



THE
AIR FORCE
DIARY

XMAS 1942

To Steley
From Dad & Mom
With best love

2

"Hobby landings"
Whoopie!



THE AIR FORCE DIARY

1943

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TRADE GROUPS OF THE R.A.F.

Group 1
Blacksmith and Welder.
Coppersmith and Sheet Metal-
worker.

Draughtsman.
Electrician.
Engine Driver.
Fitter (airframe).
Fitter (engine).
Fitter (armourer).
Fitter (armourer) (house).
Fitter (armourer) (gun).
Fitter (marine).
Fitter (M.T.).
Fitter (torpedo).
Instrument Maker.
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Machine Tool Setter and Opera-
tor.
Metal Worker.
Radio Mechanic.
Wireless Mechanic.
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(Choice of pay range from
2s. 3d. a day for an A.C.2 to
12s. 6d. a day for a Warrant Officer
of over five years' seniority.)

Group 2
Aeroblast Weller.
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Armourer (bomb).
Armourer (gun).
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Coppersmith.
Electrician.
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(Rates of pay range from

2s. 6d. a day for an A.C.2 to 12s. 6d. a day for a Warrant Officer of five years' seniority.)

Group 3
Cook and Butcher.
Motor-boat Crew.
Shoemaker.
Tailor.
(Rates of pay range from 2s. 6d. a day for an A.C.2 to 12s. 6d. a day for a Warrant Officer of five years' seniority.)

Group 4
Clark (accounting).
Clark (equipment accounting).
Clark (pay accounting).
Clark (general duties).
Clark (special duties).
Equipment Assistant.
Teleprinter Operator.
(Rates of pay range from 2s. 3d. a day for an A.C.2 to 12s. 6d. a day for a Warrant Officer of five years' seniority.)

Group 5
Aircraftfitter.
Barber.
Barman.
Gunner (ground).
Motor-cyclist.
Musician.
Physical Training Instructor.
Service Police.
Telephone Operator.
Turnpikeman.
(Rates of pay range from 2s. 6d. a day for an A.C.2 to 12s. 6d. a day for a Warrant Officer of five years' seniority.)

Group M
Mental Nursing Orderly.
Operating-room Assistant.
Special Treatment Orderly.
Dental Blacksmith.
(Rates of pay range from 2s. 6d. a day for an A.C.2 to 12s. 6d. a day for a Warrant Officer of five years' seniority.)

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* Additional pay is payable as follows: War Pay, 6d. a day; Qualification Pay, at daily rates ranging from 3d. to 1s. for specific qualifications; Duty Pay, varying from 3d. to 1s. a day, for performance of specific duties. Aircrew members are also eligible for extra pay ranging from 1s. to 2s. a day.

Personal Memoranda

Name **HR. MADGETT**

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Address

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FOOTE CRY 1695.
Telephone No.

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Season Ticket No.

Motor Car No. **FLO 311**

Driving Licence No. **4/4445**

Due **1/4/43**

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Premium Due

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To Town From Town

A.M.

4.16

4.49

6.26

6.34

6.54

7.14

7.16

7.23

7.40

7.50

8.3

8.14

8.32

8.38

8.45

8.56

9.10

9.19

Name

Number

New Year's Day. Bank Holiday in Scotland
Dog and Animal Motor Licences renewable

Sick leave 23rd Dec.
to 13th Jan. (3 weeks).
Appendices sent Dec. 25th.

Information given in this diary is correct at the time of going to press: but it is subject to variation after that date.

The Calendar Notes throughout the diary refer to GREAT BRITAIN.

The Summer Time given is the period prescribed in the Summer Time Act (1925): it is liable to alteration by Order in Council.

The Moon's Phases are given in Greenwich Mean Time, and the times of Sunrise and Sunset are for the meridian at Greenwich and in Greenwich Mean Time: but during the Summer Time period these have been altered accordingly.

S.R. = Sunrise. S.S. = Sunset.

