

PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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312-374-9333

Robert O. Harder Collection

Creator: Robert O. Harder
Dates: 1948-2010 [1966-1970]
Quantity: 2 linear feet, 3 boxes
Acquisition: Donated by Robert Harder, May 24, 2010
Identification: PMML ID# 800072, OCLC# 652531614, Call# PAPERS 00081
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Biographical Note

Robert O. Harder was born in Jackson, Mississippi in 1945, and raised in Minnesota. He attended the University of Minnesota where he studied geography and political science. He began his military service at the University of Minnesota in the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps. Upon graduation in 1966, Harder received a commission into the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant. Although he had dreamed of becoming a military pilot, slight nearsightedness directed him toward navigator training and bombardier school. Harder was assigned to the 306th Bomb Wing located at McCoy Air Force Base in Orlando, Florida. He flew 145 Operation Arc Light combat missions during the Vietnam War as a navigator-bombardier in B-52 bombers.

In 1971, Harder returned to civilian life, and began a lengthy career in retail and merchandising, one in which he worked for Target Stores, Inc. in its infancy, and later served as a vice president of Montgomery Ward & Co. Harder also became a commercial pilot and a certified flight instructor upon his separation from the USAF. He is currently focusing on a writing career in which he writes upon military matters,

American colonial and frontier life. Harder is active in various veteran and historical military societies.

Awards

Air Medal with Six Oak Leaf Clusters
Presidential (Air Force) Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
National Defense Service Medal
Vietnam Service Medal
Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Robert O. Harder Collection consists of a signed copy of *Flying from the Black Hole* by Robert O. Harder, and materials related to his career as a navigator-bombardier in the Air Force. These include navigation maps, flight crew checklists, flight manuals, navigator wings, a periscopic sextant, the headset he wore by during his 145 missions, a shipping cap from a Mark 82 five-hundred pound bomb, and official documents. The collection also includes personal papers related to his family, newspaper clippings, cartoons, and miscellaneous materials as well as photographs and a collection of leaflets dropped by the Japanese on Allied troops during World War II. The collection primarily focuses on Harder's years in the service from 1966 to 1971, but some materials date to the present.

Arrangement

This collection has six series:

Series 1: Military Documents 1965-1970, n.d., Box 1

These records pertain to Harder's career as a navigator-bombardier in the United States Air Force. They include orders, charts, flight manuals, and instructions used during his service. . This series also includes flight crew checklists that were placed in the back of the collection to be separated at a later date. Additional charts and evaluations from his missions can be found in the oversize material series. Items in folders are arranged chronologically.

Series 2: Personal Papers 1948, 1968-1970, 2001, 2010, n.d., Box 1

This series includes papers related to his family including Mamie Nelson, Harder's maternal grandmother who was a Minnesota artist, and Orvis Marcus Nelson who was

the president of Transocean Airlines. This series also includes miscellaneous materials including memorabilia from Vietnam, awards, cartoons, more recent materials regarding the 306th Bombardment Wing, and scans of images taken during the Vietnam War. Items in folders are arranged chronologically.

Series 3: AV 1966-1970, n.d., Box 1

This series includes military aerial photographs, personal photographs of Harder during his service in Vietnam, and family photographs. Also included in this series is a CD-Rom of B-52 footage. Items in this series are arranged chronologically.

Series 4: USAF Flight Crew materials 1967, 1970, Box 1

The two objects in this series are USAF Flight Crew checklists for B-52 C and D Navigators. These are abbreviated instructions are “Conventional Munitions Preparation for Release.”

Series 5: Oversize materials 1968-1970, n.d., Box 2

This series holds a variety of materials including Japanese Propaganda Leaflets which were collected by Harder’s mother during World War II, newspaper clippings from military newspapers and articles regarding B-52s and Vietnam, and military documents regarding Harder’s flight logs. These materials are related to the items found in the Military Series and Personal Paper series however, given their size have been removed to a larger box for better storage. Items in the folders are arranged chronologically.

Series 6: Maps n.d., Box 2

This series includes military maps and charts used during Harder’s service as a navigator-bombardier. They should be separated from the collection in the future.

