

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 1240 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.



COMPLILING OFFICER: P/IT. R.M. VICKLES

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Unit (or Formation) No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

89278

No. of pages used for day

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944				
	1st Oct.		No Operations, today -- training, only. R.150794 P/O Weitendorf, W.H. (Pilot) (CAN) and crew reported to this Unit, from No. 61 (RCAF) Base, for Operational duties.		
	2nd Oct.		J.87805 P/O J. Costes (A/C) (CAN) screened, today, from further Operations, on completion of a successful tour. Stand-by for Operations, all day, with limited training exercises. The Squadron now has all its aircraft equipped with R.2.S., so that the spare gunners will have slim pickings, from now on.		
	3rd Oct.		J.21334 P/O A. Ferstman (Nav.) (CAN), J.87470 P/O E.W. Carefoot (A/C) (CAN), J.87569 P/O J.B.A. Lamoureux (A/C) (CAN), J.87436 P/O P.G. Lewis (A/C) (CAN) and J.88100 P/O D.M. Hendrie (A/C) (CAN), all screened personnel, who were to proceed to Brackles, now posted to Warrington for repatriation to Canada. Stand-by for Operations, all day. As aircraft were bombed up, only limited training carried out. Word received that J.19650 P/O W.E. Woodrow (Pilot) (CAN) and 1434385 Sgt. R.H. Aiano (A/C) (RAF), who went missing on a raid to LONTZEN, are now presumed to have been killed.		
	4th Oct.		Fifteen aircraft took off in the early hours of the morning and, without loss, successfully raided BERGHE. The crews reported weather over target was clear, with good visibility. The attack was very concentrated and two large explosions were seen. Only slight flak was encountered. C.86244 P/O J.A. Bruce (P/O) (CAN) screened from further Operations, on completion of a tour.		
	5th Oct.		No Operations, today. Extensive training program being followed out. Information received that 1592318 Sgt. Howcroft, A. (A/C) (RAF), who went missing on a raid on DUESMIDORF on 22nd April, 1944, is now presumed dead.		
	6th Oct.		Operations were called, for a night 'do'. However, further word came through, asking for a maximum effort at a much earlier time. Through heroic efforts, on the part of everyone, it was managed to get twenty aircraft off, the other two which were pledged could not be fueled or bombed in time for take-off. There was one early return and the balance of the crews reported that it was a good raid, with the target being well pranged.		
	7th Oct.		The following were screened, after completing a successful tour of Operations, J.25178 P/O (A/P/L) N.G. MacLeod (Pilot) (CAN), J.24058 P/O J. Peters (Nav.) (CAN).		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944 7th Oct.		J.27147 P/O H. Zellen (A/B) (CAN), J.85737 P/O T. Clements (WOP/AG) (CAN), J.87013 P/O D.H. Ayres (A/G) (CAN), J.87117 P/O M.R.C. Grant (A/G) (CAN) and 175222 P/O G.T. Richardson (P/E) (RAF) -- a good crew whose work has been outstanding. No Operations, today. Squadron was called on for twenty-one aircraft, but effort was scrubbed before battle order was issued.		
	8th Oct.		No Operations, nor even training -- the weather was that bad. Seventh Victory Bond Drive started with a bang. Squadron personnel subscribed very well and over 50% of our quota was filled the first day.		
	9th Oct.		Fifteen aircraft scheduled for Operations, tonight. All returned safely from a good attack on BOCHUM.		
	10th Oct.		No flying, today, due to adverse weather conditions. Victory Bond drive in full swing.		
	11th Oct.		Word received of appointments to Commissions of R.83644 Sgt. Joiner, R.C. (P/X) (CAN), given new number, C.89437, R.169335 P/S Woolf, D.D. (WOP/AG) (CAN), given new number, J.89439, R.160288 P/S Oge, J.B. (Nav.) (CAN), allotted new personal number, J.89480. No flying, due to continued bad weather. Advice received that J.24699 P/O T.R. Forryth (Nav.) (CAN), missing from a raid on MONTZEN on 28th April, 1944, is dead. Reclassified 'missing, believed killed'. Word also received that R.152029 Sgt. Green, R.C. (A/G) (CAN) and J.19424 P/O R.O. Johnston (Pilot) (CAN), who went missing on 29th January, 1944, and three unidentified personnel, believed to be from the same crew, are dead. Reclassified 'missing, believed killed in action'.		
	12th Oct.		Eighteen aircraft were detailed for night Operations, but effort was cancelled, at briefing. Word received that 1566670 Sgt. Bothwell, J.R. (A/G) (RAF), missing from Operations on 29th January, 1944, is now officially presumed dead. Notice received of J.9532 P/L H.M. Smith (Pilot) (CAN) appointment to Acting Squadron Leader with effect from 3rd October, 1944.		
	13th Oct.		Advice received that R.169219 P/S Massicote, G.O. (A/B) (CAN), missing from Operations on 16th June, 1944, is dead - reclassified 'missing, believed killed'. Victory Bond sales at 32,000 dollars, today. Word received that R.119277 WO.1 Butler, H.C. (WOP/AG) (CAN) appointed to Commissioned rank and given personal number, J.89434.		
	14th Oct.		Twenty aircraft detailed for early morning raid on DUISBURG. All returned safely. Crews reported 8/10ths cloud over target, resulting in scattered bombing over large area. Flak intense.		

