

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I.,
para. 2940 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and
note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 420 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron

Page No. 179

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	1 Nov		18 aircraft were required to-day to attack "OBERSHAUSEN". All 18 aircraft took off and bombed the primary. All crews reported a good concentration of T.I. markers at the opening of the attack and for some time after. Those bombing near the end of the attack bombed the centre of the conflagration. Defences were moderate and searchlights were rendered ineffective by cloud conditions. The general opinion of all crews taking part was that the attack seemed well concentrated. This squadron claims two fighters, one ME 109 destroyed by gunners of s/o captained by P/L Sefton and one JU 88 damaged by gunners of s/o captained by P/O Bodirad. All aircraft returned to base. Some training was carried out in the morning but aircraft were recalled for bombing-up.		1564
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	2 Nov		17 aircraft were detailed to-day to attack "DUSSELDORF" in the Rhur Valley. All aircraft took off and bombed the primary. Flak was reported as moderate in barrage form and searchlights were active. From all reports P.F.F. carried out very good target marking and the bombing was well concentrated. Large explosions and fires were noted. Enemy fighters were active again and several of our aircraft were engaged in short combats. One of our crews, P/L McCarthy in s/o "E", claims damage to one JU 88. This squadron's gunners are keeping the Luftwaffe night fighters busy lately. One aircraft, NR 123, P/O Shotton and crew collided with another aircraft in the target area and landed away at Manston on three engines. No one injured. Day and night cross-country exercises were carried out by U.T. on		1582
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	3 Nov		Not required for operations to-day. Extra training was carried out throughout the day.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	4 Nov		16 aircraft were required for operations to-day. The target was "BOCHUM". All aircraft took off. Only 14 bombed the primary. P.F.F. marking was very good and crews report excellent results with a large explosion and many fires being noted. Defences were moderate with searchlights active. Two aircraft were abortive. LV 180 "E" returned early being unable to maintain height and speed. ME 952 "I" returned early with hydraulic trouble - wheels and flaps could not be retracted. LZ 589 "Q" landed at Chedburgh with petrol shortage. NF 951 "Y" landed at Washleton after		1594

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Thelthorpe, Yorks.	2 Nov		17 aircraft were detailed to-day to attack "DUSKEDORF" in the Rhur Valley. All aircraft took off and bombed the primary. Flak was reported as moderate in barrage form and searchlights were active. From all reports P.F.F. carried out very good target marking and the bombing was well concentrated. Large explosions and fires were noted. Enemy fighters were active again and several of our aircraft were engaged in short combats. One of our crews, P/L McCarthy in a/c "E", claims damage to one JU 88. This squadron's gunners are keeping the Luftwaffe night fighters busy lately. One aircraft, NR 123, P/O Shotton and crew collided with another aircraft in the target area and landed away at Manston on three engines. No one injured. Day and night cross-country were carried out by U.T. crews.		1582
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	3 Nov		Not required for operations to-day. Extensive training was carried out throughout the day.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	4 Nov		16 aircraft were required for operations to-day. The target was "BOCHUM". All aircraft took off. Only 14 bombed the primary. P.F.F. marking was very good and crews report excellent results with a large explosion and many fires being noted. Defences were moderate with searchlights active. Two aircraft were abortive. LW 380 "B" returned early being unable to maintain height and speed. ME 952 "I" returned early with hydraulic trouble - wheels and flaps could not be retracted. LW 589 "Q" landed at Chedburgh with patrol shortage. NP 951 "V" landed at Womblesdon after		1599

