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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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of (Unit or Formation) 179 Squadron

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Front, Gibraltar	1/13/42	1615	Operational Flying:- P/O Scott and crew in "J" (HX641)		
		2015	F/Lt Martin and crew in "O" (HX474)		
		2210	P/O Joseph Eastwards F.O.G. - flanked and crew in "D" (HX720)		
	2/12/42	0125	W/Lt Lamb and crew in "T" (LA977)		
		0400	Sgt. Hovers and crew in "C" (HX749)		
			P/O Scott attacked a V-boat		
			F/Lt Comfort and crew, F/O Diving and crew, and F/Lt Hasty and crew arrived from U.K. in "Y" (HX774), "V" (HX562), and "X" (LB145) respectively. They had been held up for one week due to bad weather.		
			Operations for the night were cancelled due to bad weather.		
	3/12/42	2200	Operational Flying:- Sgt. Hovers and crew in "D" (HX720)		
		2230	W/Lt Lamb and crew in "T" (LA977)		
		2300	P/O Scott and crew in "J" (HX641)		
		2330	F/Lt Martin and crew in "C" (HX749)		
			W/Lt Lamb returned to base at 04.10 hrs with A.S.V. unserviceable.		
			Sgt. Hovers made an attack on a V-boat.		
	4/12/42		The Squadron ground party arrived at Gibraltar.		
		2100	Operational Flying:- P/O Diving and crew in "R" (LA976)		
		2130	F/O Diving and crew in "C" (HX749)		
		2200	F/Lt Hasty and crew in "M" (HX531)		
		2230	F/O G. Jackson and crew in "D" (HX720)		
			P/O Diving made a good attack on a V-boat.		
			The other three aircraft had nothing to report.		
	5/12/42	1030	The Squadron ground party disembarked from the S.S. "Stanislaus Castle"		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. 77, 77, 77, 77	5/12/42	1810	Operational Flying:-		
		2100	{ Flt Lt Martin and crew in "M" (HX531)		
		2315	{ P/O Scott and crew in "O" (HX474)		
		6/12/42	{ S/L Sweep Eastwards		
		0040	{ Sgt. Hovers and crew in "C" (HX749)		
			{ Flt. Comfort and crew in "D" (HX720)		
			Flt Lt Martin made an attack on a V-boat.		
			Sgt. Hovers and crew did not return to base.		
		0900	The members of the ground party, newly arrived from V.K., reported to Flt Lt. the morning.		
		1530	Operational Flying:-		
		1830	{ Flt Lt. Spring and crew in "J" (HX641)		
		2110	{ Flt Lt. Hasty and crew in "X" (LB145)		
		2325	{ S/L Sweep Eastwards		
			{ Flt Lt. Spring and crew in "T" (LA971)		
			{ Flt Lt. Hasty and crew in "R" (LA976)		
			Flt Lt. Hasty made an excellent attack on a V-boat.		
		7/12/42	Operational Flying:-		
		1730	{ Flt Lt. Hasty and crew in "X" (LB145)		
		2000	{ Flt Lt. Comfort and crew in "R" (LA976)		
		2230	{ S/L Sweep Eastwards		
		2359	{ Flt Lt. Martin and crew in "V" (HX562)		
			{ Flt Lt. Hasty and crew in "T" (LA971)		
			Flt Lt. Hasty made a good attack on a V-boat in spite of heavy fire sent up by the V-boat. The aircraft returned to base with a bullet hole in the carburettor of the starboard engine and with damaged wing and cracked tanks.		
		8/12/42	Operational Flying:-		
		0015	{ P/O Scott and crew in "M" (HX531)		
		1720	{ Flt Lt. Spring and crew in "V" (HX562)		
		1955	{ S/L Sweep Eastwards		
		2220	{ Flt Lt. Hasty and crew in "X" (LB145)		
			{ Flt Lt. Hasty and crew in "T" (LA971)		
			P/O Scott and Flt Lt. Hasty will attack		

RA.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.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.D.F. Front/1st	8/12/42		U-boats in different positions. F/O Ding sighted a V-boat but could not attack due to fog. The aircraft was tied on. The rear gunner returned the fire and observed a white flash from the V-boat. The aircraft returned to base undamaged.		
