

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.L.
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

No. of pages used for month 6

Place	Date 1944	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
BATHURST	April 2nd	1105	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland M/95 met convoy O.S.71 (18 MV's and 4 EV's) at 1105. At 1450 the S/E became u/s. The convoy was left at 2005 and aircraft waterborne at base at 2105.	Narrative	
	3rd	0425	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland J/95 met convoy O.S.71 consisting of 12 MV's and 4 EV's at 0545. The aircraft left the convoy at 1615 and arrived at base at 1630.	*	
		1235	<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland D/95 took off to act as escort to convoy S.L.154. The convoy, consisting of 20 MV's and 4 EV's, was met at 1400. At 1620 engine trouble developed and the aircraft left the convoy, being waterborne at base at 1745.	*	
	4th	1342	A/S PATROL. Sunderland J/95 commenced A/S patrol FILET No 2 at 1514 and completed at 2250 with nil results. At 1834 two MV's were met patrolling and at 1852 25 MV's with 5 EV's (Convoy S.L.154). Aircraft was waterborne at base at 0007/5th.	*	
		1346	A/S PATROL. Sunderland R/95 commenced ^{A/S} FILET No 1 at 1515 and completed at 2302 with nil result. At 1538 3 MV's on patrol were met and at 1852 26 MV's and 3 EV's (Convoy S.L.154). Aircraft waterborne at base at 0045/5th.	*	
	5th	1054	A/S PATROL. Sunderland D/95 on A/S patrol FILET No 4 met a Portuguese MV of 5000 tons at 1225. Patrol was completed at 2036 with nil result and aircraft was waterborne at base at 2250.	*	
		2210	A/S PATROL. Sunderland R/95 commenced Patrol FILET No 4 at 0052/6th and finished at 0123 with nil result. Aircraft was waterborne at Bathurst at 0730/6th.	*	
	6th	1608	A/S PATROL. Sunderland J/95 commenced Patrol FILET No 2 at 1749. Patrol was completed at 0225/7th. The aircraft was waterborne at base at 0544/7th.	*	
		1605	A/S PATROL. Sunderland D/95 commenced FILET No 3 at 1749. At 0005/7th one MV was met. D/95 was waterborne at Bathurst at 0430/7th.	*	
	7th	1237	A/S PATROL. Sunderland R/95 commenced G.I.A. Search No 1 at 1605. At 1925 one unknown MV was met. At 2315 one unknown MV fully illuminated was met. The patrol was completed at 2325 with nil result. R/95 was waterborne at base at 0050/8th.	*	
	9th	0115	A/S PATROL. Sunderland P/95 commenced G.I.A. Search No 2 at 0305 and completed at 1145 with nil result. Waterborne at Bathurst at 1600.	*	
	10th	0725	A/S P. Sunderland D/95 met H.S.L. with Sunderland X/204 in tow at 0825. At 0952 H.S.L. ceased towing and left X/204 setting course for Bathurst with crew of X/204 on board. Pinnace 1304.	07 07	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
BATHURST			was sighted at 1345 and was homed visually to S/201 which it took in tow at 1430. Pinnace 1344 was sighted at 1345 and was homed visually to ditched aircraft. D/95 left the pinnace with the aircraft in tow and at 1852 met M.F.s Nos: 1065 and 1066. Sunderland D/95 was waterborne at base at 1935.		
11th 1845			<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland R/95 en escort to Convoy S.L. 155 sighted a possible wake of U-boat. Narrative at 1645. The S/E was partially u/a and nothing was seen. At 1940 a "HOT-HOT" signal was sent to base. At 2111 a message was received that the convoy had been re-scouted and giving its position as at 2000. Convoy was met at 2222 and was left at 0030/12th. The aircraft was waterborne at Bathurst at 0216/12th.		
13th 1425			<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland R/95 en escort to Convoy S.L. 155 commenced patrol at 1540. At 2150 the aircraft sent V.J.R. 1. The aircraft landed on landing at 2240 hours.		*
14th 1305			<u>CONVOY ESCORT.</u> Sunderland D/95 en escort to Convoy S.L. 155 met a convoy consisting of 3 M.F.s and 3 M.F.s at 1401. Convoy S.L. 155 was met at 1424 comprising 22 M.F.s and 3 M.F.s. At 1609 the Portuguese MV 'Oshango' was sighted. At 1629 3 M.F.s were seen leaving the convoy. The aircraft set course for base at 2040 and was waterborne at Bathurst at 2220.		*
18th 0945			<u>A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUJ.</u> Sunderland J/95 commenced patrol at 0941. Nothing was sighted and aircraft was waterborne at Jui at 1310.		*
1255			<u>A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUJ.</u> Sunderland D/95 commenced patrol at 1319 and was waterborne at Jui at 1710 with nothing to report.		*
1545			<u>A/S SWEEP AND ARRIVAL FROM PORT ETIENNE.</u> Sunderland A/95 arrived from Port Etienne having swept track of O.S. en route. The aircraft made an intermediate stop at Daimer, being waterborne at 1545 and continuing its task at 1606.		*
1655			<u>A/S SWEEP AND ARRIVAL FROM PORT ETIENNE.</u> Sunderland I/95 arrived from Port Etienne having swept the track of O.S. en route.		*
19th 1145			<u>A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUJ.</u> Sunderland R/95 commenced patrol at 1210. Owing to weather conditions at Jui the aircraft was instructed to return to base and was waterborne at Bathurst at 1452.		*
20th 1145			<u>A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUJ.</u> Sunderland R/95 took off for Jui and was waterborne there at 1600 with nothing to report.		*

