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## R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No.

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse	1.2.44		The first day of a new month commenced with a stand-down from operations being declared early in the morning. A heavy training program was laid on and numerous details of fighter affiliation exercises were carried out in the morning and afternoon. At night several crews took part in a cross country exercise.	
Linton-on-Ouse	2.2.44		The Squadron was again informed that it would not be required for operational duty today. A flying training was arranged but due to inclement weather this program had to be cancelled. Flight and Section Commanders devoted the afternoon to ground training and lectures.	
Linton-on-Ouse	3.2.44		Despite poor weather conditions that prevailed throughout the day a considerable amount of flying training was however undertaken. This training consisted of fighter affiliation exercises and bombing during the afternoon. At night several crews participated in a Command Bullseye exercise.	
Linton-on-Ouse	4.2.44		The Squadron was informed in the morning that it would not be required for operations today. Every advantage is being taken of these operational stand-downs to carry out an elaborate and extensive training program, particularly for the benefit of newly arrived crews. Bombing details were carried out in the afternoon and evening and at night several crews completed cross country exercises. CAN.R. 157562 W/Sgt. N.J. Craig and crew consisting of the following personnel reported for duty today from 1679 Conversion Unit. Members of his crew are as follows: CAN.R. 161256 F/Sgt. Southeran, A.C.-Nav. CAN.R. 161117 Sgt. Holenichuk, W.A/B. CAN.R. 105525 WO2 Parker, R.C. - AC RAF 566655 Sgt. Hughes, J.P. - A/G CAN.R. 187721 Sgt. Neill, E.S. - A/G RAP. 1313807 Sgt. Howard, P.H. - E.	
Linton-on-Ouse	5.2.44		A stand-down from operations was again declared early in the day. All aircrews attended a lecture in the morning which was given by a specialist from No. 5 Group. In the afternoon the Station Commander was given dual instruction in a Lancaster aircraft. Several details of air-to-air firing and bombing exercises were carried out in the afternoon. No flying was however carried out at night.	
Linton-on-Ouse	6.2.44		An operational stand-down was again declared early in the day. Due to the poor weather conditions prevailing no flying training was carried out. In the afternoon all aircrew personnel attended a showing of instructional films. CAN.R. 447140 WO2 Robertson, D.F. and crew reported from 1679 Conversion Unit for operational duty with the Squadron. Members of his crew are as follows: CAN.R. 161814 W/M. Murdoch, G.F. - Nav. CAN.J. 266689 W/O. Freberg, H.E. - A/B CAN.J. 12431 W/O. Cole, E.M. - W/AG RAF. 1522005 Sgt. Brown, J.P. - A/G RAF. 1695860 Sgt. Scott, A.G. - E/C CAN.R. 140721 Sgt. Whalen, C.V.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse	7.2.44		The Squadron was informed early in the day that it would not be required for operational duties that day. A Station Commander's parade was held at 08.30 hours in the morning and all Squadron personnel, except those employed on essential services, appeared on parade despite the general dislike of the majority of personnel of these parades. As all senior N.C.O.'s had to attend a general meeting of the Sergeant's Mess at 13.15 hours no flying training was planned for the afternoon. At night however several aircraft and crews took off on a cross country exercise. CAN.R.152120 F/Sgt. H.G. Wright and crew reported to the Squadron for operational duties from 1679 Conversion Unit. Members of his crew are as follows: CAN.R.172246 F/Sgt. Gray, H. - Max. CAN.L.12045 F/O. Burrows, W.J. - V/R. CAN.J.27393 F/O. H.P. MacDonald - R/B R.A.F. 1296342 Sgt. Pearson, L. - R/B CAN.J.14814 F/O. Sears, E.K. - V/G CAN.R.186511 Sgt. McLean, J.W. - G.	
