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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. Parts 2345 and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 405 Squadron, R.C.A.F. Pocklington.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	1st June '42		<p><u>No. Sorties.</u></p> <p>POCKLINGTON OPS ORDER NO. 105.</p> <p>Twelve aircraft to attack Essen.</p> <p><u>89th Operation.</u></p> <p>All of the twelve captains were guided to the target area by glow of fires but clouds prevented visual pinpointing at target and bombing was chiefly carried out by navigational aid. Many scattered fires some large, mostly west of Ruhr were seen reflected on clouds.</p> <p>"W" - W7713 is missing from this operation. Nothing heard from the aircraft after its takeoff at 2346 hours to determine the fate of the missing crew. Crew consisted of: CAN. J15343 P/O Baltzer Captain. 56948 Sgt. Turnbull, J.L. Flight Engineer: CAN. J15170 P/O Certy Observer: CAN. 57930 P/Sgt. Jackson, M.D., A/Gunner. CAN. R53909 P/Sgt. Reid, S.L., A/Gunner. CAN. 2510 P/Sgt. Fortin, N. A/Gunner. and N 57930 P/Sgt. Thompson, J.A.</p> <p>POCKLINGTON OPS. ORDER No. 107.</p> <p>Six Aircraft to attack ESSEN.</p> <p>Weather: Fine becoming overcast with slight rain afternoon. Visibility improving considerably after cloud break.</p>	720.34
	2nd June, '42		<p><u>One day Sortie.</u> (50 minutes.) Local flying practice.</p> <p><u>90th Operation ESSEN.</u></p> <p>Four of the aircraft reached and attacked the target area with navigational aid. All received no help at all from flares and J.C. and H. report similarly except perhaps that they were a general guide to the target area. Some bursts and small fires were seen but there was no evidence of any weight of attack. G was attacked by e/a over target and was forced to jettison bombs during evasive action. B returned early with engine trouble bringing bombs back. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Casualty. Missing. Sgt. Costling P.L. 125168 Observer detached to Driffield is missing on Operations from that Squadron on the night of June 1st, 1942.</p> <p>POCKLINGTON OPS ORDER NO. 108.</p> <p>Seven aircraft to attack BREMEN.</p> <p>Weather: Considerable S.C. at 2,000 - 3,000 feet but dispersing in the afternoon. Smoke haze until cloud broke then vis. improved to over five miles.</p>	
	3rd June '42		<p><u>No. Sorties.</u></p> <p><u>91st Operation: Bremen.</u></p> <p>J was able to identify the aiming points by the light of flares, but B, A, M and S attacked the believed on nav. aid alone. Some bursts were seen and a few small fires. "C" returned early with petrol trouble. "G" was cancelled. Weather: Small amounts of medium and high cloud dispersing to nil during morning. Despite smoke haze vis. steadily improved to excellent in the evening.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	10th	June '42	Two Day Sorties: (1.15 minutes) Local flying practice. Weather: Overcast with a little rain before dawn. Cloudy during the day but clearing to nil towards dusk. Vis. Excellent.	
	11th	June '42	Three day Sorties: (12:50 hours) Local X Country Flights. Weather: Fine becoming fair with some C.B. During the day. Vis. Good.	
	12th	June '42	No Sorties. Weather: Fair to cloudy with good vis.	
	13th	June '42	No Sorties. Weather: Cloudy, with continuous rain with cloud base down to 1800 feet. Vis. Mod to Good.	
	14th	June '42	No Sorties. Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain becoming continuous in evening Low cloud base with Vis Moderate to Good.	
	15th	June '42	No Sorties. Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain until evening Cloud base 1,000 feet lifting when rain ceased Vis. Moderate.	
	16th	June '42	Two Day Sorties: (2:00 hours) Air Tests. Weather: Cloudy with a few slight short showers during the P.M. Vis. Moderate. POCKLINGTON ORDER NO. 111 Right a/c to attack ESSEN.	
	17th	June '42	One day sortie: (1:00 hour) Local landings and flying practice. <del>24th Operation: ESSEN.</del> Six Captains found breaks in cloud and bombed Born Area on way and fixed D/R ETA ONE a/c pinpointed on Rhine but others saw no ground detail for the whole trip. One of the remaining a/c found 10/10 cloud at Born so continued to ESSEN where he bombed on D/R ETA. Except for yellow flash in Born area resulting from bombs of "A" the other crews observed no results other than small fires. Remaining a/c forced back early because of icing. Weather: Cloudy with Mod. Vis. becoming foggy just after dawn then clearing with excellent vis.	
