

August, 1960: p. 78

15 YEARS LATER:

The men who bombed Hiroshima

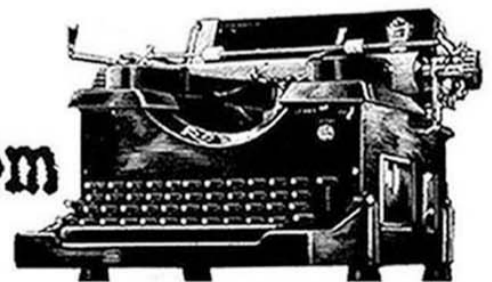


The men of the "Enola Gay" were hand-picked experts, chosen for intelligence, emotional stability and discipline, qualities they have put to good use in postwar careers. Four remained in the service (one died in 1953) and the others are all successful in their business careers. They earn above-average salaries, all but one are married and they have 26 children among them. None of them has been to Japan since the war,

and few have met since separation. Dictaphone-recorded interviews provided nearly 250 pages of colorful reminiscence and sober reflection from which the excerpts on the following pages are taken. After 15 years the scene over Hiroshima is still sharp and clear to them, and though they disagree on details, they are unanimous on the point of whether they'd do the same things again. The story begins on Tinian, at 2:30 A.M., August 6, 1945.

continued...

OldMagazineArticles.com



the second of fifteen pages

CARON: They had floodlights set up and guards all around the airplane. It looked like a Hollywood movie set and they were taking movies and still pictures and talking with Colonel Tibbetts. I always rode in the tail on take-off. I remember the Colonel taking every inch of runway. He was still down and I was beginning to wonder a little bit, but he jumped it off.

BESER: We'd been on our feet for many hours and were tired. As soon as we were air-borne I sprawled out on the floor and went sound asleep. I slept all the way to Iwo Jima, about 1,000 miles. There is a tunnel in the B-29 connecting the forward and the after compartments. As I slept, the boys were "making book," rolling oranges down to see who could hit me in the head.

LEWIS: On the way up it was pretty rough going, and I kept thinking of this monster in back of us, whether the bouncing would affect the safety of the bomb, whether or not it might go off.

JEPPSON: The bomb had been loaded in the plane the day before but a last-minute decision was to leave out the trigger charge.

CARON: We knew we were going on the big one, the one we had come over for, but most of the crew didn't know the exact mission.

TIBBETTS: I was the only one that was briefed from the outset. As different people had functions to perform requiring knowledge of the A-bomb they were briefed to the extent that it was neces-

sary. There were perhaps four in the crew that didn't know about it until we were in the air on our way to the target. I crawled back in the back of the airplane and briefed them all completely several hours before target time. They were rather quiet at first, and then as the impact of this thing hit them, why, they became much more enthusiastic.

NELSON: Our group was isolated from the rest of the crews flying in Tinian. We didn't know any more than they did. When you are 19 years old you don't wonder a great deal.

STIBORIK: Our squadron was pretty well razzed because they always said that the 509th was going to win the war. When other squadrons had to go on early missions they would throw rocks at our barracks. But after we dropped the bomb they thought we were pretty good Joes.

LEWIS: No, we knew we were opening up a new age. I recall being briefed that we were playing with uranium back in September of 1944. The rest of the crew was told prior to the mission. I know Tibbetts said many times that he was the only one on board the ship that knew, but this is a lot of baloney. Everybody knew.

FERREBEE: Not many of the crew had been on many combat missions. So I expect they were a little nervous.

SHUMARD: Sure, I was scared.

TIBBETTS: I'm sure that I didn't have any particular nervous ten-

“On the way up . . . I kept thinking of this monster in back of us . . . whether or not it might go off.”

sion, up until the time of bomb release. As you come up on a bomb run the big question in your mind is . . . is everything going to work the way it's supposed to?

BESER: Every time you went over Japan you were scared. Anybody says he wasn't is a plain old liar. Now, there are degrees of being scared, worried or frightened. We were apprehensive about this thing. Somehow or other I had the utmost confidence in Parsons. Just being around that man was a privilege . . . he just exuded confidence.

TIBBETTS: We tried to get people who were emotionally stable. We didn't have anybody who was filled with superstitions.

JEPPSON: There were five of us weaponeers. Two of us flipped a coin to see who would fly with the Enola Gay.

