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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and
 A.C.I. and notes in R.A.F. Field Service
 Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 628 S.D. Squadron

No. of pages used for day As nec.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake MADRAS	21-3-44	-	No. 628 (S.D.) Squadron was formed under the authority of Air Command, South East Asia Formation Order No.90 dated 23.2.44 (Appendix "A") . The Squadron is located at Redhills Lake, Madras and is equipped with Catalina aircraft . Establishment for aircraft is 6 I.E. + 3 I.R. -Effort 600 hours/month. The Squadron is Operationally controlled by Air Command, South East Asia and administratively controlled by Headquarters, No. 225 Group through Royal Air Force Station, Redhills Lake. The function of the Squadron is "Special Duties". No Establishment for personnel has so far been issued.	Appdx: "A"
-do-	31.3.44	-	Although only formed on 21.3.44, four aircraft and crews of this Squadron have been accommodated by No.240 Squadron, and have been carrying out various training exercises and operational work since the beginning of the year. This work has been included in the Form 540 of 240 Squadron. On the 4th March, 1944, one aircraft - Catalina 1B - FP 161 was reported as missing while on a transit flight, and no further news of this aircraft has been heard. It is feared that this aircraft was lost as the result of abnormal weather conditions, there being a cyclone in force in the vicinity of the scheduled route. The missing personnel are as follows:- F/Off. F. Aiston (129439) G.D./Pilot. F/Off. T.R. Holland (124320) G.D./Nav. 1320154. T/Sgt. Garcia, A - Pilot. 1036348. T/Sgt. Wild - Flt.Eng/A.G. 1119325. T/Sgt. Whitby, H. - W.Op. 1432828. T/Sgt. Tasker, C.N. -W.Op/A.G. 1196990-T/Sgt. Holland, G.W. - W.Op/A.G. 1095641. T/Sgt. Yeaman, R.W. -A.G. 1571602. T/Sgt. Owen, R.H. - F.W.E./A.G. Form 541 not applicable for this month.	

F.H. Spalden
 Squadron Leader, Commanding,
 No. 628 (S.D) Squadron, India.

Reference:-

AIR 27/2151

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2310/ORG. III

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS, AIR COMMAND, SEA.
DATED:- 23rd March, 1944.

FORMATION ORDER No. 90.
FORMATION OF No. 628 (SPECIAL DUTIES) SQUADRON.

INTENTION

1. To reform "B" Flight, of No. 357 Squadron(SD) as No. 628 (SD) Squadron (Catalinas 6 plus 3)
Date Effective:- 21st March, 1944. Location: Red Hills Lake, Madras.

EXECUTION.

Function.

2. Special Duties.
3. Operational Control
4. Air Command, South East Asia
5. Establishment
6. LWE/SEA/239 A.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Administrative Control

1. Headquarters, No. 225 Group through S.H.Q., Red Hills Lake.

Personnel

2. To be posted ex "B" Flight, No. 357 Squadron with additional personnel as necessitated by the revised establishment.

Priority

3. "A"

Equipment

4. From Station Headquarters, Red Hills Lake.

EQUIPMENT ACCOUNTING

5. S.H.Q. Red Hills Lake.

Administrative Services and Initial Issues

6. Responsibility has been allocated as shown and the authorities concerned will issue instructions accordingly:-

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Accommodations and Rations | } | H.Q. No. 225 Group. |
| Discipline. Security. Medical. | | |
| Pay Issue & Accounting. Welfare. | | |
| Works Services. Defence. | } | G.R.&P., A.H.Q. India. |
| Returns. Sanction for Office | | |
| Equipment. Office Allowances | | |
| Initial Issue of Forms & Pubs. | } | Equipment Section,
A.C., S.E.A. |
| Stationery. Issue of Pack Up. | | |
| Postal Arrangements and the forwarding | } | No. 5 Base Postal Unit,
(RAFPOST, Bangalore.) |
| to this Unit of Folio of all RAF | | |
| Postal Instructions issued to date. | } | A.D.Sigs., A.C., S.E.A. |
| Inter-communications. | | |

Correspondence

1. Will be addressed:-

- (a) For Official and troop's mails from overseas:-
No. 628 Squadron, R.A.F. India.
- (b) For Official and troop's mails within India:-
(1) From R.A.F. Units and personnel through R.A.F. Channels:-
No. 628 Squadron, R.A.F. India.
(2) All other correspondence: R.A.F. Station, Red Hills,
Lake, Madras.

