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RAF Valley

Aircraft Movements

1972

CREDITS:

AIR BRITAIN/BARG/Midland Counties Aviation Society
National Archives/Steve Bond/Mike Bursell/David Forster/Brian Jones
Glyn Jones/Graeme Pickering [SEAR]/Dennis Pritchard/Dewi Thomas
Dick Thomas

UPDATE V2

Additional photos on 3.9.72
Additional Sqn movements: 24/46 Sqn.
Additional logbook movements.
Additional Gnat details by Mike Bursell.

SUMMARY

The main event in 1972 was the 4 FTS temporary move to RAF Fairford whilst RAF Valley's runways & taxiways were re-surfaced. The original plan was 29.4-19.6 but this was extended to 7.7 due to subsoil and culvert problems at Valley.



The STCAAME/MPC apron can be seen during the re-surfacing.
The Varsity on the fire dump can be seen top right.
[National Archives]

Harrier VIFF [Vectoring In Forward Flight] trials were conducted to ascertain if moving the engine nozzles in combat would increase the manoeuvrability of the aircraft.

Sadly, a fatal mid-air collision occurred 10.8.72 with 2 Aircrew & a Civilian killed.

Abbreviations	
AAC	Army Air Corps
A&AEE	Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment
AEF	Air Experience Flight
AFWF	Advanced Fixed Wing Flight
AKG	AufklarungsGruppe [W German AF Reconnaissance Unit]
ANS	Air Navigation School
ARWF	Advanced Rotary Wing Flight
[F]BW	[Fighter] Bomber Wing [USAF]
CAACU	Civilian Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit
CAFU	Civil Aviation Flying Unit
CASEVAC	Casualty Evacuation
CATCS	Central Air Traffic Control School
CAW	College of Air Warfare
CCCF	Coastal Command Communications Flight
CFS	Central Flying School
CN&CS	Central Navigation & Control School
ECM	Electronic Counter Measures
ETPS	Empire Test Pilots School

FCCS	Fighter Command Communications Squadron
FCTU	Fighter Command Trials Unit
FTCCS	Flying Training Command Communications Squadron
FTS	Flying Training School
GCA	Ground Controlled Approach
HQ CCCF	Headquarters Coastal Command Communications Flight
HQ FC	Headquarters Fighter Command
JSTU	Joint Services Trials Unit
MCS	Metropolitan Communications Squadron
MCU	Marine Craft Unit
MoA	Ministry of Aviation
MOTU	Maritime Operational Training Unit
MPC	Missile Practice Camp
MU	Maintenance Unit
NAS	Naval Air Squadron
NAVEX	Navigation Exercise
NCS	Northern Communications Squadron
N/stop	Night stop
OCU	Operational Conversion Unit
ORB	Operations Record Book
PD	Practice Diversion
QRA	Quick Reaction Alert [aircraft scramble]
RAFC	Royal Air Force College
RAFFC	Royal Air Force Flying College
SCS	Southern Communications Squadron
RRE	Radar Research Establishment
Sqn	Squadron
STCAAME	Strike Command Air-to-Air Establishment
TFS/TFW	Tactical Fighter Squadron/Wing
TRS/TRW	Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron/Wing [USAF]
TTF	Tanker Training Flight
UAS	University Air Squadron
VIP	Very Important Person
W/e stop	Weekend stop
WGAF	West German Air Force

Valley based aircraft at the beginning of 1972:

Gnat T.1 4 FTS

XR538:01 XP502:02 XP503:03 XP504:04 XR535:05 XP506:06 XP537:07 XR569:08 XM709:09
XM705:10 XP511:11 XM706:12 XP513:13 XP534:15 XP516:16 XM708:18 XR572:19 XS110:20
XP508:21 XR571:23 XR574:24 XR951:26 XP536:27 XR953:29 XR954:30 XP533:33 XR541:34
XS106:36 XR537:37 XP538:38 XP540:40 XP541:41 XP542:42 XS104:44 XR977:46 XR998:47
XP500:00 XR982:51 XR984:52 XR983:53 XP535:54 XP515:55 XS100:57 XS102:58 XP530:64

XR534:65
Hunter F.6 4 FTS
XG209:69 XF527:70 XG274:71 XF509:73 XG185:74 XF386:75 XE658:76 XF526:78 XG158:79
Hunter T.7 4 FTS
XL609:80 XL621:81 XL591:82 XL600:83 XL567:84 WV372:85 XL566:86
XL597:87 XL601:88 XL565:89 XL596:90 XL613:91 XL573:97
Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn
XJ764 XP299 XP361
1972 RAF Valley ATC Frequencies.
Approach 374.1
Director 248.8
Talkdown 254.3
Tower 384.4
Ground 269.5
Aberporth Primary 250.5
Aberporth Secondary 272.8
Llanbedr Approach 260.5

1972 [photo Dennis Pritchard]

FT-13	-	T-33A		Belgian Air Force
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1972 [photo Dennis Pritchard]

54-0465	SP	EB-66E	39 TEWS/52 TFW	PD Runway 14
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January 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 382 movements including 3 VIP's.				
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January 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x Wessex HU.5	707 NAS	Mountain Flying Detachment.
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January 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x JP T.	RAFC	1 st Detachment
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January 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x JP T.	RAFC	2 nd Detachment
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January 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x JP T.	1 FTS	Detachment
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Monday 3rd January 1972 [AIR 4/213]

XL578	89	Hunter T.7	229 OCU	Thorn/Hall
Annotated in his logbook as 'flow check' routing Chivenor-Wittering-Valley-Chivenor. Possibly a flyover or PD.				
Based noted:				

Gnat T.1 XP533:33 back to 4 FTS, see 21.12.71

Wednesday 5th January 1972 [BJ][MB]

G-AHLI	-	Auster 3	Private	To & from Speke, A V Orchard
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF386:[33] 229 OCU delivered to 4 FTS becoming '75'				

Thursday 6th January 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		9x F-111E	/20 TFW	Weather diversions
The 7 th aircraft to land burst a tyre on landing gouging the runway but cleared the runway allowing the last two to land. Wheel replaced 7.1 when all the aircraft returned to Upper Heyford.				

Friday 7th January 1972 [BAR 72/03]

		9x F-111E	/20 TFW	To Upper Heyford, see 6.1
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF509:73 4 FTS visited Brize Norton.				

Sunday 9th January 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn arrived from Bruggen with 4 aircraft for their MPC. 1 st AIM-7 Sparrow missile firings by RAFG aircraft. 17 Sqn MPC 10-21.1.				
XV468		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC
XV469		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC
XV474		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC
XV483		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC
XR365	365	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9504' F/L Hill
XR369	369	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9505' F/L Neate
Both Belfasts routed: Brize-Bruggen-Valley-Brize, 17 Sqn MPC support.				
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XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Dainty
2 missing climbers at OS 106/692638, on arrival one was safe and the other was flown to the summit.				
XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Dainty
Seriously ill sailor airlifted from Spanish Tanker 'Astorga' and flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Monday 10th January 1972 [AIR 27/3062][AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC 1x fired [XV468]				
XV297	297	Hercules C.1	36 Sqn	Diversion 'RRR3855' F/L E C Viney
Diversion whilst enroute Luqa-Lyneham, landed 06:50 and departed 12:05 with a new crew, Capt D A Sweet to Lyneham.				

Tuesday 11th January 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3291]

17 Sqn MPC no firings due to bad weather.				
G-AKEL	-	Miles Gemini	Private	
Suffered an engine failure 18nms from Valley and landed on Runway 08 with Whirlwind HAR.10 XP354 22 Sqn [F/L Warton] in attendance.				

Wednesday 12th January 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC no firings due to bad weather.				

Thursday 13th January 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC 1x AIM-7 fired [XV474 with chase XV468]				

Saturday 15th January 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Moyes
Flew the SMO to OS 107/712547 to pick up a man suffering from a heart attack and taken to Bangor Hospital, pronounced dead on arrival though. [A H Blane 45yrs old, Blackley, Manchester]				

Sunday 16th January 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Moyes
Search of Cwm Glas Mawr for an Army Officer, on arrival informed the casualty had been found at OS 107/612554, unable to help due to severe turbulence. Casualty was pronounced dead by MRT.				

Monday 17th January 1972 [Phil Bayer logbook*][AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC no firings due to crosswinds at Llanbedr.				
WP515	[K]	Canberra B.2*	85 Sqn	Night diversion
*Diverted from a medium level target facilities sortie with a 5 Sqn Lightning.				
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XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
MEDEVAC CO's wife to Cosford. Owing to severe weather the aircraft first landed at Hawarden then Shawbury where the patient and SMO proceeded to Cosford by road. The aircraft returned to Valley 19.1				

Tuesday 18th January 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC 1x AIM-7 fired [XV469 with chase XV468]				
XV475		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC from Bruggen 10:30

XV483		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
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Wednesday 19th January 1972 [Phil Bayer logbook*][AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353][MB]

17 Sqn MPC no firings due to crosswinds at Llanbedr. Local flying [XV468 XV469 XV474] XV475 flew to & from Coningsby to pick up F.95 camera film.				
XV475		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To & from Coningsby
WE113	[Q]	Canberra B.2*	85 Sqn	To Binbrook
PI [Practice Intercept] sortie for the School of Fighter Control.				
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XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Precautionary for a Hunter aircraft with undercarriage problems. Aircraft landed safely.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR954:30 4 FTS to Bitteswell for overhaul.				

Thursday 20th [AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC 1x AIM-7 fired [XV469 with chase XV475]				

Friday 21st January 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn departed back to Bruggen post their MPC.				
XV468		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV469		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV474		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV475		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen

Saturday 22nd January 1972 [AIR 27/3325]

XS638		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR4806' F/L Turner
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[12:25/13:40]-Koln-Lyneham-Thorney Island.				

Tuesday 25th January 1972 [AIR 27/3283][AIR 29/4353][AIR 27/3325]

14 Sqn arrived from Bruggen at 09:45 with 4 aircraft for their MPC. 14 Sqn MPC 25.1-4.2. 1 st missile fired on 5 th day due to high winds on the previous days. 2 [XV439 & XV501] aircraft were returned to Bruggen at some stage.				
XV411		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC
XV501		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC to Bruggen
XV439		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC to Bruggen
XV464		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC
XS638		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR4800' F/L Booth
Routed: Bruggen-Valley[10:55/12:10]-Thorney Island. 17 Sqn MPC support.				
XS602		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR4801' F/L Huddleston

Routed: Thorney Island-Bruggen-Valley[18:10/18:45]-Thorney Island. 17 Sqn MPC support.

Wednesday 26th January 1972 [AIR 27/3012][AIR 27/3056]

14 Sqn MPC no range slots due to high crosswinds at Llanbedr.				
XV407	[D]	Phantom FGR.2*	6 Sqn	F/L J Fisher & S/L J R Murray
*Diversion whilst enroute Bruggen-Coningsby.				
XS777	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5292' F/L Easterbrook
From and to Northolt.				

Thursday 27th January 1972 [MC 3/72][AIR 27/3012][AIR 27/3056]

14 Sqn MPC no range slots due to high crosswinds at Llanbedr.				
G-ATCB	-	Wessex 60	Bristows	From East Midlands
XV407	[D]	Phantom FGR.2	6 Sqn	To Coningsby, see 26.1
XS769	[-]	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5292' S/L Greenwood
From and to Northolt.				

Friday 28th January 1972 [BAR 72/05]

14 Sqn MPC				
AM no range slots due to the presence of Russian [Intelligence] trawlers.				
Based noted:				
Hunter F.6 XE656:56 229 OCU delivery to 4 FTS, became '76'				

Saturday 29th January 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Assistance required for a fallen climber at OS 107/660620, aircraft diverted from a training sortie. On arrival informed that the climber had been pronounced dead, aircraft returned to Valley.				

