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RAF Valley

Aircraft Movements

1951

CREDITS:

International Bomber Command Centre Archive
National [Archives/lancasterbombers.net/@MAR/Mike](https://lancasterbombers.net/@MAR/Mike) Bursell
A S Mann papers/Michael Marshall papers/H J Moss papers
Graeme Pickering/D M Turner-Ettlinger papers/Ulster Mail
David Watkins/Frank Yeoman papers

UPDATE V2

AIR 28/1145 movements added.
Additional logbook movements.

SUMMARY

The main event in 1951 was the formation of 202 Advanced Flying School in April.
King George V granted RAF Valley the Station badge as seen on the Archive.
'In Adversis Perfugium' meaning 'Refuge In Adversity'
The Main Runway resurfacing was completed.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations	
AFS	Advanced Flying School
AVRO	A V Roe & Co.
FP	Ferry Pool, aircraft delivery unit
FRS	Flying Refresher School
JASS	Joint Anti-Submarine School
M/P	Master Pilot
MU	Maintenance Unit

NAS	Naval Air Squadron
OCU	Operational Conversion Unit
RAE	Royal Aircraft Establishment
RCCS	Reserve Command Communication Squadron
RNAMY	Royal Navy Aircraft Maintenance Yard
SF	Station Flight
SoMR	School of Maritime Reconnaissance
Sqn	Squadron
TCS/TCG	Troop Carrier Squadron/Group [USAF]
UAS	University Air Squadron

January 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

Numerous Hastings from Dishforth [241 OCU] visited for circuit training.				
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Tuesday 2nd January 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		Mosquito	[201 AFS]	Diversion from Swinderby
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Wednesday 3rd January 1951 [AIR 27/2664/2]

SW365	L-X	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	F/O Ward from & to St Eval
SW367	L-Y	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	F/S Stastry from & to St Eval

Friday 5th January 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		DC-4		
Diversion enroute Shannon-Burtonwood.				

Monday 8th January 1951 [F78][IBCCA]

SW330	[G]	Lancaster GR.3	[Ex. 15 MU]	From AVRO post modification
SW338	[H-W]	Lancaster GR.3	[SoMR]	T Weir from Woodford by 4 FP

Tuesday 9th January 1951 [AIR 27/2402/4]

	TH-	Beaufighter TT.10	20 Sqn	S/L A R Hindley CO
Mr J Williams the Clerk of Works died suddenly on 28 th December 1950. His ashes were scattered over the Airfield by one of the Beaufighters in accordance with his wishes.				

Wednesday 17th January 1951 [AIR 27/2656/2]

[TG517]	D	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	F/L Ignatowski
Routed: Aldergrove-Valley-Farnborough-Valley-Aldergrove.				

Monday 22nd January 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		11x Firefly	[NAS]	Enroute to Eglinton
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Tuesday 23rd January 1951 [AIR 27/2437/25][AIR 4/243]

[RA693]	OL-B	Lincoln B.2	83 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Fraser at 00:35
[RF414]	OL-D	Lincoln B.2	83 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Waterman at 00:50

[TG587]	K	Hastings C.1	242 OCU	F/L Lamb from Dishforth
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Wednesday 24th January 1951 [GP/UM][AIR 27/2437/25][AIR 4/243]

PH750	RCA-A	Anson C.12	RCCS	From Sydenham
[RA693]	OL-B	Lincoln B.2	83 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 23.1
[RF414]	OL-D	Lincoln B.2	83 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 23.1
[TG587]	K	Hastings C.1	242 OCU	F/L Lamb to Dishforth

Friday 26th January 1951 [F78][AIR 29/2397]

ME525	L-S	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	From AVRO
TX212		Anson C.19	19 Gp CF	F/L Caruthers
Routed: Base-St Athan-Valley-St Athan-Base, arrived 12:15 & departed 13:25.				

Wednesday 31st January 1951 [AIR 27/2656/2]

	[A]-B	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	Diversion, F/O Carlson
Diverted in whilst on a Met Flight. From and to Aldergrove arriving 18:00 and departing 20:30. [Possibly TG505 or TG621]				

Thursday 1st February 1951 [AIR 27/2664/5]

SW365	L-X	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	M/P Sneller
Did not land at Valley but overflowed, routed: St Eval-Holyhead-Carlisle-Holy Island-Aberdeen-Great Yarmouth-South Foreland-St Catherine-St Eval.				

Friday 2nd February 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		?		Diversion from Eglinton
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Saturday 3rd February 1951 [AIR 27/2449/2]

VP197		Mosquito B.35	109 Sqn	PD F/L Adams & F/S Sloan
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Wednesday 7th February 1951 [F78]

RE159	[H-A]	Lancaster GR.3	[SoMR]	From 38 MU for modifications
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Saturday 10th February 1951 [AIR 27/2656/4][AIR 28/1145]

[TG517]	D	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	Diversion, F/L Ignatowski
From and to Aldergrove same day.				
		Meteor		Diversion from Silloth

Sunday 11th February 1951 [AIR 27/2656/4]

TG567	[Y3]-G	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	F/L Mackie from & to Aldergrove
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Tuesday 13th February 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		Hastings C.1	[241 OCU]	PD + Circuits from Dishforth
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Thursday 15th February 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		2x Wellington X	[201 AFS]	Diversion from Swinderby
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Friday 16th February 1951 [AIR 27/2664/5]

SW365	L-X	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	F/O Ward
From and to St Eval arriving 10:10 and departing 10:45.				

