

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				UP	DOWN		
26.4.43	LANCASTER 111 ED395	P/O A.R.A. MacLachlan. P/O W.A. Kerry. Sgt Dalton, A.C. Sgt Laphorne, L.W. P/O N.H. Carter. Sgt Ducat, L.	Bombing Raid.	0109	0520	Task DUISBERG. Target identified by T.I. Greens and Reds, and bombs aimed between two concentrations of these at 0257 hrs from 17000 ft. Own bombs not seen to explode but attack appeared to be well concentrated, and a large number of fires had a good hold. The target appeared to be one large red glow as our a/c left. Two aircraft were seen to fall in flames in target area, one fell to ground in pieces. One photo attempted. 1 X 4000 H.C., 4 X 1000 G.P., 6 X 500 H.C.	APP 146
30.4.43	LANCASTER 111 ED357	Sgt Marson, J.A. Sgt Edwards, G.A.P. Sgt Ottey, J.A. Sgt Bowman, E.A. Sgt Willett, F.J. Sgt Shacklady, A. Sgt Brown, W.	Bombing Raid.	0040	0515	Task ESSEN. Target attacked at 0304 hrs from 18,000 ft but bombs not seen to explode owing to cloud. White flare was in bomb height as bombs fell. Some heavy flak was encountered in the target area but no light. Large explosion was seen in target area at 0305 hrs, which lit up a large area around. Several smaller fires were observed glowing through the clouds. No camera carried. Bomb Load:- 1 X 4000 H.C., 4 X 1000 G.P., 6 X 500 H.C.	
	LANCASTER 111 ED360	P/L D.T. Moir. P/O H.G. Innes. Sgt Bramley, G.W. Sgt Pollard, M.J. Sgt Wedd, R.H. Sgt Haslegrave, M. Sgt Mackinley, S.B.	Bombing Raid.	0042	0459	Task ESSEN. Target attacked at 0250 hrs from 20,000 ft., by release point flares. Owing to cloud own bombs were not seen to explode. Flares were well concentrated and glow of fires seen under cloud. ESSEN 0250 hrs, height 20,000 ft intense heavy flak. Result of raid not seen owing to cloud. Few searchlights seen below cloud. No camera carried. Bomb Load:- 1 X 4000 H.C., 4 X 1000 G.P., 6 X 500 H.C.	APP 147
	LANCASTER 1 W4935	P/O L.R. Crampton. P/O E.V. Bagg. Sgt Leader, L.J. P/O J.R. Crowley. Sgt Scott, A.S. P/O H.W. Woodcock.	Bombing Raid.	0044	0457	Task ESSEN. Target attack was made at 0303 hrs from 20,000 feet by aid of marker flares. Owing to cloud own bombs were not seen to explode. Cloud obscure all detail, and also considerable icing on wings seen. Intense heavy flak experienced in target area, also a few S/Ls which were ineffective owing to cloud. No camera carried. Bomb Load:- 1 X 4000 H.C., 4 X 1000 G.P., 6 X 500 H.C.	

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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. No. of pages used for day   135  

**OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK**

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 156 SQUADRON.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
WARBOYS	1.5.43		No operations. 5 N.P.T. 1 air firing, 3 air tests and 1 bomb sight test carried out.  1 flight to SWINDERY and return.	
	2.5.43		15 aircraft detailed for operations; later cancelled. 9 N.P.T. 1 local flight and 1 air firing and ferrying to WYTON.	
	3.5.43		16 aircraft detailed for operations, but were later cancelled. 8 N.P.T. 2 air tests and 1 cross country flight. 1 to PINNERE and return. P/S. THOMPSON (A/B) posted to 10 O.T.U. ABINGDON for instructor duties. P/S. HAWKSLEY, DFM posted to 23 O.T.U. for instructor duties.	
	4.5.43		18 aircraft detailed for operations. All took off but owing to weather conditions were unable to land at base and were diverted to various airfields in the country. One aircraft failed to return (S/L. A.G. LANG, DFC. and crew). S/L. DUNGAN, DFC. and crew baled out at CHATTERIS owing to weather conditions and lack of petrol; P/L. ROGERS AND SGT. DRYSDALE were injured in landing. 5 N.P.T. 1 low flying test, 6 air tests, 1 L.P.P. 1 air firing and 1 flight from KINLOSS to base.	APP. 148
	5.5.43		No operations. 1 flight to WYTON. 1 from STANTON HARCOURT, 2 from MARHAM, 3 from PERSHORE, 1 from CHELSEA, 1 from WHITCHURCH, 2 from HIGH ERGALL, 1 from HONEYBOURNE, 1 from SLEAP, 1 to WINTHORPE and return (air firing). 1 air test. P/O. TAYLOR, OGM. (pilot) posted to GRANSDEN LODGE.	
	6.5.43		No operations. 2 air tests, 1 air firing and 1 night cross country flight carried out. P/O. Moller, DFM. posted to MORE-IN-THE-MARSH.	
	7.5.43		6 aircraft detailed for operations, but were later cancelled. 4 aircraft bombing practice at LAKENHEATH bombing range. 4 fighter affiliation. 2 air firing, 1 air firing and 8 N.P.T. carried out. P/S. Wood reported for flying duties from 3 A.G.S. Mona, Anglesey, also P/O. Hudson flying from O.A.F.U. Llandwrwg.	
	8.5.43		No operations. 2 low flights, 1 to WHITE WALTHAM and return.	
	9.5.43		6 aircraft detailed for operations but later cancelled. 6 flights to WYTON. P/O. MACDONALD reported for flying duties from 405 Squadron.	
	10.5.43		No flying owing to strong gale. SGT. RYAN and crew reported for flying duties from 103 Squadron. P/S. KNIGHT (A.G.) reported to the squadron for flying duties from 19 O.T.U.	
	11.5.43		19 aircraft detailed for operations, but later cancelled. SGT. SLOPER and crew reported for flying duties from 101 Squadron. 8 air firing tests, 2 N.P.T.s from WYTON to base.	
	12.5.43		18 aircraft for operations: all took off but 2 failed to return (S/L. VERDON-ROE, DFC. and crew; SGT. WENDON and crew.) 7 air firing, 6 N.P.T. and 1 flight to ELSHAM WOLD and return. P/L. KEARNS, DFC. DFM. posted to 11 O.T.U.	APP. 149

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
WARBOYS	13.5.43		16 aircraft detailed for operations: all took off and returned (1 returned early). 2 Y type training flights carried out. SGT. HUSBRIDGE and crew reported for flying duties from 460 Squadron. P/O. BARCLAY, DFC, DFM, posted to 19 O.T.U. KIDGERS for instructor duties. P/L. Grillage attached to P.F.P., N.T.U.	APP. 150
	14.5.43		No operations. 1 cross country, 1 flight from MACHAN, 3 air tests, 2 flights from WYTON. 1 flight to ABINGDON and 1 air firing test carried out. SGT. HUSBRIDGE reported for flying duties from 166 Squadron.	
	15.5.43		No operations. W/OP. DONALDSON, DFC, awarded DSO. S/L. EVERSON, P/LT GRAY (Missing), P/O. COOKS, P/O. BARCLAY and P/O. HIRAN awarded D.F.C. P/SGT. HOOKMAN and FLIGHT SERGEANT WALSH awarded D.F.M. SGT. STEWART granted immediate commission as Pilot Officer, 1 air test, 4 fighter affiliation, 8 bombing flights at LAKESHEDD, 1 air firing, 3 to HOLAB, 2 N.P.T. and 2 'Y' training cross country. P/O. LUTZ reported for flying duties from 27 O.T.U.	
	16.5.43		No operations. 4 fighter affiliation at DEBENT. 3 bombing on sea-markers. 1 air firing and cross country to HLEON. 4 'Y' training cross country. 1 practice bombing runs, 1 S.B.A. 1 N.P.T. from HEBDEN. 1 bomb sight levelling. 1 cross country YORK to base. P/S. VOLANTE, DFM (missing) appointed to commissioned rank.	
	17.5.43		No operations. 5 bombing at HUSFORD. 2 air firing, 1 bomb sight levelling. 3 'Y' training flights. 1 to HOLME and return. P/S. HART, DFM. (missing) appointed to commissioned rank.	
	18.5.43		No operations. 4 'Y' training flights. 1 ferry to OAKINGTON. 10 bombing practice flights at HUSFORD bombing range, 1 height test. 2 fighter affiliation. 2 duals to BISHAM WOOD. 1 Bullseye. P/S. FERGUSON (missing) appointed P/O. P/S. ORDIARD promoted W/O, and SGT. LAY to Flight Sergeant. P/L. MITCHELL (NAV) posted to 3 <sup>rd</sup> O.T.U. and P/O. HIRAN, DFC. (pilot) to LICHFIELD.	
	19.5.43		No operations. P/O. HEMPSON (Electrical Engineer) posted to R.A.F. STATION, WYTON. P/O. CAVILL posted to the Squadron from WYTON vice P/O. HUSFORD. 1 to LICHFIELD and return. 1 'Y' training flight, 1 air firing, 2 night bombing, 2 dual, 1 local flight, 1 solo, 2 bombing practice flights, 1 N.P.T. S/L. THORNTON attached for navigation duties for 3 weeks. P/O. CLEMENT (A/B) reported for flying duties from 27 O.T.U.	
	20.5.43		No operations. 3 'Y' training flights, 1 to HEDON and return, 6 bombing practice flights at HUSFORD bombing range. 2 solo C. & L. 1 flight to FIMMINGLEY and return. 2 low flying flights and I.S.B.A.	
	21.5.43		No operations. 3 'Y' training flights, 1 air test, 1 air firing test, 1 height test, 1 check landing, 2 flights from WYTON. 4 flights to WIMBORNE. 1 beam flight to WYTON. The following pilots arrived for flying with the squadron; P/O. COOLEY, DFM. from 100 Squadron, P/O. WRIGHT from 20 O.T.U. P/L. YOUNG from 12 Squadron, P/O. SHAWHAN from 105 Squadron, P/S. WINTERSON from 101 Squadron.	
	22.5.43		No operations. 1 'Y' training flight, 1 dual C. & L. 4 air firing to WOODPOD and return, 3 N.P.T. 1 solo C. & L. 2 local flights, 1 air test, 1 to and from ABINGDON, 1 bomb sight local, 1 to WEST MALING and return. P/S. McWHIRTER appointed to commissioned rank and P/S. HOOD, also W/O. GILES, DFM, now reported missing. SGT. DOMAN (A.G.) posted to 10 O.T.U. P/L. GEORGEAN attached to P.F.P. N.T.U. P/L LANG DFC and P/L VERDON-ROE, DFC. (both missing) appointed to rank of Acting Squadron Leader w.e.f. 12 April 1943.	

