

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2369 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and also in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

26704

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, Leamington	1-9-43		All aircraft which were diverted to West Malling, Kent, from previous night's Operation returned to base safely. Due to fact that the Squadron had operation on the preceding nights a "stand down" was ordered, and due to bad weather and poor visibility no day flying was possible.	
	2-9-43		A good response was made by Squadron Personnel to the appeal for blood donors made by the blood transfusion team re-visiting Leamington. Six aircraft detailed for MURKIN operations. Two aircraft returned early due to U/S. Goons. The funerals were carried out for Sergeant Henry, Ops Holt, Edgman and AGI Davies, killed in a flying accident at 3000 HRS Westmorland Interment being made at Holwood cemetery, Haarogate at 1400 hours. Large party of Messengers and personnel from the Squadron attended. Opt. G.A. Taylor and E/O. E. Williams and their respective crews were screened from operations upon completion of their first tour. More postings of Groundcrew to the Tactical Air Force effected.	694, 699
	3-9-43		No operations activity by Squadron - "Total stand down". Information received that Wing Commander R.S. Turnbull, DFM is coming to take over command of Squadron from Wing Commander D.H. Burnside, DFC & Bar, on posting to Headquarters Bomber Command. At Pay Parade all Squadron personnel contributed towards gift for Wing Commander Burnside. W/Lt. Morton & crew screened from operations today.	
	4-9-43		No operations were scheduled for today and the Squadron had another stand down. In the evening the Officers of the Squadron took Wing Commander Burnside into Ripon for an informal farewell party. Reports indicated that the party was an unqualified success. There were further groundcrew postings out and the situation was becoming critical respecting the manning position of the Squadron. The Adjutant on contacting records at Gloucester was informed that the Personnel had to proceed as ordered due to a shortage of surplus of personnel available for postings.	
	5-9-43		Squadron parade was held and the Adjutant W/Lt. Chasnowski presented gifts of a silver plate a wrist watch and a travelling bag to Wing Commander and Mrs Burnside as a farewell token of the system in which Wing Commander Burnside was held by the Squadron.	

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R.C.A.F. Station,	5-9-43		These gifts were paid for by the voluntary subscription by all members of the Squadron. Two		
Landing.			new crews captained by Sgts Darlow and Dressler reported to the Squadron. Twelve aircraft		603 - 614
			were detailed for operations against MAUREHIM. All the aircraft successfully took off but		
			F/S Caldwell returned early due to engine trouble. Ten of the remaining eleven successfully		
			bombed the target and nine returned to base. F/Lt. Latta landed at Boscombe Den with one		
			engine badly shot up. Crews reported numerous fighters and a good prang. F/S. Fletcher is		
			missing from this operation. Wing Commander Burnside departed on his posting to Bomber Command		
			Headquarters.		
	6-9-43		Wing Commander R.S. Turnbull arrived and took over command of the Squadron. Ten aircraft		
			were detailed for operations - Target MUEHCH. All the aircraft took off successfully. Two		615 - 624
			aircraft returned early to base due to technical trouble. Two other aircraft returned early		
			to bases in the south also due to technical trouble. The other four aircraft landed at Manston.		
			Two aircraft are missing from this operation. F/O Biggs DFC and Flying Officer Pery-Knox-Gore.		
			The loss of these two Captains will be a serious blow to the Squadron. Biggs being an		
			original member of the Squadron and Pery-Knox-Gore showing enough stuff in the short time		
			he was with us to convince all the he was ace material.		
	7-9-43		After operation to Mannheim and Munich on successive nights, the Squadron had a stand down		
			today. F/Lt. Ganderton, DFC was promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader on taking over command		
			of "B" Flight. A party was accordingly held in North Allerton at the Station hotel to		
			celebrate this promotion and preliminary reports indicate a successful operation.		
