

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 2145, 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.

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pecklington	July 1	1942	<p><u>No sorties</u></p> <p>Highly successful sports afternoon was held on a well laid out field within the aerodrome perimeter to celebrate our Division Day. The events went off without a hitch in glorious sunshine and keen competition was in evidence throughout. There was a close place for the Victor Ingram prize, a trophy given to the athletes collecting most points at the meet. Bob Stewart of Toronto emerged the victor and proudly accepted his prize from the wife of the Air Vice Marshall, Air Officer Commanding No. 4 Group Bomber Command who graciously accepted the invitation to present the various winners with their rewards. Squadron headquarters took the honours, as well as the Station Commander's trophy by taking 85 of the total points. Maintenance was second with 22 points, A and B Flights garnered 17 tallies and the only remaining sections to gain any points at all were SECTION Headquarters with 10 and Air Crew with 9.</p> <p>A large number of visitors who witnessed the sports included Group Captain and Mrs. W.A.L. Brook and Squadron Leader George Leishman. Following the sports the visitors were guests of Group Captain E.J. Corbally, Commanding Officer of the Station and other officers at a dance held in the Officers' Mess.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Cloudy becoming fine with good visibility.</p>	
	July 2	1942	<p><u>4 Day Sorties (255 hours)</u> Air tests, and local flying practice.</p> <p><u>Casualty</u> - Information received from Barbara Hutton that body of CAN-R54052 Sgt. Leftly, N. was washed ashore July 2nd 1942. This airman was missing after operations over HAMBURG on the night of the 8/9 April 1942.</p> <p><u>Pecklington ops. order No. 118.</u> 10 a/c detailed to attack HAMBURG</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Fair with good visibility.</p>	
	July 3		<p><u>1 Day Sortie (255 hours)</u> Local cross country</p> <p>101st operation - HAMBURG</p> <p>All of the 8 a/c which bombed the primary area sighted and identified the river WELDER but haze w/1 glare and flak opposition prevented accurate pin pointing. One large fire was seen in the Cook area and numerous scattered fires were seen throughout the city but mainly small. One a/c with elevated trim w/a bombed HAMBURG aerodrome while another with intercom failure attacked N of AMBLAND.</p> <p><u>Weather:</u> Fair becoming overcast with slight intermittent rain and cloud base falling to 800 feet. Vis. mod. to good.</p>	
	July 4			

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
Rockington	July 4th		<b>No action</b> overcast with continuous rain becoming cloudy in late evening and rain ceasing. Vis. good.		
	July 5th		<b>3 Day sorties (10 hours) landings and local flying practice.</b> Weather: Fair apart from heavy showers in early morning. Visibility good.		
	July 6th		<b>1 Day sortie (0-40 hours) local flying practice</b> Administrative changes: 15035 S/O W.E. Sturges posted from 14 OBU to 405 Squadron RCAF for administrative and S.F. via S/O S.G. Barrall (S.M.) acting Adjutant. Promotion: A promotion which carries double distinction has come to W/Lt. Stanley, T. Douglas, former Adjutant of this, the first Canadian Bomber Squadron. He was recently appointed to the post of Station Administrative Officer with the rank of Squadron Leader. He is the first Canadian to be promoted to this rank. Promotion: C/M. 15042 Sgt. LeMay, R. was posted at Great Britain courtesy in quiet British Honors. He was awarded the rank of Squadron Leader. It was a sunny summer day and pictures which were taken will be forwarded to his parents. S/O Lorrance and Sgt. Bellis, personal friends of the late airmen, represented the squadron. Weather: Mainly cloudy with some visibility with occasional showers. Fine or fair periods between showers with good vis.		
	July 7th		<b>1 Day sortie (1-00 hours) Instrument test</b> Weather: overcast with rain. S/O detailed to attack [REDACTED] target. Vis. becoming cloudy with occasional light showers in afternoon and evening. Visibility good to good.		
	July 8th		<b>No action</b> All A/S claim to have bombed the primary target except B who thought over the target had electronic bomb release fail and before manual release could be operated A/S had left target and bombs counted and those appear to have increased later as some A/S saw the red glow more than fifty miles away. Weather: Fair to cloudy, vis. improving to good during the afternoon.		
	July 9th		<b>1 Day sortie (2-15 hours) sea search flights.</b> Commissions: A telegram from International Red Cross Committee quotes information from Berlin and Jackson, I.D., have been killed. These men were members of a crew missing from operations over [REDACTED] on the night of 1-2 June 1942. Weather: Mainly cloudy with thunder and hail shower during morning. Vis. poor in morning improving to very good in the afternoon.		
	July 10th		<b>1 Day sortie (3-0 hours) navigation exercise flights.</b> Weather: Mainly cloudy with showers in evening. Visibility good.		
	July 11th		<b>3 Day sorties (7-15 hours) land cross country flights.</b> Weather: Cloudy until mid morning then fair to cloudy. Vis. quite very poor at times until [REDACTED].		

