

Compiling Officer - P/L T.R. Walker
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day 1

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Craft	1st May		<p>Operations called for today. ^{Start} Some aircraft detailed, target, St. Citalain, marshalling yards. Good show reported and all returned safely. The crews were glad to be operating again. J4895 S/L H.R. Dow, back from leave today and led the squadron on this attack.</p> <p>Five Wireless Operator Air Gunners on Morse and procedure practice for an hour. Several new Wireless Air Gunners out on familiarisation of electrical and WT on Halifax III.</p> <p>J18455 P/O G.M. Lowe, Signals Leader on Training Flight had two hours manipulations on 1154-1155 and Hestia. Local ground and air training carried out by Navigation Section. Logs and charts from previous nights operations checked and assessed. 116103 P/O Watt, W.G. RAF from Technical Training Command visited the engineering section for a few days.</p> <p>0083 W/O W.F.M. Brown HE gave a lecture to the pilots on operations generally. Sgt. McVicar E225077 and crew reported to Squadron from No. 1664 Conversion Unit.</p> <p>Pilot: E225077 Sgt. E.G. McVicar (CAN)</p> <p>Nav: E225085 Sgt. G.H. Browning (CAN)</p> <p>N/A: E156130 P/O J.K. Meyer (CAN)</p> <p>W/O: E193136 Sgt. A.R.G. Carlisle (CAN)</p> <p>Asst: E208796 Sgt. G.D. Brittain (CAN)</p> <p>P/O: E236539 Sgt. A.G. Cleary (CAN)</p> <p>P/Sgt: M19456 Sgt. J.R. Stanier (RAF)</p>		
	2nd May		<p>No operations today. Poor weather and very gusty wind. J15695 S/L G.W. Higgins dashed to do a circuit. Bomb store on lectures in the A.M.S.T. Six W/O's carried out a W/O exercise of two hours duration in the afternoon. E196129 Sgt. Finziger, W.R. and E184399 Sgt. Sorel, W.G. had their initial tour on Halifax III. Morse practice to five W/O's for one hour. Navigators checked logs and charts to previous nights operations. Gunners sang on aircraft "P", "Q", "R" and "S". Gunners carried out harmonisation of guns. The following crews carried out fire-drill, singly drill "Dey" and parachute drill "Emergency".</p> <p>J19424 P/O Johnston, E.G., J4895 S/L Dow, E.R. 159564 P/O Hable, R.P. and it was apparent that more practice was needed. An interesting lecture on the J Mark III and Q type dinghies was given by Sgt. H. Montgomery (545413) to crews in the SER room. Many questions were asked and answered.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Craft	1944	3rd May	Six aircraft completed bombing exercises in the morning. Some very good bombing was done and no complaints were heard from farms bordering the range. Three new pilots checked out on Halifax Mark III in the morning by S/L H.R. Dow (24895). A new and lighter "T" aircraft was tested by the "Gen" Crew. Three new aircraft collected from Leeming. Six aircraft completed the Command Bullseye. Signal Section conducted classes in GEE Training, Fighter Affiliation, Navion and bombing WF training to a total of sixteen W/OP's. Lecture was also given on SOS Emergency procedure. In the afternoon a film on Mitching with all W/OP's present.		
		4th May	Rain most of day. Two new crews started out on Cross Country but returned early due to adverse weather. F/S Meyer J.E. (2154130) a new Bomb Aimer in the Squadron had the best score today. Dingy and Parachute drills carried out by crews of P/O F.A. Badger A.42565 and P/O R.P. Hilde, 159504. Times to bail out, actually leaving aircraft by nose exit, 1 min. 29 seconds, ditching onto the wing 45 seconds. Gunners, W/OP's and Bomb Aimers given lectures on operation of petrol tanks and completion and interpretation of engineers log by P/L Martin G17750 R.M., Engineer Leader. Engineers also given instruction in Morse code and radio manipulation by P/O Lowe, E. 318453 Signals Leader. Four navigators briefed for tonight's cross country flight. W/C W.F.M. Newman DFC 0903 detailed as member in a Court Martial held at Middleton St. George. P/L T.E. Walker G1263, Squadron Adjutant proceeded to the Isle of Man as member of Court Martial.		
		5th May	Ten aircraft took off at 0930 hours for bombing practice at Stronsell. The boys are really keen on this work and there was quite a competition for the best score. Lectures and gis contest held in the afternoon. Final arrangements made for the wet dingy drill. Dry dingy drills were also carried out on the ground and in the air by S/L H.R. Dow, 34893, and five other crews.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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Croft	1944	6th May	Operations called for today but were scrubbed while the boys were at main briefing. One cross country carried out about 5½ hours duration. 6 air test by W/C W.F.M. Newson DFC (0983). The signals section erected a permanent A/E and made tests on 5230 K/O's. Output definitely up from 1.2 to 2.2 Aps. Squadron participated in a sports programme during the afternoon. F/L F.E. Walker 01869 proceeded to 6 Group for interview with S/L A.H.G. Bruce.		
		7th May	Operations today, target, St. Valéry. Eight aircraft including W/C W.F.M. Newson DFC (0983) and S/L G.W. Higgins, (215695) were on this raid and all returned safely and reported a successful job. A lecture was given to three new WOP's covering all operational Gen on German defences, radio countermeasure operating against them. C/C D.M. Edwards AFC (0126) Station Commander was checked out on circuits in the Halifax III. One training cross country was carried out. The dingy drill instructor was pleased with the interest shown in dingy drills during the past week, the cause of which he attributed to a film entitled "Ditching when Hojging." This film proved to be an eye opener to the crew and shook them into the realization of the importance of ditching procedure.		
		8th May	Operations called for tonight. Thirteen aircraft blasted the marshalling yards at Haine St. Pierre and reported a good prang. Two failed to return with the loss of the following crews: Pilot: F/L R.P. Reed J7760 F/O W.H. Wilson 220701 Nev: F/S D.G. Growthmore A.425128 W/O W.J. MacStocker H29455 W/A: F/O L.G. Webley J21610 F/O E.T. Schubert J28239 W/OP: F/O A.R. Giroletti J12046 W/O A.M. Casey H15376 NW/AC: Sgt. J.A. Outmet H77225 Sgt. E. Walker Can. 181214 R/O: Sgt. J.V.J. Gravel H22448 Sgt. G. Bull H61963 R/Eng: Sgt. D.V. Outridge H67802 R/AF Sgt. H.T. Lee 1195787 R/AF Compass were hung on one aircraft "W". C/C D.M. Edwards (0126) AFC did some local flying during the day.		
		9th May	W/C W.F.M. Newson DFC (0983) O.C. Squadron screened today after a most successful tour. This came as somewhat of a surprise. He has had a long and successful operational record		

