

P1078 Photographs and Papers of Donald James Mackay
RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	GB1741/P1078
Alternative reference number:	-
Title:	Photographs and Papers of Donald James Mackay
Dates of creation:	1895-c.1953
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	1 box
Format:	Photograph, paper, textile

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:	Donald James Mackay
Administrative history:	Donald James Mackay was born and raised in Thurso, Caithness.

Donald had a keen interest in football, playing for local Thurso Football Team 'The Swifts', of which his father James G. Mackay was President. Donald retained a 'Swifts' tie from his own playing days.

After his military service Donald played trombone with Thurso Town Band. Donald always signed his name D.J. Mackay.

Donald retained many photographs of his extensive Naval service during World War Two and through them and the names of the ships it is possible to ascertain some of his naval service history.

Donald's initial training began with a 10 week training course at H.M.S. Collingwood in Fareham, Hampshire. The base was built specifically to train Naval ratings for 'hostilities only', that is the duration of war only.

H.M.S Erebus was Donald's first posting after leaving H.M.S Collingwood. Serving as part of the Eastern Fleet and the Pacific Fleet the

ship was involved in various operations. A monitor class of ship, Erebus was a smaller warship with shallow draught to allow operations close to shore. Armed with large calibre 15inch guns they provided coastal bombardment for land operations including the D Day landings on 6 Jun 1944 and against the defenders of the harbour of Le Havre on 10 Aug 1944

Donalds next posting was to serve onboard H.M.S Chaser, an Attacker class Escort aircraft Carrier which was transferred to the Royal Navy from the US Navy in April 1943. She served to protect the Russian convoy trade route before being allocated to the British Pacific Fleet. H.M.S Chaser served as a replenishment carrier supporting frontline aircraft carriers with supplies, replacement aircraft and ammunition while at sea. Departing Glasow in January 1945 she sailed through the Suez Canal, arriving in Australia in June 1945 where her pennant number was changed to R306 signifying Pacific operations.

The ship was in the Pacific when the Japanese surrendered on 2 Sep 1945 and involved in transporting allied prisoners of war back home.

On leaving the Royal Navy Donald married and settled in Thurso, working in the wages office in Dounreay. Later Donald changed work, moving to the Superannuation Office in Tollemache House in Thurso, before retiring.

Custodial history:

Deposited by Donald's family

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description:

Papers and photographs relating to Naval service in World War Two, including the Japanese surrender on 2 Sep 1945. Salvation Army band photographs and football memorabilia

Appraisal:

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Accruals: -

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: Open

Closed until: -

Access conditions: Available within the archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available within the archive searchroom and [online](#)

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material: -

Publication: -

Notes: -

Date of catalogue: Jun 2025

Ref.	Description	Dates
P1078	Photographs and Papers of Donald James Mackay	1895-c.1953
P1078/1	Photographs	c.1935-1950
P1078/1/1	World War Two	c.1943-1946
P1078/1/1/1	Black and white photograph of trainees at H.M.S Collingwood (1 item)	c.1943
P1078/1/1/2	Black and white landscape photographs of Port Said at the northern end of the Suez Canal. Central statue is of Ferdinand De Lesseps who engineered the construction of the canal (2 items)	c.1943
P1078/1/1/3	Black and white landscape photograph of a lighthouse on a quay. Stamped Colombo (1 item)	c.1943
P1078/1/1/4	Black and white photograph of Folkestone harbour with aircraft waiting to be loaded aboard an aircraft carrier (1 item)	c.1943
P1078/1/1/5	Black and white portrait image taken after the bombardment of Hong Kong (1 item)	Sep 1945

P1078/1/1/6	Black and white landscape photograph overlooking Hong Kong harbour (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/7	Black and white landscape photograph of a Spitfire on flight deck with its roundel on the side (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/8	Black and white landscape photograph of large building on a waterfront, appears to be painted camouflage (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/9	Black and white landscape photograph of three ships, taken from the deck of an aircraft carrier (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/10	Black and white landscape photograph of a military ship with a mountain in the background (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/11	Illustrated postcard detailing by date, H.M.S Chaser Mediterranean campaign (1 item)	1945-1946
P1078/1/1/12	Black and white landscape photograph of a Spitfire crash upon its landing on an aircraft carrier (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/13	Black and white landscape photograph of a naval ship (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/14	Black and white landscape photographs of a busy harbour quay (2 items)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/15	Black and white landscape photograph of aircraft landing on an aircraft carrier (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/16	Black and white landscape photograph of uniformed officers and crew gathered in ranks on deck receiving an announcement (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/17	Black and white landscape photograph taken of passing vessels from the bridge of an aircraft carrier (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/18	Black and white landscape photograph of aircraft carrier crews living quarters, below the flight deck (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/19	Black and white photographs of officers and camera man, includes a copy of the Instrument of Surrender of Japanese Forces (3 items)	16 Sep 1945- Nov 1945
P1078/1/1/20	Black and white photographs of Hong Kong street scenes (3 items)	Sep 1945
P1078/1/1/21	Black and white photograph of Hong Kong street with bomb damage on the right (1 item)	Sep 1945