Linton-on-Ouse	8.2.44		Taking advantage of another operational stand-down which was declared early in the day, the Squadron laid on a heavy training program consisting of fighter affiliation exercises and air-to-air firing practice. At night several crews took part in a Command Bullseye exercise. Information was received today that CAN.J.14328 A/F/L. M.H. Spafford and crew had been posted to No. 405 (RCAF) Squadron for P.P.P. duties. The members of his crew are as follows: CAN.J.19740 F/O. K.R. Hamill - Nav. CAN.R.152436 F/Sgt. F.J. Perron - W/C CAN.J.20820 F/O. W.J. Campbell - A/B CAN.R.99823 Sgt. Bach, G.L. - A/G CAN.G.19047 F/O. Z.W. Bishop - V/G R.A.F. 152618 F/O. A.E. Parmenter - V/H. Authority was also received today for the appointment of CAN.R.152436 F/Sgt. F.J. Perron - W/C in this crew, to the commissioned rank of Pilot Officer w.e.f. 5.2.44.	
Linton-on-Ouse	9.2.44		There being no call for operations today a general clearing up campaign was launched and all those small trivial jobs that have to be done sometime were completed. The Navigators decided that their Section needed a brightening up so a paint job was started on the interior of the Sections. Four Engineers and four pilots went to RCAF Station, Eastmoor to collect four aircraft destined for duty with the Squadron. The Signals Leader was in very good spirits all day. Upon enquiry into the reason for this it was learned that a report on the Group W/T exercise carried out on the 2nd February 1944 had been received and that the Squadron had received the highest marks ever obtained in an exercise of this nature. Radar training in the Signals Section was carried out in the afternoon. Bomb aimers had a fairly active day. Several were engaged in air-to-air firing exercises and in the afternoon a lecture was given on a new method of reporting via bomb sights. Other bomb aimers were busily engaged on Link trainer exercises during the afternoon. The gunners also managed to keep fairly busy with D.I.'s, Hunt Trainer practice and exercises on Shadegraph.	
Linton-on-Ouse	10.2.44		The stand-down from operations continues. Due to poor weather conditions no flying training could be carried out. The Squadron Bombing Leader spent the morning instructing new Bomb Aimers in the use of the Mark XIV bomb sight. A lecture was delivered in the afternoon to all aircrew personnel on "Mines" by a Naval officer. Gunners and Wireless Operators carried out the usual D.I.'s on their equipment and the ground crews spent another day preparing all available aircraft for future operations. On the whole a very quiet and uneventful day in the life of the Squadron.	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 426 (R.G.A.P.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse	11.2.44		There being no call for operations today, the Squadron carried out a fairly extensive training program consisting chiefly of air to air firing practice, fighter affiliation exercises and bombing practice. Several officers on temporary duty per from Command visited the Squadron sections today to gain first hand knowledge of operations.	
Linton-on-Ouse	12.2.44		The Squadron was not required for operations today and the usual flying training was carried out, consisting chiefly of air to air firing and cross country exercises. Several awards to Squadron personnel were announced today. G.M.J. 44552 S/Ldr. D.P. Apps awarded non-immediate R.A.C. 322. M/Sgt. E. Hesse awarded non-immediate R.A.C. G.M.J. 441113 M/Sgt. C. Massy awarded non-immediate R.A.C. Rgt. 152802 M/Sgt. F. Goulding awarded non-immediate R.A.C. 156712 P/O. J.S. Salisbury awarded non-immediate R.A.C. and 158446 P/O. W. P. G. Woodley awarded non-immediate R.A.C.	
