

R.A.F. Form 540  
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 in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

Compiling Officer: Flt. Lt. R.M. McLean, M.C.B., 1943

Operations Record Book

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

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8239

No. of pages used for day

SH7.20-431  
DAS

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Graft	1.2.45		Eleven aircraft took off and successfully raided <del>Munich</del> <sup>Rudnicken</sup> . Only light cloud and haze over target. This allowed for accurate bombing, so the target was well pranged. All our aircraft returned safely. Limited training flights carried out to-day.		
	2.2.45		Thirteen aircraft raided <del>Wiesbaden</del> tonight. Cloud and high wind over the target did not allow for accurate assessment of the results. All the aircraft returned safely from this trip. This operation was made difficult by poor weather, icing etc.. Training flights were carried out during the day and night. RCAF 148778 P/O D. Prosser (W/OP) was screened after a long and successful tour of operations.		
	3.2.45		The following were screened from further operations to-day. Can. J.27291 P/O H.E. Williamson (Pilot) Can. J.29332 P/O G.W. Saunders (Navigator) Can. J.36891 P/O A.M. Hesner (Air Bomber) Can. J.90211 P/O A.H. Mills (W/Operator)		
			There were no operations called, and fighter affiliation and bombing details were flown by training aircraft.		
	4.2.45		The following were screened from further operations to-day. Can. J.90897 P/O C.N. McInroy (Gunner) Can. J.29694 P/O L.M. Townsend (W/Operator)		
			<del>Twelve</del> aircraft were detailed to attack BONN. All returned safely from a quiet trip, with no opposition. The following were screened from operations: Can. R.218270 P/S W.G. Birnorthy (Gunner) Can. R.211821 P/S E.J. Graham (Gunner)		
	5.2.45		RCAF 1488111 P/D S.A. Gray (W/Operator) Operations were called for tonight and the crews briefed, but the operation was cancelled before take-off. The crews are wondering how many trips they will have to do in order to finish their tours as a new "point" system is to be introduced. Further information is not yet forthcoming.		

**SECRET.**References  
to  
Appendices

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
Groft	6.2.45		No operations were called early in the day, but a 'Battle Order' was prepared for the next morning. "A Good-Work Effort" Eight aircrew N.C.O.'s were interviewed for their commissions to-day by W/Oms Davenport. Two lectures were held in the afternoon for crews. (i) "The Automatic Pilot" (ii) "Bomb Fuses"
	7.2.45		Ops called at noon, for a night take-off. <sup>Twelve aircraft, seven return.</sup> Thirteen aircraft attacked an Army Co-Operation target with successful results. All our aircraft returned safely. The Press Relations Photographers were around the sections obtaining pictures of aircrew for their home newspapers.
	8.2.45		Thirteen aircraft were detailed for operations, but this was cancelled in the afternoon due to adverse weather conditions and an impending gale warning.
	9.2.45		These aircrew lectures were held in the morning. Met, Intelligence, and Intruder Tactics. Operations were called for at noon, but cancelled before briefing.
	10.2.45		Squadron Leader Brandon of No. 100 Group lectured to the crews in the morning on FORMATION and OPERATION of 100 Group. Operations were again called for, and everything prepared for a night take-off, but this was cancelled after briefing.
	11.2.45		Word received that Sqn.J. 86186 F/O D.B. Connor (Pilot) and Sqn.C. 89937 F/O R.C. Joiner (P/Mg.) both missing from operations on OBERSHAUSEN on November 1st, 1944 are known to be dead. Operations were called and thirteen aircraft laid on, but bad weather caused all flying early. For the last three days, Met. and Daily Intelligence Reports have been read to crews in the mornings, thus keeping all informed of the war news.
	12.2.45		The weather was poor all day, continually raining. No aircraft were called for operations. Crews had a general critical discussion with the Flight Commander on improvements around the flights in the morning. In the afternoon a film show was held in the station theatre.
	13.2.45		14 aircraft took off for a raid on DUESSELDORF. There was one early return and the other 13 pressed on and through very light cloud, really pranged the target. 90 miles an hour head wind on return kept the aircraft airborne for over 10 hours, so it was a very weary group that piled into bed early, for only as it turned out, a few hours sleep at best. Little or no opposition was met with over the target and only the long time in the air marred a pleasant ride.

