

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. January 1943.

1/1/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

2/1/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Levfgneron R.G. (free French) flying Spitfire X.4831. Aircraft forced to land immediately after taking off due to failure select wheels up before hitting aerodrome boundary.

3/1/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Menuge (Free French) flying Spitfire F.7444. Pilot ran into stationary plane which was drawn up by edge of runway with a burst tyre. Pilot held responsible for not seeing that the runway was clear but part blame was attached to Aerodrome Control Pilot (a pupil pilot) for not ensuring that the runway was clear. A second involving F/Sgt. Closteran flying Spitfire P.7832 burst tyre on landing it was this plane that was parked at the edge of runway who warned all aircraft over the R/T of situation.

4/1/43 Flying all day. Full training.

5/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

6/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

7/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

8/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

9/1/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Wood flying Spitfire P.8655. Aircraft damaged as a result of exceptionally heavy landing because pilot held off too high.

10/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

11/1/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

12/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

13/1/43 Flying all day. Full training.

14/1/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving F/L Dick flying Tiger Moth T.7166 with S/O Hodgson as passenger.

Aircraft crashed while taking off into cross wind giving impression of inexperience on light types.

15/1/43 Flying all day. Full training.

16/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

17/1/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

18/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

19/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

20/1/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Adams flying Spitfire X.4852 aircraft flew into hillside into hillside aircraft completely wrecked. Another flying accident occurred late in the day involving Sgt. Mould (Canadian) flying Spitfire P.9329 aircraft flew into hillside aircraft completely wrecked.

21/1/43 Flying all day. Full training.

22/1/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

23/1/43 Flying all day. Full training.

24/1/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Wilson flying Spitfire P.8569. Aircraft crashed in ploughed field when attempting a force landing due to glyciollea pilot was very near base and hadn't much height and therefore hadn't much opportunity to pick a suitable field.

25/1/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

26/1/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving W/O Brown flying Master D.L. 610 with Sgt. Farrow as passenger. Sgt. Farrow was taking off and in W/O Brown opinion was zigging across the perimeter track too violently. He tried to correct this on a swing hard left but the aircraft continued to turn to port with one wheel running off the hard stand into the mud and hitting a trestle.

27/1/43 Flying all day. Full training.

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. February 1943.

1/2/43 Flying all day. Full training. Three flying accidents today the first concerned L/T. Girardon (Free France) flying Spitfire P.8024. Pilot made forced landing at Whitchurch Heath after he had noticed that he had a glycel leak when in mid-air. Second concerned Sgt. Payne flying Spitfire P.7609. Pilot made forced landing near Bagley Marsh after his engine had cut out. Third incident concerned Sgt. Sutton flying Spitfire 7804 who was carrying out individual low flying and apparently came too low and began a steep turn to port hitting the top of a wall. This occurred approximately six miles South Of Wrexham. Aircraft was flown on and safely based.

2/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

3/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

4/2/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today concerned Sgt. Draycott K flying Spitfire X 4834. Aircraft ran off runway after landing hitting sodium flare at side of runway slight damage to plane .

5/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

6/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

7/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

8/2/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Lander D.E. when flying Spitfire P.8693. Pilot made a successful forced landing in a field approximately 3 half miles northeast of Prestatyn. Landing was essential owing to lack of fuel which Sgt. Lauder had omitted to check when signing Form 700.

9/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

10/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

11/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

12/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Dunne R. flying Spitfire P.7757. Pilot landed sadly opened throttle to go around again climbing immediately aircraft stalled and spun into oopicet edge of aerodrome. Pilot dangerously injured.

13/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

14/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

15/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

16/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

17/2/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents occurred today. Sgt. Dolice F.W. flying Spitfire P.7366 was landing and levelled out to high to correct it with engine causing left wing to hit ground. Aircraft then skidded off runway. Second concerned P/O Burke flying Spitfire P.7444. Pilot selected Wheels Down decided to crash land at Montford Bridge.

