

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 9/2

of (Unit or Formation) **A.M. R.G.A.F. SQUADRON**

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B U R N	1943				
	Mon, 1st		Great activity amongst aircrew and ground crews preparing the aircraft for the first operation on the 2nd. Much cleaning of guns and propellers and swinging compasses and loops. The ground crews worked extremely hard to get the various aircraft serviceable. Visit by Mayor and Councillors of GRANT in connection with "WINGS FOR VICTORY" campaign. They were shown over an aircraft by P/O Hall during the afternoon. One flight made during the day to SHAFAY and return. Visibility very good in the afternoon.		
	Mah, 2nd		Weather very good in the morning with good visibility. Ground crews and air crews still working hard preparing aircraft for B.P.T's, which took place in the morning. Pre-briefing for the Navigators and Bomb Aimers at 14:00 hours gave them the target, Mihalay in Neotarne 1, by 8 aircraft each aircraft carrying 2 - 1500 lb G.P. Mines. The A.O.C. and Group Capt. Gray attended the main briefing at 1330 hours. Naval side of the operation was given by Lt. GATES. At the last minute "B" for Sugar went u/s through also leg trouble and the pilot, S/L Marshall took over "B" for Beer, whose pilot P/O Link had had an unfortunate accident in that when waving shoots away he lost two fingers in the propeller. 7 Aircraft eventually took off. All aircraft returned P/Bgt. Remy and crew in "X" for SHAY being first back. 2 Aircraft returned with their mines, being unable to get a good pin point to drop their mines accurately. Both landed safely. Aircrews and their craft taking part in the operation were:-	"A" 1	
			S/L Marshall and Crew in "B" (Beer) Flak was very light P/O Mine and Crew in "C" (Casino) and target area was P/O Remy and Crew in "X" (SHAY) free from clouds but SGT. Barley and Crew in "D" (Johnny) some cloud was found P/Sgt. Haynes and Crew in "A" (Alma) over the FERIAN SGT. Morton and Crew in "E" (Robert) ISLAND when trying SGT. Bidwell and Crew in "G" (Charlie) to pin point.		
	Mah, 3rd		Weather good in morning. Ground crews preparing aircraft for another gardening tonight. B.P.T's in the morning. Pre-briefing for the Navigators and Bomb Aimers at 1400 hours and target was NEOTARNE 1. Load 2 - 1500 lb mines for each aircraft.	"A" 1	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B.U.R.N.	1943 Moh. 3rd (CONT'D)		7 Aircraft detailed. Briefing at 1530 hours was attended by G/C Gray, O.B.E. Mines to be dropped between 4000 and 6000 feet. No hitches in the take off and the whole 7 aircraft were airborne in 30 MINUTES. P/O Mine in aircraft 'Q' (Queenie) returned in a short time owing to engine trouble. Flak was heavier than previous night as a line of flak ships was encountered nearly 60 miles west of the target. Sgt. MOTON and Crew in 'H' (Robert) were on the bombing run when attacked from beneath by a JU 88. Two common shells burst beneath the pilot's seat destroying the hydraulics and causing 2 small fires which were promptly put out by the bomb aimer. Sgt. Holmes aided by the Navigator Sgt. Rondo, they dropped their mines in correct target area, returned and belly landed safely, there being no power for the undercarriage. The rear gunner, Sgt. RGL, got in ONE burst at about 70 yards range in the fuselage of the JU 88. All other aircraft laid their mines and returned safely. Crews and aircraft taking part were:- P/Sgt. HAMBY and crew in 'X' Sgt. MOTON and Crew in 'H' Sgt. PITTS and crew in 'Z' Sgt. BANCLAY and crew in 'D' Sgt. BEMARD and crew in 'O' Sgt. WOOD and crew in 'P' Other flying during the day and night was the usual training X-country exercises. 2 of the aircraft en night X-country over Norfolk ran into a raid by German bombers and turned back owing to flak.		
Moh. 4th			Squadron stand down for aircrew who took part in the operations, but there were air firing details and circuits and landings for crews still under training. There was no night flying. Weather and visibility were good. P/O Macroe RCAF, Lincoln and P/O Taylor visited station, interviewing all RCAF personnel wishing to see them.		
Mosid					
Moh. 5th			Local mist in the morning which cleared under the hot sun, visibility was then very good. Four crews detailed for gardening operations and four crews for a main op. Targets for Gardening was HEMMING L. Target of main operation EBBEN - KRUMPE. Crews taking part in Gardening were:-	A 2	

