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Note: Records are held in Wellington unless specified as Auckland (AK), Christchurch (CH) or Dunedin (DN)

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Auckland Airport, Manukau 2150
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Introduction

All New Zealanders have either migrated to this country or are the descendants of people who migrated in the past. Maori origins are traced through whakapapa. Formal Pakeha migration recordkeeping began with New Zealand Company, settlement from 1840, and with the formation of British government after the Treaty of Waitangi in the same year.

The regional offices of Archives New Zealand in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin hold some regional immigration information, but most immigration records are held in the Wellington Office.

The information in this guide is divided by period and type of immigration, with a small section on Emigration, page 8.

SHIPPING RECORDS

Archives New Zealand holds a variety of Shipping Records, mostly in Wellington.

Auckland Office:

- Auckland Inward Passenger Ships lists for 1909, 1915-1965 [BBAO 5552] (AK)
- Comber Index (copy – see next column) [AREPRO 4711/357] (AK)

Wellington Office:

- Shipping Index [Reading Room]

Archives New Zealand Wellington holds one main Shipping record, an alphabetical card index of immigrant ships to New Zealand for the period 1840-1970s. Most of the ships recorded came from Britain and Australia. This index is based on Archives New Zealand's passenger lists and other records, and does not include records of all ships which came to New Zealand. Cards usually note arrival dates and give references to passenger lists.

Information can sometimes be found in Customs records [C 20] and may also be found in immigration scheme records.

Other useful records of ships and their voyages are:

- Shipping Index, Port of Wellington entry 1856-1887 (alphabetical, at Reading Room Desk, Wellington, created by NZSG, Wellington)

- The Comber List or Index (original held in the Wellington Museum of City and Sea) has entries, in chronological order of departure date, for most immigrant ships which arrived in New Zealand from Britain 1839-1889. [Misc 48]
- The Watt Index - 'Index to the New Zealand Section of the Register of all British Ships 1840-1950' (This does not include many immigrant ships because they were registered in Britain.) [Misc 49]

Newspapers:

Newspapers have usually recorded the arrivals of ships to New Zealand ports in their Shipping columns. In the mid-nineteenth century they also recorded passenger lists, until the numbers became too great. Archives New Zealand does not hold newspapers, but many public libraries and museums have some newspapers, in hard copy or microfilm, for their area. The Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington has the largest collection of microfilm newspapers from around New Zealand, and many are available and searchable on their 'Papers Past' website.

Other sources:

A number of published works on shipping to New Zealand (and perhaps Australia) can be useful and may be found in libraries. For example:

- H Brett *White Wings* (2 volumes 1924, 1928) (The standard book on ships which came to New Zealand up to the early 20th century)
- P Plowman *Passenger Ships of Australia & New Zealand 1981* (2 volumes 1876-1912 & 1913-1980 – steamships)
- Rhys Richards & Jocelyn Chisholm *Bay of Islands Shipping Arrivals and Departures 1803-1840* Paremata Press, Wellington, 1992. (A list of many of the ships which came to New Zealand 1803-1840)

See also 'Other Possible Sources of Immigrant Information' page 8.

IMMIGRATION 1840-1880s

For 1840-1880s Archives New Zealand Wellington holds records of *government-assisted immigrants only*, mostly Ship Passenger Lists. The records include about half the total number of immigrants in the period.

The New Zealand Company, Plymouth Company, Otago Association, Canterbury Association, provincial, and central government schemes all assisted migrants to New Zealand. Most assisted immigrant records held at the Wellington office date from 1871 when central government began to sponsor immigrants.

Ship Passenger Lists are the main source of migrant information, but Archives New Zealand holds other records, such as Ships' Papers and registers and files of various schemes to assist people to New Zealand.

Passenger Lists 1840-1880s

Card indexes have been created, from all surviving passenger lists and immigrant information at Archives New Zealand in Wellington, of those assisted to New Zealand by the New Zealand Company, other colonising ventures, provincial and central governments, 1840-1880s. These card indexes are held in the Wellington Reading Room.

