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R.A.F. Form 540

See instruction for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2349 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 617 Squadron.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
SCAMPTON.	1:4:43.		F/Lt. C.H.S. Pain 79800 A & S.D. posted to 18 O.T.U., for Adjutant duties. F/O. H.R. Humphries posted to this Unit for duties as Squadron Adjutant. (F/L. Post) F/O. H.R. Humphries 112150 A & S.D. granted the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant. F/O. W. Astell G.D. 60283 granted substantive rank of Flight Lieutenant w.e.f., 3:11:42. F/O. G.A. Rodger G.D. (N) 121558 promoted to the war substantive rank of Flying Officer w.e.f., 19:11:42. P/O. W.G. Tytherleigh G.D. (G) 120851 promoted to the war substantive rank of Flying Officer w.e.f., 20:10:42. 656738 Sgt. Townsend (Pilot) promoted to T/F/Sgt. 518252 Sgt. Anderson (Pilot) promoted to T/F/Sgt.		
SCAMPTON.	2:4:43.		P/O. C.C. Caple 50293 Tech(Eng) granted the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant.		
SCAMPTON.	2:4:43.		F/O. L. Chambers NZL 403758 posted from 26 O.T.U., P/O. G.E. Osborne G.D. (N) 134024 posted to 617 Sqdn. from 97 Sqdn. P/O. C.C. Caple 50293 Tech(E) posted to 617 sqdn. from H.Q., No. 5 Group on cessation of attachment (F/L. post).		
SCAMPTON.	3:4:43		P/O. H.T. Taerum G.D. (N) J. 16688 posted from 1654 Conversion Unit.		
SCAMPTON.	5:4:43		P/O. L.G. Burpee re-posted to Squadron on appointment to commission w.e.f., 5:3:43.		
SCAMPTON.	6:4:43		F/O. J.K. Barrett 115775 G.D. (N). P/O. W.H.T. Otley 141460 G.D. posted to 617 Sqdn. from 207 Sqdn. P/O. J. Buckley 129460 G.D. (G) posted from 10 O.T.U.,		
SCAMPTON.	7:4:43.		P/O. J. Hodgson 123820 Tech. (Elect) posted from R.A.F., Scampton. P/O. A.P. Pemberton 142221 G.D. (S) reposted to 617 Squadron on appointment to commission w.e.f., 21:2:43.		
SCAMPTON.	8:4:43.		P/O. H. Watson (Tech. Arm) 50873 attached to H.Q. 5 Group.		
SCAMPTON.	9:4:43.		P/O. C.H. Gregory 141285 G.D. (G) posted from 16 O.T.U., 761219 Sgt. Nicholas W.E.M. appointed to the acting rank of F/Sgt.		
SCAMPTON.	10:4:43.		F/B. Warwick D.W. J. 1112 G.D. (N) posted from 57 Squadron. 56 Airmen proceeded on leave.		
SCAMPTON.	15:4:43.		P/O. McCulloch AUS. 401326 G.D. (G) attended A.C.S.B. Cardington. 566964 Sgt. Campbell INS/Mkr. promoted to T/F/Sgt.		
SCAMPTON.	16:4:43.		F/O. McCauland V.S. J. 15309 G.D. (B) posted from 16 O.T.U.,		
SCAMPTON.	17:4:43		P/O. P.E. Holmes 139213 G.D. (G) posted to 19 O.T.U. P/O. Pemberton 142221 G.D. (S) posted to 19 O.T.U. P/O. M.W. Arthurton (M) 120253 posted from 1660 Con. Unit.		

