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1. von 1900 bis 1905

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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. 1

of (Unit or Formation) **No. 95 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE.** No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																					
BATHURST	1943 JUNE		<u>SQUADRON PERSONNEL</u> - as at 1st. June 1943.																						
H. M. Colony																									
GAMBIA.			<table><thead><tr><th></th><th><u>Establishment.</u></th><th><u>Actual Strength.</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Officers</td><td>33</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>Warrant Officers</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Senior NCOs</td><td>77</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Other Ranks</td><td>153</td><td>109</td></tr><tr><td>Totals</td><td>263</td><td>149</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>311</td></tr></tbody></table>		<u>Establishment.</u>	<u>Actual Strength.</u>	Officers	33	33	Warrant Officers	-	-	Senior NCOs	77	-	Other Ranks	153	109	Totals	263	149			311	
	<u>Establishment.</u>	<u>Actual Strength.</u>																							
Officers	33	33																							
Warrant Officers	-	-																							
Senior NCOs	77	-																							
Other Ranks	153	109																							
Totals	263	149																							
		311																							
			<u>OPERATIONS AND AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS.</u>																						
GIBRALTAR	1st.	0454	<u>MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE.</u> Sunderland C/95 flew from GIBRALTAR ex U.K. Waterborne	Narrative.																					
HALF DIE	2nd.	1142	BATHURST 1716 hours. Nil report.																						
	3rd.	2335	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> B/95 escorted Northbound SL180 Convoy of 40 MVs and 11 EVs. A/U waterborne 2130 hours.	"																					
	4th.	1216	<u>ARRIVAL.</u> Sunderland S/95 landed at BATHURST after escort duties to Convoy OS48, carried out from PORT ETIENNE.																						
			<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> B/95 took off to escort Convoy OS48, but developed engine trouble and returned to Base at 1611. Sighted 1 MV (Unidentified) and the Port; MV "EL MONTE CELLO".	"																					
		1612	<u>COASTAL RECONNAISSANCE.</u> D/95 proceeded to PORT ETIENNE. Waterborne 1923. Nil report.	"																					
		1612	<u>COMMUNICATIONS.</u> P/95 arrived from DAKAR.																						
	5th.	1350	<u>ARRIVAL.</u> A/95 from PORT ETIENNE. Nil report.																						
	8th.	0612	<u>ESCORT.</u> B/95 met and escorted the "JARED INGERSOLL". Sighted at 1639 French Submarine "ARGO" and 1 EV in posn. YKWB055 - 090 - 8kts. Waterborne 1760.	"																					
	11th.	0625	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Convoy DB23 of 4 MVs and 4 EVs. H69, Southbound, was met and escorted by J/95. The following sightings were made - 1 MV 6000 tons (UN), the AST "COPINSAR", the Tanker "AMERICAN SUN", the AMU "QUERRY" and the Spanish MV "JOSINA". Photos taken. At 1431 an AMU was sighted in posn. YKWB001 - 150 - 19. Waterborne 1619.	"																					
	13th.	0410	<u>ESCORT.</u> Z/95 escorted the ILE DE FRANCE. Waterborne 1616 hours.	"																					
	15th.	1025	<u>COASTAL RECONNAISSANCE.</u> J/95 left for PORT ETIENNE. Nothing sighted en route.	"																					
		1440	Waterborne P.R. at 1420 hours.	"																					
			<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> G/95 escorted the Northbound Convoy SL131 of 24 MVs and 5 EVs. At 2011 sighted 1 Portuguese MV, posn. ZOWB0000 - 352 - 16kts. W/b 2105.	"																					