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	4 Nov	(Con'td)	not being able to locate base and petrol was very low. Advice was received to-day that P/O McKenzie, C.A. (J.26463) ^{awarded} received the immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	5 Nov		Stand down from operations. Weather poor for flying. Ground lectures given on Air Sea Rescue by the squadron A.S.R. Officer. Early in the evening word came through that the squadron would be required for operations early on the morning of the 6th November.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	6 Nov		16 aircraft were required to-day for operations. 15 took off shortly before noon. One a/c Mk 540 was a non-starter. The primary target was "GEMSBURCHEN", but due to cloud conditions target markers were not visible. Crews were ordered by the master-bomber to bomb built up areas. Bombing appeared scattered but some fires were noted. The following personnel were screened to-day, having completed their first tour of operations:- C.28055, P/L T.R.C. Ainslie - Pilot; J.28352, P/O V.G. Lafrancier - Air Bomber; J.28844, P/O J.G. Culligan - Navigator; J.89619, P/O F.M. Fuller - WOP; J.13389, P/L F.N. Shields - Air Gunner; J.23375, P/O W.R. Middleton - MU Air Gunner. Some training was also carried out.		1615
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	7 Nov		The squadron was not required to-day for operations. Day and night training was carried out. The aircraft that landed away on yesterday's operations returned to base to-day.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	8 Nov		The squadron was called to-day for operations early on the morning of the 9th. The effort was cancelled shortly after but bombing up continued. Two Canadian Army Officers, Lt. Chamigny and Capt. Bradley reported in to spend a week with us in a liaison capacity. Extensive training was carried out during the day.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	9 Nov		No operations scheduled for to-day. Extensive training carried out.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	10 Nov		Training continued throughout the day. 20 aircraft required for operations scheduled for an early morning take-off. Canceled again at 23.30 hours.		
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	11 Nov		Weather apparently is still unfavourable towards operations. However, it is good locally and our extensive training program is still in effect. The training hours are really piling up this month. To date 52 details of practice bombing have been carried out for a total of 250 hours.		

