

B-24E #42-7007

October 23, 1943

On the morning of October 23, 1943, B-24E #42-7007 took off from Mountain Home Army Air Field, Idaho, for a formation flying training mission. The aircraft was with the 470th Bomb group, 800th Bomb Squadron. The lead aircraft had already taken off and was circling the field. #42-7007 climbed to 3,000 feet and was approaching the lead aircraft from the left to occupy the #2 position next to it. The pilot misjudged his speed and distance, overshot, and struck the other B-24 on the trailing edge of the wing and aft fuselage. #42-7007 exploded and plummeted into a dry wash several miles from the runway, killing all eight men on board. The lead aircraft, B-24J #42-73235, flew a short distance before the left wing tore off. It crashed in rolling hills a quarter mile away, killing all the crewmen. The large pieces of #42-7007 were removed in 1943, but some wreckage is still buried in the soft sand of the dry wash and hidden under thick brush. Site visited on 4/8/20.

Crew:

Instructor Pilot	2 Lt. Walter L. Morris, Jr.	Dallas, Texas
Pilot	2 Lt. Edward L. Dodder	Muscatine, Iowa
Co-Pilot	2 Lt. Douglas Leffin	Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Instructor Engineer	Sgt. Nelson Goldberg	Mattapan, Massachusetts
Engineer/Gunner	Sgt. William F. Cameron	Johnson City, Tennessee
Engineer/Gunner	Sgt. John T. Durken	Cleveland, Ohio
Instructor Radio	Sgt. William J. Kilesky	St. Louis, Missouri
Radio/Gunner	Cpl. William S. Walker	Milton, Massachusetts













Lt. Edward L. Dodder
(Courtesy of Lynn McCleary)



Lt. Douglas Leffin
(Courtesy of the Leffin family)



Sgt. William J. Kilesky
(Courtesy of Lynda McDonald)