(Signed) E.A. CHACKFIELD. G/Capt.
for Air Vice Marshal,
Air Officer i/c Administration,
Headquarters, A.C., S.E.A.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. and notes in R.A.F. Field Service Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) **No. 628 S.D. Squadron**

No. of pages used for day **1** **sec.**

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake MADRAS	21-3-44	-	<p>No. 628 (S.D.) Squadron was formed under the authority of Air Command, South East Asia Formation Order No.90 dated 23.8.44 (Appendix "A") .</p> <p>The Squadron is located at Redhills Lake, Madras and is equipped with Catalina aircraft . Establishment for aircraft is 6 I.R. + 3 I.R. -Effort 600 hours/month.</p> <p>The Squadron is Operationally controlled by Air Command, South East Asia and administratively controlled by Headquarters, No. 325 Group through Royal Air Force Station, Redhills Lake. The function of the Squadron is "Special Duties".</p> <p>No Establishment for personnel has so far been issued.</p>	Appendix "A"
-do-	31.3.44	-	<p>Although only formed on 21.3.44, four aircraft and crews of this Squadron have been accommodated by No.240 Squadron, and have been carrying out various training exercises and operational work since the beginning of the year. This work has been included in the Form 540 of 240 Squadron.</p> <p>On the 4th March, 1944, one aircraft - Catalina 1B - FF 161 was reported as missing while on a transit flight, and no further news of this aircraft has been heard. It is feared that this aircraft was lost as the result of abnormal weather conditions, there being a cyclone in force in the vicinity of the scheduled route. The missing personnel are as follows:-</p> <p>F/Off. F. Aiston (129439) G.D./Pilot. F/Off. T.R. Holland (124320) G.D./Nav. 1320154. T/Sgt. Garcia, A - Pilot. 1036348. T/Sgt. Wild - Flt.Eng/A.G. 1119325. T/Sgt. Whitby, H. - W.Op. 1432828. T/Sgt. Tasker, C.H. -W.Op/A.G. 1196990. T/Sgt. Holland, G.W. -W.Op/A.G. 1095641. T/Sgt. Yeaman, R.W.-A.G. 1571602. T/Sgt. Owen, R.H. - F.M.E./A.G.</p> <p>Form 541 not applicable for this month.</p>	

F.L. Goshu
Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 628 (S.D.) Squadron, India.

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A.C.I. and notes in R.A.F. Field Service
Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 628 (S.D.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for ~~55~~
Month. *Two*

