

TO AIRCRAFT  
CORPS



522-4405  
1684

SECRET

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) No. 405 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	1.5.42		<u>Five day sorties.</u> 4.15 hours. Flying practice <u>Weather.</u> Small amounts of ST. together with AC and AS increasing to 9/10 at 0700 hours, dispersing after 1300 hours. Visibility very good.	
	2.5.42		<u>No sorties.</u> <u>Funeral.</u> A German officer shot down in the aid over York on the night of April 29th, 1942 was given a funeral service with full military honors. A casket draped with the Nazi colors was accompanied by a firing company and a body of men to the little village cemetery at Barby-on-the-Moor. <u>Weather.</u> Cloudy becoming fine at 0800 hours and remaining so the rest of the day. Visibility improving from good to excellent.	
	3.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather.</u> Fine with little cloud. Visibility four miles at dawn then excellent.	
	4.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather.</u> Main or fine. Some SC at dawn and high clouds in the evening. Visibility moderate.	
	5.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather.</u> Mainly cloudy much high and medium cloud with a little fair weather. CU during afternoon. Visibility moderate.	
	6.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather.</u> Fine. Medium and high cloud in a.m. Visibility moderate to poor due to extensive smoke haze from Pennines.	
	7.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather.</u> Fine at first; cloudy after dawn with intermittent with slight rain in p.m. and much cooler. Visibility becoming excellent.	
	8.5.42		<u>No sorties</u>	

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	8.5.42		<u>Weather</u> Cloudy mainly medium cloud with intermittent rain in the morning becoming fine before dusk. Visibility excellent.	
	9.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather</u> Fine with moderate amounts of SF and CU around dawn and C <sup>u</sup> during the morning. Cloud well broken. Visibility excellent.	
	10.5.42		<u>Two day sorties</u> 1.10 hours. Air Test. A meeting was held this morning to promote an anniversary party for 405 Squadron on June 2nd, 1942. Representatives from Officers, Sergeants and Airmen met and committees were elected to look after the various phases of the party. <u>Weather</u> Fine, becoming fair to cloudy about dawn and continuing fair during the day, but cloudy to overcast after dusk. Visibility excellent.	
	11.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> A Mapping exercise, prior to a mimic invasion attempt, was held this evening. Squadron personnel were made responsible for the defence of the various dispersals. Sixty of the men manned the defences already in place and armed with "tommy guns", rifles, and grenades and with the practical experience they had gained on the Backers up Course they were prepared to give a good account of themselves. The exercise was more or less a dress rehearsal to acquaint the men with their responsibilities. <u>Weather</u> Cloudy with continuous slight rains most of today. Variable amounts of low cloud at 1,000 to 2,000 ft. with 10/10 as above. Visibility moderate.	
	12.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Parade</u> A muster parade and inspection of all 405 Squadron personnel was carried out this morning. W/C J. E. Fauquier, commanding the Squadron, personally inspected the gas equipment of all the men to ascertain that all were equipped in case they should be subjected to a gas attack. <u>Weather</u> Cloudy with slight intermitten drizzle at 0800 hours. Cloud mainly SF and SE. Base 1500 ft. Visibility 4 miles improving to 12 miles for most of day.	
	13.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather</u> Cloudy early in morning but breaking to 3/10 in the morning. Variable amounts of medium and SC with two thousand foot phase. Visibility six to twelve miles.	

