



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Ralph Earle Color Slides of Atomic Bomb Test

NMAH.AC.0794

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2004

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Ralph Earle Color Slides of Atomic Bomb Test
Date:	1945.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0794
Creator:	Earle, Ralph
Extent:	0.2 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Ralph Earle Color Slides of Atomic Bomb Test
Container:	Box 1

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Ralph Earle.

Ownership and Custodial History

Photographed by Ralph Earle. In his custody since 1945.

Processing Information

Collection is processed.

Preferred Citation

Ralph Earle Color Slides of Atomic Bomb Test, 1945, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of the photographer.

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Biographical / Historical

In 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt approved plans to begin the development of an atomic bomb. Nuclear physicists worked with the U.S. Army in what was known as the Manhattan Project. The first test of an atomic bomb was conducted in July of 1945 in the Nevada Desert. This collection contains images

of one of those early tests, captured by Ralph Earle. Within one month of the first test, President Harry S. Truman ordered the dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Scope and Contents

11 lantern slides and 18 35mm slides, all glass-mounted and taped at edges, showing an atomic bomb test explosion. Of this collection, two slides contain images of the crew conducting the test and a third shows the camp and some of the equipment used. The remainder contain images of explosions and the resulting smoke.

Arrangement

Divided into 2 series: (a) Lantern slides, 3-1/4 x 4"; and (b) 35mm slides.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Atomic bomb

Types of Materials:

Lantern slides
Photographs -- Color -- Slides -- 1940-1950
Slides (photographs) -- 1940-1950

Places:

Nevada

Container Listing

[Soldiers standing in desert with atomic bomb cloud over their heads : 35mm color slide], 1945

1 Item (2" x 2".)

Photographer: Earle, Ralph

Donor: Earle, Ralph

Language: English.

Notes: 01079416.tif (AC Scan)

35mm slide on film, in glass mount.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Topic: Atomic bomb

Soldiers -- World War, 1939-1945

Place: Nevada

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Color -- Slides