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21793 Wt. 38805/3593 400.000 12/39-McC & Co-51-5658

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. /

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.

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) NO: 106 SQUADRON FINNINGLEY

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|------------|----------|---|--|--------------------------|
| FINNINGLEY | 1.12.40 | | No flying to-day, persistent fog. | |
| | 2.12.40 | | No flying to-day, fog. | |
| | 3.12.40 | | For the third successive day there was thick fog, making flying impossible. | |
| | 4.12.40 | | Operational Training, including three hours night flying. | |
| | 5.12.40 | | Operational Training. | |
| | | | In the early hours of this morning, two aircraft carried out gardening operations in the JELLYFISH area. Both were successful, the pilots reporting the flights as uneventful and without attention. | |
| | 6.12.40 | | Operational Training. Day flying was limited owing to the weather, but two 1000-circuit flights were carried out at night. | |
| | 7.12.40 | | Operational Training. | |
| | | | Whilst carrying out night-flying circuits and landings, HANCOCK & LILES crashed within a few miles of the aerodrome and was completely wrecked. The pilot was SGT. SHILLING (attached from 20 Squadron, Lindholme) and the W/O. A.C. SGT THOMPSON, both were killed. | |
| | 8.12.40 | | Operational Training, including two hours sea sweep at night. | |
| | 9.12.40 | | Operational Training. | |
| | 10.12.40 | | Operational Training, including two hours sea sweep at night. | |
| | 11.12.40 | | Operational Training. | |
| | | One aircraft carried out a 4 1/2 hour sweep of the North Sea off Harborough Head, searching for a missing machine from Lindholme. | | |
| 12.12.40 | | Operational Training. | | |
| | | 4/0 R.O. ALTMANN O.C. has completed the Blind Approach course at Watlington. | | |
| | | The following have been posted to No. 106 Squadron from the O.C. Finningley, 11/12/40:- | | |

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| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | Page No. <u>2</u> | References to Appendices |
|-------------------|----------|------|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>FINNINGLEY</u> | 12.12.40 | | <p>PILOTS: YYYYS SGT. A. T. HEST, YYY715 SGT. T. NEALE, YYY62Y SGT. W. CHAMBERS</p> <p>NT/MS: 68388 SGT. C. G. MUNT, 88180 SGT. W. LAMLEY, YYY719 SGT. R. R. WATKINS, 68145 SGT. W. GRAVER</p> <p>W5875 SGT. C. G. REOCCAN has been posted to 41 Squadron Hemswell w/e 1.12.40.</p> | | |
| | 12.12.40 | | Operational Training. | | |
| | 12.12.40 | | Flying limited by unfavourable weather. | | |
| | 13.12.40 | | Operational Training. | | |
| | 13.12.40 | | No flying to-day owing to inclement rain. | | |
| | 14.12.40 | | Operational Training. | | |
| | | | <p>Early this morning three aircraft carried out gardening operations in the TRENTHAM area, but one was unable to locate target and brought the mine back to base. The other two, however, planted successfully and without opposition. One of these aircraft, piloted by SGT. HOWARD with SGT. SIDGOTHAM as navigator, attacked with six wing-bombs a merchant vessel of estimated tonnage two to three thousand, the rear gunners observing one direct hit on the starboard side of aft deck.</p> | | |
| | 17.12.40 | | No flying to-day owing to fog. | | |
| | 18.12.40 | | Operational Training. | | |
| | | | <p>WO S. G. BARNETT and WO C. BURNHILL have been granted the rank of Acting Wing Officer w/e 1/12/40</p> <p>WO A. D. STEWART, Squadron Engineer Officer, has been granted the rank of Acting Wing Officer w/e 1/12/40.</p> <p>68285 SGT. S. W. CRANCO, 68498 SGT. J. HARKER, both W/O's have been posted from the Squadron w/e 1/12/40.</p> | | |
| | 19.12.40 | | Operational Training. | | |
| | | | <p>Three aircraft successfully carried out gardening operations in the TRENTHAM area. Little opposition was encountered and one aircraft, piloted by SGT. CALDWAY, attacked the aerodrome at CHASWAT. Good six wing-bombs bursting near the flare-pat</p> | | |

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2549, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 104 SQUADRON FINNINGLEY

No. of pages used for day

wide operation was encountered back one mile, plane was seen near the aerodrome at CHASSICOT, both the wing-bombs bursting near the plane.

