

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	References to Appendices
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE.	1.1.44		No operations detailed to-day. Six crews took part in an Eric exercise and reported a good exercise with several simulated fighter attacks etc. Two Air Tests were flown, and ground training carried out. Flight Engineers had lectures on log making and on hydraulic system. Sgt. CHALMERS (2016207) Air Gunner was screened and left on leave.	
	2.1.44		Stand down again to-day. No local or training flying was carried out. Flight Engineers had lectures on "K" type dinghy and training in other sections was as usual.	
	3.1.44		No operations scheduled for to-day. No local or training flying possible. Pilots and WOP's had lectures on fuel system and Flight Engineers on the dinghy radio. Advice was received from the Air Officer Commanding in Chief of the immediate ward of the D.P.O. to P/L P.S. LORD (14883, R.C.A.F.) This award was made for his good show on March 13th in the attack on AMIENS and his example, perseverance and ability as Deputy Flight Commander. On the AMIENS raid one engine failed before he reached the target, but in spite of this he pressed on, bombed the target and reached base safely.	
	4.1.44		Four crews were detailed and briefed for operations but they were scrubbed at 1700 hours due to duff weather. Advice was received from the Air Officer in Chief of the immediate ward of the D.P.O. to P/L G.C. SUMMERS (11604, R.C.A.F.) on completion of his second tour. This award was made for the courage, skill and perseverance he had shown during his tour. Air Bo-Boys had a lecture on fuel system. The Servicing Wing made two Master Dipsticks to measure 5 and 6 tanks but they are practically useless as they do not read below 50 gallons.	
	5.1.44		No operations detailed for to-day. Link and dry dinghy drill were carried out. Flight Engineers had lectures and discussion on Hydraulic system, and the usual training carried out in the other sections. P/O W. KIRBY (119743, R.C.A.F.) and crew, excepting the navigator, are screened on completion of their first tour.	
	6.1.44		Eighteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed at 1630 hours, on account of bad weather. Arrangements were made with Croft to secure a Merlin XX Engine for demonstration and practice for the Flight Engineers.	
	7.1.44		Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed at 1730 hours due to duff weather. Two air firing details were flown. P/L Douglass (117076, RCAF) left for leave in Scotland.	

SECRET.

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LITTLETON ST. GROUP.	8.1.44		No operations detailed for to-day. Two air to air firing flights and two air tests were flown. One crew took off on a dual engine flight but returned owing to one engine going w/s. This flight was re-scheduled for night but was prevented through the pilot having to report sick. A party of Flight Engineers left for Croft to obtain the Merlin XX Engine.		
	9.1.44		Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on LILLE. All sixes'nt reached the target and had no incidents reported. All the crews considered it a good group. Engine-crews were good with only two flash failures.		A.119
	10.1.44		Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations, three mining and thirteen bombing. The mining was scrubbed just prior to take-off but thirteen took off to attack GERS. Two returned early due to w/s. and engine failure. Sixteen were good with three flash failures reported. Training was carried on in the morning and evening.		
	11.1.44		Stand-down to-day. Three fighter affiliations and one air test were flown. Two crews took part in a special night bull-eye with practice bombing with all bombs self-destructing flares etc. They reported a very good exercise. P/O SKENE-DEES (127477) flew with SGT AJMER a new bomber to give him instruction on the MK. XIV sight. Ground training was carried out by Signals, Bombing and Gunnery.		
	12.1.44		Sixteen crews were detailed for operations, five on mining and eleven on bombing. The bombing was scrubbed at noon but the mining crews carried on and gardened in the BELT OF ALL NIGHT successfully. All returned safely to England but were unable to land at base owing to weather and were diverted to MOLESWORTH. Two crews on fighter affiliation but returned early as both kites went w/s. P/O DUNCAN, Gunnery Leader returned from leave; P/O SLOW (117761) left for 7 days leave and thence for five weeks course at Signals School near REVELLYN, WALES.		A.121
	13.1.44		Six crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations on CHERBOURG. All reached the target, mined successfully and returned safely. All the diverted aircraft arrived at base from MOLESWORTH. Two air tests and one Gec practice were flown. Signals Section has a w/t Group test. The results were 7/10 which was not nearly as good as usual. Ground training was carried out as usual.		A.122

