

World War Two

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U.S. History



Image: "Rare Photos Surface of Enola Gay, Bockscar." *The Journal* , Ogden
Newspapers ,
www.nujournal.com/news/local-news/2017/08/18/rare-photos-surface-of-enola-gay-bockscar/.

What was the Enola Gay?

- ❑ The airplane that dropped “Little Boy” on the city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 ¹
- ❑ Named after the mother of Paul Warfield Tibbets Jr., the pilot ²
- ❑ A four-engine heavy bomber built by Boeing ³
- ❑ Tibbets received the Distinguished Service Cross afterwards ⁵
- ❑ The Enola Gay ran the weather reconnaissance mission for the bombing of Nagasaki 3 days later ⁶
- ❑ Part of a controversial exhibit at the NASM ⁷

¹“Rare Photos Surface of Enola Gay, Bockscar.” *The Journal* , Ogden Newspapers , www.nujournal.com/news/local-news/2017/08/18/rare-photos-surface-of-enola-gay-bockscar/.

²Tikkanen, Amy. “Enola Gay: United States Aircraft.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 7 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/Enola-Gay.

³Tikkanen, Amy. “Enola Gay: United States Aircraft.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 7 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/Enola-Gay.

⁴Tikkanen, Amy. “Enola Gay: United States Aircraft.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 7 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/Enola-Gay.

⁵Tikkanen, Amy. “Enola Gay: United States Aircraft.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 7 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/Enola-Gay.

In 1995 a portion of the plane served as the centerpiece of a controversial exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum (NASM) in Washington, D.C. The exhibit had originally been scheduled to include artifacts from Hiroshima and Nagasaki and highlight the debate over the decision to use the bomb. Amid fierce opposition, however, the original plans were canceled and a much scaled-back version was staged. In 2003 the fully restored *Enola Gay* was put on display at the NASM’s Steven F. Udar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.⁶

⁶Tikkanen, Amy. “Enola Gay: United States Aircraft.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 7 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/Enola-Gay.

What was the Bockscar?

- ❑ The airplane that dropped the second atomic bomb, “Fat Man”, on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945 ⁷
- ❑ Original target was Kokura, Japan ⁸
- ❑ The Great Artiste ⁹
- ❑ “Pumpkin” bombs ¹⁰
- ❑ After dropping the bomb, the aircraft ran dangerously low on fuel and barely made it back ¹¹
- ❑ Credited as the aircraft who ended World War Two ¹²

⁷ “B-29 Superfortress Bockscar.” *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*, www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

⁸ “B-29 Superfortress Bockscar.” *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*, www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

⁹ “B-29 Superfortress Bockscar.” *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*, www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

⁹ **The Great Artiste, which was the aircraft Sweeney most often flew, had originally been designated to drop the second bomb, but the aircraft had been fitted with observation instruments for the Hiroshima mission. Moving the instrumentation from The Great Artiste to Bockscar would have been a complex and time-consuming process, and when the second atomic bomb mission was moved up from August 9th to the 11th because of forecasts of bad weather, the crews of The Great Artiste and Bockscar exchanged aircraft. The result was that the bomb was carried by Bockscar, but flown by Sweeney and his C-15 crew of The Great Artiste.**

¹⁰ “B-29 Superfortress Bockscar.” *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*, www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

¹⁰ **Bockscar was used in 13 training and practice missions from Tinian, and three combat missions in which it dropped "pumpkin" bombs on industrial targets in Japan. The pumpkin bombs were a means of providing realistic training for later atomic bomb flights. They were a close but non-nuclear replication of the nuclear bomb with the same ballistic and handling characteristics.**

¹¹ “B-29 Superfortress Bockscar.” *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*,
www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

¹² “B-29 Superfortress Bockscar.” *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*,
www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

The History of B-29's

- ❑ Primarily used in the Pacific theatre during World War Two ¹³
- ❑ During the 1940's, the U.S.A. built almost 4,000 B-29's for the war effort ¹⁴
- ❑ Only about 22 have survived the years and are on display ¹⁵
- ❑ The Silverplate Superfortresses ¹⁶

¹³ "Historical Snapshot: B-29 Superfortress." *Boeing*, Boeing, www.boeing.com/history/products/b-29-superfortress.page.