- General Biographical Index c1840-1880s [Bio 1]
- Assisted Immigration Scheme Index 1871-1888 [IM 15]
- Canterbury Provincial Assisted Immigrants [IM-CH 4 – indexed with IM 15] (see next column)

Reproductions of many of the passenger lists of assisted immigrants 1871-1888 are held in the main Reading Room in Wellington.

New Zealand Company 1839-1850

New Zealand Company records contain information about immigrants to New Zealand 1839-1850. Names are in the General Biographical Index [Bio 1].

Emigration Registers of the New Zealand Company are available for searching, in the form of photocopies, at Archives New Zealand Wellington.

- Emigration Registers August 1839-April 1841 [NZA 34/1 REPRO 1 & 2]
- Emigration Registers April 1841-October 1842 [NZA 34/2 REPRO 3 & 4]
- Emigration Registers November 1842-July 1850 [NZA 34/3 REPRO 59]

Canterbury Association

Canterbury Association shipping papers (passenger lists, surgeons' reports, etc) for 22 voyages to Lyttelton 1850-1852. Material relating to immigration has been indexed [CH 290] (CH)

Ships' Papers

Ships' Papers from nineteenth century voyages, especially in the 1870s, may include reports on the voyages and other information. For references see indexes [Bio 1, Shipping Index].

Provincial Schemes

Provincial governments, established from 1853, often encouraged immigration, usually through subsidising the passage. Some specific groups of migrants were targeted, such as young unmarried women or families.

Provincial Government Records, for example:

- 'Lists of Immigrant Debtors to the Provincial Government of Otago for Passage Moneys' 1848-1872 (2 photocopies) [MISC 43 & 43a]. These record by ship name immigrants who owe passage money to the provincial government.
- Auckland Provincial Government 'Register of Applications for Passages 1859-1872', [AP 9/3; AREPRO 4711/448 (AK); REPRO 1615 (W)]
- Canterbury Provincial Government immigration:
 - Shipping papers relating to 13 provincial scheme voyages 1860-1874 [CH 290] (CH)
 - Provincial Government material relating to immigration (indexed) [CH 287] (CH)
- Canterbury Passenger Lists 1855-1884 [CH 457] (CH) Photocopies of lists held in Wellington [IM-CH 4 indexed with IM 15]

Other Regional Records:

- Immigration Department records, often under ports of entry such as: Blenheim [IM-BM], Christchurch [IM-CH], Nelson [IM-N], New Plymouth [IM-NP] and Wellington [IM-W].
- Passenger Index Port of Wellington Entry 1856-1887 (alphabetical, at Reading Room Desk, Wellington, created by NZSG, Wellington)

Other Records

Parkhurst Boys 1842-1843

A number of 'boys' (many late teens) from Parkhurst Prison in England were pardoned, on condition they went to New Zealand and, in some cases, served apprenticeships. The aim was rehabilitation and the British Treasury paid. The *St George* in 1842 brought 92 boys and another 31 came on the *Mandarin* in 1843, making a total of 123.

- General Biographical Index lists most boys [Bio 1]
- Correspondence and Reports ('Guardian of the Parkhurst Boys') about the scheme can be found through Internal Affairs Department Indexes 1843-1845 [IA 3/2/2-3 & 3/3/3-4] & Registers [IA 3/1/3-5]
- Ship Return for *Mandarin* listing 31 boys [IA 1 1844/2097; AREPRO 4711/364] (AK)

The scheme was not a success. Many boys were difficult and the Protector of Aborigines complained of the harmful effect they had on Maori. No boys were sent after 1843 and this system of immigration was officially discontinued in 1845.

See article *NZ Genealogist* Jan-Feb 2005.

Fencibles

In 1846 Governor George Grey asked the British government to station at least 2500 soldiers in New Zealand to maintain order. The British government sent about 750 army pensioners, with their families. They arrived in eleven ships 1847-1853. These retired soldiers, the Royal New Zealand Fencibles, were also known as Chelsea pensioners because their British pensions were administered at Chelsea, London, though paid through the New Zealand Treasury.

The name 'Fencible' comes from the word 'defence'. The pensioners were settled in villages to the south and east of Auckland, at Onehunga, Howick, Panmure and Otahuhu, as a chain of defence to protect Auckland from an imagined Maori threat to the south. They had fairly nominal military duties in return for free transport to New Zealand for themselves and families, plus a grant of a cottage with one acre, which became their property after seven years.

