

## July 1945 Form 540 China Bay Detachment

## 357 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events			
Section 1			Operational Flying			
R.A.F. China Bay	12/7/45		Operation Funnel 34	J.22963	F/Lt J. A. King	Successful.
	12/7/45		" Funnel 35		W/O T??idenham	Not Successful, incomplete reception.
	13/7/45		" Carpenter 27		F?/O A. Coker	Successful.
	15/7/45		" Funnel 52?	R.134124	W/O Brendum, T. P.	Successful.
	16/7/45		" Carpenter 25	J.26160	F/O K?uzza, A. G.	Successful.
	16/7/45		" Carpenter 33		W/Cdr L. M. Hodges	Not Successful, weather en route.
	18/7/45		" Beacon 6?		F/O Marsh	Not Successful, Fuel shortage
	18/7/45		" Beacon 7		F/O Forrest	Successful.
	19/7/45		" Carpenter 31		F/Lt Smith	Successful.
	19/7/45		" Carpenter 32		F/O Coker	Successful.
	19/7/45		" Sergeant 17		W/O Tud?denham	Successful.
	19/7/45		" Sergeant 18	R.134124	W/O Brendum, T. P.	Successful.
	21/7/45		" Galvanic 8	C.1490	S/Ldr Sims, O. A. H.	Successful.
	21/7/45		" Galvanic 9		F/Lt Fer?wick	Successful.
	21/7/45		" Galvanic 11		F/O Forrest	Successful.
	22/7/45		" Carpenter 36	J.22963	F/Lt King, J. A.	Not Successful (Aircraft recalled by 222 Group)
	22/7/45		" Carpenter 37		F/O Roberts	Not Successful (Aircraft recalled by 222 Group)
	22/7/45		" Carpenter 39?		F/O Comer??	Not Successful (Aircraft recalled by 222 Group)
	24/7/45		" Tunnel 55		F/O March	Not Successful, No reception.
	24/7/45		" Tunnel 56		F/O Powell	Not Successful, No reception.
	25/7/45		" Carpenter 40		F/Lt Smith	Successful
	25/7/45		" Carpenter 41		F/O Roberts	Successful
	27/7/45		" Fighter 8			Not Successful. weather over D.A.
	27/7/45		" Fighter 9			Not Successful. weather over D.A.
	28/7/45		" Carpenter 44			Successful
	28/7/45		" Carpenter 45			Not Successful. George U/S
	28/7/45		" Carpenter 47			Successful
	28/7/45		" Sergeant			Successful
	30/7/45		" Humour??	R.134124		Successful
	30/7/45		" Galvanic			Successful

Section 2		Non Operational Flying			
R.A.F. China Bay			Hrs.	Mins.	
	8/7/45	Local Flying	1	00	
	8/7/45	Cross country.	38	20	
	9/7/45	Cross country.	14	50	
	9/7/45	Local Flying	2	00	
	10/7/45	Cross country.	14	35	
	10/7/45	Air Test	1	00	
	11/7/45	Air Test	1	00	
	12/7/45	Cross country.	15	00	
	14/7/45	Loran exercise.	4	30	
	15/7/45	Loran check and practice drop.	3	05	
	19/7/45	Local Flying.	2	00	
	20/7/45	Circuits & Bumps.	1	30	
		{next frame, cbjul45p03 is either misplaced or there are pages missing – it follows}			
Section 4		Commanding Officers Resume Continued			
		put into employment without the slightest delay. As the number of arrivals grow this function was easier to perform and the Squadron very rapidly got into stride. The good food, general cleanliness of the Camp and improved Climate conditions boosted the morale of the Squadron and helped to smooth over the minor difficulties inevitable with of move of this nature.			
		Movement order attached			
		{starting frame cbjul45p04}			
Section 2		Non Operational Flying Continued			
			Hrs	Mins	
	23/7/45	Local Flying	1	55	
	24/7/45	Local Flying	2	15	
	26/7/45	Local Flying	1	45	
	28/7/45	Ferry to Colombo – return.	2	00	
	29/7/45	Local Flying	1	00	
	29/7/45	Ferry to Colombo	1	00	
	30/7/45	Air Test	1	00	
	31/7/45	Local Flying	1	00	
Section 3		(i) Welfare. Entertainments.			
		The Airmen's Canteen was started shortly after the arrival of the Advance Party and provides a comfortable meeting place, having a recreation room for table tennis and a splendid reading and writing room. A canteen is being built on the aerodrome to provide morning and afternoon tea at very cheap prices. This is			

