

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

of (Unit or Formation) 407 Squadron, R.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<b>SECRET.</b>	References to Appendices
RAF Station Chiverton	1.2.45		High wind and plenty of rain caused cancellation of all Ops. today. However, considerable flying training was carried out with special emphasis on A.S. Hosing, Practice bombing. Further training flying this evening was cancelled by adverse weather conditions. Bowden OAC J.28154 & Crew returned from Lismore by air to-day after completion of their anti u-boat course. Fl. V. Harris J.28377, additional officer from No. 2 Area District II, visited the Squadron today and conferred with Squadron O.C., Adjutant and Operations Officer.		
	2.2.45		Two uneventful Ops. Flights were completed by W/O Taylor J.28377 and W/O J. Harris J.28377 and their crews during the hours of darkness. The weather was poor during the evening but cleared up this afternoon and flying training was the order of the day with emphasis on A.S. Hosing & Practice Bombing. W/O V.A. Cowen J.28674 W/O J. and W/O J. Harris J.28377 Pilot reported on posting for operational duty. W/O J. Harris J.28377 Pilot, W/O A.S. Barton J.28388 & W/O J.S. Jones J.27236 W/O J. left on posting to "R" Depot Warrington for report to Canada. Miscellaneous papers were received today for O.C. Carstairs J.28231 W/O J. effective 19.12.44. An Operational Wings Badge was received today for W/O V.L. Bell J.17582 Pilot.		
	3.2.45		Operational Patrols flown during the night by W/O V.A. Gills J.28569 and W/O J.S. Jordan J.28154 and crews were uneventful. Flying training was carried out including A.S. Hosing and Practice Bombing until noon weather set in this afternoon cancelling all further flying and Ops. planned for tonight. W/O A.S. Sandigan J.28182 and W/O R.C. Hooper J.28083 and pilots left on posting to No. 4 S.O. Wilson for Captains Course. W/O V.A. Gavey J.27185 W/O J. left on posting to "R" Depot Warrington enroute to Canada. W/O J. Chapman J.28009 Pilot and W/O A.S. Richardson J.27029 Admin. from S.O. II, visited the Squadron by air today to confer with the Squadron O.C., Adjutant, Flight and Section leaders. Captain A. Epstein OAC reported in on posting for duty and Capt. G.C. Dixon OAC left on posting.		
	4.2.45		Continuing bad weather with rain and low cloud resulted in cancellation of Ops. but some A.S. Hosing and Practice Bombing exercises were completed during the day. W/O V.A. Gavey J.28083 returned by air from St. Athanas when he had been attending a Court of Enquiry. W/O V.A. Keele J.28383 Pilot and W/O V.A. Crookes J.28663 W/O J. left today for a two weeks leave course at Windsor Gate. W/O V.A. Gavey J.28083 Squadron Training Tester, left on posting to "R" Depot Warrington enroute to Canada but was notified by signal to report to S.O. II for an interview tomorrow which looks as if his report may be delayed. W/O V.A. Lindley J.116305 visited the Squadron from 19 Sqn. R.A.F. today to confer with W/O V.A. Wilson Squadron O.C. The usual Sunday services were held by W/O V. Redman Protestant Padre today.		
