

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. para. 2349, 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
Topoliffe	1.18.42		<p><u>Two Day Sorties - (6.10 hours) Air Tests.</u> <u>Topoliffe Operations Order No. 72 - 8 a/c to attack FLENSBURG</u></p> <p><u>111ST OPERATION - FLENSBURG</u> 8 Captains took off on what proved to be a very costly attack for this Squadron. Only three of our a/c claim to have bombed the primary area but intense light flash and searchlight gasse prevented any definite results of attack being assessed. A couple of small fires could be seen evidently in the town and also one to the northeast. One a/c attacked Syt aerodrome and observed big red flash. Another a/c was forced to jettison bombs safe and incendiaries live. The remaining three a/c are missing, nothing have been heard of them since takeoff. The loss of these three a/c and 25 members of the Squadron was a severe blow to us. They were experienced crews and have shared the success of our attacks and were valuable in the continued striking power of the unit. The captains that took part in the attack were of the opinion that this target is now a most dangerous target from a low level. The missing crews were: # 733 Sgt Duncan, W.H. Captain; 138 P/O Moham, J.W. 2nd Pilot; 753 Sgt Fairless, A. Navigator; 826 Sgt Lang, A.A. Bombadier; 449 Sgt Sheward, L.S. W/O; 356 Sgt Kucheryk, P. A/G; 342 Sgt Cunningham, F.L. A/G; 108 Sgt Focock, J.J. Engineer. # 777 P/O Olsen, E.C. Captain; 945 Sgt Kitchan, J. Navigator; 449 Sgt Vinsberg, A.J. Bombadier; 952 Sgt Carter, A. W/O; 332 Sgt MoDron, W.G. A/G; 371 Sgt Greene, A. A/G; 564 Sgt Copeland, B.B. Engineer. # 968 Sgt Campbell, J.T. Captain; 551 Sgt Carpenter, C. 2nd Pilot; 775 P/O Ayles, R.J. Navigator; 213 Sgt Burke, J.R.P. Bombadier; 845 Sgt Peel, S. W/O; 698 P/O LaPage, J.L.P. A/G; 195 Sgt Morgan, D.A.B. A/G; 874 Sgt Chance, A. Engineer <u>Topoliffe Operations Order No. 88 - 10 a/c to attack KREFELD</u> Weather: Cloudy becoming fair, fog in the morning and slight rain with poor visibility becoming good in afternoon. No Sorties</p>	
	2.10.42		<p><u>132ND OPERATION - KREFELD</u> 7 of the ten captains reached and bombed the target area in poor visibility. Flares were scattered over a wide area and the attack does not appear to have been very concentrated. Heavy bombs were seen bursting and fires were spreading. One a/c had compass w/a and returned early after jettisoning bombs and a/c # 8 P/L Shockley overshot target and bombed Disseldorf. A/C # 11 is missing. Nothing heard after takeoff. Crew - 977 W/O Murphy, E. Captain; 294 Sgt Shannon, G.H. Navigator; 674 Sgt Ben-Hertz, M. Bombadier; 362 Sgt Heschka, S. W/O; 976 Sgt Newbert, G.J. A/G; 012 Sgt Williams, L.H. A/G; 449 Sgt Daggett, Engineer. Weather: Cloudy, visibility moderate, misty about dawn becoming good. <u>One day Sortie - (2.15 hours) Local flying practice.</u> Weather: Cloudy, becoming fine, visibility good to moderate. No Sorties</p>	
	5.10.42		<p><u>One day Sortie - (2.15 hours) Local flying practice.</u></p>	
	4.10.42		<p><u>One day Sortie - (2.15 hours) Local flying practice.</u></p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Topcliffe	8.10.42		<p>Honours and Awards - His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to the Squadron Commander, Wing Commander L.G. Fraser, CAN.01285, Pilot, P/O G.W. Palmer CAN.015818 Pilot and P/L J.A. MacLean, CAN.01107 Pilot. The latter missing on operations over Essen June 8-9 1942 and later reported safe. The Squadron was particularly pleased to hear of the King's decoration and were all proud and pleased to extend their heartiest congratulations. Since his arrival at this Squadron 12th of April 1942 Ian Fraser was readily recognised as a leader and his vast flying knowledge finally established him as an expert pilot. He has carried out 22 sorties over enemy territory, most of them over the largest and most difficult targets. In these attacks he has always displayed remarkable fortitude and his daring and tenacity have often extricated his crew from imminent danger, have been an inspiration to his men. Charlie Palmer came to us on the 5th of June 1942 and has carried out 21 trips aggregating 128 hours. His devotion to service has been outstanding and he has won the reputation of always pressing home his attacks regardless of the opposition. P/L MacLean was with the Squadron but a very short while and was reported missing on operations from this Squadron over Essen on the night 8-9 June 1942. He was subsequently reported safe in this country.</p> <p>Weather: Fine becoming cloudy with fog in morning. Visibility moderate, becoming poor then improving to mod.</p>	
