

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in R.A.F. Form 540, 1st ed., 1944, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter 13, and also in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 50

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or formation) 327 (Squadron) Bombers, R. I. 2.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1944	Hours		
	July			
SERRAVALLE, CORSIKA.	1st	0600 - 0750	10 a/c. (C.O. - 3/Ldr. J. Palmisley), 2 a/c. returning, one with engine trouble, escorted by one other, carried out a fighter sweep in the SAVONA-TURIN area, without incident.	
		0950 - 1120	12 a/c. (3/Lt. Ison) escorted 12 B25's attacking a railroad bridge. The alternative target of SPINIA Docks was bombed.	
		1825 - 2045	12 a/c. (C.O.) did a fighter sweep in the GENOA-BELCONIA area, without incident.	
	2nd	1105 - 1515	12 a/c. (C.O.) provided area cover for B25's attacking a fuel dump at OSTIGLIA. 1 a/c. returned after five minutes, escorted by one other.	
	3rd	1030 - 1255	12 a/c. (3/Lt. First) on area cover for 12 B25's attacking targets in the PO VALLEY. 1 a/c. returned with engine trouble, escorted by another. 20 J10G's were sighted behind, and 5,000ft. above. P/O. MOURRAY shot down one 109, the pilot being seen to bale out, after it had been chased down to 1,000ft.	
	4th	0955 - 1045	12 a/c. (C.O.) on a fighter sweep in the GENOVA area. 2 a/c. returned with engine trouble - each was escorted back by one other a/c.	
	5th	-	Weather remained unsuitable for operational flying throughout the day.	
	6th	0755 - 0940	12 a/c. (C.O.) escorted 12 B25's attacking a railroad bridge at 1855. 1 a/c. returned after ten minutes with eng. trouble, escorted by another a/c.	
		1200 - 1325	12 a/c. (C.O.) on sweep - GENOA-BELCONIA-SPINIA area. 1 a/c. returned with engine trouble, escorted by another.	
	7th	1010 - 1200	12 a/c. (3/Ldr. E. Morris) escorted 12 B25's attacking a railbridge at 177500. 8 pilots (3/Ldr. J. Palmisley, 3/Lt. First, P/O. Petersen, P/O. Douglas, P/O. Hallas, Sgt. Pearson, P/O. Harboun and P/O. Mearns) became night operational on Spit. IX's.	
	8th	0955 - 1145	12 a/c. (3/Ldr. E. Morris) escorted B25's attacking marshalling yards at NOVI LIGURIA. Squadron's advance party left Serravalle for St. Catherine's airfield, CALVI, Corsica.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1944	Hours		
	July.			
(SERRAGIA, CORSICA).	9th	0515 - 0650	4 a/c. (P/O. Crook) on weather recon in PO VALLEY. 22 a/c. flew from SERRAGIA to the Squadron's new airfield, St. Catherine's, CALVI. Weather was very thick, with poor visibility on arrival.	
ST. CATHERINE'S CORSICA.	10th	1010-1200	12 a/c. (C.O.) escorted 36 B3's attacking a railbridge at (O)8555. An alternative target at P1543 was bombed.	
	11th	0855-1055	12 a/c. (P/Lt. Ipsen) escorted 24 B3's attacking a railbridge at (O)893718.	
	12th	0525-0655 0850-1100 1735-2005	4 a/c. (P/Lt. Hirst) on weather recon in the BULFRA area. 12 a/c. (P/Lt. Ipsen) escorted 24 B3's attacking a railbridge at CREMONA. 12 a/c. (C.O.) escorted 36 B3's attacking a railbridge at CREMONA. 2 a/c. returned with engine trouble, escorted by two others. S/Ldr. J. Walmisley airborne to Malta to accompany Group Capt. R.C. Love (251 Wing), on leave.	
	13th	0820-1140 0955-1215 1750-2010	3 a/c. (P/Lt. Paine) provided top cover to 24 B3's attacking a railbridge at K7718. 6 a/c. (P/Lt. Ipsen) gave top cover to 24 B3's attacking a railbridge at L5699. 12 a/c. (P/Lt. Hirst) escorted 24 B3's attacking a railbridge at PIACENZA.	
	14th	1000-1155	12 a/c. (P/Lt. Hirst) escorted 24 B3's attacking a railbridge at PIACENZA. Cloud prevented bombing. The Squadron changed to 90-gallon jettison tanks.	
	15th	0840-1020	12 a/c. (P/Lt. Ipsen) escorted 24 B3's attacking a munitions dump near FLORENCE. P/O. Musgrave (180125) landed with engine trouble on Bolina aerodrome. S/Ldr. J. Walmisley returned to St. Catherine's.	
	16th	1025-1250	6 a/c. (P/O. Moubray) provided top cover to 24 B3's attacking a railbridge at K162245.	

