

Compiling Officer: Flt. Lt. R.M. Nickles

R.A.F. Form 540  
See instructions for use of this form in R.C.R. and A.C.I.  
para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II., Chapter XX., and  
note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 33

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
Graft,	1.4.45		'April Fool's Day'. Very high winds have prohibited training today. There were no operations.		
	2.4.45		Another uneventful day. There was no training and no operations, due to unfavourable weather.		
	3.4.45		What a hectic day! Battle orders have been arranged for three operations, and briefing was completed three times - all this for nothing - the ops were scrubbed.		
	4.4.45		After yesterday's reign of confusion, 13 aircraft took off for a raid on MESSINGEN. All returned safely after a very good raid.		
	5.4.45		P/O Parker (J. 36299) and crew were screened to-day. This crew came to us from No. 166 Squadron, and did only three trips with us.		
	6.4.45		There were no operations to-day. Our 8th Victory Loan Bond drive started today. All the boys seem keenly interested, and we sold \$11,150.00 worth of bonds.		
	7.4.45		13 crews were briefed for a raid, which was later scrubbed. The briefings and odd hours rather cramped the bond drive - only \$5,000.00 were sold.		
	8.4.45		14 crews took off this evening for a raid on HAMBURG. Since briefings were in the late afternoon, we pushed the bonds hard all day, and took in \$10,600.00 - a very good show. Flight Lieutenant McNeill and crew were screened to-day after a very successful tour.		
	9.4.45		All our boys landed away last night, and returned late this afternoon. No training was carried out and few bonds were sold. We have passed the \$6,000 dollar mark, and are still going strong.		
	10.4.45		16 crews took off at noon for a raid on LIPZIG. It was a very good flight, and all aircraft returned safely. Word was received to-day, that P/O MacCullagh (J. 30467) who was reported missing on the 20th Feb. 1945 has arrived safely in England. P/O MacCullagh had been a prisoner of war, but had been liberated by the American Army.		
	11.4.45		Due to dull weather, there was no flying to-day. Bonds are selling quite well, the total now being \$10,000.00.		
	12.4.45		another dull day. The Squadron reached the original quota of \$15,000.00. The quota has been now increased to \$15,000.00.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
Groft.	13.4.45		15 aircraft were briefed for a raid on KIEL. The bombing timing was rather poor. All of our aircraft landed away. "A" - P/L Crawford as pilot - blew a tire on landing, necessitating a further diversion of two of the aircraft.		
	14.4.45		A very quiet day. All but "A" of the diverted aircraft returned this afternoon.		
	15.4.45		15 aircraft prepared for a raid which was scrubbed & just at the completion of briefing. The bond sales are still coming in. Our total is now £ 49,700.00.		
	16.4.45		15 aircraft took off late tonight for a raid on SCHWANDORF. This is the first night "do" we have had for some time.		
	17.4.45		All of our crews returned safely after rather a quiet trip. It was a long hard grind, but met little opposition.		
	18.4.45		Part of training is being carried out to-day. We spent the morning selling bonds, and now have a grand total of £ 51,000.00.		
	19.4.45		There were no operations to-day. A bottle of Scotch Whisky was raffled in the crew room this morning. For a £ 1.00 bond one could have a ticket in the raffle. In this way a further £ 1,400.00 in bonds was sold. We now have £ 53,400.00.		
	20.4.45		A very quiet day. Quite a bit of training was carried out, and a battle order was prepared. The op was scrubbed immediately after.		
	21.4.45		Our bond drive closed to-day. The Squadron effort was very good, a total of £ 55,950.00 being obtained.		
	22.4.45		15 aircraft took off for a raid on BREMEN. This was a daylight operation. Due to cloud over the target, the aircraft were ordered not to bomb. A wasted effort. All the aircraft returned safely.		
	23.4.45		Training carried out during the day. In the evening the Squadron was called for an early morning raid. Word was received that the following are granted IMMEDIATE awards - Cpl J. 16510 F/L B.M. KELLY (P) - for expert airmanship during five attacks by enemy fighters. Cpl J. 12577 F/L D.G. GUNN (P) - who, though wounded in the shoulder, whilst over the T/L, gave expert directions for the piloting of his aircraft and in taking over and safely landing his aircraft even though one arm had been rendered useless.		

