

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 433 Squadron, Skipton-on-Swale.

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
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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Skipton	Oct. 1/43		Personnel are arriving satisfactorily, but in many cases are being posted out again, sent on courses or exchanged. Three flight sergeants (fitters) were posted in, but two have been posted out and the other leaves Friday. We are getting some senior N.C.O.s which is a big help. Warrant Officer E.C. Thorpe, 363314 arrived today. He is an engineer.		F.
	Oct. 2nd/43		Today we received three typewriters. They are mana from heaven. Now we can go ahead and do something about F.O.s which should be ready in a couple of days. The typewriters are brand new Imperials. We have also a brand new duplicating machine.		
	Oct. 3/43		Sunday. Sunday here, in common with other operational units, is a working day. This evening there was a movie in the airman's mess. Entertainment is not very ambitious on this station. No ENSA shows visit here, but we do get three movies a week. There is the odd dance, but little else in the way of entertainment or sports as yet. Airmen spend their time in the NAAFI or in their billets amusing themselves as best they can. The town of Thirsk is 4 1/2 miles away, Rippon 6 1/2 miles in the opposite direction. As much leave is being granted as can be arranged before the Squadron gets down to real work. There are 127 airmen at this Squadron now and another 60 at Leeming waiting to come here. Sgt. S.A. Shead, R56687, discip. arrived today, which is another big help toward organization.		
	Oct. 4/43		Routine.		
	Oct 5/43		Personnel continue to arrive at Leeming. F/L N.H. Duke, engineer officer, arrived this evening from 6 Group. He is the second officer on our strength.		
	Oct 8/43		Number 9 site where our personnel sleep is a new site, but the former occupants must have had quite a party when they left. Windows are broken, lights gone, shelves broken or missing. In one hut both doors are off the hinges, in another the 24 windows are all smashed. Such wilful damage makes things very uncomfortable for those who come after. The perpetrators spent time in the "clink" and paid heavy fines for their fun.		

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Skipton	Oct. 7th/43		<p>Our first P.O.s were distributed today, dated 6/10/43, Serial No. 1, Part I, RCAF running into 14 pages.</p> <p>Many of the men have not been in England very long and are running foul of the English traffic laws. The local constable is an industrious arm of the law, and has served a couple of summons on airmen of this squadron for riding without lights after blackout. The constable makes an appointment with the adjutant and in the presence of the airmen reads the summons. He hands it to the adjutant who hands it to the airmen. When the airmen appears in court he is fined anywhere from five <del>tax</del> shillings to £1, besides having his bicycle taken from him by the unit.</p>		
	Oct. 8/43		Routine.		
	Oct. 9/43		<p>It is difficult to make plans for the useful employment of our personnel. The Engineer Officer was planning to start classes of instruction on Merlin engines, sending men on courses etc. but already we are having men detached from us to other units. 30 Fitters IIB, <del>and</del> 6 Fitters IIA and 3 electricians have been sent to 1666 Conversion Unit <del>on</del> today on attachment for an indefinite period.</p> <p>The first "crime" in the history of the unit is one of drunkenness. 144541 LAC Poulin went on a bender in Horrogate. He was <del>remanded</del> remanded to the C.O. today.</p> <p>F/Lt. G.V. Nicholls, Operational Records Officer at No. 6 Group visited the unit this afternoon, and left with the compiler of the Record very helpful information regarding the preparation of the forms 540 and 541.</p> <p>Transport vehicles are arriving for us and being held at Leeming including 3 30cwt tenders; 1 2,500 gall tractor petrol tanker; 2 15 cwt vans; 3 10cwt vans; 3 pre-heaters; 3 light tractors and 2 petrol trailers.</p>		
	Oct 10th/43		Sunday. Damp and foggy all day.		
	Oct. 11/43		Today, 427 and 429 Squadrons moved out and returned to R.C.A.F. Station, Leeming. 433 Squadron, or the beginnings of it, is the only squadron on this station now. Our personnel		



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Skipton	Oct. 11/43		(Contd) now at Leeming will reach this station in a day or two. Some forms and a little stationery arrived today, but very little is of great help. The consignment consisted mostly of Stores vouchers and <del>forms</del> forms, but we were glad to receive some file covers.		
	Oct. 12/43		Foggy again this morning and hazy all day. The biggest part of our M.T. vehicles arrived today from Leeming and included 3 standard vans; 4 delivery vans; 3 Austin 5-tonners; 4 bomb trailers; 3 30 cwt. Forsons and 1 2,500 gall. tanker. Some vehicles are being held at Leeming until required by this unit. Our personnel from Leeming, with the exception of six on duty guarding an aircraft, and one or two M.T. drivers, arrived today. We have 202 on strength now, forty of these on attachment to 1666 Conversion Unit.		
	Oct. 13/43		137906 P/O Harrison, S.M. (Electrical Engineer) reported to the unit today. He has been posted w.e.f. 7/10/43 from Station staff. He and P/Lt. Oake, took two flat lorries and twenty men to Dishforth (R.C.A.F. Station) to pick up equipment for this unit. Dishforth Station is not operating and is used as a supply pool. A lot of 433 <del>equipment</del> maintenance equipment is there. They brought back considerable equipment, but it will take another day to bring it all in. More personnel is arriving: 6 ACW MT drivers came in today.		
	Oct. 14/43		The Station Commander inspected the technical site this morning and found things satisfactory. At least there were no complaints. It has been cool and sunny today. All airman personnel <del>moved</del> moved from No. 5 site to No. 4 this afternoon, bringing them nearer the communal site.		
	Oct. 15/43		One packet of cigarettes, donated by the Y.M.C.A., and one packet of chewing gum <del>were</del> were issued to each man on pay parade this morning. A post card accompanied each packet of cigarettes, already addressed, to be returned to the civilian in Canada contributing to the cigarette fund. Many of them were from Miss Somebody-or-other.		
	Oct. 16th to Oct. 18th/43		Progress is being made toward formation of the Squadron. Personnel are arriving every day. Considerable equipment has been brought over from R.C.A.F. Station, Dishforth, and		

