

'GLENN MILLER' LOGBOOK SOLD ON-LINE AT SOTHEBYS.AMAZON.COM

A RAF logbook, associated with the mysterious disappearance of the legendary wartime bandleader, Glenn Miller in December 1944, sold for \$880 on the recently-launched on-line auction site, SOTHEBYS.AMAZON.COM, on Friday, February 12, 2000.

The logbook was bought by Mr Nik Middleton, a British-born systems analyst now living in Virginia, USA. Mr Middleton, aged 40, said: "I am passionate about flying planes and as a keen aviation enthusiast and collector of documents from World War Two, I am particularly pleased to have secured this logbook."

The logbook was sold by Mr Deryck Thurman of Derby, who aged nineteen, was Flight Engineer of Lancaster bomber NF973 on a daylight raid on Seigen on December 15, 1944. In his own writing, Thurman records in the logbook how the mission was aborted and the bomb load jettisoned into the English Channel. It was subsequently believed that the jettisoned bombs caused Miller's plane to crash into the sea.

Mr Thurman, now aged 75, said: "When bad weather forced the mission to be aborted, the weight of the bombs exceeded that recommended for landing. I was responsible for calculating how many bombs needed to be jettisoned for us to land safely."

While dropping their bombs in the 'Southern Jettison Area' in the Channel, several of Mr Thurman's crew members including navigator, Fred Shaw, believed that they had seen a small aircraft beneath them suddenly flip over and plunge seaward. The plane had been identified as a Norseman, the same type of plane that Miller had flown on to Paris.

Mr Thurman said: "Nobody anticipated there being any aircraft there at all since, it was a designated area for jettisoning bombs. The awful weather conditions must have sent the plane off course for it to be flying there at that time and there was absolutely nothing we could have done."

The logbook was sold with documents and photographs of the crew and a file of clippings, copied articles and correspondence relating to Glenn Miller's disappearance.

In addition to items of aeronautica, SOTHEBYS.AMAZON.COM offers a wide selection of collectables including entertainment and sports memorabilia, toys, dolls, coins, medal and stamps. Estimates range from \$100 to \$100,000 and higher.

Separate releases on sothebys.com and sothebys.amazon.com are available on request.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:- Pictures available via ISDN or email.

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