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RAF Valley

Aircraft Movements

1942

CREDITS:

International Bomber Command Centre Archive

Airhistory.org.uk

Luftwaffe Archive Series/National Archives/rafweb.org/350sqn-raf.be

Fighter Nights by John Bennett

My life as a Battle of Britain pilot by Gordon Olive DFC

Peter Croft/Ian Evans/Peter Sewell papers/Dick Thomas

UPDATE V2

Additional photographs.
Additional Unit movements.
Personal recollections.
456 Sqn Caricature booklet at the end.

SUMMARY

456 Sqn achieved their first enemy aircraft kill.
The CAM Ship Hurricanes continued to use Valley. This was if the aircraft was not required to be used during the return Atlantic crossing. To give the pilot some flying practice it would be catapulted off Point Lynas and flown to Valley for a visual inspection on the ground. Once checked it would depart back to its main base at Speke [Liverpool] Airport.

A few images from 456 Sqn in 1942:



From left to right:
Tom Condon - Ron Lowther [KIA 2.6.43] - Cliff Satchwell - Red Ratcliffe [KIA 2.6.43]
This is near to Beaumaris Pier or possibly opposite the Brynsiencyn area.



Cliff Satchwell & Fred Stevens on an RAF Tractor.



B Flight, 456 Sqn Crewroom.

In shirt sleeves, Bill Hyne then Mark Stokes, John Brayne & Geoff Oxlade.

Foreground: Don Shanks.

Man leaning on the stove unknown.



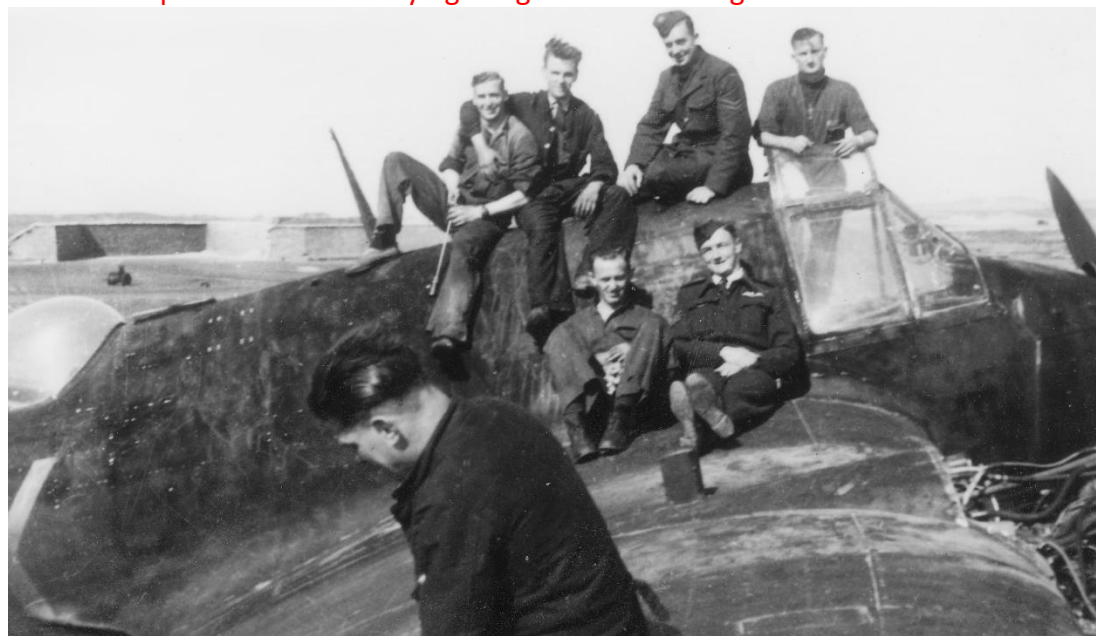
Fred Stevens outside the B Flight, 456 Sqn Crewroom.
Fred arrived at Valley 16 October 194 and remained with 456 Sqn through until 1945.
Fred ended up living in Anglesea, Victoria, Australia with his house named 'Rhosneigr'



Dated 6.1942 shows LAC Macteer 456 Sqn working on Beaufighter IIF R2382:RX-Z.
He apparently designed the first 'Flying Kangaroo' for 456 Sqn.



LAC Vidler who painted the first 'Flying Kangaroo' on Beaufighter IIF R2382:RX-Z on 2.6.1942



Gordon Gatenby's the pilot relaxing on the wing root of a Beaufighter IIF.



A 456 Sqn Beaufighter in a revetment dispersal at Valley.



Probably a 'staged' photograph of a 456 Sqn Beaufighter at Valley.
[All: Gordon Gatenby Collection]

For more 456 Sqn memorabilia go to the end of this Year!

Abbreviations	
AACU	Anti-Aircraft Co-Operation Unit
ATA	Air Transport Auxiliary
DFC	Distinguished Flying Cross
FS/FG	Fighter Squadron/Group [USAAF]
MSFU	Merchant Ship Fighter Unit [Catapult Ship Hurricane Unit]
OTU	Operational Training Unit
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
Sqn	Squadron
USASC	United States Army Signal Corps
Luftwaffe [German] Ranks equivalent RAF	
Hptm	Hauptmann - Flight Lieutenant
O/Lt	Oberleutnant - Flying Officer
Lt	Leutnant - Pilot Officer
S/Fw	Stabsfeldwebel – Warrant Officer
O/Fw	Oberfeldwebel – Flight Sergeant
Fw	Feldwebel – Flight Sergeant
Uffz	Unteroffizier - Corporal
O/Gfr	Obergefreiter – Leading Aircraftman
Gfr	Gefreiter – Aircraftman 1 st class
Flgr	Flieger – Aircraftman 2 nd class
Ff	Pilot
Bf	Radio Operator
Bm	Flight Engineer

Bo	Observer/Navigator
Bs	Gunner

Note:

There may be the odd discrepancy regarding dates as some Unit records recorded 00:01 to 23:59 as a daily record whilst others notably Valley recorded 18:00 to 06:00 as a daily record, thus an incident may differ within a day or so according to the various Unit records.

A general view of Valley in 1942 after the Lake [Llyn Cerrig Bach] had been drained to provide the peat/top soil to cover the sandy soil.

An assortment of Hurricanes, Beaufighters & a Walrus can be seen at the various dispersals. 19/20 hasn't been extended towards the railway line yet.



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Thursday 1st January 1942 [AIR 27/1692/2][fcafa.com]

AD539	DU-	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/L Cermak
[Definitely AD539 in the 312 Sqn ORB but the F78 says it had a mid-air collision with BL293 19.12.41]				
BL260	DU-A	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	Sgt Motycka
BL293	DU-	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/O Kruml
[again see AD539 above, definitely BL293 in the 312 Sqn ORB]				


BL381	DU-L	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	Sgt Dobrovalny
AD415	DU-	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/O Dvorak
AD541	DU-	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/S Svetlik
W3249	DU-K	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/S Smolik
AD572	DU-C	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/O Tonder
AD553	DU-E	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	P/O Kucera
-				
BL529	DU-	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	S/L Vasatko
AB172	DU-D	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/O Rohacek [or possibly DU-O]
BL254	DU-	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/O Kaslik
W3445	DU-W	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	Sgt Ruprecht
BL289	DU-	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/S Sodek
AA970	DU-J	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	Sgt Liskutin
BL343	DU-P	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	P/O Posta
P8347	DU-	Spitfire IIA	312 Sqn	Sgt Sticka
R6833	DU-U	Spitfire IA	312 Sqn	Sgt Standera
BL252	DU-B	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	P/O Slouf
BL487	DU-Z	Spitfire VB	312 Sqn	F/L Vybiral
This was 312 Sqn's move from Ayr in Scotland to Fairwood Common [Swansea] Both Formations arrived 12:00-12:15 and departed 15:15-15:25. Interestingly, Valley was still referred to as 'RAF Rhosneigr' in the 312 Sqn ORB.				

Sunday 4th January 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3][AIR 27/940/14]

BL406	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Fowlow from Atcham 13:30
BL411	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Rowell from Atcham 12:20
P7744	MN-N	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	Delivery, ex. 74 Sqn
*Ferried in by 3 Delivery Flight, Hawarden.				
-				
P8149	MN-G	Spitfire IIA**	350 Sqn	[AIR 81/11375]
N3826		Magister I*	Valley SF	Station Flight
The Magister had landed but before it could clear the runway the landing Spitfire overtook it causing the collision. The 350 Sqn pilot is also quoted as P/O B E Bear. The Spitfire was repaired.				
Pilot	P/O	R De Wever**	Injured, concussion	
Pilot	P/O	J D Fox*	Ok	

Monday 5th January 1942 [AB AMIL77][AIR 27/1899/9][AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/940/14][AIR 27/1901/13][AIR 28/874][AIR 81/11395]

AD537	BP-	Spitfire VB	457 Sqn	[P/O Shearn]
BL468	BP-	Spitfire VB	457 Sqn	[P/O James]
		Magister I	457 Sqn	[P/O Newton] [L8054 or V1083]
457 Sqn were at Valley for Air-to-air Gunnery training. The serials and crews are accurate, but the aircraft tie-ups may not be. They returned to Andreas 6.1				

BL233	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Fowlow from Atcham 10:35
N3790		Magister I	131 Sqn	Sgt Eckert from Atcham 11:50
		?		
AOC 9 Group, AVM W A McClaughry visited Valley and Llanbedr, by air?				
-				
		Lysander IIIA*	275 Sqn	
*Forced landing near Aberdaron. Aircraft to be replaced by a Lysander I.				
Pilot	Sgt	Lee	Ok	
-				
R2474	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	AIR 81/11395
<p>Spun into the sea on approach to Valley 800yds/240deg radial from the old Rhosneigr Lifeboat Station at 16:45. 275 Sqn [their 1st rescue sortie] attended with 2 Lysanders [V9748 + 1] and Walrus L2207. A Valley based Spitfire thought there were 2 survivors holding on to wreckage and tried to drop mae wests but was unsuccessful. Launches ML 257 & HSL 135 were in attendance and the Walrus was then waved away by the boat crew as there were no survivors. 2/Lt Fraser's body was brought ashore and buried with full military honours at Holyhead 10.1.42. F/L Parker's body was recovered near Penrhos 14.1.42 with the funeral taking place at Pwllheli Roman Catholic Church 19.1.42. F/L Parker was originally from East Kew, Victoria, Australia. 2/Lt Fraser was originally from Springfield, Illinois, USA. 456 CO, Gordon Olive mentions a pilot & 2 crew members but the Sqn ORB only mentions 2 fatalities. A postscript to this incident is that Gordon Olive mentions that F/O Meredith took off one night and once airborne found that all his trimming tabs had been jammed and the aircraft was almost impossible to fly. He managed though to make an emergency landing. Sabotage was suspected and then Sgt Hedge in R2476 below crashed due to flap failure. One of the flap jacks was found to be partially sawn through & when the flaps were lowered one collapsed causing the aircraft to spin which had occurred to F/L Parker. As a result of this all aircraft were guarded and precautions taken. British counter-espionage de-sabotaged the Sqn in a couple of days but not before 2 more nasty but fortunately non-fatal incidents took place.</p>				
Pilot	F/L	Anthony [Tony] Russell Parker [RAAF]		Killed [buried Pwllheli]
Pax	2/Lt	Harold Walter Fraser [USASC]		Killed [buried Holyhead]
<div></div>				

[Hywel Evans]				
-				
R2476	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Crashed in a muddy field near Trewan Sands at 20:55 on approach to Valley after flap failure. Damaged but re-assessed as a write-off and struck off charge 14.5.42.				
Pilot	Sgt	Hedge	Ok	
Pax	Sgt	Hancock [RAAF]	Ok	
-				
T3028	RX-V	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Tail wheel struck Glide Path Indicator on approach, repaired [by 6.2.42]				
Pilot	P/O	T Cleary	Ok	

Tuesday 6th January 1942 [AIR 27/641/26][AIR 27/940/14]


BL369	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Graves from & to Llanbedr
AD568	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	Sgt Johnson from & to Llanbedr
N3790		Magister I	131 Sqn	Sgt Eckert to Atcham 13:30

Wednesday 7th January 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/1678/25][AIR 27/641/26][AIR 27/940/14][AIR 28/874]

		Walrus I*	275 Sqn	F/L R F Hamlyn
		Lysander*	275 Sqn	
*Launched to search for Anson I N9822 9 AOS [Sgt Peacock] from Penrhos which had ditched in the sea off Llanbedr on 6.1.42 after a double engine failure. Four crew found in a dinghy and two sorties carried out to rescue them. Location was 1.5nms off Llanbedr, the Walrus landed and picked up two of the survivors which were flown back to Penrhos. They then returned for the two remaining survivors which were also returned to Penrhos.				
BL233	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Fowlow to Atcham 14:45
BL383	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Meason
AD565	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	Sgt Beard
W3305	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Mason
W3707	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Fraser
All the 74 Sqn aircraft were from and to Llanbedr.				
	ZF-	Spitfire VB*	308 Sqn	
	ZF-	Spitfire VB*	308 Sqn	
*Two aircraft and four pilots from Woodvale, returned 9.1.42				

Thursday 8th January 1942 [AIR 27/641/26][AIR 28/874][AIR 27/48/26]

AB134	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	Sgt Mathews from & to Llanbedr
AA939	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	Sgt Greeves from & to Llanbedr
V9439	TV-	Lysander IIIA	4 Sqn	F/O Garvey
Cross country to Anglesey, no mention as to where exactly it landed.				
-				
P8702	MN-Z	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	[AIR 81/11441]

V9604		Lysander IIIA**	6 AACU	From Bodorgan [based Ringway]
Mid-air collision close to Plas Gors, Rhosneigr near Valley, Spitfire force landed near Valley X-roads. Lysander crashed near the Golf links at Trewan Sands and was consumed by fire.				
Pilot	F/L	J A M J G Carlier* [Belgian]	Seriously injured	
Pilot	P/O	Stefan Kalarus** [Polish]	Killed [buried Llangadwaladr]	
				
Incorrectly attributed to 350 Sqn when it should be 6 AACU. Llangadwaladr Church [Hywel Evans]				

Friday 9th January 1942 [AIR 27/1899/9][AIR 27/1527/2][AIR 29/437]

Z3572	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	Sgt Bathurst
Z3669	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	Sgt Whitmill
*From Honiley for air firing, returned 11.1				
R2395	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery, attrition replacement
T3151	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery, attrition replacement
Z4933		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/L Plinston
From Hawarden and then to Speke.				
-				
		Lysander	275 Sqn	Sgt Lee
Search for a Spitfire reported as in trouble over the sea, nothing found. The Spitfire was later reported as crashing on land. [Possibly Spitfire IIA P8206 of 308 Sqn based at Woodvale which had a mid-air with another Spitfire P7745 which landed safely][S/L Marian Jan Wesolowski was killed]				

Saturday 10/11th January 1942 [AIR 27/1899/9][AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/641/26][AIR 27/1901/13][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/39]

		Magister I	457 Sqn	Sgt Parberry
Force landed near Valley at 16:30 due to being unable to find Valley Airfield. Possibly L8054 or V1083.				
BL339	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	F/L Cannan from & to Llanbedr
AD568	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Laumans from & to Llanbedr
		*	275 Sqn	Sgt Ferguson
		*	275 Sqn	Sgt Adam

*Search carried out for an Anson reported missing between Jurby-Millom-Whitehaven-Little Ross, nothing found, later informed that the missing aircraft had been located.

-				
T3014	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	1 st Sqn kill
In ground mist, took off at 20:08, at 22:10 contact made with EA [Raid 478SE of 6 aircraft] whilst under control of Hack Green. Two bursts fired at 12,000ft after a 7-minute chase near Rhyl. EA burst into flames and later confirmed as having crashed at Grid VK7911 Arbury near Nuneaton, confirmed as minelaying Do.217. Atcham ORB mentions five crew whereas Honiley ORB mentions only three prisoners taken.				
Pilot	S/L	John Stuart Hamilton		
Obs	F/O	D [Dan] L Norris-Smith [RAAF]		
-				
1191	F8+IN	Do.217E-2	5/KG40	[From Soesterberg, Holland]
Ff	O/Fw	Paul Wolf		Ok, PoW
Bo	Uffz	Willi Wieland		Ok, PoW
Bf	O/Gfr	Hans Vacano		Ok, PoW
Bs	O/Gfr	Herbert Leppien		Ok, PoW
				Killed ?

Monday 12th January 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 27/1692/2]

		?		
Visit of AOC RAAF overseas HQ, AM R Williams to inspect 456 Sqn, by air?				
P8347	DU-	Spitfire IIA	312 Sqn	Sgt Standera
Routed: Fairwood Common-Valley-Prestwick.				

Tuesday 13th January 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3][AIR 27/641/26][IBCCA]

P8241	MN-K	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Delivery
AA974	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Winterbeeck to Llanbedr
BL492	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	Sgt Greeves to Llanbedr
N5351	[A1]	Anson I	2 SoAN	Sgt Carpenter, weather diversion
From & to Cranage. [2 School of Air Navigation]				

Thursday 15th January 1942 [AIR 27/641/26][AIR 28/874]

BL492	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	Sgt Bastian from & to Llanbedr
		?		
Marshall of RAF, Sir E L Ellington visited, by air?				
N9916		Anson I	1 CACF	P/O Stewart
Routed: Bodorgan-Penrhos-Valley-Bodorgan.				

Saturday 17th January 1942 [AIR 29/670]

27 OTU, Lichfield sent Airmen and equipment to Valley for servicing of aircraft based at Valley. No other mention of any detachment in any ORB.				
		?		

Sunday 18th January 1942 [F78]

P8652	MN-O	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	
Forgot to lower the undercarriage, repaired.				
Pilot	P/O	N A Picard [Belgian]	Ok	

Monday 19th January 1942 [AIR 28/874]

Funeral at Pwllheli Roman Catholic Church of F/L Parker whose body was washed up on the beach at Penrhos, see 5.1.42

Wednesday 21st January 1942 [AIR 27/641/26]

AA906	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Meason from & to Llanbedr
W3305	ZP-	Spitfire VB	74 Sqn	P/O Mason from & to Llanbedr

Saturday 24th January 1942 [F78]

P8146	MN-E	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	
Struck a petrol bowser whilst taxiing, repaired.				
Pilot	Sgt	J A Blairon [Belgian]	Ok	

Sunday 25th January 1942 [AIR 27/1527/2]

Z3351	FM-	Hurricane IIB	257 Sqn	P/O Kenward
Z3572	FM-	Hurricane IIB	257 Sqn	P/O Henman
From Honiley, returning 26.1				
-				
P8174	MN-S	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	
Drifted off the runway then hit an obstruction and crashed into the sand, repaired.				
Pilot	Sgt	A C A Michiels [Belgian]	Ok but injured	

Monday 26th January 1942 [AIR 27/940/14]

W3700	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Caldwell from Atcham
BL250	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Hamilton from Atcham
Air-to-air gunnery with 1486 Flight.				
-				
P3452		Hurricane I	804 NAS	[ADM 358/3588]
Crashed Red Wharf Bay after suffering possible engine failure at 13:25. Was en-route Belfast, Sydenham-Calf of Man-Rhyl-Worcester-Abingdon. Beaufighters :Z 'PEEPER23' and :Y from 456 Sqn were involved in the search for the aircraft as the 275 Sqn Lysander was unserviceable. The Menai Bridge Lifeboat also assisted. Aircraft was raised but no sign of the pilot, his body was washed ashore several weeks later on 19.7.42. The aircraft actually belonged to the MSFU, Speke and was being used to work up CAM Ships. It was being flown to Air Training at Oxford, Kidlington for a major inspection. Prior to becoming a pilot he had been a jockey, winning the Grand National in 1929 riding 'Gregarach.'				



St. Dona's Church, Llanddona. The Church overlooks Red Wharf Bay [Hywel Evans]

Pilot	Lt[A]	Robert William Hanmer Everett DSO [RNVR]	Killed [buried Llanddona]
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Tuesday 27th January 1942 [AIR 28/874]

456 Sqn fully operational on Beaufighters, two aircraft at night readiness and two at 30mins.

Wednesday 28th January 1942 [AIR 27/1899][Fighter Nights]

T3036	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
-				
T3047	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Landed short of the runway at night due to the runway lights being incorrectly positioned , starboard undercarriage driven up through the wing, to Burnley 16.2.42 for repairs and subsequently issued to 63 OTU. Gwynne Hughes the pilot involved recalled in 1997 'some clot moved the glide lights to the very end of the runway, as we descended on the glide path with a 'green' indicator the starboard wheel hit the edge of the concrete and was pushed up through the wing'				
Pilot	Sgt	[E G] Hughes	Ok	

Thursday 29th January 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3]

P7900	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Delivery from 33 MU, Lyneham
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Friday 30th January 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3]

P7620	MN-O	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Delivery from 7 MU, Quedgeley
[F78 mentions 26.1.42 from 234 Sqn though, above id from the Sqn ORB]				

Saturday 31st January 1942 [AIR 27/1899/9][AIR 27/940/14][F78]

W3700	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Caldwell to Atcham see 26.1
P7810	MN-D	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Delivery from 130 Sqn
-				
T3026	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Landed with the undercarriage retracted at 20:20, declared FA-AC 7.2.42				
Pilot	Sgt	Hedge		
-				

P8020	MN-D	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	
Unable to open the throttle, belly landed in a field SSW of Portreath, repaired.				
Pilot	P/O	X L A Menu	Ok	

Sunday 1st February 1942

710 Airfield Defence Squadron becomes 2710 Sqn RAF Regiment.				

Tuesday 3rd February 1942 [AIR 27/940/16][AIR 29/437]

N3790		Magister I	131 Sqn	Sgt Gilloux from & to Atcham
-				
[P3979]		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O Lindsay
Catapulted off SS Empire Faith, landed at Valley for inspection and then to Speke.				