Thursday 22nd February 1951 [AIR 27/2402/4]

	TH-	Spitfire [XVI]	20 Sqn	
	TH-	Spitfire [XVI]	20 Sqn	
	TH-	Spitfire [XVI]	20 Sqn	Sgt Fielding, see note below.
All to Wattisham on a Group exercise. One aircraft received propellor damage on take-off returning from Wattisham [Sgt Fielding].				

Saturday 24th February 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		7x Harvard T.2	[6 FTS]	Diversion from Ternhill
		4x Prentice	[6 FTS]	Diversion from Ternhill

Sunday 25th February 1951 [AIR 28/1145]

		2x Wellington	[201 AFS]	Diversion from Swinderby
		Mosquito	[201 AFS]	Diversion from Swinderby

Wednesday 28th February 1951 [AIR 4/98]

EZ316		Harvard T.2B	Naval Ferry Flt	Thompson
Routed: Arbroath-Valley-Yeovilton, delivery to 799 NAS.				

Monday 5th March 1951 [F78]

SW338	[H-W]	Lancaster GR.3	[SoMR]	To 236 OCU post modifications.
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Friday 9th March 1951 [IBCCA]

WA333		Vampire FB.5	4 FP	T Weir from HK?
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Monday 12th March 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

Coastal Command Aircraft Preparation & Modification unit arrived. 202 AFS ORB mentions them taking over Site 6 on 30.3.51. Station becomes part of 23 Group, Flying Training Command.				
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Tuesday 13th March 1951 [AIR 29/2397]

TX197		Anson C.19	19 Gp CF	F/S Barclay
Routed: Base-Valley-Dishforth.				

Friday 16th March 1951 [AIR 4/191][AVIA 1/24]

VX238		Viking I	RAE	F/L Lloyd
From & to Farnborough on autopilot trials. [this was the 2 nd prototype previously G-AGOL]				

	S	Meteor T.7	615 Sqn	Davis
Routed: Aldergrove-Valley-Sleep.				

Saturday 17th March 1951 [AIR 27/2664/7]

W6642		Oxford II	210 Sqn	W/C Bisdee
Arrived from St Eval 15:30 and departed to Kinloss 16:00.				

Monday 19th March 1951 [F78]

SW330	[G]	Lancaster GR.3	[JASS]	To Ballykelly post modifications
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Tuesday 20th March 1951 [AB]

NL984		Tiger Moth	Valley SF	To Manston SF, see 31.8.50
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Wednesday 21st March 1951 [AIR 27/2656/6]

	Y	Anson	202 Sqn	Diversion, F/L Cooke
Whilst routing St Athan to Aldergrove the aircraft was diverted inflight to Valley.				

Thursday 22nd March 1951 [AIR 27/2451/4][AIR 27/2608/6][AIR 27/2656/6]

	[A-]	Lancaster GR.3	120 Sqn	Sgt Higgins from Kinloss
PH841	CB-H	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	F/L Hill
Routed: Hendon-Valley-Northolt.				
	Y	Anson	202 Sqn	To Aldergrove, see 21.3

Saturday 24th March 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

		?x ?	229 OCU	Refuel routing: Leuchars-Chivenor
This was the Unit move from Leuchars to Chivenor.				

Tuesday 27th March 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

		?		
Representatives of 3 rd Air Division, USAF visited, by air?				

Wednesday 28th March 1951 [AVIA 1/24]

VX238		Viking I	RAE	F/L Lloyd from & to Farnborough
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Thursday 29th March 1951 [AIR 27/2451/4][AIR 29/2144][AVIA 1/24]

	[A-]	Lancaster GR.3	120 Sqn	F/S Carey
Arrived 16:05 from Llandow and departed back to Kinloss 17:20.				
	[A-]	Lancaster GR.3	120 Sqn	F/L James
Arrived from Aldergrove 16:00.				
		?	Kings Flt	
HRH Princess Margaret departed after a visit to Llandudno.				
VX238		Viking I	RAE	F/L Lloyd from & to Farnborough

Sunday 1st April 1951

G/C E G Jones assumes command of the Station.

202 AFS formed as part of 23 Group equipped with Vampires & Meteors.



The original members of 202 AFS can be seen in front of a Vampire F.1/FB.5

Back row:

F/S K Wilson F/S J Banbury F/S H J Moss F/S F Hicks

Front row:

S/L J H Smith-Carington W/C A S Mann [CFI] G/C G Jones [Stn Cdr] S/L Horsley F/L Tebbutt
[Dick Thomas Collection]

W/C 'Berty' Mann recollected to the author in 1997:

'As soon as the aircraft began to arrive the Instructors were standardised. We had the obvious disadvantage of flying all dual in the Meteor T.7 before sending the Students solo on the single seat Vampires until the arrival of the Vampire T.11 in September 1952. After morning brief the first aircraft would be away by 07:45, we often had to work weekends to meet the 'target'.



An Instructor & Student walk from the Sqn huts to their aircraft. [Dick Thomas collection]

202 AFS aircraft operated whilst at Valley.

Bold are logbook extracts.

Originally, between April & October 1951 the following letter codes were used:

Meteor T.7 [H J Moss logbook]

WA736:A :B WA608:C :D WF794:E WF788:F :H :L :M :N :R

Vampire F.1/FB.5 [H J Moss logbook]

:E TG277:L :M :N :O :P :Q TG287:R :S :V :W

From October 1951 they became numerical codes:

Meteor codes: [H J Moss logbook]

:11 :12 :13 :26 :27 :28 :29 :30 :31 :35 :43 :45 :46

Vampire F.1/FB.5 [H J Moss logbook]

:25 :33 :34 :35 :36 :38 :39 :40 :41 :43 :44 :47 :48 :51 :52 :54 :55

Vampire T.11 [H J Moss logbook]

:43 :44 :45 :47 :49 :50 :53 :54 :56 :57

1 Sqn/202 AFS codes 'M-' & 'N-'

2 Sqn/202 AFS codes 'O-' & 'P-'

Meteor T.7 last ones departed 9.53.

