

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1-5-44		Fair to fine with good visibility, moderate westerly winds. Not much training to-day, one radar bombing exercise and one acceptance check made. 9 A/O detailed for gardening operations in Lorient & St. Nazaire areas. This effort was carried out successfully without incident and all A/O returned safely to base.		F 541 P-1-2
	2-5-44		Fair to fine, good visibility, strong westerly winds of almost gale proportions. Weather unfit for flying so squadron given a stand down in afternoon.		
	3-5-44		Fair to fine, good visibility, strong westerly winds becoming light variable. Some radar exercises completed and one new crew check out. Twelve A/O detailed for gardening in the Bay of Biscay area. This operation carried out successfully with no opposition. We also had 3 A/O on a command Bullseye. All A/O returned safely to base.		F 541 P 3-4
	4-5-44		Fine in morning becoming cloudy with continuous rain forenoon and afternoon, improving to fair in evening. Weather dirty for flying. Gunnery on A/O recognition training. A lecture was given to all crews in afternoon by Major A.E.L. Stevenson (117803) the Group Flak officer on enemy defences. Later a general blitz was carried out by the C.O. and Adjutant regarding the conditions of billets and all crews spent balance of afternoon in general clean up.		
	5-5-44		Cloudy with light rain in a.m. visibility moderate to good, wind light variable. Stand down from ops. and weather no good for flying during day. C.O. on a court-martial, general lectures on operational snags held in afternoon. All officers attended a bright successful party in the mess at night.		
	6-5-44		Fair to cloudy, showers in a.m. visibility good. This was a day of training plus operations at night. Training included crews on bombing, fighter affiliation and air to air firing. Also 8 A/O on night radar X-Country. 8 A/O detailed for mining operations near Cherbourg St. Malo and the Brest area. Weather was good with unlimited visibility. Crews reported garden area very quiet and there were no difficulties. All A/O returned safely.		F 541 P-5-6
	7-5-44		Cloudy becoming fine, visibility good, light south easterly winds. A day of extensive training including bombing, fighter affiliation and air to air firing, gunners also on turret manipulation. At night 6 A/O participated in radar X-Country.		

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	8-5-44		Fair with visibility moderate to good, light south westerly to west winds. 6 A/C on early morning training-fighter affil. and X Countries. Also 4 A/C on bombing exercise in p.m. A lecture was given by C.O. to all crews not flying in p.m. Ten A/C detailed for gardening operations at night in the Brest, St. Male and Morlaix areas. All crews reported a good trip - visibility unlimited and defences slight. Parachutes were seen opening by all crews except one. All A/C returned safely.		F541 P7-8
	9-5-44		Fair to cloudy visibility moderate to good - moderate winds. 6 A/C on local flying and sight detailed on turret manipulation. Eleven A/C detailed for operations tonight against gun emplacements at St. Valerie-en-Caux. All got away successfully and completed the trip without opposition. P.F.F. appeared somewhat scattered but bombing was well concentrated on markers. Heavy congestion of A/C in target area was reported.		F541 P8-9
	10-5-44		Cloudy - good visibility - south westerly winds. 2 A/C on early flying. Crews spent a busy day with 13 detailed on sheet shooting, 11 on turret manipulation and 5 on A/C recognition. Nine aircraft detailed for operations against the marshalling yards at Cherbourg. This attack extremely successful. The T.I.'s being well placed and bombing well concentrated. The master bomber was very helpful and little opposition encountered. All A/C returned safely to base.		F541 P10-11
	11-5-44		Fine to fair - good visibility - westerly winds. 4 A/C on bombing and fighter affiliation 33 detailed on aircraft recognition during day. Also some radar X-Country and circuit and bumps carried out. Nine A/C detailed for operations at night. 3 A/C bombing marshalling yards at Boulogne and the other 6 A/C gardening at Brest, St. Nazaire & Lorient. Both sorties were carried out with little or no opposition. Bombing target well marked and numerous bomb bursts and explosions reported. Crews on mining reported mines were dropped in their allotted position. HE-275 was an early return when oil pressure failed in starboard inner engine. Balance of A/C returned safely.		F541 P12-13
	12-5-44		Fair becoming cloudy - good visibility - light variable winds. Extensive training carried out in early a.m. and early p.m. X-Countries, fighter affiliation and air to air firing carried out. The squadron was given a stand down in the latter part of afternoon and evening. W/O G.B. Martin (A/C) departed on a well earned leave.		

