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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Tholthorpe	May 7		8 aircraft were required for operations on target SE VALLEY IN GALL(20). All aircraft were bombed up and took off. There were no early returns and photographs indicated they all reached their aiming point. All aircraft returned safely to base. A lecture was given by the C.I.U. on photography. All aircraft not scheduled for flying were able to attend. Training successful today.		
	May 8		15 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack HABLES DE PERRES (20). All reached primary target and returned safely to base. Defences practically nil. J.13117 P/O J. S. H. Dodge Nav. and R.133650, P/O S. L. Tyler P/O were posted to 1650 Conversion Unit for instructor duties w.e.f. 8.5.44. J.13075 P/O L. A. Macdonald (P/O) posted to 1650 Conversion Unit for instructor duties w.e.f. 8.5.44. 2 aircraft took off on a cross country flight tonight. R.135465 P/O D. Finlay A/C, R.135663 Sgt Bartley, G.C. A/C and R.135650 Sgt Batt, G.C. A/C posted to 420 Squadron w.e.f. 8.5.44.		
	May 9		12 aircraft were detailed to attack target G.M.A.I.L. All were bombed up and took off returning safely to base after primary target had been reached. The concentration was good and many bombs were seen to explode on target. Night 1/2 only defences. Training exercises and cross country flights were the order of training today. 131334 P/O James, G.C. A/C/Air appointed to commissioned rank in the 69 Branch R.A.F. w.e.f. 24.5.44. R.174865, G.18100 P/O L. A. Macgregor (Signals Radar) posted to 420 Squadron w.e.f. 8.5.44.		
	May 10		G.19559 P/O R. R. Priestman (Signals Radar) posted to 420 Squadron from 6 Group w.e.f. 15.5.44. J.24924 P/O K. P. Nicolls RAV posted from 425 Squadron w.e.f. 10.5.44. 7 aircraft took off and attacked target G.H.I.E.T. All aircraft reached primary and returned to base safely, after a successful raid. Training and X country flying today.		
	May 11		Stand Down. R.13570 P/O Ward, J.C. Pilot R.135730 P/O Asford, G. Nav. and R.134994 P/O Apperson, R.I. A/C were interviewed by the Base Commander today to commission. Cross country flights and flying training local today. <i>There was unable to identify the target without bombing.</i>		
	May 12		14 aircraft took off and attacked target L.O.U.V.A.I.N. (night). The raid was successful and all aircraft returned to base safely. The Station Commander interviewed several aircraft for commissioning today.		
	May 13		Operations scheduled for tonight were scrubbed. Adverse weather. Some training and lectures today.		
	May 14		Stand Down. X Country tonight and bombing practices took place today.		
	May 15		Stand Down. Adverse weather. Capt. Burton J. (R.O.C. Bordon) attached through SEB to Squadron for 1 week. Liaison visit. No training. - Lectures only.		
	May 16		Bullseye scheduled for tonight cancelled. Lt. Hon Malcolm King and party visited station. Weather very poor.		
	May 17		Stand Down. Bombing, fighter drill and air tests were made today. Adverse weather. Low cloud.		
	May 18		Stand Down. No flying. Weather adverse.		
	May 19		14 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack target MERVILLE-FRANCOIS. 23 aircraft reached primary and the raid was considered successful. The usual Bullseye scheduled for tonight was cancelled. <i>One a/c returned early owing to fuel tank not being full.</i>		

W.12404(0/2) B.M. 1240 C.A.L. 91-718

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### OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 420 (RCAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day 126

