

SECRET.

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. 29

of (Unit or Formation) 420 (RCAF) Sqn

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
June 1	<i>(Waddington)</i>		Fifteen a/c were loaded up with maximum incendiaries to attack Essen as this Squadron's contribution to the total RAF effort to send over 1000 a/c. Due to mechanical difficulties however only 14 a/c were able to take off. Thirteen a/c successfully attacked the main target or the alternative and one a/c had to turn back before reaching the target. All aircraft returned safely to base. Low clouds over the target made identification difficult and the results obtained were not readily assessed.	
June 2			Six a/c were loaded up with incendiaries for an attack on Cologne and four a/c were mined up. Three of the a/c detailed to attack Cologne turned back with mechanical trouble and three attacked successfully. Of the gardeners, two successfully planted mines, one had to return due to mechanical trouble and one aircraft AR 260, pilot Sgt. Harrison is missing.	
June 3			Two a/c were loaded up with max. incendiaries and took off. Both were forced to return to base due to mechanical trouble. Two a/c were mined up, one planted his mine in the allotted position but the other had to jettison his load and landed at Euxter. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting.	
June 4			Three a/c were bombed up to attack docks and shipping at Bieppe but no attacks were made on account of poor visibility. Air Gunners practised clay pigeon shooting.	
June 5			Two a/c were bombed up and three a/c were mined up. One of the bombing a/c made an attack on Essen but the other had to return due to mechanical trouble. Three a/c planted their mines in allotted positions. One was damaged by light flak but all a/c returned safely to base. Air Gunners practised clay pigeon shooting.	
June 6			Seven a/c were loaded up with incendiaries and took off for Emden where the target was successfully attacked. All a/c returned safely to base. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. Conversion flight had one a/c on night circuits and landings.	
June 7			One a/c was mined up, took off and successfully planted mine at Neustadt and returned to base. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting.	
June 8			Five a/c were bombed up and all took off. Three a/c successfully bombed the town of Essen but one could not pin point exact position and so returned. AT 136 failed to return.	
June 9			The squadron was stood down for the first time in many weeks and it was the first night for some time that 420 Squadron did not operate. F/Lt H.A. Mitchell R.C.A.F. posted to Squadron as Adjutant.	
June 10			Group put us down for 5 operations and a/c were bombed up. Operations were scrubbed just before take-off.	
June 11			We were wanted for 5 operations on mining. Operations scrubbed however before briefing. F/Lt. Gomers attended a Court Martial at Grimsby.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
June 12			There were no operations today. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting.	
June 13			Night a/c were mined up but were unable to take off on account of unfavourable weather.	
June 14			No operational sorties were scheduled for today.	
June 15			Gold wet day. Squadron not required for operations tonight. No flying training owing to weather.	
June 16			We were put down for 1 freshman and arranged a programme of cross-country and infra-red photography. Bad weather caused cancellation of all night flying programmes.	
June 17			Group wanted us for 10 main ops. Nine took off on mining. Of the nine, four completed the mission successfully and five brought mines back on account of 10/10th cloud. All a/c returned safely.	
June 18			We were required for 11 a/c for ops but bad weather caused cancellation.	
June 19			We were put down for 10 main ops and two freshers on a bombing operation. All a/c took off for Haden and Omsbruck and all missions returned although casualties were sustained by members of T/Lt. Ferris' crew and T/Lt. Jacobs' crew. Sgt. Davidson seriously wounded.	
June 20			We were required for 2 freshers. Both took off to bomb Haden. Sgt. Ellis' crew failed to return. We were also engaged on a se search with four aircraft.	
June 21			Required by group for 7 main and 1 fresher. Gardening attack on Lorient made. All a/c and crews returned safely.	
June 22			We were stood down for the first night in seven. Sea search of 2 a/c undertaken in afternoon.	
June 23			Required for 8 main and 1 fresher on a gardening job at Lorient. Nine a/c took off. One returned early and one crashed at Granthen killing three of the crew. P/O Hiley seriously injured in Granthen hospital. Funeral held for Sgt. Davidson in afternoon.	
June 24			Not required for ops tonight.	
June 25			Squadron wanted for maximum effort. Twelve a/c took off to bomb Bremen. All returned safely without any serious incidents.	
June 26			Required for 5 operational sorties on mining. Lorient was the target. Mission successfully completed. All a/c returned safely.	

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of (Unit or Formation) *420 (RCAF) Sqn.*

No. of pages used for day.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
June 27			Not required for operations but sea search of 5 a/c took off in the morning.	
June 28			Not down for ops but sea search by 5 a/c of 420 Squadron was carried out. A/c took off at 09.30 hours and returned at approximately 15.30 hours.	
June 29			No ops but night flying training carried out. 6 a/c on Searchlight co-operation and 4 a/c on infra-red photography.	
June 30			Sea search of 3 a/c first thing in morning. Down for 10 operational sorties. All night flying scrubbed by reason of bad weather.	
			Names of missing personnel in aircraft AE 260-C lost June 2nd/42.	
			Pilot 1090944 Sgt. Harrison, R.	
			Navigator 999005 Sgt. Gething, J.S.	
			WOP/A.G. 1057283 Sgt. Hall, L.G.	
			WOP/A.G. 981143 Sgt. Laing, C.J.	
			Names of personnel missing in AE 136 N on night of June 8th/42.	
			Pilot Can. R. 86620 Sgt. Reid, I.H. Canadian	
			Navigator Aus. 401308 Sgt. Graham, Australian	
			WOP/A.G. Can. R. 654 Sgt. Copeland, H.R. Canadian	
			WOP/A.G. 117562 Sgt. Dunn, C.J.	
			Strength of 420 Squadron as at 23.59 hrs. June 30th, 1942.	
			R.C.A.F. Officers - Aircrew 15	
			Groundcrew 2	
			R.C.A.F. Airmen - Aircrew 46	
			Groundcrew 183	
			R.C.A.F. Officers - Aircrew 10	
			Groundcrew 1	
			R.C.A.F. Airmen - Aircrew 35	
			Groundcrew 211	
			Other personnel - Australian 1 Aircrew Officer	
			1 Aircrew Airmen R.C.G.O.	
			Hours flown by the squadron Operationally - 527.50 hours	
			" " " " Training - 101.00 "	
			Aircraft on charge - Handson Mark I - 15	
			Manchester - 3	

M.P. Bradshaw
Flag Commander, Commanding,
420 R.C.A.F. Squadron.