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R.A.F. Form 540.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 105

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2149, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes to R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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

No. of pages used for day.

Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January			
FALCONARA	1st		F/O. SUTTON and Sgt. MORANT carried out an armed weather recon of PADUA-TREVISO area. There was no cloud and the visibility was good. On their return they made flapless landings owing to a prevailing strong wind. F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. SLADE went on an Air-Sea Rescue for a position that had crashed in the Northern Adriatic. They landed at Bellaria on the outward journey to refuel. They were forced to land at Fano on their return, due to bad weather. The officers and M.C.C. pilots moved into their new flat in Falconara township. It is very comfortable, after the barracks in which we have been living at the airfield itself. F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. SLADE returned from Fano by truck in the evening.	
ROSSIGNANO			State of readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (P/O. MUGRAVE and F/O. MALLOCH) carried out a sweep-recon between Spezia and Genoa, without incident. F/Sgt. PEARSON, M.M., was airborne on aircraft test, in a Spitfire.	
FALCONARA	2nd		F/Sgt. MUNDY and F/Sgt. LAMBERT flew on an armed weather recon of PADUA-CASARSA area. The weather was very good up there, but on their return they had to land at Forli, due to bad weather at base. An SOF. barge was attacked in the Brenta Canal. They also attacked one M.T., which was left burning. The flak was light and accurate. F/Sgt. MUNDY was hit by a shell underneath the wing. Both pilots returned to base in the afternoon. F/O. DOUGLAS and Sgt. MORANT were scrambled after a bogey, which turned out to be a Mosquito.	
ROSSIGNANO			The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) returned to Falconara with a Spitfire, for inspection. F/Sgt. PEARSON brought a two-seater Hurricane from Tarquinia.	

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7-01

Page No.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
FALCONARA	January 3rd		F/O. RAINSFORD and Sgt. MCHART flew on an armed weather recon of PADUA-TREVISO area. The visibility was good, except for a slight haze. The C.O. returned from ROSSIGNANO. F/O. DOUGLAS flew his aircraft back from Fano.	
ROSSIGNANO			Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (F/Lt. CARLYLE and F/Sgt. PEARSON) carried out a sweep in the Spezia area, and provided cover for minesweepers off Viareggio. No incidents. 2 Spitfires (F/Lt. CARLYLE and F/Sgt. PEARSON) scrambled for a bogey at 20,000ft. south of LIGNORNI. Plot faded and no contact made.	
FALCONARA	4th		The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) and W/O. CORNISH went on an armed weather recon of PADUA-TREVISO-CASARSA area. The weather was very good. F/O. SUTTON and F/Sgt. SLADE flew on dusk patrol north of Ancona. F/O. RAINSFORD and F/Sgt. LAMBERT flew on a practice trip over Ancona, at the request of the Navy, in order to co-operate with a motor launch.	
ROSSIGNANO			Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (F/O. BEAGRIEF and W/O. TAYLOR) carried out a sweep in the Spezia area, and provided cover for minesweepers. Several ships sighted in Spezia harbour; but no incidents.	
FALCONARA	5th		F/O. DOUGLAS and Sgt. ADAMS flew on an armed weather recon of PADUA-TREVISO area. There was S/10 cloud over the area. Light, inaccurate flak was experienced from Garbola. F/Sgt. MUNDY and F/Sgt. LAMBERT escorted a Baltimore on a calibrating test, 80 miles north of base. F/O. RAINSFORD and F/Sgt. SLADE flew on an air-Sea Rescue trip, but no sightings were made. F/O. SUTTON and F/Sgt. LAMBERT continued the search, but also without result.	
ROSSIGNANO			Runway unserviceable. F/Sgt. HUNTER discharged from hospital, but still requiring treatment.	

