

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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
Kairouan Area	1st August		The Squadron stood down today. Many of the aircrew and ground crew took advantage of the rest and went to SOUSSE for a good swim. The weather has been very hot and dusty.		
	2nd August		We were called on to supply 12 aircraft to attack the Marshalling Yards at NAPLES. All aircraft were bombed up and took off without incident. The attack was quite successful although a haze was noticeable over the target area. The defences were poor and only light inaccurate flak, compared to previous attacks.		
	3rd August		16 aircraft were bombed up and took off to bomb target PAOLA. 2 aircraft carried 4000 pound bombs which were dropped successfully within the marshalling yards. All aircraft reached target area, unloaded their bomb-loads and good pictures were taken. Visibility was good with a slight haze off SICILY. Credit is given to the ILLUMINATOR who did a good job and made identification of the target easy. The raid was considered very successful. All aircraft returned to base.		
	4th August		Once again MESSINA was the target for tonight. 9 aircraft were bombed up, 6 with 4000 pound bombs, the balance carrying 500 pound loads. Identification of target was difficult due to cloud and haze; however the illuminator reached the target area and the attack was considered successful. Many fires and explosions were noticeable. Light flak and very inaccurate.		
	5th August		10 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack MESSINA BEACHES. CAPE PELORO. Visibility was very poor, but target identified by aid of flares. Fires were noticeable at many points.		
	6th August		7 aircraft were asked for tonight to attack the marshalling yards at NAPLES. The raid was very successful and bombs were seen to burst within the yards. Moderate heavy but accurate flak at 14000 feet with light tracers up to 10000 feet. Searchlights in cones, operating with flak. It was good raid and many aiming point pictures taken.		
	7th August		We were asked to supply 10 aircraft. They were bombed up and took off for target SCALFATA/CAPE BAREL. One aircraft returned early due to constant speed unit becoming unserviceable. Their bomb load was jettisoned and all exploded. Target area clearly visible. Bombs seen to burst and buildings blow up and many fires. Flares and moonlight very effective. Raid considered very good. No flak.		
	8th August		MESSINA and CAPE PELORO were our target tonight. 10 aircraft were bombed up and took off without incident. All reached target area, which was identified by flares. Some light flak very ineffective. The raid was considered successful as many bombs were seen to burst along the beaches.		
	9th August		11 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack MESSINA BEACHES again. One aircraft returned early due to electrical failure. Their bombs were jettisoned safe, exploding in the sea. Identification of target difficult, due to clouds. Raid not considered satisfactory. Bombs were dropped on beaches and around target area. Pictures not clear.		
	10th August		10 aircraft were asked for to attack MESSINA and CAPE PELORO. All were bombed up and took off. One aircraft returned early due to engine trouble. His aircraft crashed on landing as undercarriage would not lock. The aircraft caught fire and was completely destroyed. All the crew were able to leave aircraft safely. The raid was considered successful, good pictures were taken and many fires reported. Both Hope and party put on a show at 236 Wing today for all Wellington Squadrons. The show was a great success, with a very large attendance from all Squadrons. It was held at 1500 hours.		

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	11th August		15 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack the Beaches between CAPE PELLO and MESSINA. One aircraft also took off to drop NICKELS over LEGHORN/ETSA. The 10 aircraft claimed to have bombed primary. Results were good. Small amount of light and heavy flak. NICKELS were dropped as detailed. All aircraft returned safely.		
	12th August		15 aircraft took off to bomb target, the Beaches between CAPE PELLO and MESSINA against the target was reached. All bombs were dropped and the raid was considered quite successful. Very heavy flak around CAPE PELLO, with a few searchlights. Two aircraft were reported missing. P/L. Gourlie, R.N. (104474) Pilot and crew. Sgt. Ludgater, A.G. (1333442) Pilot and crew.		
