

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. July 1943.

1/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

2/7/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Thomas R. 101433 flying Spitfire 11P.7973. Engine cut out when climbing. Pilot returned to base and engine cut out again starboard wheel only came down when attempting to land. Pilot made crash landing

3/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

4/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

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

6/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

7/7/43 flying all day. Full training.

8/7/43 flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Robert H.J. R.144988 flying Spitfire VA L1031. Engine failure when landing pilot closed throttle to lower under carriage and flaps and on trying to open up again there was no result. Plane hit the ground a few yards before the edge of the runway. Engine being examined.

9/7/34 Flying all day. Full training.

10/7/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

11/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

12/7/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving F/Sgt. Wallace-Wells H.A.A32266 flying Spitfire VA. No.4064. After formation exercise pilot returned to land undershot the runway and had to go round again. The undercarriage stuck a hedge and had to do a belly landing.

13/7/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Langley 1321574 flying Spitfire P7081. Pilot made a heavy landing after completing exercises.

14/7/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

15/7/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

16/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

17/7/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

18/7/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents today. First involving Sgt. Malin flying Spitfire 11 A. No. 7380 was fatal. Aircraft crashed suspected engine failure as apparent cause. Second involving Sgt. Sharkey J.A. Aus. 413034 flying Spitfire VA No.X.4908. Whilst acting as a target aircraft during cine gun exercise. Pilot noticed bullets entering the cockpit. He discontinued the action and returned to base and made splendid landing.

19/7/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident involving Sgt. Twelftree J.W. 146774 and AC1 N.A. Pobers 1043490 flying Martinet X RP 328 Aircraft crashed. Both killed.

20/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

21/7/43 Part Flying during day. Poor weather.

22/7/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

23/7/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Richards D.L.R.(American) R.134627 flying Spitfire V.A.L. 1061. The pilot was landing having completed an air firing exercise and through an error of judgement aircraft was stalled in from 25-30 feet. Heavy landing an obvious error of judgement.

24/7/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

25/7/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving/Sgt. J.W. Underhill J.W. (Aus.) 414611. Aircraft engaged on height climb and crashed complete wreck. Flying Spitfire 1. N3225 (Fatal).

26/7/34 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Odfjell K.R. (Norwegian) 5394 flying Spitfire VA.P. 7692.Pilot was engaged in air and air to ground firing and apparently flew into target but no clear evidence available.

27/7/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Sgt. Baker J. (Dutch) No.1632454 Flying Spitfire 11.A.P.7889 whilst practicing forced land and affiliation collided in mid-air with pilot by L/T Leivis (French) No.30803. Extensive damage to both aircraft. Second accident involving Miginn (American) No. R.319067 flying Spitfire 1A P.7979. Pilot was carrying out squadron formation and whilst landing hit an obstruction.

28/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

29/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

30/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

31/7/43 Flying all day. Full training.

Crashes 14

5 Killed

Rednal Airfield Operational day Book August 1943.

1/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

2/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

3/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

4/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

5/8/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents today. One involving Spitfire R.7022 piloted by No.4095755 Sgt. Mitchell C.J. (Australian). Pilot drifted right off runway at a point 300 yards from perimeter and struck overshoot marker damaging plane. Second accident involving Spitfire P.9499 piloted by 1649901 Sgt. Schiff (Dutch). Engine failure due to severe glycol leak undercarriage did not lock down aircraft having touched down before it had time to do so. Rear portion of engine caught fire as aircraft came to rest due to loss of glycol and subsequent overheating of engine.

6/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

7/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

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

9/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

10/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

11/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

12/8/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today. Spitfire P.8389 piloted by 409652 Sgt. Bartels A.T. (Australian). Pilot exercised insufficient care when landing in a strong wind. He carried out his approach too slowly and dropped the aircraft from about 10 feet.

13/8/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two flying accidents today. First involving P.7355 piloted by R.144976 Sgt. Boulais J.A.R.F. (French Canadian). As pilot levelled off at 8 to 10 feet the cross wind from port carried him to the right and as he touched down the undercarriage collapsed. Second involving Spitfire P.7508 piloted by 829 Sgt. Wroidsen

W. (Norwegian). Aircraft forced landed with undercarriage retracted due to loss of engine power. Loss of power attributed to constant speed failure due to fracture of universal joint of C/S control unit link arm to remote control.

14/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

15/8/43 Flying all day. Full training. One fatal accident involving Martinet J.N. 294 piloted by Sgt. Hansford H.M. Passenger No. 1243376 A.G.1 Mc Carthy J.J. Drogue tower. Both killed. Aircraft came down to drop drogue in normal way at about 800 feet when engine cut out. Aircraft lost flying speed and crashed into sea.

