

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNTON	1943	Aug. 1st	<p>Work was continued on ground organization and equipping of offices. Only two aircraft were on the Squadron; all the others were on Conversion Courses, or on leave. P/O. Haynes and Crew and P/O. Rodale, and Crew, were recalled from 1659 G.V. TORGLIFFE, for posting to 432 (Wellington) Sqn. The Squadron regretted losing these crews, as they had been with the Squadron since its formation and the majority had just been granted their commissions. The Crews were as follows:</p> <p>146996 P/O. L.J. Haynes, Pilot 1385990 P/O. Rodale, J. Pilot</p> <p>146699 P/O. I. Gerdien, Nav. 146696 P/O. R.K. D'Arcy, Nav.</p> <p>146692 P/O. P.L. Brown, Bomb. 148057 P/O. G.A. Cow, Bomb.</p> <p>146613 P/O. L.N. Williams, W/C. 1294748 Sgt. W. Jackson, G. W/AG.</p> <p>1250317 Sgt. Robb, A. P/O. 1325819 Sgt. Ridgway, A.E. A/G.</p> <p>Ground crews were engaged on acceptance checks, and modifications, on the Squadron aircraft. U/E. Operators and electricians, in fitting temporary quarters. The Squadron was well represented at a service for other denominations held in the Airman's Mess, at 0930 hours, by G.3687 P/T. L.C. Davis, District Chaplain. The lesson read by G.6512 A/T. P.P. Hall. 126501 P/T. D.S. Moyer, Squadron Navigational Leader, was at UPMO on a three day P.P.F. course, and 1185991 P/O. Adams, R.A., was in temporary charge of the section. The Bombing Section commenced construction of a large "Crew Board". In the evening a practice softball game was played to pick teams to go to KNOTTSLEY, the following day for an exhibition game.</p>		
	Aug. 2nd		<p>The two crews posted to 432 Squadron, left by road transport at 1400 hours. It was necessary to send them all by road owing to poor railway facilities. At 1000 hours, 28 men left by road for KNOTTSLEY to play an exhibition game of softball, for the benefit of the combined charities of that town. The game attracted a great deal of attention. The men put on a good show in real Canadian softball style, until rain stopped play. They were later entertained at a dance, and amused for the return journey at midnight. Owing to mistaking the road, they did not get back to camp until 0300 hours, but all had a good time. The party was in charge of George Herring, Canadian Y.M.C.A., who gave a commentary on the finer points of the game, over the loud speakers. Ground crews were working on modifications for aircraft, mainly working with Station 2 & 3. Section, as the Squadron Engineering Officer G.5302 P/L. P.J.H. Ransbury, is absent sick.</p>		

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THOLFOPE	19 & 30 Aug. 2nd.		2 Ops. and 10 A.G.'s from Maintenance Section who had been detached at HADP. Stations MIDDLTON ST GEORGE, and LEBING, to gain practical experience on Halifax aircraft were recalled to the Squadron, and were employed in preparing Squadron Aircraft for operational requirements. Weather was fair with some showers. Sixteen tables, and some chairs were obtained from Equipment Section, after some difficulty, for use in the Navigation Section. A chart showing a record of operational sorties, completed by Squadron Navigators was completed, and a map showing the defended areas of Great Britain, was placed on the wall of the Navigation Room.		
	AUG. 3rd.		G.983 W/O. W.F.M. Newson, Commanding the Squadron, attended a conference at Station H.A. on general administrative matters. One P/O. and five other ranks were attached to the Squadron, from Air Ministry A.S.T.P. to give instruction to ground crew in Halifax V Aircraft. They were barracked on No. 2 Site, and arrangements were made for lectures and demonstrations to commence the following morning. As a temporary measure these were held in 434 Sqdn. Ops Room. Three men R.652122 LAC. Bryant, A.O., R.428278 LAC. McDougall, L., and R.152609 LAC. Good, R.A., left for overseas posting. Ground crew were working on modifications. The Nav. Officer was still away on course, but the Navigators on station, completed a Navigators "Ops" Board and made further improvements in the Nav. Office. The first aircraft received by the Squadron, since a start was made on re-equipping was flown on acceptance flight by the Squadron Commander, G.983 W/O. W.F.M. Newson, with J.17750 P/O. R.H. Martin, as engineer. The whole crew could not be flown because to date the Squadron has no T.R. 9 net intercommunication. Other essential parts are lacking, and unless the materials start rolling into the Equipment Section in the near future, the non-operational period of the Squadron will be greatly lengthened.		
	AUG. 4th.		R.9802 S/Lt. B.A. Howard-Wright, R.A.F. proceeded to LONDON to attend Central Medical Board. The Signals Leader 130917 P/O. A. Hutt, and the two W/O.'s remaining on the Station, amended bomber code, constructed notice boards, and desk trays from waste wood. The Navigation Leader 126901 W/O. D.S. Hayes, returned from his course with P.F.F. Squadron. The crew board in Nav. Section was completed. Navigation Office Files were drawn from the Adjutant, revised and stored in filing cabinet. The Nav. Officer obtained a packing case, and his helpers constructed a cupboard, as no cupboards were obtainable from Equipment Stores. The Nav. Leader visited Conversion		

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of (Unit or Formation) 421 R.A.F. Squadron

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNHURST	19 & 20 Aug. 48		Unit at THORNHURST, to iron out any difficulties, and see if the Navigators on course there were progressing favourably. The Adjutant G.3571 P/Lt. G.R. Higgins, visited the Comparessment House at Ashon, to interview R.2494 L/O. Pugh, in connection with an injury sustained at SHRY. On arrival he found that the patient had been moved that day to York Military Hospital and on after telephoning to ensure that he would not be moved again he proceeded to York Military Hospital and completed his investigation. He was accompanied by G.3587 P/Lt. L.O. Scott. From that point, she visited the sick. Ground crew were employed on modifications to aircraft. Ammuniere were attached to Station Armament Officer and Electricians to Station Electrical Officer for work. 10 men were loaned to Esplanade Hospital for general duties. The weather deteriorated and became overcast with rain and high cooler.		
	Aug 21st		G.367 P/O. W.P.M. Newson, flew one of the Halifax V aircraft for acceptance check. A roster of Orderly Officers was prepared, and went into effect immediately for the Station. It is hoped that this exercise will result in better conditions in the Mess Hall. Arrangements were made for the 'Net' Officer, L.0133 P/O. Radosch, to supply a forecast every morning to the Navigation Section. A 'Net' board was constructed and 'Net' agreed to draw in on a map a weather chart for 2000 hours daily. A chart showing 'cross-country' tracks and distances was completed and fixed up in the Mess room. The Navigation Officer L.0591 P/Lt. R. J. Jones visited compression unit at GREF, to check on the Squadron Navigators attending course there, and for liaison purposes. A notice board for the Bombing Section was completed by L.1150 P/Lt. R. J. Lister, Squadron Bombing Leader. No. 1 Site was inspected by the Adjutant P/Lt. G.R. Higgins, G.3571, and No. 2 Site by J.9766 P/O. W.T. Harris. A practice softball game was held. 'A' Flight v 'B' Flight in the evening, but was not a great success, as bad weather stopped play. Ground crew were employed on work for Squadron aircraft, and a training lectures and demonstrations by AEF R.A.C.O.'s. These lectures were very much appreciated by the personnel. The Signals Leader L.0917 P/Lt. A. Ruth, had a conference with the Station Signals Officer G.15133 P/Lt. A.D. Blackford. Signals section collected office furniture from equipment stores, and was temporary housed at the back of 'B' Flight Office.		

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THOLSTON	Aug. 6th		ground crew employed on modifications and acceptance checks on Squadron aircraft, also on lectures, and demonstrations under the ASTI. Weather continued cold and rainy. It was found necessary to move both Flight Commanders, and the Chaplain into the front room of 'B' Flight Office. The two back rooms were occupied by the Signals Leader 130917 P/Lt A. Butt, and the Gunnery Leader, and ABE 111091 P/Lt. L.L. McLeod, respectively. 'A' Flight office was turned over to the ASTI. For lectures and hitherto these had been held in 434 Squadron Crew Room, but as 434 is now operational, the room was not available for lectures.		
			1011098 S/Lt. Avery, J.V. Pilot (and crew) - 1314553 Sgt. Shields, Wt. Nav. 1977663 Sgt. Reddy, W. A. Bomb. 1078263 Sgt. Cash, JC. WO. AG. Cms. 46190A, Sgt. McGowan, Wt. A. Gunner		P. 20 P. 540 p.
			who had been interned in Switzerland since Dec. 43. following a raid on STUTTGART, returned to the Squadron. They reported that before attacking the target their aircraft was struck by flak and badly damaged. They realized that they would not be able to return to base, so decided to bomb the target, and then try and reach Switzerland.		
			The Adjutant 0.3571 P/Lt. C.E. Higgins, delivered a lecture to all ground crew on security. A small store cabinet in the new section for the use of the Navigation Leader 126901 P/Lt. D.S. Moyne was complete. A flight plan outline was marked on the wall of the new section, as an aid to Navigators when on cross countries or operations. A check of all Navigational equipment was held and a list of same was sent to the Base Navigational Section at LINTON. The Bombing section completed construction of a cupboard and painted the office throughout, as it appeared probable that they would have a very long wait if it was to be done by War's Section. A hole was put in the wall between the Bombing Leaders, and Nav. Leaders office, to enable both officers to have access to telephone when one is installed. The Signals section completed an inventory check of equipment, ordered W/X. log books, and Signal documents. The Adjutant 0.3571 P/Lt. C.E. Higgins, held a complete visual check of all secret and confidential documents.		
	Aug. 7th		88902 S/Lt. B.A. Wynter-Frith, returned from General Medical Board, LONDON, having been passed A & B, much to his content. In the navigation section all charts Mercator, and Gee were stored in the map chest. A map of the continent was fixed on the wall.		

