

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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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.

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

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington	Dec. 1		<p><u>44th OPS. HAMBURG.</u> Five aircraft attacked the target, definitely identifying city and dock area. Bursts were seen and a long building was ablaze in the dock area. Fires were reported also in the ROTHERBAUM district. One of our aircraft "H" (W5476 was reported missing from this operation. The crew was: S/Ldr. A.C. Bisset, D.F.C. (Capt.), Sgt. Knight, P/O Mather, Sgts. Evans, W.L., Killmer, Mann. Intensive sea searches were made by all available aircraft no sign of the missing plane could be found. Photos taken by "L" (P/Lt. McCormack) definitely show the dock area.</p> <p><u>EMDEN</u> Owing to navigational errors alternative targets were bombed: SEESTERUNDE and WESERUNDE. Explosions and fires were caused, and bombs were seen bursting on an "L" shaped building.</p> <p><u>OSTEND.</u> Owing to icing conditions the captain turned back when approx. 35 miles from target. The bombs were jettisoned safe.</p> <p><u>4 day sorties</u> (10/10 hrs.) Air tests, Local Flying Practice.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Mainly overcast with visibility less than 2,000 yds., until evening when fog formed.</p>	A. 52.
	Dec. 2		<p><u>No sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Weather</u> Visibility less than 100 yds. all day.</p>	
	Dec. 3		<p><u>No sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Administrative Change.</u> Squadron Adjutant P/O H. Keenan (R.A.F.) assumes the duties of Squadron Adjutant w.e.f. 3/12/41 vice P/Lt. J.M. Garneau posted w.e.f. 26/12/41.</p> <p><u>Awards and Decorations.</u> Extract from P.O.R. of 3/12/41: Sgts. John Osmond Little, WOP/AG: 974197- W.F. McMaster (R.A.F.V.R.) Obs. 754455- J. Garnett W/T/AC, 966875- were awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal in accordance with extract from London Gazette 24th November.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Visibility less than 500 yds. all day.</p>	
Pocklington	Dec. 4		<p><u>No sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Visibility less than 500 yds. all day.</p>	
	Dec. 5		<p><u>9 day sorties</u> (5 hrs.) Air Tests, Local, Flying Practice.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with visibility between 1,000 and 2,000 yds. Surface wind 5 to 7 k.P.H.</p>	
	Dec. 6		<p><u>5 day sorties.</u> (4.20 hrs.) Air Tests.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Cloudy, base 2/3,000 ft. Period of rain about noon. Visibility improved to 5 to 8 yds. in afternoon.</p>	
	Dec. 7		<p><u>19 day sorties</u> (17.35 hrs.) one to and two from Driffield. Local Flying Practice, Duals, Solos.</p> <p><u>Casualties:</u> Air Ministry announces: "A telegram from International Red Cross Society quoting German information, states that J. 89 84 P/O Solheim, R. 56229 Sgt. Killin, R. 61068 Sgt. Hassan R. 56648 Sgt. McLeod are all dead". They were members of the crew of "D" (W. 5555) Capt. Sgt. Hassan, missing from operations over Berlin on the 8th November, 1941.</p>	

* Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. References to Appendices
Pocklington	Dec. 8.		45th OPS. DUNKIRK. Two (Fresher) Crews to attack. Both crews encountered 10/10 cloud. Good visibility when they left. They both spent some time in attempts to locate the target (primary or secondary), and finally both jettisoned their bombs safe. Both aircraft released nickels (EH(P)129). S.E. of the target, and between OSTEND and BRUGES. 10 day sorties (12.45 hrs.) Air tests, Local Flying Practice. Weather: Varying amount of cloud; but good visibility deteriorating with rain in the evening.	A. 55.
	Dec. 9.		15 day sorties (15.35 hrs.) Air Tests. Weather: Varying cloud, overcast at night. Visibility moderate to good.	
	Dec. 10.		1 day sortie. (0.15 mins.) Air Test. Weather: mainly overcast during the day, cloud lifting at night.	
	Dec. 11.		22 day sorties. (24.30 hrs.) Air Tests, Local Flying Practice. 1 night sortie. (1.30 hrs.) Night Duals Landing Practice. Weather: Intermittent rain, visibility becoming moderate during the day.	
	Dec. 12.		19 day sorties. (14.05 hrs.) Air Tests Local Flying Practice. Weather: Variable amounts of cloud at 2,000 ft. and moderate to good visibility, cloud dispersing at night. Surface wind gusty, reaching 30 M.P.H. at times.	
	Dec. 13.		11 day sorties. (5.35 hrs.) Air Tests. Weather: Small amounts of cloud during the day, becoming overcast at night. Visibility moderate during the day.	
	Dec. 14.		3 day sorties. (5.35 hrs.) Air Tests. Weather: Variable amounts of cloud, dispersing at night, with 9/10 cloud in rain during the afternoon. Surface wind incr asing to about 20 M.P.H. at night.	
	Dec. 15.		16 day sorties (17.35 hrs.) Air Tests, Conversion, Air Firing, Cross Country, Duals. Pocklington Ops. Order No. 50. (Fresher) Crews to attack OSTEND. Weather: Hazy in the morning; visibility improving to eight miles in the afternoon, falling to four miles at night.	
	Dec. 16.		46th OPS. OSTEND. One aircraft made no attack owing to 10/10 cloud. Flares were released in vain and bombs were jettisoned safe. The second aircraft observed 2 bombs burst on the BASSIN DE CHIESE. Photos taken by this aircraft show fields close to the target. 11 day sorties (4.35 hrs.) Air Tests. 1 night sortie. 1.45 hrs. Duals; Landing Practice. Weather: Haze about noon, visibility improving later. Pocklington Ops. Order No. 51. Nine crews to attack WILHELMSHAVEN. Pocklington OPS, Order No. 52. One (Fresher) Crew to attack DUNKIRK.	A. 56
	Dec. 17.		47th OPS. WILHELMSHAVEN. All aircraft (except two, one of which jettisoned in the sea owing to ice conditions) reached the target and made good despite 5/10 to 6/10 cloud. The impression of the attack is that it was most successful. One A/C, helped by flare from another, saw VORHAPEN in sharp relief. Two interesting observed: at	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington	Dec.17		<p>47th OPS. WILHELMSHAVEN. (Contd.)</p> <p>2005 hrs. N. of target an A/C was seen hit by flak, and at 1954 two parachutes were seen drifting down. The men were only 100 yds. from one of our aircraft.</p> <p>The other aircraft which did not reach the target attacked BREMEN, which was clearly seen and bombs were seen starting fires.</p> <p>DUNKIRK A most successful trip. The docks were clearly seen. Our captain was first on the target and his bombs straddled decks 4 and 5.</p> <p>6 day sorties (5.10) Air Tests, Bombing Practice.</p> <p>Pocklington OPS. Order No. 63. Three (Fresher) Crews to attack La Havre.</p> <p>Weather: 10/10 cloud at 2,000 ft. in light showers in the afternoon. Visibility good becoming moderate later.</p>	A.57.
				A.58
	Dec.18.		<p>48th OPS. Le Havre. Unexpectedly thick clouds encountered after leaving base, and two A/C jettisoned bombloads. One A/C found a lucky break, saw dock area, and bombed it without observing results.</p> <p>18 day sorties. (9.30 hrs.) Air Tests.</p> <p>Weather: Visibility good during day but thick mist at night. Light surface wind.</p>	A.59.
	Dec.19.		<p>2 night sorties. (1.40 hrs.) Dual, Night Landings and Flying Practice.</p> <p>Weather: Thick fog until 2000 hrs. then moderate visibility. Surface wind light and variable.</p>	
Pocklington	Dec.20.		<p>No sorties.</p> <p>Weather: Thick haze all day with fog early in the evening.</p>	
