

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 458 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
WOLCROFT	2.12.43		<p>Another crew arrived on posting from 1666 Conversion Unit today including Sgt. R.A. Ross R.142783 pilot, Sgt. F.V. Greenley R.76251 Navigator, Sgt. H.A. Glover R.117460 A/O, P/Sgt. S. Stephenson R.194562 A/O, Sgt. J. Galloway 220981 MU/M, Sgt. T. Bates 167625 P/O. A signal from Air Ministry today advised that the International Red Cross Committee quoting German information had reported P/O H.G. Ballinger J.13120 M/A, and Sgt. R.H. Sander 158226, missing in the crew of 2nd Lt. J.F. Gray G.62929 since the Sept. 29/43 raid on Bochum, as dead. Another signal from No. 6 Group Headquarters advised that P/O. G.P. Martin G.2383, was to be attached from A.S. Squadron to No. 62 (R.C.A.F.) Base effective today for temporary administrative duties pending posting. Flying today consisted of an airtest of A/O "W" by P/O H. Fleming J.16227 and P/O D. Evans J.21016, pilots, and a full crew, fighter affiliation practice by P/O R. Pallen J.18999, and Sgt. F. Johnston R.148521, and crew, and engine and airtests by P/Sgt. J. Evans R.13778 and P/O R. Pratt J.19024 and their respective crews. A big operational effort was planned for tonight and 11 Squadron aircraft and crew were made ready only to have everything cancelled just before take off time due to unfavourable met reports. The usual Wednesday night picture show sponsored by the I.M.C.A. in the various messes were enjoyed by large audiences.</p>		
WOLCROFT	2.12.43		<p>A signal from No. 6 Group Headquarters received today advised that the Squadron Adjutant, P/O G. F.utherland G.2182, was appointed as a member of a District Court to be held at R.C.A.F. Dalton at 10:00 hours on December 8th, 1943, which will be a great help in organizing the pending move of this Squadron to Grp's on December 11th, 1943. Sgt. J. Martin 127183 MU/M in the crew of P/O G. Potts, 145348 pilot, returned last month, was posted to No. 20 G.T.S. for Instructor Duties effective December 1st, 1943. A signal from Air Ministry advised that the International Red Cross Committee quoting German information have reported Sgt. F. Street 162809 P/O and P/O. J.F. Brown G.1424, pilot missing since the October 29, 1943 raid on Essen, as prisoners of war and P/O H.S. Small J.25111 Navigator, P/Sgt. W.H. Burton R.36285 M/A, Sgt. V.L. Moryth 123898 MU/M, Sgt. A.W. Hurnd R.193651 MU/M, and Sgt. D.W. Hall 126632 M/A, in the same crew as dead. P/O G. Potts 145348 pilot, recently returned, has been posted to 1666 Conversion Unit for instructional duties effective 2.12.43. Flying today consisted of air-testing by P/Sgt. E. Dwyer R.130783 and P/O D. Evans J.21016, and their crews. Another</p>		

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TROLCHOFF	2.12.43	(continued)	big operational effort was prepared for tonight and 14 of our aircraft and crews were all ready for take-off when everything was again cancelled because of unfavourable met conditions after the crews had gone out to their aircraft.		
TROLCHOFF	3.12.43		<p>More aircraft arrived on posting today from 1622 Conversion Unit for operational duties including Sgt. G.G. McIlroy R.15004 pilot, P/O S.G. Phelan, S.48669 Navigator, P/O J.A. Neal J.25123 A/B, WO J. Hope R.97357 W/O/A, Sgt. J.E. Lewis R.108459 A/O, Sgt. W.F. Minchin 220119 WO/SG, Sgt. A.E. Kemp 1557278 P/B, and Sgt. J.G. Stinson pilot R.140781, Sgt. H.S. Tucker R.153119 Navigator, P/O R.P. Murphy J.25126 A/B, Sgt. R. Burrows 1578222 WO/SG, Sgt. R. Blanton R.100087 RAG, Sgt. L. Gibson 1890834 WO/SG, Sgt. R. Evans 1604250 P/B. Another Air Ministry Signal advised us today that the International Red Cross Committee, using German information had reported Sgt. R. Smith R.13121 pilot, Sgt. R.O. Evans S.7688 P/B, Sgt. J. Bennett R.182468 RAG, P/O M.P. Malpin J.14216 Navigator, Sgt. H. Fish R.161045 P/A, Sgt. G. Toddall 1525048 W/O/A, and Sgt. R.T.G. Hardy 1821481 WO/SG, missing since the Sept. 27, 1943 raid on Hannover, as dead. Flying was all today because of unfavourable weather but ops were planned for tonight and by evening the weather began to clear. Fourteen A/O in charge of S/Ldr. I. Linnell J.2214 with P/Sgt. G. Johnson R.148281 as 2nd pilot, P/O J. Mulgrew J.18568 with Sgt. G. Gould R.143768 as 2nd pilot, P/O S. Taylor 111408, P/Sgt. J. Evans R.115788, P/Sgt. D. Morrison R.112988, P/O J. Tolland J.18009, P/O A. Austin 157296, P/Sgt. A. Gardner R.144613, P/O H. Fivellings J.18287, P/O D. Brown J.22016, P/O S. Dunn J.16518, Sgt. W. McQueen R.159481, P/O S. Brown C.1795, and P/Sgt. F. Beasmore R.134601, and their respective crews were ready for the take off. However A/O "W" was scrubbed at the last minute when Sgt. V. Stetelle R.16140 Navigator, in the crew of P/Sgt. A. Gardner R.144613 was grounded by the Medical Officer. The other thirteen A/O took off just before midnight and are due back here about 0500 hours tomorrow morning. Good luck, good, and good hunting.</p>		<p>Gardner and A/O crew are accounted.</p>
TROLCHOFF	4.12.43		<p>Three of our A/O namely M, N and R returned early but the remaining ten A/O carried on and headed Leipzig. About A/O returned safely to base around breakfast time and A/O H landed at Donfild and "Q" at Newmarket. - Y was unreported for some time until finally word came through that this A/O had ditched about 7 miles off Newby Head but fortunately the Air Sea Rescue picked up Sgt. W. McQueen R.159481 pilot, P/Sgt. P. Ballalister R.257781 Navigator, P/Sgt. P. Kingston R.164868 P/A,</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 8th A.S. Squadron (R.O.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
