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First B-29 Superfortress Was Built at Cost of \$3,392,396.90

This article, published in the October 15, 1944 edition of the Wichita Eagle, details the significant expenses related to the design, testing, and production of the B-29 Superfortresses built in Wichita, Kansas.

Creator: Wichita Eagle Date: October 15, 1944

Callnumber: K 629.13, vol. 4, Aviation Clippings

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 213708

Item Identifier: 213708

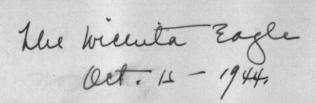
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FIRST B-29 SUPERFORTRESS WAS BUILT AT COST OF \$3,392,396.90

Current Production Models Costing Government Approximately \$600,000; Changes as Result of Tests **Expensive, Officials Point Out**

The first B-29 Superfortress cost \$3,392,396,90—the equivalent of 180,-928 \$25-denomination war bondsheadquarters of the air technical bayton, Ohio, announced yesterday. Current production models are costing the government approximately \$600,000, the announcement added. In citing the B-29 as an example of the enormous cost of a new warplane, Brig. Gen. Kenneth B. Wolfe, ATSC chief of engineering and proturement and the man who practically nursed the battle colossus of the air from drafting board to the skies over Japan, gave facts and figures to show how treemendously difficult, expensive, and time consuming is the task of development. General Wolfe was in charge of the mammoth B-29 production program from its inception and, at the time of the first raid on Japan, was commanding general of the 20th bomber command of the 20th air force, with headquarters in the China-Burma-India theater.

How Cost Figured

"Into the cost of the first model of any warplane go all the years of engineering, experiments, tests and changes," Gen. Wolfe explained. "The very time it takes fove stome model is about three years. Somemanding general or the completion of the first production model is about three years. Somemanding general or the completion of the first production model is about three years. Somemanding general or the completion of the first production model is about three years. Somemanding general or the completion of the first production model is about three years. Somemanding general or the completion of the first production model is about three years. "Even before the original contract for the first B-29s was let, \$84,150 was spent in obtaining preliminary engineering information, which necessitated wind tunnel models, long and costly tests and the building of mock-ups, which are full size wooden models in ever designed to fly but intended for use in the laboratories here and at the factory in determining the

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