

# **Laurence Jensen and Linnea Schonstedt Collection**

## **M/A 2003.05.01-02**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
<b>Creator - Author</b>	Jensen, Laurence Edward, 1916-1986
<b>Title</b>	Laurence Jensen and Linnea Schonstedt Collection
<b>Date</b>	1927-1977
<b>Extent</b>	0.83 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English

## Biography

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Laurence entered the Army as a private and was stationed at Camp Wallace Texas Battery (A) 29th Coastal Artillery Training Base (C.A.T.B.). His first correspondence to Linnea was from February 1942 (envelope from the first letter in collection from February 21st). It appears that Laurence served as an airplane mechanic. He was promoted to while at Camp Hulen Texas in September 1942. While in Europe he had a dog called Butch who rode on his jeep.

According to the correspondence from Laurence, Linnea worked initially at Pillsbury Flour Mills and later for the Red Cross (she may have been volunteering for them). Laurence and Linnea married in 1948 (for more biographical information see also section below from the Minneapolis city directory).

### Biographical Information from the Minneapolis City Directories

1942	<p>In 1942 Linnea was a clerk and lived at 4250 Bloomington Ave which was where Erik (brother) and her parents Olof G. and Esther lived. Olaf was a carpenter.</p> <p>Earl M. and Jennie Jensen lived at 3410 46th Ave S in 1942 Earl was a salesman with Upjohn Co. Laurence is listed at same address with employment noted as United States Army.</p>
1944	<p>In 1944, Linnea was a stenographer at Pillsbury Flour Mills Co. Erik was not listed in 1944 at the same address.</p>
1946	<p>Linnea is listed at the 4250 Bloomington Avenue S. and was working as a stenographer at Pillsbury Flour Mills Co.</p> <p>Laurence E Jensen auto mechanic Albin J. Weston. Laurence living at 3338 40th Ave S.</p>
1948	<p>Linnea lived at 4250 Bloomington Ave S. and worked at Pillsbury.</p> <p>Laurence E. mechanic for Northwestern Auto body Shop, home at 3909 24th Ave S. Northwestern Auto body Shop managed by Norman P and Swen Jones:</p>

“We specialize in front end-rebuilding, aligning and wheel balance.” Located at 2503 E 38th St.

1950	Laurence E. and Linnea E. Jensen lived at 3909 24th Ave S. No occupation listed for either of them.
1952	Laurence E. and Linnea E. Jensen lived at 3911 24th Ave S. Laurence's occupation listed as pattern maker for Minneapolis Moline. The house they lived in was renumbered to 3911. Their stucco house and garage had been built in 1927.

### **Chronology of countries where Laurence Jensen was stationed while serving in the Army**

February 1942	USA - Camp Wallace, Texas
July 1942-September 4, 1942	USA - Camp Hulen, Texas
September 23, 1942-December 4, 1942	USA - Fort Sill, Oklahoma
December 29, 1942-January 1944	USA - Desert Maneuvers, Los Angeles, California
February 9, 1944	USA - He states he is somewhere on the east coast
March 1, 1944 –August 1944	England
September 24, 1944 – December 1944	France
January 19, 1945	Belgium
January 28, 1945	Luxemburg
March 6, 1945-September 7, 1945	Germany
September 12, 1945-September 16, 1945	France

### **Description of the Collection**

Two boxes of materials in good condition. Types of materials: correspondence, cards, photos, newspaper clippings, paper money from Buchenwald (2, newspapers (war publication of the *Star Journal*), notice of award of bronze star medal, (April 13, 1945) and school autograph book.

## Comments pulled from Laurence's correspondence to Linnea 1942-1945

Feb 23, 1942

"I just had a little discussion with one of the fellows I'm sure what he thinks of me. I told him that I wasn't mad at either the Japs or Germans but rather at the big shots of this country of a few years back. If those men had just listened to General Mitchell when he was begging for a larger air force, for if they had the axis powers would never had dared to attack us...Of course I realize right now there is no other way out now but to win the war now but no matter what anybody tells me, I still have no desire to fight and its not that I'm afraid..."

March 1942-April 1942

"Studying to take specialists test –suppose to be stiff would come out as a sergeant with a pay of \$125/month. Shooting range made marksman and sharp shooter (expert is better)..we had gas mask drill to-day I sure hope I never have to use one of them especially if it gets warm... went to Galveston is a poor town the buildings and three night clubs bowling alleys pool hall are of a very poor class... most of the fellows here live in the past or the future and not the present..."March 14th"...this is my fifth week here..."March 25th "you should be able to write three times a week...I feel better with this off my chest." March 31 "I guess we are going to get a raise to 42 dollars but that won't go into effect until June 30th." ...love letters...April 19 "It's getting harder waiting not knowing what is happening...."April 21st "now I'm the oldest man in my platoon (everyone else has shipped out)..."April 26th "I do wish you would write more often then you did last week..." April 29th "do wish I knew what they were going to do with me send me to school or what..."

