

Guide to the  
Brian Johnson Collection

7.8 linear feet

Accession Number: 10-05-94-11  
Collection Number: CA 10-05-94-11

Collection Dates: 1939 – 1975  
Bulk Dates: 1960 - 1975

Prepared by  
Thomas J. Allen

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CITATION: The Brian Johnson Collection, Box number Folder number, History of Aviation Collection, Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Special Collections Department  
McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas

Biographical Sketch:.....	3
Sources.....	3
Additional Sources.....	3
Series Description.....	3
Scope and Content Note.....	3
Provenance Statement.....	4
Literary Rights Statement.....	4
Container list.....	4

## **Biographical Sketch:**

Brian Johnson was born November 20, 1935 in Fairfield, Maine. He served in the United States Army and the Texas National Guard. In 1963, he was certified to operate rotary wing aircraft by the United States Army Primary Helicopter School at Fort Wolters, Texas.

Brian Johnson later joined Air America and was an active pilot in the helicopter division. After he left Air America he remained involved in the private aviation sector. Currently he divides his time between living in Texas and Mexico. He is active in promoting the history and legacy of Air America through his involvement with the Air America Association, as well as serving as a member of The History of Aviation Collection's Advisory Board.

## **Sources**

Brian Johnson Collection, History of Aviation Collection, Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

## **Additional Sources**

The History of Aviation Collection at the University of Texas at Dallas is the official archive of CAT and Air America and has extensive holdings of archival material relating to Air America operations and aviation in Southeast Asia. Consult the finding aids of the CAT/Air America Collection for further details.

## **Series Description**

The Brian Johnson Collection consists of one series of seven boxes of material totaling 7.8 linear feet. It is comprised of loose material in folders. The collection is described at the folder level. See container list for the title of individual folders.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Brian Johnson Collection includes material related to Brian Johnson's involvement with Air America, as well as in private sector aviation and military service. The documents include correspondence, photographs, slides, and operational material related to both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

Additionally, select photographs and slides from the Brian Johnson collection are displayed in The History of Aviation Collection's Digital Archive. Further information about this resource is available at the following URL:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/library/collections/speccoll/dia/dia.htm>.

## **Provenance Statement**

The Brian Johnson Collection was donated to The History of Aviation Collection, McDermott Library Special Collections by Brian Johnson in 1996. Additional material has been donated at several later dates.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish copy, reprint, digitize, orally record for transmission over public airways, or use in any and all current or future developed methods or procedures, must be obtained in writing from the Special Collections Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

## **Container list**

Begins on page 5.

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

### **Box 1**

### **Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Airframe Maintenance Records – January 1, 1980 – December 31, 1980 |
| 2 | Airframe Maintenance Records – January 1, 1981 – December 31, 1981 |
| 3 | Maintenance Activity – January 1, 1978 – December 31, 1978         |
| 4 | Maintenance Activity – January 1, 1978 – December 31, 1978         |
| 5 | Flight Summaries (Folder A)  |
| 6 | Flight Summaries (Folder B)  |
| 7 | Flight Summaries (Folder C)  |
| 8 | Flight Summaries (Folder D)  |

### **Box 2**

#### **Folder**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Crew Training  |
| 2 | US Department of Transportation Bulletins and Directives |
| 3 | Personal Data, Correspondence, Crew Listings (Folder A)  |
| 4 | Personal Data, Correspondence, Crew Listings (Folder B)  |
| 5 | Manuals, Reports, Regulations, Bulletins, Instructions   |
| 6 | Standards and Instructions – Southern Airways of Texas   |
| 7 | Safety Regulations                                       |

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 3</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
1	Aircraft Parts List
2	Navigation Equipment Brochures
3	FAA Documents
4	Flight Training Manuals
5	Aircraft Service Instructions
6	Financial Records
7	Thailand Visa Application
8	Military Records
9	Air America Correspondence
10	Helicopter Photographs
11	Brian's Graduating Class – Fort Sill, OK 1961
12	Certificates and Diplomas
13	Parts Reports and Logs
14	US Flag

## **Box 4**

### **Folder**

1	Scratch Notebooks
2	10 United States Passports (Johnson Family)
3	3 Thailand Passports

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 4</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
4	1 Mexican Passport
5	1 Vietnam Passport
6	1 Vietnamese International Driving Permit
7	1 Laotian Pilot's License
8	5 Aviator's Flight Logbooks (1951 – 1965)
9	Vietnam Air Facilities Data Pamphlet
10	Video Tape: Laos 56 Minutes, Thailand 32 Minutes - 1994
11	Video Tape: Vietnam 56 Minutes, Cambodia 51 Minutes – 1994
12	Video Tape: Hong Kong 30 Minutes, Vietnam 1 Hour 30 Minutes – 1994
13	Video Tape: Saigon 1 Hour – 1992
14	Video Tape: Hanoi 2 Hours – 1992
15	Video Tape: Air America Reunion, San Antonio, Texas, August 28-30 1992
16	Video Tape: Air America Reunion, Cocoa Beach, Florida, June 1997
17	S-58 Helicopter Operations Manual
18	Pilot Duty Log, 1959
19	Pilots Flight Log, 1943
20	Cessna Aircraft Checklist
21	Pilots Log, 1965 – 1966

