

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



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 - MACR

Photo source: Jac Engels