

# Safe haven

Records of the Jewish experience  
in Australia



This guide is number 12 in the series of Research Guides published by the National Archives of Australia.

Ever since the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, Jewish people have been a small but significant group in Australian life. This guide charts the ups and downs of the Jewish experience – the difficulties maintaining religious traditions in a new land, the changing nature of the Jewish community, the treatment of Jews as immigrants and 'aliens', the mixed responses to the Holocaust and the creation of Israel. It also looks at the remarkable contributions that Jewish people have made to Australia's political, economic, cultural and social life.

Malcolm J Turnbull has a PhD in History from Deakin University – his thesis was on Judaism in Melbourne, 1870–1970 – and he has published numerous articles on Australian Jewish history. He has also written a major study of the English crime and detective fiction writer Anthony Berkeley Cox.

Guides include the material known to be relevant to their subject area but they are not necessarily a complete or definitive guide to all relevant material in the collection.

The National Archives reviews its collection to confirm the value of records for research, evidential and other purposes or to identify, in consultation with agencies, records for destruction. At the time of publication all the records described in this guide were present in the Archives collection. However, it is possible that some of the records may be destroyed if they are reviewed and considered not to be of enduring value. If this occurs the guide will be revised accordingly.

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# Introduction

## The National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia ensures that full and accurate records documenting Commonwealth Government activities are created and kept. From this massive body of information, the Archives selects, cares for and makes available to all those records of continuing value. This collection constitutes the archives of the Commonwealth Government – a vast and rich resource for the study of Australian history, Australian society and the Australian people.

The collection spans almost 200 years of Australian history. The main focus of the collection is material which documents Federal Government activities since Federation in 1901. There are also significant holdings of nineteenth-century records which relate to functions transferred by the colonies to the Commonwealth Government at the time of Federation and subsequently. The records described in this guide are a small but significant part of the collection.

Access to the National Archives collection is provided free of charge in public reading rooms located in each capital city. Researchers are assisted by specialist reference staff and are provided with reference tools to help them identify and use the records in the collection. These reference tools include the RecordSearch and PhotoSearch databases, guides, publications and fact sheets. Researchers unable to visit a reading room may seek information and help by telephone, mail, facsimile or email.

RecordSearch and PhotoSearch provide information about agencies, persons and series as well as descriptions of over two million individual records. They are available for online searching in reading rooms located in all offices of the National Archives, at the Australian War Memorial and on the National Archives website.

The National Archives website provides more information about the Archives, its collection and the services it offers. A visit to the site will help you determine whether the Archives holds records relevant to your research. Fact sheets on various topics are also available on the Archives website.

## Using this guide

The aim of this guide is to describe and facilitate access to records in the National Archives which relate to Jewish people in Australia. The guide brings together descriptions of records which deal with a wide range of topics, including immigration, naturalisation, the position of Jews in Australia during periods of war, the participation of Jews in public life and the armed forces, antisemitism, Zionism and Australian responses to the Holocaust.

The guide aims at comprehensiveness. However, given that the collection of the National Archives runs to an estimated 500 shelf kilometres of records, clearly only

a proportion of records of possible Jewish interest could be located and identified. Accordingly, the search has targeted the most likely sources of relevant material.

The guide is divided into an introduction, a prefatory essay and seven subsequent chapters.

The Introduction provides general information about the National Archives. The essay (Chapter 1) provides an overview of two hundred years of Australian Jewish history, focusing, in particular, on the key themes of communal decline and assimilation, and revitalisation through successive waves of immigration. Chapters 2 and 3 examine Jewish immigration in detail. Chapter 2 encompasses an historical summary of Government policy regarding the entry of Jews into Australia and summarises major archival sources on immigration policy (specifically from 1920 to the 1960s), and on such important sub-topics as the work of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, the outcomes of the Evian Conference, Jewish child migration, and land settlement proposals such as the Kimberley Scheme. Chapter 3 summarises holdings of migrant selection records and case files. Chapter 4 provides a summary of relevant naturalisation records.

Chapter 5 examines the status of Jews as 'enemy aliens' in time of war, and summarises records of wartime internment (with particular reference to the *Dunera* affair).

Chapter 6 focuses on records relating to Australian Jewish achievers – individuals who have gained prominence in politics, the arts or other public domains. This chapter also examines Jewish congregations and other communal institutions, the Jewish press, antisemitism and the role of Jews in Australian Communism.

Chapter 7 looks at the participation of Jews in the Australian Armed Services, specifically during the Boer War, World War I and World War II.

Chapter 8 summarises the evolution of political Zionism in Australia, and cites records dealing with Australian responses to European antisemitism and the Holocaust, and Australia's relations with Palestine (under the British mandate) and the State of Israel.

As additional aids to researchers, the guide includes several Appendixes – including other sources of Jewish records in Australia, a select bibliography and information about Jewish research sites on the Internet (Appendix 3).

## Record descriptions

Each entry in the guide describes a group of records which have been maintained together as a series. A series is made up of items, which are often individual files (sometimes volumes, sets of cards, photographs, etc) that were received into custody by the National Archives from the creating agency or person. Series usually consist of many items, but occasionally consist of just a few or even a single item.

The description for each series describes its content and function. The entry concludes with a listing of selected items from the series. In many instances, particular series have been found to contain relevant material on multiple aspects of the Jewish experience, and have been referred to several times. The full description of each series is given only on its first appearance. As a general rule, this guide identifies rather than analyses the records. Researchers should make their own assessment of the information content and value of any item.

More detailed information about the series, agencies and items described is available on the Archives database, which is available for online searching in each of the Archives reading rooms, at the Australian War Memorial and on the Archives website.

To fully understand a record it is helpful to know certain things about it in addition to its contents. It helps to know who created the record, when it was created and what other related records exist. This information provides the context of the record, which helps researchers interpret what the record is really about, determine its relevance, and decide how accurate or complete it might be. The National Archives documents this contextual information for each record in the collection using the Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System.

**❶ CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1928-56 A518**

**❷** Recorded by:

**1928-1941: Territories Branch, Prime Minister's Department (CA 822)**

**❸ Canberra 199.15 metres**

**❹** The subject-matter of this series includes customs, defence, security and postwar reconstruction.

**❺ New Guinea – settlement of Jews, 1938-39 A518, Q118/2**

**❻** This files includes Government responses to J H Catts' proposal of a settlement on 70,000 acres of New Guinea, as well as a proposal to settle refugee Jews on plantations in Kenya.

## Key

- ❶** This is the **series title** and the date range of the records that make up the series. The **series number** is shown on the right-hand side.
- ❷** This is the **person or government agency that created the series**. It also shows the date range during which each series was created or recorded. This date range does not necessarily correspond to the contents date range of the records which appears in the series title. The CP (Commonwealth person) and the CA (Commonwealth agency) numbers are a unique identifier allocated by the National Archives to each person or agency. These numbers can be used to retrieve more information about the person or agency.

agency, and the records they created, from the National Archives' online database, RecordSearch.

- ③ This is the **total volume of records** in the series and the **location** where the series is held. If copies of records are held in other locations, this is indicated here.
- ④ This is a brief **description of the series**.
- ⑤ This is **the title given to the item by the person or agency** that created it. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The **item's identifying number** appears on the right-hand side. This number must be quoted when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.
- ⑥ This **describes the main contents of an item**. Note that it does not describe every document on the file.

## Access to the records

Many of the series described in this guide are listed in the Archives database which is available in each of the reading rooms and on the Archives website. Indexes and inventories – available in reading rooms – may also be useful. Reference staff can assist researchers to use these lists.

Not all items are available immediately for public access. Some may first require examination to ensure they do not contain information which remains sensitive (eg personal details). If individual items within a series have not been examined, researchers apply for access to them and there may be a delay while the material is examined. If items are withheld from public access following this examination, reference staff will explain the nature of the information, why it has been withheld, and how to appeal against the decision.

## Citing the records

The correct citation of archival records is important both when requesting them and when referring to them in written or published works. Using proper citations will not only help staff to more readily locate records, but will also help other researchers to find that material you have used if they wish to examine it for themselves.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives is expressed as follows: the name *National Archives of Australia* followed by a colon, the series number followed by a comma, and then the item number. An example is:

National Archives of Australia: A9951, 74

The name *National Archives of Australia* may be abbreviated to 'NAA' provided the full name has been used in the first citation.



## Locating additional information

Additional information on the Jewish experience in Australia can be located by conducting searches on the National Archives database. Holdings of relevant material by other institutions in Australia are noted in Appendix 1. The select bibliography will also assist researchers to identify other primary and secondary sources.

# 1 The Jews in Australia

There has been a Jewish presence in Australia since the very beginning of white settlement. Eight of the 751 convicts on the First Fleet were certainly Jews and a further six may well have been. Among this batch of pioneers were Esther Abrahams, eventually to reign as unofficial 'first lady' of the colony as mistress and wife of Lieutenant George Johnston; John Harris, ultimately the colony's first policeman; and Joseph Levy, who earned the dubious distinction of being the first Jew to die here in April 1788. The Anglo-Jewish underworld continued to be represented in convict consignments until the end of transportation in 1852 – at least 1000 individuals came here involuntarily, most of them male, most of them from London's East End, at a time when London Jewry was only 30 000 at its peak.<sup>1</sup>

Alongside convicts and emancipists, Jewish free settlers – also largely drawn from Britain's 'urban poor' – elected to seek a 'brighter future' in the Antipodes from the 1820s. By the 1840s there were small but growing Jewish communities in New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, South Australia and Western Australia – an estimated total of 1200, or 0.5 per cent of the total population. Although community numbers were augmented substantially by the gold rush, the proportion of Jews within the general population has remained fairly constant at 0.5 per cent ever since.<sup>2</sup>

The two centuries of Australian Jewish history subdivide reasonably readily. The evolution of the Jewish community reflects to a marked extent the more general shift from the dominance of British culture to the culturally pluralist, broader society of the late 20th century.

In general terms, the 150 years from the start of colonisation were marked by the dominance of Anglo-Jewish elites. The community and sub-communities in each colony or state were led, controlled and dictated to by English-speaking Jews, fiercely loyal to the 'mother country' and dedicated to being and perpetuating themselves as patriotic Anglo-Australians 'of the Jewish faith'.<sup>3</sup>

'We Australian Jews in this remote outpost of the British Empire are Britishers to the backbone and spinal marrow', declared the Jewish Herald shortly after the end

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<sup>1</sup> J.S. Levi & G.F.J. Bergman, *Australian Genesis*, Sydney 1974, p.10.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Price, *Jewish Settlers in Australia*, Canberra 1964, p.8.

<sup>3</sup> Suzanne D. Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, 2nd edition, Sydney 1997, p.xii; Hilary L. Rubinstein, "From Jewish non-distinctiveness to group invisibility ...", in *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, ed. W.D. Rubinstein, Sydney 1987, p.22.

of the World War I,<sup>4</sup> a sentiment which was endorsed wholeheartedly by such prominent figures as Sir John Monash (commander of the Australian forces in 1914–18), Sir Isaac Isaacs (Governor-General in the 1930s), Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen, Rabbi Jacob Danglow, Rabbi Joseph Abrahams, Sir Samuel Cohen, Sir Benjamin Benjamin, and others.

Notwithstanding the incursion of successive waves of immigrants from Germany and Russia, the Anglo-Australian establishment was strong enough to absorb and 'anglicise' generations of non-English-speaking newcomers into a collective homogeneity up until the interwar period.

The half-century or so since the 1930s has witnessed the eclipse and decline of the Anglo-Australian Jewish establishment and the ascendancy of a 'pluralist' Jewish community, rooted in the divergent traditions, mores and cultures (secular and religious) of migrants and refugees who came here *en masse* from Central and Eastern Europe. Jewishness and Jewish identity, both in Australia and internationally, have been fundamentally redefined by the Holocaust, the emergence (and political survival) of the State of Israel, and the evolution of Australia's relationship with Britain and the rest of the world. As historian W D Rubinstein has written:

Most Australian Jews today were originally Yiddish-speaking Eastern European migrants (many of them Holocaust survivors) or are their offspring. Few retain any special loyalties to the United Kingdom, and most fully accept the concept of multiculturalism.<sup>5</sup>

Predictably, the key and central theme of immigration dominates this guide, just as the historical circumstances and vagaries which dictated the migrant and refugee experience have ultimately determined and helped maintain the sub-group identity of Australia's oldest 'ethnic minority'.

Beginning in the 1820s, handfuls of committed Jewish pioneers, most of them small businessmen, some former convicts, established the foundations of congregational life and consecrated cemeteries and places of worship in what are now the chief urban centres of Australia. In 1828 merchant Phillip J Cohen convened regular religious services at his Sydney home, and superintended the formal establishment of the Sydney Hebrew Congregation in 1832. The first synagogue in Australia was opened in rented premises in Bridge Street, Sydney, five years later and a permanent building was subsequently consecrated in York

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<sup>4</sup> *Jewish Herald*, 21 March 1919

<sup>5</sup> W.D. Rubinstein, "Jewish Contribution to Australian Elites", in *The Australian People*, ed. James Jupp, Sydney 1988, p.645.

Street. The Sydney Hebrew Congregation has worshipped at the Great Synagogue in Elizabeth Street since 1877.

The first organised services in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) were convened at the Argyle Street, Hobart home of wealthy emancipist Judah Solomon in 1830. A 'house of worship' – now the oldest synagogue in the country – was constructed, on land donated by Solomon, in 1845.

Jewish services were initiated in Melbourne for the 1839 High Holydays. The Melbourne Hebrew Congregation was founded two years later, and the first Melbourne synagogue was constructed in Bourke Street in 1848. Within little more than a generation, two further permanent synagogues, at East Melbourne and suburban St Kilda, reflected the growth and geographical spread of Melbourne Jewry.

The formal beginnings of South Australian Jewry were gatherings at the Adelaide home of Burnett Nathan for High Holyday observance in 1846. The Adelaide Hebrew Congregation, established two years later, had sufficient funds to erect its own *shul* (synagogue) in 1850.

The fifteen Jewish families then living in Brisbane came together as a congregation in 1865, meeting in a succession of rented auction rooms and a Masonic temple pending the consecration of its first synagogue in 1886.

In Western Australia, congregations were founded at Fremantle in 1887 and Perth in 1892. The two merged within the Perth synagogue – consecrated in 1897 – in the early 1900s.

Suzanne Rutland has observed that in Australia, as in other parts of the New World, geography and population size forced the synagogue 'to assume the functions that in Europe were carried out by the communal super-authorities, including the control of education, dietary laws and charity and the supervision of a burial ground. As a result, the synagogues became the focal point of all aspects of Jewish life in Australia'.<sup>6</sup>

Throughout the 19th century, valiant efforts were made also to foster a frontier Judaism. Gold rush communities and congregations blossomed in Forbes, Goulburn, Maitland, Tamworth and Toowoomba and, of course, dwindled as soon as the ore petered out. A few individuals 'struck it lucky' while others eked out existences as traders or pedlars. Most drifted back to the cities or else 'married out' and assimilated fully into rural society. The gold rush pattern was repeated in

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<sup>6</sup> Suzanne D. Rutland, "Early Jewish Settlement, 1788-1880", in *The Australian People*, p.638.

Western Australia in the 1890s where Jewish congregations at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie flourished briefly. Sandhurst (Bendigo) and Ballarat in Victoria were large enough to maintain functioning congregations for longer periods, although both were in decline by the turn of the century.

The 'urban drift' is a constant in Australian Jewish history. Indeed, much the same has applied to most minority ethnic and cultural groups in rural Australia. Obvious examples include the small 19th century German communities of Grafton and Albury. While the patriarchal influence of the Lutheran Church, the development of a German-language press and the formation of German social organisations might temporarily have prolonged ethnic affiliation, inevitably the lure of the wider community undermined increasingly superficial links with tradition. Essentially, maintenance of 'Jewishness' has always depended on group support and active involvement in the educational, social, cultural and religious structures of an identifiable community. The outside pressures on rural Jews invariably proved too great to allow old ties to persist beyond a couple of generations.

Not least of these pressures were the isolation and sheer size of the Australian environment. Barbara Falk has highlighted the difficulties faced by Jewish bushmen in keeping a 'kosher bush hut' or in mustering a *minyan*<sup>7</sup> for traditional services.<sup>8</sup> The logistics of observing ritual in the outback dictated compromise. The bushman experience was geared to the single male. Even with the population spiral of the gold rush years, marriageable Jewish females were a scarcity. Many Jewish men married non-Jews because there was no alternative and, in general, the children of mixed marriages were unlikely to be brought up as Jews – in part because of the difficulty of converting to Judaism prior to the establishment of Progressive Judaism in this country.

Small congregations of rural Jews sprang up at different times throughout the continent (even in places as unlikely as Broken Hill) but, usually, they were unable to sustain or replicate themselves over succeeding generations. By the 1960s, only 3.6 per cent of Australia's Jews lived outside the six capital cities, and only 0.9 per cent lived in rural areas.<sup>9</sup> Primarily, Australian Jewish history is concerned with Jewish communities in major urban centres, and with the impact upon those sub-communities of successive waves of immigration.

The threat and reality of assimilation has been a key factor of urban Australian Jewish history just as assimilation has characterised the rural Jewish experience.

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<sup>7</sup> Barbara Falk, *No Other Home*, Melb 1988, p.5.

<sup>8</sup> Price, Appendices I & VI

<sup>9</sup> J.S. Levi, "200 Years: a Jewish Perspective", in *Australia & New Zealand Jewish Yearbook 1988*, ed. J. Langley, Melb 1987, p.9. I

In part, the predisposition towards integration and loss of Jewish identity has been related to the ease with which Jews have been able to participate at all social, institutional, business and legislative levels. At the same time, the process of assimilation has been nurtured by fears of antisemitism and resultant attempts to minimise any nonconformist practices and appearances which might impact adversely on the wider community's perceptions or toleration.

Some non-English Jews – notably German Jews who came in substantial numbers during the gold rush – had little difficulty in merging with the English-born majority. Their descendants readily adopted a collective Anglo-Jewish homogeneity. But the situation altered with the arrival of Russian and Polish Jews at the end of the century. From 1882 and continuing into the new century and – to a lesser extent – up until the beginning of World War I, waves of Jews fled Czarist oppression seeking havens overseas. The majority opted for the Americas, while some settled permanently in Great Britain, and others in South Africa, Canada and Australia.

The arrival of Yiddish-speaking 'yokels' was viewed with concern by vocal sections of both the wider community and the Anglo-Australian Jewish establishment. The Jewish community feared that the migrants' distinctive dress and manners, non-conformist appearance, poverty and obvious 'foreignness' might adversely affect its own standing.

The fears were not unfounded. John Levi has maintained that antisemitism was 'a strident characteristic of the incipient Australian nationalism of the late 19th century', lasting well into the 20th century.<sup>10</sup> Sections of the labour movement promoted stereotypes of Jews as manipulative bankers, usurers and profiteers while, at the turn of the century, the *Bulletin* claimed that the Boer War had been precipitated by Jews for their own (financial) ends. Humphrey McQueen has speculated that the 'White Australia' lobbying which resulted in the anti-Asian *Immigration Restriction Act* of 1901, was, in part, a reaction to a rumoured influx of Russian Jews.<sup>11</sup>

As a result of their concerns, Australian Anglo-Jews consciously developed a policy of non-distinctiveness, encouraging the playing down of cultural or religious practices which might render them 'odd' or 'obvious' in the eyes of their gentile peers. They emphasised their fervent loyalty and attachment to King and Country and, in many instances, actively distanced themselves from their less fortunate

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<sup>10</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, *Chosen: the Jews in Australia*, Sydney 1987, p.161; Howard M. Sachar, *Diaspora*, New York 1985, p.172; Humphrey McQueen, *A New Britannia*, Ringwood (Vic) 1970, p.36.

<sup>11</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, *Chosen*, p.148.

