

The Smithsonian and the Enola Gay: Recommended Reading

Books

Code-Name Downfall

Thomas B. Allen and Norman I. Polmar
Simon & Shuster, 1995

Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire

Richard B. Frank
Random House, 1999

An Exhibit Denied: Lobbying the History of the Enola Gay

Martin Harwitt
Copernicus, 1996

Weapons of Victory: The Hiroshima Decision Fifty Years Later

Robert James Maddox
University of Missouri Press, 1995

Truman and the Hiroshima Cult

Robert P. Newman
Michigan State University Press, 1995

Japan's Longest Day

The Pacific War Research Society
Kodanasha International Ltd., 1968

Japan at War

Gerald Simons, ed.
Time-Life Books, 1980

War's End

Charles W. Sweeney, with James and Marion Antonucci
Avon Books, 1997

Return of the Enola Gay

Paul W. Tibbets
Mid Coast Marketing, 1998

The Tibbets Story

Paul W. Tibbets, with Clair Stebbins and Harry Franken
Stein and Day, 1978

Bombers Over Japan

Keith Wheeler
Time-Life Books, 1982

The Fall of Japan

Keith Wheeler
Time-Life Books, 1983

The Last Great Victory: The End of World War II, July/August 1945

Stanley Weintraub
Dutton, 1995

Authoritative, and loaded with facts and figures.

The case for the failed exhibition by the museum director who was fired because of it. Read this alongside the AFA Report, "The Smithsonian and the Enola Gay: A Retrospective on the Controversy 10 Years Later."

Systematically refutes the arguments of the revisionist historians on Hiroshima and the fall of Japan.

English language edition of Nihon No Ichiban Nagai Hi, Brungei Shunju Ltd., 1965. Well worth the effort to track down by interlibrary loan.

Memoir of the aircraft commander on the Nagasaki mission.

Updated and revised version of The Tibbets Story.

Excellent popular summaries in an excellent series. Out of print, but readily available in libraries and from used book dealers.

Articles

“Blown Away”

Thomas B. Allen and Norman Polmar
Washingtonian
August 1995

“Strategic Bombing in the Pacific, 1942–1945”

Alvin D. Coox
Case Studies in Strategic Bombardment (R. Cargill Hall, ed.), p. 253–381
Air Force History and Museums Program
1998

“Previews of Hell”

Edward J. Drea
MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History, Spring 1995

“The Enola Gay Explosion” (an editorial)

Washington Post
Jan. 20, 1995

“Peering Through Different Bombsights: Military Historians, Diplomatic Historians, and the Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb”

Jeffrey J. Roberts
Airpower Journal
Spring 1998

“The Smithsonian Changes Course” (an editorial)

Washington Post
Feb. 1, 1995

“The Smithsonian and the Enola Gay”

Wilcomb E. Washburn
The National Interest
Summer 1995

“The B-29, the A-Bomb, and the Japanese Surrender”

Herman J. Wolk
Air Force Magazine
February 1975