Comptroller officer: Flt. Lt. R.M. [unclear]

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para. 1540 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and  
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of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft.....	14.2.45		Thirteen aircraft took off for a raid on Chemnitz, deep in Germany. All the aircraft returned safely. There was cloud over the target, so sky markers were used and the raid was generally considered a success.		
	15.2.45		No operations today. Training flights only. Bad ground haze, and then fog at night.		
	16.2.45		No flying today. Film and lecture on Interrogation of P.O.W. Some information from the IROCC, J.7760 Flt Lt. R.P. Mead and J.21510 F/O L.G. Webley missing from operations to mine St. Pierre on May 8th, 1944, reclassified missing, believed killed.		
	18.2.45		Squadron paraded at 0800 hours for inspection by the Station Commander. Can. J.28355 F/O H.W. Pond, missing from ops., April 27/28th, 1944 on a raid on Mons-en-Baroeul, is now presumed killed on that date, also Can.J.90007 F/O A.E. Yarington, missing from ops., to Louvain on May 12/13th, 1944 is now presumed killed on that date. Six aircraft were out on I/C exercises, and local flying was carried out.		
	19.2.45		Ref. 931998 Sgt. J.E. Prosser, reported missing on operations to Hamburg on the 28/29th July, 1944 is now presumed dead. Some flying training, but was cut short by weather closing in.		
	20.2.45		After a change of target, bomb load, and petrol, 14 aircraft took off to carry out an attack on Dortmund. All them were airborne at 2145 hours. No early returns.		
	21.2.45		One aircraft SE "a" KB 809 - Pilot Can.J.89848 F/O J.W. Korp and crew failed to return from the operation on Dortmund. He had completed nine trips with a total of 16 points. The remainder of the aircraft were down at base at 0453 hrs. Low cloud over the target prevented accurate assessment of the damage. A bright moon above the clouds brought out many fighters, and Can.B.201144 F/S M.S. Jowett (W/C) and Can.B224804 F/S D.E. Syme-Vaughan (P/C) in A/C "a" KB 847 with Can.B.16510 F/L B.M. Keglaney as the Pilot claimed one Ju88 destroyed and one Ju88 probably destroyed.		
			14 aircraft detailed for operations, with DUISBURG as the target. All the aircraft were airborne at 1935 hours.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<b>SECRET.</b>	References to Appendices
Groft...	22.2.45		All our aircraft returned safely from the Duisburg raid. It was generally considered a good prang, and all our aircraft bombed the primary. Can. J.9532 S/Ldr. H.M. Smith (Pilot) assumed command of the Squadron, for the duration of W/Cdr. R.F. Davenport's leave.		
	23.2.45		Twelve aircraft were detailed for an attack on PFAZERHEIM. All were airborne at 1541 hours. The remainder of the serviceable aircraft were used for flying training including one night Gross Country.		
	24.2.45		All our aircraft returned safely to this country after an excellent attack on PFAZERHEIM. All the aircraft were airborne on this operation at 1541 hours. One aircraft ID 808 was, with J.35426 P/O F.J. Hurley as the Captain landed at Monson, due to damage suffered through being hit by incendiaries dropped on the aircraft. No operations called for, but bags of training.		
	25.2.45		Flying training only.		
	26.2.45		14 aircraft put in 35.35 hours in training. Battle Order for 17 + 1 spare crews ready for early morning.		
	27.2.45		All on Battle Order called at 0530 hours after Navigation Briefing at 0630 hours and Main Briefing at 0730 hours. Take-off was put back from 0930 hours till 1230 hours. All our aircraft were airborne at 1230 hours for MAINE. The following personnel missing on operations to Versailles on June 7/8th, 1944 are now presumed killed. Can.J.28857 P/O H.A. Morrison Can.J.85356 P/O G.B. Joas Can.J.25531 P/O P.J. Gandy Can.J.85350 P/O J.P. Artyukh Can.J.87245 P/O W.R. Mullin. All our aircraft returned safely from MAINE. General opinion being that bombing was scattered and the raid not very successful.		
	28.2.45		15 aircraft detailed for raid today. They were airborne at 0902 hours. At 1000 hours the aircraft were recalled, each aircraft having to jettison 1 x 4,000 lb bomb out at sea in order to lessen landing load.		

