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RAF Valley

Aircraft Movements

1973

CREDITS:

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UPDATE V2

Additional photo movements by George Woods & Carl Ford.
Additional Sqn movements: 24/46/48 Sqn.
Additional Gnat and movement details by Mike Bursell.

SUMMARY

At the end of the Year a fuel crisis due to the Arab-Israeli War was experienced.

Abbreviations

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 1973.	
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 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	
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	
Whirlwind HAR.10 CFS Detachment from Ternhill	
XP331:T XP360:V	

January 1973 [BAR 73/03]

Based noted:				
Seen at Kemble in January were 4 FTS Gnat T.1's:				
XS110:20 XP532:32 XR541:34 XS106:36 XP542:42 XP515:55 XS103:59				

Tuesday 2nd January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3275][MB]

XV752	[B]	Harrier GR.1A	1 Sqn	
XW919	[G]	Harrier GR.1A	1 Sqn	
XV103	103	VC-10 C.1	10 Sqn	'RRR2424'
Routed: Brize Norton-Luqa-Valley-Brize Norton.				

Wednesday 3rd January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3308][AIR 29/4354][MB]

111 Sqn [3x F.3 & 1x F.1A] arrived from Wattisham for their MPC.				
111 Sqn MPC 3-9.1, 5 missiles fired.				
They should have arrived 2.1 but delayed due to fog at Wattisham.				
XR713	A	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XP740	B	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XP706	F	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XP750	H	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XM139	-	Lightning F.1	TFF	MPC from Wattisham
Target Facilities Flight.				
XV103	103	VC-10 C.1	10 Sqn	

XR369	369	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9100' F/L Embleton
Routed: Brize-Wattisham-Valley-Brize, 111 Sqn MPC support.				
WK116	Q	Canberra B.2	100 Sqn	
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS104:44 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 19.10.72				

Friday 5th January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 29/4354]

111 Sqn MPC PM 1x Firestreak fired [XP740 with chase XM139] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XR713 with chase XM139] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XP706 with chase XR713]				
XP741	D	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC from Wattisham
XS780	-	Basset CC.1	207 Sqn	

Saturday 6th January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3313]

WL626	P	Varsity T.1	6 FTS	
WJ910	S	Varsity T.1	6 FTS	
WL668	X	Varsity T.1	6 FTS	
XW213	CK	Puma HC.1	33 Sqn	Mountain Flying Detachment

Monday 8th January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3292][SB][AIR 29/4354]

111 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XP741 with chase XP706] AM 1x Firestreak fired [XP750 with chase XP706]				
XP738	E	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC from Wattisham
XS920	F	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME N/stop
XR762	H	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME N/stop
The 11 Sqn Lightnings stayed overnight due to weather and un-serviceability's.				
XM606	-	Vulcan B.2		Waddington Wing
XM649	-	Vulcan B.2		Waddington Wing
WB530	-	Devon C.2/2	207 Sqn	
XV416	H	Phantom FGR.2	54 Sqn	
XT902	K	Phantom FGR.2	54 Sqn	
XR544	B	Gnat T.1	CFS	
XS105	C	Gnat T.1	CFS	N/stop [John Dixon]
XG130	A	Hunter FGA.9	45 Sqn	
XG264	J	Hunter FGA.9	45 Sqn	
XS176	18	JP T.4	CAW	[College of Air Warfare]
XP558	20	JP T.4	CAW	
XP640	27	JP T.4	CAW	
Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.10 CFS Detachment XP394:C XP405:D XP300:S XN127:W				

Tuesday 9th January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3295][AIR 29/4354][MB]

111 Sqn departed back to Wattisham post their MPC. Their departure was delayed from 8.1 due to weather at Wattisham. AM they flew 4 sorties with Ulster Radar. *Scrambled from Leuchars to Aberporth Range. *Firing was cancelled due to the Jindivik becoming unserviceable, landed Valley.				
XP741	D	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP750	H	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP706	F	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP740	B	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XS895	[N]	Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME F/L E Houston
[XS416]	[T]	Lightning T.5	11 Sqn	
Brought in spares for one of the aircraft on 8.1 but went unserviceable itself!				
XS766	-	Basset CC.1	26 Sqn	
WJ986	T	Canberra T.17	360 Sqn	
XV355	-	Buccaneer S.2A	[12 Sqn]	
XS105	C	Gnat T.1	CFS	Departed, see 8.1

Wednesday 10th January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3295][AIR 29/4354][MB]

*QRA scramble from Leuchars to Aberporth Range. *PM 1x Firestreak fired [XS895 with chase XR758] land Valley.				
XS895	N	Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME F/L R F Lea
XR758	E	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME chase for XS895
XR371	371	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9105' F/L Embleton
Routed: Brize-Valley-Wattisham-Brize, return of 111 Sqn support post MPC.				
XF967	[-]	Hunter T.8B	237 OCU	
XW764	[02]	Harrier GR.1A	3 Sqn	
XW767	[04]	Harrier GR.1A	3 Sqn	
XW916	[07]	Harrier GR.1A	3 Sqn	
XW926	[12]	Harrier T.4	3 Sqn	
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF386:75 4 FTS suffered CAT.3R damage. [this was to be repaired by St Athan during the next major inspection]				

Thursday 11th January 1973 [GP/SEAR]

[XS416]	[T]	Lightning T.5	11 Sqn	STCAAME
Departed back to Binbrook, see 9.1				
XS783	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	
WB534	-	Devon C.2/2	26 Sqn	
XW320	36	JP T.5	3 FTS	
XT678	AE	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XR498	AM	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	

Friday 12th January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

		Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	STCAAME W/e stop
		Lightning T.4	226 OCU	STCAAME W/e stop
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME W/e stop
XT664	AT	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XT670	AU	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XN600	[-]	JP T.3	St Athan SF	Station Flight, dayglo scheme
WB530	-	Devon C.2/2	207 Sqn	
Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.10 22 Sqn exercise with Beaumaris Lifeboat.				

Monday 15th January 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3325]

		Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	STCAAME departed, see 12.1
		Lightning T.4	226 OCU	STCAAME departed, see 12.1
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME departed, see 12.1
XS639		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR5821' F/L Harris
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[13:15/15:20]-Thorney Island.				

Tuesday 16th January 1973 [AIR 27/3041][AIR 29/4354]

STCAAME *Ferry flights to deliver 4 live missiles to Valley from Leuchars prior to the Sqn's MPC. The Vulcans were diversions from Exercise 'Mick Scorer' scramble.				
		Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME
XM607	-	Vulcan B.2	50 Sqn	STCAAME arr 19:18 N/stop
XM651	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	STCAAME arr 19:40 N/stop
XM602	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	STCAAME arr 20:00 N/stop
		Vulcan B.2		STCAAME N/stop

Wednesday 17th January 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

STCAAME *Ferry flights to deliver 4 live missiles to Valley from Leuchars prior to the Sqn's MPC.				
		Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME
XM651	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	To Waddington 19:10
XM602	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	To Waddington 19:30
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for 2 missing people from a waterlogged boat, nothing seen. 1 body washed ashore 18.3, a further body was washed ashore in the next few days.				

Thursday 18th January 1973 [AIR 27/3325]

XS604		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR5847' Hptm Mindner
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[09:15/09:40]-Chivenor-St Mawgan-Thorney Island.				

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Friday 19th January 1973 [AIR 27/3325][MB]

XS600		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR5847' Hptm Mindner
Routed: Thorney Island-St Mawgan-Chivenor-Valley[17:05/17:20]-Thorney Island.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR571:23 returned from Bitteswell [F/L Morgan]				

Sunday 21st January 1973 [AIR 27/3041][AIR 27/3295][AIR 29/4354]

23 Sqn arrived from Leuchars with 6 aircraft for their MPC. 23 Sqn MPC 21-3.2, 5 Firestreak missiles fired.				
XR770	L	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XR758	E	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XR760	H	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XR747	K	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XR752	G	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XS937	C	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
		Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9108' 23 Sqn support.

Wednesday 24th January 1973 [MC 2/73][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3325]

23 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XR758 with chase XR770] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XR770 with chase XS937] *65 Sqn, 226 OCU TACEVAL firing. *PM 1x Firestreak fired [XM216 with chase XR758] 23 Sqn on MPC provided a chase aircraft [XR758]				
XM216		Lightning F.1A*	226 OCU	STCAAME
G-AWMS	-	HS.125-3B	RTZ	From Staverton
XS603		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1454' F/L Saunders
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[15:30] n/stop.				

Thursday 25th January 1973 [AIR 27/3325]

XS603		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1454' F/L Saunders
Routed: Valley[07:05]-Aldergrove-Northolt-Thorney Island.				

Friday 26th January 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3325]

XS596		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR3533' F/L Marvin
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[15:30] n/stop				
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XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Fallen climber on Snowdon [OS 107/610549] 2 members of Valley MRT flown to Llanberis Pass.				

Saturday 27th January 1973 [AIR 27/3325]

XS596		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1455' F/L Marvin
Routed: Valley[07:05]-Aldergrove-Northolt-Aldergrove-Thorney Island.				

Tuesday 30th January 1973 [AIR 29/4354]**[MB]**

23 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XR760 with chase XR758] AM 1x Firestreak fired [XR747 with chase XR770] *Battle Flight scramble from Gutersloh to Aberporth Range. *23 Sqn on MPC provided the chase aircraft [XR747] *Firing did not take place, see 31.1.				
XN727	W	Lightning F.2A*	92 Sqn	STCAAME N/stop
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XG209:69 4 FTS returned from 5 MU Kemble, see 28.11.72 Hunter T.7 WV372:85 4 FTS visited Kemble, crew for XG209:69				

Wednesday 31st January 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

23 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XS937 with chase XR770] 23 Sqn departed back to Leuchars post their MPC. *92 Sqn firing: *AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN727 with chase XR760] *23 Sqn provided the chase aircraft.				
XN727	W	Lightning F.2A*	92 Sqn	STCAAME
XR770	L	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR758	E	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR760	H	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR747	K	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR752	G	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XS937	C	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	STCAAME turnround
		Hercules C.1		23 Sqn MPC return support

February 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight, 159 movements including 10 VIP's.				
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February 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

		Gulfstream II	Private	
Mr & Mrs D Rockefeller [Chairman, Chase Manhattan Bank] no specific date though.				

Monday 5th February 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

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

Tuesday 6th February 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

		?	[22 Sqn]	OC 22 Sqn to Chivenor, see 5.2

Friday 9th February 1973 [BAR 73/03][AIR 27/3292][MB]

XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Gnat precautionary, aircraft landed safely.				
Based noted:				
Hunter F.6 XG158:79 to 5 MU Kemble [surface finishing ?] no return date.				
Hunter T.7 XL609:80 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for pilot of F.6 XG158:79				

Sunday 11th February 1973 [AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3297][AIR 27/3327]

5 Sqn arrived with 6 aircraft from Binbrook for their MPC.				
5 Sqn MPC 11-23.2				
XS899	G	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	MPC
XS923	A	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	MPC
XR755	O	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	MPC
XS903	C	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	MPC
XR726	N	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	MPC
XS925	L	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	MPC
		Lightning F.1A	TFF	MPC chase for 1 st week
XV203	203	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	'RRR4357' F/L Hale
Routed: Lyneham-Binbrook-Valley[14:45/15:25]-Lyneham. 5 Sqn MPC support				
XV298	298	Hercules C.1	48 Sqn	S/L Simpson
Routed: Lyneham-Binbrook-Valley[12:50/13:50]-Lyneham. 5 Sqn MPC support				

Tuesday 13th February 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Criccieth Lifeboat.				

