

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 245 and War Manual Pt. II. Chapter XX. and note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

No. of Pages used per day

SECRET

References to Appendices

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
EASTMOOR.	1.10.43		Ten aircraft were detailed for mining operations but this was cancelled later.	
EASTMOOR.	2.10.43		Twelve aircraft detailed for mining operations. All took off at the schedule hour and all returned to Base. Five aircraft were successful in laying their mines in the allotted area, three returned early and four brought their mines back owing to the inability to find the target.	A.432 to A.443
EASTMOOR.	3.10.43		No operations detailed for the day.	
EASTMOOR.	4.10.43		A conference of all Officers and N.C.O.'s in charge of Flights and Sections was held in the Commanding Officer's Office. This meeting is held every Monday morning with a view to better efficiency and co-operation. Any problem confronting the different Flights or Sections is discussed and a solution is generally arrived at. Ten aircraft were detailed for operations but this was cancelled later.	
EASTMOOR.	5.10.43		The Squadron was advised around 1000hrs that there would be no operations for the day. About an hour after orders were received for 14 aircraft and crews to prepare for bombing operations. This was later cancelled around 1700hrs due to bad weather conditions.	
EASTMOOR.	6.10.43		No operation detailed for the day.	
EASTMOOR.	7.10.43		Ten aircraft were detailed for mining operations. All took off at a schedule time shortly after an Air-Raid warning. Five aircraft were successful in laying their mines in the allotted area. One aircraft landed at Dooking Airfield. The remainder brought their mines back owing to the inability to find the target. Rear Gunner R.136383 Sgt. Quenell, H.J., in aircraft "G" JA.451 shot down a night fighter. The aircraft was piloted by R.149664 P/Sgt. Dennis, P.W.. (Attached find report by R.136383 Sgt. Quenell, H.J.). W/Odr. M.M. Smith, Base Engineer Officer visited the Squadron.	
EASTMOOR.	8.10.43		Fourteen aircraft were detailed for bombing operations over Hannover. All aircraft took off at schedule time. Three aircraft returned early, eight aircraft landed away from base and two returned to base after completion of their bombing. One aircraft failed to return from this operation and below are the operational trips and hours of the members of the crew:-	A.454 to A.467
			R.107959 P/SGT. BAKER, Douglas, Charles. (Pilot)	OPERATIONAL Trips-Hours 12 03:54
			R.102768 P/SGT. HUEL, Carl, Norman. (Nav.)	11 01:59
			R.146160 P/SGT. THOMPSON, George, Welland (A/B.)	13 08:49
			1331729 SGT. BLACK, John. (W/O/AG)	11 07:29
			1239660 SGT. TAYLOR, John. (A/G.)	12 02:44
			AUS .416814 W/O. Saunders, R. Rear Gunner in aircraft "N" HZ.484 shot down an enemy fighter. The aircraft was piloted by T.190910 P/O. W.C. Fisher. (Attached find report by AUS.416814 W/O. Saunders, R.).	
EASTMOOR.	9.10.43		No operations detailed for the day. Aircraft which landed away from base on previous nights operations still unable to return owing to damages sustained during bombing in enemy territory.	