Fencibles appear in the General Biographical card index [Bio 1]. Other records:

- Pensions Pre-emptive Schedules 1853-56, Lands & Survey Department [BAAZ 4078/1a] (AK)
- Auckland Deposition Books may include additional details [BADW 5989] (AK)
- Fencible material compiled by Shirley Kendall [AREPRO 4711/366] (AK)
- Index to Fencibles, etc (compiled by Shirley Kendall). [Paper Finding Aids Wellington]
- Copies of the passenger lists of most of the ships which carried the men and their families to New Zealand. [Paper Finding Aids Wellington]
- Treasury Department Registers 1865-1891 record the pensions paid to these soldiers (and also some retired police & civil servants from Britain). There may be details of physical description and service. The original book is missing, so those who died before 1865 are not recorded. Personal details for men whose pensions started before 1865 and continued after that date were not usually transferred to later books. [(ADRK 17399) T 9/1-7]

Considerable information about the Fencibles was published in official records, often available from larger libraries and museums:

- 'Electoral Roll for the Pensioner Settlements' (in alphabetical order), *Auckland Provincial Gazette* 1854-1858.
- 'Report of the Land Claims Commissioner on the claims of certain pensioners lately serving in the New Zealand Fencible Force, to Pre-emption Land', *AJHR* 1861 D-6.
- Non-alphabetical lists of claimants, to appear before a Commissioner under the Pensioners' Claims Act 1861, *New Zealand Gazette* 1863-1865.

Detailed information may be found in the book: *The Royal New Zealand Fencibles 1847-1852* NZ Fencible Society, Auckland, 1997

'Waikato' Immigration Scheme 1864-1865

See also 'Waikato Military Settlers' in Research Guide *War* page 3.

This immigration scheme was part of an attempt by central government to bring large numbers of settlers from the British Isles and the Cape Colony in South Africa to the North Island. The aim was to consolidate the government position after the wars of the 1860s and develop the Waikato area for Pakeha. A loan was to finance the migration and be recouped by the sale of land neighbouring the new settlements. However:

- The loan could not be secured in London, and in the end only 3000, instead of the hoped for 20,000, immigrants were brought to New Zealand on 13 ships 1864-1865. About 2000 came from Britain and 1000 from the Cape.
- There were considerable delays in making land available to settlers, who were temporarily housed in poor conditions in Auckland and the Waikato. Nor was land available for sale to defray the expenses of the scheme.
- When migrants got onto their land much work was needed before it could sustain a family, let alone make a profit. Public works, such as roads, gave immigrants temporary employment. In spite of the difficulties most stayed and claimed their crown grants three years after settlement.

This scheme was not confined to the Waikato, but also included government-sponsored settlement in the Coromandel and Whangarei areas.

The many records [LS-A] for this scheme include:

- Register of Immigrants - Ship passenger lists (13) 1864-1865 [(LS-A 84); BAAZ 1967/1a] (AK)
An alphabetical card index is available.
- Indexes to Contingent Land Payments 1866-1873 [(LS-A 81); BAAZ 4688/1c] (AK)
- Registers to Contingent Land Payments 1866-1876 [(LS-A 82); BAAZ 1967/2a] (AK)
- Register of applications for Crown Grants 1867-1882 [(LS-A 83); BAAZ 4689/1g] (AK)
- Register of Applications for Crown Grants 1868-1877 [(LS-A 85); BAAZ 4960/1a-1c] (AK)
- 'Register' of Section Allocations 1865 [(LS-A 86); BAAZ 4687/1a] (AK)

The Wellington office holds microfilm copies of some records for 'Waikato' Immigration:

- LS-A 81, 83-84, 94 [Micro 5019]
- LS-A 86 [Micro 5074]
- LS-A 88 [Micro 5020]
- LS-A 89-90 [Micro 5021]
- LS-A 91 [Micro 5022]

Nominated Immigrants 1871-1891

The Immigration and Public Works Act 1870 provided money for immigration. Immigrants were to be recruited by agents in Britain (a total of 83,214) or nominated by people already living in New Zealand. Both groups were recorded in Passenger Lists [IM 15] (see above). Nominated migrants might appear in other records as well, such as Register Books of Lists of Passage Orders. The Nomination Scheme continued until early 1891 and resulted in the immigration of 31,693 people.

