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## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1a

of (Unit or Formation) 137 Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
B.86 Airfield, Belmond, Holland.	1.4.45		One operational flight of six aircraft was carried out. The flight was detailed on an armed recon of the OSNABRUCK-LINGEN-REHMS area, and were in pairs. Despite poor weather, cloud base was 1,000 feet, attacks were made on Met. in the LINGEN area, and 5 Met were damaged. 180439Z Sgt. P.A. LAWLEY was hit by flak and came down near the aerodrome at REHMS. He was not seen to leave his aircraft, which was on fire when last seen by his No.1, P/L W.E.P. ADAMS.		
			160404H Sgt. P.A. EDWARDS was also hit by flak and force landed to the East of MUNSTER. His No.1, P/O J.A. FOREST, did not see him land but Sgt. Edwards said over the P/T that he thought he could get down safely.		
			P/L J. BENDALL has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has completed over 140 sorties and was also "Mentioned in Despatches" some time ago. The Squadron congratulates him on his award.		
	2.4.45		S/Ldr D. MURRAY, D.F.C., led six aircraft on an armed recon of the LINGEN-OSNABRUCK area. This was the only operational flight of the day. Scattered Met. were attacked in the LINGEN area, 3 being destroyed and 3 damaged.		
			P/Sgt. P.W. HUMPHREYS, a new pilot were were pleased to welcome to the Squadron yesterday, carried out a Sector Recon, and P/L J. BENDALL did an air test.		
			Lt A.R. GOYER, P/O J.A. FOREST and P/O G.C. SHELDON returned from England with three aircraft.		
			A party was held in the Officers Mess, which was attended by most of the 'bods' and was quite a success.		
	3.4.45		Two flights of 6 aircraft got off for armed recon of the LINGEN-OSNABRUCK-REHMS area. The first was airborne at 13.47 but returned at 14.00 owing to bad weather, which also rendered the second flight abortive. Both flights were led by P/L J. BENDALL, D.F.C. The weather was very bad - heavy rain with thunder and lightning.		
	4.4.45		CAPT J. WATT led the first flight of 6 aircraft on an armed recon of the LINGEN-QUACKENBURG area. The weather was very poor and little movement was seen. However, two stationary Met. were destroyed at V.9536. This flight was down by 09.14 hours - 1.30 hours		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	4.4.45	cont.	<p>flying time.</p> <p>The next 6 aircraft were not airborne until 15.58. P/L J. M. KEY led this flight on an armed recon of the LINGEN-MEPPEN-GLOPPENBURG area. An attack was made on 4 towed guns which were seen in the LINGEN area, two being destroyed and two damaged. Two Met. were and three damaged in the same area.</p> <p>The flight was bounced by 4 Me109s near LINGEN but no contact was made. Light flak was experienced and P/O J. R. NIXON was apparently hit. He made a forced landing half a mile S. of WARDEHAUSEN but, unfortunately, the aircraft turned on to its back and broke up. P/O. NIXON was pulled out by some Army types and was found to have nothing worse than a broken right arm.</p> <p>P/O. G. PETERSON-JONES arrived on the Squadron.</p>		
	5.4.45		<p>P/O M. J. WHITBY led 6 aircraft on an armed recon of the QUACKENBROCK area.</p> <p>Scattered Met. was attacked at W.0044, one being destroyed and 5 damaged. Three H.D.F.s were attacked, one being destroyed at V.8354. The remainder of the R.P.s were jettisoned at V.8352.</p> <p>The next flight of 6 aircraft was led by P/L J. BRIDALL, D.F.C. on an armed recon of the BUKING area. This flight was vectored on to a target, but owing to very bad weather it could not be located and the flight returned to base.</p> <p>1804392 Sgt. P. A. LANGLEY, who was shot down on the 1st April, returned to the Squadron to-day. He "laid up" in a barn for nearly three days before he managed to contact a British Patrol. Nice work, Pat, and welcome back!</p> <p>P/O X. BEEVE and P/O J. FORREST carried out air tests.</p>		
	6.4.45		<p>Things were very quiet until 18.45 hours, when 6 aircraft, led by S/L D. MURRAY, DFC, were detailed to attack anti-tank guns at V.816194. Red smoke was put down on time and all rockets were fired into the target area, but with unobserved results.</p> <p>W/O D. HELMOES carried out an air test. This completed the day's activity.</p>		
	7.4.45		<p>Only one operational flight was carried out today. This was an armed recon of the STEINBUER LAKE area by 6 R.P. Typhoons led by CAPT J. WATT. Very little movement was</p>		

