

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 30

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., page 1348 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in B.A.F. Pocket Book.

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 32

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
Thetford, Yorks.	12-4-45		Operations were not called for to-day. Flying training was suspended for the morning due to unfavorable weather. However in the afternoon air crews were detailed for Conversion Course. Our Commanding Officer, S/L C.P.H. McCarter, to-day checked out in the Lancaster. Screening Policy again changes to 31 trips for captains. The number of trips for other members of the crew remains the same - less the number of 2ndaries. Stand down 1111 0300 hours the following morning.		
	13-4-45		20 crews were called for a night attack on "KIR". First aircraft airborne at 2013 hours. All aircraft successfully attacked the primary target. Upon their return all crews were diverted with the exception of ER177 "P" captained by J.33260, P/O R. Parry and M2473 "Q" captained by J.33015, F/L R.J. Callahan which returned safely to base. During the evening J.12266, F/L H.E. Lethbridge checked out in the Lancaster. Conversion training of Lancaster continued. Information was received through Air Ministry that M22350, F/L A.J. Little is now a prisoner of war at Hammelburg, Germany - he was missing since 16/17-4-45. NO flying was planned to-day or to-night. During the afternoon some of our crews returned from their Mission points. Weather was bad as it was raining. There was a Gaggle Conference in the afternoon. Lancaster conversion class II was put back one day. During the evening a Victory Loco Dance took place at the Station Cinema. Dancing was combined with pleasure and as a result many bonds were sold during this all round successful event. No operations called for. A dancing program was organized for to-night. Class II Lancaster Conversion still underway. J.33017, F/L V.L. Howard and J.33260, P/O R.J. Parry were checked out in Lancaster by S/L C.P.H. McCarter. Stand down 1111 0300 hours, following morning.		
	15-4-45		No operations. Training continued this morning and afternoon. Weather was favorable and crews available. An early call came through for sixteen crews for the following night. Eng. ER176/77, P/O G.V. Price (MIA) was recovered today. Planes were at their stations, ready for take-off, when word came through scrapping the operation. Class II of Lancaster Conversion course was completed this afternoon. Training laid on for night flying but details cancelled due to another early-call-for-to-morrow.		
Thetford, Yorks.	16-4-45	1001, 1002			
	17-4-45				

