

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day 8

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, Thelthorpe.	1.4.44		This morning at 10.15 hours, took place the funeral of R.108209 IAC Parent J.J.E.C., in Harrogate, Yorks. The Squadron Adjutant, P/Lt. C.A.E. Denis, C. 8446, was the Officer in charge of the party. The Squadron was not required for operations. 7 aircraft were engaged in Group Flying Exercises during the day and 3 on dual flying. An "April Fool Dance" was held in the Sergeant's Mess this evening, which was greatly enjoyed.		
	2.4.44		Heavy rain which lasted all day prevented any flying to be carried out. The squadron Adjutant, P/Lt. C.A.E. Denis, proceeded on leave being replaced by C.13682 P/Lt. J.E.E. St. Amour.		
	3.4.44		Authority was received from Air Ministry to post W/Odr. R.D. Richer C.626 the Officer Commanding, to RCAF Overseas Headquarters w.e.f. 1 4th April/44. No flying was carried out due to unfavourable weather conditions prevailing.		
	4.4.44		Rain and fog are keeping the aircraft on the ground. Aircrew personnel were given the afternoon off.		
	5.4.44		No flying was carried due to bad weather conditions. All aircrew personnel were stood down for the day. R.209155 Sgt. Orian S., A/G proceeded to Southport to attend Aircraft Recognition course No. 25 at the Central School of Aircraft Recognition. 160061 P/Lt. H.J. Goodwin RAF, Flight Engineer Leader, left for Blackpool to attend the Air/Sea Rescue Course No. 27. C.13682 P/Lt. J.E.E. St. Amour proceeded on Temporary Duty to RCAF O/S Headquarters.		
	6.4.44		Slight rain fell in the morning but by noon, weather cleared up. 3 a/c were detailed for operations in the evening. This was cancelled late r. In the afternoon all aircrew attended a lecture in the Station Gymnasium, given by P/Lt. Forbes-Watkins, on "Enemy Prisoners". 1 a/c carried out height test and practice bombing. 3 A/G were detailed for night cross-country but this was cancelled.		
	7.4.44		The squadron was required for operations, but this was cancelled cancelled. Flying was carried out as follows during the day: 1 a/c on air test, 1 on air/Sea firing and 1 on dual flying.		
	8.4.44		C.13682 P/Lt. J.E.E. St. Amour returned from Temporary Duty to RCAF O/S Headquarters, where he assisted to a conference on the Sixth Victory Loan Campaign. The Squadron was not required for operations. 15 aircraft were engaged on flying training during the day comprising cross-country, flight affiliation, practice bombing, air/air and air/Sea firing. In the evening, 3 aircraft carried bull's eye exercises.		
	9.4.44		15 aircraft were detailed to attack Villeneuve-St.-Georges, France, and all attacked primary target, and returned safely, one landed at Hampstead Norris, remainder returned to base. Attack appears to have been a good one with numerous bomb bursts around the F.I.'s. Explosions were noted at 0005 hrs., 0006 hrs. and 0012 hrs. Orange coloured. Defences were slight with no S/L's. Weather was clear. No cloud with ground details visible. J.85554 P/O Gote J.A. Tr. Pilot reported to this unit on appointment to a commission w.e.f. 10.3.44		A1338 to A1352 Inhb.

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) A25 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day 8

