R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 249, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK 25248

Page No. 1

of (Unit or Formation) Headquarters, No. 6 Group.

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			HISTORICAL	
			Under the terms of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Agreement of 1942, Appendix IV, paras. 15, 16 and 17 it was agreed that a Canadian Bomber Group would be formed as soon as there were enough Royal Canadian Air Force Bomber Squadrons in existance to make the Group an economic formation.	
			During the Summer and Autumn of 1942, five Royal Canadian Air Force Bomber Squadrons were concentrated in the northern parts of No. 4 Group, Royal Air Force, i.e. Numbers 405, 408, 419, 420 and 425 Squadrons.	
			ALLERTON HALL, situated in ALLERTON PARK, near KNARESBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE, (Map reference - Sheet 27, 885/784) was finally selected as the site for Canadian Bomber Group Headquarters and work was commenced October 5th, 1942 on necessary changes to the Hall, and also construction of the R.A.F., W.A.A.F. and Communal sites.	
			The opening up party was ordered to arrive October 25th, 1942. (Bomber Command Organisation Circular No. 151, reference BO/S.27478/Org., dated 19th October, 1942).	
			It was decided that the Group was to be operational and the establishment would be WAR/BO/302. Pending the issue of the latter, the Group was to work to that of No. 4 Group, i.e. WAR/BO/211.	
			The Group was to be on the same basis as an Article XV Squadron: the personnel to be formed from Royal Canadian Air Force resources as far as possible. A nucleus Group Headquarters was organised to assemble at R.A.F. Station, LINTON-ON-OUSE/	
Allerton Park, Near Knaresborough, Yorkshire.	25/10/42		Air Vice Marshal G. E. BROOKES, C.B.E., A.D.C. and Squadron Leader G. G. DUNHAM, M.M. visited R.A.F. Station LINTON-ON-OUSE, to see the Officer Commanding, namely Group Captain BRIMLY. Plans were discussed for the accomodation of the Group personnel with Air Vice Marshal BROOKES as Air Officer Commanding and Squadron Leader DUNHAM as Senior Officer i/c Administration.	

/The following

R.C.A.F. Headquarters No. 15 Central Registry

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SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Near Knaresborough, Yorkshire.	25/10/42 Continued		The following were posted for duty: Group Captain G.E. SLEMON (S.A.S.O.), Wing Commander J.E. PARKER D.F.C. (Air Operations 1), Wing Commander T.W. HODGSON (G.S.O.) Squadron Leader C.C. DURHAM M.M. (S.O.A.), Flight Lieutenant H.W. HIGGAR (G.O.) and were double banked at No. 4 Group Headquarters.	
" "	26/10/42		Squadron Leader C.B. GUEST (Equipment), Flying Officer D.G. MILLAR (Sigs. R.D.F.), and Flying Officer W.S. THOMPSON (Equipment) were posted for duty.	
" "	27/10/42		The first personnel of the Group, consisting of 15 N.C.Os. and airmen were posted to R.A.F. Station, LINTON-ON-OUSE.	
" "	28/10/42		The Camp Commandant, Flight Lieutenant H. W. HIGGAR and three N.C.Os. reported, forming the nucleus of Group Headquarters Unit Staff.	
" "	29/10/42		Flying Officer THOMSON was today attached to the Group to indent for Equipment. The following personnel reported for duty - 17 N.C.Os. and Airmen.	
" "	30/10/42		Indents for equipment were sent out. The lack of typewriters was reported to H.Q.R.C.	
" "	31/10/42		The total strength of Group Headquarters on this day was 5 Officers and 31 other ranks.	

(G.E. Brooke) Air Vice Marshal,
Air Officer Commanding,
Headquarters, No. 6 Group.

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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 2340, and War Manual Pt. II. chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) Headquarters No. 6 Group.

Page No. 3.

