

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Compiled by: (R.G. Bowron) Flight Lieutenant, (C.7249 R.C.A.F.)	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE.	TUESDAY	1.5.45		No. operations are detailed for to-day. Flying Training was carried out by six crews with local flying, air firing, fighter affiliation and range bombing. Ground training was continued with Air Gunners on gyro sighting, flight Engineers on turret lecture (Glenn Martin) and engine handling quiz and bomb aimers on blind panel drill and H2S trainer. WOPC had a Group exercise and Morse training.		
	WEDNESDAY	2.5.45		Again no operations. Flying training was continued with four H2S cross countries, with air firing, fighter affiliation and bombing. Ground training continued with WOPC on Morse practice and lectures on A.P. 1927 and Bomber Code. Air bombers on A.M.S.T. and V/T. Air Gunners had turret manipulation and usual D.I's.		
	THURSDAY	3.5.45		No operations scheduled for to-day, flying training was continued with three H2S cross countries with air firing, fighter affiliation and bombing being flown. S/L McDonnell, (C.1633 R.C.A.F.) was caught in a nimbus cloud and the aircraft turned on its back. The aircraft was strained slightly, but none of the crew injured other than the M/G. P/S HINCHBERGER (R224505 R.C.A.F.) who was injured very slightly through baling out. It is not known why he baled as he was admitted to hospital at Church Broughton. Ground training was continued as usual with a full days training in each section, an A/S reserve film was shown in the N.A.A.F.I. for all aircrew.		
	FRIDAY	4.5.45		Flying training was again carried out with local flying and six cross countries being flown. Very little Ground training was carried out. Six Officers attended a Court Martial under instruction. P/O BLACKERT (J.19194 R.C.A.F.) Acting Gunnery Leader attended a Gunnery Leaders Conference at DEWING.		
	SATURDAY	5.5.45		No operations or flying training to-day on account of duff weather, one air test being flown. Ground training was continued with WOPC on regular classes. Air Gunners on turret manipulation, flight engineers on lecture on "Repairs in the Air", navigators on dry sums and sextant shots. In the afternoon the Softball team for the Gunnery Section played 419 Gunners and beat them, 12 - 11.		
	SUNDAY	6.5.45		No operations in fact everyone expects V.E. Day shortly with no more operations on this side. Flying training was increased with two crews on local flying by day and ten on night		

