

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	1.5.44		<p>Fourteen crews were detailed for operations which were scrubbed at 12.00 hours. The afternoon from 1300 hours on and the evening was devoted to moving into our new buildings. This was a strenuous job and needed full co-operation of all personnel. The new buildings are OK, except that no provision is made for section accommodation for equipment, lecture space etc. To overcome this handicap, the briefing room is being used as a crew room and the crew room as section room. This will pan out a long as we can use our present briefing room at Station Headquarters. Four new crews reported in for duty: P/O Graham, A.P.O., (J.16366, RCAF), P/O Gonyou, (J.29585, RCAF) P/Sgt SMITH, (R156857, RCAF), P/Sgt JAKEMAN, (R157995, RCAF). Appears to be good crews but have no H2S training. P/O GRAHAM and P/O GONYOU are flying tonight on their first radar cross-country trip.</p>	This
	2.5.44		No operation detailed to-day and all local flying prevented by high winds. The day was spent in ground training and lectures and in setting down in the new offices, scrounging additional furniture, hanging maps, charts, black-boards, etc.	
	3.5.44		Ten crews were detailed and briefed for gardening operations. All took off, mined the area and returned, safely. Four crews took off on a Bulls-eye exercise, one crew returned early due to engine trouble but the balance completed the exercise successfully. The use of the briefing room as a crew-room, is working out very well. The Y.M.C.A. have fitted it with radio, easy chairs, billiard and ping-pong tables etc. The boys are really using it and one can always find a crew-member, if wanted in a hurry.	A.133
	4.5.44		No operations detailed for to-day and a Squadron stand-down called in the after-noon. The morning was spent in ground training.	
	5.5.44		Ten crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations on St. Malo, BREST, and MOULAY. All took off, mined successfully and returned safely after a non-eventful trip. Two alt tests were flown. Four crews were detailed and briefed for a BULLS-EYE, but it was scrubbed before take-off. P/L G.M. CARTER, (J.16890, RCAF), Bombing Leader, went to Headquarters No. 6 (RCAF) GROUP for a conference. Flight Engineers started Link training and had lescubers in the after-noon. Advice was received of the Immediate Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to our Squadron Commander, Wing Commander D.T. FRENCH. This was received with great acclaim as we considered that he had certainly earned it.	A. 134

SECRET

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	6.5.44		No operations scheduled for to-day. Four new crews carried out bombing practice at STROMSARF Range and four radar cross countries were flown. Flight Engineers had practice in turret manipulation and familiarisation. Two flight affiliations were flown. P/O BIRN (J.24434, RCAP) flew 'L' Love to Kinloss and was ferried back.		
	7.5.44		Ten crews were detailed and briefed for Gardening operations off the BERTISIAN ISLANDS. All returned safely with no untoward incidents reported. W/C FRENCH (C.1617) (RCAP) Squadron Commander led our attack. Two air tests, four radar cross-countries, two bombing exercises and one BEB practice were flown.		A.135
	8.5.44		No operations ordered for to-day. Four air tests, four radar cross countries and four bombing exercises were flown. WOP's had lectures on Bomber Code security and other sections carried out ground training. The Photo section are getting familiarised with the Leica and Contax cameras for use on gardening operations. This type of camera is operated by the navigator and takes a photograph of the P.F.I. screen and shows exact location of the mine dropping.		
	9.5.44		Sixteen crews were detailed and briefed for gardening operations on BREST, LORIENT and MORLAIX. All mined successfully and returned safely. Light flak was met at BREST but no damage was received. One air to air firing exercise, two fighter affiliations, two radar flights and one bombing exercise were flown. Photos of the mining proved very good with one failure out of the twelve cameras carried. W/C FRENCH, ITC, his navigator P/O BERSENROLL, (J.11804, RCAP), WOP/AG P/O MILES, (J.20853, RCAP), BOMB AIMER P/O GREGG (J.20863, RCAP) and Flight Engineer P/O YULE, ITC (C.19528, RCAP) are screened effective to-day. W/C FRENCH is to be posted to Headquarters No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group after a 49 hour leave and the rest are going on ten days leave. S/L MCLEISH (J.1886, RCAP) is assuming command of the Squadron. W/C FRENCH will be missed by the Squadron as he has commanded us since October 27th and has always held the interest of the Squadron in just place and the efficiency and good results of the Squadron's efforts are largely due to him.		A.136
	10.5.44		Fourteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on GHEWT. All our aircraft returned safely after a successful raid. P/O GONYON, P/O GRAHAM, P/Sgt JAKEMAN, and SGT SMITH made the trip as second pilots. One air test and two radar cross countries were flown during the		A.137

