

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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5.22-1 195

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions on back of this form in K.R. and A.C.L.
para 249, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and
notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) 424 (R.C.L.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
424 Squadron Airfield Near Fairhaven	3.7.43		This Squadron was ordered to detail 10 A/C for operations to-night. The target to be the docks and town of CADIZ. One new complete crew reported at 19.00 hrs. - all Canadians. This crew arrived at Fairhaven-West and their aircraft was taken away from them. Before they left England their water bottles were taken away from them, as apparently in England it is not considered necessary to have any water in flight. However, they were told to bring their canteens as the latter would be necessary. In this crew found out canteens are only needed, for when they reported to Fairhaven-West, it was only 110° water. This crew is, as follows: Pilot, Lt. 12007 Sqn. Lynden, P.G., NAV. R.14574 Sgt. Thaler, J., R/A R.13572 Sgt. Hornibrook, L.H. WO/AG R.11290 Sgt. Dutton, L.H. 4/C 2.9170 Sgt. Mann, M.G. [ALL our crews arrived over the target safely] - all detailed to 2/10 they very hazy but with fair visibility. All A/C carrying H bombs. The total effort was not considered as being very successful owing to the difficulty of pin pointing our many objectives. All crews reported having hit the target. The operation was quite weak. Heavy inaccurate flak was experienced but mostly stayed above our A/C. 4 or 5 2/L operating independently did not bother anyone. It was suggested that more illuminations would be very beneficial over the target area. None of our A/C sustained any damage during this trip and all returned to base.		3
	2.7.43		The Squadron had a stand down today. It was decided that two complete crews would be able to go to St. Sousse to get some sea bathing. Ten airmen ground personnel were also taken on this trip. A mobile shower arrived at 16.30 hrs. It was enjoyed by all who could use it. The Squadron was also notified that this mobile bath would report here every Friday. Two new crews reported in today. Both crews are all R.C.L.F. personnel and have had a few operational sorties. They are, as follows: CAPT. R.131669 Sgt. Prokemko, w. NAV. 122693 2/C Macmillan, J.C. R/A 11746 4/C Bittner, W.L. WO/AG R.129069 St. McGregor, J.C. 4/C 2.9170 Sgt. Patterson, CAPT. R.20752 2/C M.L. Kelly, NAV. R.116067 Sgt. Livingston, J.C. R/A 13572 Sgt. P.G. Davies, WO/AG R.98682 Sgt. O'Connor, R.M. R/A R.13572 Sgt. Cameron, R.A.F.		
	3.7.43		The Squadron was ordered to detail 11 aircraft for operations against TRENTAUL, SICILY. The target to be the naval docks, station, and marshalling yards. All our A/C took off except one which had to be cancelled because of a faulty starboard engine. Visibility was good over the target as our A/C arrived. Blazes were quite effective and all A/C identified the target accurately. Several A/C saw their own tail-burst near the mining point. There was a small amount of light flak from the East of the town also from the North and the South. THIS FLAK was quite inaccurate. About 10 A/C were hit in the cones of four or five. Heavy flak was experienced from the shore from Capo to Capo. Crews reported this sortie as a good effort. All our A/C returned safely from this operation.		
	4.7.43		A new crew reported in this morning. All Canadians except the WO/AG who is R.A.F. - CAPT. R.124079 Sgt. McIntyre, R.J., NAV. R.62350 Sgt. Macmillan G.G., R/A R.132206 Sgt. Hamilton N.R. WO/AG R.W. 1074203 Sgt. Wilson, M.H. 4/C 114999 Sgt. Pearce, R.M. All this crew except the WO/AG have had two operational trips. Nevertheless the Skipper will have to take at least two trips as second strike before flying off on an Captain. Ten A/C were detailed for operations on FILIPPOPI. One crew had to be cancelled just before taking off as the pilot became ill. Most of this Squadron A/C arrived over the target between 23.00 hrs and 23.30 hrs. Visibility was good although hazy over the target. All our A/C identified the target visually with the aid of flares. Several crews reported seeing bomb burst fall right on the target including a 4000 lb. bomb.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
4-7-43 (Contd.)			There were no defences over the target, but heavy and medium flak was experienced from the Sagliari area. Most crews reported considerable number of flares bursting too high and having a blinding effect. Several thus S/L were also seen in the same area. The flares were also widely scattered. All our A/C returned safely from this operation and none sustained any damage.		