429

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE.	SUNDAY	6.5.45.	cross countries. P/L LATWIKER (C.27109 R.C.A.F.) attempted to land 'Queen' on three engines, missed his approach and attempted to overshoot but crashed. The kite was a complete write-off, but no crew members were hurt. Ground training was carried out as usual in all sections.	(KB 745)	
	MONDAY	7.5.45.	No operations or flying training to-day and very little ground training was done. The afternoon was spent mainly in sports, quite a little tension due to V.E. being rumoured for to-morrow.		
	TUESDAY	8.5.45.	At last the great day arrives with the Unconditional Surrender of GERMANY and V.E. Day announced. No work was carried out excepting by those who are witnesses or detailed under instruction for the two Courtmartial being held to-day. It was a poor way for them to celebrate V.E. Day but it was probably worse for the two accused who were both found guilty. A very heavy rain prevented any outdoor celebrating. A two day stand down was declared to aid the celebrations.		
	WEDNESDAY	9.5.45.	V.E. Day stand down training. Sports were held practically all day, and a big Victory Dance in the evening. The general atmosphere was joy in a chance of a leave home before going East to take a crack at TOJO.		
	THURSDAY	10.5.45.	Very little flying training was carried out as only two cross countries were flown. Crews were selected to fly the aircraft home. W/C GALL, lectured on the two possible routes, navigational aids etc, lectures were commenced on Astro compass and star recognition for navigators and bomb aimers.		
	FRIDAY	11.5.45.	Ground training in preparation for Trans-Atlantic Flight went on to-day. Air Bombers were on Loren training and set in on the navigators on lectures on Astro and drifts and stars. WOFS had lectures on loop bearings and transport command procedure. Flight Engineers were shifted around to have Canadians in all crews flying home. No flying was done.		
	SATURDAY	12.5.45	Flying training today was limited with four crews on local flying. Training was continued for selected crews on Air Lift with Air Bombers on Loren trainer and on lectures with Navigators on astro and drifts. Navigators also had dry swims on both the North and South Atlantic routes. Wops continued with loop swinging and DR compass swing.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 120 (C.O.S.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.O.C.P. STATION, MILBURN ON. ROAD.	SUNDAY	14.5.45	Flying training for the Air Lift started in earnest with 17 crews on Astro cross countries. Ground training was continued for the crews. RAF Flight Engineers on crews selected were transferred to other crews and replaced by Canadians. Navigators and Air Bombers sat down with the sextant all day and in the evening.		
	MONDAY	14.5.45	Flying training was continued with eleven crews on Astro, cross countries and two on Libellule flying. Lectures on Transport Command procedure were given for all pilots. Navigators, Air Bombers and Wops and ground training for all sections continued.		
	TUESDAY	15.5.45	Twelve crews flew on cross countries and Beas flying today. All pilots not flying and selected for Air Lift took link to bring their total link training in preparation to ten hours each. Other sections carried on ground training for the Air Lift with Navigators stressing astro and sextant, Wops stressing Transport Command procedure. Flight engineers concentrated on engine handling lectures. Air Gunners practised turret manipulation. The bombs not selected for Air Lift are not doing much of anything.		
	WEDNESDAY	16.5.45	Ten crews carried out cross countries concentrating on astro and Beas work. Ground training was carried out as in the last few days. No definite word has come through as to the date of take-off but it is expected around May 23rd, so training is being pushed.		
	THURSDAY	17.5.45	Ten crews were engaged on cross countries and one on Libellule flying, all in preparation of the hop across the Atlantic. Ground training was carried out in all sections in continuance with the programme. Navigators may be seen at all hours of the day or night, sextant in hand, taking shots of the sun, the moon, and stars. This is a change from the "heavenly bodies" they usually are sighting. The usual crop of rumours as to take-off date are starting but none are confirmed.		
	FRIDAY	18.5.45	No flying training today on account of the duff weather. Ground training was continued in the same manner as the past few days. The aircraft are being serviced during the lay-off and being brought up to scratch.		
	SATURDAY	19.5.45	Again no flying but sections are putting all their time and effort into the ground training and lectures. A "Victory Parade" dance was held in the Officer's Mess with great success. The dance was organized by S/L GILLES DFC (J.5981, RCAP) and P/O B.B. GRAY DFC (J.18450, RCAP) who are to be complimented on their efforts. Nearly 1200 persons were present and a very good time was had by all as we paid our farewell to the North of England.		

224

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, MIDDLEWATER ST., GORHAM	SUNDAY	23.5.45	Not much flying or ground training today as most were recovering from the party. The weather allowed only three air tests to be flown. Those of the boys who were up went to Church in the morning. It was a pretty quiet day all around, with fairly stiff weather.		
	MONDAY	24.5.45	No flying again today on account of pressure of ground training for all sections which are working at top speed to complete the syllabus in time for take-off. Armour now has the "Big Day" on the 27th.		
	TUESDAY	25.5.45	Again no flying training but bags of ground training and lectures. Navigators are still taking astro shots and bomb aimers plugging away at Loran. Flight engineers had lectures and quiz on engine handling and Wops are still grinding up on Transport procedure. Everyone wants to know "When do we go?"		
	WEDNESDAY	26.5.45	Flying training was laid on for twelve aircraft but it was scrubbed by "A". Ground training was continued at high speed by all sections and the boys feel already that they are set to go home. Those not flying are getting browned off, with hanging around doing not much.		
	THURSDAY	27.5.45	Twelve crews flew on cross countries stressing astro and beam and one local flying. P/L MAY (J.7608, RCAF) returned early due to engine failure, landing on three. Sections trained those not flying, air bombers using Loran, Navigators on dry swims, E/E's lectures on log keeping and tool kits and pilots on link training.		
	FRIDAY	28.5.45	Ten crews flew on a cross country, winding up the flying training for "A" Flight crews on Air Lift. Ground training was carried on for "B" Flight as usual. The date for take-off has been set at May 31st and it appears that we are able to send the first fifteen crew.		
	SATURDAY	29.5.45	Instructions for the loading of baggage were received today. Eighty pounds per crew member is to be stowed in the kite and the rest dumped in for sea shipment.		
	SUNDAY	30.5.45	No flying was carried out today as the ceiling was low and rain threatening with some showers, a particularly heavy one coming around 1700 hours. Not much ground training was carried out as the syllabus is completed and the boys need some rest. "A" Flight crews proceeded after duty on 48 hour pass. It was a quiet day all around with the boys resting.		
			Flying training was laid on and then scrubbed owing to the weather. It was put on again rather suddenly in the evening but only five crews were available as the rest had been allowed off		