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, Thal Thorpe	18.4.44		13 aircraft were detailed to attack Marshalling Yards at Noisy-Le-Sec, France, all attacked primary and returned safely, one landing away from base. All A/C report many bomb bursts along T.I. markers, with explosions at 23.59 hrs. 0001 hrs. 0007 hrs. Several fires were burning at Western edge of target. A/C report that attack opened at 23.50 hrs. with Red T.I. - the 2nd Form stated this would be green. Target was lightly defended, slight H/P and no S/L's. A few S/L's over Paris. Commentary seemed to be correct. Weather - slight patches of clouds, visibility good. Most a/c report attack on London on homeward journey with several a/c being shot down.		A1366 to A1378 Incl.
	19.4.44		Three aircraft took part in a sea-search in the morning and all returned safely. At 1000 hrs. this morning, the Squadron topped the Sixth Victory Loan Objective of \$ 20,000.00 The ground crew personnel are still submitting applications at the rate of \$ 1,500.00 a day.		A1379 to A1381 Incl.
	20.4.44		15 aircraft were detailed to take part in a bombing mission over Lens Marshalling Yards. One did not take-off due to engine u/s. 14 a/c attacked primary target and returned safely to base. EXTER Attack seemed to be a little late in starting. T.I.'s were well concentrated though Yellow T.I.'s were not seen before the Red T.I. Defences were practically all over target but the larger S/L's held in above area was very active. Most crews reporting that the S/L's dived on approach and lit up again after passing. Master Bomber heard by most crews. Numerous bomb bursts seen in vicinity of T.I.'s with a very large explosion at 23.44 hours. Other explosions at 23.48 hours and 23.54 hours. Thin cloud 6/10ths to 8/10ths, Hgs, 5,000 feet. C.137 Group Captain G.R.M. Smith, Staff Officer i/c Administration No. 6 RCAF Group, and C.1378 W/O. A.C. Tufts, Senior Admin. Officer, R.Q. 62 RCAF Base, visited the Squadron.		A1382 to A1395 Incl.
	21.4.44		Due to unfavourable weather, no flying was carried out. The undermentioned crew arrived on posting from No. 6 RCAF Base (1944 Oper. Unit): J.21267 P/O Todd L.R. - Pilot J.27909 P/O Adams D.A. - Nav. E168085 Sgt. Kartanovich T. - W/O J.27698 P/O Underman D. - S/A E.21254.0 Sgt. Minty A.F. - S/A E.185580 Sgt. Brown R.C. - MU/AG E95998 Sgt. Parker D.T. - P/S - R.A.F.		
	22.4.44		As at 1000 hrs. to-day the sum of \$ 25,250.00 has been collected for the 6th Victory Loan Campaign in addition, arrangements have been made for ground crew personnel, for the acceptance of \$ 3,500.00 in cash. 12 aircraft were detailed to attack Duisdorf this evening and all took-off, 11 attacked primary and returned to base, except one which landed away. One a/c is missing, the crew being as follows: E144989 W/O. Brisson, J.F.G. - Pilot. J.21180 P/O. Martin, R.C.W. - Nav. J.26898 P/O. Desrosiers, J.J. - W/O. E161702 W/O. Davidson, Edm. - S/A. E194194 Sgt. Hartmann, J.F.R. - A/C. E.94129 Sgt. Legault, E.M.E. - MU/AG. E201313 Sgt. Welch, D. - P/S - R.A.F.		A1396 to A1407 Incl.
			12 aircraft took part in flying training during the day, which consisted of air tests and bombing and local flying.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station Thalharpe.	22.4.44		Attack appears to be fairly well concentrated around T.I. Markers, but some under-shooting. Numerous fires covering whole area with a vivid yellow explosion at 0120 hrs. smoke rising to 5,000 feet - bluish explosion at 0123 hrs. - glow of fires seen about 100 miles after leaving target. Defences H/F intense to 15000 feet, rising to 21,000 feet in S/L cones, slight to moderate - S/L's very numerous co-operating with Triak, and following the numerous vapor trails, visible. Weather little or no cloud - slight haze.		
	23.4.44		The Squadron was not required for operations this date. P/Lt. R.M. Mickle (Adm) G-11382 reported from H.Q. No. 6 Group on attachment for admin duties. Flying training was carried out.		
	24.4.44		Major Farburgh, RCASD, reported today for four days observation duties with the Squadron. At 11.34 hrs. this morning, 2 1/2 miles N.E. of Topcliffe aerodrome, one aircraft which was engaged in a radar test & fighter affiliation, crashed and all members of the crew, which was composed as follows, were killed: 222125 Flt.O. Krause P.E. - 1st P/B J.24961 P/O Gillies J.A. - 2nd Pilot 1330246 Sgt. East C.P. - W/AG R.A.F. R198670 Sgt. Pickering D. - A/G R163091 Sgt. Leach J.R. - A/G R196626 Sgt. Smith M.R. - A/G R.22536 Sgt. Campbell G.H. - A/G 1808537 Sgt. Higgins J.A. - P/S R.A.F. R74336 Cpl Wilcock L.R. - Messy/Noch. The following crew arrived on posting from 1666 Con Unit:- J.85016 P/O Henry J.O. - Pilot R167461 Sgt. Davis G.E. - Nav. R167704 Sgt. Clarke A.E. - W/AG R169963 Sgt. Northcott T.B. - B/A R204491 Sgt. Cook C.H. - R/AG R197236 Sgt. Osborne W.A. - MU/AG G.2363 Sgt. Hedder J.H. - P/S R.A.F. 15 aircraft were detailed to attack Karlsruhe this evening and all took-off. 13 aircraft attacked primary and 2 are missing. The missing crews were composed as follows:- M.S. 337 "G" J19621 P/O Wells J.R. - Pilot Lt. 517 "R" R90563 P/S Mooney H.R. - Nav. 157997 Sgt. Walker W. - W/AG R.A.F. J.26776 P/L Maddin G. - B/A J.28785 P/O Hunt S.G. - R/AG R190220 Sgt. Draper F.C. - MU/AG 1864895 Sgt. Reilton J.G. - P/S R.A.F. R174835 P/S K Boucher G. - MU/Under Gun ER LW 591 "M" J21115 P/O L'Abbe J.W. - Pilot J24923 P/O Gravel T.O. - Nav. R96573 WO1 Dube H.E. - W/AG R171362 Sgt. Whalen F.P. - B/A R187514 Sgt. Girard H.M. - R/AG R189956 Sgt. Richard A.J. - MU/AG 2207120 Sgt. Best A. - P/S R.A.F.		ALL08 to ALL22 Incl.

