

21793 Wt. 38805/3593 400.000 12/39-McC & Co-51-5658

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. ONE.

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 244; and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 61 SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|-----------|---------|--|--|--------------------------|
| | MAY. | | | |
| SYERSTON. | 1/2nd | 21.45 | There were no operations carried out by this Squadron on this date. | |
| | 2/3rd | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 3/4th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 4/5th | 21.59 | FOURTEEN aircraft were detailed to carry out bombing operations against DORTMUND. TWELVE of the aircraft bombed the target on both green and red markers. Several explosions were observed and flames rising to approx. 1500 ft. Many searchlights were in operation. ONE aircraft returned early because of inability to maintain height and speed 1x4,000 H.E. bomb was jettisoned in position 5400N 0145E, the remaining bomb load was brought back to base. ONE aircraft returned early from position 5312N 0332E after the port outer engine had caught fire, 1x4,000 H.E. and 1080 x 4 incendiaries were jettisoned in position 5255N 0320E. | A.1274. |
| | 5/6th | 21.45 | There were no operations carried out by this Squadron on this date. | |
| | 6/7th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 7/8th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 8/9th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 9/10th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 10/11th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 11/12th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | |
| | 12/13th | 23.48 | FOURTEEN aircraft were ordered from the Squadron for operations against DUISBURG. THIRTEEN aircraft attacked the target from heights varying from 16,500 to 21,000 ft. bombing the T.L. markers. Several large explosions were seen. The defences were rather spasmodic. Photographs were taken which revealed fires and slight ground detail, together with gun flashes. ONE aircraft failed to return. | A.1275. |
| 13/14th | 21.28 | FOURTEEN aircraft were detailed for bombing operations against PILSEN - SKODA WORKS. TWO aircraft returned early with engine trouble and inter-comm failure, the remaining TWELVE aircraft attacked the target from heights ranging from 8,800 to 10,500 ft. Large explosions were seen and a smoke screen was also seen to be in operation. Photographs were obtained which were plotted around the target, one photograph revealed the SKODA WORKS. | A.1276. | |
| 14/15th | 21.45 | There were no operations carried out by this Unit on this date. | | |
| 15/16th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 16/17th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 17/18th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 18/19th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 19/20th | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 20/21st | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 21/22nd | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 22/23rd | 21.45 | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | | |
| 23/24th | 21.58 | SEVENTEEN aircraft were detailed for operations against DORTMUND. SIXTEEN aircraft bombed the target successfully with the aid of red and green markers, explosions were observed, also fires and smoke columns. Photographs were obtained of marshalling yards, while others were plotted 2,000, 3,000 and 4,000 yards from the aiming point. ONE aircraft returned early from position 5356N 0208E because of engine trouble, bombs were jettisoned. | A.1277. | |
| 24/25th | 21.45 | There were no operations carried out by this Squadron on this date. | | |