	5.10.42		<p>Three day Sorties (2.30 hours) Air tests and local flying practice.</p> <p>Topcliffe Operations Order No. 81 - 10 a/c to attack AACHEN</p>	
	6.10.42		<p>Weather: Cloudy with slight rain in morning, becoming fair. Vis. mod. becoming good.</p> <p>One Day Sortie - (1 hour) Instrument and height tests.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">133RD OPERATION - AACHEN</p> <p>Of the 9a/c which took off, six reached and bombed target area with success. Flares appeared to be scattered but most aircraft were able to identify built up area by their lights. A large fire was reported to be burning in the centre of the town with many other scattered fires in the outskirts. Aircraft "Q" captained by Sgt Hughes crashed near West Mallion on the way back after attacking target. The a/c was burnt out and the cause of the accident was unknown, but probably due to mistake in fuel tank selection. 2 members of the crew, Sgt Reilly, R.M. Bombardier, and 808 P/O O'Neill, F.R. A/C, baled out and landed safely. Remaining members: 51 Sgt Hudson, II. Captain, 565 Sgt Gislason, N. Navigator; 259 P/O Erickson, R.S. WCE/AG; 972 Sgt Beha, J.F. A/G; 775 Sgt Park, J.E. Engineer; were killed.</p> <p>Topcliffe Operations Order No. 82 - 7 a/c to attack OSNABRUCK</p> <p>Weather: Fair to cloudy. Visibility good.</p> <p>No Sorties</p>	
	7.10.42		<p style="text-align: center;">134TH OPERATION OSNABRUCK</p> <p>The 7 captains left the base and five succeeded in carrying out quite successful trips. They were given excellent supports by the P.F.F. flares. Very large fires were seen burning from as far away as 80 miles. "H" was forced to jettison near target area when engine caught fire. Remaining a/c "O" is missing. Nothing was heard of it after takeoff. The crew consisted of 528 P/O Stewart, E.W. Captain; 774 Sgt Anderson, G.B. Navigator; 874 P/O Eggertsen, K. Bombardier; 269 Sgt Brown, T.E. WCE/AG; 045 Sgt McCluskey, F.A. A/G; 551 Sgt Moodie, A.M./E A/G; 982 Sgt Mackie, J.C. Engineer.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with fog in early morning. Vis. mod. but good in early morning.</p> <p>Six day Sorties (6.50 hours) Air tests, sea search flights.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy becoming fair, rain in morning, clearing in evening. Visibility moderate.</p>	
	8.10.42			

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Topoliffe	9.10.42		<p><u>One Day Sortie</u> (2.20 hours) Local cross country flight.</p> <p><u>Casualties</u>: Telegram received from International Red Cross quoting German information reports that the following lost their lives June 30th 1942 according to Sgt. Diamond captured. CAN. R93140 Sgt Dearlove, L.M.; 1335996 Sgt Foot, J.E.T.; P/L Liversidge 72261; CAN. R9235 Sgt. McPee, A.G.; Further news received from Mr. and Mrs. Diamond states that their son Sgt Diamond had suffered bad burns and fractures and inspected to remain in bed a month or two and would then be all right.</p> <p>These members were all reported missing after operations over Bremen June 29-30th 1942.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Fair becoming cloudy with continuous rain in afternoon and evening. Visibility good.</p>	
	10.10.42		<p><u>Four Day Sorties</u> (5.50 hours) Navigational flights.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Fair to cloudy, rain in very early morning, showery in evening.</p>	
	11.10.42		<p><u>Five Day Sorties</u> (8.20 hours) Local cross country flights.</p> <p><u>Casualties</u>: According to information received from International Red Cross Committee quoting German information, 798590 Sgt French, V.R. and R101980 Sgt Scotten, J. are both dead. They were both reported missing on operations over Dusseldorf 10-11.10.42 after being out over target when a/c was in difficulties.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Fair or fine, visibility good.</p>	
