

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Skipton	Nov. 1/43		Continuous rain early morning and after dusk with poor visibility.		Fifth
			Canadian Victory Loan sale of bonds reached 3,250 dollars today.		
	Nov. 2/43		Periods of rain and drizzle with considerable fog.		A number of airmen (17)
			travelled to Durham today to play hockey on the artificial ice rink.		Cinema show
			in the airmen's mess this evening.		
	Nov. 3/43		The Squadron's first aircraft arrived this afternoon. Halifax III, EX260. The weather was cloudy with poor visibility becoming fair in afternoon. Cloudy with moderate visibility after dusk.		
	Nov. 4/43		Cloudy with poor visibility, reaching fog levels during morning.		30 fitters
			left today for attachment to 1679 Con. Unit, Eastmoor, for experience.		40 fitters, 3 Elect.
			returned to this unit from attachment to 1666 Con. Unit.		
	Nov. 5/43		Cloudy with poor visibility, rain over area later in day.		The personnel
			are engaged in routine jobs.		
	Nov. 6/43		Cloudy with poor visibility in morning, becoming fair with good visibility. Routine.		
	Nov. 7/43		Sunday. Fair with good visibility. Moonlight after dusk.		Bond sales to date
			amount to four thousand four hundred dollars. A W/C. C. B. Sinton, D.F.C., who is to take command of the Squadron, visited the Station today and discussed various aspects of formation with the adjutant and engineer officer. W/C. Sinton will probably take over active command next Tuesday.		
	Nov. 8/43		Routine. Cloudy with moderate visibility, later becoming fair with moderate visibility.		
	Nov. 9/43		Fair to cloudy with poor visibility becoming fair.		A/W/C. C. B. Sinton, D.F.C. assumed command of the Squadron today, from 432(RCAF) Squadron, Eastmoor.
	Nov. 10/43		Cloudy with moderate visibility becoming good. Rain spread over area in the late afternoon, becoming fair to fine with good visibility.		Our second Halifax arrived today
			EX272. Mark III.		
	Nov. 11/43		Fine becoming cloudy. Good visibility. An Armistice Service was held in Skipton Church this morning conducted by the Station Chaplain, S/L Province.		Third Halifax arrived. EX262
			Two officers and three N.C.O. aircrew reported today. W/C Sinton's crew. They are: P/O Sinclair,		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Skipton	Nov. 11/43	(Cont'd)	J 21169 A/B; F/O K.R. Patterson, J14552, A/G; <del>F/O</del> R135683 F/Sgt. Sharpe, S.W. Nav.; 1150797 Sgt. Pearce, R.E., W/AG; 1162955 Sgt. Green, R.D., F/E.		
	Nov. 12/43		Cloudy becoming fair. Good visibility. Two more aircraft delivered. HX260 and HX264. Six members of the Squadron travelled to Durham today as part of a hockey team to play against Headquarters, No. 6 Group. R116557 LAC Carr, R.E. played goal; R156960 LAC Crombie, was one of the defence; R78590 Sgt. Robertson, left wing; R67032, F/Sgt. Ramsay, Sgt. Bonneau and LAC Sharpe were spares. <del>HX 6 Group was by one spair.</del>		
	Nov. 13/43		W/C Sinton, Commanding Officer, and F/Lt. Duke, Engineer Officer, visited the R.A.F. Station Leonfield today and picked up useful "gen" on "Halifax III's". Three more aircraft arrived: HX 230; HX 245; HX 277. We now have eight new Halifax III's, and 380 personnel.		
	Nov. 14/43		Sunday. A stormy day, windy, cloudy with heavy <del>snow</del> continuous showers of rain and <del>sleet</del> sleet. The Navigation Leader arrived today posted from 426 Squadron, Idrton. He is F/O D.W. Simpson, D.F.C., J11110. The Gunnery Leader, F/O K.R. Patterson visited RCAF Station, Leeming, returning with crew boards and other material useful in his section. All the leaders are busy organizing their sections.		
	Nov. 15/43		Cloudy with rain in the early morning, becoming fair with showery conditions. Good visibility. F/Lt. Duke, Engineer Officer, left today for the Handley Page works where he is to spend a few days picking up "gen" useful to him in the maintenance and repair of our "Halifax III's". F/O Patterson, Gunnery Leader, visited Topcliffe Station today. He conferred with F/Lt. Pagy, 1659 Con. Unit and obtained useful information concerning E.P. turrets. In the Navigation Section an inventory was made of equipment and plans made for the future. The Navigation Officer, F/O Simpson, accompanied W/C Sinton to Leeming for a conference with S/L Craig, S.N.O. Some equipment was obtained.		
	Nov. 16/43		Cloudy becoming fair. Good visibility. W/C Sinton visited the Gunnery Section today with a view to setting in some flying on Halifax, but was disappointed. Three aircrews reported today. Six electricians have been attached to this unit from Dalton.		