Nomination Registers - Lists of Passage Orders

Thirteen registers [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10], record about 8000 Passage Orders covering more than 19,000 people. The entries in the registers are in numerical order. Information is not always easy to access even though most registers have alphabetical indexes.

The information in the registers varies considerably. The intention was to record: (a) number and date of Passage Order; (b) name, age and occupation of nominee, (c) full address of nominee, (d) name and address of nominator; (e) disposal, that is, details of the outcome of the nomination – usually whether or not people came to New Zealand. In many registers this information is not complete. Registers held are:

- Canterbury & Timaru 1871-1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/1]
- Auckland (very small & incomplete register) 1873 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/1a]
- Hawkes Bay 1871-1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/2]
- Marlborough 1871-1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/3]
- Nelson & Hokitika 1872-1874; Greymouth 1872-1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/4]
- Otago 1871-1874; Oamaru 1872-1874; Invercargill 1872-1873; Riverton 1872-1873 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/5]
- Taranaki 1872-1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/6]
- Invercargill 1873-1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/7]
- Riverton 1873-1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/8]
- Timaru 1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/9]
- Otago 1874 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/10]
- Wellington 1878-1880 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/11]
- Wellington 1881-1890 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/12]
- Wellington 1890-1891 [(ACFQ 8230) IM 10/13]

Also held are:

- Papers relating to Cancelled Nominations 1873-1889 [(ACFQ 8223) IM 3/1-3]
- Nominated immigration bills and promissory notes, Canterbury 1871-1879 [(ACFQ 8231) IM 11/13]

Promissory Notes

Assisted immigrants were expected to contribute £5 (five pounds) per adult towards the cost of passage to New Zealand. A person over 12 years of age was reckoned an adult; a child between one and twelve was half an adult; infants under one year were free.

- Regulations for Married Couples and Families stated: "If the Emigrant is unable to pay the whole of the money before sailing, he will be required to sign a promissory note for a sum equal to double the amount remaining unpaid." According to this promise, repayment was to be in quarterly instalments beginning three months after landing.
- Single Women "Cooks, Housemaids, General Servants, Dairy-maids, etc ... not under 15 nor over 35 years of age" could come under slightly different conditions. If unable to pay the fare, they were to sign promissory notes for £5 each, payable on the same conditions as married couples and families.

Holdings (incomplete) are:

- Promissory Notes and Bills 1870-1885 [(ACFQ 8231) IM 11/1-15]
- Promissory Notes 1873-1891 [(ACFQ 8223) IM 3/4/1-2]

Shipping information in Hospital Record

Wellington Hospital Admission & Discharge Book 1847-1880 includes, for the period February 1877 to June 1880, the names of ships people arrived on and their countries of origin. [ABRR 6889/1]

Land Grants: Unassisted Immigrants 1874-1883

Under the Immigrants Land Act 1873, those paying their own fare to New Zealand were entitled to a grant of Crown land, or of other land available for disposal by the government.

- Register of Immigrants 1874-1883 (not including lapsed applications). [(ACFQ 8237) IM 17/1; REPRO 1642]

Register of Subsidised Emigrants

This register [(ACFQ 8238) IM 18/1] records those who entered New Zealand under two short-lived schemes:

- 'Small Farmers with Capital' 1886-1888 Migrants in General Biographical Index [Bio 1]
- People who received reduced fare passages under arrangements the government entered into with two shipping companies, Shaw Savill & Albion and the NZ Shipping Company, 1904-1906.

IMMIGRATION 1880s-1970s

Most immigration records are ship passenger lists held in Wellington in the archives of the Social Security Department, which used them to validate pensions.

Passenger lists were not collected systematically until 1910, and even after that there are gaps. [SS 1/1-985]

Labour Department archives also include immigration records after 1900 and a few may be found under the Customs Department. See also Specific Group / Nationality Migrations pages 6-7.

