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National Air and Space Museum

768th Bombardment Squadron China-Burma-
India Theater Photographs and Maps [Trager]

2015

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	768th Bombardment Squadron China-Burma-India Theater Photographs and Maps [Trager]
Date:	(bulk 1940s)
Identifier:	NASM.2015.0029
Creator:	Trager, Max., 1921-2004
Extent:	1.22 Cubic feet ((5 boxes))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Stephen M. Trager, 2015, gift

Preferred Citation

768th Bombardment Squadron China-Burma-India Theater Photographs and Maps [Trager],
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Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Max Trager (1921-2004) was an airplane and engine mechanic who served with the 462nd Bombardment Group, 768th Bombardment Squadron in the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater during World War II. Trager entered active service in September 1942. Trager was initially assigned to the aviation repair depot at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas where he worked on Curtiss-Wright engines. Trager then went to Piardoba Airfield, India by way of North Africa. Trager later served as crew chief for Boeing B-29 Superfortress aircraft flying out of Kiunglai Airfield, China. Trager's final duty station was at West Field, Tinian, Marianas Island before he separated from the military as a sergeant in November 1945.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of approximately 0.73 cubic feet of material relating to Max Trager's service with the 462nd Bombardment Group, 768th Bombardment Squadron in the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater

during World War II including photographic material, maps, and military records. The photographs show various aircraft, including a large amount of nose art; photographs of Max Trager as well as other personnel from his unit; scenes of life on base; and scenes from the various countries where they were stationed. The photographs are largely black and white and are of various sizes up to 8 by 10 inches. There is also one folder of color prints and one folder of color slides (some of which are metal mounted). There are also a small amount of negatives in the collection. Aircraft shown in the photographs include the Boeing B-29 Superfortress; North American B-25C Mitchell; Consolidated B-24 Liberator; North American P-51C Mustang; Republic P-47D (F-47D) Thunderbolt; Lockheed P-38L Lightning; and the Curtiss P-40N Warhawk. Named aircraft shown in the photographs include Boeing B-29 Superfortresses Mis-Chief-Mak-Er; Flak Magnet; Thunder Bird; Globe Girdle Myrtle; War Admiral; Hoodlum-House II; Celestial Princess; Musn' Touch It; The Shrike; Phony Express; Memphis Maid; Slave Girl; Global Glamour; Sweet Thing; Celestial Queen; Lady Marge; Fire Belle; Patience Reward; Snuffy; Raidin Maiden II; Sleepy Time Gal; High and Mighty; Mysterious Mistress; Ready Betty; Haulinas; Hellon Wings; Airborn; The Cajun Queen; Draggin' Lady; Lucky Lady; Our Gal; Dream Girl; Winnie II; Nightmare; King Size; Trouble-maker; and Jack's Hack; as well as a Curtiss P-40N Warhawk painted with the skull nose art of the 80th Fighter Group, known as the "Burma Banshees." Numerous unit insignia are also visible. The collection also contains a "Serviceman's Map of the United States" published by Fred Harvey which includes a key to insignia in various branches of service; some of Trager's military records (some are photocopies); a "Taj Mahal Atlas" which Trager marked with routes and notes on various missions; and a "462nd Bombardment Group Hellbird Handbook" featuring information on the various squadrons and some photos from the War. There are also two oversized maps in the collection. One is a U.S. Army Air Forces, Army Map Service Aeronautical Chart showing the Hooghly River region of India with some handwritten notes on it. This map measures approximately 28.75 by 22 inches and dates to circa 1943. The second is a world map, published by the "Geographia" Map Company and measuring approximately 41 by 27 inches, on which Max Trager has marked his travels during his military service.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- 768th Bombardment Squadron
- Airplanes, Military -- Decoration
- Boeing B-29 Superfortress
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Burma
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- India

Types of Materials:

- Maps
- Photographs