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RAF Valley

Aircraft Movements

1953

CREDITS:

International Bomber Command Centre Archive/National Archives
Jack de Coninck papers/Dennis Pritchard/Dick Thomas

UPDATE V2

Additional Unit movements: 208 AFS

SUMMARY

Fairey Aviation continued their Fireflash air-to-air missile trials.

Abbreviations

	Abbreviations
AFS	Advanced Flying School
BABS	Blind Approach Beam System
CF	Communication Flight
DH	De Havilland
FCCS	Fighter Command Communications Squadron
Gp	Group
HQ HCCS	Headquarters Home Command Communications Squadron
MLD	Marine Luchtvaart Dienst [Netherlands Naval Air Service]
MoS	Ministry of Supply
M/P	Master Pilot
MRT	Mountain Rescue Team
MU	Maintenance Unit
NAVEX	Navigation Exercise
RAE	Royal Aircraft Establishment

RNARY	Royal Naval Aircraft Repair Yard
RNAS	Royal Naval Air Station
RRE	Royal Research Establishment
S/Lt	Sub-Lieutenant [Royal Navy rank]

1953 3 Meteor NF11's were acquired for the Fireflash Missile trials

WD743	-	Meteor NF.11*	Fairey Avn	
WD744	-	Meteor NF.11*	Fairey Avn	
WD745	-	Meteor NF.11	Fairey Avn	

*These were modified on the production line at Bitteswell to enable Missile firing.
New wings were manufactured to accommodate the missile launch pylons.



Parked on the Fairey flightline at Valley with a Meteor T.7 behind.
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[National Archives]



Although undated it shows one of the units' Meteor NF.11 with Fairey's staff.
[Dick Thomas Collection]

Thursday 8th January 1953 [AIR 29/2144]

Valley MRT [Mountain Rescue Team] were called out to an aircraft crash at Gellignan Farm, Llanarmon-yn-Ial near Ruthin, this turned out to be Washington B.1 WF502:O 90 Sqn which broke up in mid-air with the loss of all ten onboard. The team participated in searching for the wreckage.

Based noted: Meteor T.7 VW429 202 AFS - suffered damage but repaired.				

Wednesday 14th January 1953 [AIR 27/2613/14]

WG510	A-F	Shackleton MR.1	42 Sqn	Diversion, F/L Kennedy
Diverted on a NAVEX, arrived 00:40 and departed back to St Eval same day at 10:50.				

Thursday 15th January 1953 [AIR 27/2617/46][AIR 27/2827/24]

RF349		Lincoln B.2	49 Sqn	Sgt G Wright
Special Exercise dropping 'window' [aluminium foil strips/chaff] over Anglesey with ground radar plotters from Royal Artillery [Ty Croes] did NOT land. The 199 Sqn aircraft also participated but they DID land. See also 28.8.52				
RF557		Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/S Timewell
WD126		Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/L MacGillivray

Sunday 18th January 1953 [AIR 27/2854/15]

[VL]352		Anson C.19	527 Sqn	Sgt Evans
From Watton, calibration of Nav Aids at Valley on 20/21.1, returned to Watton 22.1				

Monday 19th January 1953 [AIR 29/2397]

TX238		Anson C.19	19 Gp CF	G/C Niblett from Roborough
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Tuesday 20th January 1953 [AIR 29/2397][AIR 29/2144]

TX238		Anson C.19	19 Gp CF	To Roborough, see 19.1
AOC 25 Group AVM R B Jordan paid a farewell visit. [Air Officer Commanding][Air Vice Marshall]				

Wednesday 21st January 1953

WA339		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Took off from RAF Valley and after a routine radio check nothing else was heard from the Aircraft. Presumed to have crashed into Liverpool Bay, no wreckage found.				
Pilot	P/O	Edward John Chivers	Killed	

Thursday 29th January 1953 [AB 2014]

WF814		Meteor T.7	202 AFS	
Belly landing at Valley due to undercarriage leg jammed. To Glosters for repairs 5.3.53				

Monday 2nd February 1953 [AB 2014]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WG983:P-29 202 AFS delivered to 207 AFS.				

Wednesday 4th February 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ469 delivered to 202 AFS.				

Tuesday 10th March 1953 [AIR 27/2759/17][IBCCA][MB]

RE311		Lincoln B.2	116 Sqn	Sgt Selth calibrate BABS
[WA]988		Meteor [F.8]	48 MU	From Kirkbride to HK, T Weir
Probably not F.8 WK988 or T.7 WG988				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ448 202 AFS assessed as CAT.4[rogue] [WZ448 was then delivered to Marshalls 24.5.54 never returned to 202 AFS]				

Thursday 12th March 1953 [AVIA 1/28]

VW197		Valetta C.1	RAE	
Routed: Farnborough-St Athan-Valley-Eglinton-Valley-Farnborough.				

