

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

“WWII Enemy Ops”



Extracts Recorded in RAFC SHQ ORB 1940-45

The RAF College Tour Guide notes and other College publications allege that Herman Goering ordered Luftwaffe aircrew not to bomb the RAF College, because he had designs on the College as his HQ when Britain succumbed to the Nazi onslaught. Whilst this anecdote adds an inherent charm to the "College Story", it is fiction.

This booklet contains extracts from the RAF Cranwell SHQ ORB, F540, which illustrate that the College was subject to 11 (eleven) separate attacks during the earlier part of WWII, the first recorded on 5 June 1940. These minor 'nuisance' attacks have to be read in the context of sustained Luftwaffe campaigns on its prime targets, initially our ports, our airfields and thence our industrial cities.

As German attention turned to the Russian front and other war zones later in the war, it appears the threat to Cranwell diminished. The last recorded attack appears to have been on 18 August 1941 and, notwithstanding periodic attacks on nearby Fulbeck and Barkston Heath until 22 July 1942, the only serious damage to the College occurred on 19 March 1942 when a Whitey bomber from resident 3(C)TU crashed into the west of the College.

PERMANENT HISTORICAL RECORD

ROYAL AIR FORCE
OPERATIONS
RECORD
BOOK

—
FORM 540

—
HEADQUARTERS.

AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH
AIR MINISTRY.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.F. Form 540

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I., para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

No. of pages used for day.....

of (Unit or Formation)....Station Headquarters, CRANWELL.

Place.	Date.	Time.	READINESS	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
Cranwell	1/6/40		Station Defence Scheme issued.		D.R.O. Serial No. 89. Order No. 634.
	2/5/40		Group Captain L.T.N. Gould, M.C., took over the command of the Station vice Air Commodore C.R. Cox, O.B.E., A.F.C., who was admitted to hospital.		
			Air Commodore C.R. Cox, O.B.E., A.F.C., resumed command of the Station on 25/5/40.		D.R.O. Serial No. 108. Order No. 810.
Cranwell	14/5/40		A practice fire alarm was held at 23.04 hours, the fire brigade turned out smartly but experienced difficulty in coupling up their hoses thus nullifying the effect of a smart turn out.		
Cranwell	15/5/40		A practice Air Raid Alarm was held at 21 hours. Warning Signal "YELLOW" was given to the Station Duty Officer at 21 hours, and he warned personnel as detailed in the Defence Scheme. This took 8½ minutes. At 21.15 hours the "Attack" Alarm was sounded on the Station Syren. A message was received from "B" Sector Commander at 21.23 hours to the effect that the "Attack" Alarm Signal had been insufficient and that the pauses between oscillations were too long. At 21.25 hours the "Attack" Alarm was again sounded and the oscillations increased. The "All Clear" signal was sounded at 21.50 hours.		
			As a result of this test it was decided that the station syren was insufficiently powerful as it could not be heard in outlying parts of the Camp. A new syren has since been installed. Other points arising out of the test which have been attended to are:		
			(1) The number of each shelter trench should be prominently marked by means of boards fixed to the protecting rail.		
			(2) All personnel to make themselves acquainted with the number and position of their shelters.		

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

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No. of pages used for day.....

of (Unit or Formation) Station Headquarters, CRANWELL.

Place.	Date.	Time.	READINESS	Summary of Events.	References to Appendices.
			(3)	The N.C.O. in charge of each hut to be held responsible that all lights in his hut are extinguished before he leaves it.	
			(4)	The fire brigade to make themselves familiar with the positions of the various hydrants and to be instructed in coupling up of hose lengths.	
Cranwell.	25 th			The invasion of Holland - Belgium and the break through at Sedan coupled with the success of the German use of parachute troops in attacking aerodromes created uneasiness regarding the possibility of a similar form of attack on home aerodromes. A signal (Appendix A) by the Chief of Air Staff gives an indication of the serious view taken; this was followed by a further signal (Appendix B) on the 27th. indicating the possible line of action by enemy forces which might be expected. On the 29th. a letter (Appendix C) was sent out by H.Q. No. 21 Group indicating the possibility of attack within 10 days, as a result of this letter, a meeting was convened for Friday, 31st. for the purpose of drawing up an operations order for the Station.	
	29 th				
				C. H. Cox. Air Officer.	

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

See instructions for use of this form in K.R. and A.C.I.,
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No. of pages used for day Month(1)

of (Unit or Formation) Station Headquarters, Cranwell.

