



OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

J. 221-428  
DA5.

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	1.3.44.		1. Twelve crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed at 21.30 hours due to weather and heavy ice on wings. 2. The ground crew did a heroic job for three hours trying to remove the ice but it was impossible. 3. Ground training for Gunners and Bomb Alarms was carried out. 4. One bombing exercise and two special radar flights were flown. 5. Combined operating Signals (AF.3026) came into use today, replacing X Signals (AF.982). . . . . . . Wireless Operators had lectures on Procedure.	
	2.3.44.		1. Seventeen crews were detailed for operations on Meulan; precision bombing from 6,000 feet in clear sky with about half moon. 2. All aircraft attacked the target and returned safely with no incidents. 3. W/O French (G.1617 R.C.A.F.) our O.C. led our attack and reported a successful raid. . . . 4. One short special radar cross country was flown and routine in all sections was normal as regards training.	A.103.
	3.3.44.		1. Fourteen crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations on the Gironde River (Bordeaux). 2. Thirteen took off as "U - Uncle" became unserviceable at the last minute. 3. This was a heart-breaker for its ground crew as they had worked like Trojans all day, without meals or rest, to get two engines serviceable (including radiator changes) and had the job completed and the kits at the marshalling point ten minutes before take-off time, then at the last minute another engine developed a mag. drop. 4. P/L R.A. Anderson (J.6173 R.C.A.F.) returned early due to failure of radar equipment. . . . 5. The rest attacked the target and returned safely. 6. P/L Oakley, Flight Engineer Leader returned from a course at St. Athans. 7. P/O Biden D.F.C. (J.2443 R.C.A.F.) delivered "O" Charlie to York for overhaul or dismantle. 8. P/L Sutherland DFM (J.1604 R.C.A.F.) flew to York in the Oxford to bring P/O Biden back.	A.104.

85/26

SECRET.

509

www.bomber.com

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	4.3.44.		<p>1. Five crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations on Brest.</p> <p>2. All attacked the target and returned safely to England.</p> <p>3. They were diverted to Leeming on account of duff weather over base, where it was snowing fairly heavily with high wind.</p> <p>4. Photographic results were fair with three getting pictures and other two having flash failures.</p> <p>5. Advice was received of the immediate award of the D.F.C. to P/L O.E.J. Murphy (J.20392 R.C.A.F.) for the courage and determination shown in pressing on to the target despite the failure of one engine while mining and flare dropping at Kiel on February 25th.</p> <p>6. P/O Biden did local flying practising Gee.</p>		A.105.
	5.3.44.		<p>1. Stand down today with very little doing.</p> <p>2. W/C French left on leave and S/L W.A.C. McLeish (J.1886 R.C.A.F.) took over Command of the Squadron.</p> <p>3. Group W/E exercise supervised by P/O Ghiles was held today with marks of 8/10 being awarded.</p> <p>4. Nine Wireless Operators wrote their Grade 1 examination.</p>		
	6.3.44.		<p>1. Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on Trappes, carrying about 12,000 lbs. of bombs.</p> <p>2. Reports of the crews and photographs show very good concentration on the target.</p> <p>3. Owing to weather over base a diversion was ordered and all aircraft excepting three landed away, one at Lindon and the rest at Harval.</p> <p>4. No aircraft were lost and no incidents reported.</p> <p>5. P/O Pearson (160516 R.A.F.) was recommended for a Fishpond Instructors Course on the completion of his tour.</p>		A.106.

