

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

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1942.  
of (Unit or Formation) 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON, BEAULIEU.

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	1-12-42		<u>No Serties.</u> <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 35.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 171</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u> Five of our a/c completed uneventful patrols and returned to base without having sighted anything to report. <u>Weather:-</u> Local showers with poor to bad visibility.	
	2-12-42		<u>No Serties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Fair with very good visibility, deteriorating northwards.	
	3-12-42		<u>No Serties.</u> <u>Anti-Submarine patrol No. 34.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 172</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u> Three of our a/c completed routine patrols and returned to base without anything unusual to report. <u>Weather:-</u> Fair in home waters improving towards west with squalls.	
	4-12-42		<u>No Serties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Variable, bad at beginning but gradually improving. Visibility never very good.	
	5-12-42		<u>No Serties.</u> <u>Anti-Submarine patrol No. 35.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 173</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u> Three of our a/c carried out uneventful patrols and returned to base safely. <u>Weather:-</u> Good deteriorating northwards with scattered showers.	
	6-12-42		<u>No Serties.</u> <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 36.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 174</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u> Four of our a/c took off on patrol and returned to base without having sighted anything unusual to report. <u>Weather:-</u> Calm with scattered showers.	
	7-12-42		<u>No Serties.</u> <u>Anti-Submarine patrol No. 37.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 175</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u> Our four a/c returned to base after completing routine patrols with uneventful trips. <u>Weather:-</u> Fair deteriorating towards base with local showers and moderate visibility.	
	8-12-42		<u>One day Sertie. (1:35 hours)</u> <u>Cross-Country to R.A.F. Station, TOROLIFFE.</u> <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 38.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 176</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u> Four of our a/c were detailed for patrols which were completed in bad weather and poor visibility. (OVER)	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	8-22-42 (Cont'd)		Because of the adverse weather conditions our Captains were diverted to other landing fields but <u>W/O (P/O Colledge)</u> , could not find airdrome and landed near ANDOVER in a plowed field. The a/c was but slightly damaged and the crew escaped uninjured. Weather:- Low cloud with slight haze and poor visibility.	
	9-12-42		Three day sorties. (6.55 hours) Local cross-country flight to R.A.F. SRADISHALL, cruiser affiliation and local flying practice. <u>OPERATION NO. 177</u> <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 39</u> <u>Bay of Biscay</u> While those of our a/c were carrying out their patrols, <u>W/O (SGT BURTON)</u> sighted an enemy convey and after shadowing it for some time, it was attacked by two enemy J.U.88's at 12:16 hours. They were first sighted at about 1000 yards on the stb'd quarter above. One came in from this position and opened fire at approximately 600 yards. Our a/c took evasive action and P/O L.R. PAY, the <u>M/U/Gunner</u> opened fire at 200 yards. He continued firing until enemy a/c broke away at 50 yards to port quarter below. Enemy a/c was observed to dive vertically through low mist, apparently out of control with smoke pouring out of stb'd engine. Meanwhile the M/U Gunner, Sgt A.L. HORN observed the other enemy a/c circle our own until it attacked from the stb'd beam above. He fired a short burst but the enemy a/c broke away practically directly above and swung back to the port beam fairly level and once more attacked. He again opened fire only to have the attacker break away and swing back to the stb'd beam. The J.U.88 then gained height and once more maneuvered for position and attacked from the rear turret the enemy a/c which kept going straight across the stb'd quarter losing height. As it passed the rear turret the R/O P/O PAY, gave a short burst at 100 yards, although the enemy a/c was already spiralling down to sea. Both gunners along with other members of the crew observed the enemy a/c hit the sea with a large splash and was lost to sight in spray. The evidence as borne out by the members of the crew, leaves no doubt that both these enemy a/c were destroyed. Weather:- Very low cloud base but otherwise, fair with good visibility.	
	10-12-42		No sorties. <u>OPERATION NO. 178</u> <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 40</u> <u>Bay of Biscay</u> Four of our a/c completed uneventful patrols and sighted nothing unusual to report. Weather:- Bad with cloud almost sea level in many places, also frequent showers.	
	11-12-42		No sorties. <u>OPERATION NO. 179</u> <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 41</u> <u>Bay of Biscay</u> Four of our a/c successfully completed their patrols without having sighted anything unusual to report. Weather:- Slight drizzle with frequent squalls. Visibility good. VISIT AND INSPECTIONS:- Group Captain McCall of Headquarters Bomber Command arrived at this Squadron this afternoon to discuss engineering matters and advise on problems and operational difficulties encountered by our engineering staff. The distinguished visitor will leave in the morning.	
	12-12-42		Three day sorties. (5:30 hours) Cross-country to TORGLIFFE and Air tests. <u>OPERATION NO. 180</u> <u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 42</u> <u>Bay of Biscay</u> The a/c detailed, completed their patrols in uneventful trips without sighting anything unusual to report. Weather:- Fair deteriorating in rain with moderate visibility.	

