

COMPLIING OFFICER Flt. Lt. R.M. Nickles
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1944				
Craft	1st Dec.		No operations - training only.		
	2nd Dec.		Sixteen aircraft carried out a raid on Haguenau. All returned safely though one aircraft landed away. 10/10 cloud over target did not permit of accurate assessment of the bombing. CAN J. 80459 P/O G.M. Giddings (Pilot) received the Immediate Distinguished Flying Cross.		
	3rd Dec.		Operations detailed and later scrubbed. The following were screened from operations on completions of tours: P/O R. Harrison (P), P/O McMillan (R), P/O Dickson (P/A), P/O Pinniger (W/C), P/S Trout, (A/C), P/S Ealer (A/C), P/S Good (P/X), P/O J. Hope (W/C) and P/O J.L. Hucly (B/A) 2nd tour.		
	4th Dec.		Fourteen aircraft successfully raided Karlsruhe. Although there was 10/10 clouds it was considered a good attack, many large fires were observed. All our aircraft returned safely.		
	5th Dec.		The following were screened from further operations to-day: CAN J36987 P/O E.M. Rescor (P), CAN J35049 P/O W.H. Poynter (NAV), CAN J35098 P/O G.E. JONES (B/A), CAN J89438 P/O W.C. Smith (A/C), CAN J89396 P/O J.J. Penuta (A/C), CAN P. 59877 SGT. R.B. Sexton (P/S), and CAN J49694 P/O A. W. Morris (NAV) 2nd tour. Fourteen aircraft carried out a successful raid on Soest. The weather being clear, the crews bombed visually the Red & Green T.I's. Many large fires were observed. It was generally conceded to be a very well concentrated raid. Word received that CAN J36330 P/O J.H. Abell (NAV) had been awarded an immediate Distinguished Flying Cross. Particulars of the incident: While on a raid to Verme Eickel, on 12th September, 1944 P/O Abell was severely wounded in the leg. Though himself incapacitated he rendered expert advice to the rest of the crew and as a result the aircraft was safely navigated back to base.		
	6th Dec.		The following were screened from operations to-day: CAN J91030 P/O K.F. Honey (A/C), CAN P. 91606 P/S J. A.W. Gurecki (A/C) and RAF 470227 P/O G.L. Thomas (P/S). Thirteen aircraft were detailed for a raid on Osnabruck. There was one non-starter, due to not being bombed on time - one early return due to oxygen failure in the rear turret. The balance successfully completed the mission. Due to cloud and haze over the target area the results were not easily discernable. A JU-88 was claimed by CAN J90498 P/O W. R. Cornell (MU/AG) and CAN J90611 P/O G. Supersta (B/W) of CAN J9532 P/O H.V. Smith's crew who blazed at the enemy.		

