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RAF Valley

Aircraft Movements

1956

CREDITS:

Air Historical Branch/International Bomber Command Centre
Archive/National Archives/Mike Bursell/Jack de Coninck papers
Andy Copeland papers/Mike Cotton papers/Trevor Dockerill papers
David Forster/Brian Jones/Steve Kelly/Graeme Pickering
Dennis Pritchard/Tudor Rowlands/Dick Thomas/Ulster Mail

UPDATE V2

Airshow Flying Programme front cover.
240 Sqn movements.

SUMMARY

The 22 Sqn detachment gained a second Whirlwind during January.
The 6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials continued.

A short Pathe film can be seen on Youtube, filmed at Valley, search:
Britain's Guided Missile [1956]

Abbreviations

A&AEE	Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment
BABS	Blind Approach Beam System
FTS	Flying Training School
Gp	Group
HQ	Headquarters
HQ HCCS	Headquarters Home Command Communications Squadron

JSTU	Joint Services Trials Unit
Lt	Lieutenant [RN rank]
MCS	Metropolitan Communications Squadron
MCCS	Maintenance Command Communications Squadron
Mid	Midshipman [Royal Navy rank]
NAS	Naval Air Squadron
OCU	Operational Conversion Unit
RRE	Royal Research Establishment
S/Lt	Sub-Lieutenant [Royal Navy rank]
Sqn	Squadron
THUM	Temperature & Humidity Flight [based at Woodvale]

January 1956 [AIR 27/2769/3]

There were 5 days during January when 22 Sqn had to keep the helicopter inside the hangar due to high winds.

Monday 2nd January 1956 [AIR 27/2698/54][AIR 27/2769/4]

WJ632	-	Canberra B.2	40 Sqn	PD, F/O Nunez.
-				
XJ432		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P Park
Search for Vampire aircraft wreckage conducted, see 31.12.55				

Tuesday 3rd January 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD595 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 3.1				

Friday 6th January 1956 [AIR 29/2699][MB]

		?		
AOC 18 Group, AVM P D Cracroft visited 1113MCU, by air?				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD437 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 25.11.55				

Monday 9th January 1956 [AIR 27/2769/3][MB]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2*	22 Sqn	Delivery, M/P A W Master
*This was the 2 nd aircraft delivered from Thorney Island for C Flight/22 Sqn.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD431 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by DH/Marshalls from 16.1 [XD431 was re-assessed as CAT.4R 21.3.56 and after repairs was delivered to 19 MU 8.1.57]				

Tuesday 10th January 1956 [AIR 27/2775/3]

WH719	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	PD F/O Beeson
WH867	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	PD F/L Veale
WH707	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	PD F/O Watkins

Thursday 12th January 1956 [AIR 27/2698/54][MB]

WJ629	-	Canberra B.2	40 Sqn	Diversion from Wittering F/O Blofeld
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD443 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 16.12.55				

Friday 13th January 1956 [AIR 27/2698/54]

6 JSTU Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 [S/L B J Spragg]				
WJ629	-	Canberra B.2	40 Sqn	To Wittering, see 12.1.
Based noted: Vampire T.11 [WZ504]:73 7 FTS from Swinderby.				

Saturday 14th January 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

		Anson*	HCF	
		Anson*	HCF	
*Hawarden Communications Flight, flew ATC Cadets over the weekend.				

Monday 16th January 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [F/L B A W Stobart flight 454]				

Tuesday 17th January 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 [F/L B A W Stobart] Meteor T.7 WA738 [F/L R Ramirez flight 431]				

Wednesday 18th January 1956 [AIR 27/2854/85]

WK144		Canberra B.2*	527 Sqn	F/S Butter
*BABS calibration, from and to Watton.				

Friday 20th January 1956 [AIR 27/2888]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 missile firing [F/L B A W Stobart]				
		?	HQ HCCS	F/S Stapleton & Blythe
From White Waltham to Shawbury with aircraft spares?				

Saturday 21st January 1956 [AIR 27/2888]

		?	HQ HCCS	F/S Stapleton & Blythe
4 passengers to Valley and Cosford.				

Monday 23rd January 1956 [MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [F/L B A W Stobart]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD596:66 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 21.12.55				

Wednesday 25th January 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WA738 [I R Ryall flight 433]				

Thursday 26th January 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [F/L R Ramirez]				

Friday 27th January 1956 [AIR 27/2759/86][AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2700][AIR 27/2769/3][MB]

WF383	[F]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Guthrie to calibrate BABS
		?		
48 RN Course graduation attended by Maj Gen J L Moulton RM, by air.				
-				
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Started up for a Balliol aircraft which had declared an emergency, the Balliol landed safely at Woodvale and the helicopter shutdown.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD457:61 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 31.1				

Monday 30th January 1956 [AIR 27/2775/3]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WA738 [I R Ryall flight 434]				
WH856	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	Diversion from & to Honington

Tuesday 31st January 1956 [MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WA738 [I R Ryall flight 435]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD426 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 31.1				

Thursday 2nd February 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2842/28][MB]

WG803	[17]	Vampire FB.5*	7 FTS	
*Crashed into the Sea off Cemaes Bay, Anglesey at 12:30hrs during aerobatic practice. Presumed Pilot lost control and failed to eject. The Rescue Whirlwind HAR.2 XJ725 22 Sqn [F/L Gumbrell] on 6.2.56 sighted a large oil slick which was investigated by 1113 MCU, this				

was later confirmed when wreckage was washed up on the adjacent shoreline. Neptune MR.1 WX509 217 Sqn [F/O P J Burridge] participated in the search on 3.2 but did not land at Valley. His body was washed ashore in Caernarfon Bay 2 days later according to Mike Cotton.

Pilot	Mid	Michael Herbert Burns [RN]	Killed
-			

Based noted:

Vampire T.11 XD595 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 3.1.56

Monday 6th February 1956 [AIR 27/2719/76][AIR 27/2744/4]

WD965	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	F/O J W Allen from Honington
WH667	-	Canberra B.2*	10 Sqn	P/O E R Carlick
WK127	-	Canberra B.2*	10 Sqn	F/O B J Warwick
*WK127 & WH667 departed 7.2 and WD965 possibly 9.2?				
WH729	-	Canberra B.2	27 Sqn	Diversion, M/P K Johnstone
WJ572	-	Canberra B.2	27 Sqn	Diversion, F/O B D Winkworth
Both 27 Sqn aircraft were from Waddington, departed back to Waddington 7.2				

Wednesday 8th February 1956 [AIR 27/2740/5]

WJ977	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	F/L Bowden to Waddington
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Thursday 9th February 1956 [AIR 27/2888]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [F/L B A W Stobart]				
		?	HQ HCCS	M/P Slow & F/S Gustin
1 passenger to Valley and 1 pax to Llanbedr.				

Friday 10th February 1956 [AIR 27/2744/4]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [I R Ryall]				
WH733	-	Canberra B.2	27 Sqn	Diversion, S/L P W Helmore.
Based noted: Vampire T.11 [XE853]:59 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] air test.				

Saturday 11th February 1956 [logbook]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 :46 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] air test.				

Monday 13th February 1956 [RAFM]

VL312		Anson C.19		P/O Williams
To & from West Freugh.				

Tuesday 14th February 1956 [MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [F/L B A W Stobart]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD597 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 14.12.55				

Thursday 16th February 1956 [MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 [I R Ryall] Meteor NF.11 WD744 [I R Ryall]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD457:61 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 27.1.56				

Friday 17th February 1956 [AIR 27/2698/56][AIR 27/2830/30][AIR 27/2769/5]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall] Meteor NF.11 WD744 [F/L R Ramirez, see below]				
WD744	-	Meteor NF.11	6 JSTU	To Cranfield F/L Ramirez
WH882	-	Canberra B.2	40 Sqn	Diversion from Wittering F/O Blofeld
WJ641	-	Canberra B.2	40 Sqn	Diversion from Wittering F/O Nuez
WX523	O	Neptune MR.1*	203 Sqn	From & to Topcliffe, AVM Tuttle
*AOC 19 Group, AVM G W Tuttle visited 22 Sqn to conduct an inspection, see above.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 [XD526]:42 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] to Woodvale. Vampire FB.5 [WG843]:26 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] from Woodvale.				

Saturday 18th February 1956 [AIR 27/2698/56]

WH882	-	Canberra B.2	40 Sqn	To Wittering, see 17.2
WJ641	-	Canberra B.2	40 Sqn	To Wittering, see 17.2

Wednesday 22nd February 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WA738 [J O Mathews flight 436]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 [WZ504]:73 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] air test.				

