

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 434 Squadron R.C.A.F.

26698

5-22-43
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No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
THOLDSORF	1-9-43.		<p>The 4 aircraft that took off last evening all completed the operation and returned safely in the following order: P/O P.Lord, J.6829, and crew in "F" landed at Barford, St. John, N.S. at 04.20 because of fuel shortage and came on to base before lunch time; Sgt. A. Austin, 658201 and crew in "W" landed at base at 04.25 hours; Sgt. E.Ellis, E.124282, and crew in "A" at 04.30 hours and P/L J.Hockey, J.4562, and crew in "B" at 04.40 hours. All crews reported a very successful trip to Berlin. The weather was very fine early this morning but soon changed and before lunch time ceiling was zero and it was raining heavily so all flying was cancelled including a Bull's Eye plan for tonight. A signal was received just before noon today from No. 6 Group Headquarters confirming the promotion of popular P/L W.N.Thomson, J.4526, to Action Squadron Leader as Flight Commander and this important event was well and duly celebrated in the Mess this evening. P/L F.C. McCall, C.7107, P.R.O. from No. 5 Group Headquarters visited this Squadron this afternoon and evening in company with War Correspondent Clifford Sifton, proprietor and publisher of the Sifton chain of Canadian Newspapers.</p>	<p>SECRET</p> <p>C.A.F. Headquarters 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50</p>
THOLDSORF	2-9-43.		<p>The weather was good today and several aircraft were air-tested. The Squadron is detailed for ops. tonight and we have agreed to supply 4 aircraft for a gardening effort. Briefing was at 1800 hours and did not last long and at 2000 hours Sgt. J.Smallgrove, E.114518, and crew in A/C "H" took off, followed by P/O P.Carter, J.13993, and crew in "A" at 2000 hours, Sgt. J.Pollard, E.121650 and crew in "B" at 2006 hours, and Sgt. F. Elsmalling, E.121177, and crew in A/C "F" at 2026 hours after being held up by the fact that the Bomb load was not completed on time. P/L F.C. McCall, C.7107, P.R.O. of No. 6 Group H.Q. and war correspondent Clifford Sifton were visiting the Squadron again this morning and the latter was taken for a flight in a Halifax at his own request. Mr. B.S.Miller, Merlin Engine specialist, representative from the Rolls Royce Company is now attached to this station for duty with the squadron. Aircraft H, A and B in charge of Sgt. J.Smallgrove, E.114518, P/O P.Carter, J.13993, and Sgt. J.Pollard, E.121650 and crews, respectively, returned to base at 2325 hours, 2340 hours and 2345 hours, reporting that the operations detailed had not been carried out because of failure of Gee equipment when they were in the target area, which was rather discouraging on the squadrons initial gardening effort.</p>	

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TRULIHORPE	3-2-43		A/C "B" in charge of Sgt. N. Flewelling, R.121177, and crew returned to base at 0010 hours and reported that the same lack of success and for the same reason as A/C N.A. and S. There was considerable flying activities today totalling 11 sorties including cross country bombing practice, air to sea firing, air-testing, fighter affiliation and local flying but there were no operational sorties tonight, so all ranks too the night off.		
TRULIHORPE	4-2-43		The weather was poor today resulting in limited flying activity consisting of Air Testing and air to sea firing by P/O F.Carter, J.19993, and crew in A/C "A", Cross Country by Sgt. E. Devaney, R.130783, and crew in "B", air to sea firing by Lt. J. Glary, 0885969, and crew in A/C "C", and air testing by Sgt. J. Torrey, R.92996, and crew in aircraft "D". The weekly Liberty Run Bus to Harrogate was as popular as ever and a large number of aircrew took advantage of the chance to spend the night in town. Another complete aircrew reported in on posting from 1659 Conversion Unit today including: R.55208, Sgt. Nadeau, A.M. Pilot, J.1A510, P/O H.H. Lee, Nav., 1312310, Sgt. V.A. Cassell WO/AG, J.22866 P/O H.W. Oudney A/B, R.177109 Sgt. A.C.J. Dupont, A/G, R.186096 Sgt. D.W. Wilson MU/AG, R.69385 Sgt. H. Newlove P/W.		
TRULIHORPE	5-9-43		There was much activity in all sections today as we are scheduled for a big operational effort tonight. P/O H. Gorman, J10730, and P/O F. Carter, J.19993, and Sgt. E. Devaney, R.130783, and Sgt. J. Torrey, R.92996, and their crews engaged in fighter affiliation while W/C G.E. Harris, 37878, and P/O J. Tyler, 111A98, and crews did some Air Testing. Another complete aircrew arrived on posting from 1664 Conversion Unit today consisting of R.97918 Sgt. K.C. Smith Pilot, 1395755 Sgt. H. Bull Nav., R.36777 Sgt. W.E. Rowbottom A/B, 131A118 Sgt. C.J. Hoare WO/AG, R.166032, Sgt. L.H. Wheatley A/G, 181A51A Sgt. S.T. Smith MU/AG, 110A678 Sgt. H.G. Speight P/E. Briefing was earlier than usual today and everyone was out dispersal points by daylight. Between 1920 hours and 1930 hours A/C G. L. R. F. A. E. H. S. and W, in charge of W/C G.E. Harris, 37878, with S/L. V. Fleessance, 01395 of 431 Squadron as Second Pilot, R/Ldr. E.M. Thomson, J.3528, P/O J. Tyler, 111A98, with P/O Warming, W. J. 22853, as second Pilot, P/O G. Fennell J.16308, Sgt. Follard, J. R.121650, Lt. J. Glary 0885969 with Sgt. E. Devaney, R.130783 pilot, Sgt. J. Snellgrove R.11A51B, Sgt. N. Flewelling, R.151177, and P/O J. Allen J.20440, and their crews took off and roared away into the gathering gloom. P/O S. Damm, J.16518, and crew with		

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THOLTHORPE	5-9-43 (Concluded)		P/O F. Small J. 20947, as Second Pilot, were unable to take off in A/C "T" because of mechanical failure. The target for tonight was Mannheim.	
