

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	Reference to Appendices
Middleton St. George	1-8-43		The weather was cloudy with warm south-westerly winds. Squadron was ordered to "stand down" on this date.		
	2-8-43		Fifteen aircraft took part in another raid on Hamburg. The weather was poor and the crews had difficulty in reaching the target. Two of our experienced crews are missing from this raid. J.17282 P/O V.L. Sylvester with 27 completed sorties and R.117479 Sgt. Campbell R. DFC with 16 trips piloted the missing aircraft.		A.56
	3-8-43		A stand down was ordered this day. The weather was fair and cloudy. J.21265 P/L G.W. Finson and 2nd Lt. K.R. Knapp and crews were out on a sea-search during the afternoon.		
	4-8-43		R.80077 P/Sgt. Christie, D.L. has been appointed to a commission in the R.C.A.F. General Duties Branch; P/O R.S. McCarthy (G.12736) has been posted to this Unit from HQ Group for administrative duties.		
	5-8-43		P/L G. Maddin, Squadron Bombing Leader, proceeded on 7 days leave. Weather cloudy and cool with occasional showers. P/L H.A. Sampson, Squadron Engineer Officer returned from 7 days privilege leave.		
	6-8-43		Four aircraft were out on a "bullseye" exercise. The total flying time for these training flights is 22.40 hours (night). Five airmen (groundstaff) were warned for overseas service and sent on embarkation leave.		
	7-8-43		The weather was cloudy and there was a light rainfall in the afternoon and night.		
	8-8-43		Fourteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations. However, operations were cancelled at 20.00 hours.		
	9-8-43		Fifteen aircraft took part in the raid on Nurnberg, Germany. One of these aircraft, captained by R.150780 Sgt. Harrison R.H. was struck by flak and two members of the crew slightly injured by flak splinters. All of our aircraft returned to base. P/L W.R. Suggitt, who has completed a second tour of operations and who is Officer Commanding "A" Flight, proceeded on 7 days privilege leave.		A.57
	10-8-43		Fourteen aircraft participated in the very heavy Nurnberg raid. All of our aircraft returned safely to this country.		A.58
	11-8-43		Weather cloudy with light rain falling at noon. Aircraft which were on operations previous night returned to base. O685277AG 2nd Lt. K.R. Knapp DFC and three members of his crew have been screened on completion of a tour of operations.		
	12-8-43		Thirteen aircraft travelled a total distance of approximately 1,500 miles to carry out a raid on Milan, Italy. P/O G.R. DeW. Smith DFC, Squadron Commander took part in this raid. All aircraft returned safely. R.77367 P/S Head, H.A. and crew returned to this Unit on completion of conversion training.		A.59
	13-8-43		Squadron was on a "Stand Down". One new crew reported to this Unit from a Conversion Unit. Weather cloudy and cool with scattered light showers. Aircraft which landed at diversion points after the Milan raid returned to base.		

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Middleton St. George	14-8-43		There were 4 crews detailed for a "Bullseye" exercise, but this training was cancelled early in the evening. P/L D.F.G. Maidens, Squadron Adjutant, was to have gone along as a passenger with W/O Mr. D.W.E. Smith D.F.C., Squadron Commander.		
	15-8-43		A practice of the Station Defences was carried out. Squadron personnel were protecting this Unit, aircraft and buildings. Six aircraft carried out air-to-sea firing exercises over the channel where the weather was very good.		
	16-8-43		Weather, cloudy with light rain. Squadron was on a "Stand Down". P/L D.F.G. Maidens, Squadron Adjutant, proceeded to R.C.A.F. Station, Eastmoor, where he will be a member at a Court Martial. A new crew, piloted by 1299044 W/O Edwards P.B., arrived on the Squadron. S/L W.R. Suggitt DFC (J.15131) "A" Flight Commander, returned from leave.		