CARON: I had my Brooklyn Dodgers baseball cap.

SHUMARD: You're pinning me down. I think there were two pairs of silk panties in the bombardier's compartment.

DUZENBERRY: If you are superstitious in this business you quit.

CARON: On the long ride to Japan I spent most of my time in the tail, chain smoking, and sweating from the waist up and freezing from the waist down. I don't recall too much. I know that I

had my rosary beads that my mother gave me when I went overseas and I guess I wore them out a little bit!

NELSON: I read a book, and I might be wrong on this but it seems to me that the title was Watch Out for Willy Carter, the story of a young boxer.

SHUMARD: What do you think about? You're going to get there. You're going to get back. You're going to run into fighter opposition. You're going to run into flak. Are you going to make the bomb run O.K. and get out?

JEPPSON: About an hour after take-off Parsons and I went into the bomb bay to put in the charge and do the necessary loading. The bomb just about filled the bay. It was cramped in there, and we squatted and crawled around. It took us about 15 or 20 minutes. I had to remove safety plugs and replace with arming plugs. I still have some of those plugs as souvenirs.

TIBBETTS: Parsons and I had agreed that as long as the airplane would fly, we would make a bomb release. If anything happened short of the target we would try and make open water.

STIBORIK: We were told not to bring it back if anything went wrong.

JEPPSON: It was pleasantly cool

in beside the bomb. We ran a bundle of wires from it to our electronic monitoring equipment up front and then settled down in the forward compartment to keep an eye on these instruments. At spare moments one could enjoy looking down on moonlit ocean. We were quiet, each with his own thoughts.

LEWIS: Tibbetts had a snooze. At times I would get up out of the seat. Actually, our automatic pilot flew the entire mission for us. But someone has to be there to put any changes into the automatic pilot. We had Hiroshima as our prime target. We had two alternate targets, Kokura and Nagasaki.

VAN KIRK: The underlying factor in which city we would bomb was the weather.

LEWIS: Truman was in Pottsdam and wanted us to drop the bomb on the 2nd or 3rd, but because of weather conditions we couldn't take off. Of course we waited each day to see if we were going to take off, so there was very little sleep for three or four days.

CARON: We saw the "gimmick," as we called it, in the bomb bay and it was a little bit different from anything we had ever seen. The security was so strict that I didn't look too hard at it.

JEPPSON: The bomb was long and thin, about ten feet long and a yard in diameter. It was gray or dull green and a built-in five- or six-inch Navy gun fired one

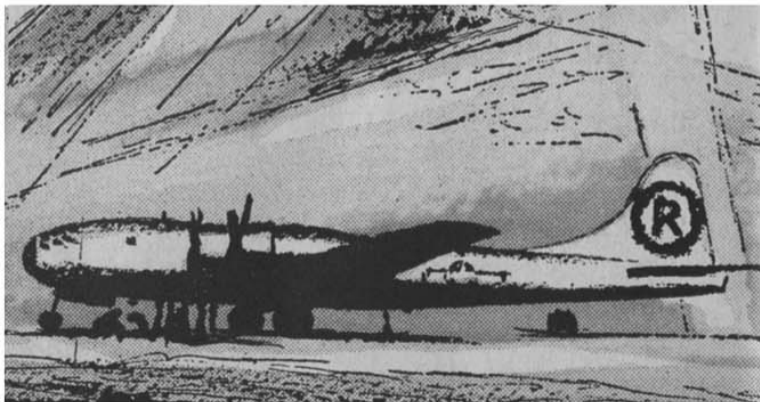
charge against the other. There may have been something scribbled on it, I don't remember, but definitely nothing obscene, as some reports had it.

VAN KIRK: We were all thinking, in terms of effect, how many times larger than a blockbuster is this thing, is it going to be five times as large, ten times? Well, actually now we know it's hundreds of times as big.

CARON: The Colonel asked me if I had figured out what we were going to do that morning and I said, "Oh hell, Colonel, we'll probably get in trouble with the security around here. I don't want to think." A little more chitchat came on and he decided to go forward, and as he started to crawl up into the tunnel I saw his foot sticking out so I reached up and yanked on his foot and he slid back into the waist section. He said, "What's the matter?" I looked at him and said, "Colonel, are we splitting atoms this morning?" He really looked at me funny then. It was just a lucky guess.