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MIDDLETON S.T. GEORGE	16.4.44		One of these days to-day. Sixteen aircraft were detailed for operations which were scrubbed by 1015 hours. Arrangements were then made for fighter affiliation but were scrubbed as all available aircraft were detailed for an Eric which was also scrubbed in five or ten minutes. However, sixteen were again detailed, this time for a Bulls-eye, which was also scrubbed at 1730 hours owing to weather. A regular shambles all day, bags of flour and panic soon resulted in several section leaders endeavouring to drown their sorrows in the evening. Was anyone on aspirin? Two air-tests were flown.		
	15.4.44		Ten crews detailed and briefed for Gardening operations which were scrubbed at 1640 hours. Two air tests were flown and ground training carried on. P/O W. KRUSE left for TOPCLIFFE, to do his non-operational stint between tours. Will miss Bill as he is a good type and had a good crew. P/O PARSON his V.O.P. departed in sorrow for LOSSIEBOUTH, wondering what crime he had committed to be banished to there.		
	16.4.44		No operations to-day but ten aircraft were detailed on an Eric exercise which was scrubbed at 1200 hours. Ground training and lectures were carried out but no flying.		
	17.4.44		Sixteen crews were detailed for operations, four on bombing and twelve on mining. The bombing kites were scrubbed but the "Banan Boys" gardened in the KIEL area. P/O G.W. LILLICO (J.85364 R.C.A.F.) and crew did not return. Gordon had just received his commission a short while and was highly popular, as were all his crew. We all hope for good news of them soon. All the rest returned safely with no incidents being reported. One test flight and one radar training flight were flown. W/O FRENCH left on temporary duty at Castle Archdale as member of a Court Martial.		A.123
	18.4.44		Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations in the ROSTOCK area and around COPENHAGEN. One was a non-starter due to engine trouble but the balance mined successfully and returned to base safely. Photographs were good with only one flash failure. P/L LYNNH (J.8143 R.C.A.F.) and crew reported in from 1664 C.U. They have had no radar so have to be trained.		A.124
	19.4.44		No operations scheduled for to-day. Two crews went out on a sea-search looking for Forts, but had no success. The weather is very duff and our two kites landed in heavy rain and winds. No other flying but ground training and lectures as usual.		

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MURPHY T. GEORGE	20.1.44		Four crews are detailed for mining at CHEBOURG and LE HAYE and twelve for bombing operations on LENSEY. All aircraft reached the targets but two crashed on return to England with disastrous results. S/L FRANK MCGUGAN (J.3716, R.C.A.F.) Officer Commanding "B" Flight and his Bomb-aimer P/O GEORGE ENGLAND (J.22427, R.C.A.F.) were killed. Frank failed to leave the aircraft after the crew had abandoned and went down with it and it is presumed that George's chute did not open as he had abandoned the aircraft when instructed. The loss of these two members is a severe blow to the Squadron as they were highly skilled and possessed marvellous personality which made them dear to us all. P/L FORD'S (J.21372, R.C.A.F.) aircraft was hit by enemy cannon shells over France and caught fire in the fuselage and port wing. P/O ARDIS (J.26095, R.C.A.F.) mid-upper gunner, P/O SHAW (54437) rear gunner and SGT GERRIGAN (1807113) Flight Engineer left their positions to fight the fire. P/L FORD gave orders to abandon aircraft but as these three were not on the inter-communication only the navigator P/O H.R. MCGEECOR (J.14675, R.C.A.F.) Air Bomber P/O PAT MURPHY (J.25069, R.C.A.F.) and W.O.P. P/SGT JONES (1089363) abandoned and are missing. P/L FORD then brought the aircraft back to England and crash landed. P/O SHAW suffered a fractured skull and died in a few hours and the rest are in hospital. P/L JONES and SGT DAVIES (1651880) went on their first second dokey trip.		A.125
	21.1.44		No operations scheduled for to-day. One air test and two training flights were flown. Ground training was carried on. Good photographs were secured of last night's raid and results appeared very successful.		
	22.1.44		Sixteen crews detailed for bombing operations on LAC. All got away, but two successfully and returned safely. P/O JUDENSCHE (J.85067, R.C.A.F.) P-POW, was hit by flak and holed rather badly but got through OK. One radar flight was flown. Photographs were very good.		A.126
	23.1.44		Fifteen crews are detailed for mining in the HIEL area. All got away, mined successfully but P/O W.V. BLAKE, D.P.C. (J.14132, R.C.A.F.) and crew did not return. Another D.P.C., P/O J.T. BOUTON is in his crew, W/O FERRICH returned from temporary duty at LAUTE ANNE DALE. Attendance at church was good for an operational day and Padre CROSS preached a very good sermon.		A.127
	24.1.44		Four crews are detailed on gardening operations, all mined successfully and returned safely. Three radar flights and two cross countries were flown and ground training was carried out in		A.128

