



Personal info

Full name

SMITH, Oaks Hopkins

Date of birth

16 June 1921

Age

22

Place of birth

Rockingham County, North Carolina

Hometown

Reidsville, Rockingham County, North Carolina

Military service

Service number

34314242

Rank

Technical Sergeant

Unit

**360th Bombardment Squadron,
303rd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Missing in Action

Date of death

2 October 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten

Walls of the Missing

Immediate family

Members

James H. Smith (father)
Rosa B. (Hyler) Smith (mother)
Mary Smith (sister)
Raymond R. Smith (brother)
Lottie Smith (sister)
Sallie Smith (sister)
Dora B. Smith (sister)
Clemmon C. Smith (brother)
Emma S. Smith (sister)

Plane data

Serial number

42-5260

Data

Type: B-17F
Nickname: Yardbird II
Destination: Emden, Germany
Mission: Bombing of the industrial area
MACR: 738

More information

T/Sgt Oaks H. Smith was a farmer before he enlisted at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 31 July 1942.

The aircraft was hit by gunfire from two ME-109's immediately after the formation left the target. The ship peeled off, went down out of control, and exploded above the overcast. One parachute was observed coming out it went out of sight.

In addition to the crew of ten, a photographer, Sgt Carney C. Rhodes Jr., was on board. All were killed. Only the body of Hugh F. Gigney Jr. was recovered when it washed ashore at Esbjerg, where he was initially buried on 3 December 1942. He is now interred at Ardennes Cemetery.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.ancestry.com - Yeatts Family Tree / WWII Enlistment Record, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, <http://library.digitalnc.org/cdm/ref/collection/ncmemory/id/96741> - Honor Roll of Rockingham County, North Carolina: A Pictorialization of Rockingham Men and Women Serving in the Armed Forces of The United States of America - World War II, Frank Hoppenbrouwers, <http://airforce.togetherveserved.com/usaf/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=183976>.