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MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	11.5.44		Six crews were detailed for operations on railway targets at BOULOGNE. Owing to winds, swinging around to the reciprocal, our crews had difficulty in reaching the target on time. However, all bombed successfully and returned safely to Base. Two special radar cross countries and two fighter affiliations were flown. F/L WINSHIP (J.9250, RCAF) was screened on completion of thirty full operations and proceeded on leave.		A.128
	12.5.44		Eleven crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations off the FRESIANS and ST. MALO. All returned safely with one bringing back his mines owing to suspected failure of special equipment. Four crews carried out tests regarding climbing, et with a load of four 1500 pound mines. These tests were successful and the results satisfactory. F/L C.E.J. MURPHY, DFC (J.20592, RCAF) returned from the Junior Commanders Course at GRANVILLE and took over Command of "A" Flight. F/L F.G. LOED, DFC (J.4883, RCAF) was promoted to Acting Squadron Leader and took over command of "B" Flight. F/O N.P. BROWN, (J.24433, RCAF), F/O BIRBY (J.24434, RCAF) and F/O F.J. EDWARDS, (J.140455 RCAF) were promoted to Acting Flight Lieutenant, W/O FRENCH to take over his duties at No. 6 (RCAF) Group.		A.139
	13.5.44		Ten crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed at 1800 hours. WOPs had lectures on A.P. 5032 and other sections ground training and no local or training flights were flown. F/L FORD (J.21372, RCAF) and F/O ARDIS (J.26495, RCAF) on convalescence from RIX hospital after their crash landing on April 20th, visited the Squadron to-day and intend to stay for 48 hours. Both are feeling fairly fit though shaky. F/L FORD still being in a body cast. They report that SGT CARRIGAN the Flight Engineer is slowly recovering and is off the seriously ill list.		
	14.5.44		Ten crews were detailed and briefed for gardening operations on ST. MALO, MORLAIN, CHERBOURG and LE HAYRE. All reached the target but F/O GONTOU (J.29585, RCAF) despite spending an hour in the target area was unable to release his mines and returned with them. All our aircraft returned to base safely. New WOPs started F training in the air and a Group V/T exercise was held in the afternoon with good results (8/10). Photographic results of the mining were F 2/4 (two fitted) successful and one failed out of three. Bombing practice had been scheduled for the evening but it was cancelled at last moment. Two air to air firing, two bombing (day) exercises and four radar flights were flown.		A.140

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11/17

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	15.5.44		No operations scheduled for to-day. Ground training and lectures were held in the forenoon. W/O MELCOMBE (P110116, BOAF) and crew were posted to 405 (P.F.P.) Squadron. Air to air firing and fighter affiliation were flown.		
	16.5.44		Stand down again to-day with no operations scheduled. Flight Engineers had lectures on hydraulics etc. of the Lancaster X, and the Air Gunners commenced lectures on the turret system of that aircraft. WOFs had lectures on Radio counter measures, I.F.F. wind broadcasts for Bomber Command on its own frequency and zero shift when applicable. Several crews practised dry dinghy drill and the new crew had lectures in first aid by the Medical Officer. Night Bombing exercises were detailed but scrubbed as an attempt showed that the weather was too duff.		
	17.5.44		No operations detailed for to-day owing to very low ceiling, very few flights were made. Four air to air details and one test flight were flown. Bombing (night) was again detailed and had to be scrubbed on account of the weather. Four crews had dry dinghy drill, four Link and two crews went to THORNHAY for wet dinghy drill and swimming. Two lectures were held by the Photographic N.S.O. One to Navigators in the use of the Leica and one to Air Bomber in the new cycle of operations of the P.24 as a prelude to colour photography in use with the black and white. This advances the bombing frame from the fourth to fifth giving the third and fourth in colour.		
	18.5.44		No operations detailed for to-day and the weather is duff, prohibiting any training flights. The day was spent in lectures, dry dinghy drill and ground training. Air Gunners had night vision training. The WOFs are doing DI's with 419 Squadron in order to get some idea of the Bendix equipment used in the Lancaster X. Flight Engineers and Gunners are still getting lectures on Lancaster X equipment as it applies to them.		
	19.5.44		Weather is still duff, no operations or training flying. Lectures and ground training continued on as for yesterday.		
	20.5.44		Still no operations and weather is still very duff. The boys are getting restless after being grounded so long and only having ground training lectures and ground training continued.		
	21.5.44		Operations called to-day and fifteen crews detailed and briefed for mining operations on HELIGOLAND carrying four mines each. Two were non-starters, one due to H2S failure and one		A.141

