Joe Thompson Jr. Papers, 1942-2005

Collection Summary
Creator: Joe Thompson Jr., 1919-
Title: Joe Thompson Jr. Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1942-2005
Summary/Abstract: Photographs, reconnaissance photographs, recorded interviews with transcripts, and memoir relating to Thompson’s service as an aerial reconnaissance pilot in Europe during World War II.
Physical Description/Extent: 3.6 cu. ft.
Linking Entry Complexity Note: Forms part of the World War II series of the Veterans History Project Collection.
Accession Number: Acc. 2002.091 and 2005.023
Language: In English.
Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom range 2 section 6
Interviews located in VHP tapes cabinet.
Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology
1919, June 8 Born in Nashville, Tennessee
1941, Spring Graduates from Vanderbilt University with degree in biology
1941, August Enlists in Army Air Force and enters cadet school at Hicks Field
1941, Fall Training at Hicks Field, Texas
1941, Nov. Training at Randolph Field, Texas
1941, Dec. Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor; America enters World War II
1942, March Training at Brooks Field, Texas
1942, May Transferred to 30th Observation Squadron
1942, July Transferred to 109th Observation Squadron
1942, July 23 First flight in B-25
1942, Sept. 27 Ships out from New York City to Great Britain
1942, Oct. 16 Arrives in Membury-Berkshire, England
1942, Nov. 16 Temporarily transferred to 107th Squadron
1943, April 22 Transferred to 109th Observation Squadron
1943, Sept. 9 First combat mission
1943, Oct. 2 Begins detached service with 66th RAF Squadron
1944, July 4 Arrives at airstrip A-9, near Le Molay, France
1944, Sept. 2 Arrives at Buc Airdrome, near Paris, France
1944, Sept. 20 Arrives at former German airstrip, taken over by U.S. forces, at Gosselies, Belgium
1945, March 24 Arrives in Germany
1945, April 7 Squadron moves to Kassel, Germany (R11)
1945, May 8 Departs England for America
1945, June 9 Arrives in Nashville, Tenn. on 30-day leave, then discharged
Biographical/Historical Sketch

Joe Thompson, Jr. was born in Nashville, Tenn. on June 8, 1919. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in biology, and entered the Army Air Corps in Aug. 1941. He was attached to a Royal Air Force squadron for training, and served in the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron and 109th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron of the 9th Air Force, seeing action in the invasion of Normandy, the drive across France, the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, and the Rhine Valley campaign across central Germany. He was discharged in June 1945. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, with five clusters and five battle stars, and the French Croix de Guerre. He returned and continued to make his home in Nashville after the war. He spent more than 60 years of his career with Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company, is a past president of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, and a member of First Presbyterian Church. In 2006, he wrote *Tiger Joe: A Photographic Diary of a World War II Aerial Reconnaissance Pilot* with Tom Delvaux, published by Eveready Press.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The heart of the Joe Thompson Jr. Papers is the nearly 600 photographs taken by Thompson while serving in the Army Air Force in Europe during World War II. They begin in England, where Thompson served for a time as a U.S. flier attached to the Royal Air Force 66th Squadron for training. They go on to document his experiences and those of his comrades in the 109th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron of the U.S. 9th Air Force. They include scenes showing the push from the Normandy beachhead through France and the liberation of Paris; airbase scenes including candid portraits of American pilots and ground personnel at leisure; civilians in England, France and Belgium; aircraft and wrecks; scenes of Army infantry and armor in camp or advancing; scenic landscapes and street scenes including some taken in war-torn villages and streets; and a variety of similar images.

These photographs are supplemented by a series of interviews in 2005 with Thompson by Nashville Room volunteer Alice Swanson, in which Thompson provides commentary on his photographs, and recalls many of his military experiences. Earlier interviews conducted with Thompson by Lucas Boyd around 1995 are a photograph-by-photograph narration of selected images, in preparation for an exhibit at Montgomery Bell Academy, which was later adapted by the Tennessee State Museum.

Thompson's materials also include a number of aerial reconnaissance photographs, a written memoir, three photograph logbooks, and other items.

