

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 1240 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and note in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

COMPLIING OFFICER

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT T. WALKER (01869)

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 100 R.A.F. Squadron

8524

No. of pages used for day 1

Page No. 1

month

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944	1st March	<p>(1) Four aircraft on air-to-sea firing and bombing practice.</p> <p>(2) Bomb Aimers on Link instruction, and later, were given a lecture on manual release of bombs.</p> <p>(3) Navigators on ground training in the morning.</p> <p>(4) In the afternoon, all aircrew attended the Station Cinema for the showing of a film on Venereal Disease, followed by a talk from the Medical Officer, Flight Lieutenant C.G. Wilson (08878).</p> <p>(5) Aircraft 'J' had compass swung.</p> <p>(6) Gunnery Section on aircraft recognition during the forenoon.</p> <p>(7) A rifle shot competition was held - Gunners vs. Pilots - on the Station 25-yd. Range.</p> <p>(8) Signals Section checked Bomber Codes. New set of Bomber Codes (16th Month) in use.</p> <p>(9) Three crews attended wet dinghy drill at Thornaby Baths - Pilot Officer Hamby (159047) Pilot Officer Robie (159564) and RL42713 Flight Sergeant M. McMillan. Pilot Officer P. Davis (159868) and crew, came along for a practice swim.</p>	
	2nd March		<p>(1) Operations to-day. Eleven aircraft detailed for French target - Meulan-les-Mureaux. All returned safely reporting a successful mission.</p> <p>(2) Introduction of Combined Operations Signals effected, and all Wireless Operators informed of its correct use. Several Wireless Operators amended Signals List No. 1.</p> <p>(3) All Bomb Aimers, not on ops., loading Window.</p> <p>(4) Flight Lieutenant W.J. Harris (19766) detailed to interrogate Navigators on return from ops. All Navigators, not on Operations, did ground training on Gee and Astro.</p> <p>(5) Gunnery Section cleaning all guns.</p> <p>(6) Aircraft 'U' had compass swung.</p> <p>(7) Pay Parade in No. 2 Hangar for all airmen in the Squadron.</p> <p>(8) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson (WFC) (0983), Squadron Commander, relinquished command of the Station on the return of Group Captain D.M. Edwards (APC) (0125).</p>	
	3rd March		<p>(1) No Operations called for to-day. Local flying only.</p> <p>(2) Bomber Codes checked. Wireless Operators on Morse practice for one hour. List No. 2 of Bombing Operating Signals amended. R.C.S.S. Lists No. 85 and 90 amended.</p> <p>(3) Navigators' Forms for previous night's Operations forwarded to No. 6 Group Headquarters.</p>	

