



Ewing Shields III, known as Sonny, was born on 3 February 1921 in Greenfield, Indiana. His father was a civil engineer. He graduated from Greenfield High School in 1939 and then attended De Pauw University. Before the end of the academic year 1941-42, 37 men had withdrawn from the university to enter military service. Ewing enlisted in the air corps in Pasadena on 14 February 1942, and arrived in England on 31 October 1943. He was the navigator in the crew that flew Buttercup: as for many of the others, it was his first mission. His sister kept a uniformed picture of Sonny in the house until the day she died in 2012 at the age of 94.