

RAF BOURN CAMBS

In 1975 we purchased a house to renovate in the village of Bourn as my husband was flying from the airfield at Bourn a half mile away for the Ministry of Agriculture Aerial photography. This was to survey diseases of crops which gave certain patterns in the crops and seen from the air. The airfield is now known for its Bank Holiday markets. Both my sons were born there and I worked at nearby Papworth Hospital.



Royal Canadian Air Force official photographer, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

I didn't at this time have any interest in it's history as an airfield but it was built in 1940. It is 8 miles west of Cambridge and was principally a base for heavy bombers-Wellingtons,Stirlings and Lancasters.It was to act as a satellite air field to Raf Oakington.The picture is of a De Havilland Mosquito B Mark IX of 105 squadron.

First to be based there was 101 RAF squadron with Vickers Wellingtons for training purposes when Oakington was unavailable.

97 Squadron of Avro Lancasters which were then replaced by the Mosquitoes of 105 Squadron.

There was a Sebros factory near Madingley and together with Bourn airfield employed 4,500 personnel. Over the five years of the war, 648 men were lost which was more than the total of village inhabitants !. The air field was raided 3 times but with little damage caused. Nowadays it is used at Bank Holidays as an open air market which I am sure you all know of.?