Sunday 30th January 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/O Hurst
Injured person on a coaster 14nms SW of Bardsey Island flown to Bangor Hospital. [Fleur Waters]				
XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Dainty
Royal Navy rating collapsed on Drosgl stretchered and flown to SMC Valley suffering from hypothermia. [Artificer Apprentice Ford from RNAS Lee-on-Solent]				

Monday 31st January 1972 [DF][AIR 27/3283]

14 Sqn MPC				
1x AIM-7 fired [XV411 with chase XV439]				
An aircraft changeover occurred with XT912 arriving & XV439 departing to Bruggen.				
XT912		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC W/C Bryant & G/C Curtiss
XV439		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	W/C Bryant & G/C Curtiss
WH774	-	Canberra PR.7	RRE	From Germany to Pershore

Tuesday 1st February 1972 [BAR 72/05][AIR 29/4353]

14 Sqn MPC no firings due to strong winds at Llanbedr.				
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF387:[48] 229 OCU delivery to 4 FTS, becoming '77'				

Wednesday 2nd February 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

14 Sqn MPC no firings due to strong winds at Llanbedr. 3 aircraft local flying with Ulster Radar.				

Thursday 3rd February 1972 [AIR 27/3012][AIR 27/3291]

14 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV464 with chase XV411] AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV473 with chase XV411]				
XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Moyes
CO of HMS Salisbury requested a helicopter to uplift a Sailor on compassionate grounds to Ireland. HMS Salisbury positioned to 5nms West of South Stack at 08:05 and sailor flown to Valley. [Junior Seaman O'Reilly]				
XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Dainty
Precautionary for a Hunter aircraft with a complete hydraulic failure, aircraft landed safely.				

Friday 4th February 1972 [AIR 27/3283][AIR 29/4353]

14 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV411 with chase XV464] this destroyed Jindivik 103AL A92-540. 14 Sqn departed back to Bruggen at 15:30 post their MPC.				
XT912		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV464		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV411		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV473		Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen

Saturday 5th February 1972 [AIR 27/3089]

XR362	362	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9520' F/L Jackson
Routed: Brize-Valley-Bruggen-Brize, return of 14 Sqn MPC support.				

Monday 7th February 1972 [AIR 27/3325]

XS597		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1229' F/L Long
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[15:10] n/stop.				

Tuesday 8th February 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 27/3325][MB]

XR363	363	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9518' F/L Breslain
XR370	370	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9519' S/L Campbell

Both Belfasts routed: Brize-Valley-Bruggen-Brize, return of 14 Sqn MPC support.				
XS597		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1229' F/L Long
Routed: Valley[08:00]-Aldergrove-Hawarden-Aldergrove-Thorney Island.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XM705:10 4 FTS to CFS on loan, still coded :10 Gnat T.1 XP541:41 4 FTS delivered to CFS. Gnat T.1 XR951:26 4 FTS delivered to CFS.				

Thursday 10th February 1972 [BJ][MB]

G-AYWG	-	PA-23 Aztec 250C	Private	To Speke, Spooner Avn
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR977:46 [F/L Smith] repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 7.5.70				

Friday 11th February 1972 [@MAR 05/17][AIR 27/3291][AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Dainty
Precautionary for a Hunter aircraft with engine vibration, on landing the port mainwheel brake caught fire, this was extinguished by a Fireman carried on the helicopter. The same helicopter and crew attended a further Hunter precautionary later the same day, the Hunter landed safely.				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	To St Mawgan
XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	From St Mawgan
22 Sqn aircraft changeover.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XM705:10 XR951:26 4 FTS both seen flying at Kemble.				

Saturday 12th February 1972 [Peter Whittle logbook*]

G-AXTM	-	PA-28 Cherokee*	CSE Avn	N/stop from Oxford
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Sunday 13th February 1972 [Peter Whittle logbook*]

G-AXTM	-	PA-28 Cherokee*	CSE Avn	To Oxford
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Monday 14th February 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Precautionary for a Gnat aircraft with undercarriage indication problems, aircraft landed safely.				

Thursday 17th February 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Nequest
Search sandbanks at OS 107/660780 for a series of flares seen over a period of several hours, nothing seen.				

Saturday 19th February 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Nequest
Rescue of a climber at OS 107/667586, unable to get to the scene due to low cloud. 5				

members of the MRT were dropped off at the cloud base, aircraft returned to Valley as darkness set.

Sunday 20th February 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Moyes
2 fallen climbers at OS 107/670633, on arrival located the 2 with torch lights at OS 107/668644. One helicopter nosewheel and mainwheel placed on the ground and one walking and one stretchered casualty flown to Bangor Hospital. [D Taint & D Thomas]				

Friday 25-28th February 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x Gnat T.1	CFS	Red Arrows weekend detachment
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Sunday 27th February 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

		?	[22 Sqn]	
22 Sqn SNO visited by air from St Mawgan. Senior Navigation Officer.				
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XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Nequest
Scrambled for a Hunter aircraft with a double generator and total hydraulic failure, landed safely.				
XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Dainty
Fallen climber at OS 106/295905 stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital. [E Derek, 50 from Amlwch]				

Monday 28th February 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP535:54 4 FTS [F/O Blackwell] to Bitteswell for overhaul.				

Tuesday 29th February 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3291][AIR 27/3056][MB]

XW790	-	HS.125 CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR1272' L/Cdr Varley
VIP flight, Northolt-Valley.				
		Hunter*	FRADU	
		Hunter*	FRADU	
*Participated in a Naval Exercise in the Irish Sea.				
-				
XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Dainty
Gnat precautionary, landed safely.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS103:59 4 FTS to Bitteswell for limited overhaul. Hunter F.6 XF387:77 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 3.3				

March 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 263 movements including 7 VIP's.
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March 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		4x Puma HC.1	[H]OCU	Mountain Flying Detachment
		2x Wessex HC.2	[H]OCU	Mountain Flying Detachment

March 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Took part in Exercise 'Gas Float' in the Lake District area. This involved searching the beaches for any surplus munitions washed ashore, no specific dates in March in the Sqn ORB.				

Wednesday 1st March 1972 [AIR 27/3056]

XW790	-	HS.125 CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR1272' F/L Linton
VIP flight, routed: Valley-Aldergrove-Northolt.				

Thursday 2nd March 1972 [AIR 27/3307][AIR 27/3280][AIR 29/4353][AIR 27/3439]

STCAAME *Scrambled from Gutersloh to Aberporth Range. *1x Firestreak misfire [XN780] land Valley. **Scrambled from Leuchars to Aberporth Range. **1x missile fired [XS929 chased by XS931] land Valley.				
XN780	K	Lightning F.2A*	92 Sqn	STCAAME F/L J T Kingsley
XS929	E	Lightning F.6**	11 Sqn	STCAAME F/L H Maclean
XS931	G	Lightning F.6**	11 Sqn	STCAAME F/L J G Wild
		Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME
XV176	176	Hercules C.1	47 Sqn	'RRR3897' Capt Gibson
Routed: Lyneham-Leuchars-Marham-Valley-Lyneham, arrived 03:20 & departed 14:25.				

Friday 3rd March 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
2 missing climbers on Snowdon overnight, aircraft took off at first light to search the cloud base at 2,300ft at Snowdon but nothing seen. Due to the weather the rest of the sortie was used to ferry MRT and equipment to the cloud base, aircraft then returned to Valley. Injured climbers were brought down to Llanberis by the MRT.				

Monday 6th March 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Diverted off a training sortie for a Gnat precautionary with undercarriage indicator				

problems, Gnat landed safely.

Saturday 11-12th March 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		4x Gnat T.1	CFS	Weekend detachment
		?x Gnat T.1	CFS	Red Arrows weekend detachment

Tuesday 14th March 1972 [BAR 72/04][AIR 27/3291]

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XR948	48	Gnat T.1	4 FTS	
Abandoned after engine failure [2 nd stage compressor] 3nms East of Llanbedr, the aircraft then landed almost intact at Llanbedr. Whirlwind HAR.10 XD182 22 Sqn [F/L Nequest] scrambled and found both pilots in a field, they were then flown back to Valley.				
Student	F/L	Nigel J Day		Ejected ok.
Instr	Capt	M E Trachta		Ejected ok.
-				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR998:47 4 FTS visited Brize Norton.				

Thursday 16th March 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL601:88 4 FTS diverted to Kemble from Fairford.				

Friday 17th March 1972 [BJ][MB]

G-AHLI	-	Auster 3	Private	From & to Speke, A V Orchard
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP503:03 repairs complete returned back to 4 FTS 20.3 see 27.10.71 Gnat T.1 XP542:42 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 22.3				

Saturday 18th March 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Moyes
Fallen climber in the Snowdon area, survivor located by RAF Stafford MRT, stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital. [D Mitchell, 23yrs old from Waddeston, Bucks.				

Monday 20th March 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

A 54 Sqn Phantom arrived for a pre-MPC brief and flew a non-firing range sortie.				
		Phantom FGR.2	54 Sqn	STCAAME N/stop

Tuesday 21st March 1972 [AIR 27/3075][AIR 27/3056][AIR 29/4353][AIR 27/3073]

43 Sqn MPC flown DIRECT from Leuchars, did NOT use Valley due to the runway resurfacing.				
		Phantom FGR.2	54 Sqn	Departed, see 20.3

XW788	-	HS.125 CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR1226' Lt Crowther
VIP flight, routed: Northolt-Valley.				
XV235	35	Nimrod MR.1	42 Sqn	PD or landed ? F/L Carter

Thursday 23rd March 1972 [AIR 29/4353][MB]

		Phantom FGR.2	54 Sqn	STCAAME turnaround
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP511:11 delivered to CFS still as '11' Gnat T.1 XP516:16 4 FTS delivered to CFS. Gnat T.1 XP534:15 4 FTS delivered to CFS. Gnat T.1 XP537:07 4 FTS delivered to CFS. Gnat T.1 XR537:37 4 FTS delivered to CFS. Gnat T.1 XR574:24 4 FTS delivered to CFS.				

Saturday 25-26th March 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x Gnat T.1	CFS	Weekend detachment
		?x Gnat T.1	CFS	Red Arrows weekend detachment
		?x JP T.[5]	CFS	Pelicans weekend detachment
[During 1972 the Pelicans were operating JP T.5's: XW287:80 XW288:81 XW289:82 XW290:83 XW291:84 XW292:85 XW293:86 XW294:87 XW295:88 XW414:89 XW421:90]				

Monday 27th March 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR998:47 4 FTS delivered to CFS.				

Tuesday 28th March 1972 [BJ]

G-AXOV	-	Beech B55 Baron	Private	IDS Aircraft Ltd
From and to Speke then Norwich.				

Friday 31st March 1972 [MC 5/72]

G-AXNH	-	Stampe SV-4C	Private	From Halfpenny Green
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April 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Valley runways were all closed 24.4-18.6.72. Only 22 Sqn & CFS[H] operated plus limited flying on the short runway 02/20. MDA commitment was transferred to Shawbury. Station Flight, 161 movements including 13 VIP's.				
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April 1972 [photo Dennis Pritchard]

68-0042	UH[y]	F-111E	79 TFS/20 TFW	PD
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April 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.10 XP351 from St Mawgan. Whirlwind HAR.10 XD182 to St Mawgan. 22 Sqn aircraft changeover, no specific date in April's Sqn ORB.				

Tuesday 4th April 1972 [AIR 27/3296]

XV307	307	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	F/L Wrigley
Routed: Lyneham-Valley[09:30/09:35]-Kinloss-Leuchars-Lyneham.				

Wednesday 5th April 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Search for a fallen climber in the sea off the cliffs at Gogarth Bay near North Stack, nothing seen.				
XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Fallen climber with a broken leg and bleeding, aircraft flown to OS 107/550520 but unable to approach closer due to high winds and turbulence. Aircraft landed at Rhyd Ddu to await the MRT and casualty which was then flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Sunday 9th April 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Moyes
Boat with 3 persons onboard drifting 4nms East of Bardsey Island, on arrival 1 woman and boy airlifted to the mainland at OS 115/150245 whilst the boat owner remained onboard to await the arrival of the Lifeboat, aircraft returned to Valley.				

