

RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in I.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

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

5.22.1-427
DAB

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
R.C.A.F. Station, Leicester	1.5.43		No operations were scheduled for this date due to bad weather. No flying training was carried out but intensive ground training was conducted to rectify any errors found to have been committed on our first operation on Halifaxes over Wuppertal on May 29th.		
	2.5.43		The weather continued unsatisfactory and no operations were scheduled for this date. Some of the Squadron Officers paid a social call to Harrogate.		
	3.5.43		The weather still continued unfavorable and the Squadron was very keen to get cracking on another operation on Halifax aircraft. No flying training was carried out.		
	4.5.43		Twelve aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on BOHUM but this operation was scrubbed due to unfavorable weather. The Squadron was very keen to go on this trip. Four crews detached to Topcliffe returned to the Unit on this date.		
	5.5.43		No operations were scheduled for this date. Lectures were carried out all day and six crews did night flying training.		
	6.5.43		Movies taken of the M.G.M. presentation played at the Empire Theatre in Leicester Square. No operations were scheduled and due to unfavorable weather no flying training was carried out. Lectures were carried out.		
	7.5.43		W/O Mr. Burnside proceeded to Westcott to take the engine handling course. S/Ldr. Arthurson assumed command of the Squadron in his absence. Thirteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on MERSEBURG in Germany. However, this operation was cancelled at a late hour due to unfavorable weather. The remaining crews detailed to Topcliffe for conversion training returned to Unit.		
	8.5.43		No operations were scheduled for this date due to unfavorable weather. Most of the Aircraft went to Harrogate for a social whirl. P/O Bree had the first practice of our Squadron Cricket team.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, LESLIE.	9.6.43		Fifteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on ESSM and again this operation was scrubbed due to unfavorable weather conditions. All personnel were getting even more impatient to get another operation in on Halifax aircraft.		
	10.6.43		Weather unfavorable and no operations scheduled. Mess show in the evening at which the Squadron was well represented.		
	11.6.43		Seventeen aircraft were detailed to attack DUSSELDORF in the greatest raid the R.C.A.F. ever put on. All aircraft took off and all returned to England safely. W/Sgt. Higgins returned early due to navigational trouble. P/O Colquhoun was badly shot up and landed at Oulton. While taxiing on the perimeter track at Oulton he was run into by a Wellington aircraft and Sgt. Millard (the bomb aimer) suffered a strained back & the other crew members were uninjured. P/Lt. Hickey successfully completed his first single trip as Captain of an aircraft.		286 to 302 inc.
	12.6.43		S/Ldr. Barthron and P/O Crew proceeded to Westcott on an engine handling course and the Wing Commander returned to assume command. Twelve aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on ROCHTER. Sgt. Higgs was a non-starter due to mechanical trouble. P/O Ficks returned early due to mechanical trouble after crossing the Dutch Coast. The other aircraft all returned to base with the exception of Pilot Officer Fellner who is listed as missing from this raid. It was a sad loss losing P/O Fellner since he and his crew were original members of the Squadron and were all "gun" men. The original crew were all commissioned in this Squadron as well. P/O Lou Somers single handed attacked ESSM in error and suffered severe flank damage.		303 to 313 inc.
	13.6.43		No operations were scheduled for this date and the Squadron had a well earned rest.		
	14.6.43		Twelve aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on ORHUSHAVEN but this operation was cancelled due to unfavorable condition.		