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Crest	1944				
	6th Dec.		night fighter and saw flames coming from the JU-88.		
	7th Dec.		No operations to-day - weather very poor all day. P.A.P. 135113 P/O R.D. Lawson (A/B) screened from further operations to-day after an exciting tour.		
	8th Dec.		No operations to-day.		
	9th Dec.		No operations to-day - stand by for ops in early morning which did not materialise. The London Times carried the news that the following members of 431 Squadron were awarded D.F.C's. S/L H.M. Smith, P/L Chisholm, P/L M.W. Moor, P/L H.C. Macleod and P/O A. Perzman.		
	10th Dec.		Operations detailed then scrubbed.		
	11th Dec.		Operations detailed but raid was cancelled just prior to take off.		
	12th Dec.		No operations to-day. Squadron participated in a "Group Gaggle".		
	13th Dec.		Squadron detailed for early morning raid which was scrubbed.		
	14th Dec.		Operations called then scrubbed.		
	15th Dec.		Seventeen aircraft successfully raided Ludwigslaven, all returned safely though diverted. Clear weather over the target helped considerably and many large fires and explosions were seen.		
	16th Dec.		Weather very poor - no flying to-day.		
	17th Dec.		The following were screened from further operations to-day: CAN J.37800 P/O B.A. Kennedy (P), CAN J.26374 P/O K.E. Davis (O), CAN J.38177 P/O M.A. Francis (B/A), CAN J.20789 P/O H.R. Liphart (W/C), CAN J.25826 P/O R.W. Harrison (P), CAN J.38888 P/O R.A. Taylor (A/B) and CAN J.37554 P/O R.J. Hooker (W/C). No operations to-day. Crews detailed for early morning operation 18th Dec.		
	18th Dec.		Thirteen aircraft took off and carried out a raid on Duisberg, all returned safely. Dense cloud was over target so that the crews were ordered to bomb the sky markers. Some of the crews were diverted upon return.		
	19th Dec.		Weather very poor all day due to intense fog. Operations detailed then scrubbed.		
	20th Dec.		Operations again called then cancelled due to fog. Word received that CAN #44395 WO1 G.W. Lemington (W/C), CAN J.39430 P/O S.C. Orr (W/C), CAN #48830 WO2 R.W. Page (A/B) and CAN J.20166 P/O J.T. Patterson (A/B) who went missing 1st November, 1944 on a raid to Oberhausen are now Prisoners of War. P.A.P. 466236 SGT. C. Heiver (P/B) who went missing on a raid to Berlin 28th January, 1944 is now presumed dead.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I.,
para. 1349 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX., and
also in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (P.O.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1944				
Croft	21st Dec.		Fourteen aircraft carried out a raid on Köln - all returned safely. Dense cloud over target and unpredictable changes in the winds layed the result of the raid pretty much to guess-work.		
	22nd Dec.		Standby for operations and an extensive training program occupied the whole day.		
	23rd Dec.		Squadron called for operations then effort was scrubbed. Ground training and lectures helped pass the day. R.A.F. personnel who could be spared departed for their leaves for Xmas, while the unfortunate Canadians gazed at the fog and wondered how you could tell it was near Xmas time.		
	24th Dec.		Fourteen aircraft took part in a raid on Düsseldorf all returned safely to England. Due to severe weather conditions all the aircraft were diverted, an unfortunate Xmas present to the crews participating.		
	25th Dec.		Because our aircraft were away we were not required for operations. A heavy Xmas was had by all.		
	26th Dec.		Our main force still away. However, operations were called for 5 aircraft. Raid was postponed several times and did not get off on this date. Enemy aircraft in vicinity of station during night.		
	27th Dec.		A stand by for 4 aircraft operation was finally scrubbed. Diverted aircraft returned and operations called for early morning on the 28th December, 1944.		
	28th Dec.		Twelve aircraft took off in moonlight for a raid on the railway marshalling yard at town of Opladen. All returned safely from what was considered a very successful attack.		
	29th Dec.		Thirteen aircraft carried out a successful raid on a synthetic oil plant at Scholven. Fires and large explosions were observed and it was generally considered a good prang.		
	30th Dec.		Word received that the following who went missing 22nd April, 1944, on a raid to Düsseldorf are now presumed dead: CAN J.86443 P/O P. Hetchman (W/C), CAN J.88774 P/O H.H. Lynch (A/B), CAN J.22743 P/O P.G.H. MacGregor (NAV) and CAN J.20280 P/O R.L. Lockhead (A/C) also CAN J.28355 P/O H.W. Pond (A/B) who went missing 27th April, 1944, on a raid to Montzen is also presumed dead.		
			Fourteen aircraft carried out a successful raid on Cologne. Due to heavy cloud over target the results were not easily discernable. All our aircraft returned safely.		
	31st Dec.		The following were screened from further operations to-day on completion of successful tours: CAN J.22776 P/L R. Tonnelier (P), CAN J.20157 P/O D.A. Shepherd (NAV), CAN J.35079 P/O S.K. Ball (B/A), CAN J.88026 P/O G.H. Cladish (W/C), CAN J.4352 P/O W.A.D. Toy (A/C), CAN J.39044 P/O P.B. Mitchell (A/B) and CAN J.56128 P/O H.W. Hancock (P/L).		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices	
Croft	1944 31st Dec		No operations to-day - training only and so on till 1944.			
<u>PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON</u>						
			<u>Officers</u>	<u>Aircrew</u>	<u>Groundcrew</u>	<u>Total</u>
			R.C.A.F.	142	2	144
			R.A.A.F.	23	-	23
			<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>167</u>
			<u>Airmen</u>	<u>Aircrew</u>	<u>Groundcrew</u>	<u>Total</u>
			R.C.A.A.F.	80	-	80
			R.A.A.F.	19	-	19
			<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS</u>						
P/O	J.W. Kopp	J.89848	Posted from No. 76 Base	R.C.A.F.	7-12-44	
P/O	I.C. MacCugan	J.40467	" " " " "	"	"	
P/O	F.N. Gaughlin	J.38529	" " " " "	"	"	
P/O	G.W. Glaholt	J.24128	" " " " "	"	"	
P/O	J.H. Scott	J.38256	" " " " "	"	"	
P/O	R.J. Hooker CM	J.87554	" " " 64 "	"	30/11/44	
<u>POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS</u>						
P/O	J.L. Ballantine	J.87631	Posted to No. 24 O.T.U.	R.C.A.F.	2/12/44	
P/O	B.V. Black	G.88210	" " " " "	"	"	
P/O	T.A. Rhodes	J.89976	" " RCAF 'R' Depot	"	11/12/44	
P/O	G.R. Dickson	J.25117	" " No. 62 Base	"	18/12/44	
P/O	G.W. Janson	G.88992	" " Aircrew School Dalton	"	14/12/44	
P/O	F.R. Young	J.89142	" " 1664 C.U.	"	18/12/44	

