

R.A.F. Form 540  
See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.T., para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

C. A. F.  
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

(Uniform Formation) 426 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

S.47-20-426  
JAS

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	20790	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse, Yorks.	1-7-44		Operations scheduled first of all for the previous evening and then for shortly after daybreak this morning, eventually got under way at 1500 hours when fifteen aircraft took off. The weather all day was hazy and cloudy with poor visibility all morning and improved somewhat during the afternoon but with intermittent showers. All our aircraft returned to base around 1900 hours having bombed a pilotless plane supply base at Biennais. (W/C E.G. HAMPTON C. 1625 awarded D.F.C.)		A.1350 - A.1364	
*	2-7-44		Crews stood by all day for a scheduled operation which was postponed several times on account of weather and eventually postponed till the early morning, will breakfast at 0745 hours.			
*	3-7-44		Same thing all over again today and crews were briefed, but after several postponements the "Take Off" was again put off till morning with breakfast scheduled for 0645 hours.			
*	4-7-44		The weather eventually cleared and fifteen aircraft took off at approximately 12.00 hours. They all returned between 15.30 and 16.00 hours having bombed a flying bomb site at Biennais. Results are not known as there was 10/10 the cloud over the target.		A.1365 - A.1369	
*	5-7-44		Bad weather again postponed all scheduled operations until after midnight.			
*	6-7-44		Sixteen aircraft took off at 0135 hours on an attack on Biennais' constructional works. Numerous bombs were soon to burst around the markers and one large fire was seen. All were diverted to Newmarket on return because of poor visibility at base but were able to return during the morning. Operations were again scheduled and twelve were called for. All took off at 13.00 hours to bomb Coggeshall, a flying bomb site. An excellent concentration of bombs was reported on the target area and it is thought there would be no need to return there. This was the second time that the Squadron has operated twice in the same day, the previous occasion being 2nd day.		A.1362 - A.1367	
*	7-7-44		Operations March on and sixteen were asked for. Take-off was at 10.30 hours and fourteen got away, two being "no starters" on account of mechanical trouble. The target was a concentration of tanks and artillery just outside town. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all aircraft who came back in high glee. There was some light flak and several crew members had pieces as souvenirs. Bombing was done from below 5,000 ft. and the target was clearly visible except for some dust and smoke. The Army were particularly pleased and a message from the Army was awaiting all crews on their return, quote: Message from Second Army, 23.30 hours July 7, 1944. "Heavy Bomber attack just taken place. Wonderfully impressive show and was enormously appreciated by the Army. The Army would like their appreciation and thanks sent to all crews." Add to note one aircraft observed shot down by flak - crew baled out." Unquote. All our aircraft returned to base at approximately midnight.		A.1368 - A.1409	
*	8-7-44		There was a "Stand Down" with a possibility of an early morning "take-off". Maximum training effort was asked for.		A.1410 - A.1425	
*	9-7-44		Early morning take-off did not materialize and there was a further stand down for the day and again a maximum training effort. Twelve aircraft were asked for for an early morning morning take-off and word came through at supper time that briefing was at 0545 hours.			

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse, Yorks.	9.7.44				
	(Continued)		The Squadron Commander gave out the news today that W/C E.G. Hamer (G1625) was screened, effective today, and that W/C C.W. Burgess (C265) would take over command of the Squadron effective July 10, 1944.		
	10.7.44		The early morning takeoff was postponed until approximately noon and then again until supper time. Sixteen aircraft were asked for but weather postponed everything until the morning.		
	11.7.44		Two tentative times for operations were set but the last time at 18.00 hours, the effort was again scrubbed till the morning. Airrow find it particularly binding to stand by so often without getting away. The Squadron is now well supplied with aircraft and training has been carried out extensively.		
	12.7.44		Take-off was again postponed from before noon till just after noon and then to evening. Sixteen aircraft eventually took off at 19.00 hours to attack a Flying bomb supply depot at Crail near Paris. On account of a heavy layer of cloud results of the attack could not be assessed. All our aircraft returned to base at 23.00 hours.		A.1434 - A.1439
	13.7.44		Sixteen crews were again offered and again postponements hewed everything along till the day had finished without operations getting under way.		
	14.7.44		The boys were up at 02.30 hours but sent back to bed again and postponements were again the order. Eventually the effort was changed to the next day again.		
	15.7.44		The operation eventually got under way at approximately 23.00 hours when sixteen aircraft took off. The conversion units are turning out the crews these days and five have been posted to us this week, bringing our total crews up to forty. This presents a severe problem as far as accommodations are concerned as there just doesn't seem to be any place for them to sleep.		A.1440 - A.1455
	16.7.44		All our aircraft returned from the previous night's operation having bombed a supply depot at Rucourt. There was a "stand down" today and an extensive training program was carried out.		
	17.7.44		Operations were again scheduled and seventeen aircraft were called for. The effort was eventually set for dawn with briefing commencing at 01.00 hours.		
	18.7.44		Seventeen aircraft took off at approximately 0500 hours and took part in a very large scale attack on the port of Cher still held by the Germans and situated across the River. All our aircraft returned to base and report an apparently very successful attack. Fourteen aircraft were asked for, for a night operation. All took off at approximately 22.30 hours.		A.1456 - A.1472
	19.7.44		All our aircraft returned to base with the exception of "A" piloted by W/O G.M. Sonnen (J2384) which landed at Woodbridge, having been shot up and damaged by flak. The target for the night was the oil refinery at Neesseling in the Elbe valley and according to reports it was a very successful show, large fires and explosions being seen.		A.1473 - A.1486