Monday 10th April 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP513:13 4 FTS delivered to Bitteswell [F/L Morgan] for reconditioning. [XP513 never returned to Valley as following it's overhaul it was loaned to MoD[PE] [Procurement Executive] at Bitteswell & Filton as chase aircraft for Vulcan XA903 which was involved in the RB.199 engine later used by the Tornado aircraft. Following this XP513 was used as a chase aircraft for Concorde flight trials from Filton. It was then allocated to RAE Bedford on 29.12.78 arriving there either 9 or 16.1.79. It was struck off charge in 1980 and used as a ground instructional airframe by the A&AEE before being sold in the USA. It was registered as N513X 8.86 to Lance Aircraft Supply then to Dean Cutshall/American Horizons Ltd [Fort Wayne, In] 8.5.96 It then had a succession of owners in the USA before returning to the UK with Heritage Aircraft Trust, North Weald in 8.16 It was under restoration to fly before this was cancelled 5.7.16 still present as of 2024]				

Wednesday 12th April 1972 [MB]

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Based noted:

Gnat T.1 XR982:51 to Bitteswell for structural integrity study.
[XR982 was subsequently loaned to MoD[PE] 1.5.72 but was struck off charge 3.8.73 and tested to destruction [29.6.73] all rivets were removed and pieces stored in boxes ready for disposal on completion of the study. As of 2.11.73 the aircraft no longer existed]

Gnat T.1 XR998:47 returned from CFS, see 27.3.72

Thursday 13th April 1972 [AIR 27/3307][AIR 27/3056][AIR 29/4353][MB]

*Battle Flight training scramble from Gutersloh to Aberporth Range.

*1x Firestreak fired, land Valley.

XN791	[D]	Lightning F.2A*	92 Sqn	'HH22' STCAAME F/O G O Harries
XS769	[-]	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5407' S/L Greenwood

From and to Northolt.

Based noted:

Gnat T.1 XP516:16 delivered back from CFS to 4 FTS, see 23.3.72

Gnat T.1 XP537:07 delivered back from CFS to 4 FTS, see 23.3.72

Friday 14th April 1972 [MB]

Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XR572:19 returned from Bitteswell [F/L Morgan]				
Gnat T.1 XR951:26 returned from CFS, see 8.2.72				

Saturday 15th April 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Search for a boat wreck in the Dee Estuary, wreckage and body sighted with the body flown to Hoylake and handed over to Police.				

Monday 17th April 1972 [AIR 27/3128]

54 Sqn carried out their MPC direct from Coningsby with Phantom FGR.2's. Did NOT use Valley due to the runway resurfacing work being carried out.				

Tuesday 18th April 1972 [MB]

Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XP534:15 returned from CFS, see 23.3.72				
Gnat T.1 XR537:37 returned from CFS, see 23.3.72				

Wednesday 19th April 1972 [MB]

Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XP506:06 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 14.12.71				
Gnat T.1 XP536:27 4 FTS delivered to Bitteswell for overhaul.				
Gnat T.1 XP540:40 repairs complete back to 4 FTS same day, see 6.8.71				



Although undated it shows XP540 taxiing to runway 19. [Dick Thomas Collection]
The 22 Sqn Whirlwind can be seen at its dispersal left background.

Thursday 20th April 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XD182	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Hunter precautionary with undercarriage indications issues, Hunter landed safely.				

Friday 21st April 1972 [BAR 72/05][AIR 27/3291][MB]

XR660	Q	JP T.4*	4 FTS	
*Station Commanders hack for Fairford Detachment. Ex. 'Q' CATCS, Shawbury. Delivered from 27 MU, Shawbury. Red/White colours with a white code 'Q' from its CATCS days.				

Monday 24th April 1972 [BAR 72/06][MC 5/72 & 6/72]

Based noted:

4 FTS operated out of Fairford until 19.6.72 whilst Valley underwent runway repairs.
In the event due to subsoil problems the detachment at Fairford remained there until 7.7

Plan was to fly 15 Gnats and 14 Hunters to Fairford on 24.4

Aircraft known to have operated from Fairford [AB][MC 6/72]

Gnat T.1 4 FTS

XP503:03 XP537:07 XR569:08 XM705:10 XM706:12 XP534:15 XP516:16 XR572:19 XS110:20

XP508:21 XR574:24 XR951:26 XR953:29 XR537:37 XP540:40 XP541:41 XR983:53 XS100:57

XS102:58 XP530:64

Hunter F.6 4 FTS

XF527:70 XG274:71 XF384:72 XF509:73 XG185:74 XF386:75 [ex '33' 229 OCU]

XE656:76 [ex '56' 229 OCU] XF387:77[ex. '48' 229 OCU]

Hunter T.7 4 FTS

XL609:80 XL621:81 [ex-'T' 4 Sqn, replaced XL622] XL591:82 XL600:83 XL567:84 WV372:85

[ex-'T' 2 Sqn] XL566:86 [ex-'T' 208 Sqn] XL597:87 XL601:88 XL565:89 [ex-'T' 8 Sqn & 5 MU]

[XL565 joined 4 FTS on this date at Fairford from Kemble becoming '89']

JP T.4 XR660:Q Station Commanders Hack [runabout]

Hunter T.7 XL573:97 on loan from 229 OCU.



With Concorde 101 G-AXDN. [Both: Roger Malcolm]

Thursday 27th April 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

		?	[22 Sqn]	
22 Sqn SNO visited by air from St Mawgan.				

Saturday 29th April 1972 [BAR 72/06]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XG274:71 4 FTS Liverpool Airshow, flying.				

Sunday 30th April 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Capsized boat with 4 people in the sea at OS 115/335303, on arrival the 4 survivors were safely ashore. The boat had sunk 200yds offshore.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Fallen climber at OS 107/619560, aircraft tried to ferry the MRT up to the location but unable due to severe winds and turbulence. The aircraft then returned to Valley but attempted a further sortie later. Flown to OS 107/618560 and casualty stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital. Winchman walked down the mountain with the MRT. [Climber was T/Sgt W J Flower, 67 ARRS/USAF at RAF Woodbridge]				

May 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 83 movements including 16 VIP's. This was despite the fact that 4 FTS were detached to Fairford.				
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Late May 1972 [BAR 72/07]

Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn XP351 XP354				
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Wednesday 3rd May 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR574:24 returned from CFS, see 23.3.72				

Thursday 4th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

	-	?	[22 Sqn]	
22 Sqn SNO visited by air from St Mawgan.				

Friday 5th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search for a missing girl at OS 116/850099, on arrival informed she had been found safe.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Boat with 2 persons onboard adrift off Rhosneigr, on arrival the boat's engine had been re-started, no assistance required.				

Monday 8th May 1972 [AIR 27/3280][MB]

Due to the ongoing runway repairs at Valley, 11 Sqn [Lightnings] carried out their MPC direct from Binbrook. This became the first MPC where overwing fuel drop tanks were used. The MPC was carried out 8-15.5.72 with 5 missiles fired.				
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Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP515:55 4 FTS by road to Bitteswell for overhaul.				

Thursday 11th May 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XM705:10 4 FTS returned from loan with CFS, see 8.2.72				

Friday 12th May 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR998:47 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 12.5				

Saturday 13th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Fallen climber at OS 107/695635, casualty stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Sunday 14th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Capsized dinghy with 2 persons sat on the upturned hull at OS 116/535635, aircraft recalled as the survivors had been picked up by the Criccieth Lifeboat.				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Fallen climber at OS 107/631570, casualty picked up at the cliff base, stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Monday 15th May 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XM706 delivered from CFS to 4 FTS becoming '12'				

Tuesday 16th May 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR571:23 4 FTS to Bitteswell for overhaul.				

Thursday 18th May 1972 [BJ]

G-AVGI	-	PA-28 Cherokee	Private	To Speke-Fairoaks
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Saturday 20th May 1972 [BAR 72/06][AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Climber who had fallen 70ft on Clogwyn, on arrival the climber had reached the top, so no further assistance required.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest

2 climbers stuck on Clogwyn; on arrival they had reached the top, so no further assistance required.

Based noted:
Hunter F.6 XF509:73 4 FTS Bentwaters Airshow, flying.

Sunday 21st May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Liverpool Territorial Army on Anglesey, aircraft acted as an airborne ambulance for the Field Hospital.				

Tuesday 23rd May 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP541:41 returned to 4 FTS from CFS, see 8.2.72				

Wednesday 24th May 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS110 [F/L Coker] from CFS/Bitteswell to 4 FTS becoming '20' [ex. '62']				

Thursday 25th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for a missing yacht enroute Liverpool to Anglesey, 3-6nm offshore search carried out between Point Lynas and Liverpool and return, nothing seen. Later informed the yacht had been taken under tow off Morecambe Bay.				

Saturday 27th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Assistance for a boat sinking at OS 106/243794, on arrival the survivors were sighted on rocks at a base of a cliff. Survivors were airlifted one by one with 2 of the three flown to Bangor Hospital.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Climber stuck on a cliff face at OS 107/490490, survivor located but the aircraft was unable to hover due to extreme up-draughting, survivor was rescued by MRT.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Capsized boat off Point Lynas, on arrival the occupant plus a 'rescuer' were clinging to rocks, both airlifted to the cliff top safely.				

Monday 29th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
2 children adrift on a raft in Red Wharf Bay, on arrival they had been picked up by a speedboat from a nearby caravan site.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Capsized yacht 1nm SE of Pwllheli, recalled after 15mins as the Lifeboat had located the				

yacht.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Capsized dinghy at OS 106/490950, on arrival 5 persons seen clinging to the hull, 4 lifted off leaving the winchman and 5 th survivor in the water. Aircraft landed at Point Lynas and then returned to pick up the winchman and last survivor. All the survivors were taken to Hospital by ambulance.				

Tuesday 30th May 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Capsized boat with 2 survivors clinging to the hull, survivors located and flown to SMC Valley. [R Rowein and son Clive form Stanton-on-the-Wolds, Notts]				

Wednesday 31st May 1972 [AIR 27/3012]

6 Sqn conducted their MPC from Coningsby and NOT Valley. This was due to the ongoing runway/apron re-surfacing work at Valley.				

June 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3091]

Station Flight, 106 movements including 3 VIP's. 56 Sqn carried out their MPC from Binbrook due to the ongoing runway works at Valley.				
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Saturday 3rd June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Missing sub aqua diver in the Point Lynas-Amlwch area, nothing seen. Search extended to Point Lynas-Cemaes Bay area but still nothing seen.				

Sunday 4th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Fallen climber on Tryfan at 2,000ft up, casualty with a dislocated/broken shoulder flown to Bangor Hospital. [J R Woods from Liverpool]				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Sub aqua diver with sever pains at the Skerries Lighthouse flown to Bangor Hospital. [B W Staton, 27yrs old from Chesterfield]				

Wednesday 7th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Search of Puffin Island for a female birdwatcher, sighted immediately and the Beaumaris Lifeboat guided to her location.				

Thursday 8th June 1972 [MB]

Based noted:				

Gnat T.1 XP508:21 [F/L Morgan] delivered back to 4 FTS from Bitteswell, see 14.12.71

Friday 9th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search of Conwy Mountain for a missing 14yr old boy, nothing seen. Later informed he had turned up at his Holiday address in Abergele. [G Bennett from Warrington]				

Saturday 10th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
2 injured climbers on Idwal Slabs, both stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Power boat in trouble, on arrival it had been taken under tow by a powered dinghy.				

Wednesday 14th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291][MB]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Injured climber flown from Carnedd Dafydd to Bangor Hospital.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP542:42 repairs complete and back to 4 FTS, see 17.3.72				

Thursday 15th June 1972 [MC 7/72]

71-0360	-	HH-53C	67 ARRS	
To Birmingham then Woodbridge.				

