

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

5.22.43  
303  
757

No. of pages used for 84

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
Skipton-on-Swale	1.8.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy becoming cloudy. Visibility - moderate to good. No operations were detailed for to-day. Divine services were held as usual at 09.00 hrs in the Church and at 10.45 hrs in the crew room.		
Skipton-on-Swale	2.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with occasional showers. Visibility - Good except in showers. Nine aircraft were detailed for bombing operations over HAMBURG. All took off at 23.30 hrs. to 23.57 hrs. Only two aircraft were successful in bombing the target. One crew is missing and particulars are as appended hereunder:- CAPT. P/O R.R. MORGAN S.M. J.17664 MAY P/O M.R. BALKAM J.22479 W/A R12354 SGT CAUDRY H.F. WAG 1129954 SGT LYNCHOR L.G. A/C R157520 SGT KIRKHAM T.Y. Six aircraft were unsuccessful and their sorties were abortive owing to either early return or failure to locate target. Group Captain, J.L. Plant, visited the Squadron and conferred with Squadron Leader W.A. McKay, acting Commanding Officer of the Squadron, Squadron Leader, O.P. Moore, Station Admin. Officer for Skipton and Flight Lieutenant, H.G. Phillips, Squadron Adjutant, about any problems that may be facing the Squadron. From the conference it was assumed that there were no major problems at present.		A.211-219 incl.
Skipton-on-Swale	3.8.43		Weather: Cloudy becoming fair. Visibility - very good. Six aircraft were detailed for mining operations and all six took-off at the appointed hour. One aircraft returned early and five were successful in dropping their supplies at the allocated positions. On authority from Headquarters, Bomber Command, HQ/3957/43, Squadron Leader McKay, who has been the Flight Commander of this Squadron has been appointed Commanding Officer of the Squadron. Group Captain J.L. Plant visited the station in the evening. Wing Commander McKay visited No. 6 Group Headquarters to confer with the Air Officer Commanding, Air Vice Marshal, G.E. Brookes. Wing Commander McKay and Flight Lieutenant H.G. Phillips visited LEAMING in the evening.		A.220-225 incl.
Skipton-on-Swale	4.8.43		Weather: Fair to fine becoming cloudy with rain in late evening. Visibility - Moderate. No operations scheduled for to-day. The aircraft which landed away from base arrived back at various times during the day. Four new crews reported in from O.B.U. There is a considerable mix-up with the postings as evidently the R.T.Os. do not know where Skipton-on-Swale is located and there is much time spent in wandering from station to station until 432 Squadron is located.		
Skipton-on-Swale	5.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with periods of rain or drizzle. Visibility - Moderate to poor. No operations were detailed for to-day.		
Skipton-on-Swale	6.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with periods of rain or drizzle during the day becoming cloudy in evening. Visibility - Poor becoming moderate. Six aircraft detailed for mining operations. All aircraft took-off at scheduled time and dropped their load on allocated positions. All returned to base. Group Captain J.L. Plant, Station Commander at Leaming and Group Captain Burns former Commanding Officer at Rochliffe Station, Canada. Several officers, including the Commanding Officer, proceeded to ROCHELIFFE to attend a dance given by that Station. The Commanding Officer and Adjutant inspected the huts on No. 5 Site.		A.226-231 incl.

