



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

NOTSNIK Videotape and Hiroshima Photographs

2019

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	NOTSNIK Videotape and Hiroshima Photographs
Identifier:	NASM.2003.0022
Date:	(bulk Circa early 1946) 1958-1962
Extent:	0.06 Cubic feet
Creator:	Premseelaar, S. Joel, 1920-
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of two groups of material from United States Navy pilot S. Joel Premseelaar (b. 1920); the first group contains predominantly aerial and ground photographs of Ground Zero at Hiroshima, Japan, taken by Premseelaar in early 1946; the second group consists primarily of one VHS videotape reproducing films from 1958-1962 documenting Project Pilot (NOTSNIK, NOTS-EV-1), Project Caleb (NOTS-EV-2), and Satellite Interceptor Project (SIP) rockets.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

S. Joel Premseelaar, Gift, 2003

Preferred Citation

NOTSNIK Videotape and Hiroshima Photographs, Accession 2003-0022, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

S. Joel Premseelaar (b. 1920) learned to fly at Flushing Airport, New York at the age of 13. At 17 Premseelaar joined the Navy, and during World War II he flew 65 different types of aircraft, primarily attack

aircraft for logistical support. Premelaar was also the photography officer for his ship, the *USS Iowa*. Following the end of the war, the *USS Iowa* spent January to March 1946 stationed in Tokyo Bay as the flagship of the Fifth Fleet. As part of his duties, Premelaar took aerial photographs of Tokyo, Yokohama, and Hiroshima, and ground photographs of Hiroshima at Ground Zero showing damage caused by the atomic bomb. After returning to the United States, Premelaar continued flying for the Navy as a test pilot stationed at the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) at China Lake, California, where in 1958 he took part in Project Pilot (later nicknamed "NOTSNIK"), an attempt to create an air-launched satellite launch vehicle. Premelaar piloted a modified Douglas F4D-1 (F-6A) Skyray which was used to air-launch the five-stage NOTS-EV-1 Pilot rocket into orbit, with a Naval Observation Television Satellite as the intended payload. After his retirement from the Navy in 1959, Premelaar continued in aviation and worked as a consultant for Lockheed and then for Boeing in cockpit design. He then worked for an avionics lab for the United States Air Force before starting his own aviation business. Premelaar is now retired.

Scope and Contents

This collection is divided into two series. Series 1 consists of 44 different photographic images taken in Japan in early 1946 by the donor, appearing in a variety of formats (original 4 x 5 inch negatives, 35 mm copy negatives, original 4 x 5 inch prints, modern 4 x 6 inch copy prints, and color inkjet digital copy prints). Images include 35 aerial or ground views of Hiroshima at Ground Zero, three aerial views of Yokohama, four views of an unidentified Japanese man, and two aerial views of the Tokyo Imperial Palace. Series 2 (circa 1958-1962) consists of one VHS videotape reproducing films documenting Project Pilot (NOTSNIK, NOTS-EV-1), Project Caleb (NOTS-EV-2), and Satellite Interceptor Project (SIP) rockets; and one 8 x 10 inch digital black and white copy photograph of a US Navy Douglas F4D-1 (F-6A) Skyray (BuNo. 130745) assigned to China Lake.

Arrangement

Materials in this collection are grouped by subject into two series; materials within each series are grouped by format.

General

The original film footage is held at China Lake, California.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Naval Observation Television Satellite Project
Rockets (Aeronautics)

Types of Materials:

Aerial Photographs

Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin
Videotapes

Geographic Names:

Hiroshima-shi (Japan) -- History -- Bombardment, 1945

Container Listing

Series 1: Japan, circa early 1946

Several images in this series are reproduced in multiple formats.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Folder 1 | Hiroshima (black and white, original 5.2 inch cut roll negatives and modern 4 x 5 inch prints), 1946
Image(s) |
| Folder 2 | Hiroshima (black and white, modern 35mm copy negatives and 4 x 6 inch copy prints), 1946
Image(s) |
| Folder 3 | Yokohama (original 4 x 5 inch prints), February 1946
Image(s) |
| Folder 4 | Hiroshima and Tokyo (color inkjet digital copy prints of black and white original prints), 1946
Image(s) |

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Series 2: China Lake, California, 1958-1962

- Folder 5 Douglas F-4D-1 Skyray (black and white inkjet digital copy print of black and white original), 1958
- [Image\(s\)](#)
- One-quarter rear left side view of US Navy Douglas F4D-1 (F-6A) Skyray (BuNo. 130745) on the ground; aircraft is assigned to the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) at China Lake, California. Equipment mounted to the port wing pylon for testing may be a HOTROC rocket motor used for first and second stages of the NOTS-EV-1 launch vehicle as part of Project Pilot (later nicknamed "NOTSNIK"); 1958.
- Topic: Douglas F4D (F-6) Skyray Family
- Video VD 1950 "Project: Pilot, Stock Footage," USN Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake (VHS videotape), 1958-1962

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