

America next the sea

How Wells missed out

North Creake aerodrome was constructed in 1942/43 but at that time, priority for materials was given to Sculthorpe which was the home for important combat squadrons. North Creake was operational for the last two years of the War. At this time consideration was being given to an insurance against the failure of 'Overlord' (D-Day), in this respect it was decided that a Very Heavy Bomber base was needed for American B29 bombers of the type soon to be active over Japan.

Eventually the Air Ministry chose Sculthorpe over North Creake, *why* is reason for discussion. Both airfields were on land belonging to the Holkham Estate so any opposition from that quarter can be discounted. They both required extensive diversion of public roads. Perhaps there was a requirement for access to a substantial railway station, in those days rail was the preferred option for moving bulk freight. Perhaps the land at Sculthorpe was more robust for the heavier loads. In the event neither the bombers or Sculthorpe were ready at the time. Sculthorpe was quiet for the remainder of the war apart from the sound of construction machinery while North Creake was kept busy and the B29 bombers were finishing off the war on Japan.

The bombers did eventually arrive at Sculthorpe but some years after the war and under different circumstances.

It can only be imagined what the area around Wells would have been like if the bombers had come to North Creake just a couple of miles down the road, it could well have ended up as America next the sea!