

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. 60

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
Middleton St. George	Monday 2-3-43		The eleven aircraft which had taken off on operations on Cologne all returned safely. No operations were carried out by the Squadron. On this afternoon aircraft 1724C crashed near R.C. Station [something] and whilst on a training flight all members of the crew were killed. The following is a list: Pilot - R. 70461 P/O Townsend, P.O.; Navigator - 1061800 P/O Treason, J.; Bomb Aimer - P/O A. Specator, J. 12372; 202/10 - J. 35418 P/O Hollowell, R.; Air Gunner - 134498 P/O Brown, R. Eye witnesses state that the wing of the aircraft, flying at approximately 1500 feet straight and level, was seen to tear from the trailing edge and pull off. The aircraft then flipped over and dove to earth, where an explosion occurred.	Z 1724 'C' PAGE 63
	Tuesday 3-3-43		The Squadron was given a stand down on the previous day so that a chance was given to render any minor repairs to aircraft. Six aircraft were now required for mining operations. Three of these were successful, all returned safely.	A.306-311
	Wednesday 4-3-43		<i>down</i> The aircraft were booked up for operations against Hamburg. <i>Six</i> successfully bombed the target. One returned early due to circumstances of the part of the pilot.	A.312-318
	Thursday 5-3-43		The Squadron was again accorded a stand down. A master parade of all ranks was held in No. 1 Mess and an excellent lecture on security was given by P/O. Phillips, the Station Intelligence Officer. The lecture had arisen over a serious breach of security regulations which had reached a peak about this time. All ranks were warned and informed that future cases would be dealt with by Court Martial. All aircraft and those officers who could be spared turned out for some sort of sport and several games of football and softball were organized and it is hoped that a inter-station schedule of softball can be drawn up.	
	Friday 6-3-43		Twelve aircraft took off on operations against Essen. One aircraft returned early due to engine trouble. Others bombed target and returned safely. All arrangements were completed for the funeral of those lost in the accident on the afternoon of the 1st of March. Considerable difficulty was experienced in finding enough officer personnel to act as pall bearers since most of them were required for operations. Perhaps no crew has been missed more than this crew and the tragedy of it all was that most of them were nearly completing their tour of operations. From operations on 5-3-43 one aircraft was missing.	A.319-324 PAGE 63
	Saturday 7-3-43		The Squadron was not required for operations.	
	Sunday 8-3-43		No operations were carried out on this day but a training programme was carried out.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton-St. George.	Monday 8-2-43		Five aircraft took off on gardening. Poor vis over area caused three to return with mines. All aircraft returned safely.	A.330-334
	Tuesday 9-2-43		Squadron was accorded a stand down.	
	Wednesday 10-2-43		Squadron again given a stand down with the result that the serviceability of aircraft rapidly rose.	
	Thursday 11-2-43		Weather was satisfactory for operations but this Squadron was not required.	
	Friday 12-2-43		Ten aircraft took off on operations on bases. A very successful sortie was reported by six and all returned safely with exception of Sgt. Cook and crew who have not been heard from since. 2 aircraft returned safely.	A.335-343 PAGE 63
	Saturday 13-2-43		On 190215 S/Lt Taylor, R.A. was awarded the D.F.C. for his splendid skill and courage on the night of February the 19th over WILHELMSTADT. (Refer our appendix A77-87). Nine aircraft took off on a gardening exercise. Six can be assumed to have successfully dropped their mines in the designated area. One aircraft failed to return.	A.243/Feb. 1943 A.344-352 PAGE 64
	Sunday 14-2-43		The Squadron was not required for operations.	
	Monday 15-2-43		Operations were carried by other squadrons but apparently only four engine aircraft were able to reach the target with the result that we were not required.	
	Tuesday 16-2-43		The Squadron was still not required for operations and once again the serviceability of the aircraft has reached a high level. One aircraft was sent away having completed a tour of operations.	
	Wednesday 17-2-43		Flight Lieutenants Cook and Anderson, former deputy flight commanders of "A" and "B" flights respectively visited their old Squadron to take a last look at those few of the old gang who are left. The whole Squadron is in the process of turning over. One finds it very difficult to recognize the aircraft laid now on our strength.	
	Thursday 18-2-43		The weather has warmed up considerably and although aircraft were bombed up for operations under fair weather conditions, no operations were carried out by us.	
	Friday 19-2-43		The Squadron was accorded a stand down. The Squadron Commander returned from R.A.F. Flight where he had just completed his Beam Approach Course. Taking advantage of this stand down and due to poor flying conditions a large number of the Squadron were released for organized sport.	