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## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 15

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
<b>CROFTS</b>					
<b>PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON</b>					
			OFFICERS AIRCREW Total		
			R.C.A.F. 137	137	
			R.A.F. 16	16	
			TOTAL 153	153	
			AIRCREW AIRCREW		
			R.C.A.F. 100	100	
			R.A.F. 22	22	
			TOTAL 122	122	
<b>GROUND CREW OFFICERS (1) Adjutant</b>					
<b>GROUND CREW AIRCREW N I L</b>					
<b>POSTING IN - OFFICERS</b>					
P/O	K. G. Glavin	J. 36290	Posted from No. 76 Base W.O.F. 31.1.45		
P/O	A. F. Marchine	J. 41657			
P/O	S. A. Reid	J. 38369	Posted from No. 76 Base W.O.F. 6.2.45		
P/O	J. H. Feldhans	J. 42496			
P/O	H. J. Beaton	J. 42250			
P/O	J. S. Patterson	J. 57053			
P/O	A. G. Verner	J. 88353			
P/L	D. G. Gonyea	J. 12557	Posted from No. 76 Base W.O.F. 12.2.45		
P/O	H. P. Lunn	J. 90635			
P/L	H. W. Dale	J. 5314	Posted from No. 64 Base W.O.F. 10.2.45		
P/L	J. W. Alfred	J. 3745	Posted from No. 76 Base W.O.F. 22.2.45		
P/O	F. Lusaganyi	J. 43028			
P/O	G. J. Polka	J. 19894			

SECRET

REF ID: A2748

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
<b>POSTING OUT - OFFICERS</b>					
P/O	D.L. Gignac	J.88222	Posted to RCAF "H" Depot w.e.f. 16.1.45		
P/O	J.R. Hurley	J.88936			
P/O	R.V. Currie	J.88925			
P/O	R. Harrison	J.16686			
P/O	H.M. Ressor	J.86987			
P/O	J.N. Mc Arthur	J.92678			
P/O	J. Hope	J.86678			
P/O	W.G. Smith	J.89438			
P/O	K.F. Honey	J.91058			
P/O	R.B. Sexton	G.92090			
P/O	A.P. Buchala	J.25362	Posted to 1659 C.U. w.e.f. 5.2.45		
P/O	K.J. Taylor	J.88888	Posted to 1666 C.U. w.e.f. 5.2.45		
P/L	H.W. Dale	J.53114	Posted to No. 64 Base w.e.f. 26.1.45		
P/O	W.H. Weitendorf	J.89935	Posted to No. 405 PFF Squadron w.e.f. 3.2.45		
P/O	W.A. Glowacki	J.37205			
P/O	J.W. Kirkham	J.93114			
P/O (A/P/L)	R.W. Harrison	J.25326	Posted to RCAF "H" Depot w.e.f. 23.1.45		
P/O	R.A. MacWhinney	J.23380			
P/O	A.C. Pitzen	J.88577			
P/O	R.J. Hooker (GM)	J.87554			
P/O	R.A. Brown	J.22587			
P/O	G.W. Moseley	J.92522			
P/O (A/B/L)	F.R. Guillemin	G.24448	Posted to RCAF G/B HQ. w.e.f. 7.1.45		
P/O	K.E. Davis	J.16574	Posted to RCAF "H" DEPOT w.e.f. 1.2.45		
P/O	A.J. MacLeod	J.29616			
P/O	S.K. Hall	J.35079			
P/O	J.P. Hendren	J.29379			