Friday 16th June 1972 [@MAR 10/21]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR574:24 XR537:07 XP540:40 4 FTS visited Kinloss & Lossiemouth.				

Saturday 17th June 1972 [@MAR 11/19]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR537:07 XP541:41 plus 2, 4 FTS Colerne Airshow.				

Sunday 18th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Casualty flown from Llyn Idwal to Bangor Hospital.				

Monday 19th June 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR983:53 returned from CFS, see 23.11.71				

Tuesday 20th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Search for 6 missing Police Cadets on a mountain trek, nothing seen.				

Sunday 25th June 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Capsized dinghy with 2 persons in the water, picked up at OS 115/390490 and flown to shore.				

Monday 26th June 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Warton
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE23' F/L Nequest
		Whirlwind HAR.10	CFS[H]	'RESCUE24' F/L Skea
All took part in the rescue of the 11 [3 crew/8 passengers] occupants of Royal Navy Heron C.1 XR444:- 781 NAS 'NAVY824' which had ditched 25nms W of Blackpool [5344N 00341W] due to fuel mismanagement. 'RESCUE22' was scrambled first followed 15mins later by 'RESCUE23'. CFS[H] detachment at Valley were then requested to assist after 11 survivors were reported in the sea by a Cambrian Airways Vickers Viscount aircraft which was orbiting the scene. RAF Andover 'RRR882' took over as the on-site co-ordinator from the Viscount. All 3 Helicopters were homed onto the scene and the winchman from 'RESCUE22' dropped an MS5 dinghy, 'RESCUE22' then picked up 6 survivors by double winching followed by 'RESCUE23' picking up the remaining 5 survivors. 'RESCUE24' then picked up the winchman and the dinghy. After dropping all the survivors at Southport Hospital, the 3 Whirlwind aircraft refuelled at Woodvale before returning to Valley. XR444 was recovered to Liverpool Docks on 30.6 and arrived at Lee-on-Solent 11.7 and was noted at the Open Day on trestles.				

Sunday 2nd July 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Fallen climber at OS 107/735515, on arrival informed the casualty was at position OS 107/738523. Casualty stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital suffering with a suspected broken rib and punctured lung.				

Thursday 6th July 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP532:32 4 FTS [F/L Fitzimmons] returned from Bitteswell, see 16.3				

Friday 7th July 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Fallen climber at Aber Falls [OS 107/668715] flown to Bangor Hospital with a broken neck/back. [R Tawell, 15yrs old from St Neots]				

Saturday 8th July 1972 [BAR 72/08]

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Based noted: RAF Topcliffe Air Show: The following 4 FTS aircraft participated from Leeming: Gnat T.1 [8 aircraft flypast from the below aircraft] 4 FTS. XP503:03 XR569:08 XP516:16 XS110:20 XP508:21 XR951:26 XR537:37 XP540:40 XP542:42 XR983:53 Hunter F.6 [8 Hunters from the aircraft listed below] 4 FTS. XG274:71 [Topcliffe static] XF384:72 XF509:73 XF386:75 XE656:76 Hunter T.7 4 FTS XL591:82 XL600:83 XL567:84 XL597:87 XL565:89 XL573:97
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Sunday 9th July 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

92 Sqn arrived from Gutersloh with 6 aircraft for their MPC. 1 aircraft later returned to Gutersloh same day. XN788 was replaced at some stage by an F.2 92 Sqn MPC 10-16.7, 5 missiles fired [completed by 14.7] 92 Sqn ORB also mentions returning to Gutersloh 15.7				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN782	H	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN787	L	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC returned to Gutersloh PM
XN792	M	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XM968	Q	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	MPC
XR371	371	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9676' F/L Hill
Routed: Brize-Gutersloh-Valley-Brize.				
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XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Seaman suffering from a heart attack aboard the Belgian Trawler 'Coudecerccke' [5226N 00445W] airlifted to Aberystwyth Hospital. A second aircraft [XP351] flew top cover for this rescue.				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Capsized dinghy off Colwyn Bay, on arrival both survivors had already been picked up by the Llandudno Lifeboat.				

Monday 10th July 1972 [DF][AIR 27/3307][AIR 29/4353]

92 Sqn MPC no firings due to high winds at Llanbedr.				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN782	H	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN792	M	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN788	P	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XM968	Q	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	MPC
WD790	-	Meteor NF.11/12*	RRE	From & to Pershore
*Terrain avoidance trials.				

Tuesday 11th July 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

92 Sqn MPC				
AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN791 with chase XM968]				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN782	H	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN788	P	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN792	M	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XM968	Q	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	MPC

Wednesday 12th July 1972 [BAR 72/08]

92 Sqn MPC				
1x Firestreak fired [XN792 with chase XM968]				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN782	H	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN792	M	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN788	P	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XM968	Q	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	MPC
Based noted: Gnat T.1 4 FTS XR568:08 XS110:20 XP508:21 XR574:24 XR953:29 XP532:32 XP533:33 XR537:37 XP541:41 XP542:42 XR977:46 XR998:47 XR984:52 XR983:53 XS100:57 Hunter F.6 4 FTS XF384:72 XG185:74 XF386:75 XE656:76 XF387:77 Hunter T.7 4 FTS XL567:84 WV372:85 XL597:87 XL573:97				

Thursday 13th July 1972 [AIR 27/3312]

92 Sqn MPC				
1x Firestreak fired [XN787 with chase XN791]				
1x Firestreak fired [XN787 with chase XN791]				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN782	H	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN787	L	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XM968	Q	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	MPC
XS774	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5587' F/L Easterbrook
Routed: Northolt-Waddington-Valley-Waddington-Northolt.				

Friday 14th July 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

92 Sqn MPC				
1x Firestreak fired [XM968 with chase XN787]				
1x Firestreak fired [XN782 with chase XN791]				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN782	H	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN787	L	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC

XM968	Q	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	MPC
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Saturday 15th July 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Fallen girl on the summit of Snowdon flown to Bangor Hospital suffering from a suspect fractured skull. [J Starling, 6yrs old from Tarporley]				

Sunday 16th July 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 27/3307][AIR 27/3291]

92 Sqn departed back to Gutersloh with 5 aircraft post their MPC.				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN782	H	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN787	L	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
		Lightning F.2	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XM968	Q	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XR371	371	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9686' S/L Campbell
Routed: Brize-Valley-Gutersloh-Brize, return of 92 Sqn support post MPC.				
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XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
2 small boys adrift on a lilo off Port-y-Bost, Holyhead airlifted to SMC Valley safely. [M Grimshaw-Smith, 10yrs old from Caergwrle & D Ingham 10yrs old from Warrington]				

Monday 17th July 1972 [DF][AIR 27/3291]

WD790	-	Meteor NF.11/12	RRE	From & to Pershore
Terrain Avoidance Radar trials.				
-				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Capsized boat with 2 boys in the water at OS 116/695360, scramble cancelled enroute but asked to check a reported boat adrift at OS 115/425565, on arrival the speedboat was safely anchored.				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Report of a parachute descending into Cymyran Bay, West of the Airfield at Valley. Informed by ATC that no aircraft or brake parachutes were missing, aircraft returned to Valley. Later informed that a parasail had been flown on a line from a farm near Rhoscolyn by a Mr T E Jones who was subsequently reprimanded.				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Gnat precautionary, aircraft landed safely before the helicopter was airborne.				

Tuesday 18th July 1972 [DF]

WD790	-	Meteor NF.11/12	RRE	From & to Pershore
Terrain Avoidance radar trials.				

Wednesday 19th July 1972 [BAG][AIR 27/3090][MB]

XH588	-	Victor K.1A	55 Sqn	Diversion W/C C A Herbert
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Diverted whilst enroute Offutt AFB, Nebraska to Marham				
-				
XR660	Q	JP T.4	4 FTS	
Suffered an in-flight incident, initially assessed as CAT.3R and repaired on site by 71 MU from 26.7. Re-assessed though on 27.8.72 as CAT.5 and allotted to Linton-on-Ouse for display. By road to 5 MU for surface finishing on 9.10.72 and further to Bicester by road on 30.11.72 Allocated 8374M 5.9.73 and to Linton-on-Ouse. Subsequently scrapped 12.74				

Thursday 20th July 1972 [AIR 27/3090][MB]

XH588	-	Victor K.1A	55 Sqn	To Marham, see 19.7
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR953:29 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 26.7				

Sunday 23rd July 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
3 people stranded at Red Wharf Bay, nothing seen.				

Monday 24th July 1972 [GP/SEAR]

Hawker Siddeley Harrier Team arrived for VIFF trials 24-27.7.72. [Vectoring in flight]				
XV277	-	Harrier GR.1	A&AEE	VIFF trials STCAAME
XL612	-	Hunter T.7	RAE Bedford	VIFF trials STCAAME
XN311	448:ED	Whirlwind HAR.9	[NAS]	HMS Endurance Flight.
XS674	AH	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	

Tuesday 25th July 1972 [GP/SEAR][BAR 72/10][AIR 27/3291]

XW311	69	JP T.5	1 FTS	
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Gnat precautionary landing, landed safely.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP538:K CFS delivered to 4 FTS becoming '38'				

Wednesday 26th July 1972 [BJ][GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3291]

G-AYOE	-	Bell 47G*	Private	From Speke-Stanlow
*Pipeline survey.				
G-AVTU	-	DH.114 Heron 2D	HSA Ltd	From Speke-Hatfield
G-AWWN	-	Jodel Ambassadeur	A V Orchard	From & to Speke
68-0042	JR[y]	F-111E	79 TFS/20 TFW	
WB534	-	Devon C.2/2	26 Sqn	
XV277	-	Harrier GR.1	A&AEE	VIFF trials
XL612	-	Hunter T.7	RAE Bedford	VIFF trials
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb

14ft dinghy adrift 3nms off Dinas Dinlle without sails, oars or engine, area searched but informed it had been towed ashore by launch.

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Collapsed woman reported on SW side of Snowdon, woman found nearby ok, no assistance required.				

Thursday 27th July 1972 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3291]

XW930	-	HS.125-1B	RAE Bedford	
XN577	18	JP T.3	1 FTS	
XW313	72	JP T.5	1 FTS	
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Man reported adrift on a lilo off Penrhyn, turned out to be a well-intentioned false alarm.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Injured climber flown from Devil's Kitchen to Bangor Hospital. [P Bell 16yrs old]				
Based noted: ATC Summer Camp flying. Chipmunk T.10 WD384:P 5 AEF				

Friday 28th July 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Capsized boat in the Menai Straits, search carried out for 1 missing person, but nothing seen and returned to Valley.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Yacht firing 4 star flares at OS 106/205815, yacht located with a broken down engine, later taken under tow by Holyhead Lifeboat.				

Sunday 30th July 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for a missing 7yr old boy at Harlech Beach, nothing seen though.				

Monday 31st July 1972 [Pprune Wwyvern logbook*][AIR 27/3291]

XV725	[AC]	Wessex HC.2*	72 Sqn	N/stop
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for a missing dinghy with 2 occupants off Trevor, located at OS 106/400540 and taken under tow by the Porthdinllaen Lifeboat. The body of a dead girl was spotted some 5mins later .5nm South of the boat.				
XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Hunter with hydraulic problems, landed safely.				

