COMPILING OFFICER - Flight Lieutenant T.R. W[illegible]

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

5.22.1.431
JAS

Page No. 197

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

6577 No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 1st Feb.		(1) Five aircraft completed night cross-country exercises. Emphasis was laid on the importance of setting course together, and being on each turning-point at times laid down. One aircraft carried out air-to-sea firing exercise.	
			(2) Bomb Aimers received lecture on Bombing gear and use of Mk.XIV Bomb Sight for range and bearing. Two Bomb Aimers attended Link instruction. In the afternoon, Bomb Aimers practiced map reading, and had a lecture on Astro and taking of "fixes".	
			(3) Bombing exercises arranged at Strensall Range, but cancelled in the evening owing to range party being non-existent.	
			(4) Navigators attended a lecture by Flight Lieutenant L.L. McLeod (AUS411091). Navigators not on night cross-country, on local flying, giving instruction on Gee to Bomb Aimers. Several Navigators practiced Astro during the day.	
			(5) Pilot Officer L.W. Chick (AUS411242) returned to the Unit from Central Gunnery School, Sutton Bridge. His course was of six weeks' duration, and he thought it was a splendid course.	
			(6) Squadron Leader C.W. Higgins (J15695), 'A' Flight Commander, took over the duties of Squadron Commander, during the absence, on leave, of Wing Commander V.P.M. Newson (DFC) (C983).	
			(7) R152455 Flight Sergeant E. Halliwell was interviewed by Group Captain A.D. Ross (C111), Base Station Commander, regarding commission.	
			(8) Duties are heavy in the Orderly Room at this time due to numerous monthly returns being prepared.	
			(9) Squadron Leader Higgins and Flight Lieutenant McLeod departed, late in the afternoon, to visit the Night Vision Centre at Topcliffe.	
	2nd Feb.		(1) One aircraft completed an air-to-air firing exercise with drogue aircraft from Dalton. Three aircraft completed air-to-sea firing exercises.	
			(2) Pilots practiced S.B.A. and Bomb ~~and~~ Aimers and Wireless Operators practiced "Homing" on Gee. Gunners on local ground and flying training. Bomb Aimers received instruction on Boulton Paul Turrets and map reading, and remainder practiced Bombing and Gee.	
			(3) Two crews from the Squadron - Pilots, Flight Lieutenant C.G. Bull (J3466) and Pilot Officer F.A. Badgery (AUS412565) - proceeded to Thornaby Public Baths for wet dinghy drill. Squadron.	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 2nd Feb.	(cont'd)	Leader Seabourne, 6 Group Airborne Forces Officer, was in attendance, and gave a constructive lecture to the crews. He also took part in the water exercises. Flight Lieutenant T.R. Walker (01869), Squadron Adjutant, attended, and gave instruction to several beginners. Group Captain R.H. Edwards (AFC) (126), Station Commander, was an interested spectator. All in all, this weekly dinghy drill is most useful and helpful to all concerned.	
	3rd Feb.		(1) Ten aircraft, in conjunction with six aircraft from No. 434 Squadron, participated in a huge night cross-country exercise. "Rose" flares and T.I. Markers (one red and one green) were dropped at two turning points over the sea. Navigators were instructed not to use Gee on the two sea legs, but to navigate on D.R. and Astro. Due to cloud, T.I. was not visible, though the "Rose" flares were seen by several crews. On the second leg, the T.I. was not seen, but two crews were able to obtain fixes on the "Rose" flares. The poor results on the second target were attributed to the sudden drop in wind velocity which caused most Navigators. However, this training is invaluable to Navigators, and also to "spare" crews, who get an opportunity to see what our own flares are like. For this reason, an effort is being made to obtain a supply of all types of markers. Two aircraft completed air-to-air firing exercises.	
			(2) Navigators, not on cross-country, on Gee training and Astro. Gunners on spotlight turret training, and Bomb Aimers practising bomb aiming and Gee. Five Bomb Aimers had Link instruction.	
			(3) 1135023 Flight Sergeant A.J. Yelmouth and 1132529 Flight Sergeant J.K. Gustafson and crews proceeded on leave to-day.	
			(4) Flying Officer H.N. Eggleston (1799), Public Relations Officer from Leeming, paid a call to the Squadron.	
			(5) Pay Parade held for the Squadron in No. 2 Hangar at 0830 hours. Flying Officer W.J. Hyde (J25118) and Pilot Officer D.A. McKenzie (J36019), acted as witnessing Officers. All R.C.A.F. personnel received free cigarettes from the Y.M.C.A. Supervisor, Mr. Kirk Bell.	
			(6) Warrant Officer A.R. Jones (R2139), who was reported missing from operations on November 25th, 1943, and escaped from France, returned to the unit to-day on a visit. On the "Since" recommendation, Commission papers were completed for him and he was interviewed by Squadron Leader Higgins, Acting O.C., and Group Captain Edwards, Station Commander.	