NELSON: We rendezvoused normally at 32,000 feet at the Japanese coast. Two of our own aircraft were with us.

CARON: There was a photo ship;



AUGUST, 1960

OldMagazineArticles.com

CORONET

that was one of the wingmen. And the other wing ship carried the instruments that were dropped. That was why the first report was that the A-bomb was dropped by parachute. There was this container of instruments that was dropped so they could collect valuable information.

NELSON: The weather was good so we proceeded to Hiroshima. This time the Japanese didn't have great amounts of opposition. They were certainly conserving their gas, so they didn't send up their aircraft and their flak was relatively ineffective.

FERREBEE: We had a very good flight up to the target area. The rest of the crew who were concerned with the bombing run lined me up. My part of the mission was very simple. I was able to see the target some distance out.

LEWIS: We made a single approach. It was about a three or four minute run. The bombardier sighted the target, which was the major military installation in the center of town. . .

FERREBEE: Actually, it was the headquarters for the whole defense of the Japanese empire which had moved into Hiroshima.

TIBBETTS: Ferrebee and I had a system, with me guiding the plane until the last 60 to 90 seconds. At this point we set up the final synchronization of the equipment and he would take control. The bombardier is just in front of the pilot and co-pilot. I could talk to him, could lean forward and touch

him on the shoulder, for that matter.

NELSON: There was a count-down to coordinate the dropping of instruments from the other aircraft with us. We sent out a steady signal, and at the end of ten seconds. . .

TIBBETTS: . . . the bomb release broke the contact and turned the transmitter off.

BESER: When they turned at the initial point the bomb-bay doors came open. Old Tom-Ferrebee was up front giving us his count-down . . . and Bombs Away!

In Hiroshima that morning, volunteer workers were preparing firebreaks through the blocks of wooden houses. Thousands of families had been evacuated as a precaution against incendiary raids and the population of the ancient city was down to about 245,000. Earlier in the morning there had been an alert at the report of three planes in the vicinity, but the all-clear had sounded and when the three B-29s appeared overhead, crowds stopped to gaze at three parachutes floating down from them. No one was prepared for what happened next, not even the men 32,000 feet above in the "Enola Gay."

FERREBEE: Quick as I saw the bomb leave the aircraft I turned and said, "It's clear," and then the

"I began counting . . . We knew the fall time would be 47 seconds. But when I got to 47 nothing happened."

pilot immediately started the turn.

JEPPSON: I began counting seconds in my mind. We knew the fall time would be 47 seconds, but when I got to 47 nothing happened. . .

NELSON: We took a steep bank to the left, roughly 160 degrees, and dropped altitude to pick up speed. Everyone had put on Polaroid goggles.

CARON: It was a right-hand diving turn at just about the limit of the airplane's capabilities, quite a thrill. The turn really threw the tail around.

JEPPSON: Then I remembered it would take 47 more seconds for the shock waves to bounce back up to us, and just then it came.

That wait was the most worrisome moment of the whole mission.

TIBBETTS: We got three jolts from shock waves that came up. They were perfectly visible, like an ever-expanding circle and they came from the point of the explosion upward. We continued right on around after the shock waves hit us so we'd come back at the target again and get a look at it.

SHUMARD: After that son-of-a-gun went off, I hope to tell you, we were really moving to get out of the way. I would say we were about a five or seven mile slant range after the bomb went off

and we still felt the concussion. The Air Force boys would know what I'm talking about when I say it was like a flak burst under the wing.

FERREBEE: I thought it was a burst of flak. I turned to the pilot and said, "They're shooting at us." Then I realized it was the effects of the bomb.

VAN KIRK: Nobody saw the actual instant of the explosion because the plane was heading away from the target and we had been instructed not to look at the explosion because if we did the blinding flash would injure our eyes. After 30 seconds or so we turned the plane so we could take a look and see what happened.

CARON: I had the ringside seat in the tail. I was the first to see it coming. The shock waves hit the plane, bouncing it twice, and the Colonel called back and asked me if I had seen anything yet, and I hadn't seen the actual mushroom coming up because the tail turret obscured the view of the impact point. But just as I said that, I saw this mushroom . . . it seemed to be coming at us, and I believe my words were, "Holy Moses, here it comes!"

