



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	LEES, JOHN
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	1975.0079
<b>CATEGORY ACTIVITY</b>	Other, individuals Airforce officers
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1926-1969
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	36 cm. (3 archives boxes)
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	Lees was a representative for the British vehicle builder, Daimler from the 1920s until 1967. During World War Two he served with the RAAF on secret communications duties.
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Access: Open
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Correspondence 1942-1969; business papers 1926-1969; personal accounts; photographs; BSA/Daimler/Fiat correspondence, reports, advertising brochures 1926-1958; official war correspondence 1940-1958; RAAF correspondence, certificates, history, war record, training schools; newspaper cuttings.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES  
RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: J.J.P. LEES

LIST OF RECORDS:

GROUP 1. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1/1 23 Oct. 1942. 1p. (1 sheet). Brisbane.  
Arrived Brisbane "...chock full of humanity".
- 1/2 25 Oct. 1942. 2pp. (2 sheets). Brisbane.  
Visiting friends before going to Townsville.
- 1/3 30 May 1945. 2pp. (2 sheets). Brisbane.  
En route to Manila for conference.
- 1/4 30 May - 1 June 1945. 5pp. (5 sheets). En route  
to Manila. Details of precedures and flight from  
Brisbane via Townsville, Lae, Finschaffan and Biak  
with U.S. Air Force.
- 1/5 1-3 June 1945. 5pp. (4 sheets). En route to  
Manila.  
Continuation of trip via Morotai; war damage in Manila,  
fighting to north and south; "...We all had a  
conference this morning (all British)to decide what  
will be the Empire viewpoint when we confer with the  
Americans. There are no less than 91 American generals  
and admirals in Manila at present."
- 1/6 6-8 June 1945. 6pp. Manila.  
Nearest fighting 15 miles away; many refugees living  
in shanties "just like those dumps on Dudley Flats";  
officers in different hotels according to rank; "I have  
a Filipino batman to act as my personal servant -  
bed making, boot cleaning and general tidying up. Tidying  
up seems funny in a room with only three walls. Where  
the fourth wall & windows used to be is just a big open  
space looking out on to the street."; nearest fighting  
10 to 12 miles away but Manila safe; water scarce but  
chlorinated.
- 1/7 8-12 June 1945. 7 pp. (6 sheets). Manila, Morotai.  
Trading in cigarettes and underwear, buying stamps;  
details of return trip and beach-head at Morotai.
- 1/8 ca. 9-16 May 1946. 54pp. less pp. 1-8 missing (23 sheets).  
En route Melbourne to England on board "Rimutaka". Details  
of passengers;" ...Have worn my dinner dress several

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GROUP 1.                      CORRESPONDENCE

- 1/8 (Contd.)                      times....It is saving my other suits & I feel more at ease in the company of those who have dressed for dinner...", "...the Newalls (the unemployed Governor General & his wife from N.Z.) were most cordially disliked by New Zealanders & barely lasted a couple of years there. Absolute snobs - especially Lady N. ....He is too reserved for the post he held...but definitely not Governor-General Material;; comments on Australian political scene.
- 1/9                                      18-22 May 1946. 27pp. (14 sheets). En route, London. Further details of passengers, voyage.
- 1/10                                     27 May - 2 June 1946. 48 pp. (24 sheets). En route, London. Further details of passengers, voyage.
- 1/11                                     3-5 June 1946. 25 pp. (13 sheets). London. Details of contacts made in London, arrangements for Victory March on 8 June, food and other commodities shortages' ....Matches are extremely scarce. I paid two bob for a box yesterday".
- 1/12                                     5 June 1946. 12 pp. (6 sheets). London. Details re bomb damage, food, theatre, etc.
- 1/13                                     6-8 June 1946. 31 pp. (11 sheets). London. Details of queuing for ration books, preparations for the Victory March; details of Daimler orders and agencies in New Zealand, shortages in the car manufacturing industry; details of the Victory March "...around me were Briatin's millions & the Empire's thousands, gathered together - beneath the towering sides of Big Ben to celebrate the Empire's deliverence & great victory".
- 1/14                                     10 June 1946. 4pp. (2 sheets). Coventry. Over 600,000 square feet of plant at Radford and whole of Sandy Lane works destroyed, temporary offices built, manufacturing of cars and buses goes on, "...Now that German cars are off the market the Continent is a happy hunting ground for British cars for a while "but"... There are bags of chassis but no bodies".
- 1/15                                     10-13 June 1946. 16pp. (8 sheets). Rugby. Lees uses contents of food parcels from Australia to circumvent fuel restrictions; details of war damage in Coventry, Daimler works bombed with such accuracy that adjoining houses and shopes were unharmed; "...At present I have orders on the works for cars& buses to the total value of 113,200 pounds sterling. Unfortunately there seems no hope at all of the lot being shipped this year";

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GROUP 1.                      CORRESPONDENCE

