



1937

On January 16, 1937, No. 3 Group moved from Andover to RAF Station Mildenhall. The building they used later became home to Third Air Force, and in April 2008, the consolidated home of the 100th Air Refueling Wing.



Building used by the NO. 3 Group

A new unit with new aircraft arrived on RAF Mildenhall that later became home to Third Air Force, and in April 2008, the consolidated home of the 100th Air Refueling Wing.

A new unit with new aircraft arrived on RAF Station Mildenhall on April 12, 1937. It was the No. 149 (East India) (Bomber) Squadron, and they brought Wellington Bombers with them. No. 149 Squadron formed from part of the No. 99 Squadron and was one of several commonwealth units that operated out of RAF Station Mildenhall. This bomber squadron's motto was FORTIS NOCTE (Strong by Night). It operated from the station during WWII until April 6, 1942.



The Wellingtons pictured here are early models before the rotating gun turret replaced the single gun in the nose of the aircraft

On October 19, 1937, a German Air Force Mission visited the RAF Station Mildenhall. They inspected No. 99 Squadron and No. 149 Squadron and also received a fly-past by various new medium and heavy bombers. RAF Command instructed the crews of the British bombers to give misleading information about their aircraft when asked by members of the German mission.



Top-level German Mission inspecting bombers of No. 99 and 149 Squadrons. The mission included Gen Erhard Milch, the architect of the German Luftwaffe.