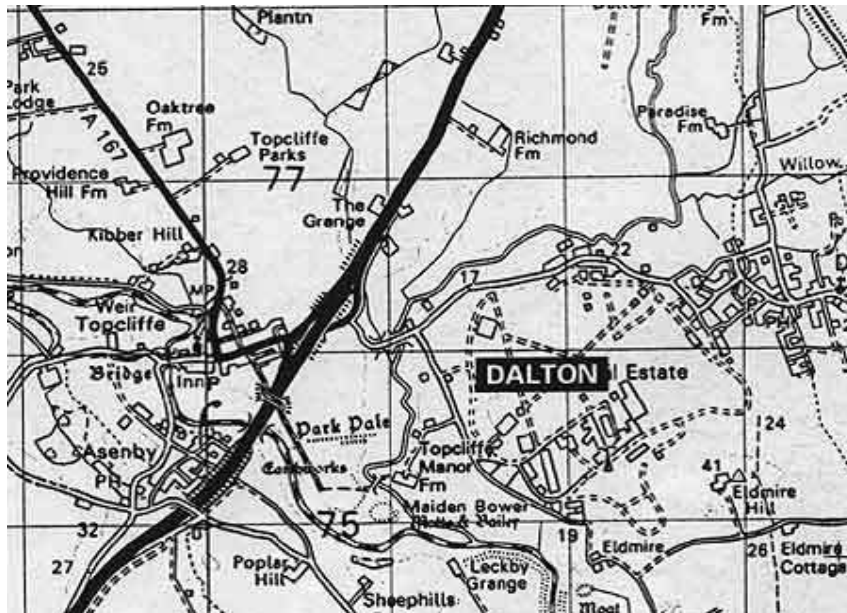


Dalton Air Station, Yorkshire - England



Dalton Air Station was initially a turf airfield that was cleared to be a satellite for Topcliffe. The site of the Dalton airfield was closer to the village of Topcliffe than the airfield so named. The village of Dalton is on the right-centre of this diagram.

In November 1941 concrete runways were constructed: Runway 08-31 was 3,300 feet in length and runways 06-24 and 12-30 were both

3,000 feet long. Thirty-six pan hardstands were located on a perimeter track.

With the improved surfaces, RAF Squadron No.102 with 'Whitley' aircraft flew on Operations from November 1941 to June 1942, when it moved back to Topcliffe. For a short time the Station hosted No.1652 HCU, until work began in summer 1942 to extend all runways. Runway 18-36 was now 4,200 feet in length, and runways 06-24 and 12-30 were extended to 4,700 feet and 3,700 feet respectively.

At completion of runway extensions in the autumn of 1942 – the airfield was allocated to No.6 (RCAF) Group, and RCAF Squadron No. 428 was formed at Dalton in November of 1942 – although still as part of No. 4 Group Bomber Command. Dalton Air Station was transferred to No. 6 RCAF Group on January 1st, 1943, and No. 428 Squadron commenced bombing operations to targets in Europe, on January 26/27, 1943.

For a few weeks in May, 1943 No. 424 RCAF Squadron was based at Dalton, preparing to depart for North Africa with Wellington B.Mk.X aircraft, as part of the newly created No. 331 RCAF Wing in Mediterranean Command.

RCAF Squadron No. 428 that had formed at Dalton in November 1942, was moved to Topcliffe in June, 1943 – to make room at Dalton for No. 1666 Heavy Conversion Unit. Dalton Air Station was then designated as a sub-station of No.61 Training Base, with HQ at Topcliffe. No. 1666 HCU was moved to Wombledon, Yorks., in October, 1943, and for several weeks there were no training or operational units at Dalton Station.

No. 420 RCAF Squadron, on return from the summer operations with No.331 Wing in Tunisia; came to Dalton to convert to, and re-equip with Halifax Mk.III aircraft in November of 1943. The Squadron then moved on to Tholthorpe, and Operations – in December 1943.

RCAF Squadrons based at Dalton

No. 428 'Ghost' - No. 4 Group - November 7th, 1942 to December 31st, 1942

No. 428 'Ghost' - No. 6 Group - January 1st, 1943 to June 3rd, 1943

No. 424 'Tiger' - No. 6 Group - May 3rd, 1943 to May 15th, 1943

No. 420 'Snowy Owl' - No. 6 Group - November 6th, 1943 to December 11th, 1943

In December 1943, Dalton Air Station was transferred to No. 7 (Training Group) RAF, and no further RCAF units made use of the airfield during the remainder of the War.



Dalton Airfield in 2009 – the runways (no longer in use), and the perimeter track are still clearly visible. Most buildings are additions from the past fifty plus years of commercial activity. (Google Earth photo)

In August 1945, the RAF declared Dalton airfield as non-operational, and over the past fifty years the site has gradually been turned over to commercial and industrial use.

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