- 1/15 (Contd.)                      preliminary discussions on establishment of a Melbourne office; details on development of European market and its interaction with other overseas markets "...where people will buy British because it is British & not because it is the cheapest or because local stuff is not available"; Lees succeeds in selling a Lanchester 10 to Harry Coates, a passenger on board "Rimutaka" who works for the London Tin Corporation.
- 1/16                                      14-16 June 1946. 14pp. (7 sheets). Coventry (office). Lees to address the management staff on the Australian and New Zealand market and scene; salary and travelling expenses; more on food shortages and "black bread".
- 1/17                                      18-21 June 1946. 12 pp. less pp. 3-4 (5 sheets). Rugby. More details on food, clothes, difficulty in having watches repaired; comments on bus market, "... between ourselves our works are well behind on bus production"; spare parts supply and question of forming an Australian company.
- 1/18                                      21-26 June 1946. 18pp. (9 sheets). Rugby. Details on Daimler's war-time production, staff acquired from Leyland, proposal for a Daimler service depot in Melbourne.
- 1/19                                      27 June - 1 July 1946. Rugby. 22pp. (11 sheets). Car shortage at Daimler works; Export difficulties; R.A.A.F. Association badge held in high esteem; lack of good food, bread rationing; comments on the 1946 Lanchester 10; remarks on B.S.A. company policies.
- 1/20                                      2 July 1946. Rugby. 20 pp. (10 sheets) incomplete. Details of food, surfeit of potatoes; comments on his future position with Daimler - possible Australian Daimler spares depot; Victory March, lack of Australian representatives; bread rationing dispute; Daimler business, rise in car prices, staff shortage, trying to rebuild at the same time as produce.
- 1/21                                      5 July 1946. 20pp. (10 sheets). Coventry. Meeting with Chairman of Directors, Sir Bernard Docker; lack of energy and 'go-ahead' in workers; Brindley, foundry manager; Daimler war production; food-parcel.
- 1/22                                      9 July. Rugby. 22pp. (11 sheets). Comments on the proposed Ford "All Australian Car"; Daimler leadership; bomb damage in London's east suburbs; trip to Dagenham Works; comments on Mr. & Mrs. Hally, managing Director, proposals for depot.

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GROUP 1.                      CORRESPONDENCE

- 1/23                      15-20 July 1946. Rugby. 24pp. (12 sheets).  
Concern over Sydney or Melbourne as site for proposed depot (Sydney buses); difficulties with seeing business associates and tactics concerning the deal.
- 1/24                      21-28 July 1946. Ruby. 30 pp (15 sheets). Permission view of Hally and future of company; Coventry blitz; fruit buying; motor launch trip up the Severn; visit to Melbourne in Derbyshire; remarks on English preference for using military ranks.
- 1/25                      29 July 1946. 30pp. (15 sheets). Rugby. Business; hotels, Mrs. Wilmott's difficulties with rationing; plans for big (export) conference; new supervisor office; many changes of Daimler Staff.
- 1/26                      5 August 1946. Rugby. 32 pp. (16 sheets). Day at the office; test-driving Lancaster; food, lack of sugar; order from Auckland; testing the new Daimler 18hp; hotel situation.
- 1/27                      12 August 1946. 32pp. (11 sheets) Rugby.  
Struggle to get more food, bad meat pies; trip to London to see Sales Director; forced to find new accommodation; arrangements with Board of Trade to leave; Last week Daimler turned out only 9 cars for the whole world!; motoring to Birmingham.
- 1/28                      19-23 August 1946. 34 pp. (18 sheets). Rugby.  
Good new hotel; criticism of bad Mulliner bodies for Daimler cars; exporting buses; new Daimler 1946 for own use; breakthroughs on salary and depot in conference with Hally.
- 1/29                      26 August - 1 September 1946. 24pp. (6 sheets) Coventry.  
Motoring around Coventry; German prisoners-of-war (quarter of a million), working on the land, still in uniforms of sort; visiting works; Daimler secretaries must not know what salaries are.
- 1/30                      2-8 Septemebr 1946. 31 pp. less pp.11-12 missing (8 sheets).  
Coventry. Plans for Melbourne depot; interviews with potential engineering assistant; hunting up relatives around Birmingham; "The Youth of today is not so nearly motor-cycle oriented as the youth of 20 years ago", B.S.A. going downhill.

GROUP 1.CORRESPONDENCE

- 1/31 9-14 September 1946. 28pp. (7 sheets) Coventry. Inspected Milluner car body building works, Lanchester Ten with "all plastics body"; trip to Dagenham; arrangements for trip home; British upset at export priorities; plans for return and depot, company to be set up in Australia.
- 1/32 17 September 1946. 23pp. (11 sheets). Coventry. Plans for journey home, difficulty in getting good berths; visiting, had a "chocolate biscuit"; veteran car rally.
- 1/33 23-28 September 1946. 36pp. (11 sheets). Coventry. Interview for Engineer position in Australia; superannuation arrangements; boat trip home on "Port Wellington"; talks re buses, resumé of trip and the success of his few months; 30 out of 6000 people working for Daimler etc. receive £800 p.a. salary.
- 1/34 30 September - 6 October 1946. 40pp. (12 sheets). Coventry. Arrangements for departure; interviewing applicants for Engineering job; John Boxall chosen for job.
- 1/35 8 October 1946. 7pp. (2 sheets). Coventry/Thames estuary. Leaving Coventry; on board.
- 1/36 23 October 1946. 3pp. (1 sheet) incomplete. At sea.

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- File 1. BSA/Daimler/Fiat.  
1926-1958. Correspondence between Lees and overseas companies.
- File 2. BSA/Daimler: 1938-1957  
Report of Daimler/Lanchester Post-War Export Policy; Advertising brochures for Daimler Buses; Article from 'The Export Trader' - 'Selling in N.Z.', B.S.A. and Subsidiary companies Pension and Life Assurance Scheme; B.S.A. Directors' Report 1957.
- File 3. Testimonials, references, and extracts re good standing of Lees; 1934-1957.
- File 4. Official war correspondence 1940-1962.
- File 5. R.A.A.F.: Correspondence, certificates, RO4 History, War Record of Lees; Standard Notebook for Initial Training Schools.
- File 6. Miscellaneous: includes brochures for Daimler and Royal Tour 1954; Front Page of the Birmingham Mail Armistice Day 1918; other newspaper cuttings; invitations, postcards; Family history of J.T. Lee.
- Envelope - Miscellaneous: circulars, correspondence 1927-1957.
- Envelope - Family correspondence to Mrs. Lee esp. re John Lees' death. 1962-1969.