Thursday 23rd February 1956 [AIR 27/2759/88][Roundel 78-07][MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [F/L Ramirez flight 466] Meteor T.7 WF781 [F/L R Ramirez flight 468] Flight '468 involved air-to-air photography of the Fairey FD.2 aircraft.				
WL688	[G]	Varsity T.1*	116 Sqn	F/S Guthrie calibrate BABS

*Also listed as being on strength of 527 Sqn?

Based noted:

Vampire T.11 XD533 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 15.12.55

Friday 24th February 1956 [GP/UM]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WA738 [F/L B A W Stobart]				
XJ322		Sea Devon C.20	781 NAS	To Sydenham

Monday 27th February 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2700]

Three Officers of the newly re-formed Luftwaffe [West German Air Force] arrived for a full Vampire Course having completed their basic flying training on the Provost T.1 at 3 FTS, RAF Feltwell.

Oberst Herbert Wehnelt [36 victories in WW2]

Maj Gerd Barkhorn [301 victories in WW2]

Maj Walter Krupinski [197 victories in WW2]



This is Walter Kuprinski [right] with an RAF Officer [F/L L Francis] sat on the wing of a 7 FTS Vampire T.11 which might possibly be XD404:52. See also 8.3.56!

[National Archives]

Tuesday 28th February 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

		Vampire	7 FTS	
Swung off the runway on landing after a double tyre burst.				
Pilot	F/L	D Mee	Ok	

Wednesday 29th February 1956 [GP/UM][MB]

WD402		Anson T.21	A&AEE	To Sydenham
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD426 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 31.1.56				

March 1956 [AIR 27/2712/1]

		?x Meteor F.8*	601 Sqn	From North Weald
*Night reinforcement sorties, no specific dates but probably a weekend and no numbers.				

Friday 2nd March 1956 [AIR 27/2888][MB]

		?	HQ HCCS	M/P Slow & F/S Gustin
One passenger to Warton and 2 passengers to Valley.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD425 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 7.3 Vampire T.11 XD463 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 8.3				

Saturday 3rd March 1956 [AIR 27/2744/6]

WH730	-	Canberra B.2*	27 Sqn	Diversion, F/O B Heywood
*From Waddington, departed 4.3				
-				
WA415	[36]	Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	
Brake failure on landing at RAF Valley 10:08hrs. Undercarriage selected up to stop the aircraft.				
Pilot	S/Lt	J C Rose [RN]	Ok	

Monday 5th March 1956 [AIR 27/2759/90][AIR 27/2769/7]

WL622	[R]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Guthrie calibrate GCA
Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.2 XJ432 C Flt/22 Sqn to Thorney Island for minor inspection [F/S Walker]				

Wednesday 7th March 1956 [BT 233/337][MB]

Based noted: Vampire FB.5 VV601 1 Sqn/7 FTS delivery from 5 MU Kemble, see 19.4.56 Vampire FB.5 VZ808 from 5 MU for 7 FTS.				

Thursday 8th March 1956 [AIR 29/2699][MB]

VZ874	[19]	Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	
Landed in the undershoot with the undercarriage retracted, sustained minor damage.				
Pilot	Maj	Walter Krupinski	Ok [Luftwaffe/West German AF]	
-				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD525 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 15.12.55				

Saturday 10th March 1956

WB562		Chipmunk T.10		W/C Kelsey local flying
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Monday 12th March 1956 [AIR 27/2759/90]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [F/L B A W Stobart] Meteor T.7 WF781 [F/L B A W Stobart]				
WF383	[F]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Watkins-Baker calibrate ACR7C
Based noted: Vampire FB.5 [WA369]:32 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] to & from Manby.				

Tuesday 13th March 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2775/3][MB]

WH717	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	'MISCHIEF KILO'
Aircraft was engaged on a practice diversion and was conducting an asymmetric approach. The pilot retracted the undercarriage after losing control and slid off the runway into the rough at 13:10. It must have been repaired as it subsequently crashed on take-off from RAF Watton 1.5.57				
Pilot	F/O	R Goldring	Ok	
Nav	F/L	K Tabor	Ok	
-				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD430 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 29.11.55 Vampire T.11 :66 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] to North Luffenham.				

Wednesday 14th March 1956 [AIR 27/2769/7]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Flew AMWD [Air Ministry Works Department] personnel to Starvation Point to work on the runway approach lighting.				

Thursday 15th March 1956 [AIR 27/2760/30][AIR 27/2769/7]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 2 missile firings [J O Mathews]				
WB853	A-E	Shackleton MR.1	120 Sqn	PD, S/L N L Bottome
VP262	A-D	Shackleton GR.1	120 Sqn	PD, P/O K H Wilson
Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.2 XJ432 C Flt/22 Sqn from Thorney Island, see 5.3				

Friday 16th March 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

		?		
AOC Flying Training Command, AM R L R Atcherley visited 22 Sqn, by air?				

Monday 19th March 1956 [AIR 27/2769/7][GP][AIR 27/2740/7]

WJ723	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	Diversion N/stop F/O Boyce 21:30
WJ625	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	Diversion N/stop M/P Harries 20:45
-				
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L Gumbrell
Flew to west Kirby to inspect the Hospital landing grounds.				

Tuesday 20th March 1956 [GP/UM][AIR 29/2699]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [F/L B A W Stobart]				
WJ723	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	To Waddington 18:55
WJ625	-	Canberra B.2	21 Sqn	To Waddington 14:10
NR669	909:BY	Dominie I	Brawdy SF	To Sydenham, Station Flight
		DH.89A Rapide*	FFCo	Federated Fruit Co. Liverpool
*Diverted in with an unserviceable radio whilst enroute Dublin-Liverpool with a cargo of mushrooms. Cleared Customs and departed to Liverpool 21.3.56, at the time the Company operated two Rapides, G-AIBB & G-ANZP.				

Wednesday 21st March 1956 [AIR 27/2813/30]

WJ986	-	Canberra B.2	115 Sqn	PD, F/O D J Cox
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Thursday 22nd March 1956 [AIR 27/2759/90][AIR 27/2813/30]

WL622	[R]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Egan, calibrate GCA & ACR7C
WF887	-	Canberra B.2	115 Sqn	PD, F/O M K Adams

Friday 23rd March 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

WD745	-	Meteor NF.11	6 JSTU	To Cranfield F/L Stobart
WR966	[G-C]	Shackleton MR.2	JASS	F/L Freeborn to Tangmere
-				
WA194	[18]	Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	
Wheels up landing on Runway 14 at Valley, unable to lower the undercarriage. Repaired and returned to service.				
Pilot	Lt	Smith [RN]		Ok

Sunday 25th March 1956 [AIR 27/2769/7]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Report of 3 white smoke floats and a red very 050degs/5nms off Point Lynas, on arrival nothing seen. Later, the SMO was flown into the local mountains to attend to a person involved in a climbing accident.				

Monday 26th March 1956 [AIR 27/2807/32][AIR 27/2769/7][MB]

WH955	-	Canberra B.6*	101 Sqn	Diversion, F/L D Mountford
WJ762	-	Canberra B.6*	101 Sqn	Diversion, F/L J K Underwood
WH965	-	Canberra B.6*	101 Sqn	Diversion, P/O Bull
*All diversions from Binbrook, departed 27.3				
-				
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L Gumbrell
Flew the Station Commander, G/C T S Rivett-Carnac to West Kirby Hospital.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD434 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 26.3				

Tuesday 27th March 1956 [GP/UM][AIR 27/2759/90][AIR 27/2719/78][IBCCA][MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 firing [S/L B J Spragg]				
WZ414		Vampire T.11	A&AEE	To Sydenham-Boscombe Down
WL622	[R]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Pratt calibrate BABS
WH666	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	F/O T Hurrell from & to Honington
VM336		Anson C.19*	HQ 18 Gp	F/S Woodley
*Routed: Donibristle-Valley-Jurby-Prestwick, diverted from Leuchars.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD425 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 2.3.56				

Wednesday 28th March 1956 [AIR 27/2769/7]

WD745	-	Meteor NF.11	6 JSTU	To Cranfield J O Mathews
-				
		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	
Demonstration with the Valley MRT in Snowdonia for the Press.				

Thursday 29th March 1956 [GP/UM][Roundel 77-09][AIR 27/2769/7]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2*	22 Sqn	From Thorney Island
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2*	22 Sqn	To Thorney Island
*Aircraft change over.				
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Scrambled to assist a Meteor aircraft which was short of fuel and attempting to land at Ronaldsway, IoM. The Meteor landed safely at Bishops Court, N Ireland.				
Based noted: Dominie X7341 7 FTS visited Belfast Sydenham. Anson C.19 TX209 7 FTS to Sydenham.				

