

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 425 (DCAAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	July 1st.	12.15	Fifteen airmen from this Squadron took part in a Dominion Day celebration at Ripon, Yorkshire. The celebration commenced with church services and followed up with parades.		
	July 2nd		The Squadron representative attended a Station messing meeting.		
	July 3rd		Ten aircraft were called on for operations. These aircraft were all successful in bombing the target, Cologne. All returned safely to base. One of these piloted by 2nd Lt. E.L. Bagg (088977AC) made a belly-landing on the aerodrome, but was not damaged seriously nor were any members of the crew injured.		A.48
	July 4th		Seven aircraft were detailed for operations. Later on in the day this detail was cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions.		
	July 5th		A detail of ten aircraft was prepared for operations. The detail was cancelled early in the evening. One crew piloted by P.O. V.T. Sylvester (J.17282) returned to this unit on completion of conversion training.		
	July 6th		Ten aircraft were detailed for operations, but the detail was cancelled at 1500 hours because of unfavourable weather conditions. It rained intermittently throughout the day.		
	July 7th		P.O.s M.S. Taylor and A.J. Fischer were posted to No. 23 O.T.U. P.O. C. Maddin (J.16776), the Squadron Bombing Leader was promoted to Acting Flight Lieutenant. There was an air show show in the evening.		
	July 9th		Eleven of our aircraft took part in the raid on Gelsenkirchen. One, captained by S/Ldr F.H. Boden, who was 2 nd Flight Commander and who was nearing completion of his second operational tour, failed to return.		A.49
	July 11th		The D.F.M. has been awarded to R.117497 Sgt. H. Chaplin, who, making his first Halifax aircraft sortie, carried on for 60 miles and bombed his target at Le Creusot on the night of 12/20th June, after his port outer engine had stopped and the bomb doors had been opened manually.		
	July 12th		The following awards have been notified: The D.F.M. to A/S/Ldr D.W.M. Smith (A1458) " " to A/S/Ldr W.M. Suggitt (J.15131) " " to 2nd Lt. E.L. Bagg (088977AC) U.S. Forces. The R.F.M. to P/Sgt. D.A. Nicholls (now P.O. Nicholls, 145910)		
	July 13th		Twelve of our aircraft were engaged in the attack on Aachen, three failing to return to base. Two of the three missing pilots, P.O. W.D. Ross (J.23525) and P/Lt. W.G. Weeks (J.15347), were on their second tour, and P/Lt D.S. Morgan (J.6211) on his sixteenth operation. Two other aircraft were engaged by enemy night fighters, hits by our gunners on one of them being observed and neither of our machines being damaged.		A.50
	July 14th		The Adjutant, P/Lt. D.P.O. Maidens, returned from a Senior Administrative Course at Staffington, and P/Lt. F.H. Fieldford (of Headquarters, No. 6 Group), who had been carrying his duties during his absence, ceased to be attached to the Squadron. The Squadron was at "stand down" after yesterday's operations.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	July 15th		"Stand Down" was again ordered for the Squadron on this date.		
	July 16th		Three aircraft participated in a "Bullseye" exercise. Total time for these training flights was 14:00 hours. Weather: fine and warm.		
	July 17th		A cloudless day, with, however, a certain amount of ground haze. One practice bombing flight carried out. Total flying time for this flight was 4:00 hours (day).		
	July 19th		Five new aircrews reported on the Squadron this date. The total number of crews is now 21.		
	July 20th		Weather: cold and cloudy. Squadron continued to "Stand Down"		
	July 21st		Thirteen airmen (groundcrew) reported to the Squadron on posting from the Personnel Dispatch Centre at Bournemouth, having just arrived from Canada.		
	July 22nd		The crew piloted by R.77867 W/Sgt. Reed R.A.C. has proceeded to 4699 Conversion Unit on attachment for conversion training. Sixteen crews were briefed for operations, but these were later cancelled.		
	July 23rd		Fifteen aircraft were detailed for operations. This detail was cancelled at the time of take-off.		
	July 24th		This Squadron participated in the very heavy raid on Hamburg. The detail of four best aircraft returned safely to base.		A-51
	July 25th		All our aircraft returned safely from a raid on Essen. Three of the twelve aircraft detailed returned early due to technical trouble.		A-52
	July 26th		The Squadron was ordered to "Stand Down" on this date.		
	July 27th		W/Odr D.W.M. Smith R.F.C. and fifteen other crews took part in the very heavy raid on Hamburg. These aircraft all returned safely to this base.		A-53
	July 28th		The Squadron was advised that R.102462 Sgt. Barnholden G. has been granted a commission in the R.A.F.		
	July 29th		Operations were continued against the German port of Hamburg. One of the seventeen aircraft detailed, R.134534 Sgt. Bates R.A.C., failed to return.		A-54
	July 30th		Twelve aircraft were detailed for operations. This detail was cancelled with the exception of five aircraft which bombed Romschold and returned without loss.		A-55
	July 31st		Twelve crews were briefed for operations. At take off time this operation was cancelled due to approaching electrical storms. Two crews reported on the Squadron bringing the total number of crews to twenty-seven.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 428 (RCAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																																
Middleton St. George's	July 31st		<p>SUMMARY OF STRENGTH AS AT THE 31ST JULY, 1943.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Aircrew</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers</td> <td>34</td> <td>3</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td>55</td> <td>355</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.A.F. Officers</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td>56</td> <td>81</td> <td>137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airwomen</td> <td>—</td> <td>35</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Special Officers</td> <td>3</td> <td>—</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>W/Odr DeWalle Smith DFC is Canadian in the R.C.A.F.</p> <p>MAINTENANCE FOR THE MONTH:</p> <p>(i) Operational Day: Nil Night: 594:15 hours.</p> <p>(ii) Non-Operational Day: 63:50 Night: 14:05</p> <p>AIRCRAFT ON THE SQUADRON'S CHARGE JULY 31ST, 1943</p> <p>Halifax V 21 Wellington III 1</p> <p>NUMBERS OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES FLOWN DURING MONTH OF JULY:</p> <p>97 sorties.</p> <p><i>Approved with</i> Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 428 (RCAF) Squadron.</p>		Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total	R.C.A.F. Officers	34	3	37	Airmen	55	355	400	R.A.A.F. Officers	6	1	7	Airmen	56	81	137	Airwomen	—	35	35	Other Special Officers	3	—	3	Airmen	7	1	8		
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