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Silvio Petri, Jr. Collection

Creator: Silvio Petri, Jr.
Dates: 1945-1987
Quantity: 0.25 linear feet, 1 box
Acquisition: Donated by Karen Sendik, August 8, 2014
Identification: PMML ID# 800222, OCLC# 953877028, Call# PAPERS 00214
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Biographical Note

Silvio Petri, Jr. was born around 1916. He immigrated to the United States from Italy, arriving in Chicago, Illinois with his parents on July 10, 1928. The Petri family ran a barbershop on S. Oakley Avenue in Chicago. In the 1940s, Petri joined the United States Army.

Petri trained in Texas before being stationed in North Africa with an infantry unit where he met General Lyman Lemnitzer. Upon Lemnitzer's request, Petri became the General's barber and driver, positions he held from May 1943-June 1945. Together, they were stationed in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Petri was present during visits from Winston Churchill and King George VI.

While in the Army, Petri received the Army Good Conduct Medal and European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. After returning from the war, Petri worked in his father's barbershop until his retirement in 1990. He passed away in 1995.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Silvio Petri, Jr. Collection contains letters and cards from United States Army General Lyman Lemnitzer and Harold Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis. Correspondence between the men and Petri was kept up after the war until Alexander's and Lemnitzer's deaths in 1969 and 1988, respectively. The majority of the collection is made up of correspondence items, with a smaller portion consisting of photographs and a few pins.

Arrangement

The collection arrived in no discernible order. Staff has arranged the collection into four folders. The collection consists of two series:

Series One: Correspondence

This series contains letters and cards Alexander of Tunis and General Lemnitzer sent to Petri in the decades between the end of Petri's service with the United States Army ended and both Alexander's and Lemnitzer's deaths. The Miscellaneous Correspondence subseries contains empty envelopes that could not be matched up with the letters of cards they contained. Also included in this subseries is an invitation to the wedding of Francois Ratgras and Catherine David.

Series Two: Photographs

The photographs in this series were loose throughout the collection upon its arrival to PMML. Three of the photographs are included as parts of holiday greeting cards sent by Alexander of Tunis. The rest of the photographs reflect the time Petri spent in the Army, especially the time he spent accompanying General Lemnitzer.

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Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location
800222079		Ribbon bar with two medal ribbons and four bronze stars - Army Good Conduct Military Ribbon and European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Military Ribbon	Trays
800222080		Pin - gold U.S.	Trays
800222081		Lapel button - Army Good Conduct medal	Trays

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names

Alexander of Tunis, Harold Rupert Leofric George Alexander, -- Earl, -- 1891-1969.
Lemnitzer, Lyman L. -- (Lyman Louis), -- 1899-1988.

Subjects

United States. -- Army.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Africa.

Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
			Series One: Correspondence, 1945-1987, n.d.	
1	1		Harold Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis	1946-1969, n.d.
		800222001	Letter from Alexander to Petri	12/31/1946
		800222002	Letter from Alexander to Petri	6/21/1947
		800222003	Letter from Alexander to Petri	2/4/1952
		800222004	Holiday card from Alexander of Tunis	11/28/1955
		800222005	Letter from Alexander to Petri - mention of visiting with General Lemnitzer	4/19/1958
		800222006	Letter from Alexander to Petri - updates on dinner at the American Embassy with General Eisenhower, and Staff Sgt. Wells	12/3/1959
		800222007	Holiday card from Margaret and Alexander of Tunis	12/3/1959
		800222008	Holiday card from Alexander of Tunis	11/30/1960
		800222009	Letter from Alexander to Petri - thank you note	12/29/1964
		800222010	Holiday card from Alexander of Tunis	12/7/1966
		800222011	Letter from Alexander to Petri - mention of visiting with General Lemnitzer	1/1/1967
		800222012	Letter from Alexander to Petri - mention of visiting with General Lemnitzer	1/7/1968
		800222013	Letter from Alexander to Petri	1/18/1969
		800222014	Postcard from Alexander - "To wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"	n.d.
		800222015	Card from Alexander - "All good wishes for Christmas and the New Year"	n.d.

800222016	Card from Alexander - "With Christmas greetings and all good wishes for the New Year"	n.d.
800222017	Card from Alexander - "With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year"	n.d.
800222018	Card from Alexander - "With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year"	n.d.
800222019	Card from Alexander - "With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year"	n.d.
800222020	Card from Alexander - "With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year"	n.d.

