

## Group Captain Percy C Pickard DSO\*\*DFC and Czech Grand Cross (G26-32)

### RAF Log Books

Thanks to the kind permission of 'Lord Ashcroft and the Ashcroft Medal Collection', **Bill Collard (S55-58)** and **James Ruddock-Broyd (G46 - 52)** have been able to research and photograph the three RAF log books that once belonged to Group Captain Percy C Pickard DSO\*\*DFC and Czech Grand Cross (G26-32).

Some fascinating information and facts have been found including the exact date of Pickard's visit to the college in WW2. Some mystery has always surrounded this trip with alleged records of Pickard flying into the nearby USAAF base in a US bomber or buzzing the college in his Tiger Moth. In fact he arrived at Parham airfield during the afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> November 1943 flying his famous 'F for Freddie' Mosquito in which he would tragically lose his life some three months later. 'Pick' went to the College to address the Boys with "a most interesting and unvarnished account of his experiences delivered in a notably human and intimate style and of absorbing interest".

In December 1943 one of Pickard's passengers in 'F' was noted as W/C Cheshire later to be Group Captain Cheshire VC DSO\*\* DFC. On this day the two friends were practising air firing in preparation for Cheshire's move into Mosquitos. Pickard also flew with W/C Hodges who later became Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges.

The records show that Pickard flew nearly 2200 hours during his RAF career in 41 different aircraft and carried out bombing raids and clandestine operations against the enemy on 103 occasions.



As a result of this research, James has put together the following on his flight log. His yardsticks were a first in a series of flights or planes, particularly those with Navigator Broadley, a named important personage carried on board or a destination of interest to OF readers including of course the flight to Parham. All missions and rescues are noted. The varying destinations of 103 Missions undertaken, mostly titled "War Operations" are too numerous to record individually so they have been grouped by months showing once the name of a target town which may have been targeted more than once. Some "Special Ops" were recorded and when names like

Tempsford, Tangmere, Lysander and "reception" are used it is operations for the secret Special Operations Executive which arranged "drops" of Agents behind enemy lines, all in France in this case.

**GROUP CAPTAIN P C PICKARD DSO & 2 BARS DFC & CZECH WAR CROSS**

**RAF PILOTS FLYING LOG BOOKS - FORM 414 No 39392**

**Certificates of Qualification as First Pilot**

**EXTRACTS - where repeat names appear extract is usually of first entry of that name**

**BOOK ONE - P C Pickard - Dated 5 April 1938 - Months in varied order**

DATE	TIME	AIRCRAFT	A/C NO	PILOT/CREW	DUTY
<b>1936</b>					
Nov-16		DH82		Walker	SECOND PILOT Self 1 Passenger flying
Dec-14		DH82		Self	
<b>1937</b>					
Apr-26	1005			Self	Wittering Marham Martlesham Digby
<b>1938</b>					
May-23	1550			Self - P/O	

TOTAL FOR BOOK : Record of Service 10 Units; Aircraft 17

**BOOK TWO - G/Capt P C Pickard DSO DFC - Dated 5 April 1938**

<b>1938</b>					
Aug-26		Harrow		Self	Bombing centurion
Sep-16		Audax		Self	Master Tempest Local
Nov-14		Oxford	K4369	Self	Admiral England
Dec-01	1200	Wallis	K6321	Self	Revd Woosnam-Jones Cranwell Northolt
<b>1939</b>					
Feb-15	1030	Hart		Self	Air Cdre Rev Walker Chaplain-in-Chief
Mar-30	1500	Miles Mentor	N4482	Self	AVM J E A Baldwin
Apr-01	1400	Wallis	K4937	Self	A/C Gibbons Cross country Wireless practice
Jun-03	1115	Mentor	L4482	Self	Rev W-J Cranwell to Biggin Hill
Jun-29	1220	Mentor	L4482	Self	W/C Russell Henlow - Cranwell
Aug-29	1130	Harvard	N7100	Self	W/C Jagoe Mildenhall Feltwell
(Sept 2 & 3)					
		1210			Feltwell Mildenhall (No flights recorded)
<b>1940</b>					
Feb-04	1130	Hampden	L4138	Self	Wilson Brighams Lenvil Air firing beam attack
Mar-04	1050	Haampden	L4160	Self	4 Crew Weston - Porthcawl
Mar-04	1445	Hampden	L4138	Self	Barden Mandale & Beattie Sea firing
Mar-06	1200	Hampden	L4138	Self	Sgt Shewry High Level Bombing
Mar-07	1015	Hampden	L4140	Self	Sgt Lloyd Low Level Bombing
Apr-10	1030	Hampden	L4190	F/O Pickard	P/O Walker S C Sawyer Self Sgt Sheen Submarine bombing (two 250 lbs)
Apr-17	2125	Wellington	G4295	SACH P/O	2nd P - Self Formation to 15000 ft
Apr-15	1510	Wellington	L2326	Self	1 Crew Stradishall - Honnington
Apr-23	2030	Wellington	P9274	Self & 3	War Op Stavanger (Recalled)
Apr-25	2225	Wellington	P9274	Self & 4	War Op Stavanger Bombed shipping
Apr-29	2100	Wellington	P9275	Self & 4	Sgt Broadley War Op Sylt Security Patrol
May-07	1000	Wellington	P9280	Self	Heyford Malvern Stradishall
May mth					
					War Ops inc: Borkum Sylt Rotterdam Aachen NW Ghent S Brussels Chaleroi Havesbrouck Arlborg
Jun-19		Wellington		Self, Broadley & 4	War Ops Bombing factory East of Ruhr 8 - 250 lbs 2 - 500 lbs 1 cont incendiary. Forced landing in sea on return with engine trouble
June mth					
					War Ops inc Bexpoele Rhur Flaves Siossons Genoa Milan Black Forest
Jul-19	1000	Wellington		Self & 4	Bombing Aircraft factory nr Hamburg 3000ft also Leewarden 5.5 hrs