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake	1.4.44	-	Aircrafts "S" and "T" carried out local training and air speed tests. P/Off. H.S.J. Beach and 1 N.C.O. Aircrew carried out Link training, and the crew of "P" went to Guindy for aircraft recce.	
-do-	2.4.44	-	Aircraft "S" carried out air firing practice.	
-do-	3.4.44	-	Aircrafts "S" and "T" carried out local training flights, and the crew of "X" want to the Range.	
-do-	4.4.44	-	Aircraft "T" carried out local training flight.	
-do-	5.4.44	-	Aircraft "T" carried out further local training flight. P/Off A.B. Leaver W/Off. Brookes and F/Sgt. Waddington carried out Link Training.	
-do-	6.4.44	-	Aircraft "T" carried out two local training flights.	
-do-	11.4.44	-	The Establishment for the Squadron was received today. Establishment No. LWE/SEA/278A dated 19.1.44. Authy: S.1011/2/Org-II(Estabs). War Establishment for a Standard General Reconnaissance F.B. Squadron (Catalina). Policy:- 6 I.E. + 3 I.R. Catalina Aircraft Non-mobile. Establishment provides for a Headquarters, a Daily Servicing Section and a Repair and Inspection Section.	
-do-	12.4.44	-	Aircraft "S" was launched after minor repairs and undertook a transit flight to China Bay. P/Off. H.S.J. Beach and F/Sgts Brown, Mahoney and Roberts carried out Link training.	
-do-	13.4.44	-	There was no flying today. Various lectures were given to the crews of aircraft. A Clay Pigeon match was held between the crew of Aircraft "T" and a crew from 240 Squadron.	
-do-	14.4.44	-	Aircraft "S" returned from China Bay. The crews of "P" and "Q" were given lectures and the crew of "Y" carried out some Clay Pigeon shooting.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake	15.4.44	-	Aircraft "S" (FP.152) carried out fighter affiliation. W/Off. Brookes with F/Sgts Waddington and Drummond carried out Link Training.	
-do-	17.4.44	-	Aircraft "p" (FP.225) was launched and carried out an air test. F/Off. C.C. Russell-Vick and Sgt. Chapman checked over aircraft "S" (FP.152) prior to taking on Squadron charge. Authority was received today for the posting of the undermentioned crew to this squadron with effect from the 21st March, 1944.:- F/Lt. P.A.H. McKeand (119332) G.D./Pilot, F/Off. C.C. Russell-Vick (135432) G.D./Pilot., F/Lt. E.A. Rockliffe (109932) G.D./Nav., 667435-W/Off. Berry, C.C. F/Eng., 1097580. E/Sgt. Price, J.W. - F/Eng., 1280762. F/Sgt. Garrett, L.R. - F.M.A./A.G., 902180. F/Sgt. Allan, R.H.-W.Op/AG., 1214679. Sgt. Bedford, H. - W.Op/AG., 570644. W/Off. Stevens, P.-W.E.M/AG.	
-do-	18.4.44	-	F/Lt. E.A. Rockliffe proceeded to B.R.D. Worli pending embarkation to U.K.	
-do-	19.4.44	-	Aircraft "S" (FP.152) and "p" (FP.225) carried out airfiring and training flights. Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out glide landing practices. Lectures were given to other crew on Japanese Aircraft Recognition and W/T Theory.	
-do-	20.4.44	-	Aircraft "S" (FP.152) carried out air to sea firing practice. The crews of "p" (FP.225) and "G" (Crew letter only) were shown a Radar Film. Authority was received today for the posting of the following crew to this Squadron from R.A.F. Redhills Lake with effect from the 21st March, 1944:- P/Off. H.E.J. Beach (155497) G.D./Pilot, A.413178. F/Sgt. Roberts, S.B.-Nav/B., 913590. Sgt. Powell, W.W.-F/Eng., 1446442. E/Sgt. Mahoney, D.-Pilot., 1525439. Sgt. Carter, R.E.-W.Op/AG., 1575554. Sgt. Spence, L.J.- W.O.M./AG., A.418253. F/Sgt. Croft, R.- A/G., 1527957. Sgt. Firth, J.H.- F.M.E./AG.	

(Continued Page 2)

S.K.P.-3263/G 945-21-12-43-112/000

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

S.F.P.-3963/G 945-31-12-43-12.000

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Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and
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 Pocket Book.

No. 622 (S.D.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day
 month.