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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.

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 405 Squadron RCAF

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Rocklinton	July 12th	1942	1 Day Sorties (225 hours) Air tests. Weather: Cloudy until noon then fair, fine towards midnight.	
	July 13th		1 Day Sortie (420 hours) Cross country flight. Rocklinton Op. Order No. 120. 8 a/c to attack MUISBURG. Weather: Fine becoming cloudy. Slight rain in afternoon. Vis. 2-4 miles.	
	July 14th		No sorties.  303rd Operation - DUISBURG Some captains found breaks over target but others found cloud obscuring it. The latter bombed on T.R. while the former claimed to have identified the bridge DUISBURG docks and the built up area of the city in the light of flares but there was very little evidence of any weight of attack though some saw several bomb bursts. Very few fires were seen and these were small. Seven captains claim to have bombed the primary area while others jettisoned in the sea and returned early with some equipment a/c. MICKELANDER said LYONS (see form 541) Two a/c carried out Hickelling raids on (Gons) France and had successful but uneventful trips. Weather: Fine and misty becoming cloudy with very good vis.	
	July 15th		No sorties. Communications: Information received in an official German Intelligence No. 75 forwarded by the International Red Cross Committee reports Sgt. Jones, M.D. 1006968, and Sgt. Harvey, A.C. 1370987 along with four unknown killed on April 15th 1942 on operations over DUISBURG. Were buried April 18th in the English cemetery in South COLOGNE. There were only three others in this crew 1103850 Sgt. MacFarlane, D.M. G.A.R. 52224, Sgt. Gorman, J., and G.A.R. 267790 Sgt. Tyler, W.S., now classified missing believed killed. Weather: Fine with mod. vis. becoming fair to cloudy with excellent visibility.	
	July 16th		No sorties. Weather: Overcast with continuous rain during morning becoming cloudy with slight showers during evening. Vis. poor in rain, otherwise good.	
	July 17th		No sorties. Weather: Cloudy at first with intermittent slight rain. Vis. mod. at first becoming good.	
	July 18th		No sorties. Weather: Cloudy with continuous slight rain until 1530 hours. Vis. good.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
Pocklington	July 19th 1942		<u>NO SORTIES</u> Pocklington Op. Order No. 122. 12 a/c to attack VARESSACK Weather fair to cloudy becoming overcast with intermittent rain. Vis. mod. to good becoming poor in evening.		
	July 20th 1942		<u>6 Day Sorties (3 hours) Air tests and local flying practice</u> <u>105th Operation - VARESSACK</u> 10 captains bombed primary on E.H. flares. 1 a/c only observing bomb bursts. 3 a/c report seeing scattered fires and believed target area. One a/c returned early owing to rear turret being u/s and jettisoned his bombs safe. Remaining a/c scrubbed with intercom failure. Weather: Cloudy with intermittent slight rain becoming fair towards midnight. Vis. poor but mod. to good after midday.		
	July 21st		<u>1 Day Sorties (2.5 hours) Landings duals and local flying practice.</u> Prisoner of war and Casualty Telegram from International Red Cross quoting German information reports 961987 Sgt. Brown, D.M. captured June 9th now classified prisoner of war. Some states G.A.N. 75279 P/O L.G. Hainman dead same date. Both these men were missing on operations over ESSEN on the night June 9-10th 1942. Pocklington Operations Order No. 123. 11 a/c to attack DUISBURG Weather: Fine becoming fair to cloudy during afternoon. Fog patches after sunrise. Vis. mainly good.		
	July 22nd		<u>5 Day Sorties (1 hour) Air tests, and local flying practice.</u> <u>106th Operation - DUISBURG</u> 9 a/c bombed primary area visually and with navigational aids. Numerous fires reported. Two crews reported fires up to seven miles from target. Five captain saw their bomb bursts, others complained that haze and fires prevented observation of bursts. Two aircraft returned early with mechanical failures and jettisoned in the sea. Prisoners of War: Information received from International Red Cross Society states that G.A.N. G.614 P/O Herman G.A.N. 68524 Sgt. Kerr, W., G.A.N. 86184 P/O Sgt. Porter, S.B., G.A.N. 259688 P/O Sgt. Green, H.; 997562 Sgt. Forbes, W.J., are prisoners of war after being captured unscathed when forced to bail out over ESSEN on the night of 8-9 June 1942. Ward received from Sgt. Forbes states that he is with 15 other members of 405 Squadron at H-Glasflager Luft 3, Germany. Weather: Overcast with almost continuous rain; visibility good.		
	July 23rd		<u>6 Day Sorties (5-20 hours) Air tests.</u> Pocklington ops. order No. 124. 7 a/c to attack DUISBURG Weather: Cloudy with slight showers in evening. Vis. mod. to good.		
	July 24th		<u>NO SORTIES</u> <u>107th Operation - DUISBURG</u> Seven of the captains bombed the primary area where breaks in cloud occurred. Some crews were able to obtain glimpses of the Rhine and a built up area in the illumination from the flares but others bombed on E.H. and observations of results were very limited. Only one large and a few small scattered fires were seen. One a/c returned early with intercom u/s. Remaining a/c scrubbed in Pocklington on return and burnt out.		G.L.S.

