

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) 415 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, EASTMOOR, SUTTON-ON-FOREST, YORKSHIRE.	1.9.44		Clear, sunny and cool. Bags of rush with month end returns. Training programme in full force all day and a projected op. for to-night was finally scrubbed (needless to say #27 as the clark had finished typing the Battle Order.) Training proceeding full bore to-night and the admin staff busying the midnight oil getting out the returns. Later in the night the previous Battle Order No. 24 was amended as to date, and printed and distributed for an early morning effort, so the clerical work was not in vain.		
	2.9.44		Such a morning and day. A howling wind driving a very heavy rain into every nook and cranny of messes huts and offices, forming puddles where you don't normally expect to see them. The early ops were set up to approximately 1000 hrs. and then at 1400 hrs. finally scrubbed. The W/Gs. spent all day in bull sessions with the airmen and visiting all groundcrews at dispersals. During the late evening Battle Order No. 27 consisting of fifteen crews was prepared for a morning effort.		
	3.9.44		Wet, cold and windy - certainly didn't look like much of a day for ops, but crews were up early for briefings around nine. Twice briefings and take off times were set up, the fifteen crews and kites finally being slated around 1600 hrs. for occupied territory, the target being Volkell an Airfield in Belgium on the "Happy Valley" route. All crews and kites returned safely but are at diversion bases, the weather being too duff here. The day finished as it started, wet cold and windy.		
	4.9.44		Labour Day!! Was once an occasion for celebrating but is now just another day in the year. A change for the better in the weather, high overcast, warm and it looks as though old "Noel" will come out and warm us up. Flying training in full swing with Fighter Affiliation, Bombing and Air Firing details being carried out. Clouded up after lunch and later in the day weather becomes quite duff. Some of the kites came home during the lunch hour and early afternoon, but several are V/S and one is Out. "AO" due to flak.		
	5.9.44		A "Mucky" day, although it brightened up around noon. However later in the day "the rains" came. Training in fighter affiliation, bombing etc. effected during the day although weather upset the program twice during the day. In the late afternoon gen game through for an early morning op. Battle Order No. 27 consisting of thirteen crews prepared and distributed during the evening.		
	6.9.44		First call for the op. at 1000 hrs., but after everyone was ready for briefing the times were set up and so back to bed around five A.M. Rather a disturbed night inssofar as sleep was concerned. Daylight revealed a dreary, cold wet world and it looks like a duff day. The op. was scrubbed about 1030 hrs., section leaders carried on with "bull sessions", semi-annual assessments of airmen airmen and commissioning papers. Later in the afternoon Battle Order No. 26 consisting of sixteen crews was prepared for an early morning op., but was barely typed before the op. was scrubbed. A little later it was on again but for later in the day.		See

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R.C.A.F. STATION, EASTMOOR, SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD, YORKSHIRE.	7.9.44		Overcast, cold and wet. Crews, both ground and air busy with D.I.'s in preparation for to-day's op. The Adj spent the morning in police court in support of two airmen (one RCAF and one R.A.F.) who were charged jointly with theft of a car. The case was dismissed as the prosecution failed to prove "intention to permanently deprive the owner" of the car. Lucky lads, but they had a bad score. Crews were at the kites for take-off when the op. was scrubbed due to weather, it was understood during the afternoon the Adjutant was informed by 6 Group that he was going to Italy. There are many regrets at leaving the Squadron and such a grand bunch of airmen and a fine G.G., but pleasure at being selected, and anxious to take advantage of the excellent opportunity of increasing Service knowledge.		
	8.9.44		The new Adjutant C.11734 P/L A.B. Garbett reported in to-day and is busy taking over. The weather still wet and cold. Ground training in progress and later in the day some air training. Ops. are scheduled for to-morrow and so there'll be a Battle Order to compile sometime to-night.		
	9.9.44		Weather - Overcast. 15 crews took off in early hours of morning. Target Le Havre. Mission not completed due to surf weather over target. All crews returned. C.O. (W/C Leconte) held Section Commanders meeting in regards to policy of Squadron. Such matters being mostly concerned with training exercises. Late in afternoon information received Operations for 10th - tomorrow - scheduled 20 crews. O.R. Staff turned out Battle Order around 2200 hrs.		
	10.9.44		Weather - clear and cool. Operations on with 20 A/G taking part. W/C Leconte again leading Squadron into action. 3/2 points.		
