

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

J. V. 20-420  
JMS.

of (Unit or Formation) 18 SQUADRON 11677 No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOITHORPE, YORKS.	1-4-44		Stand down. Thirteen aircraft took part in exercise ERIC this afternoon, and all returned to base safely. Training was also carried out during the day and two A/C took part in a cross-country flight tonight. 029436, P/O. J.M. Caldwell, FMO visited the Squadron to obtain stories from crews who took part on NURBURN on 30/31/44. W/O. Saunders from No. 6 Group Headquarters visited Squadron and obtained particulars of crash to aircraft LW 427 (R. L. 2370 P/S. Ward, R.O. ) Pilot near Oranwell on 30/31/44. Station Thoitthorpe Sergeants Mess held a social evening and dance on the station this evening which was reported to be a very good success.		
	2-4-44		Stand Down: Due to the continual rain and poor visibility, flying training was not carried out today. J. 24979 P/O. Jepin, J.J. Pilot J. 27455 P/O. G.B. Walker, A/B. RAF156388 P/O. W. Turnham, AG. and J. 19426 P/O. E.S. Heimpel Pilot were designated to be Officers under instruction at D.C.M. being held at 1000 hrs at Station Thoitthorpe, on 4-4-44. C. 9010 P/L. W. Warren AASD. is to be Waiting Member at same DCM which is trying E. 85898 Opl. McPetrie, W.R.		
	3-4-44		Stand Down. Weather still bad - rain and mist - Ground training today.		
	4-4-44		Stand Down. More "April Showers". No flying training possible. Officer Commanding interviewed the following thirteen aircrew personnel who have submitted application for commission: E. 86023 Sgt. Harrop, F.G. E. 54029 P/S. McKay, R.M. E. 170395 Sgt. Springthorpe, A.W. 112693a Sgt. Harle, S. E. 156773 P/S. Monaghan, R.J.J. E. 60856 WO2. Holoway, L. 1576743 P/S. "Innes, C.H. E. 196774 P/S. Keegan, K.E. E. 204837 Sgt. Johnson, A.T. 63654 P/S. Tyler, J. E. 115302 P/S. Grosford, A. E. 130093 WO2. O'Sullivan, L.J. 1388048 P/S. Knight, A.S.		
			E. 122455 WO1. Venber, N. and E. 223840 WO2. Nowasok, J. were interviewed by Base Commander, Air Commodore. A.D. Ross regarding their application for commission.		
	5-4-44		Stand Down; Continual poor visibility and showers prevented any flying training today.		
	6-4-44		Three A/C were arranged for operations and cross country flights for 12 A/C were arranged but everything was scrubbed. One aircraft was on day cross country flight while 5 A/C and 10 pilots took part in fighter affiliation today. Advice was received that Lt 2511 W/O. D. McIntosh, DFC Officer Commanding the Squadron was attached to No. 6 Group Headquarters wef 6-4-44 pending posting and will be succeeded by S/L. G.A. McKenna. Presently "A" Flight Commander. All ranks regret to lose W/O. McIntosh who has done much during the year that he was O/C. to enhance the reputation of the Squadron.		(R AF)
	7-4-44		A Station Parade and Inspection by the Base Commander Air Commodore A.D. Ross, (G. 111) was held at 0900 hrs today. For which we were to have supplied 5 A/C were scrubbed for tonight as was Command Billage for which we were to have provided 10 A/C.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

5.47-20-420  
JAS.

of (Unit or Formation) 18 SQUADRON

11677

No. of pages used for day

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			R. 122455 WO1. Venber, N. and R. 223840 WO2. Nowasek, J. were interviewed by Base Commander Air Commodore. A.D. Ross regarding their application for commission.		
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	7-4-44		A Station Parade and inspection by the Base Commander Air Commodore A.D. Ross, (C.111) was held at 0900 hrs today. Operations, for which we were to have supplied 5 A/C were scrubbed for tonight as was Command Billieye for which we were to have provided 10 A/C.		

