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RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in KR and ACI, para 249 and War Manual Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 001

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
GRANBY LODGE, BEDFORDSHIRE	1-7-43		<p>Weather:- Cloudy with stratus cloud below 1,000 feet, lifting and breaking towards midday, stratus returning at dusk. Good visibility. Moderate northerly wind.</p> <p>Training:- 26.15 hours flying training was carried out during the day, which consisted of 90 hours Fighter Affiliation and 28 eight hours "T" training. Two hours were allocated on use of "T" equipment. The Squadron was stood down today.</p>		
	2-7-43		<p>Training:- 16.45 hours flying training was carried out during the day, which consisted of 13 hours "T" training and 5 hours Fighter Affiliation.</p> <p>Weather:- 10/10 stratus cloud below 1,000 feet, clearing by midday, returning at dusk. Moderate visibility. Light variable wind mainly easterly.</p> <p>Notes:- The Squadron No. 11 team played against the American forces at Basingstoke and the "Woods" won 4-0.</p> <p>COMMUNICATIONS:- A signal was received today from the International Red Cross Society quoting German information that the following crew reported missing on the night of May 13/14, 1943, are now classified as follows: Prisoners of war are OAL.S.12641 P/O Martin J., 137625 P/O E.W. Clarke, OAL.S.123215 SGT R. Ferguson, OAL.S.73127 SGT J. Gibson; Missing, believed killed somewhere in cottons OAL.S.95244 SGT Hart R., 1269142 SGT Hendry G., OAL.S.10239 P/O Bontie H.D.</p> <p>Signal was also received from International Red Cross quoting German information that 12.317 P/O J.J.B. Graham captured, now classified prisoner of war.</p>		
	3-7-43		<p>Weather:- 10/10 stratus cloud below 1,000 feet at first, clearing by midday to fine. Visibility poor at first becoming very good. Light northerly wind.</p> <p>Operations:- BOMBED ATTACK ON "COTTONS". 11 Aircraft Detailed</p> <p>One of our aircraft reached and bombed primary from an average height of 10,500 feet on red and green T.L. in good visibility. Target was a mass of trees with height up to 10,000 feet. One of our aircraft was attacked by an unidentified nightfighter and severely was damaged the starboard elevator and tail assembly by cannon shells; cannon shell through starboard control airplane, wing internally damaged, fuselage holed and bomb doors shot up, and mid upper turret and lower guns were also holed. Captain of this aircraft is 1339041 SGT Phillips J.L. who had much difficulty in preventing aircraft getting into stalling speed because aircraft could not be stopped from climbing. This was overcome by tying the control column to the rudder bar by means of the dingy rope, which was slightly successful although pressure still had to be maintained on the stick. The Mid Upper Gunner was slightly injured in the leg. One of our aircraft is missing. Numbers of crew were: 152400 P/O Smith (Sgt); OAL.S.16774 P/O Pratt (Sgt) (Rev); OAL.S.16809 P/O Anderson L.H. (Sgt); OAL.S.17008 P/O Anderson J.L. (Wg/Co); OAL.S.124257 SGT Harrison S.K. (W/O); OAL.S.17005 P/O Green J. (W/O); OAL.S.97723 SGT Cole H.L.R. (W/O). Nothing has been heard from this crew since time of take off.</p> <p>Operational Flying Unit: Night 23.45 Hours</p> <p>Training:- 10.36 hours flying training was carried out during the day which consisted of 9 hours "T" training and three hours Fighter Affiliation.</p>		A-1

