

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.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for day.....

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Station Wick	1.9.44		Cold and wet, four crews on Ops. returning safely.		
	2.9.44		Cold with occasional rain. Five crews on Ops. returning safely. "Blackouts" arrived this afternoon. There will be two shows on Sunday and one on Monday.		
	3.9.44		Lovely day, cold but lots of sunshine, just the occasional shower. The station team beat ours at rugger. Enthusiastic crowd watched. Five crews on Ops. returning safely. A special show by "Blackouts" was terrific success.		
	4.9.44		Fair and cool. Four crews on Ops. Two developed engine trouble and one had engine undercarriage trouble but all returned safely.		
	5.9.44		Fair and cool with some sunshine. Five crews on Ops. Nothing sighted. F/O J.D. Schultz posted to Warrington and Canada, the lucky dog		
	6.9.44		Weather fair and cool. Four crews on Ops. returning safely. 407 and 8407 started a softball game in the evening but a shower put a stop to it. Lucky too 8407 was leading.		
	7.9.44		Bright and clear this morning. Four crews on Ops. Nothing sighted. F/O McFarlane did a trip with W/C Ashman and said it was his first and last.		
	8.9.44		Weather fair and cool. Four crews out again and no joy. The subs seem to "Have had it".		
	9.9.44		Bright today but cool. Five crews on Ops. F/O Gill had two kites go U/S on ground and didn't get off.		
	10.9.44		Bright and sunny this morning and not so cool. C-in-C came in at 1400 hrs. and every one is busy cleaning up offices etc. Three A/C on Ops. One landed after five hours with engine trouble. One landed at Stornoway with engine trouble and the other did a full trip. Seems to be all plug trouble.		
	11.9.44		Fine weather today. Four crews on Ops. returning safely		
	12.9.44		Fine weather today. Bristol, experts, coming to try and clear up engine trouble. Four crews on Ops.		
	13.9.44		Fine weather today. Four crews on Ops. Servicing Wing seem to have the Spark Plug situation under control		
	14.9.44		The day started off well today but weather got bad early, and ops. scrubbed.		
	15.9.44		Fog and rain all day. No Ops. tonight. Commemoration parade "Battle of Britain" had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.		
	16.9.44		Weather still bad. Six crews laid on but Ops. had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.		
	17.9.44		Mild and somewhat improved over yesterday. Memorial service held today. S/L MacMillan, Padre from Inverness, took both Squadron services, as our own Padre was away on leave. One A/C on Ops. but recalled to base after ^{forty} fifty-six minutes flying.		
	18.9.44		Nice clear day, no wind. Six crews on Ops. returned safely		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices		
R.A.F. Station Wick	19.9.44		Weather fine all day but deteriorated early in the evening. Six crews laid on but only one got away and was recalled after six hours.				
	20.9.44		Fog and rain but clearing in late afternoon. Seven crew on Ops. returning safely.				
	21.9.44		High wind and some rain. Ops. scrubbed for tonight.				
	22.9.44		Weather still pretty dull and Ops. again scrubbed. W/C Ashman left for weeks leave today. S/L A.H. Leidlau assuming Command in his absence				
	23.9.44		Weather somewhat improved. Seven crews on Ops. returning safely.				
	24.9.44		Wind and some rain. Six crews on Ops. returning safely.				
	25.9.44		Scattered showers and wind. One crew on Ops. returned safely				
	26.9.44		Weather fair. Five crews on Ops. W/O GA Biddle and crew failed to return. From messages received, it was learned he developed serious engine trouble and he elected to head for the nearby Norwegian Coast rather than try to return to base on an engine. When his last fix was made on him. They were well over the coast of Norway. We all have hopes of the crew being o.k. In his crew were W/O G.F. Death 2 Pilot, W/O Neil Nav., and PO K.W. Graham, WO Grandy, GR, WO Pirastone, S.H. WOP/AG's.				
	27.9.44		Weather somewhat improved. Seven crews on Ops. returning safely.				
	28.9.44		Cool with showers. Four crews on Ops. tonight returning safely				
	29.9.44		Windy and some rain. Two crews on Ops. returned safely.				
	30.9.44		Usual weather. Cool, windy and showers. Four crew on Ops. Returned safely.				
TOTAL OPERATIONAL SORTIES 109			TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS. 1053:25	TOTAL NON-OPERATIONAL HOURS. 109			
W/C STATE- W/C ON STATION CHARGE			14 WELLINGTON MK. IV'S USED BY THIS SQDN				
PERSONNEL STRENGTH AS AT 2359 HOURS 30.9.44							
			R.C.A.F.	R.A.F.	R.A.A.F.	USAAF	WOP
<u>OFFICERS.</u>							
			54			1	
			24	1	2		
			43	9	1		
<u>AIRMEN</u>							
			1				
			2				
			27	4			
<u>GROUND CREW</u>							
			9	1			
			132	3			25

R.A. Ashman
 (R.A. Ashman) Wing Commander,
 Officer Commanding,
 No. 407 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

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