5-7-43			Stand down for the whole Squadron to-day. Most crews went for a sea swim and apparently this was enjoyed very much. Grounders had a well deserved rest. At 20.00 hrs. all messes were officially opened, Officers, N.C.O.'s, and airmen. A good time for all personnel on the Squadron.		
6-7-43			The Squadron was ordered to detail 12 A/C for operations over PALERMO to-day. Lieut. Crowley, 509 U.S.A. Paratroopers, brought quite a number of canned goods to the camp. The heat is terrific as the Shweeoo is blowing in the district. Several airmen passed out because of the heat. At 20.00 hrs. one of the A/C on dispersal suddenly caught fire. At the time this A/C was buried up with 5000 lbs. of inc. bombs. In a few seconds this A/C was a mass of flames and the bomb load and petrol tanks blew up. A number of airmen who were sitting under the wing of the A/C before the fire, were struck by flying shrapnel. CAN.R.160750 L.A.C. Berdgett, R.A. Pitter III was instantly killed. CAN.R.160751 L.A.C. Whyte, R.A. Pitter III, was struck by shrapnel, very severely burned and passed away during the night. Also Pitter II, R.A. Allen, R.A. Pitter II, had severe shrapnel wounds and very severe burns. He also died during the night. CAN.R.7148 L.A.C. Taylor, R.A. Pitter III suffered second degree burns and shrapnel wounds. Fragments from the bursts flew all over the camp setting grass fires but fortunately no personnel were hit. A few seconds after the first explosion another A/C nearby also caught fire and bombs blew up. Numerous Officers and airmen were knocked down by the concussion but none were hit by flying shrapnel. By this time all available personnel were fighting fire which threatened the whole camp. By almost superhuman efforts these fires were gradually put out both on the camp site and on the airfield. Group Captain Dunlap, Commanding Officer 333 Wing, who had come for the take-off worked like any A/C during the fire, driving a truck, getting men together, fighting the fire. His conduct was highly praised and a source of pride for all the airmen in the Squadron. The COMMANDER C.A. Roy, M.P., Commanding Officer 333 Squadron, acted likewise. Acts of bravery were numerous and several were outstanding. S/L Lindsay, Warrant M.A.C., was helping wounded airmen 25 ft. away while the second A/C was on fire and could be expected to blow up any second. S/L Lindsay was carrying a wounded man on his back towards the ambulance when the second A/C blew up. He was knocked down but got up and got this man to the ambulance. He returned to the aircraft despite flying machine gun bullets and took care of and carried more wounded men to the ambulance. S/L Lindsay has been recommended for the George Cross. Among others who were outstanding in the saving of A/C away from the fire, helping wounded men to the ambulance, moving equipment, all this between the 1st and 2nd explosion thereby risking their lives but saving valuable equipment and probably the lives of the wounded, are: S/L Claassen, recommended for Mention in Despatches, also for the same award P/O Brown, P/O Wilson, P/O Cook, L.A.C. MacLennan, L.A.C. MacKinnon, and Gnr. Demery. L.A.C. Wilkinson and L.A.C. Shelling. For their outstanding bravery and good work have been recommended for the award of the R.E.M. P/O Dechler, Squadron Engineer, and Sgt. Campbell, each moved A/C away, helped start several others, moved ground equipment, ORGANIZED FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT. P/O Dechler has been recommended for the L.B.E. and Sgt. Campbell for the R.E.M. At 22.30 hrs. all fires were out, wounded men at the hospital and everything under control. Fire picquets were on duty all night and the camp at present.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. THREE

of (Unit or Formation) 124 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
124 Squadron Airfield Near Kairowan	7.7.43		One new crew and aircraft reported in to the Squadron to-day. All Canadians. Capt. R. 118999 Sgt. Bingley W. H.M. R. 127773 Sgt. McFarlane C.L. R/A. R. 127775 Sgt. Smith C.H. W/O P. J. T. 61 R/C Worcester, D.E. A/C R. 118603 Sgt. Schimer, E. No water bottles again, but all have greatcoats. The A/C was Wellington X Hs. 536. L.A.C. Whyte, L.A.C. Allen, and L.A.C. Bardgett, who passed away as the result of injuries received in last night's explosion, were buried tonight at 19.00 hrs. at the American Cemetery at Kairowan. W/C Roy D.M. G.O. of the Squadron and personnel of other comrades along with a guard of honour were present. G/C Dunbar, C.O. of 331 Wing ordered a Court of Inquiry on last night's explosion. A wandering Arab was found on the coast today. He was taken to the French police at Parillier. The Squadron was ordered to double all tanks at the bomb dump, petrol dump, and on the A/C. It will be very hard on personnel and it is doubtful that they can stand it very long. The Squadron was ordered to detail 6 A/C for operations against Catania tonight. All our A/C reached the target successfully, visibility was good but somewhat hazy. All our A/C carried their bombs on the target from an average height of 6,000 ft. Test crews identified the target visually with the aid of flares. Defences over the target were practically nil but a few search was shot up South of Catania with a cone of 6 N.M. from the nose position. All our A/C returned safely from this operation.		
