

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Compiling Officer: W/L T.V. Berto (114248)

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 429 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for 7

Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
1-9-45		Ground fog after dawn for an hour, otherwise cloud all day, with good visibility. Wind calm or light South-Easterly. No flying was carried out this morning and the Squadron was stood-down at noon for the week-end. Most of the sections spent the forenoon cleaning up their offices and rooms. The Navigators worked on preliminary preparations for the Dodge Operations.		
2-9-45		Fair at first, becoming cloudy late morning. Good visibility. Wind light South-Easterly. Things were very quiet around the sections today as everyone was off duty for the week-end. A final ground training programme has been arranged to commence tomorrow in order to prepare the crews for the Dodge Operations to Italy.		
3-9-45		Mainly cloudy. Visibility poor early becoming good. Wind light becoming SE'ly 5-10 mph. No flying was carried out today as the crews were being given lectures on the various aspects of Operations "Dodge". The first lecture was given by the Squadron Commander, S/L H.L. Saunders DFC., J9149. The Navigators spent the forenoon reviewing the various navigational aids and the afternoon on speed-up exercises. The Wireless Operators were given lectures on procedure and also practiced Morse. The Pilots and Engineers were given a talk by P/O S. Pewster 185776, R/AF, on fuel handling on Italian trips. Several of the sections were also able to do some painting in their offices between lectures.		
4-9-45		Cloudy with fair periods. Visibility good. Wind N-NE'ly 5-10 mph. There was no flying carried out again today owing to the ground training programme arranged for crew members. During the forenoon the Navigators along with their Air Bombers, worked on dry swims. In the afternoon they reviewed astro navigation and studied radar faults. The Wireless Operators were given lectures on fault finding and corrections. VHF, TR1196 and the All'34. They also practiced Morse and taking GCD broadcasts. The Air Gunners were lectured on their duties while flying as mid-upper gunner on the Italy trips.		
5-9-45		Cloudy becoming fine. Continuous rain and drizzle early. Wind NNE'ly 5-20 mph, falling light late in the day. Ground training continued again today and no flying was done. All crew members were given a lecture on "Dodge" Operations by S/L H.L. Saunders, DFC., J9149, the Squadron Commander. They were also given a talk by the Signals leader, P/L S.A. Anderson, J179287 P/O J.L.A. Rochon, J43277, W/AFS, proceeded to London today for an interview with P/L J. Nicol in connection with his attending a Signals Leaders' Course.		
6-9-45		Fair to fine. Visibility moderate to good. Wind light and variable. Five aircraft were flown today on a 5 hour cross-country flight as practice for Dodge Operations. Five other aircraft were on loop swings. Painting continued in most of the sections and Squadron Offices have taken on a much cleaner and neater appearance as a result.		
7-9-45		Fair to cloudy. Visibility mainly moderate. Wind light S'ly. Five aircraft were again flown on six hour cross-country flights as training for Dodge Operations. New forms have been received on the Unit for signature by those electing to remain in Europe for further service. Good response is expected as most of the aircrew had previously volunteered for occupational duties. Tropical kit was issued today to several crews to be worn when they fly to Italy.		
8-9-45		Mainly cloudy. Visibility moderate. Wind light and variable. There was no flying carried out today and the Squadron was stood-down in the afternoon for the usual week-end pass. The morning was spent mainly in cleaning up the sections for the week-end.		

