

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

128

No. of pages used for day

Page No. 350

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Craft	1944	1st Nov.	Our first Lancaster operation, today. Ten aircraft detailed for a raid on Oberhausen. One crew, with J.86186 P/O D.D. Connor (Pilot) (CAN) (30 trips, 145.38 op'l. Hrs.) as captain failed to return. The other crews reported the presence of light flak and some jet propelled fighters. It was felt that it was a good prang, if the markers were on. Training carried on by 'A' Flight, who will be ready for operations, soon.		
		2nd Nov.	Eight aircraft (Lancasters) successfully raided Dusseldorf. All returned safely. The crews reported no cloud over target. Red and green T.I.'s were bombed and a good concentration of fires was observed.		
		3rd Nov.	Information received that 1624047 SGT. C.E. Eastwood (WAC) (RAF) and 1306542 SGT R.C.H. Hall (P/N) (RAF), who went missing on a raid on Hamburg, July 28/29th, 1944, are now Prisoners of War. No operations, today. Training carried out, all day, and four aircraft took part on a Bulls-eye, at night.		
		4th Nov.	Very cool, in the morning. A high wind, 30 - 40 m.p.h., blew up in the afternoon and evening, the temperature moderating to being almost balmy. Lots of training and nine aircraft took off on a raid to Bochum, in the evening. All arrived back safely, in this country. Contrary to Met. forecasts, there were no clouds over the target and, despite the presence of light flak, and enemy fighters, the target was well pranged. Red and green T.I.'s being easily identified, many large explosions were seen.		
		5th Nov.	No operations, today or tonight. Training carried out, during the day and the Squadron was detailed for an early morning raid for 6th Nov., 1944. J.86353 P/O D.W. Gourelay (A/N) (CAN) screened from further operations, after thirty-six trips.		
		6th Nov.	Information received that J.85611 A/P/O T.A. Shore (Pilot) (CAN), who was recently screened, has been awarded an Immediate Distinguished Flying Cross, for his expert ability in bringing his aircraft safely back to England, from a raid to Dortmund, when his aircraft was severely damaged by flak. Eight aircraft detailed for operations against Gelsenkirchen. All returned safely.		
		7th Nov.	J.85976 P/O T.A. Rhodes (Pilot) (CAN), J.35236 P/O J.E. Poste (WAC) (CAN), R.156757 P/N J.N. Wearthur (A/N) (CAN), R.190348 P/N T.W.R. Kerr (WAC) (CAN), R.205176 P/N A.J. Evans (A/N) (CAN)		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	19 & 20 Nov.		R.111894 Sgt. W.J. Allen (A/C) (CAN) and R.132473 Sgt. G.W. Janson (P/W) (CAN) all screened from Operations, after an exiting tour. No operations, today. Limited training, only, due to "Croft" weather.		
	20th Nov.		Quiet day -- training, only. A call for Operations came through, but effort was scrubbed shortly after.		
	29th Nov.		Word received that J.86432 P/O J.D. Bates (A/C) (CAN), J.86760 P/O S.J. Vernon (A/C) (CAN), J.86433 P/O L.G. Howell (WAC) (CAN), R.160454 P/S E.H. Cutler (A/B) (CAN), J.22593 P/O J.H. Cunningham (WAC) (CAN), J.86401 P/O J. Howell (Pilot) (CAN) and J.12683 P/O J.A. Houston (WAC) (CAN), J.23901 P/O R.J. Kee (A/B) (CAN), J.36019 P/O D.A.G. McKerry (A/C) (CAN) and J.23299 P/O M. Sonshine (Pilot) (CAN), who went missing on a raid to Leipzig, Feb. 19th, 1944, are now presumed dead. No Operations, today -- training, only.		
	10th Nov.		Information received that 1710329 Sgt. Rawlinson, O.J. (P/W) (RAF) and 1874043 Sgt. Twitchett, A.C. (P/W) (RAF), who went missing 20th Feb, 1944, on a raid to Leipzig, are now presumed dead. Lancaster training carried on -- no operations. Nine aircraft detailed for an early morning raid, 11th Nov., 1944. However, the raid was later postponed.		
	11th Nov.		No operations and only limited training carried out. Most of the afternoon was devoted to taking pictures for the press. Our unofficial mascot, 'Minnie Simcoe', was much in evidence. Supported by the girls from the R.C.A.F. "Blackouts" show and our attractive Nursing Sister, Louise Dawson, suitable pictures were obtained, we hope, for the Canadian Press. Though worth the price of admission alone, was the sight of W/C E.M. Mitchell in headress, feathers and all, posing in an appropriate setting as chief of the Iroquois.		
	12th Nov.		No operations, limited training carried out, weather very poor.		
	13th Nov.		No operations - Bombing exercises carried out during the day. Word received that R.192879 Sgt. C.D. McPherson (A/C) (CAN), who went missing June 16/17, on a raid to Sterkrade, is now presumed dead and that R.198550 P/S W.A. Youngs (A/C) (CAN), who went missing July 18/19 on a raid to Paris is also presumed dead.		
	13th Nov.		No Ops. -- no training -- no nothing, just rain.		
	14th Nov.		No nothing of anything, today.		

