Poor Copy

5100
5.22-1-405
DAS

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

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

Page No. [illegible]

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, TOPCLIFFE, YORKSHIRE	1-3-43		[illegible] 3 Day Sorties (6:00 Hours) Beaulieu to Topcliffe. SQUADRON MOVEMENT - This Squadron is under authority of Bomber Command w.e.f. 0001 hours, today. Authority for this movement is Bomber Command Signal 0619, dated 28th February, 1943. Since October 25th, 1942, until the present, the Squadron has been stationed at Beaulieu, under authority of Coastal Command. Movement from Beaulieu to Topcliffe commenced; 1st Air Party consisting of 3 Halifax II and 20 Aircrew Personnel, proceeding at 1330 hours to R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe. Preparations for the completion of the move occupied the balance of the Squadron. No Operations scheduled for today. Weather:- Fair, 3/10 - 5/10 low cloud at 2,500 - 3,000 feet. Wing light and variable. Visibility 2 to 4 miles becoming good after noon.	
R.C.A.F. Headquarters APR 11 1943 CENTRAL REGISTRY	2-3-43		14 Day Sorties (26:55 Hours) Beaulieu to Topcliffe. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. SQUADRON MOVEMENT:- The second Air Party consisting of 14 Halifax II, with 99 Aircrew Personnel proceeded to R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, at 1100 hours. The advance rail party consisting of 2 Officers and 103 Airmen left R.A.F. Station, Beaulieu, at 1156 hours and arrived at R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe at 2222 hours. Preparation for the completion of the move to R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, occupied the remainder of the Squadron. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE:- The following message was received from Air Vice Marshal J. Slessor, A.O.C. 19 Group, Coastal Command. "My Dear Clayton: A short line to tell you how sorry I am that 405 is leaving us, and to thank you and all your chaps for the good work you have done in Coastal Command. You probably know we are also losing the American Liberator Squadrons, who are off to another theatre, so we shall fairly have to get down to it. I'm afraid the job has not been as interesting for the crews as their proper job in Bomber Command, but you've had some good attacks, and apart from that, I'm sure your crews realise how very important and valuable their work has been, particularly during the time when those large convoys were going to North Africa, practically without loss, thanks largely to the work of your Squadron and the others in the Bay. Many thanks and good luck to you all". Yours sincerely, Jack Slessor.". Weather:- Fair, 3/10 - 5/10 low cloud at 2,500 - 3,000 feet. N'ly winds 5 to 10 m.p.h. Visibility good, becoming 2 to 4 miles after dusk.	
	3-3-43		4 Day Sorties. (7:30 Hours) Beaulieu to Topcliffe. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. SQUADRON MOVEMENT:- Further progress was made in the move to R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe. The main rail party, consisting of 17 Officers, 93 Senior N.C.O.s and 174 Other Ranks, proceeded in Special Train No. 3R26, which arrived at Thirsk Railway Station at 2222 hours. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE:- The following message was received from the Admiralty. "We greatly appreciate the valuable assistance given by 405 Squadron whilst operating with Coastal Command since 26 October, 1942. The vigorous flying effort made by this Squadron in all weathers has contributed greatly to the safety of many most important convoys in a dangerous area and to the Bay offensive which has severely restricted the U-Boat operations. We wish them every success in their future operations." (Note:- This message was passed from A.O.C. 6 RCAF Group) Weather:- Cloudy, 8/10 - 10/10 low cloud at 2,000 - 3,000 feet. SE'ly wind 10 to 15 m.p.h. Visibility good.	