VW429 VW435 VW449 VW475:~-45 WA608 WA618 WA632 WA716 WA736:O-26 WF777

WF780 WF788:[P-24] WF814 WF857:~-31 WG946:O-30 WG969:O-30

WG983:P-27 WH182:13 WL364 WL482 WF766:N-14 WF794:N-46

S/L Stemberge attended 202 AFS during June 1952.

His logbook mentions the following aircraft codes which may be the last 2 of the serial:

Meteor T.7 12, 45, 46 & 77

Vampire FB.5 17

Vampire F.1

TG277:P-41 TG287 TG303 TG375 TG447 VF277:N-25 VF278 VF313

Vampire FB.5

VV467 VV600 VV608 VZ231 VZ279 VZ308 VZ333 **VZ863 WA134** WA160 **WA181 WA222**

WA226 WA228 WA262 WA264 WA284 **WA287 WA298** WA305 WA310 **WA318** WA322

WA333 WA453 WA457 WA460 WG806

WA418:M-15 WA192:M-17 WA428:M-17 **WE835:M-18** WG795:M-24 WA413:M-28

VV460:M-41 WG802:M-47

WA307:N-14 VV554:N-15 **WG827:N-15** VZ185:N-16 **WG803:N-17 WA194:N-18** VZ874:N-19

VZ206:N-20 VZ356:N-20 **WA459:N-20 WA347:N-21 WA458:N-22** VV547:N-23 **WG797:N-23**

WA381:N-25 WA413:N-28 VZ222:N-53

WA150:O-19 WA336:O-32 WA446:O-33 VZ829:O-34 **WA339:O-34 WA332:O-35 VZ210:O-37**

WA207:O-38 WA455:O-40 VV659:O-42 WA224:O-43 VV446:O-44 WG798:O-44 VV226:O-48

VZ113:O-51 VZ128:O-52

WG983:P-29 **WA415:P-36 WA426:P-37 WA301:P-38 VZ851:P-39** WA290:P-41



WA207:O-38 undated. [Dick Thomas collection]



?:O-39 undated. [Dick Thomas Collection]

Vampire T.11 from 9.52

WZ439 WZ450 WZ469 WZ510 **WZ564** XD427 XD431 XD437 XD519 XD525
 WZ550:N-30 WZ558:N-39 WZ554:N-40 WZ493:N-45 WZ499:N-47 WZ553:N-48
 WZ569:N-49 WZ570:N-50 WZ547:N-56 WZ607:N-56 WZ547:N-60
WZ446:O-44 **WZ563**:O-44 **WZ448**:O-47 **WZ430:O-49 WZ447**:O-50 WZ561:O-51 **WZ426**:O-53
 WZ561:O-55 **WZ420**:O-56 **WZ504**:O-57 WZ506:O-58 **WZ572**:O-58 WZ503:O-59 WZ548:O-60



WZ447:O-50 undated. [Dick Thomas Collection]



WZ430:O-49 undated. [Dick Thomas collection]

Tiger Moth DE459
Oxford I NJ303 K6748

Tuesday 3rd April 1951 [IBCCA]

VL354		Anson C.19	4 FP	T Weir
Routed: HK-Valley-Abingdon-HK.				

Thursday 5th April 1951 [AVIA 1/24]

VX238		Viking I	RAE	F/L Lloyd from Farnborough
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Friday 6th April 1951 [AB 2014][AVIA 1/24]

VX238		Viking I	RAE	F/L Lloyd to Farnborough, see 5.4
Based noted: Meteor T.7 WA736:[O-26] 202 AFS delivery.				

Tuesday 10th April 1951 [AIR 4/98][@MAR]

VW663		Sea Fury FB.11	Ferry Flt	Jackson
Routed: Donibristle-Douglas-Culdrose. [possibly to 810 NAS as 111:C, noted in store as such in 1955]				

Wednesday 11th April 1951 [AB 2013/14]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WA608 & WF777 202 AFS delivery.				

Thursday 12th April 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

No.1 Course/202 AFS commenced training, flying began 18.4.51				
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Friday 13th April 1951 [AIR 27/222/8][AIR 29/2144]

PF669	[OT-]	Mosquito PR.34	58 Sqn	Sgt Ogilvy & Pope
Aerial survey of N Wales using 270 exposures so possible overflight but did NOT land.				
		?		
AOC 23 Group, AVM L Darvall visited, by air? [Air Officer Commanding][Air Vice Marshall]				

Saturday 14th April 1951 [AB 2013]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 VW435 202 AFS delivery.				

Monday 16th April 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

		?		
AOC-in-C Flying Training Command, AM Sir H P Walmsley visited then departed to Pembrey by air.				

Tuesday 17th April 1951 [AB 2014]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WA716 202 AFS delivered from 203 AFS. Meteor T.7 WF780 202 AFS delivery. Meteor T.7 WF794:[N-46] 202 AFS delivery.				

Wednesday 18th April 1951 [AIR 27/2664/9][F78][AB 2013/14]

ME525	L-S	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	Sgt Davis to St Eval 15:20
SW320	L-V	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	F/L Reed
Arrived from Tarrant Rushton 13:30 and departed to St Eval 15:10				
Based noted: Meteor T.7 VW429 202 AFS delivery. Meteor T.7 WF814 202 AFS delivery.				

