

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) NO. 431 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT	1944	1st Jan.	<p>(1) New Year's Day. Stand down to-day. The Squadron is looking forward to a successful period of operations during the coming year.</p> <p>(2) The change over to the new establishment - War/SG/362 - was completed with the posting of 112 "bodies" to No. 9431 Sqn, and all surplus personnel on the Squadron establishment, to Middleton St. George (attached to Groft). The Sqn is known as the Servicing Wing of the Squadron, and is responsible for all major repairs to aircraft.</p> <p>(3) This change-over has caused a great deal of extra work for the Orderly Room staff, as three of our six clerks were posted. These postings will naturally make a difference in the efficiency of the Orderly Room staff for some time, as extra duties have been handed over to the three remaining clerks. It is hoped that these changes will prove satisfactory for the purpose for which they were intended.</p>		
	2nd Jan.		<p>(1) Training and night flying only to-day. Five aircraft were detailed for a night cross-country, and Navigators were briefed to be at several concentration points at appointed times. This was carried out successfully.</p> <p>(2) Bomb Aimers on Link and GEE Training in the morning, and, in the afternoon, A.M.B.T. and a lecture on the Mk.IV Bomb Sight and Bombing procedure.</p> <p>(3) Inspection, housekeeping check, gun stripping and cleaning carried out by Gunnery Section.</p> <p>(4) Navigators received New Year Almanacs and a lecture on Astro.</p>		
	3rd Jan.		<p>(1) Three aircraft completed bombing practice exercises and two were on air to sea firing. Three others participated in local flying and beam approaches.</p> <p>(2) The Station Catering Officer, Pilot Officer George Gibbon, of Toronto, flew with Flight Lieutenant Hill on a cross-country. Said, on landing, "I'm very hungry". (The standard of night flying supper has improved enormously.)</p> <p>(3) An inventory of all Navigation Kit was taken in the afternoon.</p> <p>(4) The new crew rest room, partially furnished by the Canadian 'Y' with a radio, miniature billiard table, card tables and table tennis, makes a comfortable place for the aircrew in their off time.</p> <p>(5) Wing Commander Brown (WFO) flew to R.A.F. Station, Woodbridge, to check over the airfield</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
CROFT	1944 3rd Jan.	(cont'd)	and conditions regarding aircraft from the Squadron being diverted on operations.		
	4th Jan.		(1) Nine aircraft participated in bombing and night cross countries, at the end of which, all aircraft were landed under enemy intruder conditions. One aircraft, with two crews, completed fighter affiliation exercises.		
			(2) Astro Sights were taken by Navigation Section. Bomb Alarms not on cross-country flights, did Link and GRS.		
			(3) Squadron Leaders C.K. Card (01345) and W.E. Gayer (02672), from the Empire Service Flying School, Mullarington, visited the Squadron to-day, and went on a short flying trip.		
			(4) Sergeant Levy, P.T.I. Instructor for this Station, visited the Squadron re wet dinghy drill and arrangements at the baths in Thornaby. A discussion was held on sports in general for air crew and a football match was arranged with the R.I.F. Regiment. Aircrew were invited to play hockey with the Station team when not on operations or other necessary duties.		
			(5) Flight Lieutenant R.P. Klombias (05604), along with Flight Lieutenant G.V.V. Nichols (04892) Operational Records Officer from 6 Group, visited the Squadron. Flight Lieutenant Klombias will be taking over his new duties from Flight Lieutenant Nichols.		
	5th Jan.		(1) No operations to-day. Ten aircraft completed night cross-country exercises. Seven Pilots and ten Gunners participated in fighter affiliation exercises with Bomfighters from No. 604 Squadron.		
			(2) 1140271 Flight Sergeant H.P. Morrison and crew, in 'T' Willie (1X698), on return, were seen to crash some two miles north of Middleton St. George. All members of the crew were killed. Cause - unknown. The Rear Gunner of the crew, 1566670 Sergeant J.R. Rothwell, did not go on the fatal trip, having been excused by the M.O. to-day.		
			(3) Bomb Alarms practiced A.M.S.T. and dry run. The Gunners Section carried out inspection and harmonisation of guns.		
			(4) The "Winco" completed a test flight with the new 'Belly Look-Out Blister' attached to the aircraft. This will be used by all the aircraft on the Squadron if found satisfactory.		
			(5) Squadron Leader McColl, Public Relations Officer from No. 6 Group, paid a visit to the Squadron with Pilot Officer Fred Jackson, well known Toronto Daily Star sports writer, who will		

(1140271) H.P. Morrison, H.P. Pilot  
 12049, 16 SHANK, G.A.W. NAV  
 R. 166151, 15 Squadron Master, 15, 1500, 1500  
 145018, Sgt. Barlow, F.S. Wop/PA  
 R. 180217, Sgt. Lamentopoulos, Y.A. - 170, AG  
 1818238, Sgt. Greenwood, K.H. - 170

