

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

32018

Page No. 92

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Hand	1st October		11 aircraft, 2 of which were illuminators were detailed to attack the road communications at FORMIA in 2 separate waves. 1 aircraft failed to reach the primary due to severe electrical storms and jettisoned safely all bombs and returned early. The balance of the aircraft claim to have bombed the target area but owing to adverse weather conditions the damage was difficult to assess. Defences nil. Throughout the day details were kept busy digging holes for INSECT LILIES on our new site. Cook stoves and grease dumps were built and fire precautions taken throughout the camp area by the placing of water and sand buckets at every tent. Two new crews arrived today from the U.K. They were H440556 Sergeant SMITH, W.E. Pilot and crew and E-122453 Sergeant LEONARD R.G. Pilot and crew.		
	2nd October		The Squadron stood down. Flight Lieutenant B.D. CAMPBELL (J.2 1227) and crew departed for the rest camp at TUNIS. A good movie was shown tonight with over 1500 in attendance.		
	3rd October		The marshalling yards of CIVITAVECCHIA was the target for tonight. 8 aircraft were bombed up and took off. One aircraft developed port engine trouble and returned to base after jettisoning safely its bomb load. Many sticks were seen to straddle the yards and built up area. The raid was considered very successful. Flight Lieutenant BRALL, G.S. (G.1344) Pilot and crew arrived at unit as new replacements. Padre ASHFORD held his usual Sunday service tonight in the airman's mess tent. Squadron Leader J. MCCARTHY (J.15104) MFC, Flight Commander of "B" Flight was promoted to Wing Commander and posted to No. 424 Squadron as Officer Commanding.		
	4th October		Seven of our aircraft were detailed to attack the road junction on the main road at FORMIA. Good illumination from well placed flares aided greatly in this attack. Bombs were seen to burst on and around aiming point. Defences negligible, weather clear and visibility good. Raid successful. Flight lieutenant G.S. BRALL (G.1344) replaced Wing Commander J. MCCARTHY DFC as Flight Commander of "B" Flight.		
	5th October		Eight aircraft were detailed to destroy dispersed aircraft on the CRESSYRE LANDING GROUND. All were bombed up and took off. One aircraft abandoned mission due to engine trouble and after jettisoning safely returned to base. The target was reached by the remaining aircraft. Many direct hits were made on aircraft, an oil dump and administrative buildings. The hits should prove highly satisfactory. Defences nil.		
	6th October		We were called upon to supply 7 aircraft including 2 illuminators for a raid tonight. All aircraft were bombed up, but operations were scrubbed at the last minute due to a "wet" warning of rains and heavy winds. A very good movie was shown tonight, with a very large attendance.		
	7th October		The Squadron was ordered to stand down today. HE. 640 "E" for "Eddie" and HE.975 "U" for "Uncle" had completed their tour of operations and were flown to H.M.I.		
	8th October		The Squadron was taken off operations today at 1030 hours. We are returning to the U.K. Time and date of departure from present site, HANI EAST, to ALGIERES via TUNIS, will be 0615 hours, Sunday 17th October, 1943.		
	9th October		Final rolls were completed and sent to Headquarters No. 205 Group. All attached personnel to No. 331 Wing Headquarters were returned to unit today. Movements Officer arrived with full instructions. All aircraft to be disposed of, also aircraft supplies. Barrack equipment to be left behind. Tents, surplus camp acts and blankets will be returned to stores. M.T. section to be disbanded.		

