

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Linton on Ouse	1.9.43		WEATHER: Rainy with bad visibility and low cloud. Stand down from operations. R117523 Sgt J.D. Watts, DFM advised that he was now P/O Watts, J.16236 effective 18.3.43. P/O J.J. Devan, 51723, Squadron Engineer Leader promoted A/W/L effective 1.7.43. Two aircraft returned from the South but the others were instructed to remain at their diversion base due to very bad visibility at base. Considerable rain fell and all flying at base was scrubbed. The Squadron from to-day will be operating with a reduced effort as "A" flight has been screened due to the inclusion of special equipment.		
Linton on Ouse	2.9.43		WEATHER: Fair to fine. Good visibility and broken cloud. Operations requested three aircraft for gardening and crews were detailed and kites got ready. Weather conditions improved sufficiently for the remaining aircraft to return to base and for local flying. Tests were made on the aircraft that had returned early from operations in an effort to iron out the kinks which had caused the turbacks. Take-off for operations found the crew of D:3:689 cleaning their nails, as the engines refused to start. Starting motors, which have been a serious problem in the Squadron, failed and the A/C had to be scrubbed. The remaining A/C took off and planted their vegetables as ordered and returned to base after a very quiet and uneventful trip.		A.509 to A.510
Linton on Ouse	3.9.43		WEATHER: Fair. Good visibility. Five aircraft were requested for bombing operations; crews were detailed and the aircraft prepared for the night's operation. A/C DS 689 had to be scrubbed as the starter had become w/a. A/C DS 656 "X" could not be made serviceable in time for the take-off and the A/C had to be scrubbed. The remaining three A/C took off and successfully attacked the target which was BELLIN. All A/C returned safely to base. Another member of the Squadron, R.14195 Cpl. Gardner R.J., an armourer, was transferred to the U.S. Eighth Air Force. R:82813 TAC Daly J.D., who has been an absentee since the 9th of July was apprehended by the Civil Police in HIDDERSFIELD and was brought back to the Station.		A.511 to A.513
Linton on Ouse	4.9.43		WEATHER: Fair to fine. Good visibility. An operational stand-down was ordered and the efforts of all maintenance personnel were directed towards getting all A/C into a serviceable condition. 13504 P/O Cording reported on posting from 1659 Conversion Unit, REGLIFFE, to fill the post of Squadron Signals Leader. J.1714 P/O W.M. Maxwell reported to Air Ministry LONDON to undergo a medical board preparatory to transferring to the U.S. Air Force.		
Linton on Ouse	5.9.43		WEATHER: Cloudy. Moderate visibility and broken cloud. Six crews were requested for operations. The crews were detailed and the A/C were prepared for the night's operations. C.15711 P/L A. MacMillan, the Squadron Gunnery Leader, took over the duties of Squadron Adjutant in the absence of C.7836 P/L J.H. Connor who departed on a well earned leave. The first A/W took off at 19.50 hours and in the following five minutes all six aircraft were airborne and were winging their way towards the target. All crews successfully attacked the German industrial centre of MANCHEM which was the target for the night. Upon return all crews waxed enthusiastic over the results of the trip. Excellent fires were reported and the raid was well concentrated.		A.514 to A.519

