

Saturday 29 August 1942

Flying again. Bit of fun low flying. Evening spent in Ramsey at Lion with a few of the lads. Had supper then home to bed.

Sunday 30 August 1942

Lectures all day.

Monday 31 August 1942

Flying. Weather poor, only 2 ½ hours. Went to Ramsey then on to Peterborough. Hotels all full but got a bed at service hostel for 6d. spent evening drinking.

Tuesday 1 September 1942

Wandered about Peterborough & met rest of lads (party of 7). Had a few drinks then lunch & off to pictures. After tea got a 6 o'clock bus back to camp. Letter from Doris.

Wednesday 2 September 1942 Flying

Thursday 3 September 1942 Lectures

Friday 4 September 1942

Flying. Finished up fairly early. Evening in the Lion.

Saturday 5 September 1942

Lectures. Evening in the Lion.

Sunday 6 September 1942

Did not fly having finished up at A/Flt. Spent afternoon in Peterborough and went to the pictures.

Monday 7 September 1942. Lectures.

Tuesday 8 September 1942

Started at C.Flt and did three high level exercises. Visibility good all day.

Wednesday 9 September 1942. Lectures.

Thursday 10 September 1942

Flying. Very hazy & we did not get up. Gave observer a period in the link.

Friday 11 September 1942. Lectures all day.

Saturday 12 September 1942

Finished flying 5pm. Bombing at 2000', 500' and 250' but visibility poor due to ground haze. Telegram from Len. Caught 6 o'clock bus to Peterborough. Arrived London 10.30pm. Did not find Len but got room at Strand Palace. Bit tired when I got to bed about 2am.

Sunday 13 September 1942

Breakfast about 9am then to Boomerang Club. Len arrived about 11am. Spent day chatting and visited Overseas league for couple of hours. Left by 6 o'clock train. Len on leave prior to going onto a big troopship as gunnery officer. Home in camp about 9pm.

LEN BISS

Monday 14 September 1942

Should have been flying but crates used for Air Sea Rescue after big scale raid. Spent morning in Gelofidy and AML. Did nothing all afternoon. Wrote to Tora.

Tuesday 15 September 1942

Lectures. Wrote to Doris & did a bit of washing.

Wednesday 16 September 1942

Flying. Two low level bombing exercises at 100'. Evening with lads at the George.

Thursday 17 September 1942

Lectures all day. Tests in Signals, Photography and Intelligence. Wrote to Janet. Pay parade £9-2-0.

Friday 18 September 1942

No flying as we had finished "C" Flight. Afternoon went to Peterborough. Saw "Green Eyed Woman" then drank with Andy & Ronnie.

Saturday 19 September 1942

Lectures. Evening went to Peterborough. Drinking with Steve then slept at service hostel.

Sunday 20 September 1942

Went to Cathedral with several of the lads. Sat up in choir stalls but still could not hear. Rather disappointing.

Monday 21 September 1942

Loafed at "A" flt all day except for two dual check circuits. Evening pictures with Steve and Burton. Then supper at the Lion.

Tuesday 22 September 1942

Kit inspection and a few lectures. Wrote to Mother & Doris.

Wednesday 23 September 1942 no entry

Thursday 24 September 1942

Synthetic night flying at 7am. Rest of day more or less free. Night flying. Did a couple of dual landings then scrubbed about 1am.

Friday 25 September 1942 Mucked about all day.

Saturday 26 September

Link grape in morning. Night flying. Circuits and bumps with Foggy in the back. Got to bed about 2am. Nice moonlight night. Dead easy.

Sunday September 27 1942



Orderly Sergeant from 9am. Ronny Evans as Orderly Officer. Kept fairly busy all day.

Monday 28 September 1942

On duty as Orderly Sgt until 9am. Afternoon lecture by CGI. Evening wrote to Doris.

Tuesday 29 September 1942 no entry until

Sunday 4 October 1942 Dad's Birthday.

Monday 5 October 1942 no entry until

Thursday 15 October 1942

Did an air test and finally got away on our night X country.

Friday 16 October 1942

Mary Laffer's Birthday

Saturday 17 October 1942

Not much doing all day but spent evening in at Lion with a couple of the lads.

