

of (Unit or Formation) 420 (RCAF) Squadron

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thaltheys.	May 1		1. Aircraft took off to bomb the W.T.'s at St. Catharines (M). There were no early returns and all aircraft reached primary. The raid was considered successful. 2. 159908 Sgt Simms, R.N. A/C posted from 1659 Conversion Unit to 420 Squadron w.e.f. 1.5.44. 3. 166138 S/S Mohler, G.J. A/C KIA 2/2 Sgt Decary A/C posted from 433 Squadron to 420 Squadron w.e.f. 25.4.44. 4. 1518706 Sgt Oswald W.W. A/C KIA 25/4. 5. 160091 Sgt Hallinger, J. A/C posted from 76 Squadron to 420 Squadron w.e.f. 1.5.44. 6. 150783 Sgt Hill G.W. A/C posted from 1659 Conversion Unit w.e.f. 1.5.44. Training exercises today.		
	May 3		Stand Down. A Rallye is arranged for tonight. 5 aircraft will take part. 4 aircraft took off at scheduled time. 1 aircraft had to be scrubbed due to Pilot becoming U/S. All aircraft returned safely to base. 8 aircraft took part in a 1/2 hour cross country. 1 aircraft returned early due to A/C w/e and R.N. Company w/e. 6 aircraft completed 1 country and returned to base. 1 aircraft was reported missing. Crew is as follows. J. 85411 P/S P.V. Lapointe, Pilot. K150725 P/S Macdonald, W.C. (A/D). R. 79767 P/S Michie R.W. Nav. RAF 1338154 Sgt Rose, G.W. W/E/A. K117210 Sgt Macdonald, J. W/E/A. RAF1104009 P/S Webster, R. A/C RAF299956 Sgt Kilwood, G. S/S K1195618 Sgt Simms, R.N. W/Ender A/C.		M 2576
	May 4		We have just been informed by signal that J.21569 P/O Rice, R.V. Pilot J.22102 P/O H.L. Allen, R.N. R.107043 W/E Macmillan, G. W/E/A. RAF10086275 2nd Lt Thomas W/E/A. R188869 Sgt J.D. Reine, A/S. R.156791 P/S G.G. Fraser, A/S. and RAF1672950 Sgt P.G. Bushell P/S. who were reported missing on operations March 24/25 are now Prisoners of War, according to the I.R.C.G. quoting German information. The following 2 crews were posted to this unit from 1664 Conversion unit w.e.f. 3.5.44. J.25825 P/O R.M. Aldred Pilot J25342 P/O L.R. West, Nav. R.140382 Sgt R.N. Rogers, W/E. J.26984 P/O F.R. Burville A/C RAF2803145 Sgt P.H. Jones, P/S. R25197 P/O R.N. McLeod, W/E/A. and K122986 Sgt R.W. Robinson, W/E. J.25013 P/O R.N. Jones, Pilot, J26384 P/O R.N. Burton Nav. R198135 Sgt J.W. Yates W/E. J.25257 P/O R.N. Hill, A/S. RAF 220346 Sgt McNeill J.R. P/S. R201065 Sgt D.W. Scott, W/E/A. and K120582 Sgt G.S. Barrett, A/C. J.18895 P/O Deegan, R.G. Pilot "A" Flight Commander and J.16392 P/O F.C.G. Rogers, R.N. Pilot "B" Flight Deputy Flight Commander were interviewed by the Base Commander today. In past report, it was noted that two new recruits had been posted from the 1659 Conversion Unit.		
	May 5		Stand Down. Local exercises (Flying).		
	May 6		12 aircraft were required for operations tonight. All aircraft were bombed up and marshalled for take off. Operations were cancelled due to weather conditions. G.9019 P/L W. Warren A/S. who was attached here for instruction ceased attachment today and is attached to 432 Squadron Bomber for Temp. Instruction duties w.e.f. 6.5.44. Six aircraft returned today. Crews are as follows. J.26095 P/O R.N. McNeill Pilot. J.26913 P/O J.G. Fritz Nav. R.13760 Sgt R.N. Jones P/S. G.25457 P/O W.S. McConnell A/S. RAF13164 Sgt H. Jones P/S. K22452 Sgt P.G. Roach W/E/A. R214769 Sgt C.A. Spence A/C. Despatching unit 1659 Conversion Unit. J.25112 P/O M. Galtier Nav. R.21572 Sgt G.A. Jette A/S. K20776 Sgt D.G. Barrett W/E/A. Despatching unit 1659 Conversion Unit.		