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THOLTHORPE YORKS	8-4-44		Stand Down. Two aircraft took part in fighter affiliation this afternoon and ten aircraft went on night bombing exercises tonight. Two aircraft were scheduled to take part in Command Bullseye but one returned early due to fog while the other was recalled at 0150 hrs due to change in the weather. W/O. H.P. Dangaard, Pilot, was posted back to this Squadron from 62 Base waf 25-3-44. R/O. Dangaard was previously with 420, having been injured in flying assignment on Feb 15, 1944. R.122776 WO2. Walker, J.M. was appointed to a commission in the RCAF (SR) as a Pilot Officer waf 27-3-44 and assigned personal number J. 85374. W/O. D. McIntosh officially handed over Command of this Squadron to S/L. G.S. McKenna at a Squadron Parade this afternoon and said goodbye to the personnel of the Squadron.		
	9-4-44		14 aircraft took part in operations tonight against target "marshalling yards at VINCENNES ST. GEORGES, France". All aircraft bombed target and returned safely to base. From photographs it is evident that further target tokens will be carried by crews for this effort. Two aircraft were on cross-country flight tonight and returned safely to base. The Sixth Victory Loan is now under way on the Squadron and subscriptions are already pouring in. An endeavor is being made to equal if not surpass the record set by the Squadron on the Fifth Victory Loan, but conditions are not quite so favourable, as last November we had just returned from North Africa and we had considerable sums in back pay awaiting us.		
	10-4-44		Thirteen A/C were bombed up for operations tonight. One failed to start due to engine being W/C but remaining A/C bombed target "marshalling yards at GHEWT, and returned safely to this base. Flying training was carried out during day while two aircraft took part in cross country flight at night, both returning safely to base. Two air crews completed training and are now ready for operations. Lt. J.C. Perry from No. 30 Recon. Bgt. and Lt. J.H. Child from No. 2 Gen. Infantry Reinforcement Unit were attached to this Squadron for one week familiarization with the work of a Bomber Squadron, C. 29436 P/O. Goldwell, J.M. visited the Squadron to attend interogation of aircrew on return from operations tonight.		
	11-4-44		Stand Down; General Training carried out. Bombing exercises during the day and cross country flights at night. All aircraft returned safely to base.		
	12-4-44		General flying training carried out including three day and two night cross country flights. All aircraft returned safely to base.		
	13-4-44		Stand Down: Air to sea firing and fighter affiliation training was carried out. Advised from Station H.C. that the Squadron will have to provide three Orderly Officers per week from amongst aircrew personnel commencing 16 April, 1944.		
	14-4-44		Eight aircraft were prepared for operations tonight and five aircraft to take part in a Command Bullseye tonight, but both efforts were scrubbed just prior to take off time.		
	15-4-44		Stand Down: Eight aircraft scheduled to take part in Command Bullseye tonight but this was cancelled as was cross-country flights which had been arranged in place of Bullseye. Fighter affiliation was carried out this afternoon. Weather continues to be very changeable. Advice received from A.M. that R.121645 WO2. Rowday, J.M. Pilot, has been appointed to a commission as PILOT OFFICER waf 14-3-44 and assigned personal number, J. 85410. Also R.138024 P/S. Lapointe, P.J. Pilot appointed Pilot Officer waf 14-2-44 and assigned personal number J. 85411. No. 730 (MVA) ADVISOR		