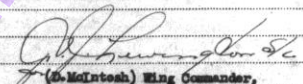
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	22nd October		It was more of a rest at PORT DE L'EAU while waiting for the final date of embarkation. Many visited ALGIERS. The camp had a beautiful setting within a heavy cluster of trees, close to the Mediterranean. The final date was set at the 26th for embarkation. All unwanted kit was loaded on to trucks the previous night and we moved off at 20 minute intervals starting at 0700 hours. The embarkation was very well handled, for at 1100 hours all were aboard the S.S. SAMARIA.	
	27th October		It is quite evident that the quality of food served on board received many praises from all concerned. At least everyone was satisfied. Some of the remarks noted were, "Ye Gods, what a meal!", "Hot rolls and real butter!", "All you want to eat - no ruddy flies and sand!" etc. Practically all day troops were coming aboard and unwanted baggage was being loaded on. At 1945 hours the gangplank was rolled away and we drifted slowly away from the wharf to join a waiting convoy.	
	28th October to 31st October		We soon settled down to the ship's routine, wearing of life belts, attending boat drill, supplying details for guards, gunnery duties, troop decks, blackouts, etc. During this period it was quite uneventful.	
			Strength of Squadron as at 31st October, 1943:	
			Officers: Aircrew R.C.A.F. 28      Airman Aircrew R.C.A.F. 63	
			" " R.A.F. 4      " " R.A.F. 21	
			" " R.A.A.F. 2      " " R.A.A.F. 3	
			Officers Ground Crew R.C.A.F. 5	
			Airmen Ground Crew R.C.A.F. 338	
			Number of operational sorties for month: 33	
			Number of operational hours flown during month: 213 hours, 55 minutes.	
			 (J. McIntosh) Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.	

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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 249, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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

No. of pages used for day

Date	Place A/C Type and Number	Date	Time	Crew	Duty	Summary of Events		Details of sortie or flight.	References to Appendices
						Up	Down		
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 552			Sgt. Bridge, M.R. Sgt. Porter, S.G. Sgt. Delaney, R.H. Sgt. Brown, S.T. Sgt. Delanger, J.P.B.	Illuminator	1931	0222	Target FORMIA ROADS. 36 flares dropped at 22.44/22.49 hours, height 6000 feet. Difficulty in finding target owing to violent storm and cloud from 3000 to 10,000 feet, over whole route to target. Clear in target area. Defences nil. Bomb bursts seen in target area.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 548			S/L Lovington, A.J. F/O Hammond, P.A. F/S Stewart, J.A. Sgt. Simpson, R.C. F/S Carey, E.M.	Illuminator	1838	0022	Target FORMIA ROADS. 36 flares dropped at 2157 hours, height 5000 feet. Visibility good. Clear. Defences nil.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 569			W/O McIntosh, D. F/L Allen, L.A. F/L Bessy, D. Sgt. James, B. F/L Staunton, J.K.	Bombing	1830	0004	Target FORMIA ROADS attacked at 2133 hours, height 4000 feet. Bombs, 9 x 500, dropped in target area identified by light of flares. Bursts not seen. Clear in target area - electrical storm over whole route.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 414			Sgt. Roadway, J.M. Sgt. O'Shell, L.J. Sgt. Harvie, A.M.P. Sgt. Harle, S. Sgt. Crawford, A. Sgt. Wase, G.E.	Bombing	1935	0205	Target FORMIA ROADS attacked at 2250 hours, height 6000 feet. Visually identified by aid of flares. Saw bombs, 9 x 500, drop on roads.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 458			F/O White, C.H. Sgt. Robbins, A. R. Sgt. Griffiths, N. Sgt. White, R.W.	Bombing	1931	2354	Target FORMIA ROADS not attacked due to severe electrical storm. Bombs, 9 x 500, jettisoned safe in sea at 42/18N, height 8000 feet.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 353			F/O Alberto, E.J. Sgt. Nowak, J. Sgt. Holland, J.R. Sgt. Knight, A.S. Sgt. Martini, G.V.	Bombing	1830	0100	Target FORMIA attacked at 2137 hours, height 6100 feet. Identified by flares. Bombs, 9 x 500, Results not seen.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 540			Sgt. Wilson, L.E. Sgt. Fitzhugh, S.M. Sgt. Hall, L.W. Sgt. Johnston, B.H. Sgt. Ogden, A.S.	Bombing	1835	0157	Target FORMIA not attacked. Could not identify target. Bomb jettisoned live at 2359 hours at 37/50N 09/30E, height 9000 feet.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 128			F/O Barker, C.H. F/O Barber, W.M. Sgt. McLaughlin, D.C. Sgt. McKay, S.J.	Bombing	1839	0001	Target FORMIA attacked at 2104 hours, height 6100 feet. Bombs, 9 x 500. Aiming point large intersection. Bursts observed in target area. Visibility clear over target.	
1/2nd October	Wellington X HM 370			Sgt. MacDuff, H.E. F/O Patterson, L.H. Sgt. Morris, E.H. Sgt. Mills, K.E. Sgt. Moore, R.A. Sgt. Monahan, P.E.	Bombing	1930	0211	Target FORMIA attacked at 2215 hours, height 6000 feet. Road intersection in bomb sight, bombs, 9 x 500, not seen to burst. Bomb bursts seen in the vicinity of Naples - flares.	



Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET	References to Appendices
Date	A/C Type and Number	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Down	Details of sortie or flight.
1/2nd October	Wellington X HE-975	P/O. Baker, P.H. P/O. Harrison, G.W. Sgt. Sharpe, H.J. Sgt. Bradley, J.S. Sgt. Berry, L.L.	Bombing	1730	0225	Target FORMIA ROADS attacked at 2232 hours, height 5700 feet. Identified by flares. Bombs, 9 x 500, seen to burst in aiming point.
1/2nd October	Wellington X JA-123	P/O. Northern, E. P/O. Harrison, G.W. P/O. Jackson, R.H. Sgt. Kimes, G.H. P/S. Clement, I.F.	Bombing	1835	2046	Target FORMIA ROADS not attacked. Abandoned mission owing to weather. Bombs, 9 x 500, jettisoned at 37/23N 11/13E at 1943 hours.
3/4th October	Wellington X HE-552	P/O. Carruthers, J.S. Sgt. Butler, W.L. Sgt. Hartman, S.M. P/O. White, S.H. Sgt. Speridakos, J.F. Sgt. Patterson, G.D.	Bombing	1935	0230	Target CIVITAVECCHIA. 18 flares dropped over target area at 2304 hours, height 6000 feet. Bombs, 8 x 500, aimed at marshalling yards. Results not seen due to smoke. Saw numerous bursts in target area. Defences negligible. Weather hazy over target - cloudy and rain on route.
3/4th October	Wellington X JA-125	P/O. Baker, G.H. P/O. Rawbone, W.L. Sgt. Harrison, D.G. Sgt. Macky, G.J. Sgt. Leach, H.B.	Bombing	1935	0138	Target CIVITAVECCHIA MARSHALLING YARDS attacked at 2333 hours, height 4500 feet. Identified visually and bombs, 9 x 500, seen to straddle marshalling yards. Saw 4000 lb. bomb burst in yards - results not seen owing to smoke.
3/4th October	Wellington X HE-421	Sgt. Ritchie, G.L. Sgt. Oliver, W.K. Sgt. Bethell, P.E. Sgt. Lee, E.R.	Bombing	1944	0220	Target CIVITAVECCHIA attacked at 2330 hours, height 4500 feet. Identified visually and bombs, 9 x 500, seen to burst in buildings in town.
3/4th October	Wellington X HE-640	P/O. Moody, H.D.J. P/O. Preston, R.W. P/O. Hamill, R.C. P/O. Maybourne, R.F. Sgt. Parker, R.E.	Bombing	1940	0214	Target CIVITAVECCHIA attacked at 2311 hours, height 6300 feet. Visually identified. Bombs, 9 x 500, seen to burst across North of yards and blue flames shoot from all over the place. Many bursts seen in aiming point.
3/4th October	Wellington X JA-123	P/O. Northern, E. P/O. Harrison, P.W. P/O. Jackson, R.H. Sgt. Kimes, G.H. P/S. Clement, I.F.	Bombing	1940	0150	Target CIVITAVECCHIA attacked at 2309 hours, height 6100 feet. Visually identified clearly and bombs, 9 x 500, seen to burst in South end of marshalling yards. One 4000 lb. bomb seen with many electric sparks. 3/4 light Flak guns.
3/4th October	Wellington X LM-150	P/O. Baker, P.H. P/O. Harrison, G.W. Sgt. Sharpe, H.J. Sgt. Bradley, J.S. Sgt. Berry, L.L.	Bombing	1940	2025	Target CIVITAVECCHIA not attacked. Returned early owing to engine trouble. Bomb, 4 x 4000, jettisoned in Salt Lake at 2005 hours, height 5500 feet - explosion seen.
3/4th October	Wellington X HP-458	Sgt. Wynn, G.E. P/O. White, G.H. Sgt. Griffiths, R.E. Sgt. Griffiths, R.E. Sgt. Tait, R.W.	Bombing	1925	0201	Target CIVITAVECCHIA attacked at 2310 hours, height 6200 feet. Identified by aid of flares, and bombs 9 x 500, seen to burst in target area. Small fires in target area.