Thursday 19th April 1951 [AIR 27/2451/6]

	[A-]	Lancaster GR.3	120 Sqn	F/S Nyc
From Kinloss to Tarrant Rushton.				
	[A-]	Lancaster GR.3*	120 Sqn	F/O Thompson
	[A-]	Lancaster GR.3*	120 Sqn	Sgt Higgins
*Both flew to Tarrant Rushton.				

Friday 20th April 1951 [AB 2014]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WF766:[N-14] 202 AFS delivery from CFS.				

Wednesday 25th April 1951 [AIR 27/2608/8][AIR 29/2144][AB 2014]

No.2 Course/202 AFS starts, included 4 Iranian/Persian Officers.				
NP249	[VS-O]	Proctor IV	31 Sqn	S/L Roberts & Moulton
Routed: Hendon-Brawdy-Valley-Hendon, returning 27.4				
Based noted: Meteor T.7 WF788:[F] 202 AFS delivery.				

Thursday 26th April 1951 [AIR 27/2451/6][MB]

SW366	[A-]	Lancaster GR.3	120 Sqn	F/S Carey
Arrived from Kemble at 16:05 and departed to Kinloss at 16:25.				
Based noted: Meteor T.7 VW475 202 AFS - damaged by turbine failure, repaired on site.				

Friday 27th April 1951 [AIR 27/2664/9][MB]

RF272	H-H	Lancaster GR.3	[SoMR]	F/S Stastry [SoMR aircraft?]
Arrived from 5 MU, Kemble at 12:40.				

Saturday 28th April 1951 [IBCCA]

WB454	RCY-W	Anson T.21	5 RFS	[L Davies]
[Refresher Flying School]				

Tuesday 1st May 1951

202 AFS becomes part of 25 Group.
Brian Hills arrived at Valley with Tommy Scott, Geoff Hiscox & Bill Evans to start as 'new' Instructors with 202 AFS. He recollected in 1997: 'At the time [1951] the operational set up was 20 Sqn with Spitfires & Beaufighters along with SHQ, Flying Wing HQ, ATC Tower & Technical Wing which were all on the North Side. The two flying Squadrons [202 AFS] with Vampires & Meteors were on the South side, there was also an experimental [Fairey's] group also on the South side. The two Sqn hangars were old tin wartime hangars with Nissan huts attached held together with black paint! The huts were replaced with modern ones in about 1952. Valley at the time was largely still a hutted Wartime Airfield. The only new accommodation was the Airmens Mess & accommodation. The Officers Mess was a series of large huts, comfortable & adequate. The Officers accommodation though was a little grim. On a site a little way down from the Mess we lived in a series of huts with electric lighting but little else. We each had our own room with a camp wash kit, the Batman brought a can of hot water each morning for a shave and lit the small 'Queen Ann' stove. The room was normally either boiling hot or very cold and often smoke filled! Centrally placed on the site was the ablutions block, always plenty of hot water but jolly cold in winter. There were only 4 Officers married quarters at Valley, one for the Station Commander and one each for the 3 Wing Commanders, the rest either lived off camp in rented accommodation or took advantage of the Caravan site close to the Mess. When later in my career I heard of Officers complaining about the standard of accommodation my mind always went back to my time at Valley in the early 1950's. There was however, a very good spirit on the Station. I can't remember anybody complaining and most thoroughly enjoyed their tour there' Brian left Valley in August 1953.

Monday 7th May 1951 [AIR 27/2608/10][F78]

NP323	[VS-]	Proctor III	31 Sqn	S/L Blackford from Hendon
RF269	H-L	Lancaster GR.3	[SoMR]	From 15 MU Wroughton

Tuesday 8th May 1951 [AIR 27/2608/10][AIR 27/2622/10]

NP323	[VS-]	Proctor III	31 Sqn	S/L Blackford to Hendon
RG178	[OT-]	Mosquito PR.34*	58 Sqn	F/L Bishop & Rumble
*Ordnance Survey of Anglesey with 267 exposures taken but did NOT land.				
VW423	[X-50]	Meteor T.7	203 AFS	Mitchell

Wednesday 16th May 1951 [AIR 27/2657/10][Roundel 82-05]

RE168	B-F	Lancaster GR.3	203 Sqn	P/O Hay
From and to St Eval.				
RE159	H-A	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	Sgt Worthing [203 Sqn crew]
Departed to St Eval 16:15				
Based noted: Meteor T.7 WA713 6863M [ex 205 AFS] Allocated to RAF Valley after a landing incident at Middleton St George 18.1.51				

Thursday 17th May 1951 [AIR 27/2622/10][AIR 29/2144]

PF669	[OT-]	Mosquito PR.34	58 Sqn	Sgt S/L McLaren & Sgt Jones
Photo survey of Anglesey & Denbigh using 67 exposure so possible overflight but did NOT land.				
		?		
AOC 25 Group, AVM R B Jordan visited and flew one of 202 AFS Vampire FB.5's.				

Wednesday 23rd May 1951 [AIR 27/2664/11]

ME525	L-S	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	Sgt Shrivell
From St Eval to Brawdy.				
	[L-]	Lancaster [GR.3]	210 Sqn	Sgt Davis
Departed 12:10 on delivery to St Eval.				
RF307	L-W	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	Lt Muller
From and to St Eval.				
RF272	H-H	Lancaster GR.3	210 Sqn	P/O Walmsley [SoMR aircraft?]
Departed 12:15 on delivery to St Eval.				
RF269	[H-L]	Lancaster GR.3	[SoMR]	P/O Hay
Departed 12:05 to St Eval.				

Monday 28th May 1951

Coastal Command Aircraft Preparation & Modification unit departs.				
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Thursday 31st May 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

		6x ?	20 Sqn	
Carried out an exercise over N Wales with the Royal Observer Corps.				

