

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

of (Unit or Formation) No. 427 Squadron, R.G.A.F.

No. of pages used for day.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Grofton		1.	HISTORICAL SKETCH OF UNIT AS AT 1st of NOVEMBER 1942. NIL		
7-11-42	2.		427 Squadron is formed on a nucleus of 10 crews from 419 Squadron, three crews being posted and seven crews attached, and with the assistance of 419 Squadron's ground personnel which will be replaced when 427 personnel arrive. The Squadron took over 18 aircraft, 16 of which were serviceable, a fine achievement of the part of W/O Scott, the Engineer Officer and his Staff. On the first evening, 427 Squadron undertook its first air activity, in the nature of a Batta Run exercise. Three crews took part and the exercise was carried out successfully. Our thanks are due to W/Cdr. Flaming, G.O. 419 Squadron and his officers for their assistance in staff work. The following Officers arrived on posting. S/L Williams, Flight Commander, P/O. W.J. Rogers Adjutant; P/O Durocher, Gunnery Leader; P/O Bennett, P/O Kent, P/O Charlsworth.		
8-11-42			W/Cdr Barnside, the Officer Commanding 427 Squadron arrived at Middleton St George and came to Grofton with the Station Commander, Q/Cpl. Macdonald, where he was introduced to the Squadron personnel that had already arrived. Difficulties are being experienced as the Squadron has no parachutes, navigation gear, flying clothes or any stationery and forms. The Station are cooperating to the best of their ability but do not hold enough equipment to supply the Squadron to any extent. Three crews were detailed for enroute across Country flight but only two took off. Difficulties arising at the last moment with regard to signal equipment prevented the third aircraft from taking off. The two aircraft completed the exercise successfully. The following Officers arrived on posting. P/O S. Hensby, P/O G.A. Martin, P/O D. Mortimer, P/O. G.M. Taylor, P/O E.W. Hayhurst.		
9-11-42			The G.O. had a meeting of the Officers in the morning and expressed his desire for a good Squadron spirit and team work and stated that sports must be encouraged. The Command training instructions were discussed and programmes drawn up to make the Squadron fully operational at an early date.		
10-11-42			Air Vice Marshal Scott, R.G.A.F. made a special visit to acquaint himself with the aerodrome. He inspected part of the Station. Flying training in the nature of circuits and bounces was carried out.		
11-11-42			S/L General Poole of 4 Group accompanied by the Group Medical Officer visited the camp and enquired about difficulties being experienced. He promised to try to expedite the delivery of transport etc. In the afternoon S/Ldr Sinclair-Roddick, from Records arrived and informed us that he would make the Squadron up to full strength at an early date. He informed us that if we had any personnel difficulties to contact him and he would try to eradicate them.		
12-11-42			Air Training continued in the nature of circuits and bounces. The Adjutant visited Station HQ and Middleton St George and obtained a small supply of forms and stationery. S.H.S. did not hold Squadron requisites and 419 and 420 Squadrons only had meagre supplies.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	13.11.42		Circuits and Bumps continued. The Canadian Y.M.C.A. representative arrived and promised to equip the crew room with a billiard table, table tennis set etc. In the afternoon W/Cdr Hutchings and W/Cdr Durban R.C.A.F. visited the Squadron. W/Cdr Hutchins S.A.O. of 4 Group informed us that he would look into the difficulties being experienced and try to advise St. George. The following Officers arrived on posting: P/O L.D. Issard.		
	14.11.42	G.O.	G.O. went to Leamington with G/Opt McEachnie to a conference of Station Commanders and Squadron Commanders presided over by the A.O.C. G/Opt McCall R.C.A.F. visited the Station.		
	15.11.42		W/Cdr Pleasanton DSO & Bar gave a lecture to air crews on "Night Fighters." The lecture was greatly appreciated and very instructive. Night flying was undertaken for the first time by the Squadron. Sgt Southwood has the misfortune to have an engine cut on his third take-off. The aircraft "0" for orange because air-borne and then hit some trees and finally crashed in a field approximately half a mile from the drop zone. The crew of three luckily escaped without injury but the aircraft was a complete write off. The medical wagon and ambulance were on the scene in a very short while and are to be congratulated on their prompt actions.		
	16.11.42		Circuits and Bumps were continued. Night flying was cancelled on account of ground haze. Two Halifax's, belonging to 419 Squadron, landed. One had to remain owing to a burst tyre.		
	17.11.42		Circuits and bumps were continued but had to be curtailed owing to a ground haze forming whilst two aircraft were still airborne. After doing an extra circuit each they landed without mishap. G/Opt Brooks, S.A.S.O. 4 Group visited the Squadron and informed us that we had to be ready by the 1st of December for operations. Ground personnel were arriving in increasing numbers.		
	18.11.42		A misty day but some air to sea firing practice was carried out. P/Lt Waltars, P. staff 4 Group phoned about the status of our ground personnel and informed us that we would very quickly be made up to establishment strength.		
	19.11.42		A few personnel, ground staff, arrived. Circuits and Bumps were continued. Night flying was cancelled on account of weather. The following Officers arrived on posting: P/O G.M. Parsons, P/O A.J.B. Thompson, W/M. J.H. Hagan, Medical Officer.		
	20.11.42		Three crews went on a day Cross Country of approximately 3 hours duration. Air to sea firing was also carried out.		
	21.11.42		Circuits and Bumps and three patrols for air to sea practice.		
	22.11.42	O	Only local flying carried out. Five pilots, W/Cdr. Burnside, S/Ldr Williams, P/O Bennett and Sgts Williams and Schmitt went with 419 Squadron as 2nd Pilot to Stuttgart, leaving from Middleton St. George. S/Ldr Williams flew with P/O Brent of 419 Squadron and encountered heavy flak and on the return had to belly land. S/Ldr Williams suffering from shrapnel wounds in the arms and legs.		