Wt. 27943/O6528 20M4 12/43 C. & L. 21-7791

OBSERVATION RECORD BOOK

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 1340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 199

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

month

No. of pages used for ~~this~~ 3

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 4th Feb.		(1) Weather unfit for flying to-day.	
			(2) All Air Bombers checked over Bomb Sights, and aircraft groundswing-shots taken. Navigator received Gee training in the forenoon.	
			(3) Group Captain Rees, Base Commander, interviewed the following personnel re commissions to-day: R121359 WO2 A.R. Jones, 939251 WO C. Beresford (RAF), 1272222 F/S C.E. Wood, 1270317 F/S L.G. Stamp, 1317072 F/S C.E. Young, and R139963 Sgt. R.M. Francon.	
			(4) In the afternoon, a grand auction sale was held in the Squadron Crew Room on all the articles turned over to the Squadron by the Committee of Adjustment. Articles included food-stuffs, cigarettes, toilet articles, films, candy, etc. - all from the personal kit of Officers and Other Ranks missing from Operations. F/L J.M. Hill (J7761), Deputy Flight Commander, acted as auctioneer, the 'Wingo' and Flight Commanders taking part in the promotion of the sale. The amount raised was £84.13.3d, and this will be used for parcels for Squadron personnel who are prisoners of war. This will be done through the International Red Cross Society. This was a very successful auction, and the men were quite interested. Bidding was very high on most of the articles.	
			(5) F/L J.R. Valentine (31193) (RAF), and F/O F.E. Guillevin (C24448) and crews, returned from leave to-day.	
	5th Feb.		(1) Two aircraft on air-to-sea firing exercises. One new aircraft - 'W' - was test-flown and given an acceptance check. An air-to-sea firing detail was completed by the same aircraft. Local flying, air-to-air, and fighter affiliation exercises were carried out.	
			(2) Revision held on Bombing Drill and Bombing Panel. Three Bomb Aimers on Link instruction. Bomb Aimers practiced firing from mid-upper turret, and were also map reading and check-levelling Bomb Sights.	
			(3) Gunners on aircraft recognition. Ground training carried out by Navigators.	
			(4) Flight Lieutenant A. Nutt, Squadron Signals Officer, reported back from course at Penhros.	
			(5) R142713 F/S M. McMillan and crew proceeded on leave to-day, and R72201 F/S F.M. Skeaff and R130902 F/S J.P. Arkyniuk and crews returned from leave.	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events **SECRET.**	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 6th Feb.		(1) Weather 'duff'. No Operations. Ground training only carried out.	
			(2) Navigation Section gave Gee training to Bomb Aimers and Wireless Operators. A lecture on Astro Compass was given to all Bomb Aimers, and several were on A.M.B.T.	
			(3) A Church Service was held in the Crew Room. Squadron Leader A.J.T. Littlewood (C4684) officiated.	
			(4) Four aircrew N.C.O.'s were brought up before the Squadron O.C. on charges of A.W.L. Two were dismissed, and two awarded a reprimand.	
			(5) A soccer match was held to-day by two teams from the Squadron, and was enjoyed by all. It is hoped to gradually interest aircrew in some form of sport, as it is felt that it would be of great value.	
	7th Feb.		(1) Six aircraft completed night cross-country exercises. Target, and one turning-point, marked with 'Reco' flares, but due to clouds, success of this exercise was limited. Navigators were briefed not to use Gee on two legs, but to rely on D.R. and Astro. Bomb Aimers on cross-country to bomb each of two positions.	
			(2) Five Bomb Aimers on Link instruction, others attended a 'quiz' lecture on Mk. XIV Bomb Sight.	
			(3) F/O T. Lamb (C25319) reported to the Squadron to fill establishment vacancy as Radar Officer.	
			(4) S/L R.N. Chandler (DFC) C1773, Station Administrative Officer, visited the Squadron and discussed with the Adjutant, the extension of the roadway in front of the crew room, ~~kmk~~ to be made by aircrew personnel. It looked very simple after he had explained what was to be done, but until it is completed, the Adj. has his doubts.	
	8th Feb.		(1) Five aircraft completed air-to-sea and sun-bombing exercises. Two aircraft on fighter affiliation and sun-bombing. One aircraft on cross-country fuel consumption test, and one on air test and local beam practice.	
			(2) Several Bomb Aimers on A.M.B.T. Others on Gunnery Training. In the afternoon, Bomb Aimers on map reading and Gee. Nine Bomb Aimers on sun-bombing runs.	
			(3) Several charges came up before Squadron Leader Higgins, Acting O.C., and were handled in the necessary manner.	
			(4) A Muster Parade was held in the morning for all personnel of the Squadron to check respirators.	

