



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Mercury MR-3 Flight *Freedom* 7 Recovery Photographs

Jessamyn Lloyd

2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Mercury MR-3 Flight <i>Freedom 7</i> Recovery Photographs
Date:	1961
Identifier:	NASM.2018.0024
Creator:	United States. Navy
Extent:	0.05 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of twenty-one U.S. Navy photographs compiled for the press kit prepared for the Mercury-Redstone 3 (MR-3) mission as well as a teletype news article about the recovery.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7 Recovery Photographs

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Robert J. Jaczko, Sr., Gift, 2018, NASM.2018.0024

Processing Information

Arranged and described by Jessamyn Lloyd in 2018, encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd in 2020.

Preferred Citation

Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7 Recovery Photographs, NASM.2018.0024, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

On May 5, 1961, Alan B. Shepard, Jr. became the first American in space in the Mercury MR-3 capsule. He named it *Freedom 7*, the number signifying the seven Mercury astronauts; NASA called the mission Mercury-Redstone 3 (MR-3). Lofted by a Redstone rocket, Shepard and his capsule attained a maximum speed of 5180 mph and rose to an altitude of 116 miles. The sub-orbital flight lasted 15 minutes and 22 seconds. *Freedom 7* parachuted into the sea 302 miles from the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and was

retrieved by helicopter, along with Shepard, and both were taken aboard the recovery ship, the USS *Lake Champlain* (CV-39). Lieutenant (junior grade) Robert J. Jaczko, Sr. was the Public Information Officer for the ship at the time of Shepard's historic flight and was responsible for the press corps aboard for the event.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of twenty-one U. S. Navy photographs compiled for the press kit prepared for the Mercury-Redstone 3 (MR-3) mission. The photographs show the recovery mission as well as Alan B. Shepard, Jr. during debriefing. There is also a photograph showing the press corps that was selected to be aboard the USS *Lake Champlain* (CV-39), which is signed on the reverse by many of the reporters. The photographs are all black and white and measure 8 by 10 inches each. The collection also contains a teletype news story filed by the United Press International (UPI) aboard the ship, and a color post card showing the recovery of *Freedom 7* by helicopter.

Arrangement

This 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:

- Aircraft carriers
- Astronautics
- Helicopters
- Mercury MR-3 Flight Freedom 7

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Photographs

Names:

- Shepard, Alan B. (Alan Bartlett), 1923-1998