

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 290, and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. ONE

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
BATHURST	1945 MARCH			
GAMBIA	3rd.		ADVANCE PARTY of 5 OFFICERS, 12 SERGEANTS and 42 OTHER RANKS arrived by air from JUI, FREETOWN.	
	5th.		Wing Commander P.R. HATFIELD arrived by air from U.K.	
HALF DIE	"	1105	CONVOY ESCORT. Sunderland H/95 escorted a Northbound Convoy comprising 4 MVs 3 MLs and the Sloop COMMANDANT BORI. Also sighted 1 Norwegian MV escorted by 1 ML, also Northbound. A/G waterborne at 2059 hours.	Warr. P.1 para 1.
	7th.		MOVEMENT OF SQUADRON TO BATHURST.  The main party of 19 OFFICERS, 47 SENIOR NCOs and 88 OTHER RANKS arrived from JUI by air, thus completing the move of the Squadron to BATHURST.	
"	"	0955	CONVOY ESCORT. H/95 escorted the Southbound WS27 Convoy, composition 5 MVS, 1 Battleship and 4 Destroyers. Aircraft returned at 2213 hours. Nothing to report.	Warr. P.1
	8th.		OFFICIAL DATE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATIONS FROM BATHURST.  AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS DURING TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FROM JUI.	
"	3rd.	1132	Sunderland A/95 arrived from JUI.	
		1136	" B/95 " " " and returned at 1525 hours.	
		1152	" N/95 " " "	
		1200	" H/95 " " "	
	4th.	0848	" N/95 left for JUI.	
		0857	" A/95 " " "	
	5th.	1136	" N/95 arrived from JUI and returned at 1438 hours.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
HALF DIE	7th.	1205 to 1245  1722	<u>TRANSIT MOVEMENTS</u> (contd).  Sunderlands N.A and B/95 landed from JUI.  Sunderland G/95 arrived from JUI.	
JUI	"	1430	<u>BLOCKADE RUNNER PATROL.</u> M/95 carried out Cross-over Patrol. Sighted small Portuguese Sailing Ship "ILIOT"(50 tons, 3 Masts). Photographs taken. Nothing further to report. Landed 1835 hours.	Narr.P.1 para 1.
JUI	"	1430	<u>MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE.</u> L/95 left JUI and arrived BATHURST 1755 hours. Nothing to report after Coastal Recce. en route.	Narr.P.1 para 2.
HALF DIE	12th.	0720	<u>TRANSIT AND RECONNAISSANCE.</u> Aircraft M/95 proceeded to JUI where waterborne at 1152. No report.	Narr.P.1 para 1.
"	"	0937	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> A/95 left to escort Force FF. Sighted QUADRANT(gll) leaving BATHURST also the MV "ARCTURUS" and a SLOOP. Later observed the Portuguese MY "ANGOLA" of which photographs were taken. Escorted Force FF as ordered, seen to be joined by Destroyer H77 and by Gil during afternoon. Returned to Base at 2155 hrs.	Narr.P.1 para 2.
"	14th.	1007	<u>COASTAL RECONNAISSANCE AND TRANSIT.</u> B/95 proceeded to PORT ETIENNE. Nil report. Waterborne approx. 1800 hours.	Narr.P.2 para 1.
"	"	1035	" " " " " Sunderland A/95 also proceeded to PORT ETIENNE and landed 1800 hours. Sighted Portuguese MYs DUBANGO and "ALCANTARA".	" " " "
JUI	15th.	1030	<u>ANTI-SUBMARINE SWEEP.</u> Aircraft N/95 returned from JUI, sweeping ahead of the MV "CAP PADORAN" and 2 EVs. Nothing to report. Waterborne at BATHURST at 1800 hours.	Narr.P.2 para 1.
HALF DIE	16th.	0625	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> G/95, ordered to escort Convoy SL128, returned at 0810 with engine trouble. D/204 was laid on to take over but failed to take off and sortie cancelled.	Narr.P.2 para 1.
GIBRALTAR	17th.	GIB. 1800/ 16	<u>MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE.</u> J/95 arrived from GIB: at 0755/17. Nil report.	Narr. P-8 para 1.
HALF DIE	18th.	0354	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Escorted provided for Tanker "YANKEE ARROW" by Sunderland N/95 From 0710 to 1017 hours. A/C returned to Base at 1700. Nothing seen.	Narr.P.2 para 1.
"	19th.	0927	<u>CONVOY ESCORT AND TRANSIT.</u> N/95 escorted the Southbound Convoy OS44; 33 MYs and 7 EVs en route PORT ETIENNE. Also sighted Port Fishing Vessel BOIRA and Spanish MY "MORNESGO". Arrived PORT ETIENNE at 1855.	Narr.P.2