16/8/43 Flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Dominey L. J.7375 piloted by 45815 F/L Gredge H.F.E. passenger No.396 L Gilhus J.B. (Norwegian) and two A.T.C. cadets. Pilot badly executed cross wind landing on narrow aerodrome and violently corrected swing to left undercarriage collapsed.

17/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One flying accident today involving Spitfire A.R. 231 piloted by No. 654739 Sgt. Gaydos A.C. (American). Inexperienced pilot held off too high and dropped aircraft with slight drift tearing off part clec leg.

18/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

19/8/43 flying all day. Full training. One flying accident today involving Spitfire P. 8648 piloted by No.150219 pilot officer J.B. Orerod due to engine failure. Aircraft made forced landing in a field which was of uneven surface and turned on its back. Cause of engine failure severe glycol leak.

20/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

21/8/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

22/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather. One fatal accident today involving Spitfire P. 7304 and Spitfire 7444 mid-air collision. Spitfire 7304 piloted by No.143485 pilot officer Noizet J.J.A. (Belgian) and Spitfire 7444 piloted by No.151928 pilot officer Goldsmith H.M. (Belgian) . Pilot officer Noizet killed. Collision due to error of judgement by pilots during fighter attack exercises.

23/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

24/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

25/8/43 No flying during day. Poor weather. Fatal Railway accident occurred at about 23.00 hours involving 2054945 L.AC.W. Tirner B.H.M. (Killed 2036250 A.C.W.1 Robertson (Killed).2106803 A.C.W. 2 Finch M.J. (Injured) and 2110613 A.C.W.1 Olli G. (Seriously injured). Airwoman crossed line behind passenger train and walked into express goods train.

26/8/43 Flying all day. Full training. No. N.Z. 415299 F/Sgt. Early C.W. was drowned during Dinghe Drill practice in Ellesmere Lake Shropshire F/Sgt. Early got into difficulties whilst swimming from the side of the lake to a raft about 400 yards out and although attempts were made by F/Sgt. R.C. Staff 4409608 and Sgt. Rinde J.P. 1784 to hold him up they could not keep him afloat. The body of the airman was recovered later in the day.

27/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

28/8/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

29/8/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

30/8/43 Part flying during day. Poor weather.

31/8/43 Flying all day. Full training.

Crashes 10      5 Killed      One Drowned.

Rednal Airfield Operational Day Book. September 1943.

1/9/43 Part Flying during day. Poor weather.

2/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

3/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

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

5/9/43 Flying all day. Full training. Two accidents occurred today. First involving Master 11 No. W8909 piloted by F/L I.R.Krohn (41714). Passenger Pilot Officer D.A.E. Smiley (J.23809) Aircraft forced landed. Engine failure. Second accident involving Spitfire No. P.8195 piloted by Pilot Officer H.M. Goldsmit (151928) (Belgian). Aircraft damaged while taxiing.

6/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

7/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

8/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

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

10/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

11/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

12/9/43 Flying all day. Full training. One aircraft accident today involving Spitfire No. X.4173 pilot Sgt. T. Marthinsen (Norwegian) (1742) and Spitfire No. E.7127 (aircraft destroyed) piloted by Sgt. D.G. Keith (1337715) (Killed). Aircraft collided in Mid-air.

13/9/43 No flying during day. Poor weather.

14/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

15/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

16/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

17/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

18/9/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident involving Spitfire No. P.9306 pilot Sgt. Griffin A.J. (1461092) Aircraft subjected to heavy landing with drift.

19/9/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident Spitfire No.P.8677. P.8677. Pilot Officer F.C. McFarlane (Canadian) (J24092) .Aircraft forced landed due to engine failure.

20/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

21/9/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident involving F/Sgt. F.G. Woollard (1312058) piloting Spitfire No. P.7447. Aircraft landed undercarriage retracted.

22/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

23/9/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident involving Spitfire No.N.30 piloted by S/Lt. De Baron De Segonzac (French) (35105). Aircraft damaged while taxiing. No technical defect.

24/9/43 Flying all day. Full training. One accident involving Spitfire No.X.4485 piloted by Sgt. Greer R.T. (Canadian) (6131A0).Aircraft collided in mid-air. Not fatal.

25/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

26/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

27/9/43 Flying all day. Full training.

28/9/43 Little flying. Poor weather.

29/9/43 Little flying. Poor weather.

30/9/43 Flying all day Full training.

Crashes 9      1 Killed.