

In Memory of First Lieutenant Drexel Dean Sparks

1924 - 1945

(332nd Bomber Squadron, 94th Bomber Group (Heavy) United States Army Air Forces)

Age: 21

Spouse: Marilyn J. Sterns

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: United States of America

Country of Death: North Sea

Relation: Husband of Maternal 3rd Cousin 2X Removed



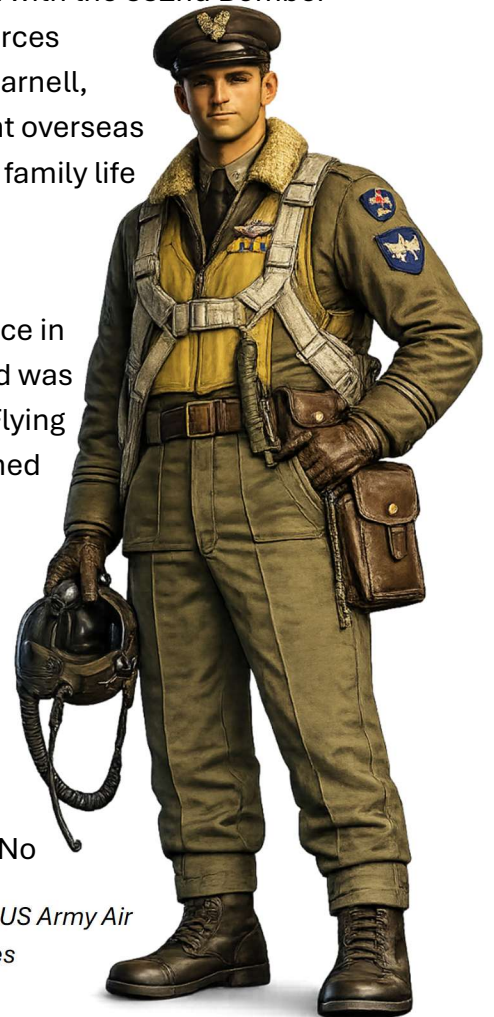
First Lieutenant Drexel Dean Sparks, aged 21, served as a co-pilot with the 332nd Bomber Squadron, 94th Bomber Group (Heavy), United States Army Air Forces during the final year of the Second World War. Born in 1924 near Parnell, Missouri, he later moved to Oregon in 1941. Before his deployment overseas he married Marilyn Sterns in Louisiana in 1944, beginning a young family life that would soon be interrupted by war.

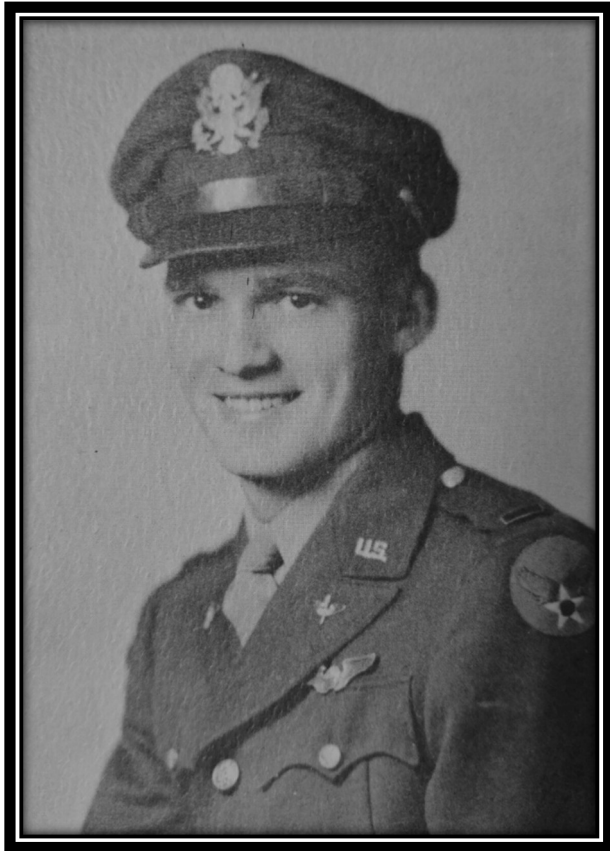
Entering military service in February 1943, Sparks earned his commission and wings before being assigned to the Eighth Air Force in England. He arrived in the United Kingdom on 23 January 1945 and was based at USAAF Station 468, Bury St. Edmunds, flying the B-17G Flying Fortress. He served as co-pilot aboard aircraft #44-8237, nicknamed "*Dallas Dollie*."