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APPENDIX "A"  
Form 54.1

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

No. of pages used for day

Place		Date	Time	For month of OCTOBER, 1943.		Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Date	A/G Type and Number	Crew	Duty	Time Up	Time Down	Details of sortie or flight.		
3/4th October	Wellington I HE-975	P/O. McKeown, E. Sgt. Leonard, E. Sgt. Leachman, J.P. Sgt. Jackson, E.C. Sgt. McPherson, E.J. Sgt. Green, E.S.	Bombing	1940	0215	Target CIVITAVECCHIA attacked at 2305 hours, height 6500 feet. Identified visually and bombs, 9 x 500, aimed at warehousing yards. Bombs not seen. Fires seen in target area. Visibility good. Defences nil.		
3/4th October	Wellington I HE-414	Sgt. Fraser, G. Sgt. Baskiers, E.C. Sgt. Oliver, I.P. Sgt. Hart, N.E. Sgt. Davison, E.E.	Bombing	1932	0250	Target CIVITAVECCHIA attacked at 2313 hours, height 5100 feet. Bombs, 9 x 500, seen to burst, straddling yards.		
4/5th October	Wellington I JA-123	P/O. Tucker, G.P. P/O. Stephens, W.M. Sgt. McWhorter, D.C. Sgt. McKay, G.J. Sgt. Mottart, C.	Bombing	1655	2243	Target FUMIA ROADS. 18 flares dropped over aiming point at 2011 hours, height 6000 feet. Bombs, 8 x 500, dropped at 2015 hours, height 6000 feet, falling East of target. Slight heavy flak on coast South of target. Weather good.		
4/5th October	Wellington I HE-552	S/L. Livingston, A.J. P/O. Hammond, R.J. Sgt. Stewart, J.A. Sgt. Bloomfield, R.C. Sgt. Carey, E.M.	Bombing	2222	0512	Target FUMIA CROSS ROADS attacked at 2000+ hours, height 5500 feet. Identified visually. Bombs, 9 x 500 + 8 x 250, seen to straddle road just West of aiming point. One large fire seen on leaving target area.		
4/5th October	Wellington I HE-414	Sgt. Lapointe, P.J. Sgt. Nichols, E.W. Sgt. Monaghan, R.J. Sgt. Beer, G.W. Sgt. Stobart, W.	Bombing	1704	2305	Target FUMIA ROADS attacked at 2020 hours, height 5000 feet. Bombs, 9 x 500 + 2 x 250, fell slightly North of target.		
4/5th October	Wellington I HE-640	Sgt. McManus, E. Sgt. Stewart, E.E. Sgt. Brooks, E.C. Sgt. Willis, E. Sgt. Cohen, M.	Bombing	1715	2245	Target FUMIA ROADS attacked at 2004 hours, height 6000 feet. Identified visually and saw bombs, 8 x 1000 + 5 x 500 + 2 x 250, burst South of on road South of aiming point.		
4/5th October	Wellington I HE-975	Sgt. Fay, E.G. Sgt. Ferguson, A.J. Sgt. Lewis, A.B. Sgt. Fitch, E.P. Sgt. Currie, E.W.	Bombing	1712	2250	Target FUMIA attacked at 2007 hours, height 6000 feet. Saw bombs, 2 x 1000 + 3 x 500 + 2 x 250, burst on road South of aiming point. Other bombs seen in target area. Defences nil. Visibility good.		
4/5th October	Wellington I HE-517	Sgt. Butler, W.E. Sgt. Varney, E.E. Sgt. Lane, E.H. Sgt. Brown, E.W. Sgt. Fay, E.E.	Bombing	1658	2254	Target FUMIA attacked at 2006 hours, height 6000 feet. Saw bombs, 9 x 500, burst on aiming point. Target seemed well hit.		
4/5th October	Wellington I HE-436	Sgt. Leonard, E.C. Sgt. Warren, E. Sgt. Wilson, E.C. Sgt. Wheelhouse, C.J. Sgt. Stewart, J.A.	Bombing	1703	2344	Target FUMIA attacked at 2016 hours, height 6000 feet. Bombs, 9 x 500 + 2 x 250, seen to burst just East of aiming point, though to overshoot road. Fire seen on coast East of SANTA.		