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Croft	19 & 20th May		<p>and his excellent ability both from an operational and administrative capacity will be missed for some time. F/O A.R. Johnston, J18988 the Winco's Rear Gunner was also screened and was very happy too. Johnny has been a real favourite around the squadron for a long time. The O.C. held a meeting with S/L G.W. Higgins; J15695 and S/L E.E. Dow J1893, A and B Flight Commanders respectively, F/L Bull & F/L Philbin deputies, re: future plans and setup. F/L Warren arrived on the unit from 420 Squadron to double bank as adjutant. Four aircraft were on fighter affiliation and one on air to air firing. Five aircraft also did a cross country training flight. Logs and charts for two previous operations checked and concentration diagrams for both trips drawn up. The Signals Section gave a group exercise to six W/O's.</p>	
	10th May		<p>No operations today. Three replacement aircraft ferried in from Leeming and another two from Skipton. S/L G.E. Bean DFC J17183 Bomber Command Liaison Officer gave lectures to all navigators on methods to speed up and improve navigation. Lecture also given to all Wireless Operators on new combined operations procedure of dingy settings and latest changes of operations Com. Five aircraft out on a night cross country training exercise for 5 1/2 hours. Eight crews got cracking on dry dingy drill and four crews on swimming drill. W/O W.F.M. Hanson DFC 6983 gave a farewell dinner for his crews at the Croft Spa. A good time was had by all.</p>	
	11th May		<p>Everyone quite busy today as Ops. are in tonight, target, Boulogne. Twelve aircraft operated and returned without loss. All reported difficulty in getting to target. The aircraft returned early, one of which has landed down south. Two aircraft carried out bombing exercises and two on air to air firing. All navigators again attended a morning lecture by S/L G.E. Bean DFC J17183. Aircraft "B" had compass wrong.</p>	
	12th May		<p>Operations again tonight. This time the target was Louvain. F/O H.G. MacLeod J25178 and W/O G.J. Campbell J112240 proceeded to Kinton in the morning and ferried a new aircraft J2656 back to the Squadron. Three crews had dingy drills during the morning. Twelve crews briefed for Ops. One aircraft failed to return from raid the crew consisting of the following:</p>	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (RAF) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Groft	1944	12th May	<p>Pilot: W22 Campbell, G.J. H12240</p> <p>Nav: W22 Barzels, G.S. H28361</p> <p>F/O: F/O Preston, S.M. J25123</p> <p>W/O: W/O Andrew Latusus H263628</p> <p>W/O: Sgt. E.H. Bepoy H207928</p> <p>F/O: Sgt. A.E. Yarrington, H27287</p> <p>F/O: Sgt. J.H. MacPherson, 1323549 (RAF)</p> <p>We were sorry to lose them all. F/O S.M. Preston, J25123 the Air Bomber was on his first trip and had been with us only a short time. W/O Skeaff F.M. H/2201 landed south upon returning because of shortage of fuel. Five aircraft returned with bombs on, due to unsatisfactory identification of target. Height test of aircraft "Q" resulted in its returning on three engines.</p>		
		13th May	<p>Ops were called for tonight but later scrubbed at 1800 hours. F/L Bull G.C. J3486 tested new aircraft "Q" and exercised guns on air to sea firing. W/O F.M. Skeaff, H/2201 returned his aircraft "Q" from Faldham via Woodbridge and Einton. A plotting exercise for all navigators who did not fly the previous night was held in the main briefing room during the morning. A further lecture was given to all navigators in the afternoon by S/L G.H. Bunn HMG J17183. Aircraft "P" and "Q" had compasses swung. The W/O's had a lecture on "Bombing technique and aids to navigation" also Morse practice for four W/O's.</p>		
		14th May	<p>No operations today. Four aircraft on cross country with bombing exercise, one aircraft on cross country only and two aircraft bombed on the local range. F/L G.C. Bull (J3486) checked out F/O R.V. Harrison (J25326) pilot in aircraft "A". F/O Harrison just returned to duty from hospital after a skin graft on his arm following an accident some two months ago in explosion in aircraft returning from operations. Check out was quite successful. Film shown to all aircrew on Lindholm Diving Apparatus. F/engineers played the W/O's section, soccer and won by a score of six to two. F/engineers section had some operational gun printed on Bristol engines for distribution. G/T exercises by F/O King and crew. One hour Morse by six W/O's. F/O Shore, F/O Holden F/O Wills and crew reported for duty with the Squadron.</p>		