W.D. BOMBING RECORD 10/40 C.B.L. 51-728

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944 14th Oct.		Word received that J.85344 P/O R.G. Carter (A/C) (CAN), missing from Operations on 25th July, 1944, is dead - reclassified 'missing, believed killed'. R.212324 Sgt. Smith, W.C. (A/C) (CAN) appointed to a Commission and given personal number, J.89438. Operations were scheduled, again, tonight, and seventeen aircraft again attacked DUISBURG. All returned safely from what is considered an excellent effort.		
	15th Oct.		Operations were called for and eight aircraft attacked WILHELMSHAVEN. From this Operation, one aircraft failed to return and J.35145 P/O A.M. Park (Pilot) (CAN) and crew are listed as 'missing'. Flying times, for the skipper, are as follows: 4 Sorties, 25 Hours.		
	16th Oct.		No Operations and no flying training, due to bad weather.		
	17th Oct.		Word received that 657036 P/S Moody, G.T. (WCE/AG) (RAF), 1499168 Sgt. Carter, G.F. (A/C) (RAF) and 1562336 Sgt. McIver, J. (P/B) (RAF), who went missing on 29th January, 1944, are officially presumed dead. C.18115 P/O L.K. James (P/B) (CAN) posted to this Squadron, from No. 1666 Com. Unit, for Flight Engineer Leader duties. A first delivery of ten Lancasters flew in, today, in readiness for a quick conversion. No Operations -- training, only.		
	18th Oct.		The C.O. decided to operate 'A' Flight on Halifaxes, whilst 'B' Flight converts to Lancasters. Eight aircraft detailed for Operations. However, the effort was later cancelled. A dance was held in the Officers' Mess, tonight, and was considered a success, in every respect.		
	19th Oct.		Operations were detailed for a very early take-off, but the raid was cancelled, during briefing. Flying activity confined to 'B' Flight, who have started to convert to Lancasters. Notice received that the following members of No. 431 Squadron have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross: 126901 P/L D.B. Moyes (Nav.) (RAF), 168975 P/O A. Pitt (Nav.) (RAF), A.416549 P/O W.G. Craig (Pilot) (AUS), J.22852 P/O C.A. Greene (A/B) (CAN), 145467 P/O E. Lainsbury (A/C) (RAF) and 168954 P/O J. Geddes (Nav.) (RAF).		
	20th Oct.		Weather very poor, all day. Operations were called for eight aircraft and then postponed. Flying training was not carried out. Ground school, for those converting to Lancasters, occupied the whole day.		
	21st Oct.		Information received that J.87553 P/O W.M. Aldred (Pilot) (CAN), who went missing on night of 28/29th July, 1944, on a raid on HAMBOURG, is now believed killed. Word received that		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	19 4 4				
	21st Oct.		183056 P/O L. Ellis (WOP/AG) (RAF), who went missing on a raid on STEERAGE, on night of 16/17th June, 1944, is now a Prisoner of War.		
	22nd Oct.		Operations detailed, then cancelled. Lancaster training carried out, along with two cross-countries, for new crews, in Halifaxes.		
	23rd Oct.		Nine aircraft were detailed for Operations against ESEN. All took off. There was one early return, due to severe icing. The other aircraft reported that, in spite of 10/10ths cloud over the target, very good results were achieved.		