	8-9-43		Eight aircraft were detailed for a bombing attack on MAHLIN but this operation was scrubbed		
			due to weather. Italy capitulate and suitable celebration were held in both the Sergeants		
			and Officer's Messes at which Lion Squadron personnel played a prominent part. Three crews		
			captained by F/O Harrison, F/O Murray and Sgt Mawson, reported to the Squadron. This date		
			the Inspector General of the R.A.F. visited the Station.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, LEBWIP.	9-9-43		Squadron Leader H. Francis of Graft visited the Squadron today for the purpose of interviewing P/Sgt Dan with a view to posting him as Station Warrant Officer at R.C.A.F. Graft.		
			Ten aircraft were scheduled for operations against BERLIN again but at the last minute this operation was also scrubbed.		
	10-9-43		Rain all day and no operations were scheduled. Wing Commander Turnbull addressed all the airmen W.C.O.s of the Squadron. Some of the Officer of the Squadron made a low level attack on Leeds with the Queen's hotel as aiming point.		
	11-9-43		The weather continued unfavorable and no operations were scheduled for this date. A Squadron sports conference was held which the Y.M.C.A. supervisor and Station Sport Officer attended with a view to organizing Squadron Sports. P/Lt. G. Laird and P/Lt. D.M. Amot were appointed Squadron Sports Officers and it was decided that sports to be concentrated on would be Volley Ball and Soft Ball.		
	12-9-43		Weather continued unfavorable and no operations were scheduled for this date. Intimation received of award of DFC's to P/Lt. B.G. Crow, P/O. G.B. Whyte and P/O R.A. Johnson also award of D.F.M. to P/S. Carleton. This occasion was marked by festivities in the respective messes during the evening.		
	13-9-43		Weather continued unfavorable this date and also due to this being the moon period, no operations were scheduled for this date. Intensive ground training was carried out in all sections to get up the new crews.		
	14-9-43		Weather continued unsuitable and no operations were scheduled. P/Lt. J.E. Durocher, Squadron Gunnery Leader, just returned to this Squadron after being away for more than two months. His foot that had been injured on operations by a machine gun bullet was completely healed.		
	15-9-43		Our aircraft that landed in North Africa returned to camp. The members of the crew brought back some fresh fruit which was distributed to all Squadron Personnel. Thirteen aircraft were detailed for operations against the rubber factory at MOHILUCH. Three of the aircraft returned early due to various troubles and the other ten aircraft successfully bombed the target.		625 - 637

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	Reference to Appendix
R.C.A.F. Station, LISBURN.			Sgt. Chibinoff and crew crashed at West Drayton on the way home and all the personnel were killed. The remaining aircraft all landed successfully at base.		
	16-9-43		Nine aircraft were detailed for operations against MEDAUS (Italy) One aircraft returned early. The other eight aircraft successfully bombed the target and all landed at Bassinghome. due to adverse weather conditions at base with exception of one which landed at Colington.		638-646
	17-9-43		Weather was very dull this date and aircraft could not return to base. P/Sgt. Caldwell and crew were posted to No. 3 Group.		
	18-9-43		Weather cleared and the Aircraft returned from Bassinghome. No operations were scheduled for this date.		
	19-9-43		No operations were scheduled for this date. Intensive air and ground training was conducted in all sections including practice bombing, fighter affiliation and air to air firing. P/O. A. Rodwell was promoted to the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant.		
	20-9-43		No operations scheduled for this date. Intensive training program was conducted today both ground and air. P/O. J. Weston was promoted to the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant. Sgt. Johnie Duval was appointed to commissioned rank. The advance party proceeded to Skipton to arrange for the reception of the main body of personnel who would be proceeding on the 21st subject to operations. Three crews reported in this date - Two from Croft and one from Fopolliffe.		