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**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) 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON BEAULIEU

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	13-12-42		<p><u>No Serties.</u></p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 43.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 181</u> <u>Bay of Biscay</u></p> <p>Two a/c carried out routine patrols without sighting anything out of the ordinary.</p> <p>Weather:- Very bad with heavy rain and a few clear patches.</p>	
	14-12-42		<p><u>No Serties.</u></p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 44.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 182</u> <u>Bay of Biscay</u></p> <p>Two of our a/c detailed for patrol returned to base having reported nothing unusual on their trips.</p> <p>Weather:- Cloudy to fair with moderate visibility.</p>	
	15-12-42		<p><u>One day Sertie (1:45 hours)</u> Engine and airframe test.</p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 45.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 183</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u></p> <p>Four of our a/c were detailed for patrol duty and three of our Captains returned to base having completed routine trips with nothing unusual to report. "P" (Sgt Stewart), experienced engine trouble in port outer engine and signalled that he was returning to base. On arrival at BEAULIEU he received permission from flying control through R/C communication to make a right hand circuit and land. He began normal landing procedure when his port wing was observed to drop when a/c just beyond south side of drome at 700 to 800 feet altitude. A/c seemed to drop off into spin from which it failed to recover and suddenly crashed into the ground. Huge gillows of smoke were visible from the Operations Block and on the arrival of fire equipment and ambulance the a/c was almost totally destroyed by flames. All members of the crew perished in the flaming a/c. These members of the crew whose lives were:- CAN-R85406 Sgt Stewart R.H. (Capt); 1019207 Sgt Ryan J. (NAV); 541917 Sgt Watson L.G. (Bomb) 1377351 Sgt Gapes A.G.H. (WOP/AG); CAN)R115390 Sgt Shaw R.G.A. (A/G); CAN-1120164 Sgt Gunn H.W. (A/G); CAN-R57068 Sgt Rollins R.A. (P/B).</p> <p>Weather:- Heavy rain with moderate visibility.</p>	
	16-12-42		<p><u>No Serties.</u></p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 46.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 184</u> <u>Bay of Biscay</u></p> <p>Four a/c carried out routine patrols and returned to base after uneventful trips.</p> <p>Weather:- Calm with showers and poor visibility.</p>	
	17-12-42		<p><u>Two day Serties (2:30 hours)</u> Air test and local flying practice.</p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 47.</u> <u>OPERATION NO. 185</u> <u>Bay of Biscay.</u></p> <p>Four of our a/c completed their patrols and returned to base after uneventful trips.</p> <p>Weather:- Showers and low cloud with moderate visibility.</p> <p><b>PRISONER OF WAR:-</b> According to German information from International Red Cross CAN-R58982 Sgt H.J.C. Mackie (P/B) has been taken prisoner of war after reported missing on Operations over OSNABRUCK October 6/7, 1942.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	18-12-42		<p>Two day Series. (2:10 hours) Local cross-country flight and airtest.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPERATION NO. 186 Bay of Biscay.</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 48: Two of our a/c returned to base after completing routine patrols and sighting nothing unusual to report. Weather:- Bad, improving eastward with moderate visibility.</p>	
	19-12-42		<p>No Series.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPERATION NO. 187 Bay of Biscay.</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 49 Our 4 a/c completed their patrols and returned to base after uneventful trips. FUNERAL:- Seven members of our Squadron which lost their lives in a flying accident on December 15, 1942; were laid to rest this afternoon in a very impressive ceremony. The bodies of CAN-R85406 SGT Stewart R.W., 1019207 Sgt Ryan J., 543917 Sgt Watson L.G., 1377351 Sgt Gapes A.G.H., CAN-R115190 Sgt Shaw R.C.A., CAN-R120164 Sgt Gunn H.W., CAN-R57068 Sgt Rollins R.A., were given full military honours before being laid to rest at BOLLIER CEMETERY. The caskets were covered with individual Union Jacks and flowers, were carried by men of the Squadron and while each casket was lowered to its final resting place, the mournful notes of the last post, were sounded. Wreaths were sent from the Officer Commanding, R.A.F. Station BEAULIEU, Commanding Officer of this Squadron, the Senior N.C.O.'s and the airmen of the Squadron. An escort party made up of personnel of the Squadron and members of aircrew accompanied the bodies to the cemetery, and the Commanding Officer of the Station and Squadron along with the Squadron Adjutant attended the funeral to pay final tribute to these fallen airmen. Weather:- Fair with heavy <del>part</del> precipitation and moderate visibility.</p>	
	20-12-42		<p>No Series.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPERATION NO. 188 Bay of Biscay.</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 50 Four of our a/c were detailed for patrols which were uneventful but unfortunately one of our a/c, "C" (S/S Snaap) had engine trouble and crashed and burned out near GERRUN on the Isle of Wight. Shortly after take-off a report was received by flying control that a four-engine bomber had crashed but since no report had been received by base from any of our a/c reporting that they were in difficulty, it was some time before it could be ascertained which of our a/c had crashed. Cause of the crash is unknown and since all members of the stricken a/c perished, it was impossible to secure any information about this unfortunate accident. Members of the crew which were killed, are:- MORGAN (CAPT) CAN-R73321 P/S Sparr L.; (NAV) CAN-R10706 P/O Stallery L.; (BOB) 125020 P/O Washor R.; (WIP/AS) CAN-R110223 Sgt Van Brunt N.A.; (A/C) CAN-R124697 Sgt Wagner G.; (A/C) CAN-R65663 Sgt Fugere R.; (P/S) 573453 Sgt Craft H. Weather:- Good except for heavy haze with good visibility.</p>	
	21-12-42		<p>One day Series: (35 minutes) Air Test.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPERATION NO. 189 Bay of Biscay.</p> <p>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 51 Three a/c took off for patrol and carried out their duty without sighting anything uneventful. "H" (Sgt McAlpine) on return to base, could not find landing field and crash landed at East Baldre with undercarriage in retracted position. Bombs had been jettisoned previously in the salient. Although the a/c was damaged considerably all members of the crew escaped injury. Weather:- Very poor with bad visibility.</p>	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FIVE

