

# The Flying Log of F/O Col Bowden, RAAF

## Covering flights made from India

Flights with No. 1673 H.C.U. Kolar

1944

Month	Day	Ac. Type	No.	Pilot	2nd Pilot	Duty	Hrs. (day)	Hrs. (night)
August	26	Liberator	BZ9991 <sup>1</sup>	F/Lt. Gauntlet	Self	Local	1.00	
August	28	B24J	EW256	P/O Jones	Self and Crew	Dual and Solo	4.35	
August	29	B24J	EW172 (T)	F/O Hall	Self and Crew	No. 1 Cross Country	3.40	
August	30	B24J	EW237	F/O Hall	Self and Crew	No. 2 Cross Country	3.20	
September	8	B24J	QE222 <sup>2</sup>	F/O Hall	Self and Crew	Gunnery Air to Ground	1.00	
September	9	B24J	EV996 <sup>3</sup> (A)	F/O Hall	Self	Circuits and Landings		3.30
September	10	B24J	EV222 <sup>4</sup> (Q)	F/O Hall	Self	Circuits and Landings, Solo		3.30
September	11	B24J	EV991 <sup>5</sup> (Z)	F/O Hall	Self	No. 3 Cross Country		4.20
September	13	B24J	EV991 (Z)	F/O Hall	Self	Bombing	1.20	
September	14	B24J	EW172 (T)	F/O Hall	Self	No. 3 Cross Country Return to Base No Deviation Card for Compass		4.25
September	20	B24J	EV991 (Z)	F/O Hall	Self	Air Test	.55	
September	23	B24J	EW222 (A)	F/O Hall	Self	Echo Operation		7.10

<sup>1</sup> BZ9991 is too long for a serial number; BZ999 served in Europe with 311 & 206 Sqn.

<sup>2</sup> QE222 "Q" was not used as a prefix for any serial nos. This may be "Q", EW222 (as flown on Sept. 10th)

<sup>3</sup> EV996 is only listed as flying with 547 Sqn (European theatre) until converted to transport version

<sup>4</sup> EV222 -- this is in the middle of a batch of Curtiss Kittyhawks -- but EW222 was on the strength of 6RFU (Refresher Flying Unit) location unknown and is a Liberator VI

<sup>5</sup> EV991 Later served with 358 Sqn. "formed at Kolar in India on 8 November 1944 mainly from personnel of 1673 HCU which had recently disbanded"

Flights with 159 Squadron, Bengal

1944

Month	Day	Ac. Type	No.	Pilot	2nd Pilot	Duty	Hrs. (day)	Hrs. (night)
October	10	B24J	EW868 <sup>6</sup> (Y)	F/O Hall	Self	Sea Search. Return to Base Art Horz U/S (2.30) OP time		4.15
October	11	B24J	KH212 (Z)	F/O Hall	Self	Circuits and Landings Local Flying		2.00
October	23	B24J	KH162 (U)	F/O Hall	Self	First OP. Target Toungup Hit Target No.1 Engine Cut Over Target, Came Home on 3 Engines		7.40
November	2	B24J	EW868 (Y)	F/O Hall	Self	Railway Workshops, Bangkok. Stick 9 Incendiarys Across Target		13.40
November	4	B24J	EW868 (Y)	F/O Hall	Self	Engine Repair Shops, Bangkok Stick 9 Incendiarys Target Uncertain		14.00
November	7	B24J	KH212 (S)	F/O Hall	Self	Shipping Strike Tavoy Petrol Tank Hit over Ye Landed Coxes Bazaar		15.05
November	8	B24J	KH212 (S)	F/O Hall	Self	Coxes Bazaar to Base	2.05	
November	17	B24J	KH162 (U)	F/O Hall	Self	Shipping Strike Cocos Island Bombs Dropped No Damage Seen	7.50	6.00
November	22	B24J	KH267 <sup>7</sup> (X)	S/L Burbridge	Self	Air Test	.25	
November	25	B24J	EW868	F/Lt Hall	Self	Ferry	.25	
November	26	B24J	EW868	F/Lt Hall	Self	Gardening Penang Dropped Safe Bad Weather	7.0	11.45
November	29	B24J	EW868 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Bangkok Railway Yard and Store Houses Hit Target Sighted 2 Oscars		15.00
December	2	B24J	EW868 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Bangkok Rama 6 Bridge		14.40
December	18	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/O Anderson	Self	Base -- Dalbhumgarh -- Base	.40	
December	19	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Base -- Dalbhumgarh -- Base	1.20	
December	29	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Mining Rangoon River Carried G/Capt Cohu as 3rd Pilot		9.35

<sup>6</sup> EW868 This is not list as a Serial Number in the Air Britain Registrars

<sup>7</sup> KH267 is listed as serving with 203 Sqn and 1349 Flt. no record of it with 159 Sqn.

## Flights with 159 Squadron, Bengal

1945

Month	Day	Ac. Type	No.	Pilot	2nd Pilot	Duty	Hrs. (day)	Hrs. (night)
January	1	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Naikon Jawri Bridge		13.30
January	3	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Air Test	.30	
January	11	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Mining Moulmein Duty Not Carried Out Because of Short Circuit in Bombing Gear Mines Dropped as Soon as Bomb Doors Opened	7.00	6.00
January	14	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Bridge Busting DNCO Elevator Control Stuck Forward in Dive Lucky to Get Away With It Carried G/C Cohu.		14.05
January	16	B24J	KH327 (Y)	F/Lt Hall	Self	Air Test Controls Working OK No Snags	.30	
January	27	B24J	(B)	G/Capt Cohu	Self	Circuit and Landing Instruction in Vital Action	.25	
January	28	B24J	(F)	G/Capt Cohu	Self	Circuit and Landing	1.0	
January	28	B24J	(F)	S/Ldr Hall	Self	Base -- Alipore -- Base	1.0	

Data on aircraft serial numbers entered by R. Quirk, from Air Britain's RAF Aircraft series. Place names have been transcribed with the spelling used in the log.

Notes from C. Bowden, 1996

- 1) The bombing of the Ye railhead. On this raid F/O Bowden's aircraft was shot in the wing. The gunner in the rear turret was fortunate that the turret was in the position that allowed him to get out. He was saturated in 100 octane fuel. If he'd had to move the turret to get out he would have destroyed the aircraft as they were electrically operated.
- 2) Jan. 1st raid on the Nakorn Jaisri River. This is the Nakorn Jaisri bridge on the Kwai River. It's the famous Bridge on the River Kwai of movie fame.