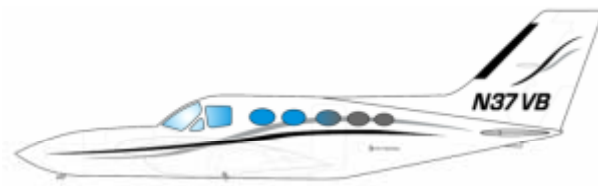


Monday 17th December 2007

Flight from Bournemouth to Berlin-Tempelhof and back

Vasa Babic and Eric Jones, DFC



 421C Golden Eagle





Flight Lieutenant Eric Jones DFC



Eric Jones joined the RAF in April 1941 and trained as a pilot in Canada. Back in England he was posted to No.49 Squadron flying Lancasters, and flew his first operation on the night of 22nd August 1943. The target that night was Leverkusen. On the night of 14th January 1944 on a raid against Brunswick his aircraft shot down an Me110 nightfighter south of Hannover. He flew 12 trips to Berlin, the most heavily defended target in the Reich. Eric Jones completed a tour of 29 combat operations in the Lancaster. He was awarded the DFC.



Vasa Babic is a private pilot who lives in London and flies from Bournemouth. Vasa and Eric met through Project Propeller, which brings current General Aviation pilots together with members of the RAF WW2 Aircrew Association. Every year, the project arranges for Air Crew and Pilots to meet up at a convenient local airfield, fly to the venue for an Air Crew reunion, and then fly back home once the event comes to an close. <http://www.projectpropeller.co.uk/>



N37VB is a 1978 Cessna 421C, a 6-8 seat pressurised low-wing monoplane powered by two 375hp Continental GTSIO520 turbocharged piston engines. Its maximum take-off weight is 3.4tons and it carries 1400lbs of avgas fuel.



Meeting at Bournemouth, 1130am 17.12.07



Eric and N37VB



Outbound from Bournemouth, in the cruise at 19,000ft and 230mph



Weather radar tilted down; H₂S-like depiction of approach to Dutch coast



H₂S was the RAF codename for airborne ground-mapping radar, introduced in Bomber Command in 1943, which provided a depiction of surface features on a cathode ray tube for navigation and “blind” target-finding

Eric at the controls



Eastbound, with the sunset behind us



On arrival, the main apron at Tempelhof



Picture of Berlin showing Tempelhof in the centre; in the lounge at the airport



Avionics and engine instruments on the return flight

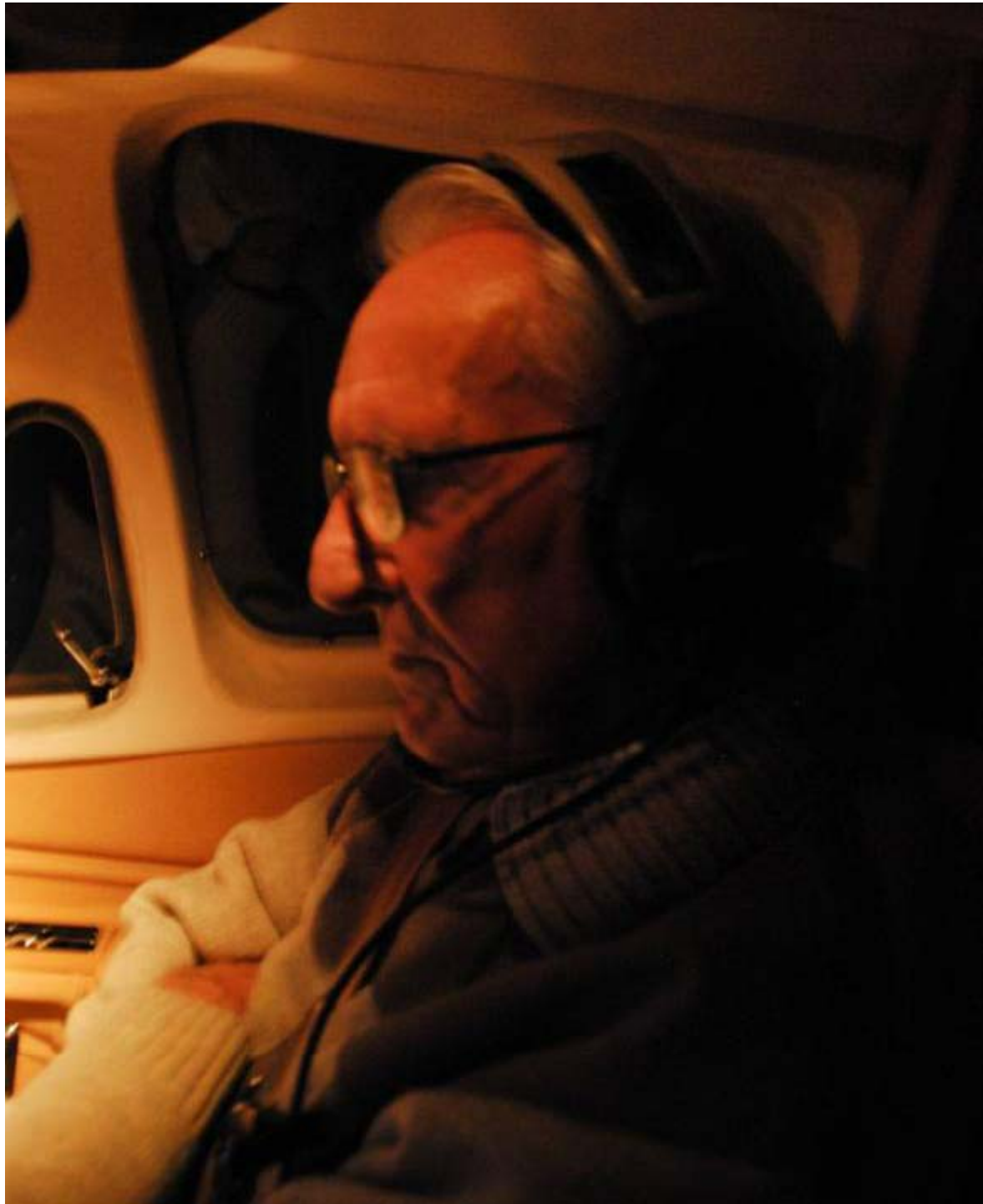


Night flight back from Berlin by Cessna 421, 17 Dec 2007

Eric's last prior flight back from Berlin was on the night of 30/31 Jan 1944 in RAF Avro Lancaster K King JB421

The airborne time on that flight was 6hrs 25mins (an unusually direct route, the longest time in his 12 Berlin missions was 8hrs 45mins).

As well as the coincidence in the "421" number; the airborne time on this trip was 6hrs 30mins. The Cessna 421 cruises typically at 20,000' and 230mph – very similar to the Lancaster.



The outbound flight departed 17.12.07 at 1210 and arrived 1600. The distance was ~620nm. The flight time of 3hrs 50mins was affected by headwinds of 40kts, which gave a ground speed of 160kts.

The return flight departed 17.12.07 at 1740 and arrived 2020. The flight time of 2hrs 40mins benefited from a tailwind of 40kts and ground speed of 240kts.