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CROFT	5th Jan. (cont'd)		(1) He taking up his new duties at Middleton St. George in the near future. (6) Pictures were taken of Flight Lieutenant H.R. Dew, Acting "B" Flight Commander. (7) Aircraft "X" X-ray, now at Woodbridge, was reported ready to return to the Squadron after an absence of six weeks while being repaired.		
	6th Jan.		(1) Operations met called for to-day. Three aircraft on local flying and air tests. Three aircraft carried out fighter affiliation in the afternoon. (2) A lecture was given to Gunners on tactics and aircraft recognition. (3) Both Aimers on Link Trainer, remainder given a lecture on Mk. XIV Bomb Sight. (4) Six crews away on leave during the moon period, in addition to the regular scheduled leave for crews. (5) The first inspection of Squadron living sites was held by the Commanding Officer of the Station, Group Captain D.M. Edwards (AMC). The Officer Commanding, and Adjutant, of the Squadron attended. Ground crew billets far exceeded the aircrew quarters, and generally, a great deal of improvement is needed to bring them up to standard. However, lack of General Duties help on the sites is most noticeable, there being a definite shortage of batmen, etc., on the Station. Many of the Officers are cleaning their own quarters and making beds. It is hoped that something will be done in the near future to improve living conditions. (6) All aircrew were given a lecture by Wing Commander Newson (AMC) regarding their responsibilities on the sites, and it is hoped that a noticeable improvement will be in order for the next inspection. (7) The Squadron Orderly Room staff finished the Monthly Reports (Forms 540, 541, 448, 1753, 6834, etc.) after a great deal of work. It was necessary to work until midnight several nights in order to have these reports ready, due, chiefly, to the change in the Orderly Room establishment.		
	7th Jan.		(1) No operations called for to-day, but a large cross-country was planned, with the "Wince" dropping flares and the crews on special photographic work. This was scrubbed due to poor weather conditions. The main purpose of this cross-country was the carrying of recognition flares in order to impress upon the new crews what the P.F.F. effort really means. (2) In the afternoon, both Aimers on A.M.W.T., and Gunners on daily inspections and harmonisation of four aircraft.		



Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	28th Jan. (cont'd)		(3) Four aircraft H.C.O.'s - all R.A.F. - received their Commissions. New: P/O R. Parker (168971), P/O G. Collins (168976), P/O A. Pitt (168975), P/O J. Geddes (168954).		
			(4) P/O Shank, from Eastmeor, brother of P/O Shank, who was killed on January 5th, visited the Squadron to make some personal enquiries.		
	8th Jan.		(5) Forty-five personnel of the Squadron volunteered as blood donors at the Station Hospital.		
			(1) Six crews were briefed for Operations to-day (a special target in the south of France) but "scrubbed" just before take-off, due to weather conditions.		
			(2) Two aircraft had compasses swung.		
			(3) Bomb Aimers on Link Trainer, remainder unloading "window" from aircraft.		
			(4) Air Marshal L.B. Breaker (CB, DSO), Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, R.C.A.F. Overseas, visited the Station to-day and met a number of Officers and men of the Squadron, including the Wing Commander, Flight Commanders and Section Leaders.		
			(5) The mother and sister of Sergeant Greenwood, killed on January 5th, arrived at the Squadron offices, and were met by Wing Commander Newson (DFO) and the Squadron Adjutant, Flight Lieutenant T.R. Walker. Naturally, there was a great deal to discuss, and arrangements were made for his burial at their home at Shipley, near Bradford, Yorks. These occasions are always sad, and many questions were answered. Both Mrs. Greenwood and her daughter, W.A.A.F. Corporal Greenwood, felt that everything had been done for them, and have written a letter of appreciation to the Squadron.		
	9th Jan.		After lunch, they were taken back to Burlington Station.		
			(1) Operations not called for to-day. Two aircraft were brought back from Woodbridge after major repairs. Five aircraft completed fighter affiliation exercises, but owing to poor weather conditions, these were not entirely satisfactory. Three aircraft, with new crews, did local familiarisation and beam exercises.		
			(2) All Bomb Aimers on either Link, A.W.L., or CBE training to-day.		
			(3) A Church Service was held in the crew room. All available personnel attended. Squadron Leader Littlefield, Station Padre, conducted the Service.		
			(4) Aircraft "B" had compasses swung, and considerable ground training carried out in the afternoon.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
CROFT	19 & 20th Jan. (cont'd)		(5) Two new crews reported to the Squadron from No. 1659 Conversion Unit. Pilots were; R132529 Flight Sergeant J.E. Gustafson, and R153778 Flight Sergeant J.D. Estheraten. (6) The body of Sergeant Greenwood was sent from the Station to Darlington for forwarding to his home in Shipley for burial. Two Sergeants from the Squadron accompanied the body and attended the funeral. (7) Burial arrangements for the five other members of the crew were made with R.A.F. Station, Harrogate.		
	10th Jan.		(1) Thirteen aircraft participated in a monster cross-country. Recognition flares were dropped by "Wince" Newsum at the meeting points. The main force aircraft dropped flash bombs and took pictures. Due to cloud conditions over the Irish sea, the exercise was not entirely successful. The result is not known yet. P.P.P. aircraft was four minutes late and the main force was further behind due to "duff" Met. "gen". (2) Two aircraft had compasses swung. (3) Bomb Ainsys given lecture on Mk. XIV Bomb Sight and time stations; also Link and A.W.L. training. (4) Gunnery Section engaged in cleaning and inspecting guns of eight aircraft. (5) The bodies of R140271 Flight Sergeant H.P. Morrison, R166151 Flight Sergeant R.L. Schenckthaler, R194217 Sergeant Y.A. Lemontagne, Flying Officer G.A.W. Shank (J20413), and 1450108 Sergeant M.S. Barlow (R1F), were forwarded to R.A.F. Station Harrogate for burial.		
	11th Jan.		(1) No operations to-day. (2) Six Officers and eighteen N.C.O.'s proceeded to Harrogate in the Squadron Crew Bus, to attend the funeral of the five aircrew members. The funeral was held at Stensfoll Cemetery, Harrogate. All acted as pall-bearers. The Officers and O.C.'s were high in their praise of the efficient manner in which the funeral took place. They also met the next of kin of the deceased aircrew, and were able, in a small way, to console them. All returned to the Squadron by bus in the afternoon. (3) In the afternoon, a lecture to Wireless Operators on W/T and R/T equipment was given by Flight Sergeant Lawington.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOFF	1944				
	12th Jan.		(1) Again, there was no call for operations.		
			(2) Bomb Aimers on A.M.I. and GSE instruction until 1100 hours; then a lecture on bombing drill and procedure.		
			(3) Two aircrew N.C.S.'s - both R.A.F. - received their commissions to-day. They are now: P/O J.A. Gable (169153), and P/O J.H. Gribben (169143).		
			(4) Flight Lieutenant Martin (08243), from R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, visited the Squadron regarding Safety Equipment, and was met by Wing Commander Newman (DPO), O.C. of the Squadron.		
			(5) Compasses on two aircraft were swung, and cleaning and harmonisation of guns carried out by the Gunnery Section.		
	13th Jan.		(1) Weather to-day good for local flying only. Several aircraft airborne on local and S.B.A. air tests, etc.		
			(2) Bomb Aimers on Link and GSE instruction.		
			(3) Meeting held with Squadron Disciplinarian to organise conditions on living sites and other disciplinary problems on the Squadron. This was necessary due to the shortage of General Duties help and batmen.		
			(4) A lecture was given to all Navigators by the Navigation Leader, Flight Lieutenant D.B. Mayes (126901).		
			(5) Two aircraft had compasses swung and the usual daily inspections were carried out.		
	14th Jan.		(1) No operations scheduled. Thirteen aircraft detailed for night cross-country and bombing, with dropping of T.I.'s, but this was scrubbed due to bad weather over sea. Nine aircraft took part in a Command "Bullseye". One aircraft detailed for air-to-sea firing exercise, and three others on cross-country.		
			(2) Bomb Aimers sent to Gunnery Section for instruction on 'D' and 'P' Turret. Twelve Gunnery instructed on map reading on A.M.I. All Bomb Aimers met on "Bullseye", practised A.M.I.		
			(3) Gunnery Section house-cleaned their quarters, all spare Gunnery being detailed.		
	15th Jan.		(1) Fog down to deck to-day - no flying.		
			(2) Major K. Stevenson, Royal Artillery, from No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group Headquarters, visited the Squadron and gave a lecture to all aircrew on "Flak", and enemy defences. This lecture was		

