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# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes on R.A.F. Pocket Book.

R.A.F. Form 540

of (Unit or Formation) No. 405 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron.....

No. of pages used for day.....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Pocklington	July 1		Sixteen sorties during the day, on bombing practice, load tests and dual training flights. In one of the last named an aircraft piloted by Sgt. Conroy was given full throttle with brakes on and tipped on it's nose.  Weather fine with good visibility.  Ten machines serviceable for operations, with six trained crews and four U/T.	
	July 2		One night flying test last night and fourteen sorties by day on air tests. Weather fine with very good visibility. Nine aircraft detailed under Pocklington Ops: Order No.3. to attack Cologne.	
	July 3		Six aircraft bombed their objective. Of the remaining three, one attacked Coblenz, one jettisoned it's bombs after developing oil trouble and the third returned ten minutes after taking off, with it's W/T unserviceable. All returned safely. Three day sorties on air tests and dual, and one cross country detail. Weather fair with moderate visibility.	A.1
	July 4		Fifteen sorties by day on formation bombing practice and air firing. Weather fair with very good visibility. Nine aircraft detailed under Operations Order No.4 to attack the docks at Brest.	
	July 5		Last nights operations most successful, all Captains claiming to have straddled their target with bombs. All returned safely. Three day sorties only, on air tests. Weather, fair becoming cloudy by afternoon.	A.2.

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Pocklington	July 6		<p>Message of congratulations from the A.O.C. on success of the Brest raid.</p> <p>Seventeen sorties during the day, on formation bombing practice.</p> <p>Weather fine with very good visibility and little cloud.</p> <p>Ten aircraft detailed under Operations Order No.5. to attack Dortmund, and one under Order No.6. to bomb the oil tanks at Rotterdam.</p>	
	July 7		<p>The Rotterdam sortie was successful. Of the ten aircraft to attack Dortmund, one was cancelled, and one returned early with a loose cowling. Two others attacked Wesel and Dusseldorf in error and five indetified and attacked their primary target. The other aircraft also no doubt reached and bombed it's objective but on return to base was seen to have one engine out of action and in circling the aerodrome before landing, struck some trees, crashed and burst into flames. The Rear Gunner, P/Sgt. Luckhurst, was killed and the other members of the crew, F/O Fraas, (Captain) F/O O'Brien (2nd Pilot), Sgt. McKernan (Observer), Sgt. Brown (1st W/T A/G), and Sgt. Doyle (2nd W/T A/G), were all dangerously injured.</p> <p>Eight day sorties on air and load tests: in one instance an accident occurred; whilst taxiing along perimeter of track back to dispersal, the wing tip of Sgt. Craig's machine striking the front turret of another aircraft and rendering both unserviceable.</p> <p>Weather fine with slight haze.</p> <p>Twelve aircraft and nine crews returned as fit. Nine aircraft detailed under Operations Order No.7 to attack the marshalling yard at Osabruck.</p>	<p>For an account of the German's experiences, see "Messages to Base" (CNS), May 1944 pp. 8-9</p>
	July 8		<p>Two aircraft returned early with engine and turret trouble, two others attacked Munster and the remaining five bombed the primary, bursts being observed and fires started.</p> <p>F/O Fraas died in Hospital as result of injuries received in the crash yesterday morning.</p> <p>Seven sorties today, all on air tests.</p> <p>Weather: little cloud, slightly hazy.</p>	

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### OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

of (Unit or Formation).....No. 405. (R.G.A.F.) Squadron.....