	8.7.43		The Squadron was ordered to detail 10 A/C for operations on Catania tonight. Three of our A/C were cancelled because of faulty engines and that the latter could not be repaired before take-off time. All our A/C bombed the primary target and numerous bomb bursts were seen although a slight haze over the target area. Light, medium, and fairly accurate flak was experienced and ineffective cones of A/C were encountered in the area. This effort can be considered as being quite successful. All our A/C returned safely from this operation.		
	9.7.43		One new crew reported in to the Squadron to-day. This crew has not had an operational experience and arrived here with greatcoats but no water bottles or sleeping kit. The water bottles were taken away from them when they left England. Capt. R.A.F. 1151767 Sgt. Kelly, R.A.F. 1339780 Sgt. Keppel, J.L. R/A FAF 1392250 Sgt. Barnes, R.A.W.; W/O/M R.A.F. 1272243 Sgt. Elman, R.A.W.; R/O R.A.F. 1622777 Sgt. Bennett, M. All A/C were detailed for operations against STATIONE, CATANIA, and one A/C on PATROL and LANDPL. Weather was clear and visibility good. All our A/C detailed to BASE over CATANIA were successful. The test crews identified flares and accurate bombing was done on the railway. Heavy flak between 6/10,000 ft. A few A/C - ineffective. Station and in the dock area. STATIONE - all our A/C detailed for this operation identified the target visually. Bombs were seen bursting on the railway station and docks. Defences weak. CATANIA - our A/C were all successful. The whole aerodrome was in flames resulting from the bombing. A fair amount of flak from the aerodrome. EXTERIOR PATROLS - these were carried out according to plan and without incident. One of our A/C returning from the target ran out of petrol and crash landed near Messina. Crew were unhurt and all safe. The A/C was CAP. A.C. Two of our A/C failed to take off due to engine trouble which could not be repaired in time for the operation.		
	10.7.43		P/C Conenhaver went to 61 R.S.U. this morning to collect an A/C for the Squadron. This A/C a Wellington X landed at the Squadron Airfield at 21.00 hrs. The Squadron was ordered to detail 16 A/C for operations to-night. This was cancelled a few minutes before taking off. A short time later the Squadron was ordered to detail 8 A/C for operations against CAGINI. Three of our A/C took off successfully, the fourth A/C that took off Wellington X "H" Hs. 536 blew up just as it was to be airborne - all the crew being instantly killed. All the bombs except two		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
10.7.43 (Cont.)			Exploded and the A/C burned. An investigation will be held concerning this explosion. The crew was as follows: CAPT CAN.R.120469 Sgt. Trofanenko, W; NAV CAN.J.22693 F/O Kennedy, J.C.; B/A CAN.J.14716 P/C Blittner, J.P.; WOP/AG CAN.R.129069 Sgt. McNeagan, J.M.; A/G CAN.R.55300 Sgt. Patterson, G.W.A. The wreckage was blown all over the runway and drone. Operations were suspended for the remaining A/C. Our three A/C that took off had a successful trip. Bombs were dropped in very good visibility with good results. Very little opposition in the form of flak was encountered. The crew reported seeing troops landing at same a successful trip.		