(\*) 10000-10000 Wt. 2450-2450 1200 12100 T.S. 200  
 (\*\*) 10000-10000 Wt. 12100-245 1200 12100 T.S. 200



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CROFT	1944				
	15th Jan.	(cont'd)	considered most useful.		
			(3) Legs from previous night's cross-country and "bulldog", checked and corrected.		
			(4) Ground training in the afternoon.		
			(5) Five Bomb Aimers on Link Trainer - remainder attended a lecture on Bombing Panel and Manual Release of H.E. Bombs.		
			(6) Eight N.C.O.'s were interviewed for commissions by Wing Commander Newson (DPO), and papers forwarded to Station Headquarters.		
			(7) Compasses swung on two aircraft.		
	16th Jan.		(1) Weather extremely poor to-day, and crews dismissed at noon for the remainder of the day.		
			(2) Ground training only carried out in the forenoon, with Bomb Aimers on A.M.L. and lecture on bombs and their components.		
	17th Jan.		(1) Weather still "duff" - No operations called for to-day.		
			(2) Escape exercises organised, with six crews participating, leaving the Station at 1300 hours for a location some 12 miles distant. All returned by 2200 hours, having various experiences on their way back to the Station.		
			(3) A lecture on Combat Tactics was given by Flight Lieutenant I.L. McLeod (RAAF), Squadron Gunnery Leader.		
			(4) Ground training in the afternoon.		
			(5) Concentration charts for raids on Frankfurt and Berlin analysed, and copies sent to the Squadron O.C.		
			(6) Bomb Aimers given general lecture by Flying Officer E.C. Instrell (RAF), on bombing panel drill and map reading on A.M.L.		
	18th Jan.		(1) Weather improvement to-day - local flying only. Four aircraft on fighter affiliation and air-to-air firing exercises. All other aircraft airborne on tests, including the new cloud break procedure on GEE. This was very effective and was highly recommended.		
			(2) Five Bomb Aimers on Link trainer instruction, remainder on night and day camera trials, with details checking bearing and distance by WE XIV Bomb Sight.		
			(3) Inspection parade for all personnel of the Squadron arranged for the following morning at		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
CROFT	19 & 20th Jan. (cont'd)		0815 hours, for the purpose of inspecting respirators, gas capes, etc.		
			(4) Signals and Navigation sections given two hour's instruction on G.S.		
	19th Jan.		(1) No operations to-day. Weather rose and heavy rain. Thirteen crews were detailed for night cross-country flights after weather had cleared at noon, but this was eventually scrubbed at 1600 hours.		
			(2) Inspection parade, originally scheduled for 0815 hours, cancelled at 0700 hours.		
			(3) The "wings" called a meeting of all aircrew for the purpose of hearing, and clearing, any grievances on the Squadron. Plenty were heard, and several problems cleared, particularly with regard to trivial rumours and living conditions, which, it is admitted, are not the best for aircrew on operations.		
			(3) Bomb Alarms on A.M.L. training; remainder received instruction on Bombing Panel and H.K. XV Bomb Sight.		
			(4) Wireless Operators attended Morse practice for a period of one hour.		
	20th Jan.		(1) Operations called for to-day. After long lay-off, Squadron personnel really busying around getting ready. Fourteen aircraft detailed. Target: BRUNN. One early return; all others completed sortie successfully, and reported a very good effort. "Flak" was noticeable, and a few night fighters. P.F.F. did an excellent job on this occasion. This operation appeared to be needed by the Squadron, and "pumped" them up considerably.		
			(2) Three cross countries were also scheduled, but were "scrubbed" later in the day.		
			(3) New Navigators had G.S. training.		
			(4) Aircraft "K" had compass survey.		
			(5) Deputy Signals Leader, Pilot Officer J.A. Johnston, (J18900) Visited No. 6 (S.O.P.) Group Headquarters to attend a signals conference.		
			(6) Flying Officer F.A. Mitchell (129079) Bomb Alarms - R.A.F. - took over the Adjutant's duties during leave period.		
	21st Jan.		(1) Operations again called for to-day. Twelve aircraft detailed, target: MADDEN. Take-off was late due to one aircraft - "B" - being bogged in the mud and holding up the five remaining aircraft, thereby causing them to abandon the operation. Two aircraft returned early.		