	5.2.45		Operational patrols were flown today by W/O K. Graft J.28381 and W/O A.V. Danforth J.28370 and crews in the vicinity of the Scillies but they were uneventful. Flying training was at a standstill during the day due to the weather clearing in but it cleared up this evening in time for Ops. to go ahead as planned. W/O R. Moorman J.28067 W/O J. returned from leave yesterday during which he was married to Miss Mary Irene Roberts at Littlecombe Parish Church on 26.1.45. Our No. 1 Crew consists of W/O K.S. Wilson J.1217 Pilot of North, OAC.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECRET.</b></p> <p>F/O L.J. Harwood J.29096 2nd Pilot of Toronto, Ont.; F/O P.H. Neville J.18460 Nav.3 of Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.A.; F/O P.B.S. Grant J.9217 W/P/AG of 1372, Sask.; F/O H.V. Florence J.24066 W/P/AG of Poona Lake, Sask.; and WO Forrest, U.S. 18/AG of R.125982 of Ottawa, Ont.</p>	
	6.2.45		<p>Ops. flights by F/O Pengelley J.14347 and F/O W.A. Wilson J.33134 &amp; crews early this morning were recalled by 19 Group after less than three hours flying on account of adverse weather. Flying training during the day was restricted to one Batimat exercise by very unsettled Met. conditions. Our No. 2 crew consists of F/O C.A. Taylor W/P J.6957 Captain of Winnipeg, Man.; F/O R.A. Blair 2nd Pilot J.11267 of Holford, Sask.; F/O H.B. Goodman J.8615 Nav.3. Edmonton, Alta.; F/O H.A. Corcoran J.19604 W/P/AG of Mississauga, Ont.; F/O J.H. John J.85440 W/P/AG of Toronto, Ont.; F/O G.S. Evans J.88235 W/P/AG of New Westminster, B.C. F/O H.L. Proulx J.15356 Pilot left today for the Dr. Buzzards Course, C.P.S. Crosswell. Four members of his crew F/O T.C. Edgington J.90012, F/O H.S. New J.92902 W/P/AG's, F/O J.B. Campbell J.14663 Nav.3, and F/O G.B. Evans J.55302 Pilot left for two weeks temporary duty with the Royal Navy at Plymouth and the other crew member F/O R.B. Denton J.90011 W/P/AG left for the Officers' School, at Harwell.</p>	
	7.2.45		<p>Unsuccessful trips were completed early today by F/O C.W. Taylor W/P J.6957 and F/O D.R. Durham J.23997 and crews. A full flying training program was carried out today with no less than 12 successful exercises being completed, including G.S. Mk. IV, Radar, practice Bombing, and communication tests, plus exercises, Batimat and a ferry trip to Millth and return. Our No. 3 crew consists of F/O H.J. Koch J.7074 Captain of Edmonton, Alta.; F/O B.H. up J.29005 2nd Pilot of Kingston, Alta.; F/O W.L. Greenwood W/P.151911, Nav.3 of London, England; F/O V.L. Small J.88036 W/P/AG of Westboro, Ont.; F/O J.A.M. Ballou J.20021 W/P/AG of Montreal, Que.; and F/O J.V. King J.99931 W/P/AG of Burlington, Man. F/O R.T. Burrows J.9994 in attendance. Flight left on parking to No. 3 Wing tomorrow today.</p>	
	8.2.45		<p>Ops sorties were completed by F/O A.C. Wilson C.6118 and F/O H.A. Spin C.24761 and crews but they were unsuccessful. Adverse weather during the day limited training flying to one Batimat exercise and an air test. Our No. 4 crew consists of F/O K. Croft C.2981 Captain of Bridgeport, Ont.; F/O V.M. Gray J.3984 and Pilot of Westboro, Ont.; F/O R.C. Peniston J.19111 Nav.3 of Toronto, Man.; F/O L.J. Funder J.23647 W/P/AG of Hamilton, Ont.; F/O J.L. Hart J.25948 W/P/AG of Browns Flat, Kings County, N.S.; F/O R.A. Hughes J.89812 W/P/AG of Hawley, Alta. F/O W. Leslie J.2423 Pilot and F/O G.H. Green J.8948 W/P/AG are attending a RIBS course at Exiles Gate at present. Promotion was received for Sgt. J. Denton J.25297 today to Flight Sergeant effective 24.1.45.</p>	
	9.2.45		<p>A bit cloudy but nothing to stop flying training. Five training trips and one air test were carried out. F/O L.S. Marshall J.14053 and F/O R.B. Mayhew J.11872 and crews completed uneventful sorties. F/O W.S. Grant J.25311 flew a return trip to Linavady and F/O J.W. Hobbs J.14484 returned from Millth. There was quite a scramble getting ready for the Squadron Party tomorrow night. It should be quite a do as everyone seems to be going. F/O H.A. Niceman J.40657 W/P/AG assumes duties as Squadron Adjutant whilst F/O C.T. Sutherland C.3180 W/P/AG Squadron Adjutant is spending his leave on a P.O.M. Corvette in company with F/O G.O. Butler J.22088 F/O B.L. Reed J.87571 Nav.3.</p>	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Station Chivenor.	