

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | SECRET. | References to Appendices |
|-------|--------|------|--|---------|--------------------------|
| | 1-4-44 | | Fine becoming cloudy, visibility moderate to good, S/S winds. Stand down from "ops". Fighter affiliation and "window" dropping exercise carried out by eight crews to-day. One A/C on bombing during day - no night flying done. | | |
| | 2-4-44 | | Cloudy with rain during day, foggy at night. D.I's carried out in a.m. - general stand down given to squadron commencing at noon, due to bad weather. | | |
| | 3-4-44 | | Cloudy, raining all day and fog again at night. Bader lecture and film given to all crews in a.m. A switch between all sections was to be carried out in p.m., but due to an officers' mess meeting being prolonged, this idea was scrubbed - no flying. | | |
| | 4-4-44 | | Cloudy with rain and fog all day, weather prohibited flying. Various section personnel interchanged with other sections and instructed on each other's duties in A/C. This system is proving most useful. Later in the day all crews were given a general pep talk and instructions by the C.O. and Adjutant. | | |
| | 5-4-44 | | Bad weather again to-day, raining until afternoon with moderate to poor visibility. Switch over training again carried out. Crews report this training as very interesting. No flying again. | | |
| | 6-4-44 | | Rain in early a.m., becoming fair to cloudy, moderate visibility. F/O A. R. Hall, 144865, (R.A.F.), anti-gas Officer, Leeming, gave a gas lecture to all crews in morning. Two A/C on height tests and six A/C detailed for fighter affiliation and X countries, but this was scrubbed when weather became bad. Turret manipulation training given to gunners. | | |
| | 7-4-44 | | Cloudy with a great deal of smoke haze, moderate visibility. Four A/C detailed for "ops" to-night and six for a command bullseye, but all flying scrubbed at 1800 hours due to weather. Some A/C "rec" and Gee training carried out. | | |
| | 8-4-44 | | Fair becoming fine, hazy with moderate visibility, SE'ly winds. Stand-down from operations to-day. Some local flying done - two crews flew to Middle Wallop to bring back A/C "V", but this resulted in both A/C staying away, "V" was not ready, and "A", the A/C they flew in, went U/S on landing. | | |

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| | 9-4-44 | | Cloudy with fog in early a.m., light rain in afternoon. Visibility poor becoming good. Ten A/C detailed for operations on marshalling yards at Villeneuve St. George, outside Paris. Eight A/C reached the target, but we had two early returns. LV-840 with a feathered engine and LV-911 came back when one engine continually backfired. All A/C returned safely to base and reported a good trip with little or no difficulties. | | F. 541 P. 1 & 2 |
| | 10-4-44 | | Fair to cloudy, visibility good becoming moderate in evening. Twelve A/C detailed for operations - all we had available. Ten for mining and two on bombing. The gardening effort was scrubbed at 18:15 hours, and one of our two on bombing was scrubbed when the O.S.U. went defective. BX-275 got away and participated in an ace attack on Ghent. A good trip with many bomb bursts in T/A being observed. Two new crews reported in on posting. | | F. 541 P. 2. |
| | 11-4-44 | | Cloudy with light showers, visibility moderate, becoming good in evening, light SWly winds. Another two crews reported on posting. Some Radar X countries carried out during day. Ten A/C were detailed and carried out a most successful but uneventful mining effort on Kattgat. All crews returned safely and reported that H ₂ S ₂ had been most helpful. | | P. 3 & 4 |
| | 12-4-44 | | Foggy at first becoming cloudy with odd showers in p.m. Poor visibility. Stand-down from operations. Some Radar X countries done during day. New crews on circuits and landings. Two crews flew to Boscombe Downs to bring back a diverted A/C. Gunners on turret manipulation. Stand-down at night. | | |
| | 13-4-44 | | Fair becoming cloudy afternoon and evening, visibility moderate. A good training effort put up to-day including fighter affiliation and air-to-air firing, bombing on Strensall Range, Radar X countries, and circuits and landings for new crews. A day well spent with good results. | | |
| | 14-4-44 | | Cloudy, rain late in evening. Visibility poor to moderate, becoming good late in day. Eight crews detailed and briefed for operations but this was scrubbed at 20:00 hours. Two crews flew to Middle Wallop to bring back diverted A/C. Some air tests and local flying done. | | |
| | 15-4-44 | | Cloudy, rain in a.m., thunderstorms in evening. Visibility moderate to poor, except in afternoon. No operations but general training carried out in p.m. | | |

