

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 429 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

Compiling Officer: E/L T.V. BERTON (114246)

Page No. 1

No. of pages used for Month 7

S47-20-429  
 DAS

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
LEAMING	1-8-45		Cloudy all morning, with slight drizzle about 0900 hours, becoming fine in the afternoon. Wind NNE ly light. Bad weather prevented the crews from taking off on Bomb Disposal today. One crew was on loop swinging exercise in the morning. Today being Wednesday the afternoon was spent on sports. Two softball games were organised, one between the Pilots and Air Bombers and the other between Navigators and WO/AG's. The Air Bombers defeated the pilots in a very close game by one run, the score being 14 to 13. The Navigators had an easy victory over the WO/AG's with a score of 13 to 2. About thirty of the lads took advantage of Ripon Baths and spent the afternoon swimming. An excellent day was had by all.	
	2-8-45		Fog early, becoming almost cloudless by 0600 hours with good visibility and light winds. The day dawned clear and sunny and the charge was most welcome. Five of our crews were on Bomb Disposal, and three more crews flew on a Bomber Command ballays. The crews engaged on Ballays reported a fair effort, but target marking was inclined to be scattered. Crews on Bomb Disposal proceeded to Tholthorpe where two loads were lifted. An impromptu softball game was played between the Air Bombers and Flight Engineers during the afternoon.	
	3-8-45		Ground fog after dawn, otherwise fine with light winds. Another day of very fine weather. Five aircraft continued Bomb Disposal from Tholthorpe. Two aircraft with passengers made a Continental Cross Country Flight. One crew was checked out and soloed. At 14.30 hours today a Station Commander's parade and inspection was held.	
	4-8-45		Fine all day, with good visibility. Wind becoming moderate south-westerly in afternoon. No flying was carried out today. A Section Leaders' conference was held this morning to discuss flying training and activities of the Squadron. In the afternoon the majority of the personnel left the station for a long-week, permission having been granted by our Station Commander for a stand-down on Monday because of Bank Holiday. At the moment we are enjoying perfect weather, and it is hoped that it will continue for at least a few days longer.	
	5-8-45		The weather was perfect again today and it looks as if everybody will be having a good time, this week-end. Being Sunday, things were very quiet around the sections. The lads who stayed on camp this week-end were seen enjoying sun-bathing to the full.	
	6-8-45		Fine at first becoming cloudy after 0900 hours with slight rain at 0600 hours, and after 1700 hours. Visibility mainly good. Wind north-westerly and moderate. The weather changed a little today with not quite as much sunshine as we are beginning to expect. Today being Bank Holiday, there was little activity on the Station. Tomorrow however should be a fairly busy day, and the flying program has been drawn up, consisting of Ruhr trips and Bomb Disposal.	
	7-8-45		Cloudy all day with intermittent rain in morning and early afternoon. Thunderstorms in mid-afternoon with showers later. Visibility moderate to good. Wind light to moderate and North-westerly. Our brief period of beautiful weather has ended, and the more customary Yorkshire weather has returned with a vengeance. Our flying program, consisting of Bomb Disposal and Continental Cross-Country, was cancelled due to the adverse weather. The usual crew conference was held this morning after which an hour's drill was placed on the syllabus, much to the disappointment of most of the lads. However, a cinema was shown in the Crew Room, to all personnel, during the afternoon, and everybody enjoyed the picture and promptly forgot C.A.F. again.	