www.bombercommandmuseum.com/archives/

Poor Copy

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, TOPCLIFFE, YORKSHIRE.	4-3-43		**No Sorties** SQUADRON MOVEMENT:- The M.T. and road party consisted of 53 airmen. This party left ... Station, Beaulieu at 0900 hours today and are scheduled to arrive at R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, at 0900 hours tomorrow. The rear party consisting of 10 airmen, left Brockenhurst Railway Station at 1156 hours and arrived at Thirsk at 2222 hours. The third air party consisting of one Oxford and two Halifax with 17 aircrew personnel, took off at 1200 hours. This party was under the command of 41662, Wing Commander A.C.P. Clayton, DFC and Bar, Commanding Officer of this Squadron. The following message was forwarded in reply to the message received yesterday from the Admiralty. "Message from Admiralty most warmly appreciated by all ranks 405 R.C.A.F. Squadron. It has been an honour and a privilege to be associated with the Royal Navy and Coastal Command. 405 Squadron will continue to hit the Hun with the utmost vigour on every possible occasion until victory is won.". NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. Weather:- Fair becoming fine. [illegible]'ly wind 5 to 8 miles. Visibility 2 to 4 miles, deteriorating to 1,500 yards after dark.	
"	5-3-43		**No Sorties.** NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY The day was devoted to organisation of the Squadron in new location at R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe. Weather:- Cloudy with small amounts of medium cloud. N'ly wind 5 to 10 m.p.h. Visibility good, becoming 2 to 4 miles after dusk.	
"	6-3-43		Two Day Sorties. (3:00 Hours) Beaulieu to Topcliffe. Air Test. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. Considerable progress was made in settling the maintenance section in new working accommodations. Specialist Officers spend the day in setting up equipment in their new quarters. Weather:- Cloudy, with small amounts low cloud at 4,000 feet. Wing light and variable. Visibility 2 to 4 miles.	
"	7-3-43		**No Sorties.** NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. The set up of the Squadron in new working quarters at R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, was completed today. The Squadron is now prepared to resume its training programme. Everything has been in readiness for operations since 5th March. Weather:- Fog, dispersing at noon and becoming fair. Wind S'ly 5 to 10 m.p.h. Visibility 2 to 4 miles.	
"	8-3-43		**No Sorties.** NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. Training programme was resumed today. The Gunnery Leader, F/L W.L. Murphy, gave a 2 hour lecture on Browning stoppages. F/L Hammett, Station Flying Control Officer, gave a one hour lecture to WOP/AGs on Flying Control. Weather:- Fog, dispersing at noon, becoming cloudy 6/10 to 8/10 at 2,500 feet. Wind [illegible]'ly 5 m.p.h. Visibility in the afternoon good.	