Photographic prints and digital scans were made possible by the Nashville Public Library Foundation.
Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The collection is organized primarily by format. Photographs are in rough chronological order.

Photographs use a unique numbering scheme. Numbers appear as follows:
CS19 B2-38T
This series of numbers refers to:
Contact Sheet #
Book #
Negative number
Top or Bottom

Thus, the example above would be interpreted as:
Contact Sheet #19, Book 2, Negative 38, Top image

These images can be coordinated with Thompson’s Photo Logbooks, referred to by Book #.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Audiocassettes and transcript of interview conducted by Lucas G. Boyd Restricted: Researchers may consult these materials for private research purposes, which do not result in publication, exhibition, broadcast, or other means of public dissemination. Publication, exhibition, broadcast, or other public dissemination of information contained in the interview or transcript is permitted if use of the excerpted material is limited to narrative descriptions of 10 photographs or less. Any such use in excess of 10 narratives must obtain the permission of Lucas G. Boyd in writing. [Boyd grants limited rights to use by and on behalf of Nashville Public Library; see details in Thompson donor file.] All of these restrictions expire Jan. 1, 2010. Additional details concerning this restriction are to be found in the Joe Thompson Jr. donor file; staff access only; Signed restriction

Index Terms

Personal Names:
Thompson, Joe, Jr 1919-
Boyd, Lucas G., 1932–, interviewer
Swanson, Alice, 1935–, interviewer

Corporate Names/Organizations:
Subjects:
- World War, 1939-1945 – Photography
- World War, 1939-1945 – Aerial operations, American – Pictorial works
- World War, 1939-1945 – Campaigns – France
- World War, 1939-1945 – Campaigns – Germany
- World War, 1939-1945 – Campaigns - Belgium
- World War, 1939-1945 – Reconnaissance operations

Places:
- Great Britain – Royal Air Force – World War, 1939-1945

Genre/Document Types:
- Photographs
- Oral histories
- Manuscripts

Occupations:
- Air pilots, Military

Associated Material

Joe Thompson Jr Papers; Special Collections and University Archives Department, Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. Correspondence from Europe during World War II service.

Separated Material

Administrative Information

Location of Originals/Duplicates:
40 CD-ROM’s containing 600 dpi .tif scans are stored separately in the image reproduction room, and are restricted to staff use only. Photographic negatives stored in black plastic binder with Thompson Papers. Restricted to staff use only.

Copyright:
Nashville Public Library owns copyright granted by Joe Thompson Jr 2003 & 2005 on all materials except for reconnaissance photographs and restriction by Lucas G. Boyd on audiocassettes and transcript.

Preferred Citation:
Cite as: [photograph no. or item citation], Joe Thompson Jr Papers, World War II Series, Veterans History Project Collection, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:**
Joe Thompson, Jr; Gift; 2002. Acc. 2002.091
Aerial reconnaissance photographs Joe Thompson, Jr; Gift; 2005. Acc. 2005.023

**Ownership and Custodial History:**
Materials in possession of Joe Thompson Jr at time of donation.

**Processing Information:**
Processed by staff member Linda Barnickel, 2003-2006, with assistance from volunteers.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Other Finding Aids**

A finding aid to the entire Veterans History Project Collection is available.

**References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic**


*Volunteers for Victory* [videorecording] produced by WSMV and Demetria Kaladimos, 1994. [Call Number: Nashville Rm. Video 940.5421421 V943 Tenn.]

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**Box 1 – Manuscripts and transcripts**
1. Contact sheets #1-20
2. Contact sheets #21-40
3. Memoir, "Survival in World War II"
4. "Passé militaire"
Transcripts of interviews by Alice Swanson, 2005:
6. VHP Tape #311 – Descriptions of contact sheets #1-13
7. VHP Tape #312 – Descriptions of contact sheets #13-20
8. VHP Tape #313 – Descriptions of contact sheets #17-25
9. VHP Tape #314 – Descriptions of contact sheets #24-35
10. VHP Tape #315 & 316 – Descriptions of contact sheets #35-40
11. VHP Tape #317 – Descriptions of reconnaissance photos
12. VHP Tape #318 & 319 – Commentary on mission logbook
   [The mission logbook is not part of the Nashville Room’s collection]

Photo logbooks, stored in back of box:
   Photo logbook #1 – (R.A.F. and England)
   Photo logbook #2 – (France and Belgium)
   Photo logbook #3 – (Belgium, Germany, France)

Box 2 (oversize) - Aerial reconnaissance photographs

Albums - containing 8x10 prints of all negatives.