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thelthorpe, Yorks.	17-4-45 (Con'td.)		The following personnel having completed their first tour of ops. were screened with exception of - Sgt. G. H. May - J.48442 F/O J.R. Angelson A/B R196332Z Sgt. J.C. Smith 2/2 R275018 Z/9 S.M. Arguswell A/C R275008Z 2/8 G.M. Womack 2/2 Sgt. D. E. Baggett P. R223739Z 2/8 R.L. Rogers 2/2 Sgt. W.J. Bartlett Z/2 J.24165 Z/9 R.J. Davis A/C Sgt. C. C. Beale Z/2 J.42160 Z/9 R.A. McLean 2/2 Sgt. J. L. Bogie A/C J.34261 Z/9 R.A. McLean 2/2 Sgt. E.O. Brownell NAV J.23114 Z/9 R.E. Gault 2/2 Sgt. J. L. Gilbert A/C R192204Z 2/8 G.C. Gossell 2/2 Sgt. H. L. Hibert Z/2 R210100Z 2/8 R.G. Tolson 2/2 Sgt. J. L. Johnson R. J.37905 Z/9 R.J. Lipp P. J.39274 Z/2 R.P. Macmillan 2/2 Sgt. J.24277 D/G R.J. McFarville 2/2 G.20225 Z/2 R.L. Miller 2/2 Sgt. J.W. Rogers 2/2 J.35159 F/O R.W. Rogers 2/2 J.35063 Z/9 R.C. Gault 2/2 Sgt. J.35214 Z/9 J.W. Ross A/C J.35043 Z/9 R.H. Stephen 2/2 18-4-45		
			Flak crews detailed for an attack on "HAMBURG". Take-off was at 0945 hours, and all aircraft were safely airborne. 16 aircraft successfully attacked the primary target and returned safely to base in the afternoon. One aircraft, NFM 47, Pilot - R197779, F/O V.J. Dunnigan did not return. Aircraft was seen to crash into the sea en route to target, at approximately 1150 hours. Killed - J.43576, F/O D.V. Ross; R208136, F/O G.F. McKinney and R208080, Sgt. R.W. Norman. Missing - R197779, Z/8 V.J. Dunnigan; J.42662, Z/8 R.M. McLean; R270222, Sgt. R.M. McLean; R21111, Sgt. R.F.S. Murphy. The bodies of the personnel killed have been recovered. P/L Quinn checked out J.16879, Z/1 R.E. Flynn in Lancaster this afternoon and the evening. J.87623, F/O J.G. Gallahad was also checked out. One cross-country flight and one training flight also took place today. No operations to-day or to-night. Training program scheduled in which several crews took part. G.12376, Sgt. R.M. McKinney and G.13120, Sgt. R.L. Buchanan went to Linton to pick up our two first Mark I Lancasters - "A" and "B". J.27226, Z/1 R.D. Glass and J.27009, Z/1 R.L. Bush were checked out in Lancaster today. Stand-down until 2300 hours. Glass F/T of Lanc. Commanded by Capt. R. M. MCKINNEY. The next morning he got his first ops. command.		
	19-4-45		No call for ops. All four Lancasters Mark I were ferried to our base from Metheringham Bk. George and Groat. Some of the crews attended lectures on Lancaster while others were flying. J.41245, F/O A.J. Bainbridge trained in Link this morning. J.49321, F/O T.E. Ford and J.52777, F/O A.J. McKeon were checked out in Lancaster to-day. Our Commanding		
	20-4-45				

