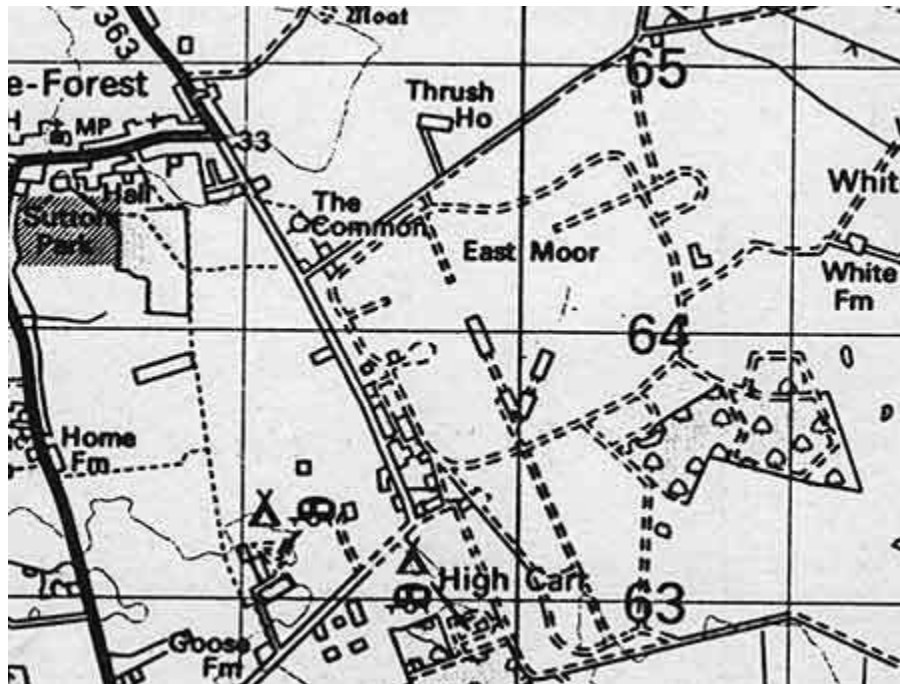


## East Moor Air Station - Yorkshire, England



East Moor Air Station was located seven miles north of the City of York. The airfield was constructed in 1942. Runway 17-35 was 5,700 in length, runway 04-22 was 4,500 feet, and runway 08-26 4,300 ft.

The usual perimeter track led to 36 pan type aircraft hard stands. There were and accommodations and support buildings for 2,500 personnel.

East Moor opened in Mid-June 1942, as an Operational Station with RAF No. 4 Group. RAF Squadron No. 158, with Halifax B.Mk.III aircraft operated bombing missions from East Moor until October, 1942 – in preparation for the airfield to be turned over to the newly formed No.6 (RCAF) Group.

No. 429 Squadron RCAF was formed at East Moor in November, 1942 with Wellington B.Mk.III aircraft and became Operational with a bombing mission on January 26<sup>th</sup> - as part of No. 6 RCAF Group. No. 429 RCAF Squadron was moved to Leeming Air Station in August of 1943.

For eight months in 1943, East Moor was home to No. 1679 Heavy Conversion Unit, to provide training for three RCAF Squadrons that were to fly the radial-engined Avro Lancaster Mk.II. In December 1943, No. 1679 HCU was moved to Wombledon, Yorks.

In September 1943, No. 432 Squadron RCAF converted to Lancaster Mk.II aircraft at East Moor, and for several months flew that type on Operations from East Moor. But due to the shortage of B.Mk.II aircraft, the Squadron again converted at East Moor to Halifax B.Mk.III aircraft in February, 1944.

In Late July, 1944, No. 415 'Swordfish' Squadron RCAF was transferred from Coastal Command to No. 6 RCAF Group – at East Moor, and became Operational with Halifax B.Mk.III aircraft. No. 415 Sqdn. flew a first mission from East Moor on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1944.

Nos. 415 and 432 RCAF Squadrons remained the sole occupants of East Moor Air Station until the last bombing operations on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Both Squadrons were disbanded at East Moor Air Station in May, 1945.

After the departure of the RCAF Squadrons from East Moor in May, 1945 – RAF No.54 Operational Training Unit occupied the airfield for about one year before moving to Leeming Air Station. In 1946, the airfield was closed to flying activities, and all operating surfaces were allowed to slowly disintegrate. The hangars and many of the support and barrack buildings were sold and moved.

Over the past fifty years the site has been taken over for agricultural use; and a trailer park and light industry now occupies the former maintenance areas of the airfield.

**RCAF Squadrons based at East Moor Air Station, Yorkshire, England.**

- No. 429 'Bison' – No. 4 Group - November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1943
- No. 429 'Bison' – No. 6 Group - April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943 to August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1943
- No. 432 'Cougar' – No. 6 Group - September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1943 to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1945
- No. 415 'Swordfish' – No. 6 Group – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1944 to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1945



*The former site of East Moor, Yorkshire Air Station - (Google Earth photo)*

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