



### Personal info

Full name

**SMITH, Joseph R Jr**

Date of birth

**20 October 1918**

Age

**25**

Place of birth

**New York**

Hometown

**Brooklyn, Kings County, New York**

### Military service

Service number

**O-813456**

Rank

**Second Lieutenant**

Unit

**506th Bombardment Squadron,  
44th Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**8 April 1944**

Cemetery

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

### Immediate family

Members

**Joseph R. Smith (father)**

## Plane data

Serial number

**42-109827**

Data

**Type: B-24J**

**Destination: Brunswick, Germany**

**Mission: Bombing of the aviation industry**

**MACR: 3858**

## More information

The primary target was the aviation industry at Brunswick. This target as well as the secondary were obscured by a smoke screen, so a target of opportunity, Langenhagen/Hannover Aerodrome, was bombed instead.

Statement of one of the surviving crew members: "Our plane was hit with cannon shells in the main gas lines across the front of the wing above the flight deck, as well as on the deck above the wing over the bomb bay where all of the oxygen supply bottles were secured. Fire erupted immediately, fed by the fuel, the oxygen, and the wind blowing in the open bomb bay. It quickly spread back to the waist positions and forward into the flight deck area. Lt Sprinkle sounded the bailout alarm very soon after the hits, and everyone hurried to get set to abandon ship. We, in the waist area, prepared to leave through the bottom camera hatch, as the heat from the fire soon was igniting the ammo in the waist gun belts."

## Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Roger Fenton VP/Historian 44th BGVA, Terry Hirsch, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) - MACR

Photo source: Jac Engels