

# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit 43 Squadron (R.C.A.F.))

5-22-1-434  
6574 3AS

No. of pages used for day \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	1/2/44		<p>Flying training only today and no ops. were scheduled for tonight. Five daylight flights for a total of approximately five hours were completed. A signal from Bomber Command warned us to be on the lookout for two German prisoners of war who escaped from Sheppalls Hotel, Westmoreland on Jan. 29/44. They are 172470 Lieutenant Lombecke Gunther of German Air Force, height 6 feet, age 22, fair hair, blue eyes, weight 11 stone 4 lbs., fresh complexion and able to speak a little English and 206711 Lieutenant Guse Friedrich of German Air Force, height 5 ft. 8 inches, age 20, light brown hair, grey eyes, weight 9 stone 7 lbs., fresh complexion, four vaccination marks on right arm and soars on right groin and right calf. P/O A.P. Gardner, J19418, pilot and WO2 W.F. Costello, R104340, Navigator and the only Newfoundlander on our Squadron at present left today for a weeks leave on the Lady Ryder Scheme in the Bournemouth area arranged for them by the Squadron Adjutant. P/O G.M. Goodman, C18336, W/E Leader left today for a four weeks W/E Leaders Course at No. 4 S. of T.F., No. 24 Group, St. Athens. W/S W.M. McQueen, R139401, pilot and his MU/SG Sgt M. Hahuluk, R191023, left today for a weeks leave on the Nuffield Leave Scheme at the George Hotel, Edinburgh arranged for them by the Squadron Adjutant thru 6 Group &amp; Air Ministry. A Record's letter dated 16.1.44 received today authorized a first Good Conduct Badge to L.A.C. L.P. Glaisher, 1210183, for 3 years regular service effective 13.1.44. W/S W.M. McQueen, R139401, Pilot, W/S D.P. McAllister, R157914, W/O and W/O D.G. Goodfellow, Bomb Aimer, were interviewed at Middleton St. George this morning by Group Captain Ross, Station Commander, in regard to their applications for a commission.</p>		
CROFT	2/2/44		<p>Flying training was again the order of the day and flights totalling 10 hrs. were recorded. Good news was received this morning in the form of an Records Signal dated 1.2.44 advising cancellation of the posting of Sgt S.H. Morrison, 12,7866, Clark G.B., N.C.O. 1/c Squadron Orderly Room. We do get a break once in a long while and this one is a great help. This R.A.F. man has been very useful and helpful and moreover he is very happy and content to stay on here so everyone is happy for the moment. We're hoping Records leave us alone for a while. A commission as P/O No. 170573 eff. 16.12.43 was received today from A.M. for Sgt R.M. Robney, 1A32546, W/E who is at present in S.S.G. recovering from injuries and shock received when he baled out with the other crew members on returning from operations against Berlin on 29.1.44.</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GROFT	2/2/44 (Continued)		<p>The good news was phoned to the recipient at S.S.Q. and we understand that it proved to be good medicine and not hard to take. The funeral of P/S J.W.R. Demers, R17712, A/G, killed when he and the other members of the crew baled out on returning from the 29.1.44 raid on Berlin, was held today at the RAF Regional Cemetery Harrogate, S/L P.H. Koshon, G14601, R.G. Padre, conducted the service which was attended by P/O K. Flewelling, J18927, pilot, P/O R.W. Brown, J12419, A/B, Sgt S. Thompson, 1080427, WOP/AG, and P/O Clayton, J. 169042, members of the same crew as the late P/S J.W.R. Demers, R17712, and Sgt D.A. Pastorius, R167972, A/G, Sgt G.H. Havill, R176712, A/G, Sgt W.G. Edwards, J115206, A/G, P/S J.S. Boucher, R15692, M/AG, Sgt J.S. Davies, R18654, A/G, and P/S G.J.C. Larsee, 9286, Squadron Discip., Pallbearers, a firing party a bugler and a service photographer were supplied by RAF Station Harrogate. Wreaths were sent by members of the crew, by the C.O. and Officers of 44 Squadron, by the WO's, S/L G.O. and other ranks of 44 Squadron, and by RAF Station Filly, where the body was first taken on being recovered. Splendid cooperation was received by this unit from both RAF Filly and RAF Harrogate in regard to arranging the details of this funeral.</p>		
GROFT	2/2/44		<p>P/L G.C. Sherring, 78282, Squadron Gunnery Leader left today for U.S.A.A.F. Station No. 116, A.P.O. 64, U.S. Army, Bury St. Edmunds on temporary duty during which he hopes to make an operational trip on a Fortress and spend some time observing U.S.A.A.F. methods in handling various combat problems. A letter received today from the Caterpillar Club confirming the enrollment of S/L R.A. MacLellan, G1637, pilot and stating that his membership card and Caterpillar pin would be forwarded in the near future. P/S J. Staples, R108019, Navigator, received word from Canada today that his brother Sgt A. Staples, R19651, A/G, missing from No. 10 Squadron R.A.F. since 20.12.43 is now a P of W. P/O H.P. Aiton, J18495, A/G, left for a weeks leave in Aberdeen today. We had tried to make arrangements for him on the Huffield leave scheme but there were no openings available. Another commission was received today for Sgt W.H. Martin, 18052A, A/G as P/O No. 719585 but unfortunately he has been missing on operations in the crew of P/O Devaney, J19379, since the 29.1.44 raid on Berlin. P/S E. Smeem, R123767, A/B and Sgt J. Davies, R18654, A/G, were interviewed at S.H.Q. this afternoon by G/O D. Edwards, APT, G126, Station Commander in regards to their applications for a commission.</p>		