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 106. SQUADRON FINNINGLEY

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|------------|----------|------|--|--------------------------|
| FINNINGLEY | 20.12.40 | | <i>Operational Training</i> | |
| | 21.12.40 | | <i>Operational Training.</i> <i>While on a night-flying cross-country exercise, HARVEY 12154 crashed into a hill-side at Chapel-en-le-Val, Berks. The crew, WO HUBBARD, SGT PERKINS, SGT DRYET, SGT SMITH, were all killed.</i> <i>HANCOCK P1004 crashed while on night flying exercise and landing, off the Green Road near Bawley, Yorks. The aircraft was completely wrecked but both of the crew, SGT WELLS and SGT RICHARDSON were uninjured apart from concussion.</i> | |
| | 22.12.40 | | <i>Operational Training.</i> <i>The following have been posted to the Squadron from CTS Finningley:-</i> <i>WO C.H. INNES, WO R.P. BARKIN, wof. 15.12.40; WO I.O. OLIVER, WO R.V.R. PARSONS wof. 22.12.40</i> <i>W/AC1 589679 SGT P. SOMERS, 446751 SGT R.A. NISEMAN, 553725 SGT J.A. COLLON, 449250 SGT F.O. ELLIOTT, 446790 SGT W. BRADLEY.</i> | |
| | 23.12.40 | | <i>Operational Training.</i> <i>Four aircraft were detailed for gardening operations in the SEANTING area, but met with varying success. One aircraft returned after less than an hour owing to engine trouble and another, due to bad visibility over the target area, was unable to find point itself and returned with both mine and bombs to third machine, piloted by SGT HOWARD, met with no difficulties either from the weather or enemy "flak" and completed the operation successfully. The fourth aircraft, piloted by SGT CAROLAN, first attacked a convoy S.E. of WANDEROS, both wing-bombs striking "near miss" neither the pilot nor navigator was even quite sure of their exact whereabouts and while searching for the target encountered</i> | |

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| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|-----------|----------|------|---|--------------------------|
| FINNIGARY | 23.12.40 | | force opposition from ground defenses; the mine was eventually dropped in an incorrect but probably useful position. | |
| | 24.12.40 | | Operational Training. | |
| | 25.12.40 | | to flying to-day. | |
| | 26.12.40 | | Flying was very limited to-day owing to bad visibility. | |
| | 27.12.40 | | Operational Training. | |
| | 28.12.40 | | Operational Training. Four aircraft carried out gardening operations in the DEUXYEN area. Three of them were successful, one also attacking a flat ship (result not known) and the pilot reported the flight as uneventful with only slight opposition. The fourth machine, Sgt SIDGORTHON, Sgt CHAMBERS, Sgt HATHON, Sgt BEARDS, failed to return from this operation and there has been no evidence to suggest a cause for its loss. | |
| | 29.12.40 | | Operational Training. WFCDR. W. S. H. LINDLEY relinquishes command of No. 106 Squadron on being posted to H.Q. No. 4 Group and his place has been taken by WFCDR. P. T. POLLOCK. The following pilots have been posted to the Squadron from O.T.S. Finningly:- 757306 Sgt. R. ANDREWSPOON, 757579 Sgt. W. E. BOWERING, 757121 Sgt. E. A. THURBY w/f. 22.12.40 757591 Sgt. R. T. V. UARD w/f. 29.12.40. | |
| | 30.12.40 | | to flying to-day owing to unfavourable weather. | |
| | 31.12.40 | | Flying very limited to-day owing to rain and bad visibility. The total flying hours for the month of DECEMBER was 367 hrs 45 mins. This figure comprises 183 hours 40 mins. day flying and 184 hours 05 mins. at night, the night total including 96 hrs 45 mins. operational flying. | |

WL 44786/4314. 100K. 1/40. H.O.B. 01-8009

Appendix 1

R.A.F. Form 541.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK.

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

From hrs. / / to hrs. / /

By No. 106