

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. 49

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
Hamilton St-George	1943 Friday Jan. 1/43		Not required for operations on the opening day of the year on the Squadron once more could relax.	
	Saturday 2-1-43		stood by for daylight but were not required. Operations were scheduled for night but were cancelled.	
	Sunday 3-1-43		stood by to assist 427 Sqn. in the event that they might be unable to get their required schedule of aircraft over from draft and backed up, but were not called upon. No operation carried out.	
	Monday 4-1-43		Air Chief Marshall Sir Ludlow Benett, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., D.M.S., visited this station on a tour of inspection. A.C.C. Air Vice Marshal Brookes, C.B.E., accompanied the Inspector General and interviewed the Sqn. for commendations. No operations were carried out by the Squadron.	
	Tuesday 5-1-43		The Squadron was not required for operations.	
	Wednesday 6-1-43		Not required for operations but extensive training carried out. 197690 Sgt. Gray convicted on charge of negligently flying H.M. aircraft in such a manner as to cause his aircraft to strike a tree resulting in damage to said aircraft. Secondly, negligently flew H.M. aircraft at a height of seventy feet in such a manner as to cause danger and bodily injury to members of crew of said aircraft. He was found guilty on both charges, the sentence being a severe reprimand and to take rank and precedence as if his promotion to the rank of Sgt. bore date of 5-3-42.	
	Thursday 7-1-43		No operations were carried out by the Squadron although the Sqn. stood by for daylight operation.	
	Friday 8-1-43		All aircraft took off and were airborne about fifteen minutes when the operation was cancelled. This naturally presented many difficulties since in many instances petrol had to be jettisoned. One aircraft piloted by S/Sgt. Lundon did not receive the recall signal and carried out the operation. However after over four hours of flying he was forced to turn back due to low cloud conditions and heavy weather. He was awarded a sortie.	A.130
	Saturday 9-1-43		Sqn. stood by for daylight operation but were cancelled. However nine aircraft took off on a mining operation, seven of which were successful; one jettisoned and one brought their mines back.	A.131-132

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	Sunday 10-1-43		Aircraft again bashed up for operations which were eventually cancelled.	
	Monday 11-1-43		Stood-by for daylight ops. but were not required.	
	Tuesday 12-1-43		Flying Officer Bond, who has been detached from G.H.C., Middleton St. George to learn Squadron procedure is setting up a new filing system in the G.H., which has, through so many changes in the Squadron, become disorganised. This should be a big improvement and enable our orderly room N.C.O. to cope with the filing.	
	Wednesday 13-1-43		The Squadron again stood by for daylight operation but did not get away. We were not required for night operations and were given a stark down. Lectures were given to aircrew personnel on station ground defence particularly on the use of the Stan lamp.	
	Thursday 14-1-43		No operations were carried out although eleven were bashed up.	
	Friday 15-1-43		Stood by for daylight and six aircraft were sent out. No success was required from the Squadron. BORDEN was the primary target but only one was successful.	A 140 - 145
	Saturday 16-1-43		Four aircraft carried out successful bombing operations in LORRAINE. All aircraft returned safely.	A 146 - 149
	Sunday 17-1-43		Six aircraft were bashed up but operations were scrubbed.	
	Monday 18-1-43		The Squadron was not required for operations. Station defence training was continued. An instructor detailed from Station Ground Defence gave a two hour instruction to all aircrew on the use of the Victoria machine gun. This is in keeping with a policy whereby as many Sqn. personnel as possible may be trained in defence should the station be invaded by para-troops or the like.	
	Tuesday 19-1-43		Squadron not required for operations on this date.	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 51

