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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington.	Sept.1		9 Day sorties (7 hours). All air tests. 1 Night sortie (2 hours) Dual - landing practice. Casualty - "E" - Sgt. Turner was taking Sgts McNeil and McIsaac in dual. At 2150 the engine of "E" caught fire and Sgt. Turner effected a crash landing. The three pilots and the crew escaped, but the aircraft was destroyed by fire. The accident occurred beside the aerodrome. Weather - Cloudy, slight evening rain. Light and variable wind.	
	Sept.2		7 Day sorties (5-15 hours) All air tests. Weather - Fog at first, clearing to good visibility. Surface wind variable.	
	Sept.3		16 Day sorties (16 hours) Air tests, landing practice, local flying practice, calibration tests, one to Dishforth and back, one to Dishforth. Pocklington Ops. Order No. 28. Nine a/c to attack BRST. Weather - Haze all day, little cloud, wind light and variable.	
	Sept.4		DAMPENED OPERATION - Nine a/c set off as detailed to attack BRST, but, because of Met. Reports all were recalled and returned to base. The bombload of one a/c was jettisoned safely. All other bombloads were brought back. No sorties. Weather - Fog and smoke haze. Wind light and variable.	
	Sept.5		1 Day Sortie (30 minutes). Weather - Overcast with cloud, base lowering to 100 feet at times. Drizzle and poor visibility.	
	Sept.6		1 Day sortie (1 hour 45 mins) Loop test - D.F. Station. Prisoners of war :- Announced that S/Odr. F.A. Gilchrist, D.F.C. missing 24th July, had escaped to Switzerland. Weather, Variable cloud lowering to 1,000 feet at times. Visibility good. Wind increasing to 20 m.p.h.	
	Sept.7		18 Day sorties. (21.20 hours) 6 Air firing practice, air tests, 1 cross country (No.1) Administrative change. S/Lt. D.R.S. Scrivens assumed duties of Squadron Navigation Officer, vice Sgt. R. Walker, D.F.M. Pocklington Ops. Order No. 29. Eight crews to attack BERLIN. Pocklington Ops. Order No. 30. One crew (freshman) to attack WORMON. Weather - Cloudy with very good visibility. W'ly backing to W'ly and becoming light E'ly in the evening.	A.26 A.27
	Sept.8		24th OPS. BERLIN. Six crews attacked the target in good visibility. The attack on the city was successful in spite of cones of strong 3/4, flak, and heavies. All attacks were pressed home and the bursts of many a/c were on the "actual aiming point" or in the vicinity of the target. Bursts were seen in the middle of a wide street, believed to be the FRANKFURTERSTRASSE. A thousand pounder exploded near KOPENHAGEN. Three bomb flashes were observed in the vicinity of the TEMPLEHOF AIRFIELD. One a/c reported missing from this operation - "P" 5521 - Crew, Sgt. Saunders (Capt) Sgt. MacNutt, S/O Mackey, Sgts. Perkin (DFM), Courtmell, Smith.	
	Sept.9		5 Day sorties (4-25 hours) Air tests, local flying practice, loop calibration flight with D.F. Sta. Weather. Cloudy. Visibility poor to good deteriorating at night. Calm breeze.	
	Sept.10		10 Day sorties (12.45) Air tests, 1 cross country (No.1) 1 flight for photography practice. Pock. Ops. Order No. 31. Five a/c to attack TURIN. Weather. Low and medium cloud, moderate visibility. Calm at first becoming fresh W'ly breeze in the evening.	A.28