Sunday 18 October 1942

Did a bit of packing and finished off log book. Evening in Lion with a crowd of the boys. Took Dot home to camp.

Monday 19 October 1942

Chased around getting clearance papers signed. Spent evening in the Lion with all the lads. Break up party for the course.

Tuesday 20 October 1942

Finally left Upwood for a week in London. Left by transport to Peterborough about 2pm and arrived London 7pm. Steve & I shared a very nice room at Strand Palace. Visited Boomerang Club for supper then early to bed. Rang Doris and arranged a meet for next day.

Wednesday 21 October 1942

Breakfast at Strand then morning at Boomerang Club. Met Merv Burke and Allan Egan and had a few drinks at Cogers before meeting Doris at 3.45. Went to a show "Between us Girls" then home to flat.

Thursday 22 October 1942

Morning again spent at Boomerang Club. Met more of the boys. Dick Due, Bob Grey, Junior Hoskings, Callister. Steve & I met Doris & Rae at 4pm and went to see "Moontide". then back to flat for dinner cooked by the girls. Spent evening very quietly just chatting.

Friday 23 October 1942

Doris had a day off. Went there to lunch then we visited St Paul's before going to see "Knights of the Garter" with Sydney Howard.

Saturday 24 October 1942

Doris had another day off. Dirty weather. Saw a show. "Meet the Stewarts". Then supper and home to the flat.

Sunday 25 October 1942

Slept all morning. visited Boomerang Club and met a few of the lads. Evening had a few beers with some of Doc's crew and lads from Kodak House.

Monday 26 October 1942

Got up fairly late and went out to the flat. Afternoon took Doris to see Max Millar in the Old Town Hall. Very amusing but rather suggestive. Dinner at Ariston Café then back to flat about 8pm. Bit of cuddling. 226 Squadron, Swanton Morley. Bostons,

Tuesday 27 October 1942

In London. Got up about 9am. Visited Kodak House to notify change of address to 226 Squadron, Swanton Morley. Took bags to Liverpool St. then collected money cabled from Canada. Opened P.O. savings account for £55.0.0. Went out to see Doris for about an hour. Very passionate and tearful farewell. Met Woggy at Paddington and Ron at Liverpool St and came up to Swanton Morley. Have now located supper and a couple of beds. Sounds as though it is a damned good station.

Friday 30 October 1942

Did nothing much all day. Evening went to Norwich in station transport 1 hrs ride with a crowd of sergeants. Few drinks in Castle then feed at Court House then to a dance hall. Boys all very merry.

Saturday 31 October 1942

Spent most of the day reading orders etc. Nearly sent off on first flip but weather rather lousy. Evening spent writing home and to Doris. Have been told to shift out of mess to barracks blocks.

Sunday 1 November 1942

Did nothing much all day. Had a flip in nose of Boston with F/Lieut Smith but was lousy. Went to camp cinema.

Monday 2 November 1942

Did nothing all day. Evening camp cinema "Girl in a Million". Shifted from Mess to barracks blocks.

Tuesday 3 November 1942

Spot of links and aircraft reso in morning. Afternoon just sat in the Mess. Evening went to Dereham with Ron & Woggy and saw a show "Unpublished Story". Not bad. Few drinks then home on 9.30 bus.

Wednesday 4 November 1942

Nothing all morning. Afternoon went off solo in a Boston. Did three circuits and found it very nice to handle. Evening wrote to Doris. Don McDonald and Stevey.

Thursday 5 November 1942

Did a bit of stooging around the district in morning but weather rather crook. Afternoon 12 shots with revolver on range. Scored 37 out of possible 60. Best of the bunch. We now have to carry revolvers during working hours.

Friday 6 November 1942

Did nothing all day. Boys went off on a circus and bombed a drome in France. Evening went to Norwich. Had a few beers in Castle Hotel then a feed and along to the dance for a while. Home about 12.30. Ronnie went on the op.

Saturday 7 November 1942

As usual did nothing all day except sit in crew room. Evening visited Dereham with Ron & Woggy. Saw Son of Gurg then had drinks in Rings

arms with Wally Bibby and Doris King. After bus ride walked to billet with Peggy Fanning a very charming little Irish WAAF.

Sunday 8 November 1942

Boys away all on dingy search. Operated from a drome down south. Ronnie & Woggy both flew. Wrote to Doris Brooks.

