



B-24 Liberator



B-29 Superfortress



Cody Heber Smith
2nd Lieutenant U.S. Army Air Corps
29 October 1942 - 21 September 1945



PT-13 Stearman



BT-3 Valiant



AT-10 Wichita



Cody was born on 9 March 1921 in Sampson County, North Carolina. He graduated from high school in Durham, North Carolina, in 1939. He entered Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, in 1939. While in his senior year there, in 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserves to become an Aviation Cadet while continuing to work toward his degree. He was inducted into the Army as a Private and was called to active duty on 26 February 1943 in the first week of the last semester of his senior year, and was assigned to Miami Beach, Florida, for basic training. On 3 April 1943, he was reassigned to Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina, as an Aviation Student. The following June, he was transferred to the Classification Center in Nashville, Tennessee, for physical and psychological testing for acceptance into Aviation. During July 1943, he reported to Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Alabama, for nine weeks Pre-flight Training. On 2 October 1943, he reported to Lodwick School of Aeronautics in Lakeland, Florida, where he flew PT-13 “Stearman” bi-planes for 65 hours over a nine-week period of rigorous Primary Training, clearing his way toward becoming a Pilot. On 1 December 1943, Cody passed a final check flight, and was then ordered to Basic Flying School at Courtland, Alabama, to learn cross-country flying in the BT-13 “Valiant” aircraft. On 4 February 1944, Cody reported to Franklin Field, Seymour, Indiana, for advanced flight training in the AT-10 “Wichita” Trainer prior to being discharged there as an enlisted Aviation Cadet and commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on 15 April 1944. He was then transferred to Seymour AFB in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for instrument, cross-country, formation, and night-flying training in the B-24 “Liberator” bomber. After that he was assigned to Buckingham Army Air Field, Fort Meyers, Florida, to fly B-24 gunnery and photo training missions. After Germany surrendered on 7 May 1945, Cody was sent back to Maxwell Field for training as a co-pilot in the B-29 “Superfortress” bomber until his release from active duty on 21 September 1945 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He then returned to Duke University to finish his education, and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration in June 1946. On 20 April 1946, Cody married **Pearl Catherine Brotzman** (14 November 1918 – 2 February 2007) in Easton, Pennsylvania. Initially they lived in Durham, and later at various times in Philadelphia and Allentown, Pennsylvania, and in New York City before settling in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township in 1964. They raised two sons, **Gregg Sherwood** and **Mark Heber**. Cody worked for Duke University as Assistant Director, Alumni Affairs, from 1946 to 1951, and then for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent until his retirement on 31 December 1977. After that he worked in Law Enforcement in Florida from 1978 to 1996 when he retired again. Cody received four cash awards and numerous letters of commendation for outstanding service while working for the FBI. Cody’s parents were **Cody Hood Smith** (6 October 1892 – 1958) and **Eula Florence Draughon** (28 March 1898 – 1978). Cody’s brother, **Sherwood Draughon**, served in the Army Medical Corps during World War II.