

# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 252

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

No. of pages used for ~~day~~ month 17

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Graft	19 & 20th April		POSTINGS IN - ALBANY (cont'd)	posted from waf	
			1567348 Sgt. Wise, J.A.	61 Base	1.4.44
			1800011 Sgt. Bahadur Singh, R.A.	"	"
			1592318 Sgt. Howcroft, A.	EDU Newmarket	25.3.44
			1825080 Sgt. Mitchell, S.G.	"	"
			1324538 Sgt. Nelson, R.F.	R.A.F. Morecombe	23.3.44
			1823459 Sgt. McPherson, J.W.	61 Base	21.4.44
			1796196 Sgt. Wright, W.A.	429 Sqn.	24.4.44
			1033239 Sgt. Ellis, L.	61 Base	24.4.44
			2202756 Sgt. Guinan, E.	"	"
			POSTINGS OUT - ALBANY	posted to waf	
			R167331 Sgt. Groswell, A.G.	'R' Depot	6.4.44
			R199456 Sgt. Hewitt, A.R.	138 Sqn.	15.4.44
			1465764 Sgt. England, Y.	MSG	31.3.44
			1513780 Sgt. Abbott, J.R.	138 Sqn.	15.4.44
			1609446 Sgt. Roper, V.W.	"	"
			1624368 Sgt. Wilkinson, D.W.	"	"
			1724149 Sgt. Ash, R.C.	"	"
			CASUALTIES		
			F/O F.G.H. MacGregor J22743	missing 23.4.44	
			Lt. E.F. Boyle USA.O. 886238	"	
			F/O W.E. Woodrow J19650	23.4.44	
			F/O W.S. Knowlton J22596	"	
			F/O J.J. Lyng J22542	"	
			F/O L.L. Anderson J18153	"	
			F/O D. Harrison O85357	"	
			F/O T.R. Forth J24699	"	
			F/O D.H. Looman J27590	"	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events			References to Appendices
				<b>SECRET.</b>		
CROFT	19 & 4 30th April		<b>CASUALTIES (cont'd)</b>			
			F/O	W. E. Duxley	J22237	missing 20.4.44
			F/O	H. W. Pond	J26355	"
			F/O	D. M. King	J24077	"
			F/O	J. M. Hill	J7761	"
			F/O	J. A. Stoyko	J85144	"
			F/O	A. C. Donnell	J85144	"
			F/O	G. O. Books	J27317	"
			F/O	J. B. Morison	J19403	"
			F/O	J. L. Layne	J85172	"
			Lt	J. M. Karsan	USA O. 886185	"
			F/O	M. G. Gage	172893	"
			R130380	M/S		"
			R159996	F/S	Lynch, H. H.	23.4.44
			R187189	Sgt.	Matheson, F.	"
			R256036	Sgt.	Lockhead, R. L.	"
			R184187	Sgt.	Pratt, J. E.	"
			R187722	Sgt.	Gabel, A. L.	20.4.44
			R75223	WO2	Hansel, R. E.	"
			R55265	WO2	Gilson, J.	"
			R197289	Sgt.	Pratt, J. E.	"
			R18683	Sgt.	Greig, C. E.	"
			R198132	Sgt.	Hansen, G.	"
			R112020	Sgt.	Wilson, J.	"
			R193500	Sgt.	Deputy, E.	"
			R5997	Sgt.	Cooper, J.	"
			R592318	Sgt.	Miller, J. B.	"
			R516220	Sgt.	Howcroft, A.	23.4.44
			R370144	Sgt.	Corrigan, E.	"
			R434385	Sgt.	Watson, E.	20.4.44
			R75912	Sgt.	Aiano, E. H.	"
					Graham, J.	"
			<b>APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTIONS - OFFICERS</b>			
			F/O	A. Barnes	173123	promoted to waf
			F/O	G. G. M. Gage	172893	Commissioned 12.3.44
			F/O	E. A. Parker	173067	" 15.1.44
			F/O	C. D. Wood	172897	" 14.3.44
			F/O	A. C. Donnell	J85144	" 19.1.44
			F/O	J. D. Fetherston	J85131	" 14.1.44
			F/O	J. L. Layne	J85172	" 27.2.44
			F/O	C. E. McGillivray	J85246	" 15.1.44
			F/O	R. G. Carter	J85344	" 18.11.43
						" 12.3.44

