

Overseas HQ. 1945

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

OFFICER COMMANDING FORM 426 - FLYING OFFICER C. A. GRANT
of (Unit or Formation) No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON MONTH - NOVEMBER

Page No. 008

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
TEMPERED, INDIA	2.12.45		<p>Two aircraft departed today on Operational flights to India, KH.635 and KH.636. One aircraft returned to base, KH.638.</p> <p>Weather cloudy with poor visibility in the morning but slight improvement in the afternoon.</p> <p>An amendment to the operational schedule was received today and becomes effective 3rd December, 1945. Outbound changes include a two-hour stop-up in departure time and a stop-over at Habbaria rather than Shaiba. Inbound changes effect a stop-over at Shaiba instead of Habbaria and an arrival stop-up in the U.K. of 1 1/2 hours.</p> <p>A copy of Transport Command request to R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters was received at Tempered. It outlined tentative arrangements for the last outbound aircraft to depart for India not later than 20th December, 1945 and final disembarkment of No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron on 2nd January, 1946.</p> <p>Two aircraft departed according to schedule.</p>	
	2.12.45		<p>No departures today. Two inbound aircraft returned to base today, KH.267 and KH.638.</p> <p>The weather was cloudy with rain in the morning, clearing up nicely by noon hours. Two outbound aircraft were delayed on departure for India and did not leave until early the following morning.</p> <p>Posting authority was received for F/Lt E.A. Allen (G.89640) and F/O V. Burns (J.27145) to report to "R" Depot, Torquay W.S.F. 5th December, 1945 for repatriation.</p>	
	3.12.45		<p>Four operational aircraft departed for India, KH.161, KH.353, KH.639 and KH.618. Nil returned today.</p> <p>Weather was fair intermingled with squally showers.</p> <p>The new schedule went into effect today with some aircraft taking off for India.</p> <p>A meeting of the R.C.A.F. Entertainment Committee took place in the Knights of Columbus Canada House at 1630 hours.</p>	
	4.12.45		<p>One aircraft only departed for India today, KH.361 while there was no aircraft that returned to base.</p> <p>The morning was very frosty and cool with a heavy haze hanging over the area throughout the day and afternoon rains made it an extremely miserable day.</p> <p>F/Lt E.A. Palmer, Personnel Counsellor from R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters arrived at the Unit on temporary duty to assist personnel of the Squadron and Echelon on their rehabilitation plans.</p> <p>One aircraft departed for Karachi today.</p> <p>Flight Lieutenant E.A. Allen (G.89640) proceeded to Torquay for repatriation.</p>	
	5.12.45		<p>There were no departures today but two aircraft returned to base completing India trips, KH.336 and KH.618.</p> <p>Weather cold but clear. No aircraft departed today because of bad weather on the continent.</p> <p>F/Lt Palmer of R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters began interviewing personnel of 426 Squadron and 4426 Servicing Echelon regarding personal rehabilitation problems.</p> <p>Two aircraft returned from India today.</p>	

SECRET.