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SECRET

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
LAMMING	8-8-45		Cloudy all day with light showers late morning and fog developing after 2200 hours. Wind light North-Westerly. The flying program today consisted of three crews for Continental Flights, and five crews for Bomb Disposal. The Continental Flights had to be cancelled due to bad weather over the Continent, but all crews on Bomb Disposal carried two loads from Tholthorpe to the Jettison area, which is in Cardigan Bay. One crew also carried out a loop swinging exercise.		
	9-8-45		Fog until 0900 hours then cloudy and hazy all day. Wind northerly and light. Five crews were engaged on Bomb Disposal today. They again proceeded to Tholthorpe where two loads were lifted by each aircraft. Late this afternoon word came through that the Squadron will soon be engaged in bringing out leave personnel from Italy. This news naturally caused considerable interest throughout the Squadron. Personnel who will be engaged on these trips will have to be inoculated and consequently will not be available for flying for a couple of days. Tomorrow should give us more "gas" on these trips.		
	10-8-45		Cloudy at first becoming fine after 0900 hours. Hazy all day with mist forming after 2100 hours. Wind Northerly and moderate. Five crews were detailed for Bomb Disposal and as yesterday they proceeded to Tholthorpe. Bad weather over the Continent had made it impossible for us to do any Ruhr trips recently much to the disappointment of the Ground-Crew personnel who are eagerly waiting their turn for these trips. A lecture was given today by the Senior Medical Officer on protective measures necessary for personnel engaged on Italian trips. In the afternoon those personnel who will be on Italian trips received their first typhus inoculations. A Squadron Party was held in the Crew Room during the evening. Everyone had a very good time and everybody welcomed the news that Japan had agreed to surrender. This news came over the radio this morning but has not been confirmed as yet.		
	11-8-45		Hazy all day with moderate North-Westerly wind. Cloudy all morning becoming fair in afternoon. It was decided this morning that five crews would be detailed for Bomb Disposal tomorrow which is Sunday. Five crews also too-off early this morning for Tholthorpe, to continue Bomb Disposal from that station. Crews engaged on flying at the present time are the ones who will be going home very shortly for their leave and consequently will not be detailed for the Italian Trips. The remainder of the Squadron have all received inoculations and have been excused flying duties until Monday. Nothing is definite yet as to when these trips will start but it should be fairly soon. Everybody is eagerly waiting the official announcement that Japan has capitulated. It seems that Monday or Tuesday at the latest, will be VJ-Day.		
	12-8-45		Cloudy generally with light drizzle about 0800 hours. A temporary clearance in the afternoon becoming cloudy again in the evening. The weather this morning was rather dull but it improved later in the day. Five crews were detailed for Bomb Disposal and proceeded to East Moor where two loads were lifted. The crews reported 10/10ths cloud over Wales and the West Coast. Being Sunday, personnel not engaged on flying were off for the day. It was learned today that the six crews due to go to Canada for leave have had their leave postponed for one month. No definite news regarding Japan's capitulation has been received yet.		
	13-8-45		Cloudy with fair periods. Visibility moderate to poor. Wind N-NW'ly 5-15 mph. Five crews again proceeded to East Moor for Bomb Disposal. Personnel not engaged on flying duties spent most of the day in removing Blast Walls from around the hangar. This afternoon J10136 P/L R. George pilot, flew an Oxford from this Station to Perahore to pick up medical supplies. One crew carried out Dinghy Drill. Everybody is eagerly awaiting the official announcement of the end of the war with Japan.		

