

Exhibition Now on Tour!



We are happy to announce the schedule of our new touring exhibition!

Mark your calendars and tell your friends!

After a brilliant launch during our [Eighth East Festival Weekend](#) on the Waterfront at [UCS Ipswich](#), our brand new Touring Exhibition is ready to hit the road! Based on local oral histories, this new exhibition explores the social and landscape histories of how the members of the 8th USAAF and the locals of East Anglia fought together, played together, worked together and sometimes even fell in love.

Check out our [Online Exhibition](#)!

8th in the East

Exploring the legacy of the USAAF



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ion, the men on base would begin
nally grab a few hours of restless
When they heard the droning of big
d head to the landing field to count
s, their crews and their friends
ry good chance they'd come back

As the planes approached the runway priority was given to those
serpent with wounded legged. They'd signal to the control tower to
bring real flames from the parapets, and ambulances would follow the
plane since it had to provide immediate assistance. Richard
Hubbard recalls the fear that the ground crews had while they
were awaiting the return of the planes and their crews.

"There's still one he stopped at the end of the runway. He didn't get
around onto the perimeter tracks, and he'd put red lights (flares) out
and he stopped and that was all because they went to fetch the
ground crew and he'd been waiting for them to come back."

The exhibit panel includes several photographs: a top image of a runway at night, a middle image of a plane on a runway, and a bottom image of ground crew members. A small inset photo shows a person in a cockpit.

Danger on the Home Front

"Nine men on board all killed. If he had crashed anywhere short of that storage yard he would've hit houses, and I hate to think how many people would've died."

On the Home Front - far from the risk of enemy fighters and flak - danger was a constant presence. Airmen, ground crew and civilians alike were constantly faced with the treacherous reality of the air war.

The challenges caused by working with heavy equipment, aircraft and explosives in poor weather conditions and within close proximity to populated areas proved deadly for many servicemen and put local civilian populations at high risk.

Ground crews too fought constant exhaustion and bitter cold working tirelessly for less than thousands of



From operations, repair centres, the engine maintenance units and the messes, the home front was the support of the front line and the air force. It was a constant presence in the lives of the people of the home front.

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mechanics which freed up men to fight on the front. Others volunteered with the Red Cross and took care of the men both on and off the bases.



Zera Hales remembers what it was like as a member of the Women's Land Army and her life in a hoozel near an American airfield in Tharburgh: "We were up at half-past four for a quick bowl of porridge, and then out to the cow sheds. It was nearly all hand milking then, and when that was done we would go to the kitchen of the farm house and have a cup of tea and a biscuit or something and then out into the fields to do hoozing and more hoozing... One very often didn't make the curfew. They used to have to haul me in through the window at the side of my bunk long after lights out."

Some of the local wives and mothers of East Anglia found a more entrepreneurial way to support the war effort. Make shift



Eighth in the East Touring Exhibition

- July 1 – 9 The Hush House, RAF Bentwaters, hosted by [Eastern Angles](#)
- July 11 – 27 [The Shuttleworth Collection](#), Bedfordshire
- August 1 – 11 [Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum](#), Flixton, Suffolk.
- August 13 – 25 [HMP The Mount](#), Bovingdon, Hertfordshire.
- September 23 – October 6 [Maids Head Hotel](#), Norwich.
- October 8 – 20 Norwich International Airport
- November 7 – 13 [The Mall](#), Luton, Bedfordshire.
- More dates to be announced soon! Please drop us a line if you would like to host the exhibition in the future.

You can also listen online to the oral histories of the people who have shared their stories for our exhibition. To hear their remarkable memories click play below.

We hope that you will come and see this great exhibition and continue to explore the history of the Eighth in the East.