

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

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

| Place  | Date    | Time | Summary of Events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SECRET. | References to Appendices |
|--------|---------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| DALTON | 1943    |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |         |                          |
|        | 1/Mar.  |      | The Squadron stood down this day; night flying training continued. One X-country flight of 2:20 hours duration was carried out. Two new aircrews reported to the Squadron this date.                                                                                                                                                       |         |                          |
|        | 2/Mar.  |      | Six aircraft of the Squadron took part in a gardening operation. All returned safely. Total flying times for these sorties were 35:25 hours.                                                                                                                                                                                               |         | A.16                     |
|        | 3/Mar.  |      | Fourteen of our aircraft took part in a raid on Hengburg and all returned safely.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |         | A.17                     |
|        | 4/Mar.  |      | Two of the Squadron aircraft were despatched to Croft. Total flying time for the day was 5:45 hours.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |         |                          |
|        | 5/Mar.  |      | Seven aircraft took part in a raid on the German city of Essen, all returned safely. In addition three training flights took place.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         | A.18                     |
|        | 6/Mar.  |      | The Air Officer Commanding No.6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, Air Vice Marshal G.R. Brookes, OBE, ADC, visited the Squadron to interview aircrew N.C.O.'s recommended for appointment to commissioned rank. Operations which called for sorties by nine aircraft, scheduled for this day, were cancelled shortly before time of take-off.              |         |                          |
|        | 7/Mar.  |      | Due to poor visibility neither operational nor training flying was possible. Four aircrew N.C.O.'s have been granted commissions (Buckham, Bond, Manning and Nykes.)                                                                                                                                                                       |         |                          |
|        | 8/Mar.  |      | No flying was possible during the morning. Late in the afternoon three aircraft were detailed on a gardening operation. In addition a night flying programme was carried out.                                                                                                                                                              |         | A.19                     |
|        | 9/Mar.  |      | Advice has been received of posting of F/L. F. Seidel, Squadron Adjutant, to R.C.A.F. (Overseas) Headquarters, London. The replacement as Adjutant, F/L. D.P.G. Maidens (C.6069) arrived this day from No.407 Squadron. The Squadron stood down this day. Time of training flights for the day, 1:10 hours by day and 6:10 hours by night. |         |                          |
|        | 10/Mar. |      | The Squadron stood down this day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |         |                          |
|        | 11/Mar. |      | For the third successive day the Squadron stood down. Late in the evening enemy aircraft were in the neighborhood of the Station, bombs and flares were dropped some distance away.                                                                                                                                                        |         |                          |
|        | 12/Mar. |      | Fourteen aircraft participated in a raid on the German industrial city of Essen. All our aircraft returned safely and landed at Leming aerodrome.                                                                                                                                                                                          |         | A.20                     |
|        | 13/Mar. |      | The Squadron stood down this day. Flying time of training flights made during the day, 6:15 hrs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |         |                          |
|        | 14/Mar. |      | Due to poor weather the Squadron stood down again. Flying training continues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         |                          |

www.bombercommand.com

| Place | Date    | Time | Summary of Events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | SECRET. | References to Appendices |
|-------|---------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
|       | 15/Mar. |      | Thirteen aircraft were detailed for operations. Due to unfavorable weather conditions this operation was cancelled before noon. A Sergeant Clerk (Educational) has been attached to the Squadron to assist the Station Educational Officer. One training flight of 25 minutes duration was made.                                 |         |                          |
|       | 16/Mar. |      | Due to unfavorable weather conditions no flying was possible during the early part of the day. In the afternoon five training flights were made; total flying time was 3:40 hours.                                                                                                                                               |         |                          |
|       | 17/Mar. |      | Adverse weather conditions curtailed flying during the day. No operations were scheduled.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         |                          |
|       | 18/Mar. |      | Sixteen aircraft were detailed for an operation which was cancelled at 1:00 hours. Flying time for the day was 16:25 hours.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |         |                          |
|       | 19/Mar. |      | Due to unfavorable weather no flying was possible this day. An operation for which eighteen aircraft were detailed was cancelled at approximately 2:00 hours.                                                                                                                                                                    |         |                          |
|       | 20/Mar. |      | The same crews as for the preceding day were detailed for operations, but once again weather conditions made cancellation necessary.                                                                                                                                                                                             |         |                          |
|       | 21/Mar. |      | Aircraft of the Squadron took part in a fighter affiliation exercise during the afternoon. Three Spitfire aircraft were engaged with our aircraft in this exercise.                                                                                                                                                              |         |                          |
|       | 22/Mar. |      | Seventeen aircraft were detailed for operations. Due to poor weather the operation was cancelled later in the day.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |         |                          |
|       | 23/Mar. |      | Construction of the first hangar on the Station is complete and at least a part of the maintenance work on our aircraft can be done indoors.                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |                          |
|       | 24/Mar. |      | Unfavorable weather prevented flying. Two new aircrews arrived on the Squadron from O.T.U.s.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |                          |
|       | 25/Mar. |      | Sixteen aircraft were detailed for operations but a cancellation due to unfavorable weather again took place. The Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Air Marshal H. Edwards, CB, visited the Squadron accompanied by the Station Commander, Group Captain E.F. Johnson. Two more aircrews arrived from Operational Training Units. |         |                          |
|       | 26/Mar. |      | With the arrival of another aircrew from O.T.U., there are now thirty-one aircrews on the Squadron strength. Fourteen aircraft participated in a raid on Duisberg. All our aircraft returned safely although one was damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire.                                                                        |         | A.21                     |
|       | 27/Mar. |      | An operation involving ten aircraft from this Squadron was scheduled but was cancelled shortly                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |         |                          |

