

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

RAF Form 540

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.

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 103 SQUADRON, HELSHAM WOLDS.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
SECRET.				
<u>AUGUST - 1943.</u>				
<u>HAMBURG.</u>				
	1-8-43.		Stood down.	
	2-8-43			
	to			
	3-8-43		Twenty six aircraft were detailed for this attack, which was carried out in difficult thundercloud and icing conditions. Few P.F.F. markers were seen and most bombing was on E.T.A. or on alternative targets. Average bombing heights were between 17,000 and 21,000 ft.	APPENDIX 'A' 167. APPENDIX 'C' 180.
			Four aircraft returned early and two (W/O. DASH and /O. STONEHAM) failed to return. All others landed at Base.	
	4-8-43		Prepared for operations, but these were cancelled at 13.00 hours.	
	5-8-43		Stood down. A bright sunny day.	
	6-8-43		Stood down. Two new crews were detailed for a "Bullseye" exercise. A wet drizzly day, which cleared up late on in the afternoon. Some training flying took place.	
<u>TURIN.</u>				
	7-8-43			
	to			
	8-8-43		Sixteen aircraft were detailed for this attack, which was very successful, and which included control by a "Master of Ceremonies". The bombing heights were between 16,500 and 21,500 ft. All aircraft reached the target and returned to Base.	APPENDIX 'A' 166. APPENDIX 'C' 181.
<u>MANNHEIM.</u>				
	9-8-43			
	to			
	10-8-43		Twenty-three aircraft were detailed for this raid, which was successful, if a little scattered, due to scattered P.F.F. markings. There were one or two fighter attacks, in addition to other sightings, one of which was at least badly damaged by our gunners. The bombing heights were between 16,500 and 21,000 ft. All aircraft reached the target and returned to Base, except W/S. BROWN and crew.	APPENDIX 'A' 169. APPENDIX 'C' 182.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
NURNBURG.	10-8-43			
	to			
	11-8-43		<p>NURNBURG.</p> <p>Twenty-three aircraft were detailed for this attack, but most crews were unable to observe results owing to the 7-9/10ths. cloud cover. Three aircraft abandoned their mission owing to trouble, but one bombed an alternative. The bombing heights were between 20,000 and 22,000 ft. All aircraft returned to Base.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 170. APPENDIX 'C' 183.
	11-8-43		Squadron photograph taken. Stood down. A great deal of showery weather about.	
MILAN.	12-8-43			
	to			
	13-8-43		<p>MILAN.</p> <p>Twenty-six aircraft were detailed to attack this target, which was well "blitzed", but which was well protected by fighters, three of our aircraft being approached, and one followed for fifty miles in the bright moonlight. Bombing heights were between 16,000 and 20,000 ft. Two aircraft returned early and one failed to take off, but all landed at Base.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 171. APPENDIX 'C' 184.
MILAN.	14-8-43			
	to			
	15-8-43		<p>MILAN.</p> <p>Seven aircraft were detailed to attack the Breda & Pirelli Works, while four others with the main force, bombed the centre of Milan. Both were great successes. There were again many fighters in the bright moonlight. Bombing heights were between 7,000 and 9,000 ft for the special target and between 17,000 and 18,000 ft for the main attack. All aircraft returned to Base, except one which landed at Bodney and one at Harweell to refuel.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 172. APPENDIX 'C' 185.
MILAN.	15-8-43			
	to			
	16-8-43		<p>MILAN.</p> <p>Eleven aircraft were detailed for this attack, the target again being well defended by fighters in the moonlight. The bombing heights were between 7,000 and 11,000 ft. All aircraft returned to Base after a successful trip.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 173. APPENDIX 'C' 186.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 103 SQUADRON, ESHAM WOLDS.

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R.A.F. Form 540

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	16-8-43		Stood down. A front with slight rain passed through during the afternoon and evening, causing the cancellation of two pre-operation cross comm-ties.	
	17-8-43		N/L. P.V.P. VAN ROLLECHEM was presented with his DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS by Air Vice Marshal E.A.B. Rice, C.B.E., M.C., Air Officer Commanding No. 1 Group. The Squadron paraded.	
	17-8-43		<u>P E E N E M U N D E.</u>	
	17-8-43		Twenty-four aircraft were detailed for this attack on the research and experimental works and it was an outstanding success. It was a fighter night in the bright moonlight, again one one being shot down. The bombing heights were between 7,000 and 11,000 ft. One aircraft returned early and one (SGT. O'DONNELL) failed to return. All others landed at Base.	APPENDIX 'A' 174- APPENDIX 'C' 187.
	18-8-43	to		
	19-8-43		Prepared for operations, which were cancelled at 17.00 hours.	
	20-8-43		Stood down. Two new crews prepared for a "Bullseye" exercise, which was cancelled at 17.00 hrs. The weather was very fine and sunny, but deteriorated during the afternoon to rain and drizzle, owing to a front which arrived.	
	21-8-43		Stood down. No. 103 Squadron W/Ops. were challenged to a game of soccer by W/Ops. of No. 166 Squadron, Kimmington, which was accepted. We were beaten 6 - 3.	
	22-8-43		<u>LEVERKUSEN.</u>	
	22-8-43	to	Twenty-one aircraft were detailed to attack this target in cloud conditions of tops 18-20,000 which resulted in hidden target markers. The bombing heights were between 17,000 and 21,500 ft. All aircraft returned to Basem except W/O. BRECKON and crew who are reported missing.	APPENDIX 'A' 175- APPENDIX 'C' 188.
	23-8-43			

