

(I.H.R. SHAND)

Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron,
ROYAL AIR FORCE.

238/2/CHQF/9-43

Date: 23rd February 1945.

DETAILS OF WORK PERFORMED BY

By: 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

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For the Month of February 1945.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REMARKS
				Up	Down		
1.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66)						
	PT 423 F/O. SUTTON	Weather		0805	1015	2 a/c on weather recon in Padua-TREVISO area.	
	PT 658 Sgt. MORGANT	Recon		0805	1015	Nil incident. WEATHER: vis. very good; nil cloud.	
	MK 419 F/O. DOUGLAS	A.S.R.		1155	1345	2 a/c on A.S.R. search for crashed A30 in	
	PL 445 F/Sgt. SLADE	Search		1155	1345	N. Adriatic. The a/c refuelled at Bellaria on	
						outward journey and landed back at PAVO owing to	
						bad weather.	
2.1.45	PT 658 F/Sgt. MUNDY	Weather		0745	0950	2 a/c on weather recon in Padua-CASARSA area.	
	PT 423 F/Sgt. LAMBERT	Recon		0745	0950	A 60-80ft. barge was attacked and damaged on the	
						River-Canal.	
						At CASARSA a camouflaged, stationary M.T. (3-	
						ton) was attacked and left on fire.	
						FLAK: light, intense and accurate flak was ex-	
						perienced from both these target areas.	
						WEATHER: Vis. 20-25 miles.	
						Both a/c landed at PAVO due to bad weather at	
						base.	
	PT 423 F/O. DOUGLAS	Scramble		1800	1835	2 a/c scrambled for unidentified a/c which	
	PT 980 F/Sgt. MORGANT			1800	1835	became friendly.	
3.1.45	PT 658 F/O. RAINSFORD	Weather		0730	0820	2 a/c on armed weather recon PADUA-TREVISO area.	
	MK 559 F/Sgt. MORGANT	Recon		0730	0820	WEATHER: vis. 10-15 miles; 1/10-2/10 alto	
						stratus 12,000ft.	
4.1.45	MK 419 S/L. SHAND	Weather		0705	0815	2 a/c on weather recon PADUA-TREVISO-CASARSA area.	
	MK 559 W/O. CROMBIE	Recon		0705	0815	WEATHER: Vis. very good; nil cloud.	
	MK 419 F/O. SUTTON	Dusk		1800	1700	2 a/c on dusk patrol N. of base.	
	MK 559 F/Sgt. SLADE	Patrol		1800	1700	Nil incident.	
5.1.45	PT 468 F/O. DOUGLAS	Weather		0705	0830	2 a/c on weather recon in PADUA-TREVISO area.	
	PL 445 Sgt. ADSERO	Recon		0705	0830	FLAK: light, moderate and inaccurate flak was	
						experienced from CARBOLA.	
						Weather: 2/10 2,000ft. in FERRARA area, in-	
						creasing to 8/10 2,000ft. further North.	
	MK 559 F/Sgt. MUNDY	Co-operation		0950	1055	2 a/c providing escort for a Baltimore on a	
	PT 980 F/Sgt. LAMBERT	with A30.		0950	1100	calibration exercise 80 miles north of base.	
						Nil incident.	
	PL 445 F/O. RAINSFORD	A.S.R.		1115	1220	2 a/c on search after a report of lights being	
	PT 468 F/Sgt. SLADE	Search		1115	1230	seen in the water in Position 4343N 1420E,	
						Nil sightings.	