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. TWO

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

ROSSIGNANO			P/O. SUTTON and P/Sgt. LAMBERT continued the search, but also without result. Runway unserviceable. P/Sgt. HUNTER discharged from hospital, but still requiring treatment.	
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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.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. TWO

No. of pages used for day

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

Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January			
FALCONARA	6th		P/O. RAINSFORD and Sgt. ADSEER carried out an armed weather recon of UDINE area, but they were recalled owing to bad weather at base.	
ROSSIGNANO			Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (P/O. MALLOCH and P/O. LINSERAVS) on destroyer escort. Destroyers located off Viareggio. Cover was provided, but no incidents. P/Lt. IPSEN and P/O. MURRAY, D.F.C., left the Squadron on posting (tour-expired) to 58 P.T.C., Naples.	
	7th		Readiness continued. No incidents.	
FALCONARA	8th		P/O. SUTTON and P/Sgt. SLADE flew on an armed weather recon of VENICE-TREVISO-NEVERSA area. Both light and heavy, inaccurate flak was experienced from Venice. P/O. DOUGLAS and Sgt. ADSEER were scrambled to escort a P58 to base. It landed safely.	
			P/O. RAINSFORD and P/Sgt. MORANT were scrambled for an Air-Sea Rescue patrol. They searched for an aircraft believed to have ditched off Falconara, but no sightings were made.	
			P/O. SUTTON flew over to Rossignano, but was not permitted to land and so had to return to base.	
			The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHARP, D.F.C.) was admitted to hospital and P/Lt. BIRNE was discharged from hospital.	
			P/O. BIRNE'S promotion to P/Lt. has just been granted.	
ROSSIGNANO			Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (P/Sgt. FRASER, M.E. and P/O. SHARLES) provided air cover for minesweepers west of Spezia. No incidents.	
FALCONARA	9th		P/O. DOUGLAS and P/O. CORNISH flew on an armed weather recon of MESTRO-TREVISO-UDINE area. Visibility was very good above cloud, which was 2/10 at 4,000ft.	107

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References
to
Appendices

Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
ROSSIGNANO	January 9th		Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (P/O. RAINFORD and P/O. HUSGRAVE) escorted a a Walrus mine-spotting for 2 mine-sweepers south of Genoa. No incidents. 2 Spitfires (P/Lt. CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) scrambled for 3 bogeys approaching from the north at 10,000ft. Identified as friendly, from visual reports.	
FALCONARA	10th		P/Sgt. LUNDY and P/Sgt. LAMONT flew on an armed weather recon of IMSTRO-UDINE area. They attacked a 60ft. barge at Loreo. Strikes were observed. They also attacked and knocked the funnel off a 60ft. tug in the Po River. Hits were observed on a smaller barge at Carbola.	
ROSSIGNANO			There was a heavy fall of snow on the night of 9th and the aerodrome and aircraft were covered in snow.	
			Readiness continued from 1000 hrs. 1 Spitfire (P/Lt. CARLYLE) on test. One Spitfire (P/Sgt. HENKSON) on test.	
FALCONARA	11th		P/O. RAINFORD and P/Sgt. MORANT started out on an armed weather recon of IMSTRO-TRIVISO area, but they had to return due to the latter's aircraft having engine trouble. P/Sgt. LUNDY and P/Sgt. LAMONT were scrambled to ^{take} their place. Hits were observed on 3 x 60ft. barges near ADRIA. Light, inaccurate flak was experienced from Carvazara.	
			P/Lt. BUNN and W/O. CORMISH escorted 2 A/P Beaufighters of 272 Squadron on a low-level, armed shipping recon of the Northern Adriatic. No sightings were made. P/O. RAINFORD and P/Sgt. MORANT flew 2 aircraft over to the Detachment (at Rossignano), and the former brought one back.	
ROSSIGNANO			The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) came out of hospital. Readiness continued. 1 Spitfire (P/Lt. CARLYLE) on test. 2 Spitfires (W/Lt. CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) on shipping recon - Brescia-Savona. They were diverted to investigate some bogeys, which were intercepted and identified as FW's. Bogeys sighted near Palmia Island. P/O. BURGESS, missing for a few weeks.....	

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. THREE

See instructions for use of this form in R.A. and A.C. 1, para. 1145, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in P.O.C. Book 1.

