



OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

5-22-1-433
2A5

(Unit or Formation) No. 433 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	8521 SECRET	References to Appendices
<i>Skipper on Sick</i>	1-3-44		Generally fine with snow and showers early in a.m. Visibility good, light West to N/W'ly winds. One A/C returned from diversion. Fifteen A/C detailed and were briefed for operations, but this was scrubbed at 22:00 hours due to icing condition on A/C. Large number of Squadron personnel attended R.C.A.F. show "Blackouts" at Leamington.		
	2-3-44		Fine with good visibility, moderate West to N/W'ly winds. A large training plan was organized with sixteen A/C detailed for a night I Country, to combine special navigation and fighter affiliation training. Results were very disappointing from the fighter angle as very few contacts were made. One A/C landed away when it lost an a/cross.		
	3-3-44		Fine, good visibility, with fresh NW'ly winds. Stand down from operations. One A/C carried out an H2S bombing exercise, and a few I Countries done in p.m. Stand down at night.		
	4-3-44		Fair to cloudy, period of snow in evening. Visibility good except late in evening. No flying done to-day, ground crew given a stand down in afternoon. All aircrew attended general lecture in p.m. relevant to training to be carried out. The C.O. CH491 W/C G. B. Sinton, D.F.C. departed on a well earned leave, JMS59 S/L H.T. Patterson assumed command of the Squadron.		
	5-3-44		Cloudy, good visibility, winds light NW'ly. A day of general training. Several Radar I Countries carried out in afternoon with high level bombing. Some W/O's on fish pond training, and some on dingy sitting procedure. About thirty odd members of the A.F.O. visited the Squadron and were given lectures on gunnery and turret manipulation. No night flying done.		
	6-3-44		Cloudy with moderate visibility, slight rain in early p.m., wind light Northerly. A lecture was given to all crew by the C.I.O. on the latest "gen" of "escape". Fourteen A/C detailed for operations on a special target - Erpette, outside Paris. One A/C suffered with a bad "mag" drop just prior to take-off, but balance got away. One early return with engine trouble. Twelve A/C bombed the target and reported a very successful operation, practically no flak, and fighter opposition was nil. All returned safely to base through bad weather except one which landed at Leamington in error. This was the first time the squadron had carried a full load of H2S. Bomb had a fairly easy target, greatly appreciated by the crew concerned.		

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	12-3-44		Cloudy with light rain in early a.m. Visibility moderate becoming good, westerly winds. Stand down from "ops", attempted to do the exercise with 604 Squadron again to-night, but it was cancelled when Group advised it would interfere with a Bullage they were operating. Ten crews participated in an "Escape" exercise. Taken by transport ten miles from the station and were dropped there to make their way back to base without being captured. The Base Guard, local Police and the A.F.C. acted as defenders. Only two aircrew were captured when they inadvertently wandered into an Army Service Corps camp. Two others became lost and did not get back until 21:00 hours. No English to be spoken during this exercise. At night seven A/O were detailed for I Countries but this was scrubbed when gale warnings were received just at take-off time.	SECRET.
	13-3-44		Fair, becoming fine, good visibility, N/W'y winds. Eight A/O detailed for a special target, Le Mans, with a heavy bomb load. Seven got away successfully and "B" was scrubbed due to engine trouble. Raid was very successful and all crews reported a concentrated bombing. Capt. Dunfee and party of officers arrived from Catterick on liaison visit. Showed round by F/O J.M. Gray, D.F.C.	
	14-3-44		Weather fair to cloudy becoming fine, good visibility. W'y winds. Night fighter affiliation had been arranged, but once again had to be cancelled on account of a Group bullage. Group Gunnery Leader paid a visit.	
	15-3-44		Fine becoming cloudy with moderate to good visibility, light winds. Sixteen crews detailed for operations - target Stuttgart. A not too successful raid apparently, the attack being rather scattered. All A/O returned safely but landed down South.	
	16-3-44		Cloudy becoming fair, good visibility, light and variable winds. The few crews that did return from South spent rest of the day resting. Operational stand-down. Very little training done to-day due to absence of A/O and crews at diversion bases.	
	17-3-44		Weather fair to cloudy with good visibility. Operational stand-down. Squadron Adjutant S/Lt. J. E. Gerwan, O5992, commences leave to-day. F/O A. W. Jennings, 145466, appointed to act as Adjutant in his absence. Several crews sent on a Cross Country Flight for Radar exercises. Also several Fighter Affiliation details carried out and Hobbing practices. (P.F.C.)	

