

# Alan Hooper and Nance Hooper correspondence

**Accession number** 31701

**Date** 1941-2014

**Author / Creator**

**Hooper, Alan E. (Alan Edwin) 1918-2014, author creator**

**Abstract** A collection of letters, photographs and correspondence written by Nance (Nancy) O'Neill and Alan Hooper during the Second World War.

**Scope and content** A collection of letters, photographs and correspondence written by Nancy Hooper (nee O'Neill) and Alan Hooper during the Second World War. The letters are predominately between Alan and Nancy with a few to his parents. The photographs and postcards are mostly of Papua New Guinea with some family and personal portraits. The collection also includes proofs, notes and correspondence for the books "Love, war & letters PNG 1940-1945", and "Kokoda, ten epic war trecks retold and Papua revisited" written by Alan Hooper. The research notes are a valuable resource for the formation and history of the 1st Papuan Infantry Brigade (PIB).

**System of arrangement** Arranged into 8 series.

**Description** letters, photographs, correspondence

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

**Administrative / Biographical history** As company commander of 'B' Company of the 1st Papuan Infantry Battalion (1PIB) which mounted long-range patrols to gather intelligence and assist with mopping-up operations, Hooper's role also involved training 'native' troops who didn't speak English, in the use of weapons. The PIB were later turned into frontline carriers, ferrying the wounded back from the frontlines and aid posts.

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright.

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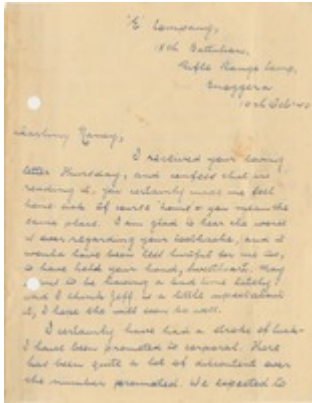
**Preferred citation**

31701, Alan Hooper and Nance Hooper correspondence, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

**View full catalogue record**

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## Series 1: Personal correspondence (1940)



### Series number 1

### Series title Personal correspondence

Date 1940

### Scope and content

In June 1940 Alan Hooper service no. QX62238, trained with the 15th Infantry Battalion, Rifle Range Camp, at Enoggera Army Barracks. The next month he departed for New Guinea aboard the 'Orungal' waving good-bye to his fiancée of only 10 days, Nance (Nancy) O'Neill. Hooper wrote regularly to Nancy of his life in camp before leaving Port Moresby, his visits to remote coastal outposts, a voyage up the Lakotoi River, life at Porebada village outpost, and supervising native workmen. Late in the year Hooper is hospitalised and treated for malaria. Note: several items are incomplete, or have pages missing.

### Author / Creator

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

O'Neill, Nance Jane, 1921-1975

### Description

**Description** 26 letters

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 21792 O/S

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

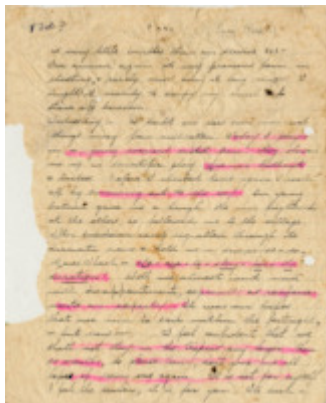
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## Series 2: Personal correspondence (1941)



**Series number 2**

**Series title** Personal correspondence

**Date** 1941

### Scope and content

In 1941 Alan Hooper visited the outpost station of Maata Hill in central New Guinea, Rouna Falls, and Ela Beach. He was promoted to Acting Sergeant in May 1941, the same month that his fiancée Nancy turned 20; he described the arrival of the US Fleet; in August he was appointed Lieutenant and discussed the growing threat from Japan; the 'Sydney's' sinking and a reconaissance expedition undertaken 30 miles up the coast. Note: several items are incomplete, or have pages missing.