Friday 30th March 1956 [AIR 27/2769/7]

		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	
Scrambled for a Civil Airliner flying on 3 engines, cancelled almost immediately as the aircraft was safely over the Wallasey [WAL] beacon.				

Monday 2nd April 1956 [AIR 27/2769/9]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P Hill
Diverted from a training detail to 2 people stranded on rocks near Barrow-in-Furness, on arrival the people had already been rescued by boat.				

Wednesday 4th April 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ494 delivered from 22 MU to 7 FTS.				

Thursday 5th April 1956 [AIR 27/2769/9][MB]

WF781	-	Meteor T.7	6 JSTU	To & from Cranfield F/L Ramirez
-				
		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	
To Hawarden to carry out a ground standby for a Royal Flight.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD595 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 9.4				

Friday 6th April 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 2 missile firings [F/L R Ramirez] Meteor NF.11 WD743 missile firing [S/L B J Spragg]				

Wednesday 11th April 1956 [AIR 27/2889/161]

VS578	[CB-Z]	Anson T.21*	MCS	F/O Evans
*From Northolt with AM Sir C E N Guest, Inspector General.				

Thursday 12th April 1956 [AIR 29/2699][MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 2 missile firings [F/L B A W Stobart]				
		?		
Visit by AOC, AVM H A Constantine, by air?				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 WZ496 delivered from 12 MU to 7 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD397:53 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications. Vampire T.11 XD457:61 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then CFS.				

Friday 13th April 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/9][MB]

		?		
Visit by Inspector General of the RAF, AM Sir C E N Guest, by air? Departed 14.4, visited 22 Sqn.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD434 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 26.3.56 Vampire T.11 XD463 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 2.3.56 Vampire T.11 XH303 from 27 MU to 7 FTS becoming '53'				

Saturday 14th April 1956 [BT 233/337][MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD456:60 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 17.4 Vampire FB.5 VV601:14 1 Sqn/7 FTS to Lossiemouth [F/O R A Whyte]				

Monday 16th April 1956 [BT 233/337]

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Based noted: Vampire FB.5 VV601:14 1 Sqn/7 FTS from Lossiemouth [F/O R A Whyte] see 14.4

Tuesday 17th April 1956 [MB][AIR 28/1043]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 495]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD404 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 34 MU from 18.4 RAF Hawarden ORB mentions a Valley Vampire with an engine flame out & fire diverting to Hawarden, landed safely at 14:40. The engine cowlings were badly blistered from the effects of the fire. Same aircraft possibly ?				

Wednesday 18th April 1956

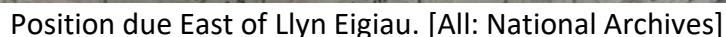
6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [J O Mathews flight 238]				

Thursday 19th April 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2806/32][BT 233/337][AVIA 5/34/S2818]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 496]				
WH796	-	Canberra PR.7	100 Sqn	From & to Wittering, F/L D Delaney
-				
VV601	14	Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	'FOXTROT OSCAR'
The pilot had been briefed to carry out medium level aerobatics and took off from Valley at 12:15. At 12:30 a farmer in the vicinity of Llyn Eigiau saw an aircraft flying towards him from the North West. The aircraft appeared to be complete and flying at high speed in a 20deg dive, wings level. It continued on its path at high speed, dived behind a hill and struck a rock face at 1,550ft amsl on the East side of Llyn Eigiau, Snowdonia [OS 115/727646] the pilot was killed instantly. 22 Sqn Whirlwind HAR.2 XJ728 [M/P N P F Hill] was scrambled to this incident with the SMO [Station Medical Officer] from Valley. RAF Valley MRT were also called out. Possibility of a loose article [13inch metal bar used as a fuel tank cap spanner] in the cockpit may have jammed the flying controls.				
Pilot	Mid	Robert Mark Armitage [RN]		Killed [53 Course]



The white arrow points at the crater.



6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials:
 Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 497]
 Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 498]

50 RN Course graduation attended by R/Adm C L G Evans, by air.

WL684	[B]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Egan calibrate BABS
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Vampire T.11 XD379 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then CFS.

Vampire T.11 XD596:[66] 7 FTS visited Oakington.

WJ887	[G]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Taplin calibrate BABS
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XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P Hill
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Vampire FB.5 WA271:[24] 7 FTS visited Brawdy.

Wednesday 2nd May 1956 [AIR 27/2769/11]

XJ432		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	
Suffered a technical malfunction and unserviceable for 16 days.				

Thursday 3rd–7th May 1956 [AIR 27/2775/1]

‘Exercise Rejuvenate’ Air Defence Exercise Western Sector. 41 Sqn [16?] aircraft. 219 Sqn, 3 aircraft supporting 253 Sqn. 253 Sqn, [10] aircraft. Other Sqns detached nearby were 23/111 Sqns to Aldergrove & 25 Sqn to St Mawgan.				
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Thursday 3rd May 1956 [AIR 27/2722/25][AIR 27/3119]**MB]**

WL846	[M]	Venom NF.2A*	219 Sqn	F/L A Webster & F/O J Parsons
*Starboard windscreen panel shattered during a high-speed run. Normal landing carried out at Valley, but aircraft declared Cat.3R [repairable]				
		Venom NF.2A	219 Sqn	
		Venom NF.2A	219 Sqn	
‘Exercise Rejuvenate,’ 219 Sqn were supporting 253 Sqn with 3 aircraft. 5 th May is mentioned with Valley weather Colour Code ‘Red’ and no flying. 219 Sqn took part in 2 scrambles. [In 1956 219 Sqn were operating: WL874:A WL870:B WL853:C WL865:D WL867:E WL849:F WL850:G WL872:H WL863:J WL869:K WR807:L WL846:M WL852:N WL845:O WL807:R WL862:[Wg Cdr Flying]				
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	W/C P J S Finlayson & F/L E F Page
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	S/L P A Knapton & F/O N Fenwick
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	F/L D Jones & F/O M O’Shea
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	F/O D Watts & F/O A A Hilton
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	F/O R G Reekie & F/O M S Rollins
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	F/O J D V McPherson & F/O A Cook
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	F/O D Stringer & F/O G P Maguire
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	P/O C McKay & F/O G Thompson
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	M/P D S Morton & F/O P W Pascoe
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	F/S J Walton & F/O E Odin
253 Sqn were present for Exercise ‘Rejuvenate’ and reinforced by 219 Sqn [In 1956 253 Sqn were operating: WR787:A WL873:B WL8827:C WR801:D WR804:F WR805:G WR808:H WL851:J WR789:K WL854:L WL855:M WL856:N WL859:O WL860:P WL866:R and Vampire T.11 XE892:-]				
		[16]x Hunter F.5	41 Sqn	Ex. Rejuvenate
Whilst at Valley 41 Sqn flew 20 sorties. [During 1956/57 41 Sqn were operating: WN967:A WP141:B WN964:C WP135:E [see below] WN956:G WN988:H WP129:J WP148:K WP119:L WN966:M WP123:O WP181:P WP108:S WN983:T WN972:U]				
		Auster AOP.6*	663 Sqn	Maj H B Warburton [AIR 27/2715/3]
*From & to Hooton Park with Brig W J N Norman-Walker for a BRA [Brigade Royal Artillery?]				

meeting.				
		?	[MCS]	
AOC Metropolitan Sector, A/Cdre P H Hamley visited reference the forthcoming 'Exercise Rejuvenate,' by air?				

Friday 4th May 1956 [AIR 27/2759/94][AIR 27/2783]

WJ946	[-]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	Sgt Hassey calibrate HF/DF
		Hunter F.5	56 Sqn	Capt C G Gillespie [USAF]
		Hunter F.5	56 Sqn	F/O C M Christie
		Hunter F.5	56 Sqn	F/O B J Westoby
		Hunter F.5	56 Sqn	F/O H Munro
56 Sqn were detached from RAF Waterbeach to reinforce 41 Sqn as part of Exercise 'Rejuvenate'. Departed back to Waterbeach 7.5, weather at Valley restricted operations, see 3.5 [56 Sqn in 1956 were operating: WP104:A WP109:B WN992:[D] WN979:E WP115:G WN986:H WP103:J WN984:O WN976:P WP102:Q WP120:S WN980:T WN990:U WP116:W]				

Sunday 6th May 1956 [MC 2/68][AIR 29/2699]

WP135	E	Hunter F.5	41 Sqn	Biggin Hill based.
Belly landed on the beach 1nm NW of Valley after engine failure at 800ft on approach. Aircraft was submerged by the tide before it could be salvaged. Wreck noted at Minworth Metals near Birmingham 2.60. The Sqn were deployed to Valley for Exercise Rejuvenate [see 3.5] but the weather was 'shocking' and only 20 sorties were flown. 22 Sqn Whirlwind HAR.2 XJ728 flown by F/Sgt J M Walker was scrambled for this incident and flew the pilot to Sick Quarters [Medical Centre], Valley. The Helicopter was also used in the afternoon to salvage the Hunter. One of the remarks that came out of this incident is that the landrovers became bogged down in the area and a DUKW type vehicle would have been useful. This was before the current 'Bailey Bridge' over the river had been constructed circa 1958.				
Pilot	Capt	K Parker [USMC]		Ok

Monday 7th May 1956 [AIR 27/2783]

[illegible]

		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	
		Venom NF.2A	253 Sqn	

Tuesday 8th May 1956 [AIR 27/2759/94]

WJ947	[K]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Taplin calibrate HF/DF
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Wednesday 9th May 1956 [GP/UM]

Based noted: Dominie I X7341:KS 7 FTS visited Sydenham.				