10.2.45		<p>3 gaily all day. At 0230 hours P/O P.A. Bennett J.57170 was off on patrol. P/L P.F. Farr-Galley J.2347 took off but returned with S.E. trouble. Training was out to three flights on account of the weather. The main lot up to allow people to go to the hospital dance held at Brunton Parish Hall. Very excellent music was supplied by the <u>Strathclyde Band</u> and it was not long before everyone was having a very enjoyable time. Mr. Stewart (P. or V) brought sandwiches and cake which were supplied by the good ladies of Brunton. The entertainment committee made every good job of arranging everything including beverages and had the Squadron photographer on hand to record the evening's highlights. P/O J.B. Whitlock J.23120, who reported to 6 S.E. to join a crew. P/O G. Colchester C.25024, an artist, returned to 407 S.E. today after spending several weeks with the Squadron but he expects to return shortly.</p>		
	11.2.45		<p>Relaxed off and on all day with high winds no flying. All did a concert for clean up party that went to Brunton to clean up the hall after last night's dance. The usual Army services held by P/O G. Colchester, Squadron medic, were well attended on a voluntary basis.</p>		
	12.2.45		<p>Red weather no flying P/O H.E. Fisher J.23647 and P/O A.G. Brunton J.20111 are spending their leave as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joyce, 15 Beckford Ave. Glasgow, arranged for them by the Squadron Adjutant through the auxiliary services Hospitality Bureau, Brunton.</p>		
	13.2.45		<p>Weather fine. Flying carried out. "All Stars" show arrived with Flight Officer A. Rutherford in charge. It proved to be a grand night for Canadians but around noon the news reached that P/O J.B. White and crew had gone down in an air test about two miles off shore in Bannockburn Bay. P/O H.E. Fisher J.23647 managed to escape with wounded legs and hands but the others were unable to get away. P/O J.B. White J.23444 Captain, P/O J. Whitlock J.23120 P/L A. Brunton J.20111 P/O J. Bennett J.57170 and P/O G. Colchester C.25024 were all killed. P/O J. Bennett J.57170 and P/O G. Colchester C.25024 were all killed. P/O J. Bennett J.57170 and P/O G. Colchester C.25024 were all killed. The crew was very popular and will be missed on the Squadron. P/O J.B. White J.23444 did not hear the trap when his crew as it was only to be a short air test. About the same time one of 407 Squadron aircraft made a belly landing without any casualties among the crew. Ops. trips were flown by P/O H.E. Fisher J.23647, P/O J.B. White J.23444, P/O J. Bennett J.57170 and P/O G. Colchester C.25024. The weather was fine so flying training was in full swing: five Air tests, 4 crews on Mk.VIa Mustangs and two BMB flights.</p>		
	14.2.45		<p>A Gas test map pack and petrol tank were washed up near North Berwick. They are from yesterday's crash. P/L H.E. Fisher went out to Appledore to return a uniform to a generous sailor who loaned his things to P/O Herring. Squadron B. Liffers and P/O Grant are attached to 407 Squadron wof 13.2.45 to look after R. of C work. Ops. trips were flown by P/O H.E. Fisher J.23647 and P/O J.B. White J.23444 and crew - the latter was diverted to Bready with engine trouble. The weather was fine so flying training was in full swing with P/O H.E. Fisher J.23647 and P/L H.E. Fisher J.23647 carrying out successful air to air missions which are getting to be more successful than they were a few months back. 4 Mk. VIa Mustang trips were carried out as well as bombing and air tests.</p>		
	15.2.45		<p>Only one ops. trip was flown today by P/O H.E. Fisher. Weather caused other trips to be cancelled by Group. Although the day was dull and did look as if the weather might close in flying training was carried out quite successfully. P/O G.E. Taylor W/O J.23127 made a trip</p>		

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			to St. Davids to drop off P/L W.H. Reed who picked up an aircraft for 107 Sqn. P/O W.S.M. Grant returned from Sandy. The "All Clear" show departed after giving a very good performance on the nights of 13 th and 14 th. LAC Grant who is Superintendent's Loblans's driver had to leave with the show to provide transportation due to the break down of the show's main bus.		