	24th Oct.		Notice received that R.112020 Sgt. Perry, J.F.L. (A/C) (CAN), who went missing on a raid to MONTZEN on 28th April, 1944, and J.39861 P/O T.H. Grant (A/C) (CAN), missing from a raid to HAMBURG on night of 28/29th July, 1944, are now Prisoners of War. Three aircraft were detailed for Operations. However, raid was scrubbed, before take-off.		
	25th Oct.		Five aircraft carried out raid on HAMBURG and all returned safely. Weather was poor for the trip and the crews were forced to bomb through 10/10ths cloud and searchlights were used by P.F.F. On a Lancaster training flight, J.88632 P/O G.P. Wrigley (Pilot) (CAN) and crew, Flying SB-S KB.813, crashed, near Tingreth Village, from unknown reasons, and the entire crew was killed. This crew had only just reached the Squadron and did not have any operations to its credit.		
	26th Oct.		Word received that 931998 Sgt. J.E. Prosser (W/E) (RAF), who went missing on the night of 28/29th July, 1944, on a raid to HAMBURG, is now believed killed. Weather very poor, all day. No Operations and no training. S/O V. Day, from No. 6 Group Headquarters, visited the Squadron to discuss the Forms 540 and 541 and the work attached to the compiling of each. It was agreed that the paper work, in the Squadrons, was very heavy and so the Form 540 will, in future, be reduced to a minimum. A suggestion was put forward, by R.190048 LAC Hawkes, R.W. (Clk/Gen.) (CAN) that a copy of the intelligence report, together with a copy of the Battle Order, would completely eliminate the Form 541, yet retaining the necessary information. Perhaps, however, this solution is too simple. If a way could be figured to eliminate the Form 540, the over-worked, short-staffed Orderly Room personnel and even the broken-down typewriters would smile again.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	19 & 27th Oct.		No Operations. Weather good and extensive training carried out on both Lancasters and Halifaxes. Five Lancasters took part on a Bullseye, at night. Word received that R.169893 Sgt. Ruthven, J.R.A. (A/C) (CAN), who went missing on a raid to Berlin on 29th December, 1943, is now presumed dead.		
	28th Oct.		No Operations, for this Squadron. Weather good, so extensive training carried out, during the day. Final Victory Loan total, 42,200 dollars, from 254 sales -- a good response, from the Iroquois Squadron.		
	29th Oct.		Good flying weather and training continued. The Squadron now has sixteen Lancasters and 'A' Flight have now started the Ground School instruction necessary for the operation of these aircraft. No Operations detailed for this Squadron.		
	30th Oct.		Continued training on Lancasters carried out. 'B' Flight is now devoting all their time to the conversion.		
	31st Oct.		Weather good for flying. Extensive training, only, -- no Operations.		
PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON					
Officers					
			Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total
R.C.A.F.			128	2	130
R.A.F.			20	-	20
R.A.A.F.			1	-	1
Total			149	2	151
Airmen					
			Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total
R.C.A.F.			95	-	95
R.A.F.			22	-	22
Total			117	-	117