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
BERLIN.	23-8-43		<p style="text-align: center;">BERLIN.</p> <p>Twenty four aircraft were detailed to attack this target, which begins the so called "Battle of Berlin". There was a terrific fighter defence, SGT. KNOPP being attacked by six Lt. 109's, while coned. One aircraft returned early. Five failed to take off owing to an unfortunate bomb accident, which blew one of them up and damaged the others, fatally injuring SGT. WHEELER. Bombing heights were between 19,000 and 21,400 ft.</p> <p>All returned to Base after a very successful raid.</p> <p>Prepared for operations, but these were cancelled at 12.00 hrs. Pilots played Air Gunners at soccer - result 3 - 1.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 176. APPENDIX 'C' 189.
	to 24-8-43			
	26-8-43			
	27-8-43			
MUNBURG.	27-8-43		<p style="text-align: center;">MUNBURG.</p> <p>Twenty-one aircraft were detailed for this attack, which was again countered by intense fighter activity. Bombing heights were between 19,000 and 21,600 ft. One aircraft returned early and one failed to return. All, other than the latter, landed at Base.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 177. APPENDIX 'C' 190.
	to 28-8-43			
MUNCHEN GLADBACH.	29-8-43		<p>Weather filthy. Stood down. All W/ops. attended lecture by W/S. TITTON on "Faults and Snags - General".</p>	
	30-8-43			
MUNCHEN GLADBACH.	30-8-43		<p style="text-align: center;">MUNCHEN GLADBACH.</p> <p>Twenty-one aircraft were detailed for this attack, which appears to have been a great success, although again, the target was well defended by fighters. Bombing heights were between 18,000 and 21,000 ft. Two failed to take off, but all others returned to Base.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 178. APPENDIX 'C' 191.
	to 31-8-43			

SECRET.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

(Unit or Formation) III. 103 SQUADRON, ELISHAM WOODS.

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
BERLIN.	31-8-43 to 1-9-45		<u>BERLIN.</u> Twenty-two aircraft were detailed for this attack, which was felt to be rather scattered in the heavy cloud conditions. Fighter activity was intense and one crew were attacked seven times. Bombing heights were between 17,000 and 21,000 ft. One crew failed to return, but all others landed at Base, except one which landed at <u>TUNNINGB</u> to refuel.	APPENDIX 'A' 179. APPENDIX 'C' 192.
<u>ELISHAM WOODS.</u>	<u>AUGUST - 1943.</u>		<u>TRAINING.</u> The following flying training was carried out during the month:- 14 Pre-operations cross country flights. 23 Bombing details. 4 Night bombing details. 40 Air Firing details. 3 Fighter Affiliation details. 3 Ballseye exercises. Several of the bombing details were where passenger pilots were the bomb aimers. Beam approach practice was frequently carried out during N.F.F.s. and other flying. All members of the Squadron made at least one landing on the C.C.A. blind approach system. All crews were engaged in training and lectures by their various section officers.	

SECRET.

W.C. 20426/1104 2004. 741 F.J.L.d. 51-811

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 7.

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 239, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

No. of pages used for day
of (Unit or Formation) No. 103 SQUADRON.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
<u>ELSHAM WOLDS.</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>- 1943.</u>	<u>P O S T I N G S.</u>	
	2nd.		P/O. E.L. TALBOT, P/O. R. ATKINSON, P/O. H.W. MANNERS reposted to 103 Squadron on appointment to commissioned rank.	
	5th.		P/O. J.A. RATCLIFF posted to No. 83 O.T.U.	
	5th.		P/O. J.H. OSBOURNE posted to No. 28 O.T.U.	
	5th.		S/Lt. C.S.F. WOOD, P/O. C.L. GRISDALE posted from No. 1667 Conversion Unit.	
	5th.		P/O. E.L. TALBOT posted to No. 81 O.T.U.	
	3rd.		P/O. D.C. KEDER, P/O. C.E.T. BRYAN posted to War Casualties Non-effective Accounts Depot, Uxbridge, non-effective missing.	
	6th.		P/O. C.P. READY, P/O. A.J. WAKEFIELD, P/O. G.S. PALIN from 1667 Conversion Unit.	
	7th.		P/O. H. ELLIS reposted to 103 Squadron on appointment to commissioned rank.	
	8th.		P/O. E.R. LEVIN, P/O. B.K. BEARDSALL, P/O. D. SPIK, P/O. (A/F/L) W.G. COLE posted to No. 1662 Conversion Unit.	
	8th.		P/O. C. WOOD, P/O. W.M. ARCHIBALD posted to No. 30 O.T.U.	
	8th.		P/O. H.W. MANNERS posted to No. 83 O.T.U.	
	8th.		P/O. A/F/L. D.M. CAREY posted to No. 1667 Conversion Unit.	
	10th.		P/O. J.O. SHOTE posted to War Casualties Non-effective Accounts Depot, Uxbridge, non-effective missing.	
	14th.		P/O. L. FULFERY reposted to 103 Squadron on appointment to commissioned rank.	
	15th.		P/O. A.G. MACDONALD, P/O. D.W. PHILIP, P/O. H.W. SHOWN, P/O. S.G. HOLLAN posted from No. 1656 Conversion Unit.	
	19th.		P/O. E.R. FOSTER reposted to 103 Squadron on appointment to commissioned rank.	
	23rd.		S/Lt. B. PAPP, P/O. F.E. CLAYDON posted from No. 166 Squadron.	

