

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. _____

of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 (RCAP) Sqn.

No. of pages used for day. _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	1st April.		The Squadron was not required for operations.	
	2nd April		Operations on LORIENT "Z". Three aircraft were bombed up and crews briefed for operations. All aircraft bombed objective successfully and returned home.	393-395
	3rd April		Squadron was not required for operations.	
	4th April		Operations on KIEL. Thirteen aircraft were bombed up and took off on operations on KIEL. This Squadron had not operated over KIEL since last November and crews were interested to know what reception they would receive, as compared with their previous engagement. Two aircraft returned early, it can be assumed that the remaining eleven bombed the target successfully. The A.A. defence was reported very intense and concentrated.	396-408
	5th April		As had been approved for some time in the past, the Squadron was eventually to convert to Halifax Type Aircraft, but it had not been anticipated that the conversion would take place at such an early date; however, notification was received on this date that conversion was to get on the way, in accordance with instructions received from 6 Group Headquarters. Six pilots and crews proceeded by transport at 10.30 hours to R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, to report to the Conversion Unit there, for the purpose of carrying out this plan. These crews were selected from the more experienced, including the Squadron Commander, W/O. Bradshaw. The Squadron was not required for operations, which, if they had, would have caused considerable "flap" under the existing circumstances.	
	6th April		Four aircraft were bombed up for operations, which were eventually cancelled.	
	7th April		The Squadron was not required.	
	8th April		In spite of the fact that conversion was well under way, the Squadron still continued to operate, and six aircraft were bombed up and crews were briefed and took off on operations against DUISBURG. It can be assumed that four aircraft bombed the target successfully. One aircraft, the pilot of which was on his 2nd tour of operations, failed to return. One aircraft returned early.	409-414
	9th April		The Squadron was granted a stand-down.	
	10th April		Thirteen aircraft took off on operations against FRANKFURT. Eight successfully bombed the target. Four returned early. One aircraft, which had apparently wandered decidedly off track, crashed at WARWICK, SOUTH WALES. The crew, however, had baled out, the pilot having placed "George" in. All were rescued with slight injuries, with the exception of the pilot, who was, as near as can be ascertained, drowned. It is interesting to note, the crew were found approximately 50 miles from where the aircraft crashed and burned; which only goes to prove that flying an aircraft might not be so difficult.	415-427



www.bombercommand.com

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	11th April		This must be wash month for the Squadron. Many changes have taken place. One of our outstanding Pilot, P/O. Dave Jacobs has departed to the Big City. They call it a posting. Of course we have our own ideas. Wonder how he likes being back home? Today the Squadron changed Wing Commanders and Adjutants. W/O Broadshaw, who held the post for some time, has made room for W/O. "Mac" McIntosh, who has been expected from our new "Hinges", whose record is outstanding. P/O. G.H. Goff, who polished the chair in the Adjutant's office for many months is now 2nd Dicky to the Station Commander, being replaced by P/O. "Dave" Hall. This is his 2nd show and still full of pep and vigour.	
	12th April		Eleven aircraft took off on operations against STUTTGART. Seven successfully bombed the target. Fires and plenty of smoke were evident. One aircraft returned due to engine trouble. Two aircraft failed to return. Report of remaining aircraft not at hand, but it is presumed the target was bombed successfully.	428-738
	13th April		The Squadron stood down.	
	14th April		Eleven aircraft took off on operations against MARIEM. Two aircraft returned early due to engine trouble. Eight aircraft successfully bombed the target. Numerous fires. One aircraft failed to return.	439-449
	15th April		The Squadron stood down.	
	16th April		Much excitement prevailed on the news that the Squadron was selected to go to North West Africa. Each section are busy picking their best men and fitting them to their position in the establishment. As we are not taking R.A.F. personnel in our ground crew, the task before us is to have the vacancies filled as quickly as possible from other Squadrons. Equipment has to be sorted and crated and labelled with our Unit number and colours. Personnel have to be re-kitted with Tropical Kit, receive medical and dental attention, be issued with fire arms, etc. This looks like big doings for the Squadron and we are 100% for it.	
	17th April		Squadron stood down today.	
	18th April		A nominal roll had to be prepared today of all personnel selected to go to N.W.A., according to establishment. It was not an easy task, due to the secret nature of the move. However, the task was completed at 02.30 hours Monday and was rushed to C/O. Dunlop, C.O., R.C.A.F. Station, Leeming, by D.R.	
	19th April		Eight aircraft took off for No. 427 Squadron, CROFT, to participate in operations. Operations for the night were scrubbed and the crews returned to their Station by transport. Aircraft will remain at CROFT. The Squadron is being equipped with Wellingtons Mark I, therefore it was decided to leave the present aircraft at CROFT and if our crews are needed for operations, they would be transported to CROFT each time from here. Routine of Medical and Dental and Kit inspections was carried out. The task of securing supplies is being undertaken by the Equipment Section, the making of crates and packing by Maintenance. All is progressing favourably.	
	20th April		Eight crews took part in "Bull's Eye" operations from CROFT. Returned to base around 02.30 hours. Medicals, Dentals and issuing of kit progressed throughout the day. W/O. McIntosh, IPG, spoke to the Squadron and gave them a security talk.	
	21st April		Stand down. Sorting and shifting of personnel, new crews and ground personnel arriving. Tropical kits arrived today.	