Place		Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET	References to Appendices
Date	A/O Type and Number	Crew	Duty	Up	Down		
5/6th October	Wellington I HE 640	P/O. McCoy, H.D.J. P/O. Preston, R.A. P/O. Hamill, R.O. P/O. Heybourne, D.F. Sgt. Parker, R.E.	Bombing- Illustrator	1627	2327	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD. 36 flares dropped as instructed at 2004 hours, height 6000 feet. Defences nil. Visibility clear. Bomb bursts seen in target area and many aircraft on fire.	
5/6th October	Wellington I IN 370	Sgt. Bridge, R.E. Sgt. Parker, R.O. Sgt. Daignault, R.A. Sgt. Brown, S.T. Sgt. Delanger, J.F.B.	Bombing	1631	1702	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD not attacked. Pilot's escape hatch blew open and could not be closed. Bombs, 14 x 250 + 2 SBC (840), jettisoned safe at 1650 hours, height 4500 feet.	
5/6th October	Wellington I IN 348	Sgt. Paterson, A.H. P/O. Matania, R.G. Sgt. Mills, E.E. Sgt. Moore, J.A. Sgt. Morris, F.B.	Bombing	1629	2328	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD attacked at 2003 hours, height 6000 feet. Bombs, seen 14 x 250 + 2 SBC (840), seen to burst among aircraft on North West corner.	
5/6th October	Wellington I HE 458	P/O. O'Connell, J.S. Sgt. Hartman, S.M. P/O. White, A.H. Sgt. Spadokins, J.P. Sgt. Paterson, G.D.	Bombing	1623	2335	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD attacked at 2004 hours, height 6500 feet. Saw bombs, 14 x 250 + 2 SBC (840) burst on piers and administrative buildings. Saw one aircraft burning. 2 light flak guns in target area - inaccurate.	
5/6th October	Wellington I HE 444	Sgt. Dean, G.E. P/O. White, O.H. Sgt. Gabbins, A.R. Sgt. Griffiths, H. Sgt. Tait, R.W.	Bombing	1620	2300	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD attacked at 1959 hours, height 6100 feet. Saw dispersed aircraft and bombs, 14 x 250 + 2 SBC (840) seen to explode among them on southern perimeter. Numerous fires.	
5/6th October	Wellington I HE 259	Sgt. Wilson, L.E. Sgt. Partridge, S.M. Sgt. Hall, J.V. Sgt. Johnson, B.E. Sgt. Gough, A.E.	Bombing	1625	2340	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD attacked at 2001 hours, height 6350 feet. Saw bombs, 14 x 250 + 2 SBC (840), burst on airfield and straddle runway. Saw explosion believed to be petrol tanks, and 15 fires.	
5/6th October	Wellington I HE 723	P/O. Tucker, G.E. P/O. Macneil, W.H. Sgt. MacIntosh, D.G. Sgt. Harty, G.J. Sgt. Macfarlane, H.E.	Bombing	1616	2322	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD attacked at 2004 hours, height 5700 feet. Bombs, 14 x 250 + 2 SBC (840), dropped on airfield, results not seen.	
5/6th October	Wellington I HE 476	P/O. Macneil, E.E. Sgt. Macneil, J.F. Sgt. Macneil, W.C. Sgt. Macneil, D.J. Sgt. Green, S.S.	Bombing	1629	2343	Target GROSSETTI AIRFIELD attacked at 2010 hours, height 6000 feet. Bombs, 14 x 250 + 2 SBC (840), seen to land across aerodrome. Fires seen among 4-engined aircraft dispersed on ground.	