Two

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake	April 20th	-	Authority was also received for the posting of the following crew from R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake (Ex.212 Sqdn) to this squadron w.e.f. 21.3.44. :- A. 401828. F/Off. J.A. O'Weara - G.D./Pilot, 141371. F/Off. A.W.J. Hawkins - G.D./Pilot, 168519. P/Off. G.F.H. Speer - G.D./G.'S', 1575260. P/Sgt. Brittle, J- Nav/B., 1160383. F/Sgt. Sharman, S.J. - P/Eng., 1709006. P/Sgt. Brazel, R.S. - FME/AG, 618119. F/Sgt. James, S. - FMA/AG., 646578. F/Sgt. Eddlestone, F - WOM/AG., Can/ R.486135. W/Off. Sebree, J. - W.Op/AG.	
-do-	2 1st	-	Aircraft "S" (FP.152) carried out air to sea firing practice and navigational exercises, and a Radar film was shown to other aircrew personnel.	
-do-	22nd	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out air to air firing, and aircraft "T" (FP.191) carried out an air test. The crew of "Q" went to Guindy for aircraft recce.	
-do-	23rd	-	Authority was received today for the posting of the following crew from R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake (Ex.205 Sqdn) to this squadron w.e.f. 21.3.44. :- 128636. F/Off. (A/F/Lt) R.B. Levack - G.D./Pilot, 158015. P/Off. K.B. Leaver - G.D./Pilot., 129485. F/Off. Walsh. F - G.D./Nav., 1394008. P/Sgt. Murray, T - FME/AG., 638340. F/Sgt. Gardiner, C.F. - FMA/AG., 577905. F/Sgt. Haskins, E. - WOM/AG., 1331219. F/Sgt. Lillystone, T. - W.Op/AG., 578198. F/Sgt. Williams, J.L. - WOM/AG., 157993. P/Off. G.B. Morgan - G.D./F.Eng. Authority was also received for the posting of 1316402. Sgt. Penn, W. - W.Op/AG to this squadron from U.K. for duty with the crew of P/Off. H.S.J. Beach.	
-do -	24th	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out fighter affiliation, and aircraft "T" (FP.191) carried out air to air firing. The crew of "P" and "T" also carried out Sten Gun shooting on the ground range.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake	April 25th	-	Aircraft "T" (FP.191) carried out fighter affiliation, and the crews of P,T, and S carried out wet dinghy drill.	
-do-	26th	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) and "T" (FP.191) proceeded on a transit flight to China Bay. F/Off. O'Meara, P/Off. Beach and F/Sgts Mahoney and Brown carried out Link Training. Authority was received for the posting of F/Off. D.P.Evans (129424) G.D./Naw. F to this squadron w.e.f. 23.4.44.	
-do-	27th	-	Aircraft "S" (FP.152) carried out circuits and air to air firing. Crews of other aircraft were given lectures on various subjects.	
-do-	28th	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out a local training flight at China Bay. The crews of "Q" and "R" did 'Sten' firing on the range. A Minor inspection was carried out on aircraft "S" (FP.152).	
-do-	29th	-	Aircraft "T" (FP.191) carried out a local training flight at China Bay. F/Lt. B. Daymond with F/Sgts Brown, Mahoney and Roberts carried out Link training. The crew of "R" went to Guindy for aircraft recce.	
.do.	30th	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out a local training flight at China Bay. <u>Personnel</u> : The end of this month finds the squadron taking physical shape, both officers and airmen being posted to the unit as the exigencies of the Service permit. Strength: Aircrew- Officers 14, O.R.23. Ground Personnel 1 O.R. 65. <u>Accommodation</u> : The personnel of the squadron are still accommodated by R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake, and arrangements are being made for tents to be erected on a site about half a mile to the north east of the station. The site selected is on raised ground approximately 40 feet above the level of the lake, in a good open position, which affords good ventilation to the tentage.	

(Signature)
Commanding, No. 628 (SD) Squadron
INDIA.

S.K.P.-303 G 945-21-12-43-112,000

INFORMATION
1. October to the Bay of Arakan Coast
2. Aircraft be from the Bay
3. Air forces their appro
4. Bengal duty 15th June
5. direct to instead of
6. national air patrols are only known by
7. at the port addressed signal pri
8. the sea of special s hid invent passed to
9. TRAINING
10. Forecast
11. Appendix

8

METEOROLOGICAL SORTIES BY NO. 354 SQUADRON ON
RETURN LEG OF MAXIM PATROLS.

1. Every year from 1st April to 15th June, and again from 1st October to 31st January, there is a possibility of cyclones forming in the Bay of Bengal, North of the Andaman Islands and moving in to the Arakan Coast.

2. The absence of reports from shipping results in reports from aircraft being the only source of supply of meteorological information from the Bay of Bengal.
3. Since the cyclones are very destructive, it is imperative that Air Forces operating over the Arabian shall have the maximum warning of their approach.

1. To provide daily meteorological reconnaissance of the Bay of Bengal during the remainder of the current cyclonic season, namely until 15th June 1944 (incl.)

EXECUTION.

5. Until 15th June (incl.) aircraft on Maxim patrols are to return direct to Base after reaching the Southermost point of the patrol, instead of carrying the return leg to the North.

6. Pending receipt of the necessary amendments to E.A.C.; Operational Directive No. 3 by Air Commander, Eastern Air Command, Maxim patrols are to be flown as at present using the Northernmost point of entry only. Patrols are to be flown clockwise and will continue to be known by the colour names.

7. Form Mauve for a Maxim Patrol will no longer contain the number of the point of entry nor the direction the patrol is flown but is to be addressed as at present and issued 48 hours prior to take-off using signal priority "Immediate". It is to be brought up to date by subsequent signals if amendments become necessary.

8. If the Air Command, East on Air Command is not satisfied that the area covered by the patrols by G.K. aircraft will meet the requirements of an accurate forecast, he will detail an aircraft to make a special sortie to a datum point at 015°N. = 091°31'E. A signal giving his intention will be despatched to this Headquarters, and, if applicable, passed to Headquarters 178 Wing.

9. As in Appendix "A".

10. Close liaison is to be maintained with Met. Officer, No. 14 Forecasting Centre, who will ensure that crews receive adequate instructions regarding the method of obtaining the information detailed in Appendix "A".