Wednesday 4th February 1942 [F78]

P8147	MN-D	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Delivery from 308 Sqn
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Friday 6th February 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1]

			275 Sqn	Sgt Adam
Carried out a search for a missing Hudson aircraft in the area Silloth-Mull of Galloway-N Ireland-Point of Ayr, nothing found. [Possibly Hudson V AM692:QX-Z 224 Sqn lost with all crew on this date]				

Saturday 7th February 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3]

W3525	MN-	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
W3796	MN-	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AD472	MN-P	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
P8089	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Delivery from 308 Sqn
[F78 says 8.2 but the Sqn ORB says 7.2]				
P2464		Magister I	350 Sqn	Visited Woodvale

Sunday 8th February 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3]

AA915	MN-E	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
[F78 mentions delivery 7.2 whereas Sqn ORB says 8.2]				
-				
N5382		Anson I	5 AOS	[AIR 81/11994] from Jurby
Whilst on a night navigation exercise the pilot contacted what he thought was RAF Penrhos. The aircraft then set course for Silloth, but the radio became unserviceable, so the aircraft turned back towards Penrhos. Visibility, however, was poor and a decision made to carry out a forced landing due to shortage of fuel. The forced landing was carried out at 07:30 on Barron Hill above Beaumaris with the undercarriage retracted causing damage to both propellers, engines and engine fairings. A contributory factor was the lack of radio maintenance on the unit. The aircraft was salvaged by 34 MU, Shrewsbury and repaired. All the crew were taken to Bodorgan to await transport back to the Isle of Man.				

Pilot	Sgt	D M Morrison	Slightly injured
WOp/AG	Sgt	D N Lloyd	Slightly injured
Nav*	LAC	W B McVicker	Ok
Nav*	LAC	R W Goffins	Ok
*Trainee Navigators.			

Monday 9th February 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3][AIR 27/1899/11][AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/940/16]

BL411	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Cooper
Routed: Atcham-Valley-Llanbedr.				
L8205		Magister I	350 Sqn	Visited Woodvale
	[RX-]	Blenheim I	456 Sqn	To Colerne [39 MU?] for disposal
-				
		*	275 Sqn	Sgt Lee
		*	275 Sqn	Sgt Ferguson
*Search carried out for a Spitfire pilot who had baled out 15nms East of Ballyhalbert, N Ireland. Nothing found. [Possibly Spitfire IIB P8576 504 Sqn F/S Edward Dennis Cannon [RNZAF] abandoned after glycol leak, died of exposure]				

Tuesday 10th February 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/39][AIR 27/911/12][F78]

AM925	X	Liberator I*	120 Sqn	Diversion F/O Wightman
*Diversion from Nutts Corner at 17:10 following a 13hr patrol.				
W3518	MN-	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
W3626	MN-S	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AA933	MN-B	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AB173	MN-O	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AD550	MN-N	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
BL291	MN-F	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
-				
P7297	MN-A	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	S/L Thompson
P7976	MN-F	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Seydel
P8149	MN-G	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	F/L Gonay
P7810	MN-D	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Plisnier
P8040	MN-H	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Smets
P8141	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Limet
P8241	MN-K	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O De Wever
[P7291]	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Venesoen
P7900	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	F/L Guillaume
P8200	MN-T	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Livyys
P7509	MN-M	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Plas
P8089	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Hansee
P7620	MN-O	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Picard
P7744	MN-N	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Ester

P7378	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Schrobiltgen
P8033	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Alexander
They all flew to Northolt via Atcham for the 350 Sqn Inauguration Ceremony. Belgian Minister of Defence presented the colours to Col Wouters representing Free BAF.				
-				
P7613	MN-U	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	
Taxied into a petrol bowser, repaired.				
Pilot	Sgt	J Ester [Belgian]	Ok	

Wednesday 11th February 1942 [AIR 27/1901/15]

W3646	MN-V	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AA934	MN-J	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AD199	MN-	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AD475	MN-S	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
AD573	MN-E	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 145 Sqn
BL540	MN-U	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Delivery from 148 Sqn
P7998	BP-	Spitfire IIA	457 Sqn	P/O D Watson
P8017	BP-	Spitfire IIA	457 Sqn	Sgt L G Munro
Air-to-air gunnery training, from Andreas, IoM. Returned to Andreas later the same day as their aircraft were unserviceable.				

Thursday 12th February 1942 [AIR 27/1901/15]

BL491	BP-	Spitfire VB	457 Sqn	P/O J Watson
AB148	BP-	Spitfire VB	457 Sqn	Sgt L G Munro
Air-to-air gunnery training, from Andreas. Returned to Andreas 14.2				

Friday 13th February 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3][AIR 27/1527/4]

Z2643	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	P/O Wicks
Z3572	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	P/O Slaney
*From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery firing, returning 16.2				
P7297	MN-A	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	S/L Thompson
P7976	MN-F	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Seydel
P8149	MN-G	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	F/L Gonay, via Atcham
P7810	MN-D	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Plisnier
P8040	MN-H	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Smets
P8141	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Limet
P8241	MN-K	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O De Wever
P8147	MN-D	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Venesoen
P7900	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	F/L Guillaume
P8200	MN-T	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Livyns
P7509	MN-M	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Plas
P8089	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Hansee
P7620	MN-O	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Picard

P7744	MN-N	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Ester
P7378	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Schrobiltgen
P8033	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Alexander
From Northolt direct after the Squadron Inauguration Ceremony.				

Monday 16th February 1942 [AIR 27/1899/11][AIR 27/940/16]

BL299	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	S/L Pedley from & to Llanbedr
BL317	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Harries from & to Llanbedr
-				
R2381	RX-K	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Overshot on landing at 20:10, ran through a fence, tail oleo and dipole aerals damaged.				
Pilot	P/O	T Cleary	Ok	

Tuesday 17th February 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3][AIR 27/940/16][AIR 29/39]

BL299	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Harries from & to Llanbedr
-				
<p>Other Spitfire VB's with 350 Sqn to Atcham were: W3518 W3525 AB173:MN-O AD199 AD472:MN-P AD475:MN-S AD573:MN-E BL540:MN-U [these aircraft do not feature in the Sqn ORB]</p>				
AA933	MN-B	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	P/O Smets
BL621	MN-B	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Sgt Seydl
W3796	MN-	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	P/O De Wever
BL291	MN-F	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	Sgt Limet
?	MN-	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	P/O Menu
?	MN-	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	P/O Venesoen
AA915	MN-E	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	P/O Plas
AD550	MN-N	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	P/O Peeters
AA934	MN-J	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	Sgt Livyms
BL622	MN-A	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	Sgt Ester
W3646	MN-V	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	Sgt Hansez
P8149	MN-G	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Alexandre, forced landing
All 350 Sqn to Atcham as part of the initial Sqn move from Valley.				
-				
W3525	MN-	Spitfire VB*	350 Sqn	Damaged beyond repair
W3626	MN-S	Spitfire VB**	350 Sqn	Repaired
W3525 suffered an engine failure and collided with W3626 on landing at Atcham. Nothing in the Sqn ORB about this though.				
Pilot	Sgt	Leydl*	Ok	
Pilot	Sgt	Limet**	Ok	

Thursday 19th February 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/721]

350 Sqn departs to Atcham.				
Additionally the following Spitfire IIA's also made it to Atcham from Valley at some stage:				

P7376:MN-X P7826:MN-B P8091 P8144 P8241:MN-K [note below P7810 & P8147 are both MN-D from their F78's]				
P7297	MN-A	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	S/L Thompson
P7976	MN-F	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	Sgt Limet
P7810	MN-D	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	P/O Venesoen
P8149	MN-G	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	F/L Gonay
P8040	MN-H	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	Sgt Blairon
P8147	MN-D	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	P/O Menu
L8205		Magister I	350 Sqn	Sgt Heimes & P/O Deltour
P7900	MN-	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	F/L Guillaume
P8033	MN-	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	P/O Peeters
P7744	MN-N	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	P/O Schrobiltgen
P7543	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	Sgt Alexandre
[no mention in F78 of P7543 serving with 350 Sqn though]				
P8089	MN-	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	Sgt Hansez
P7620	MN-O	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	P/O Picard
P7509	MN-M	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	Sgt Michiels
P8200	MN-T	Spitfire IIA*	350 Sqn	Sgt Ester
[P8089]	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Plas
K6994	BJ-U	Harrow*	271 Sqn	
K6975	BJ-	Harrow*	271 Sqn	
*From Doncaster to Atcham with 350 Sqn support.				
		?		W/C Rotherham from Speke

Saturday 21st February 1942 [AIR 27/940/16]

BL352	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Wilson to Llanbedr 15:10
BL233	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Cusack to Llanbedr 15:10

Sunday 22nd February 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 29/41]

The Main Ops Room at Valley takes over from the Emergency Ops Room at Caergeiliog.				
T5491		Tiger Moth	J Flt	P/O Bentley from & to Bodorgan

Tuesday 24th February 1942 [AIR 27/1899/11]

R2381	RX-K	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Tail oleo wheel collapsed on landing at Speke on hard, frozen ground. Repaired by 8.3.42 and picked up by P/O Parkes on 13.3.42.				
Pilot	F/S	J Ward		Ok

Wednesday 25th February 1942 [AIR 27/1899/11][AIR 27/294/28]

P8833		Oxford II	24 Sqn	P/O Ramsey
One stretcher case from Valley to Exeter.				
-				
R2341	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	

Propellor hit the ground after a heavy landing, repaired.				
Pilot	Sgt	P A Dey	Ok	

Friday 27th February 1942 [AIR 27/1745/3][AIR 27/940/16]

BL622	MN-A	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	S/L Thompson from & to Atcham
P7378	MN-	Spitfire IIA	350 Sqn	P/O Custers to Atcham
[the F78 states it went to 58 OTU on 13.2.42 but the ORB states otherwise!]				
BL299	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	S/L Pedley from Llanbedr 12:05

Saturday 28th February 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1]

		?	275 Sqn	F/O Calvert
Search carried out for an Anson in the sea between Menai Straits and Great Orme, nothing found.				

March 1942

456 Sqn unit establishment: 19 Beaufighters 1 Blenheim 1 Magister				
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Monday 2nd March 1942 [AIR 29/437]

W9115	[KE-H]	Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O Watson
P8810		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Cryderman
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery firing, returned to Speke 10.3				

Tuesday 3rd March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/494][IE]

BL317	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Eckert
BL342	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Rouleau
BL406	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Copland
BL299	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	S/L Pedley
BL352	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Caldwell
BL600	NX-H	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Harries
BL433	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Wilson
AB137	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Briggs
BL249	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Cooper
All from Llanbedr, first part of the Sqn movement.				

Wednesday 4th March 1942 [AIR 28/874]

131 Sqn Main Party arrived from Llanbedr with their Spitfire VB's. Whilst at Valley the aircraft serviceability was described as chronic due to the sand. Aircraft operated by 131 Sqn at Valley were: Spitfire VB P8445 R7337 W3314 W3602 W3700 W3938 AB137 AB872 AD348 AD425 AD536 AD554 BL233 BL249 BL250 BL299 BL317 BL327 BL342 BL352 BL371 BL406 BL411 BL433 BL600				
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BL629 BL956 Magister I N3790				
AD554	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Doll
BL250	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Hamilton
W3602	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Miller
BL327	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Rowell
BL411	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Bridle
[R2344]	[RX-L]	[Beaufighter IIF]	[456 Sqn]	
[damaged ? indications back with 456 Sqn 19.6.42]				
[R2343]		[Beaufighter IIF]	[456 Sqn]	
[possible undercarriage collapse, repaired ?]				

Saturday 7th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17]

BL233	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Fowlow from Llanbedr
This was one of the aircraft that had been left at Llanbedr.				

Sunday 8th March 1942 [AIR 27/1523]

T4059	JT-F	Defiant I	256 Sqn	P/O Jones & Sgt Robinson
Chased an enemy aircraft over Valley, did NOT land. They were on patrol 05:45-06:35.				

Tuesday 10th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 27/1527/6][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/494]

P8810		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 2.3
W9115	[KE-H]	Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 2.3
Z2966	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	P/O McDunnough
Z2808	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	P/O Miron
*From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery.				
-				
AB242	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	AIR 81/12716
Collided at 16:20 with the Officers Mess water tower at Llanbedr whilst flying to Valley to join the Sqn there. He had stayed at Llanbedr to fly one of the remaining aircraft to Valley and was to have carried out an air test in the aircraft. Funeral took place 14.3.42 at Porthmadog Cemetery.				
Pilot	P/O	Harold Albert O'Blenes [RCAF]	Killed [buried Porthmadog]	



[Hywel Evans]

Thursday 12th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 50/53/27][AIR 28/874][IE]

BL600	NX-H	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Harries 'RED1'
BL233	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Vilboux [Free French] 'RED2'
2 Sections scrambled at 13:35 & 13:55 for Raid 119. Contact made with Ju.88 approx. 30nms SW of Valley, EA with port engine on fire pulled up sharply, stall turned and crashed into the Sea. Both Pilots shared the kill. 275 Sqn scrambled to locate the crew, but nothing seen.				
-				
The aircraft below may be a possibility. It was lost without trace but on 14.3				
1538	M2+AL	Ju.88A-5	3/KGr106	
Ff	Hptm	Gerhard Werner		Killed
Bo	Uffz	Kurt Reiger		Killed
Bf	Uffz	Hermann Giesler		Killed
Bs	Gfr	Kurt Patzold		Killed

Friday 13th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 27/1527/6][AIR 27/1899/13]

BL956	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivery from 12 MU
BL433	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Harries visited Llanbedr
BL233	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	S/L Pedley visited Llanbedr
Z2687	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	P/O McDunnough
Z3018	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	F/L Miller
*From Honiley for air firing, returning 17.3				
R2381	RX-K	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	P/O's Parkes & Roe
Delivered back from Speke after repairs, see 24.2.42				

Saturday 14th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 27/1899/3]

W3602	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Guillaux to Llanbedr
-				
R2381	RX-K	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	[back with 456 Sqn by 1.4 ?]

Aircraft swung on take-off and ran into the sand. First solo! Repaired.				
Pilot	Sgt	Kerr		

Tuesday 17th March 1942 [AIR 27/764/25]

	ZJ-	Defiant*	96 Sqn	S/L Haine
	ZJ-	Defiant*	96 Sqn	F/S Cornwell
*Air-to-air gunnery with 1486 Flight. Four crews & two aircraft from Wrexham, returned 20.3.42. The weather was initially very bad with S/L Haine landing at Llandwrog before heading to Valley and F/S Cornwell returning to Wrexham.				

Wednesday 18th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 27/1745/8][AIR 27/1899/13]

		?		
AOC Admin HQ FTC, AVM Saunders inspected the Station, arrived by air?				
BL327	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Rowell to Speke
AD322	MN-D	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	P/O Plisnier
-				
BL342	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	
Struck a piece of runway under repair whilst landing and overturned, repaired .				
Pilot	Sgt	R A Simon [French]		Ok

Friday 20th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17]

BL327	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Rowell from Speke
-				
T3012	RX-B	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	AIR 81/12815



[Gordon Gatenby, 456 Sqn]

Swung to starboard on take-off at Valley and hit the windsock at 15:15. Aircraft cartwheeled and burst into flames, written off.

Pilot	Sgt	D A H Spring [RAAF]	Second degree burns
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Saturday 21st March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17]

BL299	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	S/L Pedley visited Llanbedr
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Sunday 22nd March 1942 [AIR 27/1899/13]

		?		
AOC 9 Group, AVM McClaughry visited the Station, by air?				
BL327	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Rowell to Speke

Monday 23rd March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 27/1899/13]

BL433	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Wilson to Llanbedr
BL371	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Wilson from Llanbedr
-				
BL411	NX-	Spitfire VB*	131 Sqn	Crashed 60yds from a Beaufighter
W3602	NX-	Spitfire VB**	131 Sqn	Forced landing, repaired
Mid-air collision over the Base at 10:30 . W3602 carried out a belly landing causing considerable damage to the aircraft.				
Pilot	Sgt	Bridle* [RAAF]	Baled out at 500ft , ok	
Pilot	Sgt	Davidson**	Ok	

Tuesday 24th March 1942 [AIR 27/1527/6][AIR 29/41]**[RAF Commands]**

Z3572	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	P/O Fogg
Z2752	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	P/O Miron
*From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery, returned to Honiley 26.3.				
K6050		Wallace II	L Flt/1 AACU	F/S Wilson
From Aberporth to Bodorgan.				
-				
BL233	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	
Undercarriage collapsed on landing, repaired.				
Pilot	Sgt	R A Simon [Free French]	Ok	

Wednesday 25th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 29/437]

BL956	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Vilboux visited Llandwrog
-				
[V7402]		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/L Lyne [Crew 27]
Catapulted off SS Empire Foam, landed at Valley, inspected then returned to Speke.				

Thursday 26th March 1942 [AIR 27/1899/13]

R2394	RX-	Beaufighter IIF*	456 Sqn	Delivery from Shawbury [27 MU]
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T3379	RX-	Beaufighter IIF*	456 Sqn	Delivery from Shawbury [27 MU]
T3383	RX-A	Beaufighter IIF*	456 Sqn	Delivery from Shawbury [27 MU]
*These were attrition replacements; establishment now back up to eighteen aircraft.				

Friday 27th March 1942 [AIR 27/940/17][AIR 27/1745/8][AIR 27/764/25][AIR 28/874]

W/C E C Wolfe takes over command of 456 Sqn.				
	ZJ-	Defiant*	96 Sqn	P/O Smith & Sgt Allan
	ZJ-	Defiant*	96 Sqn	P/O Hyem & P/O Wilson
*Air Gunnery with 1486 Flight. Four crews & two aircraft from Wrexham, returned 31.3.42				
AA933	MN-B	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	P/O De Wever, from Atcham
-				
BL249	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	'BLUE2' [AIR 81/12984]
Part of 2 aircraft ['BLUE'] which had scrambled to intercept an inbound raid. Last seen at 3,500ft in the vicinity of the Isle of Man. Despite intensive search, nothing found. 4 Beaufighters [R2371/T3022/T3036/T3042] from 456 Sqn were involved in the search for the missing pilot. 275 Sqn as well as 131 Sqn launched but nothing seen. The other aircraft in the patrol was BL554 piloted by Sgt Mahar.				
Pilot	Sgt	Edward Murray Oldham [RAAF]		Killed [Runnymede]

Sunday 29th March 1942 [AIR 27/1899/13][AIR 27/1678/29]

T3370	RX-Z	Beaufighter IIF*	456 Sqn	Delivery
Aircraft on 456 Sqn charge at the end of March 1942 were: 19x Beaufighter IIF 1x Blenheim I [L1170] 1x Magister [P2464]				
	ZF-	[4]x Spitfire [VB]	308 Sqn	From Woodvale
Two sections from 308 Sqn arrived for reinforcement exercises. 4 or possibly 6.				

Tuesday 31st March 1942 [F78]

AD348	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivery from 609 Sqn
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April 1942 [Fighter Nights]

L1371	[RX-]	Blenheim I	456 Sqn	Delivery
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Wednesday 1st April 1942 [AIR 27/1745/10]

AA933	MN-B	Spitfire VB	350 Sqn	P/O De Wever to Atcham
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Thursday 2nd April 1942 [AIR 27/1899/15][AIR 28/39]

		?		OC Atcham from & to Atcham
-				
		Blenheim		Visiting
Blew a tyre on the end of the NE/SW runway. [possibly 143 or 254 Sqn but nothing in their respective ORB's]				
-				

T3036	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Due to the Blenheim above blocking the into wind runway the Beaufighter landed with a crosswind at 17:15, swung and its undercarriage collapsed, repaired.				
Pilot	P/O	G Panitz [RAAF]	Ok	
Obs	P/O	T R Cloke	Ok	
-				
L4907	[RX-]	Blenheim I	456 Sqn	
Whilst on a calibration run at 14,000ft the starboard engine failed and the propellor fell off, forced landing carried out at Valley. Possibly coded '20' still present 1.43				
Pilot	Sgt	Kerr	Ok	
	P/O	Camden	Ok	
-				
AB137	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	
Taxied into a lorry on the perimeter track at Valley.				
Pilot	P/O	Turvey [RCAF]	Ok	

Friday 3rd April 1942 [F78]

W3314	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivery
W3938	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivery from 403 Sqn

Saturday 4th April 1942 [AIR 27/940/20]

N3790		Magister I	131 Sqn	P/O Wilson from & to Llanbedr
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Wednesday 8th April 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/764/25][AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437]

	ZJ-	Defiant II	96 Sqn	P/O Walker from Wrexham
		*	275 Sqn	Sgt Hopkinson
*Scrambled to search for a Beaufort I [AW351 OADU, Kemble] which had ditched .5nm off Colwyn Bay after engine failure . Dinghy spotted with one crew member onboard between the two piers at Colwyn Bay, all four crew were rescued by a large rowing boat. 275 Sqn ORB says 8.4 but Valley ORB says 2.4.				
P3868		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O McPherson from & to Speke

Thursday 9th April 1942 [AIR 29/437]

W9218		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Moffett from & to Speke
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Friday 10th/Saturday 11th April 1942 [AIR 28/874]

	RX-	Beaufighter	456 Sqn	F/L Merrifield
Dropped flares at Grid positions QY5020 & QY4919[St Bees Head] to illuminate a sea area where the Ramsey, IoM lifeboat was searching for a Spitfire, nothing seen. 275 & 452 Sqn were also involved in the search from Andreas, IoM.				
		?x Spitfire*	131 Sqn	
*Carried out low altitude attacks on Military Convoys on the coast road near Llandudno & Porthmadog.				
	ZF-	4x Spitfire VB	308 Sqn	Reinforced 131 Sqn from Woodvale

Sunday 12th April 1942 [AIR 27/1899/15][AIR 27/1527/8]

Z2643	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	F/S Bathurst
Z2979	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	Sgt Spencer
*From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery, returned to Honiley 15.4				
		Proctor		W/C Adams arrived 12:15
Inspect the Beam approach system, from Signals Radio HAFC or HQFC ?				