GRK

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 3of (Unit or Formation) No. 433 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	13-5-44		Fair becoming cloudy - rain during evening with north westerly winds. Fighter affiliation bombing and H2S exercises carried out also considerable sheet shooting during day. Sixteen crews detailed for operations but this was scrubbed halfway through Navigation briefing.		
	14-5-44		Cloudy becoming fair - good visibility - north westerly winds. Security lecture given to all crews on security by Station Intelligence Officer P/O H.G. Miller (05988). News was received by the Squadron that P.157169 P/S R. Thomas (Pilot) had been killed in the early dawn of to-day by a fall from the fourth floor of a hotel in Leeds - S/L J.G. Howell DFC (J920) O.C. "A" Flight departed at once to investigate. Fourteen A/C were detailed and briefed for operations but this was scrubbed at 23:10 hrs.		
	15-5-44		Fair to cloudy - slight rain in evening - North westerly winds. Considerable ground training carried out plus a little bombing and fighter affiliation work. Sixteen A/C detailed for operations - 4 on bombing and 12 on gardening but bombing eventually scrubbed - A/C on gardening got away but IM-129 was an early return when his A.S.I. went W/S - balance of A/C dropped their vegetables in the Kattagat area and returned safely to base after a good trip.		F 541 P 14-15
	16-5-44		Cloudy with showers - rain in a.m. good visibility - north winds. Stand down from flying to-day due to weather - a lecture was given to all crews on "Crew Navigation" by W/O P.G. Powell, DSO DFC (J8817) Group Navigation Officer.		
	17-5-44		Fair to cloudy - good visibility north westerly winds. P157169 P/S R. Thomas (Pilot) was buried this morning in R.A.F. Regional Cemetery Stonefall, Harrogate - the remainder of his crew had been recalled from leave and acted as pall bearers. Approximately 50 to 60 officers and N.C.O.'s attended the funeral. Some radar X-Countries, air to air firing and bombing training carried out during the day also one A/C picked up that had been down South for repair for sometime. No night flying.		
	18-5-44		Cloudy slight rain in a.m. - moderate visibility - northern winds. Weather "duff" for flying during day so ground training carried out - Gee, H2S, Link, Aircraft Recognition - a file on T.D. was shown to crews in p.m. - 18 A/C put on for special bombing practice at night, it was scrubbed due to weather.		

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	19-5-44		Foggy early a.m. - rain in p.m. becoming cloudy - good visibility. While weather was poor eleven radar X-countries carried out during day and fourteen A/C detailed for operations against Le Glap on the French coast at night - this attack was on gun emplacements, and while visibility was hazy, bombing well concentrated on T.I.S. If F.P.W. were on it - was a good prange.		F 541 P 16 17 18
	20-5-44		Cloud with drizzle in early a.m. Visibility moderate to good. Mainly weather was rather miserable, so no flying done except that our diverted A/C were able to return to base. Stand down from Ops. at night.		
	21-5-44		Cloudy becoming fine after dusk - good visibility - north westerly winds. A day of extensive training plus operational flying. Training included 12 A/C on day X-Countries and air to air firing plus 6 A/C on night X-Countries. Ten crews detailed for ground training on the "Frisians". This detail was carried out and mines were dropped in their allotted positions - No difficulties encountered and all returned safely.		F 541 P 18 19 20
	22-5-44		Fine becoming cloudy with slight rain - visibility good. Considerable ground training carried out plus a few flying details - 14 A/C on operations against the marshalling yards at "La Mene". Crews reported this raid as not too successful due to terrific congestion and milling about over target. Master Bomber and Deputy appeared to be "Jammed" which caused considerable delay. However, finally all A/C bombed and if markers were on it should end up as a good effort - "H" uncle captained by Can. E157669 E/Sgt. Porter, R.L. had a 500 pound bomb go through his mainplane but fortunately was able to return safely as did all the rest of aircraft on detail.		F 541 P 20 21 22
	23-5-44		Fair becoming fair to cloudy - hazy with moderate visibility. Ground training and three radar X-countries were carried out during day - at night 14 aircraft successfully completed a X-country and bombing exercise.		
	24-5-44		Fair to cloudy with slight rain in evening - moderate visibility becoming good. A bit of ground training during day. Fifteen A/C detailed for operations on Aachen. This effort went off exceptionally well - a good route with no difficulties encountered. Many bomb bursts seen and bombing was well concentrated. All A/C returned safely to base. In spite of this		F 541 P 22 23 24 25

