

May 1945: Form 540

357 Squadron

(note original hand written and difficult to read in places)

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events					
Jessore	May	1945	Part I – Operations					
			the month started with quite a rush, there being fourteen sorties on the first of May. Most of which went to Character, Heavy & Carpenter areas. In passing this month, 247 SD Sqdn. (based at Jessore only) a total of 138 sorties were flown, in a period of quite weather, the weather in general decreased as the month advanced bringing the Monsoon. Of these 156 were detailed, & a hundred & twenty nine (129) were successful. This gives us a percentage of success as 82.3% & 27.7% failures. Which considering the hazardous weather & positions of Dropping Zones, which were sometimes perilous because of it. This is a very out standing achievement. The Dakotas of course have the ??eent of the work as Liberators cannot drop on many of the D.Z.'s in Burma. 88 sorties were flown by the Dakotas against 50 of the Liberators. But not to be out done, the Liberators flew eleven long distance operations, which were the longest operational Liberator flights to be made in South Eastern Asia.					
			with all this, the total operational hours flown by 357 Sqdn was 1327.14 hours. During which time, we dropped 453,000 lbs of stores, 36,500 lbs. of leaflets. (It? exactly noted that 251 lbs is equal to 19,000 leaflets which meant about 1,000,000 of them).					
			On this month only one aircraft was lost, being Dakota KJ180, captained by F/Lt. C. Egerton-Eves, who was on detachment to China. The pilot & navigator were killed.					
			The month held many successes in the face of some of the worst weather yet encountered. From the 1st of the month to about the 5th, a cold Front extended over the Southern part of Burma, though clod & high winds found to be everywhere. From the South except for low Stratus, but becoming progressively worse to the North. After that date, all parts seemed to be affected in much the same way. Causing discomfort to the crews, but really ???? a ???? ????					
			On most of the ?????? Rebbecca was briefed as part of the reception, it was found impossible to pick it up, or when picked up, the DZ was already in sight, which it almost useless, as also the coding was mostly weak and indistinct. It is thought that by the crews that the mountains are cutting off the signal and it would be better to have them on a hill if possible.					
			During the month, there were 4 (four) Blind Drops. According to the crews report, all were successful and the parties all safely landed. As yet no reports from the field have been received.					
			The only thing of interest apart from the weather was a sortie on Dracula when the Dakota was met by a Mustang and a Mosquito, which proceeded to shoot up the village, whilst the Dakota dropped on the D.Z.					
			A Detailed Synopsis of Operations					
Code Name	Countr y	Area	Libs		Daks		Total	Remarks
			S	U	S	U		
Character	Burma	Kempayu	11	3	50	5	69	The Liberators were unsuccessful due to weather, 2 Dakotas found their DZ's without receptions. And 3 returned because of the

