



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	<b>Hartnett, Sir Laurence John (1898-1986)</b>
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	1986.0184
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Business, individuals
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Company directors Inventors
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1935-1954
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	c. 1.20 metres [8 boxes, 1 x type 2, 1x A3 solander, 1 volume]
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	Born in England in 1898, Sir Laurence served an apprenticeship with Vickers before joining General Motors in India in 1926. He then worked for General Motors in America, Sweden and England before coming to Australia in 1934. As Managing Director of General Motors from 1934 to 1947, Sir Laurence was credited with conceiving the first fully Australian-made and Australian-designed car. He founded the Melbourne-based Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation in 1935 and was its Director until 1947. Sir Laurence Hartnett was also Director of Ordnance Production in the Munitions Department for the duration of World War II, as well as establishing Singapore's munitions industry. Sir Laurence Hartnett was a staunch supporter of Australian manufacturing. He died in 1986.
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	September 1986
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Open
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	General Motor Holden office files; Ordnance Production Directorate office files, reports, photographs and other papers; Army Inventions Directorate office files administration material; Hartnett Motor Co. office files and other papers including wood veneer laminate samples; printed material including publications.
<b>NOTE ON COLLECTIONS</b>	Some of these items may not be available for access.
<b>NOTE ON LISTING</b>	
<b>LISTED BY</b>	Not known

Collection:

Accession:

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<b>DATE</b>
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Not known
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Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 1.	Ordnance Production Directorate office files. All are 1 file unless otherwise stated.	
P134/6	A.F.V. [Army Fighting Vehicles] - A.B.P.3 [Army Bulletproof Plate] plate: copies of out letters, minute papers and memos	1941
/7	A.F.V. - tractors: correspondence, memos, draft cable (out), minute paper, copy of cable (in), note, copy of teleprinter message (in), invoice, photostat of brochure and photo	1940-41
/8	Air gauging - "accuracy with air": correspondence, article and photostat of same, photos and plans	1942-43
/9	Appraisal manufacture military tank questionnaires, design queries: correspondence, minute papers, memos, notes and organization chart	1940-41
/10	Armoured fighting vehicles: minute paper, memos, photostat of article, organization charts, notes, plan and newspaper cuttings	1940-41

Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 1 contd.	Bibliographies: empty file	
P134/11	British supply mission report (Sir Alexander Roger): reports	1941
/12	Cables - optical: copy of teleprinter message (in), memo and draft cables (out)	1940-41
/13	Chamberlain, A.H.: correspondence, memos, minutes (copy) of meeting, notes, photostat of a newspaper cutting, reprint of article, copy of cable (out) and minute paper	1940-42
/14-15	Correspondence (miscellaneous): correspondence, memos, minute papers, notes, tables of figures, telegram (in), routing slip, photostats of diagram of gun positions, grinding room loads and article, photos and printed material  2 files	1940-44
	P134/1 - 15 in 1 box	
BOX 2. /16	Dannert and Barblock wire: copies of out letters, reports and notes	1940; 1942
/17	[Deleading petrol]: correspondence and report	1943-44
/18	Re designing of sub machine gun equivalent of U.S. carbine: copies of out letters	1943
/19	D3 and D8 cable - India: copies of cablegrams (in and out), copies of teleprinter messages (in and out), memo, minute papers and in letter	1940-41
/20	Enquiry on tanks - mortars and 25 pounder: memos, minute paper, copy of in letter and copy of telegram (out)	1941
/21	Field telephone cable: in letter, memo, minute paper and notes	1941