Passenger Lists 1883-1973

The passenger lists held in Wellington [SS 1/1-985] mostly cover both assisted and unassisted immigrants. These lists (which sometimes include crew lists) were compiled by shipping companies and collected by customs officials when ships arrived. Later they were passed on to the Social Security Department.

These immigration records are grouped, usually three monthly, by port: (a) Auckland, (b) Wellington and (c) the minor ports which were Napier, New Plymouth, Nelson, Lyttelton, Port Chalmers and Bluff.

However, ships often went to more than one port and a passenger list held under Wellington, for example, may include people who disembarked elsewhere. It is worth checking all three sections of the index.

From the 1890s, increasing numbers of passenger and crew lists for ships from Australia and elsewhere are included in the lists, but not indexed.

The information recorded on the passenger lists usually includes no more than: surname, initial, age, country of birth and destination port.

Passenger Lists (indexed) 1883-1915

Passenger lists of ships *from Britain* from the 1880s to 1915 have been card indexed by surname, grouped by port as above [SS 1]. The card indexes do *not* include crew members or passengers who embarked after the ship had left Britain, such as in Australia.

Many of the passenger lists are on **microfilm** and researchers are expected to use microfilms, where available, instead of the originals, once a reference has been found in the index. [MICRO 5378-5385]

Auckland Office:

- Inward Passenger Lists 1884-1910 from Britain only [SS 1] (AK)

Passenger Lists (unindexed) 1916-1973

Archives New Zealand in Wellington holds passenger lists for the period after 1915 [SS 1] but they are not indexed. Some passenger lists 1916-1920 are on microfilm. [MICRO 5368, 5369, 5376, 5385]

If the ship name and date of arrival are known, the Shipping Index can provide a passenger list reference. Passenger lists are divided into the three entry sections above.

OTHER IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Immigration Case Files 1914-2007

Over 200,000 files on individuals and families can be found through ARCHWAY, though variant spellings of surnames may need to be tried.

[ABKF 6794 W5585/1-3660] **R100**

Labour Department archives include various records of immigration, particularly of people who were not British [L 20 – L30]. There are gaps and records are often not well organised. Some Access restrictions.

- Record books: permanent entry permits 1921-1958 (Vol.1 1921-26 missing) [(ACGV 8837) L 25/1-5]
- Record books: applicants for temporary entry 1921-1960 [(ACGV 8838) L 26/1-6]
- Permit Entry Slips (alphabetical) 1920s-early 1960s (names only) [ABKF 8012]
- Entry Permit Correspondence 1939-40 [ABKF 8013 W5182 22/35 (Boxes 284-292)]
- Immigration Index c1947-1988 (cards, alphabetical) [ABKF 6099 W4741/1-319]
- Various Nominal Draft Rolls c1950-1981, air & sea [ABKF 947 W5199 (Boxes 4-5)]
- Immigration Drafts: air 1966-1972, sea 1970-1975 [ABKF 947 W5182 22/6]
- Permanent Entry Registers 1976-1989 [ABKF 8011 W5199]
- Index of Cornish Immigrants, Canterbury: available in the Reading Room. (CH)
- Department of Labour Christchurch District Office, Immigration Division [CH6] (CH):
 - Certificates under the Immigration Restriction Act 1907-1957
 - Index cards to temporary permit files 1930-1960, including a separate index to stowaways, deserters and sick seamen.
 - Nominal card index to subsidy scheme for immigration from Britain 1950s-1960s
- Customs Department Greymouth. Miscellaneous registers (13) (overall date range 1877-1980) include some shipping registers for 1929-1980. Some access restrictions apply. [CH 61/1-13] (CH)
- Department of Labour Christchurch District Office, Immigration Division - permanent entry files 1974-76. Access restricted for 100 years from date of birth or 40 years from date of death. [CH 551] (CH)

SPECIFIC GROUP / NATIONALITY MIGRATIONS

Most migrants to New Zealand have come from the British Isles. From the 1860s onwards a number of other specific group or nationality migrations can be identified at different periods, and Archives New Zealand has material on some of these groups. Not all the records refer directly to migration or individuals.

Special Settlements 1860s-1870s

Attempts to found Special Settlements in the 1860s and 1870s quickly failed or struggled for many years.