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RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2B6 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Flying Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 437 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	23.11.42		Air to sea firing carried out. The pilots returned from Middleton St George, less S/Ldr. Williams who had entered hospital, and appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed their first operational trip over Germany.		
	24.11.42		Air to sea firing continued. G/Cpt. Salmon, S.A.S.O. visited the Squadron. The following Officer arrived on posting: P/O H.W. Morrison.		
	25.11.42		No flying due to bad weather conditions. "A" and "B" flights are now getting things running smoothly although difficulties are being experienced through the shortage of transport and tools.		
	26.11.42		All the flying again cancelled due to weather. P/O G. Crampton, R.C.A.F. Press representative visited the Squadron and enquired on the progress being made and about the comfort of the men.		
	27.11.42		No flying. Major Hebborn of 4 Group gave a lecture to all aircrew on "Flak". The lecture was greatly appreciated.		
	28.11.42		Air to sea, local, and circuits and bumps carried out. Rear crews did night circuits and bumper for an hour each.		
	29.11.42		Six crews did night flying test on their aircraft for a Ball's Eye exercise, but it was scrubbed.		
	30.11.42		Two Officers and four sergeants (aircrew) visited 13 Group H.Q. and were shown how they were plotted at the Filter Room and also visited the Group Operations Room. This visit was extremely instructive and it is hoped to arrange visits for all aircrews as it is thought that a knowledge of the intricate and accurate manner in which they are plotted will add to their confidence while flying over the North Sea.		
3.			Honours and Awards. - NIL		
4.			Commissions. - NIL		
5.			Promotions.		
			P/O. W.J. Rogers 66642 appointed to the rank of A/S/Ldr. w.e.f. 7.11.42. Auth: H.Q. 4 Group Letter 1007/11/2 dated 21.11.42.		
			P/Ldr. W.A. McKay, J13175 Appointed to the rank of A/S/Ldr. w.e.f. 7.11.42 Auth: H.Q. 4 Group Letter 1007/11/2 dated 24.11.42.		
			P/O. J.H. Duocher, J7992 Appointed to the rank of A/S/Ldr. w.e.f. 7.11.42 Auth: H.Q. 4 Group Letter 1007/11/2 dated 24.11.42.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events					SECRET.	References of Appendices
6. Postings (to and from the Unit.)									
			Rank	Name	Number	Branch	M.C. Date	Unit from and Authority.	
			W/Cdr	D.H. Burnside,	37464	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from No. 10 O.T.U. w.e.f. date stated. Auth: H.Q. R.G. Pm. 92/41082/4/F dated 29.10.42	
			P/O	W.J. Rogers	66643	A.S.D.	27.10.42	Posted from Id. 2 P.D.C. w.e.f. date stated. Auth: A.M. P. A40142/42/P24/21 d.28.10.42	
			P/O	J.E. Dumocher,	J.7592	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 420 Sqdn. w.e.f date stated. Auth: H.Q. 4 Grp. Sign P.125 dated 5.11.42	
			P/O/A/B/LT. W.A. McKay,		J15175	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 26 O.T.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: H.Q. R.G. Pm. 92/41083/4/F dated 1.11.42	
			P/O	S. Honesty,	118678	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 408 Sqdn. w.e.f date stated. Auth: H.Q. 4 Group Sign. P.23 dated 3.11.42	
			P/O.	L.B. Inward,	128408	G.D.	13-11-42	Posted from 162 G.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: H.Q. 4 Grp. Sign. P.22 dated 22.11.42	
			P/Lt.	H. Lamb,	02238	M.O.	5-11-42	Posted from 408 Sqdn. w.e.f date stated. Auth: H.Q. R.G. Pm. 92/40998/1/F dated 3.11.42	
			P/Lt.	J.S. Majoragan,	04086	M.O.	19-11-42	Posted from RAF Little Rissington w.e.f date stated. Auth: H.Q. 4 Grp. Sig. P.303 d. 20.11.42	
			P/O.	H.W. Morrison,	J18895	G.D.	24.11.42	Posted from 403 Sqdn. w.e.f date stated. Auth: H.Q. 4 Grp. Sign. P.303 dated 23.11.42	
			P/O	A.J. Manning,	126960	G.D.	10-11-42	Posted from 23 O.T.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: 23 O.T.U. Letter P.003144/Fig. 2 3.11.42	
			P/O	G.M. Parsons,	121138	G.D.	19-11-42	Posted from 23 O.T.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: 21 Grp. Pm. 910/1706/26/13/F4 d. 10.11.42	
			P/O	A.J.H. Thompson,	121138	G.D.	19-11-42	Posted from 23 O.T.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: 21 Grp. Pm. 910/1706/26/13/F4 d. 10.11.42	
			P/O	G.A. Martin,	47336	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 16 O.T.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: 21 Grp. Pm. 910/1706/26/13/F4 d. 10.11.42	
			P/O	B. Mortimer,	47336	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 16 O.T.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: 21 Grp. Pm. 910/1706/26/13/F4 d. 10.11.42	
			P/O	G.M. Taylor	121801	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 16 O.T.U. w.e.f date stated. Auth: 21 Grp. Pm. 910/1706/26/13/F4 d. 10.11.42	
			P/O	R.J. Hayhurst,	126418	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from RAF Stn. Abingdon w.e.f date stated. Auth: 21 Grp. Pm. 910/1706/26/10/F4 dated 30.10.42	