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of (Unit or Formation) 431 B.O.A.F. Squadron

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORPES	Aug. 7th.		<p>A chart showing D.R. Compass drill to be carried out, during and after a sortie or across country was completed. The navigation section shows evidence of much good work, and is taking shape nicely. In the Signals section amendments were made to ROSET and RSP. The notice board was painted, and filing cards checked, and brought up to date, and listed. Ground crews were still employed on acceptance checks, and work on rods. Lectures by AGP continued. Three small rooms being used. The space is cramped, but lasturers say they can manage. The photo section moved into the Station Photographic Building, and installed equipment. The building is still not completed, but it was considered safe to make the move, since it can be locked at night, and someone will be on duty there all day if workers are round the building. A posting notice was received posting 809016 Sgt. Barber, 1128448 Sgt. Hill, both R.A.F. also other personnel; in all 2 Sgts. P22, 1 Sgt. P22, 3 Cpls. P22, 1 Cpl. P22, and 3 A.O.'s P22. Since our present shortage of Sergeants is 4 P22, and 7 P22, it was considered that this posting would very seriously influence the efficiency of the Squadron for some time to come, and a strong protest was made to Records, regarding this, by telephone. Records promised to look into the matter, and inform us of their decision as early as possible. C.985 W/O. F.M. Hewson, accompanied C.133 G/O. Gordon, R.O. and 37876 W/O. C. Harris, to Base Headquarters where they lunched with The Secretary of State for Air, Sir A. Sinclair, the A.O.C. in C. HQAF No. 6, C.30 Air Marshal H. Sturges, C.B. The A.O.C. No. 6 Group, C.42 A/V. G. A. B. Brooker, C.B.E. and the base Commander C.60 A/Odr. C.M. Molloy, M.O. D.F.C.</p> <p>In the afternoon, the Adjutant C.377 P/O. G.R. Higgins, accompanied the Station Administrative Officer C.451 B/L. R.E.A. Iveson, and the Adjutant A/Lt. Cpl. G. T. Rutherford, to Base Headquarters on instructions from C.492 W/O. G. A. B. Brooker, for the purpose of having a sheet photograph taken. They arrived at 1400 hours but for various reasons the photograph was not taken, and they returned to their duties at 1630 hours. The weather continued cold and rainy.</p>		

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THORNHURST	1943	Aug. 30th	<p>The five aircraft issued to the Squadron to date, were inspected and the work of modifications was found to be progressing satisfactory, in view of the difficulty in getting supplies and components. The weather was poor. The Bombing Leader 131160 F/Lt. R.L. Lister, with other bomb siners on the Squadron attended a lecture on the Mark XIV Bombsight, in 434 Sqn, Bombing Leaders Office in the morning. In the afternoon some scrap line was obtained from contractors and laid in the Bombing Leaders Office. The Signals Leader 130887 F/Lt. A. Butt, was busy designing a notice board for WOP, AG's, and a letter was written to Signals Officer, Durn, regarding the regrading of WOP, AG's and interrogation reports. The Navigation Leader 126501 F/Lt. D.S. Hayes, prepared a chart showing all defenced areas in Germany, and Cerna. Occupied country, and a chart was prepared instructing navigators what to do before take off. Shelves were removed and re-erected in different positions for storage of documents. The Gunnery Leader 111091 F/Lt. L.L. Holand, was engaged in a 'scravenging' tour, which resulted in the acquiring of a lot of useful instructional equipment for Bolton Paul Gun Turrets. One sergeant and 35 ground crew personnel who had been detached to RAAF Station, LINDSEY, for instruction in Halifax V. Aircraft, returned to the Squadron, and were housed in No. 3 Site. The Squadron Adjutant G.3371 F/Lt. C.R. Higgins, inspected No. 3 Site for cleanliness of huts, and surroundings, and to find any vacant accommodation. No. 2 Site was inspected by J.5766 F/O. W.T. Harris. Representations were again made to the Station Administrative Officer G.451 S/Lt. R.W.A. Ivimey, regarding the shortage of batmen, and the poor quality of service being given by these men. G.983 S/Olt. W.F.M. Henson, Officer Commanding the Squadron, with AM.411901 F/Lt. L.L. Holand, and J.5766 F/O. W.T. Harris, journeyed to LINDSEY for liaison purposes, and also to collect stores. In the afternoon the Squadron was visited by G.116 G/Olt. J.G. Baynes, RAAF. He inspected the set up of the Navigation and Bombing sections, and rooms, and congratulated the Leaders on their ingenuity, and resourcefulness. The Gunnery section received a case of Aircraft Recognition models in the morning. In the afternoon the Gunnery Leader AM.411901 F/Lt. L.L. Holand, gave a lecture on Bolton Paul Turrets to gunners arriving from Conversion Course at 1659 G.U. THORNHURST. In the Navigation section work was still progressing on charts and diagrams, and permission was obtained by S/Olt. W.F.M. Henson, to have the section redecorated as soon as</p>		

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of (Unit or Formation) 487 LaCrosse's Squadron.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
THROCKMORTON	19 Aug 1944	(cont.)	possible. The Signals Leader 13027 P/O. A. Nutt, was away most of the day, attending A.D. 1927 Operating Signals BA.266/41. In the bombing section, a chart was prepared showing "re-nights bomb lead". A small amount of office equipment (waste paper baskets, etc.) was drawn from stores, and a chart was drawn up showing the monthly returns required by No. 6 Group. All Squadron aircrew at the station, attended an "orange" lecture in the station briefing room, at 11.00 hours. Great difficulties in the efficient running of Squadron offices is being experienced, owing to the delay in mails. It sometimes takes four or even five days from base to reach the Squadron. It is almost impossible to get telephone calls through to Base Headquarters in less than one hour, as lines are so crowded with calls. It is hoped that this condition will be rectified in the near future. Weather was fine.	SECRET.
	Aug. 1944		Navigation section was busy working on a Master Cross Country Lecture, approx. 9 hours, to include Infra Red, Bombing, Air Firing, etc. It is intended that this shall be the climax to the training programme. The Signals Leader 13027 P/O. A. Nutt, decided not to be outdone by other sections and managed to get a lecturer to serve as a temporary substitute, also collected a small radio, and magazine rack from the I.C.C. for use in the W.P.O.'s and A.C.'s crew room. An office desk was made and painted. The Gunnery Leader /Sgt. 4192 P/O. L. L. L. visited LITTON workshop, to check the gun adjustment tools, being made there for his section. In the bombing section a lecture was given by (Maintenance) P/O. Hanson, R.A.F., on the Mark XIV Bombight. All available bomb charts were presented, bomb charts were taken and plotted, and bomb charts were getting practice in the manipulation of the Mark XIV Bombight, which has been created in the bombing section for this purpose. Considerable trouble is experienced in the Squadron offices by the fact that returns in this Group are required to be made out differently from the way they are made out, and accepted in No. 4 Group. This has necessitated a lot of retyping by the orderly mess staff, which has put in many hours overtime. In consequence since our only typists work on what is known as the "HIT, HIT, HIT" system, and we have no touch typists, they are becoming seriously fatigued, and consequently errors are on the increase. It has been found necessary to defer temporarily the typing which section leaders are requesting should be done.	

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

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THRELKORPE	1943				
	Aug. 12th.	(cont)	to other quarters of a more permanent nature. The Signals Section was busy making up W/T logs. An aerial for the Radio set was installed. The Officer Commanding the Squadron, and the Adjutant, journeyed to Base H.Q. LINTON, where a photograph of the Administrative Staffs for Base, Stations, and Squadron, was taken; it is preserved for publicity purposes.		
	Aug. 13th.		News was obtained from the TMA, that four members of the Squadron had been granted awards. They were :- G.293 W/Odr. Newson, R.A.F.C. Pilot, D.F.C. 120068 F/O. Gibson, R.A.F.C. Navigator, D.F.C. 1577364 W/O. Glynn, R.A.F.C. Air Gunner G.C.M. 267367 W/O. Henry, R.A.F.C. Air Gunner D.F.C. These awards were very popular with the Squadron, and everyone hastened to congratulate W/Odr. Newson, the only recipient at present on the Station. The other three at present are absent on Conversion courses. Arrangements were made to inform them immediately. The Bomb aimers were again busy gardening in the morning. In the afternoon they had another lecture on the No. XIV. Bombight by F/O. Barnes, following which gun shots were taken and plotted. All navigators attended the lecture on the Bombight given by F/O. Barnes, and spent the rest of the day working on charts. The Gunnery Leader and gunners on the Station, had talks with the Armoury on the turret problems, and both gunners and armourers benefited. The Signals Leader, 150917 F/Lt. A. Nutt, visited Base, LINTON, to interview the Officer regarding Bomb Codes, Code covers, etc. An inventory of office equipment in the Signals Section was completed. The Adjutant, G.3571 F/Lt. G.R. Higgins, held a hurried inspection of No. 2 Site and pointed out improvements to be carried out. Horse shoe pitches were constructed at No. 2 & 3 Sites, and horse shoe pitching at once became popular.		
	Aug. 14th.		G.293 W/Odr. W.F.M. Newson, and G. 135 G/Opt. R.O. Gordon, Commanding the Station, visited No. 6 Group H.Q. to confer with the S.A.A.S.O. and to see a baseball game between THRELKORPE and No 6 Group. The game resulted in a win for THRELKORPE 8-3. The Navigation section completed a Master Chart showing all operations by navigators for operational sortie. This will be placed in a prominent position as soon as the redecoration of the section is finished. 131168 F/Lt. E.L. Lister, Bombing Leader, gave a lecture on the Halifax Bombing Gear to all Navigators in the		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLETHORPE.	1943. Aug. 14th. (cont)		morning. The afternoon was taken up in gardening. Crew boards were completed by the Gunnery section, and more charts and records were commenced. Work is still held up in this section by lack of materials from stores. The Signals Leader 130917 P/Lt. A. Nutt, spent most of the day marking examination papers written by ground operators. A large number of personnel visited York and Harrogate in the evening. Other personnel visited Kasing-pia, Boro-bridge, and Belperby, by cycle.		
	Aug. 15th.		The Navigators and Bomb aimers were again busy gardening, but made poor progress as the ground is very hard. Some air shots were taken in the morning, and bomb aimers constructed pistol wheel boards. AM. 411901 P/Lt. L.L. Moleed, Gunnery Leader, proceeded on a tactics course at WITZBING in the morning. This is a very poor day for courses to commence as there is neither train nor bus transport between the Station and YORK till 14.00 hours. The Signals Leader drew Secret Publications for his section, and inserted the latest amendments. A fair number of the personnel attended the other denominations Church Parade, held in the Airmens Dining Hall at 14.00 hours by O.3687 P/Lt. L.G. Scott. A complaint was made of petty theft in one building on No. 3 Site. The Adjutant, P/Lt. Higgins, and three service police instituted a search of the hut in the presence of all the men. Some articles on which there was some suspicion was found in the kit of a man proceeding on attachment to LIDFON that day, but since he gave an explanation that they were received in a parcel, and no proof could be obtained that the articles were not his, he was allowed to proceed. A distinct improvement in the quality of the food in the Airmens Mess was noted today, and it was commented on by the majority of the men. A Station Messing Committee was formed, and R.63831 Cpl. Wilson, A.W. was appointed as Squadron representative. R.55721 P/Sgt. Livingston W.F. was appointed to the Entertainments committee, and an audition was held in the evening to pick talent.		
	Aug. 16th.		O.3371 P/Lt. C.R. Higgins, proceeded to KENDALTON ST GEORGE, as member of a District Court Martial. The Navigation section was prepared for redecorating, but was informed that the painters could not work on it until the end of the week. The inside wiring for telephones at the different offices was put in, but telephones will not be installed until the buildings are occupied as permanent quarters. This cannot be done until the Technical Site is ready for occupation.		

