

434 Bomber Squadron was first formed at Tholthorpe England on 13 June 1943 as a unit of No. 6 Bomber Group. It began operations on 12 August of that year and continued to operate from Tholthorpe until 11 December 1944, moving the following day to Croft. The Squadron operated there for the remainder of its stay in England. Equipped first with the Handley Page Halifax, the Bluenosers converted to Halifax III's in May 1944. The Squadron was adopted by the Rotary Club of Halifax and took the nickname "Bluenose" in reference to the common nickname for Nova Scotians. The schooner "Bluenose" is well known for its fine record. 434 Bomber Squadron switched again this time to the Canadian built Lancaster in December 1944. During the war years they flew some 2600 combat sorties, dropped 10,575 tons of bombs and mines, and lost 68 crew. Besides acquiring approximately 150 individual decorations, Honours and awards, the Bluenosers received the following battle Honours;



English Channel; North Sea 1943-1944; Baltic 1943-1944; Fortress Europe 1943-1944; France and Germany 1944-1945; Biscay Ports 1944; Ruhr 1943-1945; Berlin 1943-1944; German Ports 1944-1945; Normandy 1944; The Rhine.

"Slats" as he was known during war time, was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada March 16th, 1924. The information below was taken from his diary that was kept during the war.

L.A.C. Jordan (Slats) Zlatteff R160866

Royal Canadian Air Force



Saturday, November 1, 1941 I left home and went to Edmonton with **Jim Windle**. We went up there to get work. Jim Windle got a job at the 4X Bakery, but he got sick and had to go home, so I got his job. I worked at the 4X Bakery until Jan 8th and then I was transferred to the bakery at Calgary. Jim Windle came into Calgary and got a job with the Searle Grain Co. Jim and I boarded together at the Deer Lodge until Easter. Jim got tired of working, so when we went out to Munson for the Easter holidays Jim stayed at home. I went back and worked at the Fourex Bakery.

Monday, May 11th, 1942 I joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as an "Armourer". I arrived at No.1 Manning Depot on May 14th, 1942.



R.C.A.F. Badge



No. 1 Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario

Thursday, May 14, 1942 I completed my training there and on July 5th I was sent to RCAF Mountain View, Ontario, to take a course in Armament. I completed my exams there in 7 weeks.



No. 6 B & G Mountainview, Ontario

Tuesday, August 25, 1942 I arrived in Lethbridge to join 133 Fighter Squadron. It was made up entirely of Hurricanes and it was really swell working around planes like that. There were 12 machine guns on each aircraft so we had plenty to do.



133 Squadron Crest

Sunday, October 4, 1942 I was posted to No.10 Repair Depot, Calgary Alberta and I'm still there at the beginning of this diary.



No. 3 Service Flying Training School (Left) No. 10 Repair Depot (Right)

Thursday, December 24, 1942 I got off work the day before Christmas and went to Drumheller for the Christmas Eve Dance. **George Sibbald** was home from Camp Borden, Ontario and **Donald Cragg** also. We had a whale of a time. Christmas day, **Mark** & **Gerry** and I drove to Twining to spend Christmas at **Letty** and **Kens**. We had a real feed and a lot of fun. Went back to Drumheller Sunday afternoon and took the bus back to Calgary Sunday night. **Irene Sharpe** and I accompanied each other on the way.

Wednesday, December 30, 1942 Started my 19 days leave today. Furlough and New Year's leave combined. Went to Drumheller on the bus, got a bottle of Scotch and went up to Munson with **Letty** & **Ken**. I took **Peggy Fisher** to the dance and had a swell time. **Bub** & **Marg. G.** & **Jim, Wilfred Crough, Catherine, Joey G. & Longmate** were there and we had a lot of fun. Went out to **Windles** after the dance. Didn't have enough to drink to tell you the truth.

Thursday, December 31, 1942 Slept late. We all went over to **Rosgen's** for supper. **Peggy** & **Lila, Mary Bagley, Dick, Pat, Mildred, Mr. & Mrs. Rosgen & Tommy, Bub, Jim, Catherine** and myself had a real feed. Then we all went to the New Years Eve dance in Drumheller. I took **Peggy Fisher** again. We had lots to drink, in fact, a little too much on my part. Went up to **Fishers** after the dance. And we woke **Peggy's** folks up and wished them a Happy New Year. Had tea and went home with **Windles** again.

NAME Z LATTEFF, J.		NUMBER 7160566	
VACCINATION	DATE MAY 16 1942	NO TAKE	PRIMARY TAKE
DICK TEST	DATE MAY 16 1942	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
S.F. TOXIN	DATE	DATE	DATE
SCHICK TEST	DATE MAY 16 1942	POSITIVE	NEG. 6
DIPHTHERIA TOXOID	DATE MAY 27 1942	DATE	DATE
T. A. B. T.	DATE MAY 16 1942	DATE	DATE
REMARKS: R.C.A.P. # 23 100M-142 (1504) P.C. 100M-142		T.O.S. 14/5/42	

Medical Card Dated May 16th, 1942

Friday, January 1, 1943 Slept late again. Went to Munson with Windles. Letty & Ken were at Sibbalds so I went down there and had a nice supper. Went to Drumheller with Sibbalds and went up to look in at the dance. I didn't go in though. I met Bernice Dick there. I hadn't seen her for sometime. Bill Pringle and I went up to Johnson's. Mark & Gerry were there but they stayed all night. Buster and I slept together at Mark's place. Ate all the turkey.

Saturday, January 2, 1943 Went to the dance with Bill Pringle. Mark & Gerry and the Johnson's were there. Peggy & Catherine were there too, but Peggy went home on the train. I took Ceina Spencer, a girl from Drumheller to supper. Bill Pringle took Catherine. Then Ceina and I went up to the Whitehouse Hotel where there was a party. Had a little beer and took her home about 3 o'clock. Ceina's a nice kid, and I hope to see her again, soon.

Sunday, January 3, 1943 Went skating at the Arena in Drumheller. Swede, who came home on leave yesterday came down and took me up to his place. Ted McIntosh is home too. We both spent the night at Olsens. Catherine, George King and Marg. Guterson came as far as Munson with Swede, and Bub came in and took them out to Windles.

Monday, January 4, 1943 Swede, Ted, Peggy & myself went out to Windles for dinner. We went into the ditch on the way so Peggy and I walked up to Bob Coads to get warm, while Swede got pulled out. Had a swell meal, and then us guys went into town and played Kelly until 10 o'clock. Only cost me 20¢. Went back to Windles, then Bub drove George, Catherine, Margaret and myself back to Drumheller. I went to Marks again.

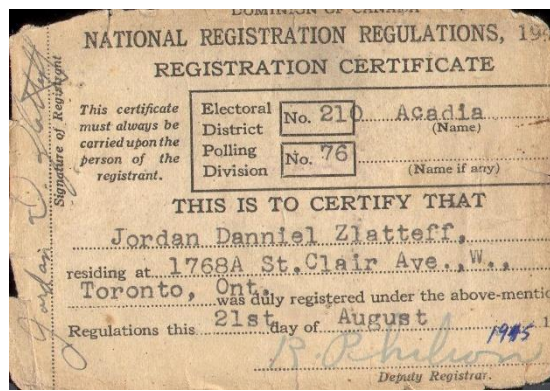
Tuesday, January 5, 1943 I took the bus to Calgary this morning. Donald Cragg did too. He's on his way back to Camp Borden, Ontario. We both saw a show in Calgary and then boarded the train for Toronto. I'm on my way down to see Mom and Stanley, and to meet my new Dad. Sure hope I like him.



Me & Kid Brother Stanley

Wednesday, January 6, 1943 Didn't sleep very good last night. These train seats aren't very comfortable. Don Cragg and I are getting along okay though. Had a ham sandwich and bottle of orange for dinner. Had supper in Winnipeg, and sent Mom a telegram.

Thursday, January 7, 1943 Didn't sleep so hot again. Still eating cheese and ham sandwiches and drinking orange. I'd give a dollar for a hamburger, (if I had a dollar). Bunch of Veteran Guards on the train. They've been guarding the prison camps for six months, and are finally being transferred. Well, it won't be long now. Don Cragg gets off at Esson just this side of Toronto.



National Registration Certificate

Friday, January 8, 1943 Arrived in Toronto this morning. Mom met me at the station. Came right out to St. Clair W. and met my stepfather, Bill Andrews for the first time. He seems to be a pretty swell fellow. He owns half share in the "Victory Restaurant" a real cute place. Met Mary O'Brian. She works at the restaurant and is sure cute. Stanley came home from work and we went to the Casino together.

Saturday, January 9, 1943 Sat around the most of the day. Stanley and I went to a show "Shores of Tripoli" at the Royal George Theatre.

Sunday, January 10, 1943 Jim Fisher came up from Manning Depot to visit us. We had supper and sat around drinking beer.

Monday, January 11th, 1943 Mom and I went downtown together. Mom bought a rug, easy chair and drapes for her new living room. She also bought a set of dishes. I got a pair of suspenders and a swell sweater.

Tuesday, January 12th, 1943 Didn't do much today. Just layed around and listened to the radio. Spent most of the night at the restaurant talking with Mary O'Brian.

Wednesday, January 13th, 1943 I bummed around most of the day. Stanley and I saw "Holiday Inn" tonight. Was a very nice picture. Jim Fisher was up and we played snooker for a while. He went home early.

Thursday, January 14th, 1943 Went shopping on St. Clair with Mom. Came home and put an extension cord on Mom's dresser lamp and fixed her sewing machine.

Friday, January 15th, 1943 Slept until noon. Went shopping with Mom. Had a phone call from Jim Fisher. He's on 72 hours leave, and left for New York tonight. Stanley and I went to the Uptown Theater and saw Hedy LaMarr and Walter Pigeon in "White Cargo." Had a milk shake at Bills "Victory Restaurant" and went home with Stanley. Leave for Calgary tomorrow nite.

Saturday, January 16th, 1943 Stanley came home from work at noon. We went out and bowled 5 games and then went home and had supper and packed my things. Bill, Mom and I went and had a beer together, but they both had to work at the restaurant, so Stanley went to the Station with me.

Sunday, January 17th, 1943 Well, here I am on the train. Not much to do. I read a Western story and a true experiences magazine and ate all the sandwiches Mom made for me. There was a train wreck along here somewhere and the train is 3 or 4 hours late, but we haven't seen any signs of a wreck so far.

Monday, January 18th, 1943 Slept most of the day. Only excitement we had was a crazy fellow on the train who took a silly notion to run through the train with his penis hanging out and yelling his head off. The Military Police grabbed him and tied him up in the baggage car. Excuse the writing, but the train is rocking pretty badly.

Tuesday, January 19th, 1943 Had a meal in Winnipeg about 2 o'clock this morning. We were sixteen hours late when we left. Sure, cold in Winnipeg. It was 40 below zero when we stopped there. Slept for a couple of hours. Played cards all day. Had a sandwich in Regina. Left Moose Jaw about 2 hours ago. Right now, the train is about 24 hours late. Nice, eh? Oh Yeah.

Wednesday, January 20th, 1943 Arrived in Calgary 8:45 this morning. Train was 24 hours late. Had my breakfast and got a ride out to barracks with M.T. driver. Worked rest of the day and went down town to get my kit bag. I went up to see Murry Gibb for a few minutes. Sure, cold here. It was 40 below all day.

Thursday, January 21st, 1943 Still plenty cold here. Didn't do much today. It's too cold to go downtown. Went for the mail but there wasn't any. Read a couple of western stories in the evening.

Friday, January 22nd, 1943 Worked today as usual. I'm on duty watch today. Had to mop floors for about an hour in the administration building. I can't go out tonight, but it's too cold anyways.

Saturday, January 23rd, 1943 I was through work at noon today. Had a couple of beers downtown, then caught the bus & went to Drumheller. **Bub W.** was pretty tight. I had a couple more beers. Played Kelly and lost \$1.50. Went up to the dance but I didn't dance. **Bub** & I slept at **Marks**. Saw most of the kids at the dance. Talked with **Ceina Spencer** for a while.

Sunday, January 24th, 1943 Slept until 10 o'clock. Spent all day playing **Mark's** trombone. Caught the bus at 8:30 P.M. Sure was a cold ride. Got out to barracks about 12:45 A.M.

Monday, January 25th, 1943 Same old grind today. Nothing of importance. Didn't get any mail. Lay around the barracks all evening and told jokes. Kind of warmed up a little here in Calgary to what it has been.