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944				
	3rd March, (cont'd)		(4) Bomb Aimers levelling Bomb Sights in the air, and later, were given Link instruction.		
			(5) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson admitted to S.S.Q. due to heavy cold.		
			(6) Orderly Room Staff setting returns ready for transmission during day and evening.		
	4th March		(1) Four aircraft were engaged on air-to-air firing exercises. Due to heavy snow, one was forced to land at Maresden Moor. Pilot - Flight Lieutenant C.G. Bull (J3486). One aircraft, with three Pilots, flew to Leeming and returned with two new aircraft.		
			(2) Flight Engineers on Sextant manipulation and local flying.		
			(3) Bomb Aimers on AGWT training, and had a lecture on Astro.		
			(4) Gunners cleaning guns and harmonising five aircraft.		
			(5) Logs and charts for previous night's operations checked and filed.		
			(6) Aircraft 'H' had compass swung.		
			(7) Flying Officer L. Peters (J24058), Navigator, detailed for night cross country, including a height test and Gee training.		
			(8) Wireless Operators on Gee for one hour.		
			(9) Bomber Codes and Combined Operations Signals checked, and cover amended. Helms of complete crews tested.		
			(10) Tamey broadcast re fire in high explosive bomb dump. All personnel took necessary action. Later, all clear tamed.		
			(11) Mr. Thomas Metcalf and Mr. Patterson, father and uncle of 1681577 Sergeant R.E. Metcalf, missing from Operations on 26.2.44, visited the Squadron. After a talk with the Adjutant and lunch at the Officers' Mess, they proceeded home.		
			(12) Flight Lieutenant J. Valentine (31185) and three aircraft N.C.O.'s, along with personnel of S.H.Q. and No. 434 Squadron, conducted a tour of a group of workers from a local engine factory. Tea was served in the Sergeants' Mess.		
	5th March		(1) Six aircraft on local test flights. Flight Lieutenant Bull and crew returned from Maresden Moor, where they had been diverted yesterday. Three aircraft arrived from Leeming for acceptance.		
			(2) Bomb Aimers lectured on Meteorology, and later, practiced Link Trainer and ground Astro Shots.		
			(3) Wireless Operators on Morse practice for one hour, and also given a lecture on SOS procedure.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 5th March (cont'd)		and irregularities. Signals Order Book amended to date. No. 6 Group Standing Signals instructions amended. (4) Engineers on inspection of five aircraft, and later on Astro taking shots of the Sun. (5) Navigators on local flying including Gee homing and break-cloud procedure. (6) Aircraft 'O' had compass swung. (7) Group Captain E.C. Gordon (0133), Middleton St. George Station Commander, interviewed Flight Sergeant C.D. Wood (1272222), Flight Sergeant A.C. Donnell (0125180) and Sergeant J.L. Lyons (0161505) re commissioning. (8) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newman in conference with Group Captain D.M. Edwards (AFC) (0126) Station Commander, re parades for Squadron and Station personnel.		
	5th March		(1) Operations - 12 aircraft detailed. Target - TRAPPA. Complete absence of 'flak' reported. F.F.F. well concentrated and accurately placed on track. Four aircraft were diverted. Wing Commander W.F.M. Newman, Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (J7761) Pilot Officer J.C. King (A.42558) and crews to O.T.U., Wing. Pilot Officer E.O. Johnson (018424) and crew, were not heard from officially at this Base until 0850 hours the following morning, having landed at Chipping Warden. It had almost been assumed they were missing. Some difficulty was encountered by the crew at Chipping Warden. The Orderly Officer had instructions from the Group Captain of the Station and would not give them beds. He said that they could sleep on the floor. It was then ascertained in the morning that beds were available. They reported poor treatment at the Unit with the exception of the trainees themselves. (2) Bomb Aimers loaded window. (3) Navigation section reported successful results on operation, especially Astro, which averaged out at eight shots per Navigator, and also a marked improvement on Navigational Aids. (4) Flying Officer R.A. Gibson (WFO) 120068, completed his 20th Sortie to finish his second tour, and the boys on the Squadron are toasting him highly. A very popular Officer with everybody. (5) Section Officer M.P. Sutton (1167) (W.A.R.F.), Cypher Officer from Middleton St. George, checked all secret documents on the Station.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 7th March		<p>(1) Operations again to-day. Nine aircraft detailed for <u>LE MANS</u>. Two aircraft scrubbed due to engine trouble. Reports indicated a poor effort all around. 10/10ths cloud prevailing. P.P.P. late, and flares not seen. All aircraft returned safely.</p> <p>(2) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson, Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill and Pilot Officer J. King and crews arrived back from diversion at Wing at 1600 hours. Pilot Officer E.O. Johnson and crew arrived back from Chipping Warden.</p> <p>(3) Gen from previous night's operations sent in, and Bomber Codes checked by Wireless Operators. Group W.T. exercises carried out. Reception good - exercise satisfactory. Morse practice for remaining Wireless Operators for one hour.</p> <p>(4) Gunnery Section on aircraft recognition in the morning. Rest of the day devoted to operations preparation.</p> <p>(5) Bomb Aimers not on ops., loading window.</p>		
	8th March		<p>(1) Twelve aircraft detailed for Operations, but scrubbed later in the day due to bad visibility at Base. Ground training and local cross-country flying in the afternoon.</p> <p>(2) Break-cloud procedure by Navigators on Gen. Logs and charts for previous two operations corrected, and reports forwarded to No. 6 Group Headquarters by Station Navigation Officer.</p> <p>(3) Aircraft 'P' had compass wrong.</p> <p>(4) Wireless Operators on Morse practice for one hour, and also lectured on E1155 and E1154 fault-finding. Signals Standing Instructions amended.</p> <p>(5) E133932 WO2 E.B. Palmer and crew reported from 1664 G.U. for duty with the Squadron, and were assigned to 'A' Flight. Crew were: Navigator - P/O W.B. Newman (J21644). B/A - P/O A.V. Watson (J26311). Wireless Op. - 1585730 Sgt. A.H. Drewett. MU/AG - 1163660 Sgt. H.W. Johnstone. P/O - E109321 Sgt. W.S. Rankilly. P/S - 1545214 Sgt. E.N. Appleyard.</p> <p>(6) Bomb Aimers lectured on Mk. XIV Bomb Sight, and also on AMBT Training and Night Vision.</p> <p>(7) Gunners on inspection of guns, and received a lecture on tactics in the afternoon.</p> <p>(8) 'Low Level' on Croft Spa in the evening - very successful.</p> <p>(9) Wet dinghy drill in Thornaby Baths for P/O P.E. Gulliverin (G24448), P/O N.C. MacLeod (J25178) and E135221 P/S A.V. Timmouth (D34) and crews.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