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DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
5.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin-66).						
	WJ 988 F/O. SUTTON		A.S.R.	1240	1430	2 a/c continuing above search.	
	WJ 958 F/Sgt. LAMBERT		Search	1240	1430	Nil incident.	
6.1.45	PT 423 F/O. RAINSFORD		Weather	0715	0830	2 a/c on weather recce in UDINE area.	
	WJ 958 Sgt. ADSERO		Recce	0715	0830	a/c were recalled owing to bad weather at base.	
8.1.45	PT 423 F/O. SUTTON		Weather	0710	0910	2 a/c on weather recce in VENICE-TREVISO-NEVERESA area.	
	PT 458 F/Sgt. SLADE		Recce	0710	0910	FLAK: light, heavy, intense and inaccurate flak experienced from the VENICE area. WEATHER: 10/10 alto stratus 10,000ft. N. of VENICE. Vis. 20-30 miles.	
	PL 445 F/O. DOUGLAS		A.S.R.	1340	1435	2 a/c scrambled to escort a P38 to base. The P38 landed safely.	
	PT 960 Sgt. ADSERO			1340	1435		
	WJ 419 F/O. RAINSFORD		A.S.R.	1510	1645	2 a/c scrambled 040° for 40 miles to patrol for A.S.R. searches. Searched for a/c believed to have ditched off PALCANA.	
	WJ 969 F/Sgt. MORANT			1510	1645	Nil sightings.	
8.1.45	PT 468 F/O. DOUGLAS		Weather	0710	0850	2 a/c on weather recce in MESTRE-TREVISO-UDINE area.	
	PL 445 W/O. CORNISH		Recce	0710	0850	WEATHER: vis. very good; 9/10 cum. 3,000ft.-4,000ft.	
10.1.45	WJ 419 F/Sgt. MUNDY		Weather	0715	0915	2 a/c on armed weather recce MESTRE-UDINE area.	
	PT 960 F/Sgt. LAMBERT		Recce	0715	0915	At LORZO a 60ft. barge was strafed and well covered. South of LORZO on the PO, a 80-80ft. tug with one funnel was attacked and the funnel hit off. At CORBOLA a 40-60ft. barge was well covered. WEATHER: 1/10 increasing in north to 4/10 alto stratus at 15,500ft. Vis. 20 miles.	
11.1.45	PT 468 F/O. RAINSFORD		Weather	0715	0800	2 a/c on weather recce in MESTRE-TREVISO area.	
	PT 960 F/Sgt. MORANT		Recce	0715	0800	1 a/c developed magneto trouble, so both returned to base.	
	WJ 419 F/Sgt. MUNDY		Weather	0755	0850	2 a/c completed above recce.	
	PL 445 F/Sgt. LAMBERT		Recce	0755	0850	Three 40-60ft. barges were strafed and well covered in a canal at ADRIA. FLAK: light, scant and inaccurate flak was....	

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT

By 257 (Rhodesia) Squadron

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For the month of JANUARY 1944.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
11.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66).						

By 1237 (10164254), Special Agent

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FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1944.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REMARKS
				Up	Down		
11.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 68).					was experienced from CARVARESE. WEATHER: 10/10 alto stratus cloud at 18,000ft. Vis. good.	
	MJ 958 PT 468	F/Lt. BIRNIE W/O. CORNISH	Escort	1115 1115	1315 1315	2 a/c on escort of 2 R/P Beaufighters of 372 Squadron on armed shipping recon from PIAVE-VECCHIA to GRADO. Nil sightings.	
12.1.45	PT 656 PT 428	F/O. RAINSFORD Sgt. ADGERO	Escort	1255	1455	2 a/c on escort of 2 Beaufighters of 372 Sqdn. on armed shipping recon in N. ADRIATIC. Nil sightings.	
15.1.45	PT 468 PT 656	F/Lt. BIRNIE W/O. CORNISH	Weather Recon	0740 0740	0855 0855	2 a/c on weather recon in Northern PO VALLEY. WEATHER: 10/10 stratus 1,000ft. over whole area.	
	MK 419 MJ 983	F/O. SUTTON F/Sgt. SLADE	Weather Recon	0715 0715	0725 0725	2 a/c on above recon, but one a/c developed engine trouble and so both landed back at base.	
	MK 419 PT 428	F/O. DOUGLAS Sgt. ADGERO	Escort	1215 1215	1405 1415	2 a/c on escort of 2 R/P Beaufighters of 372 Sqdn. on armed weather recon PIAVE-VECCHIA to GRADO. Nil sightings. One a/c landed at FANO with magneto trouble.	
18.1.45	PT 488 PT 980	F/O. SUTTON F/Sgt. ADGERO	Weather Recon	0715 0715	0855 0855	2 a/c on weather recon in VENICE-TREVISO area. WEATHER: Vis. good; 10/10 stratus 2,000ft.	
	PL 443 PT 428 PT 468	F/Lt. BIRNIE W/O. CORNISH F/Sgt. LAMBERT	Escort	1210 1210 1220	1420 1220 1420	2 a/c on escort of 2 R/P Beaufighters on armed recon in N. ADRIATIC. One a/c landed after 10 minutes with engine trouble and was replaced. The alternative target - a cellulose factory west of CERVIGNANO - was attacked with rockets. Strikes and smoke were observed. FLAK: light, scant and inaccurate flak was experienced from the target area.	
	PT 468 MJ 983	F/O. DOUGLAS F/Sgt. ADGERO	Recon	1315 1315	1500 1500	2 a/c on recon for 3 ships reported lying in river mouth at TAGLIAMENTO Pt. Both ships were sighted and reported.	

