operation was unsuccessful:- The intention was to drop 8 containers for "Blow" in the Bhamo area but aircraft became unserviceable owing to the starboard engine developing an excessively high oil temperature and the flight had to be abandoned.
	W/O Scattergood		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Smith				
	W/O Woolsey				
	Sgt Rhodes				
Liberator III "W"	Sgt Cooke (P)	Hainton	062010	070600	This operation was unsuccessful: 12 Mark 7 containers weighting 3840 lbs were to be dropped for "Hainton" in the H?ougalian area:- DZ however was not located owing to 10/10 ths cloud & sortie was abandoned. At 2310 hrs in a position N of Shwebo 3 lights source was on the ground in front of & in track of aircraft about 3 miles apart. These were extinguished as aircraft passed overhead.
	F/O Churchill		Digri	Digri	
	Sgt Newberry				
	F/S Pearce				
	F/S Payton				
	F/S Taylor				
	F/S McGregor				
	F/S Robertson				
	Sgt Neal				
	Sgt Farish				
Liberator III "U"	F/O Brand (C)	Hainton	061937	062042	This operation was not a success as flight was abandoned at Barrachpore at 2004 hours owing to No. 4 & then No. 2 engines cutting out. Intention was to drop 12 Mark VII containers weight 3840 lbs for "Hainton" in the Mouglein?? area.
	F/S Bain		Digri	Digri	
	F/O Goenanan				
	F/O Floyd				
	Sgt Harvey				
	F/O Wiggett				
	F/S Mosse-Robinson				
	F/S Allen				
	Sgt Nelson				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Moore (C)	Blow	072305	080140	This operation was unsuccessful: Intention was to drop 8 containers for "Blow" in the Bhamo district but owing to starboard engine cutting when switched over to bomb bay petrol tank the sortie was abandoned & aircraft returned to Dum-Dum.
	W/O Scattergood		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Smith				
	F/S Woolsey				
	Sgt Rhodes				
Hudson III "D"	W/O Moore (C)	Blow	082350	090435	This operation which was this crews second attempt to drop 8 containers for
	W/O Scattergood		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Smith				

	F/S Woolsey				"Blow" in the Bhamo district was again unsuccessful as the sortie was abandoned owing to extremely bad weather conditions in the central valley.
	Sgt Rhodes				
Hudson III "H"	W/O Dodwell (C)	Hainton	082300	090600	This operation was unsuccessful:- 7 packages were to be dropped for "Hainton" East of Mandalay but sortie was abandoned owing to extremely bad weather conditions & aircraft returned to Dum-Dum.
	F/S Manser		Fenny	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Page				
	F/S Booker				
	Sgt Brimm				
Hudson III K	F/L Shave (C)	Hainton	0824?30	090720	This operation which was to drop 9 containers for "Haindon" in the Mandalay area was unsuccessful. Aircraft had alternative DZ – "Spiers" but could not locate either owing to extremely bad weather.
	F/O Titterington		Fenny	Dum-Dum	
	F/O Powell				
	P/O Langton				
	Sgt Digby				
Liberator III "U"	F/O Brand (C)	Hainton	082110	090145	This operation was unsuccessful as after 1 ¼ hours flying No 2 engine ?????tion? began to fluctuate, this was followed by No 1 rev. counter beginning to fluctuate also. Late No. 4 engine rev. counter dis likewise & at 2320 hrs at Posn. 2256N 9307E pilot returned to Base. Intention was to drop 12 Mk. VII containers for "Hainton" in the Manglein? area.
	F/S Bain		Digri	Digri	
	F/O Floyd				
	Sgt Harvey				
	F/O Buchanan				
	F/O Wiggett				
	F/S Allen				
	F/S Mosse-Robinson				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt. Jamieson				
Liberator III "W"	Sgt. Cooke (C)	Hainton	082150	090720	This operation was unsuccessful:- The two navigators were confident that they were at the D.Z. at approx 0207 hours but despite a 40 minute search & a descent to 9000 feet the aircraft was still in thick cloud & the search had to be abandoned. Special 2 nd Front Invasion leaflets were however dropped in this area. The aircraft carried 12 Mk. VII containers which were to be dropped for "Hainton" in the Meuglieu? area but sortie was abandoned.
	F/O Churchill		Digri	Digri	
	F/S Newberry				
	F/S Payton				
	F/S Pearce				
	F/S Taylor				
	F/S McGregor				
	F/S Robertson				
	Sgt Neal				
	Sgt Farish				
Liberator III "Z"	F/O Brand (C)	Spiers	102230	110730	This operation was successful, 12Mk VII containers were carried fro "Spiers" in the Bhamo district & these were dropped in one run at 0305 hours. Al parachutes
	F/S Bain		Digri	Digri	
	Sgt. Jamieson				

	F/O Floyd				were observed to open & develop normally:- Special Second Front Invasion Leaflets were also dropped in this area.
	F/S Quinn				
	F/O Buchanan				
	P/O Wiggett				
	F/S Allen				
	F/S Mosse-Robinson				
	Sgt Nelson				
Liberator III "W"	Sgt. Cooke (C)	Hainton	1002210	110655	This operation was unsuccessful. Intention was to drop 12 Mk VII containers weighting 3840 lbs for "Hainton" in the Meuglien? area. The DR. position showed that the aircraft was near the D.Z. but despite a search of 30 minutes the DZ was not located & the pilot had to abandon the drop because of 10/10 ths cloud & his safety time limit had been reached. Special Second Front Invasion Leaflets were however dropped in the area.
	P/O Matley		Digri	Digri	
	F/L Morris				
	F/S Newberry				
	F/S Payton				
	F/S Pearce				
	F/S Robertson				
	F/S McGregor				
	F/S Taylor				
	F/S Bryden				
Hudson III "K"	F/L Shave	Hainton	102240	110805	This operation was unsuccessful on "Hainton" but drop was made on the alternative DZ "Spiers" where more favourable weather was experienced. 9 containers weight 1080 lbs were dropped at 0312 hours in 2 runs for "Spiers" in the Bhamo area. & all parachutes were seen to open.
	F/O Titterington		Fenny	Dum-Dum	
	F/O Powell				
	P/O Langton				
	Sgt Digby				
Hudson III "D"	F/L Shave	Hainton	112236	120645	This operation was unsuccessful as reception lights on the DZ were not visible due to 10/10 ths stratus cloud & sortie was abandoned. Intention was to droop 4 containers for "Hainton" in the Bhamo area.
	F/O Titterington		Fenny	Dum-Dum	
	F/O Powell				
	P/O Langton				
	Sgt Digby				
Hudson III "H"	W/O Dodwell (C)	Blow	112330	120643	This operation was successful, 8 containers weight 900 lbs were dropped at 0305 hours in 2 runs for "Blow" in the Bhamo district. All parachutes were seen to open & develop normally.
	F/S Manser		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Page				
	F/S Murray				
	Sgt Grimm				
Liberator III "U"	F/S Cooke (C)	Mule	241000	141350	This operation was successful. This aircraft ferried 600 gallons of petrol from Chabua to Kunming to be used by aircraft operating on operation "Mule" Flight was accomplished without incident.
	F/S Elliott		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/S Newberry				
	F/S Pearce				
	F/S McGregor				

	F/S Robertson				
	Lieut. De Cosse				
Liberator III "U"	F/S Cooke (C)	Ferry Petrol	251400	251710	This operation was from Kunming to Chabua & aircraft was returning to Chabua from ferrying petrol to Kunming for operation "Mule". The return flight was successfully completed & with out incident. The captain of the a/c considering that the U.S.A.A.F. pilot who accompanied them on this flight was extremely useful.
	F/S Elliott		Kunming	Chabua	
	F/S Newberry				
	F/S Pearce				
	F/S McGregor				
	F/S Robertson				
	Lieut. De Cosse				
Liberator III "Z"	F/O Brand	Ferry to Kunming	261118	261444	This operation was successful & uneventful. The aircraft carried 2 agents & 600 lbs of stores to Kunming which was to be used as an A.L.G. for "Mule" operations. The captain considers that the U.S.A.A.F. pilot who accompanied him was a great asset to this Flight.
	F/S Bain		Chabua	Kunming	
	Lieut. Chorak				
	Sgt Harvey				
	F/O Buchanan				
	F/O Wiggett				
	F/S Allen				
	F/S Mosse-Robinson				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt Edwards				
	Mr. R. M. S. Keir				
Liberator III "Z"	F/O Brand	Ferry from Kunming to Chabua	270915	171225	This aircraft flew from Kunming & proceeded to Chabua in order to collect petrol & ferry back to Kunming. The flight was successful & without incident.
	F/S Bain		Kunming	Chabua	
	Sgt Harvey				
	F/O Buchanan				
	F/O Wiggett				
	F/S Allen				
	F/S Mosse-Robinson				
	Sgt Nelson				
	Sgt Edwards				
	Lieut. Chorak				
Liberator III "Z"	Same Crew	Ferry Petrol to Kunming	291021	291345	The operation was successful, 600 gals of petrol being transported to Kunming for operation "Mule". Lieut. Chorak a U.S.A.A.F. pilot was carried on this flight as a second pilot & he was extremely useful in this capacity.
	as above		Chabua	Kunming	
Hudson III "K"	F/L King, DFC	Hensingham	291900	300110	This operation for "Hensingham" in the Bhamo area was successful. 1 agent being dropped at 222.12 hrs. This agent was very quiet throughout the whole trip
	F/O Floyd		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	P/O Langton				

	W/O Jones				but over the D.Z. he showed no hesitation to jump whatsoever. His parachute was observed to open.
	Sgt Yexley				
Hudson III "K"	F/S Reed (C)	Blow	301800	010045	This operation was unsuccessful:- Intention was to drop 10 containers for "Blow" in the Bhamo district, but on arrival in the vicinity of the DZ. a triangle of fires was observed & taken to be the reception fires. These however were ?oi? extinguished as the aircraft approached with a vie to dropping. The presence of several M.T. vehicles on the road close by in conjunction with the extinguishing of the triangle of lights forced the crew to the conclusion that the reception party had been compromised. They therefore did not drop but returned to Base.
	F/O Auckland		Dum-Dum	Dum-Dum	
	F/S Booker				
	F/S Lindley				
	F/S Quinn				

July 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Digri	July 1944		Part I – Operations
			There were 19 sorties made during the month – 10 made by Liberators, which were all successful & 9 made by Hudsons, of which only 3 were successful, as on the other 6 sorties extremely bad weather was experienced over Burma resulting in the sorties being abandoned. The majority of the Liberator operations were concerned with the ferrying of petrol, stores & gold to Kunming & Nanning, Chabua was used as an A.L.G. for these operations.
			The Hudsons were concerned with the dropping of agents & supplying of same in the Bhano & Mandalay areas.
			Bhano operations went under the code names "Blow", "Buffin" & "Dilwyn" & Mandalay operations went under the code name of "Hainton", with which one Liberator was concerned, also.
			There was one Liberator which operated over French Indo-China using Kunming as an A.L.G. F/L. H. Cast & crew carried out this sortie "Belief" successfully & on the return flight 3600 leaflets of a General De Gaulle speech were dropped on Vinh Yen.
			Total Operational Sorties Flown – July 1944 – 19
			Total Operational Hours Flown – July 1944 – 93.00
			Part II Administration
Digri	July 1944		Owing to the C.O's absence, there were many changes in the Command of 357 (S.D.) Sqdn.
	13th		On July 13th F/L. J. A. King, D.F.C. assumed Command vice S/L. K. P. Jones
	15th		On July 15th Can.J.10663 F/O. M. W. Wiggett " " F/L. J. A. King
	16th		On July 16th S/L. K. P. Jones " " " F/O Wiggett
	20th		On July 20th F/L. E. F. French " " " S/L. Jones
	22nd		On July 22nd S/L K. P. Jones " " " F/L French
			S/L K. P. Jones was the Acting Commanding Officer of 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. in the absence of Wing Commander J. R. Moore who was in England at this time, but with S/L. Jones flying on operations & F/L. King detached at Dum-Dum, the chopping & changing of the command was unavoidable.
	16th		F/L. K. A. W. Morris assumed the duties of Flight Commander vice F/O. J. W. Gardner.
	18th		w.e.f. 18th July the following working hours came into force:-
			1st Working Parade 0645 hrs.
			Cease Work 1300 hrs.
			Welfare
	22nd		A distribution of English cigarettes was made on the first Working Parade on 22nd July.
	24th		On July 24th an 'His Master's Voice' Radio Set was received on the Unit from the R.A.F. Welfare Committee.
			Recreation
			It was decided to form a Sqdn. Football Selection Committee & all non-playing enthusiasts who were keen to offer their service were invited to contact the Welfare Officer.
	18th		On July 18th 347 Sqdn. drew at soccer with 185 Wing 2 – 2, & on July 30th beat Salbani 3 – 2.
			Entertainment
			Weekly Meetings of the Entertainments Committee were maintained during the

		month.
	31st	On July 31st there was a B.E.S.A. show for 357 Sqdn. & 185 Wing.
		Ecclesiastical
		The usual Church Services were held during the month in the Church Hut.
Digri	July 1944	Part III – Personnel
		R.A.F. P.O.R's 24/7/44
		Postings
		61855 F/L G. D. Graham – Med. posted to 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. from 135 R.S.U. w.e.f. 1/7/44
		Promotions
		155717 P/O G. D. Thomas (Tech.S.) promoted to the rank of Flying Officer (W.S.) w.e.f. 9/3/44.
		147845 P/O. J. H. Copley (A&S.D.) promoted to the rank of Flying Officer (W.S.) w.e.f. 7/4/44.
		172055 P/O. R. A. Langton (G.D. WAG) appointed to commissioned rank in the G.D. Branch of the R.A.F.V.R. w.e.f. 4/7/43.
		R.C.A.F. PORs 24/7/44
		Postings
		Can.J.11769 F/O. K. G. Booth (GD.N) posted to 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. from H.Q. 229 Group w.e.f. 24/5/44.
		Can.J.18629 P/O. D. M. Fossos (G.D.N.) appointed to commissioned rank in the R.C.A.F. w.e.f. 6/7/43.
		R.A.A.F. PORs 24/7/44
		Aus.432804 P/O. E. T. Matley (G.D.P.) promoted to the rank of Flying Officer (W.S.) w.e.f. 23/1/44.
		Aus.418500 P/O. K. Buchanan (GD.WG) promoted to the rank of Flying Officer (W.S.) w.e.f. 17/11/43.
Digri	July 1944	Personnel Strength of Squadron – July 1944.
		Airmen Officers Total
		R.A.F. 269 15 284
		R.C.A.F. 9 4 13
		R.A.A.F. 7 7 14
		R.N.Z.A.F. 3 -- 3
		Polish -- 1 1
		Total Strength 315
		W/Cdr.
		Officer Commanding 357 (S.D.) Sqdn.

July 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
	July 1944				
Hudson III K	F/S G. C. Reed	Blow	011825	012325	This sortie was unsuccessful. The sortie was abandoned owing to bad weather conditions. Intention was to drop 10 Containers.
	F/O R. Cauckland		Dum-Dum		
	F/S P. Lindley				
	F/S B. Booker				
	F/S F. S. Quinn				
Hudson III 'H'	W/O Moore CanR90295	Buffin	011800	020215	This sortie was unsuccessful. A/C was unable to locate D.Z. owing to low stratus down on hills & sortie was abandoned. Intention was to drop 8 containers.
	W/O C. Scattergood CanR85804		Dum-Dum		
	W/O N. L. Woolsey				
	F/S H. H. Smith				
	Sgt H. Yexley				
Lib III 'U'	F/S. F. C. Cooke	Ferry Petrol	031402	031716	Successful. 600 gallons of petrol were successfully ferried from Chabua to Kunming.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/S. J. H. Newberry				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. D. McGregor CanR188699				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				
	Lieut. Chorak U.S.A.A.F.				
Lib III 'Z'	F/O J. Brand Aus.42651	Ferry	040845	041350	Successful. Transported 4 agent, 600 lbs of Chinese gold & 600 lbs of stores for operation "Mule" to Nanning Aerodrome. On the return journey to Kumming, 600 lbs of urgent photographic equipment & three American Officers were transported.
	F/S R. W. Bain Aus.408361		Kunming	Nanning	
	Lt. Ross U.S.A.A.F.		041359	041619	
	Sgt. H.R. Harvey		Nanning	Kunming	
	F/O M. N. Wiggett CanJ10663				
	F/S. W. Allen				
	F/S C. Mosse- Robinson Aus.420577				
	Sgt J. B. Nelson				
	Mr. R. M. S. Kerr				
Lib III 'U'	F/S. F. C. Cooke	Ferry	041318	041642	Ferrying petrol to Kunming was successful. Flight was uneventful.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Kunming	Chabua	
	F/S. J. H. Newberry				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				

	F/S. D. McGregor CanR188699				
	Lieut. Chorak U.S.A.A.F.				
Lib III 'U'	F/S. F. C. Cooke	Ferry	051343	051645	Successful 600 galls. of petrol were ferried to Kunming.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/S. J. H. Newberry				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. D. McGregor CanR188699				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				
	Lieut. Chorak U.S.A.A.F.				
Hudson III 'H'	W/O N L Moore CanR90295	Dilwyn	051830	060145	This operation was successful 8 containers weighing 1100 lbs. were dropped in 2 runs at 2205 hrs All chutes except 2 seen to develop.
	W/O C Scattergood CanR85600?		Dum-Dum		
	W/O N. L Woolsey				
	F/S H. H. Smith				
	Sgt H Yexley				
Hudson III 'K'	F/S G. C. Reed	Blow	051830	060130	Successful. 8 containers weighing 1150 lbs were dropped in 2 runs at 2214 hrs All chutes were seen to develop.
	F/O Reauckland?		Dum-Dum		
	F/S B. Booker				
	F/S P. Lindley				
	F/S F. S. Quinn				
Lib III 'Z'	F/O J. Brand Aus421561	Mule	061227	061532	Successful. Flight was without incident.
	F/S R. W. Bain Aus.408361		Kunming	Chabua	
	F/O M. N. Wiggett CanJ10663				
	F/S. W. Allen				
	F/S C. Mosse- Robinson Aus.420577				
	Sgt J. B. Nelson				
	Sgt. H.R. Harvey				
	Sgt H. Edwards NZ42293?				
	Lt. Ross U.S.A.A.F.				
	Mr. R. M. S. Keir				
Lib III 'U'	F/S. F. C. Cooke	Ferry	061433	061726	Successful. Returned to Base after ferrying petrol from Chabua to Kunming. Flight was without incident.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Kunming	Chabua	
	F/S. J. H. Newberry				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. D. McGregor CanR188699				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				

	Lieut. Chorak U.S.A.A.F.				
Hudson III 'D'	F/L J. A. King	Hainton	062300	070500	Unsuccessful. Intention was to drop 8 containers, but sortie was abandoned when E. of the R. Irrawaddy owing to extremely bad weather on hills.
	F/O A. J. Floyd		Feni	Dum-Dum	
	P/O R. A. Langton				
	W/O J. G. Jones				
	W/O G. B. Cooper CanR76762				
Hudson III 'D'	F/L J. A. King	Hainton	072315	080630	Unsuccessful. Intention was to drop 8 containers Sortie was abandoned owing to 10/10 cloud obscuring target area.
	F/O A. J. Floyd		Chitta-gong	Chitta-gong	
	P/O R. A. Langton				
	W/O J. G. Jones				
	W/O G. B. Cooper CanR76762				
Liberator III 'W'	S/L. K. P. Jones	Ferry Belief	130802	131123	The sortie was successfully carried out without incident 400 lbs of stores were ferried for "Belief" & 3100 lbs for "Spiers" & 460 gallons of petrol to Kunming. The Captain reported that the U.A.A.A.F. pilot who accompanied them was of great assistance & should be continued until Squadron pilots are "Hump" trained.
	F/S. F. C. Cooke		Chabua	Kunming	
	Lt. Franks USAAF				
	F/O. K. G. Booth CanJ11769				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. J. F. Bryden				
Liberator III 'W'	Same Crew As Above	Ferry	150816	151105	The aircraft returned to Base after ferrying stores to Kunming. The flight was successfully completed & was uneventful.
			Kunming	Chabua	
Hudson III 'L'	F/L. J. A. King	Buffin	180700	181150	This operation was unsuccessful. The a/c arrived over the target area but could not locate the actual D.Z. owing to 10/10 ths cloud & after a 40 minute search the 1 agent & 1150 lbs of stores was brought back.
	F/O. J. Floyd				
	P/O R A Langton				
	W/O J. G. Jones				
	F/S. F. S. Quinn				
Liberator III 'U'	S/L. K. P. Jones	Hainton	250510	251330	This operation was successful. Two runs were made at 1014 hours & 12 containers & 10 packages were dropped. A large white "T" was displayed on the DZ & was easily seen but the Captain reported that the DZ was too small & only suitable for a daylight drop. All parachutes were observed to open & late men were seen running about on the DZ apparently collecting the packages. Weather was fair throughout the whole trip.
	F/S. F. C. Cooke		Sylhet	Chabua	
	F/O. K. Booth CanJ11769				
	F/S. J. H. Newberry				
	F/O M. W. Wiggett				

	W/O H. Duyvejonck				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. D. McGregor CanR183699				
	Sgt. B. Yexley				
Hudson III 'D'	F/L J. A. King	Buffin	270520	270920	This operation was unsuccessful. Intention was to drop 1 agent & 1150 lbs of stores for "Buffin" in the Bhamo area but the sortie was abandoned when the aircraft arrived over the DZ as 10/10ths cloud was encountered.
	F/O. J. Floyd		Dinjan	Dinjan	
	P/O R. Langton				
	F/S. R. Rigg				
	F/S. F. Q. Quinn				
Hudson III 'D'	F/L J. A. King	Buffin	281610	282030	This operation was successful. 1 agent 7 containers & 1 package weight 1150 lbs were dropped in two runs at 1835 hours. The weather was fair & all parachutes were observed to open. After the drop the agent was seen to get to his feet & wave.
	F/O. J. Floyd		Dinjan	Dinjan	
	P/O Langton R. A.				
	F/S. R. Rigg				
	F/S. F. Q. Quinn				
Liberator III 'V'	F/L. H. Cast	Belief III	291900	292320	This operation was successful. The aircraft arrived over the target at 2100 hours & dropped 4 containers & 5 packages in 1 run & 8 out of the 9 parachutes were seen to open. On the return flight 36000 leaflets of General De Gaulles speech were dropped on Vinh Yen. The rear gunner reported that he saw some building in course of construction at Vinh Yen, these were later confirmed by the Americans to be an aerodrome under construction. Weather was fair throughout this sortie & visibility was 5 – 10 miles.
	F/O E. Matley Aus423804		Kunming	Kunming	
	F/S. B. Payton				
	Sgt. D. Scobie				

August 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Digri	August	1944	Part I – Operations.
			The Squadron's effort this month was mainly concerned with the ferrying of petrol, stores, etc from Chabua which was being used as an advanced Landing Ground, to Kunming in order to undertake operations on "Belief".
			Five operations of this kind were carried out over the "Hump" in extremely bad weather & in all 5125 U.S. galls of petrol, 1 agent, 1600 lbs of stores, 80 containers & 6 packages were transported to Kunming.
			The only other operation carried out during the month was made in a Hudson on "Buffin" in the Bhamo area & was successfully completed. F/L J. A. King, F/O A. J. Floyd & F/O R. A. Langton by completing this operation became the first to be tour expired on this Squadron.
			During the month there were many other operations laid on but real monsoon weather was being experienced at this time & all were scrubbed.
			It would be worth while to mention here that S/L. K. P. Jones by completing 6 missions over the "Hump" became fully "Hump trained".
			No. of Operational Sorties Flown Aug. 1944. 10
			No. of Operational Hours Flown Aug. 1944. 33.40 hrs.
Digri	August	1944	Part II – Administration.
	Aug 4.		W/Cdr. J. R. Moore returned from his visit to the U.K. & resumed command of the Squadron vice S/L. K. P. Jones on paper, but in effect vice F/L. E. F. French who had held the post since S/L Jones left for China.
	Aug. 9		357 Sqdn. took over the Camp Cinema & F/O. G. P. Thomas, Signals Officer became i/c with F/Sgt. T. Smith as his able assistant.
			The C.O. was called away to Calcutta on temporary duty & S/L. K. P. Jones assumed Command in his absence.
			It was announced in D.R.O's to-day that Sundays were to be days off, unless the exigencies of the Service will not permit.
	Aug. 14		Further good news was received to-day to the effect that the ration of Air Letters Cards would be increased from 6 to 8 per month.
	Aug. 15		A couple of changes in the Officers Duties was made known to-day. P/O. R. A. Langton was appointed Officer i/c Airmen's Messing vice Aus 423804 F/O. E? T. Matley & F/O. Matley was appointed Officer i/c Parachute Section vice W/O. Cooper w.e.f. 15/8/44.
	Aug. 16		W/Cdr. R. J. Moore returned to the Squadron & re-assumed Command vice S/L. K. P. Jones.
	Aug. 18		The C.O. was called away to H.Q. Air Command, S.E.A. to discuss the impending Squadron expansion & F/L. N. Cast assumed Command in his absence.
			It was announced in the D.R.O's that the under-mentioned Officers were appointed to the Duties as follow:-
			P.S.T. – Can.J.11179 F/L. M. W. Wiggett vice F/L. E. F. French
			Education Officer – Can.J.11769 F/O. K. G. Booth " " "
			Navigation Officer – Can.J.10663 F/L. S. G. Gradiner " " "
			Officer i/c Sgt's Mess - Can.J.11769 F/O. K. G. Booth " " "
			A General Meeting of 357 Sqdn was held at 1900 hrs for the purpose of re-organising & re-constituting Committees. for P.S.I. Welfare Entertainments, Sports & Messing.