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Near Knaresborough, Yorkshire.	1/11/42		NIL	
" "	2/11/42		Wing Commander T.V. HODGSON reported to Group Headquarters as C.S.O.	
" "	3/11/42		A visit was paid to Works Area Headquarters by the Camp Commandant. Wing Commander HODGSON of the Signals Section called at 4 Group Headquarters.	
" "	4/11/42		On this date, Headquarters personnel who until now had been at R.A.F. Station, LINTON-ON-OUSE, moved to ALLERTON PARK for daily work, though returning to R.A.F. Station LINTON-ON-OUSE to sleep. A duty watch was started. Further Transport, in the nature of one Hillman Van and one 10 cwt. lorry was received. The erection of Nissen Huts in the grounds of the Hall continued, the intention being to build a communal site, with messes and sleeping quarters, in the grounds nearby the Hall. While this work was in progress, workmen were engaged in the interior of the Hall. Protective screen encasements were in the course of construction around valuable drawings and pictures in the great hall of the building.	
" "	5/11/42		The C.S.O. started visiting all prospective Group main stations. Squadron Leader S.T. DOUGLASS reported for duty as Org. 1.	
" "	6/11/42		Air Vice Marshal BROOKES and the S.O.A. together with Squadron Leader ASHLIN visited ALLERTON HALL. The C.S.O. continued visiting all prospective Group main stations. Squadron Leader C.G. DURHAM promoted to acting rank o. Wing Commander.	
" "	7/11/42		Further transport, one Morris car and one Vauxhall arrived. The Post Office at KNARESBOROUGH was contacted concerning the correct address and after being in touch with the Organisation Officer at H.Q.B.C., the following was decided upon:- "Headquarters No. 6 Group, R.A.F. Station, Allerton Park, Nr. Knaresborough, Yorkshire."	

/The first equipment.....

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Nr. Knaresborough, Yorkshire.	7/11/42 continued		The first equipment for the Hall arrived. The C.S.O. called at H.Q.B.C. An A.C.G.'s Conference was held at 1130 hours at HEVENSON GROVE. Air Vice Marshal BROOKES was present present with Wing Commander DURHAM, Squadron Leader ASHLIN and Squadron Leader GUEST. Progress re equipment indents, fire protection, equipment and demands generally discussed, also progress re postings of personnel.	
" "	8/11/42		Transport running between LINTON and ALLERTON is now fully organised. Construction of disperted sites in the grounds progressing well with two W.A.A.F. Nissen Huts completed and one Airman's Hut nearly ready. The foundations for the messes were practically finished. Squadron Leader A. LAURENT D.F.C. reported for duty as Navigation Officer. Squadron Leader YOUNG (Org.1) 4 Group accompanied by Squadron Leader DOUGLASS visitied ALLERTON PARK.	
" "	9/11/42		Flight Lieutenant D.D. MILLAR reported for duty as Engineering Officer.	
" "	10/11/42		The first supply of tables and furniture was received. The water supply threatened to break down. Squadron Leader SHERMAN reported for duty as Group Training Inspector.	
" "	11/11/42		The water supply was turned off and there was trouble with the heating arrangements. Flight Lieutenant L. WAKELIN reported to this Headquarters for Signals 1 duties. Wing Commander HODGSON visited ALLERTON HALL.	
" "	12/11/42		The C.S.O. continued his visits and work in the Signals Section continued briskly.	
" "	13/11/42		At 1100 hours the heating and plumbing situation became acute, and a bowser of water had to be obtained from LINTON.	

(P2205) Wt.31379—2544 110M 5/45 T.S. 700

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) Headquarters No. 6 Group.

