



Alan Douglas Groom Personal Papers and Photographs

Accession number 28024

Date 1930-2000

Author / Creator

Groom, Alan Douglas, 1913-1956

Abstract Photographs and personal papers of Alan Douglas Groom (RAF) who was a prisoner of war in Java in the Second World War.

Scope and content Examination results; official correspondence; reports by Groom about his actions in quelling riots in 1945, and his time as a prisoner of war in Java and the battle of Surabaya 1942-1945; extract from the London Gazette, regarding the Distinguished Service Order awarded to Groom; letter of thanks from Ogawa Kiyonori, ex-prison official of Ambarawa, Java; text of the memorial plaque at Brisbane Grammar School; souvenir programme for Royal Air Force Waddington; memoirs of Roy Bulcock who was imprisoned with A.D. Groom in Java; newspaper and magazine articles.

Description 1 folder photographs; 1 folder papers

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items.

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright.

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Preferred citation

28024, Alan Douglas Groom personal papers and photographs, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Related materials Acc: 27438, Bourne and Groom family photographs and reminiscences

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Series 1: Photographs, Alan Groom (1930-1960)



Series number 1

Series title Photographs, Alan Groom

Date 1930-1960

Scope and content

Alan Douglas Groom (1913-1956) grew up in the Brisbane suburb of Auchenflower; he attended Toowong State Primary School and Brisbane Boys Grammar School before studying engineering at the University of Queensland. He next attended the Central Flying School, at Point Cook, Victoria. Groom left Australia in January 1935 to serve in England with the RAF, reaching the rank of Wing Commander by 1940. He was posted to the Far Eastern Command as Officer-in-Charge of 153 Maintenance Unit, stationed in Singapore. In January 1942 after the fall of Singapore he was posted to Java in the Dutch East Indies and shortly after became a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese. Between March 1942 and September 1945 he was held in various prison camps and jails. See also related collection: [27438 Bourne and Groom Family Photographs and Reminiscences](#)

Description

Description 11 photographs

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items

Locate OMBOX Box 16260

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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Queensland.

[View the items](#)

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Items in this series:

Photograph (January 1935)



Unit ID 28024/1

Date January 1935

Scope and content

Alan Douglas Groom prior to leaving Australia for England; he is pictured second from the right, with fellow trainee pilots.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

[View the items](#)

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Photograph (1935-1940)



Unit ID 28024/2

Date 1935-1940

Scope and content

Flying Officer Alan Douglas Groom.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Photograph (1940)



Unit ID 28024/3

Date 1940

Scope and content

Wing Commander Alan Douglas Groom

Description

Description 1 studio portrait (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Photograph (1946)



Unit ID 28024/4

Date 1946

Scope and content

Alan Groom on the day he received the Distinguished Service Order, London.

Pictured from left: Alan's mother May August Groom; Alan Groom centre; his wife Sue Groom (nee Royan).

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Photograph (1930)



Unit ID 28024/5

Date 1930

Scope and content

Alan Groom 'wearing' a carpet python as a belt, Binna Burra, Queensland.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Photograph (1930-1935)



Unit ID 28024/6

Date 1930-1935

Scope and content

Alan Groom posing in the garden of the family home.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Photograph (1930)



Unit ID 28024/7

Date 1930

Scope and content

Alan Groom and his brother John with a carpet python, Binna Burra, Queensland.

Caption: Alan on the left about 17, John on the right age about 14-15

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

[View the items](#)

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Photograph (1945)



Unit ID 28024/8

Date 1945

Scope and content

British destroyer HMS Carron. This ship transported Alan Groom from Sourabaya to Colombo after his release from captivity in September 1945.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

View the items

[View the item](#)

Photograph (1945)



Unit ID 28024/9

Date 1945

Scope and content

British destroyer HMS Carron. This ship transported Alan Groom from Sourabaya to Colombo after his release from captivity in September 1945.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

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[View the item](#)

Photograph (1945)



Unit ID 28024/10

Date 1945

Scope and content

Wing Commander Alan Douglas Groom, on parade, after his return to England

Description

Description 0

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Photograph (1956-1960)



Unit ID 28024/11

Date 1956-1960

Scope and content

Photograph of the memorial plaque erected to Alan Groom at Brisbane Grammar School.
Caption: Plaque erected by Gordon Grant in the War Memorial Library, Brisbane Grammar School.

Description

Description 1 photograph (black & white)

Additional format Digital copy available for selected item

View the items

[View the item](#)

(12 digital)

Series 2: Papers (1934-2000)

Series number 2

Series title Papers

Date 1934-2000

Scope and content

This series includes: examination results; official correspondence; reports by Groom about his actions in quelling riots in 1945, and his time as a prisoner of war in Java and the battle of Surabaya 1942-1945; extract from the London Gazette, regarding the Distinguished Service

Order awarded to Groom; letter of thanks from Ogawa Kiyonori, ex-prison official of Ambarawa, Java; text of the memorial plaque at Brisbane Grammar School; souvenir programme for Royal Air Force Waddington; memoirs of Roy Bulcock who was imprisoned with A.D. Groom in Java; newspaper and magazine articles.

Description

Description 1 folder (reports, letters, extracts, newspaper articles)

Locate OMBOX Box 16260

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses

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Items in this series:

Operation record (18 December 1934)

Unit ID 28024/13

Date 18 December 1934

Scope and content

Photocopied page from the Operations Record Book, RAAF Training School, Point Cook, Victoria, awarding A.D. Groom the 'sword of honour' on in December 1934.