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DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
18.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 86). PL 443 F/O. SUTCH PT 980 W/O. CORNISH MK 359 F/Sgt. MUNDY MJ 965 F/Sgt. LAMBERT		Escort	1500 1500 1500 1500	1700 1700 1700 1700	4 a/c on escort of 3 R/P Beaufighters on armed shipping recon to TAGLIAMENTO Pt. One Beaufighter broke away and was followed by the Spitfires. All sightings. WEATHER: very hazy over sea; vis. 1-mile.	
19.1.45	MJ 985 S/L. SHAND PT 423 W/O. CORNISH PT 715 F/Lt. BURNE MJ 965 F/Sgt. MORANT		Escort	0725 0725 0725 0725	0905 0905 0905 0905	4 a/c on escort of 3 R/P Beaufighters on armed shipping recon from LUSSIN Island-MARSA-CAP. PROBLEMS. A vessel of 60ft. was attacked by the Beau's east of LAVERA Island. Strikes were observed. An M.T.B. and a larger vessel were observed in a bay on the east side of THIS Island. FLAK: light, scant and inaccurate flak was experienced from LUSSINICOLO. On landing, F/Sgt. Morant's a/c landed closely behind F/Lt. Burne's and ran into the leading a/c's rudder. Both ran off the runway into the mud.	
	PT 856 F/O. RAINSFORD PT 423 F/Sgt. MUNDY		Escort	1150 1150	1310 1310	2 a/c on escort of 3 R/P Beaufighters on armed shipping recon from PORTO VECCHIA to GRADO. All a/c returned before reaching patrol area owing to bad weather. WEATHER: 10/10 strato cum. from sea level.	
	PT 960 F/O. SUTCH MK 359 F/Sgt. LAMBERT		Scramble	1315 1315	1505 1505	2 a/c scrambled for unidentified a/c flying north from PARUGIA at 30,000ft. The plots turned 3-B. and the section were recalled.	
20.1.45	PT 856 F/O. DOUGLAS PT 423 F/Sgt. MUNDY		Weather Recon	0705 0705	0825 0825	2 a/c on armed weather recon in VENICE-TREVISO area. WEATHER: 10/10 alto stratus 10,000ft. Very hazy.	
	PT 960 F/Lt. BURNE PL 443 W/O. CORNISH		Scramble	0815 0815	0905 0905	2 a/c scrambled for unidentified a/c south of ANCONA. The a/c was intercepted and recognised as a F38.	
	PT 423 F/O. SUTCH MJ 843 F/Sgt. MUNDY		A.S.R. Search	1530 1530	1730 1730	2 a/c scrambled on A.S.R. Search for a B24 which had crashed into the sea. Wreckage and dinghies were seen approx. 17 miles north of base. An HSL was led to the spot.	

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By 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.
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				Up	Down		
20.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 86) PT 960 F/Lt. BURNE		Scramble	1535 1535	1735 1735	2 a/c scrambled to escort a Mosquito in trouble. The Mosquito was contacted to 1631 where it	

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DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DET.	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66)						