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 (REAF) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLTHORPE YOKES	15-4-44	(cont'd)	J.14566 P/L. E. Northem, Pilot detailed to investigate and report on a crash of a Hal III aircraft LW.614 of 432 Sqn on 12-4-44.		
	16-4-44		Stand Down: Air to sea firing carried out this afternoon.		
	17-4-44		Five aircraft prepared for operations tonight but effort was scrubbed. One crew completed training today giving the Squadron a total of 23 crews available for operations.		
	18-4-44		Fifteen took part in operations tonight against target "marshalling yards at NOIST LA SBE" All returned - 13 to this aerodrome, while one was diverted to Bosworth and one diverted to Ford. This one LW 392 was reported to have been hit by falling bombs from a friendly aircraft, R.136057 W/O. Wey, H.O. Pilot was appointed to a commission as Pilot Officer in the REAF waf 14-2-44 and assigned personnel number J. 85446. G.138 P/L. D.D. Dall, AASD, Adjutant of 420, proceeded on T.D. to Croft at 0900 hrs today to assist in the Victory Loan Drive on that Station. G.9019 P/L. W. Warren - AASD will be acting Adj. in his absence.		
	19-4-44		Three aircraft took part in seas search today and all returned safely to base. Advice received that His Majesty has approved of the award of D.F.C. to J.14032 P/O. A.G. Lumsden, Pilot of this Squadron for "devotion to duty" on night on March 1/2, 1944, when attacking STUGGARK. One of engines failed when he was 200 miles from target and the aircraft lost height to 15,000 feet. However he continued on and successfully bombed target from 14,000 feet and returned safely to diversion base. Aircraft and crew diverted to crew after last night's operations returned to Squadron today. Aircraft LW.392 diverted to Ford, was categorised "AC" as leading edge of wing and starboard bomb doors in rear fuselage were damaged by falling bombs. Crew returned to Unit in a/o of 431 Squadron. R.75170 W/O. Lefurgey, R. WOAG and R.122453 W/O. Leonard, R. Pilot and RAF 131334 P/S. James B. WOAG were interviewed by A/C. A.D. Ross, Base Commander in connection with their application for commission. RAF 42511 S/L. (A/S/L) D. McIntosh, Pilot was posted to No. 6 Group H.Q. waf 12-4-44. G1051 P/L. (A/S/L) G.A. McInnes, Pilot appointed to command of this Squadron and to acting rank of W/O. Both waf 12-4-44. W8409513 P/O. I. P. Clements AG posted to 62 Base waf 3-4-44. N.E. Sick RAF1417995 Sgt. Fine, J. FE posted to 62 Base (N.E. Sick) waf 11-4-44.		
	20-4-44		Thirteen aircraft took part in operations tonight against target LENS, France. One a/o LW 692 with crew, R122453 W/O. Leonard, R.G. Pilot R.158555 W/O. Wilson, H.O. A/S RAF658370 P/S. Warren, A. Nav. RAF. 1433914 Sgt. Wheelhouse, C.G. WOAG, R179496 Sgt. Bourcier, J.P. AG, R191468 Sgt. Anderson, R.A. AG and RAF162948 Sgt. Gough, P.E. FE, is missing. Remaining aircraft returned to base.		
	21-4-44		Stand down Weather too poor for flying training.		
	22-4-44		Thirteen aircraft took part in operations tonight against DUSSELDORF. One aircraft diverted to Conisby the remainder returned to this base. Aircraft LW 386 was damaged by flak and categorised "B" - reducing the number of aircraft available to 13. R158724 Sgt. sled, J.E. Pilot detailed to attend course at 1 R.C.D.U. Westcott from 24- to 28- April, inclusive.		
	23-4-44		Stand Down: Fighter affiliation air to sea firing was carried out this afternoon while 4 aircraft took part in cross country flights tonight. Five crews completed training. The only crew left now under training is awaiting a navigator.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
HOLBORN HOKES	24-4-44		Fourteen aircraft took off on operations tonight against target KARLSRUHE. Two aircraft returned early to base, one due to one W/S and the other due to starboard engine being W/S. One aircraft was missing with crew: (NZ 503) J.20177 P/O. D.D. Waterson, Pilot J.20813 P/O. A.S. Redmond, AD R.111346 W/O2. Webb, R.V. Nav. J.22064 P/O. Murray, W. W/OAG R.209440 Sgt. Tanner, R.G. AG R.207594 Sgt. Cassidy, R.M. AG and RAF1581981 Sgt. Hancoford, A. FE Remaining aircraft bombed target and returned to base safely, nine aircraft being diverted, 4 to Bastoon, 2 to Lenton, 2 to Croft, and 1 to Chaddburgh.		
	25-4-44		Operations scheduled for tonight were cancelled, due to aircraft returning to base too late from diversion points it was necessary to cancel cross country flights today. RAF171360 P/O. J.A. Smith, WOP was taken to Northhallerton Hospital.		
	26-4-44		12 A/S were detailed and bombed up to attack target BIELEFELD. There were no early returns and all aircraft returned safely to base.		
	27-4-44		15 aircraft bombed up and took off and attacked target BIELEFELD. There were no early returns and all aircraft returned safely to base, after bombing target area. J.85019 P/O. G.H. Bass, Pilot was sent to Aircrew Refreshed Course at Sherfield for a period of 3 weeks or more.		
	28-4-44		Stand Down: All crews were given a rest from flying activities. O11249 S/L. R.M. Winter, RAF R.O. (Educational) G.6092 P/L. G.A. Appley, No. 5 District Headquarters York, (Educational) visited the Station today.		
	29-4-44		Stand Down: Training exercises were in progress all afternoon. R.123040 W/O2. Nowasick, J. Nav. was appointed to a commission rank today was 14-2-44, J16274 P/L. W.H. Earl, RFC 1048 Signals Leader, was posted to No. 32 OTU waf 3-5-44, P/L. Earl was the last remaining member (aircrew) of the Squadron who departed from U.K. to N.W.A. when the Squadron flew there last June.		
	30-4-44		16 aircraft were detailed to attack target BIELEFELD tonight. All aircraft were bombed up and all took off on schedule. There were no early returns, 14 aircraft returned to base, 1 aircraft was diverted to Linton due to petrol shortage and 1 aircraft failed to return and is presumed missing. Pilot and crew are as follows: J.14566 P/O. B. Northern, Pilot, (Deputy Flight Commander) R.122145 W/O1. Verber, R. AD, J.14502 P/O. Morrison, P. Nav. RAF15771 P/S. Lines, G.M. W/O. R.25831 Sgt. Young, R. W/OAG, J.15011 P/O. A.H.R. Hall, AG R.156578 Sgt. Franklin, L. FE. P/L. Northern was on his final sortie before completing his first tour of operations. He had completed 29 sorties over Sicily Italy Germany and France. G.1051 W/O. G.A. McKenna, O. Picer Commanding, interviewed applicants for commissioning today.		
			Strength of Personnel as at 2359 hours, 30-4-44.		
			Aircraft		Ground Crew
			R.C.A.F. Officers 63		R.C.A.F. Officers 2
			R.C.A.F. Airmen 104		R.C.A.F. Airmen 299
			R.A.F. Officers 9		R.A.F. Airmen 6
			R.A.F. Airmen 51		W.A.A.F. 7
			R.A.A.F. Airmen 1		