On the night of 31 May 1945, Lieutenant Sparks and his crew departed at approximately 22:30 hours on what was scheduled to be a routine night training flight along the North Sea coastline toward Aberdeen, Scotland, and back. The aircraft failed to report in after departure. Immediate search efforts were launched, and scattered debris was later sighted in the waters off Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, indicating that the bomber had been lost at sea. No survivors were recovered.

Lieutenant Sparks was initially reported Missing in

*1st Lieutenant – US Army Air
Forces*





Action, and on 10 November 1945 his death was officially confirmed. His loss came only eleven weeks after the death of his brother, Lieutenant Alvis Sparks, who had been killed in the crash of a B-29 during operations against Japan — a profound double tragedy for the Sparks family.

Having no known grave, First Lieutenant Drexel Dean Sparks is commemorated at the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial in England, where the names of those lost in aerial operations over Europe and the surrounding seas are inscribed. His service reflects the dedication of the young American airmen who continued to fly perilous missions — even in training — until the final months of the war, and whose sacrifice extended beyond combat itself into every aspect of military duty.

First Lieutenant Spark's name on the Memorial Wall



SOMMER PETER W.	1 LT	7 BOMB SQ 34 BOMB GP(H)	ILLINOIS
SOMMERBORN ARTHUR L	SGT	AIR CORPS	IOWA
SORGER EDWARD L	2 LT	AIR CORPS	ILLINOIS
SOROCHAK ANDREW	CPL	CHEMICAL WARFARE SV	PENNSYLVANIA
SORRELLS FRANK W	TEC 5	816 AIR EVAC SQ	VIRGINIA
SORTONME CHARLES I	1 LT	652 BOMB SQ 25 BOMB GP(H)	CALIFORNIA
SPADATORA ALBERT N	S SGT	715 BOMB SQ 348 BOMB GP(H)	MASS
SPANO FRANK	S SGT	338 BOMB SQ 96 BOMB GP(H)	ILLINOIS
SPARKS DREXEL D	1 LT	322 BOMB SQ 94 BOMB GP(H)	OREGON
SPARKS MITTON H	S SGT	522 BOMB SQ 91 BOMB GP(H)	NORTH CAROLINA
SPARKS WILLIAM F	PLC	3206 QM SV CO	MISSOURI
SPaulding CHARLES A	S SGT	547 BOMB SQ 384 BOMB GP(H)	NEVADA
SPaulding RUSSELL E	SGT	81 AB BN (O) ABN DIV	OHIO
SPEAR ALBERT S	2 LT	350 BOMB SQ 100 BOMB GP(H)	PENNSYLVANIA
SPEARS WALTER A	S SGT	412 BOMB SQ 95 BOMB GP(H)	TEXAS
SPECTOR CHARLES	SGT	568 BOMB SQ 390 BOMB GP(H)	PENNSYLVANIA
SPEERS EDWARD J	1 LT	701 BOMB SQ 145 BOMB GP(H)	NEW YORK
SPEISER WILLIAM F	S SGT	508 BOMB SQ 361 BOMB GP(H)	ILLINOIS
SPILL ARTHUR B	S SGT	541 BOMB SQ 97 BOMB GP(H)	FLORIDA
SPILLS RICHARD L	S SGT	566 BOMB SQ 505 BOMB GP(H)	KANSAS
SPENCER ERWIN C	2 LT	527 BOMB SQ 379 BOMB GP(H)	NEW YORK
SPITZ JEROME	S SGT	INTRANS	PENNSYLVANIA
SPUBLAN JOHN T	2 LT	350 BOMB SQ 100 BOMB GP(H)	NEW YORK
SPYER EDWARD	1 SGT	AIR CORPS	CALIFORNIA
STEELE JAMES	1 SGT	35 CML DECON SQ	PENNSYLVANIA
STEELE JR 2 LT	2 LT	608 BOMB SQ 340 BOMB GP(H)	CALIFORNIA
STEINER EDWARD	SGT	AIR CORPS	NEW YORK
STILLER 2 LT	2 LT	348 BOMB SQ 98 BOMB GP(H)	NEW YORK



The Memorial Wall at the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridgeshire, England