Thursday 10th May 1956 [AIR 27/2767/34]

WB857	[L-T]	Shackleton MR.1A	240 Sqn	S/L Turner
From Ballykelly for bombing range.				

Friday 11th May 1956 [GP/UM]

Based noted: Dominie I X7341:KS 7 FTS visited Sydenham.				

Monday 14th May 1956 [AIR 27/2759/94]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 missile firing [F/L B A W Stobart]				
WJ947	[K]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Taplin calibrate HF/DF

Tuesday 15th May 1956 [AIR 27/2759/94][AIR 29/2699]

WJ947	[K]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Taplin calibrate BABS
AOC's Inspection by AVM M Brooks AOC 25 Group. By air?				

Wednesday 16th May 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD456:60 repairs complete [back to 7 FTS]				

Thursday 17th May 1956 [T Dockerill logbook]

Based noted: Dominie X7341 7 FTS visited Hawarden [Cdr Swanton]				

Friday 18th May 1956 [AIR 27/2769/11][AIR 27/2767/34]

XJ432		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	To Benson for the Queens Flight.
WB861	[L-D]	Shackleton MR.1A	240 Sqn	S/L Turner
Routed: Ballykelly-Hawarden-Valley-Ballykelly.				

Saturday 19th May 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/12]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P R F Brown
Scrambled to a capsized yacht 500yds W of Formby Point. 1 body was taken to Woodvale before returning to base.				

Wednesday 23rd May 1956 [AIR 27/2767/34]

WB860	[L-C]	Shackleton MR.1A	240 Sqn	F/O Reid
Routed: Ballykelly-Bovingdon-Valley-Ballykelly.				

Thursday 24th May 1956 [GP/UM][AIR 27/2769/11]

XB389	982:B	Avenger AS.5	Bulwark	From Sydenham
HMS Bulwark Ships Flight.				
		?		
AOC 25 Group, AVM H H Brookes visited 22 Sqn, by air?				

Friday 25th May 1956 [GP/UM][AIR 27/2736/6][AIR 27/2775/6]

XB389	982:B	Avenger AS.5	Bulwark	To Sydenham, see 24.5
WJ972	-	Canberra B.2*	15 Sqn	F/L Wickham
WJ863	-	Canberra T.4*	44 Sqn	F/O Green
*Both from and to Honington.				

Saturday 26th May 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XH319 from 10 MU to 7 FTS.				

Sunday 27th May 1956 [AIR 27/2769/11]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Sailing cruiser aground off Caernarfon, unable to locate and on landing at Llandwrog informed boat had re-floated and was now in Caernarfon.				

Monday 28th May 1956 [GP/UM]

Based noted: Dominie I X7341:KS 7 FTS visited Sydenham.				

Tuesday 29th May 1956 [GP/UM][AIR 27/2759/94][MB]

WL685	[S]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Stead calibrate BABS
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD595 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 5.4.56 Dominie I X7341:KS 7 FTS visited Sydenham.				

Wednesday 30th May 1956 [AIR 29/2699][MB]

		?		
51 Course graduation attended by AVM H R Graham, AOC 23 Group. By air.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD443 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications. Vampire T.11 XH314 from 27 MU to 7 FTS becoming '47'				

Friday 1st June 1956 [BJ][AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2799]

VM316		Anson C.19	MCCS	To & from Speke, also 2.6
XH375	-	Heron C.3	Queens Flt	S/L Stanbridge & Prince Phillip
HRH Duke of Edinburgh attended the North Wales National Recreation Centre at Plas-y-Bryn. Aircraft routed: Benson-Valley-White Waltham-Benson.				

Monday 4th June 1956 [AIR 27/2813/36][MB]

WH849	-	Canberra T.4	115 Sqn	PD, F/L P E Nelson
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XE874 from 4 FTS to 7 FTS [maybe 4.6.58 though]				

Tuesday 5th June 1956 [AIR 27/2749/36]

WJ865	-	Canberra T.4	35 Sqn	PD F/L E D Finch, then to Gaydon.
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Wednesday 6th June 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

		?		
AOC 18 Group, AVM P D Cracroft visited 1113 MCU. By air?				

Thursday 7th June 1956 [AIR 27/2759/96][AIR 27/2719/84][AIR 27/2813/36]

WL688	[G]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Watkins-Baker calibrate ACR7
WH665	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	F/O D R Carr From & to Honington
WH849	-	Canberra T.4	115 Sqn	PD, F/O D J Cox

Sunday 10th June 1956 [AIR 27/2769/11]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L Gumbrell
Search for climber in the Snowdon area, Valley MRT located body of climber.				

Tuesday 12th June 1956 [AIR 27/2813/36][MB]

WJ861	-	Canberra T.4	115 Sqn	PD, F/L S Fern
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD434 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS.				

Wednesday 13th June 1956 [BJ]

WB562		Chipmunk T.10		To & from Speke, also 14.6
Based noted: Anson TX209 Station Flt [L/Cdr Sabey] to & from Brawdy with the Station Golf Team.				

Thursday 14th June 1956 [GP/UM]

Based noted: Dominie I X7341:[KP] 7 FTS visited Sydenham. Code reported as KP, it had been KS in May and recorded as KS in October, so code change or incorrect ? [GP]				

Friday 15th June 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 firing [J O Mathews]				
				
Near miss. [Dick Thomas collection]				

Sunday 17th June 1956 [AIR 27/2769/11]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Rescue marooned children but aircraft recalled as children were found safe.				

Tuesday 19th June 1956 [AIR 27/2769/11]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	
Helicopter degraded into 'manual,' winchman being dragged along the ground, so the cable was cut.				

Saturday 23rd June 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/13][AIR 27/2767/36]

WA285		Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	
Called 'MAYDAY' after experiencing a loud explosion at 5,000ft, a flash was seen by many from Holyhead and the aircraft ditched at 11:17hrs 3nms N of South Stack. After bouncing twice, the pilot escaped from the inverted aircraft. Pilot who was on his 1 st solo was rescued by 22 Sqn Whirlwind HAR.2 XJ728 flown by M/P R E Brown and a 1113 MCU launch. Shackleton MR.1A WG507:[L-M] 240 Sqn [F/O Reid] was also involved but did not land.				
Pilot	Lt	J W H Purvis [RNVR]	Ok	

Monday 25th June 1956 [RAFM]

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Based noted:
Anson TX209 Station Flt [L/Cdr Sabey] to Manby with the Station Golf Team.

Wednesday 27th June 1956 [AIR 27/2813/36][AIR 27/2769/13][MB]

WH849	-	Canberra T.4	115 Sqn	PD, A/Cdre Dwyer
-				
XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L H Grumbell
Force landed in a small field 4nms E of Caernarfon after suffering engine problems. Following repairs, it was flown back to Valley 29.6.56				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XE862 from 4 FTS to 7 FTS. Vampire T.11 XE873 from 60 MU to 7 FTS. Anson TX209 Station Flt [L/Cdr Sabey] from Manby with Station Golf Team.				

Saturday 30th June 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD440 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS.				

Wednesday 4th July 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XE887 from 4 FTS to 7 FTS.				

Thursday 5th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/15]

		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	
Scrambled by ATC at 14:30 for a Vampire with a flame out. Scramble cancelled 14:35 as the Vampire had landed safely.				

Friday 6th July 1956 [GP/UM]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 missile firing [I R Ryall]				
WJ727	-	Canberra B.2	[40 Sqn]	Wittering-Sydenham-Valley

Monday 9th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 missile firing [J O Mathews]				
-				
XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S J M C Walker
Whilst conducting a search for an empty dinghy adrift in Holyhead Outer Harbour the helicopter was diverted to conduct a search in the area Llanbedr 040deg/15nms at 15:27. Search was unsuccessful and was called off at 16:00. It transpired a Chipmunk T.10 from RAF Shawbury had forced landed at Pentrefoelas, 6nms from the search area. It was flown out under its own power the following day.				

