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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. One

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

of (Unit or Formation) No. 102 Squadron, Pocklington

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Pocklington	1943, Monday, 1st February.		Weather: Fair to cloudy, Vis: 2-3,000 yards at first deteriorating to less than 500 yards. Wind: Light and variable becoming S.W'ly. No operations detailed.	
	Tuesday, 2nd.		Weather: Mainly cloudy with intermittent rain. Vis: Mainly 2-3,000 yards. Wind: Light S. to SW. 13 aircraft detailed to attack COLOGNE. Four aircraft returned with rear turrets iced up. Aircraft "P" (F/S. Ross-Thompson) failed to return. The operation was not considered to be very successful.	A 289
	Wednesday 3rd.		Weather: Fair with occasional showers. Vis: 1-2,000 yards, improving to 8-10 miles afternoon. Wind: Light and variable mainly between S-SW. 6 aircraft detailed to attack HAMBURG. Two experiencing icing conditions returned early. Two were scrubbed with engine trouble. One bombed the target with no visual results. Aircraft "M" (Sgt. Lofthouse) failed to return.	A 290
	Thursday 4th.		Weather: Mainly fair with very good visibility. Wind: Light W. to SW. 5 aircraft detailed to attack TURIN. and 1 aircraft detailed to attack LORIENT. One aircraft on the TURIN attack was scrubbed owing to engine trouble. "J" (F/S. Hartahorn) returned from 47,54N x 02,32E after jettisoning bombs, owing to excessive temperature in port outer engine. suspected glycol leak. All other aircraft attacked there respective target with very favourable results.	A 291
	Friday 5th.		Weather: Cloudy with occasional drizzle. Vis: 1-4 miles. Wind: Mainly S-SW moderate. Operations detailed and then cancelled.	
	Saturday 6th.		Weather: Fair to cloudy. Vis: Very good. Wind: Light W-NW becoming moderate to strong. 1 aircraft detailed for GARDENING. Mines sown from 700 feet on pinpoint obtained as briefed.	A 292
	Sunday 7th.		Weather: Fair with some slight rain early. Vis: Good. Wind: NW'ly, moderate, but falling light at night. 10 aircraft detailed to attack LORIENT. All aircraft attacked primary target with very good results. A. 293 Many large fires seen burning, but too much smoke to observe actual ground detail.	A. 293
	Monday 8th.		Weather: Fine becoming cloudy. Vis: 1-3 miles. Wind: S'ly. light at first increasing to gale force. No operations detailed.	
	Tuesday 9th.		Weather: Cloudy with light rain, becoming fair or fine. Vis: Moderate becoming good. Wind: Strong S'ly. after dawn, then veering W'ly. and moderating. No operations detailed.	
	Wednesday 10th.		Weather: Fine at first becoming cloudy. Vis: Moderate. Wind: Moderate W'ly. becoming light and variable. No operations detailed.	
	Thursday 11th.		Weather: Mainly cloudy with good visibility. Wind: Light and variable becoming moderate to strong. 6 aircraft detailed to attack WILHELMSHAVEN. Two aircraft returned early due to icing conditions. Aircraft "O" (Sgt. Saunders) crashed soon after take-off, all the crew but one (Sgt. Hill 2nd Pilot.) being killed. Three remaining aircraft bombed the target but results were difficult to observe.	A 294
	Friday, 12th.		Weather: Cloudy with some slight rain early. Vis: Moderate becoming very good. Wind: W'ly. moderate becoming gale force. No operations detailed.	