Monday 9 November 1942

Boys went on a circus & Ronnie with them. Sat around all day then taxied planes to dispersal when they arrived back. Wrote to Butel Hawkins.

Tuesday 10 November 1942

Flip in morning on my own. Afternoon cross country with Ronnie and Woggy. TK9 went U/S so I brought them home by bush navigation. Evening went to Dereham and saw Song of the Islands. Few drinks & chips then home again.

Wednesday 11 November 1942

Nothing all day. Wrote to Len.

Thursday 12 November 1942

Easy day as usual. Evening or rather afternoon went into Norwich. Stood down at 11 am. sent telegrams to Home and Janet. Fish and chips then pictures with Taffy Jones. After some dinner had couple of drinks at Castle. From there to dance hall before getting bus home. Boys fairly merry.

Friday 13 November 1942

Usual dull day. Evening went to Dereham and saw "Eagle Squadron" with Ron and Woggy. Drinks at Kings Head and Kings Arms then home on 10.30 bus.

Saturday 14 November 1942

Evening again spent in pub in Dereham with Woggy.

Sunday 15 November 1942

Evening again in Dereham. Spent evening drinking with a mechanic and Mr King. Ended up at his house and had coffee with the family. Mrs, Doris, Shiela also Woggy and Wally. Wrote to Doris. My observer Ron Evans left for home as his mother is seriously ill.

Monday 16 November 1942

Evening stayed in camp and went to concert given by an Air Force team. Really very good.

Tuesday 17 November 1942

Started two days leave. Rushed and got away about 11.30. Hitched to Norwich where Woggy & I had lunch then 2.10 train to London. Arrived at 5 and went to Chevron Club. Went out to St Johns Wood and saw Doris and Rae. Sat and talked, Got lift to Hyde Park Corner in a Yank jeep. In bed about 2am. Doris still very attentive.

Wednesday 18 November 1942

Morning after breakfast at Club went to Boomerang Club. Collected a pair of flying sox. Met Johnny Good and Doug Gridlington. Went out to flat at 1pm. Took Doris to lunch across road then bus ride across London to see the view. All fog & rather cold. Went to see "We'll Smile Again" then to Aristan for dinner. Back to flat then home to bed about 1.30. Morning also bought this diary, pair of wings for Doris, and other odds and ends.

Thursday 19 November 1942

Out to see Doris in morning then back to Chevron for lunch. Spent an hour in the bar with Wog then off to Liverpool St. Doris came along to see me off. Arrive Dereham at 7.30. Picked up by Doris King and taken to pictures. She is getting a bit too friendly since Wally went on leave. Home on last bus at 10pm. Found letters from Stevie, Ronnie & home to say that Ray is on his way over. Also cheerful letter from Stevie who is in hospital at Ely but expects to be back flying early in the new year.

Friday 20 November 1942

Boys went off on practice low level flight (Poor show - As usual I did nothing). Evening wrote home, to Ron and Doris. Also sent cards to Paul Chaplin & Janet. Hot bath now in bed and ready for sleep. Parcel from home containing pair of sox and 1 lb chocolate.

Saturday 21 November 1942

Sat in crew room all day. Had lecture on icing etc. Weather rather duff. Going to camp cinema if it is working. Collected usual issue of (ACF) comforts (Tobacco, soap, etc). Should be meeting Doris King but have decided to do the dirty. No picture show so wrote a few letters to Miss Mather, Don McDonald & Bob Sanderson & Xmas card to Atkinsons. Ron's leave extended till 24th.

Sunday 22 November 1942

Morning spent looking after a bunch of ATC lads who went for flips in Bat Flight Oxfords. Afternoon spent in the mess. evening to camp cinema and saw "Life begins for Andy Hardy". Hope to get a bit more flying in the near future.

Monday 23 November 1942

Sat in crew room all day and read "Something Rich" by Joan Batler. Evening wrote to Doris and Jan.

Tuesday 24 November 1942

Did nothing all day again. Evening went to Dereham with Woggy but pictures were full. Visited Kings Head then Kings Arms. Spent some time with Micky and Vicky. Hell of a crowd on bus home and cut out by Nipper.