SHUMARD: The flash even penetrated the glasses we had. The instant that flash occurred I



turned my Polaroid glasses to where I could see clearly and it just seemed that everything was erupting right back up at us. I was scared that was "it."

LEWIS: There was actually no noise at all. There might have been on the ground, but we heard nothing.

VAN KIRK: The thing that amazed me was the cloud.

FERREBEE: By the time we had turned it was already even with us.

LEWIS: I think it took about three or four minutes to get up, and a very short time afterward it was well above our altitude.

CARON: I just kept shooting pictures. The mushroom itself was a spectacular sight, a bubbling mass of purplish-gray smoke and you could see it had a red core to it, and everything was burning inside.

FERREBEE: It was exactly the same as you've seen it in pictures, only that from being there you could actually see parts of things moving up in the cloud, parts of buildings or just rubbish of all kinds. It covered, I'd say, about a two- or three-mile-square area. You couldn't see any part of the city, just boiling dirt.

LEWIS: Where there had been a city and trolley cars and boats in the little channels that ran down into the city, all was obliterated with fire and smoke. I recall vividly the smoke and the fire that was climbing the mountainside. This was not easy to comprehend . . . to see a city

disappear right in front of your eyes.

CARON: I was describing this on the intercom. I saw fires spring up, like flames on a bed of coals. And I was asked to count them. Count the fires? Hell, I stopped counting at about 15. That turbulent, bubbling mass looked like lava, covering the whole city, and it seemed to flow outward up into the foothills where the little valleys would come onto the plains.

BESER: Boy, that city was burning for all she was worth. There was all kinds of excitement, babbling back and forth. Paul announced over the intercom for the benefit of the crew what kind of weapon this was: "Fellows, you have just dropped the first atomic bomb in history." I was recording all that stuff. I had a disc recorder on board, for the benefit of the press pool. Somebody latched onto those discs. In the last 15 years quite a few people have been trying to locate them. They'd be nice keepsakes.

I have never been able to verify this with anyone else, but Bob Lewis was quoted as having said, "My God!" over the interphone when it went off. I don't think Bob stopped there, and I don't think I'm quoting him properly, but I have a vague recollection that what he said was, "My God, look at that sonofabitch go."

LEWIS: I said, "My God, what have we done?" Meaning what has mankind done in designing and de-

veloping a bomb like this to destroy mankind. That is what I meant by that. People get the wrong meaning, that we immediately felt sorry. This was not the intent. The intent was that it was so enormous—human beings developing something to destroy a whole city at a time—it was utterly incomprehensible.

SHUMARD: There was nothing but death in that cloud. One fellow told me: "All the Japanese souls are rising to heaven."

VAN KIRK: The first thing was a sense of relief, and the second thing was a sense of awe.

LEWIS: Our biggest thought, naturally, was our own safety. To get out of there and to get back safely.

TIBBETTS: There was a definite reaction of relief. With the relief was the point of view that here was the successful climax to about 11 months of demanding work.

FERREBEE: Captain Parsons and I had to get a report together to send to the President through Guam.

TIBBETTS: The canned messages we had agreed upon did not fit the situation so we sent clear text. I don't remember the exact words, but we stated that the results exceeded our expectations, that all was well and that we were headed home.

CARON: On the way back, the Colonel asked me how I took that turn and I said, "Heck, that was better than the cyclone ride you pay a quarter for at Coney Island." The Colonel said, "Well, I'll

**“There was nothing but death in that cloud . . .
All the Japanese souls . . . rising to heaven.”**

collect a quarter from you when we land," and I said, "You'll have to wait till payday." Just a little chitchat to relieve the tension.

TIBBETTS: After we left the Japanese coastline on the way home everybody got through talking about what they'd seen. Tension eased off and a natural fatigue set in. Most of the way home at least six or seven of us were sleeping. Everybody relaxed and caught a little bit of shut-eye. The impact of this thing didn't set in until days later.

LEWIS: When we came back it was daylight. There was a warm welcome from everybody when we arrived. General Spaatz was there and we had a briefing session from him and General Twining and several other high brass which really amounted to nothing. They seemed very lackadaisical. The only fellow given tribute was Tibbetts. He was the boy that was given a medal by General Spaatz. The rest of us were merely crew members. Later on, the entire crew got the Silver Star.

