

Tankers

One of the interesting sights when the 47th Bombardment Wing (47BW) was at Sculthorpe was the sight of the KB50 tankers with their high tails cutting through the air when on their finals.

The KB50 was developed from the B50D bomber with the inclusion of the British type three point refuelling system known as the KB50D. It was quickly introduced into the 420 Air Refuelling Squadron (420ARS) who were part of the 47BW and also supported fighter squadrons for the 49th Air Division.

The 420ARS was formed specifically for the use of Tactical Air Command.

Many KB50s were further modified by the inclusion of two additional jet engines these were designated KB50J and were compatible with the new B66 aircraft now re-equipping the 47BW and within a few months the 420ARS was fully equipped with this new model.

The NB50Js of the 420ARS were the last aircraft to leave Sculthorpe after the 47BW was deactivated they left for the US in March 1964 where the 420ARS was inactivated the following month.