

1975.0079 PAPERS OF JOHN LEES 1926-1969

<b>Creator</b>	Lees, John
<b>Creator's Activity/Occupation</b>	Airforce officers
<b>Biography:</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>Reference Number</b>	1975.0079
<b>Collection/Series Title</b>	PAPERS OF JOHN LEES
<b>Date Range of Collection/Series</b>	1926-1969
<b>Size/Extent</b>	3 boxes (0.36m)
<b>Access Conditions</b>	Access: Open

**Scope and Content of Series**

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.

**Archival History**

Typescript list converted to item data by Christine Elias November 2019.

This list created 6 January 2020

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<b>To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.</b>				
Unit/Box	Item number	Title	Date range	Description
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00001	Correspondence	1942	Brisbane, arrived Brisbane, ... chock full of humanity, 23 October 1942. Previous Control Number: 1/1
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00002	Correspondence	1942	Brisbane, visiting friends before going to Townsville, 25 October 1942. Previous Control Number: 1/2
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00003	Correspondence	1945	Brisbane, en route to Manila for conference, 30 May 1945. Previous Control Number: 1/3
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00004	Correspondence	1945	En route to Manila, details of procedures and flight from Brisbane via Townsville, Lae, Finschhafen and Biak with United States Air Force, 30 May - 1 June 1945. Previous Control Number: 1/4
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00005	Correspondence	1945	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 - 3 June 1945. Previous Control Number: 1/5
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00006	Correspondence	1945	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, 6 - 8 June 1945. Previous Control Number: 1/6
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00007	Correspondence	1945	Manila, Morotai, trading in cigarettes and underwear, buying stamps, details of return trip and beach-head at Morotai, 8 - 12 June 1945. Previous Control Number: 1/7

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1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00008	Correspondence	1946	En route Melbourne to England on board Rimutaka, details of passengers, ... have worn my dinner dress several times .... It is saving my other suits and I feel more at ease in the company of those who have dressed for dinner, the Newalls (the unemployed Governor General and his wife from NZ) were most cordially disliked by New Zealanders and 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, c. 9 - 16 May 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/8
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00009	Correspondence	1946	En route, London, further details of passengers, voyage, 18 - 22 May 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/9
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00010	Correspondence	1946	En route, London, further details of passengers, voyage, 27 May - 2 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/10
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00011	Correspondence	1946	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, 3 - 5 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/11
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00012	Correspondence	1946	London, details regarding bomb damage, food, theatre, etc., 5 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/12
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00013	Correspondence	1946	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 Britain's millions and the Empire's thousands, gathered together - beneath the towering sides of Big Ben to celebrate the Empire's deliverance and great victory, 6 - 8 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/13

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1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00014	Correspondence	1946	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, 10 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/14
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00015	Correspondence	1946	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 shops were unharmed, ... At present I have orders on the works for cars and buses to the total value of 113,200 pounds sterling. Unfortunately there seems no hope at all of the lot being shipped this year, 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 and 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, 10 - 13 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/15
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00016	Correspondence	1946	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, 14 - 16 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/16
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00017	Correspondence	1946	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, 18 - 21 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/17

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1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00018	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, details on Daimler's war-time production, staff acquired from Leyland, proposal for a Daimler service depot in Melbourne, 21 - 26 June 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/18
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00019	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, car shortage at Daimler works, import 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 Birmingham Small Arms (BSA) company policies, 27 June - 1 July 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/19
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00020	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, 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, incomplete, 2 July 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/20
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00021	Correspondence	1946	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, 5 July 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/21
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00022	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, 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, 9 July 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/22
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00023	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, concern over Sydney or Melbourne as site for proposed depot (Sydney buses), difficulties with seeing business associates and tactics concerning the deal, 15 - 20 July 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/23
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00024	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, 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, 21 - 28 July 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/24

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1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00025	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, Business, hotels, Mrs Wilmott's difficulties with rationing, plans for big (export) conference, new supervisor office, many changes of Daimler Staff, 29 July 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/25
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00026	Correspondence	1946	Rugby, day at the office, test-driving Lancaster, food, lack of sugar, order from Auckland, testing the new Daimler 18hp, hotel situation, 5 August 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/26
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00027	Correspondence	1946	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, 12 August 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/27
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00028	Correspondence	1946	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, 19 - 23 August 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/28
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00029	Correspondence	1946	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, 26 August - 1 September 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/29
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00030	Correspondence	1946	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, Birmingham Small Arms going downhill, 2 - 8 September 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/30
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00031	Correspondence	1946	Coventry, inspected Mulliner car body building works, Lanchester 10 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, 9 - 14 September 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/31

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1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00032	Correspondence	1946	Coventry, plans for journey home, difficulty in getting good berths, visiting, had a chocolate biscuit, veteran car rally, 17 September 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/32
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00033	Correspondence	1946	Coventry, interview for Engineer position in Australia, superannuation arrangements, boat trip home on Port Wellington, talks regarding buses, resume of trip and the success of his few months, 30 out of 6000 people working for Daimler etc. receive £800 per annum salary, 23 - 28 September 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/33
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00034	Correspondence	1946	Coventry, arrangements for departure, interviewing applicants for Engineering job, John Boxall chosen for job, 30 September - 6 October 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/34
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00035	Correspondence	1946	Coventry/Thames estuary, leaving Coventry, on board, 8 October 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/35
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00036	Correspondence	1946	At sea, incomplete, 23 October 1946. Previous Control Number: 1/36
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00037	File 1	1926-1958	Birmingham Small Arms / Daimler / Fiat, correspondence between Lees and overseas companies, 1926-1958.
1975.0079 Unit 1	1975.0079.00038	File 2	1938-1957	Birmingham Small Arms / Daimler, 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, 1938 - 1957.
1975.0079 Unit 2	1975.0079.00039	File 3	1934-1957	Testimonials, references, and extracts regarding good standing of Lees, 1934-1957.
1975.0079 Unit 2	1975.0079.00040	File 4	1940-1962	Official war correspondence, 1940 - 1962.
1975.0079 Unit 2	1975.0079.00041	File 5	Undated	R.A.A.F. Correspondence; certificates; R04 History, War Record of Lees; Standard Notebook for Initial Training Schools.

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1975.0079 Unit 2	1975.0079.00042	File 6	1918-1969	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 JT Lee; Envelope - Miscellaneous: circulars, correspondence 1927-1957; Envelope - Family correspondence to Mrs Lee especially regarding John Lees death, 1962-1969.
1975.0079 Unit 3	1975.0079.00043	Unlisted material	Undated	Material which has yet to be sorted and listed: Accounts; Photographs

**End of list**