Place	Date	Time	ATTACK	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
	1940				
Cranwell	5th. June,			Cranwell Defence Operation Order No.1 was issued, a copy is attached at Appendix "A". At 2330 hours a motor patrol reported having seen a number of parachute flares dropped, one of the parachutes was subsequently recovered and proved to be of German manufacture. It was made of a very finely woven material of silky texture, an ersatz product.	
ditto	6th June			A bombing attack was made on the ^{Smith} aerodrome at 2330 hours and 30 bombs were dropped of which 14 exploded, 5 on the aerodrome proper, the rest in nearby fields. The fragments of one of the bombs recovered and brought in showed that it was made of thin steel plate. Little damage was done to the aerodrome, the bomb craters being about 16ft across by 4 - 5 feet deep. It was probable that the bombs were dropped by one machine only, travelling in a south westerly direction across the aerodrome. No air raid warning was received, the first indication being the explosions caused by bursting bombs. It is probable that if the bombs had been released a fraction of a second earlier, the buildings of the Electrical and Wireless School might have been hit causing heavy damage and loss of life.	
ditto	12th June			H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester visited the Station and inspected W.A.A.F. personnel at their work.	
ditto	17th June			Air Commodore H.M. Probyn, D.S.O. arrived to take over Command of the Station from Air Commodore C.R. Cox, O.B.E., A.F.C. posted to Headquarters, 22 Group.	
ditto	18th June			H.R.H. The Duke of Kent visited the Station and made a tour of the R.A.F. College (P.T.S.)	

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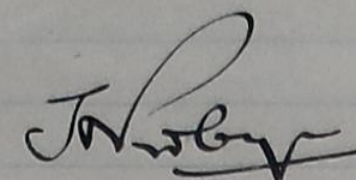
OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

No. of pages used for ~~6~~ MONTH

of (Unit or Formation) STATION HEADQUARTERS, CRANWELL.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CRANWELL	3rd.	July.	Three 20 m/m Hispano Cannons with mountings arrived.	
"	7th.	July.	This Station Was transferred from Flying Training Command to Technical Training Command.	
"	10th.	July	A long distance rifle range was opened by Air Vice Marshal R.P. Willock. This range is situated on the north side of Bristol Wood and was constructed by personnel of this Station in 14 days.	
"	12th.	July.	An exercise was held at 1800 hours to test the efficiency of the machine gun defences. Six formations consisting of three Oxford aircraft each assumed the role of low level bombing attackers, and sixteen 'Hind' aircraft assumed that of dive bombing and machine gun attackers. Camera guns were used in four of the defence posts.	
"	16th.	July	Air Commodore J.H. Simpson (A.O.C. No. 26 Group) visited this Station.	
"	29th.	July.	Air Marshal Sir W.G. Mitchell, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., arrived by air at 1025 hours and left again at 1817 hours.	
"	30th.	July.	69 airmen arrived from Blackpool on posting to this Station for permanent ground defence duties.	



Air Commodore,
Commanding,
R.A.F. Station, Cranwell.



R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1.

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No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) STATION HEADQUARTERS, CRANWELL.

Place	Date	Time	ATTACK	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
CRANWELL.	5th. August.			Two 3 ton Bedford "Armodillo" armoured vehicles arrived.	
"	6th. August.			A large scale exercise was held to test the efficiency of the Station Defence. An attack was made on the North and South Aerodromes and the Camp by "hostile" aircraft, and troops were landed by aircraft carriers. The attacking force consisted of reconnaissance and fighter aircraft. A low level bombing attack was made with fighters carrying out a front gun and dive bombing attack. The ground defences went into action. The operation order and a report on the Exercise, which lasted about one hour, appear in Appendices as "A" and "B" respectively.	
"	9th. August.			Two 1½ lb. Coventry Ordnance Works Anti-aircraft guns Mark III arrived.	
"	13th. August.			Air Commodore J. H. Simpson (A.O.C. No.26 Group) visited this Station.	
"	16th. August.			100 airmen arrived from Blackpool 9.R.C. on posting to this Station for permanent Defence Duties.	
"	18th. August.			At 2312 hours the 'Attack Alarm' was sounded by syrens, and enemy aircraft were reported to be coming from the East and almost over this Station. Several bombs were dropped in the surrounding fields, but no damage was occasioned to the Station. The 'All Clear' was sounded at 0105 hours.	
"	20th. August.			150 airmen arrived from Blackpool on posting to this Station for permanent ground defence duties.	
"	28th. August.			An Attack Alarm was sounded at 2220 hours and large numbers of enemy aircraft were reported in the vicinity of this Station. Flares were reported to have been dropped but none appeared close to the Aerodrome. Bombs were heard to drop in the distance. The 'All Clear' was sounded at 2320 hours.	
"	30/31st. August.			At 2101 hours, bombs were dropped by enemy aircraft to the South East of and in the fields immediately surrounding this Station. The 'Attack alarm' was given by syrens at 2105 hours and at 2117 hours further bombs fell close to Reeves Plantation to the West of the College. Further bombs were heard in the distance and the 'All Clear' was sounded at 2207 hours. More enemy aircraft were heard in the vicinity and an attack alarm by whistles was again sounded at 0129 hours. About 20 flares were dropped by parachute in all directions, around this Station, and enemy aircraft were continually in the immediate vicinity for just over 2 hours. Bombs fell around the aerodromes, but	

