

World War I internee, alien and POW records held in Canberra

Internees are prisoners of war (POWs) or enemy aliens who are obliged to reside within prescribed 'camps', generally unable to leave until the termination of the related conflict or war.

During World War I internment in Australia was regulated by the *War Precautions Act 1914* and its regulations. The main internment camp was at Liverpool, New South Wales. Most of the internees were Germans living in Australia who were subsequently deported.

The National Archives holds many records specifically relating to internment and internees. However, references to individuals often occur in files with general titles. Also, it was not uncommon for internees to be moved from one camp to another, even to another state. Thus records that relate to individual internees may be difficult to identify, though they may exist in the collection of more than one office of the National Archives.

This fact sheet identifies records of World War I internees, aliens and prisoners of war held in Canberra. Records in other offices can be identified by using the National Archives' publication *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, or the National Archives RecordSearch database.

Records relating to World War I internees, aliens and prisoners of war held in Canberra

Governor-General's Office (CA 1)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Correspondence relating to the war of 1914–18 ('war files')</u>	1914–19	A11803
<u>General correspondence (excluding 'war files')</u>	1914–20	A11804

Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1904–27	A456

Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1904–20	A2
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1921–23	A457
<u>Correspondence files</u>	1923–34	A458

Investigation Branch, Central Office (CA 747)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Enquiries by German Red Cross about Germans in Australia</u>	1920	A390
<u>Personal and subject files</u>	1919–46	A402

2 Military District, New South Wales (CA 6335)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Album of identification photographs of enemy aliens (civilian and POW) interned at Liverpool Camp NSW, during World War I (A microfiche copy of this album is held by all offices of the National Archives. The album held as D3597 is almost identical to – and more complete than – the similar albums controlled as K565, P1 and SP421/4.)</u>	1914–21	D3597

Clearing Office (Enemy Debts) and Public Trustee (CA 557)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Returns of property under the Trading with the Enemy Act and record of property held (all States)</u>	1916–20	CP176/13
<u>Vesting Orders</u>	1919–29	CP176/16
<u>Register of applications made by ex-enemy nationals for release of their property from the Public Trustee's control</u>	1923–25	CP176/18

Special Intelligence Bureau (CA 746) (to 1919), Investigation Branch (CA 747) (1919 to 1946), Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650) (from 1946)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Correspondence files of the Commonwealth Investigation Service</u>	1916–60	A8911

For more information

For further information about the National Archives' holdings relating to internee, alien and prisoner of war records consult the following:

- *Fact sheet 106 - WW I internee, alien and POW records held in Adelaide*
- *Fact sheet 171 - WW I internee, alien and POW records held in Sydney*
- *Fact sheet 59 - WW II internee, alien and POW records held in Canberra*
- *Fact sheet 101 - WW II internee, alien and POW records held in Sydney*

- *Fact sheet 107 - WW II internee, alien and POW records held in Adelaide*
- *Fact sheet 180 - Wartime internee, alien and POW records held in Perth*