

Bovingdon Airfield

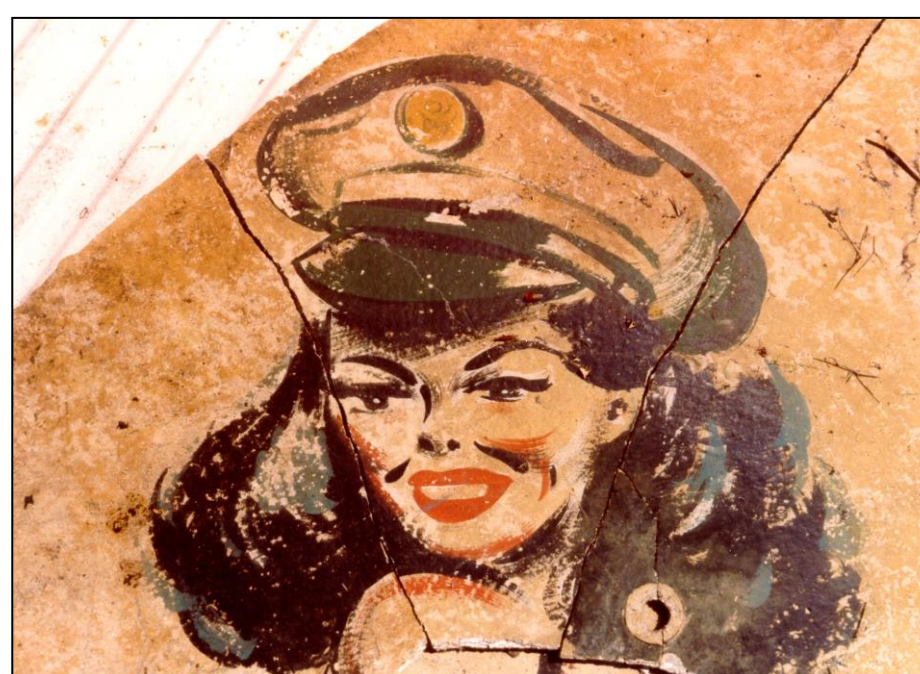
Bovingdon Airfield was built in 1941-42 as a bomber airfield for the Royal Air Force (RAF). The 8th US Air Force (92nd Bomber Group) arrived there in 1942 and was assigned the role of a B17 Combat Crew Replacement Unit (CCRC). Combat crews of other bomber units arriving in Britain during the next two years received theatre indoctrination at the station.

In September 1944, the CCRC was disbanded, the airfield became the base for the European Air Transport Service and many thousands of GIs returned to the States via Bovingdon's Air Terminal. Control reverted to the RAF on 15 April 1946. The Americans returned to the Airfield on 25 May 1951 in the form of the 7531st Air Base Squadron operating side-by-side with the RAF and Foreign Service Organisations.

The 7531st departed in 1962 and in 1968 the Ministry of Defence announced that Bovingdon was one of several airfields due for closure. All that remains today is the derelict Air Traffic Control, as HM Prison The Mount now occupies a large part of the site.



Four heavy bombing missions were flown from the airfield during the autumn of 1942 (DACHT: 62.24.4)



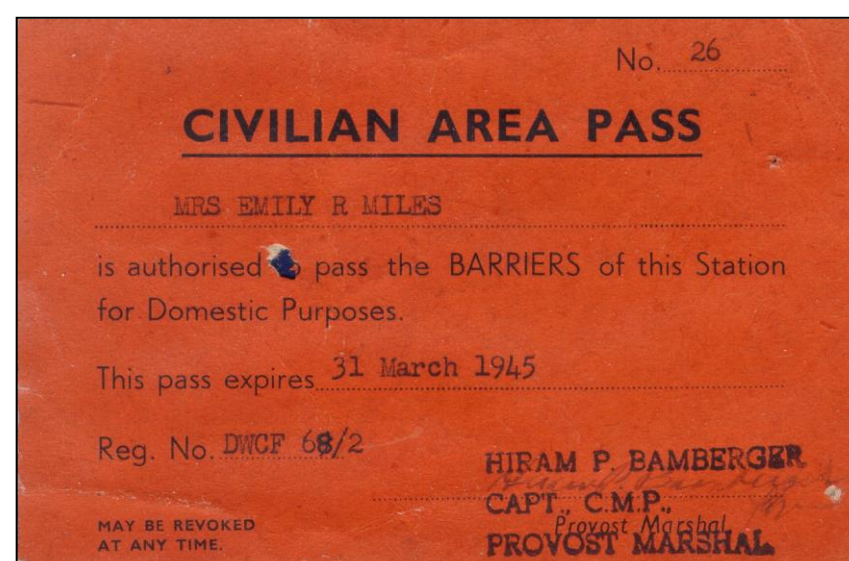
Plaster from a hut decorated by American servicemen of Bovingdon Airfield. (DACHT: 1207)



Flying Fortress aircrews (above and below). (DACHT: 62.24.7)



Three American servicemen, the 'Three Mosquitoes' (Harry Evans, Sgt Long and Cpl Baldwin) in a vehicle stationed at Bovingdon Airfield, April 1945. (DACHT: 2233.19)



Civilian pass for Bovingdon Airfield. (DACHT: 62.24.5)



The Americans host a Christmas party for orphans from the Foundling Hospital, Berkhamsted, in 1943. (© D Spain)



USAAF Bovingdon softball match at Boxmoor cricket ground, May 1943. Locals and Americans alike were briefed as to the peculiar habits of each other. There were a number of local girls who became GI brides and emigrated at the end of the war. (DACHT: 62.24.1)



B17 Flying Fortresses on a daylight raid. (DACHT: 62.44.6)

Facts & Statistics - 92nd Bombardment Group:

- Stations: Bovingdon, Alconbury, Podington.
- First Mission: 1942
- Last Mission: 25 April 1945
- Total credit sorties: 8,633
- Total Bomb Tonnage: 20,829.4 tons
- Aircraft missing in action: 154
- Enemy aircraft claims: 207
- The oldest group in the 8th Airforce.
- The first bomber group to make non-stop Atlantic flight.
- Led the 8th Airforce's last mission of the war.



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