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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 018

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2340, 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., TOPCLIFFE, YORKSHIRE

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
TOPCLIFFE	1st. SEPTEMBER '42		<p><u>4 Day Sorties (4.05 hours) Air Tests and Local Flying Practice.</u></p> <p><u>Topcliffe Operations Order No. 66. Seven A/C to Attack SAARBUCKEN.</u></p> <p><u>118th. OPERATION - SAARBUCKEN</u></p> <p>Five Captains reached the target in good visibility and dumped their loads in the area. All crews were very enthusiastic at the results of the attack which appeared to be highly concentrated on the town. Very many fires were seen in the built up area both North and South of the River. No one found any difficulty in identifying target with the aid of marker and P.P.F. Incendiaries were seen at and near aiming points. One A/C was forced back with engine u/s while one did not take off with technical failures.</p> <p>"D" (Sgt McKenzie) This Captain tried to nurse his A/C back with engine trouble but was not able to make it. His port outer engine caught fire at 2344 hours just over English coast and despite every effort the engine could not be feathered and a terrible vibration set in. Captain ordered his crew to bail out when the A/C became unmanageable and P/O Mason and Sgts Kauharik and Alexander bailed out and were picked up slightly injured although P/O Mason the Navigator had to swim almost two hours to shore. The A/C crashed at Chapel St Leonards at 2358 hours and burnt out. Three members of the crew 313 Sgt. McKenzie, N.A. Captain; 536 Sgt. Eagles, G.S. Air Gunner; 726 Sgt. Stone, H. Air Gunner; were killed. 329 Sgt. Dawdy, L.D. is Missing.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Mainly cloudy. Fog during night but visibility improving to 5-10 miles during day.</p>	
	2nd. SEPTEMBER '42		<p><u>1 Day Sortie (1.50 hours) Air Test.</u></p> <p><u>119th. OPERATION KARLSRUHE.</u></p> <p>Three of the Captains reached and attacked primary target. Extensive fires were left burning in town area and spreading. Town a mass of flames which could be seen about 100 miles after leaving. Heavier opposition than anticipated in target area. Two A/C were bogged down and did not go. One of our A/C is MISSING. Nothing heard from it after take off.</p> <p><u>CREW:</u> 380 P/O Hillier, L.D. Captain and Commander of our Squadron's "B" Flight. 501 Sgt Roberts, G.W. 2nd. Pilot; 516 Sgt. McGrath, R.A. Navigator; 755 Sgt. Ewing, A.C. Bombadier; 450 Sgt. Mitchell, K.E.M. WOP/AG.; 953 Sgt. Cutting, E.J. Air Gunner; 982 Sgt. Cowles, E. Air Gunner; 025 Sgt. Blair, A.D. Flight Engineer.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Mainly fair with slight rain during forenoon and early afternoon. Fair later with good visibility.</p>	



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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. THREE