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

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																																																																
Graft	1944 30th April		<p><u>APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS - OFFICERS (cont'd)</u></p> <table><tr><td>P/O</td><td>D. Harrison</td><td>085357</td><td>Promoted to</td><td>W.S.F.</td></tr><tr><td>P/O</td><td>C. Kelway</td><td>J85137</td><td>Commissioned</td><td>12.3.44</td></tr><tr><td>P/O</td><td>J.I. Roche</td><td>085348</td><td>"</td><td>16.12.43</td></tr><tr><td>P/O</td><td>R. Heald</td><td>172917</td><td>"</td><td>12.3.44</td></tr><tr><td>P/O</td><td>G.B. Jones</td><td>J85356</td><td>"</td><td>15.1.44</td></tr><tr><td>P/O</td><td>A.W. Timmuth</td><td>J85325</td><td>"</td><td>12.3.44</td></tr><tr><td>P/O</td><td>J.P. Artyniuk</td><td>J85350</td><td>"</td><td>27.2.44</td></tr><tr><td>P/O</td><td>A.G. Cameron</td><td>J85408</td><td>"</td><td>12.3.44</td></tr></table> <p>HONOURS AND AWARDS → NIL</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SORTIES FOR APRIL - 104</p> <p>FLYING TIMES FOR APRIL</p> <table><tr><td>Operational</td><td>-</td><td>544.30 hours.</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Operational</td><td>-</td><td>239.45 hours.</td></tr></table> <p>TONS (2240) OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING PERIOD <u>1.1.44 to 31.3.44 inclusive</u></p> <table><tr><th></th><th>H.B.</th><th>M.C.</th><th>G.P.</th><th>MINES</th><th>INCREDIBLES</th></tr><tr><td>TONS (2240) OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING APRIL</td><td>16</td><td>426</td><td>28</td><td>33</td><td>115</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL TO DATE</td><td>22</td><td>195</td><td>95</td><td>-</td><td>67</td></tr></table> <p>38 621 123 33 182</p> <p>Enemy aircraft destroyed during April - NIL</p> <p>No. of aircraft on charge - Halifax Mk. III - 13</p> <p>W.M. Newson (W.P.M. Newson) W/O Wing Commander Commanding No. 431 (RCAF) Squadron</p>	P/O	D. Harrison	085357	Promoted to	W.S.F.	P/O	C. Kelway	J85137	Commissioned	12.3.44	P/O	J.I. Roche	085348	"	16.12.43	P/O	R. Heald	172917	"	12.3.44	P/O	G.B. Jones	J85356	"	15.1.44	P/O	A.W. Timmuth	J85325	"	12.3.44	P/O	J.P. Artyniuk	J85350	"	27.2.44	P/O	A.G. Cameron	J85408	"	12.3.44	Operational	-	544.30 hours.	Non-Operational	-	239.45 hours.		H.B.	M.C.	G.P.	MINES	INCREDIBLES	TONS (2240) OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING APRIL	16	426	28	33	115	TOTAL TO DATE	22	195	95	-	67		
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of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for <sup>month</sup> ~~days~~ 1

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1 94 4 1st April		(1) Operations called, but later scrubbed. Four Halifax Mk. III's on cross-country trips, careful observations being made on fuel consumption in varying types of climb and cruise. Results will be published shortly. Two new crews completed cross-country on Mk. V's. Four more Pilots were checked out on Mk. III's. (2) New issue of Bomber Codes checked in by Signals Section, and previous month's issue checked out. Inventory of Confidential Documents made. Lecture on Marconi fault-finding given to all Wireless Operators forth-hour, and also visual Monitor. (3) Aircraft 'P' & 'T' (Mk. III's) had compasses swung. (4) Harmonisation of guns on new Halifax III's carried out by Gunners. All gunners not flying received aircraft recognition lecture, which entailed a short test arranged with Dalton Fighter affiliation Unit. (5) Flight Engineers received General instruction on Halifax III's, and spent remainder of day cleaning Section. (6) Lecture to all Bomb Aimers on Mk. XIV Bomb Sight, and bombing above 20,000 feet. Later, they received training on A.M.I., on map reading. Four new arrivals had a brief run-over on the computer box of Mk. XIV Bomb Sight.		
	2nd April		(1) No Operations to-day. Met. forecast: RAIN. (They were right.) (2) Pilot Officer J. Geddes (168954) (RAF) gave Gee instruction to all Navigators. (3) Squadron Leader H.R. Dow (JA893) gave lecture on Mk. III Hydraulic system to all Aircrew. (4) Aircraft 'G' had compass swung, despite torrents of rain, etc., which dampened everyone's spirit but the 'bashers'. (5) Two new crews reported to the Squadron: Pilots: 152341 P/O G.A. Kidd (RAF) 171733 P/O I.C. Gilchrist (RAF) Nav.'s: 162641 P/O J.B. Thomson (RAF) 1399159 Sgt. I.R. Balguy (RAF) B/A 's: 1513780 Sgt. J.R. Abbott (RAF) 1576348 Sgt. J.A. Wise (RAF) W/O's: 1720149 Sgt. E.G. Ash (RAF) 1800011 Sgt. R.A. Bahadur Singh (Ind.) MU/M's: R199456 Sgt. A.R. Hewitt (Can) 1313198 Sgt. W.W. Siversten (RAF) R/O 's: 1624168 Sgt. D.W. Wilkinson (RAF) R250856 Sgt. I.J. Kinney (Can) W/s's: 1609446 Sgt. V.W. Roper (RAF) 986356 Sgt. S. Myers (RAF)		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	2nd April	(cont'd)	<p>(6) Signals Section practiced Morse for one hour, and had one hour on visual Monica, later they were given a lecture on I.F.F. and Mandrel - their purpose, and times of switching on and off.</p> <p>(7) Flight Engineers re-assembled Merlin engine, and did some gardening around Section.</p> <p>(8) Bomb Aimers map reading on A.M.L., and remainder given Operational gen. In the afternoon, all Bomb Aimers sent out in parties of six to receive instruction on new gen of Hally 3's.</p> <p>(9) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson, DFC (C985), Squadron Commander, and Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (J7761) left for Engine-handling course (5 days) at the Manufacturer's works, Bristol.</p> <p>(10) The following received their commissions to-day: 173123 P/O A. Barnes (RAF), 173067 P/O E.A. Parker (RAF), P/O J.L. Layne (J85172) and P/O C. Kelway (J85137).</p>		
	3rd April		<p>(1) Rain all morning. No flying, and operations not called for.</p> <p>(2) Pilots, Bomb Aimers, and Engineers in another gunning-up drive, with Squadron Leader H.R. Dow (J4693) in the driver's seat. These sessions take the form of discussion, questions being asked and answered by all concerned. This is an excellent means of stimulating thought amongst crews, as well as clearing up many small points about which many are doubtful, and other too stupid or self-conscious to ask. Plans are being made for both an increase in the number of discussions held, and also a widening of the topic sphere involved.</p> <p>(3) Aircraft 'D' had compass swung.</p> <p>(4) Signals Section on Morse practice for one hour and sending Gen flares. Also lecture on MF/DF organisation.</p> <p>(5) J85181 P/O J.D. Featherston received his commission to-day.</p> <p>(6) One more Mk. III was given an acceptance check.</p>		
	4th April		<p>(1) Poor weather again all day.</p> <p>(2) The whole Squadron attended a lecture given by C25319 P/O T. Lamb, Squadron Radar expert. He covered comprehensively the workings and use of I.F.F. and Mandrel, and stressed gravely when each should or should not be used, and the dangers arising from non-compliance of issued instructions regarding use of same.</p> <p>(2) Poor weather seems to bring a request for marriages. No less than four applications being submitted to-day.</p>		