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	22-12-42		<p><u>Two Day Sertias.</u> (2:10 hours) Air Tests.</p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 53</u>                      Our two a/c returned from patrol without having sighted anything unusual to report.                      Weather:- Continuous drizzle from 0900 hours with poor visibility.</p>	
	23-12-42		<p><u>One Day Sertia.</u> (1:10 hours) Local cross-country from R.A.F. Station, PEMBERTON to base.</p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine patrol No. 54.</u>                      Two of our a/c detailed for patrol returned to base after uneventful trips.                      Weather:- Occasional showers with moderate to poor visibility.</p>	
	24-12-42		<p><u>Two Day Sertias.</u> (1:55 hours) Local cross-country flight from R.A.F. PORTREATH to base and Air Tests.</p> <p><u>Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 55</u>                      Four of our a/c completed routine patrols returning to base without having sighted anything unusual to report.                      FUNERAL:- Six members of our Squadron who lost their lives in a flying accident on December 20, 1942, at COLBURN on the Isle of Wight, were laid to rest this afternoon with full military honours. The bodies of CAN-R73321 W/S Smart L., CAN-710706 P/O Stellery E., CAN-2110223 Sgt Van Brust N.A., CAN-R124597 Sgt Wagner G., CAN-R65665 Sgt Pagers R., and 573453 Sgt Craft M., were accompanied by a firing party and escort made up of personnel of the Squadron and the Station Commander and Commanding Officer of the Squadron, the Squadron Adjutant, and Officers, N.C.O.'s and airmen, to BOLZER CEMETERY. Here the caskets covered with Union Jacks and flowers, were lowered to their final resting place while the last post echoed over their graves. Wreaths were sent from the Officer Commanding R.A.F. Station Beaulieu, Commanding Officer of the Squadron and the Senior N.C.O.'s and Airmen of the Squadron.                      Weather:- Heavy rain with moderate visibility.</p>	
	25-12-42		<p><u>No Sertias.</u>                      The Squadron was given a holiday on Xmas Day while the Officers of the Squadron played host to the Other Ranks in a gala afternoon's entertainment, the highlight of which was the tasty and colourful meal provided for the men. Everyone had more than his share of turkey with all the trimmings, fruit, nuts, etc., and beer was provided in ample quantities as a suitable "chaser". Wing Commander A.C.P. Clayton, D.F.O., was on hand to extend his best wishes to the boys and to make sure that everyone was happy and quite contented. Our very popular Adjutant, P/L W.S. Taylor, made it his personal responsibility that everyone was having the time of his life with unending jokes such to the amusement of the boys who were all in a gay and festive mood.                      In the evening, a dance was held on the Station to round off the day's entertainment. The excellent music and gay decorations and the happy crowd combined to make this evening a colourful and extremely enjoyable one. Although</p>	