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13/44

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day 8

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices																												
R.C.A.F. Station, Tholthorpe.	24.4.44	(Cont'd)	Fires appeared scattered at first but several large fires in T.I. area with yellowish explosions later. Defences: H/F light not accurate up to 21,000 ft. in a loose barrage 3/4's few and not effective. Rain about 10/10's over target base 19,300 feet - severe frost and static electrical disturbances between 0500H and 0800H. S/Cdr. T.H. Saunders (C4127) of No. 6 (RCAF) Group reported to this unit to investigate into crash of Halifax M.Z. 585																														
	25.4.44		The Squadron was ordered to detail 10 aircraft for operations in the evening, but this was cancelled at the last minute. A new crew arrived on posting from 1659 C.U., which was composed as follows: <table style="margin-left: 20px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>J27718</td> <td>F/O</td> <td>Phelan W.G.</td> <td>Pilot</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J27426</td> <td>F/O</td> <td>Jacobs S.H.</td> <td>Nav.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R203309</td> <td>Sgt.</td> <td>Burgess E.R.</td> <td>W/AG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J23570</td> <td>F/O</td> <td>Bacon S.A.</td> <td>B/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R221617</td> <td>Sgt.</td> <td>Fontana D.J.</td> <td>B/AG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R200749</td> <td>Sgt.</td> <td>Brierley W.</td> <td>MU/AG</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1423050</td> <td>Sgt.</td> <td>Bayne G.W.</td> <td>F/A R.A.F.</td> </tr> </table>	J27718	F/O	Phelan W.G.	Pilot	J27426	F/O	Jacobs S.H.	Nav.	R203309	Sgt.	Burgess E.R.	W/AG	J23570	F/O	Bacon S.A.	B/A	R221617	Sgt.	Fontana D.J.	B/AG	R200749	Sgt.	Brierley W.	MU/AG	1423050	Sgt.	Bayne G.W.	F/A R.A.F.		
J27718	F/O	Phelan W.G.	Pilot																														
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1423050	Sgt.	Bayne G.W.	F/A R.A.F.																														
	26.4.44		23 aircraft were detailed to attack Essen in the evening and all took off. One returned early due to under-carriage not retracting. Remainder returned safely. Attack appears to have been well concentrated around T.I. Markers - numerous heavy bomb bursts and fires with black smoke rising to 10,000 feet - One large explosion reported at 0140 hours. Defences: H/F slight to moderate 18 to 22,000 feet not accurate - 1/F slight, 22 to 15,000 feet - 3/4's numerous, not effective. Weather: thin broken cloud at 19 to 22,000 feet with haze below and many vapor trails. One salvo Red T.I. Markers 12 miles north of target.		VIVV 100 VIVV 100 A1423 to A1435 Incl.																												
	27.4.44		J.16060 P/Lt. M.W. Pettit (Pilot) of No. 432 RCAF Sqdn. reported to this unit to investigate in accident to Halifax M.Z. 525 which crashed on 26.4.44. 12 aircraft were detailed to attack Aulange Marshalling Yards this evening, all attacked primary and returned, safely. Difficult to assess results of raid as T.I. Markers were rather scattered and Master Bomber's directions confusing owing to rapid change in T.I.'s and headings selected for bombing. Too much calling by AG to Master Bomber. Explosions reported at 0156 hrs. 115522H 115522H 115522H 115522H and 0207 hours, latter with heavy black smoke. Defences: slight H/F up to 9,000 feet. Slight 1/F at 5,000 ft. 1 S/L North of target. Weather: No cloud, but hazy.		36 A1438 to A1447 Incl.																												
	28.4.44		Funeral was held this morning at 1000 hrs. at the R.A.F. Regional Cemetery, Harrogate, for the Canadian personnel who were killed in accident to A/C M.Z. 525 on 24.4.44. A firing party was provided by the Squadron. The Squadron was not required for operations to-day. Flying training consisted of local flying and night cross country and bombing. 10 a/c took part.																														
	29.4.44		The Squadron was not required for operations. Flying training consisted of 5 a/c on night cross country and one on local flying and dual. C.1637 W/O R.A. McFarlane, 6161 C.U., proceeded to London on Temporary Duty. The following crews arrived on posting from 61 RCAF Base: :																														