YR028/GHOP/14-40.

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See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I. files, 2241 and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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18th 1035-1050 3/Lt. J. Calneley returned to St. Catherine's.
5 a/c. (P/O. Housley) provided top cover to 24 B28's attacking a railbridge at K163245.

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Page No. THREE.

See instructions for use of this form in R.A.F. and A.C.A. para. 2345, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter 22, and notes to R.A.F. Form 540.

of (Unit or formation) 837 (RECON) SQUADRON, R.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1944	Hours.		
	July			
(St. Catherine's, Corsica).	(18th)	1050-1800	5 a/c. gave top cover to 24 B28's attacking a railbridge at K633169. P/O. Housley returned from Corsica.	
		1750-2010	12 a/c. (C.O.) escorted 24 B28's attacking a railbridge at PIACENZA.	
	17th	0940-1200	12 a/c. (C.O.) escorted 24 B28's attacking a railbridge at ASTI.	
		1745-2000	12 a/c. (P/O. Paine) escorted 24 B28's attacking a railbridge at ASTI. No contact was made with the bombers, due to bad visibility and the bombers' poor R/T.	
	18th	-	Squadron released - weather unsuitable for operations.	
	19th	1810-1940	12 a/c. (P/O. Morris) escorted 24 B28's attacking a factory at CARRARA.	
	21st	-	Squadron released from operations.	
	22nd	-	Squadron released from operations. 8 training flights of cine-gun and shadow firing carried out, for the benefit of new pilots.	
		1715-1915	12 a/c. (C.O.) provided area cover for 18 B28's attacking a railbridge in POSITION O(995715).	
	23rd	0850-1015	12 a/c. (C.O.) escorted 24 B28's attacking a railbridge at IMPERIA.	
		1205-1350	2 a/c. (P/O. Gray) on standing patrol off N. coast of CORNICA.	
	24th	0550-0730	4 a/c. (P/O. Burne) on weather recon in the ALESSANDRIA-PARMA area.	
		0820-1110	12 a/c. (C.O.) on escort of 24 B28's attacking a railbridge at BOVES.	
25th	-	-	NTL ops. cine-gun and air-to-air firing. P/O. WILSON (80408) and P/O. BARKER (180250)...	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
(St. Catherine's, Corsica).	1944 July (25th)		...BARBOUR (180850) were missing from one of these trips. F/O. Wilson was picked up by an A.S.R. launch, very slightly injured. F/O. Barbour's body was found floating near some wreckage. A head-on collision had resulted from a dog-fight. F/O. Wilson said that he had baled out of the a/c. at 400ft.	
	26th	0830-1805	12 a/c. on standing patrol. Sgt. McKenzie (710517) on his first operation and flying No. 8 to F/O. Gray, reported that he was having engine trouble and said he was below second blower height. Nothing more was heard of him. A French merchant ship reported seeing an a/c. explode in the air, fairly high up, in approximately the same position. But there is no reliable evidence as to what really took place. Sgt. McKenzie had reported his engine trouble to F/O. Gray when he was some distance behind, so that F/O. Gray lost sight of him when he had turned back to try to make base.	
		1710-1850	12 a/c. (S/Lt. Kirst) providing escort for 2 B2B's attacking a railbridge at RONCA SCHIVIA. 2 a/c. returned early, one due to cutting on the long-range tank system (a secondary cause being vibrations at all revs.), and the other owing to lack of power in second blower height. Both a/c. were escorted by two others.	
	27th	1425-1815	12 a/c. (C.O.) on a fighter sweep in the NARITA-PAVIA area.	
	28th	1640-1830	4 a/c. (F/Lt. Paine) on a weather recon in the PAVIA-PIACENZA area.	
	29th	-	No operations, due to weather.	
	30th	1045-1230	12 a/c. (C.O.) escorted 18 B2B's bombing a railbridge at RISTAZENO, with ASH as an alternative.	
	31st	-	from 0800 to 1845 hours, 12 patrols of 2 a/c. were flown at 15,000ft. No E/A was contacted, although several vapour trails were seen.	
			<u>GENERAL:</u> On the night of 28th July an attack on the Squadron's and on the rest of 251 Wing's a/c. was arranged with the French Battalion de Choc. The Squadron's normal guard, under Cpl. Ouden-Yillows, was posted and warned. The Squadron's guard caught 8 'saboteurs', while 451 Squadron caught the remaining 8, without loss of a/c. An amusing incident was caused by S/Ldr. J. Wainisley, C/O., being made prisoner while he was endeavouring to catch two 'saboteurs' - he had forgotten his revolver.	
			During/	