(*9305) Wt. 51579—3544 116M 3/42 T.S. 700

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

Poor Copy

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

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events **SECRET.**	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, TOPCLIFFE, YORKSHIRE.		9-3-43	13 **7 Day Sorties. (16:20 Hours) Air Tests and X-Country.** **NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY.** Further progress was made in training. Nine details of Air Gunners visited Sutton Bank Range, where 800 rounds were fired. The Gunnery Leader, F/L W.L. Murphy, gave a 2 hour talk on search for night fighters. The Signals Leader, P/O R.A. Gardiner, gave a one hour lecture on Bomber Code. **Weather:-** Fair. Wind W'ly 5 m.p.h. Visibility good, becoming 2 to 4 miles after dusk.	
"	10-3-43		**5 Day Sorties. (5:50 Hours) Air Tests.** **OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 1:-** 4 a/c were detailed for operations, but this was scrubbed later in the day. **TRAINING:-** 8 details of Air Gunners fired 50 rounds of [illegible] trap shooting. Warrant Officer Ford of the Station Signals Staff gave a one hour lecture to WOP/AGs on Tinsel. **Weather:-** Cloudy with slight drizzle at midday. 8/10 to 10/10 low cloud at 1,000 to 2,000 feet. Wind 10 to 15 m.p.h. Visibility good except in drizzle.	
"	11-3-43		**4 Day Sorties. (5:05 Hours) Air Tests. (OPERATIONAL HOURS - NIGHT 78:34)** **OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 2.- BOMBING ATTACK ON STUTTGART. EX 15 A/C Detailed.** Pre Briefing was held at 1100 hours, and Main Briefing at 1500 hours. Take off commenced at 1900 hours and all aircraft were airborne at 1914 hours. Two a/c returned early, one due to u/s wireless, the other due to severe icing conditions. Nine of the a/c reached the target and bombed on P.F.F. markers. The attack appeared to be very successful and large fires were left burning in the town. Position over target was moderate but fairly accurate, and persuing Night Fighters were active over the whole route. The Squadron suffered a severe loss, 4 a/c failing to return. 11 Officers and 20 N.C.O.s are missing, including the Officer Commanding "A" Flight, CAN-C1359 A/S/L L.E. Logan and the Deputy Commander A/F/L Shockley H.G. Others, also reported missing are P/O Dennison B.O.([illegible].16008); CAN.J.16582 P/O Rea N.D.; CAN.R.83457 F/S Gration C.T. (DFM); The aforementioned are all pilots. CAN.R.79113 F/S Carlson T.E. (DFM) Navigator, is also reported missing. The four crews reported missing, are among the most experienced on the Squadron, and this severe loss is deeply regretted by all members of this Squadron. **Weather:-** Cloudy with showers at midday. 6/10 to 8/10 low cloud at 2,000 to 3,000 feet. W'ly wind 5 to 10 m.p.h. Visibility good. **COMBAT REPORT:-** Halifax "M", Captain Sgt. Symes R.A., was engaged in combat with an M.E.110 which approached from astern and below six or seven times but no fire was exchanged due to our violent evasive action. Finally enemy a/c came in as before and the Rear Gunner Sgt. Dotkin R.T., was able to get in point blank burst at 200 yards which was seen to enter the enemy a/c. The enemy a/c returned fire before breaking away, and damaged the port wing end of our a/c. This attack lasted 30 minutes and the enemy a/c is claimed as damaged. Our Halifax "X", Captain P/O Daggett N.D., sighted an M.E.109, which approached from port quarter to 100 yards and fired short burst which missed. Our Rear Gunner, Sgt. Thomas L.L. (American), simultaneously opened fire on the enemy a/c which did violent bank to port and spiralled down, trailing smoke and burst into flames before diving through 5/10 cloud. The explosion was also observed below cloud. This enemy a/c is claimed as destroyed.	A-O **Note:** Refer to Appendix "A" for details of missing personnel.

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

Poor Copy

Page No.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, TOPCLIFFE, YORKSHIRE.	12-3-43		One Day Sortie. (1:30 Hours) Air Tests. (OPERATIONAL HOURS - NIGHT 27:09) OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 3 BOMBING ATTACK ON ESSEN 8 A/C Detailed. Pre briefing was held at 1330 hours, Main Briefing 1430 hours. One of our a/c did not take off. Two a/c returned early, one due to oxygen failure, the other due to engine failure. The remaining 5 a/c reached the target without exception and bombed on P.F.F. markers. Take off commenced at 1920 hours. T.I. markers were well concentrated and a large area was left burning, visibile for 120 miles on return. One a/c returned with 200 flack holes; this was a/c "S", Captain P/O Daggett N.D. On return, Halifax "S", hydraulics and I.F.F. were u/s; the port outer was u/s and the rudder control column almost severed. There were seven holes in petrol tanks. Landing was made at Leeming. Remaining a/c were undamaged. Weather:- Fair to fine. Wing, light and variable. Visibility good, deteriorating in haze again after dusk.	A-1
"	13-3-43		3 Day Sorties. (7:55 Hours) Sea Search. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. TRAINING:- 26 Air Gunners were detailed for trap shooting. 130 round were fired. The Signals Leader, P/O R.A. Gardiner, gave a one hour lecture on signals procedure, followed by a one hour period of questions and answers. The squadron bade farewell to Flight Lieutenant W.S. Taylor, its genial Adjutant, who has been posted to Station Adjutant duties with R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe. SQUADRON MOVEMENT:- Preparations were made for the move of the Squadron to R.C.A.F. Station, Leeming, authority 60/Signal/029, dated 11th March, 1943. This is the second move for the Squadron in two weeks. Preparations were made for the move tomorrow. The advance road party consisting of 4 Officers and 96 airmen proceeded from R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, at 1330 hours.	
R.C.A.F. Station, LEEMING, YORKSHIRE	14-3-43		12 Day Sorties (4:00 Hour) X-Country to Leeming, from Topcliffe. ~~[illegible]~~ OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 4. (Scrubbed later in the day - 9 a/c detailed). SQUADRON MOVEMENT:- The movement to R.C.A.F. Station, Leeming, was completed today. The air party, consisting of 12 Halifax and one Oxford aircraft with 85 aircrew personnel under the Command of 41664 W/C A.C.P. Clayton, DFC and Bar, took off at 0900 hours. The main road party consisting of 28 Officers, 123 Senior N.C.O.'s, and 320 Other Ranks, left Topcliffe at [illegible] hours. The balance of the day was spent in getting settled in the new location. Weather:- Hazy becoming fine afternoon. Wind light and variable. Visibility 1,800 yards, improving to 2 to 4 miles in the afternoon.	
	15-3-43		No Sorties. OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 5 8 a/c detailed. This operation was scrubbed later in the day. The day was spent in getting settled again in new working accommodations in the hangars allotted to the Squadron at R.C.A.F. Station, Leeming. Weather:- Fog in forenoon. Fair or cloudy with mist later.	
"	16-3-43		8 Day Sorties (3:hours) Air Tests and Local Flying. OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 6. 11 a/c detailed. (Scurbbed later in the afternoon.) Further progress was made in getting settled in new working quarters. Weather:- Fog at first, becoming fair or cloudy with slight mist.	