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. ME 12of (Unit or Formation) A.M. SQUADRON R.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
BURN	1943		Sgt. ASHLEY and crew in aircraft 'A' Sgt. BRYANT and crew in aircraft 'B' P/O KLINE and crew in aircraft 'C' Sgt. WOOD and crew in aircraft 'D'		
	March 5th		Crews taking part in main operation were: F/LGT. HENNES and crew in aircraft 'A' Sgt. BLYTHE and crew in aircraft 'C' Sgt. PITTS and crew in aircraft 'D'		
	(CONT'D)		Bomb load for main operation 2 - 500; 1 - 500 (O.L.); 360 - 4 lb incendiaries; 16 - 50 lb incendiaries.		
			Garrison crews all took off successfully at 1830 hours and returned safely, having encountered a slight amount of light flak. Sgt. BRYANT and crew in 'F' (Freddie) brought back their mines having been unable to get a fix near the target area. Sgt. ASHLEY and crew unable to find p.p. and returned with their mines.		
			S/L MARSHALL and crew in 'E' (Eugie) did not take off owing to a flotation bag inflating and knocking off 2 - 500 lb bombs, breaking the wind pipe on the bomb slip. The remaining 3 aircraft took off to time and landed successfully on the flares left by pathfinders. Flak was fairly heavy and some night fighters seen but no attacks were made. All returned safely. Two aircraft on night circuits and bums. Weather during return of aircraft had deteriorated and visibility was down to about 1500 yards, making the flares hard to find.		
	March 6th		10/10 low cloud over dress in the morning which broke and disappeared early in the afternoon. N.F.T's in the morning. Pre-briefing at 1400 hours for the Navigators and Bomb aimer, who were given the target - EISEN. Briefing at 1530 hours was attended by G/C Gray. All crews were in their aircraft by 1745 hrs and had started their engines at 1830 hours when the "op" was cancelled. No night flying was carried out. Aircraft 'R' which belly landed on the 5th. 3rd was successfully repaired after a considerable amount of work. F/LT Ley RCAF Auxiliary Services and Mr. L. Moyne Canadian T.M.C.A. visited		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B U R N	1943 Mon, 6th, (CONT'D)		The Squadron, arrangements regarding distribution of Canadian Comforts and weekly showing of films were discussed. Sports matters were arranged.		
	Mon, 7th		Weather and visibility were quite good in the morning. Night flying tests for aircraft going on operations in the evening, were carried out in the morning. Pre-briefing for Navigators and Bomb Aimers was carried out at 1400 hrs. Target was given as 'Gardening' in Horticulture 2, each aircraft to carry 2 x 1500 lb G.P. mines. Main briefing at 1530 hours was attended by C/Capt. Gray. Seven aircraft took off at 1630 hours but SGT. HUNTER and crew in 'P' (Freddy) returned immediately. SGT. ANDERSON in 'D' (Donald) returned before reaching the target owing to defective artificial horizon. P/O HINE in 'Q' (Quenie) returned and made a successful landing with his mines still on as they had not been able to find a pin point over the target. SGT. PITTMAN and crew in 'U' (Zebra) did not return from the sortie. No one saw them over the target area but one crew reported seeing a concentration of searchlights with considerable flak at the spot. Flak was moderate over the target area, which was fairly free from cloud. SGT. SMITH and crew in 'J' (Johnny) were attacked by two JU 88's. The rear gunner SGT. HUNTER first saw the enemy aircraft at 600 yards on STARBOARD quarter. His a/c switched on lights and attacked, opening fire immediately. SGT. HUNTER opened fire at 400 yards firing two bursts, but glare prohibited results being observed. Meanwhile the R.G. in astrodome had reported a/c with similar lights attacking from PORT beam, and ordered evasive action - a diving turn to PORT. R.A. did not open fire and disappeared beneath aircraft. Rear gunner did not have time to bring his gun to bear. No a/c were seen after this short evasive attack.	"A" 2	
			Crew and aircraft detailed were as follows:-		
			P/O Hine and crew in 'Q' Quenie - R.R. dropped.		
			Sgt. Bryant and crew in 'P' Freddy - landed immediately after take off.		
			Sgt. Pittman and crew in 'U' Zebra - did not return.		
			Sgt. Davis and crew in 'J' Johnny.		
			P/O Wilkinson and crew in 'D' Donald. Sgt. Anderson and crew in 'Q' Donald returned } early defective horizon.		