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Skipton-on-Swale	7.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with much smoke haze, becoming cloudy with rain spreading from South-West in afternoon. No operations detailed for to-day.		
Skipton-on-Swale	8.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with periods of rain becoming fair later. Visibility, good to very good. No operations scheduled for to-day. Flight Lieutenant Province, Padre, held divine services as usual. Cinema show was held in the evening in the airman's mess. Pilot Officer Turner lectured to the aircrew in the afternoon on escape procedure.		
Skipton-on-Swale	9.8.43		Weather: Fair to Cloudy. Visibility, very good. No operations detailed for to-day. Meeting of all Section and Flight Commanders and Senior N.C.O.s was held in the Commanding Officer's office at 10.00 hrs. The following subjects were discussed:- Discipline, Entertainment, Co-operation between sections, the forming of a Grievance Committee, Gas lectures, Trade Tests, Distribution of cigarettes, donated by Ardath Tobacco Company. The object of these meetings, which will be held every Monday, is to foster a better co-operation between sections and to bring about better discipline without imposing too much work on any one person. The Commanding Officer and several other officers proceeded to LEWING in the evening for the farewell party given by No. 408 Squadron.		
Skipton-on-Swale	10.8.43		Weather: Fair becoming cloudy, visibility, moderate in smoke haze becoming good. Eight aircraft detailed for mining operations but this was cancelled in the afternoon. The Squadron personnel are looking smarter these days as a regular "blitz" is in process. Checking the wearing of caps, haircuts, shoes and general smartness is being carried out by Senior officers and N.C.O.s, and it is bearing fruit, the objective "The smartest Squadron in the R.C.A.F." Group Captain J.L. Plant, visited the Squadron in the evening.		
Skipton-on-Swale	11.8.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy with rain during morning, becoming showery with fair periods. Visibility - Good. Eight aircraft detailed for mining operations. Seven aircraft took off, one aircraft was cancelled due to technical trouble. Five aircraft were successful in planting their vegetables in the allocated positions. One returned early and one brought back the vegetables but was credited with an operation. Squadron Leader C.B. Sinton (C.1491) was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross (See attached copies of Air Ministry signals).		A.232-238 incl.
Skipton-on-Swale	12.8.43		Weather: Fine becoming fair to cloudy. Visibility, good. Eight aircraft were detailed for mining operations and all took off. Two aircraft returned early and one was missing. The missing crew is as follows:- J.17345 P/O S. NOBLE (PILOT) R102469 P/Sgt BOURNE K.R. (NAV) R.85937 P/S SMITH M. (B/A) 1022420 SGT HUSTON D.W. (W/O) 1601345 SGT NEAL J.W. (A/O)		A.239-246 incl.
			The remainder were successful in planting their vegetables in the allocated positions. Inspection of huts by Medical representative from Headquarters No. 6 R.C.A.F. Group. From his report, it appears that 432 Squadron was complimented on the condition of the sleeping quarters. Credit for this must go to the Squadron Disciplinarian, P/Sgt Salway and his staff as they have been very energetic in their checking to see that all sleeping quarters are clean and well kept.		

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Skipton-on-Swale	13.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain or drizzle, later cloudy. Visibility - Good except in rain. No operations scheduled for today. Commanding Officer, Wing Commander, W.A. McKay and the Adjutant, Flight Lieutenant, H.G. Phillips, proceeded to London on a week-end leave granted by Group Captain Plant.		
Skipton-on-Swale	14.8.43		Weather: Fair with showers in evening. Visibility - good. No operations detailed for to-day. Major Stevenson, No. 6 Group A.A. Officer, visited the Squadron and conferred regarding aircraft being flown too low over targets. Squadron Leader Lambrook, D.F.C., D.F.G., visited the Squadron and conferred regarding "Pilots Notes".		
Skipton-on-Swale	15.8.43		Weather: Fair to fine becoming cloudy. Visibility - Good. Eight aircraft detailed for mining operations. All took off and all were successful in planting their vegetables in the allocated positions. All returned to base with the exception of one aircraft which landed at Exeter to return later.		A.247-254
Skipton-on-Swale	16.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain early morning and afternoon, becoming cloudy. Visibility - Moderate but poor in rain. No operations detailed for to-day. Group Captain Plant visited the Squadron in the morning. Trade Test Board assembled for trade testing.		
Skipton-on-Swale	17.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with smoke haze, becoming fair in late evening. Visibility - Good, becoming moderate in smoke haze. No operations were detailed for to-day. Group Captain Plant visited the Squadron in the morning and had Pilot Officer D.A. Rae paraded before him while he read the formal charge for his Court Martial which takes place on August 20th. The aircraft which landed at Exeter on the 15.8.43 returned to base to-day. Squadron soft-ball team played their second play-off game at Topcliffe and won 13 to 3.		
Skipton-on-Swale	18.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with periods of rain in early morning, becoming cloudy. Visibility, moderate becoming good. No operations detailed for to-day. Some Fighter Affiliation flying in the morning. Major F.B. COWEN, (M.C.) of Northumberland Fusiliers attached to R.A.F. Regiment, visited the Squadron in the morning. Seven aircraft detailed to take part in "BULLSEYE". All took off and there were no early returns. 1521761 Sgt FAY W.C.A. flying "B" for Robert overshot in landing and pranged in a field some distance from the end of the runway. Aircraft was pretty badly damaged but none of the crew injured.		L N 395
Skipton-on-Swale	19.8.43		Weather: Cloudy becoming fair and hazy late at night. No Operations schedule for to-day. S/Ldr C.B. Sinton DFC proceeded to Thornaby for a General Court Martial and returned in late afternoon.		
Skipton-on-Swale	20.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with light rain in the morning. Eight aircraft detailed for mining operation after all preparations had been made. This was cancelled around 1630 hrs. due to anticipated poor visibility over the pinpoint area. The Commanding Officer W/Oir. W.A. McKay and P/Lt. W.W. Strachan proceeded to Leeming in the morning for General Court Martial of P/O D.A. Rae for low flying. They returned around 1600hrs. P/Lt. C.B. Hess was called to Group Headquarters concerning instructions for a flight to Feltwell tomorrow. Squadron Softball team played a tie game (5 to 5) with Leeming in the play off games. Replay on the 22nd.		

