

RAAF FORM 540 (REVISED 1943) 410,000 12/23-MAC 8 C-51-5656

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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See instructions for use of this form in E.R. and A.C.I., para. 248, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and Note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 260 SQUADRON R.A.F. U.K.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
In the Field.	1.1.45.		"B" party moved to a Landing Ground 18 miles South West of Cirte, the party camped the night and moved to the landing ground first thing next morning.	
	8.1.45.		On this occasion "B" party started to make the new aerodrome. R.60104 P/Sgt. Arklie M. was flying with the Squadron on a sweep over Churrgia Landing Ground. During the sweep our aircraft were jumped by 15 or more ME. 109s, during this engagement two ME.109s were destroyed and one damaged. P/Sgt. Arklie failed to return from this operation and was last seen at pin point S.4010. nothing has been heard of him since.	
	4.1.45.		"B" party left Hamriat No.1 and proceeded to Hamriat No. 3 six miles away where once again a new aerodrome was made. U.S.A.A.F. Squadrons took over Hamriat No. 3. Enemy aircraft came over but did not attack this Squadron's camp.	
	19.1.45.		"A" Party joined "B" Party at Hamriat No. 3 and on the following day "A" party moved once again and proceeded to Bir Dufan; this journey took six days. On this occasion "A" party followed the Army very closely.	
			On the end of January Sgt. Tuck E.D. (R.96315) was on a sweep over Churrgia Landing Ground with the Squadron, he was jumped by ME 109s and shot down. Sgt. Tuck was reported missing on that date but he returned to the Squadron slightly wounded three days later.	
			P/O. J.H.R. Thornhill took off with the Squadron on a sweep. When returning from this operation our aircraft were attacked by 4 ME.109s approximately West of Hamriat No. 3. One of the ME 109s attacked P/O. Thornhill from port quarter and shot up the tail of his aircraft.	
	17.1.45.		On this date the Flying Party once again played its part in the advance	11 12

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			and repeated the duty of the 19th. December 1942. This time the party flew from Hamriat No. 3 to Sedada.	
	18.1.45.		"B" party moved to Bir Dufan. This journey lasted several days. During this journey 1088180 AG1. Davey was injured by an enemy mine when dispersing for the night. Fortunately the injuries were not serious but he was taken to a Medical Unit the following morning.	
	19.1.45.		On this date the Flying party flew from Sedada to R.6045 (a landing ground near to Bir Dufan.)	
	20.1.45.		"B" Party reached Bir Dufan. On this occasion the aerodrome was self made, it was extremely flat and the shrubs were only small. "A" party was already at this landing ground.	
	22.1.45.		On this date when operating from Bir Dufan, Squadron Leader O.V. Hanbury D.F.C took off at 06.00 hours in the moonlight and led three other aircraft on a recce-straife sweep over the island of Djerba to 15 miles N.W. of Gabes, then southwards over Gidrel, Gabes Landing Ground, Medenin South Landing Ground, where aircraft were strafed on the ground despite intense flak from about 20 guns.	
	25.1.45.		NZ.419680 Sgt. Cundy N.F. was flying with the Squadron on a strafing and bombing operation of Motor Transport 12 miles West of Zuara. During this operation Sgt. Cundy's aircraft received a burst of light A.A. from the enemy causing damage to tail unit and rendering the hydraulic system useless. "A" party left for Castel Benito and "B" party followed the next day, both parties passed through Ben.Ulid and Tabusa and arrived at Castel Benito on 25th. January 1943.	
	24.1.45.		The Flying Party flew from Bir Dufan to Castel Benito. In this move, three Hudsons were used. The second on landing, struck an enemy	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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The instructions for use of this form is E.N. and A.C.I. para. 214, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and also in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 260 SQUADRON R.A.F. W.E.

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
In the Field.	26.1.45.	(Cont.)	<p>mine which blew off its tail unit. Luckily, there were no casualties among the personnel.</p> <p>Every available man was detailed for cleaning up the billets and tidying the surrounding grounds of Castel Benito aerodrome. Within a few days a great improvement could be seen. Everyone was able to wash kit and have a good bath. Day runs were organised to Tripoli. These runs lasted a few days. After many months of Desert Life the change was welcomed by all ranks and they should have benefited by the short stay at this aerodrome.</p> <p>On the recommendation of the Air Officer Commanding Army Chief His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to award the Distinguished Flying Medal to A.402752 Sgt. W.R. Cundy of No. 260 Squadron (Postagram ME/R1607/September/P1. dated 20th, January 1945 refers) and the Distinguished Flying Cross to Acting Squadron Leader P.F. Devenish (80198) late of No. 260 Squadron, for Courage, Determination and Devotion to Duty. Acting Flight Lieutenant W.R. Cundy D.F.M. has now been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. (Postagram ME/R1607/December/P.1. dated 25.1.45 refers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>P.W. Stanley</i> F/Lt for Squadron Leader, Commanding, No. 260 Squadron, R.A.F.</p>	

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