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R.A.F. Form 540
See Instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I.,
ptra. AN40 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and
notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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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
Bethpage, N.Y.	23-4-45 (Cont'd)		RECORDED, C. 1235Z, 2/0 P.M. "Bomber" was received this date. The following personnel also arrived: - J. 37136 2/0 R.M. McNease J. 35412 2/0 R.M. Thompson J. 34895 2/0 R.M. Benedict J. 34822 2/0 R.M. Marville RAF 103367 2/0 P.M. Sharpe	2/2	
	23-4-45		No new "Bomber". Last day of Class III on Lancaster conversion course. J. 35375, 2/0 L.R. MacLay, and J. 35297, 2/0 L.R. Bennett showed out in the Lancaster. One crew detailed for "Bomber" this evening which was later cancelled due to an early morning call for ops. Training and flying skills being carried out on Lancasters. Official word was received that the following personnel were recommended promotion to Flying Officers in Germany: - J. 35290, 2/0 L.R. MacLay, 2/0 R.M. Marville, 2/0 P.M. McNease and J. 35343, 2/0 G.W. Major all missing since 16/11/44.	2/2	
	24-4-45		17 crews detailed to "Bomber" training. Total aircraft placed at approximately 1600 hours. All aircraft were airborne safely. The target area was very cloudy, and in view of this, at 1600 hours commandant was informed that operation was cancelled. All aircraft returned to base during the evening. After this trip, word was received that for a period of time, the squadron will stand down for Lancaster conversion. New crews to start ground school in Lancasters. The following personnel, having completed their first tour of operations, were promoted on this date:	2/2	
	24-4-45		J. 35400 2/0 P.M. Thompson J. 35125 2/0 R.M. McNease J. 35292 2/0 R.M. Sharpe J. 35293 2/0 L.R. Cox J. 35294 2/0 R.M. Benedict RAF 103367 2/0 P.M. Marville	2/2	
	25-4-45		Course IV Lancaster Conversion still taking lectures. J. 35125, 2/0 A.J. Polkissell and J. 35295, 2/0 L.R. MacLay, showed up in Lancaster. Training flights continued. J. 35293, 2/0 J.G. Gallenby finished night element from Middleton St. George. Bombing and flying skills were carried out under the supervision of RAF 17136, 2/0 J.A. Smith. J. 35296, 2/0 R.C. Lane was appointed "A" Flight Deputy Commander.	2/2	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thaltherpe, Yorks.	24.4.45		G.905 Wing Commander R.J. Gray arrived on the Squadron to replace W/C P.G. Hartley, 16.12.38 as Commanding Officer. More training flights to-day and also more parachute and dinghy drills in Lancaster carried out. LX922, S/C Y.J. Ford, was awarded the immediate D.F.C. On completion of his first tour of operations R163408, W/O J.H. Banks was screened to-day.		
	25.4.45		Last day of lectures for Class-IV on Lancaster conversion. In spite of bad weather these continued on into the evening. Training flights were carried out throughout the day. Link training, parachutes and dinghy drills were carried out. Plans laid out for a parade to be held on Saturday in honour of the Station's contribution to the Victory Loan campaign. Lt. Hon. Vincent Massey and Mrs. Massey will be our guests for the occasion. Information was received that X12222, W/O C.R. Hall, was selected for the service in U.K. in 1948 April 1946, and was unclassified.		
	26.4.45		No flying took place today because of bad weather. W/C J.L. Gray outlined plans for sending personnel. G.1222, S/C J.W. Williams held a lecture and general discussion on Lancaster aircraft. He also gave a talk on Lancaster modifications. W/C reported that he had been asked to speak at the Service Club meeting on Saturday evening. W/C J.L. Gray, S/C J.W. Williams and Lt. Hon. Vincent Massey were present. Lt. Hon. Vincent Massey presented W/C J.L. Gray with a shield and plinth, and also made a most appropriate speech thanking all members of the Station for their marvellous contribution towards the Victory Loan Campaign.		
	27.4.45		27.4.45		
	28.4.45		No flying took place today due to bad weather. There was not all out rain out for this event which unfortunately meant just general drizzle weather conditions. However, in spite of wind, rain and drizzle, this too too gay celebration was firmly eliminated in one afternoon. Lt. Hon. Vincent Massey presented us with a shield and plinth, and also made a most appropriate speech thanking all members of the Station for their marvellous contribution towards the Victory Loan Campaign.		
	29.4.45 (cont'd)				

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R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I.,
para. 260 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX., and
notes R.A.F. Bomber Base.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. _____