WT. 32624/0558 350M 10/43 C.& L. 51-7788

OFFICIAL RECORD BOOK

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 1340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 201

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

No. of pages used for month 5

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 8th Feb.	(cont'd)	and any who were without them. All were serviceable. Eight had lost their respirators, and the necessary action was taken to obtain same.	
	9th Feb.		(1) Two aircraft on air tests and formation flying practice.	
			(2) All Air Bombers out at aircraft checking bomb sights and bombing gear, and cleaning Perspex. Later they received a supplementary lecture on Astro.	
			(3) Gunnery Section engaged in cleaning guns, and F/L McLeod, Gunnery Leader, held a meeting of all Gunners. Many suggestions and ideas were offered, several of which have proved quite practical.	
			(4) Wireless Operators on Gee Training. Bomber Command Signals Staff Instructions amended. Flight Lieutenant Nutt, Signals Leader, detailed Duty Signals Leader to-day.	
			(5) Three crews from the Squadron proceeded to Thornaby Baths for wet dinghy drill. Pilots were: R54264 W/O2 W.E. Woodrow, R153770 W/O J.D. Fetherston, and R130902 F/S J.P. Artyniuk. Dinghy procedure was carried out satisfactorily by all crews. Beginners received instruction from Squadron Adjutant, F/L Walker.	
	10th Feb.		(1) Ten aircraft took part in a 'synthetic' operational trip. The target and one concentration point were marked with 'reco' flares. All the aircraft were fitted with cameras. Four aircraft obtained traces of both flare points, two obtained traces at one point, with four failing to get any trace whatsoever. Weather was excellent, and 'reco' markers, while a few seconds late due to very tricky winds over the Irish Sea and Wales, were, nevertheless, well placed. This was an excellent exercise to test the resourcefulness and initiative of Navigators, as well as their ability and faith in Astro.	
			(2) Wireless Operators received a lecture on the Electrical Circuit of Halifax aircraft.	
			(3) Nine Air Bombers on Link instruction, others on A.M.B.T.	
			(4) Wing Commander Newson Returned from leave to-day looking well and fit. Squadron Admin. problems during his absence were discussed, and other matters were taken up with the Flight Commanders.	
			(5) WO2 W.E. Woodrow received his commission to-day. Now P/O -J19650.	
	11th Feb.		(1) One aircraft was height-tested with war-load. Two aircraft participated in Bombing and	

www.bombercommandmuseum.ca

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events **SECRET.**	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 11th Feb.	(cont'd)	day cross-country. Seven aircraft took part in a Command Bullseye. Two early returns, but the remainder completed the exercises successfully.	
			(2) Gunnery Section on aircraft recognition and gun cleaning.	
			(3) Lecture to Wireless Operators on TR1196 Fault-finding. Bomber Command Signal Pamphlets amended. Wireless Operators' helmets tested.	
			(4) Four crews returned from leave. Pilots: F/L J.M. Hill (J7761), F/O M. Sonshine (J23299) F/O R. Hamby (159047) (RAF), and R151888 F/S J. Howell.	
	12th Feb.		(1) Three aircraft on air-to-air and bombing exercises. One aircraft on air-to-sea and air test. Four aircraft completed a night cross-country.	
			(2) New gun harmonization boards under construction in accordance with Bomber Command instructions. Air firing details carried out in the afternoon by Gunnery Section.	
			(3) Signals Section amended No. 6 Group Signals Instructions.	
			(4) U/S Merlin engine for use in the Flight Engineer Section ordered to-day for training purposes.	
			(5) Bomb Aimers given a lecture on the Mk. XIV Bomb Sight. Five Bomb Aimers on Link instruction. Maps for night flying prepared.	
			(6) Commander R.A. McDonald (R.N.), gave an interesting lecture to all aircrew personnel on the different types of mines as laid by aircraft.	
	13th Feb.		(1) One aircraft on air test.	
			(2) Pilots had 'quizz' lecture by Wing Commander Newson and the Flight Commanders.	
			(3) Fifteen Bomb Aimers trained on A.M.L. Remainder divided into two teams, and held 'quizz' on Bombing, and other 'gen'.	
			(4) Wireless Operators lectured on fault-finding by Marconi Receiver. They organized a discussion group whose subject was; 'Is Tradition a Good Thing'. It proved to be most interesting and some very constructive answers were given by both R.C.A.F. and R.A.F. personnel.	
			(5) Wing Commander C.W. Bartlett (DFC) (39928), new Officer Commanding No. 434 (RCAF) Squadron, paid a visit to the Squadron, and was met by W/C Newson.	
			(6) R135221 F/S A.W. Tinmouth, and R132529 F/S J.K. Gustafson, and crews, returned from leave to-day.	