Cont...../3.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

11. No special administrative arrangements are necessary

COMMUNICATIONS.

12. Security. As far as their meteorological role is concerned, aircraft are to maintain W/T silence.

13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(J.E.W. BOWLES)
Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
No. 225 Group, R.A.F.

15th May 1944.

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R.A.F. Station, REDHILLS

INTERNAL :

A.O.C.
S.O.A.
C.S.O.
ORG.
INT.
SEC. FOLDER.
OPS
NAV/MET.

Commodore Bay of Bengal.
Adv. H.Q. Air Command, S.E.A.

FROM *HE. Air Command SEA*.....R.A.F. SUB. FORM 247

TO...HEADQUARTERS, NO. 225 GROUP, ROYAL AIR FORCE.

RECEIPT IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED OF NO. 225 GROUP INSTRUCTION -
OPERATIONS NO. 2/70 DATED 15TH MAY 1944.

SERIAL NO. AIR. 764/44.

DATE.....SIGNATURE.....RANK.....
To be returned as a NON-SECRET letter

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10

APPENDIX "A".

METEOROLOGICAL DATA REQUIRED AND SYSTEM
OF REPORTING.

Form to be used.

1. Pending the introduction of Form 2230 into the Command all meteorological data should be recorded in the Navigation Log (Air Force (Spl) Form 2123).

Data Required.

2. The following observations are to be made and recorded at intervals not exceeding 100 miles :-

- (a) Time and position of aircraft when observation made and recorded.
- (b) True airspeed.
- (c) Altitude.
- (d) Air Temperature.
- (e) Extreme visibility.
- (f) Cloud above aircraft (type, amount and height)
- (g) Cloud below aircraft (type, amount and height of tops : to include height of base, when investigated).
- (h) Surface wind, speed and direction.
- (j) Wind speed and direction at aircraft altitude.
- (k) Description of weather encountered (e.g. rain, thunderstorm, etc.).
- (l) Surface pressure (See para. 4.)
- (m) State of sea and swell.
- (n) Any special phenomena.
- (o) Icing.

General Notes.

3. Wind direction and speed, and surface pressure are particularly valuable to the forecaster in detecting the presence of cyclones, and should be accurately observed and recorded.

4. A marked swell is also significant, particularly if in a different direction from the wind. Conditions of swell should therefore be carefully noted.

Method of Obtaining Surface Pressure.

5. The surface pressure should be taken whenever possible :

- (a) At the extreme limit of the sortie.
- (b) At the centre of the Bay of Bengal.

Cont...../2.

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6. (c) The following procedure should be adopted:
- Fly at a low altitude so that the height of the aircraft can be accurately estimated.
 - Adjust the subscale of the altimeter so that the instrument reads the height at which the aircraft is estimated to be.
 - Read the true pressure off the subscale.

Provision of Meteorological Instruments.

7. No special instruments will be provided.

Method of Reporting Observations.

8. Pilots and Navigators are to report to the base Met. Officer on landing and will hand in logs. They are also to make themselves available for any further interrogation which may be deemed necessary.
9. Meteorological Officers will notify forecasts to all concerned by the existing system of broadcasting.

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Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 628 (S.D.) Squadron, India. No. of pages used for this Month - 45

