

Consolidated B-24D Liberator #42-40859

On October 5, 1944, B-24D #42-40859 took off from Mountain Home Army Air Field, Idaho, at 4:22pm for a formation flying training mission. The aircraft was with Section II of the 213th CCTS. Immediately after leaving the runway, the gunners in the rear of the bomber reported a large fuel leak from #2 engine. The pilot shut it down, feathered the propeller, and increased power to the other three engines. #1 engine then suffered a runaway propeller and failed to respond to control inputs. The fully-loaded aircraft couldn't maintain altitude, and it became difficult to control. The pilot decided to belly-land in the desert a few miles west of the airfield. As the bomber ground to a stop, fire broke out in #3 engine, all seven crewmen quickly exited and retreated to safety behind a nearby hill, after which it exploded and burned. USAAF removed the remaining large pieces and buried the rest. Site visited 3/20/18.

Crew:

Pilot	2Lt. Robert E. Gilbert
Co-Pilot	2Lt. George J. Weaver, Jr.
Navigator	2Lt. Joseph F. Schwab
Engineer	Cpl. James E. McLaughlin
Radio Operator	Cpl. Anthony J. Schwind
Ball Turret Gunner	Cpl. Einar A. Adresen
Top Turret Gunner	Cpl. Colin J. Mayne



Back Row (Left to Right): Weaver, Gilbert, Schwab. Front Row (Left to Right): McLaughlin, Adresen, Wiederspan, Cummings, Mayne, Schwind.

Nose gunner Wiederspan and tail gunner Cummings were not on board the B-24D at the time of the accident. Photo courtesy of Bruce Adresen.



Corporal Einar A. Andresen, from Chicago, Illinois. Photo courtesy of his son, Bruce Andresen.









