

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Skipton-on-Swale	1.9.43		No operation detailed for the day.		
Skipton-on-Swale	2.9.43		Twelve aircraft detailed for operation (mining) and six sent to Brast and six to Lorient. All were successful in laying their mines and all returned. Three landed away from base.		A.323 to A.334
Skipton-on-Swale	3.9.43		Eight aircraft were detailed for bombing of Forest de Raines. All were successful and all returned to base. 100% effort. Miss Butler and party reported in for instructions and servicing of bomb sight mark XIV. Colonel Bailey and Colonel Kent were visitors on the Station and witnessed the take off. Divine service was held in the morning at 11.00 hrs. anniversary of the fourth year of war, "Day of Prayer".		A.335 to A.342
Skipton-on-Swale	4.9.43		Nine aircraft detailed for mining operations at Wangeroc. Five aircraft were successful in planting their mines in the allotted area. Four aircraft were in garden area but due to technical difficulties returned with mines.		A.343 to A.351
Skipton-on-Swale	5.9.43		Eleven aircraft were detailed for mining operations. Four to Brast and Five to Lorient. Eight of the aircraft were successful in planting their mines. One aircraft did not plant his mine due to enemy action. One aircraft was damaged by flak.		A.352 to A.360
Skipton-on-Swale	6.9.43		Ten aircraft were detailed for mining operations and this was cancelled in late afternoon.		
Skipton-on-Swale	7.9.43		Ten aircraft detailed for mining operations but this was cancelled in late afternoon. W/Odr. W.A. McKay returned from leave. Air Marshal H. Edwards C.B.E., A.O.C. in C. of R.C.A.F. accompanied by Air Commodore Melrose M.C., M.C., M.P., W/Odr. H.C. Ludous, Minister of Revenue, Col. Gibson and Deputy Minister of Revenue and General Secretary visited the Squadron and remained for supper. They left in a Lancaster aircraft around 19.15 hours.		
Skipton-on-Swale	8.9.43		Twelve aircraft detailed for bombing a target north of Boulogne. All aircraft took-off and all returned to base. All were successful in bombing the target. Photograph of the Squadron was taken in the afternoon also photos of the Softball team and Squadron Headquarters Staff.		A.361 to A.372
Skipton-on-Swale	9.9.43		No operations scheduled for to-day. G/Opt. Bryana and W/Mt. Phillips, H.C. Visited Tholthorpe in the Evening. Four crews left for Eastmoor for conversion training. F/Lt. Barrett and Crew, Sgt. Hadden and Crew, Sgt. Sedale and crew, and Sgt. Burgess and crew.		
Skipton-on-Swale	10.9.43		No operations scheduled for to-day. S/Ldr. D. Macklin A.F.C., lately from Canada, on Empire C.P.S. tour visited the Squadron. W/Odr. E.D.S. Ferris, R.F.O. - C.O. of 408 (RCAF) Squadron visited the Squadron. Telephone order received for No. 432 (RCAF) Squadron to move to Eastmoor Station on September the 18th.		
Skipton-on-Swale	11.9.43		No operations scheduled for to-day. W/Odr. W.A. McKay, S/Ldr. C.B. Sinton M.P. and F/Lt. H.G. Phillips proceeded by road to Eastmoor to make arrangements for the moving of the Squadron on September the 18th. G/Capt. M. Costello visited the Squadron en route to Lening.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Skipton-on-Swale	12.9.43		No operations detailed for to-day. Busy on preparations for moving. Divine Service held by S/Ldr. Province in the Unemployed crew room.		
Skipton-on-Swale	13.9.43		No operations detailed for to-day. Commanding Officer, W/Odr. W.A. McKay, and Engineering Officer P/Lt. W.R.R. Booms, proceeded to Eastmoor to see about further details about moving. W/Odr. R.G. Gordon, Station Commander at Thelthorpe, G/Capt. H. Costello, and W/Odr. Newson visited the Squadron for a short period in the afternoon. P/Lt. H.W. Kerby, Group M.T. officer met P/Lt. Wyatt, Leasing M.T. Officer, in the Adjutant's Office to arrange for transport for the intended move. The picture "Eride of the Tankers" was shown in the evening in the airman's Mess. Three new crews report in, two from 431 Squadron and one from 429 Squadron.		
Skipton-on-Swale	14.9.43		No operations detailed for to-day. W/Odr. W.A. McKay proceeded to Middleton-St. George for a conference with other Squadron Commanders and to meet Air Chief Marshal Harris, S/Ldr. Coull Group Gunnery Officer visited the Squadron in the afternoon and had a conference with P/Lt. G.H. Rainville, Squadron Gunnery Leader. P/Lt P. Greenough, from Provost Marshal's Branch, Air Ministry, visited the Squadron to check details on a complaint of low flying over Harrogate by aircraft "V" piloted by Sgt. Meaden. Movement order received from Bomber Command (copy of which is attached). Squadron Assessment Order completed and distributed (copy of which is attached).		
