

RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in ICR and A.C.I.
para. 2429 and War Manual Pt. II, Chapter XX, and
note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

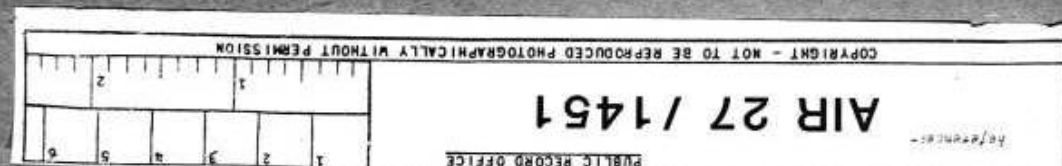
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. ONE

of (Unit or Formation) 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	1945 Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Northern Italy.	February				
FALCONARA	1st		F/Sgt. MUNDY and F/Sgt. ADSEK commenced this month's operations by escorting 2 R/P Beau's of 272 Sqn. on an armed shipping recce FIAVE-VECCHIA to TAGLIAMENTO It. Due to bad weather, the target was not attacked. F/Lt. BURNE and F/Sgt. MORANT scrambled to escort a B24 short of fuel. This A/C successfully landed at its own base.		
ROSSIGNANO			The Detachment carried out ten sorties today, including three scrambles, which all turned out to be for friendly A/C. An armed recce with 2 A/C was carried out, but due to poor weather the mission had to be abandoned. Later in the day 2 Spits provided cover for minesweepers, without incident.		
	2nd		Only one scramble: turned out to be a friendly.		
FALCONARA	2nd/3rd		Bad weather during these 2 days held up all operations; but the normal state of Readiness was maintained, as usual.		
ROSSIGNANO	3rd		2 A/C carried out an uneventful armed recce in the PARMA area - led by F/O. MALLOCH.		
	4th		There were 4 scrambles in the course of the day, 3 of which turned friendly. The fourth remained unidentified, as the plot faded. F/O. BURROW and W/O. TAYLOR carried out an armed recce in the PARMA-ALESSANDRIA area. Nil incidents.		
FALCONARA			2 R/P Beaufighters on armed shipping recce FIAVE-VECCHIA-GRADO were escorted by 2 of our Spitfires (piloted by F/Lt. BURNE and F/Sgt. SLADE). Due to sea mist from sea level, all the A/C returned after 15 minutes. A weather recce carried out by the C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) and W/O. CORNISH, of POLA, ARSA Channel and FIUME. In the Channel they saw 6 beached fishing boats, and at FIUME 2 x 100ft. barges plus 2 E Boats were reported.		
ROSSIGNANO	5th		An active day for scrambles - 3 of them in all. Some turned friendly before interception, and other identified as friendly when intercepted. An armed weather recce in the early morning resulted in the destruction of 1 3-ton truck and a staff car; also 4 goods trucks and a staff car were damaged.		
	6th		An early morning armed recce claimed 3 large M.T. trucks as flammies and 2 more damaged. The Readiness Section were scrambled, but there was no interception as plot faded. 2 Spitfires (F/Lt. CARLYLE and F/O. SEACREST), one carrying a 500-lb. bomb on first dive-bombing mission from the Detachment, attacking the engine repair shop at PONTREMOLI. The target was attacked, but bomb failed to explode. The Section then went on to strafe a reported M.T., but made...	120	



look for the E/V. No definite report could be made, but it was thought that it had left the vessel heeling over after the previous attack, it now appeared to be upright.

ROSSIGNANO

9th

3 scrambles, one of which ended with the successful interception of a B24

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para. 2145 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and
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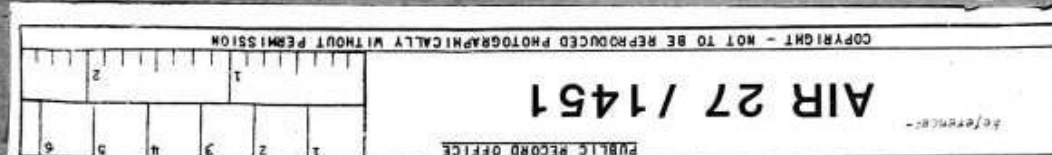
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. T70.

of (Unit or Formation) 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day.