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LEGHORN	9-9-45		Cloudy becoming fair. Periods of rain and drizzle early. Visibility poor early becoming moderate to good in the afternoon. Wind NE'ly 5-12 mph. There was no flying today as the crews were all stood down over the week-end. Two crews were briefed during the evening for Operations "Dodge" and take-off was ordered for 0700 hours tomorrow. This will be the first of these Operations carried out by this Squadron.		
	10-9-45		Cloudy with periods of rain, heavy at times. Visibility poor to moderate. Wind light, variable and becoming S'ly 5-10 mph. The two crews briefed last evening for Dodge Operations to Italy took-off without difficulty this morning. The aircraft were piloted by the two Flight Commanders, P/L L.H. Morrison, J37947 and P/L J.L. Nelson, J37933. They are to proceed to Pomigliano and return with twenty British soldiers per aircraft. No other flying was carried out today and so the crew members were employed in painting and otherwise cleaning up their sections.		
	11-9-45		Cloudy with intermittent rain and drizzle during morning. Visibility poor to moderate. Wind S'ly 5-10 mph. There was no flying carried out today owing to unfavourable weather conditions. The Navigators spent some time today in preparing charts and revising Gee folders. The Signals Section were busily engaged in moving into new offices in the hangar and in setting up the equipment in their new training room. Others of the Squadron spent the afternoon on sports. Sports facilities are especially good for the Squadron personnel since the Sports Section has moved into the Squadron hangar.		
	12-9-45		Mainly cloudy with thunderstorms late in evening. Visibility moderate. Wind S'ly 10-20 mph. Three crews were detailed to fly on six hour cross-country exercises and these were successfully completed. During the forenoon the Squadron Offices were inspected by the Station Commander, OJ3 G/C E.H. Evans. In the afternoon the members of the Squadron were stood down for sports. P/O J.L.A. Roobon, J43277, proceeded to St. Athanas today to attend a Signals Leaders' Course which will take about seven weeks. In the evening four crews were briefed for another Dodge Operation.		
	13-9-45		Fair to cloudy with rain at midday. Visibility moderate to good. Wind SSE-SW 5-12 mph. Although four crews were briefed for Dodge Operations last evening only three were required. These took off this forenoon for Pomigliano. In the afternoon the two aircraft engaged in the first Dodge Operation returned to base from Glatton where they had landed their passengers. Each aircraft brought back twenty soldiers. No difficulties were encountered and the trip was considered successful in every way. The Station Commander, OJ3 G/C E.H. Evans, using a Squadron aircraft and crew carried out a long cross-country over the Continent today. All 48 hour passes for the week-end were cancelled because of the G.O.'s Parade called for Saturday morning. In the evening three more crews were briefed for Dodge Operations, take-off to be tomorrow morning.		
	14-9-45		Fair to fine with occasional showers. Visibility good. Wind SW-W 5-15 mph. Three aircraft took-off this morning for Pomigliano, Italy, but one was forced to return to base shortly after setting course, due to engine failure. Three other aircraft completed practice cross-country flights during the day. During the afternoon there was an increased activity around the aerodrome when several aircraft of various types came in to land. They are to take part in a display tomorrow to which the public have been invited.		
	15-9-45		Fair to cloudy. Visibility good. Wind W-SW 5-20 mph. The only flying completed by the Squadron today was in the form of an exhibition flight in the afternoon. This was the opening flight of a complete programme of exhibition flying and was carried out by J37947 P/L L.H. Morrison, the "A" Flight Commander. The remainder of the Squadron were stood down from duty to allow them to		