¹⁴ "B-29 Superfortress Bockscar." *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*, www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

¹⁵ "B-29 Superfortress Bockscar." *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*, www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

¹⁶ "B-29 Superfortress Bockscar." *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*, www.b29-superfortress.com/b29-superfortress-4427297-bockscar.htm.

¹⁶ **Late in 1944, Army Air Forces leaders selected the Glenn L. Martin Company in Omaha to produce a squadron of B-29s codenamed "Silverplate". Martin modified these Superfortresses by removing all gun turrets except for the tail position, removing armor plate, and installing Curtiss electric propellers. The bomb bay doors and the fuselage section between the bomb bays were removed to create a single 33-foot bomb bay which could accommodate either the "Fat Man" or "Little Boy" versions of the atomic bomb.**

The Doolittle Raid

- ❑ April 18, 1942¹⁷
- ❑ A “joint Army-Navy bombing project” in retaliation of Pearl Harbor¹⁸
- ❑ The *Hornet*¹⁹
- ❑ North American B-25’s were used²⁰
- ❑ Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle led the attack against Japan personally²¹

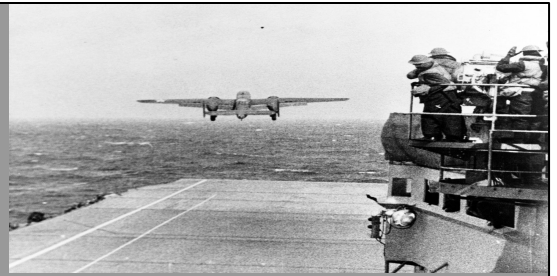


Image: “Doolittle Raid.” *Naval History and Heritage Command*, U.S. Navy, 8 Mar. 2018, 14:08:11,

www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1942/halsey-doolittle-raid.html.

¹⁷“Doolittle Raid.” *Naval History and Heritage Command*, U.S. Navy, 8 Mar. 2018, 14:08:11,

www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1942/halsey-doolittle-raid.html.

Intensive training began in early March 1942 with crews who had volunteered for a mission that would be “extremely hazardous, would require a high degree of skill and would be of great value to our defense effort.”¹⁸

¹⁸“Doolittle Raid.” *Naval History and Heritage Command*, U.S. Navy, 8 Mar. 2018, 14:08:11,

www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1942/halsey-doolittle-raid.html.

The attack planners decided upon a carrier transporting the B-25s to a point east of Tokyo, whereupon she would launch one pathfinder to proceed ahead and drop incendiaries to blaze a trail for the other bombers that would follow. The planes would then proceed to either the east coast of China or to Vladivostok in the Soviet Union. However, Soviet reluctance to allow the use of Vladivostok as a terminus and the Stalin regime’s unwillingness to provoke Japan compelled the selection of Chinese landing sites.¹⁹

Tests off the aircraft carrier *Hornet* (CV-8) off Norfolk, and ashore at Norfolk soon proved that while a B-25 could take off with comparative ease, “landing back on again would be extremely difficult.”¹⁹

¹⁹ “Doolittle Raid.” *Naval History and Heritage Command*, U.S. Navy, 8 Mar. 2018, 14:08:11,

www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1942/halsey-doolittle-raid.html.

Originally, the concept called for the use of U.S. Army Air Force bombers to be launched from, and recovered by, an aircraft carrier. Research disclosed the North American B-25 Mitchell to be “best suited to the purpose,”²⁰

²⁰ “Doolittle Raid.” *Naval History and Heritage Command*, U.S. Navy, 8 Mar. 2018, 14:08:11,

www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1942/halsey-doolittle-raid.html.

Of the 16 B-25s, however, 15 crashed in occupied China, where the Japanese inflicted brutal reprisals against the Chinese populace in Chekiang province. One B-25 landed intact at Vladivostok, where the Soviets interned it and its crew.²¹

²¹ “Doolittle Raid.” *Naval History and Heritage Command*, U.S. Navy, 8 Mar. 2018, 14:08:11,

www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1942/halsey-doolittle-raid.html.

“You know at Pearl they hit us with a sledgehammer. This raid, even if it makes it through, it'll only be a pinprick... but it'll be straight through their hearts.”²²

²² “Pearl Harbor (2001).” *IMDb*, IMDb.com,

www.imdb.com/title/tt0213149/characters/nm0000285.

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