



**Name:** Lee Miller

- **Years:** April 23, 1907-July 21, 1977
- **Residence:** Poughkeepsie, NY
- **Brief biography:**

Lee Miller was born in Poughkeepsie, NY, in 1907. She grew up to be a famous fashion model, fashion art photographer, and wartime correspondent. Her father, an amateur photographer, used her as a model and instructed her in the art of photography. Lee was discovered in New York City by Condé Nast, founder of Vogue, at age 19. She quickly became one of the most popular models of the late 1920s. Lee was photographed by Edward Steichen, Arnold Genthe, and Nickolas Murray, among others.

In 1929, Lee went to Paris to learn from Man Ray, and ended up his assistant, muse and lover. She took over the photography side of his efforts, and helped rediscover the technique of solarisation (where a negative is partly or completely reversed in tone, so black becomes white and vice versa). Lee became an active surrealist. Lee returned to New York in 1932, when she started her own photography studio with her brother, Erik. Lee left her studio in 1934 to marry Aziz Eloui Bey, an Egyptian businessman.

After becoming bored with that life, Lee returned to Paris in 1937 and met her future husband Roland Penrose, a British surrealist. Miller was living in Hampstead, London with Roland Penrose when the city was bombed during World War II. This inspired Miller to become the official war photographer for Vogue documenting the Blitz, and received accreditation into the U.S. Army as a war correspondent for Condé Nast Publications from December 1942. Miller was on the scene for many crucial moments: the first use of napalm at the siege of St. Malo, the liberation of Paris, the battle for Alsace, and the Nazi concentration camps at Buchenwald and Dachau. One photograph by Scherman of Miller in the bathtub of Adolf Hitler's apartment in Munich is one of the most iconic images from the Miller-Scherman partnership. Miller also photographed dying children in a Vienna Hospital, peasant life in post-war Hungary and finally the execution of Prime Minister László Bárdossy.

After the war she continued to work for Vogue for a further two years, covering fashion and celebrities. After she discovered she was pregnant with her only son, Antony, she finally divorced Bey and, on May 3, 1947 married Roland. Antony was born in September 1947. Lee started to suffer from severe episodes of clinical depression, which would later be identified as post-traumatic stress

syndrome. Although Lee rarely talked about them, her experiences with the war, especially the concentration camps, continued to haunt her and she started on what Antony describes as a "downward spiral". Miller died from cancer at Farley Farm House in Chiddingly, East Sussex in 1977, aged 70. Her son is devoted to honoring and promoting the memory of his mother's many contributions to global culture.

- **Major achievements:**

- famous fashion model featured on the cover of Vogue, as well as other publications
- photography featured in gallery shows and museums
- published photography in Vogue

- **For more information:**

- <http://www.leemiller.co.uk/index.aspx>
- Anthony Penrose, *The Lives of Lee Miller*, 1985
- Carolyn Burke, *Lee Miller, A Life*, 2005

- **Resources:**

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee\\_Miller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Miller)

by. Mary Kaltreider