

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 431 W.C.A.F. Squadron

No. of pages used for day

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
BUR.	1943				
	July, 1st.		No operations were called for. Crews were employed in the morning on aircraft and dinghy drill. In the afternoon there was a cricket match 'A' flight v 'B' flight. The evening was largely spent by ground crews watching the Dominion Day. Weather was clear and sunny.		FS
	July, 2nd.		Eight crews were briefed for operations but four were cancelled before take off by orders from Command. Four aircraft took off and laid mines off ST. NAZAR from heights of between 1000' and 700'. All the aircraft returned safely to base. From a point of view of crew workmanship this was a 100% effort, two mines were seen to explode on hitting the water, only six (6) can be claimed as successfully laid. Weather was good but vis. was reduced to moderate by sea haze.		FS P. 29
	July, 3rd.		Ten crews were briefed for bombing and on COICED. Only eight took off as w/c. '2' pilot S/Lt. Wyndham-Wright R.N. had intercom, w/s. and w/c. '10' S/Lt. Finlayson, R.N. had large magneto drop. Three aircraft returned early, w/c. '2' pilot S/Lt. Long, R.N. - loan and GEE w/s. w/c. '4' pilot Sgt. Palmer, R.N. port engine revs. fluctuated abnormally with excessive eng. dr p. bomb was jettisoned. w/c. '7' pilot S/O. Wilkinson, R. - starboard oil temp. was over 950 with oil leaks. Four aircraft bombed primary target from 13000'. A terrific explosion was seen at 01.3 hrs. and many fires seen. w/c. '1' pilot Sgt. Appleby, R.N. failed to return. Weather was good on route and in target area, vis. excellent. Flak was intense was heavy, and moderate light. There were many a/ights working in small cones.		FS+1 P. 29
	July, 4th.		Four crews were detailed for operations, but sorties were cancelled. S/Lt. Scott, held services in the RAAF for C. of B. personnel. There was also services for A.C. and C.D. personnel during the morning. Several officers journeyed to which in the evening and bid good bye to C/Dnt. Gray who had been in command on the station for some time.		
	July, 5th.		Six crews were briefed for a minute raid off ST. NAZAR. Six took off for forward base, but aircraft 'P' pilot Sgt. Long, R.N. did not take off from the forward base, as the starboard generator ^{port} trouble and GEE w/s. w/c. Five aircraft successfully completed their mission and returned to base. Flak was laid from 800 - 1000'. Weather was 10/10ths clear over England with clear sky over target area, with slight haze. No fighters or flak over target area, but flak was concentrated near BREACH POINT.		FS+1 P. 30

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
F.V.R.N.	1948				
	July, 6th.		Seven aircraft were set for operations but sorties were cancelled. Crews were busy on aircraft in the morning. There was a crew conference in the afternoon.		
	July, 7th.		No operations were called for. Crews were busy on aircraft and singly drill. Weather was bad with rain, and thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening.		
	July, 8th.		No operations were called for. Weather was overcast with rain. Local sea received the six aircraft were appointed to a commission, as shown in monthly summary.		
	July, 9th.		Six aircraft were set for operations. GAVEIT at 0800H. All aircraft successfully completed their mission and returned to base safely. Mines were dropped from 7 - 0000 on GCS fix and D. 1. W. Vis was good and no opposition was encountered.		15-1 F.3
	July, 10th.		No operations were called for. Weather was overcast with rain. Crews were employed on preliminary packing in preparation of the move of the squadron.		
	July, 11th.		No operations were called for. Weather was overcast with rain in the morning, clearing in the afternoon, with showers at night. There was a concert in the Concert Hall at 20.00hrs, followed by a social evening in the Club Mess.		
	July, 12th.		Advance party of 3 Officers and 62 N.C.O.'s and men, left for the new station at THOUGHTS. Eight crews were detailed for mining operations OFF ST. NAZARE. Eight took off and seven successfully completed mission, except that A/c. 'C' pilot Sgt. Long, PA, which had 1 x CIG2 hung up and brought back to base. A/c. 'P' Sgt. Subler, NE, brought back mines, as GCS was w/s, and crew were unable to pinpoint. Vis. was good in target area, and trip was uneventful, except for one encounter with e/aircraft. A/c. 'C' pilot Sgt. Long, PA, encountered single engine enemy aircraft at 20.15N. 03.15W our aircraft fired burst, enemy aircraft replied with short burst of green tracer, but aircraft dived to port and e/a. was lost, our aircraft suffered no damage.		15-1 F.3
	July, 13th.		No operations were called for. Aircraft and Ground crews were busy getting aircraft ready for the move to FOLTHOPE. An all hands farewell party was held in the Airmens Dining Hall.		
	July, 14th.		Everybody was busy packing and loading equipment by 16.00 hrs, all equipment was loaded but a message was received saying that no aircraft, nor spares were to be taken, this entailed much unloading and repacking. Extra transport was ordered to accommodate the /		