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POCKLINGTON	14.5.42		<p><u>Four day sorties</u> - 7.25 hours. - Navigation experience flights.</p> <p>Three planes of German origin captured intact over England paid a visit to the Squadron and remained on display in order that personnel might get acquainted with enemy type machines. The circuit was composed of 2 ME 110's and one Junker 88. They proved a very interesting sight and novelty for our airmen.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> - Low ST in early morning breaking to little or no cloud. Visibility good.</p>	
	15.5.42		<p><u>One day sortie</u> 1.25 hours. - Navigation experience.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> - Fine during day but high and medium cloud increasing. Some fog about dawn, otherwise heavy.</p>	
	16.5.42		<p><u>Two day sorties</u> 2.10 hours. - Air Tests.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> - Continuous rain with low cloud and poor visibility at first becoming fair with moderate visibility.</p>	
	17.5.42		<p><u>Two day sorties</u> 1.40 hours. - Air Tests and Navigation experience.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> - Fair to cloudy with a shower during the evening. Ceiling 3,000 ft. Visibility moderate.</p>	
	18.5.42		<p><u>No sorties</u></p> <p>A final meeting was held to complete arrangements for the mimic invasion. A deficiency exists in the number of rifles in that we have 900 rifles at our disposal for the Station strength of some 2,000 men.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> - Continuous rain until 0600 hours then cloudy and rain from 1300 and 2100 hours. Vis. moderate.</p>	
	19.5.42		<p><u>No sorties</u></p> <p>Last night at 0100 hours. "Invaders" armed to the teeth and with bulging faces swarmed over the Station in a mimic invasion. It proved quite successful despite the vigilance of the defenders due mainly to the lack of arms. Sub-machine guns would have definitely been an asset and might have easily proved a decisive factor. Sixty men from the Squadron were responsible for the defense of the dispersals.</p>	

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	19.5.42		<u>Weather</u> Fine at first becoming cloudy with s.e. showers. Visibility moderate.	
	20.5.42		<u>One day sortie</u> 20 minutes. Air Test. <u>Air Raid Warning</u> At 1 a.m. an air raid warning was given on the Station and personnel advised to take cover. There couldn't have been many enemy planes in the vicinity although one bomb was dropped 3 to 4 miles away resulting in a strong concussion on the camp. The All Clear was given at 1.30 a.m. <u>Administrative Change (Temporary)</u> Pilot Officer E. Dean, R.A.F., was loaned to us by Station HQ to act as Adjutant while P/L S.F. Douglass, R.C.A.F., proceeded on leave. <u>Weather</u> Cloudy with ST 5/10 at 1200 ft. around dawn. Low cloud dispersing to small amounts in pm. <u>Rain</u> at 0900 hours and 1900 hours, with showers at 1300 hours. Visibility moderate to very good.	
	21.5.42		<u>Four day sorties</u> 15.15 hours. Navigation, cross country flights.	
	22.5.42		<u>Weather</u> Cloudy with some slight gain of short duration in late afternoon. Visibility very good. <u>No sorties</u>	
			<u>Weather</u> Cloudy with low ST giving away in afternoon to CU decreasing to NIL after dusk. Showers in pm with visibility increasing from 2 to 4 miles to less than 1,000 ft. after dusk.	
	23.5.42		<u>Three day sorties</u> 2.55 hours. Air Tests.	
			<u>Weather</u> Little cloud at first but drifting cloud reducing visibility to less than 100 yds.	
	24.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> <u>Weather</u> Mainly cloudy with medium and low cloud base. 1500 to 3000 ft. Becoming fair at 1500 hrs. later fine. Visibility 6 to 16 miles.	
	25.5.42		<u>No sorties</u> All leaves were cancelled and men on leave recalled to unit. All Squadron personnel are working with fury to get the Squadron on an operational basis. Maintenance personnel have worked long into night to get our new Halifax's ready for operations as soon as possible. The Squadron now has 16 fully qualified crews for operations. Of the fourteen total Halifax's now on our strength, ten are ready for operations.	
			<u>Weather</u> Cloudy at first with no low cloud and moderate visibility becoming good. Showers began about 1500 hours and rain became continuous at 1600 hours till 1900 hours. Visibility dropped to	

