

Robert S. Abeel Jr.

East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association. "Robert S. Abeel Jr." *ETVMA*. Accessed November 12, 2025. <https://www.etvma.org/veterans/robert-s-abeel-jr-8830/>.

"Robert Sarl Abeel Jr. was born at Chattanooga, Tennessee, the son of Robert Sarl and Ruby Abeel.

27th Squadron, 443rd Troop Carrier Group, 10th Air Force

Aircraft C-47B, serial number 43-16350, nicknamed Able Baker, departed on 28 September 1945 from Hsian on an administrative mission to Liangshan AB, China. Bad weather and rain caused shorting out of radio equipment. The aircraft went missing between Liangshan and Peishiyi. Search was made by C-47 and L-5 on 29 September 1945. Weather prohibited flying on 30 September. Search was made in Liangshan area with no results.

Crew members

Pilot, 1st Lt John F. Pospichal

Co-Pilot, F/O Frederick L. Patterson

Radio Operator T/Sgt Jerome H. Birkenfeld

Crew Chief S/Sgt Robert S. Abeel Jr.

Passengers Major Leslie G. Shellan and Colonel James C. MacMullan

Son of Robert S Abeel Sr and Ruby

Enlisted 22 Apr 1943, Ft. Oglethorpe, GA

Buried in Zachary Taylor National Cemetery, Louisville, KY, Plot E, 0, 100"

FORM APPROVED  
Budget Bureau No. 33

**REGISTRATION CARD** (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1943.)  
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

|               |                        |                         |                       |              |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| SERIAL NUMBER | 1. NAME (Print)        |                         |                       | ORDER NUMBER |
| W 119         | Robert                 | Sarl                    | Abeel, Jr.            | 13573        |
|               | <small>(First)</small> | <small>(Middle)</small> | <small>(Last)</small> |              |

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)  
 1604 Union Ave. Chattanooga Hamilton Tennessee  
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)  
 [THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS  
 same  
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)

|                                    |                                  |                                   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4. TELEPHONE                       | 5. AGE IN YEARS                  | 6. PLACE OF BIRTH                 |
| 2-6031                             | 18                               | Chattanooga                       |
| <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small> | <small>DATE OF BIRTH</small>     | <small>(Town or county)</small>   |
|                                    | Dec. 7 1924                      | Tennessee                         |
|                                    | <small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small> | <small>(State or country)</small> |

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS  
 Mrs. R. S. Abeel-same as above

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS  
 Charles Herman Simpson -manager

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS  
 State Theatre-Market St. Chattanooga Tenn.  
(Number and street or R.F.D. number) (Town) (County)

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

DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) e16-21630-4 (OVER)

Description: Standard draft card for WWII. This one is filled out by Robert S. Abeel Jr. [East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association — Abeel Jr., Robert S.](#)

CONFIDENTIAL

14963

WAR DEPARTMENT  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES  
WASHINGTON

## MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled in quadruplicate by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time an air crew member is officially reported missing. *as late as possible*

