Finding Aid for the John G. Thursby Second World War correspondence collection 2016.150.w.r

Lorraine Shaller
Center for American War Letters Archives
28 October 2016
Leatherby Libraries
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URL: http://www1.chapman.edu/library/archives/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: John G. Thursby Second World War correspondence
creator: Thursby, John George, 1916-2006
source: Myers, Della J.
Identifier/Call Number: 2016.150.w.r
Physical Description: .25 Linear Feet(5 folders)
Date (inclusive): 1941-02-25-1942-08-09
Abstract: This collection contains letters, photographs, newspaper clippings and a page from a book about the family of Sergeant John G. Thursby, United States Army, during the Second World War.

Storage Unit: WWII 3
Storage Unit: 27-31
Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type and date. Series 1: Correspondence from John Thursby 1941-2-25 to 1942-8-9 -- Series 2: Photographs -- Series 3: Thursby Family History -- Series 4: Newspaper Clipping

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions. For further copyright information, please contact teh archivist.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Della J. Myers. Legacy collection from Andrew Carroll.

Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], John G. Thursby Second World War correspondence (2016.150.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.

Content Description
This collection contains 26 correspondence from John G. Thursby to his friends Ogden and Agnes Platt. Thursby describes his life in Headquarters Company, 17th Engineers, Second Armored Division stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia under General George Patton and later at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He focuses on his assigned vehicles, his division's maneuvers, and the cities he visits. The collection also contains photographs, newspaper clippings, and a page from the Thursby family history. The collection was donated by a member of the Collins family mentioned in Thursby's letters (Letter dated January 5, 1942).

Subjects and Indexing Terms
World War, 1939-1945
Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941.
United States. Army.
Georgia -- Fort Benning
United States -- Army -- Armored division, 2nd
California -- Barstow
Wake Island
Myers, Della J.
Series 1. Correspondence from John Thursby 1941-02-25-1942-08-09

Physical Description: .16 Linear Feet (2 folders)
Scope and Contents
This series contains 26 correspondence from John Thursby to his friends Ogden and Agnes Platt between February 1941 and August 1942. He discusses his routine in basic training, from learning how to march to how to shoot a rifle. Thursby was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served under General George Patton. He describes a service he attended on Easter where Patton spoke to the assembled soldiers (Letter dated April 13, 1941). He also mentions listening to a speech given by President Franklin D. Roosevelt declaring a state of national emergency on May 27, 1941 (Letter dated June 1, 1941). Thursby's tone grows sober as he relates the discussion at the fort that war will soon be upon them. In one of his letters, he describes the grief he felt when he learned that his friend Bill Collins, a Navy seaman who was stationed on the USS Arizona, died in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Letter dated January 5, 1942). He also asks for news about another friend, Morgan Dabney, who was stationed at Wake Island when the Japanese invaded. He later discusses the movement of troops of the Second Armored Division to Fort Bragg in North Carolina and indicates that soon, they will be joining the fight. He hints that "I am glad now that I spent ten years on the Desert. It will probably be beneficial to me in the near future" (Letter dated March 22, 1942). The Second Armored Division landed in North Africa in November of that year.

Series 2. Photographs
Physical Description: .01 Linear Feet
Scope and Contents
A collection of three photographs. One shows Thursby, one shows the trucks he drove, and one shows the Thursby family homestead in Barstow, CA.

Series 3. Thursby Family History
Physical Description: .01 Linear Feet
Scope and Contents
A page from the book Once Upon a Desert describing the Thursby family's history in the town of Barstow.

Series 4. Newspaper Clipping 1941-06-06
Physical Description: .01 Linear Feet
Scope and Contents
A newspaper clipping showing the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Benning with writing on it by Thursby describing where his company, Headquarters Company, appears in one of the photographs. In another, showing the scope of the units arranged on a field, he jokes, "This will give you an idea of our field inspections."