The National Archives' reference AIR 27/927/17

R.A.F. 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.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No.....

of (Unit or Formation) No. 126 Squadron, R.A.F. No. of pages used for day.....

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Bradwell Bay.	Nov. 1st.	1455 1745.	The Squadron of 12 aircraft led by W/C. Bird-Wilson with F/Lt. Garden leading a Section of 4 a/c escorted 220 Lancasters bombing HOMBERG. Uneventful escort two bombers seen to go down and 1 rocket trail seen E. of target area.	
	2nd.	1230 1500	S/Ldr. Plagis led squadron of 13 aircraft on Ramrod 1357 escorting 180 Lancasters bombing Homberg. Bombing very good, smoke rose to 6/8000 feet. Intense accurate flak from target area experienced.	
	3rd.		Nil operations.	
	4th.	1240 1535	S/Ldr. Plagis led Squadron of 12 aircraft on Ramrod 1359, escorting 180 Lancasters and sweep South and round BOLINGEN. Bombing not seen and no enemy aircraft encountered. Moderate fairly accurate flak from target area. 3 bursts of "scarecrow" flak over Bonn.	
	5th.		Nil operations.	
	6th.	1305 1545	Squadron of 13 aircraft led by W/Cmdr. Bird-Wilson, with S/Ldr. Plagis leading one section of 4 a/c. on Ramrod 1361 escorting 220 Lancasters bombing GELSENKIRCHEN. Uneventful escort Flak intense and accurate in target area. F/O. T.M. Cipriani posted to this Unit from No. 3 T.E.U. for flying duties. F/Lieut. McBrien posted from 41 O.T.U. for flying duties	
	7th.		Nil operations.	
	8th.	0930 1200	W/C. Bird-Wilson led Squadron of 12 aircraft, with F/Lt. J. Garden leading one Section of 4 on Ramrod 1362 escorting 136 Lancasters bombing oil plant at HOMBERG. Heavy brown smoke and fires seen in target area.	
	9th.	0920 1205	F/Lieut. Garden led Squadron of 12 a/c on Ramrod 1363 escorting 230 Lancasters bombing synthetic oil plant at WANNE EICKEL. Uneventful escort, bombing not seen owing to thin layer of cloud over target area.	
	10th.		Nil operations. 129011 F/Lt. R.H. Pearce from Squadron to No. 28 E.F.T.S. Wolverhampton for flying instructor duties. 142072 W/O. A.C. Lee, 1416688 W/O. J. McFadyen commissioned.	
	11th.		Nil operations.	
	12th.		Nil operations.	
	13th.	1645 1735	Two aircraft detailed for weather recce. No other operations.	
	14th.		Nil operations.	
	15th.		Nil operations.	
	16th.	1402 1705	S/Ldr. Plagis led Squadron of 12 aircraft on Ramrod 1372 escorting 418 Lancasters bombing DUREN. Bombing excellent explosions seen and smoke rose to 10000 feet.	
	17th.		Nil operations. F/Lieut. McBrien posted to 131 Squadron. F/O. R.S. Riches posted to No. 132 Squadron. F/Lieut. Jas. Garden posted to Squadron from No. 132 Squadron.	
	18th.	1400 1700	S/Ldr. Plagis led Squadron of 12 a/c on Ramrod 1375 escorting 400 Halifaxes and Lancasters bombing MUNSTER. Results not seen owing to weather conditions.	
	19th.		Nil operations.	
	20th.	1415 1645	W/C. Bird-Wilson led Squadron of 12 a/c with S/Ldr. Plagis leading one section of 4 on Ramrod 1374 escorting 180 Lancasters bombing HOMBERG. weather conditions again made it impossible to results of bombing.	
	21st.	1355 1630	W/C. Bird-Wilson led Squadron of 13 aircraft with S/Ldr. Plagis leading one section of 4 on Ramrod 1375 escorting 180 Lancasters bombing HOMBERG. Bombing well concentrated. 1 bomber seen to go down in flames in target area and 2 parachutes drifting towards DUISBERG.	
	22nd.		Nil operations. F/O. Cipriani killed on Active Service returning from operation of 21st. Nov.	
26 JAN 1945	23rd. 24th. 25th.		Nil operations.	
	26th.	1015 1215	W/C. Bird-Wilson lead Squadron of 12 aircraft on Ramord 1378 escorting on a sweep in KOBLENZ area while 75 Lancasters bombed FUIDA. Swept area and then escorted bombers back without incident.	

47.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:- AIR 27/927
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

The National Archives' reference AIR 27/927/17

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
Reference:- AIR 27/927
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Bradwell Bay.	NOV. 27th.	1410 1645.	F/Lt. Flinterman led Squadron of 13 aircraft on Ramrod 1379 on a withdrawal escort to 150 Lancasters bombing COLOGNE. Bombers 6 minutes late on R/V. unevnetful escort. 2 rockets seen heading towards Germany.	
	28th.		Nil operations.	
	29th.	1355 1640.	S/Ldr. Plagis led Squadron of 13 aircraft on Ramrod 1382 escorting 270 Lancasters bombing Dortmund. Bombing appeared good, smoke seen in target area.	
	30th.	1115 1440	S/Ldr. Plagis led Squadron of 11 aircraft on Ramrod 1384 escorting 60 Lancasters bombing OSTERFELD. Fires seen in target area and thick brown smoke rose to 6000 feet. 1 bomber seen to go down in flames in target area.	

J. Gardner

Squadron Leader, Commanding,
No. 126 Squadron, R.A.F.

Wt. 27043/O5502 835M 12/45 C. & L. 51-7706