TRINGHORN	4.12.43	(continued)	<p>Sgt. A. Hammett 152803 W/O, Sgt. W. Hobbs 152851 W/O, Sgt. G. Booth 145504 W/O, and Sgt. W. Deacon 185075 W/O after about an hour in their dingy. Very few particulars are known at present but we understand that the cause of this crew is due to their almost perfect execution of ditching procedure and so a reward all our crews are diligently practicing dingy drill this morning without any suspension being necessary. An Air Ministry signal received today advised that the International Red Cross Committee quoting German information have reported P/O Johnson 157406 pilot, Sgt. H. Reynolds 135119 2nd pilot, Sgt. J. Green 523822 Navigator, P/Sgt. A. F. Goad 138856 P/A, Sgt. R. Goward 133828 W/O, WO A. Henny 182526 W/O, P/Sgt. D. J. Burns 132011 W/O, and Sgt. H. Neam 1457812 P/O, missing since the September 22, 1943, raid on Bremen, as Asst. Cpl. A. E. Lee 130987 was instructed to report to S/Ldr. Lamm R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London, at 0930 hours Tuesday, 7th December, 1943, for interview in accordance with an Air Ministry signal received today. A signal from Bomber Command today advised that Sgt. H. Deacon 5284 was to proceed on leave and report to B. Depot on 11.12.43. S/Ldr. Seaburne A.S.U. Officer from No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, Headquarters, visited the Squadron today and spoke to aircrew in the main briefing room on the very important subject of Air Sea Rescue. Flying today was limited to an airtask by P/O Pratt, R.A. J. 13004, and crew in A/G "W" and an air to air firing practice by P/Sgt. J. H. Keme 133728, and crew. There were no ops scheduled for tonight. This afternoon P/O Parvie, acting Squadron Engineer Officer and P/Lt. G. T. Southland C.3180, Squadron Adjutant went to Crews and interviewed Station Officers there in regard to arrangements for the new of the Squadron a week today. The usual Saturday evening Liberty bus to Buxton to catch the Barnet train was as popular as ever. It will be our last Saturday evening in Barnet as by next Saturday we shall be moving to R.C.A.F. Station, Crews.</p>		
TRINGHORN	5.12.43		<p>Flying today was rather limited by bad weather but P/Sgt. A. Gardner 134481 and crew did an airtask in "X" while P/Sgt. E. Downey 130783, and crew did an airtask and carried out an air to air firing detail. P/Sgt. F. Deacon 134601, and crew took P/Sgt. F. Johnson 134051 and crew to Thamey Island by air to bring back another A/G and returned to base later in the day. The usual Sunday Church services were held for R.C.'s and Protestants this morning and the services conducted by the Station padre were well attended on a voluntary basis. A signal from Bomber</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
THELTHORPE	5.12.43 (continued)		today instructed us to have I.A.C. Follis R.151406 R.D.F./Wsch. (B) report to R.C.A.A.F. Overseas Headquarters on posting effective 7.12.43 pending renumbering to Clerk Educational. A movie in the officers mess this evening sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. was enjoyed by a large gathering.		
THELTHORPE	6.12.43		P/Sgt. F. Johnson R.148521 and crew returned to Base from Thorney Island with A/G "X" to complete the only flying of the day. There are no ops scheduled for tonight. The Squadron Movement Order covering the move to Croft on Saturday, December 11th, 1943, was issued today and shows the Advance Party in charge of P/Lt. Keenan, B. 61396 with P/O M. Tully J.20072 as 2nd i/o leaving on Tuesday, 7th December, 1943, followed by the road party in charge of P/Lt. H. Curry 171549, the rail party in charge of P/O Purvis, and the Air Party in charge of W/O G.E. Harris, 37878, on Saturday, 11th December, 1943, and the Rear Party in charge of P/Lt. R. Hart J.11499, on Monday 13th December, 1943. An Air Ministry signal received today stated that the International Red Cross Committee quoting German information had reported P/O D.H. MacDonald J.22619 N/A in the crew of P/O F. Small J.20847 missing since the 8.10.43 raid on Humber, as dead. An air-sea rescue exhibit visited the Squadron today and the main object of interest was the air-sea rescue boat and its accessories. A large number of aircrew of both Squadrons took a keen interest in the exhibit and listened attentively to the interesting explanations given by the Royal Navy man in charge. Our aircrew strength took a jump today as a signal was received from No. 6 Group Headquarters advising that P/O H.D. Payne J.18773, pilot, P/O W.J. Gallagher J.14700, Navigator, Sgt. D.L. Temple R.162982 A/S, Sgt. G.W. Wood 1577800 WQ/SG, Sgt. G.C. Hatch R.181278 A/S, Sgt. J.B. Thompson 1795355 WQ/SG, Sgt. V. Oliver 1562387 P/S were posted from 166. Conversion Unit for operational duties. This crew are proceeding on leave and reporting to this unit at Croft on 16.12.43.		
THELTHORPE	7.12.43		There was no flying today and no ops scheduled for tonight because of weather conditions. Our advance party in charge of P/Lt. R. Keenan 61396 and P/O M. Tully J.20072 left for Croft by road this morning to make preparations for the Squadron move scheduled for 11.12.43. This party numbered 45 all ranks and was representative of all flights and sections. A signal from Records today advised that I.A.C. H. Harriek R.225262 was posted to No. 3 A.C.R.G. reporting 13.12.43 at 1000 hrs at Lords Crochet Grounds Main Entrance for renumbering to a Flight Engineer N.T.		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
THOLDSIDE	7.12.43	(continued)	A signal from Air Ministry today brought glad news to the Squadron as it was learned that the International Red Cross Committee quoting German information had reported as dead, S/Ldr. W. N. Thompson J.3524 pilot, P/Sgt. C.G. Reynolds R.10442 RNR, Sgt. R.F. Fleuffe R.18377 W/AS, and Sgt. R.W. Miller R.153085 P/A, missing since the 22.10.43 raid on Essen. However the glad news was partly dispelled by good news to the effect that P/O R.F. Bellingham 156785 WGR/AS, P/Sgt. R.F. Purdy R.167127 Navigator and Sgt. T.J.S. Malcolm 972872 P/B in the same crew were Prisoners of War. A signal from No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group H.Q. today advised that P/Sgt. V.G. MacDonald R.147365 A/B was posted to 1666 Conversion Unit effective 8.12.43 for retraining with a P/Lt. Bull, pilot.		
THOLDSIDE	8.12.43		There was no flying today and no ops scheduled for tonight. A postgram from No. 6 Group H.Q. advised that P/O S.H. Dunn J.16318 pilot, who has completed one tour of ops and 16 trips on his second tour, was screened from further operations effective 7.12.43. A former pilot of this Squadron, 2nd Lt. J.F. Clary O.885969, who went missing on the 29.9.43 raid on Bochum but escaped and safely reached the U.K. via France and Spain, was a visitor to the Squadron today with interesting experiences to relate. He is transferring to the U.S.A.A.F. and returning home to California with his wife, the former A.G.W. Clary of Station H.V. before taking up duties with the U.S.A.A.F. Ferry Command. The Squadron Adjutant, P/Lt. G.T. Sutherland O.3180, spent the day as a member of a District Court Martial at R.O.A.F. ^{Billings} and his duties here were capably attended to by P/O J. Ferguson J.14634 Navigator, in the crew of S/Ldr. J. Hocky J.4562. Movies in the cinema and officers' messes sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. were enjoyed by large numbers. A number of airman applicants for commissions were interviewed by the Station and Base Commander today.		
