

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

J. 22-1-42
DAS

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	1, 12, 43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thirteen aircraft were detailed for operations. Marshalling was set back and take-off delayed. Operation was finally scrubbed at 23,40 hours. One day cross-country flight was carried out in the morning. Other routine was all normal. 		
	2, 12, 43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Thirteen aircraft were scheduled again for operations which were scrubbed just at take-off. Aircraft "A" returned from Eastmoor. 		
	3, 12, 43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve aircraft detailed for operations on Leipzig. All bombed the target and returned safely, reporting a very good prang. P/Sgt. Keighan made his second trip as second pilot with P/L Bellender and Sgts. Powers and Juliesch made their first second ditchy trips with W/O Murphy and W/O Kruse. 		86
	5, 12, 43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sgt. Gay landed at Mildenhall due to a dud engine, P/O Wolverton also landed away. W/O Mergitt flew "P" to Topoliffe for tail modification returning in "P". 		
	4, 12, 43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stand-down today. P/O Wolverton returned from diversion and P/O Watkins brought "P" back from Dunsfold. The weather is dud so pretty much ground training only. 		
	5, 12, 43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stand-down again today with local flying only. Two special training flights were carried out. Fairly good attendance from the Squadron at church in the forenoon. W/O French and the Adjutant attended Station Commander's conference in the afternoon. 		
	6, 12, 43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stand-down again. The aerodrome was declared unfit for flying until December 14th, as the runways are undergoing repair by the "Wonders and Blunders" boys. Word was received through the International Red Cross that Sgt. Hayes of P/O Ross's crew is a Prisoner of War. 		

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Middleton St. George	7,12,43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand-down today. 2. Weather is bad with thick fog and haze. 3. Dinghy drill and swimming parade held at Thornaby Baths. 4. Routine normal in sections. 		
	8,12,43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand down today. 2. Weather and runways still w/s. 3. Squadron stood down in the afternoon. 		
	9,12,43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still a stand down. 2. New crews had lectures from Flying Control, Intelligence, Engineering and Bombing Sections. 3. A show was held in the chapel for all aircrew, regarding interrogation of P.O.W's. 		
	10,12,43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still standing down. 2. Four crews left for Topcliffe for special Radar training. 3. Seven aircrew visited the Anti-aircraft sites on liaison. 4. The new locker room is completed (at last) and lockers were moved over today. 		
	11,12,43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five of the newest aircrew were detailed for operations. 2. As the aerodrome is still w/s they left for Croft to take off from there. 3. A demonstration of airborne lifeboats was held in the hangar this morning. 4. Advice from the International Red Cross that Sgt. Shysyk of P/O Rose's crew is a P.O.W. was received. 		
	12,12,43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operations from Croft were scrubbed at 01,00 hours. 2. Crews returned by truck. 3. On route home the truck swerved to avoid other traffic and several aircrew were thrown off. 4. Some were cut and scratched but none were hurt severely. 5. No operations today, so Squadron were given afternoon off. 		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 128 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	13, 12, 43.		1. No operations scheduled today. 2. F/Os Lord, Watkins, Ford and Murphy were promoted to Acting F/Ls and F/O Brown to Temporary Flying Officer. A party in celebration was held in the Mess, which was such of the stuff of life was quaffed.		
	14, 12, 43.		1. Stand down again today, the ground covered by fog and mist (not to mention mud and water). 2. S/L McLeish and crew left on leave F/L Bellander taking over as Flight Commander.		
	15, 12, 43.		1. Still a stand down with weather still duff. 2. Wet Dinghy drill was practised in Thornaby baths and dry dinghy drill on the aerodrome. 3. Other routine normal. 4. F/O Sandes and crew posted in to Squadron, seems a good crew.		
	16, 12, 43.		1. Stand down again today. 2. Weather still duff with low cloud and fog. 3. Five special Radar flights were made all the flying done. 4. Crews went to Thornaby Baths in the afternoon for wet dinghy drill. 5. Sgt. Burge of W/O Edward's crew was reported P.O.W. by International Red Cross and confirmation of the death of Sgt. Goggen of Sgt. Sheridan's crew was received.		
	17, 12, 43.		1. Stand down again today. 2. Weather very duff stopping all flying training. 3. Ground training and routine normal.		
	18, 12, 43.		1. Thirteen aircraft detailed for operations. 2. Operations scrubbed just before main briefing. 3. Routine normal in all sections in afternoon.		
	19, 12, 43.		1. No operations scheduled for today. 2. Five special Radar flights. 3. Three air to sea exercises and six local flying exercises were carried out. 4. F/O Oakley, Flight Engineer Leader was promoted to Acting Flight Lieutenant.		

