

R.C.A.F.  
Headquarters

S. 22-1-406  
DAS

SECRET

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

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Neaulieu	1-2-43		<p><b>No Sorties</b></p> <p>Transferred to No. 6 Group (R.C.A.F.). No. 405 R.C.A.F. Squadron has been incorporated in the new Canadian Overseas Group, with effect 0001 hours, January 1st, 1943. This Squadron had been included in No. 4 Group since its conception in 1941 and has always endeavoured to contribute a maximum effort towards all that it has been expected. A congratulatory message was received from the Air Officer Commanding No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, Air Vice Marshal G.E. Brookes, welcoming the Squadron under his Command and expressed the hope that this Senior Bomber Squadron would continue the excellent work we have shown in the past and that we should enjoy continued success in our attacks on the enemy.</p> <p>Weather:- Good with occasional showers.</p>	
	2-2-43		<p><b>Three Day Sorties. (22:25 hours)</b> Local cross-country to KIPULIFFE and Air tests.</p> <p>OPERATION ORDER NO. 199</p> <p>Six of our a/c were detailed for Convoy Escort Patrol. Captains encountered 10/10 cloud at low level and only one Captain was able to establish contact with the convoy at short intervals. Two of the a/c were recalled early, while one other was forced to return shortly after taking off because of adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Weather:- Low cloud and showers with moderate visibility.</p>	A-1
	3-2-43		<p><b>No Sorties.</b></p> <p>OPERATION ORDER NO. 200</p> <p>Two a/c took off from the Squadron to carry out Anti-Submarine Patrol. Both returned to base, reporting nothing uneventful throughout trip.</p> <p>Weather:- Local showers with good to moderate visibility between showers.</p>	A-2
	4-2-43		<p><b>Two day Sorties. (2:00 hours)</b> Air tests and local flying practice.</p> <p>OPERATION ORDER NO. 203</p> <p>Two a/c were detailed to carry out Anti-Submarine Patrol. A/C were advised to return to base by 1700 hours, and both returned to base without having sighted anything important to report.</p> <p>Weather:- Fair but with low cloud and occasional showers. Moderate visibility.</p>	A-3
	5-2-43		<p><b>No Sorties.</b></p> <p>All a/c of the Squadron have been temporarily grounded for inspection of engines and to conduct experiments to determine technical difficulties. Serious "engine breathing" difficulty had been reported in several engines and the Engineering Staff had deemed it advisable to make a thorough examination of the a/c to determine causes. Several engine changes will be necessary and while a/c are grounded, a complete overhaul of the A/C will be made. The Squadron is expected to be screened for approximately one week.</p> <p>Weather:- Fair deteriorating in the afternoon with occasional showers and poor visibility.</p>	
	6-2-43		<p><b>No Sorties:-</b></p> <p>Weather:- Good with visibility poor during occasional heavy showers.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Beaulieu	7-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Fair in morning with occasional showers in the afternoon. Visibility moderate.	
	8-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Cloudy with intermittent rain and drizzle. Visibility moderate.	
	9-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Fair to cloudy, becoming fine after dusk. Visibility moderate, becoming poor at times.	
	10-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Mainly cloudy with slight rain before dawn. Visibility fair to good, but deteriorating at dusk.	
	11-1-43		<u>Four Day Sorties.</u> (3:15 hours) Engine and Airframe Tests. <u>Weather:-</u> Mainly cloudy, visibility moderate during hours of darkness but excellent during daylight.	
	12-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 202</u> Four a/c were detailed to carry out Anti-Submarine Patrol and returned from Routine trip without having sighted anything uneventful to report. One a/c was cancelled because of mechanical failure. <u>Weather:-</u> Rain at first, becoming cloudy later. Visibility very good after cessation of rain.	A-4
	13-1-43		<u>Three Day Sorties.</u> (6:30 hours) Local cross-country to BEAULIEU from TOPCLIFFE, and local flying practice. <u>Weather:-</u> Cloudy with fair period in evening. Visibility moderate becoming good.	
	14-1-43		<u>Five Day Sorties:</u> (11:50 hours) Local cross-country flight from Topcliffe to Beaulieu. Air Tests and Local flying practice. <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 203</u> Four a/c took off for Anti-Submarine Patrol and returned to base safely without having anything to report. <u>Weather:-</u> Mainly fair with occasional showers. Visibility very good.	A-5
	15-1-43		<u>Two Day Sorties.</u> (5:35 hours) Local cross-country flight and air tests. <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 204</u> Three a/c were detailed for Anti-Submarine Patrol. One a/c found turret a/s and was forced to return to base after jettisoning D.C.s safe. Remaining a/c returned to base on completion of patrol with nothing unusual to report. <u>Weather:-</u> Cloudy with slight drizzle in evening. Visibility good.	A-6
	16-1-43		<u>Four Day Sorties.</u> (6:45 hours) Local cross-country, Engine and Airframe test and local flying practice. <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 205</u> Four a/c took off on Anti-Submarine Patrol. Two of our a/c sighted Spanish shipping in proximity of Spanish Coast and photographs were taken. Remaining a/c discovered that dip stick cap was missing on overload tank, causing leakage of petrol and set course for base after jettisoning bomb load safe. <u>Weather:</u> Fair or fine. Visibility good.	A-7