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FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1926.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REMARKS
				UP	DOWN		
1.1.45	SPITFIRES IX (Merlin 68) PT 857 PT 431	P/O. MUSGRAVE P/O. MALLOCH	Patrol and Escort	1055 1055	1225 1225	2 Spitfires providing cover for trawlers sweeping the coast and 30 miles out to sea in the LAGHORN shipping area. No incident on patrol. WEATHER: vis. 50 miles and there was no cloud.	
5.1.45	MH 981 MK 142	F/Lt. CARLYLE F/Sgt. PEARSON	Sweep	1020 1020	1130 1150	2 a/c on fighter sweep to SP3ZIA, at the same time providing cover for mine sweepers sweeping the LAGHORN-VIAREGGIO area. Nothing seen nor experienced throughout the patrol. WEATHER: 2/10 cirrus cloud at 25,000ft. Vis. 20 miles.	
	MH 981 MK 142	F/Lt. CARLYLE F/Sgt. PEARSON	Soramble	1420 1420	1500 1500	Bogey plotted south of LAGHORN at 20,000ft. 2 a/c sorambled but plot faded over Sinna and no contact was made. This a/c was believed to have been a friendly on altitude test. WEATHER: vis. 20 miles; 2/10 cirrus cloud at 25,000ft.	
4.1.45	MJ 645 MH 981	P/O. SHAGRIEF P/O. TAYLOR	Sweep	1000 1000	1120 1120	2 Spits on sweep to SP3ZIA continued, with air cover for mine-sweepers clearing an area from LAGHORN to PORTO DEI MARMI. FLAK: no flak was experienced and there was no enemy air activity. In SP3ZIA harbour small ships were seen, but no definite report could be made as to their number. WEATHER: 3/10-4/10 cum. cloud at 5,000ft. Vis. 10 miles.	
6.1.45	MJ 645 PT 957	P/O. MALLOCH P/O. MUSGRAVE	Escort for destroyers	1340 1340	1500 1500	2 Spitfires escorting 2 destroyers patrolling from SP3ZIA to GENOA. The ships were located 12 miles west of VIAREGGIO heading north. The section did not complete the patrol as Green 1 had engine trouble. There was no incident. WEATHER: 10/10 alto stratus at 5,000ft. to 6,000ft. Vis. 15 miles.	
8.1.45	MH 981 MJ 645	F/Sgt. PEARSON P/O. SHAGRIEF	Cover for Mine-sweepers	1040 1040	1155 1155	2 Spitfires providing air cover for mine-sweepers operating west of SP3ZIA. Two bright flashes were seen on the ground south of CARRARA. No incident, and no flak was experienced. WEATHER: 8/10 cum. 1,000-15,000ft. Vis. 10 miles.	

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DATE	AIRCRAFT Type & Number	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
9.1.45	SPITFIRES IX MK 142 MH 981	(Merlin 88) P/O. MALLOCH P/O. MUSGRAVE	Escort for Walrus	1220 1230	1340 1340	2 a/c escorting Walrus on mine-spotting 10 miles south of St. MARGHERITA. 2 mine-sweepers were seen clearing the area. The Walrus covered these two ships until Red 1 reported engine trouble and the section was ordered back to base. No enemy air activity. WEATHER: Nil cloud, and perfect visibility.	
9.1.45	MH 981 PT 957	P/Lt. CARLYLE W/O. TAYLOR	Scramble	1650 1650	1710 1715	2 Spitfires scrambled for 8 twin-engined bogeys coming from the north at 10,000ft. These a/c were later identified as friendly, from visual reports. WEATHER: 8/10 cum. at 8,000ft. Vis. 10 miles.	
11.1.45	MK 412 MK 142	P/Lt. CARLYLE W/O. TAYLOR	Shipping Recce	1625 1625	1725 1725	2 a/c on shipping recce from SPEZIA to SAVONA. At approx. 1635 hrs. the a/c were diverted from patrol to investigate bogeys plotted north of PISA. Interception was successful and bogeys identified as 4 P47's. Section continued patrol, but owing to failing light only reached SESTRI LEVANTE. 7 In the Straits between PALMARIA Island and the mainland, 3 barges were seen. No flak, nor enemy air activity, experienced. WEATHER: over sea 8/10 alto cum., base 10,000ft. Over land 6/10 cum. at 1,000-2,000ft. Visibility: over sea, 8 miles (owing to haze); over land, 5-10 miles.	
12.1.45	MJ 579 MH 981	P/Sgt. PEARSON P/O. BURROW	Shipping Recce	1555 1555	1700 1700	2 Spits on shipping recce from SPEZIA to SAVONA. In SESTRI LEVANTE harbour, the Section sighted what was believed to be a floating crane. 2 barges were sighted in GENOA harbour. FLAK: the Section encountered heavy, scant flak at GENOA, and light, scant, accurate flak from the coast 7 miles north of RICHAGOTRE. There was no enemy air activity. WEATHER: 7/10 strato cumulus, base 2,000ft. Visibility 8 miles.	

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				Up	Down		
14.1.45	SPITFIRES IX PT 421	(Merlin 88) P/O. MALLOCH	Sweep	0740	0815	4 a/c on sweep from SPEZIA to SAVONA	

Visibility 8 miles.

