

Republic P-47D #42-75032

July 15, 1944

On the evening of July 15, 1944, Lt. Philip V. Leeds departed Wendover Army Air Field, Utah, in P-47D #42-75032 as part of a four-aircraft flight on a formation flying practice mission. The pilot and aircraft were with the 216th Base Unit at Wendover. After an hour of training, Lt. Leeds radioed the flight leader that his Thunderbolt had a large fuel leak. He was cleared for an immediate landing by the tower, and during approach witnesses on the ground saw dense smoke trailing from the aircraft's turbocharger. Lt. Leeds then attempted to bail out, but his parachute didn't open in time and he was killed. #42-75032 dove into the ground short of the runway and exploded. The aircraft reportedly had mechanical trouble earlier that day on another training flight. Special thanks to Craig Fuller at AAIR for help with locating this crash site. Site visited on 11/22/23.



Project Remembrance member Marc McDonald in the impact crater from #42-75032



Placard from the mixture control lever in the cockpit



An instrument or gauge from the cockpit



A rocker arm from the Pratt & Whitney R-2800 engine



A .50 cal. brass casing dated 1943, primer unfired, ammo belt link still attached



This unidentified piece had a knurled aluminum knob for adjustment by hand



The Dumore Company made electric motors for aircraft trim tabs and flaps



A rubber self-sealing fuel tank with filler opening at right



A riveted aluminum panel, possibly from a wing



A bomb attachment rack from one of the wings



Part of an engine cylinder head



A piece of structural aluminum with large rivets



Scattered debris with the American flag



Lt. Leeds with a PT-19 training aircraft in 1943 (Courtesy of the Leeds family)



2nd Lt. Philip V. Leeds was from Mt. Carmel, Illinois (Courtesy of the Leeds family)



P-47Ds at the Republic factory in Farmingdale, New York (Courtesy of the National Archive)