



18411

**SECRET.**

522-1-419  
A-1

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.

**OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK**

Page No. 088

of (Unit or Formation) No. 439 (R.O.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day 280

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Mildenhall	1/6/42		Nineteen of our aircraft took part in the second 1000 bomber raid of the war. Many fires were reported burning in the target area. The target was ESSEN. All our aircraft returned safely.	
	2/6/42		Ten of our aircraft took part in a concentrated raid on ESSEN which was very successful. In addition six other aircraft laid mines in waters off the west coast of FRANCE. All our aircraft returned safely to base.	
	3/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	4/6/42		Four aircraft bombed DIEPPE in unfavourable weather conditions. All returned safely.	
	5/6/42		Eleven of our aircraft attacked ESSEN. One aircraft also planted vegetables in the FRIELANDS. One of our aircraft failed to return from the ESSEN GO.	
	6/6/42		Eight of our aircraft bombed ESSEN starting many fires. All aircraft returned safely.	
	7/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	8/6/42		Another attack was made on ESSEN by thirteen of our aircraft. One aircraft also bombed DIEPPE. All aircraft returned safely.	
	9/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	10/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	11/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	12/6/42		Two aircraft set out on a daylight operation but ran out of cloud cover and returned to base. Their Majesties the King and Queen visited the squadron and chatted with Aircrew personnel who had taken part in the 1000 aircraft raids on COLOGNE and ESSEN. Both of their Majesties congratulated the airmen on their successes. They were agreeably surprised that the squadron contained so many R.O.A.F. personnel.	
	13/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	14/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
15/6/42		Thirteen aircraft took off to attack ESSEN with the alternative target as BOEN. Majority of aircraft attacked BOEN while the remainder ran into shot time at ESSEN. Two aircraft failed to return. One aircraft captained by F/S Swanson was hit several times by heavy flak and set on fire. The second pilot and front gunner were injured. The rest of the crew fought fire and enemy aircraft all across HOLLAND finally making a successful forced landing near BREDEN. The whole effort was a most commendable one.	See Suppl to MFRD No. 1007 14/11/42 Command of DPM to F/S SWANSON and F/S CAUSEY	

www.bombercommand.com

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Willeshall	17/6/42		Three aircraft went to ST. NAZAIRE but brought back their bombs due to 10/20ths cloud.	
	18/6/42		Seven aircraft planted vegetables as ordered in the BRISIAH area. All aircraft returned safely.	
	19/6/42		Ten aircraft made a sortie against BREMEN on a blind bombing effort. All aircraft returned safely.	
	20/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	21/6/42		Eleven aircraft laid mines as ordered off the BRISIAH. All aircraft returned safely.	
	22/6/42		Seven aircraft took part in a successful raid on BREMEN. All aircraft returned safely.	
	23/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	24/6/42		Another 1000 aircraft raid found 17 of our aircraft taking part. Many large fires were seen in the target area. All aircraft returned safely.	
	25/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	27/6/42		Squadron stand-down.	
	28/6/42		Operations cancelled.	
	29/6/42		Thirteen aircraft again bombed BREMEN. All returned safely.	
	30/6/42		Squadron stand-down.	
			Total strength of the squadron as at 2359 hours 30th June, 1942.	
			R.C.A.F. Officers - Aircrew	26
			R.C.A.F. Officers - Groundcrew	4
			R.A.F. Officers - Aircrew	6
			R.A.F. Officers - Groundcrew	-
			R.C.A.F. Airmen - Aircrew	110
			R.C.A.F. Airmen - Groundcrew	207
			R.A.F. Airmen - Aircrew	9
			R.A.F. Airmen - Groundcrew	183
			Total Strength	547
				547

SECRET