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation), 425 (RCAF) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day 78

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station			HONOURS AND AWARDS		
Thaltheorpe.			NIL		
			COMMISSIONS. 2/2/0 N.W. Marshall Nav. J.85583 App. to a commission waf. 21.3.44		
			1/2/0 T.A. Thompson T.A. Nav. J.85670 App. to a commission waf. 21.3.44		
			1/2/0 J.K. Douglass A/B J.85587 App. to a commission waf. 21.3.44		
			1/2/0 L.R. Brocha L.R. Pilot J.85612 App. to a commission waf. 21.3.44		
			1/2/0 J.L.Y. Gots Pilot J.85774 App. to a commission waf. 21.3.44		
			1/2/0 D.H.D. Crover Nav. J.85140 App. to a commission waf. 21.3.44		
			PROMOTIONS. 1/2/0 S.G. Hunsicker A/G J.38785 Promoted to 1/2/0 waf. 25.3.44		
			POSTINGS.		
			J.24321 1/2/0 J.A. Gillies Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 25.3.44		
			J.23972 1/2/0 E.F. Nicolls Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 25.3.44		
			J.24664 1/2/0 C.K. Lancaster R/A posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 26.3.44		
			J.27992 1/2/0 C.E.R. Sowerby C.E.R. Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.27926 1/2/0 R.V. Paul A/B posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.24669 1/2/0 J.W. McDonald Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.24669 1/2/0 K.G. House Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.27958 1/2/0 R.J. Whetter A/B posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.22104 1/2/0 G.H. Crowe A/G posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.23722 1/2/0 J.J. Dain Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.24950 1/2/0 J.R. Perry W/AC posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 31.3.44		
			J.27718 1/2/0 W.G. Phelan Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 25.3.44		
			J.27416 1/2/0 S.H. Jackson Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 25.3.44		
			J.23370 1/2/0 S.A. Bacon A/B posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 25.3.44		
			J.24267 1/2/0 I.B. Todd Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 21.3.44		
			J.27508 1/2/0 D.A. Adams Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 21.3.44		
			J.27698 1/2/0 D. Ungerman A/B posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 21.3.44		
			J.26516 1/2/0 J.O. Honey Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 21.3.44		
			J.26501 1/2/0 H.H. Gregson Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 21.3.44		
			J.28700 1/2/0 D.M. Culverley Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 29.3.44		
			J.27243 1/2/0 G.J. Dargis Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 30.3.44		
			J.26558 1/2/0 J.F. Barneau J Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 30.3.44		
			J.27240 1/2/0 R.M. Langlois Pilot posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 30.3.44		
			J.26556 1/2/0 J.B. Gilbert Nav. posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 30.3.44		
			J.27153 1/2/0 M. Jacques A/B posted from 61 RCAF Base waf. 30.3.44		
			J.19847 1/2/0 W. Loring Pilot posted to RCAF 'R' Depot waf. 11.3.44		
			G.664 1/2/0 B.D. Bisher Pilot posted to RCAF U/S H.Q. waf. 4.3.44		
			G.12086 1/2/0 J.N. Harris Radar posted to H.Q. 22 Group waf. 10.3.44		
			J.89045 1/2/0 N.H. Jones Pilot posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		
			J.19946 1/2/0 M.G. Internall M.G. Nav. posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		
			J.19970 1/2/0 J.A. Laviolette W/AC posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		