	13th August		After 11 days of operations without a stand down, the Squadron stood down today. The ground crew have done a splendid job and much credit goes to them for their consistent work and untiring efforts. P/L Gourlie, commonly known as "DO-DO", who was reported missing yesterday, turned up at the Squadron today. The starboard engine of his aircraft caught fire and he was forced to crash land 40 miles from here, after take-off. His Bomb-Aimer, P/O. NODDER, H.J. (JA 14733), suffered injuries to his ankle and was admitted to hospital at TUNIS. The rest of the crew were reported safe. During the month many good movies were shown and the usual M's to the rest camp took place. The boys really are having a nice rest at these camps, which consists chiefly swimming, eating and sleeping. A total blackout was declared due to the appearance of enemy aircraft over our area. No bombs were dropped. The weather has been dusty and hot. Sickness is now less than 1 per cent.		
	14th August		13 aircraft took off after being bombed up, to attack the beaches in the vicinity of PIZZO and LAMEZIA. Small craft, the beaches, the railway line and villages were bombed. Many fires were reported to be burning fiercely. Visibility good in spite of haze. Raid was considered a success. 2 aircraft were reported missing. P/O. LONG, A.B. (J.44874) Pilot and crew. SGT. PARR, J.M. (4431080) Pilot and crew.		
	15th August		12 aircraft were detailed to attack VIGORO. All were bombed up and took off. 9 aircraft bombed target area and due to majority of flares falling wide of aiming point many bomb bursts were scattered. 2 large fires were reported in marshalling yards. The raid was not a general success. One aircraft returned early and one aircraft crash landed away from base due to engine failure. All crew safe. Visibility fair with slight ground haze.		
	16th August		11 aircraft took off to raid the BEACHES between MARITTA and PALMI. Barges North of PALMI were heavily attacked. No activity visible on the beaches. Built up areas were also attacked. It is presumed enemy aircraft were being used as decoys. Successful operation. Defences nil.		
	17th August		11 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack target BRIATICO and CAP SUVERO. There were no noticeable concentrations of barges or personnel on the beaches. Bombs were seen to burst in the vicinity of the aiming point. It is believed fuel storage supplies were struck, causing flames to reach a height of 400 feet. One aircraft failed to return. P/O. A.W. FREEMAN (J.16400) Pilot and crew		
	18th August		The Squadron stood down today. Many parties from the different sections deserved the day off. The "Med", even with its jelly fish is like a magnet. The boys enjoy the long trips in open trucks to SOUSSE in order that the cooling waters of the Blue Mediterranean may refresh them.		

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See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. forms 249 and 250 Manual. Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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Kairouan Area	18th August		(Cont'd) This is an opportunity to mention something about the Ground Crew. These lads are doing a real job. To start a major and really finish it is something to be proud of, especially under our present conditions. Serviceability is almost 100 percent. P/O. Guy Money, Engineer of our Squadron has the situation well in hand and the lads are behind him in everything he does. The Cooks are putting up a good show, how they transform Iron Rations into the class of meals they serve, is beyond the comprehension of most of us. Of course we take advantage of native fruits, etc., Working conditions in the orderly room are sometimes not the best, temperatures ranging from 100° to 120°, plenty of dust and a daily wind storm. Morale is high throughout the Squadron.		
	19th August		44 aircraft took off to bomb the marshalling yards at FOGGIA. 10 aircraft reached primary target and one aircraft returned early due to engine trouble. The target was easily identified by aid of flares and accurate bombing of yards was noticeable. Large fires were seen west of FOGGIA. Defences were moderate heavy and accurate flak. No searchlights. All aircraft landed at diversionary aerodromes due to zero ceiling in our area. Good raid.		
	20th August		8 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack the marshalling yard at VILLA LITERNO. Excellent illumination from flares. It is assumed electrical installations and railway tracks were hit. Many scattered fires. Very little flak. Successful raid.		
	21st August		11 aircraft took off to attack the marshalling yards at BATTIPAGLIA. One aircraft bombed SALESNO. Many bombs were seen to burst in the yards and built up area of town. It is believed a 4000 pounder hit electrical installations. Defences negligible. Visibility good. Raid successful.		