			The following Officers were in attendance:-
			S/L. K. P. Jones.
			F/L. E. F. Copley - Chairman
			F/L. J. H. French - P.S.I.
			F/O. G. P. Thomas - Welfare
			Can.R.119899 W/O. H. Duyvejonch – Sports
	Aug. 19		F/O. A. J. Floyd, flew to Calcutta in preparation for a Navigation Course at 231 Group prior to his return to Blighty for a Staff Navigators Course.
			The C.O. returned from Delhi to-day, having visited Cawnpore.
	Aug. 20		S/L. G. L. Coleman of H.Q. A.C.S.E.A. arrived with the C.O. on a visit, both being greeted by a lovely storm. W/Cdr. J. R. Moore re-assumed Command of the Squadron vice F/L. H. Cast.
	Aug. 25		Owing to the consistent bad weather at Base, S/L. Coleman had been unable to leave for Delhi by air, but to-day the weather had finally cleared & S/L Coeman set off taking with him 158095 F/O. R. C. Auckland G.D.(N.) to report to 'P' Staff A.C.S.E.A. for disposal. F/O. Auckland had become tour-ex on time & was one of the first "old brigade" to leave the Squadron.
	Aug. 28		The C.O. was called to Group & S/L. K. P. Jones assumed Command of the Squadron.
			The Squadron was notified from Group to expect surplus "Wimpey" crews from 99 Sqdn, to be provided with Accommodation & Rations.
	Aug. 29		W/Cdr. J. R. Moore returned from Group & re-assumed Command.
	Aug. 30		The first batch ex 99 Sqdn. arrived from Jessore for Accommodations & Rations – 2 Officers & 12 S.N.C.O's.
			Recreations Amusements etc.
	Aug. 9		A meeting was held in the Games Room at 1745 hrs with a view to forming an "Arts & Handicrafts" Club on the Station.
	Aug. 13		This evening a B.E.S.A. Concert Party – 'Whoopie' – visited Digri & gave a performance which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.
	Aug. 16		The inauguration of an Inter-Section Soccer League was made known & it was stated that fixtures were to be arranged between the various sections – Maintenance – Armoury – Signals – Electricians – Flights – M.T. - & Officers & Aircrew.
			Digri Station decided to enter into a Soccer Challenge Competition for the Bankura Shield & the Squadron was honoured by having one of its members chosen as Captain – L.A.C. Weston – M.T. Section.
	Aug. 19		The Station team entered the 2nd round of the Bankura Shield by defeating Adra Sporting 2 – 0. L.A.C. Weston, F/S. F. W. Pearce, F/S. J. F. Bryden, & Sgt. Edwards of this Squadron played for the Station.
	Aug. 20		A Concert of Recorded Classical music was held in the Airmens games room at 1530 hrs & was quite well popularised.
	Aug. 26		The R.A.F. Digri Soccer team proceeded further in the Bankura Shield by defeating Bankura College 3 – 0. L.A.C. Weston, Sgt. Edwards from the Squadron played.
	Aug. 27		The Squadron Soccer League started to-day & Maintenance defeated Flights 2 – 0 otherwise a day of rest!
			Another Gramophone Recital of Classical Music was held in the Airmens Games Room at 1430 hrs.
	Aug. 29		The Station Soccer team fought a draw 0 – 0 with Midnapore Sporting in the Bankura Shield.
Digri	August	1944	Part III – Personnel.
			R.A.F. P.O.R's
			F/O. J. H. Copley was granted the Acting Rank of Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 1/7/44 whilst filling F/Lt. Admin/G Post.

			F/L. G. D. Graham Med. was detached from No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn to Aircrew Recreation Centre Candirbal w.e.f. 12/8/44.
			Statement of Personnel Strength. August 1944.
			Officers Airmen Total
			R.A.F. 15 269 284
			R.C.A.F. 3 6 9
			R.A.A.F 7 6 13
			R.N.Z.A.F. -- 4 4
			Polish 1 -- 1
			Total Strength 311
			Part IV – Honours & Awards
	Aug. 30		H.M. the King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to:-
			1852915 F/S. D. Manser
			1107557 Sgt. B. Booker
			For duties carried out on 357 (S.D.) Sqdn.

August 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
Lib III 'V'	F/O J. Brand	Ferry for Operation 'Belief'	080840	081215	Successful. One agent, 12 'C' Type Containers, 6 Packages & 50 galls M.T. Petrol was ferried to Kunming for operation 'Belief'. Weather was bad – 10/10 Sku 15000' – 30000' over the whole route.
	W/O R. W. Bain Aus.408361		Chabua	Kunming	
	Lt Shores (USAAF)				
	W/O W. Piggott Aus421624				
	F/S W. Allan Sgt J. B. Nelson				
Lib III 'V'	Same Crew as Above	Return from Ferry	091040	091355	Successful. a/c returned to Chabua after successful ferry trip to Kunming on 8th Aug. Weather was bad – 10/10 Cu, As, * Sc, tops 20000' to Yunnanyi. From Yunnanyi to Chabua a/c was fling in cloud at 20000' – Visi nil.
			Kunming	Chabua	
Lib III 'Y'	F/L H. Cast	Return to Base from Ops. 'Belief'	130835	131120	Successful a/c returned to Base from using Kunming as an A.L.G. for Operations "Belief II & III" Lt. Col. Grand & Capt. Simpson, both of Force 136 were transported across the hump. Weather was good.
	F/O E. T. Matley Aus.42380??		Kunming	Chabua	
	Lt. Southard (USAAF)				
	F/S Dayton				
	F/S F. J. Keenan NZ421063				
	Sgt M. J. Cox Aus428020				
	F/S W. Farish Sgt Scobie				
Hudson III 'D'	F/L J. A. King	Buffin	130955	131405	Successful. Before the drop was made a large white 'T' & a smoke generator were seen on the ground. People were also seen moving about. 8 Mk.V A Containers were dropped in 2 runs from 5,800' ASL. All chutes were seen to open O.K. After the drop a Green Verrey Pistol was fired. Weather was good.
	F/O. A. J. Floyd		Dinjan	Dinjan	
	F/L Wiggett Can				
	P/O Langton				
Lib III 'U'	S/L. K. P. Jones	Ferry for Operation 'Belief'	191340	191655	Successful 1600 lbs of Stores & 1100 U.S. galls of petrol were transported to Kunming for Operation "Belief IV". Weather poor to fair – 9/10 As, Sc. & Cu. base 2000' tops 15-20000' over the whole route.
	F/O. J. W. Gardner		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/O. K. G. Booth CanJ11769				
	F/S L. B. Laney				

	Aus420965				
	F/S Edwards				
	Sgt J. Williams				
	Lt. Klinsey (USAAF)				
Lib III 'U'	Same Crew as Above	Return from Ferry	201315	201620	Successful. A/C returned to Chabua to collect more petrol for transportation to Kunming. S/L Jones completed his 6th crossing of the 'Hump' on this trip & so became 'Hump-Trained'. Weather was fair to poor Cu. Base 2000' tops 14000' Ac Base 17000' tops unknown.
			Kunming	Chabua	
Lib III 'U'	S/L. K. P. Jones	Ferry to Kunming for Operation 'Belief'	211350	211720	Successful 1300 U.S. galls of petrol were transported to Kunming for Operation 'Belief'. Weather was poor to fair – 10/10 Sc base 2000' tops 12000' 10/10 As. base 17000' tops unknown.
	F/O. J. W. Gardner		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/O. K. G. Booth CanJ11769				
	F/S L. B. Laney Aus420965				
	F/S Edwards				
	Sgt J. Williams				
Lib III 'U'	Same Crew as Above	Return Ferry Petrol	231030	231545	Successful. Returned to Chabua & then picked up 1300 U.S. galls of petrol & transported them back to Kunming for Operation 'Belief' Weather fair.
			Kunming	Chabua	
			231335	231930	
			Chabua	Kunming	
Lib III 'U'	Same Crew as Above	Ferry Petrol	250850	251205	Successful. 1375 U.S. galls. of petrol were transported to Kunming for operation 'Belief'. Weather poor – 10/10 As. Base 11,000 tops 20,000'. Small amount of icing.
			Chabua	Kunming	

September 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Digri 1 – 15 Sept	September	1944	Part I – Operations.
Jessore 16 - onwards			
			26 Sorties were made during the month, of which 23 proved successful. The weather during the whole month was, on the whole, poor & was the cause for many operations being cancelled.
			The main effort of the Squadron once again comprised of the ferrying of Stores, Agents, Petrol, Ammunition, etc to Kunming to carry out Operation 'Belief'. In all 9 sorties were made to & from Kunming using Chabua as an Advanced Landing Ground. It would be of interest to note that altogether 3800 galls. of petrol were transported over the 'Hump' in this manner to Kunming, & that W/O. F. C. Cooke, by completing most of these operations was checked out by the Chief A.T.C. Pilot at Chabua as being fully 'Hump trained'.
			2 sorties were carried out consisting of the transportation of stores & agents to Nanning to carry our Operation 'Seal' sung Kunming as an Advanced Landing Ground. These carried out by S/Ldr. K. P. Jones, both proved successful.
			The remaining 15 sorties all consisted of the dropping on to specific Dropping Zones of agents & stores. 5 sorties of this nature were carried out on 'Belief' one of which was unsuccessful due to 10/10 ths cloud over the target area. 3 were made on "Hainton" which all proved successful, 2 were made on 'Spiers', one unsuccessful due to 10/10 ths cloud over target area 2 on 'Bramble', one again unsuccessful due to 10/10 ths cloud over the target area, & the other 4 sorties were made on 'Dilwyn", "Brillig", 'Biff' & 'Buffin' & all proved successful.
			No. of Operational Sorties Flown – September 1944 – 26
			No. of Operational Hours Flown – September 1944 – 180
Digri	September	1944	Part II 0 Administration.
	Sep. 1.		Duties Sergeants Mess
			Chairman of Messing Committee – W/O. Williams
			Mess Treasurer – W/O Moore
			Mess Caterer – F/S Middleton
			The above mentioned appointments were made w.e.f. 1/9/44.
	Sep. 4.		The undermentioned officers were granted the powers of Subordinate Commanders:-
			W/Cdr. J. R. Moore
			S/Ldr. K. P. Jones.
	Sep. 5.		S/Ldr. K. P. Jones assumed Command of 357 Sqdn vice W/Cdr. J. R. Moore.
	Sep. 6.		W/Cdr. J. R. Moore re-assumed Command of 357 Sqdn vice S/Ldr. K. P. Jones.
	Sep. 11.		An Advance Party with Can.J.10663 F/L. M. W. Wiggett i/c, was detailed to proceed to Jessore by air on the 12/9/44 to make arrangements there for the move of 357 (S.D.) Sqdn from Digri to Jessore.
			Arrangements were also made for the organisation of the Road & Rail Convoys & Air Party by which the Squadron move was to be effected.
			The Road Convoy was all packed by 1700 hrs on the 12 th & ready to leave at the crack of dawn on the 13 th Early on the morning of the 13 th the road convoy, with POL F/L J. L. Stokowski, Engineering Officer i/c, departed for the

			Sqdn's new home & reached Asansol at night – the first stage of the trip.
	Sep. 14.		Panic reigned for a little while in the Adjutant's Office when it was learned that the train allotted for the move was too small. However R.A.F. Movements were contacted & more carriages promised.
			Equipment is moved to the siding where it remains under guard for the night. The goods wagons arrived at Cmandrakona Road during the night.
			The road convoy, meanwhile, had reached another stage in its journey – Calcutta - & here was experienced the one & only casualty – one 15 cwt. falls by the wayside & has to be left at a C.R.O. for repairs.
	Sep. 15.		The Main Air Party left for Jessore in 5 Liberators & 3 Hudsons & most people, on arrival, found Jessore to be a complete change as the fillets were situated right in the centre of the native town.
			The Train Party, with F/O. G. P. Thomas, Signals Officer i/c, entrained at Cmandrakona Road, after a very busy day loading the train with equipment, kit, etc., finally leaving at 2300 hrs.
Jessore			Meanwhile the Road Convoy had arrived at Jessore – tired, but having done a good job – with only the 15 cwt. previously mentioned as a casualty.
Jessore	Sep. 16.		Today most people were settling down fairly well & the road convoy was being unloaded. Late at night the train party arrived after a very slow & tedious journey.
	Sep. 17.		Sunday – but no day of rest! The train had to be unloaded & this proved a big job. Aus. F/O. J. Brand was put in charge of the unloading. The Adjutant was there, looking for 2 typewriters & one duplicator, but alas! they never came to view & so the publication of D.R.O.s was delayed. Most of the light equipment had been unloaded by noon & in the afternoon the wagons were taken to the Airfield Siding. 136 R&S.U. kindly loaned a crane & this facilitated the unloading greatly.
	Sep. 18.		The main topic & work of the day was still the unloading, but slowly but surely things were beginning to take shape & sections beginning to function once more.
	Sep. 19.		Today the train was completely unloaded & sections were setting their houses in order on a temporary basis until 99 Sqdn. move to Dhubalia.
	Sep. 20.		By the 20th things were more or less as normal & work was begun in preparation for the next 'Op' period. Even the Adj's duplicator came to light, so everyone was more or less happy.
			The longest sick-parade 357 Sqdn had ever known was experienced – 26 in all – mostly with skin diseases. Perhaps the stories told of the unhealthiness of Jessore were more true than they were believed to be!
			It was announced in the D.R.O.s that Working Hours & Meal Times would be as follows:-
			Breakfast - 0645 – 0715 hrs.
			1st Working Parade - 0720 hrs.
			Break - 1030 – 1100 hrs.
			Cease Work - 1330 hrs.
			Tiffin - 1345 – 1430 hrs.
			Dinner - 1730 – 1815 hrs.
			W/O. Arnall assumed duties of M.T. Officer.
			A Speed Limit of 20 m.p.h. was enforced within the camp bounds.
	Sep. 23.		W/O. Beattie assumed duties of Sqdn. Armament Officer w.e.f. 5/9/44.
	Sep. 25.		It was announced in the D.R.O.s that owing to the shortage of paper, D.R.O.s would only be published 3 times weekly – namely – Mondays, Wednesdays, & Saturdays.
	Sep. 30.		A Committee of Adjustment was formed for the purpose of assembling & administering the effects of the under-mentioned personnel, who, it was learned, had been killed as a result of a flying accident on their final passing-out flight at H.C.U., Kolar.
			F/L. K. A. W. Morris W/O. J. C. Jones

			F/S. L. M. Lowington W/O. G. D. Taylor, D.F.M.
			Sgt. F. J. H. Harris F/S. J. S. Noble
			Recreation.
Digri	Sep. 3.		A Gramophone Recital of Classical Records was held in the Airman's Games Room.
	Sep. 9.		A Grand Station Tombola Meeting was held in the Station Cinema the proceeds of which were to go to the Station Savings Drive which had been recently inaugurated.
Jessore	Sep. 22.		A further programme of Classical Music was held in the Canteen Reading Room & proved quite as successful as the one held in Digri.
Jessore & Digri			The daily cinema show at Digri was quite well maintained during the first part of the month & on moving to Jessore it was found that two cinemas were situated in the town itself, one changing its programme daily & the other holding the same show two nights running, so all cinema goers were well catered for. No doubt, R.A.F. Welfare will take steps to see that they give the Jessore personnel a good show as often as can be arranged.
			Football programmes were well kept up despite the upheaval of the move & on the 10th of the month the final of the Banhura Memorial Shield was played off & R.A.F. Digri defeated Midnapore Sporting by 3 goals to Nil. L.A.C. T. Weston, of 357 Sqdn. was presented with a miniature shield.
			Welfare
Digri	Sep. 1.		A Meeting of the Welfare & Entertainments Committee was held in the Games Room & many topics raised & dealt with satisfactorily.
Jessore	Sep. 20.		The Squadron Library, which had been functioning quite well at Digri was arranged to be opened in the Airman's Mess, Jessore & thereupon it was to be open for the purpose of loaning books on every Monday & Thursday, between the hours of 1730 & 1815.
			It was learned that the Squadron had been allocated 150 Gift Parcels under a scheme organised by the Incorporated Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Help Society. These parcels contained foodstuffs, & could be sent to relatives or friend in the U.K. of Eire at a cost of 3 Rupies 6 Annas. It was arranged for the distribution to be as follows:-
			Officers - 10
			S.N.C.O.s - 40
			Other Ranks - 100
			It is hardly necessary to add they were very soon exhausted.
			Efforts were made by F/O. G. D. Thomas, Welfare Officer, to obtain gramophones for use on the Squadron through Welfare Service channels, but these were met with no success.
			Part III – Personnel.
Digri & Jessore	September 1944		
			R.C.A.F. P.O.R.'s
			Postings.
			Can.J.16854 F/O. W. P. Prosser G.D.(N) Posted from S.H.Q. Chaklala to No. 357 Sqdn. w.e.f. 1/2/44.
			Can.J.16854 F/O. W. P. Prosser G.D.(N) Posted from 357 Sqdn to B.H.Q. Calcutta (Supy). w.e.f. 15/3/44.
			Promotions and Appointments.
			Can.J.10663 F/O. Wigget. M. W. G.D.(WAG) Promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 16/3/44.
			Can.J.11179 F/O. Gradiner S. G. G.D.(N) promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant (T) w.e.f. 13/4/44.

			R.A.A.F. P.O.R.'s 22/9/44.
			Promotions.
			Aus.412179 F/O. Powell R. C. G.D.(WAG) Promoted to rank of Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 11/5/44.
			Aus.411553 F/O. Titterington S. D. G.D.(N) Promoted to rank of Flight Lieutenant (T) w.e.f. 25/5/44.
			Statement of Personnel Strength. Sept. 1944.
			Officers Airmen Total
			R.A.F. 17 277 294
			R.C.A.F. 3 6 9
			R.A.A.F 7 6 13
			R.NZ.A.F. -- 4 4
			Polish 1 -- 1
			Total Strength 321
			W/Cdr.
			Commanding No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn.

