



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, www.fold3.com, www.ancestry.com - Headstone and Interment Record, www.americanairmuseum.com, www.newspapers.com - Lafayette Journal and Courier

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