

COPY

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in KR and A.C.I. para. 236 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 2

of (Unit or Formation) 419 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	Reference to Appendices
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	1945	1 Feb.	The Station was visited by the Air Officer Commanding No.6 (BCAF) Group, for the purpose of interviewing applicants for Commissions. F/Lt. A.P. Cranwick and Crew were posted to No.35 Pathfinder Force.		
		2 Feb.	Six aircraft carried out mining operations in KATTEGAT. All returned safely.		A - 1
		3 Feb.	Eleven aircraft set out to attack HAMBURG. Six turned back due to weather conditions, and one aircraft failed to return to base. The names of the missing Crew are: F/Sgt. MacKensie, J.D. (Pilot), Sgt. Garret, W.M. (Navigator), Sgt. Burgess, E.H. (Bomb Aimer), Sgt. Hill, R.H. (W/Op. A.C.), Sgt. Dicks, W. (Flight Engineer), Sgt. Connet, L.A. (Mid-Upper Gunner), and F/Sgt. Milton, A.H. (Rear Gunner). F/Lt. J.D. Palmer reported to the Squadron from No.5 P.O.C. for duties as Squadron Medical Officer.		A - 2
		4 Feb.	Five aircraft set out to attack TURIN. Three attacked the target. All returned safely to base.		A - 3
		5 Feb.	Squadron Stand-down.		
		6 Feb.	Three aircraft carried out mining operations and returned safely to base. F/Lt. H.T. McAlpine, Squadron Medical Officer, posted to R.C.A.F. OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS. One complete crew reported for duty from No.1659 Conversion Unit.		A - 4
		7 Feb.	Ten aircraft attacked LORIENT, nine returning safely to base, one being diverted to MARSTON MOOR.		A - 5
		8 Feb.	Squadron Stand-down.		
		9 Feb.	Squadron Stand-down. Two complete crews reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT. Included in these Crews were P/O T. BROWN, P/O H. BIEWER, and A.R. WALLACE.		
		10 Feb.	An R.C.A.F. TRADE TEST BOARD arrived at the Unit for the purpose of Trade-Testing R.C.A.F. Personnel.		
		11 Feb.	The Station and Squadron were visited by MAYOR LEWIS, of OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, who interviewed personnel from that city.		
		12 Feb.	The STATION COMMANDER carried out his weekly inspection of the Barracks occupied by the personnel of the Squadron.		
		13 Feb.	Twelve aircraft attacked LORIENT and all returned safely to base.		A - 6
		14 Feb.	Eleven aircraft attacked COLOGNE, all returning safely to Base. One crew reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT, including P/O R. CABEL, P/O J.D. DICKSON and R.J. WAGNER.		A - 7
		15 Feb.	Squadron Stand-down. P/O J.B. CLEVELAND, (Navigator), posted to No.426 SQUADRON.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1945				
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	16 Feb.		Fourteen aircraft attacked LORIENT, and all returned safely to base.		A - 8
	17 Feb.		Squadron Stand-down. Two Crews reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT, including P/O A.J. HERRIOTT, P/O P.D. BOYD and P/O G.W. LANNY.		
	18 Feb.		The STATION COMMANDER called a Parade of all Personnel at 08:00 hours, for the purpose of carrying out Respirator Drill. Eight aircraft carried out mining operations in the area of the FRISIAN ISLANDS, and three aircraft attacked WILHELMSHAVEN. One aircraft failed to return from the mining operations, the names of the missing Crew being: P/Sgt. Levasseur, B.A. (Pilot), Sgt. Lloyd, G.A. (Navigator), Sgt. Grant, J.W. (Bomb Aimer), Sgt. Jacobsen, H.T. (W/O, A.G.), Sgt. Robinson, W.A. (Flight Engineer), Sgt. Wilson, R.P. (Mid-Upper Gunner) and P/Sgt. Gray, W.R. (Rear Gunner).		A - 9
	19 Feb.		The STATION COMMANDER inspected the Squadron Headquarters and Hangar. Twelve aircraft attacked WILHELMSHAVEN, all returning safely to base. P/O D. CURSON (Navigator) posted to No. 1659 CONVERSION UNIT.		A - 10
	20 Feb.		Two aircraft took part in a SEA SEARCH during the morning. A dance was held in the OFFICERS' MESS in the evening.		
	21 Feb.		Squadron Stand-down. One Crew reported from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT, this included P/O G.D. EYGRAVE, P/O R.E. GILL.		
	22 Feb.		Squadron Stand-down.		
	24 Feb.		Stand-down. Squadron visited by P/Lt. ASHFORD, former Padre.		
	24 Feb.		Fourteen aircraft attacked WILHELMSHAVEN, and all returned safely to Base.		A - 11
	25 Feb.		Two aircraft took-off to carry out mining operations. One aircraft struck a tree on take-off and was forced to return due to amount of damage inflicted. P/O R.E. WOODS (Bomb Aimer) posted to No. 22 O.T.U. P/O L.J. TOME posted Non-effective to STATION HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE.		A - 12
	26 Feb.		Twelve aircraft attacked COLOGNE. One of these aircraft, piloted by P/O W.S. SHERR, successfully completed the operation, although one engine cut-out while doing bombing-run. All the aircraft returned safely to Base. One Crew reported from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT, including P/O F.S. HAIR, P/O W.M. KREDDIE and P/O A. WINSKILL.		A - 13
	27 Feb.		Eight aircraft carried out mining operations in the area of the FRISIAN ISLANDS. One of these aircraft was hit by flak and subsequently forced to ditch in the sea. A SEA SEARCH carried out the following morning was successful in locating the dinghy containing the Crew who were rescued after being 25 hours in the sea. Another of our aircraft was attacked by a Fighter during the course of this operation, and sustained severe damage from machine-fire as well as from flak. The Captain succeeded in bringing the aircraft back and made a forced landing at R.A.F. STATION, COLTISHALL. The Flight Engineer and Rear Gunner were killed in this action, and the Navigator seriously wounded.		A - 14