No. of pages used for day.....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Pocklington	July 9		Two new aircraft arrived. Seven sorties by day on air tests. Eight machines detailed under Operations Order No. 8 to attack the P.O. at Aachen.	
	July 10		One machine failed to take off owing to a faulty carburettor. One, owing to a navigational error (Sgt. McDowell, Observer), attacked Cologne and ran into intense flak and searchlight concentrations. The other six aircraft bombed their target with great effect in perfect visibility, one pilot describing the town as one mass of fire. Owing to widespread fog on return all aircraft were diverted and landed safely. All returned to base by 1630 hours. There were four other day sorties, one being cross country. Weather; fog in early morning, clearing to fine by midday. A further new aircraft arrived today.	
	July 11		Twelve sorties on air tests and one on cross country. Weather, little cloud, good visibility generally. Operations cancelled for tonight owing to thunder showers over Europe and fog at base on return.	
	July 12		Ten day sorties on air tests. Weather, fog in early morning, clearing by midday. Operations tonight again cancelled owing to bad weather forecast for return.	
	July 13		One sortie only, on landing practice. In taxiing back to dispersal a wheel of this aircraft (Sgt. Warnock, Captain), ran off the perimeter track into loose earth and sank in low enough to buckle the starboard propeller and cause other damage. Weather; thunder in morning, clearing after midday, but heavy low clouds forming again in the evening.	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Bocklington	July 14		<p>The Station was visited today by the A.C.C., A.V.M. Coningham. Twelve sorties by day, all on air tests. One new aircraft arrived.</p> <p>Weather; fog at first clearing to good visibility later.</p> <p>Fourteen aircraft returned today as fit with nine fully operational crews and two freshmen.</p> <p>Eight aircraft detailed under Operations Order No.9 to attack a rubber factory at Hanover.</p> <p>The two freshmen to attack the oil tanks at Rotterdam (Operations order No.10)</p>	
	July 15		<p>The Rotterdam raid was successful. Of the eight machines to attack Hanover, one reached nearly to the Dutch Coast, but unable to rectify a turret difficulty returned to base. Another machine (Sgt. Thrower, Captain, P/O Morgan, 2nd Pilot, Sgt. Slaughter, Observer, Sgt. Jones, 1st W/AG, Sgt. Kirk, 2nd W/AG and Sgt. Dossetter, AG) is missing, nothing having been heard of it after take off. The remaining aircraft all found and attacked their primary, bursts being observed and fires started. Owing to fog at base, all aircraft had to be diverted on return.</p> <p>A sea search for Sgt. Thrower and crew had to be abandoned owing to bad weather.</p> <p>One day sortie only, on air test. Weather, low cloud all day.</p>	A.7. A.8.
	July 16		<p>Nine day sorties, one being a cross country detail, which had to turn back with W/T unserviceable.</p> <p>Weather, hazy becoming fair with excellent visibility afternoon and evening.</p>	
	July 17		<p>Twelve day sorties, air tests and landings. The Station was visited and air crews addressed by the A.C.C. in Chief, Bomber Command, Air Marshal Sir Richard E.C. <sup>Keirse</sup> Pierce, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.</p> <p>Weather: cloudy with moderate visibility.</p>	
	July 18		<p>No flying of any sort. Weather cloudy with rain, clearing by evening.</p>	
	July 19		<p>Nineteen day sorties, including two cross country flights, remainder being air tests, landing practice and dual training. Weather, fine with small amount of cloud: wind fresh South Westerly becoming light Westerly.</p>	

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R.A.F. Form 540

of (Unit or Formation).....No.405.(R.C.A.F.) Squadron.....