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## OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

of (Unit or Formation) No. 433 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	<b>SECRET.</b>	References to Appendices
CHIEF	1/2/44		There were no operations planned for tonight and only two daylight flights were completed for a total of 6 hours flying time. The regular Squadron pay parade was held today and as usual there was no difficulty in getting everyone out on parade even if it was called for 0830 hrs.		
	(Continued)				
CHIEF	1/2/44		A posting was received today for WO1 R.W. Gibbs, R78397, A/C, to 433 Squadron eff. 7.2.44, for reviewing and operational duties and an attachment for 1260663 Sgt T.A. Harris, Compass Administrator, from 61 Base (1679 Con. Unit) to 433 Squadron eff. 7.2.44. Good news arrived today in the form of an A.M. Signal advising that P/S R.W. Dixon, R178829, W/AG, P/O A.S. Austin, 127136, pilot, WO2 Barrett, J. R106967, W/AG, P/S J.P. Scott, R127365, B/A and P/O Y.G. Foster, 168957, P/S, missing on operations since the 20.12.43, said on Frankfurt were now reported as P. of W. by the I.R.C.G. quoting German information. WO2 Armstrong, R122395, W/AG, was posted to 433 Squadron today eff. 7.2.44 for reviewing and operational duty. P/S R. Hanson, R123767, B/A, was interviewed by G/C Ross, Station Commander, RCAF Middleton St. George today in regards to his application for a commission. Another crew arrived on posting from 1659 Con. Unit today consisting of P/S E.A. MacDonald, R130028, pilot, P/S J.S. Smith, R152867, Nav, Sgt J.S. Bray, A/D, WO150, Sgt E.B. Eady, R167348, W/AG, Sgt L.W. Ganting, R86563, P/S, Sgt E. H. Heston, R157140, W/AG, P/S P.B. Terrio, R176806, B/AG. There was no flying today because of bad weather and no Ops. scheduled for tonight but 7 Cross Country details were carried out tonight for a total of 36 Hours Flying Time and including practice bombing on the Stronsall range. P/O Jackson, Press Relations Officer from No. 6 Group H.Q., was here for a while this afternoon and interviewed R.C.A.F. members of the two crews captained by P/S P. Johnston, R142521, pilot, and P/O H. Flewelling, 118927, pilot, regarding their recent baling out experiences on returning from Ops. There is a rumor going the rounds of the Squadron this afternoon that W/C G.W. Harris 37678, Squadron G.O. is being posted to Bomber Command Headquarters effective 10.2.44 but there has been nothing official so far.		
CHIEF	1/2/44		P/O Hayward, R. R20295, A/S was interviewed at S.H.Q. today by G/C Edwards, APO, O26, Station Commander in regards to his application for a commission. S/L J. Britton, J.15229, No. 6 Group Bombing Leader paid a visit to the Squadron this afternoon and spent some time in the Squadron Bombing Section. Seven daylight flights were made today for a total of nine hours flying		

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DRAFT	5/2/44 (Continued)		time but there were no Ops. or training flying scheduled for tonight so many Squadron types were to be found in nearby towns and villages enjoying an evening out. The Croft Spa Hotel only 1/2 miles from camp was again a popular rendez-vous. Several of the married Officers and N.G.O.'s had brought their wives there for the week-end.		
DRAFT	6/2/44		A postgram dated 3.2.44 received from No. 6 Group Headquarters today advised of the appointment of P/L L.H. Cameron, 1774, Pilot, as Deputy Commander of "A" Flight effective 1.2.44. The usual Sunday morning church services were held today for Protestant and R.C. Personnel in the Station Chapels by the padre and were well attended on a voluntary basis. Another Service for Protestant Personnel was held in 4th Crew Room at 1100 hrs. by S/L T. Littlewood, O.C., and was well attended despite the cold weather. Something unusual in the way of aircraft on this Station made its appearance today when a Curtiss C46, Dakota and an Airspeed Horse Glider of the U.S.A.A.F. landed during the afternoon and created considerable excitement and interest among all ranks of ground and air crew. An auction sale of comforts and foodstuffs was held in 4th Crew Room today for the purpose of raising money for the Squadron P. of W. fund and it was very successful. Another recent convert to Benedict Banks on this Squadron is P/O R.A. Pratt, 112008, Pilot, who was married on 26.1.44 at the Church of English Martyrs, Dalton Terrace, York, to Lillian Mary Bell, 13 Falconer St., Holgate Rd., York, by Father W. Newkell, R.C. Priest. A movie show in the Station Cinema tonight under Bhas auspices for a small consideration per person was enjoyed by a large audience. There was no flying today and no Ops. scheduled for tonight.		
DRAFT	7/3/44		Very good news was received today in a signal from Acm, advising us that P13227, P/O K.O. Burns, S/A, missing on operations since 18.11.43 and later reported as dead by the I.R.C.C. quoting German information, is now reported by the same source of information as a P. of W. On improvement of weather conditions permitted a resumption of Flying training and seven daylight flights for a total of twelve hours were completed. A movie in the Station Cinema under Bhas auspices was enjoyed by a packed house. Our genial C.O. W/O G.E. Harris, 17678, received word by phone today that he was posted effective immediately to 51 Base for Commandant duties at the Group Battle School, 2007 Station Dalton. His post here is being taken over by a		

NO. 6 BOMBERS GROUP HQ C.O.L. 2007

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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	<b>SECRET.</b>	References to Appendices
CRUFT	7/2/44		S/Ldr. C.S. Bartlett, 19926, Pilot, who has been a Flight Commander with 428 Squadron for some time. News of the posting of W/O G.E. Harris, 37676, was not well received here where he has been very highly regarded by all ranks because of his pleasing personality and great interest in and loyalty to this Squadron who he has commanded since its formation last June. Everyone on this Unit will be very sorry to see him go.		
	(Continued)				
CRUFT	8/2/44		A signal from Records today advised that L.A.C. Eedy, R116604, one of our original General Duties and a splendid worker, who has been in hospital for some months, is now posted to Non-Effective Strength of R.C.A.F. "R" Depot, Houghton Green eff. 8.2.44 pending repatriation to Canada on Medical Grounds. He is being transferred direct from Basinstoke Neurological and Plastic Surgery Hospital to the port of embarkation by Canadian Military Authorities. He has developed some kind of an incurable disease which first showed itself as double-sight. Notices of the award of a 2nd Good Conduct Badge to Sgt S.T. Bragginton, 22041, Pitter ZII eff. 23.1.44 on completion of 8 years regular service, was received today from Records in the form of a letter dated 27.1.44. Good weather permitted a continuance of flying training and six daylight flights totalling 11 hrs and 4 Night Cross Country and Bulls-Eye Flights totalling 24 hrs. were completed. The moon period is now on and many of our aircrew are on leave. It was an ideal night with a fine moon.		
CRUFT	9/2/44		A signal from R.C.A.F. O/S Headquarters received today advised us that P/S E.H. Vigor, pilot, R5235, now on sick leave following a recent bailing out experience on returning from Ops., had been admitted to No. 10 Canadian General Hospital and a sick report to follow. He was badly shaken and it may be possible concussion. Congratulations were received from A.M. today for Sgt. A. Guy, 1831301, W/E as P/O No. 170981 eff. 23.1.44, authority A.631406/44/S7(e) and for Sgt. E.S. Ford, 656334, W/P/AG as P/O No. 170975 eff. 16.12.43, authority A.629508/44/S7(2) dated 7.2.44. P/S F.W. Johnson, R148521, pilot, injured on bailing out on 20.1.44 near Driffild, visited the Squadron today from St. James Hospital, Leeds. His broken jaw, facial injuries and bruises are easing along fine and except for several missing front teeth he looks very well. He expects to be out in about a month after they have supplied him with some new teeth. Form 292 was received today showing that Sgt L. Hale, R4792, Armourer(S), obtained 75% rating and		

