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21793 Wt. 38805/3593 400.000 12/39-McC & Co-51-5658

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

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.

No. of pages used for day

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Wokington	Oct: 1.		<u>Dist. over HAMBURG.</u> Three aircraft attacked the target with success in spite of heavy ground haze. Flares were used. Bursts were seen immediately N. of the target, and on a railway line S. of aiming point. Two a/c carried cameras, and photos were taken, showing fields in one case and the BARR and VOSS BRILLIARDS in the other. <u>No sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Fog about dawn persisting till afternoon, light westerly winds.	A. 34.
	Oct: 2nd		<u>No. sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Fog during early hours and remaining misty for most of the day. Cloud base 3-4000 ft.	
	Oct: 3.		<u>21 day sorties (29hrs: 45mins):</u> 2 Cross-country Home Air tests, 2 trials, Landings, Load Tests. <u>FOOT LOCKER TEST: Order No. 32.</u> One a/c detailed (Fresher). <u>Casualty:</u> a/c W. 5518 piloted by Sgt: Poy was carrying out circuits and landings on the aerodrome. He had completed one landing and was taking off again from the runway in use when another Wellington was seen coming in to land. Sgt: Poy was under the impression that this second Wellington had failed to see Wellington W. 5518, so he gave a burst of engine and taxied past the last part of the runway, intending to turn on to the perimeter track. The brake pressure was low enough to render the a/c u/s, and the a/c went through the hedge. Damage to the rear part of the fuselage renders the a/c u/s for about 10 days. There were no casualties to personnel. Sgt: Poy was on his first solo with Wellington II. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy, with good visibility during the day, fine but hazy at night, surface wind slight and variable.	
Wokington	Oct: 4.		<u>WFO: Order No. 32.</u> Cancelled a/c u/s. <u>10 day sorties (7hrs: 40)</u> Air tests, Landings. <u>1 night sortie (30 mins):</u> <u>Prisoners of war:</u> International Red Cross intimated that of the crew of "B", Capt: P/O Watts, missing on 29th: age: 1944 from operations over BISHOP. Sgt: McLeod and Wain are prisoners of war, and P/O Atts, missing on 29th: age: 1944 from operations over BISHOP. Sgt: McLeod. <u>Weather:</u> Foggy at first clearing early, moderate visibility, westerly fresh surface wind.	
	Oct: 5th		<u>2 day sorties (1 hr):</u> Air tests, Landings Practice. <u>Weather:</u> Misty most of the day with drizzle about dawn and slight rain in the afternoon. Sky overcast at 1,000 ft.	
	Oct: 6.		<u>No sorties.</u> <u>Prisoners of war:</u> Unofficial sources through the B.B.C. announced that Sgt: Dougall, missing on 4th: 29th: is a prisoner of war. International Red Cross announced that Sgt: Perkins, D.F.C. missing on 4th: 29th: is a prisoner of war. <u>Weather:</u> Foggy and misty during the day, Cloud base less than 1000 ft: at all times.	
	Oct: 7.		<u>No sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Fog, persisting most of the day, light surface wind.	