No of pages used

ROSSIGNANO			CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) on shipping recon - Spezia-Savona. They were diverted to investigate some bogeys, which were intercepted and identified as Fiat's. Bogeys sighted near Palermo Island. F/O. BURROW, missing for a few weeks....	
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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 108

See instructions for use of this form in R.M. and A.C.F. para. 238, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter 13, and para. 10, R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or formation) 287 (Rhodesia) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January		weeks, returned, complete with a Fairchild.	
PAICCHARA	12th		F/O. RAINSPURD and F/Sgt. LARANT flew over from Falconara in 2 Spitfires. F/O. RAINSPURD returned the same day.	
ROSSIGNANO			F/O. RAINSPURD and Sgt. ADAMS escorted 2 A/I bombers on an armed shipping recon in the Northern Adriatic. Nothing was seen.	
			F/Sgt. LARANT was flown back from the detachment by F/O. MALLOCH.	
			Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (F/Sgt. PARSONS, L.M., and F/O. BURROW) on shipping recon from Spezia to Savona. Several barges seen in Genoa. Heavy flak encountered at Genoa, and light flak further down the coast.	
PAICCHARA	13th		F/O. MALLOCH and F/O. MUSGRAVE and F/Sgt. LARANT flew over to Falconara in the Fairchild. F/O. MALLOCH and F/O. MUSGRAVE returned the same day, with Sgt. SIMPSON.	
ROSSIGNANO			Squadron on readiness. Bad weather prevented any operations.	
			F/O. MURDOCH-SATCH left (four-expired) for 56 P.T.O., Naples.	
	14th		Readiness continued. No incidents.	
			Readiness continued. 4 Spitfires (F/O. MUSGRAVE, F/O. MALLOCH, F/O. BURROW and F/O. SHARPLES) on sweep from Spezia to Savona. Barges and light craft sighted in Spezia to Savona. Heavy, medium and light flak encountered at Genoa. F/O. MALLOCH was hit in the a/c's wing by light flak off St. Margherita. Some more light flak encountered off Sestri - Levante.	
			2 Spitfires (F/Lt. CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) on armed recon between Spezia and Savona. 6 barges sighted in Savona. Nil incidents.	
PAICCHARA	15th		F/O. SUTCH and F/Sgt. BLADE took off on a weather recon of the Northern Po Valley, but they had to return as one of the aircraft developed engine trouble.	
			F/Lt. BURKE and W/O. CORRIE continued the recon. Visibility was very good above...	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January		above the 10/10 at 1,000ft. P/O. DOUGLAS and Sgt. ADSEKO escorted 2 R/P Beaufighters of 278 Squadron on an armed shipping recon in the Northern Adriatic. No sightings were made. On their return one Spitfire developed engine trouble and landed at Fano. The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAW, D.F.C.) flew down to Naples to attend a Mediterranean Allied Air Force conference.		
ROSSIGNANO	15th		Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (P/Lt. CARLIS and W/O. TAYLOR) flew an armed recon - Spezia-Savona. 6 barges sighted in Savona Harbour. An electric transformer was strafed and also a 3-ton lorry, the latter being set on fire, north of Spezia; light flak was encountered on return from Spezia. 2 Spitfires (P/O. MALLOCH and P/O. MUSGRAVE) on armed recon - Spezia-Savona. Flak (light and 40mm) encountered north of Spezia. No movements seen and nothing to report.		
	16th		P/O. BURROW ferried a Spitfire down from Pisa. Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (P/O. BURROW and P/O. SHAGHER) carried out an armed recon - Spezia-Savona. On approaching 2 destroyers, south of Genoa, believed to be friendly, they were fired upon by A.A. from these ships. A smart turnabout was made by these 2 Spits and much cursing expressed against the Royal Navy. The two destroyers were later found to be enemy. Flak was encountered at Genoa and further south.		
FAICONARA ROSSIGNANO	17th		P/O. MUSGRAVE carried out an air test in a Spitfire. P/O. SUTTON brought back P/O. DOUGLAS' aircraft from Fano. Readiness continued. 2 Spitfires (P/O. BURROW and P/O. SHAGHER) carried out a sweep, hoping to sight the enemy destroyers seen on the previous day. More shipping than usual was seen in Genoa. Flak was encountered in the Genoa area and further south, at St. Margherita.		