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Grandson I. Agg, Redfordshire.	4-7-43		<p>Weather: Fine at first with mist patches at dawn, then fair. Variable cumulus cloud to 3,000 feet and much medium cloud. Visibility moderate. Moderate westerly wind.</p> <p>Operations: 9 aircraft were detailed for operations, but this was scrubbed at 1000 hours.</p> <p>Training: 3:18 hours flying training was carried out during the day which included 2 hours "T" training - wireless operators were given more practice and Bomb Alarms were lectured on "T" training.</p>		
	5-7-43		<p>Weather: Fine at first with slight mist and much medium cloud around dawn. Cumulus cloud at 4,500 feet increasing in afternoon, much medium cloud. Moderate visibility. Light North-west wind backing to South-west.</p> <p>Operations: Three aircraft were detailed for bombing operations, but was scrubbed at 1000 hours.</p> <p>Training: 4:45 hours flying training was carried out during the day which included 10 hours "T" training, 4 hours Air to Sea Firing, 4 hours instruction in Pilots by the RAF Flight. Air Gunnery were given a lecture on C.S.I.</p>		
	6-7-43		<p>Weather: Small amounts of stratus-cumulus cloud above 3,000 feet at first. Cumulus cloud building up and increasing. Fair at first, thunderstorms in evening. Cloud clearing towards midnight some medium cloud. Moderate visibility becoming very good and becoming moderate again. Light westerly to south westerly.</p> <p>Operations: Three aircraft were detailed for bombing operations but was scrubbed at 1350 hours.</p> <p>Training: 4:13 hours flying training was carried out during the day which included 10 hours "T" training, 5 hours Fighter Agitation and 3 hours Air to Sea Firing. W/O's were lectured on navigation and fuel firing and Bomb Alarms were lectured on "T".</p> <p>Messages: - 4/11/43: A telegram was received today quoting German information that 1007282 SGT B. HOGG, who was reported missing on the night of 4/25th May, 1943, is now re-assessed missing believed killed in action.</p>		
	7-7-43		<p>Weather: Mainly cloudy with frequent showers in afternoon and evening and local thunderstorms accompanied by hail at times. Variable amounts of cloud at 3,000 feet at times, becoming cumulo-nimbus after midday, base at 1,500 feet in showers. Visibility very good. Light variable wind.</p> <p>Operations: The Squadron was stood down today, and 16:22 hours flying training was carried out which included 2 hours Air to Sea Firing, 10 hours Air to Air firing and 2:30 hours instruction in pilots from the RAF Flight. W/O's were given a half hour "T" training, and Bomb Alarms were lectured on Bomb IV Redlight.</p> <p>Notes: - The Squadron softball team played R.A.F. Station Operatives and the Squadron lost 16-2.</p>		
	8-7-43		<p>Weather: Fair at first, thunderstorms at midday, followed by occasional showers - much cumulus and cumulo-nimbus, base 2,000 feet.</p> <p>Operations: 8 aircraft were detailed for bombing operations which was scrubbed at 1900 hours.</p> <p>Training: 20:09 hours flying training was carried out which included 13 hours "T" training, 10 hours Bomb instruction, 1:30 hours practice bombing, and 3 hours instruction by the RAF Flight. W/O's were given clay pigeon shooting, and also 30 hours "T" training and one hour "T" training. Air Gunnery were lectured on bombing gun.</p> <p>Notes: - The Squadron softball team played against the American Forces at Diddington and the Americans won 4 - 0.</p>		

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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 210 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 11022