SECRET

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. _____

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

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	22nd April		Eight crews took part in Bull's Eye operations, as usual from Graft. Returned to base at 02.45 hours. These crews were briefed here. P/O McCarthy, RNO, arrived to take over "B" Flight. Two new crews arrived. Grating is progressing. Establishments not completely filled as yet.		
	23rd April		Good Friday. Stand Down. Every crate that will be going with us has been made. Markings painted and unit number affixed. All are being weighed. Through the untiring efforts of P/O Money, Engineer Officer, all packing was completed, as far as he could go.		
	24th April		Eight aircraft were to take part in a raid on DUISBURG tonight. The crews were transported to Graft, where briefing took place. This operation was scrubbed.		
	25th April		Stand down.		
	26th April		Eight aircraft took part in a raid on DUISBURG. The crews were transported to Graft, where briefing took place. It can be assumed that all aircraft bombed the target successfully. Three aircraft returned to base, one landed away from base with the port engine crippled, and crashed. No one was injured. Another landed away from base, to check damage from flick. One landed away from base - nothing serious. One coming in to land at base got into trouble and crashed near base. The 2nd Dicky was killed and the balance of the crew received injuries. One aircraft was missing from operations.		450-457
	27th April		Five aircraft were bombed and ready for operations tonight. Crews had been transported to Graft and briefed. Operations were scrubbed.		
	28th April		Stand down. Several new crews arrived from No. 426 Squadron, Diahforth, to bring up our establishment. Our MARK X's are being made ready to be flown here. W/O McIntosh visited Diahforth yesterday to inspect some of them. Every detail is receiving minute attention regarding our move and we are rapidly approaching a position when leave of 4 or 5 days may be granted all personnel.		
			The D.F.C. was awarded to the following of 420 Squadron: A/S/L. David Sinclair JACOBS, Can/61629, RCAF. P/O. Thom Ross McQUILL, Can/38848, RCAF. P/O. Robert Needell RAYNE, 68797, RAF VR A/W.O. Eileenlyn Hugh Cleverdale GARDNER, Can/267228, RCAF.		
			Also the D.F.M. to the following of 420 Squadron: CAN/880737 P/Sgt. Russell DORLAND, R.C.A.F. CAN/867366 P/Sgt. Clarence Philip LUNDEN, R.C.A.F.		
	29th April		Stand down.		Authority London Gazette, April 16, 1943.
	30th April		Stand down. Funeral for Sergeant P.O. ALDER (Can/4607) was held today at Darlington. Sergeant Alder was returning from operations on the night of 26/27th April. He was 2nd Dicky, crashed near Graft. His own crew acted as Pall-bearers. Our aircrew establishment has been cut to 26. It was like throwing a monkey wrench into the works. Kits had to be returned and men posted. It rained practically all day.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Loss of Wellington Mark X No 79 Night 8/9 April, 1944.					
(J.16131) P/O Wilkinson, R.C.			Pilot		
(J.16935) P/O MacDonald, R.C.			Navigator		
85570 P/O Wynn, R.C.			Air Bomber		
85517 P/O Smith, R.C.			Wireless Op.		
85512 P/O Dwyer, R.C.			Air Gunner		
Loss of Wellington Mark X No 52 Night 24/25 April, 1944.					
810518 Sgt Gosses, R.C.			Pilot		
811540 Sgt Wright, R.C.			Navigator		
815439 Sgt Gifford, R.C.			Air Bomber		
810046 Sgt Macdonald, R.C.			Wireless Op.		
815660 Sgt Duffin, R.C.			Air Gunner		
Loss of Wellington Mark X No 85 Night 24/25 April, 1944.					
(J.15177) S/L Anglin, R.C.			Pilot		
(J.112975) P/O Armstrong, R.C.			Navigator		
(J.15744) P/O Brown, R.C.			Air Bomber		
655970 Sgt Macdonald, R.C.			Wireless Op.		
(J.17115) P/O J. Macdonald			Air Gunner		
Loss of Wellington Mark X No 82 Night 16/17 April, 1944.					
811774 Sgt Morrison, R.C.			Pilot		
811565 Sgt Jackson, R.C.			Navigator		
811397 Sgt Laidlaw, R.C.			Air Bomber		
810675 Sgt Macdonald, R.C.			Wireless Op.		
815769 Sgt Allan, R.C.			Air Gunner		
Loss of Wellington Mark X No 605 Night 26/27 April, 1944.					
813805 Sgt Morrison, R.C.			Pilot		
8115013 Sgt Duffy, R.C.			Navigator		
815082 Sgt Macdonald, R.C.			Air Bomber		
810563 Sgt Glenane, R.C.			Wireless Op.		
811766 Sgt Cooke, R.C.			Air Gunner		
Incident to Wellington Mark X No 77 (as 77) Night 26/27 April, 1944.					
81507 Sgt Allen, R.C.			Pilot		
Killed in crash. Parts of crew injured.					

