

Thomson, James I. and Dorothy, papers

James L. and Dorothy Knowles Thomson papers
1931-1985



Title Statement

Thomson, James I. and Dorothy, papers A Guide to the James L. and Dorothy Knowles Thomson papers, 1936-1987 2004.May.6

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

2004.May.6

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/16

Unit Date

1931-1985

Language

English

Creator

Thomson, James L.

Creator

Thomson, Dorothy Knowles

Extent

0.8 Linear Feet

Repository

VCU Health Sciences Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Donated by the Thomson family.

Preferred Citation

Papers of James L. and Dorothy Knowles Thomson, 2004/May/06, Special Collections and Archives, Health Sciences Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

Biographical / Historical

Dr. James L. Thomson was a nationally-known neurosurgeon. He graduated from the Medical College of the University of Cincinnati in 1934 and taught neurological surgery at the Medical College of Virginia from 1938-1941. He served in World War II as neurosurgeon to the 45th General Hospital in Morocco and Italy. He was one of seven officers in the unit awarded the Bronze Star. After the War, Thomson practiced in Norfolk, Va. He was the first neurosurgeon to practice in the Tidewater area and saw patients at the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth and the Marine Public Health Hospitals in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News, and Suffolk. Thomson was a charter member of the Excelsior Surgical Society, a group of 80 medical officers who met for the first time in 1945 at the Excelsior Hotel, Rome, Italy. He also helped organize the Neurosurgical Society of the Virginias and was its first president. In 1959, Thomson was cited by the President's Committee for the Physically Handicapped for his efforts to employ those with physical handicaps while a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. At the time of his death in 1973, he was Chief of Neurosurgery at Norfolk General and DePaul Hospitals, a diplomat of the American Board of Neurological Surgery, and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. James L. Thomson married Dorothy Mae Knowles on 15 May, 1940. They had two children, Martha and James. Dorothy Mae Knowles grew up in Woodard, North Carolina and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia's nursing program in 1934. From 1937-1940, Knowles was an Instructor and Supervisor of Operating Room Technique at MCV. With her husband, she was a charter member of the Excelsior Surgical Society. In 1995, she established the James L. Thomson, MD and Dorothy Knowles Thomson, RN Fund for the School of Nursing to heighten awareness alternative and complementary therapies.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains papers of Dr. James L. Thomson and his wife, Dorothy Knowles Thomson. Dr. Thomson's papers include World War II memorabilia and photographs as well as papers from the Excelsior Club, a group of surgeons brought together by the war. The papers of Mrs. Thomson, an instructor of operating room nursing at the Medical College of Virginia, include teaching materials and personal effects.

Keywords

Nurses -- Virginia.

World War II.

Physicians -- Virginia.

Neurosurgery -- history.

Operating room nursing.

Nurses -- Virginia -- Richmond
World War, 1939-1945 -- Veterans
Neurosurgeons -- Virginia -- Richmond
Thomson, James L.
Medical College of Virginia -- Archives
Thomson, Dorothy Knowles

Arrangement

Records are in chronological order.

Description of Subordinate Components

Dorothy Knowles Thompson - Nursing papers, MCV

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4483

Unit Date 1931 - 1944

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Operating Room Guide

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4491

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

This is the first part of a series of three folders encompassing the handwritten, typed, guidebook used by Mrs. Thompson during her years as a surgical nurse.

Urological Instruments

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4539

Unit Date 1941

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

How to Obtain Maximum Service from Hypodermic Syringes, Needles, Clinical Thermometers and Ace Bandages.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4540

Unit Date 1940

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

New Dermatoma for Cutting Calibrated Skin Grafts

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4541

Unit Date 1939

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Photograph

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4542

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Photograph of a proper surgical tool layout.

Teaching Manual

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4492

Unit Date 1940-1942

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains the teaching manual for Mrs. Thompson's course on Operating Room techniques. typed, mimeograph, and handwritten pages.

