

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 428 Squadron, R.C.A.F.

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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
R.C.A.F. Station, Tholthorpe, Yorks.	13.6.43		The Adjutant of this newly formed Heavy Bomber Squadron, P/O G.T. Sutherland (G.5180), arrived by N.T. at 0955 hrs. on posting from Base H.Q., Topcliffe, Yorks, being the first member of the Squadron to report for duty. Squadron H.Q. was set up in same building as Station H.Q. by kind permission of P/O R.J. Bulburt (74136), acting Camp Commandant, who was most cooperative. There is no sign of any Squadron personnel or equipment but an initial Stationary Pack-up has been demanded by letter dated June 11, 1943 from Base H.Q., Linton. This Station is only partly completed and most of the buildings in existence are occupied by several hundred civilian labourers employed by contractors. Moreover this Station is still part of No. 4 Group, but will be transferred to No. 6 Group as of June 16, 1943. There is a great deal of work to be done in completing and equipping the Station, which is not going to make the forming of a new Squadron any easy matter. Station strength is approximately 50 all ranks on loan from Linton Base H.Q.		
	14.6.43		No Squadron activity as there is no Squadron personnel on the Station except the Adjutant, who is assisting P/O R.J. Bulburt (74136), Camp Commandant, in getting living accommodation organised in readiness for a large influx of Station and Squadron personnel in the near future. Requests for personnel, equipment and stationery, etc. were made by phone to Base H.Q. Linton, No. 6 Group H.Q., and Records, Gloucester.		
	15.6.43		The Commanding Officer of 139 Squadron, W/C G.E. Harris (37878) arrived by air today from 139 Squadron, but was unable to land because of the uncompleted condition of the runway. Lack of firing control facilities, etc. so landed at Linton Station and came over by N.T. with several of his Squadron Officers. They inspected the buildings, flying field, living accommodation, etc. Further requests for personnel, equipment, stationery, etc. were made by phone to Base, No. 6 Group H.Q. and Records.		
	16.6.43		The first aircrew personnel arrived on posting today, including W/C G.E. Harris (37878) and crew from 139 Squadron, P/O J.A. Piddington (39562) and crew from 127 Squadron, P/O R.A. McLeskey (G.1637) and crew from 108 Squadron, P/O J.E. Hookay (71562) and crew from 127 Squadron, P/O W.N. Thomson (J.3528) and crew from 108 Squadron. Seven days leave was granted to all		



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	16.6.43	(Cont'd)	aircrew by W/O G.E. Harris (37876) with the exception of the pilots. Accommodation is very limited here and as there are no aircraft here yet, there is nothing for the aircrew to do. A moving picture show put on by the I.M.C.A. was enjoyed by approximately 60 all ranks.		
	17.6.43		P/L G.T. Berg (J.16782), Squadron Bombing Leader from 427 Squadron, and P/L G.C. Garton, (13534), and P/L D.J. MacLaurin (G.2112), Engineer Officer reported on posting from No. 6 Group Headquarters, also P/O J.W.E. Tyler (111498) and crew from 419 Sqn., Sgt. F.J. Piper, R.85176 and crew from 419 Sqn., Sgt. J.W. Snelgrove R.114578 and crew from 408 Sqn., and Sgt. R.A. Pratt R.100824 and crew from 408 Sqn. Seven days leave was granted to all aircrew by W/O G.E. Harris (37876). Fifty ground crew arrived on posting from Bournemouth. The weather is variable with sunshine, wind and showers.		
	18.6.43		P/L L.H. Curry (121549), Squadron Navigation Officer arrived on posting from 419 Squadron; also R.98865 Sgt. C.M. Johnston and crew from 408 Sqn. and Sgt. E.H. Ella R.124282 and crew from 408 Sqn. All aircrew were given 7 days leave by W/O G.E. Harris (37876). This Station, known until today as R.A.F. Station, Tholthorpe, of No. 4 Group, officially became known as R.C.A.F. Station, Tholthorpe, of No. 6 Group, and we were able to secure possession of our first M.T. vehicles. W/O G.E. Harris (37876), O.C. 434 Sqn. assumed Command of the Station. First P. Report completed and forwarded to No. 6 Group H.Q.		
	19.6.43		More aircrew personnel arrived today including 1096590 Sgt. H. Green and crew from 427 Sqn., P/O G.V. Perks (145348) and crew from 427 Sqn., P/O S.H. Dunn (J.16318) and crew from 427 Sqn., and P/O I.L. Colquhoun (J.6032) and crew from 427 Sqn. All aircrew were given 7 days leave by W/O G.E. Harris (37876). Further requests were made by phone to Base H.Q., No. 6 Group H.Q. and Records for ground crew personnel, especially clerks and cooks, equipment and stationery. W/O E. Labelle R.66118, Squadron Discip. reported on posting.		
	20.6.43		The Squadron's first aircraft, a Halifax Mk.V, No. 88217 arrived today by A.T.C. and caused considerable interest. S/L R.E.A. Innes (G.451), Station Administrative Officer reported to the Station on posting from R.A.F. Station, Digby. An R.C. church parade was held at 1100 hrs. but no Protestant service was held due to the inability of a Padre to attend. No Stationary or office equipment has arrived so far so proper Orderly Room routine cannot be followed.		

