

Gilbert Smith (192. – 1944)

Gilbert Smith's family lived in El Cajon when he was killed in action. He was a Private in the US Army. He died in Germany on November 24, 1944. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Selmira Smith, two brothers (Tony and Abe Smith) and two sisters (Mrs. Roy Garcia and Frances Smith), all of El Cajon.

Catholic services were held for him in at the Paris Mortuary as well as at St. Mary's Catholic Church. His body was repatriated in November, 1948, and he is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in San Diego.

A brief history of the US Army on November 23 and 24, 1944 in Europe follows:

November 23, 1944: Units of the US Third Army reach the Rhine at Strasbourg in Alsace. The German 15.Armeew withdraws deeper into Holland. The German 7.Armeew begins a series of attacks against the US 9th Army.

In the East, the Soviets capture Tokay in southern Hungary. They also announce that with the help of the Finns they have cleared Lapland of German forces.

November 24, 1944: Troops of the French First Army (de Tassigny) capture Mülhausen in Alsace, while the French 2nd Division completes the capture of Strasbourg. Units from Patton's US 3rd Army cross the Saar 25 miles north of Saarbrücken. In the Gulf of Riga the last 5,000 German troops are evacuated off the Island of Saaremaa. They were covered by the German ships Lutzow, Admiral Scheer and Prinz Eugen.

Reference: *San Diego Union* newspaper, November 1, 1948 Page 10, Column 5.

