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W. 20426/1104 202M. 741 P.3 Ltd. 51-811

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 10

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). 430 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Waddington	1/2/42		<p>44 Canadian ground crew arrived.</p> <p>The strength of the Squadron today R.C.A.F.: Officers; Aircrew - 1 Ground crew -, Nil.</p> <p>R.C.A.F.: Aircrew - Nil. Ground crew 108.</p> <p>R.A.F. Officers. Aircrew 15 Ground crew 4.</p> <p>(One R.A.F. Officer is a Canadian)</p> <p>R.A.F. aircrew 52 R.A.F. aircrew ground crew (a) posted.</p> <p>(b) attached. Other personnel Nil.</p> <p>A lecture was given by the Station Signals Officer on Signals. Link training practice was carried out.</p>	
Waddington	2/2/42		<p>A night flying programme was arranged and carried out. Snow and rain precluded any possibility of flying and snow clearing schemes were instituted to make runways serviceable. All available men were detailed for 24 hour duty in 3 shifts.</p>	
Waddington	3/2/42		<p>Aerodrome snow clearance still in operation utilizing all available personnel including flying crews. All leave cancelled. Seven aircraft and crews were detailed for operations against shipping to stand by from 0600 h-24h2, bombing up etc. being completed today.</p>	
Waddington	4/2/42		<p>Operations scheduled for early take off still standing by all day and night. Snow clearance still in operation utilizing all available men. P/Lt. Davidson R.C.A.F. Padre visited the unit.</p>	
Waddington	5/2/42		<p>Aircraft and crews still standing by for early take off, which did not materialise. Crews stood by all day, with aircraft bombed up. Snow clearance still in operation.</p>	
Waddington	6/2/42		<p>Crews re-briefed and aircraft unbombed for gardening. Take off early hours of to-morrow. Snow clearance scheme suspended runways now serviceable. Suspension of leave cancelled.</p>	

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of (Unit or Formation) 420 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Waddington	7/2/42		Crews standing by for early take off which did not materialise. Take off scheduled for 11-45 5 aircraft took off for mining operations within 5 minutes. All machines returned safely after successful trips and crews were questioned by the A.O.C. No. 5 Group (Air Vice Marshall J.C. Slessor D.S.O. M.C.). Weather conditions were not conducive to flying training but link trainer practices were undertaken. Clay pigeon shooting was also practised.	
Waddington	8/2/42		Two aircraft were bombed up and crews stood by for daylight operations against shipping, but operations were later cancelled and machines debombed. A thaw set in making the drone rather swampy.	
Waddington	9/2/42		Five aircraft were bombed up and crews stood by for night bombing operations one aircraft was detailed for nickelling over Paris, and one aircraft was detailed for infra red practices, but fog intervened and all flying was cancelled.	
Waddington	10/2/42		The thaw still continues and conditions on the ground are deplorable. Flying and link trainer training was carried out. A lecture was given to aircrews by Captain Patterson of the Midland Regional Controllers Department on the blitz of Coventry and Birmingham which proved very interesting. Information received today from Air Ministry (P. & Casualties) that Friesland Germany broadcast on 7-8-42 the following names as prisoners of war S/Ldr. Victor Thomas Lawrence Wood, Sergeant Robert Lewis Bott, Sergeant Desmond Delaingy Grealy. These are names of three out of the four of the crew of Hampden aircraft No. 130 reported missing in this diary for Wednesday 21st. January 1942.	
Waddington	11/2/42		Six aircraft bombed up and crews standing by for daylight operations against enemy shipping. Night flying training organised but cancelled owing to very poor visibility.	
Waddington	12/2/42		Six aircraft bombed up yesterday and crews still standing by for daylight operation against enemy shipping. Orders received at 12.30 hours for immediate take off. Two crews took off as arranged at 13.30 hours.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Waddington	12/2/42		<p>Four crews took off as arranged at 14.45 hours. Three aircraft were unable to find the target - The German battleships, "Scharnhorst and Gneisenau" - and returned with their bombs. One aircraft bombed the objective and results were obscured by cloud and the aircraft returned safely. Two aircraft unfortunately failed to return, the Captains and crews being:-</p> <p>Hampden 134 Acting Sqdn Leader G.L.B. Harris (O.C. "B" Flight), P/O H.H. Miller (R.C.A.F.) navigator, P/Sgt. A.H. Brunt, W/O. and Sgt. P.V.E. Rothery, Airgunner.</p> <p>Hampden: 4400 P/O J.R. Topping, pilot, Sgt. F.W. Ashfield, Observer, P/O E.G. Fowler, W/O. and Sgt. T.H. Mate air gunner. Two aircraft were bombed up and crews briefed for mining operations but operations were later cancelled.</p>	
"	13/2/42 Friday		No operations to-day, after yesterday's attack on enemy battleships all crews standing down.	
"	14/2/42 Saturday		<p>Eleven aircraft ten of whom were Canadians reported for duty today.</p> <p>Three aircraft took part in cross country night flying in co-operation with the Army searchlights. Night flying circuits and bumps carried out by remaining available crews.</p>	
"	15/2/42 Sunday		Church Parade this morning for all denominations. Lecture was given after Church by the C.O. on general Flying Tactics.	
"	16/2/42 Monday		<p>Lecture in the morning by Medical Officer.</p> <p>Four crews on night operations "gardening" also bombed up with 2 x 250 lbs bombs</p> <p>One crew on night operations delivering nickels. Two crews fitted with infra red cameras and 4 x 500 dummy bombs for night practices at Skellingthorpe. All crews returned safely from these operations.</p>	
"	17/2/42 Tuesday		<p>In the morning a film was shown for air crew on the German Navy.</p> <p>Cross country infra red practices at night for three crews.</p> <p>A meeting was held in the cre w room for all R.C.A.F. personnel of this Squadron to arrange an ice hockey team, and skating on the Grimsby ice rink for those who do not play ice hockey. All members were very keen and a Committee was selected to decide on the team.</p>	

