



REMEMBERING CAPTAIN DEAN STRAIN

[NEWS, REMEMBRANCE](#)

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BY [I LOVE LA JUNTA](#)

A person who lives in our hearts and our memories never dies, their life becomes part of our memories. They travel with us and we share their memory with those we love. This person becomes a part of us all as long as we continue to share their story. In a sense, they will live in eternity in our thoughts. This January marks seventy-one years since Captain Dean Strain was shot down over Hamburg, Germany. His twenty-four years of life was brief, but it was one that continues to shape the world we live in today.

Dean B. Strain (May 1920 - January 1945)

Born: May 1920 in La Junta, CO

Parents: L.P. "Lee" Strain and Coy Beavers Strain

Siblings: George (born May 1916) and Anna Mae Strain Everett

Early Life

His sister-in-law, Helen Frye Strain said that Dean was a personable person. He liked everyone and everyone seemed to like him. His family was loyal to Dean and attended all his school functions (football, basketball and Koshare performances). She said that the caliber and character of Dean was very high. She remembers Dean and the first Koshares meeting at the chicken house on the Burshears family property.

Dean was one of the Koshare's Charter Members and one of the first Koshare Chiefs. He was officially awarded his Eagle Scout by the Rocky Mountain Council on November 19, 1934. Dean and eight other Koshares attended the First National Boy Scout Jamboree in 1937.

In 1939, Dean served as Head Chief of the Koshare organization. In addition to excelling in Koshares, Strain was a top athlete in school. He made the first touchdown at Tiger's Field after it was built. Strain also played center for the Tiger's basketball team.

Capt. Dean Strain Missing in Action Over Germany

2-6-45



CAPT. DEAN STRAIN

Captain Dean Strain, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Strain, has been missing over Germany since Jan. 17, a War Department telegram received here last night by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Strain, announced.

Captain Strain completed his training at the Pueblo Army Air Base last April and went to England early in May. He took part in the invasion of the continent and has been in action ever since. His bombardier had already completed his missions and Captain Strain had expected to be back in the United States by Easter.

He was a junior at Colorado University when he went into the service three years ago and was married in September 1943. He is a member of the Koshare Club and one of its most prominent dancers. As one of the La Junta High School's top athletes, he made the first touchdown in the

After graduating from La Junta High School, Dean went on to attend the University of Colorado-Boulder. While in Koshares Dean moved on his feet so quickly and lightly and his skills were well used on the University of Colorado Basketball team. His coach, Frosty Cox, said of Dean that he had the best footwork of any basketball player he had ever seen. The C.U. coach attributed this to Dean's vigorous training as a Koshare.

He played basketball for C.U. until his junior year when he signed up for military service. In 1942, he became a flying cadet in Alabama where he was elected to the leadership of his squad by the older officers. By 1943, he was a Lieutenant doing advanced training at the Pueblo Air Base.

Dean Strain married his High School sweetheart, Margaret Love, in Pueblo, Colorado in September of 1943. On January 17, 1945, Captain Dean Strain, was shot down over Hamburg, Germany in an air raid. Strain danced with the Koshares in Pueblo, CO, three months before his death. His body returned to the U.S. and was buried at Fort Leavenworth.

The first painting acquired by the Koshares was dedicated to the memory of Captain Dean Strain. The painting is the Eagle Dancer by Woodrow "Woody" Crumbo, Taos artist, whose paintings were exhibited at formal opening of the Koshare Kiva.

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