## 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.	7.3.44.		<p>1. P/O Brown (J.24435 R.C.A.F.) returned from Linton in "X" -Kray.</p> <p>2. Fifteen aircraft had been detailed for operations on Le Mans but only four were available most of the day as the rest were not back from diversion bases.</p> <p>3. Due to the heroic efforts of the groundcrew nine finally took off, many of the engines still being warm from returning.</p> <p>4. The minute a kite reached dispersal the groundcrew made their inspection, the armours were bombed up and it was rushed to the marshalling point and the number available rose steadily from four to nine in slightly over two hours which was a very good show on the part of our groundcrew and armours.</p> <p>5. P/Sgt. Judiesch (R.143054 R.C.A.F.) and P/O Hasmith (J.20713 R.C.A.F.), his Navigator had a special briefing and took off again in less than an hour of return from diversion base.</p> <p>6. Owing to unforeseen circumstances the attack was not overly successful and two crews brought back their bombs as instructed.</p>		A.107.
	8.3.44.		<p>1. The balance of diverted aircraft returned to base.</p> <p>2. Thirteen aircraft were detailed for operations but this number was cut to four and finally resulted in a scrub.</p> <p>3. Sgt. Crossan, Air Gunner, was screened after completing twenty night trips and posted to an O.T.U. as an instructor.</p>		
	9.3.44.		<p>1. Four crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed at 16.30 hours due to duff weather.</p> <p>2. Ground training and lectures were held for bomb-aimers and gunners.</p> <p>3. Plans are being laid for a Squadron Party on the 11th in honour of the groundcrew.</p>		

R39



Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	10.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nine crews were detailed for operations which were scrubbed early and before briefing.</li> <li>2. Normal training was carried out in the afternoon.</li> <li>3. The Squadron was highly pleased to receive advice of the immediate award of the D.F.C. to W/O Houston (R.82755 R.C.A.F.) for his share in the good show put up with his pilot P/O W.V. Blake (J.14482 R.C.A.F.), over Leipzig on February 19th.</li> <li>4. W/O French returned from leave and resumed command of the Squadron.</li> <li>5. P/L Ker of 424 Squadron is here getting up on Fishpond.</li> </ol>		
	11.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ten crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations on Lorient, W/O French (G.1617 RCAP) Squadron Commander, leading our kites.</li> <li>2. The attack was considered successful though photographs were not exceptionally good.</li> <li>3. All aircraft returned safely, one landing away due to engine trouble.</li> <li>4. Two crews made training flights and two ferried aircraft to base.</li> <li>5. It looks like a record month for sorties at the present rate, as tonight's attack brings us up to 69 completed sorties already this month.</li> <li>6. P/L Sutherland DFM. (J.16044 R.C.A.F.) completed his second tour with tonight's trip and will be screened.</li> </ol>		A.108.
	12.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No operations detailed for today.</li> <li>2. The attendance at church service was not as good as usual.</li> <li>3. Padre Gross gave a very good address.</li> <li>4. The new Padre, P/L Coleman (R.01424) was in attendance and read the lesson.</li> <li>5. A Group W/T exercise was held in the morning with excellent results, a mark of 9/10 being awarded.</li> <li>6. Aircraft "V" - Victor was ferried from Exeter to base, Fishpond training was carried out and two special training flights.</li> </ol>		

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	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	12.3.44.		<p>7. F/O Kev completed his Flight training and is preparing to return to his Unit.</p> <p>8. A Squadron Party was held in the evening in honour of the groundcrew, who have been putting up a bang-on show all the time and really having the kites ready.</p> <p>9. The party was a decided success (due chiefly to the work of W/O Gauthier (CAN. 1783 R.C.A.F.) who spent a great deal of time and effort in the preparation.)</p> <p>10. W/Odr. French held the chair and W/O Gauthier acted as Master of Ceremonies.</p> <p>11. W/Odr. French extended to the groundcrew the hearty thanks of the aircrew for their efforts and the aircrew gave a toast to them.</p> <p>12. The party did a great deal towards bringing all sections together and should be an annual feature.</p>		
	30.3.44.		<p>1. Fifteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on Le Mans, carrying 10,000 lbs of bombs.</p> <p>2. F/O Vallée (R.A.F.) was an early return in "B-Hazy" due to engine failure.</p> <p>3. The 1st balance bombed the target and returned to base safely with no incidents being reported.</p> <p>4. Photographic results were good, twelve getting good ones and two failures due to electrical trouble.</p> <p>5. One air test was flown.</p> <p>6. Advice was received from No. 1 R.C.C. that 1582668 Sgt. Roberts I.P. P/Engineer on P/Sgt. Terry's (No. 148630 RCAF) crew, reported missing 21/22nd January, 1944, on Magdeburg, is now a prisoner of war.</p>		A.109.
	14.3.44.		<p>1. Stand down today.</p> <p>2. Flight training and fighter affiliation were flown.</p> <p>3. Operational sorties for this month are nearing the 100 mark.</p>		