Wednesday 25 November 1942

Nothing all morning. Ron back again and fairly cheerful. Afternoon did a bit of link. Mickey rang me to apologise for last night (left me cold). Letters from Mother, Dad and Janet. Went to camp cinema.

Thursday 26 November 1942

No flying. Evening went to Dereham with Wog and saw a picture show. After a few drinks came home on 10pm bus. Wrote to Doris.

Friday 27 November 1942

Pay in morning £9.0.0. Afternoon got off the ground once again. Bombing exercise with crew and low flying. evening went to dance at Sergeants' Mess. Not a bad show but only a drinking party. Got to bed about 1am.

Saturday 28 November 1942

Boys not too bright. Morning after night before. Lads went on low level exercise with squadrons from rest of 2 Group. Afternoon did cross country with 10 legs. 2.15 and landed at 4.30. After tea went to camp cinema. "Smiling Ghost".

Sunday 29 November 1942

Did a x country at 1000 ft. Mess meeting at lunch time then stood down for afternoon. weather rather lousy. Went to camp cinema and saw Gert & Daisy Waters. Wrote to Doris.

Monday 30 November 1942

Morning did a low level cross country. Afternoon low level approach and bombing from 1000 ft. Evening bit of reading, washed sox and mending. Due for a good sleep as low level is fairly strenuous. Letter from Doris.

Tuesday 1 December 1942

Did nothing all day. On bombing detail but scrubbed due to weather. Evening went to camp cinema and saw "Lady was Willing".

Wednesday 2 December 1942

Morning had first formation practice in Bostons. Afternoon set out on low level cross country but turned back due to weather and ropey compass. Evening went to Dereham with Woggy. Picture show then a few beers in Kings Arms.

Thursday 3 December 1942

Did nothing but taxi kites as boys on battle order but it was scrubbed. Very cold all day. Evening went to camp cinema and sat with Micky Farley. Wrote to Doris.

Friday 4 December 1942

Morning did an hours formation flying. Hard work and sweated like a pig. Afternoon did nothing but sit in mess. Collected laundry etc.

Saturday 5 December 1942

Did not fly. Kites standing by on battle order. Evening went to Dereham with Woggy to pictures and Kings Head.

Sunday 6 December 1942

Did not fly. Squadron went on large raid on Phillips Radio works in Holland. Very successful. We lost one kite. F/O Paton, F/Lt Macguire & P/O Fletcher. Evening very good concert in NAAFI, Artists included Arthur Askey, Pat Taylor, Jack Hilton, Jack Train, Eddy Grey. Boys all very bright due to celebrations after their job of work. Saw Mickey after the show but she leaves in morning for 10 days leave.

Monday 7 December 1942

Did a low level x country in formation. Hard work. Evening went alone to camp cinema. After supper to bed to read.

Tuesday 8 December 1942

Low level x country. Afternoon interview by our new W/Cdr. evening wrote to Mother and Doris.

Wednesday 9 December 1942

Low level bombing at Sutton Walk. Results should be fair. Afternoon formation flying. Evasive action etc; damned hard work. Evening camp cinema, saw "Dangerous Moonlight". Hoped for tomorrow off but have to practice formation in box of six. Will then be considered operational. Wrote to Don McDonald.

Thursday 10 December 1942

Did not fly due to duff weather. Given the afternoon off. Evening went to Dereham with Woggy. Pictures "Tarzan's Adventures in New York". Afterwards had a few drinks in Kings Arms with some of the lads. Back to camp on 10 o'clock bus.

Friday 11 December 1942

Did half hour in the link. Nearly went off in a box of six but kites wanted for battle flight. Pay parade £9.8.0. Evening sewed on a few shirt buttons (present from Doris). Wrote to Doris & Tora. Cards to Miss Mather, Miss Denzel and Aunt Ethel.

Saturday 12 December 1942

No flying. Spot of link and 15 rounds with rifle on range. 60 out of 75. Evening went to Papermakers in Swanton Morley then to dance in Gym.

Sunday 13 December 1942

Low level cross country route VII. Bumpy as hell. Afternoon interview with new W/Cdr. Evening pictures at camp cinema. On reserve aircraft for battle flight tomorrow.

Monday 14 December 1942

Stood by in mess all day. Nothing happened. Evening went to Dereham to pictures. "Pardon My Sarong" not much good. Visited both Kings Arms and Kings Head.

