

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

3028

Page No. 17

No. 427 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix																												
R.C.A.F. Station, GROFT.			<p>1. <u>MEMORIAL SERVICE OF UNIT AS AT 1st FEBRUARY 1943.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SPARES</th> <th>AIRMEN</th> <th>SEMPERPARA</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RAF OFFICERS</td> <td>10</td> <td>4</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF AIRMEN</td> <td>67</td> <td>94</td> <td>161</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. OFFICERS</td> <td>15</td> <td>1</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. AIRMEN</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER PERSONNEL</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><u>491</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SPARES	AIRMEN	SEMPERPARA	TOTAL	RAF OFFICERS	10	4	14	RAF AIRMEN	67	94	161	R.A.F. OFFICERS	15	1	16	R.A.F. AIRMEN	28	29	57	OTHER PERSONNEL	3	-	3				<u>491</u>		
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	1.2.43		Three aircraft were detailed for a day-light bombing raid, but the weather was found unsuitable for this type of operation and the operation was scrubbed at noon. The Squadron was stood down for the rest of the day.																														
	2.2.43		No operations were detailed for this date and it gave the Squadron an opportunity to carry out an <sup>INTERIM</sup> intensive training program. Three night cross country trips were carried out as well as local flying.																														
	3.2.43		Eight aircraft were detailed for a main target operation in Germany. At briefing it was suggested that the severe layer of icing conditions might prevent the aircraft from completing the operation and this proved to be the case. The operation was scrubbed at the last moment.																														
	4.2.43		Nine aircraft were detailed to attack the submarine base at Lorient. The aircraft took off in two lots. Those carrying incendiaries first. Eight of the aircraft successfully bombed the target and returned to England. S/O Parsons and his crew did not return from this operation and are listed as missing. Photographs showed that Sgt Johnson and Smith bombed directly on to the rising point, the only squadron on the operation with two aircraft bombing directly on to the rising point. Six aircraft landed at base - the other two landed at Longmanton and Church Houghouse. S/S Higgins overshot at Longmanton but damage was very slight.		APP. A. 47-55																												

R.C.A.F. Headquarters  
 O. M. 10 1943  
 17 FEB 1943  
 CENTRAL MESSAGE

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of (Unit or Formation) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	23.2.43		Twelve aircraft were detailed to attack Lorist - Two of the aircraft returned to base early, one due to icing and one due to faulty navigation. The other ten aircraft reached the target but Sgt James did not drop his 4000 lbs bomb due to a faulty release mechanism. The nine aircraft very successfully bombed the target reporting longer fires than ever seen before. Six aircraft landed back at base - The others landed at Harwell, Middle Wallop, Sandhurst and Leamington.	SECRET. APP. A 68-79
	24.2.43		Five aircraft were detailed to bomb targets in Western Germany. Two aircraft returned early - one due to W/T failure and the other due to target trouble. The other three aircraft Captained by Sgts Fellows, Williams and Schmidt successfully bombed the target.	APP. A 80-84
	25.2.43		Four aircraft were detailed for mine laying this date, but the operation was scrubbed and the Squadron had a stand down for the rest of the day - welcomed by the whole Squadron in view of the fact that we had operated for three nights running.	
	26.2.43		Five aircraft were detailed to bomb the submarine base at Lorist. All aircraft successfully bombed the target - Sgt Holloway and his crew landed in Southern Ireland, safe and unharmed with the exception of Sgt Taylor, R.N. who was very slightly injured. The attack generally on Lorist was very successful.	APP. A 85-93
	27.2.43		Three aircraft were detailed for daylight stand by, but this operation was scrubbed due to unfavourable weather conditions. No other operations were scheduled for this date.	
	28.2.43		No operations were scheduled for this date and the Squadron had a stand-down.	
	29.2.43		Seven aircraft were detailed to attack the naval arsenal at Wilhelmshaven but only six aircraft took off - the seventh being scrubbed due to technical trouble. The six aircraft very successfully bombed the target and all returned safely.	APP. A 94-99

