

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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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.

of (Unit or Formation) 107 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 Chiveson	1.6.45		Two Convoy escorts were flown today by P/O J.A. Clark, and P/L H.H. Hooker & Crews. The weather today was unsettled with clouds and rain and wind. Arrangements were made for the burial of P/L W.M. Bowlen, P/L H.I. Mahas, P/O G.D. Boves and P/O L.J.M. Bialor in RAF Regional Cemetery at Brookwood, Surrey on Tuesday June 5/45 at 1200 hrs. P/L W. McClean, Squadron Protestant Padre and ten officers of the Squadron will attend. The Canadian and Federal and Ontario Provincial Election voting is now in full swing and a great deal of interest is being shown by Squadron Personnel. The wet weather of the last few weeks has somewhat curtailed our athletic activities but softball games are being played between showers whenever possible. P/L L.W. Bunnell & Crew also flew a 3 1/2 hr. convoy escort.		
	2.6.45		Two uneventful convoy escorts were flown today by P/L P.D. Henry and P/L J.W. Gauthier & Crews. Tours of the local diversion bases were carried out by P/O's Corrigan, Harwood and Crosser. Sunday Saturday- The end of another week and Coastal Command is still at war altho. our effort now is almost negligible. The current question on everyone's lips is "Why?" and "How much longer will it go on?". The war in Europe is over and still we carry on. However, these U-Boats cannot last out much longer Squadron sports are the big interest at present with the inter section softball league providing some very interesting and keenly contested games. Many Squadron types are spending off duty hours in the nearby pleasure resorts of Ilfracombe, Barnstaple, Croyde, Bideford, Clovelly etc., thereby further increasing the problem of beverage shortages to the dismay of the locals. Final arrangements were made today for the burial of P/L W.M. Bowlen, and three members of his crew in the RAF Regional Cemetery at Brookwood, Surrey next Tuesday at 1200 hrs. A number of officers of this Squadron will attend the funeral. The loss of this fine crew consisting of 6 grand fellows has been a great shock to all ranks of the Squadron, but such is life.		
	3.6.45		Everything is very quiet on the 107 Chiveson front today. Persistent rumors insist that the Coastal Command war is over and official announcement to this effect is expected at any moment. Operational flying has been reduced to almost nothing and consists of what is called tactical patrol. However it cost this Squadron one of our finest crews less than a week ago so it is still very serious business. There is no Protestant Church Services on Sunday now which is a poor show that only the Squadron Padre can explain. The weather continues to be very unsettled which has seriously interfered with our Squadron Sports Programme. When the sun shines for an hour or so, R.T. is quickly laid on and enjoyable swimming parties are laid on a nearby Saunton Sands where the more energetic play baseball on the wide expanses of hard sand.		
	4.6.45		Coastal Command's own little war has finally terminated and all aircraft are permanently grounded in so far as operational flying is concerned from today's date. 107 Squadron one of the oldest and best known in the Service is slated for disbandment after more than four years on operations in Coastal Command. Organised in 1941 it has operated from RAF Stations at Thorney Island, Northcoates, St. Eval, Minvady, Docking, Skilton, Wick, Birchen Newton and Chiveson. It has flown Hudsons and Wellingtons on many types of operations and in many different areas. It has done shipping reconnaissance & strikes over the North Sea, Escort Duty over the Atlantic, Anti-Sub. Patrols in the Irish Sea and the Bay of Biscay and has made anti-shipping strikes along the coast of Europe from Norway to Spain. Looking back over the record of 107, the personnel have fully lived up to their name of "The Demon Squadron" earned in the early days of anti-shipping strikes in Hudsons. They have carried out their missions with an enthusiastic determination,		

