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R.A.F. Form 540

**OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK**

Page No. 1

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.

of (Unit or Formation) 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market.	1942.			
	1st Oct.		<p><b>WEATHER.</b> Fair.</p> <p><b>VISIBILITY.</b> 6 miles.</p> <p><b>F. L.</b> 6,000 feet.</p> <p><b>TRAINING.</b> 3 aircraft engaged in fighter affiliation for a period of 3 hours and the usual pre-operational air tests were carried out.</p> <p><b>OPERATIONS.</b> 9 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were:-</p> <p>B. F/Sgt. Pettit. J. P/O. Corser. L. Sgt. Hill.</p> <p>H. F/Lt. Du Toit. P. Sgt. Gough. Q. Sgt. Griffiths.</p> <p>R. P/O. Studd. S. F/Sgt. Thomson. U. S/Ldr. Samson.</p> <p><b>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY.</b> The target was Hearnwyk near Lubeck. Weather was poor at the start of the attack improving later and the last crew to attack reported seeing the estuary of the Trave and the bay to the South of the submarine yards. 4 aircraft claimed to have bombed the target, 1 returned early and 2 'H' F/Lt. Du Toit &amp; 'Q' Sgt. Griffiths were missing. 47160 lbs. of bombs were dropped during this operation.</p>	A.231
	2nd Oct.		<p><b>WEATHER.</b> Fine.</p> <p><b>VISIBILITY</b> Foggy, becoming 6 miles.</p> <p><b>F. L.</b> 6,000 feet.</p> <p><b>TRAINING.</b> The usual pre-operational training was carried out today.</p> <p><b>OPERATIONS.</b> 5 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were:-</p> <p>E. F/Sgt. Pettit. J. P/O. Corser. P. Sgt. Gough.</p> <p>S. Sgt. Jerrones. U. P/O. Studd.</p> <p><b>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY.</b> The target was Krefeld which 4 crews attacked, 1 returned early.</p>	A.232.

181

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**AIR 27/1350**

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Reference:-

1	2	3	4	5	6
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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

AIR 27/1350

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1			2		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market,	1942,			
	2nd, Oct.		There was considerable ground haze over the target area and visual identification was impossible. Navigational aid failed and P.F.F. flares and fire blobs were bombed. Many small fires and three or four large ones were observed. The attack was considered rather scattered. 25,360 lbs. of bombs were dropped during this operation.	
	3rd, Oct.		WEATHER. Fair. VISIBILITY. 8 miles. F. L. 12,000' TRAINING. 1 aircraft flew for 1 hour today. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	
	4th, Oct.		WEATHER. Fine. VISIBILITY. 500 yards becoming 2 miles. F. L. 11,000 feet. TRAINING. 2 aircraft engaged in fighter affiliation for 2 hours. 5 air tested for 3-4 hrs. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	
	5th, Oct.		WEATHER. Cloudy-rain. VISIBILITY. Foggy becoming 6 miles. F. L. 10,000 feet. TRAINING. The usual pre-operational training took place today OPERATIONS. 8 Crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were:- E. F/S. Wood. K. F/S. Pettit. S. Sgt. Jerromes. F. Sgt. Hall. E. Sgt. Cough. U. P/O. Studd. J. P/O. Corser. R. P/O. Mickenson.	A 223
			OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. Aachen was the target which 5 crews attacked. Electrical storms were experienced over England clearing in the Channel and in the target area where there was slight ground haze. The target was not definitely identified although several fires were seen in the North East Industrial area. One large Gas Holder was thought to have exploded. 2 Aircraft returned early having jettisoned and 1 aircraft, "F" Sgt Hall crashed at Mildenhall after take-off.	

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 2.

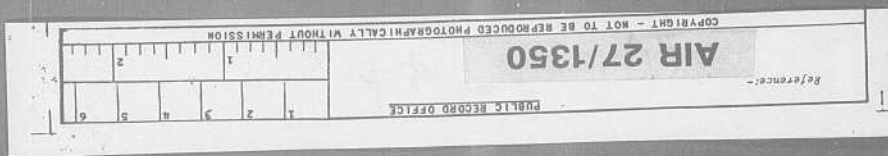
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) No. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market	5th Oct.		all the crew being killed. 53880 lbs of bombs were dropped during this operation.	
"	6th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Fair.</p> <p>VISIBILITY. 4 miles.</p> <p>F. L. 10000 feet.</p> <p>TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today.</p> <p>OPERATIONS. 6 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-</p> <p>"J" P/O. Corsar. "R" Sgt Hill.</p> <p>"K" P/S. Pettit. "S" Sgt. Terrance.</p> <p>"P" Sgt. Cough. "U" P/O. Studd.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. Osnabruck was the target. 5 crews attacked, 1 jettisoned and returned early. The stratus at 4000 feet made pin-pointing difficult and whilst 2 crews identified the marshalling yards to the South East the others could only report having seen extensive built up areas. 2 particular big fires were observed in what appeared to be the <del>North</del> part of the Altstadt and the East part of the Altstadt. The P.F.F. did a good job and it was considered a successful operation. 41640 lbs of bombs were dropped during this operation.</p>	A. 234
	7th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Cloudy, rain later.</p> <p>VISIBILITY. 2 miles.</p> <p>F.L. 10000 feet.</p> <p>TRAINING. 2 aircraft were engaged on local night flying for 1 hour. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.</p>	
	8th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Wet.</p> <p>VISIBILITY. 4 miles.</p> <p>F.L. 9000 feet.</p>	

182



Reference:-

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

AIR 27/1350

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1	2	3	4	5	6

Page No.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market.	8th Oct.		<p>TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today.</p> <p>OPERATIONS. 5 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-            "A" F/S. Rothschild, "J" F/Lt. Spear, "S" Sgt Hill,            "B" Sgt Higgett, "P" Sgt Richards.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. The effort was Gardening. 4 Planters sowed their seeds in the allotted positions. 1 - F/S. Rothschild returned early, having jettisoned. 40500 lbs of seeds were sown during this operation.</p>	A.235.
	9th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Fair. Rain later.</p> <p>VISIBILITY. 6 miles.</p> <p>F.L. 3000 - 8000 feet.</p> <p>TRAINING. 2 aircraft flew on air tests and circuits and landings, 2 hours. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.</p>	
	10th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Cloudy.</p> <p>VISIBILITY. 12 miles.</p> <p>F.L. 8000 feet.</p> <p>TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today.</p> <p>OPERATIONS. 3 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-            "B" F/O. Corser, "U" S/Ldr Samson, "S" Sgt Jerromas.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. The effort was again Gardening. All Planters successfully carried out their duty. 18000 lbs of seeds were sown in this operation.</p>	A.236
	11th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Fine.</p> <p>VISIBILITY. 12 miles.</p> <p>F.L. 6000 feet.</p> <p>TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today. 3 aircraft were on "Bullseye" exercise at night.</p> <p>OPERATIONS. 7 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-</p>	A.237.

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R.A.F. Form 540

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

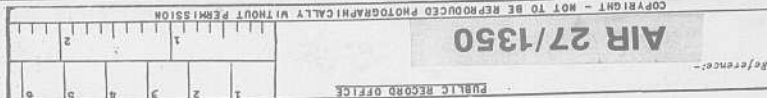
Page No. 3

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) No. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market.	11th Oct.		<p>"A" F/S. Rothschild. "K" F/S. Pettit. "J" Sgt. Richards.            "B" F/O. Corser. "P" Sgt. Gough.            "E" Sgt. Hill. "S" " Terroned.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. Gardening was again the effort. 1 Planter F/S. Rothschild returned early owing to engine trouble, and nothing was heard from aircraft "E" Sgt Hill, after take-off. The remaining gardeners successfully carried out their mission. 31500 lbs of seeds were used in this operation.</p>	
	12th Oct.		<p>WEATHER Fair.            VISIBILITY 6 miles.            F.L. 9000 feet.            TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today.            OPERATIONS. 4 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-            "A" F/S. Higgott. "J" S/ldr. Samson.            "B" F/S. Pettit.            "S" F/S. Thomson.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. And again a Gardening trip. 3 crews planted successfully in their allotted positions. F/S. Thomson returned early having jettisoned. 24000 lbs of seeds were used in this operation.</p>	A. 238.
	13th Oct.		<p>WEATHER Fair.            VISIBILITY 4 miles.            F.L. 6000 feet.            TRAINING. The usual pre-operational training took place today. 3 aircraft on local night flying for 4 hours.            OPERATIONS. 7 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-</p>	A. 239