			Sgt. Redale and crew in 'R' Roy.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 20of (Unit or Formation) 432 R.G.A.F. SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B U R N	19 & 20th,		Pog in the morning prevented flying, but cleared by 1500 hours. No day flying and no operations carried out, but 3 aircraft took off on night cross country at 2000 hours. Visibility prevented any night circuits and landings. Aircraft and crew taking part in the cross country were:- Sgt. Smith 935 in 'D' Sgt. Barberay in 'A' Sgt. Jackson in 'Q'		
			Visit by the Command D.M.A. officer to the Squadron. Heavy fog in morning persistent until noon, circuits out in morning on aircraft's inspection. Flying in the evening. Aircrew briefed for Bullseye to take place between HILL - LINDEN. 5 aircraft took part in the Bullseye and 2 aircraft on circuits and landings. During the Bullseye an air raid message RED was given at 2100 hours - the all clear going at 22.2200 hours, all aircraft returned safely. Major Faulkner accompanied Sgt. Davis in 'G' aircraft to see how the ground defences were working and Lt. MINTON, Royal Observer Corps, accompanied Sgt. Reynoldson in aircraft 'P'. Crews and aircraft in Bullseye were:- Sgt. Jackson in 'Q' Sgt. Davis in 'G' Sgt. Reynoldson in 'P'		
	Mon. 20th.		Low cloud in the morning and afternoon prevented any cross country but 2 aircraft took off in the morning on Dingby Search of the North Sea to FJ R. Both crews reported that they saw no trace of a Dingby. Crews taking part were:- P/B Hayes and crew in 'P' Sgt. Reynoldson and crew in aircraft 'P' did night circuits and landings in the evening. No 'ops' on night cross country carried out. A dance was held in the Sergeants Mess by the sign, and an invitation given to officers and wives. No day flying, but Bullseye, held at night. 3 aircraft took off for the Bullseye and it was successfully carried out.	"A" 3	
	Mon. 21st.		Perfect weather and 12 aircraft were offered for operations. At 1530 hours 12 crews were briefed for the second big operation by the Squadron: the target being KEMPS WORKS - HIGH.	"A" 4 Append. "D"	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B U R N	1, 2 & 3 Mar., 12th (CONT'D)		A crop of minor troubles at the last minute electrical and armament kept four aircraft on the ground, and only 7 reached the target. These 7 took part in what was later to be described as the most concentrated heavy raid ever carried out by Bomber Command. The target area was brilliantly lighted by hundreds of thousands of incendiaries and in the heart of the blaze were deep red glow of heavy bomb bursts. The navigator P/O Clarke in P/S Husky's aircraft was killed almost directly over the target, they were caught in a concentration of searchlights and flak, hit in several places and did well to return and land safely in England.		
	Mar., 13th		There was no flying and though night flying was arranged it was eventually cancelled.		
	Mar., 14th		Weather fair, no day flying except H.P.T.'s. Three crews were briefed at 1530 hours for a 'Gardening' trip to Nederlands. All were successful and returned safely but landed at other bases as the visibility at base was very bad.	"A" 14	
	Mar., 15th		3 aircraft were detailed for operations but cancelled because of weather conditions.		
	Mar., 16th		Canadians started soft ball. Canadian DGA auxiliary services visited the station, and showed Weather fair but slight ground haze. No flying.		
	Mar., 17th		Weather fair but still slight haze. No flying.		
	Mar., 18th		11 crews were briefed for operations but trip was cancelled owing to weather conditions.		
			P/O Wiley, R.R. J.11141 Air Gunner joined this squadron from 429 Sqdn.		
	Mar., 19th		11 crews were briefed for operations but trip was cancelled.		
	Mar., 20th		11 crews were briefed for operations but again cancelled.		
	Mar., 21st		6 crews were briefed but again operations were cancelled. Huddersfield Players staged a play "DEVIL A SAINT" in Concert Hall. Football match Squadron v S.H.Q. Squadron won.		
	Mar., 22nd		15 crews were briefed but operations were cancelled. Football match Squadron v Works Night. Result in favour of Squadron was 4 goals to nil. Air Vice Marshall Carr, visited the station accompanied by G/Capt. Grey. Canadian DGA gave a cinema show in the Concert Hall.		
	Mar., 23rd		6 crews were briefed but operations were cancelled. G/C Grey and Adj't. from SHQ/HQ visited the station. Aimers were busy gathering and clearing up around the Sqdn. Offices. P/O Taylor RCAF, Squadron Officer came to take on temporary duty to assist Sgt. INGHAM, RCAF, HQ/COL for RCAF personnel.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 22.

