

Royal Naval Air Stations

AIRFIELDS

SEAPLANE STATIONS

BALLOON STATIONS

AIRSHIP STATIONS

AIRSHIP SUB STATIONS

COMBINED STATIONS



The idea for this slideshow is based on the map on the left produced by the **Fly Navy Heritage Trust**.

One hundred years of Royal Naval Air Stations.

Maps used in our production are prior to the 1974 boundary changes.

Royal Naval Air Stations over the past 100 years

From a standing start on 7 May 1909 when the Admiralty ordered its first airship, Naval aviation progressed rapidly. The first four Naval pilots learned to fly at the first Royal Naval Air Station at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey in 1911. Once they had their wings, Naval pilots were quick to put their new found skills to use in the Fleet and the first dock takeoffs and landings were followed by a rapid succession of firsts in all aspects of aerial warfare. By 1918 the Royal Naval Air Service included 67,000 officers and men, 2949 aircraft, 103 airships and 126 coastal stations. Many of the latter, together with those of the Second World War still exist today but are now in alternative use such as Abbotsinch -

Glasgow Airport and Cranwell - the heart of the present day RAF. Others are business parks, supermarkets and commercial sites. If you live near a former Royal Naval Air Station that is now your local Asda or such, we would like to hear from you. As part of the ongoing work of supporting our Naval aviation Heritage, the Fly Navy Heritage Trust is keen to identify these former iconic Royal Naval Air Stations and formally dedicate them as Naval Aviation Heritage Sites. If you can help with this valuable and fascinating work please call or email Fly Navy Heritage Trust on 01935 842005 or officialnht.co.uk



While every care has been taken in the preparation of this slideshow, accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

Royal Naval Air Stations Over The Past 100 Years

The Admiralty ordered its first airship on 7 May 1909 and it is from this single standing point that naval aviation progressed so rapidly. The first four naval pilots learned to fly on the Isle of Sheppey in 1911, home of the first Royal Naval Air Station at Eastchurch. Once their wings had been awarded, naval pilots put their new skills to use very quickly. The Fleet experienced its first take offs and landings to mention just one aspect of aerial warfare and by the end of World War 1 in 1918 the Royal Naval Air Service could boast 67,000 officers and men, 2949 aircraft, 103 airships and 126 coastal stations.

Many of these coastal or naval air stations along with those that came into being during World War 2 still exist today, a few still in use by the Royal Navy. Others have become civil airports or have been taken over by the RAF and Army whilst some have, sadly, fallen into disuse and either left to fall down or have become industrial estates, business parks, leisure facilities or supermarkets; one has even become a reservoir. The Fly Navy Heritage Trust has identified and is keen to identify even more of these former sites and to formally designate them as Naval Aviation Heritage Sites.

Gill Charles
2010

SCOTLAND

Airfields

HMS Tern II, Skeabrae, Dounreay, Hatston
11944 - 1954. To Air Ministry 1954

HMS Tern, Twatt, Orkney
1942-1946. Satellite to Sparrowhawk 1941

Smoogroo, Scapa Flow
1915-1919

HMSSparrowhawk, Hatston, Orkney
1939-1945,
Became Tern II

HMS Robin, Grimsetter
Kirkwall, Orkney
1943-1945,
Ex RAF - tender to Sparrowhawk
- back to RAF

HMS Owl
Fearn/Evanton, Ross-shire
1942-1946
Transferred from RAF

HMS Fulmar
Lossiemouth
1946-1972
Ex RAF and returned to RAF

HMS Fulmar II
Milltown
1946-1972
Ex RAF and returned to
RAF - satellite of Fulmar

HMS Merganser
Crimmond/Rattery
1944-1946
Known as Crimmond until
1945 then Rattery

HMS Condor, Arbroath, Angus,
1940-1970,
Became RM Barracks

HMS Peewit
East Haven
Angus
1943-1946

Was to have been named Dotterel

Leuchers Fife
1914-1918
Then to RAF - lodger
basis
1935-38 &
1972-79

HMS Jackdaw
Crail, Fife
1940-1947
RNAS

HMS Jackdaw II
Dunino, Fife
1942-1946
Ex RAF

HMS Merlin
Donibristle, Fife
1917-18, 1939-59
Ex RAF between the wars

HMS Nighthawk
Drem/MacMerry, E Lothian
1945-1946
Tender to Merlin - on loan from
RAF and both returned

Turnhouse, Midlothian
-1918
RNAS - RAF lodger 1942-1944

HMS Fieldfare
Evanton Ross-shire
1920-1946
RNAS lodger between the wars

HMS Sanderling
Abbotsinch 1943-1963
Lodger basis from 1939
-transferred from RAF - to
Min of Av