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Middleton St. George.	19, 12, 43.		5. P/L B.L. Smith, Signals Leader is away on a Radar Course.		
		20, 12, 43.	6. Fourteen aircraft were detailed for operations on Frankfurt.		87
			2. Returning crews report a successful raid.		
			3. P/Sgt. Keighan on his first trip as captain and his crew are missing.		
			4. P/O Armour and crew also did not return.		
			5. Buzz Joe was on his 24th trip and was one of the best types ever to come from "Down Under". He is going to be missed by the entire Squadron.		
			6. P/O Johnny Elliott went up as his Navigator as P/Sgt. McMaster, his regular Navigator had gone with S/L Jack Beags the night of 25/26th November, Johnny being in hospital.		
			7. P/O Sandes went with Joe on his first second dicker trip leaving his crew headless.		
			8. P/O Gyase landed at Mildenhall, he and his crew returning to base by rail.		
			9. A lecture on night flying procedure was given by the Station Commander in the afternoon.		
	21, 12, 43.		1. No operations scheduled today.		
			2. One air test was flown and a Radar trip by W/O French.		
		3. Night cross-countries were cancelled owing to strong winds and rain.			
		4. Confirmation of the death of P/O Manners of P/O Shbeck's crew was received from International Red Cross.			
22, 12, 43.		1. No operations again today.			
		2. Three crews made special Radar flights.			
		3. Eight crews were detailed for a Command Bull's-Eye.			
		4. One returned early, P/O Day-Winter also returned on account of air-sickness, the remainder were recalled before completion of the trip owing to enemy intruders being reported.			
		5. P/L B.L. Smith, Signals Leader, returned from his course.			
23, 12, 43.		1. Thirteen aircraft were detailed for operations which were cancelled before noon.			
		2. Two aircraft were delivered from Croft to the Squadron.			
		3. Special Radar flights, and fighter affiliations were flown.			
		4. Three cross-countries and two radar were scheduled for tonight but all except one are cancelled owing to aircraft going w/c.			

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Middleton St. George.	23.12.43.		5. P/Sgt. Julisach did his exercise, completing his night training and thus being ready for operations.	
	24.12.43.		1. Stand down today, no flying training scheduled. 2. Advice was received from the International Red Cross confirming the deaths of Sgts. Fox, Pelmar and Palmer of P/O Jones crew on the attack on Hanover the night of 22/23rd September. 3. The Christmas Party in the Officers Mess was well attended by Squadron officers and a good time was had by all.	
	25.12.43.		1. The Squadron was rather shaken when operations were ordered today but they were scrubbed within 15 minutes. 2. Squadron stood down for the day and the Adjutant and Orderly Room got a break for once and packed up at 11.00 hours leaving the duty clerk on duty. 3. Several of the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s. (ten aircrew and five groundcrew) served the Officers Mess Dinner. The officers were, W/O French, S/L Bartlett, S/L Moleish, P/L Brown, P/L Lord, P/L Smith, P/L Haddin, P/L Douglass, P/L Westell, P/L Oakley. 4. On returning to the Mess and having Mess Dinner, the Staff were seated and served by the officers. P/O Bidas and P/O Sutherland flew to Mildenhall to collect "L" but found that we had received Huff gun and the aircraft wasn't ready so returned without it.	
	26.12.43.		1. Stand down today. 2. Four crews made special Radar Flights and one fighter affiliation was carried out. 3. Four crews were detailed for night training flights but these were scrubbed due to poor weather.	
	27.12.43.		1. Eight crews were detailed and briefed for a gardening operation which was scrubbed at marshalling. 2. P/O Sutherland and crew did two radar flights and five others one radar flight. 3. P/Sgt. Beain and Sgt. Terry completed training and are ready for operations. 4. Group refused permission to fly a crew to Mildenhall to pick up "L."	
	28.12.43.		1. No operations today. 2. Group gave permission to fly a crew to Mildenhall to pick up "L". 3. P/O Bidas and P/O Sykes left in "M" Sykes bringing back "L". 4. Six Radar flights, two Bombing exercises and two fighter affiliation were flown.	

