

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. **ONE**

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para 2549, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter 33, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																																																
LEADING.	1.2.43		Weather: Fog clearing early, then cloudy with occasional shower. Fair after dusk with moderate visibility. No flying today. Ground training carried out for air crew.																																																	
LEADING.	2.2.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy with occasional rain and showers. Moderate visibility. We played No. 429 Squadron in Hockey and were successful in winning by a score of 5 to 3. Flight Sergeant Wood, P.O., R-76945 (Pilot) and crew were slightly injured when making a crash landing at approximately 15.00 hours near Bottesford aerodrome on returning to Home Base from operational flight. Seven of our aircraft took off on gardening operations in Silverthornes Area 4. Four aircraft were unsuccessful in this operation. Two aircraft were unable to obtain a pinpoint due to weather conditions and the inter-com went u/a on one. All three returned to base with load carried. This operation was carried out without incident.	A1257-A1263																																																
LEADING.	3.2.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy with occasional showers with moderate visibility improving to good after dusk. Fourteen of our aircraft took off for operations the target being Hemberg. Four of our aircraft were unsuccessful and forced to return due to mechanical failure and bad weather conditions. All crews that reached the target reported severe icing conditions but were able to press home their attack. One of our aircraft is missing the crew of same is listed below.	A1264-A1277																																																
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LEADING.	4.2.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy. Fine after dusk. Good visibility. Ten of our aircraft took off for operations, TURIN being the target. Nine of our aircraft were successful in attacking the target. One was forced to return, not being able to obtain enough altitude to enable crossing of the Alps. All crews reported good visibility over the target. Heavy flak but inaccurate. Many fires observed in the target area. Four aircraft were successful in reaching Home Base from operations. Four landed at UNLON, One at BEAULIEU and one at NEM.	A1278-A1287																																																
LEADING	5.2.43		Weather: Rain with moderate visibility and much low cloud. Three crews and aircraft were prepared for gardening operations but this was scrubbed shortly before take off.																																																	
LEADING	6.2.43		Weather: Good visibility and broken cloud. Occasional showers with strong winds, moderate in evening. Six of our aircraft took off for Gardening operations in NECHARTRES AREA I. Five aircraft were successful in laying mines and one was unsuccessful, being unable to obtain pinpoint due to sleet and rain. All aircraft returned to Home Base safely.	A1288-A1293																																																
LEADING	7.2.43		Weather: Fair with good visibility. Eight of our aircraft off for operations the target being LORIENT. All crews were successful in attacking the target area, and large fires were reported by all.	A1294-A1301																																																