(210886-0505) WL 3252-5512 130W 11/12 T.S. 700

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See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.L.
para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and
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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 95 Squadron, R.A.F.

Page No. 3

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices

20th	1145	A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUL. Sunderland B/95 took off for Jul and was waterborne there at 1600 with nothing to report.
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(P10201-2202) Wk 3402-8322 120W 110E T.O. 700

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 25 Squadron, R.A.F.

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Month

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
BATHURST	20th	1147	A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUL. Sunderland A/95. At 1212 instrument trouble was experienced and course set for base. The trouble was rectified at 1238, patrol resumed at 1254, and aircraft was waterborne at Jul at 1625.	Narrative	*
	21st	0850	A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUL. Sunderland B/95 was on patrol from 0850 to 1410 and the aircraft was waterborne at Jul at 1646.	*	*
	22nd	1000	A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUL. Sunderland B/95 was on patrol from 1009 to 1315 and was waterborne at Jul at 1405.	*	*
Finch	0926		CONVOY 12300. Sunderland B/95 on the task of escort to Convoy S.I. 155 obtained an S.E. contact at 0527 and the aircraft commenced a patrol. At 0620 a fault developed in the S.E. equipment and it was not until 1036 that the convoy of 20 M.V's and 4 M.P's was met. The convoy was left at 1357 and B/95 was waterborne at 1550 hours.	*	*
	1145		A/S SWEEP AND MOVE TO JUL. Sunderland B/95 commenced patrol at 1212. Patrol finished at 1513 and aircraft was waterborne at Jul at 1646.	*	*
	26th	1637	MOLIVILLE. Sunderland B/95 landed from Jul after completing A/S Sweep.	*	*
			LOGEND OF OPERATIONS BY 25 SQUADRON DURING PERIOD AT JUL.		
	24th	0532	CONVOY 13000. Sunderland A/95 as escort to Convoy 9.5.73 at 1630 met a force of 1 M.V and 2 M.P's. At 0930, eight M.V's dispersed over an area of 15 miles in diameter were met. At 0946, 12 M.V's and 2 M.P's were seen with an escort of one Sunderland. Aircraft was waterborne at Jul at 1811.	*	*
	26th	0450	A/S SWEEP. Sunderland D/95 was on patrol from 0600 to 0845 and was waterborne at Jul at 1055.	*	*
	0525		A/S SWEEP. Sunderland B/95 was on patrol from 0626 to 0856 and was waterborne at Jul at 1200.	*	*
	1107		A/S SWEEP. Sunderland B/95 completed A/S Sweep and was waterborne at Bathurst at 1637.	*	*
	27th	1250	CONVOY 14000. Sunderland B/95 met convoy L.H. 17 at 1644. Convoy consisted of 10 M.V's, 2 M.P's and 4 M.V's dispersed. At 1513 one M.V was met on a zig-zagging course. Aircraft was off patrol at 2026 and was waterborne at 2205.	*	*