Tuesday 5th June 1951 [AIR 27/2447/24]

RE312	[HW-D]	Lincoln B.2	100 Sqn	Diversion, S/L Jell 03:40
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Wednesday 6th June 1951 [B Mills logbook]

Based noted: Oxford K6748 202 AFS visited Leconfield				

Thursday 7th June 1951 [AIR 29/2144][AB 2014]

WF794	N-46	Meteor T.7	202 AFS	
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Tyre burst on landing and swung damaging the undercarriage near Neasham ? Repaired on site at Valley and back with 202 AFS 15.11.51. Neasham is close to Middleton St George [Teesside Airport]

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VZ333

Vampire FB.5

202 AFS

Hit ground during approach at Valley, undercarriage collapsed, undershot runway.

Pilot

P/O

[Sid] Vasey

Slight cut over right eyebrow.

Saturday 9th June 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

?

AOC 25 Group, AVM R B Jordan visited to present the Unit Badge.

Monday 11th June 1951 [B Mills logbook]

Based noted:

Oxford K6748 202 AFS visited Manby and Cranwell on separate flights.

Tuesday 12th June 1951 [AIR 27/2608/12]

RM176

[VS-]

Proctor IV

31 Sqn

S/L Roach from Hendon

Wednesday 13th June 1951 [AIR 27/2608/12]

RM176

[VS-]

Proctor IV

31 Sqn

S/L Roach to Hendon

Friday 15th June 1951 [AIR 27/2608/12]

NP396

[VS-]

Proctor III

31 Sqn

W/C de Salis from & to Hendon

Friday 22nd June 1951 [AIR 27/2608/12][AIR 29/2324]

TX170

CB-V

Anson C.19

31 Sqn

S/L Dodson from & to Hendon

SW366

H-B/Z

Lancaster GR.3

SoMR

F/L Boys from & to St Mawgan

Tuesday 26th June 1951 [GP/UM]

NF854

854:LP

Dominie I

781 NAS

To Sydenham

Wednesday 27th June 1951 [AB 2014]

Based noted:

Meteor T.7 WA632 202 AFS delivery.

Monday 2nd July 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

WA298

Vampire FB.5

202 AFS

Crashed into the Sea during an instrument let down 12nms S of Valley close to Llanddwyn Island. First fatality for 202 AFS. The Persians [Iranians] withdrew from the Course shortly afterwards. Later determined to be the inadvertent inflation of the dinghy or an instrument failure.

Pilot	Capt	M Sirang [Iranian]	Killed
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Thursday 5th July 1951 [AIR 27/2402/4][AIR 29/2700]

TE344	TH-G	Spitfire XVI	20 Sqn	
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Engine failure after take-off during an air-test.
Forced landing in a ploughed field 1nm N of Bodedern.

Pilot	F/L	G C Shelley	Broken back & cuts, recovered
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[National Archives]

Monday 9th July 1951 [AIR 27/2608/14]

TX177	CB-F	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	F/L Heriot Northolt-Hendon
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Thursday 12th July 1951 [AB 2014]

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Based noted:
Meteor T.7 WF857:[31] 202 AFS delivery.

Monday 16th July 1951 [Photo in F.540][AIR 29/2144]

RLG [Relief Landing Ground] at Mona opens in support of 202 AFS.				
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45-57801	CQ-801	C-82A	11 TCS/60 TCG	USAF Capt Larvee
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Dropped 46th Parachute Brigade over RAF Bodorgan on 17/18.7. Based at Rhein-Main AFB, West Germany with the 11th Troop Carrier Squadron, 60th Troop Carrier Group, USAF. A sad postscript to this visit was the fact that the very same aircraft crashed into the side of Mt. Dore, SW of Clermont-Ferrand, France on Tuesday 13th November 1951 due to wind drift whilst flying below the Minimum Safe Altitude. It was en-route Rhein-Main to Bordeaux-Merignac, France. 6 Crew & 30 US Army Postal workers were killed. This was the worst loss of life involving the C-82A whilst in USAF service. [The '171' on the fuselage is the fleet/construction number of the aircraft] **Capt H Taylor who was attending 202 AFS at the time flew in this aircraft on the 18th with a 36 stick paratrooper drop at Bodorgan.**





[Both: National Archives]

Tuesday 17th July 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 VW449 202 AFS delivery.				

Friday 20th July 1951 [AIR 27/2608/14]

VM361	CB-O	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	S/L Hyland Smith
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Routed: Hendon-Dishforth-Valley-Cardiff.				
NC920	B[R]	Wellington T.10	101 FRS	From & to Finningley

Tuesday 24th July 1951 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire F.1 VF277 delivered from 5 MU Kemble to 202 AFS became 'N-25'				

Sunday 29th July 1951 [AIR 27/2402/4]

	TH-	Oxford	20 Sqn	
	TH-	Oxford	20 Sqn	
Gave air experience flights to a group of visiting ROC [Royal Observer Corps] personnel.				

Tuesday 31st July 1951

WA160		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Ditched off Dulas Bay, NE coast of Anglesey after engine failure due to sea spray ingestion as a result of flying too low. After being rescued by a local boatman he was brought to W/C Mann's [CFI] office by his Sqn Commander still in a dripping flying suit. He had all the signs of total immersion including a large herring sticking out of his leg pocket!				
Pilot	P/O	P Dimmock	Ok	

Thursday 2nd August 1951 [AIR 27/2608/16]

TX222	CB-D	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	S/L McMellan
Routed: Hendon-St Eval-Valley-Hendon.				

Friday 3rd August 1951 [AIR 27/2622/16]

SX991	OT-	Lincoln B.2	58 Sqn	F/L Cruikshank
Photographed Valley from 18,000ft, did not land.				

