

Poor Copy

21792 Wt. 2880/2553 400,000 12/39-MC & Co-51-5658

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 44

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

of (Unit or Formation) 409 (Squadron) Bombers, Poolebycote

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POOLEBYCOTE	1st. March '42		1st. Section. Cloudy or overcast most of day, ceiling 1000-2000 ft. Visibility 1000 - 2000 yds. till 2000 hrs. then foggy with visibility less than 1000 yds.	
	2nd. March '42		1st. Section (1.25 hrs.) Local Flying Practice. Cloudy overcast with fog between 0800 hrs. and 2000hrs. Ceiling 2500 ft. Visibility 1000 - 3000 yds. decreasing to less than 1000 yds in fog in early evening.	
	3rd. March '42		1st. Section. Operations Officer No. 21. Two A/C detailed to Attack REMARKS PARKS. 2nd. Section. 2nd. Section during first part of day becoming cloudy later with fog between 0700 and 1300 hours. ceiling 600-1000 ft lifting to 2000 - 3000 ft. later in night. Visibility 1-2000 yds.	
	4th. March '42		1st. Section (4.00 hrs.) Air Turb. Drill, Local Flying Practice. 2nd. Section - 1.00 hrs. Night Captain FRANK target in good visibility and carried out most successful attack. Ditch dropped across "1", "2" and "3" as well as on individual just N.E. of the bridge where large red flag was started with volume of smoke. Missed hits on "3" caused green smoke and debris to fly in all directions. Whole target area left a mass of flames. "3" was described as being one long of debris and glowing rails with many small visible bushes and holes. She indeed also was badly damaged. REMARKS: Telegram received from Red Cross quoting information from HELEN , states On 27000 Sgt. BURGESS , 917000 Sgt. JAMES , 1020700 Sgt. LAWSON , 30200 Sgt. WILLIAMS , 914175 Sgt. COSTON and Cpl. 262000 Sgt. DODD were killed on December 29th 1941. This crew was previously reported missing from our 51st Operation over HELEN on the night of December 28th. 1941. Weather: Cloudy with rain during afternoon turning to sleet and then to snow in evening. Ceiling from 4000 ft. to 600 ft. by end of day. Visibility 1-3000 yds.	2. 44.
	5th. March '42		1st. Section. Overcast with snow during whole of day. 10/10 cloud at 800 - 1500 ft. Visibility 1000-2000 yds.	
	6th. March '42		1st. Section. Overcast with intermittent snow and frozen ice crystals. 10/10 cloud base 1000-1500 ft. Visibility 1 to 3 miles.	
	7th. March '42		1st. Section. Operations Officer No. 21. Four A/C to Attack St. REMARKS. Overcast with intermittent snow at first becoming cloudy in afternoon and then fine late at night. Ceiling 500-1500 ft. at 1600 hrs. lifting to 2500 ft. later. Visibility 1 mile increasing to 5 miles and again decreasing to 3 miles.	

(CONTINUED ON PAGE NO. "4" OVER)