JANUARY

7 Thursday

YRAU 1943

JANUARY

8 Friday

YRAU 1943

Mohammedan Era 1962 begins

Took Mum & Peter to see
 Tommy Linder in "Best
 Bit & Tucker" at Palladium.
 Quite good effort. Up to
 George Black's usual
 standard.

JANUARY

9 Saturday

1943

Christmas Fire Insurance coats
S.R. 8.4, S.S. 4.19

Took Mum & Dad to
Lewisham Hippodrome this
evening - Billy Cotton,
Adelaide Hall, Nan
Kenway & Douglas Young
(very tasty, very sweet!)
were the well known
ones. Very good show
really.

10 Sunday

1st after Epiphany

JANUARY

11 Monday

1943

Hilary Law Sitings begin

10.50 a.m. train from King's
change at Grantham for
Lincoln. I was in Waddington
just after 2 p.m. 1961. Syon Con-
tinent has moved to Louth for
no. Newark & think my kitbags
& stores have gone there also.
Medical board inspection at
Rauceby not til 1975, so no
work yet. Only report to HQ
office every day at 9 a.m.

It's going to be very boring
doing naught. Was told
that I would pick up another
crew at Con. Unit. If so, am
not making application for
transfer to light bombers as
had intended.

JANUARY

12 Tuesday

YRNU 1943

Christmas Eve (Christmas Eve)
 1942 (1942) 1943 (1943) 4.10

York Minster & Dad to
 Leirham Hippodrome this
 evening - Billy Cotton,
 Adelaide Hall, Nan
 Kenway & Douglas Gray
 (very tasty, very sweet!)
 were the well known
 ones. Very good show
 really.

10 Sunday

1st after Epiphany

JANUARY

13 Wednesday

YRNU 1943

First Quarter 7.48 a.m.

10.10 a.m. train from Kings
 change at Grantham for
 Lincoln. I was in Waddington
 just after 2 p.m. 1661 Sqdn. Com.
 Unit has moved to Wintthorpe
 nr. Newark & think my kitbags
 in store have gone there also.
 Medical Board Inspection at
 Rauceby not til 18th. so no
 work y.t. Only report to S.W.O.
 officer every day at 9 a.m.

It's going to be very boring
 doing naught. Was told
 that I would pick up another
 crew at Com. Unit. If so, am
 not making application for
 transfer to light bombers as
 had intended.

JANUARY

14 Thursday

1943

No trace anywhere of my 2
kit bags.

In afternoon went to
Lincoln to look round, had
tea at a café & then saw
Abbot & Costello in "Rabson
My Saviour". Pretty good &
very funny. Palled up
with an Ag. I met in the
cinema & we had supper
in the town NAAFI which
is quite a modern place.

JANUARY

15 Friday

1943

Ray day - 27-10s.

Still looking for my kit.
To Wintroppe, W. Newark in
afternoon looking for kit - no
results. Its a sea of mud over
there, and everything half
finished in construction.
No time to see Broom himself
at Bolthorpe (10 mls. from Newark).
Had meal in NAAFI Lincoln &
came back just before washing
went, & later actually saw
a night fighter shoot a jetty
down which had just bombed
Lincoln. Good shooting.

JANUARY

16 Saturday

YRANU 1943

S.R. 8.30, S.S. 4.20

hang up from at lunch time at Bottisford after 2nd attempt to find him. Says he put my kit into discip. office, not stores. So I enquire at all discip. offices here & sing Winthrop. No success but singing again tomorrow.

Our aircraft over Berlin this night. 17 Sunday

2nd after Epiphany

I'm orderly Sergeant today. Quite easy job. Hang Winthrop again twice at last found the missing kit & was now in Winthrop Gaud Room.

JANUARY

18 Monday

YRANU 1943

memo: 12.45 hrs. report S.S.Q. for transport to Rauceby Hospital.

