Introduction
Approximately 2.5 cubic feet

The Harold Linden Forester Papers contain identification and travel documents, maps, illustrations, pamphlets, newsletters, postcards, correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, academic materials, and military records. The materials date from 1925-2008 and pertain to Forester’s military service during World War II, his undergraduate years at the University of Southern California, his numerous jobs, his world travels, and his lifelong medical problems stemming from a wartime injury. The papers also contain information about the Forester family and Lawrence County, Missouri. Materials of interest include wartime letters from Forester to family members and friends, firsthand recollections of the Battle of Peleliu, and a scrapbook featuring photographs of the Forester family in Lawrence County, Missouri.

Forester was born in Aurora, Missouri, in February 1923. He was the son of Leroy H. and Ina Forester and had five siblings: Loren, Leroy H., Mildred, Walter, and Boyd. He graduated from Aurora High School in 1941 and took a job as a crew chief at Cessna Aircraft Co. in Wichita, Kansas. Forester joined the United States Marine Corps on February 2, 1943, at the age of 20. He was wounded by shrapnel while fighting with the First Marines at the battle on Peleliu, Palau, in 1944. Forester received an honorable discharge from the United States Marine Corps on June 2, 1945. After the war, he enrolled at the University of Southern California, graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor’s of Science degree. For the next forty years, Forester served in a variety of positions in the United States government, including as an administrative assistant for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (1955-1964) and the Federal Aviation Administration’s Tokyo Flight Inspection Group (1966-1970). Forester settled in St. Charles, Missouri, in 1999. He died on September 10, 2012.

Donor Information
The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by John Forrester on November 22, 2019 (Accession No. SA4456).

Copyright and Restrictions
The Donor has given and assigned to the State Historical Society of Missouri all rights of copyright which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the Society from others.

Box List

Box 1
Birth certificate (copy) and baptismal certificate, 1923
Aurora High School diploma, 1941
Passports and travel permits, 1951-1995
Driver’s licenses and social security card, 1949-1987
Resume and job applications, 1948-1978
Biographical information and financials, 1990
Military personnel affairs record and service record card, 1979
Disability retirement, 1972-1979
Address book with record of travels, 1943-2007
Address book, 1944
Notebooks, 1943-1967
Lawrence County in Pictures 1937 and Silver Dollar City publication, no date
Leroy Edward Forrester’s funeral book, 1970
Leroy Forrester’s financial materials, 1941-1967
Forrester family scrapbooks (deconstructed), 1921-1949
Forrester family correspondence, 1909-1953
Forrester family newspaper clippings, circa 1942-1954
Aurora Missouri property insurance, 1964
X-Rays of skull, 1948
Veteran’s Administration disability correspondence, 1945-1955
Medical correspondence pertaining to wartime injury, 1973-1976
Disability correspondence, 2005-2008
Pamphlets from travels, 1946-1982
Correspondence, 1943-1994 (7 folders)
“Letters from Hal” correspondence, 1950-1960

Box 2
Wartime recollections correspondence, 2004-2006
Photographs, 1943-2000 (4 folders)
Postcards, 1951-1978
Illustrations, 1943-1962
Military paperwork and correspondence, 1942-1945
University of Southern California, 1943-1949 (3 folders)
Delta Phi Epsilon certificate, initiation, and the Deltan newsletter, 1949
Newspaper clippings, 1945-1949
Cruise ship trips, 1948-1950
Time in Paris, France, 1951
Time at The Hague, 1952
Time in Bangkok, Thailand, 1953
Time in Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1955-1962 (2 folders)
Saipan, Marianas Islands correspondence, 1962
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands publications (Truk Times and Ponape-Per), 1955-1957
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands publications (Ponape-Per), 1961-1963 (2 folders)
Micronesia Reporter and Micronesia Monthly, no date

Box 3
Micronesia Reporter, 1957-1963 (5 folders)
Time in Tokyo, Japan, 1965-1970 (2 folders)
Federal aviation training and certifications, 1963-1974
War veteran publications, 1996-2005
Military paperwork and correspondence, 1942-1945