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
R.C.A.F. STATION, MIDDLEBURY ST. GEORGE.	SUNDAY	27.5.45	camp on account of the scrub. Most of the boys are packing in readiness to turn in excess baggage tomorrow.		
	MONDAY	28.5.45	No training today. Everyone was busy finishing packing and carrying the excess baggage to the Cleansing Centre for marking and storing by the Committee of Adjustment who are handling all baggage for sea shipment. Declarations for future employment in the R.C.A.F. are being completed with many groans and moans.		
	TUESDAY	29.5.45	Flying training ceased today with ten crews from "B" Flight of the last cross country. All excess baggage for sea shipment is turned in and the boys are waiting now for final orders to emplane. No ground training was carried out as clearances were started, final pay parade held etc.		
	WEDNESDAY	30.5.45	All kit for stowage in the aircraft was weighed, stowed and checked. All aircraft were air tested in a shake down flight, clearances finished and dinghy drills carried out. A final lecture was delivered by W/C EDWARDS, BaseOps Controller, W/C GILL and the Adjutant.		
	THURSDAY	31.5.45	The great day has dawned. All crew members flying to-day were called at 0630 hours, breakfasted at 0700, Navigation Briefing was at 0730 and main at 0800 hours. The whole station turned out to see the take-off and many from other stations. Air Chief Marshall, Sir Arthur T. Harris, A.O.C. in C. Bomber Command, Air Vice Marshall, McEWAN, A.O.C. 6 Group, Air Commodore McRURNEY, B.A.F.C. 6 Group and Air Commodore, RYANS, C.O. 64 Base were present. Air Chief Marshall Harris and Air Vice Marshall McEwan addressed the gathering with very appropriate and well received talks. The boys then climbed aboard the kites for take-off. P/L S.V. ELIOPOFF (J.88274 RCAF) in "F - Fox" was the first off and the other fourteen followed in quick succession to the accompaniment of cheers and "V" signs of those left on the ground to follow by sea. The 6 Group band was in attendance. The rest of the crews flying loaded their baggage into the kites and air tested. P/L GOW, (J.A.1866 RCAF) returned early from the take-off as his aircraft was nose heavy. It was adjusted and he will take-off again tomorrow on the first leg of the flight.		

