

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

100-1-488
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Page No. 1

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	1.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No operations scheduled for today, most of the boys had thick heads after New Year's Eve Party anyway, complaints were not as loud as usual when stand-down is ordered. No flying training was carried out but routine in sections was normal. 		
	2.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stand-down again today. Three special training flights and two air to sea exercises were flown. Six aircraft were detailed for a Bullseye, one returning early owing to the aircraft going unserviceable. The remainder carried out the exercise successfully, one obtaining a photo of the I.R. 		
	3.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No operations scheduled for today, due to weather being duff. Lectures were held for pilots and air-gunners in the forenoon and Bomb-aimers had an Intelligence lecture, Fish-pond lectures also held. Link instruction and Gee training carried out. No flying done as weather duff, three Radar flights detailed were scrubbed. Bomber Command issued instructions to Camera Section regarding the clearance between looking lever and locating lens. Cameras were brought in and the clearance set to .015 inches as instructed. 		
	4.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Six aircraft detailed for Gardening operations on Brest. New technique was employed, miss being laid from 15,000 feet and cameras being used. Results were extremely good, four photos showing good coastline detail. Headquarters No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group congratulated the Squadron on the good show put up. Two Radar Cross countries, one air-test, one bombing, and one air to air exercise were flown. F/L G.V.V. Nicholls and F/L R.F. Klobbies of HQ No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group visited the Squadron to discuss the compilation of the Form 540 with the Adjutant. 		A.89

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	5.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eight crews were briefed for operations, but they were scrubbed at 22.00 hours just before take-off. 2. No flying was done all day, ground training was carried on. 3. S/L W.R. Suggitt (J.15131 R.C.A.F.) formerly O.C. Squadron and now with 617 Squadron and S/L A.V. Reilander (J.20359 R.C.A.F.) formerly Deputy Flight Commander of "A" Flight and now with 424 Squadron, visited this Squadron and renewed friendships. 		
	6.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Six crews detailed for mining operations on St. Nazaire. 2. New technique and cameras were used again with good results. 3. All returned safely, the only incident being a fighter attack on F/O Brown's (J.24433 R.C.A.F.) aircraft. No damage was suffered. 4. F/O Blake (J.14152 R.C.A.F.) and crew reported to the Squadron. The crew were "old timers" with us being formerly with F/O Fernyhough (J.15988 R.C.A.F.) who was repatriated for medical reasons. 		A.50
	7.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No operations scheduled today. 2. Three special Radar flights and three air to air firing exercises were flown. 3. Four crews were detailed for a Command Bullseye. Photographic results nothing extraordinary, two getting a slight trace. 4. Routine in all sections was normal. 5. W/O French (O.1817) R.C.A.F. left on leave, S/L W.A.G. McLeish (J.4886 R.C.A.F.) O.C. "A" Flt. took command of the Squadron. 		
	8.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fourteen aircraft were scheduled for operations but were scrubbed early in the day. 2. Three special radar flights were flown and ground training was carried out in the afternoon. 3. Air Marshal Broadner, the A.O.C. in C. visited the Station today. 		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	9.1.44		1. Stand-down again today as we are well into the moon period. 2. One air test, five special radar flights, two fighter affiliation and two air to air firing exercises were flown. 3. Bomb Aimers and Wireless Operators had lectures in their sections. 4. W/O Melcombe (R.110116 R.C.A.F.) and crew reported in and were posted to "B" Flight.		
	10.1.44		1. No operations scheduled for today, moon is full now. 2. Special radar training carried out with three crews doing two trips (one day, one night) each and two crews one trip. 3. Two fighter affiliations, one bombing exercise and two air to air exercises were flown. 4. With so many aircraft taking part, the aerodrome looked like a Con. Unit.		
	11.1.44		1. No operations today as the weather is duff. 2. No local flying was carried out. 3. Ground training and lectures, routine normal in all sections.		
	12.1.44		1. Stand-down again today with thick mist and fog preventing any local flying. 2. A letter was received from Mr. Qualey letting the Squadron know that his son, Sgt. Qualey (1808048 R.A.F.) was a prisoner of war. The letter also stated that the entire crew of S/L Jack Beggs (J.4422 R.C.A.F.), with the exception of P/Sgt. Barak (R.157138 R.C.A.F.) were prisoners. 3. This news was received with great joy as the entire crew were very popular. 4. It is still hoped that the news of P/Sgt. Barak's death, which is unconfirmed, may not be true.		
	13.1.44		1. Again a stand-down with duff weather preventing flying. 2. W/Odr. French and crew returned from leave. 3. Squadron standdown in the afternoon.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	14.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand down again today. 2. Five crews did special radar cross countries. 3. W/Odr. French, F/L MoGuan and Sgt. Jutesch practised one descent in poor visibility. 4. One bombing and four fighter affiliations were flown. 5. A Comment-Bullseye was flown at night, two new crews, F/Sgt. Carter (R.144138 R.C.A.F.) and F/Sgt. Magill (R.130166 R.C.A.F.) did their first flying with the Squadron. Results were good with three of the four crews getting good photos. 		
	15.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand down again with really duff weather. 2. No local flying possible. 3. F/L Oakley (158808 R.A.F.) Flight Engineer Leader returned from the Air/Sea Rescue course at Blackpool, making the boys envious with his description of the lovely weather they were having there. 4. F/L Martin (J.16776 R.C.A.F.) Bombing Leader, lectured Flight Engineers on manual release of bombs. 5. F/L Oakley lectured bomb aimers on the Air Borne lifeboat. 		
	16.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No operations detailed for today. 2. There was a good representation of the Squadron at church in the forenoon where a very good sermon was preached by G/Ocpt. Lighthourne, Protestant Chaplain in Chief, R.C.A.F. 3. S/L Carr-Harris, Station C.T.O. discussed the cloakroom system with F/L Oakley. 4. There doesn't seem to be enough bodies to man it properly. 5. S/L Carr-Harris suggested using aircrew but there are too many snags to make that practical. 		
	17.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand down again today. 2. Met. lectures in the afternoon for Pilots, Navigators, Flight Engineers and Bomb Aimers. 3. W/Odr. French and F/L Oakley went to Croft to look at the cloakroom system in operation there. 3. The Flight Engineers inaugurated a new scheme of "Questionnaires" on hydraulics, full system etc. 		