W. 5764/CHEN 12/48 C.S.L. 81-798

OBSERVING RECORD BOOK

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944	16th Nov.	Fifteen aircraft carried out a raid on JULICH. All returned safely to this country. The crews identified the target by red T.I.'s and visually. Large explosions and small fires were observed. It was generally considered a good raid.		
		17th Nov.	Stand-by for Operations, all day -- nothing else doing. Information received that J.27507 P/O G.H. Armstrong (WAC) (CAN), who went missing 3/4th December, 1943, on a raid on Leipzig, is now presumed dead.		
		18th Nov.	Fourteen aircraft carried out a successful raid on MÜNSTER. Some of the aircraft were diverted, upon return.		
		19th Nov.	The following were screened from further Operations, today: - J.27672 P/L M.D. Chisholm (Pilot) (CAN), J.87034 P/O H.J. McMenly (Nav.) (CAN), C.87700 P/O A.L. Dignard (A/C) (CAN), C.88210 P/O R.M. Black (P/W) (CAN) and J.87579 P/O J.F. Magnusson (A/B) (CAN). Two new crews reported in, today, from Dishforth, for Operational duties. The Squadron was called for Operations, but the raid was scrubbed at briefing time. R.108160 Sgt. J.M. Campbell (A/C) (CAN), who went missing 1st Nov., 1944, on a raid to Oberhausen, contacted the Unit by telephone, having been flown back to England.		
		20th Nov.	Word received that 1600459 Sgt. R.L. Bates (WAC) (RAF) and 1683577 Sgt. E.R. Metcalfe (P/W) (RAF), who went missing on a mining operation in Kiel Bay 25/26th Feb., 1944, are now presumed dead. No Operations, today.		
		21st Nov.	Sixteen aircraft carried out a successful raid on CASTROP-RAUXEL. All returned safely. The weather was clear and the raid was considered a success.		
		22nd Nov.	Fifteen aircraft detailed for a night raid. However, Operations were cancelled before briefing.		
		23rd Nov.	Operations again called for the Squadron and later scrubbed. J.88222 P/O D.L. Cignac (A/C) (CAN) and 183431 P/O M.G. Clue (P/W) (RAF) both screened, today, from further Operations, on completion of a successful tour.		
		24th Nov.	Operations again detailed and again scrubbed before briefing. Word received that 2174894 Sgt. Karrel, G. (A/B) (CAN), who went missing 28/29th July, 1944, on a raid to Hamburg, is now presumed dead.		
		25th Nov.	No Operations, today -- training flights, only.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944				
	26th Nov.		No Operations. Night Cross-countries scheduled, but later cancelled, due to very poor weather.		
	27th Nov.		Seventeen aircraft took off on a raid on NEES. All returned safely to this country, though diverted. This raid marked the return to Operations of J.25826 P/L R.W. Harrison (Pilot) (CAN). P/L Harrison had previously been involved in two crashes and an abandoning. However, gathering about him a new crew, this intrepid pilot once more embarked upon the primary mission of raining blows of destruction upon the enemy.		
	28th Nov.		No Operations, today. Limited training carried out.		
	29th Nov.		Continued training. No Operations.		
	30th Nov.		Information received that 173067 P/O E.A. Parker (A/C) (RAF), who went missing July 25th, 1944, on a raid to Stuttgart, is now presumed to have been killed. Seventeen aircraft took off on a raid to DUISBURG. There was one early return and one aircraft landed away from Base, due to mechanical trouble. All aircraft returned safely. Cloud over the target necessitated sky markings, so the results of the raid were not immediately discernible.		
PRESSENT STRENGTH OF SQUADRON					
Officers					
		Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total	
R.C.A.F.		134	2	136	
R.A.F.		21	-	21	
Total		155	2	157	
Airmen					
		Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total	
R.C.A.F.		87	-	87	
R.A.F.		21	-	21	
Total		108	-	108	
POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS					
P/O	P.J. Hurley	J.25426	Posted from No. 61 Base	w.a.f.	24-10-44

