



## PROFILE – CAPT. DOUGLASS H. SMITH



Capt. Douglass H. Smith,  
Air Cadet, 1943



Lt. Douglass H. Smith,  
Hump Pilot

Story of CAT 3/22/2023

- Born: November 5, 1922, in Burkburnett, Texas
- Grew up in Brownsville, Texas
- His father, Perry H. Smith, flew for the fledging U.S. Army Air Corps and was an instructor
- Brownsville was a stopping point for Pan Am Clippers - he grew up wanting to be a pilot with a fancy uniform and cut grass at the airport for flying lessons - qualifying as a part mechanic for Pan Am to pay for college
- Joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 as a cadet and then immediately stationed in India, where he flew The Hump in C-46s - supporting the Flying Tigers in Kunming and ground troops in the China Burma India theater



Perry H. Smith,  
Instructor, U.S. Army Air Corps,  
Wichita Falls, TX

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1

1



## PROFILE – CAPT. DOUGLASS H. SMITH

*(continued)*



- Discharged from the Air Corps in China to join CAT in 1947 and was #4 in the pilot seniority line-up
- Married Ada Morgenstern (1924-2018) in 1949; she was a Chinese citizen of Russian descent; spoke Chinese and Russian; no English
- Flew with General Chennault in the initial survey flight as well as CAT's first Cargo flight
- Evacuated to Hong Kong in 1949 and transferred to Tokyo in 1952
- 1954-1957 Spent a year in Taiwan as Assistant Chief pilot to his good friend Captain Paul Holden who was recovering from wounds received over Dien Bien Phu, and stood guard for Captain Holden to ensure that doctors did not remove his arm
- Returned to Tachikawa, Japan, to assume line duties and serve as regional Chief Pilot for CAT, Inc. for additional five years until returning to Taiwan in 1961 to fly the Mandarin Jet (Convair 880)
- 1970-72 was instructor pilot for CAT's jets



Wedding in Shanghai,  
April 1949



With Capt. Paul Holden



Mandarin Jet Crew



Doug with Fellow CAT Pilots  
Capt. Dave Davenport, Capt. Stu  
Dew, and Capt. Paul Holden



Doug with Passengers  
on the Mandarin Jet

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2

2



# PROFILE – CAPT. DOUGLASS H. SMITH



(continued)



Air Iran Captain During the Shah Days



Ada & Doug on the Dallah Avco Lavishly Appointed 727



At the Controls of the B-727



Retired in California

- In the 1970s, he returned to Tachikawa (Southern Air Transport), moving later to Saigon, Vietnam, with Air America; like other CAT pilots - had taken Air America assignments
- After leaving Vietnam and CAT in 1975 and a brief stint at Air Iran, he flew with Air Jamaica out of Miami with Captain Cockrell
- In the early 1980s, he retired from Air Jamaica and became the operations chief and line captain for Air Yemen based in Sana'a
- Last years of flying career was Chief Pilot and personal pilot (B-727) for a Sheik Kamel, owner of Dallah Avco - based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; allegedly, he was the oldest FAA internationally certified commercial Captain in the world
- Retired to San Diego and later Laguna Woods, California
- Doug and Ada were long-time active members and supporters of the CAT Association, looking forward to seeing lifetime friends and their children

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3

3



# PROFILE – CAPT. DOUGLASS H. SMITH



(continued)



Doug and Ada Smith on Their Wedding Day in Shanghai, 1949

## A love of Country and Family

← From Shanghai in 1949

To Today - Three Grandchildren and Eight Great-grandchildren →

.... #2 Grandson Has the same Twinkle in the Eye →



Smith Family in Wilmington, NC



Doug at the Controls



#2 Grandson, Matt Smith at the Controls

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4

4