ORIFT	19 & 20th March	cont'd.	(10) Group Captain D.M. Edwards (AFU), Station Commander, interviewed RL42713 Flight Sergeant M. McMillan, regarding commission. (11) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson attended a Sergeants' Mess meeting, conducted by the Station Commander. All Senior N.C.O.'s on the Station attended. It was quite successful and many points were cleared. Group Captain Edwards outlined the responsibilities the N.C.O.'s had regarding their Mess, and the importance of the Sergeants' Mess on any Station was drawn to their attention.		
	20th March		(1) No operations to-day. Bad visibility kept aircraft on the ground in the morning. Air-to-sea firing exercises in the afternoon, to test armament of new aircraft. (2) First of new series of parades for Station and both Squadrons held. Ground crew personnel at 0615 hours, aircrew at 0900 hours. Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson and the Adjutant attended both parades. Nominal rolls were called and all absentees were detailed for 'joe' duties. Late-comers were responsible for the parades being moved up earlier. It is not expected to have any more late-comers. These parades will continue daily for one week except when on ops. the previous day, and, if an improvement is shown they will be discontinued except for one parade weekly. Many comments were voiced, but all in all, it is considered a good thing. (3) The Squadron Disciplinarian, R54240 Sgt. C.H. Bourgon, gave a talk on drill to all aircrew personnel for 1-hour, which was most helpful at this time. (4) Helmets of crews tested and overhauled. Wireless Operators on Morse practice for one hour. (5) Four Pilots detailed for Monica instruction. (6) Ground crew of 'A' Apple given a night out by the Skipper, Squadron Leader C.W. Higgins (J15695) and crew, at Croft Spa. A good time was had by all. (7) Aircraft 'M' had compass swung. (8) Link Trainer instruction for Flight Engineers in the afternoon. (9) Bomb Aimers on Astro shots of the sun, Link Trainer, and ground Gee training. (10) RL42713 Flight Sergeant M. McMillan and crew posted to No. 405 (FV) Squadron. (11) RL40857 P/O A.L. Wood and crew arrived from 1664 G.U. for duties with the Squadron, and were assigned to 'B' Flight. Navigator - P/O D.A. Haywood (J25037). B/A - RL62336 Sgt. F.M.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CRUFT	1944 9th March cont'd.		Stewart. W/AG - 1322495 Sgt. I.T. Frank. MU/AG - R167291 Sgt. W. Wright. R/G - R200010 Sgt. W.F. Wolf. W/R - 1825185 Sgt. A.M. Lavery.		
			(12) R140852 Sergeant W.J. Walton was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal. He was the Rear Gunner of Flight Sergeant A.W. Timmouth's crew. Wing Commander Newson presented the ribbon to Sergeant Walton at Northallerton Hospital where he is at present confined due to severe frost-bite, which he contracted while on operations. Flight Sergeant Timmouth, his Skipper, accompanied the 'Winco'.		
	10th March		(1) Operations called for - 15 aircraft detailed, but scrubbed at noon. (2) Parades for ground crew and aircrew held. Noticeable improvement over yesterday's parade. (3) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson presented First-tour Operational Badge to Squadron Leader C.W. Higgins, 'A' Flight Commander, on aircrew parade. (4) A.M.B.T. by Bomb Aimers, and lecture on Bomb Containers. (5) Aircraft 'W', 'Z', 'H', and 'E', had compasses swung. (6) Flight Engineers on Link Trainer and Sextant manipulation. (7) Three Wireless Operators detailed for Monica instruction. Remainder lectured on use of Mandril, and enemy R.D.F. system. Morse training for one hour. (8) Squadron Leader A.H.C. Bruce (07262), P.I. No. 6 Group Headquarters, called at the Squadron. Several matters were discussed with the Adjutant, and he also met Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson. (9) Flight Lieutenant R.F. Klombies (05604), Public Relations Officer, No. 6 Group Headquarters, also visited the Squadron, and discussed the Operations Record Book with the Adjutant, particularly on the new procedure. (10) Halifax Aircraft from Topcliffe crashed some six miles from his Station. Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson (8983), Wing Commander C.S. Bartlett (39928), and both Squadron adjutants drove out to the scene, and Flying Officer R.J. McGregor (014161), Radar Officer, followed on his motor-bike. Wing Commanders Newson and Bartlett stripped a dinghy off the aircraft, inflated it, and packed all loose articles inside. Flying Officer McGregor took care of Gas and IFF. Three of the occupants were taken to Northallerton Hospital, and three to this S.S.Q.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT	19 & 4. 11th March		(1) Operations - MINING. Six aircraft on Brest Harbour. All returned safely. (2) Four aircraft completed air-to-sea firing exercises. Two aircraft given test flights following minor inspections. (3) Engineers on Link instruction. (4) Aircraft 'A' and 'B' had compasses swung. (5) Three Wireless Operators detailed for Monica instruction. (6) Squadron Parade for all personnel. Ground crew at 0815 hours. Aircrew 0900 hours. Officers received 1-hour's instruction parade in drill. (7) Pilot Officer W.D. Gould (169397), 1314935 W/S K.W. Smith, 1801217 Sgt. E.S. Lowen, 1257979 W/S J.H. Ormesher, 1380169 W/S J.S. Baron, and 1437316 W/S H.C. Fynn, posted ref to-day.		
	12th March		(1) Operations not called for to-day. Two aircraft on air-to-sea firing and one on height tests. One aircraft on affiliation practice with out new 'toy' visual Monica. (2) Morse instruction - one hour - for Wireless Operators. (3) Bomb Aimers on A.M.B.T. and Ground Gee training. (4) Aircraft 'A' and 'Y' had compasses swung. (5) Navigation Logs and charts from previous operations checked and reports sent to No. 6 Group Headquarters. (6) There was a good attendance at Mess church parade this morning by aircrew personnel. (7) Flight Lieutenant G. Giblin (A.403405), from No. 406 Squadron, reported to the Unit for a week's stay, chiefly to give lecture to the Signals section of both 431 and 434. (8) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson interviewed four N.C.O.'s re commissioning. Further interviews given by Group Captain D.M. Edwards, Station Commander.		