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LEBMDG	14-8-45		Cloudy to overcast with fair periods. Continuous drizzle during morning. Visibility poor to moderate. Wind light N'ly. Twelve of our crews were detailed for Bomb Disposal and were to proceed to Linton-on-Ouse but this was cancelled early this morning due to bad weather. No flying whatsoever was carried out during the day. In the afternoon the lads continued on Brick Disposal which started a few days ago. At midnight, the official news that the war had ended was announced over the radio by the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee. This wonderful news was enthusiastically received on the station and even though the hour was late a large bon-fire was started and fire-works soon filled the sky.		
	15-8-45		Cloudy to overcast with continuous rain during the afternoon. Visibility poor becoming good. Wind mainly light, occasionally NW 10-20 mph. Today was VJ-Day and tomorrow is also a general holiday. The celebrations of last night lasted several hours, and at 5 o'clock this morning flares, fire-works and the bon-fire were still going strong. This morning the station was still full of Victory Spirit. A two days stand-down has been declared. A big Victory Dance was organized for the evening and the happy occasion was enjoyed by all. The Squadron Commander, J3149 S/L H.L. Saunders, DFC., flew to Italy today to obtain first hand information for future operations of the Squadron to that country.		
	16-8-45		Mainly cloudy with period of continuous rain. Visibility good. Wind W'ly 10-30 mph. VJ-Day 1 was another holiday and everybody celebrated in one form or another. The weather has not been too fine and has slightly hampered the celebrations.		
	17-8-45		Cloudy with continuous rain, moderate at times. Visibility good becoming moderate. Wind NW-NW'ly 5-10 mph. There was no flying carried out today as all our personnel received inoculations in preparation for trips to Italy. This also means that no flying will be carried out during the week-end. Before receiving inoculations more brick disposal was carried out in the morning and it is believed that one of two days more will be quite sufficient to clear all surroundings of the hangar. Before proceeding for the week-end, which was granted to all Squadron Personnel on account of the inoculations, a flying program was drawn up for Monday.		
	18-8-45		Cloudy with period of continuous drizzle during the morning. Visibility poor to moderate. Wind NW-NW'ly 10-20 mph. No flying was carried out today as all our personnel are excused flying till Monday, having been inoculated on Friday.		
	19-8-45		Cloudy with a visibility moderate to good. Wind NW-NW'ly 5-15 mph. falling light. There was very little activity on the Squadron today, but tomorrow will see a resumption of Bomb Disposal.		
	20-8-45		Cloudy today with visibility good to moderate. Wind light NW'ly. Three of our crews took-off early this morning on Bomb Disposal and proceeded to East Moor where two loads were taken away by each aircraft. One crew was checked out in the afternoon and aloft. Personnel not detailed for flying continued the work of Brick Disposal. Inoculations do not seem to have affected the lads too seriously and everybody was on duty this morning.		
	21-8-45		Cloudy with periods of continuous rain, moderate at times. Thunder during the evening. Fog forming late at night. Visibility moderate to poor. Wind mainly light SE'ly. The flying scheduled for today was cancelled due to poor weather. Sports were carried out in the morning and afternoon in the hangar consisting mainly of Volley Ball and also Football practice. Brick Disposal was held up due to the rain.		

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LONDON	22-8-45		Overcast early in the day becoming fine late in evening. Fog during the morning. Visibility poor becoming moderate. Wind N'ly 5-20 mph. All members of the Squadron attended a Station Parade this morning where they were inspected by OJ3 G/C E.H. Evans, the Station Commander. After the parade all personnel were given foot drill for an hour. Today being Wednesday, the afternoon was reserved for organised sports. No flying was carried out today.		
	23-8-45		Today was mainly cloudy with periods of rain during the afternoon and evening. Visibility moderate to good. Wind light becoming SW'ly 10-20 mph. Three aircraft were ordered today to continue Bomb Disposal operations. These proceeded to Middleton St. George and lifted one load each. Two other aircraft were used to check out under-training Flight Engineers. Personnel not engaged on flying duties were employed in cleaning up bricks from around the hangar. In the evening the Navigators went to North Allerton where they held a dinner in the Golden Lion Hotel.		
	24-8-45		Mainly cloudy today with moderate rain early in the day. Visibility was good. Wind N'ly 10-30 mph. Crew conference was held first thing this morning but no flying was ordered. OJ3 G/C E.H. Evans, the Station Commander, gave a lecture during the forenoon to all pilots on accidents prevention. All available personnel were given their second inoculation this afternoon in preparation for the proposed flights to Italy. Some personnel were also employed on cleaning up their respective sections. The Flight Engineers carried out an organised mushroom hunt but results were poor.		
	25-8-45		Today the weather was fair to fine with a good visibility. Wind W'ly 5-25 mph. and gusty at times. No flying was carried out this morning and the Squadron was stood-down for the usual week-end pass.		
	26-8-45		Weather was fair to fine again today and visibility was also good. Wind light W'ly. The usual week-end stand-down was in effect today so that there was very little activity on the Station. A flying program was published detailing crews for Bomb Disposal Operations tomorrow.		
	27-8-45		Cloudy for a period early this morning, otherwise fair or fine. Moderate to good visibility. Wind light SE'ly. Seven of our aircraft were detailed for bomb disposal from Linton. All took off but one became unserviceable and returned to base. Five aircraft each lifted two loads of bombs while the remaining aircraft was able to complete only one flight. This was due to an accident while the aircraft was parked on the perimeter track after its first flight. The port fin and rudder were damaged when an aircraft of 433 Squadron attempted to pass without sufficient clearance. No one was injured in the flight collision but the aircraft was made category 'A'. Two other aircraft were used to check out four under training Flight Engineers. Those not engaged in flying duties were employed in cleaning up around the hangar.		
	28-8-45		Cloudy early, with fog developing after dawn. Slight rain for a time in the afternoon. Visibility improving to good late in afternoon. Wind light and variable. Four aircraft were detailed for bomb disposal today but this was cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions. Eight more crews were inoculated for the second time today in preparation for the flights to Italy. Those not otherwise employed continued cleaning the brick blast walls away from the hangar and the job was finally completed today.		
	29-8-45		Cloudy most of the day with rain late in afternoon and even with fog. Heavy rain at night. Visibility moderate or poor all day. Wind light and variable. Bomb Disposal operations were cancelled again today because of poor flying weather. A station parade which had been organized was also cancelled on account of weather. Members of sections worked around the sections during the forenoon and the afternoon was reserved for sports. The pilots played the navigators at football but the game was called after four innings due to rain.		

