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MS-171: Corporal Luther Jacob “Jake” Thomas Papers

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MS-171: Corporal Luther Jacob “Jake” Thomas Papers

Description

This collection consists of letters, photographs, documents, and artifacts relating to Luther J. “Jake” Thomas’s military service during the Second World War. The majority of the collection features correspondence between Thomas and his family, particularly his mother Anna Thomas, between 1943 and 1945. While serving as an MP in the Army Air Corps, Thomas regularly mailed letters and photographs home detailing his training, travels, and experiences as a soldier. The collection also includes Thomas’s military documentation (for example, induction and separation papers), training materials, wartime souvenirs and artefacts, and post-war awards and honors. The collection includes documents related to Thomas’s veteran status following his discharge in late 1945, as well as his subsequent enrollment in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Finally, the collection contains general information about the Thomas family, including photographs, obituaries, and documents concerning Luther C. Thomas (Thomas’s father)’s military service in World War I.

Special Collections and College Archives Finding Aids are discovery tools used to describe and provide access to our holdings. Finding aids include historical and biographical information about each collection in addition to inventories of their content. More information about our collections can be found on our website <https://www.gettysburg.edu/special-collections/collections/>.

Keywords

World War II, WWII, Second World War, War Correspondence, Army Air Corps, Military Police

Disciplines

European History | History | Military History | United States History

**Guide to the Corporal Luther Jacob “Jake”
Thomas Papers**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Margaret Meyers, Class of 2015
March 2015**

MS – 171: Papers of Luther J. Thomas

(4 boxes)

Inclusive Dates: 1933-1993

Bulk Dates: 1943-1945

Processed by: Jenna Fleming '16 (Fall 2014) & Margaret Meyers '15 (March 2015)

Provenance

Given to Musselman Library in 2014 by the children of Luther J. Thomas: Ann Phillips, Mary Blair, Nancy Daniel, Sally Migatulski, and Luther J. Thomas Junior.

Biography

Luther J. “Jake” Thomas was born on June 24, 1923 in Hanover, Pennsylvania. He served as a military police officer (MP) with the Army Air Corps during the Second World War, serving in England, France, and Germany. During his time in training and abroad, Thomas exchanged hundreds of letters with family and friends, many of which are included in this collection. Following his honorable discharge on December 31, 1945, Thomas enrolled in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1950. He lived and worked in Hanover for the rest of his life, remaining actively involved in community and church organizations. He was married to Abigail I. Moore Thomas, with whom he had five children, for over 42 years. Luther J. Thomas died on May 8, 1993.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of letters, photographs, documents, and artefacts relating to Luther J. “Jake” Thomas’s military service during the Second World War. The majority of the collection features correspondence between Thomas and his family, particularly his mother Anna Thomas, between 1943 and 1945. While serving as an MP in the Army Air Corps, Thomas regularly mailed letters and photographs home detailing his training, travels, and experiences as a soldier. The collection also includes Thomas’s military documentation (for example, induction and separation papers), training materials, wartime souvenirs and artefacts, and post-war awards and honors. The collection includes documents related to Thomas’s veteran status following his discharge in late 1945, as well as his subsequent enrollment in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Finally, the collection contains general information about the Thomas family, including photographs, obituaries, and documents concerning Luther C. Thomas (Thomas’s father)’s military service in World War I.

Series Description

This collection is divided into seven Series. **Series 1:** (Letters from Luther J. Thomas), **Series 2:** (Letters to Luther J. Thomas), **Series 3:** (Letters to Others), **Series 4:** (Photographs), **Series 5:** (Military Service and Veteran Information), **Series 6:** (Post-Military Service), and **Series 7:** (Thomas Family).

Box 1

(1-1) Finding Aid and Bibliographical Information

Series 1: Letters from Luther J. Thomas

(1-2) April 8, 1943 – July 9, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | April 8, 1943 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | April 14, 1943 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 23, 1943 (envelope) |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | June 19, 1943 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | June 21, 1943 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | June 27, 1943 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | June 30, 1943 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | July 9, 1943 |

(1-3) January 6, 1944 – December 7, 1944

| To | From | Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | January 6, 1944 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | September 10, 1944 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | September 24, 1944 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | November 28, 1944 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | November 30, 1944 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | December 7, 1944 |