	22nd August		Stand down.		
	23rd August		40 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack BIGNOLI marshalling yards. One aircraft returned early, unable to close escape hatch which blew open on take off. Raid considered successful. Bombs were seen to burst within Steel Works and Yards. Light flak and ineffective searchlights.		
	24th August		12 aircraft successfully raided target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. One aircraft, an illuminator, returned due to port engine vibrating. All bombs were jettisoned safely. Many good sized fires were seen within target area. A JU-88 was seen, evasive action taken by our aircraft. Many direct hits were recorded.		
	25th August		40 aircraft were detailed to attack TARANTO. Only 9 aircraft attacked primary. One aircraft returned early due to constant speed unit becoming unserviceable in port engine. Illuminator flares were well placed in target area. Slight heavy flak bursting at 14/15000 feet. Lots of smoke over marshalling yards; may be smoke screen. Many bomb bursts seen at aiming point.		
	26th August		Stand down. A large number of aircrew went swimming. With exception of those who had applied for a commission. P/O. McIntosh interviewed 27 applicants.		
	27th August		40 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack target SALESNO. One aircraft returned early hydraulics being unserviceable. Flares were well positioned and crews had no difficulty in identifying target. Bombs were seen to burst in the marshalling yards. Heavy flak. No searchlights. Raid successful.		

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	28th August		7 aircraft were detailed to bomb up and take off to attack the Marshalling Yards at TARANTO. One aircraft returned early due to generator trouble. Ship in harbour laid a smoke screen South of Yards. Our flares were accurately placed and aiming point easily seen. It is claimed many direct hits were registered. The raid was successful. Defences: inaccurate heavy flak.		
	29th August		10 aircraft were bombed up and took off to raid target TORRE ANNUNZIATA, including one aircraft to drop nickels on LEGHORN/PISAS VESUVIUM. Bombing was well concentrated. Many bomb bursts were observed on marshalling yards, including two 4000 pounders. Very little flak over target, none at nickelling target. Raid successful.		
	30th August		Stand down (Wing). Many personnel went to SOUSSE and TUNIS. Movies were shown in the evening.		
	31st August		8 aircraft were detailed and successfully attacked SALERNO. All returned safely to base. Opposition was more active, however bombs were seen bursting on the vicinity of the marshalling yard and in town area. A smoke screen is believed to have been used.		
AIRCRAFT LOSSES FOR MONTH:					
Wellington X HR 520, Crashed night 12/13th Crew safe.					
Wellington X HR 459 Missing night 12/13th					
			Sgt. A.C. Ludgater (133342)	Pilot	
			Sgt. J. Moidan (1065235)	Navigator	
			P/O. G.A. Pindell (J.24575)	Air Bomber	
			P/O. Hotson (133548)	W.O.A.G.	
			Sgt. H. Killey (1580187)	Air Gunner	
Wellington X HR 524 Missing night 14/15th					
			P/O. A.B. Long (J.44874)	Pilot	
			P/O. E.L. Shirweather (J.21535)	Navigator	
			P/O. A. Brown (J.9906)	Air Bomber	
			P/O. E.W. Hodgkinson (J.44845)	W.O.A.G.	
			Sgt. W.H. Garbutt (R.108830)	Air Gunner	
Wellington X LN 431 Missing night 14/15th					
			Sgt. J.M. Barr (1431080)	Pilot	
			Sgt. D.J. Nettle (1320593)	Navigator	
			Sgt. W.E. Dudge (1162383)	Air Bomber	
			Sgt. ESR Nongrove (1312417)	W.O.A.G.	
			Sgt. D.D. Boyd (652467)	Air Gunner	
Wellington X HR 686 Missing night 17/18th					
			P/O. A.W. Freeman (J.16400)	Pilot	
			P/O. E.J. Dawds (J.20831)	Air Bomber	
			P/O. E.H. Douglas (J.22691)	Navigator	
			Sgt. W.F. Hill (R.100776)	W.O.A.G.	