Got through Medical Board at Rauceby O.K. & am now A.I. flying fit again.

M.O. took pulse before & after jumping on & off a chair five times then did the old mercury blowing affair. Did O.K. on 2nd go, but first time did not take big enough breath to start with.

Collected my kit at long last at the Gaud Room this evening after being sent over from Winthrop.

JANUARY

19 Tuesday

YRAB 1943

Reported to M.O. that I passed Medical Board & asked him if he could not hurry my papers through for posting to the Con. Unit - he rang up Adjutant & he has done something so M.O. gave me 3 days leave for the posting to come through.

Got 3.45 pm train from Lincoln arrived home at 10 pm.

JANUARY

20 Wednesday

YRAB 1943

Spent morning in hanging around doing nothing in particular, but in p.m. went shopping with Mum in Eltham. Stayed in in evening. I was going round to see Diana Tatnal but put it off as it started raining.

During dinner time there was an alert & guns going. 6 out of 30 Jerry kites had reached London & dropped their bombs. They were FW190's & Me109's. 10 of them shot down but a lot of children in a London ~~street~~ school killed. No balloons up or warning till all over. Somebody ought to catch a packet for being asleep.

○ Full Moon, 10.48 a.m.

Went round to see Mrs. McJames with Mum. She had just come out of a week in hospital with a poisoned little finger, & has had several ops. on it. It is getting better now though.

Stayed in in evening to write Rosemary. Have not heard from her since being in dock nor from Edna.

Had bath in morning & caught 2.35 pm train from New Eltham as there was an unexploded bomb ~~on~~ near the line to Sidcup.

4.00 pm train from Kings X and 6.45 pm ~~to~~ local train from Grantham to Lincoln where it was passing with rain having left London in quite decent weather. Got in camp 8.30 pm. - i.e. 4½ hours from home.

Other occupant of my room due back from leave today.

Reported to M.O. in morning +
 he told me I was already posted
 to Winthrop. Caught 2:50 p.m.
 train from Lincoln to Newark
 where got a taxi as had my kit.
 Lot of bother finding the airfield.
 Nobody knows what I'm here
 for - typical hcf as all crews
 are complete here. Will see
 adjutant first thing tomorrow.
 The mess is terrible - wretched
 food + little of it. Also hell of
 a lot of mud everywhere.

24 Sunday

3rd after Epiphany

C.G.F. is fixing me up a
 crew. Only 2 more members
 to get hold of, + probably will
 be posted to another Con. Unit.
 Heard old Brom. has died. Some-
 thing wrong with his oxygen mask
 on Berlin said on Jan.

Conversion of St. Paul

A wretched day from all points
 of view. C.G.F. out all morning
 and got wet in the pouring rain
 going again in the afternoon
 to his office but was informed
 he had this day off! So I
 couldn't do anything except
 get wet again going back to
 the mess.

The meal for tea was
 an improvement + was quite
 good - cheese-potatoes + mash
 potato + sauce. But we still
 have no jam or marmalade.
 Stayed in the mess all evening
 + got to bed early at 10:30 p.m.

JANUARY

26 Tuesday

YRAB 1943

Got more "gen" from C.G.F. this afternoon - i.e. I am staying here for the next course which starts on Feb. 2nd. (week today) and am having a crew made up for me but this will not be like choosing my own crew. C.G.F. is pondering over giving me leave & I'll know tomorrow. All I'm hoping is that I'm not ~~on~~ put on the Commando Course at Barkston which aircrew have to go through. Meals not too bad today, & had marmalade & jam.

JANUARY

27 Wednesday

YRAB 1943

Leave granted till next Monday. (2nd. Feb.).

Catching 12.27 pm train from Newark to Cambridge where I intend to find Bob Grimwade at his E.F.T.S. instructing.

Wrote John a letter in evening.