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944 31st Oct.		<u>POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS</u>			
			F/O	J.C. Henry J.14687	Posted from No. 61 Base w.e.f. 26-9-44.	
			F/O	C.T. Williams J.37199	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	J.W. LeBlanc J.27403	" " " " " " "	
			F/O (A/P/L)	R.W. Harrison J.25826	" " No. 64 Base " 21-9-44.	
			F/O	D.R. Turner J.37168	" " No. 61 Base " 10-10-44.	
			F/O	J.F. Duggan J.35871	" " " " " " 9-10-44.	
			F/O	G.A. Zubeck J.39003	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	G.D. McLean J.33407	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	W.A. Glowacki J.37206	" " " " " " 30-9-44.	
			F/O	G.P. Wrigley J.38632	" " " " " " 10-10-44.	
			F/O	L.K. James G.13115	" " No. 1666 C.U. " 18-10-44.	
			F/O	R. Packer 168971	" " No. 64 Base " 11-10-44.	
			F/O	R.D. Lawson 135113	" " " " " " 11-10-44.	
			<u>POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS</u>			
			F/O	J.D. Fetherston J.35181	Posted to No. 82 C.F.U. w.e.f. 30-9-44.	
			F/O (A/P/L)	R.W. Harrison J.25826	" " No. 64 Base " 12-9-44.	
			F/O	R.R. White J.23879	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	W. Nicolson 132430	" " No. 415 Sqn. " 1-10-44.	
			F/O	J.H. Page 151076	" " A.C.A.C. " 6-10-44.	
			F/O	A. Ferstman J.21354	" " R.O.P. 'E' Depot " 3-10-44.	
			F/O	R.W. Carefoot J.87470	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	J.B. Lemoureux J.36569	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	F.G. Lewis J.37436	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	D.M. Hendrie J.38100	" " " " " " "	
			F/O	W. Chumick J.87123	" " No. 420 Sqn. w.e.f. 10-10-44.	
			F/O	R.K. MacDonald J.86567	" " " " " " "	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944	31st Oct.	POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS (Continued)		
			P/O R.G. Tomlin J.87127 Posted to No. 420 Sqn. w.e.f. 10-10-44.		
			P/O R. Dorland J.17930 " " HCAF 'R' Depot " 2-10-44.		
			P/O J.D. Kingston J.36943 " " No. 64 Base " 1-10-44.		
			P/O H. Zellen J.27147 " " " " " "		
			P/O O.M. Gilmour 136910 " " A.C.A.C. " 14-10-44.		
			P/O I.H. Elcock 176496 " " " " " "		
			P/O J.I. Roche C.85348 " " No. 415 Sqn. " 1-10-44.		
			P/O T.R.C. O'Donnor 53680 " " No. 432 Sqn. " 17-10-44.		
			P/O W.J. Hynds J.25118 " " HCAF 'R' Depot " 23-10-44.		
			POSTINGS IN - AIRMEN (AIRBORNE)		
			WO.1 Butler, H.G. R.449277 Posted from No. 61 Base w.e.f. 26-9-44.		
			Sgt. Gregory, K.L. R.254362 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Gordon, S. R.183337 " " " " " "		
			P/S Weitendorf, W.H. R.158794 " " " " " 30-9-44.		
			P/S Kirkham, J.W. R.111593 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Porter, R.W. R.143690 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Farnden, R.H. R.254213 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Stavenjord, H. R.196860 " " " " " 5-10-44.		
			P/S Gillis, R.R.K. R.176637 " " " " " 10-10-44.		
			P/S Schwerdfager, J. R.161990 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Irwin, H.E. R.206042 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Malsideck, A. R.252096 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Yerdon, H.E. R.207939 " " " " " "		
			P/S Gotfrid, H.H. R.115041 " " " " " 9-10-44.		
			Sgt. Root, C.E. R.261128 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Ketcham, J.D. R.139324 " " " " " "		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944	31st Oct.	<u>POSTINGS IN - AIRMAN (AIRCRAFT)</u> (Continued)			
			WO.1	Murray, D.L.	R.140806	Posted from No. 61 Base w.o.f. 10-10-44.
			Sgt.	Green, E.E.	R.132335	" " " " " " "
			Sgt.	Thomson, E.L.	R.212636	" " " " " " "
			Sgt.	Bogan, T.A.	R.135286	" " " " " " "
			Sgt.	Roberts, D.C.	R.206165	" " " " " " "
			Sgt.	Riddell, A.W.	R.203270	" " " " " " "
			Sgt.	Baker, J.C.	1605443	" " " " " " 26-9-44.
			Sgt.	Game, G.W.	1250580	" " " " " " 30-9-44.
			Sgt.	Bentley, J.H.	3005762	" " " " " " 9-10-44.
			Sgt.	Smith, F.L.	1521687	" " " " " " 10-10-44.
			<u>POSTINGS OUT - AIRMAN (AIRCRAFT)</u>			
			Sgt.	Munro, T.R.	R.274706	Posted to No. 425 Sqn. w.o.f. 10-10-44.
			Sgt.	Tipple, F.G.	R.271562	" " No. 420 Sqn. " 11-10-44.
			F/S	Hains, H.J.	R.192633	" " HCAF "H" Depot " 23-10-44.
			F/S	Brown, A.G.	R.190761	" " " " " " 23-10-44.
			F/S	Clardy, A.C.	H.53649	" " " " " " 23-10-44.
			F/S	Robinson, J.	1614506	" " No. 415 Sqn. " 1-10-44.
			<u>CASUALTIES</u>			
			F/O	A.M. Park	J.35145	Missing w.o.f. 15-10-44.
			F/O	W.H. Sanders	J.35040	" " " " " "
			F/O	J.G. Hagell	J.27167	" " " " " "
			F/S	Mara, S.	R.212967	" " " " " "
			F/S	Proudfoot, D.H.	R.208651	" " " " " "
			F/S	Mann, W.G.	R.191926	" " " " " "
			Sgt.	Oldroyd, T.H.	1892056	" " " " " "