			Sgt. Lazenby, T.H. (R.124427)	Air Gunner	

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C Type Number	Date	Time	for month of August, 1943		Summary of Events	SECRET
			Bombing	Time Up Down		
		Crew			Details of Sortie or Flight	
ington X 259		Sgt. Way, F.D. P/O. Geisel, M. Sgt. Swainson, A.W. Sgt. Avery, F.C. P/O. Boulet, N.	Bombing	1949	0219	Target PIZZO. Bombs 6 x 250 + 6 x 500 dropped hours, height 6000 feet, across railway line S of Pizzo and across barges in bay. Explosion observed as result of last stick.
ington X 5158		P/O. Carruthers, J. P/O. Rawbone, W.M. P/O. White, S.H. Sgt. Sperdakos, J.P. Sgt. Patterson, G.D.	Bombing	2017	2222	Target PIZZO not attacked. Bombs, 6 x 250 + 6 jettisoned at 3723N/1134E at 2124 hours, height Intercom. and wireless unserviceable.
ington X 518		F/Lt. Gourlie, R.N. F/O. Allen, L.A. Sgt. Stewart, J. Sgt. Heybourne, D.F. P/O. Heath, J.	Bombing	1945	0100	Target PIZZO. Bombs, 6 x 250 + 6 x 500, dropped height 6000 feet, in target area. Bursts seen. Visibility excellent.
ington X 356		Sgt. Kennedy, J.W. P/O. Armstrong, S.W. Sgt. Better, A.J. Sgt. Kusenko, E. Sgt. Keast, A.E.	Bombing	1951	0134	Target PIZZO. Bombs, 6 x 500 + 6 x 250, dropped hours, height 6000 feet, on railroad one mile target and South of LAMEZIA. Bursts seen. Fl large explosion seen at Pizzo.
ington X 76		S/Lt. McCarthy, J.P. F/Lt. Helmsley, A.F. P/O. Long, R.D. Sgt. Griffiths, R.	Bombing	2015	0210	Target PIZZO. Bombs 6 x 250 + 6 500 (8x10), 6 2318 hours, height 4500 feet, along shore and up area and railroad to north of target area. seen.
ington X 686		F/O. Freeman, A.W. P/O. Douglas, E.H. P/O. Dows, H.J. Sgt. Hill, W.F. Sgt. Lazenby, T.H.	Bombing	2000	---	Aircraft missing.
ington X 9		W/C. McIntosh, D. P/O. Rawbone, W.M. F/Lt. Ramsay, D. Sgt. James, B. F/Lt. Earl, H.W.	Bombing	2115	0423	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 003 height 8000 feet. Identified target visually of flares. Saw 3 bombs burst in South section yards. Some heavy flak from target area, accurate searchlights. Visibility very good. Fires in.
ington X 65		P/O. Ardis, W. Sgt. Broisy, J.D. P/O. Ward, R.D. Sgt. Kydd, J.T. Sgt. Calder, J.	Bombing	2105	0410	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 0030 height 9000 feet. Identified visually. Bombs in north west end of marshalling yards. Saw 1 target area.
ington X 34		Sgt. Spurrey P/O. Knight, E.R. Sgt. Gay, H.W. Sgt. Jenkinson, E. Sgt. Fuller, G.	Bombing	2059	0416	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 9 x 500g dropped at 002 8250 feet. Identified target visually. Results not observed but believed to have straddled ma

Type Number	Date	Time	Crew	Duty	Time		Summary of Events	Details of Sortie or Flight
					Up	Down		
ington X N.434			Sgt. Hayward, R.F. Sgt. Phillips, D. Sgt. Kendal, G.E. Sgt. Bryant, R.L. Sgt. Preston, R.A.	Bombing	2152	0236	Target NAPLES. Bomb, 1 x 4000, dropped at 00 height 10,000 feet. Target assigned, FOGGIA, owing to intercom failure and trouble with set. Saw bomb burst to East of town. Results not flak, predicted up to 9000 feet. Coned by 6/	
ington X 973			F/O. Merrifield, L.A. P/O. Keen, G.F. F/O. Andrews, P.A. Sgt. Nichols, L. P/O. Gillis, W.E.	Bombing	2109	0354	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 00 9000 feet. Bombs fell across yards, results slight heavy flak. Landed 330 Wing.	