P1078/1/1/22	Black and white landscape photographs of uniformed officers and crew gathered on deck of HMS. Chaser for an armistice day service Hong Kong (4 items)	Nov 1945
P1078/1/1/23	Group photograph of H.M.S. Chaser crew. British Pacific Fleet (2 items)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/24	Black and white photographs of Officers and crew receiving the armistice day service on board ship and group photographs of officers of the Allied Forces standing alongside Japanese Officers (8 items)	Nov 1945
P1078/1/1/25	Black and white photograph of rear view from the flight deck of aircraft carrier showing other vessels (2 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/26	Black and white photograph taken from rear of the ship showing the Oerlikon gun crews. Wording on reverse reads "HMS. Erebus near miss from German 7.5 Battery. Le Havre." (1 item)	10 Sep 1944
P1078/1/1/27	Group photograph of a crew, writing in the reverse reads "Rusty, Hopley, Slinger, Boots, Shiner, Lewis, Dodger, Tom, 2 Pom Pom's Crew" (1 item)	10 Sep 1944
P1078/1/1/28	Black and white photograph of a Minesweeper detonating mine (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/29	Group photograph, wording on reverse reads "Officers of 'Erebus'. "The officer in Army uniform is the Bombardment Liaison Officer" (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/30 c.1930	Black and white image of H.M.S Erebus at sea(1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/31	Black and white photograph H.M.S Erebus bombarding Le Havre (1 item)	10 Sep 1944
P1078/1/1/32	Black and white photograph of Courseulles Beach, Normandy. Wording on reverse reads 'This is where we used to land while going on shore leave. The pile of rubbish on the left is a LCP [Landing Craft Personnel]. Lit by shellfire while landing troops. In the background is the Gooseberry which is a line of sunken ships used as a breakwater for Landing Craft landing troops and supplies' (1 item)	Aug 1944
P1078/1/1/33	Black and white photograph of a German Blockhouse on the beaches at Courseulles, Normandy (1 item)	Aug 1944

P1078/1/1/34	Black and white photograph of Courseulles after Naval bombardment (1 item)	Aug 1944
P1078/1/1/35	Black and white image of a couple standing in front of a bombed area. Wording on the reverse of the photograph reads 'Courseulles [Courseulles], This is a Jerry strongpoint after it was hit by a 15' shell from our guns' (1 item)	Aug 1944
P1078/1/1/36	Black and white photograph of H.M.S Chaser leaving Sydney for Scotland (3 items) [H.M.S Chaser was an escort aircraft carrier used to protect merchant convoys and provide air support and supplies to other aircraft carriers and ground forces]	29 Jan 1945
P1078/1/1/37	Black and white portrait photograph of H.M.S Chaser emblem of a greyhound in a circular shield and their motto 'Venando Victor' [Victorious by chasing] (1 item)	c. 1944
P1078/1/1/38	Black and white photograph of aircraft carrier leaving Sydney with the words 'Farewell Sydney' printed on the front (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/39	Black and white photograph of three unidentified sailors in working uniform (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/40	Black and white image of the waterfront at Pyrmont, Sydney (2 items)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/41	Black and white photograph of escort tug alongside H.M.S Chaser (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/42	Black and white cardboard photograph of Hyde Park, Sydney (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/43	Black and white aerial photograph of H.M.S Chaser (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/44	Black and white photograph of H.M.S Chaser with the pennant number A727 visible on the side while the ship was acting as replenishment carrier supporting the Pacific Fleet (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/45	Black and white image of crew in uniform on deck of H.M.S Chaser. Bugle player and Officer with sword visible (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/46	Black and white photograph of crew on deck playing football (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/47	Black and white landscape photograph taken from a beach with palm trees. H.M.S Chaser moored offshore (1 item)	c.1944

