

## Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor  
Foundation



### Personal info

Full name

**SMITH, Lee W**

Date of birth

**13 August 1917**

Age

**26**

Place of birth

**Battle Ground, Tippecanoe County,  
Indiana**

Hometown

**Battle Ground, Tippecanoe County, Indiana**

### Military service

Service number

**O-803296**

Rank

**First Lieutenant**

Unit

**535th Bombardment Squadron,  
381st Bombardment Group, Heavy**

Awards

**Purple Heart,  
Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**22 February 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
A	31	22

### Immediate family

Members

**Wilson B. Smith (father)**

**Leona J. Smith (mother)**

**Margery Smith (sister)**

**Dorothy Smith (sister)**

**Dorene Mullen (fiancee)**

## Plane data

Serial number

**42-39895**

Data

**Type: B-17G**

**Nickname: Bermondsey Battler**

**Destination: Aschersleben, Germany**

**Mission: Bombing of the aircraft factory**

**MACR: 2935**

## More information

Lee W. Smith graduated from Battle Ground High School in 1935. He was employed at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana as a cattle herdsman.

He enlisted on 2 April 1941.

The airplane was hit by fire of enemy aircraft during the first attack. The #2 and #3 engine caught fire and there was probably a small fire in the nose. The pilot put the airplane in what looked to be a controlled slip to the left and dove down, probably in an effort to put out the fires..

The entire crew of ten men was killed. They were initially buried at the cemetery of Hiddesen.

## Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, Terry Hirsch, [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - Headstone and Interment Record, [www.americanairmuseum.com](http://www.americanairmuseum.com), [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) - Lafayette Journal and Courier

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Michel Beckers/Kevin Wilson 381stBG