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

| Place                             | Date        | Time | Summary of Events                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SECRET.           | References to Appendices |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| MALTON                            | 1943.       |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                          |
|                                   | 27/Mar.     |      | after noon due to poor weather conditions. Total times of training flights carried out during the day are 6:50 hours, day; 2:30 hours, night.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |                          |
|                                   | (continued) |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                          |
|                                   | 28/Mar.     |      | Sixteen aircraft of the Squadron participated in a raid on the U-boat base of St. Nazaire in Occupied France. All returned safely. One new aircrew arrived from No. 22 O.T.U. this day.                                                                                                                                                                 |                   | A. 22                    |
|                                   | 29/Mar.     |      | Eleven aircraft of this Squadron took part in a raid on the German city of Bochum. Two of our aircraft failed to return. One of these, piloted by Sgt. Martyn, was forced down in the North Sea off the coast of Scotland and a search for the crew is in progress. No word was heard from the aircraft piloted by Sgt. Cartier since time of take-off. |                   | A. 23                    |
|                                   | 30/Mar.     |      | Two aircraft of the Squadron were engaged in an unsuccessful search for the crew which was forced down in the North Sea during the night of 29th March. Flying time of the search was 15:10 hours.                                                                                                                                                      |                   |                          |
|                                   | 31/Mar.     |      | Due to high winds and prevailing poor weather conditions, no operations were scheduled for this day. Nothing more has been heard of the crews which were reported missing on the night of 29/30th March.                                                                                                                                                |                   |                          |
| Strength (as at 31st March, 1943) |             |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                          |
|                                   |             |      | <u>Aircrew</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <u>Groundcrew</u> | <u>Total</u>             |
|                                   |             |      | R.C.A.F. Officers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 3                 | 33                       |
|                                   |             |      | R.C.A.F. Airmen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 235               | 297                      |
|                                   |             |      | R.A.F. Officers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1                 | 8                        |
|                                   |             |      | R.A.F. Airmen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 134               | 181                      |
|                                   |             |      | Other Personnel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | -                 | 7                        |
|                                   |             |      | <u>TOTALS</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <u>373</u>        | <u>526</u>               |
| P.T.O.                            |             |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                          |

www.bombercommand.com/aircrew/

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events                                                              | References<br>to<br>Appendices |
|-------|------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|       |      |      | Number of operational sorties flown during the month; - 68                     |                                |
|       |      |      | Flying times for the month; -                                                  |                                |
|       |      |      | (a) Operational - 475:40 Hours.                                                |                                |
|       |      |      | (b) Non-Operational - 128:30 Hours.                                            |                                |
|       |      |      | Aircraft on charge; -                                                          |                                |
|       |      |      | Wellington X 13                                                                |                                |
|       |      |      | Wellington III 4                                                               |                                |
|       |      |      | Wellington III 7                                                               |                                |
|       |      |      | (Mod.423) <u>      </u>                                                        |                                |
|       |      |      | TOTAL 24                                                                       |                                |
|       |      |      | <u>        </u>                                                                |                                |
|       |      |      | <i>W. Smith</i><br>WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING,<br>NO. 428 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON. |                                |

Pages: Wt. 21270-2544 116M 3/14 T.S. 700

www.bombercommandmuseum.ca