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Groft	19 & 14th May		<p style="text-align: right;">SECRET.</p> <p>Pilot: P/O T.A. Shore J85611 (Can) P/O R.G. Holden J28141 (Can) Nav.: Sgt. R.E. Turner E179523 (Can) P/O A.L. Cameron J29975 (Can) B/A P/O J.G. Talbot J28921 (Can) P/O G.J. Johnston J29667 (Can) W/As: Sgt. J.L. Ballantine E197162 (Can) P/O E. Dawson J18790 (Can) MU/As: Sgt. J.G. Wilson E208761 (Can) Sgt. F.J. Clay E177051 (Can) R/O: Sgt. J. Mollrey E257170 (Can) Sgt. T.G. Milne E193308 (Can) F/Eng.: Sgt. E. Needham 1819810 (Raf) Sgt. C.G. Newton 1894145 (Raf) Pilot: P/O W.K. Wells J12573 (Can) Nav.: P/O A.J. Morrison J28857 (Can) B/A: P/O G.E. Miles J28979 (Can) W/As: P/O L.M. Townsend J29894 (Can) MU/As: Sgt. J.E. Williams E225403 (Can) R/O: Sgt. K.J. Murray E191820 (Can) F/Eng.: Sgt. M.C. Glus, 1606700 (Raf) S/L Dow, H.E. (J4893) promoted to Wing Commander today and takes over the Command of the Squadron. He has a big job to fill in taking over W/O Newson's place, but the Squadron is behind him 100%. W/O Dow, whose home is in forests, has progressed rapidly since coming overseas and his selection to lead the Iroquois Squadron is most worthy and deserving, always a hard worker himself and expects the best from everyone. W/O Dow will be ably supported by P/L Bull, P/L Philbin, P/L Guillevan and P/O Rubie. P/O Rubie and crew visited demonstration room air sea rescue. No operations again today. Three aircraft on fighter affiliation but claim the Halifax III, is too fast for the Hurricanes, following the exercise. One aircraft bombing on local range. W/O Dow along with P/L Bull "A" Flight Commander, P/L Philbin B Flight Commander held a general meeting of all aircrew following which section leader EXIGNE was held covering many points for section operating and organization. Among them were the following: Squadron Crest to be made, and Indian Head stencil to be cut by the ground crew, signs to be obtained for the doors of sections, cigarette bins to be provided, painted brightly</p>	
	15th May			

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (RCAP) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

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Crest	1944	15th May	<p>to draw attention. The crew room was to be inspected and windows etc. to be repaired.</p> <p>F/L Instrell suggested and was asked to develop a plan for putting a large Indian Head on the north wall of the crew room. The bricks underneath it to be adorned with the names of the Squadron operations. Paint was to be obtained to redecorate the crew room.</p> <p>The WOP section agreed to put a loud speaker in the parachute room. At 1330 hours the Squadron attended the station theatre. Three pictures were shown, one night signing, two, air to supplement, 3- security. All were quite interesting. An extensive bombing programme was drawn up for the next morning. Baseball game between 434 and 431 Squadron, 434 winning 9 to 5. (The Wop was agin us). WOP/AS, lectured on Monday 14 hours. W/O Newson, W/O left for his new post XXX as Chief Instructor with 1664 G.U. Dismorbia.</p> <p>We were sorry to see him go, a real leader who has done wonders with the Squadron. Farewell and all the best. Dry drills carried out by P/O Craig and crew.</p>		
	16th May		<p>Weather dull, no flying, bombing programme scrubbed. Ground training only. Big auction sale held. 485. 16s. raised. Commodities included food stuffs, cigarettes, razor blades for the Prisoner of War Fund. P/O Wiley D.R. (J11131) was super as chief auctioneer and created plenty of fun with his inimitable humour. Sgt. Curtis G.A. 1511719 and P/O G.A. Tomlin 1298477 assisted. Lecture to P/Engineers on engine handling. W/O Dow in conference with G/O Edwards Station Commander. P/O Jackson P.R.G. visited the Squadron to interview personnel. Seven crews carried out single drill in aircraft.</p>		
	17th May		<p>Little flying today. Weather still poor. Aircraft "X" "Y" and "Z" were inspected for acceptance, new aircraft. "G" and "H" on routine inspection. Lecture for all new crews by S/L Swan on navigation. A great deal of road building and painting done by all sections. P/O Kyle and crew reported for duty with the squadron today.</p> <p>Pilots: P/O M.S. Kyle 327715 (Can) Nav.: P/O P. Poohay 329850 (Can) S/As: P/O P.C. Fallon 329669 (Can) W/As: Sgt. J.A. Welch 151167 (Can) W/As: Sgt. R.W. Hubbley 1176399 (Can) S/As: Sgt. V.E. Campbell 151167 (Can) S/As: Sgt. W.A. King 189156 (Can)</p>		