No. of pages used for day.....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Pocklington	July 20		Fifteen sorties by day and one last night. Weather fine with good visibility: wind West, fresh during afternoon.	
	July 21		Fifteen day sorties on formation flying, air tests and including two cross country details. Two night flying tests last night. Weather, cloudy, visibility good. Fresh S.W. wind with gusts to 25 M.P.H. during afternoon veering West at night. Twelve aircraft serviceable and eight operational crews. Eight aircraft detailed under Operations Order No.11 to attack Frankfurt.	
	July 22		One aircraft returned early with engine trouble. Another, owing to W/T trouble bombed Ostend. The remaining six machines successfully attacked the target. On return flight one aircraft reported seeing a large "V" in Belgium, arms 100 yards long, like a high neon sign. One day sortie. Weather, cloudy with slight haze, visibility improving at night. Light southerly wind. The Squadron was visited today by reporters of the Montreal Standard, and photos were taken by the Fox Agency of some of the R.C.A.F. air crews.	
	July 23		Four sorties last night on night flying tests. Twenty four sorties by day - one cross country. - remainder all formation flying practice, load and air tests. Weather fine with light variable winds. All personnel standing by for important orders.	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events	References to Appendices.
Pocklington	July 24		<p>Nine aircraft detailed under Operations Order No.12 to attack the Gneisenau at Brest. Briefing 7 a.m. aircraft to take off at 1130.</p> <p>All aircraft reached and bombed the target, direct hits being claimed. Intense flak and fighter opposition was encountered, as a result of which two of our aircraft are missing. (W/Cdr. Gilchrist, Sgt. Paton, P/O Mackay, Sgt. Westbury, Sgt. Dalphond, P/O Whigham and P/O Trueman, Sgt. Crump, Sgt. Mitchell, Sgt. Hawkes, Sgt. Tatton, Sgt. Martin,) and two crash landed near Plymouth, one in the sea.</p> <p>The latter, Sgt. Craig, (Captain), had his rear gunner (Sgt. Higgins) wounded, after he had destroyed one enemy fighter and probably a second. The other, Sgt. Scott, (Captain), was badly damaged in aerial combat in course of which the rear gunner, Sgt. Dearnley, was dangerously wounded and other members of the crew slightly wounded. In the absence of our Commanding Officer W/Cdr. Gilchrist, command of the Squadron is taken over by S/Ldr. Bisset, D.F.C.</p> <p>In addition to this daylight operation, there have been eight other sorties, including two cross country details. Weather fair to fine, visibility becoming good with a moderate south westerly breeze.</p>	A. 10
	July 25		<p>Fifteen sorties including two machines to Exeter to pick up Sgt. Craig's and Sgt. Scott's crews, transported from Plymouth.</p> <p>Weather fair, becoming cloudy in afternoon. Wind moderate S.E. veering S.W. at night.</p>	
	July 26		<p>One night flying test and three day sorties on air tests.</p> <p>Weather: continuous moderate rain, and moderate visibility with light W. wind.</p>	
	July 27		<p>Twelve day sorties on air tests and one cross country.</p> <p>Weather fair with slight haze. Moderate westerly wind becoming northerly in afternoon.</p>	
	July 28		<p>Two night flying tests and fifteen day sorties, including photographing for No.4. Group, two machines to Dishforth to be fitted with Marconi W/T and a "freshman" to Linton for operations</p>	

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### OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

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of (Unit or Formation).....No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.....

No. of pages used for day .....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	July 28 (cont'd)		were from there which/cancelled. Weather fine with good visibility becoming overcast with rain during evening. Wind light westerly. Ten aircraft serviceable and six operational crews.	
	July 29		No flying owing to bad weather.	
	July 30		Fourteen day sorties on air tests and fitting Harconi W/T sets at Dishforth. Weather cloudy with good visibility and slight showers in evening. Light W. winds, becoming variable later. Six aircraft detailed under Operations Order No. 13 to attack Cologne, and one freshman under Operations Order No. 14 to attack Boulogne.	
	July 31		One aircraft jettisoned it's bombs in the sea on early return with air speed indicator out of action. The other five machines attacked flak concentrations on E.T.A., as there was 10/10ths cloud over the target area. The freshman also found 10/10ths cloud over his target and jettisoned his bombs safe in the sea. All aircraft returned safely to base. There were no day sorties, the weather being overcast with drizzle and rain later. Moderate N.W. wind. <u>SUMMARY OF THE MONTH.</u> - There have been operations on eight nights during July and one by day, a total of 79 operational sorties, of which 60 have been successful against the primary targets and 7 against alternatives. Seven aircraft have returned early. Three aircraft are missing; four of the crew of one are known to be prisoners of war. Three aircraft were brought back with difficulty and crashed on landing. Their crews included three killed and six wounded or injured.	A. 11. A. 12
			continued.	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events	References to Appendices.
			<p><u>SUMMARY OF THE MONTH.</u> (cont'd)</p> <p>The Squadron's strength is 18 aircraft of which 10 are fully serviceable for operations, with 8 operational crews, two undertraining, two on B.A.T. courses, and a further two on crash leave. A total strength of 22 Officers and 440 Airmen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signature B. Cooper P/O Adjutant.</p>	

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### OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

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No. of pages used for day .....