September 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
Lib. III 'W'	F/O. J. Brand Aus.	Belief Ferry	311626	010510	Successful. 12 'C' Type Containers, 6 packages & 32 gals of M.T. petrol were transported to Kunming using Chabua as an A.L.G. Weather was poor – scattered showers.
	F/S. C. R. Anderson NZ.421489		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/O. Gradiner Can.				
	F/O. K. Buchanan Aus.44?8600				
	F/S. W. Allan				
	F/S. C. Mosse- Robinson Aus.420577				
	Sgt. J. B. Nelson				
Lib. III 'Y'	F/L. H. Cast	Belief	311846	010004	Successful. A/C was over D.Z. at 2205 hrs & an 'L' of lights was clearly seen on the ground. 11 containers & 7 packages were dropped for 'Belief IV' in 2 runs from 800' A.G.L. all chutes opened O.K. except one which Roman Canded. At Hanoi, 2100 hrs, 8500' L.A.A. believed Bofors fire from Gialan aerodrome – about 20 rounds inaccurate for ht. & direction came up to rear of a/c Capt. immediate made diving turn to Port & firing ceased a few seconds later, rear gunner reported unidentified a/c believed to be S/E fighter slightly above & to P about 300 yds away. Rear gunner opened fire & Capt. made another diving turn to port & began to weave. A/c was lost & not seen again. Weather was poor – Cb, Cu & Ac over whole route.
	F/O. E. T. Matley Aus.423804		Kunming	Kunming	
	Sgt. H. R. Harvey				
	W/O. E. Williams Aus.410102				
	F/S. W. Farish				
	F/S. F. J. Keenan NZ.421063				
	Sgt. M. J. Cox Aus.428020				
	Sgt. K. H. Heilbron				
	Sgt. Scobie				
Lib. III 'Y'	F/L. H. Cast	Belief	011904	020053	Successful. A/C was over D.Z. In Ninh Binh area at 2205 hrs. Reception was seen & 4 agents, 10 containers & 2 packages were dropped in 2 runs from 700'. 1 hr. from D.Z. a cylinder head blew off No. 2 Engine & at 2050 hrs smoke was seen in rear bomb bay. The only available W.A.G was sent to investigate
	F/O. E. T. Matley Aus.423804		Kunming	Kunming	
	Sgt. H. R. Harvey				
	W/O. E. Williams Aus.410102				
	F/S. W. Farish				

	F/S. F. J. Keenan NZ.421063				with a fire extinguisher. Smoke was reported to be pouring out of No. 2 engine at 2100 hrs & oil was seen on the crank case. No. 2 Eng. was feathered at 2101 hrs. Weather was poor – full moon obscured by cloud.
	Sgt. M. J. Cox Aus.428020				
	Sgt. K. H. Heilbron				
	Sgt. Scobie				
Lib. III 'U'	S/L. K. P. Jones	Hainton	040718	041700	Successful. Reception was seen at 1115 hrs consisting of large white 'T' & a smoke fire. 1 Agent, 12 containers & 5 packages were dropped in 4 runs from 5,400' A.S.L. Weather was fair.
	Sgt. Williams		Sylhet	Digri	
	F/O. K. G. Booth Can.J.11769				
	F/S. F. S. Quinn				
	F/S. L. B. Laney Aus.420965				
	F/L. Wiggett Can.J.				
	F/S. Edwards				
	F/S. P. Lindley				
Lib. III 'X'	F/O. F. C. Cooke	Hainton	040615	041517	Successful. Target was identified by a large white 'T' & a smoke wind indicating fire. 12 'C' Type Containers were dropped in 1 run from 5300' ASL. at 1003 hrs. Weather fair.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Sylhet	Digri	
	W/O. J. H. Newberry				
	W/O. Payton				
	F/S. F. W. Pearle				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				
	W/O. McGregor				
	F/S. J. F. Bryden				
Lib. III 'Z'	F/L. O. S. Shave	Spiers	040735	041520	Unsuccessful. Intention was to drop 12 Containers & 5 packages, but despite a 1 ½ hr. search for D.Z. the attempt had to be abandoned due to 10/10 cloud over D.Z. Weather was generally bad.
	W/O Francis		Sylhet	Sylhet	
	F/O Titterington Aus.				
	F/O Powell				
	F/O Carlton				
	W/O Bolingbroke				
	F/S Masters				
Hudson III 'D'	W/O J. R. Dodwell	Bramble	032250	040610	Unsuccessful. Bank of low St. 400 – 600' covered D.Z. & surrounding country. Impossible to drop agent so sortie was abandoned.
	W/O Manser		Dum-Dum		
	W/O R. Rigg				
	F/S H. A. Page				
Lib. III 'W'	F/O. J. Brand Aus.	Belief	041932	050158	Unsuccessful. The intention was to drop 12 containers for 'Belief' in the Rang Son area, but despite a 1 hr. search the attempt had to be abandoned because of 10/10 low St. cloud, which completely obscured D.Z.
	F/S. C. R. Anderson NZ.421489		Kunming	Kunming	
	F/O. Gradiner Can.				
	F/O. K. Buchanan Aus.418600				

	F/S. W. Allan				
	F/S. C. Mosse- Robinson Aus.420577				
	Sgt. J. B. Nelson				
	Sgt. Scobie				
Hudson III 'D'	W/O J. R. Dodwell	Dilwyal	052240	060622	Successful. Reception was recognised at 0230 hrs & 8 packages were dropped in 2 runs from 900' 1 chute failed to develop. Weather was cloudy – occasional showers 6/10 Cu. tops to 10,000'.
	W/O Manser		Dum-Dum		
	W/O K. Rigg				
	F/S H. A. Page				
Lib. III 'Z'	F/L. O. S. Shave	Spiers	050735	051650	Successful. A 'T' of white squares was seen on the ground at D.Z. 12 Containers & 5 packages were dropped in 3 runs from 6000' A.S.L. Weather was poor – 10/10 Cu Ac & Sc. base unknown – tops 12 – 15000'.
	W/O Francis		Sylhet	Alipore	
	F/O Titterington				
	F/O Powell				
	F/O Carlton				
	W/O Bolingbroke				
	F/S Masters				
Lib. III "U"	W/O. F. C. Cooke	Brillig Hau Hin area	061820	070800	Successful. A large 'T' of fires & the letter 'F' were seen over D.Z. 2 agents, 2 containers & 3 packages were dropped. in 1 run. At Tavoy Point, 2350 hrs 7500' – starting from this posn. – bomb bursts were seen from direction of target area for about 1 hr. A red orange fire was visible from target area from a distance of 100 miles. Weather was reasonably good.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Digri	Digri	
	W/O. J. H. Newberry				
	W/O. P?ayton				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				
	W/O. McGregor				
	F/S. J. F. Bryden				
Hudson III 'D'	W/O J. R. Dodwell		072300	080700	Successful. Correct reception was recognised & 2 agents were dropped & chutes were seen to develop normally. Weather was fair to cloudy with scattered showers. Visi 8 – 12 miles.
	W/O Manser				
	W/O K. Rigg				
	F/S H. A. Page				
Lib. III 'W'	F/O. J. Brand Aus.	Belief	100946	101503	Successful. Returned to Base fro Kunming. Transported 1200 lbs. stores for Force 136. Weather was good.
	F/S. C. R. Anderson NZ.421489		Kunming	Chabua	
	F/O. Gradiner Can.				
	F/O. K. Buchanan Aus.418600				
	F/S. W. Allan				
	F/S. C. Mosse- Robinson Aus.420577				
	Sgt. J. B. Nelson				

	Sgt. Scobie				
Hudson III 'C'	W/O J. R. Dodwell	Buffin E. of Bhamo	170730	171605	Successful. Reception was seen of large white 'T'. 7 packages were dropped in 2 runs at 1139 hrs. Weather was fair over Bengal & Cmrn?? Hills, deteriorating towards target area.
	W/O Manser		Alipore	Alipore	
	W/O K. Rigg				
	F/S H. A. Page				
Lib. III 'U'	W/O. W. C. Cooke	Belief	201115	201710	Successful. 1500 lbs. of stores for F.136 & 800 Imp. galls of petrol were transported to Kunming. Weather was fair. Before flight pilot was checked out as 'Hump Trained' by the Chief A.T.C. pilot.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Chabua	Kunming	
	W/O. J. H. Newberry				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	F/S. J. H. Bryden				
	W/O. McGregor				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				
Lib. III 'U'	Same Crew as Above	Belief	220958	221340	Successful. A/C returned t Chabua with petrol & stores. Weather was good.
			Kunming	Chabua	
Lib. III 'U'	Same Crew as Above	Belief	231004	231305	Successful. Transported 1500 lbs stores & 1000 Impl. galls. of petrol to Kunming for operation 'Belief VII'. Weather was good.
			Chabua	Kunming	
Lib. VI 'V'	S/L. K. P. Jones	Seal	231606	232134	Successful. 2 Agents, 1300 lbs. of Stores & 600 lbs. of ammunition were transported to Kunming for Operation 'Seal'. Weather was fair.
	W/O. Francis		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/O. K. G. Booth Can.J.11769				
	F/S. L. B. Laney Aus.420965				
	F/S. Edwards				
	W/O. D. Duvyejonck Can.R.				
	Sgt. Williams.				
Lib. VI 'V'	Same Crew as Above	Seal	241045	241321	Successful. Flew into Nanning 5 agents & 500 lbs. of stores for Operation 'Seal'. It was reported by Capt & Navigator that maps issued for flight Kunming – Nanning appeared to be inaccurate & this was confirmed by many U.S. Pilots. Distance between Kunming & Nanning shown on maps is some 378 miles whereas Navigator reported it to be between 400 and 405 miles. Weather was fair Visi 15 miles.
			Kunming	Nanning	
			241517	241740	
			Nanning	Kunming	
Lib. III 'U'	W/O. W. C. Cooke	Belief	250944	251305	Successful. A/C returned to Chabua & there collected 1000 Imp. galls of petrol & 1500 lbs of stores for Operation 'Belief' & transported them to Kunming. Weather was good.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Kunming	Chabua	
	W/O. J. H. Newberry		251619	251954	
	F/S. F. W. Pearce		Chabua	Kunming	
	F/S. J. H. Bryden				
	W/O. McGregor				

	F/S. W. V. Robertson				
Lib. VI 'V'	S/L. K. P. Jones	Seal	260757	261300	Successful. A/C returned to Base after completion of ferrying for Operation 'Seal'. Major Pullen & 1 agent, both of I.S.L.D. were transported. Weather was fair – visi generally 25 mls.
	W/O. Francis		Kunming	Jessore	
	F/O. K. G. Booth Can.J.11769				
	F/S. L. B. Laney Aus.420965				
	F/S. Edwards				
	W/O. D. Duvyejonck Can.R.				
	Sgt. Williams.				
Lib. III BZ954	F/L. H Cast	Belief	271830	28008	Successful. A/C was over target at 2203 hrs & lights came on after 2 mins. 10 Containers & 4 packages were dropped in 1 run from 500'. The target area was covered with a patch of St. Base 650/700'.
	F/O E. T. Matley Aus423804		Kunming	Kunming	
	Sgt. H. R. Harvey				
	W/O. F. Williams Aus410102				
	Sgt. Scobie				
	F/S. Keenan NZ421063				
	F/S. W. Farish				
	Sgt. M. J. Cox Aus428020				
	Unknown ⁸				
Lib. III BZ901	W/O. W. C. Cooke	Belief	271832	280015	Successful. A/C was over the D.Z. at 2202 hrs. & reception lights were on when a/c arrived. 7 Containers, 6 packages were dropped on 1 run from 750'. Weather fair.
	F/S. T. O. Elliott		Kunming	Kunming	
	W/O. J. H. Newberry				
	F/S. J. H. Bryden				
	F/S. F. W. Pearce				
	W/O. McGregor				
	F/S. W. V. Robertson				
	Sgt. Smith				
Lib. III 'U'	Same Crew as Above	Belief	281450	281825	Successful. Returned to Chabua to collect more petrol & stores. Weather was fairly good.
			Kunming	Chabua	
Lib. III 'U'	Same Crew as Above	Belief	291049	291419	Successful. Transported 1000 Imp. Gals Petrol & 1500 lbs stores for Operation 'Belief'.
			Chabua	Kunming	
Lib. III 'Z'	F/L. O. S. Shave Aus.	Hainton	281741	290300	Successful. The 'T' of fires was recognised after ¾ hr search. 3 agents, 6 'C' Type Containers & r packages were dropped in 3 runs from 6000' A.S.L. Weather was fair.
	W/O Francis		Jessore	Jessore	
	F/O Titterington Aus.				
	F/L Gradiner Can.J.				
	F/L Powell				

⁸ The bottom of the original record is torn off, but there appears to have been the name of a Sgt. on the missing line.

	F/O Carlton				
	W/O Bolingbroke Can.R.				
	F/S Masters				

September 1944: Appendix II to F540

No 357 Squadron Movement Order No. 2 of 1944 is hereby amended as follows:

- (i) Page 1., under heading "Execution", Sub. para (iv) amend date to read 13th. September 1944.
- (ii) Page 2., under heading "Personal Baggage (Contd)". For F/O. Irvine read F/O. Carlton.
- (iii) Page 3., under heading "Detached Personnel". With reference to Appendix "E" ., this will be issued at a later date to the Units concerned.
- (iv) Lists of personnel detailed for the Main Rail Party and the Main Air Party are appended to the Movement Order.

Movement Order No. 2 of 1944.

Secret

Move of No. 357 Squadron from R.A.F. Digri
to R.A.F. Jessore on 15.9.44

Information

No. 357 Squadron will move from R.A.F. Station, Digri to R.A.F. Station, Jessore on 15th. September 1944 in accordance with Headquarters, 231 Group Organisation Instruction No. 20 date 45h. September 1944.

Intention.

To move No. 357 Squadron in its entirety from R.A.F. Digri to R.A.F. Jessore.

Execution.

- (i) Officers and airmen detailed in Appendix "A" will comprise the Advance party to proceed by air on Tuesday, 12th. September 1944.
- (ii) Officers and airmen to be detailed at a later date will comprise the Main party to proceed by air on Friday, 15th. Sept. 1944.
- (iii) Officers and airmen to be detailed at a later date will comprise the Main party to proceed by rail on Friday, 15th. Sept. 1944.
- (iv) Officers and airmen detailed in Appendix "B" will comprise the Road Convoy to proceed by road on Thursday, 14th. September 1944.
- (v) Officers and airmen detailed in Appendix "C" will comprise the Rear Party to proceed by air on Sunday, 17th. September 1944.

Secret and Confidential Documents.

F/O. Thomas will be in charge of all Secret and Confidential documents, and he is responsible to see that these are packed and marked in accordance with instructions laid down in Bengal Air staff Instructions Section K (Intelligence) No. 11 and that all safety measures are taken as laid down in the aforesaid instructions to ensure against their loss.

Equipment.

All Unit equipment will be taken. That proceeding by rail will be securely packed as possible. Section Officers are to arrange for the packing and marking of this equipment. The equipment to be conveyed by road is to be ready for collection and loading at 14.00 hours on Tuesday, 12th. September 1944. All equipment is to be clearly marked as shown in Appendix "D". " 357 Squadron" is Not Repeat Not to appear on any part of the equipment, and in no circumstances will any barrack equipment be moved with the Squadron.

Routine – Road, Rail and Air Parties.

Details will be given in Squadron Daily Routine Orders.

Personal Baggage.

The heavy personal baggage of all ranks, irrespective of how and when the personnel are proceeding, will accompany the Main Rail Party on 15.9.44.

Personnel proceeding on the Advance Party by Air will carry their Bedroll, One (1) Suitcase or Kitbag with sufficient clothing for seven (7) days.

The Main Party proceeding by rail will take their Bedroll, and small kit together with sufficient clothing for three (3) days.

The personnel detailed to proceed with the Road Convoy will take their Bedroll, and small kit together with sufficient clothing for three (3) days.

The personnel detailed to proceed with the Rear Party by air will take their Bedroll, One (1) Suitcase or Kitbag with sufficient clothing for four (4) days.

All personnel will have their heavy baggage ready as follows:-

Officers – On their verandahs at 12.00 hours on 14.9.44.

Other Ranks – Outside their respective messes at 12.00 hours on 14.8.44.

All baggage must be securely tied and properly labelled. F/O. Irvine is detailed as Officer i/c Baggage and he is responsible for the storage and loading of all baggage and equipment.

Sgt. Heywood is responsible for the packing and collection of all kit belonging to airmen in hospital, on detachment and leave etc. and for the storage of such kit on arrival at destination.

Motor Transport.

Headquarters 185 Wing is requested to arrange transport for the removal of equipment and baggage on 14.9.44., and conveyance of personnel of the Main Rail Party on Friday, 15th. September 1944 at an hour to be notified later. Units located at R.A.F. Jessore are requested to arrange the transportation of equipment and personnel of the Main Rail Party from train to domestic camp. Officer i/v Train will be responsible for notifying these Units on arrival at destination.

Dress.

All personnel will wear long slacks and long sleeved shirts, with Cap F.S. or topee. Skeleton web equipment will be worn, including haversack, water bottle and mess tin. Water bottles are to be filled with fresh water before proceeding.

Arms.

W/O. Beattie will be responsible for the issue of arms – Sten Guns and 50 rounds of ammunition to personnel detailed to proceed with the Road Convoy; Sten Guns and 50 rounds to personnel detailed for duty as armed guards with the Main Rail Party.

Guards.

An armed guard will be on duty on the train throughout the journey of the Main Rail Party. W/O. Beattie will detail 2 Cpls. and 8 A.C.'s for this duty and they will patrol the length of the train in reliefs, at each halt.

Officer i/c the Road Convoy will be responsible for the provision of guards to safeguard equipment.

Officers proceeding by road and rail will carry revolvers and 12 rounds of ammunition.

Rations.

The Station Catering Officer will arrange rations for the Main Rail Party and Road Convoy. Sgt. Murrell will supervise the issue of rations on the train.

Medical.

The Senior Medical Officer, Headquarters 185 Wing will detail Nursing Orderlies for the Main Rail Party and Road Convoy. First Aid Kits will be supplied and sufficient flit guns provided in order that carriages may be sprayed after sunset.

Entraining.

All personnel detailed for the Main Rail Party are to parade on the Car Park at the rear of Squadron Headquarters at an hour to be stated on 15.9.44. with light kit and bedroll. They will be conveyed to Chandrakona Road Station by H.Q. 185 Wing M.T. and will entrain at an hour to be stated.

They will not leave the train, except with the permission of the Officer i/c Train, F/O. Thomas.

All personnel detailed for the Road Convoy will receive their instructions from the Officer i/c F/Lt. Stokowski.

Marching Out.

All billets, offices, workshops, etc., are to be left in a clean and tidy condition.

Detached Personnel.

The personnel detailed in Appendix "E" will not proceed with the Squadron for the reasons stated. Headquarters 185 Wing are requested that personnel detailed in Station Sick Quarters be despatched to the Squadron on becoming effective.

Notification to Personnel and Security.

It is the responsibility of Officers and N.C.O's i/c Sections to notify airmen under their command of the above orders which affect them and to impress upon them the necessity for utmost secrecy regarding the dates and destination of the move.

Baggage Party.

The Baggage Party, under the command of F/O. Carlton (See Appendix "F"), will be responsible for the collection of all Officers, Warrant Officers, Senior N.C.Os and Airmen's kit, and stacking of the same, and its safe arrival at the Station. At the Station they will be responsible for the packing of the kit into the trucks. They will be responsible for the unloading of the kit, and also for its transportation to the new camp on arrival at the destination. It is emphasised that all kit boxes, etc., must be handled with the utmost care, and is the Officer i/c Baggages' responsibility to see that this order is carried out.

Rear Party.

Personnel of the Rear Party will be attached to Headquarters 185 Wing for Rations and Accommodation.

Wing Commander, Commanding,
No. 357 S. D. Sqdn., R.A.F.

Date: 11 Sep. 1944.

Appendix "A"

Movement Order No. 2 of 1944.

Advance Party – Proceeding by Air on 12.9.44.

J.10663.	F/Lt.	M. W. Wiggett.	--	Officer i/c
J.11769.	F/O.	K. G. Booth		Nav.
526987.	W/O.	Smith, R.		S.W.O.
1431571.	F/S.	Middleton, J.		Nav.
620025.	F/S.	Trow, A. H.		Elect.1.
1270836.	Sgt.	Pitcher, E.		I.Rep.1.
971174.	Sgt.	MacLeod, K.		W.O.M.
936780.	Sgt.	Graham, J.		ACH/GD.
1175200.	Cpl.	Blundell, J.		F.IIA.
1282970.	Cpl.	Payter, F.		Cook.
1071608.	Cpl.	Shepherd, R.		Cook.
646631.	Cpl.	Steward, P.		F.Arm.
1696366.	LAC.	Galloway, J.		W.Mech.
1860315.	LAC.	Taylor, J. P.		F.M.E.
1498605.	LAC.	Curtiss, H.		Arm.B.
1484982.	LAC.	Hoyle, J.		Arm.G.
1443456.	LAC.	White, E.		Arm.G.

1. B.T. Cook	1. I.T. Cook	
2. Water Carriers	1.Sweeper.	
1. Mess Waiter	1. Waer Carrier. (Sgt's Mess)	

Appendix "C"

Rear Party – Proceeding by Air on 17.8.44.

626444.	Sgt.	Cummins, R.	--	F.IIE.
1256501.	Sgt.	Knight, F.	--	Clk/GD.
1116022.	Cpl.	Trotman, D.	--	Elect.1.
905990.	Cpl.	Haley, P.	--	I.Rep.1.
848367.	Cpl.	Rowe, H.	--	Cook.
1484629.	LAC.	Hannam, G.	--	Cook.
1640016.	AC1.	Gibbs, W.	--	F.M.E.
1173377.	Cpl.	McGlynn, A.	--	ACH/GD.
1874057.	AC2.	Cox, K. R.	--	ACH/GD.
1689848.	AC1.	Patherson, R	--	ACH/GD.
1693738.	AC1.	Williams, N.	--	ACH/GD.
1082467.	AC1.	White.	--	ACH/MA.
1003018.	LAC.	Connolly, M.	--	ACH/MA.
1590429.	AC1.	Bell, R.	--	ACH/MA.
975589.	LAC.	Smith, H.	--	ACH/MA.

Appendix "D"

Packing Instructions.

Cases packed by each Section will be marked on the outside "A921". This will be followed by the Section Code Letter(s) (see below, and the Serial Number of each case.

Electrical	EL	Signals	S
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Instruments	IN	Maintenance	M
Dispersal	D	Armoury	ARM
Navigation	NAV	Orderly Room	A
Cookhouse	C	M.T. Section	MT
Equipment	E	Intelligence	I
Flight Commander	F	Gas Section	G

Appendix "B"

Movement Order No. 2 of 1944.

Road Convoy – Proceeding on 13.9.1944.

The following will comprise the road convoy which will leave at 07.00 hours on Wednesday, 13th. September 1944.

Personnel detailed below will parade on the Car Park at 06.30 hours on 13th September 1944.

The airmen whose names have been marked with an asterisk will report to the Squadron Armoury at 16.00 hours on Tuesday, 12th September 1944 for issue of arms and ammunition.

Personnel travelling as passengers are to take particular note of the vehicle, and the name of the driver they are travelling with.