18/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

19/2/43 Flying all day. Full training Two flying accidents occurred today. First P/O Robson (Canadian) flying Spitfire P.8319. When appoching to land attention was diverted by smoke generator causing pilot to indorrectly hitting tree. Second involving P/O Fletcher flying Spitfire P. 7687. Pilot was night flying and on landing hit the ground short of runway.

20/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

21/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

22/2/43 No flying

23/2//43 No Flying during day. Poor weather.

24/2/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

25/2/43 Flying during day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Turton flying Lysandier V.9540. On first solo flight made a heavy landing causing undercarriage to collapse.

26/2/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident occurred today involving P/O Van Denplasher (Belgium) flying Spitfire N.3051. This officer in mid air collided with another plane when turning into the sun which with smoke haze made visibility poor.

27/2/43 Flying all day. Full training.

28/2/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident occurred today involving Sgt. Waddeon . When flying Spitfire P. 6769 landed heavily and cross wind caused plane to swing off runway.

Crashes 13            killed 0

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. March 1943.

1/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

2/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

3/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

4/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

5/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. Two minor accidents today. Two Spitfires were taxiing awaiting to take off. Spitfire piloted by Sgt. Steriman collided with one in front piloted by Sgt. Hannan.

6/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One accident today involving P/O Whalen (U.S.A.) flying Spitfire P. 8391. Aircraft developed engine trouble and ultimately failed altogether. Pilot forced landed with undercarriage retracted.

7/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

8/3/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today. Collision involving Spitfire R.7134 and E.8191. Sgt. Thulin (Norwegian) in former machine was taxiing up runway when he saw another aircraft coming towards him. He taxied on to hard standing as far as he could, but latter plane piloted by P/O Coppins collided with the other causing damage to both planes.

9/3/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident today involving Sgt. Mcsween flying Spitfire P.7674. Damage caused on landing due to starboard undercarriage failing to function correctly.

10/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One taxiing accident involving Spitfire P.8665 and X.4623 occurred today. Planes piloted by Sgt. Libert (Belgium) and Sgt. Meecham collided head on whilst taxiing.

11/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

12/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

13/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

14/3/43 No flying today.

15/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

16/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

17/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

18/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

19/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

20/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

21/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

22/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

23/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

24/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

25/3/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

26/3/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents today. First concerned F/O Squires flying Spitfire P.7744. On landing after first solo on Spits he was rather late in opening the throttle and the aircraft dropped 10 feet on to three wheels causing the starboard undercarriage to sheer off. Pilot then made Wheels up landing on instructions from Chief flying Instructor. Second concerned Sgt. Doidge flying Spitfire P.8345. Pilot was coming in on outer circuit when his engine spluttered and later cut out completely. Pilot glided in to do a wheel up but speed was rather excessive causing plane to bury its nose and later causing it to turn summersault.

27/3/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. Three accidents today. F/lt. Madden flying Spitfire R.7071 flying over Child Ercal Airdrome when engine began to run rough. On receiving permission to land he came in only to notice poles sticking out for first part of runway. He touched down on remainder and then overshot the runway. Sgt. Boots was landing Spitfire P. 7896 when wheel on port undercarriage burst causing aircraft to swing off runway on soft ground where it turned on its back. Third accident concerned F/sgt. Woodacre flying Spitfire P.8171. Aircraft was over

Hawarern when pilot noticed white smoke coming from starboard exhaust and engine commenced to run rough. Finding landing at RAF Station Hawarern impossible and touched down on a field which unfortunately had a gully at the end. Plane then turned over on its back.

28/3/43 Flying all day. Full training. Sgt. Shale piloting Spitfire P.9440 attempted to take off in coarse pitch. He attempted to change into fine but was unable to clear the airdrome and selected wheels up crash landing on port side of runway. F/O 'Connor was flying Master W.8936 with F/O Watt after taking off and at about 150 feet the engine began to sputter and then stopped completely. Owing to lack of height he was unable to select a suitable landing. Aircraft crashed complete wreck.

29/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

30/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

31/3/43 Flying all day. Full training.

Crashes 15

Killed 0