*Individual photograph descriptions and identifications appearing below have been transcribed from Joe Thompson’s original photograph logbooks. His original spellings and abbreviations have been retained.*

1. Photos from contact sheets 1-7
   Subjects: Newbury & Middle Wallop, England; RAF; aircraft; friends

   Contact sheet 1: Newbury, England
   1  The Squadron [missing]  Thelma Bracey
   2  Tank trap [missing]  Newbury
   3  Church at Newbury
   4  Newbury  swan
   5  Tank trap  Pill box
   6  Scenes at Newbury
   7  Old Silver Shop  Church – Newbury
   8  C-47 sqdn. Over Newbury
   9  Louden, Carl  Hansen

   Contact sheet 2: Friends
   10 Jesse James  “At Home”
   11 Jesse James
   12 Jesse James  Buck Ware
   13 Buck Ware  Ginny Staten
   14 James
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Louden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Contact sheet 3: Aircraft (Spitfires &amp; Mustangs); airfield</td>
<td>Halifax L-5 with Kraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mustangs &amp; Kraft (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 scenes airfield Mustangs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Portrait of Mustangs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ops. Time exp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kraft I in ops. With my pals up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spitfire pic. Of me Scene on line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Contact sheet 4: Friends; aircraft; Newbury, England</td>
<td>Mustang pic. Of me Kraft and Spit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Todd &amp; Ginny 2nd Gen’l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>Buck Ware Pictures in Newbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pictures in Newbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>James, Louden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>James, Louden Newbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Contact sheet 5: Newbury &amp; Middle Wallop, England; P-38s &amp; C-47s</td>
<td>2 ? of bridges Newbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Party at 2nd General Hospital Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ginny &amp; Doc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scenes in Middle Wallop Hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kids at Wallop Land Army gals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scenes at Wallop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scene at Wellop P-38s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>C-47 2 shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td>Halifax 2 shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Contact sheet 6: Halifax, England</td>
<td>Halifax. Lanc. 2 - haze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lanc. Halifax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridge from Wallingford Scene Lanc. Halifax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ding Hao (Col. Howard IX [or TX?] ftm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mosquito Graveyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
<td>land [cannon?] [missing] Bridge at Wellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>Newbury P-38 drome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volley ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Contact sheet 7: Amesbury, Middle Wallop, &amp; Lancastboro, England; airfield</td>
<td>James dresser Scene at hanger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mustangs Scene in Wallop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 fine scenes near Amesbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lancastboro [?] – good shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lancastboro again home shot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two scenes in Wallop
Lancaster
House in Amesbury

2. Photos from contact sheets 8-14
Subjects: Lancaster & Salisbury, England; Wales; aircraft; friends; accidents/damage; preparation for Normandy invasion

Contact sheet 8: Stonehenge; squadron packing up; Salisbury Cathedral, England
Stonehenge
Stonehenge with RAF pot[?]
1 of me
1 of Adj. Cert. [?]
Squadron packs up
2 good street scenes in Salisbury
Squadron packs
Field sign
Salisbury Cathedral
Salisbury Cathedral

Contact sheet 9: Salisbury Cathedral & Wallingford, England; Builth Wells, Wales
Inner court
Salisbury Cathedral
Salisbury Cathedral
Salisbury Cathedral
R.A.F. Station, Wales
Bridge at Wallingford below Oxford
2 more of Wallingford
O P at Builth Wells
Bridge at Wallingford

Contact sheet 10: Builth Wells, Wales
Abbey ruins on hill
Builth Wells
Battery fires
Bridge at Builth Wells
Bridge -
Sheep & sky line
Radio truck
Fence – line shots