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Pooklington.	Sept. 10		10 Day sorties (12.45) Air tests, 1 cross country (No. 1), 1 flight for photography practice. Pooklington Ops. Order No. 31. Five a/c to attack TURIN. (see 10/10 10/10) low and medium cloud, moderate visibility. Calm at first becoming fresh N.W. breeze in the evening.	
	Sept. 11		25th Ops. At Stradishall, the secondary base, one a/c was found to be u/s, so that 4 a/c were actually detailed. All were successful. 10/10 Cloud obscured the target, but fires started by a/c attacking earlier simplified the bombing. There was little flak in the target area and 3/L was negligible. The trip over the Alps was described as "fascinating" and Mont Blanc stood out bright and clear. 3 Day sorties (2.55) Local flying practice. Weather - Slight rain in the early hours, variable cloud for rest of day, and good visibility. Moderate breeze.	
	Sept. 12		13 Day sorties (12.50) Air tests, bombing practice, local flying practice. Pooklington Ops. Order No. 32. Seven a/c to attack FRANKFURT. Weather - much cloud all day, occasional showers, and late at night, intermittent rain. Moderate visibility.	A. 29
	Sept. 13		26th Ops. Six a/c attacked the primary target, FRANKFURT, experiencing much cloud during the entire trip. The only breaks occurred over the target area and were barely sufficient to allow pin-pointing of land features. Bursts were observed west of docks, near the main railway station. Other a/c bombed the city west of landing point, and flak and 3/L concentrations. One a/c attacked MARNE, and took a photograph in which the area about AMBERGERS HAFEN and Barracks is clearly defined. 7 Day sorties (5.15 hours) Local flying practice, air tests, 5 to Dinsforth, 1 Night sortie (30 mins) Dual, landings. Weather - Cloudy with intermittent rain. Showers in the evening, fine late at night.	
	Sept. 14		3 Day sorties. Local flying practice. Weather - Slight rain during early morning. Excellent visibility. Gusty wind during the afternoon.	
	Sept. 15		14 Day sorties (11 hours) Air tests, landings, 1 Dinsforth and return, local flying practice. Pooklington Ops. Order No. 33. Seven crews to attack HAMBURG. Weather - mainly overcast during the day, becoming fine at night with good visibility and light variable wind.	A. 30
	Sept. 16		27th Ops. HAMBURG. Owing to engine trouble, one a/c did not take off. One a/c jettisoned bombload owing to inter-com trouble. A third a/c in spite of inter-com being u/s and panel lights failing, pressed on and attacked WILHELMSSHAVERN. A fourth encountered an intense barrage in the vicinity of KIG, and bombed flak concentrations near MARNE. The remaining a/c bombed the target area in very dark weather, causing small red fires. Two a/c dropped nickels in the centre of the city. 1 Day sortie (30 mins) To Einton. 4 Night sorties (4 hours) Dual, landings, solos. Weather - Misty, but clearing towards moon, then became fine, but cloudy and misty again at night.	
	Sept. 17		9 Day sorties (10.35 hours) 2 Cross-country, load test; air tests. Administrative Change: P/O H.J.F. Jones posted to A05 (RAF) Squadron for duty as Medical Officer vice P/O S. Robertson who was posted to S.H. Pooklington on 17/9/44, previous to posting to Air Headquarters West Africa. Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility; 10/10 cloud at 4,000 ft., and mist during the night.	
	Sept. 18		16 Day sorties. (16 hours) Air tests; load tests; local flying practice; Cross-country tests. Flying Accident: "K" (W. 5492), Capt. Sgt. R.J. Chandos, was carrying out a photographic duty at 8,000 ft. approximately, combined with a wireless test. There was a full crew, and A.O. Armitage continued.	

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Pooklington.	Sept. 18	(cont'd)	A.C. Amitage/ was carrying out the wireless test. In the a/c also was accompanying Sgt. Strother, assisting disposal, and getting in some flying practice. The a/c was seen to dive rapidly from approximately 5,000 ft and portions of the tail unit fell off when the a/craft was at 1,000 ft followed by port main plane at 500 ft. Flames were seen issuing from the side of the plane as it crashed in Northfield Farm, Pooklington, and exploded. The plane was completely destroyed, and the eight airmen were killed instantaneously. The accident is under investigation. Those killed were the operational crew: Sgts. Chanock, Thompson, Hurton, Phillips, Fletcher and Mann; and the two passengers, Sgt. Strother and A.C. Amitage. Weather: Poor visibility at first, improving to fair; cloudy at night. Light 7.30 p.m.	
	Sept. 19		2 Day sorties (3.15 hours) Air tests, bomb flying practice, Pooklington. Weather No. 5. Five a/c's to attack WRECK. Weather: Cloudy. Visibility moderate to good later.	A.31
	Sept. 20		25th Sqn. GRENADIER - Four a/c's attacked the target area, three of which are known to have been on the target, causing one large fire near the main railway station, visible on the return for 70 miles; and a big green fire which was seen to be still very heavy 50 miles away on the return. The formation of one a/c became 2/c and the captain decided to attack WRECK. One a/c, "P" (10, 1044) Capt. Sgt. Dougall was missing prior to this operation. The last signal received was at 0212, that the target had been bombed. The crew was - Sgt. Dougall, P/O Fowler, Sgts. Lord, Clayton, Buckley, Foreman. Nickels were released in the target area. 5 Day sorties (3.5 hours) Air tests, Pooklington. 25th Sqn. GRENADIER a/c's to attack WRECK. Prisoner of War - International Red Cross Society, regarding Berlin information, stated that P/O McKay, missing 24/7/41, is a prisoner of war, unaccounted for. Weather - mainly 10/10 Cloud at 2,000 ft with good visibility deteriorating at night.	A.32
	Sept. 21		29th Sqn. GRENADIER (Fresher) In each industrial base three a/c's attacked the target. Two identified the BATHING MACHINE, and bombed the dock area. One fire started was visible for 20 miles on the return. 3 Day sorties (3 hours) Air tests. Weather - Fine with moderate visibility in morning, cloudy later.	
	Sept. 22		4 Day sorties (3.55 hours) Air tests. Visits and inspections - Mr Vincent Hanes, Canadian High Commissioner, and Mrs Hanes, paid an informal visit to 475 Squadron Administrative canteen - Adjutant - P/O Joan H. Garsden assumed duties of Adjutant, 475 (Squadron) Squadron R.A.F. 22.9.41, vice P/O C. F. S. Cooper, posted. Remains - At 14.15 hours, Sgts. Mann, Strother, Thompson, Hurton, killed in the flying accident of September 18th, were buried with service honours in BURNBY Moor Cemetery. Weather: Cloudy with moderate visibility. Mainly 10/10 cloud at 2,000 feet.	
	Sept. 23		2 Day sorties. Air tests "P" practice. Weather - Cloudy, poor visibility. Cloud 10/10 at 2000 ft during morning.	
	Sept. 24		No sorties. Weather. Cloudy, some fog, drizzle. Visibility poor throughout day.	
	Sept. 25		1 Day sortie (30 mins) Air test. Weather - Fair at first, foggy about dawn, cloudy during the morning. Visibility poor to moderate.	