Linton-on-Ouse	13.2.44		At long last the series of operational stand-downs has come to a halt. Virtually aircraft were ordered for operations tonight and once again the Squadron was transformed into a bustling beehive of activity, but alas all the feverish haste in preparing for the night's operations proved fruitless when the operations were "scrubbed" late in the day. Two new crews reported to the Squadron today from 1079 Conversion Unit. The crews are as follows: G.M.J. 99255 P/O. Douglas, R.C.B. (Captain) G.M.J. 26034 M/Sgt. Way, R.A.C. (Nav.), G.M.R. 116190 WO2 Cullen, S.E. (WEP) G.M.J. 27465 P/O. Stewart, D.P. (A/B) Rgt. 156235 Sgt. Leeming, R. (P/W). G.M.R. 216241 Sgt. R.J. Evans, R.E. (MU/AG) G.M.R. 100574 Sgt. Clark, R.H. (B/G) G.M.R. 156776 P/O. Simard, A.C.S. (Captain) G.M.R. 167026 P/O. Brooks, J.P. (Nav.) G.M.J. 14084 P/O. Black, R.B. (WEP) G.M.J. 27275 W.O. Moore, H.E. (A/B) Rgt. 927501 Sgt. Hemmings, W.A. (W/P) G.M.R. 202566 Sgt. Martin, L.W. (MU/AG) G.M.R. 203319 Sgt. Ross, L.W. (A/C)	
Linton-on-Ouse	14.2.44		Due to poor weather conditions that prevailed throughout the day a stand-down from operations was decisively and no flying training was carried out. G.M.J. 9657 P/O. Hill. Hill was promoted to the rank of Temporary Flight Lieutenant. G.M.J. 8552 P/O. M.G. Greenland and crew reported to the Unit today from 1079 Conversion Unit. Members of his crew are as follows: G.M.R. 161285 Sgt. Harvey, A.G. (Nav.) Rgt. 1544555 P/O. Macmillan, M. (WEP) G.M.R. 150691 Sgt. Orr, H.E. (A/B) G.M.R. 116602 Sgt. Haycock, R.O. (MU/AG) Rgt. 92577 P/O. Morris, H. (W/P) G.M.J. 20450 P/O. Robinson, L.E. (A/C)	A.790 - A.803 B.66
Linton-on-Ouse	15.2.44		At last the call again came for operations tonight and the Squadron answered by detailing <del>sixteen</del> fifteen aircraft for a concentrated attack on the German capital of BERLIN. All Sections among this action and the punishing labour of all ranks was rewarded when all aircraft were able to take off without incident shortly after 1750 hours. One minor aircraft was forced to to abandon the operation and return early when the constant speed unit became w/a. Seven new pilots without previous operational experience went along as second pilots tonight. Six of the pilots <del>is</del> come from new crews recently arrived on the Squadron and one pilot come from a neighbouring Station.	This pilot was the Recruit of No. 42 Sqn. No. 42 Sqn.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse	16.2.44		<p>Due to poor weather conditions prevailing at 0000 all aircraft engaged in the previous night's operations were forced to divert to other aerodromes. With one exception all aircraft landed safely by 0600 hours this morning. Nothing further has been heard from a/c 154726, captained by CAN.R.109741 P/O. Patile, R.W. Members of other members of the missing crew are as follows: CAN.R.150167 P/O. Lethbridge, F.C. (Nav); CAN.R.110394 Sgt. Prentiss, R.C. (WOP) CAN.R.145342 S/L. Hicks, L.W. (A/B) R.A.F. 140735 Sgt. Goss Chester, A.M. (V/R) CAN.R.140004 S/L. Lowe, W.K. (W/M) CAN.R.154799 Sgt. Miles, G.W. (R/G).</p> <p>Crews were unanimous about the success of the raid which appeared to be well concentrated. This raid was one of the heaviest attacks launched on the German capital since the Blitz of BERLIN commenced. Operations were again scheduled for tonight but due to the fact that none of the crews had yet returned from diversion bases only three crews were detailed. The operations were later "scrubbed".</p>	
Linton-on-Ouse	17.2.44		<p>As yet all crews have not returned from diversion bases following operations on the night of the 15th February 1944. Operations were called this morning and ten crews were detailed. All Sections swung into action and the aircraft were prepared for the night's operations. Shortly after the crews had been briefed the operations were scrubbed.</p>	
