

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

S. 47-20-420
JAS

Page No. 19

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	1.3.45		Operations were called for and 13 aircraft were detailed to attack "BREMEN". All aircraft took off safely and 12 aircraft successfully attacked the primary target. All aircraft returned safely to Base. Aircraft "W" Capt. J.36971, P/O J. Howard, unable to bomb as bomb doors could not be opened. Training consisted of one cross country. Two new crews reported to the Squadron for operational duties - Captains: J.22726, P/O Close, R.D. and J.92097, P/O Barrett, H.A. Information was received reclassifying as presumed dead, J.90756, P/O H.A. Simmons missing 1/1 May, 1944.	11430	
	2.3.45		Operations were called for and 14 aircraft were detailed to attack "COLOGNE". All aircraft took off and successfully attacked the primary target. All aircraft returned safely to base. Two new crews were checked out.		
	3.3.45		No operations were called for to-day. Training consisted of 15 aircraft on cross country. Pilots had orders read to them and held a discussion afterwards. A stand down was granted until 2359 hours but later cancelled due to operations being called for. The operation was cancelled. During the night the aerodrome was shot up by enemy intruders.		
	4.3.45		Operations were called for but later cancelled. Pilots received a lecture on MARK VIII Automatic Pilot. A stand down was granted until 0900 hours.		
	5.3.45		Operations were called for and 15 aircraft were detailed to attack "CHERBOURG". All aircraft took off. Two aircraft crashed after take off - "U" Capt. J.93048, P/O Sollie, R.F. and "W" Capt. J.89846, P/O Clark, W.E., killing 6 members of Sollie's crew and 4 members of Clark's crew. The remainder were slightly injured. Aircraft "R" Capt. J.20968, P/L Melton, H.A. returned early due to icing conditions. Aircraft "W" Capt. J.44743, P/L Glover, V.R. failed to return from the operations. 1 aircraft landed in France due to petrol shortage - they were "W" Capt. J.37905, P/O Legg, R.F. - "W" Capt. J.37437, P/O Hill, D.C. and "W" Capt. J.90240, P/O Kenney, J.H. who crashed on landing, crew were uninjured. The remainder of the aircraft landed away in England due to petrol shortage.		
	6.3.45		All crews who were diverted away in England returned to Base to-day. J.37905, P/O Legg returned from diversion in France. One crew went to Ripon to do wet dingy drill.		

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

No. of pages used for day.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Tholthorpe, Yorks.	12.3.45		14 aircraft were detailed to attack the target of "DORTMUND". The aircraft all got away safely and the primary target was attacked, and all aircraft returned safely to base. P/O Ford, T.E. J.49321, lost and engine on his way to the target just before reaching the French coast line. P/O Ford however, despite this carried on to the target, and returned successfully on three engines to base.		
	13.3.45		Again 14 aircraft detailed for operations. The target this day being "WUPPERTAL". The primary target was successfully attacked and all aircraft returned safely to base. There was an early return, P/O Henry, J.H. losing an engine shortly after take-off. P/O Gillespie, J.C. returned on three engines.		
	14.3.45		14 aircraft again on operations. The target was "BRUNNEN". P/O Simonsen had P/O Trudell with him as 2nd Pilot. The primary was successfully attacked and all a/c returned safely to base. The following personnel listed as missing have now for official purposes been presumed dead:- J.28215 P/O Redmond, A.S. Missing: 24/25.4.1944 R147240 Sgt MacDonagally J.H. Missing: 3/4.5.1944 J.90753 P/O Heidman, W.H.O. Missing: 15/16.3.1944 J.67328 P/O Young, W.H. Missing: 30/31.5.1944 RAF176005 P/O Warren, A. Missing: 20/21.4.1944 RAF1652945 Sgt Gough, P.F. Missing: 20/21.4.1944		
	15.3.45		10 crews were detailed again for operations, the target this time: "CASTROP-RAUXEL". All a/c were airborne safely, and attacked the primary. All the crews expressed themselves well satisfied with the raid, and described it as a really good young. While this raid was in progress the call came through for seven more a/c to take part in a raid on "HAGEN". The target was successfully attacked, all a/c returned safely to base. One a/c reported combat over the target area. (Details of sortie for P/L close for the target HAGEN) No. 528.		
	16.3.45		No ops. to-day, and all crews get a much needed afternoon off. Two new crews reported in: R191818, P/L Bryan, J.E. and J.20366, P/L McIntyre, D.J. are the skippers. Stand-down till 2359 hours.		
	17.3.45		14 aircraft detailed for ops, but the operation was scrubbed. A training programme was organized for the day.		