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 427 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events					<u>SECRET</u>	References to Appendices
			Rank	Name	Number	Branch	RET. Date		
6.			Postings (to and from Unit) (Cont'd)						
			S/Ldr.	Williams, M.A.L.	40584	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 22 O.T.U. wif date stated. Auth: H.Q. 4 Grp. Signs P-335 dated 7-11-42.	
			F/O.	H.E. Charlesworth,	128694	G.D.	7-11-42	Posted from 22 O.T.U. wif date stated. Auth: H.Q. 4 Grp. Signs P-335 dated 7-11-42.	
7.			Changes of Station Command. H.M.						
8.			Changes in Administration. H.M.						
9.			Changes in Unit Commands. H.M.						
10.			Aircraft on Charge - 17 Wellington Mk. III Hercules XI Engines.						
11.			Health General.						
			In general, the state of health of the personnel of 427 Squadron has been very good. There have been no serious illness, and no cases of infectious disease.						
12.			Numerical Strength of Unit as at 30th November 1942.						
			OFFICERS					AIRMEN	
			Aircrew		Groundcrew			Aircrew	
			R.C.A.F.	5	2			54	33
			R.H.Z.A.F.	H.M.	H.M.			2	H.M.
			R.A.F.	12	1			31	161
			M.A.A.F.	H.M.	H.M.			H.M.	9
			TOTAL	17	3			87	203
13.			Operational - Non-Operations Flying Hours November 1942.						
			A. Operational Flying Hours	Day H.M.	Night H.M.	Total H.M.			
			B. Non-Operational Flying Hours	Day H.M.	Night H.M.	Total H.M.			
			C. Flying Training Hours	Day 99:45	Night 25:10	Total 125:55 Hours.			
									<i>[Signature]</i> J. Charlesworth Flight Lieutenant, R.A.F. Commander Commanding No. 427 Squadron, R.C.A.F.