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LEEMING	15-7-45 (Cont'd)		take in the flying programme. In the late afternoon two of the three aircraft which took off for Italy on the 13th, returned to base after a successful trip. Each aircraft brought back twenty soldiers who were landed at Glatton. The third aircraft, R2155, flown by J91142 P/O R.H. Digby, made a low approach while landing at Glatton and the undercarriage struck a fence causing the aircraft to ground-loop. None of the occupants were injured but the aircraft sustained sufficient damage to make it category 'A'. The crew returned to base in one of the other aircraft leaving their own at Glatton for repair. A Commanding Officer's Parade was held first thing this morning to pay tribute to those who had taken part in the 'Battle of Britain'. After this the members of the Squadron reported to their respective sections.		
	16-7-45		Cloudy becoming fair late. Periods of continuing rain and drizzle. Visibility moderate to good. Wind SW-W 10-25 mph. gusty at times. Today being Sunday there was no flying carried out by the Squadron. The only activity around the aerodrome was the departure of several of the aircraft who had visited the station yesterday to take part in the flying exhibition. In the evening three crews were briefed for a Dodge Operation for tomorrow.		
	17-7-45		Cloudy. Moderate visibility. Wind S'ly variable 5/15 mph. Only two of the three crews briefed for Dodge Operation last night were detailed to take off this morning. One of these landed at Glatton on the outward journey and took twelve soldiers on board to be returned to Italy. The other aircraft flew straight on to Pomigliano. Three other crews were detailed for Cross-Country flights. Only one of these was completed while the remaining two were forced to return early because of aircraft unserviceability.		
	18-7-45		Cloudy with showers in the evening. Visibility moderate becoming poor after dark. Wind light and variable mainly southerly. The two aircraft which had taken off on the 14th returned from Italy in the afternoon. Aside from this no flying was carried out today because of unfavourable weather conditions. The two aircraft returning from Italy reported a successful trip. Each aircraft brought back twenty soldiers who were landed at Glatton. Another clothing parade was held today to complete the issuing of tropical kit to members of the Squadron, to be used on flights to Italy.		
	19-7-45		Fog at first becoming fair with moderate visibility during the morning. Cloudy with moderate visibility in the afternoon, becoming continuous rain in the evening and early night, visibility moderate. Wind light S'ly becoming SW-W 5/10. Three aircraft successfully completed cross-country exercises today while one other aircraft was flown on air test. The two aircraft which took off for Italy on 17th returned today also. Only one of these landed at base however. The other aircraft was left at Glatton due to engine trouble. Each aircraft returned with twenty army passengers who were unloaded at Glatton. Aside from the engine trouble at Glatton, no difficulties were encountered on the trip by either crew. The weekly sports programme was held this afternoon with most of the members of the Squadron taking part in the sport they preferred.		
	20-7-45		Cloudy with intermittent drizzle and moderate visibility until advent of a thunderstorm in late afternoon, after which fair to fine with good visibility. Wind light and variable becoming SW/S 5/15 by evening. Cross Country flights which had been arranged for today were cancelled due to poor weather. J26042 P/O B.H. Hinderks was detailed to take off in the Auster aircraft today to carry out a search for an aircraft which had crashed on the moors. The search was successful and the crash was located. It was a spitfire and was totally wrecked and the pilot killed. The Navigators completed plotting exercises during the afternoon while the Wireless Operators worked on route maps.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Attachments
LESMING	21-9-45		Fair to cloudy. Occasional rain. Moderate to good visibility becoming moderate to poor after dark. Wind variable SE-SW mainly 5/10 mph. Cross countries ordered for today were cancelled owing to unfavorable weather. One aircraft was flown to Gatton with an extra crew to bring back the aircraft that had landed on the 19th with engine trouble. The Station Commander, CI 53 G/O S.H. Evans, using a Squadron aircraft and crew flew to Hamburg and landed there. JI 7394 E/L T.A. Newman, the Squadron Gunnery Leader returned from a Gunnery Leaders Conference held at No. 1 Group Headquarters. The purpose of the conference was to become acquainted with the policy of that Group in the training of Air Gunners. Those personnel not detailed to stand by for Dodge Operations went to Sick Quarters today for more inoculations.	
	22-9-45		Continuous rain with moderate visibility at first, becoming mainly fair with occasional showers and good visibility during the morning and afternoon. Fair to cloudy and good visibility after dark. Wind SSE-WSW 13/20 mph. gusty. No flying was carried out today. Three crews were detailed to stand by for Dodge Operations and the remainder were allowed to proceed on the usual week-end pass.	
	23-9-45		Showers and bright intervals with good visibility. Wind WSW 20-30 mph. veering NNW 20-30 mph. gusty. The crews standing by for Dodge Operations were not required for this purpose and no other flying was completed during the day. However, the three crews detailed yesterday were again ordered to stand by for operations tomorrow.	
	24-9-45		Rain in the morning, showers in the afternoon becoming fine at night. Visibility moderate early, becoming good. Wind Northerly, fresh to strong. No Dodge Operations were ordered for today. Cross Country exercises which had been arranged were cancelled owing to weather conditions and the only flying completed today was an air test. At the crew conference held this morning the attention of the Flight and Section Commanders was drawn to a report on the accident rate in No. 6 Group. E/O J. Budd of No. 1687 Defence Flight, Hemswell, paid a visit to the Gunnery Section today regarding the training of Air Gunners. During the afternoon many of the crew members were engaged in sports in the hangar, basketball taking the prominent position today.	
	25-9-45		Slight rain early, then cloudy all day with good visibility. Wind fresh to strong, Northerly. Three crews completed cross country flights today and thus qualified themselves to take part in Dodge Operations. One aircraft was flown on air test. Some ground training was carried out in several sections today. The Navigators and Air Bombers trained on Radar while the Wireless Operators were instructed on procedure during Dodge Operations. During the afternoon members of the Squadrons played basketball and Badminton. Three crews were briefed for Dodge Operations tomorrow morning.	
	26-9-45		Mainly cloudy, except for a short period in afternoon. Good visibility. Wind light variable at first, becoming light to moderate west-north-west. The Dodge Operation for which the crews were briefed last night was cancelled this morning at 0800 hours before the crews were called. Cross Country flights ordered for today were also cancelled because of unsuitable weather conditions. Most of the crew members were kept busy during the day in gardening and otherwise improving the appearance of the grounds surrounding the hangar. Three Air Gunners J39038 E/O B.K. Bertram, C87843 E/O J.H. Lynk and J92531 E/O O.M. Williams proceeded to Hemswell today to attend a course on standard efficiency tests for Air Gunners. Three crews were briefed this evening for Dodge Operations tomorrow morning.	