Course outline and exams

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4493

Unit Date 1942

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Related source material.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4494

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Problems of Curriculum Administration. Proposed Revision of the Curriculum for Nursing Schools.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4543

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Factors Determining the Development of Nursing and Schools of Nursing.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4544

Unit Date 1932

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Letter of Acceptance

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4495

Unit Date 24 Jun, 1931

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains a copy of the Mrs. Thompson's acceptance into MCV's nursing school.

Supplemental source material

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4496

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

Autoclaving Surgical Supplies and Instruments , Boiling Instruments and Utensils , Chemical Sterilization vs. Alcohol , Bard. Parker Formaldehyde Germicide , "Phenylmercuric Compounds. "

James L. Thompson, Personal and military memorabilia

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4484

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Memorabilia, Misc.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4497

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains multiple assorted memorabilia including stamps, currency, playbills and maps.

Memorabilia: Trip to Rabat, Oman.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4498

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Postcards**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4545**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Scope and Contents**

Images of local people, the Fountain Arabe, and several pen and ink images of local places.

Translation**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4546**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Scope and Contents**

Paper with English to Arabic translations.

Business cards of local folks.**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4547**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Scope and Contents**

Docteur Canto (French), Ahmed Bennani (Moroccan), Tomail Mahdi Khattab (Egyptian).

Perfume tags**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4548**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**WW2 GI Comic books.****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4499**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Mud, Mules and Mountains****Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4549**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Scope and Contents**

by Bill Mauldin

This Damn Tree Leaks**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4550**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Scope and Contents**

by Bill Mauldin

Memorabilia: Trip to Switzerland**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4500**Unit Date** 1945**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This file contains various items including official military instructions, travel papers, hotel tags and brochures, postcards, and other documentation.

Frac. dislocation of cervical spine in infancy. Px by skeletal traction**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4501**Unit Date** 1937**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)**Scope and Contents**

Typed and handwritten article

45th General Hospital Group

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4485

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

US Army Office of the Surgeon: Circular Letter

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4502

Unit Date 1944-1945

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

(1944) 30, 36, 48 (1945) 8

Outline, US Army program for Plastic and Maxillofacial surgery

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4503

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Outline, US Army program for Plastic and Maxillofacial surgery

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4504

Unit Date 1935

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

U of Cincinnati

Newspaper clippings of Unit

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4505

Unit Date 1944-1945

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

All Richmond Times Dispatch unless noted.

Allied Hospital Area Hit In Beachhead Area

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4551

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Picture caption

Unknown

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4552

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Written in Arabic

Modern Street Scene

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4553

Unit Date 17 Nov, 1945

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Picture caption (Tel Aviv)

Jewish City Is Cultural, Industrial

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4554

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Picture caption. (Tel Aviv)

Springtime in Italy Finds War Fought to Stalemate

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4555

Unit Date 2 Apr, 1944

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Zionists Raid Arms Depot Near Tel Aviv

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4556

Unit Date 11 Oct, 1945

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Playbills, Christmas booklets, telegrams

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4506

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Telegrams (2) Birthday, promotion

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4557

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Christmas programs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4558

Unit Date 1942, 1944

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Camp Lee, 1942; Italy, 1944

Thanksgiving programs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4559

Unit Date 1942, 1944

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

Camp Lee, 1942; Italy, 1944

Armistice Day program

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4560

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

MCV 1942

Playbill

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4561

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Scope and Contents

"This Is The Army " by Irving Berlin

Newsprint

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4486

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Clippings about awards won

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4507

Scope and Contents

Newsprint

General Orders #163

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4562

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Scope and Contents

Award of Bronze Star and Legion of Merit

Award of Meritorious Service Unit Plaque

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4563

Unit Date 25 Jun, 1945

Scope and Contents

People listed include: People listed include: Maj. R. D. Butterworth, Maj. James L. Thompson, Maj. B. W. Rawles Jr, Cpt. B. B. Clay, Cpt. E. C. Toone, Cpt. A. G. Brown III, Cpt. J. R. Massie, Lt. Col. Morton M. Pickney, 1st Lt. Mary Louise Roberts, 2nd Lt. Elaine Arletta Roe, 2nd Lt. Rita Virginia Roarke.