SECRET

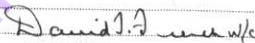
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	29.12.43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sixteen aircraft detailed for operations on Berlin, W/O French, Squadron Commander, taking part. 2. We had one non-starter and one early return. 3. The rest reached the target though late due to wind change. 4. All returned safely and report a good trip. 5. Sgt. Terry went as second pilot with F/L Reilander and F/Sgt. Reain with F/L Murphy. 6. Sgt. Judiesch on his first trip as captain had a successful trip. 7. F/O Brown landed at Coltishall. 8. Two Radar flights were flown during the day. 		
	30.12.43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand down again. 2. F/O Brown returned from Coltishall. 3. One radar flight, one acceptance check and one air test were carried out. 4. Confirmation of the deaths of Sgt. McCallum of F/O Fanson's crew and Sgt. Moore of F/O Jones' crew was received from the International Red Cross. 		
	31.12.43		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fourteen aircraft detailed for operations but they were scrubbed at 15,00 hours owing to weather. 2. The New Year Party in the Officers Mess which had been scrubbed was put on after all. 3. A good time was had by all, but all wish and hope that next New Year's Eve we'll see the New Year come in back in God's Country. 		
SUMMARY OF STRENGTH, 31ST DECEMBER, 1943.					
				Aircraft	Groundcrew
			R.C.A.F. Officers.	61	2
			W.D. Officers.	-	-
			Airmen.	88	317
			W.D. Airwomen.	-	-
			R.A.F. Officers.	13	-
			W.A.A.F. Officers.	-	-
				61	319

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Middleton St. George.						
			R.A.F. Airmen,	<u>Aircrew</u> 86	<u>Groundcrew</u> 70	<u>Total</u> 156
			W.A.A.F. Airwomen,	-	32	32
			Australian Officers,	1	-	1
			" Airmen,	2	-	2
			New Zealand Officers,	-	-	-
			" " Airmen,	-	-	-
			U.S.A. Officers (R.C.A.F.)	3	-	3
			" Airmen (R.C.A.F.)	1	1	2
			<u>FILING TIMES FOR THE MONTH.</u>			
			(i) Operational:	Days: _____		
				Nights: 321.30		
			(ii) Non-Operational:	Days: 184.20		
				Nights: 70.50		
			<u>AIRCRAFT ON THE SQUADRON'S CHARGE.</u>			
			Halifax V,	11.		<u>HEALTH.</u> The health of the Squadron is good but there has been one case of diphtheria.
			Halifax II,	5.		
			<u>Number of Operational Sorties flown during the month of December.</u>			
			40.			
			 (D. F. FESSENDEN) (Officer-in-Charge) The Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.			

