



Kenneth Rose Smith, LCDR, AVS, USNR

Lieutenant Commander. Smith was born May 17, 1894, in Patchogue, Long Island, New York. He attended Hatchkiss Preparatory School, Lakeville, Connecticut and graduated from Yale University in 1917. He enlisted in the naval service as an Electrician's Mate, First Class, March 24, 1917. He completed flight training later that year, was designated Naval Aviator No. 87 and promoted to the rank of Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve Force, September 4, 1917.

On September 12, 1917, he was detached from duty in the Third Naval District, and ordered to Paris, France, for duty with the Naval Aviation Forces, reporting to the Naval Air Station, Le Croisic, France. At this duty station he was Engineering Officer at the first Naval submarine operating base at Le Croisic and flew the first submarine patrol from an American operated seaplane base in French waters. He was detached from that station in February 1918, and reported to duty at the Naval Air Station, Ile Tude Finnitere, France where he assisted in the establishment of a seaplane patrol base. While at Ile Tude, France, he was chief flight officer until his transfer July 8, 1918. While in France, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant (jg), was ordered to temporary additional duty with the Northern Bombing Group, and went to Milan, Italy, in connection with the Flying Caproni machine.

In October, 1918, Lieutenant (jg) Smith was detached from the Bombing Group and was ordered to Brest, France, and then back to the United States, reporting to the Bureau of Navigation, Washington, D.C. On November 20, 1918, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and during this same month, he was detached from the Bureau of Navigation, and reported to the Office of Naval Operation, Aviation Section, and released from all active duty January 3, 1919.

Lieutenant Smith was invited to attend the ceremonies aboard the Flagship USS *Pennsylvania* on June 28, 1918, at which time the officers of the Atlantic Fleet were assembled

to receive the French Legion of Honor at the hands of Captain Saint Seine, French Naval Attache in Washington.

Lieutenant Smith was honorably discharged March 23, 1921, at the expiration of his enrollment.

He was appointed Lieutenant Commander, AVS, USNR, March 30, 1942, and reported for duty at the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, April 6, 1942. He was a squadron executive officer at NAS Kingsville, TX and in June 1943 he assumed command of Cuddihy Field, Corpus Christi, Texas.

During the peace years between WW I and WW II he was a member of the New York Stock Exchange and headed a banking and brokerage firm with offices in six cities

Lieutenant Commander Smith holds two French decorations – the Croix de Guerre with Palm and the French Legion of Honor with the rank of Chevalier; the Navy Cross, and the New York State Reserve Conspicuous Service Medal.

The latest home address recorded for Lieutenant Commander Smith is: 1172 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y.