

coxford heath,as it or wasn't it?

Beside the B1454 opposite Sculthore airfield lays the site of the former wartime decoy aerodrome, Coxford Heath. It opened in March 1940 as a decoy for Bircham Newton some miles distant whereas it was within 3 or 4 miles from Weat Raynham and Massingham

It was a K site with dummy hangers and aircraft within a year it had been upgraded to a Q site with runway lights.

It was staffed by 11 men plus a Sergeant and they had their own hut plus an airraid shelter which also housed the power generator. They were provided with rations for 24 men so there was ample opportunity for bartering!

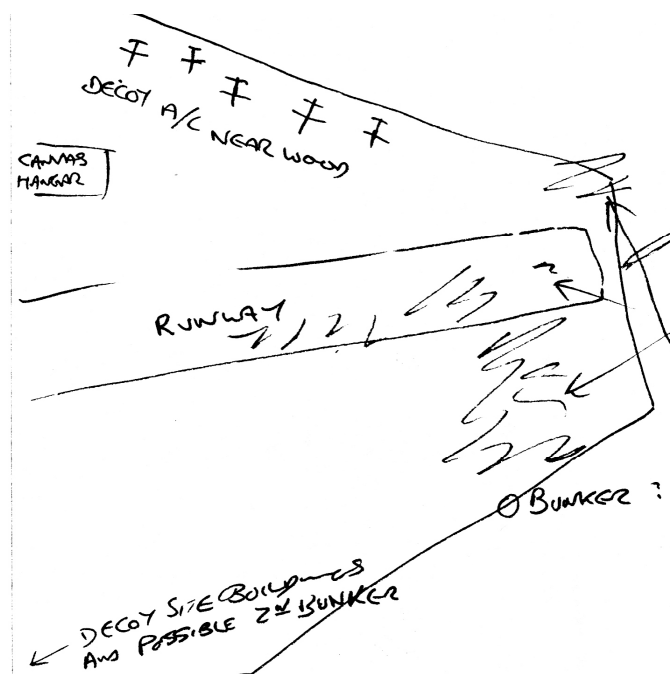
The decoy was bombed once when a bomb blew the top out of an Oak tree and another damaged a nearby cottage by blowing off the pantry door!

Broadcasting from Germany, the traitor 'Lord Haw Haw' said that Bircham Newton had been bombed, no mention of an Oak tree or pantry door!

The RAF were also taken in a Wellington landed there by error as well as a Spitfire.

The Wellington was pulled through a hedge onto an adjacent field where it could take off, in fact the hole in the hedge was still visible in the 1970s!

Both aircraft took off together and formed to fly over the decoy before flying off home.



Thanks to Huby Fairhead and Cavid Calaby