

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 19th 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 |
|-------------|------|----------|--------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1936 | | | | | |
| Nov-16 | | DH82 | | Walker | SECOND PILOT Self 1 Passenger flying |
| Dec-14 | | DH82 | | Self | |
| 1937 | | | | | |
| Apr-26 | 1005 | | | Self | Wittering Marham Martlesham Digby |
| 1938 | | | | | |
| 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

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|--------------|-------|--------------------|---|
| 1938 | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 1939 | | | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | | Feltwell Mildenhall |
| | | | | | (No flights recorded) |
| (Sept 2 & 3) | | | | | |
| 1940 | | | | | |
| 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 Arlburg |
| 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 Bexpoede Rhur Flaves Siossions |
| Jul-19 | 1000 | Wellington | | Self & 4 | Genoa Milan Black Forest |
| | | | | | Bombing Aircraft factory nr Hamburg 3000ft also Leeuwarden 5.5 hrs |

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|----------|-----------------|-------|---------------|--|
| 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 Ostebd Bremen Gelsenkirshen |

1941

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|----------|-----------------|-------|---------------|---|
| 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 Search & Prince Eugen |
| June mth | | | | War Ops inc Dusseldorf Brest Prince Eugen |
| July mth | | | | War Ops inc Essen Cologne Munster |
| Aug-05 | 2230 Wellington | | Self & 5 | War Ops Mannheim 3500lbs 13000 1 photo successful |
| Dec-07 | 1700 Whitley | | Self & 3 | St Nazaire |

1942

| | | | | |
|--------|---------------|-----|-------------|--|
| 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 | Brider 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 |

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|-------------|---------------|-----|------------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| 1944 | | | | |
| 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

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

Compiled by James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52) from visits to Cleave
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