

## The Smithsonian and the *Enola Gay*

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During forward fuselage exhibit which ran from June 28, 1995 to May 17, 1998

## Enola Gay Chronology

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|----------------|---|
| May 18, 1945   | Aircraft 44-86292 delivered to U.S. Army Air Forces at Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Factory, Omaha, Nebraska.   |
| June 14, 1945  | Aircraft ferried to Wendover Army Air Field, Utah, by pilot-in-command Capt. Robert A. Lewis.   |
| June 27, 1945  | Aircraft and 11-man crew depart Wendover for South Pacific.   |
| July 6, 1945   | Aircraft arrives at Guam, where additional modifications to the bomb bay are made, then flies on to Tinian Island in the Marianas.  |
| July 12, 1945  | Aircraft and crew resume training.  |
| Aug. 5, 1945   | Aircraft 44-86292 formally named <i>Enola Gay</i> after Col. Paul Tibbets' mother. Ground crew works feverishly to prepare it for the next day's mission.   |
| Aug. 6, 1945   | <i>Enola Gay</i> departs at 2:45 a.m. for Hiroshima, Japan. The atomic bomb is released over Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m. local time. The aircraft returns to Tinian at 2:58 p.m., twelve hours and thirteen minutes after takeoff. |
| Aug. 9, 1945   | Flight report and operations order indicate that <i>Enola Gay</i> flies as weather plane on the Nagasaki atomic mission.  |
| Sept. 2, 1945  | Japan formally surrenders aboard the battleship U.S.S. <i>Missouri</i> in Tokyo Bay.  |
| Nov. 6, 1945   | <i>Enola Gay</i> departs Tinian for Roswell Army Air Field, New Mexico where most of the 509th is based after the Japanese surrender.   |
| April 29, 1946 | <i>Enola Gay</i> is flown to Kwajalein Island by Col. Tibbets for "Operation Crossroads" nuclear tests.   |
| July 24, 1946  | <i>Enola Gay</i> , bearing "Operation Crossroads" special insignia, is flown to Davis-Monthan Army Air Field, Arizona, for storage.   |
| July 3, 1949   | <i>Enola Gay</i> is retrieved from storage and flown to Orchard Place Army Air Field (now O'Hare International Airport) near Chicago by Colonel Tibbets.  |

- July 3, 1949      *Enola Gay* is formally accepted by the Smithsonian Institution for the National Air Museum.
- Jan. 12, 1952      *Enola Gay* is flown to Pyote Air Force Base, Texas, for temporary storage.
- Dec. 2, 1953      *Enola Gay* is flown from Pyote Air Force Base, Texas, to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland and placed in storage.
- Aug. 10, 1960      Workers begin disassembling *Enola Gay*.
- July 21, 1961      *Enola Gay* is moved overland to National Air Museum's storage facility in Suitland, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.
- Dec. 5, 1984      National Air and Space Museum crews begin restoring *Enola Gay*.
- Nov. 22, 1994      Forward fuselage of the *Enola Gay* is moved from Suitland, Maryland, to the National Air and Space Museum.