Tuesday 15 December 1942

Practice bombing took off at 0900. 200' but not much good as very rushed. Afternoon great flap for 14 crews. Packed shaving kit etc ready for night away. Scrubbed but kites still bombed up and am No 7 on Battle Order for morning. Evening did some washing, ironing and mending. Wrote to Doris.

Wednesday 16 December 1942

Kites all bombed up and out on drome but it was scrubbed. Did no flying but a spot of link. Finished reading "How Green Was My Valley". Put in application for leave starting after duty on Friday. May easily be cancelled or get a recall. Letter from Miss Mather.

Thursday 17 December 1942

On battle order but as usual nothing came of it. Collected pay before going on leave. £9.8.0, £2.5.0, £1.7.0.

Friday 18 December 1942

Lousy flying weather. Collected leave pass and got away by transport at 11am. Lunch in Norwich. 2.10 train to London arriving at 6pm. Went straight to Chevron Club and had dinner. Rang Doris then met her in Oxford Street at 8.30. she went back to work and I went back to Club and bed.

Saturday 19 December 1942

Morning visited the Boomerang Club then went out to the flat. Went into town to a show with Doris. "Petrified Forest". Very good. Then back to flat and saw Rae who had just arrived back from Lakes District.

Sunday 20 December 1942

Sunday went to flat again and helped the girls to put up their Xmas decorations. Stayed the night and slept on the couch.

Monday 21 December 1942

Doris and I spent afternoon in city doing a bit of shopping. Saw a News Theatre. Dinner at Aristan. Back to Chevron Club sometime after midnight.

Tuesday 22 December 1942

Boomerang Club. Met Don Stevenson and spent a few hours with him. Met Len and had a couple of drinks with girls from Kodak House. Went back to Chevrons and drank with some new lads from Bournemouth.

Wednesday 23 December 1942

Met Len for lunch at Boomerang Club. Afternoon wandered around city. Evening we took Rae and Doris to see "Flare Path". Damned good show but rather stirring. Took girls home to flat.

Thursday 24 December 1942

Boomerang Club for lunch then to flat to arrange furniture and clean up. Went with Doris to her home to collect her sister. Back for party at flat by 8.30. Very jolly crowd and I had a good time. Lads, four Aussies,

three Yanks, one Chec and one Englishman. Girls from BBC. Doris, Rae, Ada, Kitty, Kay, Elizabeth, Connie and one other. Slept on mattress on floor with another Aussie getting to bed about 3.30am.

Friday 25 December 1942

First help clean up the flat after the party. Did not feel too hot all day. Afternoon went to Ada Wood's with the Yanks. Took Doris home, invited to stay but did not feel very well.

Saturday 26 December 1942

Boomerang Club. Did a bit of sweeping as they were arranging for party. Went to Coders for lunch and drinking till 3pm. Boomerang for concert where I met Len. did not go to the dinner but had a few drinks with Len. Back again for dance. Aussies let our little party down. Girls were Doris, Rae, Ada, Kitty and Joan. Back to flat then to chevrons where I had a couple of drinks and watched dancing before going to bed.

Sunday 27 December 1942

Took bag to Liverpool St then met Doris at Oxford Circus. Had dinner then she saw me off on 2.20 train. Stood all way to Norwich. Train late so had to sleep in a service joint. Had good dinner of roast chicken at Court House. Very fed up and tired.

Monday 28 December 1942

Woke up at 5am. Had tea and sandwich then got two buses to Dereham. Got a workmans truck which broke down and finished walking into camp at 9.15. Did not matter as weather lousy and nothing doing. Rifle range and link. Camp cinema. Reap the Wild Winds. Cards from Miss Mather & Barbara. Notes from John Holland & Don McDonald. Parcel of cake & chocolate from Aunt Ethel. Wrote to Doris.

Tuesday 29 December 1942

Practice formation as No 6 in a box of six. Weather getting damned cold. Strong wind and wet snow. Evening wrote to Mother, John Holland, Don McDonald.

Wednesday 30 December 1942

Low level cross country in morning. Rather rough weather and not very pleasant. Afternoon formation flying as No 6 in a box of six. Evening went to camp cinema and saw Abbott & Costello in Rio Rita. On Battle Order for Thursday.

