

(2582-1134) Wt. 25795-555 20,000 6/57 T.S. 647

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.O.I., para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

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

of (Unit or Formation) No. 142 Squadron.

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
GRIMSBY, 1/9/42.	1/9/42.		Operations were ordered against SAARBRUCKEN and ten aircraft took off. Nine attacked the target area and one returned weary when failure occurred in the port engine. This aircraft subsequently crashed near Wattisham aerodrome the pilot being unable to maintain height on one engine for a sufficient length of time to land at Wattisham Aerodrome. All the members of the crew sustained injuries, two being admitted to hospital.	Appendix A.53
	2/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at KARLSRUHE and eight aircraft took off. Five aircraft attacked the target area, one failed to return and two returned early with technical troubles.	A.54
	3/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations but bad weather prevented training and flying was limited to one hour duration.	
	4/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at Bremen and nine aircraft took off. Seven aircraft attacked the target area, one failed to return, and one aircraft was forced to return before reaching the target when it received a direct hit by flak. The rear gunner was killed and the Navigator, bomb aimer and wireless operator were wounded. The aircraft caught fire and the pilot, in trying to avoid flames which filled the cockpit, lost control and the aircraft dived to 5000 feet. During the dive the bombs were jettisoned and the fire had been extinguished when the aircraft pulled out, the pilot being of opinion that his own bombs had been ignited. In spite of severe wounds the navigator aided the pilot to set course while the bomb aimer, who was also wounded aided the pilot to the best of his ability. The aircraft was badly shot up and the undercarriage was unserviceable. The pilot crash landed at Oulton, a satellite of Horsham St. Faith at 0452 hours on the 5th September.	A.55

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	5/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations but owing to operations the previous night flying was limited to three hours duration during the day.	
	6/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at DUISBURG. Six aircraft took off, five attacking the target area and one returning early owing to engine trouble. The A.C.C. No. 1. Group visited the station, attended briefing and stayed for the interrogation of the crews the following morning.	A.56.
	7/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to undertake a minelaying operation. Six aircraft took off, four dropped mines successfully, one returned early with technical troubles, and one brought mines back being unable to pin point.	A.57.
	8/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at FRANKFURT. Seven aircraft took off and all attacked the target area. One aircraft however was damaged by heavy flak over the target area and halfway between Frankfurt and St. Valery the starboard engine failed and the aircraft gradually lost height. The port engine then began to give trouble and the aircraft was ditched at about 0420 hours on the 9th. Four members of this crew were picked up by Air Sea Rescue Service at 1130 hours on the 9th. These four members were all uninjured but no trace could be found of the rear gunner after the aircraft had been ditched.	A.58.
	9/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations but the aircraft were required by Maintenance Flight for checking purposes. Some gunners were however practised in Air to Air Firing.	
	10/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at DUSSELDORF. Ten aircraft took off, nine attacking the target area and one failing to return.	A.59.
	11/9/42.		Operations were ordered but cancelled at 1830 hours owing to bad weather. Flying training was carried out during the day.	
	12/9/42.		Operations were ordered but cancelled at 1900 hours owing to bad weather. Flying training was carried out during the day.	

