

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	
1938					
May-23	1550			Self - P/O	
Nov-14	1130	Oxford	K4369	Self	Admiral England

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

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

1938					
Dec-01	1200	Wallis	K6321	Self	Revd Woosnam-Jones Cranwell Northolt
1939					
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
	1210				Feltwell Mildenhall
(Sept 2 & 3)					
1940					
Feb-04	1130	Hampden	L4138	Self	Wilson Brighams Lenvil Air firing beam attack
Mar-04	1050	Hampden	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
June mth					War Ops inc Bexpoede Rhur Flaves Siossons Genoa Milan Black Forest
July mth					War Ops inc: Gotha Wilhewshoen Hamburg Leewarden
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					
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
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 St Nazaire
Dec-07	1700	Whitley		Self & 3	
1942					
Feb-27	2215	Whitley		Self & 5	Paratroop Raid 73 Bruneval 10 Paratroops
Jun-19	1600	Whitley		Self & crew	Dropping Americans
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 6 passengers Spec Op (Successful) 5 Out Mail in
Feb-13	2030	Hudson		Self & 2 crew	1 Passenger Spec Op (Successful) 6 home 1 out
Feb-20	700	Hudson		Self Taylor Figg	Air Test to Newmarket
Feb-25	1100	Hudson		Self & 7 crew	Taylor Figg Dutt Spec Ops (Successful) 7 home
Feb-25	2230			Self	(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 2 passengers unsuccessful reception not there
Apr-16	2200	Lysander		Self	
Apr-19	1500	Hudson		Self	Bridger Broadley Cocker Tangmere Base
Aug-01	1000	Mosquito	M	Self & 2nd P Bowen	Local 2nd P W/C Hodges Local landings (one engine)
Aug-05	1050	Mosquito		Self	1 passenger Low Level Bombing
Sep-17	1520	Mosquito		Self	
Sep-28	1130	Mosquito	"F"	Self & Dupont	Local
Sep-28	1500	Mosquito		Self & Tatnall	
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
Nov-19	1600	Mosquito	F	Self	F/Lt Fowler TO PARHAM War Ops Low Level Cleve NW Germany successful
Dec-01	1345	Mosquito	F	Self & Broadley	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 OPERATION SPECIAL TARGET Nr AMIENS
Feb-18		MOSQUITO	F	G/c Pickard F/t Broadley	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
March 5
Date: 1944

**Compiled by James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52) on 24 April 2015 with
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with assistance from William Collard (S55-58)**