

Translation of Danish Aviation Historical Review 4/2017 p. 18-19, [see photos](#).

See captions in English at the bottom of this translation.

Allied Planes and Airmen

By Anders Straarup.

The blue box, text by the editor:

The website AirmenDK www.airmen.dk was founded 10 years ago. From the start we supported Anders Straarup with his project of recording air crashes over Danish territory during World War II. During the 10 years Straarup has put a lot of work into the website and the outcome is far more detailed than we had imagined from the start. It has become a very important contribution to documentation of the subject and a weighty contribution to the history of Danish aviation. Carsten Jørgensen

On the tour in 2009 with Danish Aviation Historical Society led by Carsten Jørgensen we saw a 4,000 lbs. bomb on a Mosquito plane. However, none of the 14 Mosquitos mentioned on AirmenDK were loaded with bombs that powerful. On the longest raids the bombs had to be lighter, so that it became possible to carry more fuel. At the Shell House raid each Mosquito had 2 x 500 kg bombs.

After 10 years of research based on many sources, AirmenDK very surprisingly has a database comprising 463 allied planes and 3,088 airmen – the vast majority shot down over Denmark or Danish waters. The main page has **Planes – clickable map** and a similar one with **Cemeteries**, so it is possible to work your way systematically through a certain part of the country and find gravestones and monuments shown on photos on AirmenDK about allied airmen 1939-45. There is a Search form for the database and many **Tables with clickable lists**. In the tables there are 3 letters for each type of plane, here Lancaster, Mustang, B-17 and Halifax.

The numbers of visitors on the internet and at presentations show great interest. I appreciate approaches to correct and extend the contents – see contact details on About AirmenDK. Here you also see that the National Museum of Denmark will maintain my website once I have passed away.

The map of planes shows a concentration of air crashes in the southern half of Denmark. Planes to and from bombing raids on Germany and mine laying operations were attacked by the Germans to the best of their ability. Near Grønhøj between Viborg and Karup p114 LAN R5679 was shot down on 25 SEP 1942. All 7 airmen perished and were buried in Frederikshavn. Exactly 70 years and 8 months later we unveiled a Memorial stone to them. 27 standards, 250 people, and wreaths from civilian and military branches joined by support from many people showed a respect for the contributions of the airmen.

On 30 AUG 1944 586 Lancasters flew over North Jutland and neutral Sweden to Stettin and Königsberg (Szczecin and Kaliningrad). German fighters followed them across Sweden in combat with the bombers, and the Swedes guarded their neutrality by shooting down 3 bombers. 38 Lancasters were lost, including 12 over Danish territory – they are therefore included in AirmenDK. They are shown on maps and lists. Of 85 airmen of the 12 planes 73 perished, 9 became Prisoners of War and 3 evaded to Sweden.

This happened right after a new German order that "terrorflieger" were to be buried on the spot where they had crashed. The Vicar of Dejbjerg in West Jutland went to see the local commander and without success he drew his attention to the improper effect of that order. Then he went home and had a talk with good people so that the airmen of p371 LAN LM479 were buried in Dejbjerg Churchyard.

The Germans only locked up the vicar and a few others some days in Stauning, now the home of Danmarks Flymuseum! Near Estruplund east of Randers 3 weeks passed, before the Germans allowed Danes to collect remnants of the crew of p365 LAN PB143. The Germans had to decide how unpopular they would be.

A damaged Mustang escort plane from the Shell House Raid, p416 MUS KH446, had to make a forced landing in West Jutland, and then it became 1 of 19 planes which crashed around the Ringkøbing Fjord and are mentioned in the exhibition "Bombers in the night" at Ringkøbing Museum. My contribution was the exact locations of air crashes, and a computer for the use of the visitors near the reconstructed part of a Lancaster shows the page RKSK, also available from my main page, as an access to the 19 planes. Were the allied bombardments of German cities war crimes? See more on AirmenDK.

A friend in Viborg gave me a photo from Løgstør of a young man in a sickbed with flags and flowers,

and a doctor and a nurse in the background. My guess based on my map of planes was that it was Bell of p432 MUS KH860, who had to make a forced landing south of Løgstør on 4 MAY 1945, a few hours before the capitulation. The local archives of Løgstør gave me the names of the consultant and the nurse!

A number of other doctors and nurses who made special efforts to help allied airmen are mentioned on the same page. As a spectator at a presentation consultant Aage Astrup, 102 years old in 2015, told vividly about how he and a colleague had dragged out the treatment of Green from p282 B17G 42-32070 that crash landed near Nakskov in 1944. He was to become a prisoner of war at the end of his treatment. Two Americans from the same plane reached Copenhagen where Halfdan Rasmussen, the poet, became the surprised host for them for some days till they were passed on to Sweden.

On 15 FEB 1945 p396 HAL MZ924 with pilot Braund was shot down near Femø, and all 7 crew members drifted in on the shores of the Smålandshavet during the following months. On the base in England one of the three veterans attending the 77 Squadron Association Reunion on 16 SEP 2017 still remembered the pilot and his twin brother. Any fit man of 20 in 1945 will be 92 years old in 2017 if he is still with us. We can be happy about the efforts of the airmen!

Captions for the photos shown in [the article in Danish](#):

A 4,000 lbs. high-explosive bomb is loaded on a Mosquito FB IV on an English air base in about 1944. More in the text below. Photo: Internet.

307 planes are seen on this map. Click on a spot and see a detailed map with plane numbers in an area.

Photo from K.B. Andersen. From Løgstør Hospital in the days of the liberation in 1945. (See page 19, column 2).

Photo: Anders Straarup. The Braunds commemorated in Skælskør General Cemetery. There is a headstone to the pilot of p396 HAL MZ924, and the big stone erected by Danes is to him and his brother with no known grave. The stone at its base is to the parents!

Enter the website AirmenDK www.airmen.dk and lose yourself in the exciting accounts. Contact details of Anders Straarup: straarup@linksbuketten.dk - Tel.: +45 29253285.