		being staffed by aircrew personnel. A representative of the Welfare Committee visited Trincomalee and contacted the Welfare Committee there, with the result that representative of this Squadron will be asked to attend the next Committee Meeting held in Trincomalee. A small party of musicians gave their services at a W.R.N.S. function and performed so successfully that several other minor engagements were made. Two M.T. vehicles on Wednesdays and Saturdays run into Trincomalee to take airmen to the Cinema and to the Combined Services Club. In addition the Cinema at China Bay which is relatively close by is well patronised. A library has been started and newspapers and periodicals are available.
		{frame cbjul45p05 – obviously something missing}—not frames b&w – not grey scale – hard to read
Section 4		Tour Expired Aircrew Continued
		J.28962 F/L J. A. King. J.44512 F/O K. M. Oddson. J.45867 F/O W. E. Stevens?
		J.45884 P/O D. K. Jordan R.267112 F/S Saunders, R. K. R.258795 Tingley, R. R.
		R.116?324 F/S Johnson, J. D? J.45036? F/O H. K? Wagner J.46025 F/O R. W. Sanderson
		Wing Commander L. M. Hodges 49833 F/L L. G. Reed 148894 F/L A. A. Marley A.418500 F/O K. Buchanen A.413266 F/O M. D. Seale 171179 F/O R. W. Ritchie
		(iii) Visitors
		Wing Commander Park, F.P.M.O. visited the Squadron on the 24th July, 1945.
		(iv) Statement of Strength
		50 Officers plus 4 Attached. 80 S.N.C.Os plus 9 Attached.
		230 Airmen plus 11 Attached. 18 Enrolled Followers.
		(v) Commanding Officers Resume.
		An advance party arrived at China Bay on the 20th June, 1945, and took up residence at Chinawadi Camp 2 miles N. W. of China Bay. Their duties were to prepare the Camp for habitation by Squadron personnel who were to be ferried from Jessore (???) by Liberator and Dakota aircraft. A small party of No.10 Filter room and 5009? A. M. E. personnel were billeted on the Camp and gave every assistance. The water supply in the Camp was inadequate and it was not until 15th July, that anything like the quantity of water necessary for a Camp of this size was obtained. Our M.T. Vehicles from Bangalore have not yet arrived and the M.T. position is critical though improving slowly. The delay in arrival of this M.T. has put a severe strain on all services and sections ant has somewhat restricted our plans. During the move, arrangements were always in advance of arrivals, and personnel were
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Section 2		(i) Welfare Entertainments, Continued.
		Church services at China Bay are available to all. On the 17th July, the Rev. Gadstan (PMUB?) of Colombo visited us at 1915 hours and ia a very hurried rally a group of 8?0 Officers N.C.Os and airmen attended a short service given by him. The Classical Music evenings at Chi Bay are well patronised and the popularity of this function is increasing as it becomes better known. The sea

			bathing is thoroughly enjoyed and everyone is delighted with the situation of the Camp.
			(ii) Sports.
			We have made contacts in this area and have been given permission to use the soccer fields at China Bay and Trincomalee on certain afternoons each week. WE have a fine stock of sports equipment and enthusiasm is of a high standard.
			the results of matches are: 20.7.45 Trial soccer Match Squadron Team Possibles v Probables 2 – 1. 24.7.45 Intersection Match. Armourers v C & M Party 1 – 2. 30.7.45 Flight v C * M Party 2 – 3. Hockey trials were postponed on account of weather.
			(iii) Health
			The number of airmen and S.N.C.Os reporting sick for the month of July was 24%, which gives the average number reporting sick about 8.8 daily. The vast majority of these complaints were of a trivial character. There is a noticeable increase in Acute Otitis Externa amongst the personnel of this Detachment, this may be due to the facilities for swimming. However the morale building effect of good swimming is such that it would be senseless to stop swimming on this score.
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Section 4			(i) Movements In and Out Officers.
			date of arrival
			date of arrival
			F/O G? W. Chapman 3.7.45 F/O R. N. Forrest 3.7.45
			F/O M. H. King 3.7.45 A.410?268 F/L M? D. Seale 4.7.45
			F/L L. Nelson 4.7.45 F/O N. J. Reilly 4.7.45
			F/L L. G. Reed 4.7.45 F/O R. Ritchie 4.7.45
			F/O R. L. Reade? 4.7.45 F/L A. A. Morlay 4.7.45
			P/O C. C. Hood 4.7.45 F/O D. Powell? 4.7.45
			F/O T. B. Bostock 4.7.45 F/O J. B? Howell 4.7.45
			F/O S. W. Smith 4.7.45
			Wing Commander P. 27.7.45 R. Gaskell
			date of departure
			Wing Commander L. M. Hodges 19.7.45
			J.23275 F/L W. J. Jackson 19.7.45
			J.48052 F/O A. G. Diggins 19.7.45
			(ii) Tour Expired Aircrew
			The following personnel are operationally tour expired.
			J23405 F/O A. B. Coy. J. 46770 F/O C. M? Stearns. J. 44468? F/O R. E. Jorgans?
			J.45828 F/O C. S. Campbell. J.44?048 F/O G. D? McGregor. J.46765 F/O A? A. Palmme?
			R.214096 F/S McDonald, F. C. R.154826 F/S ?espres, A. C. R.284576 F/S Noble J.
			138888 F/Lt J. A. Powell. 152?404 F/O P. C. Gane. 195987 S. C. C. Hood.
			1544888 F/S Rosendorf, M 1545457 W/O Osbon, F? 1437268 W/O Wesham?