H.Q. No. 26 SIGNALS GROUP
SECRET REGISTRY

SEP 1940

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5008/13/a

R.A.F. Form 540

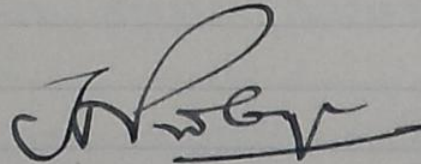
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of (Unit or Formation) STATION HEADQUARTERS, CRANWELL.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Cranwell.			<p>ATTACK</p> <p>no damage was caused to the Station or aerodromes. A.A. gunfire was heard intermittently from the South and East directions. The 'All Clear' was given by whistles at 0340 hours.</p> <p><u>General.</u> In addition to the four 'Attack Alarms', 32 "Yellow" and 33 "Purple" warnings have been received. Appropriate action was taken on each occasion.</p> <p>The strength of airmen, posted to this Station for defence duties, as at the end of this month, was 369.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  Air Commodore, Commanding, <u>R.A.F. Station, Cranwell.</u> </p>	

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1

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No. of pages used for MONTH. 2

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell.

Place	Date	Time	ATTACK	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Cranwell.	1940				
	3rd. Sept.			Instructions received From H.Q.T.T.C. for the formation of No. 2 Flying Instructor's School at Cranwell.	
	5th. Sept.			Air Chief Marshal Sir R. Brooke-Popham, G.V.C.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. A.E.C., visited the Station and carried out an inspection leaving P.M., the 6th. September.	
	6/7th. Sept.			At 2230 hours ten incendiary bombs were dropped near Barkston Relief Landing ground, no damage to R.A.F. personnel, or A.M. property.	
	8th. Sept.			Instructions received from Headquarters, Flying Training Command, all F.T. Units to assume No.1 state of alertness.	
	9th. Sept.			Wing Commander L. Darvall, M.C., arrived to Command No. 2 Flying Instructor's School.	
	10th Sept,			No. 2 Flying Instructor's School formed. Policy is to train flying instructors on the lines of the Central Flying School. Personnel to number 30 officers and 318 airmen. Establishment laid down for aircraft is Oxfords 16 I.E., and 8 I.R.. Tutors 6 I.E.. and 4 I.R.	
	13th. Sept.			At 2337 hours one salvo of bombs dropped north of Barkston Relief Landing ground, no damage done to R.A.F personnel or A.M. property.	
	16th. Sept.			Visit of Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Air Marshal W.L. Welsh, C.B., D.S.C., A.F.C., Technical Training Command, and departed 17/9/40.	
	25th. Sept.			At 2035 hours Home Office air raid warning 'Red' received, and appropriate action taken. Nine incendiary bombs dropped immediately north of Cranwell.	See app. "A"
				Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Air Marshal L.A. Pattinson, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., Headquarters, Flying Training Command, visited Headquarters, No. 21 Group. Conference held on Royal Air Force College, F.T.S., and Flying Instructor's School.	
				Cont/ Instructions from.....	

3300 900UP
F H L U TRY
-8 OCT 1940
FILE 26 Q/5005/13/a-
TO

INTRUDER OVERFLYING CRANWELL

REPORT ON RAID BY SINGLE ENEMY AIRCRAFT AT
R.A.F. STATION, CRANWELL, ON FRIDAY 22/11/40.

An enemy plane, identified as a Dornier 17, appeared suddenly out of low cloud and rain at 0757 hours on 22nd November 1940. Height of clouds approximately 800 feet. It was going in a North-eastern direction but changed its course due East on passing over the Camp and dropped about 20 small incendiaries. Height of plane approximately 500 feet. M.G. Posts 6 and 7a at once opened fire, followed by other posts. The plane circled to the South and flew back over the Camp from South to North dropping more small incendiaries and firing its machine gun. Meeting with an intense fire from M. G. Posts it rapidly gained height and disappeared into the clouds in a Northernly direction. One incendiary hit H Hangar and was at once extinguished. Beyond a 4 inch hole in the corrugated iron roof of this building and a few bullet marks on the doors and wall no damage was done. There were no casualties. Incendiaries were dropped near Sick Quarters and College, on North Drome by No. 4 Post, in fields near No. 6 and No. 7 Posts, and in direction of High Wood (due South), on South Drome, near H Hangar, and on H Hangar.

Warning. A Red warning was given at 0406 - all clear at 0816.

Reports from R.A.F. M.G. Posts.

No. 1 Post. Fired 160 rounds (L.G.) From this post three fires were seen burning with a green light - one in the direction of College - one by the Hospital - and one in East South East direction.

No. 2 Post. Fired 97 rounds L.G. The twin Lewis Gun in Scarf Pit jammed owing to faulty adjustment of the magazine. This was the only stoppage on any gun. This Hispano did not fire.

No. 3 Post. Fired 180 rounds L.G. The corners of the post supporting Lewis Gun impeded extreme high angle fire. It is stated at this Post that the plane was proceeding in a N.E. direction but changed direction to fly due East over the Camp on sighting several lights near North Aerodrome, and proceeded to drop incendiary bombs.

No. 4 Post. 15 rounds fired. Five incendiary bombs dropped in this vicinity were easily extinguished by remainder of gun crew.

