

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

of (Unit or Formation) 431 R.C.A.F. SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
BURN	1943 Feb. 1st		First two air firing details were successfully carried out. Flying times DAY 1355 NIGHT Nil		
	" 2nd		Visit of Mayor of Dewsbury and party to Station in connection with 'Wings for Victory' Campaign. Flying times DAY Nil. NIGHT Nil.		
	" 3rd		Wing Commander & Crew, Sgt. Aspden & Crew to Heston Aerodrome with HE 182 & 183 to have screw modification done & to secure fabric at points of contact with metal. First sea firing 1 detail. P/O Wilkinson & 2 Sgt. Pilots went as 2nd pilots, briefed to Hamburg. All returned before reaching target owing to bad weather conditions. P/O Nutt, RAF 130917 awarded the IWM wide London Gazette dated 29.12.42. A.O. Recds.GIM/1170640 dated 4.1.43 (Note 1170640 Sgt. Nutt) CITATION. Sgt. (now P/O) Nutt RAF VR 405 Sqdn. (RCAP) as wireless operator/air gunner, Sgt. Nutt has rendered excellent service. He has taken part in attacks on a wide range of targets including Berlin, industrial centres in the Ruhr and on the battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in the Channel. Flying times DAY 935 NIGHT Nil.		
	" 4th		Air Sea Firing 1 detail. 4 Sgt. pilots went as 2nd pilots with 51 Sqdn. to Turin & Lorient for experience. All returned. Flying times DAY 8 hrs. NIGHT Nil.		
	" 5th		Lecture by P/Lt. Farnery AFHU On Air Fighting Tactics. First night flying programme arranged but cancelled owing to bad weather conditions. Flying times DAY 2.25 hrs.		
	" 6th		First practice bombing over the sea - 4 x 11 1/2 lb bombs combined with air sea firing. P/O Wilkinson & Crew. First night flying circuits & bumps carried out. Two aircraft P/Lt. Bades & Crew. Sgt. Eaglesham & Crew bombed in sea using aluminum markers. Flying times DAY 7.50 NIGHT 1.55		
	" 7th		Fighter affiliation with a Spitfire piloted by P/Lt Farnery from Drifffield, 2 aircraft used, one piloted by P/S Hamby & Crew with Sgt. Eaglesham as 2nd dickay. Weather very good. Visit by Air Vice Marshall Carr, A.O.C. & Group. Fighter affiliation again in the afternoon and also air firing details. Flying times DAY 11.25 NIGHT 2.35		
	" 8th		Flying cancelled owing to bad visibility, compasses of 2 aircraft smug in afternoon. Night flying cancelled owing to weather. Flying times Nil.		
	" 9th		First 2 day cross country, took off at 1400 hrs. and returned at 1630 hrs. Weather bad in the morning but cleared up in the afternoon. Two crews detailed for night circuits & bumps. Arrival of P/Lt. Hall as second in Command of A. Flight. Night circuits and bumps with 3 aircraft.		

