

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

**OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK**

Page No. 1

December, 1941  
No. of pages used for day 2

of (Unit or Formation) No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
MILDERHALL	DECEMBER	1941	<p>No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron commenced to form at MILDERHALL, SUSSEX, on the 15th December 1941. The preliminary details as to its formation are contained in Headquarters 143 Group's letter No. 30/S/8730/25/Org., dated 15th December, 1941, which is now quoted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Formation of No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.</u></p> <p>With reference to Headquarters, Bomber Command, letter BC/S.24747/S/Org., dated 9th December, 1941, the formation of No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron will be carried out as follows:-</p> <p><u>LOCATION.</u> The Squadron will form at and operate from MILDERHALL.</p> <p><u>OFFICER.</u> The Commanding Officer will be appointed by this Headquarters. Flying Officer P. W. WIGHT is posted as Adjutant.</p> <p><u>PERSONNEL - NON-FLYING.</u> This Headquarters will arrange for posting of Medical, Gunner and Observer Officers by Monday, December 22nd.</p> <p>A.C. i/c Records has arranged for posting of Squadron Headquarters and Servicing Party personnel commencing Wednesday, December 17th. It is anticipated that the above should arrive by December 24th and posting of Flight Maintenance personnel will then be proceeded with.</p> <p>It is understood that there are at present very few R.C.A.F. personnel available and the majority of ground personnel will be found from the R.A.F. The latter, however, will be replaced as and when R.C.A.F. personnel can be found by A.C. i/c Records.</p> <p><u>FLYING.</u> G.T.I., 3 Group will allocate aircrew, giving priority to all available R.C.A.F. personnel, on the basis of one flight to be completed by December 26th and the second flight by January 5th.</p> <p><u>AIRCRAFT.</u> Allocation of aircraft may be expected as from December 22nd but this will also depend on the re-arming of other Squadrons in the Group and wastage. It is, however, anticipated that one flight should be equipped by December 26th and the second by January 5th.</p> <p><u>EQUIPMENT.</u> The Group Equipment Officer will issue the necessary instructions regarding equipment requirements for the new Squadron.</p> <p><u>OPERATIONS.</u> It is intended that this Squadron should be required to operate one flight of Wellington 40's as from 5th January, 1942.</p>	

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WILKINSON	December	1941	<p>Wing Commander J. FULCH, D.F.C., was appointed to command the Squadron and assumed duties on the 21st December, 1941, arriving from R.A.F. FAREBOROUGH.</p> <p>Flying Officer F. W. WRIGHT, who had originally been appointed Adjutant, was replaced by Flight Lieutenant F. MCRIARTY from No. 19 Bomber Squadron as Adjutant, the latter assuming duties on the 29th December, 1941.</p> <p>A Bombing Leader, Flying Officer J. E. W. HANFIELD, was appointed and assumed duties with effect from 30th December, 1941.</p> <p>A Gunnery Leader, Pilot Officer R. D. O'Callaghan, was appointed and assumed duties with effect from 1st January, 1942.</p> <p>An Engineering Officer, Pilot Officer D. C. COCHRAN, was appointed and assumed duties with effect from 19th December, 1941.</p> <p>By the end of December the Squadron had progressed well towards formation, the situation being:</p>																												
			<p>Aircraft, Nil</p> <p>Personnel Strength,</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers</td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>111</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Officers</td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Personnel</td> <td>Ground Crew</td> <td>177</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Air Crew</td> <td>2 N.E.</td> </tr> </table>	R.C.A.F. Officers	Air Crew	6	R.C.A.F. Airmen	Ground Crew	111		Air Crew	2	R.A.F. Officers	Ground Crew	26		Air Crew	1	R.A.F. Airmen	Ground Crew	3		Air Crew	2	Other Personnel	Ground Crew	177		Air Crew	2 N.E.	
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