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EAST MOOR	11.10.43		No operations scheduled for today. Lecture given to aircrew by J.15592 P/O W.L. Clark on navigation during the afternoon. Word has been received from Mr. R.A. Early (father of W/Odr. R.L. 10767) that the work of training in Canada desires to adopt No. 432 (RAF) Squadron. This has been endorsed by the Air Ministry through Ottawa Headquarters as initiated by W/Lt. Royal Public Relations Officer for No. 6 (RAF) Group, Attention see letter of acceptance by W/Odr. W.L. 10767 (J.15175), Squadron Commander.		
EAST MOOR	12.10.43		No operations detailed for today. Ground crew busy getting all aircraft in first class condition.		
EAST MOOR	13.10.43		No operations detailed for today. <i>R.A.C. C. 449</i> W/Odr. G. 10011 and W/Odr. W.L. 10767 (J.15175) visited No. 62 (RAF) Base Headquarters and had a conference on the completion of conversion of No. 432 (RAF) Squadron. It was decided to send the ground crew to No. 62 (RAF) Base Headquarters for assistance on maintenance of Lancaster aircraft. 20 aircraft and 100 G.O.s will be sent daily. The Commanding Officer J.15175 W/Odr. W.L. 10767 inspected the different sites today.		
EAST MOOR	14.10.43		No operations detailed for today. Commanding Officer W/Odr. W.L. 10767 (J.15175) went on a short leave. W/Odr. 10767 and W/Odr. 10767 (J.15175) Group Headquarters visited the Squadron and conferred with W/Lt. C.E. SIMON and W/Odr. 10767 (J.15175) Group Headquarters, about conversion plans. Delivery of Lancasters are anticipated in a few days.		
EAST MOOR	15.10.43		No operations scheduled for today.		
EAST MOOR	16.10.43		No operations scheduled for today. Four crews reported to 1077 Conversion Unit for conversion. J.15175 W/Odr. W.L. 10767, G. 10011 W/Odr. G.D. Dixon and J.15175 W/Odr. C.L. 1000 also started converting, arrangements having been made for an abbreviated course.		
EAST MOOR	17.10.43		Six aircraft were detailed for mining operations. All took off at the scheduled time. The aircraft returned early. Five aircraft were successful in laying their mines in the allotted area and returned to base.		1469 to 1473
EAST MOOR	18.10.43		Six aircraft were detailed for mining operations. All took off at the scheduled time. All were successful in laying their mines in the allotted area and all returned to base. Squadron Adjutant G. 6057 W/Lt. R.G. Phillips proceeded to leaving for duties as member of a District Command, and returned at 1730 hrs.		1474 to 1479
EAST MOOR	19.10.43		No operations detailed for today. Orders came through shortly before midnight to stand by for a sea search in the early morning.		
EAST MOOR	20.10.43		Night aircraft were detailed for a sea search and all took off around 0900 hrs. and proceeded over the target area. No dingy was sighted and all aircraft returned shortly after noon. W/Odr. 10767 (J.15175) Senior Administrative Officer for No. 6 (RAF) Group visited the Squadron during the afternoon and conferred with W/Odr. W.L. 10767 (J.15175) and G. 6057 W/Lt. R.G. Phillips the Commanding Officer and the Squadron Adjutant on any difficulties concerning administration.		1480 to 1487
EAST MOOR	21.10.43		No operations detailed for today.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
EAST MOOR	11, 10, 43		No operations scheduled for today. Lecture given to aircrew by J. 19172 W/O W. G. Burt on R.V. action during the afternoon. Report has been received from the R.A.F. Party (Cairns of W/O W. G. Burt) that the loss of landing in certain instances to about 700 feet (1000) depending on this has been advised by the Air Ministry through Official Headquarters as initiated by W/O W. G. Burt. Small public relations service for No. 6 (19172) Group attended the lecture of acceptance by W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172), Squadron Sergeant.		
EAST MOOR	12, 10, 43		No operations detailed for today. Ground crew busy getting all aircraft in first class condition.		
EAST MOOR	13, 10, 43		No operations detailed for today. W/O W. G. Burt, Squadron Sergeant and W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) visited the 66 (19172) Group Headquarters and had a conference on the completion of conversion of the ASB (19172) Group. It was decided to send the ground crew to the 66 (19172) Group Headquarters for a course of instruction in handling ASBs. All aircraft were sent to the 66 (19172) Group and daily. The Commanding Officer J. 19172 W/O W. G. Burt reported the aircraft status today.		
EAST MOOR	14, 10, 43		No operations detailed for today. Squadron Sergeant W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) sent on a short leave. W/O W. G. Burt and W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) Group Headquarters visited the 66 (19172) Group and conferred with W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) on the handling of ASBs during short conversion phase. Delivery of ASBs are scheduled in a few days.		
EAST MOOR	15, 10, 43		No operations scheduled for today.		
EAST MOOR	16, 10, 43		No operations scheduled for today. Four crews reported to 107 Squadron Unit for conversion. J. 19172 W/O W. G. Burt, W/O W. G. Burt and W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) Group Headquarters visited converting arrangements having been made for an abbreviated course.		
EAST MOOR	17, 10, 43		ONE AIRCRAFT WERE DETAILLED FOR FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ALL TOOK OFF ON THE SCHEDULED TIME. THE AIRCRAFT RETURNED EARLY. FIVE AIRCRAFT WERE DETAILLED IN LANDING THEIR AIRS IN THE LISTED AREA AND RETURNED TO BASE.		1943 to 1943
EAST MOOR	18, 10, 43		ONE AIRCRAFT WERE DETAILLED FOR FLIGHT OPERATIONS. ALL TOOK OFF ON THE SCHEDULED TIME. ALL WERE SUCCESSFUL IN LANDING THEIR AIRS IN THE LISTED AREA AND ALL RETURNED TO BASE. SQUADRON ADJUTANT W/O W. G. BURT (J. 19172) PRESENTED TO LEAVING FOR DUTY AS MEMBER OF A DISTRICT GUEST SERVICE, AND RETURNED AT 1730 HRS.		1943 to 1943
EAST MOOR	19, 10, 43		No operations detailed for today. Orders down through shortly before midnight to stand by for a few hours in the early morning.		
EAST MOOR	20, 10, 43		Eight aircraft were detailed for a run around and all took off around 0200 HRS. and proceeded over the target area. No single was ordered and all aircraft returned shortly after noon. W/O W. G. Burt, Squadron Sergeant and W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) Group Headquarters visited the 66 (19172) Group and conferred with W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) on the handling of ASBs during short conversion phase. Delivery of ASBs are scheduled in a few days.		1943 to 1943
EAST MOOR	21, 10, 43		No operations detailed for today.		

