

21793 Wt. 38805/3593 400,000 12/39-MCC & Co-51-5658

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2849, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 86 Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
St. Eval.	2.2.42	12.50	A/C B/217 with crew of 86 Squadron airborne 12.50 on A/S patrol.	STE/04/2/2
		14.05	Position ZJFM 3203 sighted 2 armed trawlers & 1 tanker on course 070 degrees T speed 10 knots. Pilot altered course away from C.V. climbed to cloud base at 1400 ft. and continued circling to port until a/c on starboard quarter of tanker. Flak did not open until a/c was about to attack.	FL/G5/2
		14.08	2 x 500 lb. M.C. and 4 x 250 lb. G.P. (11 sec. delay) were released in shallow dive from 1400 ft. down to 50 ft. and were estimated to have straddled the ship, which altered course about 20 degrees to starboard. Rear gunner fired 170 rounds at tanker. As a/c flew away, rear gunner saw bows of ship enveloped in cloud of steam or smoke just after splash had been observed 5-10 yards from port bow, as if a bomb had passed right through ship. Avoiding action taken and later pilot saw ship, which appeared to be down by the head.	
		15.45	A/C landed at base. For crew see appendix 1.	
do.	2.2.42.	16.55	A/C G/86 airborne on shipping Strike together with A/C A/86 & Q/86, in formation. In position ZJFM 4558 a tanker estimated 5000 tons escorted by 2 armed trawlers was sighted approx. 4 miles ahead on Westerly course at 3 knots. A/C continued formation for 30 secs then broke and attacked. A/C G released torpedo from 70 ft., 900 yards from target and took avoiding action from Red Flak, all ships having opened up just prior to attack. A/C Q was observed by rear gunner to fall into sea in flames. "A" was last seen on Northerly course far ahead of "G", flying normally.	STE/06/2/2 FL/G8/2/2
		18.55	A/C "G" landed at base at 18.55. "A" & "Q" failed to return and crews are missing.	
do.	3.2.42.	07.15	A/C B/86 airborne on Special Target Operation, but landed at Portreath with nothing to report at 09.50	STE/03/3/2
		09.50		FL/G1/3/2
		07.26	A/C 2/86 airborne for Special Target. This a/c failed to return and crew are missing.	FL/G1/3/2

62

Reference:-		PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE		1	2	3	4	5	6
AIR 27 / 708				1	2				
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION									

Reference:-	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6
AIR 27 / 708							
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION							

Page No. 2.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
St. Eval.	3.2.42.	09.30	A/C K/86 & W/86 airborne on Brest Sweep.	CHI/01/3/2
		12.24	Landed at Chivenor with nothing to report.	FL/G3/3/2
		09.24	A/C D/86 airborne on Special Target Operation.	STE/04/3/2
		10.40	Position ZJPM 1006, sighted 3 small vessels, possible M class minesweepers on course 270 at 6 knots 3 miles apart in line astern.	FL/G1/3/2
		10.43	Position ZJP, 0808 sighted 2 small vessels on course 270, 2 miles apart and one painted white, which opened fire including a smoke signal which burst at 300 ft above vessel giving appearance of barrage balloon.	
		12.34	A/C landed at Portreath.	
do.	4.2.42.	12.02	A/C G/86, U/86, & Y/86 airborne on Rover Patrol. In position WDWQ sighted 2 unidentified trawlers on N.W. course. In position WDAA 5038 sighted 4 fishing vessels, course N.W. with nets overside and French markings.	STE/07/4/2 FL/G1/3/2
		18.00	A/C landed at base.	
do.	5.2.42.	06.46	A/C D/86 airborne on A/S patrol. In position BFUF 0030 sighted 250 ft. M/V on course 300, speed 5 knots. M/V had black Maltese Cross in white circle on funnel. Attack was made and torpedo dropped from 80 ft. at 1000 yards range, A/C then flew ahead of bows of M/V and rear gunner fired some good bursts at long range. NEE Flak encountered. Results of attack not visible possibly due to torpedo not striking before ship was lost to view in bad visibility (1 - 2 miles). Rear gunner reports ship appeared to reduce speed and pilot estimates that torpedo may have missed ahead. Torpedo not definitely observed to run. Unidentified trawlers were seen in positions WDWQ 1240, WDWQ 2822 and WDWQ 3910.	STE/020/5/2 FL/G1/4/2
		12.55	A/C landed at base.	
do.	6.2.42	16.40	A/C V/86, Y/86, X/86, G/86, E/86 and B/86 carried out Biscuit operation.	STE/012/6/2
		19.02	All A/C returned to base with nothing to report.	FL/G5/5/2

