

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

3221-432
DAS

of (Unit or Formation) No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON 30905 No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
EASTMOOR	1.11.43.		The weather still very bad. No flying possible. F/Lt. H.G. Phillips (C.6257) Squadron Adjutant returned from leave around 2300 hours.		
EASTMOOR	2.11.43.		No flying to-day on account of adverse weather conditions. Major D.D. Carvick from J.A.C. Branch C.M.H.Q. was a visitor to the Squadron and was shown around by the Squadron Commander W/Odr. W.K. Molloy (4.15275)		
EASTMOOR	3.11.43.		The weather brightened up considerably to-day and advantage was taken of this change for flying. Several of the crews who had completed their conversion were flying during the afternoon.		
EASTMOOR	4.11.43.		No flying to-day owing to bad weather. Bond selling for Canada's 5th war loan is progressing very favourably for the Squadron and an objective of £15000 has been reached. A further objective of £20000 has been set and there is little doubt that this amount will be obtained. This represents £50 for every Canadian on the strength of this Squadron.		
EASTMOOR	5.11.43.		Word has been received to day from Mrs H.W. Kerby in London (wife of W/Odr. H.W. Kerby C.472) that she had been advised through R.C.A.F. Headquarters in London that it had been definitely established that her husband had been killed during operations over Hamburg on July the 29th. W/Odr. H.W. Kerby C.472 was former Squadron Commander of No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron and held a high place in the esteem of all personnel. From a posting notice from No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group Headquarters, S/Ldr. C.B. Sinton O.1491 has been posted to Command of No. 433 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron in process of formation. He is promoted to the rank of W/Odr. w.e.f. 1.11.43.		
EASTMOOR	6.11.43.		The weather being very bright all aircraft that could be flown were kept in the air all day for completion of conversion of crews. These crews practised air to air bombing beginning at 1230hrs. At night beginning at 1800hrs seven crews participated in a "Bullseye" which was completed without any trouble. Around 1700hrs word was received that P/O. Davis and his crew with the exception of his navigator had crashed in the vicinity of Rose Cottage Farm near Warrington. LATER it was found that all were killed. (Attached report from Flying Control Officer.) The numbers of the crew who were killed in the crash are as follows:- J.17308 P/O. Russell Alfred DAVIS. (Pilot) P.124964 P/Sgt. MacDONALD, Alexander, Hugh. (A/B) 1216145 SGT. HURT, Frederick, William. (W/Odr/AG) R.184582 Sgt. LEBWELL, Leonard, Wilfred. (W/Odr) R.168797 Sgt. GREEN, Roy, Leslie. (A/B) 1568420 Sgt. MITCHELL, Robert, Charles. (W/Odr)		DS 649 "E"
EASTMOOR	7.11.43.		The weather conditions fine and all aircraft available are flying. Six aircraft participated in a "Bullseye" and all completed their trips.		
EASTMOOR	8.11.43.		No flying to-day as the weather is too foggy. Rehearsal parade for the inspection by Air Commodore G.M. Molwen M.C. D.F.C. (C.60) on November 11th, everything went better than expected. Bond selling has been completed and the last objective of £20000 has been surpassed by £250.		

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EASTMOOR	9.11.43		No flying to-day. Special lecture for Air Crew on "Evasion" was given to the Aircrew in the morning by W/Lt. R.P. Knash O.2867.		
EASTMOOR	10.11.43		No flying to-day on account of bad weather.		
EASTMOOR	11.11.43		No.432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron, paraded in full strength at 0730 hrs. and were inspected by the Base commander and the Station Commander at 0815hrs. From reports received the appearance of the personnel was considered good. Flying training was carried out, consisting of bombing Air to Air firing and cross country flights. Two cross country flights at night.		
EASTMOOR	12.11.43		Strictly Lancaster Squadron flew to-day as there were no Wellingtons reported on "Q" Form phoned in this afternoon. Flying training for the day consisted of Air to Sea firing, Bombing and cross country flights. The night flying consisted of two cross countries.		
EASTMOOR	13.11.43		Flying training consisted to-day on Bombing exercises, Air to Air firing, Fighter affiliation, and cross countries. No night cross countries nor night flying.		
EASTMOOR	14.11.43		No flying to-day owing to bad weather conditions. First snow of the season. W/Otr. M.M. Smith (O.3183) Engineer Officer for No.62 (BOAP) Base, held a conference on the policies and set up of the new establishment for the servicing Battalion.		
EASTMOOR	15.11.43		No flying to-day owing to bad weather conditions.		
EASTMOOR	16.11.43		Flying training consisted of day cross countries, bombing, fighter affiliation and night cross countries. During the night cross countries R.13334 P/S. Burgess, R.C. and crew got into trouble and attempt to land near Ingham ended in a crash in which R.13334 P/S. Burgess, R.C. Pilot, R.14924 P/S. Mays, Wtr. P/Lt., and 1702067 Sgt. Simmonds, R.C. Flight Engineer were killed. Apparently three engines caught on fire and cut before landing could be effected. A court of inquiry has been formed to investigate the cause of the crash. P/O H.B. Hatfield J.20156 and his crew had a bad experience when three engines cut on their aircraft but they were successful in landing without any serious damage or any injuries. This aircraft landed at Cranfield.		Ds 847 "B"
EASTMOOR	17.11.43		Flying training consisted to-day of day cross countries, fighter affiliation, bombing and air to sea firing. No Night flying.		
EASTMOOR	18.11.43		Flying training for to-day consisted of air to sea firing, bombing and night cross country flights. A Sea Search with four aircraft was carried out. All aircraft took off but two returned early while two completed the search without any results. S/Ldr. T.C. McCall O.7107 Group public relation officer visited the Squadron.		A.495 to A.98
EASTMOOR	19.11.43		Flying training consisted of day cross country, fighter affiliation and "Bullseye" at night. News was received that S/Ldr. G.D. Hess O.6740, P/O W.Lr Beck J.15978, P/O W.O. Beckwith J.6027, and P/O J.R.A. Laberge J.17674 had been awarded the D.F.C. P/O. Laberge and P/O. Beckwith have been posted away from this unit since recommendation had been submitted.		
EASTMOOR	20.11.43		No flying to-day.		
EASTMOOR	21.11.43		No flying to-day.		