Convoy Number	Vehicle	Vehicle Number	Driver detailed	Passenger detailed
1.	Jeep	3681	F/Lt. Stokowski	588 Sgt. Murphy
2.	Amb.	6729	539 AC1. Day	857 AC1. Norton
3.	AEC Ref'r.	5869	046 LAC. Stainthorpe	602 AC1. Lancaster*
4.	Bed. "	9127	192 LAC. Pilgrim	903 AC1. Miller*
5.	" "	8465	753 AC1. Platt	825 AC1. Thorpe*
6.	" "	5671	511 Cpl. Costley	980 LAC. Armstrong*
7.	" "	5668	513 LAC. Rowe	282 AC1 Hills*
8.	" "	0827	023 LAC. Walker	983 LAC. Ellis*
9.	" "	5669	316 AC1. Sugden	821 LAC. Mitchell*
10.	" "	6084	221 LAC. White	221 AC1. Gaskin*
11.	Chev. 3 ton	5864	959 LAC. Knowles	117 LAC. O'Neill
12.	Ford "	1516	021 LAC. Weston	069 AC1. Cotton*
13.	Chev "	4885	344 LAC. Buckley	539 LAC. Shufflebotham*
14.	Ford "	7553	321 LAC. Rudkin	456 LAC. Ward*
15.	Ford "	9743	123 Cpl. Rowe	157 Cpl. Fowler
16.	Chev "	9532	998 LAC. Davis	267 LAC. Hooley*
17.	Ford "	7609	147 LAC. Bawden	166 LAC. Sprague*
18.	Chevrolet	8876	655 AC1. Davies	252 AC1. Buckingham*
19.	Chev. 3 ton	5354	060 Cpl. Poynton	332 Cpl. Thwaites
20.	Ford "	7675	381 LAC. Smith	589 LAC. Smith
21.	" "	4631	483 Sgt. Burgess	486 AC1. Harris*
22.	" "	4654	387 LAC. Hawley	317 LAC. Dockerty*
23.	Chev "	4852	887 LAC. Hills	087 LAC. Ursell*
24.	" "	5944	056 F/S. Primmer	766 Sgt. Blakey
25.	" "	4825	939 Sgt. Payne	283 LAC. Irvine*
26.	" 30 cwt	6961	525 LAC. Brain	091 Cpl. Torrance
27.	" 3 ton	7257	248 AC1. Moffett	193 LAC. Busby*
28.	" "	5687	169 LAC. Woods	977 AC1. Protheroe
29.	Ford 15 cwt	5716	098 LAC. Ingham	637 Cpl. Hazell
30.	15 cwt	5786	664 Cpl. Brand	410 AC1. Perry*
31.	15 cwt	9499	757 W/O. Arnull	924 LAC. Harrison
32.	15 cwt	1974	285 Cpl. Gatfield	015 LAC. Burton
33.	15 cwt	2295	720 AC2. Mash	533 Sgt. DeMestre

Main Rail Party

Personnel Proceeding by Rail on 15.9.44

F/O. G. P. Thomas – Officer i/c.

F/O. A. G. Carlton – GD(WG)

F/O. J. Churchill – Pilot

618497	F/S.	Allen, G. N.	WOP/AG	1017765	AC2.	Ashworth, L.	EI.1
248311	LAC.	Addy, R. A.	B&WLDR	R90953	W/O.	Bolingbroke, L.	WOP/AG
107557	F/S.	Booker, B.	WOP/A	1076392	F/S.	Bryden, J.	WOP/A
67467	F/S.	Burman, C.	F.II	545936	F/S.	Barrett, G.	F.IIE
65623	W/O.	Beattie, J.	F.Arm	521375	Cpl.	Bailey, A.	F.IIE
491779	AC2.	Backhouse, H.	EI.II	1081898	AC1.	Barratt, F. J.	F.M.E
050246	LAC.	Bell, G. R.	F.IIA	1189782	LAC.	Bridley, C. W.	F.M.E
402738	LAC.	Burley, R.	F.M.E.	1627685	AC1.	Burrill, K. P.	EI.II.
				1777249	LAC.	Blair, R. W.	ACH/MA
31677	Cpl	Borrow, D.	F.IIE	611195	LAC.	Bunn, R.	F.M.E.
414419	LAC.	Bryant, F. J.	EI.II	1249106	LAC.	Bosworth, K.	Capr. II
660528	AC1	Bayliss, D. S.	F.IIA	1314403	F/S.	Cowling, G.	Nav.
29722	Sgt	Crabb, R.	Arm	520713	Cpl.	Callow, J.	F.IIE
636896	LAC.	Carne, R.	F.M.E.	1642086	LAC.	Copeland, W.	F.M.E.
120030	LAC.	Crossley, E.	F.M.E.	1056025	LAC.	Croll, K. R.	F.IIA
299191	LAC.	Cavill, K. E.	F.IIE	1042382	LAC.	Court, H. A.	EI.II
072949	LAC.	Collins, G.	Cook				
251562	LAC.	Coleman, W.	N/Ord	629245	Cpl.	Clarke, F.	Arm.
409025	LAC.	Choules, D.	F.IIE	543024	LAC.	Colman, A.	F.IIE
R119899	W/O.	Duyvejonck, O.	WOP/AG	1072633	Sgt.	Doo, R. L.	F.Arm.G.
50449	LAC.	Davey, E.	F.M.E.	1635264	AC2.	Dry, S.	I.Rep.II
1614165	LAC.	Dyster, S. W.	W.OP.	NZ42293	F/S.	Edwards, H. P.	WOP/AG
1351909	LAC.	Essam, R. T.	F.IIA	1401245	AC1	Faulkner, A.	F.M.E.
1396430	AC1.	Folkard, F.	F.M.E.	1070936	LAC.	Gabrielsson, R.	Armr.
271242	LAC.	Gant, T.	F.M.E.	1143798	LAC.	Gardner, H.	Arm.G.
805249	AC1.	Goss, P.	F.M.A.	1368138	AC1.	Griffin, J. C.	EI.II
72088	AC1.	Green, N. Y.	F.M.E.	1254009	W/O.	Hough, W.	Nav.B.
14949	Sgt.	Heywood, J.	C.W. F.	1507779	LAC.	Hitch, H.	F.M.A.
188312	LAC.	Hoad, A.	Armr	973291	Cpl.	Hills, J.	F.IIA.
467866	LAC.	Humphrey, A.	E/Asstt	1361158	AC1	Halpin, J.	ACH/GD
115384	LAC.	Harker, J. E.	Arm.G.	1095526	AC1.	Holding, D.	EI.II.
531380	AC1.	Healey, A. T.	F/Arm	634500	Cpl.	Holland, J.	N/Ord.
1050040	LAC.	Heggie, W.	S.E.W.	1633471	LAC.	Jackson, P.	F.M.E.
1498179	LAC.	Jeffrey, J.	F.M.E.	1331612	AC1.	Johnson, R. G.	F.M.E.
1482408	LAC.	Jenkins, L.	F.Arm.G.	1008153	Sgt.	Lees, H.	F.IIA
35251	Sgt.	Lewis, E.	F.IIE	1311605	F/S.	Lindley, P.	WOP/A
1676111	Sgt.	Lambert, W.	C/Adj.	1381398	Cpl.	Lloyd, D.	F.IIE.
1074653	Cpl.	Lord, W.	Clk/Ac's	1604815	AC1.	Lewis, A.	W.OP.
R183699	W/O.	MacGregor, D.	A.G.	1850121	F/S.	Masters, P.	A.G.
289250	W/O.	Murray, W.	WOP/A	A420577	F/S.	Mossee- Robinson	WOP/AG.
02522	Cpl.	McCairns, G.	F.IIE	1641014	LAC.	McCarty, A	F.M.E.
1689480	AC2.	McManus, J.	ACH/MA	1344219	LAC.	Muir, R.	E1.II.
45972	Cpl.	Moles, G. D.	ACH/GD	1461934	LAC.	Moorfield, E.	F.IIE.

827380	LAC.	Murray, W. A.	E/Asstt.	111893	F/S.	Newham, L.	WOP/A.
338669	Sgt.	Nelson, J.	WOM/AG.	517504	F/S.	Newson, T. R.	E/Asstt.
160344	Sgt.	Prett, F.	F.IIE.	1093318	LAC.	Peek, G. A.	F.M.A.
243684	LAC.	Poole, R. P.	F.IIE.	1000846	LAC.	Paxton, A.	F.IIE.
448163	AC1.	Perry, A.	F.IIA.	1143542	Cpl.	Ponsford, A.	C.W.F.
057864	LAC.	Porter, H.	S.E.W.	1613880	LAC.	Pearse, A.	W.OP.
47743	F/S.	Robertson, W.	A.G.	R75844	W/O.	Reeves, R. J.	WOP/AG
075124	Cpl.	Reid, J.	F.ArmB.	1237295	LAC.	Ruff, T.	I.R.II.
103789	LAC.	Rueben, I.	F/Wkr.	1223408	Cpl.	Rainbow, H.	F.IIA.
144266	F/S.	Smith, T. S.	WOP/A	1118115	F/S.	Smail, W.	WOP/A.
091225	LAC.	Scales, R.	F.M.E.	1282467	Cpl.	Scadeng, J.	ACH/MA
33298	Cpl.	Sullivan, T. D.	Gunner	1481539	AC1.	Steele, F.	Arm.G.
801166	LAC.	Sprague	F.IIE.	1116346	W/O.	Taylor, J.	Pilot
096767	LAC.	Thorp, E.	C.W.F.	927163	F/S.	Webber, D. R.	WOP/A.
214506	Sgt.	Ward, W. G. L.	WOM/AG	1659531	AC2.	Whittaker, H.	I.R.II
211575	LAC.	Wood, F.	F.ARM.B.	1082598	LAC.	Williams, D.	ACH/MA.
76027	LAC.	Woodhours, J.	F.IIA.	1692472	AC1.	Walker, D.	F.M.T.
44702	LAC.	Wiltshire, M.	F.M.A.	1326776	LAC.	Gooseman, W.	Cook.

Main Air Party

Personnel Proceeding by Air on 15.9.1944.

	Wing Commander J. R. Moore.			
S/Ldr.	K. P. Jones	F/Lt.	D. S. Shave	
F/Lt.	J. A. King, DFC.	F/Lt.	J. H. Copley	
F/O.	J. Brand	F/O.	S. D. Titterington	
F/O.	R. C. Powell	F/O.	K. Buchanan	
F/O.	S. G. Gradiner	F/O.	A. W. C. Cumming	

1230144	W/O.	Cooke, F. C.	Pilot
1391498	W/O.	Newberry, J. H.	Nav.B
1382596	W/O.	Dodwell, J.	Pilot
R.90295	W/O.	Moore, N. F.	Pilot
R.85604	W/O.	Scattergood, C.	Nav.B
1252915	W/O.	Manser, D.	Nav.B
656025	W/O.	Payton, B.	Nav.B
1062764	W/O.	Woolsey, N.	WOP/A
1337400	F/S.	Pearce, F.	WOP/A
A420965	F/S.	Laney, L.	WOP/AG
1395777	F/S.	Stephenson, P.	Nav.B
532459	Sgt.	Williams, J.	F/Eng
1315190	W/O.	Francis, D.	Pilot
1102418	W/O.	Rigg, R.	WOP/A
960263	F/S.	Page, H.	WOP/A
1558171	F/S.	Elliott, T.	Pilot
4210086	F/S.	Jameson, G.	Pilot
1217080	F/S.	Daglish, R.	WOP/A
421489	F/S.	Anderson, C.	Pilot
1509713	F/S.	Quinn, F. S.	Nav.B
1063435	Cpl.	Nendick, F.	W.OP
641784	Cpl.	Anderson, A.	Tel'st
957221	LAC.	Tovey, D.	Tel'st

1696441	LAC.	Schofield, J.	W.Mech
1619505	LAC.	Parkin, A.	W.Mech
924248	Cpl.	Burchett, J.	W.Mech
1157778	LAC.	Branston, J.	W.Mech
1619049	LAC.	Isgrove, D.	W.Mech
1717202	AC2.	Holub, C.	W.Mech
984984	LAC.	Park, G.	Cook
1398950	AC1.	Burton, R.	Elect.II
1240460	Cpl.	Frostick, S.	Elect.I
1298281	AC1.	Davies, I.	I.Rep.I
1268252	LAC.	Haynes, H. R.	I.Rep.II
1500846	Cpl.	Batch, T.	Clk/GD
1094887	LAC.	Hickman, B.	Clk/GD
1648452	LAC.	Allen, B. W. E.	F.M.E.
1277643	AC2.	Rowbotham, E.	Clk/GD
1088688	AC1	Slew, L.	Clk/GD
1544733	AC1.	Spencer, E.	S.E.W.
1125084	AC1.	Otter, R. G.	S.E.W.
867200	LAC.	Watson, J. C.	S.E.W.

Appendix "F"

Baggage Party

Officer i/c – F/O. A. G. Carlton.

782	LAC	Brindley, C.	738	LAC	Burley, R.
195	LAC	Bunn, R.	909	LAC	Essam, R.
221	AC1	Gaskin, J.	864	LAC	Porter, H.
295	LAC	Ruff, T.	191	LAC	Cavill, K.

October 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Jessore	October	1944	Part I – Operations.
			During this month 19 sorties were flown, 11 of which proved successful; the failure of the other 8 sorties was due in the main to weather, which, during the month of October was generally very poor.
			Part of the Squadron's effort comprised in flying Petrol to Kunming for operation 'Belief', but this detachment was ceased on October 12th when Liberators 'U' and 'Y' returned to base.
			The remaining 16 sorties all consisted of the dropping onto specific Dropping Zones of Agents and stores. 3 sorties of this nature were carried out on 'Agressive' only one of which was successful, the remaining two failing as a result of 10/10 cloud formation over the DZ area. 3 sorties were also carried out on 'Polka' all of which proved unsuccessful, due to successively: low stratus over dropping area, no reception and a heavy rain storm over the DZ. 3 very successful sorties were carried out on 'Globe' although Liberator 'V' which carried out the first trip of the 3 had a troublesome time, for on landing at Chabua, the brakes seized and some rubber was burnt off the tyres, then, on taking off from Jorhat where the A/C had refuelled, both petrol filler caps blew and petrol began to come out in large quantities making it necessary for the A/C to land again immediately; the rest of the trip was carried out without further incident. Two successful trips were carried out on 'Wakeling?' a total of 3 Agents being dropped with supplies.
			2 successful sorties were carried out, one on 'Buffin' and 1 on 'Bramble' and a further 3 unsuccessful sorties, one on 'Billet' which failed due to the fact that although the DZ was found no reception was put out; and 2 on 'Hainton' which failed due to firstly 10/10 Sc and secondly Valley fog in the DZ area; this comprised the total of the Squadron's work for the month of October 1944.
			Total Number of Sorties Flown in October 1944:- 19.
Jessore	October	1944	Part II – Administration.
	Oct 1st		W/Cdr J. R. Moore in Command of 357 Squadron.
	Oct 4th		Announced in D.R.O.'s that great care is to be exercised in safeguarding Identity Passes, Disk and Pay Books against loss or theft, especially whilst travelling and during the night.
	Oct 7th		One way traffic on the roads between Jessore Town and the Airfield is to cease until further notice.
	Oct 9th		In future all M.T. drivers are to be responsible for the D.I. of their own vehicles. The D.I. will be carried out in the afternoons.
	Oct 14th		The squadron accounts section moved into the ground floor of Billet the Rail Road.
	Oct 16th		Meal times are amended to Breakfast 06.30 to 07.30 hrs from now onwards.
	Oct 18th		Announced in DRO's that a dispatcher training course will commence on the 20th Oct for 31 of the Aircrew W/Ops and Gunners.
	Oct 21st		Meal times have been changed again, now dinner is served between 17.30 and 18.15 hours.
	Oct 23rd		A court of inquiry is to be assembled at No 357 Squadron H.Q. on Oct 24th at 10.00 hrs to inquire into the absence without leave of two enrolled followers: E/G Chhedani Lal Lascae and E/F Sungi-ud-dim book B.T.
			President F/Lt R. C. Powell.
			Member F/O E. T. Matley.

	Oct 25th		A general meeting of the Sergeant's Mess was held today at 14.30 hours.
	Oct 29th		The working times for this Sunday have been changed to: 1st Parade – 0830 hrs. Commence Work 0900 hrs Cease Work 13.30 hrs.
	Oct 30th		With effect from today F/O N. H. Guthrie? assumes duties of Officer i/c P.S.I. vice F/Lt M. W. Wiggett.
	October	1944	Recreation
	Oct 8th		An inter-station Football match was played today between the Officers and W/O's and the M.T. Section.
	Oct 9th		A further match was played off today between 357 Squadron and 292 Squadron on the Sick Quarters Ground.
	Oct 11th		S.H.Q. and Signals played M.T. Section at Football today, a team was also sent to Calcutta representing R.A.F. Jessore, and playing Hutcheons in the Calcutta Knockout Tournament.
	Oct 16th		A match was played today between SHQ and Aircrew.
	Oct 17th		A further game was fought out today when R.A.F. Jessore played the R.E's in an Inter-Services Tournament.
	Oct 18th		A General Meeting of all ranks was held in the Airmen's Dining Hall today, for the purpose of reviewing Sports, Welfare, P.S.T. etc. as many personnel as possible attended.
	Oct 23rd		A match was played Aircrew v Armourers.
	Oct 24th		Today a sports meeting was held in the Airmen's Dining Hall to discuss Soccer. All section's representatives were present, also a match was played off between Aircrew and Flights.
	Oct 25th		A Football match was played today between 357 Sqdn and 135 RSU.
	Oct 28th		Today S.H.Q. and Signals played A.E.I's.
	Oct 30th		S Sports Meeting was held today in the airmen's Dining Hall at 1500 hrs. for the purpose of nominating a Squadron Football Selection Committee.
Jessore	October	1944	Welfare.
	Oct 11th		It was announced today that current copies of 'Oasis' are now on sale on the station.
	Oct 18th		A further allotment of 120 Gift Parcels for U.K. has been made to this Unit and has been allocated as follows-
			S.N.C.O's – 40. O.R's – 80. with the remainder 'First Come – First Served!'
	Oct 25th		A mobile cinema from 303L of C Area visited Jessore this evening; it was showing a Madrassi film in Tamil' a Welfare Committee Meeting was held in the Airmen's Reading Room also this evening.
	Oct 28th		It was announced today that from now onwards the following examinations may be taken on Stations in India:
			1. The Chartered Insurance Institute.
			2. The Engineering Joint Examining ⁹ Board.
			3. The Institute of Mechanical Engineers.
			4. The Institution of Structural Engineers.
			5. The British Institution of Radio Engineers.
			Candidates have to apply through the Area Education Officer.
Jessore	October	1944	Part III – Personnel
			R.A.F. P.O.R's
			Postings
			1. 141543 F/O R. Carter? GD(N)
			Posted to No 357 Sqdn from 225 Group Comm. Unit w.e.f. 24.9.44. T.O.R's 24.10.44. Auth H.Q. Air O.S.E.A. Posting Note 1062/P2(Air) dated 18.9.44.

⁹ As spelt in the record.

			2. 112240 F/Lt H. U. Sao GD(WG)	Posted to No 357 Sqdn from 231 Grp (Unit) w.e.f. 21.9.44. TORS's 20.9.44. Auth: H.Q. Air. O.S.E.A. Posting Note 1015/19/1060/P1 (Air) dated 16.9.44.
			3. 88889 F/Lt. T. P. O'Brien GD(P)	Posted from H.Q. Special Force to No 357 Sqdn (Supy.) w.e.f. 30.9.44 T.O.R's 7.20.44 auth: H.Q. Air O.S.E.A. Posting Note 1004/10/P2(Air) d/d 26.9.44.
			4. 134087 F/O G. Egerton?-Eves GD(P) 137614 F/O J. Irvine GD (N) 157921 F/O J. Williamson GD(WG)	Posted from 99 Squadron to 357 Sqdn. (Supy.) 1.10.44 TORS 29.9.44. Auth: HQ. 231 Group Letter 2310/2108/47/P2 dated 23.9.44.
			5. 158095 F/O N. C. Auckland GD(N)	Posted from 357 Sqdn to Air HQ (2) (Supy. for dispersal – Operationally tour expired) w.e.f. 9.9.44. Rations N/A. Auth: H.Q. Air O.S.E.A. Posting Note 1013/1/1031/P2(Air) dated 6.10.44.
			Promotions	
			172055 P/O R. A. Langton GD(WG)	Confirmed in appointment and promoted Flying Officer (w.s.) with effect from 4.1.44. Auth. London Gazette dated 14.7.44 and O.R.O. 54 dated 30.8.44.
			Casualties Flying Battle or Flying Accident.	
			118470 F/Lt K. A. W. Morris GD(P)	Reported 'Missing' – particulars unknown, as a result of air operations on 25.9.44. Auth: No. 1675 H.C.U. Signal 11 dated 26.9.44
			Births	
			133535 F/O N. H. Cudrie? GD(Adm.)	Born to the wife of the m/n Officer, at Ashridge House, Hertfordshire, on 24.9.44 a daughter Janet Patricia Auth: Birth Certificate awaited.
			R.C.A.F. P.O.Rs 8.10.44 and 27.20.44	
			Postings	
			Can.J.11179 F/Lt S. G. Gradiner GD(N)	Posted to 357 Sqdn. from B.H.Q. Calcutta wef 16.8.44. Rations N/A. auth: H.Q. A.C.S.E.A. Posting Note 1015/7/1121/P2(Air) d/d 21.10.44.
			Can.J.11179 F/Lt S. G. Gradiner	Posted from 357 Sqdn. to B.R.D. Worli w.e.f. 30.11.44. Auth ACSEA Postagram 1090/22/12/P2(Air) dated 16.11.44.
			Can.J.10663 F/Lt M. W. Wigget GD(WG)	Posted to B.R.D. Worli from 357 Sqdn wef 30.11.44. Auth. H.Q. ACSEA P'gram 1090/22/12/P2(Air) dated 18.11.44.
			Can.J.24042 F/O W. Caron GD(N) Can.J.27477 F/O W. Arnold GD(N) Can.J.25346 F/O F. G. Stothers? GD(N) Can.J.22139 F/O J. F. Cooper GD(N)	Posted to 357 Squadron (Supy) from 99 Sqdn w.e.f. 1.10.44. T.O.R's 29.9.44. Auth H.Q. 231 Grp. letter 231G/2102/47/P2 dated 23.9.44.
			Appointments and promotions.	
			Can.J.11769 F/O K. G. Booth GD(N)	Promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant (Temp) wef. 11.5.44. Auth R.C.A.F. O.O. No. 105 dated 14.7.44 & CRO 56 of 1944.
			Can.J.27958 P/O G. D. Van Patter	Confirmed in appointment and promoted

		GD(WG) (Deceased)	Flying Officer (Temp) w.e.f. 9.1.44. Auth: A.M. Microgram A.637525/44/AR6 dated 21.7.44 & CRO 56/44.
		R.A.A.F. P.O.R's 30.10.44.	
		Postings	
		Aus.420912 F/O F. C. Barloge? GD(P)	Posted to No 357 Sqdn (Supy) from No 99 Sqdn. w.e.f. 1.10.44. T.O.R's 5.10.44. Auth: H.Q. 231 Grp. letter 2516/2102/47/P2 dated 23.9.44.
		Aus.14407 F/O R. W. Bowles GD(P)	Posted to No 357 Sqdn (Supy) from No 99 Sqdn. w.e.f. 1.10.44. T.O.R's 13.10.44. Auth: H.Q. 231 Grp. letter 2316 ¹⁰ /2102/47/P2 dated 23.9.44.
		Promotions	
		Aus.412390 F/O A. G. Carlton GD (WG)	Promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant (Temp) w.e.f. 22.5.44. Auth: A.M. Microgram A 675357/44/AR6 dated 10.8.44 and C.R.O. 56 of 1944.
		signed	
		for Wing Commander	
		Commanding 357 Squadron R.A.F.	

