

R.A.F. Form 340.

See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I., para. 234, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes to R.A.F. Form 340.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

Number of pages used for day

(of Unit or Formation) 1st Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
ITALY	DECEMBER 1944			
Falconara	1st		Readiness. The C.O. and Sgt. Robert escorted 4 Seafighters up to the lakes North of Venice.	
Rosignano			S/Lt. Carline arrived from Falconara, to take over command of the Detachment from W/Lt. Lyson. News arrived that W/Lt. Lyson had been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry on the ground.	
Falconara	2nd		P/O. Burra and S/Sgt. Glade escorted 2 Seafighters to the Orade area. A second pair were escorted by S/O. Douglas and W/O. Taylor. S/O. Rainsford and Sgt. Morant flew on the dusk patrol.	
Rosignano			Readiness all day, but no incidents.	
Falconara	3rd		P/O. Rainsford and S/Sgt. Lambert escorted 2 Seafighters, one of which was hit by flak, causing them to return early.	
Rosignano			Readiness continued but still no incidents. S/Lt. Lyson and P/O. D.E. Kowbray, D.F.C., placed operationally tour expired. W/O. Bonner and S/O. Heston and Potgieter did some local flying in the new Valiant.	
Falconara	4th		Squadron on readiness.	
Rosignano			Readiness, no scrambles.	
Falconara	5th		Squadron on readiness, no incident.	
Rosignano			The runway was rendered U/S for Spitfires by a heavy shower of rain.	
Falconara	6th		A aircraft led by the C.O. and W/O. Aylward escorted 2 Seafighters to the Gulf of Trieste. They helped damage a barge.	
Rosignano			Runway still U/S. Work on the runway put it in a very bad state.	
Falconara	7th		A aircraft led by W/O. Burra and S/O. Rainsford escorted 2 Seafighters of 372 Squadron to Lake Garda.	
Rosignano			Runway still U/S for Spitfires, Squadron released.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Falconara	8th		Squadron on readiness.	
Rosignano			Runway 1/3. Squadron released.	
Falconara	8th		6 aircraft, led by the C.O., 1/Lt. Douglas and P/O. Aylward attacked 3 Messerschmitts up to the Gado area. One Messerschmitt crashed in flames and another had to return on one engine. A Liberator ditched near the area. The C.O. covered it and sent out a Hayday. Only two survivors were taken to a dinghy. Both were later picked up by a Catalina. P/O. Sutton and P/Sgt. Mundy were scrambled for air sea rescue. P/O. Little flew a new replacement over from Jasi.	
Rosignano			Squadron released, runway 1/3 for mud.	
Falconara	10th		6 aircraft led by P/O. Burne, P/O. Sutton and P/O. Aylward went on a fruitless search for a Fortress area. P/Lt. Carlyle and P/O. Mowbray arrived here from the Detachment in a Spitfire. P/Lt. Iyden flew over as well.	
Rosignano			A party was held in houses at a house-winner to the Squadron flat.	
			Readiness continued again today. P/Lt. Carlyle and P/O. Mowbray and Sgt. Cowley (55 Belt, Squadron) flew over to Falconara in the Spitfire. P/Lt. Iyden flew a Spitfire over to H.Q. for repairs. P/Lt. Carlyle and P/O. Mowbray returned (with mail) later in the day. There was a lot of hostile aircraft activity today, reported today, including one propeller a/c. One JU.88 flew over Leghorn at 35,000 ft. but due to a misunderstanding over the phone the Spits. did not scramble. P/O. Malloch and P/O. Musgrave scrambled later for a hostile plot at 35,000 plus ft. in the Florence area. The Spits. got up to 35,500 ft. over Florence, but the plot faded and no contact was made. Soon after landing P/O. Malloch and P/O. Musgrave were again scrambled, but were ordered to pancake soon after take-off.	
Falconara	11th		P/O. Douglas and Sgt. Lorient flew on an air sea rescue trip, followed by P/O. Aylward and P/O. Taylor. In the afternoon P/Sgt. Mundy and P/Sgt. Lambert were scrambled after a report, but it turned out to be "winder" dropped by a	

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See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I.
 para. 2248, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and
 under the R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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No. of pages used for day 1/10/44

See instructions for use of this form in K. R. and J. G. L.,
page 2549, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter IX, and
also in R. A. F. Funder Book.

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No. of pages used for day, 21 of 22

of (Unit or Formation).