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## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Craft.	25.11.45		Gn.R. 225/504 F/S D.E. Gwynne-Vaughn & Gn.R. 201/44 F/S M.S. Jowett (Gunner) in one crew, who between them, shot down two enemy fighters, and Gn.R. 210/53 F/S F.G.K. Saunders (P) who successfully piloted his aircraft to base from the target with a large hole in a wing caused by a bomb falling through it.		
	26.11.45		The early morning operation, after a couple of false starts was finally scrubbed. Limited training was carried out during the day.		
	25.11.45		15 aircraft took off to bomb the Island of WAGENRODE. The raid was considered a successful one except that two of our aircraft failed to return. They were KB 851 "B" - Gn.J. 270/7 P/O R. Bennett (P) and crew who had 1 operational trip, 4 points, and 5 operational hours and KB 837 "B" - Gn.J. 395/7 P/O D.G. Baker (P) and crew who had 1 operational trip - 4 points - 5.10 op hours over enemy territory. It is thought that a mid-air collision near the target was responsible for this loss.		
	25.11.45		A daylight operation was finally scrubbed and most personnel were engaged in the job of cleaning up the grounds in preparation for an inspection. Word received that Gn.R. 172632 WO1 J.M. Dugan (Gunner) who went missing on a raid to FRANKFURT 25.11.45 and was subsequently reported a prisoner of war is now safe in England.		
	27.11.45		A daylight operation was scrubbed before briefing. The Squadron had the honour of playing host to Mr & Mrs Vincent Massey - Canadian High Commissioner to London. Accompanied by high ranking dignitaries, our guests seemed pleased with the appearance of our Squadron.		
	28.11.45		No operations to-day. Weather very cold, and training was carried out.		
	29.11.45		No flying to-day. The ground crew enjoyed a well earned rest.		
	30.11.45		Bright clear day, but very cold. No operations - the weather permitted only limited training.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
Groft.	30.4.45		<u>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF SQUADRON</u>		
			R.C.A.F. OFFICERS: 152		
			R.C.A.F. N.C.O.'S: 97		
			R.A.F. OFFICERS: 8		
			R.A.F. N.C.O.'S: 18		
			GROUND CREW OFFICERS: 1		
			GROUND CREW OTHER RANKS: NIL		
			<u>POSTING IN - OFFICERS</u>		
			F/L C.W. Conquist J.16812 Posted from No. 428 Squadron w/c 25.3.45		
			F/O H.B. Elborn J.19085		
			F/O G.W. Hassleton J.18175		
			F/O L.D. Fullerton J.66640		
			F/O G.F.H. Manuel J.30819		
			F/O G.C. Blair J.87293		
			F/O S.G. Blackett J.19194		
			F/L J.M. Elliott J.18993 Posted from No. 75 Base w/c 30.3.45		
			F/O R.J. Williams J.17621		
			F/O S.E. Youngblut J.82809		
			F/O R.H. Rafter J.88215		
			F/O W.R. Champion J.93188		
			F/O J.W. Betty J.18829		
			F/O N.W. Knowles J.43269 Posted from No. 75 Base w/c 8.4.45		
			F/O L.R. Maurice J.49351		
			F/O K.T. Moor J.18940		
			F/O D.G. Baker J.39575 Posted from No. 76 Base w/c 11.4.45		
			F/O J.B. Grulichuk J.43037		
			F/O L.H. Amos J.42993		
			F/O T. Davey J.39645 Posted from No. 75 Base w/c 8.4.45		