of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 Squadron, RCAF

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton St-George	Wednesday 20-1-43		Ten aircraft were again bombed up for operations but the operation was cancelled.	
	Thursday 21-1-43		Again carried out mining operation. Three aircraft took part and two successfully laid mines in designated area. One aircraft failed to return.	A.150-152
	Friday 22-1-43		The Squadron was not required for operations on this date.	
	Saturday 23-1-43		Daylight raid carried out by three aircraft. These three put up an excellent show and although primary target was not attacked, it proved to be a very successful nuisance raid at least.	A.153-155
	Sunday 24-1-43		Twelve aircraft bombed up but the operation was cancelled at the last minute. All aircraft were marshalled for take off before this information was received.	
	Monday 25-1-43		Nine aircraft bombed up but operations were cancelled.	
	Tuesday 26-1-43		Ten aircraft bombed up for take off. Nine got away and successfully bombed LORIENT. All aircraft returned safely.	A.156-164
	Wednesday 27-1-43		Not required for operations. The Squadron has lost a number of crews through screening and this break in operations was snapped up to train newly arrived crews and get them ready for their first operation.	
	Thursday 28-1-43		Not being required for operations extensive training was again carried out. All available crews are now ready to operate, at least those not sick.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton St-George	Friday 29-1-43 & Saturday 30-1-43		<p>Twelve aircraft got away on an operation. Eight were detailed to carry out bombing operations on LORINT and four for gardening. Although the weather was clear on take-off, heavy cumulous cloud had been reported all along the trip. The interrogation was a pretty grim one. All captains stated the same thing, terrific rain and electrical storms for a good portion of the trip combined with heavy icing conditions made the operation a very difficult one. One aircraft failed to return and another cracked up on landing at R.A.F. Station Easton. Four were killed and two injured. Gen. R9367-2 Sgt. Sealy - killed. Gen. R13709 Sgt. Bittner, J.D. - killed. Funeral arrangements have now been completed and with the exception of 2/Sgt. Sealy all will be buried at High Cemetery PINOS ROAD BASTY. 2/Sgt. Sealy is to be buried at Bridgewater at the request and expense of relatives. The two injured airmen were Gen. R101949 Sgt. Beauchamp, R.C.E. and Gen. R137649 Sgt. Ernst, R.M., the former dangerously injured and the latter seriously injured. Sgt Beauchamp has since been placed on the S.I. List and Sgt. Ernst is taken off this list and doing well.</p>	A165-176
	Saturday 30-1-43 & Sunday 31-1-43		<p>No operations were carried out on these dates. The whole time was spent making all arrangements to carry out the above funeral. The usual procedure of casualty signals and circumstantial reports got under way with considerable difficulty. Due to the Canadian mission policy this Sqn. Ordinary Room has been stripped of nearly all its experienced personnel. Draastic postings have made it difficult or almost impossible to get a man trained on one job, with the result that a smooth working system is lacking. It is strongly recommended that a policy be adopted whereby, where postings are necessary, they be carried out in a more practical manner. What little time that could be spared was spent by the Sqn. Adjutant and the Sqn. Discip in making arrangements for the 420 Sqn. Anniversary Party and Dance which is to be held on the Second of February. The Sqn. has now lost its Discip. 2/Sgt. Maestis, who has been with the Sqn. for the greater part of its career, the "Flight" now takes over the responsibilities of the Station Warrant Officer, M.S.G.</p> <p>Strength 31-1-43 -- R.C.A.F. Officers -- Aircrew -- 41 Ground Crew 4</p> <p>R.C.A.F. Airmen -- Aircrew -- 57 Ground Crew -- 216</p> <p>R.A.F. Officers -- Aircrew -- 12 Ground Crew -- 1</p> <p>R.A.F. Airmen -- Aircrew -- 35 W.A.A.F. Personnel - Airwomen -- 29 Ground Crew -- 114</p> <p>Other Personnel -- Australian Officers -- Aircrew -- 2 Australian Airmen -- Aircrew -- 1</p> <p>Hours flown operationally for the month of January, 1943 -- 250.20 Hours flown non-operationally for the month of Jan., 1943 -- 128.25</p>	

A. J. G. [Signature]
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