

## Consolidated B-24H #42-7707

**February 23, 1944**

On February 23, 1944, B-24H #42-7707 departed Wendover Army Air Field, Utah, at 2:16 p.m. for a high altitude, simulated (camera) bombing mission. The aircraft and crew were with the 845th Bomb Squadron, 489th Bomb Group. Upon reaching bombing altitude over Salt Lake City, the turbochargers on #3 and #4 engines failed. The engines could not produce enough power, so the bomber was forced to drop out of formation. After returning to Wendover, the aircraft was on final approach with landing gear down and flaps extended when #4 engine suddenly cut out. At about 20 feet off the ground, the pilot applied more power to the remaining three engines, but forgot to feather #4 propeller. The B-24 veered to the right of the runway centerline, struck three buildings in a munitions storage area, and broke in half as it hit the ground. Co-pilot Lt. Daniel J. Blessington was killed and the other four men on board received minor injuries. Two civilian workers in one of the buildings suffered major injuries. An accident review board found that #4 engine switch was in the "off" position after the crash, and might have been accidentally bumped by the co-pilot during landing preparations. Special thanks to Craig Fuller at AAIR and Landon Wilkey at the Wendover Air Museum for making this crash site visitation possible. Site visited on 5/13/23.

### Crew:

Pilot	2Lt. Roy C. Anderson
Co-pilot	2Lt. Daniel J. Blessington
Bombardier	F/O William E. Courtney, Jr.
Engineer	Sgt. David C. Shular
Radio operator	Sgt. Frederick O. Henning



Damage to the three buildings is shown in this photo. The photographer was standing with his back to the aircraft wreckage. The closest structure was torn down after the accident.  
(Courtesy of Craig Fuller/AAIR)



At the spot where the USAAF photographer stood almost 80 years earlier, this piece of plexiglass from #42-7707 was discovered.



This is how #42-7707 looked after the crash. (Courtesy of Wendover Air Museum)



Very few pieces of this crash remain because of its location on the old airbase.





The American flag with a few small pieces of cast aluminum. Bomb storage bunkers can be seen to the right of the wood building.



A Consolidated B-24H similar to #42-7707. (USAAF photo)



2Lt. Daniel J. Blessington, from New York City. This was his graduation photo from Andrew Jackson High School in 1941. He was only twenty years old when he was killed. (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)