

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) 4th S.O.S. Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Waddington	1-4-42		Five aircraft were bombed up and took off and bombed targets in Lejovre and moving trains in N.W. Germany. All aircraft returned safely. The airgunners practiced up on clay pigeon shooting.	
	2-4-42		One aircraft was bombed up and eight aircraft were mined up. The bombing a/c dropped it's load on Lejovre dock area, the mines were laid and all returned safely to base. A series of lectures for w/t aircrew consisting of bombing, circuits, starting engines and medical was given today. Air gunners practiced clay pigeon shooting.	
	3-4-42		Four a/c were loaded up with maximum incendiaries. Three were bombed up but all operations were cancelled. U/T aircrew were given lectures on abandoning a/c, dinghy drill and bombing and gunnery. Air gunners participated in clay pigeon shooting.	
	4-4-42		Six a/c were mined up, took off. Two a/c successfully completed mining and returned intact to base. Four a/c returned to base with their mines due to insufficient cloud cover. Lectures on navigation and gunnery were given to w/t aircrew. Half of aircrew flew and climbed to 15000 ft with war load. Air gunners practiced clay pigeon shooting.	
	5-4-42		U/T aircrew were given practise in flying on beams, Link trainer and clay pigeon shooting. Nine aircraft were bombed up but only eight took off. Two aircraft turned back before reaching target on account of engine. Six A/C successfully bombed Cologne and all a/c returned safely.	
	6-4-42		U/T aircrew practised bombing and gunnery and were given a lecture on Flying Control. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. Six a/c were bombed up, three of which were held up for the following mornings operations and three took off for Essen. Two a/c bombed the target but the other turned back due to static condition. All returned safely to base.	
	7-4-42		U/T aircrew practised formation flying and Link trainer and received instruction in Navigation and Signals. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. Bombing operations were cancelled and five a/c took off on cross country exercises.	
	8-4-42		U/T aircrew practised flying and climbing with a war load and received lectures from the medical officers. One a/c was mined up and seven a/c were bombed up and took off for targets. The mining was not completed due to poor visibility. Seven a/c successfully completed bombing. All a/c returned safely. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting.	
	9-4-42		U/T aircrew practised formation flying, and were instructed in abandoning aircraft by parachute and in handling of pigeons. A flying circus of German aircraft visited this station and was inspected by aircrew personnel. There were no operations today.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
10-4-42			U/T Aircrew were instructed in practical bombing and gunnery, ditching and dinghy drill and participated in sports. Nine a/c were bombed up and one a/c loaded with nickels all took off and returned to land safely. One a/c with a damaged engine landed at West Malling.	
11-4-42			U/T aircrew were given lectures on sabotage and photography and participated in organized games. There was no operational flying.	
12-4-42			One a/c was loaded with nickels and 5 a/c were bombed up and took off. Three bomb loads were dropped successfully on target at Essen. The nickelling a/c and one of the bombing a/c turned back due to engine trouble and one of the a/c piloted by P/Sgt. Johnson is missing. Missing personnel -- 778348 P/S Johnson Pilot 1154913 Sgt Butler Navigator 755913 P/S Black W/Op./A.G. 978882 Sgt Salmon W/Op./A.G.	
13-4-42			U/T aircrew practised clay pigeon shooting. Seven a/c were mined up and took off. Five successfully completed operations and two were unable to locate target. All a/c returned to base.	
14-4-42			Seven a/c were bombed up and took off. Bomber A219-G piloted by P/O Murray crashed shortly after taking off and one a/c piloted by P/S Johnson is missing. Four successfully attained their objective and returned safely. The remaining a/c brought back its load to base. Killed-- 35991 P/O Murray W.J. Pilot Missing-- P/S Johnson R.W. (061) Pilot 36361 P/O McCarthy, W.P.M. Navigator Sgt. Voaper H.E. (289) Navigator 1150168 Sgt Keith A.J. W/Op./A.G. Sgt. Shipton J.P. (788) W/Op./A.G. 1056358 Sgt Birch K.A. W/Op./A.G. Sgt. McCarthy G.D. (447) W/Op./A.G.	
15-4-42			Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. There were no operations today.	
16-4-42			Five B1 a/c took off on a mining trip and four a/c took off on a nickelling trip to the Lille area. All a/c made successful trips and returned to base.	
17-4-42			There were no operations today.	
18-4-42			Six a/c were mined up, but weather forced the cancellation of the programme. One a/c was on a cross country exercise.	
19-4-42			Seven a/c were mined up and took off. Five successfully completed job and returned safely to base. One a/c brought back his mine and the remaining a/c jettisoned his mine and returned safely. A/C MB-869-I on a night exercise crashed near Harston and all of the crew were killed-- Crew: 851103 Sgt. H.E. Davis " 876825 Sgt. J.G. Fritchard " 86911A Sgt. G.G. Lawrence 1165993 Sgt. G.G. Playwatt	
20-4-42			There were no operations today. Air Vice Marshal H. Edwards R.C.A.F. visited the station today.	
21-4-42			Aircrew practised on the Link Trainer, H.L. trainer and clay pigeon shooting and received instructions on fighter affiliation. Seven a/c were mined up but operation was subsequently cancelled.	

