

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in P.R. and A.C.I.
para. 240, and War Manual Pt. II, Chapter XX, and
notes to R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. CLBof (Unit or Formation) No. 25 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, BATHURST.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET</u>	References to Appendices
BATHURST.	1st	1943	PERSONNEL of 25 SQUADRON as at 1st MAY 1943.		
H.M. COLONY.	MAY.				
GAMBIA.			ESTABLISHMENT	STRENGTH	
			OFFICERS	37.	38.
			WARRANT OFFICERS	2.	Nil.
			SENIOR N.C.O.s.	82.	109.
			OTHER RANKS.	152.	171.
			TOTALS	273.	318.
	1st		WING COMMANDER P. R. HATFIELD, OFFICER COMMANDING, returned from PORT ETIENNE.		
			OPERATIONS AND AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS.		
HAIR DIE	1st	1510	CONVOY ESCORT.		
			SUNDERLAND B/95 escorted the Convoy CP.12 and also sighted one unidentified M/V in position WMD 5201 northbound at 10 Kts. Landed Bathurst 1640.		
PORT ETIENNE		1145	TRANSIT.		
			SUNDERLAND S/95 proceeded from Port Etienne to Dakar landing at 1148.		
DAKAR	2nd	1034	TRANSIT.		
			SUNDERLAND S/95 left Dakar for Bathurst where it was waterborne at 1134 hours.		
HAIR DIE	3rd	1045	CONVOY ESCORT.		
			SUNDERLAND I/95 attempted escort duties to Convoy BSLA but returned with engine trouble, landing at 1120 hours.		
		1347	ANTI SUBMARINE PATROL AND MOVE.		
			SUNDERLAND B/95 left Bathurst for Port Etienne carrying out Anti Submarine patrol en route and was waterborne at 1825 hours. Nil Report.		
		1816	ARRIVAL.		
			SUNDERLAND J/95 arrived from Port Etienne.		
		1725	ARRIVAL.		
			SUNDERLAND H/95 arrived from Port Etienne.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
HALF DIE	MAY				
	4th	1419	MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE. SUNDERLAND Q/95 proceeded to Port Etienne where it was waterborne at 1837 hours. Sighted two Portuguese Trawlers northbound.		Narrative.
	6th	1645	ARRIVAL. SUNDERLAND M/95 arrived from Port Etienne.		
	11th	1108	MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE. SUNDERLAND P/95 departed for Port Etienne where it landed at 1606 hours. Nil report.		Narrative.
	12th	0500	ESCOPT. SUNDERLAND M/95 located and escorted the tanker "Gulkoil". Waterborne 1645		Narrative.
		1044	CONVOY ESCORT. SUNDERLAND L/95 escorted Northbound Convoy SL 129 and landed at base 2144		Narrative.
	14th	0533	CONVOY ESCORT. SUNDERLAND H/95 continued escorting Convoy SL 129. The aircraft also met two M/Vs escorted by a French EV/. Waterborne Bathurst 1815 hours.		Narrative.
	15th	0530	ESCOPT. SUNDERLAND B/95 escorted the M/V "Dumont d'urville" landing Bathurst 1855		Narrative.
	17th	1220	ARRIVAL. SUNDERLAND Q/95 returned to Bathurst from Port Etienne.		
		1154	MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE. SUNDERLAND S/95 proceeded to Port Etienne carrying out Coastal Reconnaissance en route. Waterborne 1550. Nil report.		Narrative.
		0440	CONVOY ESCORT. SUNDERLAND H/95 located and escorted two Convoys DBP2 and SR4F. Landed 1723		Narrative.
	19th	1442	MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE. SUNDERLAND A/95 proceeded to Port Etienne on attachment carrying out a Coastal Reconnaissance en route. Waterborne 1921. Nil report.		Narrative.

(Type) Wt. 25370-3564 110M 3142 T.S. 700

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See instructions for use of this form in R.A. and A.C.I. para. 2360 and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. **THREE**

of (Unit or Formation) **No. 95 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, BATHURST.** No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
HALF DIE	MAY				
	21st		SUNDERLAND Z/95 on air test, made a successful emergency landing following		

due Reference: AIR/27761

SUNDERLAND A/95 proceeded to Port Etienne on attachment carrying out a Coastal Reconnaissance en route. Waterborne 1921. Nil report.

Narrative.

