



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17 Collection

Karen Whitehair

1994



National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17 Collection
Date:	1939-1943
Identifier:	NASM.1994.0024
Creator:	Brownstein, Herb
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17 Collection consists of materials collected during research by Herbert Brownstein, the author.
Container:	Box 4
Container:	Box 5
Container:	Box 6

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Herb Brownstein, gift, 1994, 1996, 2000, 1994-0024

Related Archival Materials

The National Air and Space Museum Archives Division also holds additional materials about The Swoose and the Boeing B-17. We recommend our Aircraft Technical Files which contain general information about Boeing B-17s. Additional photographs of Boeing B-17s and of The Swoose are also available; please consult a staff member for more details and for ordering procedures.

Preferred Citation

The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17 Collection, Acc. 1994-0024, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

[Permissions Requests](#)

Biographical Note

The Swoose was the name given to Boeing B-17D Flying Fortress serial number 40-3097 by Weldon H. Smith, one of its crew members. The aircraft flew four historic trans-Pacific flights: California to Hawaii, May

13-14, 1941; Sidney, Australia to Hawaii and back, May 17-30, 1942; and Brisbane to Washington, DC, August 4-12, 1942. It was stationed in the Pacific theater during the first two years of World War II (1941-1943) and was assigned to both the 14th and 19th Bombardment Groups. In the Pacific, The Swoose carried out bombing and transport operations in the Philippines, Java, and Australia. In 1943, the aircraft was stationed in Panama. The aircraft remained in service until 1953, when it was transferred to the National Air and Space Museum. In 2008, The Swoose was transferred to the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of materials collected by author Herbert Brownstein during his research for the book *The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17*. Fifty-four of the images collected were used in the book. These images feature the aircraft, its crew, its insignia, air fields where it was stationed and maps of the flights of The Swoose. Mr. Brownstein collected approximately six hundred additional photographs from former crew members and other sources which were not used in the book. Included among these are images of air bases including Milne Bay, New Guinea; Marreba, Australia; Clark Field, Philippine Islands; Port Moresby, New Guinea; Del Monte, Philippine Islands; Randolph, Texas; Wheeler, Hawaii; Brooks, Texas; and Kelly, Texas. Aircraft featured include the Bell P-39, Douglas C-47, Boeing B-17B, Boeing B-17G, North American B-25B, Curtiss P-40, North American N4J Pensacola Trainer, and Boeing B-17 Suzy-Q. Aviation field maps include those for Northeast Australia, Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and the Philippine Islands. Individuals represented include Henry Godman, Weldon S. Smith, Lyndon B. Johnson, Frank Kurtz, Sir Charles Burnett, Brigadier General George Acheson and several group shots of crew. There are also histories of the 14th and 19th Bombardment Groups, operations, battle honor lists, damage reports, debriefing reports, and crew lists as well as periodical articles about the aircraft and its crew.

Arrangement

The collection has been organized into three series:

SERIES 1: Photographs Used in *The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17* SERIES 2: Photographs Collected but not Used in *The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17* SERIES 3: Official Government Documents, Periodical Articles, Miscellaneous Material

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics, Military
- Boeing B-17D Flying Fortress "Swoose"

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Interviews
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Photographs
- Publications
- Reports

Names:

Kurtz, Frank
Smith, Weldon H.
United States. Army Air Forces
United States. Army Air Forces. 19th Bombardment Group
United States. Army Air Forces. 19th Bombardment Group. 14th Bombardment Squadron
United States. Army. Air Corps

Preferred Titles:

The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographs Used in *The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17*

Scope and Content: This series contains the photographs used in Herbert S. Brownstein's book, *The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17*. The photographs are arranged in the order they appear in the book starting with the image on page 25 and ending with photographic plate number 32. Seven of the images appear to be missing from this portion of the collection. The locations of these missing images have been marked by a piece of white interleaving paper.

Box 1, Folder 1 Images from page 25 to photo plate 16

Box 1, Folder 2 Images from photo plate 17 to photo plate 32.

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Series 2: Photographs Collected but not Used in *The Swoose: Odyssey of a B-17*

Scope and Content: Images in this series were collected by Mr. Brownstein during his research, but were not used in his book. The photographs have been arranged into three subseries according to donor. Most photos have descriptive notes handwritten by Mr. Brownstein. Subseries A are general images collected from various names sources, but were not used in the book. Subseries B are images received from the daughters of Weldon Smith, who named The Swoose. Subseries C are images with no verifiable source. In some cases, there are duplicate photographic prints and negatives and these have been kept together.

2.1: Images collected from various named sources

Box 1, Folder 3	Bartsch, Bettman Archive, Boeing Company, Brett scrapbook photographs
Box 1, Folder 4	Cappelletti, Carter, Crane, Crawford photographs
Box 1, Folder 5	Henry Godman photographs
Box 1, Folder 6	Unspecified Godman photographs
Box 2, Folder 1	Griffith, Hoy, Edward Jacquet, Kurtz photographs
Box 2, Folder 2	Mikesh, Nall, National Air and Space Museum, Harry Schreiber, Ric Slater, James Turner, Tusch Collection photograph (NASM Acc. No. XXXX-0128), World Herald, Wronkowski photographs
Box 2, Folder 3	Video slides of Lyndon Baines Johnson film (NASM Film Archives No.VB 00873)
Box 2, Folder 4	Copy prints from United States Air Force Collection

2.2: Images received from the daughters of Weldon Smith

Box 2, Folder 5	General photographs and miscellaneous materials I
Box 2, Folder 6	General photographs and miscellaneous materials II
Box 2, Folder 7	General photographs
Box 2, Folder 8	Boeing B-17 Suzy-Q
Box 3, Folder 1	Photo album: airplanes and insignias

2.3: Images with no verifiable source

Box 3, Folder 2	Miscellaneous photographs, source unknown
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Box 3, Folder 3

Miscellaneous photographs, source unknown

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Series 3: Non-Photographic Material

Scope and Content: This series contains non-photographic materials. Subseries A contains official government documents relating to The Swoose, such as debriefing reports, interviews with members of the 19th Bombardment Group squadron rosters for the 14th and 19th Bombardment Groups, squadron histories, and honors. Subseries B contains newspaper and journal articles written about The Swoose and its crew. Subseries C contains general materials which do not fit into government documents or periodical categories.