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
TOPCLIFFE	7TH SEPTEMBER '42		<p>5 Day Sorties (17.25 hours) Fighter Affiliation and local flying practice.</p> <p><u>121ST OPERATION - DUISBURG</u></p> <p>Six Captains reached and bombed primary area. Target definitely identified by line of river, docks, and marker flares. Results to have been fairly satisfactory with at least one very large fire in the centre of the town, the smoke from which rose to about 10,000 feet. However, a considerable number of bombs were observed, dropping on the West side of the RHINE. Two a/c were forced to return with engine trouble while one a/c was cancelled.</p> <p><u>POST OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS:</u> R.C.A.F. Headquarters sent Corporal Buchanan to this Squadron to investigate alleged pilfering parcels in our Squadron Post Office. Following the investigation, the Post Office Staff, L.A.C.'s MacDonald and Stelmachowich were taken into custody and remanded by the Squadron Commander pending the disposal of their case in a Court Martial. In view of the circumstances in connection with this case it has been decided to re-organise our Postal System and establish new rules and regulations covering the handling of mail and of parcels especially. These rules will be strongly enforced in the future to ensure no further re-occurrence of the above nature. A new staff has been detailed to take over the responsibility and these men are directly responsible for the Squadron mail and under the supervision of the Squadron Adjutant. All other persons are forbidden to go into the office except when specially authorized.</p> <p>Special attention will be given to parcels of missing personnel. It has been decided to send them over to the Squadron Padre who will dispose of them after checking that there are no articles of personal value in them. A record of all such parcels will be kept for reference. All other parcels will be signed for before they will be handed out to the recipients.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Mainly cloudy, slight rain around noon with moderate to good visibility.</p>	
	8TH SEPTEMBER '42		<p>7 Day Sorties (8.20 hours) Air tests, air firing and local flying practice.</p> <p><u>FUNERAL:</u> Sergeant Norman MacKensie of Winnipeg who was killed along with Sergeant Stone and Sergeant Eagles on September 1/2nd was laid to rest in Dishforth Cemetery beside his two comrades. It was impossible to send the body to STORNWAY where an Aunt had requested it be sent. The town was too isolated and circumstances prevented sending the body there for burial.</p> <p><u>TOPCLIFFE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 70</u> 8 Aircraft detailed to attack FRANKFURT.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Mainly overcast with moderate visibility.</p>	
	9TH SEPTEMBER '42		<p>Five Day Sorties (18.55 hours) Cross-country flights.</p>	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
TOPOLIFFE	Continued		<p align="center"><u>122ND OPERATION - FRANKFURT</u></p> <p>Six of the Captains successfully bombed the primary area. All a/c identified the target with earlier arrivals reporting P.F.P. scattered. There were three largish fires in the town which gradually increased giving later arrivals a good view of streets and buildings. Attack thought to be successful but concentration not very marked. One a/c jettisoned live with oxygen supply cut off while the remaining a/c was cancelled due to technical failures.</p> <p><u>AMERICAN VISIT:</u> A huge American Flying Fortress, B-17 E. of the Army Flying Corps landed here last night after operations. Squadron personnel took this opportunity to examine the giant four-motored fortress from close quarters and showed a keen interest in the much talked of plane. The American crew were later on hand to explain its outstanding features to Officers and other Aircrew personnel before taking off for their operational base.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Mainly fair apart from showers around noon. Visibility excellent.</p>		
	<u>10TH SEPTEMBER '42</u>		<p><u>Two Day Sorties (4.10 hours)</u> Landings, three engine flying and local flying practice.</p> <p><u>CHANGE IN COMMAND:</u> "B" Flight</p> <p>F/O, Acting F/L Stone R.G., CAN J15057, Pilot, assumed Command of the Squadron's "B" Flight vice F/O, Acting F/L Hillier L.D., CAN J6300, posted missing after operations. F/L Stone had been Wirtz-peg and though only a new-comer, is already a very popular member of the Squadron.</p> <p><u>TOPOLIFFE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 71</u> 10 A/C Detailed to Attack DUSSELDORF.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with moderate visibility.</p>		
	<u>11TH SEPTEMBER '42</u>		<p><u>Three Day Sorties (1.20) hours.</u> Instrument tests and local flying practice.</p> <p align="center"><u>123RD OPERATION - DUSSELDORF</u></p> <p>Seven Captains reached target area of primary and bombed with success. Despite haze and smoke some a/c caught glimpses of RHINE and docks. Flares and fires developing were seen a long way from target and some flares were seen West of river, thought to be over dummies. Attack would appear to be most successful and highly concentrated effort. Sgts Sergeant Webb, Captain was hit by black over target. All motors stopped and a/c began losing height. At 10,000 feet, Captain ordered crew to bale out and R/C, Sergeant Scotten J., and W/O, Sergeant French V.R., baled out.</p> <p>Captain regained control and nursed his a/c back to base where he attempted a landing. On touching down the a/c was unable to stop and after swinging off runway crashed into Wellington "B" 867" of 419 Squadron. CAN R93310 Sgt. Brennan A.C., W/O/W, was instantly killed, while remainder of crew escaped with minor injuries.</p> <p><u>WEATHER:</u> Cloudy with very good visibility.</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FIVE.