Location No.	Description	Date Range
Box 2 contd.	P134/22-23 Glass limit gauges: memos, proceedings of a meeting and a conference, copy of a cablegram (in), photos and photostats of plans 2 files	1943
	/24 Hydrosurfer (water craft): correspondence and routing slip	1943
	/25 Machine tools: correspondence, memo, copy of cable (in), copies of telegrams (in and out), summaries, minute paper, notes and photostat of article	1940-44
	/26 Munitions productions programme: copies of in and out letters, notes, chart and printed material	1940
	/27-28 Optical glass: copies of cablegrams and teleprinter messages (in and out), letters in, notes and memos	1940-44
	/29 Optical glass manufacture - technical men abroad: correspondence, memos, minute paper, copies of cablegrams (in and out), copy of teleprinter message (out), telegrams (in) and copies of telegrams (out)	1940-41; 1943
	/30 [Optical munitions]: correspondence, memos, copies of telegrams (out), notes on a meeting and minute papers	1940-41
	/31 Optical munitions (local manufacture): correspondence, minutes (copies) of meetings, reports, articles, telegram (in), copy of cablegram (in), minute papers, copies of telegrams (in and out) and notes	1940-44
	P134/16 - 31 in 1 box	
BOX 3.	/32 OS28 [torpedo] reports: memos, reports, copy of out letter, copy of cablegram (in) and notes	1942-43

Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 3. contd.	P134/33-34 Polsten 20 mm gun: correspondence, minute papers, copies of cablegrams (in), copies of telegrams (out), report, memos and minutes (copy) of meeting 2 files	1942-44
	/35 Procurement of spare parts for motor vehicles in Australia: correspondence, minute papers, copy of teleprinter message (out) and notes	1942-43
	/36 R.D.F. [Range Direction Finder]: correspondence, report, copy of telegram (out), minute paper, memos, notes and copy of cablegram (in)	1940
	/37 Refrigeration manufacture: correspondence, memos, minute papers, tables, conference agenda, copies of telegrams (out and in) and tables	1942-43
	/38 Report of investigations in America relating to design and production of army tanks by Alan H. Chamberlain: report	1941
	/39 Samples of forms as used by Ordnance Production Directorate: forms and photo of a form	n.d.
	/40 Speeds and feeds for milling machines: summary and tables	1941
	/41 Sub-machine gun: correspondence, minute papers, receipt, memos and notes	1941-43
	/42 Tank engines: minute paper, memo, copies of cablegrams (in and out) and minutes (copy) of a meeting	1941
	/43 Tanks - Cadillac engines: correspondence, minute papers, memos and copies of cablegrams (in and out)	1940-42
	/44 Tanks - miscellaneous correspondence: correspondence, memos, minute papers, notes, copy of cablegram (out), copy of telegram (out), questionnaire and photo	1940-44

Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 3. contd.		
P134/45	Tropic proofing: minute paper, memo and notes	1944
/46	Twenty five pounders [guns]: correspondence, minute papers, telegram (in), copy of telegram (out), tables, report, memos, draft of cablegram (out), notes, photostat of chart and a newspaper cutting	1940-44
/47	Two-pounder gun adaptation for anti-aircraft: correspondence, memos, minute paper, telegram (in) and notes	1941-42
/48	Two-pounder/six pounder A.T. [Anti-tank] gun: correspondence, minute papers, memos, record of telephone message, copy of telegram (in), copies of cablegrams (in and out), photostats of production schedules, tables, minutes (copy) of meeting, notes and newspaper cutting	1941-43
/49	War Cabinet (memoranda): correspondence, agenda, organization chart and newspaper cutting	1942
	P134/32 - 49 in 1 box	
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BOX 4.	Reports	
/50	Interim report to army new munitions committee on progress with investigation into methods of dropping supplies of S.A.A. [small arms ammunition] from aircraft	1943
/51	Reports by L.J. Hartnett on recent developments in the U.K. and U.S.A. with new and existing equipment; damage caused to internal combustion engines in U.K. by use of 80 octane high lead content fuel. Contains photos	1943

Location No.	Description	Date Range
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BOX 4  
contd.