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EASTMOOR	22.11.43		Flying training consisted of Day Cross Country Flights, Bombing, Fighter Affiliation, Air to Air Firing and Night Cross Country. A signal received from Air Ministry advised us that W/Cdr. H.W. Kerby C.472, F/O. V.J. Jewell, J.21026, F/O. J. Bennett, J.17158, and F/O. P.S. Murphy, J.16158, according to German information through the International Red Cross were all presumed killed. This crew was reported missing on July 29th.		
EASTMOOR	23.11.43		Operations consisted of a Sea Search in which five aircraft participated. All completed their search without anything special to report. "C" Form given to night was "Operational" which means that No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron is Operational again as from the 24th November, 1943.		A.499 to A.503
EASTMOOR	24.11.43		Another Sea Search to day in which four aircraft participated. No other operations scheduled.		A.504 To A.507
EASTMOOR	25.11.43		Station Commander's inspection parade at 0815hrs. Ten aircraft detailed for Bombing Berlin. After all preparations were made, this detail was cancelled around 2245 hours.		
EASTMOOR	26.11.43		No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron, now adopted by the Town of Leaside in Ontario and known as the Leaside Squadron were really operational to-day. Ten aircraft were detailed for bombing Berlin and led by W/Cdr. W.A. McKay J.15175, all aircraft took off at 1710 to 1715 hours, the first operational trip in Lancaster Aircraft. All aircraft and crews were successful in bombing Berlin and all returned to base. Witnessing the take off were, W/Cdr. C.M. McEwen, W.C. D.F.C. C.60, Base Commander and G/Capt. H.V. Carscallen D.F.C. C.148 Station Commander. Present for interrogation were A/V.M. G.E. Brookes C.B.E. C.42, A.O.C. No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group and G/Capt. W.A. Jones C.135. Photographs of crews before take off and write up about the trip was made by W/O. D.A. MacMillan C.14258 Public Relations Officer.		A.508 To A.517
EASTMOOR	27.11.43		No operations to-day on account of bad weather.		
EASTMOOR	28.11.43		No operations detailed for to day. Crews not yet finished conversion were under flying training as weather permitted.		
EASTMOOR	29.11.43		No operations detailed for to-day.		
EASTMOOR	30.11.43		Ten aircraft detailed for bombing operations. These were cancelled about 45 minutes before the time of take off. F/O. D.A. MacMillan visited the Squadron. W/Cdr. W.A. McKay C.15175 visited Base Headquarters.		
			HONOURS AND AWARDS: W/O. I.C. Beolwith, J.627, - J.17674 F/O. Laberge, J.R.A. J.6720 S/Ldr. G.E. Hess - J.15992 F/O. W.L. Day were awarded the D.F.C. on the 17th Nov. 1943.		
			PROMOTIONS: J.9865 F/Lt. W.W. Strachan was promoted to the rank of A/S/Ldr. w.o.f. 1.11.43. 148833 F/O. R.W. Duncanson was promoted to the rank of A/E/Lt. w.o.f. 25.10.43. (J.9863)		
			CHANGES IN COMMAND: A/S/Ldr. W.W. Strachan assumes command of "A" Flight vice S/Ldr. G.B. Sinton C.1491 posted to No. 433 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.		
			LIBERTY A/E/Lt. R.W. Duncanson assumes appointed Squadron Engineer Leader.		
			J.5036 F/Lt. G.R. Barrett assumes position of Deputy Flight Commander of "A" Flight.		
			CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION: Nil		
			AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE: 23 Lancasters.		