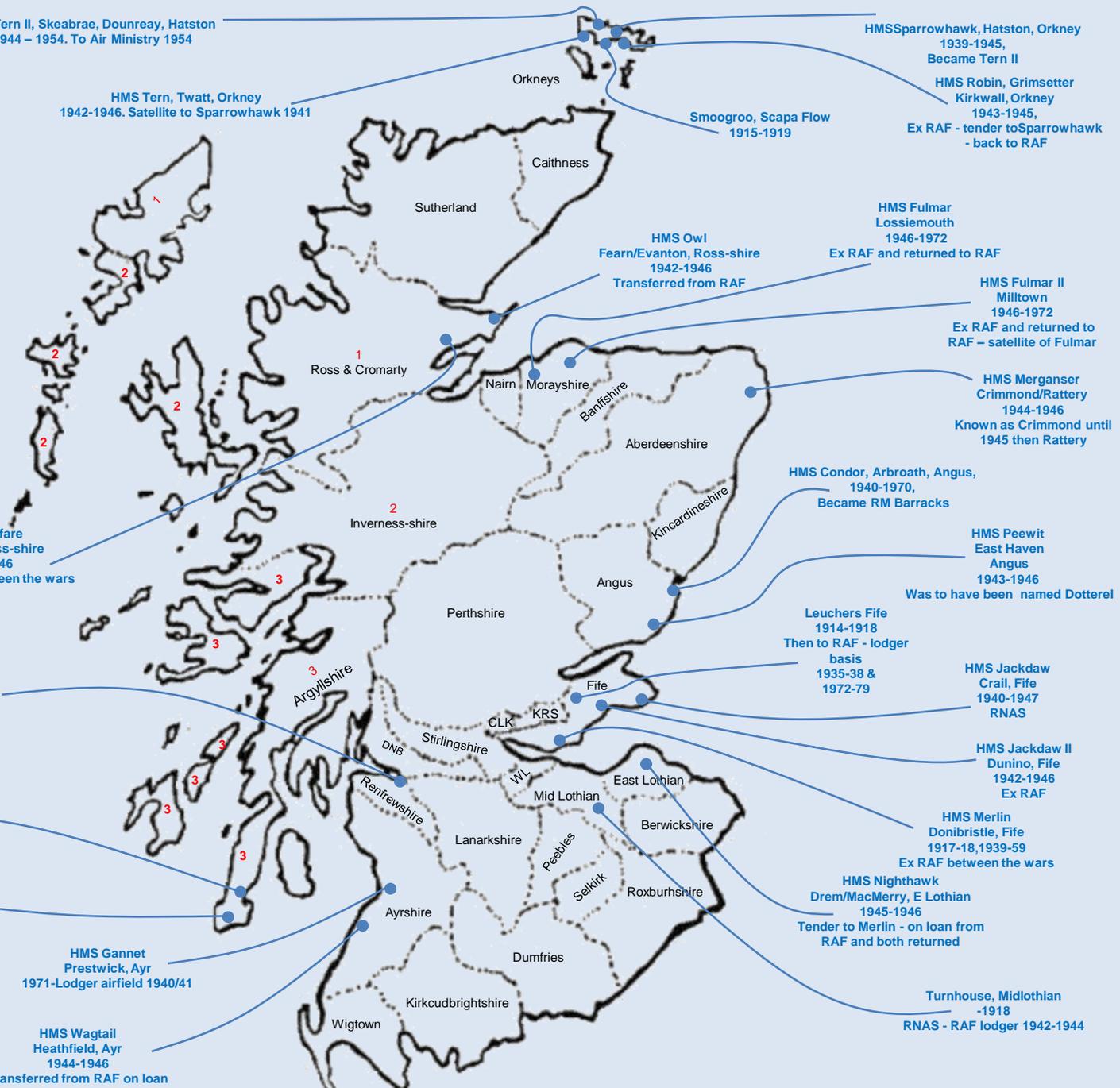
HMS Landrail II
Campbeltown
1941-1945

HMS Landrail
Campbeltown
1940-1941
Civil airport requisitioned
by Air Ministry

HMS Gannet
Prestwick, Ayr
1971-Lodger airfield 1940/41

HMS Wagtail
Heathfield, Ayr
1944-1946
Transferred from RAF on loan

DNB - Dunbartonshire
CLK - Clackmannanshire
KRS - Kinross-shire
WL - West Lothian



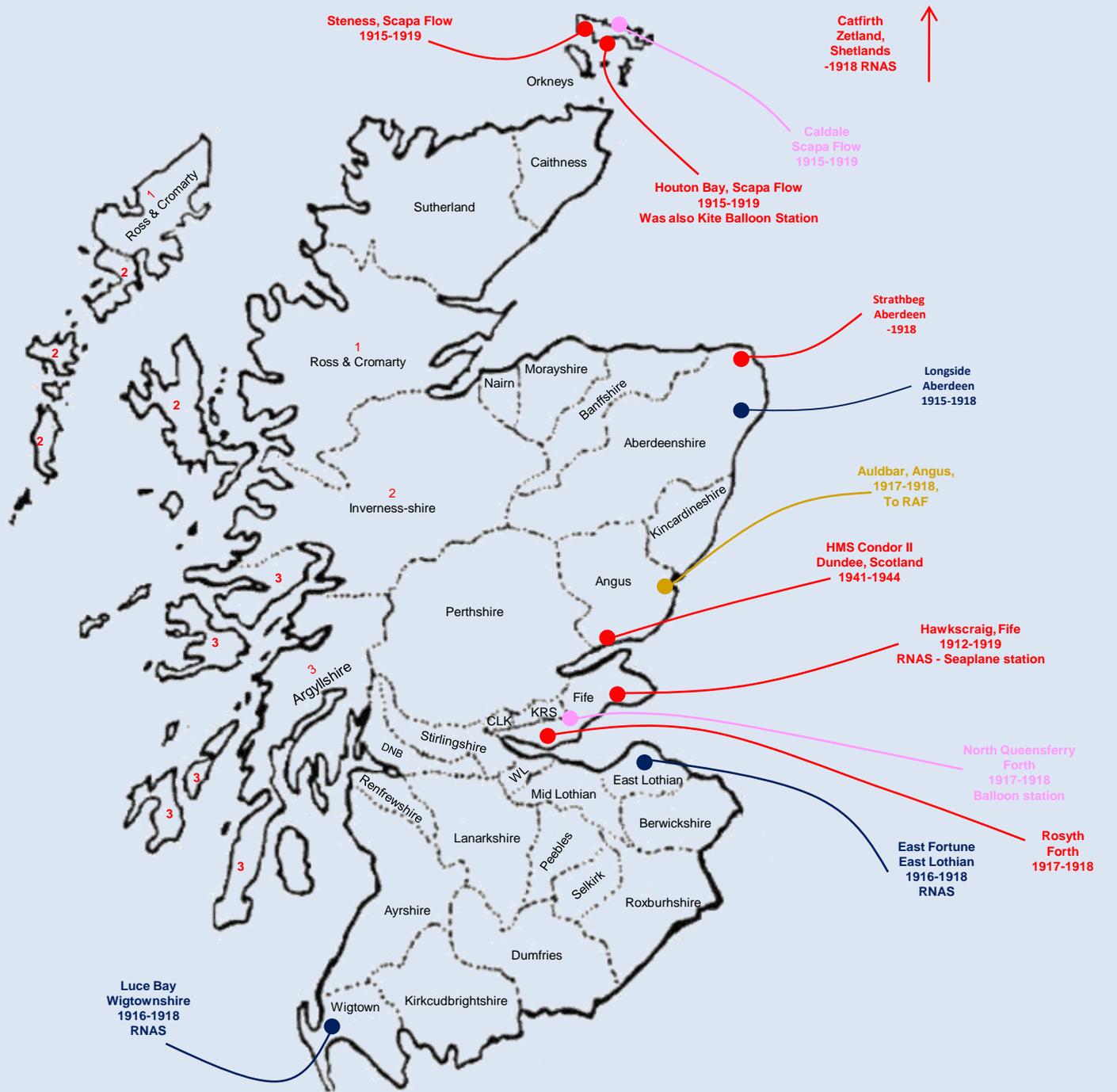
SCOTLAND

Seaplane

Balloon

Airship

Airship Sub Stations



DNB - Dunbartonshire
CLK - Clackmannanshire
KRS - Kinross-shire
WL - West Lothian

Additional Information...