No entries for January 26th & 27th

Thursday, January 28th, 1943 On duty watch again. Had to mop floors. Sure, don't like it. Read for awhile and folded in.

Friday, January 29th, 1943 Played hockey tonight. First game in two years, and I got the first goal. Score was 2-2.

Saturday, January 30th, 1943 Met **Adam** & **Joe Hettler** downtown and we went out to Drumheller. **Bub** & **Jim** came down and we went to the dance, drank scotch & beer and got pretty high. Took **Ceina Spencer** to lunch again and then walked her home. Had a swell time.

Sunday, January, 31st, 1943 I played **Mark's** trombone all day. Then we went over to **Mr. & Mrs. Bob Johnson's** and had a swell dinner. Then I caught the bus with **Murry Gibb**. When we got into Calgary, we went to the midnight preview, and then I went up to the Bakery to see some of my old friends.

Monday, February 1st, 1943 Haven't had any sleep since Sunday morning. Just missed a draft for overseas. My two chums **Tommy Hoare** and **Paul Noel** are leaving on Friday. Sure, wish I was going with them. Went to bed at 7:30.

Tuesday, February 2nd, 1943 Same old routine all day. Feel pretty bad about not getting overseas, but I'll get over it. Went downtown and bowled with the boys tonight. Went over to see **Murry Gibb** and we played pool for awhile. Came home pretty early.

Wednesday, February 3rd, 1943 On duty watch today. Got put into the paint shop to do spray-gun painting. Not a bad job. Played hockey again tonight. Ice was pretty bad. We won 3 to 0.

Thursday, February 4th, 1943 Went out with the boys that are going Overseas and went on a good old drunk. We went to the Mandarin Gardens and raised holy old hell. Had a swell time though. Didn't have any women along, but I guess it was a good thing. Sure, will miss **Tommy** and **Paul**.

Friday, February 5th, 1943 Well, the boys left today. I sure wish them luck. Hope I go pretty soon. I'm getting tired of No. 10. I'd sure like to go back to Operational training.

No entries for February 5th & 6th

Monday, February 9th, 1943 Bowled tonight at Gibson's bowling alley. Didn't do so good. Played snooker with **Broome**. Beat him 5 out of 7 games. Challenged to play him for 5 bucks next Tuesday.

No entries for February 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, & 15th

Tuesday, February 16th, 1943 I found out this morning that I was being sent to Montreal on Temporary Duty. I'm leaving Thurs. I'll be going to the Fairchild Factory where they make Bristol Gun Turrets and learn all I can about them. Bowled a few games tonite, and lost 5 bucks playing Snooker. I was supposed to meet **Amy Brooke** tonite, but she didn't show up. I'll call her tomorrow nite.

Wednesday, February 17th, 1943 Got joed for washing windows tonite. Tried to phone Amy, but the line was busy. Went downtown and found **Murry Gibb**. We went to the show and saw "Commandos Strike at Dawn" Wasn't too bad.

Thursday, February 18, 1943 Saw **Murry Gibb** tonite. He came down to the Station with me. I'm in bed now, on my way to Montreal. Tried to get **Amy Brooke** on the phone, but the line was too busy. I'll make up to her sometime. I'm travelling C.P.R. again. Like these upper berths pretty well.

Friday, February 19th, 1943 On the train. Just turned in for the night. Not much doing. A pretty nice kid from Calgary has the berth below me. Used to be one of Bobby **Guterson's** old flames. She's going to Toronto to find work. Pretty nice company.

Saturday, February 20th, 1943 Still on the train. We're just pulling out of Sudbury. Well, I'll be in Toronto early tomorrow morning and I'll bet the folks will really be surprised to see me. Didn't do much today. Read a book, and lost 50¢ playing rap-rummy.

Sunday, February 21st, 1943 Arrived in Toronto this morning. I sure surprised **Mom** & **Stanley** when I walked in on them. Spent the day in Toronto. I met **Zylba George** in Toronto. **Mom** & I went visiting and I was introduced to her. She seems to be a swell kid. Caught the train to Montreal and arrived there at 11:30. I went to the Central Y.M.C.A. and got a room for the night.

Monday, February 22rd, 1943 I reported to No. 11 A.I.D. Detachment Headquarters early in the morning. There were 3 other fellows there and we went out to the Fairchild Plant. We looked around for awhile and began to study the Bristol Gun Turret.



Fairchild Logo

Tuesday, February 23rd, 1943 Studied all day, and got to know a few of the workers. We eat our dinner out here in the Fairchild restaurant. The cost is 35¢ so its not bad.

No entries for February 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, March 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th

Friday, March 5th, 1943 Left Montreal 3'oclock in the afternoon. Arrived in Toronto at 9 P.M. Went up to the Restaurant and had a sandwich, then went up to the house and crawled into bed with **Stanley**.

No entry for March 6th

Sunday, March 7th, 1943 I boarded the train for Calgary tonight. Sure, good to be going back West.

No Entries for March 8th & 9th

Wednesday, March 10, 1943 Arrived in Calgary at noon today. I met **James Holliday** at the station and he's on his way Overseas. Lucky Dog. Sure, wish I was going. Reported out to barracks and never got a thing for being 2 days late getting back. All the Armorers were posted Overseas. I missed the draft but I'm on posting to No. 8 B. & G. School at Lethbridge.



No. 8 B & G Patch

No entry for March 11th

Friday, March 12th, 1943 Got cleared from No. 10 today, and caught the bus for Drumheller.

Saturday, March 13th, 1943 Went to the dance, but I couldn't find a woman anywhere. I got drunker than hell after that and got home pretty late.

No entry for March 14th

Monday, March 15th, 1943 **Buster** and I had supper with **Mark** & **Gerry** and **Gerry** had a cake with 19 candles on it and they gave me a silver-grey shirt and a tie for a birthday present because I won't be here on my birthday which is tomorrow.

Tuesday, March 16, 1943 I left Drumheller on the morning bus. Met **Len LaCasse** at the C.P.R. Station. I went and got my glasses fixed and we went to a show. Boarded the train for Lethbridge tonight. Arrived there at 11:30. Slept in the guard house all night. It was too late to look for a bunk.

Wednesday, March 17th, 1943 Didn't do much today. Unpacked our stuff and layed around the barracks.

Thursday, March 18th, 1943 Sure, is good to see guns and turrets again. I really enjoy doing armament work again. Met most of the fellows I knew here before.

No entries for March 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, & 25th

Friday, March 26, 1943 I heard the best news of my life today. I'm on the draft for Overseas. I'll be reporting at Halifax near the middle of April. Passed my medical okay and am I ever happy.

Saturday, March 27th, 1943 Went to town early today, and had my Canada badges sewn on. Got a bottle of liquor and **Len** & I got a room at the Gardens. Went up to the dance and took a girl to supper. ---Censored--- Got back to the room at 9 o'clock in the morning.



Canada Patch

Sunday, March 28th, 1943 Sure, am tired today. Went back out to the barracks and packed my bags. Layed around the rest of the day. It's getting late so I better turn in.

Monday, March 29th, 1943 Had my teeth all fixed this morning and **LaCasse** and I got our clearances and pay and left #8 B & G School for the last time. We got half a doz. beer apiece and caught the train to Calgary. I went up to the Bakery but nobody was there, so I spent the night at the Royal Hotel.

Tuesday, March 30th, 1943 Got up late and went up to the Bakery and saw the kids I knew up there, especially **Amy Williams**. Caught the bus to Drumheller and got there around 9 P.M. Went to **Mark's** and crawled in for the night. They were sure surprised to find out I'm going Overseas.

Wednesday, March 31st, 1943 Murry Gibb came down from Michichi and we met George King. Went and got a bottle of wine and killed it. Met Marg. G. in the corner so we all went to the show. Bub would be pretty mad if he knew Marg. & I held hands all through the show.

Thursday, April 1st, 1943 George King and I went into the Waldorf to have a beer. Met Fitzpatrick and his brothers and we had a few more. Got feeling good but there was no place to go, so I played Mark's trombone all night.

Friday, April 2nd, 1943 Wandered around town most of the day. Had a beer with Floyd Carruthers. Met Bernice Dick and another kid in the Rainbow Café about 9:30 and another guy and I walked them home. Bernice and I talked over old times and pitched a little woo on the back steps of the Isolation hospital.

Saturday, April 3rd, 1943 Took Bernice to the dance. Donald Cragg was home on leave too. Jim Windle got down and Bub was there. We really had a time no kiddin. On the way back to the hospital Bernice fell down and skinned her knee pretty badly. We parked ourselves in the lobby of the hospital until Vera, (one of the nurses) threatened to throw us out. George King passed out somewhere. Bub & I stayed up all night at the Rainbow Café.

Sunday, April 4th, 1943 Spent the early hours of the morning at the Rainbow Café. Walked around town and in the afternoon Bub & Marg. & Cath. & George, Vera & Myself watched the military funeral for the Vosburgh boy from Drumheller. Bub and I had supper at Mark & Gerry's and met Joe & Doris in the corner. Bub & I grabbed Marg. & Pete Nabb and went to the Preview. Pitched a bit of woo before taking them home. "Pete's" a real live-wire.

Monday, April 5th, 1943 Bub and I caught the train and went to Munson. Donnie Gibb was with us and we went to his place for dinner. Went up to Olsens for a while. Had supper at Fisher's and dropped in at Sibbalds. Peggy walked out to the junction with me, and it was a rather sad good-bye. Peg is a good kid. Donnie and I went up to Mugg's room with her and Bernice. I said so long to them up there. Couple of real swell kids.

Tuesday, April 6th, 1943 On train for Toronto. Amy Brooke was down to see me off on the train. I sure was glad that I got to see her before I left because I think the world of her. I'll never forget how cute she looked in her uniform at the Station. And if she's still kicking around after the war, I hope we can start all over again. So long sweetheart; ---

Wednesday, April 7th, 1943 Slept like a log last night. Had a big breakfast. Loafed around all day playing cards and talking. No much to do on a train. I sent Mom a telegram from Winnipeg. She doesn't know I'm going Overseas yet. Guess I'll turn in.

Thursday, April 8th, 1943 Same old loafing. Played craps and lost 50¢. Sure, is a tiresome trip.

Friday, April 9th, 1943 Arrived in Toronto this morning. Sure, was good to see Mom again. I was down at the restaurant when I got a telegram from Swede. I met him at Union Depot at 11 o'clock and he is to report in Halifax on April 22nd. We might be going Overseas together.

Saturday, April 10th, 1943 Left Toronto tonight at 11:15. Len LaCasse came in on this morning's train. We went down town with Mom in the morning and Mom bought me a swell camera for \$37.50. Bought a few things I needed and Len & I rode around Toronto on bicycles. Mom gave me \$50.00 and said goodbye at the Restaurant. Hated to leave Mom, but I'll be back some day.

Sunday, April 11th, 1943 Arrived in Montreal this morning 9:15. Went to the Central Y.M.C.A. and slept until noon. Had dinner at the Diana Grill and then had a few drinks in the swell bar room downstairs. Then board the train for Saint. Johns N.B. at 3:15.

Monday, April 12th, 1943 Arrived in Halifax tonight. Left Saint Johns this morning. Took the boat at Saint Johns (The Princess Helena) and sailed across the Bay of Fundy to Digby. Boarded the train at Digby for Halifax. We climbed into the trucks at the station and they took us to No. 1 "Y" Depot. Had supper and hit the hay.



Princess Helena

Tuesday, April 13th, 1943 Didn't do much today. Had a parade this morning but it was so wet out we were dismissed. Lay around barracks most of the day. We Haven't done a darn thing so far. Went downtown tonight. Had supper at the C.N.R. Depot. Saw Random Harvest at one of Halifax's theaters. Am sitting in a Chinese Café having a cup of coffee with **Len LaCasse**. Be heading back to barracks in a few minutes.

Wednesday, April 14th, 1943 We were documented today. Had a lecture and lay around the rest of the time.

Thursday, April 15th, 1943 Had a blood-type this morning and a clothing parade in the afternoon. Got all the stuff I needed besides a gas mask, tin helmet, and webbing equipment. Sure, have enough stuff now. Had supper downtown and saw "Immortal Sergeant" at a theater in Halifax.

Friday, April 16th, 1943 Had a C. O's parade this morning, and a short route march. Got joed for half an hour. Had the afternoon off and went downtown for supper. Saw a show and walked around town for a while.

No entries for April 17th, 18th, 19th, & 20th

Wednesday, April 21st, 1943 Found **Jim Fisher** in the Mess Hall today. Sure, good to see someone from home again.

