

# Hutchinson Family Papers

**Accession number** 29463

**Abstract** Correspondence of Richard Charles Hutchinson and Charles Wesley Hutchinson during the First and Second World Wars.

**Scope and content** Greeting cards, postcards, leave pass, correspondence sent to and by Richard Charles Hutchinson and Charles Wesley Hutchinson during World War I and World War II. Also includes a map, possibly used by R.C. Hutchinson during his escape to Switzerland from a prisoner of war camp.

**System of arrangement** Arranged into 5 series.

**Description** 1 folder: 3 postcards, 6 greeting cards, 2 letters, 1 certificate, military papers, map

**Additional format** Digital copies available for selected items

**Administrative / Biographical history** Charles Hutchinson (1885-1962) a labourer from Duleen via Dalby, enlisted in Toowoomba on 15 September 1915 age of 30 and was assigned to the 15th Infantry Battalion. He embarked from Brisbane 31 January 1916 on HMAT Wandilla arriving in Egypt in March 1916. He was sent to France in June 1916 and was transferred to the 4th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. Charles was wounded in action in France on 1 February 1917 with shrapnel wounds to his left hand. He was sent to the Bath War Hospital in England to recover. He re-joined his unit in Belgium in June 1917. On 22 September 1917 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and received the Military Medal in October 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and good work during operations near Zonnebeke, Belgium, on 26 September 1917. During this action he suffered shrapnel wounds to the face and shell shock and was sent to England for treatment and recuperation. He returned to Australia on board HT Balmoral Castle in February 1918. Charles died on 29 May 1962 and is buried in Dalby Cemetery, Queensland.

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses.

**Conditions of use** You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

## Preferred citation

29463, Hutchinson Family papers, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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# Series 1: Postcards

**Series number** 1

**Series title** Postcards

Description

**Description** 0 postcards

Items in this series:

## Postcard (1917)

**Unit ID** 29463/1

**Date** 1917

### Scope and content

"1917" embroidered silk postcard featuring the words "Souvenir de Belgique" [Remember Belgium]. The individual numbers of the year "1917" are composed of the Union Jack, Japanese, Belgian, Italian, French, American and Australian flags. Two purple and yellow pansies also feature in the design.

Silk embroidered postcards were created by French and Belgian women to sell to soldiers serving on the Western Front. They were hugely popular souvenirs and were bought as mementos to send home to loved ones. Originally hand-embroidered by women and girls in their homes, production of the postcards moved to Parisian factories as demand increased.

Description

**Description** 1 postcard

**Additional format** Digital copy available

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

## Postcard (1917?)

**Unit ID** 29463/2

**Date** 1917?

### Scope and content

Postcard from Lance Corporal Charles Wesley Hutchinson on the Western Front to his brother, William.

Embroidered silk postcard featuring the words "[?] From Belgium". The Union Jack and the flags of France, Belgium, Italy, Russia, and the Russian Imperial Flag Silk embroidered postcards were created by French and Belgian women to sell to soldiers serving on the Western Front. They were hugely popular souvenirs and were bought as mementos to send home to loved ones. Originally hand-embroidered by women and girls in their homes, production of the postcards moved to Parisian factories as demand increased.

Physical characteristics and technical requirements : The postcard is fragile and the silk wording is damaged.

## Description

**Description** 1 postcard

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Conditions of use** You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

## Postcard (1939-1945?)

**Unit ID** 29463/3

**Date** 1939-1945?

### Scope and content

Humorous World War II postcard featuring a soldier with an attractive young woman and with

the inscription "Army Comforts Inquiries Here".

#### Description

**Description** 1 postcard

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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(1 digital)

## Series 2: Greeting Cards

**Series number** 2

**Series title** Greeting Cards

#### Description

**Description** 0 greeting cards

Items in this series:

### Christmas Card

**Unit ID** 29463/4

#### Scope and content

Christmas card with a silk ribbon from J. and N. Stringfellow to an unknown recipient.

**Author / Creator**

Stringfellow, J. and N.

## Description

**Description** 1 greeting card

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## New Years Card

**Unit ID** 29463/5

### Scope and content

New Year's card from William Malcolm Hutchinson to Henrietta Walker. The card features a view with a windmill and a horseshoe decorated with purple flowers.

### Author / Creator

Hutchinson, William Malcolm

## Description

**Description** 1 greeting card

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Greetings Card

**Unit ID 29463/6**

### **Scope and content**

Greetings card featuring a tamborine decorated with flowers.

#### Description

**Description** 1 greetings card

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## **Greetings Card**

**Unit ID 29463/7**

### **Scope and content**

Greetings card, either World War I or II, featuring a koala wearing an Australian army uniform and slouch hat, carrying a rifle and backpack. The card is inscribed "To an Aussie From Elsie".

#### Description

**Description** 1 greetings card

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## **Letter-card (January 1907)**

**Unit ID 29463/8**

**Date** January 1907

**Scope and content**

Letter-card from Myra to Mrs W.H. Hutchinson in New Zealand. The card features a flamingo carrying a baby and is inscribed by the sender "Wishing you all a very happy New Year". It is postmarked Wellington, January 22 1907.