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	17-3-44	(cont'd)	A/C "X" on returning, piloted by 250458, P/Sgt. Honahan, J.M., blew a tyre and made a very successful landing in such circumstances.		
	18-3-44		Fine becoming cloudy with rain at first, visibility good. Fourteen crews detailed for bombing operations on Frankfurt-on-Main. Station Commander, C/Capt. L. E. Wray, A.F.C., O/27, going as 2nd Pilot to 292762, W/O James, D.E. A.F.M. C. V. Walsh, ^{O/27} present at briefing and take-off. Thirteen A/C only took-off, one A/C being scrubbed by the C.T.O., on account of a cowling stud stuck in the tyre.		
	19-3-44		Cloudy with rain at first, good visibility. All our A/C returned safely with the exception of "X" NR-282, 1st Pilot 292762, W/O James, D.E., 2nd Pilot, C/Capt. L.E. Wray, A.F.C. O/27. This loss is deeply felt by the whole squadron, the crew in question being a very popular one and of course C/Capt. Wray was respected and admired by everyone on the Station as well as the Squadron. His loss will be keenly felt by all. According to reports the raid was a very successful one and the target was well and truly "pranged". G/L's were many but were made fairly ineffective by cloud and haze. Flak was fairly heavy but fighters were few.		
	20-3-44		Fine at first becoming cloudy with continuous rain. Fair later in day. Visibility good. Eleven crews detailed for Gardening operations. Briefing at 16:30 hours, but operation was scrubbed whilst crews were being briefed.		
	21-3-44		Weather cloudy with rain and drizzle during morning and afternoon. Visibility moderate, light northerly winds. Ten crews detailed for gardening operations. This was scrubbed however, just as crews were going out to their A/C (18:00 hrs.). Lectures to Gunners and Bomb Aimers on hydraulic and petrol systems. A discussion took place to-day in crew room on organised sports for Squadron personnel. Permission being granted for the use of some of the grass field in front of the Flight Offices, for sports.		
	22-3-44		Cloudy, visibility moderate. Light variable winds. Ten crews detailed this morning for gardening and two crews for bombing operations on Frankfurt. This time the operations were not scrubbed and all got off with the exception of one with rear turret trouble. ^{11:47 hrs.} Two new crews reported to-day, two officers, J26361, P/O I. C. Grant, and J28205, P/O T. R. Agnes, and twelve other ranks.		

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	23-3-44		Cloudy with moderate visibility. Winds light SE'ly, becoming SW'ly. All our crews returned safely from gardening at Kiel and bombing at Frankfurt. Gardening carried out O.K. and all vegetables planted. The one crew on Frankfurt bombed the target successfully. Heavy flak reported in Kiel area. Operational stand-down to-day.		
	24-3-44		Cloudy, becoming fine, visibility moderate to good. Winds, light variable. Fourteen crews detailed for operations this morning. All A/C took off, but ^{three} were returned early. A/C "B" HK-272 was seen before take-off was completed, with a feathered motor over the airfield, the other returned much later due to A/C unable to get sufficient altitude.		
	25-3-44		Weather fair to fine, visibility poor at first becoming moderate to good. Light variable winds. The target last night was Berlin and we lost two crews, A/C "B" HK-344, captained by M29893 P/Sgt. Lossing, R., and A/C "B" HK-284, captained by M2956, P/Sgt. Russell, W. F. A/C "G" HK-292, captained by M10246, P/O E. B. Van Slyck, was badly shot up on the return journey over the Ruhr Valley. Navigator, 1399529 Sgt. Phillips, A. was injured, and the R/O, M66677, P/Sgt. Potentier, R.H., baled out over enemy territory on receiving order to "Put on parachutes". Reason for action of the R/O is a mystery.		
	26-3-44		A fine day, almost like a midsummer day. Visibility good. Winds light and variable. Eleven crews detailed for operations. P/O Van Slyck and crew, with the exception of Sgt. Phillips in hospital, returned this evening from their diversion base at Woodbridge by rail. All eleven A/C took off O.K. and there were no early returns.		
	27-3-44		Cloudy, becoming fine, visibility moderate, becoming foggy by mid-night. Light variable SE'ly winds. All our A/C returned safely from last night's operation, the target being an old friend, Essen, in the Ruhr Valley. All crews reported that it was a very quiet trip and very little flak was encountered and few fighters seen. Met. "gen" was dull, there being quite a good bit of cloud and ground haze. The raid was considered not too successful as there were no sky markers and the ground markers could not be seen. Operational stand-down to-day. Crew sent down to Woodbridge to bring back A/C "B".		