March 1944	New country - Laurence initially didn't like England March 24, 1944 " Your last v-mail I received Saturday dated the 8th and today I received the small paper dated the 25th of Feb and March 1st so I guess V is the best. I don't know how good air mail is but it might be worth a try. Two weeks is the best time your letters have made so far." March 27th v-mail "I received both of the papers you've sent and enjoy them. I expect the longer I'm over here the better they'll look."
August 1944	Linnea worked at Pillsbury Flour Mill, Laurence would be able to make pancakes with Pillsbury Flour.
September 24, 1944	"First time had dry feet in three or four days... moving a lot"
October 7, 1944	"I much prefer the small edition of the 'Stars' than the 'Fighters Digest'"
October 9, 1944	"There is a lot of discussion going on about this discharge plan but all I'm worried about is when is Germany going to stop..."
November 1, 1944	"They issued us some warmer clothes combat pants and jacket."
December 5, 1944	"I'm really surprised how well [things] are going..."
January 7, 1945	"I just haven't had any desire to write. We have been moving a good deal..."
January 28, 1945	He has an airplane mechanic position.
April 8, 1945	"Anyway we've seen a lot of Germany and it has turned out to be a beautiful country and why they should be wanting more is beyond me, course right now they don't have so much."
April 8, 1945	Received Award of Bronze Star Medal for serving as battalion air mechanic, he maintained the planes in perfect condition regardless of weather or hardships. On several occasions he refueled and serviced planes under direct enemy fire.

April 18, 1945	"Taking correspondence class in automobile and math, 10 years since math class."
May 25, 1945	First letter uncensored since I left the states... I'm or was a little self conscious about what I was writing...
June 3, 1945	Notes that he won't be able to get out of the service soon because he only has 84 out of 85 points. Notes his views about the Germans. He says "I don't believe I've said two pleasant words to any German yet and further more have no intentions of it either. I believe we are letting them off much too easily." Comments about the 2 Rm Buchenwald paper money (paper money filed separately).
June 16, 1945	Located four miles from Weimar. He carries the "color" in the parades (the flag). "in his words, I should be a civilian again shortly. It's hard to believe and till I reach Ft. Snelling again I'm not going to put too much faith...I don't even know what I want to do when I get home... being a woman hater but I believe it only applies to women on this side of the ocean." "This afternoon I was in a warehouse and picked up some more tools which will go home as soon as I can find a box to put them in. One feels a little odd going in a place of that nature taking what you want and then walking out. . ."pg. 5. "If don't get out our combat stars are still coming really all I'm happy for is that I don't end up in China..."
June 27, 1945	"It does get under my hide to think that anyone who has been in three months gets the same benefits as myself." Pg 3 "Maybe the educational benefits are better, that remains to be seen."
June 28, 1945	"Won't be home for six or twelve months. Transfer men under 85 (he had 84) to the 6th Division. If transferred will go to 3rd Armored Division, division's pilots are going." His division may back 150 miles and the Russians will take over—Germans



	afraid of Russians. "Left 212th Division now with 3rd Armored 'Spearhead Division' the 6th transferred all men"
July 10, 1945	"Yesterday was the first time I've done any flying for a long time and I surprised myself as I thought I'd forgotten a lot but my judgment was still fair." Pg 1 "I heard Jack Benny's program tonight and it brought back memories when it was listened under more favorable conditions namely being with you."
July 30, 1945	"I have never had a strong liking for the stuff and see no reason that I should develop one." Pg 1. "This may be putting the cart before the horse but I was wondering if you had planned on working for the Red Cross when I get home. I still expect to be a civilian when I get home and I'm going to demand a good deal of your time as I expect to be rather restless as first and certainly will need a person of sterling quality to help me along..."pg. 7 & 8
August 18, 1945	Located a short distance from Crailsheim (airbase) a displaced persons camp. Crailsheim town in north Wurtemberg, Germany. Bombing and severe fighting here towards end of Second World War. Destroyed most of old city and historic buildings. Chartered in 1338
August 28, 1945	"There is really the letter you have been waiting for in that I should be home or the very least in the states next month." Pg 2
September 2, 1945	"This is quite a hole we are living in, it's a small farming town with millions of flies and they are about to drive me nuts."
September 7, 1945	Germany going to France "They issued a small booklet on G.I. Bill of Rights and other articles concerning our coming discharge..."pg 2
September 12, 1945	in France
September 16, 1945	"I have every intention of trying Civil Service fact is the only way that I can see for us to get off to an

early start." Pg. 2" "... I won't mind going to school  
but that would postpone things too long..."

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Genre(s)

- World War, 1939-1945 -- Correspondence.