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Falconara	11th		Hostile over ANCONA.	
Rosignano			Reconnaissance continued but no incidents. W/O. Macri (recently returned from hospital) did some local flying.	
Falconara	12th		Squadron on Reconnaissance.	
Rosignano			More rain placed the dawn W/S. Released.	
Falconara	13th		W/O. Douglas and Sgt. Harant were searched after a doggy fight south of ANCONA. A signal was obtained after about 30 minutes, but it immediately disappeared into cloud. The chase continued for about a further 30 minutes but the hostile stuck to the layer of cloud and the pilot failed. It was thought to be a JU.88. They landed at RIMINI due to shortage of fuel. W/O. Douglas damaged a fly on landing, due to fog. They were put up for overnight by 4th Squadron. W/O. Burns and W/O. Little flew on the dusk patrol.	
Rosignano			Runway still W/S for Spitz. W/O. Ipsen and W/O. Taylor flew over in two Spitz from Falconara, and had to land at LIS.	
Falconara	14th		Two sections went on a search for a Wellington that had crashed the night before. Low cloud obscured the ground so that they were unsuccessful. A Mosquito found it later as it was the first sighting. W/O. Douglas and Sgt. Harant returned to base in the afternoon.	
Rosignano.			Aerodrome W/S., Squadron released.	
Falconara	15th		W/O. Sutton and Sgt. Adams escorted 2 Seafighters up to the lakes round the GRADO area. In all these escorts they fly just above the sea till they reach the target area, then climb to 10,000 ft. and then level off. They were picked up by the enemy radar. Later W/O. Rainford and W/O. Lambert escorted 2 more Seafighters on an armed shipping patrol of the North Adriatic.	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Falconara Rosignano	15th		S/O. Burns and S/O. Little flew on the dusk patrol. State of readiness continued today. S/O. Malloch and P/O. Ingrave ascended a balloon up to a pin point about 10 miles South of ANCO. No incident. S/Lt. Carlyle and S/O. Burrow were searched for a bogey at 10,000 ft. heading N.W. Flot faded soon after and no contact was made.	
Falconara Rosignano	16th		S/O. Sutton and S/Sgt. Blade flew on a recon of PORTOFINO harbour. One destroyer and 2 German A boats were suspected to be there but nothing was seen. They flew just above the sea on the outward journey and used a diversalinary course to fool the Radar. No flak was encountered. Readiness. S/Lt. Carlyle flew to Pisa in the Fairchild, where he dropped S/O. Burrow and S/Sgt. Pearson. He continued to Florence where he dropped S/Lt. Ipsen. He then continued to Siena where he picked up S/O. Raligh of 558 Wing and returned to base. S/O. Burrow and S/Sgt. Pearson brought the two Spits. down from Pisa.	
Falconara Rosignano	17th		Four aircraft led by the C.O. and S/Sgt. Mandy ascended 4 A.S. Seafighters of 273 Squadron on a low level shipping recon of the E. Adriatic. The visibility was very bad. Nothing was seen. The C.O.'s engine cut after flying for 35 minutes on his long range tank. He pulled up quickly to about 700 ft. with the idea of making out, but then it better of. In the way down his engine picked up once more. S/O. Sutton and S/Sgt. Lambert flew on the dusk patrol. The cloud had closed right in by the time they landed. Readiness. S/Lt. Carlyle, S/O. Burrow, S/O. Malloch and P/O. Ingrave carried out a low level shipping recon, BRZEL - ANCO - SAVONA and return. Apart from numerous bursts of light and medium flak nothing was seen. S/O. Malloch later carried out an A/C test. Work was today started on the proposed laying of a strip of P.S.R. (perforated steel planking) on the runway, which it is estimated will be completed in about 4 weeks. The work is being carried out by American	

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1500-2101 Wt. 445lb-245 2150-179 25 700

See instructions for use of this form in E.R. and A.C.I.,
para. 2345, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation)