Place	1945 Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Northern Italy.	February				
FALCONARA	9th		F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. ADSERO escorted 2 R/P Beau's of 272 Sqn. on armed recce POLA-ARSA Channel and FIUME. No sightings made, but the patrol was livened up by some flak from UNIA Island. A very uneventful armed recce from MAESTRO Pt. to GRADO carried out by 2 R/P Beau's of 272 Sqn., and 2 of our A/C acting as escort (F/O. RAINSFORD and W/O. CORNISH). S/Ldr. SHAND and F/Sgt. MORANT flew across to ROSSIGNANO. The rest of the Squadron will soon be following. It will be grand to have all the Squadron together again. The Squadron H.Q. M.T. convoy left FALCONARA at 0930 hrs., but had to return again for the night, as the road pass was blocked by a landslide.		
	10th		F/O. SUTTON and F/Sgt. MUNDY on A-3.R. patrol for a P51 reported to be in the sea 3 miles south of ANCONA. Wrecked A/C and body on board were sighted: HSL directed to position. PARENZA Harbour again visited. F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. LAMBERT sighted the M/V that F/Lt. BURNE and F/Sgt. SLADE successfully attacked yesterday. The vessel was well down in the water.		
ROSSIGNANO			2 armed recce's during the day added to our score of destruction. 2 large M.T. trucks, with 1 truck and trailer and an electric locomotive damaged. No scrambles.		
	11th		F/O. MUSGRAVE and F/Sgt. MORANT scrambled for bogey. Red II returned with engine trouble; bogey turned friendly. Another scramble during the day turned friendly before interception. Armed recce carried out by F/O. MUSGRAVE and F/Sgt. MORANT: 6 railway vans were damaged.		
	13th		Armed recce carried out by the C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) and F/O. BURROW in GENOA-ALESSANDRIA area. 2 electric locomotives damaged, also 2 petrol tankers. F/Lt. CARLISLE and F/Sgt. MUNDY on another armed recce in afternoon. Staff car and electric locomotive destroyed, and 1 electric train, 3 rail trucks and 2 M.T. damaged. Steam locomotive also damaged. 2 A/C scrambled, but recalled No. 2; then scrambled, but bogey turned friendly.		
	14th		Armed recce carried out by F/O. MALLOCH and F/O. SUTTON: proved unsuccessful due to bad weather. 2 scrambles during the day. A B24 was intercepted on the first occasion and 12 P47's on the second.		
FALCONARA			The first scramble this month, for an unidentified A/C was carried out by F/Lt. BURNE and W/O. CORNISH. It turned out to be one of those friendly's who forgets his IFF. F/O. RAINSFORD and F/Sgt. LAMBERT carried out an uneventful dusk patrol in the ANCONA area.		121
ROSSIGNANO	15th		F/Sgt. PEARSON and F/O. SEAGRIEF went on an armed recce in GENOA-ALESSANDRIA area...		