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

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Station, Grandson Tapes, India.	9-7-43		<p>Weather - Fine with little cloud at first and poor visibility. Medium and high cloud at about 10,000 feet during morning; rain commencing about midday, persisting till evening when visibility cloudy until midnight. 10/10 cloud at 800 feet in rain becoming small amount low cloud in evening with medium cloud. Wind southwest veering west 14/10 to moderate.</p> <p>Operations - REHEARSAL ATTACK ON "CHALMERSBURGH" - 4 1/2 HOURS.</p> <p>Three of our aircraft were successful in bombing primary but no results were observed due to poor visibility. Bomb Almer (CAN. 1,000 2/0 low alt.) was killed in one of our aircraft when stray flak penetrated nose of aircraft and struck bomb almer in the head. Bomb Almer died instantly. Bombs from this aircraft were witnessed by Navigator.</p> <p>General - The American Forces played the Squadron softball team here and the Squadron defeated the Americans from Bangalore 7 - 3.</p>		
	10-7-43		<p>Weather - Fair at first with medium cloud only, rain commencing mid-morning becoming continuous during afternoon but subsiding in evening. Cloud falling to 600 feet in rain lifting subsequently to 2,000 feet in evening but later than 1,000 feet towards midnight. Visibility poor but poor in rain. Wind mainly moderate southerly.</p> <p>Training - The Squadron was stood down today, and 5 1/2 hours flying training was carried out which included 2 hours S.D.A. and 1 1/2 hours Air to Air Firing. WOP/As were given W/ Group lectures and also a lecture from the bombing leader. Bomb Almer were given lecture on W/ Group.</p>		
	11-7-43		<p>Weather - Cloudy with slight continuous rain and drizzle from midnight to 0400 hours, 10/10 streams with cloud base below 1,000 feet, continuing throughout the night and morning, becoming slowly during afternoon and evening. Visibility poor at first becoming good. Wind from to strong southwesterly. Rain beginning again at 2000 hours and continuing on till midnight.</p> <p>Training - The Squadron was stood down today. 11:00 hours flying training was carried out during the day which included 1 1/2 hours W/ training, 1 1/2 hours S.D.A., and 1 hour Air to Sea Firing. Wireless operators were given a 1 1/2 hour lecture on general W/.</p>		
	12-7-43		<p>Weather - Bright rain till 0800 hours, 10/10 cloud at 1,000/1,500 feet, persisting till 0900 hours, then clearing rapidly to 1/10 cloud of fair weather masses at 1,000 feet with variable medium cloud above. Continuing fair with good visibility throughout the day becoming fine towards the evening. Strong southerly wind falling light towards evening.</p> <p>Training - The Squadron was stood down today and 23:30 hours flying training was carried out which included 1 1/2 hours W/ training, 5 hours S.D.A., and 10 hours I-Country. Bomb Almer were lectured on photos and fuses. Parachute and dingy drills were also carried out. The Air Gun House Officer CAN. 1,144 2/0 C.A. Purvis (WOP/As) lectured to crews on Air Gun House equipment.</p>		
	13-7-43		<p>REWARDS AND AWARDS - His Majesty the King has graciously awarded the Most-Excellant Award of the Most-Excellant Flying Cross to CAN. 1,100 2/0 Paul Chittam, (Pilot).</p> <p>REMARKS - A signal was received today from the International Red Cross asking certain information of the following members of this Squadron who were reported killed on the night of 1/5 April, 1943, are now reclassified as follows: Missing, believed killed in action - CAN. 1,100 2/0 SGT R.S. Golding, CAN. 1,100 2/0 SGT H.D.J. Sargent, CAN. 1,017 2/0 SGT W.P. Spence, CAN. 1,100 2/0 SGT R.A. Dunn, CAN. 1,100 2/0 SGT J.A.C. Taylor, Award Garrison Cemetery, Rangoon.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Ormsdon Lodge, Bedfordshire.	13-7-43		<p>Weather: Fine with only small amounts of medium cloud and good visibility during the night, increasing amounts of medium cloud after dawn and low cloud becoming mainly 6/10 - 9/10 at 2,500 feet, till 1900 hours, then clearing rapidly to small amounts at all heights and becoming fine. Winds fresh westerly falling light towards evening.</p> <p>Operations: Bomber attack on "Spartan" - 22 aircraft detailed.</p> <p>Men of our aircraft reached and bombed primary from an average height of 19,500 feet, in good visibility with moonlight and some cloud. Loads were dropped on red and green lights. One large orange explosion was observed at 2246 hours which lit up entire cloud for the moment. Many fires were also observed, some scattered. One of our aircraft returned early when about three of our a/c were engaged in enemy combats. One of our aircraft is missing from this operation and not being traced since time of take off. Numbers of crew are as follows: W/O ... P/O ... F/O ... F/O ...</p> <p>BURIAL: - The funeral of CAN. J. COLE P/O A.C. (Air Gunner), who was killed on the night of 9/10th July, 1943, when hit by enemy fighter searchlight over Ormsdon Lodge, was held at R.A.F. Station Oakington and buried in Cambridge Cemetery at 15.15 hours.</p> <p>Training: - 16.00 hours flying training was carried out during the day which included 2 hours X-Country, 2 hours "T" training and one hour Fighter Affiliation.</p>		A-3
	13-7-43		<p>Weather: Fine at first with little cloud becoming fair with medium cloud increasing to 6-9/10 at 1400 hours and subsequently variable mainly small amounts of low cloud at 3,000 feet till midnight. Visibility good. Winds southwesterly.</p> <p>Training: - 7.00 hours flying training was carried out during the day which included 2 hours X-Country, 2 hours "T", Clandestine and Landing one hour and one hour Fighter Affiliation. Lecture was given to Bomb Aimers on bombing methods. Wireless operators held a question and answer period and general discussion. Air Gunners were given practice on turret manipulation.</p>		
	13-7-43		<p>Weather: Fair with good visibility and variable cloud amounts throughout the night and following day becoming mainly cloudy towards late afternoon with slight rain beginning at 1700 hours and cloud base lowering to 1/2,000 feet. Low cloud clearing rapidly after 2100 hours and rain sun. High. Medium low cloud clearing more cloudy to small amounts by midnight. Visibility good throughout period. Winds southwesterly strong at first becoming light.</p> <p>Operations: Bomber attack on "Spartan" - 22 aircraft detailed.</p> <p>Men of our aircraft reached and bombed primary from an average height of 6,800 feet in good visibility and no cloud. Target was identified visually and river, factory and built-up areas were clearly seen. There was much dust and smoke with bomb bursts in combats. One very large fire was observed on target which was spreading to the West. Loads were dropped on red and green lights. Many bomb bursts were also seen. Many incendiaries were burning in built-up areas. One of our aircraft suffered slight flat damage. One of our aircraft's "T" (turret) gunner was also recognized British camouflage and roundels on the attacking aircraft. Holder was doing without successful evasive action. W/O Anderson was wounded four times in the left arm, but continued to keep on firing. Enemy aircraft made seven or eight attacks. One crashed into the ground where its engine was seen to burst in flames just before enemy aircraft and devotion to duty during these attacks, while wounded. The enemy a/c is claimed as destroyed.</p>		A-4