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of (Unit or Formation) 473 (Bomber) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLSTON	1943 Aug. 16 (cont'd)		In the meantime the only telephone on the Squadron is in the Adjutant's office, and communication is carried out by runner. This causes many delays. 'Navigation Instructions' were received from 6 Group Headquarters, and handed over to the Navigation Leader for study. (Note: [Name]) P/O Barnes, J.G. Bomber Command gave a lecture to Bomb Airmen on the levelling of the Mk. XIV Bomb sight in the morning. In the afternoon Bomb Airmen took sun shots and plotted them. The P/O, and A/O carried out extensive building re construction in the last allotted to them, which has just been vacated by the contractors personnel. Partitions were removed to make a crew room. Two rooms at either end being retained as offices. Weather was poor with some rain all day.		
	Aug. 17th		In the morning all Navigators, and Bomb Airmen attended a further lecture on the Mk. XIV Bomb sight, following which Navigators worked on gardening up the surrounds of the Section. Bomb Airmen did dry swim in the morning, and made holders for the Bomb Airmen's log, wireless Operators moved into their new quarters, which it is hoped will be permanent. Flight Engineers moved into their quarters, and commenced furnishing them. Since the Squadron has not had Flight Engineers on strength before, they were also busy getting acquainted with ground personnel in the flight. Ground crew were engaged on modifications for aircraft, and are acquiring a good knowledge of the Halifax Mk. V.		
	Aug. 18th		0330 P/O S.J.B. Hargrey returned from hospital, and had a conference with the Station Engineer Officer, P/O [Name], and the Officer i/c station RAI. P/O [Name] Purvis. Many small differences, and difficulties were straightened out. The ground crew were glad to see him, and his presence added zest to their work. His sickness came at a very inopportune time, just as the Squadron was moving, and re-equipment, but the work was very ably performed by 36331 P/O Sharpe, R.G. The Navigation leader gave a lecture to all Navigators on the Day Compass, and an Compass setting. A wireless set was procured for the navigation section, as the old one was unserviceable. The Bomber Command Navigation Summary for July was discussed by navigators. 6 Group Navigation Instructions were received, and studied. The Bomb Airmen were given a lecture on the recognition, and worked on gardening up the building surrounds. The Wireless Operators made a filing cabinet from packing case lumber, and the Bombing		

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THORNDON	1943	AUG 21st (cont'd)	Bowing arm on the station. Endorsements are being made to secure more. In the afternoon a general discussion on all navigation aids was held, and many useful points brought to light. The Bomb Aimers received another lecture on the Mk XIV bomb sight, and in the afternoon practiced astro shots. A bomb load chart was finished, and some work done on gardening. The Wireless Operators were engaged in daily Transcriptions, and the signals leader J. G. P. put sorted training packs, and some painting on notice boards. Ground crew were still engaged on modification, and working with HAI Section for examination.		
	AUG 22nd		C. J. P. / L. Humphrey J. S. Squadron Engineer Officer returned from Middleton, St. George by air. G. J. P. having flown up by Moth to fetch him, and for liaison. The H. B. T. P. were recalled to London by Air Ministry. Their help in instructing the ground crew is much appreciated, and it is regretted that they could not have remained to give instruction to the Flight Engineers. In the Navigation section tracks and distances of all cross country flights set out by Group were measured to facilitate arrangements for training at a future date. All Navigators were employed in the afternoon removing lockers from the Equipment section to locker rooms. A form was made up by Bombing Section to show the position of bombs and loads. This form will be issued to all Bomb Aimers. In the afternoon Bombers were given a demonstration on how to load the Mk XIV computer by means of a spirit level. A fair number of squadron personnel attended services, which were held in the Airmen Mess for other denominations, by C. J. P. / L. C. Coates, Protestant Chaplain. Ground crews were engaged on modification, and servicing aircraft. Flight personnel moved from their temporary quarters at the Technical site. This will make their offices much handier to their work, but since no telephone is yet installed at the technical site, additional runners will still have to be employed to keep in touch with the Squadron engineer, and Flight personnel. 20766 Sgt L. Reynolds and crew returned from leave, and arrangements were made to start the Flying Training programme within the next two or three days.		
	AUG 23rd		The Squadron is at last getting time to arrange sports, and a team for soft ball was started for each site. An Officers' football team is also proposed, but owing to the fact that the majority of the aircrew in the squadron are English, the aircrew, and officers' teams are not		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
THOLTHORPE	1943 Aug 23rd (cont'd)		<p>expected to be first class. However the team spirit is being fostered, and should help in the work. In the Navigation Section, there was a general discussion on Navigation policy. Navigators, and Bomb Aimers joined in gardening up around the site, and the Bomb Aimers were given a further lecture in the MK XIV Bomb Sight. Air Gunners were given a lecture on territory, by the gunnery leader, 157001 P/L L. L. MacLeod. Work continued on furnishing the section and 51603 P/O E. Lawrence went to Linton, and returned with four harmonisation charts, and and gun adjustment spinners. Wireless Operators were engaged in daily inspections, and all aircrew available helped move lockers to a temporary locker room, which is being shared with 434 Squadron, until the new one is ready. Work has been recommenced on the one for 431 Squadron, and it is hoped that it will be ready, by the time the Squadron becomes operational.</p> <p>Aug. 24th Training was commenced on the Squadron to-day, with four details of Fighter affiliation, and three air and sea firing. The Fighter affiliation was successfully carried out with a Spitfire from Dalton, but only one air to sea firing was completed, as "O" MK 898 was taxied over a tree stump near the perimeter track, and rendered O.K. A further detail of air firing in the afternoon had to be cancelled, as the aircraft developed an oil leak. 60538 S/L F. J. Hill flew "P" MK 897 on an acceptance flight, which was satisfactory. In the morning Navigators, not flying, were employed on various duties in the section, and in the afternoon, they attended a "Net", lecture dealing with winds. Later in the afternoon Navigators, and Bomb Aimers attended a lecture by the Squadron Bombing Leader 167006 P/L E. L. Lister on the new Bomb Aimers Log. Gunners not flying, were given a lecture on harmonising types "F" & "A" turrets. Ground crew was employed on modifications for aircraft, and servicing those flying. A rather large percentage of the ground crew are being called on for fatigues, owing to the shortage of station personnel. It is necessary to detail men daily for planning in the Mess Hall. AOH/Uds are employed under training as kitchen equipment workers, on loan to the station as batmen, sanitary fatigues, and various duties, from which they would be free, if Base were able to supply the station personnel, which are required for domestic duties. Owing to almost continuous bad weather, and low cloud all flying training for the day was suspended. A crew conference was held on general topics, in the Navigators, and Bomb Aimers room (continued on page 24)</p>		

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of (Unit or Formation) 431 BOMBERS SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORPE	1 July 3 Aug 25th (cont'd)		The work of the P.F.V. was discussed, and crews informed that volunteers were still needed. In the morning Navigators swung the compass on aircraft "D". All Navigators were given a lecture on the Mk XIV Bomb Sight, by 167406 P/L E.L. Lister. This lecture was followed by a lecture by 125901 P/L D.J. Moyes, Navigation Leader, in the use of Astro. Gunners were again given Halifax familiarisation, as the weather had spoiled the flying program. Wireless Operators were getting ready for reclassification tests, and daily inspections. Ground crew were busy on aircraft, the continuous bad weather is making the work of modifications more difficult, but fairly satisfactory progress is being made.		
	Aug 26th		At 0615 hrs., 8 983 W/Odr. W. Falkenstein, JNC commanding Squadron, and 441109 P/L L.L. MeLeod, Gunnery Leader, left by transport for Burnham Overy, to witness army maneuvers. They returned the same evening. A large bombing program was laid down for the day, but owing to poor visibility, and low clouds, some details were cancelled. 1331922 P/L Davies, P. and 110542 P/L Wilkinson, R.I. flew to Croft, to collect two aircraft for the Squadron. P/L Davies brought one back, but the one which 110542 P/L Wilkinson was to collect was undergoing an engine change, and could not be brought back to THORPE. 60532 P/L P.P. Hill carried out a successful acceptance check on "D" IX. 205, which was handed over to "A" Flight. 1309224 Sgt. Tierney, L.J. damaged a fin and rudder, when taking into disposal. Fortunately only a small amount of damage was done, and it was soon repaired. During the day the Navigation, and Bombing sections were redecorated. All Navigators, and Bomb Aimers assisted the painters as much as possible, by moving the equipment as required. One Bomb of Gunners did harmonisation their work being checked by R 70920 P/Lgt. Maitland. The balance of the Gunners exchanged flying clothing, and did a period of aircraft recognition. The Gunnery Section have the type T training turret in hand, and expect to have it serviceable in a few days. Some Wireless Operators took their Grade I examinations, and made good average marks. 88/88 W/O training pages were made up, and arrangements were made for an R.A.F. lecture. The Squadron provided a fatigue party to the Equipment Store to their furniture which had been stored in the Sergeants Mess, to the Equipment store, as it has been found necessary to turn part of the Sergeants Mess into a dormitory, owing to the shortage of accommodation on this station.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLBORPE	1943				
	Aug 27th		The training programme was continued, with some Flight affiliation, beam approach training, using Linton beam, and local flying including the levelling of several MK XIV bombights. Aircraft D.K. 265 was flown on acceptance flight by 60532 S/L F.P.Hill. The training of Wireless Operators on special equipment was commenced. Six Wireless Operators were given instructions by 130156 F/O R. Ball, and 148009 F/O O.E.R.Davies. In the Navigation Section, charts, which had been prepared beforehand, were placed on the walls where they will attract the attention of everyone. Gunners carried out air to sea firing. The painters reported, and finished painting the offices to be occupied by Squadron Headquarters and by the Gunnery, and Wireless Operator Flights. Ground crews were employed on servicing aircraft and modifications to aircraft. Weather was fair, with some cloud, and showers.		
	Aug. 28th		The weather was poor, with low cloud, poor visibility, and rain. No flying took place. 129679 F/O F.E.Mitchell, the Squadron Safety Equipment Officer gave a lecture on air and sea rescues, using an excellent model he has made of an Airborne lifeboat. In the Navigation section, six Wireless Operators were given instructions in new equipment by 13-159 F/O R. Tierney, and 130156 F/O R. Ball. A letter was sent to HQ 6 Group requesting permission for a long cross country. Aircraft "G" had compass swung, and in the afternoon owing to bad weather the remainder of aircrew were given the afternoon off. In the Gunnery Section, since no flying could be done, Gunners were given practice work in turrets in the morning. All Navigators were given a dry swim in the morning. Ground crews worked on modifications.		
	Aug. 29th		Poor weather, with rain, and low visibility again interfered with flying training and the only flying was an acceptance check carried out by 60532 S/L F.P.Hill in LK 612. The Bomb Aimers made a plotting chart for plotting photographs and in the afternoon were given a "dry swim". Gunners, who had not previously done the exercise were busy harmonizing guns on aircraft. Wireless Operators were busy with Daily Inspections. "Cee" training and R.D.F. Ground crews, and Flight Engineers were engaged on modifications and servicing aircraft. C983 W/Cdr. W.F.M. Newson DFC, Commanding the Squadron attended a conference at Station Headquarters to enquire into the provision of the necessary fatigues, and man power situation. The Squadron is exceedingly short of FOMs, and Flight Mechanics the class of		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNTON	1943		fatigue work.		
	Aug. 29th		Weather 1. the morning was extremely unpropitious, but cleared later, and flying training took place. Four details of bombing were carried out over the 37-mi. Range and one detail of Fighter Affiliation was carried out in the afternoon. One more aircraft was received in the afternoon. One more aircraft was received in the afternoon. Five Bombing Exercises were carried out, thirty eight bombs being released. The results were good, considering that most of the bombsters were having their first practice with the Mk XIV bomb sight. In the Navigation Section, two hours "Geo" was given to Wireless Operators. All contents were checked, and repaired where necessary. Navigators kit was checked. Thirty five air chancas, Sept-20s were received. Ground crew were busy on servicing and modifications.		
	Aug. 30th		Weather was excellent. Programme called for Fighter affiliation, and air firing. Unfortunately A.E.D.H. Dalton due to unserviceability could only provide one Fighter. However more flying than of recent days was got in, including collection of one aircraft from Croft. All available Bomb Airmen, and Navigators attended a lecture by 17750 P/O M. Martin, Flight Engineer, Leader on the petrol, and emergency hydraulic system of the Halifax aircraft. 13309 P/O E. Hewitt reported on posting from 465 Squadron. The Navigators among the compasses on aircraft "C" and "H". An inspection of all living sites was carried out, by 0903 P/O Chas. E. F. M. Henson DFC D.C. Squadron, and 03390 P/O P. Humphrey, Engineer Officer. Arrangements were made for a general clean up of the sites, and for salvage collection. At 1745 hours, a parade of all Junior NCOs was held, and a lecture was given by D.C. Squadron on the duties of an NCO, as distinct from his technical duties. The month has shown great progress in converting from A Wellington Squadron to a Halifax Squadron, but there has been a great deal of non production labour owing to shortage of accommodation, and telephones. Continual moving from one office to another, and from one living quarter to another has not helped to preserve the morale of the Squadron. Accommodation is very crowded for ground crew, but it is hoped that this situation will be remedied shortly. There are now sixteen men in each Nissen hut, and this makes quarters crowded, and extremely stuffy. One site on the station is occupied by civilians, and when this is vacated, it is hoped to reduce the number at least by one man per hut.		

