

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. April 1943.

1/4/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

2/4/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

3/4/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Martinet H. P. 263 crashed at Prestatyn Ranges apparently due to engine trouble. Sgt. Wells and A.C. L. Garner slightly injured and admitted to hospital.

4/4/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents today. First Flying Officer Jones flying Spitfire X.4425 was flying low of the sea off Llandulas when his aircraft hit an object causing it to make a forced landing on the beach. Pilot placed under arrest. Since released on instructions A.O.C. No.9 Group. Second accident occurred Sgt. Clarke was flying Spitfire P.7979 developed a glycol leak and forced landed. Pilot was commended on good force landing.

5/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

6/4/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Pilot Officer Duchateau flying Spitfire P.7973 during low flying exercise was following River Dee when apparently Blacked Out whilst making a sharp turn. Pilot lack of English preclude an accurate description of the accident but presumable hit some object not yet identified.

7/4/43 Part flying during day. High winds in afternoon.

8/4/43 Flying all day. Full training. One fatal accident occurred today at Satellite airdrome Montford Bridge. Spitfire P. 8429 and P.7921 collided in mid air resulting in the death of pilot of the former machine Sgt. Moody.

9/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

10/4/43 Flying al day. Full training.

11/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

12/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

13/4/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident involving F/Sgt. Potvin undershot drone on landing and caused damage to starboard main plane of Spitfire P.8075.

14/4/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

15/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

16/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

17/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

18/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

19/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

20/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

21/4/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

22/4/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

23/4/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

24/4/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. Sgt. Graham flying Spitfire P.7508 omitted to lower undercarriage on landing at R.A.F. Station Whitchurch Heath.

25/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

26/4/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

27/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

28/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

29/4/43 Flying all day. Full training.

30/4/43 Flying al day. Full training.

Crashes 7      Killed 1

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. May 1943.

1/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

2/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

3/5/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

4/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

5/5/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident involving Sgt. Frederick flying Spitfire A.R. 232. Aircraft forced landing owing to engine failure. Pilot made a good, forced landing.

6/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

7/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

8/5/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

9/5/43 No flying today. Poor weather.

10/5/43 No flying today. Poor weather.

11/5/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident occurred involving Sgt. Shetland (Norwegian) piloting Spitfire X.4486 was forced to land in a field near Holt owing to a glycol leak.

12/5/43 No flying today. Poor weather.

13/5/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

14/5/43 Flying all day. Full training. Three flying accidents today. First Sgt. Ostrander (Canadian) flying Spitfire P. 6959 found that his undercarriage was stuck and obtained permission to land with it up. Second concerned Sgt. Dumbrell (Australian) flying Spitfire X.4776 who had to force land owing to engine failure. Third Fatal involved F/Sgt. Webb (Australian) flying Spitfire P.8268 who collided in mid-air with a Wellington.

15/5/43 Flying all day. Full training. One taxiing accident today in which Sgt. Nelson in Spitfire 8475 collided with a petrol bowser.

16/5/43 Full flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving F/Lt. Davis (Czech) piloting Spitfire X.4165. When taking off port leg sheared off caused through technical failure.

17/5/43 Full flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Mopherson (Australian) flying Spitfire P.7855 overshoot on landing.

18/5/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. W.C. Vavinek (Czech) taxied into an M.T. vehicle on the runway in Spitfire P.7501.

19/5/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. R/C. Gilstrip (Dane) flying Spitfire P.8688 stalled whilst landing due to suspected engine failure to make runway.

20/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

21/5/43 Flying all day. Full training. Spitfire P.6914 piloted by P/O Deghaops (Belgium) sustained a burst tyre on landing causing it to run off runway and both legs collapse.

22/5/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

23/5/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

24/5/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

25/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

26/5/43 Part flying during day.

27/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

28/5/43 Flying all day. Full training. Sgt. Coucheron (Norwegian) flying Spitfire P. 7611 overshoot end of runway which was considered due to inexperience.

29/5/43 Flying all day. Full training.

30/5/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

31/5/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. Two accidents occurred today one fatal. Sgt first concerned Sgt. Norris flying Spitfire P.8319 who landed at R.A. F. Montford Bridge with wheels up. The second fatal involved Sgt. Mcpherson (Australian) who collided in mid air with a Mosquito resulting in the death of the two occupants of the Mosquito and Sgt. Mcpherson. Sgt. Mcpherson was flying Spitfire X.4930.

Crashes 14

Killed. 3

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. June 1943.

1/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

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

3/6/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

4/6/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

5/6/43 One flying accident today involving Squadron Leader D.S. Edwards flying Dominie X.7375. Slight damage on landing caused through tail wheel sticking hidden hole alongside track.

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

7/6/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

8/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents today. First involving Sgt. Gundersen E.A. 5430 (Norwegian) flying Spitfire MK L.6975. Pilot landed successfully but when taxiing to hardstanding port wheel ran into small hole and undercarriage leg broke. Second involving Tidemand O.G. 5386 (Norwegian) flying Spitfire MK.L.K.9824. Aircraft forced landed undercarriage retracted due to engine failure. Cause of failure not ascertainable. Damage to starboard main plane underside of fuselage stern group and propellor. Reduction gear torn from engine.

9/6/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

10/6/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

11/6/43 Flying all day. full training.

12/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents today. First involving Sgt. Treider O. 5439 (Norwegian) flying Spitfire 11.R.7355. Aircraft forced landed Undercarriage retracted. Engine failure-severe internal glycol leak. Damage to starboard flap, propellor. Engine seized Cat. A.C. Second involving Sgt. Exeley (658251) flying Spitfire MK.V. P.8195 and flying officer T.B.O'Reilly (Aus.402535) flying Spitfire 11.P.8505 collided in mid-air resulting in death of latter pilot who crashed complete

wreck. Former pilot forced landed at Sleaf with damage to propellor and oil tank.

13/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

14/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

15/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

16/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Pilot Officer G.A. B. Edwards (142070) flying Spitfire 11A. P.8392. When landing formation engine began to run roughly aircraft forced landed with undercarriage retracted due to engine failure.

17/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

18/6/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

19/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Flying Officer L.S. Frost (113435) flying Spitfire 11B P.8677. Pilot detailed for cannon firing flight and noticed radiator temperature increase smoke got worse and truffle became useless force landed with undercarriage retracted due to engine failure. Pilot displayed coolness and judgement.

20/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Seeney C.A. (A.414519) near Ellesmere flying Spitfire L.P.6965 when climbing away from low flying engine cut dead aircraft landed undercarriage retracted due to engine failure.

21/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

22/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

23/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

24/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

25/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident involving Sgt. Burton C.O. (1056547) flying Spitfire 1.R.7141. Aircraft struck an obstruction whilst in flight damage to port main plane.

26/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Flight Sgt. H.G. Wallace -Wells (A.432266) flying Spitfire X.4017. Aircraft landed undercarriage partly retracted due to bolt jock. Technical failure no blame attached to pilot who did a good belly landing.

27/6/43 Flying all day. Full training.

28/56/43 Flying all day. Full training.

29/6/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving P/O Grey G.E.A. (150204) flying Spitfire X.4941. After Cine gun exercise pilot suggested practice deflection attack during which pilot crashed complete wreck. Pilot killed.

30/6/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

Crashes. 10

2 Killed.