Tuesday 1st August 1972 [Pprune Wwyvern logbook*][Lewis Grant]

XV725	[AC]	Wessex HC.2*	72 Sqn	To Aldergrove
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XT669	AT	Wessex HC.2*	72 Sqn	To Odiham
G-AXOV	-	Beech B55 Baron	Private	

Wednesday 2nd August 1972 [AIR 27/3291][MB]

XP354	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Spikins
Gnat precautionary alert, landed safely.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP511:11 delivered to 4 FTS from CFS, see 23.3.72 Gnat T.1 XR954:30 [F/L Morgan] from Bitteswell, see 19.1.72				

Thursday 3rd August 1972 [Lewis Grant][MB]

G-AWES	-	Cessna 150G	Private	Edinburgh, Lowland Aero Service
G-AWWK	-	Beech King Air	Private	To Halfpenny Green
VP953	-	Devon C.2	26 Sqn	

Friday 4th August 1972 [Lewis Grant]

G-AZTO	-	PA-34 Seneca	Private	
WT212		Canberra B.6	RAE	Red/white scheme
G-AXDL	-	PA-30 Comanche	NEA	

Sunday 6th August 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Blue hulled yacht in trouble 4nms North of Holyhead, de-masted yacht located .75nm off the coast. Winchman lowered and confirmed all 4 occupants were ok. Helicopter remained on scene until the yacht was taken under tow by the Holyhead Lifeboat.				

Monday 7th August 1972 [Lewis Grant][AIR 27/3291][MB]

G-AZSJ	-	Cessna 414	Bourne Air	
WL641		Varsity T.1	6 Support Sqn	Cosford based.
XS766	-	Basset CC.1	26 Sqn	
G-AWWN	-	Jodel 1051	Private	
XV104	104	VC-10 C.1	10 Sqn	Low overhead, did not land
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
9yr old girl [Sarah Preen] reported adrift on a lilo in Lligwy Bay, on arrival found face down in the water. CPR administered whilst being flown to Bangor Hospital but pronounced dead on arrival.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Dinghy in trouble off Colwyn Bay Pier, the dinghy was assisted ashore by a passing local boat.				

Tuesday 8th August 1972 [MC 9/72][BAR 72/08][AIR 27/3291][MB]

XN967		Buccaneer S.1	RAE	Red/White scheme
XV442	[F]	Phantom FGR.2	6 Sqn	Airfield Attack ?

-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Dinghy in trouble off the Airfield Beach at Valley, Winchman lowered into shallow water and assisted 2 persons plus the dinghy ashore.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Dinghy in trouble at Red Wharf Bay, on arrival the boat and dinghy had been taken under tow by the Moelfre Lifeboat. Area searched for another missing boat, but nothing seen.				
Based noted: Hunter T.7 WV372:85 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing. Hunter T.7 XL565:89 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for WV372:85 above. Hunter T.7 XL566:86 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for XL609:80 Hunter T.7 XL609:80 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing.				

Wednesday 9th August 1972 [Lewis Grant][AIR 27/3291]

WL641	[-]	Varsity T.1	6 Support Sqn	Cosford based.
G-ATHO	-	Beagle 206	Air London	
XS728	E	Dominie T.1	6 FTS	'B—93'
XS739	F	Dominie T.1	6 FTS	'B—92'
XS731	J	Dominie T.1	6 FTS	'B—91'
XR140	140	Argosy E.1	115 Sqn	
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
2 boys missing 3nms East of Llanbedr, found and flown to Llanbedr Airfield and a waiting Doctor.				
[M Pruen, 14yrs old from Manchester & G Palmer, 14yrs old from Romsey]				

Thursday 10th August 1972 [BJ][MC 9/72][Lewis Grant][AIR 27/3291]

XV214	214	Hercules C.1		PD 'RRR832'
XV303	303	Hercules C.1		PD
G-ASWI	-	Wessex Srs.60	Bristow	
G-AZTO	-	PA-34 Seneca	Private	
G-AVBP	-	PA-28 Cherokee	Private	From & to Speke, Hydraulic Services
G-AWWN	-	Jodel DR.1050	A V Orchard	From & to Speke
XW301	60	JP T.5	1 FTS	
-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
2 people in the water at OS 116/580210, nothing seen and returned to Valley. 1 body was later recovered from the water.				
-				
XF384	72	Hunter F.6*	4 FTS	
XF387	77	Hunter F.6**	4 FTS	
Mid-air at 200ft over Silver Bay Holiday Camp, Rhoscolyn at 14:00. XF384 wreckage struck several Caravans killing 1 Woman. XF387 crashed in an adjacent field. Whirlwind HAR.10 XP351 22 Sqn [F/L Warton] was soon on the scene and ferried equipment and personnel to				

the site to quell the fuel fires. During the afternoon BN-2A Islander G-AXXH & PA-23 Aztec 250D both from Northern Executive Aviation flew over the crash site with press photographers onboard, neither landed. The Valley ORB mentions the name of the Jordanian Cadet as 'Nabeel.'

Pilot	F/L	Charles Francis Ashe*	Killed
Pilot	Cdt	Talal Shafiq Issa**	Killed [Jordanian Air Force]
Civilian	Mrs	Lois Rait	Killed, from Chester

Saturday 12th August 1972 [@MAR 07/17][AIR 27/3291]

XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
2 people reported on mud flats at Llanfairfechan, nothing seen.				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Injured climber on Glyder Fawr [OS 107/642579] flown to Bangor Hospital. [Cpl J Priestly from Valley MRT]				
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XG274:71 4 FTS Upper Heyford Airshow, flying.				
				
[Tudor Rowlands] Gnat T.1 XP539:39 4 FTS Upper Heyford Air Day, static.				

Sunday 13th August 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 27/3036][AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

19 Sqn arrived from Gutersloh with 6 aircraft for their MPC.				
19 Sqn MPC 13-22.8, 5 Firestreak missiles fired, all by 21.8.				
19 Sqn returned 5 days ahead of schedule.				
8 missiles were ferried to Valley before the MPC by Lightning aircraft.				
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [W/C P C Vangucci]
XN778	H	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/L D L Webley]
XN735	A	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/L M B Stoner]
XN790	L	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/L R W Sears]
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/L T G Hanlon]
XN786	M	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/L G C Kelly]
XR363	363	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9535' F/L Bampton
Routed: Brize-Wildenrath-Gutersloh-Valley-Brize, 19 Sqn MPC support.				
-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Diverted from a training flight for a missing girl at Abersoch, found safely then tasked to find a missing boy at Criccieth who later turned up safely.				

Monday 14th August 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Boat in difficulty in Bardsey Sound [OS 115/135235] with 2 persons reported to be clinging to a lobster pot buoy in a fast tide. Nothing seen, the Porthdinllaen Lifeboat later took the boat under tow to Aberdaron harbour.				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Boy reported missing on Cymyran Beach, on crossing the coast the boy was spotted face down in the water. He was winched into the helicopter and CPR performed until the SMC staff arrived, after 10 more mins of CPR the boy was pronounced dead. [D M Foulkes, 10yrs old from Valley]				

Tuesday 15th August 1972 [BAR 72/10][AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

19 Sqn MPC				
XN778	H	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN786	M	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN790	L	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Man stuck on cliffs at Cilan Ho, located 100ft up and lowered to his boat safely with Abersoch Lifeboat in attendance.				

Wednesday 16th August 1972 [AIR 29/4353][MB]

19 Sqn MPC				
AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN724 with chase XN786]				
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN786	M	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN778	H	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XG209 from 5 MU Kemble for 4 FTS – becoming '69' Hunter T.7 XL621:81 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for XG209				

Friday 18th August 1972 [AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353][MB]

19 Sqn MPC				
PM 1x Firestreak fired [XN786 with chase XN724]				
PM 1x Firestreak fired [XN733 with chase XN789]				
XN786	M	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN735	A	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN781	B	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC

-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Gnat precautionary with fuel problems, landed safely.				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Small inflatable with a woman and girl onboard seen off Newborough Beach, on arrival both were airlifted safely to shore. The boat and paddles were also returned to the owners.				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Fallen climber at OS 107/625531, on arrival 2 persons located and flown to Bangor Hospital. [M Davis, 15yrs old from Stratford-on-Avon with an injured ankle]				
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL596 delivered to 4 FTS from RAE Farnborough becoming '90'				

Monday 21st August 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

19 Sqn MPC				
AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN778 with chase XN724]				
AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN781 with chase XN724]				
XN778	H	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN781	B	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN786	M	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
-				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Gnat precautionary, aircraft landed safely.				

Tuesday 22nd August 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 27/3036]

19 Sqn departed back to Gutersloh post their MPC.				
XN778	H	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN781	B	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
[XN733]	[Y]	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN735	A	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN786	M	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XR363	363	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9536' S/L Campbell
Routed: Brize-Valley-Gutersloh-Brize, return of 19 Sqn MPC support.				

Wednesday 23rd August 1972 [AIR 4/216]

WJ907	Q	Varsity T.1	AE&AEOS	F/L Brookes
Routed: Topcliffe-Valley-Finningley-Leeming-Topcliffe.				

Friday 25th August 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
3 people stuck on cliffs at OS 115/338308, all uplifted safely and landed nearby.				

Sunday 27th August 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Thomson
Fallen climber near Clogwyn, stretchered and flown to Llanberis. Later pronounced dead by the Police.				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Thomson
Fallen climber South of Capel Curig, flown to Bangor Hospital with a suspected fractured ankle. [F Kent, 16yrs old from Westcliffe-on-Sea]				
XP351	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Thomson
Night search for a capsized boat with 2 people onboard between Middle Mouse and the Mainland, searched for 25mins then informed that the 2 people were now safely ashore.				

Tuesday 29th August 1972 [AIR 27/3291][AIR 27/3439]

XV298	298	Hercules C.1	47 Sqn	'RRR3885' F/L Harris
Routed: Lyneham-Wildenrath-Farnborough-Valley-Lyneham arrived 15:35 & departed 16:10				
-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Fallen boy at OS 107/698761, on arrival stretchered and flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Wednesday 30th August 1972 [BJ][MB]

G-AZLG	-	Beech B58 Baron	Private	From & to Speke
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL613 delivered from 45 Sqn to 4 FTS becoming '91'				

Thursday 31st August 1972 [BAR 72/10][MB]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF526:[38] 229 OCU delivered to 4 FTS becoming '78'				

September 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 159 movements including 6 VIP's.				
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September 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x ?		French AF
Visit to CFS[H] of a team of helicopter instructors from the French Air Force at Chambéry.				

Friday 1st September 1972 [AIR 27/3312][MB]

XS772	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5302' S/L Lockhart
Routed: Northolt-Valley-Chivenor-Northolt.				
Based noted:				

Gnat T.1 XM708 delivered from Bitteswell [F/L Coker] to 4 FTS becoming '18'

Saturday 2nd September 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

31 Sqn MPC groundcrew flew into Liverpool by VC-10.
They were then collected by 2 coaches and taken to Valley.

Sunday 3rd September 1972 [BJ][MC 10/72][DT]

17 Group Royal Observer Corps [ROC] Open Day.

Static:

Serial	Code	Type	Unit	Home Base/Notes
WK122	-	Canberra TT.18	7 Sqn	Detached to Llanbedr.



[via Dewi Thomas]

WP830	P	Chipmunk T.10	5 AEF	
XS727	D	Dominie T.1	6 FTS	Also flew
A92-999	-	Jindivik	RAE Llanbedr	Composite airframe
XV243	43	Nimrod MR.1	201 Sqn	Kinloss
XV484	484	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC Bruggen



[via Dewi Thomas]

XP360	V	Whirlwind HAR.10	CFS	
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[via Glyn Jones]

XT467	W-Y	Wessex HU.5	707 NAS	Yeovilton
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[Dewi Thomas Collection]

65-0962	-	HC-130H	67 ARRS	Woodbridge
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[Dewi Thomas Collection]

Flying:				
WB530	-	Devon C.2/2	207 Sqn	
XW299	56	JP T.5	1 FTS	Linton Blades
XW301	60	JP T.5	1 FTS	Linton Blades
XW304	62	JP T.5	1 FTS	Linton Blades
XW313	72	JP T.5	1 FTS	Linton Blades
XW409	78	JP T.5	1 FTS	Linton Blades
XW324	38	JP T.5	3 FTS	Gemini Pair Soloist
XW406	48	JP T.5	3 FTS	Gemini Pair
XW410	51	JP T.5	3 FTS	Gemini Pair

31 Sqn arrived from Bruggen with 4 aircraft for their MPC.
 31 Sqn MPC 3-16.9, see also XV484 which was part of the static display.
 Planned to fire 4 missiles.

