

Lockheed T-33A #51-17419

September 6, 1962

On September 6, 1962, Lockheed T-33A #51-17419, with the 9th Strategic Aerospace Wing, took off from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, at 7:12 p.m. In the pilot's seat was Capt. Harold S. Lew from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in the co-pilot's seat was Capt. King K. Green, of Moore, Idaho. The mission was a two-hour VFR training flight within 150 nautical miles of Mountain Home. Their last reported position was at 10,000 ft. on a heading of 330 degrees over the Boise-Mountain Home Highway, at 7:17 p.m. For unexplained reasons, the aircraft struck the ground in a 30 degree dive near Fairfield, Idaho, at 7:51 p.m. The estimated speed at the time of impact was 500 m.p.h. Both men were killed instantly and the aircraft was completely destroyed.

Capt. Lew was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. On September 27, 1944, the B-24 he was piloting was shot down over Europe. He spent the rest of the war as a POW at Stalag Luft One in Germany. Capt. Green served in Korea, where he earned the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. Today the T-33A crash site is spread out over nearly a quarter mile of flat desert. The engine and landing gear were removed by the Air Force in 1962, but numerous small pieces of the aircraft still remain. Special thanks to Pat Macha and Chris LeFave for help with finding this crash site. Site visited on 11/16/18.



Part of a landing gear tire



Hand grip from a control stick



Unknown heavy duty cast aluminum piece



A parachute spring



Part of an undeployed parachute



Part of a cockpit radio panel



Heavy aluminum hinged piece



Riveted aluminum structure



A piece of fuselage



Larger scattered debris



Harold S. Lew in his 1938 photo at West Division High School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

(Courtesy of Ancestry.com)