949

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.O.A.F. STATION LINDSEY ST. 20090.			<u>CASUALTIES - 1944</u>		
			<u>POSTINGS - 1944</u>		
			Reported from 428 Sqn. w.e.f. 1.5.44		
			F/O Smith, G.H.P. (159117)-A/B		Posted from 428 Sqn. w.e.f. 1.5.44
			F/O Mann, A. (159433)-A/B		S/L McDonnell, W.W.N. (0.1633) Pilot
					Reported from 428 Sqn. w.e.f. 1.5.44
			F/O Morgan, G. (151110)-A/B		F/O Walsh, D.R. (151752)-Pilot
			Sgt Reid, R. (150572)-A/B		
			F/O Macgregor, R. (151500)-A/B		Posted from 75 Sqn. w.e.f. 6.5.44
			F/O Day, T.T. (151271)-A/B		F/O Robinson, W.R. (151951)-Pilot
			Sgt Elliott, G. (155919)-A/B		F/S Pugh, S.J. (152135)-A/B
			Sgt Reid, R. (150574)-A/B		F/O Young, S.J.L. (151235) Pilot
					Sgt Rawson, W. (150524)-A/B
			Reported from 428 Sqn. w.e.f. 10.5.44		F/S Swain, B.L. (150524)-A/B
			F/O Peers, C.T. (153071)-A/B		Sgt White, G.P. (150525)-A/B
					Sgt Driscoll, G.R. (150525)-A/B
			Posted from 414 Sqn. w.e.f. 22.5.44		
			F/O Nash, T.L. (150275)-A/B		Posted from 429 Sqn. w.e.f. 1.6.44
					F/O Bull, W.H. (150275)-A/B
					F/O Lindsay, D.F. (150275)-A/B
					F/O Dempsey, J.B. (150275)-A/B
			<u>POSTINGS - 1944</u>		
			Posted to RCAF 121 Unit w.e.f. 16.1.44		Posted to RCAF 121 Depot w.e.f. 10.1.44
			F/O Newton, R.W. (151719)-A/B		F/O Beane, T.L. (151719)-A/B
			F/O Hurrell, R.O. (150588)-A/B		F/O Barritt, B.P. (150588)-A/B
			Sgt Fawcett, G.E. (151719)-A/B		F/O Gibbons, P.L. (150588)-A/B
			F/O Graham, D.D. (151857)-A/B		F/O Spendiff, R. (150588)-A/B
			F/O Owen, W.P. (151719)-A/B		F/O Greer, R.O. (150588)-A/B
					F/O Leach, W.H. (150588)-A/B
			Posted to RCAF 121 Depot w.e.f. 19.1.44		F/O Johnson, G.L. (150588)-A/B
			F/O Murray, W.H. (152033)-A/B		F/O McKeever, R.J. (150588)-A/B
					F/O McCarty, J. (150588)-A/B
			Posted to RCAF 121 Depot w.e.f. 2.2.44		F/O Wilson, J.B. (150588)-A/B
			F/S Chevrier, L.V. (1502049)-A/B		
			Posted to 61 Sqn w.e.f. 1.2.44		Posted to RCAF 121 Depot w.e.f. 4.2.44
			Sgt Smith, T. (1700507)-A/B		F/O Swartz, R.W.P. (1510572)-Pilot
			Posted to RCAF 121 Depot w.e.f. 7.2.44		Posted to 420 Sqn. w.e.f. 10.2.44
			F/O Anderson, R. (152506)-Pilot		F/O Thompson, W.G. (1526703)-A/B
			F/O Cowden, R.S. (1519954)-A/B		
			F/O Smith, G.H.P. (1517278)-A/B		Posted to RCAF 121 Depot w.e.f. 22.2.44
			F/O Wytch, P.C. (1518208)-A/B		F/O Gray, R.B. (1518650)-A/B
			Posted to 427 Sqn. w.e.f. 12.2.44		Posted to RCAF 121 Depot w.e.f. 7.2.44
			F/S Rutten, R.S. (1673455)-A/B		F/O Lotman, W. (1530766)-A/B
			F/S Warrlop, A.D. (1624517)-A/B		
			Posted to RCAF O/S HQ (SPL) w.e.f. 1.5.44		Posted to RCAF O/S HQ (SPL) w.e.f. 1.5.44
			F/O Lee, R.P. (152637)-A/B		F/O Quinn, G. (1510123)-Pilot
			F/O Gossels, P.A. (152061)-A/B		

