

RICHARD T. SMITH
1919-1945

FAMILY HISTORY:

Richard T. Smith was born in Troy, New York on December 26, 1919 to parents John and Margaret (Tanham) Smith. He had two brothers: Albert and Thomas.

EDUCATION:

He attended grade school at St. Augustine in Lansingburgh, N.Y. and graduated from high school at Lansingburgh High School.

HISTORY:

Richard entered the United States Army shortly after the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor. On August 20, 1942, Private Richard Smith was appointed to Technician 5th Grade, Field Artillery, Co I, 68th Armored Regiment at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. He was wounded on May 28, 1944 while serving in Italy. He also served with the Company "B", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion in Southern France on September 1944. On April 14, 1945 near Bamberg, Germany, upon sighting about 10 enemy soldiers who were preparing to blow up a vitally needed bridge, Technician 5th Grade Smith disregarded the extreme danger involved, crept about 150 yards to a position only 50 yards from the bridge and engaged the enemy. Although he was armed with only a carbine, he fired so fast and accurately that he killed at least 3 of the enemy and wounded one. The rest fled. This action allowed our armor to continue on to their objective. Sadly, Technician 5th Grade Richard T. Smith was killed in subsequent action. For his brave and honorable service to his country, Technician 5th Grade Richard T. Smith was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart.

He was buried in the United States Military Cemetery St. Avold east of Metz, France. In August 1948, Richard's remains were brought home. His final resting place is at St. John's Cemetery in Lansingburgh, New York.