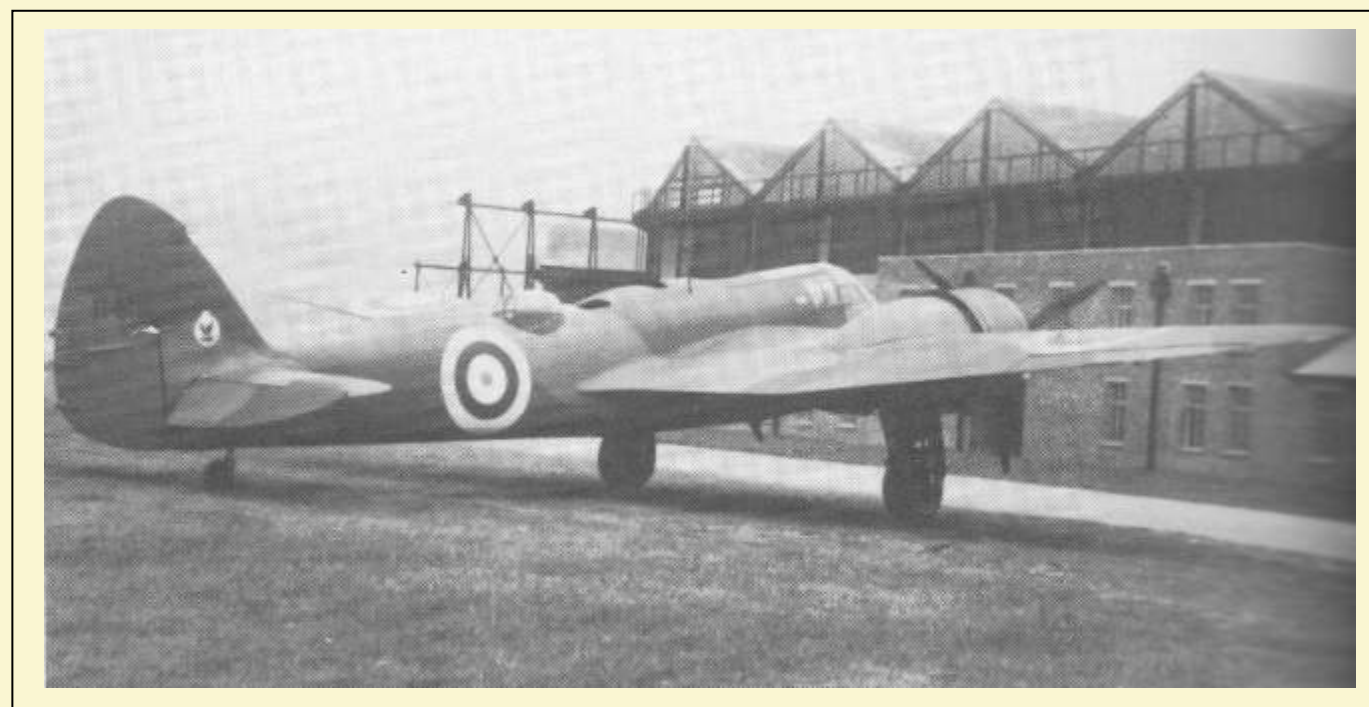
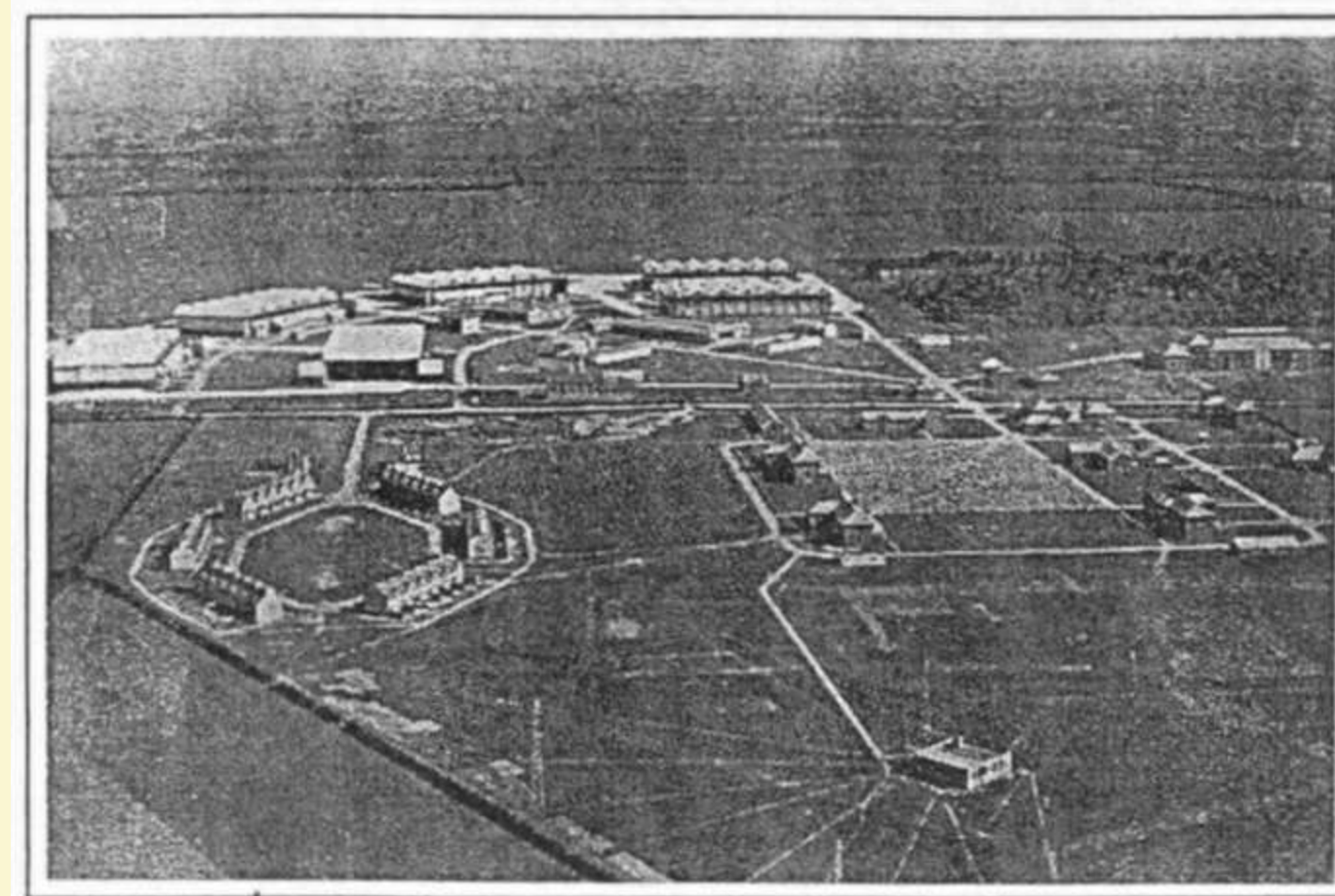


