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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 249, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page 1

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) 406 (R.O.C.F.) Squadron

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|------------|---------|------|---|--------------------------|
| Peckington | Aug. 2. | | <u>Reversals - Postings In.</u> Sgts. 10817 Murphy, 1810 Fortin, 10884 Smith, A., 106816 Smith, J.A., 13009A Taylor, 3830 Payton. | |
| | | 4 | Sgt. 100196 Sturgeon. | |
| | | 6 | Sgts. 937811 Quinn, 107714 Baltzer, 1069827 Tatro, 1174190 Swetnam, 1068840 Oleson, 1008213 Thompson. | |
| | | 7 | Sgts. 937811 Turton, 1001906 Stansworth, 988077 Carter, 106110 Macab, 110438 Paige, 1064294 Pillmer. | |
| | | 8 | Sgt. 976646 Phillips (From Hospital). | |
| | | 11 | Sgts. 106633 Morrison, 103909 Reid, 14040A Barr, 4223A Cunliffe. | |
| | | 12 | Sgt. 1039609 Newnham. | |
| | | 13 | 34216 / / Cdr. R.L. Fendick-Wilson, A.F.C. | |
| | | 16 | Sgt. 669373 Bomar. | |
| | | 22 | Sgts. 1377867 Day, 159256 Robertson, 100392 Lorris. | |
| | | 23 | / / C. R.B. Fowler, Sgts. 111919 Whitlock, 100001 Spurgeon, 100168 Turnbull, 1068214 Hughes, 105327 O'Brien, 106800 Jenkin, 1117963 McCullough. | |
| | | 24 | / / C J.A. Reuben. | |



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| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | | References to Appendices |
|--------------|--------|------|--|---------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Movements | Footings Out. | |
| Pecklington. | Aug. 1 | | Sgt. 975646 Phillips (To Hospital). | | |
| | 3 | | J3014 A/T/Lt. T.S. Pipp, 408410 P/O. R.F. Terry, P/O. G.R. Horn, J4764 P/O. A... Barnmouth, P/O. H. Cox, Sgts. 857432 S.M., 946983 Martin, 970443 Rustie, 859230 Mennie, 883810 Reed, 1116548 McKennie, 971203 Thomas - all missing. | | |
| | 5 | | P/Sgt. 967931 Bower, Sgt. 1008914 Horrocks. | | |
| | 7 | | P/Sgt. 901363 Parsons (DEP). (Sgts. 866035 Pullen, 806128 Russe - to Hospital). | | |
| | 9 | | Sgt. 514041 Mellors. | | |
| | 11 | | Sgts. 1081906 Stanworth, (700670 Sales - to Hospital). | | |
| | 13 | | Sgt. 781021 Fagan. | | |
| | 15 | | Missing; J4870 P/O. G.H. Fleming, Sgts. 740204 Scott, (104475 Hughes - Foot), (372770 Lawson, 808308 Lenley, 761083 Stott, 1367001 Stanfield, 804911 Colley - missing). | | |
| | 17 | | Sgt. 553A Payton (killed in action). | | |
| | 21 | | Sgts. 651756 Angus, 801678 Macswell. | | |
| | 25 | | Sgt. 754732 Bigglestone. | | |
| | 29 | | Sgt. 910003 Conroy. (860293 Quinn, 856214 Hughes, 972411 Lewis, 8261019 Hollibone, 1377759 Macdonald, P/O. H.M. Watts - missing). | | |

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ADJUTANT.
No. 405 (RCAF) SQUADRON

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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 in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page 1

of (Unit or Formation) 405(RCAF) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day 4