No. 6 Post. Fired as plane made its first flight across (height estimated by gunners at 250 feet). Two pans expended on Twin Lewis, which fired satisfactorily with little vibration. 110 rounds fired from Single Lewis Gun. Remainder of gun crew put out incendiaries in adjacent field.

No. 7 Post. Fired 12 rounds Lewis Gun. Some incendiaries in vicinity of this Post were extinguished.

No. 7a Post (Hispano). Claims to have been the first to open fire as plane flew East on the first run across, expending one Magazine of 25 rounds. As plane returned he got in another Magazine of 25 rounds. The gun fired satisfactorily. Six small fires counted from here.

No. 8a Post (Hispano). Fired 30 rounds. Gun satisfactory. Also 67 rounds Lewis Gun.

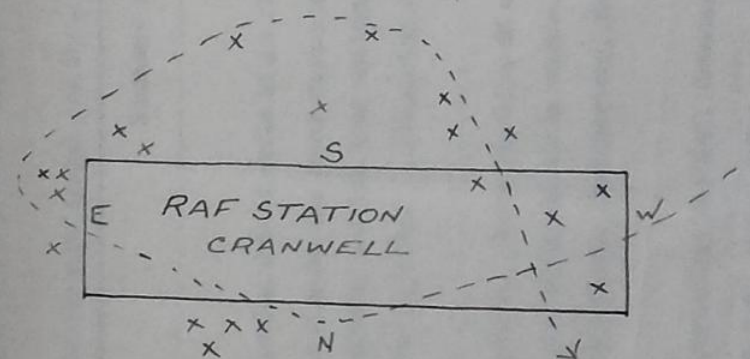
No. 8 Post. Fired three bursts of fire - 30 rounds in all. The Armadillo at West Avenue fired 10 rounds Lewis Gun. The N.C.O. I/c of Armadillo at Bristol Wood considered target too indistinct.

R.A. Posts report that 9 - 13 - 5 - 15 - 12 fired. No. 11 did not fire. They state that the plane fired Machine Gun. This was denied by other observers but proved to be correct.

Total rounds fired.

R. A. F. Posts.			R. A. Posts.	
No.	L.G.	Hispano.	No.	Rounds.
1.	160.		9.	69.
2.	97.		13.	94.
3.	180.		5.	64.
4.	15.		15.	22.
6.	290.		12.	43.
7.	12.		11.	did not fire.
7a.		50.		
8.	30.			<u>292.</u>
8a.	67.	30.		
Armadillo.	10.			
	<u>861.</u>	<u>80.</u>		

Total Lewis Gun. 1153.
Hispano. 80.



-----> Approx. course of Aircraft.

x Approx. position of incendiaries.

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1.

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No. of pages used for day month 1

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell.

Place	Date	Time	ATTACK ON BARKSTON	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Cranwell.	4th. December.			At Barkston Relief Landing Ground while night flying was in progress, some 40 small incendiary bombs were dropped in a single line on the South West side of the landing ground at half a mile distant from the huts. In 30 minutes all had been extinguished by the guards, no damage being done to personnel or Air Ministry property. The ground defence did not open fire as the aircraft was considered out of range.	
Cranwell.	7/12/40.	0900 hrs		Westerly gale veering North. Gusts reaching 80 m.p.h.	
Cranwell.	9/12/40.	1515 "		Defence exercise held including all Units on the Station. (See Appendix 'A').	
Cranwell.	13/12/40			Visit of Senior Medical Officer, Headquarters, Technical Training Command, to Cranwell on a tour of inspection.	
Cranwell.	23/12/40	1100 hrs		Visit of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Headquarters, Flying Training Command, Air Marshal L.A.P. Pattinson, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., on a tour of flying units at this Station.	
Cranwell.	25/12/40			Normal training programme was continued throughout Christmas week, with the exception that Christmas Day was regarded as a Sunday. Christmas fare was provided for all personnel.	
Cranwell.	30/12/40	1800 hrs		Visit of Air Vice-Marshal L.S. Breadner, D.S.C., Chief of Air Staff, R.C.A.F., accompanied by Air Vice-Marshal E.W. Stedman, O.B.E., R.C.A.F., Air Commodore The Hon. R. Cochrane, O.B.E., Wing Commander H.L. Campbell, R.C.A.F., and Flight Lieutenant Rollo. A tour was made of the Units engaged on flying training, this included a visit to Faldreth Relief Landing Ground for night flying.	
				<u>GENERAL</u> During the month, 38 Home Office REDS, 42 PURPLES and 67 YELLOWS were received. None of these warnings necessitated the use of shelters by personnel.	

Thos Halliday
Group Captain,
Commanding,
R.A.F. Station, Cranwell.

SECRET

R.A.F. Form 540

SECRET

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. One.

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No. of pages used for day month 2

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell.

