Arthur C. Harmon papers

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Arthur C. Harmon papers

Date (inclusive): 1940-2006, undated

Date (bulk): 1995-2006

Collection Number: MS 313

Creator: Harmon, Arthur C., 1925-2006

Extent: 10.5 linear feet (3 document boxes, 1 half-size document box, 2 record storage boxes, 2 flat storage boxes)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.

Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: This collection is comprised of material that documents the military career and personal life of Arthur C. Harmon, a Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Air Force who trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field during World War II. It contains items collected or created by Harmon regarding United States military history including that of the Tuskegee Airmen, African American history, and Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Military service records, correspondence, certificates, flight manuals, pilot supplies, clothing, newspaper clippings, videotapes, books, patches, photographs, and other material are included.

Languages: The collection is in English.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[identification of item]. Arthur C. Harmon papers, MS 313. University of California, Riverside Libraries, Special Collections & Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information

The Arthur C. Harmon papers were acquired as a gift in 2008. Additional materials were donated in 2009 and 2012.

Processing History


Biographical Note

Arthur C. Harmon was born in Topeka, Kansas on June 26, 1925 and raised in Los Angeles, California. As a young child, Harmon became captivated by aviation through radio programs such as the Air Adventures of Jimmie Allen and model airplane building. He also showed an early interest in music and at the age of seventeen became a member of the local Musicians Union. In 1943, Harmon decided to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a pilot and joined the United States Army Air Corps. He trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field and graduated from class TE-45-G as a Second Lieutenant on October 16, 1945. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the 617th Medium Bombardment Squadron of the 477th Composite group as a pilot. This group never saw action in World War II as Japan surrendered before their training was complete and the group was disbanded on July 1, 1947.

Upon his discharge from the United States Air Force (USAF) Harmon decided to pursue his other early interest of music by attending and majoring in Music at George Pepperdine College (currently Pepperdine University). In 1951, he was recalled by the USAF and continued his military career on assignments at Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Fairchild AFB, Yokota Air Base (AB), Hill AFB, Elmendorf AFB, and Langley AFB. Harmon worked in the Strategic Air Command, Alaskan Air Command, and in the Major Air Command Aircraft Accident Prevention of the 4500th Air Base Wing. During the course of his military career, in 1953, Harmon was married to Irene Prince. In 1968, he retired from the USAF as a Major and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve. After his retirement from the United States military Harmon settled in Lucas Valley-Marinwood, California and worked for Baldwin Piano and Organ Company as a sales representative and store manager. Additionally, he was part of the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Non-Marching Band as well as an active member of the Retired Military Officers Association, the Air Force Association, and the William “Bill” Campbell chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Arthur C. Harmon passed away at his Marin County, California home on May 10th, 2006 at the age of eighty.

1925:

Arthur C. Harmon was born in Topeka, Kansas on June 26th.
1929: Harmon's family moved to Los Angeles, California.
1942: Harmon became a member of the Musicians Union.
1943: Harmon joined the United States Army Air Corps.
1945: Harmon graduated as a member of class TE-45-G as a Second Lieutenant on October 16th.
1953: Harmon married Irene Prince on August 1st.
1968: Harmon retired from the United States Air Force on August 1st.
2006: Arthur C. Harmon died on May 10th.
2008: A soil exposure on Mars was named after Harmon and investigated by the Mars Exploration Rover, Spirit, as a target of scientific interest.

Collection Scope and Contents
The Arthur C. Harmon papers are contained within the Tuskegee Airmen Archive. This archive consists of material related to those individuals who served at Tuskegee Army Air Field, and its predecessors, as well as material pertaining to Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., a non-profit organization.

This collection documents the military career and personal life of Arthur C. Harmon, a Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Air Force who trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field during World War II. Materials consist of military service records, correspondence, certificates, flight manuals, and pilot supplies. This collection also includes items collected or created by Arthur C. Harmon regarding the history of the United States military, African American history, and Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Newspaper clippings, clothing, videotapes, books, patches, and photographs are included.

Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged into five series. The contents of each series are arranged alphabetically by format type. The series arrangement of this collection is as follows:


Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
African American fighter pilots.
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd History.
World War II.

Genres and Forms of Materials
Badges.
Clippings (information artifacts).
Pins (jewelry).
VHS (TM).