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Nr. Knaresborough, Yorkshire.	14/11/42		ALBOROUGH HALL, a requisitioned property of R.A.F. Station DISHFORTH, situated 6 miles north of ALLERTON PARK, was opened to accomodate airmen posted to this Headquarters. 40 airmen reported for duty this date. Flight Lieutenant M.M. COULL reported for duty as Group Gunnery Officer.	
" "	15/11/42		The trouble with the heating arrangements still continued.	
" "	16/11/42		The trouble with the heating still continued. Flight Lieutenant J. BRITTAIN and Flight Lieutenant A.D. SNOWDEN reported for duty as Bombing Leader and Operations Room Officer respectively.	
" "	17/11/42		Harrogate Fire Department filled the depleted water tank. Work in the Signals Section continued satisfactorily. The following Officers reported for duty and were double banked at No. 4 Group. Flight Lieutenant R. K. NAPIER (Operations), Flight Lieutenant R.G. NETTING (Operations), and Flight Lieutenant R. T. GRIFFIN (Operations). Flight Lieutenant A. WILSON (Personnel Staff) reported for duty and was double banked at No. 5 Group.	
" "	18/11/42		A conference was assembled by order of Air Vice Marshal BROOKES at 1130 hours at this Headquarters. The following Officers were present:- Air Vice Marshal BROOKES, Group Captain SEMMON, Wing Commander BARGER, Wing Commander DURHAM, Wing Commander WALKER, Wing Commander HODGSON, Squadron Leader GURST, Squadron Leader LAMBERT, Squadron Leader SWEYMAN, Flight Lieutenant WAKELIN, and Flight Lieutenant BIGGAR. The purpose of the conference was to determine what problems or deficiences , if any, were impeding progress in the organisation of this Headquarters. The C.S.O. visited this Headquarters with Wing Commander WALKER, the C.S.O. of 4 Group. Progress with G.P.O. and Works was checked, particularly with reference to the signals offices and the installation of telephones. Squadron Leader WHITE reported for duty as Senior Medical Officer and was double banked at No. 4 Group.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Mt. Knareborough, Yorkshire.	19/11/42		Work within the Hall and without continued satisfactorily. Wing Commander HODGSON called in at No. 4 Group and inspected the filing system and general layout of signals equipment. Squadron Leader D.O. SHAW reported for duty as Armament Officer and was double banked at Headquarters No. 4 Group.	
" "	20/11/42		The assistance of Harrogate Fire Service in supplying water was again requested. Wing Commander HODGSON attended a conference of C.S.Os. at Headquarters, Bomber Command. The W/T fitting party arrived from No. 26 Group for work in this Headquarters' W/T Room. The G.P.O. Liaison Officer, MR. COLLINS was called in for discussion regarding the layout of communications and telephones and teleprinters.	
" "	21/11/42		In the Signals Section the training of telephone operators was begun on the new exchange. The W/T fitting party made good progress. Receiver layout and aerial length was discussed and it was decided to add a modified type 8 control to make work neater.	
" "	22/11/42		Flight Lieutenant BRITTAIN of 218 Squadron, Section Officer NIDDL and Flight Officer COTTRILL visited this Headquarters. Further equipment in the nature of stationery and safes arrived. Water pipes were led from the pond and booster loaned to pump water supply. The fitting party with the Signals Section continued to make good progress.	
" "	23/11/42		The laying out of the water supply pipes to the pond was completed. Sergeant ROBINSON teleprinter M.C.O. of No. 4 Group arrived and reviewed the layout in the teleprinter room. Eight more power points were needed in the W/T receiving room. Drawings for boards and desks for signals purposes were forwarded to the Clerk of Works. Flight Lieutenant G.G. COOPER (Operations) reported for duty and was double banked at No. 4 Group.	

(3295) Wt. 54579—3544 1168M 5/42 T.S. 700

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) Headquarters No. 6 Group.

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Nr. Knaresborough, Yorkshire.	24/11/42		The water supply was found to be adequate. In the Signals Section, air publications were received and amendments begun. The G.P.O. Liaison Officer stated that a skeleton service would be available by 30th November. The fitting party in the Signals Section continued to work satisfactorily.	
" "	25/11/42		Visitors were Squadron Leader DAVIDSON, R.C.A.F. Headquarters Works Dept. and Squadron Leader MITCHELL of R.A.F. Station LEEMING. A security guard of one sergeant and five airmen were posted to patrol the front and rear entrances of the Headquarters daily. Tool kits from No. 4 Group arrived at the Signals Section and Pilot Officer G.B. HAMFORD reported for Signal duties from topcliffe.	
" "	26/11/42		N I L	
" "	27/11/42		NIL	
" "	28/11/42		N I L	
" "	29/11/42		The first telephone call was received at 1600 hours, a day earlier than the G.P.O. Liaison Officer had stated.	
" "	30/11/42		The main exchange was opened and the first message was sent from ALLERTON HALL at approximately 1630 hours. Arrangements were made for a telephone in ALDBOROUGH HALL, where W.A.A.F. personnel are accommodated.	

The Strength of Headquarters No. 6 Group as at 2359 hours 30/11/42 was as follows.