(F0086-995) Wt. 2451-1218 1300 1214 T.S. 700

(Entry for 15/7 cont'd on Page 6)

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FIVE

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Overland Lodge, Bedfordshire.	22-7-43		<p>Weather - 10/10 stratus cloud below 1,000 feet, clearing by midday returning at dusk. Moderate visibility. Light variable wind mainly Northwesterly.</p> <p>Training - 7:00 Flying Training was carried out today with 2 hours "T" training and 5 hours "A.S.A." wireless operators were given more practice. Air Gunnery lectured on German aircraft armament and camouflage. Flight Engineer Leader gave a lecture to three new pilots on the general operating performance of a Halifax and cockpit, oil systems.</p>		
	23-7-43		<p>Weather - Continuous drizzle and 10/10 cloud at 500 feet and below, clearing towards midday. 10/10 cloud persisting above 1,000 feet, drizzle commencing again at dusk. Visibility good, deteriorating in drizzle. Wind, moderate Northwesterly.</p> <p>Training - 1:15 hours flying training was carried out during the day, this being curtailed on account of preparations for operations which were scrubbed at 22:15 hours. Air Gunnery were given a talk on armory of combat reports. Flight Engineer Leader gave instruction on emergency drill and equipment and safety precautions.</p>		
	24-7-43		<p>Weather - Cloudy with 10/10 cloud below 1,000 feet, and continuous drizzle until midday, becoming fair during the evening and fine at night. Visibility, poor becoming moderate. Wind, 11/28 Northwesterly.</p> <p>Training - 15 aircraft were detailed for bombing operations, which was scrubbed at 18:30 hours. Preparations for operations prevented any training flying throughout the day. Air Gunnery were given map-pigeon shooting, and the Air Sea Base Officer lectured crews on Diving familiarisation.</p>		
	25-7-43		<p>Weather - Fog becoming widespread in the early hours, clearing by 1000 hours, thence well cleared of cloud and moderate visibility. Wind, light southerly.</p> <p>OPERATIONS - BOMBING ATTACK ON "BRIDGE" - 15 AIRCRAFT DETAILED</p> <p>Fourteen of our aircraft reached and bombed primary fires on average height of 15,000 feet. Slight haze and fair visibility in target area with broken cloud. Many good fires were observed around aiming point and in docks immediately to South. There was much smoke rising up to 20,000 feet. Loads were returned on red, green and yellow T.I. One of our aircraft returned with heavy flak damage and the W/O Gunnery G.M. 11549 SGT McEllan G.C. was seriously wounded in the right and abdomen by flak. One of our aircraft abandoned mission when port engine quit with W/O, returning from task. Load was jettisoned from this aircraft 1000 ft. Many large explosions were observed around aiming point. Fires were developing rapidly when aircraft left target area. All of our aircraft returned to base except one, which landed at Bourne.</p>		A-5
	25-7-43		<p>Weather - Fog at dawn, dispersing quickly, thence fine and warm. Moderate visibility. Wind, light southerly.</p> <p>OPERATIONS - BOMBING ATTACK ON "BRIDGE" - 11 AIRCRAFT DETAILED</p> <p>Eleven of our aircraft reached and bombed primary fires on average height of 17,000 feet in fair visibility with no cloud and overcast. Target marking was excellent and bombing was very concentrated. Many large fires were seen with tremendous explosions, and much smoke rising up to 20,000 feet in target area. Two of our aircraft suffered flak damage, one of which was damaged in the right engine and set on fire by flak. There were numerous flak holes in aircraft. All but one of our aircraft landed back to base. One of our aircraft is missing from this operation and numbers of crew are - G.M. 1, 21899 S/O Gunnery H.S. G.M. 1, 24298 S/O Gunnery A.P. G.M. 1, 21010 S/O Gunnery A.J. G.M. 1, 9766 SGT Kettleby G., G.M. 1, 15087 SGT White S.A., G.M. 1, 10230 S/O Gunnery H.C. G.M. 1, 307 SGT Wood A.P.</p>		A-6