Thursday, April 22nd, 1943 **Jim Fisher** and I went hunting round for the **Swede** and found him in one of the other huts. The old pard is still the same. Had a gas lecture today and went through the tear gas chamber.

No entries for April 23rd & 24th

Sunday, April 25th, 1943 **Swede**, **Sandy**, **Art** & I went downtown for dinner. We walked down to the docks and an old fellow showed us around. Saw some of the boats I'd heard a lot about.

Monday, April 26th, 1943 Started to work on the officer's rock garden this morning. Moved a lot of rocks and shovelled quite a bit of dirt. Played craps in the evening and lost 5 bucks.

Tuesday, April 27th, 1943 Worked all day today. We spaded the flower bed for the officer's rock garden and sifted some dirt. **Swede** and I fooled around a bit and hit the hay early.

Wednesday, April 28th, 1943 Had to go on parade this morning. We were given a short arm and were told to report at 8:50 tomorrow morning. **Swede** and **Jim Fisher** were on it too. Looks like the real thing this time. Sure, as heck hope so. I had a beer with **Swede** and went to the station show.

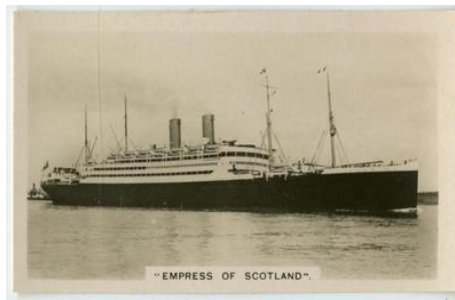
No entries for April 29th, 30th, May 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th

Thursday, May 13th, 1943 Went on parade this afternoon and was given a short arm. Kind of looks as though we might be going someplace.

No entry for 14th

Saturday, May 15th, 1943 Went on parade in the morning and at 1:30P.M. we brought our kit bags with us and loaded them on trucks.

Sunday, May 16th, 1943 Parade this morning with full kit on, and marched from "Y" depot to the docks and boarded the Empress of Scotland. There's about 160 men to a room. We sleep in hammocks slung so close together that we rub against each other at night. Some sleep on mattresses on the tables and floor. Get bloody good meals considering. **Swede** & **Jim Fisher** came aboard in the afternoon.



Empress of Scotland

Monday, May 17th, 1943 Pulled out of Halifax about 1:30 A.M. At 4 o'clock I was awakened and put on guard duty until 8 A.M. Had life boat station drill and lectures of routine on board ship. Its real smooth sailing so far.

Tuesday, May 18th, 1943 Was pretty rough going today. Lot of guys getting sick. **Swede** & **Kenny** ain't feeling so good but **Sandy** and I are holding out pretty fair. Had life boat drill again.

Wednesday, May 19th, 1943 Didn't do much today. **Swede** and I played cards. Had drill again today and they fired a couple of bursts from the 20mm cannons, but we don't know why. Its smooth sailing again today. I haven't been sick or missed a meal yet. Merchant Seamen put on a show in the Canteen. Had some good laughs.

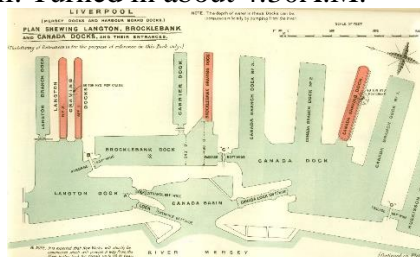
Thursday, May 20th, 1943 Smooth sailing today. Had a sleep with **Swede** under one of the benches on deck. Not much to do except shoot the shit and play cards.

Friday, May 21st, 1943 Still sailing along smoothly. Can't find much to do. Lost 8 bucks shooting craps, **Swede** and I were trying to increase our bankroll. Today we sighted an aircraft and an alarm was given for us to all go below decks, but it turned out to be one of our own Aircraft, a "Liberator".

Saturday, May 22nd, 1943 Layed around in the sun all day. Real warm out today. Haven't wore a great coat at all so far. Read a book for a while. A "Sunderland" flying boat has been circling us all day and quite a few sea gulls around.

Sunday, May 23rd, 1943 Sighted land today and everyone claims its Ireland. Four Spitfires have been flying around us all day. Sure, looks good to see land again after 7 days at sea. There are quite a few ships and land on both sides. **Swede** and I slept in the morning.

Monday, May 24th, 1943 Pulled into Liverpool in the morning and got aboard a train. Had dinner and supper aboard train and travelled through real pretty country. Arrived at Bournemouth a large town on the south west coast of England just after midnight. We're only sixty miles from the French coast. Had supper and were billeted in hotel rooms. They were swell. Turned in about 4:30A.M.



Canada Docks, Liverpool, England

Tuesday, May 25th, 1943 Up bright and early just the same. Had our money changed over to English money. **Swede**, **Sandy** and I went to look over the damage done on Sunday. Last Sunday they had the first raid here for about a year. 12 to 15 planes came over in the middle of the afternoon and dropped bombs and machine gunned the parks. There were quite a few casualties as it was unexpected. A lot of airmen were drinking in a pub that was bombed. The planes were Focke Wulf's.

Wednesday, May 26th, 1943 Were documented today, and had a bit of a route march. Sure, is a pretty town. We walked around tonight trying to get a beer but the Pub's were too crowded.

Thursday, May 27th, 1943 Didn't do much today. Sure, is nice weather. **Sandy** and I had a pint of Stout Ale but it didn't taste so hot. Lay around the room all night shooting the shit with **Swede**, **Fisher** & **Sandy**.

Friday, May 28, 1943 When we went on parade at noon today as an alert was sounded and we watched what was said to be 2 Spitfires chasing a Folke Wulf back across the channel. Went out with **Swede**, **Sandy** & **Robby** and got feeling pretty good on Scotch, Gin & Ale. Had a pretty fair time but it could have been better.

Saturday, May 29th, 1943 Didn't do much today. Had our photographs taken and another Dental. Also had a kit inspection in the morning.

Sunday, May 30th, 1943 A Wing Commander inspected us this morning. Lay around the Park all afternoon & evening taking pictures. Went to church in the morning.

Monday, May 31st, 1943 Had a clothing parade and got big rubber boots. God knows what they are for. Lay around the park in the evening. **Jimmy Fisher** remustered to a General Clerk and is posted here to 3 Personnel Reception Centre Bournemouth. Guess he likes it cause its sure a nice place.



Me in Bournemouth

Tuesday, June 1st, 1943 **Robby** and I went to a show and saw "Cargo of Innocents". Was a swell picture. Played billiards the rest of the day.

Wednesday, June 2nd, 1943 Not much to put down. Went on parade and got dismissed. Layed around in the park all day with the rest of the boys.

Thursday, June 3rd, 1943 Same thing today. Had a bottle of this poor English beer. Sure, doesn't taste very good.

Friday, June 4th, 1943 Lay around all day, and at night we fooled around in our barracks. **Sandy**, **Swede** and I have a lot of fun buggering around.

Saturday, June 5th, 1943 Got our postings this morning. **Swede**, **Sandy**, **Fisher** & I are all split up. **Swede** & **Kenny** are together but they will be 45 miles from me. Going to Yorkshire. I'm posted to the 433 Squadron. Sure, hope it's a good outfit.

Sunday, June 6th, 1943 Paraded twice today but don't know yet when we're leaving. **Swede** and **Kenny** report at 7 o'clock with full webbing as I guess they will be going. We took a few pictures today and I wrote 3 air graphs home. Lay around in the park with **Swede** all afternoon.

Monday, June 7th, 1943 **Swede** and **Kenny** left this morning. We report tomorrow at 7 A.M. with full webbing so I guess we'll be leaving tomorrow. **Dalton**, a guy I knew at Manning Depot is posted with me.

Tuesday, June 8th, 1943 Boarded the train this morning. Travelled through the pretty country but we had very little to eat all day. Arrived at York in the evening and had a real good meal when we got to the Mess Hall seven miles out of York. Turned in pretty early. Met **James Holliday** here, and was I ever surprised. He works at H.Q. here. The station is at East-Moor.

Wednesday, June 9th, 1943 We didn't do a darn thing but get documented and cleared onto the station. Had a short-arm. The meals aren't so bad and we're sleeping in tin hut. The station is spread all over hell and everything is camouflaged. We have Wellingtons & Lancaster's here. We're the 433rd Bomber Squadron.



433 Squadron Crest

Thursday, June 10th, 1943 Wandered around the station all day. Are my feet ever sore. We have to walk miles to get any place. Found out that we lost 4 aircraft last night. We send a bunch of planes over whenever flying is good. They're sure giving them hell across the channel.

Friday, June 11th, 1943 Got payed 5 pounds, 4 shillings today. Went to York and had a few beers and then went to a dance. Had a little fun. Came back early in a taxi. I tried to dance with one woman but she couldn't dance very good and they dance a little different than we do so I gave up. She was nice to talk to but I had a hard time understanding her.

Saturday, June 12th, 1943 Went into town again tonight. There was a fair at York so we had a few beers and went to the fair. Met two girls there, but one had to go to a Temperance Meeting so I buggared off. Not for me, no siree. Had a few more beers and went back to camp.

Sunday, June 13th, 1943 Didn't do much today. We get a day off tomorrow so we got our passes and **Dalton** & I went into York and caught the train to Thirsk. I was trying to find **Swede**, so we walked from Thirsk to Topcliffe and found out that **Swede** was at Dalton on the other side of Thirsk. We spent the night at Topcliffe in a couple of empty bunks.

Monday, June 14th, 1943 Caught a ride back to Thirsk, and had dinner in a café. Met **Kenny** in Thirsk and found out where him & **Swede** were. We caught a ride out to Dalton and **Swede** and **Kenny** were both there. Fooled around all afternoon and had supper there. We walked to the main highway and caught the bus back to York. Met a soldier girl at Betty's Bar and a red-head at the Fun Fair. She's a honey.

Tuesday, June 15th, 1943 Stayed in camp tonight. Went to the Navy Army & Air Force Institutes and listened to the radio and bought our candy & cigarette rations. Turned in early.

Wednesday, June 16th, 1943 Cleaned one Browning Gun all day. First bit of work I've done in England. Went to Sutton on Forest with **Dalton**, **St. Marie** and **Jimmy** and got feeling pretty fair. On the way back I was going to ride a young bull. I had it cornered but the dang critter jumped the fence so we ran like hell.



Ste. Marie & Dalton

Thursday, June 17th, 1943 Buggared around all day trying to learn more about the Wellington Bomber. Went to town with **Dalton** and **Jimmy**. Drank double rums and beer in the dive at Betty's Pub and then went to the Co-op dance. Had a lot of fun and got really tight for the first time in England. Took a cab back to camp.

Friday, June 18th, 1943 Belted ammo all morning. Tonight, guarding a new Wellington Bomber that came in yesterday. I have to sleep here all night. I'm just going to write a letter to **Mom** now. Got a letter from Gerry today that was mailed on May 13 and went to "Y" Depot.

Saturday, June 19th, 1943 Got off duty at 7:30 this morning. Lay around barracks all day. Borrowed a bike from a chum of mine and **St. Marie** and I went to Sutton on Forest and had a few beers. Rode around for awhile and turned in early.



Me & The Bike

Sunday, June 20th, 1943 Slept nearly all morning and took a few pictures in the afternoon. All we're doing is eating & sleeping. We had toast & cocoa in our barracks tonight and one guy had a roll of garlic sausage so we sure had a real feed. We filled our water bottles with cocoa in the mess hall. Shot the shit for awhile and then turned in.

Monday, June 21st, 1943 Didn't do a dog gone thing all day. We slept most of the day. I wrote a few letters and went to bed early.

Tuesday, June 22nd, 1943 All we did today was pull a few weeds around our barracks. At supper time we got a bunch of bread out of the Mess Hall and filled our water bottles with coffee. We made toast in barracks And **Rae** had a jar of relish and a ¼ lb. cheese. We sure did eat. I believe it's the best feed I've had in England so far.

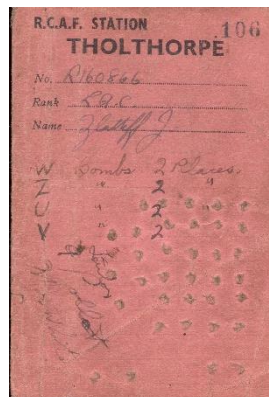
Wednesday, June 23rd, 1943 Did bugger all again today. Read a Western story and wrote a letter to **Mom**. Went to a show in camp "This Above All" and it sure was a swell picture. My chum **Dalton** went on leave today and I have his bicycle till he comes back. Sure, saves a lot of walking.