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	24-5-44		very good effort it was a sad day for the whole personnel of this Squadron when they were informed that the Commanding Officer, Squadron Leader (A/C) G.B. Sinton, DFC (G149) had been screened from operations and was being posted - his guidance, inspiration and keen interest in all phases of the squadron will be sorely missed. Squadron Leader A.J. Lovington (J3484) arrived to-day from Dishforth to replace Acting Wing Commander G.B. Sinton DFC (G149) and will take over in due course.		
	25-5-44		Cloudy with rain in a.m. - good visibility - south westerly winds. All crews were called into the briefing room to-day by the Commanding Officer, who addressed them for a considerable time thanking them for their hard and earnest endeavours since the inception of the squadron, and pointing out what was to be done in order to maintain their high position. He also introduced our new Commanding Officer who spoke briefly. Seventeen crews were laid on and briefed for Ops. to-night but this was scrubbed at 22:00 hours.		
	26-5-44		Cloudy, becoming fair to fine - good visibility. Some local flying and ground training done in a.m. and then a well deserved stand down was decreed at noon.		
	27-5-44		Fair to cloudy - good visibility becoming moderate - south westerly winds. Our largest effort to date laid on for tonight - 18 A/C on 3 different targets - 12 A/C bombing "Le Glipon" in France, 4 A/C gardening at "Le Havre" and 2 A/C at "St. Malo". All operations were completed successfully - the bombing effort was very good - well concentrated although the target area was very congested - no difficulties - mining crews reported very easy trip. All returned safely with 2 A/C landing at Middleton St. George due to visibility.		F 541 P 25 26 27 28
	28-5-44		Fine becoming cloudy with good visibility - light winds. Fairly quiet day with a small amount of training both flying and ground. Diverted A/C returned to Base. Called for operations again - 6 A/C on gardening at "Brest" and "Le Havre". Both sectors quiet and ops. completed without trouble.		F 541 P 28 29
	29-5-44		Fine to hazy becoming cloudy with good visibility - light wind. Considerable training to-day including X-Countries, air to air firing and fighter affiliation. No night flying done.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	30-5-44		Fair to cloudy with considerable smoke haze later - north westerly winds. Six A/C on bombing and cross countries in a.m. Fourteen A/C laid on for Ops. tonight but this was scrubbed at 18:00 hours. Squadron Leader (A/W/C) C.B. Sinton, DFC departed to-day for his new station at No. 83 O.T.U. Omsington.		
	31-5-44		Cloudy with slight rain at first - good visibility - easterly winds. Weather poor for flying but Ops. were laid on once again - sixteen crews this time to attack the French target of "Au Fevre". Flying conditions were filthy but it cleared just over target. Crews reported target well pranged but they ran into considerable trouble coming home through electrical storms. However all landed safely at base to complete our most successful month - one without loss. May there be more of these.		F 541 P 29 30 31 32
			CASUALTIES:- Nil		
			POSTINGS IN:- Five crews were posted to the squadron during the month, fourteen commissioned ranks, J25000 P/O W.G. Baird, Pilot, J27573 P/O J.D. Harris, Navigator, J288911 P/O H.F. Fraser, Air Bomber, J17866 P/O F.H. Prescott, Pilot, J28190 P/O W.G. Eaton, Navigator, J20478 P/O E.C. Harris, Air Bomber, J37211 P/O G.A. Cross, Air Gunner, J25973 P/O W. Hoyick, Pilot, J27420 P/O L.P. Rapkin, Navigator, J25349 P/O A.M. Furtan, Air Bomber, J26064 P/O C.A. Appleton, Pilot, J27490 P/O M.F. Dobson, Navigator, J28324 P/O L.F. Grendorff, Pilot, J27473 P/O C.O. Wuori, Navigator, and seventeen R.C.A.F. other ranks airores and five R.A.F. other ranks airores posted in.		
			Twenty-four airmen ground trades posted to the Squadron.		
			POSTINGS OUT:- One R.C.A.F. other rank airores and one R.A.F. other rank airores posted out. Seven R.C.A.F. ground trades other ranks and two R.A.F. ground trades other ranks were posted from the Squadron.		
			PROMOTIONS:- Nine R.A.F. Sergeants to Flight Sergeants, four R.A.F. Flight Sergeants to Warrant Officers Class I, three R.C.A.F. Sergeants to Flight Sergeants.		
			MA91 P/L (A/W/C) C.B. Sinton, DFC formerly Squadron Commander promoted to the Temporary Rank of Squadron Leader. J10419 P/O W.J. Mc Nicol, Air Bomber promoted to the Temporary Rank of Flight Lieutenant. J28351 P/O I.C. Grant, Air Bomber, promoted to the Temporary Rank of Flying Officer. 159567 P/O (A/W/L) D. Brown, DFC, R.A.F. Pilot promoted		