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
TOPCLIFFE	12th SEPTEMBER '42		<p>1 Day Sortie (.45 hours) Air Test.</p> <p>CASUALTIES A telegram received from International Red Cross Committee quoting BERLIN information states that 41245 P/L D.I. Bain; 118660 P/O R.H. Vaughan; 1253408 Sgt Morgan, T.G.; and 775 Sgt Hill, W.A. were killed on August 10th, 1942. These airmen were previously reported missing on Operations over OSNABRUCK on August 10/19th, 1942.</p> <p>WEATHER: cloudy with excellent visibility.</p>	
	13th SEPTEMBER '42		<p>1 Day Sortie (6.30 hrs.) Air Test.</p> <p>HONOURS AND AWARDS</p> <p>His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to A/S/L William Herbert Swetman, Can J.15176 Pilot; and A/S/L William Henry Baldwin thus adding further Laurels to the Squadron. These two Officers were decorated along with a former member of the Squadron P/O P.H. Leith J15201 since posted to 2d C.T.U. on September 2nd, 1942. Since his arrival to this Squadron on August 6th, 1941 S/L Swetman has completed 32 Sorties for a total of 180 hours while P/L Baldwin the Observer who arrived on the 5th. September, 1941 has a total of 34 Sorties aggregating 172 hours.</p> <p>TOPCLIFFE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 72 10 A/C Detailed to Attack BREMEN.</p> <p>WEATHER: Cloudy all day with good visibility.</p>	
	14th SEPTEMBER '42		<p>4 Day Sorties (4.05 hrs.) Air Tests.</p> <p>124th. OPERATION - BREMEN</p> <p>All but one A/C of the nine that took off reached and bombed primary target with success. Smoke and haze impaired visibility to a great extent and only feature noticed were large fires burning in what was presumed to be BREMEN. Bombs were aimed to fall near area but no results were seen. A/C "C" returned early with engine trouble and "H" was cancelled. A/C "S" (P/S Daggett) had an exciting time and a few anxious moments when he encountered a formation of 3-5 Enemy A/C with S/Ls in the nose.</p> <p>A converging attack was made one from dead astern one from port beam and one from stbd. quarter. R/C gave abort at one astern and its light went out and it went into a steep dive with a glow in its fuselage. A/U/G gave burst at one approaching from stbd. and its light went out and it disappeared. Remaining A/G was probably satisfied that our crew was more than able to look after itself since it made off towards Dutch coast. Bullets from S/A came dangerously close to our A/C but evasive action involving loss of height from 14000 ft to 8000ft. avoided them all.</p> <p>CASUALTIES A telegram from casualty branch Ottawa reports that according to BERLIN INFORMATION RECEIVED Sgt Alcazar, W.E. R56251 was killed June 30th, 1942. He was previously reported missing on Operations over BREMEN on the night of JUNE 30th July 1st, 1942.</p>	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
TOPCLIFFE	14th SEPTEMBER	142	(CONTINUED) FUNERAL The funeral of Sgt Alfred Brennan, took place from this aerodrome at 1500 hours this afternoon. The impressive service was conducted by father B. Ellison and his body was interred in DESENCHEN cemetery a little country churchyard where many of his comrades rest. He was accorded xx full military honours. The Union Jack draped coffin was escorted by a body of men representing the various sections of the Squadron along with the firing party. The Station and Squadron Commanders and the Squadron Adjutant attended and paid their final tribute to this fallen hero. Breaths were sent by the Station and by the Squadron. As the body slowly descended to its final resting place the mournful notes of the "LAST POST" echoed throught the countryside. TOPCLIFFE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 73. Five A/C Detailed to attack WILHEMSHAVEN. WEATHER: Fog early, then cloudy to fair. Poor to mod. visibility.		
	15th SEPTEMBER	142	4 Day Sorties (9.35 hours) Air Tests. 125th. OPERATION - WILHEMSHAVEN Thick haze prevented observation of ground detail to any extent. The four A/C which took off were attracted to target area by flares which appeared rather scattered. Dock area was identified by 3 A/C and some fire seen in town. One very large explosion in town reported. Five really large fires burning heavily with several smaller ones but no particular concentration could be ascertained. An apparently successful attack. One A/C was cancelled. CANADIAN Y.M.C.A. REPRESENTATIVE "Ken" McAdam of Ottawa Canada has been attached to this Squadron to carry out the duties of Supervisor with the Squadron and also among the Squadrons within a limited distance of this Station. Ken is an all round athlete and a very popular friend wherever he finds himself. He has already started organizing sport fixtures and shows etc. and will make many valuable contributions toward the welfare and wellbeing of the Canadian personnel on the Squadron. WEATHER: Mainly cloudy with fair visibility.		
	16th SEPTEMBER	142	2 Day Sorties (3.25 hours) Air Tests. TRANSFER TO U.S.A. FORCE. P/L I. "Doc" Campbell Can. O6612 has been transferred to the American Air Corps. Since his arrival to the Squadron on April 17th 1942 the Doc has made many friends and has won the confidence of all personnel who had found themselves obliged to be on "SICK PARADE". Our Medical Officer will be difficult to replace but every success is extended to him in his new "OUTFIT". TOPCLIFFE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 74. Ten A/C to Attack ESSEN . WEATHER: Fair to cloudy with good visibility.		
	17th SEPTEMBER	142	2 Day Sorties (4.40 hours) Air Tests. 126th. OPERATION - ESSEN Seven of the ten Captains which took off reached the target area and carried out their attacks. There is no conclusive evidence that Essen sustained the attack. P/L Sheckley who was detailed to make a special report on the raid is of the opinion that main attack was W. of ESSEN and N. of MULHEIM. Fires and flak positions were bombed. Defence was very intense all along route. Two A/C were forced back with engine and mechanical trouble. One of our A/C is MISSING. Nothing heard from it after take off. CREW: 114 Sgt Murray, W.F. Captain; 472 Sgt Paten, C.A. Navigator; 623 Sgt Grant, W.S. Bombadier; 931 P/O Krepf, L.E. WOP/AG; 325 Sgt St Lewis, J.C. A/G; 804 Sgt Kitson, C.A. A/G 295 Sgt Barnicoat R.E. Flight Engineer. TOPCLIFFE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 75. NICKELLING PARIS AREA. TWO A/C DETAILED WEATHER: Fair to cloudy. Visibility good.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. SEVEN