Lerwick Shetlands
1915-1918
RNAS - To RAF

Scapa Bay
Scapa Flow
1915-1919
RNAS

HMS Icarus
Houton Bay
Scapa/Caldale
1917-1918
Central depot for air
services Orkney

Swarbicks Minn
Scapa Flow
1915-1919
RNAS

HMS Campania
Scapa Flow
1914-1918
Used as Scapa seaplane
base, sunk in 1918

HMS Siskin
Dounreay, Caithness
1944
Ex RAF transferred to
RN but little used

Fort George
Cromarty
1912-1915
RNAS - Closed 1916

Lossiemouth Morayshire
WW1
RNAS - Combined station

Banff, Morayshire
Lent to RNAS for bombing 1947
- presumably Lossiemouth

Rattray, Aberdeen
WW1
RNAS

HMS Rattray
Crimond
1945-1946
Ex Merganser

HMS Dotterel
East Haven, Angus
1943
Original name selected
but opened as Peewit

Stannergate
Dundee,
1914-1918
RN seaplane site

HMS Sanderling II
Macrihanish
1946
Landrail paid off and
re commissioned as
tender to Sanderling

HMS Landrail
Strabane/Machrihanish
1941-1963
Strabane replaced by
Machrihanish -
Transferred to Air Min

Macrihanish
Argyll
1915-1918
RNAS

HMS Waterrail
Campbeltown
RNAS Campbeltown was
Landrail?

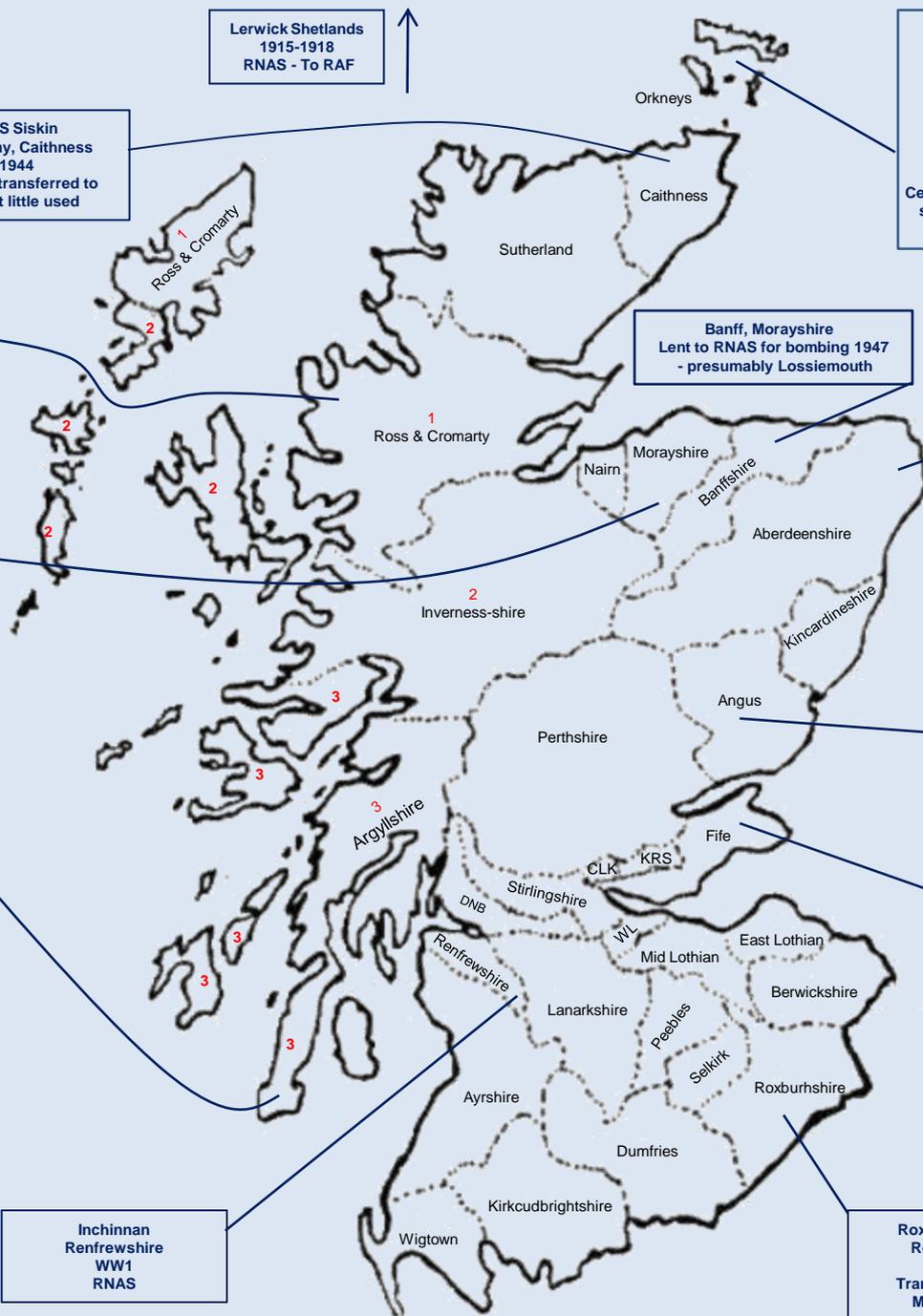
Inchinnan
Renfrewshire
WW1
RNAS

HMS Bruce
Crail, Fife
1947-1949
Ex Jackdaw - listed as
reserve air station until at
least 1960