Thursday 9th/Friday 10th August 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

		3x Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Participated in 'Exercise Plover' carrying out simulated attacks on 126 th Infantry Brigade in the Trawsfynydd area.				

Sunday 12th August 1951 [AIR 29/2397]

TX238		Anson C.19	19 Gp CF	F/L Nelson
Routed: Base-Roborough-Valley-Dyce, AVM Spencer.				

Thursday 16th August 1951 [AIR 27/2608/16]

TX195	CB-A	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	F/L Heriot from & to Hendon
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Friday 17 August 1951 [AIR 27/2402/4][AIR 27/2608/16]

Visit by CAS [Chief of the Air Staff] MRAF Sir John Slessor.				
VP965	CB-G	Devon C.1	31 Sqn	F/L Walter Jurby-Hendon



20 Sqn line-up with a Beaufighter, 2 Vampires & 6 Spitfires.
[National Archives]



Meteor T.7 202 AFS line-up including the nearest with a 'N' on the nosewheel door.
[National Archives]

Saturday 18th August 1951 [GP/UM]

HG713	858:LP	Dominie	781 NAS	To Sydenham
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Monday 20th August 1951 [AIR 27/2608/16]

TX177	CB-F	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	S/L Dodson from & to Hendon
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Tuesday 21st August 1951 [AIR 27/2608/16][AB 2014]

TX222	CB-D	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	S/L Hutchinson from & to Hendon
-				
WA632		Meteor T.7	202 AFS	
Accident, repaired on site and back with 202 AFS by 26.10.51				

Monday 27th August 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

		?		
Visit by 3 members of the French Air Force, by air?				

Thursday 30th August 1951 [AB 2014]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WG946:[O-30] 202 AFS delivery.				

Saturday 1st September 1951 [GP/UM][AVIA 1/25]

EK836		Firebrand TF.5	RNAMY	S/Lt Smyth
Routed: Farnborough-Valley-Sydenham. [ex. 813 NAS]				
WD353	RUQ-A	Chipmunk T.10	Queens UAS	To Sydenham
WD354	RUQ-B	Chipmunk T.10	Queens UAS	To Sydenham
WD355	RUQ-C	Chipmunk T.10	Queens UAS	To Sydenham
WD356	RUQ-D	Chipmunk T.10	Queens UAS	To Sydenham
WD358	RUQ-E	Chipmunk T.10	Queens UAS	To Sydenham
**All returning to Sydenham from UAS summer camp at RAF Biggin Hill. Routed via Shawbury-Valley. They also had 2 Prentice T.1 but whether they flew through Valley is not known.				

Monday 3rd September 1951 [AIR 27/2650/18]

RR343		Oxford I	Coningsby SF	
Flown by F/L Corney and F/L Wainwright to attend Radar Trials at Ty Croes.				

Thursday 6th September 1951 [IBCCA]

WF546		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Edwards
Cross-country to the Shetland Islands, also landed at Valley.				
SW287	H-O	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	F/O Callum
Diversion from St Mawgan.				
Based noted: Harvard T.2 FX443 [202 AFS] F/L Huggins & Capt H Taylor. Practice for the Battle of Britain Open Day.				

Friday 7th September 1951 [logbook]

SW287	H-O	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	To St Mawgan, see 6.9
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Tuesday 11th September 1951 [AIR 27/2650/18][IBCCA]

WF546		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Edwards
Formation flying from Coningsby at 16:20, departed 13.9				
Based noted: Spitfire XVI TE448:TH-E 20 Sqn – Capt H Taylor flew a familiarisation flight, see 18th & 25th				

Thursday 13th September 1951 [GP/UM][AIR 27/2650/18][IBCCA]

HG713	858:LP	DH.89 Dominie	781 NAS	From Sydenham
WF546		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	To Coningsby
Flew an air test at Valley first before departing to Coningsby, see 11.9.				

Saturday 15th September 1951 [DW][AIR 27/2650/18][AIR 27/2402/4][AIR 27/2676/5][AIR 27/2624/18]

RAF Valley Open Day.

Included live firing by a Bofors gun out to sea.



[National Archives]

Walter Grindrod who was based at Valley at the time remembers an attack by aircraft [most probably 20 Sqn] on a Wooden Fort which had been built for the occasion. After the Fort was set alight the Fire Section then drove over to extinguish the fire. However, one Fire Tender was towing a fire pump but turned over setting it alight to then also be extinguished.

WF491	[T]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Corney
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Numerous Meteors can be seen in the right background.

From and to Coningsby.

[National Archives]

RE424	[-]	Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Sgt Myers
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From and to Waddington.

[National Archives]

		Wellington		
VM408		Anson C.19	[25 Group]	
		Beaufighter TT.10	20 Sqn	Target towing demonstration
		6x Spitfire XVI	20 Sqn	Formation flypast
		Vampire	20 Sqn	Solo aerobatics
	[Q3-]	4x Vampire	613 Sqn	Flypast from Ringway
		4x Meteor T.7	202 AFS	Aerobatic Team
Pilots: F/Lt's Wallace, Don Barber P/O Mike Dobson F/Sgt John Moss.				
		3x Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	Aerobatic Team
Pilots: S/L John Smith-Carrington, also displayed at Ternhill & Shawbury.				
Based noted:				
Meteor T.7 WG946:O-30 202 AFS delivered to 102 FRS.				
Meteor T.7 WG969:O-30 202 AFS delivery.				

Sunday 16th September 1951 [AIR 27/2402/4]

20 Sqn disbanded [arrived Valley 19.7.49 from Llanbedr] 5 CAACU at Llanbedr would now take over the TERA & Tonfanau commitments. Majority of aircraft were transferred to

Llanbedr, a few remained on the Airfield at Valley awaiting repairs before disposal.