(1-4) January 16, 1945 – February 18, 1945

| To | From | Date |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | January 16, 1945 |
| Jeanne "Jean" Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | January 18, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | January 20, 1945 |
| Harry Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | January 22, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | January 27, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | January 28, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | February 3, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | February 5, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | February 11, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | February 15, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | February 18, 1945 |

(1-5) March 4, 1945 – March 31, 1945

| To | From | Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 4, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 5, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 8, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 11, 1945 |
| Jeanne "Jean" Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 13, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | March 16, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 18, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 23, 1945 |
| Jeanne "Jean" Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 25, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 27, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | March 31, 1945 |

(1-6) April 1, 1945 – April 29, 1945

| To | From | Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | April 1, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 5, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 7, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 12, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 15, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 17, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 20, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 25, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | April 29, 1945 |

(1-7) September 30, 1945 – December 25, 1945

| To | From | Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | September 30, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | October 26, 1945 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | December 12, 1945 |
| Anna Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | December 25, 1945 |

(1-8) December 8, 1946 – February 12, 1949

| To | From | Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | December 8, 1946 |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | February 21, 1949 |

(1-9) Undated

| To | From | Date |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Mrs. Carroll Ling | Luther J. Thomas | undated |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | undated |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas (?) | Luther J. Thomas | undated |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas and family | Luther J. Thomas | undated |
| Anna & Luther C. Thomas | Luther J. Thomas | undated |

Series 2: Letters to Luther J. Thomas

(2-1) April 12, 1943 – April 27, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | April 12, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Luther C. Thomas | April 18, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz and Paul | undated (postmarked April 19, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Women’s Guild of Emmanuel Church | undated (postmarked April 19, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred “Mil” E. Stauffer | undated (postmarked April 19, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | April 19, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Edward Snyder | April 19, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | undated (postmarked April 22, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | undated (postmarked April 22, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | D. O. Shaver | undated (postmarked April 28, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Betty | April 27, 1943 |

(2-2) May 3, 1943 – May 28, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | L. J. Hammer, Jr. | May 3, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Harry Thomas | May 18, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Ray & Davidson Company | undated (postmarked May 18, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | James J. Clark, Liggett Drug Company | May 21, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | May 23, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Harry Thomas | May 25, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mrs. G. G. Rebert | May 25, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | May 25, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred “Mil” E. Stauffer | May 28, 1943 |

(2-3) June 2, 1943 – June 27, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Betty | June 2, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz | June 14, 1943 |

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Charles H. Willils | June 15, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Rev. Nevin E. Smith | June 16, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mrs. and Rev. Nevin E. Smith | undated (postmarked June 16, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Raymond Sullivan | June 17, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz | June 20, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Grandma & Grandpa | undated (postmarked June 21, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Aunt Bess | undated (postmarked June 21, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Edward Snyder | June 26, 1943 |

(2-4) June 27, 1943 – July 11, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | June 27, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Luther C. Thomas | June 27, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Bud | June 29, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Carla "Spoop" Sheaffer | July 5, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Raymond Sullivan | July 6, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Edward Snyder | July 6, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred "Mil" E. Stauffer | July 9, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sullivan | undated (postmarked July 10, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne "Jean" Thomas | July 11, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | July 11, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz | July 11, 1943 |

Box 2

(2-5) July 13, – July 18, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Harry Thomas | July 12, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | July 13, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Cal | July 14, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | unknown | undated (postmarked July 15, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | July 16, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Janet Dell | July 18, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred "Mil" E. Stauffer | July 18, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne "Jean" Thomas | July 18, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | July 18, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Richard "Dick" E. Zartmann | July 18, 1943 |

(2-6) July 20, 1943– July 26, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz | July 20, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | July 20, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Aunt Pearl & Uncle Phil | July 20, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Ben | July 20, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred “Mil” E. Stauffer | July 21, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Rev. Nevin E. Smith | July 22, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | July 22, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Harry Thomas | July 23, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Janet Dell | July 25, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | July 25, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz | July 26, 1943 |

(2-7) July 27, 1943 – August 1, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Luther C. Thomas | July 27, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | July 27, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Edward Snyder | July 28, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Betty | July 29, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Luther C. Thomas | July 30, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | undated (postmarked July 30, 1943) |
| Luther J. Thomas | Luther C. Thomas | August 1, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred “Mil” E. Stauffer | August 1, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz | August 1, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | August 1, 1943 |

