

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in E.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 No. 1

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pecklington	Nov: 1.		<p>12th Ops: <u>DUNKIRK</u>. (Fresher Operation). Two A/c attacked the target in 10/10 cloud, and experiencing frosty weather. Docks and waterways were observed through the gaps with the help of moonlight, but bombing results were not observed to be striking. Flak was not severe until the attack was made. One A/c could not identify the Docks, and the bombs were jettisoned in the sea. All A/c dropped <u>NICKELS</u> as briefed, and they are estimated to have fallen in the ST. OMER - HAZEBROUCK - BETHUNE area.</p> <p><u>HAMBURG</u>. In 10/10 cloud eight A/c completed the operation. Occasional breaks made identification possible in some cases, and three A/c attacked the target area, three A/c attacked the actual Dock areas, and one attacked vicinity <u>KLIPPER</u>. One A/c saw red glow through cloud which might have been a big fire. Flak, S/L, Flares were all particularly active. Bombs were carried with no results. One A/c did not make a sortie owing to Inter-com trouble.</p> <p>1 Day Sortie. (2.35 hrs:) <u>Weather</u>: Cloudy; showers of rain and sleet, but visibility very good. Surface wind moderate N.W'ly.</p>	A-46. A-45.
	Nov: 2		<p>11 Day Sorties. (9.15 hrs:.) Air Tests. <u>Weather</u>: Rain and sleet showers all day; cloud 8/10 - 10/10. Visibility 8 - 10 miles. Surface wind N'ly 10mph.</p>	
	Nov: 3;		<p>8 Day Sorties. (6.40 hrs:.) Tests. Flight to <u>BRITFIELD</u>. <u>Weather</u>: Rain at first, clearing in the afternoon, fair to cloudy in the evening. Cloud 10/10 then 3/10 - 8/10 with rather poor visibility. N. surface wind.</p>	
Pecklington	Nov: 4.		<p>13 Day Sorties. (11.30 hrs:.) Air Tests. <u>Ops</u>: Order No. 51. Five crews to attack <u>DUNKIRK</u>. <u>Weather</u>: Cloudy; intermittent rain; cloud 10/10 to 8/10, visibility good, moderate in rain.</p>	
	Nov: 5.		<p>10th Operations. <u>DUNKIRK</u>. 5 A/c made sorties in 10/10 cloud, and three A/c attacked the target during occasional breaks; two of these three pin-pointed the <u>DOCK</u> area and bombed it; the other jettisoned H of the target to pull out of a steep dive during violent evasive action to avoid accurate Flak. Bursts were seen across <u>DOCK</u> 5 and 6. Two A/c were unable to see any ground features, and jettisoned in the sea as instructed.</p> <p>11 Day Sorties. (8.10 hrs:.) Flight to <u>DIERPORTE</u>. Air Tests. <u>Weather</u>: Cloudy, becoming fine. Fog later, followed by light rain, with 9/10 - 10/10 cloud. Visibility poor, moderate, then poor in fog.</p>	A-47.