Monday 18th September 1951 [AIR 27/2650/18][AIR 29/2144]

EB994		Oxford II	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
		2x Beaufighter	20 Sqn	
		2x Vampire FB.5	20 Sqn	
		4x Spitfire XVI	20 Sqn	
This was in the Operation Order for the movement of the ex. 20 Sqn aircraft to 5 CAACU. Remaining aircraft left at Valley were 2 Beaufighters, 3 Vampires and a Spitfire.				
Based noted: Spitfire XVI TB858:TH-J 20 Sqn – Capt H Taylor flew aerobatics in this aircraft.				

Tuesday 19th September 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

[MM61791]	[SM-18]	SM.102	Italian AF	
Inspector General of the Italian AF, Gen G Gaeta, Col Bitardi & Italian Air Attache visited. [Most probably MM61791 which was based at Hendon and later Northolt at the time]				

Thursday 21st September 1951 [AIR 27/2608/18]

VL337	CB-J	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	S/L McMillan from & to Hendon
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Monday 25th September 1951 [logbook]

TE448	TH-E	Spitfire XVI	20 Sqn	Capt H Taylor to Llanbedr
RD783	TH-K	Beaufighter TT.10	20 Sqn	S/L Hindley to & from Llanbedr
This was the delivery of the Spitfire from 20 Sqn, Valley to 5 AACU at Llanbedr. The Beaufighter acted as crew ferry.				
VT797	TH-	Vampire F.3	20 Sqn	Capt H Taylor to Llanbedr
RD783	TH-K	Beaufighter	20 Sqn	S/L Hindley to & from Llanbedr
Again, this is the transfer of the Vampire from 20 Sqn, Valley to 5 AACU at Llanbedr. Beaufighter again, acted as crew ferry.				

Wednesday 27th September 1951 [AIR 27/2656/4]

[TG622]	[A]-C	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	M/P Owen
Routed: Aldergrove-St Eval-Valley-Aldergrove.				

Thursday 28th September 1951 [AIR 29/2144][AIR 4/209]

		?		
AOC 25 Group, AVM R B Jordan visited by air.				
WA591	[X]-B	Meteor T.7	203 AFS	F/L Hawkey
Routed: Base-Little Rissington-Valley-Base.				

Tuesday 2nd October 1951 [AVIA 1/25]

VP959		Devon C.1	RAE	Loader
Routed: Farnborough-Westcott-Valley-Farnborough.				

Monday 8th October 1951 [GP/UM]

WD355	C	Chipmunk T.10	QUAS	'RUQ-C' Departed 12.10
WD356	D	Chipmunk T.10	QUAS	'RUQ-D' Departed 12.10
WD358	E	Chipmunk T.10	QUAS	'RUQ-E' Departed 11.10
Queens UAS, routed: Belfast, Sydenham-Valley-Little Rissington.				

Thursday 11th October 1951

WA318		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Landed too fast and overshot the runway at RAF Valley. Ended up on the beach, damaged beyond repair.				

Friday 12th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20][IBCCA]

EB994		Oxford II	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
WF498		Washington B.1*	149 Sqn	F/L Smith
WF546		Washington B.1*	149 Sqn	F/L Edwards
*Blind bombing at Rhosneigr Range [Ty Croes?] both did NOT land at Valley.				

Monday 15th October 1951 [AIR 29/2144][AIR 29/2324]

RE164	H-U	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	Sgt Horn
RE181	H-S	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	F/S Stastny
RE186	H-C	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	Sgt Hunt
TX268	H-X	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	F/L Roe
SW287	H-O	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	F/O Abbott
RF322	H-M	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	Sgt Vincent
RF325	H-D	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	M/P Curtis
PB529	H-Y	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	F/S Kalinowski
All weather diversions from St Mawgan, SoMR [School of Maritime Reconnaissance]				
		Hastings C.1		Weather diversion
		8x Valetta		Weather diversions
VW807	NU-T	Valetta C.1	242 OCU	Weather diversion
Most probably one of the 8 Valetta's above.				
		Dakota		Weather diversion

Tuesday 16th October 1951 [AIR 29/2324]

RE164	H-U	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	
RE181	H-S	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	
RE186	H-C	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	
TX268	H-X	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	
SW287	H-O	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	
RF322	H-M	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	
RF325	H-D	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	
PB529	H-Y	Lancaster GR.3	SoMR	

All departed back to St Mawgan, see 15.10				
VW807	NU-T	Valetta C.1	242 OCU	Return to base, see 15.10

Wednesday 17th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20]

WF490	[OJ-S]	Washington B.1*	149 Sqn	F/L Collins from & to Coningsby
WF492	[OJ-U]	Washington B.1*	149 Sqn	From & to Coningsby
*Both participated in Radar Trials with Ty Croes, did NOT land at Valley.				

Thursday 18th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20][AIR 27/2608/20][AIR 29/2144]

EB994		Oxford II	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
WF498	[OJ-]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF546		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
TX169	CB-C	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	F/L Schofield from & to Hendon
Inspector General of the RAF, AM Sir T M Williams visited.				
-				
WA608		Meteor T.7	202 AFS	F/S Thompson & P/O Benson
Dual engine failure during a stall recovery, landed safely at Valley.				

Monday 22nd October 1951 [AIR 27/2608/20][AB 2013]

TX195	CB-A	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	W/C Grindon from & to Hendon
-				
VW449		Meteor T.7	202 AFS	
Undercarriage leg jammed, landed on 2 wheels. Repaired on site at Valley.				