(2-8) August 2, 1943 – August 14, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | August 2, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Luther C. Thomas | August 3, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | August 4, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Harry Thomas | August 6, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred “Mil” E. Stauffer | August 7, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Edward Snyder | August 7, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | August 8, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mary Wentz | August 10, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Ben | August 13, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Luther C. Thomas and family | August 13, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne “Jean” Thomas | undated (postmarked August 14, 1943) |

(2-9) August 15, 1943 – August 30, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Luther C. Thomas | August 15, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mildred "Mil" E. Stauffer | August 16, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Luther C. Thomas | August 16, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Harry and Anna Thomas | August 16, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna and Jeanne Thomas | August 17, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mart Thomas | August 17, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Rev. Nevin E. Smith | August 24, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Janet Dell | August 30, 1943 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas | August 30, 1943 |

(2-10) April 11, 1945 – January 12, 1949

| To | From | Date |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Luther J. Thomas | Peggy Andrews | April 11, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas and family | November 15, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Gladys R. Petry | November 16, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Harry "Bud" Loss | November 21, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Jeanne "Jean" Thomas | November 21, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas and family | November 22, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas and family | November 30, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Anna Thomas and family | December 9, 1945 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Peggy Andrews | January 2, 1946 |
| Luther J. Thomas | George D. Zepp | February 4, 1946 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Peggy Andrews | postmarked March 1, 1946 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Peggy Andrews | April 14, 1946 |
| Luther J. Thomas | Mrs. Andrews | January 12, 1949 |

Series 3: Letters to Others

(3-1) May 16, 1938 – June 24, 1943

| To | From | Date |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Mr. L. Thomas | Unknown | May 16, 1938 |
| Mary Wentz | Private George R. Holland, Jr. | June 24, 1943 |
| Unknown | Hershey Chocolate Corporation | Undated |

Series 4: Photographs

- Descriptions appearing to have been written by Luther J. Thomas, friends, or family members on backs of photos will be included in parentheses

(4-1 through 4-13): Photographs of Luther J. Thomas in Uniform

| | |
|------|---|
| 4-1 | Luther J. Thomas with haystack (“Jake”) |
| 4-2 | Luther J. Thomas with bicycle |
| 4-3 | Luther J. Thomas with a trash can (“Trash”) |
| 4-4 | Luther J. Thomas with cart full of bombs (“Me with the same thing as Dingle”) |
| 4-5 | Luther J. Thomas on road (“Look sick don’t I?”) |
| 4-6 | Luther J. Thomas in uniform |
| 4-7 | Luther J. Thomas in camp [same picture as 4-8] |
| 4-8 | Luther J. Thomas in camp [same picture as 4-7] |
| 4-9 | studio portrait of Luther J. Thomas |
| 4-10 | studio portrait of Luther J. Thomas |
| 4-11 | studio portrait of Luther J. Thomas [colorized] |
| 4-12 | studio portrait of Luther J. Thomas |
| 4-13 | group of soldiers |

(4-13 through 4-38): Photographs of/with Friends

| | |
|------|---|
| 4-13 | Luther J. Thomas with a friend (“Shorty & I”) |
| 4-14 | friend (“Gus”) |
| 4-15 | group of four soldiers (“Cornett, Todd, Romero & Winger”) |
| 4-16 | group of three soldiers (“Joe, Gus & Romero”) |
| 4-17 | friend (“Shorty”) |
| 4-18 | friend (“Walt”) |
| 4-19 | friend (“Walt”) |
| 4-20 | Luther J. Thomas with a friend |
| 4-21 | two soldiers (“Dingle on the right, Evans on the left. Don’t you think Dingle is kinda slim?”) |
| 4-22 | Luther J. Thomas and friend with bicycle (“Don’t ask any questions.”) |
| 4-23 | two soldiers with bicycle (“Dingle & Walt”) |
| 4-24 | friend (“Dingle”) |
| 4-25 | Luther J. Thomas drinking wine (“It ain’t bad stuff.”) |
| 4-26 | friend (“Walt”) |
| 4-27 | Luther J. Thomas with two friends in Leicester Square, London (“Jones, myself & Massie in Piccadilly, feeling pretty good. Looks like the statue had it too doesn’t it?”) |
| 4-28 | friend in front of Byron statue in Hyde Park (“Another statue in Hyde Park”) |
| 4-29 | Luther J. Thomas with a friend (“Pucker & I”) |
| 4-30 | two soldiers (“Bill Morris (Joe) & Pucker the fellow who took most of the pictures, I thought he was pretty good but he did a poor job of sighting the pictures.”) |
| 4-31 | Luther J. Thomas with a friend (“Bill, me and my pipe”) |
| 4-32 | group of three soldiers (“Joe, Bob and Geff”) |
| 4-33 | two soldiers (“Charlie and the Hotel Sgt.”) |
| 4-34 | field inspection at Camp Ripley (“A field inspection we had at Ripley one |