'foreign' co-religionists. As Hilary Rubinstein has written of the Anglo-oriented majority:

Their cultural preferences were those of the British stock gentile majority, and they left the pursuit of *yiddishkeit*, involvement in Zionism and the conduct of congregational and communal affairs to the dedicated few.<sup>12</sup>

The end result of the Jewish establishment's quest for non-distinctiveness was a steady decline in religious observances and Jewish education and an upsurge in intermarriage. By the 1920s the community was confronting a major crisis, one compounded by the loss of the 'finest flower' of its youth in World War I. An estimated 30 per cent of Jewish males were married to non-Jews and the proportion was even greater – around 50 per cent – in Tasmania and South Australia. Predictions were made that within a generation or two the community would have assimilated completely into the greater Australian whole.

Notwithstanding the disquiet they had caused, the impact of the initial influxes of Russian immigrants had been short-lived. Overall numbers were too small to impinge severely on Jewish communal institutions or structures and, within a generation of their arrival, most of the newcomers were intent on acquiring the outward characteristics and allegiances of the Anglophile majority.

Increasingly concerned about this trend towards assimilation in all the major urban centres, communal leaders adopted a policy of revitalisation. They hoped that the development of youth clubs, educational facilities, sporting organisations and Zionist groups might foster a heightened sense of 'Jewishness' amongst the young.

In the long run, though, the solution to Australian Jewry's declining fortunes lay in international events rather than in community initiatives. Deteriorating conditions in Eastern Europe impelled some 2000 Polish Jews to seek a new life in Melbourne and Sydney in the 1920s, while the rise of Hitler and the spread of Fascism throughout Europe in the 1930s, resulted in the emigration of some 7000 more from Austria and Germany.

Not unexpectedly, the waves of immigration were greeted with mixed emotions by both the Jewish establishment and the wider Australian public, and the immigrants found themselves forced to contend with often less than flexible Federal Government policy. Some found themselves under surveillance as 'enemy aliens'. Ultimately, however, the immigrants – arriving *en masse* – had a significant impact on, and in time transformed and revitalised, the remote and insular Jewish community. As Suzanne Rutland has pointed out:

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<sup>12</sup> Suzanne D. Rutland, "A changing community - the impact of the refugees on Australian Jewry", *Australian Journal of Politics and History* 31(1), 1985, p.90.

For the first time in the history of Australian Jewry a European migrant group arrived in sufficiently large numbers to impose their own Jewish values on the previously dominant ideology of assimilation within the general community.<sup>13</sup>

By 1939 Australian Anglo-Jews were in the process of being outflanked by a multi-hued foreign importation – newcomers who saw themselves as Jews first and foremost, and Poles, Russians, Germans, Austrians, etc, second. This was the very reverse of the Anglo-Australian 'of the Jewish faith'. The newcomers were well-versed in Jewish scholarship, often deeply religious and, in many cases, passionately Zionist. More significantly, they were generally imbued with European culture and experienced in organisational politics. W D Rubinstein notes that 'the new arrivals were determined to establish a network of Jewish institutions which would assure the survival of the community'.<sup>14</sup>

'Being Jewish' encompassed much more than token fealty to a religious tradition. For them Jewishness entailed subscription to a range of secular, ethnic and religious identities and, increasingly, a group focus on issues of nationalism and a Jewish homeland. After 1945, the community was transformed as up to 35 000 Jews migrated here in the 15-year period from 1945 to 1960. In this period, communal power was increasingly wrested away from the 'Establishment' via the various Boards of Deputies and Zionist organisations. World War II, the Holocaust and the birth of Israel set the seal on a redefined Australian Jewish identity.

In the late 1990s, the Australian Jewish community is a vibrant, flourishing and prosperous entity, estimated at in excess of 100,000<sup>15</sup> and judged recently 'one of the best organised Diaspora communities in the world'.<sup>16</sup> Evan Zuesse noted that in many respects 'Australian Jewish history is an Australian as well as a Jewish success story', and that 'the general tenor of Australian attitudes to Jews is positive and welcoming'.<sup>17</sup>

Centred mainly in Melbourne and Sydney, but with smaller sub-communities in the other state capitals, Australian Jewry boasts an impressive network of cultural, educational, sporting, Zionist and religious institutions, including more than 50 congregations – ranging from the ultra-Orthodox Adass Israel to the Progressive Temple Emanuel. Community Councils or Boards of Deputies in each state

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<sup>13</sup> W.D. Rubinstein, *The Jews of Australia: an Introduction*, Melb 1987, p.3.

<sup>14</sup> For an examination of Jewish numbers, see Sol Encel, "The Australian Jewish population: How many are we?", in *Guide to Jewish Life in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific*, Melb 1993, p.4-5.

<sup>15</sup> W.D. Rubinstein, *Judaism in Australia*, Canberra 1995, p.7.

<sup>16</sup> Evan M. Zuesse, "From Assimilation to Affirmation: the Jews in Australia", in *Religion and Multiculturalism in Australia*, ed. Norman C. Habel, Adelaide 1992, p.191.

<sup>17</sup> Bulletin, 8 May 1891. Quoted by Michael Blakeney, *Australia and the Jewish Refugees 1933-1948*, Sydney 1985, p.18.



coordinate communal activities, while the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) acts as national roof-body.

Jews are, and have been throughout Australian history, prominent in most aspects of public life, including politics, the arts, business and the professions. Indeed, a listing of Jewish achievers takes up some 200 pages in the two-volume *The Jews in Australia: A Thematic History* (1991) by Hilary L and W D Rubinstein.

## 2 Immigration Settlement – Government Policy

Revitalisation of the community through immigration is the central theme of Australian Jewish history. As noted in Chapter 1, successive waves of 'newcomers' have reinforced Australian Jewry numerically and spiritually in the century and a half since the gold rush, most notably in the 1880s and 1890s, during the interwar years and after 1945.

### Pre-1939 immigration policy

European antisemitism, manifested in the pogroms and discriminatory legislation of Czarist Russia, spurred hundreds of thousands of Yiddish-speaking Jews to leave Russia and Poland for more hospitable shores (including Australia) after 1882. A small number of émigrés, disillusioned with the harsh realities of attempting to reclaim a barren wilderness in the Holy Land, similarly chose to come here from Palestine in the early 1900s.

The deteriorating state of European Jewry following World War I and, in particular, after the rise of Nazism, proved ironically to be the salvation of a dwindling and fast-disappearing Australian Jewish community in the interwar years. Substantial influxes of Jews from Eastern Europe in the 1920s and Central Europe from 1933 augmented communal numbers dramatically. The migration of Holocaust survivors to Australia after 1945 more than doubled the size of Australian Jewry. In addition, Jewish refugees from Egypt settled in Adelaide in the 1950s and, subsequently, small numbers of Hungarian, South African and Russian Jews have elected to emigrate here.

The National Archives has comprehensive and extensive holdings dealing with the immigration process, encompassing shipping records, passenger listings, migrant selection documents (including displaced persons files), 'aliens' registers, numerous indexes and policy documents. Augmenting these are large collections of naturalisation files. A detailed survey of such a huge volume of material is outside the scope of this guide, and readers should refer to the relevant information in the National Archives genealogy guide, *Finding Families*.

In this chapter, the evolution of Government policy on the immigration of non-British Jews into Australia is discussed. Related topics are also covered – such as the Evian Conference, the work of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, the issue of Jewish child migration, land settlement schemes (particularly the Kimberleys proposal) and the postwar 'Are you Jewish' debate.

As noted in Chapter 1, the arrival of sizeable numbers of Yiddish-speaking Jews from Russia in the late 19th century was a cause of some concern, both to sectors of the general public and to leaders of the Anglo-Australian Jewish establishment. This influx (and rumours that further hordes of 'Cossacks' were bent on immigrating here) has been cited as a catalyst for developing and implementing the White Australia Policy. On one occasion, the Sydney *Bulletin* averred that the 'Hebrew' was even less desirable as an immigrant than the 'Chinese'.<sup>18</sup>

One of the first decisions of the new Federal Parliament was to enact the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. The Act specified that exclusion was to be on the basis of performance on a dictation test and was aimed at barring non-Europeans from settling in Australia. It remained in force until 1958. Unstated in its promulgation – and in the introduction of the dictation test – was the intense nationalist desire to keep Australia 98 per cent British.

Hilary Rubinstein has noted that 'resistance to bloc settlement of foreign migrants, and negative stereotyping of Jews' were key factors in Australian immigration policy from the turn of the century through to the interwar period, and that 'xenophobic attitudes [which] intensified in Australia as a result of the First World War' had a direct impact on that policy.<sup>19</sup> 'Although initially directed against non-white immigration', writes Michael Blakeney, 'the dictation test was amenable to direction against other racial targets'. Blakeney notes that Egon Kisch, a Czech Jewish socialist seeking entry to Australia in the 1930s, was forced to undertake a dictation test in Gaelic.<sup>20</sup> Ethnic or national origin rather than mere 'colour' became a major criterion in immigrant selection, leading, for example, to the discriminatory classification of Syrians or Maltese as 'coloured', or of Jews born in Palestine (albeit to European parents) as 'Asiatics'.<sup>21</sup>

It should be noted, however, that it was not until the 1920s that any official attempt was made to limit the immigration into Australia of Jews *per se*. An estimated 2000 Eastern European Jews settled here during that decade. The United States Government's decision to restrict the flow of Jews from Russia and Poland provided the impetus for Australia to follow suit. Concerned about the possibility of large-scale influxes of refugees following devastating famine and pogroms in the Ukraine, the Government enacted its first restrictions on European migrants in

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<sup>18</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History*, Vol 1: 1788-1945, Melb 1991, p.145-6.

<sup>19</sup> Blakeney, p.29.

<sup>20</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History*, p.145-6; National Archives of Australia (ACT): A446/189, 72/77857, Admission of Jews of Middle Eastern origin (1949-74); National Archives of Australia (ACT): A1066/4, M45/17/4, Palestine - Entry of Jews into Australia (1945-46); National Archives of Australia (WA): PP6, 46/H/1067, Iraqi Jews - Applications for permanent residence in Australia.

<sup>21</sup> National Archives of Australia (ACT): A434, 49/3/3196, Admission of Jews to Australia.

1924, insisting that intending entrants must possess either £40 landing money (as well as the fare to Australia) or a written guarantee of sponsorship.

More furtively, in response to official memoranda that intending Polish Jewish emigrants were generally 'unsuitable' men of 'poor physique' and possibly unsafe 'political views', liable to form ghettos here as they had in London, the Home and Territories Department bluntly recommended that the British consulates deliberately create difficulties with the language test. Notwithstanding his own reservations about the importation of poor, foreign Jews *en masse*, Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen of Sydney's Great Synagogue protested eloquently against such abuses of the selection process.<sup>22</sup>

In 1928, the Government initiated a formal quota on migrants from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Greece and the Balkans, ensuring that the limits were enforced with particular strictness in the case of Eastern European Jews.<sup>23</sup> A personal petition by prominent British Jew, Lucien Wolf, that the number of Jewish immigrants be increased was likewise rejected. Blakeney argues that the official response to Polish Jewish migration in the 1920s 'set the scene' for the response to immigration from Central Europe in the following decade.<sup>24</sup>

#### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**

**A1**

##### **Recorded by:**

**1903–1916: Department of External Affairs [I], Melbourne (CA 7)**

**1916–1928: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)**

**Canberra 337.14 metres**

This very large series was the general filing system of the agencies shown above. In addition to administrative and personnel matters, the thousands of files contain material on immigration and emigration, aliens registration, naturalisation, and passports.

**Admission of Refugee Russian and Polish Jews, 1916 A1, 1916/10708**

**Suggested alterations to naturalisation law by British Jews (Naturalisation and Nationality laws – suggested alterations by British Jews), 1917 A1, 1917/10719**

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<sup>22</sup> Anne Andgel, *Fifty Years of Caring*, Sydney 1986, p.11.

<sup>23</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History*, p.146-7; Blakeney, p.39

<sup>24</sup> Peter Y. Medding, *From Assimilation to Group Survival*, Melb 1968, p.150.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53                      A367****Recorded by:****1919–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office (CA 747)****Canberra      64.08 metres**

The series consists of bundles of correspondence, reports, dossiers, history sheets for investigations of applicants for naturalisation, admission into Australia of friends or relatives and visitors.

**March 1928 – Harsh treatment of a party of Russian Jews, 1928      A367, C3075P****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50                      A434****Recorded by:****1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)****Canberra      12.27 metres**

These general correspondence files contain policy documents, applications for the admission of a friend or relative to Australia (Form 40), applications to enter Australia (Form 46), medical examination reports (Form 47A), and passport and personal particulars of individual migrants.

**Admission of Jews to Australia, 1921–38                      A434, 1949/3/3196****FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1901–                      A6006****Recorded by:****1976–1981: Australian Archives, Central Office (CA 1720)****Canberra      18.76 metres**

This series consists of copies of Cabinet, War Cabinet and Cabinet committee papers. Reference copies are available on microfilm at National Archives reading rooms.

**Proposed emigration of Russian Jews to Australia, 1921                      A6006, 21/12/31****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (SECOND SYSTEM), 1923–34                      A458****Recorded by:****1923–1934: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra      49.77 metres****Immigration Restrictions. Jews, 1925                      A458, N156/2**

## Refugees and the Evian Conference

In 1930, with the Great Depression severely affecting Australia's workforce, the Scullin Government tightened up entry requirements for 'aliens', demanding that only those immigrants who had £500 landing money, or who were dependent relatives of aliens already living in Australia, would be permitted to enter the country.

Following the election of Adolf Hitler in Germany, a group of concerned Jewish spokesmen, led by Rabbis F L Cohen and Israel Brodie, went to Canberra and personally lobbied the Minister for the Interior to admit a limited number of skilled German-Jewish refugees. But it was to no avail. Two years later, and following Hitler's promulgation of the notorious Nuremberg Laws, prominent Sydney leader Sir Samuel Cohen presided over the formation of the German Jewish Relief Fund, which tried to emulate similar initiatives in Britain by raising funds to assist young German Jews to escape to Palestine or other 'safe havens'.

Simultaneously, Cohen, Brodie and Brigadier Harold Cohen (among others) continued to press Government members for an easing of immigration restrictions. The Lyons Government compromised by reducing landing money to £50 for those migrants guaranteed by family or friends. It also encouraged the formation of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (AJWS) to coordinate migration processes. Australia House in London reportedly received 120 inquiries a day from would-be immigrants in March 1938, while the AJWS received 1200 pleas for assistance in the week following the Austrian *Anschluss* alone.

The AJWS has been subject to some criticism by historians for its reluctance to allow too large an 'influx' of refugees into the country. Analysis of its correspondence seems to suggest, however, that the AJWS was sensitive to Government and public sentiment and that its actions were determined by the canny presumption that any marked increase in migrant numbers would merely jeopardise existing, and already tenuous, concessions.

The AJWS was responsible for obtaining permits, organising transport and administering the technicalities of the voyage out, sponsoring individuals and families lucky enough to be chosen, caring for and accommodating them on arrival, assisting them to find work and generally ensuring as steady an integration process as possible. It faced an enormous and often heart-breaking task. Peter Medding argues that the AJWS was forced to sift through more than 70 000 applications in all, but it was able to accept only a fraction of them.<sup>25</sup> Viewed with

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<sup>25</sup> National Archives of Australia (ACT): A434, 50/3/41382.

the benefit of hindsight, the AJWS's correspondence files contain some of the most touching and distressing documents in the National Archives holdings.

In July 1938, Australia followed Britain's lead by agreeing to send representatives to Evian, France where a world summit was to seek solutions to the refugee problem. Dubbed officially the 'Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees', the conference – originally the initiative of US President Franklin D Roosevelt – brought together delegates from 32 nations. Although disappointing, the conference outcomes were hardly surprising. It was clear from the outset that none of the participating countries was willing to modify its existing migration restrictions.

Australia was perhaps more honest than other participants in this regard. Lieut Col T W White, Federal Minister for Trade and Customs and head of the Australian delegation, bluntly informed the conference that his country was committed to its policy of British migration. Pointing out that Australia's current intake rate was (*pro rata* to its population) comparable to that of any other nation, White emphasised his Government's reluctance to unleash a potential racial problem through the large-scale importation of 'foreigners'.<sup>26</sup>

White was voicing what seems to have been a widespread national sentiment. According to a public survey conducted at this time, only 17 per cent of the Australian population was in favour of large-scale immigration of Jews. Correspondence in files reveals intense disquiet (at least in some quarters) about the reluctance of Jews to integrate or the possibility that refugees would 'swamp' some professions or take away jobs from 'Australians'. For example, rigid quotas were imposed on the number of refugee practitioners able to enter the medical profession in Australia.

Paul Bartrop maintains that the Evian Conference 'clearly demonstrated that the nations of the world – and particularly Australia – did not yet fully understand the implications of what was happening in Germany in any terms other than their own'.<sup>27</sup> *Kristallnacht* in November 1938 forcefully underlined the dire predicament facing German Jews. In response to increasingly urgent calls to increase its refugee intake, the Australian Government announced that it would accept 15 000 refugees (12,000 of them Jews) over the subsequent three years.

Bartrop argues that this apparent 'liberalisation' of policy was, in fact, nothing of the kind. Citing National Archives sources, which indicate that Australia was

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<sup>26</sup> Paul R. Bartrop, "The Australian Government's 'Liberalisation' of Refugee Immigration Policy in 1938: Fact or Myth?", *Menorah* 2(1), 1988, p.p.70.

<sup>27</sup> National Archives of Australia (ACT): A433, 43/2/46; A461, M349/3/5 Part 2.

effectively already accepting 5100 refugees per annum (*prior* to December 1938), he notes that the new quota actually *reduced* the proposed intake.<sup>28</sup> Designed to advertise the Government as compassionate, liberal and 'humanitarian', in reality, the new policy 'cynically used the opportunity... to curtail whatever trend there had previously been towards a growth in refugee admissions'.<sup>29</sup> As it was, a mere fraction of the first annual quota had reached Australia before World War II broke out. Hilary Rubinstein estimates that, in total, only some 7000 Jews settled in Australia between 1933 and 1939.<sup>30</sup>

Among those who did manage to reach these shores were small groups of child and adolescent migrants. According to Glen Palmer, who has examined the issue in *Reluctant Refuge*, approximately 100 Jewish children and adolescents (40 to 50 of them aged under 16) managed to surmount immigration hurdles and find a haven in Australia in the 18 months before war was declared. Included in the number were 20 Jewish boys and youths sponsored by the Welfare Guardian Society, a further 20 (aged 14–16) sponsored by the Polish Jewish Relief Fund, and 17 (aged 7–12) sponsored by the AJWS.<sup>31</sup>

Noting that the Federal Government facilitated the evacuation and emigration of around 570 British children in 1940, and that organisations involved with British child migration were unable to fill their quotas, Palmer has condemned the uncompromising official response to the plight of the young Jewish refugees.<sup>32</sup> Konrad Kwiet notes that the AJWS successfully negotiated with the Federal Government for permits to enable a further 450 Jewish children (some of them stranded in France) to enter Australia during the war. As it turned out, none of them arrived at that time, due to the difficulties of getting out of Europe, the limited transportation available, and 'the decision of Australia to follow the example of the allies and afford the rescue of the Jews only a marginal significance'.<sup>33</sup> Although greater numbers of unaccompanied child survivors were permitted to enter Australia after 1945, these children also found themselves subject to considerable restriction.

Once war had been declared against Germany by Britain and its allies in September 1939, immigration effectively ceased, although it should be noted that

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<sup>28</sup> Bartrop, p.76.

<sup>29</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p.174-183; Hilary L. Rubinstein, *Chosen*, p.171.

<sup>30</sup> Glen Palmer, *Reluctant Refuge*, Sydney 1997, p.199.

<sup>31</sup> *ibid.*, p.28-40.

