

RIDGEWAY MILITARY AND AVIATION RESEARCH GROUP



In association with the
Friends, Families and Veterans of Welford (FFVW)

Welcome to Welford's Historical Collection



RMARG welcomes you to this historical collection and hope you enjoy your visit today.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have – which we will do our best to answer!

If you prefer, you can visit our website at rmarg.org.uk or contact us via e-mail at rmarg@hotmail.co.uk

What is RMARG?

We are an all-volunteer group from a wide range of backgrounds. We hold regular monthly meetings on the last Thursday of each month (except December), where we have talks, slide and film shows together with visits to places of interest. We also have a small group of our members who meet each Wednesday to develop the collection.

The aims of the Group are:

1. To provide our members with an environment where they can pursue their interest in military and aviation history with like-minded people.
2. To promote understanding and appreciation of our military heritage and the debt we owe to our armed forces.
3. To research and record for future generations our military and aviation history, with particular reference to the Second World War.
4. To develop the exhibits as a resource for research and education.

Membership is open to all for a small annual subscription and new members will find a warm welcome. Please see the back of this leaflet if you would like to join. We have a comprehensive library containing books, DVD's and videos on military and aviation

subjects, which are available to our members.

We regularly have visiting speakers at our monthly meetings. These are all experts in military and aviation history and many have been, or are, serving officers in the Armed Forces.

The Historical Collection

The exhibits you will see today have all been collected and restored by amateur enthusiasts. The collection has been built up over the 20 year life of the Group.

We have a number of rare items on display such as the fully operational Link trainer. (Possibly the only working example left.) There is also the opportunity in our museum to explore the inside of exhibits as well as the outside. For example, the C-47 nose, a former D-Day aircraft, where you can sit in the pilot's seat and experience the "feel" of the machine not just the look.



Link Trainer

We have endeavoured to create a collection, which reflects the varied interests of our members and gives visitors a broader understanding of the subjects covered. For example upstairs we have an extensive display focussed

upon the Cold War operation of Greenham Common airfield.

The collection is a very much a work in progress with new exhibits being added regularly.

We are very fortunate in having, thanks to RAF Welford and in particular the United States Air Force, a secure facility in which to display our collection. We also have the added benefit of the upstairs meeting room, which can hold up to 80 people. This is regularly used for our monthly meetings and for events such as the Remembrance Day service.

We have a strong relationship with USAF at RAF Welford who are very supportive of our work.

RAF Welford

The airfield was originally intended as a training base for RAF bomber crews. However, with the establishment of overseas training facilities and the need for operational bases in this country, it was allocated to the 9th USAAF as a Troop Carrier Base, along with its sister airfields of Aldermaston, Greenham Common, Membury and Ramsbury.

From late 1943 until the end of the War this airfield was active with C-47's

and gliders, both the British Horsa and the US Waco.



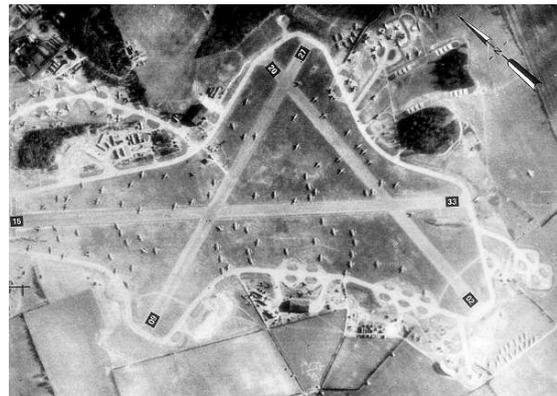
Horsa



Waco

After the War, the base was run down. As the Cold War began in earnest, its secure location made Welford an obvious choice for munitions storage for the USAF bases in the area, including the revamped Greenham Common, Brize Norton, Fairford and Upper Heyford. Recently the 50th anniversary of the reopening of Welford was celebrated.

Most of the upstairs display is devoted to recognition of the base activities over those 50 years, under the auspices of the Friends, Families and Veterans of Welford (FFVW). This organisation maintains links with current and former serving personnel, both US and British, and serves to encourage the camaraderie that exists between them.



Welford Airfield – May, 1944

Membership Details (* Required Fields)

*Date of Application: -

*Surname: - *First Name: - *Middle Initial: -

*Contact No: -

*Address: -
.....
.....

*Nationality: -

*Passport or Photographic Driving Licence No: -

E-Mail Address (Optional): -

*Car Details	*Year	*Make	*Model	*Registration No
Primary Vehicle.
Secondary Vehicle. (If applicable)

Any military interests, particular skills or information you wish to make available please list below.

.....
.....

All details supplied are for membership records only and will not be disclosed to any other party.

Many thanks for your enquiry regarding the above group.

We hold our regular meetings at RAF WELFORD north of Newbury on the last Thursday of each month (except December). Our “window” for entry on base is between 7:30 pm and 8:00 pm. Since our meeting place is an active military site, we do like to be prompt. Meetings normally finish by 10.30 pm.

It is obviously desirable that we have your details on file before you visit. This makes life easier for all concerned.

There is a £10 annual membership fee payable on joining, renewable in April and also a fee of £1 per meeting to cover the cost of speakers etc.

We will be pleased to welcome you at any of our forthcoming meetings or events but ask you to complete and forward the separate membership record slip above with a cheque or postal order for £10 made payable to: -

Ridgeway Military And Aviation Research Group or R.M.A.R.G.

Also, we request a recent passport size photograph of yourself to enable us to make up your membership card/security pass, which you may keep until leaving the group. This should be shown to the MOD Police on entry to the base. A temporary membership card will be sent as soon as your records are on file.

Please remember to bring your card with you to meetings and try not to loose it, as you may be charged a nominal fee for a replacement.