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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

See instructions for use of this form in K.B. and A.C.I., para. 2149, 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
Pookington	1.8.42		<p><u>Two day sorties. (2.25 hours) Air tests.</u></p> <p><u>Presumption of Death</u> : Squadron Leader A.G. Bisset DFC, Canadian Pilot missing from operations over HAMBURG on November 30th 1941 is now considered dead for official reasons. This captain was the able commander of our "B" Flight and was always admired for his sterling leadership qualities. The Squadron had always entertained hopes of his being reported prisoner of war but it has now become obvious that we must consider him as being lost.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Mainly cloudy but with excellent visibility.</p>	
	2.8.42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Pookington Ops. Order No. 129 - 2 a/o to attack HAMBURG</u> <u>112th Operation (Daylight) HAMBURG</u></p> <p>No attack made. Both captains reached enemy coast but found no cloud cover and no possibility of a cover over the target area. These conditions reported to Group who accordingly instructed both aircraft to return to base. Bombs brought back.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Fair to cloudy; rain in afternoon with moderate visibility.</p>	
	3.8.42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Honors and Awards</u>: News that the Squadron Commander, Wing Commander John E. Fauquier, RCAF, had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by His Majesty the King was broadcast over the Home and Forces newscast this evening. Although recognition of the valuable contributions made by the Wing Commander was long expected, yet the announcement came as a pleasant surprise and members of the Squadron were quick to extend hearty congratulations to their leader. The award is more than justified in view of the continued daring with which he inspired those under his command in the many undaunted attacks he led on countless occasions over enemy territory.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Overcast, continuous light rain early and again in afternoon.</p>	
	4.8.42		<p><u>No Sorties</u></p> <p><u>Pookington Ops. Order No. 130 - 5 a/o to attack ESSEN</u></p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Cloudy all day with good visibility.</p>	
	5.8.42		<p><u>No Sorties</u></p> <p><u>113th Operation ESSEN</u></p> <p>A Captains claimed to have attacked primary on 10/10 but no definite results were seen owing to 10/10 cloud. Some flashes were seen reflected on cloud over target area either bomb bursts or gunfire. Remaining a/o was forced to return with engine trouble caused by glycol leaks.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Cloudy all day with visibility moderate to good.</p>	
	6.8.42		<p><u>One day Sortie (5.15 hours) Navigational cross country flight.</u></p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
Pooklington	6.8.42	(Cont'd)	<p><b>Movement of Unit:</b> Each section is making final preparations in order that the Squadron can leave Pooklington Station in the morning. Two men from the respective sections have been detailed to proceed with the Acting Adjutant, Flying Officer H.F. Francis, to the new Station Topoliffe and have everything in readiness when the main body arrive there.</p> <p><b>Casualties:</b> Telegram from the International Red Cross Society quoting German information, reports crew of Halifax W11J dead June 30th 1942. CANR34319 Sgt. Harrell, W.J.; 759300 P/Sgt. Adams, R.T.; CAN. 864800 P/Sgt. Bell, J.W.; 1284966 Sgt. Beare, W.P.; CANR34563 Sgt. Dickinson, W.J.; AUS40222 P/Sgt. Chin, H.A.; 571779 Sgt. Simpson, A.; CANR56246 P/Sgt. Omeson, P.A. This crew was reported missing from operations over DUISBURG on the night of June 29-30th 1942.</p> <p><b>Pooklington Ops. Order 131 - 8 a/c to attack DUISBURG</b></p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Mainly cloudy but with excellent visibility.</p>		
Topoliffe	7.8.42		<p><b>No Sorties</b></p> <p><b>11th Operation - DUISBURG</b></p> <p>Five of the captains bombed primary without being able to identify ground features because of heavy industrial haze. They were unable to observe the results of their own individual bombing, but they all reported that numerous but scattered fires were burning and bombing appeared to be spread over a wide area. Glow of fires was visible for at least thirty or forty miles on return trip.</p> <p><b>Movement of Unit:</b> The main body of personnel and equipment of 405 Squadron left Pooklington by road convoy and by air transport and proceeded to RAF Station Topoliffe. All aircraft and part of the servicing crews of the respective aircraft left by air while the remainder of the personnel were taken by lorry and bus. The convoy left RAF Station Pooklington shortly before 11.00 A.M. and after an uneventful trip reached RAF Station Topoliffe after 2.00 p.m.</p> <p>On arrival the various sections were met by members of the advance party and conducted to the barrack block allotted to them. Although there were many minor adjustments to be made before every one was finally settled each and every individual expressed keen satisfaction and displayed every delight after viewing their new surroundings. It became evident that morale and the consequent well-being of the men and war effort would be considerably improved under the ideal conditions afforded the Squadron in their new home. It was obvious that few regretted the Squadron's move and all looked forward to an indefinite stay here.</p> <p><b>Change in Command:</b> Our Squadron Commander, Wing Commander John E. Fauquier has been posted to RAF Headquarters today. The announcement was accepted with regret on the Squadron's part, but at the same time congratulations were in order since the posting will pave the way for ever greater success. Johnny leaves an enviable record behind him as he bids everyone a reluctant farewell; a record that not only will be an inspiration to those who will succeed him but one which will ever exist in the spirit of the squadron itself. His daring exploits and undaunted leadership more than justified his recent award of the D.F.C. and the friends and relatives of the Ottawa Valley boy may proudly acclaim his amazing rise to fame.</p> <p>Although the Squadron will greatly miss this capable leader who had been with this Squadron since its formation, every good wish is extended to the Wing in everything that is expected of him in the future.</p> <p>Congratulations of the highest order are also extended to the new Commander of the Squadron, S/Ldr. Gordon Fraser, former "A" Flight Commander, who has now been promoted to the rank of Wing Commander. Our new boss who is a native of <u>Winnipeg</u> has a vast knowledge of flying behind him and will prove another outstanding leader for 405 in our ever increasing raids on the enemy.</p> <p><b>Flight Commander:</b> The above promotion and appointments has invested another young and upcoming captain with a new command. Flight Lieutenant <u>W.M. Swettenham, RAF</u>, now assumes command of "A" Flight succeeding the new Squadron Commander. He possesses every sterling quality of a leader, while being extremely popular with the Squadron and every confidence is placed in his leadership.</p>		