	11.9.44		Weather continues to favour operations - thus another planned 15 aircraft detailed. P/L Doucet proceeded to London re new duties Overseas. New Adjutant kept busy "Gunning Up" on Squadron Admin. One of the original Orderly Room clerks, LAC Wilkinson posted. A great loss "R" Depot advised that they were receiving a top-line clerk, and therefore to ensure that he be not lost in the pool at said unit. All A/G returned. Caenay, Rouen was the target and satisfactory results were obtained. W/C Leconte continues to polish up Squadron and his "Driving tactics" are securing results.		
	12.9.44		Weather brilliant sunshine. Operation again planned with 16 aircraft detailed. Wanne Kicks synthetic oil plants in the Ruhr the target. All aircraft returned safely, although several received "flak" damage.		
	13.9.44		Weather continues to favour operations. 11 aircraft detailed to attack Marshalling yards at Osnabruck. All aircraft returned and while some were bothered by flak, raid considered highly successful. P/O. S.B. McKillop (J87711) and P/O J.N. Thompson, (54311) received the Distinguished Flying Cross.		
	14.9.44		Old man 'Sol' is still around, but no 'Ops' planned. Several aircraft detailed for a Bomber Command "Bullseye" to-night. Section Commanders and C.O. utilized the "day off" by giving lectures to Squadron airmen personnel. Work commenced in the orderly room to prepare "backlog" of Commissions for Airmen personnel, plus awards, mostly for D.F.C.'s. In regards to the former approximately 43 names to recommend, while in the latter sphere 12 to be forwarded immediately.		ffue

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para 2249, and in Manual Pt. II, chapter XX., and
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R.C.A.F. STATION MASTHORPE, SUTTON-IN-DORSET, YORKSHIRE.	15.9.44		Weather last evening turned bad, with the planned Bomber Command Bullseye being scrubbed. To-day 17 aircraft detailed to attack Kiel. All aircraft returned safely after making a successful attack - 6 aircraft damaged by "Flak", but no personnel injured. Two crew Captains completed their tours - P/O Timmow, A.W. (J3532) and P/O Stevens R.M. (J87794). Two other members of each of their crews also screened. Squadron now has 13 screened aircraft.		
	16.9.44		Weather fair and windy. No operations. Aircrew personnel assisted the Adjutant in putting in Bicycle Stands around Squadron H.Q. Building. In addition said personnel acted as site cleanup detail, thus the site is beginning to acquire a smarter appearance. To-morrow providing no operations 60 aircrew personnel from each flight detailed to attend Battle of Britain Memorial Church Service.		
	17.9.44		Weather clear and warm. Instructions received last night "Op's on, 15 aircraft detailed to visit "Boulogne". Battle of Britain Memorial Church Service cancelled due to said operations. All aircraft returned, crews reported no enemy aircraft opposition and very little flak. Bombing was carried out, from 2 to 4000 ft. All personnel, aircrew and groundcrew beginning to show signs of weariness after such a run of "Ops" but satisfaction being felt due to all crews and aircraft returning. Aircraft serviceability being maintained and Armament Section still leading "em up in A.T. style.		
	18.9.44		Weather clear and warm. No operations. Sickness among Squadron personnel now totals 4, excellent. Five crews preparing to go on leave. Sgt. Booth, hard working I/a Orderly Room off on a well earned leave to-day. First break in nine months. P/L. Doucet left yesterday on posting. P/L. Carweth taking over officially wif. 16.9.44. Lectures to aircrew personnel in morning and organised sports (Baseball, Volleyball, and Squash) in the afternoon.		
	19.9.44		No operations, lectures and training programme.		
	20.9.44		No operations. Heavy cross country and fighter affiliation program detailed for to-day, with 12 crews participating. Five "Freshmen" crews due to report within next three days. Several of the Squadron Veteran Crews nearing end of tour, including W/C Leconte and S/L Frankling, C.O. and Deputy C.O. respectively.		
	21.9.44		No operations. Cross Country and Fighter Affiliation programs continued. Other crews busy in Lecture rooms. Section Commanders slowly but surely grasping the "Live Wire" rays thrown about by W/C Leconte. Here's hoping it continues.		
	22.9.44		Weather cloudy and no flying detailed. Ground crews acquiring a well earned rest. Administration of Squadron being closely studied by new Adjutant and several points to be drilled into Section Commanders, particularly in the matter of compilation of Commissioning Papers and Personal Confidential Reports. Contest now on re "Squadron Name" and "Adoption". Suggested title "Bronco" Squadron with the City of Calgary doing the necessary re-adoption. Calgary was the home town of the Squadron's Original C.O. in Bomber Command - W/C MacNeill. Lecture Room still a-humming with "Gen" sessions.		
