

Boeing B-17G #42-31547

January 3, 1944

On the afternoon of January 3, 1944, Boeing B-17G #42-31547 took off from Wendover Army Air Base, UT, for a cross-country flight to Grand Island, NE. The aircraft was with the 749th Bomb Squadron, 457th Bomb Group. The bomber attempted to climb above a snow storm east of the base, but it fell into a stall-spin situation. The design limits of the aircraft were exceeded in the spin, and the right aileron and parts of the tail came off. Five crewmen were able to bail out, but the remaining six were killed when the aircraft collided with terrain near Delle, UT. Special thanks to Craig Fuller, Dave Trojan, and Mike Lyons for help with locating this crash site. Site visited on 3/25/26.

Crew:

1Lt. Hugh R. Ashby	Pilot	Seattle, WA	Fatal
2Lt. Marvin J. Bible	Co-Pilot	San Francisco, CA	Fatal
2Lt. Clarence McRae	Navigator	Asheboro, NC	Fatal
2Lt. John W. Newman	Bombardier	Montgomery, AL	Fatal
T/Sgt. Joseph Barboza	Engineer	Osterville, MA	Fatal
S/Sgt. Byron F. Cook, Jr.	Gunner	Rockdale, TX	Survived
T/Sgt. Neal D. Buck	Radio		Survived
S/Sgt. Ernest E. Hunt	Gunner		Survived
S/Sgt. Junior L. Klahs	Gunner	Lenox, NY	Survived
S/Sgt. Robert A. Timmons	Gunner	Hartford, MI	Fatal
2Lt. Frank A. Huntley	Passenger	Seattle, WA	Survived



Looking up the canyon toward the impact site near the top of the ridge



Looking down the canyon at the debris field



Crushed oxygen bottles and a large rubber hose



An exhaust pipe flange



Part of a wire parachute pack frame



Part of a gauge



Green zinc chromate paint is still visible on this piece



Part of an aluminum cylinder head from an engine



A large piece of armor plate



Part of an engine mount



Rubber from a self-sealing fuel tank



A stainless-steel engine firewall



Pilot 1Lt. Hugh R. Ashby



Co-Pilot 2Lt. Marvin J. Bible



Navigator 2Lt. Clarence McRae



Gunner S/Sgt. Robert A. Timmons



Passenger 2Lt. Frank A. Huntley survived when he and four gunners bailed out.



A Boeing B-17G similar to #42-31547