July mth				War Ops inc: Gotha Wilhewshoen
Aug-07				311 Czech Squadron (first)
Nov-15	1230 Wellington	N2577	Self & 3	Search & circling dinghy Crew rescued at 1845
Nov-16	1315	N2577	Self & 5 crew	Search for dinghy
Dec mth				War Ops inc Boulogne Mannheim Ostebe Bremen Gelsenkirshen
<b>1941</b>				
Jan-18	1030 Wellington		Self & 4	Dinghy Search Fighter Escort
Apr-18	1000 Wellington		Self & 3	Dinghy search Located No crew Also 2 parachutes Fighter Escort
Apr-18				311 Czech Squadron (last after 151 such flights)
May-11	Anson	K2953	Self & 3 crew	Photography - 3 flights in day
May-27	700 Wellington		Self & 3	Operational Sweep Formation Leader
June mth				Search & Prince Eugen
July mth				War Ops inc Dusseldorf Brest Prince Eugen
Aug-05	2230 Wellington		Self & 5	War Ops inc Essen Cologne Munster
Dec-07	1700 Whitley		Self & 3	War Ops Mannheim 3500lbs 13000 1 photo successful St Nazaire
<b>1942</b>				
Feb-13	525		Self	Recco Fecamp Etretat Bruneval 1500 ft
Feb-27	2215 Whitley		Self & 5	Paratroop Raid 73 Bruneval 10 Paratroops
Jun-19	1600 Whitley		Self & crew	Dropping Americans - and 2 other days
Sep-08	610 Whitley		Self & 4	Anti Submarine patrol Spanish coast
Sep-11	645 Whitley		Self & 3	Anti submarine patrol - FW Courier sighted
Sep-24	600 Whitley		Self & 3	Anti U boat Patrol Spanish coast
Oct-28	1530 Lysander	"F"	Self	1 Passenger Tangmere Tempsford

TOTAL FOR BOOK Record of Service 12 Units; Aircraft flown 39

### BOOK THREE Pickard P C W/CDR

Stamped "Central Depository Aug 1946 RAF Killed in Action"

### 1943

Jan-26	1530 Lysander		Self & 2 crew	To Tangmere
Feb-01	1500 Hudson		Self	S/C Verity Local
Feb-13	2030 Hudson		Self & 2 crew	6 passengers Spec Op (Successful) 5 Out Mail in
Feb-20	700 Hudson		Self Taylor Figg	1 Passenger Spec Op (Successful) 6 home 1 out
Feb-25	1100 Hudson		Self & 7 crew	Air Test to Newmarket
Feb-25	2230		Self	Taylor Figg Dutt Spec Ops (Successful) 7 home (stuck 2 Hrs) Hit trees on take off A/c damaged
Apr-05	2345 Halifax		P/O Foster	2nd P Self Special Ops 2 successful
Apr-16	2200 Lysander		Self	2 passengers unsuccessful reception not there
Apr-19	1500 Hudson		Self	Bridger Broadley Cocker Tangmere Base
May-27	1430		Self	WRINGWAY
Jun-13	1300		Self	Newmarket
Aug-01	1000 Mosquito	(first)	Self & 2nd P Bowen	Local
Aug-05	1050 Mosquito		Self	2nd P W/C Hodges Local landings (one engine)
Sep-17	1520 Mosquito		Self	1 passenger Low Level Bombing
Sep-28	1130 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Dupont	Local
Sep-28	1500 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Tatnall	Local
Oct-03	1245 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Broadley	Operation (Power Works) Pont Chateau (Successful) Starboard engine seized, caught fire after bombing Land Pvedamuk one engine after 370 miles 5 A/c Flak damage; engine hit by flak
Oct-25	1100 Mosquito	"F"	Self	Lord Londonderry Lyneham 1500 Northolt Base
Nov-19	1600 Mosquito	"F"	Self	F/Lt Fowler TO PARHAM

Dec-01	1345 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Broadley	War Ops Low Level Cleve NW Germany successful attacked barges Rhine A/c damaged
Dec-19	1200 Mosquito	"F"	Self & W/C Cheshire & F/O Kelly	Local flying and air firing
Dec-21	830 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Broadley	War Ops against target near Dieppe abandoned
Dec-22	850 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Broadley	War Op (Shallow dive) Leader of 40 A/c Successful St Nicholas - D'aliermont
Dec-23	1445 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Broadley	War Ops (low level) St Nicholas - D'aliermont
<b>1944</b>				
Jan-28	1110 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Broadley	War Op Northern France Shallow dive successful
Jan-30	1108 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Atcherley	War Op Northern France low level successful
Feb-03	1400 Mosquito	"F"	Self & Broadley	TO HUNSDON
Feb-18	MOSQUITO	"F"	G/c Pickard F/t Broadley	OPERATION SPECIAL TARGET Nr AMIENS MISSING (Flying time col): "?"

TOTAL FOR BOOK Record of Service 3 Units Aircraft 2

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	DUAL	72.55
	PILOT	1898.25 plus 2.1 last sheet
	S. PILOT	120.55
		2074.25
	Passenger	66.55
Signed		
	RL	Reynolds
	RAF	Station
	Date:	March 5 1944
		W/C Flying Hunsdon

Compiled by James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52) from visits to Cleave  
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Ashcroft Medal Collection on 24 April and 13 November 2015 with  
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