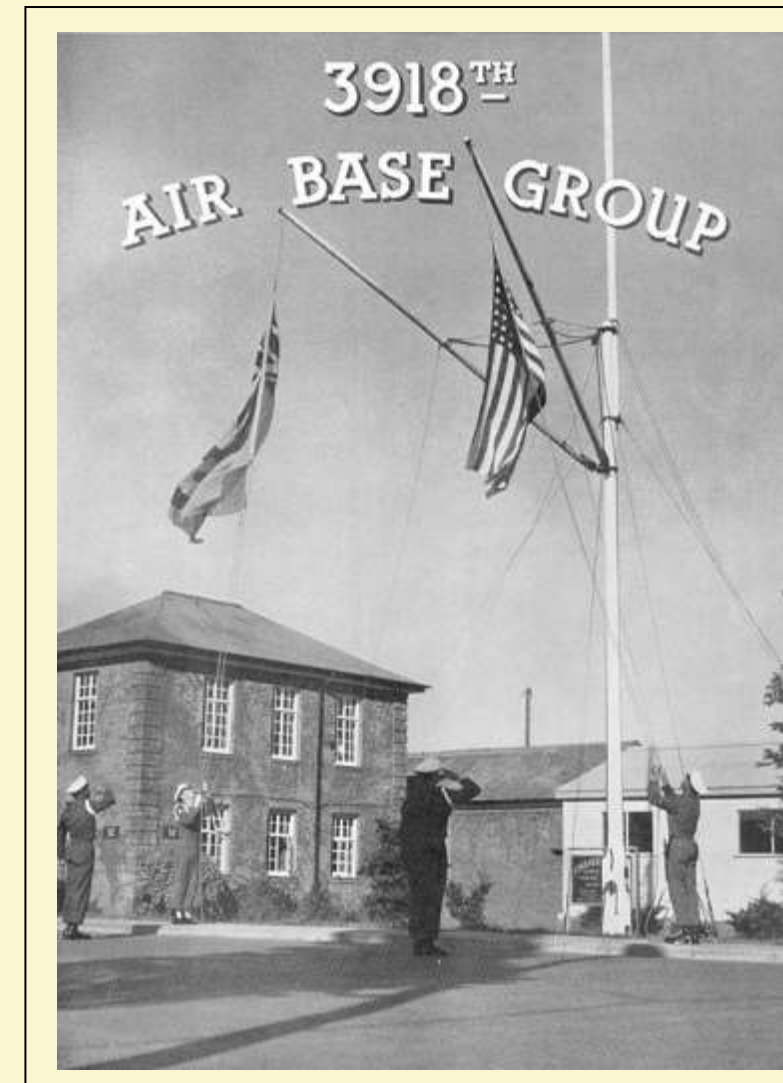
# THE USAF UPPER HEYFORD STORY: 1



Handley Page Hyderabads at Upper