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			<p style="text-align: center;">SECRET.</p> <p>a relentless zeal and a high order of courage which has earned them the respect of their friends at the fear of their enemies. Throughout the years there have been many changes in the personnel of 407 but in spite of this fact a common bond of friendship among all ranks and a wonderful esprit de corps has developed, based on allegiance to the same set of high ideals which will undoubtedly continue thru the years to come. There are some who will not come back but they will not be forgotten. In the years to come, when 407 men, wherever they may be, are want to gather, the memory of the missing members will always be there in spirit.</p> <p>And so we close the diary of the Bombs Squadron, conscious of a job well done and with the fervent hope and prayer that such a task will never have to be done again.</p> <p>The original Squadron crest bearing the signature of His Majesty, The King, has been forwarded to the Historical Section, RCAF O/S HQ, London, along with the Squadron Silverware consisting of 14 Silver and Pewter Mugs & Cups for safe keeping.</p> <p>The following signal has been received from H.C.C.:</p> <p>To all Coastal Command Groups six and Stations at Home and Overseas. -Air Chief Marshall Sir Sholto Douglas</p> <p>"Now that the hostilities have ceased in Europe, I would like to express to all ranks of Coastal Command my appreciation and admiration of the magnificent efforts you have all made to bring about the defeat of the enemy in the war at sea, a victory which has been a substantial factor in bringing the European conflict to a speedy conclusion.</p> <p>To Coastal Command fell the honour of opening the war in the air and we have been the last to order the cease fire. The anti-u-boats squadrons have, in co-operation with the Royal Navy, courageously and methodically hunted and killed the U-boat Fleet in waters from the Arctic to the Azores.</p> <p>The anti-shipping squadrons have ruthlessly pulverized the enemy's shipping from Bordeaux along the whole coastline he once held to the shores of Norway. The unarmed photographic reconnaissance squadrons have hit boldly ranged all over Europe to obtain their valuable information and the inspiring work of the air/sea rescue services has saved men of all commands to live and fight again. The Meteorological squadrons have braved all weathers to get their vital data. The rest of you by your collective efforts, have made the operations of our Squadrons feasible. All this makes a record of which everyone in Coastal Command may well be proud.</p> <p>There are, I know, very many of you who are disappointed to see the rolling-up of your Squadrons which have such gallant histories in this war. I also share this disappointment with you, but you will understand that the thought which must be uppermost in our minds at the present time is how soon and how best we can dispose of the Japanese menace for good and all. The means for achieving this do not require the wholesale transfer of Coastal Command to the Pacific and South-East Asia, as there are already large Air Forces adequately equipped to with the Japanese shipping and submarines, but some of you will be going to take part in this final stage of the defeat of the Axis and to you I wish the very best of good fortune. There will also be a large percentage of you who will be transferred to Transport Command, and I wish you every success in your new venture.</p> <p>Our Dominion and allied colleagues, who have played such a gallant part in our victory over the Hun, are returning home or taking up new tasks, and on behalf of you all I thank them most sincerely for all they have done-for myself I shall shortly be leaving you, but I am proud and happy to have served with you in victory".</p>	

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of (Unit or Formation) 407 S.W. BRCH RCAF

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
RAF Station Chiverton			<p>The following signal received from H.Q. 19 Group. "The following Squadrons are to be withdrawn from the line with effect from 4 June 1945. Number 407 RCAF Squadron Number 228 RAF Squadron, Number 461 RAAF Squadron.</p> <p>The following signal was received from HQ 19 G. "The following Units are to be disbanded with effect 4 June 1945 407 (RCAF) Squadron and 8407 S.E.. Request you take action accordingly. All Unit records including Operations Record Book, are to be brought up to date and forwarded to your HQ for retention, disposal.</p> <p>The following signal was received from the 400-in-C HQ 19 G. "Many Squadrons with fine records are necessarily being disbanded now that we have defeated the enemy in Europe, and I wish therefore to thank you for the splendid contribution which 407 Squadron has made to the victory in the war at sea. Your Squadron has played a prominent part in both the Anti-U-Boat and Anti-Shipping spheres during the four years it has been with Coastal Command. Good Luck to you all for the future.</p> <p>The following members of this Squadron are in possession of personal collections of snapshots, photographs, diaries etc. which might be of interest to the Official Historian of the RCAF and they would be willing to produce them on request for inspection but they are not willing to turn them over to the RCAF permanently at this time. W/O K.C. Wilson C.1217- Gore St., Perth, Ont., S/L C.W. Taylor DFC & Bar 36857 Northern Assurance Co. Winnipeg, Man., F/L K.B. Goodson J8613- 11003- 90 Ave. Edmonton, Alta., R.185122 ACI Brodeur, R.J.P. 417 Notre Dame St. Cranby, Quebec., R277522 LAC McCurdy, I.A. 108 Woodcrest Ave., Toronto, Ont. R.100077 Cpl. Hyland, J.D. Port Frances, Ontario, R.69283 Sgt. R.W. Nicoll 25 Worthington St. East, North Bay, Ontario, R.68472 LAC J.L. Leatherdale Ridgetown Ontario, R.166160 LAC Wortlieb, B. 1418 Solkink Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba and F/L G.F. Sutherland C3180- 2 Selwood Ave., Toronto, Ontario.</p> <p>Enclosed are recent photographs of Squadron interest also Squadron Album containing photographs gathered by Squadron Photographic Section throughout the years of the Squadron.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>K.C. Wilson</i> (K.C. Wilson) Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 407 Squadron, R.C.A.F.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SECRET.</p>