	9/12/42	1730	Operational Flying: (F/O Comfort and crew in "R" (LA976)) W/O Benge and crew in "T" (LA971) 2000 P/O Sweep Eastwards (F/O G-Flanagan and crew in "D" (HX722)) 2230 P/O Riding and crew in "M" (HX531) 2359 F/O Gordon flung his parachute from his hatch, to search an area in which an attack on a V-boat had taken place, on receipt of a signal from base.		
	10/12/42	1730	Operational Flying: (F/O Scott and crew in "J" (HX641)) 1955 S/O Southall and crew in "R" (LA976) 2225 P/O Sweep Eastwards (F/O Hardy and crew in "T" (LA971)) 2355 F/O Ding and crew in "M" (HX531) S/O de Southall made an attack on a V-boat and returned to base. F/O Hardy illuminated a V-boat but could not make an attack.		
	11/12/42	2000	Flying was cancelled to day due to bad weather. W/O Benge and the Officers of the Squadron entertained the senior W.C.O.'s in the Squadron Officers' Mess.		
	12/12/42	1720	Operational Flying: (P/O Riding and crew in "D" (HX474)) 1940 F/O G-Flanagan and crew in "D" (HX722) 2210 P/O Sweep Eastwards (F/O Comfort and crew in "J" (HX641)) 2359 F/O Martin and crew in "M" (HX531)		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Front. Sqd	13/12/42		P/O Riding and P/O Gordon - blossford both homes on and captured V-boats during the night.		
	13/12/42	1745	Operational Flying:- W/Lt. Combe and crew in "H" (HX738)		
		2338	P/O Scott and crew in "J" (HX641)		
		2352	P/O Sweep Eastwards F/O Diving and crew in "O" (HX474)		
	14/12/42	0003	W/Lt. Combe and crew in "D" (HX720)		
			At 1857 hours, W/Lt. Combe decided to return to base as they had experienced some S.E. jamming and then the S.E. had gone untraceable.		
			On his return, the remaining three crews were called to gether with P/O W.R. Johnston, the Squadron R.D.F. Officer, to discuss points to be watched in the event that they should encounter any S.E. jamming.		
			Both P/O Scott and F/O Diving, with whom P/O Johnston flew as an extra S.E. operator, experienced considerable S.E. jamming. Bearings and positions were noted in an effort to locate the jamming station. These bearings all centered about the town of Malaga in Southern Spain.		
			W/Lt. Combe homes on to and attacked a V-boat.		
	15/12/42	2235	W/Lt. Combe and crew took off for Chicomor, in "V" (HX562)		
	15/12/42	2214	Operational Flying:- F/Lt. Comport and crew in "T" (LA971)		
		2255	F/Lt. Lusty and crew in "H" (HX738)		
		2320	P/O Patrol Eastwards F/Lt. Mather and crew in "M" (HX531)		
	16/12/42	0016	F/O G-yang and crew in "J" (HX641)		
			Both F/Lt. Comport and F/Lt. Lusty made		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>SECRET.</u>	
			attacks on V-boats.	
			Ft. J. Martin landed under very bad weather conditions and was compelled to fly over neutral territory.	
			On 1125 hours, whilst proceeding to Japan to which he had been diverted, F/O Gordon Langford was forced to ditch his aircraft when both engines cut. The location was 12 miles N.W. of Cape Fegale. All the crew got safely into the dinghy and stayed alongside the aircraft which remained floating. They were rescued by a Catalina and were landed at Orzow at 1710 hours.	
	17/12/42	1845	F/O Gordon Langford and his crew were landed at Gibraltar from a Catalina which had flown them from Orzow.	