### Author / Creator

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

O'Neill, Nance Jane, 1921-1975

### Description

**Description** 61 letters

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 21792 O/S - Box 21793 O/S

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

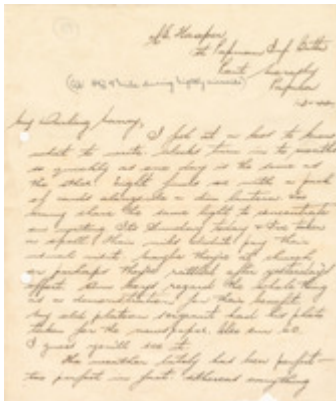
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## Series 3: Personal correspondence (1942)



**Series number** 3

**Series title** Personal correspondence

**Date** 1942

**Scope and content**

In this series of letters from 1942 Alan Hooper wrote to his fiancée Nancy and his mother in Brisbane. Early in the year he described his time away from camp at Port Moresby, fishing and shooting expeditions; and the relationships he was building with the local people. In April Nancy joined the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) and wrote of how much she was enjoying the life. Based initially at Evans Head in northern NSW she wrote of her growing confidence and promotion to general Clerk. In May, Alan and his unit undertook operations at Buna and Rouna Valley, and he described a difficult journey through very high terrain 4500 feet high (Kokoda). In August Alan's life was enriched by the arrival of a US aircrew whose craft had come down closeby, they shared the difficulties of foraging for food as his supplies had run out.

In October his 'house' was shelled by the Japanese and described the death of a close colleague not long after. Of particular note is a letter from Nauseor Kaise to Alan asking for advise of a safe place for his tribes to live and providing information on the Japanese camps. Note: several items are incomplete, or have pages missing. 1942 timeline:

- July 1-21 Papuan Infantry Brigade (PIB) headquarters was established at Kokoda, with its patrols spread from Oro Bay to Morobe on the coast and inland from Ongahambo near Awala to Garaina near Wau.
- July 15 'B' Company, 39th Battalion arrived at Kokoda
- July 21 1,200 carriers left Oro Bay with 'B' Company's equipment and rations. That afternoon 1,500 Japanese troops disembarked at Basabua (near Gona).
- July 23 PIB soldiers fired on Japanese troops, 1km east of Lieutenant Searle's Awala plantation.
- July 25 Battle of Oivia
- July 29 Battle of Kokoda
- August 10 'A' Company 39th Battalion withdraw from Kokoda after failed attempt by 'B' and 'C' companies to support its reoccupation
- August 25 Japanese naval force lands troops at Milne Bay
- August 26-29 Battle of Isurava
- September 5-6 Japanese troops withdraw from Milne Bay by naval force
- September 28 Australian troops retake Ioribaiwa
- November 2 Australians reoccupy Kokoda
- November 9-11 Australians retake Gorari and Oivi
- November 21 Popondetta and Doboduru airfields made operative
- December 9 Australians take Gona
- December 19 Australian and US forces take Cape Endaidere

#### **Author / Creator**

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

O'Neill, Nance Jane, 1921-1975

#### **Description**

**Description** 43 letters

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 21793 O/S

#### **Access**

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

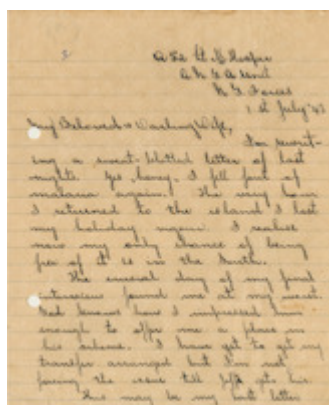
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## Series 4: Personal correspondence (1943)



**Series number** 4

**Series title** Personal correspondence

**Date** 1943

**Scope and content**

Early in the year Alan Hooper was sent on leave to Australia to recuperate from an operation and treatment for Malaria. Nancy and Alan had the opportunity to see each other as he convalesced at Burleigh Heads and he proposed they marry while he is on leave. Alan and Nancy were married at the Lota Presbyterian Church in Brisbane and soon after he was returned to active duty in New Guinea, travelling by train first to Townsville before flying again to Port Moresby. Nancy who was been discharged from the WAAAF at her own request returned to work and moved into the family home in Manly with her parents. Alan and Nancy exchanged many letters this year, he was often away on missions, giving descriptions of the coastal locations - with towering mountains, lush jungle and clear fresh water streams. He is involved in operations near the Song River in the Finschhafen area, with few supplies or medical assistance. Note: several items are incomplete, or have pages missing.

