

1st OCTOBER, 1943. (Lat to 31st)

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 2.
22-425
No. of pages used for this year: 1943

RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in KR and ACL forms 2280 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in RAF Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 425 (BOAP) Squadron.

No. of pages used for this year: 1943

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events													
Hand East, North Africa	1/10/43	1.	<p>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 1st OCTOBER, 1943.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>E.C.A.F. OFFICERS: Aircrew: 33</td> <td>Ground Crew: 5</td> <td>BOAP AIRMEN: Aircrew: 76</td> <td>Ground Crew: 334</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E.A.F. " " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL " " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>TOTAL " " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> </table>	E.C.A.F. OFFICERS: Aircrew: 33	Ground Crew: 5	BOAP AIRMEN: Aircrew: 76	Ground Crew: 334	E.A.F. " " " "	" " " "	" " " "	" " " "	TOTAL " " " "	" " " "	TOTAL " " " "	" " " "	
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2.	<p>Weather fair, Vis. good. Ten aircraft, including one illuminator, were detailed to attack Road communications at Formia. 8 aircraft claim to have reached and bombed the primary. One landed away from base and one returned early due to engine trouble. Bomb bursts were seen to straddle the target area, but the results were difficult to assess owing to adverse weather conditions. Weather was clear over target, but severe electrical storms were encountered during the entire trip. Defences nil.</p>	A.1168 to A.1177 incl.														
	2/10/43		<p>Weather: fair, Vis. good. The squadron was ordered to detail 10 aircraft for night bombing but this order was later cancelled. In the evening, a motion picture was shown by the YMCA.</p>													
	3/10/43		<p>Weather fair, Vis. very good. 7 aircraft, one of which carried flares, were detailed to attack the Marshalling Tards at Civitavecchia. 1 a/c landed away from base at OUDMA cause unknown. All crews claim to have identified the aiming point in good visibility aided by flares. Some good bombing resulted, numerous sticks were seen to straddle the W/Yards and built-up areas in the vicinity. Several fires were reported and the area became enveloped in a pall of black smoke; Defences were nil.</p> <p>NICKELLING: 1a/c was detailed to nickel over Viterbo, Littorio and Ciampino and this was carried out as instructed. Weather was fine.</p> <p>1 a/c was detailed to nickel in the Battle Area and this was carried out as ordered. No defences encountered. Heavy rain in Battle area.</p>	A.1178 to A.1186 incl.												
	4/10/43		<p>Weather: clear, Vis. very good. 7 a/c, 1 of which carried flares, were detailed to attack a road junction on the main coast at FORMIA. Illumination was excellent and the target was clearly identified. Many bomb bursts including 1 x 4,000 lb., were seen in or near the target area. One large fire and three small were observed, and by the end of the attack, the aiming point was obscured by smoke. At 2110, at 391N 1215E, a white light was seen on the water directly underneath a green very signal cartridge. Dummy fire seen at Gaeta; large fire seen off Terracina. Defences were negligible. 1 H.E. gun in east of town.</p>	A.1187 to A.1193 incl.												
	5/10/43		<p>Weather fair, Vis. good. 7 a/c were detailed to attack and destroy dispersed aircraft on the Grosseto landing Ground. All crews claim to have bombed the target. In fine weather conditions and with extremely well placed flares, numerous aircraft were seen to be dispersed along the aerodrome boundaries and several direct hits were obtained. One large transport plane was seen to explode and others were seen burning from a distance of 50 miles. A very successful blitz. Defences were nil.</p>	A.1194 to A.1200 incl.												
	6/10/43		<p>Weather: Fair, Vis. good. 7 aircraft were detailed for bombing operation in the evening, but this was cancelled during the day.</p>													
	7/10/43		<p>Weather: cloudy, good vis. 8 aircraft were detailed for bombing operation, but later cancelled. News was received to the effect that the squadron was to cease operating this date in view of its return to United Kingdom. All aircraft to be made serviceable for their transfer to other units.</p>													