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for revision purposes and to keep the boys on their toes.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	18.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No operations detailed for today. 2. Work was started on a new cloakroom system. 3. Two crews did special training flights and six were on local flying in the morning. 4. The weather closed in again today, with rain in the afternoon. 		
	19.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand down again today, with buff weather. 2. No local flying possible. 3. The Flight Engineers organised a football team and hope to get another so they can have games on stand down days. 4. A Bullseye was detailed but scrubbed on account of the weather. 5. F/L Maddin (J.16776 R.C.A.F.) left to take over Bombing Leader post on 425 Squadron. F/O Carter (J.16830 R.C.A.F.) took over duties of Bombing Leader for the Squadron. 		
	20.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sixteen crews detailed for operations on Berlin, all got off but one returned early. 2. This was F/Sgt. Gouthreau (R.137653 R.C.A.F.) and his return was due to icing and inexperience. 3. Fourteen returned safely, F/Sgt. Powers landed at Great Ashfield. This was F/Sgt. Powers' first trip on the Squadron as Captain. 4. F/Sgt. Reiss (R.131517 R.C.A.F.) on his first trip as Captain failed to return. 5. F/O W.V. Black (J.14152 R.C.A.F.), F/Sgt. Side (R.149753 R.C.A.F.) F/Sgt. Magill (R.130188 R.C.A.F.) F/Sgt. Lillico (R.144017 R.C.A.F.) and F/Sgt. Carter (R.144138 R.C.A.F.) made their first trips as second pilot. 6. I - Item piloted by S/L G.S. Bartlett (39928 R.A.F.) B - Bear piloted by S/L W.A.G. Moleish (J.4886 R.C.A.F.) Y - York with F/O Woolverton (J.23297 R.C.A.F.) 		A. 21
			<p>were attached by fighters and badly damaged, but none of the crews were hurt.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	21.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ten aircraft scheduled for operations on Magdeburg. 2. One was a non-starter and one returned early due to sickness of the Bomb-Aimer. 3. The rest reached the target and bombed successfully. 4. W/Odr. French and crew went on this operation and P/O Blake, W/O Melcombe (R.110116 R.C.A.F.), F/Sgt. Terry (R.146630 R.C.A.F.), and F/Sgt. Side made their first trips as Captain. 5. F/Sgt. Terry and crew failed to return. 6. The other aircraft were diverted to Tempsford on account of weather. 		A. 22
	22.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No operations scheduled for today. 2. The aircraft diverted to Tempsford returned with the exception of "X" and "R", "X" has hydraulic leak and "R" required an engine change. 3. One air test was flown. 4. Routine in all sections normal. 		
	23.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand-down again today. 2. F/Sgt. Side returned from Tempsford in "X" bringing the crew of "R" with him. 3. Four special Radar flights were flown. 4. Night flying was cancelled by weather. 		
	24.1.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No operations scheduled today as the weather is very dull with rain and strong winds. 2. F/Sgt. McCallivray (R152382 R.C.A.F.) and Sgt. Munns (1814550 R.A.F.) of F/Sgt. Shepherd's crew reported missing the night of 19/20th November after the raid on Leverkusen, visited the Squadron today. Both were very happy at reaching England after evading capture and walking out of Europe. 3. F/O Ardis lectured the Flight Engineers on gunnery tactics. 		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George	25.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fifteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed twenty minutes before take off on account of weather. Air tests were carried out during the day. F/Sgt. Yaltee (1238067 R.A.F.) in our new "P" while air-testing found the under-carriage would not lock down. He made a crash landing on the grass by the runway and none of the crew were injured. The aircraft was not seriously damaged. Dinghy drill was practised by crews. 		
	26.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No operations or flying all day through duff weather. Squadron stand-down in the afternoon. The Flight Engineers held a discussion on the correct use of hot air in icing conditions. 		
	27.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sixteen aircraft and crews were scheduled and briefed for operations, which were scrubbed at noon on account of weather. An acceptance check on an aircraft received from Leeming was carried out. Routine in all sections was normal. 		
	28.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fourteen crews were detailed for operations on Berlin. Three returned early and the remainder pranged the target and returned safely. All the boys report a wisard prange. Two aircraft were delivered to Leeming, and two special radar trips were flown. Lecture on "H" type dinghies was given to Bomb-liners. 		A.93.
	29.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Command stand-down today. Ground training was carried out as usual. No flying was carried out. 		
	30.1.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stand down again today. Six special radar flights, two cross-countries and one air test were flown. 		DA

