

68 AIR RESCUE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

68 Air Rescue Squadron

STATIONS

Burtonwood, England

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

3 Feb 53 During floods in the Netherlands, 12 aircraft (SA-16s, H-19s, C-47s, and C-82s) of the 66th, 68th, 69th, 82d, and 83d AR Squadrons flew 198 sorties, evacuating 161 persons and

delivering 32,900 pounds of relief supplies.

During early 1946 Air Transport Command formed Air Rescue Service (ARS) which was the backbone of support for downed airmen both on land and in the sea. Europe was covered by the 7th Air Rescue Squadron based in Tripoli, Libya. Various changes resulted in the activation of 9th Air Rescue Squadron at Bushy Park on 27 February 1951 with three Flights; one at Mansion, Kent; one at Prestwick, Scotland and C Flight at Burtonwood formed on 1 July 1951 with B-17 Flying Fortress aircraft, supported by the odd SC-47 Dakota. The B-17 carried a lifeboat supported under the fuselage that could be dropped into the sea. 9th Air Rescue Squadron became HQ 9 Air Rescue Group on 14 November 1952 and the Flights renumbered:—66 Air Rescue Squadron at Mansion, 67 Air Rescue Squadron at Prestwick and 68 Air Rescue Squadron at Burtonwood.

68 ARS shortly received Grumman SA-16 Albatross amphibious aircraft and Sikorsky H-19 Helicopters, both extending The capability of The Until considerably. The two helicopters were named "Whirl-o-way and Hop-a-long" joining the Squadron in August 1952.

By 1954 the 9th Air Rescue Group and its squadrons covered the Iceland to UK area; The 7th stretched from the Azores to Saudi Arabia and the 12th Central Europe. Under a reorganization the 68th ARS at Burtonwood was absorbed into The 67th ARS at Prestwick on 18 November 1953. Much later, during 1958, The 66th ARS at Mansion was also absorbed into the Scottish Unit. This ended the basing of rescue units at Burtonwood, the longer range SB-29 and HC-97 taking over.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.