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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. **74**

of (Unit or Formation) **No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.**

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Kairouan Area	1st July		Squadron was ordered to stand down today. Aircrew again visited SOUSSE for a swim. Ken Moorman of the Y.M.C.A. organised a daily trip to SOUSSE for 50 ground crew. Rations were taken for lunch and tea, leaving camp area at 09.00 hours, returning after a good swim and rest at 12.00 hours.	
	2nd July		Nine sorties were called for. Target OLEA. All aircraft took off and reached target area. Poor flak enabled aircrew to get good pictures and fairly accurate results from bombing.	
	3rd July		We had two jobs to do tonight. 3 aircraft were detailed to drop nickels over ROME and raid target LIDO DI ROMA. All aircraft were bombed up and took off. 1 aircraft returned safely. 1 was forced to crash land near RIVERA, crew safe, and the other landed at 236 Wing, near here. The raid was successful, 1 million nickels were thrown out. The other raid was on the Railway Station and Marshalling Yards at TRAPANI. 6 aircraft were bombed up and took off. One aircraft returned early, petrol flap loose. Some light but inaccurate flak. Visibility good. Was good effort.	
	4th July		Stand down today. The usual swim at SOUSSE for aircrew and the daily swim for Ground Crew. Morale is very high - only it is ruddy hot. Much improvement is shown in the health of personnel. Sickness reached a low level today - only 9 reported sick. Five new crews arrived today.	
	5th July		Ten aircraft were bombed up and took off for raid on target GERBINI AERODROME and Satellites. Results were poor and it is not known if targets were reached. Poor weather the primary cause. All aircraft returned. One aircraft was burned while on dispersal, cause unknown. One new crew arrived today.	
	6th July		Ten aircraft were selected from this Squadron to raid CATANIA AERODROME. The aircraft were bombed up and took off. All returned safely. We were detailed to attack on 2nd wave. Very little opposition from flak. Raid considered quite good.	
	7th July		Stand Down.	
	8th July		Seven aircraft were bombed up and took off to raid GERBINI. Raid quite successful. Encountered fairly accurate medium, Heavy and light flak. Slight haze over target. Two new crews arrived today.	
	9th July		Twelve aircraft were called on to raid CATANIA, SYRACUSE and CALTAGIRONE. All were bombed up and took off. P/O. Ardis was detailed to fly as low with a 1000 lb. bomb to destroy barracks and railway centre at SYRACUSE. Pictures clearly show his effort was a success. The remaining aircraft attacked all targets in separate waves. Mandrel aircraft were detailed to patrol SICILIAN COAST to Jan R.D.F. Station. Much activity observed. Raid was very important and successful.	See Lecture 18-19-43.
	10th July		The Squadron stood down today, many of the aircrew went by M.T. to SOUSSE for a swim, returning early to see a movie at the "1" tent. One new crew arrived today.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Kairouan Area	11th July		Stand down. Church services were held. Ground Crew went to SCUSSE MORSWIN. Kne MoAdam had a good movie tonight.	
	12th July		Thirteen aircraft were bombed up and took off on target REGIA, Sicily. All crews report reaching target. Defences nil. Very successful raid. Group Captain DUNLAP spoke to the Squadron today and read out a message from Major-General DOUGLASS of appreciation for the work we have done.	
	13th July		Target for tonight REGIA, SICILY. Thirteen aircraft were bombed up and took off. Accurate bombing was claimed on the Marshalling Yards and Docks. Light and heavy flak, fairly accurate. Visibility good.	
	14th July		The Squadron stood down. The usual swim at SCUSSE, for some of the Ground and Air Crews. Weather very hot.	
	15th July		Sixteen were bombed up and took off on target SAN GIOVANNI and REGGIO. One aircraft was coded for 4 or 5 minutes. Very weak defences. Raid good.	
	16th July		Sixteen aircraft were bombed up and took off. They successfully bombed the target CAPODICHINO AERODROME, ITALY. Light and heavy flak prevailed. One aircraft was hit by flak over target slightly wounding P/O. J.M. Burk (J.22533), Bomb Aimer. Heavy fires were reported in Dock area in NAPLES.	
	17th July		The Squadron stood down with the exception of 2 aircraft which were detailed to bomb target MONTE CORVINO AERODROME. Identification of target difficult, due to ground haze. Several fires observed, believed to be aircraft burning. Operations considered successful.	
	18th July		Squadron stood down. The "I" had a good movie, a very large number of men attended the showing. The padre reported very good attendance at the Church Service. A mobile Bath Unit is now visiting the Squadron every Thursday. The weather has been very hot, Sirocco winds blowing in from the desert. Our water supply has been curtailed due to trouble at the supply water hole. The water bowers are now drawing water from KAIROUAN. Arrangements are now being made at MONISTAIR to open a rest camp for airmen. Two crews will go there for a 48 at same time and will be replaced by others every second day. The daily swimming parties for ground crew is still appreciated. The officers mess has a radio installed there - we at least get the news now. Morale is quite high on the camp.	
	19th July		Sixteen aircraft were bombed up and took off for target CAPODICHINO AERODROME. The defences were considerably strengthened and the number of searchlights definitely increased. One aircraft was coded over NAPLES. At least 50% of aircraft coded from time to time. Poor visibility due to heavy haze prevented pinpointing. Night fighters were operating in this area.	
	20th July		Fourteen aircraft took off to bomb target NAPLES Marshalling Yards and Dock Installations. One aircraft returned early - inter-com unserviceable. The raid was quite successful, the defences appeared not to be quite so active as on previous raids. Nickels were dropped.	See Annex 1 to 4.3 Accr. 14.14.2
	21st July		Eleven aircraft were bombed up and took off for CAPODICHINO AERODROME. The effort was not successful due to cloud formations. Heavy and light flak. One aircraft missing. Nickels were dropped on Naples. One aircraft landed away from base.	