Tuesday 10th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2719/86][AIR 27/2769/15]

WH853	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	F/L E N H Lack from & to Honington
-				
XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L H W Gumbrell
Scrambled at 19:50 to conduct a search 20nms NW of the Skerries as a submarine flare had been sighted there. A yacht was found, and an ASR launch guided to the area. The submarine flare turned out to be an aircraft flare, presumably dropped by accident.				

Wednesday 11th July 1956 [AHB][AIR 29/2700][MB]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [F/L B A W Stobart]				
		?		
52 RN Course graduation attended by R/Adm A N C Bingley, by air.				
-				
XJ728	-	Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	Training Exercise

These 2 images taken on this date show the above Whirlwind on the ground at RAF Valley picking up one of the Station Medical Officers and flying to Snowdonia for a Mountain Rescue Training Exercise photoshoot for the RAF Flight Safety Magazine 'Air Clues'. The pilot is almost definitely either F/L H W Gumbrell, M/P R P F Hill or F/Sgt J M S Walker.



[Crown Copyright, Ministry of Defence]

Below, with the slate slag heap in the background this is probably in the area above Rhyd Ddu with a simulated CASEVAC being winched.



[Crown Copyright, Ministry of Defence]

Based noted:
Vampire T.11 XE828 from 4 FTS to 7 FTS.

Thursday 12th July 1956 [AIR 27/2813/38][MB]

WH866	-	Canberra B.2	115 Sqn	PD, F/L D W Kingston
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD534 from Marshalls to 7 FTS becoming '41'				

Friday 13th July 1956 [AIR 27/2719/86][MB]

WH646	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	F/L E N H Lack from & to Honington
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD526 from Marshalls to 7 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD596:66 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XE926 from 48 MU to 7 FTS.				

Saturday 14th July 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XH368 from 10 MU to 7 FTS.				

Monday 16th July 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD454 from Marshalls to 7 FTS. Vampire T.11 XK624 delivered from Broughton to 7 FTS.				

Tuesday 17th July 1956 [AIR 27/2719/86][MB][AIR 27/2792/1][AIR 27/2718/1]

WH853	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	PD F/O A Cottle
-				
WV392		Hunter F.4	66 Sqn	
The Magazine 'Flying Review' for July 1960 has a SAR article. Part of it recounts a Hunter piloted by F/O N R Williams departing from RAF Valley and suffering an engine explosion and a fire caption at 35,000ft over the North Sea. He ejected and the seat free-fell mainly through thick cloud to 10,000ft when the chute deployed and the seat fell away. He finally came out of cloud at 100ft and after ditching he managed to get into his dinghy. He then ensured that the homing 'SARAH' beacon was switched on. After 45mins he was picked up by a helicopter from A Flt/275 Sqn at RAF Thornaby [F/L J W Thompson]. The Hunter was home based with 66 Sqn at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. The 66 Sqn ORB mentions the incident but there is no mention of Valley only mention of a cine exercise. The 275 Sqn ORB mentions the rescue taking place off Filey.				
Pilot	F/O	N R Williams	Ejected Ok	
-				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD620 from 12 MU to 7 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD625 from 12 MU to 7 FTS.				

Wednesday 18th July 1956 [AIR 27/2759/98][MB]

WL688	[G]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Taplin calibrate BABS
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD619 from 12 MU to 7 FTS becoming '62' Vampire T.11 XK584 from 10 MU to 7 FTS becoming '66'				

Friday 20th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2775/10][MB]

WJ974	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	F/L Harley from & to Honington
-				
XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L H W Gumbrell
Scrambled at 11:45 to conduct a search for a ditched Gannet off St Tudwal's Island which turned out to be a false alarm.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD426 7 FTS to Marshall for modifications then 5 FTS.				

Sunday 22nd July 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD397:53 back from modifications at Marshalls to 7 FTS, see 12.4.56				

Monday 23rd July 1956 [AIR 27/2759/98][MB]

WL688	[G]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	P/O Erasmus calibrate BABS
Based noted:				

Vampire T.11 XK589 XK590 from 10 MU to 7 FTS.

Tuesday 24th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2799][MB]

XH375	-	Heron CC.3	Queens Flt	S/L Stanbridge
HRH Duke of Edinburgh who was the co-pilot, visiting Sir Michael Duff in Caernarfonshire. Aircraft routed: Benson-Northolt-Lyneham-Valley-Kidlington-Benson.				
		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	Held at readiness for the above visit
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD395 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD399 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD430 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD458 from Marshalls to 7 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD461:51 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD533 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XE887 7 FTS transferred to 4 FTS.				

Wednesday 25th July 1956 [AIR 27/2759/98][AIR 29/2699][MB]

WJ946	[-]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Lloyd calibrate BABS
		?	Queens Flt	To Oxford, Kidlington
HRH Duke of Edinburgh.				
		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	Held at readiness for the above visit.
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XE862 7 FTS transferred to RAFC.				

Thursday 26th July 1956 [AIR 27/2759/98][AIR 29/2699][MB]

WJ946	[-]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Lloyd calibrate BABS
WA620	P	Meteor T.7	601 Sqn	J Smith from & to North Weald
-				
		Vampire T.11	7 FTS	
Due to disintegration of the left mainwheel inner tube the aircraft ended up on the grass some 30yds off the runway with no further damage.				
	F/L	E 'Dougie' Mee		
-				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD519 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD525 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XK625 from Broughton to 7 FTS.				

Friday 27th July 1956 [AIR 27/2759/98][MB]

WJ946	[-]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Lloyd calibrate BABS
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD429 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then CNCS. Vampire T.11 XD437 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then to 2 ANS. Vampire T.11 XD456:60 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD595 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS.				

Vampire T.11 XE828 7 FTS transferred to 4 FTS.
Vampire T.11 XE873 7 FTS transferred to 4 FTS.

Saturday 28th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/15][MB]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S J M C Walker
Airborne at 04:40 to look for a teacher and 4 boys missing on Snowdon. Due to low cloud the search was called off, the 5 were later reported safe.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD427 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS. Vampire T.11 XD524 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 10 MU.				

Sunday 29th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/15]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P R P F Hill
Scrambled at 05:55 by Coastguard to 2 red flares seen at Benllech Bay. Search called off at 06:10, Moelfre Lifeboat was seen towing the vessel plus 2 crew.				

Monday 30th July 1956 [AIR 29/2699][MB]

		Devon C.1		From Andover.
AM Sir R Jordan who was then flown by helicopter to Llandwrog for the conclusion of Operation 'Sandcastle' [sinking of 3 old ships [including the SS Kokta] filled with German Poison Gas Containers off the Caernarfon coast]				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XE863 from 60 MU to 4 FTS then 7 FTS same day.				

Tuesday 31st July 1956 [AIR 27/2719/86][AIR 27/2813/38][AIR 27/2775/10]

WH665	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	PD, S/L N C W Spackman
WH849	-	Canberra T.4	115 Sqn	PD, F/L B E Fern
WH850	-	Canberra T.4	44 Sqn	From & to Honington S/L D T Skeen
WH714	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	From & to Honington S/L Veale

Wednesday 1st August 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P R P F Hill
Scrambled by ATC at 16:50 to rescue 3 Army Officers in a capsized boat off Church Bay. Helicopter arrived just as the last man was hauled ashore and returned to base.				

Saturday 4th August 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Search for man overboard from MV Hibernia, false alarm.				

Wednesday 8th August 1956 [GP/UM][AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/18]

1 Sqn/7 FTS recommenced flying with Vampire T.11's equipped with ejector seats.				
-				
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S J M C Walker
Scrambled by 18 Group to search an area N of Cardigan Bay for an overdue yacht. Nothing				

found after 2hrs, returned to base. The yacht was discovered further S of the search area by the Pwllheli lifeboat.

Based noted:
Anson C.19 TX209:KI 7 FTS from Sydenham.

Friday 10th August 1956 [AIR 27/2759/100][AIR 29/2699]

WL622	[R]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Guthrie calibrate Eureka
Based noted: 4x Vampire 7 FTS conducted an Exercise with the Army at Sennybridge.				

Saturday 11th August 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	
Positioned to RAF Woodvale between 13:30-14:50 to cover a flight by HRH Princess Margaret from Heathrow to Walney Island.				

Monday 13th August 1956 [AIR 27/2767/40][MB]

WB856	[-]	Shackleton MR.1A	240 Sqn	F/L Law
From Ballykelly for bombing range.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD425 7 FTS to Marshalls for modifications then 2 ANS. Vampire T.11 XD463 7 FTS to DH/Marshalls for modifications then 5 FTS.				