(\*1888-498) Wt. 2487-0272 2200 2710 T.A. 700  
 (\*1888-498) Wt. 1210-215 1800 0143 T.A. 700



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CHROFT	19 & 20 Jan (cont'd)		<p>due to engine faults. One aircraft of the remaining four failed to return - B140579 Flight Sergeant H. Krents (Pilot) and crew, who had not been with the Squadron more than five weeks. The other three aircraft were diverted - 'A' to Stradishall, and 'Q' and 'T' to Chedburgh. P.F.F. Markers scattered, and small scattered fires seen. Rather poor attack reported by returning airmen. All in all, this was a poor show, and most unusual in this Squadron.</p> <p>(2) Bomb Airmen on A.M.L. in the afternoon.</p> <p>(3) Ten copies of Bomber Code Covers (GD0250) handed over to Cypher Officer, and all outstanding GD0250's checked and reported to Signals Officer.</p> <p>(4) Flight Lieutenant H.R. Dow (J4893), of Toronto, was promoted to Squadron Leader and 'B' Flight Commander. This is a popular promotion, as Squadron Leader Dow is most efficient and is a splendid leader.</p> <p>(5) Flying Officer R.C. Instrell (120886) - R.A.F. - was promoted to Flight Lieutenant, as Bombing Leader - a well-earned promotion.</p>		
	22nd Jan.		<p>(1) Training only to-day. Local flying, including new break cloud procedure, carried out by five aircraft.</p> <p>(2) Squadron Leader G.W. Higgins (J15695) 'A' Flight Commander, Detailed Pilot Officer R. Hamby (159047) along with the Squadron Disciplinarian, to collect the kit of Flight Sergeant Krents and crew, missing yesterday. This was done in the absence of the Squadron Padre.</p> <p>(3) The three diversions from the previous night's operations were returned - Wing Commander Newson and crew from Stradishall, and Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (7761) and B151888 Flight Sergeant J. Howell and crew, from Chedburgh.</p> <p>(4) AHB12558 Pilot Officer J.C. King (R.A.F.) received his commission to-day.</p> <p>(5) Logs for raid on Berlin checked, and commutation points passed to 6 Group Headquarters.</p> <p>(6) Air miles flown by each aircraft passed to Station Navigation Officer.</p> <p>(7) Aircraft 'X' had compass swung.</p> <p>(8) Three regading examinations given to Wireless Operators, and four had GSE training for a period of one hour.</p> <p>(9) All Bomber Codes checked. Bomb Airmen received instruction on Bombing Panel, others on A.M.L.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHERT	1944				
	22nd Jan.	(cont'd)	These not flying attended a lecture on the Mk. XIV Bomb Sight. Five Bomb Aimers flying in the afternoon on air-to-air and air-to-sea firing exercises.		
	23rd Jan.		(1) Weather quite unsettled. No operations called for. In the afternoon, four aircraft on fighter affiliation and air tests. Cross-country scheduled, with four aircraft taking part; two were scrubbed due to engine faults. T.E. exercises carried out at Minel Ridge. (2) Group Captain D.M. Edwards (AFC), Station Commander, interviewed seven HQO's for commissions. (3) UNSA12565 Flight Sergeant F.A. Badger received his commission to-day. (4) Complaint received from Armoury Section that men were late for duty this morning due to poor service in the Airmen's Mess. Catering Officer interviewed. Reason given: definite shortage of staff. This is quite true, and an effort is being made to remedy the situation. (5) In the morning, Bomb Aimers on A.M.L. and manual release of various bombs. In the afternoon, a lecture was given on bombing gear. (6) 'Fishguard' and GMS training given to Wireless Operators and Navigators. (7) Navigators' logs checked, and concentration points sent to No. 6 (RCAF) Group Headquarters. (8) Grade I papers marked in Signals Section. (9) Gunnery section checked guns of several aircraft.		
	24th Jan.		(1) No operations called for to-day. Air tests carried out. (2) Flight Lieutenant Phillips (66631) - R.A.F. - Station Intelligence Officer, gave a two-hour lecture on Security and escaping procedure from prisons in Germany, which was most interesting to all concerned. (3) The Squadron Medical Officer, Flight Lieutenant C.G. Wilson, advised that numerous airmen reported sick to-day - colds, etc. It was suggested that the reason for this was living conditions due to poor drainage on Squadron Sites. (4) Lecture given to Pilots by Wing Commander V.F.M. Newson on evasive action and tactics, and all Pilots wrote an essay on the duties of a Pilot and Captain of an aircraft. (5) Navigators received a lecture given by Pilot Officer H.G. Young (168966) of the Engineers Section, on the Halifax V petrol system. (6) Flying Officer D.J. Frauts (J23612) gave a lecture on Mk. XIV Bomb Sight. (7) GMS training held for Wireless Operators and Bomb Aimers, and the GMS training report was		

(10000-1000) Wk 1000-1000 1000 1000 1000  
 (10000-1000) Wk 1000-1000 1000 1000 1000

