

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

5.22-1-422
 705
 6576

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	COMPILING OFFICER: G.8993 P/Lt. R.H. HARRIS, of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
EASTMOOR	1.2.44.		Five night cross-countries were carried out, while considerable training was also done during the day.		
EASTMOOR	2.2.44.		Four aircraft were placed on night cross-countries. Lancaster II LL686 crashed in the vicinity of Ripon, and resulted in the death of all the crew, the names of which are as follows: RL39783 P/S. SIEBEN, Joseph, George. (Pilot) J22128 P/O. David, Simpson, KERR. (Nav.) RL48977 P/S. WOLF, Wilfred. (A/B.) LA80812 Sgt. FRATT-ROBINSON, Ronald. (WOP/AIR) RL53715 P/S. POWER, Paul, Joseph. (A/G.) RL35778 Sgt. FIDON, Dennis, Davies. (A/G.) 1684923 Sgt. HUGGINS, Kenneth. (P/S.)		
EASTMOOR	3.2.44.		Authority was received for the re-equipment of 432 Squadron with Halifax III aircraft. Six aircraft took part in a "Bullseye" exercise. With the commencement of the moon period, nine crew went on leave.		
EASTMOOR	4.2.44.		A full programme of training was carried out including four night cross-countries.		
EASTMOOR	5.2.44.		Four day cross-countries and two night cross-countries were detailed. Fighter affiliation, air to air firing, practice bombing, S.B. & Gee honing and air test rounded out the training program. P/Lt. A.D.R. Lowe, (J.1477) and crew arrived in on posting from 1679 Conversion Flight.		
EASTMOOR	6.2.44.		Activities, due to poor weather, were restricted to ground training.		
EASTMOOR	7.2.44.		Two Halifax III were flown in, heralding the conversion of the Squadron to this type of aircraft. Another full day of training took place, including seven night cross-countries. Three of our pilots, P/O. D.K. Palmer, (170472) P/O. J. Padala, (166690) and P/O. W.H.D. Wadman, (J.18290) together with several members of their respective crews were "screened" from operations, having practically completed their 50 trips.		
EASTMOOR	8.2.44.		The usual training program was carried out including four night cross-countries.		
EASTMOOR	9.2.44.		Eleven of our Lancasters were flown out and another Halifax III was delivered. The pilots and Flight Engineers commenced a two day course at R.G.A.F. Station Topcliffe on the fuel and hydraulic system of the Halifax III. The funeral of CAN/RL39783 P/S. Sieben, J.G. and his crew took place at Harrogate, and was attended by party N.C.O.'s and ten Officers from the Squadron.		
EASTMOOR	10.2.44.		Word was received that the Squadron was to remain non-operational for at least ten days while re-equipping and converting to the Squadron. Two new crews were posted in to the Squadron captained respectively by CAN/RL56755 P/S. Clarke, A.K., and CAN/RL56758 P/S. Anthony, R.F.		



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EASTMOOR	11.2.44		A conversion training program was got underway. Four more Halifax III were added to aircraft strength.		
EASTMOOR	12.2.44		Serviceability and poor weather restricted flying to a few circuits and bumps by the Flight Commanders.		
EASTMOOR	13.2.44		Conversion training was interrupted by bad weather which prevented flying. CAN/R140167 P/S. DeMarra G. and his crew were posted to 405 Squadron.		
EASTMOOR	14.2.44		Group Captain J.E. Fauquier DCO, DFC. (41399) assumed command of R.C.A.F. Station Eastmoor vice Group Captain H.M. Carroellan DFC. (6148). The Squadron looked forward to profit from the wide operational experience of the new Station Commander.		
EASTMOOR	15.2.44		Due to bad weather conversion training was restricted to ground training.		
EASTMOOR	16.2.44		Five aircraft were detailed on a Sea Search. One aircraft returned early due to technical failure. Conversion training continued across circuits and bumps were carried out during the day, and four aircraft were detailed for night cross-countries. One of these aircraft piloted by S/Ldr. W.W. Strachan DFC (J.9863) "A" Flight Commander, crashed shortly after take-off and the entire crew (listed below) was killed. This accident came as a shock to the Squadron as it entailed the loss of one of the most experienced Captains and crew.		A.685 to A.689
		L K 761			
		"B"	J.9863 S/Ldr. William, Watson, STRACHAN, DFC (R.C.A.F.) (Pilot)		
			J.18871 P/O. Maurice, Allan, MARTIN (R.C.A.F.) (Nav.)		
			J.21045 P/O. Nick, John, BARNON (R.C.A.F.) (A/B)		
			J.18402 P/O. Robert, Callre, STUART (R.C.A.F.) (WOB/AG)		
			0886241 Ist. Lieut. Albert, Llewellyn, HENKES (R.C.A.F.) (A/C)		
			J.19066 P/O. Howard, Murray, STEWART (R.C.A.F.) (A/C)		
			615713 Sgt. GILLIARD, Joseph. (P/R)		
EASTMOOR	17.2.44		CAN/R.157627 Sgt. Menzies H.J. pilot and crew was posted in from 1659 H.C.W. (RAF)		
EASTMOOR	18.2.44		To fill the vacancy of Signals Leader P/O. J.B. Sheriff (138420) was posted from 425 Squadron, P/O. D.K. Palmer (170472) and P/O. J. Sadleir (160680) the two aforementioned screened pilots were posted out to 1666 Conversion Unit.		
EASTMOOR	19.2.44		A fighter affiliation and a air to air firing program was carried out.		
EASTMOOR	20.2.44		Seven aircraft were detailed for a "Bullseye" exercise.		
EASTMOOR	21.2.44		A full training program was laid out for the day including thirteen cross-countries. Two new crews captained by CAN/R.19123 P/O. S.A. Hawkins and CAN/R160497 Sgt. Millar, G. pilots were posted in from 1664 Conversion Unit.		
EASTMOOR	22.2.44		A service funeral was held for S/Ldr. W.W. Strachan DFC (J.9863) and his crew at 0900 hours at the church of Sutton on the Forrest. A parade of the personnel of the Station and the Squadron consisting of about 300 airmen and 25 Officers formed at the Flight Offices and marched to the ceremony. Comrades of the deceased acted as pall bearers. The burial took place at Harrogate at 1100 hours.		