	Nov: 6.		<p>12 Day Sorties. (10.15. hrs:.) Air Tests. <u>Weather</u>: Cloudy until 2100 then fine, with a squall at 1700 hrs: Cloud mainly 10/10 at 2500 ft. Visibility moderate becoming good. Wind freshening to 25mph during squall.</p>	
Pecklington	Nov: 7.		<p>14 Day Sorties. (11.20 hrs:.) Tests. Dual. Solos. <u>Pecklington Ops</u>: Order No. 52. Two Fresher crews to attack <u>BOULOGNE</u> <u>Operations</u>: Order No. 53. Ten crews to attack <u>BERGAIN</u>. <u>Weather</u>: Fine with ground frost at night, cloud almost nil, visibility v.g. surface wind W'ly 10 mph.</p>	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. 2 References to Appendices
	Nov; 8.		<p><u>Last Operations BREMEN.</u> All 10 A/c took off on the operation, and five were known to have attacked the target area in very bad weather, and 10/10 cloud. Bad weather had the sortie practically abortive. Four A/c bombed alternative targets which included WILHELMSHAVEN and KIEL. KIEL was bombed in clear weather, and the bomb explosions were on the W side of the Harbour. Photographs taken show no notable results. One A/c "D" (W. 2555) was reported missing from the operation. A message was received at 02:5 stating that the operation had been completed at 0228, and from that time nothing was heard of the A/c or crew. The crew was R51068 Sgt: Hassan A.L. 35984 P/O Solheim M.K. R55229 Sgt: Killin R.D. Sgt: Hymas. Sgt: Bell. R56448 Sgt: McLeod. G.A. One A/c crash landed on return, Cat. A.C.</p> <p><u>BOULOGNE.</u> In no cloud, and in good visibility, two crews attacked the target in the face of Flak and enemy S/L. Bursts were seen on and around the Docks 4 - 6. Incendiaries were seen to take effect on Dock 6. NICKELS were released in WENTERSBUI area.</p> <p><u>Two Night Sorties.</u> (4-10 hrs): Dual, Solos, "Z" - 2" landings.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Fine, with ground frost at night, cloud almost nil, visibility very good, surface wind light W'ly.</p>	A.48. A.49.
Pecklington	Nov; 9.		<p><u>10 Day Sorties.</u> (11 hrs): Tests, Two Cross country, Dual.</p> <p><u>Operations Order No. 5.</u> Four Crews to attack HAMBURG. (Blohm & Voss).</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Fair, soon becoming cloudy, no cloud below 8000 ft: until 1800 hrs; then 8/10 at 6000 - 8000 ft: Visibility poor to moderate. Wind freshening to gale with many gusts.</p>	
	Nov; 10.		<p><u>2nd Ops: HAMBURG (Blohm & Voss)</u> Three A/c experienced good weather with fair visibility throughout. Some cloud encountered, but it was clear inland over Germany. Owing to ground haze the outlines of the Docks at HAMBURG could not be seen, but the River ELBE was identified, and the crews were satisfied that they bombed quite close to the actual target. In two cases bomb bursts were seen, and fires from these, and incendiaries, were left burning. Two A/c landed at BRITFIELD, and one at LITTON. This A/C's port engine failed on landing, after having bombed the alternative WILHELMSHAVEN on account of the sickness of the Captain. One A/c dropped a packet of NICKELS, E.H. 526 South of OUCHAVEN.</p> <p><u>1 Day Sortie (1 hr):</u> Local Flying Practice.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Rain during most of the day and much cloud. Visibility moderate to poor. Surface wind SE 25/30 mph. with gusts.</p>	A.50.
	Nov; 11.		<p><u>10 Day Sorties.</u> (6-10 hrs): Binbrook and return, Air Tests.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Visibility moderate, poor at night, with fog. Surface wind moderate.</p>	
	Nov; 12.		<p><u>4 Day Sorties.</u> (2-30 hrs): Air Tests.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Much rain and cloud, Visibility improved to moderate in the afternoon, poor again at night.</p>	
	Nov; 13.		<p><u>No Sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Rain and drizzle with visibility less than 2000 yds: all day.</p>	
	Nov; 14.		<p><u>No Sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Awards and Decorations:</u> Extract from F.O.C.N. of 14/11/41 :- 75008 Sgt: Turner W.J. Pilot, awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal in accordance with extract from the London Gazette 24th Oct: Auth: A.M.G. N1340/41.</p> <p><u>Weather.</u> Fog until 1100 hrs: then cloudy, with drizzle and poor visibility.</p>	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK



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of (Unit or Formation) 405 (RCAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington.	Nov; 15.		<u>11 Day Sorties.</u> (9.40 hrs:) Air Tests. Flights from Driffield and to Linton. <u>Order No. 25.</u> Two crews to attack <u>BERGEL</u> . (Fresher) <u>Weather.</u> Broken cloud above 2000ft; and good visibility. Surface wind ESE 5/10 mph. Calm at night.	