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Gravelly L. Agge, Bedfordshire.	15-7-43	(Cont. from 14-7-43)	Operations: (Continued) One of our aircraft failed to return from this operation and the following are the numbers of the crew: O.N.J. 15608 P/O Ray J.H., O.N.J. 15071 P/O Burton H.T., O.N.J. 1286 S/L Lambert A. HCU, 157232 ACE Messenger G., O.N.J. 12681 P/O Simpson J., O.N.J. 20446 P/O Prior A.S.; O.N.J. 50307 SGT Macgoull J.B. Squadron Leader Lambert was the Flight Commander of this Squadron.		
	16-7-43		Weather - Fine with little cloud during the night. Visibility moderate. Variable amount medium clouds around midday clearing again towards evening. Visibility good. Wind light and variable. Maximum temperature 75 degrees F. Training - One night flying was carried out, which amounted to 25.45 hours. Three aircraft taking part in a bullseye. Wireless operators were given 3/4 exercises. Air Gunnery carried out day pigeon shooting.		
	17-7-43		Weather - Fine with no cloud. Visibility deteriorating rapidly till dawn then down to 500 yards. Stratus of stratus at less than 1,000 feet around dawn, lifting quickly and becoming small wisps at 1,500 feet. Visibility improving soon to good. Fine with little cloud for rest of day. Wind light westerly. Training - 29.55 hours flying was carried out during the day and 3.47 hours flying was carried out during the night, which included 15 hours country, 10 hours "T", 3 hours S.B.A., and 5 hours Fighter Affiliations. Navigators were lectured on A.P.A. Bomb Aimers were lectured on Bombing Equipment, and Wireless operators took Gee training.		
	18-7-43		Weather - Cloudy with 10/10 North Sea stratus at 1,500 feet spreading across area soon after midnight and persisting till dawn breaking temporarily to half cover at 2,000 feet with 10/10 medium above, but soon becoming 6/10 to 10/10 till midday when low cloud disappears completely but misty 3/10 of medium persisting and giving some slight rain at 2000 hours. Visibility good. Wind fresh Northwesterly. Training - 14.20 hours training was carried out during the day which included 8 hours country, 2 hours "T", 3 hours S.B.A., and 17 hours Fighter Affiliations. Wireless operators took Gee training and Air Gunnery day pigeon shooting. Crews carried out parachute and dingy drills.		
	19-7-43		Weather - Fair with little cloud at first increasing amounts after dawn becoming mainly 10/10 haze lowering to 1,500 feet, and continuing cloudy till 11.40 hours, when cloud breaking at 1,000 feet and persisting till midnight. Visibility good. Wind fresh Northwesterly. Training - 23.11 hours flying training was carried out which included 8 hours "T" training and 15 hours Air to Air firing. Wireless operators were given a lecture by Gunnery Leader and took Gee training. Air Gunnery were given instruction on target manipulation. Flight Sergeant Leader gave instruction to three new pilots on Aircraft familiarisation and petrol systems. 15 aircraft proceeded to Oakington for night vision test.		
	20-7-43		Weather - Cloudy with 10/10 stratus at less than 1,000 feet till dawn and persisting 6-9/10 mainly under 1,000 feet, throughout the day. Visibility poor to moderate. Wind fresh to strong Northwesterly. Training - 1.01 hours S.B.A. flying training was carried out during the day. Bomb Aimers took bombing drill. Wireless operators took part in 3/4 exercises. Air Gunnery took day pigeon shooting and Flight Engineer Leader gave instruction to three new pilots on hydraulics and oxygen systems.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 00158