W. 1004/1022 11/4 C.S.L. 11-126

OBSERVING RECORD BOOK

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No. of pages used for month 3

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	19 & 20th April	(cont'd)	(3) First notice received re Sixth Canadian Victory Loan. Due to lack of Forms, no action being taken yet. (4) Dry Swim for Bomb Airmen held. (5) All airmen, along with those of 434, attended a film on Security in the Station Cinema.		
	25th April		(1) Seems April is the same all over the world. Rain and fog again. (2) The Squadron Joined 434 at a lecture given by Major R. Stevenson, G Group Headquarters, on latest developments in German defence systems and tactics. This was very enlightening, and should be repeated to all Squadrons at more frequent intervals. (3) Lecture to all Navigators, with slides on P.F.P. methods and technique. (4) Aircraft 'J' had compass swung. (5) Gunners on harmonization of Mk. III Aircraft. Flight Lieutenant L.L. MacLeod (AUS411091) Gunnery Leader, gave a lecture to all new crews, and also further lecture to Gunners on .5 Browning gun. (6) In the afternoon, Flight Lieutenant R.C. Instrell (120886) (RAF), Bombing Leader, gave an illustrated lecture on P.F.P. Methods. (7) Engineers lectured on Merlin Engine. (8) Signals Section drew spare helmets, and existing helmets modified according to instructions. (9) Wet dinghy drill at Thornaby Baths given to J7760 P/L R.F. Mead, J19841 P/O R.E. Halliwell, and AUB.412558 P/O J.C. King and crews, by G1869 P/L T.E. Walker, Adjutant, and J1331 P/O D.R. Wiley. (10) J1183 P/L J.R. Valentine acted as Adjutant in the afternoon. Said he did much signing and running about.		
	6th April		(1) Operations called for. Eight aircraft detailed. Group Captain D.M. Edwards (AFU) G126, scheduled as second 'dickie' with Squadron Leader H.R. Dow (J4893). However, ops. were scrubbed at 1745 hours due to poor weather conditions. (2) A futile effort was made at training on Mk. III's, but seriously hampered by weather. (3) Aircraft 'B' (Mk. V) and 'D' (Mk. III) had compasses swung. (4) Navigators given lecture on upper-air charts.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 6th April (cont'd)		(5) Gunners, not flying, on aircraft recognition. (6) P.F.F. Slides shown to Engineers in Photographic Section. (7) Signals Section had one hour's Morse practice. (8) Bomb Aimers given gen on the new modifications to the Jettison Bar on the switch box. (9) P/O J.L. Rooke (085348) commissioned to-day.		
	7th April		(1) Operations called for. Eight aircraft detailed for two targets, but scrubbed just before briefing. Two cross-countries scheduled were also scrubbed due to weather conditions not being favourable. (2) Aircraft 'U' had compass swung. (3) Gunners on harmonization of guns. (4) Flight Engineers held lengthy discussion in Section on engine handling. (5) Wireless Operators practiced Morse for one hour, and all Bomber Codes checked. (6) Bomb Aimers sent to A.M.L. for map reading instruction. (7) Gardening around Sections continues. (8) Squadron Leader C.H. Stone (09924), new Station Padre, visited the Squadron with Squadron Leader A.J.T. Littlewood (04684), who is being posted to Edinburgh. He will be missed by both Squadrons, as he has done a grand job, particularly with the aircrew personnel. (9) Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (17761), Deputy 'B' Flight Commander, returned from course at Bristol. (10) Pilot Officer E.G. Carter (J85344) received his Commission to-day.		
	8th April		(1) No Operations, but grand training weather. Six cross-countries briefed for daylight exercises. Air-to-sea firing carried out to test guns of new aircraft, this being the first time they had been fired. (2) Gunnery Leader took new crews out to aircraft, and instructed them on the .5 Browning Gun. (3) No. 434 Squadron using aircraft recognition form for lecture. (4) Lecture given to new Wireless Ops. on the use of G/s. Morse practice carried out for one hour. (5) Seven Bomb Aimers on Link instruction. Remainder of Bomb Aimers, not flying, attended lecture on switches on distributor box of Halifax Mk. III.		