There were Special Settlements in the Bay of Islands, at Albertland in the Kaipara Harbour, at Puhoi north of Auckland, at Katikati in the western Bay of Plenty. In the South Island Special Settlements were attempted at Karamea, Jacksons Bay and Stewart Island. The Feilding settlement and the Scandinavians who migrated in the 1870s to settle in the Wairarapa, Manawatu and southern Hawkes Bay regions are other clearly identifiable groups.

Albertland

Ship Passenger Lists (6 ships of 13) 1862-1863
[BAAZ 4115/1a] (AK)

Bay of Islands (Whangae)

Legislation in 1858 allowed for a special Bay of Islands settlement. Regulations to bring a settlement into effect were not issued until May 1864, and others in January and March 1866. See *New Zealand Gazette*. The *Mary Shepherd* landed 40 settlers at the Bay of Islands on 12 February 1866 and another 35 in Auckland a few days later. [BAIE 4115/1e] (AK)

Puhoi

- Ship Passenger List (*War Spirit*) 1863
[BAAZ 4115/1a] (AK)

Other groups arrived in 1866 & 1873 to join this Bohemian settlement.

- Index to Crown Grants [BAAZ 1175] (AK)

Other

People who went to Special Settlements were usually assisted passengers and can be accessed through the Wellington card indexes. [Bio 1; IM 15 & IM-CH 4]

Other relevant material at Archives New Zealand in Wellington includes:

- Specific files on Special Settlements [(ACFQ 8226) IM 6/1-11] Some on Micro 1921-1922

Reports on some Special Settlements appear in *AJHR* of the 1870s. Books have been published on many of the Special Settlements and should be available in public libraries. There may also be information in resources such as *New Zealand's Heritage* (1973), *The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand* (1966) and the online encyclopedia *Te Ara*.

Alien and Naturalisation Records

The immigration to New Zealand of many people who were not may be found in Alien and Naturalisation records, held in Wellington. Registration of Aliens began in World War I (1914-1918) and continued, with a break 1923-1939, until such registration ended with the Citizenship Act 1977.

Naturalisation began by Ordinance in the 1840s and by Statute 1858-1866. Some early Naturalisation file numbers in the *Register of Persons Naturalised before 1948* [(ACGO 8376) IA 52/26, REPRO 1646 & 1647] refer to Colonial Secretary inwards letters [IA 1], not to specific Naturalisation files.

See Research Guide: *Citizenship*

Chinese

Chinese immigration is inextricably linked with the restrictions imposed on them as a specific group of non-British people. See Research Guide: *Citizenship*

Several thousand Chinese came, unrecorded, to New Zealand from 1866 to 1880, primarily to work in the gold fields. Many later moved into other activities. There was increasing expression of negative attitudes towards Chinese, especially by politicians. From the 1880s Chinese migration was limited by government measures, but there were periods when significant numbers were able to enter New Zealand – 1918-1920, 1939-1941, 1948-1951. At other times relatives of those already in New Zealand were able to immigrate, often as 'students'.

Archives relating to Chinese migration to New Zealand are to be found in Labour Department records and Alien and Naturalisation files in the records of the Internal Affairs Department. Chinese names are also to be found in many twentieth century ship passenger lists in Social Security Immigration records [SS 1].

Yugoslav migrants

5468 'Yugoslavs' immigrated 1897-1919, mostly as unassisted migrants before 1914 from the Croatian / Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia, then part of the Austria-Hungarian Empire. 'Austria-Hungary' was often recorded as their birthplace. Most were young single males in search of work; two thirds did not stay.

An entry permit system allowed Yugoslavs into New Zealand from 1920, but when their total population exceeded 3500 in 1926, further restrictions limited their immigration. Records of all these entries may be found in passenger lists. [SS 1]

After the Second World War 504 'displaced' Yugoslavs entered New Zealand 1949-1951. Entries are in:

- 'Nominal Rolls of Displaced Persons Entering New Zealand 1949-1952' [(ACGV 8834) L 22/1-10]

A file: 'NZ Police reports on Yugoslavs 1948-1952' gives brief official reports on Yugoslavs seeking to sponsor other Yugoslavs, usually relatives, to New Zealand. [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/1/121/3] **R100**

SECOND WORLD WAR

Three groups of refugees or migrants escaping war came to New Zealand.