Place	Date	Time	ATTACK	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Cranwell.	3/2/41.			Attachment of Wing Commander W.P.G. Pretty to supervise formation of No.2 Radio School at Cranwell.	
"	5/2/41.	2000 hrs		Heavy snow throughout the night. Drifts on North and South aerodromes. Slowed but did not stop flying training. Rapid thaw.	
"	7/2/41.	1430 hrs		West Sector Gas Defence Exercise held; all personnel wore full gas clothing and respirators for one hour.	
"	13/2/41.			Visit by Wing Commander E.E. Fallick and Flight Lieutenant A. Mathews of Headquarters, Technical Training Command to inspect and deal with Motor Transport problems at Cranwell.	
Fulbeck.	16/2/41.	0015 hrs		Single enemy aircraft identified by one of the pilots from close range as MEINKEL 111, attacked two Oxford aircraft which were circling prior to landing, at approximately 500 feet, fired several bursts of machine gun fire, damaging both aircraft, but without serious injury to personnel. Pilots extinguished their navigation lights and thus avoided further attack, flew to flashing beacon where they circled and returned to Fulbeck, after 15 minutes and landed.	
Cranwell.	18/2/41.			Messing Conference held by Station Commander to discuss, (i) introduction of Centralised Messing, (ii) central manufacture of foodstuffs at Stations. Owing to the size of the Station it was proposed to run two messing centres, one in West Camp and one in East Camp. There would be two Mess Committees but the whole of airmen's and W.A.A.F.'s messing on the Station to be the responsibility of the Station Messing Officer.	
"	21/2/41.			Tour of inspection by Group Captain J.D. Leahy, Principal Medical Officer, Headquarters, No. 26 Group.	
"	22/2/41.			General Anti-Gas Exercise held throughout the Station. Personnel carried on normally as far as possible while wearing respirators and full anti-gas clothing.	
Fulbeck.	26/2/41.	2255 hrs		Oxford aircraft R.6107 flying in the aerodrome circuit prior to landing was machine gunned by	

Place

Date

Time

ATTACK

Summary of Events

enemy aircraft; on being hit, the starboard engine of the Oxford burst into flames and the pupil Flight Lieutenant Trench was killed. Flying Officer Egan, although wounded, managed to land the aircraft and get out before the aircraft was burned.

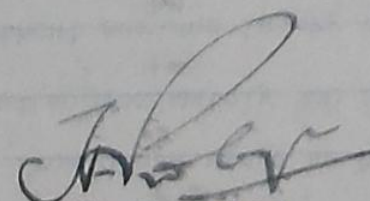
Cranwell.

27/2/41. 2000 hrs

Boxing tournament held at Cranwell in East Camp Gymnasium. R.A.F. Cranwell 14 points, R.A.F. Scampton 12 points. Exhibition bouts were given by Eric Boon, Tiny Bostock, Phil Palmer and other well known boxers now serving with the Royal Air Force. *Over 2,000 persons attended*

GENERAL

During February, 1941, 60 YELLOW, 30 PURPLE and 35 RED Home Office Warnings were received. None of these warnings necessitated the use of shelters by personnel.



Air Commodore,

Commanding,

R.A.F. Station, Cranwell.

Place

Date

Time

ATTACK

Summary of Events

References
to
Appendices

Cranwell.

23/4/41 1200 hrs

Enemy aircraft flew over the aerodrome at approximately 3000 feet and was engaged by Royal Artillery posts 9 and 15 and Royal Air Force posts Nos. 8, 8a, 7, 7a, also the Armadillo at Southways. Four posts identified the enemy aircraft as a Heinkel. Very cloudy at time and aircraft only visible for a few seconds at intervals. Enemy aircraft fired a burst of machine gun fire as it ^{flew off} passed away in a S.E. direction.

Cranwell.

24/4/41

Visit of Air Officer Administrative, Headquarters, Technical Training Command, Air Vice-Marshal R. G. Parry, C.B., D.S.O. to discuss accommodation and training problems at Cranwell, arising from the probable moving of the Equipment Training School and No. 2 Central Flying School.

Cranwell.

24/4/41

25/4/41

A 24 hour Anti-Gas Exercise was held, commencing with "Gas Alert" at 1630 hours on 24th April. There were "Gas Alarms" at 0820 hours on 25th and at 1400 hours on 25th. "All Clear" at 1630 hours on 25th. Exercise carried out satisfactorily.

Fulbeck.

30/4/41

One unidentified enemy aircraft attacked Fulbeck Relief Landing Ground at 0115 hours, dropping incendiaries and 9 H.E. bombs some 75 yards from the flare path, but although nine craters 20 feet in diameter and 10 feet in depth were formed, nobody on the landing ground heard any explosions. No guns opened fire and there were no casualties.

GENERAL.

During April the following Home Office Warnings were received:- Yellow 82. Purple 35. Red. 34. Personnel proceeded to shelters twice.

Dr. E. G. G. G.
Group Captain,
Commanding R. A. F. Station,
CRANWELL, Lines.

SECRET

- 5 JUN 1941
FILE 26 G/5005/13/HR
TO ON

21793 Wt. 38809/3593 400.000 12/39-McC & Co-51-5658

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. One.

SECRET

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell.