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Page No. THREE

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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	17-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u>  <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 206</u> Three a/c were detailed to provide Convoy Escort and Patrol. Uneventful patrol was carried out, one a/c returning early on advice of Flight Engineer who reported temperature gauge on Port Inner u/c. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with rain at night. Visibility generally poor, but good in mid afternoon.	A-8
	18-1-43		<u>Five Day Sorties.</u> (4:25 hours) Local cross-country from Topcliffe to Beaulieu. Air Tests and local flying practice.  <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 207</u> Four a/c were detailed for Anti-Submarine Patrol but one was subsequently cancelled owing to technical failure. Three a/c took off on patrol, two of which received instructions to attack enemy submarines at specified position, but no trace of it could be found. One of our a/c experienced petrol leak from overload tank and shortened patrol by one hour. Another a/c sighted flame float and investigated and later observed small vessels which were also scrutinized. <u>Weather:</u> Poor visibility with occasional showers, improving in early afternoon with good visibility.	A-9
	19-1-43		<u>One Day Sortie</u> (45 minutes) Air Test.  <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 209</u> Four a/c took off on Anti-Submarine Patrol, two of which returned early. One received instructions to return immediately while the other was forced to set course for base with engine trouble, after jettisoning bombs safe. Remaining a/c completed patrol without sighting anything unusual. <u>Weather:</u> Fair to cloudy with good visibility.	A-9
	20-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u>  <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 210</u> Four a/c completed routine Anti-Submarine Patrol with uneventful trips. <u>VISIT:</u> Lieutenant Commander Brooks and Squadron Leader Emsor of the British Admiralty were on visit to the Squadron yesterday afternoon and today and gave lectures on submarine detection to aircrew. <u>Weather:</u> Mainly fair with slight rain during the afternoon. Visibility moderate & good.	A-10
	21-1-43		<u>One Day Sortie</u> ( 1:50 minutes ) Local cross-country from base to CHIVENOR and return.  <u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 211</u> One a/c carried out routine patrol and returned to base with nothing unusual to report. <u>Weather:</u> Fair with moderate to good visibility.	A-11
	22-1-43		<u>One Day Sortie</u> (1:10 hours) Air Test and Local flying practice. <u>Weather:</u> Cloudy with occasional showers in the afternoon becoming fair.	
	23-1-43		<u>Three Day Sorties.</u> (2:35 hours) Local cross-country flight from CHIVENOR to base, Air test and local flying practice.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Boulton	23-1-43	Continued	<u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 212</u> Four a/c took off on Anti-Submarine Patrol. Two a/c made observations, one reporting large patches of oil and another which suspected enemy submarine, but no further observations could be made on investigation. One a/c was forced to <del>shorten</del> shorten patrol due to failure on fuel pump on overload tank. Remaining Captain completed patrol without having seen anything throughout trip. <u>Weather:-</u> Cloudy with intermittent rain with moderate to good visibility.	A-12
	24-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Heavy cloud and rain throughout the day with very poor visibility.	
	25-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u>	
			<u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 213</u> Three a/c took off on Anti-Submarine Patrol but experienced very rough weather which made navigation and control of a/c difficult. Two a/c abandoned patrol and returned early while remaining a/c completed patrol but did not sight anything unusual to report, returning to ST. NVAL. <u>Weather:-</u> Cloudy with good visibility deteriorating to poor.	A-13
	26-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u>	
			<u>OPERATION ORDER NO. 214</u> A maximum effort was called for to attack shipping and harbour installations at BORDEAUX. Eleven a/c were detailed to carry out this operation but two a/c were subsequently cancelled owing to technical failures prior to take off. <u>Weather:-</u> Fair with moderate to good visibility.	A-14
	27-1-43		<u>Three Day Sorties.</u> (4:20 hours) Air Tests and local flying practice. <u>SHIPPING SPIES - BORDEAUX</u> Of the nine a/c which took off on this operation, only three were able to locate and attack target despite adverse weather conditions. Bombs were dropped through gaps in heavy cloud, and bomb bursts were observed below the fog which clung around river banks and interfered with observations. Ships were pin-pointed but results of attack could not be determined. Remainder of attacking force could not locate target and were forced to return to base jettisoning bombs. A/G encountered light and heavy flak which was fairly accurate. There were very few a/l's in target area and no night fighters were seen. <u>Weather:-</u> Cloudy with moderate visibility.	
	28-1-43		<u>One Day Sortie.</u> (15 minutes) Air Test <u>Weather:-</u> Heavy intermittent showers and hail with strong winds increasing in velocity.	
	29-1-43		<u>One Day Sortie.</u> (50 minutes) Air Test. <u>Weather:-</u> Continuous rain accompanied by strong gale intensifying towards late evening.	
	30-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Heavy gale with wind velocity reaching height of 70 miles per hour with driving rain and hail.	
	31-1-43		<u>No Sorties.</u> <u>Weather:-</u> Continued gale with occasional heavy showers with intermittent hails.	

