

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.E. and J.C.I. para. 3349, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

of (Unit or Formation) **NO. 408 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.**

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
LEADING.	1.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with rain or drizzle and mist most of the day breaking fine about 2200 hrs. No training of any kind took place and the personnel of the squadron was given the day off except for those on duty.	
LEADING.	2.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with good visibility apart from snow showers when poor or very poor. Four aircraft were prepared for operations. Shortly before take-off operations were cancelled by Command Headquarters. Cross country training was carried out during the night.	
LEADING.	3.1.43		Weather: Fine early and late, otherwise fair. Very good visibility. Three aircraft were prepared for operations which were again cancelled. Cross country flying training carried out by day and night. The Squadron Crest was presented to the Squadron at a special parade held at 1400 hrs., by Air Vice Marshal G.M. Brookes, O.B.E., A.C.M. No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group.	
LEADING.	4.1.43		Weather: Fine early becoming fair to cloudy, then fair in evening with slight mist, otherwise good visibility during the day. Five aircraft were prepared for operations which were again cancelled. Flying training carried out during the night.	
LEADING.	5.1.43 to 7.1.43		Weather: 5.1.43 - Fair early with slight mist, then cloudy or overcast with fog. Slight snow from 1500 hrs onwards with fog persisting. 6.1.43 - Overcast with fog and slight snow during the day. No visibility. 7.1.43 - Cloudy with mist and slight snow. No visibility. - No flying training carried out during this period due to adverse weather conditions. Ground training carried out in all branches.	
LEADING.	8.1.43		Weather: Fine or fair with mist in morning and afternoon, and fog late. Eight aircraft were prepared for operations which were again cancelled. Flying training was carried out by day and night.	
LEADING.	9.1.43		Weather: Fog till 0700 hrs then mainly cloudy with slight mist till midnight. To-night, at last, the squadron got back to operations, much to the elation of all personnel. Eight aircraft were detailed for mine laying in Heerline 3 area. The first aircraft took off at 1640 and all eight were airborne six minutes later. Our aircraft ran into flak ships near the target but all were successful in taking evasive action. Enemy fighters were seen but none of our aircraft were attacked. Mines were successfully laid and our aircraft arrived back at base at approximately the same time and all were landed by 2145 hrs.	AL218-AL225
LEADING.	10.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with mist and frozen drizzle or snow till 0800, then overcast with fog rest of day. Ground training carried out during the day.	
LEADING.	11.1.43		Weather: Overcast with fog and rain or drizzle most of day. Four crews stood by for operations but were not called for.	
LEADING.	12.1.43		Cloudy with almost continual rain or drizzle with mist turning to fog in evening. Four crews are still standing by for operations. No 439 Squadron defeated us 6 - 3 in Hockey.	
LEADING.	13.1.43		Weather: Thick fog early becoming fair to fine with good visibility till evening then fair to cloudy with slight mist. The same four crews again stood by for operations but same was cancelled in the late afternoon. Flying training was carried out during the night.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
