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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. OneSee 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) No. 78 Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton-St- George.	1941	August. 1st.	No Operations or Standby.	
	"	2nd.	12 aircraft including 3 Fresher, were detailed for Ops. The freshers were cancelled at 16:00 hours. Target for remaining aircraft was HAMBURG. 8 aircraft bombed the target area reflection of fires being seen. 1 aircraft returned early with engine trouble, and another after bombing target landed at Acklington.	A87. C.154
	"	3rd.	no operations or standby.	
	"	4th.	12 aircraft were detailed for operations, these were cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions at 17:00 hours.	
	"	5th.	no operations or standby.	
	"	6th.	15 aircraft, including 3 freshers, were detailed for operations. Ops target FRANKFURT, Fresher target CALAIS. 4 Ops. crews failed to reach the target, 3 through severe icing and 1 through the failure of the H/Speed supercharger. 1 machine which reached the target landed at Linton for petrol. Of the freshers 2 bombed the target the 3rd fresher abandoned the operation owing to large cumulus cloud over target and jettisoned bombs in sea.	A88. C.155 C.156
	"	7th.	No operations or standby.	
	"	8th.	15 aircraft, including 3 freshers were detailed for operations. The freshers were cancelled at 05:30 hours. All the rest of the crews reached the target and all except one claimed bombs in the target area which was KIEL. The one failing to bomb the target, bombed a built up area on the west bank, other crews admit seeing fires in this position. All aircraft returned safely to base except one, this aircraft had engine trouble over the target (both propellers were on fire) and got badly hit by A.A. fire, as a result they had to land in the sea and use the dinghy. They were picked up 4 hours later - 80 miles from the English coast - and quite unharmed.	A88. C.157
	"	9th.	No operations or standby.	
	"	10th.	15 aircraft detailed for operations including 3 freshers. cancelled at 05:30 hours.	
	"	11th.	10 aircraft detailed for operations, including 5 freshers, cancelled at 05:00 hours.	
	"	12th.	17 aircraft detailed for operations these were cancelled at 09:00 hours.	
	"	13th.	No operations or standby.	123

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AIR	27	660	1	2			
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Page No. Two

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton-St-George.	August.	14th.	16 aircraft including 2 freshers were detailed for operations, freshers were later cancelled. 10 aircraft attacked HANNOVER. One did not take off through broken contact breaker arm. One landed as undercarriage would not retract. One could not locate target. One returned with exactor trouble. the rest bombed the target area.	A89 C.158 A90
	"	15th.	no operations or standby.	
	"	16th.	13 aircraft detailed for operations including 3 freshers. 12 took off to attack COLOGNE. One did not take off through defective bomb door. 3 aircraft were missing 5 did not reach target owing to mechanical trouble. 4 jettisoned bombs. One attacked ROTTERDAM. 4 attacked primary target.	A90 C.159. A91
	"	17th.	One fresher detailed for operations, later cancelled.	
	"	18th.	One fresher detailed for operations. target DUNKIRK was bombed successfully.	A91 C.160
	"	19th.	4 fresher crews were detailed for operations. One crashed on take off, one did not locate the target and jettisoned its bombs in the sea. The remaining two bombed the target which was Le HAVRE.	A91 C.161
	"	20th.	No operations or standby.	
	"	21st.	10 aircraft including 2 freshers were detailed for operations, later cancelled.	
	"	22nd.	3 freshers were detailed to attack LE HAVRE, all successfully attacked the target and returned to base.	A91 C.162
	"	23rd.	No operations or standby.	
	"	24th.	9 aircraft, including 3 freshers detailed for operations. 1 aircraft did not take-off owing to rear gunner being unfit; 8 took off to attack the target which was DUSSELDORF. 1 aircraft missing - the rest attacked the target; 1 aircraft crashed at Mistley on return journey, Sgt. Sinclair the second pilot was killed in the crash the rest of the crew safe; other aircraft returned okay to base.	A92 C.163
	"	25th.	No operations or standby.	
	"	26th.	No operations or standby.	
	"	27th.	7 aircraft were detailed for operations. 4 were later cancelled. 3 took off to attack MANNHEIM. One aircraft attacked primary. One aircraft attacked BRUGES and was believed to have been hit and damaged by enemy action, engine caught fire on landing at base, the crew escaped but were injured, the aircraft was burnt out. the remaining aircraft attacked the primary and landed at Honington.	A92 C.164

Page No. 3.

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)

No. 78 Squadron.

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Middleton-St-George.	August	28th.	3 Fresher crews detailed for operations. Primary DUNKIRK. 2 aircraft successfully attacked the target and returned safely to base. The remaining aircraft took off from M/S/George at 0135 hours, and since that time no word has been heard of either aircraft or crew.	A92. C-16
		29th.	8 aircraft detailed for operations. Primary FRANKFURT. 5 aircraft successfully attacked the primary. 1 aircraft returned to base owing to inter/comm being u/s. 1 could not locate primary and bombed target believed to be SAARBRUEHEN. The remaining aircraft attacked a target which was believed to be MANNHEIM. All aircraft returned safely to base.	A92 A93. C-16
		30th.	No operations or standby.	
		31st.	9 aircraft were detailed for operations against ESSEN, 6 A/U bombed target area on E.T.A. and S/L and flak. One returned early and landed at Leeming with wireless trouble. One had starboard engine failure over Dutch coast, after jettisoning bombs, flares and ammunition it reached Cottishall where the aircraft was landed safely. One did not reach target so attacked flare path at position 51°38'N 06°46'E.	A92. C-16
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