

CAO ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

[1/346]

OPERATION RECORDS

No. 463 SQUADRON

1943 - 1944

AHM 64

[1/346]

61/41/Air.

17/12/43.

SECRET

Commanding Officer,
No. 463 Squadron, R.A.A.F.
R.A.F. Station,
Waddington,
Lines.

Reference the compilation of Operations Records Books,
Forms 540, 541 and 765A.

2. To ensure that the fullest records of R.A.A.F. Squadrons in the United Kingdom are received at this Headquarters for the information of Air Board, Melbourne, and for Historical Records, the enclosed memorandum has been made out as a guide to the compilation and despatch of the records.
3. Your attention is particularly directed to Para. 15. which asks that two copies, including the original, be despatched direct to Overseas Headquarters, R.A.A.F. London. This was agreed to by the Air Ministry and instructions sent to Commands about two years ago.
4. Will you please supply this Headquarters with these records as from the date of formation to the end of November 1943.
5. Within the last three months, two requests have been made by the Australian Prime Minister for certain facts and figures concerning Australian Squadrons in the United Kingdom. Recently, it was decided to anticipate these requests and to obviate research at inconvenient times, by requesting all Australian squadrons to supply progressive totals up to, and including, the last day of each month. These figures would take the form of a summary at the end of the Form 540.
6. The statistics required are - Approximate number of operational hours and miles flown, number of sorties, tonnage of bombs dropped and aircraft destroyed, probably destroyed and damaged, under those headings.
7. It is also an Air Ministry directive that all references to Australian personnel in the Form 541 and 540 shall have the prefix AUS against their names, and shall include their personal numbers.
8. So that a comprehensive history of your squadron may be written, it is particularly requested that two copies of all combat reports be forwarded monthly with the Operations Record Book.
9. It is hoped to establish personal contact with the squadron in the near future.

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(W. H. NEWHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
ATH OFFICER COMMANDING.

B

24

184/160/Air/117

6/1/44.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

NO. 463 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Forwarded herewith for Historical
Records is brief history of No. 463 Squadron,
R.A.A.F. for November, 1943, compiled from the
Operations Records Book.

2. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.H.

(W.H. NEWHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

HISTORY OF No. 463 SQUADRON, R.A.A.F.

NOVEMBER, 1943

NOVEMBER 25th, 1943. FORMATION. 463 Squadron started forming on this day at Waddington under the Command of Wing Commander R. Kingsford-Smith.

'C' Flight of 467 R.A.A.F. Squadron, commanded by Flight Lieutenant H.B. Locke, D.F.C. was transferred in its entirety to 463.

NOVEMBER 26th, 1943. FIRST OPERATION - BERLIN. Six aircraft took part in the Squadron's first operation and the target was Berlin. Lancaster captained by Aus. 8687 P/Sgt. Saunders, A.J. was attacked by a Ju.88, but after many hits registered by the Lancasters gunners, the enemy aircraft was seen to explode and dive away out of control. Unfortunately the Squadron lost one aircraft. The crew were: - Aus. 416646 P/Sgt. Fowler, J.W. Sgt. Williams, J.L., Sgt. Barker, J.W., Sgt. Thomas, J.E., Sgt. Ferrier, J.P., Aus. 425766 Sgt. Sherwin, W.T. Sgt. Thomas, A.E.G.

NOVEMBER 30th, 1943. Representatives of the press have visited the Squadron.

Up to date the Squadron has 26 crews, and the captains are: -

- Aus. 411652 P/O. G.L. Messenger
- Aus. 413798 P/O. C.C. Schonberg
- Aus. 414027 P/O. A.W. Heap
- Aus. 414175 P/O. V.H. Trimble
- Aus. 409721 P/O. A.J.D. Leslie
- Aus. 405782 P/Lt. A.E. Vowels
- Aus. 5684 P/Lt. R.J. Mortimer
- Aus. 404368 P/O. F.B.M. Wilson
- Aus. 416775 P/O. F.L. Merrill
- P/O. Foster
- Aus. 29881 P/O. N.P. Cooper
- Aus. 412434 P/O. A.R. Hart
- Aus. 417003 P/O. K. Schultz
- Aus. 420127 Sgt. A.R.S. Bowman
- Aus. 412356 P/O. G.F. Baker
- P/Sgt. Fowler
- Aus. 412969 P/O. A.E. Kell
- Sgt. Wynde
- Aus. 401980 S/Ldr. H.B. Locke
- Aus. 381 W/Cdr. R. Kingsford Smith
- Aus. 415280 P/O. E.A.L. Smith
- Aus. 408867 P/O. J.W. Nancarrow
- Aus. 412936 P/O. E.A. Fayle
- Aus. 8687 P/Sgt. Saunders, A.J.
- Aus. 416418 P/O. D.G. Dunn
- Aus. 416893 P/O. J. Roberts

