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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

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of (Unit or Formation) NO. 420 SQUADRON, R.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Skipton-on-Swale	Thursday	1/10/42	Fog in morning prevented flying till after dinner. Night I country and circuits and bumps carried out from Leeming. Offended Group - 5 a/c and seven crews for out first operations on Well. 111 a/c but were not required for operations. On returning from Leeming at night with personnel from Messa show ran into back of parked truck on highway and killed AG Reid of S.H.Q., a waiter in the Sergeants Mess and seriously injured Sgt. Gagen of 429 Squadron and four other Sgts less seriously. Sgt Gagen taken to Catterick Military Hospital and other to S.S.Q. Leeming.	
	Friday	2/10/42	Usual work in connection with M.T. accident of previous night. Sgt. Boniface placed on dangerously ill list as a result of injuries sustained in the accident. Night flying carried out in the form of a cross country by two aircraft. Sgt Loftus of the Orderly Room also admitted to Station Hospital as a result of M.T. accident.	
	Saturday	3/10/42	All preparations made for operations of seven aircraft and crews flown to Leeming and ground personnel transported by road. Operations cancelled due to bad weather conditions. Aircraft left at Leeming and personnel returned to Skipton by road.	
	Sunday	4/10/42	Ninety-five ground crew and forty aircrew proceeded to Leeming by road in the morning to prepare for operations which were again cancelled and crews returned to Skipton. One new Wellington MK 111 a/c arrived making a total of 16.	
	Monday	5/10/42	Preparations made for operations - ground crew and aircrew transported to Leeming. Nine a/c scheduled but only three got away due to change of bomb load. One aircraft returned before reaching target due to inter-comm system becoming U.S. Other two a/c bombed target.	
	Tuesday	6/10/42	Nine a/c again scheduled for operations - crews and ground crew were transported to Leeming. Seven a/c took off and successfully bombed target. All returned. One a/c overshot on landing due to flak damage to hydraulics. No injuries. Training carried out.	
	Wednesday	7/10/42	Preparations again made for operations from Leeming but operations cancelled due to bad weather conditions.	
	Thursday	8/10/42	Nine a/c listed for operations. Aircrew and ground crew transported to Leeming. Operations cancelled due to poor weather conditions. Y.M.C.A. Film show in Airman's Mess - "Target for To-Night". Day flying training carried out.	
	Friday	9/10/42	Personnel transported to Leeming to undergo operations. Ten a/c scheduled to operate and preparations	

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Slipcase-on-Isle	Friday 8/10/42		Radio. Operations cancelled. S/O Bradshaw, Sqn Commander accompanied by Adjutant and Book on Roads proceeded by road to Middleton-St-George to look over the new location of 420 Sqn, after the move on the 15th inst. No day flying being carried out.	
	Saturday 9/10/42		Preparations made for operations. Operations cancelled. Night flying training cancelled due to poor weather conditions.	
	Sunday 11/10/42		Operations cancelled, day and night flying training carried out. Night cross country, circuits and landings.	
	Monday 12/10/42		Preparations under way for move. Advance party departed by road for Middleton-St-George.	
	Tuesday 13/10/42		Operations carried out by ten a/c. Three bombed targets. One a/c collided slightly with another a/c returning from target - top portion of tail cut off. Returned to base safely. One a/c made forced landing. Two in hospital with broken legs. Rest of crew alright. One a/c crashed at landing causing severe damage while attempting to land in very poor weather conditions. Crashed into house on climbing turn killing all five of crew. A/c completely demolished.	
	Wednesday 14/10/42		Preparations under way for move - equipment being loaded at Topcliffe Station. W/Lt L. Smith rejoined Squadron after 4 months absence.	
	Thursday 15/10/42		Main party of Squadron departed for Middleton-St-George by train at 11:30 hours. Air party took off at 11:45 hours, and road transport at 12:00 hours. Seven a/c of Squadron operated from Middleton-St-George on Cologne. One aircraft was missing.	
	Friday 16/10/42		Unloading and settling of Squadron carried out. Not required for operations to-night.	
	Saturday 17/10/42		Rear party arrived in charge of W/Lt Goff. No operations - Normal flying training carried out.	
	Sunday 18/10/42		Church parade held. Squadron getting settled. Not required for operations.	
Middleton-St-George	Monday 19/10/42		Not required for operations - Training carried out.	
	Tuesday 20/10/42		Further training carried out - No operations from the Squadron.	
	Wednesday 21/10/42		Not required for operations. Day and night flying training carried out.	
	Thursday 22/10/42		Preparations made for day raid on Essen - route - aircraft took off and reported clear weather off Dutch coast - operation cancelled. S/O Pugsley and S/O Lawrence visited Squadron.	
	Friday 23/10/42		Day operations carried out by five Hall. Six III a/c. All forced to turn back due to clear weather over the target, except one a/c which bombed the target. All a/c returned to base with	

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of (Unit or Formation) _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton-St-George	Friday 23/10/43		exception of the one bombing the target which landed at Waddington. Group Captain Cameron of the R.C.A.F. paid an informal visit to the Squadron.	
	Saturday 24/10/43		First Station Commander's weekly parade held. Prayer service was rendered by the Station Chaplain. Not required for operations.	
	Sunday 25/10/43		Church services held for C of E and O.D's. Required for operations but cancelled.	
	Monday 26/10/43		Scheduled for night operations but operations cancelled. Night flying training carried out by one a/c	
	Tuesday 27/10/43		Nine a/c scheduled for operations but were cancelled.	
	Wednesday 28/10/43		Poor flying conditions. Not required for operations. A/L Hanson District Liaison Officer visited Squadron.	
	Thursday 29/10/43		Not required for operations. Day operations scheduled for three a/c. Operations cancelled. Night flying training carried out.	
	Friday 30/10/43		Squadron stood by for day operations which were cancelled owing to clear weather. Not required for night operations but night flying training carried out.	
	Saturday 31/10/43		Three a/c bombed up for day operation on Boden. Two took off and successfully bombed objective. Remaining aircraft failed to take off due to inter-comms unserviceable.	
			PERSONNEL -- R.C.A.F. Officers -- Aircrew -- 34 Ground Crew -- 3 + 2 Officers attached.	
			R.C.A.F. Airmen -- Aircrew -- 76 Ground Crew -- 201	
			R.A.F. Officers -- Aircrew -- 6 Ground Crew -- 1	
			R.A.F. Airmen -- Aircrew -- 20 Ground Crew -- 131	
			W.A.A.F. Personnel - Airwomen -- 17	
			Other Personnel -- Australian Officers -- Aircrew -- 0 Australian Airmen -- Aircrew -- 3	

W. B. Bradshaw
(D. A. R. Bradshaw) Wing Commander,
Officer Commanding,
No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.