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse, Yorks.	20.7.44		Thirteen aircraft from this Squadron took off and bombed a launching site for pilotless planes at L'Isle, returning about 17.00 hours. It was considered to be a good "prang" by returning crews. Most airmen and ground crew had left the station for a night off when word came through about 19.00 hours that sixteen aircraft were required for an early morning "do". There was quite a bit of confusion in getting things organized and locating all the hoddies to make sure they were going to be available. Briefing was set for 04.30 hours with breakfast at 03.15 hrs. Notification has been received today of the award of the D.F.C. (Immediate) to Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hollingsworth, (J18740), Flight Lieutenant J.H. O'Neill, (J18543) and Flight Lieutenant J.B. Patterson, (J18201), and the award of the D.F.M. to Flight Sergeant Birkett, M.L. (J195900).	A-1487 - A-1499	
*	21.7.44		All personnel who got up for operations were sent back to bed again as the effort had to be postponed on account of bad weather. As the day went on, the operation was scrubbed completely and then seventeen aircraft were called for, for a night attack. About 16.00 hours this also was scrubbed and all aircraft except those held for training pushed off to town for what they considered was a well earned break. Notification has been received of the award of the D.F.C. to Squadron Leader R.D.C. Patterson, (J10296), and the award of the D.F.M. to Sergeant D.J. Webb, (R130377), and Flight Sergeant D.G. Harkness, (R206486).		
*	22.7.44		Operations were scheduled for early evening and twelve aircraft were asked for. A Bull's Eye was also on, but all were scrubbed at 17.00 hours. Our crews took off on a cross-country in line.		
*	23.7.44		Operations were scheduled and fourteen aircraft were offered. All took off at 22.30 hours and returned at approximately 04.00 hours, having successfully bombed an oil refinery at Donges.	A-1500 - A-1513	
*	24.7.44		Operations were again scheduled and twelve aircraft were called for. All took off at approximately 23.00 hours to bomb a launching base at Forney. THE TASK WAS ABANDONED because of heavy cloud and misplacing of markers. Three crews only bombed the markers, not having heard the Master Bomber's order to abandon task.	A-1514 - A-1525	
*	25.7.44		Operations were again scheduled and fifteen were asked for. All took off at approximately 23.00 hours, the target being Stuttgart.	A-1526 - A-1540	
*	26.7.44		All our aircraft are safe after the previous night's operation but all landed at Tangmere. Two were damaged by fire, "N" piloted by W/C G.W. Burgess, (U265), was badly piddled and made "CAT 4B". Fortunately none of the crew were injured although there were many shrapnel holes through the fuselage. "X" 5 piloted by S/O A.K. North, (J25932), also was struck by fire and one shell burst inside the fuselage, leaving hundreds of small holes. Again no-one was injured. Several other aircraft were unserviceable because of hydraulics and other things. All returned to base by 23.00 hours with the exception of the two mentioned above. A "Stand Down" came through early in the day which enabled the ground crew to get caught up with servicing.		
*	27.7.44		There was a "Stand Down" for the day but late in the afternoon word came through that there was to be a dawn attack. Crew lists were drawn up and briefing was set for 03.00 hours and all crews say went to bed early.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse, Yorks.	28.7.44		All crews were set and aircraft were warming up before the show was scrubbed or postponed until later in the morning. Later the effort was scrubbed entirely and changed to a night operation. All crews were sent to bed after lunch to get some much needed rest. Sixteen crews eventually took off at approximately 22.15 hours.		A.1541 - A.1556
* * *	29.7.44		The target for the night was Hamburg and it was heavily defended by flak. Two of our crews failed to return, namely, Flight Lieutenant M.L. Thompson (J55454) and crew in "P" - L.W.202, who had Flying Officer J.P. Heron (J35184) with them as 2nd Pilot and Flight Sergeant P.B. Eagles (R182542) and crew in "U" - L.W. 208.		
* * *	30.7.44		Ten of our aircraft took off at approximately 05.30 hours to bomb a section of enemy held territory South of Osnabrück, at Asse-Sur-Seille. All returned to base at approximately 11.00 hours and report a good attack.		A.1557 - A.1566
* * *	31.7.44		Operations were scheduled and twelve aircraft were asked for. All took off at approximately 22.15 hours to bomb a supply depot at Forst-Du-Gros, twelve miles inland from Magdeburg. All our aircraft returned safely to this country but two were diverted to other airports on account of poor visibility on return.		
<u>CASUALTIES</u>					
			R182542 F/S EAGLES P.R. CAPT. - Missing on operations to Hamburg, Germany, 28/29.7.44. R189574 F/S JACKSON A.J. NAVY R174812 SGT. GOLDF E.H. W/AG J23128 F/O SPEARIN J.A. A/S J22235 SGT. KELLEY J. 7/A R165208 SGT. MARSHALL R.A. WU/AG K206972 SGT. VATCHER R.E. R/C.		
			J86464 F/L THOMPSON M.L. CAPT. - Missing on operations to Hamburg, Germany, 28/29.7.44. J24035 F/O HESTERLING C.W. NAVY J26007 F/O POWERSHILL G.H. W/AG J27354 F/O GUFF R.W. A/B R17683 SGT. LOX E. 7/A R216590 F/S MORSEY C.G. WU/AG R108773 SGT. TAMPLEY L.A. R/C J35184 F/O HERON J.E. 2nd Pilot		
<u>POSTINGS IN</u>					
			J.86863 F/O. FREDERICKSON, E. CAPT. - Posted from 61 (RAF) Base wof, 6.7.44. J.28795 F/O. Heschelton, A/H. A/B RAFA1578372 Sgt. Sullivan, 9x - F/B R192114 Sgt. Tolochary, P.T. W/P R.201501 Sgt. Ryan, G.M. - A/C R192114 Sgt. Turnquist, P.M. NAV. R.252818 Sgt. McPhoe, MMK U.S.A. - R/G		