¹⁰ In previous entry this is 2516.

October 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Date	Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
2/10/44	Liberator III 'Z'	F/O J. Churchill	Buffin (Kokang)	2/19.40	3/03.10	Successful A/C was over DZ. 00.06 hrs correct reception of 'T' of fires was seen & recognised 5 containers were dropped in 1 run from 5800' ASL. all the parachutes were seen to open. No signal was seen from the ground after the drop A/C was diverted to Agartala due to bad weather at base. Weather – poor over Irrwaddy R. 10/19 Sc base 9000' tops 12000 10/10 AS base 15-10000'. At DZ – good – no cloud.
		W/O R. F. Taylor		Jessore	Agartala	
		W/O W. Hough				
		F/Sgt T. H. Middleton				
		W/O W. Murray				
		W/O L. Bollingbrooke				
		F/Sgt L. Newham				
		F/Sgt W. E. N. Smaile				
2/10/44	Liberator III 'X'	S/Ldr K. D. Jones	Agressive (Coa Bang)	2/17.15	3/04.25	Unsuccessful – due to extremely bad weather & failure of the fuel transfer pump the flight was abandoned at 22 20N 105 45E at 0055 and the Captain decided to land at Kunming. Weather en rout – poor 10/10 Cu and Sc Base 7000' tops 12000' 10/10 Ac base 16000' occasional C.B.
		F/O J. W. Gardner		Jessore	Kunming	
		F/Lt S. O. Titterington				
		W/O B. F. Payton				
		F/Sgt L. B. Laney				
		F/Sgt. H. P. Edwards				
		W/O O. H. Duyve?joakk?				
		F/Sgt. P. Lindley				
		F/Sgt. F. Williams				
4/10/44	Liberator III 'W'	F/O J. Brand	Bramble (Basseein?) & Rassendyl (Prome)	4/21.02	5/06.15	Successful – A/C arrived over Bramble DZ at 0113 and 1 agent was dropped from 780' A.S.L. Although no reception was seen the conducting officer was quite satisfied that the drop was made in correct area. Parachute was seen to open A/C then proceeded to Rassendyl D.Z. & arrived at
		F/Sgt C. R. Anderson		Jessore	Jessore	
		F/Lt J. N. Gardiner				
		F/Sgt P. Stephenson				
		F/O K. Buchanan				
		F/Sgt G. N. Allen				

		F/Sgt C. Mosse-Robinson				0220 hrs & correct reception of a 'T' of fires was seen & recognized 1 container was dropped from 1000' ASL and was seen to open. Weather en rout – good. 3/10 Cu 5000' slight haze. At D.Z. – good nil cloud.
		F/Sgt J. B. Nelson				
		Conducting Officer				
		F/Lt Butters				
4/10/44	Hudson III 'E'	W/O N. F. Moore	Billet IV (Kyahk Taw)	6/22.37	5/02.20	Unsuccessful – the 2 navigators were satisfied that they were over the area because of 1 very good pinpoint and in spite of a 40 min. search no reception could be seen and no drop was made. Weather – good 4/10 Sc 1500' – valley haze at DZ – good – month at zenith.
		W/O C. Scattergood		Chataing ??	Jessore	
		F/Sgt G. C. Cowling				
		W/O N. L. Woolsey				
		F/Sgt G. S. Smith				
6/10/44	Liberator VI 'V'	F/Lt O. S. Shave	Globe	5/07.28	5/10.37	Successful A/C was taking stores to Kunming which was to be used as A.L.G. for operation Globe. The brakes of this A/C seized on landing at Chabua and some rubber was burned off the tyres. Ground personnel at Chabua would not make a decision as to whether or not the a/c was fit to fly to Kunming. The Captain was instructed to fly to Jorhat & the ground personnel there were quite satisfied that the A/C was serviceable. The following day the A/C took off from Jorhat, but had to land again quickly as one of the fuel filler caps had blown off and petrol was pouring out. 1 hr. later the A/C took off again & the flight was completed without further incident. Capt. Quinn of I.S.L.D. was transported over the hump. Weather – fair 8-10/10 Sc base 6000' tops 8500' large C.U. tops up to 25000' Vis 15 miles.
		W/O D. L? Francis		Jessore	Chabua	
		F/Lt K. G? Booth		6/09.01	6/12.20	
		F/Lt D. Powell		Jorhat	Kunming	
		F/Lt A. G. Carlton				
		W/O L. Bolingbroke				

6/10/44	Liberator III 'X'	S/Ldr K. D. Jones	Agressive (Cao Bang)	5/06.35	5/21.10	Unsuccessful – due to 10/10 cloud the drop was abandoned. At Lashio, 0254 hrs, height 15,000 ft ASL., widely spaced lights were seen on the Burma Road, extending from 20 miles south of Lashio to approx. 20 miles North of the town. Weather – Bad Linming to Chindurai?? R. 10/10 Sc base unknown, tops 14,000 ft, little high cloud. Thunderstorms over Mekong R. Vis – good laterally but nil to ground. Whest of Chendwen R. 10/10 Sc base 1,000' tops 4-5000' Vis. nil. Slight ground haze.
		F/O J. W. Gardner		Jessore	Kunming	
		F/Lt S. O. Titterington				
		W/O B. F. Payton				
		F/Sgt L. B. Laney				
		F/Sgt. H. P. Edwards				
		W/O O. H. Duyve?joakc?				
		F/Sgt. P. Lindley				
		Sgt J. Scobie				
9/10/44	Liberator III 'Y'	F/Lt O. S. Shave	Globe (Kanchow)	9/07.36	9/16.36	Successful There was a homing beacon directing the A/C to the aerodrome, the Captain had a sketch plan of the runway which coincided with the runway seen on the ground and there was R/T communication between the A/C and ground. 12 containers 6 motor truck tyres & 1 package were dropped. Parachutes were all seen to open okay and drop well in the area. There was no signal or R/T coming from ground after drop. Weather – fair at 13,000' above cloud but poor below 13,000' 10/10 Sc base unknown tops up to 13000' scattered high cloud. At Kunming clouds broken to 8-10/10, base 7,000' tops 13,000', scattered high cloud on route to D.Z. Weather over DZ good, complete break in cloud, with ceiling and vis unlimited. Weather similar on return.
		W/O D. L. Francis		Kunming	Kunming	
		F/Lt K. G. Booth				
		F/Lt D. Powell				
		F/Lt A. G. Carlton				
		W/O L. Bolingbroke				
		F/Sgt W. Farish				
11/10/44	Liberator III 'Y' ¹¹	F/Lt O. S. Shave	Globe	11/08.17	11/13.31	Successful – Return to Base from Operation Globe; Catain Quinn> of I.S.L.D. and Sgt. Smith of Force 136, also
		W/O D. L. Francis		Kunming	Jessore	
		F/Lt K. G. Booth				

¹¹ But previous entry shows 'Y' as the aircraft.

		F/Lt D. Powell				1,500 lbs of stores for Force 136 were transported from China without incident. Weather – en route – Fair 8/10 C – 10/10 Sc over hills and 5/10 Sc over the plains base 9,000', tops 15-19,000' 2/10 cerrius at 25,000' 1/10 Cu over Bengal plains and near base at about1,000' Vis 15 miles.
		F/Lt A. G. Carlton				
		W/O L. Bolingbroke				
11/10/44	Liberator III 'U'	W/O F. C. Cooke	Belief (Kunming)	11/07.15	11/11.35	Successful – Proceeded to Chabua and returned to Kunming with petrol for operation Belief. 1,2000 imp. galls of petrol were brought back; the flight was without incident. Weather – en route – Bad – 9/10 Cu base unknown tops to 17,-', CB tops up to 26,000' clearing near Chabua to 3-5/10 Cu & SC. tops 10-13,000'. Vis near Chabua reported 100 miles. Weather on return same, Vis out of cloud – 20 miles.
		F/Sgt T. O. Elliott		Kunming	Chabua	
		W/O J. H. Newberry		11/14.45	11/17.53	
		F/Sgt F. W. Pearce		Chabua	Kunming	
12/10/44	Liberator III 'Y' ¹²	F/Sgt J. F. Bryden				Successful – Return to Base from detachment at Kunming, the flight was without incident. Weather – en route good – 6-7/10 Cu, base varying from 1-10,000' tops 12-15,000' From Chenilwin River to base 4-5/10 Cu base unknown, tops 14,000' Vis 15-20 miles.
		F/Lt. H. Cast	Belief	12/10.10	12/15.55	
		F/O. F. T. Matley (Aus.410102)		Kunming	Jessore	
		W/O E. Williams				
		F/Sgt H. R. Harvey				
		F/Sgt W. Farish				
		F/Sgt F. J. Keanan				
		Sgt W. P. Cox				
		Sgt K. N. Heilbronn				
		Sgt J. Scobie				
12/10/44	Liberator III 'U'	W/O F. C. Cooke	Belief	12/10.09	12/15.38	Successful – Return to Base from detachment at Kunming, the flight was without incident Cpl Lloyd and LAC Gant were brought back as passengers they had been on detachment at Kunming since 3/8/44. Weather en route – as for a/c 'Y' above.
		F/Sgt T. O. Elliot		Kunming	Jessore	
		W/O J. H. Newberry				
		F/Sgt F. W. Pearce				
		F/Sgt J. F. Bryden				
		F/Sgt W. V.				

¹² Note: this a/c is listed as returning in the sortie of 11/10/44.

		Robertson				
		W/O R. McGregor				
27/10/44	Hudson III 'F'	F/O J. Churchill	Wakering I (N.W. of Pegu)	27/16.34	28/01.07	Successful – 2 Agents and 3 packages dropped hesitancy of No 2 in jumping necessitated a 2nd run. The two chutes of the Agents were not seen to open but the 3 Package's chutes were seen to open and develop okay. No signals seen from the ground and nothing seen of the cover raid on Pegu. Weather – en route – Fair 5/10 Sc base 4,000' and tops 6,000', occasional CB tops 18-20,000'. At D.Z. Good no cloud but patches of ground haze. Weather similar on return – Vis 8-10 miles.
		W/O W. Hough		Alipore	Jessore	
		W/O W. Murray?				
		W/O W. E. N. Smaile				
		Sgt J. Scobie				
27/10/44	Hudson III 'C'	W/O J. Dodwell	Wakering II (N.W. of Pegu)	27/17.10	28/0220	Successful – 1 Agent was dropped, the parachute was seen to open and develop okay. No signal from the ground was seen after the drop. No bomb bursts were seen from the cover raid on Pegu. Weather – en route – Fair 5/10 Sc base 4,000' tops 6,000' occasional CB tops up to 18-20,000 ft. At DZ – Good, no cloud. Weather similar on return – Vis 8-10 miles.
		W/O D. Manser		Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O R. Rigg				
		F/Sgt H. A. Page				
29/10/44	Liberator III 'W'	F/O J. Brand	Polka II (Lang Son)	29/16.50	30/06.35	Unsuccessful – A/C unable to locate the DZ owing to 10/10 cloud over area. Weather – en route – Good – scattered C.U. Vis 5-10 miles. East of Red River – poor – 8-9/10 Sc and low stratus base unknown tops 7,000'. Vis poor on return, also 8-10/10 SC. and scattered C.B. up to 22,000' – some ground haze.
		F/Sgt C. R. Anderson		Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O W. Piggott				
		F/Sgt P Stephenson				
		F/O K. Buchanan				
		F/Sgt C. Mosse-Robinson				
		F/Sgt G. N. Allen				
		F/Sgt J. B. Nelson				
		F/Sgt M. E. Antram				
29/10/44	Liberator III 'Y'	F/Lt H. Cast	Polka III (Vinh Yenh)	29/17.10	30/02.15	Unsuccessful – The A/C was over the DZ for a period of 40 minutes and the Captain checked the DZ from 3 different pin points but no
		F/O E. T. Matley (Aus 410102)		Jessore	Kunming	
		W/O E. Williams		30/14.55	30/18.58	

		F/Sgt H. R. Harvey		Kunming	Chabua	reception signals were received. With the acquiescence of the Conducting Officer no drop was made. Weather – en route – Good 6-8/10 Sc base unknown tops 12,000 ft. patches of AS up to 15,000 ft. Weather similar on return. Vis 10 miles and west of hills 5 miles.
		F/Sgt W. Farish				
		F/Sgt F. J. Keanan				
		Sgt W. P. Cox				
		Sgt K. N. Heilbronn				
		Sgt J. Scobie				
29/10/44	Liberator III 'U'	W/O F. C. Cooke	Polka VII (Vinh Yen)	29/17.14	30/05.42	Unsuccessful – Despite a 36 minute search of the area it was impossible to see the DZ owing to 10/10 cloud and a rainstorm. Weather – en route – Good to Red River poor East of there; 3/10 to 5/10 scattered cloud base unknown tops 6-7,000'. Scattered C.B. up to 22-23,000'. At DZ poor – Rainstorm. Vis Nil. Weather poor on return 8010/10 stratus and SC. Vis 5-10 miles.
		F/Sgt T. O. Elliot		Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O J. H. Newberry				
		F/Sgt F. S. Quinn				
		F/Sgt F. W. Pearce				
		F/Sgt J. F. Bryden				
		F/Sgt W. V. Robertson				
		W/O R. McGregor				
29/10/44	Liberator III 'X'	S/Ldr K. P. Jones	Aggressivei	29/16.47	30/07.00	Successful – Two (2) Agents were dropped, both parachutes were seen to open and to develop normally, no signals were seen from the ground after A/C had dropped the agents. The area was very good, with Caulo Camp as cover. Weather – en route poor to fair. 3-5/10 SC in layers base 12000 topos 14,000' At DZ. – Good – no cloud, moonlight – Vis 20 miles.
		F/Lt K. G. Booth		Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O B. F. Payton				
		W/O L. B. Laney				
		W/O H. P. Edwards				
		W/O. O. H. Duyuejonk?				
29/10/44	Liberator III 'Z'	F/Lt O. S. Shave	Hainton IX (Nam Lwi)	29/19.00	30/03.50	Unsuccessful – Despite 9 runs of the DZ and seeing the Reception lights some 5 times the pilot was unable to drop as it was impossible to get an accurate run up because of 10/10 SC covering the area. Position
		W/O D. L. Francis		Jessore	Jessore	
		F/Lt S. O. Titterington				
		F/Lt D. Powell				
		F/Lt A. G. Carlton				
		W/O L. Bolingbroke				

		F/Sgt I. G. Masters				2223N 9714E at 21.39 hrs, 10,000' ASL., 3 white lights were seen moving in a Southerly direction on the Burma road. 5 miles S.W. of Nawngkhio at 0035 hrs, 10,000'. From the direction of Nawngkhio aerodrome the Rear Gunner reported 4 lights, stationary on the ground, suddenly move forward, gather speed quickly and then disappear. The Captain immediately climbed to 15,000' and nothing further was reported. Weather – en route – fair to good, 10/10 AS & S; at 14-15,000' over most of route. Vis, very hazy.
29/10/44	Hudson III 'F'	F/O J. Churchill	Hainton	29/18.00	30/03.05	Unsuccessful – The Navigator is confident the A/C was over the DZ but he was unable to pin point because of valley fog and drop had to be abandoned. At 2252N 9747E, 2130 hrs, 11,000' ASL Through a break in the clouds the Navigator saw about 7 or 8 white lights in a straight line moving in a Northerly direction. Weather – en route – Poor – 10/10 S base 12,000' tops unknown. At DZ – fair – high cloud patches and valley fog. Weather similar on return, Vis. nil due to ground haze. Vis out of cloud 8-10 miles.
		W/O W. Hough		Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O W. Murray				
		W/O W. E. N. Smaile				
						signed
						for Wing Commander
						Commanding 357 (S.D.) Squadron, RAF

November 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Jessore			Part I Operations
	Nov 1/2		Four Liberators III, Hainton VIII (S/L K. P. Jones), Hainton IX (Aus408527 F/L O. S. Shave), Hainton IX (2), (W.O. F. C. Cooke) and Aristoc (F/L H. Cast), and two Husons III, Hainton IX (3), (F/O J. Churchill, D.F.C.) and Blow, (W/O J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C.) made sorties. Hainton VIII, Blow, and Aristoc were successful. Hainton IX (3) and Hainton IX (2) were unsuccessful, while Hainton IX (1) did not return from the operation. A mist closed in at Jessore at approx. 0550/2nd and F/L Cast was diverted to Salbani. He landed there at 0635 hrs.
	Nov 2/3		Four Liberators III on Polka 4, (W.O. F. C. Cooke), Polka 5, (S/L K. P. Jones), Polka 6, (F/O J. Brand, Aus 421561) and Polka 8, (F/L H. Cast) were successful. Hainton IX (3) operation was cancelled through bad weather conditions. F/L H. Cast on Polka 8 did not return to Jessore. He was briefed to go to Kunming, if necessary and he finally landed there at 0300 hrs. It was learned that the flaps would not retract after the drop, also one container hung up on the bomb racks.
			215 Sqdn. were briefed at Jessore for their bombing cover raid on Vinh Aerodrome and Ben Thuy as secondary target. They left Jessore at 1200 hrs. for Chittagong which was used as an A.L.G.
			News came from Hainton D.Z. that F/L Shave and Crew on Hainton IX (1) operating on the night of Nov 1/2 had crashed 1 ½ miles from the D.Z. and all were killed. The personnel involved were:-
			Aus 408527 F/L O. S. Shave (1st pilot)
			Aus.411553 F/L S. D. Titterington (Navigator)
			Aus.412179 F/L R. C. Powell (1st Wop)
			Aus.412390 F/L A. G. Carlton (2nd Wop)
			R.A.F. W/O. D. L. Francis (2nd Pilot)
			R.A.F. F/Sgt P. G. Masters (Gunner)
			Can.R.90953 W.O. L. J. Bolingbroke (Gunner)
			Inspection showed that the aircraft had burned and that it might possibly have hit a tree to cause the crash. It was learned that the aircraft was on its third run over the area. The C. O., Wing Commander J. R. Moore, knew about this news early, but did not broadcast it until the following morning, so as not to upset the crews on Polka.
			Base weather was good except for early morning mist.
	Nov 3/4		Two Hudsons III were detailed for ops. on Hainton IX Sortie 3 (F/O J. Churchill, D.F.C.) and Hanton X (W.O. J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C.). They were both cancelled as reception for Hainton X was not ready and it was considered that nothing would be achieved by sending one aircraft only. Base weather was good.
	Nov 4/5		Operations in two Hudsons III took place on Hainton IX (3) (F/O. J. Churchill, D.F.C.) and Hainton X (W.O. J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C.), but, unfortunately, both were unsuccessful due to bad weather conditions, which rendered the location of the D.Z. impossible.
	Nov 6/7		Operations were detailed for three Liberators on Polka and one Hudson on Hainton X, but were cancelled through bad Weathe conditions. F/L. H. Cast and crew returned to Jessore from Kunming after undergoing

			repairs to his aircraft which became u/s after his operation on Aristoc on the night of Nov 1/2.
	Nov 7		End of the Oct/Nov Moon Period.
	Nov 14		F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. on Radical flew to Kunming in a Hudson with an agent aboard. This Radical operation was successfully completed from Kunming on Nov. 15, and F/L J. A. King, D.F.C., returned to Dum-Dum on Nov 17th.
	Nov 16/17		Can.R.90295 W.O. N. F. Moore and crew successfully carried out operation Billet 5a.
	Nov 28/29		Operations were detailed on Cairngorm, Hainton, Dilwyn and Hebrides. P/O. F. C. Cooke in a Liberator on Cairngorm reach as far as Cox's Bazaar before his aircraft became u/s. Aus 421561 F/O J. Brand in a Liberator on Dilwyn had hardly taken off when one engine caught fire and he was forced to land once more. His load was transferred to another Liberator which started off on its original Hainton plus Dilwyn. This Liberator became u/s over the Chin Hills and was forced to return to Base, leaving F/L H. Cast the sole successful person on Hainton. S/L K. P. Jones in a Liberator on Hebrides constituted the first operational flight into Malaya by 357 (S.D.) Sqdn.
Jessore			Part II Administration
	Nov 1		Brigadier General Guinness, Force 136, arrived by air from Comilla and Lieutenant-Colonel Cumming and Wing Commander Chrystall, Force 136, Group A, arrived by air from Allipore. The visitors were here to show Brig-Gen. Guinness the aerodrome on his first visit. The Brig-Gen. was very impressed.
	Nov 4		A Committee of Adjustment was formed for the purpose of assembling and administering the effects of the under-mentioned personnel.
			Aus 408527 F/L. O. S. Shave
			Aus 411553 F/L. S. D. Tierington
			Aus 412179 F/L. R. C. Powell
			Aus 412390 F/L. A. G. Carlton
			Can R.90953 W.O. Bolingbroke L. J.
			R.A.F. W.O. Francis D. L.
			R.A.F. F/S. Masters P. G.
	Nov 4		The C.O., Wing Commander J. R. Moore and F/L J. A. King, D.F.C., were instructed to attend H.Q. 231 Group. In the C.O.'s absence S/L K. P. Jones assumed Command of the Squadron.
	Nov 8		The C.O., Wing Commander J. R. Moore, returned from H.Q. 231 Group and re-assumed Command of the Sqdn.
	Nov 10		Wing Commander Chrystall and Major Conway, Force 136, arrived by air on a visit in the afternoon. The left again by air for Calcutta at 1630 hrs.
	Nov 1		A Conference was held at H.Q. 231 Group, R.A.F., affecting all units in 231 Group.
			The points covered were:-
			1. Preparation of material for Commanding Officer's address to all ranks on declaration of the European Armistice. The Air Officer Commanding reviewed the situation and stressed:- i The immediate action to be taken on the ¹³ of the Armistice and ii Measures to maintain morale in the future. It was stated that when the European Armistice appears imminent, notes for Commanding Officers' speeches would be speedily issued to cover such points as celebrations, controlling of flying, an insistence that the War in the East must still proceed, possible weakening of morale, the increasing comforts and amenities to be forthcoming in the War in the East, War Service

¹³ The word "time" appears to be missing from the original record.