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Craft	19 & 17th May		"X" and "Y" had compasses swung. Horse practice, 1 hour by WOP/AS, s. P/L Philbin proceeded to Cranwell for a three weeks Junior Commander Administration course.		
	18th May		Weather still poor. Ground training only. Lecture on visual monica and GEE to P/Engineers and WOP/AS, s. Aircraft "X" had compass swung. Training and re-issuing of charts to Navigators. Short lecture by W/C Dow to all aircrew in the afternoon and presentation of target tokens from previous ops. given out. P/O Field gave lectures to new crews on petrol system and hydraulics. WOP/AS, s. point to point system and harmonisation tests. Group W/T exercise cancelled due to equipment failures. Gunery section cleaning and harmonising guns on aircraft. W/L Robin, L. 1168171 W/L Howray, R.J. H30979 and W/L Baker, J.E. H43243 interviewed by the G/C Master, base Commander re: Commissioning.		
	19th May		Five aircraft detailed for bullseye tonight but scrubbed due to weather. Ground training in the sections. Pilots attended lecture by the bombing leader at which the latest results on targets were discussed. In the afternoon Intelligence section gave a lecture on security. W/C Dow flew to Skipton to bring back a new aircraft to base. J3486 P/L Bull G.G. Pilot, promoted to A/S/L 1/c "A" Flight. J18988 P/O Johnston A.E. WOP/AS posted to 1666 G.U. with effect 21st May, having completed his first tour as member of W/C Benson's crew. Skeet shooting done by twenty A/C, s and lecture to all A/C, s on aircraft recognition by P/O Pakker, E.A. 173067. Four crews proceeded to Thornaby Baths for wet dingy skill.		
	20th May		"Q" and "R" had compasses swung.		
			Training only today, weather still very poor. Flight class Pilots spent one period in the Intelligence Library followed by a period in the W/T Section on code and the dingy radio. In the afternoon, W/L Gashler, Station Armament Officer gave a lecture on the functioning of his section on an operational day. S/L Bull read an account of the ditching of a Lancaster that was quite interesting. The pilots room was cleaned up, new posters put on the wall and general improvements carried out. Demonstration and record boards made and started in Signals Section. Ten B/A, s had link instruction. Four A/C, s had guns harmonisation and gun tests carried out. Night vision training conducted for a group of sixteen gunners. W/C Dow spent the day at G group Headquarters.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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Croft	19 & 21st May		<p>Operations not called for. Three crews were called out early at 9 A.M. to conduct a sea search, P/O Craig, W.G. 446549, P/O Artyniak, J.P. 385350, P/O Halliwell, E.E. 319041.</p> <p>Eight aircraft were air tested as they had been grounded for several days due to poor weather. S/L Bull checked out three new pilots, P/O Kyte, P/O Shore, and P/O Holden.</p> <p>Four crews completed a four hour cross country. Six aircraft did a day bombing exercise.</p> <p>W/O Dow tested two new aircraft. Lecture to gunners by Gunnery Leader, P/L MacLeod.</p> <p>Aircraft recognition to twelve of the new gunners. Officer's Mess Meeting today in the Station Theatre. Good turnout and final arrangements for mess party on the 25th May.</p> <p>P/L Warren, posted Acting Adjutant with effect 29th May, reason unknown as he was getting along well. Rumour has it that the Station Adjutant will take over, we will wait and see.</p> <p>All navigators not flying on a dry swim which took up most of the morning. Morse practice by WOP/AS, s. Seven WOP, s sent to Radar Section for lecture on Visual Navigation, remainder had a Gen discussion on electrical system of the Halifax III. Dingy drill carried out by eight aircraft in the air and worked out very well.</p>	SECRET.	
	22nd May		<p>Training only today. Operations not called for. Thirteen aircraft completed day bombing exercise on Snape and Stromsall. Six aircraft did fighter affiliation with the Hurricanes.</p> <p>S/L Bull tested a new aircraft. P/O Halliwell ferried a new aircraft from Skipton. Two aircraft completed as air to air firing detail. Five aircraft completed a five hour cross country. Sgt. McVicar, pilot, had trouble with the undercarriage on aircraft "c" and had to use the emergency system. After four runs, finally landed O.K. W/O Dow held a meeting with all aircrew, reading out the latest policy on the new method of operational point scoring. This seemed to make a better impression generally, than previous policy of 1/3 of a trip some two months ago. Gunners harmonised guns on five aircraft. Sports were held for all sections not flying. Baseball, soccer and touch football. S/L Higgins and crew minus the navigator P/L D.R. Myles, 126901, navigation leader left for 427 Squadron just before proceeding. C/O Edwards advised that he had been awarded the DFC. Also P/L H.J. Harris, 39766 navigator on W/O Henson's crew, who was posted some five weeks ago. Also P/S J.H. Ormscher, 1237979, Navigator posted to 1666 G.U. two months ago received the DFM. Good show and all very well deserved.</p>		

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Croft	19 & 23rd May		<p>No operations. Becoming a habit. The weather has been poor. Two air, sea and four air to air exercises carried out. Four aircraft completed fighter affiliation practice. Thirteen aircraft carried out a night astro cross country with bombing of Spape and Stronsalla. P/O Halliwell and P/O Artysniuk did a new exercise, night fighter affiliation with Hurricanes. Gunners on harmonization and gun stripping. Compasses on "A" "B" and "C" swung. Astro graph films fitted to all aircraft without films. Baseball game in the afternoon between "A" and "B" Flight, "B" Flight winning - score of 9 to 2.</p>	SECRET
	24th May		<p>Celebrated Victoria day with operations. Fourteen aircraft detailed for Frouville. All returned safely reporting good show all round. P/O Cellver, Sgt. McVicar made their first solo hop. Guns harmonized and checked on all aircraft. P/O Guilleven, pilot, promoted to A/W/L today as captain of aircraft. P/O L.E. Wright (67924) attached to a squadron for double backing duties as squadron adjutant. Sports for P/Engineers and Navigation Section. Baseball and soccer.</p>	
	25th May		<p>Operations called for. Thirteen aircraft detailed. Mostly experienced crews. Weather quite uncertain and just as the crews were getting ready for take-off the effort was scrubbed. Much disappointment as the target was a good one. P/O Featherston air tested aircraft "D" and very little other flying was done due to poor weather. Five WOE/AG,s on tour of Halifax III,s with "Gen" talks covering visual monica, mandrel and IFF use and effects. Five other crew members received hour lecture on visual monica. Navigation logs and charts for previous nights operations checked and concentration points plotted and forwarded to 6 Group Headquarters. Officers' Mess party scrubbed due to operations, and postponed until tomorrow evening. However, before the evening was over a rehearsal was well under way attended by the Station Commander and a good time was had by all.</p>	
	26th May		<p>No operations. A good training day. Two aircraft completed fighter affiliation exercises, with Hurricanes and the number of bombing details were detached by HQR/T flying control to the fighters, also enjoyed a workout with them. Two aircraft from "B" Flight, P/O Featherston and W/O Skeaff did formation flying. WOE/AG,s getting practice in visual monica equipment. Three aircraft gun firing on an air to air exercise, two others went out for first gun firing</p>	