519

www.bombercommand.com/rafbombercommand/rafbombercommand

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	15.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fourteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on Amiens.</li> <li>All bombed the target and returned safely to base but the operation was not considered too successfully.</li> <li>Considerable flak and searchlights at the target, one aircraft being shot up by flak and low clouds preventing good photos.</li> <li>Three W/T failures were encountered due to faulty equipment.</li> <li>No flying training was done.</li> </ol>		A.110.
	16.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fifteen crews detailed for a return engagement on Amiens.</li> <li>All reached the target, bombed successfully and returned to base.</li> <li>This attack was considered a good prang.</li> <li>Good photos were obtained by twelve crews, one not attempting photography and the other showing no result of flash.</li> <li>Bomber Command gave permission to modify helmets by placing a screen of thin rubber over mks head to prevent condensation (providing, of course, we can secure our own rubber).</li> </ol>		A.111.
	17.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No operations detailed for today.</li> <li>The Squadron received six target tokens on the raid on Meulan-les-Mureaux on March 2nd and eleven on Trepoles on March 6th.</li> <li>THIS INDICATES that our Bomb Aimers are on the bit and doing a good job.</li> <li>Air Tests were flown but no training flights.</li> <li>Bomb Aimers and Wireless Operators did ground training.</li> <li>Advice was received from the I.R.C.G. regarding P/Sgt. Keighan's crew reported missing on Frankfurt on 20th December, 1943.</li> <li>P/Sgt. Keighan (Pilot) R.131253 R.C.A.F., Prisoner of War, P/O K.M. Mosher (Nav.) J.2153 RCAF, R68615 Sgt. Jessiman (P/E) RCAF, R1280734 P/Sgt Tyoeles (P/A) RCAF, 1546173 Sgt. Slater (WOP/ATR) 1052337 Sgt. Kennell (M.U.C.) and 1600759 Sgt. Dagnall (A/G) all killed.</li> </ol>		

(70000-200) Wt. 1210-2000 1200 1210 T.A. 700  
 (11200-200) Wt. 1210-200 1200 1210 T.A. 700

111

www.bombercommand.com  
 www.thesouthernfiles.ca





Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	22.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nineteen crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations on Kiel Bay.</li> <li>2. "P" - Love developed engine trouble at the marshalling point and was a non-starter and F/L Kogan (J.21328 R.C.A.F.) returned early in V - Visier owing to H2S failure.</li> <li>3. The balance attacked the target and returned to base safely.</li> <li>4. W/Odr. French <del>had</del> our sortie.</li> <li>5. Several crews acted as markers dropping flares for the benefit of aircraft of 3 and 6 Groups.</li> <li>6. One air test was flown.</li> </ol>		A.113.
	23.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eighteen aircraft <del>was</del> detailed for operations on the marshalling yards at Lech.</li> <li>2. All crews reached the target and returned safely, one crew landing at Topcliffe.</li> <li>3. Two returned with bombs owing to markers not being too good.</li> <li>4. Photographs showed good results.</li> </ol>		A.114.
	24.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No operations are detailed for today.</li> <li>2. Squadron stand-down which was well appreciated by the boys.</li> <li>3. W/O Edwards (J.14045 R.C.A.F.) and crew reported in for duty and were assigned to "A" Flight.</li> <li>4. F/O Edwards is an ex-instructor with approximately 1600 hours in and seems a good type.</li> <li>5. Advice was received that 1556395 Sgt. Banner (WRE/AIR) is safe in the United Kingdom.</li> <li>6. He was previously reported missing with P/Sgt. Beards (H31517 R.C.A.F.) crew on Berlin 20/21st January, 1944.</li> </ol>		
	25.3.44.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on ALLHOYE.</li> <li>2. W/O Edwards went as second dicky with S/L W.A.C. McEish, "A" Flight Commander.</li> <li>3. <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> All bombed the target and returned safely.</li> <li>4. Fourteen crews secured very good photos and the attack was considered successful.</li> <li>5. Seven air tests and one Gee test were flown.</li> <li>6. F/L Oakley lectured the Flight Engineers on instruments.</li> <li>7. The new W/T log was instituted in the Signals Section.</li> </ol>		A.115.