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events			<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices		
			<u>RECORD OF OPERATIONS BY 95 SQUADRON DETACHMENT AT PORT KENNEDY</u>						
PORT KENNEDY	6th	1526	Sunderland Z/95 was airborne to escort S.L. 15, and was waterborne at 0340/7.						
	7th	0215	Sunderland A/95 was airborne to escort the S.L. 15, task was completed. Aircraft was waterborne at 1455 hours.						
	9th	1450	Sunderland Z/95 was airborne to escort the O.S. 72, task was completed, aircraft was waterborne 0345 hours.						
		2216	Sunderland Z/95 was airborne to escort the R.S. 16, task was completed and aircraft was waterborne 0930 hours.						
		2305	Sunderland A/95 was airborne to escort the O.S. 72, task was completed and the aircraft was waterborne 0445 hours.						
		0935	Sunderland Z/95 was airborne to escort S.L. 155. Task completed and aircraft was waterborne at 1927 hours.						
		1555	Sunderland A/95 was airborne to locate and guard ESL 2642. Task was completed and aircraft was waterborne 0523/17.						
		0935	Sunderland A/95 was airborne to sweep the track of the O.S. Aircraft was waterborne at Dales at 1345 and was again airborne at 1406 hours and waterborne at Bathurst at 1545 hours.						
		1215	Sunderland Z/95 was airborne to sweep the track of the O.S. Task was completed and the aircraft was waterborne at Bathurst at 1635 hours.						
			<u>WEATHER SUMMARY FOR BATHURST.</u>						
Weather was fair, apart from a thunderstorm in the early hours of April 9th.									
There was no low cloud apart from considerable patches of stratus at 1000 - 2000 feet between 0600 hours and 1800 hours on April 14th to 15th and 22nd - 26th.									
Visibility was mainly good and the prevailing surface wind was north-westerly.									
<u>DETACHMENT OF AIRCRAFT TO JUJ.</u> On the 17th April, 1944, instructions were received to detach six aircraft from the squadron to JuJ for operations from that base. The following aircraft were therefore flown to JuJ on the dates stated and carried sufficient personnel(maintenance) to complete minor inspections:									
18.4.44 - Sunderland Z/95 and D/95.									
20.4.44 - " E/95 " A/95									
21.4.44 - " F/95									
22.4.44 - " G/95									

(Prod 55-970) Wt. 3d 8oz - 1926 1200 T.A. 700

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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month

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
BATHURST			COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHTS		

21st April - 2/95
22nd April - 5/95

(710854-2205) WL 34502-4372 130W 22142 T.S. 700

OBSERVATION RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

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month

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of (Unit or Formation) No 25 Squadron.

Place Date Time Summary of Events
SECRET.
References to Appendices

BATHURST

- 1st 1126 Sunderland B/95 left for Daker, arriving at Del. Aix at 1220. Return journey was commenced at 1604 and aircraft waterborne at Bathurst at 1722.
- 12th 1150 Sunderland B/95 left for Daker, arriving at 1535. Airborne on return journey at 1625 and and waterborne at Bathurst at 1726. Group Captain Healy (Officer Commanding 295 Wing) was a passenger on the return journey.
- 27th 1206 Sunderland B/95 left for Jui, arriving there at 1546.
- 29th 1120 Sunderland B/95 left Jui for Bathurst on its return journey and was waterborne at base at 1515.