Tuesday 20th February 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

5 Sqn MPC				
AM 1x Firestreak fired [XS925 with chase XR755]				
AM 1x Firestreak fired [XS899 with chase XS903]				
-				
		?	[22 Sqn]	From St Mawgan
QHI to Chivenor and Valley by air, 20-23.2				
	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Flew AOC 18 Group from Sealand to Valley.				

Thursday 22nd February 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

Departing AOC 23 Group, AVM Bird-Wilson paid a farewell visit, a flypast was laid on. 6x Lightning F.6 5 Sqn, MPC detachment. 12x Gnat T.1 4 FTS 4x Hunter 4 FTS				

Friday 23rd February 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

5 Sqn departed back to Binbrook post their MPC.				
XS899	G	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	To Binbrook
XS923	A	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	To Binbrook
XR755	O	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	To Binbrook
XS903	C	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	To Binbrook
XR726	N	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	To Binbrook
XS925	L	Lightning F.6	5 Sqn	To Binbrook

Saturday 24th February 1973 [Pprune ACW599][GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3439][AIR 27/3327]

WK553	A	Chipmunk T.10	Wales UAS	W/e stop
WP899	C	Chipmunk T.10	Wales UAS	W/e stop
WP857		Chipmunk T.10	Wales UAS	W/e stop
WZ846	[D]	Chipmunk T.10	Wales UAS	W/e stop
WZ862	[B]	Chipmunk T.10	Wales UAS	W/e stop
XV220	220	Hercules C.1	47 Sqn	'RRR4451' F/L Houchin
Routed: Lyneham-Valley[10:40/11:20]-Binbrook-Lyneham, return of 5 Sqn MPC support.				
XV177	177	Hercules C.1	48 Sqn	F/L Watkins
Routed: Lyneham-Valley[12:00/13:35]-Binbrook-Lyneham, return of 5 Sqn MPC support.				

Sunday 25th February 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 29/4517][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3305]

226 OCU arrived from Coltishall with 7 aircraft for their MPC.				
226 OCU MPC 25.2-5.3				
XM172		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	MPC
XM182		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	MPC
XM216		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	MPC
XM996		Lightning T.4	226 OCU	MPC
XM997		Lightning T.4	226 OCU	MPC
XS450		Lightning T.5	226 OCU	MPC
XS451		Lightning T.5	226 OCU	MPC
XV185	185	Hercules C.1	30 Sqn	'RRR4453' STCAAME F/L Fardell
226 OCU MPC support, flew 2 shuttles to Coltishall.				
Arrived 12:50 then departed 13:45 arriving back 18:25 before departing again 19:25.				
Routed: Lyneham-Coltishall-Valley-Coltishall-Valley-Lyneham.				

Monday 26th February 1973 [Pprune ACW599][GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

226 OCU MPC				
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AM 1x Firestreak fired [XM172 with chase XM996] AM 1x Firestreak fired [XM172 with chase XM996] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XM997 with chase XS450] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XS450 with chase XM997]				
XM182		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	MPC
XM216		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	MPC
XM996		Lightning T.4	226 OCU	MPC
XP775		Beaver AL.1	15 Flt/AAC	
VP961	[-]	Devon C.2/2	21 Sqn	
-				
		?	[22 Sqn]	
22 Sqn SNO from St Mawgan by air [the Devon VP961 possibly ?] [Senior Navigation Officer]				

Tuesday 27th February 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

226 OCU MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XM996 with chase XM182] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XM216 with chase XM182] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XS451 with chase XM182] AVM Freer arrived to spend the following day with 226 OCU on their MPC, by air ?				
XM172		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	To Coltishall

Wednesday 28th February 1973 [AIR 29/4517][AIR 29/4354]

226 OCU MPC AVM Freer flew 2 sorties in a Lightning T.4 & T.5 to observe Firestreak firings.				

Late February 1973 [BARG]

Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn XP395 [ex. 230 Sqn]				
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Friday 2nd March 1973 [AIR 29/4221][AIR 29/4517][AIR 27/3292]

226 OCU MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XM996 with chase XM216]				
XM182		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	To Coltishall
XM997		Lightning T.4	226 OCU	To Coltishall
XS450		Lightning T.5	226 OCU	To Coltishall
XJ481	[-]	Sea Vixen FAW.1*	22 JSTU	F/L MacKenzie/Allardyce
*Diversion whilst on a range reconnaissance at Aberporth Range. It was operating with Buccaneer S.2 XV352 on Martel missile trials. Departed back to its base at Boscombe Down same day.				
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest

Casualty [Student from Plas-y-Brenin] suffering from exposure on Foel Grach [OS 107/690659] flown to Bangor Hospital.

Monday 5th March 1973 [AIR 29/4517][MB]

226 OCU MPC				
PM 1x Firestreak fired [XS451 with chase XM216]				
Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XR983:53 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 7.3				

Tuesday 6th March 1973 [AIR 29/4517][AIR 29/4354]

226 OCU departed back to Coltishall post their MPC.				
XM216		Lightning F.1A	226 OCU	To Coltishall
XM996		Lightning T.4	226 OCU	To Coltishall
XS451		Lightning T.5	226 OCU	To Coltishall
		Hastings*		
*Return of 226 OCU MPC support.				

Thursday 8th March 1973 [MB]

Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XS109:63 [F/L King] delivered from CFS/Bitteswell to 4 FTS.				

Friday 9th March 1973 [MB]

Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XM708:18 4 FTS suffered a flying accident CAT.3R damage.				
[Repaired on site by 71 MU from 13.3, repairs complete 23.11, returned to 4 FTS 21.12]				
Gnat T.1 XP503:03 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 13.3				

Saturday 10th March 1973 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3349][AIR 27/3476]

		?x Gnat T.1	Red Arrows	
Arrived for a training weekend, departed 11.3				
XL640	640	Britannia C.1	99 Sqn	'RRR6642' N/stop
XL660	660	Britannia C.1*	511 Sqn	'RRR6641'
*Routed: Gutersloh-Valley-Aldergrove, arrived 13:35 & departed 16:00.				

Sunday 11th March 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3349]

XL658	658	Britannia C.1	99 Sqn	'RRR6642' to Aldergrove see 10.3
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Climber with a broken leg picked up 6nms East of Dolgellau and flown to Aberystwyth Hospital.				

Wednesday 14th March 1973 [BAR 73/04][MB]

Based noted: Gnat XP513:[13] 4 FTS delivered to Rolls-Royce at Filton. Hunter F.6 XG158:79 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R repaired on site by 71 MU from 2.4 [possibly repaired at 5 MU Kemble, see 9.2.73]				

Friday 16th March 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP541:41 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 28.3				

Saturday 17th March 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Tenby Lifeboat off Holyhead prior to its return to South Wales.				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Climber with suspected broken leg flown from 2nms South of Dolgellau [OS 116/725133] to Bangor Hospital.				

Sunday 18th March 1973 [DEFE 56/145]

41 Sqn conducted their MPC direct from Coningsby, 19-30.3 They only used Valley as a diversion from the range to enable a late launch on 22.3.				

Wednesday 21st March 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Beaumaris Lifeboat.				

Thursday 22nd March 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

41 Sqn MPC Although operating from Coningsby the 3 aircraft diverted to Valley. With a short turnaround they were able to launch for a late range slot.				
XV465	G	Phantom FGR.2*	41 Sqn	MPC
XV432	L	Phantom FGR.2*	41 Sqn	MPC
XV466	K	Phantom FGR.2*	41 Sqn	MPC
*50min turnrounds back to Aberporth Range.				
		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
-				
	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Moelfre Lifeboat.				

Friday 23rd March 1973 [BAR 73/04][AIR 27/3292]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Station Commander and Padre flown to Trefriw to inspect the Aircrew Survival Course.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Search off Amlwch for man overboard from 'SS Thames Maru,' nothing seen.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS110:20 XP542:42 XS103:59 4 FTS all seen at Kemble.				

Saturday 24th March 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
2 Naval Stewards from HMS Pembroke, Chatham suffering from exposure on Snowdon summit. MRT flown to the cloud base and eventually carried the 2 casualties back to the helicopter which then flew them to Bangor Hospital.				

Sunday 25th March 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Capsized boat off Benllech, 1 survivor airlifted ashore.				

Monday 26th March 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354][MB]

54 Sqn conducted their MPC direct from Coningsby and NOT Valley.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Small boat reported in difficulties off Rhosneigr, found safe on the beach.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP537:07 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 28.3				

Tuesday 27th March 1973 [AIR 27/3000][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

*23 Sqn TACEVAL firing, called off when the aircraft were in the range due to shipping.				
		Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Puma HC.1**	33 Sqn	F/L R James
**CASEVAC from Valley to Lee-on-Solent.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Climber injured in a fall at a Quarry above Penmaenmawr [OS 107/694754] as the casualty was too injured to be moved without a Doctor the helicopter flew to Bangor Hospital to pick one up. The stretchered casualty was then flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Wednesday 28th March 1973 [AIR 27/3312][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

*23 Sqn TACEVAL firing carried out, see 27.3 *PM 1x Firestreak fired [XR770 with chase XR758]				
XR770	L	Lightning F.6*	23 Sqn	STCAAME
XR758	E	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME
XS777	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	'RRR3644' F/L Thompson

Routed: Northolt-Benson-Valley-Oakington-Benson-Northolt.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
MEDEVAC Cpl Fox with a slipped disc from Valley to Cosford.				

April 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

		Hunter T.7	4 FTS	
Engine failure followed by a forced landing at Aston Down. The Airfield was closed and the runway quite small, on touchdown the chute failed, the aircraft overran the runway causing CAT.3 repairable damage.				
	S/L	Black		Ok
	F/L	Phillips		Ok

Early April [BARG]

Based noted: Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn XP299 XP361 XP395 Fire Dump: *Whirlwind HAR.10 XP349 22 Sqn *Ditched Holyhead Harbour 12.12.72, recovered by RN but dropped on first attempt.				
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Sunday 1st April 1973 [AIR 27/3292][DEFE 56/145][AIR 29/4354]

54 Sqn MPC from Coningsby 1-13.4.				
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Dawn search carried out for 2 men and a boy missing in a small boat since 19:30 previous day. Search started at Ynys Dulas [OS 106/501901] and 3 healthy survivors seen and taken to Moelfre Lifeboat Station. Transpired they had lost a row lock whilst on a fishing trip and had just managed to land on the Island. They had no lifejackets or location aids. All 3 were from the Stockport area.				

Monday 2nd April 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF509:73 4 FTS night stop Kemble.				

