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R.A.F. Form 540

**OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK**

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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.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 439 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	1 April		Squadron Stand-down. Sergeant TATTERSALL and crew attached to R.A.F. LAMHAM.	
	2 April		Squadron Stand-down.	
	3 April		Five aircraft attacked HESBY, one of which was attacked and badly damaged by an enemy Night-fighter, three members of the crew being wounded in the encounter. The Captain was able to bring the aircraft back and landed it at R.A.F. COLTHERHAM. One aircraft failed to return from this operation, Captained by F/O P.D. Boyd. F/O W.E. Tugling, Squadron Electrical Engineer Officer, was posted to No. 1653 Conversion Unit. F/O H.L. Gregory reported in to fill the vacancy created by this posting.	A. 306-380 A. 308 A. 310
	4 April		Three aircraft attacked KILB, all returning safely to base. F/O W.E. Henry and crew reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT, and F/O S.M. HARVEL, Navigator, reported to the Squadron for flying duties.	A. 311-313
	5 April		Squadron Stand-down.	
	6 April		Squadron Stand-down.	
	7 April		Squadron Stand-down.	
	8 April		Seven aircraft attacked DUNDEW, one falling to return. The missing aircraft was Captained by Sergeant MURPHY, A.M.	A. 314-320 A. 320
	9 April		The Station Commander carried out an inspection of the Barrack Blocks. Sergeant MORGAN and Sergeant HADDOCK, together with their Crews, were posted to 405 (RCAF) SQUADRON. F/O A.M. QUAIL and crew reported for flying duties from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT.	
	10 April		Thirteen aircraft attacked BRANKFORD, all returning safely to base. Wing Commander M.M. HEMING, DFC, proceeded to FERRY HILL to assist in the "WINGS FOR VICTORY" program.	A. 321-333
	21 April		Wing Commander M.M. HEMING, DFC, assumed command of R.C.A.F. STATION, MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE, during the absence on leave of Group Captain A.H. BOSS. F/Ldr. D.W.S. CLARK assumed command of 439 (RCAF) SQUADRON.	
	22 April		F/Lt. Nichols, of Headquarters, No. 6 (RCAF) GROUP, visited the Squadron to discuss the completion of the Historical Diary.	
	23 April		Stand-down. F/O J.W.S. Taylor and his crew reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT.	

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	14 April		Thirteen aircraft attacked STUTTGART, all returning safely. One aircraft, piloted by Sergeant BERRY developed engine failure, complicated by a shortage of fuel after being attacked by Night-fighters, and the Captain brought his aircraft back and landed at R.A.F. DUNHAM MASEN.	A. 334-346 A. 346
	15 April		Two crew crews reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT, Captained by P/O W.G. Elliott and Sergeant WICKHAM.	
	16 April		Fifteen aircraft attacked the BRUNNEN at PILGER. All of these returned safely to base.	A. 337-361
	17 April		Squadron Stand-down.	
	18 April		Squadron Stand-down. P/Lt. V.G. HARRISON, Squadron Adjutant, was posted to R.A.F. STAFFES, DUNFORTH to the Administrative Officer Post, P/Lt. A.E. GRAFORD assuming the duties of Squadron Adjutant.	
	19 April		Fourteen aircraft were warned for a raid on TURIN, the operation, however, being cancelled. P/O J.G. GARRIN, Flight Gunnery Leader, was posted to No. 129 (BOAP) SQUADRON to fill the post of Squadron Gunnery Leader of that Unit.	
	20 April		Thirteen aircraft attacked BREITEN, one of which failed to return. The missing aircraft was piloted by P/O T.R. JACKSON.	A. 362-374 A. 363
	21 April		Squadron Stand-down.	
	22 April		Squadron Stand-down. Sergeant Pilots HAYES and BRUGH, together with their crew, reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT.	
	23 April		Squadron Stand-down. P/Lt. D.W.S. CLARK, 7 <sup>th</sup> Flight Commander, was posted to 1659 CONVERSION UNIT. S/Lt. J.D. PATTERSON, DFC, reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT, and assumed command of 7 <sup>th</sup> Flight.	
	24 April		Squadron Stand-down. P/Sgt. Hally and crew reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT.	
	25 April		Squadron Stand-down. Sergeants JONIN and ADAMS, with their crew, reported for duty from 1659 CONVERSION UNIT. P/Sgt. GORDON, having been awarded after completion of 24 <sup>th</sup> Operational Sortie, was posted to 1659 CONVERSION UNIT.	
	26 April		Thirteen aircraft attacked DUISBURG, and all returned safely to base.	A. 375-387
	27 April		Ten aircraft took part in MINING operations in the area of the FRISIAN ISLANDS, weather conditions being very poor, however, and three aircraft were compelled to return without the mining being completed.	A. 388-399
	28 April		Eight aircraft took part in MINING operations in the SHAGBEEK, one of which was lost. The missing aircraft was Captained by Sergeant SMALLWOOD, G.K.	A. 390-401 A. 405

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 439 (R.G.A.F.) Squadron.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																																																
	28 April (Continued)		2/0 D. Harrison and his Crew reported for duty from 423 (RGA) SQUADRON.																																																	
	29 April		Squadron Stand-down.																																																	
	30 April		<p>Fourteen aircraft attacked BSBM, of which five were obliged to turn back owing to bad weather conditions. No aircraft were missing from this operation. Sergeant A.S. Mallin received the award of the Comptroller Gallantry Medal for his conduct during the course of an operational sortie on the night of 27th February, 1943, when the aircraft of which he was a crew member was attacked by an enemy night-fighter.</p> <p>The strength of the Squadron on the first of April, 1943 was:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">R.G.A.F.</th> <th colspan="2">R.A.F.</th> <th colspan="2">W.A.A.F.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Personnel</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Personnel</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Personnel</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>21</td> <td>17</td> <td>77</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>281</td> <td>1</td> <td>143</td> <td>42</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>On the 30th April, 1943 the strength was</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">R.G.A.F.</th> <th colspan="2">R.A.F.</th> <th colspan="2">W.A.A.F.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Personnel</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Personnel</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Personnel</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>151</td> <td>17</td> <td>61</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>434</td> <td>1</td> <td>106</td> <td>36</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	R.G.A.F.		R.A.F.		W.A.A.F.		Aircraft	Personnel	Aircraft	Personnel	Aircraft	Personnel	14	21	17	77	2	-	3	281	1	143	42	-	R.G.A.F.		R.A.F.		W.A.A.F.		Aircraft	Personnel	Aircraft	Personnel	Aircraft	Personnel	11	151	17	61	-	-	3	434	1	106	36	-	A.40619 A.24
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	30 April		<p>Number and type of aircraft on charge: 21 HALIFAX MARK II AIRCRAFT.</p> <p>Flying times for the month of April, 1943:- Operational: 709:45 Hours. Non-Operational: 87:30 Hours.</p> <p>Number of sorties carried out during April, 1943:- 114.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft claimed as Casualties during April, 1943: Although a number of Combats took place, no claims are made of the destruction of any enemy aircraft.</p>																																																	
			<p><i>Wm. Clouston</i> OFFICER COMMANDING No. 439 (R.G.A.F.) SQUADRON</p>																																																	

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