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CRAFT.					
			POSTING IN - OFFICERS - cont'd.		
	P/O	A. Shirras	J.42230 Posted from No. 75 Base w/c 8.4.45		
	P/O	D. Setton	J.42754		
	P/O	B.D. Emmett	J.27057		
	P/L	R.J. Stingle	J.21558		
	P/O	V.E. Hanna	J.40086		
	P/O	G. Milne	J.85707 Posted from No. 76 Base w/c 14.4.45		
	P/O	H.J. Natalon	J.46978		
	P/O	T.K. Harrison	J.24324 Posted from No. 76 Base w/c 13.4.45		
	P/O	C.Y. Tollanet	J.43433		
	P/O	J.W. Holliday	J.44145		
	P/O	R.I. Akroyd	J.43958		
	P/O	K.G. Gray	J.88901 Posted from No. 75 Base w/c 21.4.45		
	P/O	R.G. Lane	J.44463		
	P/O	S. Cukrowski	J.47022		
	P/O	G.E. Coyle	J.24474 Posted from No. 75 Base w/c 21.4.45		
	P/O	G.E. Bee	J.47641		
	P/O	A.N. Bellissimo	J.43966		
	P/O	J.W. McAllill	J.46338		
	P/O	D.H. Brown	J.39199 Posted from No. 76 Base w/c 6.4.45		
	P/O	D.A. Mc Dougall	J.42661		
	P/O	K.W. Colquhoun	J.43947		
	P/O	E.M. Grywood	J.45206		
	P/O	W.D. Stingle	J.49265		
	P/O	J. Sullivan	J.46187		
	P/O	E.A. Anderson	J.17927 Posted from No. 419 Squadron w/c 21.4.45		
	P/O	L.S. Pringle	G.28058 Posted from No. 75 Base w/c 22.4.45		
	P/O	D.H. Gilchrist	J.43508		
	P/O	C.R. Jones	J.45198		

**SECRET.**References  
to  
Appendices

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
<b>Groft.</b>			
			<b>POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS</b>
	P/O D.A. Rombough	J.87999	Posted to "R" Depot wef 20.3.45
	P/O A/P/L J.P. Dugan	J.35871	Posted to R.C.A.F. U.K. N.E. Unit wef 22.3.45
	P/O F.K.B. Trent	J.91026	
	P/O G.A. Suback	J.39003	
	P/O G.D. McLean	J.38407	
	P/O J.W. Dorrell	J.89833	
	P/O H.W. MacKenzie	J.37189	Posted to No. 1666 C.U. wef 2.4.45
	P/O A/P/L S.P. Sorenson	J.87861	Posted to "R" Depot wef 29.3.45
	P/O L.F. Heppenstall	J.92261	Posted to "R" Depot wef 16.3.45
	P/O R.H. Rose	J.92554	
	P/O A.G. Kelly	J.36942	Posted to No. 24 O.T.U. wef 2.4.45
	P/O A/P/L P.J. Harley	J.35426	Posted to R.C.A.F. U.K. N.E. Unit wef 31.3.45
	P/O M. Hartog	J.10430	
	P/O P.H. Alty	J.36392	
	P/O P.H. Dennisson	J.44151	
	P/O J.J. Gandy	J.43953	
	P/O S.G. Blackett	J.19194	Posted to No. 428 Squadron wef 6.4.45
	P/O I.M. Stewart	J.92528	Posted to No. 1666 C.U. wef 11.4.45
	P/O A.L. Low	J.88953	Posted to No. 22 O.T.U. wef 16.4.45
	P/O R.J. Middleston	J.37180	Posted to R.C.A.F. "R" Depot wef 29.3.45
	P/O A.L. Hillis	J.40211	
	P/O J.A. Weston	J.32735	Posted to No. 64 Base wef 31.3.45
	P/O G.T. Richardson	178222	Posted to No. 1666 C.U. wef 17.11.44
	P/O A/S/L G.H. Porter	J.11973	Posted to R.C.A.F. O/S H.Q. wef 13.4.45
	P/O A/P/L E.G. Tuckay	J.27562	Posted to "R" Depot wef 9.4.45
	P/L G.E. Kercher	J.25995	