Tuesday 3rd April 1973 [AIR 29/4221]

XP956		Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	STCAAME F/L MacKenzie/Wistow
Diversion whilst on radio link trials for the Martel Missile at Aberporth Range. It was operating with Buccaneer S.2 XV352. Departed back to its base at Boscombe Down same day.				

Saturday 7th April 1973 [GP/SEAR]

XV741	01	Harrier GR.1A	3 Sqn	
XW765	03	Harrier GR.1A	3 Sqn	

Monday 9th April 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

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

Tuesday 10th April 1973 [GP/SEAR]

XS767	-	Basset CC.1	26 Sqn	
XP966	[-]	Alouette AH.2	667 Sqn/AAC	

Wednesday 11th April 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 29/4221][AIR 29/4354]

XP548	X	JP T.4	6 FTS	
64-1067	AR	RF-4C	32 TRS/10 TRW	PD
XV719	AA	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XT668	AS	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XJ494	[-]	Sea Vixen FAW.2*	22 JSTU	STCAAME F/L MacKenzie
*Diversion whilst conducting radio link Martel Missile trials on Aberporth Range.				

Thursday 12th April 1973 [AIR 29/4221][AIR 29/4354][MB]

*The 2 Lightnings after a turnround carried out practice intercepts with Ulster Radar. 11 Sqn delivered 6 Firestreak missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Lightning F.3*	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3*	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	11 Sqn	STCAAME
XJ494	[-]	Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	STCAAME F/L MacKenzie/Wistow
Flew back to Boscombe, see 11.4 but on the afternoon sortie it diverted again whilst on radio link trials for the Martel Missile at Aberporth Range. It was operating with Buccaneer S.2 XV352. Departed back to its base at Boscombe Down later that night.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR535:05 4 FTS [F/L Morgan] returned from Bitteswell, see 19.7.71				

Friday 13th April 1973 [AIR 27/3292][MB]

XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
MEDEVAC, SAC Maddox with glandular fever from Valley to Cosford.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR537:37 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 25.4 Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn. XP299 XP361 XP395 Whirlwind HAR.10 CFS[H] detachment. XP338:N XP331:T XP360:V				

Tuesday 17th April 1973 [AIR 29/4221][AIR 27/3292]

XP956		Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	STCAAME F/L MacKenzie/Wistow
Diversion whilst on a reconnaissance at Aberporth Range. It was operating with Buccaneer S.2 XV352. Departed back to its base at Boscombe Down same day.				
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
2 men picked up from cliffs after their boat capsized off Rhoscolyn, taken to SMC Valley suffering from exposure.				

Wednesday 18th April 1973 [GP/SEAR]

XV317	Z	Sioux HT.2	CFS	
XR511	AL	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XT670	AU	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
Based noted: 4-18.4 were: [GP/SEAR] Chipmunk T.10 10 AEF, carrying out ATC/CCF air experience flights with WK522 and WP783.				

Thursday 19th April 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Capsized dinghy off Rhosneigr, survivor reached shore safely, no assistance required.				

Saturday 21st April 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search for 15ft boat between Aberdovey and Newquay, nothing seen. Refuelled at Aberporth, later informed the boat had been found up river from Aberdovey.				

Monday 23rd April 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
3 men drifting to sea off Rhosneigr airlifted to the beach.				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search for 3 men in a boat up to 15nms SW of Valley.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Search continued for the above boat.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Search in Snowdonia for 4 missing boys, nothing seen.				

Tuesday 24th April 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

11 Sqn arrived from Binbrook with 7 aircraft for their MPC. 11 Sqn MPC 24-26.3, 5 missiles fired				
XP748	P	Lightning F.3	11 Sqn	MPC photo chase
XS929	E	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	MPC
XR762	H	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	MPC
XR765	C	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	MPC

XR724	K	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	MPC
XS904	A	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	MPC
XR769	J	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	MPC
XR363	363	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	S/L Freeman
Routed: Brize-Binbrook-Valley-Brize, 11 Sqn MPC support.				
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Search for a missing inflatable boat.				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
4 missing boys in Snowdonia found safe and well and flown to Ogwen.				

Wednesday 25th April 1973 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3280]

11 Sqn MPC				
AM 1x missile fired [XS929 with chase XP748]				
AM 1x missile fired [XR762 with chase XR724]				
PM 1x missile fired [XR765 with chase XR724]				
PM 1x missile fired [XR762 with chase XP748]				
PM 1x missile fired [XS929 with chase XS904]				
		?		
Visit by Canadian Defence Liaison Staff, Lt/Col Terrell, by air?				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	'RESCUE22' F/L Thomson
1 survivor picked up 35nms WSW of Valley, a Nimrod located and homed the helicopter in.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Search for 2 missing people in a dinghy.				

Thursday 26th April 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

11 Sqn departed back to Binbrook post their MPC				
		[?x] Lightning	11 Sqn	To Binbrook
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Climber injured by falling rock in the Devil's Kitchen flown to Bangor Hospital. [M Lawrence from Amersham, Bucks]				

Friday 27th April 1973 [AIR 27/3292][MB]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
CASEVAC from Bangor Hospital to Walton Hospital, Liverpool. Accompanied by a Doctor & Nurse.				
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL600:83 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R repaired by St Athan from 1.5				

Sunday 29th April 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
2 sub aqua divers in difficulties off Penrhyn Mawr, found safe on arrival.				

Monday 30th April 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

11 Sqn arrived from Binbrook to carry out local flying. This was due to runway repairs at Binbrook, the remainder of the Sqn moved to Leconfield.				
		[?x] Lightning	11 Sqn	STCAAME

May 1973 [DEFE 56/145]

[892 NAS Phantom FGR.2 MPC 5.73, from Valley ?]				

May 1973

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF526:78 4 FTS on the 3 Sqn flightline.				
				
[Crown Copyright via Vaughan Jones]				

Tuesday 1st May 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3280][AIR 29/4354]

XR724	K	Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	F/L J G Wild
Missile telemetry firing, did it land at Valley though?				
		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
The two 17 Sqn aircraft were flying bombing & low level sorties in the UK, from Bruggen.				
-				
	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Aberdovey Lifeboat.				

Wednesday 2nd May 1973 [AIR 27/3325]

XS602		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR5914' Hptm Mindner
Routed: Thorney Island-Bristol-Valley[12:20/12:25]-Bristol-Thorney Island.				

Thursday 3rd May 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

11 Sqn departed to Leconfield post their MPC, see 30.4.				
		[?x] Lightning	11 Sqn	To Leconfield

-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
2 sorties flown to search for missing trawler off Anglesey, nothing seen. The trawler was later taken under tow by another trawler.				

Friday 4th May 1973 [AIR 27/3331]

XR371	371	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9116' S/L Brighton
Routed: Brize-Valley-Brize, return of 11 Sqn MPC support.				

Sunday 6th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Capsized boat off Colwyn Bay, 2 men airlifted to shore.				

Wednesday 9th May 1973 [AIR 27/3312][AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3476]

XL639	639	Britannia C.1	511 Sqn	'RRR6573'
Routed: Brize-Valley-Kinloss-Brize, arrived 14:00 & departed 14:20.				
XS774	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	F/L Read
Routed: Northolt-Debden-Valley-Northolt.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	To St Mawgan for servicing

Friday 11th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3476]

XM520	520	Britannia C.1	511 Sqn	'RRR6547' F/L Freeston
Routed: Brize-Kinloss-Valley-Brize, arrived 13:25 & departed 14:00.				
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
MEDEVAC, SAC Maddox from Valley to Cosford.				

Saturday 12th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Climber with injured ankle at OS 116/651301 flown to Llanbedr.				

Sunday 13th May 1973 [AIR 27/3267][DEFE 56/145][AIR 29/4354]

6 Sqn carried out their MPC direct from Coningsby, did NOT use Valley.				

Tuesday 15th May 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF383:72 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing. Hunter T.7 XL591:82 4 FTS visited Kemble, taxi for pilot of XF383:72				

Wednesday 16th May 1973 [AIR 29/4250]

XV732	-	Wessex HCC.4	Queens Flt	'RRR1301'
HRH Duke of Edinburgh. Routed: Benson-Hawarden-Conwy-Brynsiencyn-Llandudno-Blackpool-Edinburgh.				

Thursday 17th May 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME turnround

Friday 18th May 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	W/e stop
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Saturday 19th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
2 sea searches carried out for girl swimmer missing from a capsized orange rubber dinghy off Aberdovey, nothing seen.				

Sunday 20th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
One dead 5yr old female child located at the mouth of river Clwyd at Rhyl and taken to local Hospital.				

Monday 21st May 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	Departed, see 18.5
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Tuesday 22nd May 1973 [Pprune Wwyvern logbook*][AIR 29/4354]

2 QRA aircraft diverted from Leuchars, both became unserviceable.				
		Phantom FG.1	[43 Sqn]	STCAAME
		Phantom FG.1	[43 Sqn]	STCAAME
XR523	[AE]	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	To Aldergrove

Wednesday 23rd May 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

2 Phantoms from 228 OCU arrived for range familiarisation and window dropping sorties.				
		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	STCAAME
		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	STCAAME

Thursday 24th May 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	Departed, see 23.5
		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	Departed, see 23.5
		Phantom FG.1	[43 Sqn]	Departed, see 22.5

Saturday 26th May 1973 [BAR 73/06][AIR 27/3292]

XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Girl reported missing on Snowdon, later found safe.				

Based noted:



[Both: George Woods]



[Carl Ford]

Hunter F.6 XG185:74 4 FTS Bentwaters Airshow, static.

Monday 28th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Boat reported adrift on Bardsey Island, found safe under tow.				

Tuesday 29th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Injured climber on East face of Snowdon with fractured skull and broken ankle flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Wednesday 30th May 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354][MB]

The 43 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	STCAAME
-				
	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Abersoch Lifeboat.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP532:32 delivered from CFS to 4 FTS, see 25.10.72 Gnat T.1 XP534:15 4 FTS delivered to CFS becoming 'E'				

Thursday 31st May 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3293][AIR 29/4354]

The 43 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	STCAAME
XS772	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	
XV725	AC	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XV726	AJ	Wessex HC.2	72 Sqn	
XW366	72	JP T.5	RAFC	
TG511	[511]	Hastings T.5	SCBS	From & to Scampton F/L Jackson
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
One member of Junior Leaders Regiment with mild hypothermia on Glyder Fawr flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Saturday 2nd June 1973 [GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3292]

WK522	[5]	Chipmunk T.10	10 AEF	
WP786	[3]	Chipmunk T.10	10 AEF	
WP789	[4]	Chipmunk T.10	10 AEF	
WP973	[1]	Chipmunk T.10	10 AEF	
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Private Keogh with injured knee flown from Snowdon to Bangor Hospital.				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
6yr old girl with head injuries flown from SMC Valley to Bangor Hospital.				