XV402	402	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
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[Dick Thomas Collection]

XV427	427	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV491	491	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC



[Dick Thomas Collection]

XV101	101	VC-10 C.1	10 Sqn	'RRR2382' from & to Brize Norton
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[Dewi Thomas Collection]

Based noted: Current Fleet.

Gnat T.1 4 FTS

XR538:01 XP502:02 XP503:03 XP504:04 XR535:05 XP506:06

XP537:07 XR569:08 XM709:09 XM705:10 XP511:11



One of the old air raid shelters can be seen on the left, long since demolished.

[Glyn Jones]

XM706:12 XP513:13 XP534:15 XP516:16 XM708:18 XR572:19 XS110:20 XP508:21 XR571:23

XR574:24 XR951:26 XP536:27 XR953:29 XR954:30 XP532:32 XP533:33 XR541:34 XS106:36

XR537:37 XP538:38 XP540:40 XP541:41 XP542:42 XS104:44 XR977:46 XR998:47 XP500:50

XR982:51 XR984:52 XR983:53 XP535:54 XP515:59 XS100:57 XS102:58 XS103:59 XP530:64

XR534:65



[with Nimrod MR.1 XV243 behind]





[All: Arthur Evans]

Hunter F.6 4 FTS

XG209:69 [ex 5 MU] XF527:70 XG274:71 XF509:73 XG185:74 XF386:75 XE656:76 XF526:78
XG158:79

Hunter T.7 4 FTS

XL609:80 XL621:81 XL591:82 XL600:83 XL567:84 WV372:85 XL566:86 XL597:87
XL601:88 XL565:89 XL596:90 XL613:91[ex-'T' 8 Sqn] XL573:97

JP T.4 4 FTS

XR660:Q

Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn

XP349

Monday 4th September 1972 [BAR 72/10][MB]

XN600		JP T.3	[5 MU]	To & from Kemble
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XM708:18 4 FTS delivery to Valley from Bitteswell. Hunter T.7 WV372:85 4 FTS returned from Kemble [F/L Shepherd] see 8.8.72 Pilot [F/L Shepherd] returned to Kemble by XN600 above.				

Tuesday 5th September 1972 [BJ][AIR 29/4353][MB]

31 Sqn MPC				
PM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV484 with chase XV427 plus Valley Hunter T.7]				
XV402		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV427		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV484		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
G-AWWN	-	Jodel DR.1050	A V Orchard	From & to Speke
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL609:80 returned from 5 MU Kemble, see 8.8.72				

Wednesday 6th September 1972 [AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

31 Sqn MPC				
XV427		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV484		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV491		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC

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XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Fallen climber at Clogwyn [OS 107/597554] pronounced dead on arrival at the scene and flown to Bangor Hospital, possible suicide.				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search for missing Trimaran yacht in Caernarfon Bay, nothing seen. Boat later found in different area.				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for boat adrift 2nms West of Ravens Point, nothing seen.				

Thursday 7th September 1972 [BAR 72/09]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XG209:69 & XG274:71 4 FTS both visited Farnborough.				
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Friday 8th September 1972 [BAR 72/10][AIR 29/4353]

31 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV491 with chase XV484]				
XV402		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV484		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV491		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS106:36 4 FTS delivered to CFS.				

Sunday 10th September 1972 [BAG][MB]

WL689	N	Varsity T.1	Fire Dump	Burnt on Fire Dump 10/11.9
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Monday 11th September 1972 [AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353][MB]

31 Sqn MPC OC 31 Sqn [W/C Sprent] night stopped on a visit to the Sqn's MPC.				
		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	STCAAME N/stop
-				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
26ft converted Lifeboat reported missing enroute Heswall to Fleetwood, 3hrs spent searching but nothing seen with refuelling carried out at Woodvale, aircraft then returned to Valley.				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Reference the above sortie with XJ764, a light aircraft transitting the Irish Sea reported sighting a vessel answering the description of the converted Lifeboat, 25nms North of Llandudno. XP349 was scrambled to search the area plus a Gnat aircraft was launched to provide top cover but nothing seen. Search was called off when the owner of the Lifeboat arrived home having scrambled ashore when the boat sunk in the Ribble Estuary, he then thumbed a lift into Southport and caught the bus home.				
Based noted:				

Hunter F.6 XF509:73 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing.
 Hunter T.7 XL596:90 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for pilot of F.6 XF509:73

Tuesday 12th September 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

31 Sqn MPC				
XV402	[402]	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV427	[427]	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV484	[484]	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV491	[491]	Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC

Wednesday 13th September 1972 [AIR 27/3325]

XS597		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1738' F/L Johnson
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[15:35] n/stop.				

Thursday 14th September 1972 [Air Strip 10/72][AIR 29/4353][AIR 27/3325]

31 Sqn MPC				
XV402		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV427		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV484		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV491		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
G-AVLW	-	Fournier RF-4D	Private	From Coventry
XS597		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1738' F/L Johnson
Routed: Valley[06:30]-Aldergrove-Northolt-Thorney Island.				

Friday 15th September 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

31 Sqn MPC				
PM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV427 with chase XV491]				
31 Sqn departed back to Bruggen PM post their MPC, last aircraft departed 16:30 local.				
XV402		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV427		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV484		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV491		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen

Saturday 16th September 1972 [BAR 72/11][AIR 29/4353]

The 31 Sqn MPC groundcrew were coached to Liverpool Airport. They then flew by [VC-10] back to Bruggen.				
Based noted: The following attended the annual Battle of Britain Airshows. Whirlwind HAR.10 22 Sqn St Athan. Gnat T.1 4 FTS XP538:38 Finningley, static.				

XM708:18 Biggin Hill, static. XP511:11 St Mawgan, static. Hunter F.6 4 FTS XF527:70 XG185:74 XF386:75 Finningley, flying. XG274:71 Abingdon and Biggin Hill, flying.
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Sunday 17th September 1972 [BJ][AIR 27/3291]

G-AVBM	-	PA-28 Cherokee	Private	To Speke-Blackpool
				-
XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Warton
Car stuck in sand near Porthmadog, arrived and located amphibian car with Criccieth Lifeboat in attendance. Car ultimately started and helicopter returned to Valley.				

Monday 18th September 1972 [BJ][BAR 72/10][AIR 29/4353][MB]

Hawker Siddeley Team arrived to conduct trials on Aberporth Range 18-19.9.				
		Devon	HSA	Trials support
		Harrier	HSA	Trials aircraft
G-AZLG	-	Beech B58 Baron	IDS	From & to Speke
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS100:57 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 2.10 Hunter F.6 XG158:[35] 229 OCU delivered to 4 FTS becoming '79'				

Tuesday 19th September 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?		
Visit by A/Cdre D Indarto, head of the Indonesian SAR Service, by air?				

Wednesday 20th September 1972 [@MAR 03/22]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 4 FTS visited Linton-on-Ouse, possibly an aerobatic competition.				

Late September 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		Whirlwind HAR.10*	CFS[H]	
		Whirlwind HAR.10*	CFS[H]	
*Departed on a liaison visit to GAF Fassberg, West Germany.				

Tuesday 26th September 1972 [AIR 29/4353][MB]

Hawker Siddeley Team arrived to conduct trials on Aberporth Range 26-30.9.				
		Devon	HSA	Trials support
		Harrier	HSA	Trials aircraft
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP535:54 4 FTS [[F/L Morgan] returned from Bitteswell, see 28.2.72				

Hunter F.6 XG185:74 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing.
 Hunter T.7 XL573:97 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for pilot of XG185:74

Thursday 28th September 1972 [AIR 27/3291][MB]

XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Gnat precautionary with engine problem, landed safely.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS103:59 [F/L Fitzsimmons] returned from Bitteswell, see 29.2.72				

Friday 29th September 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

The 29 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Lightning	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning	29 Sqn	STCAAME

Saturday 30th September 1972 [BJ][AIR 27/3291]

G-AZBM	-	Beech C90 King Air	BICC	From LHR via Speke
-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Fallen climber at OS 107/600560 flown to Bangor Hospital suffering from head injuries. [N Young, 23yrs old from Bath residing in Treborth]				

October 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 203 movements including 17 VIP's. The Hunters started to be painted in the new red/white/grey scheme. As an interim measure the camouflaged aircraft were given 'white' spines and wingtips.				
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October 1972 [AIR 27/3075]

		Phantom FG.1*	43 Sqn	Diversion
*Mentioned as diverting to Valley and departing back to Leuchars the following day. No specific dates though.				

Tuesday 3rd October 1972 [MAS K McKay]

XW322	1	JP T.5	RAFC	Prince Charles training aircraft
XW323	2	JP T.5	RAFC	Prince Charles training aircraft
XW313	72	JP T.5	1 FTS	Linton Blades
WT212	[-]	Canberra B.6	RAE	Red/white scheme
G-AWWN	-	Jodel DR1050	Private	Based
G-ASMG	-	DH.104 Dove 8	BAC	
Based noted: Hunter F.6 4 FTS XG209:69 XG274:71 XG158:79 Hunter T.7 4 FTS XL578:79 XL591:82 XL600:83 XL566:86 XL601:88 XL565:89** XL596:90				

XL613:91 XL573:97 XL612:- WV372:-* *new red/white colours **camo
Whirlwind HAR.10 CFS Detachment
XP344:K XP331:T

Wednesday 4th October 1972 [AIR 27/3308][AIR 29/4353][MB]

Wattisham TACEVAL missile firings. *PM 1x Firestreak fired [XR715 with chase XP703] PM** 1x Firestreak fired [XS421 with chase XP741]				
XR715	R	Lightning F.3*	29 Sqn	STCAAME
XP703	G	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME chase for XR715
XS421	[T]	Lightning T.5*	111 Sqn	STCAAME
XP741	[D]	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME chase for XS421
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR998:47 repairs were completed 15.8 but back to 4 FTS 4.10.72				

Friday 6th October 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF509:73 4 FTS returned from 5 MU Kemble, see 11.9.72 Hunter T.7 XL5[0]6: 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for pilot of F.6 XF509:73 [the T.7 was most probably either XL566 or XL596, XL506 is not a Hunter serial]				
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Saturday 7th October 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Coronary case flown from Moel Siabod to Royal Alexander Hospital, Rhyl. [G Evans, 45yrs old from Abergele]				

Thursday 12th October 1972 [AIR 27/3312]

XS777	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5369' S/L Lockhart
From and to Northolt.				
		Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	Technical diversion STCAAME
Repaired and departed same day.				

Friday 13th October 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR953:29 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 20.7.72				
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Saturday 14th October 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Man had fallen 200ft into an un-winchable gully, at dusk the helicopter left the scene and the MRT completed the rescue.				

Sunday 15th October 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 29/4353][MB]

29 Sqn arrived from Wattisham with 6 aircraft for their MPC.				
XP765	A	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP743	B	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP694	D	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP703	G	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP757	M	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP708	N	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XM139		Lightning F.1	WTFF	Chase aircraft for 29 Sqn MPC
WTFF [Wattisham Target Facilities Flight]				
XR366	366	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9569' S/L Brighton
Routed: Brize-Wattisham-Valley-Brize.				