Tuesday 17th March 1953 [AIR 27/2624/54][AIR 27/2646/72][AIR 27/2642/28]

RE407		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Sgt Spittle from & to Waddington
WD951	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	S/L T R Pierce
WH659	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	F/L E G Jones
WH656	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	F/O P J Clarke
WH663	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	F/O P H J Butler
WH655	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	P/O F H Jones

WH644	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	F/L G Price
WP515	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	F/S Foster
WH640	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	F/L R Nichol
WF915	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	F/L D G Allen
All the Canberras were part of Exercise 'Jungle King'				

Wednesday 18th March 1953 [AIR 27/2624/54][AIR 27/2646/72]

RF555		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	F/L Halliwell from Waddington
WD951	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WH659	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WH656	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WH663	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WH655	-	Canberra B.2	139 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WH644	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WP515	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WH640	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3
WF915	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.3

Thursday 19th March 1953 [AIR 29/2144]

WE835	M-18	Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Engine lost power on approach to RAF Valley, overshoot landing and caught fire.				
Pilot	P/O	George Timothy Robin Pitts-Tucker	Killed [buried Dawlish]	

Friday 27th March 1953 [AIR 4/204][MB]

WH216		Meteor T.7	207 AFS	F/L Hoult from & to Full Sutton
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ426:O-53 202 AFS assessed as CAT.3R [WZ426 was then reassessed as CAT.2 8.4 & returned to 202 AFS] Vampire T.11 WZ450 202 AFS assessed as CAT.3R [WZ450 was then reassessed as CAT.2 8.4 & returned to 202 AFS]				

Wednesday 1st April 1953 [AIR 4/204][MB]

VT316		Meteor F.4	207 AFS	R Shields from & to Full Sutton
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ504 delivered from 233 OCU to 202 AFS becoming 'O-57'				

Wednesday 8th April 1953 [AB 2014]

WF857	-31	Meteor T.7	202 AFS	
Flew into the ground while avoiding a collision with a Vampire on approach to Valley. Remains taken to 34 MU.				
	P/O	D S Chadwick	Injured	
	F/S	D Thompson	Injured	

Friday 10th April 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ548 delivered to 202 AFS becoming 'O-60'				

Saturday 11th April 1953 [AIR 27/2649/56]

RA664		Lincoln B.2	148 Sqn	F/O Verdon-Roe from Upwood
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Monday 13th April 1953 [AIR 27/2649/56]

RA664		Lincoln B.2	148 Sqn	To Upwood, see 11.4
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Thursday 16th April 1953 [F&F Book][AIR 27/2888]

		?	HQ HCCS	M/P Ruse & F/S Hatch
One pax from White Waltham.				
[WL820]		Venom [NF.2]	[DH]	Missile firing trials
[First unguided firing of a Firestreak Missile] [Did it operate from Valley, Hatfield, or Llanbedr]				

Thursday 23rd April 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ563 delivered to 202 AFS becoming 'O-44'				

Monday 27th April 1953 [AIR 29/2146/1]

		?	207 AFS	P/O Martin 23 Course, dep 29.4
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Thursday 30th April 1953 [AIR 27/2759/19]

WD124		Lincoln B.2	116 Sqn	Sgt Selth calibrate BABS
From Bishops Court to Watton.				

Friday 1st May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ426:O-53 202 AFS delivered to 233 OCU. Vampire T.11 WZ503 delivered from 233 OCU to 202 AFS becoming 'O-59'				

Monday 4th May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ450:O-58 202 AFS delivered to 233 OCU.				

Tuesday 5th May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ570 delivered to 202 AFS becoming 'N-50'				

Vampire T.11 WZ572 delivered to 202 AFS becoming 'O-58'

Wednesday 6th May 1953 [AIR 27/2622/57][MB]

RG198		Mosquito PR.34	58 Sqn	F/L J W Hardless
Conducted a tidal survey from 16,000ft overhead Anglesey, did NOT land at Valley.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ469 202 AFS delivered to 233 OCU.				

Monday 11th May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ547 delivered from 233 OCU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-56'				

Thursday 14th May 1953 [AIR 27/2661/44]

WF566		Washington B.1	207 Sqn	From Nicosia, F/L K M Flett
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Friday 15th May 1953 [AIR 27/2661/44]

WF566		Washington B.1	207 Sqn	To Marham, see 14.5
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Monday 18th May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ569 delivered to 202 AFS becoming 'N-49'				

Tuesday 19th May 1953 [ADM 1/25017][ADM 53/135355 HMS Illustrious log]

643	F-43	Sea Fury FB.51	3 Sqn/MLD	Netherlands Naval Air Service
625	F-25	Sea Fury FB.51	3 Sqn/MLD	
628	F-28	Sea Fury FB.51	3 Sqn/MLD	
The 3-ship were returning to their home base, RNAS Anthorn near Carlisle from HMS Illustrious off the coast of Devon. Two of the formation hit the ground in cloud at Cae Mawr and Pen-y-Foel Farms, Rhydwy, killing both two pilots. The formation leader suffered damage to the port wing tip and diverted to Valley, landing at 17:55. Cause was put down to flying in cloud with the incorrect regional pressure set, the aircraft were flying approx. 240ft lower than they thought.				
Pilot	Lt	Dirk Theodoor Challik	F-43 Ok	
Pilot	S/Lt	Johan P Van Der Oort	F-25 Killed	
Pilot	Lt	Hans Status-Muller	F-28 Killed	
Sadly, the surviving Leader was subsequently killed in a flying accident at Valkenburg, Netherlands on 24.10.55 flying Sea Fury FB.51 6-8 of 3 Sqn/MLD. A bomb the aircraft was carrying fell off and exploded on landing.				





[All: National Archives]

Wednesday 20th May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ420 202 AFS delivered to 233 OCU becoming 'O-56' Vampire T.11 WZ561 delivered from 233 OCU to 202 AFS becoming 'O-55'				

Thursday 21st May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ499 delivered from 233 OCU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-47'				

Friday 22nd May 1953 [ADM 1/25017]

Board of Inquiry convened at Valley for the crash of the Sea Furies 19.5.53. There were RN Officers from RNAS Culham & Stretton present, did they arrive by air ?				