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SCAMPTON.	18:4:43.		F/O. J. V. O. Wood. G.D. (B) J.22547 posted to 617 Sqn. 83 airmen proceeded on leave.		
SCAMPTON.	19:4:43.		23 airmen (aircraft maintenance) attached R.A.F., Waddington.		
SCAMPTON.	20:4:43.		F/O. R.E.G., Hutchison appointed to the acting rank of F/Lt.		
SCAMPTON.	21:4:43.		F/O. L.G. Weller 14250 G.D. (S) reposted to 617 Sqn. on appointment to commission. F/O. C.L. Howard A.406248 G.D. (N) reposted to squadron on appointment to commission		
SCAMPTON.	22:4:43.		F/O. B. Goodale 101042 G.D. (W) posted from 10 O.T.U.,		
SCAMPTON.	25:4:43.		F/O. G.H. Cleveland 112739 G.D. (N) posted to 61 Squadron. F/O. G.E. Osborne 134042 G.D. (M) posted to R.A.F., Scampton.		
SCAMPTON.	28:4:43.		F/O. M.W. Arthurton 120253 (M) attached to RAF. Waddington. F/O. McCulloch AUS.401326 G.D. (G) attached to A.C.R.C. London. 1096218 LAC. Durkin awarded 27 days detention by Group Captain Whitworth D.S.O., D.F.C.,		
SCAMPTON.	29:4:43.		F/O. K. Earnshaw posted to Squadron from 50 Squadron. Wing Commander Gibson D.S.O., D.F.C., the Squadron Commander was away to-day on temporary duty.		
SCAMPTON.	30:4:43.		F/O. A.F. Burcher. AUS.403182 G.D. (G) attended A.C.S.B. Cardington F/O. B.T. Foxlee reposted to Squadron on appointment to commission w.e.f., 16:12:43. The Air Officer Commanding No. 5 Group visited this Station to carry out an inspection. 617 Squadron took its place in the parades with all other units on the Station 46 Airmen proceeded on leave.		
			<u>Daily - April.</u> Intensive flying training was carried out, when weather permitted.		

P. P. Gibson
WING COMMANDER,
COMMANDING NO. 617 SQDN. R.A.F.,

(*9305) WL 52575-2544 116M 3182 T.S. 700

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SCAMPTON.	1.5.43		P/O. D.K. McCULLOCH A/C. 401326 posted to 13 I.T.W. P/O. H. WATSON returned to Unit on cessation of attachment to H.Q., 5 Group. Wing Commander Gibson away on temporary duty for the day only.		
	2.5.43		1539602 SGT. WILLIAMS A/C. attached to R.A.F., Brighton for Discip. course. 777782 CPL. PERRY. Fit. II. E. posted to No. 2 P.D.C., 1662110 AG2. JONES, T. D.M.T., posted to 1 P.D.C. 958682 CPL. SUTTON L.C. Equiv/Asst. awarded 1st C.C.B., w.e.f. 28.3.43. 962204 LAC. INDE. Elect. awarded 1st C.C.B., w.e.f. 1.4.43. 553324 P/Sgt. Ins/Rep. LOCKWOOD L. attached to this Unit from 13 N.U. 1693949 SGT. BAKEDALE C/Adt attached from Coningsby.		
	5.5.43		Lord Trenchard Marshal of the Royal Air Force visited aircrew of this Squadron. ^{the Station and} heard an address by him. 1096216 LAC DUNNIN J. F.V.A. admitted Military Detention Barracks Sowerby Bridge.		
	6.5.43		Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris A.D.C. in Chief visited this Station and addressed aircrew members of this Squadron. P/Lt. McCARTHY Pilot, visited the Air Ministry on temporary duty. (Medical Board).		
	7.5.43		Wing Commander Gibson visited Manston to-day. 1336766 AC1. THOROLD H. F.V.A. posted to 2 P.D.C., 1509251 AC1. POWELL C. F.V.A. posted to 5 P.D.C. 1315729 SGT. HILL A/C. posted from No. 9 Squadron. 51704 P/O. WHITTAKER C.D. P/ENG. reposted to Squadron on appointment to Commission.		
	8.5.43		682413 SGT. SINCLTON C. C/Lt/Adt. returned to H.Q., No. 5 Group on cessation of attachment. 1676793 SGT. MARSH J. Com/Adt. posted to Squadron.		
	9.5.43		518252 SGT. ANDERSON PILOT. promoted to temporary rank of P/Sgt. w.e.f., 1.4.43. 656738 SGT. TOWNSEND W.C. PILOT. promoted to temporary rank of P/Sgt. w.e.f. 1.4.43.		
	11.5.43		566964 SGT. CAMERON A. Ins/Scr. promoted to temporary rank of P/Sgt. R. 100659 CPL. BRASH (RDF/ADH) promoted to rank of temporary SGT.		
	13.5.43		P/O. W.G. DIVALL 143890 CD PILOT reposted to the Squadron on appointment to commission. P/O. M.J.D. FILLER 143760 CD(MAV) reposted to the Squadron on appointment to commission.		
	15.5.43		P/O. EYERS J. 17474 CD. reposted to Squadron on appointment to commission. P/O. A. GILLESPIE 144205 CD(MAV) reposted to the Squadron on appointment to commission.		