<sup>32</sup> Konrad Kwiet, "Responses of Australian Jewry's leadership to the Holocaust", in *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, p.213.

<sup>33</sup> National Archives of Australia (VIC): B741/3, V/4901 [Press-cutting re proposed Jewish settlement].



small numbers of refugees did manage to come to Australia via the Orient in the early years of conflict. As former citizens of enemy states, quite a number of them were promptly (albeit temporarily) interned as 'enemy aliens' alongside a group of German and Italian refugees (many of them Jews) who were deported to Australia from Britain on the *Dunera* in 1940. Many of the *Dunera* boys, and other Jewish internees who stayed in Australia, contributed to the allied war effort by joining the Eighth Employment Company following their release. For more details about 'enemy aliens' and the *Dunera* affair, see Chapter 1.

Important files documenting Government policy on Jewish and other 'alien' migration in the 1930s, and continuing into the World War II period, include:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38** **A1**

**Recorded by:**

**1932–1938: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)**

**Canberra 337.14 metres**

**German Emergency Fellowship Committee. Admittance of non-Aryan Christians of Jewish extraction, 1938–39 A1, 1938/11509**

**Jewish Professors and Scientists – question of opportunities for employment in universities, etc, in Australia, 1938 A1, 1938/16040**

**Jews (British subjects) Resident in UK. Assisted passages for, 1938 A1, 1938/30786**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53** **A367**

**Recorded by:**

**1919–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office (CA 747)**

**1946–1953: Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)**

**Canberra 64.08 metres**

**Alien migration. Jews from Central Europe. Central European migrants (stateless German refugee Jews), 1933–46 A367, C30751**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–** **A432**

**Recorded by:**

**1929–: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)**

**Canberra 1957.68 metres**

This series includes material on a wide range of subjects, and covers dealings between the Attorney-General's Department and other Government departments and instrumentalities, such as the Australian Federal Police, Corporate Affairs, the Parole Board, Trade Practices and the Security Division.

**Employment of Jewish immigrants, 1939 A432, 1938/1425**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50  
A433****Recorded by:****1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****Canberra 8 metres**

These files relate to restricted immigration to Australia, and may contain reports, correspondence, articles, cables, newscuttings, passports, departmental despatches, proposed amendments to the Immigration Act, authorities for admission under exemption (Form 32) and deportation orders (Form 43B).

**Refugees 'G' – Acceptance of landing permits, held by German Jewish refugees, by shipping companies, 1939–40 A433, 1939/2/2102****Migrants Consultative Committee re Jewish refugees, 1940–41 A433, 1940/2/3030****Evacuees (British Subjects) from Baltic States – Jewish group, 1941–42  
A433, 1941/2/2330****Report on Jewish organisations engaged in Jewish refugee migration, 1943  
A433, 1943/2/1109****National Council of Jewish Women of Australia – Information re Jewish immigration, etc, 1936–43 A433, 1943/2/3378****Jews/refugees congregating in districts, 1939–41 A433, 1939/2/742****Refugees (Jewish and Others) – General Policy file, 1938–44 A433, 1943/2/46****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50  
A434****Recorded by:****1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)****Canberra 12.27 metres****Admission of German Jews – Cabinet decision re: Part 1, 1933–36 A434, 1949/3/7034****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS), 1951–55  
A445****Recorded by:****1951–1955: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 22.50 metres**

This series consists of immigration policy files, dealing in particular with the assimilation, welfare and education of migrants. File subjects include migrant organisations, sponsorship schemes, housing and accommodation, refugees, child migration, restricted immigration policy.

**Admission of Jews. Policy. Part 2, 1936–38 A445, 235/5/2**

**Admission of Jews. Policy. Part 3, 1938–52      A445, 235/5/4**

**Protests re Jewish immigration, 1938–46      A445, 235/5/6**

**Jewish Tourists seeking permanent admission, 1938–47      A445, 235/5/5**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50  
A461**

**Recorded by:**

**1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra      143.82 metres**

This very large series consists of general correspondence files covering a wide range of subjects that had come to the attention of the Prime Minister. Several files have been identified which deal specifically with Jewish immigration.

**Immigration – Policy, 1938–44      A461, A349/1/2 part 4**

**Jews – General, 1938–46      A461, MA349/3/5 part 2**

**Foreign migration – settlement of Jews, 1936–46      A461, U349/3/5**

**Refugees – Representations by Sir Frank Clarke, 1939      A461, AA349/3/5**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50      A659**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I), Central Administration (CA 27)**

**1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)**

**Canberra      101.25 metres**

This wide-ranging series includes a large number of naturalisation files for the period 1939–1943. From 1946, the series relates exclusively to immigration matters.

**Report and Proposals by T H Garrett. Refugees from Europe – selection of, etc, 1939      A659, 1947/1/2109**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH VARIABLE ALPHABETICAL  
PREFIX AND GENERAL PREFIX 'SC' (FOURTH SYSTEM), 1939–47      A1608**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1945: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra      21.97 metres**

Files in this series relate to World War II and include information on a wide range of topics, reflecting the way war impinged on all aspects of public life, national security, Government administration and policy making.

**War – 1939. Assistance to Poland – migration of refugees, 1940–41      A1608, F19/1/1**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1924–45****A2937****Recorded by:****1924–1945: Department of External Affairs, London (CA 1759)****Canberra 7.92 metres**

Most of the correspondence in this series consists of communications between the External Affairs Office, Department of External Affairs, Foreign and Dominions Office, and the High Commissioner's Office (London).

**Poland – Jewish refugees in Japan, 1941 A2937, 207****FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1901–****A6006****Recorded by:****1976–1981: Australian Archives, Central Office (CA 1720)****Canberra 18.76 metres**

**A statement of the position relating to the registration of medical men of Jewish nationality in Australia, 1937 A6006, 1937/12/31**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1943–50****A9816****Recorded by:****1943–1950: Department of Post-war Reconstruction, Central Office (CA 49)****Canberra 1.44 metres**

Subject areas of this series include transport, housing, and rehabilitation of service personnel.

**Migration Jewish Societies – Representations, 1941–46 A9816, 1943/1471****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX, 1926–50****PP6/1****Recorded by:****1926–1945: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)****Perth 20.16 metres**

The series consists of general records concerning migration, including files on persons coming under notice (through provisions of the Immigration Act), applications for naturalisation, and applications for admission into Australia.

**Admission of Jewish aliens to Australia, 1938 PP6/1, 1938/H/902**

**ARMY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42****MP508/1****Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Army Headquarters, Department of Defence (II) (CA2671)  
1939–1942: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)

Melbourne      0.72 metres

Reports from Jewish migrants, 1940–41      MP508/1, 115/703/363

German Jewish refugees enlistment in the Armed Forces, 1938–40  
MP508/1, 115/702/20

**DEFENCE ARMY SERIES (401), 1936–45****MP729/6****Recorded by:**

1936–1939: Department of Defence (II), Central Administration (CA 19)  
1939–1945: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)

Melbourne      26 metres

Landing in Australia of German Jewish Refugees, 1939      MP729/6,  
65/401/21

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1871–1962****D596****Recorded by:**

1871–1962: Australian Customs Service, State Administration, SA (CA 802)

Adelaide      65.34 metres

Records in this series deal with policy and operational matters, bond store matters,  
and aspects of shipping.

Jewish Visitors without permits, 1938      D596, 1938/5934

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50****A434****Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)

Canberra      12.27 metres

Refugees from Austria: Special Committee proposed by USA, Evian, 1938  
A434, 1950/3/41837

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50****A461****Recorded by:**

1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra      143.82 metres

Jews – Policy, 1933–38      A461, M349/3/5 part 1

**Jews – Policy, 1933–46      A461, M349/3/5 part 2****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1927–42      A981****Recorded by:****1927–1942: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra      163.27 metres**

The main correspondence file series of the department for the years cited, although contents actually date back as far as 1901. The series covers subject areas (arranged alphabetically) such as refugees, migrants and Zionism.

**Inter-Government committee (including Evian Conference), 1938–40      A981, REF 4**

Records which contain material regarding the workings of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, and its efforts on behalf of Jewish immigrants before and after World War II, include:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38      A1****Recorded by:****1932–1938: Department of the Interior (I), Central Administration (CA 27)****Canberra      337.14 metres****Australian Jewish Welfare Society. Proposal re Control of Jewish migration, 1938–39      A1, 1938/23138****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–      A432****Recorded by:****1929–: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)****Canberra      1957.68 metres****Australian Jewish Welfare Society – application for registration without the word 'Ltd', 1935–44      A432, 1937/1036****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50  
A434****Recorded by:****1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****1945–1950: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra      12.27 metres****Australian Jewish Welfare Society – Form of Guarantee, 1938–39      A434, 1948/3/14960****Australian Jewish Welfare Society – Request for recognition as approved society, 1949      A434, 1949/3/22573**

**Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society. Repatriation of Agents, 1949  
A434, 1949/3/22581**

**Australian Federation of Jewish Welfare Societies, 1947–48      A434,  
1950/3/8948**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 11 (MIGRANTS A–C),  
1951–2      A439**

**Recorded by:**

**1951–1952: Department of Immigration (CA 51)**

**Canberra      6.66 metres**

The series includes naturalisation files as well as files about deportation or resettlement, and applications for passports. Naturalisation files usually include application, statutory declaration and renunciation of former allegiance. Some files also contain newspaper clippings (declaring the applicant's intention to seek naturalisation), original passport and reports on applicant.

**Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1952–53      A439, 1952/11/7044**

**ARMY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42      MP508/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1942: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)**

**Melbourne      0.72 metres**

**Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1942      MP508/1, 4/703/1126**

**Australian Jewish Welfare Society – [Assistance to Military Districts], 1940  
MP508/1, 82/712/120**

**Deputation of Reps of the Aust. Jewish Welfare Society, 1942      MP508/1,  
115/703/596**

**Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1940      MP508/1, 255/702/549**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SB' (SHIPPING  
BRANCH) PREFIX, 1939–51      D1976**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1951: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 802)**

**Adelaide      16.50 metres**

**Landing permits – Families temporarily separated – Australian Jewish Welfare  
Society, 1939      D1976, SB1940/196**

Records dealing with Jewish child (and youth) migration before and after World War II can be located in the following series:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50  
A433****Recorded by:****1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****Canberra 8 metres****Australian Jewish Welfare Society – Question of using separate landing permits for (a) husband and (b) wife and children, 1939 A433, 1939/2/807****Polish refugee children in Iran – Question of admission to Australia, 1944–45  
A433, 1944/2/5976****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50  
A434****Recorded by:****1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****1945–1950: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 12.27 metres****Australian Jewish Welfare Society Scheme for Admission of 300 Refugee Children Part 1, 1939–46 A434, 1949/3/3****Polish Jewish Relief Fund: migration of children, 1937–42 A434,  
1941/3/1039****Australian Jewish Welfare Society. Reports re condition of Jewish children in Europe, 1944–45 A434, 1944/3/1272****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (MIGRANTS L–N), 1951–52  
A442****Recorded by:****1952–1953: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 8.28 metres****The series consists of naturalisation files, passport applications, policy papers and resettlement and deportation recommendations.****AJWS (Australian Jewish Welfare Societies) – Scheme for administration of 300 refugee children – Part 2, 1946–52? A442, 1952/14/693****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS), 1951–55  
A445****Recorded by:****1951–1955: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 22.50 metres****Admission of Polish refugee children in India to Australia, 1946–49 A445,  
255/1/8**



**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1933–50  
A461**

**Recorded by:**

**1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra      143.82 metres**

**Child Migration – General, 1937–44      A461, A349/1/7 part 1**

## The Kimberley Scheme

The political Zionist movement evolved in the late 19th century as a response to the spread of nationalist fervour throughout Europe, and in reaction to accelerating antisemitism in Poland, Russia and elsewhere. Its goal was the ultimate establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Daunted by the seemingly insurmountable political and agricultural obstacles which confronted Zionist idealists, pragmatists like British novelist Israel Zangwill, head of the Jewish Territorial Organisation, believed that the foundation of a Jewish state in a more hospitable and less-contested part of the world was a more feasible objective. Accordingly, at different times the Jewish Territorial Organisation and the Jewish Colonisation Association explored possible sites in remote regions of Canada, Argentina and Uganda. Not surprisingly, in view of this country's uninhabited vastnesses, several attempts were also made to establish Jewish settlements in Australia.

Inspired by Zangwill, Melbourne businessman and philanthropist Isaac Jacobs campaigned unsuccessfully in the early 1900s for a Jewish agricultural colony at one of several possible sites in northern Australia. Jacobs finally succeeded, on a small scale, by helping set up nine newcomer Russian-Jewish families on an orchard settlement in Victoria's Goulburn Valley in 1913. In the late 1920s, a similar farming scheme was launched, in aid of recent Russian immigrants, at Berwick in Victoria.<sup>34</sup> Unlike the Shepparton project, which prospered into the 1950s, the Berwick settlement fell prey to the Great Depression.

In the 1930s, a number of organisations and individuals approached the Federal Government about the possibility of settling groups of Jewish refugees in unpopulated or under-populated regions of Australia – partly as a safeguard against the invasion of an unguarded north should hostilities break out. A proposal that 800 German and Austrian Jewish refugees be given permits to enter the country and establish an agricultural colony in South Australia won the tentative endorsement of South Australian Premier R L Butler but was vetoed federally.<sup>35</sup> Similarly, a bid by J H Catts, of Australian Business Services, to establish a Jewish national home in New Guinea (an area, according to Catts, larger than Palestine and having 'better possibilities' without the difficulties 'besetting the Balfour experiment') failed to find support.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> National Archives of Australia (ACT): A1, 38/21559 Premier SA re Proposal for Jewish settlement in Australia.

<sup>35</sup> National Archives of Australia (ACT): A1, 38/3468 Jewish proposed settlement in Northern Territory (1933-1939)

<sup>36</sup> National Archives of Australia (ACT): A518, Q118/2 New Guinea - settlement of Jews (1938-39); National Archives of Australia (ACT): A659, 39/1/2494 Irvine, P.F. - Development of Port Stephens - Settlement of Jews; National Archives of Australia (ACT): A1, 38/3468 Proposed Jewish Settlement in Northern Territory

On these, as on other occasions, the Lyons Government stressed its unshakeable objection to the 'block' settlement of aliens.<sup>37</sup> Other visionaries advocated possible settlements on Melville Island or in the Barkly Tablelands and Victoria River regions of the Northern Territory, or in the Port Stephens area of NSW. The NSW proposal aimed at bringing together Jewish refugees, unemployed Australians and British immigrants.<sup>38</sup> Much more ambitious in scope and conception was the Kimberley Scheme.

Following the Evian Conference, the London-based Freeland League (founded in 1935) proposed the purchase of seven million acres in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia (encompassing the properties of Connor, Durack and Doherty) as a farming settlement for a potential 50 000 refugees from Nazism. The League envisaged that a vanguard party of 500 to 600 'pioneers' would construct homes, a power station, irrigation works, etc, pending the arrival of the main body of colonists.

Dr Isaac Nachman Steinberg (1888–1957) was sent out from London in 1939 to investigate the scheme's feasibility and to enlist governmental and communal endorsement. A skilled emissary, he stayed in Australia throughout the war and later wrote a book on his experience, *Australia: The Unpromised Land*. Steinberg won the support of churches, leading newspapers, many prominent political and public figures (including Western Australian Premier J C Willcock) and a number of Jewish leaders.

The project came to nothing in the end, however, primarily because of concerns that the settlers would drift inevitably and in large numbers to the cities. Forty-seven per cent of the public opposed the scheme in a 1944 opinion poll and, in July of that year, Prime Minister Curtin formally rejected the proposal. Curtin's decision had bipartisan political support.<sup>39</sup>

In the early years of World War II, Steinberg was also associated, albeit marginally, with another unsuccessful scheme, this one aiming to resettle Jews who *survived* the war in the remote south-west of Tasmania. The Tasmanian project was the 'brainchild' of Critchley Parker, a young Melbourne philosemite who died tragically in 1942 while reconnoitring the region he recommended.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> National Archives of Australia (ACT): A518, Q118/2 New Guinea - settlement of Jews (1938-39); National Archives of Australia (ACT): A659, 39/1/2494 Irvine, P.F. - Development of Port Stephens - Settlement of Jews; National Archives of Australia (ACT): A1, 38/3468 Proposed Jewish Settlement in Northern Territory

<sup>38</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, "Critchley Parker (1911-42): Australian Martyr for Jewish Refugees", *AJHSJ* 11(1), 1990. p.56-68.

<sup>39</sup> Medding, p.153-7; Blakeney, p.292.

<sup>40</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p.225, 229-36.

Records pertaining to the various land settlement schemes, in particular the Kimberley project, can be found in:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES AND OTHER RELATED PAPERS 1926–30****CP211/2****Recorded by:****1926–1930: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)****Canberra 23.94 metres**

This 'very miscellaneous' series includes correspondence, maps, charts, statistics, pamphlets, books, memoranda, all regarding the work of the Commission.

**Jewish Refugees from Eastern Europe, 1927 CP211/2, 53/44**

The file contains detail on anti-Bolshevik Jews fleeing Ukraine to Poland and seeking a new home in Australia; a bid to settle Jewish boys and youths on farms in Australia, as per recent successful trials in the USA; assistance denied to 100 Russian Jews contemplating migration to Australia in 1925; and an approach to Government regarding settling agricultural labourers on land.

**Settlement – Jewish Scheme, 1928 CP211/2, 73/32**

This file contains correspondence regarding the Australian Jewish Land Settlement Trust and the orchard settlements at Shepparton and Berwick; a copy of the *Australian Jewish Herald* containing an article on Shepparton; and a booklet produced by the Land Settlement Trust.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES 1903–38****A1****Recorded by:****1932–1938: Department of the Interior (I), Central Administration (CA 27)****Canberra 337.14 metres****Jewish Proposed Settlement in Northern Territory, 1933–39 A1, 1938/3468**

There are references to the Kimberley Scheme in this file, including a relevant Hansard extract, but the bulk of the contents deal with the possibility of settlement on Melville Island or elsewhere in the Northern Territory.

**Premier, South Australia, re proposal for Jewish settlement in Australia, 1938  
A1, 1938/21559****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION) 1939–50****A433****Recorded by:****1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****Canberra 8 metres****Proposed Settlement East Kimberley District – M P Durack – Settlement of  
Jews in Kimberley District, 1939–44 A433, 1944/2/50**

This very bulky file is the chief repository of National Archives material on the Kimberley Scheme. It includes press clippings, reports on investigations into people prominent in the campaign, customs investigations into Dr Steinberg, pamphlets, memos, miscellaneous correspondence, etc.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50  
A434**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)**

**1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)**

**Canberra 12.27 metres**

**Admission of Jews to Australia, 1921–38 A434, 1949/3/3196**

In addition to letters of protest against immigration, the file includes clippings, notes, etc regarding Steinberg and the Kimberley scheme.

**Dr Gentilli Suggestion re Jews in Australia, 1941 A434, 1941/3/358**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS) 1951–5  
A445**

**Recorded by:**

**1951–1955: Department of Immigration (CA 51)**

**Canberra 22.50 metres**

**Proposed Jewish settlement in Kimberley district of Western Australia [2cm],  
1944–50 A445, 235/5/7**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM) 1935–50  
A461**

**Recorded by:**

**1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra 143.82 metres**

**Proposed settlement of Jewish refugees – Kimberley district, WA, 1938–44  
A461, D349/3/5 part 1**

**Proposed settlement of Jewish refugees in Kimberley district, WA, 1944–45  
A461, D349/3/5 part 2**

**Immigration – Foreign migrants – Proposed settlement of Jewish refugees in  
Kimberley district, WA, 1950 A461, D349/3/5 part 3**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX,  
1928-56** **A518**

**Recorded by:**

**1928–1941: Territories Branch, Prime Minister's Department (CA 822)**

**Canberra 199.15 metres**

The subject-matter of this series includes customs, defence, security and postwar reconstruction.