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Linton on Ouse	6,9,43		WEATHER: Fair, moderate visibility, S.W'y gusty wind, modified in afternoon. 15-20 m.p.h. Operations requested five A/C for bombing operations and all sections busied themselves preparing A/C and crews. The Station softball team, which is comprised mainly of Squadron personnel, travelled to R.C.A.F. Station, LEBMING, for the first game in a best two out of three series for the District Championship. The Station team headed LEBMING a 16-0 scrubbing. This puts the local team one up in the series. The next game in the series is scheduled for the 9th September at LINTON. Should the LOCALS win this game they will travel to LONDON for the play-off for the championship of the R.C.A.F. Overseas. The first A/C took off at 19.45 hours and within four minutes all five A/C were airborne. A/C DS716 was badly shot up at 19.37 N - 02.32 E at 21.44 hours. Continuous evasive action was taken and the A/C came down to 8,000 feet from 19,000 feet; so, not being able to avoid the enemy defences and not knowing the extent of the damage done to the A/C the Captain decided to jettison the bomb load and return to Base. The remaining four A/C successfully attacked the target MUNICH, and returned to base to report another successful attack on an important enemy industrial centre.		A.520 to A.523 B.33
Linton on Ouse	7,9,43		WEATHER: Fair, Moderate visibility. A stand-down from operations was declared in the morning. J.5990 P/L A.J. Hughes was appointed to the rank of S/L and reported to command "B" Flight s.s.c. 18,8,43. Air Marshal R. Edwards, G.B. A.O.C. in C. R.C.A.F. Overseas, accompanied by Lt. Col. the Hon. C.W.G. Gibson, K.C. P.C. M.P., Canadian Minister of National Revenue and Mr G. Fraser Elliott, P.C., Dominion Commissioner of Income Tax, were entertained at a concert in the Sergeants' Mess to which all Officers had been invited. The concert was staged entirely by STATION talent and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.		
Linton on Ouse	8,9,43		WEATHER: Fair to fine. Good visibility. Three aircraft were requested for operations. Crews were detailed and A/C prepared. Our distinguished visitors of the previous evening departed by air in the morning, Mr G. Fraser Elliott R.C. being flown to BREXTHICK by W/O W.H. Swastman DFC, the Squadron Commander. Late in the afternoon the news was received of the Unconditional surrender of the Italians. The operations scheduled were scrubbed.		
Linton on Ouse	9,9,43		WEATHER: Fog till 11.00 hours and fine with good visibility. Operations requested five A/C and crews were detailed and A/C prepared. The results of the new R.C.A.F. formation scheme became evident to-day upon receipt of latest edition of R.C.A.F. Overseas Orders. Two Sgt WOP/AG's were promoted Warrant Officers Class II and two Sergeant A/G's were promoted to the same rank. Ten Sergeant A/G's were promoted to the rank of Flight Sergeant. The Station softball team defeated R.C.A.F. Station LEBMING by the score of 14-4, thus winning the softball championship of No. 5 District R.C.A.F. The local team will proceed to LONDON to play off for the championship of the R.C.A.F. Overseas at Wembley Stadium. Shortly before take-off time word was received that the operations were scrubbed.		

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Linton on Ouse	10,9,43		WEATHER: Raining all afternoon; low cloud, poor visibility. A stand down from operations was ordered early in the day. R. 203812 W/O/I Peterson I.N. appointed to a commission w.e.f. 11.5.43. Due to poor weather prevailing throughout the day no flying exercises were carried out. R142560 Sgt Jarman R.H. and crew and 121946 P/O Hartens A.T. and crew reported back to the Unit from 1679 Heavy Conversion Flight upon completion of conversion training.		
Linton on Ouse	11,9,43		WEATHER: Light rain before noon; cloudy with bad visibility at night. The Squadron was stood down from operations. As the weather still remained very poor no local flying practice was carried out. A considerable number of members of the R.C.A.F. (Women's Division) have been posted to the Station in the past month. A number of these girls were enlisted in this country, being wives of members of the Canadian Forces.		
Linton on Ouse	12,9,43		WEATHER: Intermittent light rain; moderate visibility with very low cloud later. Another miserable day with poor weather conditions prevailing. A stand-down was the order of the day. J.14999 P/O T.M. Kneale was appointed to the rank of A/P/L w.e.f. 25.8.43. J.14907 P/O L.N. McCaig was also appointed A/P/L w.e.f. 25.8.43.		
Linton on Ouse	13,9,43		WEATHER: Again intermittent light drizzle; poor visibility; very low cloud at times. The Squadron was stood down from operations again to-day. J.14328 P/O W.H. Spafford appointed A/P/L w.e.f. 25.8.43. J.14999 P/L T.M. Kneale was reported to the Squadron as Deputy Flight Commander. An excellent E.N.S.A. show played in the Airmen's H.A.A.P.I. to two capacity houses and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.		
Linton on Ouse	14,9,43		WEATHER: Thunderstorms in afternoon with poor visibility; cloud very low at times. A stand-down was again the order of the day. The Squadron Adjutant, P/L J.H. Connor, C.7856, returned to-day from his well earned leave. The Station received a visit to-day from Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur T. Harris, KCB OBE AFC - A.O.C. in C. Bomber Command. He was accompanied by Air Marshal H. Edwards OBE A.O.C. in C.R.G.A.F. Overseas; Air Vice Marshal G.E. Brooker, OBE A.O.C. No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, Air Commodore C.R. Slemmon, O.B.E. Senior Air Staff Officer No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group. The following Base and Station Commanders were also in attendance: - Air Commodore B.F. Johnston, Base Commander, R.C.A.F. Base TOPOLIFFE, Air Commodore G.M. McEwan, MC, DFC, Base Commander R.C.A.F. Base LINTON, G/C A.D. Ross, Commanding R.C.A.F. Station, MIDDLERON ST. GEORGES, G/O S.A. Sampson, Commanding R.C.A.F. Station, TOPOLIFFE, G/O J.L. Plant, Commanding R.C.A.F. Station, LESHING, G/O H. Carscollen DFC, Commanding R.C.A.F. Station, EASTMOOR, G/O R.O. Gordon, Commanding R.C.A.F. Station, THOLTHORPE and G/O G.C. Edwards AFC Commanding R.C.A.F. Station, LINTON. Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur T. Harris delivered a talk to all officers and senior N.C.O.'s in the airmen's mess. He particularly complimented the aircrew personnel on their fine work during the past year. He invited aircrew personnel to make suggestions on tactics and an enlightening discussion followed at the conclusion of which an excellent tea was served.		

