

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG

Favorite Things

We all have our favorite records. Maybe it's a photo that reminds you of home, a document that shows a unique perspective of a historical event, or a letter that reveals a more personal side of a President.

We asked a few of our colleagues to tell us about their favorite records in the National Archives Catalog, and what makes them so special. Here are their responses:



Original caption: *Two American Negroes win Croix De Guerre. These [African American] fighters routed a German raiding party numerically stronger. The two men, Henry Johnson, left, and Neadham Roberts, right, are members of the 369th Regiment Infantry. Each has been decorated with the French Croix de Guerre, 1917 - ca. 1919 (National Archives Identifier [533523](#))*

"Earlier this year, I came across the story of Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts. They served in the 369th Harlem Hellfighters during World War I. The courage they displayed on May 15, 1918 earned them both the distinction of becoming the very first Americans to ever be awarded the Croix de Guerre, from France. Sadly, the US lagged far behind in acknowledging these heroes because they were African American. It wasn't until long after they had passed that they were awarded Purple Hearts by the US Army. In 2015, President Obama posthumously awarded Johnson the Medal of Honor."

- *Ben, National Archives in Washington, DC*



Young School Girls Attending Sewing Class at Albuquerque Indian School, ca. 1910 (National Archives Identifier [292877](#))

"My favorite record comes from Record Group 75: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Albuquerque Indian School. I (we) assume circa 1910 although there is no date on the image itself or any other information. Now why is it my favorite? That is a hard hard question to answer. I think fundamentally because it has haunted me over my whole career. On the surface it is young girls learning how to sew at a BIA boarding school. Without a doubt a tough life for those girls. I look at the faces of the four youngest ones who seems to be looking at the camera in the front row facing the camera and I just want to hug them, although they are long gone. I look at the teachers and they seem off and somewhat uncomfortable. The three older girls on the left of the image with the sewing machines are amazing. This whole image is just

full of amazing little details. Look at the wall hangings, the crack and water stains on the ceiling, it just goes and goes."

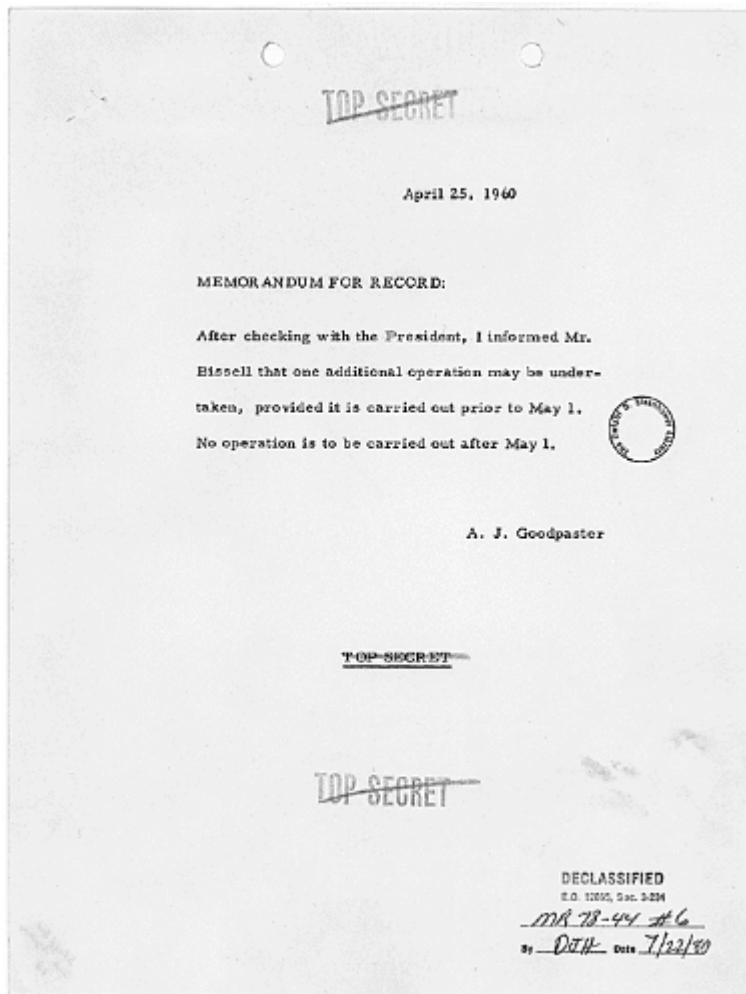
- Marene, National Archives at Denver



Magazine LL AS14-64-9177 Apollo 14 EVA on board, 3/15/1971 (National Archives Identifier [7388694](#))