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
TEMPERFORD, REIS.	6.12.45		No operational departures or arrivals today. Weather - cold and cloudy. The 24th Squadron was interrupted by the cancellation of trooping flights for the second successive days. The cause of delay was bad weather en route. Flying Officer WILLIAM J. M. IYDEN (J.28593) departed for London Overseas Headquarters for transportation by air to Canada on Compassionate Repatriation. P/O V. DURNS (J.27146) departed for 2nd Depot, Torquay for repatriation.		
	7.12.45		No operational flights to India today and no returns to Unit. Weather was cold and cloudy with thick haze and once again aircraft failed to become airborne because of poor weather over the Squadron. Two typewriters were procured on loan from R.C.A.F. Headquarters. A Squadron Farewell party was sponsored in the Officers Mess by R.A.F. Station, Temperford. Air Marshal G. G. JOHNSON C.B., D.S.O., A.O.C-in-C. R.C.A.F. Overseas, Air Commodore H. B. GOSLIN , C.B.E., Deputy C-in-C. and party attended. No aircraft returned today.		
	8.12.45		Four operational aircraft departed today for India, KL-874 , KL-885 , KL-886 and KL-888 while four aircraft returned to base today, KL-620 , KL-915 , KL-178 and KL-855 . Weather continued cold and cloudy. Trooping trips were resumed today with four operational aircraft and one training becoming airborne with destination Castel Benito. This proved to be one of the busiest days as four aircraft returned from trooping flights today. A Bingo was held in "Canada House" and many prizes of sweaters, socks and handkerchiefs being awarded. Flight Lieutenant V. G. BRANETT , D.F.C. (J.23408) departed under close arrest en detachment to R.C.A.F. Station, Topoliffa, pending Court Martial.		
	9.12.45		One aircraft KL-670 returned from operational flights to India and KL-665 also returned from overseas, Castel Benito, where it proceeded as a training aircraft. There were no departures today. Weather fair and continued cold. There were no aircraft despatched today due to unavailability of aircraft. One aircraft returned from Karachi.		
	10.12.45		There were no departures for overseas nor returns to Unit. The weather was cloudy with occasional drizzle and extensive mist and local fog. The inclement weather prevented take-offs today. No arrivals either. Notification was received that Wing Commander D. R. MILLER , A.F.C. (G.94097) is posted to command R.C.A.F. Station, Base Supply West-12 December, 1945. S/Ldr J. F. GREEN , D.F.C. (G.1970) is to assume command of this Squadron w.e.f. 12th December, 1945 and is appointed Acting Wing Commander same date. Flight Lieutenant V. G. BRANETT 's detachment to Topoliffa is converted to posting.		
	11.12.45		Three operational aircraft departed on overseas flights to India, KL-647 , KL-665 and KL-855 while two aircraft returned to base, KL-686 and KL-639 . Another foggy day but noticeably milder. Three aircraft departed for Karachi and two arrivals.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 426 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON MONTH - DECEMBER

