

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in R.E. and A.C.I., parts 2049 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. ONE

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 406 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																																						
LEBING.	1.3.43		<p>Weather: Cloudy to fair with fair visibility. Nine aircraft were prepared for operations and all were off on time. The target was BRUNN. Five aircraft were successful in bombing the primary target. Two returned to base early due to guns going u/s on one, and the intercomms u/s on the other. One aircraft failed to return from this operation. One aircraft dropped bombs on what was believed to have been the KIEL area. The reports of aircraft that reached the target area indicate that this was a successful raid. Eight aircraft reached home base safely. Below are the operational trips and hours of the crew that did not return.</p> <table><thead><tr><th>CREW</th><th>THROW</th><th>HOURS</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>CAN.E.102186</td><td>SGT. COCHRANE</td><td>Arnold, Wallace. (P)</td><td>10</td><td>11-25</td></tr><tr><td>CAN.E.100701</td><td>P/S. MURPHY</td><td>Harry, Kenneth. (NAV.B.)</td><td>8</td><td>11-11</td></tr><tr><td>CAN.E.89685</td><td>P/S. HIGGINS</td><td>James, Herbert. (NAV.B.)</td><td>8</td><td>11-11</td></tr><tr><td>CAN.E.102418</td><td>P/S. WELLS</td><td>Boss. (WCF/AC)</td><td>8</td><td>11-11</td></tr><tr><td>CAN.E.104732</td><td>SGT. ASHMAN</td><td>Fundus, Quintus. (L.B.)</td><td>8</td><td>11-11</td></tr><tr><td>610265</td><td>SGT. MACDONALD</td><td>Frederick. (P/SEC.)</td><td>8</td><td>11-11</td></tr><tr><td>CAN.E.96989</td><td>SGT. GRICE</td><td>Ivor, Charles. (A.G.)</td><td>8</td><td>11-11</td></tr></tbody></table>	CREW	THROW	HOURS	CAN.E.102186	SGT. COCHRANE	Arnold, Wallace. (P)	10	11-25	CAN.E.100701	P/S. MURPHY	Harry, Kenneth. (NAV.B.)	8	11-11	CAN.E.89685	P/S. HIGGINS	James, Herbert. (NAV.B.)	8	11-11	CAN.E.102418	P/S. WELLS	Boss. (WCF/AC)	8	11-11	CAN.E.104732	SGT. ASHMAN	Fundus, Quintus. (L.B.)	8	11-11	610265	SGT. MACDONALD	Frederick. (P/SEC.)	8	11-11	CAN.E.96989	SGT. GRICE	Ivor, Charles. (A.G.)	8	11-11	11A02-11A10
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LEBING.	2.3.43		<p>Weather: Fair to fine with good visibility. Two crews were prepared for a sea search and both returned to base without success. We were stood down for any further operations.</p>	11A11-11A12																																						
LEBING.	3.3.43		<p>Weather: Cloudy with fair visibility. Nine aircraft were prepared for operations and all were off on time. The target for this operation was HAMBURG. Eight aircraft were successful in attacking the primary target and reports indicate that there were many fires started throughout the town area. One aircraft returned to base early owing to guns going u/s. All aircraft reached base safely from this operation.</p>	11A13-11A21																																						
LEBING.	4.3.43		<p>Weather: Cloudy with slight mist towards dusk with fair visibility. Two crews took off on a sea search but both returned to base without success. We were stood down for any further operations.</p>	11A22-11A23																																						
LEBING.	5.3.43		<p>Weather: Fine with slight mist becoming cloudy. Fair visibility. Ten aircraft were prepared for operations and all were off on time. The target for this operation was BRUNN. Seven aircraft were successful in attacking the primary target and this raid was reported by all to be very successful. One aircraft attacked what was believed to have been the LEHARDEN AIRCRAFT, this was due to guns going u/s. Two other aircraft returned early owing to guns going u/s. All aircraft returned to base without incident.</p>	11A24-11A53																																						
LEBING.	6.3.43		<p>Weather: Fair to cloudy with slight haze. Nine aircraft were prepared for operations but some were scrubbed shortly before take off.</p>																																							
LEBING.	7.3.43		<p>Weather: Fog with poor visibility. Ground training carried out for aircrew. No flying training today.</p>																																							
LEBING.	8.3.43		<p>Weather: Fog in the morning clearing to slight mist in the afternoon. Good visibility in evening. Nine aircraft were detailed for tonight's operations and all were successful in attacking the primary target some being BRUNN. All aircraft returned to home base except one which landed at LEBING due to shortage of petrol. It was thought that this was a fairly successful raid.</p>	11A31-11A42																																						

