

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

Compiled by S/L C.T. SutherlandPage No. 1of (Unit or Formation) 407 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Station, Chivenor	1.12.44		Gold and cloudy. S/L Lunan from No. 2 District Headquarters visited the Squadron today accompanied by the educational and postal officers from No. 2 District Headquarters. No ops tonight.		
	2.12.44		Cool and windy, no rain during day. Four crews on ops returning safely.		
	3.12.44		Strong wind and rain all day. Two crews on ops returned safely.		
	4.12.44		High wind and not much rain. Commissions received today for W/O Carrigan, J. and W/O G.I. Branch. One crew on ops returning safely.		
	5.12.44		Cloudy with wind and frequent showers. Flying training and crews on ops tonight. S/L A.H. Laidlaw left on a weeks leave prior to posting on completion of ops tour. Five crews out on ops returning safely.		
	6.12.44		More wind and rain and cloudy skies. Mr. Mathwell K O'G Auxiliary services visited the Squadron today. Flying training and crews (4) on ops tonight, returning safely.		
	7.12.44		Cloudy weather with rain and wind and cooler. S/L A.H. Laidlaw, former Adjutant, left on posting to R.C.A.F. O/S Headquarters and S/L C.T. Sutherland took over. Flying training and three crews on ops tonight returning safely.		
	8.12.44		Still cloudy and cool with wind and frequent showers. Cpl. P.T. Doyle, clerks account arrived on posting from R.C.A.F. O/S Headquarters to look after Squadron pay rolls etc. W/O K.C. Wilson left this morning on attachment to 19 Group Headquarters until Monday of next week. S/L C.T. Taylor DFC assumes com and in absence of W/O Wilson over the weekend. Flying training and two crews on ops.		
	9.12.44		Still cloudy and windy with rain. Commissions received today for W/O A.S. Smith who is now carried on Squadron rolls as a P/O. Mr. Mathwell K O'G Auxiliary services visited the Squadron today bringing a goodly supply of comforts, including food, smokes, socks, etc. he expects to open a canteen in transition soon. Pay parade was held in No. 1 Hangar. Flying training and four crews on ops.		
	10.12.44		More rain and wind and cloudy sky. Church services were held in No. 2 Hangar by S/L McClean this morning and were well attended on a voluntary basis. Promotion of S/L H.J. Esch to Squadron leader was received today just before he took off on ops. Three crews on ops.		
	11.12.44		W/O K.C. Wilson returned today from attachment to 19 Group Headquarters. S/L S. Pook, Educational Officer left on posting today for overseas duty. Weather still very unsettled. Flying training and three crews on ops.		
	12.12.44		More wind and rain. S/L A.H. Laidlaw left on posting today. Several absentees present Officers were at 19 Group Headquarters for commission interviews. Flying training and three crews on ops.		

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R.A.F. Station, Chivenor,	13.12.44		Wonderful weather today, bright sunshine, blue skies, no wind, cool and invigorating. Thirty or more American Flying Fortresses landed here early this afternoon on diversion. Two crews on ops.		
	14.12.44		Rain and wind today. P/O W. Hill and P/O B. ... On reported back from 1510 BAW Flight Squires Gates, Nr. Blackpool where they have been attending No. 41 course of instruction. Three crews on ops.		
	15.12.44		More wind and rain and colder today. P/O J. Spence J85501 and P/O D. Aiken J06054, VOP AG's reported on posting from No. 423 Squadron, Castle Archdale, Ireland, for operational duty today. They were routed to Wick so were a week on the way. Both are second tour men and recently returned from a month's leave in Canada. Three crews on ops.		
	16.12.44		Weather still very unsettled with wind and rain. P/L C. S. Landsberg of No. 2 District Headquarters, RAF, spent some time on liaison work with this Squadron today. Lieut. H. Mason of the U.S. Army phoned from Salisbury today offering us the USO show "Flying High" anytime between Christmas and New Years. After consulting with the Station C. ... Officer the show was book for December 20th, 1944 in the station theatre. No operational flying this evening.		
	17.12.44		Religious services conducted by the Squadron today. ... were well attended on a voluntary basis. Seven Squadron "Old timers" Sgt. Grace, Sgt. Miller, P/L Ridge, Cpl. Harper, Ldg. Great, L/C Holcroft and Ldg. Hetherington cleared and left for ... depot enroute home on repatriation after more than three years overseas service. Wind and rain today, but three crews were on ops.		
	18.12.44		P/O D. H. Olson and P/O G. W. Monks left today to attend No. 47 Captains Course starting at No. 6 (C) OCU tomorrow. P/O S. J. McDonald J440084 was today promoted to P/O effective 1.1.45. Cpl. H. Hesel R131289 Squadron Postal Clerk reported to P/L C/S Hq enroute to ... depot enroute for repatriation to Canada on medical grounds. Rain and wind today but four crews on ops.		
	19.12.44		Wonderful weather today. Clear sunny skies and little wind. P/L G. S. Taylor ... to Linavady, N. Ireland today with P/O Draper to bring back some Christmas turkeys for the Messes today and P/L G. S. Sutherland, Squadron Adjutant, took a day off and went along for the ride. P/O A. G. Hollidge J22083 left today to attend No. 4 Radar Leaders course at RAF ... school, ... W/O A. G. Wilson, P/L G. S. Taylor ... Sutherland ... at a Servicing wing Snoker in the NAAFI tonight. Some thirty or more Liberators of the USAAF landed here in quick succession about 1700 hours today. Four Crews on ops.		
	20.12.44		The fine weather continues and it is very welcome as we see little sunshine here in December. Flying training is in full swing and four crews were on ops.		
	21.12.44		Weather is not so good today with wind and cloud and threatening rain. Colder weather is forecast. A signal from the AGC of 19 Group received today reads as follows: "I should like to congratulate the crews of Wellington W/407 on excellent work last night when a Schnorkel was successfully illuminated after a radar contact at four miles. This proves what a good		