Contact sheet 11: Friends; wreckage and damage to planes
Group at OPS
Kraft
Kraft
Our first real flak damage
Louden &
flak damage station at Manchester
Manchester and Ginny
Manchester
Home in Middle Wallop
83 L-5 crack-up Kraft & Int. O.
84 Home in M. Wallop Spit. crack-up
85 L-5 – Sgt. Smith Scene

Contact sheet 12: Studying maps; Thompson’s plane, “Hey Johnny Reb;”
Piccadilly Circus, London
86 2 shots of maps Invasion poop
87 Hey Johnny Reb
88 Mr. Duckworth
89 Piccadilly Circus
90 Piccadilly Circus Mr. D

Contact sheet 13: Friends; Normandy invasion (scenes in England)
91 Thompson Beauty-sleep
92 Mac D. & I Mac’s crew
93 2 shots of green tents VXT
94 Invasion news
95 D-Day news to the men
96 Part of paratrooper invasion
97 Operations Middle Wallop

Contact sheet 14: Normandy invasion (scenes in England); airstrip in Normandy,
France; French people in countryside
98 Planes back from mission Hansen
99 Louden & Bulgy Scene of field
100 Doc with Salty 3 of Jesse James
(Begin logbook 2)
1 Normandy – France Planes, taxi strip
2 Farmyard, France
3 Madame George Marie
4 Camp site Monsieur George & Bull

3. Photos from contact sheets 15-21
Subjects: Normandy, France; airfield; French civilians & countryside; German &
Allied equipment in Normandy; liberation of Paris

Contact sheet 15: French citizens in Normandy; friends; Capt. James’ hot water
system
5 Madame George Sgt. Geier & geese
6 Julien et Dennise Farmyard
7 Keller –
8 Gen. Montgomery’s plane Scene
9 Old cider mill
10 Poor negatives of bombed village
11 Poor negatives of bombed village
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Capt. James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>With “hot” water system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Contact sheet 16: French citizens and country scenes; friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Poor negatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Artillery instructor             Jesse James</td>
</tr>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Audré</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Audré</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Old woman &amp; home                Three in cart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Church scene 2 scenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Road scene – very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Contact sheet 17: French countryside; friends at leisure; airstrip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>3 kids at wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>camouflaged truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Church scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Road scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>French caretaker                                                           Wash woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>French home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>McEneely in foxhole                                                         Scott in card game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>R. Thompson McNeely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Me 109 shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>109th area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Contact sheet 18: French countryside; friends at leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Rumble – crew chief                                                        Scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Chateau                       interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Le Molay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Strip A-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>French caretaker                                                           Wash woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Capt. Stallworth; Capt. Gillian                                           Our area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Moose Melton                                                               German half-track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Rumble goes home                                                           Scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Contact sheet 19: Normandy countryside incl. hedgerows; airbase scenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Hedge rows, fields                                                         Water cart – scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Typical homes in Normandy                                                 2 shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>2 landscapes; Normandy                                                    Normandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>2 shots of chateau                                                         Normandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>B-17 in German hangar                                                      Scene of church, cyclist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Cassady &amp; Operations                                                       Me 109 at tent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Group HQ at Chateaufort                                                    Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>French twins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Smolen &amp; Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Contact sheet 20: Fort-Buc airdrome; Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>French family                                                              Line Scene – Buc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>2 shots of FW 190 at mess hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>2 shots of Fort – Buc airdrome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
48 Hal Conner
49 Poor shots of Arc de Triomphe
50 Eiffel Tower
51 People at parade
52 River scene

Contact sheet 21: Paris; airbase scenes
53 2nd river scene
54 Eiffel Tower
55 Eiffel Tower
56 Intersection
57 Sgt. Carmody & Herky
58 Mustang lands (2)
59 P-38 landing
60 Belgian grave

4. Photos from contact sheets 22-28
Subjects: Aircraft; airfield scenes; friends; Versailles & Verdun, France; Gosslies & Verviers, Belgium; snow scenes