Place:	Date:	Time:	Summary of Events:	References to Appendices
Rosignano	17th		Engineers. A strip of 30 ft. side has been marked off on the left of the runway for take offs and landings.	
Falconara	18th		Squadron on 30 mins. readiness owing to the runway being list-banded. 7/0. H.A. Station C.T.B.	
Rosignano			Showers of rain again continued till 4.30 pm 17/8.	
Falconara	18th		Four aircraft led by 1/0. Burns and 1/0. Rainford took off to escort 4 R.F. Scoutfighters of 178 Squadron on a low level armed shipping recon of the E. Adriatic. The cloud base was about 500 ft. and the visibility very bad (the 10 + 1-50 and was mist. 1/0. Burns's No. 3, 1/0. Little, disappeared in some cloud and 1/0 contact with him was lost. Search aircraft were sent out but found nothing. 1/0. Burns had to return with two Scoutfighters due to the bad weather. 1/0. Rainford's section carried on but nothing was seen. 1/0. Burns and 1/0. Douglas flew on an A.S.R. search for a Liberator crew, but no sighting was made. Runway still U/S. Work progressing very rapidly on the laying of the P.S.P.	
Rosignano	20th		Squadron on readiness. Bad weather stopped all ops. 1/0. Cahill took over as Engineering Officer from 1/0. Williams, who is going to the Detachment.	
Falconara	21st		The C.O. and Sgt. Adversio did an armed weather recon at first light of the MARINA - TRAVISO area. The visibility was very good from change. There was heavy flak from Porto Barbalini. A four sided ship was seen just off Ancona. 1/0. Sutton and 1/0. Sgt. Blase sent on a low level recon of TRAVISO Harbour. Nothing of interest was seen. There was some moderate light flak. The visibility was good. Four aircraft led by 1/0. Burns and 1/0. Douglas flew an escort to four R.F. Scoutfighters of 178 Sqn. on a low level armed shipping recon of the E. Adriatic. 1/0. Douglas had engine trouble, so his section returned	

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was very good. They strafed and destroyed one military engine. Some flak was encountered during their attack. I/O. Douglas and Sgt. Adzero went on an A.G.R.

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See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I. para. 2249, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and note in R.A.F. Postal Book.

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation)

Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	Reference to Appendices
Falconara	25th		search for Mustang pilot but no sighting was made. In the evening the Officers and Senior P.O.s served the airman's Christmas Dinner. W/O. Bryant, who used to be adjutant on the Squadron, paid us a visit over Christmas.	
Rosignano			Runway again 1/3 due to strong cross wind. Christmas festivities progressing very favourably.	
Falconara	26th		I/O. Sutton and P/Sgt. Slade went on the armed weather route at first light. P/Sgt. Slade had engine trouble so landed at Rimini. After 111 Sqn. had repaired it they returned to base. The visibility was excellent. I/O. Burne and S/Sgt. Mundy were scrambled to 5000 ft. after a bogey, but it turned out to be a friendly aircraft. Four aircraft led by I/O. Rainford and I/O. Douglas escorted 4 R.A. Seafighters of 272 Sqn. on a low level armed shipping route of the U. Adriatic. Neither section had any incidents. I/O. Rainford and Sgt. Karent went on an air-sea rescue search but were diverted to escort a Fortress to the squadron. It reached the drop all right but instead of landing it turned out to sea and was unable to make land again. It ditched just off the coast and all the crew except the first pilot, who was killed by flak, got out. It was only flying on the two outer engines and was in flames. I/O. Douglas and Sgt. Adzero went on a search for a Liberator crew that had disappeared on Christmas Day, but without result. The C.O. flew over to the detachment at Rosignano in the afternoon.	
Rosignano			Strong cross wind again rendered the runway 1/3. S/Ldr. Shaw, D.F.C. flew over a new Spitfire from Falconara and landed at 11.30, arriving in time for Christmas Dinner.	

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Place.	Date.	Time.	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Falconara	27th		F/C. Rainsford and Sgt. Morant went on an armed patrol close to the BATHA - TRAVISO area. The visibility was very good. F/C. Sutton and F/Sgt. Glade went on an A.S.R. search east of BATHA but no sightings were made. F/C. Sutton and F/Sgt. Hardy flew on a low level search of LUGLIANO area at the HAVR's request. A wreck was observed. Light, scout and machine gun fire was experienced. F/C. Douglas and Sgt. Morant flew on a search and flank patrol combined. Nothing was seen. The C.O. returned from Rosignano. F/Sgt. Lambert flew to test his war that had been perforated about a week ago. He is serviceable once more. State of readiness continued today. F/Sgt. Pearson and F/C. Seligman scrambled after a B-100 at 2000 ft. in the BATHA area, but the pilot bailed and no contact was made. The Spits landed at Piacenza they continued to do readiness. F/Sgt. Pearson and F/C. Seligman were scrambled from Piacenza and F/C. Hallowell and F/C. Ingrave scrambled for a hostile at 25000 ft. in the BATHA area, which turned out to be friendly. From 25000 ft. an aircraft was seen to ditch by F/C. Hallowell, who immediately went down to the spot. Flares were obtained but no survivors were seen (later searches by A-19 aircraft proved unsuccessful). The four Spits then landed at Piacenza. F/C. Hallowell and F/C. Ingrave flew down to Rosignano after the strong wind had subsided. F/Sgt. Pearson and F/C. Seligman were again scrambled for a bogey, but the pilot faded soon after take off. They carried out a patrol and then landed at Rosignano. F/Lt. Shand flew back to Falconara. F/Lt. Corlyle flew up to Piacenza in the Airchild to pick up two flares, but was unable to land due to crowded circuit.	
Falconara	28th		F/C. Burns and F/Sgt. Hardy did the early morning armed weather watch of the BATHA - TRAVISO area. Light bogies were seen and attacked in the Corsone canal. Two were damaged. One was set on fire. They also attacked another vessel but it had already been abandoned. A ship was seen in Venice. F/C. Rainsford and Sgt. Morant were scrambled, to escort a Mitchell that was in trouble. It landed	