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30-8-45		Cloudy all day, with rain until late morning. Moderate visibility at first, becoming good late morning. Wind light to moderate, north to north-east. Bomb disposal details for today were once again cancelled because of unfavourable weather conditions. At the usual crew conference this morning the Squadron Commander, S/L H.L. Saunders DFC, explained various points concerning the forthcoming trips to Italy. The Pilots, Navigators and Air Bombers were shown an H2s film during the afternoon while the Signals Section were favoured with a visit by S/L Wood, No. 1 Group Signals Leader who gave the Wireless Operators facts and details of operations "Dodge". The Wireless Operators also practiced Morse during the afternoon. The Flight Engineers were given a talk on the Italian trips by their section leader, P/L J.W. Carr DFC 179988.		
31-8-45		Cloudy all day with moderate to good visibility. Wind light, north-north-easterly. Five aircraft carried out Bomb Disposal flights from Linton today while one other aircraft completed a cross-country exercise. Those not detailed for flying were kept busy cleaning up around their respective sections. Several members of the Squadron were given inoculations also today. Many of the boys are developing very yellow complexions these days as a result of taking synthetic quinine tablets in connection with the projected trips to Italy.		
<u>CASUALTIES</u>				
NIL				
<u>POSTINGS - IN</u>				
Can.J34405	P/O	F.J. Clay	A/G	Posted from R Depot, Torquay w.e.f. 28.8.45
Can.J32331	P/O	O.M. Williams	A/G	" " " " " " " " " " " "
Can.087343	P/O	J.H. Lynk	A/G	" " " " " " " " " " " "
Can.R266833	P/S	Roy, M.J.	A/G	Posted from No. 63 Base w.e.f. 11.8.45
<u>POSTINGS - OUT</u>				
RAP19568	P/O	L.A. Day	P/S	Posted to R.A.F. Station Burn w.e.f. 3.8.45
RAP169150	P/O	J. MacKay	A/G	" " " " " " " " " " " "
CanR266833	P/S	Roy, M.J.	A/G	Posted to No. 63 Base w.e.f. 1.8.45
RAP1829180	SGT	MacKenzie, D.J.	P/S	Posted to 100 Disposal Centre w.e.f. 3.8.45
RAP1896318	P/S	Taylor, G.W.	P/S	" " " " " " " " " " " "
<u>PROMOTIONS</u>				
Can.J90662	P/O	S.D. Bird	WO/AG	Prom. to T/E/O w.e.f. 10.7.45
Can.J93218	P/O	R.J. Carmichael	WO/AG	Prom. to T/E/O w.e.f. 3.7.45
Can.J93217	P/O	A.S. Howling	A/G	Prom. to T/E/O w.e.f. 1.7.45
Can.J93407	P/O	J. Jamieson	WO/AG	Prom. to T/E/O w.e.f. 3.7.45
Can.093433	A/P/L	P.F. Wright	Pilot	Prom. to T/E/O w.e.f. 9.7.45
Can.R164730	WO2	Ismaque, I.D.	WO/AG	Prom. to WO1 w.e.f. 15.8.45
Can.R169967	WO2	Bill, P.C.	WO/AG	Prom. to WO1 w.e.f. 26.7.45
Can.R209424	SGT	Ormiston, I.H.	Nav	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 16.3.45
Can.R209817	P/S	Cross, M.W.	WO/AG	Prom. to WO2 w.e.f. 10.7.45
Can.R208712	SGT	Carrothers, L.W.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 9.7.45

