

Personal info

Full name

SMITH, Brian Temple

Date of birth

21 November 1920

Age

22

Place of birth

Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, California

Hometown

Santa Clara, Santa Clara County, California

Military service

Service number

O-672467

Rank

First Lieutenant

Unit

**579th Bombardment Squadron,
392nd Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,
Air Medal**

Death & Grave

Status

Finding of Death

Date of death

4 October 1943

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Margraten**Walls of the Missing**

Immediate family

Members

Earle T. Smith (father)

Grace (Stevens) Smith (mother)

Victor P. Smith (brother)

Plane data

Serial number

42-7474

Data

Type: B-24H

Nickname: Satan's Flame

Destination: North Sea

Mission: Diversion

MACR: 891

More information

1st Lt Brian T. Smith graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1936 and attended the University of California at Berkeley.

At UCB, he completed the aviation course given by the Civil Aeronautics Authority. He was selected for advanced training to include ground and flight training by Oakland Flying School and Moreau Flying Service. He worked as a park ranger for the US Department of the Interior at Kings Canyon National Park.

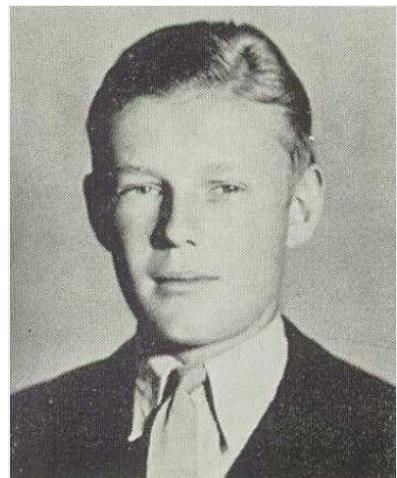
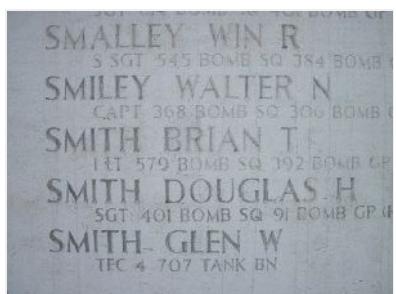
He enlisted on 10 December 1941 at the Presidio of Monterey, California and was sent overseas in August 1943.

The mission's objective was to deconcentrate German defenses, primarily fighter units, and draw them away from the main bomber routes across the continent.

This aircraft was last seen when it lost altitude with one or more engines on fire as a result of fighter attacks. Three or four parachutes were noted at that time.

The entire crew of ten men was killed.

Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, www.B24.NET, www.wwiiimemorial.com, www.archives.gov, www.ancestry.com - Hatton Family Tree, WWII Draft Card

Photo source: www.findagrave.com, Chris van der Linden, Arie-Jan van Hees, Pilot Class Book 43 B/D, Jones Field, Bonham, Texas, Los Gatos High School 1936