COMPLING OFFICER Flt. Lt. P.M. Nickles
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	9 4 44				
POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS (Cont'd.)					
P/O	J.E. Poste	J.35236	Posted to No. 1664 C.U.	w.o.f.	13/12/44
P/O	P.J. Purley	J.35426	" " " 64 Base	"	5/12/44
P/O	C.W. Graham	451241	" " " 76 Squadron	"	17/12/44
P/O	G.L. Thomas	178227	" " " 1666 C.U.	"	22/12/44
P/O	D.W. Gourley	J.86353	" " RCAF 'H' Depot	"	11/12/44
P/O	J.L. Panuta	J.89596	" " No. 22 C.F.U.	"	22/12/44
P/O	W.P. Pinniger	J.87862	" " No. 1664 C.U.	"	21/12/44
P/O	G.L. Quinlan	J.88459	" " No. 22 C.F.U.	"	20/12/44
P/O	T.D. Rowe	J.36119	" " " "	"	"
POSTINGS IN - AIRMEN (AIRBORN)					
P/S	Lehman, P.E.	R.169523	Posted from No. 76 Base	w.o.f.	7/12/44
Sgt	Eltherington, S.J.	R.1594072	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Hoffman, L.E.	R.222937	" " " "	"	"
P/S	Meddings, D.	R.157295	Posted from No. 64 Base	"	2/12/44
Sgt	Dalley, H.E.	R.216172	" " " 78 "	"	1/12/44
P/S	Shaw, F.	R.1452657	" " No. 64 "	"	9/12/44
P/S	McCarthy, P.E.	R.222937	" " " 78 "	"	7/12/44
W/I	Laourie, J.W.	R.121605	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Storry, G.F.	R.124216	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Akmanuk, A.	R.259051	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Edwards, H.P.	R.197232	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Howard, C.S.	R.270283	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Morgan, H.C.	R.122142	" " " "	"	"
P/S	Kleinman, H.J.	R.170717	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Lulbrook, H.A.	R.222527	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Baxter, D.A.	R.211728	" " " "	"	"
Sgt	Bone, G.E.	R.198524	" " " "	"	"
Sgt.	Dickson, W.S.	R.202165	" " " "	"	"
POSTINGS OUT - AIRMEN (AIRBORN)					
P/S	Murison, T.	R.215076	Posted to No. 64 Base	w.o.f.	5/12/44