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

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington	Com'd July 24th 1942		<p><b>Casualties:</b> "X" Flight Sgt. Albright crashed in flames in New Street Pocklington and burnt out completely, all members of the crew being killed. The a/c circled the field once but on the next circuit failed to make landing with motor trouble. After clearing off corner of a private building it crashed against a school and burst into flames and was completely destroyed. Those killed were: GAN-73040 P/Sgt Albright, R.R. Captain, GAN-7340 P/O G.H. Strong 2nd pilot, GAN-770102 P/Sgt. Thurston, W.C. Observer, 534437 Sgt. Apperson, M.W. Flight Engineer, GAN-860055 P/Sgt. Baxter, R.W. WOE/AG, GAN-791A3 Sgt. Owens, T.R. AG, 922948 Sgt Western, A.S. AG, 1006111, Sgt Colleton, W. Bomberier.</p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Cloudy with slight rain in morning, ceasing in afternoon. Vis. mod. becoming good.</p>	
	July 25th		<p><b>2 Day Sorties (955 hours) Air tests</b> Pocklington sub-order No. 125 - 8 a/c to attack DUISBURG</p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Fine at first becoming fairly cloudy with good visibility.</p>	
	July 26th		<p><b>2 Day Sorties (1 hour) Local flying practice.</b></p> <p><b>108th Operation - DUISBURG</b></p> <p>Six of the captains claim to have bombed the primary area on T.R. No visual identification of ground features possible. Some bursts were seen and one crew reported one large fire but otherwise only a few scattered fires were observed. Two a/c were forced back; one with defective rear turret, the other with covers icing.</p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Variable. Slight rain in early morning. Showery towards midday becoming fair in evening with vis. mod. becoming very good.</p> <p>Pocklington sub-order No. 125 - 14 a/c to attack HAMBURG</p>	
	July 27th		<p><b>No sorties</b></p> <p><b>108th Operation - HAMBURG</b></p> <p>Nine captains claim to have bombed the city in the moonlight in which the various water features were readily identified. Reports as to the number of fires varied with times of attack but up to forty good sized fires were counted in the central city area which later merged into a general glow with other large fires in both north and west of the ALSTER and in the dock area. General opinion of the captains leads to conclude that attack was a highly successful one and wisely conceived upon by the A.C.G. Bomber Command.</p> <p><b>Burials:</b> Squadron personnel joined with the relatives and friends of five of the airmen killed in the crash at Pocklington on July 24th 1942 to pay tribute to those valiant men who went to their death for the cause of freedom and the British Commonwealth of Nations. The bodies of GAN-73040 P/Sgt Albright, R.R., GAN-7340 P/O G.H. Strong, GAN-770102 P/Sgt. Thurston, W.C., GAN-791A3 Sgt. Owens, T.R., 534437 Sgt. Apperson, M.W., draped with the national colours and covered with flowers were escorted by citizens and men of the squadron, along with relatives and friends of the deceased, to the little village churchyard of Barmby on the Moor where full service</p>	6.1.5.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington	Sept July 27th	1942	honors were accorded before laying them to rest. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with slight intermittent rain. Visibility mod. to good.	
