

August 1945: Form 540

357 Squadron Jessore

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events				
Jessore	August	1945	Part I Operations.				
			During the month of August a total of 61 operational sorties were flown from Jessore by 357 Sqdn., all of these being carried out by the Dakota Flight. Out of these, 38 were successful; the failure of the remainder being due in all but one case to the extremely bad Monsoon weather, which on the average, was quite as notorious as that of the preceding month, July. the standard of reception lay out at the DZ's was very good, only one sortie failing as a result of reception, and the, the failure was not due to a faulty layout, but rather to briefing, as the code letters on the DZ were changed at the last moment; without the knowledge of the crew flying on the operation.				
			With the Far Eastern War rapidly nearing its termination, the majority of the remaining DZ's were extended well into Siam; Mingaladon being used almost exclusively as a forward Base. On the final surrender of the Japanese in Siam it was decided that a large part of the Flight's activity would consist of flying supplies in and bringing released P.O.W's out from Siam, notably the Bangkok area, and landing them at Mingaladon; the first of a series of these operations being commenced on August 28th. Owing to the large amount of flying time wasted by A/C based at Jessore, on August 30th the whole of the Dakota Flight that was then serviceable was detached to Mingaladon and has since operated exclusively from there. In the earlier part of the month a considerable part of the Flight's effort was devoted to the 'Character area', where adverse weather conditions gave considerable trouble; only 14 sorties being successful out of a total of 31.				
			a number of new DZ areas were used in Siam, later in the month, and some very successful pick ups were also carried out, although crews experienced considerable difficulty with landing strips made very soft by the heavy Monsoon rains.				
			The Squadron did not sustain any A/C losses during the month and, when the extremely bad monsoon weather and flying conditions are taken into account, undoubtedly the standard of flying and the number of operational sorties successfully completed during the month was very high.				
Code Name	Country	Area	Pos.	Dakota		Total	Remarks
				S	U		
Character	Burma	Chwebo		14	17	31	As in the previous month, the unsuccessful sorties were due to extremely heavy cloud build up over the DZ area.
Dilwyn	Burma	Hesani		1	-	1	
Coupling	Siam	Nakorn Jawaan		7	1	8	The one unsuccessful trip was due to weather in DZ area.
Nation	Burma	Shwebo		1	-	1	
Heavy	Burma	Kientung		4	3	7	The three unsuccessful sorties were in this case all due to bad weather.
Cutter			1325N 9836E	2	1	3	The one unsuccessful trip was on account of bad weather.
Pilot	Burma			1	-	1	
Panicle	Siam	Donma wk?		4	-	4	These sorties were the first of the P.O.W. pick ups carried out by the Squadron; all were very successful.

Neronian	Siam		1422N 10009 E	1	-	1	
Gantry	Siam	Thakhek Area		1	-	1	
Sungod			0856N 9942E			1	
Farewell			1408N 9942E	1	1	2	The one unsuccessful sortie was in this case due to reception at the DZ which was changed at the last minute and without the crew's knowledge.
		Totals		38	23	61	Total Dakota Sorties – 61.
				Total Operational Sorties Flown in August 1945 :- 61.			
Jessore	August	1945	Part II Administration				
	August 1st		It was announced that, in future M.T. vehicles are not to be driven over grassland or lawns surrounding billets and that personnel disobeying this order would be subject to disciplinary action.				
	August 6th		Today a quantity of unserviceable explosives was demolished approx. 1,200 yds N.W. of N end of the runway; a further quantity will be demolished on Tuesday & Wednesday, August 7th & 8th and Personnel are warned to keep well clear of the area affected.				
	August 8th		It was announced today in U.R.O's that a certain amount of laxity on this Unit in paying compliments to Officers will cease forthwith and saluting regulations will be strictly enforced.				
	August 11th		A statement was made to the effect that all Personnel who consider themselves clearly eligible for any of the new Campaign Stars should make application to the Orderly Room and obtain particulars.				
	August 13th		The station Dental Officer is absent from the Station Dental Centre and it will be closed until the 11th September 1945.				
	August 18th		When practice dropping is in progress all Drivers of M.T. Vehicles are to make sure that they obey the Airfield Controller's signal immediately. Of late drivers have been stopping to watch the 'fun'. this practice is highly dangerous and must cease.				
	August 25th		With effect from today F/O. F. G. Cooke assumes the duties of Squadron Postal Officer.				
	August 30th		F/Lt. B. G. Hewson assumes command of 357 Sqdn, Jessore, vice S/Ldr. O'Brien D.F.C. w.e.f. August 30th and is granted powers of Subordinate Commander.				
	August 30th		The under mentioned Officers are detailed to carry out an Audit of the Non-Public Accounts of 357 Sqdn. President F/Lt. D. H. Hulme Member P/O. F. Williams.				
Jessore	August	1945	Welfare				
	August 4th		It was announced that 55 Voluntary Help Parcels have been allotted to the Unit. Personnel desiring to purchase these should hand their names in at the Orderly Room not later than 10th August the cost per parcel is Rs 3 Ans 6.				
	August 8th		All personnel were notified that as a result of action taken by this HQ, re. the dis-arrangement and delay in receipt of Private Mail, a notification has been received by this HQ, from B.P.U., that steps are being taken to remedy the delay.				
	August		It was announced today that the Squadron Gramophone and Records can be				

¹ Number of flights not given in record.

