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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. 238, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) **No. 405(RCAF) Squadron, Pooklington.**

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POOKLINGTON	1st. Feb. '42		<p><u>1 Night Sortie (2.00 hrs.)</u> Duals, night landings and flying practice.</p> <p><u>VISITS AND INSPECTIONS</u> His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent honoured 405 Squadron and Station with his presence in order that he might carry out a personal inspection of the Squadron. His Royal Highness arrived at the Squadron in the early afternoon and was welcomed by the Officer Commanding W/Cdr. Fenwick-Wilson, A.F.C. and Flight Commanders S/Ldr. Fauquier and F/Lt. McCormack, respective Commanders of "A" and "B" flights. His Royal Highness was introduced to the crews in their crew room and spent some time in informal chats with some of the airmen. He displayed a keen interest in their various exploits and with every handshake he exchanged offered his congratulations and expressed the wish that they should all enjoy good fortune and happy landings in their valiant efforts against the enemy. After his inspection of a typical airmen's hut he was able to satisfy his interest in one of the Wellington bombers used on this Squadron by devoting some time on the tarmac where the accompanying officers explained the service qualities of the aircraft.</p> <p>On completion of his round of inspection his Royal Highness was invited to the Officers' mess where he enjoyed refreshments and lunch with the Officers present. Before leaving for Driffield the distinguished visitor was warm in his praise for the efficiency apparent throughout the Squadron and expressed a desire to renew his acquaintance with the Squadron personnel in the not too distant future.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Continuous snow with visibility mainly less than 2,000 yards and 1,500 foot ceiling.</p>	
	End. Feb. '42		<p><u>3 day Sorties (2.35 hours)</u> Ais Tests and Local Flying Practice. <u>Weather:</u> Overcast with snow in early day then cloud base 1,200 to 1500 feet and visibility 2 - 4 miles.</p>	
	3rd. Feb. '42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Moderate snow till 0800 hours and then rain or drizzle until noon. visibility less than 1,000 yards.</p>	
	4th. Feb. '42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Overcast at 1,200 feet and visibility 2 - 4 miles. until 0900 hours. Snow followed reducing visibility to less than 1,000 yards.</p>	
	5th. Feb. '42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy base 2 - 3,000 feet, snow showers no effect on very good visibility. Fair at night.</p>	
				(CONTINUED ON PAGE "2" OVER)

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	6th.Feb.'42		<p><u>Note - NON-OPERATIONAL</u> It is pointed out that although weather conditions were favourable to flying all serviceable aircraft of the Squadron, had been ordered to stand by by Group Headquarters in the period February 3rd. to February 8th.</p> <p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Some cloud during the day with visibility at 5 miles. Overcast at night with snow.</p>	
	7th.Feb.'42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Heavy fall of snow with very poor visibility in early day. Cloud dispersed and very good visibility followed at dusk.</p>	
	8th.Feb.'42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Little cloud up till 1600 hours then visibility degenerating from 2 - 4 miles to 2,000 yards.</p>	
	9th.Feb.'42		<p><u>Six Day Sorties (6.15 hours)</u> Air tests, Duals, and Local Flying Practice. <u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with intermittent slight drizzle. Slight mist throughout day. Visibility 4 - 6 miles in latter part of day.</p>	
	10th.Feb.'42		<p><u>Ten Day Sorties (6.05 hours)</u> Air tests, Local Flying Practice. <u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with good clearance at 2200 hours. Fog until 0600 hours then improving to 2 - 4 miles visibility.</p>	
	11th.Feb.'42		<p><u>Five Day Sorties (6.15 hours)</u> Air tests, Local Flying Practice. <u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy for greater part of day with 6 mile visibility. <u>Ops. Order No. 75</u> Two A/C (freshers) to Attack <u>LEHAVRE.</u></p> <p><u>ACCIDENT and CASUALTY</u> 1143666 (RAF) AC2 Marriott, R. was seriously injured when struck by an airscrew of aircraft "J" Z.8431 while clearing snow in front of the aircraft. He backed into the propeller at 11.30 hours and was taken to the hospital with severe head injuries.</p>	
	12th.Feb.'42		<p><u>60th. OPERATION LEHAVRE</u> One aircraft straddled dock area in good visibility. Flash pinpointed on quay between BASSIN DO, MAREE and Western dock 7. Bad out in district noted. Other A/C was unable to find target in 6/10 cloud and jettisoned safe in sea. 15 miles N. of CHERBOURG.</p> <p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>CASUALTY</u> 1143666 AC2 Marriott, R (RAF) died in York Military hospital at 0345 hours from head injuries received on February 11th. 1942. <u>OPS. ORDER NO. 76.</u> Six A/C to Attack <u>BATTLESHIPS AT SEA.</u></p>	B. 8.