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Crafts					
			<b>POSTING OUT - OFFICERS (cont'd)</b>		
	P/O	R.E. Beer	J. 92586	Posted to RCAF "H" Depot w.e.f. 1.2.45	
	P/O	G.W. Hamilton	J. 92685		
	P/O	R.D. Stickles	J. 35095	Posted to No. 24 OTU w.e.f. 15.2.45	
	P/O	J.R. Lightbown	J. 86649	Posted to No. 24 OTU w.e.f. 15.2.45	
	P/O	H.F. Williamson	J. 27291	Posted to No. 22 OTU w.e.f. 17.2.45	
	P/O	G.D. Little	179424	Posted to No. 427 Sqn. w.e.f. 19.2.45	
	P/L	R.C. Instrell	120386	Posted to No. 1666 C.U. w.e.f. 13.2.45	
	P/O	G.M. Gladish	J. 88026	Posted to No. 63 Base w.e.f. 19.2.45	
	P/O	H.W.G. Rickards	J. 90154	Posted to No. 64 Base w.e.f. 20.2.45	
	P/O	L. Peters	J. 24058	Ceased to be detached to RCAF Shawbury w.e.f. 17.2.45	
	P/O	A.A. Grosson	J. 92824	Posted to RCAF "H" Depot w.e.f. 5.2.45	
	P/O	H.L. Jardine	J. 89000	Posted to No. 1666 C.U. w.e.f. 25.2.45	
			<b>POSTING IN - AIRCREW</b>		
	R. 215076	P/B	A/C Trout, J.B.	Posted from No. 64 Base w.e.f. 29.1.45	
	R. 192613	P/B	Pilot Hodson, W.R.	Posted from No. 76 Base w.e.f. 31.1.45	
	R. 120465	Sgt.	P/B Reid, R.J.		
	R. 271127	Sgt.	A/G Sharpe, J.C.		
	R. 269341	Sgt.	A/G Davids, G.H.		
	R. 190194	Sgt.	W/MC McDonald, G.H.	Posted from No. 76 Base w.e.f. 6.2.45	
	R. 267170	Sgt.	A/G Guttermann, H.		
	R. 76926	w/o	Nav. Donald, J.C.		
	R. 191393	P/B	A/B Giessen, A.N.		
	R. 201059	P/B	W/MC Wipp, H.R.		
	R. 252822	P/B	A/G Murphy, S.W.		

SECRET

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events			<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
Croft.			R. 210293	Sgt.	Pilot	Saunders, F.G.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 10.2.45
			R. 202570	Sgt.	Nav.	Burridge, D.B.	
			R. 219125	P/S	A/B	Hood, T.L.	
			R. 180576	Sgt.	P/R	Boyle, W.J.P.	
			R. 276023	P/S	A/G	Fredrickson, J.	
			R. 283120	Sgt.	A/G	Haggard, D.K.	
			R. 142887	P/S	A/G	Manges, G.H.	Posted from No. 64 Base W.E.F. 6.2.45
			R. 199031	Sgt.	Nav.	Haworth, G.L.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 12.2.45
			R. 176734	Sgt.	WAG	Sands, G.M.	
			R. 265620	Sgt.	A/G	MacKenzie, E.C.	
			R. 225452	Sgt.	A/G	Lee, R.C.	
			R. 91585	P/S	RE	Walters, E.T.	Posted from No. 64 Base W.E.F. 15.2.45
			R. 222667	Sgt.	P/R	Wood, H.S.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 22.2.45
			R. 208783	Sgt.	A/B	Pearce, W.H.	
			R. 270168	Sgt.	A/G	Mo Glade, J.A.	
			R. 131110	Sgt.	A/G	William, G.H.	
			2204518	Sgt.	WAG	Pemberton, R.J.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 31.1.45
			222206	Sgt.	P/R	Salisbury, W.A.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 6.2.45
			1600804	Sgt.	P/R	Kenny, R.A.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 10.2.45
			1822556	Sgt.	WAG	Mc Hendrick, R.L.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 10.2.45
			1894242	Sgt.	P/R	Samson, F.H.	Posted from No. 76 Base W.E.F. 11.2.45
			<u>POSTING OUT - AIRCREW</u>				
			R. 217004	P/S	A/G	Trout, J.B.	Posted to RCAF "B" Depot W.E.F. 16.1.45
			R. 202639	P/S	A/G	Halen, H.G.	
			R. 91606	P/S	A/G	Gurd, J.A.W.	
			R. 146690	Sgt.	WAG	Porter, R.W.	Posted to No. 405 Sqdn. W.E.F. 3.2.45
			R. 254213	P/S	AG	Parfitt, R.H.	
			R. 196860	P/S	AG	Stevenson, H.	