	Nov; 16		<u>3rd Ops: EISEN.</u> (Fresher) Both A/c detailed encountered thick cloud shortly after leaving English coast and visibility remained practically nil throughout the trip. One A/c (Capt: W/Comdr: Fenwick-Wilson) found <u>BALZERUM ISLAND</u> through cloudbreak, and bombed <u>ETA</u> , some flashes being seen, and persistent white-green glow near <u>NORREN</u> . The second A/c (Capt: Sgt: Finn) identified a tongue of land S of <u>TREUNTEN</u> and bombs probably fell a mile or so N. of <u>EISEN</u> . Flashes were seen. <u>11 Day Sorties</u> (9.00 hrs:) Bombing practice, Duals, Solos, to Dishforth and return, Air Tests, to Linton, local flying practice. <u>2 Night Sorties.</u> Dual, Solos, Landings. <u>Weather.</u> Cl. Gy, rain in the afternoon and evening. Surface wind 10/15 mph increasing at night.	A51
	Nov; 17		<u>10 Day Sorties.</u> (8.00 hrs:) Air Tests. Local flying practice. <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy slight rain in the afternoon, visibility good at first, then poor to moderate.	
	Nov. 18.		<u>22 Day Sorties.</u> (23.25 hrs:) Local flying practice, Duals, Air Tests, Bombing Practice, Instrument Tests. <u>Prisoners of War.</u> A signal from the Air Ministry announced that, according to the Air Attaché <u>MADRID</u> W/Com: P. A. Gilchrist is in Switzerland, and Can/86954A. S. Pilot J. B. Paton is in Spain. Both were reclassified "Interned". They were first and second Pilot respectively of A/c "U" missing from operations over <u>BERGEL</u> on 24th July 1941. <u>Weather.</u> Moderate to good visibility, with mist forming towards midnight.	
	Nov; 19.		<u>1 Night Sortie.</u> (1.30 hrs:) Local Flying practice. <u>Weather.</u> Thick fog during the whole day. Surface wind calm.	
	Nov; 20.		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Thick fog followed by rain, and fog later.	
	Nov; 21.		<u>2 Day Sorties.</u> (1.05 hrs:) Air Tests. <u>Weather.</u> Poor visibility improving to moderate, but deteriorating again in rain during early evening.	
	Nov. 22.		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Thick fog until 0800 hrs., moderate visibility later. Surface wind SE. 10/15 mph.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices	
Pocklington	Nov. 23		<u>12 Day Sorties.</u> (8.40 hrs) Air Tests, Flight Tests. <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy during day. Visibility, moderate to poor in evening.		
	Nov. 24		<u>No sorties.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy, base 2/3000 feet visibility 2 to 4 miles. Surface wind South, 10 to 15 M.P.H.		
	Nov. 25		<u>11 Day sorties.</u> (9.45 hrs.) Local flying practice; cross country; air tests. <u>Administrative change.</u> Adjutant E/Lt. J. M. Garsena posted from 405(RCAF) Squadron to No. 2 Signals School for administrative duties w.e.f. 25.11.41 <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy with visibility less than 2,000 yards in afternoon. Fog forming at night. Wind mainly light S.W.		
	Nov. 26		<u>3 Day Sorties.</u> (1.15 hrs.) Air Test. <u>Weather.</u> Fog during early morning and visibility poor for rest of day. Wind S., 10 to 15 M.P.H.		
	Nov. 27		<u>15 Day Sorties.</u> (17.15 hrs.) Air Tests; height test; cross country; local flying practice. <u>Administrative change.</u> Medical Officer. P/Lt. H. J. P. Jones (Attached R.A.F. Station Digby) posted from 405(RCAF) Squadron to 417 Squadron w.e.f. 27.11.41 <u>Weather.</u> Variable amounts of cloud at 2,000 feet and moderate visibility.		
	Nov. 28		<u>12 Day Sorties.</u> (6.55 hrs.) Air Tests. <u>1 Night Sortie</u> (1 hour) Duals; solos. <u>Weather.</u> Drizzle and poor visibility at first; improving to moderate in morning.		