	23.9.44		Five crews away on leave. Weather fair. Immediate D.P.M. awarded Sgt. Main. Good Show. Said Sergeant already recommended for Commissioned Rank. 3,000 cigarettes received to-day from a large Brewery Co. in Calgary. No flying - weather still duff. Bombs still in aircraft.	ffec	

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R.C.A.F. STATION BASTMOOR, SUTTON-ON-FOREST, YORKSHIRE.	24.9.44		Operations on, and much joy among crews. Said detail planned for to-morrow with 17 aircraft to be on the starting line. Church services held by R.C. and C. of E. Padres, good attendance. Weather starting to clear in late afternoon after a wet morning.		
	25.9.44		<i>Mistress John H.</i> Several aircraft attacked Calais, all returned. Sortie highly successful.		
	26.9.44		Aircraft attacked yesterday's target - Calais, and once again all aircraft returned with crews reporting "piece of cake". Late this afternoon operations advised that this Squadron was to detail twenty aircraft for an operation to-morrow morning. What with a number of crews on leave, screened, sick etc. Section Commanders had hit to make up enough personnel. However utilising new crews, 20 aircraft finally filled and "Prompt" at 2200 hrs. Orderly Room Staff published Battle Order. Mac bit of Squadron "drive" by all sections concerned.		
	27.9.44		Weather clear and cold. 20 aircraft attacked Bottrop and all returned. Squadron Adjutant attended administrative meeting at Base H.Q. (Minton). W/C Jeffreys after an introduction by the Base Commander G/C. J.L. Hurley gave out re sundry Administrative problems, and stressed complete co-operation between Squadron, Station and Base. Commissions, Personal Confidential reports, Honours and Awards procedure completely received. Hope # 415 Squadron will share on all three fronts. Not much hope of additional help for General Duties, but Bastmoor promised a fair share which is all that can be expected. S/L. Haway, promoted to A/Cdr. to fill the establishment vacancy of Flight Commander.		
	28.9.44		Port day in row of operations. Minstoon aircraft to-day and take-off is scheduled for late afternoon. Weather is cloudy and cool. Sgt. Booth, Orderly Room "Gen" man returned from leave. This will relieve the pressure on the remainder of the O.R./C.R. staff, who have performed excellent work while he was absent. S.H. has promised us an additional clerk for C.R. duties. Usual monthly returns now in sight and then everyone planning to slam 'em through in A.I. order. New crew captain P/O Donnelly reported to-day. All aircraft returned safely after visiting Cap Gris Nez.		
	29.9.44		Weather fair. Crews slept in late this morning. Beginning to show slight signs of weariness, but all keen to engage on "Ops". Day spent mostly in lecture rooms. S/L. Garbett, Adjutant advised that he would be proceeding on Senior Administrative Course at Stanmoreton on 10th. of October. It is hoped that Group will act on suggestion of replacement - namely W/O. Bette, now at 1695 Fighter Affiliation Flight. Advice received at 1900hrs. that "Ops" at dawn, Mrs. Orderly Room Staff-in-Charge, returned to turn out Battle Order etc. after completion by Section Commanders. S/L. Frankland making an excellent job of running Squadron whilst Squadron Commanding Officer W/C Leconte is on leave. Eighteen aircraft detailed for to-morrow. Reports on yesterday's ops - excellent. Cap Gris Nez absorbed plenty of punishment as our laddies went in at 2,000 to 2,500 ft. to drop their "eggs". Several air gunners also did a bit of spraying the Hun Garden and all in all A.I. To-day squadron received several more sets of "Token Cards". This brings our total in past 10 days to 6 sets. During past month 10 non-immediate and 1 immediate recommendation for D.F.C.'s have been made plus 1 for a D.P.M. In addition action has been taken to speed up backlog of Commissioning Papers for 60 aircraft members.		
	30.9.44		End of month with 16 aircraft detailed to attack Steyrade. All said aircraft returned safely and reported a satisfactory prang. This squadron as September 1944 has completed 35 Operational missions given it by Bomber Command and to date only 1 aircraft has been lost due to enemy action. This Squadron has also completed extensive training program with 350 hours. October is eagerly looked forward to by all aircrew members and with this <i>esprit de corps</i> being displayed the groundcrews, both maintenance and administrative should likewise respond. <i>for battle</i>		

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R.C.A.F. STATION EAST MOOR, YORKS	20.9.44		Gammalites - Nil.			
			Postings In:			
			J29072 P/O L.R. Derryckore	Pilot	Posted from 61 R.C.A.F. Base w/e. 13.9.44.	