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|-------------|-------|------|---|--------------------------|
| Pecklington | AUG.1 | | 10 daylight sorties, 3 on air firing and two machines to Dishforth, remainder on air tests. Weather :- Low cloud during the day. Overcast in the evening. Visibility very good. | |
| | AUG.2 | | 14 daylight sorties, all on air tests and local flying practice. Ops. Orders Numbers 18 and 18. Seven crews to attack BERLIN (Alt. 3 I.R.) One "freighter" (P/O Cox) to attack HAMBURG. Weather :- Overcast, becoming fine with good visibility. | A. 13 A. 14 |
| | AUG.3 | | 16th Ops. 7 a/c attacked BERLIN. "J" (P/Lt. King, P/O Terry, Sgts. Skan, Murfin, Pratte, McNiece) missing from this operation. "F" (P/O Cox, P/O Horn, P/O Learmonth, Sgts. Thomas, Reed, McKennie) missing from operation HAMBURG. 11 daylight sorties, (9.35 hours) One cross country, remainder air tests and local flying practice. 3 night sorties (1.50 hours). Weather :- Early morning fog lifting and becoming mainly fair with good visibility. | |
| | AUG.4 | | No sorties. Broken cloud at 1,500 feet during the day becoming fair during the evening. Visibility poor becoming moderate to good. | |
| | AUG.5 | | 18 daylight sorties (16.50 hrs) 1 aircraft to Dishforth and back, 2 from Dishforth, 1 cross country (No. 1) and flying tests. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 17 and 18. Six crews to attack EARLSHURH. Two "freighter" crews to attack target C.C. 29.A. Weather :- Fair at first, cloudy in the afternoon with moderate rain in the evening. | A. 15 A. 16 |
| | AUG.6 | | 16th Ops. One a/c jettisoned bombs when attacked by enemy a/c. Two a/c U/S. Three a/c attacked the target, causing several fires, one very big and visible for 60 miles on the return. Huge fires were also observed at MANNHEIM. The "freighter" operation was cancelled. 7 day sorties (7.45 hrs). Local flying practice, tests, landing practice and conversion. Weather :- Fair to fine with good visibility. | |
| | AUG.7 | | 15 day sorties (22.5 hrs) 1 cross country (No. 1), air tests, local flying practice, landing practice. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 18. Nine crews to attack DORTMUND. Weather :- Cloudy with showers in the afternoon, visibility very good. | A. 17 |
| | AUG.8 | | * 17th Ops. 1 a/c bombed WITZEN. 8 a/c successfully bombed the marshalling yards and railway as specified at DORTMUND. One a/c had an engagement with enemy fighters and took evasive action with success. 6 day sorties (5.45 hrs) tests, landing practice. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 19. Weather :- Fine at first, with cloud later. Visibility moderate to good. Decorations :- S/Ldr. Keady awarded D.F.C. P/Sgt. Parsons awarded D.F.M. | |
| | AUG.9 | | Ops. Cancelled. Weather cloudy - heavy rain all evening and night. 10 day sorties (12) 2 cross country (No. 1), tests, landing practices, conversions. | |