Skipton-on-Swale	15.9.43		No operations detailed for to-day. Advance party left at 0845 hours for Eastmoor. Preparations for move going along without any trouble. All surplus equipment being sent to Eastmoor. Mrs. H.W. Kerby wife of former Commanding Officer W/Odr. H.W. Kerby, gave up her position as comforts Officer and is returning to London. She has filled the position admirably and the Squadron shall miss the "Comforts Officer". All secret and confidential documents checked by Cypher Officer from Leasing, everything in order. Sergeant's Mess held a farewell party at which all Officers of 432 Squadron were invited.		
Skipton-on-Swale	16.9.43		15 aircraft were detailed for operations but later cancelled. 432 Squadron Officers gave a farewell party prior to the move to Eastmoor. Many officers from neighboring stations were invited, a good time was had by all.		
Skipton-on-Swale	17.9.43		Eight aircraft were detailed for mining operations all took-off and all were successful in dropping their mines in their allotted area. All returned to base. Preparations for move are progressing according to schedule and as much surplus equipment as could be sent has been moved to Eastmoor. Moving pictures "Mademoiselle Franco" was shown in the airman's mess during the evening.		A.375 to A.380
Skipton-on-Swale	18.9.43		432 Squadron moved to Eastmoor to-day. The main party having concluded moving at approximately 14.00 hours. Due to the shortage of buses the move had to be made in two trips, but there was no set-back and the move was accomplished according to schedule. 15 aircraft were detailed for mining operations tonight this was reduced to 14 after an accident to "W" when taxiing. Only six aircraft took-off as the remainder eight were cancelled shortly before take-off. All the six were successful in laying their mines in their allotted area and returning to base.		A.381 to A.386
EASTMOOR	19.9.43		No operations scheduled for to-day. Squadron very busy getting settled. From all checking up it appears that the move progressed without any trouble whatever and in a few days all personnel will be well acquainted with the new Station. W/Odr. W.A. McKay and P/Lt. H.G. Phillips had a conference with G/Capt. Carwooden RFC, Station Commander, about the Station regulations.		

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Eastmoor	20.9.43		Eight aircraft were detailed for mining operations, all took off and 6 were successful in laying their mines in the allotted area. Two were unsuccessful in pinpointing and brought their mines back as instructed. The new Station is proving very acceptable to the Squadron personnel. All reports show that food is good and well cooked and the messes very efficiently organised.		A.387 to A.394																																																								
Eastmoor	21.9.43		Twelve aircraft were detailed for mining operations. This was cancelled later. W/Odr. W.A. McKay, S/Ldr. G.B. Sinton RFC, S/Ldr. G.R. Hess, were in conference with Air Commodore Maden and C/Capt Garrahan RFO, in the evening in the Officers Mess. Gas drill during the morning which from observations was well carried out. One accident to "D" aircraft which overhot whilst landing.																																																										
Eastmoor	22.9.43		<p>15 aircraft were detailed for bombing operations over Hannover, 14 aircraft took off. One aircraft piloted by P/Sgt. Southwood crashed on take off and landed in field about 150 yards from the end of the runway, nobody injured. Eleven aircraft were successful in bombing the target. One aircraft failed to return from this operation. Below are the operational trips and hours of the members of the crews:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">OPERATIONAL</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Trips</th> <th>Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1389224</td> <td>SGT TIERNY, Leonard, John. (PILOT)</td> <td>14</td> <td>71.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>148845</td> <td>P/O John, Richard, SEWELL (NAV)</td> <td>14</td> <td>71.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>148835</td> <td>P/O Leslie, Maurice WHITTON (A/B)</td> <td>14</td> <td>71.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1059009</td> <td>SGT REES, John, Henry. (W/O/AG)</td> <td>14</td> <td>71.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NZ.412776</td> <td>P/S WILLIAMS, Basil (A/G)</td> <td>16</td> <td>81.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>One aircraft ditched in the North Sea the crew being as follows:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">OPERATIONAL</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>Trips</th> <th>Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R138574</td> <td>SGT BARLOW, Ronald, Malcolm (PILOT)</td> <td>7</td> <td>36.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R157287</td> <td>SGT BUCHAN, Alexander. (NAV)</td> <td>4</td> <td>20.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R145984</td> <td>SGT MAYO, William, James. (A/B)</td> <td>4</td> <td>20.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1058557</td> <td>SGT REESON, Frederick, George. (W/O/AG)</td> <td>4</td> <td>20.