



## Lieutenant Colonel R. G. GROOM VD

[1876 - 1946]

Research has not uncovered a  
photograph of Colonel Groom

**Colonel Groom was elected to Life Membership of the Club – between 1918 and 1928.**

**Colonel Groom was Honorary Secretary of the Club in 1905, and part-time Secretary of the Club 1936-42**

Roy Graeme Groom was born on 12 December 1876 in Kyneton, Victoria. He was the younger son of Thomas Francis Groom [1840-1925], an agent, and Annie Hyacinthe Mary (née Wood) [1846-1918] – both from Launceston, Tasmania.

He had one older brother Thomas Clive Groom [1874-1953], an architect born in Kyneton who lived in North Queensland and Sydney and died in Brisbane.

The Groom family moved to Brisbane in 1891.

Roy Groom was a chartered accountant. In the early 1900s he formed the firm of R.G. Groom & Co. (initially in the T&G Building, Queen Street). The firm was active in most aspects of accounting – including insolvency and the audits of major entities such as the Brisbane City Council and the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board. The firm became Groom, Sanderson & Co, and in the mid-1970s merged with the international firm of Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1910, and was a member of the council of the Chartered Accountants in Australia.

In 1904 he married May Augusta (née Bourne) [1878-1965] in Brisbane. They had six children:

Howard Graeme [1905-1910]

*We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.*

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Thomas Reginald <sup>1</sup>	[1906-1987]	Born in Brisbane. In 1932 married Jessie Mary (née Butcher) [1904-1993]. An accountant and politician who lived in Brisbane. Died at Guyra NSW.
Robert Clive	[1908-1908]	
Helen Mary "Mollie"	[1911-2010]	Born in Brisbane, married Thomas Charles Bencke [1911-1991] and lived in Rockhampton. Died in Sydney.
Alan Douglas <sup>2</sup>	[1913-1956]	Born in Brisbane, married Suzanne [1914-1996] died in Wales.
John Louis <sup>3</sup>	[1915-2007]	Born in Brisbane. In 1943 married Elizabeth Macdonald (née Brown) [b1915]. Agricultural entomologist. Died at Buderim.

The family lived in New Farm and Auchenflower.

A summary of Groom's military career is as follows:

June 1895	Enlisted Brisbane Garrison Artillery, Queensland Defence Force
October 1896	Promoted Bombardier
January 1897	Commissioned as a Lieutenant (Provisional) in the Queensland Defence Force (Land)
November 1903	Rank of Lieutenant confirmed in the Commonwealth Military Forces, Garrison Artillery, Queensland
October 1907	Promoted Captain, Australian Garrison Artillery
June 1909	Promoted Major,
June 1913	Major, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Australian Garrison Artillery
December 1915	AIF Sea Transport Service
December 1915	OC Troops for voyage Brisbane to Suez on A55 HMAT <i>Kyarra</i>
March 1916	OC Troops for voyage Suez to Melbourne on HMAT <i>Argyllshire</i>
April 1916	Appointment terminated
May 1917	Awarded Auxiliary Forces Officers Decoration (VD)

Groom's promotion to Lieutenant Colonel has not been evidenced and it may have been a "retiring" honorary rank.

He was a keen bowler and was a Foundation and Life Member of the Auchenflower Bowling Club.

It is believed that Lieutenant Roy Groom joined the Club in 1898.

In June 1905 he is recorded as Honorary Secretary in a public notice applying for registration of the "Queensland United Service Institute" (as the Club was then known) under the new Registration of Clubs Act 1904. The Club was then situated at North Quay and had 104 members.

Lieutenant Colonel Groom was also part-time Secretary of the Club 1936-42. At its foundation, the Club relied on members to act as an Honorary Secretary. With the growth of the Club the first part-time Secretary was appointed in 1927. After Colonel Groom's retirement from office in 1942, the Club next appointed the first full-time Secretary.

Colonel Groom died suddenly in Brisbane on 27 February 1946.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- NAA Archives

<sup>1</sup> Sir Thomas Reginald Groom [1906-1987] A partner in his father's accountancy practice in 1932. Brisbane City Councillor 1943-46 and 1952-61, Lord Mayor of Brisbane 1955-61. Prominent national company director 1961-79.

<sup>2</sup> Group Captain Alan Douglas Groom DSO, RAF. First Queensland to be awarded Sword of Honour at Point Cook. Captured in Java in 1942 as PoW for the War. DSO awarded for his gallantry in ending a massacre by Indonesians at the end of the war. Died flying an RAF jet fighter on exercise.

<sup>3</sup> Captain J.L. Groom RAAMC, [1940-45] Field Hygiene Company and RAAMC (scientific) service in Australia and New Guinea, Mentioned in Dispatches 1943.