

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

26698

of (Unit or Formation): 433 Squadron, Skipton-on-Sea

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	Reference to Appendices
Skipton	25/9/43		<p>Today marks the official formation of 433 Squadron (RCAF) in accordance with Organisation Order Order No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group Circular No. 51, dated 12th September, 1943. The Squadron was originally to be formed last August at Eastmoor but plans were changed and is now being formed at Skipton, with Halifax II aircraft (16 + 4). Conditions for the first few weeks do not look too promising. 427 Squadron and 429 Squadron, from Leeming, are using the station for operational purposes until the runways at their own station have undergone repairs, which apparently will take two to three weeks. These two squadrons are using the flight offices, workshops, hangars etc of 433. By persuading some sections to move elsewhere, the adjutant's office and orderly room have been made available, but all other space is occupied. Fortunately, there is a new site available for our ground crews sleeping accommodation, but feeding them all is going to be a problem and will mean overcrowding in the airman's mess.</p> <p>The first and only officer to arrive so far is F/Lt. F.N. Pickford, C4295, Adjutant, who arrived yesterday from 1666 Conversion Unit, Dalton. Staff from the orderly room staff there is another personnel. The orderly room staff consists of R74767, Cpl. Jeffs, D.I. formerly a clerk with the Salmon River logging Co., B.C. He has been in this country since February; R99363 IAC Konkle, B.R. a former shipping clerk from Hamilton, Ontario; R174911, AC2 Crowley, J.R. a clerk in civil life; R186365 AC2 Mathewson, G.P. also a clerk in civil from St. Catharines, Ontario; and R 144336 AC1 Holmes, R.S. All clerks, except Cpl. Jeffs have only been in this country since last July and are very green, unfamiliar with P.O. returns used on an operational station and RAF procedure generally. They appear to be intelligent and enthusiastic and should learn fast. With this nucleus, organisation got under way this morning. All day, work has been carried on under difficulties. Tables, chairs, stationery and other necessary equipment had to be begged, borrowed or stolen. Station H.Q. and Leeming have been most co-operative in this regard, but until we receive our initial issues things will be difficult. Personnel have been arriving all day, fitters, armourers, WAAFs. Our orderly room has been in something of a panic. Confusion has arisen because of wrong routing, the location of this unit apparently not being known to despatching</p>		<p>Appendix "A"</p> <p>21. O. A. B. P. 13</p> <p>20. 13</p> <p>19. 13</p> <p>18. 13</p> <p>17. 13</p> <p>16. 13</p> <p>15. 13</p> <p>14. 13</p> <p>13. 13</p> <p>12. 13</p> <p>11. 13</p> <p>10. 13</p> <p>9. 13</p> <p>8. 13</p> <p>7. 13</p> <p>6. 13</p> <p>5. 13</p> <p>4. 13</p> <p>3. 13</p> <p>2. 13</p> <p>1. 13</p>

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Skipton	29/9/43	(Contd)	<p>parade was held this afternoon for personnel of 433 at this station. P/Lt. Pickford spoke to them explaining the situation as far as it concerned them. Organization is proceeding as satisfactorily as possible under the circumstances.</p>	SECRET.																
	30/9/43		<p>Order is gradually emerging from disorder. The orderly room is organized as far as possible at this stage, a filing system having been set up, documentation, leave and passes, and the regular routine of an orderly room proceeding comparatively smoothly. The orderly room staff may be inexperienced, but they are enthusiastic and good workers. They voluntarily return after supper in order to get things done. The typewriter borrowed from Leeming is rather decrepit, but it works - most of the time, anyway.</p> <p>Personnel are being farmed out to the squadrons here, some are working on roads, sanitary duties and other jobs. Equipment is arriving and includes bomb containers, bomb trolleys, starter trolleys, 250 lb bomb beams, accumulators, Merlin tools, ladders etc. We have no M.T. equipment yet, except the C.O.'s car which is locked up in the garage.</p> <p>Once we receive our typewriters, stationery and publications our initial problems will be solved.</p> <p>Arrangements were made today for transporting men from No. 5 site to the communal mess, and a number of bicycles have been issued.</p> <p>We have no aircraft and no ground aircrew personnel.</p> <p>Strength:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>RAF Officers</td> <td>1</td> <td>RAF Officers</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Ranks</td> <td>145</td> <td>Other Ranks</td> <td>17 (127 of these are at Skipton)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(W.D.) Officers</td> <td>0</td> <td>(W.D.) Off.</td> <td>0 (the remainder at Leeming)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(W.D.) O.N.</td> <td>0</td> <td>(W.D.) O.N.</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </table>	RAF Officers	1	RAF Officers	0	Other Ranks	145	Other Ranks	17 (127 of these are at Skipton)	(W.D.) Officers	0	(W.D.) Off.	0 (the remainder at Leeming)	(W.D.) O.N.	0	(W.D.) O.N.	13	
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			<p><i>F.N. Pickford</i> F.N. Pickford (Flight Lieutenant) A/Commanding Officer, 433 Squadron Skipton-on-Swale</p>																	

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