Leven, Fife
1913
Naval airfield and camp

HMS Merlin III Dunino,
Fife
1945
Ex HMS Jackdaw II

Roxburgh, Kelso,
Roxburghshire
WW2
Transferred to Air
Ministry 1942

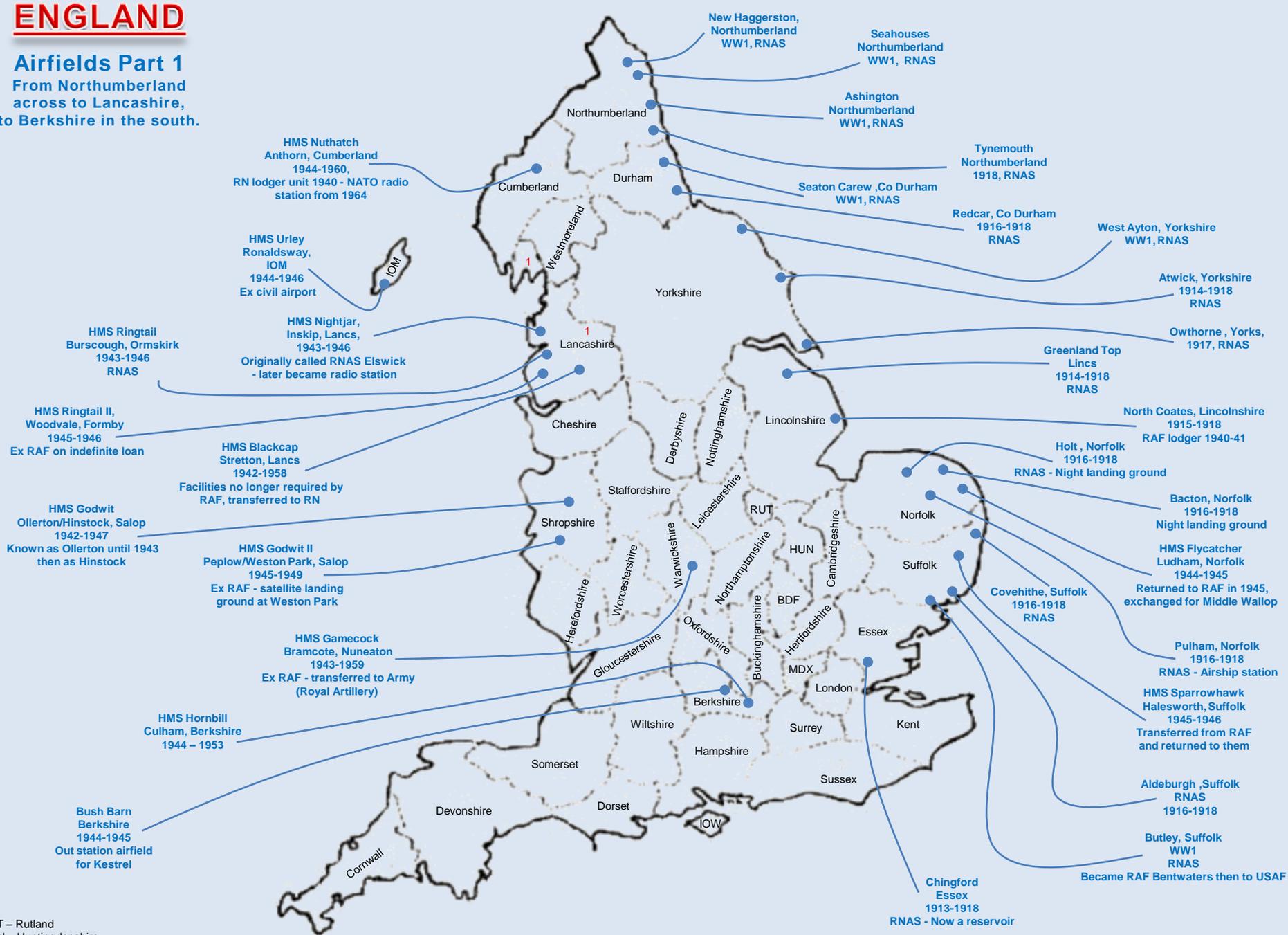


DNB - Dunbartonshire
CLK - Clackmannanshire
KRS - Kinross-shire
WL - West Lothian

ENGLAND

Airfields Part 1

From Northumberland across to Lancashire, to Berkshire in the south.

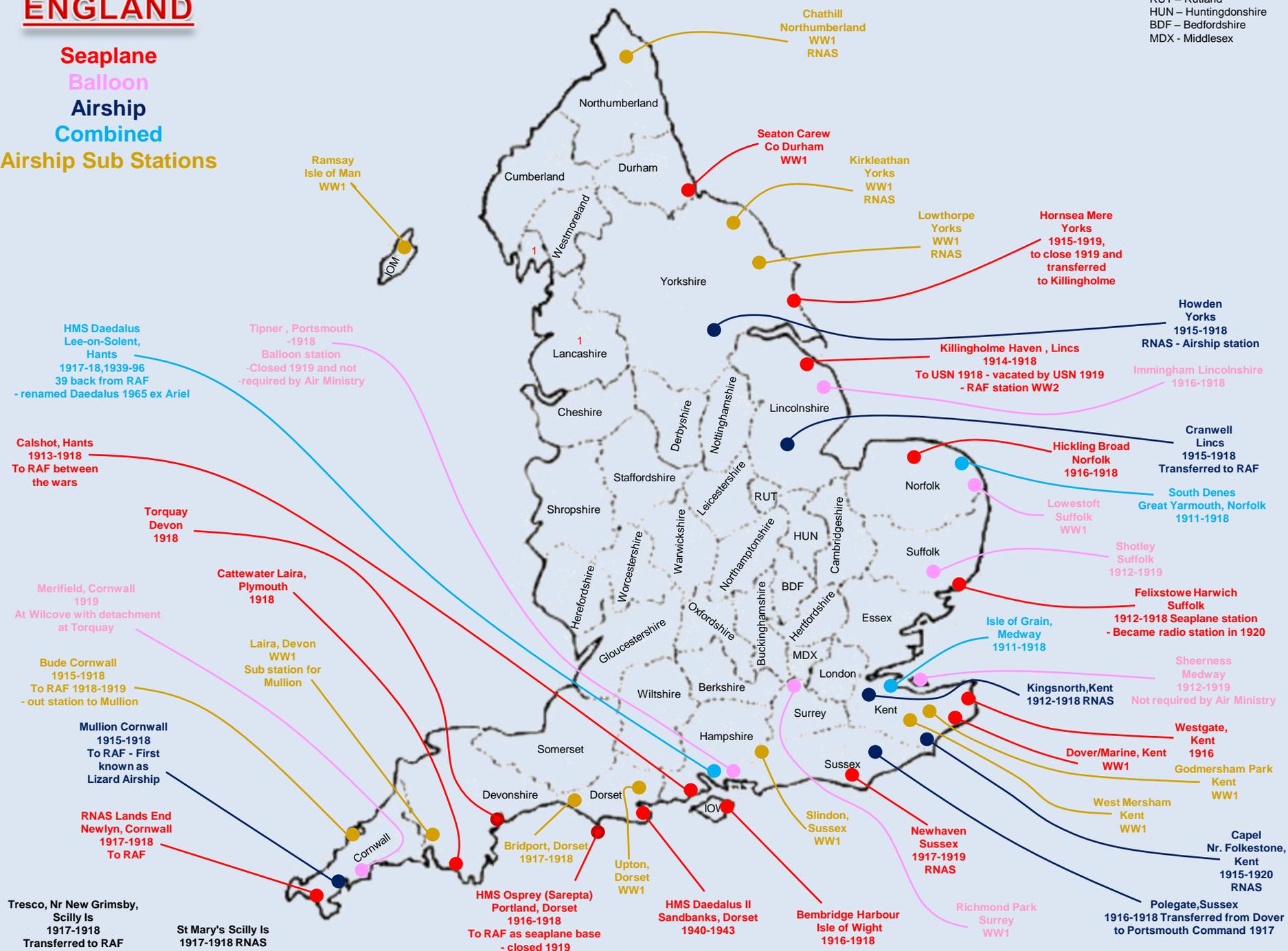


ENGLAND

Seaplane
Balloon
Airship
Combined

Airship Sub Stations

RUT – Rutland
HUN – Huntingdonshire
BDF – Bedfordshire
MDX - Middlesex



Additional Information...

