

MONTH OF JANUARY, 1944
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

App-1-1944
D.A.B.

3879

Page No. 2

of (Unit or Formation) 425 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day 9

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. STATION, THOLTHORPE, YORCS.	1.1.44		Approximately half of the Squadron personnel have been granted a 48 hour pass, which is ending on the 2nd January at 0900 hours. Those who were on duty that day attended the dance which was held in the gymnasium in the evening; it was greatly enjoyed by everyone.		1.
	2.1.44		All personnel who were on pass have returned to duty. Section Leaders are kept busy organising their different sections before the arrival of new crews.		
	3.1.44		The following crew arrived on posting from No. 429 Squadron:- R114966 Sgt. Bertossini G.A. - Pilot - RCAF J11794 F/O Reginald J.C. - Nav. " 1318239 Sgt Bright E.H. - W/AG - RAF R96520 F/S Tremblay J.A.L. - B/A - RCAF R55806 Sgt Bouchard J.E. - A/C " 656427 Sgt Owen L.S. - W/AG - RAF 1458691 Sgt Adams G. - P/E "		
	4.1.44		All the different sections are still getting organized before flying starts.		
	5.1.44		In the morning at 0900 hours a parade was held for the Base Commander's inspection which was followed by the semi-monthly Pay Parade. The following crews returned from No. 1666 Conversion Unit on the conclusion of their conversion training to Halifax aircraft:- 3039 Sgt Ramula L.E. - Pilot - RCAF J9502 F/O Stevens G.D. - Nav. " R34305 Sgt Chase B. - W/AG " 1585583 Sgt Longmuir J. - B/A - RAF R155367 Sgt Bernard J.P.H. - A/C - RCAF J26609 F/O Railton G.S. - W/AG " R81744 Sgt Hornell G. - P/E " R88418 Sgt Loring W.P. - Pilot - RCAF R130386 Sgt Crover D.H. - Nav. " 1316897 Sgt Hanks R.A. - W/AG - RAF R134448 Sgt Sveinson E.M.G. - B/A - RCAF R136933 Sgt Page J.E.J. - A/C - RCAF J36709 F/O Yeaman R.C. - W/AG " R202332 Sgt Edmond W.S. - P/E " R55435 Sgt Turvotte F.H. - Pilot - RCAF R139837 Sgt Ford L.E. - Nav. " R124602 Sgt Tupper N.F. - W/AG " R107711 Sgt Stokes J.S. - B/A " R130983 Sgt Hurry L.S. - A/C "		
	6.1.44		J16271 A/2/Lt H.P. Legace arrived on posting from No. 1666 Conversion Unit for duties of Squadron Gunnery Leader. J2467 A/3/Lt R. W. Blenkinsop, Flight Commander, proceeded on detachment to No. 1 R.C.D.U., Westcott to attend a course on Engine Control. The unmentioned crew arrived on posting to this unit from No. 61 (RCAF) Base (1659 Conversion Unit):-		

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RCAP STATION, THOLTHORPE, YORKS.	6.1.44	(Cont'd)	R118590 Sgt Aubin G.D. - Pilot RCAP 1319639 P/S Mitton H. - Nav. RAF R34360 Sgt Dubroy W.E. - W/AG RCAP R125906 P/S Albert J.H. - B/A " R11896 Sgt Mayville F.J. - A/G " R17119 Sgt Fluery R. - MU/AG " 1801992 Sgt Shanshan J.J. - P/S RMP		
	7.1.44		O8446 P/Lt. C.A.E. Denis, Squadron Adjutant, proceeded to No.6 (RCAP) Group, as a member of a District Court Martial and returned the same day. The following crew returned from No. 1666 Conversion Unit on completion of conversion training:- R13357 Sgt Jones G.R. - Pilot RCAP R125604 Sgt Legault J.E. - Nav. " R130577 Sgt Munro R.H. - B/A " R107388 Sgt Lajeunesse U. - A/G " R The following aircrew arrived on posting from 1666 Conversion Unit to crew up with R13357 Sgt Jones G.R. R251664 Sgt McBean D.K. - MU/AG RCAP 958188 Sgt Morris W.R. - P/S RAF The following crew arrived on posting from No.1664 Conversion Unit, for flying duties:- J15603 P/Lt Vaneman W.L. - Pilot RCAP J32240 Sgt MacDonald J.H. - W/AG RAF R12844 Sgt Gourley D.H. - B/A RCAP R186828 Sgt Godard V. - A/G " R205254 Sgt Anderson G.C. - MU/AG " 1832948 Sgt Thomas G.L. - P/S RAF		
	8.1.44		The undermentioned crew completed their conversion training and returned from No. 1666 Conversion Unit:- R135939 Sgt Jones N.H. - Pilot RCAP R121323 Sgt Latornell E.C. - Nav. " R73329 Sgt Laviolette J.A. - W/AG " R124833 Sgt Macleod N.H. - B/A " R143053 P/S Tracey J.C. - A/G " The following aircrew arrived from on posting from No. 1666 Conversion Unit to crew up with R135939 Sgt Jones N.H. J36710 P/O Collins G.R. - MU/AG RCAP 1677974 Sgt Abbott G.W.C. - P/S RMP		
	9.1.44		Part of the ground crew personnel have been granted 9 days leave and it is expected to grant everybody leave before the squadron becomes operational.		
	10.1.44		This morning, P/Lt D.C. Wilson "DPC", No. J19342, Squadron Bombing Leader, left this unit for R.C.A.F. H.Q., London, after which he is proceeding to RCAP "B" Depot		

