

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	1-9-43		Weather - Rain all day. Operational stand down. S/L Suggitt carried out an air test but weather conditions did not permit any further local flying. During last night's raid on Berlin aircraft "I" captained by W/O Edwards, P.O. was attacked by enemy fighters after leaving target area but was successful in evading same without damage. Squadron messing representative attended a meeting at which Station Commander was present, results of which were satisfactory. Normal routine carried out by all sections. P/O B.D. Ardis proceeded to a Gunnery Leaders Course at Sutton Bridge and LAC Packer on an A.R.I. course at Ormswell.	
	2-9-43		Weather - Fair. Gardening operations ordered for to-night. Four aircraft - two from "A" Flt. and two from "B" Flt. - all new crews. A Pilots discussion was held by C.O. W/O R.W.M. Smith. Normal routine during the day. All crews returned safely from gardening trip off West Prussia Islands. Sgt. Picking had to drop his mine safe due to faulty circuit. During the week ending to-day, Sept. 2nd, 86,000 lbs. of H.W. bombs and 12,440 lbs. of incendiaries were dropped on enemy territory. 12,000 lbs. of mines.	A.66
	3-9-43		Weather - fair. Operation. - Stand down. W/O Smith and W/O Edwards carried out air tests. P/O Eaton flew two crews to landing to pick up two Mk. II Halifax aircraft. JD 386 (P) and JB 968 (V). All three returned to base. A dinner was held in Sgts' Mess and a good time was had by all. Anniversary of 4 yrs. at war with Germany and hope it is the last year. LAC Hardy, Nelson and Norman from Sqn. Armoury have been accepted for aircrew training and proceeded to "H" Depot Warrington for repatriation to Canada for training.	
	4-9-43		Weather - Fair. Operation - Stand down. S/L Suggitt carried out some Dinghy Radio Tests successfully on a short cross country trip. Two air tests were carried out during the day. Two more aircraft arrived bringing up strength to 20 aircraft. Halifax LK914 and LK915. Three new aircrews reported to-day - P/O M.C. Whalley, P/O R.H. Sherback and Sgt. Sinclair, J.H. as pilots.	
	5-9-43		Weather - Fair. Operations ordered for air attack on Mannheim to-night, fifteen aircraft to participate. A new crew with P/O E.H. Bell as Pilot reported to-day from 1664. One unit. One Halifax LK913 arrived bringing strength to 21. Two aircraft returned early - one due to technical failure. The remaining 19 aircraft carried out a successful raid, all returning safely. The photographs obtained in this raid were excellent. The following pilots went as 2nd pilots on their first operational sortie - P/O R.H. Sherback, Sgts. Sinclair, J.H. and Sykes, R.J. P/Sgt. Pattinson and his crew were attacked by F.W.190 and the rear gunner Sgt. Bennett was successful in shooting it down.	A.67
	6-9-43		Weather - Fair. Operations ordered for an attack on Munich - fourteen aircraft to participate. The following pilots are going as 2nd pilots - P/O H.C. Whalley, Sgts. Brick, R.M. and Sinclair, J.H. Two aircraft returned early - one due to the pilot being sick and the other on account of oil pressure. The remaining 12 aircraft carried out a successful attack. Sgt. Brown, W.M. and his crew are missing. One aircraft piloted by W/O Harrison was badly shot up by enemy action on return from raid and landed at RAF Stn. Dunsfold. Photographs obtained on this raid are very good. The smoke obtained during the last two raids being attributed to the new set up of having the Mark III fuse at 2 1/2 seconds instead of 38 seconds and the film exposing for four seconds instead of ten seconds. AG. Silsby was sent on a Gunnery course and AGI Kennedy, C.O. on a Dury Equipment Course at Cheltenham. All M.T. Sqn. personnel and Sqn. vehicles were taken over by S.H.Q. to-day.	A.68