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
✓	Saturday	13th.	Weather: Fine at first becoming cloudy. Vis: Good or very good. Wind: Moderate to strong W'ly. 11 aircraft detailed to attack LORIENT. All aircraft attacked primary target. Many large fires were seen burning, the attack appeared to be very successful.	A. 295
✓	Sunday	14th.	Weather: Cloudy with moderate to good visibility. Wind: Fresh to strong W'ly. 10 aircraft detailed to attack COLOGNE. "L" burnt out on dispersal due to incendiaries falling off during bomb check. "C" jettisoned bombs over Germany (live) owing to aircraft unable to climb and IAS only 150. Decided to return in consequence of time limit given. Rear gunner shot down JU88 over HOLLAND with only two of the turret guns workable, which stopped during encounter with E/A. Aircraft "J" (P/S. Hartshorn) did not return. All other aircraft pressed home attack with very good results.	A. 296
	Monday	15th.	Weather: Cloudy with some slight drizzle at first. Vis: Good. Wind: Fresh to strong W'ly. No operations detailed. EXTRACT FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE dated 5.2.43. HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAS BEEN GRACIOUSLY PLEASED to approve the following awards in recognition of Gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy: DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS to P/L. S.J.B. HAMILTON 102 SQUADRON. DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL to 1579633 SGT. J.L. GRIFFITHS and AUSA05053 SGT. G.T. HEAP.	
✓	Tuesday	16th.	Weather: Fair or fine with good visibility. Wind: Fresh NW'ly. falling light after dusk. 9 aircraft detailed to attack XXXXXXXXXXXX LORIENT. All aircraft attacked the primary target with very good results. Rear gunner of Aircraft 'E' shot down a JU 88.	A. 297
	Wednesday	17th.	Weather: Cloudy. Vis: Deteriorating slowly to 800 yards. Then improving to 2-6 miles. Wind: WSW'ly. Light. No operations detailed.	
✓	Thursday	18th.	Weather: Cloudy at first becoming fine. Vis: hazy at first, becoming good during day. Wind: Light westerly becoming moderate. 9 aircraft detailed to attack WILHELMSHAVEN. 1 aircraft jettisoned bombs at 54.01N • 00.30E. Before take off rear gunner observed door hinges loose. After becoming airborne attempts were made to fix but on rotating turrets door blew off so returned to base. All remaining aircraft bombed the primary target in good visibility. Attack fairly successful though Special Immediate Report while stating defences were moderate adds that the attack was not very concentrated and no outstanding fires or explosions were seen. 2 aircraft detailed for Gardening operations. Both aircraft dropped mines at allotted dropping areas in clear weather conditions.	A. 298 A. 299
	Friday	19th.	Weather: Fine becoming cloudy. Vis: 1-3 miles. Wind: Light mainly Westerly becoming moderate. 10 aircraft detailed to attack WILHELMSHAVEN. 1 aircraft returned early owing to torn cowling which blew back and caused a general and violent shudder. Bombs jettisoned. 1 aircraft attacked Island of SPEIKEROOG. Did an orbit of the primary target when consistent speed units S/I when U/S Island of SPEIKEROOG was on track so bombed. All remaining aircraft attacked the primary target with good results. Special Immediate Report stated that if PFF and TIS were accurate the attack was a success although the dummy to NW of target was seen to collect 6 loads.	A. 300
	Saturday	20th.	Weather: Fine becoming cloudy after dark. Vis: Good to moderate. Wind: Moderate Westerly during afternoon. No operations detailed.	
	Sunday	21st.	Weather: Cloudy becoming fine. Visibly poor becoming moderate. Wind: Light to mod: W-SW. No operations detailed.	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2549, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 102 Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	Monday	22nd.	Weather: Cloudy. Vis: Poor to mod. Wind: Light and variable. No operations detailed.	
	Tuesday	23rd.	Weather: Fair to fine. Vis: Moderate to good. Wind: Light and variable. No operations detailed.	
	Wednesday	24th.	Weather: Fine at first otherwise cloudy. Vis: Mod. Wind: Light and variable, mainly W.S. No operations detailed.	
	Thursday	25th.	Weather: Cloudy with occasional showers. Vis: Mod. to good. Wind: Mod. S.W. veering W'ly. 11 aircraft detailed to attack NUREMBERG. Aircraft 'P' (Sgt. Bray) crashed on outward journey near Colchester. All the crew being killed. Two aircraft experiencing icing conditions and stiff controls returned early. The remaining 8 bombed the centre of concentration of ground markers. PFF were reported as being late. Special Immediate Report stated that the markers were well concentrated and attack appeared to be accurate and successful.	A. 301
	Friday	26th.	Weather: Fine at first becoming cloudy. Vis: Mod. to good. Wind: Light and variable becoming mod. W to SW. after midday. 8 aircraft detailed to attack COLOGNE. Aircraft 'E' (Sgt. Gibbons) and 'N' (Sgt. Frith) failed to return to base. Remaining six bombed the target after PFF activity. The attack was well concentrated two fires of some size were going well.	A. 302
	Saturday	27th.	Weather: Fine. Vis: Mod. to good. Wind: then deteriorating after dusk. Wind: Light and variable. becoming moderate Westerly during day. No operations detailed.	A. 303
	Sunday	28th.	Weather: Fine but cloudy during afternoon. Vis: Mod. to very good. Wind: Light and variable. becoming moderate Westerly. 10 aircraft detailed to attack ST. NAZAIRE. All aircraft attacked the primary target. The crews impressions were that the bombing was accurate and that the attack should prove more successful than any one of the attacks made on LORIENT.	A. 303 304
POSTINGS OFFICERS AND AIRCREW TO THE SQUADRON. S/L. T.R.HOPE for Flight Commanders duties. F/O. S.A. BALDWIN. 1652 C.U. F/O. J.E.KELT 1652 C.U. F/O. G.F.H. INGRAM 1652 C.U.				
Sgt. O'GRADY, M.L.	3 P.R.C. Bournemouth.	SGT. HUGHES, W.	1652 C.U.	SGT. BRADSHAW 1652 C.U.
" PICKARD, A.J.	S.H.Q.	" HIBBEN.	"	" DUDLEY
" BRAY, C.H.	1652 C.U.	" IRVING.	"	" PERKINS
" CAMPBELL.	"	" MANSFORD.	"	" HARGREAVE
" HERBERT.	"	" RETLEY, A.J.	"	" JONES, G.A.
" PAGE.	"	" SLOCOMBE	"	" W/O LEE J.L.
" SMITH, C.J.D.	"	" SAWKINS	"	SGT. MATHER
" SANTUSKY.	"	" VAN CLEF	"	" ROGERS
" WIDGERY.	"	" WINGHAM	"	" STIMPSON
" BLACKALLER.	"	" BALDWIN	"	" TRAYNOR
" HALE.	"	" UNDERWOOD	"	" PICKARD
" HOLLIDAY.	"	" ARNOLD	"	" GRIFFITHS
" HENWLETT.	"	" JENKINSON	"	" SMITH, J.T.
" HALL.	"	" WEIR	"	" MARSH