	12.10.42		<p><u>Four night Sorties</u> (8.25 hours) Searchlight co-operation and navigational flights.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Fair to cloudy with light rain in the evening and good vis.</p>	
	13.10.42		<p><u>Three Day Sorties</u> (1.35 hours) Air firing and local flying practice.</p> <p><u>Special's Operations Order No. 83</u> - 11 a/c detailed to attack Kiel</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Fair to cloudy with good vis.</p>	
	14.10.42		<p><u>No Sorties</u></p> <p><u>135TH OPERATION KIEL</u></p> <p>Of the 11 a/c which took off, 7 carried out successful attacks on the primary target despite the smoke screen which covered the target area. There seemed to be quite a concentration of good fires in the area. "U" jettisoned live three miles southeast of target after a/c had been hit by heavy flak and captain wounded. Three remaining a/c jettisoned bombs safe and incendiaries safe after experiencing technical failures.</p> <p>"U" captained by Sgt Christie, C.F. from Penstang Ontario was hit by heavy flak while approaching target and captain suffered wound in the neck. Despite the pain and his dazed condition the pilot stuck to his job and kept his a/c under control. Bombs were jettisoned and with the able assistance of Sgt Charles, T.S. of Montreal managed to land his kite back at the base safely.</p> <p><u>Casualty</u>: Information contained on German Casualty List 85 forwarded by International Red Cross reports R101 972304 P/S Philip, G. was killed June 30th 1942. He was identified by the name on leather strap. This airman was reported missing on operations over Bremen June 29th/30th 1942.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Cloudy with short period of rain in early morning.</p>	
	15.10.42		<p><u>One Day Sortie</u> (1.20 hours) Air tests.</p> <p><u>Casualties</u>: Telegram received from International Red Cross Committee quoting German information states CAN. R73101 Sgt Mansley, J.W. and CAN. R9585 P/O Street, D.A. killed July 27th 1942. Both these men were reported missing on operations over Hamburg 26/27 July 1942.</p> <p><u>Topoliffe Operations Order No. 84</u> - 10 a/c to attack Cologne.</p> <p><u>Weather</u>: Cloudy with good to moderate visibility.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Tepoliffe	16.10.42		<p><u>Five Day Sorties</u> (14.10. hours) Instrument, height and load tests.</p> <p><u>136TH OPERATION COLOGNE</u> 9 a/c took off but only 6 reached and attacked target area with success. Fires appeared to be well scattered in town. 6 or 7 blobs of fire in various parts of town might have been large incendiaries. 2 A/C were forced to jettison and return early, one with rear turret w/s and the other with intercom w/s. Remaining aircraft "W" is missing. Quite successful attack. "W" captained by Sgt Longley failed to return to base. Nothing was heard from them after takeoff. Members of the crew were 582 Sgt Longley, J.A. Captain; 116 P/S Lee, A.G. Navigator; 575 P/O Tomlinson, M.M. Bombadier, 904 Sgt Lowe, F. WOE/AG; 644 Sgt Arbuckle, I. A/C; 962 P/S Lewis, C. A/C; 762 Sgt Hiley, A. V.B. Engineers.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with slight rain in evening. Visibility good.</p>	
	17.10.42		<p><u>One Day Sortie</u> (2.15 hours) Air test and local flying practice. Assistant Adjutant: P/Lt W.S. Taylor, CAN. 2728 arrived at this Squadron today from No. 3 P.R.C. to assume the duties of Assistant Squadron Adjutant.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with slight drizzle in evening. Visibility good.</p>	
	18.10.42		<p><u>Two Day Sorties</u> (0.55 hours) Local flying practice and landings.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with good to moderate visibility.</p>	
	19.10.42		<p><u>Six Day Sorties</u> (12.40 hours) Local cross country flights.</p> <p>Weather: Mainly cloudy with moderate visibility at night but excellent during day.</p>	
	20.10.42		<p><u>No Sorties</u>.</p> <p>Caterpillar Club: The Irwin Chute Co. have taken great pleasure in extending memberships of the Caterpillar Club to P/S D'Neill and Sgt Keilley. These two N.C.O.'s were members of the crew "W" returning from operations over Aachen 6/7.10.42 when it got in difficulties and crashed. The two baled out and landed safely but unfortunately the remainder of the crew were killed.</p> <p>Weather: Mainly cloudy with rain from dusk to midnight. Vis. mod. with fog at dawn.</p>	
