

August 1945 China Bay: Form 540

357 Squadron, China Bay Detachment

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
Section 1			Operational Flying
R.A.F. China Bay	1.8.45	Operation	Carpenter 50 F/Lt. Forrest Successful.
"	1.8.45	"	Carpenter 51 J26160 F/O Buzza No reception.
"	1.8.45	"	Carpenter 52 P/O. Roberts No reception.
"	1.8.45	"	Carpenter 55? P/O Tuddemiam? Successful.
"	2.8.45	"	Fighter 9 C1490 S/Ldr. Sims Successful.
"	2.8.45	"	Sergeant F/Lt. March Successful.
"	4.8.45	"	Carpenter 56 F/Lt. Powell No reception.
"	4.8.45	"	Carpenter 57 J16160 F/O. Buzza Successful.
"	4.8.45	"	Carpenter 59 F/Lt. Coker No reception.
"	5?.8.45	"	Tideway 15 F/O. Roberts Successful.
"	5?.8.45	"	Tideway 19 F/Lt. Smith Successful.
"	5?.8.45	"	Funnel 70 P/O. Tuddenham? Successful.
"	6.8.45	"	Humour 20? C1490 S/Ldr. Sims. Successful.
"	6.8.45	"	Humour 21? F/Lt. Forrest Successful.
"	8.8.45	"	Galvanic 22 F/Lt. Powell Successful.
"	8.8.45	"	Galvanic 25? F/Lt. March Successful.
"	8.8.45	"	Pontoon 29?? F/Lt. Coker Successful.
"	10.8.45	"	Carpenter 68 F/Lt. Smith Successful.
"	11.8.45	"	Fighter 10 P?/O. Roberts Successful.
"	11.8.45	"	Fighter 11 J16160 F/O Buzza Weather over D.Z.
"	12.8.45	"	Sergeant 27 F/Lt. Forrest Successful.
"	13.8.45	"	Carpenter 69? F/Lt. March. Successful.
"	13.8.45	"	Carpenter 70? P/O. Tuddenham? Successful.
"	13.8.45	"	Tideway 25 F/Lt. Coker Successful.
"	14.8.45	"	Sergeant 30 R.154124 W/O. Brondum? Successful.
"	14.8.45	"	Tideway 12 F/Lt. Powell Successful.
"	15.8.45	"	Carpenter 74 F/O. Roberts Successful.
"	16.8.45	"	Carpenter 75? C1490 S/Ldr. Sims. Successful.
"	17.8.45	"	Beacon 10/11 P/O. Tuddenham? Successful.
"	19.8.45	"	Carpenter 77 F/Lt. Forrest Successful.
"	19.8.45	"	Carpenter 79 J26160 F/O. Buzza. Successful.
"	19.8.45	"	Carpenter 88 R.134124 W/O. Brendum? Successful.
"	19.8.45	"	Humour 24 F/Lt. Coker. Successful.
"	20.8.45	"	Beacon 11 F/Lt. Powell Successful.
"	21.8.45	"	Carpenter 89 F/Lt. March Successful.
"	21.8.45	"	Carpenter 91 P/O. Tudenham? Successful.
"	24.8.45	"	Carpenter 92 C1490 S/Ldr. Sims. Successful.
"	24.8.45	"	Carpenter 95? J26160 F/O. Buzza Successful.
"	24.8.45	"	Carpenter 94 F?/O. Roberts Successful.
"	24.8.45	"	Galvanic 42 R.134124 W/O. Brendum? Successful.
"	27.8.45	"	Hebrides 31 F/Lt. March Successful.
"	27.8.45	"	Beacon 12 P/O. Tuddenham? Successful.
"	27.8.45	"	Beacon 13 F/Lt. Powell Successful.
"	30?.8.4 5	"	Carpenter 96 J26160 F/O. Buzza Successful.
"	30.8.45	"	Mastiff/Sing4 F/Lt. Powell Successful.