Original orders, receipts and tags

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4508

Unit Date 1942-1943, 1945

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Scope and Contents

Original orders, receipts and tags.

Memo to Officers About to Embark for Overseas

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4564

Unit Date 30 Nov, 1942

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Extract of Special Order 34

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4565

Unit Date 9 Feb, 1943

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Extract of Special Order 29

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4566

Unit Date 2 Feb, 1943

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

War Department address card

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4567

Unit Date 31 Mar, 1943

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Room assignment for transatlantic trip aboard HMS Andes

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4568

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Welcome Home

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4569

Unit Date 7 Sep, 1945

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Report on Italy

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4487

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Scope and Contents

This report contains many photographs taken by her father, James Thompson while on assignment at the 45th General Hospital.

Excelsior Surgery Club

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4488

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4509

Unit Date 12 Oct, 1985

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

39th Excelsior club meeting

Yearbook, invitations to 29th meeting

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4510

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Memorabilia

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4511

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

Copy of 39th Meeting program, Copy of 25th Meeting program, 45th G.H. Newsletter May/1999, clipping of finishing of girder work on what is now West Hospital. Special letters and rolls.

Memorabilia

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4512

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

Letters and recommendations, meeting memorabilia, Guideposts featuring Dr. Michael De Bakey, a member. Copy of the 28th Meeting program.

Letters and memorabilia

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4513

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Scope and Contents

Minutes of annual meetings 1963, 1966, 1971. Copy of the 2nd and 4th annual meetings.

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4489

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Nursing School

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4514

Unit Date 1932 - 1944

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Scope and Contents

This set involves the nursing school education of Dorothy Knowles. The photographs are of her and other students, generally on the rooftops of the main hospital buildings. People indicated include Dr. James Baker, Dr. James L. Thompson, Dr. Kenneth Cherry, Dr. Beverly Clary, Ruth Kipps, Meredith Gladding, Marian Cassiday, Ruth Warner, Jannie Buchanan, Evelyn Neal, Elizabeth Watkins, Queenie Victoria Jones, G.H. Addleman, Virginia Lewter, Sarah Ingold, Polly Carlton, Alma Paucake, Muriel Price.

Nursing School: Large Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4515

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Scope and Contents

This folder contains the large photographs of the above set

Richmond Skyline

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4516

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes several pictures taken from the rooftop of one of the hospitals. Also there are street photographs after a snowstorm including one of snow in an open topped car.

MCV Hospital

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4517

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series has photographs of what is now the West Hospital and an ivy covered Egyptian Building.

Dr. David Tucker

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4518

Unit Date 1939

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series has a photograph of the donation of the portrait of Dr. David Tucker by members of his family to MCV.

Photographic Collection - James Thompson

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4490

Unit Date 1944 - 1945

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Photographs - Ischice

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4519

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series shows Dr. Thompson and others aboard a ship viewing Italian ruins from the water. The

photographs are not labeled and no people are identified.

Biah

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4520

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series is of local images around the town where the 45th was stationed. Photographs include liberty ships, a sunken hospital ship, and images from Naples (Italy) harbor. People indicated include Sgt. Tucker Carter, Duncan Caulder, Bill Daner, Capt. Tommy (Tee) Thompson.

Amalphia Drive - Italy

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4521

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series shows images taken from an estate atop a steep cliff. People indicated include Capt. Larry Massey and Russel.

Mt. Vesuvius, 1944. Tommy, Guy Horsley, Jud Butterworth and others.