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.33180</td> <td>SGT HAGGINS, Andrew, Vivian, Howard (A/G)</td> <td>4</td> <td>20.24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Sgt. Mayo, Sgt Buchan and Sgt. Haggins were rescued after being in the dingy for 12 hours. Sgt Barlow and Sgt Reeson were unable to get out of the aircraft after ditching. (see attached report by members of the crew.) W/Odr. Dabb was a visitor to the Squadron and gave a lecture on Air Sea Rescue Work.</p>			OPERATIONAL				Trips	Hours	1389224	SGT TIERNY, Leonard, John. (PILOT)	14	71.50	148845	P/O John, Richard, SEWELL (NAV)	14	71.50	148835	P/O Leslie, Maurice WHITTON (A/B)	14	71.50	1059009	SGT REES, John, Henry. (W/O/AG)	14	71.50	NZ.412776	P/S WILLIAMS, Basil (A/G)	16	81.00			OPERATIONAL				Trips	Hours	R138574	SGT BARLOW, Ronald, Malcolm (PILOT)	7	36.30	R157287	SGT BUCHAN, Alexander. (NAV)	4	20.24	R145984	SGT MAYO, William, James. (A/B)	4	20.24	1058557	SGT REESON, Frederick, George. (W/O/AG)	4	20.24	R.33180	SGT HAGGINS, Andrew, Vivian, Howard (A/G)	4	20.24		A.395 to A.408
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Eastmoor	23.9.43		Seven aircraft were detailed for operations but this was cancelled shortly after the order had been issued. Four aircraft took part in Sea Search for Sgt Barlow and crew. P/O Mercer in locating the crew and stood by until the remaining of the crew were picked up. Word was received that these three members of the crew were brought ashore and were taken to Inningham Hospital near Grimsby.		A.409 to A.412																																																								
Eastmoor	24.9.43		10 aircraft were detailed for mining operations all took off and nine were successful in laying their mines in their allotted area. One was unsuccessful and brought his mines back. All returned to base.		A.413 to A.422																																																								

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EASTMOOR	25.9.43		No operations detailed for to-day. Sgt Buchan, Sgt. Mayo and Sgt. Haggins returned to the Squadron after their ditching experience. (Appended is a story of their experiences) Four crews warned for conversion- P/O Harrows' Crew, P/O Wales' crew, Sgt. SPINKS' crew and P/Sgt. Bakers' Crew.																														
EASTMOOR	26.9.43		Nine aircraft were detailed for bombing operations and this was cancelled in late afternoon. Sgt Buchan, Sgt. Mayo and Sgt. Haggins were interviewed by W/Odr. McKay and P/Lt. H.G. Phillips and necessary questionnaire after aircraft alight on water made out. Sergeants mess had guest night and several officers from 432 Squadron were invited.																														
EASTMOOR	27.9.43		Nine aircraft detailed for bombing operations over Hannover. All aircraft took off at scheduled A.425 to A.438. One aircraft piloted by W/O Erickson returned early. Eight aircraft were diverted to other airfields owing to bad weather conditions. One of our aircraft failed to return from this operations and below are the Operational trips and hours of the members of the crew.																														
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EASTMOOR	28.9.43		No operations were detailed for to-day. Aircraft diverted from previous nights operations returned to base except R321761 Sgt. Pay-in "W", W/Odr. McKay, W.A., and S/Ldr. G.S. Hess proceeded in the evening to Linton-on-Ouse to meet the AOC in C. Air Marshall H. Edwards																														
EASTMOOR	29.9.43		Ten aircraft were detailed for operation and this was cancelled in late afternoon.																														
EASTMOOR	30.9.43		No operations detailed for to-day. Squadron still operating with last "C" form showing 11 crews available for operations, 11 crews being converted, 2 crews on leave and 4 crews non-effective a total of 28 crews. Word has been received that 3 crews are being posted to the Squadron. One crew with effect the 30th September and four with effect the 1st October.																														
			<p>HONOURS AND AWARDS: NIL</p> <p>PROMOTIONS: NIL</p> <p>CHANGES IN COMMAND: NIL</p> <p>ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES: NIL</p> <p>AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE: 19 WELLMOTON I</p> <p>HEALTH: The general health of the Squadron is very good. There have been two cases of V.D. among ground crew personnel and none among Aircrew personnel. The moral of the Squadron is good.</p> <p>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 2359 HOURS ON THE 30th SEPTEMBER, 1943.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Aircrew</th> <th>Ground-Crew</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Officers:</td> <td>33</td> <td>2</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Officers:</td> <td>16</td> <td>-</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. Airmen:</td> <td>38</td> <td>224</td> <td>262</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Airmen:</td> <td>48</td> <td>141</td> <td>189</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others Personnel:</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>OPERATIONAL HOURS: 325:10 Hours.</p> <p>TRAINING HOURS: 85:05 Hours.</p> <p>OPERATIONAL SORTIES DURING THE MONTH: 189 Sorties.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">W. A. McKay (W. A. McKay) Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) SQUADRON.</p>		Aircrew	Ground-Crew	Total	R.C.A.F. Officers:	33	2	35	R.A.F. Officers:	16	-	16	R.C.A.F. Airmen:	38	224	262	R.A.F. Airmen:	48	141	189	Others Personnel:	6	1	7						
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