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Skipton-on-Swale	21.8.43		Cloudy with continuous light rain until about noon remaining cloudy for the rest of the day. No operation detailed for to-day. W/Lt. Hess and crew flew to Feltwell for a special course in Bombing Tactics.		
Skipton-on-Swale	22.8.43		Weather: Fair to Cloudy with an odd shower in afternoon. No operation detailed for to-day. G/Opt. J.L. Plant, Station Commander at Leeming and W/Odr. Scott, Senior Administrative Officer at No. 6 Group Headquarters visited the Squadron and had lunch in the Officers Mess. The Moving picture "How Green was My Valley" was shown at night, this was anticipated for some days and a packed house viewed it. Softball replay game with Leeming was cancelled owing to the ground being too wet after the heavy showers in the afternoon.		
Skipton-on-Swale	23.8.43		Weather: Fair to Cloudy with light showers in afternoon. 12 aircraft detailed for operation A.255 to A.266 and all took off and returned to base. Five were successful in dropping their mines in the allotted area. Two returned early, and the remainder were unable to locate their exact position due to technical failure of ground installations. G/Opt. Bryans took over the Command of Skipton-on-Swale Station.		
Skipton-on-Swale	24.8.43		Weather: Fair to cloudy with considerable haze. 12 aircraft were detailed for mining operation A.267 to A.278 and all took off, all returned to base and all were successful in dropping their mines in the allotted area. General Adair, Col. J.E. Nickson and Opt. G. Mostyn of the Royal Welch Fusiliers visited the Squadron whilst awaiting transportation to another station. G/Opt. Conn BWC was a visitor. He is Historian for RCAF and has published books on the History of the Air Force.		
Skipton-on-Swale	25.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain in the morning becoming fine at night. 14 aircraft detailed for mining operations, 13 took-off. One aircraft was cancelled just before take off owing to technical failure. 10 aircraft were successful in laying their mines in the allotted area, and three turn back early. 3 aircraft landed at Harwell and will return to-morrow.		A.279 to A.291
Skipton-on-Swale	26.8.43		Weather: Fine and misty in early morning becoming fair to cloudy with showers in late evening. 6 aircraft detailed for mining operations all took off and five were successful in dropping their mines in the allotted area. One aircraft brought his mines back owing to inability to pinpoint but was credited with a trip. One aircraft landed at Colerne after being struck with lightning but no serious damage. Three aircraft which landed at Harwell last night returned to base during the afternoon. G/Opt. Conn WFC left the Squadron after a visit of 2 days.		A.292 to A.297
Skipton-on-Swale	27.8.43		Weather: Fine fog for a short period in the morning but improving to very good for the rest of the day. 12 aircraft were detailed for mining operations all took off at schedule time and one returned early. 11 were successful in dropping their mines in their allotted area and returned to base.		A.298 to A.309
Skipton-on-Swale	28.8.43		Weather: Cloudy with continuous rain in the morning, rain becoming intermittent in the afternoon and evening. No operations detailed for to-day.		
Skipton-on-Swale	29.8.43		Weather: <del>Weather</del> Cloudy with periods of light rain throughout the day. 6 aircraft detailed for operations but were cancelled around 1430 hrs.		