W1 27121/02116 110M R/4 C.A.L. 31-2040

999

www.bombercommand.com archive

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 433 (C.A.A.E.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. STATION, MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE.			PROMOTIONS.		
			Posted to HQAF 'B' Detat W.S.F. 21.5.45 P/O Gilmer, R.N. (J.28524) S/Sr. P/O Forrest, G. (R40752) -A/O.		
			Posted to HQAF 'A' Detat W.S.F. 18.5.45 P/O Riskey, T.D. (J.35531) S/Sr. P/O Biskward, R.T. (J.18785) -A/O.		
			Posted to HQAF 'A' Detat W.S.F. 22.5.45 P/O Bowler, W.L. (J.21622) S/Sr.		
			Posted to HQAF 'A' Detat W.S.F. 20.5.45 Sgt Twist, G. (J.28733) -A/O Sgt Bishop, T. (J.22752) -A/O Sgt Twist, R.F. (J.28800) -A/O		
			Posted to HQAF 'A' Detat W.S.F. 18.5.45 P/O Payne, D.M. (J.28377) -A/O P/O Riley, W.O. (J.14086) -A/O P/O Banks, V. (J.12258) -A/O Sgt Sinclair, T.V. (J.21012) -A/O P/O Miller, L.V.C. (J.18355) -A/O P/S Geary, R.S.O. (J.27910) -A/O P/O Varly, A.S. (J.23800) -A/O		
			PROMOTIONS.		
			P/O Clifford, T.S. (J.17312) 7.3.45 2/3/45 P/O Dwyler, H.J. (J.90322) 19.3.45 2/3/45 P/O Irvine, D.W. (J.21732) 19.3.45 2/3/45 P/O Sandler, J.W. (J.90475) 7.3.45 2/3/45 R209267 SGT Apperley, R.S. 11.5.45 2/3/45 R221751 W/S Smith, J.A. 11.5.45 2/3/45 R190377 SGT Milne, J.K.D. 11.5.45 2/3/45 R251160 SGT Watson, D.S.F. 11.5.45 2/3/45 R235626 SGT Granston, G.S. 11.5.45 2/3/45 R123688 SGT Maclean, G.B.C. 19.3.45 2/3/45		
			COMMISSION.		
			R171278 P/O Smith, C.H.P. 15.3.45 (J.91167) R58025 P/S Horney, L.C. 28.4.45 (J.94358)		
			HONOURS AND AWARDS.		
			The following is a list of the honours and awards received during the month.		
			DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.		
			P/L D.G. Craton, (J.15666) P/O B. Rakus, (J.90750) P/O J.H. McFadden, (J.36395) P/O W. Banks, (J.37202) P/O T.R.C. Kelly, (J.37829) P/S L.L. Ragne, (J.16817) P/O W.C. Kingston, (J.95500)		
			P/O K.N. McLean, (J.82722) P/O Peacock, W.B. (J.26614) P/O H.W. Walker, (J.37551) P/O L.G. Hamley, (J.25085) P/O J.A. Hamley, (J.25122) P/O D.J. Melligan, (R221362) Awarded D.F.M.		

949

www.bombercommand.com

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																												
			<p>CHANGE IN COMMAND. NIL</p> <p>CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT. NIL</p> <p>STATUS OF OPERATIONAL SQUADS. NIL</p> <p>OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL FLYING SQUADS. Operational Day - NIL Operational Night - NIL Non-Operational Day - 109:50 hours Non-Operational Night - 247:20 "</p> <p>STATUS OF AIRCRAFT. Bombs and mines dropped from 1.4.44 to 30.4.44 Total Bombs 1245 Total Mines 1245</p> <p>STATUS OF OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT. NIL</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>OPERATIONAL</th> <th>GROUNDOWN</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.O.C. Officers</td> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" N.O.</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Aircrew</td> <td>104</td> <td>-</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" W.O. Aircrew</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" P.O. Officers</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Aircrew</td> <td>41</td> <td>-</td> <td>41</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>STATUS OF OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT. NIL</p> <p>OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL FLYING SQUADS. The operations were carried out during the month of 1.4.44. Day alone training the early part of the month. The preparations for the Trans-Atlantic flight however produced much valuable training both air and ground. Crews selected were by seniority and experience and were all capable of a complete tour to their credit. The Squadron was selected to lead the Trans-Atlantic flight and received much publicity. This is considered an honor and modesty forbids us to declare that our record had earned it. Many have volunteered for the second lease and the Ghost Squadron will carry on in the Pacific and add to the fine record achieved in the European War and justify the motto of which we are so proud "Vigilant Finem" ("To the very end").</p>		OPERATIONAL	GROUNDOWN	TOTAL	R.O.C. Officers	12	1	13	" N.O.	-	-	-	" Aircrew	104	-	104	" W.O. Aircrew	-	-	-	" P.O. Officers	5	-	5	" Aircrew	41	-	41	
	OPERATIONAL	GROUNDOWN	TOTAL																													
R.O.C. Officers	12	1	13																													
" N.O.	-	-	-																													
" Aircrew	104	-	104																													
" W.O. Aircrew	-	-	-																													
" P.O. Officers	5	-	5																													
" Aircrew	41	-	41																													

SECRET.

G.L. Conyon
 (G.L. Conyon) Squadron Leader
 For Officer Commanding,
 No. 428 (R.O.C.F.) Squadron.

www.bombercommand.com archives.ca