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																																			
LEADING.	9.3.43		Weather: Fair to fine with good visibility. Ten aircraft were prepared for operations and all were off on time except one which did not take off as motor cut on same. Eight aircraft were successful in attacking the primary target same being HENGE and all reported this as a very good raid. One aircraft returned to base owing to a fault in the feed from the overload tanks. On return one aircraft landed at BOSCOMBE DOWN owing to fuel shortage. On landing this aircraft overshot and hit a Boston aircraft. Both were damaged but no personnel were injured. All other aircraft returned to base without incident.	Al143-Al152																																			
LEADING.	10.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with fair visibility. Six aircraft were prepared for operations and same were cancelled shortly before take off.																																				
LEADING.	11.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with showers with fair visibility. Nine aircraft were prepared for operations and all were off on time. Six aircraft were successful in bombing the primary target same being STUTTGART. One aircraft was attacked by an ME109 on the return trip causing the port inner and starboard outer engines to cut out. All excess equipment was jettisoned over the channel and aircraft was able to make a wheels up landing at LAMAR. The crew of this aircraft was uninjured. One aircraft returned to base early due to an oil cooler break on the starboard outer engine. One aircraft failed to return from this operation. Below is the operational hours and trips of the crew.	Al153-Al161																																			
			<table> <tr> <td>WZ.113502</td><td>F/O. Arnold Andrew STEWART.</td><td>(P)</td><td>7</td><td>42.11</td></tr> <tr> <td>921693</td><td>F/O. LEECH, David Duncan Patrick.</td><td>(NAV.B.)</td><td>5</td><td>30.32</td></tr> <tr> <td>121693</td><td>F/O. George Herbert, LAMPS.</td><td>(NAV.B.)</td><td>8</td><td>46.34</td></tr> <tr> <td>1260458</td><td>SOT. MARSHALL, Lawrence, Stanley.</td><td>(WOP/MS)</td><td>5</td><td>30.32</td></tr> <tr> <td>CAN.1044476</td><td>SOT. DAVISON, Russell Duncan.</td><td>(A.G.)</td><td>7</td><td>41.51</td></tr> <tr> <td>WZ.111240</td><td>SOT. HAMILTON, Charley, Thomas.</td><td>(A.G.)</td><td>7</td><td>41.51</td></tr> <tr> <td>CAN.101632</td><td>SOT. HAMMOND, John Allan.</td><td>(P/MS)</td><td>6</td><td>37.47</td></tr> </table>	WZ.113502	F/O. Arnold Andrew STEWART.	(P)	7	42.11	921693	F/O. LEECH, David Duncan Patrick.	(NAV.B.)	5	30.32	121693	F/O. George Herbert, LAMPS.	(NAV.B.)	8	46.34	1260458	SOT. MARSHALL, Lawrence, Stanley.	(WOP/MS)	5	30.32	CAN.1044476	SOT. DAVISON, Russell Duncan.	(A.G.)	7	41.51	WZ.111240	SOT. HAMILTON, Charley, Thomas.	(A.G.)	7	41.51	CAN.101632	SOT. HAMMOND, John Allan.	(P/MS)	6	37.47	
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LEADING.	12.3.43		Weather: Fair to fine with good visibility. Eight aircraft were prepared for operations and six were successful in attacking the primary target same being HENGE. This was reported as a very good raid by all crews. One aircraft was damaged by flak over the target area and made a crash landing at home base. None of the crew were injured. One aircraft abandoned this task owing to the intercom intermittently going u/s, and another owing to the pilot's escape hatch being jammed open. All aircraft reached home base on return.	Al162-Al169																																			
LEADING.	13.3.43		Weather: Fair with mist in the morning becoming cloudy later. Fair visibility. Three aircraft too off on a sea search and all returned unsuccessful. We were stood down for further operations.	Al170-Al172																																			
LEADING.	14.3.43		Weather: Fog in the forenoon becoming fair to cloudy with mist later. Visibility poor. Ten aircraft were prepared for operations. Due to weather conditions this operation was scrubbed.																																				
LEADING.	15.3.43		Weather: Fog in the forenoon becoming cloudy with mist later. Visibility poor. Ten aircraft were again prepared for operations and again these were scrubbed. There was ground training carried out for all A.G.s and WAG.s.																																				
LEADING.	16.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with mist or fog at first becoming fair. Cloudy with slight mist later. We were called on for a full effort and twelve aircraft were prepared for operations. This was scrubbed due to weather conditions. Ground training was carried out for all aircrew personnel.																																				