Wt. 37945/O8532 [illegible] 12/43 C. & L. 51-7700

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

Page No. 203

No. of pages used for month 7

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 14th Feb.		(1) No operations to-day. Weather conditions unfit. One aircraft on air test.	
			(2) Further discussions held by Flight Engineers to clear several points on examination held yesterday.	
			(3) Pilots 'quiz' lecture papers were marked and reviewed, and many points were clarified.	
			(4) Five Bomb Aimers on Link Trainer. Remainder on bombing drill and manual release of bombs.	
			(5) Wireless Operators on practical fault-finding on Receiver R1155, and also on Gee. They had an oral 'quiz' on the Marconi R1155, T1154, TR1196, and Electrical circuit.	
			(6) R142713 F/S M. McMillan and crew returned from leave.	
	15th Feb.		(1) Operations called for to-day after long lay-off. Thirteen aircraft detailed. Target: [illegible]. One early return - F/L J.M. Hill and crew - due to oil leak, and runaway propeller. From all indications, this raid was a successful one. P.F.F. well concentrated.	
			Only one of the remaining aircraft returned to base - R135221 F/S A.V. Tinmouth and crew - after an exciting trip, being attacked by night fighters, rendering u/s all Wireless Equipment, & Rear Turret, and damaging the Starboard wheel flap, fin and rudder. On top of this, the inter-communication system was out of order. 1801820 Sgt. B.G. Warren, the Engineer, was injured slightly by a piece of shrapnel in his thigh. The Rear Gunner, R123425 Sgt. W.J. Walton, had his hands, ears and feet blistered from freezing, and was admitted to Northallerton Hospital on return. The crew's co-operation was outstanding in spite of these difficulties. F/S Tinmouth made a successful landing here at 0052 hours on 16.2.44.	
			None of our aircraft were missing, but the remainder were all diverted - nine to U.S.A.A.F. Station, Wendling, where the crews spent three days awaiting favourable weather before returning. Living conditions were, as in most diversions, somewhat uncomfortable, but this state of affairs was dwarfed by the many genial American friends who did all they could to make the boys feel at home. Meals at Wendling were really tops, a delicious item being canned fruit with every meal, and passable coffee. Everyone saw the B.24 Liberator, and S/L Dow and P/O Craig (RAAF) had a short flip in the mighty ship. Most American Pilots were greatly awed by our ability to land at night, and cannot believe how simple it really is.	
			One aircraft landed at Wittering, and another at Upwood.	

www.bombercommandmuseum.ca

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 25th Feb.	(cont'd)	This successful operation was a timely one for the Squadron and did much to lift their morale after a long lay-off.	
			(2) Bomb Aimers had a general meeting with the Station Bombing Officer at which methods and theories were exchanged. Air Bombers not on operations, leading window.	
			(3) A lecture was given to Air Gunners on the dinghy radio.	
			(4) R54240 Sgt. G.E. Bourgeau, P.T. & D.I., reported to the Squadron, replacing R90352 F/S D.H. Howes, who was reduced and posted to No. 61 Base for inefficiency.	
	26th Feb.		(1) Operations called for again tonight - eight aircraft detailed. Usual preparations well under way, but ops. were scrubbed later in the day.	
			(2) Air Bombers received Astro lecture in the afternoon.	
			(3) Group W/T Point-to-Point exercises carried out by Wireless Operators. R90250 (Number Code Cover) amended up to date.	
			(4) Gunnery Section cleaning guns in the afternoon.	
	27th Feb.		(1) Operations again called for - nine aircraft detailed. Usual preparations in the morning, but later in the day, ops. scrubbed.	
			(2) Three Bomb Aimers on Gee Instruction. Five on Link Trainer. Lecture to remainder on running-up with Mk. XIV Bomb Sight. Later in the afternoon, Bomb Aimers lectured on revision of pathfinder technique.	
			(3) Wireless Operators on Gee training for one hour. All Bomber Codes checked.	
			(4) Lecture to Gunners on Dinghy Radio.	
			(5) Squadron Pay Parade held at 0830 hours in No. 2 Hangar.	
	28th Feb.		(1) For the Fourth day running, operations called for - eight aircraft being detailed - but ops. were again scrubbed in the afternoon.	
			(2) All but three of the diverted aircraft from Berlin raid of 15th February, returned to Base.	
			(3) Wireless Operators harmonising with new boards, and later, on aircraft recognition. Air Force Code amended by Wireless Operators.	
			(4) Bomb Aimers received lecture on manipulation of the dinghy radio and kite.	
			(5) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newman (DFC), and Squadron Leader H.R. Daw, preparing awards for seven	

Wt. 37042/O6228 2000M 11/43 C. & L. 51-7761

www.bombercommand.digitalarchives.ca

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes on R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for month 9