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 331 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
<b>POSTING OUT - ATTEMPT (cont'd)</b>					
	R.157427	Sgt. F/B Gammie, D.	Posted to No. 434 Sqn. w.e.f. 5.2.45		
	R.142887	F/B A/G MacLean, C.E.	Posted to No. 64 Base w.e.f. 29.1.45		
	R.191784	W2 A/G Sanderson, D.C.	Posted to RCAF "R" Depot w.e.f. 1.2.45		
	R.204396	Sgt. A/G Ward, G.L.	Posted to 170 Sqn. w.e.f. 16.2.45		
	R.196927	F/B A/G MacLean, W.G.	Posted to RCAF "R" Depot w.e.f. 5.2.45		
	R.142454	F/B A/G Williamson, J.S.			
	R.191240	F/B Nav. Mo Gauv. P.V.	Posted to No. 64 Base w.e.f. 15.2.45		
	R.159896	F/B A/G Macdonald, D.	Posted to No. 64 Base w.e.f. 6.2.45		
	1250580	Sgt. F/B Gove, G.H.	Posted to No. 405 Sqn. w.e.f. 3.2.45		
	1092454	Sgt. F/B Shaw, H.R.			
	1398444	Sgt. F/B Eldridge, D.A.	Posted to No. 434 Sqn. w.e.f. 5.2.45		
	1895957	Sgt. F/B Gardam, A.E.	Posted to No. 427 Sqn. w.e.f. 19.2.45		
	1802863	Sgt. F/B Atwell, T.E.	Posted to No. 433 Sqn. w.e.f. 19.2.45		
	1570070	Sgt. F/B Elbourn, J.B.	Posted to No. 434 Sqn. w.e.f. 18.2.45		
<b>PROMOTIONS &amp; APPOINTMENTS</b>					
P/O	J.L. Semour	J.17454	Promoted to the rank of T/S/L w.e.f. 28.12.44		
P/O	J.W. Lourie	J.93116	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 26.11.44		
P/O	J.W. Kirkham	J.93114	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 14.11.44		
P/O	K.J. Bell	J.93113	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 14.11.44		
P/O	G.I. Paul	J.92141	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 23.10.44		
P/O	A.N. Riddell	J.93259	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 8.1.45		
P/O	P.P. Repaya	J.93258	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 8.1.45		
P/O	T.M. Robertson	J.87243	Promoted to T/S/L w.e.f. 12.12.44		
P/O	P.G. Howe	177546	Promoted to T/S/L w.e.f. 9.12.44		
P/O	L.A. Morsony	C.93112	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 8.12.44		
P/O	H.R. Loan	J.93064	App'td to a commission w.e.f. 26.11.44		
P/O	D.A. Rombough	J.87999	Promoted to T/S/L w.e.f. 14.1.45		

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Croft.			<u>HONOURS &amp; AWARDS - Non-Immediate</u> The undermentioned were awarded the D.F.C. (non-Immediate) P/O J.P. Magnusson J.53574 P/O A.G. Pitcock J.86775 P/O J.R. Poste J.35236 P/O E.M. Ressor J.86987 P/O D.M. Gourley J.86353		
			<u>OPERATIONAL SORTIES FOR FEBRUARY, 1945:-</u> XIX 147		
			<u>FLYING TIME FOR FEBRUARY, 1945:-</u> Operational Day: 166.12 hrs Operational Night: 896.15 hrs Non-Operational Day: 286.22 hrs Non-Operational Night: 63.24 hrs		
			<u>TONS OF BOMBS (2240) DROPPED DURING PERIOD</u> H.C. S.A.P. M.G. G.P. MINES INCEND. from 1.1.45 to 31.1.45 inclusive 125 25 199 90 - 101		
			<u>TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING FEBRUARY</u> 263 45 37 - 5184		
			<u>TOTAL TO DATE</u> 388 23 24 127 - 5285		
			<u>NO OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT</u> :- 8		
			Total number of enemy aircraft destroyed during the month of February: 1		
			Total number of enemy aircraft probably destroyed during the month of February: 2		
			Total number of enemy aircraft damaged during the month of February: 1		
			Number of aircraft on charge: 19 Type of aircraft: Lancaster X		
			Changes in command: NIL		
			Changes in administration: NIL		
			Squadron Commander's Report: The training of new crews benifited by the great improvement in weather conditions over those of last month resulting in there being only one u/t crew at month end. The warmer weather reduced the sickness rate to a minimum and the health of the Squadron is now most satisfactory. Moral on the Squadron continues to be of the highest standard.		