## Author / Creator

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

O'Neill, Nance Jane, 1921-1975

## Description

**Description** 104 letters

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 21794 O/S - Box 21795 O/S

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Series 5: Personal correspondence (1944)



## Scope and content

The year started with bad luck for Nancy who lost her wedding rings in the surf; she is delighted several weeks later to receive replacement ones from Alan. By February Alan Hooper's role also included controlling the operations of native labour and he had set up a native hospital. They are very close to the fighting and he suffers from chronic dysentery. His unit has become expert 'Jap hunters' and they are hosting war correspondents and photographers; close to the action and under mortar fire. After much delay Alan is given leave to return to Australia when he and Nancy spent several weeks together, on his return to Townsville he is hospitalised with fever and has a splinter of steel removed from a scar in his face; Nancy flew to Townsville to be with him for several days after he was discharged. On her return Nancy moved to Southport to live with her sister, and Alan is later much occupied taking over Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) camps and is again taken ill with malaria. Much of their correspondence appeared to go astray and they are burdened with the difficulties of a long-distance relationship. On the last day of the year Alan wrote to his mother in Brisbane in which he described his adventures to find Christmas trees for the Red Cross at Cape Killerton, and his encounter with the natives who helped carry him through the swamp two years ago. Note: several items are incomplete, or have pages missing.

## Author / Creator

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

O'Neill, Nance Jane, 1921-1975

## Description

**Description** 126 letters

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 21795 O/S - Box 21796 O/S

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

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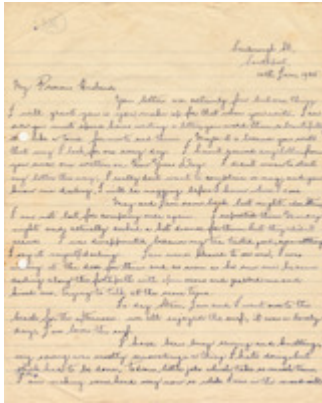
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## Series 6: Personal correspondence (1945)



**Series number** 6

**Series title** Personal correspondence

**Date** 1945

**Scope and content**

In February 1945 Alan Hooper was seconded within his unit to come under the 2nd AIF and not long after was diagnosed with dengue fever; he was admitted to no 248 US Army hospital for treatment. Later in May he was accepted into the ANGAU Officers Regimental Training Course and he discussed his expected return to Australia once he had successfully completed it. His return was much delayed but he received leave to return in early September, here the letters end. Note: several items are incomplete, or have pages missing.

**Author / Creator**

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

O'Neill, Nance Jane, 1921-1975

**Description**

**Description** 85 letters

**Additional format** Digital copies available

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 21797 O/S

**Access**

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** In copyright

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## Series 7: Photographs (1940-2014)

**Series number** 7

**Series title** Photographs

**Date** 1940-2014

**Scope and content**

This collection of more than 120 photographs and postcards are mostly of Papua New Guinea with some family and personal portraits. There are a number of images taken by or of Alan Hooper while he was on active service, many are captioned, and some of which have been featured in his autobiography '*Love war & letters PNG 1940-45*' published in 1994. Included at the rear of the album is a small collection of Japanese occupation currency.

**Author / Creator**

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

### Description

**Description** 1 album (photographs, postcards, photographic reproductions, occupation currency)

**Locate** OMOSBOX Box 21798 O/S blue album

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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## Series 8: Research notes & ephemera (1990-2010)

**Series number** 8

**Series title** Research notes & ephemera

**Date** 1990-2010

**Scope and content**

Correspondence, photographs and research notes principally relating to the autobiographical book "Love, War & letters" by Alan Hooper, published in 1994. Also included are manuscripts, newspaper clippings, for reminiscences and anniversary events.

**Author / Creator**

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

### Description

**Description** 9 folders (notes, correspondence, manuscripts, ephemera)

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21799 and Box 21800

### Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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Items in this series:

### Research correspondence

**Unit ID** 31701/446

**Scope and content**

A collection of articles about life in PNG and a selection of notes, photographs, sketches, itineraries, newspaper clippings and correspondence, about return visits to PNG. The collection includes:

'Reminiscences of a child of the Kokoda trail' by Peter Searle;

- excerpts from Alan Hooper diary;
- excerpts from 'B' Coy PIB war diary 13 June - 1 December 1942, Port Moresby-Ioma;

The author has titled the folder 'File 5'.

