

440. R.C. 11

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

822-428  
575

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	148	SECRET	References to Appendices			
Dalton, Yorks	19 & 21 Dec.		An unofficial visit was made to the Station by Air Vice-Marshal G. Brooks, C.B.E., recently appointed A.O.C. No. 6 Group. In the evening a <del>concert</del> <del>concert</del> was presented to a capacity audience in the airman's mess. After the show the cast ("The Globe Trotters") were entertained in the officers' mess. Four aircraft (Wellington III No's 2.1716, 2.1719, 2.1722 and X.3543) were received: aircraft held by the Squadron now number seven. STRENGTH AS AT 1.12.42:-						
			<u>AIRCRAFT</u>						
			<u>Officers</u>						
			R.C.A.F.	R.A.F.	N/DRAINED	ARMED.	STRENGTH	ESTAB.	
			Pilots	2	5 ++	0	0	7	14
			Navigators	8	1	0	0	9	11
			Gunners	4	1	0	0	5	3
			Air Bombers	1	2	0	1	4	11
			<u>Airmen</u>						
									++ Includes 1 Canadian
			Pilots	8	4	1	0	13	13
			W.O./A.Gs.	8	2	1	0	11	13
			Air Gunners	14	3	1	0	18	18
			Air Bombers	13	3	0	0	16	10
	2 Dec.		Three aircraft (Wellington III's B.K.155, B.K.156 and B.K.364) were received, making the total number of aircraft now held by the Squadron 10. Arrangements have been made by the Squadron C.O. for the use of the Link trainer at R.A.F. Station, Topcliffe, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 0900 to 1230 hours. A whist drive for Junior N.C.O.s and airmen was held in the Mess.						
	3 Dec.		A party of aircrew N.C.O.s proceeded to Topcliffe to attend the funeral of victim of the Halifax crash of Sunday, 30th December.						
	4 Dec.		Arrangements have been made for a party of 1/ N.C.O. Air Gunners and W.Op. Air Gunners, in the charge of I/O. Ward, to proceed to Dainforth for firing on the range on 5.12.42. In						



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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
	1942				
	5 Dec.		future, aircrew will cease to go to Topoliffe for flying duties.		
	5 Dec.		Five aircraft (Wellington III's H.R.562, H.R.174, H.R.175, H.R.176) were received. Aircraft now held by the Squadron number 15. Two aircraft have been made serviceable and were flown today, the first time since arrival.		
	6 Dec.		S/Lt. Catt proceeded to No. 1 Engine Control Demonstration Unit to attend an Engine Handling Course. The first Squadron parade of 428 Squadron personnel; and an inspection by the Commanding Officer; 35 greatcoats were found to be ill-fitting, and in a poor condition.		
	7 Dec.		First visit to the Squadron of an R.C.A.F. Trade Test Board. One airman (a Clark Steno-grapher) was trade tested. One gas tender was received by the M.T. Section and servicing was commenced immediately to have the new unit in operation forthwith.		
	8 Dec.		Aircraft Wellington H.R. 173 received today. 16 aircraft are now held by the Squadron.		
	9 Dec.		The Squadron Engineer Officer (P/O. J.H. Jackson) arrived from 16 O.V.U.		
	10 Dec.		S/Lt. R.C.N. Catt returned from Engine Handling Course.		
	11 Dec.		Sgt. Ferguson and Sgt. Sykes took part in operational sortie from Lincoln. The target was Turin. Due to temporary engine failure, S/C in which was flying was forced to return before the target was reached.		
	14 Dec.		Lecture on Security in the airman's mess for all personnel of the Station. Speaker: P/Lt. Stewart of R.A.F. Station, Topoliffe. Due to fog gathering in this locality while S/Lt. Catt was on a familiarization flight, he was unable to land here and hence proceeded to Burn. Similarly, Sgt. Pilot Manning was forced to land at Driffield.		
	15 Dec.		S/Lt. Catt returned from Burn.		
	16 Dec.		Rain and fog made it necessary to cancel all flying activities.		
	17 Dec.		First air raid for some time - at approximately 2200 hours. Flares were dropped in the vicinity, and bombs at Skipton and Driffield and the towns of Thirsk and York.		
	18 Dec.		Group Captain Russell, Commanding Officer at Topoliffe, addressed all personnel of 428 Squadron on Air Raid Precautions. A free issue of 75 cigarettes was made to all Canadian personnel of the Squadron. The cigarettes were provided through R.C.A.F. (Overseas) H.Q. Auxiliary Services Officer.		