Place	Date	Time	PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON		Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
T-O-L-I-E-R-N-E	1943 Aug 31st		OFFICERS		AIRCREW	GROUND CREW	TOTAL
			R.C.A.F.		2	2	11
			R.C.A.F. (USA)		-	-	-
			R.A.F.		30	-	30
			W.A.A.F.s		-	-	-
			TOTAL		32	2	41
			AIRCREW		AIRCREW	GROUND CREW	TOTAL
			R.C.A.F.		26	270	306
			R.C.A.F. (USA)		-	2	2
			R.A.F.		72	53	122
			W.A.A.F.s		-	36	36
			TOTAL		97	374	471
			ESTABLISHMENT UNDER HIGH SQUADRON ORDER:- From July 15th - 385 WAA/AC/338				
			HEALTH OF SQUADRON:- GOOD				
			POSTING OF OFFICERS & AIRCREW O.U.T.				
			P/O W.D. Engleham, 143443 GD		Missing after operations against the enemy		
			P/O J.E. Brown, 147470 GD		night of 22.6.43 COLOGNE.		
			P/L C.G. Wilson, OAR 0873 MID		Posted to R.C.A.F. Base Linton-on-Ouse W.S.F.		
			P/O B. Pidge, OAR 347562 GD		Reported MISSING on 22.6.43 after operations		
			P/L R.A. Ryland-White, 89002 GD		Posted to 311 FPU Noroton-in-the-Marsh, W.S.F.		
					27.6.43 Authy. R. BC Sig. P27 dated 24.6.43.		

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of (Unit or Formation).....~~131 R.C.A.M. SCHAEFER~~

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1943			
<u>THOMPSON</u>	<u>Aug List</u> (cont'd)		<p><u>10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001)</u></p> <p>1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Reported missing on 24.6.43. Posted to Far Composites 11/4. On 26.8.43, posted to 23.6.43. Authy. 11.6 Group. United.</p> <p><u>POWING OFFICER & ATTENDANT</u></p> <p>1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted from 1659. On 11.6.43, posted to 13.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted from 1659. On 11.6.43, posted to 13.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted from 1659. On 11.6.43, posted to 13.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p><u>THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001)</u></p> <p>13.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 13.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 13.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>13.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 13.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 13.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>13.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 13.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 13.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>13.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 13.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 13.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p><u>POWING OFFICER & ATTENDANT</u></p> <p>10.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 10.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 10.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>10.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 10.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 10.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>10.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 10.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 10.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p> <p>10.6.43 1/0 10. THOMAS, ALBERT A. (1001) Posted to 10.6.43. On 11.6.43, posted to 10.6.43. Authy. 60/733/43 dated 11.6.43.</p>	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
THOLTHORP	1943			
	1943			
	(Doubtful)			
			<u>THORNTON, ALGERNON MacGill, R.N. (Glasgow)</u>	
			939253 P/O MacGill, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 1659 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 6, 11th Feb 43 until 60/737/43 dated 11th Feb 43
			1603150 Sgt. F. King, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 1664 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 27, 8th Aug 60/831/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			Cam 362195 P/O Hays, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 432 Squadron, Canadian Air Force, 1st Feb 43 until 60/831/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			Cam 61394 Sgt. A. G. Hays, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 1111 Squadron, Canadian Air Force, 1st Feb 43 until 60/831/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			Cam 159230 Sgt. P. King, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 1659 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 6, 11th Feb 43 until 60/737/43 dated 11th Feb 43
			Cam 1173530 Sgt. H. G. Hays, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 1664 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 27, 8th Aug 60/831/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			Cam 1127729 Sgt. A. G. Hays, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 432 Squadron, Canadian Air Force, 1st Feb 43 until 60/831/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			Cam 150072 Sgt. A. G. Hays, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 1111 Squadron, Canadian Air Force, 1st Feb 43 until 60/831/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			<u>THORNTON, ALGERNON MacGill, R.N. (Glasgow)</u>	
			135113 P/O R. L. Lomon	Posted to the rank of P/O (over-sub), 11th Feb 43 until London Gazette, 11th Feb 43
			130156 P/O R. L. Lomon	Posted to the rank of Flying Officer (over-sub), 11th Feb 43 until London Gazette, 11th Feb 43
			130159 P/O R. L. Lomon	Posted to the rank of Flying Officer (over-sub), 11th Feb 43 until London Gazette, 11th Feb 43

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 43 R.A.F. SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
<u>TRULINGHURST</u>	<u>1943</u>				
	<u>Aug. 31st</u>		<u>DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL OF 43 R.A.F. SQUADRON</u>		
	<u>(cont'd)</u>		<u>1335271 Sgt. RAY, Ronald, R.F.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 22.5.43 Authy A.M. Letter A562630/43 G.</u>	
				<u>7. dated 27.7.43</u>	
			<u>1365136 Sgt. W.O. STROUD, R.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 23.5.43 Authy A.M. Letter 560156/</u>	
				<u>43/4.7 dated 2.8.43</u>	
			<u>134011 Sgt. PILET, Reginald, R.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 22.5.43 Authy A.M. Letter A550102/43</u>	
				<u>/4.7 dated 13.7.43</u>	
			<u>1014792 Sgt. W.O. BARNES, J.H.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 1.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A555046/43/37</u>	
				<u>dated 13.7.43</u>	
			<u>1554369 Sgt. A. BOMB, Whitton, L.M.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 30.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A 560004/</u>	
				<u>43/4.7 dated 5.8.43</u>	
			<u>1561519 Sgt. HAY, Gordon, R.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F. W.O.F.</u>	
				<u>29.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A561334/43/3.7 dated</u>	
				<u>30.7.43</u>	
			<u>1339615 Sgt. HAY, Reginald, J.H.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 25.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A560350/43/3.7</u>	
				<u>dated 7.8.43</u>	
			<u>1592164 Sgt. W.O. MILLER, G.H.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 8.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A559256/43</u>	
				<u>57. Dated 11.8.43</u>	
			<u>RECEIVED AND AWARDED</u>		
			<u>967267 P/O A.C. HENRY, R.</u>	<u>Awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL.</u>	

