

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

3.22-6428
785

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

No. of pages used for day -

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Dalton, Yorks	1942	7th Nov.	The Squadron started to form to Establishment WAR/BC/154A (medium bomber squadron: 16 + 2 Wellington III aircraft). P/Lt. E.J.A. Lindsay (C.8721), the Medical Officer, was the first member of the Squadron, having arrived at Dalton on 1.11.42. Extensions and repairs to runways on the aerodrome are being completed, also accommodation for personnel. All ranks are to be accommodated in huts. The Commanding Officer, Wing Commander A. EARLE (26132), arrived at Topcliffe. The following officers reported, together with 23 airmen aircrew and 2 groundcrew. S/Lt. R.G.E. Catt (29062), O.C. "A" Flight. P/Lt. F.J. Seidel (C.5269), Adjutant P/O. J.M. Forman (J.15236), Gunnery Leader P/O. R.J. Gritten (129061) P/O. G.F. Tallman (J.10712) P/O. H.B. Ward (J.11359) P/O. W.W.D. Brown (J.9899) P/O. E.B. Robertson (J.10178) P/O. F.H. Viney (J.11355)		
		8th Nov.	Wing Commander Earle arrived from Topcliffe and assumed command. 1 airmen aircrew and 9 groundcrew reported on posting.		
		9th Nov.	P/O. W. Thatcher (J.103202) reported. P/O. W.W.D. Brown has been appointed to act as Signals Officer, and P/O. E.B. Robertson as Navigation Officer. 3 more groundcrew arrived.		
		10th Nov.	Arrivals: P/O. C.J. Shagena (J.11948), 17 aircrew and 7 groundcrew.		
		11th Nov.	Orderly Room personnel are starting to arrive. They are Canadians unfamiliar with R.A.F. procedure. An attempt is being made to organise an Orderly Room, but serious difficulties are being encountered owing to lack of equipment and stationery. It would much facilitate the formation of new units if key personnel such as the Engineer Officer, Adjutant and Orderly Room and Equipment Staff could be posted some time before aircrew and the bulk of the ground personnel. One of the most serious of our present problems is to keep the aircrew suitably occupied and prevent their becoming bored, with the consequent effect on morale. Arrivals: P/O. N. Gorick (124505) and P/O. G. Wood (J.10608), 2 aircrew and 1 groundcrew.		



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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1942				
Dalton, Yorks	12th Nov.		Arrivals: 1 aircrew and 4 groundcrew.		
	13th Nov.		All ranks in all trades have rallied round to give a hand in whatever work has to be done; scrubbing, setting up tables, constructing footpaths with cinders, washing windows, and generally cleaning and tidying up. Arrivals: 3 groundcrew.		
	14th Nov.		Canadian personnel experience some difficulty in getting accustomed to the lack of heating in living quarters in the morning and also the absence of running water on the living sites. However, all ranks appear on the whole to be very cheerful and are working well.		
	15th Nov.		Bicycles have been issued to a number of the officers and airmen; more are expected to be issued shortly. Distances between points are considerable: e.g., Squadron Mess to Officers' and Sergeants' Messes is about a mile. No new arrivals today.		
	16th Nov.		3 aircrew and 3 groundcrew personnel reported on posting.		
	17th Nov.		P/Lt. F.B. Mason (Navigation Officer), 2 aircrew and 2 groundcrew arrived in the Squadron.		
	18th Nov.		P/O. R.F.S. Kendall (Aus.406549) (Bombing Leader), 2 aircrew and 4 groundcrew arrived today. The Squadron arranged its first game of soccer.		
	19th Nov.		Arrivals were P/O. H.C. Irwin (J.11956), P/O. R.G. Tighe (J.9416), 3 aircrew and 37 groundcrew.		
	20th Nov.		P/O. C.E. Chapman (128617), 4 aircrew and 31 groundcrew reported here today.		
	21st Nov.		Arrivals today were: P/O. D.S. Morgan (J.8215), P/O. F.H. Ditchburn (J.11226), 2 aircrew and 22 groundcrew.		
	22nd Nov.		S/Lt. D.W.M. Smith (O.C. "B" Flight) arrived in the Squadron. Other arrivals were P/O. H. Rankine (129930), 4 aircrew and 12 groundcrew.		
	23rd Nov.		P/O. F.H. Bowden (89593) reported to the Squadron. No aircrew arrived; 22 groundcrew reported.		
	24th Nov.		Arrangements have been made for crews to fly with 426 Squadron at Dishforth. It is hoped to make similar arrangements with 424 Squadron in the near future. Two aircraft crews accordingly reported to Dishforth today. To assist those Squadrons and to enable our groundcrews to obtain experience on Wellington IIIs, a number of maintenance personnel will be attached to them daily. Arrivals today were 4 aircrew and 20 groundcrew.		
	25th Nov.		Our first two aircraft arrived today (Wellington IIIs X.3545 and X.3546, delivered by 466		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices				
Dalton, Yorks	1942		Squadron. No Engineer Officer has yet been posted to the Squadron. Headquarters is looking after our mechanical transport needs. Our first W.A.A.F. (an M.T. Driver) also arrived and is being accommodated at Topcliffe. Quarters for airwomen at this Station are not yet completed. Other arrivals were 2 aircrew and 8 groundcrew personnel.						
	26 Nov.		Two aircraft crews proceeded to Dishforth for flying practice, and one to Topcliffe. P/O. J.F. Spencer (124650), 3 aircrew and 17 groundcrew reported to the Squadron on posting.						
	27 Nov.		A Squadron dance band is being formed. To date our only entertainments have been cinema shows provided by E.N.S.A. and the Canadian Y.M.C.A. An entertainments committee has now been appointed and it is hoped to provide more entertainments in the near future. 7 aircrew personnel reported to Topcliffe for flying practice. 1 aircrew and 6 groundcrew reported on posting.						
	28 Nov.		Two aircraft crews went to Dishforth for flying practice. 6 groundcrew personnel arrived, but no aircrew.						
	29 Nov.		Postings to the Squadron: 1 aircrew.						
	30 Nov.		A third aircraft (Wellington III B.K.563) arrived today. 5 aircrew and 3 groundcrew reported on posting.						
AIRCREW (as at 30.11.42).									
			Officers						
			R.C.A.F.	R.N.A.F.	N/Z/INDIA AUSTR.	STRENGTH	ESTAB.		
			Pilots	2	5	0	0	7	14
			Observers	8	1	0	0	9	11
			Gunners	4	1	0	0	5	3
			Air Bombers	1	2	0	1	4	11
				* Includes 1 Canadian					
			Airmen						
			Pilots	8	4	1	0	13	13
			Observers	8	2	1	0	11	13
			W.O./A.Gs	8	10	0	0	18	20
			Air Gunners	14	3	1	0	18	18
			Air Bomber	13	3	0	0	16	10

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			R.C.A.F.	R.A.F.	NEWZEALAND.	AUSTR.	TOTAL		ESTAB.
<u>GROUND CREW</u> (as at 30.11.42)									
			Officers	2	0	0	0	2	4
			Airmen	28	195	0	0	223	263
			W.A.A.F.	0	3	0	0	3	35
<u>AIRCRAFT ON STRENGTH</u> (as at 30.11.42)									
			Wellington III.	...	3				

SECRET.

[Signature]
 Wing Commander,
 Commanding No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

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