P. STRAUCHER BDM 12/48 C.E.L. 81-778

OBSERVATION RECORD BOOK

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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Croft	1944	31st Oct.	<u>CASUALTIES</u> (Continued)					
			P/O	G.P. Wrigley	J. 88632	Killed	25-10-44.	
			P/S	Gillis, R.K.	R. 176657	"	25-10-44.	
			P/S	Schwerdfager, J.	R. 161990	"	25-10-44.	
			Sgt.	Irwin, H.R.	R. 206042	"	25-10-44.	
			P/S	Kalaidack, A.	R. 252096	"	25-10-44.	
			Sgt.	Yerdon, H.R.J.	R. 207939	"	25-10-44.	
			Sgt.	Smith, F.A.	1621687	"	25-10-44.	
			<u>PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS</u>					
			P/O	A.W. Morris	J. 19691	Promoted to Temporary P/O w.e.f.	26-7-44.	
			P/O	W.R.B. Way	J. 41352	" " " P/L	1-8-44.	
			P/O	A.L. Mills	J. 40211	" " " P/C	15-6-44.	
			P/O	P.T. Buroh	J. 13392	" " " P/L	17-8-44.	
			P/O	R.V. Currie	J. 88935	Commissioned w.e.f.	6-8-44.	
			P/O	J.R. Hurly	J. 88936	"	6-8-44.	
			P/O	G.W. Janson	J. 88992	"	6-8-44.	
			P/O	A.A. Low	J. 88953	"	20-8-44.	
			P/O	H.I. Jardine	J. 89000	"	23-8-44.	
			P/O	E.J. Goad	184492	"	5-9-44.	
			P/O	H.G. Butler	J. 89434	"	2-9-44.	
			P/O	R.G. Joiner	G. 89437	"	5-9-44.	
			P/O	J.B. Ogg	J. 89400	"	6-8-44.	
			P/O	J.J. Fenuta	J. 89396	"	5-9-44.	
			P/O	M.C. Smith	J. 89438	"	5-9-44.	
			P/O	D.D. Wooff	J. 89439	"	5-9-44.	
			P/O	P.R. Young	J. 89142	"	6-8-44.	
			P/O	C.J. Kelly	J. 89715	"	20-8-44.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944	51st. Co.	<u>PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS</u> (Continued)		
			F/L H.M. Smith J.9532 Appointed to Acting S/L w.e.f. 30-8-44.		
			<u>HONOURS & AWARDS</u>		
			F/L D.B. Moyes 126901 Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.		
			F/O A. Pitt 168275 " " " " "		
			F/O W.G. Craig A.416549 " " " " "		
			F/O G.A. Greene J.22852 " " " " "		
			F/O E. Leinobury 145467 " " " " "		
			F/O J. Geddes 168954 " " " " "		
			<u>OPERATIONAL SORTIES FOR OCTOBER</u> - 107.		
			<u>FLYING TIMES FOR OCTOBER</u> - Operational - 695.38 Hrs.		
			Non-operational - 401.06 Hrs.		
			<u>TONS OF BOMBS (2240) DROPPED DURING PERIOD</u>		
			From 1-1-44 to 30-9-44, inclusive	H.E. 66 M.2. 1023 G.P. 1994 Mines 33 Incendiaries 244	
			<u>TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING OCTOBER</u>	30 151 139 - 22	
			<u>TOTAL TO DATE</u>	96 1174 2133 33 266	
			<u>NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT</u> - 2.		
			Total number of enemy aircraft destroyed during the month of October - Nil.		
			Total number of enemy aircraft probably destroyed during the month of October - 1.		
			Total number of enemy aircraft damaged during the month of October - Nil.		
			<u>NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE</u> - 22.		
			<u>CHANGES IN COMMAND</u> - J.9532 F/L (A/S/L) H.M. Smith appointed Flight Commander w.e.f. 30-8-44.		
			<u>CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION</u> - Nil.		
			<u>SQUADRON COMMANDER'S RESUME</u>		
			October saw the commencement of our long-awaited conversion to Lancaster I aircraft. "B" Flight was the lucky flight and, by the end of the month, were operational, again, after a record		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>SECRET.</u>	
Groft	1944 31st Oct.		<p>conversion, which started on 15th October. On the 30th of the month, "A" Flight commenced its ground training, having received its first aircraft. Operational hours naturally suffered. Frequent diversions played their part in cutting down the operational time, with resulting unserviceability, away from base. In a period of 36 hours, the Squadron carried out two attacks on DUISBURG and one on WILHELMSHAVEN. Needless to say, the boys really appreciated a good rest. Training progressed very slowly, during the first two weeks, with the conversion giving it a decided impetus, at the end of the month. The net result was that we broke the '400' mark, for a change. The end of the month sees us looking forward to a big month, operationally, and a chance to show up the 'Hellies' in our brand new aircraft.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  (E.M. Mitchell) W/Odr., Officer Commanding, No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn. </p>	