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R. C. A. F. STATION THORCHORPE, YORKS	10.1.44	(Cont'd)	Warrington, being repatriated for duty in Canada. Wing Commander Palmer of No. 6 (RCAP) Group, visited the Squadron in connection with training activities.		
	11.1.44		Wing Commander B. D. Richer O626, left the station for R. C. A. F. Station, Digby, where he is to act as President of a District Court Martial. A/Sdr R. W. Blenkinsop, Flight Commander, returned from No. 8 C.D.U., Westcott, where he attended a course on Engine Control.		
	12.1.44		Six crews arrived at this unit on posting from No. 1664 Conversion Unit:- J5116 P/L Bryson M. - Pilot RCAP R156233 P/S Thomson W.A. - Nav. " R155234 Sgt Cloonan P.W. - W/AG " R124420 Sgt Verry P.E. - B/A " R196989 Sgt Elliott S.R. - A/G " R175247 Sgt Balcanter P.J. - MU/AG RCAP 100316 Sgt Marshall R.W. - P/S RAF J23788 P/O Link E.E. - Pilot RCAP J23944 P/O Facey H.C. - Nav. " J26861 P/O Hagen F.B. - W/AG " J27119 P/O Bush E.E. - B/A " R194013 Sgt Robertson C.E. - A/G " R165361 Sgt McEvoy D.R. - MU/AG " 183382a Sgt Dix J.E. - P/S RAF J25093 P/O Rance T.P. - Pilot RCAP R164032 Sgt Marshall H.H. - Nav. " R97282 WO2 Whyte R.J. - W/AG " R155322 Sgt Miller A.B. - B/A " R203174 Sgt Osborne W.G. - A/G " R198638 Sgt McLabb W.J. - MU/AG " 183469 Sgt Wall H.V. - P/S RAF R57535 P/S Vincent V.H. - Pilot RCAP R162555 Sgt Watson P.S. - Nav. " R122226 WO2 Inge L. - W/AG " R156932 Sgt Batta B.G. - B/A " R209155 Sgt Orion S. - A/G " R200029 Sgt Patterson R.E. - MU/AG " R013129 Sgt Vanderveen H.L. - P/E " R157746 P/S Waite A.H. - Pilot RCAP R01729 P/S McDougall W.H. - Nav. " R90362 WO2 Reiman H.G. - W/AG " R012155 P/S Powell E.L. - B/A " R191367 Sgt Gannon H.E. - A/G " R197657 Sgt Gibson G.F. - MU/AG " 1697226 Sgt Johnstone W. - P/S RAF		