								weather on route & over DZs. With Eureka, out of 26 trips briefed for it, only 6 were successful in picking it up, 8 no report on it, & 12 no reception on Rebecca at all.	
Nation	"	Pegu	2	--	3	--	5	Fair weather	
Heavy	"	Kentung	--	--	6	3	9	All a/c experienced very bad weather in the area. Only one a/c failed due to this however.	
Dilwyn	"	Heseni	--	--	3	1	4	Weather fair. One a/c found no reception.	
Passage	"		--	--	1	--	1	Clouds? over DZ.	
Neronran? ?	"		1	1	--	--	2	One a/c had bad weather over DZ.	
Holder	Burma	--	--	--	1	--	1	This was a 'Blind Drop', & the leader of the party was satisfied with the identification.	
Wineglass	Burma	--	--	--	1	--	1		
Dracula	Burma	--	--	--	1	--	1	A Mustang and a Mosquito joined the A/C, & then bombed & strafed the nearest village whilst the Dak dropped.	
Cutter	Burma	--	1	--	--	--	1	Weather Fair.	
Outward	Burma	--	1	--	--	--	1	Good all round.	
Carpenter	Malaya	Kersing	6	3	--	--	9	For the most part, the weather was good down in S. Malaya. Only isolated thunder-storms were encountered. One A/C was recalled & one developed an A.P.U. fault at Akyab.	
Nutshell	Malaya	--	6	1	--	--	7	In N. Malaya the weather was good, but an extensive layer of St. Cu. was found to obscure most of the land & sea.	
Pontoon	Malaya	Helantan	2	1	--	--	3	Mostly Fair.	
Galvanic	Malaya	--	2	--	--	--	2	Isolated thunder storms.	
Pirate	Malaya	--	1	--	--	--	1	Had two DZs. Both found.	
Beacon	Malaya	Helantan	1	--	--	--	1	Fair weather.	
Funnel	Malaya	Helantan	1	--	--	--	1		
Gaingorn	Malaya	Mua-Hin	2	--	--	--	2	One A/C was recalled but due to atmospheric did not receive the message. Very bad storms.	
Bazaar	F.I.C.	--	--	2	--	--	2	No reception in both cases.	
Siren?	F.I.C.	--	2	--	--	--	2	--	
Catydle	Siam	Udorn	3	--	--	--	3	--	
Heberdes ?	Malaya	Caobang	1	1	--	--	2	Weather over DZ stopped one operation.	
Parterre	F.I.C.	--	1	--	--	--	1	The primary DZ not used. The secondary appeared to be an old installation. Airfield.	
Avenge	F.I.C.	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	
Sleeve	F.I.C.	Lakon Saron	1	--	--	--	1	--	
			Total Liberator sorties for May 50						
			Total Dakota sorties for May 86						
			Sqdn. A/C strength as of May 31st 1945						
			Liberators		Dakotas		Harvards	Sentinels	
			KH331		KJ889		FS794	--	
			KH273		KJ913		FS989	--	
			KH391		KJ919				
			EW119		KJ922				
			EW164		KJ924				
			BZ974		KJ925				

			KH166	KJ926		
			KH216	KN304		
			Part II Administration			
Jessore	May	1945	Visits & Staff Officers			
	May 11		The only visitor to this station during May was F/L. A. J. Brook who is conducting a tour of SD units & the Clandestine Organisations in Calcutta & Jessore. He will conduct a research into matters affecting S.D. operations. F/L. A. J. Brook is an officer of the Headquarters Operational Research Section. He is expected on the 19 May 45.			
	May 10		A signal was received that Major F. T. S. Jensen S.A.A.F. would tour the command during May & June. He is the South African Liaison Officer. It is not known when he will arrive.			
	May 16		An Order of the Day was received today from Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander:- Reads			
			"You have won the race for Rangoon, and beaten the Monsoon as well as the Japanese. The fall of the capital 10 days before the rains will be upon you, brings to an end the Battle of Burma, for although isolated pockets of the enemy remain, their doom is now sealed. From the Chinese Armies in the North, who fought their way with the American Brigade down to Lashio, to the British & Indian & East & West African divisions who have fought from Komima to Rangoon, you have covered in this great battle 4000 miles of the worst country in the world & under the worlds worst climate and conditions.			
			In the process you have killed 97,000 Japanese and inflicted a quarter of a million casualties. You have in fact given the enemy such a beating and harried them so hard, the vaulted Japanese army, about whose toughness and fanaticism we have heard so much, has in some cases pulled out rather than meet your final assault. Your victories have been a magnificent example of Inter-Service, Inter-Allied co-operation. To achieve them, the ground forces not only received the normal air support, but have had to be supplied by air on a scale never before achieved, and the American Air Forces have worked with the R.A.F. right through to the capture of Rangoon.			
			Meanwhile, the Royal Navy have cut the enemy's communications and have made possible a series of amphibious hooks round the coast of Arakan, culminating in a combined operation in which the 15th Corp assaulted Rangoon from the sea just as the 14th Army approached the town from the North.			
			The liberation of Burma, in which we have had the active assistance of the Burmese, makes not only the successful accomplishment of the first stage in your advance, it will also be your springboard for your further & greater Victories." Ends.			
	May 16		From Headquarters, Eastern Air Command. Begins:-			
			Quote SEAC from Mountbatten. I am happy to have received the Prime Ministers authorisation to announce that H.M. the king has commanded that a special decoration "The Burma Star" shall be struck. The ribbons are being flown out for all three services at the earliest moment. (Ends).			
Jessore	May 2		The "Cloak and Dagger" (P.S.I) is to be further improved with the profit gained in the past months.			
	May 3		A messing committee meeting was held at 1930 hrs to try & improve the airman's messing & to receive any complaints & suggestions.			
	May 9		Tombola was played from 1930 hrs to 2030 hrs. It attracted a goodly gathering.			
	May 10		Victory Celebrations --			
			Thursday 10 May 45 Stand Down			