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake.	1.5.44	-	No flying. Aircraft "S"(FP.152) had a 'run up', and the crew of aircraft "Q" (NB. Number) carried out a wet dinghy practice.	
-do-	2.5.44	-	Authority received today for the posting of F/Lt(A/S/Ldr) F.L. Godber (89821) to this Squadron from S.H.Q., Vizagapatam with effect from the 21st March, 1944 to fill S/Ldr. Flying post (Daily Servicing Section). Acting Rank retained. Aircraft "S"(FP.152) flew in transit to and from Bangalore. Although there was no other flying, crews attended the usual lectures.	
-do-	3.5.44	-	There was no flying today. F/Off. Hawkins, F/Sgts Brown, Mahoney and Sgt. Chapman carried out Link Trainer Practice. Working from China Bay, "Operation Bellow" (2) was carried out successfully by a detachment from this Squadron using aircrafts "P"(FP.225) and "T"(FP.191).	
-do-	4.5.44	-	Aircraft "P"(FP.225) returned from China Bay. Aircraft "S" (FP.152) was beached. Crews of other aircraft were given lectures on various subjects.	
-do-	5.5.44	-	After compass swinging and launching, aircraft "R"(FP.180) carried out an air test and A.S.I. calibration test. Crews "Q" and "Z" went swimming under the supervision of F/Lt. B.C. Daymond.	
-do-	6.5.44	-	There was no flying today. Crew "Z" went to Guindy for aircraft recognition, and other crew attended lectures on various subjects.	
-do-	7.5.44	-	Nothing of importance took place.	
-do-	8.5.44	-	Aircraft "R"(FP.180) flew in transit to and from Bangalore. Aircraft "P"(FP.225) carried out air to air firing, and to round off the day, carried out local night flying. The crew "Z" had a lecture on Japanese aircraft, and a lecture was given to aircrew on Navigation, at St. Thomas Mount.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
dhills Lake	9.5.44	-	Aircraft "S" (FP.152) flew in transit to Calcutta. During the day aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out 2 local flights and aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out air to air firing. In the morning the crews of "P" and "S" went swimming under the supervision of F/Lt. P.C. Daymond. Other crews were given various lectures.	
-do-	10.5.44	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out air to air firing, and aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out fighter affiliation for one hour. P/Off. Beach, F/Sgts. Mahoney, Roberts, and Carbutt did Link training. The rest of the crews attended sections to receive instruction in Morse and 'Radar'. At China Bay aircraft "T" (FP.191) carried out the second sortie of 'Billow' 2 without success.	
-do-	11.5.44	-	Aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out local night flying for 2 hours and 5 mins. The crews of "Y" and "Z" carried out Sten Gun practice on the range. At Calcutta, aircraft "S" (FP.152) carried out operation 'Bug III'.	
-do-	12.5.44	-	Aircraft "T" (FP.191) returned from China Bay. Aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out two local flights, and one flight of fighter affiliation. Other crews attended the normal lectures, including a lecture on Japanese Aircraft Recognition given by the Captain of "P", W/Off. Brooks.	
-do-	13.5.44	-	Aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out A.S.I. calibration for 2 hours and 18 mins and the crews of "Y" and "Z" went to Guindy for aircraft recognition.	
-do-	14.5.44	-	Aircraft "S" returned from Calcutta, taking 6 hours and 12 minutes. Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out two local flights, one of 45 minutes and the other 1 hour and 2 minutes.	
-do-	15.5.44	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out circuits and bumps. Wireless operators attended lectures on W/T and Morse.	

S.K.P.-3384/G 945-21-12-43-1 12/000

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

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15.5.44 -

Aircraft "p" (PP.225) carried out circuits and bumps. Wireless operators attended lectures on W/T and Morse.

S.K.P.-3083/G 945-21-12-43.-132,000

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and
A.C.I. and notes in R.A.F. Field Service
Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 628 (SD) Squadron, India. No. of pages used for this Month

