

North family films of North Queensland and Papua New Guinea

Accession number (om_voyager)29500-aqdb

Date 1930-1970.

Author / Creator

[North family, creator.](#)

Scope and content Fourteen 16 mm films and one 35 mm film created by, or relating to, the Townsville-based family of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Roger North, mostly containing footage of North Queensland and Papua New Guinea. Three films show holiday and home movie footage of North Queensland during the 1950s and 1960s, including Townsville, Magnetic Island, Mt Isa, Charters Towers and Orpheus Island. There is also one film showing the 31st battalion at Townsville in the late 1930s. Seven films show footage of Papua New Guinea and some footage relates to Australian military activity in PNG after World War Two. The remaining films include an overseas trip and mostly interstate footage. One of the films is titled 'Heavy mineral trains in Australia', made around 1968 and contains some Queensland footage.

System of arrangement Arranged into 1 series

Description 15 film reels :

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items.

Guides A series and item list is available

Administrative / Biographical history Francis Roger North (1894-1978) was born at Fairnie Lawn, near Ipswich, Queensland, second son of grazier Robert Dundas North and his wife Blanch Sarah, nee? Thomson. Frank attended Bowen House School, Brisbane, from 1904 and Southport School in 1908-12. On leaving school, he was articled to William Hart, of Flower & Hart, solicitors, Brisbane, and in 1912 joined the 8th Oxley Regiment, Citizen Military Forces. In June 1915, North enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force. Commissioned on 24 August, he sailed for Egypt in May and on 21 November joined the 15th Battalion on Gallipoli. He transferred to the 47th Battalion in February 1916, rose to the rank of captain on 1 June and soon left for France. North fought at Gueudecourt and Pozieres. On 11 April 1917, he was wounded in the leg during the battle of Bullecourt. After three months in hospital, North returned to Australia. He later returned to the Western Front, arriving on 28 March 1918. He was soon promoted to temporary major and served with the 46th Battalion. In July he won the Military Cross, and soon after was recommended for the Distinguished Service Order, for which he was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross. Later in

August, again severely wounded, he was admitted to hospital in London. His appointment terminated in Brisbane on 21 October 1919. North rejoined Flower & Hart and was admitted as a solicitor on 7 December 1921. He moved to Townsville in May 1923 and joined the firm of Roberts, Leu & Barnett (later Roberts, Leu & North). On 17 April 1929, he married Margaret May Craddock. North was closely involved in community, local government, church, returned soldiers', military and sports activities. He was chancellor of the Anglican dioceses of North Queensland (1927-71) and Carpentaria (1929-71). An alderman of Townsville City Council in 1936-39, he was foundation president (1948-67) of Townsville Citizens Association. Having served as a legal officer in the C.M.F. in 1920-23, North was given command of the 31st Battalion, the Kennedy Regiment, Townsville, on 1 December 1924. Promoted lieutenant colonel in 1927, he led the regiment, except for four years, until 1940. Taking up full-time duty, from September he commanded the 11th Infantry Brigade with the rank of temporary brigadier. He served briefly in Brisbane as commander of the 7th Infantry Brigade in April-May 1942 and as investigating officer following the 'Battle for Brisbane' riot in November. That year he was appointed C.B. He had returned to Townsville in June to command No. 1 (North Queensland) Lines of Communication (Sub-Area). Ceasing full-time duty on 26 November 1945, he retired from the C.M.F. in 1951 as honorary brigadier but continued as honorary colonel of the Kennedy Regiment until 1959. North retired from his law practice at the end of 1974 and moved to Brisbane. He died on 1 November 1978 in Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital.

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Series 1: Film footage (1938-1959?)

Series number 1

Series title Film footage

Date 1938-1959?

Author / Creator

North Family

Description

Description 0 film reels

Locate OMFILM

Items in this series:

Townsville film footage (1954?)

Unit ID 29500/1

Date 1954?

Scope and content

Film footage of Townsville and surrounds. Includes footage of Townsville gardens and back yards (0:00); swimming at Little Crystal Creek and driving in the North Queensland hinterland (2:00); laying cable in the ocean by boat off Townsville and on land (5:30); Royal visit to Townsville, 1954, showing decorated buildings, celebrations at the showgrounds and a flyover (7:56).