Heyford in 1928 (above and below)

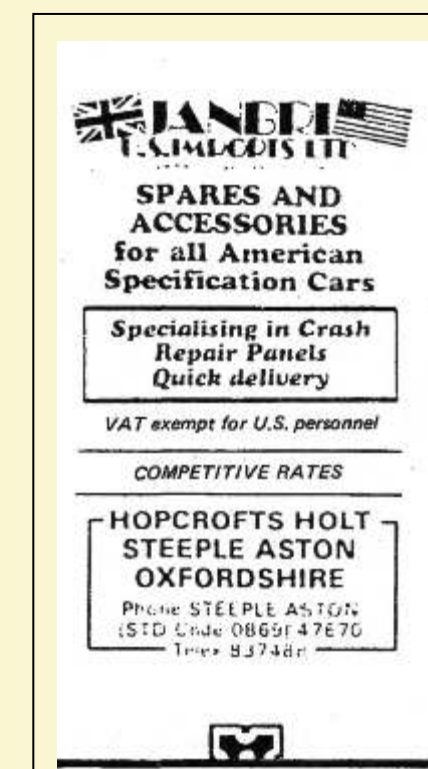
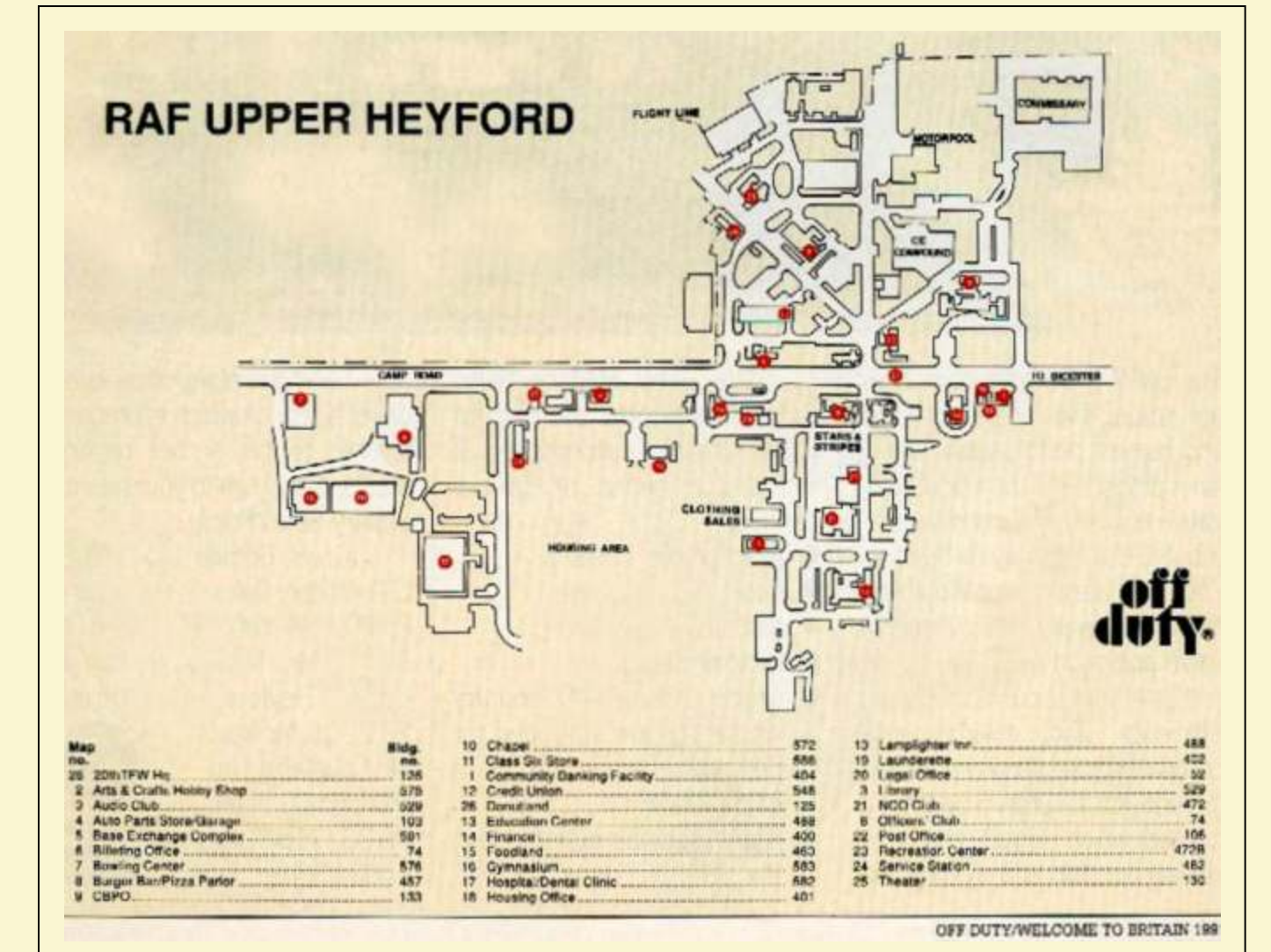