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Related Collections

Lt. Col. Robert C. Peithman Collection
Franz Altschuler/Henry Altschuler Collection
Robert Luchs Collection

Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location	Date
800072001	00923	Periscopic aircraft sextant in protective case	ARCHIVES	
800072002	00924	Air navigation computer type MB-4A in vinyl sleeve	ARCHIVES	
800072003	00925	Air navigation plotter in vinyl sleeve	ARCHIVES	
800072004	00926	Shipping cap from Mark 82 500 lb bomb	ARCHIVES	
800072005	00927	Standard grey headset, USAF Strategic Air Command	ARCHIVES	
800072006	00928	367th Bombardment Squadron shoulder sleeve insignia patch in frame	ARCHIVES	
800072007	00929	306th Bomb Wing "Abundance of Strength" shoulder sleeve insignia patch in frame	ARCHIVES	
800072008	00930	Vietnam 100 Missions B-52 patch in frame	ARCHIVES	
800072009	00931	Strategic Air Command shoulder sleeve insignia patch, replica	ARCHIVES	
800072010	00932	367th Bombardment Squadron baseball cap, red	ARCHIVES	
800072011	00933	Captain insignia pins, USAF	ARCHIVES	
800072012		Captain insignia pins, USAF	ARCHIVES	
800072013	00934	Bombardier breast insignia badge	ARCHIVES	
800072014	00935	Stopwatch, Breitling Geneve in	ARCHIVES	

		original box		
800072015		Money Clip, sterling silver	ARCHIVES	
800072016		Compass draftsmen tool	ARCHIVES	
119388	D55588.H384	<i>Flying From the Black Hole: the B52 Bombardiers of Vietnam</i> by Robert O. Harder	Library	
800072098		"Bravo 293"	Photographs Collection	October 27, 1968
800072099		"Charlie-191 Tancell"	Photographs Collection	January 3, 1969
800072100		"Charlie 606"	Photographs Collection	February 9, 1969
800072101		Harder accepting his diploma from V.P. Hubert H. Humphrey	Photographs Collection	1966
800072102		Harder in cockpit	Photographs Collection	1968
800072103		Harder in red cap	Photographs Collection	1968
800072104		Harder with headset on	Photographs Collection	1968
800072105		McCoy AFB, 306th Bomb Wing Crew E-30 (Harder is bottom right)	Photographs Collection	1968
800072106		ID photo	Photographs Collection	October-68
800072107		ID photo profile	Photographs Collection	October 1, 1968
800072108		Captain Robert Harder receiving award from Col. Walter Kamp	Photographs Collection	December 14, 1969
800072109		"1Lt. Bandy-EWO-Inspecting Flare Dispense, etc. Mean "47 section"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072110		"1Lt Harder-On FOD detail	Photographs	n.d.

	(Inspect Slimways for foreign object damage)	Collection	
800072111	"1st Lt. Robert O. Harder McCoy Crew E-30 War"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072112	"B-52D-untapao"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072113	"Captain Bobby Long-Radar Navigator-Crew-30 McCoy AFB"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072114	"Long & Harder-Clowning around on a "deadhead" back to Anderson AFB, Guam"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072115	"Long-RN position-note 'tracking handle' near right-hand"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072116	"McCoy Crew E-30-See large photo for names"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072117	"M/Sgt. Calum Storms-McCoy E-30 Tail-Guam"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072118	"M/Sgt. Storus"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072119	Robert O. Harder-preflighting 750 LH external Bombs B-52D"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072120	"U-Tapao A-B-Loading "clip-in" assemblies (3) 28 Bomb Racks-Internal"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072121	"U-Tapao enlisted "hooches"	Photographs Collection	n.d.
800072122	Myrtle B. Harder with daughter Carol	Photographs Collection	1968
800072123	Robert H. Harder (L) and Robert O. Harder (R.)	Photographs Collection	1968
800072124	Harder at McCoy AFB in Orlando, FL	Photographs Collection	1970
800072125	Harder	Photographs	n.d.

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names

Harder, Robert

Subjects

Bombardiers, United States, Biography
Operation Arc Light, 1965-1973
United States, Air Force, Bombardment Wing, 306th
United States, Air Force
Vietnam War, 1961-1975

Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
			Series 1: Military Documents	1965-1970, n.d.
1	1		B-52D Flight Data/Forms	1968-1969
		800072017	Weather Cover Sheet	December 23, 1968
		800072018	Weight and Balance Clearance Form F	September 5, 1969
		800072019	General Purpose CMF/CSF Form	November 3, 1969
		800072020	Pilot Flight Progress Chart-Briefed Spare	November 3, 1969
		800072021	Planned Fuel Considerations	November 3, 1969
		800072022	Unidentified chart	November 3, 1969