	16.2.45		Again the weather caused Ops. to be scrubbed but even though it was dull and finally cleared down in the afternoon, 3 MI. VIA Hastings were carried out as well as some other flying training.		
	17.2.45		Ops. scrubbed because of weather and training was cut down but 6 MI. VIA trips were carried out as well as a few other trips. 25 407 Squadron officers attended the Squadron "Dining-in" flight getting the boys ready for possible 1 guess. The body of P/O R. Mikowski was washed ashore today near Westward Ho and funeral arrangements are now being made but as P/O Headquarters closed from noon Saturday till Monday morning nothing definite can be done today. Plenty of rain, cloud and wind.		
	18.2.45		No flying of any kind. P/L C.F.utherland returned from spending his leave with the Royal Navy and re-assumed his duties as Squadron Adjutant. The usual Sunday services were conducted by P/L W. Medley in the Mess and out at flights and were well attended on a voluntary basis. P/O A.E. Grieve RAF 172991 WRE/AS has been called to London by Air Ministry for a special German language test and may be slated for some special duties on completion of his CP. course. P/L R.D. Hargrett J.24872 Pilot has received word that his brother W/O W.H. Hargrett R.28584 is missing on Bomber Command operations against Wenne-Winkel in the German Lake since the night of 2-3/23 1945. P/O J. White J.11543 and crew are attending the A/U school, Baydown, Northern Ireland.		
	19.2.45		Continuing of adverse weather caused cancellation of Ops. but several air tests were carried out. Two crews practiced MI. VI A S.S. Hoisting and landing. P/O W.S. Parrott J26791 WRE/AS is on a Summary Leaders Course at Officers No. 1 C.S.S. Arrangements have been completed for the funeral of P/O R. Mikowski, RA. 2.10.45 at Brookwood Army on Wednesday 21.2.45 at 1100 hours. No. 5 Crew consists of P/L R.J. Dwyer J. 23255 Captain of Winnipeg Manitoba, P/O S.D. Brown J.35202 2nd Pilot from Ottawa, Canada, P/L R.D. Campbell J.11503 Navigator of Herald F.S.I., J.90011 P/O R.D. Boston of WRE/AS of Dominion B.S. Canada, P/O P.A. Edgington J.90012 WRE/AS of Reserve Unit and P/O R.S. Drew J.35202 WRE/AS of Fort William Ontario.		
	20.2.45		Ops. early today consisted of uneventful patrols flown by W/O R.V. Dinkworth J.25376, P/L H.J. Bach J7074, and P/L K. Croft C2961 and crew. The last two named were diverted to Dunsmuir from where they returned later in the day after enjoying a wonderful breakfast via U.S.A. style. Flying training today proceeded on schedule with Ballnet, formation, circuits and bumps, 31 Hoisting and bombing practices being completed. Adverse weather conditions developed later in the day and cancelled all flying. The body of R. Mikowski left by rail this morning to Brookwood cemetery escorted by P/O P.K. Neville J.12140. Our No. 6 Crew consist of P/L P.F. Pennington J.11517 Captain of Toronto Ont., W/O McKeown, A.S. J.179872 2nd Pilot of Long Branch Ont. WO Macdonald, K.S. R.105141 Rev. of Barrie, Ont., P/O C.R. Boulton J.32901 WRE/AS of Nordan, Man., WO Woodcutt, S.C.M. R.143145 WRE/AS of Vancouver B.C. and P/O K. Parrott J.23931 WRE/AS of Penistone, B.C.		