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CRIFT	9/2/44 (continued)		made a very satisfactory showing at No. 12 S. of T.T., Kelkham on a mark XIV Bombsight Course which he attended from 2.1.44 to 2.2.44. W/C G.E. Harris, 37878, was summoned to RAF Station Waddington for an interview with Air Commodore W. Hegeath today but it was cancelled by phone as W/C G.E. Harris, 37878, was sitting in a Halifax with engines turning over awaiting permission to take-off in charge of P/O J. Hammond, 110645, pilot and his crew, P/O J. Snelgrove, 118668, pilot, and his gunner P/O L. Morthen, 119420, and their wives, returned from leave spent at the Queens Hotel Torquay on the Nullfeld Scheme, arranged for them by the Squadron Adjutant and reported plenty of fine warm sunshine weather, good food and rest. P/O A. Wright, 146787, Nav., from 20 O.T.U. Lossiemouth visited the Squadron on liaison duty today. Flying training continued a 5 day time flights totalling 4 hrs and 3 night practice bombing flights over the Strensall range for a total of 8 hrs were completed. Sgt S.H. Morrison, 1247866, Clk G.D. left on a 9 days privilege leave at his home on the outskirts of London tonight.		
CRIFT	10/2/44		Notification was received from Records Gloucester that Lt C W. Dalton, 1161816, G.D. w/t Clerk has been selected for Motorcyclist training and will be called in about two months time. P/S F.W. Johnson, 1148221, pilot, was posted from 44 Squadron to R.C.A.F. Station Middleton St. George non-effective sick as of 25.1.44 by a 6 Group Post, was received today. Flying training continued as two daylight flights totalling 3 hrs, and five Night Cross Country sorties for a total of 24 hrs were completed. A movie show in the Station Cinema this evening under Bnna auspices was enjoyed by a large gathering. Flying consisted of two daylight flights for a total of 3 hrs and five Night Cross Country exercises totalling 24 hrs.		
CRIFT	11/2/44		A Records Draft Note dated 7.2.44 received today advised of the posting of Sgt S.H. Morrison, 1247866, Clk G.D., to No. 4 (G) A.F.U. Melton, Norfolk eff. 1.3.44 to fill an establishment vacancy. This RAF NCO has been in charge of the Squadron Orderly Room since the Squadron was formed last summer and has done an outstanding job under many handicaps of inadequate and inexperienced staff, lack of equipment and supplies, etc. The credit for our present efficient and smooth working Orderly Room is largely due to his organization, his wide knowledge of R.A.F. and R.C.A.F. methods and procedure and above all to his willingness and ability to work long hours for the sake of getting the work done. The Squadron will miss this RAF N.C.O.		

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CROFT	11/2/44 (Continued)		<p>very much but as two previous postings have been cancelled in the last two months we can not hope to have this one cancelled in view of the R.A.F. policy of withdrawing their men from the R.C.A.F. March 1/44. A Signal from Bomber Command Headquarters dated 9.2.44 received today advised that S/L C.S. Bartlett, 39928, pilot, was posted to 44 Squadron from 426 Squadron eff. 7.2.44 as Commanding Officer and granted Acting Wing Commander rank. He arrived today and took over from W/C C.E. Harris, 37678, and we are lucky to get another fine Canadian type with considerable experience in the R.A.F. dating back to prewar years. Another Signal from B.G. H.Q. advised that W/C C.E. Harris, 37678, pilot, was posted to 61 Base R.C.A.F. eff. 7.2.44 for Commandant duties at the Group Aircrew Battle School, R.C.A.F. Dalton. S/L H.K. Coull, 109507, 6 Group Gunnery Leader and S/L J. Clark, 315467, 405 Squadron Gunnery Leader visited the Squadron today. These Officers are exchanging posts and S/L H.K. Coull, 109507, was introducing his successor to Squadron personnel. A Records Signal received today advised of the posting of Sgt T. Phillips, 611010, P2A, to 75 Squadron R.A.F. eff. 11.2.44 to fill establishment vacancies. Signals from 6 Group H.Q. this morning notified P/L G.T. Sutherland, 63180, Squadron Adjutant and the first body to be posted to this Squadron on 13.6.43 and P/L J.C. Gleasing, 67927, Adjutant R.C.A.F. Station Croft to exchange posts on attachment pending postings eff. 10.2.44. P/L G.T. Sutherland, 63180, Squadron Adjutant would very much prefer to remain as Squadron Adj. indefinitely although the other post is a much easier assignment and supposed to be an advancement for him on the road to promotion which is something in which he is not interested. Improved weather conditions permitted a step-up in flying conditions permitted a step-up in flying training and six daylight and five Night Cross Country were completed for a total of 8 and 24 hrs flying times respectively.</p>		
CROFT	12/2/44		<p>A Records Signal dated 10.2.44 received today posted Sgt G. Fairlough, 616102, P2E, to No. 30 Squadron Tuddenham eff. 12.2.44 to fill an establishment vacancy so we lose yet another R.A.F. key point man who is sorry to go. Promotions were received today by B.G. H.Q. posts from for P/L J.W.E. Tyler, 111496, pilot, and P/L F. Carter, pilot, to Squadron Leaders eff. 1.2.44 as A and B Flight Commanders respectively. A Records Draft Note dated 5.2.44 received today posted Sgt H. Nicholls, 1000248, P2E to A.M. Unit eff. 26.1.44 to fill establishment vacancy.</p>		158