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	8/10/43 to 18/10/43		All personnel are kept busy transferring aircraft and equipment to other units and packing the remaining equipment in readiness for the move.	
	18/10/43 to 23/10/43		At 0545, all personnel left Ham East by truck, arriving Tunis at 1230. All personnel entrained at 2000 hrs. in box cars for No.1 B.F.D., Algiers, arriving at 2300 hrs on 21st Oct. Due to shortage of box cars, it was necessary to accommodate 25 to 30 men in a car.	
	26/10/43 to 31/10/43		Personnel left No.1 B.F.D. by truck and embarked on S.S. <i>SSK Samaria</i> at approximately 0900 hrs. The ship left the harbour to join the convoy at 1600 hours on 27th October, 1943. No recreational facilities were provided on the ship due to shortage of space. However accommodation and food were very good.	
			3. HONOURS AND AWARDS: Nil.	
			4. COMMISSIONS: Nil.	
			5. PROMOTIONS: C.626 S/Ldr. B.D. Richer, appointed to the rank of Acting Wing Commander (Paid) w.e.f. 1.10.43 on assuming command of the Squadron. Auth: AGO, NAAF. J2017 E/O. R.J. Strong. Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer w.e.f. 23.4.43. Auth: HQAF Overseas Order No. 612 dtd 30.7.43. J14707 E/O. H. DeSolla. Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer w.e.f. 9.4.43. Auth: HQAF Overseas Order No. 612 dated 30.7.43. J14771 E/O. R.A. Clark (Missing) Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer w.e.f. 9.4.43. Auth: HQAF Overseas Order No. 612 dated 30.7.43. J3467 S/Lt. E.W. Elenkinop. Appointed to the rank of Acting Squadron Leader w.e.f. 3.10.43. Auth: AGO, NAAF. J22800 F/O. G.A. Anderson. Appointed to the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 3.10.43. Auth: AGO, NAAF. J14707 E/O. H. DeSolla. Appointed to the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 24.9.43. Auth: AGO, NAAF.	
			6. POSTINGS: J14731 E/O. J.G. Mlake. Posted from this unit to No.1 A.F.D., Algiers, w.e.f. 20.9.43. Auth: NAAF Ltr. 2021/1/2/P.2A. dated 15.9.43. G.786 W/Odr. J.M.W. St.Pierre. Officer Commanding. Posted from this unit to No.2 B.F.D., Tunis, w.e.f. 1.10.43. J.3467 F/Lt. Elenkinop, E.W. Re posted to this unit w.e.f. 3.10.43 for Flight Commander duties. (S/Ldr. Post). Auth: H.Q. No. 205 Group. J22800 F/O. G.A. Anderson, and J14707 E/O. H. DeSolla. Re posted to this unit w.e.f. 3.10.43, for Deputy Flight Commander duties. (F/Lt. Post). Auth: H.Q. No. 205 Group. J22477 E/O. Armstrong, W.F. Posted to this unit from U.K. w.e.f. 23.9.43; Auth: HQ NAAF. G.626 W/Odr. B.D. Richer. Re posted to this unit w.e.f. 1.10.43; for Officer Commanding duties. Auth: A.O.C. J10408 E/O. Maple, G.O., Posted from this unit to No.2 B.F.D. (N/E) w.e.f. 2.9.43. Auth: F. Staff Admin. Instr. No.5 dated 28.6.43. J38420 E/O. J.E. Sheriff. Posted to this unit from U.K. w.e.f. 11.10.43. J44824 E/O. W.F. Coake. Posted to H.Q., M.A.A.F. w.e.f. 18.10.43. Auth: HQ 205 Group. J14703 E/O. McNeekin, E.S., J14219 E/O. Charlesworth, J.R. and J22612 E/O. Black, E.M., Posted from this unit to No.2 B.F.D. Tunis w.e.f. 7.10.43; Auth: HQ 205 Group. C.1181 F/Lt. L.H. Locombe, and J20711 E/O. W.H.C. Boyd, Posted to this unit from U.K. w.e.f. 11.10.43. Auth: HQ NAAF.	
			7. CHANGE IN COMMAND. C.626 W/Odr. B.D. Richer, assumed command of the squadron w.e.f. 1.10.43, vice G.786 W/Odr. J.M.W. St.Pierre.	

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MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1943. (1st to 31st)

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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RAF Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I.
para. 2162 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and
notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) 425 (BOMF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day 3

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																														
	31/10/43		<p>8. CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION: Nil.</p> <p>9. AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE: Nil.</p> <p>10. HEALTH: The health of the squadron has been good for the past month, except for a few cases of jaundice and cold.</p> <p>11. NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 31st OCTOBER 1943.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. OFFICERS:</td> <td>Aircrew: 29</td> <td>Ground crew: 5</td> <td>RCAF AIRMEN:</td> <td>Aircrew: 76</td> <td>Ground Crew: 329</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>RAF</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>" " " "</td> <td>" " " "</td> </tr> </table> <p>12. OPERATIONAL, NON OPERATIONAL AND FLYING TRAINING HOURS FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1943.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>DAY</td> <td>NIGHT</td> <td>TOTAL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operational Flying Hours</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>201.15</td> <td>201.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other flying hours.</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>Nil.</td> </tr> </table>	R.C.A.F. OFFICERS:	Aircrew: 29	Ground crew: 5	RCAF AIRMEN:	Aircrew: 76	Ground Crew: 329	R.A.F.	" " " "	" " " "	RAF	" " " "	" " " "	TOTAL	" " " "	" " " "	TOTAL	" " " "	" " " "		DAY	NIGHT	TOTAL	Operational Flying Hours	Nil	201.15	201.15	Other flying hours.	Nil	Nil	Nil.	
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SECRET.

B.D. Fisher w/e/d.

(B.D. Fisher)
Wing Commander, Commanding,
425 R.C.A.F. Squadron.

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