	R.C.A.F.	R.A.F.	W.A.A.F.	TOTAL
OFFICERS	13	8	1	22
OTHER RANKS	123	6	NIL	129

(J.E. Brooks) Air Vice Marshal,
Air Officer Commanding,
Headquarters, No. 6 Group.

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R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 249, and War Manual, Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) Headquarters, No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group.

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Near Knaresborough Yorkshire	1-12-42		No. 6 R.C.A.F. Group Communication Flight formed and is located at R.A.F. Station, DISHFORTH.	
			Ten officers, including one W.A.A.F. officer, were on strength at ALLERTON PARK and twelve others were attached for double banking purposes at other Group Headquarters. There were 136 airmen on strength and 8 W.A.A.F. personnel.	
" " "	2-12-42		Thirty seven W.A.A.F. other ranks arrived.	
" " "	3-12-42		Arrangements completed for accommodating a total of 110 W.A.A.F. personnel at ALDBROUGH HALL. A total of one W.A.A.F. officer and 74 airmen moved into ALDBROUGH HALL.	
" " "	4-12-42		Teleprinter channels were on this day available from this Headquarters to No. 4 Group and to Headquarters, Bomber Command.	
			Additions to the strength of this Group, since last quoted, are as follows:- Officers 11, W.A.A.F. Officers 3, Airmen 34, W.A.A.F. other ranks 79	
" " "	5-12-42		Two teleprinter channels were opened to North West Central.	
" " "	6-12-42		The Group Headquarters was visited by Air Vice Marshal W.A. CURTIS, D.S.C., Deputy Air Officer Commanding in Chief, R.C.A.F. Headquarters, LONDON, accompanied by Group Captain R.L. CAMPBELL, Director of Air Staff, and Flight Lieutenant A.H.TINKER, also of R.C.A.F. Headquarters, LONDON.	
" " "	7-12-42		Wing Commander ALLERTON and party arrived from Headquarters, Bomber Command, to inspect land line arrangements and found satisfactory progress was being made with installations.	

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SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Near Knaresborough Yorkshire.	8-12-42		Additions to the strength of this Group, since last quoted, are as follows:- Officers 6, W.A.A.F. Officers NIL, Airmen 12, W.A.A.F. Other ranks 15.	
	9-12-42		The Group Headquarters was visited by Messrs. APSDAILE, SEYMOUR and TROUP civilian officials of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada.	
	10-12-42		NIL	
	11-12-42		Wing Commander T.G. REID, D.F.C., R.A.F., reported on posting to fill position of Group Training Inspector.	
	12-12-42		NIL	
	13-12-42		NIL	
	14-12-42		Hotel cottages near ALNBROUGH HALL were made ready for occupation by additional W.A.A.F. personnel as required.	
	15-12-42		No. 1535 B.A.F. FLIGHT was formed and is located at MIDDLETON-ST.GEORGE. Additions to the strength of this Group, since last quoted, are as follows:- Officers 1, W.A.A.F. Officers 1, Airmen 3, W.A.A.F. other ranks 7	
	16-12-42		NIL	
	17-12-42		Flight Lieutenant L. Wahlin visited NORTON-le-CLAY Transmitting Station to ascertain that the transmitting equipment was ready for use by this Headquarters. No. 4 Group ceased operating this equipment p.m. 16-12-42.	

(2515) Wt. 54379—2544 125M 5/42 T.S. 790

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) Headquarters, No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group.