of (Unit or Formation) 432 N.G./A.P. SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B U R N	19 & 3 Mar, 24th.		14 crews were briefed but operations were cancelled. Aircrafts were employed in digging around Squadron Offices etc. Comptons Dance held in the Concert Hall was varied a great success.		
	Mar, 25th.		Weather raining with low cloud formations. 15 crews were briefed but operations were cancelled. The Station Concert Party gave its first performance in the Concert Hall. It was an outstanding success. P/LT. L.G. WEB was busy, organizer and producer. The Squadron was well represented on the stage. The Hall was filled with an enthusiastic audience.		
	Mar, 26th.		13 crews were briefed for operations, but the operation for all but 5 crews was cancelled. Target was DENBUREL. One aircraft turned back near the Dutch Coast owing to uncertainty of position and one abandoned his mission owing to petrol equipment failure and landed at Catfoss. 3 aircraft successfully completed their task. Aircraft 'N' Super failed to return. The crew being:- Pilot P/LT. Endes, Nav. P/LT. Hill, Bomb Aimer P/LT. Gardner, WO2 Sgt. Dakin, A.G. F/O. Page. The pilot P/LT. Endes was a pilot of some note and had two books of poems - THE MUSE HATH WINGS AND OPERATIONS BY NIGHT - published. P/LT. Hill was Squadron Navigation Leader, and P/LT. Gardner was Squadron Bombing Leader, the loss to the Squadron is a heavy blow.		"A" 5
	Mar, 27th		13 crews were briefed but operations were cancelled owing to weather conditions.		
	Mar, 28th		2 aircraft took off at 0235 and 0250 hours respectively and returned at 1340 and 1450 hours, on a Sea Search, which proved unsuccessful. 12 aircraft took off at 1900 hours to bomb ST. NAZAIRE. Aircraft 'H' Harry landed 10 minutes after take off, as inspection flaps on the PORT wing were not secured. All other aircraft reached their targets and bombed successfully, except 'D' Donald which brought back bombs on the engine driven generator because w/a. 4 aircraft landed at Rosyth, 2 at Rother and 2 at Stanton Harcourt. Aircraft 'U' Uncle pilot Sgt. Wood was attacked by a JU 88 over the target area, fire was exchanged and one of the q/a fell away in a steep spiral dive, and was last seen at 2000 ft, apparently out of control. The aircraft was claimed as probably destroyed. Our machine sustained no damage.		"A" 5

