

ARMY MUSEUM OF TASMANIA

Collection Guide – AMT 8

Major George Cochrane Collection

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1. INTRODUCTION

George Alexander Cochrane (17504) was born at Hughenden, Queensland March 1st 1913, He had enlisted with the Australian Army by December 1939 and held the rank of Sergeant when he attended the Rifle Training Course at Enoggera that month. He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 in March 1940 and was serving with the 9th Battalion when he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 in March 1941.

Soon after arriving in New Guinea with the 9th Battalion he was promoted to Lieutenant on the 25th September, 1942 and appointed to the position of Adjutant. In March 1943 he was appointed to the position of Acting Captain. During his first tour of service in New Guinea between August 1942 and November 1943 he served at Milne Bay and Port Moresby.

A second tour of duty in New Guinea was to extend from August 1944 until April 1946. During this tour of service, he was stationed at Madang, Bougainville, and Fauro Island.

In 1949 he was promoted to Captain and over the following year attended a number of training courses in Britain before being promoted to Major in 1951.

He served with the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in Korea during 1952, returning to Brisbane where he was based until 1957 when he was appointed Commanding Officer of the 18th National Service Training Company, Brighton, Tasmania. He held this position until his retirement from the Army in March 1960.

2. CHRONOLOGY – George Cochrane

1913 (1st March) Born Hughenden, Queensland

1939 (Dec) Attended No. 4 Infantry (Rifle Training) Course of Instruction, Enoggera (Sergeant)

1940 (31st March) Appointed Warrant Officer Class 2

1941 (25th July) Attended Instructional Staff No.1 N.C.O.'s School, Enoggera, Brisbane, (W.O. 2)

1942 (27th March) Appointed Warrant Officer Class 1

1942 (8th August) Commenced first tour of service in New Guinea at Milne Bay and Port Moresby

1942 (25th Sept) Promoted Lieutenant

1942 (6th Oct) Appointed Adjutant 9th Battalion

1943 (12th March) Promoted Temporary Captain

1943 (18th Nov) Returned to Australia from New Guinea

1944 (20th June) Graduated First Australian Army Junior Staff School War Course IX, Brisbane (Captain, 9th Battalion)

1944 (14th August) Commenced second tour of New Guinea at Madang, Bougainville and Fauro Island

1946 (7th April) Returned to Australia from New Guinea

1949 (1st July) Promoted Captain Australian Staff Corps

1949 (Dec) Attended PW. 116 Course, School of Infantry (PI Weapons Wing), Hythe, Britain

1950 (August) School of Infantry – Tactical Wing. Company Commanders Course No. 68/50 6th June – 4th August 1950, United Kingdom (Captain)

1951 (1st July) Promoted Major Australian Staff Corps

1954 (2nd Feb) Served in Korea with 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment until November 14th

1957 (November) Appointed Commanding Officer 18 National Service Training Company, Brighton

1960 (2nd March) Placed on Retired List

3. PAPERS – George Alexander Cochrane

3/1 Papers related to service in Australian Army including: -

- Certificate Course of Instruction No 4 Infantry (Rifle Wing) (Sergeant)
- Certificate graduating from First Australian Army Junior Staff School, 20th June 1944
- Personal Particulars 4th Battalion RAR
- Invitation and associate ephemera to Inspection and Passing-Out Parade of National Servicemen, 18 National Service Training Company, 29th November 1959
- Discharge Procedure Form 1st March 1960
- Extract C of Gazette No. 29/60 placement on Retired List
- References from S J Wright, AMP Society, Hobart, Dr Roger Connolly, Merlyn Holly, Hobart Baptist Church following retirement.

4. PHOTOGRAPHS

4/1 Photographs including: -

- Instructional Staff No. 1 N.C.O.'s School, Enoggera, Queensland 25th July 1941
- First Australian Army Junior Staff School, War Course IX, Brisbane
- Four photographs New Guinea
- Officers P.W.116 Course School of Infantry (Pl. Weapons Wing) Hythe 26th Oct – 22nd Dec, 1949. (Captain)
- School of Infantry – Tactical Wing. Company Commanders Course No. 68/50 6th June – 4th August, 1950 (Captain)
- With Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and guard of honour 1957
- Passing out parade Brighton Camp November 1958
- 18 National Service Training Company Staff, Brighton, 7th March 1959

5. PRINTED MATERIAL

- Programme for the Visit to Australia of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, 3rd February to 1st April 1954
- The Visit to Queensland of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, Tuesday 9th March to Thursday 18th March, 1954, Transport Arrangements
- Program Presentation of Queens and Regimental Colours, 1st Battalion The Royal Tasmanian Regiment 2nd March 1968
- Northern Command Military Custom An Officer's Guide signed Cochrane May 1956