Wednesday 27th May 1953 [AIR 27/2888]

		?	HQ HCCS	M/P Ruse & F/S Hatch
Three pax from White Waltham.				

Thursday 28th May 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ447:O-50 202 AFS delivered to 233 OCU. Vampire T.11 WZ493 delivered from 233 OCU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-45'				

June 1953 [AIR 29/2144]

Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Review: 202 AFS participation: 6x Vampires detached to Oakington to participate in the Flypast.				



Vampire FB.5

WA413:M-28 VZ185:N-16 WA194:N-18 WA336:O-32 VZ128:O-52

Vampire T.11 WZ561:O-55

[Dick Thomas Collection]

Vampire T.11 WZ510 & WZ570:N-50 flew to Odiham to participate in the static display.

Based noted:

2x Tiger Moth flew Air Training Corps Cadets on Summer Camp, see 8.6.53

Monday 1st June 1953 [AIR 29/2146/1]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WG969 202 AFS delivered to 207 AFS.				

Wednesday 3rd June 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ554 delivered from 27 MU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-40' Vampire T.11 WZ558 delivered from 27 MU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-39'				

Friday 5th June 1953 [AIR 29/2144]

		?		
Annual Inspection by AVM H Brookes [AOC 25 Gp] departed by air 6.6.53				

Monday 8th June 1953 [AB]

DE459	[127]	Tiger Moth	202 AFS	On loan from 33 MU, Lyneham
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DF112		Tiger Moth	202 AFS	On loan from 33 MU, Lyneham
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Tuesday 9th June 1953 [Logbook]

[WB426]	212	Firefly AS.6	812 NAS	Culbertson & Bromilow
To Eglinton.				

Wednesday 10th June 1953 [AIR 27/2656/57]

[TG504]	G	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	M/P Owen
Routed: Aldergrove-Valley-Pershore-Bovingdon-Lichfield-Warton-Aldergrove.				

Thursday 11th June 1953 [AIR 27/2597/36][AIR 27/2702/20][AIR 27/2448/72]

WE111	-	Canberra B.2	9 Sqn	S/L J C M Mountford
From and to Binbrook 12:40/16:40.				
WH653	-	Canberra B.2	50 Sqn	P/O J Bush
Queen's Birthday Flypast, from & to Binbrook.				
WJ975	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	F/L W K Wightman
WD948	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	F/O B W Scott
WD949	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	F/O J Kemp
The 101 Sqn aircraft diverted to Valley after participating in HM Queen's Birthday Flypast. WJ975 returned to Base same day.				

Friday 12th June 1953 [AIR 27/2448/72]

WD948	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	To Binbrook, see 11.6
WD949	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	To Binbrook, see 11.6
WD938	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	F/L Wightman from & to Binbrook

Monday 15th June 1953 [RAFM]

	K	Oxford	9 AFTS	Radford
From & to Wellsbourne Mountford.				

Thursday 18th June 1953 [Roundel 89-01][AIR 29/2146/1][AVIA 1/29]

RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	From & to Farnborough
Flew a local sortie for :30mins prior to departing.				
Based noted: Vampire FB.5 VZ279 202 AFS delivered to 208 AFS. Meteor T.7 WH182: -13 202 AFS delivered to 207 AFS.				

Friday 19th June 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ430:O-49 202 AFS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 24.6				

Saturday 20th June 1953 [AIR 27/2759/23]

VM363		Anson C.19	116 Sqn	F/S Cullingham calibrate BABS
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Sunday 21st June 1953 [AIR 27/2759/23]

VL349		Anson C.19	116 Sqn	F/S Cullingham calibrate BABS
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Monday 22nd June 1953 [AIR 27/2608/62]

NP156	VS-K	Proctor IV	31 Sqn	S/L [Farmer] from & to Hendon
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Tuesday 30th June 1953 [AIR 27/2620/53][AIR 27/2614/54][AIR 27/2638/60][AVIA 1/29][AIR 4/203][MB]

WH720	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	Diversion, F/L R D Shrivell
WH712	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	Diversion, F/L E N Scott
WH717	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	Diversion, S/L L Preddy
Weather diversions at night.				
RA668	P	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	Diversion, M/P H Harris 22:30
RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	From Farnborough
TG618		Hastings C.1	RAE	From & to Farnborough
WH121		Meteor T.7	207 AFS	P/O Westoby
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ510 delivered from 48 MU to 202 AFS				

July 1953 [AIR 27/2676/5]

		?x Vampire FB.5	613 Sqn	From Ringway
Conducted air-to-air firing from Valley, no specific dates or number of aircraft, only mentions eleven sorties most probably on a weekend.				

July 1953 [AIR 29/2144][AIR 28/1043]

202 AFS was now a purely Vampire based unit.				
RAF Hawarden ORB mentions two jet aircraft from Valley diverting to Hawarden due to weather, no specific dates in July though.				