	Dec.21.		<p>No sorties.</p> <p>Weather: Mainly overcast at 2,000 ft. Visibility less than 2,000 all day.</p>	
	Dec.22.		<p>13 day sorties (9.30 hrs.)</p> <p>Pocklington OPS. Order No. 64. Twelve Crews to attack WILHELMSHAVEN.</p> <p>Weather: Fog at first clearing towards noon, visibility improving to about 6 mls.</p>	A.60
	Dec.23.		<p>49th OPS. WILHELMSHAVEN. Two aircraft which had been detailed were cancelled. One A/C bombed BORKUM seaplane base. Another A/C "H" W. 5496 (Capt. Sgt. Mather) developed engine trouble and turned back. Over Lindholme aerodrome both engines cut out, and the A/C crashed. None of the crew were injured, but the aircraft was destroyed. Of the remaining A/C two pinpointed their exact position but the others are satisfied from navigation results that target area was bombed. No conclusive bombing results can be reported. Nickels were dropped as briefed.</p> <p>2 day sorties. (1.30 hrs.) Air tests.</p> <p>Weather: Period of fog before dawn, then visibility improved to 4-6 miles</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington	Dec. 24		13 day sortie. (9.30 hrs.) Cross Country Air Tests. To Balderton and return. Weather: Low cloud during the day, increasing at night in rain. Visibility 6 miles or more all day.	
	Dec. 25		No sorties. Weather: Clouds, but good visibility all day.	
	Dec. 26		No sorties. Weather: Cloud, increasing and lowering in rain at night.	
	Dec. 27		1 day sortie (40 mins.) air Tests. Pocklington OPS. Order No. 65. Two Fresher Crews to attack BOULOGNE. Weather: Some cloud at 3,000 ft. dispersing in the evening. Visibility good.	
	Dec. 28		30th OPS BOULOGNE. Both captains identified the docks, and one observed bomb bursts along northern edge of dock area. One package of neckels (MN(P)5C(36) was dropped as briefed. One A/C landed at BALDSTON as W/T was U/S 11 day sorties (9.50 hrs.) Air Tests, Local Flying Practice 1 night sortie (3.05 hrs.) Local Flying Practice, Landings, Duals. Administrative Change. A postogram from H.Q. No. 4 Group stated that S/Ldr. Jones (ROAF) was to be employed as Adjutant of 403 Squadron. Since the departure of P/Lt. Carneau, P/O Keenan (R.A.F.), assistant station adjutant, had been acting as adjutant of 403 Squadron Pocklington OPS. Order No. 66. Five Aircraft to attack EMDEN.	A.61
	Dec. 29		51st OPS. EMDEN. Four of our A/C made a most successful attack on the target bombing clearly identified dock yards and a railway bridge and two A/C brought back some very good photos, including two excellent points of the dock area taken by "C" P/Lt. McCormac, capt., Nickels were dropped as briefed. One of our A/C "J" (Sgt. Williams, capt.) was missing from this operation. The crew was: N.E. 39398 Sgt. Williams, M.A. 914176 Sgt. Gordon, D.M. R. 65800 Sgt. Berkin, J.C. 917059 Sgt. Jenkin, R. 1056720 Sgt. Langhorne, W.R. 7860 Bourgeau, R.F. 1 day sortie (30 mins.) Weather: Visibility varied from 1 to 10 mls. during day. Surface wind 5 to 10 mls. M.P.H.	A.62.
	Dec. 30		No sortie. Weather: Mist at first; visibility improved but fog set in after dusk. Light N.W. surface wind.	
	Dec. 31		10 day sorties. (7.40 hrs.) Air Firing, Air Tests, L.F.P. Duals; Weather: Fog at first, visibility improving to 2 mls. then fog again after dark. No cloud at 4,000 ft.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>Postings In and Out - OFFICERS and AIRCREW.</u>	
	Dec. 1	Out	P/O P.J. Wilson, Sgts. Can. R. 71689 Knight A.J., 1152551 Evans, W.L., Can. R. 64424 Hillmer C.E., Can. R. 61354 Mann R.P. (All these Sergeants were missing from Operations.)	
	Dec. 3	In	Sgts. Can. R. 72391 Higgins, C.W., Can. R. 55435 Turcotte, P.H., Can. R. 71437 Acree E.P.,	
		Out	Sgts. N.Z. 402534 Brown, J.L., N.Z. 404916 McLeod, T.S., N.Z. 404409 Battray, G., N.Z. 401898 Sommers, D., N.Z. 404410 Robertson, S.M., N.Z. 404028 Harris, C.W.	
	Dec. 4	Out	P/O, A/P/O Russell, S.H.	
		In	Sgts. 1208566 Addis, J.H. Can. R. 67237 Keiser, W.E.	
	Dec. 10	In	S/L. Jones, M.E.	
	Dec. 15	Out	P/O Newenham, W.A.	
	Dec. 25	Out	Sgt. 1152757 Mann, D.R., 1169274 Triggle, J.S., 1007103 May, K.C.,	
	Dec. 26	Out	Sgts. 1575837 Bacon, W.C., 1054950 Williams, J.J., 751921 Martin, J.J., 1051594 Holland, C.A.	
	Dec. 28	Out	Sgts. 1257680 Bevan, B., 1013282 Simons, E.N., 1161591 Stacey, H.R. 954271 Whitfield, P.	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK SUMMARY - DECEMBER 1941.