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNTON	1943	Aug. 1st	<p>Work was continued on ground organization and equipping of offices. Only two aircraft were on the Squadron; all the others were on Conversion Courses, or on leave. P/O. Haynes and Crew and P/O. Rodale, and Crew, were recalled from 1659 G.V. TORGLIFFE, for posting to 432 (Wellington) Sqn. The Squadron regretted losing these crews, as they had been with the Squadron since its formation and the majority had just been granted their commissions. The Crews were as follows:</p> <p>146996 P/O. L.J. Haynes, Pilot 1385990 P/O. Rodale, J. Pilot</p> <p>146699 P/O. I. Gerdien, Nav. 146696 P/O. R.K. D'Arcy, Nav.</p> <p>146692 P/O. P.L. Brown, Bomb. 148057 P/O. G.A. Cow, Bomb.</p> <p>146613 P/O. L.N. Williams, W/C. 1294748 Sgt. W. Jackson, G. W/AG.</p> <p>1250317 Sgt. Robb, A. P/O. 1325819 Sgt. Ridgway, A.E. A/G.</p> <p>Ground crews were engaged on acceptance checks, and modifications, on the Squadron aircraft. U/E. Operators and electricians, in fitting temporary quarters. The Squadron was well represented at a service for other denominations held in the Airman's Mess, at 0930 hours, by G.3687 P/T. L.G. Davis, District Chaplain. The lesson read by G.6512 A/T. P.P. Hall. 126501 P/T. D.S. Moyer, Squadron Navigational Leader, was at UPMO on a three day P.P.F. course, and 1185991 P/O. Adams, R.A., was in temporary charge of the section. The Bombing Section commenced construction of a large "Crew Board". In the evening a practice softball game was played to pick teams to go to KNOTTSLEY, the following day for an exhibition game.</p>		
	Aug. 2nd		<p>The two crews posted to 432 Squadron, left by road transport at 1400 hours. It was necessary to send them all by road owing to poor railway facilities. At 1000 hours, 28 men left by road for KNOTTSLEY to play an exhibition game of softball, for the benefit of the combined charities of that town. The game attracted a great deal of attention. The men put on a good show in real Canadian softball style, until rain stopped play. They were later entertained at a dance, and ambused for the return journey at midnight. Owing to mistaking the road, they did not get back to camp until 0300 hours, but all had a good time. The party was in charge of George Herring, Canadian Y.M.C.A., who gave a commentary on the finer points of the game, over the loud speakers. Ground crews were working on modifications for aircraft, mainly working with Station 2 & 3. Section, as the Squadron Engineering Officer G.5302 P/L. P.J.H. Ransbury, is absent sick.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLFOPE	19 & 30 Aug. 2nd.		2 Ops. and 10 A.G.'s from Maintenance Section who had been detached at HQAF, Stations MIDDLTON ST GEORGE, and LEBING, to gain practical experience on Halifax aircraft were recalled to the Squadron, and were employed in preparing Squadron Aircraft for operational requirements. Weather was fair with some showers. Sixteen tables, and some chairs were obtained from Equipment Section, after some difficulty, for use in the Navigation Section. A chart showing a record of operational sorties, completed by Squadron Navigators was completed, and a map showing the defended areas of Great Britain, was placed on the wall of the Navigation Room.		
	AUG. 3rd.		G.983 W/O. W.F.M. Newson, Commanding the Squadron, attended a conference at Station H.Q. on general administrative matters. One P/O. and five other ranks were attached to the Squadron, from Air Ministry A.S.T.P. to give instruction to ground crew in Halifax V Aircraft. They were barracked on No. 2 Site, and arrangements were made for lectures and demonstrations to commence the following morning. As a temporary measure these were held in 434 Sqdn. Ops Room. Three men R.652122 LAC. Bryant, A.O., R.428278 LAC. McDougall, L., and R.152609 LAC. Good, R.A., left for overseas posting. Ground crew were working on modifications. The Nav. Officer was still away on course, but the Navigators on station, completed a Navigators "Ops" Board and made further improvements in the Nav. Office. The first aircraft received by the Squadron, since a start was made on re-equipping was flown on acceptance flight by the Squadron Commander, G.983 W/O. W.F.M. Newson, with J.17750 P/O. R.H. Martin, as engineer. The whole crew could not be flown because to date the Squadron has no T.R. 9 net intercommunication. Other essential parts are lacking, and unless the materials start rolling into the Equipment Section in the near future, the non-operational period of the Squadron will be greatly lengthened.		
	AUG. 4th.		R.9802 S/Lt. B.A. Byward-Wright, R.A.F. proceeded to LONDON to attend Central Medical Board. The Signals Leader 130917 P/O. A. Hutt, and the two W/O.'s remaining on the Station, amended bomber code, constructed notice boards, and desk trays from waste wood. The Navigation Leader 126901 W/O. D.S. Hayes, returned from his course with P.F.F. Squadron. The crew board in Nav. Section was completed. Navigation Office Files were drawn from the Adjutant, revised and stored in filing cabinet. The Nav. Officer obtained a packing case, and his helpers constructed a cupboard, as no cupboards were obtainable from Equipment Stores. The Nav. Leader visited Conversion		

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of (Unit or Formation) 421 R.A.F. Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNHURST	19 & 30 Aug. 48.		Unit at THORNHURST, to iron out any difficulties, and see if the Navigators on course there were progressing favourably. The Adjutant G.3571 P/Lt. G.R. Higgins, visited the Comparessant House at Ashon, to interview R.2494 L/O. Pugh, in connection with an injury sustained at SHRY. On arrival he found that the patient had been moved that day to York Military Hospital and on after telephoning to ensure that he would not be moved again he proceeded to York Military Hospital and completed his investigation. He was accompanied by G.3587 P/Lt. L.O. Scott, Provost Constable, who visited the sick. Ground crew were employed on modifications to aircraft. Armourers were attached to Station Armament Officer and Electricians to Station Electrical Officer for work. 10 men were loaned to Regiment Hospital for general duties. The weather deteriorated and became overcast with rain and high cooler.		
		Aug 29th	G.367 P/O. W.P.M. Newson, flew one of the Halifax V aircraft for acceptance check. A roster of Orderly Officers was prepared, and went into effect immediately for the Station. It is hoped that this exercise will result in better conditions in the Mess Hall. Arrangements were made for the 'Net' Officer, L.0123 P/O. Radosch, to supply a forecast every morning to the Navigation Section, a 'Net' board was constructed and 'Net' agreed to draw in on a map a weather chart for 2000 hours daily. A chart showing 'cross-country' tracks and distances was completed and fixed up in the Mess room. The Navigation Officer L.0591 P/Lt. R. J. Jones visited compression unit at GREF, to check on the Squadron Navigators attending course there, and for liaison purposes. A notice board for the Bombing Section was completed by L.1150 P/Lt. R. J. Lister, Squadron Bombing Leader. No. 1 Site was inspected by the Adjutant P/Lt. G.R. Higgins, G.3571, and No. 2 Site by J.9766 P/O. W.T. Harris. A practice softball game was held, 'A' Flight v 'B' Flight in the evening, but was not a great success, as bad weather stopped play. Ground crew were employed on work for Squadron aircraft, and a training lectures and demonstrations by AEF R.A.C.O.'s. These lectures were very much appreciated by the personnel. The Signals Leader L.0917 P/Lt. A. Ruth, had a conference with the Station Signals Officer G.15133 P/Lt. A.D. Blackford. Signals section collected office furniture from equipment stores, and was temporary housed at the back of 'B' Flight Office.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLTOFT	Aug. 6th		ground crew employed on modifications and acceptance checks on Squadron aircraft, also on lectures, and demonstrations under the ASTI. Weather continued cold and rainy. It was found necessary to move both Flight Commanders, and the Chaplain into the front room of 'B' Flight Office. The two back rooms were occupied by the Signals Leader 130917 P/Lt A. Butt, and the Gunnery Leader, and ABE, 111091 P/Lt. L.L. McLeod, respectively. 'A' Flight office was turned over to the ASTI. For lectures and hitherto these had been held in 434 Squadron Crew Room, but as 434 is now operational, the room was not available for lectures.		
			1011098 S/Lt. Avery, J.V. Pilot (and crew) - 1314553 Sgt. Shields, Wt. Nav. 1977663 Sgt. Reddy, W. A. Bomb. 1078263 Sgt. Cash, JC. WO. AG. Cms. 46190A, Sgt. McGowan, Wt. A. Gunner		P. 20 P. 540 p.
			who had been interned in Switzerland since Dec. 43. following a raid on STUTTGART, returned to the Squadron. They reported that before attacking the target their aircraft was struck by flak and badly damaged. They realized that they would not be able to return to base, so decided to bomb the target, and then try and reach Switzerland.		
			The Adjutant 603571 P/Lt. C.E. Higgins, delivered a lecture to all ground crew on security. A small store cabinet in the new section for the use of the Navigation Leader 126901 P/Lt. D.S. Morris was complete. A flight plan outline was marked on the wall of the new section, as an aid to Navigators when on cross countries or operations. A check of all Navigational equipment was held and a list of same was sent to the Base Navigational Section at LONDON. The Bombing section completed construction of a cupboard and painted the office throughout, as it appeared probable that they would have a very long wait if it was to be done by War's Section. A hole was put in the wall between the Bombing Leaders, and Nav. Leaders office, to enable both officers to have access to telephone when one is installed. The Signals section completed an inventory check of equipment, ordered W/X. log books, and Signal documents. The Adjutant 603571 P/Lt. C.E. Higgins, held a complete visual check of all secret and confidential documents.		
	Aug. 7th		88902 S/Lt. B.A. Wyndward-Wright, returned from General Medical Board, LONDON, having been passed A & B, much to his content. In the navigation section all charts Mercator, and Gee were stored in the map chest. A map of the continent was fixed on the wall.		