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|-------|---------|------|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| | 16-4-44 | | Cloudy and hazy, visibility poor, winds light northerly. Six A/C on early flying - radar X countries. This is a new set up for a.m. training programme and will be of great aid in obtaining more training hours. Weather closed down and prevented training in afternoon. | | |
| | 17-4-44 | | Cloudy with drizzle or rain in early a.m. becoming fine. Visibility poor but improving to moderate. Winds northerly. Another good day of training. Eight A/C on early morning detail of X countries. Six A/C on bombing and fighter affiliation in p.m. | | |
| | 18-4-44 | | Fair to fine, visibility poor early a.m. and late p.m., but moderate during balance of day. Nine A/C were detailed for a sea search but after standing by until noon, this was scrubbed. 15 A/C laid on for operations to-night - French target, Naisy Le Sec. All got away and reached the target, but the squadron suffered a heavy loss when W-571, captained by J5822, F/L G.B. Edmonds and HX-287, captained by R138996, P/Sgt W.J. Sturay, failed to return. It was fairly congested over the target and some crews reported seeing two A/C crash into each other over the target which may have been our crews. The attack was well concentrated around the markers and four large explosions were reported. Thirteen A/C returned safely with "K" - Kitty landing at Long Marston. | | P. 5-7. |
| | 19-4-44 | | Cloudy with rain in p.m. and evening, visibility poor, winds s'ly. No flying to-day due to weather although "K" - Kitty managed to return from diversion. Lectures given to W/Op's, Air Bombers and Pilots on R/T procedure and aerodrome control. Stand down at night. | | |
| | 20-4-44 | | Fair with odd shower in afternoon, visibility good, W/S'W'y winds. Sixteen crews detailed for operations against another French Target - Lens. Only fifteen A/C got away when "I" - Ink developed a bad Mag drop - crew switched to our spare "V" - Vic, then "L" - London blew a tire and while they transferred to the spare A/C of 424 Squadron, it was too late to take off. The raid was very successful, bombing well concentrated and one very heavy explosion and fire seen - apparently an oil dump. All crews returned safely to base. | | P. 7, 8 & 9. |
| | 21-4-44 | | Fair to cloudy, becoming fine, good visibility, westerly winds. Six A/C on early morning radar X countries, also some bombing and air firing done. Two new crews reported in. | | |

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| | 22-4-44 | | <p>Fair to cloudy, good visibility, W/SW'y winds. Sixteen crews detailed and briefed for operations against Dusseldorf to-night. Fifteen A/C got away. "C" - Charlie ran into star-board engine trouble and after swinging off runway twice, switched over to spare A/C, but was too late to take off. Reports on the attack indicated a good effort well concentrated, although visibility was very hazy and vapour trails numerous. This squadron suffered the heaviest set back in its career when three of our main crews failed to return. ³⁴⁰ LW-328, captained by J16496, F/O G.C. Burns, HK-291, captained by J17845 F/O W.L. Center, D.F.M., and ³⁴⁰ LW-328 captained by R139513 W/O J. Bourgeault. Truly the end of a very disastrous week, in that we have lost five of our senior crews.</p> | | P. 9, 10, 16 + 12 |
| | 23-4-44 | | <p>Fair to cloudy, good visibility, westerly winds. A very quiet day - one A/C on bombing and which landed with a burst tire, causing A/C to tip on its nose. No one injured. Balance of squadron stood down.</p> | | |
| | 24-4-44 | | <p>Fair becoming fine, good visibility, westerly winds. Early morning training on - two Radar X countries and two new crews on circuits and landings. Fifteen crews detailed for operations against Karlsruhe and all got away successfully except HK-280 which developed a bad Mag drop, and LW-370 which ran into engine trouble at take-off. Attack carried out through very bad weather, heavy cloud and icing conditions being encountered and success of raid hard to assess. All A/C returned safely with LW-344 landing at Woodbridge, badly shot up.</p> | | P. 12, 13 + 14 |
| | 25-4-44 | | <p>Fine becoming fair, good visibility with N/W'y winds. J2433 F/O J.C. Valk and crew reported in. Twelve crews detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed at 23:55 hours. Small amount of local flying done.</p> | | |
| | 26-4-44 | | <p>Fine morning and night, fair in afternoon, good visibility. Some early morning Radar X countries and one new crew on circuits and landings. Operations again to-night, the target being Essen. Thirteen crews detailed and all got away. HK-352 was an early return due to oxygen failure. Weather conditions over target were good and P.F.P. marking excellent. Attack developed rapidly with large fires and explosions reported. Little opposition and all A/C returned safely to base.</p> | | P. 14, 15 + 16 |

