YEAR 2 HISTORY | LOCAL HISTORY

RAF Burtonwood

Why is RAF Burtonwood important to the history of Warrington?

1940
RAF Burtonwood opened to look after aircraft.

1942
The American air force took over the base.

Today
Some land is used for homes and businesses.

What we need to know

Where was it?
RAF Burtonwood was an airbase near Warrington, close to our school.

What work happened there?
Workers stored, checked and repaired planes. This helped keep aircraft ready to fly during the Second World War.

How did it affect local people?
Some locals made friends with American airmen. Some moved to the USA. People had different views about living near the base.

What do people remember?
Entertainers such as Bob Hope visited. People enjoyed music and dancing, including the jitterbug.

What has changed?
The base closed. The RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre uses photos and objects to help us learn about its past.

Key words

RAF Royal Air Force, Britain's air force.

USA United States of America.

air force The part of a country's armed forces that uses aircraft.

airbase A place where military aircraft and their crews work.

source Something that gives us clues about the past, such as a photo, letter or map.

Can you remember?

1. What jobs did workers do at the airbase?
2. Who took over the airbase in 1942?
3. How is the land used today?
4. Why was Burtonwood important in the war?

Sources | RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre and Warrington Borough Council