www.bombercommand.com archives.co

Poor Copy

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. References to Appendices
	8th. March '42		<p>3 Day Sorties (1.45 hrs.) Local Solos, Local Flying Practice.</p> <p><u>OPERATION - HESSE</u></p> <p>Three Captains reached target area in cloudless sky and released their bombs. Hits and flashes were observed in dock area. One A/G bombed dock area and saw two flashes result in fire believed in dock No. 4. Photo taken of dock show one large ship in dock. One A/G brought back bombs after forced to turn back from gas line trouble.</p> <p>Weather: Fair at first becoming cloudy in late morning with rain in afternoon and evening. Ceiling 1500 ft. at first rising to 3-4000 ft. Visibility 2-4000 yds. slightly less at dusk.</p>	B-15.
	9th. March '42		<p>10 Day Sorties.</p> <p>Washington Ord. Order No. 31. Seven A/G detailed to Attack <u>HESSE</u>.</p> <p>Weather: Overcast fog, mist and haze during day clearing later. Visibility poor to moderate. Base 1000 ft.</p>	
	10th. March '42		<p>11 Day Sorties (3.20 hrs.) Air Tests, Dials, Solos and Local Flying Practice.</p> <p><u>OPERATION - HESSE</u></p> <p>All seven Captains were able to pin point water features and our A/G were able to reach target greatly assisted in identifying HESSE by the large number of flames so effectively dropped by A/G of earlier sections and the many large and small fires seen long before reaching target. Despite heavy accurate flak which caused minor damage a very successful attack was carried out.</p> <p>Weather: Fair visibility good, but moderate at night. Few clouds except towards midnight.</p>	B-16.
	11th. March '42		<p>4 Day Sorties (4.00 hrs.) Air Tests.</p> <p>3 Night Sorties (3.10 hrs.) Night Dials and Local Solos.</p> <p><u>OPERATION - HESSE</u></p> <p>Weather and engine trouble combined to limit the effectiveness of the raid. No results of attack are available if on the A/G that released bombs over target.</p> <p>One Aircraft "P" (No. 2125) failed to return. The crew of the missing A/G was: P/O Durridge, R.E. (Ass), AGASSO Sgt. Kowapan, S.K. (Ass) H7824 Gunnett, F.G. (RAF), R 6409 Sgt. Brody, J.H. (RAF), 1116458 Sgt. Wright, S. (RAF) 157824 Sgt. Tilley, G.A. (RAF)</p> <p>Weather: Rain early. Fair to cloudy later with good visibility. Small amount cloud.</p>	B-17.
	12th. March '42		<p>11 Day Sorties (7.45 hrs.) Local Dials, Solos, Solos and Local Flying Practice.</p> <p>Weather: Fair to cloudy later with good visibility. Ceiling 1500 ft. at night.</p>	
	13th. March '42		<p>7 Day Sorties (4.55 hrs.) Air Tests, Local Flying Practice.</p> <p>Washington Ord. Order No. 32. Six A/G detailed to Attack <u>COLONN</u>.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy, fair after dusk. Visibility moderate to good.</p>	
	14th. March '42		<p>4 Day Sorties (4.30 hrs.) Dials, Local Flying Practice.</p> <p><u>OPERATION - COLONN</u></p> <p>Four of our Captains reached target and despite heavy flak carried out a fairly successful attack results of which were not known since cloud prevented any observation.</p> <p>Weather: Haze morning and evening. Visibility moderate to good. Small amount of clouds.</p>	B-18.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE NO. "P")

www.bombercommand.com archive.org

Poor Copy

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

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 37

See instructions for use of this form in K.E. 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) 409 (RAF) Squadron, Focklington

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Focklington	March 15th '42		<p>1 Day Service (4.10 hrs.) Local Deals and Flying Practice.</p> <p>2 Night Services (2.40 hrs.) Night Deals, Landings, Local Flying Practice, Practice and Procedures</p> <p>Early starts from the AAF Training Corps' No 22(F) City of Leeds Squadron with an Attending Officer paid the Squadron a visit in order to familiarize themselves with an Operational Reserve Squadron. The Orders all under instruction for later service duties, were keenly interested in the various phases of the work as explained by the respective Officers responsible for the program outlined below:</p> <p>1000 - 1100 Chemical Warfare B/O Gregg</p> <p>1105 - 1145 Visit to Station Workshop and H.L. Yard</p> <p>1150 - 1235 The Bomb Dump W/Lt. Goad</p> <p>P I H H H H</p> <p>1345 - 1420 The Value of Maintenance of Aircraft B/O Miller.</p> <p>T R A</p> <p>Weather: Rain and Mist at first. Good visibility in evening. Much low cloud at 1000 ft. clearing in evening.</p>	
	March 16th '42		<p>3 Day Service (7.35 hrs.) Air Flying Tests Deals, Local Flying Practice.</p> <p>Weather: Light rain with occasional rain in evening. Cloud base 1000 ft. in rain in evening. Visibility mainly moderate.</p>	
	March 17th '42		<p>11 Day Service (7.35 hrs.) Air Flying, Deals, Local Flying Practice.</p> <p>Weather: Intermittent rain in evening. Cloud base below 1000 ft. in evening.</p>	
	March 18th '42		<p>1 Night Service (27.00 hrs.) Cross-Country (Simulated Operation) and Night Photography. Local Flying Practice.</p> <p>Flight Incident:</p> <p>"A" - W. 5487 (Capt. Mitchell, P.M. Captain) returning from a Cross-Country flight mis-calculated his approach and glide. After touching down firm application of brake failed to stop A/C from stopping in the short run; remaining and crashed off the end of the runway. The crew were fortunate to escape with minor injuries despite the fact that the A/C itself was a total wreck.</p> <p>Weather: Mist in evening along with fog. Low ceiling except in evening. Visibility poor.</p>	

