

NAME: Thayer

RANK: Lieutenant Commander

ORGANIZATION: U.S. Naval Air Station X

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by Thayer. This is the only letter from Thayer in the site curator's possession.
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 - No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.
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Thayer writes two friends in the United States:

"Mar 2, 1943

I will try to drop a note to the folks back home whenever I get time, as I think you will be interested in things up here. Everything is much better in everyway than I expected. In the first place I was placed in charge of a surgical service of 140 bed hospital with two doctors for assistants. My commanding officer is one of the finest officers and best doctors that I have ever met. I did an emergency appendix the second night here and have been on the jump every since doing at least two operations every day. We have a modern hospital, Xrays including portable, fracture table, complete operating room with well trained assistants, complete laboratory blood chemistry, bacteriology, basal metabolism, complete pharmacy, all kinds of splints, etc The only thing I can think of is a electric bone saw and am ordering that. We have tremendous stocks of sulphathiazole in ampoules, also all the other sulfa drugs. We also have a complete dental, medical, nose and throat service...

...It has been the most beautiful trip I was ever on. The temperature has been very mild about 40 & freezing at night and thawing with mud in the daytime

The only thing I miss, is the family up there and the black outs at night are not very pleasant. You can get lost in the fog at night crossing the road...

...The Capt. says he is going to take a bunch of us in a plane fishing in the spring. Tomorrow afternoon I expect to go to the village with him. I am his first assistant. I have none of his headaches about paper work and am free to operate anytime day or night.

Well, you would think I was a real estate agent trying to sell the place but I am really enthusiastic about it. Planes are more common than autos (except trucks) up here. I have not been up yet.

Remember me to all the gang...I will close as we are limited to three pages on one side of the paper.

Thayer"

- Thayer made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers Alaska operations and Thayer's organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/ARC-38958>
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers the Aleutian Islands Campaign (reader discretion advised):**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleutian_Islands_Campaign