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National Air and Space Museum

Harold Raskin World War II Diary and Images [Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) Landings on Iwo Jima]

Jessamyn Lloyd (2010), revised by Melissa A. N. Keiser (2019)

2019

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Harold Raskin World War II Diary and Images [Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) Landings on Iwo Jima]
Date:	(bulk 1945-1946)
Identifier:	NASM.2010.0029
Creator:	Raskin, Harold.
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of a copy of Harold Raskin's typewritten diary "Blind Landing on Iwo Jima," kept during his time as part of the Army Airways Communications System, 7th AACS Wing Ground Control Approach (GCA) unit, and covering the dates January 2 to August 20, 1945. The collection also includes digital image scans of 34 photographs depicting daily life and U.S. Army Air Forces operations in Iwo Jima during the period of 1945-1946, and an operational log for the GCA unit dated April 3, 1945.
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Don Raskin, Gift, 2010, NASM.2010.0029

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2010. Encoded 2018. Revised and digital assets attached 2019 by Melissa A. N. Keiser.

Preferred Citation

Harold Raskin World War II Diary and Images [Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) Landings on Iwo Jima], Acc. 2010.0029, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Harold Raskin was born on June 20, 1922 in Brooklyn, New York. Raskin was attending Brooklyn College when the United States entered World War II and Raskin enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Raskin was sent to Iwo Jima in March 1945 as part of the Army Airways Communications System, 7th AACS Wing Ground Control Approach (GCA) unit. As a part of this unit, Raskin assisted pilots in making Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) landings in times of zero visibility. During his time in Iwo Jima, Raskin kept a diary which he entitled, "Blind Landing on Iwo Jima." After the war, Raskin returned to Brooklyn College to complete his education and then he worked as a furniture salesman in his family's furniture store until his retirement in 1990. Harold Raskin died on June 12, 1996.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a bound copy of Harold Raskin's typewritten diary kept during his time as part of the Army Airways Communications System, 7th AACS Wing Ground Control Approach (GCA) unit. The diary, entitled "Blind Landing on Iwo Jima," covers the dates January 2, 1945 to August 20, 1945. The collection also includes digital image scans of 34 photographs and one document loaned to the Archives for copying by Harold Raskin's son, Donald Raskin. The images depict daily life and U.S. Army Air Forces operations in Iwo Jima during the period of 1945-1946 and include aerial views of Iwo Jima. Aircraft depicted in the images include the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Family (Model 345). The scanned document is an operational log for the Army Airways Communications System, 7th AACS Wing Ground Control Approach (GCA) unit, dated April 3, 1945.

Arrangement

Collection is grouped by media type.

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-29 Superfortress
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations

Types of Materials:

- Diaries -- 20th century
- Digital images

Places:

- Iwo Jima (Japan)

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1

[Diary, "Blind Landing on Iwo Jima", January 2 to August 20, 1945](#)

Language: English.

[GCA Operational Log, April 3, 1945](#)

1 Digital image

Language: English.

[Photographs, 1945-1946](#)

34 Digital images