



SCHOOLBOY SPOTTING AT SCULTHORPE

Jim Baldwin





In 1948/49 there was an abundance of B29s and B50s at Sculthorpe those of note were the SAR SB29s with their orange underslung dinghies and also the KB29s (above) they began what was to be a long association of tankers at



Eventually the KB29s were replaced by KB50Ds. The ultimate version was the KB50J with two jet engines to supplement its four pistons. When the 47th BW was deactivated these were the last to leave in 1964. I has been



A man once called at my door and said ‘ here is a picture of me in my airplane.’ It was a C119 Boxcar (as above). A number were allocated to the 47BW but there were always visitors like the one flown by my caller (from 317TCW). Thank you Charles it was nice to meet you.



The elderly C47s soldiered on. Some were allocated to the 47BW but others at Sculthorpe belonged to the 49th Air Division who administered the USAF in the UK.



I saw a C124 Gobemaster fly over. Since I had been given a new bike I thought that I Would give the Hercules a good run out and see it land. I estimated that it would do another circuit before landing but I was wrong and it had landed and was a fly on the horizon on the far side of the airfield by the time I arrived. However, at a later date I did see one land and what a sight that was!



T 33s were used for training and for taxis for senior officers. A number were allocated to the 47BW and a number to individual squadrons they may have all have been 'pooled'.



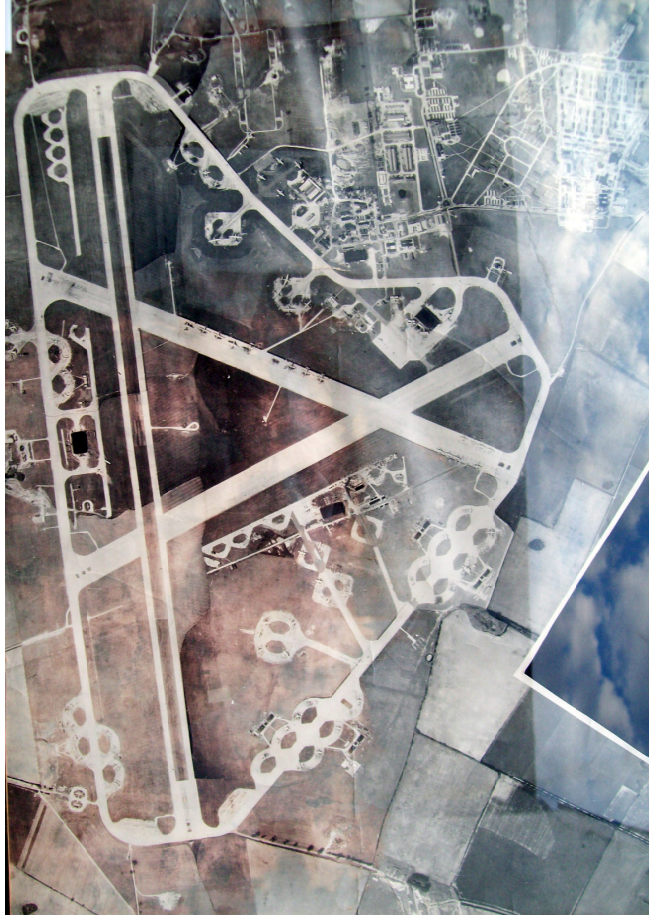
When I was at school I hated sports, the sports master came from a sporting family and could not believe that there was someone who did not like sports...I was that person! Sports did give me a chance to get outside and watch aeroplanes. One morning I struck gold and saw my first C123 Provider. After I had left school I ran into that sports master who had given me a stinking report. I always thought that it was a bit like 'Monty' meeting the German generals for the surrender at the end of the war. I never did see another C123!



The B36 Peacemaker. I only saw one of these. I was walking by the river at Fakenham when I heard an unusual sound . Looking to the West I saw a B36 emerge from behind some trees over in the direction of Sculthorpe. It climbed up onto afternoon sky to the West. Although it was one of several on the base I never did see another!



There was a time when it was considered that the country would be best served if I did not set my 11+ exam for the Grammar School. So, on that February morning I set out for the railway bridge (No1719)) outside Fakenham where I knew that I could see across the fields and watch what was going into Sculthorpe. On this day I saw a aeroplane that was new to me. Checking my Observer's Book of Aircraft I discovered that this and all the others that I had seen were B66 Destroyers. They were replacing the B45s at Sculthorpe (in fact they were RB66s replacing those of the 19TRS as above). It is interseing that the local press did not mention this until the following year!



1958.

The KB50s are arranged in a tidy fashion on the unused runway while some odd ones are parked on a hard standing. Close by are two c119s.

On one pan is an odd twin engine aircraft which may be a Bristol Freighter left over from a recent Open Day. Sundry B45s are parked around the base with one solitary RB66