

WAR PRODUCTION

With the outbreak of war in 1939 manufacturing production in Australia was swung towards wartime production. On June 16 1939 the Australian Parliament mobilized all the country's resources and manpower, materials and productive capacity. GMH placed all plants, personnel and facilities at the disposal of the Australian government. Plans to move Australian industrial production facilities to wartime production had been drawn up before the declaration of war. Managing Director of GMH, Larry Hartnett, was given a senior supply position as Director of Ordnance Production for Australia under Essington Lewis. GMH produced aeroplanes, trucks, ambulances, military vehicles, ammunition, weaponry, tents, assorted canvas goods, boats and associated materials.

Officially produced documentation of GMH's war effort and the company's own records of direct reference to wartime production are in this series. See also series on individual plants for photographs of the buildings and people etc during the war years.

Papers relating to post war reconstruction/planning are also included. The Ministry of Post War Reconstruction was formed at the beginning of 1943.

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| Papers relating to General Motors Overseas Operations war effort
1942-1944 2cm (2 volumes)
[Includes <i>Overseas field service for General Motors war products</i> , December 20, 1942 and <i>The war effort of the overseas division</i> 1943.] | <u>121/1</u> |
| Papers relating to reconditioning of army vehicles
1945 0.5cm (2 parts) part 2 OUTSIZE 7
[Includes correspondence and details relating to GMH reconditioning of army vehicles.] | <u>121/2</u> |
| Papers relating to the jerry can – design
1943-1944 1cm (2 parts)
[Includes <i>5 gallon containers by GMH</i> a comparison of 1. the 'American' petrol can and; 2. the 'Jerrican' and ' <i>Kraftstoff</i> ' – an outline of the German petrol can by GMH Woodville engineering department.] | <u>121/3</u> |

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- Papers relating to Australian modifications to gun mounting and anti-tank gun 121/4
1944 1cm (2 parts)
[Includes 1. secret papers describing the differences in design and construction between Haszard Baird 20mm Mark I mobile mounting as produced in the United Kingdom and in Australia; 2. Australian modifications to the Imperial designed 6pdr ATG.]
- Data relating to war time production 121/5
1939-1945 4 cm (4 parts) BRG 213/121/5/1-2 OUTSIZE 2; BRG 213/121/5/3-4 OUTSIZE 1.
[Includes war project record – all plants, with summary of outside sales issued 1944; Woodville war project record 1945; financial records of war projects with relevant correspondence (2 parts).]
- Brochures relating to war time achievements by GMH 121/6
1939-1944 1cm. Items 1-4 originals WITHDRAWN.
[Includes *Our Achievements 1939-1944*, *War Production 1946*, and GMH defence sales to civilian sales.]
- Black and white photographs – Defence projects 121/7
1939-1945 25cm (4 volumes) Originals WITHDRAWN, view online.
[Master set of mounted photos (all numbered D Darian Smith photos) illustrating GMH defence projects at Woodville including Beaufort airframe fabrication, Lincoln aircraft wing, Australian armoured car, folding boats and work boats, anti-submarine bombs, canvas products, anti-tank gun production, Liberty Loan war pageant, laboratory and metrology department, Niles planer, munition workshop at St Peters College, anti-aircraft guns and ammunition.]
WAS BRG 213/77/61-64
- NB This series have been arranged alphabetically by type of object ie boats, pontoons, bombers, shells etc
- Propaganda book – Exhortation 121/8
1941-1944 4cm (1 volume) Original WITHDRAWN, view online.
[Album of mounted black and white photographs exhorting employees to work hard. An album of war production effort including memos, slogans and news cuttings.]
WAS BRG 213/77/76

