

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. October 1942.

1/10/42 Part flying during day.

2/10/42 Part flying during day.

3/10/42 No flying today.

4/10/42 Part flying during day.

5/10/42 Part flying during day.

6/10/42 Part flying during day. Two flying accidents one involving Sgt. Van-den-Broeck A.T.(Belgian) and Spitfire X.4539 aircraft collided with Spitfire P.8035 whilst taxiing damage to starboard main plane leading edge and aileron. The other involving Sgt. Cahsen P.H. (Canadian) and Spitfire P.8035 taxiing accident.

7/10/42 Part flying during day.

8/10/42 Part flying during day.

9/10/42 Part flying during day.

10/10/42 Flying all day. Full training.

11/10/42 Flying all day. Full training.

12/10/42 Part flying during day.

13/10/42 Flying all day. Full training.

14/10/42 Flying all day. Full training.

15/10/42 Flying all day. Full training. Flying accident occurred involving F/Sgt. Dobson-Smith flying Spitfire R.6915 and Sgt. King (American) flying Spitfire X.4623. In regaining his position in formation after a turn Sgt. King collided with formation leader (F/Sgt. Dobson-Smith striking the latter's starboard main plane with his port main plane. Both pilots managed to successfully force land their aircraft

16/10/42 Part flying during day.

17/10/42 Part flying during day. Flying accident involving Sgt. Johnson R.A. (New Zealand) and Spitfire P.76695 aircraft while taxiing left perimeter track and ran into a ditch.

18/10/42 Part flying during day.

19/10/42 Part flying during day. Flying accident involving Sgt. Darley D.W. and Spitfire P.7615 Aircraft forced landed owing to engine failure.

20/10/42 Part flying during day.

21/10/42 Part flying during day.

22/10/42 Flying all day. Full training.

23/10/42 Part flying during day.

24/10/42 Part flying during day.

25/10/42 Part flying during day.

26/10/42 Part flying during day.

27/10/42 Flying all day. Full training.

28/10/42 No flying during day.

29/10/42 No Flying during day.

30/10/42 No Flying during day.

31/10/42 Part flying during day. Flying accident Sgt. Shanks flying a Spitfire X.4481 aircraft overturned while landing due to an error of judgement.

Crashes 7 Killed 0



Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. November 1942.

1/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

2/11/42 Flying all day. Full training.

3/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

4/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

5/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

6/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

7/11/42 Flying all day. Full training.

8/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

9/11/42 Flying all day. Full training. Two accidents today. The first involving Sgt. Adams and Spitfire R.6993. Pilot was flying in formation when his engine began to run roughly and he fell away from formation. Glycol leak found to be the trouble pilot made a good, forced landing. The second accident involved P/O Noble flying Spitfire R.6895 engine failed, and pilot attempted a downwind forced landing on the nearest drome (High Ercall) plane after a short run went up on its nose.

10/11/42 Flying all day. Full training.

11/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

12/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

13/11/42 Flying all day. Full training. One accident today involving Sgt. Dennaby flying spitfire R.6835. Pilot made a normal landing on the centre of the runway but started to swing to starboard. It failed to correct swing before he left the runway and owing to the grass verge being completely unserviceable tipped up on nose.

14/11/42 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving P/O Lee (New Zealand) flying Spitfire X4621. Pilot failed to recover from a dive. No technical defects suspected. Aircraft total wreck Pilot killed.

15/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

16/11/42 No Flying during day. Poor weather.

17/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

18/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

19/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

20/1/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

21/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

22/11/42 Flying all day. Full training.

23/11/42 Part flying during day. One flying accident occurred involving Sgt. Mertens flying Lysander L.4789 A.C.1.Osborn was a passenger operating dregue towing device. Pilots vision was obscured by oil on windscreen and hood. He made a landing on the extreme edge of the runway and bounced. Aircraft left the runway about 00 yards from a point where draining operations were in progress. The undercarriage struck the draining trench which caused it to collapse.

24/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

25/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

26/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

27/11/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

28/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

29/11/42 Flying all day. Full training.

30/11/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

Crashes 4 Killed 1



Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. December 1942.

1/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather. Two flying accidents today. One involving Sgt. Menuge flying Spitfire P.7973. Pilot made a heavy landing bounced swung out of wind and hit with port wheel causing to collapse. Second involving P/O Rivett flying Spitfire P.7746 aircraft swung on take-off pending test flight.

2/12/42 Flying all day. Full training.

3/12/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

4/12/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

5/12/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

6/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

7/12/42 Flying all day. Full training.

8/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

9/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

10/12/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

11/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

12/12/42 Flying all day. Full training.

13/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

14/12/42 Flying all day. Full training. One accident P/O Degail killed in flying accident. Plane crashed into side of hill.

15/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather. Three flying accidents today. First involving Sgt. Crawey flying Spitfire X.4776 Pilot was taxiing too fast at the end of runway. He applied hard starboard brake and centripetal force caused Port undercarriage leg to collapse. Second involved Sgt. Veys flying Spitfire R.7125 pilot made too heavy landing which caused starboard leg to collapse. Third involved P/O (A/F/L) Walker flying Lysander T.1655 pilot was engaged in low flying search for Spitfire aircraft

probably caught in down draught causing aircraft to hit hill side. Pilot killed.

16/12/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

17/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

18/12/42 No flying during day. Poor weather.

19/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One accident today involving Sgt. Robson flying Spitfire R.7151. Pilot attempted to take off in coarse pitch and failed to clear the railway embankment.

20/12/42 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident involving Sgt. Veys flying Spitfire P.8389. Pilot on air firing and whilst over range failed to appreciate how much fuel he was using. With only 25 gallons left. Pilot should not have attempted a further 20 minutes flying but should have landed at one of the available drones.

21/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

22/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

23/12/42 Flying all day. Full training.

24/12/42 Flying all day. Full training.

25/12/42 No flying during day. Christmas Day.

26/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

27/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One accident today involving Sgt. Girardon flying Spitfire P.8693. Occurred at Whitchurch pilot landed his plane at Rednal pilot rolled at 3,000 ft. and failed to pull out before hitting a tree.

28/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

29/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

30/12/42 Flying all day. Full training.

31/12/42 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

Crashes 9. Killed 2.