(P1254) Wt. 0.6547—2334 25,000 19/35 T.S. 087

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

of (Unit or Formation).....No. 142. Squadron.....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
GRIMSEY.	13/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at BREMEN. Eleven aircraft took off, nine attacking the target area, one returning early with complete electrical failure and the other returning early with technical troubles.	A.60.
	14/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at WILHELMSHAVEN. Seven aircraft took off and all attacked the target area.	A.61.
	15/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to carry out a minelaying operation. Six aircraft took off, three successfully laying their mines and three bringing mines back being unable to pin point.	A.62.
	16/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to attack a target at ESSEN. Seven aircraft took off, four attacking the target area and three failing to return. No news was received from two of the missing aircraft. The ^{other} aircraft was given a third class fix at 00.13 hours on the 17th at 50° 45' N 02° 54' E and a third class S.O.S. at 00.30 hours at 50° 32' N. 02° 33' E.	A.63.
	17/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations and the aircrews were given the afternoon off owing to operations on the four previous nights.	
	18/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to carry out a minelaying operation. Ten aircraft took off, six successfully laying mines, three bringing mines back being unable to pin-point, and one returning early owing to technical trouble. Four gunners were practised in Air to Sea Firing during the day.	A.64.
	19/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations. The weather was not very good but four gunners were practised, two in Air to Air Firing and two in Air to Sea Firing.	
	20/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations. The weather was not very good and lectures were given to Bomb Aimers.	
	21/9/42.		Operations were ordered and partly cancelled at 1300 hours, the balance being	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	21/9/42.		cancelled at 1900 hours. Lectures were given to bomb aimers during the day and four gunners were practised in Air to Air firing and two in Air to Sea firing.	
	22/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations. Weather was not very good and time was spent by having a two hour "quiz" for all crews and lectures for bomb aimers, flying being limited to three hours.	
	23/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to carry out a minelaying operation. Nine aircraft took off, seven laying their mines successfully, one failing to return, and one bringing mines back, being unable to pin point. During the day three gunners were practised in Air to Sea firing. Two details carried out night practice bombing at Spaldington.	A.65.
	24/9/42.		The weather was unsuitable for practice bombing on the Hamilton Hill Range. The Squadron was ordered to undertake a minelaying operation. Five aircraft took off and all laid their mines successfully. One Flight was now converted to Mark III Wellington Aircraft by day and night.	A.66.
	25/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations and aircraft were used for compass and loop swinging. Lectures were given to new crews on night photography and bomb panel. Two details were ordered for Spaldington Range but were unable to drop bombs owing to late change to aircraft on which the bomb panel was unserviceable owing to being modified.	
	26/9/42.		The Squadron was ordered to lay mines. Eight aircraft took off and all successfully dropped their mines.	A.67.
	27/9/42.		Operations were ordered but were cancelled at 1645 hours. One detail was arranged for Spaldington at 1700 hours but this was cancelled at 2000 hours owing to fog. Two gunners were practised in Air to Sea firing.	
	28/9/42.		The Squadron was stood down from operations and gunners were practised in Air to Sea firing.	
	29/9/42.		Operations were ordered but cancelled at 1700 hours. Gunners were practised in Air	

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(P2154) Wt. 26947-1934 15,000 22/55 T.S. 887