THOLTHORPE	6-9-43		There was the usual flurry of activity around the station today as ops were once again scheduled. Eight aircraft were on the line and all eight aircraft got off the deck successfully. Flight Lieutenant J. Hookey, J.A562 in "B" Sugar led the sortie at 19.25 hrs followed by a new crew. P/O. F. Carter J. 15993 in "A" apple at 19.27, then in rapid succession came P/O. S. Dunn J, 16318 (our old hand) in "T" Tommy at 19.28. Sgt. D. Morrison. R. 119984 in "G" Charlie at 19.29. Lt. J. Clary 0885969 in "E" Edward at 19.30 hrs. Sgt. R. Pratt R.100824 in "C" George at 19.31 Hrs. Sgt. J. Towry R.92996 in "W" Freddie at 19.33 hrs and lastly a newcomer, Sgt. L. Olmstead R.134466 in "H" Robert. at 19.35 hrs. Either Eight aircraft in the air in 10 minutes is not a bad record for any Squadron, and speaks well for the organisation and effort during past three months on the part of all concerned. One new aircraft was received today but has not as yet been allocated a letter. None of our aircraft will be returning to base tonight so for once we shall have anxious hours of waiting.	SECRET
THOLTHORPE	7-9-43		Our genial Adjutant, Flight Lieutenant, G.T. Sutherland, G.3180 left today for 9 days "rest cure" among the mountains of Scotland. His place will be filled by Temporary Acting Adjutant (Unpaid) P/O J. Ferguson. J. 14634. Our trip to Munich last night was rather marred by the return of Sgt. R. Pratt. R.100824, 3rd crew in "C" George at 22.45 hrs due to a wireless failure. Then P/O. G. Dunn J.16318 in "T" Tommy touched down at 23.18 hrs as his oxygen equipment was U/S and several of his instruments reading incorrectly. Lieutenant J. Clary 0885969 in "E" Edward put down at Ford at 21.25 due to engine failure. P/O. J. Hookey J.15624 and crew in "B" Sugar and P/O. Carter J. 15993 in "A" apple successfully bombed the target and landed at the diversion base at Ford coming back to base the following morning and landing here at 10:30 and 11:05 hours respectively. Sgt. Morrison D. R.119984 had a run-in with a fighter and had his aircraft shot up considerably but returned successfully after bombing the target, to West Mallory. His rear gunner Sgt. Boucher, J.S. R. 16824 was slightly wounded.	

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THOLTHORPE	7-9-45		<p>Sgt. D. Morrison R.119984 landed back at Base the following evening at 19.00 hrs.</p> <p>Unfortunately two of our crews - Sgt. Tovey, J.H.R. 92996, Sgt. Stedman A.D. Sgt. R.114522, Sgt. Jackson A.B. R.116342, Sgt. Phillips, C.F. R.132641, Sgt. Douglas H.L.R.173933, Sgt. McDonald J.R.175198, Sgt. McCartney, P.W.S. 1473499 in "F" Freddie, and Sgt. Olmstead, L.T. R.134468, Sgt. Moore, R. R.139779, Sgt. Witts, D.D. R.122135, Sgt. Sutherland G.W. R.190551 Sgt. Shulman, P.M. R.136292, Sgt. Stone, L. 180454, in aircraft "R" Robert did not return from their mission and have been reported as missing. Our aircraft strength was also increased by one "X" Xray.</p>		
THOLTHORPE	8-9-45		<p>More briefing hours for the Squadron. We were scheduled to operate tonight but the weather took a turn for the worse and it was a scrub just before main briefing. The weather was very bad all day and only one of our aircraft got off the deck for a short air test. News receive of Italy's capitulation. The great news of Italy's capitulation was made up entirely for our scrubbed Ops and all personnel received the news with greatest appreciation. We have come a stride closer to our bases and loved ones tonight.</p>		
THOLTHORPE	9-9-45		<p>Once again bad weather prevented the Squadron from operating. Tonight's effort was especially hard on the Navigator's as the route was changed three times and at the last moment they were given a new set of winds to work from so that they were working almost up to take-off time when it was scrubbed. P/Lt. T.L. McCalli O.7107 - P.R.O. of No. 6 Group Headquarters paid the Station another visit and was on hand to watch the take-off which failed to materialize unfortunately. He spoke to several members of the Squadron whose relatives had written to them from Canada enclosing clippings from their home towns, papers, - many of which are due to P/Lt. McCalli's efforts. Three of the Squadron's Officers were promoted today -- P/Lt. J.E. Hockey J.1062 to A/B/Lt. P/O. P.C. Lord, J.6825, to A/B/Lt. and P/O. J.W.E. Tyler, 111426 to A/B/Lt. Three of our aircraft in spite of inclement weather managed to get up for air tests and one short night cross-country was completed by a newcomer Sgt. Keane, J.H. R.133728, in "Y" Victor who took off at 19.30 hours and touched down at 23.30 hours.</p>		