11.7.43			The new crew arrived this morning. Usual story, no water bottles, no tropical helmets, but all have greatcoats. Bottles were taken away from them when they left England. CAPT CAN. R.150711 Sgt. LaBarge, A.R.; NAV CAN.J.129449 Sgt. Taylor, W.A.; A/G CAN.R.15746 Sgt. Sinclair, G.L.; WOP/AG RAF 1532301 Sgt. Walton, J.C.; A/G RAF 645462 Sgt. Morton, L.M. The funeral was ordered to detail 10 A/C for operations to-night. The funeral of Sgt. Trofanenko and crew who were accidentally killed yesterday was held in the Military Cemetery at Fairbairn at 2000 hrs. to-night. 20 Aircrew Sergeants and three Officers attended the short ceremony. A guard of honour was also present. Both Wing Padres recited short prayers before the bodies were lowered in the graves. Nine of our A/C took off for operations against MUNIC CORVINA and PAVELIA to-night. One A/C cancelled because of faulty generator. Weather was good, no cloud, perfect visibility. All crews identified the target visually and by moonlight. Bursts were seen in the hangar area and across the aerodrome. Explosions were seen in the hangars and a large fire could be seen blazing 40 miles away on the way back. All our A/C returned safely.		
12.7.43			Stand down for the Squadron. Both air and ground personnel appreciate this well-earned rest. Swimming was organized and softball game in the early part of the evening.		
13.7.43			G/C Lunlap, Commanding Officer 331 Wing, gave a short address to the Squadron to-day about the difficulties we encountered in this part of the world and complimented the men on their conduct and courage. 12 A/C were detailed for operations to-night. One A/C had an early return because the escape hatch flew open, bombs were scattered in the sea. Visibility very good and bombs struck the marshalling yards and the dock area. Two large explosions and a big fire were seen in the dock area. Fire lit the sky for 20 miles. One A/C seen to explode and one A/C seen to go down in flames. Two parachutes seen going down two miles from dock area. One A/C was also seen. Some light inaccurate talk concerning with A/C. One of our A/C missing from this operation. Wellington 7 UP HS.965. CAPT CAN.R.94635 P/S Lang, R.E.; NAV CAN.J.10322 P/C Davidson, W.C.; B/A CAN.R.653839 Sgt. Campbell, D.; WOP/AG RAF 107497 Sgt. Garland, J.; A/G CAN.U.S.A. R.120070 P/S Vanderbeck, R.E.		
14.7.43			The Squadron was ordered to detail 14 A/C for operations on HARLEM. Visibility was very good and all our A/C attacked the primary. Defences were fairly good. Heavy accurate flak and 20/30 S/L working in cones of 6-7. Some light flak from the deck area. An ineffective smoke screen was also in operation. All our A/C returned from this operation.		
15.7.43			Stand down to-day. 10 crews went out for a swim to-day. Two new crews arrived to-day. CAPT CAN.J.34667 F/L E.W. Blenkinsop; NAV CAN.J.14166 F/O T.O. Howlett; B/A CAN.J.14731 F/O Mackie, J.G.; RAF 1292125 Sgt. D.E. Henvoize; WOP/AG CAN.R.179652 Sgt. J. Nash; CAPT 16216479 Sgt. Bowden; NAV CAN.1290069 Sgt. J. Zusman; B/A RAF 902816 Sgt. A.G. Buckland; RAF 1082246 Sgt. N. Flower (WOP); WOP 1602882 Sgt. H. Betteridge. This crew arrived without bottles, very little bedding but with greatcoats as all others.		

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of (Unit or Formation) 424 (R.C. P. Squadron)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
424 Squadron Airfield Near Kairouan	16.7.43		One new crew reported in to-day. Not one Canadian on it. The same as other now, those Airmen had not water bottles but were told to bring their greatcoats. CAPT, AUS 420435 F/S Bowker, G.; NAV, R.A.F. 1237750 Sgt. Waller, W.A.; B/A, R.A.F. 1452182 Sgt. Davenport, W/O, R.A.F. 973006 Sgt Daniels, F.C.; A/G Sgt Shobert, R.G. R.A.F. 1160412. This Squadron Detailed 13 A/C for operations against CAPUCHINI (major aerodrome). Visibility was good, no clouds, some haze. Bombs were seen to burst on buildings and at the edge of the aerodrome. Several crews reported seeing A/G bombing on the ground. Heavy accurate flak was experienced mostly from the nests. Little light flak. 23/30 S/L operating in zones of 8/10 were quite effective. A satisfactory rate. One A/G failed to take off due to faulty rear turret. All others returned safely to base.		