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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

Page No. 62

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
Middleton St. George	Thursday 18-5-43		The weather has warmed up considerably and although aircraft were bombed up for operations under fair weather conditions, no operations were carried out by us.	
	Friday 19-5-43		The Squadron was accorded a standown. The Squadron Commander returned from R.A.F. flight where he had just completed his Beam Approach Course. Taking advantage of this standown and due to poor flying conditions a large number of the Squadron were released for organized sports.	
	Saturday 20-5-43		Nineteen aircraft were bombed up for operations which were eventually cancelled.	
	Sunday 21-5-43		The Squadron was not required for operations although local flying was carried out.	
	Monday 22-5-43		Sixteen aircraft were bombed up but did not get away due to another cancellation of operations.	
	Tuesday 23-5-43		The Squadron was again accorded a standown and much needed training was carried out.	
	Wednesday 24-5-43		Seventeen aircraft again bombed up but operations were cancelled.	
	Thursday 25-5-43		The same number of operational aircraft were required but the operation was cancelled. It is worth noting at this point that the serviceability of the Squadron has reached a praiseworthy stage and ground crews were congratulated by the Engineering Officer for their marvelous effort.	
	Friday 26-5-43		Fifteen aircraft were bombed up for operation on DUISBURG but did not all get away. Four of the freshmen crews were cancelled; eleven took off and nine successfully bombed the objective. One aircraft returned to base owing to turret trouble another returned to DUISBURG due to engine failure in port motor. All aircraft returned safely.	A.353-363
	Saturday 27-5-43		Fifteen aircraft were offered and bombed up but were cancelled.	
	Sunday 28-5-43		Fifteen aircraft took off on operations against ST. NAZAIRE. Eleven aircraft successfully bombed the target. Four returned early for various reasons.	A.364-378

