

Oscar Lee Agee, Jr.

25 December 1920 - 11 August 1945

Fighter Pilot lost 3 months after War in Europe ended

Oscar Lee Agee, Jr. was born 25 December 1920 in Trinity, Texas to Oscar Lee, SR., and Maude Cordwell (Tarwater) Agee. Trinity is located about 100 miles north of Houston. He joined big sister Mary, 3. Per the 1920 Census, taken a few months before Oscar's birth, the family lived on a Lumber Mill area in Precinct 2, Polk County, Texas. This is about 35 miles Southeast of Trinity. Oscar Sr. is a Filer at the Sawmill. They rent a Company home; no rent amount given. Also living with them is Maude's widowed sister Bertha Gore, who is a Salesperson in a Store. Oscar was from Arkansas and Maude was from Tennessee. The 1930 Census showed the family living in a rented home in Precinct 4, Trinity County. They pay \$35 a month and do have a radio set. Oscar Sr. is now a Foreman at a Sawmill.



HiBertha is not listed, however her 18-year-old niece Ruth is. 9-year-old Oscar Jr is in school. Oscar graduated from Jefferson Davis High School in Houston in 1938. The 1940 Census showed the family living at 7802 Lyons Avenue in Houston. It also showed the family lived in Cleveland, Texas in 1935. Cleveland is about 45 miles north of Houston. They are renting for \$20 a month. Oscar Sr is still a Foreman in a Lumbermill. In 1939 he worked 50 weeks and earned \$2080. In 1940 he's working 42 hours a week. Oscar Jr. was working as a Clerk in the Lumbermill Office. In 1939 he worked 50 weeks and earned \$150. In 1940 he's working 30 hours a week and attending school. He attended the University of Houston for 1 year.

Oscar's Draft Card, dated 16 February 1942, showed Oscar living at home on Lyons Avenue, but his mail goes to a PO Box. The person listed as who knows his location was Mrs. S. F. Ford, his sister Mary after she married. He was 5' 6" tall, weighed 135 lbs., with blue eyes and brown hair. Oscar joined the Army Air Corp on 26 June 1942 as a Private. At this time, he had finished 2 years at the University of Houston and was given a deferment. This was common for specialty training, like flight

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. Oscar (Print)	2. Oscar	3. Lee	4. Agee, Jr.	5. 12004
6. Place of Birth (Print) Trinity, Texas	7. 1920	8. 21	9. Trinity	10. Texas
11. 7802 Lyons Ave. Houston Harris Texas				
12. P.O. Box 4116 Houston Texas				
13. Mrs. S. F. Ford 6537 McE Houston Texas				
14. Houston Band Mill				
15. 7802 Lyons Ave. Houston Harris Texas				

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE FURNISHED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. B. H. FURFEL
DIRECTOR

school. He was called to active duty on 17 February 1943 in Houston. It showed he was a widower, with no dependents. However, no records of a marriage or death of a wife could be readily found. He had 1 year of college and was given Service # 18116432. He soon qualified for flight training. In October 1943 he started Primary Flight training at Onterio, California. He flew a BT-19 plane for 65 hours, 28.2 dual and 36.8 solo. He stayed at Onterio for Basic Flight in a new unit. He flew BT-13 and BT-15 planes for a total of 75:28, 36:28 dual, 39 solo. On March 14th Cadet Agee started Advance Flight at Luke Field, Phenix, Arizona. Here he flew the AT-6 mostly and got 10 hours in a P-40. He graduated Flight School on 23 May 1944 and was awarded his wings and commission. Being an officer, he was given a new Service # O-777948. Lt. Agee did not have any flight time in June, but he did travel to Harding Field, Louisiana then to Patterson Field, Colorado. In July at Patterson, he flew P-40s 35 times for 63 hours. In August he had 18 more flights for 37:15 time. In September he was back at Harding Field where he flew as a co-pilot of an L-2 plane for 2 hours. After some leave time, he was sent to Italy and the Fifteenth Air Force as a replacement pilot. He was assigned to the 319th Fighter Squadron, 325th Fighter Group flying P-51s. His first flight in a P-51 was in November, and his first combat mission was on 17 December 1944. When the War in Europe ended, he and the 325th stayed in Italy for a while. He flew a total of 39 combat missions. In May, June and July he flew 28 times for about 55 hours. Most were in P-51s, but he had 4 flights in an L-4. Early August a few more P-51 flights and as a passenger in a B-25. 1st Lt. Oscar Lee Agee was lost on 11 August 1945 when a B-25 he was riding in crashed during takeoff due to an engine failure. It was a B-25 C, Serial #41-13085. It was flown by Major Johnson, the 319th Squadron Commander. Also on board were 2 other pilots, Lt. Gertin and Lt. Barnes, and T/Sgt. Tomey as a Flight Engineer. All 5 were killed in the crash. Lt. Agee and the rest of the crew were initially buried at the US Military Cemetery in Bari, Italy. In 1948, the family of all 5 wanted their loved ones brought home. They were moved to the Naple's Port Morgue for preparation to be brought home. In May 1949 they boarded the US Army Transport ship Lawrence Victory to the NY Port of Embarkation. Lt. Agee was brought home, and he is buried at Forest Park Cemetery in Houston, next to squadron mate Lt. Bland (Buddy) M. Barnes. The 2 of them were in Advance flight training together, were awarded wings together, shipped out to Italy together, and flew combat missions together.