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Place	1945 Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
ROSSIGNANO	(15th)		area. No results. 2 scrambles: a Mosquito was intercepted at 27,000ft. first time, and on second occasion told to patrol LSCORIN. Another armed recce was carried out in the afternoon. Both A/C had to land, as one out on long-range tank. They took off again and continued on recce. 2 M.T. trucks and a box-car destroyed, and 2 box-cars damaged.		
	16th		F/Sgt. PEARSON and F/O. SEAGRIEF scrambled over base at 20,000ft. 'Con.' trails seen, but no contact made.		
	17th		F/O. BURROW and W/O. TAYLOR on armed recce. Nothing seen. 1 scramble during day: 1 bogey identified as friendly and no interception made.		
FALCONARA			F/O. DOUGLAS led a formation of 4 Spitfires acting as top cover to 75 HALIFAXES and WELLINGTONS bombing harbour installations at TRIESTE. The bombing was good and the target area was seen to be well covered. Intense and heavy flak made things very uneasy for the bombers.		
	18th		Bad weather prevented F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. ADSERO from carrying out a complete shipping recce off TRIESTE.		
ROSSIGNANO			1 scramble during day: bogey turned friendly. Armed recce by F/Sgt. PEARSON and F/O. SEAGRIEF resulted in 1 M.T. damaged.		
	19th		F/O. SUTTON and F/Sgt. MUNDY carried out an early morning recce: staff-car and 1 M.T. destroyed; 6 M.T. damaged.		
	20th		1 scramble during day: F/O. SUTTON and F/Sgt. MUNDY sent up to 52,000ft.; bogey turned friendly. Searched for surface craft south of SPEZIA.		
	21st		An armed recce was carried out by F/Sgt. PEARSON and F/O. SEAGRIEF; 1 M.T. was destroyed and 2 M.T. damaged. 1 scramble turned back as bogey became friendly. F/Lt. CARLYLE and F/Sgt. MORANT carried out armed recce in the evening: 2 M.T. destroyed, and 1 staff car and 5 rail trucks damaged.		
FALCONARA			F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. ADSERO carried out a search for another B24, but had no luck. A 40-60ft. craft in POLA Harbour and a 150ft. tanker in CITTA'NOVA Harbour were seen by F/Lt. BURNE and W/O. CORNISH when they carried out a recce from POLA to SALVORE.		
	22nd		F/Lt. BURNE and W/O. CORNISH on a recce from POLA northwards, coastwise. In the northern Adriatic a tanker believed to have been the one reported in CITTA'NOVA Harbour yesterday was seen at FIRANO. Light, intense flak was experienced from FIRANO and CAORLE. Final operation of the Unit from FALCONARA.		
ROSSIGNANO			2 scrambles during the day: 1 bogey turned friendly and 1 plot faded. An armed recce was carried out by F/O. LUSKAYE and F/O. RAINIERI: 1 staff car was damaged.		

(R2085-4300) Wt. 1451-4300 1500 1451 T.S. 760

Wt. 20426/1104 200M. 7/41 P.J. Ltd. 51-811

R.A.F. Form 540

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22nd	F/Lt. BURNE and W/O. CORMISH on a recce from FOLA northwards, saw a tanker in the northern Adriatic a tanker believed to have been the one reported in GITTANOVA Harbour yesterday was seen at PIRANO. Light, intense flak was experienced from PIRANO and CACILE. Final operation of the Unit from FALCONARA.
ROSSIGNANO	2 scrambles during the day: 1 bogey turned friendly and 1 plot faded. An armed recce was carried out by F/O. MUSGRAVE and F/O. RAINIER: 1 staff car was damaged.

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Place	1945 Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Northern Italy	February			
ROSSIGNANO	23rd		The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) and Sgt. Bell were engaged on an armed recce north of GENOA: 2 M.T. and 2 horse-drawn vehicles were damaged. The weather was fine all day and readiness sections were on their toes throughout. W/O. TAYLOR and F/Sgt. MORANT were scrambled after a bogey out to sea. A Mitchell (B25) and 2 P47's were identified. F/O. MANSELL (a new pilot) was sent off on local flying. S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C., (C.O.), F/Lt. CARLYLE and F/O. SEAGRIF bombed H/Q. and Radar Station south-west of PARMA. Bombing is improving - one near miss on Radar Station. F/O. MALLOCH and Sgt. MAXWELL went on an armed recce, in the afternoon, between GENOA and PARMA. 1 M.T. destroyed was confirmed for the loss of 1 M/C - F/O. MALLOCH was hit by flak and a few minutes later baled out. He is believed to be safe.	
	24th		F/O. BURROW and P/O. MANSELL went on an armed recce in the PO VALLEY; found haze (thick) to 2,000ft.; visibility 2 miles. WEATHER was fine over base and usual readiness maintained. F/Lt. CARLYLE and Sgt. ALLAN, F/O. BURROW and W/O. TAYLOR bombed H/Q. at Italia Division S-W. of PARMA. Great improvement in bombing: 2 direct hits on H/Q. and 2 near misses on Radar Station. F/O. MUSGRAVE and P/O. RAINIER, F/Sgt. PEARSON and F/O. SEAGRIF bombed the same target, scoring 3 direct hits. The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) F/Sgt. MORANT, F/O. BURROW and P/O. MANSELL again bombed the target, scoring 2 direct hits. F/Sgt. MUNDY and Sgt. BELL scrambled, but plot faded. F/O. SUTTON and Sgt. MAXWELL also scrambled for high recce, but plot faded.	
	25th		Weather fairly good. Readiness maintained. F/O. Aylward and F/Sgt. SLADE carried out armed recce, but bad weather encountered and they returned. F/Lt. BURNE and F/Sgt. MORANT did some practice bombing; also F/Sgt. ADSECO and F/Sgt. SLADE, F/O. DOUGLAS, F/O. SUTTON and F/O. AYLWARD. F/Sgt. MUNDY and W/O. LAMBERT went on an armed recce and damaged 3 goods trucks. W/O. TAYLOR and Sgt. ALLAN scrambled to patrol LIGHORN at 15,000ft. Nothing happened, as usual. F/O. SUTTON and W/O. CORMISH went on an armed recce. Sutton was hit, climbed up and headed out to sea. He baled out very low and his parachute was seen to open. F/Sgt. PEARSON and Sgt. MAXWELL were scrambled to patrol area where dinghy was thought to be open. A walrus picked up the body later. The Squadron has lost one of its most popular pilots. Sgt. MAXWELL ran short of fuel and had to land 'wheels up' when his undercarriage stuck.	122
	26th		F/Sgt. PEARSON and F/O. SEAGRIF went on an armed recce N. of GENOA. They claimed...	133