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CROFT	12/2/44 (Continued)		<p>Op1 L. Morris, 872337a of the W/T Section received a signal today advising him that he was the proud father of a baby boy and he left for his home in Cheltenham, Gloucester on a 40 hrs pass to see his son and heir and his wife. Another 6 Group H.Q. Signal dated 10.2.44 posted Sgt J.S. Thompson, 1796355, A/C, and Sgt L.R. Glaisher, 1210183, A/C, from 434 Squadron to 433 Squadron eff. 11.2.44 for operational duties. Both have been spares on this Squadron for some time.</p> <p>A sick report from No. 10 Gen. Gen. Hospital advised that P/S E.A. Vigor, 852535, pilot, admitted there on 8.2.44 was suffering from Post Concussion Syndrome. Aircrew of 434 and 431 Squadrons attended a lecture in the briefing room today at 1400 hrs. The speaker was Commander R.A. MacDonald, R.N., who spoke on Mining and he proved to be very interesting. Very adverse weather conditions today prevent any flying activity and no Ops. were scheduled for tonight. This unofficial stand-down enabled many squadron types to visit their favourite places of entertainment in Croft, Darlington and other nearby centres.</p>		
CROFT	13/2/44		<p>A 6 Group H.Q. postagram dated 7.2.44 received today advised that P/O R. Johnson, 159714, Nav., in the crew of W/O C.E. Harris, 17878, was to visit No. 22 O.T.U. on Feb. 13th and 14th for Navigation liaison duties. He is at present on leave but he is being advised re the above assignment. Another commision was received today from A.M. for Sgt H.P. Lane, 976217, WCP/AG., as P/O NO. 17097, eff. 23.1.44. He is a member of P/O J.L. Smelgrove, 118668, which is now fully commissioned through out. An A.M. signal dated 12.2.44 requested that W/O J.A. Somers, 8120021, A/C, report to S/L Lemon, R.C.A.F. O/S H.Q. at 0930 hrs. on Wed. 16.2.44 for interviewing and he is proceeding on 15.2.44. Sgt P.D. Rinehart, 853820, of the Assessment Section reported today that he had visited P/O Kennedy, 615421 our former Assessment Officer in Ward No. 2 of the R.A.F. Hospital North Allerton, where he has been in a plaster cast from knee to waist since being injured by exploding incendiaries on the airfield on the afternoon of 29.1.44. He is doing nicely but will be in hospital for another 6 weeks or so and then expects to be repatriated to Canada. There is now little or no danger of his losing his leg which was a big possibility for a while after the accident. Friends and visitors and cigarettes will be welcome as time hangs heavy on his hands. P/O E. McPherson, 722449, pilot, of one of our newly arrived crews, has been granted 7 days leave from 0900 hrs. 20.2.44. His wife is Lt.(W.S.) McPherson.</p>		

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GHQFT	13/2/44		No. 9 Gen. Gen. Hospital, Norwich, and her leave start on 29.2.44. We have signalled her G.O. today on behalf of her husband asking if her leave can be arranged to coincide with that of her husband. The usual Sunday service for Protestant and R.C. Personnel were held this morning in the Station Chapels by the Padres and were well attended on a voluntary basis. There was no Ops. scheduled for tonight because of adverse weather conditions. A movie show in the Officers Mess tonight sponsored the the I.M.C.A. was enjoyed by a large gathering.		
GHQFT	14/2/44		An A.M. Signal dated 14.2.44 advised that the I.R.C.G. quoting German information had reported F/O J.G. McConnell, J14515, B/AG, and F/O A.H. MacKay, J15433, Nav., in the crew of P/O A.V.G. Austin, 157796, pilot, missing on operations since the 20.12.43 raid on Frankfurt, are now P of W. This news ends our anxiety re this crew as all members are reported as P. of W. Word was received from Records today that AG2 P. Williams, AMH/F.M. (5) 2216151, had been awarded a Progressive Pay increase from 3s. to 3s.9d. per day eff. 5.1.44 on completion of one year's service in trade and rank. R.A.F. Form 292 was received today advising that LAG E.G. Lohme, H112719, Instrument Maker has passed No. 42 Course at No. 12 S. of T.T. Melkham, on Mark XIV Bombsight maintenance with a 52% standing and satisfactory results. A 6 Group H.Q. postagram dated 12.2.44 advised that Sgt C.E. Holby, R98570, was detailed to attend and A.R.I. 5153 Course at H.C. H.Q. starting 5.3.44. Our first copy of the newly instituted London Gazette Supplement arrived today confirming the appointment of Sgt. S.A. Mitton, 537513, P/E, to P/O No. 54000 eff. 18.12.43. These supplement of the London Gazette will fill a long felt want on R.C.A.F. Units especially on satellite and dispersed stations where the London Gazette was seldom available for checking re promotions etc of R.A.F. Officers. It's a good idea. There was only limited flying today and four daylight flights were completed for a total of 5 hrs. No Ops. were scheduled for tonight.		
GHQFT	15/2/44		Shortly after 10.00 hrs today, news came thru that the Squadron was required for Ops tonight so all sections were very busy during the day getting everything in readiness for the take-off. Twelve aircraft from this Squadron were in the line at zero hour and took-off in rapid succession. In charge of crews captained by P/S N. Goulet, H138521, P/O J. Hancock, J10645, P/O J. Snelgrove, J18668, with P/S H. Frith, H133144, as 2nd pilot, P/L L. Cameron, J1724, P/S R. Saltzberry, H12965.		