2348/2/0102/7-45

R.A.P. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I., para. 114b, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and also in R.A.P. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FOUR

No. of pages used for day

257 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

shipping than usual was seen in Genoa. Flak was encountered in the Genoa area and further south, at St. Margherita.

2248/2/CHICP-2-41

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in R.E. and A.C.1, para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 308

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or formation) 337 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January 17th		...P/O. MUSGRAVE took up a Hurricane for an air test. 2 Spitfires (P/Lt. CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) carried out a search for the enemy destroyers - Genoa-Savona-Spezia. No sightings and nil incidents. P/O. SUTTON and Sgt. ADSERO went on a weather recon of VENICE-TREVISO area. Visibility was good above the 10/10 stratus at 2,000ft. P/Lt. BURNS and W/O. GARNISH escorted 3 R/P Beaufighters of 272 Sqn. on an armed recon. W/O. GARNISH's aircraft developed engine trouble, so P/Sgt. LAMONT took his place. A cellulose factory west of CARVIGNANO was attacked with rockets (as an alternative target, as no sightings were made). There was light, inaccurate flak from the target. P/O. DOUGLAS and Sgt. ADSERO carried out a recon of Tagliamento. 2 ships were sighted. 4 Spitfires, led by P/O. SUTTON and P/Sgt. MINDY, escorted 3 R/P Beaufighters of 272 Sqn. on an armed recon to Tagliamento, but no sightings were made, due to bad visibility. The C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) returned from the conference held at Naples. Readiness continued. 2 Spits (P/Lt. CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) carried out a recon of Viareggio-Genoa area. Several ships sighted in Genoa harbour, but otherwise there was nothing further to report. P/O. KALLOCH and P/O. MUSGRAVE carried out a cine-gun exercise.	
FALCONARA	18th		4 Spitfires, led by the C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) and P/Lt. BURNS, escorted 3 R/P Beaufighters of 272 Sqn. on an armed shipping recon in the Eastern Adriatic. A 60ft. vessel was attacked by the Beaufighters. Light flak was experienced from Lussigniccolo. P/Sgt. MURANT made a flapless landing behind...	
ROSSIGNANO				
FALCONARA	18th			

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Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January		...behind F/Lt. BURNIE and cut off the latter's rudder, causing them both to swing off into the mud at the side of the runway. F/O. RAINSFORD and F/Sgt. MUNDY escorted 2 R/P Seafighters of 272 Sqdn. on an armed shipping recon of the Northern Adriatic, but they had to return due to bad weather. F/O. SUTTON and F/Sgt. LAMBERT were scrambled after a bogey at 30,000ft., but it turned south and they were recalled.	
ROSSIGNANO	19th		Readiness continued. 2 Spits (F/O. HAILLOCK and P/O. MISHRAVE) were scrambled to intercept a bogey north of Leghorn. Bogey reported friendly and Section was recalled to base. Runway was placed unserviceable after mid-day, due to rain and strong cross-wind.	
FALCONARA	20th		F/O. DOUGLAS and F/Sgt. MUNDY flew an armed weather recon of the VENICE-TREVISO area. It was very hazy and there was 10/10 cloud at 10,000ft. F/Lt. BURNIE and W/O. CURTISH were scrambled after a bogey, south of Ancona. Bogey was identified as a P.R.U. Lightning. F/O. SUTTON and F/Sgt. MUNDY were scrambled to search for a B24 which had crashed into the sea north of base. They found the wreckage and two empty dinghies, and left after directing an A-S.R. Launch to the spot. F/Lt. BURNIE and W/O. CURTISH escorted a crippled Mosquito to Jesi, where it crash-landed.	
ROSSIGNANO			Readiness continued. 2 Spits (F/Lt. CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) scrambled for bogey north of Leghorn at 10,000ft. Aircraft turned out friendly and Section recalled. 2 Spits (F/O. BIRROW and F/O. SHARPLEY) on armed recon Spezia-Genoa. Several shipping sightings were made, but there was otherwise nothing further to report.	