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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. References to Appendices
	Oct:9		<u>No sorties.</u> <u>Prisoners of war.</u> Announced that Sgt: Westbury, missing 24th July, is a prisoner of war. <u>Weather.</u> Thick fog until noon, then mist and rain, surface wind calm.	
	Oct:9		<u>No sorties.</u> <u>Prisoners of war.</u> Announced that Sgt: Lord, missing Sept: 20th is a prisoner of war. <u>Weather.</u> Fog with rain and drizzle. Light surface wind.	
	Oct:10		<u>13 Day sorties. (10.30 hrs.)</u> All Air tests. <u>Pocklington OGH Order No.32.</u> Five crews to attack <u>ESSEN.</u> <u>Pocklington OGH Order No.40.</u> Five crews to attack <u>OSTERU.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Fog with 1000 cloud below 1000 ft, visibility improving to good during the afternoon, rain at night.	
	Oct:11		<u>2nd: OPERATIONS. ESSEN.</u> Five crews attacked the target in 3/10- 10/10 cloud in bad weather. Visibility prevented observation of ground features, but some fire and explosions were seen. <u>OSTERU.</u> Ground haze bothered all captains, and two a/c jettisoned their bombs, being unable to identify the target in spite of numerous flares being dropped. Three a/c attacked the target area but no big fires or hearty explosions were reported. <u>No sorties.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Variable amounts of cloud at 2000ft. Visibility very good. Surface wind with 30mph gusts.	A35. A36.
	Oct:12		<u>13 Day sorties (13 hrs.)</u> Air Tests. <u>Mossion.</u> Local flying practice; flights to and from <u>DELFVIAID.</u> <u>Pocklington OGH Order No.41.</u> Four crews to attack <u>MUSKELBACH.</u> <u>Flying accident.</u> When taxiing, Wellington II. (W.1434), Capt: W/14: in Command, damaged elevators and tailplane on a gate which the Squadron Engineer Officer found to be insufficiently wide. <u>Weather.</u> Fine with good visibility.	
	Oct: 13		<u>3rd: OPERATIONS. MUSEKELBACH.</u> One a/c took off but returned early with Glycol leak and engine trouble. In good weather, with some haze over target area, two a/c attacked the target successfully, observing bursts and fire among factory buildings, <u>AUGSBURG MACHINERY works, MAIN RAILWAY STATION,</u> and the <u>MARSHALLING YARDS.</u> Pillars of smoke reaching to 5000 ft: were seen and the fires could be seen 100 mls: away on the return. Another a/c jettisoned its bomb load owing to engine trouble. Photographs were taken, and <u>NICKLES</u> were dropped near the city centre. <u>4 Day sorties. (5.05 hrs.)</u> Air Tests. <u>Weather.</u> Fine but misty, becoming cloudy, with a short period of rain at night.	A37.
	Oct:14		<u>6 Day sorties. (4.30. hrs.)</u> Air Tests. <u>Pocklington OGH Order No.42.</u> Five crews to attack <u>MUSKELBACH.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Continuous moderate rain, becoming fine with good visibility later. Fresh surface wind.	

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Page No. 2.

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.