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R.A.F. Station Chivenor 21.2.45			<p>The only Ops. trip today was flown by S/L G.A. Taylor DFC and he was recalled early because of bad weather. Flying training today consisted of a Conversion Test, Flood Target Bombing, S.S. Bombing, Circuits and Bumps, Detinat and a Taxi-trip to St. Athens and return. The funeral of P/O A. Kubarek was held at the Regional Cemetery, Brockwood, Gurney at 1100 hours today with an A.O. Padre from S/S H... officiating and seven officers from this Squadron in attendance. The body of S.A. Napburn P/O J.30441 RAF S was recovered from the sea late yesterday afternoon and is going forward by rail this afternoon to Liverpool escorted by S/L A.P. Gilbert.</p>	
	22.2.45		<p>No air tests by S/S H... and crew was the total of all flying today as the weather went from bad to worse. Squadron strength went up today with the arrival on posting from No. 6 S.T.S. all 5 of P/O... Pilot and Captain... a second pilot on this squadron; S/L J. Hinton S.14159 and Pilot; S/L J. Latham S.14201 Nav.B; S/L R. Aldus J.14056; S/L A.T. Lamb J.14054 and S/L J. Appel S.14805 S-2/1st; and S/L J. Mitchell J.22258 Pilot and Captain; S/L R. Department J.14721 and Pilot; S/L P. Patterson J.92156 Nav.B; S/O B. Lee S.139246; S/O L. Connors S.146330; S/O R. Price S.14605 S-2/1st. The funeral of P/O... was held at the Regional Cemetery Brockwood Gurney at 1100 hours today with S/L W. McClean S.1414, Squadron Padre, officiating and with 7 officers of this Squadron in attendance.</p>	
	23.2.45		<p>Unsuccessful ops. parties were flown early today by S/L... and S/L... and J.10655 and Crews, the latter being diverted to St. Eval but returning to base later in the day. S/O... and S/O... and crews flew training and air test flights. The body of P/O... was recovered from the sea and plans are being made to hold the funeral early next week. Air No. 7 crew consists of S/L... Captain of last page, S/O... and pilot of... Ont.; S/O... of Yonkers, U.S.A.; S/O... of Winnipeg, Man.; S/O... of Hamilton, Ontario. Squadron sports activities are continuing under the energetic supervision of S/O... Squadron I.S. &amp; S.I.</p>	
	24.2.45		<p>Operational patrols were flown today by S/L... and S/L... and S/L... and crews but all were uneventful. There was no flying training today except for Nav. practice as S/O... crew flew in T-Tony to Lismaddy where he remained for a course at nearby Maydown while S/O... crew flew to base aircraft back to base. S/L... crew flew to Baccobe down to obtain some blood plasma for an American Army hospital in this area. S/O... crew flew with S/L... adjutant going along for the ride, to Baccobe and brought back some comforts which had arrived by air from No. 9 B &amp; C school, Mont Joli Que.</p>	
	25.2.45		<p>The only ops trip today was flown by S/O... crew but was uneventful. Bad weather caused cancellation of all other ops flying. Flying training during the day consisted of P.T. Bombing and splash firing practice by S/L... and crew &amp; S/O... crew. Low clouds, fog &amp; rain later in the day kept our aircraft grounded. The regular gandy service held by S/L W. McClean Squadron Padre</p>	<p>12</p>