W.L. ROBINSON, R.N.R. C.O.L. R.A.F.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Graft.			<b>POSTING OUT - OFFICERS - cont'd</b>		
			F/L P.T. Burch J.13392 Posted to "R" Depot w/e 9.4.45		
			F/O J. Kwiatkowski J.29378		
			F/O B.S. Maguire J.36899 Posted to 1599 C.U. w/e 23.3.45		
			S/L F.W. Macpherson G.1633 Posted to No. 428 Squadron w/e 23.4.45		
			F/O G.P. Keen J.17439		
			F/O A.P. Bilbuk J.43624		
			F/O E.H. Stein J.44716		
			F/O D.D. Wooff J.89439 Posted to No. 1666 C.U. w/e 30.4.45		
			F/L B.M. Kaplansky J.16530 Posted to "R" Depot w/e 1.5.45		
			<b>POSTING OUT - N.C.O.'s</b>		
			R.261128 PS AG Root, C.J. Posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Unit w/e 22.8.45		
			R.139321 PS AG Ketcham, J.B.		
			R.139662 PS AG Hamel, R.C. Posted to RCAF "R" Depot w/e 20.3.45		
			R.204725 PS AB Cornock, J.J.		
			R.271668 WD2 AB Brashoff, P.C. Posted to 419 Sqn. w/e 9.4.45		
			R.209926 PS WOP Dorey, A. Posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Unit w/e 1.3.45		
			R.103387 PS AB Johnstone, A.P. Posted to "R" Depot w/e 2.3.45		
			R.211821 WD AB Graham, W.J.		
			R.191161 PS AB Garbutt, G.O.		
			R.224382 WD2 AB Gravett-Waughan, D.H. Posted to 22 O.T.U. w/e 16.1.45		
			R.254362 PS AB Gregory, K.L.		
			R.187068 WD WAG Retsey, S. Posted to "R" Depot w/e 14.4.45		
			R.219920 PS NAV. Simons, J.O. Posted to 64 Sqn w/e 31.3.45		
			R.203785 PS AB Pound, W.E. Posted to 64 Base w/e 11.4.45		
			R.228125 PS AB Hood, T.L. Posted to 64 Base w/e 11.4.45		
			R.250660 Sgt. AB Dungee, B. Posted to 428 Sqn. w/e 16.4.45		

