

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

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) No. 103 SQUADRON, ELSHAM WOLDS.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1-7-43		Stood down. Weather very fine and sunny.	
	2-7-43		Stood down. Various training flying took place, with an instructional film in the afternoon on air gunnery. A clear sunny day.	
COLOGNE.	3-7-43	2225	C O L O G N E.	APPENDIX 'A' 157.
	to	to		APPENDIX 'C' 170.
	4-7-43	0510	Twenty-three aircraft were detailed to attack this target, the P.M.F. using both the ground and sky marking, and it was a most successful raid.	
			One aircraft (F/S. BASS) returned early and two (P/O. OLDHAM and P/O. BRADSHAW) failed to return.	
			The bombing heights were between 19,000 and 23,000 ft.	
			All aircraft returned to Base.	
	4-7-43		Fifteen aircraft prepared for operations, but were "scrubbed" at about 1800 hours.	
	5-7-43		Twenty-three aircraft prepared for operations, but again were cancelled at about 1800 hours.	
MINING IN MOUTH OF RIVER GIRANDE.	6-7-43	2228	MINING IN MOUTH OF RIVER GIRANDE.	APPENDIX 'A' 158.
	to	to		APPENDIX 'C' 171.
	7-7-43	0513	Four aircraft were detailed for this expedition.	
			Two laid their mines successfully, one could not pin-point after 20 minutes search and brought his mines back, and F/S. BARR and crew failed to return. The other three returned to Base.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
<u>COLOGNE.</u>	8-7-43 to 9-7-43	0354 to 0513	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COLOGNE.</u></p> <p>Twenty-one aircraft were detailed for this attack, the P.F.F. using sky markers. 10/10ths. cloud prevented observation of results.</p> <p>Bombing heights were between 19,500 and 23,000 ft. All reached the target area and returned to Base.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 159. APPENDIX 'C' 172.
<u>GEISENKIRCHEN.</u>	9-7-43 to 10-7-43	2235 to 0554	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GEISENKIRCHEN.</u></p> <p>Twenty-one aircraft were detailed for this attack, in which again, because of the 10/10ths. cloud, the P.F.F. used the sky marking method.</p> <p>The bombing heights were between 19,500 and 23,000 ft., but results could not be observed.</p> <p>One aircraft failed to take off and two returned early due to failures.</p> <p>All aircraft returned to Base.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 160. APPENDIX 'C' 173.
<u>TURIN.</u>	12-7-43 to 13-7-43	2200 to 0858	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TURIN.</u></p> <p>Twenty-four aircraft were detailed for this attack, which meant that part of the return journey was done in daylight in enemy waters. They were detailed to land at EXETER, but to make Base if possible, which several managed to do. Three returned early because of failures, and F/S. GRAHAM and crew failed to return, nothing being heard from them.</p> <p>Bombing heights were between 16,000 and 21,000 ft.</p> <p>Stood down from operations.</p> <p>Stood down from operations. Some training flying took place.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 161. APPENDIX 'C' 174.

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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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.....

of (Unit or Formation) No. **103 SQUADRON, EISHAM WOODS.**

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	15-7-43		Stood down. A dull day, with rain from a front. Formation flying took place. A Bullseye exercise was cancelled.	
	16-7-43		Stood down. A sunny almost cloudless day. Formation flying and other training took place. Four new crews took part in a Bullseye exercise.	
	17-7-43		Stood down. A clear, hot sunny day. Various training flying took place, including some formation.	
	18-7-43		Stood down. Various training flying took place.	
	19-7-43		Preparation for operations was cancelled during the afternoon, owing to the presence of stratus from the North Sea.	
	20-7-43		Preparation for operations was again cancelled during the afternoon for the same weather reasons.	
	21-7-43		Stood down. Low stratus from North-Sea.	
	22-7-43		Preparation for operations cancelled. Threatened stratus from North Sea.	
	23-7-43		Preparation for operations cancelled for the same reason as yesterday. A hot, cloudless day. Some haze.	

Reference to Appendices	Summary of Events	Date	Time	Location
APPENDIX 'A' 162. APPENDIX 'C' 175.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>H A M B U R G.</u></p> <p>Twenty-seven aircraft were detailed to attack this target for its first big blitzing, which was a great success.</p> <p>Bombing heights were between 20,000 and 22,000 ft. Defences were disorganised by our defensive measure, which upset his R.D.F. system.</p> <p>One aircraft returned early and three, piloted by W/O. HARDMAN, W/O. O'HANLON and P/S. MOORE, failed to return. All others returned to Base.</p>	24-7-43 to 25-7-43	2200 to 0459	<u>HAMBURG.</u>
APPENDIX 'A' 163. APPENDIX 'C' 176.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>E S S E N.</u></p> <p>Twenty-one aircraft were detailed for this very successful raid, our anti-R.D.F. measure again being employed successfully.</p> <p>The bombing heights were between 20,000 and 22,000 ft.</p> <p>P/O. RATCLIFF was forced to return early, but succeeded in bombing an aerodrome at ALKMOOR.</p> <p>S/L. CARPENTER and F/L. EMER and crews failed to return. All others landed at Base.</p>	25-7-43 to 26-7-43	2152 to 0440	<u>ESSEN.</u>
APPENDIX 'A' 164. APPENDIX 'C' 177.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>H A M B U R G.</u></p> <p>Twenty-three aircraft were detailed for the second blitz on this target, which was again well 'fired'. The bombing heights were between 19,000 and 21,500 ft.</p> <p>The defences were hotter than before, the searchlights acting as background for the fighters.</p> <p>Two returned early and all aircraft landed at Base.</p>	27-7-43 to 28-7-43	2159 to 0440	<u>HAMBURG.</u>
APPENDIX 'A' 165. APPENDIX 'C' 178.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>H A M B U R G.</u></p> <p>Twenty-five aircraft were detailed for another very successful raid on this target.</p> <p>The bombing heights were between 19,000 and 22,000 ft.</p> <p>Two aircraft returned early. All return to Base.</p>	29-7-43 to 30-7-43	2203 to 0425	<u>HAMBURG.</u>