1943-1943 W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) Group Headquarters visited the 66 (19172) Group and conferred with W/O W. G. Burt (J. 19172) on the handling of ASBs during short conversion phase. Delivery of ASBs are scheduled in a few days.

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EASTMOOR	22.10.43		Eight aircraft were detailed for mining operations. Seven aircraft took off at the scheduled time all were successful in laying their mines in the allotted areas and all returned to Base. One aircraft was cancelled just before take off owing to Mag. trouble. W/Odr. A.C.F. Clayton DFC and Bsc. and W/Odr. M.M. Smith from No. 62 (R.C.A.F.) Base Headquarters visited the Squadron and conferred with the Squadron Commander W/Odr. W.A. McKay (J.15175) concerning the conversion on October the 29th. Around 2300hrs the Station Crash Tender had a collision with a flight truck and two airmen from No. 432 (RCAF) Squadron were injured, R.57829 Cpl. Eckel, R.E. R.104609 LAC, Poudrette, J.A.G. Both were taken to Station Sick Quarters and then to York Military Hospital. R.104609 LAC, Poudrette J.A.G. was dangerously injured and upon being received in the Hospital was immediately put on the operation table. Last news was to the effect that he had slight chance of recovery.		A.488 to A.494
EASTMOOR	23.10.43		No operations detailed for to-day. Signal was received in the morning that R.104609 LAC, Poudrette J.A.G. had died from the effect of his injuries. A court of Enquiry is investigating this accident and death. W/Odr. Forbes H. W/Odr. Group Navigation Officer visited the Squadron. The conversion news from Wellington to Lancasters is not going along very quickly owing to the bad weather conditions.		
EASTMOOR	24.10.43		Eight aircraft were detailed for mining operations. This was cancelled during late afternoon. W/Odr. M.M. Smith Base Engineer Officer visited the Squadron. As this is the last day of 432 (RCAF) Squadron being known as a "Wellington Squadron" as tomorrow the establishment of aircraft will be changed to Lancasters. The standing of crews converted as of to-day is as follows:- Crews Finished Conversion = 12 - Crews still at conversion = 4 - crews to be sent to Conversion Unit on 25.10.43. = 9 - Crews Screened = 4 - Crews to be posted = 1		
EASTMOOR	25.10.43		No operations detailed for to-day. It has been ordered that 432 (RCAF) Squadron will not be called for operation until November the 9th. Meanwhile converting will be hastened so that one full flight will be ready for operational duties as of November 9th. W/Odr. C.S. Guest C.2337 the Equipment Officer for No. 6 (RCAF) Group visited the Squadron.		
EASTMOOR	26.10.43		No operations were detailed for to-day. Flying training schedules for day and night cross-countries, but were cancelled in afternoon due to bad weather conditions. F/Lt. H.G. Phillips (C.6257) the Squadron Adjutant proceeded on a weeks leave. F/O. M.H.C. Grimsey (J.21464) is taking over his duties for the period. Ground training was carried out in all sections.		
EASTMOOR	27.10.43		Two crews were detailed for day cross-country training flights. These were carried out as scheduled. Three more Lancasters II aircraft were ferried from Linton by our crews in the afternoon. F/O. C. McCall, Public Relations Officer No. 6 (RCAF) Group visited the Squadron and obtained photographs of several of the crews. No night cross-country training flights were carried out due to the bad weather condition.		
EASTMOOR	28.10.43		No flying training detailed for to day as weather conditions are very poor. Ground training carried out in all sections. G/Capt. H.H. Caracullen, DFC, and W/Odr. W.A. McKay (J.15175) proceeded to No. 62 (RCAF) Base for conference.		
EASTMOOR	29.10.43		Owing to bad weather conditions no flying training scheduled for to day.		
EASTMOOR	30.10.43		Weather conditions still very poor, so no flying training scheduled for to day.		