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of (Unit or Formation) 431 B.O.S.A.F. Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORPES	Aug. 7th.		<p>A chart showing D.R. Compass drill to be carried out, during and after a sortie or across country was completed. The navigation section shows evidence of much good work, and is taking shape nicely. In the Signals section amendments were made to ROSET and RSP. The notice board was painted, and filing cards checked, and brought up to date, and listed. Ground crews were still employed on acceptance checks, and work on rods. Lectures by AGP continued. Three small rooms being used. The space is cramped, but lasturers say they can manage. The photo section moved into the Station Photographic Building, and installed equipment. The building is still not completed, but it was considered safe to make the move, since it can be locked at night, and someone will be on duty there all day if workers are round the building. A posting notice was received posting 809016 Sgt. Barber, 1128448 Sgt. Hill, both R.A.F. also other personnel; in all 2 Sgts. P22, 1 Sgt. P22, 3 Cpls. P22, 1 Cpl. P22, and 3 A.O.'s P22. Since our present shortage of Sergeants is 4 P22, and 7 P22, it was considered that this posting would very seriously influence the efficiency of the Squadron for some time to come, and a strong protest was made to Records, regarding this, by telephone. Records promised to look into the matter, and inform us of their decision as early as possible. C.985 W/O. F.M. Newson, accompanied C.133 G/O. Gordon, R.O. and 37876 W/O. C. Harris, to Base Headquarters where they lunched with The Secretary of State for Air, Sir A. Sinclair, the A.O.C. in C. HQAF No. 6, C.30 Air Marshal H. Sturges, C.B. The A.O.C. No. 6 Group, C.42 A/V. G. A. B. Brooker, C.B.E. and the base Commander C.60 A/Odr. C.M. Molloy, M.O. D.F.C.</p> <p>In the afternoon, the Adjutant C.377 P/O. G.R. Higgins, accompanied the Station Administrative Officer C.451 B/L. R.E.A. Iveson, and the Adjutant A/Lt. Cpl. G. T. Rutherford, to Base Headquarters on instructions from C.492 W/O. G. A. B. Brooker, for the purpose of having a sheet photograph taken. They arrived at 1400 hours but for various reasons the photograph was not taken, and they returned to their duties at 1630 hours. The weather continued cold and rainy.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNHURST	1943	Aug. 30th	<p>The five aircraft issued to the Squadron to date, were inspected and the work of modifications was found to be progressing satisfactory, in view of the difficulty in getting supplies and components. The weather was poor. The Bombing Leader 131160 F/Lt. R.L. Lister, with other bomb siners on the Squadron attended a lecture on the Mark XIV Bombsight, in 434 Sqn, Bombing Leaders Office in the morning. In the afternoon some scrap line was obtained from contractors and laid in the Bombing Leaders Office. The Signals Leader 130887 F/Lt. A. Butt, was busy designing a notice board for WOP, AG's, and a letter was written to Signals Officer, Durn, regarding the regrading of WOP, AG's and interrogation reports. The Navigation Leader 126501 F/Lt. D.S. Hayes, prepared a chart showing all defenced areas in Germany, and Cerna. Occupied country, and a chart was prepared instructing navigators what to do before take off. Shelves were removed and re-oriented in different positions for storage of documents. The Gunnery Leader 131091 F/Lt. L.L. Holand, was engaged in a 'scravenging' tour, which resulted in the acquiring of a lot of useful instructional equipment for Bolton Paul Gun Turrets. One sergeant and 35 ground crew personnel who had been detached to RAAF Station, LINDSEY, for instruction in Halifax V. Aircraft, returned to the Squadron, and were housed in No. 3 Site. The Squadron Adjutant G.3371 F/Lt. C.R. Higgins, inspected No. 3 Site for cleanliness of huts, and surroundings, and to find any vacant accommodation. No. 2 Site was inspected by J.5766 F/O. W.T. Harris. Representations were again made to the Station Administrative Officer G.451 S/Lt. R.W.A. Iremonger, regarding the shortage of batons, and the poor quality of service being given by these men.</p>		
	Aug. 30th		<p>G.393 S/Olt. W.F.M. Henson, Officer Commanding the Squadron, with AM.411901 F/Lt. L.L. Holand, and J.5766 F/O. W.T. Harris, journeyed to LINDSEY for liaison purposes, and also to collect stores. In the afternoon the Squadron was visited by G.116 G/Olt. J.G. Baynes, RAAF. He inspected the set up of the Navigation and Bombing sections, and rooms, and congratulated the Leaders on their ingenuity, and resourcefulness. The Gunnery section received a case of Aircraft Recognition models in the morning. In the afternoon the Gunnery Leader AM.411901 F/Lt. L.L. Holand, gave a lecture on Bolton Paul Turrets to gunners arriving from Conversion Course at 1659 G.U. THORNHURST. In the Navigation section work was still progressing on charts and diagrams, and permission was obtained by S/Olt. W.F.M. Henson, to have the section redecorated as soon as</p>		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 407 Coastal Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
THROCKMORPH	19 Aug 41 (cont)		possible. The Signals Leader 13027 P/O. A. Nutt, was very short of the day, spending 1.1. 1927 Operating Signals 13.26/41. In the landing section, a short was prepared showing "re-nights bank lead". A small amount of office equipment (waste paper baskets, etc.) was drawn from stores, and a short was drawn up showing the monthly returns required by No. 6 Group. All Squadron aircrew on the station, attended an "orange" lecture in the station briefing room, at 11.00 hours. Great difficulties in the efficient running of Squadron offices is being experienced, owing to the delay in mails. It sometimes takes four or even five days from base to reach the Squadron. It is almost impossible to get telephone calls through to Base Headquarters in less than one hour, as lines are so crowded with calls. It is hoped that this condition will be rectified in the near future. Weather was fine.	SECRET.
	Aug. 10th		Navigation section was busy working on a Master Cross Country Lecture, approx. 9 hours, to include Infra Red, Bombing, Air Firing, etc. It is intended that this shall be the climax to the training programme. The signals Leader 13027 P/O. A. Nutt, decided not to be outdone by other sections and managed to get a lecturer to serve as a temporary substitute, also collected a small radio, and magazine rack from the I.C.C. for use in the W.P.O.'s and A.C.'s crew room. An office desk was made and painted. The Gunnery Leader /Sgt. 4192 P/O. L. L. L. visited LITTON workshop, to check the gun adjustment tools, being made there for his section. In the landing section a lecture was given by (Maintenance) P/O. Hanson, R.F.C. on the first XV Bombight. All available bomb charts were present, bomb charts were taken and plotted, and bomb charts were getting practice in the manipulation of the first XV Bombight, which has been created in the landing section for this purpose. Considerable trouble is experienced in the Squadron offices by the fact that returns in this Group are required to be made out differently from the way they are made out, and accepted in No. 4 Group. This has necessitated a lot of retyping by the orderly room staff, which has put in many hours overtime. In consequence since our only typists work on what is known as the "HIT, HIT, HIT" system, and we have no touch typists, they are becoming seriously fatigued, and consequently errors are on the increase. It has been found necessary to defer temporarily the typing which section leaders are requesting should be done.	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNDIKE	Aug. 11th		<p>Some trouble was experienced regarding Casual Pay, as the lists sent to Base on Monday 9th, had not reached the Accounts section by the morning of the 11th, and the Pay accounts had not enough cash to pay all those going on leave. This resulted in transportation having to be provided for some 35 personnel to go to LONDON for pay. It is felt that a great deal of this trouble would be eliminated if the chief accountant could be stationed with the Squadron. This was done at Base, and proved a great success. The Chief Accountant Officer at Base is being consulted in the matter. In the Navigation and Bombing sections work was commenced on clearing up the grounds around the building and constructing a garden to improve the appearance of the place. All navigators not on Concordean Course or on leave were given a lecture on the D.L. Compass, regarding its manipulation, before, during, and after flight. They were also given a lecture on tuning up the latest Compass in Halifax aircraft, and all were shown over the Halifax V. The Guntery Leader AIR-411903 P/O. HENCOCK, L.A., again visited Base workshops at LONDON to mend damaged tools. Some equipment was loaned to the squadron to help them become operational. The C.O. Squadron, C.983 W/O W.F. HANSON, inspected the Technical Site and was not satisfied with progress being made by the Constructors. The Adjutant C.3572 P/O. C.A. HIGGINS, visited the Airmen's Dining Hall at noon meal, and heard every complaint.</p>		
	Aug. 12th		<p>The C.O. Squadron, C.983 W/O W.F. HANSON, the two Flight Commanders G0532 S/L P.A. HILL and G9802 S/L R.A. THORNDIKE, and the Adjutant C.3572 P/O. C.A. HIGGINS, held a conference in the Flight Commanders office to talk over any causes of complaint and general welfare of the Squadron. Three crews returned from Concordean Course, and succeeded on 7 days leave. The Adjutant paraded R.63831 Cpl. SIMON, before the Officer Commanding, to make specific complaints regarding the messing and rationing. It was felt that these complaints were well founded, and that the H.Q.O. had good constructed suggestions to make. All Navigators attended a lecture on the Mark XIV Bomb Sight. This was given by (No. 1444) James of Bomber Command. The lecture was very good, and a great deal of "game" was obtained. In the morning all bomb airmen carried out a "Dry Spin" after which gardening was continued. In the afternoon more work was carried out on charts, and the remainder of the bomb airmen played "Pin Point the Bomber". More material was obtained by the Gunnery section pending their move.</p>		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THRELKORPE	1943				
	Aug. 12th.	(cont)	to other quarters of a more permanent nature. The Signals Section was busy making up W/T. logs. An aerial for the Radio set was installed. The Officer Commanding the Squadron, and the Adjutant, journeyed to Base H.Q. LINTON, where a photograph of the Administrative Staffs for Base, Stations, and Squadron, was taken; it is preserved for publicity purposes.		
	Aug. 13th.		News was obtained from the TMA, that four members of the Squadron had been granted awards. They were :- G.293 W/Odr. Newson, R.A.F.C. Pilot, D.F.C. 120068 F/O. Gibson, R.A.F. Navigator, D.F.C. 1577364 W/O. Glynn, R.A.F. Air Gunner G.C.M. 267367 W/O. Henry, R.A.F. Air Gunner D.F.C. These awards were very popular with the Squadron, and everyone hastened to congratulate W/Odr. Newson, the only recipient at present on the Station. The other three at present are absent on Conversion courses. Arrangements were made to inform them immediately. The Bomb aimers were again busy gardening in the morning. In the afternoon they had another lecture on the No. XIV. Bombight by F/O. Barnes, following which gun shots were taken and plotted. All navigators attended the lecture on the Bombight given by F/O. Barnes, and spent the rest of the day working on charts. The Gunnery Leader and gunners on the Station, had talks with the Armoury on the turret problems, and both gunners and armourers benefited. The Signals Leader, 150917 F/Lt. A. Nutt, visited Base, LINTON, to interview the Officer regarding Bomb Codes, Code covers, etc. An inventory of office equipment in the Signals Section was completed. The Adjutant, G.3571 F/Lt. G.R. Higgins, held a hurried inspection of No. 2 Site and pointed out improvements to be carried out. Horse shoe pitches were constructed at No. 2 & 3 Sites, and horse shoe pitching at once became popular.		
	Aug. 14th.		G.293 W/Odr. W.F.M. Newson, and G. 135 G/Opt. R.O. Gordon, Commanding the Station, visited No. 6 Group H.Q. to confer with the S.A.A.S.O. and to see a baseball game between THRELKORPE and No 6 Group. The game resulted in a win for THRELKORPE 8-3. The Navigation section completed a Master Chart showing all operations by navigators for operational sortie. This will be placed in a prominent position as soon as the redecoration of the section is finished. 131168 F/Lt. E.L. Lister, Bombing Leader, gave a lecture on the Halifax Bombing Gear to all Navigators in the		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLETHORPE.	1943. Aug. 14th. (cont)		morning. The afternoon was taken up in gardening. Crew boards were completed by the Gunnery section, and more charts and records were commenced. Work is still held up in this section by lack of materials from stores. The Signals Leader 130917 P/Lt. A. Nutt, spent most of the day marking examination papers written by ground operators. A large number of personnel visited York and Harrogate in the evening. Other personnel visited Kasingpla, Boro-bridge, and Belperby, by cycle.		
	Aug. 15th.		The Navigators and Bomb aimers were again busy gardening, but made poor progress as the ground is very hard. Some air shots were taken in the morning, and bomb aimers constructed pistolwheel boards. AM. 411901 P/Lt. L.L. Moleed, Gunnery Leader, proceeded on a tactics course at WITZBING in the morning. This is a very poor day for courses to commence as there is neither train nor bus transport between the Station and YORK till 14.00 hours. The Signals Leader drew Secret Publications for his section, and inserted the latest amendments. A fair number of the personnel attended the other denominations Church Parade, held in the Airmens Dining Hall at 14.00 hours by O.3687 P/Lt. L.G. Scott. A complaint was made of petty theft in one building on No. 3 Site. The Adjutant, P/Lt. Higgins, and three service police instituted a search of the hut in the presence of all the men. Some articles on which there was some suspicion was found in the kit of a man proceeding on attachment to LIDFON that day, but since he gave an explanation that they were received in a parcel, and no proof could be obtained that the articles were not his, he was allowed to proceed. A distinct improvement in the quality of the food in the Airmens Mess was noted today, and it was commented on by the majority of the men. A Station Messing Committee was formed, and R.63831 Cpl. Wilson, A.W. was appointed as Squadron representative. R.55721 P/Sgt. Livingston W.F. was appointed to the Entertainments committee, and an audition was held in the evening to pick talent.		
	Aug. 16th.		O.3371 P/Lt. C.R. Higgins, proceeded to KENDALTON ST GEORGE, as member of a District Court Martial. The Navigation section was prepared for redecorating, but was informed that the painters could not work on it until the end of the week. The inside wiring for telephones at the different offices was put in, but telephones will not be installed until the buildings are occupied as permanent quarters. This cannot be done until the Technical Site is ready for occupation.		