	13th March		(1) Fifteen aircraft detailed for Operation. Target: LE MANS Marshalling Yards. Fourteen took off. One scrubber - Flying Officer P.E. Guillemin (024448) and crew - due to engine failure. Aircrew reported a successful 'prang'. All returned safely. (2) Navigators took 107 Astro shots, and found 215 winds on the trip. (3) Remaining Bomb Aimers on Link trainer and loading window. (4) Aircraft 'D' and 'X' had compasses swung.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 13th March cont'd.		<p>(5) Two Wireless Operators detailed for Monica instruction in the morning. In the afternoon, instruction and lecture on Monica Visual given to remaining Wireless Operators.</p> <p>(6) Parade at 0615 hours and 0900 hours for ground and aircrew personnel respectively. All aircrew were taken on 1-hour trip (route march).</p> <p>(7) R211's prepared on all R.C.A.F. N.C.O.'s for bi-annual return.</p> <p>(8) Postcard received for R123425 Sergeant W.J. Walton, Air Gunner, from Chief of Bomber Command, Air Chief Marshal Harris, congratulating him on the award of the immediate D.F.M.</p>		
	14th March		<p>(1) Rain all day. No Joy. Ground training only carried out.</p> <p>(2) Gunnery Section fairly busy.</p> <p>(3) Wireless Operators detailed for Monica instruction. Repetition lecture on SOS procedure carried out, and M/F/W organisation lecture for one hour. In the afternoon, Wireless Operators received Morse instruction for one hour. Bomber Codes checked and Bomber Covers amended.</p> <p>(4) Navigators logs and charts from previous operations checked and reports and Navigational analysis sent to No. 6 Group Headquarters.</p> <p>(5) A lecture on a new Radar instrument given to all Aircrew in the afternoon.</p> <p>(6) Bomb Aimers on A.W.B.T. training.</p> <p>(7) Three new crews posted to the Squadron.</p> <p>Pilots: J25826 F/O R.W. Harrison, IEA.C.886258 Lt. E.P. Boyle W5223 WO2 J.V. Gilson Nav. s: J25744 F/O A.H. Phillips J22743 F/O P.G. MacGregor J24699 F/O T.R. Formyth R/A's: J28246 F/O G. Dunville R130380 F/S W.H. Lynch J27590 F/O D.H. Loewen W/O's: R107897 WO1 R. Hooker R159996 F/S R. Hatchman R55264 WO2 R.W. Pratt MU/As: R187819 Sgt. R.L. Lockhead R195090 Sgt. J.M. Content R198432 Sgt. J. Wilson R/A's: R198794 Sgt. K.J. Taylor R256036 Sgt. J.L. Priano R197289 Sgt. G.T. Greig F/A's: R1894242 Sgt. F.H. Samson 2216220 Sgt. R. Corkhill 1370144 Sgt. E. Wallace</p> <p>(8) Group Captain D.M. Edwards interviewed the following for commissioning: R180286 Sgt. R.G. Garter, 1305993 Sgt. E.A. Parker, R116207 Sgt. J.L. Roche, and the Squadron Educational Sergeant, R98659, Sgt. J.E. Irwin.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 15th March		<p>(1) Operations to-day. Fourteen aircraft detailed. Target: AMTENS Marshalling Yards. Reports indicated a rather poor show - flares not distinguishable. All returned to Base, but an unfortunate accident occurred when Flying Officer G.B. Philbin (J13993) and crew landed. They were almost at the end of the runway when a terrific explosion occurred, shaking everything in the vicinity. The tail was blown from the aircraft, and the two gunners - R147712 WO2 I.C. Klein, and R181954 Sgt. L.R. Barker, were killed. In a few seconds, the aircraft was a mass of flames. All the other members of the crew, including W/O R.W. Harrison, the Second Pilot, miraculously escaped through the nose of the plane. They were admitted to the Station Hospital suffering only from shock. It was assumed that a 500 lbs. bomb remaining in one of the bomb bays had fallen out. This was a sad blow to the Squadron, as these were two of our best gunners. They had both been recommended for commissioning a short time ago.</p> <p>(2) Navigation Section reported 67 Astro Shots and 138 winds found during the trip. Astro shots were less due to adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>(3) Aircraft 'M' had compass swung.</p> <p>(4) Bomb Aimers received a lecture on the Mk. XIV mechanism, and the servicing and revision of bomb carriers.</p> <p>(5) A great deal of painting is going on in the Officers' Mess. Squadron personnel, including the 'Winco', Squadron Leader H.R. Dow (J4893), Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (J7761), Flight Lieutenant T.R. Walker (C1869), donned overalls and did a good day's work while waiting for the crews to return from ops.</p> <p>(6) Aircrew on parade again in the morning and general clean-up of sections held, inside and outside.</p>		
	March 16th		<p>(1) Operations again called for. Eleven aircraft detailed. Target - again - AMTENS Marshalling Yards, and this time, a good job was carried out. All returned safely.</p> <p>(2) Bomb Aimers on Link Instruction. Four on AMPT. Other taking Astro plotting. In the afternoon, those not on Operations, loaded window, and helped in the bomb dump.</p> <p>(3) Navigators reported 57 astro shots and 168 winds found.</p> <p>(4) Aircraft 'P', 'N', and 'W' had compasses swung.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 16th March cont'd.		(5) Signals Section checking Bomber Codes, and E.C.S.S.I. amended. (6) Canadian Volunteer Service Medal Ribbon and Maple Leaf Emblem handed out to Squadron personnel on regular pay parade to-day. 295 had qualified for the award.		
	17th March		(1) This is the Irishman's day. No fights recorded. Flying Officer O.M. 'Paddy' Gilmour (156910), Bomb Aimer, took 'bags' of 'ribbing' from all Sections. However, it was all in a friendly basis, and a real Irishman's party (including the wearing of the green) was progressing in the Mess before departing to other fields. (2) No Operations. Three aircraft on training flights. One aircraft on air test. (3) Squadron Leader H.R. Dow (J4893) and crew went to O.T.U., R.A.F. Silverstone, to check 'Gatways' Perimeter Lighting. (4) Four Wireless Operators detailed for Monica Instruction. Remainder received Morse instruction for one hour. Flimsies amended. (5) New Navigators carried out ground training in the morning. Reports and analysis of operations completed for previous two operations and forwarded to No. 6 Group Headquarters. (6) Aircraft 'T' had compass swung. (7) Bomb Aimers held general conference in the morning on Section matters. (8) Final arrangements made for funeral at Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate, for WO2 I.C. Klein and Sergeant L.R. Barker.		
	18th March		^{Five} (1) Seven aircraft on operations. MINING - HUNGARY. One early return. RJ35221 P/S A.W. Timmouth (DM) and crew, due to port outer engine trouble. (2) Two new crews on night cross-country flights. Three other aircraft on training flights. (3) All Bomb Aimers not on Operations received lecture on bombing theory. (4) Flight Engineers on Link Trainer, and dismantling Merlin lecture engine. (5) Aircraft 'R' had compass swung. (6) At 0930 hours, Wing Commander W.P.M. Newson read, to all aircrews, a letter received from Bomber Command on the new policy of allotting $\frac{1}{4}$ of a trip on French targets and certain other areas. There was considerable resentment by the majority present which seemed understandable, as the men of this and 5th Squadron felt that they had done a job of work on major		