(CONTINUED ON PAGE NO. "4" OVER)

www.bombercommandmuseum.com

Poor Copy

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. 48	References to Appendices
Rockington	March 19th.	'42	<p><u>2 Day Sorties</u> <u>200 minutes (1.30 hrs.) Local Flying Practice, Duals.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Overcast with slight haze. Ceiling 800 - 1000ft. Visibility poor to moderate.</p>		
	March 20th.	'42	<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Overcast with mist and occasional drizzle. Fog in the evening. Ceiling 500 - 600ft. Visibility poor.</p>		
	March 21st.	'42	<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Fog and mist. Poor visibility mainly 10/10 cloud at 800 - 1000 ft. lifting to 1500 ft. in evening.</p>		
	March 22nd.	'42	<p><u>7 Day Sorties (7.25 hrs.)</u> Air Tests, Landings, Local Duals, and Flying Practice. <u>Weather:</u> Overcast with haze, clearing in afternoon. Ceiling 800 - 1000 ft. lifting to 1500 - 2000 in evening.</p>		
	March 23rd.	'42	<p><u>8 Day Sorties (5.50 hrs.)</u> Duals, Local Flying Practice, Landings, Duals. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy becoming fair but misty after dusk. Ceiling 1000 - 1500 ft. Visibility 4 miles.</p>		
	March 24th.	'42	<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Fog until near mid-day becoming fine but mist gathering again in the evening. No clouds.</p>		
	March 25th.	'42	<p><u>8 Day Sorties (7.20 hrs.)</u> Air Tests and Local Flying Practice. <u>Weather:</u> Overcast with haze. seven A/G detailed to Attack <u>RENN</u>. <u>Weather:</u> Foggy until daybreak then fair. Visibility improving to 4 miles. Ceiling 3000 - 4000 ft.</p>		
	March 26th.	'42	<p><u>7 Day Sorties (4.05 hrs.)</u> Air Tests, Duals, Local Flying Practice. <u>Time Observation - <u>RENN</u>.</u> Four of the A/G attacked the target but few satisfactory results were observed. "P" (P/O Locke) saw several small fires with one large one in West side of town. Sgt. bursts in centre of town. Gings saw fires in target area. "F" (P/Ogt. Wigley) bombed flankpath since he was unable to climb over 5,500 ft. One A/G had glycol leak from possible slight flak damage. One photo showing ground details. Mine packages nichols dropped in <u>RENN</u> area. <u>Rockington Op. Order No. 57.</u> Five A/G detailed to Attack <u>RENN</u>. <u>Weather:</u> Fair or cloudy at 3000 ft. during daylight with good visibility.</p>		
	March 27th.	'42	<p><u>5 Day Sorties (3.30 hrs.)</u> Local Flying Practice, Distractant Tests. <u>Time Observation - <u>RENN</u>.</u> All Captains were guided to target by concentration of flares and although these ignited too high favourable weather conditions enabled them to get pin points and carry out successful attacks one of which was reported by "N" (P/Ogt. Deltzer) as having produced a very large bluish white flash followed by a profusion of sparks. One A/G held in 4/1 and attacked by N/A. Tracer seen to enter A/G which caught fire and lost altitude rapidly. Other A/G had both turrets hit by flak but without casualty. Thirteen packages nichols C/O dropped and fell in target area. All took photos but unsuccessful. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with good visibility permitting. Low cloud at 1500 - 2000 ft.</p>		B-29.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE NO. "5")