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TRULZHOPE.	10-9-43.		<p>The weather today is as bad as we have seen for some time with the cloud base down to a few hundred feet all day. A stand-down was ordered by Bomber Command early in the day and no flying activity of any nature took place. Three new crews arrived today to bring the Squadron strength up to 32 crews. The new arrivals were Sgt. Reynolds R.F. (R.135119) Pilot, Sgt. Hammond, A.H. Navigator 1585538. Sgt. Cooper D.H. Bomb Aimer, 102184, Sgt. Cox T. WO/AG 1386966, Sgt. McKern V. MU/AG R.19096, Sgt. Dimers J.H.R. (R.A.G.) R.177124 and Sgt. Lee, R.F. Flt. Eng. 808397. Sgt. Beckwith P.V. (R.131600) Pilot, P/O Huntley, F.J.J. Navigator J.13816, Sgt. Heywood H.G. (R.92591) Bomb Aimer, Sgt. Lightly J. 152687 WO/AG, Sgt. Harrison I.G. 1835919 MU/AG, Sgt. Dupont, J.A. (R.179387) RAG Sgt. McDonald J.W. 1685410 Flt/Eng. and Sgt. Smith, R.F. (R.131214) Pilot, P/O Holgin H.P. J.14216. Navigators Sgt. Vitch, H. R.161045 Bomb Aimer. Sgt. Todkill, E. 1525082 WO/AG, Sgt. Moody E.T. 1301481 MU/AG Sgt. Rousseau, J.H.F. (R.185468) RAG Sgt. Evans R.G. 542580 Flight Engineer. An impressive birthday party was held in the Officers Mess in honor of our popular Flight Commander S/Ldr. J.H. Hockey, O.4562. The evening ended quite merrily as S/Ldr. J.H. Hockey, J.4562, P/Lt. P.C. Lord, J.6828, and P/Lt. J.W.E. Tyler 111498 were also celebrating their promotions. A highly successful dance for all ranks was held in the Airmen's Mess. In spite of the wet conditions of the camp there was a good attendance and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.</p>		
TRULZHOPE	11-9-43.		<p>Today was even worse than the previous one, insofar as flying conditions were concerned. The weather was extremely dull with the result that Bomber Command was stood down for the second night running. The weekly aircrew meeting was held today and brought the usual crop of complaints and also a considerable amount of new gun passed there by our Wing Commander G.E. Harris, 37878, on new tactics, etc. The Liberty buses to Barracks were operated with the usual capacity crews. One sergeant (Wireless Op) Sgt. Woolley, R.E. 131775 was posted today to 311 F.T.V.</p>		
TRULZHOPE	12-9-43.		<p>It looks very much as though this stretch of bad weather is with us to stay as we were stood down again today. A talk was given this morning on Mexico by a newly attached airman who has come to us direct from the latest R.A.F. course. Much useful gun was imparted - chiefly the air Gunners.</p>		

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J.H. W.C.

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THORNTON	12-2-43		Church parades were held by P/Lt. F.H.D. McIsaac, C.14603, for the Catholics and by S/Ldr. A.T. Littlewood, C.4684, for Protestant personnel. These were well attended despite the threatening weather. S/Ldr. J.H. Hockley, C.4562 and S/Ldr. DeHollan, C.1040, took the Tiger North up for the only flying of the day.		
THORNTON	13-2-43		The weather cleared enough today for us to get 2 short cross-country trips. P/O. F.G. Small, J.20847, and crew in "A" Apple and Sgt. Keane, J.H. (R. 133728) and crew in "B" George. They took off at 10:31 and 1:35 and landed at 14:36 and 14:40 respectively. 2nd Lt. J.F. Clary, 0805989, took his aircraft "E" Edward up for a height test from 11:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs to complete the flying for the day. A general stand-down was declared by Bomber Command making it our 6th day without operating. One good aspect lies in the fact that we have been able to catch up on our servicing of aircraft which will make for much more efficient operating in the future it is hoped.		
THORNTON	14-2-43		Several severe thunderstorms occurred during last night and the 'drome is rather inundated this morning. The sky cleared though and we were able to get a good deal of local flying accomplished. P/Lt. G.R.E. Nicholls, C.4982, of No. 6 Group paid our Station a visit this morning and declared himself very satisfied with the work of our Adjutant, P/Lt. G.T. Sutherland, C.1180 and his competent Orderly Room Staff are turning out. There was a great deal of flurry and activity this afternoon as we were paid a visit by Air Chief Marshall, Sir Arthur T. Harris, K.C.B., G.B.E., A.F.C. Commander in Chief Bomber Command. All flying personnel were assembled in the ante-room of the new Sergeants Mess to hear Air Marshal Harris speak. He gave a very effective talk on the work our Command is doing towards winning the war - stressing especially the demoralising effect of our bombing on Germany itself. After his talk he invited comments and questions and asked if anyone had any suggestions to offer, which would serve in any way to better our primary objective - bombing Germany out of the war. He then left for R.C.A.F. Station, Linton-on-Ouse where he spent a short time.		

