

ECHOES OF EAST ANGLIA REPRINT

Martin W. Bowman

Oulton was the place we returned to when we'd been airborne for a while. To go to work every morning, we left our 'homes' at Blickling and rode by bus up to the Flights at Oulton. Blickling was our home in effect. Our Officers' Mess was at Blickling Hall and our Nissen hut billets only another 200 yards further on. When we wanted to have a bath, we walked over to Blickling Hall and up to the top floor of the old mansion where we got a cold (make that, frigid) bath. Sometimes we'd walk off the station, out past the guard-room and just across to the opposite side of the road to the Post Office there, where we would buy a cup of tea and a muffin or scone.

So recalls an airman in East Anglia during the Second World War. From airfields throughout the region such brave men flew into the cauldron of the European war, many never to return. Along with photographs of the airfields, wall art, and the echoing remains of all that now survives of their bases, such poignant reminiscences make up this tribute to those who briefly made East Anglia their home in time of war.

Martin Bowman is among the best-known aircraft photographers in the country and he has explored the many Second World War airfields in East Anglia, taking evocative photographs of all that remains, from ghostly control towers to the graffiti and wall art left by the airmen, many of whom flew to their deaths from this remote corner of England.

These airfields hold a fascination for many thousands who visit the area each year in search of this aspect of our military heritage. This book honours those who briefly made East Anglia their home and reminds us of their comradeship and bravery.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

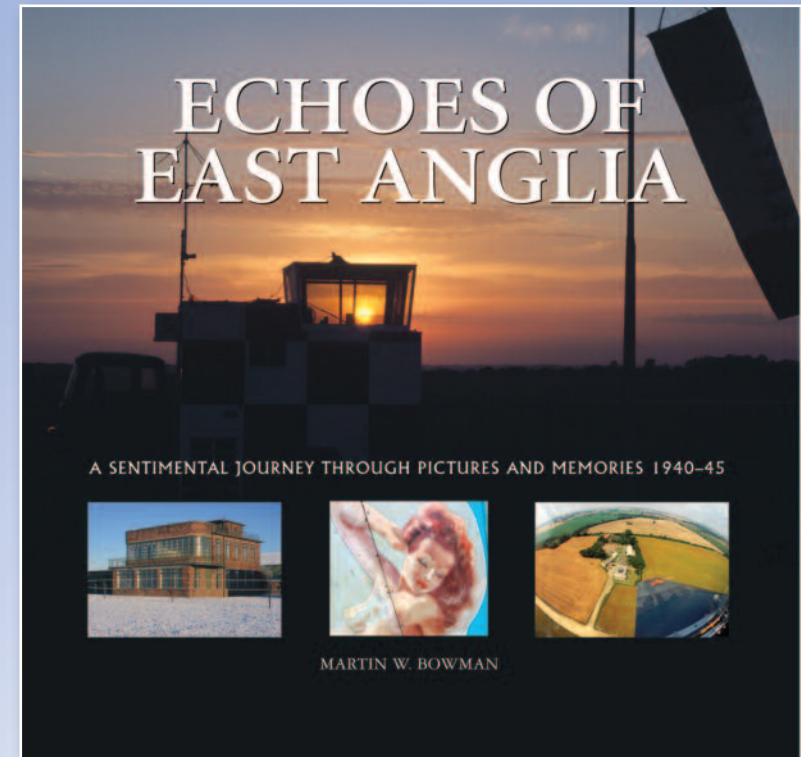
Martin W. Bowman's interest in Second World War and contemporary aviation was fired by the proliferation of US and RAF air bases in his native East Anglia. He is a widely respected military historian who has written over seventy books on aviation and other related subjects based on years of painstaking and fact-finding research, interviews and correspondence. His quest has taken him to all parts of the world, to twenty-one countries, including the USA, Africa, Australia and Russia and the world's war zones of Mogadishu, Somalia, and Bosnia.

Martin lives in Norwich, Norfolk, England and is active in historical research concerning East Anglia and the many RAF and USAAF squadrons that were based there during the War. He also has a passion for flying in military aircraft and driving British Racing Green sports cars.

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