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Series 1 African American history 1995-1998, undated
Series Scope and Contents
This series contains material regarding African American history. Newspaper clippings and other material regarding the role of African Americans in aviation are included.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by format type.

Box 1, Folder 1 Magazine, San Francisco Focus featuring the article “Inner City Kids Take Flight” by Donna Rosenthal 1995
Box 1, Folder 1 Newsletter, Bay Area Black Pilots Association circa 1996
Box 1, Folder 1
Newspaper clipping, photograph of J. Alfred Phelps from the Marin Independent Journal undated

Box 1, Folder 1
Newspaper clipping, "Sky the limit for Castro Valley teen" by Greg Bardsley (photocopy) undated

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 1
Newspaper clipping, "This senior is by no means spaced out" by Greg Bardsley (photocopy) undated

Box 1, Folder 1
Newspaper clipping, "Tuskegee Airmen's 'at risk' teens in Flight" by Kimberly Williams (photocopy) undated

Box 1, Folder 1
Newspaper clipping, "Young Eagles find aspirations in clouds" by Cornelia Grumman (photocopy). undated

Box 3

Series 2
Military history 1945-2005, undated

Series Scope and Contents
This series contains material regarding the history of the United States military. Patches, videotapes, and other material regarding the Tuskegee Airmen and military units of the United States are included.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by format type.

Box 5
Action figure, Tuskegee Bomber Pilot from the GI Joe Classic Collection (in original packaging) 1996

Box 5
Action figure, Tuskegee Fighter Pilot from the GI Joe Classic Collection (in original packaging) 1996

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, Alaskan Air Command military insignia undated

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, Electronic Countermeasures military insignia undated

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, gold eagle on a black background undated

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, Strategic Air Command military insignia (quantity, 2) undated

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, Tactical Air Command military insignia undated

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, United States Far East Air Force insignia undated

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, United States flag undated

Box 4, Folder 1
Badge, white U2 aircraft on a black background undated

Box 1, Folder 2
Comic strip, "Soul Corner" featuring Major Charles M. Brown from the Sacramento Bee (reproduction) 1999

Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, from Colonel Charles E. McGee to Original Airmen requesting donations to the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Fund 2005

Box 8
Jacket, brown colored goatskin bomber jacket with squadron insignias on the back and names of the Tuskegee Airmen listed on the inside lining made by Avirex Limited undated

Framed-Artwork Box 10
Lithograph, "Red Tail Angels" by John D. Shaw containing Tuskegee Airmen signatures (framed) undated

Box 1, Folder 5
Map, pilotage chart of Fairbanks, Alaska published by the United States Air Force 1960

Box 1, Folder 4
Magazine, Ebony featuring the article "Tuskegee Airmen: Still Flying High" 1994

Box 1, Folder 4
Newspaper clipping, "Flying start: CAP, AFROTC joint flight program lifts off; historic Ala. airfield serves as site of start" from Civil Air Patrol News (photocopy) 1994

Box 1, Folder 4
Newspaper clipping, "They helped shoot down Nazism, wound racism" by Steve Gibson. August 21, 1993.

Box 1, Folder 4
Newspaper clipping, "WWII pilots meet, recall segregation" by Andrew Sorensen. August 13, 1993.

Box 6
Mug, 4677th DSES military insignia and gold trim undated

Box 1, Folder 4
Newspaper clipping, "They Fought on Two Fronts, Tuskegee Airmen Gather to Recall War With Germany - and Prejudice" by Michael D. Shear from the Washington Post (photocopy) 1995

Box 1, Folder 5
Photograph, United States Air Force B-29 bomber plane undated

Box 1, Folder 5
Photographic print, Spencer Isabelle wearing a bomber jacket 1945
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 5</th>
<th>Photographic print, unidentified individuals including a young man in a military uniform (quantity, 2) undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Portfolio, documentary proposal for &quot;Stories of the Tuskegee Airmen&quot; produced by Lisa Boags/Rahailsa Enterprises, Inc. 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Program, for the funeral of General Daniel &quot;Chappie&quot; James 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td>Stein, gold trim with the 4677th DSES military insignia undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Sticker, 4677th DSES military insignia (quantity, 23) undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8</td>
<td>T-shirt, short sleeve tan colored t-shirt signed by Robert L. Martin and Melvin E. Knaze with front chest logo that reads &quot;332 FG Red Tails&quot; undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>VHS, &quot;Stories of the Tuskegee Airmen&quot; documentary presentation video produced by Lisa Boags/Rahailsa Enterprises, Inc. 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>VHS, &quot;Tuskegee Airman - OBAP - Award Banquet&quot; 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>VHS, &quot;Tuskegee Airmen: American Heroes!&quot; 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>VHS, &quot;Tuskegee Airmen Story&quot; undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 3 Military service 1940-2006, undated