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	22.3.45		Seventeen aircraft were detailed for ops to-day - the first one being airborne at approximately 1145 hours. P/O Toderan returned early on three engines. The target was DOBRYN. 15 a/c attacked the primary. One early return - J.42469, P/O H. Toderan - due to engine trouble this trip was abortive and complete bomb load was jettisoned. J.92771, P/O A.J. McKennie was over the target area but his bombs hung up and could not be released. All aircraft returned safely. P/O Bagnell arrived back in a Liberator from his diversion. P/O Howard, J. promoted to Flight Lieutenant, on appointment to deputy flight commander. J.27718, W/O W.G. Phelan posted to 62 Base W.C.F. 24.2.45. The following personnel posted as missing, have now for official purposes been presumed dead:- J.85411 P/O P.J.O. Lapointe Missing: 4.5.1944 J.46044 P/O A.H.B. Hall Missing: 1.5.1944 RAF.91090 P/O A.P. Coodall Missing: 28.5.1944		
	23.3.45		Nothing doing all day but call through for seventeen crews with take-off approximately at 0400 hours to-morrow morning. Very little air training was carried on during the day, as the crews were sent to bed early in the afternoon.		
	24.3.45		The seventeen crews detailed yesterday were finally airborne at 0900 hours and all returned safely to base after bombing GLADBECK. An early return was made by J.42469, P/O H. Toderan. Abortive sortie and all bombs were jettisoned. 16 aircraft attacked the primary. Sgt. Doyle, P.O., R183760, and crew, reported in this morning for operational duties. At mid-night a call came through for nineteen crews for an early morning mission.		
	25.3.45		Nineteen crews called at 0130 hrs for 0700 hrs take-off. P/S Bryan's aircraft swung on take-off and had to change aircraft, otherwise all aircraft were airborne safely. All kites were diverted to the north of the group due to huff weather, but returned to base later on in the day with the exception of P/O Bagnell who had to leave his a/c at Dishforth, due to heavy flek damage. The primary target was attacked by all 19 aircraft. P/O Gordon landed at Carnaby on three engines. No further call through for operations. The target was MUNSTER.		
	26.3.45		No operations all day, but new crews doing training. Plans going underway for Squadron Party to be held to-morrow night in the Airman's Hall.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Bethel, Maine	27.3.45		No operations call through for today as plane going ahead for Squadron party which will be held tonight. A small amount of air training was carried on during the day. The party was held in the Airman's Mess and proved a great success. During the course of the evening C. 1181 G/O Leconte on behalf of the Aircrew presented WOI MacDoughall R01756 with an award for the ground crew. Official notice has been received at this unit the J. 3940 R/O K. S. Lenders, previously reported missing has been reclassified as a P.O.W. and R. 255711 R/S Noble G.A. has been listed as dead and is now reclassified missing believed killed in action.		
	28.3.45		No battle order through again to-day. Training was limited to the ground due to diff weather. Stand down until 2359 hours. Order came through for all instruments in aircraft to be changed from miles per hour to knots. R. 37775 R/S Dunningan W.J. and crew posted in for operational duties.		
	29.3.45		No battle order again to-day - looks as if there are no more targets left. Very little training was carried out. Stand down to 2359 hours.		
	30.3.45		No ops were through by 1700 hours as a stand down was given until 2359 hours. However a call came through at 2000 hours for ^{on Moon} moonlit ops. Then the pairs started. Scheduled for an early morning take off.		
	31.3.45		The crews were called at 0130 and all were safely airborne at 0500 hours. The target was Buxton and all crews bombed the primary. Bombing was done on my maximum through 10/10 aim. All crews returned safely. J. 25634 R/O H. Winter and R. 56576 Sgt L. A. Franklin reported missing 30th April 1944, have now for official purposes been reclassified as "missing", believed dead.		

of (Unit or Formation) **429 (HEAD) SQUADRON**

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of (Unit or Formation) 420 (REAR) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																																																						
			<p>NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Combats.....3 Destroyed.....Nil Prob. Destroyed.....Nil Damaged.....3 See Appendix "G"</p>																																																								
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			<p>SHORT MESSAGE BY THE SQUADRON COMMANDER</p> <p>During the past month the squadron flew 241 sorties to 17 targets. The latter part of the month was marked by numerous stand downs and many cancelled operations - possibly indicating the trend of this period of the war, and the fluidity of the fast-moving front as well as meteorological conditions.</p> <p>We lost two crews within an hour of an operational take-off due to a small but severe icing condition. - One P/O Clark (Captain) crashed near Hishforth, three members bailed out safely. One P/O Hollie (Captain) crashed near Church Fenton and only one member has survived by bailing out.</p> <p>Two crews P/L Glover, R.F.C. with a second pilot P/O Mettich, and P/O Keeper - are missing, although P/O Gordon, Glover's navigator is now reported safe.</p> <p>Fourteen crews were posted in giving us the best crew state we have ever achieved.</p>																																																								
			<p>(P.O. McCarthy) Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 420 (R.A.F.) Squadron.</p>																																																								