Wednesday 1st July 1953 [AIR 27/2608/64][AIR 27/2600/57][AVIA 54/659][AIR 27/2614/56][AIR 27/2620/53][AIR 27/2638/60][AIR 27/2854/26][AVIA 1/29]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [I R Ryall flight 7]				
VP538	CB-V	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	F/S Wall
Routed: Hendon-Valley-Tiree-Turnhouse-Linton on Ouse.				
WJ974	-	Canberra B.2	15 Sqn	Diversion S/L J M Ayshford
Night diversion, landed 00:55. Departed back to Coningsby same day at 11:35.				
WH717	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 30.6
WH720	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 30.6
WH712	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 30.6
RA668	P	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 30.6
[TX]213		Anson C.19	527 Sqn	Sgt Evans

From Watton to calibrate Valley's radar and navigation aids, returned to Watton 4.7				
WD480		Hastings C.2	RAE	Flew 2 local sorties
RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	Flew 2 local sorties, see 30.6
VW218		Viking IA	RAE	From & to Farnborough

Thursday 2nd July 1953 [AIR 27/2608/64]

[NP333]	[VS-]	Proctor III	31 Sqn	S/L Neale & W/C Bayton
From Hendon to St Mawgan.				
WD480		Hastings C.2	RAE	Flew 2 local sorties, see 1.7
RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	Flew 2 local sorties, see 30.6

Friday 3rd July 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	To Farnborough
WD480		Hastings C.2	RAE	To Farnborough
VW218		Viking IA	RAE	From & to Farnborough

Monday 6th July 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WA738 [I R Ryall flight 168]				

Wednesday 8th July 1953 [AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [J O Mathews flight 32] Meteor T.7 WA738 [I R Ryall flight 171] WA738 Meteor T.7 photochase for WD743 [I R Ryall flight 172] Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 33]				

Thursday 9th July 1953 [AIR 29/2144][AVIA 54/659][MB]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [J O Mathews flight 34]				
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WA134		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Loss of control on approach to RAF Valley, crashed 6nms NE of Valley. Funeral held in Holyhead.				
Pilot	Lt	Georges Rahal [Lebanese]	Killed	
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Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ547:N-56 202 AFS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 11.7				

Friday 10th July 1953 [AIR 29/2144][AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [J O Mathews flight 35]				
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Meteor NF.11 WD743 [J O Mathews flight 36]				
		?	Queens Flt	
HM Queen & HRH Duke of Edinburgh flew in to start their State visit of N Wales.				

Saturday 11th July 1953 [AIR 27/2608/64]

PH759	CB-K	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	F/L Jackson from & to Hendon
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Wednesday 15th July 1953 [AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight37]				
Based noted: RAF Coronation Review static display at Odiham. Vampire T.11 WZ570:N-50 & WZ510 202 AFS Meteor T.7 WG983:P-29 202 AFS				

Thursday 16th July 1953 [AVIA 54/659][MB]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 11]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ550 delivered from 10 MU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-30'				

Friday 17th July 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 178]				

Tuesday 21st July 1953 [AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [I R Ryall flight 13] Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 14] Meteor T.7 WA738 [photochase] Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 179]				

Thursday 23rd July 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WA738 [J O Mathews flight 179]				

Friday 24th July 1953 [AIR 27/2608/64]

VM361	CB-O	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	S/L Farmer from & to Hendon
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Monday 27th July 1953 [AIR 29/2146/1][AVIA 1/29]

WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	From Farnborough
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VM360		Anson C.19	RAE	
Routed: Farnborough-Valley-West Freugh-Valley-Farnborough.				
Based noted: Meteor T.7 WF794 202 AFS delivered to 207 AFS.				

Tuesday 28th July 1953 [Roundel 88-01][AB 2014]

Based noted: Vampire F.1 TG303 202 AFS for Instructional use. Meteor T.7 WA736:O-26 202 AFS delivered to 215 AFS.				

Wednesday 29th July 1953 [AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [I R Ryall flight 16] Meteor NF.11 WD745 [I R Ryall flight 17]				
WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	Local sortie, see 27.7

Thursday 30th July 1953 [AIR 27/2888][AIR 29/2146/1]

WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	Local sortie, see 27.7
		?	HQ HCCS	S/L Doughty & F/L Willis
Three pax from White Waltham.				
Based noted: Meteor T.7 WF788 202 AFS delivered to 207 AFS.				

Friday 31st July 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	To Farnborough, see 27.7
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Monday 10th August 1953 [AVIA 1/29][MB]

RT690		Lancaster B.7	RAE	From & to Farnborough
WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	From Farnborough
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ506 delivered from 48 MU to 202 AFS becoming 'O-58' Vampire T.11 WZ553 delivered from 10 MU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-48'				

Tuesday 11th August 1953 [AIR 27/2650/64][AIR 29/2144]

WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	To Farnborough after a local sortie
RH763		Brigand Met.3	RAE	
Routed: Farnborough-Shawbury-Valley-Shawbury-Farnborough.				
WH713	-	Canberra B.2	149 Sqn	F/L Swettenham
Diversion from Coningsby arriving 23:59.				
		?		
AOC 25 Group, AVM H H Brookes visited, by air?				

Thursday 13th August 1953 [AIR 27/2650/64][AVIA 54/659][AIR 27/2614/58]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 41] Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 42] Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 43] Meteor T.7 WA738 [J O Mathews flight 185]				
WH857	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	Diversion, F/O P L Thwaytes
From and to Coningsby same day.				
WH713	-	Canberra B.2	149 Sqn	F/L Swettenham
To Coningsby at 15:39, see 11.8.				