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
MINDERTON ST. 100092	24.4.44		{continued}		
	24.4.44		all sections. It is getting hard to squeeze in training as the boys are working hard and steadily and need all the sleep they can get to carry on.		
	25.4.44		Thirteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations, the kites were marshalled but they scrubbed at 2330 hours. Two radar cross-countries were flown but no training flying or ground training. Advice was received that the crew of P/O BLAKE had baled out over SWENHILL and were interned and that it was presumed that P/O BLAKE was still in the aircraft which had crashed in 5 metres of water about 500 metres from shore. His crew are: P/O M.A. BELL (111200, RCAP) Navigator, P/O W.D. WATY (1021510, RCAP) Air Bomber, W/O GRAHAM, C. (1134777) W/O/AJN, SGT. DWISKEY, J. (298910) Flight Engineer, SGT Jerry, T. (2.193667, RCAP) Mid-Upper Gunner, P/O J.L. HOUSTON, IFC (J.65371, R.C.A.F.) Rear Gunner.		
	26.4.44		Fourteen crews detailed for bombing operations on VILLENEUVE ST. GEORGES. All took off, bombed successfully and returned safely. Eleven good photos were secured as two did not attempt and one had flash failure, showed said to be a good party. One radar cross country was flown and one acceptance check. Signal Section started weekly training reports in place of monthly.		A.129
	27.4.44		Fifteen crews detailed for operations, seven bombing on ALL OYE, eight gardening on four targets: CHENOURO, LE HAVRE, ST. MALO and MERLAIN. All carried out their duties successfully and returned safely to base. All photographs of ALL OYE were good and showed a successful attack. The funeral for S/L MORGAN, P/O ENGLAND was held at Regional Centre, Brookwood, to-day. S/L HOLESH (14886, RCAP), P/O T.L. STIMPLE (200216, RCAP), W/O WILSON, H.C. (107458, RCAP), SGT WYSE (1689075), SGT LAMBON (1197322, RCAP), represented the Squadron.		A.130
	28.4.44		A stand-down to-day, much needed and much appreciated as the boys have been working very steadily. One radar cross country was flown. P/O SHAW was buried at his home at SOMERBY BRIDGE, YORKS. to-day. Headquarters, 21 Group supplied a representative.		
	29.4.44		Eight crews detailed for gardening at CHENOURO, LE HAVRE, MERLAIN and ST. MALO. One returned early due to the breaking of a hydraulic line. The rest attacked the target and returned safely. W/O FRENCH, Squadron Commander, lead the attack for this Squadron. One air test, one training, one radar cross-country and two bombing details were flown. S/L YZZARD, Group Signals Leader, visited the Signal Section.		A.131

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices	
MILITARY HQ. TORONTO.	30.4.44		Sixteen crews detailed for gardenin on the main target at yesterday and SS. NAZARD. All mined successfully and returned safely. W/L LYRGE finished under training and is ready for operations. The Group W/T test schedule for to-day was cancelled as only two WCES were left in the section owing to operations, and local flying. Three Air-tests were flown.		A.132	
<u>SUMMARY OF STRENGTH 30th April 1944.</u>						
			R.C.A.F. Officers	Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total
			R.C.A.F. Officers	66	2	68
			R.C.A.F. W.D. Officers	-	-	-
			R.C.A.F. Airmen	60	236	296
			R.C.A.F. W.D. Airmen	-	-	-
			R.A.A.F. Officers	-	-	-
			R.A.A.F. Airmen	49	22	71
			R.A.A.F. Airwomen	-	8	8
			Australian Officers	-	-	-
			Australian Airmen	-	-	-
			New Zealand Officers	-	-	-
			New Zealand Airmen	-	-	-
			U.S.A. (R.C.A.F.) Officers	2	-	2
			U.S.A. (R.C.A.F.) Airmen	3	-	3
<u>FLYING STRENGTH FOR THE MONTH.</u>						
			(4) Operational: Day: Nil Night: 248.00 hours.			
			(11) Non-operational: Day: 93.00 Night: 4.55 hours.			
<u>NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES FLOWN DURING MONTH.</u>						
			Starters - 171.			
			D.C.O. - 168.			