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	24th Jan. (cont'd)		completed and sent to No. 6 (RCAP) Group Headquarters.		
	25th Jan.		(1) Weather cold and frosty to-day. Operations called for. Thirteen aircraft detailed, main briefing at 1430 hours. The weather became extremely cloudy, and operations were eventually scrubbed, presumably bad weather over target. (2) Acute water shortage on the camp. Squadron Sites 1 and 6 are off supply owing to low level of camp's Base. (3) W/T No. 6 Group point-to-point exercises commenced at 1000 hours, but were terminated at 1045 hours owing to operations. (4) Bomb Aimers received lecture on Mk. XIV Bomb Sight, on range and bearing. (5) Gunnery Section engaged in cleaning guns and harmonization.		
	26th Jan.		(1) Training only to-day. Weather still unsettled. Aircrew occupied with air tests and local flying, and the testing of two new aircraft. (2) Water supply still off on Sites 1 and 6. (3) Flying Officer R.L. Christison (J10969) and crew posted to R.A.F. (No. 405 Squadron). The Pilot and crew have had this ambition for some time now, and they were highly pleased. (4) More lockers have been set up in the Crew Room for all aircrew. Everybody happy. (5) Bomb Aimers received instruction on Map Reading on A.M.L., remainder on bombing drill and procedure. All Bomb Aimers detailed in the afternoon to collect "window" from aircraft and also clean up aircraft. (6) Helmet and microphone tester installed in Wireless Operator's Crew Room.		
	27th Jan.		(1) Operation called for to-day. Sixteen aircraft required, but scrubbed at 1230 hours. (2) Crews spent morning on daily inspections and repairs. (3) Aircrew received a lecture by Flying Officer McKemie (RAAF) on escape methods. (4) Two aircrew N.C.O.'s, 2177225 Sergeant J.A.B. Quimet and 2224443 Sergeant J.V. Cavel, on Night Vision course at Topcliffe. (5) Flight Lieutenant R.F. Ward (J7760) returned from B.A.T. Course at Shinfield Park. (6) Bomb Aimers on link instruction. Those not on link, loading "window". In the afternoon, they were given instruction on A.M.L. and Mk. XIV Bomb Sight.		



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CROFT	1944 27th Jan. (cont'd)		(7) Squadron Leader H.R. Dow gave a one hour general lecture to all Pilots in 'B' Flight. (8) Grade I trade test cards (Form 167) filled in for Singal's Officer's signature. (9) Dry dinghy drill carried out in the afternoon. (10) Compasses swung on two aircraft.		
	28th Jan.		(1) Operations called for to-day. Sixteen aircraft detailed, and the target was again BERLIN. Late take-off - around midnight - all taking off successfully. Three aircraft returned early, 'B' being unable to make height, and the two remainder, engine failure. Reports indicated a well pranged target and fires were seen still burning from previous night's raid by Lancasters. P.W.E. T.I.'s were well placed and fires were seen for over 100 miles. Three of our aircraft failed to return. Pilots were: J19423 Pilot Officer F.B. Hewatson, R141173 Flight Sergeant J.J. Maher, and R96935 Flight Sergeant J.T.R. Corriveau. All were comparatively new crews on operations, with the exception of Pilot Officer Hewatson - newly commissioned, who had six operational trips to his credit. One aircraft, piloted by Pilot Officer J.C. King (AUS42558), crash landed at Diahforth, but fortunately, no one was injured. (2) Bomb Aimers underwent instruction on Link Trainer, and others, not on ops, loaded "window". (3) New Navigators on CWS and Astro training.		
	29th Jan.		(1) No operations called for to-day. (2) The good news was received that four members of Flight Sergeant Corriveau's crew had been picked up by minesweepers some three miles off the English Coast, but no word of the remaining three members of the crew was received. Those picked up were: R161697 Flight Sergeant M.J. Charlebois (Bomb Aimer), R171060 Sergeant R.S. Cole (Flight Engineer), and two R.A.F. N.C.O.'s, 1890090 Sergeant G.S. Webber (Mid-Upper Air Gunner) and 1324821 Sergeant S.C.B. Parker (Wireless Operator). All four N.C.O.'s are now in the Royal Navy Sick Quarters at Grimsby, suffering only from shock. (3) The Squadron Adjutant, Flight Lieutenant T.R. Walker, returned the previous night to take over the duties from Flying Officer F.B. Mitchell, who was filling in during leave of Squadron Adj. (4) Wing Commander Newson flew to Diahforth in the morning to pick up Pilot Officer J. King and crew.		

(104885-4904) WL 1249-4974 1200 0101 T.R. 100  
(104885-4904) WL 1249-4974 1200 0101 T.R. 100

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944	30th Jan.	<p>(1) Operations not called for to-day.</p> <p>(2) Wing Commander Newson proceeded to No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group Headquarters for a discussion with the Air Staff. Flying Officer W.K. Naylor (J17272) accompanied him for interview regarding attendance at a Bombing Leader's Course. No. 6 Group will advise when a vacancy occurs.</p> <p>(3) A signal was received from the Principal Medical Officer at Grimsby confirming that the four aircrew N.C.O.'s were admitted to Naval Sick Quarters, and later, a telephone call was received advising that they were ready for discharge. The Squadron Adjutant instructed them to proceed to their Unit next morning.</p> <p>(4) Three aircrew N.C.O.'s and one ground crew N.C.O. were interviewed by Wing Commander Newson regarding commissions. They were: 983251 Warrant Officer G. Barnesford (Air Gunner); 1317072 Flight Sergeant G.E. Young (Wireless Operator) - both R.A.F. - and R139963 Sergeant E.W. Fruncheon (Flight Engineer) and Cdn. 9816 Warrant Officer G. Clairmont (Fitter Armourer).</p> <p>(5) Bomb Aimers on various flying exercises and cross-countries, including fighter affiliation and practice bombing. Four Navigators detailed for cross-country flights.</p> <p>(6) Gunnery Section given general lecture by Flight Lieutenant L.L. McLeod (RAF), Gunnery Leader.</p> <p>(7) Concentration positions and air miles for Berlin operation, completed and passed to Station Navigation Officer.</p>		
	31st Jan.		<p>(1) Operations not called for to-day. Local and ground training only.</p> <p>(2) The four N.C.O.'s who were picked up by minesweepers, returned to the Squadron Offices late in the afternoon, and were interviewed by Squadron Leader C.W. Higgins, in the absence of Wing Commander Newson, who had just proceeded on leave. The airmen reported quite an experience, and what was thought to have happened to them from reports, was quite different. It was assumed that they had ditched when we were advised of the pick-up, but information revealed that they had to bale out at 0756 hours, 29th January, at some 4,000 feet, thinking they were over land on the English Coast. They found themselves in the water, and from all reports, it was pretty cold. All were picked up by separate boats within a short time, some three or four miles off the south bank of the Wash, near Spurnhead. They were landed at Grimsby about 1600 hours. All were high in their praise of the treatment received, both in the minesweepers and</p>		





## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944	31st Jan.	<u>PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON</u>					
			<u>Officers</u>	<u>Aircrew</u>	<u>Ground Crew</u>	<u>Total</u>		
			R.C.A.F.	32	1	40		
			R.C.A.F. (USA)	-	-	-		
			R.A.F.	37	-	37		
			W.A.A.F.	-	-	-		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>77</b>		
			<u>Airmen</u>					
			R.C.A.F.	82	193	275		
			R.C.A.F. (USA)	-	3	3		
			R.A.F.	64	29	93		
			W.A.A.F.	-	11	11		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>382</b>		
			Establishment under which Squadron operated - 100/10/3362 d/1.10.43.					
			Health of Squadron - Good.					
			<u>Postings - Officers Aircrew - OUT</u>					
			F/O J.W. Nelson	J5444	GD	Reported MISSING ON 29.12.43. Posted to War Cas. N/E Acc'ts Depot waf 29.12.43. Authy: 60/2884/43.		
			F/O G.E. Bishop	J22393	GD	Reported MISSING and posted to War Cas. N/E Acc'ts Depot waf 29.12.43. Authy: 60/2885/43 d/31.12.43.		
			F/O R.A. Holthy	J21329	GD	Reported MISSING and posted to War Cas. N/E Acc'ts Depot waf 29.12.43. Authy: 60/2885/43 d/31.12.43.		
			F/O F. Spencer	151074	GD	Reported MISSING and posted to War Cas. N/E Acc'ts Depot waf 29.12.43. Authy: 60/2884/43 d/31.12.43.		
			F/O A. Linde	J22075	GD	Reported MISSING on 21.1.44. Posted to War Cas. N/E Unit waf 22.1.44. Authy: 60/341/44 d/23.1.44.		
			F/O R.L. Christison	J10969	GD	Posted to No. 405 Squadron waf 25.1.44. Authy: 60/312/209 d/24.1.44.		
			F/O J.R. Shaw	J23637	GD			
			F/L J.W. Fielding	J7216	GD			

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 31st Jan.		POSTINGS - Officers Aircrew - IN			
			F/O	M. Sonshine J23299	GD	Posted from 1666 CU wef 31.12.43. Authy:
			F/O	J.A. Houston J12683	GD	60/2877/43 d/31.12.43.
			F/O	R.J. Kee J23901	GD	
			F/O	D.A. McKerry J36019	GD	
			F/L	R.F. Mead J7760	GD	Posted from No. 61 (RCAF) Base wef 6.1.44.
			F/O	L.C. Webby J21610	GD	Authy: 60/78/44 d/5.1.44.
			F/O	A.R. Girolami J12086	GD	
			F/O	F.E. Mitchell J29679	GD	Posted from 61 (RCAF) Base wef 22.12.43. Authy:
						60/2846/43 d/29.12.43.
			F/L	C.G. Bull J3486	GD	Posted from 1666 CU wef 22.12.43. Authy:
						60/2847/43 d/29.12.43.
			F/O	W.E. MacDonald J22910	GD	Posted from 61 (RCAF) Base wef 8.1.44. Authy:
			F/O	D.C. McDougall J21845	GD	60/119/44 d/8.1.44.
			F/O	W.J. Hynds J25119	GD	
			POSTINGS - Aircrew N.C.O.'s - OUT			
			Can.10616	F/S Pilot	Edwards, C.E.	Posted to RCAF 'R' Depot wef 2.1.44. Authy:
						60/3143/44 d/26.12.43.
			2140579	F/S Pilot	Krents, H.	Posted to RCAF UK H/S Unit wef 22.12.44. Authy:
			2156777	Sgt. B/A	Louth, W.J.	Awaited.
			2109649	WO2	W/AG McLeod, J.S.	
			2188302	Sgt. A/G	Dipinto, J.H.	
			2178083	Sgt. A/G	Hansen, G.	Posted W/E Sick to RCAF Stn. Middleton-St. George
			967063	F/S A/G	Hughes, L.C.	wef 19.1.44. Authy: 60/324/44 d/21.1.44.
			1378545	F/S WOP/AIR	Bryant, L.E.	
			1351436	Sgt. AGS	Kingham, W.	Posted to War Can. N/E Acc'ts Depot wef 22.1.44.
			1590120	Sgt. F/E	Gilroy, C.	Authy: 60/342/44 d/23.1.44.