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Middleton St. George	7-9-43		Weather - Fair. Operational stand down. P/L H.E. Davis reported to-day to take over duties of Unit Adjutant from P/L Maidens who is taking over Station Adjutant duties Middleton St. George. Sgt. Good, R.E. proceeded on a course of Aircraft Recognition at R.A.F. Southport. General routine carried out by all sections.		
	8-9-43		Weather - Fair. Operations ordered for to-night on Berlin were later scrubbed. P/L Suggitt flew O.C. to Dunsfold in Oxford aircraft to inspect our aircraft which landed there. P/O Eaton and crew carried out an air-test on use of the new aircraft. News of Italy's unconditional surrender is received with enthusiasm. AG Skelney, S.W. of Inst. Rep. Section proceeded on a course MK I.C. Cyro Gunnlight at Melksham. A crew which were attached to 1664 Conversion Unit for retraining returned to-day.		
	9-9-43		Weather - Poor. Operations ordered for to-night but were scrubbed at last minute. General Routine carried out. New Flight Engineers were gassed on the use of our overload tank system. During the week ending to-day 56,000 lbs. of H.E. and 69240 lbs. of incendiaries were dropped on enemy territory. Seven armours from Ammunition Section posted overseas this week. No replacements received yet.		
	10-9-43		Weather very poor. Operational stand down ordered. Sqn. messing representative attended the weekly mess meeting. Mess platoon duties will be supplied by Sqn. personnel. General routine carried out by all sections.		
	11-9-43		Weather - light rain all day. Operational stand down. Lecture given to engineers on bombing and P/L H.E. Davis lectured to bomb airmen on action to be taken in emergency and control of aircraft. Engineer section moved into Sqn. H.Q. building and are in closer touch with other sections which is much better. A lecture on D.R. C. Given by Cpl. Tois, RAF was very good and very instructive. It is hoped that he will not be posted as we have no suitable replacement.		
	12-9-43		Weather poor with rain and heavy fog. Operations stand down. Padre reports very good attendance at church. General routine only carried on.		
	13-9-43		Weather - rain and heavy fog. Operations stand down. Expected visit to-morrow of C. in C. of Bomber Command. The Unit is exerting every effort to have everything in order. This is hard as a miniature flood of the sections has made a terrible mess. Sgt. Blding and Sgt. Mitchell are attending a Gunners Training course at Leonfield. Gunnery practice on 400 yd. range carried out the past few days. A lecture on George auto. Controls given by Cpl. Cornish to all instrument personnel not working on aircraft.		
	14-9-43		Weather fine in morning but very unsettled in afternoon. Operational stand down. Visit of C. in C. of Bomber Command cancelled. All air tests carried out during morning and one in afternoon. Air to sea exercises were carried out. The aircraft returned from Dunsfold where repairs had been made after last operation. P/L Smith working hard on his report on use of dingy radio used in connection with the Marconi R1155 as an emergency transmitter.		
	15-9-43		Weather - clean. Operations ordered for a raid on Montlucon. 16 aircraft taking part. Rubber factory the objective. Station Parade held at 0830 in remembrance of the Battle of Britain. 120 personnel of this Sqn. were detailed to attend. Congratulations on the appearance and smartness was extended by P/L Davis the new Adj. W/O Smith is going on operations to-night.		A.69

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Middleton St. George	15-9-43		Bombing exercises were carried out this a.m. satisfactorily. W/O Smith failed to return and is reported missing. A very great loss. P/L Porman, Gunnery Leader and Acting Flight Commander, Bell as 2nd Pilot on his second try, Sgt. Mallins W/O/AC and W/O Holmes both experienced crew all were with the O.C. and are now reported missing. One aircraft EB252 landed at Tangmere on an early return due to port engine being unserviceable. Another early return by EB252 due to air speed indicator failure. Photographs of results were not good due to clouds. Three new crews arrived late to-night and due to not being informed accommodation was not available. Some of the N.C.O.'s had to sleep in chairs.		
	16-9-43		Weather - Fair. Operations on Hoveham ordered for to-night. 15 aircraft detailed. Marshalling yards and tunnel the objective. S/L Suggitt, W.S. takes over duties of O.C. Four details of air to air firing were completed to-day. Take-off was made successfully in light rain. All aircraft returned safely to Moleworth diversion field except D356 which landed at Dunstons short of petrol. One early return EB205 due to icing conditions landed at Moleworth after almost reaching the target. 92,000 lbs. H.B. and 71272 lbs. incendiaries dropped on enemy territory this week.		A.70
	17-9-43		Weather - Rain all day. Operations stand down. Received news that Sgt. Webb who went missing on 13-7-43 during the raid on Aschen has returned safely to U.K. Three other members of the same crew reported as prisoners of war. Aircraft were unable to return from Moleworth (U.S.S.A.) on account of weather. Usual routine carried out by all sections. A dance was held in the officers' mess to-night.		
	18-9-43		Weather - clear. Operational stand down ordered. 24 aircraft returned from Moleworth this a.m. safely. One aircraft left behind on account of cracked propeller. P/L H.P. Davis recalled from leave to take over duties of Flight Commander of "B" Flight. General routine in all sections carried out. P/S McNeill, J.J. went on a Gunnery Instructors course at Manby.		
	19-9-43		Weather - Fair. Operations stand down. General routine only. The aircraft left at Moleworth returned to-day. A night flying programme arranged for to-night - 3 aircraft. Sgt. Oakley takes over as Flight Engineer Leader. A lecture on security was given at S.H.Q. One new aircraft received LK924.		
	20-9-43		Weather - Cool and bright. Operational stand down. Sgt. Mackenzie received notice of his appointment to P/O. Sgt. Angus, W. and Opl. Hilling sent on course of Halifax Aircrew Equip. at Liverpool. Bombing practice by two aircraft carried out. General routine by sections.		
	21-9-43		Weather - Clear and cool. Operational stand down. Fighter affiliation exercises and bombing practices were carried out to-day. Sgt. Hurley of photo. section suggests that the type 35 control used for night photography with the P.24 camera be modified to have a metal cover on hinges to cover the face of the control so that no tampering with the time settings could be made after settings have been made to correspond with the fuse setting of the photographic flash. At present all settings have to be struck down with cellophane tape. General routine only.		
	22-9-43		Weather - Clear and cool. Operations on Hoveham to-night. 16 aircraft. LAG Appell, D. sent on course ME T.O. Gyro Gunnight at Moleworth. A successful raid but we lost two aircraft. P/O K.W. Jones and P/O H.B. Molles and crews are missing. One early return due to M.G. Camera being		A.71

