

## North American F-100C #54-1813

January 3, 1957

In late 1956 the 450th Fighter Squadron (Day) was temporarily reassigned to Wendover AFB, Utah, for gunnery training. On the morning of January 3, 1957, a flight of F-100Cs left the 450th headquarters at Foster AFB, Texas, bound for Wendover. After stopping to refuel at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, the flight was about halfway to its destination when Lt. Bobby Debenport advised the flight leader that he had an oil temperature warning light on in the cockpit. He opened the oil cooler shutter manually and the temperature returned to normal. The flight arrived at Wendover and began circling the field to burn off excess fuel before landing. Lt. Debenport then reported an engine vibration, salvoed his wing tanks, and was cleared for an immediate landing. While on final approach, the engine in #54-1813 failed. Lt. Debenport ejected, but his parachute didn't open in time and he was killed. #813 crashed and was completely destroyed. Special thanks to Craig Fuller and Mike Lyons for help with locating this crash site. Site visited on 7/22/23.



Fire damage is evident on this aluminum panel



The "192" part number prefix confirms the wreckage is from an F-100



Part of an ammunition chute from a 20 mm cannon



Part of a low oxygen placard located next to a warning light in the cockpit



Many rivets are visible on this aluminum stringer



Part of an aluminum air conditioning pipe from the cockpit



These control cables were also damaged by fire



The multiple layers of riveted heavy-duty aluminum suggest this piece was from a wing root



Aluminum honeycomb material used in the horizontal stabilizer of the F-100



An engine igniter



The U.S. flag displayed at the aircraft impact site. Special thanks to retired USAF crew chief David Platt for help with identifying parts.



1 Lt. Bobby G. Debenport, from Fort Worth, Texas. (Courtesy of Find-A-Grave.com)



F-100Cs from the 450<sup>th</sup> FS parked at Wendover AFB in January 1957. (Courtesy of the National Archive)