2,000 yds. after 2200 hours.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKINGTON	26.5.42		<p><u>Eight day sorties</u> 75 hours. Air Tests.</p> <p>The Squadron now has 16 Halifax II's up to date, two short of establishment which provides 16 aircraft I.E. plus two L.R. of this total 18 are ready for operations and the remainder require minor repairs only.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Cloudy at first with rain at 1400 hours becoming continuous. Showers persisting to about 2100 hours. Ceiling 1500 to 2000 ft. falling to 600 ft. in heavier rain. Visibility 4 to 6 miles.</p>	
	27.5.42		<p><u>Eleven days Sorties</u> 8.10 hours. Air Tests.</p> <p>No. 405 Squadron, R.C.A.F. is now in a position to detail 14 aircraft for operations. Thus this Squadron can be considered on an operational basis as from May 26th, 1942.</p> <p>Men of the Armament Section are working all afternoon and into the night to get one hundred thousand rounds of ammunition belted for the Halifax II's.</p> <p><u>Air Raid Warning</u></p> <p>An Air Raid warning was sounded shortly after midnite and was in effect until 1220 am. No enemy or local action.</p>	
	<del>28.5.42</del>		<p><u>Weather</u> Slight rain about 0200 hours. Fair but showery during day. Heavy rain towards midnite. Visibility good.</p>	
	28.5.42		<p><u>No sorties</u></p> <p>Operations for tonite cancelled.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Fair apart from occasional showers. Generally much cloud with 2500 ft. ceiling. Visibility good.</p>	
	29.5.42		<p><u>Four day Sorties</u> 515 hours. Air Tests</p> <p>Aircraft strength now 17 Halifax II's of which 16 are ready for operations.</p> <p><u>Air Raid Warning</u> An air raid warning sounded at 1am and in effect till shortly after 2 am planes were overhead but no local or enemy action.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Fair with showers and thunder during daylight, with variable cloud at 2000 ft. Vis. good.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	30.5.42		<p><u>No sorties</u></p> <p><u>Pock. Ops. Order No. 103</u> 16 Aircraft to attack COLOGNE</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Cloudy with continuous slight rain in early hours till 0700 hours. Variable amounts of low and medium clouds. Visibility 2200 yds. improving to 12 miles.</p>	
	31.5.42		<p><u>No sorties</u></p> <p><u>8th Operation</u></p> <p>Captains found clear conditions on the Dutch coast and thence to the target where visibility was excellent except for smoke from the numerous fires already alight and which rolled up to about 8,000 ft. Earlier arrivals found the fires chiefly confined to the central and north west parts of the city. Rather than drop their bombs on areas already attacked, aimed for those parts of the city which were as yet untouched. Later arrivals reported that the fires were well spread over the whole of the city area and were visible for one hundred miles on the return journey.</p> <p>Ten aircraft: "J", "H", "Q", "R", "S", "T", "U", "V", "W", "X" attacked successfully though flare and smoke from fires prevented observation. "J" had bombs hang up over target due to electrical release failure. "Q" had engine trouble when within 5 miles north west of target and was forced to jettison live. "S" returned early with engine trouble. "R" who was late taking off attacked DUSSELDORF as time limit had expired. "X" is missing.</p> <p><u>CASUALTY</u> "H" missing "R", W7707 Captained by Sgt. Wedman took off at 0022 hours after which nothing was heard from them. Mission crew consisted of CAN.876557 Sgt./Pilot Wedman, L.A.; 810144 Sgt./P.E. Acton, M.; CAN.862398 E/Sgt./A.O. Welsh, G.A.; CAN.89848 Sgt./A.C. Pickett, W.F.; NZ.04616 Sgt./WOP. McLean, A.E.; 917785 Sgt./A.G. Homing, D.</p> <p><u>Weather</u> Cloudy becoming fair at 1900 hours with slight rain and drizzle about 1000 hrs. Vis. improving from 2,000 yds. at 0100 hours to 20 to 30 miles by mid-day.</p>	B-35

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<u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF 405 SQUADRON R.C.A.F. AS AT 1st and 31st <del>XXXX</del> MAY, 1942.</u>				
R.C.A.F.			OFFICERS (Air crew 20 31st (Grd crew 3 19	
R.C.A.F.			AIRMEN (Air crew 53 68 (Grd crew 218 249	
R.A.F.			OFFICERS (Air crew 7 6 (Grd crew 1 NIL	
R.A.F.			Airmen (Air crew 76 66 (Grd crew 132 155	
R.A.E.F.			OFFICERS (Air crew NIL NIL AIRMEN (Air crew 6 3	
R.N.Z.A.F.			OFFICERS (Air crew 1 1 AIRMEN (Air crew NIL 1	

*H. Weyall* .F.L.  
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No. 405 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

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