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT
 BY 537 (Rhodesia) Squadron (Detachment)
 FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

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DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCE
				Up	Down		
14.1.45	SPITFIRES IX (Merlin 66)						
	PT 421	F/O. MALLOCH	Sweep	0740	0915	4 a/c on sweep from SPEZIA to SAVONA.	
	PT 957	F/O. MUGRAVS	SPEZIA-SAVONA	0740	0915	2 barges and several light craft were seen in SPEZIA HARBOUR.	
	PT 421	F/O. MALLOCH				No movements observed between SPEZIA and GENOA.	
	MJ 579	F/O. SEAGRIFF E				No further observations owing to bad weather.	
		F/O. BURROW K J.				Near St. LAMBERTA (approx. 44°17'N-9°15'E)	
						Green 1 was holed by light flak in the port aileron. The damage was very slight.	
						Flak was also encountered at GENOA - light, moderate, accurate; and at SESTRI LEVANTE - light, scant, inaccurate.	
						WEATHER: 10/10 strato-cumulus 500-1000ft.; light rain. Visibility 4-5 miles, improving in places to 10 miles.	
	NK 412	F/Lt. CARLYLE	Armed Recce	1555	1715	2 Spitfires on armed recce from SPEZIA to GENOA.	
	PT 957	F/O. TAYLOR	SPEZIA-SAVONA	1555	1715	3 barges were sighted in SAVONA harbour.	
						At DORIA, 6 two-coach electric trains were seen stationary.	
						Nothing to report about GENOA or SPEZIA.	
						There was no flak and no enemy air activity.	
						WEATHER: Up to GENOA - no cloud, vis. 20 miles; GENOA and west 8/10 strato cum. at 1,000ft.; vis. 8-10 miles.	
15.1.45	MJ 579	F/Lt. CARLYLE	Armed Recce	0735	0925	3 a/c on armed recce from SPEZIA to SAVONA.	
	NK 142	F/O. TAYLOR	SPEZIA-SAVONA	0735	0925	No movements were observed along the coast.	
						There were 6 barges in SAVONA harbour.	
						In the BUSALLA area, Green 1 strafed an electric transformer. Strikes were observed.	
						On the road leading into PONTREMOLI, the Section strafed a lone 3-ton truck, which was seen to burst into flames.	
						There was no enemy air activity.	
						FLAK: Flak was experienced at AVILA - light, moderate, fairly accurate.	
						WEATHER: GENOA and north 2 3/10 low cloud, base 1,000ft. Visibility 30-40 miles.	
	PT 421	F/O. MALLOCH	Armed Recce	1525	1650	2 a/c on armed recce from SPEZIA to SAVONA.	
	PT 957	F/O. MUGRAVS	SPEZIA-SAVONA	1525	1650	No movements observed and nothing to report.	
						Flak: encountered 8 miles N-W of SPEZIA - light, intense and accurate, and some 40mm.	
						There was no enemy air activity.	
						WEATHER/...	117

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(15.1.45)	SPITFIRES IX (Merlin 66)					WEATHER: Over land 10/10 strato cumulus. 1500ft. snow-mist to the east. Visibility 20 miles.	
16.1.45	MH 981 MJ 579	P/O. BURROW P/O. SEAGRIFF	Armed Recce SPEZIA-SAVONA	0745 0745	0805 0805	2 a/c on armed recce from SPEZIA to SAVONA. At 0815 hrs. the Section sighted 2 destroyers (believed friendly) south of GENOA, at approx. 1-1/2 mile off the coast at SARI (44°22'N-9°06'E). There was no reply to the Sections' radio calls and as the a/c approached the ships opened fire with heavy and light flak, fairly accurate. No further contact attempted and the ships were later found to be enemy. In SPEZIA harbour a small vessel was sighted, believed to be an M.T.B., but no definite identification could be made. FLAK: encountered at GENOA - light and heavy, moderate, fairly accurate; and at St. MARGHERITA - light, scant, inaccurate. No enemy air activity. WEATHER: 10/10 strato cum., base 500ft., light rain. Visibility 2 miles.	
17.1.45	MX 412 MX 142	P/Lt. CARLYLE W/O. TAYLOR	Shipping Recce	1005 1005	1120 1120	2 a/c on a search for enemy destroyers. An area search was made around GENOA-SPEZIA-SAVONA. No sightings were made and there was no report. WEATHER: 5/10 alto cum. at 12,000ft. Visibility 20-30 miles.	
	MX 142 MJ 579	P/O. BURROW P/O. SEAGRIFF	Search for Enemy Destroyer	1545 1545	1705 1705	2 Spitfires on search for an enemy destroyer. In SPEZIA harbour there appeared to be more shipping than usual. A ship which might have been the destroyer in question, a possible submarine and 3 barges were seen, but no definite report could be made on the former 2 vessels. FLAK: heavy, moderate and accurate encountered north of GENOA; light, scant and inaccurate also experienced at St. MARGHERITA. WEATHER: no cloud up to GENOA; north of that area, 2/10 strato cum. cloud, with visibility up to 30 miles.	

