

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK
(War Diary)

of (Unit or Formation) 408 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

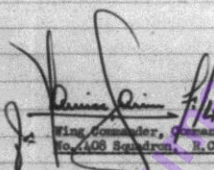
No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
1516 Syerton	1/9/41		Weather at base fit for flying. In the first part of the period - haze and patches of Strato-cumulus later dispersing.	
Syerton	2/9/41		Weather cloudy at first with much lifted fog but in afternoon was fine.	
Syerton	3/9/41		Weather fit all day for flying. Cloudy with patches of lifted fog.	
Syerton	4/9/41		Small amounts of cloud but weather conditions fit for flying. Visibility at first 1000 - 2000 yards but improved later.	
Syerton	5/9/41		Weather fit for flying but a fair amount of cloud dispersing in the afternoon.	
Syerton	6/9/41		Weather unfit all day with 10/10ths Stratus at 500 feet later lifting to 1000 feet. Haze and light intermittent drizzle.	
Syerton	7/9/41		Weather good with varying amounts of Cumulus with haze at 2,500 feet. Good visibility.	
Syerton	8/9/41		Weather fit for local flying. Large amounts of strato-Cumulus at 2,500 feet later clearing to 4/10th - 6/10ths at 3000 feet.	
Syerton	9/9/41		Weather at base fit for local flying. The squadron stood by for Cirrus operations but weather conditions in the south prevented any sorties being carried out.	
Syerton	10/9/41		Weather at base 8/10ths - 10/10ths Cumulus with thick haze but fit for local flying. No sorties took place owing to unfavourable conditions for Cirrus operations. Aircraft AN 24, piloted by P/O. Caldwell collided with a V.M.C.A. tea-car shortly after entering runway. The cause of the incident was due to complete failure of the braking system. The aircraft was damaged - Cat. A.C.	
Syerton	11/9/41		Weather fit for flying at base with large amounts of cloud at 1000 feet, later dispersing to 6/10ths - 8/10ths to 2,500 feet. Squadron stood by for daylight operations.	
Syerton	12/9/41		Weather fit for local flying. 8/10ths - 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus and Cumulus at 2,500 feet. Squadron standing by for cirrus operations.	

				Page No. 2
Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Syerston	13/9/41		Weather misty at first with slight drizzle later. Extensive patches of lifted fog becoming 7/10ths - 9/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 3000 feet. Squadron standing by for operations.	
Syerston	14/9/41		No flying took place on this day owing to bad weather conditions at base. Intermittent slight rain with occasional heavy showers. 10/10ths Nimbo-Stratus at 2000 feet.	
Syerston	15/9/41		Weather fit for local flying with 6/10ths - 8/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 3000 feet decreasing later to 3/10ths - 6/10ths at 3000 - 5000 feet. Squadron standing by for operations. On taking-off from base on a practice formation flight, 3/Lt. Dunlop-McKenzie in aircraft AE 289 ran into a flock of migrating starlings. Over half-a-dozen of the birds smashed through the nose perspex putting the aircraft unserviceable for a few days.	
Syerston	16/9/41		The weather at base was unfit for flying in the morning but cleared up in the afternoon with about 8/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 3000 feet. Squadron stood by for cirrus operations.	
Syerston	17/9/41		Weather at base 8/10ths Strato-cumulus at 3000 feet with patches of lifted fog at 1000 feet in thinning out in the afternoon but with thick base. Six aircraft were detailed to take part in cirrus operations. The route out and back being, Base - Reading - Dunsen - 4 miles S. of Hardelet - Saer - Marquise area - Cravelines - Nanston - Base. The actual target was a shell factory at Marquise but unfortunately it could not be identified and all bomb loads were brought back. Five out of six aircraft were damaged by flak but all returned safely.	AA3 AA4 AA5 AA6 AA7 AA8
Syerston	18/9/41		Weather at base 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus 3000 to 4000 feet heavy. Six aircraft set out to bomb Abbeville. They were over rendezvous 3 minutes before time. After circling rendezvous for over one hour they returned to base. The Group recall signal received shortly afterwards.	AA9 A52 A50 A53 A51 A54
Syerston	19/9/41		Weather at base 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 1000 feet with patches of lifted fog. Visibility 2000 to 4000 yards improving later. No operations.	
Syerston	20/9/41		Weather at base 7/10ths to 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 3000 feet. Visibility 6 to 12 miles. Six aircraft took part in cirrus operations. Rendezvous with fighters on time over Rye. Target bombed from 14000 feet, heading 135° E. No opposition of any kind encountered. Bomb load 6, 1900lb. bombs. Primary target, Abbeville. Notification received that W/Cdr. Timmerman DFC was made a commandant of the D.S.O.	A55 A56 A59 A57 A60 A58