	18th	June '42	Three Day Sorties: (12.20 hours) Sea Search. Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain and drizzle during morning becoming cloudy after midday Vis. Good.	
	19th	June '42	Four Day Sorties: (9.35 Hours) Air Tests and local flying practice. Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain and drizzle during morning, becoming cloudy after midday. Vis. Good.	
	20th	June '42	Four Day Sorties: (14:30 Hours) Air tests and Local X cross country flight and flying practice. <del>24th Operation: ESSEN.</del> Five a/c bombed ESSEN area through 10/10 cloud. Flares were also seen falling in the area. No results of other than reflection of bomb bursts on the clouds. One other a/c bombed believed N/E of ESSEN with navigational aid a/s. remaining captain bombed three miles N.W. of Osnabruck.	

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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 SQUADRON, R.C.A.F. POCKLINGTON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON <del>EMDEN</del>	21, June '42.		One Day Sortie: (3.5 Hours) Sea Search. POCK OPS. ORDER NO. 113. Nine a/c to attack EMDEN. <del>XXXXXXXX</del> 96th OPERATION. EMDEN. All a/c attacked EMDEN Area with nav. aid and help of flares. The flares were of little use in lighting up ground detail because of haze or sea smoke J. and G suspected, a smoke screen over the target area. A few large and a number of small fires were observed but could not be pinpointed. Weather: Cloudy, vis. Moderate.	
	22, June, '42.		Four Day sorties: (7.40 Hours) Air Tests. POCK. OPS ORDER NO. 114. Ten a/c to attack EMDEN. Weather 10/10 medium cloud breaking to little or no cloud at 07:00 hours. Vis. 2,000 yards improving to 4 to 5 miles.	
	23, June '42		No. Sorties: 97th OPERATION. EMDEN. All a/c attacked <del>and</del> the target with the exception of "O" who, tho he made three runs over the target could not get his bomb doors to open. He jettisoned in the sea when he eventually managed to get them open on the homeward journey. Captains had no difficulty in identifying the target which was well lit up by flares. Water features and the built up area of the town were clearly visible and the first arrivals found about a dozen small fires all ready alight. Those who bombed later reported at least twenty (20) large fires burning in the town. Weather: Cloudy. Vis Good.	
	24, June '42		One day sortie: (2.20 Hours.) Airtest. Adjutant: Flying Officer P.C. Darnell (Can.) became Acting Adjutant of the Squadron wef 24-6-42 vice - Flight Lieutenant S.T. <del>XXXXXXXX</del> Douglas to RAF Station POCKLINGTON wef same date. Weather Cloudy with fair periods. Vis. Very Good.	
	25th, June '42		One day Sortie: (40 minutes) Local Flying practice. POCK. OPS. ORDER No. 115. Seventeen a/c to attack EMDEN. Weather: Mainly cloudy in early morning with three to four thousand feet ceiling vis. very good.	
	26th, June '42.		No. Sorties. 98th Operation. EMDEN. Operation was divided into two phases. The first took off at 23:00 hours 25-6-42 and consisted of 7 a/c while the other comprising 8 a/c left at 23:50 hours. Captains found 10/10 cloud over target with few small breaks but attack chiefly carried out on blind bombing. Thirteen a/c attacked primary area while two sought alternatives. Two captains had to turn back through engine and technical failures, one large fire was seen through a gap and the glow of a number of widespread fires was reflected on clouds. Weather: Fine becoming cloudy, with much low cloud decreasing to nil in evening. Vis. Poor improving to very good.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