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| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|--------------|---------|------|--|--------------------------|
| Pecklington. | AUG. 10 | | 12 day sorties (12) 1 cross country, air tests, local flying practice. Weather :- Overcast with rain and mist at first. Visibility good later. | |
| | AUG. 11 | | 13 day sorties (13) 2 local flying practice, other flights air tests. Weather :- Cloudy in the morning. Showers in the afternoon, but visibility improved. | |
| | AUG. 12 | | 16 day sorties (12) 1 dual, 1 local flying practice, remainder air tests. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 20. Nine crews to attack BERLIN. Weather :- Slight rain, then showers with good visibility. | A. 6. 8 |
| X | AUG. 13 | | 18th Ops. 5 a/c bombed BERLIN, encountering heavy flak and fire from heavies. Many fires were caused and bursts from their own and other a/c were observed by the crews. One a/c was attacked by, and evaded, 2 Me 110's. A second sustained superficial damage, brushing a tree when landing at base. A third, which had attacked BERLIN, was hit by flak and damaged. The second pilot and rear gunner were wounded. The captain effected a successful crash landing. Two a/c, temporarily O/S, made no sortie. An operation, for which 3 a/c were detailed, was cancelled. Weather 1/4- Rain during the night and morning, with low cloud. Visibility moderate or poor at first becoming good later. Very gusty winds. No day flying. | |
| | AUG. 14 | | 13 day sorties (14) 2 tests to Driffield. Tests, local flying practice. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 21, 22. Seven crews to attack MAGDEBURG. Two crews ("Fresher") to attack ROTTERDAM. Weather :- Cloudy, but good visibility. | A. 6. 19 A. 6. 20 |
| | AUG. 15 | | 3 a/c attacked the target in heavy flak - "worse than Berlin" - some bursts were seen and fires were started. One large a/c, hit by flak, was seen to blow up. Two a/c attacked alternatives, HANOVER, and another, owing to delayed take-off, attacked ROTTERDAM. One a/c, M (P/O Fleming, Sgts. Lesley, Dawson, Stott, Stanfield, Molloy) reported missing. "Fresher" operation cancelled owing to enemy action (see below). Enemy action - An enemy bombing attack was made on the aerodrome at 0030 hours. Incendiaries fell on and around maintenance hangar; H.M. bombs fell in fields beyond the station boundaries. No damage. No casualties. Casualties - see 19th Ops - P/O Fleming, Sgts. Dawson, Lesley, Stott, Stanfield, Molloy - missing. A/C : M. (S. 5496) 1 day sortie (1.30) local flying practice. 1 night sortie (0.30) Weather :- Overcast during the night. Showers in the morning and afternoon. Occasional showers in the evening. Slight Clouds. Rain in the afternoon and evening. Visibility moderate to poor. | |
| | AUG. 16 | | 12 day sorties (11 hrs) 1 Bomb test, 1 dual, local flying practice and air tests. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 23. Eight crews to attack COLOGNE. Weather :- Overcast during the night. Showers in the morning and afternoon. Occasional showers in the evening. | A. 6. 21 |
| | AUG. 17 | | 20th Ops. 6 a/c attacked COLOGNE with success and good fires were started despite S/L, flak, and opposition from enemy fighters. One a/c avoided an Me 110 firing cannon and 303, but N (Sgt. Sutherland) was hit by an Me 110, and later by flak. The rear gunner, Sgt. Payton was killed. Considerable damage was done to the a/c and a fire was put out by the crew. The starboard wheel was punctured, but a satisfactory landing was made at base. 1 a/c attacked DUSSELDORF. 1 a/c no sortie. Casualties - Sgt. Payton, rear gunner, killed in action. 1 a/c no sortie. 2 day sorties (2.30 hrs) 2 night sorties (2.30 hrs) local flying practice and night flying tests respectively. | |

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 3.