LENNING	14.1.43		Weather: Fair with slight mist early and late. In the morning the Squadron was called upon for 5 aircraft for gardening. Crews and aircraft were duly delegated and take off set for 2136 hours. At 1700 hours Group changed its plan and called for 15 aircraft for a bombing operation on Lorient. It was found to be impossible to change bomb loads and bomb-bays in all the aircraft in time for take off. Consequently only 5 of our aircraft left on this operation. Take off was shortly after 2200 hours. A sixth aircraft, pilot S/Lt J.C. Gilmore, had two engines cut out on take off but the skilful handling of the pilot saved it from destruction. One of our aircraft turned back over the English channel due to rear turret going u/s. Other four were successful in reaching the target. Our aircraft encountered rather severe icing conditions on the trip and also low cloud over the target. A great deal of flak was encountered over the target, the town of Lorient, but none of our aircraft were hit. All our aircraft were returned safely to base by 0447 hours 15.1.43. Flying training was carried out during the night.	A1226-A1230
LENNING	15.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with slight mist early morning then fair to fine with good visibility. To day the Squadron was called upon for 6 aircraft for a bombing raid on Lorient. Six crews, including W/O W.D.S. Ferris, were detailed and their aircraft were prepared. Take off was just about at dusk, at 1705 hours. All six were airborne in five minutes. Over the target area our aircraft encountered some light flak but none were damaged. Two enemy JU88s were seen but they did not attack. Our aircraft found Lorient well lighted with flares and all our bombs were dropped on the town. Our aircraft left the target a blazing mass and the fires were visible seventy-five to eighty miles away. All our aircraft were safely landed at base by 2255 hours.	A1231-A1236
LENNING	16.1.43		Weather: Cloudy or overcast all day. Fog and slight mist. Visibility poor. The Squadron was called upon for bombing operations. Fourteen aircraft were prepared and crews delegated to same. This operation was cancelled shortly before take-off.	
LENNING	17.1.43		Weather: Rain with haze during daylight hours otherwise clear with moderate to good visibility. Fourteen aircraft were again prepared for operations and some were again cancelled.	
LENNING	18.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with fog and mist. Only ground training carried out during the day.	
LENNING	19.1.43		Weather: Thick fog with no visibility. Ground training carried out during the day. The Squadron team lost its 2nd match of hockey during the season against W/O's Burnside's. All six crew team by a score of 6 to 3.	
LENNING	20.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with mist, fog and some rain. In the morning the Squadron was called upon for 10 aircraft for gardening. Crews and aircraft were duly delegated but same was again cancelled shortly before take-off.	
LENNING	21.1.43		Weather: Fog at first with some rain, becoming cloudy with moderate to good visibility. Five of our aircraft were detailed for gardening to night. In spite of change of target at the last moment all were off on time and the first aircraft was airborne at 1700 hours. All were in the air by 1706 hours. All our aircraft were successful in reaching and planting their mines in the Hesterline area. One of our aircraft was slightly damaged by flak and holes were made in the wings, however no serious damage was done and all were returned safely to base by 2220 hours.	A1237-A1241
LENNING	22.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with some rain. Moderate visibility. Ground training in all trades carried out during the day.	
LENNING	23.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with good visibility. Five of our aircraft were prepared for a bombing raid on Lorient. Take off was at 1715 hours. Visibility was excellent and crews reported that the target was attacked accurately. Flak was experienced but no damage was done by same. Four aircraft returned to base and one aircraft crash landed at Ossington owing to the failure of two engines. This aircraft was piloted by Sgt. Davis, and no injuries were sustained by the crew. 27.1.43	A1242-A1246