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I., para. 2249, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) **No. 405(RCAF) Squadron, Pocklington.**

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	12th. Feb.'42		<p><u>61st. OPERATION BATTLE SHIPS AT SEA</u></p> <p>All aircraft encountered 10/10 cloud and no Captain saw sea except "B" (S/Ldr. Fauquier) All A/C returned with bombs.</p> <p><u>OPS. ORDER NO. 77. Two A/C to Attack BATTLE SHIPS AT SEA.</u></p> <p><u>62 OPERATIONS BATTLE SHIPS AT SEA.</u></p> <p>One A/C clearly identified one of big ships and dropped bombs but had clouds obscure results. Reported big fire resembling ship, 5 - 7 miles N. N.E. of bombed ship. Other A/C after first sighting ship in cloud break lost track of it and jettisoned live in target area. Lack of wake and high water at bows indicated that ship was travelling at reduced speed.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with base dropping from 5,000 to 800 feet. Visibility poor in showers later improving to 4 - 6 miles.</p>	B. 9.
	13th. Feb.'42		<p><u>Four Day Sorties (3.04 hours) Air Tests.</u></p> <p><u>Two Night Sorties (3.20 hours) Night Flying Practice with landings.</u></p> <p><u>OPS. ORDER NO. 78. Four A/C (Fresher) to attack LSHAVRE.</u></p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Little cloud except at 1800 hours. Visibility improving from 6 miles at 1500 hours to 12 miles at night.</p>	
	14th. Feb.'42		<p><u>63rd. OPERATIONS LSHAVRE</u></p> <p>One A/C spent half an hour looking for target in 8/10 and 10/10 cloud and after being fired upon by ship near LSHAVRE jettisoned live 15 miles N.E. of CHEBROURG. One of others jettisoned safe in sea while still another jettisoned live near CHEBROURG. Remaining A/C released 22 packages of nickels (11) off coast between CAP D'ANTWERP and mouth of LAKE SEINE. Estimated to have fallen in ROUEN, NEMAY, and LISIENX districts.</p> <p><u>Seven Day Sorties (4.05 hours) Air Tests, Local Flying.</u></p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Small amounts of cloud at 0600 hours becoming overcast rest of day with 2,000 - 3,000 feet ceiling. VISIBILITY 2 miles at 1600 hours.</p> <p><u>OPS. ORDER NO. 79. Six A/C to attack MANNHEIM. 64th. OPERATION MANNHEIM</u></p>	B. 10.
	15th. Feb.'42		<p>The four Captains who succeeded in reaching target either dropped their bombs over or near target. Results included vivid purple blue flash which lasted nearly a minute and big flash resulting from 4,000 pounder which left red glow visible for 15 minutes after leaving target. Two a/c returned with bombs one of which reached target but could not drop bombs. Iceing forced the other to turn back. Three A/C were cancelled; one of which had an oil leakage.</p> <p>(CONTINUED ON PAGE NO. - 4.) OVER</p>	B. 11.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	15th. Feb. '42		<u>5 Day Sorties (4.00 hrs.) Local Flying Practice.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Small amount of cloud in early morning becoming nil at night. Visibility 2 - 4,000 yds. early and improving to 4 - 6 miles.	