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Croft	1944 30th Nov.		<u>POSTINGS IN - OFFICERS</u>					
			P/O	M. Hartog	J.43430	Posted from No. 61 Base	w.e.f.	24-10-44.
			P/O	F.R. Alty	J.38392	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	J.J. Casey	J.43953	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	P.B. Dennison	J.44151	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	K.J. Taylor	J.38388	" " No. 64 Base	"	21-10-44.
			P/O	H. Zellen	J.27147	" " " " "	"	2-11-44.
			P/O	F.G. McGee	J.35683	" " No. 61 Base	"	29-10-44.
			P/O	R.S. McGee	J.39322	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	D.E. Trimble	J.89172	" " No. 76 Base	"	19-11-44.
			P/O	F.O. Mayer	J.39258	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	C.E. Heaven	J.89186	" " " " "	"	"
			P/L	B.M. Adilman	J.6390	" " " " "	"	23-11-44.
			P/O	G.R. Poole	J.16930	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	F.J. Nickerson	J.18427	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	T. Moquitty	J.85341	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	W.G. Gillissie	J.86774	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	A.W. Staves	J.36776	" " " " "	"	"
			<u>POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS</u>					
			P/O	J.A. Stanier	185450	Posted to A.C.A.C.	w.e.f.	31-10-44.
			P/O	F.N. Butterfield	J.29844	" " No. 64 Base	"	29-10-44.
			P/O	N.G. MacLeod	J.25178	" " No. 1666 J.U.	"	22-10-44.
			P/O	J.K. Meyer	J.87991	" " HQAF c/s H.Q.	"	6-11-44.
			P/O (A/P/L)	H.O. McVicar	J.3703	" " HQAF 'R' Depot	"	3-11-44.
			P/O	C.B. Freeman	J.87400	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	C.H. Browning	C.87963	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	J. Coates	J.87805	" " " " "	"	"
			P/O	A.R.G. Carlisle	J.88451	" " " " "	"	"

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events					SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944 30th Nov.		POSTINGS OUT - OFFICERS (Contd).						
			P/O	T.A. Shore	J.85611	Posted to	RCAP 'R' Depot	w.e.f.	3-11-44.
			P/O	J.A. Bruce	O.86244	" "	" "	" "	" "
			P/O	L.N. Laing	J.26053	" "	No. 405 Sqn.	" "	8-11-44.
			P/O	I.W. Benter	J.35906	" "	" "	" "	" "
			P/O	D.G. Smith	J.35778	" "	" "	" "	" "
			P/O	R.M. Hyde	J.40210	" "	" "	" "	" "
			P/O	J.S. Patterson	J.37053	" "	No. 76 Base	" "	20-11-44.
			P/O	T. Clements	J.85737	" "	No. 1666 C.U.	" "	17-11-44.
			P/O	J. Mollroy	J.90125	" "	RCAP 'R' Depot	" "	14-11-44.
			P/O	D.H. Ayres	J.87013	" "	" "	" "	" "
			P/O	M.G.C. Grant	J.87117	" "	" "	" "	" "
			P/O	D.C.J. MacDougall	J.21643	" "	" "	" "	4-11-44.
			P/O	H.E. Turner	J.87497	" "	No. 1666 C.U.	" "	24-11-44.
			P/O	C.V. Carl	O.88381	" "	No. 24 O.T.U.	" "	27-11-44.
			POSTINGS IN - ALIENS (AIRBORNE)						
			Sgt.	Dorey, A.	R.209928	Posted from No. 61 Base	w.e.f.		24-10-44.
			Sgt.	Dawe, W.C.	R.209377	" "	" "	" "	29-10-44.
			Sgt.	MacDonald, D.A.	R.219062	" "	" "	" "	" "
			Sgt.	Madan, G.A.	R.187341	" "	" "	" "	" "
			Sgt.	Fewster, R.F.	R.209554	" "	" "	" "	" "
			Sgt.	Caye, H.L.	R.213622	" "	" "	" "	" "
			Sgt.	Myers, A.J.	R.183583	" "	No. 76 Base	" "	19-11-44.
			P/S	Paul, G.I.	R.171677	" "	" "	" "	" "
			Sgt.	Grankag, B.	R.197827	" "	" "	" "	" "
			P/S	Repsay, P.	R.179406	" "	" "	" "	" "
			Sgt.	Rowe, D.E.	R.66024	" "	" "	" "	" "
			Sgt.	McGaw, P.V.	R.191240	" "	" "	" "	" "

