

INDIVIDUAL HISTORY
SLINGSBY T.31B TX. Mk. 3 CADET XA302
ACCESSION NUMBER X003 - 7970

1950	Manufactured by Slingsby Sailplanes Ltd at their Kirbymoorside works as part of serials batch XA282 – XA313 to contract No. 6023. Constructor's Number 844. The Air Training Corps received 131 of these Cadet TX Mk.3 two-seat tandem training gliders.
28 Nov 52	Awaiting Collection.
17 Dec 52	No.22 Gliding School, RAF Kirton-in Lindsey, Lincs.
15 Mar 53	Damaged in flying accident, Cat 4R
25 Mar 53	Returned to makers for repair.
22 May 53	To No.123 GS, White Waltham.
27 Aug 53	To 126 GS at Booker; unit disbanded 1 September 1955.
9 Mar 56	To No 613 GS, RAF Halton.
8 Feb 57	Damaged, Cat 4R
15 Feb 57	To Slingsbys for repair until 5 June 1957.
18 Jun 57	To No.10 MU.
25 Apr 58	To No 615 GS, RAF Kenley.
6 Nov 59	Damaged – Cat 4R
12 Nov 59	To Slingsbys for repair until 28 Mar 1960
1 Apr 60	To No 27 MU.
4 Jul 60	To No 671 GS, Bishops Court
17 Nov 60	To disposal account – damaged, Cat 4R
30 Nov 60	To Slingsbys for repair until 7 Jul 61.

13 Jul 61	To No.27 MU.
31 Aug 61	To No 2 Gliding Centre (GC) RAF Kirton-in –Lindsay; the Glider was allocated to F/Lt, later S/Ldr, William (Bill) Connell Walker OBE, RAFVR (T) then a Staff Instructor at the Gliding Centre, between 1961 and 1967; he sent over 1,000 cadets on their first solo, all on XA302.
25 Oct 65	2 GC moved to RAF Spitalgate, Lincs, still being flown by Bill Walker.
4 Aug 69	To Slingsbys for repair following Cat 4R damage.
19 Jan 70	Returned to 2 GC at Spitalgate; coded ‘5’ by Oct 1970.
1 Dec 71	To Air Cadets Central Gliding School, RAF Syerston, Notts, formed when Nos. 1 and 2 Gliding Centres merged.
7 Apr 72	To No. 661 GS at Kirknewton.
4 Jun 82	Withdrawn to 4 Mobile Glider Servicing Party (MGSP) at Dishforth as a reserve aircraft.
11 Oct 82	To GSS, RAF St. Athan for reconditioning.
16 Dec 82	To 622 GS at Upavon, Wilts.
1985	Cadets withdrawn from RAF service.
14 Aug 85	Sold to North Devon Gliding Club, although Bill Walker did attempt to purchase it at the time.
1989	Purchased by the British Gliding association, and presented to Bill Walker on 28 February 1989 as a 60 th Birthday present in recognition of his service to Air Cadet and UK civilian gliding.
Aug 91	Noted at Syerston as a wreck.
17 Aug 91	Issued British Gliding Association (B.G.A) Certificate of Airworthiness No. 3786 with registration HAK. Operated from Syerston by the Royal Air Force Gliding and Soaring Association (RAFGSA) Four Counties Gliding Club at Air Cadets Central Gliding School as one half of a Vintage Glider Flight formed by

Bill Walker, along with a Slingsby T21B Sedbergh. They were maintained by Bill Walker and S/Ldr A (Albert).S Johnson RAFR (Ret'd); HAK was registered to Bill Walker, care of S/Ldr Johnson.

- 16 Aug 92 C of A expired.
- 31 Dec 92 C of A renewed (expiring 30 December 1993)
- 25 May 95 Last RAFGSA Certificate of Airworthiness issued.
- 6 May 96 Final three flights – total 20 minutes. Total flights estimated at 20,122; estimated flying hours 1,015.5.
- 24 May 96 Final annual BGA Certificate of Airworthiness expired. Stored at the Air Cadets Central Gliding School, RAF Syerston Airfield, Nottinghamshire, as part of the unofficial 'Air Cadets Vintage Glider Flight'.
- 5 May 05 Delivered by road to RAF Museum, Hendon, following its donation by Mr. Bill Walker OBE RAFVR (T) Ret'd of the RAFSGA.
- 20 Mar 06 Assembled for display in Historic Hangars at RAFM Hendon.

TEXT; ANDREW SIMPSON

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