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CHOPT	15/2/44 (Continued)		<p>P/O D. Morrison, J19396, with WO A. Gibb, CW2427, as 2nd pilot, S/L F. Carter, J13993, with P/O W. McPherson, J22449, as 2nd Pilot, W/O D. Evans, J21016, P/S E. McQueen, R139401, P/O G. Murray, J15249, P/O H. Beames, J18779 and P/O P. Beaman, J19397, with P/S W. Wood, R157600 as 2nd pilot. There had been no flying all day because of adverse weather conditions with fog and low clouds and rain. The weather improved somewhat by take-off time but was none too good and it is expected that our A/C will land at diversion bases in the south of England on return which he expected to be about 0130 hrs. tomorrow. W/O C.E. Harris, J7878, our former Squadron C.O., left this morning by train for N.R.U., R.A.F. Loughborough where he expects to be for about three weeks having treatment on his "trick" knee which has been bothering him for some time and is the result of injuries sustained in a flying accident during operations in 1940. There were two early returns before midnight as "C" in charge of P/O J. Hasmond, J10645, and crew reported in from Home at 2225 hrs. because of fuel shortage and P/S F. McQueen, R139401, and crew in "U" landed at Thurleigh, reporting that the A/C would not climb properly.</p>		
CHOPT	16/2/44		<p>Our A/C had all reported in from diversion bases by an early hour this morning with the exception of "Y" in charge of S/L F. Carter, J13993, pilot, P/O W. McPherson, J22449, 2nd pilot, P/O S. Jenkins, J18996, Nav., WO B. Goodfellow, R123319, P/O E. Forde, J17977, SGT/SG. P/O J. Hood, J19511, P/O J. Wheeler, J19486, P/O J. Blanchard, CW462, P/S, and they have been regretfully reported as missing on operations against Berlin. An advice from Records dated 10.2.44 received today detailed IAC E. Marston, Inst. Rep. II, JAC9496 to attend No. 1 S. of T.T. from 21.2.44 for training as Instrument Repairer I. A signal from Records today advised that IAC A. Janson, R132473, A.S.M., was posted to No. 1 S. of T.T. off 21.2.44 for training and reuniting to P/S. A 6 Group H.Q. Postagram received today detailed IAC A.D. McKennie, R153872 to attend a Radar Course at R.C.A.F. Station Dalton from 21.2.44 to 6.3.44. Operations were scheduled for tonight and everything was in readiness when word was received just before take-off that adverse weather had caused a cancellation. There were only two daylight flights today for a total of 2 hrs but last night's Ops resulted in 12 sorties totalling 80 hrs. Flying time being recorded. A movie show in the Station Cinema under Euse auspices was well attended and proved very entertaining.</p>		

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OPERATIONAL RECORD BOOK

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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	17/2/44		<p>A Draft Note from Records dated 14.2.44 received today advised that LAC A. Charron, RL24311, Radar Mech., was posted from 431 to 434 Squadron eff. 14.2.44 to fill establishment vacancy.</p> <p>A 6 Group Signal dated 16.2.44 received today confirmed recent telephone advice that P/O D. Morrison, J19398, Pilot, P/O A.F. Hysman, J19421, Nav., P/O R.B. Baroni, J19400, A/B., Sgt H. Fletcher, 1525056, WOP/AG., P/S C.S. Johnston, RL65049, A/G., and P/S P.J. Molanus, 1073053, S/W., and Sgt E. Fahy, 1760096, P/B., were posted to 405 Squadron, P.F.F., in No. 8 Group eff. 17.2.44, reporting to N.T.U. Upwood, enroute. The Squadron is reluctant to lose this fine crew which is one of our few remaining originals, but 6 Group were adamant and would not take NO for an answer, despite our very great need of experienced crews on the Squadron due to recent serious losses. A Records Signal dated 16.2.44 received today posted Cpl H. Cole, 1466552, photographer, to No. 16 Squadron R.A.F. Hatford Bridge eff. 18.2.44 to fill an establishment vacancy. He must be medically fit for Overseas service. We have signalled for a deferment of this posting until a replacement is received as he is in charge of our Photographic Section and if he leaves immediately the operational efficiency of the squadron will suffer. An Air Ministry postagram dated 25.1.44 received today via 1664 Gen. Unit and 6 Group H.Q. advised that P/O F. Lots, J27152, H/A., had been promoted P/O Effective 11.12.43. Letters were received today from the Caterpillar Club stating that P/O H. Flawelling, J18927, Pilot, P/S E. Vigar, R52535, Pilot, P/O D.R. Hutcheon, J21893, Nav., P/O R. Brown, J19419, A/B., Sgt S. Thompson, 1080427, WOP/AG., P/O F. Clayton, 169042, WU/AG., P/O R. Dobney, 170655, P/W., P/S E. Johnson, RL48521, Pilot, P/O R. Davis, J20968, Nav., Sgt J. Campbell, RL52869, A/B., Sgt A. Hession, 1503920, WOP/AG., Sgt W. Whitton, RL91709, WU/AG., Sgt. D. Tofflemire, RL87609, H/AG., Sgt S.C. Phillips, 1331422, P/E., and P/O A.M. Austin, 157596, Pilot, had been enrolled as members. Flying today consisted of three daylight flights totalling 4 hours and the operations scheduled for tonight were cancelled early in the afternoon because of adverse met forecasts.</p>		
CHOPT	18/2/44		<p>A 6 Group Postagram dated 14.2.44 received today advised us that P/O V. Iana, 155868, WOP/AG., was to report to A.C.S.B. Doncaster, at 1000 hrs. on 21.2.44 for interview regarding pilot training after completion of his first tour. Commissions were received in today's mail for Sgt S. Saprunoff, RL49100, A/G., as P/O No. 19732 effective 16.12.43 and for WO G.T.R. Lee,</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
GHFT	18/2/44 (Continued)		<p>R2600s, Nav., as P/O No. J19734 eff. 18.12.43 but they have both been missing on operations since 28.1.44. Flying today consisted of four flights for a total of five hours and once again adverse met forecasts caused a cancellation of operations shortly before take off time. Anyway we are getting in plenty of briefing hours etc these last few days. A movie show in the Station Theatre under Esas auspices was enjoyed by a large gathering of all ranks.</p>		
GHFT	19/2/44		<p>Today's mail uncluded commissions for Sgt W.L. Kunkel, R186323, A/G., as P/O No. J19755 eff. 18.12.43 and for P/S H.W. O'Gorman, R117236, Nav., as P/O No. J19731 eff. 16.12.43. They are both in the crew of P/O J.H. Keane, J19422, and are on leave at present, so we have advised them by signals sent to their respective leave addresses today. Operations for tonight were announced shortly after 10.00 hrs and the sections have been very busy all day getting everything in readiness for the take off after several postponements finally took place around 23.00 Hrs. Our A/C "Q" in charge of P/L L.H. Cameron, J1726, "R" P/O J. Pollard, J18999, "S" P/O H. Pratt, J19004, "C" P/O J. Hammond, J10645, "B" P/S A. Hegarth, R14411, "H" P/O D. Evans, J21016, "W" P/S H. Hawley, R142050, "V" P/O G. Murray, J15249 and "Z" P/O H. Beards, J18779, took off in quick succession and after circling the aerodrome while gaining height, set course and disappeared in the blackness of the night. This late take off means a return around 6 or 7 A.M. tomorrow as it is a long trip with overloaded tanks. There were four daylight flights for a total of four hours flying times today. A 6 Group Signal dated 18.2.44 received today advised us that P/S K.R. Walte, R21131, A/S., was being posted to 44 Squadron effective today for retraining and operational duty. An Air Ministry letter dated 16.2.44 received today advised us that Sgt N.E. Rinehart, R63820, Armourer, was to report there for an interview with the Selection Board at 0915 Hrs. on 28.2.44 regarding his application for a commission in his trade. The usual "Liberty" bus runs were cancelled because of the M.T. vehicles being required for operational purposes but a goodly number of Squadron personnel who were not on operational duties made the usual Saturday afternoon and evening pilgrimages to Croft, Darlington and other nearby centres in search of fun and amusement.</p>		
GHFT	20/2/44		<p>This morning news is not good. Out of the nine aircraft from this Squadron that took off on operations last night, "C" in charge of P/O J. Hammond, J10645, pilot, and "W" in charge of P/S</p>		