THOLDSIDE	9.12.43		The weather was much improved today and flying training was resumed as P/O J. Pallard J.18999, P/Sgt. F. Johnston R.148521, P/Sgt. A. Goulet R.138521, Sgt. G. Gould R.145768, P/O R. Pratt J.1908, P/O J. Glisbehill J.23522, and P/Sgt. D. Morrison R.11998, and their respective crews carried out air tests and S/Ldr. L. Russell J.2974 flew the Oxford Airspeed from Base to Topcliffe to Dalton to Highforth to Base. Not to be outdone by A Flight, air tests were carried out by P/Sgt. A. Gardner R.144813, P/O D. Evans J.21016, P/Lt. F. Carter J.13995, P/Sgt. E. Donovan R.130783, and S/Ldr. J. Hocky J.4562 of B Flight. A lecture to Pilots, Navigators and Bombaimers of A31 and		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
THORNDORPE	9.12.43 (continued)		<p>434 Squadron was given in the Main Briefing room today by W/O Purnell, D.F.C., D.S.O., of No. 62 (R.C.A.F.) Base on P.P.F. Navigation. The Sgts. Mess held a farewell dance for the two Squadrons tonight and a really big time was had by a large gathering of all ranks. The officers of both Squadrons also held an impromptu party in their mess tonight as 434 Squadron are leaving tomorrow morning. It was quite a party and then some, but there were no serious casualties.</p> <p>Notices of promotions received from Records today included Sgt. G.C. Mould R.145768 pilot, to P/Sgt. effective 5.8.43, and Sgt. C.G. McClure R.150034 pilot, to P/Sgt. effective 9.8.43.</p>		
THORNDORPE	10.12.43.		<p>A signal from Air Ministry today stated that the International Red Cross Committee quoting German information had reported as dead, P/Sgt. J.A. Leach R.144066, RMB in the crew of P/Sgt. G. Igite R.124619, missing since the 27.9.43 raid on Hannover. There was no flying today and no ops scheduled for tonight. No. 434 Squadron completed preparations for their move and the main parties proceeded by road and rail this morning. The Air party took off just after lunch and put on quite an exhibition of low and fancy flying over H.L.G. before disappearing in the general direction of Croft. Our preparations are all complete and the H.L.G. trucks returned this p.m. and loaded up and left for Croft taking a large number of ground crew along with them. It is a wonder that some of our Strategist does not call for an operational effort from these Squadrons tonight but so far nothing has happened. Officers of 434 Squadron staged another farewell party in the Mess tonight and a big time was enjoyed by all present as Senior Officers got the pace by painting Squadron numbers, etc., on the ceiling in black paint.</p>		
CROFT	11.12.43.		<p>Today was moving day for this Squadron and everyone was up bright and early despite the celebrations of last evening. The rail party paraded on the perimeter track in front of the Central Tower at 07:30 hours in the light of a full moon just beginning to dawn in the western sky. The parade moved off in column of routes at 08:15 hours in charge of the Squadron Adjutant P/Lt G.T. Sutherland, C.3180 and the Acting Squadron Engineer Officer, P/O Purves, and arrived at Beahel Railway Station about 0900 hours. The special train arrived at 0910 hours and the party entrained and left on schedule at 0920 hours for Gunton Station near Croft where they detrained at 1000 hours and routes marched to R.C.A.F. Station, Croft. The air party in charge of W/O G.H. Harris 57678, Squadron C.O., took off without mishap and after a few individual exhibitions of how to come</p>		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation): No. 43 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
GROFT	11.12.43	(continued)	<p>close to the control tower without hitting it, set course for Groft and disappeared in the northern sky. The Adjutant who had route marched to the Railway Station with the Rail Party but returned in the car of the No. 6 Group M.T. Officer, proceeded to Groft in the afternoon in style in the W/O's car, taking the secret and confidential files with him. Just before leaving Thelthorpe word came through from Bomber Command that we were on ops tonight as there is plenty of fuel at Groft Station this afternoon although our effort is only three planes. The balance of the road party left on M.T. vehicles by noon and late this afternoon all personnel and vehicles of the rail, road and air parties had arrived safely. Our new base station is even more widely dispersed than Thelthorpe and in some respects not so far advanced. Contractors workmen are everywhere and wet, sticky and is very general. However this Squadron is used to "roughing it" and as primitive conditions will be nothing new. The general spirit and attitude of this Station promises to be an improvement and so things in general should improve as time goes on. The ops effort scheduled for tonight is a rather odd one with briefing at 2100 hours and take off some time before breakfast tomorrow morning. Sgt. C. Harold R.143768, S/Lt. A. Goulet R.138521 and S/Lt. F. Johnson R.148521 and their crews have been detailed for the operation. There was no flying today with the exception of the trip from Thelthorpe to Groft carried out by crews captained by P/O J. Pollard J.18229 in H, S/Lt. J. Tyler 111498 in F, P/O J. Spalding J.18668 in D, W/O C.E. Davis 17878 in G, S/Lt. L. J. Small J.2934 in I, W/O D. Morrison R.13994 in N, W/O J. Gishabill J.23522 in K and W/O S/Lt. J. Keane R.155728 in M from A Flight and W/O S/Lt. A. Gardner R.144013 in O, P/O M. Fleming J.18287 in P, P/O D. Brown J.21816 in R, S/Lt. J. Mackay J.14562 in S, P/O G. Best J.21531 in V, W/O S/Lt. R. Derriner R.158783 in X, P/O S/Lt. F. Carter, J.13923 in Y and W/O S/Lt. F. McCarver R.12460 in Z from B Flight. Squadron found Squadron personnel settled down in their new quarters and more or less comfortable.</p>	SECRET	
GROFT	12.12.43		<p>The operational take-off scheduled for early this morning was cancelled but through an oversight S/Lt. J. Mackay, J.14562, O.G. Flying, was not notified and as a result he got up at 0300 hours and proceeded to flying control only to learn of the cancellation. Church services were held by R.C. and Protestant chaplains this morning and were well attended on a voluntary basis. Flying today consisted of cross country flying by Sgt. G. McClure R.150034 and W/O C. Murray J.15249</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	12.12.43. (continued)		and their respective crews while P/O D. Evans J.21016 and P/O C. Frost J.21131 and crews did an circuit. P/O. J. Hammond J.10645 and Sgt. R. Saltberry R.12985 and their respective crews completed a cross country exercise of over 7 hours duration and P/Lt. J. Tyler 111498 and Sgt. G. Mould R.145768 and crews put in some local flying time. A letter dated 9.12.43, received from Records today advised of the promotion of P/Sgt. R. Kumar R.106081 WOP/SG to WOP effective 8.6.43 and of Sgt. I.D. Campbell R.150869 A/B to P/Sgt. effective 5.8.43. An aircrew lecture was held in the main briefing room today when P/Lt. Carter 111121, Squadron Summary Leader spoke on tactics and evasive action to be taken during operational flying and P/Lt. J. Tyler 111498 pilot gave a few useful points from personal experience in regard to searching for and avoiding enemy aircraft. A Huffield Aircrew Leave Scheme reservation was received from No. 6 Group R.O. today for P/Sgt. H.F. Aitken, C/M.11577, covering a period from 27.12.43 to 2.1.44 at the Caledonian Hotel in Aberdeen.		