"	30.8.45	"	Mastiff/Tideway 29? F/Lt. Coker Half success		
"	30.8.45	"	Mastiff/Medan? 1 F/Lt. Banett? Successful.		
"	30.8.45	"	Mastiff/Mint R.134124 W/O. Brondam? Successful.		
"	31.8.45	"	Beacon 14? P/O. Tuddemham? Successful.		
Section 2			Non Operational Flying	Hrs.	Mins.
R.A.F. China Bay	1.8.45		Circuits & Bumps	1	00
"	1.8.45		Ferry to Ratmalana – Return	3	00
"	1.8.45		Ferry to Ratmalana	1	00
"	5.8.45		Ferry to Minneriya – Return.	1	00
"	7.8.45		Circuits & Bumps	1	00
"	7.8.45		Ferry to Ratmalana – Return	2	30
"	8.8.45		Air Test.	1	30
"	8.8.45		Local Flying	2	15
"	9.8.45		Local Flying	2	30
"	10.8.45		Air Test	2	00
"	10.8.45		Local Night Flying	3	00
"	11.8.45		Check Flights	4	15
"	11.8.45		Check Flight (Night)	3	00
"	12.8.45		Local Flying	5	5
"	12.8.45		Local Flying (Night)	6	00
"	13.8.45		Ferry to Ratmalana – Return	1	10
"	14.8.45		Air Test	1	00
"	14.8.45		Local Flying	5	45
"	17.8.45		Air Test		45
"	17.8.45		Ferry to Minneriya – Return.	1	30
"	18.8.45		Local Flying	2	55
"	18.8.45		Circuits & Bumps	2	30
"	19.8.45		Ferry to Ratmalana – Return	3	25
"	19.8.45		Ferry to Ratmalana – Return	3	30
"	20.8.45		Check Flight	1	15
"	20.8.45		Local Flying	2	00
"	20.8.45		Consumption Test	6	30(Day)
				6	30(Night)
"	20.8.45		Local Flying	2	05
"	20.8.45		Local Flying (3 Flights)	4	50
"	20.8.45		Air Test	1	00
"	21.8.45		Local Flying	5	30(Night)
"	22.8.45		Consumption Test	6	00(Day)
				6	00(Night)
"	22.8.45		Local Flying	1	30
"	23.8.45		Local Flying	2	00
"	23.8.45		Air Test	2	00
"	24.8.45		Local Flying	3	00
"	26.8.45		Air Test	1	30
"	26.8.45		Local Flying	3	00
"	29.8.45		Ferry to Minneriya – Return.		45
"	31.8.45		Consumption Test	6	20(Day)
				5	20(Night)
"	31.8.45		Air Test	2	10

Section 3			(i) Welfare Entertainments
			Resulting from the Combined Services Welfare meeting held at Trincomalee on the 3rd August, this Squadron secured two places on the Committee. In addition F/L. Gibson was appointed in charge of the Dance tickets to R.A.F. Personnel of China Bay area. The Squadron Welfare Committee has instituted a scheme for the allocation of these tickets. A dance for airmen is held on Wednesdays and for Sergeants on Saturdays. The Squadron suffered a severe set-back on the night of the 4/5th August, when dance band instruments were lost in a fire. The band had been asked to play at a function held at the Yacht Club, China Bay. When the entertainment closed down for the evening, they were forced, by shortage of suitable transport, to leave their instruments in the building, intending to pick them up next morning. It appears that no blame can be attributed to any known person and the instruments must be considered a complete loss. The Squadron Canteen "Carney? House" opened on the 6th August, 1945. It is staffed by Aircrew personnel who volunteered when available, for part time duties. This has proved to be a most useful service. It keeps the airmen close to their work and eliminates a great waste of time. At last we are reasonably certain of almost an adequate water supply. After much hard work we have had the D.C.R.E? open the cocks each morning and allow us to draw 4300 gallons of water (10 gallons per man) for cooking, washing and drinking purposes. For the present the system is working well and there is no hardship at all. We have has a reply from Group regarding No.7 Hill Depot Party and we have been made an allotment of 8 through China Bay, The section Commanders have notified 7 names for the 1st. party and we hope this will be a happy innovation.
			The Church Parade on Sunday 19th August in connection with "V.J." celebrations was attended by all personnel other than those required for duty. the Officiating Chaplin, Rev. Withey, gave a short address. P/O Heaps is working on the formation of a Bible reading Class and a small Chapel. The Rev. Keen of P.M.U.B Trincomalee visited us and gave notice of the Devine Services held by him in Trincomalee and China Bay. We have not yet been able to allow personnel to have a full day's holiday to celebrate the Victory of the Allies in the East, but the Flight Commander and Section Officers have arranged for personnel to have an afternoon off. As soon as the Operational commitments slacken off we propose having a full days holiday with sports and entertainments. The Officers have expressed a wish to entertain the airmen, and on 23rd August a buffet diner and free beer was provided in the Airmens Canteen. The Officers fully appreciated the splendid work done by the Airmen of this Squadron and one and all have been glad to serve and help them in every way possible. The transport to Trincomalee on two evenings a week is still very much appreciated and the number of personnel who make use of this privilege is high. It is however not necessary to supplement this in any way.
			(ii) Sports
			Results of Football matches are as follows.
			4.8.45. Squadron Team v Trincomalee Rangers 2 - 0
			5.8.45. Squadron Team v China Bay. 1 - 7
			6.8.45. Armoury 1st v Armoury 2nd. 1 - 3
			10.8.45 Flights v Armour No Pitch.
			12.8.45 Airmen v Aircrew No Pitch.
			12.8.45 Armoury v A.S.R. 2 - 4
			14.8.45 Armoury Flts. v Armoury-Main 2 - 1
			15.8.45 Airmen v Aircrew 4 - 2