Thursday 31 December 1942

Did formation flying both morning and afternoon as 5 and 6 in a box of six. Snow on the ground made taxying and landing rather tricky. evening first on Battle Flight then Battle Order but both scrubbed. Morning briefing for a low level on target in Holland but it was scrubbed. Evening drank beer in Mess with the lads then to camp dance to see the New Year in. Letters from Pat & Tora.

Friday 1 January 1943

10 o'clock stood down for the day as weather lousy. Continuous rain and very unpleasant out of doors. spent day reading and writing to Doris, Aunt Ethel and Ray. Letter from Doris. Went to Dereham with Wog. Pictures "Young Mr Pitt". Few drinks in Kings Head before coming back to camp. On battle order for a circus in morning.

Saturday 2 January 1943

Parked kites then briefed for attack on ships at Cheerborough. Took off at 11.10 but turned back few minutes from target due to too much cloud. Rest of afternoon spent in mess. Same battle order out for tomorrow. Letters from Mother and Jan. Went to camp cinema then early to bed.

Sunday 3 January 1943

Up in dark at 6am. Briefing at 7am and off deck at 0845. Flew for about 15 minutes before turning back as leaders wireless went U/S. Saw sun rise from the air. Ground all covered with snow from night before. spent rest of morning taxiing planes etc. Afternoon in crew room. Evening bit of washing then wrote to Janet. On battle order for tomorrow once again. Hope we finish the job. Rae Broad's Birthday.

Monday 4 January 1943

Tora's Birthday. On battle order and alternative low level exercise but neither came off. Afternoon flew with two other kites doing attacks on the aerodrome to give the defences a test. They used camera guns. Then to camp cinema for news reel on Eindehaven Raid and security lecture. Evening did more washing. Little snow on ground but weather clear and freezing.

Tuesday 5 January 1943

Did not fly all day due to fog. Exchanged flying boots and Irvin jacket at stores. Wrote to Doris, Ray and Don McDonald. Ironed shirt collars and hankies.

Wednesday 6 January 1943

Snowed all day so did not fly. Reserve crew for tomorrows battle flight. Lecture in afternoon by S/Ldr McGill about early war with Itobars in Sudan etc. Boys got rough in mess last night so all air crew NCOs have been confined to camp for next eight days. Have to report to guard room each morning and night. Wrote to Don Stevenson & Mother.

Thursday 7 January 1943

Don Stevenson's Birthday. On battle flight but did not even taxi kites out due to snow and low cloud. Lecture on Sten Gun. Afternoon lecture on Ack Ack defence of dromes. Evening read book. Reported at guard room at 0645 and now waiting for parade at 2200 hrs. Letter from Doris who has found a new flat. Left film at photographic section for print. Ready about Tuesday.

Friday 8 January 1943

Nothing all morning. Afternoon pay parade then did a low level cross country. Reported to guard house at 0645 and 2200 hours. Letter from Doris. Went to camp cinema. "Broadway Bigshot". Lousy!

Saturday 9 January 1943

Did a bit of bombing practice from 1500 feet. Went to Dereham with Wog. Pictures then visited Kings Head and Kings Arms. Our sentence was repealed and we were free once more.

Sunday 10 January 1943

Stood by in mess all day due to bad weather with plenty of snow. Did not get up until 0815. evening sun ray treatment then wrote to Doris & Agatha.

Monday 11 January 1943

Lousy weather so spent day sitting in crew room. evening went to Dereham and drank beer in Kings head. Finished up rather merry. On battle order for tomorrow. No 6 in first box.

Tuesday 12 January 1943

Taxied kites out but flying scrubbed due to low cloud and rain. Afternoon had quiz in crew room. Evening wrote to Doris. On same battle order again.

Wednesday 13 January 1943

Taxied kites out then briefed for a circus. Took off at 11.30 and flew No 6 in first box. Low level then climbed to 14000 over channel. Wonderful visibility and channel looked like a big river. Went in between Calais and Dunquirk with escort of spits. Bombed aerodrome at St Omer. bit of flack but all behind us so did not see it. Nobody hit and all got back safely. Seemed rather tame to me but hard work and was wet through. Trip to 1.45. Evening Dereham with Wog and got merry in Kings Head.