		Increments, Japanese Campaign Pay, and demobilisation. Appendix "A" attached to the minutes of the Conference proved that the increased incidence of Income Tax would certainly not off-set the increases in pay.
		2. Arrangements for Armistice celebrations. It was stated that this would be largely left to Station and Unit Commanders. Catering Officers should keep in touch with the Welfare and Catering Officers of H.Q. R.A.F. Bengal. Special points raised were:- Rations, Sports, Beer, Special Orders Church Services, and Entertainment and were dealt with satisfactorily.
		3. Discussions of measures to ensure a high standard of morale for the second phase of the war in the East. Points raised and dealt with were Discipline, Education, Vocational Schemes, Entertainments and Catering.
		General Points. Subjects dealt with were – the issue of radio-sets, films, refrigeration, Provisions of swimming pools, Welfare meetings, and air transport facilities for repatriated personnel.
	Nov 22	The Inter-Sectional Football Fixtures were well maintained during the month and a Sqdn game was played off against 292 Sqdn. and a Station game against 231 Group "Belvedere" was played on the 22nd Nov. at Calcutta. The Station team include two 357 players.
	Nov 11	A Sqdn. Sports Day was held on Nov 11 which included the usual track and field events plus many novelty races and side-shows. It was immediately followed by at night a Sqdn. party in the Airmen's Canteen. All the Beer Ration for the month of October for Officers, S.N.C.O.s and Airmen was put on sale and other refreshments i.e. food and soft drinks were available free of charge. The Party also include one hour's entertainment by talented artists.
		It was agreed by all ranks that the whole day's activities had proved a great success.
		Prizes were given for the winners of the Sports Events and if so desired were engraved free of charge to the winners.
	Nov 13	It was proposed that the P.S.I. should purchase a number of pairs of football boots for re-sale to airmen on "easy payments". This was effected satisfactorily and the boots seem to be giving good service to Airmen.
		50 copies of the magazine "Oasis" October Edition, were supplied to the Sqdn. during the month of November. Also, many Canadian pamphlets and Publications, prepared by the Canadian Wartime Information Board, giving Canadian personnel the latest information on conditions and developments at home, were distributed around the Sqdn.
		40 Gift Parcels were allotted to the Sqdn for the month of Nov. 1944.
		Part III Personnel
		No important movements were effected in the month of November 1944 for personnel of 357 Sqdn.
		signed for Wing Commander,
		Commanding 357 (S.D.) Squadron, RAF.

November 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Date	Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
1/11/44	Liberator III "Y"	F/L H. Cast	Aristoc (Chiengnai?)	1/18:37	2/06:35	Successful A/C was over D.Z. at 00:35 hrs & correct reception was recognized. 3 agents, 6 packages & 8 containers were dropped in 2 runs from 4500' ASL. all chutes were seen to open and agents made a very good exit considering it was their first drop from a Liberator. Weather – en route – good 8/10 Cu & AS tops 10-12000 at D.Z. – good – no cloud vis 15 miles.
		F/O K? T. Matley Aus410102?				
		W/O E. Williams				
		F/S H. R. Harvey				
		F/S W. Farrish				
		W/O F. J. Keenan				
		Sgt W. P. Cox				
		Sgt K. N. Heilbronn?				
		Sgt Scobie				
1/11/44	Liberator III "X"	S/Ldr K. P. Jones	Hainton VIII (Takru? Area)	1/17:57	2/02:25	Successful – A/C was over DZ at 21:53 and correct reception of "L" of fires was recognized. 3 agents 11 containers & 3 packages were dropped in 3 runs from 4,500 ASL & all were seen to open and develop normally. DZ is small 6000 leaflets dropped on Lashio at 23:12 hrs – 7,000' ASL – 10 headlights seen on Mandalay – Lashio road proceeding towards Mandalay. Weather – en rout mostly fair – 8/10 Cu over hills – at DZ – good 3/10 Fracto Cu Vis 15 mi.
		F/O. J. W. Gardner				
		F/L K. G. Booth				
		W/O B. F. Payton				
		W/O L. B. Laney				
		W/O H. P. Edwards				
		W/O O. H. Duyvejonck				
		F/Sgt A.D. Harris				
		F/Sgt E. Williams				
1/11/44	Liberator III "Z"	F/L. O. S. Shave	Hainton IX (Nam Lwi Rad)	1/1804		Unsuccessful = A/C failed to return from this operation – report from field state that A/C crashed 1 ½ miles from D.Z. and all the crew had been killed. Subsequent news reached that A/C had made 2 runs over area and
		W/O D. L. Francis		Jessore		
		F/Lt. S. O. Titterington				
		F/Lt. D. Powell				
		F/Lt. A. G. Carlton				

		W/O. L. Bolingbroke				was on 3rd run when it crashed examination of wreckage showed that it had probably hit a tree. No news is available as to whether or not any Containers had been dropped. Time of crash 21:35. Weather report from other A/C on same DZ en route 7-10/10 Sc base unknown tops 15000' at D.Z. 10/10 Sc and rain.
		F/Sgt I. G. Masters				
1/11/44	Liberator III "U"	W/O F. C. Cooke	Hainton IX (Nam Lwi)	1/18:00	2/03:15	Unsuccessful unable to locate DZ because of 10/10 cloud and rain. 9000 leaflets dropped on Lashio at 23:38 hrs from 12000' ASL. 5 sets of headlights were seen on Mandalay – Lashio road proceeding towards Lashio. Weather en route – 7/10 Sc Inc. to 10/10 east of Salween. At DZ – 10/10 sc Base unknown tops 15,000'
		F/Sgt T. O. Elliott		Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O J. H. Newbery				
		F/Sgt F. S. Quinn				
		F/Sgt. F. W. Pearce				
		F/Sgt. J. F. Bryden				
		F/Sgt. R. DGLISH				
		W/O D. McGregor				
1/11/44	Hudson III "F"	F/O J. Churchill	Hainton IX	1/1732	2/01:25	Unsuccessful – rain and 10/10 cloud over DR. position of DZ made identification impossible and the drop had to be abandoned. Weather en route – 5/10 Sc increasing to 10/10 Sc & As over Salween R. tops 15,000' ASL. At D.Z. – 10/10 A/C and rain.
		W/O W. Hough	(Nam Lwi)	Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O W. Murray				
		W/O Wealsmail				
1/11/44	Hudson III "C"	W/O J. Dodwell	Blow	1/18:15	2/00:42	Successful A/C was over DZ at 21:15 hrs & correct reception of triangle of fires was recognized 7 containers were dropped in 2 runs from 600' AGL – all parachutes were seen to open. D.Z. is good. Weather en route – good 2-4/10 Sc tops 6-8000 at DZ – good no cloud Vis 20 miles.
		W/O D. Manser	(S.E. of Katha)	Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O R. Rigg				
		F/Sgt H. A. Page				
2/11/44	Liberator III "U"	W/O F. C. Cooke	Polka IV	2/18:05	2/06:35	Successful A/C was over DZ at 23:44 hrs & correct reception of "L" of white lights was recognized. 8
		F/Sgt T. O. Elliott	(Yinn Yenh)	Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O J. H. Newbery				

		F/Sgt F. S. Quinn				containers and 3 packages were drooped in one run from 650' AGL 10 chutes were seen to open but one chute on a package tore & descended faster than rest. Weather en route – 3-6/10 Sc at 5000' at DZ good no cloud.
		F/Sgt. F. W. Pearce				
		F/Sgt. J. F. Bryden				
		W/O R. McGregor				
		F/Sgt. D. Daghish				
2/11/44	Liberator III "X"	S/Ldr K. P. Jones	Polka V (Minn)	2/18:02	3/07:36	Successful A/C was over DZ at 00:07 hrs & correct reception of "L" of white lights was recognized 11 containers and 1 package were dropped in one run from 500' AGL. 3 white parachutes were seen to open camouflaged ones not seen. Bomb bursts seen at Nam Dam at 22:50 hrs. Shipping seen in Ben Truy estuary at 00:01 hrs unable to count or identify. Weather en rout – 2-5/10 sc layer at 6000' light valley fog. at D.Z. good no cloud vis. 15 miles.
		F/O J. W. Gardner		Jessore	Jessore	
		F/L K. G. Booth				
		W/O B. F. Payton				
		W/O L. B. Laney				
		W/O H. P. Edwards				
		W/O O. H. Duyvejonck				
		F/Sgt A.D. Harris				
		F/Sgt E. Williams				
2/11/44	Liberator VI "T"	F/O J. Brand	Polka 6	2/18:10	3/07:10	Successful A/C was over DZ at 00:30 hrs & correct reception of "L" of white lights was recognized 9 containers and 1 package were dropped i one run from 1000' ASL. All parachutes were seen to open. No bomb bursts of the cover raid on Vinn Aerodrome were seen. Weather en route – 1-5/10 sc at 6000' – valley fog. at DZ – good – no cloud – vis 15 miles.
		F/Sgt. C. R. Anderson		Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O W. Piggot				
		F/Sgt. P Stephenson				
		F/O K. Buchanan				
		F/Sgt G. N. Allen				
		F/Sgt C. Mosse-Robinson				
		F/Sgt J. B. Nelson				
		F/Sgt M. E. Antram				
2/11/44	Liberator III "Y"	F/Lt H. Cast	Polka 8	2/18:54	3/03:00	Successful A/C was over DA at 00:28 hrs. & correct reception of an "L" of lights and 3 fires was recognized. 1 agent, 9 containers and 2 packages were dropped in one run, agent made a very good exit and all parachutes were seen to open. On
		F/O F. T. Matley (Aus.410102)	(Thai Luygen)	Jessore	Kunming	
		W/O E. Williams		6/08:46	6/14:09	
		F/Sgt H. R. Harvey		Kunming	Jessore	
		F/Sgt. W. Farish				
		Sgt W. P. Cox				
		W/O F. J. Keenan				

		Sgt K. N. Heilbronn				leaving the DZ it was found that the flaps would not retract after they had been lowered for the dropping run also the bomb bay fuel cell started to collapse so the aircraft force landed at Kunming. Weather en route - 3-5/10 Sc at 6000'. light valley fog. at DZ – good – no cloud – full moon – vis 15 miles.
		Sgt Scobie				
4/11/44	Hudson III "C"	F/O J. Churchill	Hainton 9	4/22:02	5/06:45	Unsuccessful – owing to very bad weather and low cloud over DZ area Captain and Navigator were unable to locate DZ. Weather en route – good to Irrawaddy R. then 9/10 Ac base 18000' ASL Vis to ground nil E. of Irrawaddy and in DZ area.
		W/O W. Hough W/O W. Murray	(Nam Lwi)	Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O W. E. N. Smaile				
4/11/44	Hudson III "F"	W/O J. Dodwell	Hainton 10	4/22:00	5/06:40	Unsuccessful – due to bad weather Captain and Navigator were unable to locate DZ because of low cloud. Weather en route – good to Irrawaddy R. East of Irrawaddy and in DZ area poor 7-8/10 Sc base 3000' tops 7000' – 9/10 Ac base 18000' – occasional Cb tops 18,000' visibility to ground nil.
		W/O D. Manser W/O R. Rigg	(Takaw)	Jessore	Jessore	
		F/Sgt. H. A. Page				
12/11/44	Hudson III "J"	W/O N. F. Moore	Billet 5A	12/06:20	12/09:55	Successful – 2 pigeons were released at 22°45'N 94°45'E at 0721 from 7000' ASL. Birds were released over gaps in cloud through which ground could be seen, both pigeons appeared to drop and clear A/C satisfactorily. Weather en route – 5/10 Sc & cu tops 3000' ASL at target area 5/10 Sc & Cu Vis 10-15 miles.
		P/O G. S. Smith		Imphal	Jessore	
		W/O G. C. Cowling W/O W. E. N. Smaile				
14/11/44	Hudson III "D"	F/Lt J. A. King	Radical	14/10:04	14/14:20	Successful – arriving over target landing strip marker strips and reception clearly seen – A/C landed at 16:34 hrs. 8 persons were awaiting the A/C and 3 boarded it with
		F/Lt K. G. Booth		Jessore	Kunming	
		W/O N. L. Wolsey		15/14:48	15/22:16	
		W/O P. Lindley		Kunming	Dum-Dum	

		Conducting Officer				400 lbs of kit after 1 agent had left with personal kit and 2 containers – 16:42 hrs airborne. I.F.F. aerial torn off by long grass during take off. Starboard engine developed trouble over Chin Hills. Weather en route – good no cloud on outward journey – small amounts on return – at target area – good 1/20 Cu vis 15 miles.
		F/Lt Swan				
26/11/44	Liberator III "Y"	F/Lt H. Cast	Rendezvous	25/18:22	26/00:20	Successful – A/C was over D.Z. at 21:35 hrs & 5 agents and 6 packages were dropped in 2 runs from 600' A.G.L. After first run agents signalled "K" by lamp and again after second run. All parachutes were seen to open. A/C made several runs over Tangon railway bridge which appeared to be serviceable. Bombs hung up, however, and after several attempts, A/C proceeded to D.Z. and carried out rest of operation as planned. Weather en route – good – cloud nil on outward trip becoming 3-5/10 sc on return flight – ground haze. Weather at D.Z. – good 1/10 As Vis 12 miles.
		F/O F. T. Matley	(Wuntho)	Jessore	Jessore	
		F/O G. Cashmore				
		W/O E. Williams				
		W/O F? J. Keenan				
		F/Sgt W. P. Cox				
		F/Sgt W. Farish				
		F/Sgt K. N. Heilbronn				
26/11/44	Liberator III "U"	P/O F. C. Cooke	Billet 5	18:05	23:20	Successful on Half of mission A/C crossed coast N. of Akyab and search for suitable target along Mayu & Kaladan rivers. After considerable searching the bombs were released on a jetty in posn. 20°24'N 93°01'E at 20:20 hrs. Bombed North-South, results unobserved. Proceeded to target area but one of party broke the slid and operation was cancelled on instructions from conducting officer. Weather en route – good 1/10 Ac Vis 15 miles. at target – same.
		F/Sgt T. O. Elliott		Jessore	Jessore	
		P/O J. H. Newbery				
		F/Sgt W. N. Kendall				
		P/O F. W. Pearce				
		W/O D. McGregor				
		F/Sgt W. V. Robertson				
		F/Sgt. R. Daghish				
		F/Sgt. J. F. Bryden				
26/11/44	Liberator III "X"	S/Ldr K. P. Jones	Agressive	25/16:10	26/06:40	Successful – No ground signals were seen on arrival

		F/O J. W. Gardiner	(Cor Bang)	Jessore	Jessore	at target, so circled D.Z. Conducting officer eventually decided to despatch agents alone, which was done. Whilst A/C was over D.Z. a lorry approached from Corbang and parked about ¾ mile from D.Z. Agents were dropped in 1 run from 1200' ASL at 21:50 hrs. A/C left D.Z. at 22:04 and arrived over Poseh at 22:30 hrs no definite light signals were seen in the area so s/c for base at 23:05 hrs. Weather en route – good no cloud on outward journey – becoming 3-5/10 Scu on return. at D.Z. – 6/10 Sc at 4500-7000' ASL Vis 10 miles.
		F/Lt. K. G. Booth				
		W/O B. F. Payton				
		W/O L. B. Laney				
		W/O O. H. Duyvejonck				
26/11/44	Liberator III "Z"	F/O J. Brand	Hainton 9(II)	25/17:30	26/01:35	Successful – arriving at D.Z. correct reception of "T" of fires and letter "K" flashed was recognized 9 containers were dropped (details as to time, no. of runs, etc not available) 7 parachutes were seen to open although the other two may have been unobserved due to camouflaged 'chutes. 20:07 hrs posn. 22°33'N 96°42'E sighted flarepath. 20:14 hrs. sighted streak of light apparently a rocket fired from 400' above A/C although no other A/C sighted. Weather en route & at DZ – very good 5/10 As at 15000' ASL slight haze in valleys.
		F/Sgt C. R. Anderson	(Wan Wenc)	Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O W. Piggott				
		F/Sgt P. Stephenson				
		F/O K. Buchanan				
		F/Sgt G. N. Allen				
		F/Sgt C. Mosse-Robinson				
		F/Sgt J. B. Nelson				
		F/Sgt M. E. Antram				
26/11/44	Liberator III "W"	W/O R. W. Bain	Hainton II	25/17:46	26/03:08	Unsuccessful – no details available Weather - same as for Hainton 9(II)
		F/Sgt M. R. Symons		¹⁴		
		F/Sgt R. W. Skipper				
		F/Sgt V. P. Criddle				
		F/Sgt K. J. Duffy				
		Sgt W. J. A. Rickards				
		Sgt J. G?				

¹⁴ Location not given in records.

		Woodthorpe				
26/11/44	Liberator III "Q"	F/O J. Churchill	Hainton 9 (I)	25/1717	26/01:50	Unsuccessful – no details available
		W/O Taylor		Jessore	Jessore	Weather - same as for Hainton 9(I)
		F/O Hulme				
		W/O W. Haugh				
		W/O W. Murray				
		W/O W. E. N. Smaile				
		Sgt. Ward				
		Sgt Gould				
26/11/44	Liberator III "Y"	F/Lt H. Cast	Billet 5	26/18:04	26/23:04	Successful A/C arrived at D.Z. at 19:55 hrs & correct reception was recognized 4 agents 1 package and 6 containers were dropped in 1 run from 500' AGL. agent made a very good exit and all chutes were seen to open. A/C then left D.Z. and flew to Akyab & strafed roads in the area. 20:30 hrs posn 20°35'N 92°45'E bombed small bridge 1 bomb seen to explode on road leading to bridge. Weather en rout – very good – nil cloud – slight haze at DZ – same.
		F/O F. T. Matley	(Taung Daunc)	Jessore	Jessore	
		F/L K. G. Booth				
		F/O G. Cashmore				
		W/O F. J. Keenan				
		Sgt W. P. Cox				
		Sgt K. N. Heilbronn				
		F/Sgt. W. Farish				
27/11/44	Liberator III "Z"	F/O J. Brand	Hainton 10	26/17:27	27/02:33	Successful on half of mission. A/C arrived in target area at 20:32 hrs and bombed Takaw Ferry from 4000' A.S.L. although actual pin point was obscured by ground mist bombs fell in target area. Flew to D.Z. arriving at 21:25 hrs but no ground signals were to be seen. – circled aired for 50 mins. then abandoned drop. Weather – fine nil cloud – slight haze in valleys.
		F/Sgt C. R. Anderson	(Takaw)	Jessore	Jessore	
		P/O F. S. Quinn				
		F/Sgt F. P. Lowther				
		F/O K. Buchanan				
		W/O W. G. Petley				
		F/Sgt J. B. Nelson				
		F/Sgt M. E. Antram				
		F/Sgt G. N. Allen				
27/11/44	Liberator III "U"	P/O. F. C. Cooke	Caingorm	26/11:40	27/03:43	Unsuccessful A/C turned back owing to fuel situation at 19:41 hrs. 4 miles North of Brother Isl. Weather – good 2/10 Sc Vis 10-15 miles.
		F/Sgt T. O. Elliott		Jessore	Jessore	
		P/O J. H. Newbury				
		W/O W. Piggott				
		P/O F. N. Pearce				
		W/O D. McGregor				
		F/Sgt W. U. Robertson				

		F/Sgt. R. Daghish				
		F/Sgt J. F. Bryden				
29/11/44	Liberator III "Y"	F/Lt H. Cast	Dilwyn 20	28/19:50	29/03:48	Successful A/C was over D.Z. at 23:20 and correct reception was recognized. 6 agents & 10 containers were dropped in 2 runs from 1200' ASL. all chutes were seen to open and agents signalled that they were all right. Nature of country makes proper run in to D.Z. very difficult. Strafing Kunlong-Hsenwi road. Weather – good 4-5/10 Sc 8000' ASL – light fog in valleys.
		F/O E. T. Matley		Jessore	Jessore	
		F/O G. Cashmore (Aus.420102)				
		W/O E. Williams				
		W/O F. J. Keenan				
		F/Sgt W. P. Cox				
		F/Sgt W. Farish				
		F/Sgt K. N. Heilbronn				
		Major Thornton				
29/11/44	Liberator VI "W"	S/Ldr K. P. Jones	Hebridies	28/13:21	29/07:30	Unsuccessful A/C did an D.R. run from Yala and reached D.Z. area at 22:30 but low cloud obscured the ground. A/C o/c for base at 22:40 hrs. Weather en route – generally good 2/10 Fcu at 3000' ASL. 2/10 As 10-15000' ASL
		F/O J. W. Gardiner		Jessore	Jessore	
		F/Lt K. G. Booth				
		W/O B. F. Payton				
		W/O L. B. Laney				
		W/O O. H. Duyvejonck				
		W/O H. P. Edwards				
		F/Sgt A. D. Harris				
		F/Sgt E. Williams				
29/11/44	Liberator III "S"	W/O W. G. Petley	Hainton 10	28/20:26	29/00:20	Unsuccessful 21:49 hrs posn 23°11'N 94°06'E A/C began to lose height and required 45" of boost to be kept level. In view of the consequent excessive petrol consumption A/C returned to base. Weather – generally fair except over Chin Hills 9/10 Scu at 7000' ASL.
		F/Sgt E. P. Martindale	(Takaw)	Jessore	Jessore	
		F/Sgt F. P. Lowther				
		F/Sgt W. N. Kendall				
		F/Sgt C. W. J. Burgin				
		F/Sgt A. E. Bird				
		Sgt S. F. Canvin				
		Sgt G. E. Hillyer				
30/11/44	Liberator VI "W"	F/O J. Brand	Hainton 10	29/20:00	30/06:10	Unsuccessful – A/C reached probable D.Z. area at 00:21 hrs and circled looking for target until 00:35 A/C then flew to known pin point (bend in Salween R.) and did another DR run arriving over assumed D.Z. position at 01:01 hrs. but still no ground
		F/Sgt C. A. Anderson	(Takaw)	Jessore	Jessore	
		W/O W. Piggott				
		F/Sgt R. W. Skipper				
		F/O K. Buchanan				
		F/sgt J. B. Nelson				