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No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Lairouan Area	22nd July		The Squadron stood down. The usual swim party to SOUSSE for Ground Crew. Lectures were given to the air crew on various subjects by the Wing Commander, the Engineer Officer and Specialist Leaders. Arabs are quite insistent about trespassing through Camp Area. Definite steps were taken to suppress this. Extra messing for the aircrew in the form of Eggs has now been established. The weather is still very hot. No signs of malaria as yet. Inter-Squadron Baseball Teams have now been organised. The water situation really improved.	
	23rd July		Twelve aircraft took off on target SAN GIOVANNI. One failed to return. One returned early due to sickness of pilot. The effort was quite good. Light flak with some heavy over target. Illumination was used successfully. One replacement crew arrived today. One replacement crew arrived today - Sgt. Bridge, M.R. (R116828), pilot and crew.	
	24th July		Thirteen aircraft were bombed up but operation was scrubbed.	
	25th July		Stand down. Large attendance at both church services, with movie in the evening. Replacement crew arrived late est today - W/O. E. Northern (J14566), pilot and crew.	
	26th July		Twelve aircraft were bombed up and took off for target MONTE CORVINO RAVELLI AERODROME. Weather very good. Light flak prevailed. Illuminator was used successfully. Operation considered good.	
	27th - 30th July		The Squadron was stood down. Many of the aircrew took advantage of the stand down to go bathing. Both rest camps for 48 hours for aircrew and ground crew are now fully organised and operating. An important baseball game was played with 424 Squadron - we won 12 - 6.	
	31st July		Four aircraft were bombed up and took off for EL AOUINA, near TUNIS to pick up Nickels. Two of the aircraft were to proceed to BONE and HAFES to drop them. The other two aircraft were stand-bys and were not required. One of the standbys made a faulty landing and had to remain over for minor repairs. The other stand-by returned to its base. The effort was quite successful, a heavy haze prevented accurate dropping of nickels, but it is presumed they were dropped over target. No opposition and very little flak. Both machines returned safely.	
			NOTE: Strength of Squadron today - 1093. 421 officers and aircrew.	
			Losses Aircraft for Month - 7 Losses Air Crews for Month - 40	
			Aircraft replacements for Month - 7 (This includes 3 lost in June) Air Crew replacements for Month - 40 crews (Over establishment 8 crews)	
			No. of operational flights during the month: 198 No. of hours flown on operations during the month: 1093.59	
			<i>D. McIntosh</i> (D. McIntosh) Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		References to Appendices
			Particulars of Air Crew arriving during the month of July:		
			Pilot R-112822 Sgt. Wilson, L.E.	4-7-43	
			Air Bomber R-142377 Sgt. Hall, L.W.		
			Navigator R-156716 Sgt. Parkhouse, S.M.		
			W.O.A.G. R-129520 Sgt. Johnston, R.H.		
			Air Gunner R-116599 Sgt. Guymer, A.S.		
			Pilot R-124099 Sgt. Fraser, G.R.	9-7-43	
			Air Bomber R-132263 Sgt. Saunders, R.C.		
			Navigator R-97617 Sgt. Oliver, A.F.		
			W.O.A.G. R-122551 Sgt. Hart, N.E.		
			Air Gunner R-141347 Sgt. Davidson, R.H.		
			Pilot R-116828 v Sgt. Bridge, M.R.	22-7-43	
			Air Bomber R-159930 Sgt. Daignault, R.L.		
			Navigator R-90626 Sgt. Porter, S.G.		
			W.O.A.G. R-101380 Sgt. Brown, S.T.		
			Air Gunner R-96523 Sgt. Belanger, J.F.B.		
			Pilot J-14566 P/O. Northern, E.	28-7-43	
			Air Bomber J-21170 P/O. Jackson, R.H.		
			Navigator J-14802 P/O. Morrison, R.W.		
			W.O.A.G. 157673 Sgt. Lince, G.H.		
			Air Gunner Ans-409543 P/S. Clement, I.F.		
			Pilot 1272505 Sgt. Hayward, R.F.	4-7-43	
			No. of operational sorties flown during the month of July:		
			Navigator flown during the month of July:		
			W.O.A.G. 1386785 Sgt. Bryant, R.L.		
			Air Gunner 698303 Sgt. Preston, L.R.		
			Pilot Sgt-1317433 Sgt. Spurrey, H.T.	4-7-43	
			Air Bomber 1584516 Sgt. Gay, R.W.		
			Navigator 1338300 Sgt. Roll, J.L.		
			W.O.A.G. 1131414 Sgt. Jenkinson, E.		
			Air Gunner 1602819 Sgt. Fuller, W.M.O.		
			Pilot 1272438 Sgt. Puddaphat, L.T.	4-7-43	
			Air Bomber 1439809 Sgt. Jones, M.N.		
			Navigator 1447893 Sgt. Davies, R.H.		
			W.O.A.G. 1080625 Sgt. Molab, G.W.		
			Air Gunner 1529931 Sgt. Owen, T.		
			Pilot 1431080 Sgt. Farr, J.M.	4-7-43	
			Air Bomber 1168383 Sgt. Dudge, W.G.H.		
			Navigator 1320693 Sgt. Hottle, D.J.		
			W.O.A.G. 1312417 Sgt. Morgeson, S.S.R.		
			Air Gunner 652467 Sgt. Boyd, D.D.		