No. of pages used for MONTH

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
TEMPORARY BASE.	11.12.45	(CONTINUED)	A consignment of tomato juice for R.C.A.F. personnel was received from Aligarh today. Squadron Leader J.B. Campbell, 120 Wing Headquarters and Flight Lieutenant Doherty, Transport Command reported to this Unit as "Unscrambling Committee" to interview the Squadron Commander and all Technical N.S.O.s regarding further service in the U.K. S/Ldr. J.P. Green, D.F.C. (C.1970), S/Lt L. Greenberg, D.F.C. & Bar (C.94045), P/Lt H.C. Jensen D.F.C. (J.17271) and P/Lt G.W. Goodman, D.F.C. (C.16336) appeared at Buckingham Palace for investitures.		
	12.12.45		One operational aircraft, KH-918 departed on India trip while two aircraft returned to base, KH-561 and KH-540. Wingspread mist at first, otherwise fair in the morning. Visibility was very poor toward dusk. One aircraft departed on operation with one delayed. Poor visibility in the evening made landings extremely difficult. Aircraft called upon for numerous circuits before they were enabled to land. During the day the aircraft landed but after unsuccessful attempts two others were diverted. Acting Wing Commander J.P. Green D.F.C. assumed command of the squadron today vice W/O. D.B. Miller, D.F.C. Distribution of tomato juice (48 ozs. per person) commenced today in Canada House.		
	13.12.45		Three operational aircraft departed on India flights, KH-179, KH-625 and KH-619. Also three aircraft returned to base completing round trip from India, KH-650, KH-641 and KH-625. Weather was cloudy with gusty winds. Trooping services were carried out as usual with three departures and three arrivals. All aircrew personnel assembled in the Crew Room at 1400 hours for an address by Wing Commander Green the new Squadron Commander. The purpose of this gathering was to ascertain from Squadron personnel what their individual preferences were regarding service with the R.C.A.F. subsequent upon the disbandment of 426 Squadron. These options were placed before them (a) to be repatriated (b) to continue service with the R.A.F. on Liberator Squadron doing work similar to that of this Unit (c) to serve in 120 (R.C.A.F.) Transport Wing on Dakota squadrons. The two latter choices were contingent upon the individuals' agreement to sign a waiver of repatriation under the R.C.M. scheme and to serve so long as the R.C.A.F. required their services. Approximately 75 personnel completed the necessary applications. The preferences showed the following tally: (a) 31 preferred home (b) 5 applied for Liberator service (c) 40 desire to serve in Dakota squadrons. W/O Green also took the opportunity of encouraging the crews to carry on the fine job they were doing and of continuing the enviable record which this Squadron is setting.		
	14.12.45		One aircraft KH-670 departed on operational flight and two aircraft returned to Unit, KH-658 and KH-524. The weather was fair with considerable frost. Trooping services continued with one departure today. A second aircraft was delayed through unserviceability, two arrivals		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
TEMPERLEY WEDS.	14.12.45	(CONTINUED)	<p>The clerical and administrative work has increased very heavily with the impending disembarkment of the Squadron and unscrubbing of aircrew personnel and Bahadur groundcrew.</p> <p>TEMPERLEY WEDNESDAY</p> <p>The R.C.A.F. Show "Flying Home" was presented in the Station N.A.A.F.I. with a full house in attendance.</p>	
	15.12.45		<p>One overseas departure today, <u>KL-659</u> while two aircraft returned to base from overseas flights, <u>KL-374</u> and <u>KL-335</u>.</p> <p>The weather was better than usual but continued cloudy with slight drizzle later in the day. Visibility was fair.</p> <p>The only troping aircraft departing today was the flight which was delayed yesterday. No other departures because of unavailability of aircraft. Two aircraft arrived from overseas.</p> <p>W/C J.F. Green D.F.C., Officer Commanding the Squadron proceeded on temporary duty to London to visit Overseas Headquarters regarding the official disembarkment date of the Unit, the possibilities of postings and to arrange a final clearance date for which the Bear Party was to remain.</p> <p>A large number of personnel who were not available for the general meeting on Thursday, completed the necessary pro-forma regarding further service with the R.C.A.F.</p>	
	16.12.45		<p>One operational aircraft today, <u>KL-529</u> departed for overseas while two aircraft returned to base, <u>KL-665</u> and <u>KL-647</u>.</p> <p>A pleasant change appeared in the weather with clear sky, clouding over slightly in the afternoon. Gusty wind prevailed.</p> <p>One aircraft departed for overseas with a second being delayed through unserviceability.</p> <p>Group Captain M.G. Boyle and Wing Commander Ashdown arrived at the Unit and were to depart for India on the aircraft piloted by P/O. K.A. Craig (J-56640) but it was this aircraft which was held over.</p> <p>W/C J.F. Green D.F.C., O/C 498 Squadron and W/C D.R. Miller A.F.C., FORMER O/C, worked till late in the evening preparing recommendations for Honours and Awards.</p>	
	17.12.45		<p>Three operational aircraft departed on India flights, <u>KL-361</u>, <u>KL-660</u> and <u>KL-540</u> while two aircraft returned to base, <u>KL-635</u> and <u>KL-619</u>.</p> <p>The weather continued fair and windy, occasional drizzle.</p> <p>Three aircraft departed for India on troping trips.</p> <p>A meeting of all R.C.A.F. groundcrew was held in one of the hangers at 1400 hours. W/C D.R. Miller, A.F.C., former O/C 498 Squadron, bid farewell to the gathering.</p> <p>W/C J.F. Green, D.F.C. spoke to the personnel and explained that high repatriation priority airman should be on their way to the Repat Centre before Christmas and that all others would be leaving between Dec. 26th and 31st either for repatriation or for other duties.</p> <p>A second meeting was held in the Navigation Crew Room at 1800 hours. All aircrew personnel attended.</p>	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 428 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON NOVEMBER - DECEMBERNo. of pages used for UNIT