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R.A.F. Form 540

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

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
BUEN	Feb. 17th (cont'd)		did NPT. Night flying cancelled due to bad visibility. Lights failed throughout the camp, some for whole night. Flying times DAY 1.15 hrs. NIGHT Nil.	
"	18th		Three aircraft took off on cross country flights in morning. 1 aircraft in afternoon on cross country with practice bombing. Weather extremely good. 5 aircraft did night circuits & landings. Sgts. Eaglesham, & Reynoldson with P/O Luke went as 2nd pilots in Halifaxes flying from Snaith (51 Sqn) Target was Submarine shelters at Wilhelmshaven. There was a full moon and excellent visibility. All returned. Flying times DAY 22.30 hrs. NIGHT 10.20 hrs.	
"	19th		No flying in morning. 6 aircraft did NPT in afternoon. 3 aircraft did night circuits & landings 3 aircraft did night cross country. Flying times DAY 4.20 hrs. NIGHT 1325 hrs.	
"	20th		No flying in morning 6 aircraft did NPT in afternoon. Night flying cancelled due to bad visibility Flying times DAY 4.30 hrs. NIGHT Nil.	
"	21st		One aircraft did air firing in morning. Group Capt. Gray visited Station at 12 noon and stayed until late. Local haze prevents flying in the afternoon. One aircraft brought back from Leconfield. Night flying cancelled. Flying times DAY 4 hrs. NIGHT Nil.	
"	22nd		Thick ground haze in the morning prevents flying. Night flying cancelled owing to bad visibility. Flying time Nil.	
"	23rd		Visibility about 100 yds. in the morning. No flying. Weather cleared in afternoon. 4 NPTS but night flying cancelled as ground haze came down again. Flying times DAY 5.45 hrs. NIGHT Nil.	
"	24th		Fog in morning prevented flying, slight clearance in afternoon but only one machine took off on a weather test. All flying then cancelled. Flying time DAY 20 mins.	
"	25th		Two cross country & firing details in the morning. Visibility was poor with a cold front. Morning cloudy. NPT in afternoon. 4 cross country and 3 circuits bumps at night. 1 pilot went as 2nd pilot to Nuremburg from Snaith (51 Sqn) Returned O.K. Flying times DAY 20.40 hrs. NIGHT 22.40 hrs.	
"	26th		Visibility not very good in morning. 4 NPTS took off in the afternoon. Vis. fairly good. 4 cross	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
BURN	Feb. 26th	(cont'd)	country and 2 circuits & bumps at night. Visit by G/C Gray to the Squadron in the morning. Weather very good locally at night with visibility about 4 miles, F/O Luke, Sgts. Bidmead, Jackson and Wood went as 2nd pilots from Snaith (51 Sqn) Target COLOGNE. Flying times DAY 1600 hrs. NIGHT 10.40 hrs.	
"	27th		Two day cross country arranged in the morning. Visibility fair - clearing rapidly with the sun. 2 day cross country. 3 NPTS in the afternoon. Visibility very good. Bullseye arranged for night. 5 aircraft took off for Bullseye between Flamboro' Head, Hull - Leeds. 2 aircraft on night circuits and bumps. G/C Gray attended briefing for Bullseye.	
"	28th		2 day cross country, visibility bad in early morning but cleared by noon. 5 night cross country, 2 returned early. Visibility good. Flying times DAY 1325 hrs. NIGHT 1930 hrs. <u>Appointments & Promotions</u> F/O D.S. Gooderham, 125513, CD promoted to the rank of F/O w.e.f. 10.11.42 Authy. Extract from London Gazette number 35827 d/18.12.42 F/O D.J. Macmillan, J.12160, CD promoted to the rank of T/2/O, w.e.f. 8.12.42 Authy. A.M. letter M448988/42/S.7.D. 2. d/6.2.43. Sgt. W.E. Paton, J.22562 (R127926) appointed to a commission in the RCAP (SR) w.e.f. 20.7.42. T.O.S. as an officer 24.2.43. Authy. M496173/43/S.7.(f) 1 (b) d/18.2.43. Sgt. C.A. MacDougal, J.22548 (R.124714) appointed to a commission in the RCAP (SR) w.e.f. 20.7.42. T.O.S. as an officer 24.2.43. Authy. M496184/43/S.7. (f) 1 (b) d/17.2.43. <u>TOTAL FLYING TIME FOR MONTH - DAY 227.40 hrs. NIGHT 123.45 hrs.</u>	
			<u>Present Strength of Squadron</u>	
			GROUND	AIR
			RAF RCAP	RAF RCAP NZ AUS
			Officers - 1 3	27 4 - -
			Sur.NCOs - 15 5	89 16 3 1
			Other ranks 164 150	- - - -
			<u>W.A.A.F.s</u> 32 -	- - - -

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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.E. and A.C.I., para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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BURN	1943 FEB.	(cont'd)	<p><u>REMARKS BY COMMANDING OFFICER</u></p> <p>Again bad local visibility has hampered progress throughout the month.</p> <p>Testing troubles with aircraft and the necessity for fabric repairs and renewal of ball races in turrets away from base have also helped to delay the date on which we could offer aircraft & crews for operations. The fact that ^{few} 46 spares are held by the parent station for our aircraft is a further complication. We are offering eight (8) aircraft & crews for operations on the 2nd March and hope to build up this number slowly. The Squadron are in good heart & keen to get going, despite the delays and difficulties.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Wing Commander, Commanding. 431 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.</p>	

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