

JOHN THOMPSON PAPERS

1941 – 1945

Collection Number: MSS 450

Size: .21 linear feet

Special Collections and University Archives

Jean and Alexander Heard Library

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, Tennessee

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Biography/History

John Thompson, a native of Nashville, was a graduate of the former Wallace School. He attended Vanderbilt University and received a B.A. in 1930 and M.A. in 1932. He then attended Harvard Law School. In 1933 he joined the staff of the Tennessean, where he became an editorial writer and a day city editor. He also was a night manager of the Associated Press Nashville Bureau. In 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy for service in World War II. In 1944 he was promoted to Lieutenant, and was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. In 1945, he wrote a weekly newsletter for the naval post squadron and wings. He was stationed in Alaska, and later assigned to a naval cruiser in the Pacific.

John Thompson was active in many cultural and theatrical activities, including a two-term president of the Nashville Community Playhouse. He died in 1977.

Scope and Contents

This .21 linear feet collection contains 63 letters, two postcards, and one V-Mail Christmas Card from John Thompson to several family members while serving in the United States Navy during World War II. The letters are arranged in file folders chronologically by year, then month.

Correspondence – Outgoing – to Mrs. Samuel H. Orr (Mimi)

March 21, 1941	- typed letter w/envelope
January 20, 1942	- postcard
February 4, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
February 6, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
February 17, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
February 21, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
March 3, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
March 8, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
March 14, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope

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April 1, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
April 5, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
April 8, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
April 21, 1942	- handwritten letter
April 29, 1942	- handwritten letter
April 1942	- handwritten letter
May 12, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
May 14, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
May 26, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
June 15, 1942	- handwritten letter
June 17, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
July 2, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
July 4, 1942	- handwritten letter w/envelope
July 10, 1943	- typed letter w/envelope
July 25, 1942	- typed letter
August 19, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
August 24, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
August 31, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
September 5, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
September 7, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
September 26, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
October 24, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
November 11, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
November 28, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
December 18, 1942	- typed letter w/envelope
January 27, 1943	- handwritten letter w/envelope
February 12, 1943	- handwritten letter w/envelope
April 14, 1943	- typed letter w/envelope
May 29, 1943	- typed letter w/envelope

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June 22, 1943	- typed letter w/envelope
August 16, 1943	- typed letter
September 19, 1943	- handwritten letter w/envelope
October 4, 1943	- typed letter w/envelope
November 1, 1943	- handwritten letter w/envelope
December 4, 1943	- V-Mail Christmas card
January 9, 1944	- handwritten letter
January 19, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
February 23, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
April 5, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
April 6, 1944	- handwritten postcard
April 16, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
May 8, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
May 27, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
June 17, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
July 1, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
August 6, 1944	- typed letter w/envelope
August 16, 1944	- typed letter w/envelope
August 29, 1944	- typed letter w/envelope
September 14, 1944	- handwritten letter
September 28, 1944	- handwritten letter
October 29, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
December 6, 1944	- handwritten letter w/envelope
March 20, 1945	- handwritten letter w/envelope
July 26, 1945	- handwritten letter w/envelope

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Correspondence – Outgoing – to Uncle Billy

April 28, 1942 - handwritten letter
May 21, 1942 - handwritten letter

Correspondence – Incoming – from Cora H. West

December 14, 1943 - handwritten letter w/envelope