		Sunday 13 May 45	Church Parade & Stand Down
		Monday 14 May 45	Sports. Stand Down
	May 30		Committee of Adjustment
			Can.J12694 F/L. J. G. Blinkhorn & Can.J46787 F/O. F. B. Spence authorised to form a Committee of Adjustment w.e.f. 23 May 1945 for:-
			F/L. C. H. Egerton-Eves, G.D.(P)
			Can.J27477 F/O. W. B. Arnold, G.D.(N)
Jessore	May		Welfare
			Several Welfare plays were forwarded to this station, to be used by the personnel, it is hoped that one will be enacted soon.
	May 6		For Canadian personnel a pamphlet called "The First Four Years" was received.
	May 8		Postal voting forms were received & distributed. Later collected & forwarded to H.Q. Burma.
	May 28		It is hoped to form a Station Brass Band on the advice of H.Q. Burma.
			Of course the beer ration arrived safely & 5 bottles per man were issued.
			The football & hockey games are being scheduled & played with the same enthusiasm.
			Ecclesiastical
			Pamphlets for Jewish personnel have been forwarded here.
			The Bishop of Calcutta Administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to several men.
			Part III Personnel
Jessore	May		R.A.F.
			Posting
		163736 F/O. N. N. McSter GD(A.B)	Posted to 357 Sqdn from 358 Sqdn W.E.F. 1.4.45.
		189923 P/O. R. A. Winby A.G.D. M.T.	Posted to 357 Sqdn Es. U.K. W.E.F. 31.3.45.
		164670 F/O. B. A. Haynes G.D.(N)	Posted to 357 Sqdn from 361 M.U. W.E.F. 27.4.45.
		164774 F/O. R.. B? Hougby G.D.(P)	
		164804 F/O. R. D. Butler G.D.(N)	
		164104 F/O. A. J. McAskill GD(NG)	Posted to 357 Sqdn from S.H.Q. Ratmalana W.E.F. 1.5.45.
		169728 F/O. W. R. Painter GD.(P)	
		139970 F/L. H. Deen GD(P)	Posted to 357 Sqdn from S.H.Q. Ratmalana W.E.F. 1.5.45.
		175368 F/O. M. G. H. King GD(F.E)	Posted to 357 Sqdn from 231 Group W.E.F. 18.4.45. Proceeded to 329 M.U. W.E.F. 23.4.45.
			Promotions
		198987 P/O. S. C. C. Hood GD(N)	Appointed to Commissioned Rank W.E.F. 6.12.44.
		196400 P/O. E. A. Wheelhouse GD(P)	Appointed to Commissioned Rank W.E.F. 2.3.45.
		163921 P/O. J. Poulton GD(AB)	Promoted F/O. W.E.F. 11.4.44
		164242 P/O. S. G. Dove GD(AG)	" " " 2.12.44
		186420 P/O. J. H. Newbury GD(N)	" " " 18.1.45
		186012 P/O. F. W. Pearce GD(AG)	" " " 18.1.45
		187363 P/O. F. C. Cook GD(P)	" " " 5.11.44