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General Lyman Lemnitzer

**1945-1987,
n.d.**

800222021	Letter from Lemnitzer to Corporal Petri - thanking him for his service over the past two years	6/15/1945
800222022	Holiday card from The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Mrs. Lemnitzer	9/6/1953
800222023	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - details on his return trip to Europe, update on Alexander	5/15/1958
800222024	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - update on Alexander	9/6/1958
800222025	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you letter, update on his family	3/30/1959
800222026	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, update on Alexander	9/14/1959
800222027	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	9/6/1960
800222028	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	9/11/1961
800222029	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	8/25/1962

800222030	Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/20/1962
800222031	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, update on his time in Europe	9/24/1963
800222032	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, update on his time living in Europe	1/7/1964
800222033	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, update on his time in Europe and on Alexander	9/3/1964
800222034	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	1/19/1965
800222035	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	8/30/1965
800222036	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, discussion of moving SHAPE headquarters to Belgium	9/24/1966
800222037	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, discussion of moving SHAPE headquarters to Belgium	1/10/1967
800222038	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, update on the move to Brussels and on Alexander	9/21/1967
800222039	Holiday card from The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/20/1967
800222040	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, update on living in Belgium	1/11/1968
800222041	Letter from General Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	9/19/1968
800222042	Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/18/1968
800222043	Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/18/1969

800222044	Letter from Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note, details of his trip to Chicago, update on Major Workman	1/20/1971
800222045	Letter from General Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	9/8/1971
800222046	Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/10/1971
800222047	Letter from General Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	11/5/1972
800222048	Letter from General Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	9/18/1976
800222049	Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/18/1984
800222050	Letter from General Lemnitzer to Petri - thank you note	8/30/1985
800222051	Holiday card for General and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/1986
800222052	Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer	12/14/1987
800222053	Holiday card from The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and Mrs. Lemnitzer - Vigilia Pretium Libertatis insignia on the front, red border	n.d.
800222054	Duplicate of previous holiday card from The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and Mrs. Lemnitzer - Vigilia Pretium Libertatis insignia on the front, red border	n.d.
800222055	Duplicate of previous holiday card from The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and Mrs. Lemnitzer - Vigilia Pretium Libertatis insignia on the front, red border	n.d.
800222056	Holiday card from The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and Mrs. Lemnitzer	n.d.

- Vigilia Pretium Libertatis insignia on the front, green border

800222057 Season's Greetings card from The Army Chief of Staff and Mrs. Lemnitzer n.d.

800222058 Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer - red with green wreath on the front n.d.

800222059 Holiday card from General and Mrs. Lemnitzer - information on the establishment of a Professorship of Cardiology at Oxford University in honor of Field Marshal Alexander n.d.

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Miscellaneous Correspondence

**1952-1970,
n.d.**

800222060 Empty envelope [from Alexander of Tunis] 12/23/1952

800222061 Empty envelope [from Alexander of Tunis] 12/5/1961

800222062 Empty envelope [from Alexander of Tunis] 12/3/1963

800222063 Empty envelope from Supreme Allied Commander Europe 9/26/1968

800222064 Empty envelope from General and Mrs. L. L. Lemnitzer 11/30/1968

800222065 Invitation to Francois Ratgras and Catherine David's wedding 7/11/1970

800222066 Empty envelope [from Alexander of Tunis] 12/4/n.d.

800222067 Empty envelope from General L. L. Lemnitzer n.d.

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**Series Two: Photographs, 1945-1949,
n.d.**

800222068 Black and white photograph - a large group of soldier posing in front of a building; signed "H.R. Alexander" on the n.d.

	front of the photo; back is captioned "S. Petri" and "A. Conningham"	
800222069	Duplicate of previous photograph - a large group of soldiers posing in front of a building; captions on the front point to A. Conningham and H.R. Alexander	n.d.
800222070	Black and white photograph - Lt. Gen. [unreadable] sitting at a desk	n.d.
800222071	Black and white photograph - two men walking while a soldier they are passing salutes; caption on the back reads "King George VI and General Sir. Harold R. Alexander - Italy"	n.d.
800222072	Black and white photograph - four men touring a camp while other soldiers walk behind them; caption on the back reads "King George VI, Lt. Gen. Sir A. F. Harding, General Sir H. R. Alexander, Maj. Gen. L. L. Lemnitzer - Italy"	n.d.
800222073	Black and white photograph - headshot of Gen. Lemnitzer; handwritten note reads "To Corporal Petri, In appreciation of his legal support in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. [signed] L. L. Lemnitzer, Major General, U.S. Army. Italy - 15 June 1945."	6/15/1945
800222074	Black and white photograph - soldiers standing in a field near a car; caption on the back reads "Maj. Gen. L.L. Lemnitzer and Winston Churchill"	n.d.
800222075	Photocopy of black and white photograph - six soldiers posing near a low wall; caption on the back reads "Left to Right. S. Petri, J. Hicks, T. Glanz, J. Toner, L.L. Lemnitzer and L. McBee III"	n.d.
800222076	Holiday card from Alexander - "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Black and white family photograph captioned "1949. Susan later"	1949

800222077	Holiday card from Alexander of Tunis - "With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year"; black and white photograph of the "Visit of the President of the United States of America, 10 June, 1947"	c. 6/10/1947
800222078	Holiday card from Alexander of Tunis - front has black and white family photo; inside captioned "Cranbourne Grange, Windsor Forest, Berks."	n.d.