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
MIBLETON ST. GEORGE	21.5.44		engine failure. Thirteen went to the target, mined successfully and returned safely. Numerous snags were encountered in bombing up with four mines and our Armament Section finally had to request the aid of some 419 Armourers to get the job done in time. This co-operation was much appreciated. A group W/T exercise was carried out in the afternoon by the Signal Section with good results. (9/10) marks. Two air tests, three special radar cross countries. Two air to air firing exercises and two bombing details were carried out. Conversion lectures were carried on.		
	22.5.44		Six crews were detailed and briefed for mining operations on three targets. Four were scrubbed at 1800 hours and two mined successfully at ST. MALO and returned safely to base. Two fighter affiliations, two radar cross countries and one day bombing detail were flown. The WOPs concentrated on Bendix equipment and conversion lectures were carried on by the Air Gunners and Engineers.		A.142
	23.5.44		Four crews were detailed for mining operations on CHERBOURG and LE HAVRE. All mined successfully and returned safely with no untoward incidents reported. Five fighter affiliations, five special radar cross countries were flown. Two crews went to BRADBURY Range for bombing but were prevented by weather and returned. Advice was received of the promotion of our Squadron Commander, S/L MURKIN to acting Wing Commander and also of the award to him of the NON-IMMEDIATE Distinguished Flying Cross. These will call for large celebrations the next stand-down day. The WAAF held an Empire Day dance at which the Squadron was fairly well represented.		A.143
	24.5.44		Fifteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations on THOUVILLE. All bombed and returned safely to base. P/O HUSTON (J.19887, RCAP) P/O WALTERS (J.85018, RCAP), R159318, SGT HALL RCAP and SGT MESSMAN (R.76280, RCAP) made their first second dicky trip. The sortie was considered a success. Four fighter affiliations, two radar flights, three bombing details and one air test were flown. WOPs had a lecture on electrical circuits of Lancaster X, Bomb Aimers had link instruction and new bombers had lectures and instruction. The first Lancaster X was expected in but did not arrive.		A.144
	25.5.44		The Lancaster X arrived OK and has been inspected from all angles by the Squadron personnel. Fifteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed around 1800 hours.		