Friday 14th August 1953 [AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 18] Meteor T.7 WA738 photochase [I R Ryall flight 187] Meteor T.7 WA738 [I R Ryall flight 188]				

Saturday 15th August 1953 [AIR 27/2620/57]

WJ977	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	Diversion, F/L M Crosbie
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Sunday 16th August 1953 [AIR 27/2614/58][AIR 27/2620/57]

WH717	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	Diversion, P/O P G Walker
Arrived from Coningsby at 00:13 and departed back there at 12:20.				
WJ977	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 15.8

Monday 17th August 1953 [AIR 27/2622/63][AVIA 1/29]

TJ124		Mosquito B.35	58 Sqn	F/L J Gingell
Cross-country, routed: Base-Kinloss-Portnahaven-Valley-Base, probably an overflight.				
WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	From Farnborough

Tuesday 18th August 1953 [AIR 27/2888][AVIA 1/29]

		?	HQ HCCS	M/P Wise & F/S Batch
Three pax from White Waltham.				
WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	2 local sorties, see 17.8
WF822		Meteor T.7	RAE	From & to Farnborough

Wednesday 19th August 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	Local sortie, see 17.8
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Thursday 20th August 1953 [BARG Roundel 6/89][AVAI 1/29]

NR677	[-]	Dominie I	RNARY	From Brawdy [based Belfast]
WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	Local sortie, see 17.8

Friday 21st August 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

RT690		Lancaster B.7	RAE	From & to Farnborough
WD947		Canberra B.2	RAE	To Farnborough

Saturday 22nd August 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ572:O-58 202 AFS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 49 MU from 22.8				

Monday 24th August 1953 [AIR 27/2857]

VP968	-	Devon C.1	FCCS	From & to Bovingdon
Visit of AM Sir Dermot Boyle.				

Tuesday 25th August 1953 [AIR 27/2620/57]

WJ575	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	F/L McCombie from Coningsby
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Wednesday 26th August 1953 [AIR 27/2857][AVIA 54/659][IBCCA]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 20] Meteor NF.11 WD743 [W/C A C Rawlinson flight 44]				
TG621	[A-B]	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	'TALENT' F/L Smith
Landed due to the first pilot being ill, departed later to Aldergrove.				
VP968	-	Devon C.1*	FCCS	From & to Bovingdon
*Visit of AM Sir Dermot Boyle.				

Thursday 27th August 1953 [AVIA 54/659][AIR 27/2656/61][MB]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [W/C A C Rawlinson flight 21]				
[TG622]	C	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	M/P Newman
Routed: Aldergrove-Kinloss-Leuchars-Valley-Aldergrove.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ430:O-49 repairs complete returned to 202 AFS, see 19.6.53				

Tuesday 1st September 1953 [AIR 27/2608/68]

PH759	CB-K	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	F/S Wall Hendon-Halton
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Thursday 3rd September 1953 [AIR 27/2608/68][AVIA 54/659][MB]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 46] Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 22]				
VL337	CB-J	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	S/L Neil Abingdon-Hendon
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ547:N-56 repairs complete back to 202 AFS, see 9.7.53				

Saturday 5th September 1953 [AIR 27/2656/63]

[TG622]	C	Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	F/L Shore from & to Aldergrove
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Monday 7th September 1953 [AIR 27/2854/30][AIR 29/2147]

RE291		Lincoln B.2	527 Sqn	Calibration, F/O Steed
-				
WA274		Vampire FB.5	208 AFS	
Experienced partial power failure after taking off from Valley. Long range fuel tanks were jettisoned but the aircraft made a heavy landing, under repair.				
	P/O	A M Seeley	Ok	

Wednesday 9th September 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ607 delivered from 10 MU to 202 AFS becoming 'N-56'				

Thursday 10th September 1953 [AIR 27/2608/68][AIR 27/2759/29][AVIA 54/659][MB]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 47] Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 23]				
TX177	CB-F	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	W/C Farmer from & to Hendon
RE311		Lincoln B.2	116 Sqn	F/S Arbury, calibrate HF
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ430:O-49 202 AFS delivered to 233 OCU.				

Friday 11th September 1953 [AIR 29/2146/1][AB 2014]

Based noted: Meteor T.7 WA632 202 AFS delivered to 207 AFS.				

Saturday 12th/13th September 1953 [AIR 27/2676/5]

		?x Vampire FB.5	613 Sqn	From Ringway
Air-to-air firing, twenty-six sorties flown. [see also July 1953 for possible serials]				

Monday 14th September 1953 [AIR 27/2608/68]

WG316		Chipmunk T.10	31 Sqn	S/L Neil from & to Hendon
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Thursday 17th September 1953 [AIR 27/2888]

		?	HQ HCCS	F/L Wood & F/O Cooper
One pax from White Waltham.				

Saturday 19th September 1953 [DW][AIR 27/2644/66][AIR 29/2144][AIR 27/2681/3][DP]

RAF Valley Battle of Britain Open Day. Approx. 3,000 attended. No photography allowed cameras to be left at the Guardroom.				
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High winds and heavy rain most of the day!
A Bofors gun was set up near the 01 threshold firing at a target towed by a Beaufighter.
The gun was from the Royal Artillery at Tonfannau.

