

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in KR and ACJ, para. 236 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) 425 (RCAF) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day 2.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
In the Field	1-6-43.		1. NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 1st June, 1943. R.C.A.F. Officers: Aircrew 37 Ground crew: 5 R.C.A.F. Airman Aircrew: 57 Ground crew: 340 R.A.F. " " " 5 " " " 5 " " " 1 TOTAL " " " 48 " " " 62 " " " 341		
	1-6-43.		2. Ground Personnel still at Boufarik, Algeria, awaiting movement order to proceed to Kairouan/Zina Airbase, Tunisia.		

The crew of the abandoned aircraft on 4-6-43, Wellington X, H.E.268 "K", was as follows; and they are now interned in Portugal.

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	GRADE	OP. TRIPS	OP. HOURS.	
CAN-116289	T/P/O.	Lacerte, R.J.	Pilot.	16	101.15	
CAN-1122777	Sgt.	French, L.G.	Navigator.	14	79.35	
953865	Sgt.	Wright, F.W.	W.A.C.	14	79.35	
124649	T/P/O.	Shaw, E.L.	B/A.	11	64.45	
R 25366 Gud	CAN-102908	T/Sgt.	Brislan, W.J.	A/C.	15	85.05
	CAN-101900	L.A.C.	Dufresne, L.A.	P.I.I.E.	—	—
	CAN-101611	L.A.C.	Larcho, R.F.	P.I.I.A.	—	—

Lergma. One crew was obliged members of the crew were wounded if the equipment had reached the aft Telergma and landed safely

servicing aircraft and flown.

ried for its first bombing a bombing attack over Solacoa, One aircraft was attacked aircraft was not observed till crew who returned fire and bomb Air Gunner was severely wounded

A-457 to A-476 incl.

in the air during combat. There was a fair amount of heavy flak over target with staggered searchlights definitely co-operating with night fighters. One aircraft failed to take-off due to engine trouble. One aircraft failed to return. The attack generally was fairly successful. The crew of the missing aircraft, Wellington X, H.E. 977 "X", was as follows:-

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	GRADE	OP. TRIPS	OP. HOURS.
CAN-120176	T/P/O.	Hall, T.F.	Pilot.	5	28.10
CAN-113843	T/P/O.	Dumphy, R.E.	Navigator.	5	16.30
CAN-1106158	T/Sgt.	Millar, R.V.	W.O.P.A.G.	5	27.20
CAN-111571	T/Sgt.	Hale, G.F.	Bomb Aimer.	5	27.35
CAN-1128607	T/Sgt.	Farris, E.R.	Air Gunner.	5	27.35

27-6-43. Weather: Fine. Visibility Very Good. This squadron was not required for operations. All personnel were kept busy completing many details in the squadron set-up.

28-6-43. Weather: Fine, Visibility: Very good. The squadron was ordered to detail 11 aircraft for bombing operations over Messina, Sicily. Two aircraft failed to take-off due to engine trouble. H.E. bombs were carried. Many bomb bursts were observed. A fair amount of heavy accurate flak co-operating with searchlights could be observed. I.P.F. used successfully by several aircraft on searchlights. One aircraft ditched in gulf off coast N.E. of Sfax due to shortage of petrol. The Bomb Gunner, CAN 102908 Sgt. Shaw, F.C. was drowned; the other members of his crew returned safely to base, being picked up by a U.S. Naval Craft after being adrift for 14 hours. The successful aircraft reported a good trip.

A-477 to A-489 incl.


29-6-43. Weather: Fine, excellent visibility. This squadron was ordered to detail 11 aircraft for bombing operations over Messina, Sicily. Two aircraft did not take-off due to engine trouble. Some heavy and inaccurate flak was reported from Volcano island. Flak over target grew in intensity as attack progressed. I.P.F. used successfully by several aircraft over target to extinguish S/L's which were operating in clusters of 10 to 12. All A/C reaching target reported a successful effort. One aircraft did not return, nothing was heard from the crew or aircraft after take-off. The crew of Wellington HXZ, H.S.436 "Q", missing, was as follows:-

A-490 to A-498 incl.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				References to Appendices				
			NUMBER	RANK	NAME	GRADE		OP. TRIPS	OP. HOURS.		
			CAN-R112735	T/Sgt.	McIlrath, S.J.	Pilot.	2	11.25			
			CAN-322358	T/P/O.	Brown, R.A.	Navigator.	Nil	Nil.			
			1331575	T/Sgt.	Baird, J.H.	W/A.G.	Nil	Nil.			
			CAN-R118082	T/Sgt.	Caulderwood, J.S.	P/A.	1	5.00			
			CAN-R133749	T/Sgt.	Balderson, J.E.	A/G.	1	5.15			
	30-6-43.		Weather fine, visibility very good. The Squadron was ordered to detail 9 aircraft for bombing operations over Cagliari, Sicily. Bomb load consisted of 4,000, 1,000, 500 and 250 lb. bombs. All aircraft bombed visually with the aid of flares and bombing was thought to be fairly accurate. Bombs including several 4,000 lbs, were seen to burst around main railway station and barracks. Several small fires and one large one were seen in dock area. Defences were quite weak with slight light flak and heavy inaccurate flak. Only one searchlight in target area which kept going off and on. A very successful trip.					AA99 to A-507 incl.			
			3. HONOURS AND AWARDS: Nil.								
			4. COMMISSIONS: Sgt. W.D. Pettit (J16564) Air Gunner, appointed to a commission as Pilot Officer w.e.f. 10-3-43 Auth: A.M. Signal PK 5023 4/5-6-43.								
			5. PROMOTIONS: Nil.								
			6. POSTINGS: G.17537 P/O. R.S. Moe (Admin-C & C.) Posted to this unit for Code & Cypher duties from RCAF Overseas H.Q., w.e.f. 10-6-43.								
			7. CHANGES IN COMMAND: Nil.								
			8. CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION: Nil.								
			9. AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE: 17 Wellington Mark I, Tropical.								
			10. HEALTH: A complete report cannot be given for the month of June, as Sick Quarters was not opened until the 26th June. The main complaints were for diarrhoea.								
			11. NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1943.								
			R.C.A.F. OFFICERS: Aircrew: 35		Ground crew: 6		RCAF AIRMEN: Aircrew: 49		Ground crew: 339		
			R.A.F. " " " " " "		" " " " " "		" " " " " "		" " " " " "		
			TOTAL " " " " " "		" " " " " "		TOTAL " " " " " "		" " " " " "		
			57		6		52		339		
			12. OPERATIONAL, NON-OPERATIONAL AND TRAINING FLYING TIMES FOR MONTH OF JUNE, 1943.								
					DAY		NIGHT		TOTAL		
			Operational Flying Hours		157.00		152.00		309.00		
			Operational Training Hours		Nil		Nil		Nil		
			Other Flying Hours		26.35		Nil		26.35		
			 (J.W. St. Pierre) Wing Commander, Commanding. 425 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.								

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