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Middleton St. George.	30.1.44.		3. Three crews flew to Gravelly to ferry new aircraft to base.		
			4. F/L Garter (J.46830) and F/O M. Steele (J.21985) went to HQ. 5. Group to interview Group Bombing Leader.		
	31.1.44.		1. Six aircraft were detailed for a Gardening operation which was scrubbed at 18.00 hours.		
			2. S/L McLeish (J.4886 R.C.A.F.) left on leave and F/L F. MoGuen (J.3716 R.C.A.F.) assumed Command of "A" Flight.		
			3. Four crews carried out special radar flights.		
			<u>SUMMARY OF STRENGTH - 31ST JANUARY, 1944</u>		
			<u>Aircrew</u>	<u>Crewscrew</u>	<u>Total</u>
			R.C.A.F. OFFICERS.	62	2
			" W.D. OFFICERS.	-	-
			" AIRMEN.	82	180
			" W.D. AIRWOMEN.	-	-
			R.A.F. OFFICERS.	14	-
			W.A.A.F. KITCHEN.	-	-
			R.A.F. AIRMEN.	83	17
			W.A.A.F. AIRWOMEN.	-	7
			AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS.	-	-
			" AIRMEN.	1	-
			NEW ZEALAND OFFICERS.	-	-
			" " AIRMEN.	-	-
			U.S.A. OFFICERS (BOAP)	2	-
			" AIRMEN (BOAP)	1	-