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	28-3-44		Foggy during morning and evening, but fine and hazy in afternoon, light variable winds. Operations stand-down. A few crews were on I countries and local flying. Some of these A/C had to land away due to a sudden closing in of the weather towards late afternoon. Remainder of crews not flying spent rest of the afternoon cleaning up the flight buildings and the ground surrounding. Quite an improvement effected.		
	29-3-44		Cloudy in morning becoming fair. Visibility poor becoming moderate, light northerly winds. 12 crews detailed for operations, but this was scrubbed at approximately 1700 hours.		
	30-3-44		Fair to cloudy with showers in afternoon. Visibility moderate to good. Moderate northerly wind. 13 crews detailed for operations. All A/C got away with a good start with the exception of one non-starter through a last minute change of an oil cooler, which could not be fitted in time.		
	31-3-44		Weather fair to fine with good visibility. Snow showers in late afternoon, light northerly wind. The target last night was Bursburg. Up until quite late this morning all A/C were accounted for, with the exception of A/C "m" HE-272 captained by 385080 P/O G. Nielsen A/C "q" HE-353, captained by 1388906 P/O Reimelt, R.O. Information later received that "q" had landed at Hanston badly shot up, but crew were all O.K. The loss of one of our most experienced crews, P/O Nielsen's, this being his 27th trip, is keenly felt by the remainder of the Squadron. All A/C with the exception of "B" landed away. Crews reported that the route in and partly out was under conditions almost like daylight. The route to the target was reported as a very exciting one indeed; there being plenty of fighters and heavy flak, otherwise a quiet trip. The target was believed to be well and truly "franged", but more detailed observations were not possible due to 10/10ths cloud.		
			<u>Appointments</u> - The following aircrew personnel have been appointed to a commissioned rank:- 172204 P/O W.J. Fry, Air Gunner, 171831, P/O H.S. Gofrey, Air Gunner, 319897 P/O J.J. Majew, Pilot, 385080 P/O G. Nielsen, Pilot, 388073, P/O D.J. James, Pilot, and 385056 P/O J.L. James, Pilot.		
			<u>Promotions</u> - 145466 P/O A.N. Jennings, ^{R.O.} Air Gunner, promoted to the rank of Flying Officer. Promotions for other ranks included three to Corporal, three to Flight Sergeant, two to Warrant Officer II, and one to Warrant II.		

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			Honours and Awards:- J15159, Squadron Leader H. T. Patterson, Pilot, authorised to wear		
			Operational Wings.		
			Postings:- J16467, P/O D.C. Ferguson, Navigator, posted to this Squadron to crew with		
			G265, W/O G.E. Burgess. Two officers, J28351, P/O I. C. Grant, Air Bomber, and J28205,		
			P/O T.R. Ayres, Air Bomber, posted in with twelve other ranks to make up two crews.		
			Two N.C.O's, Air Gunners, posted in. J17948, P/O D. H. Christie, Air Gunner, posted from the		
			Squadron to 1664 Conversion Unit, on completion of his first tour of operations. Three other		
			ranks, aircrew, posted out during the month.		
			Strength of Unit:-		
			Officers Airmen Airwomen		
			R.C.A.F. 39 36 -		
			R.A.F. 15 73 -		
			W.A.A.F. - - 7		
			TOTALS 54 309 7 Grand Total - 460.		
			Health:- The general health of the Squadron has improved greatly, but we are still getting		
			a considerable number of sore throats and slight ailments.		
			Flying Times:-		
			Operational Non-operational Totals		
			Day - 811 97:25 hours 97:25 hours		
			Night - 678:25 hours 135:10 hours 813:35 hours		
			TOTALS 678:25 hours 232:35 hours 911:00 hours		
			Number of Sorties Completed:- 89 sorties.		
			Bombs dropped on targets:-		
			H.E. Incendiary		
			Bombs dropped from 1-1-44 - 29-2-44 26½ tons 13½ tons		
			" " during March 12½ tons 25½ tons		
			Cumulative total from 1-1-44 150½ tons 22½ 5/6 tons.		
			Aircraft on charge:- 19 aircraft on charge, 9 serviceable.		

(concluded over)

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