



Personal info

Full name

STARLING, Charles Hugh

Date of birth

11 March 1916

Age

28

Place of birth

**Spokane, Spokane County,
Washington**

Hometown

Los Angeles, California

Military service

Service number

O-755779

Rank

Second Lieutenant

Unit

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

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

26 July 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Lorraine

Plot	Row	Grave
E	31	36

Immediate family

Members

Arthur E. Starling (father)

Lillian A. (Wright) Starling (mother)

Harvey W. Starling (brother)

Dorothy E. Starling (sister)

Lois A. Starling (sister)

Nellie M. Starling (sister)

Imelda M. (Firestone) Starling (wife)

Plane data

Serial number

42-31523

Data

Type: B-17G

Nickname: The Barr Fly

Destination: Wiener Neudorf, Austria

Mission: Bombing of the aircraft factory

MACR: 7127

More information

2nd Lt Charles H. Starling attended 1 year of college before he joined the Regular Army in Gardner FLD Taft, California on 15 June 1942.

2nd Lt Paul E. Gerhart:

Plane #42-31523 was flying 1-2 position in the low-left squadron. After the plane had been hit by cannon shells from enemy fighters the pilot tried to break away and head for the clouds. The #4 engine was burning and the fighters closed in. He made another break and tried to get back in formation. Then #3 engine was hit and caught fire. Two holes in the radio room showed that there was a fire inside the plane. About six feet of the right wing broke off and the plane went into a tight spin. It dropped about 2,000 feet and blew up. I saw no Parachutes. In my opinion there is very little chance that any of the crew members survived.

William H. Kelly:

My supposition is that when the front half of our plane exploded it killed or knocked out the two pilots and when the wreckage struck the ground they were surely killed. They pulled plane out of a turn spin. The strain broke it in two with the front end exploding.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, www.abmc.gov, www.wwiimemorial.com – John R. Tuft, www.archives.gov – WWII Enlistment Record, www.ancestry.com - Headstone and Interment Record / My Genealogy, www.fold3.com, <http://aircrewremembered.com/USAAFCombatOperations/Jul.44.html>

Photo source: Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 43-I, Gardner Field, California, Spokane Chronicle 21 November 1945