Description

Description 1 operations record (photocopy)

Examination results (1939)

Unit ID 28024/14

Date 1939

Scope and content

Four lists of examination results achieved by Alan Groom while studying at the School of Aeronautical Engineering, also included is a telegram to his family advising them of his results.

Description

Description 4 list of results (& 1 telegram)

Newspaper clipping (10 April 1940)

Unit ID 28024/15

Date 10 April 1940

Scope and content

Photocopied page from 'The Tatler' showing a group photograph 'Officers of an R.A.F. Station', Alan Groom has been identified on the front row, fifth from the left.

Description

Description 1 newspaper clipping

Letter (13 November 1945)

Unit ID 28024/16

Date 13 November 1945

Scope and content

Letter to A.D. Groom from Air Commodore C.O. Stevens commending him for his actions in Surabaya.

Description

Description 1 letter (1 sheet)

Report (15 November 1945)

Unit ID 28024/17

Date 15 November 1945

Scope and content

Report / letter written from Surabaya, Java, by Alan Groom 49 Indian Infantry Brigade, about his actions in quelling the riots in October 1945, when fighting broke out in and around Ambarawa between British troops evacuating European internees and Indonesian Republicans.

Author / Creator

Groom, Alan Douglas, 1913-1956

Description

Description 1 report (3 sheets, 3 pages)

Extract (2 April 1946)

Unit ID 28024/18

Date 2 April 1946

Scope and content

Photocopied extract from the London Gazette, regarding the Distinguished Service Order awarded to Acting Wing Commander, Alan Douglas Groom.

Description

Description 1 extract (1 sheet)

Extract (5 April 1946)

Unit ID 28024/19

Date 5 April 1946

Scope and content

Extract from the London Gazette, 2/4/1946, regarding the Distinguished Service Order awarded to A.D. Groom. One typed copy and one handwritten copy of citation, with envelope address to Mr George Bourne, Rockhampton.

Description

Description 1 extract (1 copy & envelope)

Report (17 January 1946)

Unit ID 28024/20

Date 17 January 1946

Scope and content

Typewritten report by Wing Commander Alan D. Groom regarding his time as a prisoner of war in Java and the battle of Surabaya 1942-1945.

The report has eight chapters: 1. Capitulation - Djocjacarta; 2. Soerabaia Prison Camp; 3. With Japanese "Gestapo" or Kameitai; 4. Tjipinanag and Soekamiskin; 5. Ambawara; 6. End of Japan; 7. Soerabai; 8. Occupation of Soerabaia.

Description

Description 1 report

Article (May 1946)

Unit ID 28024/21

Date May 1946

Scope and content

Photocopied article written by Roy Bulcock published in "Man" titled 'Brisbane's hero in Java'. Roy Bulcock was a friend of Groom's who had also been imprisoned in Java during the Second World War.

Author / Creator

Bulckock, Roy Palmer, 1904-1977

Description

Description 1 newspaper clipping (2 sheets)

Articles (1938-1946)

Unit ID 28024/22

Date 1938-1946

Scope and content

Four photocopied articles in relation to Alan Groom's service during the Second World War, which include: his promotion to Flight Lieutenant in 1938; the gazetting of his DSO in 1946; his

involvement in the Indonesian uprising and the memorial plaque to him at Brisbane Grammar School.

Description

Description 4 newspaper clippings

Letter (2 November 1949)

Unit ID 28024/23

Date 2 November 1949

Scope and content

Letter to A.D. Groom from Ogawa Kiyonori, ex-prison official of Ambarawa, Java, who had been convicted of war crimes, asking for help to have his life sentence reduced or commuted. Kiyonari was repatriated home to Japan later that year, but this was not due to Groom's intervention but part of a collective repatriation program.

Copies of this letter are held in the National Archives of Australia. Refer:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=273125>

Author / Creator

Kiyonori, Ogawa

Description

Description 1 letter (includes typed copy)

Telegram (25 July 1952)

Unit ID 28024/24

Date 25 July 1952

Scope and content

Telegram from Officer Commanding No 1 Group, to the Station Commander, RAF Waddington to congratulating them on their 'show' the previous day.

Description

Description 1 telegram

Program (20 September 1952)

Unit ID 28024/25

Date 20 September 1952

Scope and content

Souvenir program for Royal Air Force Waddington "At home" 1952, in commemoration of the Battle of Britain.

Description

Description 1 program

Inscription (1956-1960)

Unit ID 28024/26

Date 1956-1960

Scope and content

Text of the memorial plaque at Brisbane Grammar School for Allan Groom.

Author / Creator

Grant, Gordon

Description

Description 1 inscription

Manuscript (1946-1970)

Unit ID 28024/27

Date 1946-1970

Scope and content

Memoirs of Flying Officer, Roy Bulcock who was imprisoned with A.D. Groom in Java, titled 'Javanese Nights - a Queensland hero.'

Service record:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1064914>

Author / Creator

Bulcock, Roy Palmer, 1904-1977

Description

Description 1 manuscript

Article (21 December 2000)

Unit ID 28024/28

Date 21 December 2000

Scope and content

Draft of an article by John Bencke "A profile of courage and leadership: Group Captain Alan Douglas Groom DSO" for "Aviation Heritage", 2000 (unpublished), with covering letter from the Journal of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia.

Author / Creator

Bencke, John

Description

Description 1 article (9 pages)