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				References to Appendices
<u>POSTINGS AWAY:</u>			Missing 3/2/43 F/S. ROSS-THOMPSON SGT. COFFIN. F/S. WATT SGT. NAYLOR SGT. LILLYWHITE SGT. GWILLIAN. SGT. GUERRIER	Missing 4/2/43 SGT. LOPHOUSE SGT. HAXBY SGT. ALEXANDER SGT. THOMPSON, W.S. SGT. SHORT SGT. CROUCH SGT. WINNARD	Killed 11/2/43 SGT. SAUNDERS SGT. WASHBOURNE SGT. REILLY, M.N. SGT. COOPER SGT. COLES SGT. AMOS	Missing 15/2/43 F/S. HARTSHORN SGT. CHEASMAN F/S. CONNER SGT. GILBERT F/S. FARAH SGT. KILYON SGT. COX	
			Missing 27/2/43 SGT. GIBBONS SGT. LANGHAM SGT. RICHINGS. SGT. HUNT SGT. RUSSELL SGT. WILSON. SGT. BRADSHAW	Missing 27/2/43 SGT. FRITH SGT. COX, T.J. SGT. JAMES. SGT. WILEY SGT. PRAKE SGT. STEWART	Killed 25/2/43 SGT. BRAY SGT. HERBERT SGT. SMITH, C.J.D. SGT. DUDLEY SGT. SANITSKY SGT. WIDGEY SGT. BARROOT	S.H.Q. N/E Sick SGT. DEARTH SGT. HARRIS, W.M. To 44 Squadron SGT. PALMER, D.J.N.	
<u>APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS</u>			W/O. SIDGSON, since posted to 109 Sqdn. F/S. SMALLFIELD SGT. DOTHIE SGT. BURCHER SGT. PARKER				

Wing Commander, Commanding,
No. 102 Squadron, R. A. F.