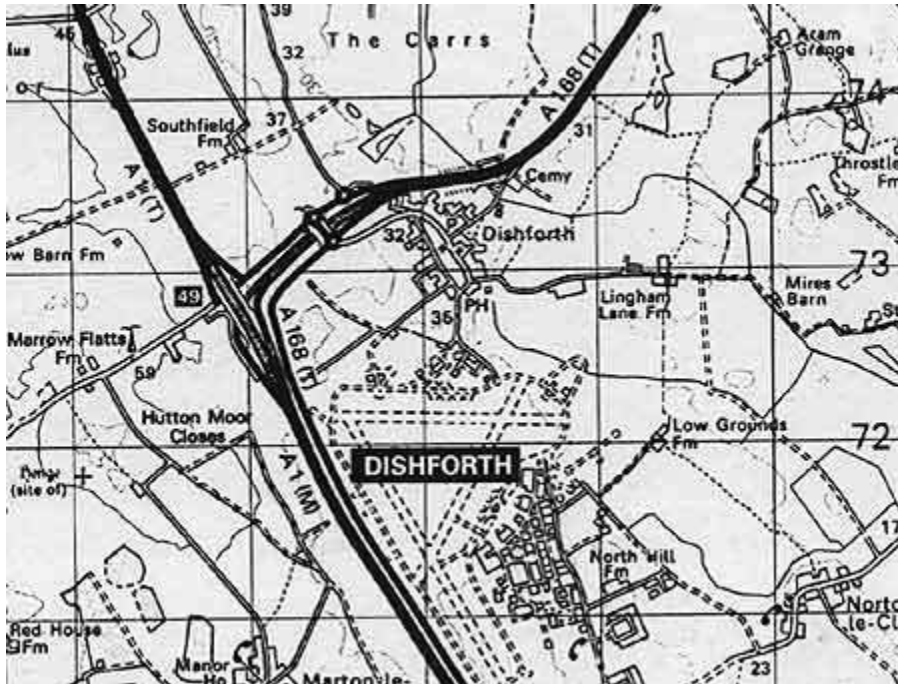


## Dishforth Air Station – Yorkshire, England.



The Dishforth Air Station was created in 1936/37, as a turf only airfield – of about 200 acres in area. The airfield was the home of several RAF reserve bomber Squadrons prior to the War.

From July 1940 to May 1942, RAF Squadrons Nos. 78 and 51 flew on bombing operations from Dishforth.

In June 1942 RCAF Squadron No. 425 was formed at Dishforth, and in October 1942 RCAF Squadron No. 426 was formed at that Air Station. Both Squadrons were equipped with 'Wellington' B.Mk.III aircraft.

In May of 1943, No. 425 Squadron RCAF was transferred to No. 331 RCAF Wing, Tunisia, and No. 426 Squadron to Air Station Linton-on-Ouse, Yorkshire.

From June to November 1943, hard surface runways were constructed at Dishforth, bringing the airfield up to RAF 'A' standard. Runway 16-34 was 5,900 feet in length, and runways 04-22 and 10-28 both 4,500 feet long. A perimeter taxiway, with 36 pan hardstands was also constructed, as well as living accommodations and support buildings for nearly 2,000 personnel.

Following the improvements to the airfield in November 1943, Dishforth Air Station became part of No.61 Training Base, No. 6 RCAF Group, with the transfer of No. 1664 Heavy Conversion Unit (Halifax B.Mk.III). For a short period in November 1943, No. 425 RCAF Squadron (returned from Tunisia) occupied the airfield for Halifax conversion, moving in December to Tholthorpe Air Station. For the remainder of the War, Dishforth functioned only as Training Station.

At the end of the Second World War, Dishforth became a Training Station for RAF Transport Command; then as an Operational Conversion Unit – remaining as a functioning RAF Base until late 1961.

Dishforth remains a Relief Landing Field for aircraft from RAF Linton-on-Ouse, and other RAF flying Units.

## RCAF Squadrons based at Dishforth, Yorkshire.

No. 425 'Allouette' - No. 4 Group - June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1942 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1942  
No. 425 'Allouette' - No. 6 Group - January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943 to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1943  
No. 426 'Thunderbird' - No. 4 Group - October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1942  
No. 426 'Thunderbird' - No. 6 Group - January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943 to June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1943  
No. 425 'Allouette' - No. 6 Group – November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1943 to December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1943

\* Both No. 425 and No. 426 Squadrons RCAF at Dishforth Air Station were part of RAF No. 4 Group, until the formation of No. 6 Group RCAF in late 1942.

(No. 425 'Allouette' Squadron transferred to No. 331 (RCAF) Wing – Tunisia, Mediterranean Air Command: 16 May 1943 to 5 November 1943 – and then returned to Dishforth on Operations with Halifax B.Mk.III aircraft in November 1943).



*Dishforth Air Station RAF – 2009 – Runways and buildings well maintained. (Google Earth photo)*

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