### Personal Name(s)

- Jensen, Linnea Elizabeth, 1913-2002

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence March 1942-February 1942	1	1
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
1942 Battery A 29th C.A.T.B. Camp Wallace Texas (rank Private)		
Correspondence April, 1942	1	2
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
Battery A 29th C.A.T.B. Camp Wallace Texas (rank Private)		
Correspondence May, 1942-June 1942	1	3
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
May, 1942 Battery A 29th C.A.T.B. Camp Wallace Texas (rank Private)		
June, 1942 Battery A 29th C.A.T.B. Camp Wallace Texas (rank Private)		
June 8, 1942 403 Sep Bn Btry D. C.A. Camp Hulen Texas (rank Sergeant)		
June 8, 1942 403 Sep Bn Btry D. C.A. Camp Hulen Texas (rank Sergeant)		
Correspondence July 1942-August 1942	1	4
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
403 Sep Bn Btry "D" C.A. (A.A.) Camp Hulen Texas (rank Sergeant)		

Correspondence September 1942-October 1942	1	5
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
403 Sep Bn Btry "D" C.A. (A.A.) Camp Hulen Texas (rank Sergeant) September 23, 1942 403 Department of Air Training M.6, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (rank Sergeant) October, 1942 403 Department of Air Training M.6, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (rank Sergeant)		

Correspondence November 1942-December 1942	1	6
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
403 Department of Air Training M.6, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (rank Sergeant) November 12, 1942 Department Bld T-436, Officers Cantonment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (rank Sergeant) December, 1942 Department Bld T-436, Officers Cantonment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (rank Sergeant) December 29, 1942 H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California (rank Sergeant)		

Correspondence January 1943-February 1943	1	7
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California. (rank Sergeant)		

Correspondence March 1943-April 1943	1	8
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California (rank T/3) March 18,		

1943 H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256  
 Dessert Maneuvers Camp Cooke, California (rank T/3 return address  
 including T/3 L Jensen 17048423)

Correspondence May 1943-June 1943

1

9

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert  
 Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California (rank S/Sergeant)

Correspondence July 1943-August 1943

1

10

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert  
 Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California (rank T/3)

Correspondence September 1943-October 1943

1

11

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert  
 Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California (rank T/3)

Correspondence November 1943-December 1943

1

12

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert  
 Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California (rank T/3)

Correspondence January 1944-April 1944	1	13
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
<p>H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 Dessert Maneuvers % Post Master Los Angeles California (rank T/3) February 9, 1944 H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o Postmaster, NY, NY March 1, 1944 V-Mail same return address as above. All correspondence (5 letters were v-mail). No correspondence for April, 1944</p>		

Correspondence May 1944-June 1944	1	14
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
<p>H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o Postmaster, NY, NY. Regular written correspondence on stationary/note paper. All envelopes stamped and signed as having passed the censor except one dated May 18th. It was in a blue envelop that states that it will not be censored by unit censors but by the Chief Base Censor.</p>		

Correspondence July 1944-August 1944	1	15
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		
<p>H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o Postmaster, NY, NY. Regular written correspondence on stationary/note paper. All envelopes stamped and signed as having passed the censor.</p>		

Correspondence September 1944-October 1944	1	16
<b>Biographical/Historical note</b>		

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o  
 Postmaster, NY, NY. Regular written correspondence on stationary/note  
 paper. All envelopes stamped and signed as having passed the censor.

Correspondence November 1944-December 1944

1

17

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o  
 Postmaster, NY, NY. Regular written correspondence on stationary/note  
 paper. All envelopes stamped and signed as having passed the censor. In  
 heading of letter dated November 1, he notes that he is in France. Three  
 letters in file from this time period.

Correspondence January 1945-April 1945

2

1

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o  
 Postmaster, NY, NY. Regular written correspondence on stationary/note  
 paper. All envelopes stamped and signed as having passed the censor. In  
 heading of letter dated January 7th and the letter dated January 19, he notes  
 that he is in Belgium. In heading of letter dated January 28, he notes that  
 he is in Luxemburg. In heading of letters dated March 6th, April 8th, April  
 18th, and April 22, he notes that he is in Germany. The correspondence  
 from April 2nd is v-mail. Received notice that he had been awarded the  
 Bronze Star Medal, Technician Third Grade, Field Artillery. See folder 14:  
 Paper money and award notice.

Correspondence May 1945-June 1945

2

2

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o  
 Postmaster, NY, NY. Regular written correspondence on stationary/note  
 paper. May 27th letter not censored. In heading of letter dated May 7, 15th,  
 25th, June 10th, June 16th and June 28th, he notes that he is in Germany.

Correspondence July 1945-August 1945 2 3

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o  
 Postmaster, NY, NY. The letters have not been not censored. In heading of  
 letter for July and August, he notes that he is in Germany. The letters dated  
 July 6, 10th and 11th are on letter head for the Third Armored “Spearhead”  
 Division and the July 10th letter is typed.

Correspondence September 1945 2 4

**Biographical/Historical note**

H.Q. Btry 212 Armored F.A. Bn 6th Armored Div. A.P.O. 256 c/o  
 Postmaster, NY, NY. The letters have not been not censored. In heading of  
 letter for September 12th and 16th, he notes that he is in France. Collection  
 does not include any after September, 1945.

Autograph Book 1927-1930 2 5

Cards 1941-1959 2 6

Cards and Correspondence 1943-1947 2 7

Cards and Correspondence 1966, 1977 2 8



Correspondence 1943-1977	2	9
Girls Club of Nazareth 1943-1946	2	10
Patent Pending, Paul L. Jensen 1969	2	11
Newspaper Clippings 1933, 1944	2	12
Photos 1942-1945	2	13
Paper Money	2	14