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of (Unit or Formation).....No. 112 Squadron.....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
	29/9/42	(Cont'd)	to Sea Firing, and one detail was arranged for Spaldington but cancelled at 1630 hours owing to low cloud.	
	30/9/42.		Operations were ordered but cancelled at 1700 hours and low cloud made it unsuitable for night practice bombing.	
			<u>POSTINGS, PROMOTIONS, AWARDS, ETC., DURING SEPTEMBER, 1942. (AIROCREW AND OFFICERS).</u>	
	1/9/42.		S/Ldr. J.P.H. Booth (57958) posted from 460 Squadron.	
	3/9/42.		F/O(A/F/Lt) P.L. Elliott (42401) pilot, posted from 19 O.T.U. for flying duties.	
			(F/Lt) post. The undermentioned aircrew personnel were posted from the unit to No. 1 R.A.F. Depot, w.e.f. today supernumerary non-effective missing.	
			Can. R.104769. Sgt. H.B. Heath. Pilot; 1430574. Sgt. D. Alford. A/Obs. w/t Nav. (B); Can. R.76371. Sgt. C.C.D. Fraser, WO/AG; 1125545. Sgt. H.E. Hill, A/B; 1109208. Sgt. C.E. Hagan, A/G;	
	5/9/42.		The undermentioned aircrew personnel were posted from the unit shown to No. 1. R.A.F. Depot w.e.f. today supernumerary non-effective missing. Can. R.84347. Sgt. Lamont, I.C. Pilot; 1391203. Sgt. Falkwill, H.J. Obs w/t Nav. (B); Can. R.84376. Sgt. Roy, A. WO/AG; 1390119. Sgt. Baker, F.W. A/B (Observer); Can. R.75722. Sgt. Culp, R.H., A/G.	
			A.M. letter dated today notified the appointment of R.78992. Sgt. J.P. Berry (J.15759) Pilot to a commission in the R.C.A.F. w.e.f. 15/7/42.	
	7/9/42.		F/O.H.W. Dale (Can. J.5314) posted to No. 21 O.T.U. for Screened Instructor Duties.	
	8/9/42.		No.1. Group Postagram dated today stated that the authority for the posting of F/O. R.A. McKinnon (69440) from No. 1. A.A.S. Manby to No. 112 Squadron w.e.f. 31/8/42. for aircrew A/G duties (F/O post) was given in A.M. Postagram dated 27/8/42. A.M. letter dated today notified the appointment of 1251150. F/Sgt. Gaskie, B.V. ^{Nav.} to a commission in the C.D. Branch w.e.f. 3/8/42.	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
GRIMSEY.	9/19/42.		P/Lt. P.C. Elliott (12401) Pilot posted to No. 35 Squadron wef today.	
	10/19/42.		778839. Sgt. T.B. Treble A/G post to No. 1. Depot supernumerary non-effective missing believed killed. 111529. P/O. W.R. Brooks, Pilot, reposted to unit for flying duties (P/Lt. Post) and promoted to Acting Rank of Flight Lieutenant wef today.	
			The following were posted from 27 O.T.U. Pilot 656727. P/O. Sandon, A.H.G., Nav; 1381048. Sgt. Bennett, J.W.; WO/AG 954705. Sgt. Darley, F.W.; E/A (Nav) 1026143. Sgt. Clarke, A.M.; A/G. 405436. Sgt. Thomson, G.C.	
			The following were posted to No. 1. R.A.F. Depot w.e.f. today supernumerary non-effective missing:- P/O. S. McHugh (118168) Pilot; 1114941. Sgt. Hyde, G.C., Qbs u/t Nav. B; 1177700. Sgt. Reddish, K.H., WO/AG; 778625. Sgt. Jowers , K.O. Bowers, Obs (B/A). 1285035. Sgt. E.A. Giles, A/G.	
	11/19/42.		P/O. R.F. Chandler (126720) A/G. posted to 81 O.T.U. for Instructor duties. The under-mentioned personnel were posted from 27 O.T.U. Pilot 1382598. P/O. Wingood, A.J.; Nav. 755310. P/Sgt. Dawes, J.E.; WO/AG. A. 405462. Sgt. Mackenzie-Ross; Nav. B/A. 1383496. Sgt. Taylor, A.E.; A/G J. 10022. P/O. Watt, T.M.; Pilot Aus. 406567. Sgt. Jensen, A.K.; Nav. 112655. Sgt. Petersen, R.F., WO/AG. Aus. 411788. Sgt. Jowers, A.; Nav. B/A. 1378821. Sgt. Marples, F.R., A/G. 1396019. Sgt. Hill, E., 1269483. Sgt. Gaunt, K.E., Pilot posted from No. 9. Squadron.	
	15/19/42.		Posted from 16 O.T.U:- P/O. Edgett, G.H. (Pilot); P/O. Dyke, H.L. (Nav) 128136; 1041906. Sgt. Hayden, (A/B); P/O. Newsome, G.H., J. 10357.	
	16/19/42.		The undermentioned personnel were posted to No. 1. R.A.F. Depot supernumerary non-effective missing. 1186031. P/Sgt. Marriott, J.H.E., Pilot; Can. R/68267. Sgt. Udell, D., Obs; Can. R/68698. Sgt. Whear, J.W., WO/AG; Can. R/60261. Sgt. Holland, L.E., WO/AG u/t A/B; 1199530. Sgt. Davis, W., WO/AG; P/O. A.H.G. Sandon. Pilot; 1381048. Sgt. Bennett, J. W.A. Nav (B); 954705. Sgt. Darley, F.W., WO/AG; 1026143. Sgt. Clarke, A.M., A/B. (Nav. (B). 405436. Sgt. Thomson, G.C., A/G; P/L (A/S/I) D.E. Barnard, (40352). Pilot; P/O. R.E. Glensor (WZ403442) A/Obs; 759288. P/Sgt. Buckell, A.E. WO/AG; 1053891. Sgt. Forster, R.,	
	17/19/42.			

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
GRIMSEY.	17/19/42.		WO/AG; and 1381761. Sgt. James, H.M., A/G; F/Sgt. F.H. Lang. R.59541. A/G. posted to 1481. (B) Gunnery Flight w.e.f. today for instructor duties. F/Lt. EFW. Sands (43635) reposted to the Squadron for flying duties (S/Ldr Post) and promoted to acting rank of Squadron Leader. F/O. H.W. Goule (46342) reposted to unit for flying duties (F/Lt. Post) and promoted to acting rank of Flight Lieutenant. A.M. letter dated today notified appointment of R.61796. Sgt. Biden, B.S. (J.15780) A/G. to a commission in the R.C.A.F. wef 12/7/42. A.M. letter dated today notified the appointment of N.Z. 403613. F/Sgt. Stewart, P.H., to a commission in the R.N.Z.A.F.	
	18/19/42.		1262819. Sgt. Green. H. Pilot. posted to 1481 (B) Gunnery Flight. 1378784. Sgt. Tate, J.F.R. A/G., posted to 28 O.T.U. for Screened Instructor duties. 548744. Sgt. Howarth, J. D.F.M. A/G., posted to 30 O.T.U. for Screened Instructor duties. The following personnel were posted to No. 156 Squadron wef today 778871. Sgt. Young, I.F.W., A/G, 630562. F/Sgt. Purdon, A., WO/AG; and 777836. Sgt. Banks, E.W., A/E. (A/Obs). The following were posted to No. 19 O.T.U. for Screened Instructor duties:- 1310525. Sgt. Winter, R.H., WO/AG and 995060. Sgt. Hamilton, A.B., WO/AG. The following were posted to No. 12 O.T.U. for Screened Instructor duties, 751552. F/Sgt. Smith, D., WO/AG and 1308640. Sgt. Gilroy, W. WO/AG.	
	21/19/42.		46355. P/O. (A/F/C) E. Masteman, Engineer Officer, posted to R.A.F. Lindholme for Engineer duties (F/Lt) post, acting rank to be retained. 46571. P/O. F.T.R. Nichol, posted from 10 O.T.U. special training detachment, St. Eval for Engineer duties (F/O. Post)	
	22/19/42.		Extract from London Gazette Serial No. 35712. dated today states F/Lt. Donald Beausire Barnard (40352) awarded D.F.C. and Can/R. 58307. F/Sgt. D.A. Cumberland awarded D.F.M.	72