	17.7.43		15 A/G were detailed for operations against MONTE CORVINA to-night. One of our A/G developed trouble immediately it was airborne. The temperature started to go up and the oil at 78 degrees and the engines started to cut. As soon as this was noticed the Pilot jettisoned his bombs over the mountains. At this time the A/G was losing height rapidly. The starboard motor was in flames and the temperature needle was off scale. The Captain ordered the crew to get ready to bail out. The B/A stated that all the crew repeated the instructions and answered ready and that the Captain bailed out last 8 minutes after giving the order to bail. The Captain jumped from 500 ft. Unfortunately the Navigator and the A/G did not jump and were killed. The A/G burned Wellington X "T" HE 962 CAPT (CAN) 130711 Sgt LaGarde A.R. (broken ankle); NAV (CAN) 2 124683 Sgt Thayer, R.C. (killed); W/A (CAN) 2 137516 Sgt Simolaik A.R. (bruises); W/O (R.A.F.) 1332301 Sgt Walton J.C. (bruises) A/G (R.A.F.) 64462 Sgt Norton, L.W. (killed).		
	18.7.43		22.332 W/Hs. was stood down to-day. The funeral took place at the American Military Cemetery at Kairouan of Sgt. Thayer and Sgt. Norton who were killed in the explosion last evening. Full military honours were rendered. A swimming party was organized to dry for two complete crews and 50 groundcrew. Very much enjoyed by all.		
	19.7.43		Our first two crews left for a 41 hrs. rest at Monastir to-day. This system will continue until further notice. Two crews will leave every 40 hrs. and the others will return. 16 A/G were detailed for operations to-night, over MONTE CORVINA. One had to return early due to faulty intercommunication. All our successful A/G report poor visibility due to heavy haze. The defences were considerably increased since the last raid. Heavily blu S/L zones of as many as 50/75 around the target area. Several night fighters were also seen. Heavy flak quite the same as previous attack but increased in height up to 11/12,000 ft. All our A/G reported large areas in the target area. A good trip and fairly favourable results. All our A/G returned safely.		
	20.7.43		Sgt. J. M. G. F/L H. M. Blenkinsop and his crew, who reported to this Squadron on the 15th of the month, was posted to 425 Squadron at Kairouan. The Squadron was ordered to detail 14 A/G for operations against MONTE CORVINA, 10 miles and 4000 ft. to-night. One A/G was cancelled owing to oil pressure trouble. 11 of our A/G reached the target successfully. No cloud, good visibility. The effort was well concentrated. Berengere good but not as effective as last night. Night flak from the docks shot up to 11/12,000 ft. S/L were quite active 50/60 being observed in cones of 10/12. Bombing was between 7/11,000 ft. Nickels entitled "Al Popolo Italiano" were also dropped. A smoke screen was operating but not effectively. A successful raid. All our A/G returned safely from this operation.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET:	References to Appendices
424 Squadron Airfield near Kairouan	21.7.43		CAN J.15250 S/L W.C. Klaassen, RMC, Officer Commanding "B" Flight in this Squadron was screened to-day. This Officer has now completed his 2nd operational tour. It is expected that S/L Klaassen will remain with the squadron until the latter moves from its present location before the rainy season begins, sometime next month. Two new crews arrived to-day. Conditions same as the other crews, no water bottles, tropical helmets not kit, but all have greatcoats.		
			CAPT CAN J. 20360 F/O J.M.L. Lombard; NAV. CAN R. 92453 Sgt Peacock w/T.J.; B/A CAN J. 20167 F/O G.L. Coutts; W/O CAN R. 124635 Sgt Madlum, L.A.; A/G CAN R. 127098 Sgt. Vian, R.C.		
			CAMP CAN R. 119961 Sgt Walton, R.M. NAV. CAN R. 112435 Sgt Moore, R.W. B/A CAN R. 63131 Sgt. Welte, R.R. W/O CAN R. 138040 Sgt Meyer, W.M.; A/G CAN R. 112754 Sgt Marshall, W.A. Stand down for the Squadron to-day.		