Description

Description 1 film reel (original reversal positive, 16mm, Reel 1 of 1 (850ft), colour, silent)
14 minutes 40 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMFILM

North Queensland (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/2

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Film footage of North Queensland mostly focusing on scenic views, holidays and recreational

activities. Includes footage of Mackay streets and buildings and nearby scenery (0:00); Hayman Island (3:46); North Queensland scenery including Hinchinbrook passage, roads and road signs, loading cargo at a wharf and an office of the Adelaide Steamship Company, Burdekin River Bridge, Ayr, cars driving through floodwater (12:09); Atherton Tablelands including Lake Eacham (16:47); St Mary's School at Herberton (19:41); farm and countryside footage (20:45); Tully Gorge (23:12); construction of the Tinaroo Falls Dam (24:40); miscellaneous North Queensland views and roadside scenes (26:03); Atherton War Cemetery (31:22); Miscellaneous views of farmland and roadside scenery (32:00); aerial footage of North Queensland (38:40); golfing at Townsville (40:38); Townsville scenes including views from Castle Hill (44:54); cars competing in the Redex Rally (48:02); Townsville Turf Club (50:52); an unidentified weir (51:55).

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive: Reel 1 of 1 (1600ft),16mm, colour, silent)
53 minutes 18 seconds

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMFILM

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

European holiday film footage (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/3

Date 1950-1959?

Description

Description 1 film reel

Locate OMFILM5CS Trolley 30, Shelf D

Heavy Mineral Trains in Australia (1968?)

Unit ID 29500/4

Date 1968?

Scope and content

Film showing Australian mines, mine trains and railways. Contains limited Queensland footage.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (420ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM5CS Trolley 30 Shelf D

New Guinea film footage no. 1 (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/5

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Includes footage of villages, people, monuments. Last scene shows a sign "Sub-district HQ's Minj, Hight 5140".

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (350ft), 35 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

New Guinea film footage no. 2 (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/6

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Includes footage of villages, dwellings, fields, row boats at sea; a shopping centre and theatre, sign "Lae", visit of dignitaries.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (400ft), 16 mm , colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

New Guinea film footage no. 3 (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/7

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Includes footage of airplanes on a field and planes flying.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (300ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

New Guinea film footage no. 4 (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/8

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Includes footage of military personnel, people, construction of buildings, boats docked at harbour, shops buildings including Rabaul Pharmacy.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal original colour and B&W, Reel 1 of 1 (400ft), 16 mm, colour and black-and-white, silent)

Locate OMFILM

Holiday in NG' film footage (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/9

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Includes footage of the gravestone of J. Farrell of 2/7 Infantry Battalion - deceased at age 21 in 1945, family members, a racehorse.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (410ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

Boat NG' film footage (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/10

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Includes footage of travel by light plane, an airport, views, swimming and diving, a lion dance and boating.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (350ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

Shute Harbour; Perth to Melbourne by ship' film footage (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/11

Date 1950-1959?

Scope and content

Film footage including North Queensland scenery as well as footage filmed in Western Australia.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive duplicate, Reel 1 of 1 (350ft approx.), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

31st Battalion, Townsville film footage (1938)

Unit ID 29500/12

Date 1938

Scope and content

Film footage of the 31st Battalion in conducting training exercises in Townsville in 1938. The footage includes marching through the streets of Townsville, a military camp on the outskirts of Townsville and a variety of military exercises including artillery and light horse drills and competitions.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (410ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMFILM5CS Trolley 30, Shelf D

Review, Sydney, 1938 film footage (1938)

Unit ID 29500/13

Date 1938

Scope and content

Footage of a military marching band.

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (420ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

North Queensland compilation film footage (1956-1966)

Unit ID 29500/14

Date 1956-1966

Scope and content

A compilation of film footage taken during the 1950s and 1960s in North Queensland. Includes footage of a trip to Virginia Park Station (between Townsville and Charters Towers) showing 4 wheel driving and swimming in a river (0:00); a trip to Orpheus Island on board the Moana II showing views, buildings and climbing coconut palms (1:29); the dedication of St Matthew's Church in Charters Towers, 1956 (4:52); Burdekin River and Burdekin Bridge on the road to Charters Towers, 1957 (6:34); ANZAC Day ceremony and parade in Charters Towers, 1957 (6:54); cattle station, homesteads and cattle yard scenes in the Mt Isa district, ca 1956 (8:17); a train arriving at Oorindi Station, ca 1956 (11:21) Mt Isa and Mt Isa Mine scenes, 1956

(11:36); open day for the Burdekin River iron bridge, 1966 (13:52); diving at Tobruk Memorial Swimming Baths in Townsville (15:15).

Description

Description 1 film reel (original reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (850ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMFILM

New Guinea film footage no. 5 (1950-1959?)

Unit ID 29500/15

Date 1950-1959?

Description

Description 1 film reel (reversal positive, Reel 1 of 1 (1600ft), 16 mm, colour, silent)

Locate OMFILM

(1 digital)