

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 424 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
ABOARD H.M.S. "SAMARIA"	1.11.43		Good weather still holding out. The sea is very calm and everyone is enjoying the trip. No cases of sea sickness. The only event which breaks the monotony of the day is boat drill held at 1000 hrs.		
DO.	2.11.43 to 4.11.43		The fine weather is still holding out and a very enjoyable trip for the Squadron personnel.		
DO.	5.11.43		The good ship S.S. SAMARIA brought the squadron safe and sound in Liverpool harbour. England was a sight for sore eyes and almost seemed like Canada after our long stay in Africa.		
SAIFTON ON SWALE.	6.11.43		Our first taste of English weather after the long and almost monotonous nice weather in Africa. It is cold and we had a variety of both snow and rain (Can) 6.42 A.M. G.S. BROOKES C.B.E. AIR OFFICER COMMANDING No. 6 R.C.A.F. Group and the former C.O. of the Squadron (Can) C.L.B. G/O. H.M. CARSCALLEN D.F.C. were at the docks to welcome the Squadron back from Africa. The Squadron entrained and left Liverpool at 14.30 hrs for RUGBY. Arrived at the latter place at 20.30 hrs. were personnel disembarked and were transported to R.C.A.F. STATION SAIFTON ON SWALE. Hot tea was served to all on arrival.		
DO.	7.11.43		All Squadron personnel paraded this morning and were notified that they would be kitted in a few days. Personnel were notified that parades would be held twice a day beginning tomorrow. The Squadron was dismissed for the day.		
DO.	8.11.43		At the morning parade personnel were detailed for various duties on the station. The C.O., Adjutant and the orderly Room were given a suit next to station R.G. as their temporary Office.		
DO.	9.11.43		Squadron personnel were notified that all N.C.O.s and airmen are to be kitted before the officers. Articles of clothing and equipment to be returned to stores were enumerated and all were advised that such equipment should be returned on the clothing parade and that deficiency lists should be prepared immediately. The kitting will be held on the 12th.		
DO.	10.11.43		The Squadron equipment personnel are doing a good job making deficiency lists. At present most of the personnel left their pith helmets in Africa, but it appears that very little will be required to kit the airmen to scale as most of them have brought back all they had and that very little was lost in Africa or on the way back to England.		
DO.	11.11.43		The Squadron equipment personnel are busy making up vouchers. All aircrew N.C.O.s will receive a blue battle dress. Ground personnel will also receive same but at a future date. All Squadron personnel will be given 14 days disembarkation leave effective the 15th of the month.		
DO.	12.11.43		The movement officer at NORTHERLEIGH was contacted in view of obtaining a special train for LONDON. Roughly 250 officers and airmen are going to LONDON. At this rate it will be impossible for such a number to get on the train at the same time so as to avoid a scramble and trouble it was decided to ask for a special train. The movement officer was very helpful and agreed that this was the most practical thing to do. He will contact the railway company and let us know tomorrow.		
DO.	13.11.43		Buses and trucks loaded with airmen left every 45 minutes today for RAF STATION DISFORTH. Everything went very smoothly and 225 officers and airmen had turned in clothing and had been kitted at 1700 hrs today. The movement officer at NORTHERLEIGH notified the Squadron that the railway company was agreeable and that a special train would be put at our disposal on the 15th. Time and place to be notified tomorrow.		

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SAFTON ON SWALE.	14.11.43		The special train for LONDON will be at THIRSK railway station at 0850 hrs tomorrow. Arrangements were made to have busses and trucks transport personnel for the station to THIRSK, starting at 0750 hrs which will leave plenty of time for all to get about without rushing. At 1400 hrs all Squadron personnel had been kitted. Passes and warrants were handed out to all and airmen were notified that they were expected to have a good time but that they were also expected to conduct themselves properly and not to overdo anything, especially drinking.		
DO.	15.11.43		250 Officers and Airmen left THIRSK at 0850 hrs for London. Only S/L Amies, the Adjutant and one clerk in the orderly room remained behind in case anything should crop up. They will leave in a week for seven days leave as the C.O. will be back in one weeks time.		
DO.	16.11.43	to 20.11.43.	All the Squadron on leave.		
DO.	21.11.43		All the Squadron personnel back from leave, broke but apparently quite happy and all seem to have had quite a good time. W/O J.P. MCCARTHY DFC, J.15104, Commanding Officer was posted to No. 6 GROUP, effective today. W/O MCCARTHY had been C.O. of the Squadron only a short time but had earned the respect and was very well liked by all who had served under him. S/L BENTLEY will assume COMMAND of the Squadron pending the arrival of the new Commanding Officer.		
DO.	30.11.43		News was received today that P/L G.B. LLOYD J.17478, P/O W.K. MCGREGOR, J.18589, P/O J.W. LAMON J.20434 and P/O S.J. NICOLLE J.17561 have been awarded the D.F.C. Ground personnel were detailed to different station duties.		
Aircraft on Charge - Nil.					
HEALTH. - The health of the Squadron is fair. Sick parades are considerable and numerous airmen are suffering from colds. Only two cases were serious enough to warrant sending them to the hospital. No cases of V.D.					
NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 30th NOVEMBER 1943.					
(Officers) - AIRCRAFT CREW. (Airmen) AIRCRAFT CREW.					
R.O.A.F.	30	3	58	331	
R.O.A.F. (USA)	1		18	1	
R.A.F.	31	3	76	332	
OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL HOURS FLOWN DURING MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1943.					
(a) Operational Flying Hours. Day - Nil. Night - Nil.					
(b) Non Operational Flying Hours. Day - Nil. Night - Nil.					
Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 424 (RAF) Squadron.					