Contact sheet 22: Friends; Le Molay (A-9); camp scenes
61 Belgian grave
62 Capt. Friedman
63 Me
64 Gen. Vandenberg’s C-45
65 Pilots at Le Molay (A-9)
66 Scenes at Le Molay
67 Interrogation
68 André & Dooley

Contact sheet 23: Marie & family; Versailles; airbase scenes
69 Another ALO scene
70 Marie family (2)
71 Dennise
72 FW-190
73 Chalet – Versailles
74 Chalet – Versailles (2)
75 88 mm (2)
76 Sgt. Magnuson

Contact sheet 24: Camp scenes; Verdun; street scenes
77 Det & I in trailer
78 2 Frenchmen
79 Chow line
80 Planes & Engineering
81 Boy with apple Verdun
82 Fort at Verdun Airfield at Luxembourg
83 Muddy & rainy streets Vervins above Liege [?]
84 Muddy & rainy streets

Contact sheet 25: Gosselies & Verdun; friends
85 Muddy & rainy streets from my window in Gosselies
86 Lt. Clemmer & girlfriend Our alley – Gosselies
87 Gosselies (2)
88 Verdun – 1
89 Sol. Blasser & Looker II
90 Blasser
91 Gosselies My auto – Citroyen
92 Verdun (2)

Contact sheet 26: Airbase scenes; Verdun, Gosselies & Verviers; friends
93 Lake – wood Our dispersal
94 Line scene Photo dept.
95 Engine change
96 Verdun
97 November mud Planes on A-87
98 Sgt. Irving Chess game
99 Gosselies
100 Capt. Scott &Lt. Shirley in Verviers snow Verviers

(Begin logbook 3)
Contact sheet 27: Gosselies & Verviers; Belgian civilians
1 Line shot A-87
2 François
3 Gosselies Verviers with Scott
4 François Mr. & Mrs. Eyers
5 General Ike’s car Front lines
6 Our street in Gosselies
7 Belgian kids in Gosselies Snow
8 Ditto
9 Kids Mother & children walk by

Contact sheet 28: Snow scenes; street scenes; friends
10 Ditto
11 Snow scenes in streets Gosselies
12 Kids & snow scenes
13 One more street scene Kraft
14 Ditto
15 Phillip
16 Snow scenes 107 area
5. Photos from contact sheets 29-35
   Subjects: Snow scenes; many aircraft; friends; Vogelsang, Germany; airbase Y-51; civilians; Gosslies, Belgium

Contact sheet 29: Snow scenes in Gosslies; aircraft: friends
17 [missing]Charleroi Snow plow
18 Snow scenes Plow
19 Snow in Gosslies
20 107th & 109th Engineering
21 Plane with no tail Snow & St. Marie
22 Opns Gosslies – snow
23 Capt. Trimble Dad Plunkett
24 H. Stribling Doc’s gal
25 Doc’s gal, Paula (2)

Contact sheet 30: Friends; airbase scenes; Vogelsang
26 Paula’s friend Capt. Providenti
27 Lt. Rog Thompson H. Fridkin
28 Buildings: Pilots’ shackA-87; 10th Grp & Scott
29 10th Gp. Scott in outdoor toilet
30 Adj.’s dog Scott & camouflaged plane
31 Ordensburg Vogelsang
32 Cannon shot Vogelsang
33 2 shots of Gosslies

Contact sheet 31: Vogelsang; Gosslies; airbase Y-51
34 Airplane boneyard Lancaster
35 Holland invasion Boys at Y-51
36 2 more Tower at Vogelsang
37 Vogelsang Sunset ack-ack shot
38 Portal shot Leaving Gosslies – French sign
39 Gosslies shot Y-51
40 Y-51
41 Y-51 Scotty in jeep

Contact sheet 32: P-39s and P-38s; friends; Gosslies; Verviers
42 Scotty in jeep “Looker”
43 Batmobile Gosslies
44 P-39 P-39 take-off
45 Belgique friends
46 P-38s on line After mess in Gosslies
47 Verviers
48 Verviers Dreiborn
49 [labeled 51] Dreiborn