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Linton on Ouse	15.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Fine, becoming cloudy later; good visibility becoming moderate.</p> <p>A stand-down from operations was declared early in the day. However all sections were hard at work, particularly "A" Flight, which is at present screened from operations while A/C are being fitted with new "ONE" equipment. A Ministry of Health Mobile Blood Transfusion Unit visited the Station to-day and in response to an appeal for voluntary blood donors they were kept busy all day. A steady procession of ground crew personnel wended their way to Station SICK QUARTERS all day and late in the evening the UNIT had not been able to cope with all who wished to donate their pint of blood and they decided to stay over until the following day in order to complete the full quota of volunteers. A Sergeant's Mess Meeting was held to-day in the Sergeants' Mess and was well attended by N.C.O's from the Squadron.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	16.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Cloudy all day with intermittent slight drizzle. Continuous rain in evening.</p> <p>Generally moderate to good visibility but poor at night.</p> <p>Another day and again another stand-down. Information was received to-day of the award of the following decorations to Squadron personnel:- D.F.C.'s to J1122, P/O J.F. Lewis, 144711 P/O TAYLOR, D.F.M. to Sgt J.L. Bouvier, reported missing 17.8.43.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	18.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Cloudy all day; intermittent rain at times; generally rather poor visibility. Wind S.S.E. or calm in morning becoming N.W. later.</p> <p>And still another stand-down. J10255 S/L J.B. Millward DFC assumed command of the Squadron to-day in the absence of J15176 W/O W.H. Swetman DFC who is on leave. Pay Parade for Squadron personnel was held in the N.A.A.F.I. at 11.00 hours.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	18.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Generally cloudy; slight rain early; slight shower afternoon; moderate to good visibility. N.W. winds at first, falling calm.</p> <p>A stand-down was again the order of the day. The Sergeants' Mess held a very successful dance which was well attended by Senior N.C.O's with a few officers as guests.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	19.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Fine to fair with fog around dawn; visibility moderate later. Calm at first becoming light, S.W'y wind later.</p> <p>Another stand-down from operations was declared early in the morning. Authority was received to-day authorising the appointment of 639243 Sgt P.E. Newland, Air Gunner, to the Commissioned rank of Pilot Officer w.e.f. 8.8.43.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	20.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Cloudy with intermittent slight rain early, then fair to fine. Fresh to strong westerly wind and excellent visibility.</p> <p>And again another stand-down was declared early in the day. Local flying training was however carried out and "A" Flight, which is at present screened from operations, are rapidly completing final training on the "ONE" equipment which is being installed in all A/C.</p>		

## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Linton-on-Ouse	21.2.43		<p>WEATHER: Mainly fair with good visibility; generally light N.E. Wly wind.</p> <p>The Squadron was again stand-down from operations. J.3990 A/S/L A.S.J. Hughes, Flight Commander "F" flight visited No. 12 Group Filter Room to get the latest information on Fighter Tactics. The Section Commander G/O D.H. Edwards, APO held a meeting of all Senior N.O.'s in the Sgt's Mess today to decide the disposition of the Sergeants' present ante-room. A new Sergeant's Mess is to be opened in the future and the Canadian I.C.A. have kindly offered to furnish the old building as a lounge and recreation room for all ranks.</p>		
Linton-on-Ouse	22.2.43		<p>WEATHER: Fine; only small amounts of clouds; very good visibility; light variable wind.</p> <p>At last the Squadron was required for operations and the long line of stand-downs has at last been brought to a halt. Six A/C were required and crews were selected and a/c prepared. Five A/C located the primary target without difficulty and successfully dropped their bomb load and returned to base without incident. All crews upon return were enthusiastic about the results of the attack and from all reports it appeared to be well concentrated. A/C B.3.708 "C" captained by R.11590 Sgt. Berry, D.S., did not reach the primary target as one engine cut about 30 miles from the target. However the crew dropped their load on the German town of OBERHEIM and returned to base on their engines. This was the first trip for the pilot as Captain. A very excellent show was presented in the R. A. S. I. All the talent came from the ranks of personnel on this base and it is hoped that these shows will continue throughout the winter.</p>		A.524 to A.529
Linton-on-Ouse	23.2.43		<p>WEATHER: Cloudy all day; good visibility; moderate Wly winds.</p> <p>Five a/c were required for bombing operations. As "A" flight has completed installation of new "GEE" equipment and all crews have received training in the use of this new equipment, this flight became operational today and "B" flight was screened from operations. Crews were selected from "A" flight and a/c were prepared. All five a/c took off. The first a/c took off at 19.15 hrs and the last a/c took off at 19.19 hours. All a/c successfully attacked the German industrial town of MARHEIM, and a/c returned safely to base without incident. However A/C D.3. 714 piloted by J.10907 P/L I.W. Mc Gaig had an encounter with enemy night fighters shortly after attacking the target. The a/c sustained considerable damage; the hydraulics were damaged, port fin rudder shot off, rear turret damaged, mid-upper turret U/S, port wing damaged, 2 petrol tanks damaged, port elevator damaged, inter-com and radio transmitter U/S. During the encounter both gunners suffered slight injuries. The P/L R.A.S.P. 18900 SGT Ketcher, G.R., received a bullet wound in the right thigh and the P/C R.109503 P/S Ranken, E.S., received a bullet wound in the left leg. Despite the damage sustained by the A/C and the injuries of the gunners, the Captain succeeded in bringing the A/C back to this country and landed at Thursey Island. A crash landing had to be effected as the undercarriage was U/S. J.11522 P/L R.S. Rips visited No. 12 Group Filter Room, to receive information on Fighter Tactics.</p>		A.530 to A.534

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Linton on Ouse	24.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Cloudy; occasional slight rain or drizzle; generally good visibility. Rather light South West - West wind.</p> <p>The Squadron was stood down from operations to-day. "B" flight commenced its training programme on the new "Gee" equipment to-day and several crews carried out their first exercises.</p> <p>The Station softball team defeated R.C.A.F. Station, Tholthorpe by a score of 2 - 1 in an exhibition game.</p> <p>R.105553 W/O2 Warren R.W. appointed to commissioned rank of Pilot Officer w.e.f. 24.6.43</p>		
Linton on Ouse	25.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Fair to cloudy; slight shower at noon. Good visibility. Light, variable winds, calm at times.</p> <p>Four aircraft were required for operations. Crews were selected and aircraft prepared but, however, this operation was later "scrubbed".</p> <p>R.184067 Sgt Gee A.E. and 2208570 Sgt Wilkinson F. were attached to 1484 Gunnery flight LONDON for an aircrew refresher course.</p> <p>657776 Sgt Salisbury J.B. was appointed to the commissioned rank of Pilot Officer w.e.f. 9.6.43.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	26.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Fair; moderate to good visibility. Moderate Northerly wind.</p> <p>A stand-down was declared in the morning.</p> <p>A number of personnel appeared at their sections to-day wearing overcoats and it is becoming apparent in here to stay. These whose duties keep them indoors suffer the most as it seems to be much colder inside than outside. Newly arrived Canadians who have not yet spent a winter in this country and as yet have not been climatized will have some hard words to say regarding the weather.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	27.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Fair morning; cloudy afternoon; continuous rain at night; very good visibility. North West wind backing South Westerly later.</p> <p>Information was received to the effect that the Squadron would be screened from operations until the 6th October 1943.</p> <p>J.17124 P/O S.M. Maxwell RMC proceeded to LONDON for the purpose of transferring to the R.C.A.F. After his transfer has been effected he will return to the Squadron to complete his tour of operations.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	28.9.43		<p>WEATHER: Cloudy all day; continuous rain or drizzle till a squall at 07.00 hours; then intermittent slight rain and continuing strong squally winds.</p> <p>R.125716 Sgt Neal P.J. and crew reported to the Squadron to-day from 1679 Heavy Conversion flight.</p> <p>The heat was turned on to-day much to the relief of everyone who have done a considerable amount of shivering during the past few days.</p>		