184/160/Air/372

SECRET

13th January, 1944.

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

NO. 463 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/160/Air/117, dated 6/1/44,

2. Attached is a brief history of
No. 463 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for December, 1943,
compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.

W. H. Newham

(W. H. NEWHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

DECEMBER, 1943.

DECEMBER 2nd, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Five crews took off to take part in the raid on Berlin. Four were successful and returned safely. The fifth returned early with engine failure.

DECEMBER 3rd, 1943. RAID ON LEIPZIG. Only one aircraft from the Squadron took part in this raid. The target was successfully attacked and the aircraft returned safely to base.

DECEMBER 16th, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Another raid on Berlin and this time thirteen aircraft took off. Lancaster captained by Aus. 416418 P/O. D.C. Dunn was shot up by flak and his bombardier wounded in the leg, but all aircraft returned safely.

DECEMBER 20th, 1943. RAID ON FRANKFURT. Nine aircraft took off to attack Frankfurt but one returned early owing to the port inner engine catching fire. All aircraft returned safely.

DECEMBER 23rd, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Berlin again and 12 aircraft took part. Aus. 420127 P/O. A.R.S. Bowman had his port engine hit by flak over the target, and one aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - P/O. A.W. Heap, Sgt. Carter, W. P/O. R.S. Gall, Sgt. McCreddie, D. Sgt. Ryan, 1st Lt. Sgt. Tunncliffe, F.J. and P/Sgt. Glover, K.R.R.

DECEMBER 25th, 1943. Stand down, and a very good Christmas day was enjoyed by all.

DECEMBER 29th, 1943. RAID ON BERLIN. Nine aircraft took part in another successful attack on Berlin and all returned safely.

STATISTICS. Squadron statistics up to 31.12.43

Sorties 55
Hours 360 - 30 mins.
Miles 116,021

4A

184/160/Air/1543

16/2/44.

SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

NO. 463 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/160/Air/117, dated 6/1/44,

2. Attached is a brief history of No. 463 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for January, 1944, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.

W.H.
 (W.H. NEWNHAM)
 Flight Lieutenant, for
 Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

JANUARY, 1944.

January 1st, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Twelve aircraft took off to attack Berlin and ten were successful. Cloud conditions made observation of results difficult but the glow of fires could be seen. One aircraft returned early, being unable to gain height. One aircraft failed to return. The crew were: - Aus. 410244 F/Sgt. S.W. Lawson, Sgt. P. Chittenden, Sgt. A.G. Smith, F/Sgt. C.D. Redgrave. Aus. 422008 F/Sgt. M.E. Sadler, Aus. 427153 F/Sgt. W.A. Sempay, and Sgt. F.C. Eggleston. Lancaster captained by Aus. 403905 P/O. Merrill, F.I. was attacked by two enemy fighters. Hits were seen on both and one is claimed as probably destroyed and the other as damaged. Lancaster captained by Aus. 417003 P/O. Schultz was attacked by a Ju.88 which is claimed as damaged.

January 2nd, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Eight aircraft took off to attack Berlin, five were successful, two returned early, with engine and icing trouble and one failed to return. Lancaster captained by Aus. 5684 F/Lt. Mortimer, R.J. was attacked by an enemy fighter, and damage was sustained, but no casualties. The enemy fighter is claimed as damaged. Aus. 415280 P/O. Smith and crew also claim a Ju.88 damaged. The missing crew were: - Aus. 410021 F/Sgt. Weatherill, J., Sgt. Cowell, A.R., P/O. Gage, J.W., Aus. 423290 Sgt. Looney, F.N., Aye. 426401 Sgt. Toohy, W.D., Aus. 408054 P/O. Symonds, P.L., Aus. 417839 Sgt. Hemingway, C.