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 18th Feb.	(cont'd)	aircrew members of the Squadron. For immediate awards of: DFC: R121359 WO2 A.R. Jones. DFM: R152875 F/S R. DeForge, R135221 F/S A.W. Tinmouth, and R123425 Sgt. W.J. Walton. For non-immediate awards of: DFC: Squadron Leader C.W. Higgins (J15695) and F/L W.J. Harris (39766). DFM: 1257979 F/S J.H. Ormesher (RAF).	
	19th Feb.		(1) Operations called for - ten aircraft detailed for raid on LEIPZIG. Late take-off. Two aircraft returned early - F/L J.M. Hill and F/S J.P. Artymiuk and crews - due to engine failures and artificial horizon gyro u/s, respectively. P.F.F. well concentrated, but results difficult to see due to cloud. Spoof attack seen on Berlin excellently contrived. Results of raid disappointing from all indications. Two of our aircraft failed to return - F/O M. Sonshine (J23299) and R151888 F/S J. Howell - two of our promising new crews. This was F/O Sonshine's first operational trip as Captain of aircraft.	
			(2) A lecture was given to Bomb Aimers on bombing procedure before and after reaching target. Others on Link instruction. In the afternoon, Bomb Aimers assisted in loading bombs and window.	
			(3) Wireless Operators had general discussion on guns and tactics.	
	20th Feb.		(1) Operations again called for. Seven aircraft detailed, but scrubbed later in the day.	
			(2) Three Air Bombers detailed for Link instruction, others loading window and bombing up for ops.	
			(3) All aircraft's guns cleaned by Gunnery Section.	
			(4) Squadron Leader Seabourne (RAF), No. 6 Group Air-Sea Rescue Officer, visited the Squadron for the purpose of interviewing the members of F/S Corriveau's crew who were picked up by minesweepers off the English Coast on 28th January.	
			(5) P/O F. Jackson, Public Relations Officer from Middleton St. George, paid a visit to the Squadron. He had a chat with the Wing Commander and Adjutant, and got the details on F/S A.W. Tinmouth and crew regarding their ditching trip on 15th of February.	
			(6) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson visited Northallerton Hospital to see Sergeant W.J. Walton, who has been confined there with frostbite since his return, with F/S Tinmouth, from Berlin.	
	21st Feb.		(1) No operations to-day. Two aircraft on cross-country exercise. One aircraft proceeded to Dywood and Wittering to collect aircraft diverted.	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 21st Feb.	(cont'd)	(2) Bomb Aimers lectured on Astro and plotting of Astro 'fixes'. In the afternoon, they received instruction on the lighting head of the Mk. XIV Bomb Sight.	
			(3) Wireless Operators on Gee training, and A.P.1927 (Air Force Code) amended.	
			(4) Clothing parade held for Squadron personnel to-day.	
			(5) Captain G. Kalfas, Dental Officer, visited the Squadron to arrange for the remaining aircrew personnel and all ground crew personnel for check-up.	
	22nd Feb.		(1) Operations ~~xxx~~ called for to-day. Four crews detailed for North Sea Mining, but were recalled due to weather conditions.	
			(2) Sixteen Bomb Aimers on Link instruction in the afternoon, others loading window for ops.	
			(3) W/L A. Nutt (130917) (RAF), Squadron Signals Officer, in conference with Station Signals Officer, F/L H.H. Woodhead (C15868) re general discussion. Group W/T exercises carried out.	
			(4) Identification parade of all Officers on the Station was held at 1400 hours for the purpose of identifying the Officer who gave out information to a civilian regarding operations. The guilty person was not located, but the parade served its purpose as a useful warning to all concerned. W/C W.F.M. Newman (DFC), Acting Station Commander, ordered the parade, and later brought to the attention of all Officers the seriousness of breaches of Security.	
	23rd Feb.		(1) Training only to-day. F/S A.W. Tirmouth and crew, on test flight with new aircraft, crash-landed in a field near Hawarden - two engines having failed, and the aircraft becoming severely iced-up while passing through cloud. No casualties. This Pilot and his crew are getting lots of action since their posting to the Squadron.	
			(2) Helmets tested by Wireless Operators, and they also had Gee training. A lecture was given in the afternoon by W/L A. Nutt, Signals Leader, on daylight Operations. This Section busy making up Wireless Operators' Order Book, and putting up new wall diagrams, and also writing verification cards (SD0182).	
			(3) Bomb Aimers detailed for A.M.L. Training and lectures on Bombing Panel. In the afternoon, they received a lecture on Astro and plotting Astro 'fixes'.	
			(4) Two aircraft had compasses swung.	
	24th Feb.		(1) Operations to-day. Eight aircraft detailed. Three early returns due to Engine failures.	