CROFT	13.12.43.		Our aircrew strength jumped again today as two crews reported on posting from 1659 Communion Unit for operational duties including Sgt. H.J. Huxley R.142030 pilot, P/Sgt. P.J. Foley R.160197 A/B, Sgt. W. Sanders 1318228 WOP/SG, Sgt. F. Forsyth R.176158 WOP/SG, Sgt. R. Bannister 1508210 A/O, Sgt. A. Stebler 2202828 P/R, the Navigator in this crew is P/Sgt. G.J. Wilson R.150730 who is at present in hospital. The other crew consists of Sgt. A.V. Hoggath R.134111 pilot, Sgt. W.D. Miller R.151637 Navigator, Sgt. R. Stewart R.157566 A/B, P/Sgt. E. Murphy R.108370 WOP/SG, Sgt. E. Amber R.197071 A/O, Sgt. G. Ball R.186430, WOP/SG, and Sgt. J.R. Vincent R.80763 P/R. Letters from Records today advised of the promotion of Sgt. J.G. Tomlinson A/B, R.157029 to P/Sgt. effective 19.8.43 and of Sgt. D.L. Hooe R.157813 A/B to P/Sgt. effective 5.8.43. Flying training continued today as Sgt. A. Goulet R.139521 and crew and P/O J. Smalgrave J.18668 and crew with Sgt. J. Stinson R.140781 and his two gunners carried out fighter affiliation practice. P/O J. Hammond, J.10645 and crew and P/O J. Olinchill J.21522 and crew did some air to air firing and Sgt. R. Saltberry R.12985 and Sgt. J. Stinson R.140781 and their crews put in some local flying and gun practice hours from A Flight. In B Flight P/Sgt. A. Gardner R.144013 and crew with P/Sgt. R. Stanley R.144014 and his two gunners practiced fighter affiliation. P/Sgt. Kerr, R. R.142703, and Sgt. G. Motters R.150034 and P/O G. Murray J.15049 and their respective crews carried out 6 heading exercises. A night cross country effort involving five crews was planned for tonight but later cancelled.		

Form 1000 20 July 1943

J.H.S/c

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 42 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendix
	13.12.43	(continued)	because of adverse met forecasts. The station Intelligence Officer was the speaker at an aircrew meeting in the briefing room today and his subjects were "Target Markings" and "Windows". The Squadron is now pretty well settled in our new home in Croft-in-the-Mud but there is still much to be done before everyone is happy as this Station leaves much to be desired in the way of living accommodation although there is a real spirit of friendliness and willingness to co-operate at Station H.Q. The Equipment Officer has been very helpful and his attitude is a welcome change to our previous experiences.	SECRET.
	14.12.43		There was no flying today because of very adverse weather conditions. All sections are pretty well settled down in their new locations but there is still plenty to do before everything will be running smoothly again. Ops were reported as scheduled for tonight and all preparations were made but it turned out to be a false alarm as briefing developed into a general security lecture by Station Intelligence Officers. The whole exercise was planned to test Station facilities ability to cope with the many problems of two H.D. Bomber Squadrons and it revealed many shortcomings. Christmas mail is arriving in large quantities and many welcome parcels of comforts and good things to eat are being received by all ranks.	
	15.12.43		No flying today and no ops scheduled for tonight because of continuing bad weather with heavy fog. W/C C.E. Harris 37878 Squadron C.O. left by train this morning for a few days well earned leave in London and S/Ldr. J. Hockley J.A568, B Flight Commander will be Acting Squadron Commander in his absence. Ground training is going on apace in all flights and sections. A number of 1000A's, application for a commission, completed by members of this Squadron were forwarded to S.H.Q. today on request of the Station Commander who is arranging to interview the applicants in the next day or so. A new form 2000, Proposed Posting Record Card, was received from Bomber Command today along with lengthy detailed instructions for its completion. These forms are to be completed and returned to Bomber Command by 21.12.43 and will entail plenty of detail work by the Adjutant and Casualty Room. Much of the information such as Authority for postings of Officers prior to arriving on this Squadron is impossible to obtain as from 373, Officers Record Card, Posting, was recalled from units to No. 6 Group H.Q. some time ago.	

