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National Air and Space Museum

US Army Air Force Japanese Propaganda Leaflet

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	US Army Air Force Japanese Propaganda Leaflet
Date:	1944
Identifier:	NASM.2016.0017
Creator:	United States. Office of War Information
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	Japanese , English .
Summary:	Propaganda moved to the air during the Second World War. Leaflets bearing Japanese characters, like the one in this collection, were airdropped by US pilots in enemy-controlled territories of the Southwest Pacific with the intention to reduce the morale of their soldiers.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jon Frank, Gift, 2016, NASM.2016.0017

Related Materials

US Army Air Force Japanese Propaganda Leaflets [Sylvan], NASM.2016.0018.

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Patricia Williams, 2016. Encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd and revised by Amara Pugens, 2022.

Preferred Citation

US Army Air Force Japanese Propaganda Leaflet, NASM.2016.0017, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

Military aircrafts released leaflets, flyers, and other smaller paper items to promote agendas and persuade audiences. This distribution, usually scattered in the air over conflict zones, reached combatants and civilians. Often these materials were also dropped in conjunction with air strikes. In the Second World War, both the Allies and Axis utilized airborne leaflet propaganda as a method of psychological warfare to demoralize their enemy, undermine their authority, and induce surrender. In the Southwest Pacific theatre, the US pilots airdropped hundreds of propaganda leaflets over Japan as well as other territories controlled by the Japanese.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a 4 by 6.5 inch airborne propaganda leaflet issued by the United States in 1944 and dropped over the Japanese-held territories in New Guinea and the Philippines. This leaflet is written in a traditional Japanese writing system - used by the privileged class at this time - and attempted to discourage enemy soldiers. Also included in this collection is the biography of Second Lieutenant Hubert J. Frank, a Consolidated B-24 Liberator pilot with the 65th Bombing Squadron assigned to the 43rd Bombardment Group of the Fifth Air Force, who helped scattered hundreds of these leaflets.

Arrangement

Collection is in original order.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Propaganda
- World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

- Biographies
- Leaflets

Container Listing

Propaganda Leaflet, 1944

[Image\(s\): 9A13686: Propaganda Leaflet, 1944](#)

Language: Japanese.

Notes: Supplemental material to this collection includes a translation of the leaflet by volunteers, contacted by the donor, who conferred and created this translated text together after first separately interpreting the message. Please note that the National Air and Space Museum Archives does not guarantee the accuracy of the following translation:

(You) Japanese Military Officers and Men

Bombing raid after bombing raid, your course of action has already reached a dilemma. There is no alternative to complete annihilation because of the destruction suffered under our bomber aircraft. Lacking anti-aircraft fire against fighters, what is the use. How can it be when it is equal to being empty-handed. Victory or defeat is the way of a man of arms. The miscalculation by the supreme command department led to the consequences or the position you are in today. The ferocious bombing you received today will be repeated tomorrow. The day after tomorrow as well. Thus, as you have personally experienced, the vehemence will increase at an accelerated pace. Moreover, you can do nothing but fold your arms and look on as a spectator. Please reconsider.

Biographical Information of Second Lieutenant Hubert J. Frank

[Digital Content: Hubert J Frank, B-24 Liberator Pilot](#)