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EASTMOOR	23.2.44		A full programme was carried out including night cross-countries.																																		
EASTMOOR	24.2.44		Ten aircraft were detailed for a bombing operation on Schweinfurt. One Halifax left the runway on take-off and crashed into some trees off the perimeter track without injury to the crew. Due to a technical failure two aircraft returned early. The remaining six aircraft bombed the target successfully, three landed away from base. Four pilots completed their first trip as second pilot. <i>one of crew on defect take-off. (See Annex HQ 432 S.S. 11) (para 11-12)</i>		A.690 to A.698																																
EASTMOOR	25.2.44		Eight aircraft were detailed for a bombing operation on Augsburg. Two aircraft failed to get off due to technical failure, and one was an early return for the same cause. The remaining five aircraft bombed the target successfully, one of them however, failing to return. Below are their operational trips and hours:- <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">OPERATIONAL</th> <th style="width: 15%;">PILOTS</th> <th style="width: 15%;">HOURS</th> <th style="width: 15%;">HOURS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0886266 1st.Lt. Andrew, Lincoln, WBOLD.</td> <td>(U.S.A.A.F.) (Pilot)</td> <td>1</td> <td>8:10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.23542 P/O. Allan, Glenholme, WROTH.</td> <td>(R.C.A.F.) (Nav.)</td> <td>N11</td> <td>N11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1561875 Sgt. CANNON, James.</td> <td>(R.A.F.) (WOP/ATR)</td> <td>N11</td> <td>N11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R220136 Sgt. BOEDRAU, Gilbert, Ruelip, Rheel</td> <td>(R.C.A.F.) (A/G.)</td> <td>N11</td> <td>N11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1553058 Sgt. THOMPSON, William.</td> <td>(R.A.F.) (A/G.)</td> <td>5</td> <td>25:39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1083536 Sgt. WHAN, Leonard.</td> <td>(R.A.F.) (P/L.)</td> <td>N11</td> <td>N11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.25697 P/O. Raymond, Arthur, WRICHARDS.</td> <td>(R.C.A.F.) (A/B.)</td> <td>2</td> <td>13:00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	OPERATIONAL	PILOTS	HOURS	HOURS	0886266 1st.Lt. Andrew, Lincoln, W BOLD.	(U.S.A.A.F.) (Pilot)	1	8:10	7.23542 P/O. Allan, Glenholme, W ROTH.	(R.C.A.F.) (Nav.)	N11	N11	1561875 Sgt. CANNON, James.	(R.A.F.) (WOP/ATR)	N11	N11	R220136 Sgt. BOEDRAU, Gilbert, Ruelip, Rheel	(R.C.A.F.) (A/G.)	N11	N11	1553058 Sgt. THOMPSON, William.	(R.A.F.) (A/G.)	5	25:39	1083536 Sgt. W HAN, Leonard.	(R.A.F.) (P/L.)	N11	N11	7.25697 P/O. Raymond, Arthur, W RICHARDS.	(R.C.A.F.) (A/B.)	2	13:00		A.699 to A.704
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EASTMOOR	26.2.44		A full programme of training was carried out, including night cross-countries.																																		
EASTMOOR	27.2.44		Due to poor weather only local flying was undertaken.																																		
EASTMOOR	28.2.44		Eleven aircraft were detailed for bombing operations, which however were "scrubbed" in the evening.																																		
EASTMOOR	29.2.44		Included in the training programme were twelve night cross-countries all of which carried out the detail. GENERAL:- The month saw the re-equipment of the Unit from Lancaster II to Halifax III and the conversion in the Squadron to the latter. Aside from the "snags" of serviceability arising from the change in aircraft, the Squadron from a operational standpoint, was severely handicapped by being deprived of most of its experienced crews. These crews were screened early in February, one posted to P.F.F., two killed in accidents, and during the operational period five main crew were unavailable due to the sickness of their pilots. However, with most of the "Crashmen" crews now ready for operations, and the difficulties arising from re-equipment and conversion, ironed out, the Squadron anticipates a record month in March. STATISTICAL TOTALS FOR THE MONTH: (i) Operational Hours: 89:10 Hours. (ii) Non-Operational Hours: 461:25 Hours. (iii) Number of Operational Sorties: 20 Sorties. (iv) Tonnage of bombs dropped: 18 Tons. AIRCRAFT ON CHARGE: 10 Halifax III HONOURS AND AWARDS:- Nil																																		