**SECRET.**References  
to  
Appendices

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	
<u>POSTING OUT - N.C.O.s</u>				
			R. 260361 FS AG Balloop, H.	Posted to No. 426 Squadron waf 23.4.45
			R. 224205 FS AG Bremberger, W.D.	
			R. 264705 FS AG Power, A.J.	Posted to RCAF "R" Depot waf 9.4.45
			R. 185206 Sgt. PR Bogen, T.A.	Posted to No. 426 Squadron waf 26.4.45
			R. 201444 WO2 AG Jowatt, M.S.	Posted to A.C.S. Dalton waf 30.4.45
			R. 210674 FS AG Sheene, W.H.	Posted to 1659 C.F. waf 30.4.45
			1893245 Sgt. PR Markee, L.J.	Posted to War Casualties N.E. Unit waf 31.3.45
			3005762 Sgt. PR Bentley, J.H.	Posted to War Casualties N.E. Unit waf 22.3.45
			1990431 Sgt. PR Windle, K.L.	Posted to 429 Sqdn. waf 25.4.45
			1612572 Sgt. PR Hopkins, R.X.	* * 428 * * 25.4.45
<u>POSTINGS IN - N.C.O.s</u>				
			221427 Sgt. PR Charney, T.W.	Posted from No. 76 Base waf 13.3.45
			647007 W/O PR Apalagade, J.S.	Posted from No. 75 Base waf 30.3.45
			1897467 Sgt. PR Jups, B.H.T.	Posted from No. 165 Squadron waf 23.3.45
			3040845 Sgt. PR Salmon, E.W.	Posted from No. 76 Base waf 19.3.45
			1697886 Sgt. PR Shepherd, H.H.	
			1569252 FS PR Charney, J.C.	Posted from No. 76 Base waf 19.3.45
			1567632 Sgt. PR Osten, L.	Posted from 76 Base waf 23.3.45
			1890411 WO2 AG McDonald, D.	Posted from 434 Sqdn. 17.4.45
			1894145 FS PR Norton, G.C.	Posted from No. 64 Base 14.4.45
			2222272 Sgt. PR Smith, F.	Posted from No. 76 Base waf 11.4.45
			3025318 Sgt. PR Sims, J.N.	Posted from No. 75 Base waf 8.4.45
			1189367 Sgt. AG Faulkner, D.	
			R. 169896 FS AG McDonald, D.	Posted from No. 64 Base waf 2.3.45
			R. 57705 FS AG MacLean, A.A.M.	Posted from No. 432 Sqdn. waf 13.3.45
			R. 224205 Sgt. AG Bremberger, A.G.	Posted from No. 76 Base waf 5.3.45
			R. 260361 Sgt. AG Balloop, H.	

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Craft.			POSTING IN - R.C.A.F.		
	R.16467	Sgt. AG	Davies, J.K. Posted from No. 75 Base wef 8.4.45		
	R.285123	Sgt. AG	Deighton, D.K.		
	R.220000	Sgt. AG	Smith, G.G.		
	R.183840	FS	NAV. Lambert, A.E.		
	R.176750	FS	WAG Sanfori, C.A. Posted from No. 76 Base wef 13.4.45		
	R.191440	W/O	AG Munro, J.		
	R.216297	SOF.	AG Campbell, D.M.		
	R.199262	W/O	NAV. Jamison, J.C. Posted from No. 76 Base wef 14.4.45		
	R.188999	Sgt. AB	Bowie, A.G.		
	R.257389	Sgt. WAG	Patten, F.M.		
	R.266783	Sgt. AG	Larond, N.D.		
	R.279658	Sgt. AG	Glynnister, A.G.		
	R.254681	Sgt. FS	Gooding, C. Posted from No. 75 Base w ef 8.4.45		
	R.280248	Sgt. WOP	Macmillan, G.		
	R.279269	Sgt. AG	Fritz, R.W.		
	R.274863	Sgt. AG	Rawlings, A.		
	R.190707	W/O	WOP Mack, G.L.		
	R.205716	FS	AG Mellon, R.J.		
	R.278696	Sgt. AB	Hight, L.M. Posted from No. 76 Base wef 11.4.45		
	R.207469	Sgt. AG	Rey, J.J.P.		
	R.135182	FS	WOP Heinrichson, P.E.		
	R.236239	Sgt. NAV	Bennard, J.L.W. Posted from No. 75 Base wef 21.4.45		
	R.182290	Sgt. AB	Nelson, N.G.		
	R.184828	Sgt. WOP	O'Donnell, F.M.		
	R.286557	Sgt. AG	Pox, K.H.		
	R.213847	Sgt. AB	Bates, G.P. Posted from No. 75 Base wef 21.4.45		
	R.269372	Sgt. AG	Donaldson, G.D.		