Thursday, June 24th, 1943 Didn't do a god dam thing all day. **St. Marie**, **Doc** & I went into York and got really pissed. We were looking for a fight all night and we even threatened a bloody cop. We lost **Ste. Marie** and couldn't find him, but when we got back to the camp, he was in bed asleep.

Friday, June 25th, 1943 This morning we found a bike outside our hut. We asked who owned it, and **Ste. Marie** said he remembered riding one home but he doesn't know where he got it. Went to the **N.A.A.F.I.** show and saw "Yankee Doodle Dandy". Sure, was good.

Saturday, June 26th, 1943

Found out today that were getting posted to Tholthorpe. Its only six miles up the road and farther from York. Went to town with **Ste. Marie**. Back to Betty's Bar we went & drank Scotch and bitters all night. Met a couple of girls by the name of **Marnie** and **Pat**. I had **Pat** but when we went to the restaurant, she went to take a piss and didn't come back. I was pretty sad cause she's still a nice "kid" even if she did ditch me.



R.C.A.F. Station Tholthorpe

Sunday, June 27th, 1943 We climbed into trucks at noon and went to Tholthorpe. We got all settled by supper time. The place is spread all over hell and we'll be working on Halifax bombers. We changed from **433** to **434 Squadron** too. **Marie** & I went to look for a pub, but every one we found was closed.



434 Squadron Crest

Monday, June 28th, 1943 Met a couple of boys I knew before. Did a little work but it lasted about 15 minutes. The meals here aren't so hot, and all the guys are moaning about being hungry. It's sure no fun when you can't get enough to eat.

Tuesday, June 29th, 1943 Found out that we're joed for a Victory parade on Thursday. We drilled for awhile. **Ste. Marie** went to Linton upon Ouse for a couple of weeks but he'll be back. Went down and had a beer after supper and played Put & Take for a while. **Doc** and **Roberts** rode down to Alne, a little village about 2 miles down the road and got some fish & chips. They were sure good but I'm still hungry.

Wednesday, June 30th, 1943 Went on parade this morning but were dismissed. I won a couple more shillings playing Put & Take. Wrote a couple of airgraphs. I was joed to help load some Aers-engine crates on a truck. Then I shined up for the parade tomorrow.

Thursday, July 1st, 1943 Went to Ripon early in the morning by closed in vans, and marched to an old Cathedral. We had a real Dominion Day Service and then came back here to Tholthorpe for dinner. Then Lil Abner and I road to Linton on Ouse and had supper. I got some extra bread & butter and bought a can of soup. **Ste. Marie** came back tonight and when I got back to camp, we had a pretty fair feed. I met **Alabaster** at Linton. He was on 12 Guns.

Friday, July 2nd, 1943 All I did today was dig one post-hole four feet deep. Wrote a couple of letters. The boys had a pillow fight in barracks tonight. That's about all the excitement there was today. I did have another pint of beer at the **N.A.A.F.I.** too.

Saturday, July 3rd, 1943 Buggared around all day. Went down to Alne and had some fish & chips. This morning I volunteered for the Servicing Commandos. I sure hope I get in it. It's a tough and dangerous job but I don't give a shit for nothing anyhow.

Sunday, July 4th, 1943 Got a bit sunburned today. We layed in the sun nearly all day. Had a nice shower and sat around the **N.A.A.F.I.** drinking tea.

Monday, July 5th, 1943 Got a small parcel from **Mom** today. Two chocolate bars, 4 pkgs of gum and a pair of socks & some pictures we took at Toronto. Went up to see **Swede** at Dalton this afternoon. We had a few beers. I met an old chum of mine, **Paul Noel**. He was in the **133rd Fighter Sqd.** with me. I rode up and back on a bike that I borrowed. Its only 10 miles from here. Got back just after ten o'clock.

Tuesday, July 6th, 1943 Had a muster parade this afternoon. Didn't do anything else all day. We had a feed again tonight. We bought a quart of milk for eight-pence and made cocoa and had cheese sandwiches we made in the mess hall and some buns we bought at the **N.A.A.F.I.** Sure were good. The boys had a pillow fight and we turned in. I scalded my foot tonight with boiling water, but its not burnt very badly. Just one blister.

Wednesday, July 7th, 1943 Put in for leave today. I'm getting it this coming Saturday. Nine days altogether, so I reckon I'll be going to London. I've been using a guys bike the last couple of days cause he's A.W.O.L.

Thursday, July 8th, 1943 Didn't do anything again today. Went back to barracks after parade and slept. Sure, is a great life what there is of it. Sure, are fed up on this country. All the guys keep moaning for home. Sure, wish I'd get more mail. I haven't heard from **Mom** yet.

Friday, July 9th, 1943 Worked today for the first time. I took 4 guns out of two rear turrets of Halifax bombers. Went to York, and met **Swede** & **Kenny**. We got really drunk and went to the Grey rooms. I left **Swede** in the toilet puking his guts out and then I got sick, and a fellow brought me home about 3 A.M. I don't remember much about. The air raid sirens in York were whining, but no bombs were dropped. Good thing for me.

No entry for July 10th

Sunday, July 11th, 1943 Got up at noon today and caught the afternoon bus to York with **Ste. Marie**. We boarded the train at 4:12 & arrived in London at 8:15. We took the underground railway to Trafalgar Square and we had a heck of a time at first finding out what train to take. We met **King** at a Y.M.C.A. and we got a room at another Y, and turned in. Its raining like old hell now.



Trafalgar Square 1943

Monday, July 12th, 1943 **Ste. Marie** & I got up late and went looking for **King**. We couldn't find him at the "Y" so we went to the Beaver Club. Had a sandwich and looked over the place, then took a bus to 32 **Lincoln's Inn Field** and got 275 cigarettes. Its an R.C.A.F. Headquarters. Then we went to East London to a corny show. Came back and parked ourselves in a pub until it closed and then went to bed. We had a pretty fair time.

Tuesday, July 13th, 1943 Today, **Ste. Marie**, another guy and myself got a free ticket all over London and we saw most of the town. It sure has been bombed in spots. We started an uproar in a store down in East London over a pair of cuff links Ste. bought instead of collar studs. We saw the Big Ben clock too. Then Ste. & I parked ourselves in a pub until closing time again. Had a fair time but didn't see some of the places we want too.



Big Ben 1943

Wednesday, July 14th, 1943 **Ste.** & I met **Doc** & **King** and we went out to the West End and skated for a few minutes and then had a swim. We rode out on the underground railway. Came back to Trafalgar Square & had supper at the Beaver Club and then went to the Bunch of Grapes (A Pub) and started in. We all had a date for Friday nite with 4 Auxiliary Territorial Service girls. A couple of Women's Auxiliary Air Force's were drinking with us and we had a lot of fun. Got to bed pretty late.



Me, Ste. Marie & King

Thursday, July 15th, 1943 Got up early, about 10:30. **Ste.** came in at 7 o'clock. Went to the Beaver Club and played snooker after we had dinner. **Doc**, **Ste.** & I got tickets to an American show at the Scala theatre. Sure, was a real good show with good acting. Came back and went to the Bunch of Grapes and drank beer again & went to bed after the place closed. The Bunch of Grapes is sure some place and how.

Friday, July 16th, 1943 Got up bright & early again at 11:30. Had dinner and played pool at the Beaver Club until the Bunch of Grapes opened. Drank beer until supper time and went & had supper, and then went back to the Pub. We met the two **A.T.S.** girls **Ste.** & I had a date with but the other two didn't come. We drank on until 11 o'clock and then I took **Rose** home. **Ste.** & I both arranged to have our leave with them in Sept. & we hope to play lion with them. Her name is "**Rose**" and what a kid.

Saturday, July 17th, 1943 Had dinner at the Beaver and drank beer at the Bunch of Grapes until 3 o'clock and then **Ste.** and I caught the train to York. We shot the shit with a **Woman's Land Army** girl all the way and then caught the bus to Tholthorpe. Sure, is good to be back, but all I have in my pocket now is 9 pence. Eighteen cents in Canadian money. It's a bastard no kiddin.

Sunday, July 18th, 1943 **Ste.** & I slept until 1:30 and then had dinner. Went back to barracks & lay around the rest of the day. Got a letter from **Mom** at last. Sure, was glad to hear from her. Had a pillow fight before going to bed and practically knocked the walls out.

Monday, July, 19th, 1943 Slept until 12:30 and just made it to the Mess Hall on time. Buggared around the rest of the day and went to the show "Andy Hardy's Double Life" at the Mess Hall and then I turned in.

Tuesday, July 20th, 1943 Went to work this morning and first thing I did was **Daily Inspect** an aircraft. It's the first **D.I.** I've done in England. In the evening there was an Army Show at the Mess Hall put on by Canadians. Sure, was good.

Wednesday, July 21st, 1943 Worked like a bugger all day. Helped an Air Gunner modify the rear turret and, in the afternoon, we filled ammunition boxes. Worked the whole day. Saw a show in the Mess Hall again. "The First of Few". Was a real good picture of the creation of the Spitfire. **Doc** got back from leave tonight. I turned in about 11:30.

Thursday, July, 22nd, 1943 Today I worked to beat old hell. In the morning loaded the mid-upper turret on "**W**" for "Willie" That's my kite now. Sure, was a heck of a job because I'd never loaded one before and I had to find out for myself how to do it. In the afternoon I helped another fellow load his mid-upper turret. We had a pillow fight and turned in. Today the meals were really the shits. Not one meal was worth eating & am I hungry.

Friday, July 23rd, 1943 Worked all day on the gun turrets and in the evening, we played ball. Shot the shit and turned in pretty late. Still hungry as hell as usual, but one of these days I'll get a parcel and what a feed it'll be.

Saturday, July 24th, 1943 Got payed this morning. Got 2 pounds 12 shillings. In the afternoon **Hill** and I loaded two guns on the rear turret of "**W**". What a hell of a job it was. After supper the boys wanted me to go and have a beer with them but I used my will power for once and didn't go. One guy went & got a bunch of fish & chips and I ate my fill and turned in with my stomach full and happy.

Sunday, July 25th, 1943 This morning **Hill** and I loaded the other two guns on the rear turret and **D.I.**'d our ship and it took off at 11:30A.M. for a cross country trip (Essen). It isn't back yet so I had the afternoon off. **Swede** came down from Dalton and we shot the shit for awhile and had a beer after supper and then he buggared off. Got some grub from the **N.A.A.F.I.**

Monday, July 26th, 1943 I got a new kite now. "**R**" for Roberts. This morning the Sarge was showing me some of the stuff on the bomb carriers and all the rest of the bomb armorer's work. We loaded the kite with dummy bombs. 2 one thousand lb. bombs and six 500 lb., and then took them off. Sure, was hard work. Went to the show in the Mess Hall. "Cash and Carry" was a good picture.

Tuesday, July 27th, 1943 Today I have two ships to look after. **Westcott** has the mumps so I'm looking after his kite. I loaded half of the mid. Upper turret on "**R**" and helped **Wesgate** paint the bomb carriers and test them. Didn't do much else but lay around in barracks starving to death.



Greg Westcott

Wednesday, July 28th, 1943 Finished loading the mid upper turret on "**R**" and then loaded the magazines for the **Vickers Gas Operated** guns in the nose. I had a little work to do on "**P**" for Peter and **Ste. Marie** came over and gave me a hand. Got off work early. I got a parcel from **Mom** today and I was sure glad cause she sent a lot of stuff to eat and quite a few smokes. We finished all the eats tonight in barracks. Station dance tonight but I didn't go because I'm too darn tired.

Thursday, July 29th, 1943 Today I had 3 kites to look after. I was working on "**U**" for Uncle with **Ste. Marie**. I helped him with his work till supper time, & in the evening I went out to sign any **D.I.**'s. **Sgt. Langlon** came along and joed me to **D.I.** a couple of more kites. Then **Ste.** & I finished our work and came back to the **N.A.A.F.I.** and had a cup of coffee and then had supper in the Mess Hall and went to bed.

Friday, July 30th, 1943 Today was my day off as I slept until noon. In the afternoon I washed a towel and lay out in the sun and wrote a letter to **Mark** & **Gerry**. After supper we lay around barracks shooting the shit and then **Dalton** & I borrowed a couple of bikes and went down for a shower.

Saturday, July 31st, 1943 This morning I went back to work and I started putting the ammunition in the rear turret of "**R**" for Robert but it had to go up, so I didn't finish. I went over and helped **Ste. Marie** fix up an escape hatch that blew off on his kite last night. In the afternoon I finished arming "**R**" and then helped the boys practicing bombing up. We had a little bit of fish & chips but there was hardly enough to go around.