"This is a photograph from NASA Apollo 14 mission to the moon out of the Marshall Space Flight Center. The series is titled "Lunar Roving Vehicle Documents, 1969-1972". I think why I like it is because it's a near-direct look at the sun and the rays hitting the surface of the moon. If you look closely enough, you can see footprints and rover tracks. But there's so much more than lens flare going on because of the thinner atmosphere, so it's absolutely fascinating to look at. I enjoy that it is in black and white as well, because we would not have gotten everything in this picture if it were in color."

- Desiree, National Archives at Philadelphia



Memorandum for Record by A. J. Goodpaster, 4/25/1960 (National Archives Identifier 186630)

"This unassuming, two sentence office memorandum is far more important than its simplicity and brevity suggest. White House Staff Secretary Andrew Jackson Goodpaster informed the Central Intelligence Agency's Deputy Director for Plans, Richard Mervin Bissell, that President Eisenhower approved one final U-2 surveillance overflight of the Soviet Union on the condition that it take place no later than May 1, 1960. This final flight of May 1, 1960, resulted in the loss of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers' aircraft, Powers' imprisonment by the Soviets, and public exposure of the overflight program. The consequences extended even further when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, dissatisfied with President Eisenhower's response to Soviet demands, withdrew from and thus ended the 1960 Paris Peace Summit Conference."

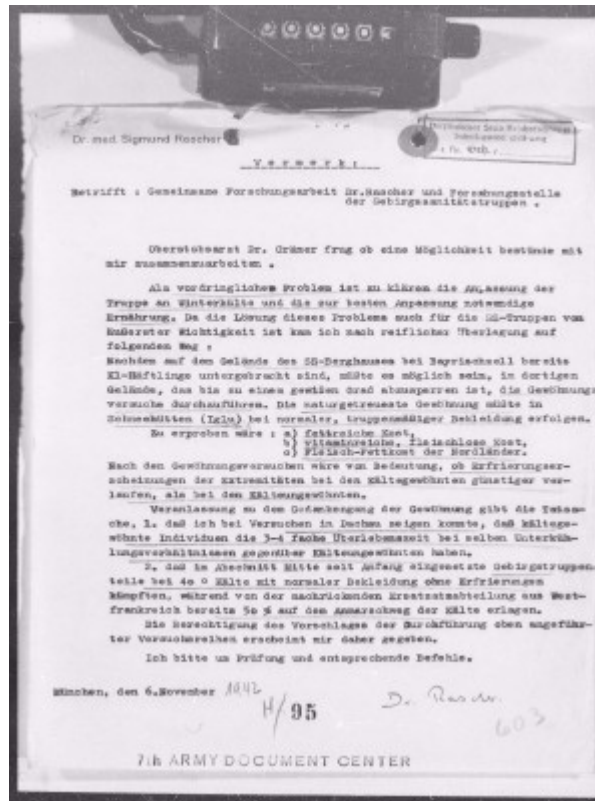
- Chris, National Archives at College Park, MD

Now it's your turn!

Do you have a favorite record in the National Archives Catalog?

Email us at catalog@nara.gov and tell us about it! What makes it your favorite, and how did you find it? We might feature your answer in a future newsletter issue!

New in the Catalog



War Crimes Trials Case Files, 1947 - 1958

This series consists of war crimes trial records, exhibits and other records relating to cases tried before U.S. Army military government courts. Included are case files relating to Buchenwald, Dachau, Flossenbürg, Mauthausen, and Nordhausen concentration camps. Also included are case files for 27 German nationals tried in Shanghai, China.



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