# 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
CHIEF	20/2/44 (Continued)		<p>H. Hawley, RL2050, pilot, and their respective crews, returned early one with W/T equipment U/S and the other reporting no climbing ability. Three other aircraft "Q", "Y" and "Z" are unreported since take-off and along with the crews have been listed as missing on operations against Leipzig. The missing aircraft include P/L. L.H. Cameron, J374, pilot, P/S J. Gilman, R15385, Nav., P/S G. Raymond, R159122, W/A, P/O D. Rioux, J24064, WCP/AG., SGT J. Holder, 185476, WU/AG., Sgt E. Davies, 1652436, R/AG., and Sgt G. Barrier, R76168, V/E., P/O G. Murray, J15243, pilot, P/O W. Haylor, J22592, Nav., P/O C. Broadfoot, W/A., W/O J. Donnelly, R99791, WCP/AG., Sgt R. McGregor, R163001, WU/AG., Sgt A. Pearce, R186525, R/AG., and Sgt J. Dove, 1075279, P/E., and P/O H. Beames, J18772, pilot, P/O W. Gallagher, J14780, Nav., P/S D. Temple, R162985, W/A., Sgt G. Hand, 1577300, WCP/AG., Sgt E. Jennings, R190981, WU/AG., Sgt G. Hatch, R191278, R/AG., and St W. Oliver, 1562367, P/E. These losses bring our total of missing aircraft to 43 crews plus two other individuals killed in a/c that managed to get back to the U.K. So far, out of the total of 303 Officers and N.C.O.'s reported missing since the Squadron began operating on 12.8.43, two have reached the U.K., 71 have been reported as Prisoners of War and 68 are killed and 142 are still unreported to date. Sgt E. Paly, 1760096, P/E., and P/S G. Johnston, R165069, A/G., in the crew of P/O D. Morrison, J19398, who are reporting to 405 Squadron, on posting tomorrow were interviewed by the Station Commander at Middleton St. George this afternoon in connection with their applications for a commision. Sgt H. Fletcher, 1520006, WCP/AG and P/S P. Molanus, WU/AG of the same crew were interviewed by W/O W.F. Newson, DPC, C963, acting Station Commander, R.C.A.F. Staff, regarding their applications for commisions and arrangements have been made for them to be interviewed by the Station Commander at Middleton St. George tomorrow morning. The usual Sunday services for Protestant and R.C. Personnel were held by the Station Chaplain this morning and well attended on a voluntary basis. A 6 Group Postgram dated 16.2.44 received today advised that P/O M. Flavelling, J18927, pilot, had been promoted to A/P/L effective 5.2.44, as Deputy Flight Commander of "B" Flight. Last night's operational flying consisted of 2 sorties totalling 66 hours and there were 3 daylight flights for a total of 2 hrs flying time today.</p>	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CHIEF	21/2/44		<p>A letter dated 17.2.44 from A.O.S.B. R.A.F. Doncaster, advised us that P/O W.A.R. McLean, J18767, W/A., and P/O A.R. Waters, 169117, WCP/AG., were to report there at 10.00 hrs on 29.2.44</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CRAFT	21/2/44 (Continued)		<p>For interview in regard to their recent applications for Pilot training on completion of their first operational tour. Sgt H. Fletcher, 1225056, R/R/AIR and P/S P. Williams, 1073053, R/R/AIR, were interviewed by the Station Commander at Middleton St. George this morning regarding their recent application for commissions. They leave on posting to 405 Squadron P.F.P. this afternoon. A Records Signal dated 19.2.44 posted AC J. Richmond, 1696454, Electrician II to 34 S of T. Colonel Snellwell, eff. 24.2.44 to fill an establishment vacancy providing he is medically fit for C/S service. Postagram from No. 1 Airman Convalescent Depot, 4 Harrow Place, Blackpool, dated 17.2.44 advised that LAC H.C. Loucks, R192476, was reporting back to the Squadron for duty following several months spent in hospital as a result of breaking his leg last summer at Thelthorpe. A G Group postagram received today advised that P/S K.R. Felte, R81131, R/A.S. posted from 405 to 404 Squadron eff. 19.2.44 for operational duties as a spare. Records Form 269C dated 18.2.44 received today detailed LAC H. Smith, R160142, Inst. Rep. I, for a Mark XIV Bomberight Course at No. 12 S of T.T. starting 1.3.44. W/O R. Morrison, R106095, WCE/AG., was admitted to Ward 16, R.A.F. Hospital, North Allerton on 17.2.44 according to advice received today. There were 7 daylight flights for a total of 8 hours flying times completed today. A movie show entitled "Stormy Weather" put on in the Station Theatre under Esna auspices was enjoyed by a large gathering of all ranks. Ops were planned for tonight and 6 of our A/C took off but were recalled due to adverse weather and returned to base early in the evening.</p>		
CRAFT	22/2/44		<p>An Air Ministry Signal dated 21.2.44 was received today advising Cpl J. Beare, 1247457, Armourer, that his home had been severely damaged by enemy action over London and requesting compassionate leave for him. He left for his home on the evening from Darlington. A commission was received in today's mail for Sgt R. A. Booth, R60250, W/E., as P/O No. G19795 eff. 16.12.43. A G Group signal dated 20.2.44 received today advised us that 2 spare A/C's were posted to this Unit effective immediately for completion of flying training and crewing. They are Sgt K.H. Miller, R209064, and Sgt J.R. Miller, R283565, but they are not related to one another. An R.A.F. Draft Note dated 17.2.44 received from Records today advised us that LAC H. Levy, R180300 and LAC J. Lemay, R180555, Radar Techs., were posted to 404 Squadron from No. 3 PR.C. eff. 16.2.44 to fill establishment vacancies. S.H.Q. advised today that action had been taken under A.K.O.</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	22/2/44	(Continued)	A.559/43 para. 10 (iii) in regard to F/S W. Keefe, R171554, A/C., who was declared permanently unfit for aircrew duties and grounded by a Medical Board at No. 1 C.O.S. on 11.1.44. There was no flying today due to adverse met. conditions.		
CROFT	23/2/44		The weather improved slightly today and 4 daylight flights totalling 3 hours were completed. There were no Ops. tonight. Rumors persist that this Squadron and other Halifax Squadrons in 6 Group have been withdrawn from use against major targets and it is causing a lot of uneasiness among aircrew. The R.C.A.F. show "Blackouts" visited the station today and played to a packed house of Officers and Sr. N.C.O.'s from 1930 to 2300 hrs in the Station Theatre. It was an excellent show and drew a great deal of applause from the audience. There will be afternoon and evening performances for other ranks tomorrow. The troupe were entertained in the Officers Mess following this evening's performance and departed about midnight by M.T. to spend the night at R.C.A.F. Station Middleton St. George. That show or any others like it will always be very welcome. There were 4 daylight flights for a total of 3 hours flying times completed and no Ops. were scheduled for tonight.		