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See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.C.I. para. 2861 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 95 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, BATHURST. No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
PORT ETIENNE	MAY 21st		SUNDERLAND Z/95 , on air test, made a successful emergency landing following engine trouble.	
HALF DIE	22nd	0741	CONVOY ESCORT.	
			SUNDERLAND Q/95 escorted Convoy 08.47 and also sighted two M/Ys and two R/Vs Northbound which later joined the Convoy. The aircraft landed 1941.	Narrative.
PORT ETIENNE	23rd	1812	ARRIVAL.	
			SUNDERLAND B/95 returned from Port Etienne sweeping track of the "Malacio" and "Oued Fes" en route.	
HALF DIE	24th	0430	CONVOY ESCORT.	
			SUNDERLAND Q/95 attempted escort duties to Convoy 08.47 but was forced to return with engine trouble landing at 0450 hours.	Narrative.
	25th	1508	MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE.	
			SUNDERLAND Q/95 made a Coastal Reconnaissance to Port Etienne where it was waterborne at 1911 hours. Nil report.	Narrative.
	29th	0407	ESCORT.	
			SUNDERLAND H/95 carried out escort duties to the tanker "Bulkoll" but had to abandon the task early owing to engine trouble. Landed base 1055.	Narrative.
	30th	1443	ARRIVAL.	
			SUNDERLAND Q/95 arrived from Port Etienne.	
	31st	1048	ESCORT.	
			SUNDERLAND B/95 escorted the vessel "Mary Kingsley" until 2003 hours. The aircraft also sighted the Spanish vessel, "Jacinto Verdaguer" and was waterborne at base at 2135 hours.	Narrative.
HALF DIE		0415	DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT.	
			On this date Sunderland H/95 (V.6062), at her moorings, was struck by Sunderland J/204 on take off. Extensive damage was caused to the port wing, midships gun turret and tail fin. Personnel on boat guard were uninjured.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
HALF DIE	MAY		SUMMARY of OPERATIONS from HALF DIE.		
			CONVOY RECONNAISSANCE TOTAL.		
			11 6 17.		
			FLYING HOURS. 103.53 26.27 130.20.		
			There were no outstanding sorties.		
			WEATHER.		
			The weather during May was fair to cloudy except towards the month end, a heavy thunderstorm being experienced on the morning of the 27th. Visibility was good with the exception of a few days in the early part of the month and thick Haze restricted flying on the 7th and 8th.		
			SERVICEABILITY at HALF DIE and PORT ETIENNE.		
			The daily average serviceability was as follows:		
			HALF DIE 1.25.		
			PORT ETIENNE 1.25.		
			TOTAL 2.50.		
			SUMMARY of OPERATIONS carried out at PORT ETIENNE, F.V.A.		
			A/S CONTROL CONVOY RECONNAISSANCE TOTAL.		
			SORTIES 4 17 11 32.		
			FLYING HOURS 35.06 171.47 69.23 276.16.		
			AIR-SEA RESCUE OPERATIONS, SPECIAL PATROLS ETC.		
PORT ETIENNE	MAY 1st		SPECIAL PATROLS.		
			Sunderland M/95 carried out a special patrol and photographic reconnaissance of Las Palmas, Canary Islands, taking 32 photographs. No U'boats were sighted.		

(Pages: Wk. 2127-2344 120M 3102 T.O. 700

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
PORT ETIENNE	MAY 27/761		SPECIAL PATROLS. (Continued)		

ue Reference: AIR/27/761

Sunderland M/95 carried out a special patrol and photographic reconnaissance of Las Palmas, Canary Islands, taking 32 photographs. No U'boats were sighted.

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of (Unit or Formation) **No. 95 SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, BATHURST** No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
PORT ETIENNE	MAY		SPECIAL PATROLS. (Continued)		
	12th		Sunderland M/95, during a Coastal Reconnaissance and Anti-submarine Patrol, sighted a Spanish sailing vessel towing a grey lifeboat - Course 050 degs - position MKBB 0703. Photographs taken.		
	23rd		AIR-SEA RESCUE OPERATIONS. Information was received at Port Etienne that there were a number of survivors making for the coast and at the request of the French a search was carried out by M/95 Squadron between Cap d'Arguin and Cap Mirik. The aircraft sighted a considerable amount of old wreckage along the coast and approaching Presc'ele de Thila a sailing boat was observed at the water's edge surrounded by Bedouins. Nothing further was sighted.		
	24th	2250	DAMAGE to SUNDERLAND M/144 - A/95 SQUADRON. Returning from Convoy Escort at night this aircraft broke off a float when landing at Port Etienne in difficult sea conditions. The aircraft was beached in soft sand on the 2nd June and the necessary repairs efficiently carried out next day.		
			CASUALTIES. 612326 T/Sgt. MUTTER, L.H., a member of the crew of M/95, sustained severe burns when the floating Refueller, moored alongside his aircraft, caught fire. He was immediately removed by air to the 93rd U.S. Station Hospital at Dakar as also was a member of the crew of the Refueller who also sustained burns.		
			NOTE. For further details of 95 Squadron operations and activities see R.A.F. Detachment, Port Etienne Operations Records.		