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<b>POSTINGS IN (Continued)</b>					
J-25111	E/O. BAIRD	A.E.	CAPT. From 61 (RCAF) Base w/c. 15.7.44		
J-183701	SGT. MCKEEON	J.H.	NAV.		
R-44604-3	WO2. HOBSON	H.A.	WOP		
J-21544	E/O. PEARCE	H.A.	A/B		
RAF-04319	SGT. MAYFIELD	C.H.	E/B		
R-250292	Sgt. RICHARD	H.A.	MU/AG		
R-169229	SGT. SAUCIER	G.E.	A/B		
J-86651	P/O. MATTON	L.E.	CAPT. From 61 (RCAF) Base w/c. 15.7.44		
J-29716	P/O. MCINTYRE	D.J.	NAV.		
R-204683	SGT. MCGHANE	J.P.	WOP		
J-35585	E/O. REILLY	A.W.	A/B		
RAF-1855009	SGT. THOMPSON	A.E.	E/B		
R-211946	SGT. PEARSON	R.	MU/AG		
R-265744	SGT. THOMAS	R.J.	E/B		
J-86652	E/O. MCINTYRE	H.B.	CAPT. From 61 (RCAF) Base w/c. 15.7.44		
J-35749	P/O. MAHLER	L.H.	NAV.		
R-129668	WO2. STONE	T.L.	WOP		
R-158075	WO2. ST. PIERRE	A.L.J.	A/B		
RAF-1680570	SGT. MCKEEON	HONES	E/B		
R-203012	SGT. FAIRLEY	H.C.	MU/AG		
R-147033	SGT. POSTLE	A.M.	E/B		
J-44106	E/L. GOWAN	R.	CAPT. From 61 (RCAF) Base w.c. 15.7.44		
J-36295	E/O. HOWES	L.G.	NAV.		
R-20623	WO2. MANNES	M.L.	WOP		
J-35091	E/O. FISCH	D.L.	A/B		
R-24295707	Sgt. CLEAR	A.M.	E/B		
J-19728	E/O. McILPINE	J.J.O.	MU/AG		
R-213599	SGT. HOBSON	Z.	E/B		
J-29418	E/O. HIGGINS	H.S.	CAPT. From 61 (RCAF) Base w.c. 15.7.44		
J-295013	SGT. COHEN	M.	NAV.		
R-184381	SGT. HOBSON	A.P.	WOP		
R-22390	E/O. MORRIS	Z.	A/B		
RAF-1595211	SGT. KEMP	R.	E/B		
R-204605	SGT. DE GROAT	H.C.	MU/AG		
R-167952	SGT. MORGAN	J.H.	A/B		
J-57219	E/O. MCNAUL	A.H.	CAPT. From 61 (RCAF) Base w/c. 21.7.44		
J-25714	E/O. MCQUADE	J.S.	NAV.		
R-158469	E/S. SCHMIDT	B.H.	WOP		
J-26268	E/O. GARRIES	L.E.	A/B		
RAF-1527610	SGT. WEAKS	E.J.	E/B		
J-197217	SGT. SHERIDAN	R.M.	MU/AG		
R-242958	SGT. TINLING	P.P.	E/B		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<b>SECRET.</b>	References to Appendices
<b>POSTINGS IN (Continued)</b>					
			J. 35128 P/O. HERON, J.P. - CAPT. From 61 (RCAF) Base w/e 25.7.44 x(Missing 29.7.44)		
