

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1943			
	1/Feb.		At 2130 hours Wellington III aircraft X.3545 was damaged on landing. The accident was caused through an error in judgment on the part of the pilot who allowed the aircraft to drop to the runway from a height of twenty feet. No casualties resulted.	
	2/Feb.		The Officer Commanding the Squadron, Wing Commander A. Harle, proceeded to Leeming to preside over a Court of Inquiry. Squadron Leader R.G.H. Catt is acting Officer Commanding.	
	3/Feb.		Operations scheduled for this day were cancelled due to unfavorable weather conditions. For the same reason flying training was limited to one flight of twenty minutes duration.	
	4/Feb.		Eight aircraft participated in a raid on LORINGT and all returned safely. The R.C.A.F. Trade Test Board visited the Squadron and interviewed several tradesmen. Flying training is being continued.	A.4
	5/Feb.		Wing Commander S.A. Terroux, Ground Defense Officer No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, in company with Major Jones, R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, visited the Station to inspect the ground defenses.	
	6/Feb.		Flying training is being continued. Five crews now remain to complete conversion training to Wellington I aircraft. Five aircraft took part in a gardening operation, taking off from Topcliffe aerodrome.	A.5
	7/Feb.		Nine of our aircraft raided LORINGT, all returned safely. Total flying time for the day: (a) operational: 35:50 hours; (b) training: 45 minutes.	A.6
	8/Feb.		Air Vice-Marshal G.E. Brookes, OBE, ADC, visited the Squadron and interviewed several Aircrew R.C.A.F. in regard to their recommendations for appointment to commissioned rank. No flying was possible due to poor weather conditions.	
	9/Feb.		An improvement in weather conditions brought about a resumption of flying training. Flying times for the day: 4:0 hours, day; 15:20 hours, night.	
	10/Feb.		Wing Commander S.A. Terroux, No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group Headquarters, visited the Station. Four aircraft were detailed for operations but at 2000 hours adverse weather brought about cancellation of the sortie.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	11/Feb.		No operations were scheduled for this day. Flying time for the day 3.05 hours.	
	12/Feb.		Six aircraft were detailed for operations, but due to a very strong cross-wind at this aerodrome the operations were cancelled late in the afternoon.	
	13/Feb.		Twelve aircraft were detailed for a raid on the German U-boat base at LORDESK. Because of technical difficulties only six reached the target, one of them making six runs over its objective in vain efforts to release its 4,000 pounder. The pilot and the bomb aimer of this aircraft, Flight Lieutenant F.H. Broden and Pilot Officer R.G. Gritten, respectively, have been recommended for awards.	A.7
	14/Feb.		Five aircraft of this Squadron took part in a bombing raid on OGLEBURG and all returned safely.	A.8
	15/Feb.		No flying was possible due to poor weather conditions.	
	16/Feb.		As it is expected that Wing Commander Farle will be posted away at an early date, two photographs of the personnel of the Squadron were taken by the Station Photographer. Seven aircraft raided LORDESK, all returned safely.	A.9
	17/Feb.		An R.C.A.F. Trade Test Board visit the Unit and interviewed several members of the Squadron personnel.	
	18/Feb.		The departing Officer Commanding, Wing Commander A. Farle, was presented with a silver tankard by the members of the Officers' Mess. Seven aircraft participated in a gardening operation off the FRIELAN ISLANDS.	A.10
	19/Feb.		Flight Lieutenant Fielden, No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group Press Liaison Officer, accompanied by a photographer visited the Squadron to interview Rear Gunner Sgt. R.G. Smith who shot down a Ju.88 while returning from the operation of the night of February 18th. Nine aircraft raided the German submarine base at WILHELMSHAVEN and all returned safely.	A.11
	20/Feb.		The Unit was visited by Mr. Lamb, Senior Meteorologist of No. 6 Group. Squadron Leader Hillson, R.C. Padre of R.C.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, came to Dalton to bid farewell to his many friends on this station.	
	21/Feb.		Squadron Leader D.W.M. Smith (41483) assumed command of the Squadron as Wing Commander Farle proceeded on leave prior to being posted to a Station in No. 3 Group.	

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No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																																			
	22/Feb.		Ten aircraft were detailed for operations on this date but the operation was cancelled late in the day. Squadron Leader Smith, our Commanding Officer, has been promoted to the rank of Wing Commander, Flight Lieutenant F.H. Rowden to the rank of Squadron Leader, O.C. "B" Flight and Flying Officer D.S. Morgan to the rank of Flight Lieutenant, Deputy O.C. "B" Flights all with effect from 18th February, 1943.																																				
	23/Feb.		Two crews are still considered unfit for operational flying and are receiving further training on Wellington aircraft.																																				
	24/Feb.		Fifteen aircraft were sent out on an operation. All returned safely, fourteen succeeded in reaching and bombing their target (WILHELMSDORF).	A.12																																			
	25/Feb.		Two aircraft were detached for gardening operations. Both returned safely.	A.13																																			
	26/Feb.		Fifty-one Canadian groundcrew personnel arrived on the Squadron to-day marking a further step in the Canadianization process in force in this Group. Ten aircraft were detailed on operations to COLONNE.	A.14																																			
	27/Feb.		Seven aircraft were detailed for operations. The detail was later cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.																																				
	28/Feb.		The Air Officer Commanding No. 5 Group, Air Vice-Marshal G.S. Brooks, OBE, ABE, accompanied by Wing Commander Durham, Group Senior Administrative Officer, visited the Squadron in the late afternoon and witnessed the departure of twelve aircraft on a raid on ST. MARAIS.	A.15																																			
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PERSONNEL</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Number and Types of aircraft on Charge</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers</td> <td>12</td> <td>4</td> <td>16</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>58</td> <td>109</td> <td>247</td> <td>Wellington X 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers</td> <td>9</td> <td>-</td> <td>9</td> <td>Wellington III 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>51</td> <td>229</td> <td>280</td> <td>Wellington III 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Personnel</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>(Nos. 423) 23</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>133</td> <td>342</td> <td>511</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* W/O Smith, a Canadian in the R.A.F.</p>	PERSONNEL	Aircraft	Groundcrew	Total	Number and Types of aircraft on Charge	R.C.A.F. Officers	12	4	16		R.C.A.F. Airmen	58	109	247	Wellington X 7	R.C.A.F. Officers	9	-	9	Wellington III 10	R.C.A.F. Airmen	51	229	280	Wellington III 6	Other Personnel	3	-	3	(Nos. 423) 23		133	342	511		
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<p>Total Number of Operational Sorties flown during the month: 91.</p> <p>Flying times for the month: (a) Operational 513 hours (b) Training 90 hours.</p>	
			<p>Enemy Aircraft Casualties Claimed during the Month:</p> <p>One enemy aircraft (Ju-88) was shot down by R73601 Sgt. Smith, E.G. while returning from a gardening operation on the night of February 1-6th (Appendix A.10 refers.)</p>	
			<p><i>R. D. Smith</i> WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING, NO. 428 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.</p>	

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