	Nov. 17/43		Cloudy with some snow and sleet becoming fair with an occasional shower. Visibility good.		

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Skipton	Nov. 17/43	(Con'd)	W/C Sinton visited Topcliffe again today and was able to get in some flying on a Halifax. Another Halifax III arrived today, HX 265. Twenty-one aircrew arrived today from Leeming. P/O A.M. Douse, Flight Engineer Leader, and P/O F.K. Brown, Signals Leader, have been busy organizing their sections and getting settled in their respective offices. The Gunnery Officer attended a lecture on Hercules engines.		
	Nov. 18/43		Cloudy with showers in the early morning, becoming fair to fine. Good visibility. We now have fourteen officers and 420 other ranks on the strength of the Squadron. The Gunnery Leader has booked the Sutton Bank range for the following dates: the afternoon of 30/11/43; morning of 7/12/43, and morning of 11/12/43. Five gunners reported in today. Gee trainer has been set up in the Navigation hut. Sgt. W.J. Boustead reported from 427 <sup>S</sup> Squadron.		
	Nov. 19/43		Fair, becoming cloudy. Slight rain during evening. Moderate to good visibility. Two aircraft, HX 283 and HX 285 came in yesterday and one today, HX 273. There are now 12 Halifax III's on the strength of the Squadron. Furnishings were obtained for the gunners' crew room. 30 electrically heated suits (Windsacs) have been ordered. All gunners busy cleaning up their crew room.		
	Nov. 20/43		Cloudy with poor visibility. Routine.		
	Nov. 21/43		Sunday. Foggy except for a short period in the afternoon. Some light rain at intervals. The Commanding Officer of the Squadron addressed the men under his command at a general parade this morning, talked to and questioned the individual. There seems to be no complaints, everyone anxious to get busy. Interest and activity have increased considerably since the arrival of more aircraft. S/L Lashbrook, D.F.C., D.F.M. visited the unit from Handling Squadron, Halvington and gave us useful "gen" on Halifax III's. Among the Sections, everyone is busy cleaning, fixing, getting things in order. There is great enthusiasm. 1579560 Sgt. Rathbone, (Nav) is quite an artist. He is doing a lot of fancy sign painting and lettering in the Navigation hut. The Nav. hut is looking very business-like. Wall charts, drawings, etc. are in place. Training programmes are being arranged. "A" Flight has been formed <del>suggested</del> with the following as captains of crews: W/C Sinton, D.F.C., P/O G.W. Wolton J16773; 3/Sgt. K.P. White, 1389636; P/Sgt. C.M. Nielson, R136307; P/Sgt. J.S. Saith 1392270; P/Sgt. R.C. Reinelt, 1388906;		

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Skilton			<p>F/Sgt. G.E.Hall, 1519273; P/O D.Brom, 152567. C.O. talked to all crews. F/O Wolton was put in charge of the flight. A representative from the Bristol Company gave a lecture on engine handling. Gunners carried out familiarisation inspection of the Mark III Halifax. In the afternoon they continued work on crew room.</p>		
	Nov. 22nd/43		<p>Fair to fine. Good visibility. P/Lt. Murray of 1659 Con. Unit, visited the Squadron today and checked out 4 pilots. Three hours and fifty minutes flying was carried out. The C.O. held a meeting this morning, the Station armament officer, signals, met, engineer officer, and others concerned being present with the unit personnel. Local problems in connection with training, flying and ultimate operational date were discussed. All sections are now in good shape. Gunners busy chasing up equipment and fixing wall boards in crew room. In the W/T Section three aircraft inspected and found O.K. from W/T point of view. One aircraft air-tested. As today marked the first take-off for our new "kites" there was great excitement. K for King took off with half the Station watching. P/L Murray, of Topcliffe, was at the controls. It was a wizard show. Took off in one third length of runway. Circuits and landings carried out.</p>		
	Nov. 23/43		<p>Fair in early morning becoming cloudy with rain in late afternoon. Visibility good at first deteriorating to moderate. P/Lt. F.W. Plakford was sick today and P/O A.W. Jennings acted as Adjutant. W/C C.B. Sinton attended a lecture on P.P. work. The eight crews now with the unit had their photographs taken today. They should be ready in about a week. <del>P/O</del> Crews attended a lecture on engine handling by Bristol representative. Gunners training is at a standstill for want of equipment. Four more aircraft were inspected by the W/T Section and found O.K. In the morning a flight drew up training <del>proposals</del> charts for tentative training programme. Local flying had been arranged for two crews but was scrubbed owing to bad weather.</p>		
2	Nov. 24/43		<p>Fair to fine. Occasional showers with moderate to good visibility. Strong winds throughout the day. Two more aircraft arrived: W/T 1 and W/T 200. Flying was attempted, but the weather was too rough and it was scrubbed. A discussion was held between pilots and engineers on the Mark III. All crews on study drill. Two training gun turrets are on way</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