Thursday 14 January 1943

Duff weather and did not fly. Lecture on bomb switches etc. Evening went to Dereham again. Picture show and drinks in Kings Head with a few of the lads. Parcels from Home & Jan.

Friday 15 January 1943

Morning swing two compasses. On programme for an exercise but it was scrubbed. Did nothing all afternoon. Letter from Doris. On programme for exercises for tomorrow. Wrote to Jan.

Saturday 16 January 1943

Exercise scrubbed due to weather. Afternoon went for a run around the perimeter track. Cut a few corners as it is about 3 miles. Evening visited Kings Head again with Hibbet, Birkett and Young. Rather solid evening. On battle order for morning.

Sunday 17 January 1943

Battle order then exercise scrubbed. Local formation in a box of six. Afternoon low level cross country but cut it short due to poor visibility and being rather late. Wrote to Doris and Janet.

Monday 18 January 1943

On battle order and briefed at 10.00 hrs. Scrubbed just as we were getting into the kites at 1300 hrs. Target Tricquetville aerodrome. Evening to Dereham.

Tuesday 19 January 1943

Very foggy all day. On battle order but it was scrubbed and we had a stand down in afternoon. Evening went to Dereham again.

Wednesday 20 January 1943

Morning did a low level cross country. Afternoon on bombing programme but it was scrubbed. evening went to Dereham with Aussies who landed here in two Wellingtons. Few hours in the pub and finished up in a very poor condition.

Thursday 21 January 1943

Hell of a hangover. Beautiful day so they put on a circus. Briefed at 10.30 and off at 1200. Docks at Cherbourg. Target below cloud but dropped our bombs. Saw no fighter and not much flak. Trip took 2.45. Going to camp cinema and then early to bed. Reserve aircraft for battle order tomorrow. Letters from Bet, Dad, and Doris.

Friday 22 January 1943

Battle order scrubbed but in the afternoon we did a spot of practice bombing. Evening went to the Mess Dance. Had a few drinks and some supper then came to bed. Not feeling very fit all day as had a bit of a cold. Same battle order for tomorrow. Morning got paid.

Saturday 23 January 1943

Taxied kites out then got briefed for a circus on Cherbourg. Got into kites and started up before they scrubbed it. Afternoon changed shoes at stores. Wrote to Doris. "Yank in Dutch" at camp cinema.

Sunday 24 January 1943

On battle order. Taxied kites out and briefed for a circus on Flushing. Cancelled then scrubbed just as we were going to aircraft. Very foggy all day. Evening wrote home.

Monday 25 January 1943... ..Killed in Action. Name on Honour Boards at Brighton Grammar School and Australian War Memorial.

RAF History – Bomber Command – Diary

13 January 1943

36 aircraft of No 2 Group - 18 Venturas, 12 Bostons, 6 Mosquitos - attacked airfield and railway targets in France. 6 Wellingtons laid mines in the Frisian Islands. No aircraft lost.

21 January 1943

36 Bostons and 15 Venturas attempted to attack the docks at Flushing and Cherbourg and an airfield near Caen but were largely foiled by cloud.

25 January 1943

X

12 Bostons bombed Flushing docks; 1 aircraft lost

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See 4th January 1943 –

As 105 Squadron left, 226 Squadron arrived with their Boston aircraft becoming the main operational unit on the station until 1944. Many of the squadron's raids were carried out at low level against targets in Holland and France. One of the most famous was the attack on the Phillips factory at Eindhoven carried out by eight squadrons from 2 Group including 226.

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Commonwealth War Graves Commission – Adrian Grey Wilson

Grave 26, Row D, Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Zeeland, Netherlands.

(This is just across the English Channel from the grave of his great grandfather, Commander William Henry Norman, first Commander of the Victorian Navy who died at Ramsgate in 1869 and is buried in All Saints cemetery, Birchington, in a grave where HIS father, Thomas Norman, shipwright, was buried in 1858.)