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ORIGINAL RECORD BOOK

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GHRT	29 & 30th April		(1) Operations. Eight aircraft detailed. Target: LILJA. Group Captain D.M. Edwards (AFD) (Q126), on ops. as second dickie with Squadron Leader H.R. Dow (J4893), 'B' Flight Commander. One early return due to instrument trouble. All returned safely, and a good grip was reported.		
			(2) Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (J7761) flew to Linton with crews to collect new Halifax Mk. III's. Six Mk. III's on cross-country training flights.		
			(3) Lecture to Wireless Operators on visual Monica, and one hour on Morse Practice.		
			(4) Bomb Aimers on A.M.L. and map reading instruction.		
			(5) Merlin experimental engine despatched to 428 Squadron.		
			(6) Aircraft 'V' had compass swung.		
			(7) Group Captain W.V. McCarthy (Q1807), R.C. Chaplain from R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, visited the crew room before operations, and met a number of the airmen and Officers. He was accompanied by Squadron Leader P.H.D. McEhon (Q14601).		
			(8) Squadron Leader G.H. Graham (Q1407), new Medical Officer, visited the Adjutant's Office and had a general <sup>briefed</sup> on the functioning of the Squadron, this being his first experience on an Operational Station.		
	30th April		(1) Operations to-day. Five aircraft detailed. Target: GHRT. Good Trip. All returned safely.		
			(2) Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (J7761) checked out two Captains on Halifax III's. Three Mk. III's on cross-country trip.		
			(3) Flight Lieutenant D.B. Moyes (126901) (RAF) returned from leave looking fit and well.		
			(4) Aircraft 'B' had compass swung.		
			(5) Gunnery Section short of Gunnery to-day due to Operations and cross-countries last night. Remainder worked overtime D.I.'ing aircraft for operations. All .5 Browning guns were removed from Halifax Mk. III's on instructions from Air Ministry.		
			(6) Signals Section checked GDO250. Morse practice carried out for one hour. Operational <del>flames</del> amended.		
			(7) Bomb Aimers looked over photographs from previous night's Operations. (Not so good!)		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOPT	1944 10th April	(cont'd)	<p>(8) Squadron Leader J.P. Seabourne (42894), Air/Sea Rescue Officer from No. 6 Group Headquarters, visited the Squadron re air/sea rescue policy being laid down by 6 Group Headquarters. This will entail a full-time job for one Officer (Air Gunner).</p> <p>(9) Squadron Leader F.C. McCall (07107), 6 Group Public Relations Officer, brought five thousand cigarettes for the Squadron, a gift from his father in Simcoe, Ontario, the city which has adopted us. (The Squadron are looking forward to comforts, etc., from the town of Simcoe.) Some 600 cigarettes were handed out to several airmen on the spot, and published pictures taken.</p> <p>(10) Squadron Leader G.W. Higgins (J15695), 'A' Flight Commander, returned from leave to-day.</p> <p>(11) Discussion by Flight Engineers on carburation.</p> <p>(12) Pilot Officer A.W. Timmuth (BMC) (J85325) and Pilot Officer R.W. Harrison (085357) received their Commissions to-day.</p>		
	11th April		<p>(1) No Operations. Eight aircraft on night cross-country. Four details on fighter affiliation. (All Halifax Mk. III's.)</p> <p>(2) All gunners received lecture on turret handling from the Gunner's Leader.</p> <p>(3) Engineers lecture on fuel system by Pilot Officer B. Heall (K172917) (RAF), and also hydraulic system.</p> <p>(4) Group W/T exercises carried out by Wireless Operators, also one hour on Morse practice. Later, they had a further lecture on visual Morse for one hour. New MP/DP procedure noted, and Wireless Operators instructed thereon.</p> <p>(5) All Bomb Aimer on A. M. L. and map reading.</p> <p>(6) A Sergeants' Mess meeting was held to-day. Only 120 out of some 400 attended. The Station Commander ordered all who did not attend to report to his Office at 0900 hours the following morning. Much work for the Adjutant and Discip rounding up the men.</p> <p>(7) The Wince and Adj. discussed the proposed programme and policy for Sections, and the Squadron generally.</p>		