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Tholthorpe	May 20		Stand Down. Flying exercises and cross-country flights to-day. The Base Commander interviewed several aircraft leads. R.231759 Sgt Maddell, G.C. A/C. posted from 424 Sqn. to 420 Sqn. w.e.f. 19.5.44.		
	May 21		The Squadron stood down to-day. There were air tests and local flying. 10 aircraft took part in a short cross-country mission, missing the new west circle airfield. G.18596 P/O G. W. Bovins, R.I. Eng. leader will proceed to No. 4 S. or R.I. St. Athan for P.I. Eng. Course w.e.f. 24.5.44.		
	May 22		14 aircraft took off to attack target L.I. H.A.H. All aircraft attacked primary target and returned to base, with the exception of one a/c. which was forced to land away at Ford. J.26329 P/O D. A. Jones A/C R.16752 P/O A. G. Heath A/C both posted to 424 Sqn. w.e.f. 22.5.44. R.11425 Sgt Corbell, J.C. A. P/O, appointed to commissioned rank w.e.f. 30.5.44. W.13059 P/O W. C. Deegan, Pilot; 1st Flight Commander promoted to the rank of Sqn. Ldr. w.e.f. 24.5.44. J.16592 P/O P. R. Kruger, Pilot, Deputy 1st Flight Commander promoted to the rank of P/O. w.e.f. 24.5.44.		
	May 23		Stand Down. Flying exercises all day and night bombing. We had one cross-country. Two crews took part in dingy drill at Ripon.		
	May 24		Stand Down. We had a full day of training. There were several cross-country flights and 8 crews took part in night bombing. J.13020 P/O A. Hawkins, G/O, Signals Ldr. departed to No. 32 O.T.U. on a liaison visit for 2 days.		
	May 25		We were called upon to supply 17 A/C for operations to-night, but due to adverse weather the operation was scrubbed. The Squadron Commander lectured to all aircraft in the briefing room on discipline and the necessity of knowing their duties as aircraft. R.230453 Sgt. Burnett, G.C. A/C. posted from 424 Sqn. w.e.f. 19.5.44.		
	May 26		Stand Down. Flying Exercises; day normal. R.13472 P/O Sgt. Keeney, R.A.F. A/C. posted non-effective sick. 30.5.44.		
	May 27		17 aircraft were detailed to attack target 204th Canadian Military Camp. The raid was considered successful. A heavy ground fog prevented all a/c from returning to base and seven dispersed over many stations. One aircraft was considered damaged due to engine failure on approach. All the crews returned with the exception of R.23093 Sgt. Bligher, G.C. A/C/A, who baled out over target area. The A/C was on fire and he was forced out of his turret's position by the heat. An order had been given to prepare to ditch aircraft; it is assumed that when the A/C was put into a steep dive to another place which had spread to the wings, that he considered a/c out of control and baled out. It is presumed he was wounded but blood was found on his helmet and mask. The A/C was able to reach dispersal landing field, but was so badly shot up that it was declared dry. R.I.C. One A/C failed to return from operations and is presumed missing with 1st Flight Commander G.174 S/L G. C. Beall and crew. R.23072 P/O G. W. A. J. 23066 P/O. Deputy, J.L. A/C. posted to 420 Sqn. from 61 Base w.e.f. 27.5.44.		
	May 28		Stand Down. Normal training (flying) & lectures.		
	May 29		Stand Down. Normal training (flying) & lectures.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thaltheorpe	May 30		Operations scheduled for to-night were cancelled. 2 Crews took part in Dingy Drill at the Spa Baths, Ripon. The following crews reported for duty from 1659 Com. Unit. w.e.f. 29.5.44. 215967 P/O Bennett, G.H. Pilot RL1872 Sgt Goodson, L. A/B JF3111 P/O Harris, J.H. Nav. RL17126 Sgt Dennis, J.H. WOE/AF RL21943 Sgt Johnson, L.V. A/B RL51159 W/O Gordon, C. W/A RL7113661 Sgt Barry, A. P/S.		
	May 31		1. A/C were banded up and took off to attack target in FIVE "Wireless Station" (FR). All aircraft reached primary and returned safely to base. The raid was considered successful. Royal Cylin. duties to-day.		
			<b>Casualties -</b> Loss of Halifax III ML 596 Night 3/4 May, 1944 J. 2811 P/O Longden, F.J. Pilot RL56775 W/O Monaghan, R.J.J. A/B L. 79767 W/O Mackie, R.W. Nav. 133835A Sgt Beer, G.W. WOE/Air RL17210 Sgt MacDougall, J.H. A/C 1104069 P/S Stobbs, W. A/C 259956 Sgt W. Elliott, G. P/S RL93618 Sgt Simpson, H.H. A/C		
			Loss of Halifax III ML 502 Night 27/28 May, 1944. C.1344 S/L G.S. Beall Pilot J.2405 P/O R.J. Andrew Nav. J.21909 P/O J.F. Robinson A/B 172310 P/O D.W. Wootley WOE/Air RL23158 Sgt Sedington, W.C. A/C RL590 P/O A.W. Goodall A/C RL66138 P/S Mohler, G.J. A/C RL12144 Sgt Rickard, W. P/S		
			Missing from operations on night 27/28th May, 1944 having abandoned aircraft over target area. RL6993 Sgt Klaliger, J.H. A/C		
			<b>Postings In -</b> RL27745 Sgt Hill, G.P. (A/C) from 61 Base w.e.f. 1.5.44 RL21726 Sgt Chudick, W.A. (A/C) from 76 Squadron w.e.f. 1.5.44 RL30031 Sgt Brillinger, J.(A/C) from 76 Squadron w.e.f. 1.5.44		
			The unreported crews were posted from 61 (RAF) Base w.e.f. 3.5.44 J. 25325 P/O E.L. Aldred Pilot J. 28342 P/O L.H. West Nav. RL1982 Sgt Rogus, H.H. Woe/Air J. 28984 P/O R.V. Burvill A/B 1891340 Sgt Ware, P.H. P/S RL59197 W/O Malcol, R.D. W/A RL22866 Sgt Robinson, R.W. A/C		
			The unreported crews were posted from 61 Base w.e.f. 6.5.44 J. 26095 P/O H.L. Whitteill Pilot J. 28113 P/O J.C. Pails Nav. RL29769 Sgt Cox, G.A. Woe/Air J. 28487 P/O W.S. McConnell A/B 543144 Sgt Jones, H. P/S RL21492 Sgt Roach, P.G. W/A RL21769 Sgt Spearing, C.A. A/C		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