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of (Unit or Formation) 473 (Bomber) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLSTON	1943 Aug. 16 (cont'd)		In the meantime the only telephone on the Squadron is in the Adjutant's office, and communication is carried out by runner. This causes many delays. "Navigation Instructions" were received from 6 Group Headquarters, and handed over to the Navigation Leader for study. (Note: [Name]) P/O Barnes, J.G. Bomber Command gave a lecture to Bomb Airmen on the levelling of the Mk. XIV Bomb sight in the morning. In the afternoon Bomb Airmen took sun shots and plotted them. The P/O, and A/Vs carried out extensive building re construction in the last allotted to them, which has just been vacated by the contractors personnel. Partitions were removed to make a crew room. Two rooms at either end being retained as offices. Weather was poor with some rain all day.		
	Aug. 17th		In the morning all Navigators, and Bomb Airmen attended a further lecture on the Mk. XIV Bomb sight, following which Navigators worked on gardening up the surrounds of the Section. Bomb Airmen did dry swim in the morning, and made holders for the Bomb Airmen's log, wireless Operators moved into their new quarters, which it is hoped will be permanent. Flight Engineers moved into their quarters, and commenced furnishing them. Since the Squadron has not had Flight Engineers on strength before, they were also busy getting acquainted with ground personnel in the flight. Ground crew were engaged on modifications for aircraft, and are acquiring a good knowledge of the Halifax Mk. V.		
	Aug. 18th		0330 P/O S.J.B. Hargrey returned from hospital, and had a conference with the Station Engineer Officer, P/O [Name], and the Officer i/c station RAI. 0840 P/O [Name] Purvis. Many small differences, and difficulties were straightened out. The ground crew were glad to see him, and his presence added zest to their work. His sickness came at a very inopportune time, just as the Squadron was moving, and re-equipment, but the work was very ably performed by 36331 P/O Sharpe, R.G. The Navigation leader gave a lecture to all Navigators on the Day Compass, and an Compass setting. A wireless set was procured for the navigation section, as the old one was unserviceable. The Bomber Command Navigation Summary for July was discussed by navigators. 6 Group Navigation Instructions were received, and studied. The Bomb Airmen were given a lecture on the recognition, and worked on gardening up the building surrounds. The Wireless Operators made a filing cabinet from packing case lumber, and the Bombing		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 131 BOMBING SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1943			
THORNTON	Aug 21st	(cont'd)	<p>towing arm on the station. Endeavour are being made to secure more. In the afternoon a general discussion on all navigation aids was held, and many useful points brought to light. The Bomb Airmen received another lecture on the MCV bomb sight, and in the afternoon practised astro shots. A bomb load chart was finished, and some work done on gardening. The Wireless Operators were engaged in daily Transcriptions, and the signals leader 110917 P/L Nutt sorted training packs, and some painting on notice boards. Ground crew were still engaged on modification, and working with IAT Section for examination.</p>	
	Aug 22nd		<p>C 1350/L Murphy, I. Squadron Engineer officer returned from Middleton, St. George by air. 0943 P.M. Newson, DPO having flown up by Moth to fetch him, and for liaison. The latter was recalled to London by Air Ministry. Their help in instructing the ground crew is much appreciated, and it is regretted that they could not have remained to give instruction to the Flight Engineers. In the Navigation section tracks and distances of all cross-country flights set out by Group were measured to facilitate arrangements for training at a future date. All Navigators were employed in the afternoon removing lockers from the Equipment Section to locker rooms. A form was made up by Bombing Section to show the position of bombs and lead. This form will be issued to all Bomb Airmen. In the afternoon Bomb Airmen were given a demonstration on how to read the MCV computer by means of a spirit level. A fair number of squadron personnel attended services, which were held in the Airmen Mess for other denominations, by 03687 P/L L.C. Scott, Protestant Chaplain. Ground crew were engaged on modification, and servicing aircraft. Flight personnel moved from their temporary quarters on the Technical site. This will make their offices much handier to their work, but since no telephone is yet installed at the technical site, additional runners will still have to be employed to keep in touch with the squadron engineers, and Flight personnel. 20726 Sgt L. Reynolds and crew returned from leave, and arrangements were made to start the Flying Training programme within the next two or three days.</p>	
	Aug 23rd		<p>The Squadron is at last getting time to arrange sports, and a team for soft ball was started for each site. An Officer's softball team is also proposed, but owing to the fact that the majority of the aircrew in the squadron are English, the aircrew, and officer's teams are not</p>	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
THOLTHORPE	1943 Aug 23rd (cont'd)		<p>expected to be first class. However the team spirit is being fostered, and should help in the work. In the Navigation Section, there was a general discussion on Navigation policy. Navigators, and Bomb Aimers joined in gardening up around the site, and the Bomb Aimers were given a further lecture in the MK XIV Bomb Sight. Air Gunners were given a lecture on territory, by the gunnery leader, 157001 P/L L. L. MacLeod. Work continued on furnishing the section and 51603 P/O E. Lawrence went to Linton, and returned with four harmonisation charts, and and gun adjustment spinners. Wireless Operators were engaged in daily inspections, and all aircrew available helped move lockers to a temporary locker room, which is being shared with 434 Squadron, until the new one is ready. Work has been recommenced on the one for 431 Squadron, and it is hoped that it will be ready, by the time the Squadron becomes operational.</p> <p>Aug. 24th Training was commenced on the Squadron to-day, with four details of Fighter affiliation, and three air and sea firing. The Fighter affiliation was successfully carried out with a Spitfire from Dalton, but only one air to sea firing was completed, as "O" MK 898 was taxied over a tree stump near the perimeter track, and rendered O.K. A further detail of air firing in the afternoon had to be cancelled, as the aircraft developed an oil leak. 60538 S/L F. J. Hill flew "F" MK 897 on an acceptance flight, which was satisfactory. In the morning Navigators, not flying, were employed on various duties in the section, and in the afternoon, they attended a "Net", lecture dealing with winds. Later in the afternoon Navigators, and Bomb Aimers attended a lecture by the Squadron Bombing Leader 167006 P/L E. L. Lister on the new Bomb Aimers Log. Gunners not flying, were given a lecture on harmonising types "F" & "A" turrets. Ground crew was employed on modifications for aircraft, and servicing those flying. A rather large percentage of the ground crew are being called on for fatigues, owing to the shortage of station personnel. It is necessary to detail men daily for planning in the Mess Hall. AOH/Uds are employed under training as kitchen equipment workers, on loan to the station as batmen, sanitary fatigues, and various duties, from which they would be free, if Base were able to supply the station personnel, which are required for domestic duties. Owing to almost continuous bad weather, and low cloud all flying training for the day was suspended. A crew conference was held on general topics, in the Navigators, and Bomb Aimers room (continued on page 24)</p>		

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Page No. 84

of (Unit or Formation) 431 BOMBERS SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORPE	1 July 3 Aug 25th (cont'd)		The work of the P.F.V. was discussed, and crews informed that volunteers were still needed. In the morning Navigators swung the compass on aircraft "D". All Navigators were given a lecture on the Mk XIV Bomb Sight, by 167406 P/L E.L. Lister. This lecture was followed by a lecture by 125901 P/L D.J. Moyes, Navigation Leader, in the use of Astro. Gunners were again given Halifax familiarisation, as the weather had spoiled the flying program. Wireless Operators were getting ready for reclassification tests, and daily inspections. Ground crew were busy on aircraft, the continuous bad weather is making the work of modifications more difficult, but fairly satisfactory progress is being made.		
	Aug 26th		At 0615 hrs., 6 983 W/Odr. W. Falkenstein, JNC commanding Squadron, and 441109 P/L L.L. MeLeod, Gunnery Leader, left by transport for Burnham Deepdale, to witness army maneuvers. They returned the same evening. A large bombing program was laid down for the day, but owing to poor visibility, and low clouds, some details were cancelled. 1331922 P/L Davies, P. and 110542 P/L Wilkinson, R.I. flew to Croft, to collect two aircraft for the Squadron. P/L Davies brought one back, but the one which 110542 P/L Wilkinson was to collect was undergoing an engine change, and could not be brought back to THORPE. 60532 P/L P.P. Hill carried out a successful acceptance check on "D" IX. 205, which was handed over to "A" Flight. 1309224 Sgt. Tierney, L.J. damaged a fin and rudder, when taking into disposal. Fortunately only a small amount of damage was done, and it was soon repaired. During the day the Navigation, and Bombing sections were redecorated. All Navigators, and Bomb Aimers assisted the painters as much as possible, by moving the equipment as required. One Bomb of Gunners did harmonisation their work being checked by R 70920 P/Lgt. Maitland. The balance of the Gunners exchanged flying clothing, and did a period of aircraft recognition. The Gunnery Section have the type T training turret in hand, and expect to have it serviceable in a few days. Some Wireless Operators took their Grade I examinations, and made good average marks. 80/86 W/O training pages were made up, and arrangements were made for an R.A.F. lecture. The Squadron provided a fatigue party to the Equipment Store to their furniture which had been stored in the Sergeants Mess, to the Equipment store, as it has been found necessary to turn part of the Sergeants Mess into a dormitory, owing to the shortage of accommodation on this station.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLBORPE	1943				
	Aug 27th		The training programme was continued, with some Flight affiliation, beam approach training, using Linton beam, and local flying including the levelling of several MK XIV bombights. Aircraft D.K. 265 was flown on acceptance flight by 60532 S/L F.P.Hill. The training of Wireless Operators on special equipment was commenced. Six Wireless Operators were given instructions by 130156 F/O R. Ball, and 148009 F/O O.E.R.Davies. In the Navigation Section, charts, which had been prepared beforehand, were placed on the walls where they will attract the attention of everyone. Gunners carried out air to sea firing. The painters reported, and finished painting the offices to be occupied by Squadron Headquarters and by the Gunnery, and Wireless Operator Flights. Ground crews were employed on servicing aircraft and modifications to aircraft. Weather was fair, with some cloud, and showers.		
	Aug. 28th		The weather was poor, with low cloud, poor visibility, and rain. No flying took place. 129679 F/O F.E.Mitchell, the Squadron Safety Equipment Officer gave a lecture on air and sea rescues, using an excellent model he has made of an Airborne lifeboat. In the Navigation section, six Wireless Operators were given instructions in new equipment by 13-159 F/O R. Tierney, and 130156 F/O R. Ball. A letter was sent to HQ 6 Group requesting permission for a long cross country. Aircraft "G" had compass swung, and in the afternoon owing to bad weather the remainder of aircrew were given the afternoon off. In the Gunnery Section, since no flying could be done, Gunners were given practice work in turrets in the morning. All Navigators were given a dry swim in the morning. Ground crews worked on modifications.		
	Aug. 29th		Poor weather, with rain, and low visibility again interfered with flying training and the only flying was an acceptance check carried out by 60532 S/L F.P.Hill in LK 612. The Bomb Aimers made a plotting chart for plotting photographs and in the afternoon were given a "dry swim". Gunners, who had not previously done the exercise were busy harmonizing guns on aircraft. Wireless Operators were busy with Daily Inspections. "Cee" training and R.D.F. Ground crews, and Flight Engineers were engaged on modifications and servicing aircraft. C983 W/Cdr. W.F.M. Newson DFC, Commanding the Squadron attended a conference at Station Headquarters to enquire into the provision of the necessary fatigues, and man power situation. The Squadron is exceedingly short of FOMs, and Flight Mechanics the class of		