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BURN	1943				
	July, 14th.		Personnel previously detailed to fly, and by working late everything was successfully arranged ^{arranged} .		
BURN - THORNTON	July, 15th.		Personnel paraded for embussing, and marched out at 07.30 hrs. and at 08.05 hrs. the convoy moved out of BURN and arrived at THORNTON, without incident at 10.30 hrs. Owing to lack of accommodation, most aircrew had to be accommodated at Linton, and moved off for that Station at 11.20 hrs. Remainder of personnel were all sent ^{barracked} by 12.00hrs. and in the afternoon all necessary loading ^{unloading} was completed and transport released. Six		
THORNTON	July, 16th		Eight crews were detailed to Topcliffe for Conversion Training and seven crews were sent on leave, all personnel were recalled from Linton, and housed at No. 3 Site, Tholthorpe. Normal leave arrangements were resumed.		
	July, 17th.		Three crews were returned from Topcliffe as they could not be accommodated. Offices/ accommodation was advised ^{advised} and since buildings were not completed temporary arrangements were made and unpacking was started. Personnel were employed in cleaning up the site.		
	July, 18th.		The question of further accommodation was investigated and No. 2 Site was promised after one week. work was carried out under difficulties as there were no telephones or bicycles available, furniture is also lacking.		
	July, 19th.		Personnel were employed on Site and getting temporary accommodation arranged.		
	July, 20th.		Personnel were settled down and work started as much as possible. Tool kits were checked and barrack inspections held.		
	July, 21st.		A party of men put to work on digging ditches for telephones in order to get work completed. 3 A.P.M. and 1 A.M. were attached to Base Maintenance Unit at Linton to assist on acceptance checks and to gain experience with Halifax aircraft. S/L. Foster, and S/L. Duggan, of No. 6 Group, visited the Squadron, to render any assistance possible.		
	July, 22nd.		Men were employed in work on Site and for different work on Station. Bad inspections were held. 60 Bicycles were received from Base H.Q. but since they were all in very bad poor condition, and badly in need of repair it was found impossible to issue them to personnel. With dispersed personnel, no telephones, and no bicycles, it is found difficult to carry out work efficiently. Six crews were sent to Conversion unit at TOPCLIFFE.		

