



1936

On May 1, 1936, No. 3 Group, one of five groups forming out of the Central and Western Bombing Areas, took control of RAF Station Mildenhall. This group would eventually move to RAF Station Mildenhall.

A few days after that, on May 23, 1936, RAF Station Mildenhall opened its gates to the public for Empire Air Day. This was the very first "Air Show" at RAF Station Mildenhall. Around 6,000 people came to watch flying displays and shows of technical equipment.

July 8, 1936, saw King Edward VIII, the Duke of York and the Chief of the Air Staff visited RAF Station Mildenhall to inspect No. 99 Squadron, No. 38 Squadron and No. 40 Bomber Squadron. No. 40 Squadron was summoned to RAF Station Mildenhall for the inspection. The King also inspected some of the base facilities. He assumed the throne seven months before, after his father, King George V died. He reigned from January to December 1936. He was also the first monarch to be a qualified pilot.

Towards the end of the year, No. 38 Squadron began to replace their Heyford bombers with the Fairey Hendon Night Bomber. The first one arrived at RAF Station Mildenhall on November 20, 1936. These were not new bombers. The Fairey Hendon first flew in November 1930 but because of a prolonged series of trials, they were not ordered into production until the spring of 1934. Even then, only 14 Fairey Hendon were ordered, and they all served with No 38 Squadron between 1936 and January 1939.



Fairey Hendon Night Bomber