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
HALF DIE	0541	16th.	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> M/95 met the C/V SL131 of 22 Mvs 5 Evs. Aircraft forced to return, however, owing to engine trouble. Also sighted Cable Ship "LADY DENISON PENDER" and 2 Evs. Landed 0816.	Narrative
	0440	"	<u>ESCORT.</u> P/95 took off to escort "FOXHOUND" group but returned to base at 0510 owing to engine trouble.	"
	1444	"	<u>ARRIVAL.</u> D/95 from PORT ETIENNE. Nil report.	"
	17th.	1901	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland S/95 took off to escort Convoy SL131 whilst en route PORT ETIENNE. Returned to base early owing to engine trouble, being waterborne at 1410. Nil report.	"
	"	1019	<u>ESCORT.</u> Z/95 escorted "FOXHOUND" Group of 1 MV and 1 EV which was joined by Destroyer L40. Sighted also the Portuguese MV "MARA AMELIA". Photographed W/S 2834.	"
	"	1558	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> C/95 proceeded to PORT ETIENNE escorting Convoy SL131 en route. C/V comprised 23 Mvs 6 Evs. Also sighted Sloop P48, and 1 MV and 1 EV Northbound. Waterborne PORT ETIENNE at 2155 hours.	"
	18th.	1030	<u>ESCORT.</u> M/95 met and escorted until dusk the "VENDOME" Group of 2 Mvs and 1 EV. Sighted 1 MV and 2 Evs (presumed "PALACIO" and 2 MIs) posn. ZYR2450 - 180 - 6kts. Waterborne PORT ETIENNE 2050 hours.	"
	"	1230	<u>ESCORT.</u> FORCE FW escorted by B/95. Photos taken AMC "ALCANTARA". Sighted also the "ORION" proceeding North. Waterborne base at 1845.	"
	19th.	1240	<u>ESCORT.</u> S/95 escorted FORCE FW en route PORT ETIENNE. Take-off delayed owing to bad weather. Aircraft landed PORT ETIENNE 2230.	"
	"	1940	<u>ARRIVAL.</u> C/95 from PORT ETIENNE. Nil report.	"
	21st.	1600	<u>ARRIVAL.</u> J/95 " " " " " "	"
	"	0830	<u>ARRIVAL.</u> S/95 when taking off at PORT ETIENNE to escort FORCEFW damaged the starboard float, and the Captain decided to put down at BATHURST for repairs. Fortunately the float hung front up and a good landing was effected and no further damage sustained.	"
	"	1022	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> P/95 met and escorted Southbound 0849 convoy of 33 Mvs and 7 Evs. Sighted 1 British Vessel 8000 tons, an unidentified ship of 5000 tons and a Spanish MV of 4000 tons. At 1750 the Portuguese MV "ANGOLA". On instructions received, searched area ZCGY0534 - ZCDX2006 - ZCDX0600 - ZCH41190 - ZCN41195 - ZCDX2808 - Base, Nil report. Waterborne 2105 hours.	"
	24th.	0812	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland L/95 searched area BJMU3018 - QKV44549 - BJVM1744 - BJH0657 for Convoy OT8. Not met. Sighted during patrol Spanish MV "MONTE ORDUNA" - photographed. Landed 1334.	"
	"	0850	<u>ESCORT.</u> A/95 was ordered to escort Tankers detached from C/V OT8. Searched area SGMU5555 - BJMU0453 - BJH1030 - SGB5736 without success. It was subsequently learnt that the C/V was 180 miles behind. The Spanish MV "MONTE ORDUNA" and Portuguese MV "COSTEIRO TERCEIRO". Photos taken. Waterborne BATHURST 1438 hours.	"
	"	1500	<u>TRANSIT.</u> D/95 departed for PORT ETIENNE, where waterborne 1950 hours.	"
	27th.	1405	<u>TRANSIT.</u> Sunderland L/95 left for PORT ETIENNE. Landed 1830 (Passenger W/Cdr. Hatfield).	"

27th. 1405 TRANSIT. Sunderland L/95 left for PORT ETIENNE, landed 1830 (Passenger W/Odr. Hatfield).

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W. 2004/104 2004. 761 P.J. Ltd. 51-811

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.L. para. 23-49, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 5