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R.C.A.F. STATION, THOLHORPE, YORKS.	12.1.44	(Cont'd)	R151891 Sgt Stark G.D. - Pilot RCAF R156483 W/S Pitkin E.F. - Nav. " R116594 W/O Davies F.F. - W/AG " R155052 Sgt Pigeon J.J. - B/A " R155143 Sgt Code J.B. - A/C " R192720 Sgt Snider L. - W/AG " R70189 Sgt Waters M.H. - P/S "		
	13.1.44		Four aircraft were detailed for dual circuits; 3 for local solo - three engine flying and 2 for short cross country; but this was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Newly arrived aircrew reported to their different sections where they attended lectures by their leaders, in preparation for their flying training. O626 Wing Commander E.D. Richer, Officer Commanding, returned from R.C.A.F. Station, Digby, where he had been detailed to act as President of a District Court Martial.		
	14.1.44		Four aircraft were detailed for dual circuits; 3 for local solo and three engine flying; 2 for short cross country. This was carried out as ordered.		
	15.1.44		Wing Commander Smith (Base Engineering Officer) visited the Squadron. The Squadron Pay Accounts Corporal, R126025 Cpl. Valotaire J.M., whose duties are at Idnton, spent the day on the Squadron for the purpose of Pay queries. Two aircraft were detailed for local flying; 5 for cross country and 1 for circuits but this was cancelled due to fog. Instead lectures were given to aircrew by their different section leaders. They consisted of the following subjects: Engine Handling, Taxiing, Dingy Drill, Flying Control, Ditching and Gee Handling.		
	16.1.44		One aircraft was detailed for local flying, 2 for dual and local solo, 4 for cross country and 1 for local solo, but this was cancelled due to unfavourable weather. The following ground training programme was carried out by aircrew personnel: In the morning, for Pilots; Flight Engineers and Bomb Aimers - Lecture on Hydraulics by 958188 P/S Morris W.R. W/AG, RCAF. Engine Handling by J3467 S/Ldr R.V. Blankinsop, Pilot, RCAF. Navigators: Meteorology and D.R. Compass. The W/AG's and A/C's carried out Daily Inspections on aircraft then had lectures on Procedure and Harmonization. In the afternoon for Pilots; W/AG's and A/C's: Aircraft Reconnaissance. Navigators and Bomb Aimers: Lecture on W/T Procedure by the Squadron Signals Leader, J15457 P/Lt L.A. Wainwright DFC, also a lecture on Hydraulics by J3467 S/L V.R. Blankinsop, Flight Commander.		
			The following crew arrived on posting from No. 1604 Conversion Unit:- J10787 P/O Taylor J.E. - Pilot RCAF J24218 P/O Munro G.E. - Nav. " R15561 Sgt Sheehan J.H. - W/AG " R12776 Sgt Macrobin F.H. - B/A " R12783 Sgt Mitchell P.L. - A/C " R17475 Sgt De Witt A.H. - W/AG " 221118 Sgt Furlong P. - P/S RCAF J3713 P/S Dinning J.E. - Pilot RCAF		

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R.C.A.F. STATION, THOLEBORPE, YORKS.	16.1.44	(Cont'd)	J25025 P/O Wilson T.A. - Nav. RCAF 0386295 1st Lieut. McRoberts P.M. W/AG USA R159962 Sgt Noe J.C. S.L. - W/AG RCAF R199371 Sgt Copeland J.C. - A/C " 1869757 Sgt Barty W.E.H. - MU/AG RAF 1806877 Sgt. Platt P.P. - P/S "		
	17.1.44		There was no flying carried out due to fog. The inspection of living sites and quarters was carried out by the Station Commander. The ground training for aircrew was as follows:- Morning: Engine Handling to Pilots, P/T. Engineers and B/A's. Lectures on Gee and Compass to Navigators. W/AG's and Air Gunners carried out Daily Inspections on aircraft also harmonization. Afternoon: Lectures were given on Engine Handling, W/T, Log Keeping, Hydraulics and Tactics.		
	18.1.44		The undermentioned arrived on posting from No.428 RCAF Squadron for Bombing LEADER DUTIES: J16776 P/O (A/P/L) C. Madden - RCAF The following ground training programme was carried out:- Morning: Lectures on Engine Handling and Meteorology to Pilots. Astro to Flight Engineers. Maps Meteorology and D.R. Compass to Navigators. Bombing theory, Met. and flying lecture to B/A's. Daily Inspection carried out by W/AG's and A/C's. Lecture on Flying to W/AG's and Turret Fault Finding to A/C's. Afternoon: Pilots: Lectures on Carburettor, S.B.A., Navigation, Intelligence on Escape. Flight Engineers: Lectures on Carburettor, General Emergency Procedure and Intelligence. Navigators: Navigation Manuals, S.B.A., and Intelligence. Bomb Aimers attended same lectures as Pilots. W/AG's: Marconi Receiving and Transmitting Intelligence. Air Gunners: Sighting, Air to Air Firing Procedure, Intelligence.		
	19.1.44		Wing Commander King, Base Equipment Officer, visited the Squadron. Two aircraft were detailed for dual and local solo, 2 for local flying, 3 for cross country and 1 for S.B.A., SIM bombing, but constant rain prevented any flying to be carried out. At 0900 hours took place the fortnightly Pay Parade. The ground training programme dealt with the following subjects: Engine Handling, Hydraulics - for new crews; Gee, Cross Country, Astro, Aircraft Recoo and rifle range.		
	20.1.44		O1657 A/S/Ldr R.A. McEwen, Pilot, RCAF, arrived this date on posting from No.6 (RCAF) Group, four Flight Commander duties. Five aircraft were detailed for cross country, sim bombing; 3 for dual and local solo; 6 for local solo; but this was cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions. The ground training programme was as follows: Pilots: Engine Handling, Dinghy Drill and lecture; flying control, Intelligence and aircraft familiarization. P/Engineers: Engine Handling, Dinghy lecture and drill, log keeping, Intelligence and aircraft familiarization. B/A's: Engine Handling, dinghy drill and lecture and bomb sight.		