21793 Wt. 38805/3593 400,000 12/39-McC & Co-51-5658

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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. 86 Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
St. Eval.	6.2.42.	08.30	A/C M/86 & D/86 carried out A/D patrol and sighted about 100 fishing vessels from position JDWQ 3045 to JDUP 3010, majority heading towards coast.	STE/013/6/2
		17.45	A/C landed at base.	PL/G1/6/2
"	8.2.42.	14.50	A/C V/86, U/86 and W/86 carried out operation A/S Reese.	STE/09/8/2
		17.30	Patrol was completed and A/C returned to base.	PL/G2/8/2
"	10.2.41	12.36	A/C X/86, U/86 and B/86 airborne on Shipping Search, Patrol completed and returned to base with nothing to report.	STE/04/10/2
		14.14		PL/G4/10/2
Thorney Island.	12.2.42.	16.06	A/C V/86 airborne on Strike operation and arrived over Coltishall at 17.04 hrs. A/C left coast and set course without escort. Message received in clear "Battle cruisers may be 30 miles or more of given position and forces have split".	TI/05/12/2
		17.10		CH/G3/12/2
		17.41	In position HLYX 5828 A/C commenced search back southwards along Dutch coast. One JU.88 seen in distance on Southerly course, also one Wellington on Easterly course.	
		18.05	Sighted 3 M class minesweepers in position HLYT 1032 on Northerly course proceeding slowly and A/C sent first sighting report. Minesweepers fired 3 star Red challenge. 2 unidentified twin engined A/C seen circling at 2000 ft. above vessels. Own A/C at 150 - 200 ft. no attack made.	
		18.09	S/C Manston.	
		20.32	Landed Thorney Island with load.	
do.		16.00	A/C Y/86 & X/86 airborne on Strike.	CH/025/12/2
		17.02	Arrived over Coltishall and circled until 17.07. No fighter escort contacted so set course at 17.07	
		17.42	In position HLYx 5825 and patrolled coastwise.	

63

Reference:-		PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
AIR 27 / 708		1	2	3	4	5	6
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION							

Reference:-	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6
AIR 27 / 708		1			2		
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION							

Page No. 4.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
		18.05	In position HLYX 1502 sighted 3 M class minesweepers course 020 degrees speed 5 knots. A/C circled these craft and then set course for Bircham Newton. Nothing else sighted.	
		19.22	"Y" landed at Docking	
		19.35	"X" landed at Docking.	
Thorney Island	12.2.42.		A/C D/86 airborne on Strike, primary target Scharnhorst and Gneisenau.	
		17.15	Task abandoned owing to W/T trouble and illness of Observer.	
		18.00	Landed Bodney.	
do.	13.2.42.	16.10	A/C G/86 airborne on Strike but did not return and no report is available.	TI/01/13/2 CH/G3/12/2
X St. Eval.	16.2.42	11.36	A/C W/86, D/86 and S/86 airborne and flew in formation on A/S patrol.	STR/011/16/2
		14.34	In position FMS 0555 attack was made on 4 small ships. They were believed to be coasters, one funnel amidships with red band (two subsequently seen to be flying French flag) estimated 150 ft. in length. One seen to have four ventilators, all sailing independently. A/C broke formation and "W" carried out attack from 50 ft. All bombs but one, which overshot, hit the ship amidships which promptly blew up and disintegrated. The A/C was violently shaken and when cloud cleared, only an oily patch and floating debris could be seen. Crew of "D" report that ship appeared first to break in two and both parts were blown out of the water before disintegrating. A/C "D" carried out attack on leading ship from 50 ft. and 1 X 500 lb. and 1 X 250 lb. were estimated as direct hits, the remainder straddling. The forepart was seen to have been blown off and was awash. The ship sank a minute or two later. During run up, pilot fired about 50 rounds into ship and a man in a red shirt was seen diving for cover. A/C "W" sprayed third ship with M.G. fire and A/C "S" attacked from 50 ft. Two bombs undershot and one overshot, remainder estimated to have scored direct hits. A violent explosion took place and a few seconds later the ship was well down by the bows and was awash as far aft as amidships. The crew abandoned ship and pulled away in a boat. As A/C flew away, fourth ship continued on its course. Later	FL/G2/15/2

21793 Wt. 38805/3593 400,000 12/39-Med & Co-51-5658

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.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 5.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 86 Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			in position ZJAA 1550 five unidentified M/V's were sighted, one 4-5000 tons with flush decks, 1 funnel 2 masts and two were between 1-2000 tons coasters. In position WDW 3500.2 small neutral fishing vessels were sighted, hove to, flying tricolor.	
St. Eval.	17.2.42.	10.30	A/C V/86 airborne on Shipping SEARCH Search.	STE/04/17/2
		11.11	Returned to base with nothing to report.	PL/G2/17/2
		10.30	A/C H & Y/86 airborne on A/S search.	STE/07/17/2
		16.30	Returned to base with nothing to report.	PL/G2/17/2
		05.50	A/C 'B' airborne on A/S Sweep. This A/C crashed south of St. Maryn and burst into flames and bombs ^{exploded} killing all members of crew.	PL/G3/17/2
do.	18.2.42.	11.54	A/C K/86 airborne on A/S patrol.	STE/02/18/2
		15.32	Position JDUF 3127 crossed French coast and for 14 mins. searched in vain for target. In clearings in the wooded country south of river mouth, estimated position JDUF 3030, two encampments of military type were observed. One consisted of about 8 huts in a row with a fence round.	PL/G2/15/2
		13.43	Position HKPM 0808 sighted unidentified sailing boat on Northerly course at 3 knots.	
		14.43	Position FMS 2222 sighted trawler moving westwards.	
		15.00	Position BFMS 0555 sighted 7 fishing vessels, no nets seen, moving slowly Northwards.	
		15.10	" TCUF 4716 " 3 " " stationary.	
		16.42	" TCW 5636 sighted 1 trawler and another in pos. FWQ 0728.	
		19.34	Landed at base.	