ington X 259			P/O. McCoy, H.D.J. P/O. Preston, R.A. P/O. Hamill, R.C. P/S. Parker, R.E. Sgt. Parker, D.H.	Bombing	2106	0356	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 00 height 8000 feet. Bombs straddled marshalling fires seen. Landed 330 Wing.	
ington X 348			S/L. Lewington, A.J. P/O. Hammond, P. Sgt. Stewart, J.A. Sgt. Stumfeld, R.C. Sgt. Carey, E.	Bombing - ILLUMINATOR	2052	0339	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 36 flares dropped at 00 height 10,000 feet. Target easily identified, fires seen. Slight light flak. One searchlight path of aircraft. Visibility clear. Landed 330 Wing.	
ington X 969			Sgt. McKenzie, R. P/O. Lenihan, J.P. Sgt. Jackson, W.C. Sgt. McPherson, D.J. P/S. McMillan, M.T.	Bombing	2110	0350	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 00 8500 feet, across marshalling yards. No result. Fires 7 miles West of Foggia. Landed 330 Wing.	
ington X 56			Sgt. Pudding, L. Sgt. Davis, R.H. Sgt. Jones, M.N. Sgt. Malah, G.W. Sgt. Owen, T.	Bombing	2103	0408	Target FOGGIA. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 002 height 8000 feet. Bombs fell on east end of marshalling yards. Bursts seen on rails. Landed on 330 Wing.	

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				for month ending August, 1943		Summary of Events	SECRET
Date	Time						
Number	Crew	Time Up	Down	Details of Sortie carried out			
1	F/S Wingham, F. P/O Crossman, J.F. Sgt Hamratty, F.E. Sgt Owen, J.J. Sgt Dingwall, J.L.	2156	0330	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load 38 illuminators, dropped 0058 at 8000'. Saw one stick go across M/Yards.			
2	F/O Baker, F.H. F/O Harkins, G. Sgt Sharpe, H.J. Sgt Bradley, J.S. Sgt Petry, L.L.	2155	0350	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load 48x30, 3x250, 3x500 dropped 0108 at 8000'. Bursts seen across M/Yards. Flak Nil.			
3	F/O Hanson, J.E. P/O Knight, B.E. P/O Manning, E. Sgt Horton, A. Sgt Bailie, S.	2153	0352	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load 48x30, 3x250, 3x500 dropped at 8800'. Results not observed.			
4	S/L Lavington, A.J. P/O Hammond, W. P/S Stewart, J. Sgt Bloomfield, R.C. P/S Carey, E.M.	2205	0335	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load, 12,000 dropped 0109 at Pinpointed by roads and dropped bomb on estimated position yards. Saw bomb burst and thought to be in T.A. Saw other bomb bursts. Incendiaries seemed to be well scattered and few small fires.			
5	P/O Garruthers, J.S. Sgt Hartman, G. P/O White, R.H. Sgt Spordakos, J.P. Sgt Patterson, G.D.	2155	0350	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. BOMB LOAD 9x500 dropped 0107. 5000 Identified visually M/Yards in bomb sight at time of release. Bombs thought to be in T.A. Scattered fires in T.A.			
6	P/O McCoy, H.D.J. Sgt Davies, L. P/O Hamill, R.C. P/S Parker, D.H. Sgt Parker, R.E.	2200	0428	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load 48x30 I.B.'s, 3x500, 3x500 dropped 0104 8000'. Identified visually by flares and saw bomb burst in T.A. Many bombs burst in T.A. Orange explosion M/Yards			
7	P/O Tucker, C.H. P/O Rawbone, W.M. Sgt Hall, L.V. Sgt McKay, C.J. Sgt McEuff, E.	2156	0325	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load 3x500, 3x250, 48x30 dropped 0101 7500'. Visually M/Yards seen. Saw own bombs burst at end of M.Y. Illumination very good. Fires seen burning 50% S. of target.			