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CROFT	19 4 4				
	15th March				
	cont'd.		<p>targets, and, through no fault of their own, were put on these targets which, in their minds, are tough enough. The ending of the letter seemed to be the chief reason for disagreement as no mention was ever made of the risk on the so-called tougher targets until they were put on the French targets. However, as always, the Squadron will bear with it and hope for the best.</p> <p>(7) The funerals of Warrant Officer J.G. Klein and Sergeant L.R. Barker were held to-day at Harrogate. Full military honours were accorded. Flying Officer G.F. Philbin and the rest of his crew, along with two other N.C.O.'s, attended the funeral as pall-bearers and members of the funeral party. Squadron Leader A.J.T. Littlewood (O.A.584), Station Padre, conducted the Service. Flying Officer L. Barker, brother of Sergeant L.R. Barker, was advised of the accident and attended the funeral. He also visited the Squadron, and was given every consolation possible under the circumstances.</p>		
	19th March		<p>(1) Two aircraft on cross-country and bombing. Two others completed air-to-air firing exercises with fighters from Dalton. Four others on cross-country.</p> <p>(2) Gunners on aircraft recognition lecture, using night simulation attachment on Epidiascope. Gunnery Section personnel elated over receiving a REAL MC for breakfast. Many younger lads expressed the opinion that they were a good substitute for the usual variety.</p> <p>(3) Flight Engineers dismantling Merlin lecture engine.</p> <p>(4) Signals gun from previous night's operation returned, and Bomber Codes checked. Monica instruction for four Wireless Operators. Morse instruction for remainder for one hour. No. 6 Group Standing Signals instructions amended.</p> <p>(5) Four Bomb Aimers on Link Trainer, and six on Navigational dry swim. Bomb Aimers on cross-country, flying on Gee, and check-level of bomb sights. They also practiced firing from mid-upper turrets.</p> <p>(6) Wing Commander Newson drove out to Thirsk to visit the scene of a crash of a 431 Squadron Halifax, when all members of Flying Officer D.G. Evans' (J21016) crew, and second Pilot, were killed on return from operations on March 18th.</p> <p>(7) Signal received from No. 6 Group re change-over to Halifax Mk. III's. Much joy at the official news.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	19 & 20th March		<p>(1) Operations called for, six aircraft detailed, but after morning preparations, were scrubbed. Weather closing in, and ground training only was carried out.</p> <p>(2) Gunnery Section tried out new type of harmonisation board and found it very successful.</p> <p>(3) Engineers on Link trainer.</p> <p>(4) Six Bomb Aimers on AMBT, four on Gee instruction.</p> <p>(5) In the afternoon, all Sections doing a great deal of beautifying of surrounding of their Squadron quarters. This has assumed the proportions of a competition, which should greatly improve the surroundings.</p> <p>(6) Ten members of the Squadron were screened to-day. They are:</p> <p>Pilots - P/L J. Valentine (J 31183). P/O R. Hamby (159047). P/O P. Davis (159868). Bomb Aimers - P/O D. McConnell (159676). P/O W.K. Naylor (J17272)</p> <p>Navigators - P/L W.J. Harris (J9766). P/O O.E.R. Davies (148009). P/O E. Moaden (148462) and P/O A.C. Brooke (J10422). Air Gunner - P/O W. Henry (HMA) (160853). These included some of the best men on the Squadron. However, the newer lads are ready and keen to fill their places. The usual celebrations were held in the Mess this evening.</p>		
	21st March		<p>(1) Operations again called for, but scrubbed same as yesterday. Since 3-trips announced, bags of operations have been called for, even if some have been scrubbed.</p> <p>(2) Six Bomb Aimers on Link Trainer, also short revision lecture on Gunnery.</p> <p>(3) Demonstration was given to aircrew in the afternoon on the airborne lifeboat. This proved most interesting to all who attended.</p> <p>(4) Pilot Officer H.G. Young (168966), Deputy Flight Engineer Leader, proceeded to Linton for gun on the Hercules Engine.</p> <p>(5) Group W/T exercises carried out by Signals Section, also lecture on visual Monica.</p> <p>(6) RL40857 P/S A.L. Wood and crew posted to 6th Squadron.</p>		
	22nd March		<p>(1) Operations. Seven aircraft detailed. Target: WINING in the BAFTIC. E72201 P/S P.M. Skeaff and crew returned early - port outer engine trouble. Good reports by all.</p> <p>(2) Bomb Aimers received lecture on cleaning and maintenance of .5 machine guns, to be used in Halifax Mk. III's. They also had a lecture on the Astrograph. Spare Bomb Aimers loaded window.</p>		