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 3

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of (Unit or Formation) NO. 156 SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day 136

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
WARBOYS.	23.5.43		22 a/c detailed for operations. All took off and returned safely, 1 a/c returned early. 21 N.P.T. 2 fighter affiliation flights, 2 air firing tests, 1 low flying flight and 1 training flight carried out. SGT. PEARSON A.G. and P/SGT. HURST W/OP. reported for flying duties with P/O. LUTZ's crew.	APP. 151
	24.5.43		Very inclement weather prevented any flying. W/O. CURTIS (NAV). reported for flying duties with P/O. LUTZ's crew, also P/S. MLEPCHER A.G. P/S. PORTCH (missing) appointed to commissioned rank. G/C. WILLETS appointed to command the Station.	
	25.5.43		21 aircraft detailed for operations; all took off and returned safely. 16 N.P.T. 1 cross country, 3 low flying flights carried out, 1 flight from WYTON and 1 from WITTERING. P/S. ROSE and crew reported for flying duties from 460 Squadron. P/L. VINCENT and crew reported for flying duties from 1662 O.U.	APP. 152
	26.5.43		20 aircraft detailed for operations: later cancelled. 1 air to sea firing, 1 air firing, 1 flight to and from WYTON. P/S. PERCY (missing) appointed to commissioned rank.	
	27.5.43		6 aircraft detailed for operations: all took off but one failed to return (P/S. WALLACE and crew) P/S. HUDSON (pilot) and P/S. WOOD (pilot) appointed to commissioned rank. 9 N.P.T. 2 local flights, 1 cross country, 1 to FIMMINGLEY and return. 1 'Y' training, 1 local beam low flying. 1 local dual and 1 training flight carried out.	APP. 153
	28.5.43		No operations. 8 'Y' training flights, 3 fighter affiliation, 6 bombing practice flights at HUSFORD bombing range. 1 N.P.T. 1 N.P.T. beam low flying, 1 flight from WYTON and air firing. 1 flight to BRANCORE and return.	
	29.5.43		19 aircraft detailed for operations. 18 took off and returned - 1 returned early. 11 N.P.T. 2 'Y' training flights, 3 fighter affiliation, 1 N.P.T. and beam low flying. 1 from WYTON and low flying and air firing. W/O. SAUNDERS (Nav.) appointed to commissioned rank.	APP. 154
	30.5.43		No operations. 2 'Y' training flights carried out, SGT. WENDON (missing) appointed to commissioned rank. S/L. DUGAN, D.F.C. appointed Acting Wing Commander. P/S. MACKENZIE (missing) appointed to commissioned rank.	
	31.5.43		No operations. 1 flight base - FIMMINGLEY - base, 1 air test landing at WING, 1 N.P.T. and air firing, 1 air firing, 1 B.A.T. flight, 1 flight from base - SOUTHEND-LONDON-READING-BIRMINGHAM-LINCOLN - PETERBORO - base. 1 from WYTON, 1 local flight, 1 N.P.T. and low flying. 5 N.P.T. 2 'Y' training, 1 cross country.	

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