Sunday, August 1st, 1943 Didn't do much today. I **D.I.**'d my kite and then loafed around the section. In the evening we sat around the **N.A.A.F.I.** drinking tea and eating cake, I had a meal in the Mess Hall about 12 o'clock.

Monday, August 2nd, 1943 Still not much to do. Helped the Air Gunners harmonize the Rear Turret on "**R**" and then buggared around the rest of the day. Had a late supper at 11 o'clock again tonight with **Dalton**. Saw the show at the Mess Hall. "Captains Courageous", and it was a real good picture.

Tuesday, August 3rd, 1943 **D.I.**'d "**R**" first thing in the morning and then went over to "**S**" and helped **Roberts** put 650 rounds in the rear turret of his kite. Finished about 12 o'clock and then went to dinner. In the afternoon **Roberts** and I took all the ammunition out of "**R**" and put it in "**S**" because it is going on operations one of these days. The crew of "**R**" is on leave so it won't be going on "ops" for a while yet. Took us all afternoon to do it. In the evening I had a few **N.A.A.F.I.** cookies and turned in.

Wednesday, August 4th, 1943 Today we had to take a gun out of the mid-upper turret and breech it up and then put it back. In the evening I went down to the New Inn in Tholthorpe with the boys and had a few beers. It didn't taste so good so I didn't drink enough to get feeling good. Turned in kind of late we stopped at the Mess Hall and scrounged a meal. Tasted pretty good.

Thursday, August 5th, 1943 Well, today it rained nearly all the time and all I had to do was a **D.I.** I'm still waiting to get some cigs from home and they'd better get here soon. I buggared off early and had a bit of a snooze. Saw the show at the Mess Hall, "Air Force", and then went to the **N.A.A.F.I.** and got a bunch of cookies. **Dalton** brought me a pint of beer from a Pub and it went darn good with the cookies. Wrote to **Mom** tonite.

Friday, August 6th, 1943 Today I got a hold of 3600 rounds of ammo and I loaded up half of my rear turret. We're supposed to start operations so all we're doing is loading turrets. Sat around the **N.A.A.F.I.** eating cookies and drinking tea. Not much else to do. Was glad to hear from both **Mom** and **Letty** today. Letters help cause its pretty lonesome over here at times.

Saturday, August 7th, 1943 Today being my day off I slept until noon. After dinner I went to get my mail and I got a parcel & cigarettes from **Letty**. Oboy oh boy. Then **Dalton**, **Winger** & I went to York. We picked up our clean uniforms and then had pork chops for supper. Had a few beers and a couple of scotches at Betty's Bar and then went to the Co-op Dance. I had a real swell time and met a lot of people. Met **Doc** & got back to barracks at 2:15 in the morning.

Sunday, August 8th, 1943 Went back to work this morning and there was very little work to do. I helped a few of the boys on their gun turrets. After supper we went back to the barracks and wrote letters. The boys helped me finish up the marshmallows **Letty** sent me. We had toast & cheese and **Dalton** brought out a can of corn so we heated that up and it sure tasted swell. Played crown & anchor till pretty late & then turned in.

Monday, August 9th, 1943 Buggared around all day and worked at this and that. We keep busy nearly all the time. There was a show at the Mess Hall but it was so corny that I walked out before it was over and went to the **N.A.A.F.I.** and had something to eat & drink. Went back to the barracks and shot the shit for a while and then turned in.

Tuesday, August 10th, 1943 Today we had to bomb up for operations tonight. We worked all day and then went back after supper and worked until 10 o'clock getting them ready and they scrubbed it and didn't go after all. We had a pretty fair meal at the Mess Hall afterwards and then went back to barracks and turned in – shot the shit till pretty late. It's the same every night and then we're sleepy as hell in the morning. Crazy buggars.

Wednesday, August 11th, 1943 Today we had to de-bomb our kites again. My kite went on an air-firing exercise so I had to put ammo in the mid-upper turret. I held the ship up for an hour & the skipper was pretty sore. He'll cool off though I hope. Saw the show at the Mess Hall and had some cakes at the **N.A.A.F.I.** Went back to barracks and had some toasted cheese sandwiches and went to bed.

Thursday, August 12th, 1943 Today I had to prepare my kite for operations. Cleaned the guns & polished the gun turrets. Had to load up with more ammunition too. Then I helped the boys put the bombs on the other kites. The kites carried 1 1000 lb. bomb & the rest incendiaries. 10 kites took off at 9:30 and are do back at 6:35. The kites left and I sure hope they all come back. Sure, would be a good show if they all came back from our first operational flight. Good luck boys. 1st Raid for **434 Squadron**. bombed Milan, Italy.



Me Cleaning Machine Gun

Friday, August 13th, 1943 Well, our first operational flight was a success. All the planes but one bombed Milan in Italy and came back safely. One plane had engine trouble and had to drop its bombs in the channel and turn back. Nobody was hurt and none of the planes damaged. I worked a bit today but there's not much doing cause it's raining and there's no ops.

Saturday, August 14th, 1943 No ops tonight. I worked till 6 o'clock getting some kites ready for practice bombing tomorrow morning. Well, we're getting better meals now. The boys were pretty sore about the awful grub we've been getting and they went to the **C.O.** and they had a Messing meeting. Sure, a lot of bother than it was. Had a few beers tonite and there was a great sing song down in the pub. Had a good time.

Sunday, August 15th, 1943 My day off today so I slept until noon. **Dalton** was with me. In the afternoon I wrote a couple of letters and lay around reading. In the evening we had a few beers and then turned in for the night.

Monday, August 16th, 1943 Went back to work this morning. I had a drivers test for driving a tractor and got my licence. Then I had to take the guns out of the mid-upper turret and help the Air Gunner clean off rust and dirt. Then we had to get 2 kites ready for practice bombing so I had to work a little late. Went to the show at the Mess Hall. "Babes on Broadway". Was a real swell show.

Tuesday, August 17th, 1943 Today I put my guns back in the mid-upper turret. Then went over and **D.I.**'d "U" for Uncle. In the afternoon I had a new job. We had to bomb up for operations tonight, so I hauled bombs around to the kites with an old Fordson tractor. Takes me back to the old farm days. Nine kites left on ops tonight so someone's going to take another beating. They took 2000 & 1000 lb. bombs tonight. This is our second op for **434** Squadron and I hope they all come back again. Bombing Rocket site at Peenemunde.

Wednesday, August 18th, 1943 Well, we have bad news this morning. We lost 3 of our kites last night. Sure, is tough. We lost **G. M. & T.** Tonight I went to town with King, Dunbar, Roberts, & Herb, and we had a fair time. Went to the Grey Rooms and slept at the Y.M.C.A.

Halifax V EB276 IP-G

Sgt. G. McI Johnston	RCAF	+
Sgt. K.W. Rowe		Pow
P/O J.S. Armstrong	RCAF	Pow
P/O C.C. Gibbs		Pow
P/O J.G.A. McPherson		Pow
F/S D.M.J. Labelle	RCAF	Pow
P/O L.G. Christmas	RCAF	Pow

Halifax V DK260 IP-M

F/L I.L. Colquhoun	RCAF	+
Sgt. P.S. Crees		Pow
Sgt. J.R. Dobie	RCAF	Pow
F/S C.P. Fitzpatrick	RCAF	+
F/O W.E. Beswick	RCAF	Pow
F/S J.P.C. Lapointe	RCAF	+
Sgt. D.A. Young		+

Halifax V EB258 IP-T

F/S F.J. Piper	RCAF	+
Sgt. G.N. Irving	RCAF	Pow
P/O A.H. Wetter	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. R.C. Jordan	RCAF	+
Sgt. G.R. Connor	RCAF	+
Sgt. C.A. Brown	RCAF	+
Sgt. J.I.R.R. Renaud	RCAF	+

Thursday, August 19th, 1943 Caught a ride back the Tholthorpe and we had to bomb up for operations all day. I was hauling bombs with the tractor all day and we all worked to beat old hell. Then after all that hard work the scrubbed ops, so we were kinda sore so we went back into town and got feeling pretty drunk. Went to the Co-op Dance & had a pretty good time. Came back in a taxi.

Friday, August 20th, 1943 Today we didn't have much to do. I'm kind of tired. I fell asleep in a Rear Turret and slept for an hour & a half. After supper I went down and had a shower and then went to the New Inn in Tholthorpe and met **Saint**. We had a few beers and went back to barracks and had meat-paste on toast.

Saturday August, 21st, 1943 Rained to beat old hell all day so there wasn't much to do. I loaded the ammo boxes for the Rear Turret on "R". Then **Ste.**, **Dalton** & I went to town. We met **Dunbar**, **Roberts**, **King**, **Winger**, **Thomson**, **Shorty** & **Joe** and we got really pissed. We had a swell time and drank everything from Irish Whiskey to Port Wines. Came back in a taxi after having a meal at Frank's Café.

Sunday, August 22nd, 1943 I slept until noon today. Wrote a letter to mom in the afternoon & started one to **Letty**. Went to the show "Escape to Glory" and then went back to barracks. There's ops on tonight. 12 kites took off with 1 2000 lb. bomb & 13 incendiaries. The target is the north of Cologne in Germany. Give em hell boys and don't forget to come back. Target was Leverkusen.

Monday, August 23rd, 1943 We lost one of our kites last night. "P" Peter was the victim. All the rest came back safely. They're on op's again tonight and did we ever have to pull the rag out. I'm, really tired tonight and I'm not kiddin. 12 Kites took off with a 1000 lb. bomb & 10 incendiaries in each one. The target is Berlin so pour it on boys. I wish you better luck than last night because we want to see you all back in the morning.

Halifax V	EB255	IP-P
Sgt. R.S. Harrison	RCAF	+
Sgt. N.G. Betts	RCAF	+
Sgt. H.B. Ebbers	RCAF	+
Sgt. W.H. Ledford DFM	RCAF	+
F/S E.J.A. Ford		+
Sgt. D.H. Walshaw		+
Sgt. W.B.F. Climie	RCAF	+
Sgt. E.A. Morgans	RCAF	+

Tuesday, August 24th, 1943 This morning we had bad luck again. We lost one plane last night. "V" for Victory was the victim. I hard to work all day fixing the guns on "R" & "U". There's no ops tonight so there's nothing to do. I wrote one letter and turned in.

Halifax V	DK261	IP-V
S/L R.A. McLeron	RCAF	evd
Sgt. F.V. Messenger		+
Sgt. R.S. Walters	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. J. Plenderleith	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. M.W. Stevenson		+
F/S R.C. Brooks	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. C.W. Snyder	RCAF	+

Wednesday, August 25th, 1943 Today it rained like old hell. I **D.I.**'d my kite "R" and then pissed off for the rest of the day. I wrote two letters and washed two pairs of socks. We had peanut butter and toast in the barracks, then shot the shit for a while and then turned in.

Thursday, August 26th, 1943 Today there wasn't much doing so I **D.I.**'d my kite and pissed off. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon **Cpl. Quinn** came and got me out of barracks to work on my guns. They went air-firing and 3 guns were U.S. I had to work until eight o'clock trying to fix them. I had to check 7200 rounds of ammunition.

Friday, August 27th, 1943 Today I'm duty armorer and I have to stay at the section all night. Ten kites are going on ops, so I had to work all day on my guns. I got them serviceable and we test fired them and they worked okay. Finished bombing up early and then watched the kites take off at 9:15. Then we had a late supper at the Mess Hall and 4 of us sat around the office shooting the shit.

Saturday, August 28th, 1943 At 2 o'clock this morning "W" came back with only 3 engines. Then we had a couple of hours sleep and woke up at 4:30. About 5:20 they started coming back. Four landed and four were forced down in England. "X" went for a shit. They bombed Nurnberg in Germany. I had the morning off and then worked till 7 o'clock on my rear turret. The hydraulic system is U.S.

Halifax V	DK258	IP-X
F/S T.F. Thould	RCAF	+
Sgt. H.D. Mallory	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. A.M. Lloyd		Pow
F/O J. Macready	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. K.N. Read	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. B. Gray		Pow
Sgt. M. Vanzant	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. M.R. Ledgett	RCAF	+

Sunday, August 29th, 1943 Went back to work early and worked all day on my turret. I finally got it fixed. Tonight, we had a show in the Mess Hall "100 Men and a Girl". Was pretty fair. Gonna have something to eat, bread & peanut butter again then turn in.