Monday 13/14th April 1942 [AIR 27/449/5 44 Sqn ORB][AIR 27/766/24 97 Sqn ORB][AIR 29/41]

These are probably the dates when up to 12 Lancasters flew low level up the Menai Straits with some flying under the Menai Suspension Bridge. On the 17th of April 1942 44 & 97 Sqn flew a low-level raid to the MANN Diesel Works, Augsburg in Southern Germany. Both Sqn ORB's have 6 aircraft from 44 Sqn & 8 aircraft from 97 Sqn [6+2 spares] flying a low-level cross-country flight in the afternoon on both these dates.

Aircraft operated by the two Squadrons at this time were:

44 Sqn:

R5510:KM-A R5508:KM-B L7567:KM-C R5903:KM-C W4304:KM-C L7536:KM-H L7537:KM-L
R5494:KM-O R5733:KM-P R5506:KM-P L7581:KM-R L7584:KM-S W4187:KM-S L7548:KM-T
L7565:KM-V

97 Sqn:

L7570:OF-B R5490:OF-B R5337:OF-B R5488:OF-F R5572:OF-F R5614:OF-G R5558:OF-J
L7573:OF-K R5513:OF-P R5496:OF-U W4200:OF-W L7575:OF-Y

T5491		Tiger Moth	J Flt	F/L MacPhail from & to Aberffraw
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Tuesday 14th April 1942 [AIR 27/1699/27][IE]

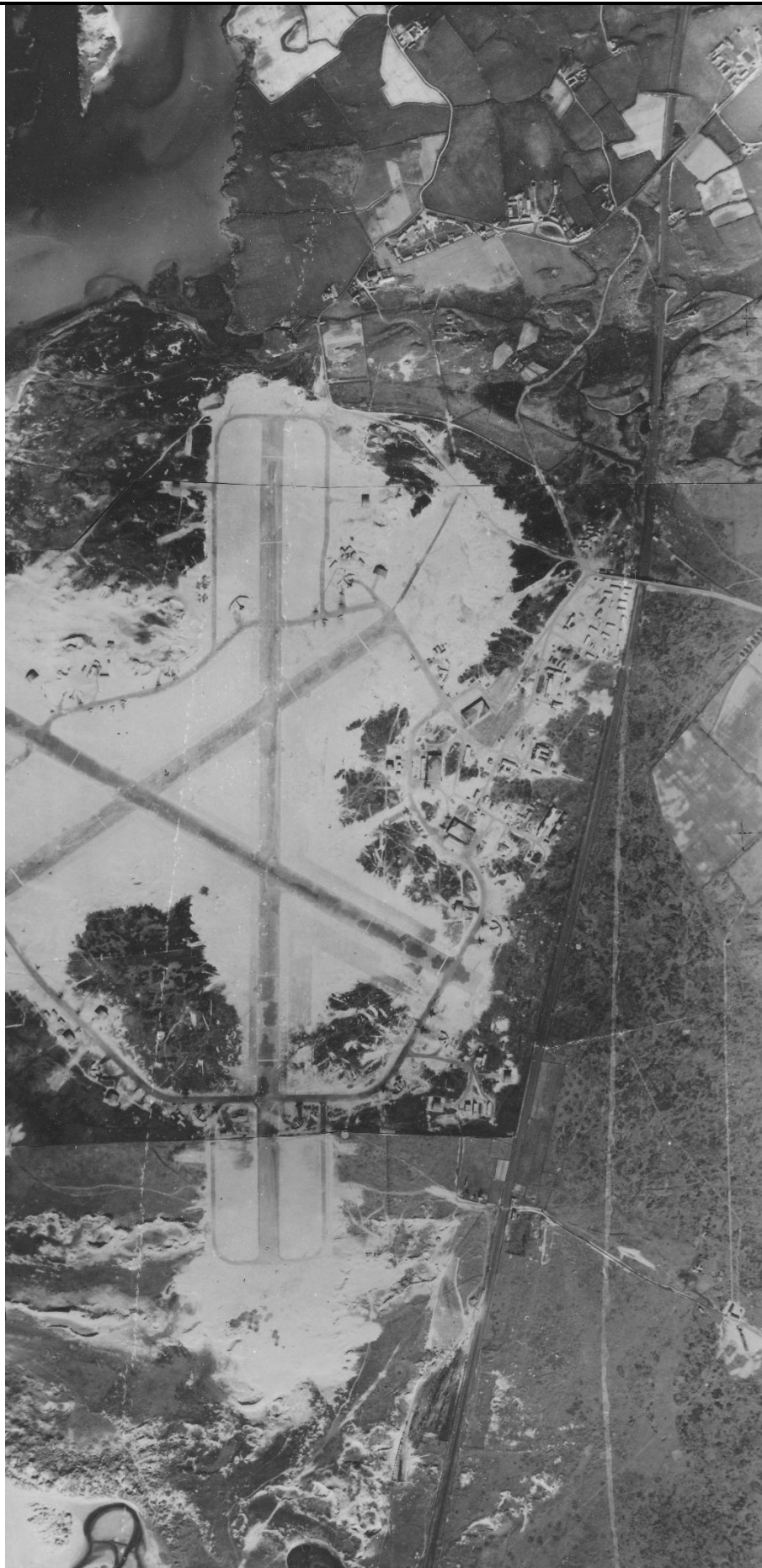
P8445	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivery from
AD425	NX-E	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivery from ASTH
BL629	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivery from 9 MU
AB872	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Delivered to 609 Sqn
V6544		Hurricane I	MSFU	From & to Speke
W3618	PK-J	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O Stembrowicz
AB241	PK-	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/Sgt Kowalski
AB892	PK-	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O Wyrozemski
[P8087]	PK-	Spitfire IIA	315 Sqn	Sgt Jankowski

'RED' and 'YELLOW' section from Woodvale to operate with 131 Sqn between 17:30-19:50, then returned to Woodvale. In the event one aircraft went unserviceable so the Convoy patrol was carried out by the remaining three.

Wednesday 15th April 1942 [AIR 27/1699/27][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/1]

[AD537]	UD-	Spitfire VB	452 Sqn	[Sgt Bassett]
[R7348]	UD-	Spitfire VB	452 Sqn	[P/O Lamerton]
[BL333]	UD-	Spitfire VB	452 Sqn	[Sgt Bevan]
[AB171]	UD-	Spitfire VB	452 Sqn	[P/O Whillans]

2 Sections from Andreas to reinforce 131 Sqn.				
AB904	PK-	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O Sokolowski
W3243	PK-	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	Sgt Cwynar
'GREEN' Section from Woodvale operated a Convoy patrol from Valley at a position 30nms W of Bardsey Island.				



A view of Valley on 15.4.42 by probably a Spitfire from 1 PRU, the sandy areas which caused so much engine problems can be clearly seen. Llyn Cerrig Bach by the 19/20 threshold was eventually partially drained to cover the areas with mud/soil leading to the Iron Age objects being found subsequently. [Welsh Office]



A close up of the above image shows the three T2 hangars on the North side of Valley. The left hand one was dismantled in the 1960's and replaced by the present larger Gaydon Hangar. Numerous Hurricanes & Beaufighters can be seen. The MT [Motor Transport] section are the 2 long buildings opposite each other at top right. [Welsh Office]

Thursday 16th April 1942 [AIR 27/940/20][AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/764/25][AIR 28/874][IE][F78]

131 Sqn departed to Llanbedr owing to aircraft unserviceability caused by sand at Valley.
 [the following 131 Sqn Spitfire VB's also moved to Llanbedr at some stage:
 W3700 W3938 BL433 [see below] BL956

BL299	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O W A Caldwell
[F78 mentions it hit a petrol bowser at Llanbedr with the same pilot on this date, same flight ? Aircraft was repaired]				
BL317	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Eckert
AD348	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Fowler
BL406	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Rouleau
BL600*	NX-H	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Harries to & from Llanbedr*
BL600*	NX-H	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Ross back to Llanbedr*
BL352	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Copland
BL629	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Harries
AD554	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Dell
AD536	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Rewell
W3314	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Hamilton
BL250	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Turvey
R7337	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Miller
BL327	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Briggs

BL371	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Mitchell
P8445	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Clewley
[N3314]	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt Evans
BL433	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Sgt R K Bridle
[the F78 says it suffered an undercarriage collapse and tipped on to its nose after landing at Llanbedr on this date & with the above pilot. Was this the same or a later flight?]				
N3790		Magister I	131 Sqn	Sgt Hannerford
-				
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	[AIR 27/1518/31]
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
Air-to-air gunnery course.				
		Walrus	275 Sqn	F/L R F Hamlyn to Andreas
	ZJ-	[4]x Defiant II*	96 Sqn	Air-to-air gunnery course
*Four pilots and six gunners.				

Friday 17th April 1942 [AIR 27/940/20][AIR 28/1]

	NX-	? x Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	Rest of the Sqn to Llanbedr
R7345	UD-	Spitfire VB	452 Sqn	P/O Makin
AD537	UD-	Spitfire VB	452 Sqn	P/O Lamerton
'BLUE' section reinforcement from Andreas.				

Saturday 18th April 1942 [AIR 27/940/20][AIR 28/874][IE]

N3790		Magister I	131 Sqn	Sgt Bridle from Llanbedr
BL406	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Ross from Llanbedr
AD425	NX-E	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Eckert to Llanbedr
		?		
Visit by AOC 9 Group, AVM W A McClaughry, by air?				

Sunday 19th April 1942 [AIR 27/940/20][AIR 28/874]

N3790		Magister I	131 Sqn	Sgt Bridle to Llanbedr
	RX-	[Beaufighter]	456 Sqn	
Dropped flares near Beddgelert to co-operate in search for a crashed Anson from Llandwrog. Possibly Anson I N4980 9 AOS but this crashed 20.4.42.				

Wednesday 22nd April 1942 [RAFM]

T3383	RX-A	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
Routed: Valley-Woodvale-Ballyhalbert-Valley.				

Friday 24th April 1942 [AIR 27/1892/23][AIR 27/1527/8]

	UD-	12x Spitfire VB	452 Sqn	
12 Spitfires from 452 Sqn at Andreas, IoM took off at 18:15 and rendezvoused over the Calf of Man then followed the following route. Andreas-Calf-Holyhead-Valley-Gt Orme's Head-Andreas. The Sqn climbed to 28,000ft. Convoy 'Young' was spotted 6nms S of Holyhead but no activity was seen at Valley. Did NOT land at Valley.				
AG191	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O Wicks, see 25.4
BD729	FM-	Hurricane IIB	257 Sqn	P/O Kenward
From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery, returned to Honiley 26.4				

Saturday 25th April 1942 [F78]

AG191	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	
Undercarriage collapsed after a heavy landing, repaired on site.				
Pilot	P/O	P Wicks		

Sunday 26th April 1942 [AIR 27/940/20][IE]

BL600	NX-H	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Wilson to Llanbedr
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Monday 27th April 1942 [AIR 27/940/20][Fighter Nights]

BL352	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/Sgt Ross to Llanbedr
T3026		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 307 Sqn, Exeter

Thursday 30th April 1942 [AIR 27/1899/15][AIR 29/654]

T3379	RX-	Beaufighter IIF*	456 Sqn	
Swung on landing and undercarriage collapsed.				
Pilot	P/O	J Ward		
-				
DV442		Wellington IC	1443 Flt	AIR 81/13772
<p>Took off from Harwell for a cross-country sortie combined with a fuel consumption test. While over the sea at 13:50 one engine failed, the pilot was unable to maintain height and ditched .5nm N of South Stack Lighthouse. A 275 Sqn Lysander [Sgt Cameron] was scrambled for this, but nothing found as the survivors had been rescued by a Naval Patrol Vessel. 1443 Flt was part of 15 OTU and were effectively the ferrying unit and would carry out fuel consumption tests before the aircraft were flown to Africa/Middle East on delivery, based at Harwell. Sgt Roughan's body was recovered off Valley 3.6.42. Sgt Longhurst & Boaler's bodies were never recovered.</p> <p>Postscript:</p> <p>Sgt Mayers, later P/O was lost on operations 4/5.10.44</p> <p>Sgt Saunders was lost on operations 17/18.1.43</p> <p>Interestingly the 15 OTU ORB quotes this accident as 28.4.42 whereas every other source quotes 30.4 including the AIR 81 casualty file.</p>				
Capt	Sgt	Arthur Leslie Mayers		Ok
Co-pilot	Sgt	Eric Boaler		Killed 15 OTU [Runnymede]
Obs	Sgt	Cornelius Gerard Roughan		Killed [buried Ennis, Co Clare]
WOp/AG	Sgt	Alfred Longhurst		Killed 15 OTU [Runnymede]

WOp/AG	Sgt	Fred James Ottaway	Ok
WOp/AG	Sgt	Alan Richard Saunders	Ok

May 1942

456 Sqn unit establishment: 18 Beaufighters 2 Blenheim 1 Magister
--

Friday 1st May 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/764/27][AIR 27/1527/10][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/494]


Visit regarding the possibility of handling American Heavy bombers crossing the Atlantic. W/C W M Churchill assumes command of the Station.				
275 Sqn starts re-equipping with Defiant I & IA's.				
	ZJ-S	Defiant II	96 Sqn	P/O Rosser Air Firing
P/O Rosser carried out an advanced air firing at Valley flying twice on 3.5, twice on 4.5 and once on 5.5				
	ZJ-	Defiant II	96 Sqn	Air firing
AG217	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O Steib returned 5.5
V6576	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O Scotchmer returned 2.5
From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery.				
		?		F/L Truscott to Llanbedr

Saturday 2nd May 1942 [AIR 27/1899/17][AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/940/22][AIR 27/1527/10][AIR 28/39][AIR 29/437]

456 Sqn Beaufighters commenced a standing Patrol over Carnsore Point, SE Eire in an attempt to intercept low flying Luftwaffe aircraft flying up St George's Channel.				
		?		OC Atcham from & to Atcham
AG277	FM-H	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O Scotchmer returned 5.5
[N3790]		Magister I	131 Sqn	P/O Wilson from & to Llanbedr
W3412	NX-	Spitfire VB*	131 Sqn	P/O Cooper
BL446	NX-	Spitfire VB*	131 Sqn	P/O Hamilton
*Carried out a 'beat up' at Valley from Llanbedr.				
-				
Z4852		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Higson
Catapulted from Ship, land Valley, inspected then returned to Speke.				
-				
		?	275 Sqn	F/O Albrecht & P/O Ferguson
Scrambled from Andreas to search for Spitfire VB AB198 452 Sqn whose pilot P/O Lamberton had baled out into the sea near Fleetwood due to enemy fire which damaged his engine. Pilot, P/O Lamberton was picked up by boat after 6hrs in his dinghy.				

Sunday 3rd May 1942 [AIR 27/940/22][AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437][IE][RAFM]

T3383	RX-A	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
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To & from Atcham.				
BL629	NX-	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	F/L Doll
AD425	NX-E	Spitfire VB	131 Sqn	P/O Turvey
To and from Llanbedr, landed at Valley after a patrol.				
-				
[P3362]		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O Varley [Crew 14]
Catapulted off SS Empire Flame, landed at Valley then returned to Speke. Or V7600.				
-				
R2381	RX-K	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	AIR 81/13965 [also quoted as 2.5]
				
Swung on take-off and hit a sand dune on the aerodrome perimeter Valley at 14:45, damaged beyond repair. Seen here being salvaged. [Gordon Gatenby Collection]				
Pilot	Sgt	G S Hough	Injured, flying solo	

Monday 4th May 1942 [AIR 27/1899/17][AIR 29/41]

L3280		Henley III	J Flt/1 AACU	P/O Turner & Cpl Hammond
Forced landing whilst flying from Bodorgan, returned to Bodorgan 5.5				
L3296		Henley III*	J Flt/1 AACU	Sgt MacSporran
*2 trips from Bodorgan to pick up the crew of L3280 above.				
-				
T3021	RX-J	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Ran off the end of the runway with non-effective brakes at 00:10.				
Pilot	Sgt	Dey	Ok	

Tuesday 5th May 1942 [AIR 27/1899/17][AIR 29/41]

L3296		Henley III	J Flt/1 AACU	Sgt MacSporran
From & to Bodorgan, dropped off pilot for L3280 below, see also 4.5				
L3280		Henley III	J Flt/1 AACU	P/O Turner to Bodorgan, see 4.5
-				
R2343	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Swung on landing and the undercarriage collapsed at 00:25. [repaired ?]				

[possibly back with 456 Sqn by 21.8.42]				
Pilot	Sgt	R N B Scott		Ok

Wednesday 6th May 1942 [AIR 27/1518/33][AIR 27/940/22][AIR 27/1527/10][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/724]

	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
255 Sqn were present for air-to-air gunnery course, from High Erroll.				
BL446	NX-	Spitfire VB*	131 Sqn	Sgt Bridle
AR403	NX-	Spitfire VB*	131 Sqn	Sgt Evans
AD352	NX-	Spitfire VB*	131 Sqn	P/O Rowell
*131 Sqn were present for air-to-air gunnery.				
Z3351	FM-	Hurricane IIB	257 Sqn	P/O Scotchmer from & to Honiley
		?		
GOC Western Command, Gen Sir J H Marshall-Cornwall & AOC 9 Group, AVM A W McClaughry visited, by air?				
		?		S/L Hamilton
To Squires Gate, dropped off W/C Ivens.				

Friday 8th May 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 28/494][AIR 29/437]

V8133	RX-E	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
		[Spitfire]	[Valley SF]	W/C Churchill visited Llanbedr
-				
P3736		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O Ball
Catapulted from SS [Primrose Hill], landed Valley then return to Speke.				
P7920		Spitfire IIA	24 Sqn	Disbrey
Routed: Newcastle-Squires Gate-Valley-Northolt.				

Saturday 9th May 1942 [AIR 27/1899/17][AIR 27/1428/26][AIR 28/874][AIR 28/88][AB][AIR 27/1699/29][IE][RAFM]

		?		Arrived 12:45
HRH Duke of Kent visited, by air? Also visited Bodorgan.				
		Lysander		To Llanbedr
For 131 Sqn air-to-air firing at Llanbedr.				
T3181	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery from 27 MU Shawbury
T3383	RX-A	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
To & from Llanbedr to assess suitability for new inexperienced pilots.				
		Walrus*	275 Sqn	F/L R F Hamlyn
*Rescue of four crew members from an Anson I N4922 9[O]AFU which had ditched off				

Llandwrog at 20:00. Crew of four were sitting on the semi-afloat aircraft. Landed and awaited arrival of HSL 135 from Fort Belan, Crew taken to Valley.

-				
	EF-	Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	
	EF-	Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	
	EF-	Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	
	EF-	Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	
232 Sqn aircraft were present for air gunnery, no mention in the Sqn ORB as to duration.				
BL751	PK-Z	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	F/L Falkowski 'BLUE'
BL959	PK-T	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	Sgt Lipinski 'BLUE'
*From Woodvale, landed after a patrol over Llandudno.				

Wednesday 13th May 1942 [AIR 27/1899/17][AIR 27/764/27][AIR 27/1527/10][AIR 29/42]

L1371	RX-	Blenheim I	456 Sqn	Loaned to 96 Sqn for 1 month
This was to help 96 Sqn convert from Defiants to Beaufighters. Described by 96 Sqn, Wrexham as a frightful old wreck, full of sand!				
W9135	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O Coombe
AG277	FM-H	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	Sgt Addington
From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery, returning 15.5				
R5103		Tiger Moth	Z Flt	F/O Richardson from & to Bodorgan

Thursday 14th May 1942 [AIR 27/1899/17][Fighter Nights][AIR 28/494][**RAFM**]

		[Spitfire]	[Valley SF]	W/C Churchill visited Llanbedr
T3383	RX-A	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
To & from Andreas, brought back 2 bottles of gin.				
-				
T3370	RX-Z	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Tail oleo collapsed due to violent shimmy, repaired.				
Pilot	S/L	A P Dottridge		Ok
-				
R2394	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Damaged landing at Valley, to 27 MU, Shawbury. [see also 18.11.42] [possibly repaired and back to 456 Sqn on 7.8.42]				
Pilot	P/O	G Panitz [RAAF]		

Friday 15th May 1942 [USAAF doc][AIR 28/369]

Station informed by 9 Group to standby for up to 32 B-17 or 24 B-24 aircraft from this date onwards as possible diversions of TRANSAT aircraft. Priority given to construction of more aircraft hard standings.				
	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	
	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	
Air-to-air gunnery course, from and to Honiley.				

