

Consolidated B-24E #42-7408 and B-24E #42-7183

Mid-Air Collision

December 29, 1943

During the winter of 1943, bad weather at Wendover Army Air Field, Utah, made flying practice missions impossible. The 789th Bomb Squadron (467th Bomb Group) was temporarily reassigned to Pocatello Army Air Base, Idaho, where weather conditions were more favorable. On the afternoon of December 29, 1943, five B-24 aircraft carrying personnel from the 789th left Wendover on a cross-country formation flying practice mission bound for Pocatello. About a half hour into the flight, #42-7183 fell out of its normal position in the formation, and got caught in the prop wash of the aircraft ahead of it. It was forced downward and collided with #42-7408. The impact tore the left wing off of #42-7408, which rolled inverted and dove into the ground. #42-7138 was also badly damaged, and entered a flat spin from which it did not recover. The bombers crashed near the western shore of the Great Salt Lake, killing all 25 men on board the two aircraft.

In August 2024, a dog tag belonging to 2Lt. John D. Rogers, co-pilot of #42-7408, was discovered in the wreckage and was returned to his relatives in Illinois. Special thanks to Mark Nichols, and to Richard, Cameron, and Henry Burgoyne, for help with locating this crash site. Site visited on 8/24/24.

#42-7408

Personnel:

Instructor Pilot	1Lt. Austin W. Clark	Opelousas, LA
Pilot	1Lt. Milton O. Bell	Portland, OR
Co-Pilot	2Lt. John D. Rogers	Frankfort, IL
Navigator	2Lt. James B. Sharp	Milwaukee, WI

Bombardier	2Lt. Richard R. Abmyer	Sebring, OH
Engineer / Gunner	Sgt. Anton P. Brakjovick	San Francisco, CA
Radio / Gunner	Sgt. Ralph E. Dahlkamp	Hammond, IN
Passenger	Cpl. Francis E. Hanson	Shreveport, LA
Passenger	Sgt. Stanley F. Roberson	Waynesville, NC
Passenger	S/Sgt. Hans R. Priester	Englewood, NJ
Passenger	S/Sgt. Joseph L. Guth	Sacramento, CA
Passenger	Sgt. Edward W. Arnold	Gouldbusk, TX
Passenger	Cpl. Hugh W. Robinson	Winston-Salem, NC



Large piece of aluminum wreckage



Part of an engine mount



Intercom switch



Radio



Engine exhaust manifold



Gear, bearing, and splined shaft from engine



Toggle switches



Part of bomb bay door



Practice bomb



Piece of fuselage with American flag



The dog tag belonging to co-pilot 2Lt. John D. Rogers that was recovered and returned to his family in Illinois.



2Lt. John D. Rogers, co-pilot on #42-7408 (Courtesy of the Rogers Family)



1Lt. Austin W. Clark, command pilot on #42-7408 and leader of the 789th B.S. Lt. Clark joined the RCAF and flew combat missions over Europe before returning to the U.S. to become an instructor pilot. (Courtesy of the Clark Family)



1Lt. Milton O. Bell, pilot on #42-7408 (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



Sgt. Ralph E. Dahlkamp, radio operator on #42-7408 (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



Cpl. Francis E. Hanson, passenger on #42-7408 (Courtesy of Find-A-Grave.com)



Sgt. Edward W. Arnold, passenger on #42-7408 (Courtesy of Find-a-Grave.com)



Cpl. Hugh W. Robinson, passenger on #42-7408 (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)

#42-7183

Personnel:

Pilot	2Lt. Carroll Meyer	Baltimore, MD
Co-Pilot	2Lt. Paul J. Kohler	Madison, CT
Navigator	2Lt. Lawrence G. McGinnis	Eureka, KS
Bombardier	2Lt. Richard Settineri	New York, NY
Engineer / Gunner	Sgt. Clyde Hewett	Thomaston, GA
Radio / Gunner	Cpl. Lawrence A. Griffin	El Dorado, AR
Passenger	2Lt. Ray W. Gambol	Childress, TX
Passenger	2Lt. William D. Lieber	Calumet Park, IL
Passenger	2Lt. James H. Hutcheson	Atlanta, GA
Passenger	2Lt. John H. Moffett	Chicago, IL

Passenger

Sgt. Saul Becker

Farmingdale, NY

Passenger

Pvt. Loyd E. Fowler

Littlefield, TX



Seat from the flight deck



Heated flight suit control panel



Part of the rudder pedal and brake cylinder assembly



Window frame with plexiglass



Bomb release solenoid



Fork from a survival kit



Parachute pack frame



Safety pin



Oil pressure gauge



#42-7183 impact site with American flag



#42-7183 shortly after the crash (Courtesy of Wendover Air Museum)



2Lt. Paul J. Kohler, co-pilot on #42-7183 (Courtesy of Find-a-Grave.com)



2Lt. Lawrence G. McGinnis, navigator on #42-7183 (Courtesy of Find-a-Grave.com)



2Lt. Richard Settineri, bombardier on #42-7183 (Courtesy of HonorStates.org)



2Lt. James H. Hutcheson, passenger on #42-7183 (Courtesy of Find-a-Grave.com)



2Lt. John H. Moffett, passenger on #42-7183 (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



A Consolidated-Ford B-24E similar to #42-7408 and #42-7183 (USAAF photo)