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake	16.5.44	-	<p>Whilst carrying out local flying Catalina "T" (PP.191) crashed on landing at 09.12 hours (appx). Five of the crew of eight aboard were killed, they being F/Off(A/F/Lt) R.B. Levack (128636) G.D. - Pilot, P/Off. K.B. Leaver (188015) G.D. - Pilot, P/Off. F. Walsh (129485) G.D. - Navigator, 638340-F/Sgt. Gardiner, C.F. - F.M.A./A.G. 1394005. Sgt. Murray, T - F.M.A./A.G. Of the remainder of the crew, 578198-T/E/Sgt. Williams, J.L. - F.O.A./A.G. received injuries resulting in a broken back, broken ankle, a scalp injury and superficial abrasions. He was immediately admitted to No.18. P.G.H., Avadi and placed on the D.I. List. The two other members, P/Sgts Haskins and Lillystone escaped suffering only from slight shock and minor cuts and abrasions. It appears that the Captain approaching to land on a flat calm glassy surface, used normal glide approach instead of normal night landing procedure. This resulted in his misjudging the 'pull out' of the glide, and the aircraft on touching the water in a 'nose down' attitude, went stern over bow, and sank.</p> <p>All the remainder of the crew of this Squadron attended a lecture given by the Meteorological Officer at St. Thomas Mount in preparation for the commencement of regular meteorological flights to be carried out by the squadron.</p>	
-do-	17.5.44	-	<p>Aircraft "p" (PP.225) - W/Off. L. Brooks (Captain) - carried out the first Met. Flight, being airborne at 08.08 hours and water borne at 18.58 hours. The trip was uneventful.</p> <p>Crews of "S" and "Z" were given a lecture on Japanese aircraft recognition.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake	17.5.44	-	(continued) The funeral of F/Off. K.B. Leaver took place at 17.15 hours in the Cemetery of St. Mary's Church, Madras. The funeral party comprised of personnel of R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake, Nos. 240 and 628 Squadrons, full military honours being accorded. The service was conducted by the Rev. (S/Ldr) J.M.Y. Phillipson, R.A.F. Chaplain. Group Captain R.K. Brougham, Commanding Officer, R.A.F. Station Redhills Lake was the Senior Officer in attendance.	
-do-	18.5.44	.	Aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out a Wet: Flight, and aircraft "S" (FP.152) carried out local flying. On the ground crews "Y" and "Z" carried out aircraft recognition and intelligence reading the Information Room. At 17.15 hours the funeral of 628340. T/Y/Sgt. Gardiner, C.F. took place at the Cemetery of St. Mary's Church, Madras. R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake, Nos. 240 and 628 Squadrons provided the funeral party and full military honours were accorded. The Service was conducted by the Rev. J. White, the Garrison Chaplain. The Commanding Officer, R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake - Group Captain R.K. Brougham - attended the funeral. At 18.15 hours the funeral of F/Off. F. Walsh took place in the Cemetery of St. Patrick's Church, Madras, a short service being held in the cemetery chapel prior to the interment. The above mentioned funeral party was in attendance and full military honours were accorded. The Service was conducted by the Rev. (S/Ldr) F. Crumblish the R.A.F. Roman Catholic Padre. Group Captain R.K. Brougham attended the funeral.	
-do-	19.5.44	-	After and air firing flight, aircraft "S" (FP.152) was beached for a major. The Crews of "Y" and "Z" were given lectures in the Operations Room.	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and

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19.5.44

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After and air firing flight, aircraft "S" (FP.152) was beached for a major.
The Crews of "Y" and "Z" were given lectures in the Operations Room.

S.K.P.-3363/G 943-21-12-43-112,000

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and
A.C.I. and notes in R.A.F. Field Service
Pocket Book.

No. 628 (5D) Squadron, India No. of pages used for Day Month
of (Unit or Formation)

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake.	19.5.44	-	(continued) Church, Madras, at 17.15 hours. A funeral party was provided by R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake, No.240 (G.R.) Squadron, and this unit; full military honours were accorded. The Service was conducted by the R.A.F. Roman Catholic Padre, the Rev (S/Ldr) P. Crumlish. Group Captain R.K. Brougham, Commanding Officer, R.A.F. Station Redhills Lake attended the funeral.	
-do-	20.5.44	-	Aircraft "B" (FP.226) carried out a Mat. Flight. The crew of "B" went to Guindy for aircraft recognition.	
-do-	21-5-44	-	The Court of Inquiry assembled at R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake to investigate into the accident to aircraft "T" (FP.191). The President was W/Omdr. E.A.C. Wood, No.240 (G.R.) Squadron, and the Members were S/Ldr .P.W. Munn-No.172 Wing, and one S/Ldr of the G.D. Branch detailed by No.172 Wing. Notification was received today of the posting of the following crews to this Unit from R.A.F. Station, Redhills Lake (Supy) with effect from 21.3.44. (1) Aus.403323. F/Lt. R.C. Daymond - G.D. Pilot, 101563. F/Lt. R.H.Gilbert - G.D. Navigator, 1440277. T/F/Sgt. Brown, C. - Pilot, 1576696. T/Sgt. Foxhall, A - W.Op/Air, 576741. T/Sgt. Lewis, R. - Flt/Eng., 1267914. T/Sgt. Bell, L - W.Op/Air., 1245554. T/Sgt. Carrington, A. - F. A.A.G., 1438266. T/Sgt. Walker, R. - W.O.M./A.G., 1651683. T/Sgt. Yard, S. - F.M.E./A.G. (2) 590726. W/Off. Brooks, L. - Pilot., 1525124. T/F/Sgt. Waddington, A. - Pilot., 1366832. T/Sgt. Nellis, D. - W.Op/Air., 1356083. T/Sgt. Frisby, H. - W.Op/Air., 525909. T/W/Off. Little, T. - F.M.A./A.G., 1330372. T/Sgt. Denny, K - Flt/Eng., 546931. T/Sgt. Manson, W. - Flt/Eng., 1320043. T/Sgt. Hayhow, J - W.O.M./A.G., Aus.40317. F/Sgt. Drumsmond. - Navigator.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake	21.5.44	-	(continued) (3) 151069. F/Off. Preston, N.G.D. Pilot., 1234791. T/T/Sgt. Carbutt, L. - Nav.B., 1563580. T/Sgt. Thomas. - P.M.B./A.G., 1450572. T/Sgt. Hardie, T. - A.G., 1449328. T/Sgt. Gordon, R. - Flt/Eng., 1344903. T/Sgt. Greene, J. - W.Op/Air., 1244910. T/Sgt. McAree, J. - W.Op/Air., 1315707. T/Sgt. Chapman, I. - Pilot.	
-do-	22.5.44	-	There was no flying today. Aircraft "P" (FP.225) was made serviceable after a 'Minor'. Crew of "P" carried out full 'wet' dinghy drill.	
-do-	23.5.44	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out a Met: Flight. Crew of "R" (FP.180) carried out 'wet' dinghy drill. The entire Squadron paraded to hear a message of congratulation received from the Supreme Allied Commander. (See appendix 'A'). The Administrative Staff moved from Station Headquarters, Redhills Lake to the tented site and occupied buildings on a site erected for Indian troops.	
-do-	24.5.44	-	Aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out a Met: Flight. The Airmen's Dining Hall was opened in preparation to serve meals to airmen on their move to the tented site.	
-do-	25.5.44	-	There was no flying today. Various lectures were given to aircrew. The Airmen of the Squadron moved into their tented accommodation today. They experienced very heavy rainfall in the evening and most of the tents were raised to the ground. The men soon erected their tents and made necessary modifications to prevent a further occurrence of this nature. Great competition existed, with special attention being paid to innovations made for the purpose of keeping the water out of the tents.	
-do-	26.5.44	-	Aircraft "P" (FP.225) carried out a Met: Flight, although there was other flying. Aircraft "Q" took on a load of ammunition, in order to fulfil an order by which all aircraft must practise firing at the end of a sortie when time permits.	