JANUARY

28 Thursday

1943

Arrived in Cambridge at 5.30pm after having an hour's wait for a train at Ely. Bob Grimwade (at Marshall's Airport, which is a short bus ride out of town) could not be found. Presume he had gone out so am calling again tomorrow.

Saw "In Which We Serve" with Noel Coward. A very good picture & very moving in places. It is supposed to be the best film ever produced. All about a destroyer - HMS Dorian.

JANUARY

29 Friday

1943

£ Last Quarter, 8.13 a.m.

Spent all morning finding Bob Grimwade with no success; learnt at last he was on leave & due back tonight. Had dinner in the mess and caught c/o 1300 train to Liverpool Street. Next train to Hornchurch where Bob lives was too late for me to catch him, so went straight on home.

Wonderful weather for a change. Quite a warm sun.

JANUARY

30 Saturday

YRAU 1943

Pheasant and Partridge Shooting end
S.E. 7.43, S.S. 4.44

Many heavy hail-storm
showers today & very windy.

Look him & Dad to Odessa &
saw Diana Barrymore in
"Nightmare". Pretty good.

Also Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage
Patch. I did not like this much
— old-fashioned style.

31 Sunday

4th after Epiphany

Rain all day and extremely
windy. Left Sidcup in pouring
rain; caught 8.20 pm King's Cross
& att. Newark 11.45 pm only 16 min
late. In my trunk by 12.20 am.

FEBRUARY

3 Wednesday

YRAU 1943

Up late. After tea caught
5.33 pm train from Newark for
Nottingham again, & met there
in a pub Sgt Dundas & Sergus
& few others ex Kinloss. Dundas
has done one trip to Berlin as
2nd. dicky and did a Lorient
raid on their own. Went to
the other dance hall - Victoria
Ballroom - but did not like
it so much as the Palais.

Stayed for the night at same
place as on Monday night.

FEBRUARY

4 Thursday

1943

• New Moon, 11:29 a.m.

Got up too late to catch 9:15 a.m.
train back so caught 11:30 a.m.
+ in meantime played snooker
at YMCA with Canadian Soldier.

Did not go out in evening
but wrote letters to home &
Rosemary. Have not yet heard
from her for ages now. I
wonder why?

Paid £7-18s.-0d. (for 1 month)

FEBRUARY

5 Friday

1943

In the afternoon was one of
the coffin bearers in the Aussie.
A.G.'s funeral, who was killed
in a prang on Monday night.
Very cold so could not wear
greatcoats. After this had a
meal in Town with some Light
Engineers and went to see
Jean Tierney in "Sundown"
which I have seen before.

Then back to camp for the
mess dance. Plenty of beer
drinking but dance itself
not so hot. Music supplied
by Horace Finch on the Organola.
He played O.K. but awful to
dance to. At piano was George (?)
Cohen of ~~the~~ Albert Sandler's trio.
Bed at 1:00 a.m. but did not
get a date.

FEBRUARY

6 Saturday

1943

This evening went to a dance
 at the Technical College
 down town with Harry
 Robinson who I have palled
 up with and is to be my flight
 Engineer. His dad got me in
 as a ticket was required, the
 season very few RAF chaps
 there. Harry's dad's friend was
 Mary + was a real bundle of
 fun. Was a nice crowd + bags
 of fun + girls who were very nice.
 Took Mary home + made telephone
 date for Monday.

7 Sunday

Down town with Harry for
 the cinema show - news, a
 cartoon, "Crime Does Not Pay"
 Serial, + Wallace Beery in
 "Barnacle Bill". Bang on
 show!

FEBRUARY

8 Monday

1943

Very cold today.

Half Quarter Day

Stayed in mess in evening
 for a change + wrote letter
 home. Bed early.

MARCH

9 Tuesday

1943

Shrove Tuesday

7 Sunday

Quinquagesima

MARCH

10 Wednesday

1943

Ash Wednesday

Posted to 61 Squadron,
Syceton. Notes.