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27-9-45		The three crews briefed for Dodge Operations last evening took-off this morning enroute to Bari airfield in Italy. Three other crews completed cross-country exercises today as well. Those not engaged in flying duties today continued with the landscaping around the hangar. Cloudy all day. Hazy at first, but visibility becoming good during morning, then decreasing to moderate about dusk. Slight rain about 0600 GMT. Wind mainly light variable but moderate to fresh westerly in afternoon.		
28-9-45		Cloudy at first, becoming fair late morning. Showers about dusk. Good visibility. Wind light to moderate North-westerly. One crew carried out a cross country flight today while another flew on local circuits and landing exercises. 089369 W/O J. Comar, DFC and Bar, arrived on the station today to assume Command of the Squadron, taking over from J9199 S/L H.H. Saunders, DFC, who remains on the Squadron as "B" Flight Commander. W/O J. Comar has just returned to this country after spending leave in Canada. All personnel were assembled in the Crew Centre today and were informed that those who had not volunteered for the Occupational Force were to be posted to Skipton on the 2nd October, 1945. Replacements for them will be posted to the Squadron from Skipton and will be re-crewed for further service in Europe.		
29-9-45		Cloudy, becoming fair. Good visibility and light winds. The three aircraft which took off on Dodge Operations on the 27th returned to base today after landing at Finnerham to unload their passengers who were brought back from Bari. Each aircraft brought back twenty British soldiers for leave in this country. No other flying was carried out during the day. All personnel who were not posted to Skipton were allowed to proceed on their weekly 36 hour pass. Those posted commenced clearing themselves from the station.		
30-9-45		Cloudy most of the day, becoming fair in evening, with good visibility and light westerly winds. No flying was carried out and the usual week-end period of inactivity was in evidence all day.		
<b>CASUALTIES</b>				
NIL				
<b>POSTINGS-IN</b>				
<b>NEW</b>				
Can.089369	W/O	Comar, J.	Pilot	Posted from RCAF 0/S HQS w.e.f. 26.9.45
<b>POSTINGS-OUT</b>				
Can.J19379	F/O	Marritt, R.H.	A/G	Posted to RCAF Leeming, NE Sick, wef 3-9-45
RAF.1590431	F/S	Windle, K.L.	F/S	Posted to TFU, Dafford wef 11.9.45
Can.R172299	W/O	Dyer, L.W.	F/WS	Posted to RCAF "R" Depot, Eorquay, wef 11.9.45
<b>PROMOTIONS</b>				
Can.089369	W/O	Comar, J.	Pilot	Prom. to A/W/O w.e.f. 26.9.45
Can.F37947	F/L	Morrison, L.H.	Pilot	Prom. to A/S/L w.e.f. 13.9.45
Can.F91142	F/O	Digby, H.H.	Pilot	Prom. to F/O w.e.f. 21.3.45
Can.F93796	F/O	Gailer, J.	W/O AG	Prom. to F/WS w.e.f. 18.5.45
Can.F43936	F/O	Grant, D.J.	A/S	Prom. to F/WS w.e.f. 7.10.44
Can.F93880	F/O	Swery, A.E.	A/G	Prom. to F/O w.e.f. 19.7.45
RAF.1826704	SGT	Gudgeon, D.A.	F/E	Prom. to F/S w.e.f. 13.9.45
RAF.301192	SGT	Ferival, S.	F/E	Prom. to F/S w.e.f. 25.9.45
RAF.3032036	SGT	Brazier, F.	F/E	Prom. to F/S w.e.f. 11.9.45