1. ORGANIZATION: Location by Name: Liangshan, China Command or Air Force: 10th AF  
Group None Squadron 27th Troop Carrier
  2. SPECIFY: Place of Departure Hsian Course 200 degrees  
Target of Intended Destination Liangshan Type of Mission Administrative
  3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:  
7000 overcast 4,500 broken 2000 lower scattered rain
  4. GIVE: (a) Day 28 Month Sept Year 1945 Time 1428 Location  
of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft. Between Liangshan and Feishih  
(b) Specify whether aircraft was last sighted ( ) Last contacted by  
radio (x) Forced down ( ) Seen to Crash ( ) or information not available ( ).
  5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST, OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)  
Enemy aircraft ( ) Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) Other Circumstances as  
follows: Bad weather and rain causing shorting out of radio equipment.
  6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model and Series C-47-B AAF Serial Number 43-16350
  7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT, if any: Able Baker
  8. ENGINES: Type, Model and Series PW-1830-90-C AAF Serial Number follows:  
(a) BT-487801 (b) BT-485705 (c)            (d)
  9. INSTALLED WEAPONS (Furnish below make, type and serial number).  
(a) None
  10. THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPORTED AS (a) Battle Casualty           .  
(b) Non-battle casualty X.
  11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 4 Passengers 2 Total 6.  
(Starting with Pilot, furnish the following particulars. If more than 11  
persons were aboard aircraft, list similar particulars on separate sheet  
and attach original to this form.)
- | Crew Position       | Name in Full<br>(Last name first) | Rank    | Serial<br>Number | Current<br>Status   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ 1. Pilot          | Pospichal, John F.                | 1st Lt  | O-681185         | P                   |
| ✓ 2. Co-Pilot       | Patterson, Frederick L.           | T/O     | T-130442         | P                   |
| ✓ 3. Radio Operator | Birkenfeld, Jerome H.             | T/Sgt   | 13086822         | D <i>Ch. Reator</i> |
| ✓ 4. Crew Chief     | Abel, Robert S. Jr.               | S/Sgt   | 34731198         | D <i>Ch. Reator</i> |
| ✓ 5. Passenger      | Shellan, Leslie G.                | Major   |                  |                     |
| ✓ 5. Passenger      | MacMullan, James C.               | Colonel |                  |                     |
12. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT,  
AND CHECK APPROPRIATE COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME: (Check only one).  
Name in full Serial Contacted Last Saw Saw forced  
Last name first Rank Number by radio Sighted Crash landing  
1. Shiplokooff, Meyer Cpl 32540180 X
  13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING  
STATEMENTS: (a) Parachutes were used            (b) Any other reasons - Specify
  14. ATTACH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, MAP CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROPRIATE LOCATION  
WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN OR HEARD FROM.
  15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTION OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES  
PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.
  16. GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH, IF ANY,  
INCLUDING DESCRIPTION AND EXTENT Lt Col Robert A. Eddin O-424257 Search  
was made by C-47 and L-5 on 29 Sept 45. Weather prohibited flying on 30 Sept.  
Search made in Liangshan area. No results. DATE OF REPORT 30 September 1945

*James C. MacMullan*  
(Signature of Commanding Officer)

17. REMARKS OR EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS:

Memorial Association — Abeel Jr., Robert S.



Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association — Abeel Jr., Robert S.

# ABEEL IS KILLED IN CRASH OF PLANE

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## Army Reports in Accident in China Sept. 28, 1945

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S/Sgt. Robert S. Abeel Jr., 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Abeel, 1604 Union Avenue, missing following a plane crash in China on Sept. 28, 1945, was killed in the accident, the War Department notified his parents yesterday.

Serving as a crew chief with a troop carrier unit of the Flying Tigers, Sgt. Abeel, former student at Central High School and employe of the State Theater here, had been overseas since October, 1944. Prior to the end of the war, he had been assigned to the Eagle Bomb Squadron of the Flying Tigers. Later he was a member of a troop carrier unit stationed at Liangshan, China, from which point relatives received their last letter from him.

He took basic training at Miami Beach, Fla., trained with an aviation mechanic group at Seymour Johnson Field, N. C., and received gunnery training at Fort Myers, Fla. He entered the service in April, 1943.

Sgt. Abeel is survived by his parents; three sisters, Mrs. Maurice A. Johnson, Mrs. Clifford A. Jay and Miss Mary Katherine Abeel, all of Chattanooga.

Description: Chattanooga Daily Times Newspaper, published the 29th of October, 1945, detailing S/Sgt. Abeel Jr. service and subsequent disappearance while in the line of duty. [East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association — Abeel Jr., Robert S.](#)