	Nov. 29		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather.</u> Intermittent rain and drizzle with poor visibility. Mist at night with fog forming later.		
	Nov. 30		<u>13 Day Sorties.</u> (15.35 hrs.) Air Tests; local flying practice; cross country. <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy, base 2,000 feet, and moderate visibility. Light variable winds.		
				 Adjutant, 405(RCAF) Squadron, Pocklington.	
					

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 400 S.I. Sqn R.C. 17.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			Details in para. 20461104 2004.	
	NOV. 3	In	1/O. J.L. Gossie. Sgts. 1023638 Rushton, 1025025 Coe, 1074601 Gurney, 1100060 1027100, 1045584 Simpson, 1047000 Ryan, 1050000 Lee, 1071117 Hill, 1070000 Rowland, 1100000 Watkins, 1061000 Sims, 1070000 Dixon, 1000000 Smith, 1071000 Perrie, 1071000 Hirst, 1000000 Piers, 1100000 Gabb.	
		Out	Sgt. 1000000 Colwell, 1000000 Jones, 1000000 Cain.	
	NOV. 4	In	Sgts. 1000000 Central, 1000000 Flight, 1000000 1st Field, 1000000 2nd Field, 1000000 3rd Field, 1000000 4th Field, 1000000 5th Field, 1000000 6th Field, 1000000 7th Field, 1000000 8th Field, 1000000 9th Field, 1000000 10th Field, 1000000 11th Field, 1000000 12th Field, 1000000 13th Field, 1000000 14th Field, 1000000 15th Field, 1000000 16th Field, 1000000 17th Field, 1000000 18th Field, 1000000 19th Field, 1000000 20th Field, 1000000 21st Field, 1000000 22nd Field, 1000000 23rd Field, 1000000 24th Field, 1000000 25th Field, 1000000 26th Field, 1000000 27th Field, 1000000 28th Field, 1000000 29th Field, 1000000 30th Field, 1000000 31st Field, 1000000 32nd Field, 1000000 33rd Field, 1000000 34th Field, 1000000 35th Field, 1000000 36th Field, 1000000 37th Field, 1000000 38th Field, 1000000 39th Field, 1000000 40th Field, 1000000 41st Field, 1000000 42nd Field, 1000000 43rd Field, 1000000 44th Field, 1000000 45th Field, 1000000 46th Field, 1000000 47th Field, 1000000 48th Field, 1000000 49th Field, 1000000 50th Field, 1000000 51st Field, 1000000 52nd Field, 1000000 53rd Field, 1000000 54th Field, 1000000 55th Field, 1000000 56th Field, 1000000 57th Field, 1000000 58th Field, 1000000 59th Field, 1000000 60th Field, 1000000 61st Field, 1000000 62nd Field, 1000000 63rd Field, 1000000 64th Field, 1000000 65th Field, 1000000 66th Field, 1000000 67th Field, 1000000 68th Field, 1000000 69th Field, 1000000 70th Field, 1000000 71st Field, 1000000 72nd Field, 1000000 73rd Field, 1000000 74th Field, 1000000 75th Field, 1000000 76th Field, 1000000 77th Field, 1000000 78th Field, 1000000 79th Field, 1000000 80th Field, 1000000 81st Field, 1000000 82nd Field, 1000000 83rd Field, 1000000 84th Field, 1000000 85th Field, 1000000 86th Field, 1000000 87th Field, 1000000 88th Field, 1000000 89th Field, 1000000 90th Field, 1000000 91st Field, 1000000 92nd Field, 1000000 93rd Field, 1000000 94th Field, 1000000 95th Field, 1000000 96th Field, 1000000 97th Field, 1000000 98th Field, 1000000 99th Field, 1000000 100th Field.	
	NOV. 5	In	P/O. J.L. Gossie.	