- Propaganda book – Australia 121/9
1944 5cm (1 volume) Copy 2 OUTSIZE 1, original
WITHDRAWN, view online.
[Black and white photograph album of GMH production
throughout Australia including Woodville SA, Fishermens
Bend and Ferrars St Service Plant Vic, Pagewood and
William St Assembly Plant NSW, Brisbane Qld. Includes
photographs of body assembly line for assorted military
vehicles, folding and work boats, aircraft components,
anti-tank guns.]
WAS BRG 213/77/74
- Propaganda book – War Production 121/10
1939-1943 6cm (1 volume) Copy 2 OUTSIZE 2, copy 1
WITHDRAWN, view online.
[‘A pictorial review of our contribution to the National
Effort’ including Aero engines – Gipsy Major and Allison;
aircraft components – Trainer, Boomerang, Beaufort,
Beaufighter, Mosquito and Lancaster; munitions
production – anti-tank guns, gun Howitzers, tank attack
guns, anti-aircraft guns, torpedoes, anti-submarine
bombs, shells and miscellaneous; small craft – pontoons,
folding boats, dinghies, life boats, motor dories and work
boats; Vehicle production for the Allied forces. Covers
plants throughout Australia and produced by Public
Relations Department, Melbourne.]
- Propaganda book – behind the guns and aircraft production 121/11
1945 5cm (1 volume) OUTSIZE 1
[Nominally titled *GMH Australia – Aircraft* but includes a
section *Behind the guns* covering diary of 2pdr anti-tank
gun with photos, 25pdr Howitzer, targets and tallies, 6pdr
tank attack gun, plans, tooling, raw materials and aircraft
production.]
WAS BRG 213/73/28
- Black and white photographs and text – GM Marine Diesel
Project 121/12
1944 2cm (3 parts) BRG 213/121/12/1 OUTSIZE 1.
[Photographs and text outlining the GM ‘Gray’ marine
diesel engine project, Project No: 1305, 1943 including
photos, details of components and subcontracting and
propaganda/advertising for this engine. Also contains
production order papers from Ministry of Munitions.]
- Black and white photographs – aero engines 121/13
ca 1941 5cm (2 parts) Originals WITHDRAWN, view
online.
[Album of photographs by assorted photographers
concerning aero engines including Gipsy Major, de
Havilland and Australian sample components and aero
fuselage, wings – at Fishermens Bend.]

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- Black and white photographs – army and airforce vehicles 121/14
1942 2cm (1 volume) Original WITHDRAWN, view
online.
[Includes Peter’s Hoist, Trojan hoist, RAAF tipper, RAAF
fient end reworking, Bofors gun tractor with winch, gun
tractor WO.78, 400 gallon army water tank, diesel
tractor.]
WAS BRG 213/73/16
- GMH – South Australian factory – at war 121/15
1939-1942 1cm (1 volume)
[Text and photographs covering pre war conditions, plant
and equipment, materials, labour, projects, projects being
developed, departmental activities and special processes
in GMH South Australian factory.]
- Black and white photographs 121/16
1943-1944 1cm (1 volume) Originals WITHDRAWN,
view online.
[Includes photos of marine craft eg dory boats and folding
boats, probably produced at Fishermens Bend.]
WAS BRG 213/73/17
- Black and white photographs 121/17
1937-1945 12cm (2 volumes) Originals WITHDRAWN,
view online.
[Includes mounted photographs of South Australian plant
with evidence of war time production, facilities and
buildings such as Plant 2 Oxy bottle station, staff
canteen, old transport building, slit trenches, aircraft tank
assembly, transport garage, Port Road gate, Kirksite
plant.]
WAS BRG 213/77/84, 85 & 87
- Black and white photographs 121/18
1940-1943 6cm (1 volume) Originals WITHDRAWN,
view online.
[Woodville ‘Photographic study 1944 Volume 3’ includes
Minister of Munitions Mr Makin addressing employees,
inspection of 6 pound anti-tank gun by officials, Liberty
Loan war pageant, Chevrolet RAAF wireless telegraphy
unit, heavy machinery used in plant operations Metrology
department, canvas section, slit trenches and machine
shops.]
WAS BRG 213/77/59