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																																																																																																																																		
Ldleton St. George	Monday 29-3-43		Fourteen aircraft took off for operations on BOCHUM near EBBW. The raid was supposed to have been a diversionary raid for another operation by heavy bombers on Berlin. Due to rather heavy weather conditions and considerable icing, four of our aircraft turned back with various troubles. One aircraft returned to BRIFFLE and another one to FOCKELINGTON. Two aircraft failed to return.	A.379-39																																																																																																																																		
	Tuesday 30-3-43		The Squadron was not required for operations.	Page 64																																																																																																																																		
	Wednesday 31-3-43		Not being required for operations a training programme was scheduled to be carried out in the form of a cross-country by three aircraft but was cancelled on the advice of Met.																																																																																																																																			
			<table><tr><td>Strength 31.3.43</td><td>R.O.A.F. Officers</td><td>-</td><td>Air Crew</td><td>=</td><td>45</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Ground Crew</td><td>=</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R.O.A.F. Airmen</td><td>-</td><td>Air Crew</td><td>=</td><td>61</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Ground Crew</td><td>=</td><td>286</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R.A.F. Officers</td><td>-</td><td>Air Crew</td><td>=</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Ground Crew</td><td>=</td><td>Nil</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>R.A.F. Airmen</td><td>-</td><td>Air Crew</td><td>=</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Ground Crew</td><td>=</td><td>94</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>W.A.A.F. Personnel</td><td>-</td><td>Airmen</td><td>=</td><td>32</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Other Personnel</td><td>-</td><td>Australian Officers</td><td>=</td><td>Air Crew = 4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Australian Officers</td><td>=</td><td>Ground Crew = 1</td></tr></table> <p>Hours flown operationally during the month of March, 1943 -</p> <p>Hours flown on operations during the month of March, 1943 -</p> <p>"C"</p> <p>Accident to Wellington Mark III S.1724 Day of 1st March, 1943. Crew killed.</p> <table><tr><td>Can/R7964</td><td>P/O. Townsend, P.E.</td><td>Pilot</td><td>Canadian</td></tr><tr><td>4061805</td><td>P/O. Wroblewski, J.</td><td>Navigator</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Can/R12979</td><td>P/O. Spence, S.</td><td>Air Bomber</td><td>Canadian</td></tr><tr><td>135416</td><td>P/O. Hollowell, R.M.</td><td>W.O.A.G.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>438498</td><td>P/O. Brown, K.J.</td><td>W.O.A.G.</td><td></td></tr></table> <p>"V"</p> <p>Loss of Wellington Mark X HM-280 Missing Night 5/6th March, 1943</p> <table><tr><td>Can/R16414</td><td>P/O. Graham, R.</td><td>Pilot</td><td>Canadian</td></tr><tr><td>427921</td><td>P/O. Lee, W.G.</td><td>2nd Pilot</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Can/R13075</td><td>P/O. MacDonald, J.E.</td><td>Navigator</td><td>Canadian</td></tr><tr><td>Can/R12976</td><td>P/O. Bennett, D.E.</td><td>Air Bomber</td><td>Canadian</td></tr><tr><td>Can/R34460</td><td>P/O. Oliver, D.</td><td>Air Gunner</td><td>Canadian</td></tr><tr><td>Can/R101307</td><td>Sgt. Lawson, H.T.A.</td><td>W.O.A.G.</td><td>Canadian</td></tr></table> <p>Loss of Wellington Mark X HM-690 Missing Night 12/13th March, 1943</p> <table><tr><td>Can/R122227</td><td>Sgt. Cooke, G.H.</td><td>Pilot</td><td>Canadian</td></tr><tr><td>657790</td><td>Sgt. Morris, J.</td><td>Navigator</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>657972</td><td>Sgt. Maxwell, R.G.</td><td>Air Bomber</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1365784</td><td>Sgt. Dawson, A.R.</td><td>W.O.A.G.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Can/R132258</td><td>Sgt. McKinnon, T.S.</td><td>Air Gunner</td><td>Canadian</td></tr></table>	Strength 31.3.43	R.O.A.F. Officers	-	Air Crew	=	45				Ground Crew	=	4		R.O.A.F. Airmen	-	Air Crew	=	61				Ground Crew	=	286		R.A.F. Officers	-	Air Crew	=	7				Ground Crew	=	Nil		R.A.F. Airmen	-	Air Crew	=	34				Ground Crew	=	94		W.A.A.F. Personnel	-	Airmen	=	32		Other Personnel	-	Australian Officers	=	Air Crew = 4				Australian Officers	=	Ground Crew = 1	Can/R7964	P/O. Townsend, P.E.	Pilot	Canadian	4061805	P/O. Wroblewski, J.	Navigator		Can/R12979	P/O. Spence, S.	Air Bomber	Canadian	135416	P/O. Hollowell, R.M.	W.O.A.G.		438498	P/O. Brown, K.J.	W.O.A.G.		Can/R16414	P/O. Graham, R.	Pilot	Canadian	427921	P/O. Lee, W.G.	2nd Pilot		Can/R13075	P/O. MacDonald, J.E.	Navigator	Canadian	Can/R12976	P/O. Bennett, D.E.	Air Bomber	Canadian	Can/R34460	P/O. Oliver, D.	Air Gunner	Canadian	Can/R101307	Sgt. Lawson, H.T.A.	W.O.A.G.	Canadian	Can/R122227	Sgt. Cooke, G.H.	Pilot	Canadian	657790	Sgt. Morris, J.	Navigator		657972	Sgt. Maxwell, R.G.	Air Bomber		1365784	Sgt. Dawson, A.R.	W.O.A.G.		Can/R132258	Sgt. McKinnon, T.S.	Air Gunner	Canadian	
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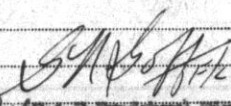
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of this form in K.R. and A.C.I.,
Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX., and
Book.

of (Unit or Formation) **No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.**