January 5th, 1944. RAID ON STETTIN. Eight aircraft took off and seven attacked Stettin. Appeared to be a successful attack and fires were concentrated. One aircraft returned early - unable to climb. Lancaster captained by Aus. 415347 P/O. McKnight claims a Ju.88 damaged. All aircraft returned safely.

January 19th, 1944. VISIT. The Australian Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Jones, accompanied by Air Vice Marshal Wrigley, Air Officer Commanding R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters visited the Squadron.

January 14th, 1944. RAID ON BRUNSWICK. Thirteen aircraft took off to attack Brunswick, twelve were successful and the glow of fires could be seen through the clouds. Fighters were active and three aircraft were attacked. Lancaster captained by Aus. 412356 P/O. G.J. Baker escaped damage but enemy aircraft is claimed as damaged. Lancaster captained by Aus. 414175 P/O. Trimble, V.E. was badly shot up. The A/B was hit by splinters and the rear gunner became unconscious due to damaged oxygen. The enemy aircraft was destroyed. Lancaster captained by Aus. 401980 S/Ldr. Locke also claims a damaged.

January 20th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Eleven aircraft took off to attack Berlin and all report a successful raid. Bomb bursts and the glow of fires were seen through the clouds. Sgt. Turner, the mid-upper gunner of Lancaster captained by Aus. 416775 P/O.F.L. Merrill, was dead on reaching base, through lack of oxygen.

January 21st, 1944. RAIDS ON MAGDEBURG & BERLIN. Thirteen aircraft took off, eleven to attack Magdeburg, and two to attack Berlin. All returned safely to base. As the Squadron was over Magdeburg early it was not possible to assess results but fires seemed to be taking a good hold. Lancaster captained by Aus. 408867 P/O. J. Nancarrow returned early with engine trouble.

January 27th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Eleven aircraft took off to attack Berlin and one failed to return. Appeared to be a good raid. Little fighter opposition and flak was negligible. The missing crew were: - Aus. 409721 P/O. Leslie, A.J.D., Sgt. Jones, R.R., W/O. Finn, T.V., Sgt. Wiggins, A., Aus. 423061 P/O. Chidgey, F.S. Aus. 417275 F/Sgt. Barrett, D.G. and Sgt. Falconer, J.

January 28th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Berlin again, and this time fourteen aircraft took off. Eleven attacked the target, one failed to return and two returned early owing to icing and technical trouble. Large explosions and concentrated fires were seen in the target area, which could be seen 150 miles away. Lancaster captained by Aus. 15763 P/O. J.P. Freeman, destroyed a F.W. 190. The gunner was Aus. 428634, Sgt. Frith, J.H.

January 30th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Fourteen aircraft took part in another raid on Berlin which appeared to be somewhat scattered although the glow of fires could be seen through the clouds. One aircraft returned early and four are missing. Aus. 413219 F.Lt. Martin, C.J. and crew claim one JU.88 damaged. The missing crews were: - Aus. 415412 F/Sgt. Fairclough, L.S. Sgt. Verner, N.A., Aus. 414622 F/Sgt. Carius, L.R., Aus. 416174 F/Sgt. Giles, P.K., Aus. 410561 F/Sgt. White, A.J., Aus. 414959 F/Sgt. McLean, J.G. and Sgt. Robinson, D. - Aus. 415528 P/O. Hanson, P., Sgt. Hughes, E.A., Sgt. Stevens, M.A., F/Sgt. Edgecombe, C.E., Sgt. Bowes, L. Sgt. Bligh, N., Aus. 424315 Sgt. Wilson, J.M. - Aus. 411652 P/O. Messenger, G.L. Sgt. Marshall, H.W., Sgt. Holmes, M.F., Sgt. Brown, E., Sgt. Wooldridge, F., Sgt. Young, R.W., Sgt. Borrodale, G.C. - Aus. 416418 P/O. Dunn, D., Sgt. Adams, F., P/O. Fidler, G., F/Sgt. Smith, M.Y., Sgt. McConnell, A., Sgt. Deakin, H. and Aus. 425641 F/Sgt. Gloster, E.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 31.1.44.