**Author / Creator**

Myra

Description

**Description** 1 letter-card

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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**Christmas Card (1945?)**

**Unit ID** 29463/9

**Date** 1945?

**Scope and content**

Christmas card from Arthur to Hetty. The cover of the card features silk flowers and the words "Good Wishes", as well as "V.E." [Victory in Europe]. The inside of the card features an illustration of sailing boats and a poem "Christmas Blessings Be Thine" by C.M. Griffiths. V.E. Day, Victory in Europe Day, was celebrated as a public holiday on 8 May 1945 (7 May in Commonwealth countries) to mark the formal acceptance by the allies of World War II of Germany's surrender. It marked the end of World War II in Europe.

**Author / Creator**

Arthur

Description

**Description** 1 greeting card

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Series 3: Correspondence

**Series number** 3

**Series title** Correspondence

Description

**Description** 0 Correspondence

Items in this series:

### Letter (23 June 1940)

**Unit ID** 29463/10

**Date** 23 June 1940

#### Scope and content

Letter from Richard Hutchinson in England to his parents in Queensland, Australia. He writes of the voyage on the ship, visiting Cape Town, South Africa, sight-seeing in England, and tales of German brutality. The letter is written on letterhead "Cunard White Star R.M.S. Queen Mary".

Richard Charles Hutchinson, was born in Dalby, Queensland, on the 15th June 1915. He enlisted in the Second World War in Toowoomba on 3rd November 1939 (Service No. QX 1232) and served with the 2/32nd Infantry Battalion, and at times with the 6th, 7th and 9th Divisions. He left Australia on May 8th, 1940, and spent six months in England before going to

Palestine. While in England he married a girl from Wiltshire, Ruby Grace Carter. He was sent with the 9th Division to Tobruk and also served in Syria and El Alamein. His company was captured in El Alamein, however he managed to escape and was placed in another company, however that company was also captured by the enemy on the 22nd July 1942. Richard was held as a prisoner-of-war in Italy for 15 months until he escaped after the Armistice. He went to the mountains and joined the partisans before finding refuge in Switzerland. He died in Caboolture on the 4th October 1999. His wife, Ruby, died on the 8th June 2001. The couple had three children, 2 daughters and one son.

#### **Author / Creator**

Hutchinson, Richard Charles

#### Description

**Description** 1 letter (4 pages)

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

#### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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### **Letter (19 July 1944)**

**Unit ID** 29463/11

**Date** 19 July 1944

#### **Scope and content**

Letter, written in German, regarding the escape of Private Richard Charles Hutchinson from a German prisoner-of-war camp, his re-capture and punishment.

#### **Author / Creator**

Probst, Oberst

#### Description

**Description** 1 letter (1 page)

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Series 4: Ephemera

**Series number** 4

**Series title** Ephemera

### Description

**Description** 0 ephemera

Items in this series:

### Certificate of Pilgrimage (10 October 1941)

**Unit ID** 29463/12

**Date** 10 October 1941

#### Scope and content

Certificate of Pilgrimage issued to Private Richard Charles Hutchinson on a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem during his service in World War II.

### Description

**Description** 1 certificate

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Military Color Patch

**Unit ID** 29463/13

### Scope and content

Military colour patch for the Australian Army. The patch is round (denoting the 4th Division), half purple and half red. Colour patches are used on military uniforms to designate the particular service and division.

### Description

**Description** 0 ephemera

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Annual leave pass (November 1944)

**Unit ID** 29463/14

**Date** November 1944

### Scope and content

Military leave pass issued to Private Richard Charles Hutchinson during World War II.

### Author / Creator

Australian Military Pass

### Description

**Description** 1 passes (tickets)

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Calendar (1944)

**Unit ID** 29463/15

**Date** 1944

### Scope and content

Small 1944 calendar printed on a card for the Swiss Insurance and Pension Institution collected by Private Richard Charles Hutchinson during his service in World War II. The card is printed in the Swiss-German language.

### Author / Creator

Swiss Insurance and Pension Institution

## Description

**Description** 1 calendar

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Envelope (1943?)

**Unit ID** 29463/16

**Date** 1943?

### Scope and content

Envelope stamped with the formal symbol of the German Nazi Party. The envelope was

collected by Private Richard Charles Hutchinson who was a prisoner-of-war in Italy during World War II.

## Description

**Description** 1 envelope

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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## Other

### Notes

Damaged and in a fragile condition.

## Series 5: Maps

**Series number** 5

**Series title** Maps

## Description

**Description** 0 maps

Items in this series:

### Map of the Futa Pass, Italy (1934)

**Unit ID** 29463/17

**Date** 1934

**Scope and content**

Military map of the Futa Pass in Italy, possibly used by Private Richard Charles Hutchinson during his escape to Switzerland from a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy during World War II.

**Author / Creator**

Military Geographical Institute

Description

**Description** 1 map

**Locate** OMBOX Box 18172

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

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Other

**Notes**

Fragile condition.