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendix
CROFT	16.12.43		<p>Flying today consisted of an airtest of "F" by P/Sgt. D.Morrison R.119284 and crew during which the bombight was levelled and the P/A Sgt. A.F. Hughes R.124770 put in 30 minutes dual flying practice. An Air Ministry letter dated 10.12.43 received today confirmed the appointment to a commission as P/O 161757 effective 15.11.43 of the former Sgt. J.E.H.Melvin 1271389 WOP/AG screened and posted to Instructor Duties about a month ago. The Caterpillar Club of which Leslie L.Irvin, P.R.A.C.S., P.R.S.A., is European Branch Honorary Secretary wrote on December 13, 1943, confirming the enrollment as a member of P/O J.McPherson 146625 a former member of this Squadron who is now a Prisoner of War in Germany. A movie in the airmen's mess sponsored by the RAFFI was enjoyed by a large audience. A popular feature of this station is the Salvation Army "Bally Ann" wagon that dispenses tea and sandwiches and cakes, etc., each morning on the Technical site at very reasonable prices. Our Squadron Discip., P/Sgt. Larose G.J.G. CAN. 9986 is now in the Millam Hospital at Northallerton undergoing treatment for a possible stomach ulcer condition which may even result in eventual repatriation. His work is being well looked after by Sgt. McKeown, T.D. R.90431, and we are asking Records to have Sgt. McKeown T.D. R.90431 posted in to fill the establishment vacancy if P/Sgt. Larose G.J.G. CAN. 9986 does not return to duty in the near future. A court of Enquiry was constituted today by S/Ldr. J.Hooker J.14562, acting Squadron Commander, and consisting of P/Lt. H.Cherry 121549 President, P/O A.MacKay J.14515 and WO R.Farrier R.77106 as members to investigate the illegal absence and deficiency of kit if any of LdA/Cs M.D. Weisman R.69801, who has been A.W.L. for more than 21 days and so qualifies for the doubtful honour of being the Squadron's first deserter.</p>		
CROFT	17.12.43		<p>A Signal from Records today advised us that L.A.C. J.Smith R.95122, Clerk G.D. employed in our Squadron Orderly Room had been posted for duty with a W/O Hammond at No. 3 P.R.O. Bournemouth reporting direct to R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London on 16.12.43. This clerk had just reached the stage where he was becoming a useful cog in the Squadron administration; these postings often make one wish that Records would stay closed 7 days a week instead of just on every weekend while the rest of us on ops units stay on duty 7 days a week. S/Ldr. H.Taylor C.4485, Protestant Padre from Leeming and P/O H.W.Eggleston C.7699, Press Relations Officer covering Leeming, Middleton, Croft and Skipton operations called here today to get acquainted</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation): No. 43 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	17.12.43	(continued)	with Squadron personnel. A signal from No. 6 Group H.Q. today advised of the posting of P/O J. Dodge, J.15117 Navigator, P/Sgt. W. Yember B/A R.122455 P/O A.H. Hall J.160113 W/O W. L.A. McDonald R.68567 A/O and P/Sgt. J.M. Tyler 636566 P/N were posted to 430 Squadron effective 20.12.43 to crew up with W/O McIntosh 42511 pilot for operational duties. They were formerly members of the crew of P/O S.H. Dunn J.16318 pilot recently taken off operational flying for a rest.		
			Another signal from R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters requested that L.A.O. K.E. Kinsler R.12191 report to Pen Corner House, Kingsway, London W.C.2 at 0900 hours on 22.12.43 for interview with U.S. Selection Board regarding his application to transfer to the U.S. Forces. There was no flying today and no ops tonight because of adverse weather conditions.		
CROFT	18.12.43.		A records posting note received today advised that Com. 9502 P/Sgt. M. Jacques, Discip., was posted to this Unit from 331 Wing effective 15.11.43 reporting 18.12.43 to fill the establishment vacancy and he arrived late this afternoon. A signal from No. 6 Group Headquarters today stated that W/O Yember R.122455 A/O had been selected to attend No. 25 Bombing Instructors Course commencing 28.12.43. There was no flying today and ops scheduled for tonight were cancelled because of continuing bad weather. A general stand-down was declared today and a large number of ground and aircrew personnel took advantage of the opportunity to visit nearby towns and cities in search of entertainment and amusement and food or even just a hot bath which is a real luxury here. A movie in the airman's mess under the auspices of the MAAMI was enjoyed by a large audience.		
CROFT	19.12.43		Improved weather conditions permitted flying training to be resumed today on local flying Gee and Beam practice, George Test, Bombight Test, airtest and formation flying exercises were carried out by crews piloted and captained by P/O H. Beeson J.12773, P/Sgt. R. Kerr R.12705, P/Sgt. C. McClure R.15003, P/Sgt. R. Stanley R.14403, P/O G. Murray J.15240, P/O G. Grant J.2135, P/O J. Wiggall, J.18927, P/Lt. F. Carter J.13993, Sgt. G. Gould R.14376, Sgt. A. Goslet P.13621 Sgt. F. Saltberry R.12965, W/O W. Harrier R.77108, P/O J. Pollard J.18929, P/O J. Swalgrave J.18468, Sgt. A. Goslet R.13821 and Sgt. J. Stinson R.14071. Night bombing exercises were carried out by P/Sgt. R. Kerr, R.12705, and P/O G. Murray J.15240 and their crews. The weekly church services held today by the Station R.C. and Protestant Chaplains were well attended on a voluntary basis and were featured by the singing of Xmas carols. A movie show in the Officers Mess this evening was		

18.12.43

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	Reference to Appendix
GROFT	20.12.43 (continued)		<p>enjoyed by a large audience. Night Bombing practice details were carried out by P/O. J. Hammond J.10645, Sgt. A. Goulet E.138521, Sgt. R. Saltberry E.129605, Sgt. G. Gould E.143768, Sgt. F. Johnston E.148521 and their respective crews, over the nearby Strupwell bombing range. Sgt. Morrison, S. 124766, N.C.O. 1/c Orderly Room left today for a well earned nine days privilege leave at his home in Old London.</p>		