	NOV. 5	Out	1/O. Colwell. Sgts. 1000000 Hanson, 1000000 Hill, 1000000 Jones, 1000000 King, 1000000 Lee, 1000000 Mace, 1000000 Nield, 1000000 Oakes, 1000000 Paine, 1000000 Quinn, 1000000 Reed, 1000000 Stanger, 1000000 Tait, 1000000 Turner, 1000000 Vane, 1000000 Wall, 1000000 Wood, 1000000 Wright, 1000000 Young, 1000000 Zetter.	
	NOV. 9	Out	Sgts. 1000000 Mace, 1000000 Hudson, 1000000 Abbott, 1000000 Mite, 1000000 West-ll.	
	NOV. 11	Out	Sgts. 1000000 McFook, 1000000 Clayton, 1000000 Davis, 1000000 Gabb.	
	NOV. 15	Out	1000000 Sgt. Turner.	
	NOV. 16	Out	1000000 Sgt. Wright, 1000000 Hughes, 1000000 Barber, 1000000 North, 1000000 Forgie.	
	NOV. 21	Out	1000000 Sgt. Harbison.	
	NOV. 26	Out	P/O. J.L. Gossie.	
	NOV. 29	Out	P/O. J.L. Gossie.	

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DAILY DIARY SUMMARY

No. 405 SQUADRON

NOVEMBER, 1941.

- 1-11 Two a/c carried out bombing attack on Dunkirk. One a/c identified docks and dropped bombs but results not observed. Other a/c could not identify target and bombs were jettisoned in North Sea. Flak was not severe until attack was made. Nickels were also dropped in the St. Omer - Hazebrouck - Bethune area. Eight a/c carried out bombing attack on Hamburg. Three of them attacked target area, three the actual dock areas, and one the vicinity of Kipper. One a/c returned owing to inter-comm. trouble. Red glow which might have been a big fire seen through the clouds by one a/c. Flak, S/L's, flares were all very active.
- 5-11 Five a/c made bombing attack on Dunkirk. Two a/c pin-pointed the dock area and bombed it, one jettisoned bombs N. of the target in a violent evasive action to avoid accurate flak. Bursts were seen across Docks No. 5 and No. 6. Two a/c were unable to see any ground features and jettisoned bombs in sea.
- 9-11 Ten a/c made bombing attack on Berlin. Five attacked the target area in very bad weather. Four bombed alternative targets including Wilhelmshaven and Kiel. In the latter case bomb explosions were seen on W. side of harbour. One a/c missing from this operation. At 0243 hours it reported the operation completed at 0228 hrs. and nothing further heard. Missing crew listed in Diary. One a/c crashed on return, Cat. A.C. Two a/c attacked the dock area at Boulogne. Bursts were seen on and around Docks Nos. 4 and 6 and incendiaries were to take effect on No. 6. Nickels were also released in Montreuil area. Flak and many S/L. encountered but there were no casualties.
- 10-11 Three a/c bombed the docks at Hamburg. In spite of ground haze the crews were satisfied that they bombed quite close to the actual target. In two cases bomb bursts were seen and fires started. One a/c on return landed at Linton, its port engine firing on landing. It had bombed the alternative Wilhelmshaven due to sickness of Captain.
- 14-11 Extract from P.O.R. of 14-11-41 - R758088 Sgt. Turner, W.J., pilot, awarded the D.F.M. in accordance with extract from the London Gazette 24th October - Auth: A.M.O. N1310/41.
- 16-11 One a/c (W/Cdre. Fenwick-Wilson), on a bombing attack on Emden, found Baltrum Island through a cloud break and bombed Eta. Some flashes were seen and a persistent white-green glow near Norden. Another a/c (Sgt. Finn) identified a tongue of land E. of Termunten and bombs probably fell a mile or so W. of Emden, flashes being seen.
- 18-11 A signal from Air Ministry announced that the Madrid Air Attache had advised that W/Cdre. P.A. Gilchrist is interned in Switzerland and Can. R69544 Sgt. Pilot Paton, J.S. is interned in Spain. They were first and second pilots respectively of a/c missing from operations over Brest on 24th July, 1941. Inclement weather during the latter part of the month seriously curtailed operations. Operations Record Book - RAF Form 541 - is attached to Diary.