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																								
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	1945 27 Feb.		The remainder of the Crew were uninjured. Four complete Crews reported for duty from No. 1659 CONVERSION UNIT. They included the following-officers: P/O D.I. BLACK, P/O C.R. BUCK, P/O D. GRIMMER, P/O W.J. ROYCE, P/O C.J. VAILLANCOURT and P/O A.R. HICKEY.		A - 14																								
	28 Feb.		Eleven aircraft attacked ST. NAZAIRE, and all returned safely to base.		A - 15																								
			The strength of the Squadron on the 1st of February, 1945 was:-																										
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">R.A.F.</th> <th colspan="2">R.C.A.F.</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Officers</th> <th>Airmen</th> <th>W.A.A.F.</th> <th>Officers</th> <th>Airmen</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aircrew</td> <td>11</td> <td>57</td> <td>-</td> <td>25</td> <td>112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Groundcrew</td> <td>1</td> <td>152</td> <td>44</td> <td>3</td> <td>241</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		R.A.F.		R.C.A.F.				Officers	Airmen	W.A.A.F.	Officers	Airmen	Aircrew	11	57	-	25	112	Groundcrew	1	152	44	3	241		
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	28 Feb.		Number and type of aircraft on charge:- 17 HALIFAX Mark II aircraft. Flying Times for the month of FEBRUARY:- Operational: 755 hours. Training: 88 hours.																										
			Enemy Aircraft claimed as Casualties during February:- One Enemy Aircraft, type M.E. 110, claimed as "probably damaged," in an encounter on the night of 18th February, 1945. This is credited to P/Sgt. Gaunt, W.T., R.106799, Rear-Gunner of HALIFAX aircraft DT.629.		A - 9																								
			Number of Sorties during February: 141																										
			(Sgd) "M.W. Fleming" Wing Commander, Commanding. No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.																										

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