GROFT	20.12.43		<p>A large scale operational effort was announced at 1000 today and all sections have been working at top speed throughout the day to put sixteen A/O on the line by take-off time. Briefing was scheduled for two p.m. and by four p.m. the crews captained by WO V. Ferrier E.77108, Sgt. F. Johnson E.148521, P/O J. Climbkall J.23522, P/O J. Smalgrave J.18668, P/Sgt. D. Morrison E.11998, P/Lt. J. Tyler, J.111498, P/Sgt. J. Keane E.135728, P/O J. Pollard J.18999, P/O A. Austin 157396, P/Sgt. R. Stanley E.144004, P/O M. Wismilling J.18927, P/O G. Rust J.21351, S/Ldr. J. Hooley J.4562, P/Lt. R. Keenan G.1396, P/Lt. F. Carter J.13993, P/Sgt. E. Devaney E.130783, were in their aircraft and marshalling near the end of the runway. Take-off started at 1615 hours and went off smoothly except for A/O "F" which was not ready and was eventually scrubbed back to the emergence of P/Sgt. D. Morrison E.11998 and his crew who were wiring to go. Pilots doing the 2nd tickle trips tonight were Sgt. G. McClure E.150034, P/O H. Deane, J.18779, P/O G. Murray J.15249, P/Sgt. R. Kerr E.144703, Sgt. G. Gould E.143768, Sgt. A. Goulet E.138521, P/O J. Hammond J.10645, Sgt. J. Stinson E.140741 and Sgt. R. Saltberry E.129605. The early take off meant a return before midnight but "D" in charge of P/O J. Smalgrave J.18668, returned at 1900 hours and "K" in charge of P/Sgt. J. Keane, E.135728 at 1830 hours, both because of engine trouble. By midnight P/Lt. J. Tyler 111498, P/O J. Climbkall J.23522, P/O J. Pollard J.18999, P/Sgt. R. Stanley E.144004, P/O M. Wismilling J.18927, S/Ldr. J. Hooley J.4562, P/Lt. R. Keenan G.1396, and P/Lt. F. Carter J.13993 had reported in, all at base, except P/O J. Pollard J.18999 at Leeming and P/Sgt. R. Stanley E.144004 at Hemswick, all reported a fairly successful attack on Frankfurt but as our A/O were in the first wave, the full effects of the attack could not be gauged. It was our first operational effort from this station and many weaknesses were revealed in the station facilities, especially in regard to M.T. where apparently the vehicles available are not sufficient in number nor in good shape. A fix was reported on by in charge of WO V. Ferrier E.77108 and crew at 2151 hours at 5147E 0205 E Hall and a/c crew notified to get cranking.</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 43 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
CHOPT	21.12.43 (continued)		<p>Sgt. F. Johnson R.18521 and crew in "G" returned from last night's ops at 0007 hours today. P/O C. Brest J. 21331 and crew in "H" at 0025 hours and P/Sgt. E. Devaney R.13078 and crew in "Z" at 0002 hours. However no further word was received of "L" since the fix obtained at 2151 hours last night and "H" has been unreported since take-off. These A/C and the crews consisting of P/O A. Austin 157396 pilot, Sgt. G. McGuire R.15003, 2nd pilot, P/O A. MacKay J.14515 Navigator, P/Sgt. J. Scott R.127745 N/A, WO. J. Barrette R.108967 WOP/AG, P/Sgt. R. Dixon R.178829 MU/AG, WO J. McConnell R.126819 RAG, Sgt. V. Foster 959200 P/E, and WO W. Ferrier R.72108 pilot, P/Sgt. W. Marshall R.118078 Navigator, P/O A. Fischer J.20482 N/A, P/O M. Taylor, J.12075 WOP/AG, Sgt. F. Prisham R.193077, P/Sgt. J. Pilling R.146665 RAG and Sgt. S. Smith R.108246 have been reported as missing on operations. A signal from No. 6 Group H.Q. today advised of the posting of P/O S. Phillips J.22605 Navigator, P/O J. A. Neal J.25125 A/B, WO J. Hope R.97357 WOP/AG, Sgt. J. R. Leggat R.108459, Sgt. W. E. Minton 2220129 MU/AG and Sgt. A. R. Kemp 1537278 P/E, members of the crew of Sgt. G. McGuire R.15003 pilot, missing on ops last night as a 2nd pilot. They are posted to 166, Conversion Unit for retraining with G.1625 S/Ldr. E. C. Hughes pilot, effective 22.12.43. However they had just been given a weeks leave this morning, so No. 6 Group H.Q. advanced their reporting date to 30.12.43 rather than have them recalled from leave. There was no flying today and no ops scheduled for tonight because of inclement weather.</p>		
CHOPT	22.12.43		<p>Flying today consisted of ferrying A/C B and C from Thelthorpe and Hemswath to Base by P/Sgt. A. Gardner R.14401 and P/Sgt. E. Stanley R.14404 and their respective crews. A Bulls Eye effort was scheduled for tonight and aroused considerable interest as it was the first Bulls Eye flying for the Squadron in several months. Briefing was at 1600 hours and take off shortly after 1900 hours. Our aircraft were in charge of crews piloted by P/O R. Pritt J.19028, Sgt. A. Goslet R.139241, P/O J. Hammond J.10648, P/Sgt. J. Evans R.115728, Sgt. R. Salisbury R.129688, P/O R. Deane J.18779, P/Sgt. R. Kerr R.142703 and P/O D. Evans J.21016. Two British Army officers, namely 2nd Lt. R. Battye 565 S.L. Battery and Lt. J. Godfrey 106 A.A.S. Battery, were taken along as Special Observers on request of No. 6 Group Headquarters. The target for tonight was London but our aircraft were recalled before they reached the target because of reported enemy intruder action. Base activities on this station were announced in a special bulletin issued by G/Ldn. A.S.</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 804th Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day _____

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
CRIFT	24-12-45	(continued)	<p>in the accustomed manner with coloured lights occupied one corner of the room and about 1600 hours a real Santa Claus in a red and white costume arrived to distribute presents. Each child received a gift of toys and sweets and a lunch of sandwiches and cake was served, after which the children left for home in a happy mood with presents held tightly in their little arms. A number of officers and other ranks dropped in during the afternoon and seemed to enjoy the party as much as the children. There was no organized entertainment on the Station for some time but there was considerable merriment in the messes early in the evening before most everyone left for the bright lights of Darlington or the nearby Craft Spa Hotel. The weather today has been fine and mild with blue sky and sunshine and promises well for some day tomorrow.</p>		
