

Greenland Aircraft Claims
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You may be familiar with the claims of young earth creationists concerning buried aircraft in glacial ice in Greenland.¹ To summarize this article, they tell the tale of an aircraft squadron that was lost in Greenland in 1942. When they were rediscovered in 1988, the aircraft were beneath 250 feet of snow and ice. The young earth author, Carl Wieland, claims this is evidence that it doesn't take long periods of time for ice to build up, refuting evolutionary claims that glaciers are hundreds of thousands of years old.

It is common practice, as claimed by Wieland, to use ice cores as measuring devices for age. However, when considering this, as Wieland correctly points out, isotope ratios are examined to determine ages. To say that an airplane was buried by 250 feet of snow and ice in 46 years only proves there was snowfall at this location...it has no bearing on the age of the earth issue. Now, if the snow at the level of the aircraft were dated by the isotopes, and it showed that it was vastly greater than 46 years old, then he may have a useful argument. As it is, Wieland's argument is just an empty claim. Thanks for proving that it snows in Greenland!

A more recent article on CNN.com shows the opposite.² An aircraft which had been lost on a glacier in Greenland in 1962 was recently explored (in 2004) for the purpose of returning the lost human remains. In the summer of 1995, a British crew flew over the site, and saw human remains on the surface. Therefore, between 1962 and 1995 there was no snow accumulation at this location. When compared with the site that Carl Wieland mentions, we can only be sure of one thing...it was colder and snowed more at the location where the aircraft were buried. Thus, young earth creationists are using the fact that their location has much more snow to prove a young earth...in reality, it only proves that snowfall rates vary by location. This has no bearing on the age of the earth!

When examining young-earth evidences, you have to be careful, as they will try to take a topic that has absolutely no bearing on the age of the earth, but they will word it in such a way as to claim that it does. This is usually done because they can't find any firm evidence for a young earth, so they have to prove their position by slick words.

¹ answersingenesis.org/creation/v19/i3/squadron.asp

² <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/science/08/23/us.searchforr.ap/index.html>