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of (Unit or Formation) 420 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thaltherpe, Yorks.	12 Nov		No operations, but extensive training carried out to-day. The training sorties consisted of Fighter Affiliation, Air to Air, Standard Beam Approach & Bombing. The afternoon program was somewhat curtailed on account of foul weather. No night flying was attempted.		
Thaltherpe, Yorks.	13 Nov		No operations, but 17 training flights were carried out, covering various types of exercises, such as Fighter Affiliation, Air to Air, and Astro Bombing. The weather curtailed the night program, but some fighter affiliation and bombing was carried out.		
Thaltherpe, Yorks.	14 Nov		No operations and no flying training carried out to-day, on account of extremely bad flying weather. A lecture and examination of "Fishpond" for WAGs was held. A General meeting of the Wing Commander and all the Section Leaders was held in which a variety of subjects regarding Sqdn. Organization were discussed. A number of sergeants were kept busy on Squadron projects, such as cleaning windows, and painting in the new Squadron Crew Lounge, and a few alterations in the new pilot's room. Can. R169925, P/S Gilmore, M.E. (N) awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.		
Thaltherpe, Yorks.	15 Nov		No operations to-day. 15 training flights were carried out. Training included Air to Air Firing, Fighter Affiliation, Astro Bombing, Standard and Beam Approach. No night flying due to faint clouds of operations next morning. Information received from Air Ministry that R193145, Sgt Unger, J. (WOP) previously reported as missing on operations now reported as missing believed killed.		
Thaltherpe, Yorks.	16 Nov		Operations at last. 15 a/c detailed all of which were airborne. All the a/c attacked the primary target - "JULIEN". 9 a/c had bombs hang up over the target. 8 of the a/c jet-tisoned, and one a/c brought back their hang ups. There were no early returns and no a/c missing. The raid appears to have been very successful. No training flights were undertaken to-day.		1631
Thaltherpe, Yorks.	17 Nov		Early operations were scheduled for this morning. The crews were called out at 0500 hours but at 0615 hours operations were cancelled. Consequently there was a stand down until 2359 hours. There was a lecture in the Main Briefing Room by the Station Medical Officer. There was no training as the weather was inclement.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thaltheys, Yorks.	18 Nov		14 a/c detailed, all of which took off safely. All a/c attacked the primary target - "MINSK". There were no early returns and all a/c returned safely. Weather was poor at time of return consequently all a/c were diverted to: Thornaby, Middleton St. George and Cux. Some training was done in the afternoon by 3 crews. Training included Air to Air Firing and Fighter Affiliation.		1646
Thaltheys, Yorks.	19 Nov		Inclement weather again, so no training carried out. At 1130 hours operations came through for a rush job. Briefing started at 1130 hours, but before briefing was finished, operations had been cancelled. Crews on diversion to Thornaby did not return. P/O Stock returned by transport, and then proceeded to No. 1 R.G.D.V. on Harrier Engine Course. P/O Cox proceeded to Cux by transport to bring back P/O Stock's aircraft and crew. All available crews stood by for the remainder of the day and night.		
Thaltheys, Yorks.	20 Nov		No flying training done to-day. Operations came through at 1100 hours but were cancelled at 1700 hours. All the aircraft that were diverted to other aerodromes on the 18th Nov. returned to-day with the exception of P/O Field in "P". A new crew came in to-day, the captain being P/L Reed (J.1497). Notification was received to-day that P/L P.C. Kelly, J.1732, and P/L A. Hocking, J.1802 are both awarded the D.F.C. (Non-Immediate). The following personnel were awarded M.C. to-day, having completed their first tour:- RAF187956, P/O J.E. Austin (P/R), RAF178819, P/O D. Gallagher, (MMS).		
Thaltheys, Yorks.	21 Nov		19 aircraft detailed, and all were airborne, one aircraft was an early return, captained by P/O McKeown. Aircraft's hydraulics went u/s. Total bomb load was brought back. 48 a/c attacked the primary target, GERMANY, none of which are missing. All the a/c were diverted to Leeming, Cux and Middleton St. George. All landed safely but one, P/L Softer, J.E. (J.1286) in Halifax III MK 34 "P", crashed at Norton on Sule near Leeming. P/O Yarrow, E. (J.24789) A/B was killed. Of the remaining six in the crew, four were slightly injured and two uninjured.		1660
Thaltheys, Yorks.	22 Nov		Training cancelled this morning on account of inclement weather. At noon the weather cleared sufficiently for our diverted aircraft to return to base from Cux, Middleton St. George, Leeming and Thornaby. P/O Field in "P" returned to base to-day after being away 3 days.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events (SECRET)	References to Appendices
Thaltheys, Yorks.	22 Nov	(Cont'd)	Operations cancelled at Thaltheys. Operations scheduled for in the afternoon but was cancelled at 1700 hours. There was a storm from 2300 hours.	
Thaltheys, Yorks.	23 Nov		Training exercises were held at Thaltheys. Operations called for early in the morning commenced at 0800 hours. Stand-down to 2300 hours.	
Thaltheys, Yorks.	24 Nov		Operations scheduled for this evening were cancelled. Training exercises were also cancelled because of poor weather. W/O Gough, Officer Commanding of this unit was awarded D.F.M. and 19 months pay for services as shown by his service record.	
Thaltheys, Yorks.	25 Nov		W/O Gough, D.F.M. (D.2789) who was killed on 21 April 1944 was buried at RAF Regiment Cemetery, Margate. Weather cleared and training exercises commenced. S/Lt V.C. Phipps, (G.2776) posted back to HQ. W/O Gough, D.F.M. (D.2789) was promoted to Major and awarded D.F.M. and 19 months pay for services as shown by his service record.	
Thaltheys, Yorks.	25 Nov		M/F required for operations at night. W/O A.H.N. Hall, (G.2776) attached to this unit from HQ (RAF). Training exercises for the afternoon had been cancelled due to fog. Information has been received from HQ regarding the loss of M/V "Herring". The following personnel were mentioned: W/O Gough, D.F.M. (D.2789), W/O A.H.N. Hall, (G.2776), W/O J.L. Innes, (M/R) - R/W/S, W/O Gough, D.F.M. (D.2789), W/O A.H.N. Hall, (G.2776), W/O J.L. Innes, (M/R) - R/W/S, W/O Gough, D.F.M. (D.2789).	
Thaltheys, Yorks.	26 Nov		The operation was not required for operations at night. Flying training (A/A Fighter Aircraft & Landing) was carried out by 8 crews. Due to weather clearing in the afternoon, 6 of the aircraft were diverted to Middleton and 3 crews attended an Air Sea Rescue demonstration. There was a stand-down till midnight. Notification has been received that an immediate D.F.M. has been awarded to J.16713, W/O Gough, V.C. and immediate D.F.M. has been awarded to R201625, W/O Gough, J.L.	
Thaltheys, Yorks.	27 Nov		Flying training was cancelled at last minute because of operations being called for. 16 s/a were detailed and all took off safely at 1630 hours in poor visibility, to attack	1679