www.bombercommand.com

Poor Copy

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 27

See instructions for use of this form in E.R. and A.C.I., para. 2240 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) 405 (SAAF) Squadron, Focklington.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Focklington	March 26th	'42	<p>1 1/2 Day Sorties (12.15 hrs.) Air Tests, Danks and Local Flying Practice. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with light rain in early morning. Low cloud at 1500 - 2500 ft. dispersing in evening. Visibility consistently good.</p>	
	March 27th	'42	<p>3 Day Sorties (3.05 hrs.) Local Danks, Bombings, and Local Flying Practice. <u>1 Day Sortie - 10000 "A"</u> Four of the A/C carrying 4,000 thousandths achieved very satisfactory results. Visibility of 2000 ft. described as perfect and a great number of fires were added to by "B" "C", "D" detailed with "A" to attack factory on West bank of GRANGE RIVER started a string of fires through the East side of factory and "E" dropped 4,000 on buildings in S.E. corner of it and whole factory suffered. Another 4,000 caused damage of burning debris and flames then whole mass closed over scene. Fires were seen from 100 miles away and were spread over the whole Island and gutted roofs were visible in the light of flames. Heavy fall of bombs caused 4 westward. Incendiaries of three A/C fell in the N.E. part of 2000 Island site and started new fires. Rear Gunner of one A/C counted up to 25 fires in city as leaving target. Two packages G13 nichols dropped in target area.</p>	B-28 the target was hit
	March 30th	'42	<p>1 Day Sortie (2.15 hrs.) Danks, Local Flying Practice. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with poor visibility and intermittent rain. Ceiling 2000 - 3000 ft. by evening and visibility 2000 - 3000 yds.</p>	
	March 31st	'42	<p><u>No Sorties.</u> <u>General:</u> Capt. R. 6863 Leading Aircraftman in Land, Norman, Richard. Died of natural causes at a Military Hospital March 31st. 1942 after a comparatively short illness. Admitted in Service October 27th. 1940 and arrived overseas in early November 1941, and was posted to 405 (SAAF) Squadron November 23rd. 1941. Always quite popular with his comrades and his untimely death was a shock and deeply regretted by all. Next of Kin Mrs. J. M. Lead 423 Marks Street Fort William Ontario. <u>Weather:</u> Rain morning and afternoon. Mainly 10/10 cloud at 400 - 600 ft. Visibility 2 - 4 miles</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Continued on page No. 26 OVER)</p>	

www.bombercommand.com.au

Poor Copy

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
<u>MEDICAL SUMMARY OF ACG (NDAP) SERVICES AS AT 1st and 2nd MARCH, 1942.</u>				
			<p>R.C.A.F. OFFICERS (Air Crew - 16) 16 (Crew - 2) 2</p> <p>R.C.A.F. AIRMEN (Air Crew - 69) 66 (Crew - 208) 216</p> <p>R.A.F. AIRMEN (Air Crew - 39) 37 (Crew - 229) 171</p> <p>R.A.F. OFFICERS (Air Crew - 18) 10 (Crew - 1) 1</p> <p>R.A.A.F. OFFICERS (Air Crew - XXI 1) XII AIRMEN (Crew - 14) 12</p> <p>R.N.Z.A.F. OFFICERS (Air Crew - 1) 1 AIRMEN (Air Crew - 1) 1</p>	
			<p><i>W. Griffin</i> 7/0 Surgeon <u>The 10th (NDAP) Squadron.</u></p>	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchive.co.uk