P1078/1/1/48	Black and white landscape photograph taken from aircraft carrier deck showing another vessel against the sunset (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/49	Black and white photographs taken from a beach. Shows large group of servicemen going towards a building with a sign 'Duffys Tavern' (2 items)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/50	Black and white photograph of crew members below deck having a meal with beer (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/51	Black and white photograph of H.M.S Chaser moored at a dock with crew members boarding from a small boat. The ship bore the pennant number R306 from when it joined the 30 th Aircraft Carrier Squadron [30 ACS](1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/52	Black and white photograph of an aircraft getting ready to take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/53	Black and white photograph of Corregidor Island in the Philippines (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/54	Black and white photograph Three sailors cleaning rifles with a mountainous backdrop (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/55	Black and white photograph of an Asian junk at sea (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/56	Black and white photograph of a bay surrounded by mountains with large number of military ships docked (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/57	Black and white image of a mountainous coastline taken from onboard a ship. Close up of bombed buildings and a sunken ship (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/58	Black and white image of a mountainous coastline taken from on board a ship (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/59	Black and white image of the approach to a bay with two naval ships in view (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/60	Black and white image of gun being fired from naval ship (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/61	Black and white images of Bataan taken from the sea (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/62	Black and white images of Leyte taken from the sea (1 item)	c.1944

P1078/1/1/63	Black and white images of small local boats below the naval ship selling goods (2 items)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/64	Four black and white photographs of small local Asian boats approaching the aircraft carrier to trade (4 items)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/65	Black and white photograph taken from underneath the flight deck of an aircraft carrier showing naval ships in the distance (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/66	Black and white photograph of coastal area with buildings visible up into the surrounding hills (1 item)	c.1944
P1078/1/1/67	Black and white photograph of a theatrical production cast on stage (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/1/1/68	Black and white photograph of unknown Gentleman astride a horse. Photograph developed in Tamworth, Staffordshire (1 item)	c.1940
P1078/1/1/69	Black and white photograph of gentleman in Australian military uniform standing with a woman and a child. Photograph developed in Tamworth, Staffordshire (1 item)	c.1940
P1078/1/1/70	Black and white photograph of fishing boats landing their catch at Thurso harbour (1 item)	c.1940
P1078/1/1/71	Small black and white photograph of a town and surrounding countryside. Location unknown (1 item)	c.1940
P1078/1/1/72	Black and white portrait photograph of Donald wearing his Thurso Town Band uniform (1 item) [original digital image also available]	c.1953
P1078/1/2	Thurso Harbour	c.1950
P1078/1/2/1	Small black and white photographs of fishing boats coming into Thurso harbour. Views include buildings on the south side of the river. Vessels include WK174, WK 332 and WK 249 (6 items)	c.1950
P1078/1/2/2	Small black and white photographs taken at Thurso pier showing fishing boats and workers at Thurso Fish selling mart (6 items)	c.1950
P1078/1/3	Thurso Swifts Football Club	c.1947
P1078/1/3/1	Black and white group photograph of Thurso Swifts Football team season 1946-1947. Back: unknown, R.Hannah, D Farquhar, Adam Dundas, Colin Shanlin, J.Geegor Macgregor.	1947

	<p>Middle row : W.Munro [old player] W.Gunn, James Mackay [President and former goal keeper and ex-chairman of the County F.A.] William Phimster [Captain] A. Begg [original member] Jackie Cameron, unknown.</p> <p>Front row : Gilbert "Pintle" Campbell, Nap Sinclair, M Sutherland, William "Billy" Swanson, Thomas Cook, unknown.</p> <p>Seated on ground : unknown, unknown, unknown, Donald James Mackay (1 item) [original digital image also available] [See also P1078/3/3]</p>	
P1078/1/4	Thurso Salvation Army Band	c.1935
P1078/1/4/1	Black and white group photographs of the Thurso Salvation Army Band (2 items)	c.1935
P1078/2	Navy cards	c.1945
P1078/2/1	Royal Navy Station card for Able Seaman Donald Mackay aboard H.M.S Chaser. The red colour denotes he was on Port Watch (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/2/2	Card denoting which Carley Float [life raft] Donald should go to in the event of an order to 'Abandon Ship' and that he was Port Watch Lookout (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/2/3	Berthing Card for Troop Deck indicating section and table (1 item)	c.1945
P1078/3	Various	1895-c.1945
P1078/3/1	Ticket stubs from venues in Singapore including Theatre and Skating and a card from a jeweller in Hong Kong (4 items)	c.1945
P1078/3/2	Typed letter concerning Mr Henry Henderson, West Borrowston, Reay becoming a wholesale tea dealer. Handwritten poem on reverse (1 item)	1 Jun 1895-2 Dec 1902
P1078/3/3	Navy Tie with coloured print of footballer and Swifts F.C underneath (1 item) [See also P1078/1/3/1]	c.1950