SECRET.

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. _____

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2345, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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.			The following movements took place during April:	
			Postings In - Officers.	
			104471 F/O. Gourlie, R.N. Pilot 3.4.43	
			104843 F/L. G. Belcher Nav. 10.4.43	
			120861 F/O. F.J. Greig A/B 12.4.43	
			114522 F/O. R.A. Preston Nav. 12.4.43	
			120355 F/O. J.E. Garvethere Pilot 12.4.43	
			116400 F/O. A.W. Freeman Pilot 14.4.43	
			120634 F/O. H.J. Dows A/B 14.4.43	
			13484 F/L. A.J. Lewington Pilot 20.4.43	
			116011 F/O. H.B. Hall A.G. 17.4.43	
			115014 F/L. J. McCarthy Pilot 20.4.43	
			110887 F/O. L.B. Wilson Nav. 23.4.43	
			114615 F/O. L.G. Foster A.G. 23.4.43	
			111649 F/O. L.A. Merrifield Pilot 23.4.43	
			Postings in - Airmen.	
			14607 Sgt. Alder, C.D. Pilot 12.4.43	
			1102903 Sgt. Cahill, B.C. A/B 12.4.43	
			1141561 Sgt. Madenman, H. A.G. 12.4.43	
			1115841 Sgt. Hood, C. WOAG 12.4.43	
			1465307 Sgt. Parker, D.C. WOAG 12.4.43	
			1106778 Sgt. Hill, W.F. WOAG 14.4.43	
			1110807 Sgt. MacPherson, D.J. WOAG 14.4.43	
			1110240 Sgt. MacLeod, J.S. Pilot 20.4.43	
			1123998 Sgt. Watt, L.A. A/B 20.4.43	
			1128898 Sgt. Rutherford, K.F. A.G. 20.4.43	
			1120128 Sgt. Sperdakos, J. WOAG 12.4.43	
			1120905 Sgt. Newburg, E.L. Pilot 12.4.43	
			1120563 Sgt. Glascock, O.K. WOAG 12.4.43	
			114766 Sgt. Cooke, K.B. AG 12.4.43	
			1258356 Sgt. Bloomfield, R.C. WOAG 20.4.43	
			1603969 Sgt. Wooster, D.L. AG 20.4.43	
			117801 F/L. Ballock, L.A. Nav. 23.4.43	
			1191800 Sgt. Hector, L.G. WOAG 23.4.43	
			117439 Sgt. Loxton, R.C. WOAG 23.4.43	
			1176926 Sgt. Donald, J.G.B. Nav. 23.4.43	
			1114810 Sgt. Thompson, W.A. A.G. 23.4.43	
			1179461 Sgt. Gillies, W.E. A.G. 23.4.43	