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(11-2085-2200) WH 1000-0000 1000 0000 1.1.1. 1000

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
CHOPT	1944	31st Jan.	<p><u>Postings - Aircrew H.C.O.'s - OUT (cont'd)</u></p> <p>1807924 Sgt. F/E Tongue, C.W.L.C. Posted to No. 405 Squadron waf 25.1.44. Authy:</p> <p>R145326 F/S Nav. Schwartz, M.E. 6Q/31g/P209 d/24.1.44.</p> <p>R194119 Sgt. A/G Poure, E.L.</p> <p>R185802 Sgt. A/G Robinson, G.S.</p> <p><u>POSTINGS - AIRCREW H.C.O.'s - IN</u></p> <p>R182624 Sgt. Nav. Harvey, A.G. Posted from 1664 C.U. waf 31.12.43. Authy:</p> <p>R165374 Sgt. MU/AG Gillanders, R.E. 6Q/2877/43 d/31.12.43.</p> <p>1874043 Sgt. F/E Twitchett, A.C.</p> <p>1525031 F/S Nav. Abbott, W. Posted from 61 (RCAF) Base waf 29.12.43. Authy:</p> <p>1168171 F/S WOP/ATR Robin, L. 6Q/2846/43 d/29.12.43.</p> <p>516794 F/S A/G Alp, P.L.</p> <p>1814772 Sgt. F/S Brown, L.D.</p> <p>R223415 Sgt. A/G Blacko, J.A. Posted from 1666 CU waf 29.12.43. Authy: 6Q/2848/43 d/29.12.43.</p> <p>R177225 Sgt. A/G Quimet, J.A. Posted from 61 (RCAF) Base waf 6.1.44. Authy: 6Q/78/44 d/5.1.44.</p> <p>1867802 Sgt. F/E Guttridge, D. Posted from 1664 CU waf 6.1.44. Authy: 6Q/86/44 d/7.1.44.</p> <p>1822594 Sgt. F/E Nicolson, W. Posted from 1659 CU waf 8.1.44. Authy: 6Q/122/44 d/8.1.44.</p> <p>R61201 Sgt. F/E McBrien, C.H. Posted from 1650 CUE waf 8.1.44. Authy: 6Q/121/44 d/8.1.44.</p> <p>657772 Sgt. B/A Stone, R.J. Posted from 61 (RCAF) Base waf 8.1.44. Authy: 6Q/119/44 d/8.1.44.</p> <p>612121 Sgt. A/G Mason, G.</p> <p>1459657 Sgt. A/G Shaw, E.</p> <p>R132529 F/S Pilot Gustafson, J.E.</p> <p>R172207 Sgt. WOP/AG Gardner, J.E.</p>		



Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 31st Jan.		<u>POSTINGS// - AIRCRAFT M.O.O.'s - III. (cont'd)</u>		
			R193650 Sgt. A/G Youngs, W.A. Posted from 61. (RAF) Base waf 8.1.44. Authy:		
			R155778 P/S. Pilot Fetherston, J.D. 60/119/44 d/8.1.44.		
			R168736 Sgt. WOP/AS Bianco, R.A.		
			R190761 Sgt. A/G Brown, A.G.		
			R224443 Sgt. A/G Gravel, J.V. Posted from 61. (RAF) Base waf 6.1.44. Authy:		
			60/293/44 d/19.1.44.		
			<u>APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS - AIRCRAFT OPERATORS</u>		
			P/O J.W. Fielding J9216 GD Promoted to T/P/L waf 8.12.43. Authy:		
			AM/1606997/43/57D/2 d/11.1.44.		
			P/L H.R. Dew J4893 GD Granted Acting rank of S/L waf 1.1.44. Authy:		
			BM/1205/44 d/18.1.44.		
			P/O R.C. Instrell 120836 GD Granted Acting rank of P/L waf 4.12.43. Authy:		
			BO/1208/44 d/18.1.44.		
			P/O D. Prosser 145778 GD Promoted to P/O waf 23.11.43. Authy: London		
			Gazette d/23.11.43.		
			The undermentioned are appointed to Commissions waf dates stated. Authy: Stated.		
			P/O J. Geddes 168954 GD 5.12.43. AM/1617833/43/57(e)(4) d/3.1.44.		
			P/O R. Parker 168971 GD 10.11.43. AM/1617444/43/57(e)(4) d/3.1.44.		
			P/O A. Pitt 168975 GD 5.12.43. AM/1617447/43/57(e)(4) d/3.1.44.		
			P/O G.B. Collins 168976 GD 5.12.43. AM/1617473/43/57(e)(4) d/3.1.44.		
			P/O J.H. Gribben 169141 GD 5.12.43. AM/1617118/43/57(e)(4) d/3.1.44.		
			P/O J.A. Cable 169153 GD 5.12.43. AM/1616743/43/57(e)(4) d/3.1.44.		
			P/O H.O. Young 168966 GD 5.12.43. AM/1617543/43/57(e)(4) d/1.1.44.		
			P/O W.D. Gould 169397 GD 16.12.43. AM/1618949/43/57(e)(4) d/10.1.44.		
			P/O J.W. Gant 169396 GD 16.12.43. AM/1618972/43/57(e)(4) d/10.1.44.		
			P/O W.R. Hewatson J19423 GD 5.12.43. AM/1618988/43/57(e)(3) d/11.1.44.		
			P/O R.O. Johnson J19424 GD 5.12.43. AM/1618988/43/57(e)(3) d/11.1.44.		
			P/O J.B. Morrison J19403 GD 5.12.43. AM/1617188/43/57(e)(3) d/18.1.44.		
			P/O G.E. Wilson J19402 GD 5.12.43. AM/1617106/43/57(e)(4) d/7.1.44.		