	16th. Feb. '42		<u>5 Day Sorties (3.05) hrs. Duals, Local Flying Practice.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy base 3,000 feet throughout day. Visibility 4 - 6 miles deteriorating to 2 - 4 miles at 1900 hours.	
	17th. Feb. '42		<u>7 Day Sorties (4.20 hours) Air tests, instrument tests, Local Flying Practice.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> <u>SQUADRON CHANGE OF COMMAND</u> - Squadron Leader J.E. Fauquier (RCAF) assumed Command of 405(RCAF) Squadron, vice Wing Commander R.M. Fenwick-Wilson A.F.C. (RAF). <u>FLIGHT CHANGE OF COMMAND</u> - Flight Lieutenant L.P. Frissie (RCAF) was made Acting Commander of "A" Flight 405(RCAF) Squadron vice Squadron Leader J.E. Fauquier. <u>WEATHER:</u> Fair with brighter intervals. Ceiling 2- 3000 ft. Visibility 4 to 6 miles.	
	18th. Feb. '42		<u>2 Day Sorties (1.25 hrs.) Local flying Practice.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Fair Mainly 10/10 at 2-3000 ft. Visibility 4-6 miles deteriorating to 2 miles later in the evening.	
	19th. Feb. '42		<u>6 Day Sorties (5.15 hrs.) Air Tests, Local Flying Practice.</u> <u>1 Night Sortie (1.00 hrs.) Night Landings.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Fair. Cloud mainly 10/10 but breaking in the evening; base 2-3000 ft. Visibility 6-12 miles.	
	20th. Feb. '42		<u>No Sorties</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with occasional light snow in the afternoon and evening. Ceiling 2-3000 ft. falling to 1200 ft. in the evening and to surface in fog towards midnight. Visibility 6 miles at first deteriorating to 1,000 to 2000 yds. during daylight and to less than 1000 yds. in fog towards midnight.	
	21th. Feb. '42		<u>3 Day Sorties (1.05 hrs.) Local Flying Practice.</u> <u>CHANGE OF COMMAND STATION</u> - Wing Commander R.M. Fenwick-Wilson A.F.C. (RAF) assumed temporary Command of RAF Station Pocklington vice Group Captain W.A.D. Brook. <u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with some drizzle at first and periods of light or moderate snow later. Cloud base 1000 to 2000 ft. falling to 500 ft. at times. Visibility mainly 2 to 4 miles but 1 - 2000 yds. in heavier snow.	
	22nd. Feb. '42		<u>7 Day Sorties (3.50 hrs.) Air Tests, Duals, Local Flying Practice.</u> <u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with periods of light or moderate snow. Cloud base mainly 2-3000 ft. Visibility 2 to 6 miles but less than 2000 yds. in heavier snow.	

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. - 5.

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2949, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter 33, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) **405(RCAF) Squadron, Pecklington.**