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Poolington.	Sept. 27		14 Day sorties (14.20 hours) Air tests, photography and cross country (No.1), dual. Weather - Fog soon after midnight, persisting until late evening. Visibility mainly poor. Storming winds.	
	Sept. 28		9 Day sorties (14.45 hours) All airtests. Weather: Fine at first, poor visibility, lowering cloud bank. Rain in the evening. Light variable winds.	
	Sept. 29		9 Day sorties (14.45 hours) Air tests, landing practice, dual. Prisoners of war - Telegrams from Red Cross Society, getting German instructions, states that 200 British, 1500 Polish, 10000 French, 10000 Italian and 10000 American are prisoners of war. They were liberated from the operation of 7/30th September. Poolington a/c order No. 15 - Six a/c to attack TOTTEN. Poolington Co. Order No. 17 - Two a/c to attack HAMBURG. Weather - Overcast with continuous rain until 0700, then cloudy with bright intervals. Slight rain in afternoon, with slight squall. Variable winds later.	A35 & A.36
	Sept. 30		30th Sept. TOTTEN - 5 of our a/c bombed the target area, and one a/c straddled the aiming point with its bombs, setting fire to a large building. Several other fires were started, and many bomb bursts were observed in the drop area. Two of our a/c were fired at by a battery of 88mm AA. There were no casualties. HAMBURG - Two a/c attacked the short target, 88mm AA, and in the face of heavy fire, made a successful run on the ALBERT and dock area, causing a large fire, and a green explosion. 2 Day sorties (14.15 hours) Air tests, landing practice. 2 Night sorties (2.25) Dual, landings, a/c. Poolington a/c order No. 18. Three a/c to attack HAMBURG. Weather - Fine with rather poor visibility until afternoon. Occasional rain, then, heavier fine with good visibility in the evening. Light variable winds.	A.39

Jean Dubois
ADJUTANT
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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2149, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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Pocklington	Sept. 2		<u>POSTINGS IN () AIRCREW.</u> Sgt. Scharfe. R54160.	
	5		Sgts. R61631 Scott, R50333 Lefurgey, R60734 Phillips, E.G. R58817 McGill. R65815 Robson, M.P.F. R59857 Leith. R58206 Gerty. R54099 Baldwin. - P/O Mather, R.A. J2830.	
	8		R56238 Sgt. Killin. J5087 P/O McGwen, A.J.	
	9		Sgts. 1167380 Holland. 1283354 Jeffery.	
	10		1379106 Sgt. Grimes	
	17		Sgts. 1168184 Shaw. 1257377 Nichols. 971361 Hesaelden. R240404 Roy. R61689 Graham. R73478 Poy.	
	20		C1399 P/Lt. Fauquier, J.	
	21		Sgts. 908566 Furster, R68499 Lee. Aus. 402652 Anderson. Aus. 402794 Lloyd. R240408 Harris. 1168609 Sankey. R68181 Jones.	
	23		Sgt. R64920 Vautour. 978879 Jones, D.R. 922980 Gardner. 1170640 Matt. 117979 Brough.	
	25		Sgt. 751814 Spencer-Matthews. R69146 Montgomery. R58359 Sanderson.	
			<u>POSTINGS OUT - AIRCREW.</u>	
	Sept. 2		525216 Sgt. Thomas (N. H. Sick)	
	5		R58071 Sgt. Phillips (detached Uxbridge pending posting)	
8		J. 714 P/O Mackey, V.L. Sgts. R69811 Saunders, R56239 MacMatt. 551888 Perkin. 939096 Courtall. R56516 Smith, J.A. (Missing from operations)		
18		Sgts. 950324 Chandos. R2402914 Thompson. 937811 Burton. 1165250 Fletcher. 976646 Phillips. R24040 Maxon. 759999 Strother. (Killed in flying accident Pocklington Aerodrome)		
20		P/O Towler, W.B. Sgts. 754661 Dougall. 955266 Lord. 901682 Clayden. 1252818 Busley. R56586 Forman. (Missing from operations)		
29		580475 W/Sgt. Uwin.		

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