Contact sheet 33: Airbases A-87 and Y-51; French or Belgian civilians
50 A-87
51 Dreiborn
52 Y-51
53 Adventurers at Y-51
54 Madame Quinet
55 C-47s
56 Con trails over B-26 at Y-51
57 More con trails at Y-51

Contact sheet 34: Contrails over Y-51; portraits; C-47s hauling gasoline for 3rd Army
58 More con trails at Y-51
59 More con trails at Y-51
60 More con trails at Y-51
61 2 more of portrait
62 2 more of portrait
63 C-47s haul gas for 3rd Army
64 C-47s haul gas for 3rd Army
65 C-47s haul gas for 3rd Army

Contact sheet 35: Crossing the Rhine; German civilians; Airbases Y-83 and R-11
66 Trip to Limburg
67 Poor shots of Remagen
68 2 shots Crossing the Rhine
69 Civilians playing with white flags
70 Tent area
71 British wait to leave R-11
72 R-11
73 British POWs wait for transport to England

6. Photos from contact sheets 36-40
Subjects: Airbase R-11; tanks; German equipment; Paris; French countryside

Contact sheet 36: Tanks; airbase R-11; German aircraft
74 Scott & [----?] at R-11
75 R-11
76 2 tank shots
77 2 tank shots
78 Burnt out Tiger
79 Long-nosed 190
80 German biplane
81 R-11

Contact sheet 37: Airbase R-11; Paris
82 Hanger shot
83 R-11
84 Paris  Book stalls along the Seine
85 GI and girl-friend  |
86 Paris - Madeline  GI Red Cross
87 Champs Elysee  Sidewalk café
88 Along the Seine
89 The Seine  Notre Dame

Contact sheet 38: Paris & countryside
90 Notre Dame  1st shot of Bernadette
91 2 close ups – Bernadette
92 2 haystack shots
93 2 haystack shots
94 Shots thru barn door
95 Woodchoppers  Old woman on road
96 2 shots – back yards  Outskirts of Paris
97 Paris street scenes

Contact sheet 39: Countryside near Paris; Spitfires & RAF airdrome; Cornwall coast
98 Parisien countryside  Young woman with lilacs
99 Last shot of Bernadette  The Opera
100 Xmas card 1942 [missing]  Spit.s & RAF drome

Logbook entries end here.

Contact sheet 40: Friends; airbase scenes; aircraft

Oral Histories (shelved with other VHP interviews):
VHP Tapes #117 & 118
These tapes, rather than a formal interview, instead are narratives to accompany a display of photographs taken by Thompson during the war and exhibited at the Tennessee War Memorial Museum during the 50th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion. Thompson’s narrative focuses in detail on specific photographs that were used for this exhibit. Wherever possible, his comments have been keyed to the appropriate photograph using Thompson’s own photograph numbering system (explained above). (approx. 3 hrs.) RESTRICTED: Publication use restricted; see transcript. Transcript located in Box 1 of Joe Thompson Jr. Papers.

VHP Tapes #311 - #319
Interviews by Alice Swanson, 2004-2005.
Joe Thompson, Jr. provides additional details and reminiscences prompted by reviewing contact sheets of photographs he took while in service during World War II during this series of interviews conducted from December 13, 2004 to February 7, 2005. Not a
photo-by-photo type of interview, but rather story by story, Mr. Thompson tells many personal anecdotes about his service, such as his time spent with a family in Belgium; the nurse that was his girlfriend in the early days of his involvement in England; the interpreter in Paris and her family; and the connections made with comrades and with Europeans that have been maintained to this day. Many photographs feature the planes, tanks, trucks and living accommodations of that time, which Thompson also describes in detail. One of the more unusual anecdotes is about one of his comrades who invented a hot water apparatus which they used on the beach at Normandy for shaving. Thompson tells about the liberation of Paris and welcome by Parisians, and the narrow hedgerows traversed by tanks and other heavy equipment. Mr. Thompson repeatedly stated that taking these pictures was his connection to sanity in such dangerous circumstances.

(approx. 5 ½ hrs. More detailed interview summaries and transcripts are located in Box 1 of Joe Thompson Jr. Papers.)