

October 1945: Form 540

358 Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events
R.A.F. Station Jessore	October 1945		
			I. Operations.
	1		Operation Order No. 139
	3		Operation Order No. 140.
	5		Operation Order No. 141.
	6		At 1636 hrs. on 6.10.45 Liberator SD/VI KH258 (Capt. F/S. C. Sheperd) took off on a Non-Op. flight. After take off A/c crashed and burst into flames at approx 1633 hrs. 8 miles S.E? of Jessore Airfield. The cause of the Crash is not known.
			The following personnel were killed and injured:
			Killed.
			164515 F/O. J. M. Benyon – 2 Pilot.
			1896041 F/S. E. M. White – A.G.
			1896?98 F/S. T. O. Williams – F/Eng.
			16?3235 F/S. H. A? Pethick – Passenger (P.Unit – 46 Staging Post)
			164870 F/O. A. G. Page – Nav. (Died on injuries approx. 2000 hrs).
			Injured.
			1533359 F/S. C. Sheppard – Capt.
			1586962 Sgt. K. G? Chirgwin – WOP.
			5021757 F/S. W. Smith – A/G.
			3032635 F/S. D. H. Radrord – A/G.
			1578126 F/S. H. Wasdall? – Passenger (P.Unit – 46 Staging Post)
			10844 Major Lightfoot – Passenger (P.Unit – 4th Army Corps)
			??0 Cpl. M. Robinson? – Passenger (P.Unit – A.a?S.B. Army H.Q.)
			All injured personnel (except Major Lightfoot who was sent by road) were conveyed by air and all were admitted to No. 21 B.G.H. on 7.10.45.
	7		Operation Order No. 142.
	9		Operation Order No. 143.
	11		Operation Order No. 144.
	13		Operation Order No. 145.
	15		Operation Order No. 146.
	22		Operation Order No. 147.
	24		Operation Order No. 148.
	25		Information received by Signal from H.Qs. B.A.F.S.E.A. to move the Squadron to Bishnapur on 1.11.45 and disband on 7.11.45. Only essential Domestic and Welfare equipment to be taken.
	26		S/Ldr. Legg proceeded to Bishnapur to make survey and all necessary reception arrangements.
	27		The Advance Air and Road parties proceeded to Bishnapur.
	29		Main Air Trooping of personnel commenced and all personnel except a small C & M Party and a rear party were flown over to Bishnapur by Squadron aircraft.
	30		Information received from A.H.Q. Burma that move and disbandment of Squadron to be postponed until 17th and 24th November 1945 respectfully.
			Operational Summary for October.

			This month the successes have been very high the highest since the formation of 358 Squadron. Mainly due to D.Zs being more exposed and excellent weather. Owing to disturbances in F.I.C. after cessation of hostilities, our supply dropping has been confined to the borders of F.I.C. Particular care had to be taken to ensure no violations of this order, and no reports of violation by the crews from this Squadron have been received. The last of the P.O.W. supply drops was completed at the beginning of the month.
			Owing to movement of P.O.Ws being executed very rapidly, the number of P.O.W. drops was decreased considerably. The bulk of the remaining drops was confined to isolated parties in the field. Photographs were taken on a number of occasions and excellent drops were observed in this way. The first real proof since the squadron began operating.
			There were no operational casualties for this month. One aircraft was lost on a training flight, there were three survivors. On October 25th operations ceased owing to transfer of Squadron upon disbanding. This order however was cancelled and the Squadron is expected to be fully operational by the beginning of November.
			II – Administration
	20		Wing Commander, E. C. Badcoe, D.F.C. re-assumed command of the Sqdn.
	30		S/Ldr. P. Legg assumed command of the Squadron vice Wing Commander E. C. Badcoe, D.F.C. (on Release).
			III – Personnel
	3		S/Ldr. S? J. Pollock, D.F.C. and F/O. T. Reader proceeded to G.H.Q. Burma (Rear) by road and returned same day.
	7		Bodies of F/O. Benyon, F/O. Page, F/S. White and F/S. Pethick were recovered from wreckage of Lib. KH258 which crashed on 6.10.45 and the Funeral took place in the European cemetery, Jessore (2311N – 8911E) at 1730 hours. S/L. (Rev) J. Scott, C. of E., Chaplain and Rev. J. Schilde, R.C. Chaplain officiated. Full military honours were accorded.
	11		Body of F/S. Williams recovered from wreckage of F.A. on 6.10.45.
	12		Funeral of F/Sgt. Williams took place at 14.30 hours and body was interred in the European Cemetery, Jessore. S/L.. (Rev) J. Scott, C of E Chaplain officiated and full military honours were accorded.
	13		F/Lt. H. P. Legg, posted to S/L. Flight Commander post and granted the acting rank of Squadron Leader.
	21		Posted Strength of Squadron at end of month:
			Officers S.N.C.Os. B.O.Rs. I.O.Rs. E/Fs. Total.
			89 202 362 1 77 731
			V. – General
	1		The A.O.C. of H.Q. No. 228 Group visited the Station.
	16/17		Stand down for all squadron personnel not on essential duty.
	26		A farewell party was held in the Officers Mess for W/Cdr. E. C. Badcoe, DFC who was leaving the Squadron Release from the Service.
			Squadron Leader, Commanding
			No. 358 Squadron, R.A.F.