No. of pages

Date	Time	Summary of Events				
George		Loss of Wellington Mark III No. 236				
		Missing Night 13/14th March, 1943				
		Can/2108882	Sgt. Tidy, C.E.	Pilot	Canadian	
		Can/213515	P/O. Macfarlane, J.D.	Inv.	Canadian	
		Can/2108885	Sgt. Hall, C.E.	A/B.	Canadian	
		112894	Sgt. Brady, H.	WAG		
		Can/238586	Sgt. Corbett, J.A.	AsG.	Canadian	
		Loss of Wellington Mark I No. 424				
		Missing Night 29/30th March, 1943				
		Can/321944	P/O. Grant, R.A.	Pilot	Canadian	
		Can/2120473	Sgt. Bradshaw, R.V.	Inv.	Canadian	
		132027	P/O. Briggs, A.G.	A/B.		
1216405	Sgt. Ryan, R.	WAG				
Can/210770	Sgt. Burton, P.E.	AsG.	Canadian			
George		Loss of Wellington Mark III No. 234				
		Missing Night 29/30th March, 1943				
		Can/2123525	Sgt. Brandon, R.A.	Pilot	Canadian	
		Can/2123532	Sgt. Cockburn, C.E.	Inv.	Canadian	
		Can/2123209	Sgt. Hooper, H.G.	A/B.	Canadian	
		1206582	Sgt. Jones, L.G.	WAG		
Can/2123327	Sgt. Green, J.H.	AsG.	Canadian			
The following movements took place during March:						
Postings In Officers						
127921	P/O. W.A. Lee	Pilot	1.3.43	321944	P/O. Grant, R.A.	Pilot
314789	P/O. L.A. Allen	Inv.	1.3.43	316151	P/O. W.A. Halden	Pilot
314733	P/O. H.J. Hodder	A/B.	1.3.43	328738	P/O. R. O'Connell	Inv.
7767	P/O. J. Booth	A/B.	1.3.43	330125	P/O. C.E. Jackson	Pilot
322355	P/O. W.A. Brister	Inv.	1.3.43	321257	P/O. D.E. Campbell	Pilot
321001	P/O. R.H. Manning	A/B.	1.3.43	314514	P/O. R.P. Macdonald	Inv.
Postings Out Officers						
316246	P/O. J.H. May	Inv.	5.3.43	312969	P/O. G.S. Williams	A/B.
31600533	P/O. A.H. Henry	Inv.	5.3.43	127328	P/O. F. Eason	Inv.
315666	P/O. J.D. Graham	Pilot	5.3.43	0.1629	S/Lt. D.E. Jacobs	Pilot
316170	P/O. W.A. Council	WAG	5.3.43			
Postings In All ranks						
1271075	Sgt. Haybourne, D.F.	WAG	1.3.43	2127709	Sgt. Eason, J.K.	Pilot
1344562	Sgt. Martin, A.	WAG	1.3.43	2140055	Sgt. Bailie, D.B.	AsG.
2113246	Sgt. May, F.D.	Pilot	10.3.43	1334733	Sgt. Avery, P.O.	WAG
2130060	Sgt. Swinson, A.V.	A/B.	10.3.43	2124769	Sgt. Boulet, H.	AsG.

ate	Time	Summary of Events				
<u>Postings In: Alcon</u>						
1319273	Sgt. Hall, G.B.	Pilot	10.3.43	R133344	Sgt. Bishop, J.P.	Inv.
1335553	Sgt. Hall, H.A.	WOAG	10.3.43	R124453	Sgt. Dodford, G.H.	A/D.
R100649	Sgt. Amis, L.D.	A.C.	10.3.43	1381202	Sgt. Wingham, D.	Pilot
2122648	Sgt. Crossman, L.H.	Inv.	10.3.43	656722	Sgt. Gann, J.J.	WOAG
R100983	Sgt. Burrow, R.	A/D.	10.3.43	R126630	Sgt. Pingsall, J.H.	A.C.
2123473	Sgt. Bendoric, G.V.	Inv.	12.3.43	R134457	Sgt. Giffin, G.G.	A/D.
1213403	Sgt. Ryan, R.	WOAG	12.3.43	R107770	Sgt. Barron, P.H.	A.C.
4345945	Sgt. Mason, J.H.	Pilot	20.3.43	R120988	Sgt. Broley, J.H.	Inv.
R95651	Sgt. Hurnatty, P.H.	A/D.	20.3.43	1003206	Sgt. Worth, J.	WOAG
R111727	Sgt. MacDuff, H.	A.C.	20.3.43	R136535	Sgt. Tappin, H.	Pilot
R99352	Sgt. Coolidge, G.H.	Inv.	25.3.43	R129309	Sgt. Sloop, H.C.	A/D.
1200502	Sgt. Jones, L.G.	WOAG	25.3.43	R125217	Sgt. Groom, J.H.	A.C.
R60560	P/O. Fieger, W.W.	WOAG	25.3.43	R130655	Sgt. Gibson, H.H.	Inv.
1342646	Sgt. Kyll, J.E.	WOAG	25.3.43	R124364	Sgt. MacDonald, A.H.	A/D.
R13769	Sgt. Allen, H.T.H.	A.C.	25.3.43	1123178	Sgt. Woodall, R.	WOAG
R133174	Sgt. Bradshaw, W.H.	A/D.	25.3.43	R12446	Sgt. Hildrum, H.P.	A.C.
<u>Postings Out: Alcon</u>						
R61030	P/O. Harrington, J.B.	WOAG	1.3.43	1360433	Sgt. Watt, A.O.F.	WOAG
R72412	P/O. Kennedy, W.	Pilot	5.3.43	R60777	P/O. Durland, H.	WOAG
R103622	Sgt. Lenson, T.C.	Pilot	11.3.43	R144462	Sgt. Day, G.J.	A.C.
1392919	Sgt. Fox, P.H.	A.C.	13.3.43	655700	Sgt. Houser, L.	Pilot
1433576	Sgt. Glover, D.H.	A/D.	31.3.43	1331190	Sgt. Art, H.H.	WOAG
4337200	Sgt. Sheldon, H.	A.C.	31.3.43			
<u>Type and Number of aircraft on strength - 31.3.43</u>						
Wellington Mark III - 8						
Wellington Mark II - 45						
Hours flown operationally for the month of March, 1943 - 451.50 hours						
Number of operational sorties - 87						
Hours flown non-operationally for the month of March, 1943 - 124.50 hours.						
 (D.A.E. Bradshaw) Wing Commander Officer Commanding No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.						