No. of pages used for day

SECRET.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Near Knaresborough Yorkshire.	17-12-42 (Cont.)		Three teleprinter channels to Headquarters, Bomber Command, and one administration line to No. 4 Group were made available to this Group.	
	18-12-42		Squadron Leader F.G. JEROME, R.C.A.F., reported on posting as Assistant Group Defence Officer.	
	19-12-42		The transmitters at NORTON-le-CLAY have been tested and found satisfactory. Remote control buying was carried out from this Headquarters.	
			Operations Room telephone switchboard now ready for use.	
	20-12-42		All installations complete at the Group transmitting station at NORTON-le-CLAY and the station is now ready for use.	
	21-12-42		Pilot Officer V. POPE, R.A.F. Regiment, reported for duty with Defence Branch. It is to be noted that Pilot Officer POPE is the only officer of Canadian origin in the R.A.F. Regiment having enlisted in the R.A.F. in 1937 as Sports Instructor.	
	22-12-42		Wing Commander S.A. PREMOUX, R.C.A.F., reported on posting to fill position of Group Defence Officer.	
	23-12-42		The Group Headquarters was visited by Air Vice Marshal C.R.CARR, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., Air Officer Commanding No. 4 Group.	
	24-12-42		Acting Ranks were granted to the officers shown on the attached list.	1
	25-12-42		The staff at ALLERTON PARK were given Christmas dinner at 1300 hours and were waited upon by the A.O.C. and the officers on duty. Similar procedure was followed at	

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APPENDIX I.

Date:- 24th December, 1942.

The Air Officer Commanding has authorised the grant of Acting rank in the case of the under-mentioned personnel.

Initials	Name.	No. Type of Commission.	Substantive or Temporary Rank.	Unit	Acting Rank Granted.	Appointment.	Effective Date.
1. J. O.	WHYTE	C.4079 R.C.A.F. S.R.	Squadron Leader	H.Q. 6 Group	Wing Commander	Medical	18.11.42
2. C.	BUTLER	44583 RAF.	Flight Lieutenant	"	Squadron Leader	Personnel Staff	8.1 .42
3. D.D.	MILLAR	C.3576 R.C.A.F. S.R.	Flight Lieutenant	"	Squadron Leader	Engineer	9.11.42
4. D.G.	MILLER	C.6628 R.C.A.F. S.R.	Flying Officer	"	Flight Lieutenant	Signals R.D.F.	8.12.42
5. J.H.	JUSTASON	C.6737 R.C.A.F. S.R.	Flying Officer	"	Flight Lieutenant	Flying Control	1.12.42
6. D.H.	MILLER	C. 8388 R.C.A.F. S.R.	Flying Officer	"	Flight Lieutenant	Flying Control	1.12.42
7. J.	KYLES	C. 8311 R.C.A.F. S.R.	Flying Officer	"	Flight Lieutenant	Flying Control	1.12.42
8. R.W.	NAPIER	72900 R.A.F. V.R.	Flight Lieutenant	"	Squadron Leader	Operations Room	17.11.42

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Allerton Park, Near Knaresborough Yorkshire	25-12-42 (Cont.)		LINTON-on-OUSE where personnel of this Headquarters are quartered.	
	26-12-42		Official posting instructions were received posting Air Vice Marshal G.R. BROOKE, O.B.E., R.C.A.F., as Air Officer Commanding, No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, with effect from 25-12-42.	
" "	27-12-42		The Operations Room finally completed and "Dummy runs" were carried out as training exercises for the staff.	
" "	28-12-42		One W.A.A.F. Sergeant and ten airwomen reported on posting having been incorrectly posted to ARNHEM, currently the location of Headquarters No. 91 Group, which had been previously designated as No. 6 Group. These airwomen are temporarily accommodated at LINTON due to heating difficulties in hotel cottages which had not yet been completed.	
" "	29-12-42		Ten more teleprinter operators (W.A.A.F.) and one component telephone operator reported for duty, bringing strength up to operational status required. "Dummy runs" were continued.	
" "	30-12-42		Acting rank of Flight Officer was granted Section Officer J.M.G. FORTESCUE, with effect from 1-12-42.	
" "			Additions to the strength of this Group, since last quoted, are as follows:- Officers 3; W.A.A.F. Officers 4, Airmen 1, W.A.A.F. other ranks 12.	
" "	31-12-42		The Strength of Headquarters No. 6 Group as at 2359 hours 31-12-42 was as follows:-	

	R.C.A.F.	R.A.F.	W.A.A.F.	TOTAL
OFFICERS	27	20	9	56
OTHER RANKS	122	35	120	277

NOTE:- Squadrons of No. 6 Group not under control of No. 6 Group. Therefore, details of Operational & Training Activities is not given here.

(Signed) A.V.M. BROOKE, Air Vice Marshal, Air Officer Commanding, Headquarters, No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group.

Wt. 25370—2344 110M 9/42 T.S. 700

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