Thursday 16th August 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD597 7 FTS to DH /Marshalls for modifications then 10 MU.				

Friday 17th August 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD404 repairs complete back to 7 FTS, see 17.4.56				

Monday 20th August 1956 [AIR 27/2759/100][AIR 29/2699]

WL692	[P]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Melville calibrate Eureka
		?		
AVM H H Brooks visited, by air?				

Tuesday 21st August 1956 [DF][AIR 27/2759/100]

VP980		Devon C.1	RRE	From Pershore to Hawarden.
WL692	[P]	Varsity T.1*	116 Sqn	Sgt Hessey calibrate Eureka
*Landed at Pembrey afterwards.				

Wednesday 22nd August 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

All available Students & QFI's of 1 Sqn/7 FTS travelled to Llandwrog to experience the				
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ejector seat rig. The rig could not be taken to Valley as it was too large to fit through the arches of the Menai Suspension Bridge.

Thursday 23rd August 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/18]

XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S J M C Walker
Scrambled to a fatal Vampire crash near Capel Celyn, Bala. This was Vampire FB.5 WA142 63 Group Communications Flight which was enroute Hawarden-Llanbedr, pilot G/C Alan Douglas Groom DSO. Inquiry found he was wearing the wrong type of oxygen mask for the aircraft and was most probably overcome by fumes.				

Friday 24th August 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

		?		
53 Course graduation attended by Rear Adm Sir C E Madden, by air.				

Monday 27th August 1956 [AIR 27/2759/100]

WL692	[P]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Taplin calibrate Eureka
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Tuesday 28th August 1956 [AIR 27/2759/100][AIR 29/2809]

WL692	[P]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Taplin calibrate Eureka
		?	228 OCU	W/C C E Fooks & S/L W Linkie
Liaison visit with regards to the upcoming Air Defence Exercise 'Stronghold,' see 19.9 No mention of the aircraft type but possibly one of the following which was operated by 228 OCU: Vampire T.11 WZ473 Meteor T.7 WF835 Anson T.19 TX184				

Wednesday 29th August 1956 [AIR 27/2759/100]

WL636	[D]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Nicholls calibrate Eureka
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Friday 31st August 1956 [AIR 29/2809]

3 Civilians working at Fairey Aviation were injured when a booster rocket exploded. G Hart from Greenock & J Gore from Margate were taken to Bangor Hospital. D Phillips from Penshaw, Co Durham taken to Holyhead Hospital. 2 later died of their injuries.				
		?	228 OCU	W/C C E Fooks
Another liaison visit with regards to the upcoming Air Defence Exercise 'Stronghold,' see 28.8 No mention of the aircraft type but possibly one of the following which was operated by 228 OCU: Vampire T.11 WZ473 Meteor T.7 WF835 Anson T.19 TX184				

Sunday 2nd September 1956 [MB]

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Based noted:
Vampire T.11 XE874 7 FTS to DH for modifications.

Monday 3rd September 1956 [AIR 27/2749/42][AIR 27/2759/102]

WH911	-	Canberra B.2	35 Sqn	PD F/O Coker
WL678	[C]	Varsity T.1*	116 Sqn	F/L Hick calibrate BABS
*Routed: Shawbury-Valley-Lyneham.				

Tuesday 4th September 1956 [AIR 27/2759/102][AIR 27/2769/20][MB]

WL678	[C]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Hick calibrate BABS
-				
XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Search for canoe in difficulty, on arrival no assistance required.				
Based noted: Vampire T.11 XE863 7 FTS transferred to 5 FTS.				

Thursday 6th September 1956 [AIR 27/2769/20]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [F/L R Ramirez] Meteor NF.11 WD743 [S/L B J Spragg]				
-				
XJ728		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Airlifted a 72yr old man, 2 boys aged 3 and 8 plus a dog from a motor launch.				

Friday 7th September 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 [S/L B J Spragg]				

Monday 10th September 1956 [AIR 27/2775/14]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 [F/L R Ramirez]				
WH707	-	Canberra B.2	44 Sqn	From & to Honington F/O Gibb

Tuesday 11th September 1956 [AIR 27/2699/40][AIR 27/2706/92][AIR 27/2708/54]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD744 [S/L B J Spragg]				
WR952	A-B	Shackleton MR.2	42 Sqn	F/S R J Worthing, from St Eval N/stop
WB821	D	Shackleton MR.1	206 Sqn	Diversion, S/L R J Church, dep 12.9
WR960	L-P	Shackleton MR.2	228 Sqn	Diversion P/O D G Swinnerton
WR957	U	Shackleton MR.2	228 Sqn	Diversion F/O J Barry

Wednesday 12th September 1956 [AIR 27/2699/40][AIR 27/2706/92][AIR 27/2708/54]

WR952	A-B	Shackleton MR.2	42 Sqn	To St Eval, see 11.9
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WB821	D	Shackleton MR.1	206 Sqn	To St Eval, see 11.9
WR960	L-P	Shackleton MR.2	228 Sqn	To St Eval, see 11.9
WR957	U	Shackleton MR.2	228 Sqn	To St Eval, see 11.9

Saturday 15th September 1956 [Dennis Pritchard][DW][AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2700]

RAF Valley 'Battle of Britain' Display.

13:00-18:00

25,000+ attended.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS BOOK GO TO THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND AND ASSOCIATION

ROYAL AIR FORCE
VALLEY



de Havilland Vampire Trainers performing formation acrobatics over Anglesey.

Battle of Britain
Book 1956

● **TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE**

Includes the Official Programme 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

At Home
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 15th

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS BOOK GO TO THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND AND ASSOCIATION

[Steve Kelly]

WZ379	-	Valiant B.1	214 Sqn	S/L J G Wynne from Marham
214 Sqn F.540 says WZ379 but other sources say WZ374? Arrived 08:40 & departed 16:50.				
		4x Vampire*	7 FTS	1 Sqn Aerobatic Team
*Led by F/L T E D Sheehan				
		3x Vampire	7 FTS	2 Sqn Aerobatic Team
		[Anson ?]		AOC 25 Group, AVM H H Brooks

Monday 17th September 1956 [AIR 27/2759/102]

WL636	[D]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Dean calibrate Eureka
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Tuesday 18th September 1956 [AIR 27/2867/15][AIR 27/2759/102]

WL622	[R]	Varsity T.1*	116 Sqn	F/S Dean calibrate BABS
*Routed Hemswell-Manby-Shawbury-Gaydon-Upwood-Valley				
TG604	[GAC]	Hastings C.1*	53 Sqn	F/O H J Adams
Routed: Lyneham-North Luffenham-Valley-Lyneham.				

Wednesday 19th September 1956 [AIR 27/2759/102][AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2809]

Exercise 'Stronghold'				
Phase 1 21-23.9.56				
Phase 2 26-29.9.56				
		16x Meteor NF.11	228 OCU	137[R]Sqn
The Valley ORB mentions 137 All Weather Sqn from 228 Operational Conversion Unit arriving for Exercise 'Stronghold' 21-29.9; this was the shadow Sqn designation for 228 OCU from Leeming. 106 scrambles conducted with 53 'kills' claimed. 6 aircraft were deployed to Driffield for phase 2 of the Exercise.				
WL636	[D]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Egan to calibrate Eureka
Routed: Watton-Lindholme-Valley.				

Friday 21st September 1956 [AIR 29/2699][Roundel 84/03][AIR 27/2767/42]

WB850	[L-J]	Shackleton MR.1A	240 Sqn	F/L Law
From & to Ballykelly.				
		?		
Visit of VCAS ACM Sir R Ivelaw-Chapman, by air?				
Based noted:				
Vampire T.11 WZ575, 7638M to Valley Fire Dump 13.6.60				

Sunday 23rd September 1956 [AIR 27/2889/151]

VP958		Devon C.1*	MCS	F/S D W Heard
*To Prestwick with A/Cdre Carpenter, AOC Canadian Transport Command.				

Monday 24th September 1956 [AIR 27/2759/102][MB]

WJ946	[-]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/L Padgham calibrate Eureka
Based noted:				
Vampire T.11 WZ546 delivered from 4 FTS/60 MU to 7 FTS.				