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
<u>APPENDIX TO FORM 540 FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1943.</u>					
<u>P.O.R. Entries for promotions, movements, honours and awards and appointments to commissions.</u>					
F/O	N.F. BROWN.	J. 24433.	G.D. 1.9.43.	Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying	
F/O	R.G. BAYON.	G. 30879	G.D. 6.5.43.	Officers w/f. date stated. Auth: A.M. Letter	
A: 575340/43/3, 7, D, 2 dated 29.11.43.					
<u>Entry No. 8 FOR 51.</u>					
F/O	F.H. WALKINS.	J. 7690	G.D. 13.9.43.	Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flight	
Lieutenant w/f. date stated. Auth: HQAF					
Orders Orders 752/43 dated 3.12.43.					
<u>Entry No. 4 FOR 52.</u>					
F/O	C.G. FORD.	J. 21372	G.D. 27.11.43.	Appointed to the acting rank of F/L w/f. date	
F/O	F.G. LORD.	J. 4883	G.D.	stated and reported to 428 Sqn. (F/L post)	
F/O	C.E.J. MURPHY.	J. 20392	G.D.	Auth: HQ AF p'gram EO/12257/43 dated 11.12.43.	
<u>Entry No. 6 FOR 51.</u>					
F/O	C.R. SANDES.	J. 22254	G.D. 30.6.43.	Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer	
w/f. date stated. Auth: HQAF Orders					
716/43 dated 12.11.43.					
<u>Entry No. 3 FOR 52.</u>					
F/O	C.H. SANDES.	J. 22254	G.D. 12.12.43.	Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer	
w/f. date stated. Auth: HQAF Orders					
716/43 dated 12.11.43.					
<u>Entry No. 3 FOR 52.</u>					
F/O	C.H. SANDES.	J. 22254	G.D. 12.12.43.	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1659 Con. Unit w/f.	
F/O	A.C. STACHY.	J. 20960	G.D.	date stated. SOBS. 14.12.43. Auth: 6 Crp.	
60/2672 dated 11.12.43.					

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			<u>Entry No. 1 FOR 33.</u>		
			P/O J.E.J. ARSCOTT. 131776. G.D. 12.12.43. Posted to 428 Sqdn. from 1659 Con. Unit		
			wef. date stated, TQBS. 14.12.43. Auth:		
			6Q/2672/43 dated 11.12.43.		
			<u>Entry No. 7 FOR 34.</u>		
			P/O J.H.R. OAKLEY. 158808 G.D. 14.12.43. Appointed to the rank of Acting Flight		
			Lieutenant wef. date stated. Auth: HQ HQ		
			p'gram HQ/12988/43 dated 23.12.43.		
			<u>Entry No. 11 FOR 62.</u>		
			CAN. R126515 W/O2 WOF/AIR (2) SNOW G.W. Posted to 428 Sqdn. from 1659 Con. Unit		
			CAN. R155027 SGT. A.G. (5) MERRICK R.A. wef. 12.12.43. SORS. 14.12.43. Auth:		
			CAN. R157069 SGT. A.G. (5) COWDEN V.J. 6 Crps 6Q/2672 dated 11.12.43.		
			<u>Entry No. 6 FOR 64.</u>		
			183592A. SGT. FLT/ENG. (1) FULLER A.W. Posted to 428 Sqdn. from 1659 Con. Unit		
			wef. 12.12.43. SORS. 14.12.43. Auth: 6 Crps.		
			6Q/2672/43 dated 11.12.43.		
			<u>Entry No. 2 FOR 52.</u>		
			P/O M.A. HENRY. J.19136 G.D. 16.10.43. Reported to 428 Sqdn. on appointment to a		
			commission wef. date stated. Auth: 6 Crps.		
			p'gram HQ/2646/43 dated 11.12.43.		
			<u>Entry No. 1 FOR 53.</u>		
			P/O J.M. CARTER. J.16830 G.D. 1.1.43. T.O.S. on appointment to a commission wef.		
			date stated. Auth: A.M. letter A.46900A		
			42/S.7.(r)1(b) dated 3.3.43.		