			1103234 Sgt. Steen, A.M. Pilot 23.4.43	
			1101879 Sgt. Dennis AG 23.4.43	
			1114962 Sgt. Griffiths, B. WOAG 21.4.43	
			115177 F/L. F.V. Taylor Pilot 7.4.43	
			120352 F/O. G.B. McCulloch P 12.4.43	
			117868 F/O. H.G. McCoy P 12.4.43	
			120884 F/O. R.G. Hamill A/B 12.4.43	
			120469 F/O. White, S.H. A/B 12.4.43	
			122691 F/O. E.H. Douglas Nav. 14.4.43	
			114786 F/O. J.F. Terrian Nav. 14.4.43	
			114400 F/O. P.J. Hammond Nav. 20.4.43	
			116987 F/O. V. Ardie Pilot 21.4.43	
			16789 F/O. A.G. Collins Pilot 23.4.43	
			116947 F/O. S.E.J. Tucker A/B 23.4.43	
			123820 F/O. G.D. Mitchell A/B 23.4.43	
			123817 F/O. P.A. Andrew A/B 23.4.43	
			128615 F/O. L.E. Gedgey Nav. 23.4.43	
			116887 F/O. S.D. Tripp A/B 23.4.43	
			1144405 Sgt. Cook, L.F. Nav. 12.4.43	
			111747 Sgt. McKay, G.J. WOAG 12.4.43	
			1115910 Sgt. Gillies, K.M. Nav. 12.4.43	
			1146698 Sgt. McDougall, G. A.G. 12.4.43	
			1138691 Sgt. Parker, R.E. A.G. 12.4.43	
			1124427 Sgt. Lazenby, T.H. A.G. 14.4.43	
			1130765 Sgt. Jackson, W.C. A/B 14.4.43	
			1113104 Sgt. Collis, R.A. Nav. 20.4.43	
			1122252 Sgt. DeLalla, J.F. WOAG 20.4.43	
			1133133 Sgt. Hartman, G.F. Nav. 12.4.43	
			1105182 Sgt. Patterson, G. A.G. 12.4.43	
			1145945 Sgt. Duffy, F.J. Nav. 12.4.43	
			1150882 Sgt. MacClow, R. A/B 12.4.43	
			1109246 Sgt. Stewart, J.A. A/B 20.4.43	
			1109380 Sgt. Carey, E.M. AG 20.4.43	
			1182807 Sgt. Lloyd, R.W. Pilot 23.4.43	
			1185382 Sgt. Meredith, R.C. A/B 23.4.43	
			1119049 Sgt. Johnson, R.H. A.G. 23.4.43	
			114175 Sgt. Wright, J.H. Pilot 23.4.43	
			1078709 Sgt. Brown, F.L. WOAG 23.4.43	
			1116516 Sgt. Egan, G.F. Nav. 23.4.43	
			1104244 Sgt. Nicholls, L. WOAG 23.4.43	
			1112001 Sgt. McNamara, J.H. WOAG 23.4.43	
			1160243 Sgt. Gagne, R. WOAG 23.4.43	
			1101907 Sgt. McMillan, M.E. AG 21.4.43	