(*9305) Wt. 51579—3544 116M 3/41 T.S. 700

www.bombercommandmuseum.com/archives

Poor Copy

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

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

Page No. FIVE

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station LEEMING, YORKSHIRE.	17-3-43		No Sorties. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES:- The following messages were received from by the Air Officer Commanding No. 6 R.C.A.F. Group, from the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Bomber Command. Begins: "Please convey to all who took part in last night's attack on Essen an expression of my admiration and thanks for a really magnificent operation carried out with full success in the teeth of the strongest opposition. In the material damage which your squadrons have inflicted on the plant and staff of the worlds greatest armament factory, and in the effect which such devastation must have on the morale of the whole of the Ruhr, Bomber Command has made yet another tremendous contribution to the eventual destruction of Germany's power to carry on the war. I would ask you to give a special word of thanks to the Pathfinder Force whose skill and gallantry contributed so much to the success of these operations." Ends. Begins:- "The attack on Essen has now inflicted such vast damage, that it will in due course take historical precedence as the greatest victory yet achieved on any fronts. You have set a fire in the belly of Germany which will burn the black heart out of Nazidom and wither its grasping limbs at the very roots. Such attacks, which will continue crescendo will progressively make it more and more impossible for the enemy to further his aggressions or to hold, where now he stands. The great skill and courage with which you press home to your objectives has already impressed that the inevitability of disaster on the whole of Germany, and within the next few months the hopelessness of their situation will be borne in upon them in a manner which will destroy their capacity for resistance and break their hearts." Ends. Weather:- Cloudy, with mist or fog.	
"	18-3-43		NO One Day Sortie. (1:10 Hours) Air Test. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. Specialist Officers advised that training operations can be resumed tomorrow. Considerable progress has been made in fitting up the new accommodation for training purposes. Weather:- Fog at first, clearing to fair or fine with slight mist later.	
"	19-3-43		4 Day Sorties. (3:15 Hours) Air Test, and Formation Flying. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. Specialist Officers conducted one hour periods of questions and answers. 12 details of Air Gunners carried out rifle practice. Weather:- Cloudy with only moderate visibility. Intermittent rain in evening.	
"	20-3-43		No Sorties. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. SQUADRON PHOTOGRAPH:- The Squadron was assembled at 1400 hours for the purpose of taking a photograph. TRAINING:- Parachute and Dinghy Drills were carried out by aircrew in the afternoon. CAN.C.7711 F/L B.J. Knight, reported for duty from No. 424 R.C.A.F. Squadron, as Squadron Adjutant No. 405 R.C.A.F. Squadron. Weather:- Cloudy with moderate to poor visibility.	