Monday, August 30th, 1943 Today we bombed up 9 kites for ops tonight. I went to the drone at 11 o'clock to watch them take off. Only 7 kites went because "D" ran into the tail plane of "U" when they were warming up before taking off. The props from "D" tore into the tail planes of "U" and the props shattered. Sure, was one heck of a mess. Nobody was hurt but 2 kites were out of commission for awhile. Hope all 7 kites come back. Target was Monchengladbach, Germany.

Tuesday, August 31st, 1943 Well, this morning we're short another kite. "K" Kitty went for a shit. "O" Orange barely made it back to the south coast. It was badly shot up and the Flight Engineer got shot in the guts. He's doing fine though. Tonight, we're op's again but only four kites left. S, A, N & F. Sure, hope they do okay. I was off all day as I didn't have to work. I went down for take off though. Good luck fellows and especially "A" Apple.

Halifax V	LK894	IP-K
F/S F.H. Leaver	RCAF	+
Sgt. F.A. Bartlett		+
Sgt. J.A. Box	RCAF	+
Sgt. C.S. Burgess		+
Sgt. L.W. Kerr		+
P/O M.W. Howard	RCAF	+
Sgt. S.G. Young	RCAF	+
Sgt. L.C. Patrick	RCAF	+

Wednesday, September 1st, 1943 Well, all our kites came back this morning. They bombed Berlin last night. We also got payed today. Didn't do anything but shoot the shit in barracks. Rained nearly all god dam day. I'm still hungry all the time and moaning for the bone too.

Thursday, September 2nd, 1943 Not a hell of a lot doing today. Tonight, we went to Alne and got feeling pretty good. We ended up at a dance and had a pretty fair time. Four kites went on a mine laying operation tonite. Good luck fellas.

Friday, September 3rd, 1943 The kites didn't get their mine laying done on account of some trouble or other and came back early. Tonite, we went back to Alne and I met the Aircrew of my kite "R" Robert. They bought me quite a few beers and I really got cut. I don't remember what happened after I got back to barracks but I hear that I was raising a rumpus. Had a good time though. Got a parcel from Mark & Gerry today. Goody Goody.

Saturday, September 4th, 1943 It rained all day and I had an awful headache so I didn't do much. I removed a bit of rust off of my gun barrels and went back to barracks and had a sleep. After supper we layed around barracks and chewed the fat. We've got a radio now and it helps a lot. There were eight armorers posted overseas today. I tried my damndest to get on it I couldn't make it. I remustered to Air Crew today.

Sunday, September 5th, 1943 Today we had to bomb up for operations tonight. Nine kites are leaving to bomb Mannheim tonite. "R" Robert is in there again. Sure, hope they all come back. I found out that I passed my "I.Q." for Air Crew so all I gotta do now is pass my medical. I sure as hell hope I make it, but I'd a lot sooner go to the Middle East instead.

Monday, September 6th, 1943 Well all our kites came back this morning, but “C” Charlie was badly shot up and the Tail Gunner got a shot in the leg. Sure, was lucky to get back. We’re on op’s again tonite and 8 kites are bombing München. We worked like hell getting them ready. Sure, hope they all come back again. My kite “R” is on but a new crew is flying it, not my regular crew.

Tuesday, September 7th, 1943 Well, this morning we’re short two kites. Both “R” & “F”. My good kite has gone for a shit. Sure, is tough. It was a good kite. The crews that were flying both of the kites were both on their first op. No ops tonite so we buggared around. We went to Alne again tonite and got feeling pretty good. Came back and went to bed.

Halifax V DK262 IP-R

Sgt. L.T. Olmstead	RCAF	+
Sgt. L.L. Stone		+
Sgt. R. Moore	RCAF	+
Sgt. D.D. Witts	RCAF	+
Sgt. F. Trimby		+
Sgt. G.W. Sutherland	RCAF	+
Sgt. P.M. Shulman	RCAF	+

Halifax V DK251 IP-F

Sgt. J.H. Tovey	RCAF	+
Sgt. P.W.S. McCartney		+
Sgt. A.D. Steadman	RCAF	+
Sgt. A.B. Jackson	RCAF	+
Sgt. C.F. Phillips	RCAF	+
Sgt. H.L. Douglas	RCAF	+
Sgt. J. McDonald	RCAF	+

Wednesday, September 8th, 1943 We bombed up today for ops and worked like hell and what did they do but scrub it. Sure, makes me mad when we work like hell. Not much else to put down, but we had to go back out at night and de-bomb the kites. We were really mad then. It was so darn dark it’s a wonder we didn’t drop a couple of bombs on the dispersal. I guess we were going to bomb Italy, but when they surrendered, we couldn’t do anything but scrub.



500 Lb. Bombs

Thursday, September 9th, 1943 We had to bomb up again today. Boy, are we fed up? We worked like hell again and they scrubbed it again. The crews were already to take off when they scrubbed it. Bad weather or something. Saw a show at the Mess Hall “Road to Morocco”. I hadn’t seen it and I really enjoyed it.

Friday, September 10th, 1943 Today it rained like hell all the time. I hung around in the morning but in the afternoon, I stayed in barracks and listened to the radio and wrote letters. We just heard an old Charlie McCarthy program and it really brought back old memories. There’s a dance at the Mess Hall but to hell with. I’m going to bed.

No entries for September 11th, 12th, 13th & 14th

Wednesday, September 15th, 1943 Today was my day off so I slept most of the time. There’s ops on tonite. 12 kites bombed somewhere in France (Montbeliard) and they all came back safely. One kite had a bullet hole in it though. Saw the show at the Mess Hall. Wasn’t too bad. Had toast & syrup and turned in for the night.

Thursday, September 16th, 1943 Back to work this morning. I worked like hell all day cause we're on ops tonite. I had to get "X" Xray ready. It's a new kite and needed a lot of work. 12 kites are carrying 5 one thousand lb. bombs and overload gas tanks so it's either Italy or for Germany tonite. Good Luck fellas. Bomber.

Friday, September 17th, 1943 All our kites came back okay this morning. "X" was in perfect shape so I was happy about it all.

No entry for September 18th

Sunday, September 19th, 1943 Dunbar, Saint, Grumpy, Joe, Happy & Dalton went down to Alne to have a beer, King came in later. We had a good time and brought back a few bottles.

Monday, September 20th, 1943 Worked like hell all day on my new kite "R" Robert. I had to do a lot of modification and check it all over. Both gun turrets needed bleeding so I was pretty busy. Tonight Dunbar & I went down to the Railway Inn and got feeling pretty fair on bitters. There were a bunch of girls there so we helped them do a couple of crossword puzzles. We walked four of them home. Had a pretty fine time.

Tuesday, September 21st, 1943 Didn't do much all day. Worked on my gun turrets getting them ready in case of op's. Helped Mike harmonize the turrets. In the evening Saint, Dunbar, Kennedy, Grumpy, I went to the Blue Bell Inn in Alne and got feeling pretty fair. Came back to barracks and raised holy old hell. All the boys in barracks are mad at us except a couple. Had a darn good time.

Wednesday, September 22nd, 1943 Worked like hell all day. Tonight, our kites are on op's so we had to bomb up. Target is Hanover, Germany. 12 kites took off at about 7:30. Then all us guys went down to the Blue Bell Inn in Alne and had a few beers. Came back to barracks and turned in.

Thursday, September 23rd, 1943 We lost one kite last night "G" George. Tough luck. We're on ops again tonight. 9 kites are going to Mannheim in Germany. Harry Ells crew is flying "R" Robert my new kite. Good luck fellas. We went down to the Railway Inn again and I brought back a bottle of beer for my Mid-Upper Gunner Mike. Dalton is giving it to him.

Halifax V	LK909	IP-G
Sgt. H. Green		+
Sgt. R.P. Reynolds	RCAF	+
Sgt. S.C. H. Hearn		+
Sgt. J. Cross		+
Sgt. A.F. Cudd		+
Sgt. E.C. Coward		+
WO1 A. Heaney	RCAF	+
Sgt. D.J. Burge		+

Friday, September 24th, 1943 All our kites came back again, but "S" was badly shot up. Nobody hurt though. No ops tonite but my rear turret is U.S. and I worked all day on it. Feed Assister is on the blink. Went down to Alne with the boys and got feeling pretty fair again. Sure, is good beer.

Saturday, September 25th, 1943 On ops again tonite, 12 kites are going. I've got to work all night. Really put in a hard day today. I had to bomb up a couple of kites and put ammo in "R" Robert. Sure, am tired, but I can take it. Good luck fellas. Nope no ops. They scrubbed it at the last minute. I was out until 1 o'clock in the morning putting the safety pins back in the 2000 lb. bombs.

Sunday, September 26th, 1943 We left the bombs all on today because there was supposed to be ops on but they scrubbed it again. I had to go back after supper and put the safety pins back in again and remove the photo-flashes. After that a few of us rode down to Alne on our bikes and had a few beers. Came back early and turned in. Sure, is cold. We wore our great coats down to the Pub.

Monday, September 27th, 1943 Had to take all the bombs out of the belly today so they could test-fly the kites. Then we put them all back up in the afternoon. 14 kites took off at 7:30 for Hanover, Germany. Good luck fellas. Sure, is cold out tonite. Right now, its raining and we've got a blazing fire on in the barracks. Be waring winter under-wear before long. Hell of a cold wind all day. Target tonight is Hanover Germany.

Tuesday, September 28th, 1943 Our kites came back this morning but we're three short. "F", "X" & "R" went for a shit. A P/O from Drumheller went in "F". His name was **D.J. Sinclair**.

Halifax V	Lk648	IP-F	
F/L F.C. Lord	RCAF		+
F/S J.W. Hallas	RAAF		+
Sgt. S.A. Walter			+
F/O B.S. Jones	RCAF		+
P/O D.J. Sinclair	RCAF		+
Sgt. B.M. O'Hara	RCAF		+
Sgt. R.N. Wallace	RCAF		+
Sgt. J.G. De Sieyes	RCAF		+

Halifax V	LK917	IP-X	
Sgt. O. Lytle	RCAF		+
Sgt. E.V.A. Elder			+
Sgt. H. Lindsay			+
Sgt. R.C. Pedlar	RCAF		+
Sgt. J.H.T. Monteith	RCAF		+
Sgt. M.D. Chasmar			+
Sgt. H.E. Hansell	RCAF		+
Sgt. J.A. Leach	RCAF		+

Halifax V	LK919	IP-R	
Sgt. R.H. Smith			+
Sgt. R.O. Evans			+
F/O M.P. Halpin	RCAF		+
Sgt. M.N. Vitch	RCAF		+
Sgt. G. Todkill			+
Sgt. E.T.G. Moody			+
Sgt. J.H.F. Rousseau	RCAF		+

Wednesday, September 29th, 1943 On ops again tonite. Target is Bochum, Germany. 7 kites took off around 6:18. Sure cold tonight so we hung around the fire in the barracks and then turned in.

Thursday, September 30th, 1943 Our kites came back this morning but we're two short. "L" & "T" went for a shit. No ops tonight there wasn't much doing all day. We de-bombed "W", because it turned back the other night.

Halifax V	DK259	IP-L	
2Lt. J.T. Clary	USAAF		evd
Sgt. B.T.H. Scudder			+
P/O C.V. Hastings	RCAF		Pow
F/O W.G. Bellinger	RCAF		+
P/O I.A.L. Lockhart	RCAF		Pow
Sgt. R.W. Stewart	USAAF		Pow
P/O C.Y. Hovey	RCAF		Pow

Halifax V	LK634	IP-T	
F/O C.H. Popplewell	RCAF		+
Sgt. N.T. Harris			+
P/O C.F. Kirk	RCAF		Pow
Sgt. R.A. Earl			Pow
F/S R.A. Zahl			+
Sgt. T. Davis			+
Sgt. W.G. Bailey	RCAF		+

Friday, October 1st, 1943 No ops on so we went to Alne and got feeling really swell. There was a dance at the Mess Hall so we wondered down there and had a hell of a good time. A couple of our Aircrew boys, **Bob** & **Freddie** were there and we got together and tore down all the decorations and **Bob** kicked over a stove. We had a hell of a time getting them back to barracks. **Saint** slept in their hut.

Saturday, October 2nd, 1943 Had to bomb up today. We put on mines today. Each kite carried two 1500 lb. mines. 8 kites took off. In the evening a bunch of us went to Alne again and put on a slight glow. Then we went down to the dance at Tollerton and put on quite a show down there. My bike lost 2 spokes night. Had a good time though.