W. 1294/0000 12/40 C.B.L. 21-7/51

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

No. of pages used for 13

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			SECRET.	
CROFT	19 & 22nd March	(cont'd.)	(3) Gardening, digging and beautifying continues by the aircrew personnel not on ops. Place starting to look interesting. (4) Table tennis tournament started in the Officers' Mess to-day. Twelve 431 Squadron entries out of 22 competitors. Snooker tournament also under way, with 16 entries. (5) Flight Lieutenant B.G. Crew (DFC) (J17170) reported to the Squadron as Investigation Officer re crash of R140271 P/W H.P. Morrison and crew on January 5th, 1944.	
	23rd March		(1) Operations to-day. Six aircraft attacked target in Northern France. P.F.F. were non-existent, and after much circling and vain waiting, our aircraft returned with bombs on. The English Channel took a terrific weight of bombs. Other more daring crews brought their bombs back to base. W/2201 P/S P.M. Skeaff and crew were diverted to Tangiers. All others returned safely to Base. On arrival at Base, a glow was seen in the sky almost equal to that over Berlin. Many crews thought that P.F.F. were really wild. Turned out to be only the Sergeants' Mess gone, but not forgotten. They say smoked fish is a plenty now. (2) R167331 Sergeant A.C. Groswell, Wireless Operator of R135221 P/W A.W. Timmouth's crew, took sick just before take-off and crew were unable to proceed on Operations at this late time. (3) Casual pay parade in old Airman's Mess. P/O W.R. Knowlton (J22596) detailed as witnessing Officer.	
	24th March		(1) No Ops. called for to-day. Only flying consisted of one daring flight in New Halifax III by Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson and Squadron Leader H.R. Dow, with sufficient members of the Navigation Staff to ensure a safe return. (2) Flight Sergeant P.M. Skeaff and crew returned to Base from last night's diversion. (3) Flight Engineers on Link instruction in the afternoon. (4) Five Bomb Aimers on Link, two others on A.M.B.T. Bomb Aimers unloading spare window from aircraft, checking Bomb sights and equipment, and cleaning Periscope. (5) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson interviewed Sergeant A.C. Groswell, Wireless Operator, who went sick just before take-off on last night's Operation, and recommended that he be considered DMP.	
	25th March		(1) Operations again. French target. Seven aircraft detailed. Crews included Air Vice Marshal G.M. McEwen (MD, DFC), Air Officer Commanding No. 6 (R.O.C.A.F.) Group Headquarters, flying as	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOPT	19 & 20th March continued		<p>second 'dickie' with Squadron Leader C.W. Higgins (J15695), 'A' Flight Commander. A good show was reported, and this time, bombs were dropped on the target.</p> <p>(2) Bomb Aimers loading window and practicing Astro.</p> <p>(3) Theme song of the Squadron is now 'Whispering Grass' due to the fact that the surroundings have been newly turfed, and everything looks spry and open.</p> <p>(4) Flight Sergeant F.A. Longstaff (Can. 4294) and crew reported from B.D.U. Newmarket. Crew: Nav. - E174480 Sgt. P.A. Callaghan. R/A - E167306 Sgt. G. Jackson. W/AG - E133845 WO2 D.A. Cooper. MU/AG - 1592318 Sgt. A. Howcroft. R/t - NII. P/X - Sgt. S.G. Mitchell (1825080).</p>		
	26th March		<p>(1) Operations on Northern France. Again six aircraft attacking target. Air Commodore C.R. Blenon (071), from No. 6 Group Headquarters, flew as second 'dickie' with Wing Commander W.F.M. Newman (DEU) (0983), O.C. of the Squadron. All returned safely and reports indicated a good show as on the previous night.</p> <p>(2) The general consensus of opinion on the Squadron is that the Air Vice Marshal and the Air Commodore can come along any time, and the Squadron feels quite honoured at being selected to take our distinguished visitors on Ops. Their only regret is that the 'do's' were not exciting enough. It might have helped to cancel the j-trip business. However, as the boys say, j is good enough the the A/T/K and A/C.</p> <p>(3) Conversion to Halifax Mk. III's continues, and everyone seems to be quite pleased with the new aircraft.</p> <p>(4) Bomb Aimers not on Ops., loading window and on Link instruction.</p>		
	27th March		<p>(1) No operations called for to-day, but seven aircraft detailed on 'Eric' exercise, doing formation flying, with only the leading aircraft Navigating. Other Navigators saw some scenery for a change. This was chiefly held to test the defences of No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group.</p> <p>(2) Bomb Aimers received lecture on .5 gun and, in the afternoon, AMST map reading tactics.</p> <p>(3) Flight Engineer and Gunner Sections held general discussions in the afternoon at which many problems were clarified by the Section Leaders.</p>		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 43 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

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No. of pages used for month 15 day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944				
	28th March		(1) No operations to-day. Weather unfit at Base for any flying whatsoever.		
			(2) Flight Engineers on lengthy lecture on the Bristol Hercules Engine in the morning and afternoon given by Mr. Tomlinson, the Bristol Technician.		
			(3) Bomb Aimers on Link Instruction. Bomb Panel revision given to new Bomb Aimers.		
			(4) Wireless Operators given Group W/T exercises and lecture on visual monica.		
			(5) Sections took advantage of the stand-down to finish gardening and generally improve the Squadron site.		
	29th March		(1) Operations to-day. Target: VARESS. Northern France. Six aircraft detailed. One early return: RL15221 P/S A.W. Timmuth (WPC) and crew due to the fact that the Wireless Operator 1468764 Sgt. V. England, became quite ill during the trip. All others returned home safely and reported a good trip.		
			(2) Astro results more than satisfactory, and the monthly summary should be gratifying.		
			(3) Conversion continues to Halifax III's and Pilots and crews are gradually getting used to their new aircraft. Minor problems as expected crop up, but will be overcome in a few days' time.		
			(4) Bomb Aimers again on MBT map reading tactics.		
			(5) Section Officer W.E. Sutton (1187) W.A.A.F. Cypher Officer from Middleton St. George, visited the Squadron to check all secret documents.		
	30th March		(1) No operations to-day. Three aircraft on day cross-country to give Halifax III's a good height test. Conversion still continues.		
			(2) Further lecture on MK III engine-handling. In the afternoon, those not on cross-country, on Link Instruction and Astro practice.		
			(3) Section Officer had a lecture on Master practical work on .5 Browning Gun.		
			(4) Squadron Adjutant Flight Lieutenant T.R. Walker (G1869) attended two Courts Martial at Wobleson as Senior Member. Flying Officer R.D. 'Duke' Lawson (135113) acted as stand-in during his absence.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	Page No.
CROFT	19 & 21st March		<p style="text-align: right;">SECRET.</p> <p>(1) No operations called for from the Squadron to-day. Six aircraft detailed for day cross-country on Halifax Mk. III's to test height, fuel consumption, etc. 25,000 ft. was cold enough.</p> <p>(2) 151126 Sgt. J.C. Leubert, 1591127 P/S J.R. Dixon and 1567379 Sgt. L. Keir, the two Gunners, and Flight Engineer of Pilot Officer W.C. Craig's (A.416548) crew, baled out on instructions from the Captain, who was afraid that the starboard outer prop., which had come loose, might rip into the fuselage. A few seconds later Pilot Officer Craig rescinded the order, but the above mentioned were floating gently to the ground, landing about a mile apart, uninjured, and apparently none the worse for their experience.</p> <p>(3) Flight Lieutenant D.S. Moyes (126901) Navigation Leader, proceeded on leave to-day. Flying Officer K.W. Jones (J13827) substituting.</p> <p>(4) Gunners had a discussion re the problems arising on operations at slightly higher altitudes. Later they had an aircraft recognition test. Results quite gratifying.</p> <p>(5) Bomb Aimers had further instruction on the .5 Browning gun and also Link instruction.</p> <p>(6) Wireless Operators lectured on Visual Monica.</p> <p>(7) Personnel who were screened on March 20th, proceeded to their respective Stations on posting - all outside this Group. The Squadron wish them luck and will miss them.</p> <p>(8) The month of March was an unusual one for the Squadron, but quite successful. Many changes, particularly the screening and posting of certain key men of the Squadron, and the conversion to Halifax Mk. III's. Losses were at a low ebb, which may be contributed to the French targets and the 1/2 op. Many of the newer crews are well settled with the Squadron, and the experience of the past month will, in no small way help them to replace the screened personnel. The Squadron are looking forward with great expectation when they have completely converted to Halifax Mk. III's, and are back again on major targets.</p>	References to Appendices