www.bombercommandmuseum.com.au

Poor Copy

Page No.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, LEEMING, YORKSHIRE.	21-3-43		2 Day Sorties. (6:55 Hours) Consumption Test and Local Flying Practice. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. Preparations were made for the visit tomorrow of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, R.C.A.F. Overseas, Air Mrs Marshal G. Edwards, C.B.E. Weather:- Overcast with fog until 1000 hours, clearing fair to fine later.	
"	22-3-43		2 Day Sorties (2:00 Hours) Local flying practice. (OPERATIONAL HOURS - 52:35 HOURS) OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 7. BOMBING ATTACK ON ST. NAZAIRE 10 a/c detailed. Briefings were held at 1400 hours for Navigators and Bomb Aimers, and main briefing at 1530. Take off commenced at 1821 hours. Three a/c returned early due to engine or turret failures. Remaining 7 a/c reached the target without exception and bombed on P.F.F. markers. Crews report large concentrated fires around aiming point. Spasmodic, heavy and light flak and searchlights were encountered. Fires could be seen for 84 miles on return journey. Halifax "P" P/O Daggett N.D., sighted a J.U.88 under port quarter. Rear Gunner, Sgt. Thomas L.A., (American), opened fire at 400 yards. The enemy a/c passed under the tail without returning fire. Halifax "H", Captain F/L L.H.D.R. Campbell, DFC, sighted an M.E.210 below port quarters. "H" dived to port, evading the enemy a/c, at the same time, the rear gunner, Sgt Stinson L.A., fired a short burst. Enemy a/c passed under port wing and disappeared. All a/c returned undamaged, except Halifax "P" which had flak holes in tailplane and bomb-door. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE:- The following message was received from No. 6 Group (R.C.A.F.), from the Secretary of State: "Your cunningly planned and brilliantly executed attacks on Krupps have destroyed no small part of Germany's biggest war factory. Congratulations to you and all under your command on this achievement in the teeth of Germany's strongest defences." VISITS AND INSPECTIONS: Air Marshal G. Edwards, C.B.E., visited the Station today. He made an informal inspection of the hangars of this Squadron. Weather:- Fog developed after midnight until 0900 hours. Cleared to moderate visibility.	A-2
"	23-3-43		2 Day Sorties. (2:00 Hours) Local Flying Practice. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. TRAINING:- Further progress was made in training. 21 Air Gunners were detailed for trap shooting. 335 rounds were fired. Air Gunners also viewed a film on sighting and aiming. Parachute and dinghy drills were carried out by aircrew. Weather:- Fog developed early morning, overcast breaking to fair midday with average visibility. Fog after 2100 hours.	
"	24-3-43		2 Day Sorties. (2:20 Hours) Air Test. X-Country to Preston and return. OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 8 (This was scrubbed later in the day) 10 a/c were detailed. TRAINING:- The Gunnery Leader, F/L W.L. Murphy, gave a one hour lecture on night fighter tactics. WOP/AGs and Navigators held a one hour informal discussion. Weather:- Fog until dawn, becoming cloudy with intermittent rain and exceedingly poor visibility at times.	
"	25-3-43		No Sorties. OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 9 9 A/C Detailed. (Scrubbed later in the day) No flying was carried out, due to adverse weather conditions. TRAINING:- Considerable progress was made in training. The Gunnery Leader, F/L W.L. Murphy, gave a 1½ hour lecture on range estimation, and the Flight Engineer Leader, Sgt Anderson M.J., gave a talk on Pilots' Assistance Duties. 45 minutes Link Training were given. Weather:- Cloudy with base varying 200 to 800 feet and continuous rain.	