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	References to Appendices
Middleton St. George.	26.3.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on Courtrai, W/O French leading the attack for the Squadron.</li> <li>All aircraft attacked the target and returned safely to base.</li> <li>Photographic results were excellent with all crews getting good photos.</li> <li>W/L Watkins (J. 8690 R.C.A.F.) was promoted to Acting Squadron Leader and posted to 434 Sqdn. as a Flight Commander, his crew being posted with him.</li> <li>Some local flying was done and W/L Sutherland DFM flew the A.T.C. in the Oxford.</li> <li>Attendance at church was not as good as usual.</li> </ol>		A. 116.
	27.3.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No operations scheduled for today but six aircraft were detailed for an "Eric" exercise.</li> <li>This proved to be good training with many fighter attacks by Mosquitos, Beaufighters and Spitfires.</li> <li>P/O Kruse (J. 19349 R.C.A.F.) in K. King landed at base but remainder were diverted to Leeming, returning in the evening.</li> <li>Leeming was fairly tricky owing to ground haze and smoke.</li> <li>Sgt. Robson (1493863) took his Grade I as WOP/AIR test obtaining 75%.</li> </ol>		
	28.3.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No operations detailed for today and weather is foggy and hazy, stopping any flying.</li> <li>An instructional film was shown in the N.A.A.P.I. for all aircrew.</li> <li>Flight Engineers had lectures on engine handling, Air bombers, Gunners and WOPs usual training.</li> </ol>		
	29.3.44		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sixteen crews were detailed for operations on Vaires.</li> <li>W/O Borsberg (R. 107547 R.C.A.F.) returned early due to icing conditions but the remainder bombed the target and returned safely to base.</li> <li>Twelve good photos were obtained and the prang was considered successful, many violent explosions being heard.</li> <li>New XP Unit was demonstrated to the Wireless Operators.</li> <li>The aircraft was modified by placing the "Gee" unit on the Navigator's table.</li> </ol>		A. 117.

www.bombercommand.com

037

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices												
Middleton St. George.	30.3.44		<p>1. A stand-down was first announced by Group, but at 11.30 hours fourteen aircraft were detailed for mining operations on Heligoland.</p> <p>2. W/O French lost our towed.</p> <p>3. All reached the target, mined successfully and returned safely to base.</p> <p>4. The moon was very bright, but, although several enemy fighters were seen, no attacks were made.</p> <p>5. Two fighter affiliations and one Gee practice flights were flown.</p> <p>6. One aircraft flew an air to air firing.</p>		A.118.												
	31.3.44		<p>1. No operations scheduled for today.</p> <p>2. Flight Engineers had lectures on fuel system and dinghy radio.</p> <p>3. Three crews were detailed for bombing practice but found visibility over the range very poor.</p> <p>4. MARCH has been a record month for the Squadron in sorties.</p> <p>5. Operations were ordered on 28 days, 6 were scrubbed, and 18 carried out, all with no loss and no accidents.</p> <p>6. The summary is as follows:-</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Aircraft Marshalled.</td> <td>292.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Scrubbed.</td> <td>62.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-Starters.</td> <td>2.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Early Returns.</td> <td>14.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Completed sorties.</td> <td>224.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hours flown.</td> <td>1394.</td> </tr> </table> <p>7. This record could only have been achieved by the fullest co-operation of all sections and their unswerving loyalty to the Squadron.</p> <p>8. W/Odr. French wrote to the head of each Section thanking them for this co-operation and loyalty.</p>	Aircraft Marshalled.	292.	" Scrubbed.	62.	Non-Starters.	2.	Early Returns.	14.	Completed sorties.	224.	Hours flown.	1394.		
Aircraft Marshalled.	292.																
" Scrubbed.	62.																
Non-Starters.	2.																
Early Returns.	14.																
Completed sorties.	224.																
Hours flown.	1394.																