of (Unit or Formation) 405(RCAF) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|-------------|--------|------|---|--------------------------|
| Pecklington | AUG.18 | | 12 day sorties (12 hrs) 4 to Dishforth, 1 cross country (No.1), local flying practice, air tests. Weather - visibility of 2 - 4 miles. | |
| | AUG.19 | | 11 day sorties (10.30 hrs) - all air tests. Funeral - Sgt. Payton, killed in action, was buried at Barmby Moor Cemetery with military honours. Cartage left the Station at 1430 hours. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 24 - six crews to attack EIEL. Weather :- Clouds, increasing to 8/10 and 10/10 at 2,000 feet. Showers and thunderstorm about 1800 hours. Visibility mainly moderate. | A.10. |
| | AUG.20 | | 5 day sorties, 5 a/c, in visibility nil, attacked the estimated target, and no results could be observed. One a/c returned with bombs. Nickels were dropped in the target area. 2 Day sorties (2.10 hours) to Middleton and return. Weather :- Slight cloud and showers till 1900 hours. Visibility 2 - 4 miles. | |
| | AUG.21 | | 7 day sorties (4.10) 4 Dishforth, 1 cross country (No.1), 2 Bombing exercises (Filey Bay). Weather :- Almost cloudless during the night. Overcast with rain in the afternoon. Visibility good becoming poor in the rain. | |
| | AUG.22 | | 11 day sorties (9.10 hrs) 1 dual, 1 local flying practice. Air tests made up the remaining sorties. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 25. Six crews to attack MANNHEIM (Alt. 4,000 ft). Casualties - at 15.30 hours and 15.50 hours respectively, two a/c's, 1 (Pilot Sgt. Chanda) and 2 (Sgt. McKinley) were severely damaged from practice flights. The fuselage of K was torn. 2 was very severely damaged. There were only slight casualties to personnel. These accidents were caused by a sudden 180 change in the wind. Weather :- Overcast at 1,000 ft with intermittent rain and drizzle. Poor visibility. Wind variable. | A.11. |
| | AUG.23 | | 22nd Ops. With the exception of one crew's observations, no land or water features were observed near the target area during this operation on MANNHEIM. 5 a/c however attacked the target and there is little doubt that the target area was successfully bombed. Photographs were taken but show only cloud. One a/c made no sortie owing to sickness of the navigator. 4 daylight sorties (8 hrs) - Dishforth and return. Weather :- Fair with visibility falling and becoming overcast by end of the day with rain. | |
| | AUG.24 | | 6 day sorties (5.25 hrs) Co-operation test with signal station, local flying tests, landing practice, tests, 1 cross country (No.1). Weather :- Variable cloud at 2000 ft. Fog at dawn. Visibility mainly very good. | |

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| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | Page No. 4. References to Appendices |
|-------------|---------|------|--|---|
| Pecklington | AUG. 25 | | 2 night sorties (3.15 hrs) Local flying practice, landing practice. Weather :- Small amounts of cloud at first increasing to 10/10. Heavy rain, visibility poor. | |
| | AUG. 26 | | 16 day sorties (14 hrs) 4 to or from Dishforth, air tests, local flying practice, 1 conversion, 1 from Wellesbourne. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 26. Two "fresher" crews detailed to attack LE HAYRE. Weather :- varying amounts of cloud at 4,000 ft. Visibility moderate at dawn, otherwise good. | 24 A. 12 |
| | AUG. 27 | | Pecklington Ops. Order No. 26 - cancelled owing to enemy action on aerodrome. Enemy Action - An enemy a/s, believed to be a fighter-bomber, attacked the aerodrome 23.50 hours, 26.8.41. No alert had been given. The bombs were not of heavy calibre and caused little damage. The IFF of B, about to take off on "fresher" operations, was damaged by splinters. The operation was cancelled. Prisoners of War - International Red Cross information : F/Lt Kipp, P/O Perry, Sgts. Skan, Prustie, Murfin, Henries are now prisoners of war. 10 day sorties, 1 cross country (No. 1), 1 Dishforth, 1 Catfoss to base, tests, local flying practice. Weather :- little cloud at first, increasing to 10/10. Slight rain. Visibility moderate. | |
| | AUG. 28 | | 17 day sorties (16 hrs) 1 to Dishforth and return, 1 from Dishforth, Air tests. Pecklington Ops. Order No. 27. Eleven crews to attack LUISBURG. Weather :- Much cloud all day. Rain, followed by thunderstorms. Visibility moderate to good. | 25 A. 16 |
| | AUG. 29 | | 23rd Ops. S/L in cones were both numerous and active and "all captains agree the number of our flares was very high, and bombing appears to have been effective". There was "a really good show of explosions and fires, both red and green, in and about the target area". Bursts were seen straddling the target area and by the light of many flares one crew saw their whole stick burst immediately west of the main railway station in LUISBURG. Another a/o reported "huge explosions" in the same area. One a/s bombed an aerodrome at HAAMSTEDDE. Of three "fresher" crews on the operation one bombed the target successfully (Opt. Sgt. Saunders), one bombed HUNDLICHHEIM, the third (Opt. P/O Watts) B. is reported missing. One a/o took photographs. Five dropped nickels in BSR area. Casualties - missing from "B" - P/O Watts, Sgts. Quinn, Hughes, Davies, Hollobone, Wolcott. 5 day sorties (3 hrs) Aircrew tests, 2 from Dishforth, 1 Dishforth and return. Weather :- Much cloud all day, thundery cloud about 1200 hours. | |
| | AUG. 30 | | 12 day sorties (10.30 hrs) 1 check dual, 1 conversion, 1 local flying practice, air tests. Weather :- Cloudy. Slight showers in morning and early afternoon. Visibility very good. | |
| | AUG. 31 | | 8 day sorties (8.15 hrs) Bombing practice, air tests, local flying practice. Weather :- little low cloud increasing to 10/10 at 1,000 ft at 1100 hours, then dispersing rapidly. Visibility mainly moderate. | |