	21.10.42		<p><u>Four Day Sorties</u> (11.45 hours) Local cross country flights. Air tests and 3-engined flying.</p> <p>Commissions: According to telegram received from International Red Cross Committee quoting German information: 88494877 P/S Howman, M.A.C.; CAN. 279669 Sgt How M.C.; CAN. 55438 P/S Page, R.C.; 99050 Sgt Ashen, W.P. and P/O McKinnon are all dead. These men were reported missing after operations over Folsay 1.4.42.</p> <p>Information also received from International Red Cross Committee states that 114 Sgt Murray, W.P. captain; 472 Sgt Paton, C.A. Navigator; 623 Sgt Grant, W.S. Bombadier; 325 Sgt St. Louis, M.E. A/C; 804 Sgt. Kitson, G.A. A/C; 295 Sgt Barnicoat, R.E. P/Engineer have all been killed. These members were all reported missing after operations over Essen on September 17th 1942. P/O Kraft, L.E. WOE/AG remaining member of the crew has escaped from enemy hands and is back in this country.</p>	
	22.10.42		<p>Weather: Fine at first becoming fair with rain in late afternoon. Visibility good to good.</p> <p><u>Six Day Sorties</u> (3.35 hours) Air tests and local flying practice.</p> <p>Commissioning: Sgt. Campbell, R.J. R56254 of Palling New York; P/S Turnbull, R.L. R65168 of Digby Nova Scotia and P/S Morrison, J.R. R56633 of Winnipeg Manitoba have been commissioned and are now new Pilot Officers on the Squadron. The Squadron was very pleased to accept these new members into commissioned ranks and their rapid promotion is looked forward to.</p>	
	23.10.42		<p>Weather: Rain at first, cloudy later. Vis. very good after rain.</p> <p><u>Two Day Sorties</u> (1.10 hours) Landings and local flying practice.</p> <p><u>Tepoliffe Operations</u> Order No. 85 - 10 a/c to attack Genoa.</p> <p>Weather: Fair at first with light rain during afternoon and evening. Vis. very good.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Topoliffe	24.10.42		<p>No Sorties</p> <p>157TH I YESS OPERATION BOMBING ATTACK ON GENOA</p> <p>Nine of the ten aircraft attacked target area between 2132 and 2216 hours. Early arrivals found target clear but cloud bank covered target area by 2204 hours. Later arrivals report glow of fires at both aiming points. A/C "J" was unable to find target because of cloud and attacked town of Asti about 40 miles northwest of Genoa. There was little opposition and the brilliant lights at Geneva and Lausanne were of great assistance and had a decided cheering effect on the crew. All crews were impressed by the rugged and picturesque Alps. Very good trip though disappointing.</p> <p>Administrative Change: F/Lt. W.S. Taylor CAN. 2725 posted to 405 R.C.A.F. Squadron wef 17.10.42 assumed the temporary duties of Squadron Adjutant wef 24.10.42 vice F/Lt. H.F. Francis who left on fourteen days leave.</p> <p>Weather: Mainly fair with occasional showers. Visibility very good.</p>	
	25.10.42		<p>No Sorties</p> <p>Squadron Detachment: An operational detachment including 15 Halifax II aircraft with their respective seven crews, 175 ground personnel equipment and necessary motor transport vehicles of 405 RCAF Squadron proceeded to RAF Station Beamish Ham,shire on temporary detachment. 12 of the aircraft with crews and a 245 ground personnel proceeded this morning by air and by road convoy. The advance air party consisting of 12 Halifax A/Cs, 84 a/c personnel and 75 ground personnel under the command of W/O L.G. Fraser, Squadron Commander left RAF Station Topoliffe at 0830 hours this morning. The air lift of 3 Harrow Aircraft with 36 ground personnel under the command of W/O Barraclough left the station at 0900 hours. The road party made up of 36 ground personnel and all necessary a/c equipment for servicing departed from the Station at 2000 hours under the command of Sgt. Cranston.</p> <p>An additional detachment will be made to add to this first group and will consist of 3 Halifax II aircrafts with their respective 7-men crews which will leave at 0630 hours 26.10.42 and another 30 ground personnel will proceed by bus.</p> <p>Sgt Hartman is responsible for all ground equipment of 405 Squadron while all motor transport vehicles and equipment will be under the supervision of Cpl. Dean.</p> <p>The Squadron detachment will be under the command of HQ. Coastal Command as from October 24th 1942 for an indefinite period.</p> <p>Weather: Fair at first with rain during late afternoon and evening. Visibility good to moderate.</p> <p>Squadron detached. Sorties unknown.</p> <p>Weather: Mainly cloudy with light rain before dawn.</p>	
