

Enlisted Hero Walk Lackland AFB



Staff Sergeant Maynard H. “Snuffy” Smith



Congressional Medal of Honor

World War II

On May 1, 1943 Staff Sergeant Maynard H. Smith's B17 was struck by anti-aircraft fire over Nazi occupied Saint-Nazaire, France which destroyed the plane's radio compartment and oxygen system. Three crew members elected to bail out, but Smith stayed with the plane administering first aid to the critically wounded tail gunner as well as using the aircraft's guns to hold off enemy fighters all while controlling the intense fire that was spreading throughout the B-17. Smith threw ammunition out through a hole in the fuselage to lighten the load before extinguishing the fire by hand allowing the plane to land safely on the coast of England. For his commendable bravery and selfless actions Staff Sergeant Maynard H. Smith was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.