			J. 36224 WD. WAY, J.C. - NAV.		
			R167608 SGT. BROWNE, D.G. - WOP		
			J36267 P/O. HUTCHINSON, G.L. - A/B		
			R32853 SGT. REYNOLDS, R. - R/G		
			R221635 SGT. ATKINSON, J.N. - MU/A/C		
			R212832 SGT. MURRAY, G.W. - R/G		
<b>POSTINGS OUT</b>					
			RAF. 176715 P/O. THOMPSON, R. F/E Posted to 1659 Con. Unit, Topcliffe w/e 10.7.44 (Completed tour of ops.)		
			R. 21034 P/O. MOORE, E.A. - NAV. - Posted to 82 O.T.U. w/e 12.7.44 (Completed tour of ops.)		
			J. 35369 P/O. LITTLER, J.D. - CAPT. Posted to 415 Squadron w/e 17.7.44		
			R172939 SGT. HARROCK, C.E. - NAV.		
			R165900 SGT. SMITH, H.M. - WOP		
			R152698 SGT. BOUVIER, H.H. - A/B		
			RAF 183358 SGT. COTY, R.S. - R/G		
			R162282 SGT. BREKELJESSEN, P. - MU		
			R168418 SGT. BULL, W. - A/G		
			RAF 178214 P/O. MINTON, W.F. - A/G Posted to 425 (RCAF) Squadron w/e 21.7.44		
			R. 188339 F/S. LOYSE, J.R. - A/G		
			RAF 1807792 F/S. JONES, W.G. - A/G		
			J. 36252 P/O. VILIM, J. - A/G - Posted to 420 (RCAF) Squadron w/e 24.7.44		
			R167721 P/S. NEILL, P.S. - A/G		
			J. 19705 P/O. JARMAN, R.H. - PILOT - Posted 22 O.T.U. w/e 25.7.44 (Relinquished act. rank of P/L).		
			J. 22602 P/O. PHILIP, S.G. - NAV. - Posted to 434 (RCAF) Squadron w/e 26.7.44		
			RAF 154433 P/O. SIMS, R.H. - WOP - Posted to 22 O.T.U. w/e 16.7.44		
			R. 170943 SGT. LANE, W.B. - CAPT. - Posted to 415 (RCAF) Squadron w/e 25.7.44		
			R. 26116 P/O. LEGRUE, E.G. - NAV.		
			R37258 WD. ROBERTS, P.G. - WOP		
			R172395 SGT. GRAHAM, W.B. - A/B		
			RAF 1594072 SGT. ELCHERRINGTON, S.J. - R/G		
			R1594076 SGT. SMITHREED, W. - MU/A/C		
			R208291 SGT. BAINISTER, F.E.S. - R/G		
			G.1625 W/O HAMBER, E.C. - PILOT - Posted to 22 O.T.U. w/e 24.7.44 (Completed tour of ops.)		
			RAF 176772 P/O. HAMPTON, A.A. - F/E - Posted to 61 (RCAF) Base w.e.f. 25.7.44		