W. BOMBERS 1944 C.A.L. 11-728

OFFICIAL RECORD BOOK

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (REAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944 26th May		<p style="text-align: center;">simulated</p> <p>all aircraft went up did bombing runs on the stacks at Darlington and the Marshalling yards at York. F/O Rye, F/O Holden, F/O Timmuth and F/S Fairless completed a day cross country with bombing. W/O Dew checked out F/O Blackford and crew who then did local flying. All Navigators attended lecture by F/L Moyes, Navigation Leader and later a Mst. lecture. Logs of new Navigators on cross countries collected and faults pointed out. Aircraft "W" had compass swung. Tables and wireless equipment repaired by WOE/ME, s for setting up W/T. instruction room. Signal Section dismantled ABY333B and covered the case with perspex so as to be able to demonstrate power unit and valves. Cryptal and training encountered. Mess party was a real success, by far one of the best Officers' mess parties held according to everyone there. Many well known guests attended, including A/W/E Holman and several Squadron Commanders within the group. The food and beverages left little to be desired and all are in favour of an other one in the future.</p>		
	27th May		<p>Operations today. Seventeen aircraft detailed, target, Le Grand. This was a big day for the Squadron. Sixteen got away. F/O Artyniuk was unable to take off due to a fuel pump failure in the starboard side. F/L Guillevan was an early return shortly after take-off as his starboard inner quit completely so he jettisoned in Middlesborough and returned to base. All others returned safely and reported good results from explosions, etc. F/O Featherston and crew proceeded by rail to Bealieu to pick up aircraft in difficulty there some ten days ago, having had the engine changed. F/O Lowe Signals Leader, gave lecture to new arrivals on operational procedure. Aircraft "J" had compass swung. F/S Chapman W.R. W/STO received his commission today while on leave.</p>		
	28th May		<p>Operations not called for and the results on last night's raid were particularly gratifying. All pictures showing the TPs in the centre and detail on the ground very clearly with innumerable bomb craters. Four of the new crews completed a four hour day cross country with bombing enroute. Three aircraft, "I", "W" and "J" were fired on an air to sea exercise test of guns. Three gunned aircraft had a workout at fighter affiliation. Five Lancasters of 406 Squadron and three Halifax III, s of 406 were diverted diverted here from the previous night returning to base about 10 A.M. F/O Featherston and crew arrived at 1605 hours from Bealieu.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Croft	19 & 20th May		<p>Five W/As on one hour Morse practice. Six W/As on GCS training, one hour. Air Commodore, McBurney, Base Commander, interviewed P/S Longstaff, pilot and P/S Kingston, W/As re: commadions. Bacon and eggs for breakfast this morning. Message from the C.A.S. conveyed over Tenny regarding magnificent effort last night. Congratulating the efforts of everyone particularly the ground crew. W/C Dow with other officers and H.C.O.s worked on completion of new roadway leading from crew room. This is badly needed for Squadron traffic and should be a big asset. Navigation faults pointed out to Navigators from previous night's operations.</p> <p>20th May</p> <p>Training only: Nine aircraft completed four hour cross country including a bombing detail. Two aircraft were engaged in Bom flying, visual practice and GCS Homing exercises. A more extensive day had been planned but four aircraft were u/s. S/L Bull and P/O MacLeod flew over to Middleton in the Commanding Officer's Tiger Moth to ferry back an Oxford. G/O Edwards and S/L Bull flew the Oxford down to Wallbourne in the afternoon to attend a Court Martial. S/L Swan RFF Navigator also proceeded and map read enroute. Met. lecture attended by all Navigators. This was the first day for the Physical Training Programme laid down by 6 Group policy letter. All personnel participating even though a great number did not particularly care for it especially with all the flying training being done. However it is thought it will greatly be appreciated. P/L Johnston and crew arrived from 1664 G.U. on posting.</p> <p>Pilot: P/L M.L. Johnstone, J15682 (Gen) Nav: P/L J.C. Burns J15830 (Gen) R/A: P/O G. Bell J19096 (Gen) W/As: P/O L.O. Stanley, J16110 (Gen) NU/As: P/O M.H. Steeves, J17475 (Gen) R/O: P/O R.J. Bates, J16981 (Gen) P/Eng: Sgt. J.C. Fereday 1579620 (RAF) This crew will be starting their 2nd tour.</p>	

SECRET.