No. 405 SQUADRON.

- 1-12 44th Ops. - Hamburg - Five a/c. successfully attacked the target. Bursts and fires were observed. One a/c. is missing from this operation. On an attack on Emden alternative targets, Seestermunde and Wesermunde, were bombed and explosions and fires were observed. Owing to icing conditions an attack on Ostend was abandoned and bombs jettisoned safe. Four day sorties - air tests and local flying practice.
- 2-12 No flying due to weather.
- 3-12 No flying due to weather. Three R.A.F. Sgts. were awarded the D.F.M. - entry lists names and authority.
- 4-12 No flying due to weather.
- 5-12 Nine day sorties - air tests, local flying practice.
- 6-12 Six day sorties - air tests.
- 7-12 Nineteen day sorties - local flying practice, duals, solos. International Red Cross, through Air Ministry, advise that four members of the crew of a/c. missing from operations over Berlin on 8th November, 1941, are all dead.
- 8-12 45th Ops. - Dunkirk - two fresher crews failed to locate either the primary or secondary targets, jettisoned their bombs safe and released nickels S.E. of the target and between Ostend and Bruges. Ten day sorties - air tests and local flying practice.
- 9-12 Fifteen day sorties - air tests.
- 10-12 One day sortie - air test.
- 11-12 Twenty-two day sorties - air tests and local flying practice. One night sortie - night duals landing practice.
- 12-12 Nineteen day sorties - air tests and local flying practice.
- 13-12 Eleven day sorties - air tests.
- 14-12 Three day sorties - air tests.
- 15-12 Sixteen day sorties - air tests, conversion, air firing, cross country, duals.
- 16-12 46th Ops. - Ostend - one a/c. observed bomb bursts on the Bassin de Chiese and the other jettisoned safe although flares were dropped in vain. 11 day sorties - air tests. 1 night sortie - duals, landing practice.
- 17-12 47th Ops. - Wilhelmshaven - of nine a/c. detailed all but two made a most successful attack. The one of two jettisoned in the sea due to ice conditions and the other successfully bombed Bremen, starting fires. One fresher a/c. bombed Dunkirk, the bombs straddling docks 4 and 5. Six day sorties - air tests and bombing practice.

- 18-12 Of three fresher a/c. attacking LeHavre, only one bombed the target area with un-observed results. The other two encountered thick clouds and jettisoned. Eighteen day sorties - air tests.
- 19-12 Two night sorties - dual, night landings and flying practice.
- 20-12 & No flying due to weather.
21-12
22-12 Thirteen day sorties.-
- 23-12 49th Ops. - Two of twelve a/c., detailed to attack Wilhelmshaven, were cancelled. One bombed Borkum seaplane base, another developed engine trouble, turned back and crashed at Lindholme. None of the crew were injured but the a/c. was destroyed. The others were satisfied with their attacks although no results were observed. Nickels were dropped as briefed. two day sorties - air tests.
- 24-12 Thirteen day sorties - cross country, air tests.
- 25-12 & No flying.
26-12
27-12 One day sortie - air test.
- 28-12 30th Ops. - Boulogne - two fresher a/c. attacked the docks, one observing bomb bursts along northern edge of dock area. 11 day sorties - air tests, local flying practice. 1 night sortie - local flying practice, duals, landings.
- 29-12 51st Ops. - Emden - four of five a/c. detailed made a most successful attack and the fifth was missing from this operation. 1 day sortie.
- 30-12 No flying due to weather.
- 31-12 Ten day sorties - air firing, air tests, L.F.F. duals.