No. of pages used for day _____

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Booklington	Oct:15		<p><u>4th Ops. DUISBURG.</u> Some difficulty was experienced in locating the exact target because of bad weather: 10/10 cloud, haze, snowstorm near the target. Nevertheless three crews attacked the target area without claiming to have attacked the actual target. One a/c was hit over BIRKENHEAD at 15000ft: (0445 hrs:) and suffered slight damage from accurate flak. 2 a/c failed to take off: one owing to engine trouble; the second was bogged near the dispersal point.</p> <p><u>7 Day sorties.</u> (13-30 hrs:.) Dual, Solos, three cross-country.</p> <p><u>Administrative changes.</u> Medical Officer. P/O H.J.F. Jones (RCAF) posted from 405(RCAF) Sqdn: to R.A.F. Station HIGH. w.e.f. 15/10/41. P/O G.W. Bellis attached from BRADFOUL to 405 (RCAF) Sqdn: w.e.f. 15/10/41, vice P/O H.J.F. Jones posted.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Good visibility, little cloud, light variable winds.</p>	A.38.
	Oct:16.		<p><u>11 Day Sorties</u> (10hrs:) Air Tests, Cross-country, Dual, Solos.</p> <p><u>Booklington Ops Order No.5.</u> Seven crews to attack DUISBURG.</p> <p><u>Prisoners of war.</u> Announced that P/O Towler missing from operations of 20th September, 1940 is now a prisoner of war.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Cloudy and some rain, becoming fine later with good visibility.</p>	
	Oct:17		<p><u>55th Ops: DUISBURG.</u> 2 a/c made no sortie owing to engine trouble. Four a/c attacked the target in 10/10 cloud, using E.T.A. and concentrations of flak and S/L. Two a/c encountered enemy aircraft, but no engagement resulted, though one of our almost collided with an ME110. Another of our a/c attacked GILSENWEN AIRFIELD in 5/10 cloud, observing incendiary and H.E. bursts on or near the flarepath. Owing to weather conditions no photographs were taken.</p> <p><u>1 Day Sortie.</u> (1-30 hrs:) Local flying practice.</p> <p><u>3 Night Sorties.</u> (2-35 hrs:) Duals, Landings, Solos.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Hazy, with improving visibility. Broken cloud about 1500ft:</p>	A.39.
	Oct:18.		<p><u>No sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Prisoners of war.</u> Announced that Sgt: Clayton and Masley missing from operations of 20th September, are prisoners of war.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Rain and much cloud below 4000ft: becoming fine later. Surface wind reaching gale force during the afternoon.</p>	
	Oct:19		<p><u>2 Day Sorties.</u> (1-45 hrs:) Local flying practice; BIRKPORTH and return.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Cloudy with some rain becoming fair with moderate to good visibility.</p>	
	Oct 20		<p><u>16 Day Sorties.</u> (13-00 hrs: BIRKPORTH to Base, Air Tests. Local Flying practice.</p> <p><u>Booklington Ops Order No.4.</u> Five crews to attack WILMERSHAVEN.</p> <p><u>Booklington Ops Order No.5.</u> Two crews to attack EBBW (Breacher).</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Fine with good visibility, light surface wind.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington.	Oct:21.		<p><u>36th Operations. STINEBAVEN.</u> Two a/c made no sortie. Three attacked the target and bursts were observed in the N. of the town, and in the DOCKS area, causing several fires. Nickels were released and photographs taken.</p> <p><u>37th.</u> One a/c was a non-starter, the other fresher attacked the target and the bombs are believed to have fallen S. of the river Eas.</p> <p><u>3 Day Sorties (2-45 hrs):</u> Tests.</p> <p><u>1 Night Sortie. (1-10 hrs):</u> Instrument flying practice.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Fine with good visibility, surface wind 15/20 mph during afternoon.</p>	..40 ..41
	Oct: 22nd		<p>Sortie figures not obtainable, owing to temporary attachment to LINTON.</p> <p><u>Pocklington Operations Order No.46.</u> 6 a/c to attack <u>HAMBURG.</u></p> <p><u>Pocklington Operations Order No.47.</u> 2 a/c to attack <u>LA HAYE.</u></p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Fine, with few slight showers, light surface wind.</p>	
Pocklington.	Oct: 23		<p><u>37th Operations. HAMBURG.</u> 6 a/c completed sorties and 5 attacked the target area. There was 10/10 cloud with only very few gaps, and only one a/c could be said to have identified the target with any certainty, though others were probably near it. Some red fires and one green one were reported. Owing to severe icing and turret trouble one a/c had to jettison the bombload, and made a forced crash landing at the base for the operation, <u>WARRING.</u> (a/c ..5572). <u>NICKELS</u> were released in the <u>WARRING</u> vicinity <u>HAMBURG</u>, and photographs were taken. There were no casualties to personnel.</p> <p><u>LA HAYE.</u> One a/c did not take off because of engine trouble.</p> <p>The second a/c <u>WARRING</u> (Capt. Sgt. G. Hall, sent a signal that the operation had been completed at 2030 hrs, after that time, 2400 hrs, nothing more was heard of the a/c, which is missing. The crew was Sgt. Hall, Walker, Johnston, Lodge, Jackson, Marr.</p> <p><u>3 Day sorties (2-30 hrs):</u> Cross country, 12 tests, local flying practice.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> A few slight showers, otherwise excellent visibility, surface wind 10/15 mph.</p>	..42 ..43
	Oct: 24		<p><u>19 Day sorties. (16 hrs):</u> 2 Cross-country, 1 to <u>BRITFIELD.</u> Air-tests, runs, local flying practice.</p> <p><u>Pocklington Operations Order No.48.</u> 7 a/c to attack <u>FRANKFURT.</u></p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Showery, good visibility, light surface wind.</p>	
Pocklington.	Oct:25		<p><u>38th Operations. FRANKFURT.</u> 5 a/c completed sorties, though, because of bad weather conditions, only two are believed to have attacked the target. Yellow fires were seen after the attack and electric installations were visible through a gap in the clouds. Owing to compass being a/c one a/c attacked <u>WARRING</u> with success, and large fires were seen for 40 miles on the return. <u>WARRING</u> (a/c <u>FRISLE</u>) attacked <u>WARRING</u> airfield, and was hit by flak which caused petrol leakage, the a/c was successfully landed, but caught fire while taxiing to dispersal, the crew escaped uninjured, but the a/c was completely destroyed. Owing to the sickness of the Captain, one a/c did not take off. <u>3 Day sorties (4-45 hrs):</u> Local. Local.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Local deterioration in visibility, due to a fire on aerodrome, otherwise moderate to good, light surface wind.</p>	..44

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of (Unit or Formation) 405 (SAAF) Sqdn:

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	Oct: 26		<u>6 Day sorties.</u> (5.30 hrs:) Air, Tests. <u>Weather.</u> Showery, visibility fair. Surface wind 15/20 mph.	
	Oct: 27		<u>10 Day sorties.</u> (7.50 hrs:) dual. Local Flying Practice. Air-tests, solos. <u>Weather.</u> Broken cloud, visibility good, moderate surface wind.	
	Oct: 28		<u>12 Day sorties.</u> (9.35 hrs:) Air-tests. <u>3 Night sorties.</u> (4.30 hrs:) duals, solos, night landings. <u>Weather</u> Cloudy with showers, Wly surface wind 15/20 mph.	
	Oct: 29		<u>4 Day sorties.</u> (2.20 hrs:) Air-tests. <u>Weather.</u> Frequent showers of snow, hail and sleet, visibility, good, except in showers, ind. S. . . 30 mph.	
	30th Oct		<u>12 Day sorties.</u> (16 hrs:) Air-tests, 2 Cross-country, solos, land-tests, Local Flying Practice. <u>Weather.</u> Showers & frost, becoming cloudy with intermittent rain, visibility good except in showers and rain. ind. W. and N. . . 30 mph.	
	Oct: 31.		<u>Day sorties.</u> <u>PODLINGTON OPERATIONS ORDER No. 49.</u> 9 A/c to attack HAMBURG <u>PODLINGTON OPERATIONS ORDER No. 50.</u> 3 A/c (Fresher, to attack <u>SURIN.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Fair to fine, becoming cloudy with an occasional shower during the day. <u>Visibility</u> good. ind. light northerly.	

John W. Gorman / JWG

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) Nov 405 Squadron R.C.A.F.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>ALWAYS COMPLETE IN A ONE HOUR INTERVAL, EITHER ON THE</u>	
	Oct. 2	In	Sgts. 86416 Rahn, 86479 Cole.	
		Out	Sgts: 75402 Farnborough, 40225 Clark, 116722 Gleason, 85405 Huxley, 91502 Thorogood, 96416 Smb, 41941 Omliffe, 63158 Sgt, Mallock.	
	" 4	In	Sgt. 5592 Lucelle.	
	" 5	In	Sgt. 870101 Gardiner.	
	" 7	In	Sgt. 86409 Brady.	
		Out	Sgt. 8540262 Sgt Anderson	
	" 9	Out	Sgts: 125130 Macpherson, 257736 Beach, 925451 Sparr.	
	" 10	In	P/O Gibson, S. Sgts: 856254 Campbell, 116392 Turner, 875233 Walker, 86974 Higginson.	
	" 11	In	Sgt: 85410 Mahood, 870417 Zussmann, 95780 Hextall, 86413 Gibbons, 145628 Maddens.	
	" 13	In	Sgt: 8540465.	
	" 14	In	Sgts: 871689 Knight, 754076 White, 61633 Siffers, 983733 Abbott.	
	" 15	In	P/Os: Burridge, Thiele, Locke, Wilson.	
		Out	P/O: J.L. Thorley.	
	" 16	In	P/O: Colheine Sgts: 116974 Trigg, 96415 Mann, 105134 Holland, 113034 Jackson, 1160769 Korman, 105490 Williams, 1172663 Biggs, 100931 Davies.	
	" 18	In	Sgts: 88002 Nytiok, 852890 Bell.	
	" 22	Out	P/O G.A. Lane. Sgts: 74547 Craig, 116434 Gibson.	
	" 23	"	Sgts: 874263 Hall, 87239 Walker, 8540409 Johnston, 851644 Dodge, 860132 Jackson, 145628 (Missing from Operations.)	
	" 28	In	P/Os: McKay, R.V.H., Hery. Sgts: 8540018 Johnson, 8540454 Mitchell, 8540443 Higgins, 8640234 Brown, 854831 Jefferies, 1375106 Davis, 1282678 Sperring, 1152757 Mann, 1255726 Brown, 87234 Thompson, 8540450 Tomarjan, 8540444 Slaughter, 8540080 Lacey, 8540427 Howan	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. 2	References to Appendices
	Oct. 28	In	1180428 East, 1254703 Atkinson, 1180651 Edwards, R61678 McDowell, Ams408010 Palkinder, Ams408529 Garrow, 1056236 Hutchins, 1375692 Clayton, 517766 Birch, 910948 Skinner, R2401899 Samara. (Cont'd)		
	" 29	In	1257680 Boman, 1378541 Tilley, 1161591 Stacey, 918911 White.		
	" 30	In	1166976 Gale, 1162897 Gabb, R62217 Corleu. (All Ops) Sgt: 1007103 Day.		

Stanley Gorman
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