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (REAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
Croft	1944 30th May		<p>Operations called for. Eleven aircraft detailed but effort scrubbed later due to poor weather. Navigators spent one hour carrying out speed up exercises in navigation. "W" had compass swung. Physical Training carried out by the crew and a parade and cleanup of all billets on 1 and 6 sites for the G.C. Squadron's inspection. Ground crew quarters excellent but a great deal of improvement needed in aircrew billets. Pilots engaged in a work party laying turf near the pilots' room. Station Commander, S/L Bull and S/L Bean arrived back from Wellsbourne at 1845 hours flying very low through thick haze.</p>		
	31st May		<p>Operations again called. Eleven aircraft detailed. Target: Leubringen, France. Met. reports on weather looked doubtful, but take-off finally at 2145 hours. Two diversions F/O Kyte and crew landed at Upwood due to icing and extremely difficult weather encountered. W/O Skeaff completed effort, landed at Desborough on return. Three early returns, F/O Collier and F/O Petherston, two of the three, on account of difficult weather encounters, icing, thunderstorms, lightning etc. on way to target, making it impossible to arrive at target on time. F/O R.W. Harrison returned due to Starboard outer engine failure after take-off. Bombs were jettisoned in the sea. All others returned safely and reported difficult flying conditions, storms etc. EFP were right on time and markers bombed according to reports. Sgt. Aldred and crew reported from 1659 G.U. for duty with the Squadron.</p> <p>Pilot: Sgt. Aldred W.M. R170580 (Can) Inv. : F/O S.S. Redmond J28867 (Can) B/A: Sgt. G. Karrel R174894 (Can) W/AG: Sgt. J.M. Badinger R169825 (Can) MU/AG: Sgt. D.J. Miller R220063 (Can) R/E: Sgt. E.G. Green R152029 (Can) F/Mgt. Sgt. J.E. Prosser 931990 (RAF)</p> <p>Gunnery section carried out ground gun tests and had a great deal of work of improving the night vision room. A real live Physical Training programme was held for all aircrew at 0630 hours. F/S Bourgon, C.H. R54240, Squadron Disciplinarian and Physical Training</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (RAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	19 & 31st May							
<u>PRESENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON</u>								
<u>Officers</u>			Aircrew	Ground Crew	Total			
			R.C.A.F.	2	71			
			R.A.F.	-	28			
			R.A.A.F.	-	4			
			Total	2	103			
<u>Airmen</u>			Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total			
			R.C.A.F.	252	349			
			R.A.F.	17	65			
			R.A.A.F.	-	-			
			W.A.A.F.	9	9			
			Total	278	423			
<u>POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS</u>								
P/O	C.M. Andrews	J22553	posted from	61 Base	W.o.F.	26.4.44		
S/O	E.A. Hieland	J20815n	" "	" "	" "	26.4.44		
P/O	W.R. Touchie	J19056	" "	" "	" "	26.4.44		
P/O	H. Bailey	J28860	" "	" "	" "	30.4.44		
P/O	J.B. Cellver	J25297	" "	" "	" "	30.4.44		
P/O	G.R. Dickson	J25117	" "	" "	" "	30.4.44		
P/O	R. Harrison	J16696	" "	" "	" "	30.4.44		
P/O	W.K. McInnell	J28962	" "	" "	" "	30.4.44		
P/O	R.B. White	J28879	" "	" "	" "	30.4.44		
P/O	A.N. Feretman	J21354	" "	No. 405 Squad.	" "	1.5.44		
P/O	M. McMillan	J85154	" "	" "	" "	1.5.44		
S/L	J.K. McDonald	0890	" "	No. 61 Base	" "	26.4.44		
P/O	J.W.K. Dunn	J23117	" "	No. 424 Squad.	" "	6.5.44		
P/O	G.R. Miles	J28979	" "	No. 61 Base	" "	12.5.44		
P/O	H.A. Morrison	J28857	" "	" "	" "	12.5.44		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events				References to Appendices		
CROFT	1944		POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS (Continued)				SECRET.		
	31st May								
			F/O	L.W.J. Townsend	(J29094) posted from	No. 61 Base		w.e.f.	12.5.44
			F/O	W.K. Wells	J12573	"		"	12.5.44
			F/O	A.L. Cameron	J29975	"		"	12.5.44
			F/O	E. Dawson	J18790	"		"	12.5.44
			F/O	R.G. Holden	J28141	"		"	12.5.44
			F/O	G.J. Johnston	J29667	"		"	12.5.44
			F/O	T.A. Shore	J35611	"		"	12.5.44
			F/O	J.G. Talbot	J28921	"		"	12.5.44
			F/O	G.H. Blachford	J27913	"		"	22.5.44
			F/O	R.K. Carter	J28355	"		"	22.5.44
			F/O	S.W. Lough	J20830	"		"	22.5.44
				POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS					
			F/O	I.O. Gilchrist	171733	posted to		No. 51 Squadron	27.4.44
			W/C	W.F.M. Newman	0983	"		No. 1664 G.U.	9.5.44
			F/O	A.B. Johnston	J18988	"		No. 1666 G.U.	21.5.44
			F/O	C. Kelsay	J85137	"		No. 427 Squadron	22.5.44
			F/O	G.O. Gurney	135630	"		"	22.5.44
			F/O	J.H. Gibbon	169141	"		"	22.5.44
			F/O	T.W.E. Brooking	138892	"		"	22.5.44
			F/O	E.G. Young	168966	"		"	22.5.44
			F/O	W. Conley	J18328	"		No. 1666 G.U.	25.5.44
			F/O	D.M. Harter	J18293	"		No. 1659 G.U.	25.5.44
			F/L	C.W. Higgins	J15695	"		No. 427 Squadron	22.5.44
				POSTINGS SGT - AIRMAN					
			LAC	R. McShane	110288	"		No. 433 Squadron	12.5.44
			LAC	S.J. Seymour	113878	"		No. 433 Squadron	12.5.44
			LAC	D.G. Johnston	1158401	"		No. 144 AFHQ	16.5.44

