

Display 1



The Bird's Eye View
Nauts Corner



The Defensive Structure
Linacady



The Hangar
Eglinton

The Bird's Eye View *Nauts Corner*

This airfield became operational the same time of the reformation of No 120 Squadron on June 1941. This squadron was used in operations for the RAF Coastal Command, one of the nine bases used for RAFCF in Northern Ireland. A Liberator plane from 120 Squadron, flying a B-24 Liberator, Sgt Ldr T Bullock destroyed his first U-boat in October 1942. By the end of his career his logbook contained 330 operational missions with 2050 operational flying hours. Sgt Ldr Bullock was officially credited with sinking four U-boats and is today's damper a further two, the highest score from any pilot during the Second World War. There are few buildings that are still intact as the site is now used by different commercial companies, a Sunday market and a race track. One of the runways is used as the road A85 Main Road, the classic A large airfield can still be viewed from days.

The Defensive Structure *Linacady*

The Battle Headquarters was based on many airfields and served the purpose of giving the defence. Offer a hardened and secure location from which he and his personnel could coordinate the defences of the airfield in the event of an invasion by hostile forces.

The Hangar *Eglinton*

Built in April 1941 this Biser Hangar would have been used by many different aircraft.



The Bird's Eye View
Long Kesh



The Defensive Structure
Newtownards



The Hangar
Linacady

The Bird's Eye View *Long Kesh*

Opened in November 1941 this airfield has had numerous roles during its existence and was used by the Army, RAF and US. It has accommodated many aircraft and squadrons for their detachments and exercises. In December 1942 Long Kesh was taken over by RAF Coastal Command to accommodate No 5 Operational Training Unit, teaching trainee aircrew the techniques of maritime operations, using Beaufort, Hampden, Hudson, Ventura and Oxford aircraft. In 1968 the airfield changed drastically to make way for HM Prison Maze, however in 2006 most of the prison was demolished. This airfield has changed quite considerably and it is still possible to see how each era has been imprinted onto this landscape. The airfield is currently used by the Ulster Aviation Society, Air Ambulance NI and the yearly Balnassil Show.

The Defensive Structure *Newtownards*

An defence structure used as an outpost to protect the airfield in the event of an invasion by hostile forces.

The Hangar *Linacady*

1 of the 3 remaining Belfast Hangars.



The Bird's Eye View
Toome



The Defensive Structure
Eglinton



The Hangar
Long Kesh

The Bird's Eye View *Toome*

Operational by January 1943 for the RAE however it was shortly handed over to the USAF as Station 236. By September 1943 the 3rd Central Crew Replacement Centre Group was established and received over 600 combat crew for training on the twin-engine B-26 Marauder and A-20 Havoc. The CCRG training courses also supplemented and replicated the procedures needed for operations in a European Theatre. Toome's additional function was the temporary storage of up to 50 aircraft on behalf of air depot Longford Lodge No 3 Base Air Depot. By November 1944 the airfield was handed back to the RAF but was not used for flying again. There are a few buildings still standing including some of the hangars, instructional buildings and a Northern Bombing Unit building. From the sky it is still possible to see parts of the A large airfield, mingled into between farmland and commercial land standings.

The Defensive Structure *Eglinton*

Built in April 1941 these several concrete outposts are built linked with another. They would have been used as protection to the airfield and defend areas should it become under attack by hostile forces.

The Hangar *Long Kesh*

Built in Nov 1941 these modified T2 type Hangar was the wing assembly for the Stirling heavy bombers for the aircraft manufacturers Short & Harland. The same hangars were built at its satellite station Magherry for the full assembly of the Stirlings. Its current use is by the Ulster Aviation Society and has been declared a historic monument.



The Bird's Eye View
Ballyhalbert



The Defensive Structure
Long Kesh



The Hangar
Aldergrove

The Bird's Eye View *Ballyhalbert*

Opened in June 1941 the first operational unit were No 215 Squadron from Aldergrove whose Hurricanes flew air defence and convoy patrol. In time passing the airfield accommodated many aircraft and squadrons such as No 23 Bombers, No 240 Spitfires, No 130 Spitfires, No 315 (Bomber) Spitfires and a summer attachment for USAF 5th Squadrons with Spitfires. In April 1943 Ballyhalbert was transferred to the Admiralty and commissioned as HMS Conventicle, however shortly after it was returned back to the RAF. Much of the airfield can be seen from the sky whilst in current use of a caravan park, makes use of the hard standings. Other parts of the airfield have been used for housing development but some buildings still stand the lighter disposal pens, control tower and range huts.

The Defensive Structure *Long Kesh*

Built in November 1941 these 2 concrete outposts are interlocked with another. They would have been used as protection to the airfield and defend areas should it become under attack from hostile forces.

The Hangar *Aldergrove*

There are several Biser Hangars that are still in use today.



The Bird's Eye View
Castle Archdale



The Defensive Structure
Newtownards



The Hangar
Magherry

The Bird's Eye View *Castle Archdale*

This flying boat base became operational on Feb 1941 and most famously known for the flying boat Catalina from 209 Squadron. On May 1941 Catalina pilot, Flying Officer D Briggs and Ensign L. Smith were on a routine patrol when they spotted the battleship Bismarck, which sailed in late. In September 1941 201 Squadron arrived with Sunderland to fly Atlantic patrol. Many different squadrons were accommodated at Castle Archdale including two Canadian Squadrons 422 and 423. The site is now used for a caravan park, surrounded by beautiful walks. Some buildings are still intact around the site including a Pump House, Operations Block and Shearwater Dock.

The Defensive Structure *Newtownards*

A single type 22 pill box that has a wind sock on top, the pole is a tall boom from a Miles Aerovan.

The Hangar *Magherry*

Built in Nov 1941 these modified T2 type Hangar was the finishing assembly for the Stirling heavy bombers for the aircraft manufacturers Short & Harland, it is the satellite station to Long Kesh.