Ramsay
Isle of Man
WW1
Airship sub station

HMS Humming Bird,
Zeals, Wiltshire
WW1
RNAS

Stonehenge Wiltshire
1918
RNAS

Mount Batten,
Plymouth 1917-1918
To RAF - Used by RN
between wars

Teignmouth Devon
1940
RNAS

RNAS Tregantle Ft
Plymouth
1917
RNAS

Tregantle & Withnoe
Plymouth
918
RNAS

HMS Heron II Henstridge
Marsh Som.
1941-1957
Commissioned as HMS
Dipper - tender to Heron

Fort Grange Gosport,
Hants
1914-1918
RNAS - Became No 1
Naval Air Squadron

HMS Woodpecker
Gosport, Hants
1945
Name proposed for
RNAS Gosport but
Siskin used instead

HMS Ariel Worthy Down
, Hampshire
Jul 1952-1959
Transferred from
Warrington

HMS Ariel
Lee-on-Solent,
Hants 1959-1965
Daedalus renamed
Ariel when ground
training moved there

HMS Daedalus III
Lee/Bedhampton, Hants
1943-1947
Also release centre -
known as Bedhampton
Camp

Lee-on-Solent
Portsmouth
-1918
RNAS

Arnold House
Farnborough, Hants
1912-1918
RNAS

Gosport Portsmouth
-1918
RNAS

HMS Ariel II (Culcheth)
Warrington, Lancs J
ul-Dec-1952
RNAS

Barrow in Furness
Lancs
1916-1918
RNAS

Cramlington
Northumberland
WW1 RNAS not
completed

Whitley Bay
Northumberland
1916
RNAS

Barlow Nr Selby,
Yorkshire
1916-1920 Airship
construction station
RNAS

Scarborough
Yorkshire
1915-1916
RNAS

Sedgeford Norfolk
1915-1917
Night landing ground
- To RFC 1917

Narborough Norfolk
1912 -1916
To War Office - later
became RAF Marham
..***
Burgh Castle Norfolk
-1918 Night landing
ground - RNAS

HMS Hornbill II
Beccles/Halesworth, Suffolk
1945-1953
Ex RAF - lodger facilities

Fairlop, Essex
1913-1918
Sub station to Chingford
- Now a Leisure Centre
...
Chelmsford, Essex
1915-1918
RNAS

Stratford London
1917-1918
To be Admiralty
Establishment

HMS Victory VI
Crystal Palace, London
1918
RNAS

Roehampton London
1918
RNAS

Wormwood Scrubs
London 1915-1917
RNAS

Eastcote,
Ruislip
WW1
RNAS

Lympe Kent
1914-1918
RNAS

HMS Pembroke II
Eastchurch,
Sheppey 1913-1918
Transferred to RAF

HMS Daedalus II
Lympe, Kent
1939-1940
EX RAF and
transferred back to
them

Folkstone Kent
1915-1918
RNAS - Also naval
base during WW1 -
closed 1919

Rochford, Kent
WW1
Transferred to War
Office 1916

HMS Bluebird III
Folkstone, Kent
1942-1944
Ex Air Sea Rescue
Folkstone

Detling Maidstone,
Kent 1916-1918 to
Military 1917
-RAF lodger 1940-
1941 - RNAS

Wittersham, Kent
WW1
RNAS

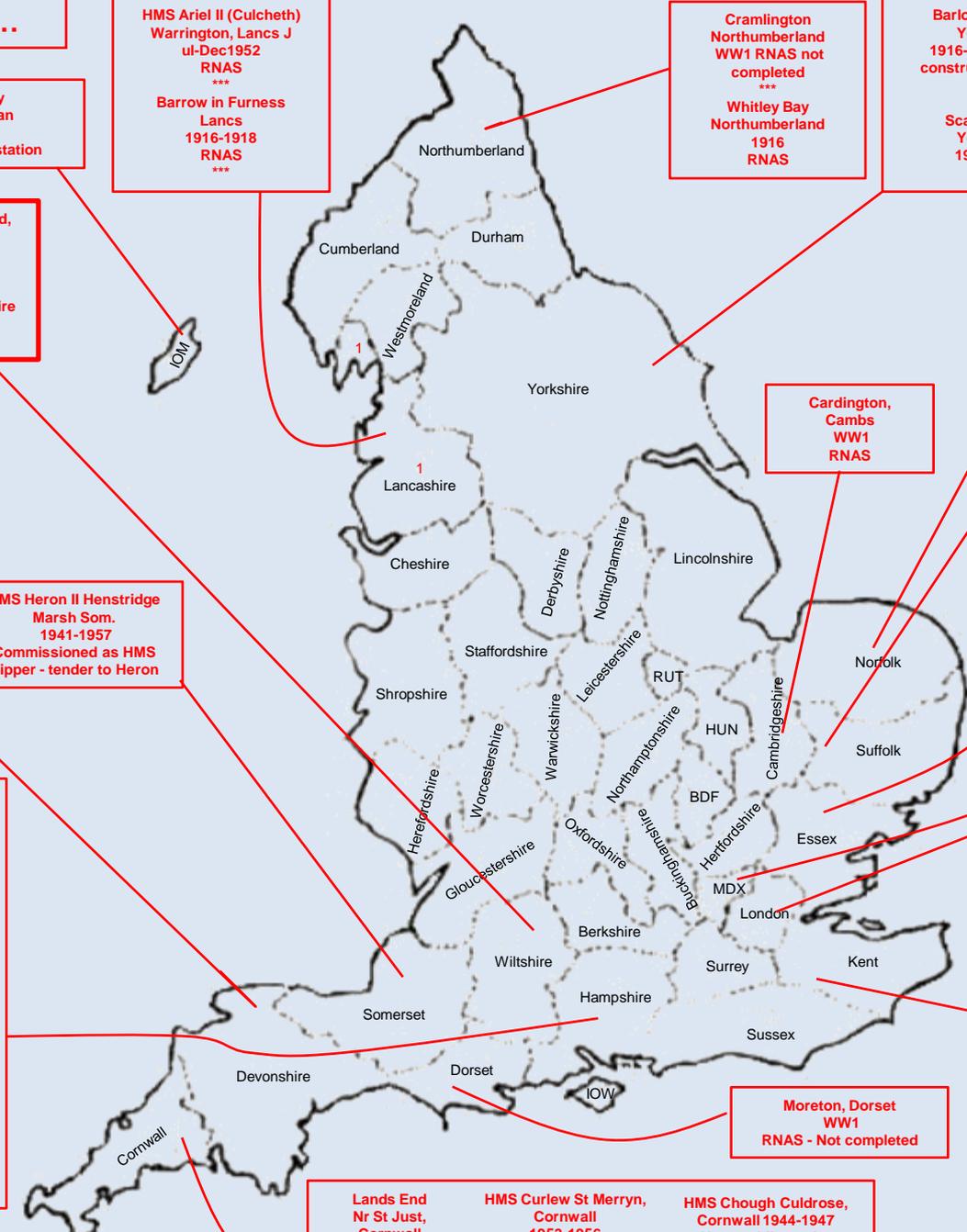
Ramsgate, Kent
1914-1918
RNAS

Lands End
Nr St Just,
Cornwall
1940
Temporary RNAS

HMS Curlew St Merry,
Cornwall
1953-1956
Transferred to Air
Ministry

HMS Chough Culdrose,
Cornwall 1944-1947
Name whilst under
construction, changed on
completion