Sunday 3rd June 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3292][DEFE 56/145][AIR 29/4354]

43 Sqn arrived from Leuchars with 5 aircraft for their MPC at 09:30. They also brought a Lightning F.1A as photo chase [Binbrook TFF] 43 Sqn MPC 3-13.6, 2x AIM-7, 2x AIM-9 missiles fired.				
XV571	A	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	MPC
XV584	I	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	MPC
XT874	J	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	MPC
XV574	B	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	MPC
XV585	P	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	MPC

XM183	183	Lightning F.1A	BTFF	MPC chase from Leconfield
XR370	370	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9183' F/L Harper
Routed: Brize-Valley-Leuchars-Brize, 43 Sqn MPC support arriving at 15:00.				
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for 2 climbers on Snowdon, found safe.				

Monday 4th June 1973 [AIR 29/4221][AIR 29/4354][MB]

43 Sqn MPC				
Jindivik shot down by AIM-9D missile, this was 103BL A92-630 [XT874 with chase XM183] PM 1x AIM-9D fired [XV571 with chase XM183]				
XV571	A	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	MPC
				
[Tudor Rowlands]				
XM183	183	Lightning F.1A	Binbrook TFF	Target Facilities Flight
				
[Tudor Rowlands]				
XJ494	[-]	Sea Vixen FAW.2	22 JSTU	F/L MacKensie/Kilner
Diversion whilst on a range reconnaissance of Aberporth Range for Martel Missile trials, departed back to its base at Boscombe Down same day. Carries a buddy-buddy refuelling pack under the starboard wing.				



[Tudor Rowlands]

Based noted:

Hunter F.6 XG158:79 allotted back to 4 FTS whilst still at 5 MU, did it return ? see 7.11.73

Tuesday 5th June 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

43 Sqn MPC				
PM 1x AIM-7E fired [XV585 with chase XM183]				

Wednesday 6th June 1973 [AIR 29/4354][MB]

43 Sqn MPC				
PM 1x AIM-7E fired [XT874 with chase XM183]				
Based noted:				
Hunter T.7 XL600:83 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 27.4.73				

Friday 8th June 1973 [MB]

Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XR996:66 [F/L Roome] delivered from Bitteswell, previously with CFS.				

Wednesday 13th June 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354][MB]

43 Sqn departed back to Leuchars post their MPC.				
		[?x] Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR366	366	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9188' F/L Newton
Routed: Brize-Valley-Leuchars-Wattisham, return of 43 Sqn MPC support.				
-				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Capsized boat off Beaumaris, 3 survivors picked up by Lifeboat.				
Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 XR953:29 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3, repaired on site by 71 MU from 15.6				

Thursday 14th June 1973 [MB]

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Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR998:47 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 15.6				
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Friday 15th June 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF383:72 4 FTS from 5 MU Kemble, see 15.5.73				
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Saturday 16th June 1973 [AIR 27/3292][GP]

XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Deceased climber and one shocked survivor on South Stack taken to [Brawdy ?]				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
2 boys in a boat off Colwyn Bay, rescued by another boat.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS106:36 & Hunter F.6 XG185:74 4 FTS Sunderland Airshow.				

Sunday 17th June 1973 [AIR 27/3292][DEFE 56/145][AIR 29/4354]

228 OCU arrived from Coningsby with 4 aircraft for their MPC. 228 OCU MPC 17-21.6, 3x AIM-9 fired.				
XV396		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	MPC
XV472		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	MPC
XT911		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	MPC
XV436		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	MPC
-				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Climber with fractured skull flown from Snowdon to Bangor Hospital.				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Soldier suffering from hypothermia flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Monday 18th June 1973 [AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3439]

228 OCU MPC AM & PM no firings due to bad weather.				
XV181	181	Hercules C.1	47 Sqn	'RRR4369' STCAAME F/L Wood
228 OCU MPC support arrived 10:45 & departed 11:45. Routed: Lyneham-Coningsby-Valley-Lyneham.				

Tuesday 19th June 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

228 OCU MPC Jindivik shot down by AIM-9D, this was 103BL A92-611 [XV396 with chase XT911]				
-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
3 school boys and 1 dead teacher recovered from Gallt Wenallt [OS 107/646528]				

Wednesday 20th June 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354][MB]

228 OCU MPC
PM 1x AIM-9D fired [XV396 with chase XV472]



[National Archives]

XM612	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	From Wattisham 16:05
XH557	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	From Wattisham 15:55
XM603	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	From Wattisham 16:00
		?	[22 Sqn]	

OC 22 Sqn visited by air from St Mawgan.

Based noted:

Hunter F.6 XG209:69 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 21.6

Thursday 21st June 1973 [Pprune CharlieJuliet logbook*][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3323][MB]

228 OCU MPC

Jindivik shot down by AIM-9D, this was 103AL A92-545 [XV436 with chase XV396]

228 OCU departed back to Coningsby post their MPC.

XV436		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	To Coningsby
XT911		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	To Coningsby
XV472		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	To Coningsby
XV396		Phantom FGR.2	228 OCU	To Coningsby
XM612	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	To Waddington 12:45
XH557	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	To Waddington 13:00
XM603	-	Vulcan B.2	44 Sqn	To Waddington 13:15

Based noted:

Hunter T.7 XL565:89 4 FTS visited Kemble, crew ferry for XL596:90

Hunter T.7 XL596:90 4 FTS to 5 MU Kemble for surface finishing, see 20.7

Friday 22nd June 1973 [AIR 29/4221][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3476][AIR 27/3323][AIR 27/3297]

XV179	179	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	'RRR4389' F/L Maguire
Routed: Lyneham-Valley[08:40/10:55]-Coningsby-Valley[13:50/14:40]-Boscombe Down-Lyneham, return of 228 OCU MPC support.				

XM517	517	Britannia C.1	511 Sqn	'RRR6426' from Akrotiri 17:50
XL639	639	Britannia C.1	511 Sqn	'RRR6426' to Brize 19:05

Saturday 23rd June 1973 [AB News73][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Collapsed youth on flown from Beddgelert Forrest to Bangor Hospital.				
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XE656:76 4 FTS Woodford Airshow, flying.				

Sunday 24th June 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
False alarm for 4 boys in the Dee Estuary.				

Monday 25th June 1973 [AIR 27/3288][AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3306][MB]

56 Sqn arrived non-stop from Cyprus with 4 aircraft for their MPC. Should have been 6 aircraft with AAR and over wing tanks but one of the tankers became unserviceable after departure and the final 2 aircraft returned to Akrotiri. They arrived at Valley the following day. After arrival and turnaround 1 aircraft chased a RAFG Battle Flight scramble. Later all 4 carried out PD's at Wattisham, Honington & Coltishall.

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*Battle Flight training scramble to Aberporth range.

*Firing cancelled at last minute due to shipping on the range.

*Later returned to Gutersloh.

*One of the recently arrived 56 Sqn aircraft flew chase for this firing.

[XR725]	[Y]	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC from Cyprus
[XS897]	[S]	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC from Cyprus
[XS901]	[T]	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC from Cyprus
[XS928]	[E]	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC from Cyprus
		Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	STCAAME F/L Clarke

-				
XP395	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	To St Mawgan
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	From St Mawgan

22 Sqn aircraft changeover.

Based noted:

Gnat T.1 XR574:24 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 27.6

Tuesday 26th June 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3306][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3325]

56 Sqn MPC The last 2 aircraft which had been delayed in Cyprus arrived. PM 1x Red Top fired [XR725 with chase XS897]				
XR725	Y	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
Suffered slight damage to flying surfaces during the Red Top missile firing.				
[XS919]	[R]	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC from Cyprus at 09:30
		Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC from Cyprus at 09:30

XS897	S	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
XS901	T	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
XS928	E	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
XS597		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR3505' F/L Faulkner
Routed: Thorney Island-Linton on Ouse-Valley[16:00/16:20]-Thorney Island.				
-				
	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Male car accident victim with back injuries flown from Birmingham to Oswestry.				

Wednesday 27th June 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

56 Sqn MPC AM 1x Red Top fired [XS919 with chase XR725] AM 1x Red Top fired [XS897 with chase XR725] AM 1x Red Top fired [XS901 with chase XS897] PM 1x Red Top fired [XS928 with chase XS919]				
XS919	R	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
XR725	Y	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
XS897	S	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
XS901	T	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
XS928	E	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
[WJ681]	[-]	Canberra [B.2]	56 Sqn	MPC from Akrotiri

Thursday 28th June 1973 [Ian Hartley logbook*][AIR 29/4354][MB]

**Battle Flight firing from Gutersloh, firing prevented by shipping.				
		Lightning F.2A**	19 Sqn	STCAAME departed same day
XV328	[Z]	Lightning T.5*	56 Sqn	MPC from Leconfield
		Lightning	111 Sqn	STCAAME diversion from Binbrook
		Lightning T.5	5 Sqn	STCAAME from Binbrook
On loan to 56 Sqn.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR953:29 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 13.6.73				

Friday 29th June 1973 [AIR 29/4354][MB]

		Lightning T.5	5 Sqn	To Binbrook, see 28.6
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP502:02 4 FTS reconditioning at Bitteswell complete, see 25.11.71 Gnat T.1 XR998:47 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 14.6.73				

Saturday 30th June 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Climber airlifted from the Great Orme to Llandudno Hospital.				

June/July 1973 [BARG][Gordon Macadie]

Based noted:				
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Gnat T.1 4 FTS

XR538:01 XP504:04 XR535:05 XR569:08 XM706:12 XR571:23 XP536:27 XR953:29 XR954:30
XP538:38 XP540:40 XS104:44 XR998:47 XP535:54 -----:56 XS102:50 XS109:63 XR534:65



XP530:64 [Gordon Macadie]

Hunter F.6 4 FTS

XF527:70 XF383:72 XF509:73 XG185:74 XF386:75 XE656:76 XF526:78



[Both: Gordon Macadie]

Hunter T.7 4 FTS

XL609:80 XL621:81 XL591:82 XL567:84 XL566:86 XL597:87 XL565:89 XL613:91 XL573:97
[codes 72/73/74/70/84/87 painted in red-white scheme]



[All: Gordon Macadie]
 Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn
 XJ764 XP361
 Whirlwind HAR.10 CFS Detachment
 XJ727:L XR405:Q XP331:T XP360:V.

Sunday 1st July 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
2yr old child taken from RAF Valley to C&A Hospital, Bangor with a drug overdose.				

Monday 2nd July 1973 [Ian Hartley logbook*][Gordon Macadie][AIR 27/3292][MB]

XS928	E	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
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Complete with overwing tanks. [Gordon Macadie]

XR725	Y	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
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[Gordon Macadie]

XV328	[Z]	Lightning T.5*	56 Sqn	MPC to Leconfield
XS901	T	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
WJ681	-	Canberra B.2	56 Sqn	MPC support



[Gordon Macadie]

WJ863	Z	Canberra T.4	360 Sqn	PD
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[Gordon Macadie]

WE146	-	Canberra PR.3	RAE Llanbedr	MPC support
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Stiletto Supersonic Target underwing. [Gordon Macadie]

XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
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Man flown from Towyn to Aberystwyth Hospital.

XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
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Search for man missing off Porthdinllaen, nothing seen.

A further search was carried out with Whirlwind HAR.10 XP361, same crew, nothing seen.