W. 1001/10012 BIRM 5/44 C.S.L. 31-3045

## OBSERVATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 1111 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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	7.4.45	cont.	seen, only 1 Met. being destroyed and 1 damaged at X.083390.		
			Several air tests were carried out during the course of the day, but otherwise it was a case of 'nothing doing'.		
	8.4.45		The only operational flight of the day was an armed recon of the STEINBUER LAKE area by 6 aircraft led by P/O M. WHITBY. In the GILDERN area 3 Met. were destroyed; also 3 H.D.T. (probably more) were destroyed in the same area. A rail cut was made at X.2379 and a signal box damaged.		
			During the evening the Squadron party was held in the Flora Hall, Helmond and was a great success. Unfortunately, only half the Squadron members could attend as the others had left during the morning for our new Airfield, which is B.106, about three miles North of ENSCHDE.		
	9.4.45		Eight R.P. Typhoons, led by P/L J.M. KEY, were detailed for an armed recon of the GLOPPENBURG area. Little movement was seen, but a number of scattered Met. were attacked, 1 being destroyed and 5 damaged. A railway station was also damaged.		
			The second operational flight of six aircraft was led by P/O M. WHITBY, again on an armed recon of the GLOPPENBURG area. At least 25 covered trucks at W.2071 were attacked with R.P. and cannon, but no results were observed due to heavy ground haze.		
			All pilots and aircraft returned safely.		
	10.4.45		One operational flight of 8 aircraft was carried out. This was an attack on guns at W.025619 and was led by the C.O., S/L D. MURRAY, D.F.C. All rockets were in the target area but no results were observed.		
	11.4.45		All Squadron aircraft left for B.106 this morning. The ground staff made a grand effort and had all twenty aircraft serviceable for the change of Airfield.		
			Four of our aircraft were flown with No.182 Squadron in an attack on an Army target at HESTEN.		
			S/L D. MURRAY, D.F.C. also led twelve aircraft on a wing showed by W/CDR. WEBB in an attack on a strong point in a village, X.112668 (HESTEN). Many buildings were destroyed and a large fire was started in the target area. These flights were carried out		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	11.4.45 cont. 12.4.45		<p>after the flight from B.86 to B.106 and goes to show how well the ground staff operated.</p> <p>The first operational flight was of 8 aircraft led by CPT J. WATT on an Armed Recon of the CLDENBERG-ZEWEN-ROTHENBURG-REITHEN area. A loco and 2 trucks were damaged at R.2607 and 2 Mot destroyed and 2 damaged in area R.1703. Four barges were also damaged with cannon on the canal between W.0494 and W.0699. W/O R. KNIGHT-CLANCE was hit by flak and crashed in flames at W.0699.</p> <p>P/L J. M. KEY led the second flight of 8 aircraft on an Armed Recon of the ROTHENBURG-ZEWEN-ROTHENBURG-REITHEN area. Low haze prevented movement being seen so R.P. were jettisoned in a village at X.1773. Buildings were destroyed and fires started.</p> <p>The remainder of the Squadron left B.86 (HELMOND) during the morning and arrived at B.106 (NIESCHEN) during the afternoon.</p>	
	13.4.45		<p>Only one operational flight was carried out to-day. This was of 8 aircraft led by P/L J. HUNT, D.F.C. on an Armed Recon of the CLDENBERG area. Little movement was seen, 1 Mot being damaged and 2 H.D.T.s destroyed at R.0812 and 2 rail cuts being made at R.0813 and R.1112.</p> <p>The Squadron Advance Party left for B.112 (REITHEN) and the aircraft flew in later in the day.</p>	
	14.4.45		<p>There was no flying until late afternoon. At 16.30 hours W/O J. CURRYINGHAM led four aircraft which were directed by SCALLWAG to attack some houses near WINDEN. Two were left smoking and hits were seen on others. Woods in the vicinity were on fire when the aircraft arrived.</p> <p>Four more aircraft were airborne at 17.01 hours and were directed by YALLOCK to attack houses near VERDEN. A factory among the houses was hit and damaged. P/SGT J. A. H. G. BREWANT, who was leading, was hit by light flak and crashed - his aircraft exploding on the ground.</p> <p>The remainder of the Squadron personnel arrived at B.112.</p>	
	15.4.45		<p>The C.O., S/L D. MURRAY, D.F.C. led nine aircraft on an Armed Recon of the ZEWEN area. P/L D. LUKE and W/O D. HELMORE returned early. A locomotive was destroyed at R.4603 and 2 open trucks were damaged. A rail cut was made at the same time.</p>	