# OPERATIONS RECORD 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
Reference: AIR/27761				

GIBRALTAR	17th.	GIB. 1800/18	MOVE AND RECONNAISSANCE. J/95 arrived from GIB: at 0753/17. Nil report.	Narr. P.2 para 1.
HALF DIE	18th.	0354	CONVOY ESCORT. Escorted provided for Tanker "YANKEE ARROW" by Sunderland N/95 from 0710 to 1017 hours. A/C returned to Base at 1700. Nothing seen.	Narr. P.2 para 1.
	19th.	0927	CONVOY ESCORT AND TRANSIT. N/95 escorted the Southbourns Convoy 0844; 33 MVs and 7 EVs en route PORT ETIENNE. Also sighted Port: Fishing Vessel DOONA and Spanish MV "MORRISO". Arrived PORT ETIENNE at 1855.	Narr. P.2 para 1.

(Page) WL 21270-2344 135M Size T.S. 700

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See instructions for use of this form in KR and ACI, para. 210, and War Manual, Pt. II, Chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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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	References to Appendices
BATHURST	1943 MARCH			
GAMBIA	19th.	1543	SUNDERLAND A/95 arrived from PORT ETIENNE.	
	20th.	1800	" B/95 " " " "	
	"	0848	BLOCKADE RUNNER PATROL. G/95 carried out special patrol in co-operation with Naval Vessels. Sighted the Morge MV "TARN". Landed at Base at 1927 hours.	Narr. P.2 para 1.
	21st.	0855	COASTAL RECONNAISSANCE AND TRANSIT. J/95 proceeded DAKAR and returned at 1127 hours having as Passenger Group Captain CARTER. At 1154 this aircraft took off for JUI with G/Cpt. CARTER, W/Cdr. WHEE and W/Cdr. RICH as Passengers. Waterborne JUI at 1534 hours.	Narr. P.3. para 1.
	"	0440	CONVOY ESCORT. The U.S. Trooper "JAMES PARKER" was escorted during the forenoon by L/95, without incident. Waterborne 1354.	Narr. P.3. para 2.
	22nd.	0804	CONVOY ESCORT. Sunderland L/95 acted as escort to MV "MARIPOSA" en route to PORT ETIENNE where landed at 1758. Nothing of interest seen.	Narr. P.3. para 1.
	"	0914	BLOCKADE RUNNER PATROL. A/95 on special cross-over patrol. Only Vessel seen was the "ESSO WASHINGTON", on South W'yly course. A/C returned to Base at 2203 hours.	Narr. P.3. para 2.
JUI	23rd.	1000	RECONNAISSANCE AND TRANSIT. J/95 returned to BATHURST, landing at 1410 hours. Passengers G/Cpt. KILPATRICK, W/Cdr. COOPER and Lt. Col. HARDAN.	Narr. P.3. para 1.
BATHURST	24th.	0842	COASTAL RECONNAISSANCE AND TRANSIT. A/95 proceeded to DAKAR, arrived 0758, thence PORT ETIENNE at 0800. Landed 1130.	Narr. P.3. para 1.
	"	1514	AIR-SEA RESCUE. Sunderland G/95 despatched to search area about position KXAQ3022, after "SOS" had been relayed from DAKAR, presumed from an aircraft. Searched area twice and nothing sighted. Information meanwhile received to read "SSS" and not "SOS". Aircraft informed and a creeping line ahead A/S Search was undertaken in area KXPW4645 - VCAQ5535 - KXPW1107 - VCPW1958. No contacts either SE or visual. Alighted Base at 0141/25.	Narr. P.3. para 2.
	25th.	1142	SUNDERLAND N/95 arrived from PORT ETIENNE.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
BATHURST	25th.	1055	<u>TRANSIT.</u> Sunderland A/95 arrived from DAKAR, having left at 0950 hours. Nothing to report.		Narr.P.4. para 1.
HALF DIE.	24th.		<u>CHANGE OF COMMAND.</u> Wing Commander P.R.HATFIELD assumed Command of No. 95 SQUADRON vice Wing Commander V.K.FURLONG w.e.f. 24/3/43.		
	25th.	1111	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> J/95 escorted Southbound WS28 of 13 MVs and 3 EVs. Directed one Destroyer to the Convoy at dusk. Nothing to report. Landed 2118.		Narr.P.4. para 2.
		1943	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> A/95 attempted escort to Northbound SR3 but returned to base with W/T unserviceable, at 2055 hours.		para 3.
	26th.	0943	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> A/95 took off again and escorted Convoy WS28 of 15 MVs and 3 EVs. Aircraft waterborne at 2207 hrs.		Narr.P.4. para 1.
	27th.	0850	<u>SUBMARINE ESCORT.</u> One Sunderland J/95 escorted the French Submarine ARGO which was proceeding South. Sighted a small Northbound Convoy of the MVs DEIDO, PALACIO and MATANG with 1 ML. PALACIO later proceeded to BATHURST. Aircraft landed 2031.		Narr.P.4. para 1.
		1000	<u>A/S PATROL AND TRANSIT.</u> B/95 left for PORT ETIENNE and landed 1440. Nil report.		Narr.P.4. para 2.
	29th.	0945	<u>ESCORT (attempted).</u> Sunderland G/95 took off to escort H.M.T. SWA but was compelled to land in the bay with complete engine failure at 1015. Aircraft towed in by Marine Craft Section. Nil rept.		Narr.P.4. para 1.
		1100	<u>ESCORT SWA.</u> H/95 took up escort duties to H.M.T. SWA, Northbound. Met at 2124 and escorted until 2341 hours. H/95 waterborne at 0211/30.		para 2.
		2311/28.	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Taking off from BATHURST A/95 escorted Convoy SR3 which was considerably scattered, 8 SE contacts being made before dawn. Identified H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER and 2 MVs and reported to the former position of a TUG seen in 2406N. 1658W. Passed message from BRIDGEWATER to the MV EMPIRE AGE to the effect that if no escort arrived by evening to proceed to PORT ETIENNE inside CAPE BLANCO. No reply made. Other sightings were - at 0551 one vessel fully lighted and at 0738 the Spanish MV ESCOLAND. Visibility poor and sea rough throughout patrol. Aircraft put down at PORT ETIENNE at 1259 hours.		para 3.