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Thelthorpe	May 7		8 aircraft were required for operations on target ST VALERY IN CANX (FR). All aircraft were bombed up and took off. There were no early returns and photographs indicated they all reached their aiming point. All aircraft returned safely to base. A lecture was given by the C.I.U. on Photography. All aircrew not scheduled for flying were able to attend. Training exercises today.		
	May 8		13 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack HADER ST PAIERE (FR). All reached primary target and returned safely to base. Defences practically nil. J.13117 P/O J.S.M. Ridge War and RAF 15656 P/O J. Styles P/O were posted to 1659 Conversion Unit for instructors duties w.e.f. 8.5.44. J.13075 P/O I.A. Macdonald (A/C) posted to 1661 Conversion Unit for instructors duties w.e.f. 8.5.44. 2 aircraft took off on a cross country flight tonight. RAF 14565 P/O R. Finlay A/C RAF 19665 Sgt Bartley, C.I. A/C and RAF 183658 Sgt Batt, C.I. A/C posted in from 439 Squadron w.e.f. 8.5.44.		
	May 9		12 aircraft were detailed to attack target GAVATE. All were bombed up and took off returning safely to base after primary target had been reached. The concentration was good and many bombs were seen to straddle target. Slight 1/2 only defences. Training exercises and cross country flights were the order of training today. J.13133 P/O J. Jones, P. War/Air appointed to Commissioned rank in the GB Branch RAFVR w.e.f. 14.5.44. RA 17463. C.18100 P/O W.A. Macdonald (Signals Radar) posted to 426 Squadron w.e.f. 14.5.44.		
	May 10		C.19539 P/O R.L. Priestman (Signals Radar) posted to 429 Squadron from 6 Group w.e.f. 15.5.44. J.24321 P/O R.F. Mianille RAF posted from 425 Squadron w.e.f. 14.5.44. 7 aircraft took off and attacked target GAVATE. All aircraft reached primary and returned to base safely, after a successful raid. Training and X country flying today.		
	May 11		Stand Down. RA2370 W/O H.M. J.C. Pilot RA58736 W/O Axford, C. Nav. and RA1019, W/O Anderson, R.B. A/C were interviewed by the Base Commander today re commissioning. Cross country flights and flying training today.		
	May 12		14 aircraft took off and attacked target LOUVAIN tonight. The raid was successful and all aircraft returned to base safely. The Station Commander interviewed several aircrew for commissioning today.		
	May 13		Operations scheduled for tonight were scrubbed. Adverse weather. Some training and lectures today.		
	May 14		Stand Down. X Country tonight and bombing practice took place today.		
	May 15		Stand Down. Adverse weather. Capt. Burton J. (RCCO Barton) attached through HQ to Squadron for 1 week. Leaves visit. No training - lectures only.		
	May 16		Bulleys scheduled for tonight cancelled. Lt. H.M. Mollins in King and party visited station. Weather very poor.		
	May 17		Stand Down. Bombing, fighter attril. and air tests were made today. Adverse weather low cloud.		
	May 18		Stand Down. No flying. Weather adverse.		
	May 19		14 aircraft were bombed up and took off to attack target MERVILLE-FRANCHEVILLE. THIRTEEN aircraft reached primary and the raid was considered successful. The command Bulleys scheduled for to-night was cancelled.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Thelthorpe	May 20		Stand Down. Flying exercises and cross-country flights to-day. The Base Commander interviewed several aircrew lads. R.251739 Sgt Waddell, R.R. A/C. posted from 424 Sqdn. to 420 Sqdn. w.e.f. 19.5.44.		