Saturday 16th May 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437][**AIR 27/1518/33**]

T3371	RX-D	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
-				
V7504		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Burr
Catapulted from ship [Empire Rainbow], land Valley and returned to Speke.				
		Beaufighter VIF	255 Sqn	
		Beaufighter VIF	255 Sqn	
		Beaufighter VIF	255 Sqn	
		Beaufighter VIF	255 Sqn	
255 Sqn carried out air-to-air firing at Valley from High Ercall.				

Monday 18th May 1942 [AIR 50/157/92][AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437]

T3022	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	AIR 50/157/93
Whilst on Convoy patrol EA seen and gave chase, 3x 2second bursts. This was 456 Sqn's 2 nd kill. Claimed as damaged but upgraded to a kill after the EA ditched in Cardigan Bay, survivors were picked up by Trawler after 53 hours in the sea.				
Pilot	P/O	D Bernie Wills		
Obs	Sgt	R [Ron] C Lowther [RAAF]		
-				
1679	4U+FL	Ju.88D-1	3[F]123	From Lannion, NW France
Ff	Lt	Wilhelm Wahler		Ok, picked up 20.5 by SS Loch Fisher
Bf	Uffz	Wolfgang Dill		Ok, picked up 20.5 by SS Loch Fisher
Bo	Fw	Herwart Blome		Killed
Bm	Gfr	Wilhelm Spengler		Killed

Tuesday 19th May 1942 [AIR 27/1899/17][AIR 28/369]

		Mosquito*		Landed PM
*[Possibly 105 or 264 Sqn]				
		[Spitfire]		W/C Churchill visited Honiley

Wednesday 20th May 1942 [AIR 29/437]

W9389		Hornet Moth	MSFU	S/L Austin from Speke
W9389		Hornet Moth	MSFU	W/C Pinkerton to Speke

Thursday 21st May 1942 [AIR 28/874][Fighter Nights][AIR 28/494]

V8133	RX-E	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	P/O West
Due to weather diverted to Wrexham having made twenty-two attempts to land at Valley.				
		?		
SASO 9 Group, A/Cdre T W Dickson visited, by air?				
L1170		Blenheim I	456 Sqn	Delivery

Friday 22nd May 1942 [AIR 27/1527/10][AIR 28/874]

W9135	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O Slaney
Z2979	FM-	Hurricane IIA	257 Sqn	P/O Kenward

From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery, returning 24.5				
		Wellington	[27 OTU]	From Lichfield with engine failure
		Wellington	[27 OTU]	Weather diversion from Lichfield

Saturday 23rd May 1942 [AIR 27/1518/33][AIR 27/922/16]

315 Sqn detachment arrived from Woodvale with 4 or 5 Spitfire VB's.				
X8001	YD-	Beaufighter VIF	255 Sqn	W/C Kelly from & to High Ercall
Visited concerning CHL [Radar] Practices, carried out a patrol too.				
X8019	YD-	Beaufighter VIF	255 Sqn	S/L Player, patrol
Took off from Valley at 16:20 and vectored to the South. They obtained a contact around Hereford but this was intermittent and the chase was eventually abandoned around Devonshire. They then returned to their base at High Ercall landing at 18:06.				
R2372	VA-F	Beaufighter IIF	125 Sqn	P/O Jameson & Sgt Crookes
Diverted in from a combat patrol at 19:15 due to poor weather at Fairwood Common.				

Sunday 24th May 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 28/39]

		?	275 Sqn	
Searched for ditched Hudson, nothing found. Possibly Hudson V AM794 1[C]OTU which crashed in the sea on a navigation exercise.				
		?		
AOC & his wife visited, by air?				
		?		OC Atcham from & to Atcham

Monday 25th May 1942

R2325	RX-K	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery, also quoted as 5.5.42
A series of photographs taken at the same dispersal on this date.				
				
Lysander IIIA V9854 [1486 Flight]				



Unidentified Defiant [possibly AA350 from 275 Sqn or 276 Sqn]
See also 18.10.42



Hurricane I AG277:FM-H 257 Sqn [see 2/13.5 & 17.6]
[All: Dick Thomas Collection]

Wednesday 27th May 1942 [AIR 27/294/34][AIR 29/437]

LA619		Lockheed 12	24 Sqn	F/L Miller N/stop
A/Cdre Kingston-McCloughry, from Squires Gate.				
Z4846		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Davies from & to Speke
V7076		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Reahil from & to Speke
P3886		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Blair from & to Speke

Thursday 28th May 1942 [AIR 27/294/34][AIR 29/437]

LA619		Lockheed 12	24 Sqn	F/L Miller
A/Cdre Kingston-McCloughry, to Squires Gate-Silloth-Nutts Corner.				
P3886		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/L Keep from & to Speke
-				
V7439		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Hopkins
Catapulted from ship, landed Valley then return to Speke.				

Saturday 30th May 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 29/1007][AIR 29/437][**RAFM**]

V7048		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Watson from & to Speke
T3383	RX-A	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
To & from Catterick.				
-				
W5088		Botha I	48 MU	[AIR 81/14600]
Crashed after take-off from Bodorgan into the sea off Llanddwyn Island [OS 41/870850] at approx. 12:35 due to loss of power, pilot was rescued by a Naval launch from Holyhead. Due to a misunderstanding 275 Sqn were not informed of the ditching. Sgt Clack drowned after becoming trapped inside the aircraft as it sank. The aircraft was being ferried to 48 MU, Hawarden post storage at Bodorgan. F/S Wheeler was taken to the Sick Quarters at RAF Llandwrog with Sgt Clack's body taken to the Sick Quarters at RAF Bodorgan. It would appear that the aircraft was salvaged by 34 MU, Shrewsbury.				
Pilot	F/S	D C Wheeler		Slightly injured
Pax	Sgt	Edward Andrew Clack		Killed [buried Patcham]

Sunday 31st May 1942 [AIR 27/1518/33][AIR 27/1527/10][AIR 29/437]

255 Sqn arrived for air-to-air gunnery, from High Ercall.				
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter	255 Sqn	
Z3351	FM-	Hurricane IIB	257 Sqn	P/O Tatham, see 5.6
V6576	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	Sgt Smith
From Honiley for air gunnery.				
V7048		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O Tuele from & to Speke

June 1942

219 Sqn detachment departs back to Tangmere.
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Dated 6.1942 this image shows a 456 Sqn Beaufighter II of A Flight at dispersal at Valley.



The NAAFI Van visits A Flight dispersal, 456 Sqn at Valley, the Flight Watch [ATC] tower can be seen in the far distance above the van bonnet .

[Gordon Gatenby Collection]

June 1942 [Fighter Nights]

L1371	RX-	Blenheim I	456 Sqn	Back from 96 Sqn, see 13.5
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June 1942 [Photo Dennis Pritchard]

DK940	24	Master II	1486 Flt	Photo taken at Valley
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[Dennis Pritchard]

Monday 1st June 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 28/721]

			275 Sqn	
Search carried out for a ditched Fulmar aircraft in Liverpool Bay. This could possibly be N4026 [Lt Sheriff RN] missing on its way to Machrihanish.				

Tuesday 2nd June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/11][AIR 28/39][AIR 29/437][AB Oxford File]

R2382	RX-Z	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
LAC Vidler painted the first 'Kangaroo' roundel today.				
Z2629	FM-	Hurricane IIA	257 Sqn	Sgt E A Tennant, air gunnery
		[Spitfire]		W/C Churchill visited Atcham
V7647		Hurricane I*	MSFU	P/O P J Garner
*Catapulted from SS Empire Shackleton off Anglesey, land Valley, inspected and return to Speke.				
AB720		Oxford II	[Valley SF]	Station Flight ? until 4.2.43

Wednesday 3rd June 1942 [AIR 29/437]

V6990		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O E C Baldwin
Catapulted from SS Empire Heath off Anglesey, land Valley, inspected and return to Speke.				
V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O Cryderman to & from Speke

Thursday 4th June 1942 [AIR 27/1899/19][AB]

	KP-B	Beaufighter	409 Sqn	McMillan/Long
Routed: Coleby-Speke-Valley-Coleby. Should have been an Oxford aircraft originally. McMillan would later become Valley's Station Commander in the early 1960's heralding the introduction of the Gnat Advanced Trainer.				
DZ203/G		Boeing 247D	TFU	W/C F Griffiths
Used for ASV [Air-to-Surface Vessel] radar trials, between July-October 1942. The '/G' indicated that the aircraft should be guarded at all times.				
-				
T3370	RX-Z	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Tail wheel collapsed.				
Pilot	S/L	A P Dottridge		Ok

Friday 5th June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/11]

Z3351	FM-	Hurricane IIB	257 Sqn	P/O B T Tatham to High Ercall
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Saturday 6th June 1942 [AIR 28/874][rafweb.org][AIR 29/437]

			275 Sqn	
Search carried out for a Wellington. Possibly Wellington VIII HF907 1443 Flt which went missing whilst on a fuel consumption test flight over the Irish Sea on 5.6?				
[DE425]		Tiger Moth	J Flt	From & to Bodorgan
V6858		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O H B Moffett [Crew 9]
Catapulted from SS Empire Stanley off Anglesey, landed at Valley then returned to Speke.				

Sunday 7th June 1942 [AIR 27/1428/28]

		4x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
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Monday 8th June 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 27/1428/28]

		6x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
			275 Sqn	
Search carried out for an Anson off Ty Croes.				

Tuesday 9th June 1942 [AIR 29/41][AIR 27/1428/28]

		6x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
L3356		Henley III	J Flt	Sgt Gair from & to Bodorgan

Wednesday 10th June 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1][rafweb.org][AIR 27/1428/28]

		6x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
		?	275 Sqn	Sgt Lee
		Walrus	275 Sqn	F/L R F Hamlyn
Scrambled to search for an Anson ditched off Llandwrog at 18:25, one body found. The only known Anson which fits this date is Anson I N4983 9[O]AFU. Only two crew onboard.				
N4983		Anson I	9[O]AFU	AIR 81/15013
Pilot	P/O	John Malcolm Snow		Killed [buried Llanbelig]



Llanbelig Cemetery Caernarfon.

[Hywel Evans]

Pax	P/O	Thomas Fair Watt [RCAF]	Killed [buried Edinburgh]
P/O Watt's funeral was held at Caernarfon but he was buried in Edinburgh as his			

Grandfather resided there.

Thursday 11th June 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437]

Meeting to discuss the detrimental effects of the sand at Valley, existing bog spreading was extended and increased threefold in the hope it would stabilise the sand erosion.
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		?	275 Sqn	
Search carried out for a Manchester off Rhyl. The only possibility is L7391 [ZN-] 106 Sqn which had an engine failure and landed at Sealand.				
V7159		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O T Nesbitt [Crew 27]
Catapulted from SS Empire Ray off Anglesey, land Valley then return to Speke.				

Friday 12th June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 27/1428/28]

		6x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
BD729	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	F/Sgt R T Wise
Z2643	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	P/O W R McDunnough
*Air-to-air gunnery, from High Ercall.				

Saturday 13th June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/12][Fighter Nights][AIR 27/1428/28]

		6x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
T3145	RX-F	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
BD729	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	Sgt Hough
Z2966	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	S/L F G Wykeham-Barnes
*Air-to-air gunnery, from High Ercall.				

Sunday 14th June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 27/1428/28]

		6x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
BD729	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	P/O B T Tatham
Z2966	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	F/O C W C Henman
*Air-to-air gunnery, from High Ercall.				

Monday 15th June 1942 [AIR 27/1518/35][AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 28/369]

*Air-to-air gunnery from Honiley.				
	YD-	Beaufighter*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter*	255 Sqn	
Z3170	FM-	Hurricane IIB	257 Sqn	P/O P G Scotchmer

Tuesday 16th June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 28/1]

Z2979	FM-	Hurricane IIA	257 Sqn	P/O J G Fogg, air gunnery
Z2643	FM-	Hurricane IIA	257 Sqn	F/Sgt H Whitmill
		Defiant	275 Sqn	To Andreas


Wednesday 17th June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 27/1428/28]

		3x Spitfire VB	232 Sqn	Air to air firing from Llanbedr
AG277	FM-H	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O P F Steib, air gunnery
W9135	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	Sgt J W P Nicholls

Thursday 18th June 1942 [AIR 27/2004/18][AIR 29/437]

		?		W/C Churchill
Visited 232 Sqn at Llanbedr, by air ?				
		Havoc Turbinlite	1456 Flt	F/L Evans from & to High Ercall
AG211		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O P E Etienne
From Speke to Valley for air-to-air gunnery until 23.6				

Friday 19th June 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437]

			275 Sqn	
Search carried out for a Wellington.				
Z4936	KE-M	Hurricane IA	MSFU	P/O P D O'Sullivan [Crew 25]
Catapulted from SS Kafiristan off Anglesey, land Valley, inspected then returned to Speke. Most probably seen here on the training catapult at Speke.				
				
[Internet]				

Saturday 20th June 1942 [AIR 27/1518/35][AIR 27/1527/12]

W9135	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O J Fogg, air gunnery
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AG191	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O P F Steib, air gunnery
	YD-	Beaufighter*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter*	255 Sqn	
*Air-to-air gunnery from Honiley, Pilots P/O Wooley, P/O [Humes] & F/Sgt Kendall.				

Monday 22nd June 1942 [AIR 29/437]

Z4935		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O D K G Faulks from & to Speke
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Tuesday 23rd June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 27/764/27][AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437]

AG191	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O P F Steib to High Ercall
W9135	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	P/O J Fogg to High Ercall
T3378	ZJ-	Beaufighter VIF	96 Sqn	S/L Young & Sgt Barnes
T3048	ZJ-	Beaufighter VIF	96 Sqn	
		Oxford	96 Sqn	From & to Wrexham
*B Flight, 96 Sqn arrived for air gunnery with 1486 Flt, returning to Wrexham 27.6.42, the Sqn Oxford[s] were used to transport groundcrews and equipment.				
			275 Sqn	
Search carried out for an Anson.				
N2857		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O Davidson from & to Speke
AG211		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 18.6
P3886		Hurricane I	MSFU	W/C G C Pinkerton from & to Speke

Wednesday 24th June 1942 [AIR 29/74/3]

96 Sqn air gunnery with 1486 Flt. Beaufighter T3048 S/L Young & Sgt Barnes flew 2 sorties.				
2710 Sqn RAF Regiment arrive having marched all the way from RAF Llanbedr [left 20.6]				

Thursday 25th June 1942 [logbook]

96 Sqn air gunnery with 1486 Flt. Beaufighter T3378 S/L Young & Sgt Barnes flew 2 sorties.				
N9916		Anson I	1 CACF	S/L Hamilton from & to Bodorgan

Friday 26th June 1942 [AIR 27/1899/19][AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437][AIR 27/1183/7]

96 Sqn air gunnery with 1486 Flt. Beaufighter T3378 S/L Young & Sgt Barnes flew 1 sortie. S/L Young then flew Lysander T1548 on one sortie towing a drogue.				
			275 Sqn	F/O Calvert to Andreas
Z2147	[L]	Catalina I*	[202 Sqn]	
*Forced landing due to fuel at Holyhead after a patrol, departed Gibraltar 18:56 on 25.6 [Onboard were a 202 Sqn crew & A/Cdre Simpson]				
P3868		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O I R Macintyre
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery course, departed back to Speke 29.6				

Sorties flown 26/27/28/29.6				
V7600		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O A A Williams [Crew 19]
Catapulted from SS Empire Flame off Anglesey, land at Valley then to Speke.				
-				
T3014	RX-	Beaufighter IIF*	456 Sqn	'PEEPER23' [AIR 81/15625]
		Walrus	275 Sqn	P/O R W V Jessott & F/S Bryan
		Lysander	275 Sqn	Sgt Lee
		Spitfire	275 Sqn	W/C Churchill
<p>*Departed Valley 11:48 to patrol 35nms WSW of Bardsey Island at 3,000ft when a Ju.88 was seen slightly below on a westerly heading at 12:27. EA gave a burst which punctured a fuel tank and struck the port wing and engine. The port engine then failed and unable to maintain height the pilot reported ditching at 12:36. Picked up by 275 Sqn Walrus at 14:18 with a Lysander & a Spitfire flown by W/C Churchill as a search party. The Walrus was escorted by Beaufighter V8133 [Sgt's Gatenby & Melrose]. W/C Wolfe the 456 Sqn CO was also involved in the search flying Beaufighter T3383:RX-A.</p>				
Pilot	P/O	Philip Alexander Dey* [RAAF]	Ok	
Obs	Sgt	Edward William Mitchell*	Broken ribs and a cut to the head	

Saturday 27th June 1942 [AIR 27/1699/32]

<p>96 Sqn air gunnery with 1486 Flt. Beaufighter T3378 S/L Young & Sgt Barnes flew 2 sorties.</p>				
T3378		Beaufighter	96 Sqn	'BLUE1' S/L Young to Wrexham
BM422	PK-	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	P/O Malczewski from Woodvale
EN892	PK-Y	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	P/O Urban from Woodvale

Sunday 28th June 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437]

P6806		Oxford I/II	456 Sqn	Delivery
P8810		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O W E Hopkins from & to Speke
Z4933		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O D K G Faulks from & to Speke

Monday 29th June 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437]

		Walrus*	275 Sqn	P/O Jessott
		Lysander*	275 Sqn	
<p>*Scrambled to a ditched Spitfire SSW of Isle of Man at 16:00, landed but pilot had died of his injuries. This was Sgt Joseph Denis Lowney flying Spitfire VB AD570 93 Sqn from Andreas, Isle of Man, buried Douglas, IoM AIR 81/15840. 456 Sqn provided a Beaufighter as an escort for the Lysander.</p>				
P3255	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	Sgt J L W Hill air gunnery
W9135	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	F/S A J Addington air gunnery
P3868		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 26.6

Tuesday 30th June 1942 [AIR 27/1527/12][AIR 27/294/36]

W9179	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	F/L B G Stapleton air gunnery
AG191	FM-	Hurricane I	257 Sqn	F/O C W C Henman air gunnery

P8833		Oxford II	24 Sqn	P/O Vrecl Air Ambulance
Stretcher case, routed: Hendon-Valley-Cosford-Hendon.				
T3368		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivery

July 1942 [AIR 28/874]

During July, 2 parties of USAAF Spitfires from Atcham for intensive training, see 17.7.42.				
		?x Spitfire [VB]		

Wednesday 1st July 1942 [AIR 27/1699/34][AIR 27/1527/14][AIR 29/437][IE][AIR 27/48]

P3886		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O P D O'Sullivan
From Speke for air gunnery course, flew sorties 1/2/4/5.7, returned to Speke 5.7				
AG191	FM-	Hurricane I*	257 Sqn	F/Sgt H Ambrose air gunnery
Z5307	FM-	Hurricane IIB*	257 Sqn	Sgt S J Biggs air gunnery
*From & to High Ercall.				
AG522		Mustang I	4 Sqn	F/O Goldthorp
Routed: York-Llanbedr-Valley-York.				
BL544	PK-N	Spitfire VB**	315 Sqn	Sgt A Chudek
AB215	PK-J	Spitfire VB**	315 Sqn	Sgt T Jankowski
**From Woodvale, 2 Patrols carried out, landed back at Woodvale after the second.				

Thursday 2nd July 1942 [AIR 27/1699/34][AIR 27/1527/14][IE]

W9135	FM-	Hurricane I*	257 Sqn	F/O G Ball air gunnery
Z2643	FM-	Hurricane IIA*	257 Sqn	P/O W R McDunnough air gunnery
*From High Ercall. Both returned to High Ercall 6.7.42				
EN840	PK-I	Spitfire VB**	315 Sqn	P/O J Kowalski 'RED Section'
EN856	PK-B	Spitfire VB**	315 Sqn	F/Sgt M Matus
**From Woodvale. Patrol carried out over Bardsey Island from Valley.				

Sunday 5th July 1942 [AIR 27/764/29][AIR 27/1518/37][AIR 28/369][AIR 29/437]

P3886		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 1.7
	YD-	Beaufighter VIF*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter VIF*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter VIF*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter VIF*	255 Sqn	
	YD-	Beaufighter VIF*	255 Sqn	
*From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery, five attended, four fired. Two of the callsigns were 'FAIRWAY21 & 32'.				
		Oxford*	96 Sqn	From & to Wrexham
*Transported Crews for air gunnery, this was however cancelled as the Range was allocated to the 'Yanks.'				

Monday 6th July 1942 [AIR 27/1527/14]

Z2696	FM-	Hurricane IIA	257 Sqn	F/Sgt R T Wise, air gunnery
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Tuesday 7th July 1942 [AIR 27/1899/21][AIR 27/1595/1]

456 Sqn start their conversion to the Beaufighter VIF equipped with Bristol Hercules VI radial engines.

	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	First delivery of a Mk VI aircraft
			275 Sqn	F/O Calvert from Andreas

Thursday 9th July 1942 [AIR 27/1899/21][AIR 28/874]

	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
		?		
AOC RAAF, AVM Macnamara visited, by air?				

Friday 10th July 1942 [AIR 27/1899/21][AIR 27/1428/30]

X8251	RX-[A]	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
		?		W/C Churchill
Visited 232 Sqn at Llanbedr, by air ?				

Saturday 11th July 1942 [logbook]

V8134		Beaufighter IIF	96 Sqn	S/L Young & Sgt Barnes
Routed: Wrexham-Valley-High Ercall-Wrexham.				