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R.A.F. Form 540

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 64

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events						References to Appendices				
Middleton St. George	<u>Loss of Wellington Mark III No. 256</u>			Comd/240882	Sgt.	Edy, G.H.	Pilot	Canadian					
	<u>Missing Night 13/14th March, 1943</u>			Comd/243915	P/O.	Hutchinson, J.H.	Nav.	Canadian					
				Comd/240885	Sgt.	Hall, G.H.	A/G.	Canadian					
				118394	Sgt.	Rocky, H.	W/O						
				Comd/236306	Sgt.	Corbett, J.H.	A/G.	Canadian					
	<u>Loss of Wellington Mark I No. 494</u>			Comd/224941	P/O.	Grant, B.H.	Pilot	Canadian					
	<u>Missing Night 13/14th March, 1943</u>			Comd/2120473	Sgt.	Anderson, G.H.	Nav.	Canadian					
				1234027	P/O.	Edgins, A.G.	A/G.						
				1216405	Sgt.	Byrne, H.	W/O						
				Comd/2107770	Sgt.	Burton, F.H.	A/G.	Canadian					
	<u>Loss of Wellington Mark III No. 324</u>			Comd/212565	Sgt.	Harwood, B.H.	Pilot	Canadian					
	<u>Missing Night 13/14th March, 1943</u>			Comd/257702	Sgt.	Goodman, G.H.	Nav.	Canadian					
				Comd/212202	Sgt.	Moore, A.G.	A/G.	Canadian					
				1230002	Sgt.	James, G.H.	W/O						
				Comd/2125327	Sgt.	Green, J.H.	A/G.	Canadian					
	The following accidents took place during March												
	<u>Fortress In - Officers</u>												
				127201	P/O.	H.H. Lee	Pilot	1-3-43	212041	P/O.	Grant, B.H.	Pilot	1-3-43
				214709	P/O.	H.H. Allen	Nav.	1-3-43	216101	P/O.	H.H. Hutchinson	Pilot	2-3-43
				214723	P/O.	H.H. Rogers	A/G.	1-3-43	228724	P/O.	H. Goodall	Nav.	10-3-43
				2207	P/O.	J. Smith	A/G.	1-3-43	220125	P/O.	G.H. Jackson	Pilot	2-3-43
			222325	P/O.	H.H. Brister	Nav.	1-3-43	221237	P/O.	H.H. Campbell	Pilot	2-3-43	
			221001	P/O.	H.H. Manning	A/G.	1-3-43	214516	P/O.	H.H. Houston	Nav.	2-3-43	
<u>Fortress Out - Officers</u>													
			216265	P/O.	J.H. May	Nav.	5-3-43	212209	P/O.	G.H. Williams	A/G.	3-3-43	
			21600533	P/O.	A.H. Henry	Nav.	5-3-43	127325	P/O.	F. Bacon	Nav.	3-3-43	
			215666	P/O.	J.H. Graham	Pilot	5-3-43	G. 1629	P/O.	H.H. Jacobs	Pilot	5-3-43	
			215170	P/O.	H.H. Council	W/O	5-3-43						
<u>Fortress In - Airmen</u>													
			1271075	Sgt.	Byrnes, D.F.	W/O	1-3-43	212709	Sgt.	Harson, J.H.	Pilot	1-3-43	
			124662	Sgt.	Harvey, A.	W/O	1-3-43	214005	Sgt.	Smith, G.H.	A/G.	1-3-43	
			2113045	Sgt.	May, F.H.	Pilot	10-3-43	1234733	Sgt.	Avery, F.O.	W/O	10-3-43	
			2130660	Sgt.	Anderson, A.G.	A/G.	10-3-43	213469	Sgt.	Rowley, H.	A/G.	10-3-43	

[illegible]