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THOLINORPE	15-9-43		<p>The Station was in a flurry of excitement as the weather cleared and operations were scheduled for the first time in over a week. It has come at a psychological moment for most of the crews have been chafing at the inactivity. This being also our first decent flying weather in over a week. The sky was black with aircraft as the pilots made air tests and some of the newer arrivals went on a short cross country. For once everything went smoothly and we were able to put 12 aircraft in the air of the 12 we offered which is a very good show but no more than the Squadron deserves after the bad luck we have had. We were singularly honoured tonight in that Air Commodore G.M. McEwen, C.O. M.C., D.F.C., Base Commander Linton-on-Ouse went as second pilot to our regular Flight Commander S/Ldr. W.N. Thomson, J.3524, in his aircraft "E" London. F/Lt. McColl T.L. C.7107 P.E.O. No. 6 Group was down to watch the take-off and was highly pleased that it was so successful. A/C in charge of P/O. H. Geman. J.10730, and crew that took off at 20:30 hours - returned to Base at 21:40 hrs because of engine trouble.</p>		
THOLINORPE	16-9-43		<p>Eleven of the twelve aircraft that took off on Ops last night completed the detail and ten returned safely to Base but "w" in charge of Sgt. C. Lytle R.124019 and crew landed at Tangmere at 02:40 hours because of fuel shortage and came on to Base at 11:40 hours. All crews reported a very successful raid on Montlucon which was heavily pruned. The Squadron Adjutant F/Lt. G.Y. Sutherland C.3180 returned from 9 days leave in Scotland this morning and has been highly recommending Aberdeen as a fine leave centre. More aircrew personnel arrived on posting from 1659 Conversion Unit today including AIR-414528 Sgt. W. Hallas Pilot, the second Australian to be posted to this unit. 1610270 Sgt. P. Walker, Navigator 154074 P/O. J. Spencer A/S., 1391075 Sgt. L. Howorthy, W/O/AG., 2216185 Sgt. H.H.E. Fielding A/G., R.163893 Sgt. J.H. Rutherford, W/O/AG., 1085013 Sgt. F. Goodall P/E. The weather has been very bad all day and only three air tests flights have been made but six are scheduled for Ops again tonight. Nine aircraft were made ready for take-off and despite terrible flying weather with an almost zero ceiling and very limited visibility aircraft "v" in charge of P/O. G. Ferts 145348 with P/O. P. Small J.20647 - as 2nd Pilot - took off at 19:30 hours followed by T. H. X. L. N. A & P in charge of P/O. S. Dunn J.16318 with Sgt. E. Denny</p>		

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THOLDSWIFE	16-9-43		<p>Egt. E. O'Connell, R. 130783 as 2nd Pilot, Lt. J. Clary, 0865969, S/Ldr. E. Hooker, J. 1562, Sgt. D. Morrison, R. 119984, P/O. J. Allen, J. 20440, P/O. Carter, J. 13992, Sgt. R. Ellis, R. 124282 and crews at 19:35 hours, 19:37 hours, 19:39 hours, 19:40 hours, 19:45 hours, 19:50 hours and 19:51 hours respectively. The weather was getting worse all the time and the aircraft were lost to view before they had left the confines of the aerodrome. Aircraft "O" in charge of P/O. H. Geman, J. 40730 and crew was unable to take-off because of mechanical trouble. There were no turn backs reported by 23:59 hours, but there will be many diversions as the weather conditions here are impossible.</p>		
THOLDSWIFE	17-9-43		<p>P/O. Perks, 145346 and crew with P/O. F. Small, J. 20867 as 2nd Pilot brought aircraft aircraft back to base at 04:00 hours but all the other aircraft were diverted to Basingstoke because of weather conditions and returned later in the day to Squadron personnel with stories of an American station swarming with jeeps and other types of transport, canteens well stocked with American cigarettes, orange juice, fruit etc and wonderful meals in the Officers and Sergeants messes which is some contrast to conditions here. All crews reported a very heavy and concentrated and successful attack on Modane. A press clipping was received today stating that Sgt. Reg. Soarth, 5915180 A/C, formerly on the strength of this unit as a member of S/Ldr. Piddington's crew, but transferred with his crew to 438 Squadron at the end of last June when S/Ldr. Piddington became Wing Commander of 438 Squadron, has been reported a prisoner of war in Germany after being missing on air operations since last July. Sgt. W. V. Lane, 954749, WPC/AG in Wing Commander G. E. Harris (7878) crew received notice of his appointment to a commissioned rank today and has been duly entered on Squadron records as P/O. W. V. Lane, 152068. York was received from Air Ministry today that six former members of this squadron who have been missing on air operations since the end of the war on 17-5-43, are now prisoners of war in Germany including P/O. J. S. Armstrong, J. 22676 Navigator, P/S. D. N. Laballe, 7755, WPC/AG, P/Sgt. L. G. Christmas, R. 64416, RAG, in P/O. G. N. Johnston, J. 88087, crew, Sgt. G. N. Irving, R. 60913 P/R in P/Sgt. J. Egan, R. 65176 crew, Sgt. J. E. Debie, R. 122633, Navigator, and P/O. W. Heston, J. 16354 WPC/AG in P/Lt. I. L. Colquhoun's (J. 6032) crew.</p>		