CRASH OF SUNDERLAND B/95 (139773)

On coming in to land at 2220 hours on the 15th April 1946, the above aircraft, captained by Flying Officer G.Scott-Forenst, crashed.

The following casualties were sustained:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| R/O R.J.Dobbenham (139711) | } Blazing Bomber Killed. |
| R/S R.S.D.Hattonall (G41625) | |
| Sgt. H.Gilliver (1570524) | Died from injuries 16th Apr. |
| R/O G.S.Potter (130346) | } Injured and admitted 29th General Hospital Bathurst. |
| R/O A.H.Bachman (191255) | |
| R/O J.P.Grundy (1061802) | } Minor cuts and bruises only. |
| R/S J.H.Burridge (555501) | |
| Sgt. W.H.Todd (1500517) | } Minor cuts and bruises only. |
| Sgt. J.Kenney (4714859) | |
| Sgt. H.Rodger (1570471) | |

Convened

A Court of Inquiry is to be convened at Bathurst to investigate the accident.

ARRIVAL OF RELIEF FOR COMMANDING OFFICER

Wing Commander D.Mitchell (35008) arrived at the unit on the 29th April 1946 from the United Kingdom as the relief for Wing Commander P.R.Watfield who will be proceeding to Home Establishment on conclusion of tour.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices																				
<u>PERSONNEL & APPOINTMENTS</u>																										
W/O T.O. Davis (J.10518) Appointed to the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 1.4.44																										
<u>MEDICAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL</u>																										
Only two matters affected what is considered a very good standard of health in the Squadron. Firstly the crash of Sunderland Z/95 on 13.4.44 involved the death due to multiple injuries of a sergeant in Station Sick Quarters and the hospitalisation of three members of the crew with injuries which, though serious, are not likely to cause permanent incapacity. Secondly a relatively high incidence of malaria shared by the Squadron ground staff personnel billeted at Half Day occurring for a few days but which has now ceased. The cause for this latter outbreak was not discovered.																										
<u>ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONS</u>																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Half Day</th> <th>Sorties</th> <th>A/B Patrol</th> <th>Losses</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sorties</td> <td>8</td> <td>16</td> <td>-</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flying hours</td> <td>81.62</td> <td>126.07</td> <td>-</td> <td>207.69</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Half Day	Sorties	A/B Patrol	Losses	Total	Sorties	8	16	-	24	Flying hours	81.62	126.07	-	207.69					
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<u>Part Flights, Period 1</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sorties</th> <th>7</th> <th>-</th> <th>9</th> <th>Average additional a/c available for training - 1.80.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Flying hours</td> <td>15.26</td> <td>10.35</td> <td>-</td> <td>25.61</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Sorties	7	-	9	Average additional a/c available for training - 1.80.	Flying hours	15.26	10.35	-	25.61										
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<u>Grand total of flying hours</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Operations</th> <th>54.54</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Training</th> <th>55.55</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Commodations</th> <th>11.57</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Total</th> <th>220.62</th> </tr> </thead> </table>							Operations	54.54	Training	55.55	Commodations	11.57	Total	220.62												
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<u>SQUADRON PERSONNEL AS AT 30TH APRIL, 1944</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Establishment</th> <th>Posted strength</th> <th>Aircraft strength</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>34</td> <td>32</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warrant Officers</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior R.C.O's</td> <td>78</td> <td>92</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other ranks</td> <td>155</td> <td>146</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">(Bishell)</p>								Establishment	Posted strength	Aircraft strength	Officers	34	32	10	Warrant Officers	-	4		Senior R.C.O's	78	92		Other ranks	155	146	
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Form 541 Appendix 1
Form 765A " 11
Narrative " 111Wing Commander, Commanding,
No 95 Squadron, R.A.F.

FORM 541

Appendix 1 to Form 540

95 Squadron

April 44

2nd JM 670		P/O J.R. Webster	Escort	1105	2105	Escort to Convoy O.S.71 - 2nd		
P/O L.K.J. Sidney								
W/O D. ...								
W/O D. ...								