Sunday 12th July 1942 [Fighter Nights]

T3379		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU
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Monday 13th July 1942 [Fighter Nights]

X7895	RX-V	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery [also quoted as 13.10.42]
X8265	RX-B	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery

Tuesday 14th July 1942 [Fighter Nights]

X8263	RX-D	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
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Wednesday 15th July 1942 [Fighter Nights]

X7896		Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
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Thursday 16th July 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23][Fighter Nights]

X8190	RX-K	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
K6993	BJ-L	Harrow I*	271 Sqn	W/O S Witus
*From and to Atcham with USAAF kit. [14 FG? Or possibly 31 FG See 28.7.42]				

Friday 17th July 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23][AIR 28/874]

12 Beaufighter VI's now with 456 Sqn.				
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V8133	RX-E	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Burst tail wheel tyre and ran off runway.				
Pilot	P/O	J Ward	Ok	
-				
307 FS & 308 FS/31 FG USAAF arrived from Atcham for air-to-air gunnery training. Present 17-28.7 [2/Lt Wally Anderson 31 FG memoirs] [The air gunnery started 20 th and finished 28 th]				
		?x Spitfire VB	31 FG	
EN851	MX-D	Spitfire VB	307 FS/31 FG	
EN799	MX-R	Spitfire VB	307 FS/31 FG	
There is an undated photo of the above aircraft supposedly at Valley.				
	-V	Spitfire VB	308 FS/31 FG	
K7005	BJ-	Harrow I*	271 Sqn	P/O Wilson
K6998	BJ-N	Harrow I*	271 Sqn	F/Sgt J Workshop
*From and to Atcham with 31 FG USAAF support. The Valley ORB mentions two parties of USAAF pilots brought their Spitfires over from Atcham and carried out intensive training, particularly against towed targets.				

Saturday 18th July 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 27/1428/30]

X8138	RX-Z	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
X8200	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
X8206	RX-G	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
X8261	RX-F	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
X8262	RX-Y	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
		?		W/C Churchill
Visited 232 Sqn at Llanbedr.				

Sunday 19th July 1942 [Fighter Nights]

X8100	RX-E	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
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Monday 20th July 1942 [AIR 29/74/3][AIR 28/874][RAFM]

2710[Defence]Sqn departs for West Malling to be replaced by 2893 Sqn. 31 FG USAAF start air-to-air gunnery training, see 17.7.				
Based noted: Blenheim L1170 456 Sqn [W/C Wolfe] air test, brakes and radio not working.				

Tuesday 21st July 1942 [Fighter Nights]

T3017	RX-B	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU
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An undated photograph of T3017:RX-B at Valley.
[Gordon Gatenby Collection]

T3181	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU
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Thursday 23rd July 1942 [AIR 28/369][AIR 29/437][AIR 27/1428/30]

8x Spitfire VB from 232 Sqn Llanbedr carried out low level attacks on Anglesey.
Did NOT land at Valley.

		[Spitfire]		W/C Churchill visited Honiley
AG224		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O J Sheppard
P3385		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O J M Edmiston
Both MSFU aircraft routed: Speke-Valley-Penrhos-Speke.				

Saturday 25th July 1942 [AIR 27/2004/18][AIR 27/1899/21][AIR 28/874][RAFM]

		Havoc Turbinlite	1456 Flt	From & to High Er call
Dropped off Sgt's Sutcliffe & Nicol who were joining 456 Sqn.				
-				
T1552		Lysander III	1486 Flt	F/L J M Crabb & Sgt J W F Fryer
Left Valley for Andreas, IoM but after 1:30hr overdue action was taken and a search carried out by Lysanders from 275 Sqn, 456 Sqn Beaufighters, Woodvale based Spitfires/Beaufighters, Andreas based Lysander/Walrus and a Ballyhalbert based Beaufighter. At 01:45 26.7 the search was called off after a report was received that the aircraft had landed on a beach near Ballyliffen on the Inishowen Peninsula, Ireland. Having satisfied the Irish authorities that, they were on a humanitarian flight they were permitted to re-fuel the aircraft and fly back to Valley via Andreas, thus avoiding internment.				
		?		
AOC 9 Group, AVM Dickson visited the Station, by air?				
X8251	RX-A	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
Routed: Valley-Salmesbury-Valley.				

Sunday 26th July 1942 [Fighter Nights]

X8195	RX-E	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
X8205	RX-H	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery

Monday 27th July 1942 [AIR27/1573/23][RAFM]

2710 Sqn RAF Regiment departs to West Malling. Sqn ORB says twenty-seven not 20.7.				
X8251	RX-A	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
Routed: Valley-Barton Hall-Salmesbury-Llanbedr-Valley.				
[AB720]		Oxford II*	Valley SF	F/S G Stevens
*Valley Station Flight, to Llanbedr for ATC experience flights.				
X7519		Dominie I	271 Sqn	S/L G A Brown
*From and to Doncaster with Brig Peters onboard.				

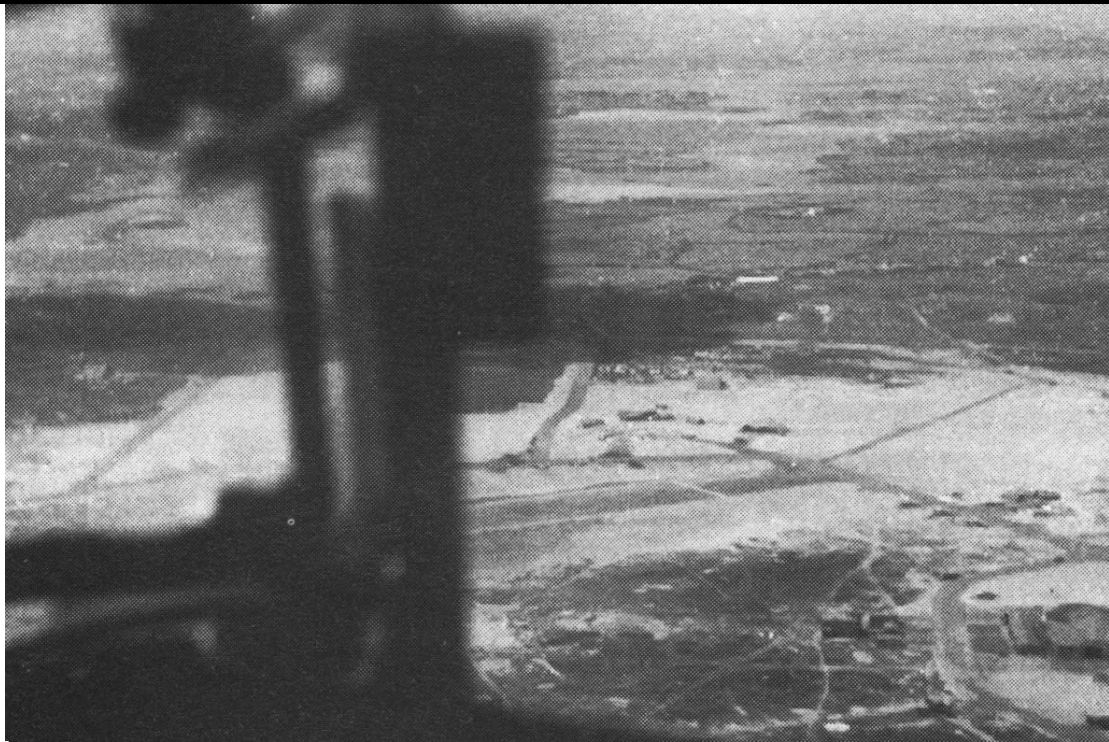
Tuesday 28th July 1942 [AIR 27/1899/21][AIR 28/874]

11 P-38's of the 14 FG/USAAF arrived at 17:00 routing from Greenland to Atcham fitted with long range fuel tanks. Only ten departed. See also 17.7.42 [There were a total of twenty-two in the crossing with '17680 being the first, the other ten are possibly the ones listed below, the other eleven were 17661/659/556/674/673/667/669/542/655/671 & 12322] **Also quoted as arriving from Prestwick.**

41-7566		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7675		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7677		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7678		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7676		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7658		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7670		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7668		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7653		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
41-7665		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
-				
41-7680		P-38F	49 FS/14 FG	
Crashed on take-off after the undercarriage collapsed at Valley, burst into flames.				
Pilot	[Lt]	Jasper N Durham	Ok	
-				
31 FG returned to Atcham, see 17.7				
		?x Spitfire VB	31 FG	To Atcham
EN851	MX-D	Spitfire VB	307 FS/31 FG	To Atcham
EN799	MX-R	Spitfire VB	307 FS/31 FG	To Atcham

Wednesday 29th July 1942 [AWM]

W/C H N G Ramsbottom-Isherwood assumes command of the Station.				
AG431	D	Mustang I	16 Sqn	F/O D W Sampson



This is a photograph taken on this day by 2/Lt Wally Anderson who was detached to Valley with the Spitfires of the 31st Fighter Group. Taken from a 456 Sqn Beaufighter, the Flight Watch Tower [ATC] and the present day ASP.3 can be seen lower right. The Runway is 19 before it was extended towards the railway line. In the distance is Cymyran Bay looking towards Holyhead Mountain. [Valley Aviation Society]

Thursday 30th July 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437][AIR 27/1428/30]

Spitfires from 232 Sqn at Llanbedr attacked Anglesey at low level, did NOT land at Valley.

V6924		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O P Wicks
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Catapulted from ship **[Empire Ray]** off Anglesey, land Valley then return to Speke.

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X8251	RX-A	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	AIR 50/157/94
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Took off from Valley at 00:10, vectored to Bardsey Island. Initially a visual on a Ju.88 then shot down a He.111 which crashed on Pwllheli Beach. Then chased another Ju.88 but difficult to maintain contact due to many training aircraft. Landed back at Valley 03:35. The German Crew were taken to RAF Penrhos SSQ from Pwllheli.

Pilot	W/C	E [Ted] C Wolfe DFC
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R/Obs	P/O	A E Ashcroft
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P/O Ashcroft the Radar Operator can be seen standing left and possibly P/O Lambert right.
[Crown Copyright, Ministry of Defence]

3962	F8+LW	He.111H-5	12/KG40	[from Orleans, France]
Ff	St/Fw	Dirk Hofkes		Bailed out ok, PoW
Bf	Uffz	Johann Hesek [Hesketh]		Bailed out ok, PoW
F/Eng	O/Fw	Fritz Graser		Killed
Bs	Gfr	Georg Hefferle		Killed
Bo	St/Fw	Horst Vogt		Killed, parachute failed to open

The discrepancy in names comes from the RAF Penrhos SSQ ORB which also quotes 'Hufkess' was suffering from shock/hypothermia and 'Hehkes' was suffering from a fractured left fibula and a flesh gunshot wound to the right foot. 'Hufkess' was taken from the SSQ on 1.8 by Military Escort and 'Hehkes' was transferred by Ambulance to the Railway Station under Military Escort on 3.8 The 3 deceased were buried at Deinio Cemetery, Pwllheli and subsequently reinterred to Cannock Chase, Staffordshire in the 1960's.

AB720		Oxford II	Valley SF	W/C Wolfe
Flew from Valley at 10:50 to Penrhos with P/O's Ashcroft & Lambert to view the He.111 wreckage and meet the crew/prisoners.				

Friday 31st July 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437]

31 FG detachment arrives from Atcham for more air-to-air gunnery. [one of the RAF Sergeants accidentally fired 12 rounds from the CO's Spitfire narrowly missing the NAAFI van!] The Spitfires departed 4.8				
		6x Spitfire VB	[31 FG]	
-				
R2382	RX-Z	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU

This was the first aircraft to carry a kangaroo roundel marking.				
T3145	RX-F	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 132 OTU
V6756	NJ-L	Hurricane I	MSFU	F/L M D Lyne from & to Speke

Sunday 2nd August 1942 [RAFMlogbook]

AB720		Oxford II	Valley SF	W/C E C Wolfe
To & from Penrhos with P/O Ashcroft & Lambert and bicycles to collect souvenirs from the downed He.111 on 30.7 The photograph in the 30.7 entry was most probably taken 2.8 as a note saying this appears in W/C Wolfe's logbook.				

Monday 3rd August 1942 [AIR 29/437]

AG224		Hurricane X	MSFU	P/O J Sheppard
V7166		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O B E MacPherson
From Speke for air-to-air firing, see 5.8				

Tuesday 4th August 1942 [AIR 27/1699/36][Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437][AIR 27/936/28][IE]

31 FG Spitfires departed, see 31.7.				
The ground support departed 5.8 by train to Kenley.				
		6x Spitfire VB	/31 FG	
BL472	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	F/L P L Arnott
AD417	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	Sgt A H Bell [Yr Hen Bont]
AD417 was a presentation Spitfire from Pontypridd, named 'Yr Hen Bont' [The Old Bridge]				
BL712	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	Sgt A W Braybrooke
AD928	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	Sgt C W Saunders
AB178	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	P/O P T H Maggs
BL736	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	F/S J Andrieux
BL890	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	F/S R P Leblond
BL356	PJ-Q	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	P/O J A Tooth
BL578	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	S/L P J Simpson
BL370	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	Sgt A R Fortt
AB204	PJ-	Spitfire VC	130 Sqn	F/S W F E Cane
EP123	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	F/L W J Rosser
BL659	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	Sgt N E Brown
AD301	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	P/O W H Hoggard
AR433	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	P/O P H Bell
AD360	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	Sgt J Paton
AA910	PJ-	Spitfire VB	130 Sqn	Sgt O C Snell
The 130 Sqn aircraft were routing from Woodvale to West Freugh.				
Diverted in due to bad weather at Woodvale.				
Arrived 13:00 and departed 15:30.				
		Hurricane	MSFU	P/O Sheppard
		Hurricane	MSFU	P/O Macpherson
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery, flew sorties 4/5/6				

X8194	RX-T	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
-				
T3021	RX-J	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Damaged taxiing at Valley.				
Pilot		R S Timbury	Ok	
-				
AB866	PK-P	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O H Stefankiewicz
AA929	PK-W	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	P/O P Kuryllowicz
315 Sqn carried out a patrol.				

Wednesday 5th August 1942 [AIR 27/1699/36][AIR 29/437][IE]

AG224		Hurricane X	MSFU	To Speke, aircraft swap for V7644
V7644		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O J Sheppard from Speke
		Lysander		Disbrey from & to Hendon
EN840	PK-I	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O M Najbicz
BL959	PK-T	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	P/O M Slonski
315 Sqn carried out a patrol.				

Thursday 6th August 1942 [AIR 29/437]

V7166		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 3.8
V7644		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 5.8
-				
AX408	[7]	Anson I	3[O]AFU	From Halfpenny Green
Forced landing Malltraeth Sands.				
Pilot				

Friday 7th August 1942 [AIR 29/437]

N2599		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O D A Drew [Crew 14]
Catapulted from SS Empire Franklin off Anglesey, land Valley, inspected and return to Speke.				


Saturday 8th August 1942 [AIR 29/437]

		Hurricane	MSFU	To Speke, see 4.8
		Hurricane	MSFU	To Speke, see 4.8

Sunday 9th August 1942 [AIR 27/1699/36][AIR 29/437][AIR 28/721]

P3868		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O J H Davies
From Speke for air-to-air firing, sorties flown 9/11.8				
-				
V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O P A Riddoch from & to Speke
P3385		Hurricane IA*	MSFU	[AIR 81/16813]
*Whilst flying to Valley to attend an air-to-air firing course the aircraft crashed at Allt-y-Ceffyllau near Blaenau Ffestiniog having flown into a hill in cloud at 10:00. One of two aircraft flying to Valley that day, P/O Riddoch in V6696 was recalled to Speke after he landed				

at Valley. Body was taken to Llanbedr and the funeral took place 13.8 at Porthmadog. P/O McIntyre was originally from Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada.

Pilot	P/O	Robert Bruce McIntyre [RCAF]*	Killed [buried Porthmadog]	
<div></div>				
-				
R8654	FM-	Typhoon IB	257 Sqn	F/L R S Miller from Atcham
AD262	PK-U	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	F/O E Fiedorczuk
[AB666]	PK-	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	Sgt H Duralski
*Patrol carried out, most probably AB866:PK-P.				

Monday 10th August 1942 [Fighter Nights]

T3022		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 60 OTU
T3036		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 132 OTU

Tuesday 11th August 1942 [AIR 27/1899/23][AIR 29/437]

	RX-	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Disposal
P3868		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 9.8

Wednesday 12th August 1942 [AIR 27/1523/29][AIR 27/1518/39]

	YD-	Beaufighter VIF*	255 Sqn	F/O C [Hume] F/S J C Talbot
	YD-	Beaufighter VIF*	255 Sqn	F/S W E Wylie & Sgt K [Timms]
*From Honiley for air-to-air gunnery.				
	JT-	?x Beaufighter	256 Sqn	
	PK-	?x Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	
B Flight/256 Sqn escorted by 315 Sqn attacked RAF Valley from Woodvale.				

Wednesday 13th August 1942 [AIR 28/494][P Sewell logbook*]

[AB720]		Oxford II		
To Llanbedr from Valley to give ATC Cadets experience flights.				
N6732		Tiger Moth*		From & to Bodorgan

Friday 14th August 1942 [AIR 27/294/40]

456 Sqn instructed to paint their aircraft in day fighter scheme, no paint available though!				
X7413		Dominie I	24 Sqn	F/O J Roberts
Routed: Carew Cheriton-Valley-Ronaldsway with L/Cdr Neville & Lt Hastings.				

Sunday 16th August 1942 [AIR 27/764/31][IBCCA]

[T3161]	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF*	96 Sqn	F/L Taylor
T3369	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF*	96 Sqn	F/O Maskell
	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF*	96 Sqn	P/O Birkbeck
[N4765]		Oxford I	96 Sqn	F/S Collier transported Crews
*Air-to-air gunnery course, returning 19.8.42.				

Monday 17th August 1942 [AIR 27/1699/36][AIR 28/874][Fighter Nights][IE][P Sewell logbook**]

Meeting regarding the Telecommunications Flying Unit [TFU] basing a detachment at Valley.				
X8199	RX-J	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
T3151		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 132 OTU
V8133	RX-E	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU
T3369	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF	96 Sqn	Back to base, see 16.8
V8138	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF	96 Sqn	F/O Maskell
Air-to-air firing from Wrexham.				
N6732		Tiger Moth**		From & to Bodorgan
BL238	PK-	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	F/O K Wyrozemaki
BL544	PK-N	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	P/O Widziszewski
*Patrol carried out.				

Tuesday 18th August 1942 [AIR 29/437][P Sewell logbook*]

AF976		Hurricane X	MSFU	F/L D G Clift [Crew 1]
Catapulted from SS Empire Darwin off Anglesey, landed Valley. On departure from Valley, it suffered engine problems and landed back at Valley. After repairs it departed to Speke.				
N6732		Tiger Moth*		From & to Bodorgan
T1380		Oxford II	96 Sqn	S/L Young from & to Wrexham

Wednesday 19th August 1942 [AIR 27/764/31][IBCCA][AIR 29/437]

	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF*	96 Sqn	F/L Taylor
T3161	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF*	96 Sqn	F/O Maskell
[V8138]	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF*	96 Sqn	P/O Birkbeck
*Back to Base, see 16.8				
P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O A S Smith
V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O P J Garner from & to Speke
W9323		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O D W J Reynolds
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery, sorties on 20.8				

Thursday 20th August 1942 [AIR 27/1699/36][AIR 27/1899/23][AIR 28/874][AIR 27/1668/15][Fighter Nights][IE][P Sewell**]

R2395		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 132 OTU, East Fortune
T3042		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 60 OTU
[T3047]		[Beaufighter IIF]	[456 Sqn]	[Delivered to ?]
-				
Z1172	NZ-V	Wellington IC	304 Sqn	From RAF Dale [AIR 81/17631]
<p>Whilst on a cross country from Dale the aircraft crashed into the sea between South Stack and Penrhyn Mawr at 15:40. Of the six crew the bodies of three* were recovered the same day by motor launch from Holyhead with their funerals taking place at Newark on 24.8. 275 Sqn scrambled a Defiant [F/S Smith] and a Walrus [P/O Jessett]. 456 Sqn searched with 2 Beaufighters. Sgt Tycholys's body was recovered 10.9.42 and F/O Wasilewski's was recovered 15.9.42. Sgt Gramiak's body was washed ashore at Blackpool 22.10.42 and buried in the Polish Cemetery, Blackpool. Rafweb.org suggest that Sgt Gramiak's body may have been re-interred in the USA.</p>				
Obs	F/O	Leszek Teofil Wasilewski [Polish]	Killed [buried Newark]	
1 st Pilot	P/O	Antoni Aleksy Zielinski* [Polish]	Killed [buried Newark]	
AG	Sgt	Grzegorz Piotr Gramiak [Polish]	Killed [buried New Jersey, USA]	
2 nd Pilot	Sgt	Ryszard Marian Jarno* [Polish]	Killed [buried Newark]	
Wop/AG	Sgt	Ludwik Ruszel* [Polish]	Killed [buried Newark]	
AG	Sgt	Antoni Tycholys [Polish]	Killed [buried Newark]	
-				
	SXY	Anson I**		From & to Bodorgan
BL544	PK-N	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	F/L F Kornicki
BM597	PK-C	Spitfire VB*	315 Sqn	F/Sgt J Adamiak
*Scrambled from Valley to identify intruders which turned out to be a Hudson & Wellington.				