Based noted:

Gnat T.1 XP502:02 4 FTS [F/L Cooper] returned from Bitteswell, see 29.6.73

Gnat T.1 XP503:03 4 FTS repairs complete and returned to 4 FTS, see 9.3.73

Tuesday 3rd July 1973 [AIR 27/3288][AIR 29/4354]

*Battle Flight scramble to Aberporth range.

*1st attempt was stopped due to shipping but a later slot was used for the firing.

PM 1x Firestreak fired [XN778 with chase XS897]

Chase provided by 56 Sqn on MPC [XS897]

Later returned to Gutersloh.

XN778	H	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	STCAAME F/L Danning
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XS901	T	Lightning F.6**	56 Sqn	MPC
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**Suffered a birdstrike on take-off, overweight landing carried out.

On removing the engine, a fuel leak was also found.

Repairs would be carried out by 71 MU from Bicester.

In the event a further fuel leak was found which delayed the return of the aircraft to 56 Sqn.

XS897	S	Lightning F.6	56 Sqn	MPC
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Wednesday 4th July 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search for a boy climber missing at Aber Falls, 2 members of the Valley MRT flown to site. After short search informed boy was safe in Hospital.				

Thursday 5th July 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3306]

56 Sqn departed to Leconfield post their MPC. XS901 remained at Valley due to the bird strike damage suffered 2.7. Repaired on site at STCAAME.				
		?x Lightning	56 Sqn	To Leconfield
-				
XS783	-	Basset CC.1	26 Sqn	
Crashed on take-off near the Railway Line [3nms SE of Valley] due to mis-fuelling with AVTUR Jet fuel instead of AVGAS. 22 Sqn Whirlwind HAR.10 XJ764 [F/L Thomson] was scrambled for this, 1 casualty [S/L Pollock ?] flown to Bangor Hospital. Both G/C Huxley & F/L Lane were flown in a CFS[H] Whirlwind HAR.10 to Bangor Hospital. Wreck went to B A Taylor's scrap yard in West Bromwich, noted there 6.10.74 [MC 12/74]				
Pilot	S/L	Neil Pollock		Ok
Nav	F/L	Peter Daren Lane		Died of injuries 6.7
Pax	G/C	Brian Huxley		Ok, Valley Station Commander

Friday 6th July 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3297][**MB**]

XR366	366	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9227' F/L Poole
Routed: Brize-Valley-Brize.				
XV215	215	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	'RRR4880' F/L Mathieson
Routed: Lyneham-Valley[20:10/20:35]-Lyneham.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP537:07 repairs complete back to 4 FTS. [it then went to 5 MU Kemble on an unknown date for repaint] Gnat T.1 XR537:37 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 13.4.73				

Saturday 7th July 1973 [BAR 73/08]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS104:44 4 FTS Greenham Common Air Tattoo, static. Also carried out a display at Hatfield, en-route to Greenham Common?				

Tuesday 10th July 1973 [**MB**]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP541:41 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 16.3.73				

Wednesday 11th July 1973 [MC 8/73][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

The 56 Sqn aircraft collected unused missiles from their MPC. From & to Leconfield.				
		Lightning	56 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning	56 Sqn	STCAAME
El-AVN	-	Hughes 369HM	Private	To Staverton-Southampton
XS768	-	Basset CC.1		From Staverton.
		?	[22 Sqn]	
OC 22 Sqn visited by air from St Mawgan.				

Thursday 12th July 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

The 92 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	STCAAME

Saturday 14th July 1973 [BAR 73/08][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3439]

XV299	299	Hercules C.1	47 Sqn	'RRR4555' F/L's Grange & Harrott
2 visits with 92 Sqn MPC support: Routed: Lyneham-Gutersloh-Valley-Lyneham, arrived 14:45 & departed 16:10. Routed: Lyneham-Gutersloh-Valley-Lyneham, arrived 22:30 & departed 23:30.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR998:47 4 FTS Portland Navy Day, flying only.				

Sunday 15th July 1973 [AIR 27/3307][GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

92 Sqn arrived from Gutersloh with 6 aircraft for their MPC. 92 Sqn MPC 5-20.7.7, 5 missiles fired. The aircraft were in the new dark green scheme.				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN774	F	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN780	K	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN728	V	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN727	W	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XM995	T	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	MPC
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Search for sub-aqua diver off Rhoscolyn, found and handed over to the Lifeboat.				

Monday 16th July 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Search for 3 boys missing between Llanbedr and Criccieth. Boys completed the route without assistance, false alarm.				

Tuesday 17th July 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

92 Sqn MPC				
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AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN774 with chase XN791] The Canberra picked up starter cartridges. The 19 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
XN774	F	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
		Canberra	56 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	STCAAME

Wednesday 18th July 1973 [AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3325]

92 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN780 with chase XN728] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XN774 with chase XN728]				
XN780	K	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN728	V	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XN774	F	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	MPC
XS605		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR5795' S/L Featherstone
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[08:15/09:40]-Istres-Turin.				
XS603		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR5796' F/L Booth
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[08:45/10:05]-Istres-Turin.				

Thursday 19th July 1973 [AIR 29/4221]

XJ476		Sea Vixen FAW.1	22 JSTU	STCAAME F/L Bingham/Kilner
Diversion whilst on a range reconnaissance of Aberporth Range for Martel Missile trials, departed back to its base at Boscombe Down same day.				
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XE656:76 4 FTS delivered to 229 OCU. [this is at odds with subsequent sightings of XE656, see 15.9.73 & 31.10.73] [XE656 subsequently served with 229 OCU before becoming a ground instructional airframe at 1 SoTT, Halton as 8678M. It was sold to Everett Aero [Sproughton] in 6.93 and moved to Bruntingthorpe 12.8.98 It then went to the Technik Museum Speyer, Germany on 10.8.99]				

Friday 20th July 1973 [AIR 27/3307][GP][MB]

92 Sqn MPC PM 1x Firestreak fired [XN728 with chase XN791] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XN727 with chase XN780] 92 Sqn departed back to Gutersloh post their MPC.				
XN791	D	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN774	F	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN780	K	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN728	V	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN727	W	Lightning F.2A	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XM995	T	Lightning T.4	92 Sqn	To Gutersloh

XN551	13	JP T.3	3 FTS	
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL609:80 4 FTS visited Coltishall. Hunter T.7 XL566:86 4 FTS to Kemble for surface finishing. Hunter T.7 XL596:90 4 FTS returned from 5 MU Kemble, see 20.6 plus 2.11.73				

Sunday 22nd July 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
12ft boat and 3 crew missing off Pwllheli, found safe on arrival.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Climber fallen off Glyder Fawr with injuries to hand and knee flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Tuesday 24th July 1973 [AIR 27/3307][AIR 27/3349]

XL639	639	Britannia C.1	99 Sqn	'RRR6325' F/L J R Buckley
Routed: Brize Norton-Valley-Gutersloh-Brize Norton, return of 92 Sqn MPC support.				

Wednesday 25th July 1973 [GP/SEAR][BAR 73/08][AIR 29/4354]

		Lightning	23 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
		Lightning	23 Sqn	STCAAME turnround
WH957	7	Canberra E.15	98 Sqn	
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP530:64 4 FTS Culdrose Airshow, flying.				

Thursday 26th July 1973 [GP/SEAR]

XS766	-	Basset CC.1	32 Sqn	
XS771	-	Basset CC.1	26 Sqn	
WE192	A	Canberra T.4	231 OCU	
XN501	28	JP T.3	1 FTS	

Friday 27th July 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4250]

XS789	-	Andover CC.2	Queens Flt	'RRR1336'
Routed: Benson-Valley-Aberporth-St Athan-Heathrow-Benson, Peter Thomas MP.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search off Barmouth for source of Orange & White flares, nothing seen.				

Monday 30th July 1973 [AIR 27/3288][AIR 27/3292][SG][AIR 29/4354]

G/C D J Edwards assumes command of the Station. [see 5.7.73 for the accident involving the previous Station Commander G/C Huxley]				
19 Sqn arrived from Gutersloh with 6 aircraft for their MPC. 19 Sqn MPC 1-15.8, 3 out of 5 Firestreak missiles fired, see 14.8. Their arrival was delayed due to runway repairs being carried at Valley and the transport aircraft which should have arrived 28.7.				

XN781	B	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [S/L Allchin]
XN776	C	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/L Clarke]
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/O Beadle]
XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/O Smith]
XN790	L	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC [F/O Paxton]
XN790 was replaced by XN771:P at some stage, still present 8.8.				
XM973	V	Lightning T.4	19 Sqn	MPC [F/L Gyles & Thorn]
-				
		?	[22 Sqn]	
SNO visited by air from St Mawgan.				

Tuesday 31st July 1973 [DF][AIR 27/3331][AIR 29/4354]

The 19 Sqn Lightnings were grounded for a day. This was whilst the ejection seat parachute packs were inspected.				
XV651	[064]	Sea King HAS.1	RRE	From & to Pershore
XR371	371	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9242' F/L Humberstone
Routed: Brize-Gutersloh-Valley-Brize, 19 Sqn MPC support arrived 19:20.				

July/August 1973 [GP/SEAR]

WP789	[4]	Chipmunk T.10	10 AEF	ATC Summer Camp
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August 1973

Based noted: 4 ship Hunter Display Team 'Dragons' formed. Normally: Hunter F.6 XF509:73 XG185:74 XF526:78 4 FTS Hunter T.7 XL609:80 4 FTS Led by S/L Phil Langrill, disbanded in 1973 due to the World Oil crisis. Displayed at Birmingham [16.8] Finningley [8.9] Leuchars [15.9] Pilots: S/L Phil Langrill F/L Ron Pattinson, ex Leader of the 3 FTS 'Gemini Pair' team. F/L Mal Grosse F/L Mike Phillips				



[Both: David Watkins Collection]

Wednesday 1st August 1973 [MC 9/73][SG]

19 Sqn MPC				
AM 1x Firestreak fired [XN781 with chase XN733]				
XN781	B	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN776	C	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN790	L	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XM973	V	Lightning T.4	19 Sqn	MPC

Thursday 2nd August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Capsized dinghy off Nefyn, false alarm.				

Friday 3rd August 1973 [AIR 27/3303]

		Lightning	29 Sqn	STCAAME, MPC liaison visit
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Saturday 4th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Injured boy flown from Moelfre to Bangor Hospital.				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
2 boys airlifted from rocks at Trearddur Bay to shore.				

Sunday 5th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Capsized dinghy off Colwyn Bay, found safe.				

Monday 6th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
6 people stranded from a car near Meifod airlifted safely to shore.				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Capsized yacht off Newquay, found safely.				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Canoeist rescued from Church Bay and flown to SMC at Valley.				

Tuesday 7th August 1973 [SG][AIR 29/4354][MB]

19 Sqn MPC				
The 23 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
XN776	C	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
		Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR983:53 repairs were complete 10.5 but back to 4 FTS today, see 5.3.73 Hunter T.7 XL601:88 4 FTS to 229 OCU on loan.				