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4522

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series shows a trip to Mt. Vesuvius by the three indicated in the title. People indicated include Guy Horsley, Jud Butterworth, Kels Boland (43rd G.H. Atlanta)

Mueller Living Quarters, Naples Italy

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4523

Unit Date 1944-1947

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes images of the family that Dr. Thompson boarded with while in Italy. Commentary discusses price of wine after the war, and images from a party. People indicated include the Mueller family, Angelo, Josephine, Rosa, and Mr. and Mrs. Mueller

Sorrento

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4524

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes photographs of Mt. Vesuvius and the immediate vicinity of the Victoria Hotel.

Photographs - Venice

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4525

Unit Date 1945

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes images of Venice, Italy including St. Marco's church and the Venice bell tower. There are images of gondolas and canals as well. People indicated include Tee Thompson and Jim Baker.

Rome 1944**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4526**Unit Date** 1944**Mixed Materials** 8 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This series includes images of Rome Italy after WW2 including Vatican City, St. Peter's basilica, bridges over the Tiber River, the gravesite of the poet Keats, and the Castle of St. Angelo.

Photographs - Anzio, Cassina, and Capua**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4527**Unit Date** 1944**Mixed Materials** 8 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This series includes images from the ruins of three Italian cities. Anzio images depict tombstones from a cemetery. Cassina and Capua images are of damaged buildings, bridges, and warning signs.

Photographs - Trip to Cairo - Athens, Greece - Wailing Wall, Jerusalem**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4528**Unit Date** 1944**Mixed Materials** 8 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This series includes images of the Egyptian pyramids, the Sphinx, the Wailing Wall, and the Acropolis in Athens. Also included are many photos taken within the transport plane. People indicated include 1st Lt. Jean Jack, Capt. Dorothy Volker, 1st Lt. Mildred Littlejohn, 1st Lt. Jane Atyett, 1st Lt. Ann Shanaly, 1st Lt. Marjorie Hollingsworth, 1st Lt. Axtell, Capt. Tee Thompson, Capt. Robert Massey, Major Buckles, Capt. Larens, and Lt. Col. Sandzen.

Photographs - Trip to Cairo - Athens, Greece - Wailing Wall, Jerusalem. Large Photographs.**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4529**Mixed Materials** 8 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This series includes the larger photographs of the above collection.

Photographs - Dr. James L. Thompson**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4530**Unit Date** 1944, 1945**Mixed Materials** 8 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This series includes photographs taken from the side of the road. People indicated include Tee Thompson.

Base Hospital #45**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4531**Unit Date** 1944-45**Mixed Materials** 8 (box)**Scope and Contents**

This series includes images of the Hospital complex, buildings, tents and staff who were assigned to this Hospital. People indicated include Mike Pinchney and Powell Williams.

Base Hospital #45: Large Photographs**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/4532**Unit Date** 1944-45

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes the larger photographs of the above series.

Photographs Neurosurgical Italy

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4533

Unit Date 1944

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes images from the neurosurgery ward at the 45th G.H. Also included are photographs of a garden planted between two of the far buildings. People indicated include T/5 Emmitt Luchard, Doris Shaffer, Florence Feik, John Marshall (ward boy), T/5 Chilter, T/5 Campbell, PFC Hatcher

Untitled

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4534

Unit Date 1941-1945

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series is a collection of loose photographs that may have come from the other series but are put together here. There are images of the 45th hospital complex, cityscapes, City of Pompei ruins, and local scenery. People indicated include Tee Thompson, Dr. Guy Horsley, Dr. Beu Rawls, Dr. W.T. Thompson, Doris Shaffer, Capt. Lawrence Hurt, and Dr. C. C. Coleman.

Untitled - Large Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4535

Unit Date 1941-1945

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series contains the larger photographs of the above series.

Oran, Algeria

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4536

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series contains photographs of artwork, and architecture.

Oran, Algeria - Large Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4537

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series contains the larger photographs of the above series.

Medical Procedures

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/4538

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Scope and Contents

This series includes x-rays, diagrams, and examples of prosthetics used by the Army during WW2.