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	15.5.43		P/O. A.L. WHITTAKER CD (A/E) reposted to Squadron on appointment to commission. (111777)		
			P/O. S.L. WILLIS 114519 CD(F/E) reposted to the Squadron on appointment to commission.		
			Flying Training prior to operations completed to-day.		
	16.5.43.		A special operation for which this Squadron had been training so hard was carried out. The target was the three great German Dams, the Eder, the Mohne and the Sorpe. 19 aircraft took off to attack the target, and of these, 8 failed to return. The attack was an outstanding success in spite of these losses, and the Eder and the Mohne Dams were definitely breached, and the Sorpe damaged.		
	18.5.43.		To-day, the Air Officer Commanding No.5 Group addressed all personnel of this Squadron. After his address, all aircrew proceeded on 7 days leave, and ground crew, with the exception of a few personnel remaining as a skeleton staff, were given 3 days.		
			P/O. KEELAN D.A. J.17476 reposted to Squadron on appointment to commission.		
			P/O. G.A. DEERING J.17245 reposted to squadron on appointment to commission.		
			F/LT. J.J. WATBY (60335) [REDACTED] D.F.C., CD. granted acting rank of Squadron Leader [REDACTED].		
	19.5.43		568102 SGT. DENHAM R.B. Fit/Arm. posted to No.1.A.A.S.		
	20.5.43		1539502 SGT. WILLIAMS A. A/G. ceased attachment to A.C.R.S. Brighton.		
			F/L. ALLSBEROOK AND CREW+ posted to Squadron.		
	24.5.43		His Majesty the King approved the following immediate Awards for the squadron operation on the German Dams. :- VICTORIA CROSS. WING COMMANDER G.P. GIBSON D.S.O. [REDACTED], D.F.C. [REDACTED]. C.O.M. F/SPT. K.W. BROWN. F/SPT. W.C. TOWNSEND. D.S.O. F/L. D.J. SHANNON D.F.C., F/LT. J.C. MCCARTHY DFC. P/O. L.G. KNIGHT. S/LDR D.J.H. WATBY DFC., F/LT. H.B. MARTIN DFC. BAR TO D.F.C. F/O. D.R. WALKER DFC. F/L.R.E.P. HUTCHISON DFC F/L. J.F. LEGG DFC., F/L. R.C. HAY DFC., D.F.C. F/O. L. CHAMBERS. P/O. C.L. HOWARD. P/O. G.A. DEERING. P/O. H.T. TARRUL. P/O. P.M. SPAFFORD. D.F.M. F/LT. TREVOR-ROPER DFC. P/O. J. FORT. P.O. H.S. HORDAY. F/O. R.C. JOHNSON P/O. J. BUCKLEY. BAR TO D.F.M. SGT. C.E. FRANKLIN. DFC. D.F.M. F/SPT. T.D. SIMPSON. F/SPT. L.J. SUTTER. SGT. D.P. HALL. F/SPT. D.A. MEEHAN. SGT. S. GAMBIA. SGT. C.L. JOHNSON. F/SPT. G.A. CHAMBERS. SGT. V. NICHOLSON		

(*990) WL 51279-2544 126M 3/42 T.S. 700

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<u>SCAMPTON.</u>	24.5.43.		Awards continued- D.F.M. SGT. WILKINSON. SGT. J. PILFORD. SGT. D. E. WEBB. 1095218 L/C DURKIN J. P/M.A. released from Sowerby Bridge Detention Barracks.		
	25.5.43.		REDACTED		
	26.5.43.		65616 SGT. WHITTAKER A. W/M. 1257191 SGT. BAYNE T.H. A/O. 1259945 SGT. ROBERTS C.W. W/M. all promoted to the rank of temporary P/SGT. w.e.f. 1.5.43. P/O. HOLLISON posted to 1651 Conversion Unit.		
	27.5.43.		P/O. SHILLINGHURST 50129 T/DM/A. attached to squadron. THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN visited the Station. After inspecting aircrew personnel they visited the crew room and the Squadron Commander reconstructed by models the operation on the German Dams.		
	29.5.43.		The Secretary of State for Air, Sir Archibald Sinclair visited the Station and inspected aircrew personnel on the squadron. 883449 SGT. BURGESS B. W/act. 994200 CPL. OSBORNE H.L. P.II. 994589 LAC WILLIAMS R. P/M. all awarded 1st C.O.B.		
	31.5.43.		P/O. HOLLISON 1. 123420 promoted to substantive rank of Flying Officer w.e.f. 29.1.43.		
			<i>S. J. Maltby</i> WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING NO. 617 SQUADRON R.A.F.		