	12th April		<p>(1) Eight aircraft detailed for operations, but scrubbed later in day.</p> <p>(2) Seven aircraft on a sea search (5 hours). Two crews sighted an empty 'K' type dinghy.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT	1944 12th April	(cont'd)	(3) Six night cross-countries detailed. Three developed engine trouble before take-off, and did not get away. The others carried out the exercises successfully. (4) Bomb aimers on link instruction, and lecture on bombing gear. (5) Film shown in the Station theater on prisoners of war behaviour. (6) The following attended a District Court Martial as Officers under instruction: J28246 P/O G. Dunville; 135113 P/O R.G. Lamson (RAF); J25744 P/O A.H. Phillips; J24058 P/O L. Peters; 169396 P/O J.W. Cant (RAF); 169153 P/O J.A. Cable (RAF). (7) Flying Officer R.W. Jones (151373) (RAF), Bomb Aimer, was sent to Sheffield for a disciplinary course of three weeks. On two occasions, this Officer has returned with bombs hung up in the bomb bay. (8) Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson (RAF) (C983), held a lengthy conference with the Flight Commanders and Section Leaders re the proposed programme for the Squadron. This will cause a real shake-up in all Sections. New ideas and programmes are being arranged with the purpose of keeping every man on the Squadron busy and interested all the time. The meeting was adjourned after some two hours for all concerned to think it over and bring in their suggestions and ideas in a further meeting to be held to-morrow morning, when a full discussion and acceptance for Squadron orders will be held.		
	13th April		(1) No operations scheduled. (2) A lengthy conference with the Winco and all Section heads was held, and suggestions and policy from yesterday's meeting accepted. New shake-up was outlined briefly to all airmen by Wing Commander Newson; and the Flight Commanders and Section Leaders spoke in detail to their respective Sections. (3) Squadron pay parade held at 0830 hours. P/O A.R. Johnston (J18988) and P/O H.H. Zellen (J27147) acted as witnessing Officers. (4) Wing Commander R.O. MacInnes (C1554), Public Relations Officer from HQAF Overseas Headquarters, called with Squadron Leader T. McCall, 6 Group P.R.O., and saw the Winco and adj. for a few minutes.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOPT	1944 13th April	(cont'd)	<p>(5) Flying Officer F.M. Jones (J21531) from No. 6 Group Headquarters, representative of the Sixth Canadian Victory Loan, spent much time in conference regarding the Loan, and seemed satisfied that the Squadron had the job well in hand. Squadron Victory Loan representatives are: Unit: P/O T.R. Walker (C1869); 'A' Flight: P/O W.R. Woodrow (J19402); 'B' Flight: P/O G.B. Philbin (J13999); Nav.'s: P/O K.W. Jones (J13827); B/A's: P/O D.J. Frauts (J23642); W/O's: P/O L.L. Anderson (J18158); A/G's: J11131 P/O D.R. Wiley and J22596 P/O W.R. Knowlton; P/S's: C85357 P/O D. Harrison. A meeting was held of the above committee and methods outlined regarding attack on personnel. Various queries were discussed so that all should be ready for the drive.</p> <p>(6) Aircraft 'Z' 'H' and 'P' had compasses swung.</p> <p>(7) A disciplinary lecture was given to all Wireless Operators by Flight Lieutenant Nutt, Section Leader. Later, they had Morse practice for two hours.</p>		
	14th April		<p>(1) No ops. to-day. Local flying to test .5 Browning gun.</p> <p>(2) All Mk. V aircraft now off Squadron strength.</p> <p>(3) Mk. III aircraft were fitted with mid-under turrets, and .5 Browning guns were replaced.</p> <p>(4) Flight Engineers held a discussion on carburation.</p> <p>(5) Several charges were remanded to the Station Commander due to seriousness involving breaches of security.</p> <p>(6) A Meeting of Squadron and Station representatives regarding Sixth Victory Loan, was held in the Education Office. The Loan was outlined briefly to all concerned.</p>		
	15th April		<p>(1) Weather continued to be poor. No operations called for. Mammoth bulleseye was arranged. Thirteen aircraft detailed, but scrubbed later on. Six Mk. III's on air to air firing, ironing out snags on new guns, and give out new toy, the .5, a go.</p> <p>(2) Lecture to Navigators on breaking cloud by Gee and SBA. New Navigators did some familiarisation on the new aircraft. Astrogram films installed in Halifax Mk. III's.</p> <p>(3) All .5 Browning guns taken out of aircraft, harmonized, and replaced.</p> <p>(4) Bomb Alarms on Link trainer.</p> <p>(5) New programme working very well in all Sections. This relieves the Adjutant tremendously.</p> <p>(6) Victory Loan campaign well under way.</p>		

