

Consolidated B-24H #41-29591

March 8, 1944

At 4:30 p.m. on March 8, 1944, B-24H #41-29591 left Wendover Army Air Field for a night-time, multi-task training mission. The aircraft and crew were with the 844th Bomb Squadron, 489th Bomb Group. There were 2200 gallons of fuel on board at takeoff. Over the next six hours, #591 participated in two hours of formation flying, two hours of gunnery practice over the range, made six simulated bombing runs over Salt Lake City, Utah, and made another simulated run at Ely, Nevada. At 11 p.m. the bomber returned to Wendover. As it turned on final approach, #1 and #2 engines cut out. The tower officer radioed the pilot to land straight ahead instead of continuing the turn and stalling. The aircraft struck rough ground short of the runway, sheared off the landing gear, skidded, and broke apart. Co-pilot Lt. Edward A. Longan was killed, and other crew members sustained minor injuries. An accident investigation found that the fuel tanks for #3 and #4 engines each had 200 gallons of fuel left, but #1 and #2 tanks were empty. A more accurate fuel gauge was recommended for all B-24 aircraft. Special thanks to Craig Fuller at AAIR and Landon Wilkey at the Wendover Air Museum for making this crash site visit possible. Site visited on 5/13/23.

Crew:

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|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 2Lt. Blaine H. Hansell | Pilot | Park Place, OR |
| 2Lt. Edward A. Longan | Co-Pilot | Parkerville, KS |
| 2Lt. Jonas J. Schreiber | Navigator | Orange, NJ |
| 2Lt. Richard L. Sterling | Bombardier | Minneapolis, MN |
| Sgt. Robert A. Jurgens | Engineer | Ridgeland, MS |
| Cpl. Carl Rosendahl | Radio | Redding, CT |
| Sgt. George Witt, Jr. | Gunner | Juniata, NE |
| Sgt. Richard D. Weller, Jr. | Gunner | Northfield, VT |
| Sgt. Joseph L. Agriesti | Gunner | Columbus, OH |
| Sgt. Ocle D. Divelbliss | Gunner | Summer, WA |













Pilot 2Lt. Blaine H. Hansell in a 1942 ROTC photo at Washington State University
(Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



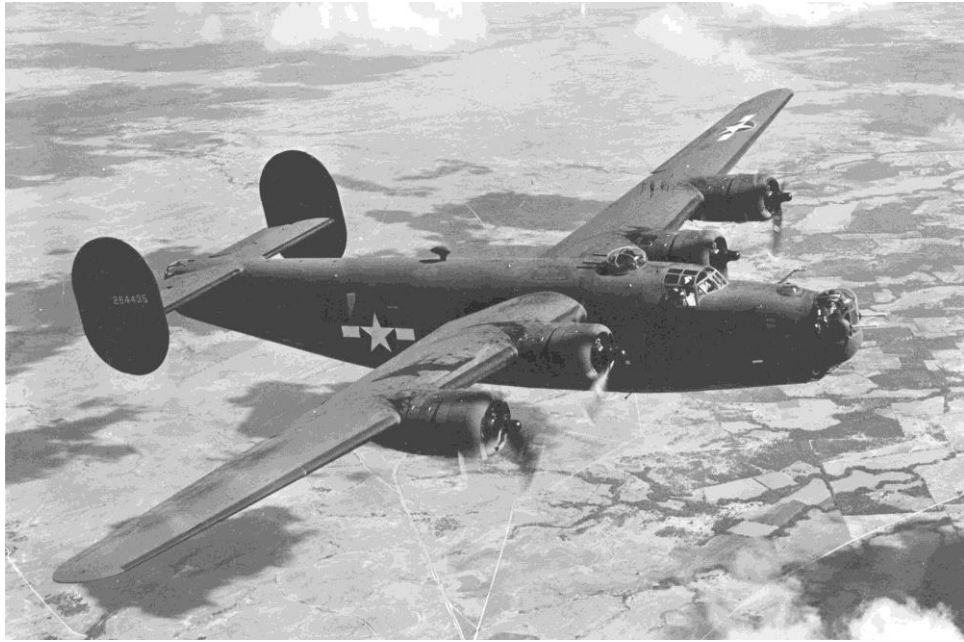
Co-pilot 2Lt. Edward A. Longan was killed in the crash of #41-29591
(Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



Bombardier 2Lt. Richard L. Sterling (Courtesy of American Air Museum in Britain)



Radio operator Cpl. Carl Rosendahl (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



A Consolidated B-24H similar to #41-29591 (Courtesy of USAF)