Wednesday 8th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292][SG]

19 Sqn MPC				
AM no range slot due to a power cut at Llanbedr.				
The 23 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
XN790	L	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	MPC
		Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	STCAAME
-				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Flares sighted at St. Patrick's causeway and a search carried out. During a later search it suffered a secondary hydraulic failure and diverted to Llanbedr.				

Friday 10th August 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3288][MB]

19 Sqn MPC last 2 missiles from their MPC fired. 1x Firestreak fired [XN789] 1x Firestreak fired [XN776] 19 Sqn* departed back to Gutersloh post their MPC. 1 aircraft was left behind due to a brake parachute failure. Not all of the missiles were fired due to weather and bad luck, see 15.8. The 23 Sqn arrived for the MPC and static display at the Open Day.				
[XN771]	[P]	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XN789	J	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh [Gyles]
[XN776]	[C]	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XM973	V	Lightning T.4	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
XR756	M	Lightning F.3	23 Sqn	MPC
XR364	364	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9258' F/L Harper
Routed: Brize-Valley-Gutersloh-Wittmundhaven-Brize, return of 19 Sqn MPC support.				

Saturday 11th August 1973 [MC 9/73 & 12/73][DT][SW][AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3297]

RAF Valley Air Show				
Static: *Also flew				
XT270	-	Buccaneer S.2A	237 OCU	
WP789	4	Chipmunk T.10	10 AEF	'Thunderbird4'
				
[Tudor Rowlands]				
XS712	A	Dominie T.1	6 FTS	



[Tudor Rowlands]

XR984	52	Gnat T.1	4 FTS	Valley
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[Tudor Rowlands]

XS100	57	Gnat T.1	4 FTS	Valley
XV741	A	Harrier GR.1A*	3 Sqn	Wildenrath



[Tudor Rowlands]

XW917	L	Harrier GR.1A	3 Sqn	Wildenrath
XG185	74	Hunter F.6	4 FTS	Valley



[Tudor Rowlands]

XL596	90	Hunter T.7	4 FTS	Valley
A92-999	-	Jindivik	RAE Llanbedr	Llanbedr, composite airframe



[Tudor Rowlands]

XM453	20	JP T.3	3 FTS	
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[Tudor Rowlands]

XW336	6	JP T.5*	RAFC	Poachers scheme
XR756	M	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC from Leuchars



[Dewi Thomas Collection]

WA669	-	Meteor T.7*	CFS	Vintage Pair
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[Pprune Box Brownie]



[Tudor Rowlands]

WA991	F	Meteor U.16	RAE Llanbedr	
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[Tudor Rowlands]

XV573	L	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	
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With the old 22 Sqn buildings in the background. [Tudor Rowlands]

XV585	P	Phantom FG.1	43 Sqn	
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[Tudor Rowlands]

XV313	E	Sioux HT.2	CFS	
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[Dewi Thomas Collection]



[Tudor Rowlands]

XH304	-	Vampire T.11*	CFS	Vintage Pair
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[Tudor Rowlands]

WF331	M	Varsity T.1	5 FTS	Oakington
XM599	-	Vulcan B.2*		Waddington Wing



The old 22 Sqn buildings can be seen in the background. [Dewi Thomas Collection]

XP360	V	Whirlwind HAR.10	CFS	Ternhill
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[Dick Thomas Collection]

XV713	412:BL	Sea King HAS.1	820 NAS	HMS Blake
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[Tudor Rowlands]

XS542	441	Wasp HAS.1	829 NAS	HMS Falmouth
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[Dewi Thomas Collection]



[Tudor Rowlands]

Hangar Displays:

Gnat T.1 4 FTS

XR538:01 XP502:02 XP504:04 XP506:06 XP537:07 XR569:08 XM705:10 XP511:11 XM708:18
XP508:21 XR574:24 XP533:33 XS106:36 XR537:37 XP538:38 XP540:40 XS104:44 XP536:65

Hunter F.6 4 FTS

XG209:69 XF386:75

Hunter T.7 4 FTS

WV372:85

XR485

Q

Whirlwind HAR.10

CFS



[Glyn Jones]

[100502]	-	Fa.330 Rotorkite	[MAS]	[Merseyside Aviation Society]
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Visitors:				
G-ARLW	-	Cessna 172B	Private	
G-ARTD	-	PA-23 Apache 160	Private	
G-AVCV	-	Cessna 182J	Private	
G-AXOT	-	MS.893A Rallye 180	Private	
G-AXRZ	-	Cessna FA150K	Private	
G-AZTO	-	PA-34 Seneca 200	Private	
G-AZVV	-	PA-28 Cherokee	Private	
G-AZVZ	-	PA-28 Cherokee	Private	
G-AXDL	-	PA-30 Comanche	NEA	Pleasure flights
G-AXXH	-	BN2A Islander	NEA	Pleasure flights

Flying Display: *flew				
XR364	364	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9307' F/L Neate
Flypast only, also carried out a flypast at Birmingham.				
XS737	K	Dominie T.1	6 FTS	
Based noted:				
Gnat T.1 4 FTS				
XP504:04 XR535:05 XP537:07* XM709:09* XM706:12* XS110:20* XR571:23* XP536:27*				
XR953:29* XR954:30* XP532:32* XP541:41* XR998:47* XP500:50* XR983:53* XP535:54*				
XS102:58* XP530:64*				
Hunter F.6 4 FTS				
XF527:70 XG274:71* XF384:72* XF509:73* XF526:78*				



The Dragons [Stephen Wolf]
 Hunter T.7 4 FTS
 XL597:87*
 Whirlwind HAR.10 C Flt/22 Sqn
 XJ764* XP361

Gnat T.1 Red Arrows/CFS
 XP514 XR981 XS107 XS111 + 5

XW926	M	Harrier T.4	3 Sqn	Wildenrath
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[Tudor Rowlands]

XV183	183	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	'RRR4866' F/L Coward
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Routed: Lyneham-Kemble-Shawbury-Valley[16:10] Red Arrows support.

XV204	204	Hercules C.1	LTW	Falcons support
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XR672	V	JP T.4	6 FTS	
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XP560	W	JP T.4	6 FTS	
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XW363	2	JP T.5	RAFC	Poachers
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XW357	5	JP T.5	RAFC	Poachers
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XW359	4	JP T.5	RAFC	Poachers
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XW354	7	JP T.5	RAFC	Poachers
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XW420	8	JP T.5	RAFC	Poachers see 13.8
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XW373	11	JP T.5	RAFC	Poachers
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XW315	30	JP T.5	3 FTS	
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XW406	48	JP T.5	3 FTS	Gemini Pair
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XW370	49	JP T.5	3 FTS	Gemini spare
XW410	51	JP T.5	3 FTS	Gemini Pair
PA474	KM-B	Lancaster B.I	BBMF	
XM139	-	Lightning F.1	TFF	Wattisham



Wattisham Target Facilities Flight. [Stephen Wolf]

XM192	-	Lightning F.1A	TFF	Wattisham
XV247	47	Nimrod MR.1	236 OCU	Kinloss
WL626	P	Varsity T.1	6 FTS	
WJ943	R	Varsity T.1	6 FTS	
68-0035	UH	F-111E	20 TFW	Or 68-0032 ?
RR299	HT-E	Mosquito T.III	HAS	G-ASKH
G-BADW	-	Pitts S-2A	Rothmans	
G-BADY	-	Pitts S-2A	Rothmans	
G-BADZ	-	Pitts S-2A	Rothmans	
G-BAEA	-	Pitts S-2A	Rothmans	
WD702	U	Meteor TT.20	Fire Dump	Ex. 3 CAACU, Exeter



[Steve Bond Collection]

XR948	28	Gnat T.1	Fire Dump	Wreck w/o 14.3.72
XF384	72	Hunter F.6	Fire Dump	Wreck w/o 10.8.72
XF387	77	Hunter F.6	Fire Dump	Wreck w/o 10.8.72

XP349	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	Fire Dump	Wreck w/o 13.12.72
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Deceased climber airlifted from Craig Yr Ysfa and flown to Bangor Hospital.				
XJ764	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Civilian acute appendicitis case flown from SMC Valley to Bangor Hospital.				

Sunday 12th August 1973 [Pprune MAINJAVAD][GP/SEAR][AIR 27/3295][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3297]

23 Sqn [5 aircraft] arrived from Leuchars for their MPC. The 6 th aircraft was already at Valley having arrived for the Airshow. 23 Sqn MPC 12-15.8, 5 Firestreak missiles fired.				
XR753	A	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XS936	B	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XS937	C	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XR754	D	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XR758	E	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC
XR756	M	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	MPC, see 10.8
		Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh, see 10.8
WK119	[19]	Canberra B.2	7 Sqn	
WH869	[69]	Canberra B.2	7 Sqn	
XV196	196	Hercules C.1	LTW	
XV183	183	Hercules C.1	24 Sqn	'RRR4866'
Routed: Valley[09:50]-Kemble-Lyneham, return of Red Arrows support.				

Monday 13th August 1973 [BAR 73/11][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354][AIR 4/231][MB]

23 Sqn MPC AM 1x Firestreak fired [XR753 with chase XR754] AM 1x Firestreak fired [XR758 with chase XR754] AM 1x Firestreak fired [XS936 with chase XR758]				
XW420	8	JP T.5	RAFC	F/L P West to Aldergrove
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR980 delivered from CFS. Gnat T.1 XS105 delivered from CFS becoming '35' [ex. '60'] Gnat T.1 XS106:36 delivered from CFS, see 8.9.72 22 Sqn aircraft changeover. Whirlwind HAR.10 XP299 22 Sqn from St Mawgan. Whirlwind HAR.10 XJ764 22 Sqn to St Mawgan.				

Tuesday 14th August 1973 [MC 9/73][AIR 27/3303][AIR 29/4354]

23 Sqn MPC PM 1x Firestreak fired [XR756 with chase XR753] PM 1x Firestreak fired [XR756 with chase XR754]				
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G-BAAJ	-	PA-23 Aztec 250	Private	To EMA then Norwich
		Lightning	29 Sqn	STCAAME MPC liaison visit

Wednesday 15th August 1973 [AIR 27/3288][SG][AIR 29/4354]

23 Sqn MPC, having completed the MPC they flew local sorties. Two 19 Sqn aircraft arrived to fire the Sqn's remaining missiles, see 10.8. 1x Firestreak fired [XN776][Gyles]				
XN776	C	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	STCAAME [Gyles]



Taxying in at Valley post missile firing.



Both aircraft are seen here on the STCAAME flightline.

A CFS[H] Whirlwind HAR.10 can be seen in the background. [Both: Steve Gyles Collection]

XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	STCAAME
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Thursday 16th August 1973 [DW][SG][AIR 29/4354]

19 Sqn MPC 2x chase sorties [XN776][Gyles] The two 19 Sqn aircraft then departed back to Gutersloh.				
XN776	C	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh [Gyles]

XN733	Y	Lightning F.2A	19 Sqn	To Gutersloh
Based noted: 4x Hunter [Red Dragons] 4 FTS displayed at Birmingham.				