		F/Sgt M.E. Antram				signals were seen. A/C the S/C for base. Weather – good, patches of Scu over Chin Hills – some ground fog.
30/11/44	Liberator III "Y"	F/Sgt G. H. Allen F/Lt H. Cast	Dilwyn 19 & Rendezvous	29/19:20	30/04:00	Successful – A/C was over Dilwyn D.Z. at 22:30 & correct reception was seen & recognized 6 agents, 9 containers & 1 package were dropped in 2 runs from 1000' ASL. A/C then proceeded to Rendezvous D.Z. and arrived at 23:30 hrs. 4 circuits were made but no ground signals were seen so A/C set course for base at 01:18 hrs. Pintha-Kyonya railway was strafed with unseen results. Weather en route – good 3/10 Scu tops 5000' ASL at DZ – good – low cloud Vis 10 miles.
		F/O F. T. Matley		Jessore	Jessore	
		F/O G. Cashmore (Aus.410102)				
		W/O E. Williams				
		W/O F. J. Keenan				
		F/Sgt W. P. Cox				
		F/Sgt W. Farish				
30/11/44	Liberator III "X"	Major Thornton F/O J. Churchill	Bulge & Brisk	29/21:30	30/05:15	Successful – A/C was over Bluge DZ at 23:55 hrs. 6 agents & 8 containers were dropped in 3 runs from 800'AGL. All parachutes were seen to open and reach ground safely – agents signalled they were all right. A/C then S/C for Brisk at 00:36 hrs and arrived at 02:00 hrs. Circled until 02:17 but there was no sign of any ground signals so A/C returned to base. Weather en route = good 3/10 Scu 2-5---' ASL. at D.Z. – good 1/10 Scu at 2000' Vis 12 miles.
		W/O J. A. Taylor		Jessore	Jessore	
		F/O D. Hulme				
		W/O W. Hough				
		W/O W. E. N. Smaile				
		W/O W. Murray				
		F/Sgt R. M. Ward Sgt. H. D. V. Gould				
		Sgt. Scobie				
						Signed for
						Wing Commander
						Commanding 357 (S.D.) Squadron

December 1944: Form 540

357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
			Part I – Operations.
Jessore	Dec. 1		The month started in grand style with six "Polka" sorties of which five were successful, also a Dakota sortie "Brick?", which, however was unsuccessful due to there being no reception signals at the D.Z. This was the first Dakota sortie to be attempted.
			Working from Kunming F/L. J. A. King, D.F.C., successfully carried out Radical II.
	Dec. 2		Three Liberators on "Billet", "Bug" & "Bullfinch" were successful, while another Liberator on "Blast" & a Dakota on "Rendezvous" were unsuccessful.
	Dec. 3		Operations consisted of 3 Liberators on "Bottom I", "Bottom II" & "Hainton 10 & 12", respectively & a Dakota on "Rendezvous". All were successful with the exception of "Hainton 10 & 12".
	Dec. 4		One Liberator on "Billet" was successful.
	Dec. 5		One Liberator on "Hainton" was successful.
	Dec. 5/6		F/L. H. Cast carried out successfully three combined operations, "Appreciation 3", "Coupling" & "Copper". Two of these involved dropping dummy packages, but as this was done from 2000' at a speed of 160 mph, the safety of the parachutes is a matter of opinion! They seemed to open correctly, however.
			S/Ldr. Codler?, C.O. of 628 (S.D.) Sqdn travelled as a "neutral observer", for his first flight with 357 Sqdn.
	Dec. 6/7		Two long range sorties were attempted, both being near-dawn attempts, owing to previous experience of weather, namely "Hebrides" (S/L. K. P. Jones) which was unsuccessful due to 10/10 cloud cover & "Caingorm?" (P/O. F. C. Cooke), which proved more successful, for the load was dropped on the secondary D.Z. "Hebrides" might be tried as a dusk drop, otherwise the weather seems very much against it at this time of the year.
	Dec. 8/9		There was only one operation – a dawn sortie in a Dakota on "Bug" in the Bassein area. No ground signals were observed so the sortie was abandoned.
	Dec. 11		A Dakota carried out successfully operation "Barge" by day, consisting of a drop behind our lines. A Dakota ¹⁵
	Dec. 14/15		One Dakota on Operation "Radical" proved successful.
	Dec. 15/16		A Liberator on "Bittorn? II" was unsuccessful due to the approach to the D.Z. being very difficult.
	Dec. 16/17		One Dakota on "Rendezvous" was successful, also two Liberators on "Biltorn? II" & "Hebrides" were successful.
			One Dakota on "Rendezvous" made a ferry trip to Pmlitha & back & proved successful.
	Dec. 19/20		One Dakota on operation "Barge" proved successful.
	Dec. 24/25		Two Dakotas on "Heavey 13" were both successful. Three Liberators on "Polkas 2, 13 & 9", respectively were successful, but another two on "Polkas 10 & 14" proved unsuccessful.
			One Liberator on "Polka 7 & Aggressive", combined was successful.
	Dec. 25/26		Two Dakotas on "Bloodhound" & "Rendezvous" & two Liberators on "Heavey 12" & "Nation I" were all successful.
	Dec.		One Liberator on "Bottom II" was successful.

¹⁵ The sentence ends here on the record.

	26/27		
	Dec. 27/28		Three Dakotas on "Bandit", "Manual I" & "Manual II" and five Liberators on "Polkas 34, 26, 35, 19 & 14" respectively were all successful, the only unsuccessful mission being a Dakota on "Bulge" due to the signals on the D.Z. being extinguished on arrival.
	Dec. 28/29		Two Liberators on "Desert? I" & "Desert III" were unsuccessful due to bad weather & the dropping area being apparently inaccurate. Successful missions were made by three Liberators on "Desert II" & "Dilwyn 22", & one Dakota on "Dilwyn 21".
	Dec. 29/30		One Liberator on "Dilwyn" & one Dakota on "Bulge" were the operations carried out "Dilwyn" proved successful, but "Bulge" was unsuccessful.
	Dec. 30/31		Four Liberators on "Polka" 7 Two Dakotas on "Dilwyn" & "Blast" were successful.
			Operational Hours Flown Dec/44 720.20
			Operational Sorties Flown Dec/44 71.
Jessore			Part II Administration
	Dec. 9		Wing Commander L. M. Hodges, D.S.O., D.F.C., assumed Command of 357 (S.D.) Sqdn., vice Wing Commander J. R. Moore.
	Dec. 19		The Sqdn. was visited by the Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, Air Marshal Sir Guy Garred, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., who was accompanied by the Air Officer Commanding Strategic Air Force, Air Commodore F. J. W. Mellersh, A.F.C. The A.A.C-in-C arrived in Jessore from Alipore at 1244 hrs. in a Hurricane H.V.424 and departed from Jessore at 1417 hrs. for Dhubalia.
			The recreational functions of the Sqdn. were very active during the month. The sectional football fixtures were well maintained and Sqdn. matches against 136 R.S.U., and 292 Sqdn. were played off. With the requisitioning of a hockey pitch just in front of the Airmen's Mess many hockey games were played during the month and found a good deal of support and popularity.
	Dec. 2		A Scout's Meeting was held on the 2nd Dec. comprising Members of the 4th Services Rover Crew.
	Dec. 6		It was proposed to form a Squadron Concert Party and all ranks interested were invited to attend a meeting on Dec 8 in the Reading and Writing Room. The Concert Party was duly formed and we are all looking forward to being entertained by them in the near future.
	Dec. 10 Dec. 24		There was a Catholic Church Services held on the 10th Dec and the 24 Dec the latter including a special Midnight Mass to commemorate Christmas.
	Dec. 24		The new Airmen's Recreation Room was opened and an Informal Concert was held that night as a house-warming. This appeared to be a great success and the Sqdn. are looking forward to many more. Incorporated in the Recreation Room are a table-tennis table, a dartboard, and a bar serving soft drinks and refreshments.
	Dec. 25		The Sqdn's Operational commitments did not allow a stand-down to be granted on Xmas Day nor Boxing Day, but it was deemed desirable that all ranks should have as much time off as was possible during the Xmas period without jeopardising operational efficiency and therefore working hours were left to the discretion of Flight or Section Commanders. All ranks were very highly satisfied with the Xmas Dinner which was laid on and considering the circumstances a good time was had by all over the Xmas period.
	Dec. 31		On New Year's Eve another Informal Concert was arranged in the Sqdn's new Recreation Room. The Concert started at 2030 hrs. and the artists taking part were all members of the Sqdn.

	Dec. 30		Recreational activities for the month of January 1945 were arranged to take place in the new Recreation Room. These were:-			
			Jan 4th---One-Night Table Tennis Tournament. Jan 11th---Quizzes between teams of Officers, N.C.O.s, and Airmen. Jan 18th---Darts Tournament. Jan 25th---Sing-Song and Informal concert.			
			The two cinemas in Jessore namely, Bengal Talkies and the Madu-Chakra, offered good entertainment throughout the month and were patronised very well by all ranks. Changes of programme were effected daily at the Madu-Chakra and on alternate days at the Bengal Talkies.			
			Part III Personnel			
	Dec. 1		F/L H. G. A. Scilley (Tech. Eng) was posted to 357 Sqdn. (F/L Eng. vacancy) from H.Q. 231 Group.			
	Dec. 5		The commissioning of the Following personnel was P.O.R's. They were all appointed to Commissioned Rank as Pilot Officers (on probation) in the G.D. Branch of the R.A.F.V.R.			
			186160 P/O F. S. Quinn (Navigator)	w.e.f.	30/8/44	
			186166 P/O T. S. Smith (Wop/Ag)	w.e.f.	6/5/44	
			186286 P/O J. R. Dodwell, D.F.C. (Pilot)	w.e.f.	26/8/44	
			186225 P/O G. C. Cowling (Navigator)	w.e.f.	30/7/44	
			186420 P/O J. H. Newbury (Navigator)	w.e.f.	18.7.44	
			186358 P/O F. C. Cooke (Pilot)	w.e.f.	18/7/44	
			186170 P/O D. Manser, D.F.M. (Navigator)	w.e.f.	26/8/44	
			186412 P/O F. W. Pearce (Wop/Ag)	w.e.f.	18/7/44	
	Dec. 8		F/L. H. U. Sao (Wop/AG) was posted from 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. to 215 Sqdn.			
	Dec. 12		F/L. G. D. Graham, D.S.O., M.B.E., (Med) was posted from 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. to H.Q. ACSEA (Unit) (S/L Med. Post)			
	Dec. 12		F/O D. V. Foster (Med) was posted from 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. (Supy.) to 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. (F/L Med. vacancy) w.e.f. 12/12/44.			
	Dec. 12		F/L J. A. King, D.F.C. (Pilot) was posted from 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. to R.A.F. Element ACSEA. w.e.f. 12/12/44.			
			Polish Officers			
	Dec. 31		P.0277 F/L J. L. Stokowski (Tech Eng) was posted from 357 (S.D.) Sqdn. to 322 M.U. w.e.f. 1/12/44.			
			Personnel Strength of Squadron			
				Airmen	Officers	Total
			R.A.F	544	36	580
			R.C.A.F.	3	5	8
			R.A.A.F.	23	10	33
			R.N.Z.A.F.	6	--	6
					Grand Total	627
			W/Cdr.			
			Officer Commanding No. 357 (S.D.) Sqdn.			

December 1944: Form 541

357 Squadron

Aircraft type and No.	Crew	Duty	Time up	Time Down	Remarks
1-12-44					
Liberator Mk VI S/357	W/O Petley (Capt)	Polka 15	301755	010655	This operation was successful, the target area Vinh. The weather was good and A/C arrived over the target at 2355 hrs, a reception was found waiting. In four runs 4 containers and 2 packages were dropped, the containers hung up and were jettisoned over the target, after leaving the area A/C flew due west for deception purposes and set course for base at 0039 hrs.
	F/Sgt Martindale (2nd Plt)				
	F/Sgt Lowther				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Burgin				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	Sgt. Hillier				
	Sgt Canvin				
Liberator Mk III R/357	W/O Bain (Capt)	Polka 19	301838	010912	This operation was unsuccessful, the target was Vinh area. The weather was good and A/C arrived over the target area at 0020 hrs but no reception could be found, circled area for some time and finally left DZ at 0150 hrs and set course for base, owing to fuel shortage crew were warned to stand by to abandon A/C, eventually landed at Camilla and refuelled, left Camilla at 1104 hrs and landed at base at 1159 hrs.
	F/Sgt Sutons? (2nd Plt)			At Comilla	
	F/O Cashmore				
	F/Sgt Skinner				
	F/Sgt Criddle				
	F/Sgt Duffy				
	Sgt Richards				
	Sgt Woodthorpe				
Liberator Mk III Q/357	F/O Churchill (Capt)	Polka 18	301750	010720	This operation was successful, the target was Vinh area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the target at 2325, a reception was found waiting. In 3 runs 5 containers and 1 package were dropped, A/C then flew on a course of 268° for deception purposes. S/C for base at 2351 hrs.
	W/O Taylor (2nd Plt)				
	F/O Hulme				
	W/O Hough				
	W/O Murray				
	W/O Smaile				
	Sgt Ward				
	Sgt Gould				
Liberator Mk III X/357	S/Ld Jones (Capt)	Polka 3	301715	010633	This operation was completely successful, the target was Vihn Yen area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the target area at 2235 hrs, a good reception was found waiting. In one run 6 containers and 3 agents were dropped and all chutes were seen to
	F/O Gardiner (2nd)				
	F/Lt Booth				
	W/O Payton				

	W/O Duyvejonck				open correctly. A/C left the target area at 2241 and turned east for diversionary precautions. Set course for base at 2259 hrs.
	W/O Laney				
	W/O Edwards				
	F/Sgt Harris				
	F/Sgt Williams				
Liberator Mk III Y/357	P/O Cooke (Capt)	Polka 12	301800	010415	This operation was successful, the target was Vinh area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the target area at 2300 hrs, a reception was found waiting and A/C dropped 9 containers in one run, all chutes were seen to open correctly, A/C left the target area at 2337 hrs and headed for Myitkyina owing to lack of fuel, eventually landed at Jessore at 0945 hrs.
	F/Sgt Elliott (2nd Plt)			At Myitkyina	
	P/O Quinn				
	P/O Newbery				
	W/O Robertson				
	W/O McGregor				
	F/Sgt Bryden				
	F/Sgt DGLISH				
	P/O Pearce				
Liberator Mk VI W/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Polka 16	301900	010829	This operation was successful, the target was Vinh Yen area. The weather was good and A/C arrived over the target at 010028 hrs, a good reception was waiting. In one run 9 containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly, A/C flew north as a deception and S/C for base at 0036 hrs. Saw bomb flashes from Vinh Yen area.
	F/O Matley (2nd Plt)				
	W/O Williams				
	W/O Keenan				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
Hudson Mk III C/357	F/Lt King (Capt)	Radical	011125	011800	This operation was successful, the duty was to bring three agents from Kunming to Alipore. The weather was good and the flight uneventful.
	P/O Cowling				
	W/O Wolsey				
	W/O Windley				
2-12-44					
Dakota Mk IV H/357	F/Lt O'Brien (Capt)	Rendezvous 1/2	012100	010315 ¹⁶	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Wunthe? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2307 hrs and saw several fires at Inyashe which was circled for 15 minutes, no reception party was present and the A/C left the DZ at 2355 hrs S/C for base at 0005 hrs.
	P/O Dodwell (2nd Plt)				
	F/O Carter				
	P/O Manser				
	W/O Rigg				
	W/O Page				
	F/Sgt McLeman				

¹⁶ Record says 010315 for landing time, but this probably should be 020315.

Liberator Mk III Y/357	P/O Cooke (Capt)	Bug IV	011944	020320	This operation was successful. Target was Bassien area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ at 2340 hrs and found reception waiting. Four agents and 4 packages were dropped, and all chutes were seen to open correctly. On the return journey lights were seen on the southern end of South Calventuras Island, this was reported to Group on return.
	F/Sgt Elliott (2nd Plt)				
	P/O Newbery				
	P/O Quinn				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O McGregor				
	W/O Robertson				
	F/Sgt Bryden				
	F/Sgt Daghish				
Liberator Mk III X/357	S/Ldr Jones (Capt)	Bullfinch	011942	020250	This operation was successful. Target was Rangoon area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ at 2247 hrs. One container and three agents were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. At 2343 hrs a flash was seen on the ground several miles behind the A/C this was followed by a rocket which rose to 8000 ft where it exploded. This was reported to group on return.
	F/O Gardiner (2nd Plt)				
	F/Lt Booth				
	W/O Payton				
	W/O Duyvejonck				
	W/O Laney				
	W/O Edwards				
	F/Sgt Edwards				
	F/Sgt Williams				
Liberator Mk III U/357	F/O Churchill (Capt)	Blast III	011940	020430	This operation was unsuccessful Target was Papren? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2341 hrs and made 3 runs along the valley but no reception could be seen. A/C set course for base at 2357 hrs, on the return flight bomb flashes were seen in the direction of Toungoo, also 3 barges were sighted in the bay near Kyoiskkyi?, these were reported to Group on return.
	W/O Taylor (2nd Plt)				
	F/O Hulme				
	W/O Hough				
	W/O Smaile				
	W/O Murray				
	Sgt. Ward				
	Sgt Gould				
Liberator Mk VI W/357	F/O Brand (Capt)	Billet	011950	020310	This operation was successful. Target was Pegu area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2319 hrs and found reception waiting. Four packages and one agent were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. On return journey a rocket was seen some distance to starboard, this was reported to group on return.
	F/Sgt Anderson (2nd Plt)				
	W/O Piggott				
	F/Sgt Butler				
	F/O Buchanan				
	F/Sgt Allen				
	F/Sgt Nelson				
	F/Sgt Antram				

3-12-44					
Dakota Mk IV O/357	F/O Barlogie (Capt)	Rendezvous 1/2	022135	030355	This operation was successful. Target was Wuntho? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2347 hrs and found reception waiting, 2 packages were dropped and the chutes were seen to open correctly A/C then set course for base at 0018 hrs.
	F/Sgt Bush (2nd Plt)				
	F/O Cooper				
	W/O Lineham				
	W/O Begg				
	F/O Willhamson				
Liberator Mk VI Q/357	F/O Brand (Capt)	Hainton 10 & 12	022025	030550	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Takow area. The weather was generally fine and at 2225 hrs, crew sighted flash in the direction of Shwebo?, 2 fires then started which quickly developed, it appeared as if a bomb dump had been hit. A/C arrived over the target at 2344 hrs, there was fog in the valley and no reception could be seen and A/C set course for base at 0120 hrs.
	F/Sgt Anderson (2nd Plt)				
	W/O Piggott				
	F/Sgt Cutler				
	F/O Buchanan				
	W/O Allen				
	F/Sgt Antram				
	F/Sgt Nelson				
Liberator Mk VI V/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Bottom 1/1	022200	030300	This operation was successful. The target was Gangow? area. The weather was good and the A/c arrived over the DZ at 2350 hrs, in 2 runs 7 agents, 7 containers and 1 package were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly and the agents signalled that they had landed OK. A/C then flew North East, and finally South East to Paule? for deception purposes, then flew down Yaw Chaung? shooting up the river, although no definite targets were seen.
	F/O Matley (2nd Plt)				
	W/O Williams				
	W/O Boundy				
	W/O Heenan				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
Liberator Mk III U/357	P/O Cooke (Capt)	Bottom 1/2	022225	030425	This operation was successful. Target was Gangow area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0050 hrs and found reception waiting. In two runs 7 agents and 8 containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. After leaving DZ Ponora? and Tillin were shot up with unobserved results. A/C then set course for base.
	F/Sgt Elliott (2nd Plt)				
	P/O Quinn				
	P/O Newbery				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O Robertson				
	W/O McGregor				
	F/Sgt Daghish				
	F/Sgt Bryden				

	Sgt Scobie				
4-12-44					
Liberator Mk III X/357	S/Ldr Jones (Capt)	Billet 6	032310	040325	This operation was successful. Target was Kaladan area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the target area at 0051 hrs and found ground reception waiting. In 3 runs 9 containers 6 agents and 3 packages were dropped all chutes were seen to open correctly. On the return journey Akyab was shot up. A/C then set course for base.
	F/O Gardner (2nd Plt)				
	F/Lt Booth				
	W/O Payton				
	W/O Duyuejonck				
	W/O Laney				
	W/O Harris				
	F/Sgt Williams				
	W/O Edwards				
5-12-44					
Liberator Mk VI Q/357	F/O Brand (Capt)	Hainton 10 & 13	041950	050520	This operation was unsuccessful. The target was Takow area. The weather was fine but there were low clouds over the DZ area and no ground signals could be seen so A/C set course for base at 0008 hrs. On the way to the DZ a convoy of 20 – 30 vehicles were sighted at 2212 hrs on the Haifaw/Lashio road heading N/E this was reported to Group on return to base.
	F/Sgt Anderson (2nd Plt)				
	W/O Piggott				
	F/Sgt Cutler				
	F/O Buchanan				
	W/O Allen				
	F/Sgt Nelson				
	F/Sgt Antram				
6-12-44					
Liberator Mk III X/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Coupling Appreciation 3 Copper	052205	060945	This operation was successful. Target was Sagorn Sawarn area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over 1st DZ at 0253 hrs. In one run 8 containers and 3 agents were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly. S/C for 2nd DZ which was reached at 0313 and 1 container & 1 package were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly. Arrived at 3rd DZ at 0317 hrs and here 2 packages were dropped all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C set course for base at 0318 hrs.
	F/O Matley (2nd Plt)				
	W/O Williams				
	W/O Boundy				
	W/O Keenan				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
	S/Ldr Godber				
7-12-44					
Liberator Mk VI W/357	S/Ldr Jones (Capt)	Hebrides	062012	071540	This operation was unsuccessful. Target area was Northern Malaya. The weather was generally good but there were low clouds over the target area. At 070245 when A/C approached Puket all lights went out in the town, No lights could be
	F/O Gardner (2nd Plt)				
	F/Lt Booth				

