

Charles R. Smith

U.S. Army Air Corps – Staff Sergeant



Missing In Action – August 17, 1943 – Italy



Purple Heart		Air Medal
American Campaign Medal	Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal	World War II Victory Medal
Smith was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 67th Bomber Squadron, 44th Bomber Group. He was listed as missing in action in October 1943 while flying in support of Allied ground forces and attacking Axis forces in Italy. He is memorialized at the <i>Tablets of the Missing Sicily-Rome American Cemetery</i>, Nettuno, Italy. He was born in Henderson County, the son of William Thomas Smith and Rachel Inez McCall. He lived in Henderson County before moving to Charlotte about 1941 to work at an airfield. He enlisted in 1942.		



Air Medal	European- African- Middle Eastern Campaign	World War II Victory S P) at II or er as st ARMY ACCEPTS MANY RECRUITS Local Recruiting Office Lists Names of Men Enlisted In Last Week. Men enlisted at the local army recruiting office during the last week was announced yesterday by Colonel H. A. Wells, officer in charge. Included were many Charlotte men, Luther C. Martin of 1534 West Trade street, James O. Hetland of 436 Templeton avenue, Joseph E. Suits of 412 East Tremont avenue, Miles C. Wright of 2333 Plaza, Howard N. Foy of 315 Quincy street, Dillon C. Broom of 1300 Berryhill road, William I. Helms of 322 West Tenth avenue, Billy J. Jones of 1404 North Caldwell street, Charles R. Munder of 237 Colville road, Alfred B. Capel of 407 West Ninth street, Harold A. Bingham of 3217 Wilkinson boulevard, Wilson A. Carter of 1408 East Fourth street, Joseph F. Hunter of 203 North McDowell street, Paul E. Holler of 217 South Summit avenue, Paul A. Shroyer of 304 West Tenth street, Willis Garland Cooper of 427 Marsh road, Maxwell C. Capel of 407 West Ninth street, James A. Wood, Jr., of Route 4, Verland R. Smith of 531 East Trade street, Sol Hall of 100 West Boulevard, Robert L. Hager of 1023 West Fifth street, James L. Basinger of 1512 East Boulevard, George W. Medal
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Notes: SSGT Charles Ray Smith, USAAF, ASN: 14165246. Orig: 02 Dec 24

Medals/Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal and probably an Army Air Force Aircrew Badge.

Find a Grave Memorial ID: 56305849 The following information listed on his Find A Grave memorial page and was probably written by John Dowdy, memorial manager.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56305849/charles_ray_smith

Notes: After "Operation Tidal Wave" the 44th BG remained in North Africa to support the Sicily invasion. This ship SUZY-Q, was the most famous ship of the 67th Squadron and had led the Group

on the Ploesti raid. The plane was lost on 16 Aug 1943 on a mission to the north airfield at Foggia, Italy. The plane was last seen burning on the Italian beach believed to be Capo Stilo.

Sgt. Smith was declared MIA August 16 1943 appears

Tablets of the Missing at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery

Nettuno, Italy, later declared KIA August 17 1944. **His body was never recovered.**

Crew SUZY~Q

1st/Lt. Walter R. Bateman Pilot

1st/Lt. Halbert W. Propst

2nd/Lt. John T. Ellis

2nd/Lt. William C. Travis, Jr

T/Sgt. Robert D. Chapman

T/Sgt Herbert F. Post

S/Sgt Joe A. Stevenson Gunner

S/Sgt. Charles R. Smith Gunner

S/Sgt. Michael A. Cianciolo Gunner

S/Sgt. Adolph P. Aguirre Gunner

B24 41-23817 was flown by a different crew on operation tidal wave the low level raid on Ploesti oil refinery.

Gunner S/Sgt. Charles R. Smith MIA/KIA

Hometown: North Carolina

Squadron: 67th BS 44th Bomb Group

Service # 14165246

Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart

Pilot 1st/Lt. Walter R. Bateman KIA MD.

Target: Airfield at Foggia
Missing Air Crew Report Details
USAAF MACR#:
Date Lost: 16-Aug-43
Serial Number: 41-23817
Aircraft Model B-24
Aircraft Letter: G
Aircraft Name: SUZY~Q
Location: Capo Stilo Italy
Cause: ME 109 fighters 10 KIA

B24 41-23817 was flown by a different crew on operation tidal wave the low level raid on Ploesti oil refinery.

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Son of Thomas William Smith Sr & Rachel Inez (McCall) Smith. He was accepted for enlistment at the Army Recruiting Station in Charlotte, NC. He was enlisted at Camp Croft, Spartanburg, S.C.

Full Name: Charles R Smith  
Army Serial Number: 14165246  
Enlistment Place: Camp Croft South Carolina  
Enlistment Date: 20 Oct 1942  
Army Branch: Air Corps  
Branch: Army  
Race Or Ethnicity: White  
Residence: Mecklenburg County, North Carolina  
Enlistment Term: Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law  
Source Of Army Personnel: Civil Life  
Level Of Education: 4 years of high school

Occupation: Semiskilled warehousing, storekeeping, handling, loading, unloading, and related occupations, n.e.c.

Marital Status: Single, without dependents

Birth Date: 1922

Birth Place: North Carolina

Source Box Number: 0166

Source Film Reel Number: 2.23

Conflict: World War II

Served For: United States of America

Source: Fold3, *US, World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946*  
(<https://www.fold3.com/publication/831/us-wwii-army-enlistment-records-1938-1946> : accessed Dec 2, 2024), database and images, <https://www.fold3.com/publication/831/us-wwii-army-enlistment-records-1938-1946>

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Service of his father, Thomas William Smith in WWI.

Medal: WWI Victory Medal.

Name Thomas W Smith

Birth Date 30 Jul 1890

Service Number 3 278 481

Service Branch US Army

Unit Btry E, 137a, 4th Inf.

Enlistment Date 25 Jun 1918

Discharge Date 5 Aug 1919

Death Date 1 Jun 1961

Cemetery Shepherd Memorial Park

Cemetery Location North Carolina, USA

Source: U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

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NC, WWI Service Cards for Thomas W. Smith

Inducted at Hendersonville, NC on 25 Jun 1918. Nativity: Henderson Co. NC. Born 30 July 1890.

Embarked in Newport News, VA on board the Italian Transport, "DANTE ALIGHIERI" with the destination being France. She sailed on 30 Sept 1918.

Departed from Brest, France on board the vessel U.S.S. ZEELANDIA on 18 July 1919 and arrived at Brooklyn, New York on 31 July 1919. His unit disembarked the ZEELANDIA and proceeded to Camp Merritt in Bergen County, New Jersey for demobilization.

Organizations: FA Repl Draft Camp Jackson, SC to Sept 7, 1918; Btry E. 13 Field Artillery (FA) to Disch. Grade: PVT

Served overseas from 30 Sept 1918 to 31 July 1919. Honorably discharged on demobilization: 05 Aug 1919.

Previous service per WWI draft card: Served 3 yrs in the Infantry.

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Name Thomas W. Smith  
Departure Date 18 Jul 1919  
Departure Place Brest, France  
Arrival Date 31 Jul 1919  
Arrival Place Brooklyn, New York  
Residence Place Eatowah North Carolina  
Father Edward G. Smith  
Ship ZEELANDIA

Military Unit BATTERY E 13 FIELD ARTILLERY

Rank Private

Service Number 3, 278, 481

Notes BATTERY "E" 13th FIELD ARTILLERY

Source: U.S., Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910-1939 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.