(70080-2200) Wt 2400-2210 1200 1210 F.A. 200
 (70080-2200) Wt 1210-1220 1200 1210 F.A. 200

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Page No. 8

of (Unit or Formation) 433 B.C.A.F. Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNTON	1943		fatigue work.		
	Aug. 29th		Weather 1. the morning was extremely unpropitious, but cleared later, and flying training took place. Four details of bombing were carried out over the 37-mi. Range and one detail of Fighter Affiliation was carried out in the afternoon. One more aircraft was received in the afternoon. One more aircraft was received in the afternoon. Five Bombing Exercises were carried out, thirty eight bombs being released. The results were good, considering that most of the bombaimers were having their first practice with the Mk XIV bomb sight. In the Navigation Section, two hours "Geo" was given to Wireless Operators. All contents were checked, and repaired where necessary. Navigators kit was checked. Thirty five air chancas, Sept-20s were received. Ground crew were busy on servicing and modifications.		
	Aug. 30th		Weather was excellent. Programme called for Fighter affiliation, and air firing. Unfortunately A.E.D.H. Dalton due to unserviceability could only provide one Fighter. However more flying than of recent days was got in, including collection of one aircraft from Croft. All available Bomb Aimers, and Navigators attended a lecture by 17750 P/O M. Martin, Flight Engineer, Leader on the petrol, and emergency hydraulic system of the Halifax aircraft. 13309 P/O E. Hewitt reported on posting from 465 Squadron. The Navigators among the compasses on aircraft "C" and "H". An inspection of all living sites was carried out, by 0903 P/O Chdr. E.F.M. Henson DFC D.C. Squadron, and 03390 P/O P. Humphrey, Engineer Officer. Arrangements were made for a general clean up of the sites, and for salvage collection. At 1745 hours, a parade of all Junior HQOs was held, and a lecture was given by D.C. Squadron on the duties of an HQO, as distinct from his technical duties. The month has shown great progress in converting from A Wellington Squadron to a Halifax Squadron, but there has been a great deal of non production labour owing to shortage of accommodation, and telephones. Continual moving from one office to another, and from one living quarter to another has not helped to preserve the morale of the Squadron. Accommodation is very crowded for ground crew, but it is hoped that this situation will be remedied shortly. There are now sixteen men in each Nissen hut, and this makes quarters crowded, and extremely stuffy. One site on the station is occupied by civilians, and when this is vacated, it is hoped to reduce the number at least by one man per hut.		

Place	Date	Time	PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON		Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
T-O-L-I-E-R-N-E	1943 Aug 31st		OFFICERS		AIRCREW	GROUND CREW	TOTAL
			R.C.A.F.		2	2	11
			R.C.A.F. (USA)		-	-	-
			R.A.F.		30	-	30
			W.A.A.F.s		-	-	-
			TOTAL		32	2	41
			AIRCREW		AIRCREW	GROUND CREW	TOTAL
			R.C.A.F.		26	270	306
			R.C.A.F. (USA)		-	2	2
			R.A.F.		72	53	122
			W.A.A.F.s		-	36	36
			TOTAL		97	374	471
			ESTABLISHMENT UNDER THIS SQUADRON - From July 19th - 1943 WAA/AC/338				
			HEALTH OF SQUADRON - GOOD				
			POSTING OF OFFICERS & AIRCREW O.U.T.				
			P/O W.D. Eaglesham, 143043 GD		Missing after operations against the enemy		
			P/O J.E. Brown, 147470 GD		night of 22.6.43 COLOGNE.		
			P/L C.G. Wilson, OAR 0873 MID		Posted to R.C.A.F. Base Linton-on-Ouse W.S.F.		
			P/O R. Pidge, OAR 347562 GD		Reported MISSING on 22.6.43 after operations		
			P/L R.A. Ryland-White, 89002 GD		Posted to 311 FPU Noroton-in-the-Marsh, W.S.F.		
					27.6.43 Authy. R. BC Sig. P27 dated 24.6.43.		

(14000-1000) Wt 14001-1010 1000 1010 T.A. 700
 (14000-1000) Wt 14001-1010 1000 1010 T.A. 700

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of (Unit or Formation).....~~131 R.C.A.M. SCHAEFER~~

No. of pages used for day_____

[illegible]

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
THOLTHORP	1943			
	1943			
	(Doubtful)			
			<u>THORNTON, ALGERNON MacGill, R.N. (Glasgow)</u>	
			939253 P/O MacGill, Newcastle, Co.	Posted from 1659 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 6, 11th Feb 43 until 60/737/43 dated 11th Feb 43
			1603150 Sgt. F. King, Alexandria, E.	Posted from 1663 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 27, 8th Aug 60/803/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			Cam 363495 P/O Hays, Newcastle, E.	Posted from 408 Squadron Canadian Air Corps, 1st Feb 43 until 20th Feb 43 until arrival
			Cam 61394 Sgt. A. G. Hays, Newcastle, E.	Posted from 1111 Squadron, 1st Feb 43 until 60/737/5672/43/35 dated 17th Feb 43
			Cam 459230 Sgt. P. King, Newcastle, E.	Posted from 1659 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 6, 11th Feb 43 until 60/737/43 dated 11th Feb 43
			Cam 1173530 Sgt. H. G. Hays, Newcastle, E.	Posted from 1663 Cam. Unit Royal Air Force, No. 27, 8th Aug 60/803/43 dated 26th Feb 43
			Cam 1127720 Sgt. A. G. Hays, Newcastle, E.	Posted from 408 Squadron Canadian Air Corps, 1st Feb 43 until 20th Feb 43 until arrival
			Cam 100072 Sgt. A. G. Hays, Newcastle, E.	Posted from 1111 Squadron, 1st Feb 43 until 60/737/5672/43/35 dated 17th Feb 43
			<u>THORNTON, ALGERNON MacGill, R.N. (Glasgow)</u>	
			135113 P/O R. L. Lomon	Posted to the rank of P/O (over-sub), 1st Feb 43 until 60/737/43 dated 11th Feb 43
			130156 P/O R. L. Lomon	Posted to the rank of Flying Officer (over-sub), 1st Feb 43 until 60/737/43 dated 11th Feb 43
			130159 P/O R. L. Lomon	Posted to the rank of Flying Officer (over-sub), 1st Feb 43 until 60/737/43 dated 11th Feb 43

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 43 R.A.F. SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
<u>TRULINGHURST</u>	<u>1943</u>				
	<u>Aug. 31st</u>		<u>DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL OF 43 R.A.F. SQUADRON</u>		
	<u>(cont'd)</u>		<u>1335271 Sgt. RAY, Ronald, R.F.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 22.5.43 Authy A.M. Letter A562630/43 G.</u>	
				<u>7. dated 27.7.43</u>	
			<u>1365136 Sgt. W.O. STROUD, R.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 23.5.43 Authy A.M. Letter 560156/</u>	
				<u>43/4.7 dated 2.8.43</u>	
			<u>134011 Sgt. Pilot RICHMOND, G.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 22.5.43 Authy A.M. Letter A550102/43</u>	
				<u>/4.7 dated 13.7.43</u>	
			<u>1014792 Sgt. W.O. BARNES, G.H.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 1.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A555046/43/37</u>	
				<u>dated 13.7.43</u>	
			<u>1554369 Sgt. A. Bomb WHITTON, L.M.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 30.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A 560004/</u>	
				<u>43/4.7 dated 5.8.43</u>	
			<u>1561519 Sgt. RAY, Gordon, R.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F. W.O.F.</u>	
				<u>29.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A561334/43/3.7 dated</u>	
				<u>30.7.43</u>	
			<u>1339615 Sgt. RAY, Ronald, G.H.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 25.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A560350/43/3.7</u>	
				<u>dated 7.8.43</u>	
			<u>1592164 Sgt. W.O. MILLON, G.H.</u>	<u>Appointed to a commission in the R.A.F.</u>	
				<u>W.O.F. 8.6.43 Authy A.M. Letter A559256/43</u>	
				<u>57. Dated 11.8.43</u>	
			<u>RECEIVED AND AWARDED</u>		
			<u>967267 P/O A.C. HENRY, R.</u>	<u>Awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL.</u>	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
RESOLUTIONS	1943 Aug. 31 (cont'd)		<p>RECEIVED AND AWARDS (cont'd)</p> <p>1577364 W/O A. Glynne, R.C. Awarded the COMBAT CROSS GALLANTRY Medal, vide the London Gazette dated 15.8.43. Recd. CEM 20.8.43</p> <p>G 935 W/O. Pilot. Hosmer, W.F.M. Awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.</p> <p>120063 P/O. New. Gibson, R.L. Awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS.</p> <p>MISSING PERSONNEL INFORMATION RECEIVED</p> <p>P/O W.D. Hedges 120445 G2 Reported MISSING on 12.6.43 after operations over enemy territory, Target, Düsseldorf.</p> <p>P/O J. L. Hurrow 127470 G2 Reported MISSING on 22.6.43 after operations over enemy territory, Target, Frankfurt.</p> <p>P/O R. Paige, Comd. J 17.43</p> <p>ATTENDANT ON CHARGE IK 892; IK 896; IK 897; IK 898; IK 639; IK 640; IK 905; IK 632; IK 265</p> <p>20 137.</p> <p>REPORT OF OPERATIONAL SORTIES ON THE 22ND MONTH H I L</p> <p>GROUND CREW STRENGTH The ground crew establishment of the Squadron would probably be adequate if sufficient postings in could be made to bring the Station up to establishment. At present we have a shortage of 2 A/C in Airframe Mechanics trades; 20 E/C in Engine Fitter trades; 9 E/C shortage in Wire Assistants; 30 E/C in Electricians; 4 E/C in Instrument Repairers; 4 E/C in R.D.P. mechanics, and 2 E/C in Armourers. Expectations have been made to AOC I/c Records but postings out continue and postings in do not materialise. A clerk stone is still needed for Orderly Room.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Sgt. The Commander, Commanding. 1st B.C.A.F. Squadron.</p>		

(17000-000) W. 2401-001 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600 2700 2800 2900 3000 3100 3200 3300 3400 3500 3600 3700 3800 3900 4000 4100 4200 4300 4400 4500 4600 4700 4800 4900 5000 5100 5200 5300 5400 5500 5600 5700 5800 5900 6000 6100 6200 6300 6400 6500 6600 6700 6800 6900 7000 7100 7200 7300 7400 7500 7600 7700 7800 7900 8000 8100 8200 8300 8400 8500 8600 8700 8800 8900 9000 9100 9200 9300 9400 9500 9600 9700 9800 9900 10000