Monday 16th October 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

29 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XP765 with chase XM139] AM 1x Firestreak fired [XP743 with chase XM139] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XP694 with chase XM139] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XP757 with chase XP743] The F.1 chase aircraft returned to Wattisham.				
XP765	A	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP703	G	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP743	B	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP694	D	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP757	M	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XM139		Lightning F.1A	WTFF	To Wattisham

Tuesday 17th October 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

29 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XP703 with chase XP743] AM 1x Firestreak fired [XR715 with chase XP743] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XP745 with chase XP765] 3 aircraft returned to Wattisham PM				
XP765	A	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP703	G	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP708	N	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XR751	Q	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC from Wattisham
XR715	R	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC from Wattisham
XP694	D	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP743	B	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP745	H	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham

Wednesday 18th October 1972 [Pprune Sycamore logbook*]

XL612		Hunter T.7	RAE	From & to Bedford [Aero Flight]
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Based noted:
Hunter F.6 XF383:[45] ex. 229 OCU delivery to 4 FTS becoming '72'

Thursday 19th October 1972 [AIR 27/2940][AIR 29/4353][MB]

29 Sqn MPC				
PM 1x Firestreak fired [XP703 with chase XP708]				
?x aircraft returned to Wattisham post MPC				
XR751	Q	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XR715	R	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP703	G	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP708	N	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP765	A	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
		?x Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
		Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	'TASK992' S/L A S Tarwid
CASEVAC from Valley to Halton.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS104:44 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 26.10				

Friday 20th October 1972 [AIR 27/3312][AIR 29/4353]

29 Sqn MPC				
The remaining aircraft departed back to Wattisham post their MPC.				
		?x Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
XS778	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5373' S/L Lockhart
From and to Northolt.				

Saturday 21st October 1972 [BJ][AIR 27/3291]

		Hercules C.1		29 Sqn MPC support return
G-AWWN	-	Jodel DR1050	A V Orchard	From Speke
-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Webb
Fallen youth with head and leg injuries airlifted from Aber Falls to Bangor Hospital. [J Holmes]				

Sunday 22nd October 1972 [AB News72][AIR 27/3291][AIR 27/3291]

G-AVFW	-	PA-34 Comanche	G Powl	
Whilst enroute Southend to Valley it flew into Crib-y-Ddisgyl, Snowdon [OS 107/613551] killing all 5 occupants including the owner, George Powl. Whirlwind HAR.10 XP349 22 Sqn [F/L Webb] attended the scene along with Valley MRT but were unable to reach the crash site due to severe turbulence and low cloud.				

Tuesday 24th October 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP516:16 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 26.10				

Wednesday 25th October 1972 [AIR 29/4221][MB]

XJ494		Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	F/L Bingham/Kilner
Fuel diversion whilst on Aberporth Range with Martel Missile trials, N/stop.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP532:32 4 FTS delivered to CFS. Gnat T.1 XR541:34 4 FTS delivered to CFS becoming 'C'				

Thursday 26th October 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 29/4221][AIR 27/3325]

Visit to fly in a Hunter by HRH Prince of Wales. See also 3.10, possible dry-run or liaison visit?				
XW32-		JP T.5	RAFC	From Cranwell with HRH PoW.
2 JP T.5's were allocated to PoW training – XW322 and XW323.				
XJ494		Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	To Boscombe Down, see 25.10
XS641		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR4981' F/L Marvin
Routed: Thorney Island-Cranwell-Valley[10:35] n/stop				
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL609:80 4 FTS, HRH PoW flown by F/L P T Squire, see above.				

Friday 27th October 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3312][AIR 27/3325]

XW32-		JP T.5	RAFC	To Cranwell with HRH PoW, see 26.10
XW789	-	HS.125 CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR1889' S/L Yeardley
Routed: Northolt-Valley-Yeovilton-Northolt.				
XV733	-	Wessex HCC.4	Queens Flt	'RRR1192'
Routed: Benson-Hawarden-Beaumaris-Hawarden-Benson, Peter Thomas MP.				
XS641		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR4981' F/L Marvin
Routed: Valley[09:55]-Cranwell-Thorney Island.				

Saturday 28th October 1972 [AIR 29/4250]

XS793	-	Andover CC.2	Queens Flt	'RRR1193'
Routed: Benson-Valley-Northolt-Benson, Peter Thomas MP				

Sunday 29th October 1972 [AIR 27/3291]

XP350	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Capsized boat off Penmaenmawr, nothing seen. Landed, and Penmaenmawr Yacht Club confirmed that the yacht was safely ashore.				

Monday 30th October 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

2 Harriers from Dunsfold arrived to continue the VIFF trials in Aberporth Range.				
[XV277]		Harrier	HSA	STCAAME VIFF trials
[XV281]		Harrier	HSA	STCAAME VIFF trials

Tuesday 31st October 1972 [AIR 29/4221][MB]

*Battle Flight scramble from Gutersloh to Aberporth Range. *1x Firestreak fired [XN735]				
XN735	A	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	STCAAME
XJ494		Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	F/L Bingham/Wistow STCAAME
Fuel diversion whilst on Aberporth Range with Martel Missile trials. Returned to Boscombe Down same day.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR572:19 4 FTS transferred to CFS as 'K' [XR572 subsequently served with CFS/Red Arrows for the rest of its service time. It then to Culdrose 19.9.79 for ground instructional duties with the School of Aircraft Handling as A2676 coded '3'. It then went to Leavesden 11.87 and then to the USA as N572XR with Michael Bertz [Broomfield CO] Followed by to Kryptonite Industries Llc. [Golden CO] 14.1.23 still present 2025] Gnat T.1 XS103:59 transferred to CFS as 'D' [XS103 was subsequently written off after landing from a mid-air collision with an Italian F-104S during the NATO Tiger Meet flypast at Leck, West Germany on 3.9.75] Hunter F.6 XF526:78 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing. Hunter F.6 XG185:74 4 FTS returned from 5 MU Kemble, see 26.9.72				

November 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 174 movements including 6 VIP's. Due to strong SW winds the Gnats operated out of Mona for 4 days.				
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Early November 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		?x Wessex HU.5	707 NAS	Mountain flying detachment.
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Wednesday 1st November 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

A Lightning from Binbrook was due to fire a missile but it went unserviceable. The chase F.1 was airborne and landed at Valley, it stayed overnight due to weather.				
		Lightning F.1A		STCAAME N/stop

Thursday 2nd November 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

		Lightning F.1A		To Binbrook, see 1.11
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Saturday 4th November 1972 [AIR 27/3062]

XV186	186	Hercules C.1	36 Sqn	'RRR3530' F/L S K McManus
Routed: Lyneham-Valley-Bruggen, 14 Sqn MPC support. N/stop				

Sunday 5th November 1972 [AIR 27/3062]

XV186	186	Hercules C.1	36 Sqn	'RRR3530' F/L S K McManus
Routed: Bruggen-Valley-Bruggen-Lyneham, 14 Sqn MPC support.				

Tuesday 7th November 1972 [AIR 29/4353][MB]

14 Sqn arrived from Bruggen with 4 aircraft for their MPC, delayed a day due to weather.				
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14 Sqn MPC 7-15.11, 4 missiles fired. Should have arrived 6.11 but delayed due to weather.				
XV435	435	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC
XV439	439	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC
XV473	473	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC
XV501	501	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	MPC
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP542:42 4 FTS delivered to CFS. Gnat T.1 XS110:20 4 FTS delivered to CFS.				

Wednesday 8th November 1972 [AIR 29/4221][AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

With the first part of the VIFF trials complete the 2 Harriers departed back to Dunsfold. See 30.8. 14 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV501 with chase XV435]				
[XV277]		Harrier	HSA	To Dunsfold
[XV281]		Harrier	HSA	To Dunsfold
XJ494		Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	F/L Bingham/Kilner STCAAME
Conducting radio link trials for the Martel Missile at Aberporth Range. Departed back to its base at Boscombe Down same day.				
-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Precautionary for 2 Hunter aircraft, one with control restriction and one with electrical problems. Both landed safely.				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for crashed Jindivik drone A92-624 from Llanbedr. One scanner pod found and taken to Llanbedr.				

Friday 10th November 1972 [BJ]

G-AZLG	-	Beech B58 Baron	IDS Avn	From & to Speke
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Monday 13th November 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 29/4353][AIR 27/3075][DEFE 56/30]

The full VIFF trials commenced 13-22.11.72 Trials held at Valley to evaluate VIFF [Vectored thrust In Forward Flight] Evaluated the tactical implications of VIFF on Harrier air combat manoeuvring. RAF/USMC/USN/NASA/RAE & HSA involved. 2 USMC pilots were involved, flying XV277. Cpt Collyar VMA-513 USMC Cpt Ashford VMA-542 USMC The 1 st part of the trials were at Wittering 6-10.11.72 - 14 Sqn MPC 2x missile firing failures [XV439 & XV473]				
XV277	[-]	Harrier P1127	HSA	VIFF trials [USMC pilots]
XV741	[01]	Harrier GR.1	3 Sqn	VIFF trials OC Standards Flt

		Hunter F.6	RAE Bedford	VIFF trials, 229 OCU pilot
		Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	VIFF trials F/L Bettell & S/L Rogers

Tuesday 14th November 1972 [AIR 27/3291][AIR 27/3308][AIR 27/3280][DEFE 56/30]

VIFF trial XV277 flew twice STCAAME *TACEVAL firing from Binbrook to Aberporth Range. *PM 1x Firestreak fired [XS904 chased by XS920] **PM 1x Firestreak fired [XS925 chased by XS923] All the Lightnings night stopped.				
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XS904	A	Lightning F.6*	11 Sqn	STCAAME F/O C E R Slade
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With 14 Sqn Phantom FGR.2 XV473 landing 15.11 [Both: Dick Thomas Collection]

XS920	F	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME F/L J K Vickers chase
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Seen here departing 15.11 [Dick Thomas Collection]

XS925	L	Lightning F.6**	5 Sqn	STCAAME
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Seen here departing 15.11 [Dick Thomas Collection]

XS923	A	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	STCAAME chase for XS925
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Seen here departing 15.11 [Dick Thomas Collection]

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The 4 Lightnings are seen here departing 15.11 [Dick Thomas Collection]



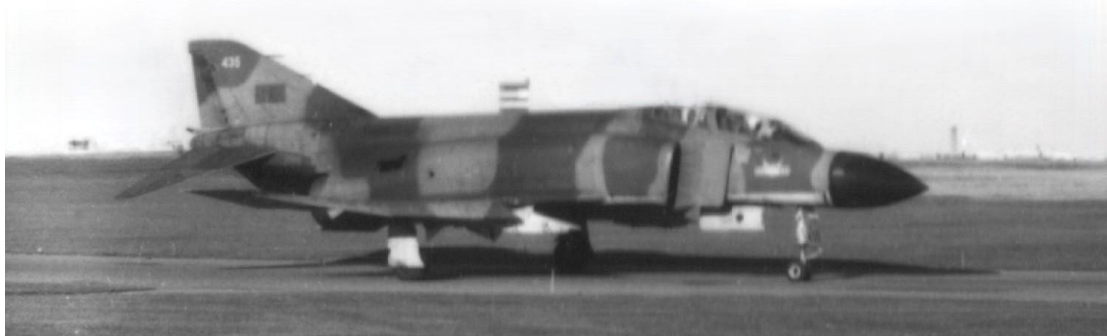
Photograph was either taken 14 or 15.11.72 as the Lightnings night stopped.
The 14 Sqn Phantoms on MPC and Harrier GR.1 XV741 can be seen on the STCAAME line.

[D Gurney collection]				
-				
XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search for a missing 21ft Bermudan sloop in the North part of Cardigan Bay. Located wrecked adjacent to Llanbedr airfield with the owner missing presumed drowned. Refuelled at Llanbedr and returned to Valley with parts from the wreckage for identification purposes.				

