

Collection #
M 0859, OM 0430

THOMAS JACKSON MILLIKIN PAPERS, CA. 1933–1945

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Processed by

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10 November 2005

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize manuscript folder, 5 folders of photographs, 8 negatives
COLLECTION DATES:	ca. 1933–1945 (bulk 1942–1945)
PROVENANCE:	Charles Apfelbaum, Watchung, NJ, January 2001

RESTRICTIONS: Negatives may be viewed with assistance from staff members.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0269

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Jackson Millikin, also known as “Jack” Millikin, was born 18 October 1911 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to C. Paul and Madge Millikin. Jack attended Adrian High School in Michigan and graduated from Wittenberg College. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and later worked for the *Adrian Telegram*. Before World War II, Jack moved to Evansville, Indiana and was employed as an advertising salesman for the Evansville Printing Corporation (later the Evansville Courier-Press). Jack married Jean Thomas, daughter of G.S. Thomas. The couple had at least two children, Stephen T. Millikin and Michael R. Millikin.

In May 1942, Jack enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves as an ensign. He received training in San Francisco, California, and in June 1942 was sent to the submarine base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Around August 1942, Jack became hotel manager of the Gooney Bird Hotel in the Midway Islands. He was promoted to Lieutenant (j.g.) in May of 1943. In November of 1943 Jack again spent time in San Francisco and Pearl Harbor, until being ordered to destroyer training school in Ft. Schuyler, New York in December 1943. He also attended training school at the Naval Operating Base in Norfolk, Virginia. After training, Jack was assigned to the destroyer *U.S.S. Baldwin*. The *U.S.S. Baldwin* was commissioned in 1943, traveled with convoys to North Africa until early 1944, provided support during the Normandy landings in 1944, escorted President Roosevelt to the Yalta conference in 1945, and then served on the eastern coast of the United States. In September 1945, Jack served as public information officer during the submarine *U.S.S. Mero*'s tour of the Great Lakes.

Jack died on 30 January 1992 in Chico, California.

Sources:

Information in the collection

“Roots Web.” Website search for “Thomas Millikin.” Available from <http://www.rootsweb.com>. Cited 4 November 2005.

Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center [online]. Available from <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-b/dd624.htm>. Cited 7 November 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The predominant resource in this collection is the correspondence exchanged between Jack Millikin and his wife Jean Thomas Millikin over the three year period that Jack served in the United States Naval Reserves. Approximately 500 World War II letters describe the myriad of emotions this couple experienced, including self-doubt and vulnerability, as well as providing evidence of their mutual love and support. The letters have been separated according to author and placed in chronological order. For undated letters, penciled in dates are provided utilizing postage information from the corresponding envelope.

Series one of this collection encompasses pre-war materials, including a photograph of Jack as a young boy, printed publications, and pre-war correspondence revealing Jack's search for employment at various newspaper agencies.

Series two contains Jack and Jean's correspondence from 1942 until 1945. Jack's correspondence focuses on camaraderie, financial worries, wartime fears, censorship, politics, rationing, and anger at anti-war activists and others who he feels aren't doing their duty. His feelings about the Japanese and the Nazi regime are briefly mentioned throughout. Letters describing his duties mention life on board ship, places he was stationed (San Francisco, Africa, Hawaii, the Midway Islands), fitness reports, drills, and training, including the skills he learned during destroyer training school. Jack discusses various forms of entertainment such as dances, reading, movies, and music, providing insight into popular culture during this era. He also writes some amorous letters expressing his love for Jean.

Jean's letters focus on relating news of her management of the household, including daily chores, taking care of the children, rationing, and finances. She describes social gatherings and attendance at Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) and W.O.O.C. club functions.

Series three also spans the war time years of 1942 to 1945 and includes letters from Jack's mother Madge Millikin and Jack's brother Lt. Robert P. Millikin of the U.S. Army Air Corps. The general correspondence folder contains letters from other family members and friends. General Navy related materials in this series include commendation and appreciation letters, Jack's fitness report, and a song about Midway. There are also three military newspapers providing information on world news and Midway Island activities. Newspaper clippings previously included in the letters have been placed in separate folders within this series. Some of these clippings specifically mention Jack and Robert's wartime service.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Pre-World War II Materials

CONTENTS

Photographs, ca. 1930s

"Round Robin" letters, 1933

Zeta of Alpha Xi Delta dance card, 1933

Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity scenes at fraternity house [8 negatives], 1933.