MARCH

20 Saturday

1943

Easter Day
S.R. 6.3, S.S. 6.11

21 Sunday

2nd in Lead. Vernal Equinox
O Full Moon, 10.8 p.m.

MARCH

22 Monday

1943

First op. to ST. NAZAIRE as
2nd. pilot to Flt. barlow, an
Aussie + very nice chap. I
acted as Engineer.

Rather uneventful trip -
very little flak or search-
lights. Back over base we
were diverted to AYR because
of vis. At AYR had best meal
ever in RAF - egg, chips +
bacon in big helpings.

6-15 hrs.

14 SBCs

MARCH

23 Tuesday

1943

flew back to base this
 afternoon - 1:35 hrs.
 I got very tired & tired
 as before
 - got disappointed that
 - had to stop at this point
 as had no food. At night
 we went to the kitchen where
 we had had the AKA. Air of
 2 ships, 100 - 700 in view
 of the ship in view.

21 Sunday

2nd in Line, Vernal Equinox

© Full Moon, 10.8 p.m.

21-2

2582 +11

MARCH

24 Wednesday

1943

2nd op. of the 2nd day
 again to H.T. Barlow to
Quincy. Moderate flak.
 5.00 hrs. In our own
 aircraft "B" (ED 722)
 christened Brenda. It
 is practically brand new
 & this is its 2nd op. It is
 the latest type of plane -
 type III.

1 x 4000 lb.

12.560's (90x4)

MARCH

25 Thursday

1943

Annunciation of B.V.M.
 Lady Day (Quarter Day)

MARCH

26 Friday

1943

2nd. op. as 2nd. dickie
 again to H.T. Barlow to
Duisburg. Moderate flak.

5.00 hrs. In our own
 aircraft "B" (ED 722)
 christened "Brenda". It
 is practically brand new
 & this is its 2nd. op. It is
 the latest type of Lanc. —
 type III.

1 x 4000 lb.
 12 SBC's (90 x 4)

MARCH

27 Saturday

HD 1943

S.R. 549, S.S. 623

ops. to the big city - BERLIN.
 I was pilot & had Fokker
 as a captain navigator &
 acting as my engineer -
 Robi. did not come.
 A lot of S.P.s & guns.

8.00 hrs.

1x4000 lb. 10 SBC's (90x4)

28 Sunday

3 d in Lau

1x4000 lb
 (4x0P) 2x82 41

MARCH

29 Monday

HD 1943

(Last Quarter, 1.52 a.m.)

ops to BERLIN again with
 our whole crew complete.
 More flak this time & we
 had one hole in port wing
 but not serious.

7.45 hrs. Weather very
 foul over

North Sea - bags of thick
 icing cloud.

1x4000 lb.

12 SBC (90x4)

APRIL

13 Tuesday

1943

5th OP. to SPEZIA Italy.

On last leg, NAVI. & I
boobed & steered wrong course
for 15 mins. making us too
late for target so bombed
Savona & got back with very
little petrol to spare.

11.00 hrs. my longest
trip.

11 Sunday

Patriotic Sunday

APRIL

14 Wednesday

1943

6th OP. to STUTTGART.

6.40 hrs. A good bang -
moderate but accurate
flak & fair number of s/p.

8 x 1000 lbs.

had bombed
aimed at the south of
Kilren. All the newspapers
said Kilren had been
bombed very effectively!!
Propaganda!!!!

14 SPC (9000) 2 90 72

12 P (2000) 2 200 11

APRIL

15 Thursday

J1 1943

APRIL

16 Friday

1943

7th. op. 6 PILSEN Czechoslovakia.

8.20 hrs. Thought we had pranged the target good & proper, but found later everyone had bombed another village south of Pilsen. All the newspapers said Pilsen had been bombed very effectively !! Propaganda !!!!!