Sunday, October 3rd, 1943 Out kites all came back okay. "V" turned back early on account of trouble. We bombed up again today with one 2000 lb. bomb & 13 cans of incendiaries to each kite. 8 kites took off from **434** & 8 from **431 Squadron**. Good luck fellas. I'm broke now so I gotta stay in tonight. **Saint** & **Dunbar** are on guard duty anyways. Target is Kassel, Germany.



Tiny O'Brian & I Meeting Aircraft In The Morning

Monday, October 4th, 1943 We lost "V" last night. We bombed up today but it was scrubbed. All that hard work for nothing sure makes us mad but we can't do anything about it.

Halifax V	LK638	IP-V	
F/O H.W. Germain AFM	RCAF		+
Sgt. W.O. Todd	RCAF		Pow
Sgt. F.G. Babington	RCAF		Pow
F/L G.T. Berg	RCAF		+
Sgt. C.W. Dorey			Pow
Sgt. R.W. Eaton			Pow
Sgt. E.V. Davidson	RCAF		+

No entries for October 5th, 6th, & 7th

Friday, October 8th, 1943 Well, we bombed up again for ops tonight. 11 kites from **434** Squadron & 9 kites from **431** Squadron to bomb Hanover, Germany. Good luck Fellas.

Saturday, October 9th, 1943 Today was my day off so I slept most of the morning. We lost "C" for Charlie last night. In the afternoon I borrowed **King's** bike and rode up to Dalton to see **Swede**. We shot the shit until supper time and then went down to the Pub and had a few beers with **Kenny**. I started back about 11 o'clock and got here around midnite. Sure, was tired.

Halifax V	LK647	IP-C	
P/O F.G. Small	RCAF		+
Sgt. F.A. Tiley			+
F/O J.F.E. Turcotte	RCAF		Pow
F/O D.H. MacDonald	RCAF		+
Sgt. R.L. Swindale			+
Sgt. A.J. Steinnacker	RCAF		+
Sgt. W.B. Ballantyne	RCAF		+

No entries for October 10th, 11th & 12th

Wednesday, October 13th, 1943 Pay day this morning so **Saint**, **Winger**, **Dunbar** and I went into York. We started in on Irish Whiskey & Bitters at 5:30 and were we ever cut by the time we got to the Co-op Dance. I never danced because I couldn't even walk. I took a taxi home sometime during the nite because I'd lost the other boys.

No entry for October 14th

Friday, October 15th, 1943 Went to York again tonight. King, Saint, Westy & Cy. We had a hell of a good time, and we made so much racket at Betty's that they refused to serve us anymore liquor. Then we went to the Co-op Dance. Dalton was there. I met up with Vera & Maria. They were pretty cold as I stayed away. They had company anyways. Came back in a taxi about 2 A.M. Had a fair time.



Brian King & Jacque Ste. Marie

Saturday, October 16th, 1943 Went into York again and we had a real good time. Westgate, Saint, Dalton, Cy, Randy & a couple other guys were there and we had a quite a few Scotches and then went to the Co-op Dance. Cy was pretty tight, and he's a heck of a good comedian as we were laughing at him all nite. We nearly got in a fight in a restaurant but there weren't any blows. Came back in a taxi about 2 A.M.

No entries for October 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, & 21st

Friday, October 22nd, 1943 Ops on tonite so we worked like old hell all day. 14 kites to bomb Kassel, Germany. We didn't stop work for dinner so they brought us out a couple of meat sandwiches. It wasn't much and then on top of that the supper wasn't eatable so all we had was a couple of slices of bread & a cup of tea. Great place this god dam England. Phooey. I wanna go home. Found out in the morning that we lost 4 kites last night A, N, T & F.



Bombing Up "N" Nuts

Halifax V EB217 IP-A

F/L J.R. Bryan	RCAF	Pow
Sgt. F. Street		Pow
F/O W.S. Sewall	RCAF	+
Sgt. W.H. Burton	RCAF	+
Sgt. W.L. Morpeth		+
Sgt. A.W. Worrad	RCAF	+
Sgt. D.W. Hall		+

Halifax V EB218 IP-N

F/S A.F. Fry		+
Sgt. D.L. Thornley		+
F/O H.P. Farr	RCAF	+
P/O J.J. Dance	RCAF	+
Sgt. F.J. Guay	RCAF	+
WO2 F.B. Watson	RCAF	+
Sgt. C.P. Brown	RCAF	+

Halifax V LK663 IP-F

S/L	W.N. Thomson	RCAF	+
Sgt.	J.S. Malcolm		Pow
F/S	R.F. Purdy	RCAF	Pow
Sgt.	R.W. Miller	RCAF	+
P/O	R.F. Bellingham		Pow
Sgt.	E.J.C. Plouffe	RCAF	+
F/S	C.C. Reynolds	RCAF	+

Halifax V LK666 IP-T

F/S	J.A.M. Nadeau	RCAF	+
Sgt.	H. Newlove	RCAF	+
F/O	H.H. Lee	RCAF	Pow
P/O	H.W. Cudney	RCAF	+
Sgt.	W.A. Cassell		+
Sgt.	J.A.C. Dupont	RCAF	+
Sgt.	D.W. Wilson	RCAF	+

No entries for October 23rd, 24th & 25th

Tuesday, October 26th, 1943 Started my leave at noon today. Went to York with **Dunbar** and had a few Scotches at the Great Northern Pub and then went to the Co-op Dance. Had a fair time and then had a bite to eat at the Cozy Corner then turned in for the night at the Y.M.C.A.

No entries for October 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st & November 1st

Tuesday, November 2nd, 1943 Went into York with **Doc McLetchie** & **Brenner**. **Bren** & I got pretty pissed and then went to the Co-op Dance. Had a pretty fair time. Slept at the Y.M.C.A. in a damned old arm chair. **Bren** got sick and puked all over the floor.

Wednesday, November 3rd, 1943 Pressed our uniforms at the Y, and then talked with Mabel for awhile. Caught the bus to Leeds at 3: o'clock and got in about 4. **Bren** and I went to the Arcade Dance, but we just looked around. Met a soldier at the Y, when we went there for supper. We took him to the Robin Hood & he bought all the drinks. We went back to the Arcade and the 3 of us danced with 3 **A.T.S.** girls all night. Had a good time & walked em home.



Me By A Tree

No entries for November 4th & 5th

Saturday, November 6th, 1943 Went into town with **Dalton** & **Brenner**. Had a few drinks and went to the Co-op Dance. Had a hell of a piss poor night. **Bill** & I came back in a taxi. I met **Eddy Dick** in a restaurant about mid-nite. It was sure good to see him again. He's at **408** Squadron Linton about 2 ½ miles away so I'll be seeing him soon.



Bill Knowlton

No entries for November 7th, 8th, & 9th

Wednesday, November 10th, 1943 Had an inspection by a Group Captain this morning just before pay parade and we were told we were moving to Croft. In the afternoon, **Westgate**, **Westcott**, **McCullough**, **Porter** & I decided to go to Leeds. We got there about 7:30 and started in drinking. We had a real good time at the Robin Hood & then went two different dances. We had a lot of good clean fun & caught the 2:30 train to York and then took a taxi to camp.

No entries for November 11th, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18th & 19th

Saturday, November 20th, 1943 I had the afternoon off, but no money so I just layed around the hut. In the evening I borrowed 10 bob & went down to the Station Inn with **Quinn**, **Murry** & **McLeod**. Came back feeling pretty fair & I lost another 6 bob I borrowed playing poker. **Quinn** opened a can of chicken soup and we had toast & cheese with it, and then turned in for the night.



Danny Quinn

No entries for November 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th

Friday, November 26th, 1943 Worked like old hell bombing up today. Our bombing crew of four guys bombed up 2 kites with 13 cans of incendiaries & a 2000 lb. bomb. We had sandwiches & cocoa for dinner again. In the evening the bunch of us (armorers) went to Alne and had about 8 pints of Youngers No.3. I was feeling good when we got back. **Vance S.** opened a can of chicken & we had toasted chicken sandwiches that really weren't good. Then we turned in.



One For Adolf

Saturday, November 27th, 1943 Today was my day off, so Vance Sutton & I caught the 3:30 bus to Alne with Danny Quinn & Smitty. We had a meal at the Willows & then Vance & I went to the Public Baths & had a real hot bath. Then we went to Betty's & we met Bill Mc McLeod & Smitty with an A.T.S. girl. We had quite a few mixed drinks. We then went to the Co-op and I was really feeling good. We had a little trouble at the Y.M.C.A. and then slept at the station on the floor.

No entries for November 28th & 29th

Tuesday, November 30th, 1943 Today there wasn't much doing. I was duty armorer yesterday so I didn't go to work until noon. About 4:30 I was told to report at the guard-room. I did so and a Sgt. & Corporal S.P.'s wanted me to write out a statement about Sat. nite, as Mabel at the "Y" had sent in a report saying that Sutton & I had struck her and torn her coat. These are both lies and I won't take any punishment for either accusation. I had to report at 9 & 10 o'clock tonight as I'm on open arrest.

No entries for December 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th

Monday, December 6th, 1943 Went up before the Winco this morning and we were charged with causing a disturbance in York on Nov. 28th and were given 7 days Confined to Barracks. Sutton, Bremer & I were all washing pots & pans for an hour & a half. Sure, feel lucky that we only got 7 days. The Winco had a few drinks and was feeling pretty good or we'd have probably got more. Reported at 10 with full pack and now I'm turning in for the night.

Tuesday, December 7th, 1943 Still on C.B. Worked all day and then got joed between 6 & 8 to wash pots & pans in the Mess Hall. We got lots to eat anyways. After that we saw the show and then swept out the Mess Hall & set up the tables. Sure, am tired so I'll turn in.

No entry for 8th

Thursday, December 9th, 1943 Reported on C.B. at 6:45 & 10 o'clock and again at 6, 9, & 10. Worked in the Mess Hall for about 15 mins. Went back to the hut and packed my bags because we're leaving for Croft tomorrow. The whole squadron is moving over there. It's about 35 miles north of here, near Darlington.

Friday, December 10th, 1943 Got up late and cleaned out the hut. Went to the section but nothing was doing. In the afternoon we loaded trucks and trailers with our kit bags & armament equipment and pulled out about 2:30 for Croft. We had fish & chips in Northallerton and then went on to Croft. We moved into our billets and they're really awful. We're over half hours walk from the Mess Hall. We finally got into bed amongst icicles because it's really cold.



Billets At Croft

Saturday, December 11th, 1943 This morning we got up kind of late and went down to our new Arm Section. It's a pretty nice place but it's one hell of a station. It's a lot worse for walking than Tholthorpe was & a lot colder. We unpacked the trucks & trailers in the morning and the rest of the boys came over by train. We de-canned the kites as soon as they came in and D.I.'d them. Then we had supper & went back to the billets. I got joed for duty armorer and had to go back.

Sunday, December 12th, 1943 I got off Duty Armourer about 1 o'clock A.M. and stayed in bed until 6 o'clock in the evening. I got up and had some cheese & toast and then Sutton & I went to Cowton to get some bread & tea cakes. We stopped in at the Blacksmith Arms and had a few pints of beers with some of the boys. When we got back, we had spam sandwiches & cocoa & went to bed.

No entries for December 13th, 14th & 15th



Doc McLetchie & Harry Fournier

Thursday, December 16th, 1943 This morning we ere told there were ops on so we worked right through dinner hour till nearly 4:30 without eating and then it was scrubbed. Nice people. After supper the whole Armament Section went down to Cowton and we sort of hung on a good one before going to the hog-rassle. I had quite a few dances and I enjoyed myself pretty well. Came back to barracks and turned in.

Friday, December 17th, 1943 Didn't have much to do today. I made a key for a lock to our "B" flight shack. In the evening, **Brenner** & I went down to Cowton to get something from the Bakery. We got a dozen tea-cakes and then went to the Pub. **Westy**, **Quinn**, **Jonesy**, **Foo**, **Trouse** & **Del** were there so we made a good evening of it. Went back & got a couple of loaves of bread and then went back to the barracks. I opened a can of Spork from Auntie & Uncles parcel and we had a real swell feed. Spam burgers.