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LESLING.	7.2.43 (Continued)		<p>Seven of our aircraft returned to base safely. One aircraft did not return from this operation. Below are the operational trips and hours of the crew.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">OPERATIONAL</th> </tr> <tr> <th>NAME</th> <th>TRIPS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CAN.R94982 P/S. SMITH, Dean William. (PILOT)</td> <td>32.16 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAN.R53361 P/S. SALES, Fisher, Joseph. (NAV/B)</td> <td>22.31 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>657679 SGT. SALES, Reginald, James, Peter. (NAV/B)</td> <td>22.31 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>549530 SGT. COOPER, William Harris. (WOP/AG)</td> <td>10.51 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAN.R82621 SGT. LUDEN, William Herbert. (WOP/AG)</td> <td>22.51 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAN.R79608 SGT. GIBBONS, Joseph, Sherry, Romeo. (A/C)</td> <td>22.51 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAN.R79608 SGT. BRACKENRIDGE, Douglas, Matthew. (P/S)</td> <td>22.51 3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	OPERATIONAL		NAME	TRIPS	CAN.R94982 P/S. SMITH, Dean William. (PILOT)	32.16 4	CAN.R53361 P/S. SALES, Fisher, Joseph. (NAV/B)	22.31 3	657679 SGT. SALES, Reginald, James, Peter. (NAV/B)	22.31 3	549530 SGT. COOPER, William Harris. (WOP/AG)	10.51 6	CAN.R82621 SGT. LUDEN, William Herbert. (WOP/AG)	22.51 3	CAN.R79608 SGT. GIBBONS, Joseph, Sherry, Romeo. (A/C)	22.51 3	CAN.R79608 SGT. BRACKENRIDGE, Douglas, Matthew. (P/S)	22.51 3	
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LESLING.	8.2.43		Weather: Mainly cloudy with moderate to poor visibility. Rain in evening. Five aircraft were prepared for operations but same were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather conditions.																			
LESLING.	9.2.43		Weather: Rain till 0900 hours then fair to cloudy with good visibility. Five aircraft were again prepared for operations but same were cancelled by 6 Group.																			
LESLING.	10.2.43		Weather: Cloudy with good visibility in morning. Rain in the afternoon. Cloudy with poor visibility in the evening. Five aircraft were prepared for operations but same were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather conditions.																			
LESLING.	11.2.43		Weather: Cloudy with fresh winds. Good visibility. We were stood down for operations today. His Worship Mayor Stanley Lewis of Ottawa visited the squadron and conversed with all squadron members from the Capital City.																			
LESLING.	12.2.43		Weather: Cloudy with showers and poor visibility. We played our last hockey game of the season against No. 424 Squadron. It was the play off for the Northern League and was a sudden death game. We lost by a score of 1 to 0. Ten aircraft were prepared for operations but this was cancelled owing to unfavourable weather conditions.																			
LESLING.	13.2.43		<p>Weather: Fair to fine with strong winds. Twelve aircraft were prepared for operations. These were all airborne by 18.06 hrs and eight were successful in reaching the target area. The target being LOBIEM. One aircraft was forced to return and land at FERRIS due to a coolant leak in the port outer motor. Another was forced to return and land at BOSCOLE DOWN due to motor trouble. Another was forced to return and land at HOLMESLEY SOUTH due to oxygen supply becoming ineffective, and one was forced to return to base because of failure of the starboard outer engine. Two of the successful aircraft were forced to land at BRANLEW and MIDDLE WILLOP due to petrol shortage. The eight aircraft reported this as a successful raid.</p>	AL302 - AL313																		
LESLING.	14.2.43		<p>Weather: Cloudy with strong winds. Ten aircraft were prepared for operations. Nine aircraft took off and one was scrubbed due to mechanical defects. Seven aircraft were successful in attacking the target, same being COLERNE. One aircraft was forced to turn back due to the electrical system going u/a and also the rear gun turret jammed and another was forced to return when rear turret jammed and mid upper guns went u/a. All other aircraft reported a successful trip.</p>	AL314 - AL322																		
LESLING.	15.2.43		Weather: Fair with showers and strong winds. Four aircraft were prepared for operations but this was scrubbed due to weather conditions.																			

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. THIRDS

See instructions for use of this form in E.R. and A.C.I., para. 258, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XI, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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	16.2.43		Weather: Fair to fine with strong winds. Eleven aircraft took off for bombing operations the target being <u>BORNET</u> . All aircraft were airborne by 1835 hrs. Ten were successful in attacking the primary target. One aircraft turned back due to failure of oxygen supply. There was excellent visibility and many fires were observed in the target area. All aircraft returned to base safely. Group Captain G.R. DUNLAP, the station commander was flying as Co. Pilot with Squadron Leader W.F.M. NEWSON, on this operation.	A1323-A1333
LEADING.	17.2.43		Weather: Cloudy with mist in forenoon becoming fair or cloudy later. Ground training carried out for air crew. There was no flying today.	
LEADING.	18.2.43		Weather: Fair to fine with good visibility. Eight aircraft were mined and bombed up for operations. Seven were detailed for gardening in <u>NESTLANDS II</u> and one for bombing <u>WIMBORNE</u> . All aircraft were off on time. The one "Z" modified aircraft was successful in its operation. Six of the aircraft on gardening operations were successful and one unsuccessful being unable to obtain pinpoint. All aircraft returned to base safely.	A1334 - A1341
LEADING.	19.2.43		Weather: Cloudy with moderate to good visibility. Twelve aircraft were prepared for operations the target being <u>WIMBORNE</u> . All aircraft were off on time and were all able to attack the primary target. Many fires were reported in the target area and this operation was considered a very good show. All aircraft returned to home base without incident.	A1342 - A1353
LEADING.	20.2.43		Weather: Fair in morning with moderate visibility. Cloudy later with moderate to good visibility. We were stood down for operations today.	
LEADING.	21.2.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy with good visibility. Flying training was carried out with new crews as we were again stood down for operations.	
LEADING.	22.2.43		Weather: Cloudy with moderate to good visibility after morning haze. Eleven aircraft were prepared for operations but this was scrubbed shortly before take off.	
LEADING.	23.2.43		Weather: Fog in morning becoming cloudy with moderate to good visibility in the evening. We were stood down for operations today. Flying training carried out and also ground training for aircrew.	
LEADING.	24.2.43		Weather: Cloudy with moderate visibility becoming fair to fine with moderate visibility towards midnight. We were called on for a full effort and thirteen aircraft were prepared for operations. All aircraft were successful in attacking the target area same being <u>WIMBORNE</u> . There was considerable light flak in the target area but all aircraft returned to base without incident.	A1354 - A1366
LEADING.	25.2.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy with moderate visibility. Four aircraft were detailed for gardening operations in <u>NESTLANDS AREA I</u> . Two aircraft were successful in laying their mines and two brought them back being unable to pinpoint due to thick cloud and rain over the target area. All aircraft reported some flak from <u>BERGHEIM</u> island but all returned to base safely. One aircraft reported some flak when landing had the undercarriage on the starboard side collapse causing a ground loop. All crew members were uninjured.	A1367 - A1370