			J.19856 1/2/0 M.H. McLeod A/B posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		
			J.19980 1/2/0 J.C. Tracy A/G posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		
			J.25172 1/2/0 L.A. Renaud Pilot posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		
			J.24729 1/2/0 F.R.P. Brasseur Nav. posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		
			J.37152 1/2/0 G.S. Turner A/G posted to RCAF U.K. N.E. Missing waf. 25.3.44		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
POSTINGS CONT'D					
	J.10187	7/9/0	J.H. Taylor Pilot	posted to JUK. N.E. Missing	ref. 21.3.44.
	J.24228	7/9/0	G.E. Moore Nav.	posted to U.K. N.E. Missing	ref. 21.3.44.
	J.22430	7/9/0	G.A. Pelter Nav.	posted to SECB. N.E. Sick	ref. 21.3.44.
	J.21485	7/9/0	J.W. H'Abbs Pilot	posted to U.K. N.E. Missing	ref. 25.3.44.
	J.24985	7/9/0	AGF Gravel Nav.	posted to U.K. N.E. Missing	ref. 25.3.44.
	J.19624	7/9/0	J.H. Wells Pilot	posted to U.K. N.E. Unit	ref. 25.3.44.
	J.16776	7/9/0	C. Haddin Pilot	posted to U.K. N.E. Unit	ref. 25.3.44.
	J.25785	7/9/0	S.G. Hunt A/G.	posted to U.K. N.E. Unit	ref. 25.3.44.
	139210	7/9/0	H. Hamilton W/A.G.	posted to 425 Squadron	ref. 25.3.44.
CHANGE IN COMMAND C.1637 W/G R.A. Molernon Assumed command of Squadron ref. 4.4.44. Vice G.626 W/G R.D. Richards (Posted to RCAF O/S H.Q.)					
ATTENTION ON CHARGE 19 BILTMARK 111					
HEALTH In general, there has been some improvement in the past month with regard to health of personnel. Sick parades are smaller, and fewer admissions are made. This might be explained in part with the coming of good weather. As usual, upper respiratory complaints are the most prevalent.					
There has been a large decrease this month in the number of personnel treated for abrasions, etc., due mainly to the increase of head displays on the station.					
The number of skin complaints, although still fairly numerous, seems to be on the decline. In general, complaints are varied and diverse. When the fact that both Squadrons have served overseas under a hot climate, and sometimes severe and trying conditions is taken into consideration, the health of the personnel must be considered as normal.					
OPERATIONAL NON-OPERATIONAL AND FLYING TRAINING HOURS FOR MONTH OF APRIL 1944.					
Operational:		Day: 12.20 hrs.	Night: 577.85 hrs.	Total: 590.05 hrs.	
Flying Training:		Day: 17.15 hrs.	Night: 133.95 hrs.	Total: 308.10 hrs.	
Other Flying:		Day: 13.65 hrs.	Night: 1.00 hrs.	Total: 14.65 hrs.	
OPERATIONAL SORTIES CARRIED OUT DURING MONTH OF APRIL 1944. 124.					
BOMB EXPENDITURE					
Bombs dropped from 1.1.44 to 30.3.44		TONS		ORDINARY	
		24.67		12.27	
" " during month of April.		34.15		65.12	
Cumulative total from 1.1.44		439.02		219.69	
DISTRIBUTION: RCAF O/S. H.Q. 2 Copies. Air Ministry. 2 Copies. H.Q. 6 Group. 1 Copy.			<i>R.A. Molernon</i> (R.A. Molernon) W/O Officer Commanding, 425 (RCAF) Squadron.		

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425 (RCAF) Squadron

NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 30th APRIL, 1944:

RCAF Officers, Aircrew:	68	Ground Crew:	3	ROAF Airmen: Aircrew	130	Ground Crew	253
RAF " "	3	" "	Nil	RAF " "	38	" "	5
WAAF " "	Nil	" "	Nil	WAAF Airwomen	Nil	" "	6
<hr/>				<hr/>			
TOTAL " "	71	" "	3	TOTAL Airmen/women "	168	" "	264
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Forwarded in O/S M/G letter (file: S. 77-20-425 (DAS)), d. 15 Aug. 1944 - on file S. 24-5-7.

F. H. H.

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