Skipton	Nov. 25/43		<p>From 429 Squadron, Leeming.</p> <p>Fine with good visibility. W/C Sinton, C.O., gave a talk to all pilots on testing and dispersal of aircraft. Check circuits completed and four fighter affiliation undertaken.</p> <p>The Hurricanes came from RCAF Station, Dalton. Three more crews checked out on Halifaxes.</p> <p>Star recognition was carried out this evening, also astro with Planisphere and sextants.</p> <p>One of the training gun turrets has arrived from Leeming; a rather delapidated "C" type.</p> <p>Three aircraft air-tested by W/T Section and found O.K. In the crew room of the Bomb Section, bomb carriers, bomb slip and nose and tail pistols have been set up. Two more aircraft arrived IX269 and IX291. We now have twenty on strength.</p>		
	Nov. 26/43		<p>Fine with good visibility. Ground training continues. Three crews completed fighter affiliation exercises and two completed short cross country exercises. See training carried out in Navigation Section. When "A for Apple" was on cross country run, the port inner engine caught fire. It was extinguished by diving the aircraft at 300 I.A.S. for about 3,000 feet. Crews not flying attended technical lectures.</p>		
	Nov. 27/43		<p>Fine with moderate visibility early in morning, becoming foggy. Thirteen Lancasters returning from operations over Berlin landed here early this morning because of bad weather developing. They are being serviced by Squadron personnel. They remained all day because of fog. The photographs of 433 crews taken a few days ago have not turned out well because of movement.</p>		
	Nov. 28/43		<p>Sunday. A mild morning, fine with good visibility, but turned to heavy rain. Three of the Lancasters were able to get away before the weather closed down. Not much activity going on today. Eight more Lancasters left before dark.</p>		
	Nov. 29/43		<p>Fair to fine with good visibility and an occasional shower. Three aircrews arrived tonight from RCAF Station Croft: 9 officers and twelve airmen. Distribution of the 1939-43 Star ribbon commenced today. 57 aircrew are eligible to date. Two crews were on cross country flying this afternoon, 8.05 hrs. and two carried out night flying, 1.10 hrs. During the day those not flying carried out dingy drill. Pilots and W/Os worked together on the Harbord, Leeming emergency procedure.</p>		

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Skilton	Nov. 30/43		<p>Fair to fine with good visibility and an occasional shower. W/C C.B. Sinton, D.F.C., Officer Commanding the Squadron held a conference this morning of all section leaders, Station specialist officers, and W.C.O.s concerned. The progress and future plans for the Squadron were discussed. All sections are reported to be progressing satisfactorily.</p> <p>Two cross country exercises were carried out this afternoon, 2.25 hrs. and night flying this evening, 2.05 hrs.</p> <p>November has been a busy month. There are now twenty Halifax IIIs on the strength of the Squadron, eleven crews, and some 350 ground crew. Section leaders have been busy organizing their sections and training, both ground and in the air has been carried out.</p> <p>Honours and Awards. Issue of 1939-43 Star ribbon commenced to 57 aircrew of this unit.</p> <p>Commissions - Nil</p> <p>Promotions - Officers, nil. 10 N.C.O.'s</p> <p>Postings - Acting W/C C.B. Sinton, D.F.C. posted w.e.f. 1/11/43 from 132 Squadron as Commanding Officer. 21 other officers (aircrew) posted in during month.</p> <p>Aircraft on charge - 20 Halifax Mark III</p> <p>Health - Generally good, both aircrew and groundcrew.</p> <p>Numerical strength of unit as at 30th November, 1943</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>(Officers)</th> <th>Aircrew</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> <th>(Airmen)</th> <th>Aircrew</th> <th>Groundcrew</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F.</td> <td></td> <td>15</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>24</td> <td>298</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.C.A.F. (USA)</td> <td></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.A.F.</td> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>32</td> <td>56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R.N.Z.A.F.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td></td> <td>22</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td>59</td> <td>354</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Operational, Non-operational and Training Flying Hours, November 1943</p> <p>(a) Operational Flying Hours Nil. (Under <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> Day 25.50 Hrs. x Night 3.00 Hrs.)</p> <p>(b) Non-operational - Nil</p> <p>(c) Flying Training Hours. Nil Day 25.50 Hrs. Night 3.00 Hrs. 26.50 Hrs.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> C.B. Sinton, D.F.C. Wing Commander, Commanding Officer, 132 (RCAF) Squadron.</p>		(Officers)	Aircrew	Groundcrew	(Airmen)	Aircrew	Groundcrew	R.C.A.F.		15	2		24	298	R.C.A.F. (USA)		0	0		2	0	R.A.F.		7	1		32	56	R.N.Z.A.F.					1		TOTAL		22	3		59	354		
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