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R.A.F. Form 540

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.

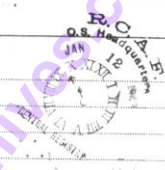
### OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. ONE

" N O V E M B E R "  
of (Unit or Formation) NO. 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON, BEAULIEU.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	1-11-42		<u>No Sorties.</u>	
			Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility at first, improving to moderate.	
	2-11-42		<u>No Sorties.</u>	
			<p>OPERATION NO. 143            Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 6 and Convoy Escort, Bay of Biscay.            Four a/c carried out their patrols in their respective described area without anything uneventful to report. One submarine was sighted but when our a/c had reached its position it had been submerged for 45 seconds and consequently no attack was carried out.            Prisoner of War: Telegram from International Red Cross, quoting German information, states that capture card received from 97717 Sgt L. Smith, now at DULAG LUFT, GERMANY, now classified "Prisoner of War". This airman bailed out over KREFELD, GERMANY, on October 2, 1942, and was reported "Missing".</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with rain during the late evening. Visibility moderate to poor.</p>	
	5-11-42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u></p> <p>OPERATION NO. 144            Anti-Submarine Patrol and Escort Duty No. 7, Bay of Biscay.            Three a/c began their patrol but one of the Captains was forced to return to base with engine trouble. Remaining Captains completed their patrols with nothing to report and landed at ST. EVAL, as instructed.</p> <p>Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain and poor visibility.</p>	Remain-
	4-11-42		<p><u>No Sorties.</u></p> <p>OPERATION NO. 145            Anti-Submarine Patrol and Escort Duty No. 8, Bay of Biscay.            Three a/c were detailed for patrol and Captains had uneventful trips except for "R", (Sgt Waddle), who sighted three enemy P.W.190's. One of these attacked our a/c but its Captain took evasive action and avoided any damage.</p> <p>Casualty: It has now become necessary to classify CAN-R62660 P/S L.J.O. Nadeau as "DEAD" for official purposes. This airman was reported "Missing" on operations over DUSKELDORF on August 1, 1942.</p> <p>Prisoners Of War: Telegram from International Red Cross quoting German information, reports that J9528 P/O F.W. Stewart, CAN-R106774 Sgt G.B. Anderson; J10894 P/O Eggertsen; CAN-R91269 Sgt R.E. Brown; 1371551 Sgt A.M.E. Meadis; are now "Prisoners-Of-War" and 1103065 Sgt F.A. McCluskey has been drowned and buried near KESTEN in HOLLAND. This crew had been reported "Missing" on operations over OSNABRUCK, October 6/7, 1942.</p> <p>Weather: Mist at first, becoming foggy with sky obscured after dawn.</p>	



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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. TWO References to Appendices
BHAULIEU	5-11-42		One Day Sertie (45 minutes). Air test and local flying practice. Weather: Thick fog with rain later in afternoon and evening.	
	6-11-42		No Serties.  OPERATION NO. 147 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 9. Bay of Biscay. Three a/c started their patrol but found nothing to report. W/U of "B" (P/S Stovel - CAPTAIN) tested his guns at 0938 hours and finding one of them w/s endeavoured to get it serviceable when it went off by itself, the bullets penetrating the fuselage and striking the R/G (CAN-89548, Sgt Gillespie R.G.), seriously wounding him. The firing controls were not touched during the accidental burst. The Captain of the a/c set course for St. Eval, sending signal asking for medical assistance. Sergeant Gillespie was transferred to an ambulance and taken to a hospital in a dangerous condition. Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility at first, improving to moderate.	
	7-11-42		No Serties.  OPERATION NO. 148 Anti-Shipping Patrol No. 10. Bay of Biscay. Four a/c carried out Routine Patrols and returned to base without anything unusual to report. Weather: Visibility moderate to good, although cloudy with thunder showers.	
	8-11-42		No Serties.  OPERATION NO. 149 (Daylight) Anti-Shipping Strike. La Gironde Harbour. Three a/c took off to attack shipping concentrated at the mouth of river GIRONDE. Two Captains "J" (W/C L.G. Fraser, DFC) and "P" (P/L Shockley) carried out their attacks on two ships about 7,000 tons anchored near the mouth of the river and also two D.B.'s and a submarine which was on the surface. There were no bursts observed and no definite result of the attack could be ascertained. There was some light flick from further was heard from him. Crew: Captain, CAN-890399 Sgt Waddle W.R.; Navigator, CAN-867738 Sgt Waddell Harvey P.J.; A/G, CAN-8119121 Sgt Black W.C.; P/S, CAN-8107254 Sgt Walland A.C.	
	9-11-42		No Serties.  OPERATION NO. 150 Anti-Shipping Strike. La Gironde Harbour. Two a/c were detailed to attack shipping in river but both Captains experienced poor visibility and bad weather conditions and did not have much success although "P" (P/S Rea), sighted wake of ship North of Graves Point and bombed it. No explosions observed. The remaining Captain jettisoned bombs and returned to base. Four other a/c carried out uneventful Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 13. Weather: Fair to cloudy with poor visibility.	
	10-11-42		No Serties.  OPERATION NO. 152 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 14. Bay of Biscay. Four a/c carried out normal patrols without sighting anything of importance except "S" (P/L Palmer) who sighted two J.M.88's but avoided any engagement with successful results. Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain after dusk. Visibility moderate to poor.	

