

No.40 Squadron, RAF Wyton, 1940/41



PB & Alec Greer



Williams, Alec Gill & PB
Blenheim crew



Wellington R1166
Crashed on landing at Alconbury
after raid on Berlin 23/24 March 1941

YEAR 1941		AIRCRAFT		PILOT, OR 1ST PILOT	2ND PILOT, PUPIL OR PASSENGER	DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS)
MONTH	DATE	Type	No.			
-	-	-	-	-	-	TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD
MARCH	3	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	CREW SGT YOULTON	N.F. TEST
	3	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	CREW	OPS - COLOGNE - GOOD TRIP. NIGHT CAMERA CARRIED.
	6	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	CREW	N.F. TEST.
	11	WELLINGTON	R1013	SELF	P/O HEATON, P/O AUSTIN P/O SPENCE, SGT DABBY SGT CALDWELL, PARNIS	TO HONINGTON TO SEE "SPRINGERS" AND W/C ARNOLD.
	13	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	CREW	TO WYTON
	13	WELLINGTON	R1166	SELF	SGT GAMBLE CREW	WYTON TO SILLOTH
	13	WELLINGTON	R1166	SELF	CREW	SILLOTH TO ALCONBURY
	14	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	-	TO ALCONBURY
	14	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	SGT YOULTON CREW	OPS - GELSENKIRCHEN.
	15	WELLINGTON	R1456	SELF	-	WYTON - ALCONBURY
	18	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	SGT YOULTON CREW	OPS - BREMEN. DIVERTED TO ABINGDON.
	18	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	SGT YOULTON CREW	ABINGDON - ALCONBURY
	19	WELLINGTON	T2514	SELF	SGT YOULTON CREW	OPS - COLOGNE. FINDER OPPOSITION. LARGE HOLE IN PORT WING
	20	WELLINGTON	R1461	SELF	-	WYTON TO ALCONBURY
	23	WELLINGTON	R1166	SELF	SGT YOULTON CREW	OPS - BERLIN. HYDRAULICS SHOT UP. CRASHED ON LANDING WITHOUT FLAPS.
	25	WELLINGTON	T2911	SELF	P/O GILL SGT WILLIAMS	LOCAL FLYING

PSL 2002

5/Lch.

a.c. A' 7CR.

Summary for March 1941

Unit No 440(B) Sqdn Aircraft

Date 26.3.41 Types

GRAND TOTAL [Ops. (1) to (10)]

Signature P. S. Lyeald P/O TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD

Hrs. 609 Mins. 25

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events.	Reference to Appendices
Alconbury.	19.5.41. (contd.)		<p>S/Ldr. Wood arrived from Bassingbourn, and, with a complete crew which included P/O. Duncan, reported for duty. S/Ldr. Wood assumed the comm and of 'A' Flight in succession to S/Ldr. Lynch-Blosse.</p> <p>Two Officers (P/O. Whyte and P/O. Trench) and 7 Sergeants arrived on posting from No.10 O.T.U., Abingdon, (Whiteley Crews) for training prior to operations, the tenth member of the crews having been involved in a motor accident en route from Abingdon and remaining sick at home.</p> <p>Seven crews were detailed for night operations against Cologne. These crews took off from 19.30 hours onwards and all returned safely to base, each aircraft having bombed in the target area.</p> <p>Local day flying took place but no operations were ordered.</p> <p>Nine crews were detailed to take part in major operations by day, being ordered to take off at approximately 12.00 hours. These orders were later cancelled but aircraft were tested and local flying took place.</p> <p>Major operations were ordered for to-night but later cancelled owing to weather conditions.</p>	Appendix 'A' p. 1 Appendix 'A' p. 2 Appendix 'A' p. 3 Appendix 'A' p. 4
Alconbury.	20.3.41.		Egt. Mulligan reported for duty on completion of Lorenz course in Canada and proceeded on seven days leave.	Appendix 'A' p. 5
Alconbury.	21.3.41.		Seven crews were detailed for night operations, the target being Berlin and two crews for a night cross country course. Take off for major operations was from 19.25 hours onwards, and all machines returned safely, one however landing at Feltwell. P/O. Blythe, however, on returning to Alconbury had an unfortunate accident. When preparing to land during darkness he found that the normal hydraulic system was not working, his hand pump was also ineffective. The aircraft had been hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire which was the cause of the damage. After a first unsuccessful attempt to land, he tried again but owing to his high speed he overran the flare path, hit a wooden hut and an office trailer adjoining and ended up against a large mound of earth. Three of the crew were injured but not seriously and were admitted to hospital.	Appendix 'A' p. 6 Appendix 'A' p. 7
Alconbury.	22.3.41.		Pilot Officers Sanders and Steel reported back for duty on completion of attachment with No.4 B.A.T.U. and Pilot Officer Baird and Sergeant Morris, his second Pilot left to attend the same course.	Appendix 'A' p. 8
Alconbury.	23.3.41.		Pilot Officer Winstons-Smith reported for duty after a period of 10 days sick leave on discharge from N.A.F. Officers' Hospital, Torquay. Pilot Officer Heriot, Security Officer for the Counties of Bedford and Huntingdon was attached to the Squadron for a short period of special duty.	Appendix 'A' p. 9
Alconbury.	24.3.41.		Seven non-operational sorties by day were made comprising five flying hours. Three aircraft were ordered to 'stand by' for day-light operations but none took place.	Appendix 'A' p. 10
Alconbury.	25.3.41.		Three aircraft were again ordered to 'stand by' from 09.00 hours to 16.30 hours for daylight operations. These were not ordered. Later, 2 aircraft were detailed for night operations and three others for night flying training, but this programme was cancelled owing to the weather. During the morning, all many members of the Squadron as could be spared from flying duties attended a lecture given at S.H.Q. Wyton on 'Escape'.	Appendix 'A' p. 11 Appendix 'A' p. 12

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

See instructions for use of this form in R.R. and A.O.I. forms 540, 541, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter IX, and in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

R.A.F. Form 540

No. of pages used for day.....

of (Unit or Formation).....

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Alconbury.	27.3.41.		<p>Owing to the fact that two of the three members of P/O. Billyeald's crew injured in the accident on the night of the 23rd./24th March, were more seriously hurt than was at first thought, and as a result the crew as a whole became ineffective, P/O. Billyeald and Sgt. Williams were posted to No.21 O.T.U., Moreton-in-the-March, and P/O. Gill to No.20 O.T.U. Lossiemouth, for instructional duties. This crew had completed 29 operational sorties against the enemy.</p> <p>P/O. Winstone-Smith, whose injury to his leg would have prevented him from operating Wellington aircraft, was, at his own request, posted to S.H.Q. at Matham for flying duties.</p> <p>P/O. Ross and crew were posted from 'B' to 'A' Flight and Sgt. Adey from 'A' to 'B' Flight.</p> <p>Seven aircraft were ordered to take part in major operations against the enemy, of these, six took off from 19.30 hours onwards, the seventh machine being cancelled owing to one of its crew falling sick. In addition, three aircraft took off for a bombing raid against a Channel Port, (Calais). All aircraft returned safely to base.</p> <p>Very little local flying was carried out, only two sorties by day being made, these occupying one flying hour.</p>	Appendix 'A' 20
Alconbury.	28.3.41.		<p>Sergeants Cross, Sawyer & Gibbons, all of them Wireless Operator/Air Gunners, members of 'B' Flight crews were posted to No.21 O.T.U. Moreton-in-the-March. No major operations were ordered to-day.</p>	Appendix 'A' 22.
Alconbury.	29.3.41.		<p>Night flying training took place, one crew completing a cross country course, and four pilots under training carrying out circuits and landings. In addition three crews took part in a night raid over Calais, all returning safely to base.</p>	Appendix 'A' 44
Alconbury.	30.3.41.		<p>No operations were ordered to-day, P/O. Bowler with P/O. Trench and a crew flew to Skilloth to collect a new Wellington Aircraft from No.28 M.U. in replacement of that crashed on the night of the 23rd. instant. P/O. Bowler returned safely, but P/O. Trench the pilot of the new aircraft, was involved in a taxiing accident just prior to taking off; the machine was damaged, but not seriously and P/O. Trench was unable to return. The Squadron was overjoyed to receive official news from the Geneva Red Cross that P/O. Lynch-Blosse and his complete crew, missing on the night of the 12th March, were safe and Prisoners of War in Germany. All were uninjured except the second Pilot, P/O. Heaton, who was stated to be in Hospital.</p>	Appendix 'A' 23.
Alconbury.	31.3.41.			

Aircraft Type and No.	Crew.	Duty.	Time Up.	Time Down.	Remarks.	References.
19/20 March. Wellington ic. T.2514.D.	(contd.) P/O. Billyeald. Sgt. Youldon. P/O. Gill. Sgt. Williams. Sgt. Varnsberry. Sgt. Crook.	Bombing Raid.	18.50	23.40	High level attack from 12,000' and 6 S.B.C.'s, 3 x 500 1 x 250 bombs were dropped as well as 1 x 4.5 P.B. Bombs were seen to explode amongst existing fires at the target which were burning with a fierce glow, which was observed 50 miles away.	
E.1030.X.	S/Ldr. Little. P/O. Payne. P/O. Carter. Sgt. Keenan. Sgt. Beresford. P/O. Patteson.	Bombing Raid.	18.55	00.20	1 x 1,000, 4 x 500, 1 x 250 bombs were dropped in the target area from 11,000'. These were seen to burst east of the river and in the target area.	
23/24 March R.1330.N.	S/Ldr. Little. P/O. Payne. P/O. Carter. Sgt. Keenan. Sgt. Beresford. P/O. Patteson.	Bombing Raid.	19.30	04.00	Raid on Berlin. Six S.B.C.'s and one 500 lb. bomb dropped from 12,000' on E.T.A. believed near MOABIT district. Incendiaries seen burning and a small fire later but visibility was very poor and observation difficult.	
T.2911.A.	P/O. Smith. Sgt. Gardner. Sgt. Bowers. Sgt. Ison. Sgt. Robbins. Sgt. Martin.	Bombing Raid.	19.41	04.13	Berlin bombed from 12,300'. Bombs were released as aircraft passed over North Railway Station. One stick of incendi- aries fell near to the station and fires were seen at each end of stick and two violent explosions were heard. Six S.B.C.'s and 1 x 500lb bombs were dropped.	
R.1007.H.	P/O. Ross. Sgt. Evans. Sgt. Bromley. Sgt. Shawyer. Sgt. Charlton. Sgt. Irvine.	Bombing Raid.	19.35	04.24	This aircraft dropped one 1,000 lb bomb and two at 500 lbs from 14,500' on Berlin. Two bombs were dropped heading west and are believed to have landed about 2 miles N.E. of aiming point. One burst seen and small fires were started. This aircraft landed at Feltwell.	
R.1167.N.	P/O. Baird. Sgt. Morris. P/O. Walls. Sgt. Lister. Sgt. Rowan. Sgt. Bird.	Bombing Raid.	19.30	04.25	Berlin bombed from 14,000' at approximate position of aiming point. Bursts were seen but other results not observed owing to cloud. One small fire was however seen on arrival. A.A. fire was intense and accurate. One bomb at 1,000 lbs. and 2 x 500 were released.	
R.1166.M.	P/O. Billyeald. Sgt. Youldon. P/O. Gill. Sgt. Williams. Sgt. Varnsberry. Sgt. Crook.	Bombing Raid.	19.40	03.30	Berlin Raid. On arrival over the target several fires were seen. Six S.B.C.'s and 1 x 500 lb bombs were dropped but results were unobserved owing to cloud. Fairly intense and accurate A/A fire encountered. This aircraft overshot on landing, the machine was badly damaged and three members of the crew hurt, but not seriously.	