	22.7.43		Four new crews reported to this Squadron to-day. CAPT CAN R. 114016 Sgt Wilson, R.A. NAV. CAN R. 124632 F/O G.J. Morris; B/A CAN R. 135050 Sgt. Clegg, L.A.; W/O CAN R. 134074 Sgt. Smith, R.J.; W/O CAN R. 135074 Sgt. Morley, R.M. CAMP CAN R. 118448 Sgt. McLean, R.M. B/A CAN R. 121889 W/O M.C. Greer, B/A CAN R. 150793 Sgt. Keene, R.W. W/O CAN R. 133617 Sgt. Blumer, G.C., W/O CAN R. 140600 Sgt. Scheving, R.M. NAV. CAN R. 126697 P.M. Vian, R.C. B/A CAN R. 121897 Sgt. Cromwell, R.M. NAV. CAN R. 126697 W/O T.H. Cromwell, R.M. B/A CAN R. 122094 F/O P.P. Faquin, W/O CAN R. 101381 Sgt. Macaulay, R.M. /G CAN R. 119973 Sgt. Wilson, R.M. NAV. CAN R. 112435 Sgt. Sherlock, R.W. CAN R. 115074 W/O T.H. Cromwell, R.M. B/A CAN R. 21459 F/O W. Wilkes, W/O CAN R. 1026225 Sgt. Morris, R.M. A/G CAN R. 124632 Sgt. Raynor, R.M. Water trouble on the camp to-day. Both wells from which we drew our drinking water being almost dried up due to the fact that numerous trains passing through the district used up almost all the water. The M.O. left on a search for water this morning. The personnel reduced to two gallons per day for cooking, washing and drinking. Twelve A/C are required for operations to-night. The target being SAN GIOVANNI, marshalling yards. All our A/C took off at the appointed time. 16 clean, very good visibility. All our A/C were successful in reaching the target and bombs burst on the marshalling yards. Defences were practically nil. Apparently only one or two guns being used and no S/L were seen. Fires were seen in the town. On the way back fires were seen over Tripoli. Very good results. All our A/C returned safely to base except one which had a forced landing at Cape Bon. Crew safe.		
	23.7.43		Large howitzer arrived to-day and as in previous cases their water bottles were taken away from them in England but they were told to take their greatcoats. CAPT CAN R. 85466 F/S Webb, R.W. NAV. CAN R. 9311 W/O J.G. Lee, B/A CAN R. 135053 Sgt. Keene, R.W. W/O CAN R. 135054 Sgt. Mann, R.M. A/G CAN R. 114053 F/S Haines, A.L. CAPT CAN R. 135176 Sgt. Vorbrook, W.P. NAV. CAN R. 124632 Sgt. McLean, R.M. B/A CAN R. 123746 Sgt. Commandant Price, W/O CAN R. 123166 Sgt. Morrison, L/W CAN R. 60097 Sgt. Hunt, L.O. CAPT CAN R. 135176 Sgt. McLean, R.M. B/A CAN R. 113104 Sgt. Gillies, R.M. B/A CAN R. 123998 Sgt. West, L.M. W/O CAN R. 122292 Sgt. McLean, R.M. /G CAN R. 124632 Sgt. McLean, R.M. The Squadron was ordered to detail 12 A/C for operations against SAN GIOVANNI to-night. One of our A/C did not take off due to last minute engine trouble. All our A/C reached the target. Visibility was good and flares were identification easy. All reported bombing in the vicinity of the docks and marshalling yards. Good results were obtained and one particularly large red fire emitting volumes of black smoke was reported. Defences were more active than at other times and the presence of a flak train on the sidings South of the town is suspected. Heavy flak was moderate but operating closely with 13/20 c.t. A successful trip. All our A/C returned safely from this operation. Naval bombardment was observed in SAN GIOVANNI and larger fires were noticed. Fires were also seen in PALERMO.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
424 Squadron Airfield Near Mairouan	24.7.43		Squadron stood down to-day. Movie show at Wing to-night. Movies here after. At 16.00 hrs. a terrific downpour and heavy wind. In a few minutes the camp was a sea of mud. Tents were blown down and others stood up because the occupants used all their strength holding poles. At 17.00 hrs. the rain stopped. Another downpour started at 19.30 hrs. and lasted for one hour. The movie show was cancelled but the movies were held despite the mud at 21.30 hrs. N.C.O.'s and some Officers slept in aircraft, equipment tents, and in the hospital due to the fact that the rain and wind had knocked down their tents and flooded the place. Unserviceable night for quite a few.		