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Skipton	Oct. 16th to Oct. 16th/43		includes: starting equipment and trolleys, maintenance ladders, small quantity of tools, air compressor, tail trestles, bomb trailers, Browning guns, oxygen bottles and cylinders, chocks, Gee sets, photographic equipment. Electrical equipment includes alternating current meters, electric drills, alternators 500 watts, trolley accumulators. Instruments include all kinds of gauges, artificial horizon instruments, indicators, oxygen economizers, astrograph and like material.		
	Oct. 19/43		Canada's 5th Victory Loan started today. A squadron post office has been organized and is located in the flight offices. A dance was held in the airmen's mess this evening, an R.A.F. orchestra from 433 Squadron providing the music.		
	Oct. 20/43		A kit inspection was held this afternoon for all personnel (airmen) of this Squadron. Arrangements were made to exchange worn clothing and a thorough check was made to see that men were fully supplied with clothing for the winter. Our M.T. vehicles are now up to establishment with the exception of one 2,500 gallon tanker, two petrol trailers and one bomb trailer.		
	Oct. 21/43		A number of airmen's kits have been lost in transit, six at least, and steps are being taken to recover them. The wrong routing of personnel is responsible. There is considerable dissatisfaction among the 67y odd airmen who have been sent on detachment. Their chief complaint is that being attached to another unit interferes with their leave and is an obstacle to promotion.		
	Oct. 22/43		Routine		
	Oct. 23/43		Air Vice-Marshal G.E. Brooks, O.B.E., Air Officer Commanding No. 6 (RCAF) Group, visited the station today. He discussed with the officers of 433 Squadron matters concerning the formation of the unit.		
	Oct. 24/43		Sunday.		

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Skipton	Oct. 25/43		Today was a big day for the sale of bonds. The total number of airmen on the station of this Squadron numbers less than 200, the others being on detachment etc. We have not more than six senior N.C.Os and only two RCAF officers. Victory Loan sales have reached the fifteen hundred dollar mark, purchased mostly by IACs.		
	Oct. 26/43		Affairs are very quiet on the Station since the two operational squadrons left. 433 are receiving personnel in smaller numbers and there is nothing very much happening outside regular routine. There was the usual movie in the airmen's mess tonight followed by a dance for all ranks.		
	Oct. 27/43		The Squadron has boosted Bond sales to two thousand three hundred dollars, only one hundred behind S.H.Q.		
	Oct. 28/43		Routine.		
	Oct. 29/43		F/Lt. Doyle, medical officer, reported today for duty with the squadron. His coming was a surprise no posting notice having been received. F/Lt. Doyle has recently come over from Canada. Bond sales now total 2,650 which puts the squadron ahead of S.H.Q.		
	Oct. 30/43		Another consignment of stationery arrived today. The unit is well supplied now, except for S.O. Books and a few publications.		
	Oct. 31/43		Sunday. Bond sales total 2,800. The month has been quiet. There is little for personnel to do here as yet, and postings in have slowed down to one or two a day. Some forty odd are attached to 1666 Con. Unit. As many as fifty at a time have taken the backlogs up training. Many have been granted leave during the month. Two men have been serving 28 and 7 days in detention. Three have been in hospital. The health of the Squadron as a whole is reported to be good by the medical officer. The food, now, is excellent and the men have no complaints. Almost every man has been interviewed by the Adjutant and he is satisfied the men are comfortable and happy on the station, but anxious to get to work.		

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	Oct. 31/43	(Cont'd)	<p>The Engineer Officer believes we are to get some aircraft next week, probably Halifax IIIs.</p> <p>There are only three officers on strength. One Medical officer has reported for duty, but no posting notice received yet.</p> <p>Numerical Strength of Unit as at 31st October 1943</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>(Officers)</th> <th>Aircrew</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> <th>(Airmen)</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> <th>Aircrew</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F.</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>213</td> <td>3</td> <td>213</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>45</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W.A.A.F.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>(Airwomen) 31</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>269</td> <td>293</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"> <i>F. N. Pickford</i>                      F. N. Pickford (Flight Lieutenant)                      A/Commanding Officer                      433 (RCAF) Squadron                      Sipton-on-Swale.                 </p>		(Officers)	Aircrew	Groundcrew	(Airmen)	Groundcrew	Aircrew	R.C.A.F.	2	0	213	3	213	0	R.A.F.	1	0	1		45	0	W.A.A.F.					(Airwomen) 31	0	TOTAL	3	0	4		269	293		
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