Wt. 37841/O6338 8000M 12/43 C. & L. 51-7701

www.bombercommandmuseum.ca

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	24th Feb.	(cont'd)	Target was North Sea Spoof effort. All other aircraft returned safely to Base.	
			(2) Eight Bomb Aimers detailed for Link instruction.	
			(3) A lecture was given to the remaining aircrew by F/L C.E. Shearing (78282) (RAF), on operations with the 8th U.S.A.A.F.	
			(4) Harmonization of remaining aircraft carried out by Gunnery Section.	
	25th Feb.		(1) Operations. Nine aircraft offered. All took off - MINING in the Baltic Sea. One aircraft missing: F/S C.E. Howey R146908 and crew, who had only been with the Squadron some two months. Very good trip reported by returning aircraft, with markings excellent.	
			(2) In the afternoon, Bomb Aimers received lecture on bombing gear and manual release.	
			(3) Navigation Section working on lecture room re-arranging set-up.	
			(4) 1314935 F/S K.W. Smith, having just completed first tour of operations, was to-day screened, along with four members of his crew: F/O L.W. Chick (AUS411242), F/O W.D. Gould (169397), 1437316 F/S H.G. Wynn, and 1237979 F/S J.H. Ormesher. Much rejoicing, and all very happy.	
			(5) Local training carried out, and Sections making general clean-up of quarters.	
	26th Feb.		(1) Extremely poor weather to-day. Rain, mud, etc. Nothing much of anything accomplished. Stand down in the afternoon.	
			(2) Group Captain G.E.M. Scott (01391), Senior Administrative Officer, No. 6 (RCAF) Group Headquarters, called at the Squadron to-day and was met by the Adjutant, as W/C W.F.M. Newson had proceeded to No. 6 Group with W/C C.W. Bartlett, O.C., No. 434 Squadron, for a meeting.	
			(3) Bomb Aimers given instruction in Blind Bombing Panel drill.	
			(4) Aircraft 'E' and 'G' had compasses swung.	
			(5) In the morning, W/C Newson gave a lecture to all Navigators on the use of Astro, and the necessity of greater use being made of it on all flying.	
			(6) Aircrew personnel working on new road from Crew Room to Perimeter.	
	27th Feb.		(1) Weather again very poor to-day. Mildly heavy snow, and quite cold. No flying carried out.	
			(2) Sections cleaning up quarters. (3) Bomb Aimers on Link instruction.	
			(4) R148644 F/S J. Sonshine, brother of F/O M. Sonshine, who went missing on operations on 19th February, 1944, visited the Squadron, and after seeing the Adjutant, met several officers and N.C.O.'s who were friends of his brother. He left later in the day. (5) F/S A.W. Tinmouth was to-day awarded the D.F.M., and received a personal congratulatory message from Air Chief Marshal Harris, Chief of Bomber Command.	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events SECRET.	References to Appendices
	28th Feb.		(1) Operations. Nine aircraft detailed, but scrubbed later in the day.	
			(2) One aircraft carried out air test, and another proceeded to Foulsham to pick up aircraft which had been u/s.	
			(3) Lecture given to Navigators and Bomb Aimers on the importance of Astro, and after that, a general discussion was held.	
			(4) Six Bomb Aimers sat for instruction in map reading on A.M.L. Bomb Aimers loading window and assisting in bombing aircraft.	
			(5) Aircraft 'C' and 'F' had compasses swung.	
			(6) Navigation Section had ground training, mainly on Gee, and also a lecture on log keeping and chart work.	
	29th Feb.		(1) Operations not called for. Three aircraft on cross-country (one hour). Another despatched to Foulsham to pick up aircraft DK246. One aircraft on air test. Pilot Officer R.P. Rubie (159564) and crew, on cross-country exercise, blew a tire on take-off. After finishing the exercise, P/O Rubie made a very successful landing. No damage, no casualties. Tire was changed within an hour.	
			(2) Gee instruction given to Wireless Operators and Bomb Aimers.	
			(3) The two best Logs for the month were sent to No. 6 Group H.Q. Monthly assessment of Navigators completed and forwarded to No. 6 Group.	
			(4) Eight Bomb Aimers on Link instruction.	
			(5) All Bomb available aircrew detailed to see cinema on Venereal Disease, arranged by Medical Officer, F/L C.G. Wilson (88878).	
			(6) Section Officer Tindale (Y30020) and Section Officer Stevenson (967) (WAAF), Cypher Officers from Middleton St. George, visited the Squadron and left Pamphlets CD209 (Geographical Index) and SD430/4 (Flying Accident Digest No. 4) with the Adjutant.	
			(7) Squadron Leader T. McCall (C7107), No. 6 Group Public Relations Officer, visited the Squadron and was met by Wing Commander W.F.M. Newsom.	
			(8) The month of February, while not the most active, was, from all results, a successful one. Some very useful training, ground and air, was accomplished.	