Moreton, Dorset
WW1
RNAS - Not completed

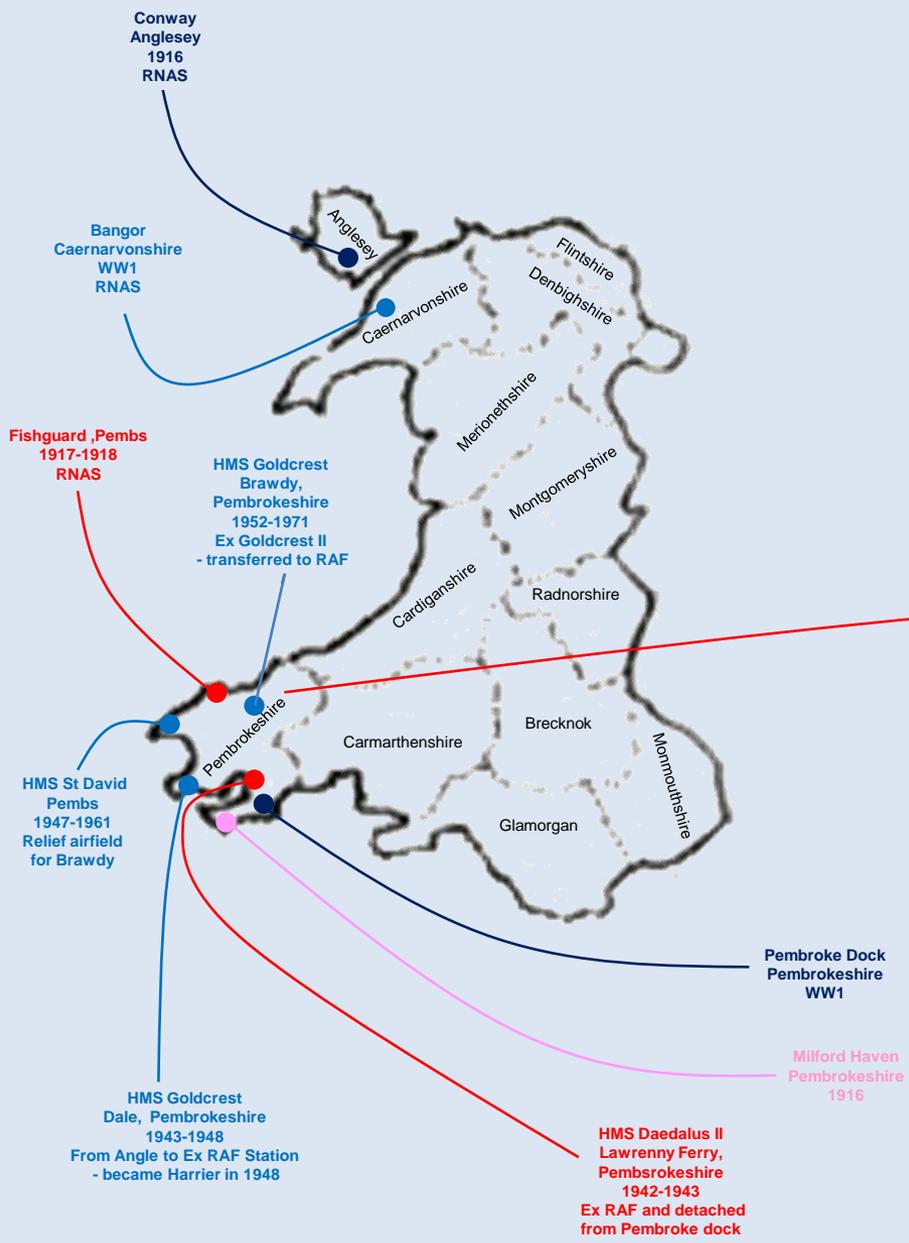


RUT – Rutland
HUN – Huntingdonshire
BDF – Bedfordshire
MDX - Middlesex

WALES

Airfields
Seaplane
Balloon
Airship

Additional
Information...



HMS Goldcrest Angle, Pembs 1943 Ex RAF and transferred back to RAF ***
HMS Goldcrest II Brawdy, Pembs 1946-1952 Ex RAF - Satellite to Goldcrest (Dale)

HMS Gannet II
Maydown,
Londonderry 1945-1953
Ex HMS Shrike

HMS Sea Eagle
Eglinton,
Co Londonderry
1959-1970
Ex Gannet

HMS Sealion
Ballykelly, Londonderry
RNAS Ballykelly
(Sea Eagle?)