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MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	25.5.44		due to weather. Three aircraft carried out a sea search from 0500 hours but made no sightings. One air test and two air to air details were flown. Radar cross countries were detailed but were scrubbed on account of the weather. P/L SMITH returned from the Signals Leader Course at PERGHOS. P/L C.E.J. MURPHY, IRE (J.20393, RCAF) was promoted to Acting Squadron Leader as O.C. "A" Flight. Good show.		A.144
	26.5.44		No operations detailed for to-day. The weather is pretty duff and not much flying possible, one air firing detail being flown. Ground training and conversion lectures were continued. P/O GILBERT (J.85413, RCAF) and crew reported in for duty. Seem like a good outfit and should shape up well after H2S training.		
	27.5.44		Fifteen crews were detailed for gardening operation off HENIGOLAND. All mined successfully and returned safely. P/O POWERS (J.85363) RCAF, landed at BARKFORD - ST. JOHN. Flying training was carried out with three fighter affiliations, two air firing details, one bombing exercise and three radar cross countries being flown. P/Sgt TREV of the Station Signal Section lectured the WOPs on the inter-communication, used on a LANCASTER X. P/O CURELEY finished his tour and was screened with 120 points, the first on the Squadron to be screened under the new system. The Squadron Commander and Adjutant, P/L BOURN (G.7263, RCAF) attended the Station Commander's conference and learnt the details of the Physical Training programme that is to be inaugurated on Monday. These details were passed on to the personnel in the afternoon.		A.145
	28.5.44		No operations scheduled for to-day. Two radar cross countries and two bombing details were completed. WOPs carried out practice on Bendix equipment in the Radar Div. Room and held a Group W/T exercise which was so successful that Group wound up with message "Good Show", which is a good show. Other sections continued with conversion lectures. More Lancasters are expected in at any time and conversion will start in real earnest.		
	29.5.44		Three crews were detailed for mining operations near DUNKIRK, all returning safely after an eventful trip. Flying training was as follows; four radar cross countries, six fighter affiliations and three day bombing exercises. Six night radar flights were detailed but were scrubbed at the last minute. The Squadron started P.T. from 1400 to 1500 hours. Most of the boys were pretty stiff after the session. The attendance was perfect with no absentees. Thirteen firing details were carried out at SUTTON BANK Gunnery Range.		A.146

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MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	30.5.44		Fourteen crews were detailed and briefed for operations which were scrubbed at 22.30 hours. Ground training and lectures were carried out. Three crews stood by for a sea sweep which was also cancelled due to weather. All training details were also cancelled.		
	31.5.44		Sixteen crews were detailed for operations, seven gardening at LORIENT and BREST and nine at MONT COUPE. P/O CARTER (J.85388, RCAF) was an early return due to icing. P/L ANDERSON (J.6173, RCAF) encountered lightning and landed at WOODBRIDGE with his Air Bomber's face frozen. P/O FORSBERG (R.107547, RCAF) was about ten feet off the deck when an engine cut, he carried on the take-off and jettisoned his load returning to base. He made a good job of taking off fully loaded with three engines and showed great skill and determination. One crew landed at DALTON, one at METHERINGHAM and four at ST. EVAL on diversion instruction. Advice was received of the Immediate Awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross to A/P/Lt. JENNIFER (J.25372, RCAF) and P/O B.D. ARDIS (J.26495, RCAF) and Distinguished Flying Medal to SGT. J.W. CARRIGAN (1807113, RCAF) for the job they did the night of April 20/21st. A very good show.		A.147
CASUALTIES					
Nil.					
POSTINGS IN.					
Pilots					
			No. 61 Base.		
J.19887	P/O S. Huxton,	15.5.44	" " "		
R159318	Sgt. Hall, W.S.	15.5.44	" " "		
R76280	Sgt Mossman, L.	19.5.44	" " "		
J.89018	P/O Walter, B.H.	22.5.44	" " "		
J.8513	P/O A.E. Hilbert,	25.5.44	" " "		
J.25852	P/O W.H. Jamoy,	30.5.44	" " "		
Navigators					
R1637A2	P/Sgt Adams, A.F.	15.5.44	" " "		
J.28699	P/O C.R. Smith,	" " "	" " "		
J.27504	P/O Ennippelberg, J.	19.5.44	" " "		
J.27503	P/O R.G. Wiens,	22.5.44	" " "		
J.29330	P/O A.T. Richardson,	25.5.44	" " "		
R2422660	P/Sgt KILLING, W.H.	30.5.44	" " "		