CARON: I'll never forget that Colonel Tibbetts was a great pipe smoker. He always had a pipe in his mouth, whether it was lit or not. There's a picture of him when General Spaatz was pinning the medal on. Colonel Tibbetts

is standing there in a brace and he's got the pipe in the palm of his hand, trying to hide it.

LEWIS: As soon as we came back there was a big party and celebration and everybody got well plastered. I myself was not a heavy drinker, but I did have a few drinks. The next morning I saw my name on the list to go on another mission. I was of course very surprised. I sobered the boys up and we went anyway.

NELSON: We were tired, very tired, because we'd been up roughly 36 hours. But I can honestly say that there was much elation. I know I was elated, figuring that this would end the war.

**Three days later a second A-bomb
blasted Nagasaki, and on
August 14 the Japanese surrendered.
Relief and jubilation mingled
with awe at the fantastic destructive
force of the weapon. But gradually,
as the Hiroshima casualties
(78,150 dead, 37,425 injured and
13,983 missing) and the
horrifying effects of radiation became
known, the world began to face
the moral questions raised by death
on such a scale. Rumors
spread that misfortune, remorse**

AUGUST, 1960

CORONET

OldMagazineArticles.com

the tenth of fifteen pages

and even madness haunted
the men who dropped the bomb like
a curse. These stories were not
true. Though one member
of a reconnaissance mission which
flew prior to the Nagasaki raid
is in a mental hospital,
the crew members of "Enola Gay"
are prospering. Their
feelings speak for themselves:

LEWIS: We had hoped that if
we delivered exactly on target
it would involve military per-
sonnel mainly. Now, the bomb
proved to be a good deal stronger
to my way of thinking than we had
anticipated. It was unfortunate
that so many innocent people
were devoured by the weapon. But
it was war, and it was an untried
bomb, and it was just a case of
war is hell, that's all. The same
as Pearl Harbor, right?

FERREBEE: I've been questioned
many times by many types of peo-
ple, and as far as I'm concerned,
the Secretary of War decided it
was necessary and that was good
enough for me. I don't see
there's any place for anybody to
be criticized forever about
that.

DUZENBERRY: It was something we
had no control over. Who am I to
say the Commander in Chief isn't
right? It was just another job
we did. It's never done me any
harm, nor any good.

VAN KIRK: We were not bombing
people. Now, it's quite unfortu-
nate that in many cases in mod-

ern-day warfare you can't sepa-
rate people from military tar-
gets. Naturally I don't feel
good over the tremendous amount
of human suffering that's been
caused, but under the same cir-
cumstances I would probably do
the same thing again, and I would
expect any crew in the Air Force
to do the same thing.

NELSON: My wife received letters
telling her how immoral a person
I must be even to participate on
a mission like this. I have had
very, very intelligent people
discuss the morals of this with
me. I can understand people who
feel it was unnecessary. I think
maybe if they were there at the
time they would have felt the
necessity of it also.

STIBORIK: We didn't know how
many people we had killed or
maimed but after we found out
what we had done it did make me
feel kind of bad. But if they had
had it, they would have dropped
it on us.

TIBBETTS: I have absolutely no
feeling of guilt, quite contrary
to some of the material that has
been written about my being in an
insane asylum because of remorse
over this thing. I don't believe
anybody should necessarily at-
tach anything personal to their
activities in combat. I was di-
rected to do it. If I were di-
rected to do such a thing today,
I've learned in all these years
of military service to follow
orders, so I'd follow them with-
out question.

VAN KIRK: Recently quite a few
girls from Hiroshima were

“You don't brag about wiping out 60-70,000 people at one time . . . children too . . .”

brought to this country for plastic surgery. They appeared on a television show. Naturally, when you see these things, it gives you—I don't know what kind of a feeling it is—you just wonder whether this was all necessary. You don't feel good about it. I don't lose any sleep over it, except on these special occasions when I see something that reminds me of it.

BESER: If you are going to die in a war the night fire raids in Japan were far more horrifying experiences. This thing was instantaneous, merciful, for those who got it immediately. All wars and all casualties are tragic. It hits home when it's in your family. There is a certain detachment when it is someone else.