(*9305) WL 51579—3544 116M 3/42 T.S. 700

www.bombercommandmuseum.ca

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. SEVEN

of (Unit or Formation) No. 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION LINTON, YORKSHIRE.	26-3-43		One Day Sortie (3:05 Hours) X-Country. (OPERATIONAL HOURS - NIGHT 33:53) OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 10 BOMBING ATTACK ON DUISBURG 8 A/C Detailed. Briefings were held at 1400 hours for Navigators and Bomb Aimers, and Main Briefing at 1530 hours. Take off commenced at 1934 hours, and the last aircraft was airborne at 1952 hours. Aircraft "P", Captain P/O Burton J.R., returned after 42 minutes, due to u/s artificial horizon. A/C "G", Captain F/O Stovel C.G., returned after 3:50 hours, when both D.R. and P.4. Compasses went u/s. "G" encountered flak at 11,000 feet near the English Coast near the vicinity of East Anglia. Two colour of the period cartridges were fired without result. The remaining 6 a/c reached the target without incident and released loads from an average height of 15,000 foot, between 2136 hours and 2150 hours. Target was obscured by 10/10 cloud but P.F.F. markers were identified. Actual results could not be observed. Heavy accurate flak was encountered. Some crews report that the P.F.F. markers were late and that bombing appeared scattered and promiscuous. Glow of fires could be seen through clouds. Aircraft "M" F/O Symes R.A. (D.I.), suffered severe flak damage to the airscrew of the stb'd outer and 13 holes in wings. All a/c returned to base. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE:- The following message was received today from the Air Officer Commanding No. 6 R.C.A.F Groups: "To A.O.C. No. 6 Group from A.O.C. in Chief Bomber Command. On night 22/23 March, 1943, in very tricky weather conditions a highly successful attack was made on the U-Boat base at St. Nazaire. The operational crews, O.T.U. Instructional Staff and the Maintenance personnel throughout the Command are indeed to be congratulated on these outstanding results of their unremitting labours." Weather:- Overcast with rand and drizzle. Moderate to good visibility, becoming fine after 2200 hours.	A-4
"	27-3-43		1 Day Sorties (4:25 hours) Consumption Test and X-Country. (OPERATIONAL HOURS - NIGHT 56:27) OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 11 BOMBING ATTACK ON BERLIN 2 a/c Detailed. Briefings were held at 1400 hours for Navigators and Bomb Aimers, and Main at 1530 hours. Take off commenced at 1939 hours. 4 A/C were compelled to abandon operation, two due to severe icing conditions; one due to electrical failure in bomb panel box and the other due to u/s rear turret. One of the a/c that encountered severe icing conditions, dropped his bomb load on a heavily defended area, believed to be KIEL. There was a heavy concentration of s/l's and heavy and light flak. The 2 a/c that reached the target found visibility good. Loads were released on T.I. markers between 2256 and 2317 hours. Several really good fires were observed. Also many smaller fires, well concentrated. The glow could be seen for 150 miles on return. All a/c that returned to base undamaged. Weather:- Cloudy becoming fair, then fine with good visibility.	A-5
"	28-3-43		2 Day Sorties (8:00 Hours) X-Country and Consumption Test. NO OPERATIONS EXPECTED FOR TONIGHT. GUNNERY:- 13 details of Air Gunners fired 150 rounds, trap shooting and one hour lecture was given on Pilots' Assistance Duties. The Signals Officer, F/O R.A. Gardiner, gave a one hour lecture on Bomber Command Procedure. Weather:- Fine, with good visibility.	
"	29-3-43		1 Day Sortie (4:10 Hours) Fuel Consumption Test. (OPERATIONAL HOURS - NIGHT 25:36) OPERATIONAL ORDER NO. 12 BOMBING ATTACK ON BERLIN 7 A/C Detailed. (OVER)	A-6