**New Guinea – settlement of Jews, 1938–39** A518, Q118/2

This file includes Government responses to J H Catts' proposal of a settlement on 70 000 acres of New Guinea, as well as a proposal to settle refugee Jews on plantations in Kenya.

## CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948-89 A1838

**Recorded by:**

**1948–1970: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)**

**Canberra      3224.60 metres**

This is the main correspondence file series of the agency. The series covers a wide subject range, including immigration, international treaties, political asylum and refugees, international conferences and congresses.

**Immigration – Migration Australia – settlement of European Jews in Australia**  
**[58 pages], 1938–40                      A1838, 1531/71/3**

This file contains material on the Kimberley Scheme and the Freeland League.

**MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES 'C', SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1958–67**  
**A4940**

**Recorded by:**

**1958–1967: Secretary to Cabinet/ Cabinet Secretariat (CA 3)**

**Canberra 77.49 metres**

This is the main series maintained by Cabinet, often for administrative business, 1958–1967. Files, arranged by subject, contain Cabinet papers of the period (sometimes dating back to 1949), and generally include copies of submissions and supporting papers, minutes of decisions, briefs or submissions prepared by officers of the Prime Minister's Department. The series includes one relevant item:

**Proposed Jewish Migrant settlement in WA plan**      **A4940, C169**

Contents of this file include a 1950 memo recapitulating the reasons behind the Government's rejection of the Kimberley Scheme, a Cabinet agenda, and a report on the Scheme's strengths and weaknesses.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' PREFIX, 1924–62  
B741****Recorded by:****1927–1946: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)****1946–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Victoria (CA 916)****Melbourne      29.88 metres**

The series comprises files of investigations of criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth; the contravention of Commonwealth or State Acts committed on Commonwealth property; details of persons being traced by Government departments, the Red Cross, International Tracing service, or diplomatic and consular representatives. Investigations carried out at the request of Government departments include areas such as prohibited immigrants, enemy aliens and naturalisation. In most instances, a separate file was raised for each case requested to be investigated.

**Jewish immigration and land settlement scheme [Press cuttings relating to the proposed Jewish settlement in the Kimberleys area], 1928–45      B741,  
V/4901**

This file also contains press cuttings on earlier land settlement initiatives at Shepparton and Berwick in Victoria.

## Post-1945 immigration policy

World War II dramatically underlined the vulnerability of an underpopulated Australia, and acting Prime Minister Frank Forde put forward the need for a scientific migration policy – speculating on a postwar goal of 70 000 a year – in August 1945. In response to a request from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) in that same month, Minister for Immigration Arthur Calwell announced that 2000 close relatives of Jews already resident in Australia would be granted entry 'on humanitarian grounds'. Permits were conditional on the applicants being Holocaust survivors.

The scheme was subsequently extended to include Jewish refugees currently stranded by the war in safe havens such as Shanghai, Manila and elsewhere in the Far East. Over 18 000 Jews had fled Europe to places as far away as Shanghai by the outbreak of war, and a further 1000 Polish refugees were sent there by Japan in 1940. As it had before the war, the Australian Jewish Welfare Society took on responsibility for processing applications and supporting the migration process.

In the light of public opinion at the time, Medding has termed the Government's decision 'particularly courageous'. Unsurprisingly, Calwell and his policy were subjected to a virulent campaign by the Returned Services League, sections of the press, a number of federal and state politicians including former Premier Lang of NSW and the outspoken Liberal MP Henry Gullett, and a vocal section of the public. Fifty-eight per cent of those surveyed in a 1947 opinion poll were against Australia being a sanctuary for dispossessed Jews.<sup>41</sup>

Revitalised pre-war accusations of special treatment surfaced as claims that refugees were taking priority on ships over Australian servicemen, or that Australia was to become a dumping ground 'for people whom Europe had not been able to absorb for 2000 years'. As Suzanne Rutland has written: 'the fears and prejudices which had frustrated a humanitarian approach to Jewish migration in the free world before World War II reappeared'.<sup>42</sup>

No doubt resentment against Jewish newcomers was reinforced by the turbulent final years of the British mandate in Palestine, including the bombing of the King David Hotel and other anti-British demonstrations by Jewish nationalists. As a result, and probably in a bid to safeguard his somewhat insecure position, in 1947

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<sup>41</sup> Medding, p.157.

<sup>42</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p.234-56; Bartrop, p.76; Suzanne D. Rutland, "'Are you Jewish?: Post-war Jewish Immigration to Australia 1945-1954", *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* 5(2), 1991, p.35-58; W.D. Rubinstein, "Australia and the Refugee Jews of Europe, 1933-1954: a Dissenting View", *AJHSJ* 106), 1989, p.500-23; Richard Broome, "The Case of Arthur Calwell and the Displaced Persons", in *The Australian Jewish Experience*, Melb 1998, p.19-22.



Calwell placed limits on the number of Jews entering Australia – a quota of no more than 25 per cent of Jews on any ship coming to Australia. In that same year, he ended the program of migration on humanitarian grounds.

Calwell's policies were continued under Harold Holt, the Liberal Minister for Immigration. In 1952 an embargo was placed on migration of residents and former nationals of, or persons born in, Iron Curtain countries, and on migrants from Israel because of its open-door policy. Medding notes, however, that departmental policy after that time was 'not steady' – regulations were flexible enough to enable many thousands to enter Australia, sponsored by friends, relatives or the AJWS.<sup>43</sup> Several thousand Sephardi Jews, most of them Egyptians expelled in the aftermath of the Arab–Israeli conflict, managed to migrate to Australia in the 1950s. Most of them settled in Adelaide. An estimated 3000 Jews from the Soviet Union arrived here from the early 1970s.

Government policy towards refugee immigration into Australia in the 1930s and 1940s has been the subject of substantial debate among historians of the Australian Jewish experience. As noted above, Paul Bartrop has argued that the so-called 'liberalisation' of immigration policy after November 1938 was, in reality, a smokescreen for a slightly decreased intake of Jews. Rutland suggests that there was a 'significant dichotomy' between official and unofficial attitudes towards the refugees, and that investigation of the implementation of immigration policy in the late 1940s reveals 'a picture of departmental subterfuge' worthy of an episode of the TV classic *Yes Minister*.

Rutland has located in National Archives records evidence of active discrimination against would-be migrants. For instance, she notes that only 500 of the 190 000 displaced persons brought to Australia under the IRO work scheme were Jews; that the embargo on Iron Curtain migrants was aimed chiefly at Jews; that Sephardi Jews were subject to particularly rigorous restriction; and that would-be immigrants stranded in Shanghai by the war were classified as 'thoroughly undesirable' by the immigration officer responsible. As a result, no more than 1500 Shanghai Jews managed to enter Australia. She also cites as discriminatory the 25 per cent limit on Jews.

W D Rubinstein, on the other hand, argues that the vast majority of Jewish displaced persons were either completely out of the reach of western relief agencies or had no desire to migrate to Australia. For them, a Jewish homeland in Palestine was the only viable option. He stresses that, despite all claims of overt and covert discrimination, at least 17 600 Jewish survivors reached Australia between 1945 and 1954 – the largest single increase in Australian Jewish

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<sup>43</sup> Converted to A6006, 51/12/31

numbers in the country's history. 'Indeed,' he argues, 'Melbourne's well-known post-war reputation as containing, proportionately, more Holocaust survivors than any Jewish community in the Diaspora plainly sits uneasily with a claim that severe restrictions on their migration did exist'.<sup>44</sup>

While conceding that Arthur Calwell bowed to public pressure over the question of Jewish migration, Richard Broome notes that the former Minister for Immigration ensured that Australia took in proportionally more displaced persons than any other nation in the 1940s.<sup>45</sup>

Typical of the debate has been the argument over the significance of the so-called 'Are you Jewish' clause on Immigration Forms 40 and 47. Introduced by the Lyons Government in 1939, ostensibly as a convenient way of allocating the quota of Jewish refugees and also, of course, as a way of keeping control on numbers of refugees, applicants for entry to Australia were asked specifically whether or not they were Jewish. Notwithstanding protests from the Jewish community, the offending question remained on the forms until 1953 when, as Rutland observes, Jewish immigration had ceased to be 'a threat to the Government's immigration policies'. Bartrop labels the use of the wording 'a simple case of bureaucratic racism developed to identify Jews for the purpose of exclusion rather than admission'. Rubinstein argues (in defence of the Government) that the 'Are you Jewish' question actively discriminated *in favour* of Jews, ensuring that quotas were filled.<sup>46</sup>

Important files dealing with aspects of Government policy on Jewish migration in the years after 1945 can be located in the following series.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1933–50  
A461**

**Recorded by:**

**1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra      143.82 metres**

**Jews, 1946      A461, MA349/3/5 PART 1**

**Jews, 1946      A461, MA349/3/5 PART 2**

**Jews, 1946      A461, MA349/3/5 PART 3**

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<sup>44</sup> W.D. Rubinstein, *The Jews of Australia: an Introduction*, p.4.

<sup>45</sup> Hilary L. & W.D. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History from 1788 to the Present*, 2 vols, Melb 1991, Vol 1, p.471-528; Vol 2, p.379-500

<sup>46</sup> *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*, comp. Margaret Chambers, Canberra 1998, p.126.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50  
A434****Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)  
1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)  
1945–1950: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 12.27 metres

Statement of 23/1/47 on arrivals in Australia during 1946, including Jewish,  
1947 A434, 1947/3/4805

S.S. 'Continental' – approval given for admission – Excess 25 per cent Jewish  
limitations, 1949 A434, 1949/3/2511

A. Masel – Report on activities in Shanghai, 1947–49 A434, 1949/3/4673

Jewish Iraqis evacuated from Near East – Permanent admission, 1946 A434,  
1949/3/24723

Cabinet Sub-committee on Accommodation for Immigrants Item No 1, 1949  
A434, 1949/3/14559

Aliens and British Jews in South Africa – Question of admission, 1950  
A434, 1950/3/23526

Dept of Interior – Canberra Employment of Displaced Persons in C'wealth  
Establishments, 1948–51 A434, 1950/3/23574

Information regarding persons rejected for migration to Australia under  
International Refugee Organisation Scheme, 1950 A434, 1950/3/24001

Proposals re German migration to Australia, 1951 A434, 1950/3/45637 part  
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**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 12 (MIGRANTS), 1951–52  
A440****Recorded by:**

1951–1952: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra 8.64 metres

The series consists of individual case files dealing with passport applications,  
naturalisation, deportation papers and resettlement.

Executive Council of Australian Jewry – re Jewish immigration, 1945–47  
A440, 1951/12/3672

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS), 1951–55  
A445****Recorded by:****1951–1955: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 22.50 metres****Evacuation of White Russians, Jews and other refugees from Shanghai, Part 2, 1949–50 A445, 235/3/5****Evacuation of White Russians, Jews and other refugees from Shanghai, 1949–54 A445, 235/3/6****Evacuation of White Russians, Jews and other refugees from China, Part 1, 1947–49 A445, 235/3/7****Alleged discrimination against admission of Jews... Question of Jewish or Not on departmental forms, 1939–54 A445, 235/5/9****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER WITH BLOCK ALLOCATIONS, 1953–  
A446****Recorded by:****1953–1974: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 3346.40 metres**

This series includes immigration case files and confidential case files (containing applications for assisted passage, passports, naturalisation records, deportation records, etc) as well as related policy material.

**Admission of Jews of Middle East origin, 1949–74 A446, 1972/77857****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50 A659****Recorded by:****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)****Canberra 101.25 metres****High Commissioner's Office, London – Granting of visas to Jews en route to Shanghai via Australia – Use of discretion in recommending, 1940 A659, 1940/1/5076****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'A' (ADMINISTRATION) PREFIX, 1951–74 A884****Recorded by:****1951–1972: Department of Social Services, Central Office (CA 32)****1972–1974: Department of Social Security, Central Office (CA 1489)****Canberra 145 metres**

Files relate to personal benefit cases, pensions, allowances and social security services.

**German-Jewish Migrants – Request for Information by Immigration  
Department, 1940–76      A884, A2066**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER  
PREFIXES, 1945      A1066**

**Recorded by:**

**1945–1945: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)  
Canberra      31.23 metres**

The series is the main correspondence file series of the Department in question for the year 1945.

**Palestine – Entry of Jews into Australia, 1945–46      A1066, M45/17/4**

**Landing permits – Applications for Jewish and Central European refugees  
from Philippines, 1945      A1066, IC45/3/119**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER  
PREFIXES, 1947      A1608**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1945: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)  
Canberra      21.97 metres**

**Polish Children from Iran, 1944–46      A1608, AU39/1/3**

**War Records. War Refugees – Policy, 1943–47      A1608, Y19/1/1**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89      A1838**

**Recorded by:**

**1948–1989: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)  
Canberra      3224.60 metres**

**Immigration – Jewish Migrant Racket in Europe, 1949      A1838, 1531/44**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL ALPHABETICAL SERIES (WASHINGTON), 1939–48  
A3300**

**Recorded by:**

**1946–1948: Australian Embassy, USA (CA 1817)  
Canberra      21.89 metres**

The series consists of correspondence files of the Australian embassy in Washington.

**[1948 file – White Tab] Civil Aviation: Pan American Airlines – Jewish  
Passengers, 1948      A3300, 664**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR SUFFIX, 1945–48  
A4144****Recorded by:****1945–1948: Australian Legation, Republic of China (CA 1978)****Canberra 6.84 metres**

The files contain the main correspondence of the China Post (regarding policy, trade and migration) from its inception (1941) until the end of 1948.

**Jewish community – Shanghai, 1945 A4144, 258/1945****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'H' INFIX,  
1926–50 PP6/1****Recorded by:****1926–1945: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)****Perth 20.16 metres****Iraqi Jews – Applications for permanent residence in Australia, 1946  
PP6/1, 1946/H/1067****Applications for the admission of Poles resident in Poland – enquiry from  
Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1948 PP6/1, 1948/H/665****Jewish Welfare Societies – Accommodation, 1948 PP6/1, 1948/H/3216**

A substantial number of files have been located which deal with the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union, and which form the backdrop to the immigration of Soviet Jews to Australia over the past generation. For instance:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES (CLASSIFIED), 1957–  
A1209****Recorded by:****1957–1971: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 1131.68 metres**

The subject matter of these files encompasses departmental and domestic matters, foreign affairs, etc.

**Persecution of Jews in Russia [0.5cm], 1962–64 A1209, 1962/963****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89 A1838****Recorded by:****1948–1989: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra 3224.60 metres****USSR – Jews, 1952–62 A1838, 69/2/5/7 part 1****USSR – Jews, 1962–64 A1838, 69/2/5/7 part 2**

**USSR – Political Nationalities – Jews, 1964–68      A1838, 69/2/5/7 part 3**

**United Nations Human Rights – Treatment of Jews in Soviet Union [2.5cm],  
1964–65      A1838, 929/5/2/1 part 3**

**United Nations Human Rights – Treatment of Jews in Soviet Union [1.5cm],  
1965–68      A1838, 929/5/2/1 part 4**

**United Nations Human Rights – Treatment of Jews in USSR, 1953      A1838,  
929/5/2/1 part 1**

# 3 Immigration Case Files and Migrant Selection Documents

Immigration case files bring together correspondence between individual immigrants and the Department of Immigration on a range of issues, including the initial application to migrate, security and other assessments, travel arrangements, etc. Case files are located mainly in the correspondence series of the Department of Immigration, its state branches (from 1946) and the various Collectors of Customs (pre-1946). For more information see *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*.

## 1903 – 39

The following records provide information on immigration case files and migrant selection documents for the period before the outbreak of World War II.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50 A434**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)  
1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)  
1945–1950: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra      12.27 metres

J E Nathan – Admission of relatives, 1938–45      A434, 1945/3/773

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, SECOND SYSTEM, 1923–34 A458**

**Recorded by:**

1923–1934: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra      49.77 metres

Solomon, Henry F, 1933      A458, 2/4/998

### **GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1902–      B13**

**Recorded by:**

1902–1985: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Melbourne      54.90 metres

This, the main correspondence series of the Collector of Customs in Melbourne, probably began in 1902 after the passing of the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901*. The variation in subjects dealt with reflects the changing functions of the



Departments of Trade and Customs and Customs and Excise. Functions include immigration restrictions, shipping, prosecutions, exports and imports. Because of extensive culling by the Department, the extant files (up to the 1930s) relate almost exclusively to immigration restriction. No early records have survived, and the earliest date found in subject and name index cards held by Department is 9 April 1923.

**Isaac Landau, Russian deserter, ex 'Hanau', c1922      B13, 1922/16658**

**Jacob Catz, Palestinian, requests permission to come to Australia, c1923  
B13, 1923/8520**

**Myer Polonsky, wife and 3 children (Russia) arr per s.s. 'Ville de Strasbourg'  
22 May 1923, c1923      B13, 1923/9937**

**Request by Mr Alick Mushin for permission to bring Mr Elie Warhaftig (cousin)  
to Australia, c1923      B13, 1923/11850**

**Application by Mr Maurice Patkin for permission to bring members of his  
family to Australia – no record of arrival, 1924      B13, 1924/15988**

**Lazor (Lejzor) Goldberg, ex 'Baradine' 23 Nov 1925, deported on same vessel  
23 Jan 1926, 1926      B13, 1926/1262**

**Mrs Sarah Schwartz, Russian, ex 'Hobson's Bay', arr Feb 1927, 1927      B13,  
1927/4801**

**Rev E Kowadlo re permission for the wife of his brother to enter Australia. Mrs  
Noech Kowadlo arr. Melb per 'Commissaire Raine', Jan 1934, accompanied by  
husband, 1933–4      B13, 1933/16671**

**Dr Fritz Loewe and party arr. Melb per 'Strathnaver', March 1937, 1937      B13,  
1936/28523**

**Admission into Australia of Simon Gurewitz and Wulf Gurewitz, brother and  
nephew of Rabbi [Gurewicz], 1936      B13, 1936/14981**

**Mr Kurt Rosenthal and wife arr. Melb per 'Irion', Oct 1937, 1937      B13,  
1937/9815**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–  
62      B741**

**Recorded by:**

**1927–1946: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)**

**1946–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Victoria (CA 916)**

**Melbourne      29.88 metres**

**Jack Buckstein – Polish Jew, request to sponsor Chaim and Asril Kudinski to  
Australia [4 pages], 1927      B741, V/3397**

**Nochum Krivoschow, a Russian Jew, request for his family to come to  
Australia [4 pages], 1927      B741, V/3408**

**Isidore Alexander COHEN alias Leonard Meyers – Report on, 1928–47      B741,  
V/5670**

**LIST OF PASSPORTS COLLECTED, 1927****MP412****Recorded by:****1927–1927: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)****Melbourne      0.06 metres**

The series is a list of passports collected by boarding inspectors under authority of the Immigration Act. Information recorded includes date of collection, number, date and place of issue of passport, name and nationality of migrant, name of ship, date disembarked. Entries include:

**Isaac JOSEPH, British subject, arrived per 'Ballarat' 15 Jan 1927      MP412/2, whole series**

**Jacob WARSHAWSKY, British subject, arrived (from Jerusalem) per 'Osterley' 28 March 1927      MP412/2, whole series**

**CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS RELATING TO IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION AND PASSPORTS, 1898–1948****SP42/1****Recorded by:****1901–1945: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)****1945–1948: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)****Sydney      51.12 metres**

Most of the files in this series deal with the entry of Chinese immigrants. However, there are occasional files dealing with procedural matters or other immigrants or visitors.