CROFT	24/2/44		A Bomber Command H.Q. Postagram posting notice dated 21/2/44 advised us that F/L L.H. Cameron, F7736, had been promoted to A/S/L effective 17.2.44 as O.C. of "B" Flight but unfortunately he has been missing on operations since 19.2.44. An R.A.F. Draft Note dated 21.2.44 posted Sgt A. Hurley, R111401, Photographer to 43 Squadron from R.A.F. Station Leeming to fill an establishment vacancy. The R.C.A.F. show "Blackouts" played afternoon and evening performances in the Station Theatre to packed audiences of airmen and were accorded tumultuous applause. The show troupe were entertained in the Sgt's Mess following the evening performance. There were 3 daylight flights today and this evening 7 aircraft took off on an operational sortie, which turned out to be more or less of a stooge affair. They proceeded out over the North Sea to within about 80 miles of the enemy coast and then returned to base about 21.00 hrs. Apparently some new kind of tactics designed to keep the enemy guessing as to where an attack is coming from and thus preventing him from concentrating his fighters on any one area.		
CROFT	25/2/44		An RAF Draft Note dated 22.2.44 posted LAC N. Matheson, R218601, and AGI J. Hayman, R223378, Amoursers (B) to 43 Squadron from RAF Station Kirton-in-Lindsey to fill establishment vacancies.		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CROFT	25/2/44 (Continued)		<p>A commision was received in todays mail for WO2 G.D. Goodfellow, RL23319, A/B., as P/O No. J19853, effective 21.1.44 but unfortunately he has been missing on operations since the 15.2.44 raid on Berlin. There was only limited flying today as Ops. were planned for tonight and all our efforts were expended in getting the A/C ready for take-off, scheduled for 2000 hrs and necessitating marshalling of the A/C at 1600 hrs. However the limited daylight flying produced plenty of thrills during the late afternoon. P/O J. Pollard, J18999, pilot, and his regular crew, consisting of P/O P.L. Rowe, J16034, Nav., P/O R. James, J22039, B/A., P/O G. Phillips, 169400, WOE/AIR, P/S J. Cerat, RL2023f, W/AG., P/O H. Aiton, J19485, B/AG., and Sgt S. Mulligan, 1800429, P/S., took off in "A" MK 907, for an Air-Test. This Aircraft is the oldest one on this Squadron and had 18 operational trips to its credit. There were three other airmen on board, namely Sgt N.M. Ford, 313414, FEA, WCO A/c the Aircraft, and Col J. Farnham, E98431, another fitter employed on this A/C and WO2 R. Welte, BE1131, and A/B who was taking instruction on the Bombight. During the flight and while the A/C was at about 1100 feet a bird believed to be a sea-gull, hit the windscreen in front of the pilot, shattering it badly and causing the pilot severe and painful cuts and bruises about both eyes and the complete loss of vision for the time. He was unable to control the A/C and P/O R. James, J22039, A/B., took over the controls and flew the A/C back to base. After three attempts to land, during which he was greatly handicapped by the blood spattered wind-shield and a strong wind blowing in thru the shattered screen, he touched down on the runway, bounced high in the air but kept the A/C level, touched down and bounced twice more, swung off the runway, careened over the grass, across the perimeter track and a dispersed site and finally came to rest on a pile of rocks and started to burn around the starboard inner engine. All ten Officers and airmen on board clambered out of the wrecked A/C and were standing under one wing congratulating each other on their miraculous escape when the Ambulance, fire-trucks, etc arrived. The A/C was a total wreck but no one on board suffered any further injuries except for scratches, bruises and shock. It was a very praiseworthy effort on the part of the B/A as he had never previously attempted to land any type of aircraft and his flying training consisted of only a few hrs. at the control on Cross Country flying. He received invaluable aid from the Navigator, P/O P. Rowe, J16034, who is a 2nd tour man, and who sat beside him at</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events -	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CRIFT	24/2/44	(continued)	<p>the controls and guided him in by oral instructions as as he could see out of the other side of the windscreen. The pilot had gone back to the rest position and despite considerable loss of blood and personal discomfort from his injuries, he calmly directed the Navigator and Bomber over the intercom on what to do in bringing the A/C down for a landing. All members of the crew and the 3 passengers remained calm throughout and refused to bale out, preferring to stick with the A/C and chance a crash landing. The calmness displayed by all concerned doubtless contributed largely to their escape unscathed. The pilot is in the U.S.A. and will be there for a week or so but everyone else concerned is up and around and the centre of groups of eager and interested listeners. Our operations planned for tonight went off as planned with take-off starting at 2000 hrs. Squadron A/C involved were "K" in charge of W/O G. Bartlett, 19920, and crew, "L" in charge of W/O J. Swelgrove, 118668, and crew, "M" in charge of W/O R. Pratt, 11904, "N" in charge of W/S H. Goulet, 813621 and crew, "O" in charge of W/S R. Saltberry, 812960, "P" in charge of W/S A. Haggath, 813111, and crew, "Q" in charge of W/L H. Flewelling, 118927, and crew, "R" in charge of W/S H. Hensley, 814200, and crew and "S" in charge of W/O P. Bourcavage, 11227 and crew. It is a gardening effort tonight and they are expected back about 02.00 Hrs. tomorrow.</p>		
CRIFT	26/2/44		<p>A phone call from W/O Hallett of 6 Group H.Q. today advised us that W/O R. Johnson, 15774, Nav., and a member of the crew of W/O G.B. Harris, 12770, former G.O. of this Squadron, was screened from further operations and posted for instructional duties to 22 G.T.N. effective 6.4.44. An Air Ministry signal dated 26.2.44 stated that the I.R.C.G. quoting German information had reported W/S R.N. Wallace, 87305, W/O, in the crew of W/L F.G. Lord, 14822, missing on operations since the 27.2.44 raid on Bamber, as dead, but no other particulars are given. He is the first member of this crew to be reported. Another A.M. signal dated 21.4.44 stated that the I.R.C.G. quoting German information had reported that W/O F.H. Kipp, 72840, Nav., in the crew of W/O G. Smith, 12121, missing on operations since the 20.4.44 raid on Berlin, is now a prisoner of war. A commiseration was received in today's mail for W/S F.H. Hopson, 813407, pilot, as W/O No. 112641 off 21.4.44. The Squadron Assistant W/L G.T. Butterland, 21180, who was the first member of this Squadron to report in on posting when the Squadron started to form on</p>		