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B U R N	1943 Mar. 29th		6 crews were briefed for a raid on BOCHUM and all took off at 1350 hours. Aircraft 'G' Tommy, Capt. D.H. Husby, returned to base at 2153 hrs abandoning his mission on account of sickness of the rear gunner Sgt. Jones. Aircraft 'F' Peter landed at Oulton at 2332 hrs, having abandoned his task owing to icing on the STANDARD engine. Aircraft 'H' Harry was attacked by 5/2 Fighters but took evasive action and sustained no damage. Aircraft 'G' George, Capt. A. McSmith, Sgt. ... in action. While near the target the rear gunner Sgt. BURKE, spotted a JV 88 approaching from astern below. He fired 3 bursts at it causing it to blow up. This was confirmed by all members of the crew and the aircraft was claimed as destroyed. Aircraft 'A' Apple failed to return. The crew being:- Sgt. Ayden, Pilot. Sgt. Dailey-Jones, Nav. Sgt. Kimber, B.A. Sgt. Yellin, W.M. Sgt. Davies, A.G.		"A" 10
	Mar. 30th		No operations. High winds with some rain. The whole squadron was paraded at 1330 hours the Commanding Officer speaking to all personnel, thanking them for the effort they had made during the past month, which incidentally was the first month of operations, for the Squadron. It was explained that full commun co-operation was necessary by all if the good start made, was to be continued, and even bettered in the months that lie ahead.		
	Mar. 31st		Squadron stand down, winds still high with some cloud. A signal received from Air Ministry stated that Sgt. Pitt, Pilot Sgt. McHugh Nav. P/O Tutton B.A. Sgt. Lyon, W.M. Sgt. Peart A.G. the crew reported missing from operations on the night of 7/8 March, 1943, were prisoners in German hands.		
			Present strength of Squadron:- Officers GROUP 1 R.A.F. 5 R.A.C. Officers A.I.D. 25 R.A.F. & G.A.M. 1 R.E.M.P. Senior NCO's GROUP 16 R.A.F. 5 R.A.C. A.I.D. 68 R.A.F. 14 G.A.M. 2 R.E.M.P. 1 R.A.F. Other Ranks 156 R.A.F. 252 R.A.C. W.A.A.F. Officers 11 X L. Other ranks 30. Totals. Officers 34. Senior NCO's 126. Other Ranks 286 372. W.A.A.F. 30.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 24