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No. of pages used for month 17

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT.	1944	1st March	<u>PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON</u>					
			<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>Aircrew</u>	<u>Groundcrew</u>	<u>Total</u>		
			R.C.A.F.	43	2	45		
			R.A.F.	31		31		
			R.A.A.F.	5		5		
			U.S.A.A.F.	2		2		
			<u>TOTAL</u>	81	2	83		
			<u>AIRCREW</u>					
			R.C.A.F.	73	223	296		
			R.A.F.	47	20	67		
			R.A.A.F.	1		1		
			W.A.A.F.		10	10		
			<u>TOTAL</u>	121	253	374		
			<u>POSTINGS IN & OFFICERS</u>					
					<u>posted from</u>	<u>to</u>		
			F/O W.B. Newman	J21644	428 Sqdn.	7:3:44		
			F/O A.V. Watson	J26311	61 Base	7:3:44		
			F/O D.A. Haywood	J25037	61 Base	8:3:44		
			F/O P.G. Mac Gregor	J22743	61 Base	13:3:44		
			F/O C. Danville	J28246	61 Base	13:3:44		
			F/O T.R. Forayth	J24699	61 Base	13:3:44		
			F/O R.W. Harrison	J25826	61 Base	13:3:44		
			F/O D.N. Loomer	J27390	61 Base	13:3:44		
			F/O A.H. Phillips	J25744	61 Base	13:3:44		
			Lt. J.M. Haxman	USA O.886185	61 Base	20:3:44		
			Lt. E.P. Boyle	USA O.886258	61 Base	13:3:44		
			F/O W.G. Dudley	J22237	61 Base	20:3:44		
			F/O D.M. King	J24037	61 Base	20:3:44		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT	1944	31st March	POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS (continued)			
			F/O H.W. Pond	J28355	GI Base	20.3.44
			F/O W.H. Wilson	J20701	GI Base	20.3.44
			F/O K.T. Schubert	J28230	GI Base	20.3.44
			POSTING OUT - OFFICERS			
			F/O A.H. Forsterman	J21354	405 Sqdn.	8.3.44
			F/O J.L. Emery	J22230	"	8.3.44
			F/O W.B. Newman	J21644	138 Sqdn.	19.3.44
			F/O A.V. Watson	J26311	"	19.3.44
			F/O W.G. MacDougall	J21643	MSG (N/S Sick)	15.3.44
			F/O W.D. Gould	169397	1664 GU	11.3.44
			F/O R.A. Gibson	120068	20 CTU	26.3.44
			F/O D.A. Haywood	J25037	644 Sqdn.	27.3.44
			POSTINGS IN - AIR CREW			
			R10032 Sgt. Roskilly, W.E.	GI Base		7.3.44
			R133932 WO2 Palmer, E.B.	"		7.3.44
			R140857 F/S Wood, A.L.	"		8.3.44
			R162936 Sgt. Stewart, T.M.	"		8.3.44
			R187293 Sgt. Wright, C.W.	"		8.3.44
			R200010 Sgt. Wolf, W.F.	"		8.3.44
			R130380 F/S Lynch, N.H.	"		13.3.44
			R159996 F/S Hatchman, F.	"		13.3.44
			R195050 Sgt. Content, J.M.	"		13.3.44
			R256036 Sgt. Frismo, J.L.	"		13.3.44
			R55265 WO2 Pratt, R.W.	"		13.3.44
			R75223 WO2 Gilson, J.F.	"		13.3.44
			R107897 WO1 Hooker, R.J.	"		13.3.44
			R187819 Sgt. Lockhead, R.L.	"		13.3.44