	21-9-43		Squadron groundcrew moved to Skipton and the aircraft were flown down in the morning of this date. Sgt. P.J. Thompson WOP/M was appointed to a commission this date. No operations were scheduled for this date and this helped materially in causing the move to go off as planned. Funeral of P/O Wells, Sgts Chibinoff & Frost took place this date at Brookwood Cemetery, and Sgt Potts was buried at Knaresborough. S/Ldr. Griffiths Station Padre represented as at the Funeral at Brookwood and P/O. E.S. Hayhurst DFC at Knaresborough.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, LEAMING.	22-9-43		Fifteen aircraft were detailed for operations against HANOVER this date. Four aircraft returned early due to technical defect. The remaining aircraft having bombed the target and returned to base safely. Remainder of ground personnel & equipment were moved to Skipton completing the movement commenced on 20-9-43.		647 - 661
	23-9-43		Eleven aircraft detailed for an attack against HANOVER. One non starter due to technical defect. Air Commodore Slesmon CBE (S.A.S.O) attended briefing, take-off and interrogation. All ten aircraft returned to base safely having bombed the target. Two commission appointments received for Sergeant Pilot Olavik and Sgt. R.S. Thompson (Air Bomber).		662 - 671
	24-9-43		No aircraft detailed for operations. Two more H.C.O.s appointed to commissioned ranks. Sgt. Rogers (WOP/AG) and Sgt. McLane (P/S)		
	25-9-43		Twelve aircraft detailed for operations this date. Operations scrubbed at 2000 hours. Sgt. Fontaine WER/AG appointed to commission rank. W/L Laird departed for Portsmouth for duty as defence witness at trial by Court Martial of P/O Smith.		
	26-9-43		Fourteen aircraft detailed for operations this date. Operations scrubbed at 1700 hours.		
	27-9-43		Fourteen aircraft detailed for operations this date against HANOVER. Three early return due to technical trouble. Remaining aircraft bombed the target. Ten returning safely to diversion landing at Polebrook Station and one to Downham market. Notification received of Commissions for Sergeants Patriek & Skillen, who were missing on operations during February & January 1943, respectively from Croft.		672 - 685
	28-9-43		No aircraft detailed for operations this date. W/S Carr (A/B) appointed to commissioned rank this date.		
	29-9-43		Thirteen aircraft detailed for operations this date. Five of these for MINELAYING operations which was however scrubbed at 1700 hours. The other eight aircraft were detailed to attack BOCHUM. Seven successfully bombed the target and all returned to base, one aircraft returned early due to technical defect.		686 - 693

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, Leeming	30-9-43		Twelve aircraft detailed for operations this date. Operation scrubbed at 1300 hours.		
			P/S. Countess (Pilot) appointed to commissioned rank this date.		
		3.	Honour and Awards: During the month of September the Distinguish Flying Cross were awarded to P/L. B.G. Cross and P/O. G.B. Whyte - also the Distinguish Flying Medal to Sergeant Charlton.		
		4.	<u>Commissions:</u>		
			J.18339 P/O J.P. Duval appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 14.7.43.		
			J.18387 P/O D.O. Olavik, appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 5.8.43.		
			J.18418 P/O J.L.J. Fontaine (WOP/AG) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 9.5.43.		
			J.18508 P/O E.M. Countess (Pilot) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 11.9.43.		
			156256 P/O. P.J. Thompson (A/B) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 16.7.43.		
			156386 P/O. E.S. Thompson (WOP/AG) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 15.8.43.		
			155970 P/O P.D. Smith, (A/G) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 11.7.43.		
			156550 P/O J.A. McGinnis, P/B appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 9.8.43.		
			156417 P/O J.T. Rogerson (WOP/AG) appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 15.8.43.		
			160104 P/O J.B. Ayr, A/B. appointed to Pilot Officer w.e.f. 14.7.43.		
		5.	<u>Promotions:</u>		
			J.10133 P/O A/B/Lt. V.F. Ganderon promoted to A/S/Ldr w.e.f. 1.9.43.		
			J.21911 P/O. M.L. Joyce promoted to War subs rank of P/O w.e.f. 25.3.43.		
			J.20079 P/O. P.J. Kennedy, promoted to War subs rank of P/O. w.e.f. 23.4.43.		
