



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## George Caron Family Photographs

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National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	George Caron Family Photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1945
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2008.0037
<b>Extent:</b>	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder; 3 photographs)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	This collection consists of three photographs of his wife and infant daughter carried by Staff Sergeant George Robert "Bob" Caron aboard the Boeing B-29 Superfortress <i>Enola Gay</i> during the bomber's mission to Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): George Caron Family Photographs</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Randall M. Holder, gift, 2008, NASM.2008.0037

### Processing Information

Arranged, described and encoded by Melissa A. N. Keiser, 2022.

### Preferred Citation

George Caron Family Photographs, Acc. NASM.2008.0037, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

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.

US Army Air Forces Staff Sergeant George Robert "Bob" Caron (1919-1995) was the tail gunner aboard the *Enola Gay* during its mission to Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. His rear-facing position in the aircraft enabled him to take what became the official USAAF photograph of a mushroom cloud rising from the city following the detonation of the atomic bomb nicknamed *Little Boy*.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of three photographs carried aboard the Boeing B-29 Superfortress *Enola Gay* by Staff Sergeant George Robert "Bob" Caron during the bomber's mission to Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945; Caron carried the photographs tucked inside the clear plastic sleeve of his pressurized oxygen duration chart [Oxygen Placard, *Enola Gay*, A20200329000]. Two black and white photographs are of Caron's wife, Katherine Marie "Kay" (Younger) Caron (1924-2001). A third hand-colored photograph is of Kay Caron holding their baby daughter, Judy Kay Caron; inscribed on the reverse: "Sept. 5, 1945 / Judy Kay 3 mo. / To Daddy Love Kay & Judy Kay."

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## Arrangement

No arrangement.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Aeronautics, Military  
Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Silverplate "Enola Gay"  
World War, 1939-1945