SHUMARD: You don't brag about wiping out 60-70,000 at one time. As my wife says, children too. And she's right. I don't think that at any time anybody's ever tried to accept a lot of glory for what they've done. It was a job that saved countless lives. Possibly if we hadn't done what we did there would have been an invasion of Japan. The boys who managed to get into occupied Japan after the war said that it would have been next to suicide if they had attempted to land.

NELSON: If the philosophy of a people forbade them from giving up and ending the war under normal circumstances, as it did in Japan then, I would gladly fly this mission again. If we had societies as we think we have today, then I would rather not fly the mission. I think it was a very courageous thing that we as a nation did to end the war. In another time there could be a question of whether it was correct or incorrect.

LEWIS: The thought occurred many years ago that it might have been a good idea to drop it in Tokyo harbor to let them know we had something like this. But then again, second guessing is not a healthy thing. One very strong feeling I had was that I was sorry this bomb wasn't ready earlier, in February, when Iwo Jima took place. There was nothing but military personnel and it would have just about encompassed the entire island. That would have been a perfect target.

JEPPSON: It is possible that an advertised demonstration explosion to impress Japan could have been planned without the need for destroying a city. The risk, of course, was that the bomb might fail to detonate.

BESER: I've spent many an hour digging through transcripts of the German Archives. I am Jew-

the twelfth of fifteen pages

ish, and I was interested in seeing for myself if some of the things that I had heard about really took place. My main regret is that the bomb was not available for the final subjugation of Germany. I think the German people earned the right to that honor more than the Japanese people. I have rubbed shoulders with many of the men who worked at Peenemunde and other German scientific laboratories. By some strange coincidence, they were all non-politicals, just scientists doing a job. And as far as I am concerned they are a bunch of square-head bastards. They knew what they were doing!

SHUMARD: I don't think you actually ever forget it. It's something that sticks with you.

NELSON: I have seen pictures of the victims. It is certainly not a pleasant thing to look at.

CARON: I have seen some movies showing the victims. Some of the kids that were burned. That is the only time I might have had a partial feeling of guilt. I wish I hadn't seen them. I've seen a lot of pictures of the destruction and I don't think I am too disappointed not to have seen it (on the ground) but the wonderful reconstruction they have done would be something to see.

NELSON: I think that in retrospect we all have to do a little soul-searching to justify our acts on this mission, even though we were just flying an ordinary mission as far as we were concerned at the time. I

feel that it has made me more aware that I have a responsibility, made me think that I have social obligations in my town, in my church, that I have to fulfill. These don't have to be any great moral things, but just participating in town government or in church or trying to raise my children the way I think necessary.

BESER: I probably am more conscious of the consequences of this thing. It has motivated me to a great extent in pursuing my life's work, which is defense, because I think that only through a positive strong posture can we ultimately divert any disaster.

NELSON: The subject is becoming harder and harder to talk about now, as we lose sight of why it was dropped. At schools and churches they come right out and ask you whether something is right or wrong. Particularly in the high schools.

SHUMARD: Sometimes there are bets down at Fran and Gerry's, which is our neighborhood bar, as to whether I was on the crew or I wasn't. I just let bygones be bygones. It doesn't bother me.

VAN KIRK: I don't think it has had any influence on my life, to amount to anything. I believe I would have followed the same course, gone back to college, ended up in the same job and everything else.

NELSON: It has helped me business-wise. I've met many people I wouldn't have otherwise.

LEWIS: The question was raised

AUGUST, 1960

93

OldMagazineArticles.com

that people who are exposed to radioactivity might become sterile. When Bob Caron came back he had a child right away. Then I got married and had a child fairly soon. We kind of joked about the fact that we either had not been exposed to too much or this was just a big hoax. I have five children.

TIBBETTS: Our contacts are lost. Ferrebee, the bombardier, is here with me. We keep in touch with Dutch Van Kirk, the navigator. Duzenberry, the engineer, I see occasionally, but the rest of the men are out of service.

CARON: Usually it's just notes enclosed with a Christmas card every year. I kept in better contact with Captain Bob Lewis when I was back East. I'm godfather to his oldest girl.