W. 12/10/44

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Crefot	1944	30th Nov.	POSTINGS IN - ALMON (ALMONS)		
			Sgt. Holmslund, W.M. R.182767 Posted from No. 76 Base w.e.f. 19-11-44		
			Sgt. Wright, E.W. R.210485 " " " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Beluk, R. R.193385 " " " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Kuohma, W. R.269967 " " " " " " " "		
			Sgt. McDonald, D. R.169396 " " " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Harner, L.J. 1893245 " " No. 61 Base " 24-10-44		
			Sgt. Kilbourn, J.D. 1570070 " " No. 64 Base " 9-11-44		
			Sgt. Atwell, T.E. 1902643 " " No. 76 Base " 23-11-44		
			Sgt. Walby, J. 1868354 " " No. 64 Base " 25-11-44		
			POSTINGS OUT - (ALMONS)		
			Sgt. Needham, E. 1819810 Posted to A.C.A.C. w.e.f. 6-11-44		
			Sgt. Morris, R. 3020201 " " No. 405 Sqn. " 8-11-44		
			Sgt. Kenny, R.A. 1600304 " " No. 76 Base " 20-11-44		
			P/S Marsh, F.J. R.266317 " " No. 405 Sqn. " 8-11-44		
			P/S GRAB, J.R. R.217630 " " " " " " " "		
			P/S Wipp, H.R. R.201039 " " No. 76 Base " 20-11-44		
			P/S Murphy, S.W. R.258282 " " " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Fralick, G.E. R.119311 " " No. 64 Base " 17-9-44		
			P/S Wilson, J.G. R.208761 " " RCAF 'R' Depot " 14-11-44		
			CASUALTIES		
			P/O (A/R/O) D.D. Connor J.36186 Missing w.e.f. 1-11-44		
			P/O J.R. Ogg J.89480 " " " " " "		
			P/O J.T. Patterson J.90166 " " " " " "		
			P/O R.C. Joiner G.39457 " " " " " "		
			WO1 Loppington, G.W. R.144385 " " " " " "		
			Sgt. Campbell, J.M. R.108160 " " " " " "		
			WO2 Page, R.D. R.188830 " " " " " "		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Croft	1944	30th Nov.	PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS		
			P/O J.W. Dorrell J.89833 Commissioned W.e.f. 15-9-44		
			P/O J.R. Stanier 185450 " " 5-9-44		
			P/O J.T. Patterson J.90166 " " 22-9-44		
			P/O W.R.B. Way J.41352 Promoted to Temp. P/O " 1-8-44		
			P/O W.H. Weitendorf J.89935 Commissioned " 28-8-44		
			P/O J.L. Carveth J.90041 " " 25-9-44		
			P/O R.C. Rickards J.90154 " " 5-9-44		
			P/O D.A. Shepherd J.90167 " " 22-9-44		
			P/O J.A. Yarnall J.90232 " " 23-9-44		
			P/O J.N. Fogarty J.90231 " " 22-9-44		
			P/O J.M. Campbell J.90268 " " 22-9-44		
			P/O R.C. Waddell J.83978 " " 23-8-44		
			P/O A.P. Gower 185490 " " 22-9-44		
			P/O F.W. Jeacock 56148 " " 22-9-44		
			P/O (A/P/L) R.W. Nickles C.41382 Promoted to Temp. P/L " 1-12-43		
			P/O J.W. Armstrong J.90207 Commissioned " 22-9-44		
			P/O J. Mollroy J.90153 " " 5-9-44		
			P/O H. Willigan J.90326 " " 24-9-44		
			P/O W.E. Cornell J.90498 " " 24-9-44		
			P/O H.H. Gotfrid J.90776 " " 2-10-44		
			P/O H.B. Liphardt J.90789 " " 16-10-44		
			P/O G. Supergis J.90611 " " 24-9-44		
			P/O H.W. Larsen 186242 " " 23-9-44		
			P/O J.N. MacDonald 178091 Promoted to Temp. P/O " 18-10-44		
			P/O G.L. Thomas 178227 Promoted to War Sub. P/O " 30-9-44		
			P/O C.M. McInroy J.90897 Commissioned " 16-10-44		
			P/O J.J. Gasey J.43953 Promoted to Temp. P/O " 7-10-44		

