

= Alan Moore (war artist) =

Alan Moore (1 August 1914 ? 24 September 2015) was an Australian war artist during World War II . He is best known for his images of the Bergen @-@ Belsen concentration camp .

= = Early life = =

Moore was born in Melbourne in 1914 . He began life drawing art classes at age 16 , but was forbidden by his father from continuing because the subjects were nude . He took up his studies again when he turned 18 , at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School , this time completing his studies to obtain a degree . He also studied under J.S. Watkins in Sydney .

He won several art and drawing prizes in Melbourne , including the Grace Joel scholarship prize in 1942 for a nude painting .

On 14 July 1939 Moore married his first wife , Maria .

= = Career = =

= = = During the war = = =

Moore enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1942 , where he was tasked with drawing airplane diagrams . A problem with one leg prevented him from being aircrew . In late 1943 , following recommendations from artists William Dargie and Harold Herbert , he was commissioned as an official war artist attached to the army , and given the rank of lieutenant .

Moore 's first deployment as an artist was with the RAAF in Papua New Guinea in early 1944 . His earlier watercolour paintings , made in Milne Bay and Goodenough Island , were destroyed by wet weather and humidity ; he subsequently changed to working with oils , which were more suitable for the tropical environment .

During his time in Papua New Guinea he flew in several bombing raids to make sketches from the air .

Towards the end of World War II , he recorded war scenes from Papua New Guinea , the Middle East , Italy , England and Germany .

In 1945 Moore accompanied the British 11th Armoured Division when they liberated the Bergen @-@ Belsen concentration camp in Germany . He spent three days sketching and painting the state of the camp , its prisoners and their captors , including Fritz Klein . It was suggested by one soldier that nobody would believe the portrayals , prompting Moore to also photograph the scenes as proof .

= = = After the war = = =

After the war , Moore returned to Melbourne , where he painted images from his Belsen sketches and photographs . They were exhibited commercially , but failed to sell . The Australian War Memorial initially rejected the material because it did not depict Australian soldiers ; however it accepted them in 1969 when they were donated by Moore . In 2013 ? 14 the Belsen images formed the basis of a year @-@ long exhibition at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra , which Moore himself visited at the invitation of the Memorial .

The War Memorial also commissioned Moore to paint several large portraits , including of Generals Douglas MacArthur and Arthur Samuel Allen . As of 2015 the War Memorial holds more than 200 of his works .

After the war Moore spent some years in Europe .

He taught painting at Swinburne Technical College from c . 1963 .

= = Later life = =

Moore continued to paint at his studio in Avoca until he was 95 , stopped by arthritis and failing vision . At about the same time he moved into a nursing home in Avoca .
He died on 24 September 2015 , survived by his third wife , Alison .