SHUMARD: The last time I saw the Enola Gay was about 1948 or '49. I'm in the Air Force Reserve and we had occasion to fly down to Chicago where they had an Air Force Museum. I saw this old 29 sitting there and as I walked by I patted her on the nose and kept on going. After, I got thinking, and remembered that number 82 we had on the nose. And I'll be dog-gone if it wasn't the same one . . . They're making a place for it in Washington at the Smithsonian Institution and it's down there now.

TIBBETTS: My mother is still living and in good health. Her maiden name was Enola Gay Haggard from Glidden, Iowa. When I was in college studying to be a doctor I always wanted to fly. In 1936

there was a family showdown on the subject. Most said, "You'll kill yourself." But my mother quite calmly said, "You go ahead and fly. You will be all right." In getting ready for the big one I rarely thought of what might happen, but when I did, those words of Mom's put an end to it. So, how would you have named the plane?

It took the world 1,000,000 years to progress through the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Machine Age. The Atomic Age arrived overnight and today mankind is still struggling to adjust and to comprehend its implications. The men who saw the new age born, high above Hiroshima, hope no one ever again will use this great power as they had to.

BESER: I have debated the issue many times, with clergymen of all faiths, with members of Congress, on public platforms. I have defended the entire operation and myself in the press and on radio.

TIBBETTS: If wars are going to be fought, you're going to win it with all the resources at your disposal. And if you're fortunate to possess powerful weapons, there's only one thing to do, and that's to use them.

BESER: I was the only man to go on both the Hiroshima and Nagasaki missions. I know, and history shows, that this wasn't an end to

“These two relatively small bombs wiped out two cities, so you can imagine what . . . our current ones can do.”

all wars: World War II wasn't over a year before they were popping at each other. I hate war, my wife hates war, my kids hate war, and this isn't just a truism: I mean it. But let's face up to it. Mankind has not yet developed a human animal that can live together without conflict. I certainly hope we've seen the end of global conflict, for I think the next time, when and if it comes, is going to set us back to the point where we'll be swinging by our tails from trees again. Literally, I can see no other way out.

FERREBEE: The weapons in the world today have much more power, but I doubt that one will ever be dropped, one single bomb, that changes things as much as that one did.

CARON: We had the only two nuclear bombs dropped, so to speak, in anger. We know what was done with these two relatively small bombs—wiped out two cities—so you can imagine what some of our current ones can do. Let's hope they are frightening enough so that nobody will ever drop one on anybody else in anger. I hope so.

VAN KIRK: I think I have the same feeling that 99.9 percent of the American people have: that this weapon will never have to be used for these purposes again. It's a

little bit like two people with guns pointed at the other's head. If either one values his life at all, he won't pull the trigger.

STIBORIK: I think these bombs should be outlawed in any war, by all countries.

DUZENBERRY: It's obsolete now, but it was a start in atomic energy. I hope that instead of continuing to use it for warfare purposes, they put the atomic energy assembly to use in civilian industry. Maybe there will be a time when we get rid of all the A-bombs and H-bombs that we have in stockpile.

NELSON: Now, when we speak of atomic energy the ordinary person doesn't think of a bomb any more. He thinks of how wonderful this is as a method of developing better things for us.

LEWIS: I think that we shouldn't be the first ones to drop a bomb, and then we should only drop it on a military target, and then only as a last resort. There are so many people gobbled up by an atomic bomb that there should be very special conditions existing before the use of a weapon like this, if it were ever permitted again. But there would be no hesitancy on my part to defend my country, even if it meant the dropping of a hydrogen bomb.

FERREBEE: As long as we have a

the last of fifteen pages

threat from other parts of the world, I think it's a must that we continue to test and improve these weapons in any way we can. In doing that we will also improve on the use of it for civilian purposes.

NELSON: The situation of the world today demands that we have armament. In the same way that the A-bomb helped peace, armament in this day and age helps peace. I hate to see the money that has to be spent on it, but I'm not for disarmament until world conditions permit it.

SHUMARD: As long as there are people in the world that are greedy for power, no bomb can settle a "war to end all wars." Nothing is gained by fighting a war. Nobody wins or loses. The people in the U. S. A. are not willing to accept the fact that it can happen to us. It's a very serious situation. I say let's pay our taxes, more taxes if we have to, but let's be ready for it. I hope that in a short period of time all the nations will outlaw the bomb, the same way they outlawed poison gas. 🏰