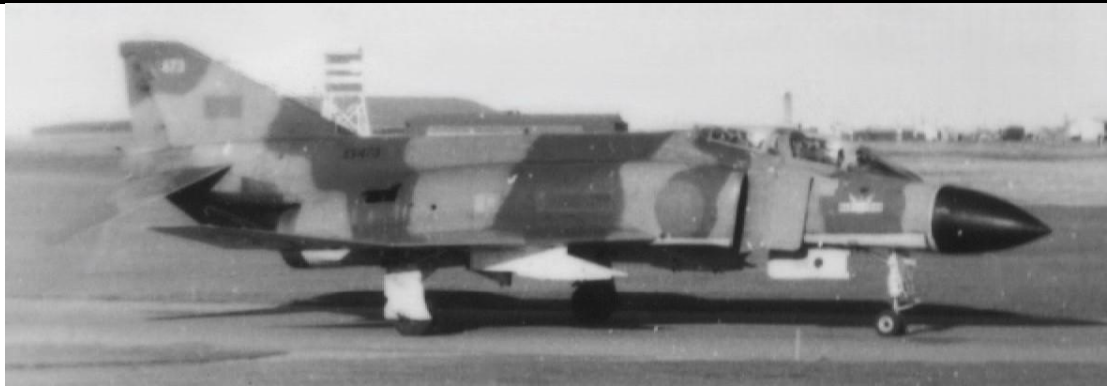
Wednesday 15th November 1972 [AIR 29/4353]

14 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV473 with chase XV501]				
				
XV435 XV473 XV501 [Dick Thomas Collection]				
14 Sqn with 4 aircraft departed back to Bruggen PM post their MPC.				

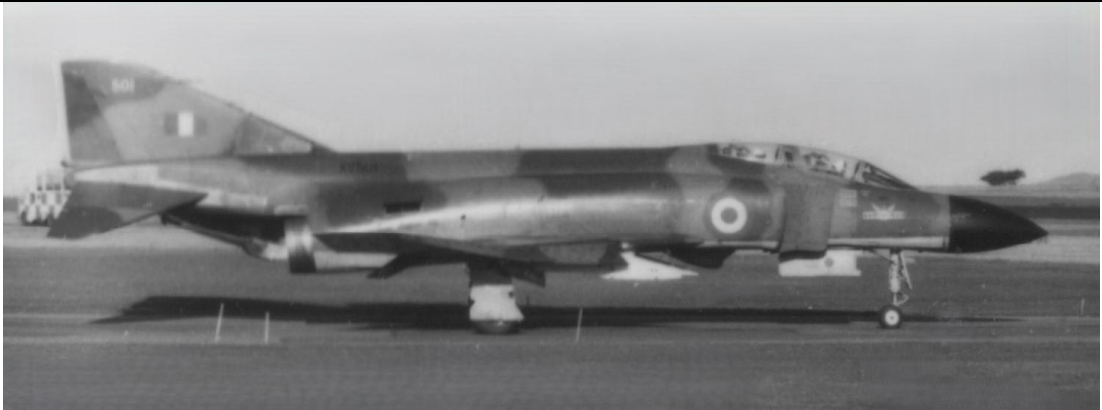
XV435	435	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen
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[Dick Thomas Collection]				

XV439	439	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV473	473	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen

				
[Dick Thomas Collection]				

XV501	501	Phantom FGR.2	14 Sqn	To Bruggen
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[Dick Thomas Collection]

156173	173:HL	EC-130Q	VQ-4	[VIFF trials support ?]
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[Dick Thomas Collection]

		F-111E	/20 TFW	PD
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[Dick Thomas Collection]

Based noted:



Gnat T.1 XR541:34 4 FTS [Dick Thomas Collection]

Thursday 16th November 1972 [AIR 29/4353][DEFE 56/30][AIR 27/3325]

VIFF trial, see 13.11. XV277 & XV741 both flew 3 times.				
XS601		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	14 Sqn return MPC support
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[12:30/14:05]-Bruggen-Thorney Island, 14 Sqn return support.				

Friday 17th November 1972 [DEFE 56/30]

VIFF trial, see 13.11. XV277 & XV741 both flew twice.				

Sunday 19th November 1972 [AIR 27/3034][AIR 27/3348][AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn arrived from Bruggen with 3 aircraft for their MPC. 17 Sqn MPC 19-27.11, 4x AIM-7 Sparrow missiles fired altogether.				
XV474		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC
XV483		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC
XT901		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC
XM520	520	Britannia C.1	99 Sqn	'RRR6981' F/L G A Tull
Routed: Bruggen-Valley-Brize, 17 Sqn MPC support.				

Monday 20th November 1972 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn's 4 th aircraft arrived from Bruggen for the MPC. No range slots due to crosswinds at Llanbedr.				
XV475		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	MPC from Bruggen
		T-33A*		Danish AF
		T-33A*		Danish AF
		C-47*		Danish AF, detachment support.
*Detachment from Skrydstrup until 24.11, the Valley Stn Cdr & 5 QFI's flew in the T-33's & 5 of the RDAF pilots flew Gnats/Hunters.				

Tuesday 21st November 1972 [AIR 29/4353][DEFE 56/30]

VIFF Trials, see 13.11. XV277 flew 5 times.				
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XV741 flew twice. Hunter F.6 flew twice. Phantom FG.1 flew once. 17 Sqn MPC no range slots due to crosswinds at Llanbedr.				

Wednesday 22nd November 1972 [AIR 27/3034][DEFE 56/30]

VIFF Trial, see 13.11. XV277 & Phantom FG.1 flew once. 17 Sqn MPC PM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV483 with chase XV475] the Jindivik 103BL A92-622 was destroyed. The VIFF trials were completed, see 13.11				
XV277	[-]	Harrier P1127	HSA	To Dunsfold
XV741	[01]	Harrier GR.1	3 Sqn	To Wildenrath

Thursday 23rd November 1972 [BJ][AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV474 with chase XV483] PM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV474 with chase XV483]				
G-ASSM	-	HS.125-1	Private	Litchfield Co. of Bermuda
From and to Speke.				

Friday 24th November 1972 [AIR 27/3034][AIR 29/4353]

17 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XT901 with chase XV474]				

Monday 27th November 1972 [AIR 27/3034][BAR 73/01][AIR 27/3062]

17 Sqn's 4 aircraft departed back to Bruggen post their MPC.				
XV474		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV475		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV483		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
XT901		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV304	304	Hercules C.1	36 Sqn	Diversion 'RRR3979' F/L G Camier
Diverted whilst enroute Luqa-Lyneham, landed 01:20 and departed to Lyneham 11:55.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP532:32 4 FTS PD at Pershore, operating from Kemble.				

Tuesday 28th November 1972 [AIR 27/3348][AIR 29/4353][MB]

		Lightning T.5		STCAAME
AOC AVM I G Broom farewell visit.				
XL637	637	Britannia C.1	99 Sqn	'RRR6912' F/L R Gould
Routed: Brize-Valley-Bruggen-Brize. Return of 17 Sqn support post MPC.				

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XG209:69 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing. Hunter F.6 XF526:78 4 FTS returned from 5 MU Kemble, see 31.10.72				
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Wednesday 29th November 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP516:16 repairs complete back to 4 FTS on 30.11, see 24.10.72				
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Thursday 30th November 1972 [AIR 29/4353][MB]

		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP536:27 4 FTS [F/L Coker] returned from Bitteswell, see 19.4.72				

December 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 100 movements including 6 VIP's.				
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December 1972 [AIR 29/4199]

		2x F-5	Skv	R Norwegian AF, N/stop
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Friday 1st December 1972 [BAR 73/02][AIR 29/4353]

		Hercules C.1		2 Sqn MPC support
Based noted: JP T.4 XR660:Q ex. 4 FTS noted on a Queen Mary low loader at RAF Bicester, see 19.7.72				

Wednesday 6th December 1972 [AIR 29/4199][SB][AIR 29/4353]

2 Sqn arrived from Laarbruch with 4 aircraft for their MPC. Should have arrived 5.12 but delayed due to strong crosswinds at Valley.				
XV470	H	Phantom FGR.2	2 Sqn	MPC
XV494	N	Phantom FGR.2	2 Sqn	MPC
XV489	O	Phantom FGR.2	2 Sqn	MPC
XV441	Y	Phantom FGR.2	2 Sqn	MPC
		Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	2 Sqn MPC support
		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		?x Wessex HU.5	845 NAS	
Mountain Flying Detachment until 8.12				
XJ350	[-]	Sea Devon C.20	781 NAS	N Pinder/CPO Harness/PO Butler
From Lee-on-Solent, N/stop.				

Thursday 7th December 1972 [AIR 27/3291][SB]

XJ350	[-]	Sea Devon C.20	781 NAS	To Belfast-Prestwick, see 6.12
-				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Dinghy reported in difficulties off the Great Orme, turned out to be a buoy, false alarm.				

Friday 8th December 1972 [AIR 29/4353][AIR 27/3325]

2 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV489 with chase XV441] PM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV494 with chase XV441]				
XS596		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR4910' F/L Stout
Routed: Thorney Island-Odiham-Aldergrove-Valley[17:45/18:05]-Thorney Island.				

Tuesday 12th December 1972 [BAR 73/01][AIR 29/4353]

2 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV470 with chase XV489] PM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV485 with chase XV489] XV485 must have arrived at some stage, present 7.12 onwards ?				
XV485	W	Phantom FGR.2	2 Sqn	MPC
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS110:20 4 FTS PD at Pershore, operating from Kemble.				

Wednesday 13th December 1972 [BAR 73/01][AIR 27/3291]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP542:42 4 FTS visited Leuchars, on loan to CFS. Other Gnats on loan to CFS in Dec 72 were: XS110:20 XP532:32 XS106:36 & XS103:59.				
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XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Ditched in Holyhead Harbour after engine failure, aircraft was recovered by Royal Navy but dropped on first attempt! Ended up on the Valley Fire Dump by 4.73, incident also quoted as 12.12.72				
Pilot	F/L	Nequest		Ok
Nav	F/L	Taylor		Ok
W/Op	M/Sig	Roy		Ok

Thursday 14th December 1972 [AIR 27/3312]

XS777	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR5479' S/L Greenwood
Routed: Northolt-Turnhouse-Valley-Northolt.				

Friday 15th December [AIR 29/4353]

		Lightning T.5	226 OCU	STCAAME
Delivered 2 Red Top missiles from Coltishall.				

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Sunday 17th December 1972 [AIR 27/3291][AIR 27/3369]

XL659	659	Britannia C.1	511 Sqn	'RRR6916' F/L Skinner
Routed: Brize Norton-Valley-Laarbruch-Brize Norton, 2 Sqn MPC support return				
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XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst and later F/L Thomson
Search for 2 men missing in a 10ft dinghy North of Porthdinllaen, nothing seen. Search resumed later with the same aircraft but different crew, still nothing seen.				

Monday 18th December [AIR 29/4353]

		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME turnaround
		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME turnaround

Tuesday 19th December 1972 [AIR 27/3291][AIR 29/4353]

2[T]Sqn, 226 OCU from Coltishall for a modified Red Top firing, see also 15.12 PM 1x Red Top fired [XR718 with chase XS450]				
XR718	[718]	Lightning F.3	226 OCU	STCAAME
XS450	[450]	Lightning T.5	226 OCU	STCAAME
-				
XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Gnat precautionary with a nosewheel 'red,' aircraft landed safely.				

Wednesday 20th December 1972 [AIR 29/4221][AIR 29/4353]

XJ476		Sea Vixen FAW.1	22 JSTU	F/L MacKenzie & S/L O'Shea
Proving flight for the Martel Missile at Aberporth Range. Departed back to its base at Boscombe Down same day. Handled by STCAAME.				

Thursday 21st December 1972 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP515:55 allocated to 4 FTS post overhaul but delivered to CFS instead, see 8.5.72				

Friday 22nd December 1972 [GP/SEAR]

XR511	AL	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
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Wednesday 27th December 1972 [AIR 27/3089][AIR 27/3296]

XR366	366	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9599' F/L Humberstone
Routed: Brize-Valley-Laarbruch-Brize, return of 2 Sqn MPC support.				
XV292	292	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	F/L Sharman
Routed: Akrotiri-Valley[13:40]				

Thursday 28th December 1972 [AIR 27/3296]

XV292	292	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	Valley[10:25]-Lyneham
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Friday 29th December 1972 [GP/SEAR]

WJ942	N	Varsity T.1	5 FTS	
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Sunday 31st December 1972 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3296]

XV206	206	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	F/L Mathieson
Routed: Dulles-Valley[03:15/15:10]-Lyneham.				