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
TOPOLIFFE	18th SEPTEMBER/42		<p>5 Day Sorties (6.10 hours) Air Tests, and Local Flying Practice.</p> <p>127th OPERATION - NICKELINE PARIS AREA.</p> <p>The two Captains dropped 130 packets F.125 Nickels in LILLE - LENS - TUROING - BESIERE - PARIS Area. Both A/C had uneventful trips.</p> <p>WEATHER: Cloudy with slight rain in the evening. Visibility deteriorating somewhat during the evening.</p>	
	19th SEPTEMBER/42		<p>3 Day Sorties (5.05 hours) Air Tests and Local Flying Practice.</p> <p>CASUALTIES: Telegram received from Air Ministry from International Red Cross Committee reporting HERWIN Information states that 380 F/L Hillier, L.D. Captain; 501 Sgt Roberts, G.W. 2nd. pilot 516 Sgt McDermott, B.A. Navigator; 755 Sgt Ewing, A.C. Bombadier; 460 Sgt Mitchell, K.M.M. W/O; 953 Sgt Outing, L.D. A/C; 982 Sgt Coules, E. A/C; 025 Sgt Blair, A.D. P/Eng. are dead killed on September 1/2 rd. This crew was previously reported missing on Operations over KARLSRUHE same date.</p> <p>The Squadron had entertained hopes that they had all baled out safely and taken prisoners of war and this notification of death came as a severe shock to us all. F/L Hillier was a comparatively new member of the Squadron and had been given Command of our "B" flight. A brilliant career was prophesied for this captain and the Squadron has sustained a great loss in this Officer and his crew.</p> <p>TOPOLIFFE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 76. 10 A/C to Attack SAARBRUCKEN</p> <p>WEATHER: Cloudy. Visibility soon becoming good for most of day.</p>	
	20th SEPTEMBER/42		<p>NO Sorties</p> <p>128th OPERATION - SAARBRUCKEN</p> <p>Seven of the nine Captains which took off reached reached and carried out their attacks on the Primary. Flares reported to be very scattered and A/C picked up River on E.T.A. and followed it to built up area where several fires were seen burning and bombs dropped near. It is believed that oil tanks were hit since explosions with black smoke and red fire followed bombing. Remaining A/C were forced back with engine trouble.</p> <p>WEATHER: Cloudy with drizzle and rain continuous at times. Visibility very poor most of day improving to good late at night.</p>	
	21st SEPTEMBER/42		<p>1 Day Sortie</p> <p>WEATHER: Cloudy with rain in afternoon and fog at night. Visibility poor all day.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. References to Appendices
TOPOLITZE	22nd SEPTEMBER '42		<p>1 Day Sortie (0.35 hours) Air Test</p> <p>CASUALTIES Telegram received from International Red Cross Committee quoting BERLIN information states that 508805 Sgt Bradbrooke L.H. Captain dead killed June 30th 1942. He was previously reported Missing on Operations over BREMEN same date.</p> <p>WEATHER: Cloudy with occasional showers during afternoon. Fog clearing with good visibility rest of day.</p>	
	23rd SEPTEMBER '42		<p>5 Day Sorties X (5.40 hours) Air Tests.</p> <p>CASUALTIES Telegram from International Red Cross Committee quoting BERLIN + information states Can. R61613 F/S Gibbons, E. 798560 Sgt Gover, H.P. 118607 P/O T.M. Calderwood are dead killed August 10th 1942. These men were previously reported Missing on Operations over OSNABRUCK same date.</p> <p>TOPOLITZE OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 77. Eleven A/C Detailed to Attack FLENSBURG.</p> <p>WEATHER: Cloudy with occasional, thundery showers. Visibility falling to mist after dark.</p>	
	24th SEPTEMBER '42		<p>2 Day Sorties 94.35 hours Sea search Flights. 1 Night Sortie (2.35 hours) Navigational and searchlight co-operation flight.</p> <p>120TH OPERATION - FLENSBURG</p> <p>Of the ten a/c which took off five captains reached the target and carried out their attacks. Three of them clearly identified the aiming point and report direct hits in the vicinity. There was a large fire in the ship yard with flames and smoke rising 300 ft. Two other a/c attacked small town in vicinity of target area while neither attacked flak and searchlight concentrations. Of the remaining a/c one was forced to jettison and one is missing. Nothing was heard of this aircraft after take off.</p> <p>Crew - 983 Sgt Webb, W.H. Captain; 470 Sgt Gervais, S.D. Nav; 416 Sgt Kaufman, J. Sgt; 127 Sgt Shelton, W. WOP/AG; 103 Sgt Burke, L.K. A/S; 418 Sgt Ott, J. A/C; 139 Sgt Rankin, S.P. F/2P.</p> <p>Visits and Inspections: Our Squadron Commander, W/C L.G. Pender, welcomed the arrival of Air Shuldham Redfern, Secretary to the Governor in General of Burma, and Wing Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force who completed a tour of inspection of the station and squadron this afternoon. The distinguished visitors displayed keen interest in the equipment and spent some time in informal chats with officers and men of the Squadron. On conclusion of their visit they were very high in their praise for the high standard of morale, keenness and efficiency apparent and extended the squadron their best wishes in the excellent contribution our men were making for the British Commonwealth of Nations.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with slight showers in the afternoon with poor visibility all day.</p>	
	25th SEPTEMBER '42		<p>One day sortie (2.45 hours) Local cross country flight.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with rain at night. Visibility generally poor but good late at night.</p>	
	26th SEPTEMBER '42		<p>7 Day Sorties (10.45 hours) Air and instrument tests.</p> <p>Casualty: Information from International Red Cross Committee states that body of 114280410 Sgt J.D. Creeds, found second of Aug. at STEINERCHEN near Stade and buried in Yarwood Cemetery Plot E.34 Row 1, Grave 7. This airman was previously reported missing on operations over Bremen on July 26th 1942.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with occasional showers; fine in late evening.</p>	