of Unit or Formation: 220 (R.O.A.P.) Squadron, 4007, ROMMELLO, Italy. No. of pages used for day: _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Tholthorpe, Yorks.	29.4.45	0700-1000	No morning flying due to unfavourable weather. Crews occupied doing parachutes and dinghy		
		1000-1300	drills. Training programs carried out in afternoon by several crews. J.12266, S/L R.R.		
		1300-1600	Taddington checked out P/O D.G. Hill (J.37137) in the Lancaster in the evening.		
	30.4.45	0700-1000	Big conversion program in morning. Also more parachutes and dinghy drills carried out.		
		1000-1300	Several aircraft on cross-country flights. Two more Lancasters carried from Linton to-day.		
		1300-1600	Training program scheduled for evening but scrubbed due to weather. 021562, P/L M.V.		
		1600-1900	Taddington checked out P/O H.8868, S/L R.W. Baynes, L.A.M. in the Lancaster.		
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
POSTINGS IN - (Continued)					
Thilthorpe, Yorks.			The undermentioned crew was posted from 76 (RAF) Base W.E. 19.4.45. J.35550 F/O G.A. Roberts Pilot J.42774 F/O A.B. Ferguson NAV. J.41579 F/O J.H. Shoumer A/B R251539 SGT M.C. Brown WOP R240365 SGT R.M. Cooper F/F R279352 SGT H.A. Couse MMAG R265116 SGT R.D. Stevenson R/G	The undermentioned crew was posted from 76 (RAF) Base W.E. 19.4.45. J.22312 F/O M.D. Graham Pilot J.42666 F/O E.C. Turpin NAV. J.44443 F/O J.H. MacDonald A/B R176766 F/O R.J. Morrison WOP R201730 SGT A.L. Jones MMAG R275271 SGT F.L. Jamieson R/G R29677 SGT L.V. Woodhead P/G	Pilot NAV. A/B WOP MMAG R/G
			The undermentioned crew was posted from 76 (RAF) Base W.E. 20.4.45. R243572 WO1 J.M. Greene Pilot R243573 SGT J.R. Whalen NAV. R243574 SGT G.O. Mack A/B R259453 SGT A.J. Dural WOP R271701 SGT A.A. Greenwood MMAG R293726 SGT R. Kopynak R/G R212272 F/O F.J. Fitzgerald F/F	The undermentioned crew was posted from 76 (RAF) Base W.E. 20.4.45. J.42745 F/O J.G. Haggie Pilot J.42746 F/O W.G. Parndale NAV. J.44413 F/O A.R. Cumoch A/B R152594 SGT R.H. Melnyk WOP R206315 SGT R.E. Stone MMAG R212295 SGT E.G. Burnett R/G R149342 F/O R.H. Flaherty P/G	Pilot NAV. A/B WOP MMAG R/G
			The undermentioned personnel were posted from 76 (RAF) Base W.E. 20.4.45. J.42667 F/O G.B. Burnie Pilot J.42323 F/O R.E. Buick NAV. R262250 F/S W.S. Chestham A/B R124576 F/S R.G.B. Jones WOP R.4.6117 F/O R.H. Vedore MMAG RAF-1815699 SGT J. Lawton R/G D.6441 F/O P.W.F. Gochman F/F	The undermentioned personnel posted from 427 (RAF) Squadron w.e. 21.4.45. J.42667 F/O W.L. Bolton NAV. J.42234 F/O G.R. Scott A/B J.45136 F/O G.A. Colley WOP R275550 F/S J.W. Chambers MMAG R220400 SGT H. Herlick A/C	
			The undermentioned personnel were posted from units indicated below. RAF-45457 F/S B.M. Gray (F) - Posted from 426 (RAF) Squadron, w.e. 20.4.45. RAF-1823573 SGT D.J. Owens (F) - Posted from 415 (RAF) Squadron, w.e. 24.4.45. RAF-53313 F/O D.S. Reid (F) - Posted from 427 (RAF) Squadron, w.e. 30.4.45.		
POSTINGS OUT					
			J.93631 F/O H.M. O'Connor (WOP) - Posted to R.G.A.F. "H" Depot w.e. 3.4.45. J.92823 F/O L.P. Gramby (WOP) - Posted to 22 O.T.U., w.e. 3.4.45. R252788 F/S P.A. Horrobin (WOP) - Posted to 43 (RAF) Squadron w.e. 1.4.45. R252866 F/S F.J. Arnold (WOP) - Posted to 122 (RAF) Squadron w.e. 1.4.45. J.35915 F/O L.E. McGowen (NAV) - Posted to 1659 Conversion Unit, w.e. 2.4.45. J.92520 F/O A.J. Williams (WOP) - Posted to Aircrew School, Dalton, w.e. 2.4.45. J.90784 F/O J.L. Hickson (A/G) - Posted to 1666 Conversion Unit, w.e. 2.4.45. J.93984 F/O G.C. Bragg (A/G) - Posted to 1666 * * * * * RAF-1825224 F/O S. Brown (W/F) - Posted to No.62 (RAF) Base, w.e. 4.4.45. RAF-1825719 F/O D.T. Dowd (F/F) - Posted to 27 O.T.U., w.e. 4.4.45. R148472 WO1 J.B.L. Dooley (A/G) - Posted to 425 (RAF) Squadron, w.e. 4.4.45.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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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