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S.K.P.-335/G 945-31-12-43-132,000

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and

for the purpose of keeping the water out of the tents.

-do- 26.5.44 -

Aircraft "p" (FP.225) carried out a Met: Flight, although there was other flying. Aircraft "a" took on a load of ammunition, in order to fulfil an order by which all aircraft must practise firing at the end of a sortie when time permits.

(Continued)

S.K.P.-303-G 945-21-12-41-12,000

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Air Force (India) Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.J. and notes in R.A.F. Field Service Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 628 (SB) Squadron, India No. of pages used for day Month.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Redhills Lake.	26.5.44	-	(continued) Notification was received today that 1433266. T/Sgt. Walker, R - W.O.M./AG was to be posted to B.H.G. Bombay (Superannuation) & N.C. Sick pending transfer to the United Kingdom.	
-do-	27.5.44	-	Aircraft "R" (FP.180) carried out a Met: Flight.	
-do-	28.5.44	-	E/Lt. P.A.H. McKean flew aircraft "p" (FP.225) to Bangalore to transfer P/Sgt. Williams to B.H.G. Bangalore from No. 19. B.G.M. Avadi, where he had been since the aircraft accident on the 16th instant. The aircraft returned the same day. In the evening a request was received from Group to keep one aircraft in readiness for a Special Operations. Aircraft "R" (FP.180) was detailed.	
-do-	29.5.44	-	Aircraft "p" (FP.225) carried out a Met: Flight.	
-do-	30.5.44	-	There was no flying today. Aircraft "R" (FP.180) was given permission to stand down.	
-do-	31.5.44	-	Aircraft "a" (FP.180) was ordered to 'stand to' again, and the crew did Intelligence Reading instead of the organised programme. The crew of "p" were given a lecture on "European Neutrals".	
Accommodation: The airmen are now fairly settled in their tented accommodation and are finding the conditions favourable to those found in 'tattie' huts. One main factor being that, owing to the well exposed site, plenty of fresh air is obtained and in the evening a moderate breeze blows through the tents. In consequence of this the airmen state that they are able to sleep far better, and wake up in the morning feeling very fresh.				
Personnel: The strength of the squadron at the end of this month is as follows: Officers and aircrew - 59 Ground personnel: 108.				
Commanding, No. 628 (SB) Squadron.				

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