Chinese

Hundreds of wives and children of Chinese already in New Zealand arrived in Auckland and Wellington from August 1939 to early 1941, escaping the Japanese invasion of the later 1930s. See passenger lists [SS1]

British Child Evacuees 1940-1941

In 1940 a government committee, under The British Children Emergency regulations 1940, considered offering homes to evacuated British children. The scheme was greeted with great public enthusiasm when announced on 25 June 1940 and over 3000 children were nominated for assisted passages.

Only 202 children arrived, in two groups to Wellington, 27 September 1940 [SS 1/613 July-Sept No.33 *Ruahine* 89 children] and 4 October 1940 [SS 1/613 Oct-Dec No.1 *Rangitata* 113 children]. By 31 March 1941 they were in 158 foster homes. Other records:

- 'Evacuation of Children from UK 1940-1946' [(ACIE 8798) EA W2619 (Box 61) 108/4/3 part 1]
- 'Official Index of children' [(ACGO 8369) IA 37/1]
- 'Samples of Correspondence ... Lists of Children where sent, escorts, etc' [(ACGO 8369) IA 37/3]
- 'Minutes and reports of British Children's Reception Committee 1940' (ACGO 8460) IA 146/1]
- 'British Children Evacuated to New Zealand 1940-1945' [AADK W4075 (Box 15) 9/8/10]
- War – British Children – General Correspondence 1940-1942' [CW W1043 40/2/66] **R**
- War – British Children – Education 1941-1943' [CW W1043 40/2/84] **R**
- War – British Children – Proposed remission of contributions to foster parents 1942-1946' [CW W1043 40/2/88] **R**

Polish Refugee Children 1944-1946

Over 700 Polish refugee children arrived on the US warship *General Randall*, 31 October 1944, with about 100 Polish adults. The children were placed in a camp at Pahiatua. Within a year or two about 500 other Poles, related to the children, arrived. A few went home after the war but most stayed in New Zealand.

Child Welfare, Army, External Affairs and Labour created records. Possible **Access restrictions**.

- Polish Children: index cards & files [(ACGB 8312) CW W1043 & (ACGB 8313) W1983]
- Polish Children's Camp, 161 Files 1944-1949 [(AAYS 8707) AD 91]
- External Affairs [(ACIE 8798) EA 1 90/13/1-20]
- Labour [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/1/178/3-4]

Naturalisation records from 1949 hold information on Polish children who became New Zealand citizens.

Secondary sources may be useful, such as:

The Invited: the story of 733 Polish children who grew up in New Zealand Krystyna Skwarko, Millwood Press, Wellington, c1974 (Lists child immigrants.)

Forsaken Journeys: the 'Polish' experience and identity of the 'Pahiatua children' in New Zealand Theresa Sawicka-Brockie (PhD thesis, University of Auckland, 1987)

POST SECOND WORLD WAR LABOUR DEPARTMENT

“£10 POMS” 1947-1966

Thousands of British migrants were assisted to New Zealand. Drafts and correspondence are held:

- 1947-1964 [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/6/0-205A]
- 1965-1966 [(ACGV 8814) L1 22/6/A1-A135 & L 1 22/6/S.1-S.22]

British Child Migration 1949-1954

After considerable organisation 1948-1949, from 1949 to 1954 the New Zealand government paid for the passages of over 500 children aged 6-18. Boys and girls came to New Zealand in parties of 15-25 until late 1952 when the scheme was halted.

There were difficulties, including expectations on the part of foster parents which were too high and advance reports on children which were too favourable. The scheme was modified and groups of boys, mostly to work on farms, continued to migrate until August 1954.

Files held at Archives New Zealand Wellington include some lists of the children, reports from voyages out and some reports on individual children.

[(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/1/9 parts 1-3; [L 1 22/1/9/1 parts 1-4] Most **R100**

Hungarian Refugees 1956-1957

Labour and External Affairs Department files record the Hungarian refugees who came to New Zealand after the Soviet Union put down the Hungarian Uprising in 1956. **Access restrictions** may apply.