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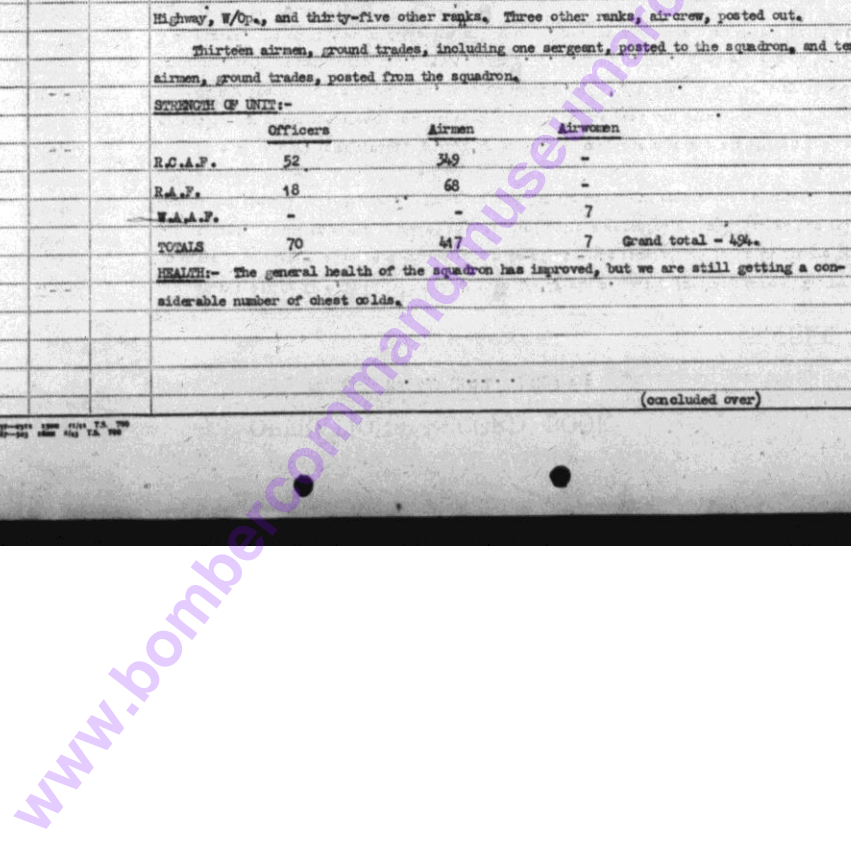
No. of pages used for day _____

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| | 27-4-44 | | Fair becoming fine, good visibility with N/Wly winds. Early training done with crews on cross countries - also we operated again to-night - the marshalling yards at Aigoye being the target. Thirteen crews detailed and carried out a successful attack. Target was well marked and visibility very clear. Numerous bomb bursts and heavy explosions reported. All A/C returned safely. | | P. 17, 18 + 19 |
| | 28-4-44 | | Fine to cloudy, good visibility, N/Ely winds. A complete squadron stand down was in effect to-day after the steady stream of operations in the past ten days. | | |
| | 29-4-44 | | Cloudy becoming fine after dusk, good visibility, W/Wly winds. A day of very intensive training, even including our C.O., O/A91, W/Comdr. C. B. Sinton, DFC. Twelve crews on Radar X countries, ten on fighter affiliation and bombing, and two air tests also done. No night flying. | | |
| | 30-4-44 | | Cloudy, good visibility, westerly winds. Six A/C on early morning training, one X country, three on bombing, and two on fighter affiliation. Sixteen crews detailed for operations at night, twelve bombing the marshalling yards at Somain, France, which was carried out most successfully with little or no opposition. P.F.F. were late but crews felt that the attack was successful. The other four A/C were on mining in the Lorient area, which was carried out with very few events of interest. All A/C returned safely to base. | | P. 14, 20 + 21 |
| | | | And so ends the busiest month this squadron has had since its formation. | | |
| | | | <u>APPOINTMENTS</u> :- The following aircrew personnel have been appointed to a commissioned rank:- 17403 P/O K. R. Brotherhood, R.A.F. Air Gunner, 17432, P/O W. R. Boustead, R.A.F. Navigator, and 174239, P/O H. Humble, R.A.F. Navigator. 59201, Flying Officer (Acting S/Ldr.) J.C. McNeill, DFC, Pilot, appointed to the rank of Temporary Flight Lieutenant. Squadron Adjutant, C8992, Flying Officer (Acting F/Lt.) J. E. German, appointed to the rank of Temporary Flight Lieutenant. 140246, Flying Officer E. B. Van Slyck, Pilot, appointed to the rank of Temporary Flight Lieutenant. 159567, Pilot Officer D. Brown, R.A.F. Pilot, appointed to the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant. C18096, Pilot Officer D. G. Gamble, Technical Branch (Signals) appointed to the rank of Temporary Flying Officer. | | |