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices	
<u>TEMPERFORD, HEDS.</u>	<u>18.12.45</u>		<p>No overseas departures for India today and no returns to base. Weather was clear but very gusty. No aircraft departed for overseas as a result of bad weather over the Continent.</p> <p>Squadron Leader Green of Overseas Headquarters (HQ) visited the Squadron Commander to discuss the commissioning policy. It is now permissible for Transport Command personnel to be recommended whereas, hitherto, such applications were not recognized.</p> <p>W/O J.S. Oxill, the Principal R.C.A.F. Overseas R.C. Chaplain visited the Squadron and advised that an R.C.A.F. R.C. Chaplain would be posted here for Christmas duties within the next few days.</p> <p>And more than 1000 men piling in as the squadron is in the process of disembarkment and all are attempting trying to arrange the uncrashing of aircrew and groundcrew personnel.</p> <p>Flight Lieutenant W. Gill (J.20089) P.R.C. from Overseas Headquarters, arrived with a photographer for the purpose of spending a few days at 428 to write a story of the Squadron and its disembarkment which, it is anticipated, is to become effective approximately 31st December, 1945.</p>	<u>SECRET.</u>	
	<u>19.12.45</u>		<p>No overseas flights departed today and there were no arrivals. Rain in the morning, clearing before noon but closing in with local fog late in the afternoon.</p> <p>Aircraft were air-tested for tomorrow's departures and we failed to despatch any operations today as a result of unfavourable conditions over the Continent.</p> <p>Wing Commander J.P. Green, R.F.C., C.O. 428 Squadron, proceeded on a visit to Overseas Headquarters and Transport Command Headquarters to arrange postings for aircrew personnel.</p> <p>The P.R.C. was busy with stories and photographs today.</p> <p>Postings were received for 40 airmen groundcrew to Torgny for repatriation under w.e.f. 28th Dec/45 and for 47 airmen groundcrew to Torgny for repatriation w.e.f. 31st Dec/45. All postings were for British personnel.</p> <p>W/O J. M. Sheehan, R.C. Chaplain was attached to the Unit today from R.C.A.F. Station, Skipton. He will remain here over the Christmas season.</p>		
	<u>20.12.45</u>		<p>Four operational aircraft departed today on India flights, KL-656, KL-267, KL-686 and KL-647. There were three arrivals at base today, KE-181, KL-676 and KL-636. Cold and frosty with poor visibility throughout the day.</p> <p>Four aircraft departed today these are the last operational departures to leave Temperford. However, it was necessary to send them off empty as bad weather over France and the rest of the Continent necessitated minimising loads so that the aircraft could fly over the "weather".</p> <p>W/O A.W. Davison (G.56088), Educational Officer, reported to the Department of Veteran Affairs in London for an interview regarding application for a university scholarship sponsored by the French Government at the University of Paris.</p> <p>F/O E.H. Ballarid (J.46288) reported to Overseas Headquarters for instructions regarding his duties as Deputy Returning Officer for the Manitoba Election at Temperford. Notification was received of the death of R.191727 LAC. E.E. Gardner of the Servicing Echelon.</p> <p>F/O R.H. Wallace (J.44456) was placed on the seriously ill list today at R.A.F. Station Hospital, Henlow as a result of his bicycle accident on camp on 30th Nov./45.</p>		

