



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

Anthony Lanza World War II Letters  
and Photographs, 1925-1946, undated

NMAH.AC.0910

Kiley Orchard

2008

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270  
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical / Historical .....	2
Scope and Contents .....	2
Arrangement .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	
Container Listing .....	
Series 1: Photographs, 1925, 1944, 1945, 1946, undated .....	4
Series 2: Personal Papers, 1942-1946, undated .....	5
Series 3: Materials Related to Japan, 1945, undated .....	6

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Anthony Lanza World War II Letters and Photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1925-1946 undated (bulk 1940-1946)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0910
<b>Creator:</b>	Lanza, Kenneth Lanza, Anthony, 1925-1995 (Creator)
<b>Extent:</b>	1.33 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	Collection is in English. Some notes are in Japanese.
<b>Summary:</b>	World War II personal papers, photographs, and printed material of Anthony R. Lanza, who served in the U.S. Army in Japan between 1944 and 1946.

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Anthony Lanza's son, Kenneth Lanza, donated this collection in 2005 and additional materials were donated in 2007.

### Related Materials

World War II Bomb Damage Photographs contains photographs of the aftermath of the bombings in Nagasaki, Japan, and Manila in the Philippines. Emilio Segre Collection documents research relating to the development of the atomic bomb.

### Processing Information

Processed by Kiley Orchard (intern), 2008; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

### Preferred Citation

Anthony Lanza World War II Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research use. Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves.

### Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

## Biographical / Historical

Dr. Anthony R. Lanza was born July 20, 1925, in New York City. He was inducted into the United States Army in March of 1944, worked at the 308th General Hospital in Japan, and received an honorable discharge in May of 1946. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant and received the American Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. Lanza later worked as a public school teacher in Union, New Jersey, and Valley Stream, New York, as well as a faculty member of the School of Education at New York University. He also served as Chief of the NESAs Education Branch in AID/Washington, as an Education Advisor in Turkey for nine years, and as a USAID Chief Education Officer in Guatemala, Afghanistan, and Pakistan for twelve years. He went on to work as Regional Education Officer for Africa for the Office of Overseas Schools in the U.S. State Department.

---

## Scope and Contents

The collection documents Anthony Lanza's United States Army service in Japan during World War II, mostly through letters and photographs. Also included are miscellaneous items such as newsletters, clippings, drawings, Japanese travel and language guides, and official military papers. Particular research value lies in the photographic documentation of Hiroshima shortly after the atomic bomb was dropped, photographs of the Enola Gay, and an eyewitness account by a survivor.

Series 1, Photographs, 1925, 1944, 1945, 1946, undated, contains documentation of Lanza's time in Japan during World War II, divided by subject matter. Many of the photographs are annotated on the reverse side. Included in the collection are photographs of the Enola Gay, Hiroshima shortly after the atomic bomb was dropped, and the 308th General Hospital in Japan. There are also several photographs of landscapes and Japanese citizens. The folder containing street scenes includes one formal portrait of a Japanese family Lanza encountered in his travels. There are also photographs not taken in Japan, including images of Niagara Falls.

Series 2, Personal Papers, 1940s, undated, contains various papers that belonged to Lanza, including his diary, several letters to his mother written from Japan, a scrapbook, a first person account of the Hiroshima bombing written by Reverend John A. Siemes, military papers (special orders, immunization records, payroll information, and discharge papers), military newsletters, newspaper and magazine clippings, and various sketches and notes. The newspaper and magazine subjects contain information regarding a relative, a blurb about a DDT insecticide experiment, and information regarding musical performances.

Series 3, Materials Related to Japan, 1945, undated, contains two Japanese language books, a tourist magazine, and a book created for tourism about Japan dated 1945.

---

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series.

- Series 1, Photographs, 1925, 1944, 1945, 1946, undated
  - Series 2, Personal Papers, 1940s, undated
  - Series 3, Materials Related to Japan, 1945, undated
- 

## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Atomic bomb  
Japanese language -- 1940-1950  
Military occupation -- Japan  
Nuclear warfare  
Travel -- Japan  
World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

Diaries -- 1940-1950  
Drawings -- 1940-1950  
Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.  
Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1940-1950

Places:

Hiroshima-shi (Japan) -- History -- Bombardment, 1945  
Japan -- World War, 1939-1945

---

## Container Listing

### Series 1: Photographs, 1925, 1944, 1945, 1946, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	Anthony Lanza, 1944, 1945, 1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Buildings, 1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Hiroshima, 1945, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Landscapes, 1945, 1946, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Military photographs, 1944, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Soldiers, 1945, 1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Street scenes, 1945, 1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Other, 1925, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 2: Personal Papers, 1942-1946, undated

Box 1, Folder 8	Diary, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 9	Hiroshima account, 1945
Box 1, Folder 10	International Date Line certificate, 1945
Box 1, Folder 11	Letters, 1943-1946
Box 1, Folder 12	Military papers, 1942-1946
Box 1, Folder 13	Newsletters, 1945, 1946, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1943
Box 1, Folder 14	Newspaper and magazine clippings, 1945, 1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Report, 1946
Box 1, Folder 16	<a href="#">Scrapbook, 1940s, undated</a>
Box 1, Folder 17	Sketches and notes, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 3: Materials Related to Japan, 1945, undated

Box 1, Folder 18

Printed materials, 1945, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)