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See instructions for use of this form in R.E. and A.C.I., para. 1049, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes to R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. THREE

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 408 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

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LEARNING	24.1.43		Weather: Thick fog with no visibility. Ten aircraft were prepared for operations which were cancelled by Command Headquarters.																																					
LEARNING	25.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with moderate visibility. Some rain during daylight hours. No flying training today. Ground training carried out in all trades.																																					
LEARNING	26.1.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy. Good visibility. The Squadron Hockey team defeated W/Cdr. Bradshaw's team of No 420 Squadron by 4 to 1. Nine aircraft were prepared for bombing operations which were cancelled shortly before take off.																																					
LEARNING	27.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with moderate visibility. Three aircraft prepared for operations which were cancelled by command Headquarters.																																					
LEARNING	28.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with drizzle. Moderate visibility. No flying training carried out today. Ground training carried out in all trades.																																					
LEARNING	29.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with light rain. Fine in the evening with good visibility. Ten of our aircraft were detailed for bombing operations the target being Lorient. The first aircraft was airborne at 1654 hours and the last at 1705 hours. The operations were considered as successful. On return six aircraft landed at Home Base. One landed at Breverton, one at Colerne and one at Squires Gate. These last three all had motor trouble due to severe icing conditions. One aircraft failed to return from these operations. Below are the operational trips and hours of the members of the crew.	A1247-A1256																																				
<table><tr><th colspan="4">OPERATIONAL</th></tr><tr><th></th><th></th><th>TRIPS</th><th>HOURS</th></tr><tr><td>125012</td><td>P/O Theunis Christoffel ROUX.</td><td>(PILOT)</td><td>2 14.25</td></tr><tr><td>125015</td><td>P/O Edwin PAYLING.</td><td>(NAV B)</td><td>2 10.54</td></tr><tr><td>102845</td><td>SGT ROBERTS, Joseph.</td><td>(S/A)</td><td>2 10.54</td></tr><tr><td>117778</td><td>SGT BARTON, William Kenneth.</td><td>(WOP/AG)</td><td>2 10.54</td></tr><tr><td>132736</td><td>P/O Rowland George REYNOLDS.</td><td>(A/C)</td><td>2 10.54</td></tr><tr><td>652432</td><td>SGT ADAM, James Mick.</td><td>(A.C./NO)</td><td>2 10.54</td></tr><tr><td>573801</td><td>SGT CAVADINO, Francis Anthony.</td><td>(P/N)</td><td>1 05.03</td></tr></table>					OPERATIONAL						TRIPS	HOURS	125012	P/O Theunis Christoffel ROUX.	(PILOT)	2 14.25	125015	P/O Edwin PAYLING.	(NAV B)	2 10.54	102845	SGT ROBERTS, Joseph.	(S/A)	2 10.54	117778	SGT BARTON, William Kenneth.	(WOP/AG)	2 10.54	132736	P/O Rowland George REYNOLDS.	(A/C)	2 10.54	652432	SGT ADAM, James Mick.	(A.C./NO)	2 10.54	573801	SGT CAVADINO, Francis Anthony.	(P/N)	1 05.03
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LEARNING	30.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with mist. Visibility fair. No flying training today. Ground training carried out in all trades.																																					
LEARNING	31.1.43		Weather: Cloudy with rain and showers all day becoming clear in the evening. Ground training carried out in all trades.																																					
<p>REWARDS AND AWARDS. The following three N.C.O.'s were mentioned in Despatches for devotion to duty. P/O J. J. GUYATT, P.O. 567931 P/O W. WALKER, J.A., 529997 SGT. HENRY, J.A. - P/O E.J. REYNOLDS, IPN (RAF 49905) received the DFC as did the undermentioned officers who completed their tour of operations with this squadron and are now enjoying rest periods. P/O E.J. REYNOLDS (CAN. 71565) - P/O W.G. SANDERSON (CAN. 71531) - P/O W.E. PARRIS (CAN. 71544). The following W/O's also received awards for their devotion to duty during their tour of operations with this squadron. The IPN was awarded to CAN. 362270 P/O W. TURNOUR, N.O. - 935912 SGT. MURMAN, A. - CAN. 264480 SGT. GALLOWAY, J.E. - 125044 SGT. LEECH, D.S.</p>																																								

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																								
LEWIS	31.1.43 (Continued)		<p><u>PROMOTIONS.</u> P/O A.J. BOND was promoted to the rank of A/E/M.</p> <p><u>POSTINGS.</u> P/O A.J. BOND posted to Adjutants post assuming duties on the 21st January 1943. S/Ldr. O.W. MOORE posted to Skipton on Seals.</p> <p><u>CHANGES IN COMMAND.</u> NIL.</p> <p><u>ADMINISTRATION CHANGES.</u> P/O A.J. BOND posted to Adjutants post assuming duties on the 21.1.43.</p> <p><u>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE.</u> 17 Handley Page H Halifax Mk. II's and 1 Mk. V.</p> <p><u>HEALTH.</u> General health has been very good during the past month. Upper Respiratory tract infections contributed for the most part with Gastro Enteritis still occurring. No contagious diseases occurred. <u>Aircrew:</u> There were no aircrew report sick during this period. The general morale of the aircrew is much higher since starting operations. <u>Ground Crew.</u> There are many cases of Seabies in the ground crew.</p> <p><u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 31ST JANUARY 1943.</u></p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>ALLIED</th><th>GROUND CREW</th><th>TOTAL</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>R.C.A.F. OFFICERS.</td><td>31</td><td>4</td><td>35</td></tr><tr><td>R.C.A.F. AIRMEN.</td><td>92</td><td>298</td><td>390</td></tr><tr><td>R.A.F. OFFICERS.</td><td>13</td><td>1</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>R.A.F. AIRMEN.</td><td>41</td><td>121</td><td>162</td></tr><tr><td>OTHER PERSONNEL</td><td>21</td><td>5</td><td>26</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>5058, P/O T.C. KATE is a Canadian in the R.A.F.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONAL SORTIES DURING THE MONTH.</u> - 39 Sorties.</p> <p><i>Spantox</i> Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 408 (BAC) Squadron, LEWIS.</p>		ALLIED	GROUND CREW	TOTAL	R.C.A.F. OFFICERS.	31	4	35	R.C.A.F. AIRMEN.	92	298	390	R.A.F. OFFICERS.	13	1	14	R.A.F. AIRMEN.	41	121	162	OTHER PERSONNEL	21	5	26	
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