14. SBC. (90x4) ગરે વે. 90. 718

APRIL

17 Saturday

JY 1943

S.R. 52, S.S. 8.58

11th. OP. to Spezzia, Italy. 41

14 S.B.C.'s (90x4). 9.25 hrs.

18 Sunday

Palm Sunday. Summer Time begins

11th. OP. to Spezzia, Italy. 41

14 S.B.C.'s (90x4). 9.25 hrs.

APRIL

19 Monday

JY 1943

S.R. 52, S.S. 8.58

11th. OP. to Spezzia, Italy. 41

14 S.B.C.'s (90x4). 9.25 hrs.

no bird was - just no good
 quite a lot of birds. but not
 quite half as many as the
 last time. but in all 18
 "8" was the last one
 seen.

APRIL

20 Tuesday

1943

O Full Moon, 12.11 p.m.

9hr. op. to Stettin. 9.05 hrs.

1x4000. 12 S.B.C.'s (8x20)

Bang on trip - low level on
the deck. Bags of shooting
up by towns & flak ships.
31 holes in our kite, but
was not our own "B"

Brenda.

5hr. op. to Spezia, Italy.

14 S.B.C.'s (90x4). 9.25 hrs.

APRIL

21 Wednesday

1943

Hilary Law Sitings and
The Princess Elizabeth born 1926

APRIL

24 Saturday

1943

S.R. 5.48, S.S. 8.10

25 Sunday

Easter Day. S. Mark

APRIL

26 Monday

1943

Easter Monday. Bank Holiday

10/15. ep. to Duisburg.

1x4000. 12 SBC's (90x4).

7.55 hrs. 6.00 hrs.

APRIL

27 Tuesday

1943

Left East Quarter, 8.51 a.m.

quadrant 2.00.2101

(4x0P) 1.00.21 0004x1

at 00.2

28 Sunday

Easter Day. S. Mark

APRIL

28 Wednesday

1943

11th. op. Salderning in
Baltic Sea just off Swedish
Coast. 5 mines.
7.55 hrs.

APRIL

29 Thursday

1943

in private - go. 7111
 linked off to air
 (2:30 - 3:00) - 22.5

APRIL

30 Friday

1943

125. op. to Essen.

1x4000. 12 LAC. (90x4)

4.45 hrs.

MAY

4 Tuesday

1943

MAY

5 Wednesday

1943

Easter Law Sittings begin
● New Moon, 10.48 a.m.

13 $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. op. to Dortmund.
1x4000. 125 Bc's (90x4)
5.30 hr.

2 Sunday

Less Sunday

MAY

11 Tuesday

1943

MAY

12 Wednesday

1943

First Quarter, 10.52 a.m.

14 1/2 sp. to Duisburg.

1x4000. 12 SBC's (90x4)

4.50 hrs.

 Look off after midnight

9 Sunday

End after Easter. Half-Quarter Day

MAY

13 Thursday

1943

15th. op. to Pilsen again

1x4000. 4x1000.

2x500. 7.35 hrs.

2 ops in 24 hours !!!

MAY

14 Friday

1943

MAY

22 Saturday

1943

S.R. 8.0, S.S. 8.34

23 Sunday

4th after Easter

16th. sp. to Dortmund
1x4000.. 12 SACS (90x4)
5.35 hrs.

MAY

24 Monday

1943

May, the Queen's Birthday, 1943
& Last Sunday of Lent.

JUNE

10 Thursday

1943

Italy declared war on Great Britain and France,
1940

JUNE

11 Friday

1943

S. Barnabas: Easter Law Sittings end
First Quarter, 3.35 a.m.

7th. op. to Dusseldorf.

1x 4000. 4x 500 m.c.

125 B.C.S. (8x30)

5.00 hrs.

JUNE

12 Saturday

1943

JUNE

14 Monday

1943

S.R. 448, S.S. 9.18

18th. ep. to Bochum.

1x4000. 4x500 MC,

12 2/3 SACs (90x4)

5.05 hr.

13 Sunday

Whit Sunday. Ember Week

Whit Monday. Bank Holiday