POSTINGS OUT - (Continued)						
Thelthorpe, Yorks.			R.A.F. 190757 P/O J. K. Craig	V/S	Posted to A.G.A.O. wsf. 9.4.45	
	J-1596		S/L F. L. Craig	NAV	Posted to R.G.A.F. Overseas H.Q. wsf. 21.3.45	
	R.A.F. 186625 P/O J. E. Tilley	A/G	Posted to 425 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron wsf. 7.4.45			
	J-85500	V/O K. E. Innes	A/G	Posted to 24 O.T.U. wsf. 20.4.45		
	J-87222	P/O R. H. McNamee	A/G	Posted to R.G.A.F. "H" Depot wsf. 19.4.45		
	G-87755	P/O H. A. Murray	A/G	Posted to R.G.A.F. "H" Depot wsf. 19.4.45		
	R.A.F. 1246281 Sgt L. R. Kidd	A/G	Posted to 425 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron wsf. 16.4.45			
	R.A.F. 1271719 P/O J. Hardiman	A/G	Posted to 405 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron wsf. 15.4.45			
	G-88832	P/O J. C. Allard	V/S	Posted to 433 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron wsf. 16.4.45		
	J-17568	P/O R. W. Beale	NAV	Posted to No. 62 (R.G.A.F.) Base wsf. 15.4.45		
	J-89226	P/O R. E. Doody	WOP	Posted to R.G.A.F. "H" Depot wsf. 25.4.45		
	J-57683	P/O R. E. Dauney	A/D	Posted to R.G.A.F. "H" Depot wsf. 27.4.45		
	R.A.F. 167030 P/S G. W. Flinders	Pilot (P/E)	Pilot (P/E)	Posted to No. 62 (R.G.A.F.) Base (N.E. Side) wsf. 28.4.45		
	R.A.F. 14229 P/L R. S. Mulholland	V/S	Posted to 427 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron wsf. 30.4.45			
	J-88223	P/O J. A. Johnston	NAV	Posted to 24 O.T.U. wsf. 3.5.45		
APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS						
	J-82286	P/O M. Cheshire	A/G	Promoted to 2/M/L wsf. 22.1.45		
	J-89165	P/O L. E. Bond	Pilot	Promoted to V/S/O wsf. 3.2.45		
	G-87755	P/O H. A. Murray	V/S	Promoted to V/S/O wsf. 2.4.45		
	J-88221	P/O R. E. Ford	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 19.1.45		
	J-82097	P/O R. E. Fawcett	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 28.2.45		
	J-90210	P/O J. H. McNamee	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 14.1.45		
	J-82518	P/O G. L. Mills	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 3.3.45		
	J-82777	P/O A. J. MacKenzie	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 14.3.45		
	J-82775	P/O R. G. Cole	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 6.1.45		
	J-82296	P/O R. S. Bishop	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 19.2.45		
	J-89015	P/O R. J. Callahan	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/O wsf. 31.12.44		
	J-82795	P/O R. J. Lepp	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/L wsf. 10.3.45		
	J-82870	P/O R. J. Mann	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/L wsf. 10.3.45		
	J-85564	P/O R. O. Simonsen	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/L wsf. 10.3.45		
	V.S. 7457 P/O D. G. Hall	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/L wsf. 10.3.45			
	J-88007	P/O R. E. Bagnall	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/L wsf. 10.3.45		
	J-89078	P/O R. S. Macmillan	Pilot	Appointed to A/G/L wsf. 10.3.45		
	G-12331	A/B/L J. E. Royston	(A & SD.)	Promoted to 2/M/L wsf. 24.3.45		
	J-89815	A/B/O J. H. Callahan	Pilot	Promoted to A/G/L wsf. 24.3.45		
	J-89248	A/B/O J. H. McNamee	Pilot	Promoted to A/G/L wsf. 24.3.45		
	J-88538	P/O H. C. Cox	WOP	Promoted to V/S/O wsf. 17.1.45		
	J-89226	P/O R. E. Doody	WOP	Promoted to V/S/O wsf. 16.2.45		
	R.A.F. 185168 P/O J. S. Pinder	V/S	Promoted to V/S/O wsf. 16.2.45			
	R.A.F. 184774 P/O R. W. Payne	V/S	Promoted to V/S/O wsf. 23.4.45			
COMMISSIONS						
	R.A.F. 126726 WO A. McLean	A/G	Appointed to commission wsf. 8.1.45 (J. 9415)			
	R.276115 P/S R. A. H. Sills	A/G	Appointed to commission wsf. 13.2.45 (J. 94220)			
	R.269955 WO2 D. W. Rogers	WOP	Appointed to commission wsf. 8.1.45 (J. 94159)			
	R.265647 P/S R. J. Davis	A/G	Appointed to commission wsf. 23.2.45 (J. 94166)			
	R.159918 P/S R. G. Davidson	A/G	Appointed to commission wsf. 8.1.45 (J. 94226)			