Series Scope and Contents
This series contains material regarding Arthur C. Harmon's service in the United States military. Pilot supplies, uniform accessories, and other material are included.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by format type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6</th>
<th>Ashtray, &quot;Yokota Air Base, Japan&quot; undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Badges, &quot;Arthur C. Harmon, Major USAF&quot; (quantity, 9) undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Badges, United States Air Force Major insignia (quantity, 2) undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 9</td>
<td>Bible, presented to those that serve in the United States armed forces with a foreword by Franklin D. Roosevelt (metal cover). undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Book, &quot;Useful Tables from the American Practical Navigator&quot; by the United States Hydrographic Office; notation on inside front cover by Arthur C. Harmon 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Buttons, United States Air Force enlisted man dress uniform (quantity, 8) undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>Campaign ribbons, United States Air Force (quantity, 32) undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Certificate, to Arthur C. Harmon from the United States Air Force in recognition of his military service 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>Certificate, to Arthur C. Harmon from the United States Air Force in recognition of his retirement 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Chain including dog tags for Arthur C. Harmon, a St. Christopher medal, and a US Army pocket can opener commonly referred to as a P-38 can opener. circa 1939-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence, from Arthur C. Harmon to his mother (on Tuskegee Army Air Field stationary). March 28, 1944.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>DVD, &quot;Lt. Col. Arthur Harmon Interview&quot; 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td>Fishing kit, includes instructions for Emergency Sustenance Vest Type C-1 undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td>Flying goggles, includes yellow lens undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td>Flying goggles, lens not included undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td>Flying goggles, US Army Air Forces Type B-8 including box, lenses, and instruction booklet. circa 1939-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7</td>
<td>Jacket, United States Air Force CWU-9/P undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td>Lighter, &quot;Yokota 3 Club&quot; 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Logbook, pilot's log for Arthur C. Harmon 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Manual, &quot;United States Air Force Flight Crew Check Lists&quot; June 15, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Manual, &quot;United States Air Force Flight Crew Check Lists&quot; November 1, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Manual, &quot;United States Air Force Flight Crew Check Lists&quot; November 9, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Manual, operating instructions for the Piper Twin Comanche PA 30 (incomplete, photocopy) 1993</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 3 Military service 1940-2006, undated

| Box 2, Folder 2 | Personnel record, pilot individual flight record for Arthur C. Harmon 1945-1968 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Personnel record, pilot rating book for Arthur C. Harmon from the United States Department of Commerce 1944 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Photograph, "Nick, Jones, Harmon, and Thompson" standing in front of an airplane; inscription on back and autographed by all four men on front 1945 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Photograph, twelve Tuskegee Airmen in front of a bomber plane undated |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Photographic prints, "Nick, Jones, Harmon, and Thompson" standing in front of an airplane (quantity, 4) 1945 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Photographic prints, twelve Tuskegee Airmen in front of a bomber plane (quantity, 4) undated |
| Box 4, Folder 5 | Pins, "Harmon" and "Harmon, A.C." in varying sizes and colors (quantity, 4) undated |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Pins, United States Air Force Command Pilot insignia (quantity, 5) undated |
| Box 4, Folder 8 | Pins, United States Air Force Major insignia (quantity, 7) undated |
| Box 4, Folder 7 | Pins, United States Air Force Pilot Wing insignia (quantity, 3) undated |
| Box 6 | Pilot supplies, box issued by the United States Army Air Force containing one pair of Type B-8 flying goggles, two military issued pouches of lenses, and instruction booklet undated |
| Box 4, Folder 6 | Pins, "U.S." (quantity, 3) undated |
| Box 6 | Signal mirror, issued by the United States military, includes instructions for use printed on the back undated |
| Box 6 | Survival kit, includes box and instructions undated |
| Box 7 | Vest, US Army Air Forces Emergency Sustenance Type C-1. circa 1939-1945. |

Series 4 Personal history 1995-2006, undated

Series Scope and Contents

This series contains material regarding Arthur C. Harmon's non-military life. Correspondence, photographic prints, and other material pertaining to Harmon's personal and professional life outside of the United States military are included.