			Page No.			
Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices		
<u>Postings Out - Officers.</u>						
81385	P/L. J.W. Bishop	GD(C)	3.4.43	98842 P/O. T.R. McDougall GD(N)	7.4.43	
C.166	W/O. D.A. Bradshaw	GD(P)	12.4.43	116884 P/L. J.S. Enderby GD(N)	10.4.43	
J16218	P/O. S.H. Dunn	GD(P)	17.4.43	J16462 P/O. J.A. Morton GD(P)	17.4.43	
J75120	P/O. W.G. Bellinger	GD(B)	17.4.43	J13117 P/O. J.S.H. Dodge GD(N)	17.4.43	
142142	P/O. G.H. Fuhrman	GD(P)	17.4.43	J13072 P/O. G.T. Matymia GD(N)	17.4.43	
J12986	P/O. J.A. Cruikshank	GD(N)	17.4.43	139641 P/O. R. Vollum GD(G)	17.4.43	
J16321	P/O. G.B. Schellenberg	(N)	17.4.43	J16931 P/O. V.A. Murray GD(G)	17.4.43	
<u>Postings Out - Airmen</u>						
1179633	Sgt. Thompson, T.A.	AG	1.4.43	982212 Sgt. Mackay, J.	WOAG	3.4.43
1027401	Sgt. Bone, L.A.	WOAG	3.4.43	R122455 Sgt. Yanbar, N.	A/B	17.4.43
R101664	P/S. Hastings, G.B.	Nav.	17.4.43	R90568 Sgt. Hollens, G.B.	WOAG	17.4.43
R68567	P/S. MacDonald, J.A.	AG	17.4.43	1395440 Sgt. Elise, W.L.	A/B	17.4.43
1292351	Sgt. Pennack, J.	WOAG	17.4.43	1378355 Sgt. Gledstone, P.	A/G	17.4.43
R97680	Sgt. Olney, J.	Pilot	17.4.43	R98551 P/S. Lockhart, I.A.	WOAG	17.4.43
R114434	Sgt. Hovey, G.Y.	A/G	17.4.43	1335302 Sgt. Parks, G.D.	Pilot	17.4.43
R93383	Sgt. Popplestone, D.H.	A/B	17.4.43	1271589 Sgt. Malvin, J.L.	WOAG	17.4.43
R70367	P/Sgt. Graham, M.W.	AG	17.4.43	1578819 Sgt. Thompson, R.	A/B	17.4.43
1076356	Sgt. Rogerson, J.T.	WOAG	17.4.43	R119924 Sgt. Kaimar, T.B.	AG	17.4.43
R55510	Sgt. Tucker, M.C.	Nav.	17.4.43			

OBSEVING RECORD BOOK

SECRET

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

No. of pages used for day_____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																														
			Strength as at 23.59 hours 30th April, 1943:																																
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Air Crew</th> <th>Ground Crew</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>R.C.A.F.</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>52</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td>66</td> <td>347</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>R.A.F.</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>12</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td>28</td> <td>74</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>R.A.A.F.</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>2</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td>3</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Air Crew	Ground Crew	<u>R.C.A.F.</u>			Officers	52	3	Airmen	66	347	<u>R.A.F.</u>			Officers	12	Nil	Airmen	28	74	<u>R.A.A.F.</u>			Officers	2	Nil	Airmen	3	Nil		
	Air Crew	Ground Crew																																	
<u>R.C.A.F.</u>																																			
Officers	52	3																																	
Airmen	66	347																																	
<u>R.A.F.</u>																																			
Officers	12	Nil																																	
Airmen	28	74																																	
<u>R.A.A.F.</u>																																			
Officers	2	Nil																																	
Airmen	3	Nil																																	
			<p>Number and type of aircraft on strength:</p> <p>Wellington Mark III - 4.</p> <p>Wellington Mark X - 4.</p> <p>Wellington Mark X (Trop) - 5.</p> <p>Number of operational hours flown during the month of April, 1943: 349 hours 45 minutes.</p> <p>Number of operational sorties flown during the month of April, 1943: 62.</p>																																
			<p><i>(Signature)</i> w/e</p> <p><i>D.B. McIntosh</i></p> <p>(D. McIntosh) Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.</p>																																