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

No. of pages used for day month 9

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHROFT	19 & 20th April		<p>(1) No Operations. Much training planned. Fifteen aircraft detailed on Eric exercise, but later scrubbed due to weather conditions. Local air-to-sea exercises carried out.</p> <p>(2) Officers' Mess meeting to-day. Hundred percent attendance. It was a 2½ hour session, and much was accomplished.</p> <p>(3) All Aircraft checked regarding Astrograph films.</p> <p>(4) Aircraft 'X' had compass swung.</p> <p>(5) Aircraft recognition in Gunner's Section. Flying Officer D.R. Wiley (J1113) in charge.</p> <p>(6) All aircrew reporting at 0910 hours and 1345 hours. Roll called, and day's programme given.</p> <p>(7) Baseball game between 'A' and 'B' Flight Pilots. 'A' Flight won. Score - 16 to 5.</p> <p>(8) Lecture by Flight Lieutenant L.L. McLeod (A1541091), Gunnery Leader, on the .5 sighting.</p> <p>(9) Further lecture to Gunners and Navigators on fuel system and hydraulic emergencies.</p> <p>(10) Bomb Aimers carried out A.M.L. and map reading, and had lecture on T.I.'s and markings.</p> <p>(11) New bicycle stand set up outside crew room. Very much needed.</p>		
	17th April		<p>(1) Operations called for to-day. Eleven aircraft detailed, but scrubbed just before briefing.</p> <p>(2) Three new aircraft tested by Squadron leader C.W. Higgins (J15695) and Squadron Leader H.R. Dow (J4892), 'A' and 'B' Flight Commanders respectively.</p> <p>(3) All Gunners dried out their guns in preparation for ops.</p> <p>(4) Pilot Officer J. Geddes (169954) (RAF) gave a lecture to all Navigators on break cloud procedure by Gee and SBA. Flight Lieutenant D.B. Moyes (126901), Navigator Leader, held Navigation conference in which he described the manipulation of A.P.I.</p> <p>(5) Aircraft 'R' had compass swung.</p> <p>(6) Link trainer for Bomb Aimers, and a general Quisa lecture carried out.</p> <p>(7) Flight Lieutenant R.F. Mead (47760) and crew hit a new high in the Victory Lane, #1500 being subscribed. This is a good mark for other crews to shoot at.</p> <p>(8) Flight Lieutenant A. Nutt (130917) posted to 41 Base, Harnden Moor.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944				
	26th April		(1) Operations to-day, and this time we got away. Twelve aircraft on first Halifax III go. Target: NOIRY-LE-SEC. Flying Officer P.K. Gulliverin (C24440) and crew in aircraft 'H' were the first to take off, at 2050 hours. Flying Officer G.B. Philbin (J13999) and crew were the first to return to Base, in aircraft 'U'. All returned safely and reports indicated a good trip. P.F.F. did a fine job. There was much jubilation over first trip on Hally 3's. Four aircraft landed away from Base. Two at Leeming, one at Stampton Harcourt, and one at Ford.		
			(2) All Navigators had met. lecture.		
			(3) Aircraft 'B' had compass swung.		
			(4) Sports program arranged for aircrew not on ops, baseball, touch football, etc.		
	19th April		(1) No Operations called for to-day. Weather poor at base. Raining all day.		
			(2) Lecture on Hydraulics and other components of Mk. III given to all aircrew.		
			(3) Lecture to all aircrew on 6th Canadian Victory Loan by Flight Lieutenant D.D. Dail (C4130).		
			(4) Bomb Aimers on Link Trainer.		
			(5) Navigators had met. lecture. Navigation logs and charts for previous night's operations checked and filed.		
			(6) Flying Officer G.H. Low (J18453) arrived to take over Signals Section. He came from Linton where he has been instructing since completing his first tour.		
			(7) Stand down for remainder of day.		
	20th April		(8) Operations called for. Sixteen aircraft detailed. Target: LMS. One early return - Pilot Officer J.D. Fetherston (J82161) - starboard outer engine failure. Good trip. Attack well concentrated.		
			(9) Squadron Leader G.W. Higgins (J15095) and Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill (J7761) tested four new aircraft.		
			(3) Operational talk to Engineers on Astro and use of sextant.		
			(4) Aircraft 'Q' and 'O' had compasses swung.		
			(5) First Victory Loan return sent to S.H.C. \$5300 sent in, and everything under way to top quota of \$17,000.		
			(6) Bomb Aimers loading much window for ops.		

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

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No. of pages used for day month 11