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GRIMSEY.	23/19/42.		The following were posted to No.1.R.A.F. Depot supernumerary non-effective missing:- 1179274. Sgt.L.A.Seamark, Pilot; 1271095. Sgt.R.Lind, Nav.B; Aus.403685.Sgt.N.T.Byrne, WO/AG; 1220162.Sgt.A.Trewin, A/G; 1310251.Sgt.W.J.Godly, A/G; The following were posted from 29 O.T.U. 1367143.Sgt.Gray, J.D., Pilot; 1091141.Sgt. Webster, C. Nav.B; 1552113. Sgt. Fennie, J. B/A; R93174.Sgt.Paton, A. WO/AG; and 983356.Sgt.Bullen, W. A/G. A.M.letter dated today promoted P/O.R.E.Glensor (NZ. 403442) to Temporary Flying Officer wef 18/8/42. P/Sgt.W.T.Bent, Pilot. (Can/R83055) granted immediate award of D.F.M.	
	25/19/42.		The following personnel were posted from 24 O.T.U. Honeybourne:- P/O.Chisholm, R.I.L., Pilot; P/O.Colvin, C.E., Nav.B; 1028524. Sgt.France, J.H., A/B; 1377503.Sgt.Allen, C., WO/AG; R.101822. Sgt.Hinke, E.A., A/G; The following personnel were posted from No. 26 O.T.U. Wing:- A.403499.Sgt.Carson, R.J., Pilot; 656446. Sgt.Smith, C.A., Nav; 648189. Sgt.Sayles, F., B/A; P/O.Cogill, J.C., WO/AG (123932); R.128154.Sgt.R.J.Booth, A/G; A.406682.Sgt. Shaddick, E.P., Pilot; 656472.Sgt.Watcham, E., Nav; 1074122. Sgt. Hough, F.S., B/A; 1376622. Sgt. Woollard, E.G., WO/AG; R.128898.Sgt.Reyburn, C.T., A/G; London Gazette Serial No. 35717. dated today states that the following Pilot Officers (Prob) are confirmed in appointments and to be Flying Officers, (War Sub):- D.J. Smallwood (108035) wef 3/8/42. V.J.D.Jehan (104579. wef 23/8/42. 654349. P/Sgt.Tait, T.W. WO/AG. posted from 1653 Conversion Unit to Squadron. 645697. Sgt.Stift, I.H., A/G. posted from supernumerary strength of 19 O.T.U. 1189225. Sgt.Fennell, W.G., WO/AG. posted from 19 O.T.U. (ex 19 O.T.U. supernumerary). A.M.Letter dated today notified the appointment of 929753. P/Sgt.Woollard, P.F., DFM (Pilot) to commissioned rank in the General Duties Branch wef 22/8/42. A.M.Letter dated today notified the appointment of 1006796. Sgt.Hewitt, L. to commissioned rank in the G.D.Branch wef 18/8/42.	

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

of (Unit or Formation).....No. 142 Squadron.....

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
GRIMSEY.	29/9/42.		745796. Sgt. Rush, R.W., Obs. posted to Aircrew Training and Re-selection Centre, Brighton. for reselection.	
	30/9/42.		The following personnel were posted from No. 12 Squadron:- Pilot 1368340. Sgt. Young, J.H.; Nav. 655072. Sgt. Neade, R.H.; WO/AG. 1188542. Sgt. Boyle, B.J.W.; B/A (Nav) 120540. P/O. M.J. Henley; and ^{Ag.} 642811 Sgt. Entwistle, J.	
			13th October, 1942. Wing Commander, Commanding No. 142 Squadron.	

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