CRIFT	25-12-45		<p>Christmas Day at Craft-in-the-Mud. Lovely mild weather with sunshine and blue skies was a treat although not such like a Canadian winter but much preferable to fog and mist and rain. There was no flying today and no one scheduled for tonight so a general attendance was in effect from about 1030 hours on. Christmas dinner of roast turkey and roast pork with all the trimmings and some pudding was served in the Airmen's Mess at 1230 hours with officers acting as waiters and a merry time was had by all. Dinner in the Officers Mess was served at 1630 hours after which the officers served the staff with their Xmas dinner and then the staff were given a holiday for the balance of the day. Xmas dinner was served in the Sgt's Mess at 1800 hours and was thoroughly enjoyed by all hands after which a most enjoyable social evening was staged as only a Sgt's Mess can stage such an affair. Special church and carol services were held throughout the day for Protestant and R.C. personnel by the Station Padre and the services were well attended on a voluntary basis. A popular subject of discussion today was where will we spend next Christmas. Some say Canada, others India, some China or a palm dotted Island in the Pacific. Your guess is as good as mine.</p>		
CRIFT	26-12-45		<p>A Craft note from Records today advised that E.10452 J.L.G. (Carpenter) Cdr. C.F., was posted to this unit from No. 62 (R.C.A.F.) Base effective 1.1.46 which was welcome news but another Craft note stated that the minister of the Squadron formerly known, 12,706, Sgt. S. Morrison Cdr. /Sgt. was posted to 1611 Communication Unit, Chesham, effective 1.1.46 to fill an establishment vacancy. These postings may have a meaning but they certainly help to stir up the rank by making an organization</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	Reference to Appendices
CHOPT	26-12-43 (continued)		<p>Just when it is going along nicely. A signal from No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, H.Q. advised that E/Sgt. R.R. Whitcomb R.53521 F/LIA was posted to this Unit from 1664 Conversion Unit effective 26.11.43 for SO vacancy. Another signal from Air Ministry advised that E/Lt. G.C. Sherring 76282 was posted here from 98 Squadron effective 26.12.43 for Gunnery Leader duties as it looks as if E/Lt. John Garton 11134, one of the Squadron originals, was about to be posted, which is not good news as he is both efficient in his work and popular with all ranks. Flying today consisted of Homeing exercises by E/Sgt. R. Kerr R.147703, F/O H. Benson J.18779, F/O G. Murray J.15289, E/Sgt. A. Gardner R.14401 and crew while F/O R. Pratt J.19008 and crew did Beam, Gee and George test. Sgt. F. Johnston R.148521, Sgt. A. Hagath R.14111, F/O J. Hammond J.10645 and Sgt. G. Gould R.143768 and crew carried out air to sea firing exercises and S/Ldr. L. Edmell J.2934 and Sgt. A. Goulet R.148521 and crew did air tests. There were no ops scheduled for tonight which was rather good news to those still recovering from Xmas celebrations. An "At Home" was held in the Y Club today with games and refreshments "on the house" and prizes provided for winners of various contests. The weather continues to be mild and fair with blue skies and sunshine. An impromptu service for Protestant personnel was held in No. 43 Squadron canteen by S/Ldr. A. T. Littlewood C.1668, Protestant padre, at 10.45 hours this morning in addition to the regular Sunday morning service in the Station chapel at 09.30 hours. About 100 were in attendance and it is hoped to make this type of service a regular and frequent occurrence on this Squadron, thereby bringing religion to the boys which is easier than bringing the boys to religion especially on those widely dispersed Stations. G/O Scott, Staff Officer i/c Administration at No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, H.Q. visited the Squadron Adjutant this p.m. to discuss personnel problems.</p>		
CHOPT	27-12-43		<p>Flying today was limited to a height test of A/G "G" by E/Sgt. F. Encourage R.14601 and crew but night cross country exercises of over 4 hours duration were carried out by E/Lt. F. Carter J.13221, F/O H. Benson J.18779, E/Sgt. A. Hagath R.14111, Sgt. A. Goulet R.148521, Sgt. Saltberry R. 142908 and Sgt. G. Gould R.143768 and their respective crews. A letter from Records dated 25.12.43 advised of the promotion of Sgt. F. P. Martin Cms.18028 A/G, to E/Sgt. effective 18.9.43, of E/Sgt. S. Sprunoff R.146108 A/G to W/O effective 26.8.43, of E/Sgt. R. G. Rice R.14908 A/G to W/O effective 26.8.43 of E/Sgt. H.P. Ridley R.72500 A/G, to W/O effective 25.9.43, of E/Sgt. J. A. Hoffman R.11384</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
CHOPT	27.12.43	(continued)	A/G to W02 effective 25.9.43, of P/Sgt. J.D.McConnell R.126819 A/G to W02 effective 31.7.43, of P/Sgt. J.A.M.Scumie R.120021 A/G to W02 effective 22.6.43 and of Sgt. G.A.Rice R.162178 A/G to P/Sgt. effective 19.9.43, P/O C.Murray J.15289 pilot left today for a 4 day Merlin Engine Handling Course at No. 1 R.C.A.F. Westcott starting at 0900 hours tomorrow. An Euse film show was enjoyed by a large audience in the Station Cinema this evening. The weather continues mild and fair with blue skies and sunshine which is a wonderful improvement on most of the Yorkshire climate that this unit has had to date. There were no ops scheduled for tonight.		
CHOPT	28.12.43.		Flying training today consisted of Beam and Gee practice by Sgt. J.Stinson R.140741 and crew in "T" and P/Sgt. R.Saltberry R.126685 and crew in B, the latter crew also being some air to sea firing, and P/O D.Byams J.21016 and crew completed an airtest. Night cross-country flying was scheduled for tonight and P/Sgt. P.Bearwage R.134601, P/Sgt. R.Stanley R.144024, P/Sgt. R.Hendley R.142030, P/Sgt. W.Moqom R.139401, S/Ldn. L.Linnell J.2934, P/Sgt. F.Johnston R.148821, P/O J.Hammond J.10645 and their respective crews participated. A signal from R.C.A.F. Overseas Headquarters, London, advised today that L.A.C. E.E.Klaser R.142193 had been discharged to the U.S. Forces effective 21.12.43 and would not be returning to this unit. Another signal from No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, Headquarters, advised of the posting of P/Lt. J.C.Garten 133341 A/G, Squadron Gunnery Leader, to No. 24 O.T.U. effective 28.12.43 for instructor duties. He is due back from nine days privilege leave today so will be reporting tomorrow. A letter dated 26.12.43 from No. 6 (R.C.A.F.) Group, H.Q. advised of the promotion to P/O of P/O W.C.Drum J.25535 effective 16.10.43, P/O R.P.Murphy J.25186 effective 2.10.43, of P/O L.A.Morris-Jones J.25076 effective 2.10.43 and of P/O D.H.Puppelstams J.17792 effective 1.10.43. Notice was received from Records today that A.C.1 G.L.Noble 131306, Fleet (2) had qualified for a 1st Good Conduct Badge effective 18.12.43. A Hinge and Quins Party was held in the Station Cinema under the auspices of the R.M.C.A. tonight with teams composed of Officers, N.C.O.'s, W.A.A.F. and airmen competing for prizes.		
