

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 96

of (Unit or Formation) No. 420 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1st November		At present we are in the Atlantic returning to U.K. after our service in Northwest Africa. Had some excitement when destroyers started to drop depth charges, outside of that the voyage has been uneventful. The food has been very satisfactory. Although the boat is crowded everyone seems to be fairly comfortable. We complied to the ship's routine, chiefly attending boat drill and supplying of details. Each day was very similar until the 5th, when we sailed down the MERSSEY RIVER and dropped anchor.		
	6th November		We docked at 0930 hours. The RCAF Band gave us a hearty welcome, playing many popular tunes. Air Vice-Marshal BROOKES and several others came aboard to welcome home Group Captain BINEAP and his Wing. Embarkation started shortly after we docked but our Squadron did not start disembarking till 1215 hours. Since all personnel had to carry their wanted baggage off the boat it was a comedy to watch them struggling with their over-loaded kits. Our Wing Commander had the right idea -- he grabbed a porter's hand car. The R.T.O. handled our Squadron very well, having everyone placed on train at Riverside Station within three quarters of an hour. We departed for KIRKPATRICK at 1315 hours. On arrival at KIRKPATRICK at 1800 hours we were met by G. SPANGLING AND W/O REAGAN, Commanding Officer, RCAF Station DALTON, who transported us by bus to DALTON where we were fed and received quarters.		
	7th November		W/O. REAGAN complimented us on the behaviour of the men. Today was spent taking stock of our surroundings and taking over Squadron offices. Unwanted kits and squadron equipment started to arrive at Station. Discipline was very good considering the men had been deprived of such beer during their stay in N.W.A.		
	8th November		W/O. COFFEY from BOURBONNETH and S/L. FIDGON from A.F.H.Q. arrived today in connection with the 5th Victory Loan. The Squadron subscribed to the amount of 10,150.00 dollars. Many of the men thought of home and sent signals to Canada on their safe arrival back in U.K. Preparations are being made for re-kitting personnel to Home Establishment issues.		
	9th November		The Squadron accepted the offer of the LONDON, ONTARIO, AIRFORCE WIVES ASSOCIATION to adopt us. A cable of acceptance was sent to Mrs. A.L. FIDGON, 245 St. James Street, London, Ontario. P/O. MERRY, who was in charge of baggage at LIVERPOOL returned to the unit today. All baggage accounted for. Only one case casualty -- the Adjutant's bag fell into the water, but was retrieved. The Orderly Room equipment was the last to arrive. Machinery was set in motion today.		
	10th November		Arrangements being made today for Pay Accounts at Base to come to DALTON to pay the men. Also securing permission for the entire Squadron to go on leave at one time. Both were arranged. Late hours were spent sorting over an accumulation of hush, supplying nominal rolls and submitting returns.		
	11th to 16th November		During these days personnel were re-kitted from Tropical to Home Establishment issues. A sum amounting to approximately £30,000 was paid out to personnel prior to going on leave. Special railway coaches were requested and granted to convey 300 of our personnel to LONDON on leave. The Station stores were kept busy issuing boots and shoes, to replace others badly worn from service in N.W.A.		
	17th to 30th November		All personnel departed on leave today and returned 30th November. The Squadron offices were closed during that time and very important matters were attended to by the Station Adjutant. P/O. WINMAN, Code and Cypher Officer was posted to R.A.F. Station LONDON, w.s.f. 10.11.43.		