3.1: Official Government Documents

Box 3, Folder 4	Official government documents (in binder)
Box 3, Folder 4	Handwritten guide to debriefing reports, 1942 2 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Statement by Captain H. C. Smelser, 1942 April 10 5 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Report of B-17 Damage, 1943 December 25 4 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview of members of 19th Bombardment Group, Major John E. Dogherty, etc. Jan. 1, 1943, 39 pages , 1943 January 1 39 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview with officers recently returned from Java, cover page 1 Page
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview with officers recently returned from Java, Captain Harold G. Smelser, 1942 April 14 3.5 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview with officers recently returned from Java, Captain H. T. Wheless, 1942 April 3 2.5 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview with officers recently returned from Java, Captain Green, 1942 April 13 3 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview with Second Lieutenant Frank F. Lawrence, 1942 April 3 2 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview with First Lieutenant Robert A. Trenkle, 1942 April 2 3 Pages
Box 3, Folder 4	Interview with Captain L. B. Coats, 1942 April 21

5 Pages

Box 3, Folder 4	Suggestions for the Future Design of Heavy Bombardment Airplanes 1 Page
Box 3, Folder 5	Rosters, battle honors, operations journals/histories, 1939, 1943, 1941-1942
Box 3, Folder 5	19th Bombardment Group Diary, 1941 December 8- 1942 February 24 68 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	Diary of Operations of the 19th Bombardment Group in Java, 1942 February 5-25 22 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	Operations Journal 19th bombardment Group, 1942 February 28- March 19 6 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	Appendix B, 19th Bombardment Group History, 1941 December 8- 1942 March 19 68 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	History of the 19th Bombardment Group, 1939 19 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	History of the 19th Bombardment Group, 1943 3 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	Roster of 19th Bombardment Group 4 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	Roster-Index, 19th Bombardment Group, 1943 3 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	Battle Honors 19th Bombardment Group, 1946 6 Pages
Box 3, Folder 5	Mission Roster, 1941-1942
Box 3, Folder 6	Miscellaneous government related documents
Box 3, Folder 6	Membership lists from the Air Echelon Headquarters 19th Bombardment Group, Albuquerque, NM, 1941 (2 copies), 1941 5 Pages (5 pages plus accompanying letters)
Box 3, Folder 6	Crew lists from headquarters, 19th Bombardment Group, March Field, California, 1941 May 10
Box 3, Folder 6	Membership list (2 copies), 1986

1 Page

Box 3, Folder 6	Information on the 14th Bombardment Group and 19th Bombardment Squadron 9 Pages
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Box 3, Folder 6	Story of the Suzy Q, 1943 3 Pages
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3.2: Newspaper and Journal Articles

Box 3, Folder 7	Periodical articles
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Box 3, Folder 7	Article, "64 US Flyers Win Honors as Pacific Heroes" 1 Page
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Box 3, Folder 7	John H. Mitchell, "Flying Fortress of the 19th Bomb Group" 7 Pages
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Box 3, Folder 7	John H. Mitchell, "The First bombing Mission of the Army Air Corps in WWII" 4 Pages
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Box 3, Folder 7	Article, "Colonel Eubank Cited for Bomber Fight" , 1942 January 3 Pages
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Box 3, Folder 7	Article, "Last Parade," Time 1 Page
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Box 3, Folder 7	Article, "McArthur Lists Far East Heroes", 1942 1 Page
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Box 3, Folder 7	Major General Ralph Royce, "Combat Notes from Down Under", 1943 January 2 Pages
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Box 3, Folder 7	Colorado Springs Gazette, 1943 July 1
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3.3: General Materials

Box 3, Folder 8	Miscellaneous material
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Box 4, Folder 1	Maps and Notes regarding bases in Australia Language: English.
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Box 4, Folder 2	Swoose Smith/Young Correspondence Language: English.
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Box 4, Folder 3	Weldon Smith
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	Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 4	19th BG. 1 of 2 Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 5	19th BG. 2 of 2 Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 6	Swoose 14th Squad Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 7	Swoose Eubank Correspondence Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 8	Richard Saxe Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 9	Wallach Language: English.
Box 5, Folder 1	Swoose Permissions Language: English.
Box 5, Folder 2	L.B.Johnson Language: English.
Box 5, Folder 3	Brett and Fitzpatrick Language: English.
Box 5, Folder 4	Swoose Goodman Correspondence Language: English.
Box 5, Folder 5	Bostrom and McArthur Evacuation Language: English.
Box 6, Folder 1	Kurtz Correspondence Language: English.
Box 6, Folder 2	Swoose Crane Correspondence Language: English.
Box 6, Folder 3	Nall and Rodgers Language: English.
Box 6, Folder 4	Slater Language: English.
Box 6, Folder 5	Bartsch Language: English.

Box 6, Folder 6 Hoy
Language: English.

Box 6, Folder 7 Jacquet
Language: English.

Box 6, Folder 8 Kurtz Correspondence, Review of Draft
Language: English.

Box 6, Folder 9 Mueller
Language: English.

Box 6, Folder 10 Harry Schreiber
Language: English.

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