Friday 21st August 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437]

R2341		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 60 OTU High Ercall
T3371	RX-D	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU
V7644		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O A S Smith from & to Speke
P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 19.8
W9323		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 19.8

Saturday 22nd August 1942 [AIR 27/1699/36][AIR 29/437][IE]

AD371		Seafire IIC	MSFU	F/L M D Lyne from & to Speke
P3273		Hurricane I*	MSFU	P/O P J Garner
V6696		Hurricane I*	MSFU	P/O A S Smith
W9323		Hurricane I*	MSFU	P/O D W J Reynolds
*From Speke for air-to-air gunnery course				
AB866	PK-P	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O S Blck
W3507	PK-Q	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O K Wyrozemski
Patrol carried out.				

Sunday 23rd August 1942 [AIR 27/1699/36][AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437][culturenorthernireland.org][AIR 81/17499][IE]

P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	
W9323		Hurricane I	MSFU	
V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	
To Speke post detachment, see 22.8				
-				
BL959	PK-T	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	F/O B J Sawiak 'BLACK Section'
AD262	PK-U	Spitfire VB	315 Sqn	Sgt T Lisowski
Scrambled at 07:57 from Valley to intercept Raid 134 but during the take-off the No.2 ran into some sand and ended up on its nose. Lead carried on and engaged a Ju.88 at 08:34 and was later seen to break away and ended up crashing near Dublin, he was taken to Hospital but died of his wounds. No.2 took off in a second aircraft at 08:05 and because of the delay never contacted his Lead or the Ju.88. No.2 [Lisowski] diverted to Ballyhalbert in N Ireland short of fuel returning later to Valley. Later learned that the Ju.88 crash landed at Tourgare, Tramore, Co Waterford in Southern Ireland. 275 Sqn [P/O McBrien] from Andreas scrambled an aircraft to assist with the search for the lead pilot. Valley ORB mentions that the lead aircraft crashed at Ratoath, Co. Meath, Ireland, and that F/O Sawiak [P0867] died of his wounds 13:20 at St Bricin's Military Hospital. Later that day his body was put on the Dun Laoghaire ferry to Wales. It also states that the rear gunner of the Ju.88 was also killed but the whole crew were interned. Sawiak was buried at Formby 26.8.42				
Pilot	F/O	Boleslawcsawry Sawiak		Died of wounds
-				
1688	4U+KH	Ju.88D-1	1[F]123	From Toussus-Buc
Ff	Lt	Paul Stormer		Ok, PoW Interned
Bo	Hptm	Gottfried Berndt		Ok, PoW Interned
Bf	O/Fw	Karl Hund		Ok, PoW Interned
Bs	Uffz	Joseph Reiser		Ok, PoW Interned

Tuesday 25th August 1942 [AIR 28/874]

		?	275 Sqn	F/S Smith
Scrambled at 18:45 to a small sailing boat containing ¾ children which was overdue, children were eventually brought ashore by a local boatman.				

Wednesday 26th August 1942 [AIR 27/764/32][AIR 28/874][AIR 27/1020/16]

BM837		Oxford II	151 Sqn	P/O Turner from & to Wittering
T3375	ZJ-	Beaufighter IIF	96 Sqn	Diversion W/C J R B Burns at 01:05
		?		
ACM Sir R Brooke-Popham visited to inspect the ATC Summer Camp, by air?				
-				
EP164		Spitfire VB	152 Sqn	[AIR 81/17286]
The AIR 81 file mentions this as crashing into the sea off Anglesey, returning from an operational flight over France? Nothing in the Valley ORB. Archives say Anglesey but casualty list on rafweb.org says Angle, which is more likely, mid-air collision with Spitfire VB				

BM638 from the same Sqn 'YELLOW SECTION' [P/O G D Woolrich RCAF] The Sqn ORB AIR 27/1025 confirms the incident happened 30nms SW of Angle, S Wales, NOT Anglesey.

Pilot	Sgt	Morris Ezra Shaw [RCAF]	Killed [buried Carew]
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Thursday 27th August 1942 [RAFM]

X8251	RX-A	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
To & from Catterick to collect his luggage.				

Friday 28th August 1942 [AIR 29/437]

V6799		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O E C Baldwin
Catapulted from Ship off Anglesey, landed Valley. Departed back to Speke.				

Saturday 29th August 1942 [RAFM]

P2464		Magister I	Valley SF	W/C Wolfe
To Moreton Vallance, forced landing due to a lightning strike in a thunderstorm.				

September 1942 [Fighter Nights]

L1371	[RX-]	Blenheim I	456 Sqn	Delivery to 488 Sqn, Church Fenton
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Tuesday 1st September 1942 [AIR 27/1523/32]

	JT-	Beaufighter IF	256 Sqn	Sgt Sproule
Zero feet beat up which damaged the tailwheel when it hit an obstruction!				

Wednesday 2nd September 1942 [RAFM]

T5886		Tiger Moth	[39 MU]	W/C Wolfe
From Filton to Moreton Vallance to collect the Magister, see 29.8				
P2464		Magister I	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
From Moreton Vallance to Filton.				

Friday 4th September 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437][RAFM]

P2464		Magister I	[456 Sqn]	W/C Wolfe
Routed: Filton-Wrexham-Valley, see 29.8 & 2.9				
V7246		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O S E McMann
Catapulted from SS Empire Day off Anglesey, landed Valley and after inspection departed to Speke.				
-				
R2344	RX-L	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU
T3368		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 410 Sqn, Scorton
-				
41-7671		P-38F	48 FS/14 FG	
Crashed at Valley.				
Pilot		Walter Earl Bestgen		

Tuesday 8th September 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23][AIR 27/1668/18]

X7411		Dominie I	271 Sqn	F/O L Suryn, from Prestwick
DV920	NZ-P	Wellington IC	304 Sqn	Sgt E Jonski at 01:20
Landed after a 8:15hr patrol from Dale.				

Thursday 10th September 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23]

X7411		Dominie I	271 Sqn	F/O L Suryn to Prestwick
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Monday 14th September 1942 [AIR 27/1899/25][AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 28/874]

		Walrus II	275 Sqn	P/O Jessett
New delivery from RNAS Lee-on-Solent.				
-				
X8205	RX-H	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	'PEEPER21'
Force landing in a field belonging to Craig Fawr Farm, Penmynydd [Pen-y-Cydd ?] near Llangefni at 16:00 due to engine failure. Aircraft caught fire and burnt out.				
Pilot	Sgt	D A H Spring		Minor bruises.
Obs	P/O	J Thomson		Minor bruises.

Wednesday 16th September 1942 [AIR 27/425/41][AIR 28/874][AIR 27/294/42]

		Spitfire VB	41 Sqn	S/L Neil
		Spitfire VB	41 Sqn	F/L Stepp
		Spitfire VB	41 Sqn	P/O Scott
		Spitfire VB	41 Sqn	F/L Hone
		Spitfire VB	41 Sqn	P/O Slack
		Spitfire VB	41 Sqn	P/O Hogarth
From Llanbedr for night flying. Five returned to Llanbedr on 17.9				
X7413		Dominie I	24 Sqn	F/O J Roberts
Routing over 3 days was Hendon-Exeter-Fairwood Common-Llanbedr-Valley-Silloth-Andreas-Ballykelly-Eglinton-Hendon.				

Thursday 17th September 1942 [AIR 27/764/33]

	ZJ-	Beaufighter	96 Sqn	W/C J R Burns, returned 21.9
	ZJ-	Beaufighter	96 Sqn	F/L A Black
	ZJ-	Beaufighter	96 Sqn	P/O D L West
	ZJ-	Beaufighter	96 Sqn	F/Sgt G R Leask [RCAF]
4-day air gunnery Course, the remaining aircraft returned 25.9.42				

Saturday 19th September 1942 [Fighter Nights]

R2371	RX-R	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 132 OUT [or 4.9]
T3027		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 132 OTU

Sunday 20th September 1942 [AIR 27/1899/25][AIR 28/874][AIR 27/922/24]

X8255		Beaufighter VIF*	125 Sqn	'BUFFALO30' F/L Bailey & P/O Dear
X7967		Beaufighter VIF*	125 Sqn	'BUFFALO34' F/O Boyd

*Diverted in after a combat patrol at 11:01.				
-				
X8195	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	'PEEPER34'
Landed downwind on Runway 5 [08] at the halfway point and went off the end collapsing the undercarriage.				
Pilot	F/L	R C Pargeter	Ok	
Obs	F/L	A E Ashcroft	Ok	

Monday 21st September 1942 [AB avw2004]

R1629		Wellington IC	TFU	S/L Craig
Arrived to conduct air-to-air interception trials which were carried out 22/23.9 [effectively the first AWACS in the world, equipped with a rotating radar antennae on the upper fuselage]				



[Crown Copyright, deffordairfieldheritagegroup.wordpress.com]

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Friday 25th September 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/1595/1]

		Walrus II	275 Sqn	P/O Jessett delivery to Andreas
R2390		Beaufighter IIF	96 Sqn	S/L Young
From Wrexham with hydraulic failure, later departed back to Wrexham.				
AM358	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	F/O A E Jones
Z5449		Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt N Bennett
Z5307		Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O K J Gear
Z3487		Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt P J Nickless
247 Sqn detachment from High Ercall.				

Saturday 26th September 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/294/42][AIR 29/437]

W9115		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O C R Birbeck
AG281		Hurricane X	MSFU	F/L D G Clift
From Speke for air-to-air firing course, returned 29.9, sorties flown 27/28.9				
P6319		Proctor I*	24 Sqn	Sgt Nightingale from Atcham
*B/Gen Britton, N/stop.				
LA623		Electra 12A	24 Sqn	P/O D Brown
Routed: Lyneham-Valley-Squires Gate-Doncaster-Hendon with A/Cdre Kingston-McClaughry, also possibly ACM Sir F Bowhill AOC-in-C Ferry Command. This was a visit regarding the suitability of Valley as a Transatlantic destination.				
-				
L3301		Henley III	J Flt/1 AACU	[AIR 81/18033]
Whilst carrying out target duties the target sleeve was lost, the crew were then asked by Ty Croes to attract the attention of a trawler which was approaching the Gunnery Range. It then carried out a low flypast at approx. 20ft during which it hit a 3.7inch anti-aircraft gun with its starboard wing and crashed into the sea off Bodorgan [OS 41/914786] at 09:40. 275 Sqn Walrus [F/S Smith] scrambled but no survivors. AC.2 Crowley's body was washed ashore 14.12.42 and taken to Bodorgan. P/O Southall was an ex. Royal Artillery Gunner who had been accepted and transferred for pilot training with the RAF on 10.5.41				
Pilot	P/O	John William Southall		Killed [Runnymede]
Winch	AC2	George Crowley		Killed [buried Llangadwaladr]

Sunday 27th September 1942 [AIR 27/1595/1][AIR 27/294/44]

P6319		Proctor I	24 Sqn	Sgt Nightingale to Portreath
		Walrus*	275 Sqn	F/O Calvert.
*Scrambled to pick up a survivor of a P-38 which had ditched off Llanbedr, aircraft was half in the water and half on the beach, pilot walked ashore. This is the famous 'Maid of Harlech' aircraft, P-38F 41-7677 49 FS/14 FG flown by 2/Lt R F Elliott.				

Tuesday 29th September 1942 [AIR 29/437]

W9115		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 26.9
AG281		Hurricane X	MSFU	To Speke, see 26.9

Wednesday 30th September 1942 [AIR 27/1707/17]

	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
*air gunnery, from Woodvale returning 3.10.42				

October 1942

		11x P-39D	92 FS/81 FG	
From High Ercall for gunnery practice, departed to Llanbedr 31.10.42 due to lack of space? They were also operating ex. RAF Aircobras known as the P-400.				

Thursday 1st October 1942 [AIR 16/583]

Airfield had eight hard standings for large aircraft and twelve for smaller types.				
[AM907]	‘/G’	Hudson V	TFU	
[V5756]	‘/G’	Blenheim IV	TFU	
[P1770]	‘/G’	Barracuda I	TFU	[2 nd prototype]
Mentioned in a letter dated this day, agreed to keep this Detachment plus twenty-five personnel, also mentioned 9.42. The Blenheim was testing a blind bombing and torpedoing with auto-following equipment. The ‘G’ suffix meant the aircraft had to have an armed guard at all times whilst on the ground. The Hudson & Barracuda were involved in testing ASV radar.				
[L2201]		Walrus	TFU	
[W5734]		Wellington VIII	TFU	
The Walrus and Wellington were based at Valley for prototype testing, but no specific dates. The Wellington was with TFU Defford between May & December 1942 according to its F78.				

Friday 2nd October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/1899/27]

JS338	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O P G Chappell from High Erroll
-				
X8200	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	
Starboard engine failed at 500ft after take-off at 22:35, undercarriage collapsed on the subsequent landing due to insufficient hydraulic pressure available.				
Pilot	F/L	R C Pargeter	Ok	
Obs	F/L	R L Fell	Ok	

Saturday 3rd October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18]

AM295	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt MacIntosh from High Erroll
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Monday 5th October 1942 [Fighter Nights]

L1170		Blenheim I	456 Sqn	Delivered to 409 Sqn
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Tuesday 6th October 1942 [AIR 27/1899/27]

X7896	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	
Undercarriage would not lock down fully, in the subsequent landing at 00:45 the aircraft ground looped causing extensive damage, repaired on site.				
Pilot	P/O	G Panitz [RAAF]	Ok	
Obs	P/O	R S Williams [RAAF]	Ok	

Thursday 8th October 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 29/437]

V6696		Hurricane I*	MSFU	F/O A A Williams
AG130		Hurricane X*	MSFU	P/O Sabourin
*From Speke for air-to-air firing course, departed back 11.10, flew sorties on 10/11.10				
-				
X8190	RX-K	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	AIR 81/18703
Starboard engine failed at 9,000ft. Whilst flying back to Valley they apparently mistook the lights at the ‘Q’ decoy site at Newborough for Valley at 23:03. The aircraft hit sand dunes				

and was destroyed with both crewmen killed. Both were buried at Maeshyfyrd Cemetery, Holyhead 13.10.42. The body of Sgt Wood was later exhumed and re-buried on 3.2.44 in accordance with the policy of the Dominion Governments that their dead should be buried in separate single graves. It would appear that initially they were buried together in grave 301. Both were from the Melbourne area in Australia although Sgt Wood was originally from Tasmania.

Pilot	F/Sgt	Ronald Norman Bilton Scott [RAAF]	Killed [buried Maeshyfyrd]
Obs	Sgt	Grahame Albert Glegen Wood [RAAF]	Killed [buried Maeshyfyrd]
			
		Maeshyfyrd, Holyhead [Hywel Evans]	Maeshyfyrd, Holyhead [Hywel Evans]

Friday 9th October 1942 [AIR 29/437]

AG130		Hurricane X	MSFU	P/O Sabourin visited Speke
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Saturday 10th October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/2004/18]

Z5449	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt Archibald from & to High Ercall
Z5367	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	F/O Brayshaw from & to High Ercall
		Havoc Turbinlite	535 Sqn	P/O Bathurst landed 02:55
535 Sqn was ex. 1456 Flight.				

Sunday 11th October 1942 [AIR 27/1523/34][AIR 27/294/44][Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437]

	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
*From Woodvale for air gunnery Course, returned 16.10.42.				
X9368		Vega Gull	24 Sqn	F/O B Furst from & to Hendon
V8441		Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
V8467	RX-H	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
V8495	RX-S	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
EL188	RX-R	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
AG130		Hurricane X	MSFU	To Speke, see 8.10
V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 8.10

Monday 12th October 1942 [AIR 27/1899/27]

	RX-	Beaufighter VIF*	456 Sqn	Delivery
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF*	456 Sqn	Delivery
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF*	456 Sqn	Delivery
*All delivered in the new colour scheme instead of 'night black,' in 'Fighter Nights' the delivery date for these is given as 11.10.42, see above.				

Tuesday 13th October 1942 [AIR 27/1899/27]

V8444	RX-W	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
EL214	RX-K	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery

Thursday 15th October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/1899/27][AIR 28/874][IBCCA][AIR 29/437]

Z4935		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O A M Charlesworth
AG130		Hurricane X	MSFU	P/O W N Tuele
From Speke for air-to-air firing course, departed back 20/21.10 sorties flown 16/17/18/19/20.10				
Z5449	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O Barton from High Ercall
AM275	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt R Campbell from High Ercall
	39	Anson I	1[O]AFU	Sgt Blank
Routed Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown, most probably an overflight.				
-				
X8206	RX-G	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	[AIR 81/18857]
Crashed short of the railway line approaching Runway 26 at Trewan Sands after the aircraft stalled due to the ASI being faulty, occurred at 22:45. Valley ORB quotes this as 16.10. Aircraft was salvaged by 34 MU.				
Pilot	P/O	Harry Smith [RAAF]		Ok [lacerations to forehead]
Obs	F/Sgt	Cecil Stovell [RAAF]		Ok [bruised ribs]

Friday 16th October 1942 [AIR 27/1523/34][Fighter Nights]

	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter*	256 Sqn	
*To Woodvale post air gunnery course.				
V8455	RX-G	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery

Sunday 18th October 1942 [AIR 27/1620][AIR 27/1488/18]

63 ASR[MC]U formed [MC]Marine Craft.				
BG156		Oxford I	Valley SF	To 285 Sqn at Wrexham as 'VG-V'
AA350		Defiant I	275 Sqn	To 285 Sqn at Wrexham.
The 285 Sqn ORB definitely says 275 Sqn whereas the aircraft card [F78] states 276 Sqn.				

Monday 19th October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/19][AIR 425/43][AIR 29/437]

AA352		Defiant I	275 Sqn	To 285 Sqn at Wrexham
See 18.10, the 285 Sqn ORB again states from 275 Sqn whereas the aircraft card says 276.				
Z5449	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O Burton, to High Ercall
AM275	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt D G [Batter] to High Ercall
		Spitfire VB*	41 Sqn	S/L Robinson
		Spitfire VB*	41 Sqn	F/L Gillitt
		Spitfire VB*	41 Sqn	P/O Poynton
*From Llanbedr for night flying, returning to Llanbedr 20.10. As a postscript F/L Frank Norman Gillitt was killed in R7296 when 3 Spitfires [R7296 BL518 BM573] crashed into Towyn Hendra Mountain [OS/68-04-] 22.10				
AG130		Hurricane X	MSFU	To Hawarden, see 15.10

Tuesday 20th October 1942 [AIR 29/437]

AG130		Hurricane X	MSFU	To Speke, see 19.10
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Wednesday 21st October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 29/437]

Z5449	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt R W Lornie from High Ercall
Z4935	KE-M	Hurricane I*	MSFU	To Hawarden, see 15.10
*Departed Valley for Speke but diverted into Hawarden due to engine problems, departed to Speke 22.10				

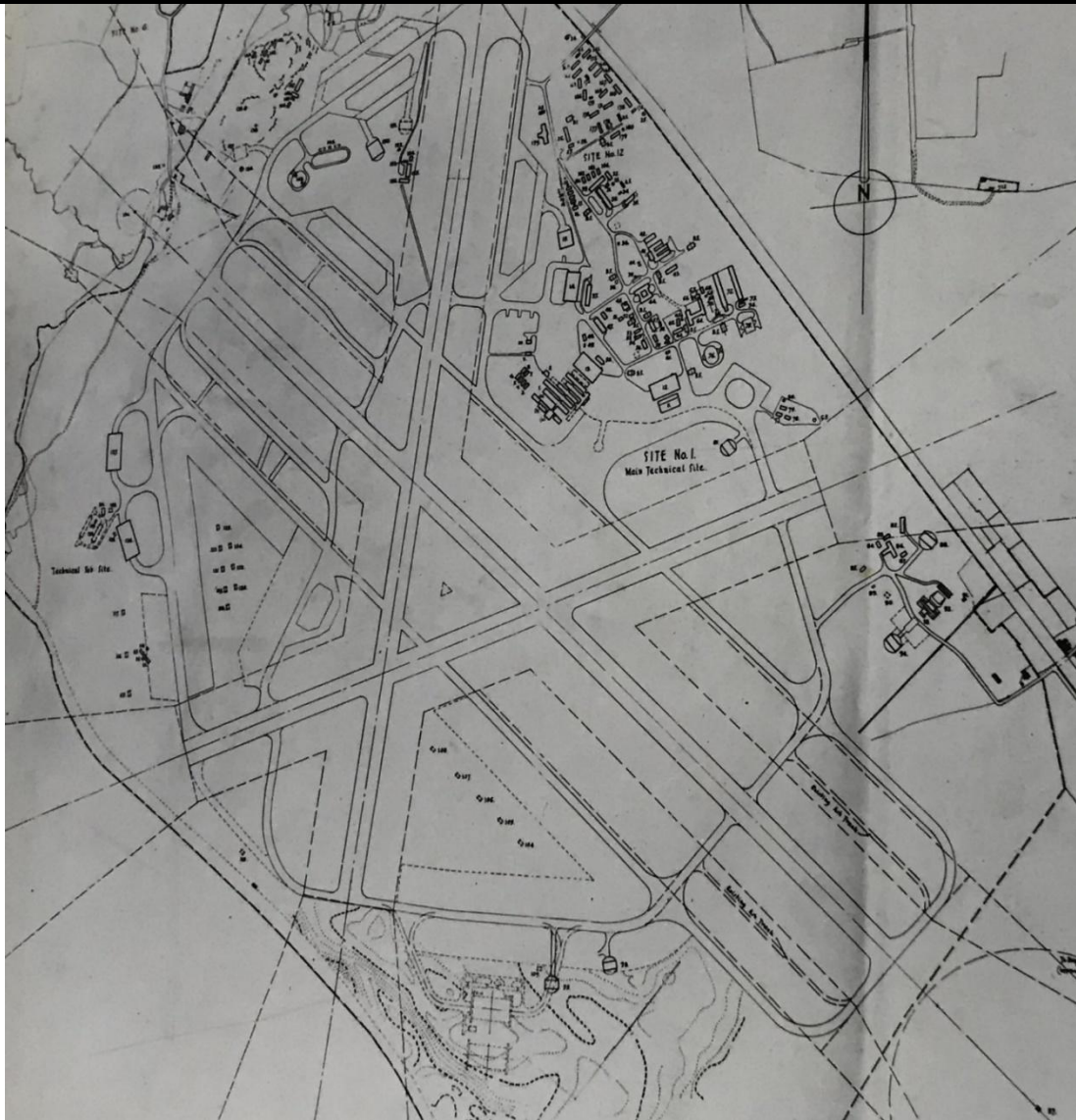
Thursday 22nd October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18]

Z5449	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt R W Lornie to High Ercall
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Saturday 24th October 1942 [Fighter Nights][AIR 28/494]

T3370	RX-Z	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 54 OTU
V8440		Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
		5x P-39[D]	92 FS/81 FG	USAAF
Air-to-air gunnery course, from Llanbedr.				