**BETROS, Isaac and BETROS, Moses [Correspondence of the Collector of Customs relating to immigration restrictions] [8 pages] [box 7], 1900–04  
SP42/1, C1904/1319**

**ALIEN PASSPORTS AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, 1925–45****PP9/4****Recorded by:****1925–1945: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)****Perth      9.72 metres**

This series consists of passports, identity cards, travel and landing permits, taken from aliens under the Immigration Act.

**BERNSON, Nehouma – Passport and/or Travel documents, 1925      PP9/4, BERNSON, NEHOUMA**

**EPSTEIN, Edith – Passport and/or travel documents, 1921      PP9/4, EPSTEIN, EDITH**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1918–59**

**PP302/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1919–1946: Immigration Branch, WA (CA 908)**

**Perth      23.76 metres**

**Nathan Epstein, 1934      PP302/1, WA4279**

**Morris Berinson – Form 40 [Immigration], 1921–28      PP302/1, WA1114**

## Post-1945 immigration

The following records provide information on immigration case files and migrant selection documents for the period after World War II.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50 A434**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)  
1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)  
1945–1950: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 12.27 metres

H Epstein – Admission, 1938–46 A434, 1946/3/4644

Jacobsohn, A – Admission of Relatives, 1947–54 A434, 1950/3/7245

### **SELECTION DOCUMENTS (DISPLACED PERSONS MIGRATION SCHEME) 1948–53 CP533/1**

**Recorded by:**

1948–1953: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra 146.16 metres

The series consists of 979 bundles of selection documents, containing IRO medical examination forms and screening cards.

Abramovicz, Alexander, IRO resettlement registration form. Arrived on 'General Bundy' 20–3–49, 1949 CP533/1, bundle 15/1

Lipski, Boleslaw, etc, IRO resettlement registration form. Arrived on 'Fairsea' 8–11–50, 1949–50 CP533/1, bundle 730/992–995

### **SELECTION DOCUMENTS (DISPLACED PERSONS SCHEME), 1947–49**

**CP899/4**

**Recorded by:**

1947–1949: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra 27 metres

Files in this series consist of selection documents (IRO medical examination forms and screening cards).

Displaced Person records – Anna Ilyk – born 1 Jan 1923, Poland [8 pages], 1948 CP899/4, Ilyk A

S Graf [10 pages], 1948–49 CP899/4, Graf S

**PERSONAL DOCUMENTS OF DISPLACED PERSONS, 1946–52****CP900/2****Recorded by:****1946–1952: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 8.10 metres**

Documents in this series contain personal particulars of displaced persons interviewed by Australian selection officers overseas. IRO resettlement forms are included in many files.

**Displaced Persons Bernard HOFFMANN, etc, 1949 CP900/2, 10/44****PERSONAL DOCUMENTS OF DISPLACED PERSONS, 1946–51****CP900/4****Recorded by:****1946–1951: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 30.06 metres**

Documents in this series contain personal particulars of displaced persons interviewed by Australian selection officers overseas. IRO resettlement forms are included in many files.

**KREMER, Ephroim, Rachil, Esro [International Refugee Organisation registration documents], 1949–50 CP900/4, Bundle 70/Kremer****BERGER, Robert, Simonis, Eugenia, Judith, Viktor, Felix, Ellen, Moses [International Refugee Organisation Registration documents], 1947–9 CP900/4, Bundle 8/Berger****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER PREFIX, 1945–46 A1067****Recorded by:****1946–1946: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra 31 metres**

This is the main correspondence series of the Department for the year in question. An inventory of the series was compiled by the National Archives in 1989.

**Landing permits – Liberman, Mr and Mrs and daughter [3 pages], 1946 A1067, IC46/3/489****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1947 A1068****Recorded by:****1947–1947: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra 26.10 metres**

This is the main correspondence file series of the Department for 1947. Material includes reports on investigation into potential immigrants or visitors.

**Landing permits – Jack Liberman [2 pages], 1947–48 A1068, IC47/3/278**

**Landing permit – Samuel M Liberman, 1947      A1068, IC47/3/278A**

**Passports. World Federation of Polish Jews. Freman, Felix, Rose, Phylis, 1947  
A1068, IC47/22/12/4**

**NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN SELECTION DOCUMENTS, 1951–65      A2478**

**Recorded by:**

**1951–1965: Migrant Reception and Training Centre, Bonegilla (Vic) (CA 1452)**

**Canberra      460 metres**

Documents in this series include medical reports, agreements between the migrant and the Commonwealth Government, questionnaires regarding trade or profession, and application forms.

**Mayer, H, 1954      A2478, Mayer H**

**Neuhauser, H and Family, 1953      A2478, Neuhauser H**

**Jacobs, A F and Family, Nama, Sibajak, 1955      A2478, Jacobs A F**

**Epstein, J – APS – Miqan, 1952–65      A2478, Epstein J**

Readers should also check the following related series:

**NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANT SELECTION DOCUMENTS, ASSISTED PASSAGE  
SCHEMES, NUMERICAL SERIES, 1966–73      A2559**

**Recorded by:**

**1966–1971: Migrant Reception and Training Centre, Bonegilla (VIC) (CA 1452)**

**1971–1973: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)**

**Canberra      3.50 metres**

Migration documents include questionnaires regarding trade or professional qualifications.

**NAME INDEX CARDS, MIGRANTS REGISTRATION, 1949–56      A2571**

**Recorded by:**

**1941–1956: Migrant Reception and Training Centre, Bonegilla (VIC) (CA 1452)**

**Canberra      51 metres**

Information on each card includes registration number, photo, name, nationality, date of arrival, ex-ship, trade, level of education, name, date of issue, next of kin, physical description.

**Whole series [Index cards, Migrants Registration] AA Jozephus – Zyzniewski, Piotr      A2571, NN**

Other useful sources include the following:

**NOMINAL INDEX CARDS FOR CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH BLOCK ALLOCATIONS (EUROPEANS), 1949–64 A3907**

Recorded by:

**1949–1964: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 52)**

**Canberra 13.32 metres**

The cards are the control records for (immigration) correspondence files, and typically include immigrant's full name, place of origin, file number, etc.

**CERVO–CHIPPING, eg CHALOM, Mayer (from Tel Aviv) A3907, BOX 1**

**SCHEDULES OF NOMINATED MIGRANTS, BRITISH AND FOREIGN, 1949–63 SP606/2**

Recorded by:

**1949–1963: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)**

**Sydney 2.52 metres**

Files in this series (arranged by country and chronologically) consist of bound volumes of nominated migrants. Details include name and address, age, marital status, occupation, employment arrangements in Australia, name and address of nominator.

**KREN, Izidor and wife (form 40) [Box 40] [Box 4], 1956–57 SP606/2, 1956/68052**

**EPSTEIN, Jakab Akos and wife [Form 40] [Box 4], 1957 SP606/1, 1957/10482**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'C' SERIES, 1903–48 SP11/27**

Recorded by:

**923–1945: Collector of Customs, Sydney (CA 785)**

**1945–1948: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)**

**Sydney 0.18 metres**

The files deal with requests for entry documents, departures and deportations.

**[Authorisation to grant visas or special endorsements for Palestine to two nominees of the Victorian Jewish Advisory Board to attend World Conference for Jewish education at Jerusalem, July 1947], 1947 SP11/27, C1947/8078**

**APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION OF RELATIVES OR FRIENDS TO AUSTRALIA (FORM 40, 47 OR 47A), ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1948–51 SP248/1**

Recorded by:

**1948–1951: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)**

**Sydney 1.8 metres**

Records in this series include details (on Forms 40, 47 and 47A) about the admission of friends and relatives to Australia, applications to enter Australia, or

medical documentation for intending migrants. These forms asked applicants, specifically, whether or not they were Jewish. For example:

**GOTTLIEB to GUTTMAN [Applications for landing permits, Form numbers 40, 47 and 47A] [Box 4], 1948–51      SP248/1, NN**

**KELLER to KNOEPFLER [Applications for landing permits, Form numbers 40, 47 and 47A] [Box 5], 1948–51      SP248/1, NN**

**BASIC DOCUMENTS (FORMS 40, 47 AND 47A), NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN SECTION, 1951  
SP256/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1951–1951: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)**

**Sydney      0.18 metres**

Files include Forms 40, 47 and 47A.

**LEVIN, Aron (form 40) [Folder 4], 1951      SP256/1, 51/23/62446**

**ROSENBERG, Chana (form 40) [Folder 5], 1951      SP256/1, 51/23/60664**

**ROSENBERG, Chana (form 47A) [photograph] [Folder 5], 1951      SP256/1, NN**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE [AND CASE FILES, (1) SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 20–25 INFIX, (2) ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES (BLOCK ALLOCATED) WITH 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX], C1901–67      SP1122/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1951–1967: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)**

**Sydney      2375.10 metres**

**Glancz, Kalman and Gizella [immigration file] [1cm], 1952–58      SP1122/1, N1957/36215**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SB' SHIPPING BRANCH PREFIX, 1939–51      D1976**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1951: Australian Customs Service, SA (CA 959)**

**Adelaide      16.50 metres**

**Immigration Act – Haim Zimbalista – Undesirable German Jew, 1947  
D1976, SB1947/662**



**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SA' PREFIX, 1948–66  
D400****Recorded by:****1948–1956: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)****Adelaide 435 metres**

The series documents policy, administration and operational aspects of the immigration function. Included are personal case files of immigrants.

**BERG, Olga and daughter – Arrival, 1950–52 D400, SA1952/4153****LIBERMAN, Max Leon, 1948–77 D400, SA1951/13259****LIBOWEITEZ, Jacob – Deportation submission, 1952 D400, SA1952/4184****GOLDBERG, Nathan – Admission of friend, 1951–52 D400, SA1951/14951****RUBIN, Chana – Lost landing permit, 1952 D400, SA1952/4198****CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946– J25****Recorded by:****1946–1974: Department of Immigration, Queensland Branch (CA 958)****Brisbane 1652.67 metres**

This series contains files about persons entering Australia (temporarily or permanently) and seeking citizenship, details of deportations, policy files, etc.

**Leibovitz, Gerson, 1947 J25, 1947/2039****Friedman, Cedric; Seligsohn, Kurt, 1948 J25, 1948/12677****Australian Jewish Welfare Society – Winter, Zilman, Erwin; Winter– Zilman, Helen; Winter – Zilman, Magdalena, 1948 J25, 1948/13384****[AJWS] Rosen, Abram Mojzesz, 1949 J25, 1949/2718****[AJWS] Domsztyk, Boruch, 1949 J25, 1949/7533****Jewish Welfare Society. Bajrach, Hersz and Mendel, 1950 J25, 1950/5029****Australian Jewish Welfare. Burger, Pal and Magda, 1950 J25, 1950/8059****Deri, Gyula, Sarolta. Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1951 J25, 1951/517****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX,  
1953 PP15/1****Recorded by:****1953–1953: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)****Perth 13.68 metres**

These files contain applications for admission for a friend or relative, applications for naturalisation, passport applications, and ships immigration reports.

**Perlmutter, Andreje [Immigration file], 1953 PP15/1, 1953/64/866**

**Berlstein, Vera Miriam [Immigration file], 1953 PP15/1, 1953/60/769**

**Timmerman, Berend Jan [Immigration file], 1953 PP15/1, 1953/64/866**

**GENERAL PERSONAL FILES, 1961 PP256/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1961–1961: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)**

**Perth 27.72 metres**

**Jacob Bigelman, 1955–62 PP256/1, W1961/10574**

**Luba Bigelman, 1955–61 PP256/1, W1961/10575**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1918–59 PP302/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1946–1959: Commonwealth Investigation Service, WA (CA 917)**

**Perth 23.76 metres**

**Rachel Epstein, 1948 PP302/1, WA29463**

**ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1948–65  
K1331**

**Recorded by:**

**1948–1965: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)**

**Perth 30 metres**

The series contains documents and associated forms and correspondence (under Aliens Act). Some material dates back to 1920.

**Epstein, Herbert – Nationality: Polish – Arrived Hobart per 'Teanui' 1888, 1957  
K1331, 1951/Epstein H**

**EPSTEIN, I A Y – Nationality: Egyptian – Arrived Fremantle per 'Orontes',  
14 Feb 1950, 1950 K1331, 1955/Epstein I A Y**

**ALIEN REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS (FORMS RA2) WITH ATTACHMENTS, 1948–63  
PP513/7**

**Recorded by:**

**1948–1963: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)**

**Perth 12.24 metres**

The series consists of single forms 'Application for Registration by Aliens entering Australia', and contains information 'required under provisions of the Aliens Act 1947–1959'.

**[Alien Registration Documents (Forms RA2) with attachments] EGYPTIAN,  
c1948–63 PP513/7, NN**

**[Alien Registration Documents (Forms RA2) with attachments] ISRAELI,  
c1948–63 PP513/7, NN**

**REGISTER OF ALIENS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES ISSUED, 1948–63  
PP513/6**

**Recorded by:**

**1948–1959: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)**

**Perth 1 metre**

## 4 Naturalisation Records

Naturalisation records are among the most valuable sources of biographical detail on Jewish immigrants and settlers of non-British origin. As with other migrant selection, passenger and immigrant case records, the National Archives has substantial holdings of naturalisation and citizenship material. What follows is a representative sampling of series and items of likely use and interest to people searching for details about non-British Jewish immigrants. For a full description of series which contain naturalisation materials, researchers are advised to consult *Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists*.

Although the naturalisation process has been a Federal responsibility since 1904, the National Archives holds records for the colonies of Victoria (1852–1903) and South Australia (1848–1903). Pre-1904 naturalisation records for New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia are maintained by the appropriate State Government archives.

For the colony of Victoria, see:

### **LETTERS RECEIVED, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH LETTER PREFIX OR INFIX, 1851– A712**

**Recorded by:**

**1853–1855: Colonial Secretary's Office, Colony of Victoria (CA 1328)  
1855–1903: Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1329)**

**Canberra 50.76 metres**

The series consists of letters about naturalisations in Victoria, and naturalisation certificates (the bulk of the series). Details on certificates include applicant's name, age, place of origin, occupation, place of residence, date of arrival in Victoria. The certificates are entered in (microfilm) registers of naturalisation: A9377 (for 1851–1861) and A728 (for 1861–1903).

**Abramovich, Isaack; Hoffmeister, Gottfried; Cohen, Joseph... Wittkowski, Julius... Myers, Abraham... Tartakover, Marcus... Isaacson, Solomon... Bernstein, Marcus... Levinson, Hyman – Naturalisation, 1856 A712, 1856/10106**

**Solomons, Isidore; Hamburger, Simon... Schappere, Solomon [etc] – Naturalisation, 1856 A712, 1856/10229**

**Cohen, Mendel – naturalisation, 1873 A712, 1873/C11520**

**Goldreich, Israel Morris – Naturalisation, 1893 A712, 1893/V753**

**Lenzer, Jacob – Naturalisation, 1890 A712, 1890/Q9744**

For the colony of South Australia, see:

**MEMORIALS OF NATURALISATION, WITH UNENROLLED AND UNCOLLECTED  
CERTIFICATES (SA), 1848–58                      A821**

Recorded by:

**1848–1858: General Registry Office (CA 1281)**

**Canberra      6.30 metres**

The series consists of memorials of naturalisation and certificates.

**EPSTEIN, Baruch Leon, 1850              A821, 45/Folio 9**

**EPSTEIN, Baruch Leon [Memorial and Certificate of Naturalisation], 1850  
A821, 88**

**MEMORIALS AND CERTIFICATES OF NATURALISATION (UNENROLLED OR  
UNCOLLECTED) FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA UNDER ACT 20 OF 21 VIC, 1858–64  
A822**

Recorded by:

**1858–1864: General Registry Office (CA 1281)**

**Canberra      0.36 metres**

The series consists of memorials and certificates of people living in SA for whom the naturalisation process does not appear to have been completed.

**Naturalisations (unenrolled or uncollected) for South Australia 1863 – Klisser,  
Charles Levi      A822, 1863/Klisser C L**

**ENROLLED CERTIFICATES OF NATURALISATION AND MEMORIALS 1859–66  
A823**

Recorded by:

**1859–1865: General Registry Office (CA 1281)**

**Canberra      0.18 metres**

The series consists of enrolled certificates as well as correspondence and some memorials.

**Kosminsky, Joseph, 1862–64              A823, 1/1864**

**MEMORIALS OF NATURALISATION (SA), 1865–1903                      A711**

Recorded by:

**MEMORIALS OF NATURALISATION (SA), 1865–1903 (CA 1281)**

**Canberra      10.98 metres**

This series consists of memorials of naturalisation (1865–1903) and certificates of naturalisation (1865–1879) in SA.

**Berliner, Samuel – Memorial of naturalisation, 1882              A711, 1430**

**Munn, Cohen – Memorial of naturalisation, 1891      A711, 2736**

**Mendelsohn, Max – Memorial of naturalisation, 1891      A711, 2740**

**Joseph, Solomon – Memorial of naturalisation, 1893      A711, 2853**

Other National Archives sources for colonial South Australian naturalisations are:

**BOOKS OF ENROLLED CERTIFICATES OF NATURALISATION, ISSUED 1848–58,  
ENROLLED, 1850–88      A729**

**Recorded by:**

**General Registry Office (CA 1281)**

**VOLUMES OF ENROLLED LETTERS OF NATURALISATION, 1865–1903      A733**

**Recorded by:**

**General Registry Office (CA 1281)**

Indexes to colonial South Australian naturalisations are:

**INDEX TO ALIENS, NOMINAL INDEX BOOK TO CERTIFICATES OF NATURALISATION,  
ISSUED 1848–58, ENROLLED 1850–88      A731**

**Recorded by:**

**General Registry Office - Registrar General of Deeds Department (CA 1281 )**

**NOMINAL INDEX FOR PRE-1904 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATURALISATIONS, 1850–89  
A7419**

**Recorded by:**

**Australian Archives, Central Office (CA 1720)**

Since the end of 1903, naturalisation has been the exclusive responsibility of the Federal Government and appropriate records are generally held and maintained in Canberra. As a starting point, invaluable records are:

**CITIZENSHIP INDEX ON MICROFICHE, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'CIT' PREFIX, 1903–  
A4722**

**Recorded by:**

**1973–1974: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)**

**All Offices      0.18 metres**

The index lists alphabetically all applicants for naturalisation, from 1904 to the present. Entries record surname, first names, alias, address, date of birth, former citizenship, sex, date of arrival in Australia, file number and citizenship number. Because the microfiche contains information less than 30 years old, it can be accessed only through reference staff.

**NAME INDEX CARDS, NATURALISATION, 1911–56****A1652****Recorded by:**

1911–1916: Department of External Affairs (I), Melbourne (CA 27)  
1916–1928: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)  
1928–1932: Department of Home Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 24)  
1932–1939: Department of the Interior (I), Central Administration (CA 27)  
1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)  
1945–1956: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

**All Offices      19.50 metres**

These cards are the control records for naturalisation files. Details include full name, date of birth, file number, arrival date, sometimes vessel's name. Many items pre-date 1911.

**AA – Albino, eg Abrahams, Myers, 1902, Abramowicz, Rachel, 1937  
A1652, box 1**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38****A1****Recorded by:**

1903–1916: Department of External Affairs (I), Melbourne (CA 7)  
1916–1928: Department of Home and Territories, Central Office (CA 15)  
1928–1932: Department of Home Affairs (II) (Central Office) (CA 24)  
1932–1938: Department of the Interior (I), Central Administration (CA 27)

**Canberra      337.14 metres**

Items typically include certificates of naturalisation (including renunciation of former nationality and statutory declarations), application forms (with biographical detail), reports (including police reports) on applicants, sometimes photos.