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

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices															
CROFT	1944 31st Jan.		<p><b>PROMOTIONS - OFFICERS AIRCRAFT - CONTINUED</b></p> <p>E/O A/E/L R.M. Martin J17750 GD Promoted to T/2/O wef 5.10.43. Authy: RCAF O/S Order 755-761/43.</p> <p>E/O E. Leinobury 145467 GD Promoted to E/O (War. Substantive) wef 5.11.43. Authy: London Gazette 4/7.12.43.</p> <p><b>PROMOTIONS - AIRCRAFT N.C.O.'s</b></p> <p>Cnn. 4160 Sgt. A/S Vernon, S.J. Prom. T/2/S wef 1.8.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 740/43.</p> <p>E153778 Sgt. Pilot Fetherston, J.D. Prom. T/2/S wef 5.9.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 747/43.</p> <p>E166151 Sgt. B/A Schoenthaler, A. Prom. T/2/S wef 5.8.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 725/730/43.</p> <p>E132243 P/S WOP/AG Baker, J.R. Prom. T/2/O wef 12.10.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 772/43.</p> <p>E147712 P/S A/G Klein, I.C. Prom. T/2/O wef 23.10.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 781/43.</p> <p>E14264 WOP Pilot Woodrow, W.H. Prom. T/2/O wef 1.10.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 781/43.</p> <p>E139871 Sgt. B/A Magnusson, J.F. Prom. T/2/S wef 19.9.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 762/769/43.</p> <p>E142036 P/S Nav. Reed, R.A. Prom. T/2/O wef 9.10.43. Authy: RCAF O/S 786/43.</p> <p>E160454 Sgt. B/A Outler, E.H. Prom. T/2/S wef 2.10.43. " " " "</p> <p>E119543 Sgt. B/A Kington, J.D. Prom. T/2/S wef 2.10.43. " " " "</p> <p>1317072 Sgt. WOP/AIR Young, C.E. Prom. T/2/S wef 18.1.44. Authy: 60/1538/8/Pk 4/1.44.</p> <p>1320555 Sgt. WOP/AIR Fyfe, F.D. Prom. T/2/S wef 29.1.44. Authy: 60/1538/Pk 4/1.44.</p> <p>1575555 Sgt. WOP/AIR Meddings, D. " " " " " "</p> <p><b>HONOURS AND AWARDS - NIL</b></p> <p><b>MISSING PERSONNEL - INFORMATION RECEIVED</b></p> <p>The death of the m/n/airman, previously reported missing dates stated, is presumed to have occurred dates stated.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Rep. Missing</th> <th>Death presumption</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>E135580 Sgt. A/G Booth, C.A.</td> <td>10/11.44.43.</td> <td>11.44.43.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E111947 Sgt. WOP/AIR Barry, E.</td> <td>22/23.6.43.</td> <td>23.6.43.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E175740 Sgt. A/G Wilkes, A.E.</td> <td>22/23.6.43.</td> <td>23.6.43.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E190561 Sgt. A/G Stephenson, R.H.</td> <td>11/12.6.43.</td> <td>12.6.43.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Rep. Missing	Death presumption	E135580 Sgt. A/G Booth, C.A.	10/11.44.43.	11.44.43.	E111947 Sgt. WOP/AIR Barry, E.	22/23.6.43.	23.6.43.	E175740 Sgt. A/G Wilkes, A.E.	22/23.6.43.	23.6.43.	E190561 Sgt. A/G Stephenson, R.H.	11/12.6.43.	12.6.43.		
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																																								
CHOPT	1944 31st Jan.		<p><u>MISSING PERSONNEL - INFORMATION RECEIVED (cont'd)</u></p> <p>The death of the w/o Officers previously reported missing dates stated, is presumed to have occurred dates stated.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Rep. Missing</th> <th>Death presumption</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>P/L</td> <td>D.A. Hine</td> <td>118483</td> <td>22/23.6.43</td> <td>23.6.43.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/O</td> <td>H.D. Quilter</td> <td>48947</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/O</td> <td>R.E. Mercer</td> <td>148054</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/O</td> <td>H.T. McAnusland</td> <td>147496</td> <td>11/12.6.43</td> <td>12.6.43.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/O</td> <td>W. Engleham</td> <td>148443</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/O</td> <td>J.H. Burrows</td> <td>147470</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P/O</td> <td>L.C. Long</td> <td>126471</td> <td>"</td> <td>"</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Information was received from Air Ministry <del>that</del> Flying Officer A.W. Blear (J2430) and crew and P119578 P/S R.W. Ritchie and crew, missing on operations 3rd Dec., 1943, over Leipzig. Four members of P/O Blear's crew are now prisoners of war. Three remainder reported dead. Six members of P/S Ritchie's crew are prisoners of war, and the remaining members is still missing.</p> <p><u>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE</u> - 11175; 1K996; 1K905; 11142; 11231; 1K952; 11174; 11151; 11232; 1K964; 11152; 11258; 1K705; 11233.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <i>M. Higgins</i>            (C.E. Higgins) S/L            Squadron Leader Commanding            No. 431 (HAF) Squadron            + + + + +         </p>				Rep. Missing	Death presumption	P/L	D.A. Hine	118483	22/23.6.43	23.6.43.	P/O	H.D. Quilter	48947	"	"	P/O	R.E. Mercer	148054	"	"	P/O	H.T. McAnusland	147496	11/12.6.43	12.6.43.	P/O	W. Engleham	148443	"	"	P/O	J.H. Burrows	147470	"	"	P/O	L.C. Long	126471	"	"		
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(70885-890) Wt 1000-1010 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1200 1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440 1450 1500 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1600 1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040 2050 2100 2110 2120 2130 2140 2150 2200 2210 2220 2230 2240 2250 2300 2310 2320 2330 2340 2350 2400 2410 2420 2430 2440 2450 2500 2510 2520 2530 2540 2550 2600 2610 2620 2630 2640 2650 2700 2710 2720 2730 2740 2750 2800 2810 2820 2830 2840 2850 2900 2910 2920 2930 2940 2950 3000 3010 3020 3030 3040 3050 3100 3110 3120 3130 3140 3150 3200 3210 3220 3230 3240 3250 3300 3310 3320 3330 3340 3350 3400 3410 3420 3430 3440 3450 3500 3510 3520 3530 3540 3550 3600 3610 3620 3630 3640 3650 3700 3710 3720 3730 3740 3750 3800 3810 3820 3830 3840 3850 3900 3910 3920 3930 3940 3950 4000 4010 4020 4030 4040 4050 4100 4110 4120 4130 4140 4150 4200 4210 4220 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