Sunday 25th October 1942 [AIR 20/7586]



[National Archives]



A photo taken on this date by an Anson from 9[O]AFU from Llandwrog.
[National Archives]

Monday 26th October 1942 [AIR 27/1899/27][IBCCA]

	29	Anson I	1[O]AFU	Sgt Good
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown, most probably an overflight.				
-				

V8467	RX-H	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	
During a touch & go fuel pressure light came on and the take-off was aborted, overshoot runway and undercarriage collapsed.				
Pilot	Sgt	J W Richardson	Ok	

Wednesday 28th October 1942 [AIR 27/1899/27]

T3383	RX-A	Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	
Swung on landing and starboard undercarriage collapsed at 18:45.				
Pilot	P/O	R S Timbury [RAAF]	Ok	
Obs	Sgt	L J Skippen [RAAF]	Ok	

Thursday 29th October 1942 [AIR 27/1899/27]

	[RX-]	Blenheim I	456 Sqn	P/O H Smith visited Penrhos.
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Friday 30th October 1942 [IBCCA]

P7920		Spitfire IIA	24 Sqn	Disbrey from Warmwell
	56	Anson I	1[O]AFU	F/S Irving
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown, overflight probably.				

Saturday 31st October 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 29/547/2][F78][IBCCA][AIR 29/665][AIR 28/494][AIR 29/437]

V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O F J Reahil
P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O A V Sanders
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery, departed back 5/6.11, sorties flown 1/2/3/4/5.11 both pilots flew as passengers with locally based Masters probably as a range familiarisation sortie.				
DK940	24	Master II	1486 Flt	Local flight, P/O Sanders as pax.
	25	Master II	[1486 Flt]	Local flight, F/O Reahil as pax.
		6x P-39[D]	92 FS/81 FG	USAAF to Llanbedr, see 24.10
Following air-to-air gunnery course, to Llanbedr then High Ercall.				
	21	Anson I	1[O]AFU	F/S Everiss
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown				
BW993	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt [Van Leileen?]
From High Ercall.				
DE877		Tiger Moth II	247 Sqn	P/O Barton from High Ercall
-				
X7845	JT-	Beaufighter VIF*	256 Sqn	From Woodvale [AIR 81/19382]
BK234		Wellington III	25 OTU	From Finningley
Mid-air collision at 3,000ft over Bangor at 21:35, both aircraft crashed half a mile apart near Perfeddgoed Farm, Bangor.				
Beaufighter crew:				
Pilot	S/L	Roger de-Winton Kelsall Winlaw	Killed [buried Liverpool]	
Obs	P/O	Claude Thesiger Ashton	Killed [buried Ingatestone]	

Wellington crew:				
Pilot	Sgt	Thomas Main Gardner Gray	Killed [buried Holytown]	
Nav	P/O	Donald Robert Harding	Killed [buried Hanwell]	
B/A	Sgt	Stuart Edward Blackman	Killed [buried Beckenham]	
W/Op	Sgt	John Dimmock Forsyth	Killed [cremated Birmingham]	
AG	Sgt	Sydney George Cook	Killed [buried Pewsey]	

Sunday 1st November 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/1899/29][AIR 28/874][IBCCA]

	21	Anson I	1[O]AFU	F/S Everiss
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown				
AM275	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O Robertson from High Ercall
DE877		Tiger Moth II	247 Sqn	Visited High Ercall
-				
V8444	RX-W	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	[AIR 81/19394]
Crashed into the sea at night [01:45] between Grid VC7752 [010/45nms from Valley] 275 Sqn scrambled Defiant N3423 [Sgt McClelland] but returned to Valley after its undercarriage inadvertently lowered. He then scrambled in Lysander V9737, but nothing was found. A possibility was a lightning strike. Also quoted as 21:06 on 2.11				
Pilot	P/O	Douglas Leslie McGregor [RAAF]	Killed [Runnymede]	
Obs	Sgt	Leo Malachi McCormack [RAAF]	Killed [Runnymede]	

Tuesday 3rd November 1942 [IBCCA]

	45	Anson I	1[O]AFU	P/O Magoris
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown, overflight most probably.				

Wednesday 4th November 1942 [IBCCA][RAFM]

EL188	RX-R	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
Routed: Valley-Ballyhalbert-Atcham-Valley, liaison talk with 153 Sqn.				
	45	Anson I	1[O]AFU	P/O Magoris
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Point Lynas-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown, overflight probably.				

Thursday 5th November 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 29/437]

BW993	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt Van to High Ercall
AM275	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O Robertson to High Ercall
DE877		Tiger Moth II	247 Sqn	Sgt D Gale to High Ercall
V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	
Departed Valley but returned due to engine problems, see 31.10				

Friday 6th November 1942 [AIR 27/1707/21][AIR 29/437][RAFM]

EL188	RX-R	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
To & from Llanbedr with A/Cdre Steele on an inspection.				
V6696		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 31.10 & 5.11

P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 31.10
	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
*Air gunnery, two aircraft plus four pilots from Woodvale.				

Saturday 7th November 1942 [AIR 27/1899/29][AIR 27/2004/18]

X8026	RX-L	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
		Havoc	535 Sqn	From & to High Ercall

Sunday 8th November 1942 [RAFM]

EL188	RX-R	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
To & from Winfield.				

Monday 9th November 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23][AIR 27/2004/18][Fighter Nights][IBCCA]

	51	Anson I	1[O]AFU	P/O Sherlock
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Bardsey Island-Valley-Mull of Galloway-Wigtown. Most probably an overflight.				
X7519		Dominie I	271 Sqn	F/L E S Knox from Prestwick
		Hurricane IIC	535 Sqn	Air-to-Sea gunnery
-				
X8138	RX-Z	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	
Damaged by fire on the ground, repaired.				

Tuesday 10th November 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23][AIR 27/2004/18]

X7519		Dominie I*	271 Sqn	F/L E S Knox
*To and from Burtonwood then departed to Doncaster.				
X7411		Dominie I	271 Sqn	F/L Giedgowd, from Doncaster
		Hurricane IIC	535 Sqn	Air-to-Sea gunnery

Wednesday 11th November 1942 [AIR 27/1573/23]

X7411		Dominie I	271 Sqn	F/L Giedgowd to Prestwick
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Thursday 12th November 1942 [AIR 27/2004/18][AIR 29/437]

		Hurricane IIC	535 Sqn	Air-to-Sea gunnery
V7464		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O H B Moffett
P5209		Hurricane X	MSFU	F/O D A Drew
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery course, departed back, sorties flown 13/14/15/16.				

Friday 13th November 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18]

JS239	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt Van from & to High Ercall
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Saturday 14th November 1942 [AIR 27/294/46]

LA619		Electra 12A	24 Sqn	S/L Reid from Hendon
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Sunday 15th November 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/1899/29][IBCCA]

JS344	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt R W Lornie from High Erccall
BX128	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	W/O Marlett from High Erccall
[P2464]		Magister I	456 Sqn	F/S D A H Spring & Sgt C S Samson
To Milford Haven for Naval liaison.				
	59	Anson I	1[O]AFU	P/O McDade
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Point Lynas-Little Ross-Wigtown.				

Monday 16th November 1942 [AIR 28/874][AIR 27/294/46][IBCCA][AIR 29/437]

Conference held regarding the accommodation of Transatlantic flights with hard standings for up to fifty aircraft.				
LA619		Electra 12A	24 Sqn	S/L Reid to Hendon, see 14.11
With W/C De Mell.				
X9316		Electra 12A	24 Sqn	F/O J Roberts
From Hendon with A/Cdre Kingston-McCloughry to attend the above Conference, departed to Staverton later.				
	15	Anson I	1[O]AFU	P/O Sherlock
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown.				
V7464		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 12.11
P5209		Hurricane X	MSFU	To Speke, see 12.11
W5779		Hornet Moth*	MSFU	F/O J M Edmiston
*Routed: Calveley-Speke but diverted to Valley due to weather at Speke.				

Tuesday 17th November 1942 [IBCCA][AIR 29/437]

W5779		Hornet Moth	MSFU	To Speke, see 16.11
	55	Anson I	1[O]AFU	F/S Cornwall
Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Valley-Conway Bridge-Little Ross-Wigtown, overflight most probably.				

Wednesday 18th November 1942 [AIR 28/874][Fighter Nights][AIR 29/437]

		?		
New AOA Fighter Command, AVM C H K Edmonds visited, by air?				
R2394		Beaufighter IIF	456 Sqn	Delivered to 27 MU, Shawbury
AG130		Hurricane X	MSFU	F/O J M Edmiston
P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O J Sheppard
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery course, returned 21.11, sorties flown 19/20/21.11				
DL204		Master II	1486 Flt	Range recce with F/O Sheppard

Thursday 19th November 1942 [AIR 27/1899/29][Fighter Nights]

V8520		Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Delivery
-				
X7895	RX-V	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	
Became lost and short of fuel, force landed in a field near Omagh, N Ireland with damage to				

the airframe. Crew collected and returned to Valley 21.11.42				
Pilot	F/Sgt	V P Ratcliffe	Ok	
Obs	Sgt	A M Abbey	Ok	

Friday 20th November 1942 [AIR 27/1488/18][AIR 27/1523/34]

	JT-	Beaufighter VIF*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter VIF*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter VIF*	256 Sqn	
	JT-	Beaufighter VIF*	256 Sqn	
*To Woodvale post their air gunnery course, returned 24.11.42.				
JS344	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt R W Lornie to High Ercall
Z2682	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIA	247 Sqn	W/O Marlett to High Ercall

Saturday 21st November 1942 [AIR 29/437]

P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	
AG130		Hurricane X	MSFU	
Both departed for Speke but returned to Valley due to weather at Speke, later departed to Speke, see also 18.11.				

Tuesday 24th November 1942 [AIR 28/874]

		?		
AVM F C Cowtan visited, by air?				

Thursday 26th November 1942 [AIR 28/874]

ENSA Concert with Vera Lynn and several other BBC artists.				
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Monday 28th November 1942 [AIR 29/437]

V7464		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O W N Tuele
V7166		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O A V Sanders
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery course, departed back 2.12, sorties flown 29/30.11 1&2.12				

Tuesday 29th November 1942 [AIR 29/437]

DL204		Master II	1486 Flt	F/O Mercer
Range recce for F/O Sanders, see 28.11				

Wednesday 30th November 1942 [AIR 27/1899/29]

V8495	RX-	Beaufighter VIF*	456 Sqn	
Single engine landing after engine failure.				
Pilot	F/L	R C Pargeter	Ok	
Obs	F/L	R L Fell	Ok	

December 1942 [AIR 28/874]

		B-17F		Diversion
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Enroute from Gibraltar, guided in by a 456 Sqn Beaufighter.

Tuesday 1st December 1942 [AIR 27/1488/24]

JS338	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	F/O Brayshaw from High Ercall
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Wednesday 2nd December 1942 [AIR 27/1488/24][AIR 28/874][AIR 27/1899/31][AIR 29/437]

456 Sqn informed that they will be converting to Mosquitoes.

JS340	ZY-	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O Murray from High Ercall
JS338	ZY-	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	F/O Brayshaw to High Ercall
AM308	ZY-	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	F/O Brayshaw from High Ercall
		?		

G/C A C N Sharp & 3rd AAFHQ Officers arrived by air regarding the proposed Transatlantic scheme.

X8251	RX-A	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe visited Woodvale
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Visited Woodvale
	RX-	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	Visited Woodvale

They attended a lecture on Army support at Woodvale.

V7464		Hurricane I*	MSFU	See 28.11
V7162		Hurricane I*	MSFU	See 28.11

*Departed to Speke but V7464 diverted to Hooton Park and V7162 to Sealand, both departed to Speke 3.12, see 28.11 'V7162' may well be V7166.

Saturday 5th December 1942 [AIR 29/437]

V7464		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O H B Moffett
P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O P E Etienne
From Speke for air-to-air gunnery course, departed back 8.12, sorties flown 6.12				

Sunday 6th December 1942 [AIR 27/1488/24][AIR 29/437]

AM357	ZY-	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	F/O Brayshaw to High Ercall
JS340	ZY-	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O R J Murray to High Ercall
		Master	[1486 Flt]	F/O Mercer, range recce

Monday 7th December 1942 [AIR 27/1707/23]

	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
*Air gunnery, two aircraft plus four pilots from Woodvale.				

Tuesday 8th December 1942 [AIR 29/437]

W9310		Hurricane I	MSFU	P/O G Booth
From and to Speke delivering spare parts for Hurricane V7464, see 5.12				
V7464		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 5.12
P3273		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 5.12

Friday 11th December 1942 [RAFM]

X8251	RX-A	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	W/C Wolfe
To & from Llanbedr.				

Monday 14th December 1942 [AIR 27/1707/23][AIR 29/437]

X4490		Spitfire IA	MSFU	F/O D A Drew
P5209		Hurricane X	MSFU	F/O A M Charlesworth
W9128		Hurricane I	MSFU	F/O D P Lamb
All three from Speke to attend air-to-air gunnery course, departed back 19.12, sorties flown 15/18.12				
	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
	JH-	Spitfire VB*	317 Sqn	
*Air gunnery, two aircraft plus four pilots from Woodvale.				

Tuesday 15th December 1942 [AIR 27/1899/31][AB][RAFM]

X8263	RX-D	Beaufighter VIF*	456 Sqn	F/L P G Hill & F/S W H Cook
X8100	RX-E	Beaufighter VIF*	456 Sqn	F/O B Howard & P/O J R Ross
V8455	RX-	Beaufighter VIF*	456 Sqn	F/O's E H Griffith & J Thomson
*Involved in the search for ditched Anson I AX564:25 2[O]AFU [Sgt Ganderton] from RAF Millom at 28nms SW of Valley. Five survivors picked up by SS Pomerai as a result of the flares dropped by 456 Sqn. Valley ORB quotes this as the evening of 16.12. The Beaufighters found themselves in the midst of a large convoy with waterborne balloons during the search and were lucky not hit one. F/O Griffith's aircraft had a jammed flare in the flare chute and this dropped out on the railway line as it came in to land, the locals feared they were being bombed!				
-				
X8251	RX-A	Beaufighter VIF	456 Sqn	From W/C Wolfe's logbook
Forced landing at Valley due to engine failure.				
Pilot	W/C	E C Wolfe		Ok
	F/L	Ashcroft		Ok
	F/O	Bentley		Ok

Wednesday 16th December 1942 [Dick Thomas Collection]

THE BIG NIGHT OF SWING
AT THE
TOWN HALL
LLANGFNI
THURSDAY, DEC. 16th
1942

GEORGE PARNELL presents (by special arrangement with Ron Davies)

THE GREAT YANKEE SWING BALL

WITH MIDNIGHT CABARET featuring

<p>★★★★ ★★★★ ★★★★ MR. RHYTHM and MR. SWING (Give 'em a Piano and—Oh! Boy) FREDDIE REEVES (Crosby's Only Rival) PHYLLIS BOUGHTON The Nightingale from Berkeley Square TONI HOWARD SHE'LL SWING IT</p>	<p>★★★★ ★★★★ ★★★★ ERNIE SYKES (The Vicar of Mirth) THE HULA-HULA GIRLS With their New Hula-Hula Dance LES BARTRAM Mrs. Bartram's Meal Ticket SYD COGLAN MOTHER'S BRIGHT LAD</p>
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CONTINUOUS DANCING 7-30 TILL MIDNIGHT

THE VALLEY R.A.F. DANCE BAND

SPECIALLY AUGMENTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
TOMMY HARKER (The British Benny Goodman)

GIGANTIC WALTZ CONTEST
FOR THE
MAX MILLER AMATEUR DANCING CUPS

Judged by BUDD HUMPHREYS, TONI HOWARD, RON DAVIES. All Competitors must be Amateurs—No Professionals allowed.

DO YOU—Jitterbug—Conga—Waltz-in-the-Line—Truckin'—Everything included in the
GREAT YANKEE NIGHT

NO TICKETS ISSUED. ADMITTANCE AT DOOR ONLY
CIVILIANS 6/6. H.M. FORCES 4/6.

PLEASE NOTE.—Right of admission reserved. Admittance strictly limited to ensure Comfortable Dancing. Come Early and be sure of admittance.

Thursday 17th December 1942 [AIR 27/1488/24]

JS338	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O Burton from High Ercall
JS340	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt MacIntosh from High Ercall

Saturday 19th December 1942 [AIR 27/1488/24][AIR 29/437]

JS264	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	G/C Heber Peray
From High Erccall to Llanbedr.				
X4490		Spitfire IA	MSFU	To Speke, see 14.12
P5209		Hurricane X	MSFU	To Speke, see 14.12
W9128		Hurricane I	MSFU	To Speke, see 14.12

Monday 21st December 1942 [AIR 27/1488/24]

JS338	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	P/O Burton to High Erccall
JS340	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt MacIntosh to High Erccall

Tuesday 22nd December 1942 [AIR 27/1488/24][IBCCA]

JS239	[ZY-]	Hurricane IIB	247 Sqn	Sgt [Lorrie] from & to High Erccall
	41	Anson I*	1[O]AFU	F/S Clarkson
*Routed: Wigtown-Mull of Galloway-Bardsey Island-Valley-Mull of Galloway-Wigtown				

Monday 28th December 1942 [AIR 27/2004/18]

		Hurricane IIC	535 Sqn	Air-to-air gunnery from High Erccall
		Hurricane IIC	535 Sqn	Air-to-air gunnery from High Erccall

Tuesday 29th December 1942 [AIR 27/294/48][AIR 27/2004/27]

P8833		Oxford II	24 Sqn	W/O Perries, Air Ambulance
Empty from Hendon then a stretcher case from Valley-Squires Gate [Blackpool] then empty back to Hendon.				
		Havoc*	536 Sqn	
*Routed: Fairwood Common-Valley-Woodvale.				

Thursday 31st December 1942 [AIR 27/1899/31][F78][Fighter Nights]

456 Sqn start their conversion to the De Havilland Mosquito NFII. The Mosquito was armed with 4 20mm cannon & 4 .303 machine guns plus Mk V AI radar.				
DZ247	RX-	Mosquito NFII	456 Sqn	Delivery by ATA from 19 MU
DZ297	RX-R	Mosquito NFII	456 Sqn	Delivery by ATA from 19 MU
	RX-	Mosquito II	456 Sqn	Delivery by ATA
Aircraft on Charge with 456 Sqn at the end of December 1942: 3x Mosquito II 17x Beaufighter VIF 2x Beaufighter IIF Blenheim I [L4907] Oxford II [P8606] Magister [P2464]				

456 Sqn Caricature Booklet dated 8.9.1942 by A Barnett.

These are caricature images of the Squadrons Personnel sent to the author by one of 456's pilots, Gordon Gatenby in 1997. They depict many of the Personnel plus life at Valley.

R·A·A·F

Overseas



Beaufighters

By
A. BARNETT
PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF
OVERSEAS HEADQUARTERS

R·A·A·F
8/9/42

London

PERSONALITIES

BY
R. BARNETT



W/CMDR.
G. C. OLIVE
D.F.C.
(R.A.F.)