CHOPT	29.12.43		A signal from Air Ministry today advised that the International Red Cross Committee quoting German information had reported as Prisoners of War, P/O V.Winning J.22453 pilot, wounded, Sgt. H.E.Hutton 180463 P/O, P/Sgt. H.A.Baton R.115897 P/A, Sgt. G.M.Sanders R.130267 W/2.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	Reference to Appendix
CREFT	29.12.43 (continued)		<p>missing on ops since the 19.11.43 raid on Leverkusen. Flying today was limited to a flight by Sgt. A.M.Goulet R.138521 and crew in A/C "H" for engine testing purposes. A maximum operational effort for tonight was announced at 1000 hours and all sections were very busy throughout the day getting 14 A/C ready for take-off about 1630 hours. Zero hour found our 14 crews piloted by S/Ldr. L.Linnell J.2928 with Sgt. G.Mould R.143768, as second pilot, P/Sgt. J.Keane R.135728 with Sgt. A. Goulet R.138521 as 2nd pilot, P/O R.A.Pratt J.19001 with Sgt. J.Stinson R.140781 as 2nd pilot, P/Lt. J.Tyler 111498 with P/Sgt. R.Saltsberry R.129686 as 2nd pilot, P/O J. Hammond J.10645, P/Sgt. F.Johnson R.148321, P/O J.Glinkakill J.23522 with P/Sgt. A. Hagoth as 2nd pilot, P/Lt. F.Carter J.19993 with P/Sgt. H.Hewley R.142030 as 2nd pilot, P/Lt. E.Keehan C.1396, P/Sgt. P.Bearwage R.13601 with P/O H.Basnes J.18729 as 2nd pilot, P/O C.Brett J.21331, Sgt. V.McQueen R.139401, P/O D.C.Brana J.21016 and Sgt. E.Stanley R.144014, ready and raring to go. Aircraft "Y" was almost involved in a serious situation at the dispersal point when a one of incendiaries fell off the racks. However, the pilot on a shouted warning from the ground crew, quickly started up two engines and taxied the A/C out of the danger zone. The pilot, Sgt. V.McQueen R.139401 showed good presence of mind and quick thinking in the emergency which doubtless saved the aircraft from serious damage and the crew from possible injury. Take-off was completed without further incident and 14 aircraft became airborne in quick order. There were two early returns because of mechanical failures, namely "R" in charge of P/O C.Brett J.21331 and crew, and "T" in charge of Sgt. E.Stanley R.144014 and crew. The others are expected back shortly after midnight. It looks like a big time in Berlin tonight. The writer of this diary, P/Lt. G.T.Sutherland C.1380, Adjutant, went on leave tonight and nobody on this Squadron has earned his leave more than this officer. Tomorrow the diary will be taken over by Pilot Officer G.R.Hollens J.18625 WFF/26</p>		
CREFT	30.12.43		<p>Well the start of a new career has opened with a bang! Received word this morning that P/O R.A. Pratt J.19001 and crew had a shoddy do last night along with P/Lt. E.F.Keehan C.1396. The Flight Engineer, Sgt. A.Beatock 154198, in the crew of P/O Pratt R.A. J.19001 was killed and several others wounded but only slightly. P/Lt. E.F.Keehan C.1396 had his aircraft shot up over Hannover by four "heavy flask" bursts penetrating his petrol tanks and causing the hydraulic system along</p>		

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) 250th Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendices
CROFT	30.12.43 (continued)		<p>with the wireless equipment to become U/S. Luckily no one was hurt. "Barney" pulled off a good show by bringing the kite in on it's wheels by stalling and shaking the U/O down. The only flying done today was non-operational. P/Sgt. E.P.Devaney R.130783, P/Sgt. Stanley R.H. R.144014 and P/O C.S.Brest J.21331 did Air to Air firing this afternoon. P/O J.M.Snelgrove J.18668 flew down to Woodbridge to pick up P/O R.A.Pratt J.19001 and the remaining members of his crew and up until the time of writing they haven't arrived and will probably come in in the morning. We had a cheering bit of news this morning. A signal came through confirming that all members of P/Sgt. K.C.Smith's (R.97918) crew are prisoners of war. They are as follows Sgt. H.F.Dull 1395755, Sgt. W.R.Robotham R.24777, Sgt. C.J.Heare 1334138, Sgt. S.T.Smith 1834518, Sgt. L.W. Wheatley R.166032 and Sgt. H.J.Turner 1811130. The same signal also carried a very sad and regrettable incident that P/Sgt. K.C. Smith R.97918 pilot has been presumed killed. This afternoon another signal came through regards Sgt. S.Morrison 1247866. His posting has been put forward a month so we may still depend on his invaluable services for a time at least. I know I shouldn't be able to do anything without Sgt. S.Morrison 1247866. He's a real "Gee" man and I know we shall all be sorry to see him go. Another regrettable tid-bit today was the signing of the clearance chit of P/Lt. J.C.Garion 13331. Good-by "Johnny" and good luck wherever you may go. Seems like the orders that he intend to have everyone medalled and decorated. A few more yards of "19-43 Star" ribbon was ordered today. Soon will look like miniature Geerings if they keep it up. Guess we must part soon or it will be a serial but before we close would like to mention someone had some strips torn off by someone in the near vicinity. And so the close of a very interesting but un-incident day. An open night tonight.</p>		
CROFT	31.12.43		<p>A signal from Air Ministry this morning brought some more cheering news. The crew of P/Sgt. E.H.Hills R.124282 has been reported upon. The P.O.'s are P/Sgt. E.H.Hills R.124282, P/Sgt. D.H.Watson R.129766, P/Sgt. R.J.Donohy R.124460 and P/Sgt. F.A.Davis R.39267, but the same signal also reported Sgt. J.C.Hicks 1206520 and P/Sgt. L.O.Burns R.132287, as dead. The odds seem to be still with us and P/Sgt. Hills (Harry) R.124282 is the third skipper reported P.O.M. This morning's tray also contained the report on P/Lt. W.H.Hamilton 139210 in regard to his course for Signals Leader. He has done quite well receiving 221 marks out of a possible 300.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET	References to Appendix
CROFT	31.12.43. (continued)		<p>The only thing now is - are we able to hold on to this highly qualified man? Day broke this morning with bright sunshine and blue sky - the horizon looked very menacing though and at noon the usual Yorkshire weather paid us a visit. It only rained a short time though and at the time of writing the air is clear again. There was an operational flying program drawn up today but at briefing time everyone was spiritually elevated by the news of a "Scrub". Looks like a heavy night in Darlington, that is, if our very shabby transport system doesn't break down. Tonight there is a dance being held at the station Gym, under the auspices of the I.M.C.A. The dance is an optional masquerade affair. By the activities of certain people these past few days some quite original costumes will blossom forth. An Officers mess party will be held tonight and by the sounds of preparation behind the bar it should be O.K. The only other incident of unusual qualities which happened today was the arrival of the uncle of P/O D.C. Evans J.21016 in England. Consequently there was the hurried signing of a "AG".</p> <p>The Squadrons activities this month has been curtailed by the wholesale movement of all our personnel and equipment from Thelthorne to Croft, with the usual inactive periods of preparations of packing and moving and the ensuing disorganised interval of settling in. The sortie record file has naturally suffered as only four completed missions go to our credit. From these four missions two of our aircraft did not return and one man being killed while on operational duty bringing our casualties for this month to sixteen officers and men, one of these being a second pilot. This makes the grand total of 22 Officers and men lost due to enemy action since the Squadron was formed. The health of the Squadron this month is considerably worse than preceding months owing to the influenza epidemic which is sweeping the country. Our Medical Section is coping quite well though and there has been very few "In" cases reported upon. The morale of the Squadron for this past month has been increased considerably owing no doubt to our new surroundings, our change of administrative personnel and the festive season which is at hand. Our very able I.M.C.A. representative, Mr. Kirk Bell, has aided in this department very much and should be given credit for his efforts in the usual manner. The more favourable location of the sites of the camp and the camp itself is greatly appreciated by all. The only real problem in this line is the transportation system to the neighbouring towns should be improved</p>		

W.H. W.C.

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