- Hungarian Refugees, General, 1956-1959 [(ACIE 8798) EA 1 108/4/79/1 Parts 1-5]
- Hungarian Refugees, Assistance offered ... 1956-1957 [(ACIE 8798) EA 1 108/4/79/2]
- Hungarian Refugees [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/1/189]
- Hungarian Drafts 1956-1958 [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/3/6-14]

Dutch Migrants

After the Second World War, many migrants came to New Zealand from the Netherlands and some from Dutch colonies in South-east Asia. Those who came by ship are recorded in passenger lists (unindexed) [SS 1]. Other records include:

- Dutch settlers [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/1/58]
- Dutch settlers, including from colonies in SE Asia [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/1/72]
- Drafts: Correspondence, Lists and Schedules 1950-1966 [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/8/1-325]
- Netherlands Drafts 414-425, 1967 [ABKF 947 W5182 22/8 (Box 313)]
- Netherlands/Dutch Drafts 1966-1967 [ABKF 947 W5199 22/3/2 (Box 5)]

Other Labour Department Records

Labour Department files relating to immigration in the 1950s & 1960s, are extensive. [L 1 22/...]

Identifiable groups, among many other arrivals by sea and air 1950s-1960s, are:

- Belgians - Drafts 1962-1965 [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/14/1-14])
- Greeks - Drafts 1962-1966 [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/3/15]
- Germans & Austrians - Drafts 1956-1964 [(ACGV 8814) L 1 22/4/1-46]

Registered Case Files of Temporary-entry Immigrants [(ACGV 8832) L 20]

Sample of 813 files only, no dates, searchable by name on ARCHWAY **R100/60** Contact:

Records Management Advisor
Business Information Branch
New Zealand immigration Service
PO Box 3705
Wellington

Index (to above files) [(ACGV 8833) L21] (open)

EMIGRATION

Archives New Zealand, Wellington, holds many outwards ship passenger lists up to 1973 in the Social Security Department records [SS 1], but the sequences are far from complete until after 1910.

The records for minor ports hold some emigration records for 1886 and then from 1895. Wellington emigration records date from 1899 and Auckland records from 1908.

The passenger lists are grouped in three or six month periods by port: Auckland, or Wellington, or the minor ports which were Lyttelton and Bluff. Ships often called at more than one port and emigration from Dunedin was usually included with the Wellington and Auckland entries.

The passenger lists are unindexed. If a ship name and date for leaving New Zealand are known, finding an emigration record is relatively straightforward. If no specific ship name or date are known, it is necessary to search the passenger lists which can only be done at Archives New Zealand in Wellington. It takes about an hour to search six months of lists for one name.

South Africa 1901-1902

A special record exists for non-military New Zealanders travelling to South Africa from mid-1901 to 1902 because the South African government required entry permits. Applications for and copies of the permits survive among the inward correspondence of the Colonial Secretary, later the Internal Affairs Department [IA 1].

People applying for entry permits to South Africa can be traced through the index to letters received 1901-1903 [IA 3/3/25] and the register of those letters 1901-1902 which gives individual names [IA 3/1/58]. The register entries give specific file references [IA 1].

OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

- First appearance in Electoral Rolls, directories, land records, can give a clue to arrival date.
- Obituaries may suggest how long people have been in New Zealand. Often inaccurate.
- Death registrations of immigrant family members who died after 1875 often include information about how long they had been in New Zealand.
- Notices of Intention to Marry, in Registers at Archives New Zealand Wellington [BDM 20], may record length of residence in the registrar district. This is sometimes a clue to arrival.
- Birth and Marriage records (Central Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Wellington).
- Newspaper listings of passenger arrivals, which may include migrants from Australia. Use 'Papers Past' online which is searchable.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* (6 volumes 1897-1906). Indexed entries for individuals often give immigration details.
- Alexander Turnbull / National Library records (Wellington).
- Museums and Libraries throughout New Zealand, for local and regional immigration information.
- Emigration records in Britain.
- New Zealand Society of Genealogists and local branches.
- Many books have been published about various early settlements in New Zealand and these often include shipping and immigrant information.
- The Internet. Use a search engine and enter 'Immigration New Zealand' and then refine the search. Many passenger lists are now online.