www.bombercommandmuseum.ca

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, LEEMING YORKSHIRE	29-3-43		BOMBING ATTACK ON BERLIN (Con'td) Briefings were held for Navigators and Bomb Aimers at 1400 hours, and Main Briefing at 1530 hours. Weather conditions during late afternoon and evening were very poor and the original take off time off 1915 hours was postponed to 2122 hours. Aircraft "S" Captain P/O Daggett N.D., developed ignition trouble and could not take off. A/C "D" P/O Burton J.R., (American), did not take off due to illness of the Pilot. The remaining 5 [illegible] took off commencing 2122 hours. The rear turret of "T" Captain P/O Symes R.A. (BEM), jammed, so the Captain decided to return. Severe icing conditions were encountered. The Stb'd inner on Aircraft "X" Captain Sgt Weber J., went u/s. Severe icing conditions were also encountered by "X", so Captain decided to return. Severe icing conditions and an electrical storm were encountered by "L", Captain F/S McAlpine W.T., so Captain decided to return to base. The remaining two A/C, "C" Captain P/O Colledge W.W., and "L" Captain F/L Campbell L.H.D.R.(DFC), reached the target area and identified it visually and by P.F.F. markers. Loads were released on marker flares, but actual results could not be distinguished. Both crews report many fires burning, visible for 75 to 150 miles on return journey. Aircraft "G" Captain P/O Colledge W.W., encountered severe icing conditions and artificial horizon and D.R. Compass went u/s after violent evasive action to avoid flak at TEXEL. "G" had a small hole near the rear turret from flak. A/C "L" was coned by 60 to 70 s/l's over target and hit by flak which was unexpectedly moderate to light. Both a/c returned to base. The particularly unfavourable conditions at take off made a bad start to this operation. Weather:- Cloudy with intermittent rain in evening. Good visibility. TRAINING:- The Signals Officer, P/O R.A. Gardiner, gave a 1½ hour lecture on dingly radio. The Gunnery Leader, F/L W.L. Murphy gave a one hour talk on Browning stoppages.	A-6
"	30-3-43		No Day Sorties. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY The Squadron was given a stand-down today. No flying of any kind was carried out on account of the high wind. Considerable progress was made in the training programme. A 1½ hour talk was given on summary of articles for Tee Emm. Two hours were spent on Hunt Training. P/O Taylor, J.L.S., Assistant Gunnery Leader, gave a one hour talk on sighting and harmonizing. Weather:- Cloudy with frequent squalls. Squally showers. Winds of gale force. Good visibility.	
"	31-3-43		No Sorties. NO OPERATIONS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY The Squadron was given a stand-down again. High wind velocity prevented any flying training. TRAINING:- Crew training was continued with a lecture on pilots' assistance with particular regard to the petrol system. Two hours was spent on Hunt Training. All aircrew attended a two hour lecture on escape, given by a Station Intelligence Officer. Weather:- Fair to cloudy with squally showers. Strong westerly winds. Good visibility.	

(*9305) WL 51579—3544 116M 3/42 T.S. 700

www.bombercommandmuseum.org.uk

SECRET.

Wt. 20426/1104 200M. 7/41 P.J. Ltd. 51—811

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. [illegible]

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices

R.C.A.F. STATION LEEMING YORKSHIRE — 31-3-43

AIRCRAFT STRENGTH:- The Squadron has 21 Halifax II a/c and One Oxford II a/c on charge.

MILITARY STRENGTH OF NO. 405 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON AS AT 1ST AND 31ST MARCH, 1943.

			1ST	31ST
R.C.A.F.	- OFFICERS	- AIRCREW	44	48
		- GROUND CREW	4	5
R.C.A.F.	- AIRMEN	- AIRCREW	136	120
		- GROUND CREW	317	420
R.A.F.	- OFFICERS	- AIRCREW	15	16
		- GROUND CREW	1	1
R.A.A.F.	- OFFICERS	- AIRCREW	1	2
		- GROUND CREW	-	-
R.A.F.	- AIRMEN	- AIRCREW	46	47
		- GROUND CREW	131	60
R.A.A.F.	- AIRMEN	- AIRCREW	2	-
		- GROUND CREW	-	-
R.N.Z.A.F.	- OFFICERS	- AIRCREW	1	-
	- AIRMEN	- AIRCREW	3	4

A C P Clayton

(A.C.P. Clayton) Wing Commander,
Officer Commanding,
No. 405 R. C. A. F. SQUADRON.

www.bombercommandmuseummarchives.ca