

RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.A. and A.C.I. and also D.M. and No. 1000. P. II. Chapter XI. and also in R.A.F. Order Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

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DPS

Page No. 23

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
R.O.A.F. Station, GHEPT.	1.3.43		Two aircraft were detailed for a NITE-LAYING Operation. Both aircraft successfully completed the operation.		"A" 122-123
	2.3.43		Three aircraft were detailed for a NITE-LAYING again this date. Two aircraft successfully completed this operation, but Sgt. Ignburner and his crew did not return from this operation.		"A" 124-126
	3.3.43		Three aircraft were detailed for a daylight BOMBING raid, but this was scrubbed. Six aircraft were detailed to bomb HAMBURG in North Western Germany. Sgt. Schmidt returned on reaching the English Coast due to aircraft becoming unserviceable. The other five aircraft very successfully bombed the target and returned home safely.		"A" 127-128
	4.3.43		The Squadron had a "stand down" this date and "A" Flight had a very successful party in Darling Hall.		
	5.3.43		Seven aircraft were detailed to bomb SEHEN in the Ruhr. All aircraft successfully bombed the target and six of them returned to base. W/Sgt. Vandekerckhove lost a propeller 20 miles off the English Coast on the return journey and made an emergency landing at R.O.A.F. GATROSS.		"A" 135-139
	6.3.43		Three aircraft were detailed for a DAYLIGHT BOMBING raid on Germany but this operation was scrubbed. Four aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on SEHEN but at the last minute this operation was scrubbed due to weather.		
	7.3.43		No operations were detailed for this date and the Squadron had a "stand down".		
	8.3.43		No operations were detailed for this date and the Squadron had a "stand down" for the second day in succession.		
	9.3.43		Three aircraft were detailed for a DAYLIGHT BOMBING raid, but this operation was scrubbed. There were no Night Operations detailed this date.		
	20.3.43		Due to unfavourable weather no operations were scheduled this date and the Squadron devoted the day to training.		



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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
R.C.A.F. Station, CHEPT.	20-3-43		For the third successive night seventeen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on the submarine base at ST. NAZAIRES and for the third time this operation was scrubbed at the last minute due to unfavorable weather.		
	21-3-43		Twelve aircraft were detailed for HITS-LAYERS operation off the Tristan Islands. Scrubbed at 13.00 hours.		
	22-3-43		Six aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on ST. NAZAIRES at the same time twelve aircraft were detailed for HITS-LAYERS. These two operations were scrubbed however due to weather. The Adjutant P/Lt. J. Chasnovff proceeded to R.C.A.F. Headquarters re-adoption by R.C.A.F.		
	23-3-43		SEVEN AIRCRAFT WERE DETAILED FOR A BOMBING ATTACK ON DUISBURG No operations were scheduled this date.		
	24-3-43		Fifteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing raid on WILHELMSHAVEN but this operation was scrubbed after the aircraft had entered their aircraft due to bad weather. The A.O.C. of R.C.A.F. (Overseas) Headquarters, Air Marshal Edwards visited the Squadron.		
	25-3-43		Sixteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on DUISBURG but this operation was scrubbed due to weather.		
	26-3-43		Thirteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on DUISBURG. Twelve took off, the other scrubbed due to compass trouble, and all successfully bombed the target. Seven aircraft returned to base and one aircraft piloted by Sgt. Erickson landed at WITNESSHAM. W/O Genderton hit a tree in England returning to base, but there were no casualties although the aircraft was destroyed A.O. W/O Genderton awarded a bar to his D.F.C. and W/O. Sgt. Hayhurst, awarded the D.F.C. for their effort on March 12th, over BOMBAY.		79/167-162
	27-3-43		Fifteen aircraft were detailed to bomb DUISBURG but this operation was scrubbed early in the afternoon. The A.O.C. M. G. Gump visited the Squadron.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, CROFT.	28.3.43		Fourteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on ST. PAZAIRES. All aircraft successfully bombed the target and seven returned to base, the other seven aircraft landing away at diversion fields.		163-176
	29.3.43		Three aircraft were detailed for DAYLIGHT BOMBING attack but this operation was scrubbed due to weather. Twelve aircraft detailed for main target at BOCHUM in the Ruhr. Seven aircraft took off - one being a non-starter due to inter-com. trouble. Three aircraft turned back, one due to icing and two due to mechanical trouble. Seven of the remaining eight aircraft successfully bombed the target. Sgt McAdon and his crew are missing from this operation.		"A" 177-187 en a/c J
	30.3.43		The Squadron had a well earned rest on this date. Its operation being scheduled.		
			Due to weather, no operations were scheduled this date.		
			3. Honours and Awards - Wing Commander D.M. Burnside was awarded the Bar to his Distinguished Flying Cross also the Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to 1/0 R.O. In/Comd.		
			9. Commissions - R25621 Sgt. Benton, J.J. (Rev.) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 11.9.42 R12450 Sgt. White, V.M. (R/A.) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 3.7.42. 967166 P/S. Ross, D.B. (A.G.) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 30.12.42. R87056 P/S. Berg, G.T. (R/A.) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 30.12.42 R95712 P/S. Adams, G.A. (Pilot) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 30.12.42 R19518 Sgt. Thornton, G.M. (A.G.) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 30.12.42 R79204 P/S. Gannon, G.A. (Pilot) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 30.12.42.		
			3. Promotions - G.8435 P/O. J. Sweeney appointed to the rank of A/2/Lt. w.e.f. 10.2.43; R1995 P/O. H.W. Morrison appointed to the rank of A/2/Lt. w.e.f. 7.2.43; 110613 P/O. K. Webster, appointed to the rank of A/2/Lt. w.e.f. 10.2.43.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	Reference to Appendix																																			
R.C.A.F. Station,		6.	Continues (to and from the Unit)																																					
CROFT.			1/O. G.T. Vicary, J.19727 Posted to this Unit from 169 O.U. w.e.f. 10.3.43																																					
			1/O. S.A. Richmond, J.21221 Posted to this Unit from 23 O.T.U. w.e.f. 1.3.43.																																					
		7.	Change in Command - NIL																																					
		8.	Change in Administration - NIL																																					
		9.	Change in Unit Command - NIL																																					
		10.	Aircraft on Charge: 1 Wellington III 18 Wellington I																																					
		11.	Health General - The health of this Squadron's Personnel remains very good.																																					
		12.	Personnel Strength of Unit as at 31st March, 1943.																																					
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>OFFICERS</th> <th>AIRESMEN</th> <th>OTHER PERSONNEL</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RAF OFFICERS</td> <td>20</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF AIRESMEN</td> <td>86</td> <td>246</td> <td></td> <td>332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. OFFICERS</td> <td>19</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. AIRESMEN</td> <td>69</td> <td>131</td> <td></td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER PERSONNEL</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>108</td> <td>280</td> <td></td> <td>388</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		OFFICERS	AIRESMEN	OTHER PERSONNEL	TOTAL	RAF OFFICERS	20	5		25	RAF AIRESMEN	86	246		332	R.A.F. OFFICERS	19	-		19	R.A.F. AIRESMEN	69	131		200	OTHER PERSONNEL	2			2		108	280		388		
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		13.	Operational - Non operational Flying hours March, 1943.																																					
		a.	Operational Flying Hours Day 13:05 Night: 374:05																																					
		b.	Non-Operational Flying Hours Day NIL Night: NIL																																					
		c.	Flying Training Hours Day 121:55 Night: 46:20																																					
			<i>A. Burnside</i> (D.L. Burnside) Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 427 Squadron, R.C.A.F.																																					

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