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
TEMPSON, REUS.	21.12.45		<p>No arrivals of overseas aircraft today.</p> <p>The morning was fair but became hazy around lunch hour and continued throughout the day.</p> <p>One aircraft which was originally scheduled over and above the four departures yesterday, departed in the very early hours of the morning approximately at 0100 hours. This flight will proceed to El Ouisa to pick-up a back-log of personnel in North Africa and is not considered an operational trip.</p> <p>The "Barwell Cooker" planned for tonight for Squadron and Echelon personnel was cancelled due to difficulties in obtaining supplies.</p> <p>Many of the personnel were making their last-minute plans to get off camp for the Christmas holidays.</p> <p>The administrative work seems to be the predominating factor at the moment as personnel are beginning to hand in flying clothing, etc. and making preliminary Clearance arrangements.</p> <p>The P.R.O. from Overseas Headquarters departed for London with multitudinous facts and figures to "write-up" 426 Squadron.</p>		
	22.12.45		<p>Five XXXX aircraft returned from overseas flights today, KH.178, KL.625, KH.209, KH.340 and KH.338.</p> <p>The weather was fair and damp with fog in the late afternoon.</p> <p>Five aircraft returned from Overseas, four of which operated on the entire route and the fifth a training flight which picked up a back-log of troops from El Ouisa.</p> <p>The majority of personnel have departed on leave. Now the busiest department on the camp is the Squadron Post Office which has been literally flooded with approximately 105 bags of Christmas mail and parcels.</p> <p>Acting Flight Lieutenant J.E. Thompson departed for "A" Depot, Torquay on repatriation to Canada.</p>		
	23.12.45		<p>One operational aircraft arrived base today from overseas, KL.650.</p> <p>A very beautiful morning becoming hazy in mid-afternoon with local showers toward dusk. One aircraft returned from Overseas.</p> <p>An additional 50 to 60 bags of mail for Canadian personnel was received. Post Office Staff are doing a fine job in the limited space allotted despite previous representation by the Postal Officer from London to S.A.A.O. for procuring additional space.</p> <p>Recently returned crews are sent off on Christmas leave as the Adjutant and two of the Orderly Room staff are clearing up many administrative details. The stand-down-breather is being put to good use in preparing for the impending disembarkment.</p>		
	24.12.45		<p>No arrivals at base for today.</p> <p>Rain in the morning clearing up in the evening. It was a quiet day with the Orderly Room clearing up Administrative Details.</p> <p>Midnight Mass was celebrated in the R.C. Church after which "Open House" was held in the "Canada House," Ganteon with music, refreshments and food.</p>		
	25.12.45		<p>Nil returns for today from overseas.</p> <p>It was truly a beautiful Christmas Day but an extremely quiet one after the traditional meal in the Airman's Mess, where officers and Senior N.C.O.s waited on the Other Banks. Flight Officer E.J. Campbell did a marvellous job in preparing a fine dinner.</p>		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 428 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON

No. of pages used for 1012

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<u>SECRET.</u>	References to Appendices
<u>TEMPERFORD, BRIS.</u>	<u>25.12.45</u>	<u>(CONTINUED)</u>	<p>Sad news was received today as a signal arrived telling of the death of the father of R214397 P/S. McGovern, T/O, and that his mother is seriously ill. R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters have arranged Air Transport to Canada for this R.C.O. and he is to report in London at 0930 hours, 27th Dec./45. This Unit was fortunate in locating Flight Sergeant McGovern at his leave address within five minutes.</p>		
	<u>26.12.45</u>		<p>No aircraft arrivals from overseas flights today. Another beautiful day with no incidents to report. The staff held over for Christmas are still at work.</p>		
	<u>27.12.45</u>		<p>Two operational aircraft arrived base today completing overseas flights from India, KH-361 and KL-666. Both training aircraft departed base today, at mid-day, on overseas flights for the purpose of picking-up air crews. Aircraft KH-224, captained by W/L. Ketcheson and aircraft KB-633, captained by S/L. R.V. Peterson proceeded on this flight as far as Mauripur. Aircraft KH-574, captained by W/L. Roach and aircraft KL-641 captained by W/L. Badgley both proceeded to Lydda. Fair and clear in the afternoon with rain in the evening. Four aircraft departed to pick-up air-crews along the route, two to Mauripur and two to Lydda. The last of these are expected back about 6th January, 1946 when all the Squadron aircrews should then be cleared out of the Staging Posts. A small number of personnel have now returned from Christmas leave.</p>		
	<u>28.12.45</u>		<p>No arrivals of operational aircraft from India today. Weather was poor with a mixture of rain and snow in the morning and not clearing up at all during the day. W/O. A.M. Davison (C.56009), Educational Officer attached to the Squadron from Overseas Headquarters, applied for release from the R.C.A.F. in the U.K., as his application for a course at the University of Paris and sponsored by the French Government was received favourably and he will commence his course on 7th January, 1946. A meeting of all aircrew personnel assembled in the Navigation Crew Room at 1000 hours. The gathering was addressed by W/O. J.P. Green D.F.C., O.C., who sorted out the various personnel into three groups - those desirous of (1) repatriation, (2) Continuation Service in the U.K. on a R.A.F. Liberator Squadron and (3) Service with Canadian Dakota Squadrons. The remainder were asked to make their choice now since they were on route until the last few days. From this indication of preferences by the aircrew, up-to-date nominal rolls were compiled and these were brought personally by Wing Commander Green to Transport Command. Liberator volunteers were instructed to complete waivers of repatriation as were Dakota volunteers who were also required to complete a pro-forma of previous experience and service particulars for 129 (RCAF) Wing Headquarters. This documentation commenced immediately.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
TEMPFORD, HKS.	29.12.45		<p>Three more arrivals at base today of overseas aircraft from India trips. KL 688, ME 267 and KL 647.</p> <p>Training aircraft YK 24, Captained by W/L. Beach returned to base today from overseas flight to Lydda carrying 19 aircrew (skip crew) from Lydda.</p> <p>Weather was cool.</p> <p>Postings for 42 aircrew personnel to Torquay effective 31st December, 1945 and reporting 2nd January, 1946 were received today.</p> <p>Attached is an extract taken from today's copy of the "Maple Leaf" relating the activities of the last days of the Squadron and its history.</p> <p>One of the four aircraft despatched to pick-up skip crew returned from Lydda via Castel Benito. Three have yet to return.</p>		APPENDIX 1
	30.12.45		<p>Nil returns of aircraft from operational flights to India today.</p> <p>The Squadron was extremely busy preparing nominal rolls of drafts and completing all documentation for the disbandment of the Unit.</p>		
	31.12.45		<p>No returns of aircraft from overseas today.</p> <p>No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron is to disband w.e.f. today.</p> <p>With the exception of the 42 postings already affected, there have been no posting instructions on the remainder of the aircrew. It is anticipated, however, that 15 or 16 crews will remain on Transport Command Liberator trooping flights to India. Approximately 40 personnel will be going to No. 130 (RAF) Wing on Lakota Squadrons and the remainder are to be despatched to Torquay for retraining.</p> <p>The following letter signed by Air Marshal, C.B., D.S.C., L.C.C.-in-C. R.C.A.F. Overseas, was received today upon the disbandment of our Squadron:</p> <p>"I have received the following message from Air Marshal Sir Ralph A. Cochran, CBE, CB, AFC, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Transport Command:</p> <p>"On completion by 426 RCAF Squadron of their trooping task I would like to offer my congratulations on their fine record. They have done more than 100 round trips to India and back carrying over 5,000 troops. In some 5,000 hours flying on the trunk route they have had only one accident that could be attributed to pilot error and that a minor one. Grateful if you would convey to all ranks my appreciation of all they have done and my best wishes for their return to Canada. They have built up a great reputation and it is with genuine regret that we see them leave. Good luck to them all."</p> <p>I also would like to add my congratulations. The outstanding record of your Squadron has brought great credit to yourselves and to the Royal Canadian Air Force.</p> <p>During the month of December, the Squadron uplifted 777 passengers on their way Overseas and 614 were landed at base. The Unit ceased outbound flights on 30 December when four aircraft departed for India. Returns were still arriving on the disbandment date.</p> <p>CASUALTIES - Nil</p> <p>POSTINGS "IN"</p> <p>J. 2827 W/L W.J.C. JACKSON (PILOT) Posted from "R" Depot w.e.f. 14.11.45 J. 28721 W/O J.C. WARR (PILOT) "RAF Station, Topoliffe" 12.9.45 J. 18288 W/O H.B. WILSON (SAC) "RAF Station, Topoliffe" 6.7.45</p>		

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