			J.14168 P/O A.H. Meyers, promoted to War subs rank of P/O. w.e.f. 11.3.43.		
			J.22571 P/O W. Weston, promoted to A/B/Lt. w.e.f. 7.9.43.		
			137642 P/O D.B. Ross, promoted to War subs. rank of P/O w.e.f. 30.6.43.		
			51503 P/O P. Demand, promoted to War subs rank of P/O w.e.f. 14.8.43.		
			146994 P/O A. Rodwell, promoted to A/B/Lt. W.E.F. 25.8.43.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
		6.	Postings.		
			J20079 P/O Kennedy, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 3-9-43.		
			J14238 P/O P.M. Winter, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 3-9-43.		
			J14210 P/O W.A. Frow, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 3-9-43.		
			J14203 P/O I. Schilansky, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 4-9-43.		
			J20131 P/O G.H. Baillock, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 4-9-43.		
			J15074 W/O R.S. Turnbull, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 6-9-43.		
			J21400 P/O J.R. Harrison, posted from 431 Squadron w.e.f. 9-9-43.		
			J14166 P/O A.H. Mayers, posted from 431 Squadron w.e.f. 9-9-43.		
			J21143 P/O P.H. Murray, posted from 431 Squadron w.e.f. 9-9-43.		
			J14508 P/O G.T. Hand, posted from 431 Squadron w.e.f. 9-9-43.		
			J14173 P/O W.K. Woodland, posted from 431 Squadron w.e.f. 9-9-43.		
			J22626 P/O W.T. Mason, posted from 431 Squadron w.e.f. 9-9-43.		
			J14240 P/O M.G. Utas, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 10-9-43.		
			J14585 P/O P.H. Webb, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 10-9-43.		
			J22698 P/O L.B. Bagdie, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 10-9-43.		
			J22042 P/O G.A. Waldon, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 28-9-43.		
			J22572 P/O D.H. Reid, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 28-9-43.		
			J20231 P/O G.H. Thorn, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 30-9-43.		
			J27465 P/O P.L. Webb, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 4-9-43.		
			J14222 P/O R. Richardson, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 3-9-43.		
			J42142 P/O P.H. Funnell, U.A. posted to No. 83 O.F.U. w.e.f. 8-9-43.		
			J2005 P/O P.J. Milgrew, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 6-9-43.		
			J41832 P/O H. Fogg, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 6-9-43.		
			J41788 P/O G.H. Kean, posted from S.H.Q. Leeming w.e.f. 18-9-43.		
			J46598 P/O L.G. Biddiscombe, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 19-9-43.		
			J33615 P/O W.A. Wozens, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 19-9-43.		
			J41231 P/O A.H. Shaw, posted from 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 19-9-43.		
			J34091 P/O W.A. Gory, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 28-9-43.		
			J36913 P/O J.H. Parkinson, posted from 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 20-9-43.		
			J10427 P/O A.H. Stockdale, posted to No. 428 Squadron w.e.f. 6-9-43.		
			J10422 P/O A.G. Brook, posted to 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 3-9-43.		
			J18121 P/O W.H. Smith, posted to 23 O.F.U. w.e.f. 8-9-43.		
			J13823 P/O G.S. Munbar, posted to 1664 Con. Unit w.e.f. 13-9-43.		
			J14220 P/O W.A. Frow, posted to 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 13-9-43.		
			J17162 P/O E.L. Brown, posted to 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 18-9-43.		
			J18175 P/O G.H. Hamilton, posted to 24 O.F.U. w.e.f. 18-9-43.		
			J18359 P/O J.F. Munn, posted to 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 19-9-43.		
			J16482 P/O J.A. Morton, posted to 1669 Con. Unit w.e.f. 18-9-43.		
			J16523 P/O G.S. Schellenberg, posted to 24 O.F.U. w.e.f. 25-9-43.		
			J7466 W/O D.H. Burnside, posted to H.Q.B.G. w.e.f. 6-9-43.		