	800072023	Aircraft Flight Data Record	December 14, 1969
2		Celestial Navigation/Periscopic Sextant info	n.d.
	800072024	Celestial Precomputation blank forms	n.d.
	800072025	Celestial Precomputation form (Photocopy)	n.d.
	800072026	Daily Page from Air Almanac (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072027	Excerpt from Instruction Manual (Photocopy)	n.d.
	800072028	Explanation of basic navigation procedures (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072029	Example of Celestial Plots	n.d.
3		Military Orders	1965-1970, n.d.
	800072030	Special Order: T-1730 transfer to Lincoln AFB, Nebraska	April 27, 1965
	800072031	Special Order: AD-804 Appointment to Second Lieutenant	May 19, 1966
	800072032	Appointment in the Regular Air Force	May 24, 1966
	800072033	Aeronautical Order 46 Awarded aeronautical rating of Navigator	May 5, 1967
	800072034	Special Orders G-12 awarded the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon	May 17, 1967
	800072035	Permanent Change of Station Order- Military	November 14, 1967
	800072036	Assignment to McCoy AFB, Florida	April 1, 1968
	800072037	Special Order T-2263 transfer to Operational Deployment	September 23, 1968
	800072038	Request and Authorization for Temporary Duty-Second Tour Sea	September 17, 1969

	800072039	Special Order GB-671 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	September 22, 1969
	800072040	Special Order G-97 Air Medal award	May 28, 1970
	800072041	Special Order MA-84 Designated instructor	August 20, 1970
	800072042	Record of Discharge	December 19, 1970
	800072043	Navigator-Observer wings explanation	n.d.
4		Navigation and Bombing Procedures	n.d.
	800072044	An example of how "AN" worked	n.d.
	800072045	The "AN"/RDF Loop Antenna (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072046	B-29 Example-Same principles with B-52 (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072047	Ballistic Calculation Used on a Radar Synchronous Bomb Run	n.d.
	800072048	"The Basics of Latitude and Longitude" photocopy	n.d.
	800072049	Falcon Code	n.d.
	800072050	Headings & Courses (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072051	Navigator checking the radar-navigator's instruments (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072052	Radar Mapping (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072053	Secondary Target profile (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072054	Strategic Air Command	n.d.
	800072055	Target predictions	n.d.
	800072056	World War II Radio-Aided Bombing	n.d.
5		Operational Supplement T.O. 1-1C-1-5S-20	1968 (1969)

	800072057	Flight Manual T.O. 1-1C-1-5	December 1, 1969
6	800072058	Military: Radar Navigator's/Navigator's Manual T.O. 1B-52C-1-1-2	August 5, 1969
7	800072059	Radar Navigator's/Navigator's Manual T.O. 1B-52C-1-1-1	December 1, 1969
8		Operational Supplement T.O. 1-1C-1S-6	January 14, 1970
	800072060	Flight Manual T.O. 1-1C-1	December 1, 1969
9	800072061	Military Diagram/Instructions T.O. 1B- 52C-1 (photocopies)	n.d.
10		Miscellaneous Instructions	n.d.
	800072062	Configurations 3B-1 and 3B-2 (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072063	"Nose Fuzes" (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072064	Photo collage (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072065	SA-2 Guideline SAM	n.d.
	800072066	"The Standard Seven Hundred-Fifty Pounder" (photocopy)	n.d.
11		Miscellaneous	n.d.
	800072067	Leaflets Dropped in R.V.N.	n.d.
	800072068	Letter to men being discharged (photocopy)	n.d.
		Series 2: Personal Papers	1948, 1968- 1970, 2001, 2010, n.d.
12		Mamie Nelson	n.d.

	800072069	Art brochure	n.d.
13		Transocean Airline (TAL)	1948, n.d.
	800072070	Entry Permit for Mamie Nelson for Japan	March 7, 1948
	800072071	"Folded Wings: a History of Transocean Air Lines" article (photocopy)	n.d.
	800072072	Newsclipping "TAL's Pilot-President Here with Wife, Mother on Global Air Tour" (photocopy)	n.d.
14		Vietnam Memorabilia	n.d.
	800072073	Johny's Gems	n.d.
	800072074	Tommy's Gems	n.d.
15		Miscellaneous	2001, 2010, n.d.
	800072075	B-52 Bomb Station	1950s
	800072076	History of 306th Bombardment Wing	2001
	800072077	Aviation art "The 12/26/1972 Raid"	2010
	800072078	LILAC02 Hanoi Rail Yards, 1972	2010
	800072079	"From the Archives: Highlights from 1946"	June 9, 2010
	800072080	Award of Honor with drawing of Mirror Lake	n.d.
	800072081	"Be Sure and Acourate"	n.d.
	800072082	Cartoons: "Ever Seen a Chicken..."	n.d.
	800072083	Cartoons: "I Wonder How..." (2 copies)	n.d.
	800072084	Cartoons: Man in the woods	n.d.
	800072085	Cartoons: "Patience, My Ass!..."	n.d.
	800072086	Cartoons: "Somebody Help the I.N..."	n.d.