64

Reference:-		PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE		1 2 3 4 5 6					
AIR 27 / 708				1		2			
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION									

Reference:-	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6
AIR 27 / 708		1	2				
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION							

Page No. 6

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
St. Eval.	18.2.42.	11.55	A/C P/86 airborne on A/S patrol.	
		17.45	Position HKPM 4520 sighted convoy of 2 M/V's estimated 3000 tons and 3 or 4 smaller vessels on course 090 speed 6 knots. A/C attempted to bomb M/V 3000 tons 3 Island type on track 360 degrees T at 30 ft., but bombs failed to release. Intense M.G. fire encountered, no tracer. A/C made second run attempting to jettison bombs on ship, but bombs would not release. Ship was machine gunned with 1 1/2 sec. bursts from front gun.	STE/03/18/2 PL/G2/15/2
		19.26	Landed at base.	
		12.04	A/C S/86 airborne on A/S Patrol.	
do.	19.2.42.	15.33	Position JDUF 3227 sighted what appeared to be a concentration camp, a barbed wire compound of about 15 wooden huts, a few men were seen. Nothing else sighted except 1 fishing vessel.	STE/04/18/2 PL/G2/15/2
		19.20	Landed at base.	
		09.04	A/C N/86 airborne on A/S search.	
		14.30	Position QMWQ 0000 sighted 5 M class minesweepers on course 230, speed 20 knots. A/C approached to within 1000 yards and was challenged with 4 star cartridge, 1 red and three white, and almost immediately all ships opened up with intense and accurate M.G. fire, with bright yellow tracer. A/C took violent evasive action, circled and set course for base.	STE/04/19/2 PL/G2/15/2
do.	19.2.42.	15.30	Landed at base.	
		09.04	A/C J/86 airborne on A/S search, completed patrol and returned to base having sighted nothing except a few fishing vessels.	STE/05/19/2 PL/G2/15/2
		15.45		
		09.07	A/C L/86 airborne on A/S Search. Nothing sighted except fishing vessels and A/C returned to base.	STE/06/19/2 PL/G2/15/2
		16.55		

21793 WL 33805/3593 400,000 12/30—McC & Co—51-5658

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.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 7

of (Unit or Formation) No. 86 Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
North Coates.	21.2.42.	16.02	A/C V/T/E/86 airborne in formation on Strike.	NC/02/21/2
		16.43	In position RLFE 2732, A/C "Y" leader of formation broke away and others lost contact in abnormal weather conditions of snow and hail with visibility to 50 yards. A/C individually set course for base	CH/G3/21/2
		17.23	and landed with nothing to report. S/E in use.	
		16.00	A/C Y/J/86 airborne on Strike in company with A/C Y leading.	NC/07/22/2
do.	22.2.42		In position RLFE 2232 "Y" developed engine trouble and decided to return to nearest base, jettisoned torpedo. A/C "J" followed in case "Y" forced landed in sea.	CH/G3/21/2
		17.25	Both A/C landed at Catfoss. A/C "Y" fitted with S/E. Nothing observed.	
		04.58	A/C K/86 airborne on Strike.	NC/02/22/2
		06:10	In position XKRH 4045 A/C ran into abnormal weather conditions and set course for base.	CH/G1/22/2
do.	22.2.42	08.22	Landed at base. Weather, slight snow at commencement of, patrol, becoming worse eastwards.	
		03.88	A/C L/86 airborne on Strike.	NC/03/22/2
		07:13	In position KSKX 3200 abnormal weather conditions encountered and set course for base.	CH/G1/22/2
		08.50	Landed at base. Weather, slight snow and showers, abnormal sleet and snow increasing eastwards.	
Leuchars.	22.2.42.	05.00	A/C V/86 airborne on Strike.	LEU/03/22/2
		05.10	Set course for Stavanger.	RO/G1/22/2
		07.45	In position FTLE 4625 land sighted, turned on course of 340 degrees which took A/C across entrance of Fjord.	
		07.55	In position SJYX 1059 no cloud cover and nothing seen so set course for base.	
		10.15	Landed at base. S/E carried and used, no result.	

Reference:--		PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
AIR 27 / 708		1	2	3	4	5	6
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION							