Friday 17th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

23 Sqn [6 aircraft] departed back to Leuchars post their MPC.				
XR753	A	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XS936	B	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XS937	C	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR754	D	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR758	E	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
XR756	M	Lightning F.6	23 Sqn	To Leuchars
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Young girl lost on the Snowdon Railway path found safely.				

Saturday 18th August 1973 [BAR 73/09][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3305]

XV203	203	Hercules C.1	30 Sqn	'RRR4681' STCAAME F/L Lindley
Return of 23 Sqn MPC support, arrived 08:20 & departed 11:45. Routed: Lyneham-Valley-Leuchars-Lyneham.				
-				
XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Search for a boat in difficulties off Penrhyn Mawr, nothing seen.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS109:63 4 FTS attended the Lakenheath Airshow, flying.				

Sunday 19th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Missing 12yr old boy at Moelfre, hours later he turned up at his Hotel.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Fallen climber at Aber Falls taken to Bangor Hospital.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
12yr old boy airlifted from Porth-Y-Nant [OS 115/351448] to Bangor Hospital. Suffering from spinal injuries.				

Monday 20th August 1973 [BAR 73/09]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 4 FTS XS102:58 XR534:65 both noted at Bitteswell.				

Wednesday 22nd August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
CASEVAC J/T Turner from Valley to Cosford with a perforated ulcer.				

Thursday 23rd August 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3305][MB]

XP218	218	Hercules C.1	30 Sqn	'RRR4869' F/L Lindley
Routed: Lyneham-Kemble-Shawbury-Valley-Kemble-Lyneham. Arrived 14:35 & departed 17:00.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Climber with head injuries flown from [OS 107/623572] to Bangor Hospital.				
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL566:86 returned from Kemble, see 20.7.73				

Friday 24th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
62yr old man flown from Rhyl to Manchester with an aortic aneurysm.				

Saturday 25th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
8yr old boy flown from SMC Valley to Bangor Hospital with burns.				

Sunday 26th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Search for missing boat off Rhos-on-Sea, found safe on arrival.				

Monday 27th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
2 Climbers flown from Llanberis Pass to Bangor Hospital. [1 Swiss Female & 1 Austrian Male]				

Tuesday 28th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
3 female horse riders missing overnight from OS 127/871633, found after a 1hr search.				

Thursday 30th August 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Injured male airlifted from Moel-Wyn-Bach [OS 116/662437]				

September 1973

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XF383:72 & XF509:73 4 FTS both visited Gutersloh on a liaison visit.				

Tuesday 4th September 1973 [BAR 73/11]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR541:34 & XR983:53 4 FTS both seen at Kemble.				

Thursday 6th September 1973 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 27/3292][MB]

XP508	21	Gnat T.1	4 FTS	
Loss of power after take-off, crashed into the sea 1nm SW of Valley. Pilot ejected too late. Whirlwind HAR.10 XP299 22 Sqn [F/L Thomson] was scrambled for this incident and flew the pilots body to the Station Medical Centre at Valley. [quoted as an air test with the engine failure due to loose articles]				
Pilot	F/L	Stewart Pearse	Killed [buried Maeshyfyrd]	
 Maeshyfyrd, Holyhead. [Hywel Evans]				

Friday 7th September 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Hunter F.6 XG164 delivered from 229 OCU [loan ?]				

Saturday 8th September 1973 [DW][BAR 73/11]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 4 FTS XP502:02 Finningley BoB Show, flying. XS104:44 Finningley BoB Show, static. Hunter F.6 4 FTS XG274:71 XF383:72 XF509:73 'Red Dragons' display at Finningley BoB Show. Hunter T.7 4 FTS XL597:87 'Red Dragons' display at Finningley BoB Show.				

Sunday 9th September 1973 [BAR 73/10]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP502:02 4 FTS Cranfield Air Pagent, flying only.				

Wednesday 12th September 1973 [BAR 73/10][AIR 27/3292][MB]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
2 people picked up from rocks off Penrhyn Point.				
Based noted:				

Gnat T.1 XR984:52 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 13.9
 Gnat T.1 XP504:04 & XP516:[16] 4 FTS both visited Farnborough.

Thursday 13th September 1973 [AIR 29/4354][MB]

S/L Kendrick arrived to attend the funeral of F/L Pearse, see 6.9.				
		Lightning F.6		STCAAME S/L Kendrick
		Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME S/L Sims
		Lightning F.6	[Binbrook]	STCAAME W/e stop S/L Barker
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS110:20 delivered from CFS to 4 FTS.				

Saturday 15th September 1973 [DW][BAR 73/10][AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Son of Cpl Reese flown from SMC Valley to Bangor Hospital.				
Based noted: 4 Hunters 'Red Dragons' 4 FTS displayed at Leuchars. Hunter F.6 XF383:72 XF509:73 XG185:74 XE656:76 & Hunter T.7 XL566:86 XL597:87 Hunter F.6 4 FTS XE656:76 Coltishall BoB Show, flying. XF527:70 St Athan BoB Show, static. Hunter T.7 4 FTS XL609:80 Abingdon BoB Show, static. XL621:81 Coltishall BoB Show, static. XL573:97 Leuchars BoB Show, static. Gnat T.1 4 FTS XR535:05 Abingdon BoB Show, static. XS104:44 Cottesmore BoB Show, static. XS106:36 Cottesmore BoB Show, flying. XS102:58 Leuchars BoB Show, static. XR537:37 Leuchars BoB Show, flying. XP502:02 St Athan BoB Show, static. XP504:04 XP516:16 XP533:33 XR954:30 XS109:43 XR996:66 6-ship flypast at St Athan.				

Sunday 16th September 1973 [AIR 27/3292][MB]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
2 sub-aqua divers picked up from 2nms NE of Bull Bay and dropped at Point Lynas. Searched for a boat in distress 3nms W of Southport, nothing seen, possible hoax.				
Based noted: Hunter T.7 XL567:84 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by CWP. Hunter T.7 XL601:88 returned to 4 FTS, see 7.8.73				

Monday 17th September 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

		Lightning F.6		To Binbrook, see 14.9
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Wednesday 19th September 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Search for missing sub-aqua diver off Penrhyn Mawr, nothing seen.				

Thursday 20th September 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

		?		
AOC Training Command visited CFS[H], by air?				
XH304	-	Vampire T.11	CFS	From Hatfield, see below

Based noted:



First Day Cover flown in Hunter T.7 WV372:85 4 FTS to Hatfield.

[Dick Thomas Collection]

Sunday 23rd September 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4250]

XV732	-	Wessex HCC.4	Queens Flt	'RRR1368'
Routed: Culdrose-Swansea-Valley N/stop HRH Prince of Wales.				
-				
XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Boat reported in difficulties off Rhos-on-Sea, found safe. 2 nd boat reported in difficulties turned out to be the same boat.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
8yr old girl missing at Pwllheli, found on arrival. On the return, 2 men uplifted from motor boat off Ty Croes.				

Monday 24th September 1973 [AIR 29/4250]

XV732	-	Wessex HCC.4	Queens Flt	'RRR1373'
Routed: Valley-Prestwick.				

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Wednesday 26th September 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

		Whirlwind HAR.10	CFS[H]	
Brought Capt Howard RN back to Valley from HMS Indefatigable.				

Friday 28th September 1973 [DEFE 56/145][AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn arrived from Bruggen with 4 aircraft for their MPC. 31 Sqn MPC 28.9-11.10, 2x AIM-9 & 1x AIM-7 fired. Their arrival was delayed until the afternoon due to high crosswinds.				
XV422		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV431		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV460		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV491		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC

Saturday 29th September 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3292]

XR369	369	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9282' F/L Newton
Routed: Brize-Bruggen-Valley-Brize, 31 Sqn MPC support.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Missing man in the Marchlyn Mawr area, nothing found. Man turned up later.				

Sunday 30th September 1973 [BAR 73/11][AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Fallen climber at Pont Y Gromlech [Llanberis Pass] taken to Bangor Hospital but found dead on arrival.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP537:07 4 FTS Coningsby ROC Open Day, static.				

October 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

Station Flight handled 192 movements including 5 VIP's.				

October 1973 [HO]

XV586	011:R	Phantom FG.1	892 NAS	HMS Ark Royal
XV588	013:R	Phantom FG.1	892 NAS	HMS Ark Royal

Monday 1st October 1973 [Pprune MAINJAVAD][AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn MPC no range slots due to a Jindivik crashing on landing. Flights carried out with Ulster Radar [2 aircraft] Local flight [1 aircraft]				

Tuesday 2nd October 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn MPC				
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AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV422 with chase XV491] F/L Watson 3 Sqn, 4 FTS flew a practice chase sortie in a Hunter T.7. This was in preparation for the forthcoming visit of the SASO, see 4.10.				

Wednesday 3rd October 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn MPC no range slots due to crosswinds at Llanbedr.				
		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME turnaround
		Lightning F.6	11 Sqn	STCAAME turnaround

Thursday 4th October 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn MPC no range slots due to crosswinds at Llanbedr. SASO A/Cdre Simmons visited and flew with F/L Watson in a Hunter T.7, see 2.10.				
		Phantom FG.1	892 NAS	STCAAME turnaround

Friday 5th October 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn MPC no range slots due to crosswinds at Llanbedr.				

Monday 8th October 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn MPC no range slots due to weather at Llanbedr.				

Tuesday 9th October 1973 [AIR 29/4354][MB]

31 Sqn MPC no range slots due to weather at Llanbedr.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XS106:36 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 15.10				

Wednesday 10th October 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

31 Sqn MPC AM 1x AIM-7 fired [XV460 with chase XV431] The 111 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME
		?	[22 Sqn]	
OC 22 Sqn visited by air from St Mawgan.				

Thursday 11th October 1973 [MB]

31 Sqn MPC PM 1x AIM-9D fired [XV460 with chase XV431] 31 Sqn departed back to Bruggen post their MPC. The 111 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
XV422		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen

XV431		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV460		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen
XV491		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	To Bruggen
		Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	STCAAME
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XP538:38 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 15.10				

Friday 12th October 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3292][MB]

XR367	367	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9290' S/L Brighton
Routed: Brize-Valley-Bruggen-Brize, return of 31 Sqn MPC support.				
-				
XR537	37	Gnat T.1	4 FTS	
Damaged due to a birdstrike near Leeming.				
-				
XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
Search for missing canoeists in Menai Straits, nothing seen, possible hoax.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR537:37 4 FTS forced landing at Leeming due to a birdstrike assessed as CAT.4R [XR537 was taken to Bitteswell on 3.12.73 for repairs]				

Sunday 14th October 1973 [BAR 73/11]

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

Tuesday 16th October 1973 [AIR 27/3325]

XS603		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR5501' F/L Bransbury
Routed: Gutersloh-Wildenrath-Northolt-Valley[15:30/15:50]-Cosford.				

Thursday 18th October 1973 [Pprune Dominator2 logbook*][AIR 29/4199][SB][AIR 29/4354]

*The 29 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC. The other 29 Sqn aircraft operated with Ulster Radar.				
		Lightning F.3*	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3*	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3*	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	STCAAME
XW307	[66]	JP T.5*	[1 FTS]	NAVEX

XS868	[526]	Wessex HAS.1	771 NAS	Ed Featherstone
Visited CFS[H] departed 19.11				

Friday 19th October 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Search for survivors West of South Stack, nothing seen.				