	May 21		The Squadron stood down to-day. There were air tests and local flying. 10 aircraft took part in a short cross-country before testing the new great circle circuit. G.18980, P/L. G.W. Nevins, P/L. Eng. Leader will proceed to No. 4 S. of T.T. St. Athias for P/L. Eng. Course w.e.f. 24.5.44.		
	May 22		14 Aircraft took off to attack target LE MANS. All aircraft attacked primary target and returned to base, with the exception of one a/c. which was forced to land away at Ford. J26899 P/O D.A. James W/O. J247532 P/L. R.G. Smith W/O. both posted to 434 Sqdn. w.e.f. 22.5.44. R121428 Sgt Corbell, J.C.A. P/Eng, appointed to commissioned rank w.e.f. 30.4.44. J18809 P/L. R.C. Deegan, Pilot; "A" Flight Commander promoted to the rank of Sqdn. Ldr. w.e.f. 2.5.44. J16592 P/O. F.G. Kruger, Pilot, Deputy "B" Flight Commander promoted to the rank of P/Lt. w.e.f. 2.5.44.		
	May 23		Stand Down. Flying exercises all day and night bombing. We had one cross-country. Two crews took part in Dingy drill at Ripon.		
	May 24		Stand Down. We had a full day of training. There were several cross-country flights and 8 crews took part in night bombing. J18020 P/O. A. Handley, W/O. Signals Ldr. departed to No. 62 O.T.U. on a liaison visit for 2 days.		
	May 25		We were called upon to supply 17 A/C for operations to-night, but due to adverse weather the operation was scrubbed. The Squadron Commander lectured to all aircrew in the briefing room on discipline and the necessity of knowing their duties as aircrew. R.204535 Sgt. Barnard, W.S. A/C. posted from 424 Sqdn. w.e.f. 19.5.44.		
	May 26		Stand Down. Flying Exercises; day normal. R148472 P/Sgt. Decary, J.E.R.L. A/C. posted non-effective sick, 20.5.44.		
	May 27		17 Aircraft were detailed to attack target DOUG-LEOPOLD Military Camp. The raid was considered successful. A heavy ground fog prevented all a/c from returning to base and were dispersed over many stations. One aircraft was considered damaged due to enemy fighter opposition. All the crews returned with the exception of R.26593 Sgt. Elsliger, J.A. W/O. who baled out over target area. The A/C was in fire and he was forced out of his turret position by the heat. An order had been given to prepare to ditch aircraft; it was assumed that when the a/c was put into a steep dive to smother the flames which had spread to the wings, that he considered a/c out of control and baled out. It is presumed he was wounded for blood was found on his helmet and mask. The a/c was able to reach dispersal landing field, but was so badly shot up that it was declared Cat. A.C. One A/c failed to return from operations and is presumed missing with "B" Flight Commander C.1744 S/L. G.S. Beall and crew. J29873 P/O. Gray, A. W/O. J.25066 P/O. Everett, J.L. A/C. posted to 420 Sqdn. from 61 Base w.e.f. 27.5.44.		
	May 28		Stand Down. Normal training (flying) & lectures.		
	May 29		Stand Down. Normal training (flying) & lectures.		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Tholthorpe	May 30		Operations scheduled for to-night were cancelled. 2 Crews took part in Dingy Drill at the Spa Baths, Ripon. The following crew reported for duty from 1659 Con. Unit. ref. 29.5.44. J15964 P/O Bennett, C.M. Pilot R148372 Sgt Goodman, L. A/B J29411 P/O Hearn, J.D. Nav. R171436 Sgt Davis, L.J.M.R. WOP/AC R251945 Sgt Johnson, L.W. AG R154189 W02 Gordon, C. M/AG RAF1512461 Sgt. Berry, A. P/E.		