of (Unit or Formation).....No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	June 30	In	Sgts. 754732 Bigglestone G.M. 64332 Jones H.W. 059127 Perry W.L. 851849 Porter G.B.	
	July 1	Out	527384 P/Sgt. Goldsmith H.P.T.	
	July 2	In	751624 Sgt. Fagan L.W.D.	
	July 3	Out	993316 Sgt. Richards C.S.	
	July 6	In	R56586 Sgt. Forman T.W.	
	July 7	In	402418 P/O Terry R.F. 402355 P/O Horn J.R. 86732 P/O Thorley J.L. 970184 Sgt. Mitchell A.G.L.	
	"	Out	P/O O'Brien W.H. P/O Fraas R.J. R53834 Sgt. McKernan M.G.A. 971162 Sgt. Brown T. 990009 Sgt. Doyle T.J. (All to Hospital) 522251 P/Sgt. Luckhurst J. (Killed)	
	July 9	Out	N2402102 Sgt. Burton J.T. 1377682 Sgt. Corfield R. P/O Fraas R.J. (Died of injuries)	
	July 10	In	J4783 P/O Mackay W.M. Sgts. N2402231 Warnock J.H. 402225 Clark J.F.L. 928611 Sgt. Deeks R.G. 116722 Elcoate K.G. 1170650 Pinn J.A. 1168027 Frost R.J. R58302 Lesley A.B. 922929 Sgt. Tomkins E.M. 925451 Sgt. Wymark J.A. 952445 Sgt. Brown R. 1002399 Sgt. Dods J. R60726 Sgt. Dalphond M.H. R57644 Sgt. Dodge L.F. R62012 Sgt. Francis A.N. R51830 Sgt. Kirk J.M. 1164143 Sgt. Harcourt D.A. 997362 Sgt. Forbes W.J. 1068914 Sgt. Norcross G. 746835 Sgt. Rose A.W.	
	July 10	Out	059127 Sgt. Berry W.L.	
	July 11	In	J4764 P/O Learmonth A.O.	
	July 13	In	Sgts. R56239 McHutt B. R55551 Guay J.A.J. R69196 Burgoyne L.G. 751214 Bates R.A. R63755 Clark J.F.	
	July 15	Out	Sgts. 751214 Bates R.A. 746835 Rose A.W.	
	July 14	In	Sgts. 1058645 Metcalf J. 1053502 Morvan J.D. R65477 McLennan A.H. R73778 Dawson J.F.B. R57736 Beach A.M. 1251619 Holobone R.J. 1251850 Humphrey R.O. 928751 Allen J.W.H. 1377981 Greenall J. 137779 McLeod, D.J.	
	July 14	Out	971547 Sgts. Andrews G.P. 521590 Younger L.B.	
	July 15	In	Sgts. R69311 Saunders J.A. R74609 McKay W.A. 945798 Ashurst R.A. 911091 Armstrong E.B.	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of	References to Appendices.
	July 15	Out	60561 P/O Morgan R.C.M. Sgts. 904944 Thrower D.B. 958689 Slaughter V.R. 643322 Jones E.W. R51830 Kirk J.N. 1367867 Dosssetter W.C. (All missing on operations) 10522413 Thompson H.	
	July 16	In	75103 Scott E.	
	"	Out	Sgts. 1058645 Metcalf J. 1058502 Morgan J.D. 922929 Tomkins K.M. 945798 Ashurst R.S. 941092 Armstrong E.B. 1377881 Greenall J.	
	July 19	Out	979537 Almond T.B. 978443 Pruette G.A.	
	July 23	Out	Sgts. 89599 P/O Scrivens D.R.S.	
	July 22	Out	Sgt. 748755 Dodd R.P.B.	
	July 24	In	J4530 P/O Featherston A.H. Sgts R67677 McInlay V R78211 Suggitt W.R. R61068 Hassan A.L. R74243 Hall C.R.	
	July 24	Out	37348 W/Odr. Gilchrist P.A. 34783 P/O Mackay W.M. 76930 P/O Whigham R.C.M. P/O Trueman R.V. Sgts. R69544 Paton J.S. R61608 Crump J.C. 970184 Mitchell A.G.I. 940620 Westbury R.H. R. 60726 Dalphond H. 819035 Pawkes J.A. 1163487 Tatton C. R57908 Martin J.L.B. (All missing on operations) 10238 Higgins G.K. (Wounds in hospital) 1020220 Dearnley H. (Died of wounds)	
	July 25	Out	04506 P/O McArdle J.S.	
	July 28	In	978443 Pruette G.A. 979537 Sgt. Almond T.B.	
	"	Out	J4881 P/O McCormack P/O Bainbridge P.K. J4570 P/O Fleming G.H.	

Signature B. Cooper P/O.  
Adjutant.

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