



Harold F. Blackburn Papers (K0952)

Collection Number: K0952

Collection Title: Harold F. Blackburn Papers

Dates: 1942-1946

Creator: Trans World Airlines

Abstract: This collection consists of a statistical handbook kept by pilot Harold F. Blackburn from 1942 to 1946 for the Trans World Airlines, Intercontinental Division. The information includes total miles flown, hours flown, accident information, financial expenditures, and number of employees broken down by department.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic foot
(1 folder, 1 volume)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Harold F. Blackburn Papers* (K0952); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Robert Sherman on July 11, 2010 (Accession No. KA1797).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Harold F. Blackburn Papers can be found in the following collections:

Trans World Airlines Records (K0453)

Notes: Collection is associated with the Trans World Airlines Archives.

Processed by: Processed by Mimi Loran, June 2018

Historical Note:

Harold “Blackie” F. Balckburn was born in 1901 in Urbana, Illinois. After flying his first plane at the age of 17, Blackburn decided that he wanted to become a pilot. Blackburn then attended Colorado Agriculture College, now Colorado State University, for two years, before returning home to take care of his family after the death of his father.

In 1928, Blackburn attempted to join the United States Army Air Corps, but failed the examination, and was forced to take additional classes at the University of Southern California (USC). He finally earned his wings in 1930, and assisted in the relief effort for of the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona, which earned him and his squadron the Mackay Trophy, the highest award given in peacetime. Blackburn was then released from the United States Army Air Corps in 1932.

Following his release from the United States Army Air Corps, Blackburn joined Trans World Airlines (TWA), then Trans Western Airlines, in 1935. He would continue to work for TWA until he retired in 1962. During World War II, Blackburn was superintendent of TWA’s Intercontinental Division. It was during this time that he flew the first United States scheduled overseas commercial flight from New York to Paris in 1946. While working for TWA, Blackburn also helped to form Ethiopian Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines, and Deutsche-Lufthansa, and although a civilian, he flew six missions over Europe during WWII.

After Blackburn retired from TWA, he moved to Pennsylvania, before moving to Oakland, California, to live with his son, Robert. He died in 1989.

Arrangement:

Collection consists of a single volume and has been arranged into a single folder.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of a single volume containing statistical information for Trans World Airline’s (TWA) Intercontinental Division. The handbook was kept by Harold F. Blackburn, and is broken down by the kind of information or statistic that is being tracked, and compared to previous years and months. The information includes total miles flown, hours flown, accident information, financial expenditures, and number of employees broken down by department.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Handbook, 1942-1946

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Blackburn, Harold F., 1901-1989	1

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