	W/O Payton				seen over the target area as A/C set course for base at 070525, on the return journey A/C passed over Palan Teratan and sighted buildings which appeared like barracks. At 071105 passed over Cocos Islands and sighted considerable building activity near southern tip.
	W/O Laney				
	W/O Edwards				
	W/O Duyvejonck				
	F/Sgt Harris				
	F/Sgt Williams				
Liberator Mk VI V/357	P/O Cooke (Capt)	Cairngorn	062000	071505	This operation was successful. The target area was Northern Malaya. The weather was generally fine and at 0407 hrs sighted an airfield east of Gala? but no A/C were seen on or near the runway. The first DZ was clouded over so 2nd DZ was used, this was reached at 0500 hrs. 4 agents and 7 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly, the agents signalled from the ground that they had landed OK. A/C then set course for base and landed at Cox's Bazaar owing to petrol shortage.
	F/Sgt Elliott (2nd Plt)			At Cox's Bazaar	
	P/O Quinn				
	P/O Newbery				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O McGregor				
	F/Sgt Robertson				
	F/Sgt Bryden				
9-12-44					
Dakota Mk IV V/357	F/O Eves (Capt)	Bug	090102	090944	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was W?assorin? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0526 hrs, although ground details were easily visible no signals were seen so at 0554 hrs A/C set course for base.
	W/O Wheelhouse (2nd Plt)				
	F/O Arnold				
	Sgt Biggin				
11-12-44					
Dakota Mk IV J/357	F/O Barlogie (Capt)	Radical III	110700	111705	This operation was successful, the A/C took 6 personnel and kit to Kunming. The weather was good and the A/C arrived at Dinyan at 1235 hrs and took off for Kunming at 1405 hrs. The flight was uneventful and there was nothing to report.
	P/O Cooke (2nd Plt)			At Kunming	
	F/O Cooper (Nav)				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O Begg				
Hudson III C/357	F/Lt King (Capt)	Radical III	110900	111400	This operation was successful, it was a transit flight to Kunming. The weather was good and the trip was uneventful. A/C landed at Chengkung at 1315 hrs and left for Kunming at 1345 hrs. The pilot had nothing to report.
	P/O Cowling			At Kunming	
	W/O Woolsey				
	W/O Lindley				
Dakota Mk IV H/357	W/O Reid (Capt)	Barge	110805	111715	This operation was successful. Target was Chindwin river area. The weather was generally good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 1200 hrs, and found reception waiting. In 10 runs over the target all the supplies were dropped and all were seen to land on or near the DZ.
	W/O Hartley				
	F/Sgt Jones				
	F/Sgt Longhurst				
14-12-44					

Dakota Mk IV L/357	F/O Barlogie (Capt)	Radical III	140950	141925	This operation was successful, it was to return 15 men and kit from Kunming. The weather was good and the A/C landed at Myitkyna at 1325 hrs, took off at 1350 hrs and reached Alipore at 1835 hrs, left there at 1845 hrs and returned to base. The flight was uneventful and the pilot had nothing to report.
	P/O Cooke		At Kunming	At Jessore	
	F/O Cooper				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O Begg				
15-12-44					
Liberator VI V/357	W/O Petley (Capt)	Bittern II	151346	152216	This operation was unsuccessful. The weather was generally fair and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 1705 hrs and searched for the DZ till 1720 hrs. Three dummy runs were made from different directions but it was impossible to get low enough for a satisfactory drop owing to the nature of the country so without further attempts A/C set course for base at 1802 hrs.
	F/Sgt Martindale				
	F/Sgt Lowther				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Burgin				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	Sgt Canvin				
	Sgt Hillier				
16-12-44					
Dakota IV O/357	W/O Wheelhouse (Cpt)	Rendezvous	160715	161505	This operation was successful, its purpose was to ferry personnel and stores to Pantha. The weather was good and the A/C arrived at Dum Dum at 0745 hrs and took on 14 passengers and freight, left Dum Dum at 0820 hrs. and arrived at Pantha at 1040 hrs. The strip was in bad condition and an A/C would have difficulty taking off loaded. A/C was airborne at 1220 hrs and set course for base.
	P/O Williams				
	F/O Caron				
	P/O Kindred				
	F/Sgt Longbottom				
	F/Sgt Daghish				
Liberator VI V/357	W/O Petley (Capt)	Bittern II	161338	162141	This operation was successful. Target was Hsemivi? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 1705 hrs. This DZ did not appear satisfactory so a second DZ was used. In one run over the area 3 agents and 5 containers were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly. A signal was seen from the ground that the agents had landed safely. The A/C then set course for base at 1755 hours.
	F/Sgt Martindale				
	F/Sgt Lowther				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	F/Sgt Burgin				
	Sgt Hillier				
	Sgt Canvin				
17-12-44					
Liberator VI W/357	S/Ldr Jones (Capt)	Hebrides	160758	170230	This operation was successful. Target was Northern Malaya area. The weather was fair on the outward journey but it was bad over the first DZ so the A/c went to the 2nd DZ which was reached at 1720 hrs. In 2 runs 6 agents, 6 containers and
	F/O Gardner (2nd Plt)				
	P/O Quinn				
	W/O Payton				

	W/O Edwards				4 packages were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly and agents were seen waving from the ground. A/C then set course for base at 1728 hrs.
	W/O Laney				
	W/O Duyvejonck				
	F/Sgt Harris				
	F/Sgt Williams				
Dakota IV M/357	W/O Reid (Captain)	Rendezvous	171050	171715	The operation was successful. The aircraft landed at Pantha at 13.15 hours, discharged its cargo and took off again for base at 1415 hours. The strip, which is in enemy occupied territory, was reported to be in bad condition and it was felt that a loaded airplane would have difficulty in taking off. The flight was uneventful and there was nothing to report.
	P/O Hunter				
	F/Sgt. Longhurst				
	F/Sgt Ripley				
	F/Sgt Jones				
20-12-44					
Dakota IV O/357	F/Lt O'Brien	Barge	200859	201715	The operation was successful. The aircraft landed at Yanagyt? at 1303 hours, discharged its cargo and took off again for base at 14.55 hours. The flight was uneventful.
	P/O Hunter				
	F/O Cooper				
	F/Sgt McL?eman				
	F/Sgt Ripley				
	W/O Woolsey				
	Sgt. Maurray??				
24-12-44					
Liberator VI Q/357	W/O Petley (Captain)	Polka 10	241645	250420	Operation unsuccessful. The target was obscured by 10/10 low cloud. Aircraft set course for base at 2143 hours. Apart from target area the weather was generally good and the trip was uneventful.
	F/Sgt. Martindale				
	F/Sgt Lowlher				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	F/Sgt Burgin				
	Sgt Hillier				
	Sgt Canvin				
Liberator VI V/357	P/O Cooke (Captain)	Polka 9	241623	250611	This operation was successful. The aircraft arrived over the target area to find a good ground reception, and 8 containers and 5 packages were dropped at 22.20 hours. All parachutes were seen to open and develop correctly, except that of the last container. Aircraft flew a diversionary course and set course for base at 2241 hours.
	F/Sgt Anderson				
	P/O Quinn				
	P/O Newberry				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O Robertson				
	F/Sgt Bryden				
	F/Sgt Nelson				
Liberator VI Z/357	F/O Churchill (Capt)	Polka 13	241637	250550	This operation was successful. The aircraft located the target, which was in the Son Tay area, without difficulty. A
	W/O Taylor				

	F/O Hulme				bombing run was made and it was discovered that the bomb release mechanism was faulty, so the aircraft made a second run and jettisoned 9 containers and 2 packages at 22.40 hours. Two diversionary courses were flown and the aircraft set course for base at 22.44 hours.
	W/O Hough				
	W/O Murray				
	W/O Smaile				
	F/Sgt Webber				
	Sgt Gould				
Dakota IV O/357	S/Ldr O'Brien (Cap)	Heavy 13	241258	150345	This operation was successful. The aircraft arrived over the target, which was in the Menglem area, to find a good ground reception and 3 containers and 5 packages were dropped at 20.49 hours. The fourth container hung up on the rack and only fell off as the aircraft touched down at base.
	F/O Carter				
	F/O Cooper				
	W/O Woolsey				
	F/Sgt McLeman?				
Liberator VI R/357	W/O Elliott (Captain)	Polka 14	241645	250615	The operation was unsuccessful. The aircraft arrived over the target, in the Vin Yen area, to find suspicious activity of M/T etc, so project was abandoned and a course was set for base at 22.40 hours.
	F/Sgt Simms				
	F/O Cashmore				
	F/Sgt Skipper				
	F/Sgt Criddle?				
	F/Sgt Duffy				
	Sgt Richard				
	Sgt Woodthorpe				
Liberator VI V/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Polka 2	241630	250530	The operation was successful. The aircraft found a good reception waiting when it arrived over the target, which was in the Lang Son area, and 1 agent, 7 containers and 3 packages were dropped at 21.45 hours. All the parachutes were seen to open and develop correctly. Several diversionary courses were flown before the aircraft set course for base at 22.00 hours.
	F/O Matley				
	W/O Williams				
	F/Sgt Harvey				
	W/O Keenan				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
	F/Sgt Excelby				
Liberator VI W/357	S/Ldr Jones (Capt)	Polka 7	241630	250605	The operation was successful. On arrival at the target, in the Lany Sgng? area, a good reception was found and 6 containers and 4 packages were released at 21.45 hours. All parachutes opened and developed correctly. The aircraft flew a diversionary course and set course for base at 22.38 hours.
	F/O Gardiner				
	F/Lt Booth				
	W/O Payton				
	W/O Laney				
	W/O Duveyonch?				
Dakota IV L/357	W/O Collister (Capt)	¹⁷			The operation was successful. The target, in the Menglem area, was located

¹⁷ Neither code name nor times are in the record.

	F/Sgt Elliott				without difficulty and 42 packages were dropped between 21.30 and 21.50 hours. Shortage of fuel mad it necessary for the aircraft to land at Kurnitals? from where it returned to base.
	F/Sgt McCormick				
	F/Sgt Thomen??				
26-12-44					
Dakota IV O/357	P/O Dodwell (Capt)	Bloodhound	251936	260258	This operation was successful. Target was Monghika area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2144 hrs. and found good reception waiting. In two runs 1 agent and 18 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C the set course for base at 2158 hrs.
	P/O Manser				
	P/O Gillin				
	W/O Rigg				
	W/O Page				
	W/O Lindley				
Dakota IV M/357	W/O Wheelhouse (Cpt)	Rendezvous 2A	251900	260050	This operation was successful. Target was Wintho area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2124 hrs and found reception waiting. In 2 runs 10 packages were dropped from 500 ft. A/C then set course for base at 2130 hrs.
	F/O Caron				
	F/Sgt Longbottom				
	W/O Learwood				
Liberator VI V/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Nation	251828	260229	This operation was successful. Target was Pegu area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2224 hrs. The bomb doors were opened as target was approached and all the containers and packages fell out these landed approx 1000 yds short of the DZ. On the return journey the A/C shot up the railway North of Pegu as a diversion. A/C then set course for base at 2238 hrs.
	F/O Matley				
	W/O Williams				
	F/Sgt Harvey				
	W/O Keenan				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
26-12-44					
Liberator VI Q/357	W/O Petley (Capt)	Heavy 12	251823	260328	This operation was successful. Target was Monglin area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2205 hrs and found a good reception waiting. In two runs 9 containers and 3 packages were dropped. Left target area at 2247 hrs and commenced strafing Takwa/Mongfing? road. After strafing flew north to Panyang and dropped leaflets A/C the set course for base.
	F/Sgt Martindale				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Lowther				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	F/Sgt Burgin				
	Sgt Hillier				
	Sgt Canvin				
27-12-44					
Liberator VI W/357	F/O Churchill (Capt)	Bottom II	261923	270035	This operation was successful. Target was Tilin area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2147 hrs and found reception waiting. In one run 1 agent, 5 containers and 9
	W/O Taylor				
	F/O Hulme				
	W/O Hough				

	W/O Murray				packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly, A/C left DZ at 2201 hrs and S/C for Pauk which was reached at 2209 hrs and straffed till 2212 hrs. A/C then set course for base.
	W/O Smaile				
	F/Sgt Webber				
	F/Sgt Harris				
	Sgt Gould				
28-12-44					
Dakota IV F/357	F/O Bowler (Capt)	Bulge	27/1920	28/0310	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Gokteik? area. The weather was generally good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2225 hrs and saw ground signals etc. the A/C approached the DZ on its first run all the lights were extinguished, although the A/C remained until 2330 hrs no further signals were seen so A/C set course for base.
	W/O Collister				
	F/O Irvine				
	F/Sgt Lancaster				
	F/Sgt Oram				
Dakota IV J/357	F/Sgt Bush (Capt)	Manval II	27/2042	28/0122	This operation was successful. Target was Kaledan? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2245 hrs. In two runs 7 agents and 1 package were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base at 2251 hrs.
	W/O Lineham				
	F/O Williamson				
	F/Sgt Fordyce				
Dakota IV H/357	W/O Reid (Capt)	Bandit	27/1510	28/0315	This operation was successful. Target was Loikaw area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2241 hrs and identified the DZ by map reading. In one run 3 agents and 1 container were dropped from 800 ft and all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C the set course for base. At 0045 hrs position 19°32'N 95°00'E large fires were seen.
	P/O Hunter				
	P/O Gillin				
	W/O Hartley				
	W/O Rigg				
	F/Sgt Longhurst				
Liberator VI W/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Polka 26	271705	280550	This operation was successful. Target was Savannakhet area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2252 hrs and found reception waiting Six containers and 7 packages were dropped at 2257 hrs and all chutes were seen to open correctly A/C then set course for base at 2316 hrs.
	F/O Matley				
	W/O Williams				
	F/Sgt Harvey				
	W/O Keenan				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
Liberator VI Z/357	W/O Elliott (Capt)	Polka 34	271720	280640	This operation was successful. Target was Savannakhet area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2313 hrs. and found reception
	F/Sgt Simons				
	P/O Quinn				

	F/Sgt Skipper				waiting. Nine containers and 4 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. The A/C then set course for base at 2315 hrs.
	F/Sgt Duffy				
	F/Sgt Criddle				
	Sgt Woodthorpe				
	Sgt Richards				
Liberator VI V/357	S/Ldr Jones (Capt)	Polka 35	271700	280535	This operation was successful. Target was Savannakhet area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2250 hrs. In one run over the target 8 containers and 4 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base at 2310 hrs.
	F/O Gardiner				
	F/Lt Booth				
	W/O Payton				
	W/O Landey				
	W/O Edwards				
	W/O Duyvejonck				
	F/Sgt Williams				
	F/Sgt Harris				
Dakota IV M/357	W/O Black (Capt)	Manual I	272030	280205	This operation was successful. Target was Kalendan area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2259 hrs. and found reception waiting. In 5 runs 8 agents, 2 containers and 23 packages were dropped. One container hung up temporarily and was jettisoned. The A/C then set course for base at 2357 hrs.
	P/O Younger				
	F/O Stothers				
	F/Sgt Allen				
Liberator VI Q/357	W/O Petley (Capt)	Polka 14	27/1713	28/0625	This operation was successful. Target was Savannakhet area. The weather was fine and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2312 hrs. and found reception waiting. The dropping run was made at 2319 hrs when 9 containers and 1 package were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly. A/C then set course for base at 2337 hrs.
	F/Sgt Martindale				
	F/Sgt Lowther				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	F/Sgt Burgin				
	Sgt Canvin				
	Sgt Hillier				
Liberator VI U/357	P/O Cooke (Capt)	Polka 19	27/1710	28/0630	This operation was successful. Target was Savannakhet area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2310 hrs. In one run 1 agent and 9 containers were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. The A/C then set course for base at 2315 hrs.
	F/Sgt Anderson				
	F/O Cashmore				
	P/O Newbery				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O Robertson				
	F/Sgt Bryden				
	F/Sgt Nelson				
29-12-44					
Dakota IV L/357	F/O Eves (Capt)	Dilwyn 21	281755	290210	This operation was successful. Target was Lashio area. The weather was good

	F/O Arnold				and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2120 hrs. In three runs 6 agents and 11 packages were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly so A/C set course for base at 2150 hrs.
	F/Sgt Nathaniel				
	F/Sgt Biggin				
Liberator VI V/357	F/O Churchill (Capt)	Desert I	281832	109722	This operation was unsuccessful. The Target was Xieng Khouang area. The weather was good except for a heavy ground mist. The A/C arrived over the target at 2320 hrs but no reception could be seen and A/C finally set course for base at 0037 hrs.
	W/O Taylor				
	F/O Hulme				
	W/O Hough				
	W/O Murray				
	W/O Smaile				
	F/Sgt Webber				
	F/Sgt Harris				
	Sgt Gould				
Liberator VI V ¹⁸ /357	S/Ldr Jones (Capt)	Baffle	291855	292345	This operation was successful. Target was Shewbo? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2052 hrs but the target was not identifies till 2059 hrs. In one run 2 female agents were dropped and both chutes were seen to open correctly A/C then set course for base at 2114 hrs.
	F/O Gardiner				
	F/Lt Booth				
	P/O Cutler				
	W/O Duyvejonck				
	W/O Landy				
	W/O Edwards				
	F/Sgt Williams				
29-12-44					
Liberator VI V/357	P/O Cooke (Capt)	Dilwyn 22	281940	290230	This operation was successful. Target was Haemivi? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2228 hrs and found reception waiting. One agent 7 containers and 2 packages were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly so A/C then set course for base at 2251 hrs.
	F/Sgt Anderson				
	F/O Cashmore				
	P/O Newbery				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O Robertson				
	F/Sgt Nelson				
	F/Sgt Bryden				
Liberator VI S/357	W/O Elliot (Capt)	Desert 3	281930	290735	This operation was unsuccessful. Target was Xung Khouang area. The weather was fair but there were low clouds over the DZ area. The A/C arrived over the DZ area at 0025 hrs but no reception could be seen owing to the low clouds A/C left DZ at 0221 hrs and set course for base at 0230 hrs.
	F/Sgt Simons				
	P/O Quinn				
	F/Sgt Skipper				
	F/Sgt Criddle				
	F/Sgt Duffy				
	F/Sgt Thompson				
	Sgt Woodthorpe				

¹⁸ This is the same code letter as on the entry above, but the flight times indicate that it was the next day, although the change of date is not noted in the record.

	Sgt Richards				
Liberator VI W/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Desert 2	281850	290645	This operation was successful. Target was Xung Khouang area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2348 hrs. In two runs 6 agents 5 containers and 4 packages were dropped, all chutes were seen to open correctly, so A/C then set course for base at 0023 hrs.
	F/O Matley				
	W/O Williams				
	F/Sgt Harvey				
	W/O Keenan				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
Liberator VI Q/357	W/O Petley (Capt)	Dilwyn 22	281952	290400	This operation was successful. Target was Hsemoi? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2235 hrs. While the A/C was looking for the reception 1 package dropped off. The reception was found and in one run 7 containers and 2 packages were dropped; all but one chute opened correctly. A/C then set course for base at 0020 hrs.
	F/Sgt Martindale				
	W/O Boundy				
	F/Sgt Lowther				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	F/Sgt Bugin				
	Sgt Canvin				
	Sgt Hillier				
30-12-44					
Liberator VI W/357	F/O Churchill (Capt)	Dilwyn 19	292000	300410	This operation was successful. Target was Lashio area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2300 hrs and found reception waiting. Six agents and 11 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. On the return journey the Lashio/Hsipaw road was strafed, the A/C then set course for base.
	W/O Taylor				
	F/O Hulme				
	W/O Hough				
	W/O Smaile				
	W/O Murray				
	F/Sgt Webber				
	Sgt Gould				
Dakota IV F/357	F/Lt Bowles (Capt)	Bulge	291915	300247	This operation was unsuccessful. The target was Maymyo area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2209 hrs but no reception could be seen so at 2252 hrs A/C set course for base without dropping
	F/O Irvin				
	P/O Gillin				
	F/Sgt Lancaster				
	F/Sgt Oram				
31-12-44					
Liberator VI V/357	P/O Cooke (Capt)	Polka 20	301851	310515	This operation was successful. Target was Vientaine area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2258 hrs and found reception waiting. In 2 runs 8 containers and 5 packages were dropped but it is not known whether all chutes opened correctly, the A/C set course for base at 2311 hrs.
	W/O Anderson				
	F/O Cashmore				
	P/O Newbery				
	P/O Pearce				
	W/O Robertson				

	F/Sgt Nelson				
	F/Sgt Bryden				
Liberator VI Q/357	W/O Petley (Capt)	Polka 10	301745	310518	This operation was successful. Target was Vientaine area. The weather was generally fine and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2230 hrs and identified the DZ at 2243 hrs. In two runs 9 containers and 2 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. The A/C then set course for base at 2313hrs.
	F/Sgt Martindale				
	F/Sgt Kendall				
	F/Sgt Lowther				
	F/Sgt Bugin				
	F/Sgt Bird				
	Sgt Canvin				
	Sgt Hillier				
Liberator VI R/357	W/O Elliott (Capt)	Polka 23	301830	310545	This operation was successful. Target was Vientaine area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2306 hrs and found reception waiting 9 containers and 1 package were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly. One container hung up and dropped off approx 2 miles from the DZ. A/C set course for base at 2343 hrs and on return flight dropped incendiaries on Lungadow, fires were started and seen 15 minutes after leaving
	F/Sgt Simons				
	P/O Quinn				
	F/Sgt Skipper				
	F/Sgt Criddle				
	F/Sgt Duffy				
	Sgt Woodthorpe				
	Sgt Richards				
Dakota IV N/357	F/O Barlogie (Capt)	Blast III	301835	310355	This operation was successful. Target was Pafern? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2248 hrs and found reception waiting. In 2 runs 4 agents and 2 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly A/C then set course for base at 2313 hrs.
	F/O Cooper				
	P/O Williams				
	W/O Begg				
	F/Sgt Richmond				
Dakota IV F/357	P/O Dodwell (Capt)	Bulge	301934	310244	This operation was successful. Target was Maymyo area. The weather was fine and the A/C arrived over the DZ area at 2217 hrs but ground signals were not seen till 2240 hrs. In 2 runs 9 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly.
	F/O Cooper				
	P/O Williams				
	W/O Begg ¹⁹				
	F/Sgt Richmond				
Dakota IV K/357	S/Ldr O'Brien (Capt)	Dilwyn 23T & 24J	301852	310355	This operation was successful. Target was Haenivi?? area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the 1st DZ at 2133 hrs and found reception waiting, 8 packages were dropped and all chutes opened correctly, arrived at second DZ at 2212 hrs and found reception waiting. 9 packages were dropped and all chutes opened correctly.
	P/O Lindred				
	F/O Carter				
	W/O Woolsey				
	F/Sgt McLeman				
Liberator VI W/357	F/Lt Cast (Capt)	Polka II	301757	310605	This operation was successful. Target was Vientaine area. The weather was good and the A/C arrived over the DZ
	F/O Matley				

¹⁹ But Begg is shown on the crew list above.

	W/O Harvest				area at 2238 hrs and found reception waiting 9 containers and 4 packages were dropped and all chutes were seen to open correctly A/C then set course for base.
	W/O Williams				
	W/O Keenan				
	F/Sgt Farish				
	F/Sgt Cox				
	F/Sgt Heilbronn				
	Sgt Thompson				

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