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			POSTINGS IN		
			Air Gunners.		
			R168299 Sgt Bernhardt, I.M. 15.5.44 No. 61 Base.		
			J.28797 P/O J.A. Trotter, 15.5.44 " " "		
			J.29368 P/O G.R. Jones 19.5.44 " " "		
			J.28673 P/O E.G. Gilmour, 22.5.44 " " "		
			J.28938 P/O A.B. Durfee, 25.5.44 " " "		
			J.21182 P/O A.V. Batty, 30.5.44 " " "		
			WOP/AG		
			R197709 Sgt Gill, F.A. 15.5.44 " " "		
			R180808 Sgt Hartje, L.H. 15.5.44 " " "		
			R165982 P/Sgt Anderson, L. 19.5.44 " " "		
			H.26323 W/O Carter, R.H. 22.5.44 " " "		
			R17773 Sgt Watson, J.R. 25.5.44 " " "		
			R184161 Sgt McFee tora, A.S. 30.5.44 " " "		
			Flight Engineers.		
			L.13185 Sgt Puttock, P.W. 15.5.44 " " "		
			R217888 Sgt Leaswa, G. 15.5.44 " " "		
			1338512 Sgt Meadows, T. 19.5.44 " " "		
			R149240 Sgt Umscheid, J.L. 22.5.44 " " "		
			1898778 Sgt Tunner, E. 25.5.44 " " "		
			1835172 Sgt Brotherhood, L. 30.5.44 " " "		
			1583157 Sgt Simpson, A. 6.5.44 No. 64 Base		
			Air Gunners.		
			R208644 Sgt Waddell, J. 15.5.44 No. 61 Base		
			R257987 Sgt Richmond, D.E. " " "		
			R192776 Sgt Grant, K.S. " " "		
			R168121 Sgt Hill, D.J. " " "		
			R251615 Sgt Cole, W.J. 19.5.44 " " "		
			R260118 Sgt Walton, J.E. " " "		
			R252261 Sgt Munger, P.A. 22.5.44 " " "		
			R215226 Sgt Budd, A.C. " " "		
			R251455 Sgt Wallace, J.T. 25.5.44 " " "		
			R257038 Sgt Candy, S.W. 25.5.44 " " "		
			R128099 W/O Lawson, J.H. 30.5.44 " " "		
			R142882 W/O Harrison, F.A. 30.5.44 " " "		
			R141635 P/Sgt Casteau, J.M.E. 6.5.44 No. 64 Base.		
			POSTINGS OUT.		
			Pilots.		
			C.1617 A/W/C D.T. French, DFC 9.5.44 R.C.A.F. Q/S H.Q.		
			160681 P/O B.V. Sykes 22.5.44 No. 64 Base		
			R110116 W/O Melcombe, D.E. 17.5.44 405 Squadron.		

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POSTINGS OUT.					
Navigators.					
			W.e.f.	Posted to.	
	J. 20716		F/O West, J.W.	17.5.44	405 Squadron.
	J. 20246		F/O Steele, T.L.	21.5.44	419 Squadron.
	J. 14804		F/O De Rosenroll, J.A.	21.5.44	No. 6 Group.
Air Bombers.					
	J. 24656		F/O Clement, J.M.	17.5.44	405 Squadron.
	J. 20863		F/O Green, J.P.	21.5.44	1664 C.U.
Flight Engineers.					
	1818772		Sgt Deakin, A.G.	17.5.44	405 Squadron
	C. 19528		F/O A.C. Yule, DFM.	21.5.44	1664 C.U.
	2216225		Sgt Phillips, R.A.	22.5.44	28 O.T.U.
	174695		F/O Ellis, R.F.	22.5.44	419 Squadron
W/O/ATR & W/O/AG					
	1496959		Sgt Devine, F.	17.5.44	405 Squadron
	J. 20893		F/O Miles, A.J.	22.5.44	1664 C.U.
	J. 9260		F/L Winship, T.	22.5.44	1664 C.U.
	R. 97452		W/O Maxon, N.C.	22.5.44	419 Squadron
Air Gunners.					
	1685138		Sgt Braithwaite, H.	17.5.44	405 Squadron
	1817259		Sgt Bailey, F.C.	17.5.44	405 Squadron
	2216207		Sgt Chamberlain, E.	19.5.44	20 O.T.U.
	R138896		Sgt Kelly, B.B.	21.5.44	425 Squadron
	1682075		Sgt Eyre, J.W.	22.5.44	419
	J. 85836		F/O Loford, L.E.	22.5.44	419
PROMOTIONS					
	J. 4886		W.A.G. McLeish, DFC	9.5.44	W/O w.e.f. date stated.
	J. 4885		F/O (A/F/L) F.G. Lord, DFC	3.5.44	A/S/L " " "
	J. 20392		F/O (A/F/L) G.R.J. Murphy, DFC	24.5.44	A/S/L " " "
	J. 24434		F/O D.E. Bideh, DFC	29.4.44	A/F/L " " "
	J. 24435		F/O H.F. Brown,	29.4.44	A/F/L " " "
	J. 14045		F/O G.J. Edwards,	29.4.44	A/F/L " " "
	161045		F/O S. Chiles,	7.4.44	F/O " " "
	R136277		W/O2 Gaultier, W.G.	14.2.44	W/O.1 " " "
	R. 54483		Sgt Salmon, D.D.	1.3.44	W/Sgt " " "
	R135274		Sgt Breaugh, A.J.	28.2.44	" " " " "
	R165893		Sgt Gagne, J.S.	28.2.44	" " " " "
	R165314		Sgt Murdoch, T.G.	28.2.44	" " " " "
	R150180		F/Sgt Clabworthy, D.L.	19.2.44	W/O " " "
	1295363		Sgt Yates, W.S.	19.11.43	W/S " " "
	1337941		Sgt Morgan, R.T.	6.5.44	" " " " "
	1496959		Sgt Devane, F.	6.5.44	" " " " "