	17-8-43		Fourteen aircraft from this Unit took part in the raid on Pommernia. The object of this raid was to destroy special equipment used chiefly in radio-location. The raid was reported as very successful. Three aircraft captained by P/L G.W. Penson (J21265), R.131698 Sgt. Blazmore, W.W., both with 19 completed operations, and R.63606 Sgt. Sheridan, J. with 13 completed sorties, were reported missing from this operation. One aircraft, piloted by R.135047 Sgt. Borrowes was successful in beating off repeated attacks by an ME.110 and sustained only slight damage.		A.60
	18-8-43		The Squadron was not called on for operations this day. Aircraft which landed at the diversion point of Basinghouse on returning from the raid on Pommernia, returned to this aerodrome. Authority was received to post 246695 Sgt. Carr, R. Pilot-in-Chief by W/O F.D.G. Borrowes for Overseas Service. One new crew captained by P/O H.L. McKee (J.20195), arrived on the Unit.		
	19-8-43		Fourteen aircraft were called on for operations. This detail was, however, cancelled just prior to the main briefing. During the week ending this date, 79,000 lbs. of H.E. bombs and 50,000 lbs. of incendiaries were dropped by this Unit over enemy territory.		
	20-8-43		Squadron personnel attended pay parade which was held in No. 3 Mess. 1161931 Sgt. Cook, W.V., who has been with the Squadron since its inception, has been posted to No. 21 Mess. Six crews were prepared to take part in a "Bullseye" exercise, but the training flights were cancelled at 1630 hours. One crew with P/O G.H. Ford (J.21372) as pilot reported in on posting to the Unit. Several low level bombing practices were carried out over the city of York.		
	21-8-43		P/L G.B. Ripstein (G.5960), who has been Squadron Medical Officer, has been posted to "R" Depot, Warrington, pending repatriation to Canada. Two crews captained by 1133125 Sgt. Brown, D. and 1338091 Sgt. Farmer, J.L. arrived on the Unit on posting. Navigators and W/Os attended a lecture by the Station Navigation Officer. P/L G. Hutton, Squadron Bombing Leader, has been admitted to hospital suffering from a cold.		
	22-8-43		Sixteen aircraft participated in the raid on the German city of Leverkusen. All aircraft returned safely. P/L R.L. Smith, Squadron Signals Leader, for the past six months, has led a bride to the altar. Several new W/Os/AOs were given an initial "exam" talk by the Signals Leader. Reports from the Bomb Airmen indicate that the previous night's raid was very scattered. Crews had to bomb on SEA owing to heavy clouds over the target area.		A.61



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Middleton St. George	23-8-43		Sixteen crews were briefed for operations on the German capital, Berlin. One of these crews didn't take off due to the unserviceable condition of the inter-communication system. One aircraft, piloted by R.77667 W/S Reed, R.A.F., failed to return from the raid. W/O Gooch, A.L.S., Squadron Warrant Officer for the past eight months has been posted from the Squadron. In the heavy raid on Berlin, Aircraft "02" was repeatedly attacked by enemy aircraft. It was also hit by flak prior to the attack by enemy aircraft. One attacking aircraft, an Ju.88, was shot down in flames by R.151235 Sgt. Gadsen.		A.62
	24-8-43		W/Lt. D.P.G. Maddams, Squadron Adjutant, proceeded on leave to Northern Ireland. Two new air-crews reported to the Squadron on posting from Conversion Unit. The Squadron RMP Section has moved from its cramped quarters in No. 2 Hangar to the mess hut behind the Central Tower. They share this new building with No. 419 RMP Section.		
	25-8-43		Group Captain A.D. Ross, Station Commander, interviewed 1386921 W/S Fry, R.O., and R.157380 Sgt. McKenzie, A.S., in connection with commissioning.		
	26-8-43		During the week ending this date, the Squadron dropped a total of 40,000 lbs. of High and 110,040 lbs. of incendiary bombs over enemy territory. During the past week a new type American fuse, Mark III has been used on the photographic equipment on one of our operational aircraft. The results obtained so far have not been satisfactory. It is proposed by the photographic section that new crews arriving on the Unit should be photographed for future Squadron records.		