Tuesday 23rd October 1973 [fagofarrow@aol.com logbook*][AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3308][AIR 29/4354]

111 Sqn arrived from Wattisham for their MPC. 111 Sqn MPC 23-26.10. PM 1x Red Top fired [XP746 with chase XP749] PM 1x Red Top fired [XP759 with chase XR713] They should have arrived 21.10 but it was delayed owing to runway repairs at Valley.				
XP746	J	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XP759	G	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XR748	M	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XP706	F	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XP749	K	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
XR713	A	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	MPC
One aircraft arrived 5hrs after the other 5 due to suffering a mainwheel red after take-off from Wattisham.				
G-ASNC	-	Husky	Private	From & to Manchester
-				
XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Injured climber in Snowdonia flown to Bangor Hospital.				

Wednesday 24th October 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

111 Sqn MPC AM 1x Red Top fired [XP706 with chase XP759]				

Thursday 25th October 1973 [AIR 29/4199][AIR 29/4354][MB]

111 Sqn MPC AM 1x Red Top fired [XP749 with chase XP759] AM 1x Red Top fired [XR713 with chase XP746]				
		Whirlwind HAR.10	CFS[H]	
Airlifted a team of 4 shepherds and their dogs to the top of Carnedd Llewelyn for the winter sheep round up accompanied by a Daily Mirror photographer.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR954:30 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3[prov] [it was then assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 2.11]				

Friday 26th October 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3308][AIR 29/4354]

111 Sqn departed back to Wattisham PM post their MPC.				
XP749	K	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XR713	A	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP759	G	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP746	J	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XP706	F	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
XR748	M	Lightning F.3	111 Sqn	To Wattisham
		?	[22 Sqn]	
OC 22 Sqn visited by air from St Mawgan.				

Saturday 27th October 1973 [AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3305]

XV200	200	Hercules C.1	30 Sqn	'RRR4604' STCAAME F/L Hunt
Arrived 08:40 from Lyneham to Wattisham 10:05 with 111 Sqn return MPC support.				

Sunday 28th October 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
CASEVAC with heart problems from Dutch tanker 'Niso' off Liverpool to Broadgreen Hospital				

Monday 29th October 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR571:23 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 2.11				

Tuesday 30th October 1973 [AIR 29/4354][AIR 27/3305][MB]

The 29 Sqn aircraft delivered the last missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Lightning [F.3]	29 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning [F.3]	29 Sqn	STCAAME
XV176	176	Hercules C.1	30 Sqn	'RRR4579' diversion
From Akrotiri at 02:30.				
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR574:24 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 25.6.73				

Wednesday 31st October 1973 [@MAR 07/20][AIR 27/3305][AIR 27/3327]

XV176	176	Hercules C.1	30 Sqn	To Lyneham 14:40, see 30.10
XV179	179	Hercules C.1	48 Sqn	'RRR4580' F/L Parry
Routed: Akrotiri-Valley[06:10/11:10]-Lyneham.				
Based noted: Hunter F.6 XE656:76 4 FTS visited Chivenor, camo/white spine.				

Thursday 1st November 1973 [AIR 29/4354][MB]

31 Sqn arrived to fire the outstanding missile from their MPC. PM 1x AIM-9D fired [XV476 with chase XV433] 31 Sqn then departed back to Bruggen.				
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The 17 Sqn aircraft flew local sorties.				
XV476		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
XV433		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
		Phantom FGR.2	31 Sqn	MPC
		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	STCAAME turnaround
		Phantom FGR.2	17 Sqn	STCAAME turnaround
Based noted: Gnat T.1 XM706:12 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 12.11 Gnat T.1 XP536:27 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 12.11				

Friday 2nd November 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

XL596	90	Hunter T.7	4 FTS	
Crashed into Besford Wood on approach to RAF Shawbury.				
Instr	S/L	Ronald Clive Etheridge	Killed	
Student	Cdt	Abdullah Kasem Nuseriat [Jordanian]	Killed	

Saturday 3rd November 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Female climber with a back injury flown from Tryfan [OS 107/683592] to Bangor Hospital.				

Sunday 4th November 1973 [AIR 27/3331][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

29 Sqn arrived from Wattisham with 6 aircraft for their MPC.				
29 Sqn MPC 4-7.11				
XR715	R	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP755	E	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP701	F	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP745	H	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XP702	C	Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	MPC
XS459	T	Lightning T.5	29 Sqn	MPC
XR371	371	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9112' F/L Harper
Routed: Brize-Wattisham-Valley-Brize, 29 Sqn MPC support.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
2 climbers stuck overnight on Clogwyn rescued by MRT.				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Sub aqua diver rescued safely from Lleyn Peninsula [OS 115/180335]				

Monday 5th November 1973 [BAR 73/12][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

29 Sqn MPC no range slots due to wind speeds at Llanbedr.				
XV643	270:H	Sea King HAS.1*	814 NAS	
XV700	272:H	Sea King HAS.1*	814 NAS	
XV712	273:H	Sea King HAS.1*	814 NAS	

*From Prestwick to HMS Hermes.				
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XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Nequest
Fallen climber flown from Glaslyn to Bangor Hospital.				
XJ429	-	Whirlwind HAR.10*	22 Sqn	From St Mawgan
Replaced XP299, see 9.11				

Tuesday 6th November 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

29 Sqn MPC				
AM 1x Red Top fired [XR715 with chase XP701]				
AM 1x Red Top fired [XP755 with chase XS459]				
AM 1x Red Top fired [XS459 with chase XP702]				
AM 1x Red Top fired [XP701 with chase XR715]				
PM 1x Red Top fired [XP745 with chase XS459]				
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham 17:30
		Lightning	29 Sqn	To Wattisham 17:30

Wednesday 7th November 1973 [BAR 74/01][AIR 27/3331][AIR 29/4354]

29 Sqn departed back to Wattisham post their MPC.				
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
		Lightning F.3	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
		Lightning	29 Sqn	To Wattisham
XR365	365	Belfast C.1	53 Sqn	'RRR9113' F/L Bampton
Routed: Brize-Valley-Wattisham-Brize, return of 29 Sqn MPC support.				
Based noted:				
Hunter F.6 XG158:79 4 FTS noted at Kemble.				
[became '35' with 229 OCU from 9.11.73]				
[XG158 subsequently served with 229 OCU/TWU before becoming 8686M 13.4.81 although allocated for ground instruction at Cranwell this was cancelled and it went to RAE Farnborough 29.1.82 for ground instruction there. It eventually ended up on the Pendine Target Range]				

Friday 9th November 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	To St Mawgan, see 5 & 20.11
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Wednesday 14th November 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

Based noted:				
Hunter 4 FTS spontaneous jettison of fuel tanks.				

Saturday 17th November 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Man with appendicitis flown from OS 107/595575 to Bangor Hospital.				

Monday 19th November 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Search for missing fell walker in the Ogwen area, nothing seen.				

Tuesday 20th November 1973 [AIR 27/3288][AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

*Battle Flight scramble to Aberporth Range. Unable to fire AM due to a combination of a lack of fuel plus arrived early at the range. PM slot resulted in a misfire.				
XN777	K	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	STCAAME F/O R B Hodgson
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Search for missing fell walker in the Ogwen area, nothing seen.				
XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	From St Mawgan, see 9.11
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	To St Mawgan
22 Sqn aircraft changeover.				
	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Exercise with Moelfre Lifeboat.				

Wednesday 21st November 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 27/3325]

XS597		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1406' F/L Booth
Routed: Thorney Island-Valley[16:00] n/stop.				
-				
XP361	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Search for missing fell walker in the Ogwen area, nothing seen.				

Thursday 22nd November 1973 [AIR 27/3325]

XS597		Andover C.1	46 Sqn	'RRR1406' F/L Booth
Routed: Valley[06:50]-Aldergrove-Boscombe Down-Aldergrove-Lyneham.				

Monday 26th November 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR534:65 4 FTS assessed as CAT.3R, repaired on site by 71 MU from 28.11 [XR534's repair was deferred and undertaken on it's major servicing at Kemble, see 13.3.74]				

Tuesday 27th November 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XJ429	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Beglan
Crashed aircraft locator beacon recovered in the Morecambe area. This had been inadvertently jettisoned from a Beaver aircraft.				

Saturday 1st December 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Mitchell
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Body flown from Glaslyn to the Valley MRT at Pen-y-Pass.
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Sunday 2nd December 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XJ429	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/L Thomson
Climber flown from Devil's Kitchen to the SMC at Valley with minor injuries.				

Tuesday 4th December 1973 [AIR 27/3288][AIR 29/4354]

*Scrambled to Aberporth Range to fire off the remaining MPC missiles, see 15.8.73. AM *1x misfire. PM **1x misfire.				
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	MPC S/L Spencer
XN788	M	Lightning F.2A**	19 Sqn	MPC F/L Martin

Thursday 6th December 1973 [AIR 27/3288][AIR 27/3295][AIR 29/4354]

*19 Sqn MPC Attempt to fire off the missiles was cancelled due to high crosswinds at Llanbedr and Valley See 4.12 The 5 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
XN724	F	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	MPC
XN788	M	Lightning F.2A*	19 Sqn	MPC
		?x Lightning	23 Sqn	Exercise Round Robin
		Lightning F.3	5 Sqn	STCAAME
		Lightning F.3	5 Sqn	STCAAME

Friday 7th December 1973 [AIR 29/4354]

The 5 Sqn aircraft delivered missiles for their forthcoming MPC.				
		Lightning F.3	5 Sqn	STCAAME

Sunday 9th December 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	F/O Hurst
Search for missing special needs patient from Llanfairfechan Hospital, found by ground party				

Thursday 13th December 1973 [AIR 27/3292][AIR 29/4354]

A 19 Sqn Battle Flight scramble was cancelled for the 3 rd time, it would now be in 1974.				
XP347	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	From St Mawgan
XP299	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	To St Mawgan
22 Sqn aircraft changeover.				

Monday 17th December 1973 [DEFE 58/139]

Possible visit by HRH Prince of Wales to fly a Hunter T.7 between 17-20.12.73. The Hunters chosen were Primary XL613:91 and Reserve XL573:97. Did it happen ?				

Friday 21st December 1973 [MB]

Based noted: Gnat T.1 XR984:52 repairs complete back to 4 FTS, see 12.9.73				

Saturday 22nd December 1973 [AIR 27/3292]

	-	Whirlwind HAR.10	22 Sqn	
Annual flight to the Skerries Lighthouse with Xmas provisions.				

December 1973 [AIR 29/4199]

December was the beginning of the power & fuel crisis caused by the Miners Strikes & Railway workers dispute. Valley's working routine was changed to 09:00-16:00 [daylight hours]. MDA lightning was curtailed, and Mona temporarily closed.				
RAF Valley, 4 FTS closed 21.12.73-2.1.74				