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MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE			TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED ON ENEMY TERRITORY AND MINES SOWN IN MERRY WATERS.		
			Tons (221c)	Mines	H.E.
			Bombs dropped from 1.1.44 to 31.3.44 -	185	740
			" " during April -	122	361
			Cumulative total from 1.1.44 -	307	1101
				116	
			AIRCRAFT OF SQUADRON'S CHARGE.		
			HALIFAX II - 21.		
			HEALTH.		
			There was one death from Uraemia during the month. The health of the Squadron has been good.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			<u>SUPPLEMENT TO OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK.</u>		
			R.C.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 25, dated 5.4.44.		
			W/O F.G. IARD, J.4881 G.D.		Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Auth: HQBC Sig. P743 dated 2.4.44
			R.C.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 29, dated 20.4.44		
			W/O W.M. DRUSE, J.19349 G.D.	13.4.44	Posted from 428 Sqn. to 1699 OCU, Unit wef date stated SCRS 14.4.44 Auth: 6 Grp p'dgram 6/3127/44 dated 12.4.44.
			R.C.A.F. OFFICERS P.O.R. Serial No. 29, dated 20.4.44.		
			W/O H.J. HUNTER, J.24829 G.D.	17.4.44	Posted to 428 Sqn. from 61 Base wef date stated TORIS 15.4.44 Auth: 6 Grp Sig. P614 dated 16.4.44.
			W/O T. HARBUI, J.28929 G.D.		
			W/O F.E. LORCH, J.8243 G.D.		
			R.C.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 30, dated 28.4.44.		
			W/O J.J. MORGAN, J.21720 G.D.	22.4.44	Posted from 428 Sqn. to 61 RCAF Base wef date stated. SCRS 30.4.44 Auth: 6 Grp Sig. P617 dated 27.4.44
			W/O T.R. BLYTHE, C.180313 RADAR	19.2.44	Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer wef date stated Auth: A.L. letter A.637525/44/S.7D/2 dated 17.4.44.
			W/O J.M. WRETLAKE, J.29785 G.D.	2.10.43	Promoted to the rank of temp. flying officer wef date stated, Auth: A.L. letter A.637535/44/S.7D/2 dated 17.4.44.
			R.A.F. Officers P.O.R. Serial No. 16 dated 30.4.44.		
			W/O F.S. FRASER, 51390 G.D.	24.10.43	Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer wef date stated. Auth: London Gazette Serial No. 36226 page 4767, dated 29.10.43.

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MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	30th April		R.C.A.F. Airmen P.O.R. Serial No. 30, dated 5.4.44. CAN. B172103 P/SGT NAV. (1) KERR, J.D. Posted to 428 Sqdn. from 61 (R.C.A.F.) Base wef 1.4.44. CORE 1.4.44 Auth: 6 Grp postagram 60/1122/44 dated 31.3.44.		
			R.C.A.F. Airmen P.O.R. Serial No. 31, dated 19.4.44. CAN. B110182 W/O2 A/Bomb. (1) WHEELER, F.G. Posted from 428 Sqdn. to 22 O.T.U. wef date 17.4.44. CORE 18.4.44 Auth: 6 Grp. postagram 60/1195/44 dated 12.4.44.		
			CAN. B15548 W/O2 A/GRN (5) MARSBY, J.W. Posted from 428 Sqdn. to 422 Sqdn. wef 1.4.44. CORE Auth: 6 Group Signal P.632 dated 17.4.44.		
			CAN. B98610 SGT A/GRN (5) FORSTER, R.H. Posted to 428 Squadron from 61 R.C.A.F.		
			CAN. B111548 SGT A/GRN (5) FIEGEL, D. Base wef 17.4.44. CORE 18.4.44 Auth:		
			CAN. B186508 SGT WOP/AG. (2) RUDYK, S. 6 Grp Sig. P.614 dated 16.4.44.		
			R.A.F. Airmen P.O.R. Serial No. 25, dated 10.4.44. 1215094 SGT A/GRN (5) SEARS, E.G. Posted to 428 Squadron from 61 R.C.A.F.		
			1565094 SGT A/PCW (1) ALTYEN, L.B. Base wef 1.4.44. CORE 4.4.44 Auth No.		
			1603240 SGT WOP/AIR (2) KIBBLE, A.V. 6 Group Postagram 60/1322/44 dated		
			1651880 SGT Pilot (1) DAVIES, K.V. 31.4.44.		
			1814642 SGT W/ENG (1) MOORE, E.C.		
			1835912 SGT A/EQU (5) MORRIS, T.		
			 D.F. FRENCH, DFC. WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.		