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|----------|----------|--------|---|---------|--------------------------|--|----------|--------|----------|----------|----|-----|---|--------|----|----|---|----------|---|---|---|--------|----|-----|---|
| | | | <p>PROMOTIONS:- Sixteen Sergeants promoted to Flight Sergeants, nine Flight Sergeants to Warrant Officer II, and one Warrant Officer II promoted to Warrant Officer I. One airman, ground crew, promoted to Corporal.</p> <p>HONOURS AND AWARDS:- 1339529, Flight Sergeant A. E. Phillips, R.A.F., Navigator, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.</p> <p>POSTINGS:- Eight crews were posted to the squadron during the month, twenty-one commissioned ranks; J22978, P/O J.D. Linklater, Pilot, J22224, P/O Emmitt, N.W., Navigator, J27401, P/O Banford, R., Air Bomber, J21448, P/O J.R. Harrison, Pilot, J20875, P/O J.P. Kinder, Navigator, J24065, P/O L.E. Dufresne, W/Op., J27284, P/O Widenoja, E.T., Air Bomber, J20947, P/O E. Ryjolfson, Pilot, J22228, P/O C.E. Willner, Navigator, J28362, P/O J.M. Kimey, Air Bomber, J25000, P/O J.A.W. Morgan, Pilot, J24553, P/O G.H. Gill, Navigator, J28158, P/O Clero, J.R.O., Air Bomber, J26785, P/O P.E. Marchildon, Air Gunner, J19930 P/O G.A. Wolstencroft, Pilot, J21433, P/O J.C. Valk, Pilot, J24060, P/O Sprott, J.C., W/Op., J14730, P/O G. Scott, Air Bomber, J20198, P/O M.H. Fleming, Air Gunner, J19884, P/O W.T.C. Watson, Pilot, J36534, P/O G.H. Highway, W/Op., and thirty-five other ranks. Three other ranks, aircrew, posted out.</p> <p>Thirteen airmen, ground trades, including one sergeant, posted to the squadron, and ten airmen, ground trades, posted from the squadron.</p> <p>STRENGTH OF UNIT:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Officers</th> <th>Airmen</th> <th>Airwomen</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F.</td> <td>52</td> <td>349</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td> <td>18</td> <td>68</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.A.A.F.</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTALS</td> <td>70</td> <td>417</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Grand total - 494.</p> <p>HEALTH:- The general health of the squadron has improved, but we are still getting a considerable number of chest colds.</p> | | | | Officers | Airmen | Airwomen | R.C.A.F. | 52 | 349 | - | R.A.F. | 18 | 68 | - | W.A.A.F. | - | - | 7 | TOTALS | 70 | 417 | 7 |
| | Officers | Airmen | Airwomen | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R.C.A.F. | 52 | 349 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| R.A.F. | 18 | 68 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| W.A.A.F. | - | - | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 70 | 417 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (concluded over) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

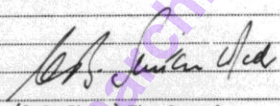
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| | | | | | | |
| SECRET | | | | | | |
| FLYING TIMES:- | | | | | | |
| | | | <u>Operational</u> | <u>Non-operational</u> | <u>Totals</u> | |
| | | | Nil | 243:10 | 243:10 hours | |
| | | | 635:25 | 3:40 | 639:05 hours | |
| | | | TOTALS | 246:50 | 882:15 hours | |
| NUMBER OF SORTIES COMPLETED:- 121 122 sorties. | | | | | | |
| BOMBS DROPPED ON TARGET:- | | | | | | |
| | | | H.E. - 310½ tons. | Cumulative total from 1-1-44, H.E. | - 461 tons | |
| | | | Incendiary - 64½ tons. | Cumulative total from 1-1-44, Incendiary | - 259½ tons. | |
| AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE:- 22 aircraft on charge, 15 serviceable. | | | | | | |
|  (G. B. Sinton) Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 433 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron. | | | | | | |

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