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I. para. 289 and War Manual Pt. II, chapter XX, and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

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Linton on Ouse	29.9.43		<p><b>WEATHER:</b> Light rain at first becoming fair. Visibility good most of day.</p> <p>Both flights are now really pushing the flying training programme with plenty of vigour. Crews are now really piling the hours up. This training programme has been aided very much of late by the fact that the weather has been very good.</p> <p>Fifteen new flight mechanics reported to the Unit to-day thus giving the ground crews a much needed break.</p> <p>129038 Sgt Jones J.H. was appointed to the commissioned rank of Pilot Officer w.e.f. 1.6.43.</p>		
Linton on Ouse	30.9.43		<p><b>WEATHER:</b> Fair, moderate; good visibility.</p> <p>Another issue of R.C.A.F. Overseas Orders arrived to-day. Good news was in store for the bomb-aimers as this issue contained the authority for promotion to the rank of Temporary Flight Sergeant of every R.C.A.F. Sergeant Air Bomber on the Squadron.</p> <p>To-day was Station "Chessing" day and members of all sections could be seen busily engaged with maps and brooms giving their section its weekly "going over".</p> <p>The Station football team played a practice game against the officers. This is the last practice the team will have before going to London on the 2nd October to participate in the play-offs for the R.C.A.F. Overseas Championship.</p> <p><b>HONOURS AND AWARDS.</b></p> <p>J11224 P/O J.P. Lewis awarded the D.F.C.</p> <p>144711 P/O R.G. Taylor awarded the D.F.C.</p> <p>877235 Sgt J.H.L. Bouvier (missing) awarded the D.F.M.</p> <p><b>COMMISSIONS:</b> 129038 Sgt Jones J.H. appointed Pilot Officer w.e.f. 1.6.43          657776 P/S Salisbury J.E. appointed Pilot Officer w.e.f. 3.6.43.          8106453 P/S Warren H.H. appointed Pilot Officer w.e.f. 14.6.43.          659243 P/S Newland F.F. appointed Pilot Officer w.e.f. 8.6.43          8103612 P/S Peterson L.H. appointed Pilot Officer w.e.f. 11.5.43.</p> <p><b>PROMOTIONS:</b> Appointed to the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 1.7.43 P/O J.J. Davan 51723          Appointed to the acting rank of Squadron Leader w.e.f. 18.8.43 P/L A.J. Hughes, J3990          Appointed to the acting rank of Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 25.8.43, P/O T.H. Kneale, J14999, P/O L.H. McCole, J14907 and P/O W.H. Spafford, J14328.          Promoted to the rank of Temporary Squadron Leader w.e.f. 1.10.42 - P/L (A/R/L)          W.H. Sweeney, J15176 D.F.C.          Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 15.2.43 - P/O (A/R/L)          J.B. Hillman, J10235 D.F.C.          Promoted to the rank of Temporary Flight Lieutenant w.e.f. 20.10.42 - P/O (A/R/L)          A. Hamilton, 015711.</p>		
			<p><b>CHANGES IN STATION COMMAND:</b> Nil</p>		

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