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. THREE

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 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON, BEAULIEU.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	11-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 15. OPERATION NO. 153 Bay of Biscay.                      Two a/c were detailed for patrol, one of which, "Z", P/O Colledge, surprised two H.V.'s who were re-fueling a submarine. An attack was carried out from 900 feet and all three Gunners raked the H.V.'s with tracer until one of them raised a white flag. One salvo of bombs fell short of the vessels and no damage could have resulted.                      Weather:- Cloudy with moderate to good visibility.</p>	
	12-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p>Casualty - A report received from hospital states that CAN-R95484 Sgt Gillespie H.C., who had been seriously wounded by an accidental machine-gun burst while on operations, has died from his wounds.                      Weather:- Thick fog with rain and low clouds.</p>	
	13-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol and Escort Duty No. 16. OPERATION NO. 154 Bay of Biscay.                      Three a/c were detailed and nothing uneventful was reported and vessel which was to be escorted was not sighted.                      Visit of friendly aircraft:- A Squadron of American Army Air Corps aircraft landed here (Topcliffe) this morning after a very stormy Atlantic crossing which took them around by Iceland before reaching this country. The Squadron was composed of 13 Bostons and its Flag-Ship a Mitchell aircraft. The arrival of these American machines caused considerable interest on the Squadron and the various sections were out making a thorough examination of these fast medium bombers. The crews have been billeted on the Station and it is expected that the Squadron will be with us for a few days.                      Weather:- Fairly cloudy. Visibility moderate to good.</p>	
	14-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p>Weather:- Partly cloudy with moderate visibility until after dusk when fog set in.</p>	
	15-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 17. OPERATION NO. 155 Bay of Biscay.                      Two a/c were detailed, one of which was forced to return with engine trouble.                      Departure of American Aircraft:- The American Squadron which has been on the Station for a few days, left this morning for their advance base. Personnel of our Squadron turned out to watch a fine display of formation flying and low level attack tactics were executed by the highly trained American pilots. Unfortunately one of the Bostons experienced slight technical defects in its undercarriage and had to return to the</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Bouillon	15-11-42		Departure of American Aircraft (Cont'd) Station to effect repairs. Weather:- Cloudy with occasional thunder showers.	
	16-11-42		No Sorties.  OPERATION NO. 156 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 18 Bay of Biscay Three a/c carried out uneventful trips and had nothing unusual to report. E Weather:- Cloudy with continuous rain after dusk. Visibility, moderate.	
	17-11-42		No Sorties.  OPERATION NO. 157 Escort and Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 19 Bay of Biscay. Three a/c carried out uneventful patrols. CASUALTY:- Halifax II W1096, which was detailed to proceed on routine cross-country flight, crashed near NEWPORT, Essex., when M/U accidentally fired burst into Port Inner Engine, causing it to burst into flames. A/C went into spin and crashed. Captain, CAN-R101954 Sgt Deiding, A.J.; Navigator 122143 P/O Landa; CAN-R77962 Sgt Richards H.G. (W/E/AG); CAN-R1351A9 Sgt Cavanaugh E.J. (M/U), were killed. The Bombardier, CAN-R76196 Sgt Macdonald W.A., was able to bale out safely while the W/E CAN-R64901, Sgt Jackson H.F., was seriously injured and taken to ELY Hospital. Weather:- Fair to cloudy, visibility moderate to good.	
	18-11-42		No Sorties.  OPERATION NO. 158 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 20 Bay of Biscay. Three a/c carried out patrols and "C", P/O Atkinson sighted enemy ships of the "U" class and attacked from 2500 feet. The first attack overshoot by 100 to 200 yards and the second undershoot by half a length but one landed just under the bows. After this attack the M.V. lost speed and was apparently damaged but unfortunately extreme evasive action necessary prevented getting any good estimates of damage. Weather:- Fog at first, becoming partly cloudy with moderate to good visibility.	
19-11-42		No Sorties.  OPERATION NO. 159 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 21 Bay of Biscay. Three a/c completed patrols and only ships sighted were Spanish fishing vessels. Nothing further to report. CASUALTY:- Telegram received from International Red Cross, quoting German information, states that CAN-R 102544 Sgt Arbuckle L.; CAN-R92116 P/S Lee A.G.; CAN-R9575 P/O Tomlinson M.M.; CAN-R61762 Sgt Millet A.V.; CAN-R65904 Sgt Lewis F.; CAN-R96588 Sgt Langley J.A.; CAN-R85962 P/S G.M. Lewis, are "DEAD", killed on the 15th October, 1942. This crew was reported "Missing" after operations over COLOGNE 15/16 October, 1942. HONOURS AND AWARDS:- Two more members of the Squadron have brought further honours to the Squadron with the announcement that CAN-R83457 Sgt Christen G.F. (Pilot), and CAN-R79113 Sgt Carlen S.L. (Navigator), have been awarded the D.F.M. for conspicuous service and devotion and particular daring during their recent attacks over enemy territory. Weather:- Cloudy with local drizzle becoming fair generally.		