**Jacob Cohen, Naturalisation, 1904      A1, 1904/7550**

**Hyman Cohen, Naturalisation, 1908–09      A1, 1909/562**

**Benzion Cohen, Naturalisation, 1909      A1, 1909/4896**

**Mrs Sarah Cohen, Naturalisation certificate, 1916      A1, 1916/30750**

**Rev Samuel Nathan Salas – Naturalisation, 1916–18      A1, 1918/4770**

**Solomon Cohen, Revocation of Naturalisation certificate, 1912–37      A1,  
1937/6851**

**Isaac John Jedwab, Naturalisation, 1925–26      A1, 1925/26127**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 'A' SERIES, 1910****A63****Recorded by:**

1910–1910: Department of External Affairs (I), Melbourne (CA 7)

**Canberra      3.78 metres**

Files in this series contain naturalisation documents and passports.

**Solomon Cohen – Naturalisation, 1910      A63, A1910/1637**

**Solomon Hyams – Naturalisation, 1910      A63, A1910/6314**

**Morris Milafsky – Naturalisation, 1910      A63, A1910/4640**

**Moss Morris Friedman – Naturalisation, 1910–11      A63, A1910/7947**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50      A659**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I), Central Administration (CA 27)  
1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)

Canberra      101.25 metres

**Zapolski, Z [aka Zalman Levi] – Naturalisation, 1924–40      A659, 1939/1/11763**

**Herszkowicz, M B [aka Morris Hirsh] – Naturalisation, 1932–39      A659,  
1939/1/10475**

**Spivakovsky, T [aka Spivak, Nathan] – Naturalisation, 1933–40      A659,  
1939/1/11911**

**Gilovitz, Moses [known as Morris] – Naturalisation, 1930–40      A659,  
1939/1/16055**

**Epstein, D – Naturalisation, 1939–40      A659, 1940/1/560**

**Levi, J and Others – Revocation of naturalisation certificates, 1942      A659,  
1942/1/3404**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 4 (NATURALISATION), 1939–50      A435**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)  
1945–1950: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra      111 metres

This series contains individual naturalisation files for the period 1944–1950.

**Fritz Max Aronstein – Naturalisation [12 folios], 1945–46      A435,  
1945/4/5561**

**Leo Weiser Port [Rappaport] – Naturalisation, 1944–45      A435, 1944/4/5536**

**J. Hirsch, 1950–52      A435, 1950/4/8768**

**Nathan Zygier – Naturalisation, 1942–50      A435, 1950/5/5900**



**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 11 (MIGRANTS A–C),  
1951–52 A439****Recorded by:****1951–1952: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 6.66 metres****Aaron, R, 1952–53 A439, 1952/11/8478****Adler, L, 1945–52 A439, 1952/11/7862****Abrahamsen, P, 1940–52 A439, 1952/11/6848****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 12 (MIGRANTS D–G),  
1951–52 A440****Recorded by:****1951–1952: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 8.64 metres****Epstein, G, 1949–52 A440, 1952/12/5222****Epstein, Michael, 1949–52 A440, 1952/12/2812****Dallwitz, H, 1952 A440, 1952/12/4939****Finkelstein, I, 1951–54 A440, 1951/12/6770****Feigin, M [0.25cm], 1951–66 A440, 1951/12/1877****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 13 (MIGRANTS H–K),  
1951–52 A441****Recorded by:****1952–1953: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 9.18 metres**

The series consists of naturalisation files, passport applications, and resettlement or deportation recommendations.

**Kalman, M, 1951–54 A441, 1951/13/10144****Klein, J, 1949–59 A441, 1951/13/10532****Hirzhorn, B, 1951–54 A441, 1951/13/10567****Kaplan, J, 1949–51 A441, 1951/13/7302**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (MIGRANTS L–N), 1951–52  
A442****Recorded by:****1951–1952: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 8.28 metres****Levy, Manfred, 1950–57 A442, 1951/14/1601****Morgenstern, B, 1951 A442, 1951/14/1607****Lippmann, L., 1952–55 A442, 1952/14/2430****Menasche, L., 1950–53 A442, 1952/14/6655****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (MIGRANTS O–S), 1951–52  
A443****Recorded by:****1952–1953: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 6.70 metres**

The series consists of naturalisation files, passport applications, resettlement and deportation recommendations and policy documents. Subject matter goes well beyond the alphabetical O–S range.

**Rosenthal, A, 1951–54 A443, 1951/15/5833****Hirsch, E H, 1944–51 A443, 1951/15/4507****Ninio, B, 1952–54 A443, 1952/15/244****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (MIGRANTS T–Z), 1951–2  
A444****Recorded by:****1952–1953: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)****Canberra 5.25 metres**

The series consists of naturalisation files, passport applications, and resettlement or deportation recommendations. Coverage goes well outside the alphabetical T–Z range.

**Weiner, M, 1951–53 A444, 1951/16/855****Batagol, I, 1935–50 A444, 1952/16/68****Liberman, Sarah, Mrs, 1951 A444, 1951/16/4250****Zablud, M, 1951–54 A444, 1951/16/4677**

A large number of naturalisation files, particularly for the post-1945 period, can be located in:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER WITH BLOCK ALLOCATIONS,  
1953– A446**

**Recorded by:**

1953–1974: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra 3346.40 metres

Cohn, Z [Zena] – Naturalisation, 1953–54 A446, 1953/7740

Preger, Moses – Naturalisation, 1955–56 A446, 1955/48482

Gertler, Aaron Joseph – Naturalisation, 1931–68 A446, 1959/21621

Bilenky, W [Wolfe] – Naturalisation A446, 1953/6730

Neustein, D – Naturalisation, 1951–69 A446, 1969/35668

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE [AND CASE FILES, (1) SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 20–  
25 INFIX, (2) ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES (BLOCK ALLOCATED) WITH 'N' (NEW  
SOUTH WALES) PREFIX], C1901–67 SP1122/1**

**Recorded by:**

1951–1967: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)

Canberra 2375.10 metres

George Simon (naturalisation file), 1950–66 SP1122/1, N1965/67759

Alfred Irwin Geiger (naturalisation file) [box 5983], 1955–62 SP1122/1,  
N1963/30389

**PERSONAL CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'T' (TAS) PREFIX, 1951–  
P3**

**Recorded by:**

1951–1974: Department of Immigration, TAS Branch (CA 960)

Hobart 107.71 metres

Files in this series deal with individual cases of British and alien migration to Tasmania, and include passport correspondence and applications for admission of a friend or relative.

Jacobi, Werner, K F Application for naturalisation, case file, 1964–66 P3,  
1964/1929

Jacobi, Dieter. Application for naturalisation, case file, 1962–64 P3, 61/1384

In some cases, Commonwealth Investigation Service records may include reports on individual applicants for naturalisation. For example:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' PREFIX, 1924–62  
B741**

**Recorded by:**

**1927–1946: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)**

**Melbourne      29.88 metres**

**Nathan Nossell, 1933      B741, V/11713**

This file includes naturalisation declarations plus investigation papers.

**Harry and Fanny Cohen – Application for naturalisation and admission of friends into Australia, 1928–34      B741, V/4553**

**Solomon Ravidell, 1931–55      B741, V/8626**

This file contains details on the subject as a victim of a famous kidnapping case, other press clippings, and the naturalisation investigation report.

**CORRESPONDENCE RE NATURALISATION AND INTERNEES [SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NSW) PREFIX], C1914–46      ST1233/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1920–1946: Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)**

**Sydney      28.62 metres**

**Israel Cohen, 1927      ST1233/1, N4762**

**Morris Nathan, 1926–27      ST1233/1, N4131**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1918–59**

**PP302/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1919–1946: Immigration Branch, WA (CA 908)**

**Perth      23.76 metres**

Files in this series include policy documents, reports of enquiries into persons and events associated with naturalisation, offences and contravention of Commonwealth law.

**Morris Sasson – including application for naturalisation, 1916–27      PP302/1, WA1135**

**Simeon Epstein – including application for naturalisation, 1921–25      PP302/1, WA1087**

**Nathan Segal – including application for naturalisation and Form 40 (Immigration), 1911–29      PP302/1, WA1122**

## 5 Enemy Aliens and Internees

By any criterion, the progress of Jews in Australia must be seen as a 'success story', particularly in the context of the 20th century Jewish experience internationally. As W D Rubinstein has observed of the postwar period specifically, Jewish life 'has continued to flourish and develop in this remote and isolated continent, in a way that many from the larger Jewish communities would not credit'.<sup>47</sup>

This is not to say, however, that the progress has been consistently smooth. As noted earlier, the assimilation dilemma which afflicted the community in the late 19th century, and which reached crisis point by the 1920s, was precipitated (at least in part) by fears of antisemitism. While usually peripheral and confined mostly to the fringes of the political spectrum, a minor vein of antisemitism has always been a factor with which Australian Jews have had to contend.

As 'foreigners', 'aliens' and 'newcomers', migrant Jews have also borne the brunt of heightened nationalism and xenophobia during periods of international conflict. Many migrant Jews found themselves objects of official concern or suspicion during World War I and World War II (as former citizens or residents of hostile nations) and frequently found themselves classified as 'enemy aliens', subject even to incarceration.

Similarly, after the Russian Revolution in 1917, the prominence of individual Jews in global revolutionary movements reinforced myths that Jews were intent on world domination, and coloured public perceptions of Jewish loyalty. In the wake of 1945, and with the emergence of the Cold War, the seemingly disproportionate involvement of individual Jews in left-wing politics or radical organisations elicited official concern at a nexus between Jewish migrants and communism. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 6.

This chapter focuses on government records dealing with the definition and classification of Jews as aliens and enemy aliens during wartime. It includes sources regarding the internment process and the *Dunera* affair.

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<sup>47</sup> A listing of identified Jews, extracted from the W.A. forms by Beverley Davis, is available as "Alien Registrations in Western Australia during World War One", *AJHSJ* 14(3), 1998.

## Alien registration

Prior to 1914, the special branches of state police departments had responsibility for monitoring the activities of radical political groups or suspect individuals. This situation changed following the outbreak of World War I due to concerns about security, the activities of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the conscription debate. With Australia actively involved as a British 'dominion' in the war, the Federal Government enacted alien registration regulations, under the *War Precautions Act*, and in 1916 the Special Intelligence Bureau was created in Melbourne within the Prime Minister's Department. Most records of Commonwealth investigations into suspected groups or persons date from that time.<sup>48</sup>

The War Precautions Regulations demanded that all currently resident non-citizens (over 15 years of age), or those entering the country, must be registered as 'aliens'. The regulations were replaced by the *Aliens Registration Act 1920*, which remained in force until 1926. Aliens were required to submit registration forms at the nearest police station. The forms in question are a useful source of basic biographical detail on non-naturalised persons, and an often valuable supplement to naturalisation and other immigrant records.

Form A1 (for aliens resident in the Commonwealth before 1916) includes full name, nationality, birthplace, birthdate, occupation, usual place of abode, place of business, date of entry into the Commonwealth, a personal description, and signature (occasionally in Hebrew). Some cards also contain a thumbprint. In addition to the above details, Form A2 (for aliens entering the Commonwealth after 1916) includes name of vessel, port of embarkation, place of abode (abroad), and passport particulars. Registration requirements remained in force until June 1926. Therefore, aliens registration (or application) forms may provide detail on individuals until that date. The forms are held at several locations. For example:

### **ALIENS REGISTRATION FORMS, ANNUAL SERIES BY NATIONALITY, 1916–20 BP4/3**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1916–1920: Headquarters, 1st Military District, Commonwealth (Australian)  
Military Forces (CA 1219)**

**Brisbane            12.60 metres**

The forms of application for registration, under War Precautions Regulations (1916), contain details of name, nationality, birthplace, date-of-birth, place of residence,

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<sup>48</sup> Paul R. Bartrop, "The Dunera affair: a Scandal for Whom?", *AJHSJ* 11(1), 1990, p.14-19; Cyril Pearl, *The Dunera Scandal*, Syd 1983; Benzion Patkin, *The Dunera Internees*, Syd 1979.

occupation, port of embarkation, date of entry into Commonwealth, and personal description.

**Applications for registration under the War Precautions (Alien Registration) Regulations of 1916 – RUSSIAN JEWS, RUSSIAN-POL and SOUTH AMERICAN, 1916–36 BP4/3, BOX 70 A to Z**

**RECORDS OF ALIENS 1914–19 A401**

**Recorded by:**

**1914–1919: 6th Military District (CA 754)**

**Hobart 0.18 metres**

**Record of Aliens, 6th Military District, Morris Epstein, born Poland, District Register W3/29/103, c1914–18 A401, EPSTEIN**

**Record of Aliens, 6th Military District, Harry Epstein, born Hobart, District Register W95/2/176, c1914–18 A401, EPSTEIN**

**NATIONAL SECURITY – 'ALIENS' AND ALIEN REGISTRATION FORMS, 1916–22 SP43/3**

**Recorded by:**

**1916–1917: Special Intelligence Bureau, Central Office (Melbourne) (CA 746)**

**1917–1919: Special Intelligence Bureau, NSW (CA 909)**

**Sydney 26 metres**

The series contains registrations on Forms A1 and A2, War Precautions (Aliens Registration) Regulations, 1916.

**Fanny Fagelman (Russian; aliens registration form), 1916 SP43/3, NN**

**Rosa Falstein (Russian; aliens registration form), 1916–18 SP43/3, NN**

**Abraham Feldman (Russian), 1919 SP43/3, NN**

Material held in Western Australia is of particular interest, as it provides detail on a number of Jewish emigrants who came to Australia from Palestine in the early 1900s. Palestine was held by the Turks until 1917.<sup>49</sup>

**REGISTER OF ALIENS MAINTAINED UNDER WAR PRECAUTIONS REGULATIONS, 1916–20 PP14/3**

**Recorded by:**

**1916–1920: Headquarters, 5th Military District (I), CMF (CA 4811)**

**1919–1920: Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)**

**Perth 17.68 metres**

The register consists of two sets of cards, numbered Forms A1 and A2.

<sup>49</sup> Paul R. Bartrop & Gabrielle Eisen (eds), *The Dunera Affair: a Documentary Resource Book*, Melb 1990.

**Forms A1: eg Berinson, Morris; Cohen, Israel; Finkelstein, Borouch; Hyman, Abraham; Zeitlin, Joseph, 1916–20**

**Forms A2: eg Solomons, Rachel; Segall, Samuel, 1916–20**

Former citizens of countries at war with Britain (and the Empire) during World War I were promptly designated 'Enemy aliens', subject to rigorous surveillance and, in some cases, to detention in internment camps. For more detail, see the following records:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53                      A367**

**Recorded by:**

**1916–1919: Special Intelligence Bureau (CA 746)**

**Canberra      64.08 metres**

**Official files relating to enemy aliens, 1915–16      A367, 1916/43/1**

**INTELLIGENCE SECTION RECORDS 1914–23**

**MP16/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1914–1923: Intelligence Section, General Staff, 3rd Military District, CMF (CA 1841)**

**Melbourne      13.68 metres**

The series consists of individual case files; subjects include registration of aliens, recommendations for internment, repatriation of enemy aliens, investigation of suspected spies or disloyalty 'offenders'.

**Rosenbaum, Louis (ex–SS 'Hesser'), 1914      1914/1/195**

**Wertheim (Suspicious activities), 1914      MP16/1, 1914/3/418**

**Rosenhain, D W (Suspicious activities), 1914      MP16/1, 1914/3/596**

**Particulars of enemy aliens reporting at Carlton [3 pages], 1915      MP16/1, 1915/3/342**

**List of interned enemy aliens and de–naturalised persons of enemy origin, 1919      MP16/1, Y1920/104**



**INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF INTERNMENTS, REPATRIATIONS, AFFILIATIONS AND  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1915–20 PP14/1****Recorded by:****1915–1919: Headquarters 5th Military District (I), CMF (CA 4811)****1919–1920: Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)****Perth 6.48 metres**

The files contain reports of investigations by WA police, at request of Military Intelligence, into activities, movements and statements of aliens. Material includes recommendations regarding the internment or arrest of enemy aliens.

**EPSTEIN, Sim, c1915–20 PP14/1, 1/2/151****GOLDSTEIN, Nathan, c1915–20 PP14/1, 1/2/471**

## 'Enemy aliens' and internment (World War II)

As in World War I, the situation and status of German and Italian-speaking refugees (and others) changed dramatically once war had been declared. Registration requirements were reintroduced through the *Aliens Registration Act 1939* and *National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations 1939*. Restrictions were imposed almost immediately on identified individuals (including those who arrived shortly after the formal declaration of war). 'Enemy aliens' were required to register with, and report regularly to, their local police station, and to obtain formal leave before travelling outside their area of residence. The possession (without permit) of cameras, radios, binoculars, motor vehicles, motorboats, firearms, even carrier-pigeons, was prohibited. In some cases (as in World War I), individuals or families were kept under surveillance by Government security agencies. For example, records of investigation of known or suspected enemy sympathisers by the NSW Branch of the Commonwealth Security Service, are located in the following series:

### **INVESTIGATION FILES (PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS), ALPHA-NUMERIC SERIES, 1942–46 C320**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1942–1945: Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)**

**1945–1946: Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)**

**Sydney 4.50 metres**

**NSW Security Service file – Enemy aliens released from internment [2 pages, box 9], 1940–44 C320, I34**

Also among records of the NSW branch of the Commonwealth Security Service is a series of dossiers on former German Jews in Australia, originally compiled by the German Consulate:

### **DOSSIERS ON JEWS RESIDENT IN AUSTRALIA COMPILED BY THE GERMAN CONSULATE, 1943–57 C422**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1943–1945: Security Service, NSW (CA 946)**

**Sydney 0.36 metres**

This is a series of dossiers (113 files) dealing with Jews resident in Australia.

**[Rudolf Klein], 1939 C422, 1**

**[Herman Koenig], 1938 C422, 14**

**[Alfred, Johanna and Rosel Rosenberg], 1938 C422, 26**

**[Karl Israel Plessner], 1939 C422, 34**

**[Julius Hermann Israel and Clara Sara Schneeweiss], 1939 C422, 8**

**[Alice Perl], 1939 C422, 102**

Emil H. Witkowski  
131 O'Sullivan Rd.  
Bellevue Hill - Sydney  
N.S.W.

17th of June, 1940

RECEIVED  
22 JUN 1940  
CENTRAL REGISTRY

To  
The Minister for the Army  
Canberra  
Australian Commonwealth Territory

ARMY  
M 275 703 71

Dear Sir,

in order to show my loyalty towards this country and to help wherever I can be of use, I herewith apply to enter the Militia.

I am German Jewish Refugee from Nazi oppression and hope to find a home here in Australia. I am 20, married, and have a 6 months old son who is Australian born. I am compositor and printer and have a knowledge in photography, especially colour-photography. My brother-of-law who fled from Germany to England two days before the outbreak of the war was able to join the Army there.

The number of my Landing Permit is 29018. I am registered under the National Security Regulations under No. 30336.