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Place	1945 Date February	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
ROSSIGNANO			claimed one bowser destroyed. (confirmed). - F/Lt. BURNE and F/Lt. CARLYLE both went up on air tests. F/Sgt. MUNDY and W/O. LAMBERT were sent up practice bombing. Later, F/Sgt. LAMBERT was on circuits and bumps. W/O. TAYLOR and Sgt. ALLAN went on an armed recce: a box-car was claimed damaged. F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. ADSERO carried out a shipping recce between SPEZIA and GENOA: 2 P.T. boats sighted near SPEZIA.	
	27th		Weather was fairly good and Readiness was maintained. F/Sgt. MORANT and P/O. MANSELL went on an armed recce. At CASSINE they damaged 8 railway trucks and a 5-ton M.T. F/O. BURROW and Sgt. BELL were scrambled over Lake TRASSIMENO. Nothing seen. F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. ADSERO were sent on an armed recce, but had to return owing to engine trouble. S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C., and F/Lt. BURNE, F/O. AYLWARD and F/Sgt. MUNDY escorted 4 P47's to BERGAMO airfield: one direct hit was observed. On the way back they strafed a 10-ton M.T. with one trailer, a 5-ton M.T. and a staff-car - all flamed.	
	28th		The weather was fine and Readiness Sections on the alert. F/Lt. CARLYLE and Sgt. BELL carried out an armed recce, N. of GENOA: 2 15-cwts. and a wooden railway coach set on fire. F/O. MUSGRAVE, P/O. RAINIER, F/Sgt. MORANT and W/O. LAMBERT took off to bomb an ammo dump N. of GENOA: 2 A/C returned, W/O. LAMBERT crashing on landing - 'wheels up'. Direct hit and 1 near miss on dump. F/Lt. BURNE and F/Sgt. MORANT were scrambled for bogey S. of SPEZIA: no interception. F/Lt. CARLYLE took A/C "L" up on air-test. The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.), Sgt. MAXWELL, F/Sgt. PEARSON and Sgt. ALLAN bombed the same ammo dump: direct hit on building and some near misses. F/Lt. CARLYLE and F/O. BURROW, W/O. TAYLOR and F/O. SEAGRIFF escorted 8 P47's to VICENZA: direct hits were observed. On the way back 2 x 15-cwts. were attacked, one burnt.	
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF AMMUNITION - FEBRUARY 1945: 20/Lm. ... 7,572 rounds. .303 ... 18,220 " .5 ... 4,220 "	
			TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF EXPLOSIVES - FEBRUARY 1945: 500-lbs. G.P. Bombs 28. 10½-lbs. Practice Bombs 80.	
			TOTAL FLYING HOURS - FEBRUARY 1945: Operational ... 273 hrs. .05 mins. TARGETS BOMBED : 2. Non-operational 53 " .55 " NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES - FEB. 1945 : 238.	

