

B-24J #42-73367

January 18, 1945

On the morning of January 18, 1945, B-24J #42-73367 took off from Mountain Home Army Air Field, Idaho, for a local training mission. The aircraft was with Section 3 of the 213th Combat Crew Training Squadron. Immediately after leaving the runway, the bomber began to vibrate. Thinking he was in prop wash from the aircraft ahead of him, instructor pilot Lt. Saul Milchman guided the aircraft slightly to the right. At 700 feet the flaps were raised, and the vibration continued. Suddenly Lt. Milchman noticed that the ailerons and elevators didn't respond to control inputs. He attempted a left turn to circle back to the runway using the rudders only, but at full power the bomber would not maintain altitude. He decided to belly-land the B-24J in the desert several miles north of the runway. It impacted the ground very hard, skidded a short distance, broke apart, and burned. Navigator F/O Ronald K. Peterson, radio operator Cpl. Ronald L. Anderson, and gunner Pfc. Walter H. Walker were killed in the wreck. The Accident Investigating Committee concluded that ice on the wings and control surfaces had caused the accident. Site visited on 4/8/20.

Crew:

Pilot	1Lt. Saul Milchman	Queens, New York
Co-Pilot	F/O Fred J. Masek	Chicago, Illinois
Navigator	F/O Ronald K. Peterson	Fair Oaks, California
Engineer	Cpl. Samuel R. Bressler	Oneida, New York
Radio	Cpl. Robert L. Anderson	Craigsville, Virginia
Gunner	Cpl. Richard P. Reed	Wilmington, Delaware
Gunner	Cpl. Emanuel P. Audino	Brooklyn, New York
Gunner	Pfc. Walter H. Walker	Birmingham, Alabama
Gunner	Pfc. Charles R. Herrell	Washita, Oklahoma



Shards of aluminum at the point of first impact



A roller mechanism from one of the bomb bay doors



Pieces of self-sealing fuel tanks at the main crash site



An unopened can of C-rations from World War II



An intake manifold pipe from a Pratt & Whitney R-1830 engine



A sprocket



Part of an access panel with quick-release fasteners



A light fixture



A lid to an Eastman Kodak 16 mm gun camera film magazine



Tread from a landing gear tire



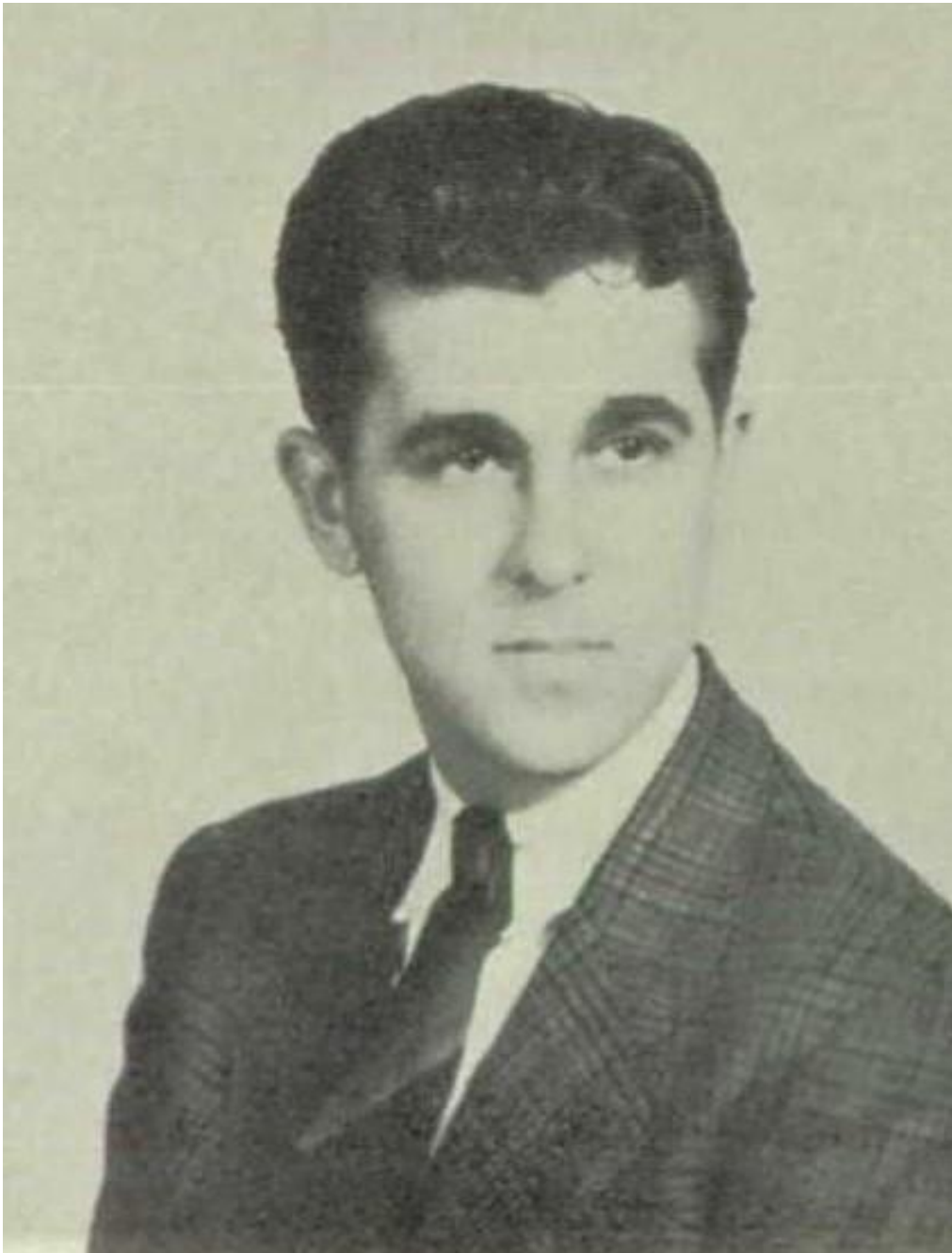
A large piece of armor plate



A very large chunk of melted aluminum



Lt. Saul Milchman was an instructor pilot at Mountain Home
Army Air Field (Courtesy of the Milchman family)



Machine gunner Cpl. Emanuel P. Audino, in his 1939 high school graduation photo at Hackensack High School, Hackensack, New Jersey (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



Machine gunner Pfc. Charles R. Herrell married his sweetheart, Dealine, a few days after surviving the accident at Mountain Home (Courtesy of the Herrell family)



Machine gunner Pfc. Walter H. Walker was only twenty years old when he was killed in the crash of #42-73367 (Courtesy of Lynda McDonald)