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 former home address -                     

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See instructions for use of this form in E.R. and A.C.I., para. 2343, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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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
Topoliffe	7.8.42	(Cont'd)	<p><b>Squadron Adjutant:</b> Still another important in the administration of the Squadron lies in the fact that Flying Officer Harry Francis who hails from the West, Calgary, has been made Squadron Adjutant and promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant. The new Adjutant was posted to 405 Squadron on August 3rd and will be substantive adjutant on the 10th of the month vice Pilot Officer Thurston, R.A.F., posted.</p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Mainly cloudy; slight rain around noon, moderate visibility.</p>	
	8.8.42		<p><b>1 1/2 Day Sorties (9.20 hours)</b> Transport and local flying practice.</p> <p><b>Casualties:</b> Telegram from International Red Cross quoting German information reports 976825, P/Sgt. Healey, R.F. and GANR54831 P/Sgt. Jefferies, R.M. are dead, killed on June 9th 1942. These two airmen were reported missing on operations over ESSEN on the night of 8-9 June 1942.</p> <p><b>Change of Command:</b> A newcomer to the Squadron, Pilot Officer A/R/E L.D. Hillier, GAN.36380, has been chosen to command "B" Flight vice Acting S/Ldr. K.F. Thiele NEAG.966 who has been posted to 10 OTU and is due to proceed within a few days after the new commander has been familiarized with his new duties.</p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Mainly overcast; several periods of rain during day. Visibility moderate.</p>	
	9.8.42		<p><b>No Sorties.</b></p> <p><b>Casualties:</b> In view of the lapse of time and the absence of any news it has been decided to take official action and presume the death of; P/O R.E. Darbridge; 1164158 Sgt. Wright, W.; 1378541 Sgt. Tilley, G.A.; GANR64409 Sgt. Brodey, J.M.; GANR78861 Sgt. Garnett, F.G.; ADS404550 Sgt. Lomergan, R.M.; on the night of 10-11 March 1942. This crew was reported missing on operations on the night of March 10-11 1942 over ESSEN.</p> <p><b>Topoliffe Operations Order No. 63 - 4 A/C detailed to attack OSNABRUCK</b></p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Mainly fair apart from showers around noon. Visibility excellent.</p>	
	10.8.42		<p><b>No Sorties.</b></p> <p><b>115th Operation - OSNABRUCK</b></p> <p>Two of the captains reached and bombed the target area with success. There was little opposition encountered and bursts were observed and incendiaries were seen to take hold. Good fires were left burning. In all respects it proved a successful trip. One of our aircraft is missing.</p> <p><b>W* (P/O Captain) is missing:</b> nothing was heard from this aircraft after it had left its base with T.E. 9 on "transmit". Crew consisted of 243 P/Lt. Bain, D.J. (RCAF) Captain; P/O R.H. Vaughan Nav.; 408 Sgt. Morgan, T.C., WCE/AG; 613 P/Sgt. Gibbons, E., A/G; 560 Sgt. Gover, P.F. A/G; 607 P/O Calderwood, T.H. Bomb.; 775 Sgt. Hill, W.A., Eng.</p> <p><b>Commissions:</b> Information was received today from Air Ministry granting commissions to three of our senior non-commissioned officers. The new pilot officers are 49269 P/O R.H. Knight, pilot; 126905 P/O J.K. Hamble, A/G; 126901 P/O D.B. Moyes, Nav. Congratulations are extended and rapid promotion is to be hoped for.</p> <p><b>Weather:</b> Cloudy; continuous slight rain in morning becoming intermittent in afternoon; visibility moderate.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
