

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY

SLINGSBY GRASSHOPPER TX. Mk. 1 WZ791/8944M
MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER 1994/1349/A

Built to contract No.7419 at the Slingsby Sailplane factory at Ings Lane, near Kirbymoorside, Yorks for Combined Cadet Force and Air Training Corps use as one of a batch of 62 Slingsby T.38 Grasshopper TX. Mk 1 Primary gliders, serial block WZ753 - 798. Constructors Number 787.A total of 115 Grasshoppers were built 1952 -53, using reworked wings and tail surfaces from Air Training Corps Slingsby T - 7 Cadet Mk.1 gliders and a new fuselage frame which was a simplified version of the German S.G.38 primary glider. The Grasshoppers were used for ground training and with a rubber bungee for ground slides or the occasional short hop only and were intended to develop a cadet's self discipline and leadership while introducing him to RAF procedures.

- 11 Sep 52 Awaiting Collection.
- 22 Sep 52 To No 61 Group Communications Flight, Flying Training Command at RAF Kenley near Croydon.
- 23 Mar 59 HQ No.61 Group, Flying Training Command.

 Hove, East Sussex.

 High Wycombe, Bucks.

 Halton, Bucks.
- 1 Nov 76 On this date the glider was based at Ardingly College, Haywards Heath, Sussex - one of 80 Schools which had a Grasshopper at this time.
- Jun 78 Stored at No.14 Maintenance Unit, RAF Carlisle by this date.
- 86 Remaining stored and in use Grasshoppers withdrawn following the discovery of structural defects.
- 21 Oct 87 Air Cadet Central Gliding School, RAF Syerston, Notts. For display. Syerston was also the HQ of the RAF Central Gliding School from 1975 and hosted annual ATC summer camps.

 Allotted instructional serial 8944M.
- 8 Aug 91 To RAF Museum Hendon and installed in Museum Foyer during six-hour late - night operation. Remains on display in this location. Photos - Slingsby Sailplanes (Simons 028956) p.171; Wrecks and Relics 14th Edition p.290.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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