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FOUR.

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

of (Unit or formation) 257 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day _____

TOTAL FLYING HOURS - FEBRUARY 1945:

Operational ... 273 hrs. .05 mins.
Non-operational : 53 " .55 "

TARGETS BOMBED : 2.

NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES - FEB. 1945 : 238.

SECRET

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FOUR.

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or formation) 257 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices															
	1945																		
	FEBRUARY																		
ROSSIGNANO, Northern Italy.			<u>ENEMY TARGETS ATTACKED:</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Destroyed</th> <th>Damaged.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>M.T. ...</td> <td>31</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rolling Stock ...</td> <td>5</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Railway Engines ...</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shipping ...</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Destroyed	Damaged.	M.T. ...	31	21	Rolling Stock ...	5	42	Railway Engines ...	2	6	Shipping ...	-	4	
	Destroyed	Damaged.																	
M.T. ...	31	21																	
Rolling Stock ...	5	42																	
Railway Engines ...	2	6																	
Shipping ...	-	4																	
			<u>SPORT and SOCIAL:</u> RUGBY: With the whole Squadron together again it was possible to form two teams within the Squadron itself. Unfortunately, we were unable to play any outside teams; but the two matches we had amongst the Squadron players proved very enjoyable. The main feature of both these matches was the new talent which shewed itself: it should now be possible to pick a formidable Squadron XV. 1st Match : The Rest 12 - The Detachment 3. 2nd " : The Officers & N.C.O.'s 9 - The 'Erks' 13. SOCCER: Soccer matches were played against two Italian teams and also against 538 Wing, the Squadron doing extremely well against the Italians. I/A/C. Banks was selected to play for the R.A.F. at Bari, Rimini and Florence. Another player worthy of note in the Squadron is a newcomer - Cpl. Miles (right full-back) - who has proved outstanding in all his matches. Matches have been played amongst the various Sections on the Squadron and have proved extremely popular. WHIST, DARTS, ETC: Whist Drives are being held weekly and an occasional Darts match is played.																
			<u>COMMANDING OFFICER'S GENERAL SURVEY OF ACTIVITIES.</u> The first half of the month was rather disappointing: At Falconara the usual weather recce's and Beaufighter escorts were carried out, the latter with a certain amount of success, several barges being damaged. The Detachment at Rossignano had a number of scrambles and several successful interceptions, but	123															

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			(COMMANDING OFFICER'S GENERAL SURVEY OF ACTIVITIES): but unfortunately they all turned friendly. On the 9th. the Squadron H/Q. started on its move over to Rossignano, 6 aircraft being left at Falconara as a Detachment until they were released by 1435 Sqdn. on the 24th. During this time bad weather hampered the Detachment's operations, but several coastal recce's and escorts were carried out. At Rossignano there was great activity as the aircraft were being modified to carry 500-lb. bombs. In the meantime as many armed recce's as possible were carried out, with considerable success. On the 23rd. the first organised bombing sortie was made, and from then on regular bombing missions were carried out with an armed-cum-weather recce every morning at first light and an armed recce every evening. A considerable amount of work was done on the new billets at Rossignano, as these were in a filthy condition. The advantage of having hot showers (which 111 R.S.U. kindly allowed us to use), and the proximity of the sea should make it very pleasant for the coming hot weather.  (I.H.R. SHAND) Squadron Leader, Commanding, No. 287 (Rhodesia) Squadron, ROYAL AIR FORCE. ROSSIGNANO, N. Italy. 24th February 1945.	

2548/2/CHQP/3-43

(7472) Wt. 24229/1650. 180m. 8/40. P.I. 51-7751.		BY 287 (Rhodesia) Squadron		SECRET		PAGE No. ONE	
FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1945							
DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
February 1st	PT 957 PT 421	F/Lt. CARLILE, J. W/O. TAYLOR, A.	Scramble	0720	0755	Scrambled for 'bogey' plotted N-W of LECHORN.	