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R.C.A.F. Station, LONDON.	16.6.43		No operations scheduled due to this being the moon period. The amourey section of the Squadron had a very successful party in Northallerton.		
	17.6.43		No operations were scheduled this date and the Officer's mess had a very successful party bidding adieu to Group Captain Cartoallen the Station Commander.		
	18.6.43		No operations were detailed this date due to the Moon period. Everyone had a rather quiet day recuperating from the previous night's party.		
	19.6.43		Seventeen aircraft were detailed for a special moonlight bombing attack on the Schneider works at LE CHESNAY south east of Paris. Two aircraft were non-starters due to technical trouble. P/O Crew returned early due to gyro trouble. All the other aircraft very successfully bombed the target and all returned safely to England. For the first time in Bomber Command a daylight camera was carried on a night operation. The aircraft was piloted by S/Ldr. Airthorn and a series of very successful photographs was obtained. W/Lt. Durocher was injured in the head by a tracer bullet after crossing the French Coast on the way home.		314 to 328 inc.
	20.6.43		Four aircraft were detailed for an operation on OBERHOFEN, but this operation was cancelled. Hon. Vincent Massey visited the Squadron on this date.		
	21.6.43		Fourteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on KESSEL. All aircraft took off successfully. Two returned early due to technical trouble. The other twelve aircraft successfully bombed the target and returned to base.		329 to 342 inc.
	22.6.43		Fourteen aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on MURKIM. W/Odr. Burnside returned early due to gyro trouble and W/Sgt. Higgins returned after crossing the Dutch Coast due to navigation trouble. Of the other twelve aircraft, only eight aircraft returned safely. The other four aircraft are listed as missing. The aircraft was piloted by W/Lt. Webster, P/O Adams, Sgt Hamilton and W/O Reid and their loss will be sorely missed in this Squadron since they were an integral part of our Squadron's life.		343 to 356 inc.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, LSETHIA.	23.6.43		No operations were scheduled for this date but two of the Squadron aircraft conducted a sea-search for our missing crews of the previous night. There were no results of these sea searches.		
	24.6.43		W/Lt. Taylor was promoted to the rank of S/Ldr. and P/O Tubman to the rank of W/Lt. Eleven aircraft were detailed for a raid on WUPPERTAL. W/Lt. Gauderton returned early due to both turrets being unserviceable. Of the other ten crews, nine landed safely at base and Flying Officer Lou Somers did not return from this raid. Lou was very popular with all Squadron members and will be sorely missed.		357 to 367 inc.
	25.6.43		Nine aircraft were detailed for a raid on GELSENKIRCHEN. W/Lt. Barnside crashed on take-off due to lack of brake pressure. W/Sgt. McDermid was a non-starter due to Ours being unserviceable. Of the other seven aircraft five only returned to base. P/O Spence and W/Sgt. Higgins R.N.M. are missing from this raid. These two Pilots were original members of the Squadron and will both be missed very much.		368 to 374 inc.
	26.6.43		The Squadron had a stand down to-day to rest from its strenuous week's attacks on the Ruhr Valley during the past week.		
	27.6.43		The Squadron had another stand down today and it was appreciated by all Squadron members who were still played out by our previous five raids.		
	28.6.43		Nine aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on COLOGNE. P/O Morton returned to Chipping Warden after crossing the Dutch Coast due to his Starboard outer engine failing. P/O Crew and Sgt Henry, Sgt Johnson and W/Lt. Tubman landed safely at Chipping Warden. Sgt. Schmitt, landed shakle-up at Chipping Warden due to his undercarriage controls having been shot away by flak. W/Lt. Gauderton and his crew baled out over England. On crossing the Coast on his way to the target his aircraft was shot up very badly by an enemy fighter but he nursed it back to England, and not having enough controls left to effect a landing the whole crew baled out. Two members of the crew P/O Soder and W/S Hawscombe were taken to hospital with slight injuries. Sgt Riggs landed at Wing and P/O Agnot landed badly shot up by flak at Eindhoven.		375 to 383 inc.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, LEAMING.	29.6.43		No operations were scheduled this date. Crews who landed away from base all returned to base with exception of the two taken to Hospital.		
	30.6.43		No operations again scheduled for this date. Press men visited the Station to interview Flight Lieutenant Gauderton about his superb feat of airmanship. W/Sgt. Edwards of Squadron Maintenance was posted.		
			3. Honours and awards: NIL.		
			4. Promotions:		
			J.17501 W/O Crossman, G.F. (Navigator) appointed to Pilot Officer m.e.f. 29.4.43.		
			J.17609 Sgt Pagford, B.L. (WRE/AB) appointed to Pilot Officer. m.e.f. 29.4.43.		
			145548 Sgt Peake, G.B. (Pilot) appointed to Pilot Officer m.e.f. 9.3.43.		
			5. Extensions:		
			121801 A/W/14. C.A. Taylor promoted to the rank of Acting W/14. m.e.f. 15.6.43.		
			142142 P/O G.F.T. Tuhman, promoted to the rank of Acting W/14. m.e.f. 17.6.43.		
			128408 P/O/A/W/14. L.B. Issard promoted to the war sub. rank of temporary W/O. m.e.f. 25.1.43.		
			127509 P/O. J.W. Moore, promoted to the war sub. rank of temp. W/O. m.e.f. 8.2.43.		
			115590 P/O. W.L. Hoyle, promoted to the war sub. rank of temp. W/O m.e.f. 21.3.43.		
			6. Transfers:		
			Woods J.22468 P/O D.S. Low posted from 1659 G.U. m.e.f. 28.6.43.		
			J.14059 P/O. B.A. St. Louis posted from 1659 G.U. m.e.f. 28.5.43.		
			J.20146 P/O A.G. Low posted from 1659 G.U. m.e.f. 28.5.43.		
			G.3505 W/L G.B. Burton posted from Sopeliffe m.e.f. 18.5.43.		
			J.10555 P/O H.B. Reid posted from 1659 G.U. m.e.f. 10.6.43.		
			J.14153 P/O A.M. Farnham posted from 1659 G.U. m.e.f. 10.6.43.		
			J.21043 P/O B.M. Spradley posted from 1659 G.U. m.e.f. 10.6.43.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
6.	Parkman (Cont'd)				
	G-4086 P/L J.H. Hagan, (Med.) posted from this Unit to "F" R.G.A.F. Depot w.e.f. 23.6.43.				
	J-17025 P/O G.A. Gagnon posted from this Unit to War. Cas. Acc. Dept. W/E missing w.e.f. 26.6.43				
	J-13420 P/O R.J. Frost "	"	"	"	"
	J. 8229 P/O L.M. Sowers "	"	"	"	"
	J-22206 P/O M. Stenmar, "	"	"	"	"
	J-22537 P/O V.M. White, "	"	"	"	"
	J-16783 P/O G.A. Adams, "	"	"	"	"
	J-15727 P/O G.T. Vicary, "	"	"	"	"
	J-17344 P/O M.M. Meyer, "	"	"	"	"
	J-30333 P/O D.M. Reid, "	"	"	"	"
	J-14033 P/O A. Parissien "	"	"	"	"
	J-22043 P/O B. Cuyette, "	"	"	"	"
	J-6032 P/O I.L. Colquhoun posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-16954 P/O W.R. Beesick, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-17901 P/O A.T. Casselman, posted to No. 1664 Unit w.e.f. 22.6.43.				
	J-16714 P/O A.B. Bellner posted from this Unit to War Cas. Acc. Dept. W/E missing w.e.f. 13.6.43				
	J-23164 P/O W.E. Padgett, "	"	"	"	"
	J-17149 P/O W.R. Thainston "	"	"	"	"
	J-17138 P/O G.S. Barton, "	"	"	"	"
	J-17603 P/O R.L. Tedford, "	"	"	"	"
	J-13317 P/O J.S.H. Dodge, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 21.6.43.				
	J-13480 P/O H.G. Ballinger posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 21.6.43.				
	J-17206 P/O G.Y. Hovey, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 21.6.43.				
	J-12332 P/O E.W. Flanagan posted to No. 28 O.P.U. w.e.f. 21.6.43.				
	J-4562 P/L J.N. Hookay, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-14805 P/O E.A. Humphrey posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-16782 P/O G.R. Burg, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-16718 P/O S.H. Dunn, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-16011 P/O A.H.S. Hall, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-16060 P/O A.J. Manning, posted to the Gen. Acc. Dept. W/E missing w.e.f. 23.6.43.				
	J-15503 P/L F. Reider, posted to the Gen. Acc. Dept. W/E missing w.e.f. 23.6.43.				
	OASD-4418 P/L F. Clancy, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 22.6.43.				
	J-16235 P/O R. Norton, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-15689 P/O G.B. Ford, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-15762 P/L J.A. Pilkington posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-16548 P/O G.D. Foster, posted to No. 434 Squadron w.e.f. 15.6.43.				
	J-16078 P/O G.R. Oakley, posted to S.H.C. W/E atk w.e.f. 22.7.43.				
7.	Shore in Command:	NIL.			

