

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) Wesley (R.G.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

| Place                 | Date    | Time | Summary of Events   | SECRET. | References to Appendices |
|-----------------------|---------|------|---|---------|--------------------------|
| Middleton St. George. | 1.11.43 |      | 1. The weather is very duff preventing any flying.<br>2. P/L Redlander, P/O Ford and crew went on leave.<br>3. Routine Normal in all sections.  |         |                          |
|                       | 2.11.43 |      | 1. Weather is still duff with a heavy haze, unable to fly at all.<br>2. All the new crews attended a prisoner of war lecture.<br>3. Sections packed up early.   |         |                          |
|                       | 3.11.43 |      | 1. Sixteen aircraft were detailed for operations on Dusseldorf.<br>2. P/S O'Connor returned early due to turret being unserviceable.<br>3. P/O Eaton's aircraft crashed near Coningsby on the return journey. All the crew, including P/O Hodgkinson, 2nd Pilot, were killed.<br>4. The balance of our aircraft returned safely.<br>5. Some air training was carried out prior to operations. |         | A.79.                    |
|                       | 4.11.43 |      | 1. The weather duff again and impossible to do any flying.<br>2. A pilots' conference was held at S.H.Q. and was quite successful.<br>3. Crews packed up early.   |         |                          |
|                       | 5.11.43 |      | 1. <del>Due weather duff again and impossible to do any flying</del> Stand down again today, the weather still being very hazy.<br>2. P/O Kruse and P/Sgt. Sinclair scheduled to start training on special equipment.<br>3. Routine in sections normal.   |         |                          |
|                       | 6.11.43 |      | Stand down again although the weather improved a lot. Nine training flights, two bombing exercises and two fighter affiliation were carried out. One aircraft landed at Leeming.  |         |                          |
|                       | 7.11.43 |      | 1. Crews were stood down today and training flights arranged but operations were suddenly scheduled at 12.00 hours.<br>2. The operations were cancelled just after marshalling at 17.00 hours.<br>3. One cross-country trip was made at 09.30 hours.<br>4. P/L J.R. Beggs was promoted to S/L as "A" Flight Commander.<br>5. Had a celebration in the Mess.                                   |         |                          |

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|-----------------------|-------------|------|---|--------|--------------------------|
| Middleton St. George. | 8.11.43.    |      | 1. No operations or local flying again today on account of weather.<br>2. One special cross-country was flown by W/O Kruse.<br>3. Eight crews left on leave.  |        |                          |
|                       | 9/10.11.43. |      | 1. Stand down again today.<br>2. Air tests were carried out but training flights were cancelled by dull weather.<br>3. Several crews went out on an escape exercise with varying success. One resourceful Sergeant incurred the wrath of the civilian police by carrying out the exercise so thoroughly as to "borrow" a private car and drive it back to camp. Two others could only secure bicycles for the same purpose. They were informed by the police that "you can't do that there 'ere." |        |                          |
|                       | 11.11.43.   |      | 1. Seven training flights.<br>2. Three bombing details and one fighter affiliation were completed.<br>3. Five aircraft with experienced crews were detailed for special operations on Cannes.<br>4. All aircraft returned safely after a long trip.<br>5. This trip was the longest in the history of the Squadron, taking over 10 hours.<br>6. F/L Reilander got a photograph of the aiming point.   |        | A.80.                    |
|                       | 12.11.43.   |      | 1. Six special cross-countries, two bombing details carried out.<br>2. Pretty quiet in the sections, routine normal.  |        |                          |
|                       | 13.11.43.   |      | 1. Stand down again.<br>2. Four special cross-countries, six training exercises flown.<br>3. Routine normal.  |        |                          |
|                       | 14.11.43.   |      | 1. No operations today.<br>2. F/L Phillips, S.I.O. gave a lecture on procedure if found down in neutral territory.<br>3. F/L Reilander was granted 48 hours pass for the photo taken on the Cannes operation.   |        |                          |

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 428 (S.O.A.F.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