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			to the Temporary Rank of Flying Officer. 157377 P/O (A/P/L) A.M. Douse, Flight Engineer		
			Leader promoted to the Temporary Rank of Flying Officer. 159230 P/O S.M. Lyons, R.A.F.		
			WOP/Air promoted to the Temporary Rank of Flying Officer.		
			COMMISSIONS:- 174864 P/O J. Surtees, R.A.F. Wireless Operator Air was appointed to a		
			commissioned rank in the R.A.F. V.R.		
			HONOURS and AWARDS:- 159567 P/O (A/P/L) D. Brown, Deputy "A" Flight Commander was awarded		
			the Distinguished Flying Cross.		
			CHANGES in COMMAND:- Squadron Leader (A/W/C) G.B. Sinton DFC (C.1491) detached to No.1664		
			Conversion Unit wef 1st June, 1944.		
			Temporary Squadron Leader A.J. Lewington (J.3484) attached to this		
			from No. 1664 Conversion Unit w.e.f. 24th May, 1944, to assume command of this Unit on		
			1st June, 1944.		
			CHANGES in ADMINISTRATION:- Nil		
			AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE:- 21 Halifax Mark III on charge		
			FLYING TIMES:-		
			<u>Operational</u> <u>Non-operational</u> <u>Totals</u>		
			Day Nil 232:50 232:50		
			Night 790:15 97:50 888:05		
			Totals 790:15 330:40 1120:55		
			NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES:- ¹⁷³ 336 Sorties		
			MONTHLY AND CUMULATIVE TOTALS OF BOMBS DROPPED AND MINES LAID:		
			H.E. = 353:05 tons Cumulative total from 1-1-44 - H.E. = 814:05 tons		
			Incendiary = Nil Cumulative total from 1-1-44 - Incendiary = 289: tons		
			Mines = 140:25 tons Cumulative total from 1-1-44 - Mines = 185:75 tons		
			NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT:- During the month of May our aircrafts had two combats		
			with the enemy. A/C "J" NZ-284 on the night 10-5-44 and A/C "B" on the night 23-5-44. No		
			damage to enemy or to our own aircrafts.		
			HEALTH:- With the exception of V.D. and bicycle accidents the general health of Squadron		
			is good.		

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			<p>SECRET.</p> <p>SHORT MESSAGE BY SQUADRON COMMANDER PERSONALLY:- This month has been the most successful month for this Squadron to date, in that, we had 168 sorties with no losses. A good number of training hours have been put in during the month and the groundcrew are doing a magnificent job of keeping the aircraft serviceability high. Figures compiled show that this Squadron has the highest percentage in No. 63 (R.C.A.F.) Base.</p>																										
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">SQUADRON OF UNIT:-</th> <th>Officers</th> <th>Airmen</th> <th>Airwomen</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F.</td> <td>66</td> <td>55</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.N.C.</td> <td>20</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.A.A.F.</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>436</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTALS</td> <td>86</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SQUADRON OF UNIT:-		Officers	Airmen	Airwomen	R.C.A.F.	66	55	-	-	R.C.N.C.	20	-	-	7	W.A.A.F.	-	-	436	7	TOTALS	86				
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			<p><i>(Signature)</i> (A.J. Livingston) Squadron Leader, Officer Commanding, No. 433 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.</p>																										

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