

## **Guide to the Elliott A. Thompson World War II Journal and Memorabilia, 1942-1945, 1993-1994, 2012**

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Elliott A. Thompson World War II Journal and Memorabilia, 1942-1945, 1993-1994, 2012

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2021.076

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Korrena Cowing

**Creator:**

Thompson, Elliott A., 1920-2012

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English and a few are in German.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 1 linear foot

**Abstract:**

This collection contains papers related to the World War II service of Elliott A. Thompson, including his time as a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft 1 in Barth, Germany. Thompson served as First Lieutenant and B-24 pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces. His aircraft was shot down over Italy on January 31, 1944 and he was captured and held prisoner until the camp was liberated on April 30, 1945. His papers include a journal kept during his time as a prisoner of war, his pilot's log, newspaper clippings, and other documentation. The materials date from 1942 to 1945, 1993 to 1994, and 2012.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The Elliott A. Thompson World War II Journal and Memorabilia were a gift of Sue Ellen Thompson, daughter of Elliott A. Thompson, on June 15, 2022.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Korrena Cowing in December 2022. The finding aid was written by Korrena Cowing in December 2022. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Loose material in “A Wartime Log: Stalag #1” has been kept as found, with the exception of folded items, which were removed from the volume and photocopies on acid-free paper were placed where they were originally located. These folded items have been flattened and moved to folder 1. Pages that have multiple types of materials have been interleaved with acid free tissue.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Elliott A. Thompson World War II Journal and Memorabilia, 2021.076. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Elliott A. Thompson was born in Caldwell, NJ, to Alex and Virginia Thompson on October 24, 1920. He graduated high school in 1939 and was registered for the World War II draft on February 15, 1942. Thompson married his high school sweetheart, Eleanor “Dolly” Bromley, in April 1943. He trained with the Lubbock Army Flying School with the United States Army Air Forces in Lubbock, TX, graduating in May 1943, before joining the 449<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. This group trained in Alamogordo, NM; Bruning, NE; and Topeka, KS, before leaving in December 1943 for southern Italy.

On January 31, 1944, during his fifteenth mission, Thompson's plane was shot down by the Germans. He was able to parachute out, but was knocked unconscious by the landing, and he awoke surrounded by German soldiers. Eight of his crew were taken prisoners. They were initially held in a dungeon at a castle in Verona, then transported to an interrogation center in Frankfurt, before finally being sent to Stalag Luft 1 in Barth, Germany. Thompson would spend 16 months in this camp, until it was liberated by the Russians in April 1945.

After returning from the war, Thompson and his wife purchased R. Christensen Hardware in Caldwell, which they operated until 1984. During this time, they lived in Roseland, NJ. Together they had five children: Sherry, Sue Ellen, Cindy, Gordon, and Tom. After they retired in 1984, they moved to Canterbury, NH, where they resided until their deaths. Eleanor died in November 2002, and Elliott died on March 24, 2012.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Elliott A. Thompson World War II Journal and Memorabilia collection contains papers related to the World War II service of Elliott A. Thompson of Caldwell, NJ, and Canterbury, NH. His papers include a journal kept during his time as a prisoner of war, his pilot's log, newspaper clippings, and other documentation. The materials in this collection date from 1942 to 1945, 1993 to 1994, and 2012.

Thompson's pilot log contains records of his flights at Hicks Field in Fort Worth, TX, and at Lubbock, TX, from 1942 to 1943. Some loose material included in the front of the volume are physical record cards and immunization records for 1943 to 1945. A yearbook, "Wings Aloft: Lubbock Army Flying School," contains photographs of the 1943 graduating class. Also included are a few notations on pilots that went missing, including the date they went missing. There are no cadets from New Hampshire in this class.

Of particular note in this collection is the diary Thompson kept during his time as a prisoner of War. Won by Thompson from the Red Cross, "A Wartime Log: Stalag Luft #1" functions both as a diary and a scrapbook and contains Thompson's Dulag-Luft Kriegsgefangenenkartel card, poems, cartoons, photographs of his wife, Christmas cards, lists of books read, excerpts from Kriegie's letters, menus, a plan of the south compound, a map of Caldwell, and other miscellaneous items. A Kriegie was an Allied prisoner in World War II. Detailed daily routines are not present as these journals were confiscated and monitored by the guards. However, pages titled "Kriegie-Life" provides short direct lines of information including deaths, the number of prisoners, weather, mail arrivals, and the liberation of the camp by the Russians.

Also included is a copy of the *Hartford Courant Sunday Magazine Northeast* dated July 3, 1994, which includes an article titled "Diary of Stalag Luft 1" by Sue Ellen Thompson, daughter of Elliott Thompson. This article provides a detailed look at the life of Elliott Thompson, his capture by Germans during World War II, and his diary he kept while a prisoner of war. Other newspaper clippings include Thompson's 2012 obituary and 1993 articles from the *Concord Monitor* and the *Union Leader* regarding Thompson's ride in a B-24 bomber, his first since his was shot down in 1944.

The last volume in this collection is a limited edition of *Not as Briefed* by Colonel Charles Ross Greening, who also spent time as a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft 1. This volume contains 49 plates of illustrations of World War II airplanes, battles, and life in Stalag Luft 1 made by Greening. While undated, the images are dated 1944 and 1945.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized chronologically.

Contents List

**Box 1**

- Volume 1 Pilot's Flight Log, 1942-1945
- Volume 2 Wings Aloft: Lubbock Army Flying School, 1943
- Volume 3 A Wartime Log: Stalag Luft #1, 1944-1945
- Folder 1 A Wartime Log: Stalag Luft #1, loose papers, 1944-1945
- Volume 4 *Not as Briefed* by C. Ross Greening, circa 1945
- Folder 2 Newspaper clippings, 1993
- Folder 3 "Diary of Stalag Luft 1" by Sue Ellen Thompson, 1994 July 3
- Folder 4 Obituary, 2012
- Folder 5 Photograph, undated

Subject Terms

**People:**

- Greening, Charles R., 1914-1957
- Thompson, Eleanor, 1923-2002
- Thompson, Elliott A., 1920-2012
- Thompson, Sue Ellen

**Organizations:**

- Stalag Luft I
- United States. Army Air Forces

**Subjects:**

- Airplanes, Military
- Diaries
- Military service
- Prisoners of war
- World War, 1939-1945
- World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons

**Locations:**

- Barth, Germany
- Caldwell, NJ
- Canterbury, NH
- Concord, NH
- Fort Worth, TX
- Lubbock, TX

**Occupations:**

Air pilots, Military  
Soldiers

**Related Materials**Museum

A number of objects related to the military service of Elliott A. Thompson were donated to the museum. These include medals, pins, a dog tag, patches, and other artifacts. See: 2021.035.