of (Unit or Formation) 408 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Syerston	7/9/41		X71765 Sgt. A.W.Wood, Observer, R56705, Sgt. W.M.Fraser, Pilot, posted from 16 O.T.U. Upper Hayford.	
	14/9/41		93324B Sgt. Palastanga, Observer, attached 44 Squadron, Waddington.	
	15/9/41		629603 Sgt. L.M.Smith, 759163, Sgt. D. Worthington, D. 939719 Sgt. J. Mercer, W.Op/A.G's, ceased detachment to 408 Squadron, from 207 Squadron, Waddington.	
	15/9/41		940606 Sgt. W.H.Austin, W.Op/A.G. ceased to be attached to 408 Squadron from 83 Squadron, Scampton.	
	19/9/41		580639 Sgt. J.A.Bunting, Observer, Attached to Manby, on Bombing Leaders Course.	
	21/9/41		R53933 Sgt. J.K.E.Fraser, Observer, Attached to Waddington, on Blind Approach Course.	
	30/9/41		611268 Sgt. J. Preston, Air Gunner, posted from 16 O.T.U. Upper Hayford.	
	20/9/41		752963 Sgt. R.H.Deale, Air Gunner, 619483 Sgt. M.Jones, Air Gunner, 752205 Sgt. W.S.Burch, Air Gunner posted from 16 O.T.U. Upper Hayford.	
			 Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 408 Squadron, R.C.A.F.	

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK
(War diary)

P. No. 3

of (Unit or Formation) 408 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Syerston	21/9/41		Weather at base 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus on surface lifting gradually during morning and dispersing later. Visibility 6000 yards improving later. Six aircraft successfully bombed the Railway repair shop at Lille. Rendezvous with fighters at Manston on time. Very intense and accurate flak, at Lille continuous all the way to coast. All aircraft damaged by flak, but returned safely. Bomb load 5, 1900lbs. and 4, 500lbs. bombs.	A61 A62 A63 A66 A64 A65
Syerston	22/9/41		Weather 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 1000 feet, becoming 8/10ths to 10/10ths at 2000 feet. Visibility 1 to 3 miles improving slowly. Six aircraft set out to attack Masingarre Power Station but were recalled after being airborne for 1½ hours.	A67 A70 A68 A71 A69 A72
Syerston	23/9/41		Weather 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus 1000 feet, dispersing later. Visibility 1000 yards, improving slowly 4 to 8 miles. Squadron stood by for daylight operations.	
Syerston	24/9/41		Weather at base 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus at surface lifting later to 1000 feet. Visibility 1000 yards at first improving 2000 to 4000 yards. Squadron stood by for daylight operations.	
Syerston	25/9/41		Weather at base fog on surface lifting to 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 1000 feet. Squadron stood by for daylight operations. The Hon. R.B. Hanson, M.P., The Hon. Greta Stirling, M.P., Mr. A.C. Casselman, M.P., Mr. J.L.O'Brien, Major Allan Cookran, M.P., Mr. R.A. Bell, Mr. Harold Vair, and Group Captain E.L. Moleod, arrived R.A.F. Station Syerston, 10.45, to meet personnel of 408 Squadron, informally.	
Syerston	26/9/41		Weather at base 7/10ths to 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus. Visibility 2 to 4 miles. Squadron was stood down from daylight operations and was given 4 days to prepare for night operations.	
Syerston	27/9/41		Weather at base 10/10ths Strato-Cumulus on surface on fog, dispersing later to 4/10th to 8/10ths Strato-Cumulus at 2000 feet.	
Syerston	28/9/41		Weather at base, local mist and fog dispersing rapidly 2/10ths to 5/10ths Strato-Cumulus and occasional Cumulus at 3000 feet. Visibility 2000 yards, improving 4 to 8 miles excepting precipitation. 40 Members of Air Training Corps, visited Squadron and were conducted by a Squadron Sergeant.	
Syerston	29/9/41		Two aircraft were detailed to carry out an attack on the Admiral Von Scheer. One aircraft returned due to icing conditions. The other aircraft could not identify the target but bombs were dropped	A73 A74