Reference:-

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

AIR 27/1350

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Page No. 00

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market.	13th Oct.		<p>"B" F/S. Rothschild, "D" Sgt. Richards,            "G" F/S. Higgott, "H" F/S. Thomson,            "P" Sgt. Gough, "U" S/Ldr. Samson.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. 1 Aircraft "S" Sgt Jerromes was cancelled prior to take-off and aircraft "B" F/S. Rothschild returned early. 5 crews attacked the target which was Kiel, and all reported the smoke screen in operation partially obscuring the target. The whole town was well illuminated by flares, large built up area being visible as well as the fiord itself. The main fires were seen in the region of the Deutsch Werke, The Naval arsenal and the dockyard. 1 aircraft was attacked three times by a fighter 5 minutes after breaking off, these engagements he was coned for 5 minutes but pressed home his attack on the target successfully. 39940 lbs of bombs were dropped during this operation.</p>	
	14th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Cloudy.            VISIBILITY. 6 miles.            F.L. 6000 - 10000 feet.            TRAINING. 5 aircraft flew for 5 hours today, air test, air to sea firing, and local circuits and landings. No operations took place, and nothing of importance to relate.</p>	
	15th Oct.		<p>WEATHER. Fair.            VISIBILITY. 12 miles.            F.L. 12000 feet decreasing to 7000 feet.            TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today.            OPERATIONS. 8 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-</p>	A.240.
			<p>"A" F/S. Rothschild, "C" F/O. Bickenson, "O" Sgt. Richards,            "B" F/S. Higgott, "H" F/S. Thomson, "E" Sgt. Gough,            "K" Sgt. Jerromes, "U" S/Ldr. Samson.</p>	
			<p>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. Cologne was the target which 6 crews attacked. 2 aircraft having returned early. A somewhat dispersed pathfinder effort with low sdudding cloud over the target combined to make the raid rather scattered. Some crews claim to have seen and bombed built up areas in the</p>	

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R.A.F. Form 540

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 4

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron,

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market,	15th Oct.		city, others report 8-10/10 cloud, flak and searchlight defence was moderate. 5500 lbs of bombs were dropped during this operation.	
	16th Oct.		WEATHER. Cloudy. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 8000 feet. TRAINING. 4 aircraft for 5 hours on air tests etc, and 1 aircraft on night cross country, duration 3 hours. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	
	17th Oct.		WEATHER. Cloudy, Slight Rain. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 9000 feet. TRAINING. The usual pre-operational training took place today. 1 aircraft on night flying practice for 1 hour. OPERATIONS. 7 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :- "S" F/S, Rothschild, "J" F/S, Wood, "U" F/O, Studd, "C" F/O, Hickenson, "L" F/S, Thomson, "K" F/S, Higgott, "O" Sgt, Richards. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. The effort was gardening and in good weather the Planters carried out their duties successfully except aircraft "H" F/S, Thomson who jettisoned his vegetables safe and returned early. 31500 lbs of seeds were planted during this operation effort.	A.2.1.
	18th Oct.		WEATHER. Cloudy. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 10000 feet. TRAINING. 8 air tests etc, carried out, duration 8 hours. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	

181

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AIR 27/1350

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Reference: 1

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:-

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

AIR 27/1350

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1	2	3	4	5	6
1			2		

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market.	19th Oct.		WEATHER. Cloudy.	
			VISIBILITY. 11 miles.	
			F.L. 11,000 feet.	
		TRAINING. Very little flying. 2 aircraft flew for 1 hour. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.		
	20th Oct.		WEATHER. Fair, but rain later.	
			VISIBILITY. 4 miles.	
			F.L. 10,000 feet.	
		TRAINING. 3 aircraft on fighter affiliation 3 hours, 1 aircraft cross country, 3 hours, 7 aircraft air tested, 6 hours. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.		
	21st Oct.		WEATHER. Cloudy.	
			VISIBILITY. 6 miles.	
			F.L. 5,000 feet.	
			TRAINING. The usual pre-operational training took place today.	
		OPERATIONS. 2 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-	A.242.	
		"M" P/O. Marshall. "P" Sgt. Smith.		
		OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. This was also a Gardening effort and in excellent weather both Planters pinpointed their gardens and dropped their seeds in allotted positions. 18,000 lbs of seeds were planted during this operation.		
	22nd Oct.		WEATHER. Rain, cloudy.	
			VISIBILITY. 6 miles.	
			F.L. 10,000 feet.	
			TRAINING. 11 aircraft on air tests etc. 13 hours. 2 aircraft on night and cross country, 4 hours. 2 aircraft on circuits and landings 2 hours. No operations took place, and nothing of importance to relate.	
	23rd Oct.		WEATHER. Drizzle, then cloudy.	

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 5.