2346/2/CHGP 5-49

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. FIVE

See instructions for use of this form on R.N. and A.C.I.
para. 2318, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and

2 Spits (P/O. BURROW and P/O. SMITH) on armed recon Spezia-Livorno. Several shipping sightings were made, but there was otherwise nothing further to report.

2110/2/CHOP 5-4

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 215

See instructions for use of this form in A.P. and A.C.T. from 2149, and War Record, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and also in R.A.F. Flying Book.

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January			
FALCONARA	21st		4 Spitfires, led by the C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.), searched for the crew of a 256 Sqn. Mosquito which had 'gone in' the previous night while chasing a JU88 low over the sea. Nothing was seen. P/O. SUMTON and W/O. CORMISH were scrambled to escort a Fortress in trouble. The Fort. landed safely before contact was made. P/Lt. CARLYLE came over from the Detachment (at Rossignano) in a Hurricane to pay us a visit. He stayed to lunch and returned in the afternoon, accompanied by P/O. DOUGLAS taking a Spitfire to the Detachment.	
ROSSIGNANO			Readiness continued. P/Lt. CARLYLE flew over to Falconara and returned on the same day, together with P/O. DOUGLAS in a Spitfire replacement. P/O. MALLOCH on air test in a Spit.	
FALCONARA	22nd		P/O. RAINSFORD and P/Sgt. MCRANT had a busy morning, being scrambled on one A-S.R. Search north of base before breakfast, and then doing another at 1100 hrs. between Porto Garibaldi and Chioggia. Nothing was seen on either search. P/O. DOUGLAS arrived back in "3", having spent the night at the Detachment.	
ROSSIGNANO			Readiness continued. 2 Spits (P/O. MALLOCH and P/O. MUGRAVE) scrambled after 2 bogeys north of Pisa. Aircraft sighted and identified as P47's. Section then carried on a patrol over base, as 3 bogeys were plotted in the Florence area. Plot faded and Section ordered to land. P/Sgt. PEARSON, L.M., and P/O. SMITH carried out a cine-gun exercise.	
FALCONARA	23rd		P/O. MALLOCH carried out a test in a Spit. P/O. BURROW also on test in a Spit. 5 aircraft, led by P/Sgt. MINDY, carried out an A-S.R. search, but saw nothing. After many weeks of back-stage work by the C.O. (S/Ldr. SHAND, D.F.C.) and much...	110

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Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	Page No. References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January		much scrounging by both our Engineering officers, we at last seem to be nearing our goal of being able to dive-bomb the Hun. Spitfire "E" has been fitted with a bomb-rack, and the C.O. took off this morning to drop the first 500-pounder - not in earnest yet, but just into the sea. He discovered how easy it is to overshoot the target!	
ROSSIGNANO	23rd		Readiness continued. 2 Spits (P/O. BURROW and P/O. SAAGHIA) on armed recon of Spezia-Genoa area, and also searched for wreckage off Viareggio. Nil incidents. Flak encountered from Sestri del Levante.	
FALCONARA	24th-28th	24th	P/O. MUSGRAVE carried out an air test in a Spit. Readiness continued. P/O. MUSGRAVE on air test.	
		24th-28th	Bad weather prevented any operations over these three days; but we kept 4 aircraft on readiness as usual, and were able to carry out a few training flights, including another dive-bombing practice. On the evening of the 26th all the officers attended the dance held by 287 Wing. This was a great success, although most of us left the C.O. and the Adjutant to look after the eighteen nurses invited by the Squadron and went into a huddle round the bar.	
ROSSIGNANO	25th		Readiness continued. 2 Spits (P/O. MUSGRAVE and P/O. BALLOCH) on armed recon Spezia-Savona. The usual shipping seen in Genoa harbour and Savona. Heavy flak was encountered at Savona.	
FALCONARA	26th-27th	27th	Readiness continued. Nil incidents. P/O. SUTTON and P/Sgt MINDY carried out a weather recon in the LESTRA-TREVISO area. The weather was very poor, with B/IC low cloud over the whole area. 4 aircraft, led by the C.O. (S/Ldr. SHARP, D.F.C.), escorted 4 R/P Beaufighters of 272 Sqdn. on an armed shipping recon in the Northern Adriatic. One 150ft. ship was seen ^{near} the Gulf of Genoa, but the Beau's left it and attacked the...	