Page No. 4

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Syerston	29/9/41		on approximate position. Three aircraft carried out an attack on the Blohm and Voess factory on the docks at Hamburg. All three aircraft were successful	A75 A77 A76
Syerston	30/9/41		Weather at base 5/10ths to 8/10ths Cumulus and Strato-Cumulus at 2,500 feet. Visibility 2 to 4 miles. Nine aircraft carried out an attack on the docks at Hamburg. One aircraft jettisoned its bombs in the sea in position 54° 34 minutes N. 6° 20 minutes E. as both engines overheated severely. This aircraft returned to base. Aircraft AE 287 crashed and landed at Aokington. All aircraft with exceptions of one that returned, were successful in reaching target.	A78 A83 A79 A84 A80 A85 A81 A86 A82
			<u>OFFICERS POSITIONS AND ATTACHMENTS.</u>	
Syerston	2/9/41		A/S/Ldr. R. O. Altmann posted from No. 106 Squadron, Coningsby.	
	7/9/41		P/O. A. S. M. Pim ceased attachment to Finningley on P.A.T. course.	
	10/11/9/41		P/O. A. S. M. Pim attached to Finningley on duty.	
	22/9/41		P/O. J. W. Bishop, Attached to Central Gunnery School, Castle Kennedy	
	18/9/41		P/Lt. M. G. Janin, posted from "I" Depot, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada for Adjutant duties.	
	24/9/41		P/Lt. H. E. Minnes, posted from 3 P.R.C. Bournemouth for Medical Officer duties.	
	28/9/41		A/S/Ldr. R. O. Altmann, posted to No. 83 Squadron, Somerton.	
			<u>R.C.O.'s POSITIONS AND ATTACHMENTS.</u>	
Syerston	5/9/41		560639 Sgt. J. A. Bunting, Observer, posted from No. 14 O.T.U. Cottesmore. 926629 Sgt. J. R. Lancaster, W.Op/A.G. posted from No. 16 O.T.U. Upper Heyford.	
	11/9/41		WMA02237 Sgt. G. F. Beaver, Pilot, R68027 Sgt. C. P. McLean, Observer, 990757 Sgt. A. B. Wright, W.Op/A.G., 633360 Sgt. S. F. Batley, W.Op/A.G. 964985 P/Sgt. B. Titcombe, Pilot, R56120, Sgt. R. M. Gifford, Observer, 936227 Sgt. Raines, W.Op/A.G. ceased to be attached to 50 Squadron, Swindon.	
	6/9/41		1055943 Sgt. R. Stanfield, W.Op/A.G. posted from No. 16 O.T.U. Upper Heyford.	
	8/9/41		933248 Sgt. B. W. Palantanga, Observer, posted from 16 O.T.U. Upper Heyford. 926610 Sgt. L. T. Morgan W.Op/A.G. posted from 16 O.T.U. Upper Heyford.	
	6/9/41		H76568 Sgt. V. C. Dadeau, Pilot, 917609 Sgt. S.C.F. Seda, W.Op/A.G. posted from 16 O.T.U. Upper Heyford.	