	July 28th		<u>Three Day Sortie</u> (1.40 hours) Air tests <u>Weather:</u> Fine then cloudy, continuous rain from 1730 hours. Vis. very poor about dawn, otherwise good.	
	July 29th		<u>1 Day Sortie</u> (1 hour) local flying practice. Pocklington ops. order No. 127 - 8 a/c to attack SAARBRUCKEN <u>Weather:</u> Fair becoming cloudy, vis. very poor at first then mod. until 1300 hours, then excellent.	
	July 30th		<u>2 Day Sortie</u> (155 hours) Air tests.  <u>11th Operation - SAARBRUCKEN</u> All captains claim to have bombed primary target by visual identification of Saar River, the HAHN, the bridges immediately west and east of the BURBACK works and the built up area of the town. Those who did not find breaks came below the clouds. Six of our a/c saw their own and other bomb bursts in the target area with one large and several smaller fires burning in the town and one fire in the works. Fires were seen 75 miles on homeward journey. <u>Weather:</u> Mainly fair to fine with good visibility. Pocklington Operation Order No. 128 - 13 a/c to attack DUESSELDORF	
	July 31st		<u>10 Sorties</u>  <u>11th Operation - DUESSELDORF</u> The attack was carried out in two waves, the first taking off at 2344 hours 31.7.42, the second at 0019 hours 1.8.42. Nine of the captains taking part in the raid reached and bombed the target in a cloudless sky but with some haze and smoke from flaming city obscuring vis. Seven a/c saw their own bursts and the general impression of attack was that it was a complete success and E/O Hill suggested "It was a better attack than Cologne". Fires that covered whole city area with a pall of reddish black smoke rolling up, were seen for 80 miles on return journey. One captain jettisoned live kerosene area with starboard engine a/c. Two a/c were cancelled and two are missing, nothing have been heard from them to determine their fate. *1* Sgt. West missing, nothing heard after take off. Crews: GANR7660 Sgt. West, R.E., Captain, GAN715591 P/O W.R. Hanson Observer, 629514 Sgt. Gibbon, D. Flight Engineer, GAN62660 P/Sgt. Madson, Sgt. WOP/AG, GAN105220 Sgt. Howard, J.H.C. AG, G10633 Sgt. Waters, J. AG, 418240304 Sgt. Pearce, R.E. AG/Bombadier *2* Sgt. Hunter missing, nothing heard after take off. Crews: 529359, Sgt. Hunter, J. Captain, 1269969 Sgt O'Brien, J. Observer, GANR3646 Sgt Anderson, R.A. Flight Engineer, 1258982 Sgt. Woodman, S. WOP/AG, 651215 Sgt. Bond, 2282 AG, GANR11173 Sgt. Irish, J.J. AG, 932631 Sgt. Laughlin, W. AG <u>Weather:</u> Fine with mod. vis. until 0900 hours, then foggy improving to mod. with patches of lifted fog dispersing.	

L. L. Sparkes 7/6  
for Adjutant, 106 BOMB Squadron,  
Pocklington, Yorkshire.

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of (Unit or Formation) 405 SQUADRON, R.C.A.F. YORKSHIRE.

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF NO. 405 SQUADRON R.C.A.F. AS AT 1st and 31st July 1942.</u>	
			R.C.A.F. .... OFFICERS ( Air Crew 1st 31st 11 17 Ground Crew 3 2	
			R.C.A.F. .... AIRCRAFT ( Air Crew 44 70 Ground Crew 331 345	
			R.A.F. .... OFFICERS ( Air Crew 5 7 Ground Crew Nil 1	
			R.A.F. .... AIRCRAFT ( Air Crew 56 67 Ground Crew 193 195	
			R.A.A.F. .... OFFICERS ( Air Crew Nil Nil AIRCRAFT ( Air Crew 1 5	
			R.N.R.A.F. .... OFFICERS ( Air Crew 1 1 AIRCRAFT ( Air Crew 1 1	
			<i>L. L. Sparkes P/O</i> for Adjutant No. 405 SQUADRON, R.C.A.F. <u>YORKSHIRE.</u>	

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