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THORNTON	18-9-43		<p>The weather was very poor today and flying was limited to an Air Test and Air to Sea firing exercise by P/O. Wynn-J.22153 and crew in aircraft "X" and a flight by P/Lt.L.Lidmell, J.2934 as Pilot and S/Ldr. D. Holman.C.1040 as passenger. in a Tiger Moth, while P/O.Carter, J.1995 and crew flew aircraft "Y" to Bassingbourne and back with some spare parts. <u>News today re missing aircrew personnel as S/Ldr. R.A. Holman.C.1637 who has been missing since the Berlin raid on the 23/24/8/1943. is now reported by Air Ministry to be safe in Sweden and likely to be back in the United Kingdom very soon. The usual Saturday Liberty Bus run to Harrogate was as popular as ever and two buses carried capacity loads of aircrew taking advantage of a Bomber Command stand-down to have a night in town.</u></p>		
THORNTON	19-9-43		<p>Church Parades were held today by P/Lt. P. McEwan, C.1460 for R.O's at 11.00 hours in the RAAF and by S/Ldr.Scott, C.3607, for Protestants at 09.30 hours in Thorntons Church, and both services were well attended on a voluntary basis. Our Squadron Padre S/Ldr.A.T. Littlewood, C.468, is at present enjoying a week's well earned leave in Wales.</p> <p>Flying consisted of a cross country flight by P/O.W.Wynn, J.22153 and crew in aircraft "X" on air to sea firing exercise by S/Ldr. J.Holman, J.2934 and crew in "B", Fighter Squadron by P/Lt.L. Lidmell, J.2934 and P/O.P.Small, J.3007 and crew in "C" and air-test by Sgt. E. Hils, R.12422 and crew in "B". Sgt. J. Pollard, R.12160 and crew did an air-test in "C". Sgt. Evans, R.133728 and crew put in 4 hours 45 minutes on a daylight cross country flight, and Sgt. E. Smith, R.97916 and crew put in 4 hours flying in the same way.</p> <p>S/Ldr.W.H.Thomson, J.3524 and crew air-tested "L" and did an air to sea firing exercise. In the evening Sgt. A. Fry, 133820, Sgt. A. Nelson, R.55222 and their respective crews did night cross country flying in aircraft "X" and "B". P/Sgt. A. Linton, 97624, who reports on posting to No. 10 C.T. Abingdon for WZ/AS instructor duties on 22/9/43 was interviewed by Group Captain R.C.Gordon, C.133, in regard to his recent application for a commission.</p>		
THORNTON	20-9-43		<p>Flying today consisted of practice bombing by P/O.J.Wynn, J.22153 and crew in "B" Fighter Squadron by pilots, Sgt.A.Fry, 133820, Sgt.M.Floresling, R.121177. P/O.J.Allen.J.22440, Sgt.A.Nelson, R.55222 and crews in "Y" and "X" and a "Ball's Eye" effort by P/Lt.L.Lidmell</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	Reference to Appendix
THOLTHORPE	20-9-43		<p>-by P/Lt.Linnell,J.2004,7 and crew in "M". Practice bombing flights were also made by Sgt.Keane,R.155728 and P/O.F.Small,J.2004,7 and crews in "G" and "H" while P/O.P.Carter, J.15993 and P/O.Perks, 145348 and crews air-tested aircraft "P" and "X" during the afternoon.</p> <p>P/Sgt.A.Linton, 974424 WRE/AG was interviewed by Air Commodore G.M.McMahon,M.C.D.F.C., late this afternoon in regard to a commission. A movie show in the Officers Mess this evening was enjoyed by a large audience. Sgt.G.M. Goodman,R.69101, Flight Engineer in the Wing Commander's crew received his commission today effective 16-8-43 and has been duly recorded on Squadron Strength. as P/O. G.M.Goodman,G.18336.. Sgt. M.Graham,R.78367, A/O was admitted to Naburn Military Hospital today suffering from jaundice. Wing Commander C.E.Harris, 57878, our popular Squadron O.C. celebrated his 32nd birthday today by making even harder than usual and received a large parcel from home as a timely birthday gift.</p>		
THOLTHORPE	21-9-43		<p>In an Air Ministry signal today, it was advised that S/Ldr.R.A.McLernon,C.1637 had arrived in the United Kingdom safely from Sweden. There will be a big time in the Mess when "Mac" arrives back on this Station, any day now. Another Air Ministry signal quoted German information to the effect that 140286 Sgt.P.S.Cress, Flight Engineer was a Prisoner of War. and that P/Sgt.G.P.Fitzpatrick,R.80919, B/A was dead. Both men were members of P/O.I.Colquhoun's J.6032 crew, missing since 17/18-8-43 on the Peenemunde raid. A letter from No. 6 Group today notified us that P/O.H.V.Howard WRE/AG..J.96792 missing on Ops since 31/8/43 had been promoted to P/O.effective 5-7-43 and P/O.Alexander,J.17186 was promoted to P/O. as effective 9-7-43. P/Sgt.O.Lytle, R.124019, pilot and Sgt.A.Mmale, 1331803 were interviewed by Group Captain. R.C. Gordon, Tholthorpe Station Commander in regard to their recent applications for commissions and this afternoon Sgt. Pilots A.Austin, 658291, P/Sgt.R.Green, 1096580, Sgt J.E.Kills, R.124202a, Sgt.R.Pratt,R.10062a, W.O.2. G.Hellens, R.90568, WRE/AG. and Sgt.V.M.Nolan.R.152350 B/A were summoned to Station Headquarters for the same purpose. Flying today consisted of Fighter Affiliation and Bombing Practice by Sgt.A.Hoban,R.55806, Sgt.Eccaravage,R.134601 and Sgt.O.Lytle,R.124019 and crews in aircraft P" and "X". respectively. P/O.G.Perks, 145348 and crew in "P" carried out an Air to Sea firing exercise while Sgt.K.Smith,R.97918 and crews did some practice bombing in "G" and P/O.P.Carter,J.15993</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THOLTHORPE	22-9-43		and P/Sgt.H.Green, 1096580 and crews air-tested aircraft "B" and "K". This evening four new crews, captained by Sgt.K.Smith, R.97918, Sgt.E.Reynolds, R.135119, Sgt.P.Scoravage, R.134601, Sgt.G. [unclear] and Sgt.E.H.Smith, R.131214 carried out a cross country flying detail of approximately five hours duration.		