No. of pages used for day 2 Month. 2

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Barkston Relief Landing Ground.	1.5.41.	0230 hrs	ATTACK An unidentified enemy aircraft machine-gunned Oxford aircraft L.9685 piloted by 1174438 LAC. Patrick while he was making the aerodrome circuit. Bullets entered tail plane, main plane, air screw and cowlings, and started a fire in the main petrol tank. The aircraft was safely landed, pilot uninjured, and fire extinguished. Aircraft was flying with navigation lights as there was no "RED" warning at the time.	
Cranwell.	7.5.41.		Visit of Major General A. K. Hay, D.S.O., M.C., No. 212 Infantry Brigade, and Brigadier A. H. Hopwood, C.B., D.S.O., Lincolnshire Division, in connection with the proposed Defence Exercises of 17th and 18th May, 1941.	
Barkston Relief Landing Ground.	8.5.41.	0245 hrs	An unidentified enemy aircraft flew across the landing ground from North to South and dropped nine H.E. incendiary bombs, two of which fell on the aerodrome just beyond the flare path, damaging three Oxford aircraft. No injury to personnel. Ground Defences did not open fire as enemy aircraft not visible.	
Cranwell.	9.5.41.		Move of Equipment Training School to R.A.F. Bridlington commenced with the 9th May intake and all future intakes going direct to Bridlington instead of Cranwell. Move to be completed by the present trainees at Cranwell passing out at weekly intervals, terminating on the 20th June, 1941.	
Cranwell.	16.5.41.	1940 hrs	First flying tests held of experimental aircraft E.28/39 on South aerodrome at 1940 hours. Flight tests highly satisfactory; duration 20 minutes; flown by P.E.G. Sayers, Chief Test Pilot, Gloster Aircraft Company.	
Cranwell.	16.5.41.	1100 hrs	Wing Commander F. K. Damant, A.F.C., Air Training 1 of Headquarters, No. 21 Group, killed in flying accident on the South Aerodrome.	
Cranwell.	17-18.5.41.		A Defence Exercise took place at Cranwell in conjunction with the First Division, Home Forces, from 2200 hours on Saturday, 17th May, 1941 to 1500 hours on Sunday, 18th May, 1941. For report on exercise see Appendix "A".	

P.T.O.

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. One.

S E C R E T.

Month.

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			ATTACK BARKSTON	
Cranwell.	1.6.41.		Visit of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Flying Training Command, Air Marshal L. A. Pattison, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., to Cranwell.	
Cranwell.	8.6.41.		Visit of Home Guard 69 W.R. (Sheffield) Battalion to Station. Party comprised:- 15 Officers and 85 N.C.O's and men.	
Cranwell.	11.6.41.		Visit of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Technical Training Command, Air Marshal W.L. Welsh, C.B., D.S.C., A.F.C., and the Air Officer Commanding No. 27 (T) Group, and Senior Officer Administrative.	
Cranwell.	12.6.41.		The Officer Commanding the Lincolnshire Division, Major General A.K. Hay, D.S.O., O.B.E., accompanied Air Marshal Welsh on his inspection of Station Defence.	
Barkston Keller Landing Ground.	13.6.41.	0245 hrs.	An unidentified aircraft flying from N.E. at approximately 400 feet, dropped a stick of 10 bombs (50 kilo. size, heavy cased) across the aerodrome. One bomb failed to explode. One aircraft was slightly damaged but no injuries to personnel. A red warning was received at 0103 hours. Ground Defence did not open fire as aircraft could not be identified previous to bombing and after the bombing the presence of our aircraft made it dangerous to open fire.	
Cranwell.	13.6.41.		Visit of Officer Commanding 2nd Anti-Aircraft Division, Major General F.L.M. Crossman, D.S.O., M.C., and Assistant Adjutant Quartermaster-General, Lieut-Col. R. S. Wilkins to Station.	
			Visit of Dr. N. K. Johnson, Director of Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, Treasury representative Mr. J. G. Robinson, Mr. C. J. Gilbert, representative for Establishment Branch S2, Air Ministry, Mr. J. Durward, Head of Branch Meteorological Officer 7. The party inspected the Meteorological Office.	
Cranwell.	18.6.41.		Visit of Director of Educational Services, Air Commodore, W. M. Page, C.B.E., Chief Education Officer, London County Council, Mr. E. G. Savage, C.B., and a member of Air Ministry Establishments Branch (S2), Mr. W. J. B. Crotch to enquire into utilisation of technical skill of educational staff at Cranwell.	

P.T.O.

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R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. One.

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S E C R E T.

Month.