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R.A.F. Station, Chivenor.	21.12.44		training and crew drill can achieve and should encourage us all to persevere in solving the latest U/Boat problem." The crew referred to is Captained by P/O G. Wilson. No ops tonight.		
	22.12.44		Weather is colder today but clouds and windy. A "Sunday" parade was held this evening and two pigs of cigarettes and an air force handkerchief was presented to each WO, NCO & airman on parade with compliments of the season from the R of U. comfort unit fund.		
	23.12.44		Weather cold and bright with a slight ground haze but promises fair for the week end. Flying training was carried out. No crews on Ops.		
	24.12.44		Wonderful weather with clear blue skies and warm sunshine but a light ground haze. Special Christmas services held by our Squadron Padre P/O Molloy were well attended on a voluntary basis. Christmas Eve passed off merrily on the station with the usual impromptu parties in the mess while the refreshments lasted. Flying training and 3 crews on Ops.		
	25.12.44		Christmas Day and only skeleton staffs are on duty. Airman's Christmas dinner served by Officers and NCOs at 1530 hrs. Wonderful sunny weather and no wind but cool. Tonight was clear and bright with millions of stars & cold. A champagne station dance provided a big time for the merry makers. There were no flying trials today but two crews were on Ops. tonight.		
	26.12.44		Boxing Day and things are very quiet across the station except for skeleton duty staffs and aircrew detailed for Ops. A signal from Air Ministry advised to the posting from No. 1 Radio School to 407 Squadron of P/O J.P. Whitlock J88138, PO W Perna J88136, PO A.L. Snyler J19624 WOP/AG's. A Christmas party was held in the mess this afternoon for children of station personnel and a big time was had by a large gathering of children, parents and friends. Members of this squadron donated sweets etc from Christmas parcels for the children. Weather is still pretty good. 3 crews on Ops.		
	27.12.44		New aircrew personnel arrived on posting today from 6 units included P/O W Grant J25511, Pilot, and P/O BA. Quinlan D40 J16969 Pilot and their respective crews. The weather is not so good today with low clouds and wind and some rain. Flying training was carried out and one crew on Ops.		
	28.12.44		A visitor to the Squadron today was Lt. Col. G.B. Stillington CO 20 Canadian Base Dental Co. Bournemouth. PO CH Bolger D40 J20055 Pilot and P/O HF Florence J24066 WOP/AG were detailed to attend 2nd Course at 1510 Base Flight RFL Station Squires Gate and P/O PL Davy J87883 WOP/AG to No. 20 Aircrew Officers' Course at RFL Station Hereford. Weather is poor today with low clouds and wind and rain. Flying training was carried out and 4 crews were on Ops.		
	29.12.44		Rain, wind and low clouds. P/O show "Flying High" was enjoyed by a large audience in the station theatre this evening. Three crews were on Operations		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices		
RAF Station Chivenor	30.12.44		Still cloudy with wind and rain. Flying training continues and three Crews on Ops.				
	31.12.44		A church service held in a Mess by S/L McClean Protestant Padre this morning was attended by approximately 75 members of the Squadron on a voluntary basis. Weather is cold and windy today with rain. P/L DE Arnold 15107 Pilot and S/O J.W. Asker 385169 WOP/AG have been posted to "R" Depot, Warrington for repatriation to Canada under A.N.O. 1945/44 para. 7. Visitors to the Squadron today were P/L G.S. Southworth 015877 Photographic Officer and S/L S.W. Talley 011881 Public Relations Officer from R.O.A.F. O/S H.S. and S/L J.A. Swickman 017885 Motion Picture Script writer and S/O D.J. Devitt 024013 R.A.F. Engineering Plans Officer from Coastal Command. A New Year's dance was held in the Officers' Mess tonight and proved a very enjoyable affair. Three crews on Ops. returning safely.				
TOTAL OPERATIONAL SQUADRON. 79			TOTAL OPERATIONAL HOURS. 767.44				
TIME IN NON-OPERATIONAL HOURS 324.00			A/O Stab A/O on station Charge-20 Wellington ML. XIVCs used by this Squadron.				
PERIODS OF 24 HOURS AT 31.12.44							
				R.O.A.F.	R.A.F.	R.A.F.	W.A.F.
<u>Officers</u>							
Pilots				57			
Navs.				28	1	2	
WOP/AG's				67	8	1	
<u>Other</u>							
Pilots				1			
Navs.				1			
WOP/AG's				24	4		
<u>Groundcrew</u>							
Officers				9			
Airmen				130	2		23
<u>SUMMARY OF COMMISSIONS, PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND COMBAT.</u>							
C/M R 60122 CPT. O'Brien, R.B. - WOP Promoted to the rank of A/SGT. w.e.f. 1.12.44							
C/M 215245 WOP Hamilton, R.H. WOP promoted to the rank of Temporary WOI 22.11.44							
C/M 2117723 WOP Corrigan, J.E. WOP/AG, CAN R161490 WOI Branch, W. R155199 WOI McCreath, R.E. WOP/AG promoted to rank of S/O.							
C/M 2124352 P/O Botham, H. A.S. WOP/AG promoted WOI w.e.f. 17.8.44							
C/M 211767 P/O Witten, B. WOP/AG & R180935 P/O Bennett, G.C. WOP/AG promoted to the rank of S/O w.e.f. 23.11.44							
C/M 211134 P/O P.D. Henry Pilot promoted to T/S/L w.e.f. 11.9.44							
C/M 211553 P/O J.L. White Pilot promoted to rank of T/S/L w.e.f. 25.9.44							
C/M 212236 P/O G.A. Anderson WOP/AG promoted to rank of T/S/O 12.10.44							
C/M 2100083 P/O A.D. Barton WOP/AG promoted to rank of T/S/O w.e.f. 10.10.44							
C/M 210356 P/O J.P. Richer WOP/AG promoted to rank of T/S/O w.e.f. 10.10.44							
C/M 212777 P/O A. Schwartz NAV B. & C/M 2187183 P/O D.F. John WOP/AG promoted to rank of T/S/O 30.10.44							
C/M 2107530 P/O D.W. Stuart WOP/AG promoted to rank of T/S/O w.e.f. 27.10.44							