Lough Foyle
Co. Donegal
1915-1919 RNAS

HMS Gannet II
Sydenham, Co. Antrim
1946-1973
Ex HMS Gadwall - to RAF

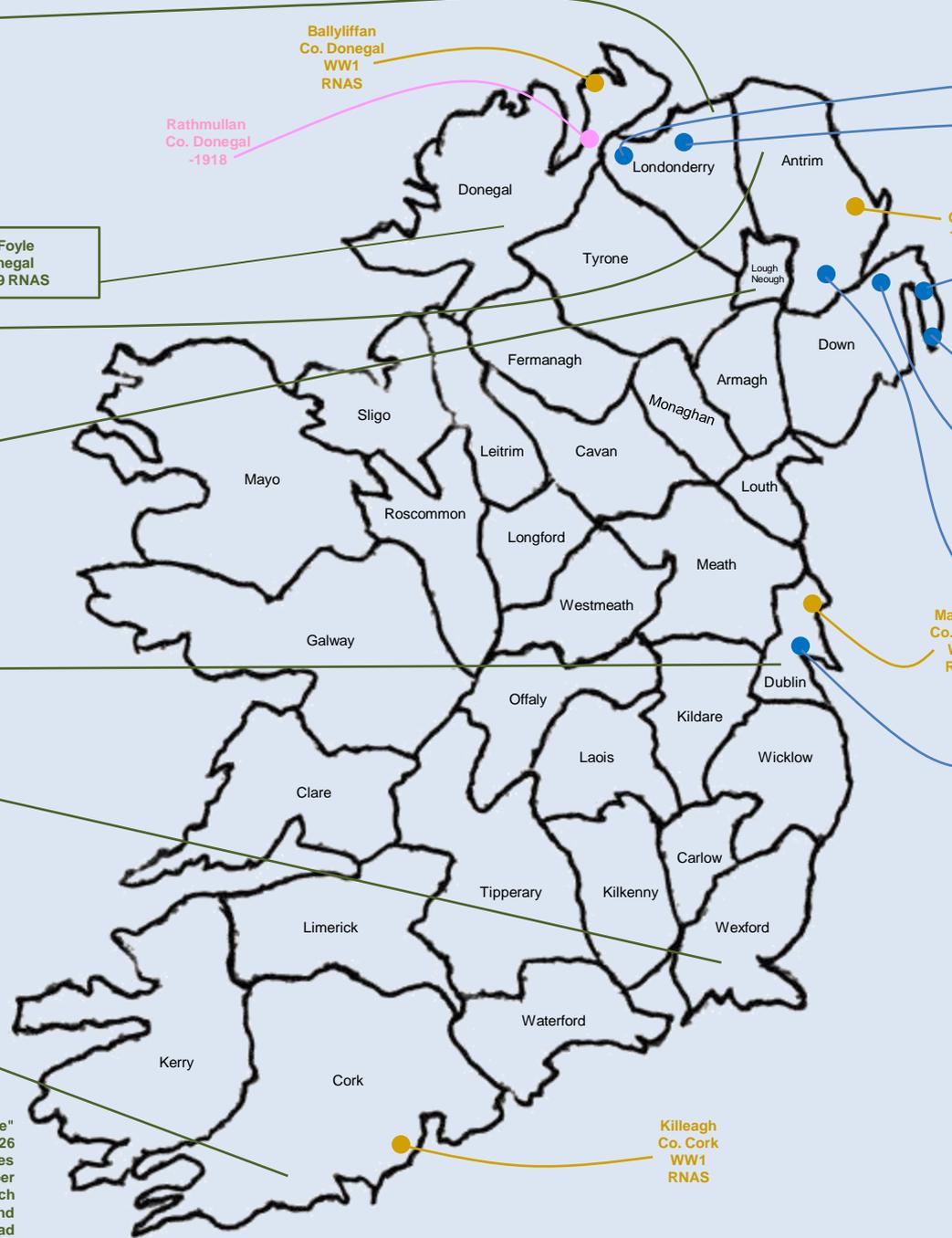
Lough Neough
N Ireland
WW1
RNAS Not completed

HMS Mermaid
Dublin
1916-1919
Closed 1919

Wexford
Ireland
WW1
Used by USN

Queenstown
Co. Cork
WW1
Used by USN not returned 1919
closed 1921

Whiddy Island
Co. Cork
WW1
Used by USN



Ballyliffan
Co. Donegal
WW1
RNAS

Rathmullan
Co. Donegal
-1918

Larne
Co. Antrim
1916-1918
RNAS

Malahide
Co. Dublin
WW1
RNAS

Killeagh
Co. Cork
WW1
RNAS

HMS Shrike
Maydown, Co. Down
1943-1945
Ex RAF - became Gannet II

HMS Gannet
Eglinton, Co. Londonderry
1943-1959
Lent by RAF, transferred to RN 1947,
reopened as Sea Eagle

HMS Corncrake
Ballyhalbert, Co. Down
1945
Transferred to RAF in 1946 with
RN lodger facilities

HMS Corncrake II
Kirkistown, Co. Down
1945-1946
On loan from RAF

HMS Gadwall
Sydenham,
1943-1946
Ex RAF Became
Gannet III

HMS Pintail
Nutt's Corner, Crumlin
1945-1946
From RAF - to RAF transport
command

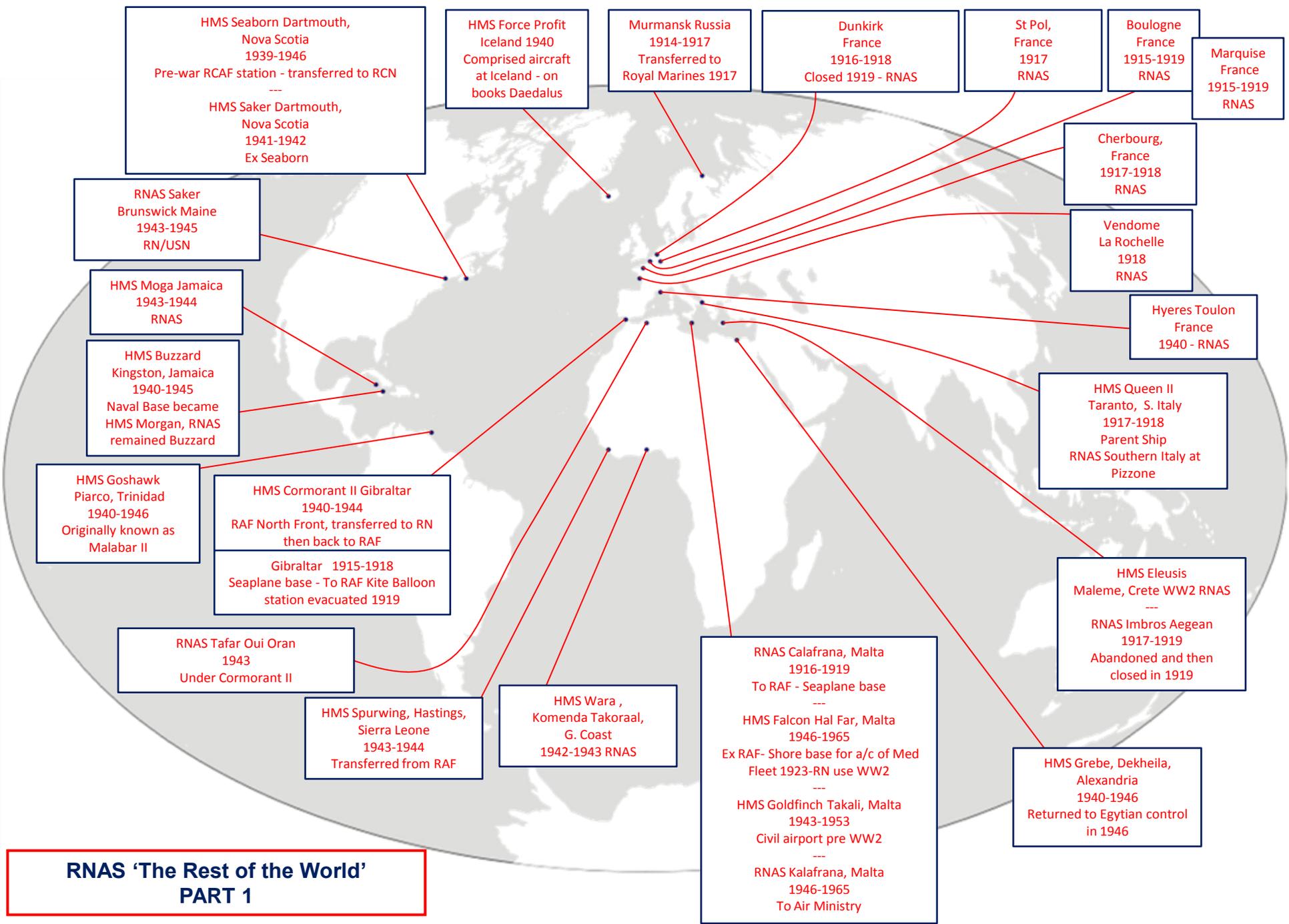
HMS Mermaid
Co. Dublin
1916-1919
Closed 1919

IRELAND

Airfields
Balloon
Airship Sub Stations

Additional
Information...

