

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
R.C.A.F. Station, DALTON, Yorkshire.	1943	1 Apr.	No operations were scheduled for this day. Cross-winds of very high velocity made taking off and landing difficult. The Commanding Officer of the parent station of this Unit, Group Captain B.F. JEFFERYSON of R.C.A.F. Station, TORGLIFFE, visited the Squadron for the purpose of interviewing aircrew R.C.O.'s who have been recommended for appointment to commissioned rank.		
		2 Apr.	Three aircraft were detailed for an operation, but this was cancelled early in the afternoon. A night flying training programme was carried out.		
		3 Apr.	No operations were scheduled for this day. Six aircraft took part in a night bombing exercise. The 'target' was SEAGULL ISLAND off the coast of WALES, and several good photographs were obtained. Attached is a photograph of BARKSEY ISLAND (located near the 'target'). This photograph was taken by aircraft "B" which was participating in the exercise.		
		4 Apr.	Engaged in a raid on KIEL were sixteen aircraft of this Squadron. One of our aircraft (Pilot P/L. R.G. THORP) failed to return.		A.24
		5 Apr.	Due to unfavourable weather conditions no flying was possible this day.		
		6 Apr.	No operations were scheduled for this day. Five training flights totalling three hours and twenty-five minutes duration were carried out.		
		7 Apr.	Flying was impossible due to very high winds. Roofs have been lifted off some of the smaller buildings and velocities between seventy and eighty miles per hour have been recorded.		
		8 Apr.	The Squadron was visited by the Right Reverend D.T. OWEN, Archbishop of Toronto and Primate of all Canada, who was accompanied by Group Captain LIGHTBOURN, Chief Chaplain (Protestant) Overseas and Flight Lieutenant MORRIS, Senior District Chaplain. Many members of the Squadron personnel were presented to ARCHBISHOP OWEN by the Squadron Padre, P/L. P. L. BISHOPING.		
			Seven aircraft from this Squadron took part in a raid on DUISBURG. One of these (Pilot P/O. E.M. MORRIS) failed to return. While approaching the target another of our aircraft was hit by a violent burst of enemy anti-aircraft fire and the rear turret was shot completely off. For completing his mission and returning his badly damaged aircraft and the remaining members of his crew to England the pilot, R/O7665 SGT. WILLIAMSON, I.F., has been recommended for an award of the Distinguished Flying Medal.		A.25
		9 Apr.	During the past few days five new crews have arrived from Operational Training Units and are		

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			now making familiarisation flights with Wellington X aircraft. Considerable flying training took place on this day, total times being nine hours during the day and seven hours after dark. Thirty-three aircrew are now on the strength of the Squadron.		
	10 Apr.		Eleven aircraft of the Squadron were detailed for a raid on FRANKFURT. All our aircraft returned safely.		A.26
	11 Apr.		Since no operations were scheduled for this day, the training of newly-arrived crews is continuing. The weekly film presentation of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. took place in the Airmen's Mess during the evening.		
	12 Apr.		Due to poor flying weather little training was done and there were no operations on this day.		
	13 Apr.		Five short training flights were made this day.		
	14 Apr.		Ten aircraft of the Squadron took part in a raid on the German city of STUTTGART. Nine of those returned safely, the tenth (Pilot SGT. HARRIS, R.S.) failed to return.		A.27
	15 Apr.		Operations which would have involved eight aircraft were scheduled for this day but they were cancelled before noon because of unfavourable weather conditions.		
	16 Apr.		Twelve our aircraft were detailed for a raid on MANNHEIM.		A.28
	17 Apr.		This day was a stand down for the Squadron. A Drill Course conducted by the Adjutant, for all Squadron officers commenced to-day. On each day when no operations are scheduled, the officers will receive one hour of instruction in Drill. The Squadron Disciplinarian is conducting a similar course for the benefit of aircrew N.C.O.'s.		
	18 Apr.		The Squadron stood down this day also. The Canadian Y.M.C.A. presented a movie in the evening. As no facilities for the presentation of a cinema show exist on this Station, the Y.M.C.A. Representative makes use of a portable projector in the Airmen's Mess. Due to the recent influx of Canadian personnel this accommodation has been found inadequate and in the future two showings of the film will be made each Sunday evening.		
	19 Apr.		Ten aircrews, eight aircraft and thirty-nine groundcrew personnel are attached to this Unit from No. 424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron with effect from this date.		
	20 Apr.		No operations were scheduled for this day. Two aircraft were taken on charge by this Unit from No. 424 Squadron. One new crew arrived from Operational Training Unit.		

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	1943				
R.C.A.F. Station,	21 Apr.		Four of our aircraft took part in a search on this day.		
DAITON, Yorkshire.	22 Apr.		The R.C.A.F. Trade Test Board visited the Squadron this day. Ninety tradesmen were interviewed. The Station padre distributed Canadian Red Cross Society comforts to Canadian personnel who have recently come overseas.		
	23 Apr.		Rain and generally poor visibility limited flying activities. The Corporal's of the Squadron held a very successful dance in the Airmen's Mess Hall.		
	24 Apr.		Sixteen aircraft of the Squadron and seven of those attached from No. 424 Squadron were detailed for operations. Due to unfavourable weather reports the operation was cancelled at approximately 1800 hours.		
	25 Apr.		There were no operations this day. A Y.M.C.A. Film was shown in the evening.		
	26 Apr.		Sixteen aircraft of this Squadron and six of those attached from No. 424 Squadron were detailed to take part in a raid on <u>BURGESS</u> . One of our aircraft did not take off, two returned early and one failed to return.		A. 29
	27 Apr.		No operations were possible on this day because of poor flying conditions.		
	28 Apr.		Six aircraft of the Squadron were engaged in mine laying operations near the <u>RUSSIAN ENCLAVE</u> . Unfortunately, two of our aircraft are missing.		A. 30
	29 Apr.		The Squadron stood down this day. An <u>Enchante</u> cinema was shown in the Airmen's Mess during the evening.		
	30 Apr.		This day was another stand down for the Squadron. A "Bullseye" exercise was scheduled to commence after night-fall but was cancelled just before take off due to bad weather conditions.		
			<u>Summary of Strength - 30/4/43.</u>	<u>Summary of Flying Times</u>	
			<u>ANDREW GORDONSON TOTAL</u>		
			R.C.A.F. Officers 33 3 36	Operational.....Day 12:45 hrs.	Night 526:20 hrs.
			R.C.A.F. Airmen 24 207 231	Non-operational.. Day 25:25 hrs.	Night 34:40 hrs.
			R.A.F. Officers & 5 1 6		
			R.A.F. Airmen 37 153 190		
			Other Personnel 9 - 9	TOTAL	649:30 hrs.
			<u>138 498 590</u>		
			W/Odr. D.W.H. Smith, Officer Commanding	Number of operational sorties flown during the month is <u>seventy</u> .	
			is Canadian in Royal Air Force.		
			Aircraft on charge of the Squadron on 30th April were nineteen Wellington Mk.I		

*Andrew Gordonson*  
 W/Odr. Commanding  
 No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

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