	May 31		14 A/C were bombed up and took off to attack target AU FSVRE "Wireless Station" (FR). All aircraft reached primary and returned safely to base. The raid was considered successful. Normal flying duties to-day. Casualties - Loss of Halifax III MA. 596 Night 3/4 May, 1944. Pilot J.85411 P/O Lapointe, P.J. R156775 W02 Munaghan, R.J.A. A/B R.79767 W02 Morda, R.W. Nav. 1338354 Sgt Bear, G.W. WOP/Air R117810 Sgt MacDougall, J.H. A/C 1104089 P/S Stobbs, W. A/C 939956 Sgt E Kilwood, G. P/E R193618 Sgt Simons, H.E. A/C Loss of Halifax III MA. 502 Night 27/28 May, 1944. G.1344 S/L G.S. Beall Pilot J.20403 P/O R.J. Andrew Nav. J.21589 P/O J.F. Robinson A/B 172310 P/O R.H. Woolley WOP/Air R251858 Sgt Stainton, V.G. A/C 91090 P/O A.F. Goodall A/C R166138 P/S Mohler, O.J. A/C R121244 Sgt Hicker, W. P/E Missing from operations on night 27/28th May, 1944, having abandoned aircraft over target area. R96993 Sgt Kisligan, J.H. A/C Postings In - R.150780 Sgt Hill, G.F. (A/C) from 61 Base ref 1.5.44 R218706 Sgt Ghudak, W.J. (A/C) from 76 Squadron ref 1.5.44 R180651 Sgt Brillinger, J.(A/C) from 76 Squadron ref 1.5.44. The undermoted crews were posted from 61 (RCAF) Base ref 1.5.44 J.25825 P/O R.M. Alfred Pilot J.28214 P/O R.H. West Nav. R101982 Sgt Rogers, M.H. Wop/Air J.77994 P/O L.H. Davill A/B 1893340 Sgt Ware, P.H. P/E R59197 W02 McLeod, J.R.D. M/AG R212586 Sgt Robinson, H.W. AG The undermoted crews were posted from 61 Base w.e.f. 6.5.44 R.26095 P/O M.R. Whittall Pilot J.28913 P/O J.G. Fultz Nav. R134760 Sgt Cox, G.A. Wop/Air J.28487 P/O WAS McConnell A/B 543144 Sgt Jones, R. P/E R224432 Sgt Roach, P.C. M/AG R214769 Sgt Spearing, G.A. AG J.25943 P/O R.H. Jones Pilot J.26234 P/O R.B. Horton Nav. R198133 Sgt Yates, J.F. Wop/Air J27697 P/O F.G. Tilt A/B 2203660 Sgt McGlade, J.H. P/E R204065 Sgt Samson, D.W. M/AG R210562 Sgt Tamuck, G.A. A/C J.85061 P/O J.L. Britt Pilot J.27142 P/O M. Gignat Nav. R123298 Sgt Brown, J.C. Wop/Air R171572 Sgt Jette, G.A. A/B 1589080 Sgt Ramsbottom, G. P/E R207756 Sgt Barrett, G.D. M/AG R190664 Sgt Bridle, W. A/C		

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			<u>Postings in - Contd.</u>		
			145465 P/O D. Finlay (A/C) from 425 Squadron w.e.f. 8.5.44		
			R196653 Sgt Hartley, G.R. (A/C) "		
			1856546 Sgt Bett, G.S. (A/C) "		
			J. 24924 P/O R.F. Nicolls (Nav) from 435 Squadron w.e.f. 10.5.44		
			1714995 Sgt Pine, J. (P/E) from 62 Base R.E. Sisk w.e.f. 5.5.44		
			<u>The undernoted crews were posted from 61 (RCAP) Base w.e.f. 9.5.44.</u>		
			J. 22340 P/O K.R. Kidd Pilot	G28055 P/O T.M. Ainslie Pilot	
			R156207 Sgt Battick, W. Nav.	J. 28844 P/O J.G. Oulligan Nav.	