		E.
		13868?29 F/S Mardie, D. 1594456 F/S Williams. E.
		{end of frame}
		{starting frame cbjul45p08}
		(iii) Health Continued
		<p>Thirty Officers reported sick during July, all these too were minor complaints, except in the case of two? Officers of the R.C.A.F. who were medically boarded ex India on account of Chronic Eastachian? Catarah. It is noted that members of the R.C.A.F. are more prone to diseases of the Ear Nose and Throat than are other personnel. Morale:- The morale of the airmen is fair only; as was expected, airmen leaving bad conditions of living for relatively good, lose any discipline that they may have had for a short while. Morale will sink a little, and then rise again in a month or so. Morale of Aircrew:- The morale of aircrew at this Detachment is moderate in quality. There have been no cases of lack of moral fibre during the last month. Amongst aircrews here the Liberator Aircraft are not well liked, the result of having taken away from the proximity of 358 Squadron who suffered from some fatal accidents was good. There has been a fair deal of criticism amongst aircrew on the extension of the operational tour from 300 Hrs. to 400 Hrs. The medical Officer is of the opinion that this increase demands a review of leave facilities for aircrew, and that as far as operational exigencies permit, aircrew should be sent on leave for at least ten days after completing 250 Hrs operational flying. Wing Commander Park, F.P.M.O. visited the Squadron during the last week of July and the question of reducing the tour for 'B?' and 'C' flight was raised. This question it is understood is now under consideration by Higher Authority. Medical Administration for the Squadron Detachment ran smoothly since the date of arrival at Chinnavadi. There have been only 12 admissions to hospital since Medical personnel arrived at this Camp. (24.6.45) about 75% of these admissions to Hospital would normally be treated in S.S.Q. if one were available.</p>
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		{start of frame cbjul45p09}
		(iii) Health Continued
		<p>The absence of beds in the M.I. Room and the presence of the Combined Services Hospital Trincomalee seven miles away rules that they should be transferred to Hospital. There was a sharp decline in Malaria and Dysentery on this Detachment coming to Ceylon. The Venereal disease rate remains at a low level, sanitation and hygiene of the Camp was considered satisfactory.</p>
		<p>Generally speaking during the month of July, Medical administration, medical facilities, hygiene and sanitation presented no difficulty, but a watch must be kept on the medical side of the operational side of the flying done by this Detachment.</p>
		(i) Movements. In and Out of Officers.
		<p>Wing Commander L. M. Hodges., D.F.C., D.S.O., the Commanding Officer left us on posting on the 19th July, and his loss is regretted by all. His skill, energy, and drive had given a tremendous impetus to the Squadron and the standard of work and of flying had improved considerably. Wing Commander P. R. Goskell., D.F.C., arrived to take over duties as Station Commander on 26th July, 1945.</p>

					date of arrival			date of arrival
				F/O R. Carter	20.6.45		F/O D? B. Gibson	20.6.45
		A.418500		F/O K. Buchanan	20.6.45		F/L D. V. Foster	25.6.45
				F/O Gane	27.6.45	J.44824	F/O W. R? Edwards	28.6.45
		J.26150		F/O A. Buzza	29.6.45	J.45844	F/O D. J. Jordan	29.6.45
		J.22963		F/L J. King	29.6.45	J.47267	P/O V. I. Mcnaughton	29.6.45
		J.44512		F/O K. Oddson?	29.6.45	J.46035	F/O R. W? Sanderson	29.6.45
		J.45967		F/O W. Stevens	29.6.45	J.47452	P/O J. Stott	29.6.45
		J.47311		P/O A. Thomarat	29.6.45	J.45935	F/O H. F. Wagner	29.6.45
				F/O G. March	2.7.45	J.47456?	P/O R. M. Cartman?	2.7.45
				{end of frame}				
				{next frame is Form 541}				

**NOTE: This is not even to the "rough draft level" – from the included notes, one can see these records are a "problem", especially in the order of the frames.**