I am, dear Sir,  
yours faithfully,

Emil H. Witkowski  
H. Wit

24 JUN 1940  
A.G.  
Referred for attention  
Secretary  
2106 / 40

Checked for indexing

RECEIVED  
22 JUN 1940  
A. - B. ANCH

A letter from a German Jewish refugee, volunteering his services for the Australian war effort.  
NAA: MP508/1, 275/703/71

Some records of dealings, under the National Security Regulations, with individual alien emigrants can be located in the correspondence of the various customs services. For example:

**GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1902– B13**

**Recorded by:**

1902–1985: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Melbourne 54.90 metres

H D Brasch, German Jew ex-'Strathmore' – re return of Camera, 1939 B13, 1939/50754

Official perspectives or policy and memoranda and other correspondence dealing with the 'enemy aliens' issue are located in:

**DEFENCE ARMY SERIES (401), 1936–45 MP729/6**

**Recorded by:**

1936–1939: Department of Defence (II), Central Administration (CA 19); 1939–1945: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)

Melbourne 26 metres

Refugees: Internment, Fifth Columnists, 1940 MP729/6, 29/401/273

Internees, 1939 MP729/6, 63/401/10

Alien Immigration, Refugees, etc, 1939 MP 729/6, 65/401/12

Control of Enemy Aliens, 1940 MP729/6, 65/401/50

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1941–49 A373**

**Recorded by:**

1941–1945: Security Service, Central Office, Canberra (CA 660)

1945–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)

1946–1949: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Central Office (CA 650)

Canberra 7 metres

Control of enemy aliens, 1941–43 A373, 578

Internments and Releases Policy, internment of enemy aliens – Representations by various organisations, 1942 A373, 1272

National service for refugee and enemy aliens, 1942–43 A373, 3644

Status and position of enemy aliens on discharge from Defence Forces of the Commonwealth, 1943 A373, 4840

Control of enemy aliens. Travel permits, change of abode, etc., 1942–45 A373, 8218

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, T SERIES, 1943–45 A376****Recorded by:****1943–1945: Security Service, Tasmania (CA 748)****Canberra 0.1 metres****Enemy Aliens, 1940 A376, T252****Enemy aliens – orders to report, 1939–44 A376, T129****Restriction Orders – Enemy aliens, 1939–51 A376, T135****Aliens Control. Prohibited Possessions. Lists German, Austrian and Italian nationals registered in Tasmania as enemy aliens, 1939–45 A376, T212****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1928–56 A518****Recorded by:****1928–1941: Territories Branch, Prime Minister's Department (CA 822)****1941–1951: Department of External Territories (I) (CA 42)****Canberra 199.15 metres****Defence – Enemy Aliens – Internees, escorts, etc, 1939–45 A518,  
AO16/2/1****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1901–76 A571****Recorded by:****1901–1976: Department of the Treasury (I), Central Office (CA 11)****Canberra 714.35 metres****Military and other compulsory service for Refugee and enemy aliens, 1942–45  
A571, 1942/538****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50  
A659****Recorded by:****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)****Canberra 101.25 metres****List of enemy aliens naturalised Jul 1935 – Dec 1939, 1940 A659,  
1940/1/8030**

Organised by State and Territory, then alphabetically for each time-frame, this file provides details on Italian and German nationals including full name, address, date of birth and naturalisation certificate number, eg Zara Hallenstein and Max Herz, Sydney; Alfred Klein and Anita Rosenberg, Melbourne.

**Internment of Enemy aliens – Appeals against, 1940–41 A659,  
1940/1/8379**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES WITH VARIABLE ALPHABETICAL  
PREFIX AND GENERAL PREFIX 'SC' (FOURTH SYSTEM), 1939–47 A1608****Recorded by:****1939–1945: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 21.97 metres****War 1939. Position of Aliens and Refugees – Time of War, 1939 A1608,  
N19/1/1 part 1****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1942–46****CP436/2****Recorded by:****1943–1945: Fisheries Co-ordinating Authority, Department of War  
Organisation Industry (CA 79)****1945–1946: Fisheries Division (a) Post-war Reconstruction (CA 2104)****Canberra 3.60 metres**

This general, 'undifferentiated' series contains staff files, labour force surveys, policy records and ministerial correspondence.

**Enemy Aliens, 1944–45 CP436/2, BUNDLE 9/962/8****INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SS' PREFIX, 1942–46  
D1919****Recorded by:****1942–1946: Investigation Branch South Australia (CA 905)****Adelaide 2 metres**

Files in this series cover a range of subjects, including aliens (registration and control), revocation of naturalisation, passports, internees, espionage and censorship.

**Stateless Aliens [National Security (Aliens Control) Legislation – Registration  
of Stateless Aliens], 1942 D1919, SS959****ARMY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42****MP508/1****Recorded by:****1939–1942: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne 0.72 metres****Cameras – Property of enemy aliens, 1942 MP508/1, 4/703/1169****Status of Refugee Aliens, 1942 MP508/1, 4/703/1190****Nationality of Refugee Jews. Definition of 'Enemy Alien', 1942 MP508/1,  
115/703/455**

Commonwealth security measures during World War II included the internment of a number of German-speaking and Italian-speaking emigrants suspected of 'subversive activities' and a number of 'enemy nationals' who arrived in Australia after war was declared in September 1939. The adult male members of a party of 250 refugee men, women and children (mostly Jews) who came to Australia from Singapore on the troop ship *Queen Mary* in 1940 were promptly despatched to Tatura, for instance. The National Archives substantial holdings on World War II internees, include the following:

**DOSSIERS CONTAINING REPORTS ON INTERNEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN AUSTRALIAN CAMPS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1939–45  
MP1103/2**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1945: Prisoners of War Information Bureau (CA 3055)**

**Melbourne      18.29 metres**

The files contain Forms A111, A114 and A111A, setting out all vital identification and property assessment information on each POW or internee.

**Report on Internee – Menasche Bodner (Polish Jew), 1940      MP1103/2, E39191**

**Report on Internee – Fritz Levy (German Jew), 1940      MP1103/2, E40054**

**DOSSIERS CONCERNING INTERNEES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1942–45  
C123**

**Recorded by:**

**1942–1945: Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)**

**Sydney      36.36 metres**

This series consists of dossiers on persons interned in NSW during World War II.

**Seigbert Simon Israel COHEN – German Jew [Security Service, NSW, Dossier] [Box 8], 1939–44      C123, 1236**

**Fritz ROEHRICHT alias Frederick REED – German (Jew) [Security Service, NSW, Dossier] [Box 11], 1942–45      C123, 1310**

**Albert William HOFFMAN – Jewish [Security Service, NSW, Dossier] [box 12], 1939–42      C123, 1321**

**SUERBACH, Joseph and Stella – Austrian – Jewish refugee [Security Service, NSW, dossier] [16 pages, box 23], 1939–40      C123, 1708**

Access to C123 can be facilitated by searching three subsequent – and related – series, all recorded by the Commonwealth Security Service, NSW:

**KEY TO DOSSIERS, NUMERICAL REGISTER, 1939–45****C124****Recorded by:****1941–1945: Security Service, New South Wales (CA 946)****Sydney      0.36 metres****NATIONALITY INDEX CARDS TO DOSSIERS OF INTERNEES, 1942–45****C126****Recorded by:****1942–1945: Security Service, New South Wales (CA 946)****Sydney      1.98 metres****NOMINAL INDEX CARDS (BY CITIZENSHIP) TO DOSSIERS ON INTERNEES, 1942-45**  
**C125****Recorded by:****1942–1945: Security Service, New South Wales (CA 946)****Sydney      0.18 metres**



## The *Dunera* affair

By far the best known (and most notorious) instance of wartime internment in Australia was the *Dunera* affair. Following the fall of France and the evacuation of Dunkirk, the British Government responded to public panic over the 'enemy within' and temporarily interned thousands of foreign nationals. Canada and Australia agreed to assist the 'mother country' with the process and, accordingly, in July 1940, HMT *Dunera* set sail from Liverpool to Sydney, carrying 2 542 male 'enemy aliens.' Although the group included some 250 German Nazis and 200 Italian Fascists, the vast majority of the deportees were strongly anti-Fascist and two-thirds of them were Jews.

The harrowing circumstances of the *Dunera*'s voyage out to Australia have been documented by Bartrop, Pearl and Patkin, among others. The maltreatment of prisoners by sections of the British escort troops earned the *Dunera* the label 'hellship'.<sup>50</sup> On arrival in Melbourne in September 1940, 500 deportees were disembarked and transferred to the Tatura internment camp while the remaining men and youths went on to Sydney and were transferred to the Hay camps and, subsequently, to Tatura.

Intense criticism of the deportation and incarceration of unfortunate persons, most of them totally opposed to the Nazi regime, was voiced both in Britain and Australia, and resulted in the British Government expressing regret for the incident as early as October 1940. Major Julian Layton of the Home Office was sent to Australia to assist with the repatriation process. Charges were laid against a number of the *Dunera* guards, and compensation payments were allocated to the deportees. Bureaucratic delays and inefficiency notwithstanding, the internees were all released in due course. Some 900 elected to remain in Australia, and a substantial number of them served with Australia's defence forces, notably in the 8th Employment Company.

A large number of pertinent records can be located on the National Archives database, using keyword access (eg 'Dunera', 'Tatura', 'Enemy Aliens', 'Internees'). Some additional records can be gleaned from hard-copy series listings. Paul Bartrop and Gabrielle Eisen have provided researchers with an invaluable sampling (and overview) of both official (government) and unofficial records of the '*Dunera* affair' in their comprehensive selection of documents under that title.<sup>51</sup> Records of the voyage of the *Dunera*, the experiences at the Hay,

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<sup>50</sup> David Rechter, "Beyond the Pale: Jewish Communism in Melbourne", unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Melbourne 1986, p.5.

<sup>51</sup> W.D. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History, Vol 2: From 1945 to the Present*, p. 11.

Tatura and Loveday camps of the *Dunera* boys and other Jewish refugees who had escaped Europe via Malaya, etc, and the participation of many former internees in the 8th Employment Company, can be found in the following series:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53                      A367**

**Recorded by:**

1919–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office (CA 747)

Canberra      64.08 metres

Max COHEN [internee, 'Dunera'], 1941–42                      A367, C81860

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50  
A433**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)

Canberra      8 metres

War Cabinet Minute, Canberra, on transfer of Internees to new location, 1940  
A433, 1945/2/6093

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50                      A659**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)

1945–1950: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)

Canberra      101.25 metres

Enemy alien internees from UK – Transfer to Australia – Part 2, 1941–47  
A659, 1946/1/980

**CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (CLASSIFIED 301), 1935–58  
A816**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1942: Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)

1942–1958: Department of Information (III), Central Office (CA 46)

Canberra      86.21 metres

This series holds records of classified matters, including information gathering, policy matters and technical information.

Enemy Aliens sent to Australia for Internment, 1940–42                      A816, 1/301/66

War Cabinet Agendum – Accommodation of Overseas Internees, 1940-42  
A816, 54/301/229

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES, PRIMARY NUMBERS 702–720, 1943–63  
A1308****Recorded by:****1941–1962: Defence Division, Department of the Treasury (I) (CA 68)****Canberra 29.70 metres****War Cabinet Agendum – Release of Overseas Internees, 1944 A1308,  
712/1/20****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES WITH VARIABLE ALPHABETICAL  
PREFIX AND GENERAL PREFIX 'SC' (FOURTH SYSTEM), 1939–47 A1608****Recorded by:****1939–1945: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 21.97 metres****Internees Shipped to Australia from the UK, 1940-42 A1608, A20/1/3 part  
1****Internees from the United Kingdom – Question of allowing some to remain in  
Australia, 1942-44 A1608, A20/1/3 part 2****Major J D Layton to Home Office, London [re Internees' claims for losses of  
personal effects on 'Dunera'], 1940-42 A1608, B20/1/3****Transfers of Internees from Britain, 1940-41 A1608, F20/1/3****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASSIFIED SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL  
PREFIX, 1930–52 A2908****Recorded by:****1930–1952: Australian High Commissioner, UK (London) (CA 241)****Canberra 20.98 metres****The subject matter of these classified files is (probably) defence administration  
during and after World War II.****Complete Nominal Roll of Internees ex-'Dunera', 1941 A2908, P22****Internees from UK to Australia ['Dunera'], Part 4, 1940–41 A2908, P22 part 4****Internees in Australia 'Dunera', 1941 A2908, P22 part 5****Internees ex-'Dunera', 1942 A2908, P22 part 8****Internees ex-'Dunera', 1942–48 A2908, P22 Part 12B**

**SECOND AIF AND CMF, UNIT WAR DIARIES 1939–45 WAR, 1939–58****AWM52****Recorded by:****1939–1958: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 454 metres**

The series consists of unit war diaries.

**War Diary, 8th Employment Company – Formation and Personnel, 1942–46  
AWM52, 22/1/17****WRITTEN RECORDS 1939–45 WAR, 1951–93****AWM54****Recorded by:****1951–1993: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 213.5 metres**

This series contains a wide range of operational material and reports, including messages, minutes, memoranda, circulars, intelligence summaries and unit histories.

**Department of the Army: Inventory of Accommodation requirements for Internees, 1940–41 AWM54, 780/5/1****[Transport – Sea (Allied) – Reports on Voyage, 1940] Voyage report HMT 'Dunera' (Y5) from Melbourne, Australia to overseas base (Egypt), 1940  
AWM54, 963/13/12****RECORDS OF MILITARY HISTORY SECTION (ARMY), 1940–61****AWM113****Recorded by:****1940–1961: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 17.6 metres**

The series consists of miscellaneous historical materials and administrative records, including research into the Army and AMF.

**'Dunera' [ship used to transport internees from Britain to Australia in 1940]  
[Press Clippings], 1940 AWM113, 26/1/5****INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SS' PREFIX, 1942–46  
A1919****Recorded by:****1942–1946: Investigation Branch, South Australia (CA 905)****1946–1946: Commonwealth Investigation Service, South Australia (CA 914)****Adelaide 2 metres****Espionage [German Intelligence Service methods, German Jews as spies, Loveday internment camp], 1942–46 D1919, SS1031**

**GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES,  
1902– B13****Recorded by:****1902–1985: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)****Melbourne 54.9 metres****Arrival of enemy internees, Melb per 'Dunera', 1940 B13, 1940/51461****FILE OF MATERIAL RELATING TO HMT DUNERA, 1940–72****B3844****Recorded by:****1966–1972: Central Army Records Office (CA 1999)****Melbourne 0.2 metres**

This series consists of a single file on the voyage of the Dunera to Australia in 1940. Contents include copies of the nominal rolls of German internees for Sydney, newspaper cuttings, a photograph of the ship, memoranda and correspondence. The material appears to have been acquired from several sources and used for reference inquiries by Central Army Records Office.

**[Voyage, 1940) HMT 'Dunera' UK to Australia, with POWs and Internees], 1940–72 B3844, whole series**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1939–54****B3856****Recorded by:****1939–1948: 2nd Echelon, Army Headquarters (CA 2002)****1948–1954: Central Army Records Office (CA 1999)****Melbourne 12 metres**

The bulk of the extant files in this series deal with Australian prisoners of war and internees or missing personnel.

**Nominal Rolls of Australians possibly Prisoners of War, or Internees' Rolls, comprised of forms printed in German and English, with a sub-heading 'List of all allied Nationals and all other foreigners, German Jews and stateless, etc, who were temporarily or permanently stationed in the community, but were no longer in residence', 1946–48 B3856, 144/1/401**

**SECURITY CLASSIFIED GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE 1940–45****MP70/1****Recorded by:****1940–1942: Command Headquarters, Southern Command (I), AMF (CA 1843)****1942–1945: Headquarters, Victorian Lines of Communication Area, AMF (CA 1844)****Melbourne 2.26 metres**

This series consists of general correspondence files and includes material to do with local intelligence, security and censorship. Several pertinent records have been identified.

**Note of meeting re security at POW and Internee camps, 1942 MP70/1,  
14/101/28**

Transfer and movement – Internees, 1942      MP70/1, 36/101/12

Jewish Welfare and Claims 'Dunera', 1941      MP70/1, 36/101/27

Internees – disturbances, 1941      MP70/1, 36/101/45

Internees – employment on farms, 1940      MP70/1, 40/182

Security Tatura Internment camp and allegations re personnel, 1940–41  
MP70/1, 40/693

**ARMY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42      MP508/1**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1942: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)  
Melbourne      0.72 metres

A substantial number of items have been identified which deal specifically with the experiences of internees, including Dunera boys.

Deputation of Reps of the AJWS, 1942      MP508/1, 115/703/596

Prisoners of War sent from UK to Australia [ex-'Dunera'], 1940      MP508/1, 255/702/634

Internees from United Kingdom, Arrangements for review of cases, 1940–41  
MP508/1, 255/702/951

German and Austrian internees mostly of the Jewish faith re appointment of tribunal or alternatively to take up position with the Home Office re Rabbi J Danglow, St Kilda Hebrew Congregation, 1941      MP508/1, 255/702/981

Jewish Refugees in British Malaya who have been sent to Australia to be interned, 1940–41      MP508/1, 255/702/1046

Dossiers of Jewish Refugees from Malaya held at Tatura, 1941–42  
MP508/1, 255/702/1493

[Kosher meat for Jewish internees], 1941      MP508/1, 255/708/46

[Issue of spectacles. Internees ex-'Dunera'], 1941      MP508/1, 255/708/67

[Orthodox Jews amongst UK internees in Australia], 1942      MP508/1, 255/715/617

[Jewish Refugee Internees], 1940      MP508/1, 255/730/143

UK Internees – Decree depriving Jews of German citizenship, No. 2 Internment Camp, Vic, 1942      MP508/1, 255/744/967

**DEFENCE ARMY SERIES (401), 1936–45****MP729/6****Recorded by:****1936–1939: Department of Defence (II), Central Administration (CA 19)****1939–1945: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne      23 metres**

A significant group of pertinent records has been located in this series (notably Boxes 136 and 137).

**Interned Enemy Subjects and other interned aliens in Australia, 1939–40****MP729/6, 63/401/35****Refugees: Internment, Fifth Columnists, 1940      MP729/6, 29/401/273****Internees from UK on 'Dunera', 1940      MP729/6, 63/401/122**

**Memo from Sir Herbert Emerson, League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [re Britain deporting internees to Australia], 1940      MP729/6, 63/401/123**

**Complaints – internees – 'Dunera', 1940–41      MP729/6, 63/401/141****Internees – 'Dunera' Deaths , 1940      MP729/6, 63/401/147**

**Internees from UK on HMT Transport 'Dunera' [72 pages], 1940      MP729/6, 63/401/157**

**Treatment of Internees on 'Dunera', 1940      MP729/6, 63/401/206****Lost Baggage – Internees ex-'Dunera', 1940–41      MP729/6, 63/401/223**

**War Cabinet Agendum – Treatment of Overseas Internees, 1941      MP729/6, 63/401/335**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1943–51****MP742/1****Recorded by:****1943–1951: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne      163 metres**

This series contains files concerning the administration of military forces.

**F M Forde, Minister for the Army, to Ministers for Defence, Immigration and Labour [re former 'Dunera' internees remaining in Australia], 1945  
MP742/1, 255/14/228**

**Claim for Compensation – ex-UK internees 'Dunera', 1941–50      MP742/1, 255/14/246**

# 6 Aspects of Jewish Life in Australia

This chapter examines the unique and varied contribution Jews have made to Australian life. It lists records relating to prominent Australian Jews; Jewish congregations and other communal institutions; the Jewish press; and religious observances. This chapter also looks at antisemitism in Australia and the involvement of Jews in Australian communism.

## Prominent Australian Jews

Australian Jews have made a much more significant contribution to Australian life than their numbers in the population would suggest. Jews have been active in all aspects of Australian life – most notably in politics, law and the public service; the arts; and business. Many Australian Jews have made their greatest contribution to the Jewish community itself. The contribution of Australian Jews to the Armed Services is discussed in Chapter 7.

This chapter presents an overview of Jewish participation in Australian life. For a more detailed survey, see the two chapters on Jewish achievers in the two-volume history by the Rubinshteins.<sup>52</sup> What follows is a purely random selection of records which refer to, or deal with, prominent Australian Jews. Hopefully, the items chosen will give some indication of the diversity of records that are available.

- Politics, law and the public service
- The arts
- Business
- Rabbis and community leaders

### Politics, law and the public service

Two Jews have served as Governor-General, Sir Isaac Isaacs (1931–36) and Sir Zelman Cowen (1977–82). A leading British civil servant, Sir Matthew Nathan, filled the post of Governor of Queensland in 1922–26.

Jewish members of Federal Parliament have included Elias Solomon and Joe Berinson of Western Australia; Vaiben L Solomon of South Australia; Sam Cohen, Moss Cass, Lewis Kent and Pharez Phillips of Victoria; Peter Baume, Sydney Einfeld and Barry Cohen of New South Wales.

