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National Air and Space Museum

Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay" and Radio Press News Collection

Jessamyn Lloyd, 2018; Isaac Middleton, 2019

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National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay" and <i>Radio Press News</i> Collection
Date:	(bulk 1945)
Identifier:	NASM.1991.0095
Creator:	Rittko, Raymond N.
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (2 folders)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

R. Damian Mycka, Gift, 1991, NASM.1991.0095.

Preferred Citation

Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay" and Radio Press News Collection, Acc. NASM.1991.0095, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Tinian Island, part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, fell to the Japanese after World War I. It was captured by the United States on June 15, 1944. From December 1944 until the end of World War II, the island served as an airbase for Boeing B-29s. It was the loading point for atomic weapons onto the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Silverplate "Enola Gay".

Boeing's B-29 Superfortress was the most sophisticated propeller-driven bomber of World War II, and the first bomber to house its crew in pressurized compartments. Although designed to fight in the European theater, the B-29 found its niche on the other side of the globe. In the Pacific, B-29s delivered a variety of aerial weapons: conventional bombs, incendiary bombs, mines, and two nuclear weapons. On August 6, 1945, the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped the first atomic weapon used in combat on Hiroshima, Japan.

The "U.S.S Guildford" (APA-112) was a Bayfield-class attack transport. The vessel assisted in Operation "Magic Carpet", which facilitated the return of troops from the Pacific theatre and the supplying of troops for the occupation of Japan.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains two photographs of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay" on the island of Tinian, taken by Raymond N. Rittko.

There are also two *Radio Press News* releases for the "U.S.S. Guilford", dated December 12 and December 19, 1945. The releases detail post-war news stories from around the world.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Aeronautics, Military
World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

Photographs
Press releases

Container Listing

Folder AB-580420-90 Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay", Photos, circa 1945

NASM-9A12125: [Photograph of North Field at Tinian, \(bulk 1945\)](#)

Notes: View from high angle of the North Field at Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, showing numerous Boeing B-29 Superfortresses of the US Army Air Forces 313th Bombardment Wing (including 6th and 9th Bombardment Groups) and others parked on their hardstands; circa 1945. Heavy rain can be seen falling from the large cloud at left background.

Topic: Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay"
World War, 1939-1945

NASM-9A12124: [Photograph of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay" at Tinian, \(bulk 1945\)](#)

Notes: One-quarter front left side view of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay" (s/n 44-86292, a/c no. 82, A19500100000), US Army Air Forces 509th Composite Group, parked on the ground at Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, circa 1945. Several other B-29s can be seen in the background; fuel drums at right foreground.

Topic: Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay"

Folder S2T-849900-01 Military, USA, Navy, Surface Vessels, Guilford ["Radio Press News" Documents], December 1945

["U.S.S Guilford" APA 112 Radio Press News, 1945-12-12](#)

Language: English.

Notes: Document, "U.S.S. Guilford APA 112 Press News," Tuesday Morning, December 12, 1945. Page 1 through 4.

["U.S.S Guilford" APA 112 Radio Press News, 1945-12-19](#)

Language: English.

Notes: Document, "U.S.S. Guilford (APA-112) Press News," Wednesday Morning, December 19, 1945. Pages 1 through 4.