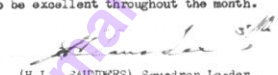
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			<u>PROMOTIONS (CONT'D)</u>				
Can.2214164			SGT Wright, P.G.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 30.7.45		
Can.2221122			SGT Walker, H.S.	Nav	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 18.3.45		
Can.2264739			P/S Pisco, J.J.	A/G	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 21.7.45		
Can.2266633			W/S Roy, M.V.	A/G	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 19.8.45		
Can.2271808			P/S Conrad, D.A.	A/G	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 7.7.45		
Can.2280732			P/S Boyd, D.D.	A/G	Prom. to W2 w.e.f. 21.7.45		
Can.2283426			SGT Menagh, J.K.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 1.8.45		
Can.2288161			SGT Morrison, D.S.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 1.8.45		
Can.2289172			SGT Reid, G.D.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 1.8.45		
Can.2193939			SGT Jewell, E.W.	A/G	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 18.3.45		
Can.2272834			SGT Stinson, A.D.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 18.7.45		
Can.2280929			SGT Snow, D.A.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 18.7.45		
Can.2288160			SGT Sveinbjornson, J.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 11.7.45		
Can.2293931			SGT Mann, J.L.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 11.7.45		
RAF.1823760			SGT Mercer, A.H.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 28.8.45		
RAF.1792575			SGT Clark, G.C.	P/S	Prom. to P/S w.e.f. 14.8.45		
			<u>COMMISSIONS</u>				
			NIL				
			<u>CHANGES IN COMMAND</u>				
			NIL				
			<u>CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION</u>				
			NIL				
			<u>HONOURS AND AWARDS</u>				
RAF.169190			F/O (A/P/L) J. MacKay	A/G	Awarded the Non-Immediate DFC for keenness, proficiency and great devotion to duty and thereby setting a splendid example to his men.		
			<u>AIRCRAFT ON STATION STRENGTH ON 31ST AUGUST 1945</u>				
			Lancaster Mk I		- 11		
			Lancaster Mk III		- 11		
			<u>TRAINING AND OTHER FLYING DURING JULY</u>				
			(a) Flying Training	Day	167 hrs. 10 mins.		
				Night	Nil		
			(b) Other Flying	Day	17 hrs. 15 mins.		
				Night	Nil		

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			<b>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE SQUADRON AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1945</b>		
			<b>OFFICERS   AIRCREW   GROUNDCREW</b>	<b>AIRMAN   AIRCREW   GROUNDCREW</b>	
			R.C.A.F.                      85                      1	R.C.A.F.                      69                      Nil	
			R.A.F.                         2                         -	R.A.F.                         14                      Nil	
			<b>TOTAL STRENGTH    88                      87                      1</b>	<b>83                      83                      Nil</b>	
			<b>GENERAL</b>		
			<p>The Squadron continued to carry out Bomb Disposal details during the month when the weather permitted. One Bomber Command Bullseye exercise was completed and two aircraft also carried out Cross-Country flights over the Ruhr. Several other aircraft were flown for the purpose of training new Flight Engineers on Lancasters.</p> <p>All personnel have been given lectures and others forms of ground training to prepare them for the forthcoming flights to Italy. They have also been given anti-typhus inoculations and quinine tablets in this connection. It is anticipated that these flights will commence early next month and needless to say, the crews are looking forward to going to Italy.</p> <p>It was learned this month that the eight crews who returned to Canada for leave will not be coming back to this country so no further change in crews is expected for a while.</p> <p>Good work has been done by the crew members in removing the blast walls from around the hanger and cleaning up the premises in general.</p> <p>The general health of the squadron continued to be excellent throughout the month.</p>		
			 (H.L. SAUNDERS) Squadron Leader, Officer Commanding, No. 429 Squadron, R.C.A.F., Learning, Yorks.		

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