



Personal info

Full name

LEE, Brooks

Date of birth

21 April 1922

Age

22

Place of birth

Thatcher, Graham County, Arizona

Hometown

Thatcher, Graham County, Arizona

Military service

Service number

39862452

Rank

Sergeant

Unit

**419th Bombardment Squadron,
301st Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

13 February 1945

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Ardennes

Plot	Row	Grave
B	28	6

Immediate family

Members

David Lee (father)

Ella (Tyler) Lee (mother)

Annice Lee (sister)

Edward T. Lee (brother)

Mona Lee (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

44-6653

Data

Type: B-17G

Destination: Vienna, Austria

Mission: Bombing of an ordnance depot

MACR: 12110

More information

Sgt Brooks Lee attended Gila Junior College for 2 years and worked on a farm.

He enlisted in Phoenix, Arizona on 11 August 1943 and was sent overseas in November 1944.

Statement of 1st Lt Benjamin L. Partlon, pilot of plane 44-6360:

'I saw plane # 6653, which was flying 1-3 position of the lead squadron, begin smoking on the left side. I could not determine whether the smoke was caused by one or both engines afire.

The plane continued in formation for about two minutes, and then flames shot back along the left side of the plane.

Immediately after this plane started a shallow diving turn to the right, and I saw one chute open at this time. The altitude was 27,000 feet.

I looked back at my own formation of a few seconds and when I looked back the plane was in a vertical spin, and parts of the plane were falling away. The plane was then lost to my vision.'

Statement of T/Sgt Charles L. McGorry, tail gunner of plane 44-6259:

'While we were over the city of Vienna I noticed that A/C # 44-6653 had a wing afire. It flew along in formation of several minutes and then dropped off to the left side. The Tail Gunner bailed out and his chute opened, and then started to spiral down. Then I saw three or four other chutes, which must have been delayed jumps. The plane then disappeared into the clouds, which was to the south of the target.'

Statement of 1st Lt Luther C. Heffron, navigator of plane 44-7640:

'I believe that plane # 6653 received a hit by flak in # 2 engine immediately after turning on the Initial Point. First I noticed smoke coming from the engine and then I saw fire along the trailing edge of the left wing. I saw one man jump from the waist door before the plane fell away to the left from the formation. When I last saw the plane it appeared to be still under control.'

Seven crew members survived and were taken prisoner, three were killed. Their remains were initially buried at the cemetery of Andlersdorf, Austria.

Sgt Lee was fatally injured and went down with the plane.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, [WWII Memorial, fold3.com](#) - MACR, WWII Enlistment Record, [ancestry.com](#) 1940 Census, [www.newspapers.com](#) - Tucson Daily Citizen, WWI Draft Card

Photo source: Jac Engels, [www.newspapers.com](#) - Tucson Daily Citizen