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. THREE

See instructions for use of this form in R.E. and A.C.F., para 1549, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter 33, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 406 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
LEMING.	17.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with fog most of the day with mist in the evening. Visibility poor. We were stood down for operations today. Ground training was carried out for all WAG's and A.G.'s. Two ground crew personnel were injured while travelling as passengers in a Liberty Bus from BALDERSLEY to LEMING, YORKSHIRE. Both R.55728 LAC DUMAS, J.L.V.H. and R.68557 LAC FULTON, G.R. were admitted to CATTERICK MILITARY HOSPITAL.	
LEMING.	18.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with fog in the morning and afternoon. Cloudy with mist in the evening. We were called upon for a full effort and thirteen aircraft were prepared for operations. This was scrubbed due to weather conditions.	
LEMING.	19.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with mist and poor visibility. We were again called upon for a full effort and fourteen aircraft were prepared for operations. This was again cancelled due to weather conditions.	
LEMING.	20.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with moderate to poor visibility. We were stood down for operations today. Ground training was carried out for all aircrew personnel.	
LEMING.	21.3.43		Weather: Overcast with fog until 1000 hrs and clearing to fine later. We were again stood down for operations.	
LEMING.	22.3.43		Weather: Fog developed early in the morning but by mid-day it was clear with average visibility. We were called upon for a full effort and fifteen aircraft were prepared for operations. All were off on time and all were successful in attacking the primary target being ST. NAZAIRE. Two aircraft landed away from home base one was diverted to UPPER HEMPOND and one landed at CHIVREUX due to shortage of fuel. This was reported as a very successful raid by all crews. The station was paid a visit today by AIR MARSHAL R. NEWARDS, C.B.E.	A1475-A1487
LEMING.	23.3.43		Weather: Fog developed early and cleared in the afternoon with average visibility. Two aircraft were prepared for operations and this in turn was scrubbed.	
LEMING.	24.3.43		Weather: Fog until dawn becoming cloudy with rain and exceedingly poor visibility at times. We were called on for a full effort and twelve aircraft were prepared for operations. This was scrubbed shortly before take off.	
LEMING.	25.3.43		Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain. Visibility fair. Again twelve aircraft were prepared for operations and these were again scrubbed.	
LEMING.	26.3.43		Weather: Overcast with rain with moderate to good visibility. We were called upon for twelve aircraft for operations. Some were prepared but only ten were airborne on time. All aircraft were successful in attacking the target area, same being SWINHOOD, and all landed at base safely. The rear gunner of one aircraft, SGT. CROOK, R.C. was wounded in the foot but not seriously. This was not reported as a very successful raid due to adverse weather conditions.	A1488-A1497