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Page No. _____

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 107 Squadron RCAF

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Topcliffe	27 JULY 1942	11:00 AM	<p><u>6 Day Sorties (3.45 hours) Air Tests</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>150TH OPERATION - Plansbourg</u></p> <p>6 a/o detailed Five of the Captains took off but were all recalled by Group Headquarters about 2300 hours. Bombs were jettisoned and all returned to base. Unsuccessful trip. Weather: Fair to fine with fog clearing during morning but forming again after dark.</p>	
	28 JULY 1942		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p>Qualities: Telegram from International Red Cross Committee quoting German information reports: 1322139 Sgt Smith, W.; CAN. 270241 S/Sgt Potter, J.V.; 775307 Sgt Knox, J.A.; 1058345 Sgt Wood, P.; CAN. 1105300 Sgt Prentiss; CAN. 279045 Sgt Withers, T.A. were all killed 27th July 1942 while on operations over Duisburg. Weather: Fog slowly clearing by late evening.</p>	
	29 JULY 1942		<p><u>3 Day Sorties (3.30 hours) Air tests.</u></p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain. Visibility poor.</p>	
	30 JULY 1942		<p><u>1 Day Sortie (3.15 hours) Local cross country flight.</u></p> <p>Weather: Fair to cloudy. Visibility bad till midday then improving to good.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
			<p>MONTHLY SUMMARY OF NO. LOSS SQUADRON, R.C.A.F. AS AT 1st and 30th SEPTEMBER 1944.</p>		
R.C.A.F.			<p>COMBATS { Air Crew 20 20 Ground Crew 3 3</p>		
R.C.A.F.			<p>ATTACK { Air Crew 51 70 Ground Crew 357 357</p>		
R.C.A.F.			<p>OFFICES { Air Crew 0 7 Ground Crew Nil Nil</p>		
R.C.A.F.			<p>ACCIDENT { Air Crew 0 0 Ground Crew 170 170</p>		
R.A.A.F.			<p>OFFICERS { Air Crew Nil Nil ACCIDENT { Air Crew 4 3</p>		
R.N.Z.A.F.			<p>OFFICERS { Air Crew Nil Nil ACCIDENT { Air Crew 1 1</p>		
			<p><i>A. Francis</i> (Mr. Francis) Flight Lieutenant, For Officer Commanding, No. 106 Squadron, R.C.A.F.</p>		

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