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of (Unit or Formation) 420 (HQAF) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			CASUALTIES		
			J. 25709 P/O R. Yarnish (A/C) Killed in flying accident on 21.11.44.		
			POSTERS IN		
			J. 25739 P/O J.R. Delalle (W/O) Posted from 61 (HQAF) Base w.e.f. 12.11.44.		
			J. 25704 P/O W.R. Reid (W/O) "		
			R. 248472 P/O Deputy J.R. (A/C) Posted from 62 (HQAF) Base w.e.f. 4.11.44.		
			J. 22345 P/O R.R. Kidd W/O Filed Posted from 62 (HQAF) Base w.e.f. 12.11.44.		
			The understated crew was posted from 76 (HQAF) The understated crew was posted from 425		
			Base w.e.f. 13.11.44. (HQAF) Squadron w.e.f. 24.11.44.		
			J. 25607 P/O L.L. Reed Pilot		
			R. 25701 Sgt F.W. Vandenberg A/C		
			R. 248473 Sgt F.R. Rogers W/O		
			R. 25707 Sgt J.A. White P/O		
			R. 25708 Sgt Palmer, D.A. W/O		
			R. 25711 Sgt Noble, D.A. A/C		
			J. 25400 P/O R.W. Sanders W/O		
			R. 25710 P/O G.D. Burton W/O (W) Posted from 62 (HQAF) Base w.e.f. 24.11.44.		
			J. 27142 P/O M. Gougeon (W/O) Posted from 62 (HQAF) Base w.e.f. 23.11.44.		
			R. 248473 P/O R.W.L. Curwain (A/C) Posted from 62 (HQAF) Base w.e.f. 24.11.44.		
			POSTERS OUT		
			J. 40009 P/O R.R. Baird A/C Posted 62 (HQAF) Base w.e.f. 4.11.44.		
			J. 25703 P/O J.A. Tense Pilot Posted HQAF "B" Depot w.e.f. 3.11.44.		
			R. 248474 W/O J.O. Brooks A/C		
			J. 27035 P/O G.B. Walker A/C		
			J. 25702 P/O R.L. Ballantyne W/O		
			J. 24905 P/O R.J. Baker W/O		
			J. 25739 P/O J.L. Hamilton-Jones W/O		
			J. 27016 P/O R.R. King Pilot		
			J. 25705 P/O R.R. Alford Pilot		
			J. 25706 P/O R.R. Bishop A/C		
			J. 25707 P/O J.D. Armstrong A/C		
			J. 25713 P/O W.R. Jarvis A/C		
			J. 25714 P/O L.R. West W/O		
			J. 25715 P/O V.L. Marshall A/C		
			J. 25716 P/O R.W. Scolding A/C		
			Cap. 5534 P/O V.L. Rowanford A/C		
			R. 248475 P/O G.A. Odcock A/C		
			J. 25717 P/O D.L. Johnston A/C		
			J. 25718 P/O R.R. Wall A/C		
			R. 248476 P/O R.D. Malley A/C		
			G. 25131 P/O R.R. Hynes W/O		