of (Unit or Formation) No. 95 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices	
BATHURST	1943	JUNE			
H.M. Colony	27th.	1844	ARRIVAL. M/95 from PORT ETIENNE.		
GAMBIA.	30th.	0814	CONVOY ESCORT. P/95 escorted Southbound Convoy WS31 of 8 MVs and 4 EVs. Sighted a French LATEROCOERE aircraft which was photographed, also by "FANDANGO". Waterborne 1702.	Narrative	
"	"	1226	ANTI-SUBMARINE SWEEP. C/95 swept the area CRDX1528 - CRDX2051 - YKGY2152 - YKGY3054 as ordered. No contacts. During patrol sighted Convoys WS31 and SL152. Contacted also Portuguese MV "CASO VERDE" which was photographed. Bad vis. obtained in several storm areas. Waterborne 2244.	"	
(for details of all other Operations carried out in June see PORT ETIENNE records).					
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.					
HALF DIE - GAMBIA.					
	A/S Patrols.		Escort.	Reconnaissance.	Total.
SORTIES	1		16	5	22
FLYING HOURS.	10.19		145.22	20.22	176 hrs. 5 mins.
PORT ETIENNE.					
SORTIES	-		15	6	21
FLYING HOURS.	-		152.25	24.10	176 hrs. 35 mins.
There were no outstanding Sorties and no Submarine sightings during the month.					
WEATHER. PORT ETIENNE - mainly good, although on four occasions sandstorms were experienced. There was occasional low stratus.					
BATHURST. 4.18 inches of rain; precipitation of a thundery nature.					
Lightning observed on most nights. Visibility good except in rain. There was more cloud than in the previous month; mainly large Cumulus and Cirrus. Winds were Westerly, mainly light to moderate. Line squalls were experienced on the 18th. and 19th.					
SERVICEABILITY.					
The average daily serviceability was as follows -					
HALF DIE - 1.50					
P. ETIENNE - .75					
Total 2.25 Aircraft.					

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Reference to Appendices
BATHURST	MAY 22nd.		<u>SERIES OF FORCED LANDINGS BY SUNDERLAND 2/95 - Captain F/Lt. MILLS.</u>	
		(1)	When on Test Flight with 19 persons on board, port outer engine failed due to oil leak. Set course for base on 2 engines and about 3 miles from the harbour mouth in bad visibility port inner failed, also due to oil leak. Landed crosswind in the bay to avoid running on to coast. Aircraft undamaged and towed in.	
	24th.	(2)	Test Flight - 21 crew and passengers. One test landing had been made and the aircraft was taking off again when smoke was seen coming from the port inner engine and filling up the flight deck. Landed straight ahead immediately. Aircraft suffered no further damage and was towed in. Fire due to generator wiring burning out.	
	25th.	(5)	Briefed for Convey Escort duties for morning take-off. Engines apparently in good order on run up, but the starboard inner cut after take-off, at height of 50ft. The aircraft was too low for fuel to be jettisoned and there was no alternative but to land straight ahead, with a full fuel load of 2120 gallons. Depth charges and 10 crew. A slight swerve was made to starboard on the step to avoid a native canoe about 10ft. away to port, and owing to this swerve the plates on the starboard side of the hull were strained. Otherwise the aircraft was undamaged. Sea - slight swell.	
	JUNE.		<u>GENERAL.</u>	
	1st.		Wing Commander P.R. HATFIELD, Officer Commanding 95 Squadron, proceeded on attach-	
	7th.		to PORT ETIENNE and returned on June 4th. Wing Commander HATFIELD proceeded to DAKAR - DAKAR by air from YUNDUM to attend an official luncheon party given by Group Captain J. CONSTABLE-ROBERTS, Officer Commanding, 295 WING, to the Governor General of FRENCH WEST AFRICA and Mrs. BEESON in DAKAR.	
	14th.		<u>Sunderland 1/95</u> , the subject of the first major inspection by the newly formed Base Servicing Party at HALF DIE, was tested on this date.	
	9th.		<u>RESCUE OF NATIVES FROM CAPSIZED CANOE BY THE MARINE CRAFT SECTION AND F/Lt. MILLS.</u> During a sharp squall on the morning of June 9th, 1945, a native canoe capsized in the harbour about half a mile on the starboard side of Sunderland 2/95. The accident was not observed but the Captain of the aircraft, Flight Lieutenant I.R.A. MILLS, who was on the flight deck and had just been brought aboard by the M.O.S. dinghy, saw 3 heads in the water. The captain attracted the attention of the Pinnace (Cox - Opl. CARTER) and directed it to the natives who were picked up. F/Lt. MILLS then saw 2 more persons in the water astern. He recalled the Dinghy (Cox - Asst. THOMAS) which picked up these two natives on the way to the A/C. On going into the ward room, F/Lt. MILLS then saw another person struggling some 100 yards on the port side. He fired a red but, the pinnace apparently not approaching, he dived in and held up the native until the pinnace did come alongside. The crew of the pinnace then cared for the rescued to the best of their ability, applying artificial respiration and supplying tea and blankets. 4 persons were rescued of a crew of 8, but two were found to be dead when taken ashore. (F/Lt. MILLS commented on the smart work done by the Marine Craft Section in a rough sea and poor visibility).	