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices
Theatherpe, Yorks.						
			COMMISSIONS - (Continued)			
	R212657	P/S J.H. Chambers	WOP	Appointed to commission wif. 8.1.45 (J.94138)		
	R488926	WO2 L.J. McClosville	WOP	Appointed to commission wif. 23.2.45 (J.94277)		
	R484010	WO2 O.G. Wickenden	WOP	Appointed to commission wif. 8.1.45 (J.94212)		
	R276925	P/S J.A. Spain	A/C	Appointed to commission wif. 4.3.45 (J.94406) KILLED 5.3.45		
	R461301	P/S E. Gabe	NAV	Appointed to commission wif. 4.3.45 (J.94503) KILLED 5.3.45		
			HONOURS AND AWARDS			
	J.94521	4/8/0 T.F. Ford	Pilot	Awarded the D.F.C. (Immediate)		
	J.94607	4/8/0 R.L. Bagwell	Pilot	Awarded the D.F.C. (Immediate)		
			CHANGES IN COMMAND			
	U.905	V/C Crew, P.J.	Pilot	Attached to 420 (RCAF) Squadron wif. 23.4.45, to undertake A/V/C P.S. Majority (G12570), pending change in command		
			CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION - N I L			
			ALLEGED OR CHARGED			
Lancaster X			HALIFAX III			
	17		24			
			OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL FLYING HOURS - Operational 605.50			
			Non-Operational 332.30			
			MONTHLY AND CUMULATIVE TOTALS OF BOMBS DROPPED AND MINES LAID			
			Total No. of bombs in tons during the month of April 1945..... 447.70			
			Total No. of bombs in tons dropped to date during 1945..... 2466.75			
			NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT			
			Combat..... 7			
			Destroyed..... Nil			
			Prob. Destroyed..... 1			
			Damaged..... Nil			
			See Appendix No. 7.....			
			TYPE OF AIRCRAFT	R.C.A.F.	R.A.F.	GROUND CREW
			Allots	Officers	Airmen	Officers
			Pilots	36	3	Nil
			Nav. Bombers	36	9	Nil
			WAC's	21	24	Nil
			Air Gunners	13	71	Nil
			Navigators	15	8	Nil
			F/T Engineers	1	43	10
			F/A's (Pilot trained)	Nil	Nil	18
			TYPE OF AIRCRAFT IN CHARGE	Lancaster X and Halifax III		

as possible. However, unreliable weather and minor unserviceabilities have made rather slow. With an improvement in weather conditions, all crews should be fully to fly Lancaster I's on operations in a few days.

Shayle
(R.A.F. GRAY) Wing Commander,
Commanding
No. 420 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.