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	23rd.	Feb.'42	2 Day Sorties (1.15 hrs.) Local Flying Practice. WEATHER: Cloudy with occasional snow throughout the day. Visibility generally 3 to 6 miles. Cloud base 2 - 3000 ft.	
	24th.	Feb.'42	6 Day Sorties (7.10 hrs.) Air Tests, Instrument Tests, Duals, and Local Flying Practice. 1 Night Sortie (1.10 hrs.) Night Landings and Duals. WEATHER: A slight snow shower in the early morning becoming cloudy or fair later with considerable fine periods. Ceiling mainly 3000 ft. with small clouds during fine periods. Visibility 1 - 3 miles improving to 30, miles.	
	25th.	Feb.'42	8 Day Sorties (7.10 hrs.) Air Tests and Local Flying Practice. POCK. OPS. ORDER NO. 80. Nine A/C to Attack KIEL DOCKS. WEATHER: Fair with occasional light snow. Near 10/10 cloud in the evening ceiling above 2000 ft. Visibility 2 - 4 miles in morning to 6 - 30 miles at night.	
	26th.	Feb.'42	65th. OPERATION KIEL DOCKS In face of tremendous flak from Kiel harbour five Captains reached target area. One stick which fell just short of floating dock resulted in large fire visible for 50 miles. Red and green explosions on DEUTSCH WERKE were observed from other bombs. One A/C who reports seeing A/C hit by flak and descend in flames near HUSUM took photo showing 4000 pounder exploding on edge of probably SCHLEWIG . Two A/C returned because icing and brought bombs back while another jettisoned 4000 pounder live and turned back. Three A/C released nickels in Target area. CASUALTY (missing) 1 st Captain by F/Lt. Robson is missing from the operation. No word was received after the A/C took off. The missing crew were: F/Lt. Robson, (RAF), W/Cdr. McAllister(RCAF), 402565 Sgt. Dyson, R60754 F/Sgt. Philips, R65146 F/Sgt. Robson, R56087 Sgt. Piers.	
	27th.	Feb.'42	No Sorties WEATHER: cloudy occasional light snow. Mainly 10/10 base 2-3000 ft. Visibility over 6 miles in snow.	
	28th.	Feb.'42	No Sorties. SQUADRON CHANGE OF COMMAND - Flight Lieutenant McCormack (RCAF) assumed temporary Command 405(RCAF) Squadron vice Squadron Leader J.E. Fauquier who assumed temporary Command RAF Station Pecklington vice Wing Commander R.M. Fenwick Wilson A.F.C. posted. WEATHER: Fair during day. Ceiling over 2500 ft. visibility from 2-4 miles during day to 1800 yards at night.	
	28th.	Feb.'42	5 Day Sorties (2.30 hrs.) Duals and Local Flying Practice. SQUADRON CHANGE OF COMMAND - S/Ldr. Fauquier(RCAF) re-assumed Command of the Squadron vice F/Lt McCormack in temporary Command. WEATHER: Cloudy and misty ceiling from 2-3000ft in morning to 1000 -1800 ft. 10/10 cloud in evening with 1000 - 2000 yards visibility. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 OVER)	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
<u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF 405(RCAF) SQUADRON AS AT THE 1st and 28th FEBRUARY, 1942.</u>				
				1st 28th
			<u>R.C.A.F.</u> <u>OFFICERS</u> { Air Crew - 9 --- 16 (Grd Crew - 2 --- 2	
			<u>R.C.A.F.</u> <u>AIRMEN</u> { Air Crew - 65 -- 69 (Grd Crew - 217 - 202	
			<u>R.A.F.</u> <u>OFFICERS</u> { Air Crew - 11 -- 12 (Grd Crew - 1 -- 1	
			<u>R.A.F.</u> <u>AIRMEN</u> { Air Crew - 69 -- 39 (Grd Crew - 266 - 229	
			<u>R.A.A.F.</u> <u>OFFICERS</u> { Air Crew - 2 --- 1 <u>AIRMEN</u> { Air Crew - 13 -- 14	
			<u>R.N.Z.A.F.</u> <u>OFFICERS</u> { Air Crew - 1 --- 1 <u>AIRMEN</u> { Air Crew - 1 --- 1	

[Signature] F/O.
Adjutant,
No. 405(RCAF) Squadron.

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK SUMMARY FEBRUARY 1942.

No. 405 Squadron.

