

69th STATION COMPLEMENT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

69th Station Complement Squadron

STATIONS

Ramsbury, England

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

This unit was made up of 118 personnel who worked in such diverse trades as radio operators, aircraft mechanics, switchboard operators, motor mechanics, etc. The squadron was divided into different sections such as chemical or gas defence, post office, motor pool or flying control.

Perhaps the 69th's most high profile function was in the last named area where members of the squadron manned the control tower and the chequered van that guarded the approach to the runway in use. During the early months of 1944, when attacks by German aircraft were still a real threat, aircraft wishing to takeoff or land were always told by the tower to "take a green light from the caravan". There was a direct telephone link between the tower and the van and with the two working in unison this provided safe and efficient control of ground and air traffic at Ramsbury airfield.

Adjacent to the control room in the tower was a map room. This room held, for the benefit of pilots, a catalogue of up to date information about weather and airfield conditions across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Another of the squadron's duties was to maintain the emergency flare path (portable battery lights or goose neck flares) which were laid along the edge of the runway each night to be used in the event of a power failure. During 1944 Mr Gerald Theis from Minnesota was a Corporal with the 69th Squadron. He was often based in the control tower area and one of his daily tasks was to lay out the flare path. He was also responsible for maintaining and using the signal rockets and flare pistols which were fired into the air as a visual signal to pilots trying to land at Ramsbury in bad weather. The rockets were fired from mortars normally stored under the balcony of the control tower.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

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