	26.10.42		<p>Squadron detached. Sorties unknown.</p>	
	27.10.42		<p>Squadron detached. Sorties unknown.</p> <p>Postings to the Squadron: Twenty WAAF personnel arrived at the Squadron today. They were made up of cooks, waitresses and motor transport drivers. These are the first in the Squadron and no doubt they will be warmly welcomed by the boys.</p> <p>Weather: Fair to cloudy becoming fine after dusk. Visibility moderate, poorer at times.</p> <p>Squadron detached. Sorties unknown.</p>	
	28.10.42		<p>Weather: Fog at first becoming cloudy. Vis. poor with fog till noon.</p>	

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Topcliffe	29.10.42		Squadron detached. Sorties unknown. Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain and drizzle. Vis. moderate.																																																																																																
	30.10.42		Squadron detached. Sorties unknown. Honours and Awards: His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award the DFM to Sgt. Christie, G.T. Pilot CAN 283457 and Sgt. Carlson, T.M. Navigator CAN 279113. While attacking KJAI on the 14th of October 1942 Sgt. Christie the captain was wounded in the neck. His devotion to duty and the resourcefulness of Sgt. Carlson were instrumental in landing the a/c back to base safely.																																																																																																
	31.10.42		Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility. Squadron detached. Sorties unknown. Weather: Mainly cloudy with light rain at first and moderate visibility.																																																																																																
<p>AIRCRAFT STRENGTH: The Squadron has NINETEEN (19) SERVICEABLE HALIFAX II AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL FLYING: (FOR THE PERIOD 1st to 31st OCTOBER, 1942)</p> <p>Day Operational Flying 154.45 hours</p> <p>Day Operational Training 70.20 hours</p> <p>Day Other Flying 99.55 hours</p> <p>Night Operational Flying 345.05 hours</p> <p>Night Operational Training 8.25 hours</p> <p>Night Other Flying NIL hours</p> <p>PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF NO. 405 SQUADRON, R.C.A.F. AS AT 1st and 31st OCTOBER, 1942.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">R.C.A.F.</th> <th rowspan="2">OFFICERS</th> <th rowspan="2">Air Crew</th> <th colspan="2">1st</th> <th colspan="2">31st</th> </tr> <tr> <th>...</th> <th>...</th> <th>...</th> <th>...</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>28</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F.</td> <td>Airmen</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>78</td> <td>107</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>364</td> <td>368</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td> <td>Airmen</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>46</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>161</td> <td>172</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.A.F.</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Airmen</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.N.Z.A.F.</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Airmen</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					R.C.A.F.	OFFICERS	Air Crew	1st		31st					28	30					Ground Crew	5	5			R.C.A.F.	Airmen	Air Crew	78	107					Ground Crew	364	368			R.A.F.	Officers	Air Crew	7	8					Ground Crew	NIL	NIL			R.A.F.	Airmen	Air Crew	46	31					Ground Crew	161	172			R.A.A.F.	Officers	Air Crew	NIL	NIL				Airmen	Air Crew	5	3			R.N.Z.A.F.	Officers	Air Crew	NIL	1				Airmen	Air Crew	1	1		
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W.S. Taylor
 (W.S. Taylor) Flight Lieutenant,
 for Officer Commanding,
 No. 405 SQUADRON, R.C.A.F.