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT
By 257 (Rhodesia) Squadron (DETACHMENT).
FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

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PAGE No. THREE.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66)						

~~SECRET~~

Page No. 31800.

Date	AIRCRAFT Type & Number	CREW	DUTY	Time		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCE
				Up	Down		
18.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66) MK 412 MK 148	F/Lt. CARLYLE W/O. TAYLOR	Recco VIAREGGIO-GENOA	0735 0735	0850 0850	2 a/c on recco VIAREGGIO-GENOA. 1 F Boat and 2 coastal steamers sighted in the outer harbour of GENOA. There were no other sightings or movements, and no enemy air activity. WEATHER: clear, no cloud except for 1/10 strato cum. at 8,000ft. in the GENOA area. Visibility unlimited.	
19.1.45	PT 421 PT 957	F/O. MALLOCH P/O. MUGRAVE	Scramble	0855 0855	1010 1010	2 readiness Spitfires scrambled to intercept bogey plotted north of LIGHORN. Bogey turned friendly before interception, and Section was recalled. WEATHER: 10/10 strato cum. cloud base 500ft., top 7,500ft. There was rain and visibility was down to a mile.	
20.1.45	MK 412 MK 148	F/Lt. CARLYLE W/O. TAYLOR	Scramble	0855 0855	1000 1000	2 a/c scrambled for bogey plotted north of LIGHORN at 10,000ft. A/c identified as friendly, Section recalled to base. WEATHER: 5/10 alto cum. at 7,000ft. Visibility 20 miles.	
20.1.45	MR 981 PT 957	F/O. BURROW F/O. SEAGRIFF	Armed Recco	1020 1020	1125 1125	armed recco carried out by 2 Spitfires. from SPASIA-GENOA. A destroyer was sighted in the inner harbour at SPASIA, moored at the end of a wooden jetty or breakwater in Position 4406'N-0950'E. It did not appear to have steam up. 5 small barges and two large ones were seen stationary in the centre of the harbour. Also, a one-funnelled 60ft. steam launch was moored on the western side of the harbour. A possible F Boat was moored at CADIMARE. No movements were observed along the coast to GENOA. In GENOA harbour a 1,000-ton steamer was seen with no steam up. There were in addition to this several light craft (fishing boats, etc.). There was no incident on patrol, which was carried out at 12,000ft. WEATHER: unlimited visibility and no cloud.	

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DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
22.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66) PT 421 PT 957	F/O. MALLOCH F/O. MUSGRAVE	Scramble	1840 1840	1730 1730	2 Spitfires scrambled for 2 bogeys plotted 15 miles north of PISA coming south at 8,000ft. At 1850 the a/c were sighted and identified as 2 P47's. Section ordered to remain airborne and to patrol base, as three more bogeys were plotted in the FLORENCE area. Plot faded and Section ordered to land. WEATHER: unlimited visibility; cloud 1/10 cirrus at 20,000ft.	
25.1.45	MH 881 PL 443	F/O. BURROW F/O. SEAGRIFF	Armed Recco	0720 0720	0835 0855	2 a/c out on search for wreckage 6 miles S-W. of VIAREGGIO, and also on armed recco from SPERZA to GENOA. Nothing was seen and there was no incident on patrol. SPERZA and GENOA were enveloped in a thick ground mist: consequently no reports on enemy shipping could be made. FLAK: light, inaccurate was experienced from SESTRI and LEVANTE. WEATHER: 10/10 nimbus-stratus cloud, base 600-1,000ft. VISIBILITY: 8 miles decreasing to 2-3 miles in rain.	
25.1.45	PT 957 PT 421	F/O. MUSGRAVE F/O. MALLOCH	Armed Recco	1045 1045	1215 1215	Armed recco SPERZA-SAVONA-GENOA carried out by 2 Spitfires. SPERZA was covered over in cloud and nothing could be seen of enemy shipping activity. The usual vessels were seen in GENOA harbour, plus 2 barges in the inner harbour. A tug and 2 barges were also seen in SAVONA. FLAK: heavy, scant and accurate experienced from SAVONA. WEATHER: unlimited visibility; cloud 10/10 strato cum; at 8,000ft. stretching inland from SPERZA-GENOA. North of GENOA over PO VALLEY 10/10 stratus at ground level.	
29.1.45	PT 421 PT 957	F/O. MALLOCH F/O. MUSGRAVE	Scramble	1010 1010	1115 1115	2 a/c on Navy co-op. with M.T.B. off GORGONA Island. At 1045 the Section was scrambled to...	

