

National Archives & Records Administration War Department Files

CAPT Norris B. Gee

Class 42-42

ID: 01174575

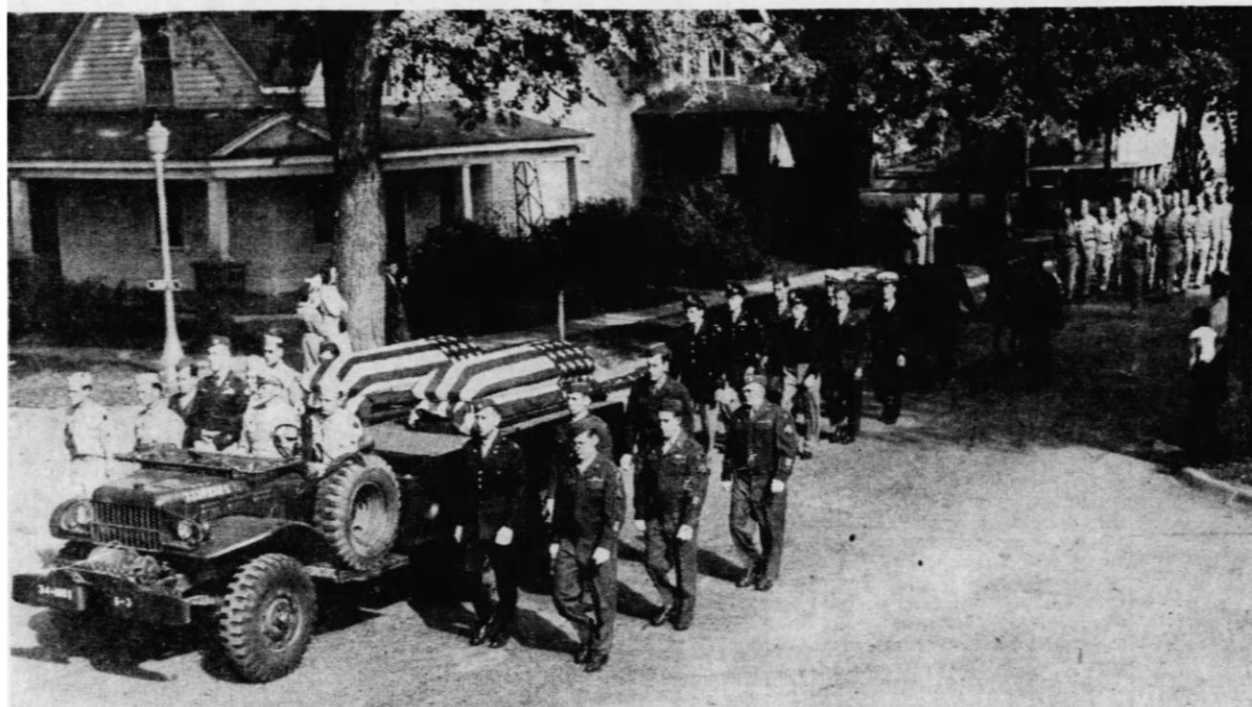
**Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Hometown: Marion County, IA**

Status: KIA 7 May 1945



Killed in action serving with Headquarters Battery, 202th Field Artillery Group

Double Funeral for Brothers Killed in Europe



The flag-draped coffins of two brothers who died in Europe in World War II were borne through the streets of Knoxville Friday on a weapons carrier to joint funeral services. The brothers were Capt. Norris B. Gee, 26, and Capt. Richard A. Gee, 23, of Knoxville.—Staff Photo by John Neagle.

Knoxville Honors Brothers Who Died As Fliers in War

By George Shane.

(Register Staff Writer.)

KNOXVILLE, IA.—Funeral services for two brothers, both aviators who were killed in Europe during World War II, were held Friday afternoon at Knoxville.

The brothers were Capt. Norris B. Gee, 26, and Capt. Richard A. Gee, 23, the only children of Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Gee of Knoxville.

Military Funeral.

It was a full military funeral, at St. Anthony's church. Service organizations, the national guard and an honor guard of army fliers marched in the procession.

National guard P-51s flew over



NORRIS GEE. RICHARD GEE.

the cemetery during the graveside rites.

The flag-draped coffins were carried on an army weapons carrier. Also in military tradition, two horses, with boots turned backwards

in the stirrups, were led in the procession.

Both brothers were regular army officers who had entered service in the thirties as enlisted men.

The brothers were together in England. Richard was a P-38 fighter pilot and squadron commander. Norris was a liaison pilot with the 3rd Army.

Killed by Flak.

Over France, June 22, 1943, Richard was killed by a burst of flak. The villagers of Henneville, France, and their priest, buried Richard in the local cemetery and heaped his grave with flowers.

When the Germans were pushed back, Norris visited his brother's grave and talked to the priest and others who had buried him.

Wrote Parents.

After the visit Norris wrote his parents telling of the tributes to Richard from the village of Henneville.

Then he told of the philosophy he and Richard had evolved in training.

A few short months and many long moments make a man a pilot, more afraid of failure than death," he wrote.

Eight months after the letter was written, Norris, too, was to meet death. Ironically, death came May 7, 1945, one hour after the signing of the armistice in a flying accident over Germany.

The bodies were returned by the quartermaster general's office at the same time. It is a practice usually followed when more than one member of the family has died in service and the bodies are to be returned.



While honor guard stands at attention, coffins containing the bodies of Capt. Norris B. Gee 26, and Capt. Richard A. Gee, 23, Knoxville brothers, are carried from St. Anthony's church. Approximately 400 attended the military service.



Buried in Graceland Cemetery, Knoxville, Iowa