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
Gravelly Lodge, Bedfordshire.	26-7-43		<p>Weather: Fine. Local mist at dawn with cloud increasing after midday, mainly above 10,000 feet. VISIBILITY, poor at first, improves to moderate. Wind light southwesterly.</p> <p>Training: 6:02 hours flying training was carried out during the day which consisted of 3 hours X-Country, 1:30 hours "Y" training and 1:30 hours S.D.A. Bomb Alarms were sounded on S.D.A. Bombing Net-od. Wireless Operators were located on Net-od and S.D.A. Air-Guns were practice on range estimation.</p>		
	27-7-43		<p>Weather: Fair with some low cloud at about 3,500 feet. Much medium cloud persisting throughout the day and dispersing after dusk. Moderate to good VISIBILITY. Wind, very light and variable, mainly southwesterly.</p> <p>OPERATIONS: BOMBING ATTACK ON "HAMBURG" IN AIRCRAFT REGIMENT</p> <p>12 of our aircraft reached and bombed primary fires on average height of 10,000 feet in fair visibility. Intensive and solid cover of good fires were burning with smoke up to 10,000 feet in target areas. Exceptionally large fires in centre of waste area, adjacent to T. 2. 2. green, and also could be seen 100 miles away from by some of the crews on their homeward journey. Loads were dropped on red, green and yellow T.I. which illuminated built-up areas and permitted crews to identify the targets. One of our aircraft abandoned operation when port inner engine was giving trouble. All of our aircraft safely returned to base unharmed.</p> <p>Training: 13:00 hours flying training was carried out during the day on local and cross-country flights, bombing practice and Fighter Affiliation.</p>		A-7
	28-7-43		<p>Weather: Fair with no low cloud at first but small amounts of medium height cloud. Visibility deteriorating to 500 yards around dawn, 2/3,000 feet. Some medium cloud above. Good visibility with light west-southwesterly winds.</p> <p>Training: 13:15 hours flying training was carried out, which consisted of 4 hours "Y" training 15 hours X-Country and 3:00 hours Fighter Affiliation. Crews were given lecture on Bombyranks by the Air Bom Recon Officer.</p>		
	29-7-43		<p>Weather: Little or no cloud at first, increasing to 2/10 of cumulus and stratus masses, base at 2,000 feet, and all dispersing again towards midnight. Good visibility. Light westerly wind.</p> <p>OPERATIONS: BOMBING ATTACK ON "HAMBURG" IN AIRCRAFT REGIMENT</p> <p>12 of our aircraft reached and bombed primary fires on average height of 10,500 feet in good visibility. Loads were dropped on concentration of green T.I.s burning on the TRENKEL area were dropped on yellow T.I. Two of our aircraft abandoned mission, one because of engine trouble when port outer engine went w/s. One of our aircraft "A", Captain G.H. MORGAN 2/0 St. Louis Base, was caused by 250 to 300 searchlights on run-up to target, over target and on run out. Heavy flash defences was encountered by crews in target area and two of our aircraft suffered flash damage. Heavy flash defences were seen burning well and many other prominent fires were also observed. Fires were seen still burning from previous attack by some of the crews. Some part of main was rising in target area up to 17,000 feet.</p> <p>Training: 13:30 hours flying training was carried out during the day which included 1:17 hours X-Country, 1:30 hours "Y" training and 6 hours bombing practice. Five hours X-Country and 1:30 hours Fighter Affiliation were also carried out.</p>		A-8