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT

BY 257 (Rhodesia) Squadron (DETACHMENT).

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PAGE No. FOUR

FORM 1000 (REV. 10/1/44) 100 000 112 100

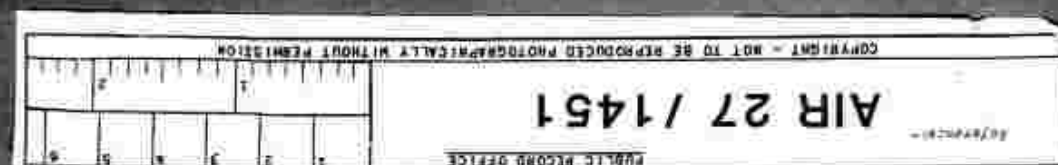
FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
(29.1.45)	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66)					to 28,000ft. for a bogey plotted 60 miles N-E.	

29.1.45	PT 421 PT 957	F/O. MALLOCH F/O. MUSGRAVE	Scramble	1010 1010	1115 1115	2 a/c on Navy co-op. with M.F.B. off GORGONA Island. At 1045 the Section was scrambled to...
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DETAILS OF WORK CARRIED OUT						
By 137 (Rhodesia) Squadron (RAF/USAF).						
FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1945.						
DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT
				Up	Down	
(29.1.45)	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 68)					to 28,000ft. for a bogey plotted 80 miles N-E. of LAGHORN coming south. There was no interception as plot turned north and patrol was abandoned. WEATHER: nil cloud, visibility poor owing to haze - about 10 miles.
	PT 421 MH 981	F/O. MALLOCH F/O. MUSGRAVE	Standing Patrol	1530 1330	1440 1440	2 a/c airborne on standing patrol from GORGONA Island to 15 miles south of SPERZA for an ME410 which was believed to have taken off from BERGAMO. There was no incident. WEATHER: nil cloud; visibility only 5 miles due to thick, black haze.
	MH 981 PL 443	F/Lt. CARLYLE W/O. TAYLOR	Armed Recon	1555 1555	1730 1730	2 a/c on Radar experimental tests and continued by armed recon to SPERZA and GENOA area. F/Lt. Carlyle strafed 2 trucks on a bridge 1-mile east of BUSALLA in position (44°34'N-08°57'E); strikes were observed on both vehicles. A third truck was strafed by both a/c at (44°32'N-08°01'E). This W.T. was left in a damaged condition. An electric train trailing 4 carriages was seen, but disappeared into a tunnel one mile north of BUSALLA before it could be strafed. Flak: light, moderate and accurate flak was experienced here as the a/c went down to attack. A staff-car nearing ISOLA d C (Position 44°38'N-08°57'E) was seen, but it also disappeared in some trees and bushes. Rolling stock was observed in the station at SERRAVALLE SCALVA. WEATHER: nil cloud; but poor visibility due to haze, being 5 miles at the most.
31.1.45	PT 421 MH 981	F/O. MALLOCH F/O. BURROW	Scramble	1120 1130	1130 1150	2 a/c scrambled for bogey plotted 15 miles N-W. of PISA. The plot turned friendly when Section was just airborne. A/c ordered to land. WEATHER: 10/10 stratus cloud at 2,500ft. Visibility 8 miles.

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R.A.F. Form 549		OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK		Page No. <u>ONE</u>	
See instructions on use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. mem. 2445 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.		of (Unit or Formation) <u>237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.</u>		No. of pages used for day _____	
Place	1945 Date February	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix