

RAF Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in KR and ACJ, para 258, and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in RAF Order Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 424 (H.C. & P.) Squadron.

S. 22-1-424
DAS.

24873

Page No. 1

No. of pages used for day 2

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Topcliffe	1.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Air Vice Marshal G.D. Carr, C.B.E. D.F.C. A.F.C. Air Officer Commanding No. 4 Group, visited this Squadron.		1
			Flight Lieutenant G.J. Kyle, Medical Officer, reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 9.		
	2.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			Pilot Officer J.J. Bouillard reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 9.		
	3.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		
			Flight Lieutenant T.B. Bartlett and Flying Officer L.S. Gings reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 9.		
	4.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		
			Pilot Officer J.M. Patterson reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 9.		
	5.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			Pilot Officer P.J. Chittenden reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 9.		
	6.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			Aircraft on charge 9.		
	7.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			Aircraft on charge 9.		
	8.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			The first Squadron aircraft was airborne and was piloted by Wing Commander H.M. Carscaddon, passengers were Flight Lieutenants S.E. Allison and J.E. McKee. Aircraft on charge 9.		
	9.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
	10.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			Flight Lieutenants S.E. Allison and J. Dyer were appointed Acting Squadron Leader.		
			Acting Squadron Leader Allison assumed Command vice Wing Commander H.M. Carscaddon (absent on duty). Aircraft on charge 9.		
	11.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			Wing Commander H.M. Carscaddon assumed Command (on cessation of duty) vice Acting Squadron Leader S.E. Allison. Aircraft on charge 12.		
	12.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		
			Pilot Officer G.E. Mortimer reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 13.		1

(All more complete
being attached)



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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Topcliffe.	13.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge 13	1
	14.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Flight Lieutenant K.G. MacMillan proceeded on posting to No.102 Squadron. Flying Officer J.M.R. Glasrae appointed to the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant and assumed duties as Adjutant. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	15.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	16.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Acting Squadron Leader J. O'Sear admitted to Sick Quarters, Flight Lieutenant W.C. Klassen assumes command of "B" Flight vice Squadron Leader O'Sear. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	17.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	18.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	19.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	20.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	21.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1
	22.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. First Squadron Night Flying Testing trip. Two planes were involved. Aircraft on charge. 12.	1
	23.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Pilot Officer G.L. Mortimer proceeded on posting to 431 Squadron. Aircraft on charge. 12.	1
	24.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 12.	1
	25.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 12.	1
	26.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Serious Accident was averted by Squadron Leader W.E. Allison and only slight damage was sustained by the aircraft. Aircraft on charge. 12.	1
			Pilot Officer M.J. Spencer reported on posting with two crews. Aircraft on charge. 12.	1
	27.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Aircraft on charge. 12.	1
	28.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached. Squadron Leader W.E. Allison flew to Dalton in Wellington aircraft B.J.712 and owing to a technical fault had to leave the aircraft there. Aircraft on charge. 13.	1

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 424 (H.Q.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day 8

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Supplies.	29.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.	Aircraft on charge. 15	1
	30.11.42		Weather: As appendix attached.		1
			Air Vice Marshal P. Brooke C.B.M. visited this Squadron and was the guest of the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander, H.M. Gervanien who escorted him round the Station.		
			Aircraft on charge. 16.		
			REMARKS: Generally the health of the Squadron has continued to be very good. There is a moderate increase in upper respiratory infections.		
			(a) Aircrew. There has been one case of enteric fever, and one case of U.D.C. There have been no cases of flying stress.		
			(b) Ground Crew. There has been very little illness among this group and no cases of infectious disease.		
			Operational, Non-Operational and Training Flying Hours, November 1942:-		
			(a) Operational Flying hours. NIL		
			(b) Non-Operational Flying hours. Day: 16 hrs. 5 mins. Night: N.T.L.		
			(c) Training Flying hours. Day: 110 hrs. 55 mins. Night: 6 hrs. 20 mins.		
			REMARKS: STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 1st DECEMBER 1942.		
			OFFICERS	Aircraft	Ground
			H.Q.A.F.	16	3
			W.C.A.F. (H.Q.)	1	-
			H.A.F.	3	-
			TOTAL STRENGTH	20	3
				Aircraft	Ground
				63	79
				-	-
				25	171
				88	250

H. Gervanien W/C
Wing Commander, Commanding,
424 (H.Q.A.F.) Squadron,
RAF Station, TORQUAY.

APPENDIX I

MET REPORT.

- 1st Nov. 1942. Cloudy at first with rain during afternoon and evening, wind north westerly 5-10 m.p.h., visibility moderate.
- 2nd " Cloudy with rain, due mid-day and evening. Night North Westerly wind, visibility moderate to poor.
- 3rd " Cloudy with intermittent rain and poor visibility. Wind North Westerly 5-10 m.p.h.
- 4th " Mist at first becoming fog, with sky obscured after dawn. Wind light variable becoming South Easterly.
- 5th " Thick fog with rain later in afternoon and evening, Wind variable becoming North Westerly 10 m.p.h.
- 6th " Cloudy with poor visibility at first improving to moderate, wind North Westerly backing South Easterly at night.
- 7th " Cloudy with occasional thundery showers, moderate to good visibility, wind mainly Southerly 5-10 m.p.h.
- 8th " Partly cloudy with good visibility and light variable wind.
- 9th " Fair to cloudy with poor visibility and light South to South Easterly wind.
- 10th " Cloudy continuous rain after dusk, moderate to poor visibility, wind South Easterly 5-10 m.p.h.
- 11th " Cloudy, moderate to good visibility. Wind North Westerly becoming calm then South Easterly 5-10 m.p.h.
- 12th " Thick fog with rain and low cloud wind South Easterly becoming nor north westerly.
- 13th " Fair to cloudy visibility moderate to good. Wind North Westerly 5-10 becoming westerly light.
- 14th " Partly cloudy with moderate visibility fog commenced about dusk, wind light variable becoming calm.
- 15th " Fog at first become partly cloudy with moderate to good visibility wind light and variable becoming North Westerly 5-10 m.p.h.

16th Nov. 1942	Fine early with slight mist becoming cloudy in the afternoon, with good visibility. Winds light North Westerly becoming 10-15 m.p.h.
17th "	Cloudy with mainly good visibility. Light North Westerly winds.
18th "	Fair to cloudy. Light winds or calm. Visibility moderate deteriorating to fog in early evening.
19th "	Fog early lifting for a short period during the day but falling again soon after dusk. Light and variable winds.
20th "	Fog early becoming cloudy with moderate visibility. Winds calm or variable becoming light Westerly.
21st "	Cloudy with good visibility. Wind becoming North Westerly 10-15 m.p.h.
22nd "	Cloudy with good visibility. Wind North Westerly 5-10 m.p.h.
23rd "	Cloudy with good visibility; wind light Northerly or variable.
24th "	Cloudy with good visibility early, becoming poor in the evening. Winds light Westerly.
25th "	Cloudy with poor visibility. Winds light North West to North.
26th "	Cloudy with poor visibility. Winds North West light.
27th "	Cloudy with poor visibility. Winds North West light.
28th "	Cloudy with poor visibility. Wind light North West becoming South West.
29th "	Cloudy with moderate visibility. Wind light Westerly.
30th "	Cloudy with moderate visibility, deteriorating in evening. Wind North Westerly light becoming South Easterly light in evening.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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DHS

Page No. 1

NOVEMBER 1942. of (Unit or Formation) 424 (B.G.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events																														
Regeliffe	1.11.42		<p align="center">NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 1st NOVEMBER 1942.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>(Officers)</th><th>Aircrew</th><th>Ground</th><th>(Airmen)</th><th>Aircrew</th><th>Ground</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.O.A.F.</td><td>12</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>46</td><td>56</td></tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td></td><td>12</td><td>164</td></tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. (CAN)</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td></td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total strength</td><td>14</td><td>2</td><td></td><td>58</td><td>220</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Weather: Cloudy at first with rain during afternoon and evening, wind north westerly 5-10 mph. Visibility moderate. Air Vice Marshal G.S. Carr, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C. Air Officer Commanding No. 4 Group, visited this Squadron. Flight Lieutenant G.A. Eyles, Medical Officer, reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 9.</p>	(Officers)	Aircrew	Ground	(Airmen)	Aircrew	Ground	R.O.A.F.	12	1		46	56	R.A.F.	1	1		12	164	R.A.F. (CAN)	1	-		-	-	Total strength	14	2		58	220
(Officers)	Aircrew	Ground	(Airmen)	Aircrew	Ground																												
R.O.A.F.	12	1		46	56																												
R.A.F.	1	1		12	164																												
R.A.F. (CAN)	1	-		-	-																												
Total strength	14	2		58	220																												
	2.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with rain, due mid-day and evening. Night North Westerly wind, visibility moderate to poor. Pilot Officer J.J. SQUILLAND reported on posting. A/C on charge 9.																														
	3.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with intermittent rain and poor visibility. Wind North Westerly 5-10 mph. Flight Lieutenant T.S. BARKLEY and Flying Officer L.R. GINGRAS reported on posting. A/C on charge 9.																														
	4.11.42		WEATHER: MIST AT FIRST BECOMING FOG, WITH SKY OBSCURED AFTER DAWN. Wind light variable becoming South Easterly. Pilot Officer J.M. PATTERSON reported on posting. A/C on charge 9.																														
	5.11.42		Weather: Thick fog with rain later in afternoon and evening, wind variable becoming North Westerly 10 m.p.h. Pilot Officer R.S. GILBERTSON reported on posting. A/C on charge 9.																														
	6.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility at first improving to moderate, wind North Westerly becoming South Easterly at night. Aircraft on charge 9.																														
	7.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with occasional thunder showers, moderate to good visibility, wind mainly southerly 5-10 m.p.h. Aircraft on charge 9.																														
	8.11.42		Weather: Partly cloudy with good visibility and light variable wind. The first Squadron aircraft was airborne and piloted by Wing Commander R.M. GREGGALLAN, passengers were Flight Lieutenants W.B. ALLISON and J.S. MOORE. Aircraft on charge 9.																														
	9.11.42		Weather: Fair to cloudy with poor visibility and light South to South Easterly wind. A/C on charge 9.																														
	10.11.42		Weather: Cloudy-continuous rain after dusk, moderate to poor visibility, wind South Westerly 5-10 m.p.h. Flight Lieutenants W.B. ALLISON and J. COMAR were appointed Acting Squadron Leaders. Acting Squadron Leader ALLISON assumed Command vice Wing Commander R.M. GREGGALLAN (absent on duty). Aircraft on charge 9.																														
	11.11.42		Weather: Cloudy, moderate to good visibility. Wind North Westerly becoming calm then South Westerly 5-10 m.p.h. 3 Wellington III Bombers arrived to-day. Wing Commander R.M. GREGGALLAN assumed Command (on cessation of duty) vice Acting Squadron Leader W.B. ALLISON. A/C on charge 12.																														
	12.11.42		Weather: Thick fog with rain and low cloud, wind South Westerly becoming New North Westerly. One Aircraft Wellington III, arrived. Pilot Officer G.R. MORTIMER reported on posting. Aircraft on charge 13.																														
	13.11.42		Weather: Fair to cloudy visibility moderate to good. Wind North Westerly 5-10 becoming southerly light. Aircraft on charge 13.																														
	14.11.42		Weather: Partly cloudy with moderate visibility fog commenced about dusk, wind light variable becoming calm. 73885 Flight Lieutenant, E.G. MACILLAN R.A.F.V.R. proceeded on posting to No. 102 Squadron, FOCKLERDON. CANO-1300 Flying Officer L.R. GINGRAS assumes duties as Squadron Adjutant. All aircrew personnel attended a lecture given by an American Army Corps Officer, concerning his flight across the Atlantic. Aircraft on charge 13.																														
	15.11.42		Weather: Fog at first became partly cloudy with moderate to good visibility wind light variable becoming North Westerly 5-10 m.p.h. Squadron Leader W.B. ALLISON flew to LIMERICK and brought back seventy parachutes for the Squadron. An officers meeting was held in the Commanding Officer's office to-day and discussions were held concerning the best ways and means to hasten the serviceability of aircraft, equipment etc. Aircraft on charge 13.																														