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	20.6.43	(Cont'd)	Officers, N.C.O's, and airmen are all eating rations under one roof and enjoying it. The food is well prepared and plentiful enough, thanks to splendid cooperation of Base Messing Officer, and a small staff of willing workers in our kitchens. First Form 765A compiled; also first "Q" Report forwarded.		
	21.6.43		More airmen groundcrew arrived today including some senior N.C.O's who at once started in to organise their sections. A/C G.M. McEwan, M.C., D.F.C., Linton Base Commander, visited the Station and made thorough inspection of all uncompleted works and buildings. R.12019 Sgt. O. Lyttle and crew from 427 Sqn., arrived on posting and were given 7 days leave by W/C C.E. Harris (37878). 2nd Lt. J. Clary (0885969) and crew from 427 Sqn. arrived on posting and were given 7 days leave. All ranks are entering into the life of this new Station and the spirits of the men are fine. In the evenings softball games and horse shoe pitching are in full swing on the dispersed sites. The Station adjoins and partly surrounds a small, quaint red brick village built around a common with a duck pond in the centre. Cattle wander at will on the main and only street, which somewhat complicates walking or cycling after dark. No sign of any orderly Room staff or equipment or stationer, so no P.O.'s or D.E.O's out yet.		
	22.6.43		More airmen arrived on posting today including Sgt. F.H. Lever (R.74333) and crew from 406 Sqn., and Sgt. T.P. Thould (R.116947) and crew from 408 Sqn., and were given 7 days leave by W/C C.E. Harris (37878). G/C McCartney, Senior R.C. Chaplain from R.C.A.F. H.Q. Overseas visited the Station. Reports advised by phone today that approximately 200 ground crew personnel recently posted to 433 Sqn. at Easthor were being transferred to 434 Sqn. in a few days as 433 Sqn. is being disbanded temporarily. Sqn and Station Offices still in the Sqn. H.Q. Building as no phones yet installed in the new Station H.Q. site buildings. Officers Mess opened up today on a partial basis.		
	23.6.43		A/C H.F. Mosson, Senior Equipment Administrative Officer from R.C.A.F. H.Q. Overseas visited the Station. The Sqn's second Halifax arrived today by A.T.C. Still no sign or word of any Orderly Room Staff, equipment or supplies and as no surplus is available at Station or Base H.Q., we are working under difficulties, in cooperation with the Station Orderly Room Staff. Another		

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	23.6.43	(Cont'd)	picture show put on by the Y.M.C.A. was enjoyed by about 200 all ranks.		
	24.6.43		More groundcrew personnel reported today and Eastmoor Station advised that they were sending us 50 men per day starting tomorrow and including an Orderly Room N.C.O. and clerks. Our Sqn. has taken over Sites 6 and 7 with a total accommodation of approximately 500 all ranks. The Sqn's 3rd Halifax arrived today by A.T.C. but there are many modifications to be made before they are ready for Ops. 658291 Sgt. A.W. Austin and crew from 419 Sqn. and R.106618 Sgt. R. Harrison and crew from 419 Sqn. reported on posting and were granted 7 days leave by W/O C.E. Harris (37878).		
	25.6.43		A detachment of 50 groundcrew personnel arrived from Eastmoor today. Further requests were made by phone to Base H.Q. and to No. 6 Group H.Q. and by signal to Air Ministry London for Orderly Room equipment and stationery supplies. The Station put out its first Station Routine Orders on a borrowed typewriter and on borrowed paper today.		
	26.6.43		Another 50 groundcrew arrived from Eastmoor today including an Orderly Room Corporal Clerk and two other clerks, but still no word of any equipment or supplies. Another Halifax arrived by A.T.C. today bringing our A/C strength to four, unmodified. W/O Newson and his 2nd I/C and Adjutant of 431 Sqn. visited the Station to look over the available accommodation for his Sqn. when they arrive here next month.		
	27.6.43		Church services were held for R.C.'s at 1100 hrs. and for Protestants at 1400 hrs. today in the Airman's Mess Hall and were well attended. A final draft of 62 men was received from Eastmoor. The Sqn. Orderly Room is now operating but are two weeks behind in their work due to late postings. The accommodation problem is becoming acute because so many of the completed buildings are occupied by contractor's men who cannot find local accommodation elsewhere.		
	28.6.43		The first cartons of our initial stationery pack-up were received today. W/O C.E. Harris (37878) I.C. of 431 Sqn. attended the Base Commanders Conference at Linton this morning. A picture show provided by the Y.M.C.A. was enjoyed by several hundred personnel. Softball games and horse shoe pitching continue to be favourite pastimes on the living sites after working hours.		
	29.6.43		S/L J.A. Piddington (39562), "A" Flight Commander, posted to command 429 Sqn. at Eastmoor and		

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	29.6.43	(Cont'd)	the Navigator, B/A and R.A.G. of his crew go with him. A flight of 45 men and 3 R.C.O.'s are busily drilling in preparation for the R.C.A.F. Dominion Day Celebration Service at Ripon Cathedral on July 1st, 1943.																											
	30.6.43		Our Squadron strength has grown from 0 to nearly 400 in the last two weeks and is now over-taxed the accommodation of Sites 6 and 7. Further cartons of supplies arrived today but still no word of Orderly Room equipment. Most aircrew are now back from leave. Sqn. strength today consists of: Officers: Aircrew 29 Non flying 2 Airmen: Aircrew 128 Non flying 229  The morale of this new Squadron is splendid; the health is good and crime is nil.																											
			<i>G. E. Harris</i> (G. E. Harris) Wing Commander, Officer Commanding, No. 44 Squadron, R.C.A.F.																											
			Aircraft on Charge. 4 (Four)																											
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