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|-----------------------|-----------|------|--|---------|--------------------------|
| Middleton St. George. | 15.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No operations scheduled today.</li> <li>F/O Sutherland proceeded to Swinderby to pick up new aircraft returning at 17.00 hours.</li> <li>Major Stevenson gave a very informative address on enemy night defences, dealing chiefly with Radar, searchlights, Flak and night fighters.</li> </ol>   |         |                          |
|                       | 16.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No operations today.</li> <li>Twelve crews standing by for sea search after the Fortress raid on Norway.</li> <li>Three crews finally took off at 16.00 hours returning at 19.15 hours with no sightings.</li> <li>Training and bombing flights were carried out but night exercises were scrubbed owing to the weather.</li> </ol>   |         |                          |
|                       | 17.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two aircraft took off at 06.30 hours on the sea search, returning at 12.30 hours. Had no sightings.</li> <li>All training flights scrubbed by buff weather.</li> <li>A Squadron Leader from Group gave a lecture on Air Sea Rescue.</li> <li>Routine normal.</li> </ol>   |         |                          |
|                       | 18.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fifteen aircraft scheduled for operations on Hammohls.</li> <li>The operation was successful and all aircraft returned, five being diverted to other bases and F/O Watkin's landing at Woodbridge with his gunner Sgt. Perekinski wounded.</li> </ol>   |         |                          |
|                       | 19.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eight aircraft detailed for operations on Lemvikhusen. Would have been more but the diverted kites couldn't get back in time.</li> <li>One aircraft returned early due to gun failures.</li> <li>The attack was not very successful due to P.F.P.</li> <li>F/O Shepherd and crew are missing.</li> <li>Sgt. Harthorne and crew baled out over this country, Sgt. Molwan his M.U.G. is missing but the rest are safe.</li> </ol> |         | A.82.                    |

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| Place                 | Date      | Time | Summary of Events  | SECRET. | References to Appendices |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|--|---------|--------------------------|
| Middleton St. George. | 20.11.43. | 1.   | No operations or day flying today.   |         |                          |
|                       |           | 2.   | Three night circuits were executed.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 3.   | F/O Sutherland returned by rail from diversion.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 4.   | Routine normal.  |         |                          |
|                       | 21.11.43. | 1.   | No operations today.   |         |                          |
|                       |           | 2.   | Weather dull and very hazy.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 3.   | A pilots' conference was held at 15.00 hours.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 4.   | Routine in all sections normal.  |         |                          |
|                       | 22.11.43. | 1.   | Seventeen aircraft detailed for operations on Berlin.  |         | A.83a                    |
|                       |           | 2.   | One returned early due to icing. <i>and 1/2 - side field</i>   |         |                          |
|                       |           | 3.   | All aircraft bombed the target through 10/10th cloud but consider attack was successful.   |         |                          |
|                       |           | 4.   | Sgt. Jacob's and crew are missing.   |         |                          |
|                       |           | 5.   | F/O Sutherland's aircraft was hit by flak but no injuries to crew.   |         |                          |
|                       | 23.11.43. | 1.   | No operations or flying owing to bad weather again.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 2.   | Flight Commanders and Section Leaders held a conference with the Wing Commander regarding a crest, motto and name for the Squadron.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 3.   | A lecture for Engineers and Pilots was held at 14.15 hours.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 4.   | Routine normal.  |         |                          |
|                       | 24.11.43. | 1.   | No operations detailed.  |         |                          |
|                       |           | 2.   | Two training flights and a special night cross-country were carried out.   |         |                          |
|                       |           | 3.   | O/C Emsham gave a very good lecture on PFF technique. Some N.C.O.s. were late for this lecture so a parade of all airmen at 06.30 hours tomorrow was ordered by the Station Commander. |         |                          |