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Skipton-on-Swale	30.8.43		<p>Weather: Fair and fine with good visibility. 15 aircraft detailed for bombing of Munchen-Gladbach. 14 aircraft took off, one was cancelled slightly before the take off due to constant speed unit becoming u/s. Ten aircraft were successful in bombing the target, three turned back early and one failed to return. Below are the Operational Trips and Hours of the members of the crew missing:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">OPERATIONAL TRIPS</th> <th colspan="2">Trips Hours</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1217783</td> <td>F/Sgt PENNINGTON, James, Edward</td> <td>(Pilot)</td> <td>13</td> <td>92.39</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1500557</td> <td>Sgt COLLINS, Derek</td> <td>(Nav)</td> <td>14</td> <td>91.44</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>128010</td> <td>F/O George JARVIS</td> <td>(A/B)</td> <td>11</td> <td>77.19</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1053456</td> <td>F/Sgt WHITE Raymond, Christmas</td> <td>(W/OE/AG)</td> <td>11</td> <td>77.19</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R102844</td> <td>Sgt PIERCE Richard, Bland, Joseph.</td> <td>(A/G)</td> <td>11</td> <td>77.44</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R141694</td> <td>Sgt JENSKIY, Jacob</td> <td>2nd Pilot</td> <td>2</td> <td>11.56</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>G/Opt. Bryans, Station Commander made the trip with S/Ldr. C.B. Sinton DFC. One aircraft HP589 "J" pranged on landing due apparently to damaged wheel, it had been hit by flak while over enemy territory.</p>			OPERATIONAL TRIPS		Trips Hours								1217783	F/Sgt PENNINGTON, James, Edward	(Pilot)	13	92.39		1500557	Sgt COLLINS, Derek	(Nav)	14	91.44		128010	F/O George JARVIS	(A/B)	11	77.19		1053456	F/Sgt WHITE Raymond, Christmas	(W/OE/AG)	11	77.19		R102844	Sgt PIERCE Richard, Bland, Joseph.	(A/G)	11	77.44		R141694	Sgt JENSKIY, Jacob	2nd Pilot	2	11.56			A.310 to A.322
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Skipton-on-Swale	31.8.43		<p>Weather: Fine in the morning gradually becoming fair to cloudy in the afternoon and remaining cloudy for the rest of the day. 4 aircraft detailed for bombing operations but were cancelled. W/Odr. W.A. McKay, Squadron Commander proceeded on 7 days leave.</p> <p><b>HONOURS AND AWARDS:</b> S/Ldr. C.B. Sinton awarded the D.F.C. on the 11th August 1943.  <b>PROMOTIONS:</b> S/Ldr. (A/G/Odr) W.A. McKay appointed to the rank of A/W/Odr.  P/O (A/B/Lt) C.B. Hess appointed to the rank of A/S/Ldr.  P/O C.W. Barrett appointed to the rank of W/Lt.  <b>CHANGES IN COMMAND:</b> W/Odr. W.A. McKay assumes command of Unit 30th July, 1943, vice W/Odr. H.W. Kerby missing from night operations 29/30th July, 1943.  S/Ldr. C.B. Hess assumes command of "B" Flight of this Unit vice W/Odr. W.A. McKay.  <b>ADMINISTRATION CHANGES:</b> NIL  <b>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE:</b> 20 WELLINGTON X  <b>HEALTH:</b> The general health of both Aircrew and Ground crew is very good. There has been one case of V.D. in aircrew personnel and one case in ground crew personnel. The morale of the Squadron personnel appears to be very good.  <b>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 23.59 HOURS ON THE 31st AUGUST, 1943:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Strength.</th> <th>Aircrew</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers:</td> <td>28</td> <td>3</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers:</td> <td>8</td> <td>-</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Airmen:</td> <td>62</td> <td>213</td> <td>275</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Airmen:</td> <td>48</td> <td>143</td> <td>191</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Personnel:</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2 (Included in RAF Personnel)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>OPERATIONAL HOURS:</b> 45:15 HOURS.  <b>TRAINING HOURS:</b> 142:10 HOURS  <b>OPERATIONAL SORTIES DURING THE MONTH:</b> 142 SORTIES</p>	Strength.	Aircrew	Groundcrew	Total	R.C.A.F. Officers:	28	3	31	R.C.A.F. Officers:	8	-	8	R.C.A.F. Airmen:	62	213	275	R.A.F. Airmen:	48	143	191	Other Personnel:	2	-	2 (Included in RAF Personnel)																										
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