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

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
			J.16218 P/O, L.G., MCDONALD, - NAV. - Posted to 1659 G.A.U. w/c 31.7.44. R.A.F. 157905 S/L, BLACKBURN, V.H. - MCP - R.123045 WO2, JOHNSON, C.L. - A/B R.A.F. 165340 SGT, GOODENOUGH, R.S. - X/E R.165341 P/O, PATTERSON, W.E. - MC/MG R.172126 S/L, SAMWADE, J.L. - R/C R.A.F. 123608 P/O, LIND, R.E. - A/B - Posted to 61 Base 27.7.44 (Completed tour of one).		
			<u>COMMISSIONS</u>		
			R.140946 WO2, WILLIM, J. - A/G - Appointed to a commission w.e.f. 10 May, 1944. R.A.F. 157770 SGT, TERRY, A.R. - X/E - Appointed to a commission w.e.f. 29 May, 1944. R.166036 P.S. WEIL, J. - A/B - Appointed to a commission w.e.f. 20 May, 1944. R.109275 SGT, MCNAUL, A.H. - PILOT - Appointed to a commission w.e.f. 4 June, 1944. R.158079 WO2, KOPFER, K.T. - A/B - Appointed to a commission w.e.f. 29 May, 1944. R.A.F. 2220339 SGT, MINTON, W.P. - A/G - Appointed to a Commission w.e.f. 29 May, 1944. R.114751 WO1, SLAUGHTER, J.P. - MAC - Appointed to a commission w.e.f. 29 May, 1944.		
			<u>HONOURS AND AWARDS</u>		
			J.19783 P/O, L.A. MANN awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.C. J.18764 S/L, J.M. HYLINGWORTH awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.C. J.18543 P/O, J.H. O'NEILL awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.C. 162618 S/L, A.E. PARMENTER awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.C. J.10036 S/L, R.D.G. PATTERSON awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.C. R.110459 S/S, SELBY, G.A. awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.M. R.205338 SGT, HAWKINS, D.J. awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.M. R.195900 SGT, BURNEY, M.R. awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.M. R.110337 SGT, WEBB, D.J. awarded IMMEDIATE D.F.M.		
			<u>CHANGES IN COMMAND - NIL</u> — <u>CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION - NIL</u>		N.C. 1944 see Number on C.O.
			AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE - 16 HALIFAX Y11		
			OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL FLYING TIMES — OPERATIONAL - 1050.50 Hours. NON-OPERATIONAL - 382 Hours.		
			<u>MONTHERLY AND ACCUMULATIVE TOTAL OF BOMBS DROPPED</u> - N.E. <u>INCENDIARIES</u>		
			Total Bombs dropped to 30.6.44.      1572 tons, 2140 lbs.      458 tons, 1280 lbs. Total bombs dropped during July, 1944.      608 tons, 1220 lbs.      N/A Total bombs dropped to 31.7.44.      2781 tons, 1620 lbs.      458 tons, 1280 lbs.		
			<u>SUMMARY OF ENCOUNTERS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT</u> - Four aircraft of this squadron were engaged in encounters with enemy aircraft, our aircraft did not sustain any damage and no claims of enemy aircraft. Copies of Combat Reports are attached. (App. 'e')		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
<b>STRENGTH</b>						
Opponents						
GERMANY			FLYING	GROUND		
R.C.A.F.			102	2		
R.A.F.			14	Nil		
U.S.A.A.F.			1	Nil		
R.A.A.F.			1	Nil		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>118</b>	<b>2</b>		
<b>ATTACKS</b>						
R.C.A.F.			104	282		
R.A.F.			38	6		
U.S.A.A.F.			Nil	Nil		
R.A.A.F.			Nil	Nil		
X.A.A.F.			Nil	7		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>142</b>	<b>295</b>		
<b>SQUADRON COMMANDER'S SUMMARY:-</b>						
The month of July has been marked by unusually unpredictable weather which has kept the Met. Section busy and nearly run off their gear trying to provide suitable weather for operations. The number of briefings exceeded the sorties carried out, due to this unfortunate condition. In addition our new aircraft still provided numerous snags that provided lots of work and doubt as to the number getting off. However, in spite of all difficulties the ground and airmen with their usual full hearted efforts made the most of all opportunities to get aircraft into the air and 228 aircraft took off to complete 16 operations. The loss of P.L. Thompson and P/S Eagles, two of our most popular airmen is felt by all.						
The sorties against the enemy's forward lines have been very popular with the lads who look forward to more in the coming weeks.						
<i>(Signature)</i> <b>(G.W. BURKE) W/C</b> Officer Commanding, 426 (RCAF) Squadron.						