### **Author / Creator**

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

### **Description**

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21799

## **Research articles (1930-1994)**

**Unit ID** 31701/447

**Date** 1930-1994

### **Scope and content**

Various typescripts and copies of articles relating to Papua New Guinea and the Second World War. This collection includes the following typescripts and excerpts:

- 'Recollections: France & Belgium, 1914-1918'; 'The Volcanic eruption at Rabaul, 1937'; and 'The War in New Guinea, 1941-1946' by Douglas Joyce;
- excerpt from "Some Experiences of a New Guinea Resident Magistrate" by Charles Arthur Whitmore Monckton;
- excerpts from "Report on Kokoda L of C native carriers during campaign Owen Stanley Range, Kokoda-Gona-Buna" by Captain H T Kienzle, ANGAU N.G.F. 1943;
- Biography of Doctor Geoffrey Hampden Vernon by Hank Nelson;
- 'Recollections of ANGAU' by Tom Grahamslaw;
- 'Report of the Japanese invasion of Buna, WW II' by F A Champion;
- excerpts from Bishop Strong's diaries;
- excerpts from 'The road from Gona' by Dorothea Tomkins and Brian Hughes;
- article titled 'Mavis Parkinson and May Hayman, missionary martyrs of Papua 1942' from "True blue Queenslanders" by Tony Matthews;
- biography of Charles Stanley Williams by R G Warfield;
- excerpt from 'The making of national identity' by Hank Nelson;
- article 'A voyage to remember' from the Canberra Times, 15 July 1995

## Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21799

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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## Source documents (1940-1995)

**Unit ID** 31701/448

**Date** 1940-1995

### Scope and content

Various documents, letters, maps, photos, articles and excerpts compiled for the writing of the book "Love war & letters". The author has titled the folder 'File 2 LWL'

### Author / Creator

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

## Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21799

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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## Press reviews and letters (1995-2011)

**Unit ID** 31701/449

**Date** 1995-2011

**Scope and content**

A collection of press reviews, readers letters and galley proofs relating to the book 'Love war & letters' published by Alan Hooper in 1994.

**Author / Creator**

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21799

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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**Press reviews and galley proofs (1990-2000)**

**Unit ID** 31701/450

**Date** 1990-2000

**Scope and content**

Reviews and galley proofs for the book 'Love war & letters' published by Alan Hooper in 1995.

**Author / Creator**

Hooper, Alan Edwin, 1918-2014

Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21800

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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## Ephemera (1941-2001)

**Unit ID** 31701/451

**Date** 1941-2001

### Scope and content

A collection of cards, reunion invitations, dinner cards, poems, newspaper clippings, Battalion lists and a Qantas passenger ticket.

Also included are several personal letters to Alan Hooper:

- 4 November 1945 from Nurse Ruth [?] of the US Army Nurse Corps who met Alan in New Guinea;
- 26 August 1946 & 26 May 1947 from Colonel Thomas M. McDade, New York, now back in the US after spending time in the Philippines;
- 21 March 1949 from Colonel Carroll S Miller, USAF, Florida, who received one of Alan's letters via Tom McDade and recalls the story of Father Benson's survival;
- another is from Kay [?] of Roma, dated 28 November 1951

## Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21800

## Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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## Newsletters and emails (2000-2009)

**Unit ID** 31701/452

**Date** 2000-2009

**Scope and content**

Newsletter (PIB [Papuan Infantry Battalion], NGIB, HQ PIR Association), emails, annual Kokoda walk map and information, program for the Southport School Centenary Parade of Army Cadets.

Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21800

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**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.

**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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**Miscellaneous ephemera (2000-2014)**

**Unit ID** 31701/453

**Date** 2000-2014

**Scope and content**

Miscellaneous photographs, Anzac service programs, reunions, letters, emails, and newspaper clippings.

Description

**Description** 1 folder

**Locate** OMBOX Box 21800

Access

**Access restrictions** Unrestricted access.



**Copyright status** Multiple copyright statuses

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