

December 2010

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Police Gazettes

Introduction

New Zealand Police Gazettes were published weekly from 1861 to 1990. They were distributed to police stations throughout the country to disseminate information relating to the daily work of police and prison officials.

Contents

As well as describing crimes and criminals, Police Gazettes publicise missing persons, deserters from ships, absconding husbands and school pupils, and unsolved crimes. From the 1860s occasional lists of Police appointments, promotions and dismissals are included. These are regular columns from the 1900s and include hundreds of names per year.

From the late 1970s the Police Gazettes become like other government department gazettes, recording Police appointments, promotions, etc. There are Photograph Supplements of prisoner photos and a summary of their alleged crimes.

Existing Police Gazettes

From 1861 to 1876 the only extant Police Gazettes are provincial ones for Otago and Canterbury (including the West Coast of the South Island). From 1877 to 1990 Police Gazettes are for the whole country.

Indexing

From 1877 Police Gazettes are fully indexed, apart from police appointments which are only partially indexed.

Photographs

For 1908-1914 the Gazettes include photographs of discharged prisoners. From 1915 to 1990 photographs (indexed) of prisoners in custody are included as well as those discharged. There is **not** a photograph for every prisoner.



McCASKILL, FLORENCE.

A typical Police Gazette photograph: Florence McCaskill, Barmaid, convicted of theft, 1910
[AAZC W2542 39 184 p21]

Access

All Police Gazettes 70 years old and over are open. Permission to access information in later gazettes must be obtained from:

The Commissioner of Police
Office of the Commissioner
PO Box 3017
Wellington 6160

Auckland Office

- Police Gazettes 1877-1939
[BBAN 5803/50a-5803/63a]
1964 [BBAN 5803/101a]
1976 [BBAN 5803/127a]
- Police Gazettes 1940-1951 **R**
[BBAN 5803/64a]
- Police Gazette Photographs 1951-1985 **R** [BBAN 5803/76a-144a]
- Police Gazette Photographs & Index 1969-1975 **R**
[BBAN 5803/114a-126a]
- Police Gazette Wanted List 1962-1963 **R** [BBAN 5803/99a-100a]

Wellington Office

- Otago Police Gazette 1861-1877
Vol.1-8 [(ACIS 17653) P 12 3/3-5/10]
- Canterbury Police Gazette 1863-1877
(including West Coast)
[(ACIS 17653) P12 1/1-2/2]
- Police Gazette 1877-1922
[(ACIS 17653) P12 6/11-43/56]
- Police Gazette 1923-1930
[(ACIS 17653) P12 W2653/44-49]
- Police Gazette 1931-1977 **R 70**
[AAZC W2542/56-119]
- Police Gazette 1976-1981 (photo supplements) **R** [AAZC W4928/56-60]
- Police Gazette 1982-1990 **R**
[AAAJ 5803 W5609/119-130]
- Police Gazette Photographs 1982 **R**
[AAAJ 5803 W5609/164]
- Police Gazette 1983-1988 (photo supplements) **R** [AAZC W4928/62-65]

Name of Offender.	Where tried.	When.	Offence.
Harris, Kuri ..	Rawene ..	30/1/20	assault ..
Tarawai Ote ..	Rawene ..	30/1/20	assault .. furious riding ..
Harris, Waaka ..	Rawene ..	30/1/20	furious riding .. threatening behaviour ..
Tamora Rehare ..	Rawene ..	30/1/20	furious riding .. assault ..

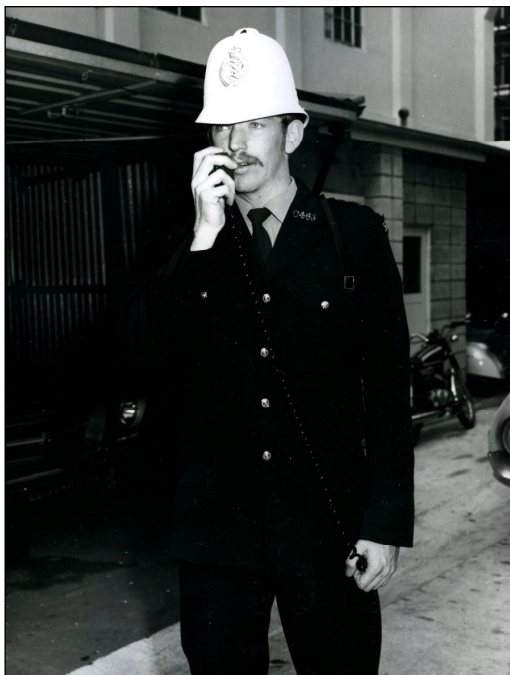
Police Gazette No.194 1920 p131 – Extract from a table:
Return of persons convicted
AAZC W2542/45

Christchurch Office

- Canterbury Police Gazette 1875-1876
[CAHZ CH66/1]
- Police Gazette 1877-1899 [CAHZ CH66/1]
- Police Gazette 1894-1939 [CAIA CH37/1-7]
- Police Gazette 1940-1978 R [CAIA CH37/8-26]
- Police Gazette Photographs 1951-1978 R
[CAIA CH37/26-30]

Dunedin Office

- Police Gazette 1877-1878, 1880-1889, 1895, 1897
[DABS D77/1a-o]
- Police Gazette 1900-19, 1928-1929
[DAFL D396/39a-48]
- Police Gazette – Prisoner Photographs 1908-1921
[DAFL D396/49]



Police Constable using personal radio
1974. Photographer: R.Anderson, Wgtn
AAQT 6539 B5096

Police Gazette Categories

Information is organised into two categories:

- tables of returns which give detailed information on each person/charge/incident
- paragraphs which contain summary information on the person/charge/incident.

In the late 1950s returns were abandoned and all entries were reduced to paragraph format.

Returns

Tables of information include person's name, where and when tried, offence, sentence, nationality, height, complexion, hair and eye colour, and remarks on distinguishing features and previous convictions.

- Return of Prisoners Discharged from Gaols
- Return of Persons Summarily Convicted at Magistrates Courts but not sent to Gaol
- Return of Persons Dealt with at Supreme Courts
- Returns of Watches and Bicycles Reported Stolen. These provide detailed descriptions of the watch or bicycle and the events surrounding their theft.

Paragraph Summaries

These include name and physical description of the person (often much detail on clothing), a brief description of the offence/incident, and where it occurred. Events involving unidentified persons are also included.

- Absconding from Industrial Schools/State Institutions
- Apprehensions, Persons Found etc
- Deserters from Merchant Vessels/Deserters from His/Her Majesty's Service
- Deserting Wives and Families
- Escaped Prisoners
- Extracts from Australian Police Gazettes
- Forgery and Uttering
- General Instructions (content guide for Police Gazettes, Court Sittings, Police Appointments)
- Horse and Cattle Stealing
- House Breaking and Stealing from Dwelling Houses and Persons
- Incendiarism (arson)
- Inquests (often on unidentified bodies)
- Miscellaneous (everything from Police Appointments to sly grogging)
- Missing Friends
- Murder/Child Murder
- Offences Not Otherwise Described (abduction, theft, embezzlements etc)
- Persons Wanted
- Property Stolen/Recovered
- Sacrilege (eg vandalising a church)
- Special Inquiry
- Stealing otherwise than from Person or Dwelling
- Stolen Goods
- Unexecuted warrants