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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2345, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 24

of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day.

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|------------|--------|---------|---|--|
| Waddington | 1-5-42 | Friday | <p>R.C.A.F. Officers - Air Crew 6</p> <p>- Ground Crew 2</p> <p>R.C.A.F. Airman - Air Crew 40</p> <p>- Ground Crew 139</p> <p>R.A.F. Officers - Air Crew 12 (One Canadian)</p> <p>- Ground Crew 1</p> <p>R.A.F. Airman - Air Crew 34</p> <p>- Ground Crew 251</p> <p>Other Personnel - Nil.</p> <p>There was no operational flying today, but exercises were carried out. Bishop Neville Talbot, M.C., D.D., of Nottingham, met the aircrew in the briefing room for an exchange of ideas.</p> | |
| | 2-5-42 | | <p>No operational flying today. Air gunners practised clay-pigeon shooting and three aircraft</p> <p>Aircraft P.1187.X. pilot Can.R78427. Sgt. Hiley, F.S., was hit severely by flak over near Luxemburg when returning from an operational sortie on Stuttgart. A short time later the aircraft was engaged by a Me.110 and evaded the first two attacks but on the third attack the pilot received a slight injury, the rear gunner R.80540 Sgt. Halward, J.F. was killed. Sgt. Halward, James Frederic, was over target. A successful forced landing was made, the starboard engine set on fire and the aircraft severely damaged. The E/A is also claimed as probably destroyed, by the wireless operator. The remainder of the return trip was made with only one engine and aircraft force landed at St. Mary's Farm, Great Bentley, Essex. The remaining aircraft returned safely to base.</p> <p>returned safely to base.</p> <p>U/E aircrew were given instruction in bombing and gunnery, abandoning aircraft, dingy drill, and practised night circuits and landings. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. There was no operational flying.</p> | <p>pigeons. Five successfully dropped loads N.E. of FREDERICHSDORF.</p> <p>ed training here with a. Seven aircraft ar Ostend on outward led in 42 places. it and although Nathan Heath. The Sgt. Hiley, F.S., was killed. The aircraft was damaged. The remaining aircraft</p> |
| | 3-5-42 | Tuesday | | |

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day.....

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| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|------------|---------|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| Waddington | 6-5-42 | Wednesday | U/T aircrew were given instruction in navigation and gunnery, and practised climbing with a war load, and clay pigeon shooting. Two aircraft had a cross-country exercise and three aircraft practised night circuits and landings. There was no operational flying. | |
| | 7-5-42 | Thursday | One aircraft took part in search-light operation exercise. U/T aircrew practised flying with a war load. Ten aircraft were mined up and took off on mining operations. Two aircraft did not reach target on account of mechanical trouble and one aircraft had the mine hang up, and eventually jettisoned the mine. Six aircraft planted their mines successfully. Aircraft AB 389 D failed to return. Missing personnel on AB 389-D: 326155 P/O. Carraway, R.F. - Pilot 326156 Sgt. Williams, G.C. - Navigator 327378 Sgt. Houghart, A.S. - W/Op. A.G. 1375068 Sgt. McDonnell, W.A. - W/Op. A.G. | |
| | 8-5-42 | Friday | Seven aircraft were bombed up and took off for the REIDON FACTORY at WARRENHURD. One aircraft had engine failure and jettisoned his bomb. Five aircraft successfully attacked target and returned safely to base. Aircraft AB 146A failed to return. Missing crew listed under May 21st. | |
| | 9-5-42 | Saturday | Four aircraft took part in a sea search. U/T aircrew practised circuits and landings and flew cross-country exercises. There were no operations. | |
| | 10-5-42 | Sunday | Seven aircraft were bombed up but were grounded on account of the weather. | |
| | 11-5-42 | Monday | There were no operations today. The U/T aircrew started into a series of lectures and exercises consisting of starting engines, bombing, local circuits. Night flying exercises had to be cancelled on account of the weather. | |
| | 12-5-42 | Tuesday | U/T aircrew practised dingy drill, and bombing and gunnery, and received lectures in abandoning aircraft. The night flying program had to be cancelled on account of the weather. | |
| | 13-5-42 | Wednesday | U/T aircrew received instruction in navigation and signals and practised flying with a war load. The night flying exercises were cancelled on account of the weather. His Majesty the King approved the immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to: 278427 Sgt. Hiley, P.S. and 274901 Sgt. Matland, U.S. | |
| | 14-5-42 | Thursday | U/T aircrew practised flying on beams, link trainer, signals, clay pigeon shooting and cross-country exercises. Five aircraft were loaded up with mines or incendiaries but were unable to take off on account of the weather. | |
| | 15-5-42 | Friday | U/T aircrew were given instruction in flying control procedure and practised bombing, gunnery, circuits and landings, and cross country exercises. Six aircraft were mined up. Three freshmen did not take off but three experienced aircrews took off and successfully attained their objective and returned safely to base. A.M. signal O.6046 dated 15.5. authorizes the formation of No. 420 Conversion Flight, with 2 Lancasters and 2 Manchesters. | |
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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.

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation)

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|-------------|---------|--------|---|--------------------------|
| RAF Station | 16-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft practised signals, navigation, link trainer and formation flying. One crew practised night circuits and landings and four crews went on a night flying exercise. Three aircraft were lined up but were unable to take off on account of unfavourable weather. | |
| | 17-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft received instructions in airmanship and ditching and practised flying with a war load. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. All operations and cross-country exercises were cancelled on account of the weather. | |
| | 18-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft were given instruction in bombing and engine starting. Five aircraft were bused up but were unable to take off on account of the weather. Weather also prevented any cross-country training flights. | |
| | 19-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft were given instruction in flying and bombing and gunnery. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. Six crews completed a night exercise. Two aircraft were bused up and attached to base. The aircraft carried out mining operations at HERTFORD. All aircraft returned safely to base. Air Commodore R.A. Curtis, D.F.C., visited the Station today. | |
| | 20-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft were given lectures on hygiene by the Medical Officer and on airmanship by the Commanding Officer. Night aircraft were bused up but were unable to take off due to unfavourable weather. Bomber aircraft numbers P.3026 and X.3449 were hit on dispersal by Lancaster aircraft Z541, belonging to No. 44 Squadron. Both aircraft were badly damaged and 145571, AGZ Gossins, was killed. | P.2044 "A" X.3449 "B" |
| | 21-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft were given lectures on ditching and dingy drill. 1/Lieut. Parnan arrived at the Squadron to start conversion of aircraft to Lancasters. Four aircraft were bused up but operations were cancelled on account of the weather. | |
| | 22-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft were given lectures on ditching and dingy drill. 1/Lieut. Parnan arrived at Squadron to start conversion of aircraft to Lancasters. Four aircraft were bused up but operations were cancelled on account of the weather. | |
| | 23-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft practised air-to-air firing and also clay pigeon shooting. A lecture on parachuting aircraft was given. Seven night flying exercises for which arrangements had been made had to be cancelled on account of the weather. | |
| | 24-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft were given lectures on parachuting and intelligence. Air gunners practised clay pigeon shooting. Five aircraft were lined up but were not able to take off on account of the weather. | |
| | 25-5-42 | Monday | U/T aircraft practised clay pigeon shooting. There were no operations today. Five aircraft carried out a night exercise. | |

GMB