THOLTHORPE	22-9-43		The nine airmen: N.C.O.'s who were interviewed by Group Captain. R.G.Gordon yesterday were again summoned to Station Headquarters to be interviewed by Air Vice Marshal G.H.Noel, D.F.C., Dunt Base Command. Sgt. Decorbey, R.124460, A/G fell off a Halifax during dinghy drill today and sprained his ankles so badly that he has been admitted to the Linton Station Sick Quarters. A letter was received today from Air Ministry that R.107929 Sgt. S.G.Young A/G. in the crew of Sgt.P.Leaver, R.74333 missing since the raid on London-Gladbach on 30/31-8-43 had been a P/O. No. J.18352 effective 16-6-43. During the day, Sgt.J.Pollard R.121650, Sgt.J.Keane, R.133728, Sgt.A.Nadeau, R.55206, Sgt.A. Fry 135880 and crews carried out practice bombing over Stromsall, P/O. Small, J. 20847, P/O.Carter, J.13993, P/L.L.Linnell J.2934, and Sgt. E.Ellis, R.124282 and crews air-tested aircraft "K" "B" "S" and "H", and P/O.Parks, G. 145348 and crew flew aircraft "A" back to base from Basingbourne. The Canadian was detailed for Ops today and twelve aircraft and crews were ready. P/Lt.J.Tyler, 111498 and crew in "C" were the first off the ground at 18.51 hours followed by Sgt.J.Snelgrove, R.114518 and crew at 18.52 hours in "L". P/Lt.L.Linnell, J.2934, and "Q" at 18.54 hours, Sgt. A.Austin, 658291 and crew with Sgt.E. [unclear] R.130785 as second pilot in "H" at 18.55 hours, P/O.W.Winning, J.22453 in "V" at 18.56 hours. Sgt. M. Flesalling, R.121177 and crew in "P" at 18.56 hours, Sgt. O.Lytle, R.124019 and crew in "X" at 18.59 hours, Sgt.J.Pollard, R.121650 and crew in "K" at 19.00 hours. Sgt. A. Nadeau, R.55206 and crew in "W" at 19.01 hours. Sgt.H.Green, 1096580 and crew with Sgt.E.Reynolds, R.135119 as second pilot at 19.02 hours Sgt.J.Keane, R.133728 and crew in "Y" at 19.04 hours and P/O.P.Small, J.20847 and crew in "K" at 19.22 hours. Another movie sponsored by the I.M.C.A. in the cinema mess was enjoyed by a large audience.		"5"
THOLTHORPE	23-9-43		Our aircraft that took off on Ops to Ennosc last evening returned to Base early this morning beginning at 00.20 hours, followed by "C" at 00.25 hours, "B" at 00.31 hours, "V" at 00.38 hrs.		(see "a")

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	Reference to Appendix
THOLETHORPE	25-9-43		<p>"M" at 00.44, "N" at 00.49 hours, "L" at 00.59 hours, "Y" at 01.05 hours, "X" at 01.08 hours "Z" at 01.11 hours and "B" at 01.14 hours, but "C" in charge of Sgt.H.Green, 1096580 Pilot Sgt. Reynolds, R.435119 2nd pilot, P/Sgt.J.Cross, 929699, Navigator, P/Sgt.A.Gidd 136858, W/A., Sgt.Sgt.E.Goward, 1332058 W/A., WO.Sgt.H.Murray 228226, WO/Sgt.D.J.Burge, 1320913, RAC., Sgt.S.C.H. Hearn, 4457812. P/E did not return and has been reported as missing, on operations. During the day P/O.P.Carter, J.13993 and P/O.J.Allan, J.20440 and crew air-tested "B" and "S" while Sgt.E.Ellis, R.124282 and crew did a height test with "R". The Squadron was detailed for Ops again tonight and P/O.G.Perks, 445346, pilot, and crew and Sgt.Hedgery of 431 Squadron as 2nd pilot in "F" took off at 18.52 hours followed by P/Lt. J.Tyler, 111498 pilot and crew with Sgt.Chalmers of 431 Squadron as 2nd pilot in "C" at 18.53 hours.; P/O.P.Carter, J.13993 in "B" at 18.54 hours., P/O.S.Dunn J.16318 with Sgt.R.Smith R.131214 as 2nd pilot in "V" at 18.56 hours., Sgt.D. Morrison, R.119984 in "H" at 18.57 hours Sgt. E.Ellis, R.124282 in "R" at 18.58 hours., Sgt. E. Devaney, R.130783 in "P" at 18.59 hours., Sgt.K.Smith, R.97918 in "X" at 19.01 hours., S/Ldr. J. Hookley, J.4562 as pilot, and Sgt.P. Escravage, R.134601. as 2nd pilot in "X" at 19.02 hours, and P/O.J.Allan, J.20440 in "W" at 19.03 hours. Aircraft "B" in charge of Sgt. E. Devaney, R.130783 and crew returned to base at 22.20 hours with the rear turret unserviceable.</p>		
THOLETHORPE	26-9-43		<p>The aircraft on last night's Ops returned to base as follows - "B" at 02.00 hours, "R" at 02.05 hours, "C" at 02.20 hours, "F" at 02.21 hours, "V" at 02.28 hours, "X" at 02.25 hours, "G" at 02.35 hours, and all pilots and crews reported a very successful attack on Mannheim while aircraft "K" landed at Granfield at 02.45 and "W" at Hartford Bridge at 01.45 hours and returned to Base later in the day. The new station Sick Quarters opened today and P/Lt.Wilson and P/Lt.C.Saker, O.11711 and Medical Officer and their staffs were busy moving everything from the old and very inadequate accommodation which they have been occupying so far. It will be about two months before the new building is completed so bed patients will still go to Linton. The weather was very poor today and flying was limited to air-testing of aircraft "F" by P/O.W.Winning, J.22453, "R" by Sgt.R.H.Smith, R.131214, and "H" by Sgt.A.Austin 658291, and their respective crews.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
THOLTHORPE	24-9-43		The bad weather prevented an operations being scheduled for tonight so a goodly part of the Squadron strength headed for York and other nearby towns for the evening. A Station dance in the airman mess, sponsored by the Y.M.C.A., was enjoyed by a large gathering of all ranks.	SECRET
THOLTHORPE	25-9-43		The Squadron was detailed for Operations tonight, but unfavourable weather caused a cancellation at briefing time such to the aircrew's disgust as it was then too late to organize the usual Saturday night Liberty bus run to Harrogate. Notification was received from Air Ministry today that R.88138 Sgt. Kerr, L.W. Navigator, in the crew of P/Sgt. Leaver R.74333 missing since the raid on Munchen-Gladbach on 30/9-43 had been appointed a Pilot Officer, J.48390 effective 16-8-43. Flying today consisted of an air-test of "B" by Sgt. A. Jadeson R.552004 and crew, of "V" by P/O. W. Winning, J.22453 and crew, of "I" by P/Lt. L. Linnell and crew of "B" Flight while "A" Flight put P/O. J. Carter, J.13993 and Sgt. J. Pollard, R.121650 and their crews into the air in "A" and "I" respectively for air-tests and Sgt. K. Smith, R.979184 and crew brought back "K" to Base from Cranfield.	