- 1-2. One night sortie, duals, night landings, and flying practice carried out. H.R.H. the Duke of Kent visited the Sqn. and spent some time in chatting with the airmen and inspecting a Wellington Bomber. Before leaving he enjoyed refreshments in the Officers' Mess.
- 2-2. Three day sorties, air tests and local flying practice.
- 3-2 to 8-2. No flying. All serviceable a/c ordered by Group W.Q. to stand by from 3-2 to 8-2.
- 9-2. Six day sorties, air tests, duals and local flying practice.
- 10-2. Ten day sorties, air tests and local flying practice.
- 11-2. Five day sorties, air tests and local flying practice. An R.A.F. airman sustained serious head injuries when he backed into the airscrew of an a/c while he was clearing snow on the runway.
- 12-2. 60-th Operation - two a/c ordered to attack Le Havre. One was unable to locate target and jettisoned in sea. Other a/c straddled dock area in good visibility. R.A.F. airman, injured on 11-2 died in York Military Hospital. 61st Operation - six a/c ordered to attack Battleships at sea. Due to cloud all a/c returned with bombs. 62nd Operation - two a/c ordered to attack Battleships at sea. One a/c identified target and dropped bombs with unobserved results. Other a/c located target and then lost it and jettisoned live in target area.
- 13-2. Four day sorties, air tests, two night sorties, night flying practice with landings.
- 14-2. 63rd Operations - four a/c ordered to attack Le Havre. Two jettisoned live, one jettisoned safe in sea and fourth dropped nickels. Seven day sorties, air tests and local flying.
- 15-2. 64th Operation - six a/c ordered to attack Mannheim. Three a/c cancelled, one due to oil leakage. Two a/c returned with bombs, one due to icing and the other being unable to unload. A/c bombing target reported vivid purple blue flash and big flash resulting from 4000 pounder which left red glow visible for 15 mins. after leaving target. Three day sorties, local flying practice.
- 16-2. Five day sorties, duals, local flying practice.
- 17-2. Seven day sorties, air and instrument tests, local flying practice. Sqn.Ldr. J. E. Fauquier R.C.A.F. assumed Sqn. command vice Wg.Comdr. R. M. Fenwick-Wilson, A.F.C., R.A.F.
- 18-2. Two day sorties, local Flying practice.
- 19-2. Six day sorties, air tests and local flying practice. one night sortie, night landings.
- 20-2. No flying.

- 21-2. Three day sorties, local flying practice. Wg.Comdr. R.M. Fenwick-Wilson, A.F.C. (R.A.F.) assumed temporary command R.A.F. Station, Pocklington, vice Gp.C. W. A. D. Brock.
- 22-2. Seven day sorties, air tests, duals, local flying practice.
- 23-2. Two day sorties, local flying practice.
- 24-2. Six day and one night sorties, air and instrument tests, duals, local flying, night landings and duals.
- 25-2. Eight day sorties, air tests and local flying practice.
- 26-2. 65th Operation - nine a/c ordered to attack Kiel Docks. Two a/c returned with bombs due to icing and a third jettisoned 4000 pounder live. Three a/c released nickels in target area. The a/c bombing the target reported good results observed. One a/c failed to return, nothing having been heard of it since take-off.
- 27-2. No flying. Flt.Lt. McCormack (R.C.A.F.) assumed temporary Sqn. command vice Sqn.Ldr. J. E. Fauquier (R.C.A.F.) who assumed temporary Station command vice Wg.Comdr. R. M. Fenwick-Wilson, A.F.C. (R.A.F.) posted.
- 28-2. Five day sorties, duals and local flying practice. Sqn.Ldr. J. E. Fauquier re-assumed Sqn. command vice Flt.Lt. McCormack in temporary command.

<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>AIRCREW</u>	<u>GROUND CREW</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
R.C.A.F. Officers	16	2	18
" Airmen	56	202	258
R.A.F. Officers	12	1	13
" Airmen	39	229	268
R.A.A.F. Officers	1	nil	1
" Airmen	14	nil	14
R.N.Z.A.F. Officers	1	nil	1
" Airmen	1	nil	1
TOTALS	140	434	574