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOFT	19 4 4 21st April		<p>(1) Operations not called for to-day.</p> <p>(2) Squadron Leader H.E. Dow (JA893), 'D' Flight Commander, proceeded on leave to-day. Flight Lieutenant J.M. Hill deputising.</p> <p>(3) Night Bombing exercises cancelled due to 'duff' weather.</p> <p>(4) Engineers held lengthy discussion in Section on snags from last night's Operations. Night tool kits demanded for Flight Engineers.</p> <p>(5) Logs and charts checked by Navigators, and gone over by Navigators concerned.</p> <p>(6) All spare aircrew working on new road to Perimeter track, and making good job of it.</p> <p>(7) Local flying to test Monica.</p> <p>(8) Today's Victory Loan return to SHQ - £2750, bringing total to date to £8050.</p> <p>(9) All available crews reporting to Hospital for special weight and height recording, etc.</p> <p>(10) New crew reported to the Squadron from 1664 C.U. - Pilot: R112240 WO2 G.J. Campbell. Nav: R128361 WO2 G.S. Barzeale. R/A: J25123 P/O S.M. Preston. W/Op: R163628 WO2 A. Latham. MU/SG: R207928 Sgt. E.D. Bupey. R/G: R187267 Sgt. A.E. Yarrington. P/B: 1823459 Sgt. J. Macpherson.</p>		
	22nd April		<p>(1) Operations again called for. Sixteen aircraft detailed, fourteen took off. Target: DUSKIDORF. One aircraft, piloted by R132529 WO2 J.K. Gustafson, bogged on leaving dispersal, holding up another aircraft, piloted by P/L C.G. Bull (J3480). Wing Commander W.P.M. Newson (W/C) (C983) Squadron Commander, led the Squadron in this Attack. One aircraft failed to return: Lt. R.P. Boyle (NSA.O.886258) and crew. He was one of our two American pilots, and his crew was fast becoming one of our best. Crews reported that the Ruhr ain't what it used to be. Lt. J.M. Herman (NSA.O.886185), our other American Pilot, and crew, returned from this op. looking like men from Mars. Their flying suits were covered from head to foot with the remains of an Aluminium Marker which had been hit by 'flak' and distributed all through the aircraft. All reported good trip and prang.</p> <p>(2) R112240 WO2 G.J. Campbell and crew checked out on circuits and bumps on Hally 3's.</p> <p>(3) Victory Loan return to-day of £4350, bringing total to date to £12400.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOPT	1944 23rd April		(1) No Operations called for to-day. (2) Wing Commander Newson, Squadron Leader Higgins, and Squadron Leader Dow giving dual to new Pilots in Halifax Mk. III's. Three night cross-countries scheduled, and exercises carried out successfully. (3) Gunners on aircraft recognition, and Browning guns harmonised. (4) Six Bomb Aimers on Link Trainer. Remainder clearing up section, and given gen on bombing load on main targets. Others still sleeping after last night's ops. (5) Weighing and measuring of crews continues for aircrew at hospital.		
	24th April		(1) Fifteen aircraft detailed for Operations. Target: KAGLSBURG. One early return due to oxygen failure. All others returned safely and reported good show. (2) P.T. and Sports for remaining aircrew. (3) Bomb Aimers not on ops. received lecture on Mk. XIV Bomb sight, and also loaded window. on the Station Commander's invitation. This is particularly good for Mess personnel and others concerned, and definitely helps create a spirit of co-operation. In most cases, it was the first take-off they had seen. (4) All available Station Personnel came down for take-off, <del>and on the day</del> (5) Pilot Officer F. Jackson, Public Relations Officer from Middleton St. George, attended interrogation and got some stories from members of the Squadron. (6) Victory Loan returns to-day to S.I.C. - \$14,000, bringing total to date to \$164,000, just short of our quota of \$17,000.		
	25th April		(1) Twelve aircraft detailed for Operations to-day, but after much preparation, scrubbed at 2300 hours due to poor weather on target. (2) Aircraft 'O', while being taxied from bogged position from previous night's raid, ploughed into 'Q', and much damage was done to both aircraft. An investigation is being held to determine the responsibility. 880836 Cpl. Kirkpatrick, who was in the nose of 'Q', suffered slight injury. (3) Nav. Logs and charts for previous night's Operations, checked and filed. (4) New Engineers had lecture on Mk. III fuel system. (5) In the afternoon, Bomb Aimers on Link instruction.		

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No. of pages used for day 13

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHROFT	19 4 4	25th April	(1) Operations called for to-day. Fourteen aircraft detailed for Essen. It is some time since Essen has been bombed, but the majority reported a good show. T.I. Markings and Target well pranged. One early return due to Engine Failure. All others returned home safely.		
			(2) All aircraft not on Operations, at games - softball, etc.		
			(3) Pilot's and Engineer's notes for Halifax III's obtained and distributed.		
			(4) Victory Loan returns to S.H.Q. - \$2100. Total now \$18,500, \$1500 over our quota, and still plenty to hear from.		
	27th April		(1) Operations. All serviceable aircraft (eleven) detailed. Target: MONTEN. Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson (DPO) (C983), Squadron Commander, and crew, led the Squadron, and on return reported plenty of trouble over the target, having seen a number of aircraft shot down. This seemed well justified when, after zero hour, four of our aircraft were missing. This was a bitter blow to the Squadron, not less than 18 Officers out of 31 missing. These included some of our outstanding men, as was the case with the N.G.O.'s. Pilots were: P/L 'Jack' Hill (\$7761), P/O W.E. Woodrow (J19650), Lt. J.M. Harman (W.A.O. 996185) and R75223 WO2 J. Gilson. All Sections were hard-hit by this loss. All others returned to Base safely.		
			(2) Harmonisation of four aircraft carried out by Gunnery Section.		
			(3) Air diagram arrived and set up by Engineers.		
			(4) Logs for previous night's Operations checked by Navigation Section.		
			(5) Bomb Alarms and general talk on previous night's Operations.		
			(6) R193146 Sgt. W.J. Houghton was paraded to-day at a formal Squadron parade on instructions from the Air Officer Commanding, No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, Air Vice Marshal C.M. McBean (MO, DPO) (Q60), and the sentence of his District Court Martial, held here on April 12th, 1944, was read out by Wing Commander W.F.M. Newson (DPO) (C983), Squadron Commander.		
	28th April		(1) Stand down to-day. Things very quiet around Section.		
			(2) Orderly Room very busy with Casualty Signals, letter, reports, etc.		
			(3) Pilot Officer I.G. Gilchrist, (171733) (RAF), and crew posted to 51 Squadron. They had only been with the Squadron one month, but were posted because all were RAF except the Rear Gunner.		
			(4) Sections cleaning up in the afternoon.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOPF	1944 29th April		(1) No Operations. Ground training in the Airborne. Six cross-countries in daylight. Five completed successfully.		
			(2) Engineer's logs checked and brought up to date.		
			(3) Flight Lieutenant R.M. Martin (G37750), Engineer Leader, arrived back from course at R.A.F. Station, St. Athan, and assumed command of his Section.		
	30th April		(1) Nine aircraft detailed for Operations. Target: SOLOMON. One early return - Pilot Officer F.A. Badgery (AUS.412565). All others returned safely, and reported a good show.		
			(2) All aircrew, along with those of 434 Squadron, lectured on escape, which proved most interesting.		
			(3) Three aircraft had compasses swung.		
			(4) Pigeon tending by Gunners in the Afternoon.		
			(5) Bomb Aimers not on ops. received lecture on P.F.F. technique, and the reason why only a few aircraft carry photo flashes.		
			(6) Another Victory Loan return to SRO - £2850, bringing total to £21350, and still going strong.		
			(7) This month was a fairly busy one, and the conversion to Halifax Mk. III's was of special importance to the Squadron and all concerned. Losses sustained will be felt by all for some time, but this will be a real opportunity for other crews, partly trained, to step in and fill the breach, and keep the Squadron up to its usual standard.		

