

21793 Wt. 38806/3593 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.

of (Unit or Formation) 82 SQUADRON - WATTON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
BODNEY	1/6/41		The Squadron was preparing planes and routes for the journey to Malta. Crews not going to Malta were employed in taking off with full war load (in 9lb. boost) P.O. Watkins promoted Flight Lieutenant. Weather. Cloudy with fog and drizzle.	
	2/6/41		The Engineering Officer gave a lecture on general aircraft maintenance and use of the dinghy (including its construction). In the afternoon formation practice was carried out by the new crews, three aircraft being used for this purpose. Weather. Cloudy with drizzle.	
	3/6/41		Low level bombing practice was carried out by new crews using two aircraft. Weather. Generally cloudy later becoming fair.	
	4/6/41		Ferrying was carried out from Portreath by 2 aircraft. Weather. Cloudy becoming fine with fog then fair and cloudy late in evening.	
	5/6/41		Low sea flying practice was done by 2 new crews and formation flying by crews detailed for Malta. Weather. Cloudy with intermittent slight rain.	
	6/6/41		The crews detailed for Malta stood by to proceed to Portreath en route. No flying was carried out. Weather, Cloudy with fine periods.	
	7/6/41		Nine aircraft set out for Malta but owing to bad weather were forced to return. Weather. Cloudy with slight intermittent rain.	
	8/6/41		No flying was carried out the Squadron standing by to proceed to Portreath. Weather. Overcast with fog in morning later becoming fair then cloudy with slight drizzle. F/Lt. Watkins posted to 21 Squadron. P/O Geasar posted to 101 Sqdn. P/O's McKenny, Ryan and Webster posted to Middle East.	

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Reference:-

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
BODNEY	9/6/41		The Squadron stood by to proceed to Malta but bad weather prevented this. No flying was carried out during the day. Five crews proceeded overseas by sea. P/O J.T. Arklay posted to this Squadron from 21 Squadron. Weather. Slight drizzle at first then cloudy.		
	10/6/41		The Squadron stood by to proceed to Portreath but bad weather again prevented this. Weather. Intermittent or continuous rain.		
	11/6/41		Nine planes left for Portreath en route for Malta. Weather. Intermittent and or continuous slight rain until 2200 and cloudy thereafter.		
	12/6/41		Two crews were employed on ferrying aircraft. Weather. Partly cloudy, with showers.		
	13/6/41		No. 1 Echlon consisting of 5 A/c departed for Portreath. Weather. Cloudy early but later varied.		
	14/6/41		The ground crews carried on with their preparational work for despatching further aircraft to the Middle East. Weather. Partly cloudy with slight continuous rain with haze later.		
	15/6/41		No. 2 Echlon consisting of 5 A/c departed for Portreath at 1500 hrs. and No. 3 Echlon of 4 A/c at 1930 hours. Weather. Cloudy with few occasional breaks, becoming fair towards midnight.		
	16/6/41		The ground crews carried on with their preparations for further despatch of aircraft.		
	17/6/41		No. 4 Echlon of 3 A/c departed for Portreath. Weather. Mainly fine.		
	18/6/41		A further 6 aircraft of No. 5 Echlon left for Portreath. Fine becoming cloudy towards noon becoming finer later. W/C E. de Lart awarded posthumous D.S.O. S/Ldr. Watson, F/Lt. Fairbairn, P/O's Alers-Hankey, Higgins and Marsh proceeded on temporary overseas duty.		
	19/6/41		3 A/c left for Portreath en route to the Middle East. Mainly overcast with intermittent drizzle. F/Lt. Harrison Broadly appointed acting Squadron Leader.		

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of (Unit or Formation) 82 SQUADRON - WATTON

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	20/6/41		3 A/c again left for the Middle East via Portreath. Weather. Fog at first clearing and becoming fine.	
	21/6/41		No flying was carried out.	
	22/6/41	do. do.	F/Lt. Brown appointed acting S/Ldr. and posted to Watton.	
	23/6/41	do, do.	F/Lt. Watkins posted to Watton.	
	24/6/41	do. do.		
	25/6/41	do. do.		
	26/6/41		The squadron stood down.	
	27/6/41		No flying was carried out.	
	28/6/41)		The Squadron were granted 2 days leave in recognition of their good work in preparing aircraft for the Middle East.	
	29/6/41)			
	30/6/41		The ground crews carried out normal routine work.	

N. J. Carr
 Officer Commanding,
 No. 82 Squadron, Watton.

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