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| Place | Date 1943. | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|--|--|-------|---|--------------------------------|
| SYERSTON. | MAY. 25/26th | 23.05 | EIGHTEEN aircraft were detailed to carry out bombing operations against DUSSELDORF. SEVENTEEN aircraft successfully attacked the target from heights varying from 16,500 to 23,000 ft. Scattered fires and explosions were reported. Opposition from the defences were very slight. ONE aircraft returned early from position 534ON 0220E after jettisoning 1x4000 H.E. difficulty was found in trimming aircraft. There were no operations carried out from this Squadron on this Date. | A. 1278 |
| | 26/27th | 21.45 | NINETEEN aircraft were detailed to carry out bombing operations against ESSEN - KRUPPS WORKS. SEVENTEEN aircraft attacked the target successfully and explosions were observed. Defences were heavy and accurate. ONE aircraft experienced engine failure and jettisoned 1x4000 H.E. at position 534ON 0240E before returning to base. ONE aircraft encountered heavy predicted flak and jettisoned his bomb load on a GEE fix position 5129N 0716E i.e. BOCHUM, observing a heavy explosion afterwards. | A. 1279 |
| | 27/28th | 21.46 | | |
| | 28/29th | 21.45 | There were no operations carried out by this Squadron on this date. | |
| | 29/30th | 22.17 | SEVEN TEEN aircraft were detailed to carry out bombing operations against WUPPERTAL. THIRTEEN aircraft successfully attacked the target from heights varying from 16,000 to 22,000 ft. and observed large explosions. Flak was rather heavy and searchlights and night fighters were operating. Photographs revealed fires, smoke and slight ground detail. ONE aircraft returned early with a U/S rear turret, the bomb load also was returned. The THREE remaining aircraft jettisoned their bombs before returning early to base with low oil pressure, unable to maintain height, and the bomb doors, fuselage and tail were holed by flak on the remaining aircraft. | A. 1280 |
| MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL - AIRCREW OFFICERS - NO. 61 SQUADRON. | | | | |
| 51539.P/O.R.N. AYLES - NAV. | Posted to 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 7/5/43. | | 112739. F/O. C.H. CLEVELAND - Nav. Posted from 617 Sqdn. w.e.f. 25/4/43 | |
| 141817.P/O.C.J.H. COOK - A.B. | Posted to 1654 C.U. w.e.f. 8/5/43. | | 132146. F/O. B. FOX. - Nav. Posted from 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 3/5/43. | |
| 107718.F/O. T.R. JOYCE. - A.G. | Posted from 1660 C.U. w.e.f. 10/5/43. | | 127911. F/O. B. LAING. - Pilot. Posted from 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 3/5/43. | |
| 409651.F/L. C.D. WELBURN - Pilot. | Posted from 1660 C.U. w.e.f. 10/5/43. | | 133351. F/O. K.G. KENWARD - A.G. Posted to No.1A.S. w.e.f. 22/5/43. | |
| 129480.F/O. F.L. HEWISH. - NAV. | Posted from 1654 C.U. w.e.f. 14/5/43. | | 127794. F/O. F.D. NORTON - NAV. Posted from 21 OTU w.e.f. 18/5/43 | |
| J.17211.F/O. F.B. DASHPER - Pilot. | Posted to 1485 B.G. Flt. w.e.f. 11/5/43. | | NZ41029.F/O. T.A. STEWART - Pilot posted from 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 20/5/43 | |
| MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL - AIRCREW AIRMEN - NO. 61 SQUADRON. | | | | |
| 626744.Sgt. E. Cummings - F/Eng. | Posted to 83 Sqdn. w.e.f. 24/4/43. | | 611697. Sgt. W. Faraday - F/Eng. Posted to 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 1/5/43. | |
| 1073121.Sgt. B. Moorcroft. - Nav. | | | 1174392. Sgt. E.J. Daniels - WT/AG. Posted to 19 OTU. w.e.f. 11/5/43. | |
| 12691175.Sgt. R.W. Silk. - WT/AG. | | | 1335642. Sgt. N.W. Hamment. - A.G. Posted to 29 OTU. w.e.f. 7/5/43. | |
| 1316542.Sgt. A.C. Shipway. - Pilot. | | | 1238315. Sgt. K.S. Carr - AB. Posted to 17 OTU w.e.f. 11/5/43. | |
| 1351156.Sgt. B. Demeon. - A.G. | | | 1381870. Sgt. M. Watkins. A.B. Posted to 29 OTU w.e.f. 11/5/43. | |
| 1467445.Sgt. P.L.T. Lewis. - A.G. | | | 631127. Sgt. W.A. Wright. - F/Eng. Posted to 1654 C.U. w.e.f. 11/5/43. | |
| 627372. Sgt. R. Lewis. - F/Eng. | Posted to 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 4/5/43. | | 651886. Sgt. D. Craggs. - A.G. Posted from 83 Sqdn. w.e.f. 7/5/43. | |
| 515976. Sgt. S.H. Motimer - A.G. | Posted from 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 3/5/43. | | 539696.Sgt. G.A. Turnbull - F/Eng. Posted from 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 6/5/43. | |
| 1026588.Sgt. W.M. Grant. - A.G. | | | 551396.Sgt. R.J. Russell. -WT/AG. | |
| 1235714.Sgt. T.A. Holman - F/Eng. | | | 1319543.Sgt. R. Freeth. - A.B. | |
| 1388532.Sgt. R.H. Burn. -Nav. AB | | | 1550208.Sgt. J. Barr. - Nav. | |
| 1379537.Sgt. W.F. Ardron - WT/AG. | Posted from 1661 C.U. w.e.f. 8/5/43. | | 1560518.Sgt. J.S. Graham - Pilot. | |
| 639330. Sgt. A. Paterson - A.G. | Posted from 1660 C.U. w.e.f. 10/5/43. | | 1578723.Sgt. E.H. Walker. - A.G. | |
| 658923. Sgt. J.R. Forrest. -Nav. | | | 1579935.Sgt. D.J. Chapman - A.G. | |
| 1092940.Sgt. J. Blackett. -WT/AG. | | | 1434394.Sgt. V.A. Rimmer - Nav. Posted to 16 OTU w.e.f. 18/5/43. | |
| 1369957.Sgt. J.K. Watson. -F/Eng. | | | 1318522. Sgt. G.W. Culham - A.G. Posted to Abingdon w.e.f. 24/5/43. | |
| 1389974.Sgt. A.G. Leslie -A.B. | | | | |

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. TWO.

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of (Unit or Formation) NO. 61 SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day

| Place | Date | Time | Summary of Events | References to Appendices |
|--|------|------|---|--------------------------|
| <u>MOVEMENTS OF PERSONNEL - AIRCREW AIRMEN - NO. 61 SQUADRON. (Cont)</u> | | | | |
| | | | 1314317. Sgt. F.R. Stann - WT/AG - Posted from 1654 C.U. wef. 14/5/43. | |
| | | | 1461718. Sgt. L.S. Vanner. - A.G. | |
| | | | 1578342. Sgt. H.T. Petts. - Nav. | |
| | | | 904071. F/S. D.C.A. Wilkinson, - WT/AG. Posted from Kinloss wef. 14/5/43. | |
| | | | 531834. Sgt. F. Melling. - Nav. | |
| | | | 1165343. Sgt. R. Laughton - Nav. Posted from 1660 C.U. wef. 18/5/43. | |
| | | | 1257381. Sgt. F/S. R.J.R. Docker - Pilot. | |
| | | | 1334586. Sgt. A.S. James. WT/AG. | |
| | | | 1334588. Sgt. R.M. Morris. WT/AG. | |
| | | | 1336019. Sgt. R.A. Bunyan - WT/AG. Posted from 1660 C.U. wef. 20/5/43. | |
| | | | 1467116. Sgt. L.R. Lovett. - Nav. | |
| | | | 918892. Sgt. R.K. Buxton. - A.G. | |
| | | | 1479291. Sgt. H.P. Roberts - A.B. | |
| | | | 656057. Sgt. E.G. Francis, - NAV. Posted from 1660 C.U. wef. 18/5/43. | |
| | | | 1376543. F/S. A.E. Wilson - Pilot. | |
| | | | 1432099. Sgt. S. Marsh - F/Eng. | |
| | | | 1536584. Sgt. L. Lucas - F/Eng. | |
| | | | 1609399. Sgt. F.J. Pyle - A.G. | |
| | | | 1809346. Sgt. P.W. Mitchell - A.G. | |

R. L. T.
Squadron Leader,
Commanding,
No. 61 Squadron.

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