Sunday 25th September 1956 [AIR 27/2810/43][AIR 27/2730/4]

WJ781	-	Canberra B.2	109 Sqn	F/L M C Dundle from Hemswell.
WH955	-	Canberra B.6	9 Sqn	Diversion, F/O K R Hayward

Monday 26th September 1956 [AIR 27/2730/4]

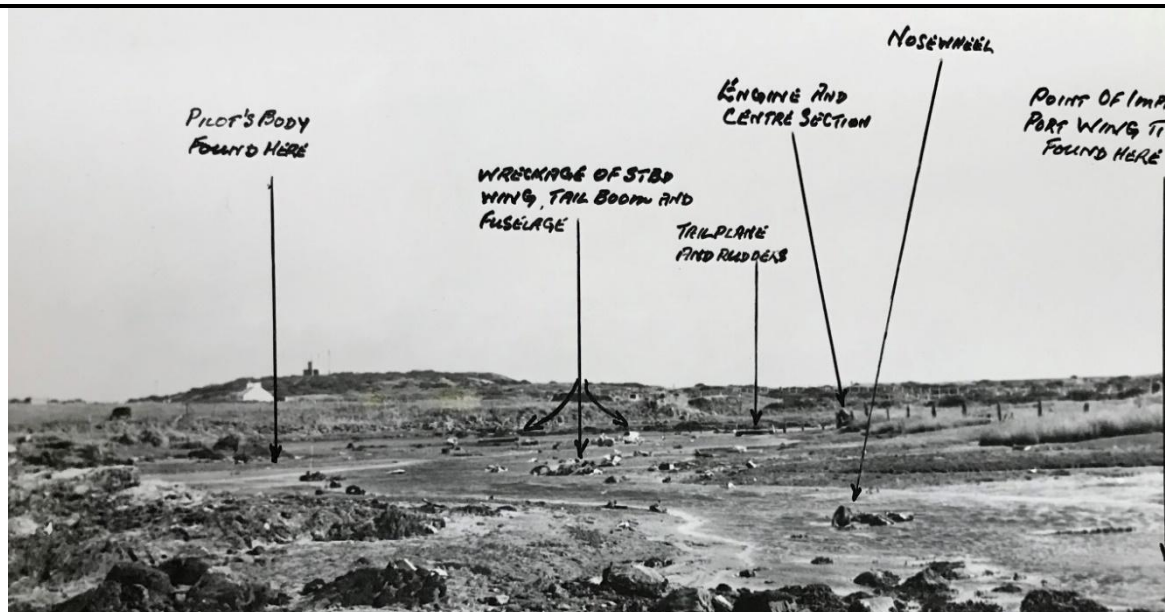
WH955	-	Canberra B.6	9 Sqn	Departed to Binbrook, see 25.9
Based noted: Anson TX209 Station Flt [F/L Brooks] Station Golf Team to Swinderby.				

Tuesday 27th September 1953 [RAFM]

Based noted: Anson TX209 Station Flt [Cdr Swanton] Station Golf Team from Swinderby.				

Friday 28th September 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2827/110][BT 233/358][AVIA 5/35/S2839]

RF509		Lincoln B.2	199 Sqn	F/L Parry-Davies
Routed: Hemswell-Shawbury-Valley-Hemswell.				
-				
WG845	23	Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	'BRASS2'
Took off at 14:23 from Valley as No.2 of a pair on Runway 26 as a staff continuation [SCT] exercise. At 260ft just clear of the dunes a long orange flame was seen to come from the jet pipe, this was followed by a muffled explosion and a dark red flame. The engine noise then ceased. The aircraft then turned right to avoid ditching in a very rough sea. The pilot then requested an emergency landing on the airfield. The aircraft lost height and the port wingtip struck soft ground, the aircraft cartwheeled and was destroyed with the pilot killed. Cause of the engine failure was the break-up of the impeller blades. The Court of Inquiry found he was justified in not ditching the aircraft in the sea as the waves were 15ft with a Force 7-8 gale. One of the eyewitnesses was F/O C B Spurr from 228 OCU, see 19.9.56. Funeral took place 4.10.56				
Pilot	Lt	Arthur William Jeffery [RN]		Killed, QFI at Valley



'TACAN' hill or where the new radar is situated can be seen in the left background.



[All: National Archives]

Tuesday 2nd October 1956 [AIR 27/2788/18][AIR 27/2769/22]

WH712	-	Canberra B.2	57 Sqn	PD F/L A G Weller
-				
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P Brown
Scrambled for a 7 FTS Vampire in difficulties, false alarm.				

Saturday 6th October 1956 [AIR 27/2756/18]

WH907	-	Canberra B.2	61 Sqn	From & to Upwood, F/O G C Price
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Monday 8th October 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD745 [S/L B J Spragg]				

Thursday 11th October 1956 [AIR 27/2719/92]

WH672	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	PD F/L E N H Lack
Based noted: Vampire FB.5 WA417: 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] delivery to Kirkbride. Chipmunk T.10 WB562 [F/L Whittingham] from Kirkbride.				

Friday 12th October 1956 [AIR 29/2699][BT 233/363][AVIA 5/35/S2843][AIR 27/2767/44][MB]

VZ874	19	Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	'GOLF SIERRA'
The pilot was briefed to do night circuits at Valley, and he was told specifically not to cross the Menai Straits. At 19:01 [night] he took off from Valley and was seen 9 minutes later flying straight and level with navigation lights on at approx. 1500ft. He was flying on the mainland side of the Menai Straits and the engine sounded normal. Less than a minute later a large flash was seen on the top of Mynydd Mawr, Snowdonia [OS 115/539547] The wreckage was found in the early hours of the morning, the pilot was killed instantly. The MRT was also called out and reached the top of the mountain in good time, but the Police and other locals were already in attendance. Funeral held in Holyhead 16.10.56. He was an ex. RAF Transport Command Navigator. No definitive cause could be found for this incident. Shackleton MR.1A WB850:[L-J] 240 Sqn [F/L Williams] was also involved in the SAR effort but did not land.				
				
Part of the Engine Impellor seen in 1974. [Tudor Rowlands]				



Starboard tail boom. [National Archives]



[National Archives]

Pilot	S/Lt	Roy Davies [RN]	Killed
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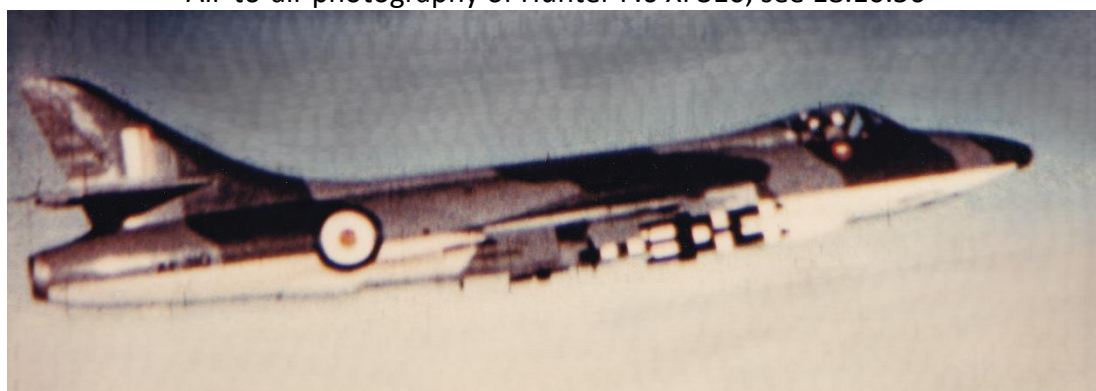
Maeshyfryd, Holyhead.
[Hywel Evans]

-

Based noted:
Vampire T.11 XD404 7 FTS transferred to 5 FTS.

Monday 15th October 1956 [AIR 27/2759/104][AIR 27/2699/42]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials:
Meteor T.7 WA738 [I R Ryall flight 473]
Air-to-air photography of Hunter F.6 XF310, see 18.10.56



[A still from a cine film by Jack Gaston de Coninck]

XF310	-	Hunter F.6	[6 JSTU]	See above
WJ947	[K]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Lloyd calibrate BABS
WL688	[G]	Varsity T.1	116 Sqn	F/S Lloyd calibrate BABS
WG533	H	Shackleton MR.2	42 Sqn	Diversion from St Eval 22:35

Tuesday 16th October 1956 [AIR 27/2699/42]

WG533	H	Shackleton MR.2	42 Sqn	To St Eval 11:15, see 15.10
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Thursday 18th October 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials:
Hunter F.6 XF310 missile firing [noted as a misfire]



[Jack Gaston de Coninck]

Meteor T.7 WF781 photochase [I R Ryall flight 575]

WA738	-	Meteor T.7		J O Mathews flight 474
To Blackpool to collect spares for Hunter F.6 XF310.				

Friday 19th October 1956 [AIR 29/2700]

		?		
54 RN Course graduation attended by AOC 25 Group, AVM H H Brookes, by air.				

Monday 22nd October 1956 [GP/UM]

Based noted: Dominie I X7341:KS 7 FTS visited Sydenham.				