Place	Date	Time		Summary of Events	<b>SECRET.</b>	Page No. References to Appendices
Croft.				<u>POSTING IN - N.C.O.s - cont'd</u>		
	R. 261626	Sgt.	AG Smrfor, F.C.	Posted from No. 75 Base wsf 21.4.45		
	R. 221454	FS	FB Willmott, G.W.	Posted from No. 75 Base wsf 22.4.45		
	R. 199926	FS	WOP Callinan, J.H.+			
	R. 287627	Sgt.	AG Mitchell, G.S.			
	R. 287627	Sgt.	AG Bannister, G.S.			
				<u>PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS</u>		
	F/O	L.	Peters J.24058	Promoted to the rank of T/F/L wsf 19.2.45		
	F/O	C.E.G.	Heaven J.89186	Promoted to the rank of T/F/O wsf 28.2.45		
	F/O	G.V.	Wiltshire 193161	Appointed to a commission wsf 29.3.45		
	F/O	S.	Gordon J.94161	Appointed to a commission wsf 6.2.45		
	F/O	A.A.M.	MacLean J.94156	Appointed to a commission wsf 20.1.45		
	F/O	G.J.R.	Solloway J.94167	Appointed to a commission wsf 12.2.45		
	F/O	F.H.	Bramley J.94254	Appointed to a commission wsf 8.3.45		
	F/O	W.B.	Hodson J.94250	Appointed to a commission wsf 11.2.45		
	F/O	F.O.K.	Saunders J.94202	Appointed to a commission wsf 8.3.45		
	F/O	K.W.	Wright J.94239	Appointed to a commission wsf 6.2.45		
				<u>HONOURS AND AWARDS</u>		
				<u>IMMEDIATE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS</u>		
	F/L	B.M.	Explansky J.15530			
	F/L	D.G.	Gowey J.12574			
				<u>IMMEDIATE DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL</u>		
	FS		D.E. Gwynne-Vaughn R.22688			
	FS		F.G.L. Saunders R.23023			
	W/O 2		J.66577 R.201444			
				<u>NON-IMMEDIATE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS</u>		
	F/O		A.P. Hutchins J.25262			
	F/L		R.E.A. Tonnerlier J.22776			
	F/O		R.V. Gurske J.88935	F/O G.L. Thomas 178227		

W.L. BROWN/OMNI 800X 1340 C.R.L. 81-728

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Croft.			<u>OPERATIONAL SORTIES FOR APRIL:- 109.</u>		
			<u>FLYING TIME FOR APRIL</u>		
			Operational day: 65.57 hrs		
			Operational night: 686.20 hrs		
			Non-Operational day: 336.49 hrs		
			Non-Operational night: 80.55 hrs		
			H.G. S.A.P. H.G. G.P. INCRD. MIGRS		
			<u>TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING PERIOD FROM</u>		
			<u>1.1.45 to 31.3.45 inclusive:</u> 635 79 419 206 6,467 -		
			<u>TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING APRIL:</u> 150 29 206 50 - -		
			<u>TOTAL TO DATE</u> 784 108 625 256 6,467 -		
			<u>NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT:</u> 3		
			Total number of enemy aircraft destroyed during the month of April: NIL		
			Total number of enemy aircraft probably destroyed during the month of April: NIL		
			Total number of enemy aircraft damaged during the month of April: NIL		
			Type and number of aircraft on Unit charge: LANCASTER Mk. X - 20		
			Changes in command: Can. J. 17997 F/Lt. E.A. Anderson (Signals) posted from 419 Squadron to assume post of Signals Leader vice Can.J. 18453 F/L G.H. Low (DPM) on posting.		
			Changes in administration: NIL		
			<u>SQUADRON COMMANDER'S REPORT:</u>		
			In a month during which all ranks have watched closely the tearing down of the German War Machine, the Squadron has had unequalled success in all its' activities. The efficiency standard of the crews has been good, and moral is high, with all ranks waiting expectantly for future developments.		
			One outstanding event during the month was the exceptional response to the 8th Victory Loan, which placed this Squadron in favourable position with others in the Group. The only setback for the month was the unfortunate loss of two crews on our last operation, regretted by all.		
			<i>W.L. MacLennan W/C</i> (W.P. No. 11111) W/Cdr. O.C. No. 431 (RCAF) Squadron		