

RAF UPPER HEYFORD

I was promoted in 1970 and started my two year trek the length and breadth of the Kingdom as a leave relief. During this time I made a few visits to RAF Upper Heyford which was an enormous American base with a Preventive Officer on long term Detached Duty in charge.

The only thing that struck me was how the Americans had transported a whole chunk of America to rural England. I travelled from Heathrow through the lanes and byways of middle England until I saw a hand painted sign 'TO THE AERODROME'. The sign suggested one of those flying circuses we saw before the war where biplanes performed deeds of daring do on Saturday afternoons. I went around a corner and there was a gate guarding Main Street USA, complete with Bowling Alleys and Supermarkets and kids on bikes and some very fat women with their hair in curlers and enormous great motor cars with large tail fins covered with chrome plating.

At lunchtime the PO took me to the canteen for lunch which I paid for in Sterling and received my change in dollars and cents.

I did not think much of Upper Heyford and fortunately only had to visit a couple of times.

R.W. Gregory.