Tuesday 23rd October 1956 [AIR 28/1043]

		Venom	De Havilland's	Mr Brandon
Weather diversion from Hawarden.				

Wednesday 24th October 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

2 Lebanese Officers graduated, Lt Abboud & Badauri. There should have been 2 Egyptian Officers graduating too but due to the 'Suez' campaign their stay was terminated.				
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Friday 26th October 1956 [GP/UM][AIR 27/2763/44]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 missile firing [J O Mathews]				
TG511		Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	M/P Ekiert from Dishforth
Based noted: Dominie I X7341:KS 7 FTS visited Sydenham.				

Saturday 27th October 1956 [AIR 27/2763/44]

TG511		Hastings Met.1	202 Sqn	To Aldergrove, see 26.10
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Sunday 28th October 1956 [MB]

Based noted:				

Vampire T.11 XE874 modifications complete back to 7 FTS, see 2.9.56

Monday 29th October 1956 [IBCCA]

233		Vampire	CNCS	From & to Shawbury
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Wednesday 31st October 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall]				

November 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

		Convair		VIP ?
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Thursday 1st November 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 missile firing [I R Ryall]				

Friday 2nd November 1956 [AIR 27/2769/24]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L Helps
Vampire aircraft with a flame-out, landed safely.				
Based noted: Dominie X7341 7 FTS [Cdr Swanton] to & from Jurby.				

Tuesday 6th November 1956 [IBCCA]

233		Vampire	CNCS	From & to Shawbury
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Wednesday 7th November 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 missile firing [I R Ryall]				

Friday 9th November 1956 [RAFM]

Based noted: Dominie X7341 7 FTS [Cdr Swanton] Routed : Valley-Oakington-Bramcote-Valley.				

Tuesday 13th November 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XH314:47 7 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 54 MU from 16.11				

Friday 16th November 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/24]

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 577] Meteor T.7 WF781 [J O Mathews flight 578]				
		Vampire T.11		
FOFT visited in his Vampire, R/Adm C L G Evans. Or Sea Vampire T.22?				
-				
XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L Helps
Report of aircraft crashed at Newydd, informed later that the Auster had landed at the owner's farm.				

Monday 18th November 1956 [AIR 27/2769/24]

XJ725		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/S Walker
Search for a boat on fire 180degs/2nms off Pwllheli, on arrival nothing seen.				

Tuesday 20th November 1956 [AIR 27/2813/46]

WK140	-	Canberra B.2	115 Sqn	PD, F/O B Dorrington
WH905	-	Canberra B.2	115 Sqn	PD, F/L D W Kingston

Friday 23rd November 1956 [AIR 27/2813/46]

WJ718	-	Canberra B.2	115 Sqn	PD, W/C J R Musgrave
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Thursday 29th November 1956 [GP/UM]

WJ987	-	Canberra B.2	[MoA/Shorts]	From Sydenham until 26.1.57
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Wednesday 5th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

	-	Swift F.7*	6 JSTU	
*Landed with an unserviceable ASI, 22 Sqn Whirlwind was scrambled at 10:45.				

Thursday 6th December 1956 [BJ][AIR 27/2719/96]

WD402		Anson T.21	[A&AEE]	Routed: Boscombe-Speke-Valley
WH667	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	PD F/L A Evans
WH667	-	Canberra B.2	10 Sqn	PD F/O D R Carr

Friday 7th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2700]

		Varsity T.1*		
*Rear Adm M S Townsend attended 56 Course graduation, by air.				

Monday 10th December 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XD443 modifications complete back to 7 FTS, see 30.5.56 Vampire T.11 XD589 from Marshalls to 7 FTS.				

Wednesday 12th December 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 [I R Ryall]				

Thursday 13th December 1956 [MB]

Based noted: Vampire T.11 XH314:47 repair complete ? back to 7 FTS [the XH314 F78 mentions the repair was cancelled 28.10.56 ?]				

Tuesday 18th December 1956

6 JSTU/Fairey Aviation Trials: Meteor NF.11 WD743 missile firing [I R Ryall]				

Wednesday 19th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2744/24][AIR 27/2769/24][AIR 4/52]

WH730	-	Canberra B.2	27 Sqn	Diversion, F/L T L Kennedy
WH732	-	Canberra B.2	27 Sqn	Diversion, W/C P W Helmore
WJ732	-	Canberra B.2	27 Sqn	Diversion, F/L W S Green
WJ742	-	Canberra B.2	27 Sqn	Diversion, F/L H M Archer
The 27 Sqn aircraft were weather diversions enroute Nicosia-Luqa-Waddington after participating in the Suez Bombing campaign. They departed to Waddington same day.				
[VP524]	[L]	Anson T.21	240 Sqn	Jackson
Routed: Base-Valley-Tangmere.				
		Hunter		Fuel diversion.
		Hunter		Fuel diversion.
22 Sqn scrambled a Whirlwind HAR.2 XJ729 [F/L D W Helps] for the 2 Hunters, but it was not required.				
-				
VZ836		Vampire FB.5	7 FTS	
Wheels up landing at 13:40hrs Valley, unable to lower the undercarriage.				
Pilot	Lt	C C Manning [RNVR]	Ok	
-				
Based noted: Vampire FB.5 '314 7 FTS [F/L Whittingham] delivery to Kirkbride. Vampire T.11 XK590:[45] 7 FTS [W/C Kelsey] ferry from Kirkbride.				

Thursday 20th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2670]

Trooping Flights, weather diversions from the Middle East. The aircraft still wore the 'Suez' recognition markings. Approximately 400 Army/RAF troops. Some aircraft returned to the Middle East whilst some stayed at Valley over Xmas.				
TG578	[N]	Hastings C.1*	242 OCU	Diversion 'RRR5449' F/L Kirk
TG515		Hastings C.1*	242 OCU	Diversion 'RRR5450' F/L Bradley

TG609	[M]	Hastings C.1*	242 OCU	Diversion 'RRR5452' F/L Warmington
*Diverted whilst enroute: Luqa to Lyneham				
WD496		Hastings C.2**	A&AEE	Diversion F/L McLaren
**Diverted whilst enroute: Idris-Lyneham, no reference to when it departed..				

Friday 21st December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2670]

Trooping Flights weather diversions from the Middle East, aircraft still wore the 'Suez' recognition markings. Approx. 400 Army/RAF troops. Some aircraft returned to the Middle East whilst some stayed at Valley over Xmas

TG555	[A]	Hastings C.1*	242 OCU	Diversion 'RRR5451' F/O Reynolds
*Diverted whilst enroute: Luqa to Lyneham.				
TG578	[N]	Hastings C.1	242 OCU	To Luqa, see 20.12
TG609	[M]	Hastings C.1	242 OCU	To Luqa, see 20.12
Based noted: Vampire T.11 :45 7 FTS visited Aldergrove.				

Saturday 22nd December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 29/2670]

Trooping Flights weather diversions from the Middle East, aircraft still bearing 'Suez' recognition markings. Approx. 400 Army/RAF troops. Some aircraft returned to the Middle East whilst some stayed at Valley over Xmas

TG515	[M]	Hastings C.1	242 OCU	To Luqa, see 20.12
TG555	[A]	Hastings C.1	242 OCU	To Luqa, see 21.12

Sunday 23rd December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/26][AIR 27/2817/22]

WJ769	-	Canberra B.6*	139 Sqn	Diversion, F/O W J Armstrong
*Diverted in with engine failure enroute: Idris-Binbrook.				
-				
XJ729		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L Gumbrell
Scrambled for the above Canberra.				

Monday 24th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

PS915	[A]	Spitfire PR.19	THUM Flt	Mr Formby, Shorts Test Pilot.
Unexpected visitor from Woodvale whilst on the daily weather flight, aircraft was left at Valley for a week waiting for firstly the fog and secondly heavy snow to disappear. Finally departed 1.1.57				

Wednesday 26th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/26]

XJ729		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L D W Helps
Scrambled to transport an appendicitis case from Bryn Teg Farm, Llangefni to Bangor Hospital at 13:45. Landed in an adjacent field.				

Thursday 27th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699][AIR 27/2769/26]

XJ729		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	M/P P Hill
Scrambled at 14:45 to fly the 'King of Scotland' a mental case to Denbigh. On return to				

Valley, it was the pilot and 22 Sqn's first night landing at 16:50.				
XJ729		Whirlwind HAR.2	22 Sqn	F/L D W Helps
MANWEB requested a helicopter lift from Llanberis to Nant Garth to conduct emergency electrical repair work.				

Saturday 29th/Sunday 30th December 1956 [AIR 29/2699]

Based noted: 3x Vampire 1 Sqn/7 FTS weekend flying conducted.				