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																																																												
LEADING.	27.3.43		<p>Weather: Cloudy becoming fair then fine with good visibility. We were called on for eleven aircraft for operations. Same were prepared and all were airborne on time. Nine aircraft were successful in bombing the target area and crew report this as a successful raid. One aircraft returned to base early owing to severe icing conditions. Eight of the aircraft that attacked the target returned to home base safely. The ninth aircraft was badly shot up and had to make a crash landing at home base. None of this crew were injured. The eleventh aircraft failed to return from this operation and below are the operational trips and hours of the members of this crew. The target for these operations was BERLIN.</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th></th><th>TRIPS</th><th>HOURS</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1299738</td><td>SGT. BATHKIOR, Ronald, Howell. (P)</td><td>8</td><td>11.03</td></tr><tr><td>1391852</td><td>SGT. WEDD, Harry. (NAV)</td><td>6</td><td>11.04</td></tr><tr><td>124316</td><td>P/O. Ronald, Victor, FISHER. (NAV)</td><td>7</td><td>16.36</td></tr><tr><td>R79080</td><td>SGT. HALL, Robert. (WOP/AG)</td><td>6</td><td>11.04</td></tr><tr><td>R118088</td><td>SGT. GRANT, Franklin, Wallis. (A.G.)</td><td>6</td><td>11.04</td></tr><tr><td>R128359</td><td>SGT. SIEBER, Alois. (A.G.)</td><td>3</td><td>19.04</td></tr><tr><td>R68020</td><td>SGT. GRAYSON, Harold, Lewis. (P/ENG)</td><td>7</td><td>17.12</td></tr></tbody></table>			TRIPS	HOURS	1299738	SGT. BATHKIOR, Ronald, Howell. (P)	8	11.03	1391852	SGT. WEDD, Harry. (NAV)	6	11.04	124316	P/O. Ronald, Victor, FISHER. (NAV)	7	16.36	R79080	SGT. HALL, Robert. (WOP/AG)	6	11.04	R118088	SGT. GRANT, Franklin, Wallis. (A.G.)	6	11.04	R128359	SGT. SIEBER, Alois. (A.G.)	3	19.04	R68020	SGT. GRAYSON, Harold, Lewis. (P/ENG)	7	17.12	A1498 - A1508																												
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LEADING.	28.3.43		<p>Weather: Fine with good visibility. Two aircraft were prepared for operations and these were both were airborne on time. Both aircraft were successful in attacking the target area and crews report this as a very successful raid. Both aircraft reached home base without incident. The target for these operations was ST. NAZARUS.</p>	A1509 - A1510																																																												
LEADING.	29.3.43		<p>Weather: Cloudy with rain with good visibility in the evening. We were called upon for a full effort and twelve aircraft were prepared for operations. Ten aircraft were off on time but due to severe icing conditions eight of these aircraft returned to home base early. The target for these operations was BERLIN. Two aircraft failed to return from these operations and below are the operational trips and hours of the members of these crews.</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th></th><th>TRIPS</th><th>HOURS</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1118932</td><td>SGT. JENNINGS, Gordon. (P)</td><td>2</td><td>11.39</td></tr><tr><td>J15840</td><td>P/O. John Sidney, ACHESON. (NAV)</td><td>1</td><td>5.39</td></tr><tr><td>909501</td><td>SGT. LEWIN, Ronald, Stanley, Victor. (NAV)</td><td>1</td><td>5.39</td></tr><tr><td>1332233</td><td>SGT. CHERRY, Frederick, John. (WOP/AG)</td><td>1</td><td>5.39</td></tr><tr><td>R110955</td><td>SGT. ROBERTS, Norman, William. (A.G.)</td><td>1</td><td>5.39</td></tr><tr><td>R150871</td><td>SGT. BARNES, John, Francis. (A.G.)</td><td>1</td><td>5.39</td></tr><tr><td>R62274</td><td>SGT. DAVENPORT, Harold. (P/ENG)</td><td>1</td><td>5.39</td></tr><tr><td>J13482</td><td>P/O. Frank, Napoleon, Smith, CAVANAUGH. (P)</td><td>2</td><td>13.03</td></tr><tr><td>J13421</td><td>P/O. Harold, Edward, TANNER. (NAV)</td><td>1</td><td>6.28</td></tr><tr><td>1432830</td><td>SGT. HARRIS, Thomas, William. (NAV)</td><td>1</td><td>6.28</td></tr><tr><td>1210605</td><td>SGT. KINGS, Edwin, Arthur. (WOP/AG)</td><td>1</td><td>6.28</td></tr><tr><td>R137773</td><td>SGT. HENDERSON, Granite, William. (A.G.)</td><td>1</td><td>6.28</td></tr><tr><td>R137798</td><td>SGT. KOPACK, Walter, Anthony. (A.G.)</td><td>1</td><td>6.28</td></tr><tr><td>578060</td><td>SGT. HOLTHAM, Raymond, Henry. (P/ENG)</td><td>1</td><td>6.28</td></tr></tbody></table>			TRIPS	HOURS	1118932	SGT. JENNINGS, Gordon. (P)	2	11.39	J15840	P/O. John Sidney, ACHESON. (NAV)	1	5.39	909501	SGT. LEWIN, Ronald, Stanley, Victor. (NAV)	1	5.39	1332233	SGT. CHERRY, Frederick, John. (WOP/AG)	1	5.39	R110955	SGT. ROBERTS, Norman, William. (A.G.)	1	5.39	R150871	SGT. BARNES, John, Francis. (A.G.)	1	5.39	R62274	SGT. DAVENPORT, Harold. (P/ENG)	1	5.39	J13482	P/O. Frank, Napoleon, Smith, CAVANAUGH. (P)	2	13.03	J13421	P/O. Harold, Edward, TANNER. (NAV)	1	6.28	1432830	SGT. HARRIS, Thomas, William. (NAV)	1	6.28	1210605	SGT. KINGS, Edwin, Arthur. (WOP/AG)	1	6.28	R137773	SGT. HENDERSON, Granite, William. (A.G.)	1	6.28	R137798	SGT. KOPACK, Walter, Anthony. (A.G.)	1	6.28	578060	SGT. HOLTHAM, Raymond, Henry. (P/ENG)	1	6.28	A1511 - A1520
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LEADING.	30.3.43		<p>Weather: Cloudy with frequent showers and strong winds. Fair visibility. We were stood down for operations today.</p>																																																													
LEADING.	31.3.43		<p>Weather: Fair to cloudy with strong winds and good visibility. We were again stood down for operations. Ground training was carried out for all aircrew.</p>																																																													