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
	15.4.45	cont.	Once again the Squadron is on the move. The Advance Party left during the afternoon for B.120 (LANGENHAUSEN). A stop was made at about 21.00 hours and the convoy laagered for the night just outside MENDEN.		
	16.4.45		P/L.D. LUKE led 8 aircraft on the first show, which was an Armed Recon of the VIESSACK area. No movement was seen, but a dredger at R.5135 was attacked and left smoking. A rail cut was made at R.7447 and some railway buildings were also destroyed at the same place. The second flight, also of 8 aircraft, was led by CAPT. J. WATT in an attack on the village of SALTAN. All rockets were in the target area and many buildings and factories were set on fire.		
			The Advance Party arrived at B.120 and proceeded to get settled in. P/O H. COPEMAN flew in from B.112 later in the day to act as liaison officer for the Wing between the Airfields.		
	17.4.45		There were no operational flights to-day. All aircraft were flown across to B.120.		
	18.4.45		Four aircraft led by S/L.D. MURRAY, D.F.C., were scrambled by WINECUP to attack troops in woods between S.37228 and S.379218. All rockets were in the target area, but no results were observed. No flak was encountered.		
			P/L.D. LUKE led 8 aircraft in an attack on houses in the WESSEHOVED area. All rockets were in the target area and many buildings were hit by both R.P. and cannon.		
			The remainder of the Squadron arrived at B.120 during the evening.		
	19.4.45		Eight aircraft, led by CAPT. J. WATT, were airborne at 08.40 hours and were vectored by WINECUP to a village at S.3232. All rockets were in the target area, large fires being started and buildings destroyed.		
			A further 8 aircraft, led by S/L.D. MURRAY, D.F.C., were despatched to a target S. of DEIMANHOEST. No smoke went down and CORKER kept the aircraft orbiting until petrol shortage necessitated a return to base.		
			P/L.D. LUKE led 6 aircraft in an attack on 3 anti-gun positions in area X.0697. All rockets went in the target area. A nearby flak position was attacked and silenced with cannon and the village was also attacked with cannon fire.		
			CAPT. J. WATT led 8 aircraft on the fourth and last flight of the day. A train was		