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of (Unit or Formation)

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See instructions for use of this form in R.A.F. and A.C.F. para. 2319, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes to R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Falcomara	28th		safely at BELLARIA. They were then sent to escort a Portcove to Valcomara. P/O. Douglas and Sgt. Adams went on an A.C.F. search for a pilot who baled out off TRIESTE. No sightings were made. They saw two Destroyers in PCLA harbor. Some light but inaccurate flak was encountered from CAPA POCANTURA. P/O. Burns and P/Sgt. Mandy continued on the same search but also saw nothing. P/O. Sutton and P/Sgt. Blade flew on the dusk patrol.	
Rosignano			P/O. Barrow took off in the Pterich to fly P/A. Raleigh of 508 Wing to ERM. Readiness continued. P/O. Wallace and P/A. Macgown scrambled for a bogey at 27,000 plus ft. in the POCANTURA area. No contact was made and the bogey faded. P/O. J.C.H. Wilson (COMOS) left for HQ A.C.F. on posting, operational tour expired.	
Falcomara	29th		The C.O. and P/O. Rainsford went on the armed weather recon at first light. They attacked a barge in the Corone canal and strikes were observed. They landed at Bellaria due to engine trouble. The weather was very good. P/O. Sutton and P/Sgt. Blade went in search of a bogey that had appeared in the sea, off Falcomara. An empty dinghy was found.	
Rosignano			Readiness continued. P/A. Macgown carried out an air test. The runway was later placed U/S for 5 p.m. due to engine ail.	
Rosignano	29th		Runway U/S, readiness cancelled.	
Falcomara	31st		P/O. Douglas and Sgt. Adams went on an armed weather recon of the POCANTURA - TRIESTE area. The visibility was good, but there was no cloud. Heavy flak was encountered from POCANTURA, Treviso and Mestre.	
Rosignano			Readiness continued. P/O. Wallace carried out two gun tests in aircraft. The C.O. arrived by air from Falcomara.	

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References
to
Appendices

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
			<u>CONTINUOUS REPORTS FROM RUSSIA.</u> This month has been a very good one for the Squadron, and at Balaklava there was flying almost every day. An arrangement has been made with D.A.F. whereby the Squadron does weather recon every morning at first light for them, and are allowed to strafe North of the Po on the way back. About half the Squadron were moved into billets early on in the month and Messin huts are being put up to accommodate the rest. The mess now have a very comfortable mess of the kind. The officers and C.O. pilots moved into messes in Balaklava after seeing the Christmas decorations through with 337 wing. A good time was had by all. Over at the Detachment at Rosignano the weather continued to be very cold throughout the month and there were slight falls of snow. In the way of recreation the dances in the little village continue to prove very popular. The 47th Bomber Group have been very kind to the Squadron in allowing us to attend their cinema and U.S.C. stage shows, held at Rosignano, which are very much appreciated. Celebrations during Christmas started early and continued right throughout the Christmas period. The airman's Christmas Dinner was held on Christmas Day and went off very well - thanks mainly to the cooks, who produced a really excellent and large dinner. The officers and Senior U.S.C. then defended themselves in an 'all-in' game of rummy against the rest. Of this, not much is remembered by anyone. The C.O. visited the Detachment on Boxing Day, just in time for dinner in the Officers' Mess. He came again and spent New Year's Eve with the Detachment. <u>SPORT</u> Several matches were arranged during the month which to be cancelled owing to bad weather. 11.20. Banks and Still went down to Naples to play in trials for a representative I.A.F. football team to play against 4th Army on

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trials for a representative R.A.F. football team to play against 6th Army on

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para. 2340, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and
notes to R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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Page No. 11/12

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation)

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			<u>SPORT continued.</u> Christmas Day. Neither of these games were played for the side, but L.C. Banks travelled as reserve. <u>SCORE FOR DECEMBER.</u> <u>Shipping</u> 18 barges damaged 1 barge destroyed 3 railway engines probably destroyed 2 R.T. destroyed. Total operational hours flown during month 634 Total non-operational hours flown 45,40 275,40 <i>[Signature]</i> Squadron Leader, Commanding, No. 337 (Rhodesia) Squadron.	

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