Souvenir Programme

Price One Shilling



BATTLE OF BRITAIN, 1940



Royal Air Force

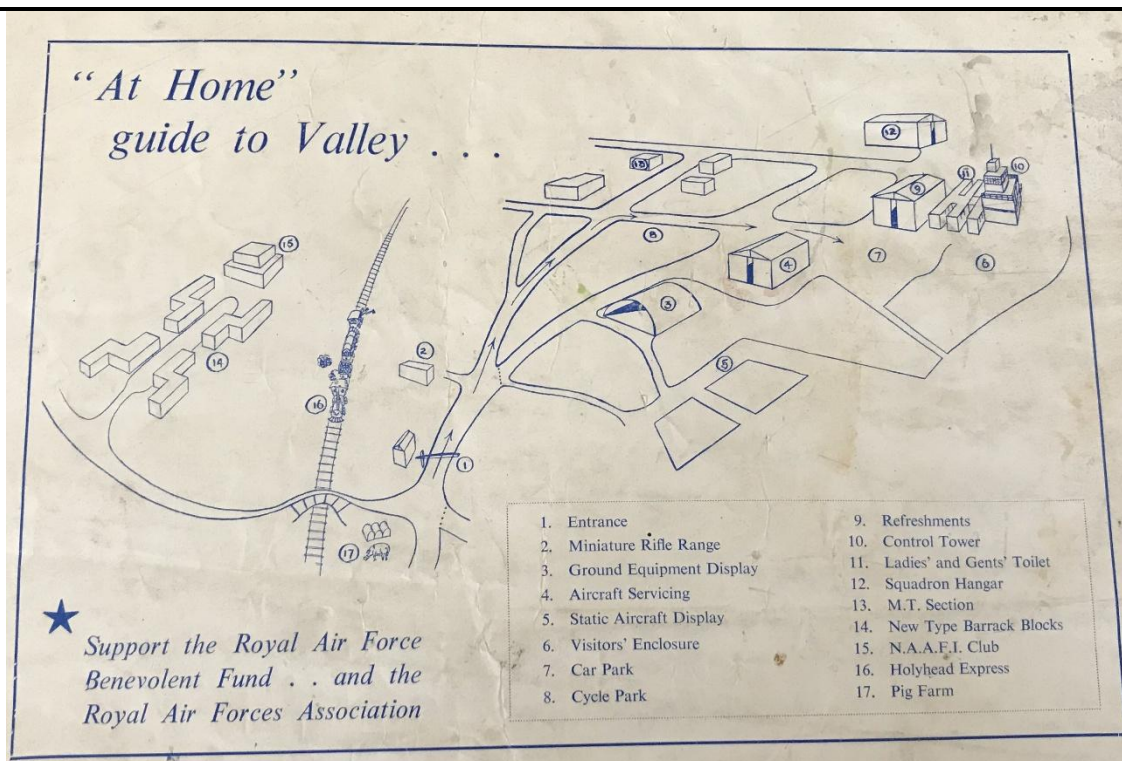
“AT HOME”

Saturday, 19th September, 1953

2 p.m. till 6 p.m.



All Proceeds go to Air Force Charities



[Dick Thomas Collection]

WF499	[B]	Washington B.1	115 Sqn	F/L J B Cowton 09:52/16:58.
		Varsity T.1		
		Balliol		
		Chipmunk T.10	LUAS	Liverpool UAS
		Auster		
		Prentice T.1		
		Provost T.1		
		Harvard		
		Valetta		
		Fulmar		
		Spitfire		
		Sea Fury		
		Firefly		
		Meteor F.8		
		Canberra		
		Vampire T.11	[202 AFS]	
		Vampire FB.5	[202 AFS]	
		Oxford		
		Tiger Moth		
Flying display 15:00-16:15				
		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	Aerobatic Team F/L W Evans
		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	Aerobatic Team F/L D Barber
		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	Aerobatic Team F/O M Dobson
		Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	Aerobatic Team M/P V Sznepka

		4x Vampire T.11		
		3x Varsity T.1		Formation flypast
		Sunderland		Flypast from Pembroke Dock
		Beaufighter		[from Hawarden possibly]
		Attacker FB.	1831 NAS	Aerobatics from Stretton
		Balliol		Aerobatics
		Rapide	Dragon	
The Rapide carried out pleasure flights.				
A Tiger Moth closed the Airshow with 'guess the height' runs over the Airfield.				

Tuesday 22nd September 1953 [AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 24] Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 48]				

Wednesday 23rd September 1953 [AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 [I R Ryall flight 21]				

Thursday 24th September 1953 [AIR 27/2608/68][AVIA 54/659]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 25] Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall flight 49] Meteor NF.11 WD744 [I R Ryall flight 22]				
VS737	[M-C]	Prentice T.1	31 Sqn	S/L Neil from & to Hendon

Monday 28th September 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ547:N-56 202 AFS delivered to CFS. Vampire T.11 WZ570:N-50 202 AFS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 28.9				

Tuesday 29th September 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

VM360		Anson C.19	RAE	
Routed: Farnborough-Valley-Pembrey-Valley-Farnborough.				

Saturday 3rd October 1953

G/C G D Garvin assumes command of the Station.				

Saturday 17th/18th October 1953 [AIR 27/2676/5][AIR 29/2144]

		?x Vampire FB.5	613 Sqn	From Ringway
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Air-to-air firing.				
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Monday 19th October 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	From Farnborough
Flew 2 local sorties PM.				

