



**Roger
Smith**

Army Air Corps

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SOLDIER DETAILS

DIVISION: Army Air Corps

THEATER OF OPERATION: European

SERVED: 1942 - 1945

HONORED BY: The Eisenhower Foundation

BIOGRAPHY

Roger Smith from Flemington, NJ graduated High School in 1941 and started working various service and labor jobs while taking flying lessons. He was recruited out of flight school by the US Army Air Corps and entered active duty in July 23, 1942. He underwent glider pilot training and became a flight officer in October 1943 - the same month he met Glenna and they were wed. Unusually used for sport before WW II, glider planes allowed the Allies to fly heavy machinery like vehicles and anti-tank guns into mainland Europe. Gliders also carried troops, allowing greater concentration of soldiers to land in more precise locations. Part of the Air Corps' glider pilot program, Smith was deployed to Casablanca, Morocco in the spring of 1944 and later moved to Italy. On Aug. 15, 1944, Smith flew his CG-4 glider into the Le Muy area of Southern France as part of Operation Dragoon (the second D-day). Following this mission, Smith was evacuated back to Corsica and ultimately, Rome where he flew eight more combat mission as a co-pilot on C-47s. He was discharge in December 1945 and stayed in the Air Force Reserves. Courtesy of msn.com