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																																												
Granada Lodge, Bedfordshire.	30-7-43		<p>Weather:- No cloud at first but 3 - 7/30 of cirrus forming but dispersing by dawn. Accounts of fair weather earlier during the day with base at 3/4,000 feet, descending towards the evening and leaving small masses of high cloud dispersing to all by 21.00 hours. Visibility 1,000 yards at first, bombing good during the day. Winds light southerly.</p> <p>Operations:- 20 a/c were detailed for bombing operations but were scrubbed just before take off, so, consequently, preparations for operations curtailed training programme consisting of 7:05 hours flying training were carried out which included 4:30 hours "T" training and one hour bombing practice.</p>																																														
	31-7-43		<p>Weather:- Heavy, with no cloud all day. Moderate visibility. Wind southeast to south. Gusts 20 - 25 knots.</p> <p>Operations:- Preparations for 17 aircraft detailed for bombing operations curtailed the training programme. This operation was scrubbed again at 16:25 hours.</p> <p>16:25 hours flying training were carried out which included 9 hours "T" training, 1 1/2 hours practice bombing. <i>49012 a/c was operational by night</i> <i>2822 a/c was operational by night</i></p> <p>AIRCRAFT STRENGTH: The Squadron has 19 Halifax II Aircraft on charge.</p> <p>PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF HQ 405 BOMBING SQUADRON AS AT 23:00 JULY, 1943.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>R. C. A. F.</td> <td>- Officers</td> <td>- Aircraft</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- Ground Crew</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- Airman</td> <td>- Aircraft</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- Ground Crew</td> <td></td> <td>160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. A. F.</td> <td>- Officers</td> <td>- Aircraft</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- Ground Crew</td> <td></td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- Airman</td> <td>- Aircraft</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- Ground Crew</td> <td></td> <td>132</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. A. A. F.</td> <td>- Officers</td> <td>- Aircraft</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>- Airman</td> <td>- Aircraft</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. N. A. F.</td> <td>- Airman</td> <td>- Aircraft</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	R. C. A. F.	- Officers	- Aircraft	44		- Ground Crew		3		- Airman	- Aircraft	60		- Ground Crew		160	R. A. F.	- Officers	- Aircraft	11		- Ground Crew		6		- Airman	- Aircraft	43		- Ground Crew		132	R. A. A. F.	- Officers	- Aircraft	1		- Airman	- Aircraft	1	R. N. A. F.	- Airman	- Aircraft	1		
R. C. A. F.	- Officers	- Aircraft	44																																														
	- Ground Crew		3																																														
	- Airman	- Aircraft	60																																														
	- Ground Crew		160																																														
R. A. F.	- Officers	- Aircraft	11																																														
	- Ground Crew		6																																														
	- Airman	- Aircraft	43																																														
	- Ground Crew		132																																														
R. A. A. F.	- Officers	- Aircraft	1																																														
	- Airman	- Aircraft	1																																														
R. N. A. F.	- Airman	- Aircraft	1																																														

J. E. Harrison
 (J. E. Harrison) Wing Commander, Commander,
 HQ 405 R. C. A. F. SQUADRON

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