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Middleton St. George	22-9-43		unserviceable. Photographs obtained were very good. A new aircraft LX927 arrived to-day bringing up our strength to 18. Fighter affiliation exercises and bombing details and air tests carried out during the morning. General routine.		
	23-9-43		Weather - clear and cool. Operations on Mannheim to-night. - 15 aircraft. Air to air exercises and altitude test carried out this morning. Considerable ground gunnery training carried out. LAC Cabot, J.P.A. went on Jr. N.C.O. Technical Course at Cosford. One aircraft failed to start on raid. One early return starboard outer engine became unserviceable. Two aircraft missing piloted by P/L H.P. Davis and P/O W.K. Hadden. Photographs - 6 showed ground detail and the balloons fired from target area. P/O Eaton and crew had a brush with enemy fighters and was shot up fairly well. Laded with starboard tire pierced. Good show. 60,000 lbs. of H.E. and 118320 lbs. of incendiaries dropped on enemy territory this week.		A.72
	24-9-43		Weather - clear and cool. Operational stand down. P/L McLeish takes over as Flight Commander B-Flight. P/L H.P. Davis missing was Flight Commander only 6 days. Air Test carried out by P/L Bellander. General routine carried on. Cpl. Walters, G. went on H23 Equipment course at H.Q. Bomber Command.		
	25-9-43		Weather - clear and cool. Operations ordered for to-night. Scrubbed very late. Fighter affiliation exercises and air test carried out. General routine to-day.		
	26-9-43		Weather clear and cool. Operations ordered for to-night scrubbed. Nothing of importance to report.		
	27-9-43		Weather clear and cool. Operations on Hanover ordered for to-night. 15 aircraft. P/L Beane and his crew reported to-day and he is going on his first sortie as 2nd pilot to-night. Air test and bombing details carried out this a.m. AC Sparks sent on Motor Engine course at Derby. Due to icing conditions there were several early returns. Three aircraft missing - piloted by P/O Whalley, M. P/O Sherbeck and Sgt. Farmer. Two aircraft crashed - one pilot by Sgt. Wilson, R. crashed at Framlingham in which engine was killed and two seriously injured. The tail gunner was missing. The other aircraft piloted by P/O Kogans - the crew were ordered to bail out while P/O Kogans attempted a crash landing. The entire crew are O.K. with slight injuries to ankles. Aircraft dispersed all over the country.		A.73
	28-9-43		Weather - clear and cool. Operational stand down. Sgt. Siplair, J.H. (Pilot) sent on Engine Handling Course at Westcott. General routine carried on by all sections. During late afternoon most of the aircraft returned to base from various places that they had landed at.		
	29-9-43		Dull in the morning, clearing in afternoon. Operations ordered for to-night on Bochum - 9 A/C. P/O A.W. Jennings went on Gunnery Leaders Course at R.A.F. Sutton Bridge. A successful operation and all aircraft returned safely.		A.74
	30-9-43		Weather dull. Operations scrubbed. A new crew with P/O Goldstein arrived to-day. LAC Mitchell R.A. sent on Jr. N.C.O. Tech. Course at Cosford. Gunnery training facilities have been improved by the addition of a B.P. mid upper training turret. 40,000 lbs. of H.E. and 79960 lbs. of incendiaries dropped this week. The Orderly Room staff have worked almost every night during the month and seven days a week to keep reports, etc. up to date and deserve untold credit.		

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SECRET.						
<u>STRENGTH AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1943.</u>						
			AIRCREW	GROUNDCREW	TOTAL	
R.C.A.F.	Officers	48	4	52	
		Airmen	63	331	394	
R.A.F.	Officers	7	1	8	
		Airmen	109	82	191	
Australian	Officers	1	0	1	
		Airmen	5	0	5	
R.C.A.F. (U.S.A.)..		Officers	2	0	2	
		Airmen	0	1	1	
<u>FIXING TIMES FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1943.</u>						
Operational	...	DAY:	0	No. of operational sorties flown during month: 127.		
		NIGHT:	843.15			
Non-operational	...	DAY:	122.50			
		NIGHT:	14.50			
<u>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE (AVERAGE).</u>						
Halifax V	...		20			
Halifax II	...		2			
Wellington III	...		1			
<p><i>H. P. Suggitt</i> Wing Commander, Commanding No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.</p>						

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