Tuesday 20th October 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	Flew a local sortie, see 19.10
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Wednesday 21st October 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 VW414 [I R Ryall flight 339]				
RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	Flew a local sortie, see 19.10

Thursday 22nd October 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	Flew a local sortie, see 19.10
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Saturday 24th October 1953 [AIR 27/2676/5][AIR 29/2144][AIR 27/2656/65][AIR 27/2638/68][AVIA 1/29]

RF530		Lincoln B.2	RAE	To Farnborough
Flew a local sortie before departing.				
VX541		Valetta C.1	RAE	
Routed: Farnborough-Llanbedr-Valley-Llanbedr-Farnborough.				
RA693	C	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	F/S Szuwalski from & to Hemswell
		?x Vampire FB.5	613 Sqn	From Ringway
Air-to-air firing, sixteen sorties but curtailed due to the accident below. Also 25.10				
-				
VV226	O-48	Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Crashed off the Skerries after his engine failed whilst conducting aerobatics. Body was never recovered. Hastings Met.1 '....:A' 202 Sqn was also involved in the search.				
Pilot	P/O	Peter Edwin Bancroft		Killed

Sunday 25th October 1953 [AIR 29/2144][AIR 27/2593/64][AIR 27/2649/68][AIR 27/2624/68][AIR 27/2638/68]

		?		
AOC-in-C Bomber Command, AM A G Mills visited in conjunction with the Escape & Evasion Exercise 'Hunters Moon' This involved 100 Bomber Command & USAF aircrew attempting to reach Valley which was simulated neutral territory from their drop off points N and S of Shrewsbury, 5 succeeded, the rest were captured.				
RE348		Lincoln B.2	7 Sqn	F/S [J E Sowerby]
From Upwood to Coningsby 14:30/16:00				
RF565		Lincoln B.2	148 Sqn	P/O B Waddington
From Mildenhall to Upwood 15:05/16:20. Part of Exercise 'Hunters Moon'				
SX978		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Sgt Spittle from & to Wittering

RA687		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	F/L Hutchinson from Wittering
RA665	F	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	S/L J J Barr from & to Hemswell
RA693	C	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	Capt F Hamilton from Hemswell

Wednesday 28th October 1953 [AIR 27/2759/31]

RE311		Lincoln B.2	116 Sqn	F/O Stead calibrate BABS
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Thursday 29th October 1953 [AB]

DE459		Tiger Moth	202 AFS	Delivered to 9 MU, Cosford
DF112		Tiger Moth	202 AFS	Delivered to 9 MU, Cosford

November 1953 [AIR 29/2144]

		Varsity T.1	[201 AFS]	Diversions from Swinderby
Greatly increased number of diversions in November, the above were the most common.				

Tuesday 3rd November 1953 [AIR 27/2857]

VM367	[60]	Anson C.19	FCCS	From & to Bovingdon
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Thursday 5th November 1953 [AIR 27/2650/70][AIR 27/2600/67][AIR 27/2620/63]

WJ570	-	Canberra B.2	149 Sqn	F/L Swettenham
Diversion from Coningsby arriving 13:06.				
WH724	-	Canberra B.2	15 Sqn	F/O Chambers
From & to Coningsby.				
WH720	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	Diversion, F/L R D Shrivell
WH859	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	Diversion, P/O G A Stalker

Friday 6th November 1953 [AIR 27/2599/73][AIR 27/2620/63]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 photochase [I R Ryall flight 212] Vickers Armstrong Red Dean missile trials. Canberra B.2 [WD956] [P 'Spud' Murphy] On firing the Red Dean missile, it refused to leave the launcher, the Canberra then 'flipped inverted with both engines flaming out, it then started descending rapidly. At 12,000ft control was retained and the engines relit, the aircraft then landed at Valley. [Jack de Coninck recollection]				
[WD956]	-	Canberra B.2	Vickers	P Murphy, see above
WH659	-	Canberra B.2	9 Sqn	F/L D L Attlee
WH720	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 5.11
WH859	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 5.11

Monday 9th November 1953 [AIR 27/2600/67][AIR 27/2448/82]

WJ972	-	Canberra B.2	149 Sqn	F/L R Mather
From & to Coningsby.				
WJ610	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	Diversion, F/L G F G Dakyns

WJ611	-	Canberra B.2	101 Sqn	Diversion, F/O J H G Upton
Both 101 Sqn aircraft departed back to their base Binbrook the same day.				

Thursday 12th November 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

VX541		Valetta C.1	RAE	From & to Farnborough
WJ150		Firefly [U.8]	RAE	From Farnborough

Friday 13th November 1953 [AVIA 1/29]

WJ150		Firefly [U.8]	RAE	To Llanbedr, see 12.11
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Tuesday 17th November 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 VW414 [I R Ryall flight 342]				

Wednesday 18th November 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 213]				

Thursday 19th November 1953 [AIR 29/2144]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 215]				
		?		
AOC-in-C, AM L F Pendred visited.				

Friday 20th November 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 216]				

Monday 23rd November 1953 [AIR 27/2624/70]

SX984		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Diversion, F/L M Waight
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Tuesday 24th November 1953 [AVIA 1/30]

WK660		Meteor F.8	RAE	From Farnborough
Also flew a local sortie.				

Wednesday 25th November 1953 [AIR 27/2624/70][AVIA 1/30]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 217]				
RF555		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	F/L K Lang from & to Wittering
WK660		Meteor F.8	RAE	Flew a local sortie, see 24.11

Saturday 28th November 1953 [AIR 27/2624/70][AVIA 1/30]

SX986		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Sgt R Spittle from & to Wittering
SX984		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	P/O J Ross to Wittering
Assume SX986 brought in a crew to fly SX984 back to base, see 23.11				
WK660		Meteor F.8	RAE	To Farnborough, see 24.11

Tuesday 1st December 1953 [F&F]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 VW414 [missile firing trials] Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 220]				

Wednesday 2nd December 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 221]				

Friday 4th December 1953 [AIR 27/2593/68][IBCCA][AIR 29/2147][MB]

RE400		Lincoln B.2	7 Sqn	Diversion, F/O M Ride
WF667		Varsity T.1	1 ANS	Diversion, F/L E Stewart
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD382 XD385 delivered from 208 AFS to Valley. [their respective F78's say 206 AFS though]				

Saturday 5th December 1953 [AIR 27/2593/68][AIR 27/2649/72][IBCCA]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 223]				
RE400		Lincoln B.2	7 Sqn	To Upwood, see 4.12
SX983		Lincoln B.2	148 Sqn	F/O R Verdon-Roe from Stretton
WF667		Varsity T.1*	1 ANS	See 4.12
*To Hullavington but diverted to Shawbury.				