*Act.*

Original by S/L G.T. Sutherland

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
RAF Station Chivenor			<p><u>SUMMARY OF COMMISSIONS ETC. (CONTINUED)</u></p> <p>CAN J20055 P/O C.M. Bolger DFC Pilot promoted to rank of P/O w.e.f. 23.10.44</p> <p>CAN J20475 P/O A.V. Handy WOP/AG promoted to rank of P/O w.e.f. 26.10.44</p> <p>CAN J86054 P/O D.B. Allen WOP/AG promoted to rank of P/O w.e.f. 9.11.44</p> <p>CAN J86370 P/O J.W. Aulenbeck WOP/AG &amp; CAN J.86826 P/O S.C. Miller WOP/AG promoted to rank of P/O 10.11.44</p> <p>CAN J87288 P/O G. Blyth WOP/AG promoted to the rank of P/O w.e.f. 11.11.44</p> <p>CAN J87626 P/O G. De La Rose WOP/AG promoted to the rank of P/O 30.10.44</p> <p>CAN J87238 P/O C.M. Knight WOP/AG promoted to the rank of P/O w.e.f. 11.11.44</p> <p>CAN J86826 P/O H.O. Weston WOP/AG promoted to the rank of P/O w.e.f. 5.11.44</p> <p>CAN J86777 P/O H.E. Maclean WOP/AG promoted to the rank of P/O w.e.f. 6.11.44</p> <p>CAN J87236 P/O J.C. Power WOP/AG promoted to the rank of P/O w.e.f. 11.11.44</p> <p>CAN J20569 P/O W.B. Gill Pilot promoted to the rank of P/O w.e.f. 6.11.44</p> <p>CAN J83775 P/O F.O. C.R. Waugh NAV.B. promoted to the rank of P/O w.e.f. 7.11.44</p>	
			<p><i>(Signature)</i>                      (R.O. Wilson) Wing Commander,                      Officer Commanding,                      No. 407 Squadron, R.C.A.F.</p>	

**SECRET.**

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