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices	
			<b>PROMOTIONS (Cont'd)</b>		
Can.267518	Sgt Fleming, J.P.	P/E	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 9.7.45		
Can.211026	P/S Sessan, C.S.	PP/E	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 5.8.45		
Can.212409	P/S DeSmet, W.F.	PP/E	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 21.7.45		
Can.261979	P/S Cleland, J.E.	A/G	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 19.8.45		
Can.276650	P/S Boswell, A.H.	A/G	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 19.8.45		
			<b>COMMISSIONS</b>		
			NIL		
			<b>CHANGES IN COMMAND</b>		
CB9569	W/C G. Comar		replaces J9149 S/L H.L. Saunders as Squadron Commander w.e.f. 26.9.45		
J9149	S/L H.L. Saunders		remains "B" Flight Commander.		
			<b>CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION</b>		
			NIL		
			<b>HONOURS AND AWARDS</b>		
CB9569	W/C J. Comar	DPC - Pilot	- Awarded the Non-Immediate Bar to the D.F.C.		
J93319	P/O A. Colquhoun	- A/G	- Awarded the Non-Immediate D.F.C.		
			<b>AIRCRAFT ON SQUADRON STRENGTH ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1945</b>		
	Lancaster Mk. I		- 10		
	Lancaster Mk. III		- 11		
	Lancaster Mk. VII		- 1		
			<b>OPERATIONAL AND TRAINING HOURS DURING SEPTEMBER, 1945</b>		
(a)	Operational Flying	Day	- 191 hrs. 40 mins.		
		Night	- Nil		
(b)	Flying Training	Day	- 129 hrs. 45 mins.		
		Night	- Nil		
(c)	Other Flying	Day	- 16 hrs. 10 mins.		
		Night	- Nil		
			<b>MEMORIAL STRENGTH OF THE SQUADRON AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1945</b>		
	<b>OFFICERS</b>	<b>ADVERSE</b>	<b>GROUND CREW</b>	<b>ALSO ON</b>	<b>AIRCRAFT</b>
R.C.A.F.	85	1	R.C.A.F.	68	
R.A.F.	2	-	R.A.F.	13	
<b>TOTAL STRENGTH</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>
			<b>GENERAL</b>		
			The Squadron commenced flying on Dodge operations this month. Five operations were completed with a total of twelve successful sorties. 240 British Army passengers were brought back from Italy and twelve were flown back to Italy from this country. The flights have been very interesting and the crew are very keen to fly on these trips. The food and accommodation provided		

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		<p><u>GENERAL (Cont'd)</u></p> <p>in Italy proved quite satisfactory. Flying training was also continued throughout the month to prepare more crews for Dodge Operations. The crews not required for further service in Europe were cleared from the Station and the movement of personnel will take place early in October. This will necessitate another rearrangement of crews but when this has been completed no further large changes are expected. Aside from the effects of the many inoculations required in connection with the trips to Italy, the general health of Squadron Personnel remained very good throughout the month.</p>		

*J. Ogmar*

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