Linton-on-Ouse	18.2.44		<p>Operations were ordered in the morning and the Squadron offered eleven aircraft and crews. After the usual routine of preparation, all the energy expended turned out to be in vain, for the operations were "scrubbed" late in the afternoon. CAN.R.150025 P/O. Gervais, S.W. and crew reported to the Unit today for operational duties. Members of his crew are as follows: CAN.R.217524 P/O. W. Lastuk (Nav), CAN.R.150035 Sgt. Winter, J. (A/B) CAN.R.154670 Sgt. Hainsworth, E.M. (WOP) R.A.F. 11227918 Sgt. Jones, L.W. (B/G) CAN.R.80012 Sgt. Rogers, T.A. (W/M/G) CAN.R.197599 Sgt. Sam, L.L.B. (R/G).</p>	
Linton-on-Ouse	19.2.44		<p>Thirteen aircraft were ordered for operations. A busy day was spent in preparation for the night's operations and shortly before midnight all aircraft took off without incident. The target for tonight was the German industrial city of KLEINPETERSHAGEN.</p>	A.804 - A.815 B.67
Linton-on-Ouse	20.2.44		<p>All aircraft returned from the previous night's operation between 0600 and 0700 hours this morning with the exception of a/c. 154933 piloted by CAN.R.154933 P/O. McKenzie, M.A. which failed to return from this operation. Members of his crew are as follows: CAN.R.150563 S/L. Hales, Hancock, Nav. CAN.R.11832 P/O. Cox - WOP CAN.R.101558 W.O.I. P.R. Allyson - A/B R.A.F. 1764165 Sgt. Gwynne, J.V. - R/G. CAN.R.140721 Sgt. Whiteman, G.C. - A/C and CAN.R.150134 Sgt. Dow, E.A. Operations were again ordered for tonight and sixteen aircraft were detailed for an attack on STUTTGART. One a/c was scrubbed shortly before take-off and the remaining fifteen aircraft commenced taking off at midnight.</p>	A.816 - A.829
Linton-on-Ouse	21.2.44		<p>Aircraft engaged on operations the previous evening returned this morning between 0700 and 0800 hours. All aircraft successfully attacked the primary target and returned safely to base. A stand-down was welcomed by all personnel and this gave all Section a well earned "breather" after two successive nights of operational activity.</p>	

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## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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of (Unit or Formation) 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse	22.2.44		Operations were scheduled for tonight and sixteen aircraft crews were detailed. However the effort was scrubbed after all crews were at their aircraft ready for take-off, due to cloud, rain and icing conditions. CAN.J.47595 P/O. W.H. Whitting was "screened" having completed 27 operational sorties and is now enjoying ten days leave.		
Linton-on-Ouse	23.2.44		Word came through early that there was a "stand down" so <del>most</del> an extensive training program was entered into for the day including cross country exercises, bombing, fighter affiliation and air to air fighting. Five cross countries were carried out at night. Serviceability is good and excellent progress is being made in fitting all <del>a/c</del> with Mark III Monitors. CAN.O.6069 p.m. D.G. Mathews who has been Squadron Adjutant since the 6th January departed for London on posting to RAF O/B, H.Q. CAN.O.2311 p.m. W.H. Walker has taken over the duties of Adjutant after double banking the former Adjutant since Jan. 6th, Maj. 1234354 F/S. T.M. Mathews received his appointment to a commission, R.A.P. 153067 P/O. J. Brown was promoted to the rank of A/E/Lt. The following R.A.F. officers were also promoted to the rank of A/E/Lt. CAN.J.10234 P/O. E.G. Hughes, CAN.23317 P/O. S.G. McDonald, CAN.J.14015 P/O. I.M. McRobie and CAN.J.10236 P/O. E.D.G. Patterson.		
