

**GOVER, LeRoy**

“Lee”

B: 6 May 1914 Loveland, CO

D: 5 November 1997 Menlo Park, CA



*“Weather has been closed in all of the time. We took off regardless and went up through it. It was only 2,000 feet thick but was absolutely 10/10ths...every bit of the way except an open patch over the Zuiderzee...Took 720 Forts and Liberators to bomb Bremen again. Visibility was awful. The fellows landed all over the country coming back, out of gas and lost. I made it back OK.”*

*- LeRoy Gover, Logbook entry 16 December 1943*

**Hometown:** San Carlos, California

**Rank:** Major

**MOS:** 1055 - Pilot, single engine fighter

**Unit:** 336th Fighter Squadron

4th Headquarters Squadron

**Aircraft:**

Spitfire VB BL722 MD-B *Sondra Lee IX*

P-47C-5-RE 41-6574 VF-G *Miss San Carlos*

P-47D-6-RE 42-74688 VF-G *Miss San Carlos*

**4th Service:** 23 September 1942 – 15 March 1944

30 NOV 42 Promoted to 1st Lieutenant

10 MAR 43 Promoted to Captain

26 Sep 43 Designated squadron Operations Officer

10 OCT 43 Appointed squadron Commanding Officer

14 OCT 43 Promoted to Major

1 JAN 44 Transferred to Headquarters squadron and designated group Oxygen Officer

**Victories:**

1

**Post 4th Fighter Group:**

1944 Commanding Officer, Training Group Page Field Fort Myers, FL.

APR 45 Commanding Officer, Instrument School, Luke Field, Phoenix, AZ.

JUL 45 Base Operations officer, Kingman, AZ.

SEP 45 Base Operations officer, Minter Field Bakersfield, CA.

DEC 45 Leaves the Army Air Force.

JUN 47 Returns to regular Air Force; stationed at Biggs Field, El Paso, TX.

JAN 48 ANG instructor, Morris Field, Charlotte, NC. In the spring of '48 led squadron that did stunt flying for the movie *Fighter Squadron*. Responsible for all solo flights in the film.

1949-50 California ANG, Oakland, CA.

1950 Commanding officer, F-86 squadron at Kirtland AFB, NM.

FEB 51 Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

1951-61 Served in assignments at Tyndall AFB, FL; McCord AFB, WA and Hamilton AFB, CA. Promoted to Colonel in 1961.

MAY 62 Retires from the Air Force.

1962-80 Charter pilot, flying fisherman to Mexico and Canada. Retired in 1980, but continued flying into his eighties, ultimately logging over 28,000 hours flight time.

**Decorations:**

Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (2 OLC), Distinguished Flying Cross (British), Air Medal (3 OLC), Presidential Unit Citation OLC), World War II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, Croix de Guerre, 1939-1945 War Medal (British)