No. of pages used for day

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Topcliffe.	16.11.42		Weather: Fine early with slight mist becoming cloudy in the afternoon with good visibility. Winds light North westerly becoming 10-15 m.p.h. Squadron Leader J. OOMAR R.A.F. admitted to Sick Quarters. Flight Lieutenant W. O. KLASSEN R.C.A.F. assumes command of "B" Flight vice Squadron Leader J. OOMAR.		
	17.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with mainly good visibility. Light North westerly winds. Three aircraft were airborne to-day. The pilots reported that these aircraft needed several re-adjustments.		
	18.11.42		Weather: Fair to cloudy. Light winds or calm. Visibility moderate deteriorating to fog in early evening. A meeting was held in the Commanding Officer's office in view of obtaining funds and to organise a Squadron hockey team. CAN. 57228 Flight Lieutenant R. G. MORTIMER D.F.C. was appointed president of a committee which will control the Squadron team.		
	19.11.42		Weather: Fog early lifting for a short period during the day but falling again soon after dusk. Light and variable winds.		
	20.11.42		Weather: Breezily becoming cloudy with moderate visibility. Winds calm or variable becoming light westerly.		
	21.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with good visibility. Wind becoming North westerly 10-15 m.p.h.		
	22.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with good visibility. Wind North westerly 5-10 m.p.h. First Squadron night flight. Two aircraft were airborne at 2000 hrs. The pilots were CAN. J. 10633 Pilot Officer A. G. S. and CAN. 100025 Sgt. F. W. P. Pilot Officer C. E. MORTIMER R.A.F.V.R. proceeded on posting to 431 Squadron.		
	23.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with good visibility; wind light northerly or variable.		
	24.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with good visibility early becoming poor in the evening. Winds light westerly.		
	25.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility. Winds light North West to North. A new aircrew arrived to-day. The pilot and A.G. are Canadians, the others are R.A.F. This crew was posted to "B" Flight, Squadron Leader J. OOMAR Officer Commanding. "B" Flight was discharged from Sick Quarters to-day. It is expected that he will be able to fly during the month of next week.		
	26.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility. Winds North West light. A serious accident was avoided by Squadron Leader W. H. ALLISON to-day. Engine trouble developed as he was about 2/3 along the runway at an airspeed of 70 m.p.h. He had to swing to starboard and to avoid hitting a civilian worker he had to drive the aircraft into a fence. Squadron Leader ALLISON sustained no injuries and the plane was only slightly damaged.		
	27.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility. Winds North West light. Wellington Mark III aircraft B5.712 piloted by Squadron Leader H. H. ALLISON had to be left at DALTON due to a technical failure.		
	28.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with poor visibility. Wind light North West becoming South West. Sqn. Adjutant T. H. R. gave a lecture to all aircrew on parachutes and para-training. A new Wellington III aircraft arrived to-day. This aircraft is D.1674. CAN. 3300 Flying Officer L. H. GUNDEL, Adjutant, appointed Acting Flight Lieutenant on 14th November 1942. Aircraft on charge, 15.		
	29.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with moderate visibility. Wind light westerly. Two new Wellington III arrived to-day. Nos. 2.5790 and 2.5.435. Aircraft on charge 15.		
	30.11.42		Weather: Cloudy with moderate visibility, deteriorating in evening. Wind North westerly light becoming South westerly light in evening. CAN. Air Vice Marshal, BROOKS, O.B.E. visited the Squadron and was the guest of the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander, R. H. GARDNER who escorted him around the station.		
			HEALTH :- Generally the health of the Squadron has continued to be very good. There is a moderate increase in upper respiratory infections.		
			(a) Aircrew. There has been one case of catarrhal jaundice, and one case of U.D.C. There have been no cases of flying stress.		

No. of pages used for day_____

424 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day_____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices																									
Topcliffe.	30.11.42		<p>HEALTH (cont).</p> <p>(a) Ground Crew. There has been very little illness among this group and no cases of infectious disease.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL, TEST-OPERATION AND TRAINING FLYING HOURS. NOVEMBER 1942:-</p> <p>(a) Operational Flying hours. Nil.</p> <p>(b) Non-Operational Flying hours. Day: 16 hours. 5 mins. Night: N I L.</p> <p>(c) Training Flying hours. Day: 140 hours 55 mins. Night: 6 hrs. 20 mins.</p> <p>PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 30th NOV. 1942.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Ground</th> <th>Aircraft</th> <th>Ground</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F.</td> <td>16</td> <td>3</td> <td>63</td> <td>79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. (CAN)</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>25</td> <td>171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL STRENGTH</td> <td>20</td> <td>3</td> <td>88</td> <td>250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>W. J. L. Sullivan</i> VC. Wing Commander, Commanding 12th (R.C.A.F.) Squadron, R.A.F. Station, TOPCLIFFE.</p>	Component	Aircraft	Ground	Aircraft	Ground	R.C.A.F.	16	3	63	79	R.A.F. (CAN)	1	-	-	-	R.A.F.	3	-	25	171	TOTAL STRENGTH	20	3	88	250	
Component	Aircraft	Ground	Aircraft	Ground																									
R.C.A.F.	16	3	63	79																									
R.A.F. (CAN)	1	-	-	-																									
R.A.F.	3	-	25	171																									
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