| | |
|------|---|
| | morning, that's all my junk [...] I have twice that much now.") |
| 4-35 | young woman, possibly Peggy Andrews |
| 4-36 | Peggy Andrews with a friend ("To Tommy as always, Peggy 1944") |
| 4-37 | Peggy Andrews ("To Thomas") |
| 4-38 | Peggy Andrews (with note signed "Peggy 1945") |

(4-39 through 4-43): Photographs of/with Family

| | |
|------|--|
| 4-39 | Luther C. Thomas in uniform |
| 4-40 | Luther J. Thomas and Abigail Thomas at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy |
| 4-41 | Luther C., Luther J., and Anna Thomas at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy |
| 4-42 | Abigail Thomas, Anna, and Luther C. Thomas at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy |
| 4-43 | Philadelphia College of Pharmacy ("The school") |
| 4-44 | Anna & Luther C. Thomas ("Deanie took this of mother and dad about 2 months ago.") |
| 4-45 | Luther C., Harry, Jean, Luther J., and Anna Thomas at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy |
| 4-46 | Luther J. Thomas & Abigail Thomas |
| 4-47 | Anna, Luther C., Abigail, and Luther J. Thomas at wedding of latter couple |

Series 5: Military Service & Veteran Information

(5-1) Training Workbooks & Manuals

- Technical School Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, Teletype Work Book Part II (edition July 17, 1942)
- Army Air Forces Technical School, Chanute Field, Illinois. Student's Job Outline (June 23, 1943)
- Telegraph Printers Operation, Inspection, and Maintenance chart (July 1943)

Box 3

(5-2) Training – Schematic Drawings

- diagrams of teletype machines

(5-3) Training – Teletype Binder (two folders)

Folder one of two (contents of binder)

- Army Air Forces Technical School, Chanute Field, Illinois. Student's Job Outline (June 9, 1943)
- Student's Job Outline (June 23, 1943)
- Student's Job Outline (May 5, 1943)
- Student's Job Outline (May 12, 1943)
- Student's Job Outline (May 26, 1943)
- Student's Job Outline (June 2, 1943)
- notes throughout

Folder two of two

- binder

(5-4) Training – *Wings* Newspaper, June 11, 1943

- issue of newspaper published at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois on June 11, 1943

(5-5) Training – Air Forces Technical School Miscellaneous Items

- quartermaster laundry forms (July 13, 1943)
- luggage tag (“To: Camp Ripley Minn.”)
- name stencil
- Authorization of Class B Allotment for Purchase of War Savings Bonds (May, 1943)
- soldiers’ instruction card
- two programs for At Ease: 32nd’s Annual Musical Comedy
- Table of Basic Allowances for MP Units (January 7, 1943)

(5-6) Training – Air Forces Technical School Diploma

- diploma for completion of course in Teletype Maintenance issued at Chanute Field, Illinois (August 3, 1943)
- envelope

(5-7) World War II – *The Windsock*, October 1944

- *The Windsock* vol. 5 (October 1944), a magazine “Written and edited entirely by enlisted personnel and published by the Special Service Office.”

(5-8) World War II – Patriotic Order Sons of America War Member Certificate, October 26, 1944

- certificate acknowledging Luther J. Thomas’s reception of the Honor of War Membership in the Patriotic Order Sons of America, Washington Camp No. 328, located at Hanover, PA (October 26, 1944)
- envelope

(5-9) World War II – Thanksgiving Menu, November 22, 1945

- Thanksgiving Dinner Menu for VIII Air Force Composite Command APO 149 (November 22, 1945)

(5-10) Notebook of German Phrases

- small notebook containing German translations

(5-11) Travel – Guidebooks and Postcards

- Authorised Guide to the Tower of London guidebook (published 1939)
- Westminster Memories booklet with photos inside Westminster Abbey
- booklet of picture postcards from Paris (in French)