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OLD RECORD BOOK

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 (RCAF) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT	1944 31st May		<u>POSTINGS OUT - ALBION (Continued)</u>		
			LAG J.M. Hodges R157676 Posted to 8407 S.E. w.e.f. 16.5.44		
			Sgt. E.F. Robinson R138108 " No. 427 Squadron " 14.5.44		
			Sgt. J. Kay R102426 " No. 1666 C.U. " 13.5.44		
			LAG B. Barnatt R115056 " HFGO (HB) No. 1 FEG " 20.5.44		
			LAG D.M. Hart R151642 " " " 20.5.44		
			LAG G.A. Jeffreys R131109 " " " 20.5.44		
			LAG E. Howard R220822 " " " 20.5.44		
			LAG E. Brown R146879 " " " 20.5.44		
			Sgt. J. Cornick R64200 " " " 20.5.44		
			LAG E.F. Baker R266603 " RCAF O/S HQS " 28.4.44		
			Sgt. E. Myers 986356 " No. 51 Squadron " 27.4.44		
			Sgt. W.W. Siskerton 1313198 " " " 27.4.44		
			Sgt. L.F. Bolph 1399199 " " " 27.4.44		
			Sgt. J.A. Wise 1576348 " " " 27.4.44		
			Sgt. H.A. Bahadur Singh 1800011 " " " 27.4.44		
			Sgt. W.A. Wright 1796396 " No. 63 Base " 6.5.44		
			LAG O.E.V. Howard 2086098 " No. 3078 S.E. " 3.3.44		
			<u>POSTINGS IN - ALBION</u>		
			Sgt. D.A. Glyns 1031744 Posted from No. 405 Squadron w.e.f. 1.5.44		
			Sgt. F.G. Bambury 1833567 " " " 1.5.44		
			Sgt. E. Leoney 1684130 " 61 Base " 26.4.44		
			Sgt. E.J. Good 985611 " 61 Base " 30.4.44		
			Sgt. W.E. Desborough 1862158 " 61 Base " 30.4.44		
			Sgt. J.R. Stanier 1819456 " 61 Base " 30.4.44		
			Sgt. E. Hoodham 1819810 " 61 Base " 12.5.44		
			Sgt. G.O. Newton 1894145 " 61 Base " 12.5.44		
			Sgt. G.G. Blue 1606788 " 61 Base " 12.5.44		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944 51st May		POSTINGS IN - AIRMAN (Continued)		
			Sgt. W.A. King 1891456 61 Base	w.o.f.	16.5.44
			Sgt. J. Kennedy 1796561 61 Base	"	23.5.44
			Sgt. F.G. Lewis 1886155 405 Squadron	"	1.5.44
			Sgt. E. W. Carefoot 1192770 "	"	1.5.44
			Sgt. J.A. Loggalt 1109984 419 Squadron	"	5.5.44
			Sgt. W.G. Sorel 1184399 61 Base	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. W.W. Pluniger 1196129 61 Base	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. R.A. Leman 1202619 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. R.J. Baler 1205639 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. H.S. Jersey 1212693 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. J.B. Trout 1227004 "	"	30.4.44
			WO2 J.H. Lyne 1107429 "	"	30.4.44
			WO2 A. Johnston 1132130 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. A.G. Cleary 123649 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. G.R. Fralick 1119311 "	"	30.4.44
			F/S J.K. Meyer 1154130 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. A.R. Carlisle 1193136 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. G.H. Browning 1225026 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. H.C. McVicar 1225077 "	"	30.4.44
			Sgt. E.H. Miller 1209064 No. 434 Squadron	"	4.5.44
			Sgt. R.J. Miller 1223565 "	"	4.5.44
			WO2 C.D. Freeman 1157649 No. 424 Squadron	"	6.5.44
			Sgt. M. Harris 1192633 "	"	6.5.44
			Sgt. E.J. Parr 1194123 "	"	6.5.44
			WO2 G.W. Roche 183411 No. 424 Squadron	"	12.5.44
			Sgt. E.J. Murray 1191820 61 Base	"	12.5.44
			Sgt. J.E. Williams 1225403 "	"	12.5.44

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1944	31.5.44	POSTINGS - NW - AFBG2 (Continued)		
			Sgt. R.E. Turner R179523 61 Base	w.o.f.	12.5.44
			Sgt. F.J. Clay R187051	"	12.5.44
			Sgt. T.C. Milne R193308	"	12.5.44
			Sgt. J.L. Ballantine R197162	"	12.5.44
			Sgt. J.G. Wilson R208761	"	12.5.44
			Sgt. J. Mc Tirby R257170	"	12.5.44
			AC1 C.A. Shewell R274814	144 AFBG2	16.5.44
			LAC R.T. Schiefte R170262	3 FPD	17.5.44
			LAC R.J. Scott R215012	"	17.5.44
			AC1 R.J. Porter R218883	"	17.5.44
			LAC N. Palmer R172733	"	17.5.44
			AC1 J.R. Morris R216549	"	17.5.44
			AC1 H.G. Oslon R267564	"	17.5.44
			LAC G.E. Yake R262291	"	17.5.44
			LAC J.R. Fitzkerley R223184	"	17.5.44
			LAC F. Swanson R20698	"	17.5.44
			AC1 P.B. Oulahan R266273	"	17.5.44
			Opl. F.J. Cox R14522	"	17.5.44
			LAC W.J. Ashbridge R265300	"	17.5.44
			AC2 G.T. Kehuma R266599	"	17.5.44
			AC2 B.T. MacDonald R270896	"	17.5.44
			LAC R.C. Garner R271052	"	17.5.44
			LAC W.M. McLean R265301	"	17.5.44
			LAC J.D. Knobloch R270882	"	17.5.44
			LAC H.D. Mitchell R270903	"	17.5.44
			Sgt. D.G. Brittain R208796	No. 419 Squadron	19.5.44
			Sgt. S. Tollefaen R100568	No. 1666 C.U.	13.5.44