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MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE					
			<u>PROMOTIONS.</u>		
			1651880 Sgt Davies, E.J. 26.4.44 w.e.f. date stated.		
			114406 Sgt Smith, A.M. 19.5.44 " " " " " "		
			1337783 P/Sgt Luchett, R.G. 9.5.44 w/e/o " " " "		
			1577540 Sgt Tuckey, A. 8.5.44 w/e/s " " " "		
			1338685 Sgt Holt, J.E. 15.5.44 " " " " " "		
			1480149 Sgt Armstrong, R. 20.5.44 " " " " " "		
			1802722 Sgt Mount, J. 24.5.44 " " " " " "		
			1682075 Sgt Byre, J.W. 26.5.44 " " " " " "		
			<u>COMMISSIONS.</u>		
			1635279 (174695) Sgt Ellis, R.P. 29.3.44 Appointed to a commission w.e.f. date stated.		
			994920 (174694) Sgt Demakin, J. 29.3.44 " " " " " "		
			R137653 (J85838) W/O Gouthroan, H.L. 28.3.44 " " " " " "		
			R197322 (J85823) Sgt Hawthorn, T. 28.3.44 " " " " " "		
			R197322 (J85836) Sgt Lafond, L.E. 24.3.44 " " " " " "		
			R130166 (J85833) W/O Magill, T.E. 17.3.44 " " " " " "		
			R.82632 (J85858) W/O Styles, A.E. 20.3.44 " " " " " "		
			R.77710 (J85869) P/S Parker, J.E. 28.3.44 " " " " " "		
			R160295 (J19887) Sgt Huston, S. 5.2.44 " " " " " "		
			<u>HONOURS AND AWARDS.</u>		
			The Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to the following Officers: -		
			G.1617 A/W/C D.T. French.		
			J.4885 A/W/C W.A.G. McLeish.		
			J.23372 A/W/C G.G. Boyd.		
			J.26495 P/O B.D. Ardis.		
			The Distinguished Flying Medal has been awarded to: - 1807113 Sgt J.W. Carrigan.		
			<u>CHANGES IN COMMAND.</u>		
			On completion of a tour of operations, A/W/C D.T. French, DFC has been posted to R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters for duty with No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group and A/W/C W.A.G. McLeish, DFC has assumed command, w.e.f. 9.5.44.		
			<u>CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION.</u>		
			Nil.		
			<u>Aircraft ON Charge.</u>		
			Halifax II - 19.		
			Lancaster X - 3.		
			<u>OPERATION AND NON-OPERATION FLYING TIMES.</u>		
			Operational: Day - Nil		
			Night - 716:00		
			Non-Operation: Day - 211.10		
			Night - 47.55		