Series Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by format type.

| Box 2, Folder 6 | Certificate, to Arthur C. Harmon from Sons in Retirement, Inc. recognizing his service to the organization. May 6, 2007. |
| Box 5 | Certificate, to Arthur C. Harmon from the U.S. Small Business Administration 1998 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Correspondence, between Brian Henne and Arthur C. Harmon regarding Henne's school project on the Tuskegee Airmen (includes final school project). 1998. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Correspondence, electronic mail printout from Arthur C. Harmon to Kenneth R. Moore regarding fellow Tuskegee Airmen 1997 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Correspondence, from Ann Glynn to Arthur C. Harmon regarding the 6th Brigade Headquarters Black History Month Ethnic Observance. 1996. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Correspondence, from Arthur C. Harmon to Sydney J. Wolfe regarding the Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Award 1995 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Correspondence, from Ginny Trumbull to Arthur C. Harmon regarding Sea Ranch Flying Society. September 29, 1997. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Correspondence, from Joseph Gargiulo to Arthur C. Harmon regarding the Greater North Marin Breakfast Club. March 7, 1997. |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Correspondence, from Linda Garcia to a Tuskegee Airman regarding Thomas Garcia's attendance at the Second Annual Summer Youth Aviation Academy (photocopy) undated |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Invitation, Colonel James B. Morehead's 90th Birthday BBQ 2006 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Photographic print, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Isabelle, Sr. undated |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Photograph, Tuskegee Airmen exhibit that includes correspondence from Len (quantity, 4) 1999 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Photographic print, two unidentified men at a table in a restaurant undated |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Photographic print, two unidentified men wearing suits undated |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Poem, "You'll Never Walk Alone" undated |

Arthur C. Harmon papers MS 313 6
Series 4 Personal history 1995-2006, undated

Stein, from Heidelberg, Germany undated

Series 5 Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 1988-2003, undated

Series Scope and Contents
This series contains material regarding Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., including national and regional chapter information. Books, videotapes, and other material regarding Arthur C. Harmon's involvement in this organization are included.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by format type.

Box 2, Folder 6
Book, "The Tuskegee Airmen Story (A speech guide)" by the East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 1988

Box 2, Folder 6
Book, "The Tuskegee Airmen Story (A speech guide)" printed with permission of the East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. undated

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 6
Certificate, to Arthur C. Harmon from Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. recognizing his membership in the organization. undated

Box 2, Folder 6
Certificate, to Irene and Arthur C. Harmon from The Red Tail Project, Tuskegee Airmen Inc., and the Confederate Air Force 1995

Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, from Le Roy F. Gillead to United States President Bill Clinton regarding the use of the term "Original" Tuskegee Airmen 1999

Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, from Sydney J. Wolfe to all members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. regarding the Celebrate History Convention. February 8, 1998.

Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, from Sydney J. Wolfe to Carol Emory regarding a presentation by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. January 4, 1998.

Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, from Sydney J. Wolfe to George Irvin regarding a presentation by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. February 23, 1998.

Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, from Sydney J. Wolfe to Reverend Keva McNeill regarding a donation made to Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 2000

Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence, from Sydney J. Wolfe to Stanley Hook regarding a presentation by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. February 8, 1998.

Box 2, Folder 6
Flier, regarding Roger C. "Bill" Terry's bid for President of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. undated

Box 2, Folder 6
Flier, regarding the Summer Flight Academy sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. undated.

Box 8
Jacket, navy colored windbreaker with an embroidered Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. logo on the left-hand chest undated

Box 2, Folder 6
Photograph, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. San Francisco Bay Area Chapter members at Salinas Airfield viewing an original Moton Field Stearman Trainer (quantity, 4) 1995

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 3
VHS, "San Antonio Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. 12th Annual Education Banquet" 2003

Box 3
VHS, "Tuskegee Airmen Convention 1994" 1994

Box 3
VHS, "Tuskegee Airmen History Roll-in/"Hero' Tuskegee Airmen music video" undated

Box 3
VHS, "Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Summer Flight Academy" (quantity, 2) 1994