300/26 011/UP/18-42

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See Instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX and 300/26 011/UP/18-42

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guard caught a saboteur, who was being taken to the hospital. The loss of a/c. An amusing incident was caused by S/Ldr. J. Walmisley, C/O., being made prisoner while he was endeavouring to catch two 'saboteurs' - he had forgotten his revolver.

During/

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See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.L. para. 339, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter 33 and also in R.A.F. Evolve Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 517B.

of (Unit or formation) 257 (RHODESIA) SQUADRON, R.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
(St. Catherine's, Corsica).	July 1944.		During the month an informal dance was held in the Officers' mess. Two sisters from 25 H.F.H., an American Red Cross girl and one French civilian girl were the only ladies present; but a pleasant time was had by all. P/O. Crook (16354) with malaria, and P/Sgt. Taylor (778003) with ear trouble, were admitted to 25 H.F.H. P/O. Crook returned on the 30th July. On 30th July P/O. Seagriff (160359), a new arrival, was also admitted to 25 H.F.H. On the 26th July the C.O. and five other officers attended the funeral at Bastia, Corsica, of P/O. F.G. Harbour (160250). P/Lt. Howat, Adjutant of the Squadron, and P/O's Hughes and Wilson spent a week at the Hotel Napoleon Bonaparte at Ile Rousse, from the 26th. On the 29th P/Lt. McCaw (Squadron H.Q.) took P/O. Wilson's place. <u>Swimming:</u> Practically every day transport has been arranged to visit the beach for the benefit of personnel wishing to swim. L.A.C. Moore (Parachute Section) conducted a dinghy drill exercise at the beach, on the 29th. <u>Educational Courses:</u> The Command Educational Officer paid several visits to the Squadron. The response was very satisfactory, particularly for courses in matriculation. <u>Discussion Group:</u> On only two out of the four Fridays was S/Ldr. Peace (Wing Padre) able to visit the Squadron. The average attendance has been about six men each time. A fire, started accidentally by P/O. Gray while boiling water in the camp domestic site, on an open fire which the high wind took control of and spread to the airmen's lines, completely destroying 8 tents and their entire contents. A Court of Enquiry was held and conducted by P/Lt. D.G. Owen (253 Sqn.) and P/O. J. Fleming (451 Sqn.). <u>Rugby:</u> Several games have been played; one against the French Bataillon de Choc was won by the Squadron 15 - Nil, and proved an amusing match. On the 31st. July P/O. Sutton and Sgt. Pearson set out on a week's leave, to Italy, in order to contact and repay the Partisans who had sheltered them during their escape through the lines.	
TOTAL FLYING HOURS:				
JULY 1944:				
		Mrs. hrs.		
Operational		729 30		
Non-operational		69 45		
		799 - 15		

John Walmisley
Squadron Leader, Commanding
NO. 257 (RHODESIA) SQUADRON

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