			J13344 P/O P.L. Deane	Nav		
			J28994 P/O K.G. Switzer	A/B		
			R159144 P/S D.T. Moorhouse,	WOP		
			R243563 Sgt G.L. Harrigan,	MU/AG		
			J40640 P/O W.C. Hanna,	R/AG		
			RAF:2210559 Sgt A. Harrison	P/B		
			J29274 P/O W.H. Reginald,	Pilot	Posted from 61 R.C.A.F. Base w/e. 20.9.44.	
			J16899 P/O R.H. Ross,	Nav.		
			J38341 P/O R. Rabkin,	A.B.		
			J42332 P/O G.J. Zbura,	WOP		
			R260333 Sgt V.E. Nelson,	MU/AG		
			R262434 Sgt M.R. Morton,	R/AG		
			RAF:1901001 Sgt S.G. Spence;	P/B		
			J28342 P/O S.H. McAdden,	Pilot	Posted from 61 RCAF Base w/e. 21.9.44.	
			J36353 P/O N. Connex	Nav.		
			J37936 P/O E. Whind,	A/B		
			R225111 Sgt J.A. Binder,	WOP		
			R212923 Sgt N.T. Clarke,	MU/AG		
			R223905 Sgt F.T. Graves,	R/AG		
			RAF:1827826 Sgt J.J. Burton, F.R.	P/B		
			J38172 P/O S.W. Mooers,	Pilot	Posted from 61 RCAF Base w/e 13.9.44.	
			J38745 P/O K.R. Wright,	Nav.		
			R174636 Sgt P.A. Fuller,	A/B		
			R122156 P/S J. Gillard,	WOP		
			R261954 Sgt J.C. Grant,	MU/AG		
			R250599 Sgt Everett, E.A.	R/AG		
			RAF:3010645 Sgt R. Hewitt,	P/B		
			J38270 P/O T.A. Donnelly,	Pilot	Posted from 61 RCAF Base w/e 23.9.44.	
			J36639 P/O A.M. Kurta,	Nav.		
			R26721 P/O L.L. Burston,	A/B		
			RAF:430209 P/S L.I. Keddie,	WOP		
			R71406 Sgt M.D. Wiseman,	MU/AG		
			R73330 Sgt R.D. Porter,	R/AG		
			R240028 Sgt R.W. Boyce,	P/B		
			R205254 P/S G.C. Anderson,	A/G		
			R164401 P/O R.L. McIntyre,	A/G	Posted from 431 Sqdn. w/e. 18.9.44.	
			R2157 P/O C.K. Rows,	A/G	Posted from 432 Sqdn. w/e. 2.9.44.	
			RAF:1622950 Sgt A.J. Ruff,	P/B	Posted from 432 Sqdn. w/e. 3.9.44.	
			R26011 P/O H.C. Mooney,	A/B	Posted from 403 Sqdn. w/e. 16.9.44.	
			J26664 P/O J.D. St Godard,	A/B	Posted from 424 Sqdn. w/e. 19.9.44.	
			J37926 P/O G.J. Webb,	A/G	Posted from 431 Sqdn. w/e. 13.9.44.	
			RAF:183074 P/O D.P. Walker, IBM	A/G	Posted from 427 Sqdn. w/e. 14.9.44.	
			R173736 P/S S.A. Holliman,	WOP	Posted from 427 Sqdn. w/e. 16.9.44.	
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R.C.A.F. STATION EAST MOOR, YORKS	30.9.44					
			Postings Out.			
			R190746 Sjt W.C. Smallbridge, A.G. RAF:1294072 Sjt S.J. Etherington, P/O J17053 F/O Powell, FFC	A.G. Pilot A/G	Posted to 420 Sqdn. wof. 9.9.44. Posted to 61 RCAF Base wof. 27.9.44. Posted to 'R' Depot wof. 13.9.44.	
			RAF:126504 V/U G.R. Nowell, RAF:54929 F/O J. Hargraves	V/U Pilot	Posted to No. 7 P.D.C. wof. 14.9.44. Posted to H.Q. T.C. wof. 11.9.44.	
			RAF:176900 P/O J. Mount, J35325 P/O A.W. Timmouth, FM	Pilot	Posted to 1559 C.U. wof. 13.9.44. Posted to 140 T.U. wof. 27.9.44.	
			J37794 P/O R.M. Stevens, RAF:1764030 P/O R.F. Nelson, W	Pilot W/P	Posted to 160 T.U. wof. 27.9.44. Posted to 130 T.U. wof. 28.9.44.	
			Promotions and Appointments.			
			J200 P/L J.C. Hovey, J18186 F/O W.P. Brown, C1231 A/W/C. J.H.L. Leconate,	Pilot Pilot Pilot	Appointed to the rank of A/S/Ldr. wof. 1.8.44. Appointed to the rank of A/V/Ldr. wof. 30.1.44. Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 27.2.44.	
