



## Personal info

Full name

**SMITH, Wesley Eugene Jr**

Date of birth

**30 August 1923**

Age

**21**

Place of birth

**Richmond County, Georgia**

Hometown

**Richmond County, Georgia**

## Military service

Service number

**34761388**

Rank

**Technician Fifth Grade**

Unit

**1058th Engineer Construction and Repair Group**

Awards

**Bronze Star,  
Purple Heart**

## Death & Grave

Status

**Died non-Battle**

Date of death

**17 March 1945**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Margraten**

Plot	Row	Grave
B	20	11

## Immediate family

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### Members

**Wesley Smith (father)**

**Maggie (Griffin) Smith (mother)**

## More information

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The Ludendorff Bridge (known frequently by English-speakers during World War II as the Bridge at Remagen) was a railway bridge across the River Rhine in Germany, connecting the villages of Remagen and Erpel between two ridge lines of hills flanking the river. Remagen is situated near and south of Bonn.

The collapse was blamed on a weakened main supporting girder that had been damaged by an enemy demolition charge before the Americans captured the 1,200-foot railroad span on 7 March 1945. About 200 Army engineers working on the bridge were plunged into the Rhine, 70 feet below, when the central span gave way with a rumble and shudder. Many were rescued, but 28 U.S. Army Engineers were killed, and 93 others were wounded.

## Photos

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Source of information: Terry Hirsch, [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov), [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), [www.basher82.nl](http://www.basher82.nl), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - WWII Draft Cards / 1940 US Census

Photo source: [www.basher82.nl](http://www.basher82.nl), The Augusta Chronicle - 24 July 1945