No. 405 (RCAF) SQUADRON

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| DATE | AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER | CREW | DAY | TIME | | DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT | REFERENCE |
|---------|---------------------------|--|-----|------|--|--|-----------|
| | | | | Up | Down | | |
| AUG. 8. | Wellington II | Sgt. Turner, P/O Frizzle, Sgts. McIntosh, Little, Allen, Blair. | | 2211 | 0800 | <p align="center">-Bombing Attack on BRISTOL-</p> <p>Focklington Operations Order No. 15. Seven aircraft detailed. Bomb load 1- 3 x 200, 2 x 250 (.25), 1 x 250 (.25), 2 x 250 (.25), 2 x 250 (.25). Weather 1- Cloudless, but very dark and some ground haze. City details not identified.</p> <p>Between 0125-0135 hours from heights of 16,000 to 17,000 ft., 5 aircraft are known to have bombed the target area with some success. Many targets were observed (including some to East of TEMPLETOP RLY. Station) and fires were started. One large fire was visible for 30 miles after leaving the target area, and another in the North of the city developed into a big explosion which clearly revealed buildings. Incendiarics from one a/c, 1 (Sgt. Chandon) were seen to be effective in the centre of the city within 10 minutes of being released. From 1 also a large a/c hole by searchlights was seen to be hit by flak, burst into flames, and crash. No parachutes were seen.</p> <p>1 (Sgt. Farnborough) was caught by flak and a/c, and attacked by an Me 110 at 70 yards. After successful violent evasive action he proceeded and unloaded his bombs to the South of the target. R (Sgt. Gibson), who had bombed East of TEMPLETOP STATION had to make a landfall on the Suffolk coast due to petrol shortage, and landed at Methwold. Due to rough running and excessive petrol consumption 4 (Sgt. Bigglestone) decided to abort mission, through 10/30 cloud. Incendiarics are thought to have started a few fires. This a/c returned to BRISTOL. From this operation, 1 (P/O Frizzle, P/O Terry, Sgts. McIntosh, Little, Allen, Mensie) was reported missing. 5 a/c dropped bombs on 110 (10) over target area.</p> | 1-2/3 |
| | W 5484 | P/O Kipp, P/O Terry, Sgts. Skon, Martin, Frutkin, Mensie. | | 2210 | -- | | |
| | W 5483 | Sgts. Dougall, Hanson, Lord, Claydon, Melay, Foxman. | | 2214 | 0500 | | |
| | W 5535 | Sgts. Chandon, Finn, Burgoyne, Bullock, Litcher, Jackson. | | 2210 | 0504 | | |
| | W 5492 | Sgts. Farnborough, Chandon, Bench, Angus, Therood, P/Ogt. Bever. | | 2215 | 0545 | | |
| | W 5572 | Sgt. Bigglestone, Base, P/O Beckey, P/Ogt. Elliott, Sgts. Richard, Pullen. | | 2213 | 0444 (BRISTOL) 1236 (Base) 0440 (BRISTOL) 1515 (Base) | | |
| | W 5516 | Sgts. Gibson, Williams, P/O Turner, Sgts. Garnett, Evans, P/Ogt. Carr. | | 2212 | 0440 (BRISTOL) 1515 (Base) | | |
| W 5515 | | | | | | | |
| AUG. 8. | W 5527 | P/O Cox, P/O Horn, P/O Loomanth, Sgts. Thomas, Reed, McGonnie. | | 2230 | -- | <p align="center">-Bombing Attack on HAMPTON-</p> <p>Focklington Operations Order No. 16. One "Proctor" crew detailed. Bomb load 1- 1 x 200, 4 x 200, 1 x 250 (.25), 1 x 250 H.L.D., 2 S.B.C.</p> <p>This aircraft was reported missing (P/O Cox, P/O Horn, P/O Loomanth, Sgts. Thomas, Reed, McGonnie).</p> | 1-2/4 |