Topoliffe	11.8.42		<p><i>K.P.F.</i></p> <p><u>3 Day Sorties (4-10 hours)</u> - Sea search flights.</p> <p><u>Honours and Awards</u> - His Majesty the King has approved the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Acting Squadron Leader Keith Frederick Thiele NZ404966, M according to a London Gazette extract No. 35661.</p> <p>It is gratifying to have this able Flight Commander justly rewarded for the valuable service he has been rendering as his contribution in this struggle. Squadron Leader Thiele has commanded the Squadron's "B" Flight since April 4th 1942 and his capable leadership has won him the admiration and respect of all those under his command.</p> <p><u>Commission</u> - Air Ministry informs us that CANR56254, S/Sgt. Campbell, R.J., A/G, has been granted a commission as from June 24th 1942. Heartly congratulations were extended to Pilot Officer Campbell on his entry into commissioned ranks and every good wish is extended for his continued success.</p> <p><u>Topoliffe Operations Order No. 64</u> - 3A/G to attack MAINE</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Mainly cloudy with excellent visibility.</p>		
	12.8.42		<p><u>Two day sorties</u>: (6.05 hours) cross country flights.</p> <p><u>16th Operation MAINE</u></p> <p>Only one a/c "B" (Sgt. Ferrier) attacked primary after spotting Rhine and built up area. Captain saw good fire. "B" reports one especially large one and several smaller ones in area but he saw no bursts. "G" had controls go u/s and had to return. The remaining a/c "B" captained by Sgt. Pudney failed to return to base. The crew consisted of "609 Sgt. Pudney, C., pilot; 318 Sgt. Duff, T.A.S.; Eng; 149 Sgt. Mercer, J.D.M., nav; 792 Sgt. Toller, K.R., WOP/AG; 434 Sgt. Ryan, A.R., WOP/AG; 659 Sgt. Garrity, I.J. A/G; 381 Sgt. Atkins, C., Bomb. in</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Cloudy, showers in afternoon. Visibility excellent.</p>		
	13.8.42		<p><u>1 Day Sortie (6.40 hours)</u> local flying practice.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Cloudy all day but with very good visibility.</p>		
	14.8.42		<p><u>1 Day Sortie (0.50 hours)</u> air firing.</p> <p><u>Posting</u>: Another valuable and popular member of this Squadron is lost to us in S/Ldr. K.F. Thiele, DFC, who has left to join his new unit No. 10 OTU. Since his arrival with the Squadron on October 15th 1941, this captain has stamped himself as an exceptional pilot and his ability was not long in being recognized since he was given our "B" Flight to command shortly afterwards. The Squadron will sadly miss his natural ability and the vast amount of experience he had amassed in his many successful operations, but it is realized that a man with his enviable record of service will be in a position to pass on his valuable knowledge to those who, it is hoped, will imitate him.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Fog early; then cloudy to fair. Visibility moderate to fair.</p>		
	15.8.42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u></p> <p><u>Visits and Inspections</u>: The Squadron Commander, Wing Commander L.G. Fraser, welcomed the arrival of Major, the Rt. Honourable Charles G. Power, M.C., Canadian Minister of Defence for Air, who, accompanied by Air Marshal Lloyd S. Broadner, Chief of Air Staff, in the United Kingdom and Air Marshal Harold (Gus) Edwards, AOC in charge of R.C.A.F. overseas, completed a tour of inspection of the station and Squadron this morning.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Minister for Air and RCAF officials had very little time at their disposal and the distinguished visit was very short. On completion of the tour the visitors were all high in their praise for the morale, toughness and efficiency apparent throughout the Squadron.</p>		
	16.8.42		<p><u>Weather</u>: Mainly cloudy; slight rain in afternoon. Visibility fair.</p> <p><u>1 Night Sortie (2.25 hours)</u> searchlight co-operation.</p>		
	17.8.42		<p><u>Weather</u>: Mainly fair with fine periods. Visibility very good.</p> <p><u>1 Day Sorties (4.10 hours)</u> Landings, local flying practice.</p> <p><u>1 Night Sortie (2.05 hours)</u> Searchlight operation.</p>		