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT	1944	31st March	<p>Postings Airmen - In</p> <p>posted from</p> <p>wt</p> <p>R197289 Sgt. Greig, G.T. 61 Base 13.3.44</p> <p>R198432 Sgt. Wilson, J. " 13.3.44</p> <p>R198794 Sgt. Taylor, K.J. " 13.3.44</p> <p>R112020 Sgt. Perry, F.L. " 20.3.44</p> <p>R193500 Sgt. Cooke, J.J. " 20.3.44</p> <p>Com18121A Sgt. Walker, H. " 20.3.44</p> <p>R115376 WO2. Casey, A.M. " 20.3.44</p> <p>R129455 WO2. MacIntosh, W.J. " 20.3.44</p> <p>R161936 Sgt. Ball, G. " 20.3.44</p> <p>Com294 P/S Longstaff, P.A. HDU Newmarket 25.3.44</p> <p>R133845 WO2. Cooper, D.A. " 25.3.44</p> <p>R167306 Sgt. Jackson, G. " 25.3.44</p> <p>R174480 Sgt. Callaghan, P.A. " 25.3.44</p> <p>1165660 Sgt. Johnston, H.W. 61 Base 7.3.44</p> <p>1545214 Sgt. Appleby, E.N. 2 7.3.44</p> <p>1585730 Sgt. Dransett, A.H. " 7.3.44</p> <p>1322496 Sgt. Frank, I.J. " 8.3.44</p> <p>1825185 Sgt. Lavery, A.M. " 8.3.44</p> <p>2216220 Sgt. Corkhill, R.B. " 13.3.44</p> <p>1894242 Sgt. Samson, P.H. " 13.3.44</p> <p>1370144 Sgt. Wallace, R. " 13.3.44</p> <p>1195787 Sgt. Lee, H.T. " 20.3.44</p> <p>1875912 Sgt. Graham, J. " 20.3.44</p> <p>POSTINGS AIRMEN - OUT</p> <p>posted to</p> <p>wt</p> <p>R123425 Sgt. Walton, V.J. MSG (N/R Sick) 29.2.44</p> <p>R142713 P/S McMillan, M. 405 Sqn. 8.3.44</p> <p>R186155 Sgt. Lewis, F.G. " 8.3.44</p> <p>R192770 Sgt. Carefoot, R.V. " 8.3.44</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 1st March		POSTINGS ALIEN - OUT (continued)			
			R155582 P/S	Pilot Young, J.P.	61 Base	12.3.44
			R109321 Sgt.	Bookilly, W.B.	138 Sqn.	18.3.44
			R113932 WO2	Palmer, E.B.	"	19.3.44
			R200059 Sgt.	Henderson, W.	10 OTU	21.3.44
			R184320 Sgt.	Kusma, H.P.	24 OTU	21.3.44
			R140857 P/S	Wood, A.L.	644 Sqn.	27.3.44
			R162936 Sgt.	Stewart, T.M.	"	27.3.44
			R187293 Sgt.	Wright, W.	"	27.3.44
			R200010 Sgt.	Wolf, W.F.	"	27.3.44
			1031744 Sgt.	Clyne, D.A.	405 Sqn.	8.3.44
			1833587 Sgt.	Banbury, F.G.	"	8.3.44
			1314935 P/S	Smith, K.W.	1664 CU	9.3.44
			1237979 P/S	Omeaher, J.H.	1666 CU	9.3.44
			1380169 P/S	Baron, J.S.	408 Sqn.	11.3.44
			1437316 P/S	Wynn, H.G.	1659 CU	9.3.44
			1801217 Sgt.	Lowen, E.S.	419 Sqn.	11.3.44
			1163660 Sgt.	Johnstone, H.V.	138 Sqn.	19.3.44
			1545214 Sgt.	Appleyard, E.N.	"	19.3.44
			1585730 Sgt.	Drewett, A.H.	"	19.3.44
			1322496 Sgt.	Frank, I.T.	644 Sqn.	27.3.44
			1825186 Sgt.	Lavery, A.M.	"	27.3.44
			1324821 Sgt.	Parker, S.C.	61 Base	21.3.44
			CASUALTIES			
			R147712 WO2	Klein, I.G.	Killed as a result of a Flying Accident	
			R181954 Sgt.	Barker, L.E.	15.3.44	

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No. of pages used for day 21

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944	31st March	Promotion Officers	Promoted to	wef
			P/O W.J. Harris J9766	T/P/L	8.1.44
			P/O G.G. Bull J3486	T/P/L	20.2.42
			P/O C.W. Higgins J15695	T/P/L	10.3.43
			P/O H.H. Zellen J27147	T/P/O	4.12.43
			P/O E.E. Halliwell J19841	Commissioned	19.1.44
			P/O A. Rollock J19821	"	8.10.43
			P/O G. Beresford 171591	"	30.1.44
			P/O L.G. Stamp 171503	"	15.1.44
			P/O C.E. Young 171504	"	30.1.44
			P/O D.M. McArthur J18291	T/P/O	16.1.44
			REWARDS AND AWARDS -		
			P/L G.W. Higgins J15695	Qualified for, and is authorized to wear,	
			A/S/L	R.C.A.F. Operational Wings.	
			Gen. 2248 P/S Brakenbury, E.D.	Awarded a MENTION IN DESPATCHES	
			W15221 P/S Timmuth, A.V.	Awarded the DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL	
			Approximately 9% of the R.C.A.F. personnel of the Squadron qualified for, and were authorized to wear, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Maple Leaf Emblem.		
			Operational Sorties for March - 113		
			Flying Times for March -	Operational - 652,36 hours	
				Non-Operational - 175,33 hours	
				H.E. M.C. G.F. MINES INCENDIARIES	
			Tons (2240lbs.) of Bombs dropped from 1.1.44 to 29.2.44	16 20 10 115	
			Tons (2240lbs.) of Bombs dropped during March	406 28 22 115	
			Total	16 406 28 33 115	