Debt of Honour Register

<http://www.cwgc.org.uk/detailed.asp?casualty=2634870>

Commemoration Certificate

<http://www.cwgc.org.uk/commemoration.asp?casualty=2634870>

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Names & Addresses in Adrian's Diary

- E. C. Fulton, RAF Station, Ossington, Newark Notts.
- Mrs Goodman, The Romans, 7 Queensmere Rd., Wimbledon Common SW 19. Wim. 1991.
- P/O R. D. Elrington, Officers mess, RAF, Lichfield, Stafford.
- J. Atkinson, Oriel Court, 4 Thompson St., Clifton Gardens, Sydney. XM5874.

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 Stretton, 25 Swinton Avenue, Kew Melbourne JW4930.
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 M.T.C., 124-126 Latrobe Street, Melbourne C1, Victoria.
 Miss A. Norman, 51 Mathoura Road, Toorak SE2, Victoria.
 Sid Smith, 36 Welland Ave, Welland S.A.
 Paula Bauert, "Rosedale", Forbes, NSW.
 C. P. McClure, Boullia Station, Milparinka NSW.
 Fowler, 52 Alma Road, Caulfield North SE7, Victoria
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 P/O Sanderson R. R., RAF Station, Croydon. (Uplands 4169 Mess).
 Johnny Good, Ashmore, Winslow, Victoria.
 Don Meredith, National Bank, Perth.
 Miss (A K) Kitty Mather, Sidegarth, Staveley, Westmorland.
 Joan Tarbuck, Bamsley Hall, Emergency Hospital, Blomsgrove,
 Worcestershire.
 Mrs Andrews, 218 Brixton Road, Mile End, Stockport (Tony's friend)
 Mrs McLeod, 193 Westburn Rd, Aberdeen
 Reg Furzer, VX 68330. 20th Field Ambulance, AAMC, AIF, Australia.
 Miss Doris K. Brooks, Room 107, 200 Oxford Street, W1. Tel. Euston
 3400 Ext 247. 3 Fernholme Rd, Waverley Park London SE15.
 Barbara Denzel, 69 Albert Avenue, Hull, East Yorkshire
 Gwen Dawson, Hude Gate, Middleton in Teasdale, Durham.

A little history -

Attlebridge site opened as a grass field satellite of Swanton Morley in June 1941. It has been the base and home to many Squadrons both British and American, the first being the 88 Squadron who flew their Blenheims on their first mission in

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August 1941 aiding 2 Group from Swanton Morley in their anti-
shipping campaign. They flew their last Blenheim operation on
October 26th 1941 with very low level flying on a 4,000-ton
motor vessel with four other merchant ships guarded by three
flak ships off the Hague.

The Blenheims were replaced by Bostons in November 1941. The
Bostons were out most days, usually fighter-escorted during
Circus operations, attacking Continental targets. In suitable
weather the 88 Squadron mounted some fast, low-level attacks
on power stations. In August they took part in the Dieppe raid.
On September 30th 1942 they moved to Oulton.

They were moved because the Americans were coming. They
arrived in September 1942 when the 319th Bomb Group moved
in with the Martin Marauder in early form. They left in November
amid great secrecy.

In March 1943 2 Group was further expanding. New squadrons had to be
accommodated as RAF and USAAF clamored for airfields. No 320 Royal
Netherlands Navy Squadron was the next to occupy the base this time with the North
American Mitchell. Despite their wish to employ Mitchells on low-level work the
aeroplane was unsuitable. In May 320 Squadron was ordered to stop low flying over
Norfolk where B-24s needed to practice for the Ploesti raid. In June 1943 the 320
Squadron undertook to fly some deep air-sea rescue sweeps. On August 17 1943 they
flew their first bombing mission attacking marshaling yards at Calais. On the 19th
they bombed Poix airfield and on the 20th came the Flushing raid. They moved out on
the 2nd September to Dunsford to be closer to their scene of action.



Douglas Boston aircraft of No. 226
squadron at Swanton Morley 1942

Steve Pope , The Swanton
Morley Collection, c/o Swanton
Morley Airfield, Worthing,
Dereham, Norfolk. NR20 5HR
**Tel: 01362 637405 A letter
has been sent (November
2002) seeking further
information,**

**The questions that remain
are: how was the aircraft
lost? If it went down into the**

**North Sea, as the family believes, when was it salvaged and when did
the burial at Flushing Northern Cemetery take place? To attempt to find
the answers contact will be made with RAF Bomber Command and the
Australian War Memorial.**