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Page No. FIVE

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<u>Beaulieu</u>	<u>31-1-43</u>		<p><u>AIRCRAFT STRENGTH</u> - The Squadron has 19 Halifax II a/c and one Oxford II a/e on charge.</p> <p><u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF NO. 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON AS AT 1ST AND 31ST JANUARY, 1943.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th><u>FIRST</u></th> <th><u>THIRTY-FIRST</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. ....</td> <td>OFFICERS - AIR CREW</td> <td>31</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- GROUND CREW</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. ....</td> <td>OFFICERS - AIR CREW</td> <td>116</td> <td>131</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>AIRMEN - GROUND CREW</td> <td>381</td> <td>352</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. ....</td> <td>OFFICERS - AIR CREW</td> <td>7</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- GROUND CREW</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. ....</td> <td>AIRMEN - AIRCREW</td> <td>39</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- GROUND CREW</td> <td>141</td> <td>112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.A.F. ....</td> <td>OFFICERS - AIRCREW</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- GROUND CREW</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>NIL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.A.F. ....</td> <td>AIRMEN - AIRCREW</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</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 - AIRCREW</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>AIRMEN - AIRCREW</td> <td>NIL</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>FIRST</u>	<u>THIRTY-FIRST</u>	R.C.A.F. ....	OFFICERS - AIR CREW	31	36		- GROUND CREW	4	4	R.C.A.F. ....	OFFICERS - AIR CREW	116	131		AIRMEN - GROUND CREW	381	352	R.A.F. ....	OFFICERS - AIR CREW	7	13		- GROUND CREW	NIL	NIL	R.A.F. ....	AIRMEN - AIRCREW	39	33		- GROUND CREW	141	112	R.A.A.F. ....	OFFICERS - AIRCREW	NIL	NIL		- GROUND CREW	NIL	NIL	R.A.A.F. ....	AIRMEN - AIRCREW	4	3		- GROUND CREW	NIL	NIL	R.N.Z.A.F. ....	OFFICERS - AIRCREW	1	1		AIRMEN - AIRCREW	NIL	3	
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			<p><i>C.W. Palmer</i> 3/4</p> <p>for (A.C.F. Clayton) Wing Commander, DFC and Bar, Officer Commanding, No. 405 RCAF SQUADRON.</p>																																																													

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