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THELTHORPE	July, 23rd		Men lent to Station Headquarters for work on telephone line were returned, with a request that their good work be rewarded with a day off. Flights showed signs of being organized for work when aircraft are delivered. Personnel of ground crews were lent to Station Engineer Officer to acquire some information on Halifax aircraft. P/O, Coleman, P/O, Bedford, and P/O, Lawrence reported back from leave, four days early to attend Conversion Course at Croft, (Mickleton-St-George.)		
	July, 24th		One aircraft was received by the Unit, a Halifax V. Acceptance check was immediately started. Two crews left for Conversion Training at Croft.		
	July, 25th		The Officer Commanding the Squadron visited O.U. at Topcliffe to check on Progress of crews. As many men as possible were employed on aircraft to gain experience with new type. Two more aircraft were received.		
	July, 26th		Difficulty was again experienced in finding quarters for Officers and S.M.C.O.'s; Site 2 promised for today was not ready for occupation, as it was in a dirty and unsanitary condition. S/Lt. Admin. was contacted and promised that the Site would be ready by the 28th.		
	July, 27th		As many personnel as possible were employed on the three aircraft delivered. Efforts were made to give some experience on this type of engine and airframe. Practice Softball was played in the evening and personnel with cycles visited neighbouring villages.		
	July, 28th		A start was made on clearing up No. 2 Site, vacated by Contractor Personnel. Much cleaning needed to be done and much of the electrical ^{installation} will have to be repaired. Ground crews were employed on acceptance checks. Armourers were attached to Station Armaments Officer. Officers were complaining that to date no clothing coupons have been received, though they were demanded over two months ago, and numerous reminders have been sent, they find it impossible to look smart. Many personnel attended Station Dance held in the Mess Dining Hall.		
	July 29th		One more a/c. was received and acceptance checks were started. A start was made on ^{equipping} Site 2 for aircraft only. Two batches were sent from this Squadron. Station was requested to supply two. Slow progress was made on the equipping, but a start was made. Lack of telephone facilities slows the effort considerably. P/O, Harris was appointed Officer i/c. No. 2 Site.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
THOLTHORPE	1943				
	July 30th		Equipping of No. 2 Site was almost completed and quarters were ready for crews to move in. Since no water is laid on NOO's will be compelled to do their ablutions at the SGTs. Mess. The Squadron now has four aircraft on charge and ground crews are getting experience on the new type. They showed a keen interest in the work and are settling down well. Telephone was installed temporarily in the Squadron Office and helps to eliminate a good deal of wasted effort.		
	July 31st.		One NOO and 8 men who had been detached to Middleton St. George returned to the Squadron to assist in ground duties. Two more crews were attached to 1564 C.N. at Croft for conversion training. A conference of Squadron and Station Adjutants was held at S.H.Q. to hear from C.7567 P/T Jarkins, L.H. of RCAF Overseas H.Q. what was needed in the operational records Forms 540 & 541. The difficulties of carrying out the procedure were stressed by all present. The shortage of clerks and paper being the main difficulty. Also the shortage of time for compilation by Adjutants on Operational Squadrons, where casualty procedure takes up a great deal of time.		