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events																								
LEBING	26.2.43		<p>Weather: Fine with good visibility. We were again called upon for a full effort and fourteen aircraft were prepared for operations. Eleven aircraft were successful in attacking the target area same being COLOGNE. One aircraft reached the target area but bomb doors failed to open so aircraft returned and bombed the aerodrome at EMMENHOFEN which was reported as successful. One aircraft bombed what was believed to be DUISBURG and reported fires on leaving. One aircraft detonated bombs 40 miles south-east of COLOGNE when the IR compass went u/s. There were large fires reported in the primary target and this was reported a very successful raid. One aircraft landed at ROSENHEIM DOWN on return. The aircraft piloted by S/LDR. E.G. CHAMBERLAIN was badly shot up over the target area and three engines went u/s but they were able to return and landed at HANSTON. All crew were uninjured. All other aircraft returned without incident.</p> <p>References to Appendices A1371 - A1384</p>																								
LEBING	27.2.43		<p>Weather: Fair with good visibility. Seven aircraft were prepared for gardening operations. All aircraft were off on time. Five aircraft were successful in attacking the primary target same being METZARDE AREA II. Two were unable to locate pinpoint due to haze over the target area and mines were brought back. All returned to base without incident.</p> <p>A1385 - A1391</p>																								
LEBING	28.2.43		<p>Weather: Fair with good visibility. We were called upon for a full effort and ten aircraft were prepared. All were off on time and all attacked the primary target same being ST. NAZARE. There was moderate flak in the target area but all aircraft returned to base without incident. This was reported as a very successful operation as there were many fires in the town area.</p> <p>A1392 - A1401</p> <p>HONOURS AND AWARDS. The following three W.O.D.'s were mentioned in despatches for devotion to duties, namely, R/5501 BPT. GRANT, R.A., R9944, W/O. YOUNG, G.S. & R65428 P/S. BELL, J.K. The following were awarded a membership and pin to the Caterpillar Club by virtue of a successful parachute descent: R79265 SGT. GRIMMETT, A.R. and P/O. B.E. HARRIS, 121783.</p> <p>PROMOTIONS. The officer Commanding P/Lt, A/W/CMR. W.D.S. PERKINS was promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader, A/W/CMR.</p> <p>CHANGE IN COMMAND. NIL.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES. NIL.</p> <p>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE. 18 Handley Page Halifax Mk. II.</p> <p>HEALTH. The general health of both ground crew and aircrew has been affected by a mild epidemic of coryza and influenza. We have had many cases of otitis baris necessitating grounding of quite a few aircrew. One developed acute Otitis Media. There have also been three cases of jaundice following influenza. Moral is very good in both aircrew and ground crew.</p> <p>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 26th FEBRUARY 1943.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>ALLIED</th><th>GERMAN</th><th>TOTAL</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. OFFICERS.</td><td>30</td><td>2</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. AIRMEN.</td><td>91</td><td>335</td><td>426</td></tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. OFFICERS.</td><td>15</td><td>1</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. AIRMEN.</td><td>42</td><td>112</td><td>154</td></tr> <tr> <td>OTHER PERSONNEL</td><td>17</td><td>6</td><td>23</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>OPERATIONAL SORTIES DURING THE MONTH. 145 Sorties.</p> <p>50594 P/O. T.G. KAYE is a Canadian in the R.A.F.</p> <p><i>W.D.S. Perkins</i> W.D.S. Perkins, Commanding, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron, LEBING.</p>		ALLIED	GERMAN	TOTAL	R.C.A.F. OFFICERS.	30	2	32	R.C.A.F. AIRMEN.	91	335	426	R.A.F. OFFICERS.	15	1	16	R.A.F. AIRMEN.	42	112	154	OTHER PERSONNEL	17	6	23
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