No. of pages used for ~~days~~ 2

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell, Lincs.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			ATTACK BARKSTON/FULBECK	
Cranwell.	3.7.41.		Visit of Major General J.H. Beith, C.B.E., M.C., to Cranwell.	
Cranwell.	7.7.41.		Station Swimming Gala held. Many entries and high standard of performance. The competition between East and West Camp resulted in a draw with 21 points each.	
Cranwell.	8.7.41.		Visit of Air Commodore ^{Vice Marshal} Parry, C.B., D.S.O., of Headquarters, Technical Training Command, to discuss accommodation problems at Cranwell.	
Fulbeck Relief Landing Ground.	15.7.41.		Four 50 kg. bombs dropped immediately south of the Landing Ground at Fulbeck. All exploded, no damage to R.A.F. personnel or property.	
Cranwell.	16.7.41.		Station Athletic Sports held at Stadium. There was keen competition between East and West Camp, resulting in a win for East Camp by 200 points to 105 points.	
Fulbeck Relief Landing Ground.	17.7.41.		A stick of ten 50 kg H.E. bombs dropped in fields West of Fulbeck Landing Ground. All exploded on impact; no damage was done to R.A.F. personnel or property.	
Barkston Relief Landing Ground.	22.7.41.		At 0115 hours an unidentified enemy aircraft flying from North to South dropped five H.E. bombs making craters approximately 20 feet apart, 9 feet wide and 5 feet deep in a line across the flare path. One airman slightly injured no damage to aircraft or other property.	
Cranwell.	24.7.41.		Instructions received from Air Ministry of proposed formation at Cranwell of No. 3 O.T.U. This commitment to include :- STRENGTH :- 120 Officers. 130 N.C.O.s. 500 Airmen. AIRCRAFT :- 29 Wellington or Whitley. 9 Anson. 4 Target towing.	
Cranwell.	30.7.41.		Visit of A.O.C. No. 17 Group, Air Commodore A.W. Milne, and Wing Commander J.B.M. Wallis in connection with formation of No. 3 O.T.U. at Cranwell. Mutually agreed No. 3 O.T.U. to arrive at Cranwell on 6th August, 1941.	

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

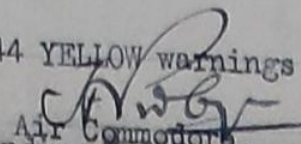
Page No. One.

SECRET.

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell, Lincs.

No. of pages used for Month. /

Place	Date	Time	ATTACK	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Cranwell.	3/8/41.			Signals Conference held to discuss the Signals Training policy of No. 3 Coastal O.T.U. Representatives present from No. 17 Group, No. 21 Group, Cranwell and No. 3 (C) O.T.U.	
Cranwell.	6/8/41.			Arrival of main body of No. 3 (C) O.T.U. at Cranwell.	
Cranwell.	18/8/41.			An unidentified hostile aircraft flying from a North-Westerly direction dropped about 40 incendiary bombs on the Camp at 0210 hours. <i>(8 things over, ref 3)</i> They were of the 1 Kilo. Magnesium incendiary type. Personnel acted promptly and all were quickly dealt with, only minor damage being done.	
Fulbeck.	18/8/41.			An enemy aircraft flying at approximately 2,000 feet dropped six H.E. bombs on the landing ground parallel with the flare path, which was lighted. No casualties. "Purple" warning only.	
Barkston.	20/8/41.	0200 hrs.		An unidentified enemy aircraft flying at approximately 1,000 feet dropped one H.E. bomb on landing ground. No casualties. Slight damage to one aircraft. No "Red" warning received. No action by the ground defence.	
Cranwell.	20/8/41.			Visit of Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Technical Training Command, Air Marshal J.T. Babington, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., on short tour of inspection.	
Cranwell.	23/8/41.			Defended Localities at Cranwell inspected by Officer Commanding, Lincolnshire Division, Major-General A.K. Hay, D.S.O., O.B.E.	
Barkston.	27/8/41.	0255 hrs.		An unidentified enemy aircraft flying in a South-Easterly direction at approximately 1,500 feet dropped seven H.E. bombs across flare path. "Red" warning received. Defences did not open fire as enemy aircraft not visible.	
Barkston.	29/8/41.	0010 hrs.		An unidentified enemy aircraft flying from North to South at approximately 4,000 feet dropped ten H.E. bombs on landing ground and in adjoining fields. One airman seriously injured, since died. Ground defences did not open fire as flying training still in progress and aircraft not visible. "Yellow" warning only received.	
			GENERAL.	During this month 14 Home Office RED, 39 PURPLE and 44 YELLOW warnings were received.	


 Air Commodore
 Commanding R.A.F. Station,
 CRANWELL, Lincs.

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OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. One
month.

No. of pages used for day

of (Unit or Formation) Royal Air Force Station, Cranwell, Lincs.