General correspondence, ca. 1937–1941

CONTAINER

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Visual Collections:
120 mm Black and White
Acetate Negatives

Box 1, Folder 3

The Rubáiyát of Omar-Khayyám, ca. 1940 Box 1, Folder 4

The Army and Navy of the United States pamphlet,
1940 Box 1, Folder 5

Series 2: Jack and Jean Millikin Correspondence

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence, May
1942–June 1942

Box 1, Folder 6

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
July 1942–August 1942

Box 1, Folder 7

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
September 1942–November 1942

Box 1, Folder 8

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
December 1942–January 1943

Box 1, Folder 9

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
February 1943–March 1943

Box 1, Folder 10

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
April 1943

Box 1, Folder 11

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
May 1943–June 1943

Box 1, Folder 12

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
July 1943–August 1943

Box 1, Folder 13

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
September 1943–October 1943

Box 1, Folder 14

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
November 1943–March 1944

Box 1, Folder 15

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
April 1944–September 1944

Box 1, Folder 16

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
October 1944–December 1944

Box 2, Folder 17

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
January 1945–February 1945

Box 2, Folder 18

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
March 1945–April 1945

Box 2, Folder 19

Thomas J. Millikin / Jean Millikin Correspondence,
May 1945–October 1945

Box 2, Folder 20

Jean Millikin / Thomas J. Millikin Correspondence, August 1937–November 1942	Box 2, Folder 21
Jean Millikin / Thomas J. Millikin Correspondence, December 1942–April 1943	Box 2, Folder 22
Jean Millikin / Thomas J. Millikin Correspondence, May 1943–September 1944	Box 2, Folder 23
Jean Millikin / Thomas J. Millikin Correspondence, October 1944–March 1945	Box 2, Folder 24
Jean Millikin / Thomas J. Millikin Correspondence, April 1945–June 1945	Box 2, Folder 25
Jean Millikin / Thomas J. Millikin Correspondence, July 1945–October 1945	Box 2, Folder 26

Series 3: Other World War II Era Materials

CONTENTS

Photographs of Hawaii, ca. 1940s

“Traveler’s Guide to Honolulu,” 1942

Midway Island postcards, 1942

Military newspapers, July 1942–May 1943

Thomas Jackson Millikin photograph, ca. 1942–1945

Correspondence from Robert P. Millikin, April
1942–December 1943

Correspondence from Madge Millikin, 1942–1945;
n.d.

General Navy-related materials and correspondence,
ca. 1942–1945

General correspondence, ca. 1942–1945

General documents, ca. 1943–1944

Clippings removed from Thomas J. Millikin’s 5 June
1942 letter to Jean Millikin

Article on Thomas J. Millikin removed from Jean
Millikin’s 2 September 1942 letter to Thomas
Millikin

Clippings removed from Madge Millikin’s 15 July

CONTAINER

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 27

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 28

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 29

Box 2, Folder 30

Box 2, Folder 31

Box 2, Folder 32

Box 2, Folder 33

Box 2, Folder 34

Box 2, Folder 35

Box 2, Folder 36

1943 letter to Thomas J. Millikin	
Clipping removed from Madge Millikin's 27 July 1943 letter to Thomas J. Millikin	Box 2, Folder 37
Ticket stub removed from Thomas J. Millikin's 21 November 1943 letter to Jean Millikin	Box 2, Folder 38
Clippings removed from Jean Millikin's 10 November 1944 letter to Thomas J. Millikin	Box 2, Folder 39
Clipping removed from Jean Millikin's 14 March 1945 letter to Thomas J. Millikin	Box 2, Folder 40
Clippings removed from Thomas J. Millikin's 30 March 1945 letter to Jean Millikin	Box 2, Folder 41
Clipping removed from Jean Millikin's 29 April 1945 letter to Thomas J. Millikin	Box 2, Folder 42
Clipping removed from Thomas J. Millikin's 1 May 1945 letter to Jean Millikin	Box 2, Folder 43
U.S.S. Mero clipping removed from Thomas J. Millikin's 17 September 1945 letter to Jean Millikin	Box 2, Folder 44
Newspaper clippings, ca. 1942–1945	OM 0430, Folder 1
Eastern Air Lines timetable, August 1945	Box 2, Folder 45
Greeting cards, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 46
Photographs of unidentified persons, n.d.	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 5

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0859).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.