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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
Topcliffe	17.8.42	(Cont'd)	<u>Screened</u> : According to a letter received from Headquarters 4 Group W/Lt. J.A. Forbes, our Bombing Leader, is to be screened for a period of three months commencing 17.8.42. Apparently there is a serious deficiency <del>of</del> of bombing leaders in this Group and under no circumstances is our bombing leader to be permitted to operate during the above period. <u>Weather</u> : Mainly fine; visibility very good.	
	18.8.42		<u>2 Day Sorties</u> (4+5 hours) sea searchlights. <u>Prisoners of War</u> : Information received from the International Red Cross states that W/Sgt. Porter CAN/51849 WOE/AG is a prisoner of war. This airman was reported missing on operations over ESSEN on the night of June 8-9th 1942.	
	19.8.42		<u>Weather</u> : Mainly fair; visibility mod. to good. <u>1 Day Sortie</u> (1+10 hours) Air tests and local flying practices. <u>Casualties</u> : Telegram from International Red Cross Committee quoting German information states CAN/5087 P/O A.J. McBeane. CAN/86320 Sgt. W.J. Pethybridge, are dead. Both these airmen were reported missing on operations over ESSEN on the night of June 8-9th 1942.	
	20.8.42		<u>Weather</u> : Mainly fair with occasional slight rain during early afternoon and evening. Visibility mod. to good. <u>10 Day Sorties</u> (17+25 hours) Navigational exercises.	
	21.8.42		<u>Weather</u> : Mainly fair, visibility mod. to good. <u>2 Day Sorties</u> (6+30 hours) Cross country flights. <u>Casualties</u> : In view of the lapse of time and the absence of news Air Ministry has proposed to take official action to presume the death of P/O K.R. Durbridge, 1164158 Sgt. Wright, W., 1578541 Sgt. Tilley, G.A.; CAN/84409 Sgt. Broddy, J.M.; CAN/8261 Sgt. Garnett, P.C.; AN/340550 Sgt. Lonergan, R.N.G. This crew was reported missing on operations over ESSEN on the night of 10-11 March 1942.	
	22.8.42		<u>Weather</u> : Mainly fair with slight rain during the afternoon. Visibility mod. to good. <u>1 Day Sorties</u> (6+15 hours) Air tests and local flying practice. <u>Posting</u> : Pilot Officer R.H. Knight, pilot, has gone over to 405 Com. Flight to lend a hand to S/Ldr. Turnbull and Pilot Officer Howie Hill in getting the boys converted to Halifaxes. This officer has completed 27 sorties and is a capable and qualified pilot as well as fully experienced. He will be a welcome addition to the instructional staff over at conversion and will pass on valuable advice to the newcomers.	
	23.8.42		<u>Weather</u> : Mainly fair with good visibility. <u>2 Day Sorties</u> (6+05 hours) Cross country flights.	
	24.8.42		<u>Weather</u> : Mainly cloudy with moderate to good visibility. <u>No Sorties</u> . <u>Postings Out</u> : Pilot Officer J.R. Morrison and W/Sgt. Smith, A., Canadian air gunners, have been posted to 23 OTU where they will serve as instructors. P/O Morrison has completed 33 operational sorties since his arrival to the Squadron in August 1941 while W/Sgt. Smith has 32 trips to his credit and has been with us since July 1941. They were our most experienced gunners as well as exceedingly popular with this Squadron and will be greatly missed by all. <u>Weather</u> : Partly cloudy with good visibility.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