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 4</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
22	Notebook
23	Log of Aircraft No. 385AR
24	Log of Aircraft No. 385AR Number 1
25	Log of Aircraft No. 385AR Number 2
26	AIP Saigon FIR – Section RAC
27	Southern Airways of Texas – Operational Memos
28	US Army Helicopter School – Primary Helicopter Training Manual
29	Lycoming T53 Study Guide
30	S-58T FCF Pamphlet
31	FAA Regulations
32	Airline Transport Pilot - USFAA Examination Study Guide
33	CCAA License – Application and Examination Study Guide
34	Federal Aviation Regulation Part 127
35	Federal Aviation Regulations Part 133
36	Army Technical Manual TM 55-450-11: helicopter External loads Rigged with Air Delivery Equipment
37	Basic Helicopter Handbook – 1968
38	Army Technical Manual TM 1-260: Rotary Wing Flight
39	Airline Transportation Pilot Written Test Guide

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

### **Box 4**

### **Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 40 | Primary Helicopter Training Manual – United States Army |
| 41 | RAM Aircraft Modifications Notebook                     |

### **Box 5**

#### **Folder**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Video Tape: Brian Johnson Interview with Monty Markham           |
| 2  | Video Tape: Film of Air America Helicopter Operations in Vietnam |
| 3  | Video Tape: Brian Johnson Film to Tape Transfer                  |
| 4  | Maintenance Tags – I   |
| 5  | Maintenance Tags – II  |
| 6  | Maintenance Tags – III   |
| 7  | Maintenance Tags – IV  |
| 8  | Maintenance Tags – V   |
| 9  | Maintenance Tags – VI  |
| 10 | Brian Johnson Business Cards                                     |
| 11 | Slides: Air America (6 Slides)                                   |
| 12 | Slides: Brian Johnson's Gold Bracelet                            |
| 13 | Slides: Brian Johnson's Arsenal (3 Slides)                       |
| 14 | Slides: Brian Johnson (2 Slides)                                 |
| 15 | Slides: Brian Johnson II (6 Slides)                              |

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 5</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
16	Slides: Brian Johnson III (8 Slides)
17	Slides: Kelly Johnson (4 Slides)
18	Slides: Jack Knotts (2 Slides)
19	Slides: T. Scheiter – 1966 (2 Slides)
20	Slides: Wendy Windgrove (2 Slides)
21	Slides: Group Photographs (4 Slides)
22	Slides: Crew – Phan Rang (1 Slide)
23	Slides: Children (5 Slides)
24	Slides: V.C. Prisoners (2 Slides)
25	Slides: V.C. Dead (5 Slides)
26	Slides: Miscellaneous People (2 Slides)
27	Slides: Beach Vopar (2 Slides)
28	Slides: Super Connie, Da Nang
29	Slides: H-53 (2 Slides)
30	Slides: F-8 Crusader (4 Slides)
31	Slides: HU-1D – 1967 (2 Slides)
32	Slides: 204 B – 1967 (3 Slides)
33	Slides: 204 B Helicopter (8 Slides)
34	Slides: 204 B – 1966 I (8 Slides)

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 5</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
35	Slides: 204 B – 1966 II (5 Slides)
36	Slides: 204 B – Miscellaneous (5 Slides)
37	Slides: Aircraft (8 Slides)
38	Slides: Miscellaneous Aircraft (8 Slides)
39	Slides: German Hospital Ship – Saigon (2 Slides)
40	Slides: Hovercraft – The Delta (2 Slides)
41	Slides: Ships (4 Slides)
42	Slides: USS New Jersey (3 Slides)
43	Slides: C-47 Crash – Matheson (3 Slides)
44	Slides: Brian Leder and Jack Knotts Crash – Vietnam (4 Slides)
45	Slides: Tet – 1968 (3 Slides)
46	Slides: Tet – Vietnam (8 Slides)
47	Slides: Tet – Saigon – Vietnam, 1968 (8 Slides)
48	Slides: Tet Offensive – 1968 (7 Slides)
49	Slides: B-52 ARC Lite Strike – North Ben Hua (3 Slides)
50	Slides: Air Strike – Huy Anit (2 Slides)
51	Slides: Air Strike Delta – 1966
52	Slides: Attacks: (4 Slides)
53	Slides: AD Vietnam – 1967 (2 Slides)

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 5</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
54	Slides: Vietnam (3 Slides)
55	Slides: Vietnam (4 Slides)
56	Slides: Hue Citadel – Vietnam (2 Slides)
57	Slides: Hue – Vietnam (6 Slides)
58	Slides: Hue – Vietnam – Tet, 1968 (2 Slides)
59	Slides: Saigon (4 Slides)
60	Slides: Saigon – 1967 (9 Slides)
61	Slides: Saigon Fire – 1962 (2 Slides)
62	Slides: Saigon Locations (6 Slides)
63	Slides: Canal Through Saigon (2 Slides)
64	Slides: Saigon (4 Slides)
65	Slides: Central Saigon – 1967 (4 Slides)
66	Slides: French Fort – Saigon, 1967 (5 Slides)
67	Slides: Madam Nhu Monument – Saigon (2 Slides)
68	Slides: Saigon Harbor – 1967 (2 Slides)
69	Slides: Saigon Zoo (6 Slides)
70	Slides: Binh Song (3 Slides)
71	Slides: Cam Rahn Bay – 1966 (4 Slides)
72	Slides: Che Chi – 1966 (3 Slides)