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	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
<u>SUMMARY OF STRENGTH 31ST MARCH, 1944.</u>					
			<u>Aircrew.</u> <u>Groundcrew.</u> <u>Total.</u>		
			R.C.A.F. Officers,      64      2      66		
			"      W.D. OFFICERS,      -      -      -		
			"      Airmen,      72      210      282		
			"      W.D. Airwomen,      -      -      -		
			R.A.F. Officers,      16      -      16		
			"      Airmen,      -      -      -		
			"      W.A.A.F. Airmen,      66      29      95		
			"      W.A.A.F. Airwomen,      -      8      8		
			Australian Officers,      -      -      -		
			"      Airmen,      -      -      -		
			New Zealand Officers,      -      -      -		
			"      Airmen,      -      -      -		
			U.S.A. Officers,      3      -      3		
			"      Airmen,      3      -      3		
<u>FLYING TIMES FOR MONTH.</u>					
			(4) Operational:      Day: Nil.		
			Night: 1391.00 hours.		
			(11) Non-Operational:      Day: 10.10 hours.		
			Night: Nil.		
<u>NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES FLOWN DURING MONTH.</u>					
228.					
<u>Tons of Bombs dropped on enemy territory and mines sown in enemy waters.</u>					
			<u>Tons (2240)</u> <u>Mines</u> <u>H.E.</u> <u>Incidinary</u>		
			Bombs dropped from 1.4.44 to 29.2.44,      94      34      116.		
			"      "      during March.      94      706      -		
			188      740      116.		
			/over.		

1944

www.bombercommand.com/rafmarchives.ca





# 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	References to Appendices
<u>APPENDICE TO FORM 540 FOR MARCH, 1944.</u>					
<u>R.C.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 23 dated 27.3.44. Entry No. 2.</u>					
P/O	G.J. EDWARDS	J. 14065	G.D. 21.3.44.	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 61 RGAF Base w/f.	
P/O	R.G. ROSS	J. 28557	G.D.	date stated. TORB. 25.3.44. Auth: 6 Grp.	
P/O	R.S. THOMPSON	J. 20074	G.D.	Sig. P. 261 dated 23.3.44.	
<u>R.C.A.F. Airmen P.O.R. Serial No. 27 dated 27.3.44. entry No. 2.</u>					
CAN. R117748	W/O1	WCE/AG	(2)	DEPRETIS A.	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 61 RGAF Base w/f.
CAN. R185809	SGT.	A.G.	(5)	MATHESON A.G.	24.3.44. TORB. 25.3.44. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig.
CAN. R209650	SGT.	A.G.	(5)	MULCHINOOK J.G.	P. 261 dated 23.3.44.
<u>R.A.A.F. Airmen P.O.R. Serial No. 23 dated 27.3.44. Entry No. 1.</u>					
182A731	SGT.	FIW/ENG.	(1)	DUFF R.A.	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 61 RGAF Base w/f.
					24.3.44. TORB. 25.3.44. Auth: 6 Grp. Sig.
					P. 261 dated 23.3.44.
<u>Entry No. 1 R.C.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 23 dated 27.3.44.</u>					
P/L	F.H. WATKINS.	J. 7690	G.D.	21.3.44.	Appointed to the acting rank of Squadron Leader w/f. date stated. Auth: HQ BC P't gram BX/5794/44. dated 22.3.44.

BDA

www.bombercommandmuseum.com