POCKLINGTON	June 27th '42		<p><u>NO SORTIES.</u></p> <p>Pock. Ops. Order No. 116 - Eleven A/C to Attack <u>BREMEN</u></p> <p>Weather: Cloudy. Vis. Good.</p>	
	June 28th '42		<p>1 Day Sortie ( 4.00 hours) Navigational Experience.</p> <p><u>99th OPERATION - BREMEN</u></p> <p>Seven Captains definitely bombed target with the aid of special equipment while another also claims to have bombed primary on B.T.A. No ground details whatsoever were visible but the glow of some fires was seen reflected on clouds. One A/C returned early with engine trouble bringing bombs back while two are missing nothing having been heard from them to determine their fate.</p> <p>"G" (W/O Scott) is missing.</p> <p>Crew: W/O Scott, W.L. Captain; Can. R. 61631; Can. R. 70586 Sgt. F/E Tatham, G.B.; Can. R. 62639 P/S Obs. Philips, G.M.; 964479 Sgt. WOP/AG Hughes, J.J.; Can. R. 64719 P/S A/G Cole, J.E.; Can P/O H.M. Macelle, A/G; 819083 Sgt. A/G Rowland, S.B.</p> <p>"G" (F/Sgt. Field) is missing.</p> <p>Crew: CAN. R56391 P/Sgt. Pilot Field W.E. Captain; 1213401 Sgt. P/Eng. Ansell, R. : CAN. R62615 P/Sgt. Obs. Fitzgerald R.G.; 1169531 Sgt. WOP/AG Smith : CAN. R68523 P/Sgt. A/Gunner Ailey, J.D.; AUS. 407595 Sgt. A/Gunner <del>W.A.</del> Kleiadorf, N.E.:</p> <p>Weather Cloudy clearing in the evening Vis. Excellent.</p>	(15165)
	June 29, '42		<p>1 Day Sortie ( 1.15 Hours) Air Tests.</p> <p>Pock. Ops. Order No. 117 - Nine A/G to attack <u>BREMEN</u></p> <p>Weather: Large amounts of cloud throughout day vis. very good all day.</p>	
	June 30th '42		<p>No. Sorties.</p> <p><u>100th Operation - BREMEN</u></p> <p>Three A/C bombed target area with navigational aid. One bombed by D/R AND ETA. No ground details were observed owing to weather conditions. One captain jettisoned his bombs 8 miles south east of Aldenburg owing to engine trouble another jettisoned in the sea and returned to base with rear guns u/s. Three aircraft failed to return. A few small fires were observed in Target area.</p> <p>"C" ( P/Bgt Chinn) is missing.</p> <p>Crew: AUS 402 223 P/Sgt. Pilot Chinn, H.A.; Captain: 571779 Sgt. P/Eng. Simpson, A; CAN. R64380 P/Sgt. Obs. Bell, J.W.; CAN. R56246 P/Sgt. WOP/AG Oneson, P.B.A.; CAN. R84563 Sgt. WOP/AG Dickinson W/ 79900 P/Sgt. A/G Adams, R.T.; 1284966 Sgt. WOP/AG Beare, W.P.:</p> <p>"H" (P/Lt. Myersidge) is missing.</p> <p>Crew: P/Lt. Myersidge Captain: 568805 Sgt. P/Eng Bradbrooke L. CAN. R56251 Sgt. Obs. Alcazar, W.E. CAN. R93140 Sgt. WOP/AG Dearlove L. 1335996 Sgt. A/G Foot, J.P. CAN. R108349 Sgt. A.G. Drummond J.W. CAN. R91235 Sgt. WOP/AG McFee, A.G.</p> <p>"K" (P/Sgt. Sydney) is missing.</p> <p>Crew: CAN. R58531 P/Sgt. Pilot Sydney L. Captain; CAN. R54847 Sgt. P/Eng Walsh, C.S. CAN. R74994 Sgt. Obs. Brennan, E.K.; CAN. R62217 P/Sgt. WOP/AG Corieu; R.A. 912780 Sgt. WOP/AG Gunn, T.G. 972384 P/Sgt. A/G Philp, C.; 1063335 Sgt. WOP/AG White G.A.</p> <p>Weather: Mainly Cloudy with good vis.</p>	

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) No. 405 Squadron, R.C.A.F. POCKLINGTON.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF NO. 405 (RCAF) SQUADRON AS AT 30th June 1942.</u>	
			R.C.A.F. .... OFFICERS (Air Crew 20 11 Ground Crew <del>22</del> 3 3) 1st 30th	
			R.C.A.F. .... AIRMEN (Air Crew 53 44 Grn. Crew 218 381)	
			R.A.F. .... OFFICERS (Air Crew 7 5 Grn. Crew Nil Nil)	
			R.A.F. .... AIRMEN (Air Crew 76 56 Grn. Crew 155 193)	
			R.A.A.F. .... OFFICERS (Air Crew Nil Nil AIRMEN (Air Crew 3 1)	
			R.N.Z.A.F. .... Officers (Air Crew <del>ONE</del> <del>ONE</del> (1) AIRMEN (Air Crew 1 1)	
			<i>Richard</i> Adjutant No. 405 Squadron, R.C.A.F.	

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