

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
World War II Letters**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2010.1.4

Title: World War II Letters

Physical Characteristics:

Donated by: Greensboro Historical Museum

Arrangement: Documents are arranged chronologically.

Creator: James S. Thomerson

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Lynsey Allie, June 2014

Introduction:

This collection is made up of letters written from James S. Thomerson to his family in Roanoke while he was deployed during World War II. They chronicle his time abroad and illustrate the hardships that many others faced far from home.

Biographical Note:

The letters start in September of 1942 to early 1945. Thomerson was a Roanoke resident and lived with his family on Staunton Avenue, where most of the letters are addressed. The letters are mainly to his mother and he passes along well wishes to his dad, however there are no surviving letters that are specifically to his father. There are also a couple of letters to his brother, Robert. The letters came to the Virginia Room from Greensboro, North Carolina where they were found in the foundation of a house. It is not clear how the letters ended up in North Carolina. A death certificate for a James S. Thomerson in Greensboro states that he died in November of 1972 at the age of 68, from adenocarcinoma.

In addition to James' letters, there are a couple of letters from a Donald E. Hall. He is somehow related to James and the Thomersons, though it is unclear how the two are related.

Scope and Content:

- The collection makes up 1 document storage box.
- The collection is made up almost entirely of correspondence. An occasional photo and obituary were included with the letters as well.
- The collection of letters contains envelopes and paper of varying sizes. Most are 4"x6"; while some are larger, measuring 6"x8". There are also Christmas cards included.
- The letters range from September 1942 through February 1945.
- The letters help give insight into a local soldier's life abroad, unfortunately, it appears that a portion of letters did not survive, evidenced by the stack of empty envelopes with no corresponding letter.

Container List:

Box 1 of 1

- Folder 1 – Donation letter from Greensboro Historical Museum
- Folder 2 - September 19, 1942 through December 28, 1942
- Folder 3 – January 9, 1943 through December 21, 1943
- Folder 4 – March 1, 1944 through November 7, 1944
- Folder 5 – February 21, 1945 and February 25, 1945
- Folder 6 – Undated Christmas cards
- Folder 7 – Undated letters from James Thomerson
- Folder 8 – Undated letters from Donald E. Hall
- Folder 9 – Obituary of Garnetta Brooks Wells
- Folder 10 – Unknown photo