800072087	Cartoons: "What gives you the idea..."	n.d.
800072088	Certificate of Honor	n.d.
800072089	Map from: "A View From the Ruck"	n.d.
800072090	Map from: "Flying from the Black Hole"	n.d.
800072091	Ritkin County Minnesota Award of Honor with drawing in Blossom Time	n.d.
800072092	Ritkin County Minnesota Award of Honor with drawing of MacArthur	n.d.

16 **Images** **n.d.**

800072093	"Clip in Assembly"	n.d.
800072094	Controls	n.d.
800072095	Instruments	n.d.
800072096	Pilot in cockpit	n.d.
800072097	Plane over water	n.d.

Series 3: AV

**1966-1970,
n.d.**

CD-Rom n.d.

20	800072126	Robert O. Harder B-52 Footage	n.d.
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Series 4: USAF Flight Crew materials

1967, 1970

21	800072127	Crew Check List	1967
22	800072128	Crew Check List (Nuclear)	1970

Series 5: Oversize materials

1968-1970,
n.d.

2 **1** **Japanese Propaganda Leaflets** **n.d.**

800072129	"Red Beret"	n.d.
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800072130	"You Above all Men"	n.d.
800072131	"Jilted, Re-Jilted"	n.d.
800072132	"The Unknown"	n.d.
800072133	"Australia Screams"	n.d.

2 **Military: J.N. Chart/Log** **1968**

800072134	Mission Flight Plan	1-Apr-68
800072135	Mission Flight Plan	2-May-68
800072136	B-52 Terrain Avoidance Calibration Worksheet	n.d.
800072137	High Altitude Ballistic Calculator	n.d.
800072138	Low Level Bomb Run Ballistic Calculator	n.d.

3 **Newspapers and Clippings** **1968-1970, n.d.**

800072139	"Yara goes to Tokyo to talk About B52s, Feb.4 Strike"	n.d.
800072140	"Explains B52 Situation"	n.d.
800072141	B52s Plaster Enemy in Ben Het Support	n.d.
800072142	cartoon	n.d.
800072143	"With Sgt. Mike" cartoons	1968
800072144	<i>Guam Daily News</i>	October 15, 1968
800072145	<i>The Citrus Flyer</i>	November 8, 1968
800072146	2 Kadena Crash Victims Flown to Japan	November 21, 1968
800072147	BAHT Bus-An Experience	December-68
800072148	<i>The Bangkok Post</i>	December 19, 1968

800072149	<i>Southern Star</i>	December 20, 1968
800072150	"Bob Hope" articles	December 31, 1968
800072151	"Arc Light Missions..12 Hours of Long, Hard Work for McCoy Aircrews	January 31, 1969
800072152	"Cancel 24-Hr. General Strike"	February 3, 1969
800072153	"Protesting the Bombers"	February 11, 1969
800072154	"Ruling Sets Up Draft Law Test"	April 3, 1969
800072155	"4 Hours to Launch--A Night with DCM"	October 31, 1969
800072156	"Reds Brave B52 Raids, Invade Laotian Airfields"	February 20, 1970
800072157	"It's a Long Way to Someone's Heart"	January 23, 1970
800072158	"Hanoi Muddies The POW Picture"	February 11, 1970
800072159	"SAC 'Charlie's coordinate wing launches, Must be technical experts in Stratofortress operations"	February 27, 1970

Series 6: Maps

		n.d.	
4	800072160	ONC H-13	n.d.
	800072161	Jet Navigation (JN-44)N	n.d.
	800072162	CD-11	n.d.
	800072163	B&W chart used for Viet Cong territory	n.d.
	800072164	"Log & JN chart-do not match also not the OB-10 entry"	n.d.
	800072165	4L	n.d.