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## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 (RAF) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLTHORPE, YORKS	30-4-44		Hours flown non-operational for the month of April, 1944. - 301.05 hrs.		
			Hours flown operational for the month of April, 1944. - 545.25 hrs.		
			Number of operational sorties flown for the month of April, 1944. - <del>12</del> sorties		
			The health of the Squadron continues to be satisfactory.		
			Total number of tons of bombs dropped to <del>444</del> - Incend. - 297.99 tons H.E. - 532.42 tons		
			Number of tons of bombs dropped during the month of April. - Incend. - 59.91 tons H.E. - 438.17 tons		
			Type and number of aircraft on charge as at 30-4-44. - 21 Halifax III.		
			<u>POSTINGS TO THE SQUADRON</u>		
			R.161286 F/S. Petty, M. Nav from 425 Sqn.	R.193618 Sgt. Simmons, H.E. AG from 61 Base	
			R.166138 F/S. Mohler, O.J. AG from 433 Sqn.	R.148472 Sgt. Deary, J.E. AG from 433 Sqn.	
			<u>POSTINGS FROM THE SQUADRON</u>		
			1714995 Sgt. Pine, J. FE posted 62 Base.	W/C. D. McIntosh, DFC posted to NO. 6. Group	
			AUS409513 F/O. I.F. Clements posted to 62 Base.	Headquarters, w.e.f. 12-4-44.	
			155070 F/O. J.T. Harris, AG posted to 62 Base.		
			<u>PROMOTIONS OF OFFICERS</u>		
			S/L. G.A. McKenna, Pilot C, 1051 appointed A/W/C. w.e.f. 12-4-44.		
			F/O. A. McGregor, Radar G.16160 appointed T/P/O. w.e.f. 19-2-44.		
			<u>AIRBORNE COMMISSIONED</u>		
			R.122776 WOII. Walker, J.R. Pilot w.e.f. 27-2-44.		
			R.121645 WOII. Roadway, J.M. Pilot w.e.f. 14-2-44.		
			R.138284 WOII. Lapinski, F.V. Pilot w.e.f. 14-2-44.		
			R.130057 WOII. Poy, H.O. Pilot w.e.f. 14-2-44.		
			R.123840 WOII. Morasak, J. Nav. w.e.f. 14-2-44.		
			<u>CASUALTIES</u>		
			Missing on operations night of April 20/21, 1944:	Missing on operations on night of April 1, 21/25, 1944:	
			R.122453 WOII. Leonard, R.G. Pilot	J.20177 F/O. Watterson, D.D. Pilot	
			R.152555 WOII. Wilson, H.C. AB	J.28213 F/O. Redmonds, A.S. AB	
			658370 F/S. Warren, A. Nav.	R.114846 WOII. Webb, E.V. Nav.	
			1433914 Sgt. Wheelhouse, C. WOP.	J.22084 F/O. Murphy, W. WOP.	
			R.179496 Sgt. Bourcier, J. MUAG	R.209440 Sgt. Tanner, G.R. MUAG	
			R.191468 Sgt. Anderson, R.A. AG	R.207884 Sgt. Cassidy, B.M. AG	
			1652948 Sgt. Goughy, F.F. FE	1583983 Sgt. Hanford, A. FE	

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THORPE, YORKS	30-4-44		<p><u>CASUALTIES</u> (cont'd).</p> <p>Missing on operations night of April 30/4, 1944.</p> <p>J.14566 P/L. E. Northern Pilot</p> <p>R.122443 P/O. Yamber, N. AB</p> <p>J.14802 P/O. Morrison, P. Nav.</p> <p>1576743 P/O. Lines, G.H. WOP</p> <p>R.253881 Sgt. Young, W.H. MIA</p> <p>J.16011 P/O. Hall, A.H.B. AC</p> <p>R.156578 Sgt. Franklin, L. FE</p> <p>NOTE: In reference to the total number of bombs dropped for the month of April, No. 420 (BCAF) Squadron had the highest number of tons for No. 62 (BCAF) Base.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">G.A. McShenna                      (G.A. McShenna) Wing Commander,                      Officer Commanding,                      No. 420 (BCAF) Squadron.</p>		

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