P134/52	A series of reports dealing primarily with the standard of aircraft design and development achieved by the Japanese aircraft industry	1946
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/53	Typescript notes on an appreciation of the possibility of an invasion of the Australian mainland 1 item	1942
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/54	Photostat brochure on twenty mm. H.B. Mk I [Haszard Baird Mark I] mobile mounting. Includes photos 1 item	1944
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/55	Typescript notes on and illustrations of examples of technique employed in the manufacture of 18" MK VIII torpedo components 1 item	1944
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/56	Department of Munitions and Department of Supply and Development administrative manual 1 item	1942
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P134/50 - 56 in 1 box

[volume - separate item] /57	Ministry of Munitions review of performance of the Ordnance Production Directorate 1 item	1944
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Photographs  
All are 1 item unless otherwise stated

BOX 6. /58	Australian tanks 1 album	1939-40
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/59	Bren gun carriers 1 album	1941; n.d.
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## SHELF LIST

Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 7. P134/60	Manufacture of magazine 30 rounds Polsten, Vol. I 1 album	n.d.
/61	Manufacture of magazine 30 rounds Polsten, Vol. II 1 album	n.d.
BOX 5. /62	Operations of tanks and anti-tank guns 1 album	1939
BOX 6. /63	Optical 1 album	n.d.
BOX 5. /64	[Pontoon. manufacture] 1 album	1942
/65	Signal pistol 1 album	n.d.
/66	Trench mortars waiting for proofing	1944?
/67	Military inspector examining finished Vickers guns at a small arms factory in N.S.W.	n.d.
/68	Machine room in a small arms factory	n.d. 1964
/69-76	Guns 8 items	n.d.
/77-81	Triple Polsten [gun] on Bofors mobile platform 5 items	n.d.
/82-85	Guns 4 items	n.d.
BOX 6. /86	Six pounder anti tank gun 1 album	n.d.
/87	Twenty five pounder [gun] 1 album	1941?
/88	Two pounder anti-tank gun 1 album	1940?
BOX 7. /89	Unpublished photograph of Winston Churchill getting out of a Churchill tank at Vauxhall Motors, Luton	1943
BOX 5. /90-103	Two pound anti-tank gun manufacture 14 items	n.d.

## SHELF LIST

	Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 5. contd.	P134/104-109	Pontoon manufacture 6 items	n.d.
	/110-123B	Six pounder anti-tank gun manufacture 16 items	1943; n.d.
BOX 7.	/124-140	Twenty five pound gun manufacture 17 items	1942; n.d.
	/141-165	Ship and boat building 25 items	1942; n.d.
	/166-180	Aircraft manufacture 15 items	1940; n.d.
	/181-185	Australian Bren gun carrier production 5 items	n.d.
	/186-201	Ammunition production 16 items	1941-42
	/202-203	Two thousand ton press at Port Kembla 2 items	1942
	<sup>4</sup> /204-209	OS 28 [torpedo] manufacture 6 items	n.d.
	/210-217A	Terrapin [amphibian vehicle] 16 items	1943; n.d.
	/218-220	Aquachita [amphibian vehicle] 3 items	n.d.
	/221	Ford Ford amphibian	n.d.
	/222-226	Optical glass manufacture and use 5 items	1942?; n.d.
	/227-227A	Optical annexe, University of Tasmania (and copy) 2 items	n.d.
	/228-232	Aeropac containers 6 items	1943; n.d.
	/233-234A	Parachute droppings 4 items	1943; n.d.
	/235	Aircraft factory in the U.S.A.	1943
/236-238	Height & range finder 3 items	1942; n.d.	

Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 7. contd.	P134/239-243 A75 gun 5 items	n.d.
	/244-248 G6 gun 5 items	n.d.
	/249-251 Machine tools 3 items	1942; n.d.
	/252-254 Trailers 3 items	n.d.
	/255 Tank transporter	n.d.
	/256 Water carrier unit	n.d.
	/257 R.A.A.F. all purpose waggon	n.d.
	/258 R.A.A.F. fuel tank tender	n.d.
	/259 1940 model Chevrolet sedan U.S.A. army cars	n.d.
	/260 Chevrolet army truck	n.d.
	/261 Chevrolet army truck - general purposes	n.d.
	/262 1941 Chevrolet passenger army coupe utility	n.d.
	/263 Portable surgery trailer unit	n.d.
	/264 Chevrolet 3 ton gun tractor	n.d.
	/265 Chevrolet mobile workshop	n.d.
	/266 Bedford fire tender, R.A.A.F.	n.d.
	/267 Bedford anti-aircraft tractor	n.d.
	/268 Chevrolet maple leaf stores lorry	n.d.
	/269 Chevrolet maple leaf tipper body	n.d.
	/270 Snort, a cut down 25 pounder gun	n.d.
	/271 Generating set trailer	n.d.
	/272-274 Tanks 3 items	n.d.
	/275 Allison engine overhaul plant, Brisbane	n.d.

Location No.	Description	Date Range	
BOX 7. contd.	P134/276	Allison engine	n.d.
	/277	Cool room	n.d.
	/278	Grinding the jacket for the 3.7 inch anti-aircraft gun	n.d.
	/279	General view of chassis waiting on fitment of ordnance	n.d.
	/280	Wireless tender	n.d.
	/281	Barge	n.d.
	/282	Tropic proofed dial sight assembly	n.d.
	/283	Aero wing, Perth	n.d.
	/284	Seventeen pounder gun being fired	n.d.
	/285	English example of a gun	n.d.
	/286	Sharpening and finishing broach with a cocking length hole, 57 m.m anti-tank gun breech block	n.d.
	/287	J. Crowe (67), retired copper- smith volunteered to return to work in war effort	n.d.
	/288	Power press manufacturing department of a works assisting in Australia's gigantic munitions drive	n.d.
	/289	Intrascopie inspection of bore of 20 m.m. barrels	n.d.
	/290	Bill Lang, 36, re-operating barrel piercing tool used for piercing gun barrels	n.d.
	/291	Air gauges display in Britain	1943
	/292	Diesel engine	n.d.
	/293	Pistol grip firing gear, sight, shoulder pad, ordnance locking and trail spreader mechanism of O.Q.F. Mark IX A and Mark XA on carriage light 2-pounder	n.d.

Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 7 contd.	P134/294 Australian pattern "Sten" sub machine gun with butt extended	n.d.
	/295 Sir Laurence Hartnett and an unidentified man	n.d.
	/296 Six pounder recuperator assemblies	n.d.
	/297 Mrs H.H. Dutton standing beside lathe made by her father's firm	n.d.
	/298 Machine shaping a breech ring of an anti-tank gun	n.d.
	/299-312 Guns 18 items	n.d.
	/313 Display of war materials	n.d.
	/314 Interior of factory?	n.d.
	/315 Interior of factory	n.d.
	/316 Man at a machine	n.d.
	/317-318 Machines 2 items	n.d.
	/319 Men handling equipment	n.d.
	/320 Man driving a trailer of equipment	n.d.
	/321 Group of people around a machine	n.d.
	/321-321D Bug for transporting Polsten mobile mounting 5 items	n.d.
	/322 Polsten gun and mountings	n.d.
	/323 Rear view of gun, trail complete, legs spread, spades in firing positions	n.d.
	/324 Men assembling rocker arms and camshafts	n.d.
	/325 Boxes of food? and bundles	n.d.
	/326 Army staff car with passengers	n.d.
	/327 Unidentified man at desk	n.d.

SHELF LIST

	Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 5.	P134/328	View from Sir Laurence Hartnett's home	n.d.
	/329-333	Sketches of Australian made torpedoes and Beaufort bombers 4 X5 items	n.d.
	/334-334B	Photostat of chart of procurement procedure for machine tools and small tools, and 2 copies 3 items	1942
BOX 7.	/335	Organization chart 1 item	n.d.