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944		<u>POSTINGS OUT - AIRMEN (AIRCRES) (Cont'd)</u>		
			P/S Dowe, D.H. R.66024 Posted to No. 64 Base	W.C.F.	11/12/44
			P/S Evans, A.J. R.205176 " " RCAF 'R' Depot	"	11/12/44
			P/S Allen, W.J. R.118942 " " " " "	"	"
			Sgt Walby, J. 4868354 " / No. 434 (RCAF) Sqn.	"	11/12/44
			<u>CASUALTIES 'MIA'</u>		
			<u>PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS</u>		
			P/O F.L. Honey J.91030 Commissioned	W.C.F.	16/10/44
			P/O K.E.J. Reichert J.91079 " "	"	16/10/44
			P/O S.A. Gray 188111 " "	"	24/9/44
			P/O A.C. Harris 187961 " "	"	29/10/44
			P/O H. Keen 189093 " "	"	8/11/44
			P/O P. Williams 56303 " "	"	29/10/44
			P/O S. Morris 175875 Promoted to War Sub. P/O	"	29/10/44
			P/O K.R. West J.92548 Commissioned	"	16/10/44
			P/O J. Hope J.86678 Promoted to Temp. P/O	"	29/10/44
			P/O R.E. Beer J.92506 Commissioned	"	28/10/44
			P/O H.C. Bishop J.92591 " "	"	8/11/44
			P/O J.V. Dempsey J.92263 " "	"	28/10/44
			P/O L.F. Babree G.92604 " "	"	14/11/44
			P/O J.F. Hoppenstall J.92261 " "	"	28/10/44
			P/O R.W.R. Kerr J.92629 " "	"	28/10/44
			P/O J.H.P. Lafreniere J.92531 " "	"	28/10/44
			P/O J.E. Metcalfe J.92585 " "	"	28/10/44
			P/O D.L. Murray J.92255 " "	"	2/10/44
			P/O R.H. Ross J.92554 " "	"	28/10/44

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 640

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes on R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) _____

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices				
Croft	1944		PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (Cont'd)						
			P/O J.E. Scherzinger J.22168 Commissioned	W.S.F.	2/10/44				
			P/O R.E. Sexton G.92000	"	7/11/44				
			P/O J.E. Stewart J.92520	"	"				
			P/O L.L. Thomson J.92416	"	17/11/44				
			HONOURS AND AWARDS						
			P/O G.J. Quinlan J.92459 Awarded the Immediate Distinguished Flying Cross	"	1/12/44				
			P/O J.W. Abell J.36130 " The-Immediate	"	4/12/44				
			P/O G.D. Brittain J.87345 " Non-Immediate	"	17/12/44				
			P/O A. Forstman J.21354 " " "	"	"				
			P/O H.C. McFlear J.97070 " " "	"	"				
			P/L H.C. MacLeod J.25170 " " "	"	"				
			P/O G.H. Browning G.97525 " " "	"	"				
			P/O A.H. Phillips J.25744 " " "	"	"				
			P/O M. Chisholm J.27672 " " "	"	"				
			P/L H.M. Smith J.9532 " " "	"	"				
			P/O L. Peters J.21050 " " "	"	"				
			OPERATIONAL SORTIES FOR DECEMBER - 153						
			FLYING TIME FOR DECEMBER - OPERATIONAL	Day	Night				
				76.48	906.44				
			NON-OPERATIONAL	193.34	42.28				
			TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING PERIOD (22/0)	H.E.	S.A.P.	M.C.	G.P.	MINES	INCENDS.
			From 1/1/44 to 30/11/44, inclusive	271	-	224.2	2152	33	321
			TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING DECEMBER	225	114	177	134	-	95
			TOTAL TO DATE	496	114	2149	2286	33	416
			NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT - 2						
			Total number of enemy aircraft destroyed during the month of December - 111						
			Total number of enemy aircraft probably destroyed during the month of December - 111						
			Total number of enemy aircraft damaged during the month of December - 111						

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