

# ArmyAirForces.com of World War II

Information according to the ABMC website:

Willard L. Watson  
Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Forces  
Service # O-777878  
454th Bomber Squadron, 323rd Bomber Group, Medium  
Entered the Service from: Missouri  
Died: September 28, 1944  
Buried at: Plot I Row 18 Grave 11  
Brittany American Cemetery  
St. James, France

B-26, serial 41-34879 of the 454th BS which crashed on this date.  
The aircraft a veteran of 108 combat missions was named "Little Lulu" and carried the unit code RJ-X.  
It spun in and crashed over A-40 airfield, Chartres, France for reasons unknown.  
On this day it was being flown by a new crew. The pilot was 1st Lt. Burl L. Lukenbill.  
I don't have the rest of the crew names to confirm 100% this is the aircraft you are looking for, but I don't have any other ETO Marauder losses listed for this date.  
This may help.

Have checked John O. Moench's book: "Marauder Men (about 323rd BG). It seems that he has listed this crew as lost a year earlier than it actual happened according to your posting. This is from Chapter Seven (September 1943) and is listed under description of five last missions that month; from 16th including 27th.:

In the non-battle area, however, six men of the 454th BS were lost in an aircraft crash:  
T/Sgt Charles A. Brecker, T/Sgt Leonard K. Hardy, 1st Lt. Frank L. Hawkins, 1st Lt. Burl L. Lukenbill, S/sgt Joseph W. Maxwell and 2nd Lt. Willard L. Watson.

The 323rd had no mission September 28th 1944, they moved to A-40 Chartes on September 21st 1944. Under this month is written: For unknown reasons, on the 28th a 323 BG Marauder, "Little Lulu", flown by a new aircrew spun in at Chartres.

As both the names Willard L. Watson and Burl L. Lukenbill appears in the crew above, it is reason to believe that there might be an error in Moench's book, and that this crew is the actual crew lost 28th September 1944.

The nose art is described as "CARTOON CHARACTER LITTLE LULU FIRING A TOMMY-GUN".