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Page No. SIX

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			<u>PROMOTIONS, POSTINGS, ETC. OF OFFICERS.</u>		
			<u>PROMOTIONS.</u>		
			Pilot Officer R.A. RUSSELL } Promoted to the rank of FLYING OFFICER		
			Pilot Officer A. D. MACK } wef 1. 10. 42.		
			Pilot Officer G. ELLIAMS } Promoted to the rank of FLYING OFFICER		
			Pilot Officer J. R. WELTON } wef 1. 1. 43.		
			Flying Officer N. N. McKEOUGH } Amend date of promotion to FLYING OFFICER		
			to read 1. 3. 42.		
			Pilot Officer G. A. RICE } Promoted to the rank of FLYING OFFICER		
			wef 16. 3. 43.		
			Pilot Officer A. B. CATIP } Promoted to the rank of FLYING OFFICER		
			wef 25. 11. 42.		
			<u>POSTINGS.</u>		
			FLYING OFFICER L. V. SILBURN } Posted to this Unit from Home Establishment		
			PILOT OFFICER G. E. ONLEY } wef 24. 4. 43.		
			PILOT OFFICER K. W. EMBERSON } Posted to this Unit from Home Establishment		
			PILOT OFFICER D. R. HATTON } wef 21. 4. 43.		
			FLYING OFFICER J. R. WELTON } Posted to S. of G. R., South Africa wef		
			1. 5. 43.		
			FLYING OFFICER S. W. LOVETT } Posted to No. 1. R.A.F. Depot (N.E.)		
			Uxbridge wef 31. 3. 43.		
			FLYING OFFICER GALEA } Posted to No. 1. R.A.F. Depot (N.E.)		
			Uxbridge wef 31. 3. 43.		
			<u>ACTING RANKS.</u>		
			FLYING OFFICER W. SPROTT } Appointed to the acting rank of FRIGHT-		
			LIEUTENANT wef 7. 1. 43.		
			FLYING OFFICER W. J. GOROUT } Appointed to the acting rank of FLIGHT-		
			LIEUTENANT wef 11. 2. 43.		
			FLYING OFFICER W. M. WILKINS } appointed to the acting rank of FLIGHT-		
			LIEUTENANT wef 12. 2. 43.		

(*9301) Wt. 31379-3544 110M 2140 T.R. 7700

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
			<u>PROMOTIONS, POSTINGS ETC. OF OFFICERS (Continued)</u>		

FLYING OFFICER V. J. GOROUT

LIEUTENANT wef 7. 1. 43.

Appointed to the acting rank of FLIGHT LIEUTENANT wef 11. 2. 43.

FLYING OFFICER W. M. WILKINS

appointed to the acting rank of FLIGHT LIEUTENANT wef 12. 2. 43.

(Form) No. 540-354 11/54 5/48 T.A. 708

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
PROMOTIONS, POSTINGS ETC. of OFFICERS (Continued)					
ACTING RANKS (Continued)					
			FLYING OFFICER (Acting Flt. Lieut.) J. R. WELTON relinquishes acting rank of FLIGHT LIEUTENANT wef 1. 5. 43.		
			FLYING OFFICER (Acting Flt. Lieut.) L. M. GALEA. Reference March entry read effective date as 1. 4. 43.		
			FLYING OFFICER (Acting Flt. Lieut.) W. SPROTT relinquishes Acting rank of Flight Lieutenant wef 18. 5. 43 and reinstated.		
POSTINGS (Continued).					
			FLYING OFFICER S. W. LOVETT } April entries cancelled. Posted from 204 Squadron wef 3. 2. 43.		
			PILOT OFFICER T. O. DAVIS }		
			FLYING OFFICER N. M. McKROUGH Posted to No. 1 P.D.S. West Kirby wef 14. 5. 43		
			FLT. LIEUTENANT P. H. BOOOCK Posted to No. 61 Air School, South Africa wef 4. 5. 43.		
			PILOT OFFICER T. O. DAVIS Invalided to United Kingdom wef 30. 5. 43.		
SQUADRON PERSONNEL as at 31st MAY 1943.					
			ESTABLISHMENT	STRENGTH	
			OFFICERS 33.	33.	
			SENIOR N.C.O.s 77.	109.	
			OTHER RANKS. 153.	169.	
			TOTALS. 263.	311.	
<p><i>P. R. Hatfield</i> WING COMMANDER, OFFICER COMMANDING, No. 95, SQUADRON, R.A.F. STATION, BATHURST, WEST AFRICA.</p>					

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