

PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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Lewis (O.L.) and Marianne Thorson Collection

Creator: O. Lewis (1914—2001) and Marianne Thorson
Dates: 1943-2001
Quantity: 4" linear feet (2 document boxes)
Acquisition: Anonymous
Identification: PMML ID# 330101, OCLC# 231693055, Call# PAPERS 00014
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Biographical Note

Olof Lewis Thorson was born on December 31, 1914 and grew up in Chicago, IL. In 1943 Thorson was drafted into the United States Navy. He was stationed at the Farragut U.S. Naval Training Station in Idaho where he received the rate of Third Class Storekeeper (SK 3c). In the spring of 1944, Thorson's wife, Marianne, joined him in Idaho and they moved to the town of Coeur d'Alene. In the winter of that year Thorson received the rate of SK 2c and was transferred to the Supply and Accounting department.

In February of 1945 Thorson was drafted a second time, and this time stationed in Bremerton, WA. Between March and May of that year, Thorson served in three temporary locations: the Naval Ammunition Depot.; the Shore Patrol; and aboard the U.S.S. *Charleston* at Lake Washington, where he also worked in the ship yards. By the end of May he was detached from duty and went to the AB. S.T.C. in Williamsburg, VA.

In July of 1945 he was stationed at San Bruno, and then in November transferred to the Personnel Separation Center in Shoemaker, CA. On March 2, 1946 he was discharged. After the war Thorson and his wife returned to Illinois. Olof Lewis Thorson died on February 11, 2001 in DeKalb, IL.

The previous information comes from a chronology written by Thorson himself. Therefore, it has not been confirmed whether he actually served in these places, nor with which unit he served.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection contains correspondence, ephemera, and papers collected by Olof Lewis Thorson while he served in the United States Navy during World War II. The bulk of the collection concerns the years 1943-1946; a majority of which was spent at the Farragut Naval Training Center.

The collection includes postcard correspondence with Thorson and his wife, as well as a variety of blank souvenir postcards from across the country. Additionally, there are various ephemera gathered by Thorson during his service in Coeur d'Alene, ID and Bremerton, WA. Also included are newspapers from the AB. S.T.C. in Williamsburg, VA and a variety of military bulletins, memos and programs from his time in the Navy.

Included in the collection are two scrapbooks (most-likely compiled by his wife, Marianne Thorson) from Thorson's time in Farragut and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, as well as a variety of non-military ephemera such as travel brochures, maps and souvenirs from his times of military leave.

There are three items located outside this archival box: a military pillowcase, a pennant from the U.S. Naval Training Center in Farragut, ID, and a Regiment Review photograph from 1944.

Arrangement

The collection arrived with no discernable arrangement and was rearranged in a more efficient working order by PMML staff. The collection is contained within one archival box.

Rights

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Separations

There are three items located outside this archival box: a military pillowcase, a pennant from the U.S. Naval Training Center in Farragut, ID, and a Regiment Review photograph from 1944.

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

Thorson, O. Lewis (Olof Lewis), 1914-2001.
Thorson, Marianne

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945 -- United States.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Naval operations.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives, American.
United States -- History -- World War, 1939-1945.
Soldiers -- United States -- Correspondence.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box One

Folder One

Postcards

Postcards—1940s
Postcards—blank (34)
Postcards—Chicago—blank (7)
Postcards—Military—blank (3)
Postcard addressed to Lewis and Marianne Thorson
Postcard addressed to Mrs. Lewis Thorson, 5/21/1945
Souvenir picture packets—postmarked—addressed to Mrs. Lewis Thorson (4)
Souvenir picture packet—blank
Envelope from correspondence between B.A. Benson and O.L. Thorson, 1945

Folder Two**Ephemera--Military**

Pass for Marianne Thorson, NAS Seattle, 5/16/1945
Leaflet—Puget Sound Navy Yard, 1944—inscribed “O.L. Thorson”
Map—War Hospitality Committee, Wash. D.C., 1945.
Navy Pay Receipts—blank (4)
Elks Lodge Menu
American Legion Service Men’s Dormitory Card, 1945 (3)
Membership card—The Vets Club, 1944
Schedule—YMCA and USO, Summer 1945
Tobacco Rationing Card, 1945

Folder 3**Newsletters**

“The B-Area Log”—Camp Peary, VA—6/8/1944
“Ship-Rec Bulletin”—Ship Service ABSTC Welfare & Recreation—
6/5/1945
“Movies—28 May to 3 June”—“Ships Co Theater”—1944

Folder 4**Military Bulletins, Memos and Programs**

“Your Last Navy Bulletin”—Shoemaker, CA
“Civic Auditorium, SF, 1945”—in honor of the Delegates to the
Conference of the UN
“Naval officers programs”—1964
“Personal Affairs of Naval Personnel”—1943-44 (2)
“All Hands”—Cumulative Reference Index—1945
Memoranda—Puget Sound Navy Yard—1944 (4)
Military-related news clippings—1944-45 (4)
Mr. & Mrs. Thorson wartime chronology

Folder 5**Military Bulletins, Memos and Programs (2)**

“Seattle: the City of Opportunity”—several military related ads—

5/15/1945

“Navy wives activities—USO—Coeur d’Alene, ID—1945
“The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific”—Honolulu—1973
“Your Navy in Hawaii” –1975
“So this is Shoemaker”—“Do’s and Don’ts”—1944 (3)
“Something Doing in San Francisco”—Furlough guide (2)
“San Francisco attractions”—USO Furlough Guide (2)
“U.S. Naval Training Station”—Farragut, ID (2)

Box 2**Folder 6****Scrapbooks**

Scrapbooks—1944 (2)

Folder 7

Non-military Ephemera

Items from Bremerton, WA; Coeur d'Alene, ID

Folder 8

Non-military Ephemera (2)

Items from Washington D.C.; San Francisco, CA; Coeur d'Alene, ID