

DALTON NEWFIELD

Dalton Newfield was the Provost Marshal in charge of the US Military Police (MP's) in Southampton during WWII. His office was a Nissen hut at the 14th Port HQ in Hogland's Park. Born in San Joaquin California in 1918, Dalton initially enlisted into the US Signal Corps in 1940, transferring to the Military Police in 1942.

Dalton was a keen photographer and his archive of photographs held by Southampton Heritage Collections offer a unique insight into the lives of US servicemen in Southampton during WWII. It seems strange now to see the service personnel in uniforms and with US military vehicles against the backdrop of the familiar medieval city walls and buildings.

Dalton's photographs capture their social lives, the weekly dances held at the Polygon Hotel and the Guildhall, with music provided by the US 14th Port Orchestra, the NAAFI canteen and Red Cross Club and even a fete. Dalton enjoyed watching the American Football matches held at the Dell (the former home of Southampton Football Club, in Milton Road). The Americans also had twelve basketball teams, and enjoyed soccer, darts, boxing and ping pong. The photographs also show US troops arriving at the train station, queuing in the docks and boarding ships, cargo loading, and prisoners of war arriving and being marched to the transit camp at dock gate 8. Finally, they capture the smiles as they said their goodbyes at the end of the war and headed home.



Jack Busse and Grace Wait.

Dalton's friend, and fellow MP, Lt Jack Busse appears in many of the photographs. Both Jack and Dalton met their future wives in England during WWII. Jack married US nurse Grace Waite. She is pictured with Jack in Southampton in several photographs. After his release from military duties in April 1946, Dalton decided to see for himself the effects of the war in Europe, and he and his friend, Pete Luppen, followed the Allied route through Europe, making a photographic journal 'Jeeping with Pete' to record what he witnessed. Dalton's fiancé Eleanor Clauson, from London, arrived in New York on the RMS Queen Elizabeth on the 23rd May 1947. They were married six days later and lived in Dalton's hometown of Sacramento. In July 1950, their only child, Randolph was born. Tragically, he would die from cancer aged just six and Dalton would miss some of these precious years whilst serving in the Korean War 1951-1954.

Dalton was a great admirer of Churchill (hence naming his son Randolph) and became the senior editor of the International Churchill Society Journal in 1970 and the world's first Churchill specialist book publisher and seller. Eleanor and Dalton repeated the European tour together in 1978, continuing to live in Sacramento until Dalton's death in 1982.

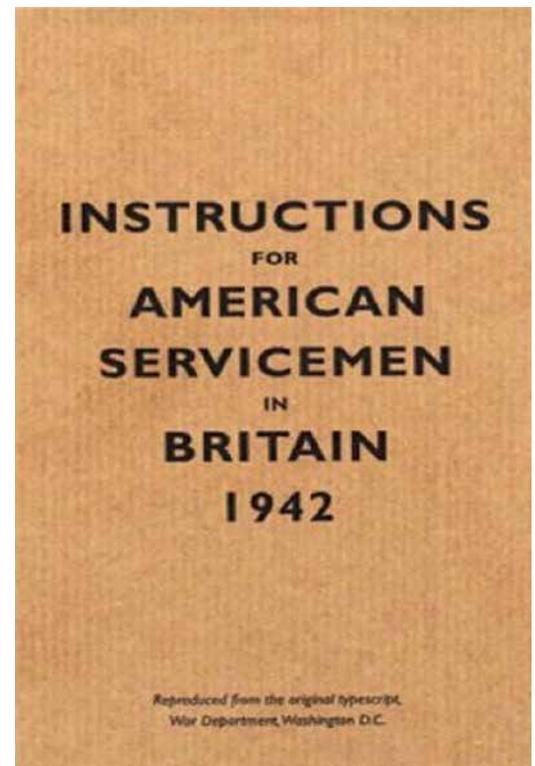
THE US MILITARY POLICE

Both the American and British governments anticipated that trouble would arise from Americans living and working alongside British civilians and therefore US Military Police were sent to Britain to keep the peace between both the segregated US troops and the British civilians and forces. To facilitate good relations, all US troops were issued with a booklet produced by the US war department 'Instructions for American Servicemen in Britain' and watched a film 'How to behave in Britain' before leaving the states. These instructions were intended to reduce the culture shock and to advise on 'the peculiarities of the British, their country and their ways'. It was also quite humorous with tips like "The British don't know how to make a good cup of coffee. You don't know how to make a good cup of tea. It's an even swap."



In fact, the Americans were welcomed in Southampton with open arms and lived and worked in harmony. Many oral histories testify to this (for example, Marion Ainsworth 'Got any Gum Chum'). It became an evening's entertainment to walk the streets looking at the new US military vehicles that had arrived and wondering at their purpose. Besides natural curiosity, the Good Neighbour Scheme encouraged citizens to look after the US troops living outside their homes. They were willingly plied with biscuits, sandwiches and cups of tea – sometimes served in the front room! The locals looked after their every need, darning socks, sewing on buttons and providing water for shaving.

The 14th Port Book records the MP's in Southampton dealt with 27 violent incidents between the segregated US troops and 31 fights between British and American personnel between 1943 and 1945. These fights were usually caused by one of two things, the British woman's preference for American men and indifference to colour, and alcohol. With their higher pay, the Americans drank the pubs dry, much to the disgust of the British troops, leading to the phrase, 'Over paid, over sexed and over here'.



The role of the military police also included ensuring a good flow of traffic around the city to keep the army moving, docks security, overseeing the unloading of cargoes and guarding prisoners of war.

Images courtesy of Southampton Cultural Services, Dalton Newfield collection.

SERIAL NUMBER 95		I. NAME (Print) DALTON NEWFIELD		ORDER NUMBER 1494
2. ADDRESS (Print) 2021-22 ST SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA				
3. TELEPHONE Cap 2736 R	4. AGE IN YEARS 25	5. PLACE OF BIRTH LODI	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A	
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mr MELVILLE NEWFIELD				
8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON FATHER				
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 2021-22 ST SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA				
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE, IOWA				
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 1024 - FORUM BUILDING				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. FORM 1		19-17105 <i>Dalton Newfield</i> (Registrant's signature)		

Dalton's draft card

REGISTRAR'S REPORT				
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT				
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5.10	185	Sallow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negro	Blue	Bloody	Light	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gray	Red	Ruddy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Dark	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Brown	Black	Freckled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	Black	Gray	Light brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Black	Dark brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Filipino			Black	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification				
I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:				
Registrar for 70 AVNIE ALMEIDA (City or town) (State of registrant) SACRAMENTO, CALIF Date of registration OCTOBER - 16 - 1940				
LOCAL BOARD NO. 25 Room 214, Court House DEC 30 1940 Sacramento: SACRAMENTO Co.				
(The stamp of the Local Board listing jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space.)				



Military personnel in Hoglands Park.

'Jeeping with 'Pete'' - a photographic record made by Dalton.