# 美國烈士名單 A

AALTONEN KULLERVO T. M. SGT. C/C 1943-8-7  
 ABBOTT GEORGE H. M/SGT 1944-8-11  
 ABBOTT MURRAY E. S/SGT 1944-12-18  
 ABEEL ROBERT S. JR S/ST 1945-9  
 ABEL NATHAN P. 2-LT 1943-9-15  
 ABEL THOMAS R. S/SGT. AM. G 1945-1-14  
 ABELSON JOEL S/SGT, GUNNER 1944-1-15  
 ABERLE WAYNE J. 2-LT BOMB-NAV. 1945-10-26  
 ABRAHAMS SARDOU W. 1-LT, C/P 1945-1-24  
 ABRAMS STANLEY Z. 1-LT, NAV. 1945-6-19  
 ADAMS C. M. 1-LT, C/P 1944-9-17  
 ADAMS DONAH L. S/SGT, ASS'T-R/O 1944-1-25  
 ADAMS JAMES A. S/SGT 1943-5-23  
 ADAMS JR. CLAUDE S. CPL, R/O 1944-9-1  
 ADES ALBERT O. 2-LT, NAV. 1944-7-15  
 ADLER RICHARD PFC, R/O 1944-6-15  
 AENETTE KENNETH R. PASSENGER, CAPT 1945-2-4  
 AGER ROBERT CPL, R/O 1945-2-14  
 AHRENDTSEN JOHN E. PFC, R/O 1945-4-10  
 AKEN DONAL C. S/SGT RADAR. 1944-6-26  
 AKINS KENNETH L. MAJOR, PILOT 1944-6-15  
 ALBERS FRAZIER W. S/SGT, R/O 1943-10-27  
 ALBERT RPLAND L. 2-LT, NAV. 1944-8-20  
 ALBRIGHT L. 2-LT, PILOT 1945-4-23  
 ALDIERI SISTO A. S/SGT. 1944-12-17  
 ALEXANDER HOWARD F. PASSENGER, PFC 1944-1-15  
 ALEXANDER KENNETH S. 2-LT, PILOT 1944-7-5  
 ALFREY MALCOLM P. PASSENGER, CAPT. 1944-8-23  
 ALKIRE CLARENCE H. 2-LT, C/P 1943-11-1  
 ALLEN JAMES E. T/SGT, C/C 1944-11-3





Description: S/Sgt. Abeel Jr.'s name is etched onto the Monument to Aviation Martyrs at the Nanjing Memorial in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China. This international recognition highlights the global significance of World War II and the enduring respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service.

Traces of War. "Cemetery of the International Aviation Martyrs." *Traces of War*. Accessed November 12, 2025.

<https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/91603/Cemetery-of-the-International-Aviaton-Martyrs.htm>

ORIGINAL SEP 13 1949

4 INTERMENT IN THE ZACHARY TAYLOR NATIONAL CEMETERY

TO: THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

NAME (Last, first, middle initial) ABEEL, Robert S. Jr.

STATE AA

RANK Staff Sergeant

SERIAL NO. 34731198

RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check One)  
☐ LATIN CROSS ☐ STAR OF DAVID

SERVICE DATA (Company, regiment, or other organization or branch of service and division, if any.)  
27 TNP CARRIER SGN  
AAF  
(AC)

| DATE OF BIRTH |          |           | DATE OF DEATH |           |           | DATE OF INTERMENT |           |             | GRAVE LOCATION |                  | DATES OF SERVICE |                                     |           |            |
|---------------|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| MONTH         | DAY      | YEAR      | MONTH         | DAY       | YEAR      | MONTH             | DAY       | YEAR        | SEC. OR PLOT   | GRAVE OR LOT NO. | ENLISTMENT       | DIED ON A. D.                       | DISCHARGE | RETIREMENT |
| <u>DEC</u>    | <u>7</u> | <u>24</u> | <u>Apr</u>    | <u>28</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>Aug</u>        | <u>18</u> | <u>1949</u> | <u>E</u>       | <u>100</u>       |                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |           |            |

REMARKS (Authority for interment, position or claim number, disinterment, etc.)  
Decedent 1 of group burial interred in common grave with:  
PATTERSON, Frederick L. Jr. .... F/O .... T-130442  
WW II deceased returned from OAHU-SCHOFFIELD BARRACKS  
MAUSOLEUM No. 2, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

DATE HEADSTONE ORDERED AND B/L NUMBER  
7958402  
TATE, GA. 9 DEC 1949  
Ltr to Supt 30 December 1949

RAILROAD STATION FOR FREIGHT

SHIPPING POINT FOR HEADSTONES

POST OFFICE ADDRESS  
St. Matthews, Kentucky.  
RFD Route 6, Box 24, Louisville, Ky. 0100019

SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY OR QM OF POST OR POW CEMETERY  
Harmon S. Sides

CLARENCE H. HODGERS

QMC FORM 14 REV 1 AUG 45 Previous editions may be used

(See instructions on reverse side) 16-40609-1

Description: Internment slip for the Zachary Taylor Cemetery for Staff Sergeant Robert S. Abeel Jr.



Description: In the United States, his memory is honored on a shared headstone at Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Jefferson County, Kentucky. While his remains are not interred there, the marker serves as a tribute to his service and sacrifice.

Find a Grave. "Robert S. Abeel Jr." *Find a Grave Memorial*. Accessed November 12, 2025. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/251421/robert-s-abeel>.