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			MOVEMENT:- (i) To the Unit:- (Continued)		
			(Pilot) CAN/R160497 Sgt. Millar, G. Posted from 61 Base w.e.f. 21.2.44.		
			(Nav.) J.25010 F/O. Holmes, A.P. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/B.) CAN/R176525 Sgt. Macanley, D. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(WO/AG) CAN/R104310 Sgt. MacPherson, W.B. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/C.) 1606330 Sgt. Hamsworth, E. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/G.) 1592448 Sgt. Flather, G.H. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(P/E.) 1696352 Sgt. Rusgrove, B. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(Pilot) CAN/R162256 Sgt. Stunik, W. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(Nav.) G.24693 F/O. Bailey, D. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/B.) CAN/R155570 Sgt. Laird, D. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(WO/AG) CAN/R110665 W/O. O'Brien, D. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/G.) CAN/R201198 Sgt. Bertomp, J. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/O) CAN/R187931 Sgt. Murdoch, B. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(P/E.) 1592515 Sgt. Denning, L. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(Pilot) CAN/R159116 Sgt. Harus, C.R. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(Nav.) CAN/R159474 F/S. Geeson, B. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/B.) CAN/R183788 Sgt. Egeon, L.E. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(WO/AG) CAN/R162818 Sgt. Marini, J. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/G.) CAN/R166780 Sgt. Saprunoff, S. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/C.) CAN/R207897 Sgt. Rathwell, R. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(P/E.) 1572448 Sgt. Thompson, R. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(ii) From the Unit:-		
			(Nav.) J.19065 F/O. Phillips, G.I. Posted to 1659 C.U. w.e.f. 12.2.44.		
			(A/B.) CAN/R86848 F/S. Snow, M. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(Pilot) CAN/R140167 F/S. DeMaria, C. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(Nav.) CAN/R87585 F/S. Bearson, W. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/B.) J.25635 F/S. Simpson, M. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(WO/AG) CAN/R87992 W/O. Haddleton, H. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/G.) 2208916 Sgt. Strapps, L. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/O.) 1665185 Sgt. Dickinson, J. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(P/E.) 1587408 Sgt. Hamilton, H. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/C) CAN.7674 Sgt. Koeler, W. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			(A/B.) 148057 F/O. Goom, G.H. " " " " " " " " " " " "		
			PROMOTIONS:- NIL		
			COMMISSIONING:- 15 R.C.O.'s Aircrew were appointed to Commission Rank during the month.		<i>List ATTACHED</i>
			CHANGES IN COMMAND:- NIL		
			ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES:- NIL		

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			<p>HEALTH:- The general health of the Squadron is very good. There has been one case of V.D. in in aircrew and one in ground crew. The moral appears to be very good.</p> <p>NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THIS UNIT AS AT 2350 HOURS ON THE 29.2.44:-</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>55</td> <td>3</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Officers:-</td> <td>17</td> <td>-</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.C.F. Airmen :-</td> <td>78</td> <td>201</td> <td>279</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F. Airmen :-</td> <td>53</td> <td>37</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		AIRCREW	GROUND CREW	TOTAL	R.C.A.F. Officers:-	55	3	58	R.A.F. Officers:-	17	-	17	R.A.C.F. Airmen :-	78	201	279	R.A.F. Airmen :-	53	37	90	Others	2	-	2		
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			<p><i>W.A. McKay</i></p> <p>(W.A. McKay) Wing Commander, Commanding, No. 432 (B.O.A.P.) Squadron.</p>																										

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