	18/12/42	1726	Operational Flying:- (P/O Scott and crew in "D" (HX474)	
		1939	Ft. Haddon and crew in "T" (LA971)	
		2149	A/S Patrol East (F/O Spring and crew in "D" (HX720)	
		2345	P/O Haddon and crew in "H" (HX738)	
			Aircraft "H" encountered some suspected S.E. jamming.	
	19/12/42		F/O D.A. Thayer and crew arrived in aircraft "M" from U.K.	
			P/O S.H. Thompson and crew arrived in aircraft "C" from U.K.	
		2300	P/O Scott and crew took off in "D" (HX474) for U.K.	
		1825	Operational Flying:- Ft. East and crew carried out an A/S Patrol Eastward in "T" (LA971)	
	20/12/42		Ft. Eastman and crew arrived in "E" from U.K. on posting from 7 (C) O.T.U. Limasoy.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.P.F. West field	20/1/42		P.O. Eikon and crew arrived in aircraft "G" from U.K. on routing from 7 (C.O.T.) Limasudy.		
		1800	Operational Flying:- (F.O. King and crew in "M" (HX531)		
		2055	P.O. Sweep Eastwards (F.O. King and crew in "H" (HX738)		
	21/1/42	0004	(F.O. King and crew in "T" (LA971)		
			Aircraft "T" diverted from its course to carry out a search for a V. boat on receipt of a message from base of the forwarding of a merchant vessel.		
		1835	Operational Flying:- (F.O. King and crew in "D" (HX220)		
		1905	P.O. Sweep Eastwards (F.O. King and crew in "T" (LA971)		
	22/1/42	0024	(F.O. King and crew in "M" (HX531)		
			F.O. King crashed on landing at base. The crew were unhurt.		
			Aircraft "T" and "M" sighted a merchant vessel on fire with some lifeboats in the vicinity.		
		1722	Operational Flying:- (P.O. Southall and crew in "T" (LA971)		
		2043	P.O. Sweep Eastwards (F.O. King and crew in "W" (HX531) ex "M"		
		2346	(F.O. King and crew in "G" (HX749) ex "C"		
	23/1/42		Aircraft "T" and "M" experienced some S.E. landing.		
			P.O. Eikon and crew arrived from U.K. by air.		
			F.O. King (Navigator) was posted to the Squadron from 407 (R.P.F.) Squadron.		
		0930	Day Operational Flying:- (F.O. King and crew in "M"		
		0931	P.O. Sweep Eastwards (F.O. King and crew in "T"		
		0939	(F.O. King and crew in "D"		
			Nothing to report.		

+ A reshuffle of the HX's seems to have taken place about this time. It is significant that some numbers are rarely recorded from now on. Other HX seem to have remained unchanged - eg. LA971 continues - at least for the time being - as "T". See letter from info. A. W. Southall (14/1/42) on HX 531/738. P.O.P. HX 531/738.

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.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Front, Spit	23/12/42	1826	Night Operational Flying:- { Flt. Hodgson and crew in "P"		
		2045	G/S Sweep Westwards { Flt. Comfort and crew in "Y"		
		2230	Flt. Martin and crew in "W"		
			Nothing to report		
	24/12/42		W/Cdr. Lomble and crew returned from U.K. in "V"		
		1756	Night Operational Flying:- { P/O. Riding and crew in "P"		
		2012	Night C/V Escort { 76 Lt. Glassford and crew in "T"		
		2030	76 Lt. Ring and crew in "V"		
			Discraft "T" sighted a submarine but it was in a restricted area.		
R.A.F. Front, Spit	25/12/42		F/O V. H. Johnson arrived at Chivenor en route to join the Squadron as Liberator		
			P/O R. McDonald (Navigator) was posted to the Squadron from 502 Squadron		
		0800	Day Operational Flying:- { P/O. Nicholson and crew in "C"		
		0803	G/S Sweep Eastwards { Flt. Coatsman and crew in "D"		
		0808	Sgt. Sims and crew in "J"		
			P/O Nicholson attacked a V-boat.		