THOLTHORPE	July 31st.		PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON. Officers Ground 1 CAN. Officers Air 31 RAF. 6 CAN. Senior N.C.O.'s Ground 11 RAF. 14 CAN. AIR 67 RAF. 12 CAN. 1 NZ. 3 RAAF. Other ranks. 44 RAF. 275 CAN. WAAF Officers NIL. Other ranks 36		
			Totals Officers 40 Senior N.C.O.'s 108 Other ranks 319 WAAF 36.		
			POSTINGS OFFICERS & AIRCREW.		
			Officers OUT P/O A.M. Penman, 136396 Missing from operations against the enemy		
			P/O J. Sutherland J.14571 night of 3/4th, July, 1943. COLOGNE.		
			P/O S.N. Sloan, 146605 Posted to Stn. Snaith N/E awaiting pilot's		
			course w.e.f. 14-7-43 Authy. 46/760/43		
			dated 11-7-43.		
			P/O D.O. Luke, 124524 Posted to Stn. Snaith N/E Sick w.e.f.		
			14-7-43 Authy. 46/759/43 dated 11-7-43.		
			Continued overleaf		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	Reference to Appendices
THOLTHORPE	1943 July, 31st,		POSTING OFFICERS & AIRCREW (CONTD)		
			Officers IN. P/O W.E. Harris, J.9766 GD Posted from 408 Sqn Leeming, w.e.f.		
			P/O N. Martin, J.17750 GD 16.7.43. for Flying duties, Authy.		
			P/O W.K. Naylor, J.17272 GD 60483/43 dated 16.7.43.		
			POSTING AIRCREW N.C.O.'s.		
			OUT. Sgt. N.H. Apperley, 1357474 Pilot Missing from operations against the		
			Sgt. V.C. Trew, 1381877 WO. AC. enemy night of 3/4th, July, 1943.		
			Sgt. G.A. Lilley, 1477306 A.G. OOLONG.		
			IN. Sgt. J.E. Johnston, R.87264 WO. AC. Posted from 408 Sqn, Leeming, w.e.f.		
			Sgt. C.W. Wainley, R.78991 A.G. 17.7.43. Authy. 60/493/43 dated		
			Sgt. D.M. Webster, R.78920 A.G. 16.7.43.		
			PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS. - OFFICERS.		
			P/O A.P. Cummins, 130528 GD Promoted to the rank of Flying Officer		
			(war sub) w.e.f. 5.4.43. Authy.		
			London Gazette dated 29.6.43.		
			P/O J.R. Valentini, 31183 GD Promoted to the rank of Flying Officer		
			(war sub) w.e.f. 26.3.43. Authy.		
			London Gazette dated 23.4.43.		
			PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS - N.C.O.'s. AIRCREW.		
			P/Sgt. L.J. Haynes, 1169304 Pilot Appointed to a commission in the RAF.		
			w.e.f. 22.5.43. Authy. A.M. Letter		
			A.552457/43/S.7 (9) (3) dated 1.7.43.		
			P/Sgt. R.D. Sullivan, 1315787 Pilot Appointed to a commission in the RAF.		
			w.e.f. 29.5.43. Authy. A.M. Letter		
			A552520/43/S.7 (e) (3) dated 1.7.43.		
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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THROTHORPE	July, 31st.		PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS.		
			ALDERW N.C.O.'s CONF. P/Sgt. Brown, P.I. 1208557 B.A. Appointed to a commission in the		
			RAFVR on 28.5.43. Authy. AM letter		
			A551721/43/2.7 d/4. 29.6.43.		
			Sgt. Garmham, I. 1391757 Nav. Appointed to a commission in the		
			RAFVR on 28.5.43. Authy. AM letter		
			551323/43/2.7 d/4. 29.6.43.		
			P/Sgt. R.E. D'Eve, 1335124 Nav. Appointed to a commission on		
			22.5.43. Authy. AM letter A551250/43/		
			2.7 d/4. 29.6.43.		
			P/Sgt. I. Williams, 1266597 W/AC. Appointed to a commission on 22.5.43		
			Authy. AM letter A551642 d/4. 28.6.43.		
			P/Sgt. B.P. Jackson, 1148949 Pilot Appointed to a commission on 23.5.43		
			Authy. AM letter A558668 d/4. 22.7.43.		
			Sgt. C.A. Gorn, 1230513 B.A. Appointed to a commission on 5.5.43		
			Authy. AM letter A 559319/43/2.7		
			d/4. 22.7.43.		
			Sgt. O.E. Davison, 1095397 Nav. Appointed to a commission on 22.5.43		
			Authy. AM letter A558110/43/2.7 d/4		
			21.7.43.		
			Sgt. G.A. Beattie, R. 120715 A.C. Appointed to a commission on		
			25.5.43 Authy. AM letter A552239/43/		
			2.7 d/4. 29.6.43.		
			Sgt. Rabbie, R.P. 1384445 Pilot Promoted to the rank of temp. Flight		
			Sergeant, w.e.f. 1.5.43. Authy.		
			Notes, 124/1384445 d/4. 29.6.43		
			overleaf.		

(*) 10886-9305) WL 34631-4378 150W 12142 T.B. Tm