Wt. 37048/O8882 8884M 12/43 C. & T. 51-5726

www.bombercommandmuseummarchives.ca

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 1340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for month 13

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				References to Appendices
CHFOT	1944 29th Feb.		PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON				
			Officers	Aircrew	Ground Crew	Total	
			R.C.A.F.	40	2	42	
			R.A.F.	32	-	32	
			TOTAL	72	2	74	
			Airmen				
			R.C.A.F.	73	214	287	
			R.A.F.	57	27	84	
			W.A.A.F.	-	11	11	
			TOTAL	130	252	382	
			Postings - Officers Aircrew - Out - NIL				
			Postings - Aircrew N.C.O.'s - Out		Posted to	wef	
			R183828 Sgt. A/G Liddell, R.E.		RCAF 'E' Depot	8.2.44.	
			R120729 F/S B/A Binkley, J.		Middleton St. George (H/S Sick)	14.2.44.	
			Postings - Officers Aircrew - In		Posted from	wef	
			F/O T. Lamb C25119	Took (S) (Ground)	HQ. 6 Group	25.1.44.	
			F/O M.G. MacLeod	J25178	1664 CU	12.2.44.	
			F/O L. Peters	J24058	1664 CU	12.2.44.	
			F/O H. Zellen	J27147	1664 CU	12.2.44.	
			Postings - Aircrew N.C.O.'s - In				
			R225107 Sgt. W/AG Clements, T.		1664 CU	12.2.44.	
			R197721 Sgt. A/G Grant, M.G.		1664 CU	12.2.44.	
			R182496 Sgt. A/G Ayres, D.H.		1664 CU	12.2.44.	
			R184320 Sgt. A/G Knowes, K.P.		1659 CU	21.2.44.	
			R200059 Sgt. A/G Henderson, W.M.		1659 CU	21.2.44.	
			1477899 Sgt. F/E Richardson, G.T.		1664 CU	12.2.44.	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 29th Feb.		CASUALTIES - Officers	
			F/O M. Senshima J23299 Missing 20.2.44.	
			F/O R.J. Kee J23910	
			F/O J.A. Houston J12683	
			F/O D.A. McKerry J36019	
			F/O J.H. Cunningham J22593	
			CASUALTIES - AIRMEN	
			R141173 F/S Pilot Maher, J.J. Missing 29.1.44.	
			R155833 F/S B/A Bonokoski, D.	
			R188196 Sgt. A/G Howe, R.G.	
			R96935 F/S Pilot Gorrereau, J.T.	
			R127857 WO2 Nav. Harris, J.D.	
			R180997 Sgt. A/G Raymond, J.P.	
			R63728 Sgt. B/A Thompson, A.C.	
			R190751 Sgt. A/G Bell, N.A.	
			[illegible] Sgt. WOP/AIR Lockyer, D.H.	
			3566670 Sgt. A/G (5) Rothwell, J.R.	
			1340800 Sgt. F/E Boyd, E.	
			657056 F/S WOP/AIR Moody, G.T.	
			1499168 Sgt. A/G Carter, G.F.	
			3562336 Sgt. F/E McIvor, J.	
			R152624 F/S Nav. Harvey, A.C. Missing 20.2.44.	
			R165374 Sgt. A/G Gallenders, R.E.	
	22		R151888 F/S Pilot Howell, J.	
			R160824 F/S B/A Gutley, E.H.	
			R122111 WO2 W/A/G Howell, L.G.	
			Can.4160[illegible]gt. A/G Vernon, S.J.	
			R188615 Sgt. A/G Bate, J.D.	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

Page No. 211

No. of pages used for ~~day~~ month 15

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 29th Feb.		CASUALTIES - Airmen (cont'd)	
			1710329 Sgt. F/E Rawlinson, D.J. Missing 20.2.44.	
			1894043 Sgt. F/E Twitchett, A.C.	
			R146908 F/E Pilot Howey, C.E. Missing 26.2.44.	
			R124239 F/E Nav. Stevenson, G.E.	
			R183173 Sgt. A/G Munro, A.M.G.	
			R183842 Sgt. A/G Wardell, L.T.	
			1566360 Sgt. A/G MacGillivray, A.D.	
			1600459 Sgt. WOP/AIR Bates, R.L.	
			683577 Sgt. F/E Metcalf, E.R.	
			Promotions and Appointments - Officers — Promoted to — wef	
			P/O W. Conley J18328 — F/O — 23.10.43.	
			P/O L.L. Anderson J18158 — F/O — 11.11.43.	
			P/O A.E. Banning 170654 — Commission — 16.12.43.	
			P/O C.O. Rooks J27317 — F/O — 11.12.43	
			P/O W.E. Woodrow J19650 — Commission — 30.12.43.	
			P/O F.A. Badgery AUS412565 — Commission — 5.12.43.	
			P/O W.G. Craig AUS416549 — Commission — 5.12.43.	
			P/O J.C. King AUS412558 — Commission — 5.12.43.	
			HONOURS AND AWARDS	
			P/O F.A. Badgery AUS412565 — Authorized to wear the ribbon of the	
			P/O W.G. Craig AUS416549 — 1939/43 Star.	
			P/O J.C. King AUS412558	
			P/O L.L. Anderson J18158	
			P/O G.E. Bishop J22393	
			P/O R.L. Christison J10969	
			P/O I.E. Cragg J19042	
			S/L H.R. Row J4893	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 29th Feb.		**HONOURS AND AWARDS**	
			F/O D.J. Franks J23642 Authorised to wear the Ribbon of the	
			F/O J.W. Fielding J7216 1939/43 Star.	
			F/O G.A. Greene J22852	
			F/O F.E. Guillewin C24148	
			F/L J.M. Hill J7761	
			F/O R.A. Helsby J21529	
			F/O K.W. Jones J13827	
			F/O B.G. Philbin J13949	
			F/O C.O. Rooke J27317	
			F/O J. Steyko J14512	
			F/O J.E. Shaw J23637	
			F/O A.E.F. Benning 170654	
			F/O G. Collins 168976	
			F/O J. Geddes 168954	
			F/O O.M. Gilmour 136910	
			F/O E. Leinchbury 145467	
			F/O R. Packer 168971	
			F/O J.H. Page 151076	
			F/O A. Pitt 168975	
			F/O H.G. Young 168966	
			F/O G.E. Wilson J19402	
			652850 Sgt. Harris, W.	
			657056 F/S Moody, G.T.	
			1047841 Sgt. Wood, G.	
			1306993 Sgt. Parker, K.A.	
			1317072 F/S Young, C.E.	
			1320555 F/S Fyn, F.B.	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