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	19.4.45		attacked North of LANENBURG and five trucks were damaged. Barges were seen on the canal by the railway; also Met partially hidden along the side roads in the area.		
	20.4.45		The first flight was of four aircraft, led by S/L.D.MURRAY, D.F.C., to attack four guns concealed in houses. They were attacked with R.P. and cannon and the houses were damaged.		
			W/CDR. WEBB led the next 6 aircraft in an attack on a defensive position in a village at W.906903. Light flak came up from the target area, but several fires, giving off much smoke, were left burning.		
			Eight Typhoons, led by CAPT J.WATT, were airborne at 19.14 hours on an Armed Recon of the BOIZENBERG area. Tanks had been reported but were not observed. A train with 30 trucks, moving E. from T.0435, was attacked, but no results were observed. Rockets fired into a village at T.010270 caused large fires.		
	21.4.45		There was no operational flying to-day. SGT F.LANGLEY ferried an aircraft from B.112 to base.		
	22.4.45		Owing to bad weather, there was no operational flying. Everyone stood by in the hopes of the weather clearing, but were unlucky.		
	23.4.45				
	24.4.45		The first show of the day was airborne at 11.05 hours and was of 8 aircraft, led by CAPT J.WATT. They were detailed to attack a gun position at S.097062. All rockets were in the target area. A few troops were seen; also unidentified objects in woods.		
			S/L.D.MURRAY, D.F.C. led the next 8 aircraft, which attacked a train moving S.E. at BOBZIN. The loco and 3 trucks were destroyed and at least 4 other trucks damaged and the rail was cut in front of the loco. Light flak was experienced from woods at the side of the line but was silenced by R.P. and cannon.		
			The last operational flight of the day was of 8 aircraft led by F/L.D.LUKE. A train, moving South near LUBOK, was attacked and the loco damaged. One Met. was destroyed and another damaged in the area S.8858-S.9060. A house in the village of SCHWARZENSK was blown up.		
			Three new-comers to the Squadron, F/L.P.T.WARD, W/O.E.L.JAMES and P/SGT.S.C.WEBB, carried out sector rescues.		

W/L 0011/00118 210M 4/44 C.A.L. 21/242

R.A.F. Form 540

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N.A.E. Form A40

**R.A.F. Form 540**  
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para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and  
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	25.4.45		<p>Eight aircraft, led by CAPT J. WATT, were airborne at 09.34 hours on an Armed Recon of the LUDWIGSLUST area. A loco and 15 mixed trucks travelling N.W. at T.4934 was attacked - the loco being destroyed and 4 trucks damaged. An Airfield S. of LUDWIGSLUST was attacked with R.P. and cannon, but only 1 a/e aircraft was claimed as damaged. 1 Met was destroyed between LUDWIGSLUST and HEDEFIN.</p> <p>The C.O. (S/LD MURRAY, D.F.C.) led the next 8 aircraft on to an Army target. Gun positions near BREMEN (W.701958 to W.704958) were attacked, although no guns were seen, and all rockets fell in the target area.</p> <p>CAPT J. WATT led the last operational flight of 8 aircraft in an attack on an enemy strongpoint just South of HAMBURG. One Met was damaged <del>just South of HAMBURG</del> and a number of small explosions were caused.</p>	
	26.4.45		<p>SGT R.O. WESTLAKE, another new member of the Squadron, carried out his Sector recon.</p> <p>12 R.P. Typhoons, led by S/LD MURRAY, D.F.C., attacked gun positions at R.6603. All rockets were in the target area. Buildings in the vicinity were damaged and there was a very large explosion. Light flak was experienced from the target area.</p> <p>CAPT J. WATT led the next flight of 8 aircraft in an attack on horse-shoe shaped buildings at S.017133. One building exploded with a sheet of flame 100 feet high and with much smoke. Explosions and a fire were caused in 3 other buildings.</p> <p>The next 8 aircraft, which were airborne at 17.53 hours, were led by S/LD MURRAY, D.F.C. and were detailed to attack 4 heavy flak cars in the VEESEACK area. This target was not located, but two to three light coloured trucks were attacked at R.617090. No results were observed owing to poor visibility, but light flak was encountered from the target area.</p>	
	27.4.45		<p>No operational flights were carried out to-day.</p> <p>CAPT J. WATT carried out an air test during the afternoon, and a half hour later he took P/S S.C. WEBB and SGTS P.A. LANGLEY and R.O. WESTLAKE on a spot of practice flying.</p> <p>The C.O., S/LD MURRAY, D.F.C., headed a team of four in a rifle competition. They scored 142 out of a possible 160 points, which was quite good, as the team (C.O., P/O. FOREST, LAC RISSBY and P/O. DAVIS) had only fired their borrowed rifles once.</p>	

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