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>FLYING TIMES FOR THE MONTH.</u>	
			(i) OPERATIONAL: DAY: NIL.	
			NIGHT: 576.40	
			(ii) NON-OPERATIONAL: DAY: 188.10	
			NIGHT: 71.00	
			<u>AIRCRAFT ON SQUADRON'S CHARGE.</u>	
			HALIFAX V. 1.	
			HALIFAX II. 18.	
			<u>NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES FLOWN DURING MONTH OF JANUARY.</u>	
			51.	
			<u>HEALTH.</u>	
			The health of the Squadron personnel, generally, is good.	
			<i>David T. French</i> (DAVID T. FRENCH) WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING, NO. 128 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.	
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APPENDICE TO OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK FOR JANUARY, 1944.					
R.C.A.F. Officers F.O.R. Serial No. 2 dated 7.1.44. Entry No. 1.					
	W/O	V.V. BLAKE.	J.14132 G.D.	5.1.44.	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1664 Con. Unit wfr. date stated. TOBS. 5.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp. 6Q/P.505 dated 4.1.44.
Entry No. 6.					
	W/O	W.D. WATT.	J.21540 G.D.	5.1.44.	Ceased to be detached from 428 Sqn. to 1664 Con. Unit wfr. date stated. TOBS. 6.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp. 6Q/P.505 dated 4.1.44.
	W/O	H.A. BRIE.	J.14200 G.D.		
Entry No. 3 R.C.A.F. Airman's F.O.R. Serial No. 2 dated 8.1.44.					
	W/O	A.C. (5) HOUSTON J.			Ceased to be detached from 428 Sqn. to 1664 Con. Unit wfr. 5.1.44. TOBS. 6.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp. 6Q/P.505 dated 4.1.44.
	SGT.	A.C. (5) JERRY T.			
Entry No. 2 R.A.F. Airman's F.O.R. Serial No. 2 dated 7.1.44.					
	SGT.	FLY/ENG. (1) DANSKIN J.			Ceased to be detached from 428 Sqn. to 1664 Con. Unit wfr. 5.1.44. TOBS. 6.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp. 6Q/P.505 dated 4.1.44.
	SGT.	WCE/AIR. (1) GRAHAM G.			
Entry No. 2 R.C.A.F. Officer's F.O.R. Serial No. 2 dated 7.1.44.					
	W/O	J.M. CLEMENT.	J.24556 G.D.	4.1.44.	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1659 Con. Unit wfr. date stated. TOBS. 5.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp. EXP/ENG Sig. P.468 dated 3.1.44.
F.O.R. Serial No. 9/44.					
	W/O	J.V. WESS.	J.20716 G.D.	4.1.44.	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1659 Con. Unit wfr. date stated. TOBS. 5.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig. P.468 dated 3.1.44.
Entry No. 1 R.C.A.F. Airman's F.O.R. Serial No. 2 dated 6.1.44.					
	W/O	PILOT (4) WELDON D.R.			Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1659 Con. Unit wfr. 4.1.44. TOBS. 5.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig. P.468 dated 3.1.44.
Entry No. 1 R.A.F. Airman's F.O.R. Serial No. 2 dated 7.1.44.					
	SGT.	WCE/AIR (2) DEVINE F.			Posted to 428 Sqn. from 1659 Con. Unit wfr. 4.1.44. TOBS. 5.1.44. Auth: 6 Grp.
	SGT.	M.U.G. (5) BRAITHWAITE H.			
	SGT.	A.G. (5) BAILEY P.O.			Sig. P.468 dated 3.1.44.
	SGT.	FLY/ENG. (1) DEAKIN A.G.			

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