Mickey Trowse



Bremmer



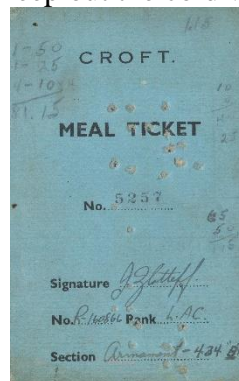
Doc McLetchie & Me



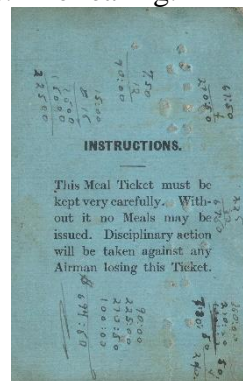
Wes Cairns & Danny

No entries for December 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st

Wednesday, December 22nd, 1943 Worked all day as usual. On Duty Crew today but there's no ops. Instead **Westy**, **Jackson**, **McLeon**, **McCarthy** & myself had to work in the **Bomb Dump** carrying incendiaries until 4 o'clock. Darn heavy work. Came back after having a late meal & turned in. We were issued with long sleeveless leather jackets that sure keep out the cold wind. The real rig.



Croft Meal Ticket Front



Croft Meal Ticket Back

No entry for December 23rd

Friday, December 24th, 1943 Went to work as usual this morning. **431 Squadron** is going on mine laying tonight so we had to help them put on 1000 lb. mines. 4 to each kite. We finished about 6 o'clock then we cleaned up and went down to Cowton. All the armourers went down and we really had a party in the Pub. Then we all went to the hog rattle, everybody was tighter than hell. **Pinsonnet** & I walked a couple of **W.A.A.F**'s home but they aren't up to much. Went back to the billet and had a real feed before going to bed. Not a bad Xmas Eve at all. Not bad!



434 Ground Crew

Saturday, December 25th, 1943 Went to work again as usual but a little late. We had an op scare about 10 o'clock it wasn't anything. Got off work about 10:30 and got cleaned up. Went down to the Mess and they had a pretty fair dinner. Turkey, roast pork, spuds, cabbage & plum pudding. The officers & senior **N.C.O**'s served everything and there were 9 kegs of beer. We all sat around drinking beer until it was all gone and everybody was pretty pissed. Went to Cowton in the evening and had more beer & then went to the "Y" Dance and later turned in. A very good evening.

Sunday, December 26th, 1943 Went to work about 9:30 and worked all day. Took the guns out of "X" and cleaned them up. After supper I came back to the billet and wrote letters before turning in.



Me, Mickey & Babe

Monday, December 27th, 1943 This morning I worked on my bike. In the afternoon I put all the 8 guns back in "X". After supper a few of us decided to go down to the village. We had a few beers in one Pub and it run out so we went to another. Came back to Cowton & went to the dance & really had a time. More women there than guys and I ran into one outside the hall. Not bad at all, not bad.

No entry for 28th

Wednesday, December 29th, 1943 Today we had to bomb up for ops and we really had a lot of excitement. When "V" Victory started up her engines, 8 cans of incendiaries fell out of the bomb bays and went off. We all rushed over to see what we could do and the explosive type started to explode. Our officer got a piece of shrapnel in his left leg that broke and one of our corporals is also in hospital with a piece in his leg. I got hit in the back with a piece that knocked me down but it bounced off my leather jacket. It tore a hole in my jacket alright but I can be thankful it didn't go through. We all ran as fast as we could after we got the officer and corporal out of range. In the evening we went to the Pub and had a few beers to settle our nerves.



Crpl. Corke

No entry for 30th

Friday, December 31st, 1943 Had to bomb up today after I finished my 52-hour inspection on “U” Uncle. Finished about 2:45 and then ops were scrubbed. Quit working and got cleaned up. Went down to Cowton and got an early start at the Pub. All the boys showed up and we really had a party. Went to the dance and what a hog-rassle. I got a little cheased off to the damned military two steps they kept playing so I got Sutton & Pinsonnent and we went back to the Pub. Ma started setting up more drinks. She’s a good scout and her daughter is pretty nice. Her name is Joyce and she’s 21 years of age & not too bad looking at all. Just before 12 o’clock I went out with a piece of holly & a chunk of coal and at 12 o’clock I came in & wished them all a Happy New Year. That’s the custom over here. Then I had to kiss the first woman I saw so I made sure it was Joyce. Then we kissed Ma & the other lady and then sank down a double Scotch. We stayed at the Pub until 2 o’clock drinking all the time and when we left, we were pretty well pickled. The three of us went up the road arm in arm wobbling from one side to the other. It was a pretty fair New Year’s Eve.

Saturday, January 1st, 1944 Drank beer in the N.A.A.F.I. in afternoon. Got drunk in Cowton in evening and went to the hog-rassle. Had a fair time.

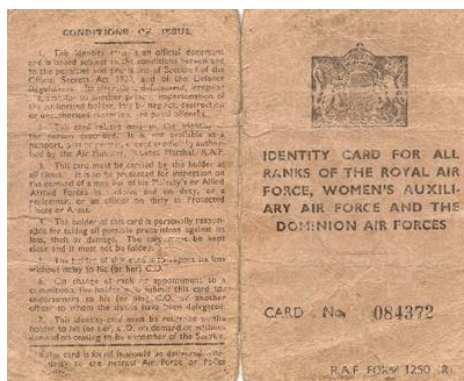
No entries for January 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th & 7th

Saturday, January 8th, 1944 Got real drunk in Cowton and went to the hog-rassle. Went back to the Pub after dance and got good & light. Don’t remember going to bed or getting into an argument.

Sunday, January 9th, 1944 Went to Darlington with Harry Fournier & Foo on bikes. Got pretty tight and went home with 3 women. Had a lot of fun but left at 11:30 and rode back to camp by myself. We’re 6 miles from Darlington here and it’s pretty handy having a bike.

Unfortunately That’s All He Wrote Folks!

Monday, May 29th, 1944



Identification Card

TRACTOR ONLY

Unit Serial No. 73

*1. The Airman/Airwoman whose name and signature appear on the front of this form has been tested and mustered as..... and is authorised to drive :—

Unit Stamp

(a) Motor cycles.

(*) (b) Ground defence vehicles, including Armoured fighting vehicles.

(c) Vehicles up to 20 cwt. load capacity.

(*) (d) Vehicles up to 3 tons load capacity.

(*) (e) Articulated vehicles and vehicles over 3 tons load capacity.

(*) (f) Camions

(g) Coaches.

*2. The Airman/Airwoman whose name and signature appear on the front of this form has permission to drive under instruction.

*3. The R.A.F. Civilian Driver whose name and signature appear on the front of this form is authorised to drive R.A.F. M.T. vehicles.

Certifying Officer's signature.....

*Strike out portions which are not applicable.

(S.8224) 135,000 4/44

Rank.....

R.A.F. Form 1629

IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR MECHANICAL TRANSPORT DRIVERS

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

The Undersigned No. R160866 Rank LAC

Name 24A TITOFF J.

being employed on Royal Air Force service is hereby authorised by the Secretary of State for Air to drive a motor car, lorry, motor cycle or other mechanically propelled vehicle on Government Duty.



Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air.


Signature of Holder.

Available from 9/10-44 To 8-10-45

[illegible]

RESERVATION FOR SPECIALTIES									
Order No.	Spec. Name	REQ'D	CRS	Reserv. Status	Spec. No.	Spec. Name	Spec. No.	Spec. Name	Spec. No.
1	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	2	W/S	444-444	17
2	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	3	W/S	444-444	17
3	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	4	W/S	444-444	17
4	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	5	W/S	444-444	17
5	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	6	W/S	444-444	17
6	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	7	W/S	444-444	17
7	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	8	W/S	444-444	17
8	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	9	W/S	444-444	17
9	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	10	W/S	444-444	17
10	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	11	W/S	444-444	17
11	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	12	W/S	444-444	17
12	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	13	W/S	444-444	17
13	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	14	W/S	444-444	17
14	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	15	W/S	444-444	17
15	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	16	W/S	444-444	17
16	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	17	W/S	444-444	17
17	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	18	W/S	444-444	17
18	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	19	W/S	444-444	17
19	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	20	W/S	444-444	17
20	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	21	W/S	444-444	17
21	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	22	W/S	444-444	17
22	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	23	W/S	444-444	17
23	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	24	W/S	444-444	17
24	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	25	W/S	444-444	17
25	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	26	W/S	444-444	17
26	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	27	W/S	444-444	17
27	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	28	W/S	444-444	17
28	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	29	W/S	444-444	17
29	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	30	W/S	444-444	17
30	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	31	W/S	444-444	17
31	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	32	W/S	444-444	17
32	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	33	W/S	444-444	17
33	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	34	W/S	444-444	17
34	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	35	W/S	444-444	17
35	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	36	W/S	444-444	17
36	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	37	W/S	444-444	17
37	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	38	W/S	444-444	17
38	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	39	W/S	444-444	17
39	W/S	444-444	17	06	444-444	40	W/S	444-444	

11 MISCELLANEOUS MEDICAL ENTRIES

(The entries for which space is not otherwise available)

Personnel	Date	Initials of R.O.
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11 MEDICAL INSTRUCTIONS TO PERSONNEL ON LEAVE IN CANADA

1. Personnel on leave or pass or otherwise absent from their post with who require medical attention are to report to the nearest R.C.A.F. Medical Officer. If rates of urgency when the services of an R.C.A.F. Medical Officer are not available, report to:
 - (a) An R.C.A.M.C. Medical Officer,
 - (b) A Medical Officer of the Dept. of Pensions and National Health, or
 - (c) A civilian medical practitioner, in that order.
2. When it is necessary to call in other than an R.C.A.F. Medical Officer, arrangements are to be made to meet the R.C.A.F. Medical Officer, if one is located in the vicinity, in order that he may assume charge of the case. Immediate action is also to be taken to notify the individual's Commanding Officer in the event that the illness is of serious nature and likely to delay reporting to the unit on termination of leave.
3. All accounts for attendance upon personnel on leave rendered by civilian hospitals or civilian practitioners are to be forwarded in triplicate to the nearest administrative centre of the Dept. of Pensions and National Health for payment.
4. Personnel who, while on leave, are in contact with a case of infectious disease are, on the termination of their leave, to report to their Station Medical Officer before they enter any barracks block, zone or other building on the station.

[illegible]

14

An Officer or Aviator who has made his enlistment, is recommended to be receiving Orders when Will has been notified and the Commanding Officer shall furnish such information forthwith complete certificate and dispatch the same to Records Officer.

No. _____ Rank _____ Name _____

states that he has enlisted a Will and _____
has been discharged with _____
at _____

Signature of Officer _____

Rank or Appointment _____

Date _____

Before embarkation, each Officer or recommended, particularly those who are to continue the necessity for excusing any arriving passengers of their duty to maintain or otherwise deal with real estate from Canada, shall receive his high up of charges that may have come out of his last tour of duty in F. Available, and Will and inform his Commanding Officer, reported at the _____ of _____ B.C.A.C. II. Of or B.C. and, land in _____ his Commanding Officer, and _____ Records Officer concerned for such action.

The Officer receiving such Will shall following certificate:—

Certificate B.C.A.C. II. 80 or 60, forwarded to the B.C.A.C. Records Officer.

Signature of Officer _____

Rank or Appointment _____

Date _____

Will Before this Court displayed
of following
R.C.A.P.

the name

attorney to call estate
document
during his
are in the
a future
beared as
Will on
to compl
to complete the

15

Said for use on Active Service. The Will, in page 15, must NOT be made until put into being about one month after the date of the

SHORT FORM OF WILL

(Write Will on next page)

If an Officer or Airman on active service, or under orders, for active service, who has not previously made a Will, or who having previously made one, wishes to cancel it in its entirety or make some change in the disposition of his property, he may do so on the next page. It must be entirely in his own handwriting and must be signed by him and dated. The full names and addresses of the persons whom he desires to benefit, and the sum of money or the articles of property which he desires to leave to them, must be clearly stated. The writing of the names of a person on the next page without stating what he or she is to receive is of no legal value.

The following is a specimen of a Will leaving all to one person:-

In the event of my death I give all my estate to my mother, Mrs. Sheila Griffin, 711 Victory Street, Toronto, and deposit her my executor.

(Signature) Othman Gaffney, Sgt., R.C.A.F.

Date October 16th, 1942.

The following is a specimen of a Will leaving assets to more than one person:-

In the event of my death, I give \$10.00 to my friend, Miss Rose Smith, of No. 1, High Street, London, and I give \$10.00 to my mother, Miss Margaret Griffin, 711 Victory Street, Toronto, and I give the remainder of my estate to my mother, Mrs. Sheila Griffin, 711 Victory Street, Toronto, and appoint my mother my executrix.

(Signature) Othman Gaffney, Sgt., R.C.A.F.

Date October 16th, 1942.



Danny Framed

Sadly, my uncle passed away after a long illness with cancer on January 12, 2001. He will always be remembered by his family.