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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.

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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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
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if no escort arrived by evening to proceed to PORT ETIENNE inside CAPE BLANCO. No reply made. Other sightings were - at 0551 one Vessel fully lighted and at 0738 the Spanish MV ESCOLAND. Visibility poor and sea rough throughout patrol. Aircraft put down at PORT ETIENNE at 1250 hours.

(Page) Wt. 51579-5244 425M 542 T.S. 788

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No. 95 SQUADRON, R.A.F. Station, BATHURST

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
BATHURST, GAMBIA.	1943 MARCH.			
	30th.	1454	CONVOY ESCORT. N/95 despatched to escort RS3 of 6 MVs and 4 EVs, likely to be scattered after U-BOAT attack. Contacted 1 Destroyer, 2 Corvettes, 1 Cargo/Passenger Vessel and 1 Tug on S'ly course, and aircraft escorted these Vessels until 0217/31. The only other sighting was 1 TUG, proceeding independently on a S'ly course. J/95 returned to Base at 0402/31.	Harr.P.5. para 1.
	30th.	1448	SUNDERLAND L/95 arrived from PORT ETIENNE.	
	31st.	0005	CONVOY ESCORT AND SEARCH. One Sunderland, H1/95, attempted to locate Convoy RS3, making a search of the area GHAQ1111 - GHTV2530 - HKAQ5530 - HKPW4838 and a creeping line ahead search from position HKAQ0050. 2 SE contacts were revealed as the U.S.A. Tug RESOLUTE. Landed 1400 hours.	Harr.P.5. para 1.
	"	0505	SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS. N/95 was ordered to search for the Survivors of a Merchant Vessel torpedoed at 2305/29 in position RSTV0827, and to proceed to JUI on completion of task.	para 2.
		1450/31.	A signal from H.M.S. WASTWATER stated that this aircraft sighted the Survivors and then crashed into the sea in position 04.30N. 17.12W. Further information shows that the survivors were seen at 1315 hours, and that the aircraft informed the Naval Patrol Vessel at 1405 hours the aircraft crashed and blew up. F/O. LOVATT, Sgt. HANNAFORD, Sgt. COOKE, Sgt. MOODY, Sgt. GRAHAM and Sgt. BRADBURY are missing believed killed. Three Survivors, P/O. DAVIS, Sgt. CROOKS and Sgt. STANTON were rescued by WASTWATER and taken to FREETOWN where they are at present in the 34th General Hospital suffering from injuries.	
			SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.	
			TOTAL. Convoy Escort. Anti-Sub: Patrols. Reconnaissance. Searches.	
			OPERATIONS 32 14 4 8 6	
			SORTIES 33 15 4 8 6	
			FLYING TIME Hrs.Mins. 146.15 25.00 42.30 71.15	
			289.00	
			NIGHT FLYING (in above) 80.00 43.30 1.00 10.30 25.00	
			NIGHT LANDING OR TAKE-OFF. 20 12 1 1 6	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
BATHURST			<b>SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1943 (contd).</b>		
			Of the above Operations, 3 flights were undertaken from JUI, 1 from GIBRALTAR and 1 from DAKAR.		
	29th.		On this date, Sunderland G/95 took off to escort H.M.T. SWA - but owing to complete engine failure had to force land in the Bay.		
			<b>WEATHER.</b> Fine weather prevailed during the month.		
			<b>AIRCRAFT SERVICEABILITY.</b>		
			Average daily Serviceability of Squadron Sunderland aircraft at HALF DIE for the period 8th. - 31st. March was - 1.3 aircraft.		
	31st.		<b>CASUALTIES.</b>		
			As recorded above, Sunderland N/95 (W.6063) crashed into the sea in position 04.30N. 017.12W. and blew up.		
			<b>MISSING BELIEVED KILLED.</b> Flying Officer LOVATT, Sergeants COOKE, MOODY, HANNAFORD, GRAHAM and BRADBURY.		
			<b>INJURED.</b> Pilot Officer DAVIS, Sergeants CROOKS and STANTON.		
			<b>AWARDS.</b>		
			Bar to D.F.C. - Flying Officer H.R. BAILEY.		
			D.F.C. - Flight Lieutenant C.G. MARSHALL, Flight Lieutenant J.F. DAVIES, Flying Officer G. CROOKS.		
			D.F.M. - 624718 Sgt. J.H. STEWART.		
			<b>MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.</b> - Squadron Leader P.H. de K. BOGGOCK, 1088291 Sgt. S. WATSON, 571628 Cpl. R.M.V. LEESE.		
			<b>APPOINTMENTS.</b> Squadron Leader (A/W/Odr.) V.H. FURLONG appointed to rank of Squadron Leader (WS) w.e.f. 17/12/42.		
			<b>ACTING RANKS.</b> Flying Officer (A/F/Lt) M.M. GALEA relinquished the Acting Rank of F/Lt. on posting to No. 4 (C/O.T.U. w.e.f. 10/3/43.		