THOLTHORPE	26-9-43		A Station Church Parade was held this morning and special services conducted for Protestant by S/Ldr. A. T. Littlewood, C.4604 and S/Ldr. L. Scott, C.3657 and for R.O.'s by S/Ldr. F. Molahan, C.14601 in the new NAAFI building and these services were well attended by all ranks. The Special Services were in commemoration of the Battle of Britain. The Squadron was detailed for Ops again tonight but once again the weather caused a last minute cancellation. A movie show in the Officers Mess was enjoyed by a large audience this evening.	
THOLTHORPE	27-9-43		Further good news was received from Air Ministry today to the effect that Sgt. S. Walters, R.122189 Navigator, and Sgt. J. F. Lenderleith, R.131001, N/A in the crew of S/Ldr. R. A. McLellan, C.1637 missing since the raid on Berlin on 23/9-43 were Prisoners of War in Germany. Records Gloucester advise by letter today that the following Sergeants air-gunnery have been promoted to Flight Sergeants as of the dates shown:- Sgt. J. E. Ritchie, R.142339, 20/9/43. Sgt. S. Segruff, R.149100, 20/2/43. Sgt. R. G. Rice, R.149094, 20/2/43. Sgt. W. Glindie, R.141625, 14/2/43. Sgt. J. A. Leach, R.144066, 20/9/43. Sgt. R. G. Brooks, R.147412, 20/5/43, 20/5/43. (Missing). Sgt. J. D. McOmell, R.126819, 31/8/43, as promulgated in R.C.A.F. Overseas Order No. 641, dated 3-9-43. P/Sgt. J. A. L. Lockhart, R.80551, WOP/AG in the crew of	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
THORPPE	27-9-43	(continued)	<p>in the crew of Lieutenant J. Olary, 0885969, RNE/NE returned from leave in London today and reported that he had been advised at Air Ministry that his commission had been confirmed, and the papers were being mailed to the Squadron immediately. The papers arrived in the afternoon's mail and he has now been entered on Squadron records as P/O. A. L. Lookhart, J. 18450 effective 1-4-43. Advice of the commissioning of Sgt. O. C. Gibbs, 1391680, Navigator in the crew of Sgt. G. M. Johnston, R. 90865, missing on Operations since the raid on Pennefande on 17/8-43, was received from Air Ministry today and he has been duly recorded in Squadron P.O.R.'s as P/O. C. Gibbs, 156442 effective 4-6-43. The Squadron was detailed for Operations tonight and 14 aircraft and crews were ready well in advance of Zero hour. "Y" in charge of P/Lt. J. Lord, J. 6829 with P/Sgt. J. Hallas, A. 14558 as 2nd pilot took off at 1921 hours followed by P/O. Y. Carter, J. 13994 in "A" at 19.22 hours, P/O. Parks, 145348, with P/Sgt. Rubie 138445 of 431 Squadron as 2nd pilot in "C" at 19.23 hours. P/Lt. J. Hookay, J. 4562 with P/Sgt. S. Chalmers A. 13712 of 431 Squadron as 2nd pilot in "W" at 19.24 hours. Sgt. O. Little, R. 124049 with Sgt. Elder, 143052 of 431 Squadron as 2nd pilot in "X" at 19.25 hours. P/O. W. Winning, J. 22453 in "V" at 19.26 hours. Sgt. A. Nadeau, R. 55208 in "W" at 19.27 hours. Sgt. J. Pollard, R. 121650 in "Y" at 19.28 hours. Sgt. E. Devinsky, R. 130783 in "Z" at 19.29 hours. Sgt. D. Morrison, R. 119984 in "B" at 19.30 hours. Sgt. R. H. Smith, R. 131214 in "R" at 19.32 hours. Sgt. P. Escaravage, R. 134601 in "D" at 19.33 hours. Sgt. A. Fry, 1538820 in "H" at 19.34 hours, and Sgt. J. Keane, R. 133728 in "K" at 19.36 hours to complete a well nigh perfect operational take-off in weather that was fast going from bad to worse. Aircraft "D", "K" and "S" were forced to turn back because of mechanical trouble (failures) and landed at diversion bases in most adverse weather before midnight. 'Met' says the weather is O.K. on the continent but it is anything else but in this area tonight.</p>		
THORPPE	28-9-43		<p>By morning aircraft "A" "C" "D" "E" "F" "G" "H" "I" "J" "K" "L" "M" "N" "O" "P" "Q" "R" "S" "T" "U" "V" "W" "X" "Y" "Z" were reported as having landed safely at diversion bases but aircraft "P" in charge of P/Lt. J. Lord, J. 6829 Pilot, P/Sgt. Hallas, J. A. 14558 2nd pilot. P/O. R. Jones, J. 14774. P/O. Sinclair, J. 21037 R/A. Sgt. R. O'Hara, R. 128741 WOE/AG. Sgt. R. Wallace, R. 78305 WU/AG. Sgt. J. Desjardis, R. 59777 RAG. Sgt. S. Walters 1502702 Flight Engineer, "R" in charge of Sgt. R. Smith, R. 131214 pilot. P/O. M. Halpin, J. 14216, Navigator.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
THORNTON	28-9-43	(continued)	<p>Sgt. M. Fitch, R.161045 R/A., Sgt. G. Todkill, 1525042 WRE/AG. Sgt. J. Moody, 1601481 MU/AG. Sgt. J. Rossan; R.165468 RAG. Sgt. R. Evans, 547600 Flight Engineer, and "X" in charge of Sgt. O. Lytle, R.124019 pilot. Sgt. R. Elder, 1430252 of 434 Squadron as 2nd pilot. Sgt. R. Pedlar R.130658 Navigator. Sgt. Monteth, R.133519 R/A. Sgt. M. Chasmar, 1380306 WRE/AG. Sgt. H. Mansell R.160789 MU/AG. Sgt. J. Leach, R.144066 RAG. Sgt. H. Lindsay, 538256 Flight Engineer have been reported missing on operations. Last night's was on Hanover and was reported by returning crew as quite successful. There was not much activity as the weather was poor and our aircraft that landed at diversion bases were unable to return to base until late in the day. A general standown order was received early in the day and the afternoon buses to York and nearby towns were crowded.</p>		