		21.8.45 N.C.Os	v Airmen.	1 - 3
		27.8.45 Airmen	v N.C.Os	3 - 1
		28.8.45 "A" Flts	v Armoury	1 - 2
		Results of Hockey matches:		
		3.8.45 Squadron 1st Team	v Squadron 2nd Team	2 - 1
		7.8.45 Blacks	v Reds	2 - 2
		16.8.45 Squadron Team	v R.A.F. China Bay.	2 - 1
		17.8.45 Squadron Team	v Navy Stores China Bay	2 - 2
		(iii) Health		
		<p>During the Month of August sick parade attendance for airmen and N.C.Os averaged eleven per diem. for the same month the average for Officers reporting sick was 1.5 (one and a half) per diem. Officers to Airmen ratio of strength is about 1 : 5 so the difference in sickness rate between airmen and Officers will be about 15 : 22, showing that sickness is spread over with small differentiation between different ranks. The chief prevalent diseases affecting the personnel of "A" Flight Detachment were: Tines, in its various manifestations; Hot weather ear; Jungle sores and Impetigo. It is to be noted that all these are in reality illnesses of the skin. It can be said that apart from high rate of annoying illnesses of the skin all the men enjoy good health at their present station. Admissions to Hospitals are high, this is due to the absence of beds on the Station for Sick Patients, therefore all sick patients had to be sent into Hospital. The daily rate of Hospital admissions is about 0.5 (one half) this means that 35 of personnel were Hospitalised during August. This is a fair rate under the circumstances, as many of the cases were of a minor character. Malaria and dysentery are not troublesome at this station at the moment. Morale among aircrew is very high, and the advent of peace made no appreciable difference that could be noted by the Unit Medical Officer. Morale amongst Ground Staff remains of the usual moderate order. Hygiene and sanitation presented no real problem during August. In general, for the month of August, no real problems faced the medical staff of the Squadron, and the health of all personnel was considered good taking into consideration Climate conditions, in other words we do no better and no worse than other Units similarly placed.</p>		
Section 4		(i) Movements In and Out Officers.		
				Date of arrival.
		F/Lt. E? Enmott?		4.8.45
		F/Lt. E? J. Richardson		4.8.45
		F/O. A. Coulson		4.8.45
		P/O. E. S. Williams		4.8.45
		P/O. G. Hannah		4.8.45
				Date of Departure
		F/Lt. J. A. Powell		30.8.45
		F/O. A. A. Morley?		1.8.45
		F/O. R. M? Ritchie		1.8.45
		F/O. M? E? Seale		1.8.45
		(ii) Tour Expired Aircrew		
		The following personnel are operationally Tour Expired.		
		C.1420 S/Ldr. O. A. H. Sims. R195421 Sgt. Gray, N. A.		
		C.4277 S/Ldr. E? D. Wilson. 1577877 F/S. Howkins, D. J.		
		J.48181 F/O. F. E? Draper. J.48177 F/O. A. Fitsmaurice?		

			J.47453 F/O. G. M. Hercus? J.47457 F/O. J. M. Flanagan.
			J.3?6190 F/O. R. G. Buzza. R.200770 Sgt. Frame, R. R.
			J.47367 F/O. V. I. McNaughton. J.47311 P/O. A. R. Thomarat
			R.272141 Sgt. Skeet, G. W. R.268217 Sgt. Jackson, D. F.
			J.47452 P/O. J. H. Stott. 18?94550 F/S. Thrush, F. J.
			(iii) Visitors
			Nil.
			(iv) Statement of Strength
			55 Officers 117 S.N.C.Os plus 2 Attached.
			243? Airmen plus 21 Attached.
			(v) Commanding Officers Resume.
			The Squadron is now well settled in at the Camp and all is now proceeding smoothly. Living conditions, food and recreational facilities are good and the general morale of the Unit is of a fairly high order. Our M.T. has at long last arrived from Bangalore taking something over 2 ½ months for the journey and consequently the transport situation is considerably eased. Mail from the U.K. for all ranks arrived regularly and there are no complaints. The health of all Unit members is satisfactory and gives no cause for worry.