- Tower of London Regalia picture postcards (two sets)

(5-12) Travel – Photos and Pass

- Tower of London souvenir photoset
- London Under Fire souvenir photoset
- photo, “Piccadilly Circus”
- photo, “House of Parliament”
- photo, “Canon inside Tower of London”
- photo, “Tower Bridge”
- pass to visit Ansbach (September 9, 1945)

(5-13) Travel – Miscellaneous Items

- ticket for Maid in the Ozarks at Great Northern Theatre (August 17, 1943)
- advertisement for sightseeing boat ride on Lake Michigan
- newspaper clipping “A Yank in London” featuring Luther J. Thomas’s letter home about his travels

(5-14) War Souvenirs

- two 100 German Reichsbanknote bills
- one Japanese 10 yen bill

(5-15) Veteran – VA Application for a Course of Education or Training

- Veteran’s Application for a Course of Education or Training or a Refresher or Retraining Course Under Part VIII (incomplete)

(5-16) Veteran – VA Selective Service Letter

- Selective Service System letter concerning rights and benefits offered by the Veterans Assistance Program (January 9, 1946)

(5-17) Veteran – AAF Separation and Appreciation Certificates, Letter

- Army Air Forces Certificate of Appreciation for War Service
- Army of the United States Separation Qualification Record
- letter from H. R. Harmon, Major General of Army Air Forces, to Former Members of the AAF Team, including Air Force pin and ID card (February 1, 1946)
- envelope

(5-18) Veteran – War Navy Departments Envelope from Official Separation Papers

- envelope (empty)

(5-19) Veteran – Hanover Community Celebration of Veterans

- Celebration of Veterans program (September 1-2, 1946)

(5-20) Military Service & Veteran Information Miscellaneous Items

- letter inducting men (including Luther J. Thomas) into Enlisted Reserve Corps and notifying them of active duty beginning April 8, 1943 (April 1, 1943)

- Application for National Service Life Insurance (April 9, 1943)
- handwritten list of supplies
- handwritten chain of command list
- weapons training evaluation sheet (unscored)
- training evaluation sheet (partially scored)
- Selective Service System Notice of Classification (June 28, 1949)
- Veterans Administration Fall Enrollment letter

(5-21) Artifacts

- dog tags of Luther J. Thomas
- identification bracelet of Luther J. Thomas
- military medal possibly belonging to Luther J. Thomas or Luther C. Thomas
- poster possibly dating from World War I, too brittle to remove from tube
(oversized-see Box 4)
- box containing poster pieces **(oversized-see Box 4)**
- hat **(oversized-see Box 4)**
- banner or flag with swastika **(oversized-see Box 4)**
- Military Police armband **(oversized-see Box 4)**

Series 6: Post-Military Service

(6-1) Philadelphia College of Pharmacy

- Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science Information for Veterans letter
- Bulletin of Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Luther J. Thomas listed as having received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree (July 1950)

(6-2) Post-War Certificates and Honors

- Emmanuel Reformed Church program, includes welcoming home of veterans (September 1, 1946)
- certificate of thanks to Luther J. Thomas from the citizens of Hanover, Pennsylvania (September 2, 1946)
- Emmanuel Reformed Church Service of Dedication program (October 13, 1946)
- Presidential certificate honoring memory of Luther C. Thomas (July 24, 1963)

Series 7: Thomas Family

(7-1) Obituaries

- clipping from *The Gazette and Daily*, York Pennsylvania, In Loving Memory of Luther C. Thomas (April 24, 1954)
- In Memory of Luther C. Thomas funeral service card
- In Memory of Anna E. Thomas funeral service card
- clipping from *The Evening Sun*, Hanover Pennsylvania, obituary of Luther J. Thomas (May 9, 1993)
- clipping from *The Evening Sun*, Hanover Pennsylvania, obituary of Abigail I. Thomas (December 22, 2012)

(7-2) Letter Issuing Purple Heart to Luther C. Thomas

- letter to Quartermaster General from Adjutant General directing that Purple Heart be issued to Luther C. Thomas (January 20, 1933)

(7-3) Newspapers

- *The Evening Sun*, Hanover Pennsylvania, "Germany Surrenders!" headline (May 7, 1945) (**oversized-see Box 4**)
- *Philadelphia Record*, "First 45,000 Yanks on Way Home" headline (May 10, 1945) (**oversized-see Box 4**)