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2149, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FIVE

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON, BEAULIEU.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	20-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p><u>OPERATION NO. 160</u>  <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 22.</u>  <u>Bay of Biscay.</u>                      Three a/c detailed for patrol on completion of which there was nothing unusual to report.  <b>CHANGE OF SQUADRON COMMAND:</b> Our Squadron Commander, Wing Commander, L.G. Fraser, D.F.C. (CAN-CL285), has been posted to R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters today. News of this posting was very much regretted by the Squadron personnel but all were eager to wish him all the best in all that will be expected of him in the future. He leaves an enviable record of duty and leadership which has always been an inspiration to those under his command. In his departure the Squadron has lost a man who had valuable experience at his command as well as the natural ability and instinct of a born pilot and leader. The Squadron is fortunate in having a capable successor in welcoming Wing Commander A.C.P. Clayton, D.F.C. (A1664), a Canadian in the R.A.F., who has taken part in a host of the many attacks carried out over Germany and enemy held territory.                      Weather: Fair becoming cloudy with possibility of slight rain. Visibility moderate to good.</p>	
	21-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p><u>OPERATION NO. 161</u>  <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 22.</u>  <u>Bay of Biscay.</u>                      Three a/c completed normal patrols without encountering anything unusual to report.  <b>CHANGE of Command "A" Flight:</b> F/L A/S/L W.H. Swetman, R.C.A.F., has been posted to Headquarters A Group, to accept a higher post. News of this change of command was deeply regretted by the Squadron since this Officer has always been an inspiration to those entrusted to his command. F/L A/S/L L.E. Legan, CAN-CL359, has been posted to us to take over Command of our "A" Flight and the record of service which he brings with him leaves no doubt of his capabilities and leadership qualities.                      Weather: Mainly cloudy with occasional showers. Visibility good.</p>	
	22-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p><u>OPERATION NO. 162</u>  <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 22.</u>  <u>Bay of Biscay.</u>                      Two a/c completed patrol and had nothing to report except that Spanish M.V.'s had been sighted.                      Weather: Mainly cloudy with occasional wintry showers. Visibility moderate to good.</p>	
	23-11-42		<p>No Sorties.</p> <p><u>OPERATION NO. 163</u>  <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 25.</u>  <u>Bay of Biscay.</u>                      Four a/c were detailed to carry out patrol which were completed except for "F" (Sgt Weber) who experienced port inner engine trouble and had to return to base after jettisoning bomb-load.                      Weather: Fair apart from mist or fog patches and moderate to good visibility.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	24-11-42		No Series.	
			OPERATION NO. 164 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 26. Bay of Biscay. Two a/c were detailed, one of which "P" (P/S Stovel) sighted a fully surfaced submarine four miles distant, and before he could carry out his attack, the enemy submarine had smashed-dived and although six depth charges were dropped over the U-Boat's swirl, no evidence of success could be noted. Weather:- Showers in the morning, otherwise fair, with good visibility.	
			No Series.	
			OPERATION NO. 165 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 27. Bay of Biscay. Three a/c carried out patrols and only "P", (P/O Dennison) had anything to report. This aircraft sighted submarine and destroyer which was challenged but recognized to be of Allied markings. Weather:- Fine with some scattered showers with good visibility.	
			No Series.	
25-11-42		No Series.		
26-11-42		No Series.		
		OPERATION NO. 166 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 28. Bay of Biscay. Three a/c were detailed for patrol and two of the a/c encountered enemy ships. "G" (Sgt Weber) encountered an enemy convoy of two destroyers and two M.V.'s of 1600 tons. Heavy defence of the ships made it impossible to bomb them accurately but the Gunners were given ample opportunity to spray the enemy ships with machine gun fire. "P" (Sgt Symes) sighted two enemy U-Boats about six miles apart but both dived and could not be attacked. Engine trouble developed and after one had been feathered, another began to fail. The a/c barely managed to reach St. Eval where a forced landing was attempted. After touching down, the a/c bounced off the runway and immediately caught fire. Sgt Symes, the Captain, and the P/O Sgt Nichols, showed complete disregard for their own personal safety and entered the aircraft despite the threatening flames to release the H/U Sgt Farman who was trapped in the turret. After considerable effort and which was found necessary, to cut a hole in the fuselage the H/U Sgt Farman was extricated and brought to safety. Immediately after an explosion occurred and a/c was completely burned out. Weather:- Cloudy with poor visibility at first, improving to moderate.		
		No Series.		
27-11-42		No Series.		
28-11-42		No Series.		
		OPERATION NO. 167 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 29. Bay of Biscay. Three a/c detailed, one of which "P" (P/O Atkinson) sighted a dinghy whose occupants were using a flashlight to signal. Flashing ceased and despite search, dinghy could not be located again. "J" (P/L Palmer) sighted a U-Boat escorted by two armed M.V.'s at five miles distance. Captain turned and attacked U-Boat with three bomb salvoes but due to necessary evasive action, any possible damage could not be ascertained. Weather:- Mist at first, becoming foggy with sky obscured after dawn.		
		No Series.		
		OPERATION NO. 168 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 30. Bay of Biscay. The two a/c detailed completed their patrols and returned having nothing unusual to report. MOVEMENTS:- No. 405 Squadron is now operating almost in its entirety from R.A.F. Station, BEAULIEU, under coastal command. The initial movement of 15 a/c with their respective crews and 200 ground personnel took place on 24/25/26, as outlined in our previous return, but the Squadron's Headquarters with its Administrative Staff has moved to Beaulieu today. The operating strength of the Squadron now consists of 14 a/c, 150 Officers and men Aircrew along with 375 Officers and men ground crew. The remainder of the Squadron's personnel has been attached to R.A.F. Station, TORQUAY, pending the return of this Squadron to that Station. Weather:- Cloudy with rain about midday and late evening. Visibility moderate to poor.		