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R.C.A.F. STATION, THROTHORPE, YORKS.	20.1.44	(Cont'd)	W/AG's: Electrical and Dinghy Radio. A/G's: R.T. Patter, Rifle Range and Hydraulics.		
	21.1.44		A clothing Parade was held for this Squadron at 0900 hours. A lecture on escape was given in the Station Cinema by P/O Molensie. In the afternoon the ground training programme for aircrew dealt with the following: Meteorology, Bombing procedure, aircraft recco, Signals organization and hydraulics. Flying training was as follows: 1 aircraft on cross country; 3 on circuits and 4 on local flying. The following officers were detailed to take part in the night operation, as 2nd pilots, with 408 (RCAP) Squadron, located at Linton-on-Ouse. J5116 P/Lt M. Bryson - Pilot RCAP J3715 P/Lt J.B. Dinning - Pilot "		
	22.1.44		Information was received this morning from No.408 (RCAP) Squadron that P/Lt J.B. Dinning, Pilot, had been reported missing as a result of last night's operation over Magdeburg, Germany. The following aircrew personnel arrived on posting to this unit from No.434 (RCAP) Squadron, to be crewed up with G1657 A/S/L R.A. McIernon, Pilot. J20072 P/O M. Pully - Inv. RCAP J316717 Sgt Bounny R. - W/AG RCAP R161236 Sgt Ireland B. - A/S RCAP R167221 Sgt Alsager M. - A/G RCAP R193091 Sgt Osborne C. - W/AG "		
			Flying training was as follows: 4 aircraft on cross country and 3 on local flying. Ground training programme:- lecture on Intelligence in Station Cinema; Engine Handling; Flying on Operation lecture; operational navigation, manual release, fighter affiliation; Group W/T Organisation and tactics and turret faults. A dance organised by the Station RAF Regiment, was held in the Station Cinema in the evening; an invitation was extended to all ranks.		
	23.1.44		Flying training was carried out as follows:- Four aircraft on cross country, 5 on local flying and one on dual and local solo flying. The ground training programme was as follows:- Pilots: Engine Handling, propellers, diagrams and manuals; 2 crews on dingy drill. P/W/AG: Same as pilots. Navigators: Gee and Manuals. Bomb Aimers: Gee, Bomb drill, Engine Handling, Mk XIV Bomb Sight and pathfinder lectures. W/AG's: Radar, Group W/T Organisation and lecture on aircraft. Air Gunners: Browning gun; 25 yard range and sighting.		
	24.1.44		One aircraft was detailed for air to air firing, 6 for day cross country, 2 for local solo and night flying and 10 for night cross country, but this was cancelled due to weather.		
	25.1.44		Fifteen Air Gunners proceeded to Sutton Bank Range for firing practice. One B.F. Type E Training Turret was received for training purposes.		

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R. C. A. F. STATION, THORPES, YORKS.	25.1.44	(Cont'd)	Four pilots were detailed as second pilot for operations in the evening, but this was later cancelled. Flying training was carried out as follows: 3 aircraft on local flying and practice bombing 1 on air to sea firing and one on cross country.		
	26.1.44		The day's flying programme was cancelled due to bad weather conditions prevailing. Lectures were given to aircrew by their different section leaders.		
	27.1.44		J10787 P/O Taylor J.R., Pilot RCAP; 3039 WO2 Dupuis L.P. Pilot RCAP R155539 WO2 Jones N.H. Pilot RCAP; R96905 Brochu L.R. Pilot RCAP the above mentioned were detailed as second pilot for operations with 432 Squadron located at East Moor, but this was later cancelled. Flying training was carried out as follows: 11 aircraft on day cross country, and local flying; 3 aircraft on night cross country.		
	28.1.44		Fifteen gunners proceeded to Sutton Bank Range for firing practice. P/Lt J.G.H. Massine C6543, French Speaking Opw Liaison Officer visited the Squadron. The following crew arrived on posting from No.166, Conversion Unit: R154606 Sgt Hall G.B. Pilot RCAP J22430 P/O Felter G.A. Nav. " L200974 Sgt Newton H. W/AG RAF R161744 Sgt Porter R.S. P/A RCAP 1025594 Sgt Evans G.E. A/C RAF 24014 Sgt Cameron W.A. M/AG RCAP 2208949 Sgt Simpson E.N. P/S RAF The following pilots were detailed as second pilots for operations with 432 Squadron, East Moor: J25095 P/O Rance T.F. Pilot RCAP; J23788 P/O Kirk E.E. Pilot RCAP R133357 WO2 Jones C.W. Pilot RCAP; R136550 P/S Cote J.A.Y. Pilot RCAP C12066 P/O G.H. Harvie (Radar) RCAP, reported for duty on posting from No. 61 (RCAP) Base. Flying training programme was as follows: Five aircraft detailed for fighter affiliation, practice bombing and day cross country. One aircraft detailed for night cross country.		
	29.1.44		The undermentioned crew proceeded to 1659 Conversion Unit at Topcliffe: C1811 P/Lt Leconte L.H. Pilot RCAP J20711 P/O Boyd W.H.G. Nav. " 138420 P/O Sherriff J.B. W/AG RAF R153221 Sgt Cox J.C. P/A RCAP 1851862 Sgt Powell L.B. A/G RAF J19872 P/O Obea R.J. W/AG, RCAP reported for duty as Signals leader on posting from 426 RCAP Squadron. The flying training programme was carried out as follows: One aircraft detailed for local flying, one aircraft for fighter affiliation and air to air firing; 4 aircraft on air to air firing; 3 aircraft on air to sea firing. All pilots detailed for operations last night returned safely.		
	30.1.44		All aircrew personnel stood down and given the day off.		

