

21st AIR DEPOT GROUP

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Bamber Bridge

Burtonwood, England,

Watton

Wattisham

Hitcham

Swanea

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The memories of some of the first Americans to arrive is summed up in some of their letters remembering their feelings at the time:— Ray F Hutton writes: "We arrived (5th Air Depot Group) around June 1942 and stayed at Canada Hall for a while then moved to BRD Site, (some of us were at Bruche Hall). I really served in the Medical Branch of the 8th Air Force so far as any information on the air units that were there is vague. The 5th ADG were in service and supply etc. The 10th ADG came later then civilian units from San Antonio, Texas were also part of the Base. Warrington was our haven during off-duty hours. We worked twelve hours on and twelve off — when possible we managed to get a day off. I really admired the people and young ladies of the

town. The base itself was rather small by comparison to other units but as you know it mushroomed to a beehive of activity". Glen Lundquist: "Had been working as an aircraft mechanic in sub depots in the States. Seven of us volunteered from Chamite Field, Illinois. We trained at Kelly Field, Texas. We shipped out in the Queen Elizabeth, landing in Scotland near Glasgow, taken by train to Burtonwood. I was first at Site 4 then to Site 1.1 was assigned to armament inspection on A Site. I was now doing a job after about three months in the Air Force. We inspected B-17, B-24, P-51 and P-38 aircraft working three shifts. When we arrived at Burtonwood we were put in a hut (empty) we put up beds and ate rations. We had no cooks and they asked for volunteers to learn how to cook. I had enough of volunteering and sat that one out. I did volunteer for Officers' Mess Orderly, it paid extra money. Waiting to get assigned to hangar work was very rough, things were not organized very well at first". John Diehr: "The 21st ADG sailed for Greenock on the Queen Elizabeth on 24 November 1942. The Repair Squadron under command of Captain George C Royall was the first American gun crew on the Queen Elizabeth and Captain Royall was given a letter of commendation by the British Gunnery officer by the name of Bullen. The 5th ADG already at Burton-wood was moved to Africa and 21st took their place. The 2nd ADG was at Burtonwood a few months prior to 21st. There was great rivalry between the two, though both lost their unit designation when assigned to Burtonwood. 21st arrived at Canada Hall until the Quonset hut sites and mess halls were completed in 1943. Canada Hall was down Padgate Lane a short way from RAF Padgate".

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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