Handwritten signature/initials

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			Comforts which had arrived from Canada were also distributed by the C.O. at this meeting.	
Waddington.	18/2/42	Wednesday	Lecture on pigeons at 10.00 hours. Four aircraft bombed up with 2 x 250 G.P. bombs and one mine each. The machines took off at 18.15. hours. Unfortunately No. 915 F. piloted by P/O Kee failed to return from this trip.	
"	19/2/42	Thursday	Two more machines took part in cross country flights with infra red cameras. No operations to-day. Three machines and crews on gunnery practice. Two crews compass swinging.	
"	20/2/42	Friday	Film shown to flying crews in the crew room on oxygen. Two machines were bombed up with 6 x 250 G.P. bombs. Crews were briefed and all were ready for a dusk take off, but operations were scrubbed at the last moment owing to weather conditions. Five crews under training detailed for cross country flights. This was also cancelled owing to weather conditions.	
"	21/2/42	Saturday	Three crews on night flying trips. One crew was briefed for delivering nickels and this aircraft was fitted with a camera. Five crews briefed for cross country night flying practice. The whole of this programme was subsequently cancelled on account of bad weather conditions.	
"	22/2/42	Sunday	Church Parade all denominations at 09.30 hours, this parade was attended by the Commanding Officer and various officers from the Squadron. Night operations were carried out by three crews and machines were bombed up with 4 x 500 G.P. bombs the remaining two carried nickels and cameras. Two crews detailed for cross country flights. All machines returned safely.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Waddington	23/2/42	Monday	<p>At 22.00 hours news was received of the movement of enemy battleships, three machines were ground tested, preparations were made for bombing up and arding, but the order came through to stand down at 01.30 hours Monday morning.</p> <p>Lecture and second part of film on German Navy. One machine took a crew over to Ercall to collect another Hampden plane from there.</p> <p>A pigeon flew back from the machine AD 915, this machine was missing from mining operations on the night of the 18th of this month. The machine was piloted by F/O Kee, the Navigator Sgt. Rutledge, Wireless Operator Sgt. Baker, Gunner, Sgt. Adams. The pigeon was picked up by the Army Corps of Signals at approximately 15.30 hours on the 22/2/42 at Spurn Head. The message was as follows:- S.O.S. AD 915 P. Time despatched 21/2/42 10 o'clock, Position OOSTHOUT, Friesland, Netherland, also written on the sides of the message were the letters C & C. This Squadron is now hoping to hear some more news of this crew.</p> <p>One Sergeant Observer appointed to a commission and reported to the Squadron.</p>	
"	24/2/42	Tuesday	<p>A daylight sweep was carried out over the North Sea by three aircraft for "missing" crews, but without success.</p> <p>Night cross-country training including infra-red bombing was undertaken by four machines, and one machine practised circuits and landings, all successfully.</p>	
"	25/2/42	Wednesday	<p>A daylight sweep over the North Sea was carried out by two aircraft, but without success.</p> <p>Air firing was carried out by fourteen air gunners.</p> <p>One aircraft despatched on night mining operations, but had to abandon the operation owing to 10/10th low cloud and severe icing.</p>	V
"	26/2/42	Thursday	<p>A lecture was given by the Squadron Engineer Officer on maintenance.</p> <p>A lecture was given by the Squadron Medical Officer.</p> <p>Cross-country flying was undertaken by trainees.</p> <p>Two machines took off for night mining operations and two for nickel drop/ingover FRANCE.</p>	X 2/6

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of (Unit or Formation) 420 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																
Waddington	27.2.42	Friday	<p>All returned though one landed at LOSSIEBOUTH.</p> <p>One machine carried out night circuits and landings.</p> <p>One Sergeant W/Op A.G. appointed to Commission and reported to the Squadron.</p> <p>Day photography undertaken.</p> <p>No aircraft detailed for day or night operations.</p> <p>Local cross country carried out by trainees.</p>																	
"	28.2.42	Saturday	<p>The numerical strength of the Squadron to-day is:-</p> <table><tr><td>ROAF Officers (1) Aircrew 3.</td><td>(11) Groundcrew, Nil</td></tr><tr><td>ROAF Airmen (1) Aircrew 14.</td><td>(11) Groundcrew, 103</td></tr><tr><td>RAF Officers (1) Aircrew, 11.</td><td>(11) Groundcrew, 3.</td></tr></table> <p>(1 RAF Officer is a Canadian)</p> <table><tr><td>RAF Airmen (1) Aircrew, 50</td><td>(11) Groundcrew 272.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>(a) Posted 231</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>(b) attached 41</td></tr></table> <p>Other personnel - Nil.</p> <p>The numbers and type of aircraft on charge is:-</p> <p>18 Hampden I</p> <p>The number of hours flown during the month are:-</p> <table><tr><td>Operationally</td><td>114.25</td></tr><tr><td>Non Operationally</td><td>236.20</td></tr></table> <p>No personnel were officially credited with enemy aircraft destroyed damaged or probable.</p> <p>A daylight sweep by five machines was carried out over the North Sea without avail.</p> <p>Link Trainer practice carried out.</p>	ROAF Officers (1) Aircrew 3.	(11) Groundcrew, Nil	ROAF Airmen (1) Aircrew 14.	(11) Groundcrew, 103	RAF Officers (1) Aircrew, 11.	(11) Groundcrew, 3.	RAF Airmen (1) Aircrew, 50	(11) Groundcrew 272.		(a) Posted 231		(b) attached 41	Operationally	114.25	Non Operationally	236.20	
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10/10/42