403330 F/S. GATENBY G.F.
(PILOT)



401343
SGT.
WOOD G.A.C.
(OBSERVER)



403654
SGT.
KEATING A.
(OBSVR)



404220
SGT.
STOVELL C.



403373
SGT.
RATELIFF V.P.
PILOT



405183
SGT.
McCORMACK L.M.
(OBSERVER)



33379
CPL
MCALISTER J.
(ARMOURER)



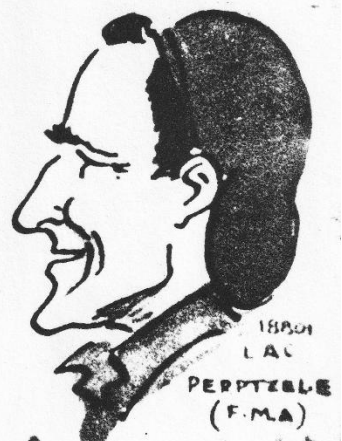
1109
CPL
ELLIOTT H W
(FITTER 2A)



23191
SGT
DUNCAN K.J.
(FITTER 2A)



CPL
MAURER C.B.
(DRESSER ROOM)



18501
LAC
PERPETABLE
(F.M.A.)



400279
SGT
GILL, L
(OBSV)

403115
SGT
SKIPPER, L T
(OBSERVER)

404827
SGT
FRASER, J M
(OBSV)


403016
SGT
HUGHES, T.
(A.O.)

400717
F/SGT
SCOTT, R M
(PILOT)


403821
P.O.
SMITH, W
PILOT

400739
F/SGT
STEVENS, S S
(PILOT)


404394
P.O.
CONOULT
(OBSV)




402816
F/SOT
SPRING D A H
(PILOT)




404543
SGT
NEWELL J W
(PILOT)




400725
P/O
DE MUEBLOO
(PILOT)




400736
W/O
SATCHWELL C A
(PILOT)



408172
F/S LOWTHER G C
(GENERALIST)



1018
FA 3 E
PINE
(ADJL)



17905
L A L
HART A
(GENERALIST)





33433
LAC
BENNING J.R.
STORAGE PER



20598
LAC
CHAPMAN O.K.
(ARMOURER)



8998
LAC
ALLISON C.A.
(FITTER 2E)



26125
F/S
MACKIE W.
(DISCIP)



16512
CPL
THOMPSON W.
(A.C.H.)



5633
SGT
de'SALISE
(FITTER 2A)



18371
LAC
WILSON D.
(FITTER 2M1)



4555
LAC
STAMP L.
(FITTER 2E)

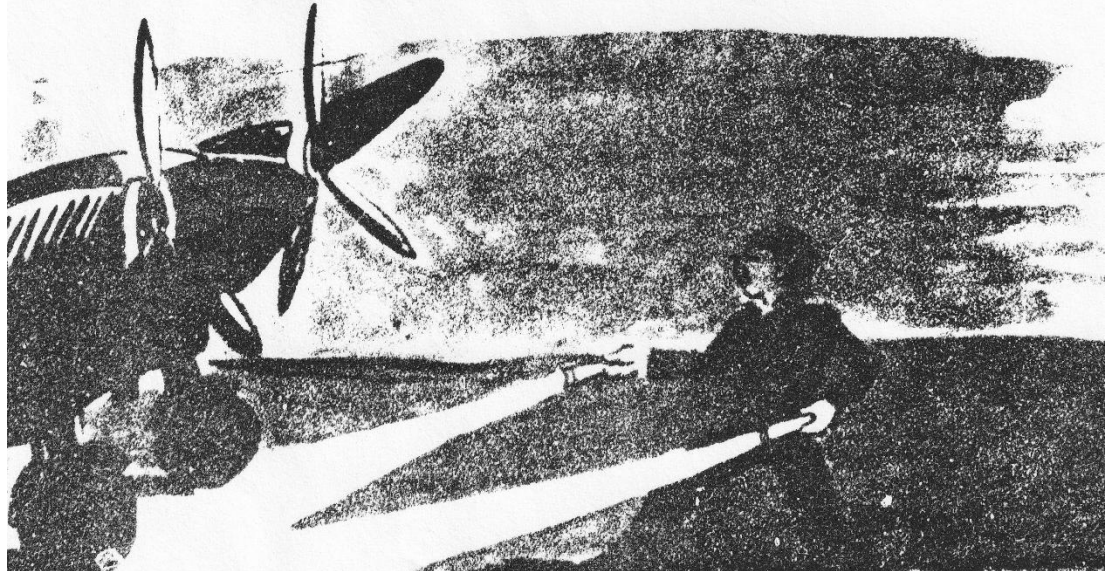


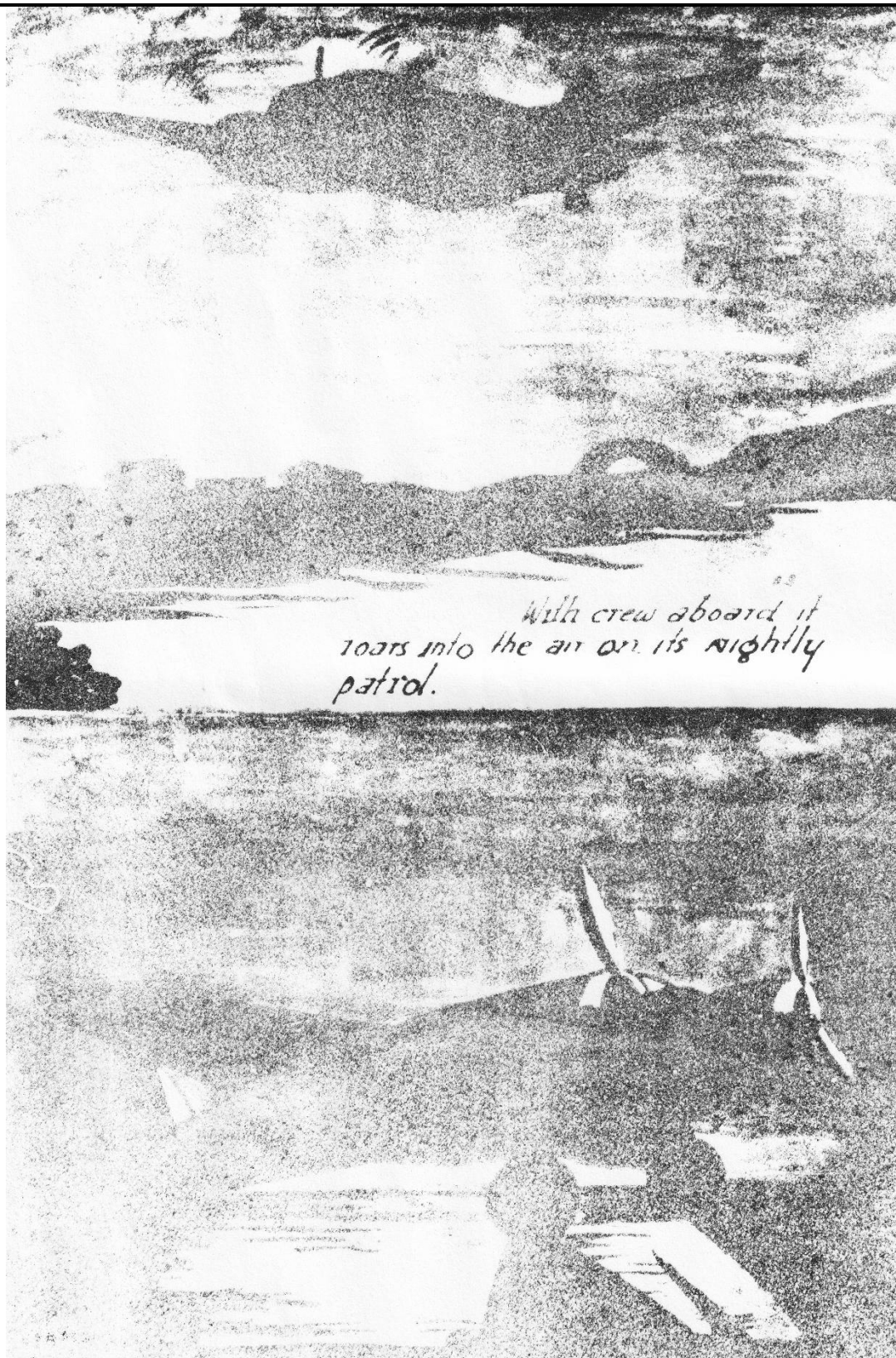
12551
LAC
HALL P.
(ARMOURER)



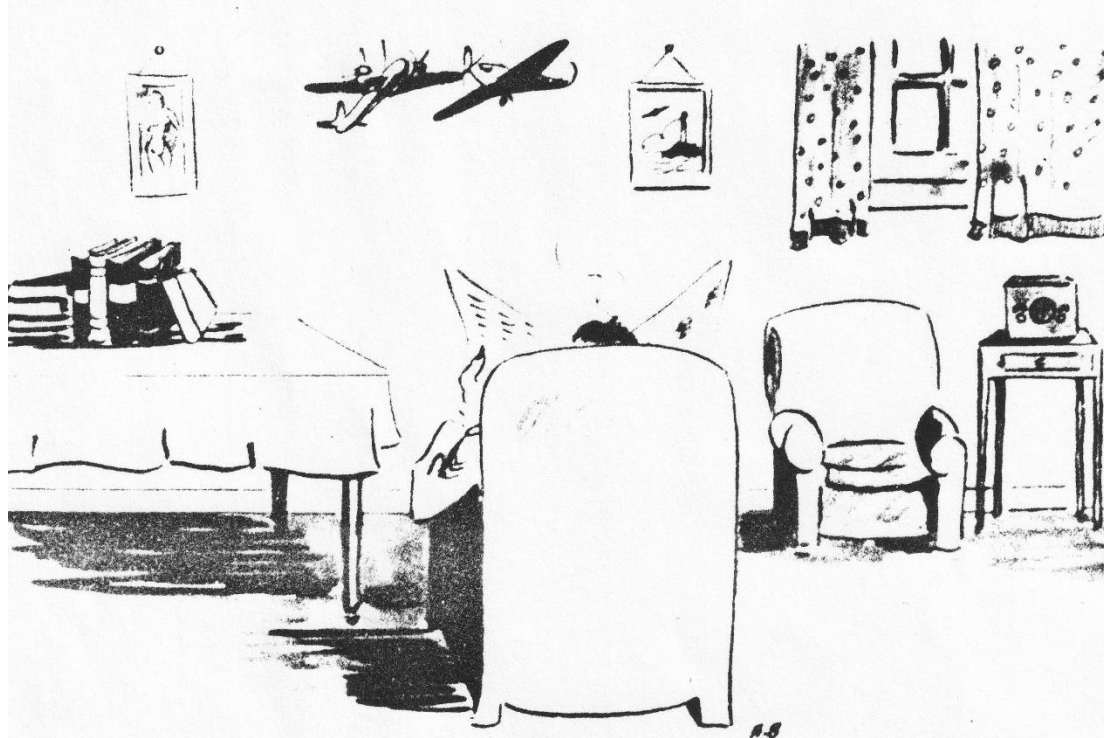


As the first shades of night fall, the crew prepare to take off. The Beau. is guided to the runway by an 'Erk' with flash lamps.

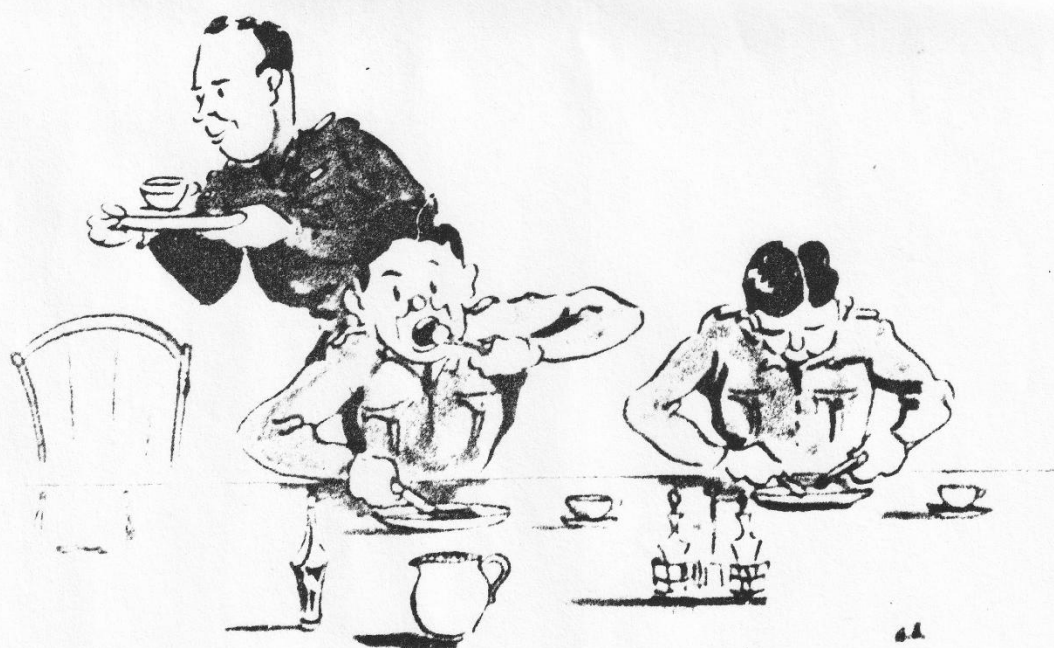




With crew aboard it
soars into the air on its nightly
patrol.



Dispersal Huts are well furnished



*Special meals are prepared for crews
on Night flying duties.*



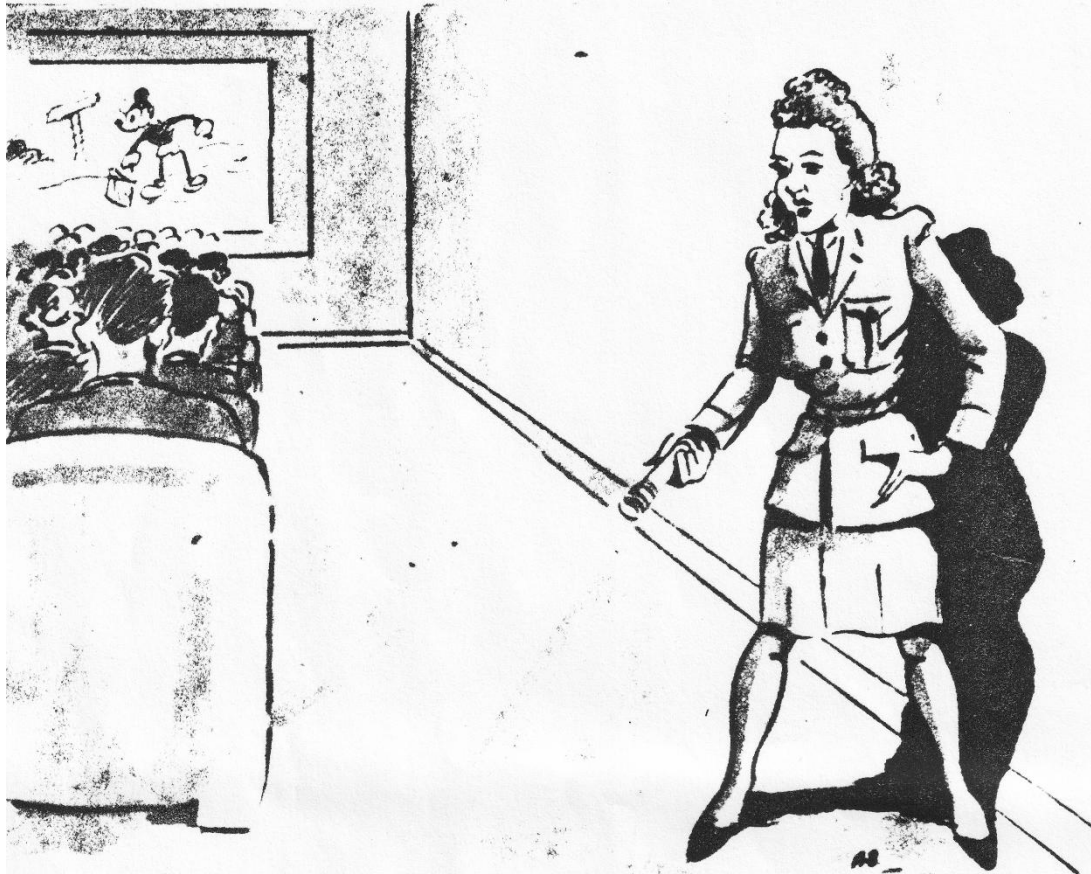
Around the Hangars



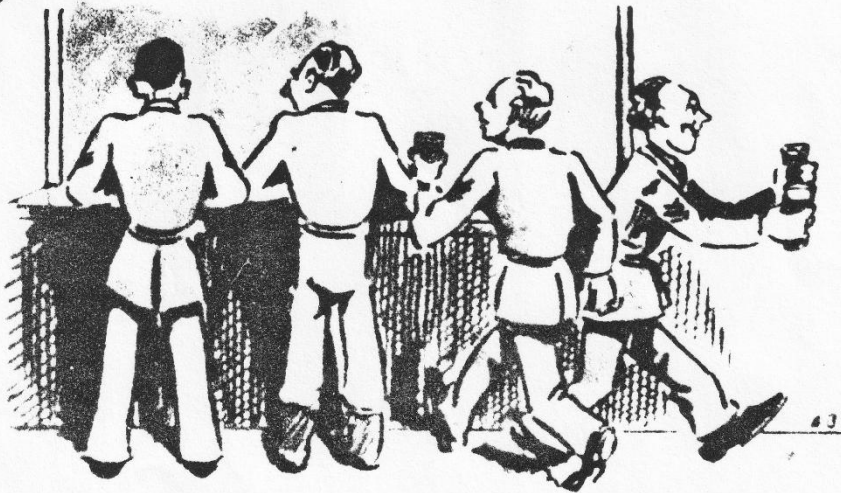


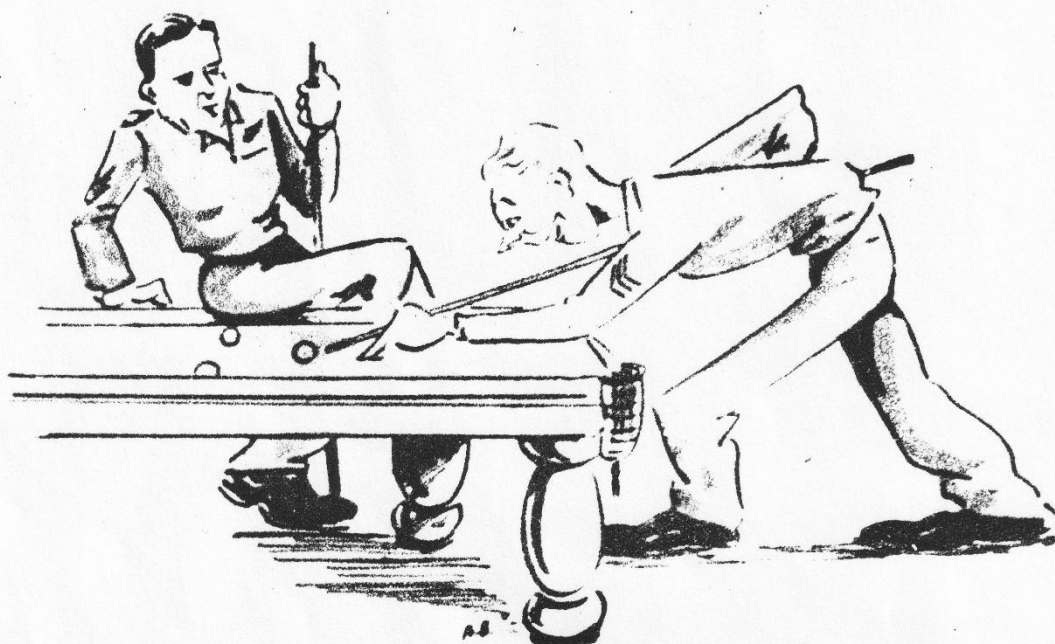


*Off the Tarmac, sand makes walking
very unpleasant.*

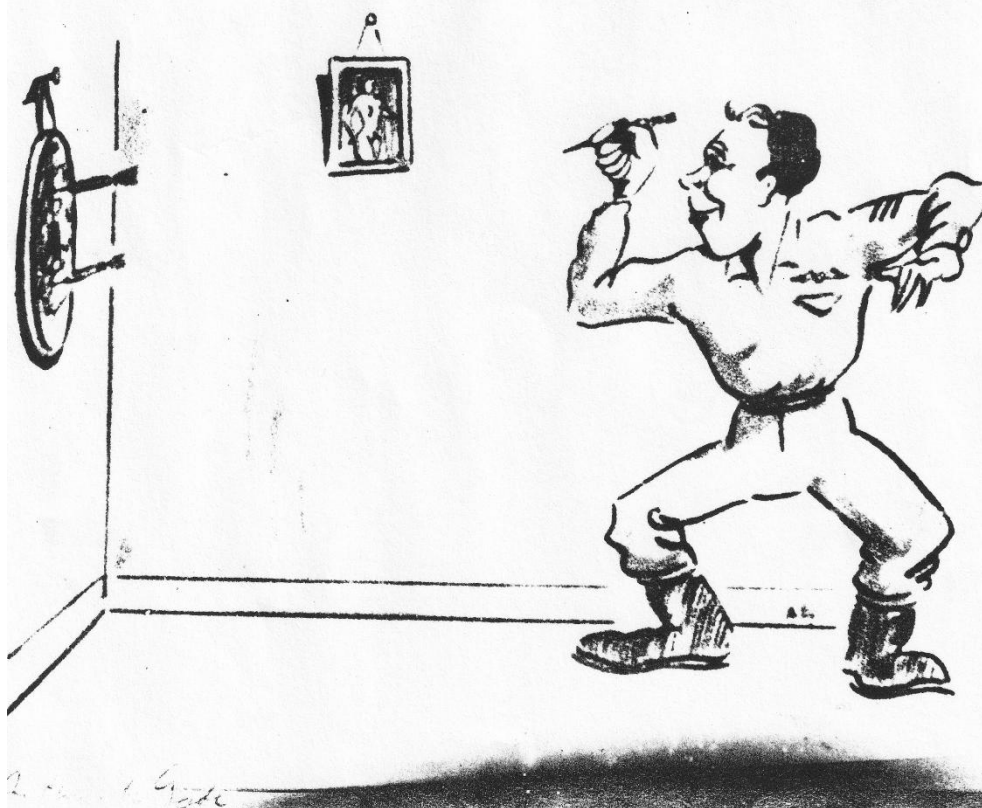


After "Stand-down"





After "Stand-down"





a day's leave





*after
"Stand-down"*