An RAF Blenheim in 1939 (above) and a USAF B47 (below) in 1956, both at Upper Heyford.



## 1915 to 1969

- 1915 First use of the land as an airfield.
- 1939-45 R.A.F. Upper Heyford station bombers at the airfield
- 1951 USAF takes over operational charge of the Base which expands in size throughout the '50s with increasing influence over local commerce and employment.
- 1950s Some complaints about low-flying or night-flying aircraft as well as noise from heavy air-tankers
- 1953 A bomber, coming in to land, crashes onto the railway line at the foot of Cow Lane. An approaching train is able to stop in time.
- 1955 First "Open House" for the Base attended by general public.
- 1969 9.00am 12<sup>th</sup> May. A Voodoo aircraft, piloted by Major Sipes, fails to make height at take-off and the pilot remains with the stricken plane in order to save lives. It crashes 300 yards from the school. His sacrifice is commemorated in a plaque in the church. The story appears in national newspapers.



The plaque in honour of Major Sipes in the Church.

May 1969



"Scrip" was the slang name given to Military Payment Certificates (MPC) which were notes issued to U.S. military forces from about 1946 until 1973 when serving abroad. Though looking like dollars, they were more cheaply printed and sometimes compared to Monopoly money. Their design and appearance changed frequently in order to stop them being mistaken for genuine currency. During the early years at Upper Heyford, "scrip" was paid to servicemen but had value only when used for purchases on the Base. In order to make the most of "scrip", many airmen bought goods which were cheaper in military shops than the civilian equivalents and sold them on to their British neighbours and workers for profit. That is how so many locals were able to benefit from lighting up a Lucky Strike cigarette to accompany a glass of Jack Daniels bourbon.