			R97334 WO2 Morrison, A.G.A. Wop/Air	R92107 WO1 Fuller, F.M. Wop/Air	
			J28352 P/O K.G. Laframier A/B	J98937 P/O R.H. Davidson A/B	
			G85344 Sgt Ingley, D.J. P/E	189256 Sgt Gibbs, G.F. P/E	
			1819390 Sgt Lowe, S. A/C	J. 13389 P/O P.H. Shields, A/C	
			R163029 Sgt Peterson, R.W. A/C	J. 23375 P/O W.H. Middleton A/C	
			R204853 Sgt Barnard, W.S. (A/C) from 421 Squadron w.e.f. 19.5.44		
			R251739 Sgt Waddell, R.E. (A/C) from 421 Squadron w.e.f. 19.5.44		
			J. 19873 P/O A. Gray, (WOP/AC) from 61 Base, RCAP w.e.f. 27.5.44		
			R325066 P/O J.R. Everett (A/B) from 61 Base, RCAP w.e.f. 27.5.44		
			<u>The following crew was posted from 61 (RCAP) Base w.e.f. 29.5.44</u>		
			J15964 P/O G.K. Bennett Pilot		
			J. 29411 P/O J.O. Meers Nav.		
			R171426 Sgt Davis, L.J.F. Wop/Air		
			R148572 Sgt Goodman, L. A/B		
			1512461 Sgt Berry, A. P/E		
			R154387 WO2 Gordon, G.R. A/C		
			R251945 Sgt Johnson, L.W. A/C		
			<u>PROMOTIONS</u>		
			J. 16392 P/O F.C. Kruger DMM - Appointed Acting Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 9.5.44 - Deputy Flight Comdr.		
			J. 18982 P/O (A/R/L) R.G. Dargan - Appointed Acting Squadron Leader w.e.f. 9.5.44 - Flight Commander		
			J. 10861 P/O R.H. Trickett - Promoted T/Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 27.5.44.		
			<u>COMMISSIONS</u>		
			R122455 WO1 Vamber, W. - commissioned w.e.f. 16.12.43 - now missing A/B		
			J40438 WO2 Ritchie, G.A. - commissioned w.e.f. 15.3.44 - now missing Nav.		
			R121120 Sgt Corbett, J.A. - commissioned w.e.f. 30.4.44 - now missing P/E		
			1576743 P/S Idema, G.H. - commissioned w.e.f. 4.4.44 - now missing WOP/Air		
			1313334 P/S James, R. - commissioned w.e.f. 24.2.44 - now missing WOP/Air		
			1433914 P/S Wheelhouse, C.J. commissioned w.e.f. 19.4.44 - now missing WOP/Air		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																														
			<u>STRENGTH</u>																																
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>ABOARD</u></td> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers</td> <td>73</td> <td><u>GROUND CREW</u></td> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>R.C.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>113</td> <td></td> <td>R.C.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>258</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>R.A.F. Officers</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>R.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>R.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>53</td> <td></td> <td>W.A.A.F.</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>R.A.F. Airmen</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>ABOARD</u>	R.C.A.F. Officers	73	<u>GROUND CREW</u>	R.C.A.F. Officers	2		R.C.A.F. Airmen	113		R.C.A.F. Airmen	258		R.A.F. Officers	5		R.A.F. Airmen	4		R.A.F. Airmen	53		W.A.A.F.	7		R.A.F. Airmen	1					
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			<u>SHORT RESUME BY SQUADRON COMMANDER PERSONALLY -</u>																																
			<p>The activities of the Squadron during the month of May were quite satisfactory. We took part in 9 raids over France; with a loss of 1 crew and 1 Air Gunner who baled out over the target.</p> <p>One aircraft badly shot up due to enemy fighter opposition when we attacked the Military Camp at Bourg-Leopold. The way in which the pilot and crew were able to fight the fire, bring down the fighter and return to a home base is quite commendable.</p> <p>One aircraft was lost in a cross-country flight and to date nothing has been heard of it.</p> <p>Training was carried out satisfactorily with emphasis laid on bombing, astro and timing. A noticeable improvement was shown by crew operations in this timing and track-keeping and further training will be carried out in this respect.</p> <p>With the long daylight hours it is now possible to utilise mornings for training. This has already been inaugurated and should assist the members of the squadron in maintaining a high degree of efficiency.</p>																																
			<p><i>G.A. McKenna</i> (G.A. McKenna) W/O. Squadron Officer Commanding, No. 420 (RCAF) SQUADRON.</p>																																

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