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Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	SECRET.	References to Appendices
CRUFT	26/2/44 (Continued)		June 1943, leaves today to take up his new duties as Adjutant of R.C.A.F. Station, Cruft. He was sorry to leave the Squadron and would have been quite content to remain as Sqdn. Adj. in his present rank for the duration of the War. P/L J. Gleesing, C7729, formerly Adjutant of R.C.A.F. Station Cruft has taken over as Squadron Adj. today.		
CRUFT	27/2/44		Experienced typical Yorkshire weather today with Snow, Rain, Hail, Wind and with plenty of mud underfoot all helps to make life more cheerful. No flying this date due to inclement weather. P/O G.H. Goodman, C16356, engineering leader for the Squadron promoted to the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant - another party. Two Air Gunners, Sgt E.R. Miller, R209004 (RCAF) and Sgt R. Miller, R223565 (RCAF) posted to this squadron from 1664 Conversion Unit to complete training and subsequent re-crewing.		
CRUFT	28/2/44		Authorities called for an effort of eight aircraft for operations during the morning. After numerous amendments, re-time during the entire day it was finally cancelled. P/O G.A. Booth, (C13725)(RCAF) Flight Engineer posted to No. 405 Squadron. Only flying today is over Cross Country.		
CRUFT	29/2/44		Sadie Hawkins Day with the sun in sight the entire day. One Air Test, one cross country and two fighter affiliation exercises were carried out. A film on Venereal Disease was shown for all aircrew personnel and seems to have the required effect as disease is practically nil. No severe illness on the Squadron during the months, common colds and influenza being most common with low hospitalization.		
<u>MEDICAL STRENGTH OF UNIT AS AT 29th FEBRUARY 1944</u>					
<u>OFFICERS</u>					
	<u>ALIGNED</u>	<u>GROUNDWORK</u>	<u>ALIGNED</u>	<u>GROUNDWORK</u>	
RCAF	48	2	91	215	
RCAF (RMA)	-	-	-	-	
RAF	28	-	38	39 (including 10 WAAF)	
RAF (GWS)	1	-	-	-	
RCAF	-	-	-	-	
RCAF	-	-	-	-	
Total	67	2	129	254	

# OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

APPENDIX \_\_\_\_\_

A.F. FORM 560  
FORM 560

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT

By No. 43 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

**SECRET**

PAGE NO. 39

Form 560-1 (Rev. 1-1944) 100-45012-101-101A 100-45012-101A 100-45012-101A 100-45012-101A

FOR THE MONTH OF February 1944

DATE	AIRCRAFT TYPE & NUMBER	CREW	DUTY	TIME		DETAILS OF SORTIE OR FLIGHT	REFERENCES
				Up	Down		
			Number of hours flown operationally during the month of February 1944		-	316 Hrs 35 mins.	
			Number of hours flown non-operational during the month of February 1944		-	159 Hrs 55 mins.	
			Number of operational sorties during the month of February 1944		-	29 sorties	(11)
			Number of Aircraft and type on charge of Squadron on 29th February 1944		-	14 Aircraft	

*C.S. Barlett*  
(C.S. BARLETT) Wing Commander,  
Commanding Officer  
No. 43 Squadron (R.C.A.F.)

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