

Martin B-26 "Marauder" #40-1520

January 14, 1942

When the United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941, the 76th Bombardment Squadron was stationed at Gowen Field near Boise, Idaho. Five weeks later, the 76th received orders to transfer to McChord Field, near Tacoma, Washington. On the afternoon of January 14, 1942, a flight of five B-26 medium bombers took off from Gowen Field, bound for Washington. #40-1520, which was one of the first Marauders built by Martin, was the third aircraft to leave the runway. On board were four crew members, five ground support personnel, and a load of ammunition. Shortly after taking off, the pilot, Lieutenant Elmer "Bill" Munn, reported a loss of power in one engine. Lt. Munn attempted to circle back and land, but the B-26 stalled, spun into the ground, and burned, several miles south of the airfield. All nine men on board were killed. The wreckage was discovered by a track maintenance crew from the Union Pacific Railroad. An accident review committee concluded that snow on the ground and low fog may have caused pilot disorientation and contributed to the crash. Special thanks to Mike Stowe for help with finding this crash site. Site visited on 10/20/20.

Crew:

Pilot	2Lt. Elmer M. "Bill" Munn, Jr.	Fort Worth, Texas
Co-Pilot	2Lt. Darrell S. Wing	Phoenix, Arizona
Bombardier	Pvt. Leland Sanders	Odessa, Missouri
Flight Engineer	S/Sgt. Carl Funkhouser	Skedee, Oklahoma
Radio Operator	S/Sgt. Carmen R. Gismondi	Oliver, Pennsylvania
76th Bomb Squadron	Pfc. Andre A. Chisholm	Woodside, New York
76th Bomb Squadron	Pfc. Stanley Sansenbach	Parkersburg, Iowa
76th Bomb Squadron	Pvt. Robert F. Adams	Vale, Oregon
76th Bomb Squadron	Pvt. Lloyd L. Knight	Thompsonville, Illinois



Spent flare gun cartridge



Lid from an ammunition box



Curious-looking stainless steel wire with ceramic insulators



Piece of cast aluminum



Data plate on a radio panel



Rubber from a self-sealing fuel tank



Heavy duty steel and aluminum piece, possibly from landing gear



Badly burned aluminum engine part



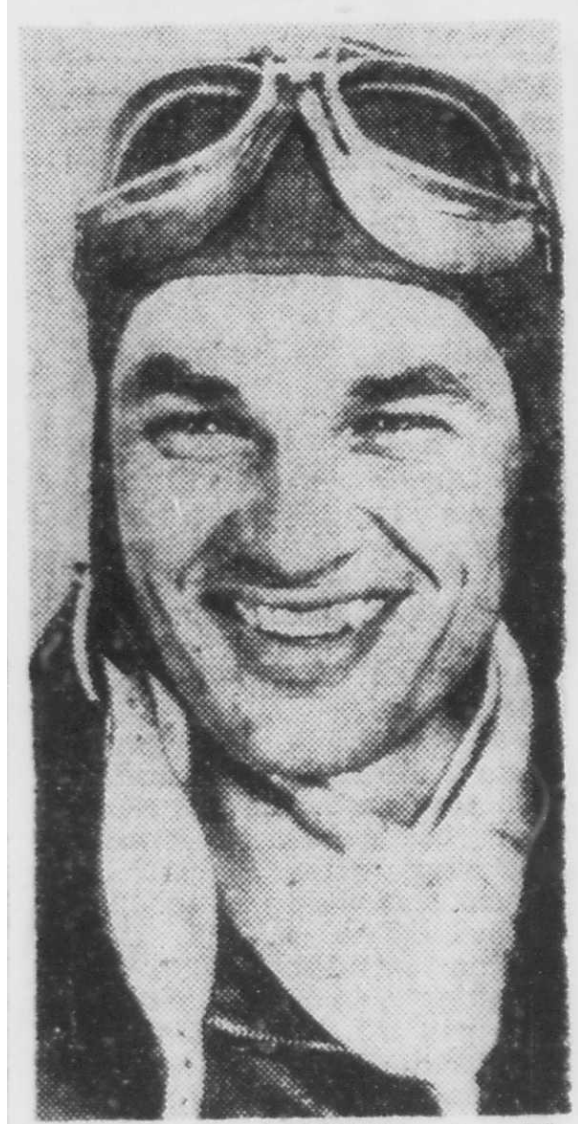
Aluminum stringer from the aircraft's framework



Colored glass



General view of the crash site



Lt. Elmer "Bill" Munn, Jr., pilot (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



S/Sgt. Carl Funkhouser, flight engineer (Courtesy of Ancestry.com)



Pvt. Lloyd L. Knight, 76th Bomb Squadron (Courtesy of RootsWeb.net)