Place	Date	Time	ATTACK	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
Cranwell.	5/9/41.			Visit of Squadron Leader J. Salmon, Headquarters, Technical Training Command, to inspect and advise on Catering matters.	
Cranwell.	8-9/9/41			Station Defence Exercise held in conjunction with two Army Battalions to exercise personnel of the Station in their respective tasks, and in particular the Defended Localities, and organisation of "Backers-up". For summary of conduct of exercise and lessons learnt see -	Appendix 'A'.
Cranwell.	16/9/41.			Visit of Deputy Director of Technical Training, Group Captain G.P.H. CARTER, Colonel LANSFORD, United States Army Signals Corps, and Lieutenant SHEAR, United States Army, to Cranwell in connection with Signals Training at No. 1 Radio School.	
Cranwell.	19/9/41.			Tour of Medical Inspection by Principal Medical Officer, Headquarters, Technical Training Command, Air Vice Marshal W. TYRRELL, D.S.O., M.C.	
Cranwell.	25/9/41.			Visit of Officer Commanding, Lincolnshire Division, Major General A.K. HAY, D.S.O., O.B.E., in connection with the siting of additional Defended Locality, sited between Nos. 11 and 15 Localities and preliminary work begun.	
Barkston Relief Landing Ground.,	27/9/41.	2258 hrs		An unidentified aircraft, flying from N.W. to S.E. at an unknown height, dropped 10 H.E. bombs of about 50 kilos. All bombs fell clear of the Landing Ground, the nearest being on the grass verge of the road which adjoins the east boundary. The bomb craters were about 50/60 yards apart, the largest being 10 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep. No one was injured and no damage done. Night flying was in progress at the time and the flare path lit. One aircraft without navigation lights was just landing.	
Cranwell.	30/9/41.			The High Commissioner for NEW ZEALAND, Mr. W.J. JORDAN, accompanied by the New Zealand Liaison Officer, Flight Lieutenant HARWELL, visited New Zealand Officers, Radio Mechanics and Wireless Operators at Cranwell. <u>GENERAL.</u> During September, 1941, the following Home Office warnings were received:- RED 2, PURPLE 18, YELLOW 23. Personnel were not ordered to shelters.	

J. W. B. J.
Air Commodore, Commanding,
R.A.F. Station, Cranwell.

R.A.F. Form 540

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

Page No. 1.

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para. 2349, and War Manual, Pt. II., chapter XX., and
notes in R.A.F. Pocket Book.

of (Unit or Formation) R.A.F. Station, Cranwell.

No. of pages used for day

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
			COLLEGE DAMAGED	
Cranwell.	1.3.42		69 Police, A.R.P. and Civil Defence personnel visited station, Demonstration of rescue of personnel from crashed aircraft.	
Cranwell.	3.3.42		Wing Commander H.W. St. John and Squadron Leader W.C. Cropper visited station from Headquarters, Technical Training Command, re signals.	
Cranwell.	5.3.42		Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Longmore G.C.B., D.S.O., and Air Commodore J.R. Cassidy visited No. 1. Signals School to attend the passing out of 2M3 entry of Aircraft Apprentices.	
Cranwell.	6.3.42		Group Captain T. Montgomery S.M.O. No. 27 Group visited station to inspect medical services.	
Cranwell.	10.3.42		Lt. Colonel Ord Slatter, Defence Officer No. 27 Group re Defence.	
Cranwell.	12.3.42		Colonel E.H. Gatto D.S.O., M.C., South Lincs Sub Area, visited station re Defence.	
Cranwell.	17.3.42		Station Exercise to exercise Backers Up. Attack alarm 1415 hours. All posts in inner perimeter manned. Strong points not manned. Attack by personnel of No. 2806 (D) Squadron. Gas alert 1545 hours. Raiders Past 1550 hours. All clear gas and exercise ended 1600 hours.	
Cranwell.	18.3.42		2015 hours. Whitley aircraft of No. 3.(C) O.T.U. night flying from south aerodrome, crashed into the west end of the main College building, caught fire, and set fire to the college building. Station Fire Brigade at scene of fire within two minutes. Fire Brigades from Sleaford, Lincoln, Newark, and Boston called. Three crew of aircraft killed. Three airmen in college injured. Two fire fighters injured.	

STATION, CRANWELL.

Place

Date

Time

ATTACK BARKSTON

Summary of Events

BARKSTON 22.7.42 00.45 An unidentified aircraft flying from N.E. to S.W. at a height of approx. 100 feet dropped 4 H.E. bombs of about 250 Kilgs. One bomb dropped on the landing ground. No damage to personnel, 1 aircraft punctured in starboard wing fabric.

CRANWELL 23.7.42 Captain Orga, Turkish Welfare Officer, visited College for purpose of consulting Captain Ersel on training of Turkish Cadets.

CRANWELL 27.7.42 Group Captain I.T.B. Hart, O.B.E., Command Education Officer visited No.1 Signals School regarding Educational Training.

07.56 Personnel ordered to Shelters on sounding of Air Raid Warning.

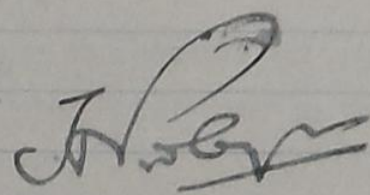
CRANWELL 29.7.42 1406 (Spalding & District) Squadron A.T.C., visited the Station for week-end Camp. A programme of flying and instruction was arranged.

CRANWELL 31.7.42 Major S.Turagay, Turkish Air Attache visited College for purpose of meeting Turkish officers undergoing training.

GENERAL.

During July six Home Office "RED" and six "PURPLE" warnings were received.

Personnel ordered to Shelters once.


Air Commodore,
Officer Commanding,
RAF Station, Cranwell.