



Ministry  
of Defence

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Mr. D. Henwood,  
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12 August, 2020

Dear Mr. Henwood,

Thank you for your enquiry, which we received on 17 July.

I am sorry to say that we cannot add much to your story. The Civilian Repair Organisation came under the Ministry of Aircraft Production rather than the Air Ministry or the RAF, and as such we only have very basic details in our Second World War collections. Most of the surviving paperwork to do with the CRO is now held at The National Archives at Kew, and while ordinarily we would be able to recall those files for research purposes, that service has been suspended due to the current emergency. Unfortunately, I cannot find anything in our records specifically about the airfield/site in question.

I can say that the Civilian Repair Organisation provided a vital additional capability to the RAF's own repair facilities. By the end of the Second World War, over 80,000 aircraft had been repaired or refurbished by the CRO and returned to the RAF for operational use – airframes that would otherwise have been either scrapped or spent months waiting for attention at RAF depots due to lack of capacity. More than half of the aircraft used by the RAF in the UK passed through the CRO. Many of these would otherwise have needed replacing, greatly inhibiting the build up of the RAF's fighting commands.

I hope that this helps you with your research.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Hadaway