Operational Hours 998
Operational Miles 199,612
Operational Sorties 163
Bombs dropped - 730 tons.

Enemy aircraft destroyed 2, probably destroyed 1, damaged 9.

184/160/Air/2922

24/3/44.

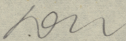
SECRET

The Secretary,
Department of Air,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne, Australia.

HISTORICAL RECORDSNO. 463 SQUADRON : R.A.A.F.

Further to this Headquarters letter
184/160/Air/117, dated 6/1/44,

2. Attached is a brief history of No. 463 Squadron, R.A.A.F. for February, 1944, compiled from the Operations Records Books.
3. Please acknowledge receipt.



(W.H. NEWTHAM)
Flight Lieutenant, for
Air Vice Marshal,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

FEBRUARY, 1944.

February 6th, 1944. VISIT. S/Ldr. Vincent, R.A.A.F. Liaison officer at Bomber Command, and F/Lt. Cartwright from 5 Group Headquarters, visited the Squadron.

February 13th, 1944. SPORT. An Australian Rules football match was played on the Station between R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters team and a team picked from 463 and 467 Squadrons.

February 15th, 1944. RAID ON BERLIN. Seventeen aircraft took off and sixteen attacked Berlin. Cloud over the target made observation of results difficult but the glow of fires could be seen. Flak was heavy. One aircraft abandoned mission owing to engine trouble. All returned safely.

February 19th, 1944. RAID ON LEIPZIG. Eighteen aircraft took off to attack Leipzig. Sixteen were successful, one abandoned mission due to engine trouble, and one failed to return. Seems to have been a very successful and concentrated attack and the glow of fires could be seen 100 miles away. The missing crew was: - Aus. 412936 P/O. Payle, E.A., Sgt. Baker, C.T., P/O. Chappell, L., Sgt. Topham, L.K., Sgt. Farrell, R.J., Sgt. Vickery, A.L.N., and Aus. 425264 P/Sgt. Bennett, B.P.

February 20th, 1944. RAID ON STUTTGART. Fourteen aircraft took off and successfully attacked Stuttgart. Fires were very concentrated, the glow being seen 200 miles away. All aircraft returned safely.

February 23rd, 1944. VISIT. S/Ldr. W.B. Tart and his successor S/Ldr. D.N. Gillison from R.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London visited the Squadron.

February 24th, 1944. RAID ON SCHWEINFURT. Seventeen aircraft set off to bomb Schweinfurt. Fourteen attacked, one abandoned mission owing to engine trouble, and two failed to return. A very successful raid, the whole target area was covered with fire. The missing crews were: - Aus. 255684 P/Lt. Mortimer, R.J., Sgt. Everard, H., Aus. 420848 P/O. Bagge, W.J., Aus. 403028 P/O. Jackson, L.R., Aus. 415073 P/O. Dease, M., Sgt. Lloyd, G. - Aus. 413219 P/Lt. Martin, C.J., Sgt. Wynde, P., Aus. 400246 P/O. White, D.B., Aus. 413388 P/O. Jacobs, R.N., Sgt. Pearson, F.J., Sgt. Hollow, J.T. Aus. 417392 P/Sgt. Martin, C.H.

February 25th, 1944. RAID ON AUGSBURG. Out of thirteen starters, twelve attacked Augsburg. One failed to return. Generally considered a very successful raid, a very large explosion was seen in the target area and aircraft in the second wave report that fires had taken a good hold and could be seen 150 miles away. Lancaster captained by Aus. 415280 P/O. E.A.L. Smith was engaged by a FW.190. The Lancaster was damaged and the FW destroyed. The missing crew was: - Aus. 415345 P/O. McKnight, K.H., Sgt. Roberts, L.W., P/O. Isham, S.A., Aus. 410710 P/O. Nelson, S.J., Aus. 418425 P/O. Johnson, C.J., Sgt. Winn, T., Sgt. Linford, K.

February 27th, 1944. AWARD. The award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to Sgt. W.G. Holt was gazetted today.

STATISTICS. Statistics from formation up to 29.2.44

Hours 1565
Sorties 242
Miles 313,012
Tons 1072

Enemy aircraft destroyed - 1.

