



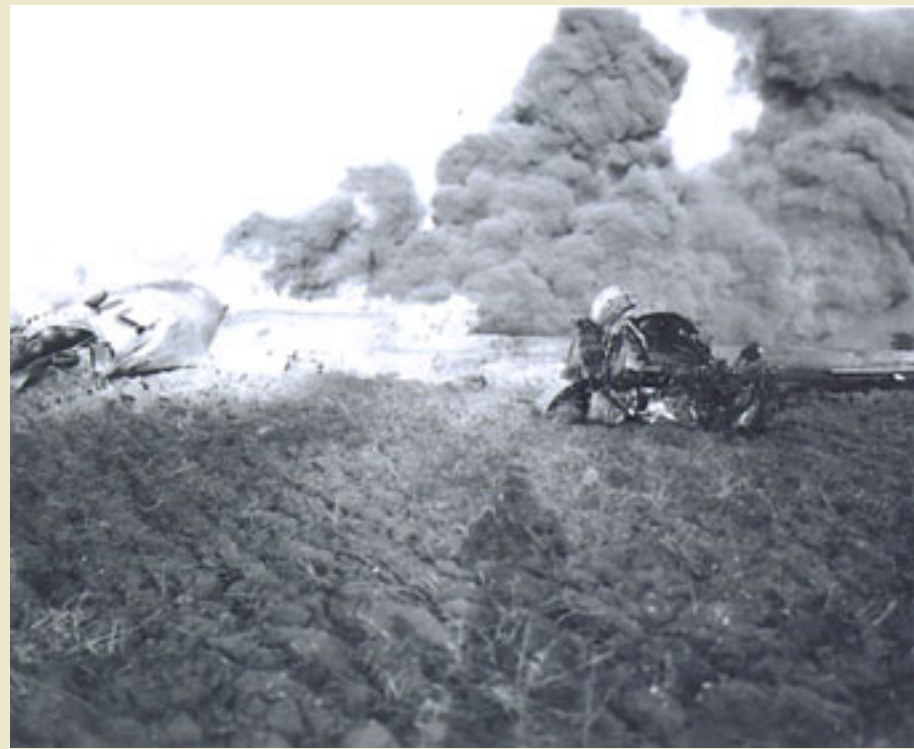
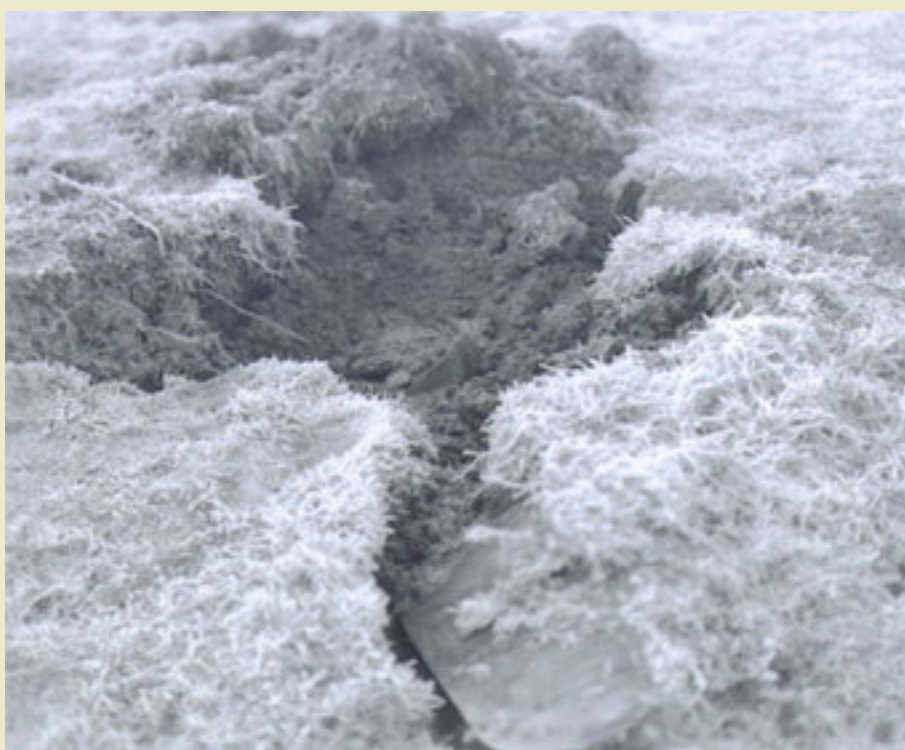
Crash Photos - 18 Dec 44

On 18 Dec 44, the 61st Troop Carrier Group suffered losses from a mid-air collision during a training flight. The accident involved two aircraft, a B-24 and a C-109 (a modified B-24 for cargo purposes). An account written by one of the survivors, Ernie Haar, can be found on his bio page entitled, Mid-Air Collision 18 December 44. This page is the photo page of that account.

Pictured at right is the B-24H, 42-7609, LAZY LOU when it flew with the 446th BG, 706th BS. It was an original aircraft for that group. After flying 50 missions it was deemed as "war weary" and put out of combat service. LAZY LOU was transferred to the 36th BS (RCM) where it was used for radar counter-measures. Later it was transferred again to the 61st Troop Carrier Group of the 9th Air Force to be used as a trainer.

The LAZY LOU gained more fame as its nose art became one of the alternate choices for the plastic B-24 model kit displaying the STRAWBERRY BITCH on its cover. "If I had known the plane's history, I would have taken better care of her," says Ernie Haar. But he was a passenger that day, not one of the pilots.

The first 14 photos below are of the LAZY LOU. The last two are of the C-109.



These two photos are of the C-109. Ernie Haar says that the aircraft was so demolished, you couldn't tell what type of plane it was. There was nothing there but a large crater littered by debris.



For an account by Ernie Haar, see [Mid-Air Collision 18 December 44](#).

Sources:

• Ernie Haar, Crew 912

492ndbombgroup.com