Under the Government of Ireland Act 1920, "Home Rule" institutions were created in two divisions of Ireland, 26 counties forming Southern Ireland and six counties forming Northern Ireland. This partition was copper fastened by the 1922 Anglo-Irish Treaty, under which Ireland left the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland rejoining two days later. Southern Ireland, which had never functioned as a separate entity, became the Irish Free State, now the Republic of Ireland.



HMS Seaborn Dartmouth,
Nova Scotia
1939-1946
Pre-war RCAF station - transferred to RCN

HMS Saker Dartmouth,
Nova Scotia
1941-1942
Ex Seaborn

HMS Force Profit
Iceland 1940
Comprised aircraft
at Iceland - on
books Daedalus

Murmansk Russia
1914-1917
Transferred to
Royal Marines 1917

Dunkirk
France
1916-1918
Closed 1919 - RNAS

St Pol,
France
1917
RNAS

Boulogne
France
1915-1919
RNAS

Marquise
France
1915-1919
RNAS

Cherbourg,
France
1917-1918
RNAS

Vendome
La Rochelle
1918
RNAS

Hieres Toulon
France
1940 - RNAS

HMS Queen II
Taranto, S. Italy
1917-1918
Parent Ship
RNAS Southern Italy at
Pizzone

HMS Eleusis
Maleme, Crete WW2 RNAS

RNAS Imbros Aegean
1917-1919
Abandoned and then
closed in 1919

HMS Grebe, Dekheila,
Alexandria
1940-1946
Returned to Egyptian control
in 1946

RNAS Saker
Brunswick Maine
1943-1945
RN/USN

HMS Moga Jamaica
1943-1944
RNAS

HMS Buzzard
Kingston, Jamaica
1940-1945
Naval Base became
HMS Morgan, RNAS
remained Buzzard

HMS Goshawk
Piarco, Trinidad
1940-1946
Originally known as
Malabar II

HMS Cormorant II Gibraltar
1940-1944
RAF North Front, transferred to RN
then back to RAF

Gibraltar 1915-1918
Seaplane base - To RAF Kite Balloon
station evacuated 1919

RNAS Tafar Oui Oran
1943
Under Cormorant II

HMS Spurwing, Hastings,
Sierra Leone
1943-1944
Transferred from RAF

HMS Wara ,
Komenda Takoraal,
G. Coast
1942-1943 RNAS

RNAS Calafrana, Malta
1916-1919
To RAF - Seaplane base

HMS Falcon Hal Far, Malta
1946-1965
Ex RAF- Shore base for a/c of Med
Fleet 1923-RN use WW2

HMS Goldfinch Takali, Malta
1943-1953
Civil airport pre WW2

RNAS Kalafrana, Malta
1946-1965
To Air Ministry

**RNAS 'The Rest of the World'
PART 1**

RNAS 'The Rest of the World' PART 2

Langata
Nairobi, Kenya
WW2 RNAS

HMS Kipanga II
Voi, Pt. Reitz,
Mackinnon Rd 1942
-1944/45
RNAS

HMS Kipanga
Killindini, Kenya
1942-1944
Depot for RN air
personnel ashore in East
Africa

HMS Kilele,
Tanga, Tanganyika
1942-1945
RNAS

HMS London Zanzibar
-1918
Closed 1919 - given in
exchange for Heligoland
in 1890

HMS Malagas
Wingfield/Wynberg, SA
1942-1946
Ex Union Government
airfield which was
developed

HMS Sheathbill
Pt San Carlos,
Falkland Is 1982
Unofficial name for
Forward Operating Base

Morib
Malaya
WW2
RNAS

HMS Rajawali
Morib, Malaya
1941-1942

Sembawang Malaya
1940-1971
RNAS

RNAS Selangor
Malaya
WW2

HMS Ukussa
Katakurunda, Ceylon
1942-1946
RNAS

HMS Bherunda
Colombo, Ceylon
1943-1945
Was Colombo racecourse,
RAF Station taken over by RN

HMS Rapax,
Hiswa, Aden
1944-1945
RNAS at RAF Station

HMS Maraga
Addu Atoll
1944-1946
RNAS

HMS Vairi,
Sular, Coimbatore, India
1944-1946
Transferred from RAF

HMS Rajaliya
Puttalam, Ceylon
1943-1945
Transferred to local
civil authority

HMS Bambara
Trincomalee, Ceylon
1944-1947
Transferred to RAF 1951
- known as RNAS Trinco

RNAS Kantali Ceylon
1944-1950
Returned to RAF

HMS Flycatcher
Kai Tak, Hong Kong
1947
Ex Nabcatcher
(MONAB VIII)

HMS Nabcatcher
Middle Wallop/Kai Tak,
Hong Kong
1945-1947
MONAB VIII

HMS Nabaron
Ludham/Manus, Adm Is
1944-1945
MONAB IV

HMS Nabstock
Middle Wallop/Marybrough
1945-1946
MONAB VI

HMS Nabreekie
Middle Wallop/Meeandah
1945
MONAB VII

HMS Nabberley
Ludham/Bankstown,
Sydney 1944-1946
MONAB II

HMS Nabthorpe
Ludham/Schofields, NSW
1944-1945
MONAB III

HMS Nabswick
Ludham/Jervis Bay/Nowra
1944-1946
MONAB V

HMS Nasar
Sembawang, Singapore. 1941-1942, RNAS

HMS Simbang Sembawang, Singapore 1945-1971
Administration transferred to ANZAV Force 1971

HMS Nasar
Sembawang, Singapore. 1941-1942, RNAS

HMS Albatross
Nowra, New South Wales
1944-1946
Used by Nabbington &
Nabswick then to RAAF &
RAAN

HMS Nabbington
Ludham/Nowra, NSW
1944-1945
MONAB I



Acknowledgements

‘Shore Establishments of the Royal Navy’ by Lieutenant Commander Ben Warlow R.N.

Fly Navy Heritage Trust.

Research and Map of the World - GWC