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<b><u>Box 5</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
73	Slides: Cho Duc – 1967 (2 Slides)
74	Slides: Duc Tou – 1967 (2 Slides)
75	Slides: Hill 66 (2 Slides)
76	Slides: Ke Som (3 Slides)
77	Slides: Moc Hua – 1966 (6 Slides)
78	Slides: Nha Trang (8 Slides)
79	Slides: A/A Nha Trang (2 Slides)
80	Slides: Nha Trang (3 Slides)
81	Slides: Rock City – 1966 (4 Slides)
82	Slides: Rock City – 1967 (3 Slides)
83	Slides: Tam Ke Resupply – 1966 (3 Slides)
84	Slides: Cambodia – 1967 (8 Slides)
85	Slides: Ankor – Cambodia (7 Slides)
86	Slides: Brian at Ankor – Cambodia (3 Slides)
87	Slides: Ankor Watt – Cambodia (A) (8 Slides)
88	Slides: Ankor Watt - Cambodia (B) (9 Slides)
89	Slides: Ankor Watt – Cambodia (C) (9 Slides)
90	Slides: Nam Phim, Cambodia (2 Slides)
91	Slides: Phan Phim, Cambodia – 1967 (2 Slides)

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

<b><u>Box 5</u></b>	<b><u>Titles, Dates, and Description</u></b>
<b><u>Folder</u></b>	
92	Slides: Phom Phen – Cambodia (8 Slides)
93	Slides: Museum at Phom Phen – Cambodia (7 Slides)
94	Slides: Sinm Ripp – Cambodia (12 Slides)
95	Slides: Manila – The Philippines (4 Slides)
96	Slides: Jeepney – Manila (2 Slides)
97	Slides: American Cemetery – Manila (2 Slides)
98	Slides: Taipei (3 Slides)
99	Slides: Grand Temple – Taipei (A) (8 Slides)
100	Slides: Grand Temple – Taipei (B) (8 Slides)
101	Slides: Quang Tri Province – Funeral, 1966 (2 Slides)
102	Slides: Buddhist Parade – 1967 (3 Slides)
103	Slides: Elephants – Gia Nhi -1967 (3 Slides)
104	Slides: Montenegro Village – 1967 (3 Slides)
105	Slides: Pathet Lao Headquarters (4 Slides)
106	Slides: Barges in the Delta (2 Slides)
107	Slides: Scenic Saigon I (8 Slides)
108	Slides: Scenic Saigon II (2 Slides)
109	Slides: Aerial Views (6 Slides)
110	Slides: Landscapes (9 Slides)
111	Slides: Buildings (7 Slides)

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

### **Box 5            Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

- |     |                                      |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 112 | Slides: Miscellaneous I (8 Slides)   |
| 113 | Slides: Miscellaneous II (8 Slides)  |
| 114 | Slides: Miscellaneous III (4 Slides) |
| 115 | Slides: Miscellaneous IV (3 Slides)  |
| 116 | Miscellaneous Landscapes (7 Slides)  |

### **Box 6**

#### **Folder**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Air America Log: 1996 – 2001               |
| 2 | Newsweek Magazine                          |
| 3 | Time Magazine                              |
| 4 | General's Ward and Chennault China Post #1 |
| 5 | China Post #1 Newsletter (Folder A)        |
| 6 | China Post #1 Newsletter (Folder B)        |
| 7 | Memorial Dedication – May 30, 1987         |
| 8 | Air America Yearbook – 1984                |

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

### **Box 7            Titles, Dates, and Description**

#### **Folder**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Air America Club Newsletter: 1983 – 1986 |
| 2 | Air America Log: 1987 – 1990             |
| 3 | Air America Log: 1991 – 1995             |
| 4 | Ledger                                   |
| 5 | Photo Album                              |

### **Box 8**

#### **Folder**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Photo Album                           |
| 2 | News Articles                         |
| 3 | Miscellaneous Air America Documents   |
| 4 | Texas Tech Vietnam Center             |
| 5 | Magazines                             |
| 6 | Miscellaneous Memoranda and Bulletins |
| 7 | Beach NITRU                           |
| 8 | 320 Cessna N73HT                      |

## **Brian Johnson Collection: Container List**

### **Item in Safe:**

At the 2005 Air America Association Reunion, hosted by The History of Aviation Collection, Brian Johnson donated his gold bracelet to the collection. These bracelets were issued to Air America pilots to aid them if they were shot down. The pilots would be able to break the gold links of the bracelet off and use them to pay for help and aid in getting to friendly lines. Due to the extreme value and nature of this artifact it is stored in a secure location. A display illustrating the significance of these bracelets is on view in The History of Aviation collection foyer.