(OVER)

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices	
Boaniso	25-12-42	(Cont'd)	the girls were on the scarce side, the W.A.A.F.'s in attendance tried to keep everyone dancing. In all respects the Squadron's second Xmas proved to be a huge success. Weather:- Fine with good visibility.		
	26-12-42		One Day Sortie. (1:00 hours) Local cross-country from R.A.F. Station ST. EVAL.  OPERATION NO. 194 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 56 Bay of Biscay. Two a/c detailed for patrol completed their task without anything unusual to report. Weather:- Generally poor with bad visibility.		
	27-12-42		No Sorties.  OPERATION NO. 195 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 57 Bay of Biscay. Our three a/c completed their patrols and on return were diverted to R.A.F. ST. EVAL. Weather:- Very good with low cloud and fine visibility.		
	28-12-42		No Sorties.  OPERATION NO. 196 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 57 Bay of Biscay. Two a/c returned from normal routine patrol after uneventful trips. Weather:- Intermittent showers with moderate visibility.		
	29-12-42		Two Day Sorties. (2:35 hours) Local cross-country flight to R.A.F. STATION TOPCLIFFE and from R.A.F. STATION ST. EVAL.  OPERATION NO. 197 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 58 Bay of Biscay. One a/c returned from routine patrol without having sighted anything unusual to report. Landed at St. EVAL. Weather:- Slight showers with good visibility.		
	30-12-42		Three Day Sorties. (2:20 hours) Local cross-country <del>to</del> from STATION TOPCLIFFE and Air Tests.  OPERATION NO. 198 Anti-Submarine Patrol No. 59 Bay of Biscay. Four of our a/c returned from routine patrol with nothing uneventful to report. Weather:- Good with some low cloud but with good visibility.		
	31-12-42		Five Day Sorties. (6:30 hours) Two cross-country flights to ST. EVAL and return. Air Tests and local flying. No. 405 R.C.A.F. Squadron, looks back with pride on the whole year in which it has accomplished its share against a common enemy. Despite the severe losses it has sustained, both in aircraft and experienced personnel our Commanders have always been able to carry out all that was expected of the Squadron and have often been commended upon for the extent of success it has been able to achieve. The Squadron looks forward to the New Year with hope and confidence and ever determined to carry the war into Holland. Weather:- Slight showers but with good visibility.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. SEVEN

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	31-12-42		<p>Aircraft Strength:- The Squadron has (16) Halifax II a/c and one Oxford II a/c on charge.</p> <p><u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF NO. 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON, AS AT 1st AND 31st DECEMBER, 1942.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. . . . .</td> <td>OFFICERS - Air Crew</td> <td>29</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. . . . .</td> <td>AIRMEN - Air Crew</td> <td>123</td> <td>116</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>378</td> <td>381</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. . . . .</td> <td>OFFICERS - Air Crew</td> <td>9</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. . . . .</td> <td>AIRMEN - Air Crew</td> <td>37</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>156</td> <td>141</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.A.F. . . . .</td> <td>OFFICERS - Air Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>AIRMEN - Air Crew</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.N.Z.A.F. . . . .</td> <td>OFFICERS - Air Crew</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>AIRMEN - Air Crew</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> </table>	R.C.A.F. . . . .	OFFICERS - Air Crew	29	31		Ground Crew	4	4	R.C.A.F. . . . .	AIRMEN - Air Crew	123	116		Ground Crew	378	381	R.A.F. . . . .	OFFICERS - Air Crew	9	7		Ground Crew	NIL	1	R.A.F. . . . .	AIRMEN - Air Crew	37	39		Ground Crew	156	141	R.A.A.F. . . . .	OFFICERS - Air Crew	NIL	NIL		Ground Crew	NIL	NIL		AIRMEN - Air Crew	4	4		Ground Crew	NIL	NIL	R.N.Z.A.F. . . . .	OFFICERS - Air Crew	1	1		AIRMEN - Air Crew	NIL	NIL	
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			<p><i>W.S. Taylor</i>                  (W.S. Taylor) Flight Lieutenant,                  for Wing Commander, Commanding,                  No. 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON.</p>																																																									

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