		161558 P/O D. B. Gibson A&S.D.	" " " 3.8.44
		164107 P/O. G. H. Lawrence GD(A.B)	" " " 25.8.44
		150072 F/O. A. G. Fenwick GD(P)	" F/L " 11.1.45
		134082 F/O. G. H. Egerton-Eves GD(P)	" " " 10.2.45
		Decorations	
		His Gracious Majesty has conferred the Distinguished Flying Cross to the undermentioned officers.	
		187363 P/O. F. C. Cook GD(P)	2.4.45
		186420 P/O. J. H. Newbury GD(N)	13.4.45
		186012 P/O. F. W. Pearce GD(AG)	13.4.45
		88689 F/L (act S/Ldr) T. P. O'Brien GD(P)	24.4.45
	May	R.C.A.F.	
		Promotions	
		J45828 P/O. O. S. H. Campbell GD(N)	2.12.44
		J45192 P/O. A. E. Duff GD(AB)	5.11.44
		J45844 P/O. D. K. Jordan GD(AB)	2.12.44
		J44948 P/O. G. d. McGregor GD(AB)	5.11.44
		J46765 P/O. I. A. Palumbo GD(WG)	30.12.44
		J47494 P/O. W. V. Parslon GD(AG)	4.2.45
		J46035 P/O. R. W? Sanderson GD(AG)	2.11.44
		J46770 P/O. C. M. Stearns GD(WG)	30.12.44
		J45967 P/O. W. E. Stevens GD(N)	2.12.44
		J45936 P/O. H. W. F. Wagner GD(AG)	2.12.44
		J46521 P/O. R. Sinclair GD(N)	30.12.44
		Casualties	
		The undermentioned officer was killed whilst flying in Dakota KH180, which crashed at Yuping on May 20, 1945	
		J27477 F/O. W. B. Arnold GD(N)	
		Postings	
		C4277 S/Ldr E. D. Nelson GD(N)	Posted from R.A.F. Station Poona W.E.F. 22.4.45
		J12694 F/Lt. J. G. Blinkhorn GD(P)	Posted to 357 Sqdn. Ex. UK. W.E.F. 5.2.45
		J45823 P/O G. A Mackey GD(N)	
		J46787 P/O. F. B. Spence GD(WG)	
		J35944 P/O. J. R.Tarzwell GD(N)	Posted to 357 Sqdn. Ex. UK. W.E.F. 31.1.45
		J10354 F/Lt. B. G. Henson GD(P)	
		J46764 P/O. R. Pomezan GD(WG)	Posted to ACSEA Commn. Sqdn. W.E.F. 27.4.45
		J25346 F/O. R. G. Stothers GD(P)	
		C.1490 S/Ldr. O. H. Simms A.F.C. GD(P)	Posted from R.A.F. Station Poona W.E.F. 19.4.45
		J12779 F/O. A. F. Timmerman GD(P)	
		J47321 P/O. N. Reeve GD(N)	
		J471?53? P/O. L. N. Horsus GD(AG)	
		J47457 P/O. J. Flanagan? GD(AG)	
		J47869 F?/O. G. Faulkner GD(WG)	
		J47975? P/O. W. P. McLoed GD(WG)	

		J47344 P/O. J. J. P. Peron GD(N)	
		J45177 P/O. A. Fritz-Maurice GD(WG)	
		J48187 P/O. P. Drapper GD(WG)	
		Decorations	
		J15004 F/Lt. T. R. Alverson, GD(N)	
		Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross	
		R.A.A.F.	
		Postings	
		A.413268 F/O. M. Seale? GD(N)	To 357 Sqdn W.E.F. 30.1.45
		A.14407 F/Lt. P. W. Bowler? (DFC) GD(P)	To 357 Sqdn. (Adjutant Post) 6.3.45
		A.424296 P/O. F. C. Cutlar GD(N)	To R.A.F. Kolar W.E.F. 14.4.45
		A.415578 P/O. P. A. Black GD(P)	To ACSEA W.E.F. 27.4.45
		A.421792 P/O. T. A. Collister GD(P)	To BAFSEA W.E.F. 25.4.45
		Promotions	
		A.430912 F/O. F. G. Barlogie (DFC) GD(P) Promoted F/L. W.E.F. 30.12.44	
		Decorations	
		His Majesty the King, has graciously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on the below mentioned Officers.	
		A.14407 P. W. Bowles GD(P)	
		A.420912 F. G. Barlogie GD(P)	
		Statement of Personnel Strength	
		Officers	Airmen
		R.A.F.	71 614
		R.C.A.F.	44 29
		R.A.A.F.	8 16
		R.N.Z.A.F.	1 1
		Total 784	
		Officer Commanding. 357 (SD) Sqdn.	