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R.C.A.F. STATION, FOLKESTONE, IOWIS.	30.1.44		The following crew arrived on posting from 1664 Conversion Unit: CAN 348 Sgt Stowell C.H. Pilot ROCAF R157977 P/S Frisby R. Nav. " R108486 W/O Fullan S.E.M. W/AG " R156907 Sgt Dinmore G.M. P/A " 1815605 Sgt Cuzneski R.M. A/AG RAF R194806 Sgt Sherick W.R. W/AG ROCAF 2213379 Sgt Whaddon S.J. P/S RAF		
	31.1.44		The inspection of Number 2 and 3 Sites which was supposed to have been carried out by the Station Commander in the morning was cancelled. The FLYING PROGRAMME for the day was as follows: One aircraft detailed for local flying; 1 for local flying and bombing; 1 for air to air firing and fighter affiliation; 2 for air to air firing; 1 on circuit and landing and local flying. HONOURS AND AWARDS: Nil COMMISSIONS: Nil PROMOTIONS: T/E/O W.H.C. Boyd J20711 W/AG ROCAF promoted to T/S/O wef 6.5.43 T/E/O G.S. Raiton J26609 A/G ROCAF promoted to T/E/O wef 14.11.43 T/E/O F.D. Hagen J26861 W/AG ROCAF promoted to T/E/O wef 1.12.43 POSTINGS: T/S/O Reginald J.C. J14794 Nav. ROCAF posted from 429 (ROCAF) Squadron A/S/L Legace H.P. J16271 A/G ROCAF " " 1664 Con. Unit T/S/L Vanezan W.L. J15603 Pilot ROCAF " " " " T/E/O Collins C.R. J36710 W/AG ROCAF " " 1664 " " T/S/L Bryson M. J5116 Pilot ROCAF " " 1664 " " T/S/O Kirk E.S. J23788 Pilot " " " " T/S/O Pacey H.O. J23944 Nav. " " " " T/S/O Hagen F.D. J26861 W/AG " " " " T/S/O Bush E.P. J27149 P/A " " " " T/S/O Rance T.P. J25093 Pilot " " " " T/E/O Taylor J.E. J10787 Pilot " " " " T/E/O Hamro C.R. J24218 Nav. " " " " T/S/L Dinning J.B. J3713 Pilot " " " " T/E/O Wilson J.A. J25025 Nav. " " " " 1st Lt McRoberts F.M. 0886395 W/AG USA " " " " A/S/L Madden C. J16776 P/A ROCAF " " 428 (ROCAF) Sqn. A/S/L McLernon R.A. 01637 Pilot " " " No. 6 (ROCAF) Group T/S/O Tully M. J20072 Nav. " " " 434 (ROCAF) Sqn. T/E/O Pelter G.A. J20430 Nav. " " " 1664 Con. Unit T/E/O Harvie G.N. 012086 Radar " " " No. 61 (ROCAF) Base T/S/O Obee R.J. J15872 W/AG " " " 428 (ROCAF) Sqn. T/S/L Wilson D.C. DFC J15542 A/B " " posted to ROCAF "R" Depot.		
			CHANGE IN COMMAND: Nil		
			CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION: Nil		/OVER