(Pages) Wt. 5079-554 1108 3/4 T.S. 790

# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. forms 239, 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**

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1943				

Reference: AIR 27/761

571626 Cpl. R.M.V. LEESE.
<p><b>APPOINTMENTS.</b> Squadron Leader(A/W/Cdr.) V.H.FURLONG appointed to rank of Squadron Leader(WS) w.e.f. 17/12/42.</p> <p><b>ACTING RANKS.</b> Flying Officer(A/F/Lt) M.M.GALEA relinquished the Acting Rank of F/Lt. on posting to No.4(C)O.T.U. w.e.f. 10/3/43.</p>

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

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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	References to Appendices																										
BATHURST GAMBIA.	1943 MARCH.		<p><b>POSTINGS OF OFFICERS.</b></p> <p><u>Flying Officer E.J.PENTON-VOAK:</u> Posted from 298 WING w.e.f. 25/1/43 and arrived by air 21/2/43.</p> <p><u>Flying Officer M.M.GALEA:</u> Posted to No.4(C)O.T.U. w.e.f. 10/3/43.</p> <p><u>Flying Officer S.W.LOVETT:</u> " " " " 8/10/42.</p> <p><u>Squadron Leader(A/W/Cdr.) V.H.FURLONG:</u> Posted to R.A.F. Station, BATHURST w.e.f. 24/3/43(to Command).</p> <p><u>Squadron Leader(A/W/Cdr.) P.R.HATFIELD:</u> Posted from 204 Squadron, w.e.f. 24/3/43(to Command).</p> <p><b>PERSONNEL of 95 SQUADRON.</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">ESTABLISHMENT.</th> <th colspan="2">ACTUAL STRENGTH.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>8th.March/43.</th> <th>31st.March/43.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OFFICERS</td> <td>37</td> <td>33</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WARRANT OFFICERS</td> <td>2</td> <td>n11</td> <td>n11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SENIOR NOOs</td> <td>82</td> <td>70</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER RANKS</td> <td>187</td> <td>161</td> <td>171</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Totals.</b></td> <td><b>308</b></td> <td><b>264</b></td> <td><b>285</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>12.5.43</p> <p><i>V.H. Furlong. SL.</i></p>		ESTABLISHMENT.	ACTUAL STRENGTH.		8th.March/43.	31st.March/43.	OFFICERS	37	33	33	WARRANT OFFICERS	2	n11	n11	SENIOR NOOs	82	70	81	OTHER RANKS	187	161	171	<b>Totals.</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>285</b>	
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
JUL	4.3.43.	Up. 0847 Down 1326	SUNDERLAND E.J.144 "A" Alp. North from Bathurst.	106
"	6.3.43.	Up. 0318 Down 1446	" E.J.144 "A" Anti Blockade runner Patrol.	107
"	12.3.43.	Up. 0720 Down 1455	" W.6063 "N" Alp. North from Bathurst	110
"	13.3.43.	Up. 0650 Down 1833	" W.6063 "N" Anti Blockade Runner patrol.	111

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