Wednesday 24th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20][AIR 29/2144]

EB994		Oxford II	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
WF498	[OJ-]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
-				
WF814		Meteor T.7	202 AFS	S/L Horsley
Single engine landing carried out safely.				

Thursday 25th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20][AIR 27/2608/20][AIR 27/2624/20][AIR 27/2447/32]

DF249		Oxford I	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
WF491	[OJ-T]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Smith Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF547		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Smith Radar Trials with Ty Croes
NP394	[VS-]	Proctor III	31 Sqn	W/C McDonald from & to Hendon
RE424		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Foreman
SX985		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Myers
SX986		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, F/L Andrew
RF343		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Zajicek
RE312	[HW-D]	Lincoln B.2	100 Sqn	Diversion, F/L Bailey at 21:20

Friday 26th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20][AIR 27/2624/20][AIR 27/2447/32][AIR 4/209]

WF498	[OJ-]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF547		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
RE424		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	To Waddington, see 25.10
SX985		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	To Waddington, see 25.10
SX986		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	To Waddington, see 25.10
RF343		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	To Waddington, see 25.10
RE312	[HW-D]	Lincoln B.2	100 Sqn	To Waddington, see 25.10
VT308	X-O	Meteor F.4	203 AFS	Howarth
Routed: Base-Valley-Middleton St George-Base.				

Saturday 27th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20]

WF494	[OJ-X]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
WF547		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	From Coningsby F/L Smith
Picked up 2 Army personnel.				

Monday 29th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20]

V4099		Oxford I	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
WF498	[OJ-]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Smith Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF547		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes

Tuesday 30th October 1951 [AIR 27/2650/20]

WF547		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Smith Radar Trials with Ty Croes
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Thursday 1st November 1951 [AIR 27/2650/22][AIR 4/105]

WF494	[OJ-X]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF547		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
KF177	[FBT-B]	Harvard T.2B	3 FTS	Ward [or code R-G]
From & to Feltwell.				

Tuesday 6th November 1951 [AIR 27/2650/22]

EB994		Oxford II	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
WF490	[OJ-S]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF494	[OJ-X]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes

Wednesday 7th November 1951 [GP/UM][AIR 29/2144][AIR 27/2656/20]

VW197		Valetta C.1	[RAE]	To Sydenham
-				
WA305		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Crashed 1.5nms from Brynaddr Farm, Penycae, Ruabon Mountain, Denbighshire in cloud. Wreck was eventually found 18.11.51. Hastings Met.1:A 202 Sqn was involved in the search 7-9.11.				
Pilot	F/S	John Cobb		Killed [buried Herne Bay]

Thursday 8th November 1951 [AIR 27/2650/22]

EB994		Oxford II	Coningsby SF	Visited Coningsby, Radar trials
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Tuesday 13th November 1951 [AIR 27/2650/22]

WF490	[OJ-S]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF492	[OJ-U]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes

Monday 19th November 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

		?		
AOC 25 Group, AVM R B Jordan visited by air.				

Thursday 22nd November 1951 [GP/UM]

WF490		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Smith
Rhosneigr [Ty Croes] trials, did NOT land at Valley.				
NF847	857:LP	Dominie I	781 NAS	To Sydenham
Code also quoted as 851:LP [GP]				

Monday 26th November 1951 [AIR 27/2650/22]

WF491	[OJ-T]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
WF494	[OJ-X]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes

Friday 30th November 1951 [AIR 27/2650/22]

WF493	[OJ-W]	Washington B.1	149 Sqn	Radar Trials with Ty Croes
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Tuesday 4th December 1951 [AIR 29/2144]

WF777		Meteor T.7	202 AFS	
Crash landed at Valley after engine flame out due to the Student shutting down the wrong engine, extensively damaged but repaired.				
Instr	F/S	Ian Troughton	Ok	
Student			Ok	

Thursday 6th December 1951 [IBCC]

WF490		Washington B.1	149 Sqn	F/L Smith
Rhosneigr [Ty Croes] Radar trials, did NOT land at Valley.				

Friday 7th December 1951 [AIR 29/2146/1]

		?	207 AFS	From & to Full Sutton
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Monday 10th December 1951 [AIR 27/2650/24]

PH373		Oxford I	Coningsby SF	Sgt Sowerby
From and to Coningsby, Radar trials.				

Thursday 13th December 1951 [AIR 27/2624/24]

SX978		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Myers
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Arrived 02:40 and departed later at 12:30 to its home base Waddington but ended up diverting to Marham, later departed to Waddington.

Friday 21st December 1951 [AIR 29/2144][AIR 27/2600/23][AIR 27/2624/24][AIR 27/2447/36][AB 2014]

RA714		Lincoln B.2	100 Sqn	Diversion, F/L Bailey
Routed: Acklington-Turnhouse, diverted to Valley due weather. Departed 21:15 back to its base Waddington.				
WF552		Washington B.1	15 Sqn	F/L Ware from & to Coningsby
SX985		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, F/L Bailey
RF343		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Forman
SX984		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, Sgt Szuwalski
All three 61 Sqn aircraft diverted from Waddington and departed back to Waddington later same day.				
-				
WA716		Meteor T.7	202 AFS	
Wheels up landing 1nm S of Llangefni crossroads near Holland Arms, Anglesey after running out of fuel above cloud due to a Jetstream blowing the aircraft away from Valley . Damaged beyond repair. One of the other QFI's Brian Hills remembers popping down and there was just the cockpit left!				
Instr	F/L	R H 'Dusty' Moores		Ok
Student	P/O	F A Fletcher		Ok

Friday 28th December 1951 [AB]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WG983:[P-29] 202 AFS delivery from 33 MU.				