Topoliffe	25.8.42		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy at first with fair periods.		
	26.8.42		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Partially cloudy with intermittent slight rain. Visibility mod. to good.		
	27.8.42		<u>3 Day Sorties (7.10 hours)</u> Air tests. <u>Inter-Squadron Softball:</u> A softball game was played this evening between 405 Squadron and 419 Squadron softball teams, to gain the right of representation in the area championship competition. Our team emerged the victors after a closely contested struggle which finished with our team on the long end of the 8-5 score. The game was very much in doubt until LAC Smith, R.L. of Toronto batted out a four bagger with the bases loaded in the sixth inning which proved the deciding factor of the game. The area championship will be decided here on Thursday the 29th when 420 Squadron of Skipton-on-Swale invades our camp.		
	28.8.42		<u>Weather:</u> Fair with excellent visibility. <u>5 Day Sorties (7.30 hours)</u> Air tests.		
	29.8.42		<u>Specific Operations Order No. 65 - 66/c</u> to attack SAARBRUCKEN <u>Weather:</u> Light cloud with very good visibility. <u>8 Day Sorties (13.30 hours)</u> Air tests, local cross country flights and flying practice.		
			<u>117th Operation SAARBRUCKEN</u> 4 Captains reached the primary area but fog obscured ground details although all but one A/C identified and saw built up area of town. Bomb bursts and explosions were seen in target area and a large fire already well alight was observed. Incendiaries were seen to light up. General results of the operation indicate that the attack was a good one.		
			<u>Commissions:</u> Three more of our promising N.C.O.'s have been accepted into the commissioned ranks. The new pilot officers are P/O P.Y. Craig, Obs., Pilot Officer G.W. Higgins, pilot, and P/O J.L.P. LePage, A/G. All three Canadian airmen have made valuable contributions to the success of the Squadron's operational efforts and this reward is more than justified and will prove a greater encouragement in continued success of the trio.		
			<u>Sports:</u> The softball team from 420 Squadron invaded the local diamond this afternoon to decide the championship of this area. Continuing their march to victory our team swamped the opposition 24-12 and left no doubt to the large crowd that witnessed the game that the classy 405 team was well qualified to represent the area in the coming finals.		
			After the last put out the Squadron Commander, W/C L.G. Fraser, took particular pride in presenting the members of the team with suitably engraved medals symbolising the area championships. Those who proudly received the medals were AC Kent, H. 1st base; LAC Dean, R.G. 2nd base; LAC Smith, R.L. 3rd base; LAC Carnochan, W.N. shortstop; Sgt. Crumston, T.K. right field; AC. Bahantinski, J. left field; LAC Stelmachowich, J. centre field (pitcher), LAC MacDonald, J.K. catcher; Upl. Conybeare, A.L. pitcher. Substitutes: AC. Patchell, AC. Clarke, G.P., and Cpl. Hutebohn, A.J.		
			Congratulations to the boys and every good wish in their efforts to bring further laurels to our Squadron.		
	30.8.42		<u>Weather:</u> clear and fair. Visibility very good. <u>No sorties</u>		
	31.8.42		<u>Weather:</u> Mainly cloudy but with good visibility. <u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:</u> Mostly fair but with light rain in afternoon. Visibility mod. to good.		

