

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

10432

5.22.43
DAS

of (Unit or Formation) No. 428 (R.O. 428) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Dalton	3.6.43		Three aircraft were detailed for mining operations. All returned safely.		A.41.
	5.6.43		Squadron stood down. No. 428 Squadron aircraft left this aerodrome for another point. Preparations for movement of Squadron to Middleton St. George just about completed. Advance party leaving Thursday, June 3rd. Two more crews have been detached to 1659 Conversion Unit.		
	5.6.43		The first part of the main party have moved to Middleton St. George, F/L Maidens, Squadron Adjutant has gone ahead of the Squadron to get organised on the new premises.		
Middleton St. George	4.6.43		Aircraft of 428 Squadron were flown from Dalton to the aerodrome at Middleton St. George. The main party have arrived at the new address.		
	5.6.43		Although the Squadron is re-equipping with Halifax Mark V aircraft, crews and aircraft will be offered for operations until their crews also go to Conversion Units.		
	6.6.43		A muster parade was held for the Squadron personnel. F/L Maidens, Squadron Adjutant, was in charge of this parade. The first Halifax aircraft on the Squadron charge arrived today.		
	7.6.43		Seven aircraft from this Squadron were detailed for operations. Due to weather conditions being unfavourable, this detail was cancelled in the evening.		
	8.6.43		Thirty nine R.C.A.F. airmen (ground staff) arrived on posting to this Unit. Four aircraft were detailed for operations, but this detail was cancelled later.		
	9.6.43		F/L Maidens, Squadron Adjutant, proceeded on a Senior Administration Course at R.A.F. Station, Stannington. Seven aircraft were detailed for operations but this detail was later cancelled.		
	10.6.43		Squadron aircraft which were at Croft for operations the previous evening returned to base. This operation had been cancelled.		
	11.6.43		The entire personnel of the Squadron attended the Station Commander's parade. Seven aircraft were detailed for a raid on Düsseldorf. Six of these carried out their duty and returned safely. The seventh aircraft crashed on the take-off. A 1000 lb. bomb, which was being carried by this aircraft, exploded, killing four members of the crew. The pilot, R12729 Sgt. Lechman W. is on the dangerously ill list in the hospital. The deceased members of the crew are:- R.135170 Sgt. Jette J.C.E. - Navigator. R.96762 Sgt. Marchand J.R.H. - WOP/AG. 1335621 Sgt. Askew R. - Bomb Aimer. R.66593 Sgt. Soudillon M.F. - Air Gunner.		A.42.
	12.6.43		Four more Halifax Mk.V. aircraft arrived on this Squadron. Night flying training was carried out on a small scale.		
	13.6.43		Squadron stood down on this date.		
	14.6.43		The funeral for three of the four members killed in the crash on June 11th, 1943. The following personnel from the Squadron attended. The Commanding Officer, 18 Sgts. as bearers, 4 Sgts. as mourners, an escort party of 25 aircraftmen, and an attending party of 12 officers and sergeants.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	15.6.43.		Five aircrews completed training at Conversion Units and returned to the Squadron.		
	16.6.43.		Twenty two airmen (groundcrew) arrived on this Unit this date. Four Halifax crews have been attached to 419 Squadron for operational duties.		
	17.6.43.		Four more aircrews have been attached to 1659 Con. Unit. All operationally fit aircrews have converted or are now converting.		
	18.6.43.		This Squadron now has 9 Halifax, Mark V aircraft serviceable out of a total of fourteen now on charge.		
	19.6.43.		F/L Vitty, Air Ministry Instructor visited the Squadron Engineer Officer. Four of our aircrews attached to 419 Squadron participated in a raid on the Schneider Works at Le Creusot. These sorties were all successful and all returned safely.		A.43.
	20.6.43.		F/L J.M. Foman, Squadron Gunnery Leader, gave one hour and fifteen minutes of instruction on aircraft recognition and range estimation to a Squadron of A.T.C. from Darlington.		
	21.6.43.		Four aircrews ceased attachment at Conversion Unit on completion of their course. Nine crews have now completed conversion training. Three crews attached to 419 Squadron took part in a raid on Krefeld, Germany. One of these crews captained by NZ414571 F/S. Pearce C.B. is missing.		A.44.
	22.6.43.		Four more crews who have completed conversion training reported to 419 Squadron for attachment. Eight crews are now attached to 419 Squadron for operations. Two of these crews were out on mining operations. Both returned safely to their base.		A.45.
	23.6.43.		Five crews attached to 419 Squadron for operations have ceased attachment there and are back with this Squadron for operations. One of these crews captained by 4195432 Sgt. Whitfield B. is missing.		A.46.
	25.6.43.		Three crews attached to 419 Squadron took part in a bombing raid on Gelsenkirchen. These crews all returned safely from this operation.		A.47.
	26.6.43.		The crews which were attached to 419 Squadron for operations have ceased attachment there and are back with this Squadron for Operations.		
	27.6.43.		F/L J. Brittan (J.15229) No.6 Group Bombing Leader visited F/O C. Maddin (J.16776) No.488 Squadron, Bombing Leader.		
	28.6.43.		Ten aircraft took part in a night bombing practice. Total flying time for this practice was 26.00 hours.		
	29.6.43.		F/L F.N. Pickford attended a court martial at Station Headquarters, as a member. This court martial, in which two airmen were tried, lasted two days.		
	30.6.43.		Another crew completed course at Conversion Unit this date, making a total of 13 crews that have completed conversion training to four-engine aircraft. Squadron stood down due to unfavourable weather conditions.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 128 (R.O.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices																																				
<u>SUMMARY OF STRENGTH - 30TH JUNE 1943</u>																																									
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Airorew.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Groundcrew.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Total.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.O.A.F. Officers</td> <td style="text-align: center;">35</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">37</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td style="text-align: center;">56</td> <td style="text-align: center;">359</td> <td style="text-align: center;">395</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Officers</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td style="text-align: center;">62</td> <td style="text-align: center;">115+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">177</td> <td></td> <td>+Includes 30 WAAFs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Personnel</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Airorew.	Groundcrew.	Total.			R.O.A.F. Officers	35	4	37			Airmen	56	359	395			R.A.F. Officers	4	1	5			Airmen	62	115+	177		+Includes 30 WAAFs.	Other Personnel	5	1	6				
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<u>FLYING TIMES FOR THE MONTH</u>																																									
			(i) Operational Day: Nil. Night: 41.40.																																						
			(ii) Non-Operational Day: 67.25. Night: 27.35.																																						
<u>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE OF THE SQUADRON 30TH JUNE 1943</u>																																									
			Halifax V 20.																																						
			Wellington III 2.																																						
			Wellington X 3.																																						
Number of operational sorties flown during the month of June																																									
128 Squadron crews in Wellington aircraft, 9 Sorties.																																									
128 Squadron crews in No. 419 Sqdn. Halifax aircraft, 17 Sorties.																																									
<p><i>Robert Smith</i> Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 128 (R.O.A.F.) Squadron.</p>																																									

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