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No. of pages used for day.

of (Unit or Formation) No.218(Gold Coast)Squadron,

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market,	23rd Oct.		VISIBILITY. 4 miles.	
			F.L. 10,000 feet.	
			TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today.	
			OPERATIONS. 9 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight, they were :-	A.243.
			"B" F/S. Higgott. "J" F/Lt. Hickling. "S" Sgt. Jerromes.	
			"C" F/O. Bickenson. "M" F/S. Wood. "T" F/S. Thomson.	
			"J" W/Cmdr. Morris. "O" Sgt. Richards. "U" F/O. STUDD.	
			OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. The target was Genoa, Italy. 4 aircraft returned early after jettisoning Aircraft "U" F/O. Studd is missing. 4 Aircraft attacked in good visibility, although there was 5/10 - 8/10th cloud, crews identified visually. The attack appears to have been concentrated and large fires were reported in the built up area of the town to the East of the Porto and 1 very large fire in the dock area to the South West of the Porto. Large explosions were seen near the electricity works. 42600 lbs of bombs were dropped during this operation.	
	24th Oct.		WEATHER. Rain, then fair.	
			VISIBILITY. 12 miles.	
			F.L. 7,000 feet.	
			TRAINING. The usual pre-operational training took place today.	
			OPERATIONS. 7 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :-	A.244.
			"B" Sgt. Richards. "N" Sgt. Jerromes. "M" F/S. Wood.	
			"K" F/S. Pettit. "T" F/S. Thomson.	
			"L" F/S. Higgott. "X" F/O. HILES.	
			OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. Aircraft "M" F/S. Wood was cancelled prior to take-off. The target was Milan. 3 aircraft returned early, and 1 aircraft "J" F/S. Higgott crashed after take-off near Manningtree, Suffolk, all the crew except the rear gunner being killed. 2 aircraft attacked	

1005

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Reference:-

6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2
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Reference:-

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AIR 27/1350

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Page No. ....

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market.	24th Oct.		the target in 10/10 cloud, 1 crew identified through breaks in the cloud. A number of good fires were reported burning on arrival some bursts of H/E bombs were seen, 29280 lbs of bombs were dropped during this operation.	
	25th Oct.		WEATHER. Fair. VISIBILITY. 12 miles. F.L. 4,000 feet. TRAINING. 2 aircraft engaged in night and cross country, duration 5 hours. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	
	26th Oct.		WEATHER. Fair, wet. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 4,000 feet. TRAINING. The usual pre-operational air tests took place today. OPERATIONS. 7 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :- "A" F/S. Wood. "M" S/Ldr. Hickling. "B" Sgt. Jerromes. "P" Sgt. Gough. "C" F/O. Hiles. "N" Sgt. Smith. "J" F/S. Pettit.	A, 245.
	27th Oct.		OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. Another Gardening mission. Weather was good at first deteriorating to squally rain and light sea fog. 42,000 lbs of seeds were successfully planted in their allotted positions. WEATHER. Fine. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 4,000 feet. TRAINING. 2 aircraft on air tests, 4 hours, and 1 aircraft on local Photography at night. 3 hours. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	
	28th Oct.		WEATHER. Fair, then wet. VISIBILITY. 2 miles.	

SECRET

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R.A.F. Form 540

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 6.

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) No. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Downham Market.	28th Oct.		F.L. 5,000 feet. TRAINING. 1 aircraft on Blind Approach, 1 hour, and 3 aircraft engaged on "Bullseye" exercises at night for 15 hours. No operations took place, and nothing of importance to relate.	
	29th Oct.		WEATHER. Wet, cloudy. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 6,000 feet. TRAINING. No flying took place today. A complete stand-down was the order. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	
	30th Oct.		WEATHER. Cloudy. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 5,000 feet. TRAINING. 10 aircraft on air test and testing guns for 8 hours. No operations took place and nothing of importance to relate.	
	31st Oct.		WEATHER. Drizzle and cloudy. VISIBILITY. 6 miles. F.L. 5,000 feet. TRAINING. 8 aircraft flew 6 hours on air tests etc. OPERATIONS. 2 crews were detailed and briefed for operations tonight. They were :- "B" F/S. Coxons. "T" F/O Marshall. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY. The effort was Gardening and both planters successfully carried out their duties. 12,000 lbs of seeds were planted in this operation.	A. 246.

*M. J. Lanson 1/2 hr W/cols.*  
*O.C. 218 (Gold Coast) Squadron.* 1006

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AIR 27/1350						Reference					
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