420 (RAF) Squadron

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			<b>Postings In - Contd.</b> RL2575 P/O E. Bailey (A/C) from 429 Squadron w.e.f. 1.5.44 RL9652 Sgt Bartley, G. (A/C) " RL56548 Sgt Best, G.S. (A/C) " J. 28258 P/O R.H. Hiddleston (Nav) from 425 Squadron w.e.f. 10.5.44 RL21559 Sgt Price, J. (P/S) from 61 Base H.A. Unit w.e.f. 2.5.44		
			The unreported crews were posted from 61 (RAF) Base w.e.f. 9.5.44 J. 22340 P/O E.A. Kidd Pilot RL25207 Sgt Batterson, . Nav. RL7734 W/O Woodcock, G.H. Woe/Air J. 24352 P/O H.G. Lawrence A/B 624344 Sgt Inglis, D.J. P/S 1819390 Sgt Low, G. A/C RL65099 Sgt Anderson, . A/C		
			RL20433 Sgt Burnett, G.S. (A/C) from 424 Squadron w.e.f. 15.5.44 RL21729 Sgt Heddell, R.H. (A/C) from 424 Squadron w.e.f. 16.5.44 J. 19875 P/O A. Gray (Woe/Air) from 61 Base, RAF w.e.f. 27.5.44 RL25066 P/O J.H. Bennett (A/B) from 61 Base, RAF w.e.f. 27.5.44		
			The following crew was posted from 61 (RAF) Base w.e.f. 28.5.44 RL590 P/O G.H. Bennett Pilot J. 29111 P/O J.O. Moore Nav. RL17126 Sgt Dennis, J.H. Woe/Air RL1872 Sgt Goodson, L. A/B RL7113661 Sgt Barry, A. P/S RL51159 W/O Gordon, C. A/C RL21943 Sgt Johnson, L.V. A/C		
			<b>RETIRES</b> J. 15522 P/O P.G. Kruger Rtd - appointed Acting Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 2.5.44 - Deputy Flight Commr. J. 11889 P/O (A/S) R.C. Hooper - appointed Acting Squadron Leader w.e.f. 2.5.44 - Flight Commander J. 10881 P/O A.T. Bennett - promoted 2/Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 27.5.44		
			<b>DISAPPEARANCES</b> RL22455 W/O Vamber, H. - commissioned w.e.f. 16.12.43 - now missing A/B RL49438 W/O Riechle, G.A. - commissioned w.e.f. 15.5.44 - now missing Nav. RL21220 Sgt Dorehill, J.A. - commissioned w.e.f. 30.4.44. P/S 137673 P/S Jones, R. - commissioned w.e.f. 6.4.44 - now missing Woe/Air 131124 P/S Jones, R. - comm. aloned w.e.f. 12.4.44 - now missing Woe/Air RL33914 P/S Wetherby, J.J. commissioned w.e.f. 19.4.44 - now missing Woe/Air		



Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			<b>POSTING LIST -</b> The following crew was posted to 405 (HAF) Squadron on 22.5.44 1299335 P/O Dobson, J.H. Pilot 1299749 P/O R.L. Brown Navigator 1210139 W/O Partridge, R.A. W/O A/C 1298977 Sgt Dingle, J.H. A/B 1298344 Sgt Willoughby, R.H. S/S 1216996 Sgt Hart, R.A. A/B 1296335 Sgt Nicholson, R.H. A/G  1216278 P/O (A/S/L) H. Ford D/O to 62 O.T.U. on 22.5.44 1295775 P/O J.L. Henderson (A/G) to 1209 O.T.U. on 22.5.44 1212117 P/O J.H. Dicks (A/G) to 1699 O.T.U. on 22.5.44 1295528 P/O R. Jones, R.A. (A/G) to 1699 O.T.U. on 22.5.44 1292130 Sgt Jackson, R.A. (A/G) to 62 (HAF) Base R.A. on 22.5.44 1292399 P/O R.A. Jones (A/G) to 434 Squadron on 22.5.44 1297120 P/O Smith, R.C. (A/G) to 434 1215772 P/O Deacon, J.H. (A/G) to 62 (HAF) Base R.A. on 22.5.44 1212770 W/O Bennett, C.A. (A/G) to 62 (HAF) Base R.A. on 22.5.44		
			<b>REPAIR AND MAINT - 181</b>		
			<b>REPAIR OF AIRCRAFT - 181</b>		
			<b>REPAIR OF ENGINE - 19 ENGINE on 111 aircraft</b>		
			<b>OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL ENGINE HOURS -</b>		
				Operational 659.30 Hours	
				Non-Operational 226.30 Hours	
			<b>NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT - 127</b>		
			<b>WEIGHT AND OPERATIVE WEIGHT OF BOMBS DROPPED AND BOMBS USED -</b>		
			Total No. of tons of bombs dropped during the month of May, 1944 : 497 1/2		
			Total No. of tons of bombs dropped to date : 1287.31		
			<b>NUMBER OF COMBAT WITH BOMB AIRCRAFT</b>		
				8 combats	
				Destroyed : 2 Fighters	
				Probably Destroyed : 111	
				Damaged : 3 Fighters.	

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of (Unit or Formation) 420 (HAF) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			<b>SUMMARY</b>		
			<b>AWAY</b> R.C.A.F. Officers 73		
			R.C.A.F. Airman 113		
			R.A.F. Officers 5		
			R.A.F. Airman 53		
			R.A.F. Airman 1		
			<b>GROUND CREW</b> R.C.A.F. Officers 2		
			R.C.A.F. Airman 258		
			R.A.F. Airman 4		
			W.A.A.F. 7		
			<b>REPORT ISSUED BY SQUADRON COMMANDER MONTHLY -</b>		
			The activities of the Squadron during the month of May were quite satisfactory. We took part in 9 raids over France; with a loss of 1 crew and 1 Air Gunner who baled out over the target. One aircraft badly shot up due to enemy fighter opposition when we attacked the Military Camp at Bourg-Leopold. The way in which the pilot and crew were able to fight the fire, bring down the fighter and return to a base is quite commendable.		
			One aircraft was lost in a cross-country flight and to date nothing has been heard of it. Training was carried out satisfactorily with emphasis laid on bombing, as we are finding a noticeable improvement was shown by crew operations in this kind and tree-landing and further training will be carried out in this respect.		
			With the long daylight hours it is now possible to utilize evenings for training. This has already been inaugurated and should assist the members of the squadron in maintaining a high degree of efficiency.		
			<i>G.A. Molenna</i> (G.A. Molenna) W/O. Squadron Commanding, No. 420 (HAF) Squadron.		