of (Unit or Formation) 437 R.G.A.P. SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B U R N	1943				
Moh. 3400,	(CONT)		POSTING OFFICERS & AIRCREW OFFICERS CIV. P/O. J.T. Glazier, 1250A3, NAV. died of wounds as a result of enemy action received while on operations, night of 12/13th March, 1943. R.S.M.E.		
			P/O E. DeMolton, 122388 B.A. missing from operations against the enemy night of 7/8th March, 1943.		
			Gardening Notations 2.		
			A.M. Signal 76664 dated 30.Moh. 1943, states Prisoner of War in German hands.		
			P/LT. G.H. Edwards, 62468 pilot missing from operations against the enemy, night of 26/27th March, 1943.		
			P/LT. A.H. Hill 3.0621 Nav. Target DISBURSE.		
			P/LT. H.K. Gardner, 122704 B.A. P/LT. Hill Squadron Nav. Officer		
			P/LT. Gardner, Sqn Bombing Leader.		
			OFFICERS IN.		
			P/O D.B. Willey, 2.111251 A.G. Posted from 429 Sqn w.e.f. 15.3.43. for flying duties, Auth. R.M.G signal P.612 dated 15.3.43.		
			P/O D.S. Morris, 1053340 Nav. Posted from 1652 C.U. w.e.f. 29.3.43. for Squadron Nav. Officer duties, (P/LT) post. auth. R.M.G signal P.374 dated 29.3.43.		
			P/O E.L. Master, 131368 B.A. Posted from 1652 C.U. w.e.f. 30.3.43. for Sqn Bombing Leader duties, Auth. R.M.G. P.5 dated 29.3.43.		
			P/O A.J. McDonald, 12 125325, Nav. Posted from 35 O.T.U. w.e.f. 26.3.43. for flying duties, Auth. 210/1706/36/15 Air 11.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET</u>	References to Appendices
B U R N	19 & 20 Mar., 1943				
(CONT'D)			<u>OFFICERS IN.</u> P/O Gibson, R.A. 120060 Nav. Posted from 10 OTU W.e.f. 30.3.43. for flying duties. Authy. 910/8, 584/40 Air 11, dated 19.3.43.		
			AIRCREW MOG's. O.U.T. Sgt. D.G. Pitts, Pilot, M. 413476) missing from operations against the Sgt. R.M. Hough, Nav. 1147399 enemy night of 7/8th March, 1943, Sgt. D.G. Part, W.O.G. 1379067 Gardening Nectarines 2. Sgt. D.G. Adlyer, A.G. 1288756 Anti-Signal P.6664, dated 30. Mar. 1943 states Prisoners of War in German hands. Sgt. R.V. Jackson, W.O.G. R.72459 missing from operations against the P/Sgt. J. McFaul, A.G. R.65501 enemy night of 26/27th March, 1943 Target DURABUR. Sgt. R.J. Appleton, Pilot, 1236991 missing from operations against the Sgt. D. Bailey-Jones, Nav. 1315711 enemy night of 29/30th March, 1943, Sgt. J. J. Parker, M.s. 1319241 Target BOCHIN. Sgt. R.R. Yellin, W.O.G. R.77427 Sgt. R. Devlin, A.G. 1338839		
			Sgt. F. Osmond, W.O.G. 1268980 Posted to No. 1 (N/R) R.F. Depot Underbridge, W.e.f. 6.3.43. Authy. R.646 Signal P.4315, dated 5.3.43. Sgt. R.B. Bryant, A.G. R.129363 Posted to 422 Sqn W.e.f. 31.3.43. Authy. A.M. Signal P.6673 dated 30.3.43.		
			AIRCREW MOG's IN see next page.		

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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2380 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

A.F. R.O.C.A.F. SQUADRONS
of (Unit or Formation)

Page No. 26

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
BURK	1943	10th, 31st	POSTING ADDRESS REC'D. 21st		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75468 posted from 10 Sqdn to 6.J. 10.3.43		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75469 posted to 10 Sqdn 1205/23/43		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75470 dated 5.3.43		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75471 dated 10.3.43		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75472 posted from 15 Sqdn to 6.J. 26.3.43		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75473 posted to 15 Sqdn 21.6.43		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75474 dated 16.3.43		
			Sgt. Lt. V. L. M. 10.75475 dated 10.3.43		
			PROMOTION OFFICERS N.S.L.		
			Major H. G. G. Major P. J. 10.7552 dated 25.3.43 Report 1/0 4.Matt 130917 G.		
			(1) to 6.J. 10.3.43. 101 Signals Leader Duties		
			10.7552 10.7553 (was 1/0 post)		
			PROMOTIONS ALREADY REC'D. N.S.L.		
			NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL sorties flown during the month 20 (Fifty eight)		
			19 Wellington & one charge		
			<i>Parra</i> .		
			Wing Commander, Commanding, A.F. R.O.C.A.F. Squadron.		