Monday 7th December 1953 [AIR 27/2649/72][AIR 27/2665/54]

SX983		Lincoln B.2	148 Sqn	To Upwood, see 5.12
WB831	T-Q	Shackleton MR.1	220 Sqn	Diversion S/L Cornish
Diverted whilst enroute Gibraltar-St Eval.				

Tuesday 8th December 1953 [AIR 27/2614/66][AIR 27/2620/65][AIR 27/2665/54]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 224]				
WH714	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	Diversion, P/O D K S Ross
WJ574	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	Diversion, F/L J D Beech
WH712	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	Diversion, F/O J F Goodall
WB831	T-Q	Shackleton MR.1	220 Sqn	To St Eval, see 7.12

Wednesday 9th December 1953 [AIR 27/2614/66][AIR 27/2620/65]

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [I R Ryall flight 225]				
WH714	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 8.12
WJ574	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 8.12
WH712	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 8.12

Thursday 10th December 1953 [AIR 27/2607/1]

	-	Valetta C.[1]	30 Sqn	F/L D'Oliviera
Departed Dishforth 8.12 and routed: Benson-Buckeburg-Wildenrath-St Eval-Valley-Ouston-Dishforth.				

Friday 11th December 1953

WA459	N-20	Vampire FB.5	202 AFS	
Engine failed after take-off, force landed 4.5nms SE of RAF Valley and burnt out.				
Pilot	P/O	Bradshaw	Ok	

Saturday 12th December 1953 [AIR 27/2644/72][AIR 27/2676/5]

		?x Vampire FB.5	613 Sqn	From Manchester Ringway
Air-to-air firing on 12/13.12, 27 sorties altogether.				
HN696		Oxford I	115 Sqn	F/O P A Daniel
Routed: Valley-Castle Bromwich 11:04/12:56.				

Monday 14th December 1953

Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [F/L C H Sloan flight 226] Meteor T.7 WF781 [F/L C H Sloan flight 227]				

Tuesday 15th December 1953 [AVIA 1/30][AIR 29/2147]

WD931		Canberra B.2	RAE	From Farnborough
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD384 XD386 XD387 delivered to Valley from 208 AFS. [their F78's though say 206 AFS]				

Wednesday 16th December 1953 [AVIA 1/30]

WD931		Canberra B.2	RAE	To Farnborough
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Thursday 17th December 1953 [AIR 27/2692/10][AIR 27/2741/8][AIR 27/2609/56][IBCCA][AIR 27/2638/72][AIR 27/2642/46][AIR 27/2827/46]

WH866	-	Canberra B.2	18 Sqn	P/O R W Loader
WJ978	-	Canberra B.2	18 Sqn	F/L R E Abbott
WJ979	-	Canberra B.2	18 Sqn	F/L P J Clifton

18 Sqn cross country NAVEX's from Scampton.				
WH878	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	Diversion, F/L R A Mann
WJ715	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	Diversion, F/L M Crosbie
WJ578	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	Diversion, F/L H N Scott
WH878 departed back to Scampton but returned to Valley. All the 21 Sqn aircraft departed back to Scampton 18.12				
WF572	[N]	Washington B.1	35 Sqn	Diversion, F/L E Jackson
Operation 'Skyscraper' Marham-Lyons-Gibraltar-Cap Finisterre-Marham, diverted to Valley. Returned same day to Marham.				
RF360	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/O Bishop
WD131	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/S Nash
RF388	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/O Goodenough
WD126	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/S Timewell
SX945	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/L MacGillivray
WD122	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/S Nicholson diversion
The 199 Sqn aircraft were on a 11 Group Radio Counter Measures demonstration. Probably connected with Ty Croes gunnery range.				
RA665	F	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	Diversion, P/O D Entwistle
WF915	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	Diversion, F/S J R Foster

Friday 18th December 1953 [IBCCA][AIR 27/2642/46][AIR 27/2827/46]

WF915	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.12
RF360	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	
WD131	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	
RF388	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	
WD126	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	
SX945	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	
WD122	-	Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	
All the 199 Sqn aircraft departed back to Hemswell.				

Monday 21st December 1953 [AIR 27/2638/72]

RA669	Y	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	Sgt G Smith from & to Hemswell
RA665	F	Lincoln B.2	97 Sqn	To Hemswell, see 17.12

Tuesday 29th December 1953 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ572:O-58 repairs complete back to 202 AFS, see 22.8.53				

Wednesday 30th December 1953 [AIR 27/2624/72]

RE407		Lincoln B.2	61 Sqn	Sgt Myers from & to Wittering
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Thursday 31st December 1953 [AIR 27/2608/74][AIR 4/180]

TX217	CB-M	Anson C.19	31 Sqn	W/C Fleming from & to Hendon
	O	Anson T.21	3 ANS	F/L J Austin
Routed: Base-Woodvale-Valley-Base.				