



ASN Wikibase Occurrence # 25286

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Date: 17-JAN-1949  
Time: 09:50

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Type: [Boeing B-29 Superfortress](#)  
Owner/operator: 31st BSqn /301st BWg USAF (31st BSqn /301st Bomb Wingg United States Air Force)  
Registration: 44-62276  
MSN: 11753  
Fatalities: Fatalities: 20 / Occupants: 20  
Other fatalities: 0  
Aircraft damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)  
Location: Bein Tharsuinn, Succoth Glen, 2.5 miles W of Lochgoilhead, Argyll - [United Kingdom](#)  
Phase: En route  
Nature: Military  
Departure airport: RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire  
Destination airport:Smokey Hill AFB, Salinas, Kansas  
Narrative:

Boeing B-29A-70-BN Superfortress 44-62279: Delivered to the USAAF 15 February 1946. Assigned to 31st Bomb Squadron, 301st Bomb Wing, Smoky Hill AFB, Kansas.

On the morning of January 17, 1949, Boeing B-29 Superfortress 44-62276 took off from RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, England, on a return trip to her airfield at Smoky Hill Air Force Base (AFB), Salinas, Kansas, with twenty passengers and crew on board, accompanied by a similar aircraft. The crew were reported to be on leave, having previously been involved in the Berlin Airlift, dropping supplies into the city which had been blockaded by Soviet forces.

The planned route was overland via Scotland, then on to Keflavik, Iceland, where they would stop to refuel and take on supplies. The weather was variable, and as the two aircraft reached Strathclyde, falling temperatures and cloud began to cause icing of their wings and control surfaces. The pilot of the second B-29, Captain Donald E Riggs, decided conditions had become too severe to continue, and turned back for Scampton. Unfortunately, there is no record of the circumstances surrounding the first aircraft, piloted by 1st Lt Sheldon C. Craigmyle.

At 09:50, the B-29 crashed into the side of Stob na Boine Druim-fhinn, a hill in Succoth Glen, near Lochgoilhead, Argyll, spreading wreckage in the valley between Stob na Boine and Beinn Tharsuinn. All twenty passengers and crew perished, with the aircraft being consumed by the resultant fire.

The subsequent inquiry was unable to determine the exact cause of the accident, but the adverse weather and heavy icing were deemed to be contributory factors.

Crew and passengers lost with B-29 44-62276

Pilot 1st Lt Sheldon C Craigmyle  
Co-pilot 1st Lt Myrton P Barry  
Navigator 1st Lt Richard D Klingenberg  
Bombardier 1st Lt Robert A Fritsche  
T/Sgt Delbert E Cole  
M/Sgt Wayne W Baker  
T/Sgt John B Lapicca  
S/Sgt Malcolm W Bovard  
Sgt Anthony V Chrisides  
Sgt Rufus W Mangum  
PFC Jack L Heacock  
M/Sgt Henry P Prestoch  
T/Sgt Frank M Dobbs Jr  
Sgt Cecil G Jones  
Sgt Charles W Hess  
PFC Robert Brown Jr  
T/Sgt Rufus G Taylor  
Sgt Paul W Knight  
PFC Frederick N Cook  
PFC Bruce J Krumhols

On April 3, 2004, the Daily Mail ran a feature on the crash, writing that the aircraft carried a cargo of diamonds worth some £250,000 at the time of writing. Nothing has ever been found of the haul its story referred to

Sources:

- <http://www.secretscotland.org.uk/index.php/Secrets/B29Superfortress4462276Lochgoilhead>
- [http://www.aircrashesites-scotland.co.uk/boeing\\_b-29a\\_succoth.htm](http://www.aircrashesites-scotland.co.uk/boeing_b-29a_succoth.htm)
- [https://www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk/crash\\_sites/scotland/boeing-b-29a-44-62276-beinn-tharsuinn/](https://www.peakdistrictaircrashes.co.uk/crash_sites/scotland/boeing-b-29a-44-62276-beinn-tharsuinn/)
- [http://www.helensburgh-heritage.co.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=594:20-died-in-1949-air-tragedy&catid=88:military&Itemid=462](http://www.helensburgh-heritage.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=594:20-died-in-1949-air-tragedy&catid=88:military&Itemid=462)
- <http://www.wtdwhd.co.uk/SuccothGlen.html>
- [LINK NOT WORKING ANYMORE:http://www.joebaugher.com/usaf\_serails/1944\_4.h]tml
- [LINK NOT WORKING ANYMORE:http://www.baaa-acro.com/1949/archives/crash-of-a-boeing-b-29-super-fortress-in-united-kingdom-20-killed/]
- <https://rafmountainrescue.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/B-29-Accident-Report-final-version-27th-February-2013.pdf>
- Cumberland Evening Times from Cumberland, Maryland January 18, 1949, Page 8 at <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/1475745/>

Media:



Revision history:

Date/time	Contributor	Updates
27-Sep-2008 01:00	ASN archive	Added
03-Sep-2011 05:12	Uli Elch	Updated [Cn, Operator, Location, Nature, Source, Narrative]
12-Mar-2017 15:59	Dr. John Smith	Updated [Time, Operator, Location, Phase, Departure airport, Destination airport, Source, Embed code, Narrative]
23-Jun-2017 22:13	Dr. John Smith	Updated [Operator, Source, Narrative]
06-Apr-2020 14:16	Reno Raines	Updated [Operator, Operator]

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