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No. 103 SQUADRON, ELSHAM WOLDS.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
REMSCHIED.	30-7-43	2201	<p style="text-align: center;">REMSCHIED.</p> <p>Twenty-four aircraft were detailed at first to attack SOLIGNEN and REMSCHEID, but owing to weather conditions, the effort was whittled down at take off to six only on REMSCHEID.</p> <p>Two returned early, but the other four bombed between 19,500 and 20,500 ft.</p> <p>All returned to base after a successfully hit target.</p>	APPENDIX 'A' 166.
	31-7-43	0311		<p>Prepared for operations, but these were cancelled.</p>
ELSHAM WOLDS.	JULY - 1943.		TRAINING.	
	<p>The following training took place during the month:-</p> <p>11 Pre-operations Cross Country flights for new crews.</p> <p>8 Bombing details.</p> <p>23 Fighter Affiliation details.</p> <p>18 Air Firing details.</p> <p>2 Beam approach details.</p> <p>32 Aircraft took part in Formation Flying.</p> <p>4 Aircraft took part in Bullseye Exercises.</p> <p>Specialist Officers carried out, in addition, their own departmental training.</p>			

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Summary of Events

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events
<u>EISHAM WOLDS.</u>	JULY - 1943.		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>G E N E R A L.</u></p> <p>The Squadron operated on ten nights this month, making 195 sorties, 15 of which returned early owing to various faults arising. One mining sortie did not lay its mines owing to inability to pin point, and therefore brought them back.</p> <p>Nine aircraft failed to return.</p> <p>Although there were a number of sightings of enemy aircraft and a few possible approaches there were no combats.</p> <p>This month's raid included the blitzing of Hamburg and it is hoped that the city will not have to be "re-visited".</p> <p>On several days, of course, operations were cancelled either early or just before take-off.</p> <p>F/L. Van Rollegem was awarded an immediate Distinguished Flying Cross and the Belgian "Croix de Guerre".</p>
<u>EISHAM WOLDS.</u>	JULY - 1943.		<u>P O S T I N G S.</u>
	2nd.		F/O. C.S. FLINT posted to No. 18 O.T.U.
	"		F/O. (A/F/L) G.C. DAY and F/O. E.W. FISHER posted to No. 1667 Conversion Unit.
	3rd.		F/O. (A/F/L) A.C. MACOR posted to R.A.F. Station, Lindholme.
	"		F/L. G.L. FINLAYSON, D.F.C. posted from No. 81 O.T.U.
	4th.		F/O. T.S. WARDLE posted to No. 1667 Conversion Unit.
	"		F/O. L.P. OLDHAM, F/O. R.K. LAMB, F/O. D.C. BRADSHAW, F/O. W.T. SHANNON and F/O. A.J. FERROTT posted to War Casualties Non-effective Accounts Depot, Uxbridge - non-effective missing.
	6th.		F/O. E.H. HAWKINS posted from No. 1662 Conversion Unit.
	7th.		F/O. A.D. KEMP posted to No. 1667 Conversion Unit.
	"		F/O. J.T. BIRBECK posted from No. 1662 Conversion Unit.
	10th.		F/O. F.R. KENNEDY posted to No. 156 Squadron.
	13th.		F/O. E.H. HAWKINS posted to War Casualties Non-effective Accounts Depot, Uxbridge - non-effective missing.

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices	
<u>ELSHAM WOLDS.</u>	<u>P O S T I N G S - (Continued).</u>			<u>SECRET.</u>	
		JULY - 1943.			
		14th.	F/O. F.L. WALLACE posted to No. 101 Squadron.		
		24th.	F/O. L.W. MACHIN posted to War Casualties Non-effective Accounts Depot, Uxbridge - non-effective missing.		
		"	F/O. A.P. MACFARLANE posted to R.A.F. Station, Lindholme.		
		25th.	F/O. (A/F/L) H.F. EWER, F/O. J.A.B. COOPER, F/L (A/S/L) G.R. CARPENTER posted to War Casualties Non-effective Accounts Depot, Uxbridge - non-effective missing.		
		26th.	F/O. D. SPINK reposted to 103 Squadron on appointment to commissioned rank.		
		28th.	F/O. J.F. MARSHALL, F/O. E.J. DENSLEY, F/O. L. KILVINGTON, F/O. F.C.W. HEALEY, F/O. T.R. THOMAS and F/O. A. A. MUGGERIDGE posted from No. 1656 Conversion Unit.		
	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin: 0;"><i>V.A. State.</i></p>				
	<p style="margin: 0;">WING COMMANDER, COMMANDING, NO. 103 SQUADRON, R.A.F., <u>ELSHAM WOLDS, BARNETBY, LINGS.</u></p>				