8	P/O MacKenzie, R. P/O Lenihan, J.W. Sgt Saunders, R. Sgt MacPherson, D.J. Sgt Davison, H.H.	2210	0403	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load 9x500 dropped 0104 at 8000'. M.Y. clearly seen. Bombs seen to burst across W. end of M.Y. Small scattered fires seen. 1 boat seen in harbor.			
9	Sgt Bridge, R.E. Sgt Porter, S.G. Sgt Daignault, R.K. Sgt Brown, S.T. Sgt Pelanger, J.L.B.	2150	0425	Target TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Bomb load 12,000 dropped 0105 at 6000'. Visually by flares M.Y. very clearly seen. Box cars even seen. Several small fires seen in M.Y. Bomb seen to burst W. of M/Yards			

No	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Time		Details of Sortie carried out
				Up	Down	
No	Crew		Duty	Up	Down	Details of Sortie carried out
on X	S/L. McCarthy, J.P.	Bombing	1919	0139	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 2232 height 6300 feet. Marshalling yards in bomb sight load released. No cloud. Defences negligible. Fl south of target and bombing scattered.	
	F/O. Long, R.D.					
	F/S. Stewart, J.A.					
	Sgt. Griffiths, R.					
	P/O. Staunton, J.K.					
on X	P/O. Ardis, V.D.	Bombing	1927	0121	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 1 x 4000, dropped at 2235 height 8000 feet. Identified visually and saw burst in North West end of marshalling yards. An orange of flame came up. Moderate heavy flak from east.	
	Sgt. Broley, J.E.					
	F/O. Ward, R.D.					
	Sgt. Kydd, J.T.					
	Sgt. Calder, J.J.					
on X	Sgt. Fraser, C.A.	Bombing	1923	0123	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 9x500, dropped at 2235 height 8200 feet. Bombs seen to straddle marshalling yards. 4000 pounder seen to drop in marshalling yard and good fire.	
	Sgt. Oliver, A.R.					
	Sgt. Saunders, R.C.					
	Sgt. Hart, N.E.					
	Sgt. Davison, H.H.					
on X	Sgt. Spurrey, M.	Bombing	1929	0146	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 2230 height 6500 feet. Marshalling yard in sights when fairly accurate heavy flak, 6 guns, encountered.	
	Sgt. Roll, J.L.					
	Sgt. Cay, H.V.					
	Sgt. Jenkinson, E.					
	Sgt. Fuller					
on X	P/O. Way, F.D.	Bombing	1920	0143	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 2233 height 8000 feet. Bombs seen bursting across south marshalling yard, just north of railway station.	
	P/O. Geise, M.					
	Sgt. Swainson, A.W.					
	Sgt. Avery, J.C.					
	P/O. E. Oule, N.					
on X	P/O. Kennedy, J.W.	Bombing	1925	0138	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 2235 height 7000 feet. Saw bombs burst along marshalling yard. Saw other bursts in target area and some in town.	
	P/O. Armstrong, S.W.					
	Sgt. Retter, A.J.					
	Sgt. Kusenko, P.					
	Sgt. Keast, E.					
on X	P/O. McCoy, B.D.J.	Bombing	1923	0151	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 2234 height 8200 feet. Visually identified target and bombs burst short of marshalling yards and continued straddling them.	
	F/O. Morrison, F.W.					
	P/O. Handill, R.C.					
	F/S. Parker, D.H.					
	Sgt. Parker, R.E.					
on X	Sgt. Hayward, R.F.	Bombing	1942	0134	Target SALERNO. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped at 2203 height 7000 feet. Saw bombs burst across northern of marshalling yards.	
	F/S. Phillips, B.					
	Sgt. Kendal, G.E.					
	Sgt. Bryant, B.L.	S				
	Sgt. Belanger, JLB					

SECRET