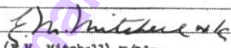
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Craft	1944	30th Nov.	PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (Contd).		
			P/O P.R. Dennison J.44151 Promoted to Temp. P/O w.e.f. 7-10-44		
			P/O J.C. Henry J.14687 " " " P/L " 9-10-44		
			P/O R.E. Tonnelier J.22716 " " " " " "		
			P/O (A/R/L) P.E. Guillerin G.24443 " " " " " 5-5-44		
			REMOVALS AND AWARDS		
			P/O J.R. Lemoureux J.86569 Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross		
			P/O I.H. Black 176496 " " " " " "		
			P/O C.E. Young 171504 " " " " " "		
			P/O C.M. Gilmore 136910 " " " " " "		
			P/O L. Kier 177393 " " " " " "		
			P/O A. Barnes 173123 " " " " " "		
			P/O J. R. Dixon 176485 " " " " " "		
			P/O J.C. Leubert J.86570 " " " " " "		
			P/O G.E. Collins 168976 " " " " " "		
			P/O E.T. Beech 174567 " " " " " "		
			P/O J.D. Fotherston J.85181 " " " " " "		
			P/S F.D. Pym 1320555 Awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal.		
			OPERATIONAL SORTIES FOR NOVEMBER = 114		
			FLYING TIMES FOR NOVEMBER - DAY NIGHT		
			Operational 205.57 164.39		
			Non-Operational 269.20 125.17		
			SUM OF BOMBS (2240) DROPPED DURING PERIOD		
			From 1-1-44 to 31-10-44, inclusive		
			96 1174 2133 33 266		
			SUM OF BOMBS DROPPED DURING NOVEMBER		
			175 2246 2186 - 55		
			TOTAL TO DATE		
			271 2242 2152 33 321		
			NUMBER OF COMBATS WITH ENEMY AIRCRAFT = 2		
			Total number of enemy aircraft destroyed during the month of November - Nil.		
			Total number of enemy aircraft probably destroyed during the month of November - Nil.		
			Total number of enemy aircraft damaged during the month of November - Nil.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Craft	1944 50th Nov.		<p><u>NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE - 23</u></p> <p><u>CHANGES IN COMMAND - Nil.</u></p> <p><u>CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION - NIL</u></p> <p><u>SQUADRON COMMANDER'S REVIEW</u></p> <p>Operationally, November was quiet, because of numerous stand-by's and scrubs. It was marked by our first Operations on Lancasters and the middle of the month saw the conversion completed and the Squadron again fully operational. Conversion training helped to boost the month's training total, but, during the latter part of the month, training fell off quite badly. The month was marked by the appearance of 'Mimie Simcoe', our Squadron mascot and, so far, she hasn't missed a trip. All members of the Squadron are very much indebted to our patrons, the Town of Simcoe. To date, they have looked after us very handsomely and, right now, we are getting anxious to tear into those Christmas parcels.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  (E.M. Mitchell) W/Odr., Officer Commanding, NO. 431 (HQAF) Squadron. </p>	

WFL 89-45/04221 DATE 12/83 C. & L. 61-7295

0451741, 1997, 120pp, \$19.95, pb.