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| Middleton St. George. | 25.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parade was held at 06.20 hours. Very damp, cold and uncomfortable. The parade was sent along the perimeter track on the double to warm up.</li> <li>Sixteen aircraft were detailed for operations on Frankfurt.</li> <li>Both Flight Commanders and the Squadron Commander going.</li> <li>The weather was good but 10/10ths cloud practically all the way.</li> <li>F/S Pattinson made an early return after an engagement with an enemy fighter.</li> <li>F/O Day-Winter landed away from base.</li> <li>S/L Beggs "A" Flight Commander, failed to return. Sgt. McMaster who was flying as his Navigator belonged to F/O Armour's crew, F/O Elliott being in hospital with influenza.</li> </ol> |        | A.81.                    |
|                       | 26.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sgt. Gay flew an aircraft to Topcliffe to have tail assembly changed.</li> <li>After much scrambling and "bags of flap" eleven aircraft were detailed for attack on Stuttgart.</li> <li>F/O Armour didn't leave the ground, remainder bombed target and returned safely.</li> <li>F/Sgt. Buok and crew were killed as a result of an air collision with a Lancaster diverted to this Station.</li> <li>F/Sgt. Buok had permission to land and was at a height of approximately 200 feet when the Lancaster (which did not have permission) also tried to land, colliding with our aircraft. Both crashed and burned.</li> <li>One member of the Lancaster crew survived.</li> </ol>                    |        | A.85.                    |
|                       | 27.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No operations today.</li> <li>Squadron stand down so crews packed up early.</li> </ol>   |        |                          |
|                       | 28.11.43. |      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No operations detailed.</li> <li>F/E Reilander and F/O Sutherland flew the A.T.C. in an Oxford.</li> <li>Another aircraft was despatched to Topcliffe for tail assembly change.</li> </ol>   |        |                          |

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|--|-----------|------|---|---------|--------------------------|
| Middleton St. George.                          | 29.11.43. |      | 1. Stand down again today.  |         |                          |
|  |           |      | 2. Bad weather, lots of bolts and influenza, mud and water everywhere.  |         |                          |
|  |           |      | 3. Special training was carried out also one bombing detail and five day flights.                                 |         |                          |
|  |           |      | 4. Routine normal.  |         |                          |
|  | 30.11.43. |      | 1. No operations detailed.  |         |                          |
|  |           |      | 2. Four new crews reported in, P/Sgt. Beain, Sgt. Peever, P/Sgt. Esighan and Sgt. Judisch.                        |         |                          |
|  |           |      | 3. Special training flights, two air tests, one last bombing detail and one air to sea exercise were carried out. |         |                          |
|  |           |      | 4. S/L W.R. Suggitt, former O.C. Squadron, visited the Squadron today and renewed acquaintances.                  |         |                          |
| <u>SUMMARY OF STRENGTH 30TH NOVEMBER 1943.</u> |           |      |   |         |                          |
|  |           |      | <u>AIRCRAFT</u>   |         |                          |
|  |           |      | <u>Groundcrew</u>   |         |                          |
|  |           |      | <u>Total</u>  |         |                          |
| R.C.A.F. Officers.                             |           |      | 61  | 2       | 63.                      |
| " W.D. Officers.                               |           |      | -   | -       | -                        |
| " Airman.                                      |           |      | 77  | 320     | 397.                     |
| " W.D. Airwomen.                               |           |      | -   | -       | -                        |
| R.A.F. Officers.                               |           |      | 12  | -       | 12.                      |
| W.A.A.F. Officers.                             |           |      | -   | -       | -                        |
| R.A.F. Airman.                                 |           |      | 87  | 75      | 162.                     |
| W.A.A.F. Airwomen.                             |           |      | -   | 33      | 33.                      |
| Australian Officers.                           |           |      | 2   | -       | 2.                       |
| " Airman.                                      |           |      | 4   | -       | 4.                       |
| New Zealand Officers.                          |           |      | -   | -       | -                        |
| " Airman.                                      |           |      | -   | -       | -                        |
| U.S.N. Officers. (R.C.A.F.)                    |           |      | 3   | -       | 3.                       |
| U.S.A. Airman. (R.C.A.F.)                      |           |      | 1   | 2       | 3.                       |



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of (Unit or Formation) No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

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|-------|------|------|---|----------------|--------------------------|
|       |      |      | <u>FLYING TIMES FOR THE MONTH.</u>  |                |                          |
|       |      |      | (i) Operational: Day: 14.50   |                |                          |
|       |      |      | Night: 66.00  |                |                          |
|       |      |      | (ii) Non-Operational: Day: 169.20   |                |                          |
|       |      |      | Night: 42.45  |                |                          |
|       |      |      | <u>AIRCRAFT ON THE SQUADRON'S CHARGE.</u>   |                |                          |
|       |      |      | Halifax V. 11.  |                |                          |
|       |      |      | Halifax II. 9.  |                |                          |
|       |      |      | <u>Number of Operational Sorties flown during month of November.</u>                                    |                |                          |
|       |      |      | 90.   |                |                          |
|       |      |      | <br><i>David J. French</i><br>D.J. FRENCH<br>WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING<br>NO. 428 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON. |                |                          |