See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I. para. 2310 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes on R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

FIVE.

R.A.F. Form 540

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.																								
LEWIS	31.3.43	(CONTINUED)	<p>HONOURS AND AWARDS. The following immediate awards have been given to members and former members of our Squadron. D.F.C. to S/L. E.G. GILMORE (C1036), P/O D.F. ALLEN. (J.16423) and P/O. P.E. MITCHELL (135429). The D.F.M. to NZ 41922 P/SGT. M. MARGENT; R.95492 P/SGT. A.L. ROSS; 1475434 SGT. J.W.T.M. SMITH and 1906717 P/SGT. FARRATT, R.E. R110084 SGT. CHILBERS, D.V. was awarded membership to Caterpillar Club, along with Caterpillar Pin.</p> <p>PROMOTIONS. NIL. CHANGE IN COMMAND. NIL. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES. NIL.</p> <p>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE. 15 Handley Page Halifax MK. II. 1 Handley Page Halifax MK. V.</p> <p>HEALTH. The general health of No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron has been good during this period. The fairly high incidence of upper respiratory infection noted in the preceding periods is decreased considerably. One Pilot Officer, J. GARNER, was placed on the S.I. list on the 26.3.43, diagnosis Malaria. The general morale of the Squadron is very high.</p> <p>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1943.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>STRENGTH.</th> <th>ALLIANCE CREW</th> <th>GROUND CREW</th> <th>TOTAL.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. OFFICERS.</td> <td>30</td> <td>3</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. ALLIANCE.</td> <td>106</td> <td>362</td> <td>468</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. OFFICERS.</td> <td>17</td> <td>1</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. ALLIANCE.</td> <td>49</td> <td>98</td> <td>147</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER PERSONNEL.</td> <td>16</td> <td>5</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>50594 P/O. T.C. KAYE. is a Canadian in the R.A.F.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SORTIES DURING THE MONTH. 118 Sorties.</p>	STRENGTH.	ALLIANCE CREW	GROUND CREW	TOTAL.	R.C.A.F. OFFICERS.	30	3	33	R.C.A.F. ALLIANCE.	106	362	468	R.A.F. OFFICERS.	17	1	18	R.A.F. ALLIANCE.	49	98	147	OTHER PERSONNEL.	16	5	21	
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W. J. K. KAYE
Wing Commander,
No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron, LEWIS.