	27-8-43		Sixteen aircraft were on operations from this Unit. The target Hamburg was successfully bombed. One aircraft, captained by 1349419 Sgt. Mitchell, A.L., and W/O J.A.M. McLeish (J9562) as 2nd Pilot, failed to return. Pilots from six new crews were out as 2nd Pilots on this raid. Two aircraft had to return early from this raid due to technical failures. Photographs of this raid were very good, five showing ground detail.		A.63
	28-8-43		One crew, captained by W/O R.G. Nelson (220879), has reported a contact with an enemy aircraft during the previous night's operation. Good co-operation among the crew prevented too much damage to their aircraft and resulted in the Ju.88 being shot down in flames. The rear gunner is R157380 Sgt. McKenzie, A. and mid-upper gunner is 2208250 Sgt. Shinnell.		
	29-8-43		The Squadron was ordered to stand down this date. The weather was very unfavourable as it rained continuously throughout the day. 2nd Lt. R.M. Knapp, returned from leave and reported to No. 12 Replacement Depot, U.S.A.A.F., to which place he has been posted on completion of a tour of operations on this Squadron. The RMP Section has received a large quantity of A.R.2 5119 Equipment. The RMP Nobs, have been asked to explain this equipment to new navigators as they arrive on the unit.		
	30-8-43		Two crews with W/O Gadsen and Sgt. R.L. Burrows as pilots have been posted to No. 403 Sqn. for path finder force duties. Fifteen crews took part in air operations on Munich Oldbach. One crew captained by R.128905 Sgt. Brown, W.M. used as spare aircraft from No. 419 Squadron when their own went unserviceable at take off time. All our aircraft returned safely to base from this raid.		A.64
	31-8-43		Fourteen crews were briefed for a raid on Berlin. Thirteen of these successfully took off, but one crew captained by R75078 W/O Harrison, A. was unable to go due to his aircraft		A.65

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Middleton St. George	31-8-43		<p>becoming unserviceable at take off time. Two crews are missing from this raid. Pilots of these two crews are R.13078 Sgt. Harrison, R.S. and R.13079 Sgt. Dale, J.A.S. The results of a photograph taken by aircraft "U", captained by W/O D.W.M. Smith DFC on 27/28th July, of the target, Hamburg, show that it was very successful. This photograph, which has been plotted, is the first coloured picture taken by Bomber Command to be plotted. Five photographs taken on the Berlin raid showed ground detail.</p> <p><u>SUMMARY OF PERSONNEL - 31st August, 1943</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.O.C.F. Officers</td> <td>36</td> <td>4</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" (W.A.S.) Officers</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Aircrew</td> <td>49</td> <td>349</td> <td>398</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" (W.A.S.) Airwomen</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H.A.F. Officers</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.A.S.F. "</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.A.S.F. Aircrew</td> <td>130</td> <td>73</td> <td>203</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.A.S.F. Airwomen</td> <td>--</td> <td>36</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Personnel</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>3</td> <td>--</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>FLYING TIMES FOR THE MONTH</u></p> <p>(1) Operational - Day: 11:10 hrs. Night: 1070:25 hrs.</p> <p>(2) Non-Operational - Day: 81:20 Night: 21:25</p> <p><u>AIRCRAFT ON THE SQUARES CHARGE AUGUST 31, 1943</u></p> <p>Halifax V - 16 Wellington III - 1</p> <p><u>NO. OF OPERATIONAL BOMBERS FROM THE 15TH OF AUGUST - 146</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W. G. ...</i> Wing Commander, Commanding No. 128 (R.O.C.F.) Squadron</p>		Aircraft	Groundcrew	TOTAL	R.O.C.F. Officers	36	4	40	" (W.A.S.) Officers	--	--	--	" Aircrew	49	349	398	" (W.A.S.) Airwomen	--	--	--	H.A.F. Officers	6	1	7	W.A.S.F. "	--	--	--	W.A.S.F. Aircrew	130	73	203	W.A.S.F. Airwomen	--	36	36	Other Personnel				Officers	3	--	3	Airmen	5	1	6		
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