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No. of pages used for 15

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOPT	19 & 30th April		<u>PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON</u>					
			<u>Officers</u>	<u>Aircrew</u>	<u>Ground Crew</u>	<u>Total</u>		
			R.C.A.F.	41	2	43		
			R.A.F.	30		30		
			R.A.A.F.	5		5		
			<u>TOTAL</u>	76	2	78		
			<u>Airmen</u>					
			R.C.A.F.	61	246	307		
			R.A.F.	49	17	66		
			R.A.A.F.	1		1		
			W.A.A.F.		9	9		
			<u>TOTAL</u>	111	272	383		
			<u>POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS</u>		<u>posted from</u>		<u>was</u>	
			P/O G.A. Kidd	152341	61 Base		1.4.44	
			P/O J.P. Thomson	152641	61 Base		1.4.44	
			P/O D.C. MacDougall	J21643	M.S.G. (N/E Sick)		25.3.44	
			P/O I.C. Gilchrist	171733	61 Base		1.4.44	
			P/O S.M. Preston	J25123	"		21.4.44	
			<u>POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS</u>					
			P/O O.E.R. Davies	148009	17 OTU		31.3.44	
			P/O P. Davis	159868	1662 GU		31.3.44	
			P/O R. Hamby	159047	14 OTU		31.3.44	
			P/O W. Henry	160853	19 OTU		6.4.44	
			P/O E. McAdam	148462	19 OTU		31.3.44	
			P/O D. McConnell	159676	10 OTU		28.3.44	
			P/O A.C. Brook	J10422	22 OTU		31.3.44	
			P/L W.J. Harris	J9766	22 OTU		31.3.44	
			P/O W.K. Naylor	J17272	82 OTU		28.3.44	

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events		SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHOPT	1944 30th April		POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS (cont'd)			
			P/O J.R. Valentine	31183	20 OTU	7.4.44
			P/O A. Nutt	130917	41 Base	16.4.44
			P/O G.A. Kidd	152341	138 Sqn.	15.4.44
			P/O J.B. Thomson	152641	"	15.4.44
			POSTINGS IN - AIRMAN		posted from	ref
			R199456 Sgt. Hewitt, A.R.	61 Base		1.4.44
			R250856 Sgt. Kinney, I.J.	"		1.4.44
			R112240 WO2 Campbell, G.J.	"		21.4.44
			R128361 WO2 Barkiello, C.S.	"		"
			R163628 WO2 Latamus, A.	"		"
			R207928 Sgt. Bopoy, R.D.	"		"
			R197267 Sgt. Yarrington, A.	"		"
			R153225 Sgt. Robinson, H.G.	"		2.4.44
			R160599 P/S Fairless, A.G.	"		"
			R169219 Sgt. Massicotte, O.G.	"		"
			R192879 Sgt. McPherson, D.G.	"		"
			R197342 Sgt. McPherson, J.M.	"		"
			R119900 Sgt. Chuniok, W.W.	429 Sqn.		2.4.44
			R138018 Sgt. Robinson, J.H.	"		"
			R178083 Sgt. Hansen, G.C.	N.E.C. (N/R Sick)		2.4.44
			1313780 Sgt. Abbott, J.R.	61 Base		1.4.44
			1609446 Sgt. Roper, V.W.	"		"
			1624168 Sgt. Wilkinson, D.W.	"		"
			1720149 Sgt. Ash, R.G.	"		"
			986356 Sgt. Myers, S.	"		"
			1313198 Sgt. W.W. Sivertsen	"		"
			1399159 Sgt. Rolph, L.F.	"		"