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No. of pages used for day -

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
Dalton, Thirsk, Yorks	19 & 20 Dec. (contd)		Visit by P/Lt. Massie, French Canadian Liaison Officer, who interviewed French Canadian personnel.		
	19 Dec.		Arrangements have been completed for the establishment of a "Liberty Bus" service to run from the camp to the Topcliffe railway station four nights each week.		
	20 Dec.		Kit inspection for all R.C.A.F. personnel. P/Lt. Fields, Group French Liaison Officer, visited the Squadron, collecting material for publication in Canadian newspapers.		
	21 Dec.		As a result of operations carried out on Rindberg by No. 75 Squadron, two of our pilots, R.107685 Sgt. Henschel, W.A.C. and R.90284 Sgt. Jones, R.C., who were on their first operational sortie (as second pilots), are missing.		
	22 Dec.		Weather conditions most suitable for flying training. Flying time for the two flights totalled 11 hours, 45 minutes, the largest daily total to date.		
	23 Dec.		First cross-country training flight from this Squadron took place. An L.S.A. concert was presented in the airman's mess.		
	24 Dec.		A distribution of Y.M.C.A. Christmas gifts to all Canadian personnel took place. A dance scheduled for Junior N.C.O.s and airman was cancelled due to difficulties experienced in providing W.A.A.F. partners. Arrangements were made to transport R.C. personnel to Topcliffe for midnight mess. First night-flying practice: S/Lt. Catt made one circuit, flying for 20 minutes. Weather prevented further flying.		
	25 Dec.		Christmas dinner was served in the airman's mess at 1200 hours. All ranks were present, officers and senior N.C.O.s waiting on the other ranks. (Mentioned) The mess hall was suitably decorated for the occasion and the dinner was a success. In the evening a party for all ranks was held in the airman's mess. In the absence of the Squadron Entertainments Officer, the Adjutant was in charge of the party and made it a most enjoyable affair. Present in addition to Dalton personnel were W.A.A.F.s from Headquarters No. 6 Group, Dishforth and Topcliffe.		
	26 Dec.		No flying, due to unfavourable weather conditions.		
	27 Dec.		Weather still unsuitable for flying.		
	28 Dec.		A Canadian Y.M.C.A. office was established in the Squadron offices. It will be open on		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices		
Dalton, Yorks	1-9-42						
	28 Dec. (cont.)		Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for two hours each afternoon. Capt. L.C. Carthorne in charge. 2 hours' night flying practice was carried out by 3 aircraft.				
	29 Dec.		The Bombing Leader and Navigation Officer of 431 Squadron visited Dalton. An entertainment concert was given in the airman's mess.				
	31 Dec.		First accident: Wellington Z.1718 - Sgt. Manning burst a tyre on landing and caused some damage to the aircraft. There were no casualties. First meeting of the Airman's Mess Committee.				
<b>STRENGTH AS AT 31.12.42.</b>							
	<b>D.F.F.F.F.F.F.F.</b>	R.C.A.F.	R.A.F.	N.ZEALAND	AUSTR.	OTHERS	TOTAL
Pilots	3	3 **	1	0	0	0	14
Navigators	7	1	0	0	0	0	14
Gunners	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Air Bombers	0	2	1	1	1	0	11
** Includes 1 Canadian.							
<b>A.I.F.M.C.</b>							
Pilots	8	3	3	0	0	0	14
Navigators	8	7	1	0	0	0	16
G.S./A.Ss	7	15	0	0	0	0	22
Air Gunners	14	6	3	0	0	0	23
Air Bombers	13	7	0	0	0	0	20
<b>Aircraft on Strength (31.12.42)</b>							
Wellington III: 14. Wellington XI: 5							
<b>Flight Times: Operational Days: Nil Operational Nights: Nil</b>							
<b>Non-Op. Days: 33.20 Non-Op. Nights: 25.05</b>							
<i>A. G. Smith</i> Wing Commander, Commanding No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.							