R.A.F. Form 540
See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2340 and War Manual Pt. II., chapter XX., and note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

Page No. 213

No. of pages used for month 1 & 7

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CHERT	1944 29th Feb.		1321540 Sgt. Lowry, P.S. Authorised to wear the ribbon of the 1939/43 Star.	
			1337592 Sgt. G.G. Gage " " "	
			1338370 Sgt. Douglas, H.J. " " "	
			1385623 Sgt. Morris, S. " " "	
			1443385 Sgt. Coffin, W. " " "	
			1499168 Sgt. Carter, G. " " "	
			1562136 Sgt. Molver, J. " " "	
			1567379 Sgt. Keir, S. " " "	
			1568971 Sgt. Heron, A.B. " " "	
			1575595 F/S Meddings, D. " " "	
			1581387 Sgt. Barnes, A. " " "	
			1583055 Sgt. Beech, J.T.H. " " "	
			1591127 Sgt. Dixon, J. " " "	
			1601722 Sgt. Sparkes, L.S. " " "	
			1805654 Sgt. Howe, P.C. " " "	
			1833587 Sgt. Banbury, F.G. " " "	
			1851253 Sgt. Runnegar, W. " " "	
			1870924 Sgt. Tongue, W.I. " " "	
			Can.10660 F/S Edwards, C. " " "	
			R59997 Sgt. Millar, J.B. " " "	
			R114324 Sgt. Gracie, W. " " "	
			R115313 WO2 McDonald, R. " " "	
			R116267 F/S Fulham, S.J. " " "	
			R119578 F/S Ritchie, R.W. " " "	
			R125180 F/S Donnell, A.G. " " "	
			R137962 Sgt. MacCullin, J.D. " " "	
			R141173 F/S Maher, J.J. " " "	
			R142056 F/S Reed, R.A. " " "	

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 29th Feb.		R145326 F/S Schwartz, M.E. Authorised to wear the ribbon of the 1939/43 Star.	
			R146207 Sgt. Roche, J.I.	
			R151311 Sgt. Kehoe, G.D.	
			R151966 Sgt. Loubert, J.C.	
			R158185 F/S Cummins, G.	
			R159383 Sgt. Lamoureux, J.	
			R163503 Sgt. Layne, J.L.	
			R164476 Sgt. McIntyre, F.J.	
			R180286 Sgt. Carter, R.G.	
			R181954 Sgt. Barker, L.R.	
			R183828 Sgt. Liddell, R.B.	
			R185802 Sgt. Robinson, R.S.	
			R192770 Sgt. Carefoot, E.W.	
			R194061 Sgt. Whelan, J.J.	
			R194119 Sgt. Poure, E.L.	
			R225375 Sgt. Kelway, C.	
			R92227 WO2 Wakely, W.G.	
			R120655 F/S Sweatman, K.D.	
			R165480 F/S Poppa, V.	
			MONTHLY TOTAL OF OPERATIONS SORTIES - 40	
			MONTHLY TOTAL OF OPERATIONAL AND NON-OPERATIONAL HOURS - Operational - 230:45 hours.	
			Non-Operational - 351:35 hours.	
			MONTHLY TOTAL OF BOMBS DROPPED - 1500 lb. Mines - 14	
			4 lb. Incendiaries - 12,380	
			30lb. Incendiaries - 1,104	
			Enemy aircraft detrayed during the Month - NIL	
			Number and type of aircraft on charge - Halifax Mk. V - 17	

W.F.M. Newson W/C
(W.F.M. Newson) W/C
Wing Commander Commanding
No. 431 (RCAF) Squadron

Wt. 37045/O2532 888M 12/43 C. & L. 51-7706

www.bombercommandmuseumarchives.ca