			J18369 P/O J.W. Tins, J35925 P/O A.W. Timmouth, FM	Pilot Pilot	Appointed to the rank of A/V/Ldr. wof. 9.3.44. Appointed to the rank of A/S/Ldr. wof. 20.7.44.	
			J35339 P/O J.D. Little, J35621 P/O K.W. Gingrich, J36029 P/O G.T. McKeon	Pilot Pilot Pilot	Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 13.7.44. Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 17.8.44. Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 13.7.44.	
			J36341 P/O O.E. Lingquidet, J36349 P/O J.M. Borbas,	Pilot Pilot	Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 26.7.44. Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 2.9.44.	
			J37068 P/O D.R. Andrews, J37335 P/O D.G. McFagart, J38296 P/O J.I. Kerr,	Pilot Pilot Pilot	Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 13.9.44. Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 14.3.44. Appointed to the rank of A/V/C. wof. 17.7.44.	
			RAF:2163 P/O J.S. Yates, J3946 P/L S.H. Franklin,	Pilot Pilot	Appointed to the rank of A/V/Ldr. wof. 18.3.44. Appointed to the rank of A/S/Ldr. wof. 23.8.44.	
			E208391 Sgt F.J. Bamister, E215992 Sgt J.T. McConnell,	A/G A/G	Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 26.8.44.	
			E209346 Sgt W.D. McPhee, E209417 Sgt T. Gordon,	A/G A/G	Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 12.8.44. Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 12.8.44.	
			E206397 Sgt S.E. Cunningham, E219633 Sgt D.E. Hunt,	A/G A/G	Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 26.8.44.	
			R200775 Sgt J.C. Scarf, E211347 Sgt Stewart, R.W.	A/G A/G	Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 26.8.44.	
			E250246 Sgt J. Vina, E263536 Sgt Beharriell, J.F.	A/G A/G	Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 26.8.44.	
			R202224 Sgt J.M. Main, R117646 Sgt J.A.P. Picho,	A/G A/B	Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 23.9.44. Promoted to the rank of T/S/Ldr. wof. 17.6.44.	
			Relinquishments of Acting Ranks.			
			J39205 A/V/C. A.W. Timmouth, FM	Pilot	Relinquished rank of A/V/C. on posting wof. 27.9.44.	See

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R.C.A.F. STATION EAST MOOR, YORKS.	30.9.44		Commissions: RAF183014 P/S E.W. Brown, W/C Appointed to a commission w/c. 1.3.44. RAF 2209242 P/S R. Leonard, R/A/G Appointed to a commission w/c. 24.3.44. RAF1824 P/S Baptiste, P.J. A/B Appointed to a commission w/c. 15.7.44. RAF3027 Sgt J.G. Lafleche, A/G Appointed to a commission w/c. 11.7.44.					
			Honours and Awards: JAS711 F/O S.B. McKillop, P.M. Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. RAF 54311 F/O J.N. Thompson, A/G Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. RG62284 P/S R.J. Main, A/G Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.					
			Changes in Command: M1 Changes in Administration: F/L M.J. Doucet, (G.3193), Adjutant, posted to R.C.A.F. Q/S H.Q. w/c. 15.9.44., he is succeeded by F/Ls A.R. Carveth, (G.11734) who was posted this Unit from No. 6 (RCAF) Group w/c. 15.9.44.					
			Aircraft on Charge: Halifax M.K. III - 26.					
			Flying Times: Operational Day: 867:15 Non Operational Day: 244:30. Night: 93:10 Night: 64:25					
			S sorties: 216 No. of combats: N/A					
			Bombs Dropped: 2000lb. 1000lb. 500lb. 250lb. 115lb. 30 lb. Incend. 4 lb. Incend. Mount of Bpts: 28 505 1680 - 222 - 25,078 Brought Forward: 31 135 2133 42 215 1312 17,490 Total Bombs Dropped: 55 938 3833 42 467 1312 42,568					
			Strength: Aircrew Groundcrew R.C.A.F. Officers 115 3 R.C.A.F. Airmen 126 - R.A.F. Officers 13 - R.A.F. Airmen 38 -					
			REMARKS BY SQUADRON COMMANDER: September was a busy month for this Squadron, a large number of operational hours were flown and an extensive flying and ground training program was carried out. The crew found spare time to embellish the rooms and to do a little gardening. The squadron has a new experienced Adjutant, F/L A.R. Carveth, who is going full out in the paper work. As Squadron Commander I am satisfied with the work done by the different sections during the last month.					
			<i>Leconte M.</i> (M.H. Leconte, Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron)					