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Wc. 20426/1104 20394. 761 P.J. Ltd. 51-611

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## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 5

of (Unit or Formation) No. 95 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE.

No. of pages used for day

Place

Date

Time

Summary of Events

Reference: AIR 27/761



SECRET

W. 2025/1104 2004, 2001 P.J. Ltd. 51-511

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
<b>BATHURST</b>	<b>1943</b> <b>JUNE</b>		<b>FORCED LANDING.</b> Sunderland S/95, operating from PORT ETIENNE, damaged the starboard float on take-off. The captain chose to put down at BATHURST where he alighted safely. Wing Commander HATFIELD proceeded to PORT ETIENNE on temporary duty and returned on June 20th.	
	<b>21st.</b>			
	<b>27th.</b>			
	<b>19th.</b>		<b>CASUALTIES.</b> 512326 T/Sgt. MUTTER, L.H. - F/F/E. The above-named NCO died of injuries at 0050 hours on 19th. June 1943, in the United States Station Hospital, DAKAR. Sudden death was due to Pulmonary Thrombosis during healing of severe burns received in an explosion on a petrol refueller at PORT ETIENNE on 28th. May 1943. (Accident recorded in MAY records).	
			<b>POSTINGS OF OFFICERS.</b> P/O. P.J. CHRISTOPHER ) Posted to this Unit from Home Establishment w.e.f. P/O. R.J. HONEY ) 17/5/43. Arrived by air on 16/6/43. P/O. (A/F/Lt) G. YOUNG ) Posted to U.K. w.e.f. 20/12/42. P/O. D.A. CURRAN ) Posted from 204 Squadron 25/6/43.	
			<b>APPOINTMENTS.</b> P/O. R. BATES (R.A.F.V.R.) 143780 - Appointed to a Commission in the R.A.F.V.R. in the rank of Pilot Officer on probation w.e.f. 6/12/42.	
			<b>ACTING RANKS.</b> P/O. (A/F/Lt) W.J. GOROUT Relinquished the acting rank of P/Lt. 17/6/43 on admission to Hospital - re-instated on discharge on 25/6/43, retrospective effect 17/6/43. P/O. (A/F/Lt) D.J. MCCUTCHION - Relinquished the acting rank of P/Lt. w.e.f. 17/6/43 on admission to Hospital. P/O. (A/F/Lt) G. YOUNG Relinquished the rank of A/F/Lt. w.e.f. 20/12/42 on posting to the U.K.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																		
BATHURST	1943 JUNE.		<p><u>SQUADRON PERSONNEL - as at 30th, June 1943.</u></p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th><u>Establishment.</u></th><th><u>Actual Strength.</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Officers</td><td>38</td><td>38</td></tr><tr><td>Warrant Officers</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Senior NCOs</td><td>77</td><td>104</td></tr><tr><td>Other Ranks</td><td>155</td><td>165</td></tr><tr><td>Totals</td><td><u>283</u></td><td><u>293</u></td></tr></tbody></table> <p><i>P. R. Hatfield</i> ..... Officer Commanding, <u>No. 95 Squadron, ROYAL AIR FORCE.</u></p>		<u>Establishment.</u>	<u>Actual Strength.</u>	Officers	38	38	Warrant Officers	-		Senior NCOs	77	104	Other Ranks	155	165	Totals	<u>283</u>	<u>293</u>	
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Totals	<u>283</u>	<u>293</u>																				

OLD FLYING RECORD BOOK

SECRET

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT  
By 95 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION,  
BATHURST, GAMBIA.  
FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 1943

SECRET

Page No. 1.

(\*551) WL 945-56 64mm size T.S. 700

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				UP	DOWN		
1st.	SUNDERLAND DV 964 "G"	F/Lt. Burton and crew.	MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE	0454	1710	Coastal Reconnaissance. Nothing sighted.	Narrative

ue Reference AIR/27/761