	25.7.43		Wing stood down to-day. Everyone looking over and helping those who suffered from yesterday's storm. Camp very muddy but will dry rapidly if the sun remains out.		
	26.7.43		Stand down. News received this morning that Benito has resigned. Everyone very happy and many think that the war will not last long now - may be disappointed. The Squadron was notified that the bread ration will be cut from 10 ounces to 6 by the French stores (D.T.D.). It will be hard on the Mairouans. The Squadron will have to take steps to buy bread from the natives. Much cursing at the R.A.F. and their system by the men. This does not help to better understanding between Canadians and the British. Letters are going that had to worse and although conditions are severe, conditions like these do not help. Feeling and letters for Canada are very bitter against the British. Mairouan men have to be prepared before the Adjutant concerning this. They say, "Well if we can't write about it now it does not mean we will forget. Some of us will live to get back home and then there will be talking. Other Squadrons report the same attitude.		
	27.7.43		Stand down again to-day. Our softball team despite good Squadron support lost against 425 Squadron, score 8 - 6. Good game.		
	28.7.43		None A/G were detailed for operations against NAFRI to-night. Unfortunately one of our A/G exploded and disintegrated on take off. A Court of Inquiry will be held on this accident. Other A/G following on take off were cancelled as runway was littered with debris. This crew which had only two more trips to complete their first tour of operations was very popular in the Squadron, being one of the first to report after the Squadron's formation last Fall. All were instantly killed. One of the crew Sgt. Wilson was on his first diehard trip in this country. The loss of this crew is deeply felt and affected all personnel. A/G Wellington X "P" 1250 hrs. Crew: Captain J. H. G. C. L. P. E. Reid, M.A. Mch. J. 10230. F/O J. S. Taylor, F/A Cpl. J. 16325. F/O G. A. Couch, WO/ Cpl. R. 107361. Sgt. Minnie, C.M., A/G Cpl. J. 100116. Sgt. Bjurman, J.J. and Pilot Officer J. 104036. Sgt. Wilson, J.J. Four 4/A/G took off reached the target successfully. Very poor visibility, 8/10th cloud making pinpointing very difficult. Bombs were apparently dropped short of the target and most of no assistance. Very little accuracy is claimed for this raid. Defences were increased since the last raid and 60 3/4 were operating in cones of 10/10. Heavy accurate fire was curving between 8/10,000 ft. Un satisfactory results. All our A/G returned safely from this raid.		
	29.7.43		Stand down for the Squadron to-day. The funeral of the crew which was killed last night was held at the Cemetery at Mairouan. A large number of the N.C.O.'s and Officers attended the funeral service. Full military honours were rendered. 30 Squadron left for Mairouan by the sea. Well deserved rest for these men.		

~~SECRET~~References
to
Appendices

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET	
424 Squadron Airfield Near Kaihouan	30.7.43		Stand down to-day. 7 crews left this morning for a swimming party. The aircrew and the team beat the groundcrew team 6 - 4 in a very good game to-night.			
	31.7.43		Stand down. New aircraft Wellington X HE 794 was received from 57 R.S.U. today. Good moving picture to-night.			
			Aircraft on charge no. at 31st July, 1943 - 17.			
			Health: Generally good. A few cases of slight dysentery. Generally speaking the health of the Squadron has remained very good. New arrivals (crown) seems to be affected by dysentery for a few days but after this return to normal. No cases of sun stroke or flying fever. One aircrew and one groundcrew both have had mild attack of malaria. Personnel seem to take their quinine and atabrine tablets quite faithfully. No cases of V.D. on the Squadron.			
			OPERATIONAL & NON-OPERATIONAL FLYING HOURS JULY 1943			
			(Officers) Aircrew Ground (Airmen) Aircrew Ground			
			R.C.A.F. 55 6 29 336			
			Non-O.P. 7 - 16 141			
			AIR. - - 1 141			
			ME. - - 1 141			
			Total 62 6 47 336			
			OPERATIONAL - NON-OPERATIONAL & CHARGING FLYING HOURS, JULY 1943.			
			(a) Operational Flying Hours. Day: 141 Night: 920 hrs. 10 mins.			
			(b) Non-operational Flying Hours. Day: 18 hrs. Night: 141 hrs.			
			Total Flying Hours 976 hrs. 10 mins.			

Major
Major W.C.
Wing Commander, Commanding,
424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.