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events			SECRET.	References to Appendices		
CROFT	31.5.44		<u>POSTINGS - IN - AIRCFT (Continued)</u>						
			Sgt. T. Masdin	R193919	61 Base	W.o.F.	22.5.44		
			Sgt. D.H. Hattey	R112861	"	"	22.5.44		
			Sgt. E. Gould	R207941	"	"	22.5.44		
			Sgt. G.R. Baumann	R117319	"	"	22.5.44		
			Sgt. G. Sidebottom	R172863	"	"	29.5.44		
			Sgt. J.A. Smith	R174422	"	"	29.5.44		
			Sgt. G.L. Cuffe	R251894	"	"	29.5.44		
			Sgt. W.P. Windsor	R260119	"	"	29.5.44		
			<u>CASUALTIES</u>						
			F/O W.H. Wilson	J20701	Missing	"	9.5.44		
			W/O2 W.J. MacStocker	R129455	"	"	9.5.44		
			F/O K.T. Schibert	J28239	"	"	9.5.44		
			W/O2 A.M. Casey	R115376	"	"	9.5.44		
			Sgt. E. Walker	181214	"	"	9.5.44		
			Sgt. G. Bull	R161963	"	"	9.5.44		
			Sgt. H.T. Lee	1195787	"	"	9.5.44		
			F/L R.F. Wood	J7760	"	"	9.5.44		
			F/S D.C. Crosthwaite	ADSA25128	"	"	9.5.44		
			F/O L.C. Webbely	J216 10	"	"	9.5.44		
			F/O A.R. Girolami	J12046	"	"	9.5.44		
			Sgt. J.A. Ouiset	R177225	"	"	9.5.44		
			Sgt. J.V. Gravel	R224443	"	"	9.5.44		
			Sgt. D.V. Guttridge	R867802	"	"	9.5.44		
			WO2 J. Campbell	R112240	"	"	12.5.44		
			WO2 C.S. Barzeels	R128361	"	"	12.5.44		
			F/O S.M. Preston	J25123	"	"	12.5.44		
			WO2 A. Laturus	R163628	"	"	12.5.44		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 431 Squadron.

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CRUPT	19 4 44 31st May		CASUALTIES (Continued)		
			Sgt R.D. Emsay R207928 Missing w.o.f. 12.5.44		
			Sgt A.E. Yarrington R197267 " " 12.5.44		
			Sgt J.D. McPherson R323549 " " 12.5.44		
			APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS		
			F/O J.T.H. Beech 174567 Commissioned " 14.5.44		
			F/O T. Clements J85737 " " 10.4.44		
			F/O J.K. Gustafson J89308 " " 10.4.44		
			F/O J.B. Miller G85727 " " 12.5.44		
			F/O R.A. Reed J85809 " " 10.4.44		
			F/O A.R. Johnston J18988 Promoted to Flying Officer " 19.2.44		
			F/O R.P. Rubie 159564 " " 15.4.44		
			F/L J.K.F. Macdonald G890 Promoted to Squadron Leader " 1.12.42		
			HONOURS AND AWARDS		
			S/L C.W. Higgins J15895 Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross		
			OPERATIONAL SORTIES FOR MAY - 93		
			FLYING TIMES FOR MAY - Operational - 373:03 hours		
			Non-Operational - 503:45 hours		
			TONS (2240) OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING PERIOD		
			From 1.1.44 to 30.4.44 inclusive		
				H.E. M.C.+ G.P. Mines Incendiaries	
				38 621 123 33 182	
			TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING MAY		
				35 145 - -	
			TOTAL TO DATE		
				38 656 268 33 182	
			NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT		
			Total number of aircraft destroyed during the month of May - Nil		
			Total number of aircraft probably destroyed during month of May - Nil		
			Total number of aircraft damaged during month of May - 3		
			NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE - Halifax Mk III - 21		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GHOFI	1944	31st May	<p>CHANGES IN COMMAND - J4893 W/C H.R. Dow assumed command of the Squadron 9.5.44</p> <p>CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION - Nil</p> <p>SQUADRON COMMANDERS RESUME</p> <p>There were many changes in personnel during the month, the most interesting one being the screening of Wing Commander W.P.M. Newton DFC, who was posted to Dishforth as C.I. He was a very popular, efficient Squadron Commander, who had put in a long tough tour. During the month Adjutants were posted and reposted in great quantity. Added impetus was given to training during the month, the results of which were encouraging, both in hours flown and the number of exercises completed, despite the inclement weather, which lasted for almost a week. There is a good deal of fresh blood in the Squadron and we are doing our best to keep up it's fine record for the past.</p>		
			<p style="text-align: right;"><i>H.R. Dow</i> W/C</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(H.R. Dow) W/C,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Wing Commander, Commanding,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No. 431 (ECAP) Squadron.</p>		

FORM 100 (REV. 12/43)

ORIGINAL RECORD BOOK

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