Linton-on-Ouse	24.2.44		Operations are scheduled for tonight and eighteen aircraft were ordered. The first phase consisting of seven <del>a/c</del> took off at 1800 hours. The second phase took off at 2030 hours and there were no non-starters and only one early return. 64N.W. 9657 p.m. H.M. Bow in 12667 returned early with his rear turret <del>up</del> . It was an excellent error and was only possible by dint of many hours of hard work and the complete co-operation of all sections concerned. Seventeen <del>a/c</del> attacked the primary target which was the town of HERRENTHIEN in Germany. Just prior to take off word came through that the U.S.A.A.F. had bombed the same target that afternoon.	A.834-A.837	
Linton-on-Ouse	25.2.44		All our aircraft returned from the previous night's raid and reported an excellent target with large fires burning before arrival. Seven were down at diversionary landing fields. It made a long night with the first arriving back around 0200 hours and the last shortly before 0600 hours, so it was daylight before some of the crew got to bed. Operations were again scheduled for tonight and ten aircraft took off at 2100 hours, the target this time being ALTBURG which had also taken a pasting from the U.S.A.A.F. in the afternoon. All our aircraft again returned safely and reported a good target with nothing much to worry about. This continual bombing of vital points in Germany in conjunction with the American forces should soon show apparent effects. Whilst operations have been on training has slipped somewhat and one crew only did a night cross country for the day's training activities. Rgt. 1607037 Sgt. Titheridge, B.L. was appointed to a commission as was CAN.R.150248 Sgt. R. Jeanson. They are A/E and A/C respectively.	A.834-A.837	
Linton-on-Ouse	26.2.44		All flying personnel are catching up with their sleep after two successive nights' activities, and maintenance crews are working hard on serviceability. A dull rainy day has cancelled all flying.		
Linton-on-Ouse	27.2.44		Snow covered the ground in the morning and there was no flying activity until afternoon when the weather cleared sufficiently to allow some local flying and air tests. One aircraft proceeded on an informal sea search along the Coast late in the afternoon.		

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**SECRET.**References  
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Appendices

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		
Linton-on-Ouse	28.2.44		Squadron strength now completed after long flight. Weather still poor. Flying courses now closed in the evening due to lack of instructors.		
Linton-on-Ouse	29.2.44		Stand-down today. No flying training was carried out. The <del>newly-appointed</del> <sup>new</sup> navigators have completed a painting job in their Section in their spare time and have considerably improved its appearance. W.D.W. Heseltine, DSO, Squadron Commander, has assumed command of the Station during the absence through illness of G/C. W.A. Jones.		
Linton-on-Ouse	29.2.44		Stand-down again today and more training done including air-to-air firing, bombing and gunnery familiarization. Three a/c proceeded on a night cross country exercise.		
<b>OPERATIONAL STATISTICS OF UNIT AS AT 20th FEBRUARY 1944</b>					
			<b>Operations</b>	<b>Aircrew</b>	<b>Groundcrew</b>
			R.C.A.F.P.	68	120
			R.A.F.	19	30
			R.A.A.F.	-	-
			R.N.Z.A.A.F.	-	-
			Total	87	50
			<b>Training</b>	<b>Aircrew</b>	<b>Groundcrew</b>
			R.C.A.F.P.	59	213
			R.A.F.	49	30
			R.A.A.F.	2	2
			R.N.Z.A.A.F.	2	2
			Total	112	249
<b>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE: 20 LANCASTER MARK II</b>					
			OPERATIONAL FLYING HOURS:	511-30	
			FLYING TRAINING HOURS:	181-20	
			OTHER FLYING HOURS:	35-35	
			TOTAL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OPERATIONAL SORTIES:	67	
			TOTAL NON-SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONAL SORTIES:	3	
			NUMBER OF A/C REPORTED MISSING:	2	
<i>GENERAL STATE OF HEALTH:</i> The general health of the Squadron has been quite satisfactory during the month.					
					<i>W.L. Heseltine</i> Wing Commander, Commanding 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron