

THE SUPERB WW2 1942 D.F.M. LOGBOOK AND ALBUM GROUP TO A HAMPDEN N.C.O. W/O A/G WHO TOOK PART IN 63 OPERATIONAL SORTIES WITH 44 AND 420 SQUADRONS, SEVERAL BEING OF GREAT NOTE, INCLUDING THE FIRST RAF RAID ON BERLIN, BEING IN ONE OF JUST 29 BOMBERS TO ACTUALLY BOMB THE GERMAN CAPITAL. ALSO THE FIRST 1000 BOMBER RAID AND THE FIRST RAID ON THE BATTLESHIP TIRPITZ. LATER COMMISSIONED, HE WAS TRAGICALLY KILLED ON THE RETURN FROM A ONE-OFF RAID AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN SEPTEMBER 1944



DISTINGUISHED FLYING MEDAL, GVI,'746716 F/SGT. E. L. HOOKER. R.A.F.'

D.F.M. London Gazette of 29 December 1942. His original recommendation, dated 28/9/42, reads:

"This N.C.O. has had a long and outstanding career as a Wireless Operator Air Gunner and has at all times displayed great keenness and determination in carrying out his duties. In all his sorties he has never had a W/T failure. He has participated in attacks on some of the most heavily defended targets, including Wilhelmshaven, Essen, Dortmund, Stuttgart, Cologne and Berlin. He has also taken part in many mining operations. He is a member of one of the outstanding crews of the squadron and it is owing to his skill and cheerfulness that the efficiency of this crew has reached such a high standard. He fully merits the award of D.F.M."

Remarks by Station Commander:

Flight Sergeant Hooker has shown gallantry, determination and an endurance of a very high standard. By his skill and devotion to duty he has set the highest possible example to the other members of his squadron. I cannot speak too highly of this N.C.O.'s fortitude and courage and I most strongly recommend him for the immediate award of the D.F.M."



FLYING OFFICER (W/OP AIR GUNNER) 137938 ERNEST LESLIE HOOKER, D.F.M.

Ernest Leslie Hooker was born the 14 September 1919 at Cuckfield, Sussex and enlisted into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve on 17 March 1939. Recalled from the reserve on 2 September 1939, he completed training as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner with the rank of LAC. After various non-operational postings, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 27 May 1940 and was posted to 44 Squadron on 13 June.

44 (RHODESIA) SQUADRON

44 Squadron was medium bomber unit, equipped with the Handley Page Hampden 1's, a fast sleek looking aircraft which was known for its long range and ability to carry a substantial bomb load. However, it was extremely cramped for the crew, gaining the name 'the flying suitcase' and was extremely lightly armoured which led the type to have an extremely high loss rate. Nonetheless, it would bear the brunt of the early bombing war over Europe, and it would be the type of aircraft Hooker flew in for all but his last sortie.

Sergeant Hooker's first operational sortie was a gardening mission off Langeland Island on 20 June 1940, piloted by F/L Siebert. Over the following 4 months, he would take part in a further 33 sorties, most notably taking part in the first RAF raid on Berlin and the first attack on the German battleship Tirpitz.

In retaliation for the bombing of London the 24 August 1940, Churchill ordered the RAF to bomb Berlin. On the night of 25/26 August 1940 a mixed force of approximately 103 aircraft from 3 Bomber

Groups, each with different targets, set off. Of this number about 50 actually attacked Berlin, with just 29 claiming to have bombed the German Capital.

Just 6 Hampden's of 44 Squadron were assigned to the bombing of Berlin, including Hooker and crew in Hampden 4373. Tasked with bombing Power Station B.57; the Klingenberg power station in the eastern part of the city. 4 of the 6 Hampden's (including Hooker's) reported hits and as such were among the 29 bombers that actually bombed Berlin that night. A 5th scored hits on their secondary target. An extremely good description of events can be found here:

<https://www.berlinluftterror.com/blog/the-first-one>

Taking part in raids against Hamburg, Calais, Essen, Magdeburg and Berlin another two times, Hooker also took part in the first raid on Tirpitz on 8 October 1940:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Allied_attacks_on_the_German_battleship_Tirpitz

Completing his tour, Hooker was posted to 16.O.T.U. on 14 November 1940 and was promoted Flight Sergeant 1 April 1941. Flight Sergeant Hooker's first 21 Operational sorties with 44 Squadron (up until end of August) were with Australian pilot, Flight Lieutenant John Aloysius Siebert, who was awarded the D.F.C. in November 1940 but was killed in action in March 1941. The majority of the rest of his operations were piloted Flying Officer Booth. Although a qualified W/O and A/G, the majority of Hooker's sorties were as W/O.



CREW OF 44 SQUADRON HAMPDEN

44 SQUADRON OPERATIONS

20 JUNE 1940 – GARDENING – LANGELAND ISLAND

25 JUNE 1940 – BOMBING – SCHIPOL AERODROME

27 JUNE 1940 - NYBORG

29 JUNE 1940 - HAMBURG

1 JULY 1940 - RETURNED

5 JULY 1940 - KIEL

13 JULY 1940 - LEMWERDER

15 JULY 1940 – OSNABRUCK - FORCED LANDED CATFOSS

18 JULY 1940 – OBERHAUSEN – BOMBS DROPPED IN DIVING ATTACK FROM 7000 TO 2000 FT

22 JULY 1940 – ESCHWEGE AERODROME – BOMBS DROPPED IN DIVING ATTACK FROM 6000 TO 2000 FT

25 JULY 1940 - MUNSTER AERODROME
 28 JULY 1940- UNIDENTIFIED AERODROME
 3 AUGUST 1940 – GARDENING – FORGET-ME-NOT PLANTED
 7 AUGUST 1940 – BATTLESHIP “GNEISENAU” - TARGET NOT LOCATED
 11 AUGUST 1940 - GARDENING
 13 AUGUST 1940 – VARIOUS AIRCRAFT FACTORIES – SHRAPNEL IN AIRCRAFT
 16 AUGUST 1940 – BOMBING?
 19 AUGUST 1940 - GARDENING
 22 AUGUST 1940– POWER PLANT AT A.77
 25 AUGUST 1940 – BERLIN – **1ST RAF RAID ON BERLIN DURING WW2**
 8 SEPTEMBER 1940 – HAMBURG
 10 SEPTEMBER 1940 - SHIPPING CALAIS
 14 SEPTEMBER 1940 - CALAIS
 17 SEPTEMBER 1940 - ANTWERP
 23 SEPTEMBER 1940 - BOULOGNE
 25 SEPTEMBER 1940- BERLIN
 29 SEPTEMBER 1940 – LE HARVE
 1 OCTOBER 1940 - BORDEAUX
 2 OCTOBER 1940 – HAM BURG
 8 OCTOBER 1940 – WILHELMSHAVEN – **1ST RAF ATTACK ON TIRPITZ**
 12 OCTOBER 1940 - ESSEN
 15 OCTOBER 1940 - MAGDEBURG
 20 OCTOBER 1940 – BERLIN

34 OPERATIONAL SORTIES WITH 44 SQUADRON– all on Handley Page Hampden's



420 (SNOWY OWL) ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE SQUADRON

Posted to 420 (Snowy Owl) R.C.A.F. Squadron on 21 January 1942, Flight Sergeant Hooker's first operational sortie with the squadron was on 26 February, a nickel raid on Paris. He would take part in a further 25 sorties with the squadron, all on Hampden's. These included a large number of raids against targets in Germany and most notably, he took part in the first 1000 bomber raid, as well as the second and third, bombing Cologne, Essen and Bremen:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thousand-bomber_raids

Converted to Wellington's in August 1942, Hooker was commissioned Pilot Officer on 21 September 1942 and posted from 420 Squadron two weeks.

All of Flight Sergeant Hooker's first operational sorties with 420 Squadron were piloted by American pilot, Flight Sergeant (later Flying Officer) Graham Stanley Hynam who was awarded the D.F.C. in January 1943 but was killed on way back from an operation on 29 May 1943

420 RCAF SQUADRON OPERATIONS

26 FEBRUARY 1942 – NICKEL RAID – PARIS

4 MARCH 1942 – MINING OFF TERCHELLEN

10 MARCH 1942 - BOULOGNE

13 MARCH 1942 – MINING OFF WILHELMSHAVEN

24 MARCH 1942 – MINING OF LORIENT

28 MARCH 1942 - LUBECK

8 APRIL 1942 - HAMBURG

10 APRIL 1942 -ESSEN

12 APRIL 1942 -ESSEN

14 APRIL 1942 -DORTMUND

29 APRIL 1942 - PARIS

4 MAY 1942 - STUTTGART

7 MAY 1942 – MINING KIEL FIORD

8 MAY 1942 -WARHEMUNDE (ROSTOCK)

14 MAY 1942 – MINING OFF SAMSO ISLAND (BALTIC SEA)

30 MAY 1942 – COLOGNE 'EN MASSE' – **1ST 1000 BOMBER RAID**

1 JUNE 1942 – ESSEN EN MASSE' – **2ND 1000 BOMBER RAID**

3 JUNE 1942 – BREMEN – RETURNED FAILED TO GAIN HEIGHT – JETTISONED BOMBS OF LINCOLN

6 JUNE 1942 - EMDEN

17 JUNE 1942 – MINING OFF ST NAZAIRE

25 JUNE 1942 - BREMEN EN MASSE' – **3RD 1000 BOMBER RAID**

21 JULY 1942 – DUISBORG – ENGINE TROUBLE

26 JULY 1942 - DUISBORG – RETURNED – PILOTS HOOD JAMMED OPEN

26 JULY 1942 - HAMBURG

31 JULY 1942 – DUSSELDORF

26 OPERATIONAL SORTIES WITH 420(RCAF) SQUADRON– all on Handley Page Hampden's





IDENTITY CARD

FOR R.A.F. PERSONNEL (All Ranks)

This is to certify that the Officer named below and whose description is stated hereon is the authorised holder of this Identity Card.....

No. 1070 Rank Major

Name and Initials (Caps) H. O. S. S. S.

Unit 1491 D. O. P. R.

Signature of C.O. C. H. H. H. H. H.

Rank Major Date 14. 7. 47

Changes on postings and promotion

The above named, Rank Major is now on the strength of (Unit) 1491 D. O. P. R.

Signature of C.O. C. H. H. H. H.

Rank C. P. D. Date 14. 11. 48

The above named, Rank C. P. D. is now on the strength of (Unit) 1491 D. O. P. R.

Signature of C.O. C. H. H. H. H.

Rank S. H. Date 9. 1. 47

Description

Height 5' 6" Build Medium

Colour of eyes Brown Colour of hair Dark

Date of birth 14. 9. 19

No. 26272

ORDERLY ROOM

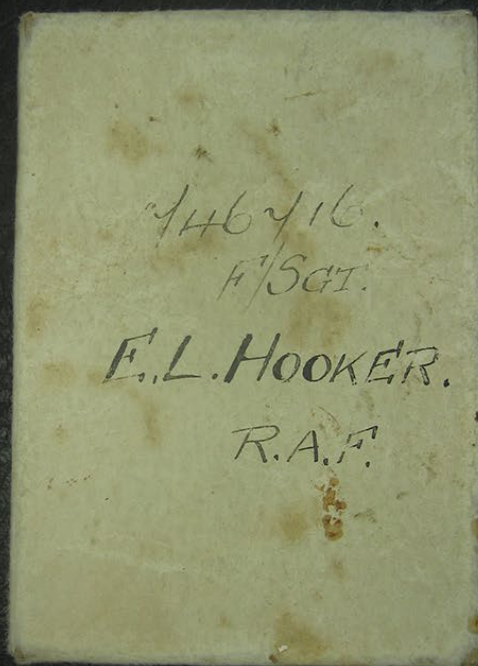
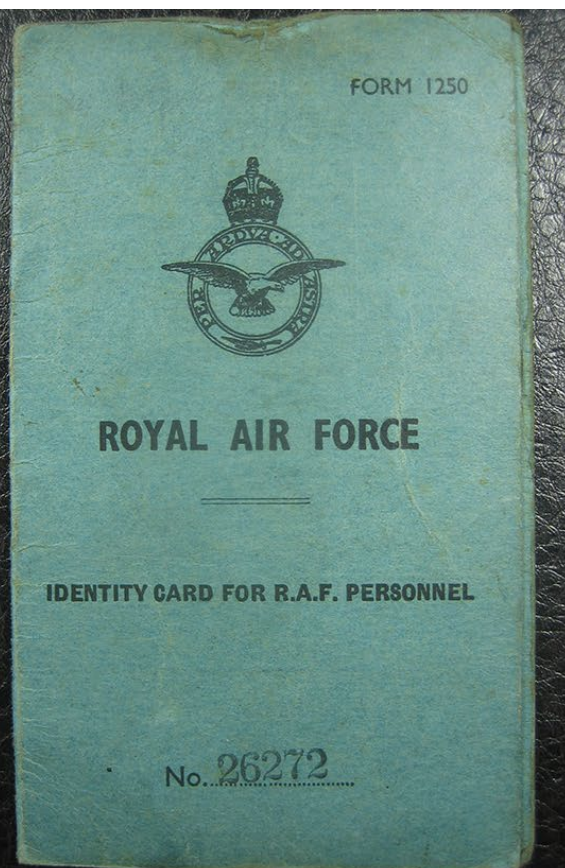
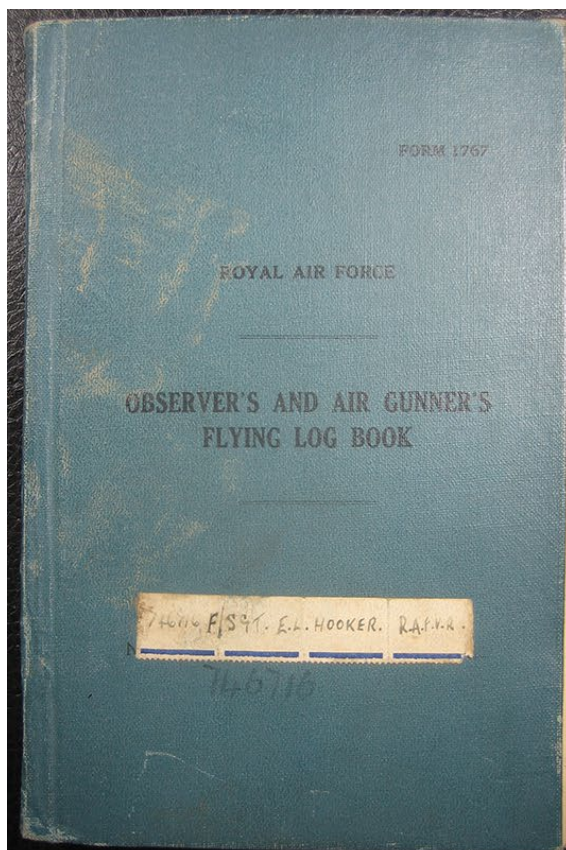
JUN 10 1947

Signature of holder C. H. H. H. H.

Signature Issuing Officer C. H. H. H. H.

Rank Major Unit 1491 D. O. P. R.





Units at which served as observer or a.g.

Unit	From	To	Unit	From	To
	1939	1940	121	1940	1942
			44 Sqn	13/6	
R.A.F.R. Shoreham	23/4		Waddington	12/11	
	1/9		1600 T.O.	14/11	
No 1. S. W. S. HANDLE	12/9		OPPER HEYFORD		12/1.
		13/1			
No 4. B. & G. S.	15/1		420 Sqn. R.C.A.F.	13/1.	6/8
West Friesen	9/3		Waddington		
7 Sqn			S. G. T. F.	19/4/42	
1600 T.O.		11/3	(Scampton)		27/4/42
OPPER HEYFORD		18/5			
7 Sqn			420 Sqn R.C.A.F.	6/4/42	7/10/42
1600 T.O.		18/4	SKIPPON - ON - SWALE.		
NEWTON DOWN		25/4			
			420 Sqn.		
106 Sqn		27/4	MIDDLETON ST. GEORGE	10/10/42	3/11/42
FINNINSLEY		29/4			
			1000 T.O. ABINGDON	4/11/42	26/4/43
106 Sqn		18/5	4. A.W. I. PERRINS	21/5/43	27/7/41
FINNINSLEY		12/6	3(5) A.F.U.	27/4/43	31/8/41
			BOBBINGTON		
			HALL DERRY	1/4/41	
			0254		

1940					Time carried forward:-		
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Flying Time	
						Day	Night
SEP. 8	2210	HAMPDEN 1322	P/O HATTERSLEY	D.F.C. WIRELESS OPS	OPERATIONS AS ORDERED - HAMBURG	32	6.45
SEP. 10	2035	4415	P/O. BOOTH	-11-	OPERATIONS AS DETAILED. ENGINE TROUBLE. RETURNED.	33	3.00
SEP. 14	2040	4415	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS AS ORDERED - CALAIS	24	4.00
SEP. 17	2215	4415	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS AS ORDERED - ANTWERP	25	4.40
SEP. 22	1500	4415	-11-	-11-	AIR TEST		2.20
SEP. 23	0250	4415	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS AS ORDERED - BOULOGNE	26	3.45
SEP. 28	2200	4415	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS AS ORDERED - BERLIN	37	9.20
SEP. 29	0130	4415	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS AS ORDERED - LE HAYRE	38	5.10
SEP. 30	1440	2965	Sgt DAY	PASSENGER	AIR TEST		3.35
CERTIFIED CORRECT (SIGNED) PETER BRUCE S/L					FLYING TIMES SEPTEMBER 1940 HAMPDEN. DAY. NIGHT.	1.05	36.40
S/L - W. FLAHERTY					TOTAL 27 Hrs 23.45 MINS.	1.05	36.40

1942					Time carried forward:-		
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Flying Time	
						Day	Night
1.6.42	1425	HAMPDEN 260	P/Sgt. HYMAN	1st W/O.P.	N.F.T.	4.0	
1.6.42	2310	HAMPDEN 260	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS - BOMBING ESSEN "EN MASSE"		5.15
					2ND 1000 PAID. 1056 AIRCRAFT.		
3.6.42	1415	HAMPDEN 202	-11-	-11-	N.F.T.	4.0	
3.6.42	2300	HAMPDEN 202	-11-	-11-	RETURNED - FAILED TO GAIN HEIGHT. TENSURED BOMBS ON LINCOLN AT 200 FEET.		3.5
6.6.42	1520	HAMPDEN AT-228P	-11-	-11-	AIRBURN AND ENGINE TEST.	1.10	
6.6.42	2050	HAMPDEN AE 422	-11-	-11-	N.F.T. (LATER 4.5)	2.0	
6.6.42	2320	HAMPDEN 422	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS - BOMBING ESSEN	5.2	5.00
7.6.42	1555	HAMPDEN 228	-11-	-11-	A.T.E. TEST.	1.00	
		HAMPDEN	-11-	-11-	N.F.T.		

1942					Time carried forward:-		
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Flying Time	
						Day	Night
01					Flying Times March 1942		
02					Hampden Day	10.10	
03					Night	27.50	
04					Total flying times	37.60	
05					Certified Correct		
					Da Bradehaw w/c of 420 (P.E.A.F) Sqn.	5.4	4.5
9.4.42	1300	HAMPDEN AE 260	Sgt. HYMAN	1st W/O.P.	N.F.T.	1.00	
9.4.42	2135	HAMPDEN 260	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS - BOMBING HAMBURG.	4.1	6.35
10.4.42	1520	HAMPDEN 260	-11-	-11-	N.F.T.		4.5
10.4.42	2205	HAMPDEN 260	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS - BOMBING ESSEN	4.2	6.00
12.4.42	1520	HAMPDEN 260	-11-	-11-	Air to Sea Firing - 400 ROUNDS	1.10	
12.4.42	2130	HAMPDEN 260	-11-	-11-	OPERATIONS - BOMBING ESSEN	4.3	7.10
					TOTAL TIME	2.55	19.45

3(O) ADVANCED FLYING UNIT

Posted to Middleton St George on 16 October 1942 and then to 10.O.T.U. at Abington on 4 November 1942. He was posted to 3(O) A.F.U. Bobbington on 27 April 1943, here to serve as a WO/AG Instructor and between June and July attended Signals Instructor School, taking to No4 A.W.I. course before returning to 3(O) A.F.U. and on to Halfpenny Green with this same unit on 1 September that year. His papers note him as Gunner's F/O from 1 March 1944. Hooker's Logbook shows several flights on Anson's in January and February 1944 but this was the full extent of his flying during the 2 years.

Having spent almost exactly 2 years non-operational as an instructor, Hooker was attached to 622 Squadron, based at Mildenhall, on 12 September 1944. This not noted in either Hooker's logbook or Service record and as was likely just a brief attachment as an instructor. Operational Record Book notes a number of 'Special Navigational' exercises that month and Hooker probably brought in to observe or train crew. He flew just one flight with this squadron, flying as extra crew on a Lancaster.

At 14.35 on the 20 of September 1944, 622 Squadron despatched seventeen Lancasters as part of a force of 646 aircraft to bomb German positions around Calais. F/O Hooker was an extra crewman in Lancaster LM167 GI-N. The target was bombed successfully (one Lancaster lost) and the formation returned home.

The formation entered into a bank of turbulent cumulus cloud and at 16.05 Lancasters LM167 and LL802 collided, became locked together and crashed near the village of Wormingford, Essex. There were no survivors from either crew.

Flying Officer Hooker was buried at Haywards Heath Cemetery. The memorial inscription reads:

*"In Proud And Loving Memory Of Flying Officer Ernest Leslie Hooker, D.F.M. R.A.F. VR.
Who Gave His Life in an Operational Flight 20th Sep. 1944 Age 25. His Motto Was:- Do or Die or Both."*

TOTAL OF 62 OPERATIONAL SORTIES

Mid Sussex Times - Wednesday 27 September 1944

DEATH OF HAYWARDS HEATH AIRMAN. FLYING OFFICER E. L. HOOKER, D.F.M.

Much sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Hooker, of 106 Franklyn Road, Haywards Heath, who last week received news that their youngest son, Flying Officer Ernest Leslie Hooker, D.F.M., was killed in a flying accident in this country while on an operational mission following many months rest.

Flying Officer Hooker, who reached his twenty-fifth birthday this month, was educated at Belvedere School, Haywards Heath. He became interested in railway work, and attended classes sponsored by the Southern Railway. He was so efficient that he received a diploma from the railway, together with a cheque for £5. He graduated as a clerk at Burgess Hill Station, and for a time was in the Continental Office at Victoria. Subsequent to undertaking relief work at Three Bridges and Hove, he had clerical charge at West Hoathly.

He belonged to the Volunteer Reserve Air Force at Hove, and was called up at the outbreak of war. He trained as an air gunner and wireless operator, and had the distinction of being in the first official raid on Berlin. He went on many operational flights over Germany and France, and rose to the rank of Flight-Sergeant. In March, 1942, he was accompanied by his mother and father to Buckingham Palace, where His Majesty the King presented him with the D.F.M. He was commissioned as a Pilot-

Officer and later became Flying-Officer. He was also a Wireless Instructor, and was shortly due for leave.

Prior to the war, Flying-Officer Hooker was Hon. Secretary of the Mid-Sussex Cyclist's Union. A keen cyclist himself, he was successful in a number of road races in the district, and on two occasions won cycling races in Victoria Park, Haywards Heath. At one of these races in the Park he secured a silver cup.

In addition to his parents and a brother, Flying-Officer Hooker leaves a widow, who is in the Radio Location branch of the A.T.S., to mourn their loss. The funeral service will be held at St. Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath, this (Wednesday) afternoon, at two o'clock."

<https://www.cwgc.org/stories/stories/flying-officer-wop-air-gunner-137938-ernest-leslie-hooker-dfm-622-squadron/>



HOOKERS CREW WITH 420 SQUADRON F/SGT GACAN, F/SGT HYNAM, F/SGT HOOKER, F/SGT GRANT.

SOLD WITH

- 1) Named card box of issue for DFM, along with medal envelope
- 2) Observers and Air Gunner's Flying Log Book detailing his entire service bar his last sortie
- 3) An original copy of The Times, 4 September 1939; the day Britain formally declared war with Germany
- 4) A small passport size portrait of Hooker in uniform
- 5) One of Hooker's dog tags, presumably taken from his body
- 6) An original newspaper cutting regarding the award of Hooker's DFM
- 7) Royal Air Force Identity card

8) Two postcard sized photographs of Hooker and crew in flying kit and another in from of their Hampden; this believed to be 420 Squadron

9) Photograph album containing approximately 74 photos, mainly circa 1942-3. Mainly shots of Hooker with other officers and WRAF's, wives/girlfriends. Most photographs labelled. A number of shots of what is presumably Hooker's wedding (in uniform). Two very good group shots of Hooker and his crew, one the Hyman crew of 420 Squadron

Also Digital copies of the original DFM recommendation, RAF service papers and operational logs for each squadron during Hooker's service.



Condition EF. A quite superb group to a Hampden crewman who took part in a large number of sorties, including a number of historical note but was tragically killed on a one of sortie.