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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in A.T. and A.C.F. para 119, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. SIX

of (Unit or formation) 257 (Rhodesia) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Of the night, near
ship was seen in the Gulf of Penzance, but the Beau's left it and attacked the...

2348/C/CHGP/2-51

R.A.F. Form 340

See instructions for use of this form in R.A.F. Form 340, 1944, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter 11, and also in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. SIX

No. of pages used for day

at (Unit or formation) 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	1945 January		the alternative target - a cellulose factory west of Cervignano, observing strikes with rockets and cannon. Some accurate, light and heavy flak was encountered from Casarsa. There was a lot of cloud, and visibility was poor. F/Lt. BURKE and F/Sgt. LAMONT were scrambled to search for the pilot of a B26 who baled out into the sea 5 miles north of base. They arrived on the spot within ten minutes, but there was no sign of the pilot. They left an A-S.R. launch, a Boston and several small boats searching the area. F/O. RAINSFORD and F/Sgt. ADSEER patrolled the area not long afterwards, but still saw nothing.	
FALCONARA	28th		There was no flying, owing to bad weather, and we were put on to 30 minutes availability.	
ROSSIGNANO			In the evening the C.O. opened the new bar in the Airmen's Mess. It is kept well stocked with "vino" and should be a great asset to the Mess.	
FALCONARA	29th		F/Lt. CARLILE and F/O. BURROW, F/Sgt. PEARSON and F/O. SEAGRIM carried out some local flying practice. Readiness was continued.	
ROSSIGNANO			Still no flying or readiness. The latest Spit. IX ("K") is fitted with a gyro gunsight, and this morning the C.O. gave us a talk on its theory and use. It appears one just cannot miss the target; so here's we soon find something to try it on! Readiness continued. 2 Spits (F/O. MALLOCH and F/O. MISGRAVE) carried out a standing patrol in readiness for an ME410 reported to have taken off from Bergamo. Nil incident. F/O. MALLOCH and F/O. MISGRAVE carried out a fixing test with some naval M.T.B.'s around Gorgona. F/O. SEAGRIM carried out an air test.	III

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FUEL RECORD OFFICE

Reference	PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6
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Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.	References to Appendices
Northern ITALY	January		2 Spitfires (P/Lt. CARLYLE and W/O. TAYLOR) on armed recon Spezia-Genoa area, and inland. 2 trucks were strafed on a bridge and hits observed by P/Lt. CARLYLE. A staff car was seen to disappear into the bushes, before it could be attacked. A third truck was strafed and damaged by both pilots.		
FALCONARA	30th		P/Sgt's MENDY and LAMBERT carried out a search south of Ancona in conjunction with an A-S.R. launch. Nothing was seen.		
ROSSIGNANO	31st		Readiness continued. Nil incidents.		
FALCONARA			Readiness continued. 2 Spits (P/O. MALLOCH and P/O. BURROW) were scrambled on two separate occasions. In the first the bogey was reported friendly; in the second the Section had to return as P/O. BURROW'S aircraft developed engine trouble. P/O. MUGRAVE carried out an air ^{craft} test.		
			P/O. RAINSFORD and W/O. CORNISH were scrambled in very bad weather to locate an enemy ship reported 40 miles north of base. They were vectored to the spot and found a mine there - possibly one dropped by the ship, whose 'plot' faded.		
			P/O. DOUGLAS and P/Sgt. ADSENG were scrambled and successfully intercepted and escorted back to base a B24 and a P47, both of which were in trouble.		
<u>TOTAL FLYING HOURS - JANUARY 1945.</u> Operational 225 hrs. 20 mins. Non-operational 131 " 45 " 347 hrs. 05 mins. Number of operational sorties ... 182. <u>ENEMY TARGETS ATTACHED:</u> Destroyed. Damaged. (over)...					