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| DATE | AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER | CREW | DUTY | TIME | | DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT | REFERENCES |
|---------|---------------------------|--|------|------|------|--|------------|
| | | | | UP | DOWN | | |
| AUG. 5. | Wellington II | Sgts. Turner, Suggitt, Molasters, Little, Allen, Blair. | | 2259 | 0614 | <p align="center">- Bombing Attack on EARLSRUDE -</p> <p>Pocklington Operations Order No. 17. Six a/c detailed. Bomb Load :- 3 x 500, 3 x 250 (.025), 1 x 250 M.H.D. 6 S.B.C. Weather :- Heavy storms with 10/10 cloud to 11,000 Ft. Periods of clear weather over target.</p> <p>At 0137 and 0145, at heights of 9,000 and 10,000 ft. respectively, two a/c's (Sgt. Turner) and A (Sgt. Dougall), identified and bombed the target. G's stick fell near a large burning building, possible infantry barracks in SALES TRASSE, and bombed the centre of the town. Both a/c reported large fires and explosions, and even bigger fires, visible for 60 miles at EARLSRUDE. G (Sgt. Bigglestone) bombed AACHEN because of engine trouble, and red fires, visible for 15 miles, were observed. H (Sgt. Gibson) encountered heavy storms and 10/10 cloud. R was attacked by two He 110's at 800 yds., and later met another twin engine fighter. A short engagement followed the first encounter, and bombs and incendiaries were jettisoned to facilitate escape. On each occasion R escaped by diving into cloud. H (Sgt. Chances) and S (Sgt. Farberough) made no sorties because of generator and inter- com trouble respectively. There were no casualties.</p> | A. 15 |
| | -do- "B" | Sgts. Dougall, Hessean, Lord, Clayden, Smiley, Norman. | | 2256 | 0630 | | |
| | -do- "C" | Sgts. Bigglestone, Mease, P/O Madkey, Sgts. Mallett, Richards, Pullen. | | 2308 | 0513 | | |
| | -do- "D" | Sgts. Gibson, Wilson, P/O Turner, Sgts. Garnett, Evans, P/O Sgt. Gurr. | | 2301 | 0236 | | |
| | -do- "E" | Sgts. Chances, Finn, Burgoyne, Bullock, Fletcher, Naxon. | | 2256 | 0005 | | |
| | -do- "F" | Sgts. Farberough, Saunders, Beach, Thorogood, Humphrey, Piera. | | -- | -- | | |
| AUG. 6. | -do- "D" | Sgts. Allison, Frost, Mark, Robson, Lynas, Richard. | | -- | -- | <p>Pocklington Operations Order No. 18. 2 crews detailed to attack target O.C. 29. - CANCELLED -</p> | A. 16 |
| | -do- "M" | P/O Fleming, Sgts. Dawson, Lesley, Stott, Stensfield, Molloy. | | -- | -- | | |

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