THORNTON	29-9-43		<p>Notice of the awarding of a Good Conduct Badge to Sgt. V. G. Foster, 959200 Flight Engineer on completion of 3 years regular service was received from Records today and also the promotion of 2/Sgt of Sgt. W. N. Vansant, R.119105 A/G, effective 25/3/43. Sgt. A. N. Souds, R.120021 A/G effective 22/12/42. Sgt. L. A. Hoffman, R.113263 A/G effective 25/3/43 and Sgt. R. J. Decorty, R.124460 effective 11/3/43. Sgt. R. F. Bellingham, 1212414 WRE/AG in the crew of S/Ldr. W. N. Thomson, O.3524, received his commission today effective 1-8-43 and is now carried on Squadron rolls as P/O. R. F. Bellingham, 1212414. A signal from Air Ministry today advised us that 2/Sgt. F. J. Piper R.85176, pilot. Sgt. R. O. Jordan, R.137382 R/A. Sgt. G. R. Connor, R.14897 WRE/AG. Sgt. C. A. Brown R.106507 MU/AG and Sgt. J. I. R. R. Bernard, RAG were reported by the International Red Cross Committee as dead and that Sgt. G. N. Irving, R.60913 Flight Engineer and P/O. A. H. Wether, J.21826 Navigator of the same crew, missing on the Fennoscandia raid on 17/10-3-43 were prisoners of war. The Squadron was detailed for Operations again tonight and "Q" "L" "B" "A" "E" "C" and "F" in charge of 2/Lt. J. Tyler, 111496, Lt. J. Clary, 0885969, Sgt. J. Leane, R.133728. Sgt. K. Smith, R.97918. P/O. Popplewell, J.16305. Sgt. E. Ellis, R.124282. Sgt. M. Pleswell, R.12177 and their respective crews took off between 18.15 and 1825 hours. Aircraft refueled early because of starboard outer engine failure, and returned at 18.20 hours (H), at 18.21 hours (H) at 18.24 hours "B" 18.25 hours (A), all pilots and crews reporting a successful raid on Bochum. The two other aircraft had not reported by 23.59 hours, but were still well within the airborne time limit.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendix
THORNTON	29-9-43	(continued)	A letter from Air Ministry today advised us that Sgt. C.S. Burgess, 1129208 Navigator in the	
			crew of P/Sgt. Leaver, R.74333 missing on the Munchen-Gladbach raid on 30/9-43 had been	
			appointed a Pilot Officer No. 156646 effective 15/6/43.	
THORNTON	30-9-43		Aircraft "L" in charge of Lt. J. Clary, 0685969 pilot. P/O. G. Hastings, J. 17665 Navigator.	
			P/O. Bellinger, J. 13120 Bomb Aimer. P/O. I. A. L. Lookhart, J. 18450 W/P/AG. T/Sgt. R. W. Stuart, 10604019	
			M/AG. P/O. C. Y. Novoy, J. 17106 RAO. Sgt. T. H. Scudder, 582262 Flight Engineer and "T" in charge of	
			P/O. C. Popplewell, J. 16305 pilot. P/O. G. F. Kirk, J. 17780 Navigator. Sgt. R. A. Earl, 132260 Bomb Aimer.	
			P/Sgt. R. Zehl, 908648 W/P/AG. Sgt. F. Davies, 1539176 M/AG. Sgt. G. Bailey, R. 86191 RAO.	
			Sgt. N. T. Harris, 1653119 Flight Engineer were long overdue this evening and have been reported	
			as missing on operations. The raid last night was on Bochum in the Ruhr Valley and all pilots	
			and crews reported a very successful raid despite heavy flak and searchlight concentrations.	
			Our losses of 5 aircraft and crews plus 2 second pilots in 2 raids in four of the five crews	
			were experienced operators. Flying today consisted of an air-tested "D" by P/Lt. J. Tyler	
			111498, and crew of "U" by Sgt. P. Scaravage, R. 1346019 and P/Lt. Linnell, J. 2934 brought a	
			Halifax LK 663 here from Skipton and P/O. W. Winning, J. 22457 and crew flew the Oxford down to	
			Ridgwell with spare parts for one of our aircraft. A letter from Air Ministry today advised	
			us that Sgt. R. S. Harrison, R. 106618 pilot, missing since the Leverkusen raid on 22/23-8-43,	
			had been commissioned as a Pilot Officer No. J. 18463 effective 1-8-43. So ended our first	
			full calendar month on operations during which we have lost 6 more crews plus 2 second pilots	
			bringing our losses on Operations to date to 15 crews and 5 second pilots which is pretty	
			heavy toll for a new unit and speaks well for the morale and esprit de corps of the rest of	
			the Squadron, who are carrying on where their mates left off. However, there has also been	
			good news to the effect that 11 members of missing air crews are prisoners of war and one	
			pilot S/Ldr. R. A. McLemon, G. 1637 has been able to reach the United Kingdom via Sweden.	

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