	20th		obtained on loan for 24 hours from Billet No. 27 at 18.00 hrs each day.
	August 25th		A V.J. dinner was held this evening for the airmen; the whole thing being declared a great success.
	August 30th		It was announced today that arrangements are in hand for the production of a series of films in the studio of the 'New Theatre' Calcutta during September. The films will be inter-services and on each film the R.A.F. has an allotment of 6 personnel. Personnel desirous of appearing in these 'Calling Blighty' greeting films are to hand their names in to the Orderly Room immediately.
Jessore	August	1945	Recreation
			A number of Station and inter-section football matches were played during the month, including one on August 26th between 357 Sqdn and C.R.F. C. on S.S.Q. ground for the Jessrewari Shield and another on August 27th for the Kotchandpur Memorial Shield.
			Church Services Catholic
	August 18th		It was announced today that every Sunday and Thursday there will be evening mass in the Catholic Church at 1930 hours, but no Sunday morning mass.
Jessore	August	1945	Part III Personnel
			R.A.F. Officers. POR's 6th, 17th, & 27th August 1945.
			Postings:
			199335 P/O. N. E. Horney GD(P) Posted to 357 Sqdn on grant of a commission in the GD Branch of the RAFVR.
			163921 F/O. J. Poulton GD(P) Posted from 357 Sqdn to HQ Air Command w.e.f. 10/7/45.
			106638 P/O. G. H. Middleton GD(N) Posted from 357 Sqdn to 231 Group Comm. Flight w.e.f. 26/7/45.
			116093 F/Lt. L. E. Phillips GD(P). Posted from HQ(Unit) RAF Burma to 357 Sqdn. w.e.f. 30/7/45.
			115288 F/Lt. L. G. Lewis, DFC, DFM. GD(P). Posted from 357 Sqdn to HQ No 231 Group (S/Ldr Post) w.e.f. 1/9/45.
			197878 P/O. R. F. Taylor GD(P). Posted to 357 Sqdn. on grant of commission in GD Branch of RAFVR w.e.f. 21.7.45.
			148804 F/O. A. A. Morley GD(F/E) Posted to HQ base Colombo (Supy). w.e.f. 1/8/45
			171179 P/O. R. M. G. Ritchie GD(AG)
			139970 F/O. (A F/Lt.) H. Deen GD(P) Posted to No 3 R.E.C. w.e.f. 28/8/45.
			150145 F/Lt. K. Emmott GD(P) Posted from R.A.F. Station Kolar w.e.f. 4/8/45. and detached to 357 (SD) Sqdn. Detachment Ceylon Air Forces, w.e.f. 4/8/45.
			165981 F/O. A. Coulson GD(P)
			151144 F/Lt. H. J. Richardson GD(AG)
			186744 P/O. E. S. Williams GD(P)
			190060 P/O. G. Hannah GD(WOP/Air)
Jessore	August	1945	Promotions and Appointments
			199335 P/O. N. E. Horney GD(P) Appointed to commissioned rank as P/O. on probation in the GD Branch of RAFVR. w.e.f. 12/11/44.
			197878 P/O. R. F. Taylor GD(P) Appointed to commissioned rank as P/O. on probation in the RAFVR. w.e.f. 16/4/45.
			RAAF Officers POR's 28th August 1945.
			Postings
			A413266 F/O. M. D. Seale GD(Nav) Posted to BHQ Colombo w.e.f. 1/8/45.

			RCAF Officers POR's 21st, 28th & 30th August 1945.
			Postings
			J23275 F/Lt. W. J. C. Jackson GD(P) Posted from 357 Sqdn to RAF Base Colombo (Supy N/E Sick, pending embarkation) w.e.f. 12/7/45. Ceased to be detached to 347 Sqdn. Det. China Bay w.e.f. 12/7/45.
			J46053 F/O. A. G. Diggins WOP/Air Posted from 357 Sqdn to R.A.F. Base Colombo (Supy N/E sick pending embarkation) w.e.f. 10/7/45. Ceased to be detached to 357 Sqdn Det w.e.f. 10/7/45.
			Promotions
			The under mentioned Officers are promoted to Temporary rank of Flying Officer w.e.f. dates stated against their names.
			J47456 P/O. R. M. Cartman A/G. 28/1/45.
			J47452 P/O. J. H. Stott A/G. 28/1/45.
			J47311 P/O. A. E. R. Thomaret A/B. 28/1/45.
			J44824 P/O. W. H. Edwards GD/P 5/11/44.
			J47367 P/O. V. L. McNaughten Nav. 28/1/45.
			J48177 P/O. A. C. Fitzmaurice W.A.G. 25/2/45.
			J47871 P/O. W. P. McLeod W.A.G. 11/2/45. (Missing 6/6/45)
			J47869 P/O. G. Faulkner W.A.G. 11/2/45. (Missing 6/6/45)
			J47344 P/O. J. J. B. Perron Nav. 28//1/45. (Missing 6/6/45)
			J48181 P/O. F. E. Draper W.A.G. 25/2/45.
			357 (SD) Sqdn. Statement of Personnel Strength
			As on August 31st 1945
			Airmen Officers Total
			RAF 280 22 302
			RCAF 16 6 22
			RAAF 3 3 6
			Grand Total 299 ² 31 330
			Note. This is the effective personnel strength at Jessore and Mingaladon detachment only.
			F/Lt. For Wing Commander
			Commanding No. 357 (SD) Squadron R.A.F.

² Record says 229, but the math has been corrected on the transcription.