2046/2/11102/5-43

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in A.R. and A.C.I. forms 2346, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Policy Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or formation) 357 (Rhodesia) Squadron

Page No. SEVEN

No. of pages used for day

2045/2/CHGP/9-49

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in A.C. 1 and A.C. 2.
para. 2140, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and
also in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 35723

No. of pages used today

of (Unit or formation) 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																				
	1945																							
	January		<u>ENEMY TARGETS ATTACKED:</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Destroyed.</th> <th>Damaged.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Enemy Aircraft</td> <td>...</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surface Vessels</td> <td>...</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.T.</td> <td>...</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transformers</td> <td>...</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <u>General Survey of Activities:</u> Operations were again hampered by bad weather, and the fact that 4 aircraft were maintained at readiness at Falconara and another 4 at Rossignano. The weather race for D.A.F. was continued throughout the month and the usual escorts and A-52's carried out. The last messen hut was completed and all the men placed in billets before the end of the month. The Detachment at Rossignano was also hampered by adverse weather conditions, but carried out several successful interceptions, all on friendly aircraft. Recon's on the shipping position in the harbours was also carried out fairly regularly. <u>Sport and General:</u> <u>FALCONARA (F/A.):</u> The month was a disappointing one for the outdoor sportsmen; the soccer match against 21 Wing, two matches against 18 Squadron S.A.A.F. and three against No. 24 Mobile Laundry Unit all had to be cancelled because of the weather and the conditions of the playing field. The only match played was			Destroyed.	Damaged.	Enemy Aircraft	...	-	-	Surface Vessels	...	-	7	M.T.	...	2	5	Transformers	...	-	1	
		Destroyed.	Damaged.																					
Enemy Aircraft	...	-	-																					
Surface Vessels	...	-	7																					
M.T.	...	2	5																					
Transformers	...	-	1																					

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Page No.

4.11

Place	Date 1945	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	January		...was against the 94 Mobile Laundry Unit, which we won 4-3. The opposition's defence was poor, due probably to lack of practice as a team. The Squadron had three representatives in 287 Wing hockey team, which played two matches during the month. Indoor sport had more success, and after the opening of the Airman's Canteen - appropriately named the "Dart Inn" - several very enjoyable evenings were held staging darts matches against the Mobile Laundry. Cpl. Doxey and several willing helpers publish a weekly news-sheet called "The Sporting Life", giving an account of the Squadron's sporting activities for the week. It has proved a great success. <u>ROSSIGNANO (Sqdn. Detachment):</u> A system of leave was started, with four or five men going to Rome each week (accommodated at the 15 R.A.F. Rest and Leave Centre), which is proving very successful. On most occasions the men have managed to organise an air passage. Two games of soccer were played at the end of the month - one against 558 Wing, Rossignano, and the other against 558 Wing H/L., Leghorn. Both games resulted in a draw of 2-2. A sports meeting was held and a soccer committee selected, consisting of AC. Siebert (Captain), AC. Bath and Cpl. Johnson. Cpl. Clark continues the duties of sports secretary. The local dances in the village are still being held and are very much enjoyed by all.	
			<i>[Signature]</i> (I.H.R. SHAND) Squadron Leader, Commanding, No. 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron, ROYAL AIR FORCE.	

21112/2112/1-12

Date: 23rd February 1945.

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT

By 237 (Rhodesia) Squadron.

SECRET

Page No. ONE.

(Form 100) (M. 1000-100) 2nd Ed. 1944

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1944.

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCE
				Up	Down		
1.1.45	SPITFIRE IX (Merlin 66)						