		1830	Night Operational Flying:- { Flt. Hargy and crew in "P"		
		2028	G/S Sweep Eastwards { Flt. Southall and crew in "K"		
		2103	W/Cdr. Lomble and crew in "T"		
			S/Ldr. Southall had three aircraft appearing S.E. contact on a V-boat, the last of which resulted in a swift being eliminated, but it was impossible to get an attack in.		
	26/12/42	2115	Night Operational Flying:- { Flt. Martin and crew in "W"		
		2240	G/S Sweep Eastwards { Flt. Comfort and crew in "T"		
		2322	Flt. Hodgson and crew in "P"		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. 713 East, Feb	26/12/42		F/Lt. Comfort bombed on to and attacked a fully surfaced V-boat after having previously sighted a submerged V-boat. The aircraft was fired on during the attack and sustained damage to the port engine. Expecting to have to ditch, the captain ordered considerable equipment to be jettisoned, and an S.O.S. to be sent but finally managed to land at Igavoni.		
	27/12/42	0828	Day Operational Flying:-		
		0836	A/S Sweep Westward		
		0935			
			At midday an S.O.S. was received from aircraft "M" referring to engine trouble. The aircraft and crew failed to return to base.		
		1825	Night Operational Flying:-		
		2057	A/S Patrol Eastward		
		2345			
			Aircraft "W" experienced some S.E. jamming.		
			Aircraft "R" had a disappearing S.E. contact.		
	28/12/42		P/O McDonald arrived from U.K. by air on posting from 502 Squadron.		
		0755	Day Operational Flying:-		
		0801	A/S Sweep Westward		
		0805			
		1115	A/S R. Search for "M" -		
			Aircraft "E" was fired on by coastal batteries off Malabata Pt. in Spanish Morocco but was undamaged.		
			F/G Jordan-Flasford found no trace of F/G Macey and crew.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.A.F. Front	Feb 28/42	1757	Night Operational Flying - (Sgt. Southall and crew in "R"		
		2105	A/S Patrol Eastwards (Fgt. Martin and crew in "W"		
			Aircraft "W" experienced some engine trouble but reached base successfully.		
	29/2/42	0004	Fgt. Hodgson carried out an A/S Patrol Eastwards in "X"		
			Sgt. Wilson flew to Agadir, French Morocco, on temporary duty, with W. Car. Levy of 233 Squadron.		
		1758	Night Operational Flying - (P.O. King and crew in "V"		
		1850	A/S Sweep Eastwards (Fgt. Hardy and crew in "W"		
		2008	(Fgt. Confort and crew in "R"		
			Nothing to report.		
	30/2/42		Sgt. Wilson returned from temporary duty at Agadir.		
		0815	Day Operational Flying - (Fgt. Young, C.O. and crew in "C"		
		0821	A/S Sweep Westwards (Fgt. Wilson and crew in "D"		
		1046	(Fgt. Sims and crew in "J"		
			Aircraft "C" had a disappointing S.E. contact.		
	31/2/42		P.O. J.T. Bawes was appointed to the acting rank of F/Lt. w.e.f. 1/10/43		
			P.O. W.D. Owen was promoted to the rank of Temporary F/O. w.e.f. 1/10/42		
		0508	Day Operational Flying - (Sgt. Wilson and crew in "D"		
		0809	CV Escort (P.O. Simon and crew in "J"		
		1140	(Fgt. Colman and crew in "E"		
			Nothing to report.		
		2052	Fgt. Hodgson and crew took off in aircraft "P" on an A/S Patrol Eastwards. Immediately after taking off, the aircraft crashed into the sea about half		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
R.O.F.N-3 south side	3/17/62		a mile off the eastern end of the runway. Sgt. Hodgson, Sgt. Thomason, and Sgt. Mann were saved and the bodies of Sgt. Evans and Sgt. Davis, two of the three W.G.s, were found.	
		1805	W.C. Conn and crew took off in "X" and carried out an R.D. Patrol Eastward. One disappearing L.E. contact was experienced.	