

COLONEL JOHN A. BROSS US Army Air Forces (Deceased)

COL Bross was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Air Forces in 1942. During World War II, he was assigned to the London office of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and supervised the JEDBURGH missions into Nazi-occupied Western Europe and joint programs supporting resistance to the Germans. The JEDBURGH teams trained friendly resistance movements and conducted guerrilla operations against Axis forces. JEDBURGH teams were also instrumental in preparing for and assisting with Operation OVERLORD, the landing of conventional forces in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

COL Bross participated in the planning of Operation HAMMER, the penetration of Berlin by OSS agents. He convinced the Army Air Corps to employ the fast A-26 planes for these missions, thus greatly contributing to the success of intelligence collection efforts deep behind enemy lines.

After the war, COL Bross remained in Europe and participated in reconnaissance missions into the Soviet sector of occupied Berlin. He later developed an intelligence network of agents in the Communist state of Albania. COL Bross left the Army Air Forces in 1945 as the Chief of OSS missions to the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Norway.

For the next 38 years, he served in a number of high-level civilian government positions. First, he served two years as Assistant General Counsel to the US High Commissioner in Germany. In 1951, COL Bross joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and served as Deputy Chief and then Chief of the Eastern European Division. From 1956-1959, he was a Special Advisor at the US Embassy in Germany. Rejoining the CIA in 1959, COL Bross served successively as Senior Planning Officer, Comptroller, and in 1963, Deputy to the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) for National Intelligence Program Evaluation. Among other projects, he supervised overhead reconnaissance systems and target detection programs in conjunction with the US Air Force. Finally, in 1980, he joined the Reagan Transition Team at the CIA and remained there through 1983 as a Special Advisor to the DCI.

COL Bross retired from his civilian career in 1983. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990. He passed away in October that same year.