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- Black and white photographs 121/19
1941-1945 6cm (1 volume) Originals WITHDRAWN.
[War time photographs of Woodville including Hyper
milling machine, Plant II grinding section, Pratt and
Whitney Rifling machine, 6lb anti tank gun, Ack-Ack tank
gun on truck, diesel injector room and operations and
ARP underground centre and Woodville projects
committee.]
WAS BRG 213/77/44 and BRG 213/77/80 & 213/77/90
- Black and white photographs 121/20
1941-1945 6cm (1 volume) Original WITHDRAWN.
[Woodville at war including aerial shot with Finsbury
ammunition factory in background, pontoons on assembly
line, folding dinghy, 40ft work boats at Birkenhead plant,
individual machines.]
WAS BRG 213/77//67
- Papers relating to employees war service 121/21
1939-1946 3cm
BRG 213/121/21/1-2: manuscript
BRG 213/121/21/3: Honour Roll, original WITHDRAWN.
[Includes breakdown by factory of employees war
service, date of enrolments ex-gratia payments and
reinstatement, 1939-1945 Honour Roll and summary of
above across GMH. Also requirements for reinstatement.]
- Papers and photographs relating to Fishermens Bend Honour
Roll 121/22
1952-1954 1cm
[Includes details of roll of honour and memorial corner,
details of dedication ceremony, news and photographs.]
- Papers relating to plant war production 121/23
1944 1.5cm (6 parts) BRG 213/121/23/1-2 OUTSIZE 7;
BRG 213/121/23/3 OUTSIZE 6.
[Includes layouts (plot plans) and departmental and plant
perspectives June 1944.]
- Newspaper cuttings 121/24
1940-1947 5cm (1 volume) Original WITHDRAWN, view
online.
[Includes book of newspaper cuttings relating to war
production, conversion an industrial issues 1940-1946
and the move to post war reconstruction. Also includes
issues of All Australian Car and death of E.W. Holden.]

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- Papers presented to General Motors relating to overseas post-war planning 121/25
1943-1944 5cm (4 parts)
[General Motors Overseas Operations, post-war planning including general post war planning for all GM overseas, General Motors in Australia, Australian post war car manufacturing and organisation and functions of overseas operations division.]
- Papers and correspondence relating to GMH post-war production plans 121/26
1941-1946 4cm (5 parts)
[Includes questionnaires, data, correspondence, Economic and Industrial Survey of Australia plans and notes, magazine and newspaper articles, memos, government suggestions and directions, papers relating to demobilisation and re-establishment, leadership/discussion groups, post-war housing.]
- Papers relating to the A9-141 Reconstruction group's restoration of a Beaufort Bomber 121/27
2001 0.5cm (2 volumes)
[Includes briefing notes, war record Australia's first torpedo bomber, RAAF official history card and list of war projects undertaken at at various GMH plants, war time correspondence and photographs.]
- Book dedicated to employees 121/28
1946 1cm
[Bound copy of 'War Record, September 1939-August 1945, General Motors-Holden's Ltd., Australia. Dedicated to the employees']
- Copy of 'The Producer Project' 121/29
1941 1cm
[GMH compiled by Product Design Dept., Woodville']
- Correspondence and history papers 121/30
ca.1945 0.5 cm
[Thank you letter to Turner Products for the supply of parts for production, and history and specifications for the 'Sentinel' tank].
- Photographs of GMH built trucks 121/31
ca.1945 0.5 cm
[Black and white photographs: 1. WWII general service 6x6 covered Chevrolet truck with Holden cab; 2. WWII 3 ton 4x4 40mm gun tractor Chevrolet truck with Holden cab built for crew of 6 with spares and ammunition, with Gallows machine gun mounting above cab].

Articles on the Boomerang aeroplane

ca.1939-1945 0.5 cm

[Article written on the Australian built Boomerang aircraft
as the Army's favourite plane].

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See also individual plant series for material regarding manufacture, production
and assembly 1939-1945 not directly associated with the war effort.