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| <u>R.C.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 48 dated 2.12.43.</u>      |      |      |  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/O G.A. ENGLAND J. 22437 G.D. 29.11.43. Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1659 Con. Unit wof.   |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/O A.R. FISHER J. 22371 G.D. date stated, TORS. 30.11.43. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig.           |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/O J.G.Y. LAVOINE J. 22704 G.D. P.842 dated 29.11.43.                                 |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/L F.R. MCGUGAN J. 3716 G.D.  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/O T.L. STEELE J. 20246 G.D.  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/O E.A. MARMON J. 20743 G.D. 29.11.43. Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1664 Con. Unit wof.    |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/O F.J. O'CONNOR J. 20713 G.D. date stated, TORS. 30.11.43. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig.         |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P.833 dated 28.11.43.  |         |                          |
| <u>RAF R.C.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 46 dated 28.11.43.</u> |      |      |  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | P/L J.R. BEGGS J. 4422 G.D. 25.10.43. Appointed to the rank of acting Squadron Leader  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | (Paid) wof. date stated. Auth: HQ BC p'gram  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | BO/9612/43 dated 4.11.43.  |         |                          |
| <u>R.C.A.F. Airmen P.O.R. Serial No. 56 dated 2.12.43.</u>        |      |      |  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R197452 W/O WOE/AG (2) MASON H.G. Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1659 Con. Unit wof.     |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R118571 SGT. F/ENG. (1) PELL W.E.   |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R131517 P/S PILOT (1) KEALIN F.E. 29.11.43. TORS. 30.11.43. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig.     |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R187677 SGT. A.G. (5) WYNNE W.R.  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R197322 SGT. A.G. (5) LAFORCE L.B. P.842 dated 29.11.43.                          |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R137653 P/S PILOT (1) GOUTHREAU H.L. Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1664 Con. Unit wof.  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R143054 SGT. PILOT (1) JUDIBSON J.P.  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R180180 SGT. A.B. (1) CHATWORTHY D.L. 29.11.43. TORS. 30.11.43. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig. |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R159907 SGT. A.B. (1) BRATON A.H.   |         |                          |
|   |      |      | CAN. R187522 SGT. A.G. (5) DUMMER E.A. P.833 dated 28.11.43.                           |         |                          |
| <u>R.A.F. Airmen P.O.R. Serial No. 60 dated 2.12.43.</u>          |      |      |  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | 755752 W/O WOE/AG (1) SKINGSLEY T.A. Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1664 Con. Unit wof.       |         |                          |
|   |      |      | 1577540 SGT. WOE/AG (2) TUCKEY A.  |         |                          |
|   |      |      | 1605632 SGT. F/ENG. (1) HARDWICK W.J. 29.11.43. TORS. 30.11.43. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig.      |         |                          |
|   |      |      | 1673377 SGT. F/ENG. (1) PARRY G.H.   |         |                          |
|   |      |      | 1809459 SGT. A.G. (5) GREENMACH A.J. P.833 dated 28.11.43.                             |         |                          |
|   |      |      | 1823192 SGT. A.G. (5) DICKSON G.O.   |         |                          |
|   |      |      | 1853105 SGT. A.G. (5) FOULGER J.H.G.   |         |                          |

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|       |      |      | 1336195 SGT. WOE/AG (2) BARKER W.T.<br>1639279 SGT. F/ENG. (1) ELLIS R.P.<br>1682075 SGT. A.G. (5) FERR J.W. |  |                          |
|       |      |      |  | Posted to 128 Sqdn. from 1659 Com. Unit w/f.<br>29.11.43. TORS. 30.11.43. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig.<br>P.842 dated 29.11.43. |                          |
|       |      |      |  | <i>David J. French w/c.</i><br>D. J. FRENCH<br>WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING,<br>NO. 128 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.           |                          |

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