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of [Unit or Formation]

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22-4-42			Clay pigeon shooting link trainer and link trainer were utilized by the gunners, and pilots to keep in trim. Six a/c were mised up and took off. Five successfully completed their assignment and one a/c returned early due to electrical failure. The principal medical officer Group Captain J. M. Hunter M.C., visited our squadron today.	
23-4-42			Night of our a/c made a very successful raid on hostook with conditions of good visibility and returned safely to base.	
24-4-42			A big effort was again put on tonight to the same target, the linkel factory at hostook. Eight a/c were loaded up with bombs and incendiaries and took off. Seven a/c successfully completed job. Four a/c returned safely to base while three a/c landed successfully elsewhere. A/O J. 559 is missing. 180000 a/c J. better Pilot 020000 a/c J. H. H. H. Navigator 270000 a/c J. H. H. H. Air Gunner 270000 a/c J. H. H. H. Air Gunner	
25-4-42			Hostook was again target for tonight for five of our a/c and all five made successful sorties and returned to base. Two of our a/c were assigned jobs on the docks at Dunkirk. One dropped his load on the target area and returned successfully while the other a/c had to return to base on account of inter-com failure.	
26-4-42			Seven a/c were bashed up and returned for another raid on hostook. It was a very successful raid and all aircraft returned to base safely. P/O R. W. Stacey C. 3093 Canadian Medical Officer for this squadron arrived here on posting today.	
27-4-42			Two a/c were mised up and took off, completed their gardening on hostook and returned safely to base. Two pilots P/O L. S. Anderson J. 7543 and P/O H. V. H. H. J. 7538 arrived here today on posting from the 24. Oct 42.	
28-4-42			There were no operational flights undertaken by the squadron today. The a/c participated in organized sports during the afternoon and the ground crew had an opportunity to get caught up on the night.	
29-4-42			Nine a/c were bashed up and took off for the Gropo-Home Aluminium Works area at Genevilliers. It was a very successful raid and all of our a/c returned safely.	
30-4-42			Ten a/c were bashed up for a raid but did not take off on account of unfavourable met reports.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		References to Appendices			
30-4-42			<u>1st of Month</u> <u>20th of Month</u>					
			R.C.A.F. Officers	Aircrew 5		6		
				Ground crew 3		2		
			R.C.A.F. Airmen	Aircrew 44		40		
			"	Ground crew 134		130		
			R.C.A.F. Officers	Aircrew 10		12		
				Ground crew 3		1		
			(Including one Detention Officer)					
			R.C.A.F. Airmen	Aircrew 40		35		
			"	Ground crew 24		20		
			Other Personnel			111		
			Number of hours flown	Operationally --- 775 hrs.		20 mins.		
			"	Training --- 175 hrs.		20 mins.		
			Number and type of aircraft --- 10 Handley Page H.P.					

W.M. Brackman
 Wing Commander, Commanding,
 420 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

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