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			8. <u>Changes in Administration:</u> 121801 S/Ldr. G.A. Taylor took over command of "B" Flight on 22.6.43 as 3962 S/Ldr. J.A. Paddington was posted to No. 434 Squadron.																										
			9. <u>Changes in Unit Command:</u> NIL.																										
			10. <u>Aircraft on Charge:</u> 20 Halifax V. - 1 Wellington K. - 1 Wellington III.																										
			11. <u>Health General:</u> Health continued to be very good amongst the Squadron's personnel.																										
			12. <u>Numerical Strength of Unit as at 30th June, 1943.</u>																										
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PERSONNEL</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Unfitted</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.U.A.F. Officers.</td> <td>17</td> <td>2</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.U.A.F. Airman</td> <td>61</td> <td>349</td> <td>410</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Officers.</td> <td>20</td> <td>-</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Airman</td> <td>46</td> <td>95</td> <td>141</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>144</td> <td>446</td> <td>590</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PERSONNEL	Aircraft	Unfitted	TOTAL	R.U.A.F. Officers.	17	2	19	R.U.A.F. Airman	61	349	410	R.A.F. Officers.	20	-	20	R.A.F. Airman	46	95	141	TOTAL	144	446	590		
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			13. <u>Operational - Non Operational flying hours for June, 1943.</u>																										
			(a) Operational flying Hours Day: 9:15 Hours Night: 458:50 Hours.																										
			(b) Non-Operational flying Hours Day: nil Night: nil																										
			(c) flying training Hours Day: 104:15 Hours Night: 37:45 Hours.																										
			<p style="text-align: right;">G.H. Ashford Sq. (G.H. Ashford) Squadron Leader, Officer Commanding, No. 427 Squadron, R.U.A.F.</p>																										