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

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

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 AUGUST, 1942.</u>							
R.C.A.F.			OFFICERS	Air Crew	1st 17	31st 20	
				Ground Crew	3	3	
R.C.A.F.			AIRMAN	Air Crew	70	51	
				Ground Crew	348	357	
R.A.F.			OFFICERS	Air Crew	7	8	
				Grd. Crew	1	NIL	
R.A.F.			AIRMAN	Air Crew	67	44	
				Grd. Crew	195	170	
R.A.A.F.			OFFICERS	Air Crew	NIL	NIL	
			AIRMAN	Air Crew	9	4	
R.N.Z.A.F.			OFFICERS	Air Crew	1	NIL	
			AIRMAN	Air Crew	1	1	

*H. H. Jones* P/L  
Adjutant, No. 405 Squadron, R.C.A.F.  
TOPCLIFFE, YORKSHIRE.

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# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

APPENDIX

R.A.F. FORM 541.

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT

By **405 SQUADRON, R.C.A.F. TOPCLIFFE, YORKSHIRE.**

**SECRET**

PAGE No. \_\_\_\_\_

(7472) Wt. 2422/1450. 180m. 8/40. P.I. 51-7751.

FOR THE MONTH OF **AUGUST**, 19**42**

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				UP	DOWN		
2/8/42	HALIFAX II	W/C Frazier, P/L Forbes, Sgt. King, P/S Lyndon, Sgts. Cunningham, Gower, McDonald.  S/L Thiele, P/L Baldwin, Sgt Craft P/O Gardiner, Sgt. Garrity, P/S Taylor P/S Witherick.		1607	2100	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>112th OPERATION (DAYLIGHT)</b></p> <p><b>BOMBING ATTACK ON HAMBURG - 2 A/C Detailed.</b></p> <p>Bombload: 7 x 1000lb. H.E.</p> <p>No attack made. Both Captains returned to base bringing their bombs back since there was no possibility of cloud cover over the target.</p> <p>"J" (W/C Frazier) No cloud cover from 0530H. A/C spent 90 mins up and down the coast reaching 5,300H. x 0749 H before deciding to turn back. Sent following message to Group at 1725 hrs "Low cloud send instructions" and at 1800hrs received answer: "Dedication cloud improves but use discretion". Since there was little hope of cloud cover aircraft returned bringing bombs back.</p> <p>"M" (S/L Thiele) Last fix possible 1707 hours at 0511 East by 5310 H. Aircraft returned to base as instructed owing to lack of cloud cover. Bombs brought back.</p>	
4/5/42	"E"	P/S Higgins, Sgts Johnston, McQueen, Boucher, Craddock, Barley, Morrison, Sgt Daggett, 2nd. Pilot		0028	0532	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>113th OPERATION. 5 A/C Detailed.</b></p> <p><b>BOMBING ATTACK ON ESSEN.</b></p> <p>Bombload: 3x 1000; 12x H.E.C. (8x 30) All carried 3x GA2 Mikols and cameras.</p> <p>Four Captains claimed to have attacked targets on E.E. but no definite results seen owing to 10/10 cloud. Some flashes were seen reflected on cloud over target area either bomb bursts or heavy gunfire.</p> <p>"E" (P/S Higgins) Bombed target area on E.T.A. in 10/10 cloud from 20000 ft. at 0302 hrs. Hit led on Port side by heavy flak. Port inner engine hit and had to return to base on three engines. Hits all over A/C. At 0335 hrs. about 40 mls. West of ESSEN 12000 ft. on return journey sighted two E/A on port beam 800 yds distant. Two E/A followed our A/C for 20 minutes. One fired a short burst well below our A/C. Both E/A were shaken off by evasive action without any further damage.</p>	
		P/S Elmer, Sgts. Munsy, Rankin, P/O Gardiner, Sgt. McGuire. P/S Witherick Sgt Mitchell, Sgt McKenzie. 2nd Pilot		0029	0544		
		Sgt Pudney, P/O Mason, Sgts Buff, Johnston, Ryan, Leachner, Alexander Sgt Morrison, 2nd. Pilot.		0030	0544		
		Sgt. Ferrier, Sgt Duncan, P/O Ayles, Sgt Blair, P/O Fillingham Sgts Sipple Wagner, Decher.		0034	0624		

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