

WIGSLEY 1654 HCU

After our Tour ended, with a spot of leave including a trip to London to get new uniform (from Savile Row) I found I was posted to Wigsley (Training Command) as an instructor. Our pilot joined Transport Command, & did quite a few long flights to the Middle East & India, mainly in Liberators; The rest of our crew went on indefinite leave... Sid & Eric getting jobs in breweries.

At Wigsley, along with other Con' Units, crews were training ready to join squadrons destined for bombing Japan, mainly to fly in in Lincolns (plus the modified Lancs of 617 & 9 Squadrons)... the Tiger Force; Initially, Tiger Force was to be quite big, but the U.S. air force reckoned they had the job under control with increasing production of B29's... they wouldn't give up an airfield to the RAAF until political pressure ensured that Okinawa could be used... but the number of squadrons in the Force, was curtailed.

On cross-country navigation exercises I went along as (instructor) for a total of about 64 hours, but most of our work was in class-rooms, mainly doing "dry-swims"... simulated long-distance flights with enough information for navigators to produce detailed log & chart for a "trip".

We also flew some ferry trips... Sterlings to Northern Island & Lancasters to Roughton (a fighter drome in Devon?). Also did a 'Cook's Tour' including some of the places we bombed.

We were still in a classroom when the Atom Bomb was dropped... instruction ceased... adjourn to the Mess.

2 anecdotes: Twitcher Kennedy

Intrusion by Me 110's... duty Nav.