R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. SEVEN

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 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON, BEAULIEU.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	29-11-42		<p>One Day Sortie. Local cross-country flight (5 minutes).</p> <p>Accidents and Casualties:- Halifax II DT-576, "U", Captain, W/O S.F. Gagnon, had been detailed to transport fourteen (14) members of the Squadron and equipment to R.A.F. Station, Beaulieu (Advance Base), when it crashed for obscure reason, it crashed immediately after take-off. The a/c had been airborne for approximately five (5) minutes when it began to lose altitude in difficulty and suddenly dove into the ground approximately half-mile south-west of the centre of the aerodrome (Topcliffe). It burst into flames and was almost completely burned out, all passengers being instantly killed. This is the greatest a/c disaster involving the greatest loss of life that the Squadron has ever suffered. News of the crash came as a severe shock to all members of this Squadron to whom members that were killed were well-known. Members of the Squadron who lost their lives are as follows:</p> <p>CAN-R56408 W/O S.F. Gagnon (Captain); CAN-R108843 Sgt G.R.I. Taylor (NAV); CAN-R61819 Sgt B.L. McMillan (P/S); CAN-R114579 SGT A.G. Bradley (B/A); CAN-R107580 Sgt W.S. Milne (WCE/AG); CAN-R117309 Sgt D.D. Thomas (A/C); <del>XXXXXXXX</del> CAN-R67211 Sgt M.J. Stanley (A/C); CAN-R99245 Sgt N.W. Ross (Passenger); CAN-R10088 P/O B.H. Sims (Passenger); CAN-R62966 Sgt J. Jones (Passenger); CAN-R121565 Sgt W.M. Kostomuk (Passenger); CAN-R128672 Sgt R.E. Milliken (Passenger); CAN-R98869 Sgt S.S. Clark (Passenger); CAN-R74134 LAC J.R. Beaudry (Passenger), 13R1953 Sgt F. Heuten (Passenger).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPERATION NO. 169</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 31. Bay of Biscay.</p> <p>Four a/c were detailed to carry out patrols during which "H" (P/S Stevel) sighted an enemy convoy which was reported to Group. Convoy shadowed until kerosene fuel ran low and course was set for base. "W" (P/O McIntosh) sighted two enemy vessels and attacked with six (6) D.C.'s, dropped near one of the ships. No immediate results were noticeable. "O" (Sgt Weber) approached Hendaya Harbour and took three photographs but was forced out.</p> <p>Weather:- Fair to cloudy. Visibility moderate to good.</p>	
	30-11-42		<p>One Day Sortie.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPERATION NO. 170</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 32. Bay of Biscay.</p> <p>Five a/c detailed, completed patrol with uneventful trips.</p> <p>Weather:- Partly cloudy with good visibility.</p>	

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