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of (Unit or Formation) 429 (HAWK) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			COMMISSIONS		
			1356236 Sgt P.J. Brickstock (156706) commissioned wof	23.9.44	P/S
			1336627 P/S D.M. Wearing (185767)	23.9.44	A/C
			1388741 Sgt A.E. Hamill (186265)	17.10.44	P/S
			6.5544 Sgt R.J. Inglis (50186)	2.10.44	P/S
			1332817 P/S R.L. Hill (185887)	2.9.44	W/P
			1819598 P/S S. Low (186265)	2.10.44	A/C
			1822136 Sgt J. Lister (186265)	17.10.44	P/S
			1451236 Sgt R.A. Nicholson (186265)	8.10.44	P/S
			1594522 Sgt F.W. Simmonds (185774)	8.9.44	P/S
			1594525 Sgt F.W. Jones (186742)	19.10.44	P/S
			1431718 Sgt J.W. Jones (186265)	28.10.44	P/S
			COMMISSIONS		
			R. 181078 P/S G.A. Smith (J. 98205) commissioned w.o.F.	21.8.44	A/C
			R. 147412 P/S R.P. Mayne (J. 98224)	8.9.44	W/P
			R. 181078 P/S R.J. Hickman (J. 98187)	2.9.44	W/P
			R. 181078 P/S J.G. Brown (J. 98205)	8.9.44	W/P
			R. 252351 P/S D.F. Vaughan (J. 98205)	21.9.44	A/C
			R. 151236 W/O L.A. Reid (J. 98188)	28.9.44	W/P
			R. 283627 P/S J.R. Archibald (J. 98213)	28.9.44	A/C
			R. 181519 P/S Mearns, J.S. (J. 98509)	2.10.44	W/P
			R. 192281 P/S J.H. Fitzpatrick (J. 98123)	2.10.44	W/P
			R. 143577 W/O A.C. Rank (J. 98118)	23.9.44	W/P
			R. 143577 W/O R.E. Lister (J. 98225)	19.9.44	W/P
			R. 143577 Sgt W.W. Dennis (J. 98205)	22.9.44	A/C
			R. 143577 P/S E.C. Stewart (J. 98135)	23.9.44	A/C
			R. 143577 P/S E.C. Stewart (J. 98135)	18.9.44	A/C
			R. 143577 Sgt W.J.B. Strathairn (J. 98337)	18.9.44	W/P
			R. 143577 P/S R.A. Reid (J. 98112)	2.9.44	P/LO
			R. 143577 P/S R.A. Reid (J. 98112)	11.10.44	W/P
			R. 143577 P/S R.A. Reid (J. 98112)	2.10.44	W/P
			R. 143577 P/S J.L. Macpherson (J. 98725)	17.10.44	A/C
			R. 143577 P/S J.L. Macpherson (J. 98725)	8.10.44	A/C
			R. 143577 P/S J.L. Macpherson (J. 98725)	5.10.44	A/C
			R. 143577 P/S J.L. Macpherson (J. 98725)	11.10.44	A/C
			R. 143577 P/S J.L. Macpherson (J. 98725)	8.10.44	W/P
			R. 143577 P/S J.L. Macpherson (J. 98725)	17.10.44	W/P
			R. 143577 P/S J.L. Macpherson (J. 98725)	5.10.44	A/C
			REMARKS AND REMARKS		
			R. 143577 P/S R.A. Reid (J. 98112) awarded the Immediate R.A.M. for gallantry prior to commissioning.		
			CHANGE IN COMMAND		
			A. 27/10 A/V/G W.G. Phelan Pilot assumes command of this unit wof 21.11.44.		
			A/V/G G.J. Edwards relinquishes command wof 21.11.44 on posting to 69(RCAF) Bn.		

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