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	20.2.43		Four aircraft were detailed to stand by for a daylight bombing attack, but this operation was scrubbed due to unfavorable weather conditions.		
	21.2.43		Four aircraft were detailed for a mine laying operation, but this was scrubbed at the last minute due unfavorable weather.		
	22.2.43		Eight aircraft were detailed for bomb HAMBURG but this operation was scrubbed due to unfavorable weather conditions.		
	23.2.43		The unfavorable weather continued and no operations were scheduled for this date.		
	24.2.43		Eight aircraft were detailed to bomb HAMBURG but at the last minute the target was changed to WEHSHAFFEN. All the aircraft successfully bombed the target through 10/10th's cloud and returned safely to Base. The Squadron bombed by means of hanging flares dropped by the Pathfinder aircraft.		APP A 100-107
	25.2.43		Four aircraft were detailed for a minelaying operation. While the aircraft were marshalled a Mustang landed into one of our Wellington. One of the other aircraft did not start due to electrical trouble. The other two aircraft successfully dropped their mines.		APP A 108-109
	26.2.43		Seven aircraft were detailed to bomb COLOGNE in Western Germany. Five aircraft returned to Base safely. Sgt. Taylor bombed COLOGNE successfully, but on the way home he crashed at R.A.F. Station North Luffham and he and four of his crew were killed and his gunner critically injured. Sgt. Harwood and his crew are missing from this raid.		APP A 110-116
	27.2.43		No operations were scheduled for this date.		
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
	28.2.43		Three aircraft were detailed for daylight bombing operations but this was scrubbed. Six aircraft were detailed for a bombing raid on the Submarine base at ST. NAZAIRES. Only five took off then being one non-starter due to mechanical trouble. One aircraft piloted by Sgt Hartney is missing and one aircraft piloted by Sgt Southwood ran out of petrol over Southern Ireland and the crew parachuted to safety.		APP A 117-121
			3. <u> honours and awards - NIL</u>		
			4. <u>Commissions</u> - S.94620 W/S Fellner, A.M. (Pilot) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 19/1/43.		
			5. <u>Promotions</u> - 69490 A/S/Lt. Barthrod, O.H. appointed to the rank of A/S/Lt. w.e.f. 8/2/43. 128801 S/O Taylor, S.A. appointed to the rank of A/S/Lt. w.e.f. 22.1.43.		
			6. <u>Postings</u> (to and from the Unit)		
			A/S/Lt. O.H. Barthrod, 69490 Posted to this Unit from 27 O.F.U. w.e.f. 8/2/43.		
			S/O. G. Belcher, 89843 Posted to this Unit from 27 O.F.U. w.e.f. 19/2/43.		
			S/O. R.J. Frost, J13420 Posted to this Unit from 23 O.F.U. w.e.f. 23/2/43.		
			S/O. V.H. White, J24997 Posted to this Unit from 23 O.F.U. w.e.f. 23/2/43.		
			S/O. H.G.S. Damber, J13821 Posted to this Unit from 23 O.F.U. w.e.f. 20/2/43.		
			S/O. E.J. Denton, J22490 Posted to this Unit from 22 O.F.U. w.e.f. 23/2/43.		
			S/O. H.J.S. Kenley, ? Posted to this Unit from 22 O.F.U. w.e.f. 23/2/43.		
			S/O. J.W. Moore, 127509 Posted to this Unit from 22 O.F.U. w.e.f. 23/2/43.		
			S/O. H.E. Pullen, J15729 Posted from this Unit to 1699 O.H. w.e.f. 12/2/43.		
			A/S/Lt. W.J. Rogers 66641 Posted from this Unit to H.Q. S.P.A.S. Group w.e.f. 20/2/43.		
			7. <u>Change of Station Command</u> - NIL		
			8. <u>Change in administration</u> - S/O. J. Chasnoff took over the duties of Squadron Adjutant w.e.f. 10/2/43. A/S/Lt. O.H. Barthrod took over command of "A" Flight w.e.f. 8/2/43.		

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		9.	Change in Unit Command - HIL																																					
		10.	Aircraft on Charge - 11 Wellington III 4 Wellington X																																					
		11.	Health General - The health of this Squadron's Personnel is very good.																																					
		12.	Personnel Strength of Unit as at 29th February, 1941.																																					
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>STRENGTH</th> <th>AIRMAN</th> <th>GRUNDOUSEY</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RAF OFFICERS</td> <td>12</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF AIRMAN</td> <td>73</td> <td></td> <td>199</td> <td>272</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. OFFICERS</td> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. AIRMAN</td> <td>52</td> <td></td> <td>166</td> <td>238</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER PERSONNEL</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>156</u></td> <td></td> <td><u>199</u></td> <td><u>486</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		STRENGTH	AIRMAN	GRUNDOUSEY	TOTAL	RAF OFFICERS	12		3	15	RAF AIRMAN	73		199	272	R.A.F. OFFICERS	17		-	17	R.A.F. AIRMAN	52		166	238	OTHER PERSONNEL	2			2		<u>156</u>		<u>199</u>	<u>486</u>		
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		13.	Operational - Non operational Flying hours February, 1941.																																					
			a. Operational Flying Hours - Day HIL Night 409:40 Hours.																																					
			b. Non-Operational Flying Hours Day HIL Night 181																																					
			c. Flying Training Hours. Day 150:45 Night 34:15 Hours.																																					
			No. OF SORTIES FOR FEBRUARY - 74																																					
			<i>A. Bunn side with.</i>																																					
			(Hon. Major) Squadron Leader,																																					
			Officer Commanding,																																					
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