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Army Inventions Directorate office files.

All are 1 file unless otherwise stated.

/339

Correspondence: correspondence,  
extract from agenda paper,  
resume, cipher messages, article,  
notes and printed material  
(reports)

1945-46

/340

End of hostilities awards:  
correspondence, memos, minute  
papers, army forms, telegram  
(in) and newspaper cutting

1945-46

Location No.	Description	Date Range	
BOX 8. contd.	P134/341	History, activities and future of Army Inventions Directorate: correspondence, minute paper, minutes (copy) of conference, memos, report, cipher message, agenda and organization chart	1942-45
	/342	Inventions of possible interest: blueprints	n.d.
	/343-344	Minutes: minutes, report, agendas and in letters 2 files	1942-46
	/345	[National Inventors' Council]: circular, report and notes	1943
	/346	Overseas liason reports: reports and in letter	1943-45
	/347	Patents and national defence, U.S.A.: In letters, and articles	1941
	/348	Rota-buggy, "Skywards": correspondence and notes  P134/338 - 348 in 1 box	1943
BOX 9.	/349	Report on A.I.D. muzzle velocity meter	1946
		Hartnett Motor Co. Ltd office files. All are 1 file unless otherwise stated	
	P134/350	Assembly: operation sheets	n.d.
	/351	Comeng: notes, statement, draft letter (out) and copies of telegrams (in and out)	1952-54
	/352	Commonwealth statistics: printed and roneoed serials and pamphlets	1946-48
	/353	Distribution - circular letters: copies of out letters	1951



Location No.	Description	Date Range
BOX 9. contd. P134/354	Drawings: correspondence, memos, copies of cablegrams (out) and lists	1949-52
/355	[Minutes of progress meetings]: minutes and agendas	1950
/356	Petrol: copies of out letters, licences, registration and insurance certificates and receipts	1948-51
/357	[Overseas Corporation (Australia) Pty Ltd]: copies of cablegrams (in and out) 1 file	1945-46
/358	[Riverhart Ltd]: copies of out letters and notes 1 file	1949
/359	[Compagnie Faces - Metallion]: In letters and photos 1 file	1948
/360	[Scribal Pty Ltd]: agreement 1 file	1949
/361	Case of wood veneer laminate samples 1 item	n.d.

## BOX 10.

	Printed material	
/362	Book, <i>Big Wheels and Little Wheels</i> by Sir Laurence Hartnett, Melbourne, 1973 1 item	
	P134/349 - 362 in 1 box	
/363-363B	Books, <i>War Record</i> by General Motors- Holden's Ltd, Public Relations Division, n.p., 1946 3 items	

Location No.	Description	Date Range
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BOX 10.  
contd.

P134/364	Pamphlet, <i>A Military Iron Ration</i> , prepared by MacRobertson Pty Ltd, Melbourne, 1942 1 item	
/365	Pamphlet, <i>Rules and by-laws</i> of the Agricultural Engineers Association, England, 1941 1 item	
/366-366A	John Lysaght (Australia) Ltd brochure on expanded metal meshes, 1964 (and copy) 2 items	
/367	D. Richardson & Sons Pty Ltd brochure on perforated metals, 1964 1 item	
/368	Aluminium Extrusions Pty Ltd pricing and data manual, 1963 1 item	
P134/363 - 368 in 1 box		

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Photostats

/369-369B	<i>Bausch &amp; Lomb</i> , article on optical instruments (and 2 copies), n.d. 3 items	
/370-370D	<i>Tanks</i> , article from <i>Fortune</i> , September, 1930 (and 4 copies) 5 items	

BOX 5.

/371	<i>How are we doing in defence</i> , article, 1942 1 item	
/372	<i>Mr Jones goes in for guns</i> , article, n.d. 1 item	

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