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<sup>52</sup> *Australian Jewish Herald*, 24 Dec 1931.





The Rt Hon. Sir Isaac Isaacs, the first Australian-born Governor-General of Australia, in full uniform at Admiralty House in Sydney.  
NAA: A1200, L8925

At the colonial and state level, politicians have included Henry Emanuel Cohen, Jacob L Montefiore, Abram Landa, Ernest S Marks and Sir Daniel Levy (New South Wales); Charles Dyte, Theodore and Benjamin J Fink, Nathaniel Levi, Ephraim L Zox, Edward Cohen, Sir Archie Michaelis and Walter Jona (Victoria); Sir Lewis Cohen, Maurice Salom and Judah Moss Solomon (South Australia); Lionel Samson and Sir Charles Nathan (Western Australia); Jacob Horwitz and Isidore Lissner (Queensland); Joseph Cohen and John Davies (Tasmania).

Sir Benjamin Benjamin, Leo Port and Irvin Rockman are just some of the Jews who have served terms as suburban or metropolitan mayors.

Distinguished players in the legal profession have been Sir Julian Salomons, Henry Emanuel Cohen, Trevor Rapke, Joan Rosanove, Arnold Bloch, William

Kaye and Professor Julius Stone. An estimated 10 per cent of all barristers in Sydney and Melbourne today are Jewish.

Senior Jewish public servants and bureaucrats have included Peter Wilenski, David Smith and Graham Freudenberg.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1908–38** **A1**

**Recorded by:**

**1932–1938: Department of the Interior (I), Central Administration (CA 27)**  
**Canberra 337.14 metres**

**Hirsch Munz – Naturalisation, 1933 A1, 1933/792**

**Rabbi J L Gurewicz – Naturalisation certificate, 1937 A1, 1937/201**

**Farewell to his Excellency, Sir Isaac Isaacs, Governor-General, 1935 A1, 1935/12209**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901** **A6**

**Recorded by:**

**1901–1901: Department of External Affairs (I), Melb (CA 7)**  
**Canberra 2.36 metres**

**Petition against the return of the Member for Fremantle electorate, Mr Elias Solomon, by another contestant, W E Adcock, 18 Jun 1901 – 7 Aug 1901, 1901 A6, 1901/1841**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–** **A432**

**Recorded by:**

**1929–: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)**  
**Canberra 1957.68 metres**

**Appointment of Sir Isaac Isaacs as (1) Justice of the High Court of Australia; (2) Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, 1906–52 A432, 1950/469**

**Sir Isaac A. Isaacs – Pension, 1936–47 A432, 1936/38**

**Justice of the High Court – Leave of Absence. The Right Honorable Sir Isaac A Isaacs KCMG, 1920 A432, 1938/317**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (SECOND SYSTEM), 1923–34  
A458****Recorded by:****1923–1934: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 49.77 metres****Memorial – late Sir John Monash, 1932–33 A458, X370/6****Sir John Monash, 1930 A458, 702/1/33****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50  
A461****Recorded by:****1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Governor-General Appointment of Sir Isaac Isaacs, 1930–36 A461, E7/1/2****Sir Isaac Isaacs – Swearing In Ceremony, 1930–31 A461, F7/1/2****Sir Isaac Isaacs – Visit to England, 1936, 1935–36 A461, H7/1/2****Visit Landa, Abram, 1945 A461, 748/1/674****Memorials – Bust of Sir Isaac Isaacs [0.25cm], 1943–45 A461, AB370/1/8****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55  
A462****Recorded by:****1951–1955: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 26.74 metres**

Files in this series contain documents regarding primary industry, the Communist Party, World War II, state funerals, honours, and a wide range of other topics.

**Historical – papers – Re appointment of Sir Isaac Isaacs as Governor-General, 1953–55 A462, 826/2/8****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, TWO NUMBER SYSTEM WITH LETTER PREFIX, SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL FILES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1926–39 A1606****Recorded by:****1926–1939: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 5.67 metres**

The series consists of files of papers on a wide variety of subjects, arranged according to subject heading.

**Prime Minister's Department: Sir John Monash, 1923 A1606, E25/1**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89 A1838****Recorded by:****1948–1989: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra     3224.6 metres****Radio Australia – Commentaries – Professor Zelman Cowen, 1962–65  
A1838, 570/4/2/3/1 part 1****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1945–75 A2880****Recorded by:****1945–1975: Governor-General (CA 1)****Canberra     62.28 metres**

The series consists of general correspondence files from the Governor-General's Office.

**[Isaacs] Term of Office – Governor-General – Sir Isaac Isaacs – 22/1/31 to  
23/1/36 [2cm], 1930–78     A2880, 2****HONOURS FILES (FOR SPECIFIC HONOURS, EVENTS OR INDIVIDUALS), 1921–54  
A2926****Recorded by:****1921–1954: Governor-General (CA 1)****Canberra     0.05 metres**

The series consists of files raised for specific honours.

**Sir Isaac ISAACS, 1937     A2926, A13****MILDENHALL COLLECTION OF GLASS PLATE NEGATIVES, 1921–35 A3560****Recorded by:****1932–1935: Civic (ACT) Administration Branch, Department of the Interior (CA  
757)****Canberra     86.94 metres**

The series consists of 7000 glass plate negatives, most taken by William James Mildenhall.

**Group at Parliament House including Sir Isaac Isaacs and Hon T W White,  
14 Jan 1933, 1933     A3560, 6776****Sir Isaac Isaacs and Lady Isaacs at Government House, March 1933, 1933  
A3560, 6875****Sir Isaac and Lady Isaacs beside the plane, 28 Jan 1933, 1933     A3560,  
6998****Sir Isaac and Lady Isaacs at Yarralumla House, 1932     A3560, 7309**

**'THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION' [RECORDS COLLECTED BY SIR FREDERICK SHEDDEN DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND IN RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE POLICY], TWO NUMBER SERIES, 1937–71  
A5954**

**Recorded by:**

1937–1939: Department of Defence (II) (Central Administration) (CA 19)  
1939–1942: Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)  
1942–1971: Department of Defence (III), Central Office (CA 46)

Canberra 193 metres

[Publication] An Appeal for a Greater Australia by Rt Hon Sir Isaac Isaacs, PC, GCB, GCMG, 1943 A5954, 1928/14

[Publication – IK] Demobilisation Questions and Answers. Rt Hon Sir Isaac Isaacs, PC, GCB, GCMG, 1945 A5954, 1928/15

Sir John Latham and other papers by Zelman COWEN, c1967 A5954, 1248/21

**CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1918–28 A6661**

**Recorded by:**

1918–1928: Governor-General (CA 1)

Canberra 10.26 metres

[Appointment of Sir Matthew Nathan, GCMG to the Pacific Cable Board], 1911  
A6661, 532

**RADIO ARCHIVES MASTER AUDIO TAPES, SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, 1970–71  
C102**

**Recorded by:**

1970–1971: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office – Radio Archives (CA 251)

Sydney 53.93 metres

The tapes in this series are master and working copies of gramophone discs in the ABC Sound Library.

Latham, Sir John – Talks with Prof. Zelman Cowen and G Baker (audio tape), 1933–71 C102, POL114

Isaacs, Sir Isaac (audio tape), 1935 C102, POL6

Sir Isaac Isaacs. The Monash Ovation, 1937 C102, WRP27

**PERSONAL PAPERS OF SIR JOHN GREIG LATHAM AS LEADER OF THE FEDERAL  
OPPOSITION (1929 – MARCH 1931), 1929–31 CP450/3****Recorded by:****1929–1931: The Rt Hon Sir John Greig Latham (CP 148)****Canberra 0.03 metres**

A bundle of six folders contains representations from various groups and organisations asking Latham to 'exert influence' on behalf of the petitioners.

**Governor-General [Re appointment of Sir Isaac Isaacs by the Scullin  
Government], 1930–31 CP450/3, BUNDLE ¼****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NSW) PREFIX, 1952–75  
C3739****Recorded by:****1952–1975: General Post Office, Sydney (CA 1030)****Sydney 1.8 metres**

This is the main correspondence series of the GPO (Sydney) for policy, precedents and administrative matters.

**General Sir John Monash Commemorative Stamp (Box 550), 1964–65  
C3739, 281/22/79****PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'HN' PREFIX, 1965–90  
C4076****Recorded by:****1965–1975: General Post Office, Sydney (CA 1030)****Sydney 2.88 metres**

The series consists of celluloid and glass plate negatives, maintained by Australia Post's history section until its closure in 1988.

**Sir John Monash and J Malone during radio broadcast, 1923 C4076,  
HN1037****PHOTOS OF MISCELLANEOUS PERSONALITIES: TELEVISION, RADIO, STAGE, CONCERT  
VISITS, ETC, WITH SOME PUBLICITY MATTER CONCERNING SPECIFIC TELEVISION  
PROGRAMMES, 1940–67 SP1011/1****Recorded by:****1940–1967: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney 25 metres****[ABC Publicity Photos] Zelman Cowen, Professor of Law [Box 84], 1957  
SP1011/1, 1605**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1913–78****B300****Recorded by:****1913–1917: Acting Commissioner, Commonwealth Railways (CA 2106)****1917–1975: Commonwealth Railways Commissioner (CA 265)****Adelaide      200 metres****Gold passes held by Sir Isaac Isaacs and Lady (ex–Governor General), 1935–51      B300, 5646/1****Reservation of accommodation for Sir Isaac and Lady Isaacs, 1936–38  
B300, 7835****MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1913–89****M3299****Recorded by:****1913–1976: Rt Hon Richard Gardiner Casey (CP 24)****Melbourne      3.69 metres**

The series consists of files collected by Connie Hauser, former secretary to Lord Casey.

**Australia – Governor-General and State Governors (Sir Isaac Isaacs and the Governor-Generalship 1930), 1927–30      M3299, NN****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, FOURTH SYSTEM, 1951–55  
A462****Recorded by:****1951–1955: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra      26.74 metres**

Files in this series contain documents regarding primary industry, the Communist Party, World War II, state funerals, honours, and a wide range of other topics.

**Passport Visas – allegation of misuse of passport – Prof (Professor) Julius STONE, 1951–52      A462, 696/22****SCRIPTS OF TALKS BY SPECIAL SPEAKERS, ALPHABETICAL ORDER, 1939–54  
SP300****Recorded by:****1939–1954: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney      0.36 metres**

The series consists of talk-scripts created and broadcast by 12 'special speakers' (among them Professor Stone) on ABC Radio.

**Item: Professor Julius Stone – 'Fighting Faith': The Question of the Moment, Need we be Confused, The Fascist challenge and Democracy's answer [15 pages] [Box 2], 1942      SP300/2, STONE/1**

**PHOTOS OF MISCELLANEOUS PERSONALITIES: TELEVISION, RADIO, STAGE, CONCERT VISITS, ETC, WITH SOME PUBLICITY MATTER CONCERNING SPECIFIC TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, 1940–67** **SP1011/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1940–1967: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)**

**Sydney 25 metres**

**[ABC Publicity Photos] Professor Julius Stone, professor of Law, University of Sydney [Box 130], 1950–60 SP1011/1, 4353**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE 1943–45**

**MP727/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1943–1945: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)**

**Melbourne 2.52 metres**

The records consist of policy and precedent documents about the movement of personnel.

**Lt Col Julius Stone, Directorate of Research, LHQ, 1942–46 MP727/1, GP38/27**



## The Arts

Jewish people have always valued creativity and culture. Many Australian Jews have contributed greatly to Australia's rich cultural life.

Especially notable in the creative arts have been E L Montefiore, E Phillips Fox, Sali Herman, Desiderius Orban, Judy Cassab, Mirka Mora, Louis Kahan and Karl Duldig.

The music world has benefited from the diverse talents of Isador Goodman, George Dreyfus, Linda Phillips and Larry Sitsky, while the entertainment field generally has boasted Barnett Levey, John Lazar, Roy Rene, Evelyn Krape, Ben Lewin, Renee Geyer and Barrie Kosky, to name just a few.

Australian Jewish writers have included Pinchas Goldhar, Serge Liberman, Nancy Keesing, Judah Waten, David Martin and Lily Brett.

Harry Seidler, Ernest Fooks and Nahum Barnet each made a permanent mark on architecture.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G' (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1956– A463**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1956–1971: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra 701.38 metres**

The series deals with general and policy matters, including diplomatic relations with other countries, immigration, defence, industry and honours.

**Proposed portrait of Her Majesty the Queen by Judy Cassab, 1957 A463, 1957/277**

**Paintings by J Nathan, 1938 A463, 1965/3426**

### **APPLICATIONS FOR ARTISTIC COPYRIGHT (WITH EXHIBITS) 1907–69 A1861**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1913–1930: Copyright Office (II) (CA 556)**

**1930–1969: Australian Industrial Property Organisation, Central Office (CA 555)**

**Canberra 26.18 metres**

The series consists of copyright files.

**Photograph. Roy Rene in makeup of character 'Mo'. Registration and Exhibit, 1933 A1861, 6443**



Roy Rene in 1933 in the makeup of his famous character, 'Mo'.  
NAA: A1861, 6443

**MICROFILM COPIES OF PERSONAL AND SUBJECT FILES (A6119 AND A6122), 1960–A6126****Recorded by:****1960–: Australian Security Intelligence Organization, Central Office (CA 1297)****Canberra      17 metres**

This series consists of copies of inactive files, formerly part of A6119 and A6122. The material is retained by ASIO and transferred to the National Archives on request.

**Harry SEIDLER, c1949–61      A6126, 254****PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE FINALISTS' DESIGNS FOR THE NEW AND PERMANENT PARLIAMENT HOUSE, 1979–80      AA1980/485****Recorded by:****1979–1980: Parliament House Construction Authority (CA 2871)****Canberra      0.86 metres****Entry 75 [Parliament House Design Competition – Harry Seidler], 1979–80  
AA1980/485, 75****RADIO ARCHIVES MASTER AUDIO TAPES, SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, 1970–71  
C102****Recorded by:****1970–1971: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office – Radio Archives (CA 251)****Sydney      53.93 metres**

The tapes in this series are master and working copies of gramophone discs in the ABC Sound library.

**Roy Rene – 'Portrait of a Clown' (audio tape), 1963      C102, FD42****VANCE PALMER COLLECTION – SCRIPTS OF TALKS PRESENTED DURING HIS REGULAR ABC RADIO PROGRAMME, 1941–59      SP300/7****Recorded by:****1940–1959: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney      0.9 metres****Current Books Worth Reading – 27 April 1947 [A Flask for the Journey – F L Green; Lucinda Brayford – Martin Boyd; X-Ray the City – Ernest Fooks] [5p; Box 2], 1947      SP300/7, 172****Current Books Worth Reading – 7 Jan 1951 [The Anatomy of Satire – C E Vulliamy (Editor); The Face of the Earth – H M Tomlinson; The Stones of Mombay – David Martin] [7 pages, Box 3]      SP300/7, 263**

**ARTISTS' FILES, 1928–55****SP368/1****Recorded by:****1932–1955: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney      3.78 metres**

The series includes correspondence between artists and the ABC regarding contracts, etc.

**Linda Phillips [Box 12], 1937–48      SP368/1, 7/44/10****June Epstein [Box 5], 1940      SP368/1, 7/20/5****Roy Rene (Mo) [Box 12], 1936–52      SP368/1, 7/46/1****TALKS SCRIPTS – GENERAL SUBJECTS, 1951****SP369/1****Recorded by:****1951–1951: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney      1.62 metres**

The series consists of typewritten scripts of talks presented on ABC radio.

**[ABC Radio Presentation by Desiderius Orban] – 'Why an artist paints as he does' [Box 7], 1951      SP369/1, O/12****[ABC Radio presentation by Desiderius Orban] – Armchair chat 'Christmas season in Central Europe' [Box 7], 1951      SP369/1, O/11****[ABC Radio presentation by David Martin] – 'Visit to a Yogi' [Box 6], 1951  
SP369/1, M/5****[ABC Radio Presentation by David Martin] – 'No Chelsea Down Under' [Box 6], 1951      SP369/1, M/8****[ABC Radio Presentation by Dr Rabbi R Brasch] 'People of the North' [Box 1], 1951      SP369/1, B/37****CORRESPONDENCE – AUSTRALIAN COMPOSERS, 1936–65****SP827/2****Recorded by:****1936–1965: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney      1.62 metres**

Files in the series contain correspondence between composers and the ABC.

**Australian composers: Linda Phillips [2cm; Box 8], 1943–59      SP827/2, Phillips**

**PHOTOS OF MISCELLANEOUS PERSONALITIES: TELEVISION, RADIO, STAGE, CONCERT VISITS, ETC, WITH SOME PUBLICITY MATTER CONCERNING SPECIFIC TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, 1940–67** **SP1011/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1940–1967: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)**

**Sydney 25 metres**

**[ABC Publicity photos] Hyman Lenzer, violinist [Box 106], c1958**  
**SP1011/1, 2944**

**[ABC Publicity photos] Sali Herman, Artist [Box 97], 1957** **SP1011/1, 2410**

**[ABC Publicity Photos] Roy Rene (also known as Mo) [Box 122], 1930**  
**SP1011/1, 3903**

**[ABC Publicity Photos] Linda Phillips, composer [Box 119], c1945–55**  
**SP1011/1, 3740**

**TAPE RECORDINGS OF ABC RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, 1961–67**  
**SP1105/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1961–1967: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)**

**Sydney 2.88 metres**

The series consists of magnetic tape recordings of ABC radio and TV programs.

**Music of Linda Phillips, 5 Aug 1966 (1 tape) [Box 11], 1966** **SP1105/1, 32**

**AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL REGISTRY FILES, 1913–79**

**AWM93**

**Recorded by:**

**1919–1925: Australian War Museum Committee (CA 467)**

**1925–1943: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)**

**1943–1945: Official History 1939–45 War (CA 7040)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 78.8 metres**

**War of 1939–45. Application and appointment of Official War artist: Capt Sali Herman, 1944–48** **AWM93, 50/4/2/154**

**PERSONAL FILES, ALPHA-NUMERIC SERIES, 1949–**

**A6119**

**Recorded by:**

**1949–: Australian Security and Intelligence Organization, Central Office (CA 1297)**

**Canberra 37.8 metres**

This series contains many individual case files. All records are retained by ASIO, transferable on request to the National Archives.

**WATEN, Judah, volume 6, 1962** **A6119, 817**

## Business

Leading figures in the business world have included members of the Michaelis, Solomon, Smorgon and Liberman families, Solomon Levey, Samuel Wynn, Sidney Baevski Myer, Richard Pratt, Eve Mahlab, John Gandel, Sir Asher Joel, Sir Peter Abeles, Saul Same, Rene Rivkin and Solomon Lew. W D Rubinstein notes that a disproportionate share of Australia's most successful contemporary entrepreneurs are Jews.<sup>53</sup>

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1945–46                      A1067**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1946–1946: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)  
Canberra      31 metres**

**Mr Makin's Article for Asher Joel, 1946      A1067, PI46/5/8/10**

**Miscellaneous – Enquiry by Abram Landa, Barton and Co. re Valentine v  
Mandated Alluvials N L [4 pages], 1946      A1067, IC46/61/117**

### **MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1941–49                      MP61/1**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1948–1949: Division of Industrial Development, Head Office (CA 776)  
Melbourne      43.92 metres**

Records in this series cover subjects such as scientific and technological research, patents, imports, recruitment of scientists, etc.

**[Financial assistance and capital issues] Norman Smorgon and Sons P/L,  
inspection and valuations pears and peach preparation machines [5 folios],  
1951      MP61/1, 2/300/3704**

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, THREE NUMBER SYSTEM WITH INFIX, 1923–60 MP1185/9**

#### **Recorded by:**

**1923–1939: Navy Office (III), Department of Defence (CA 2456)  
1939–1950: Navy Office (IV), Department of the Navy (II) (CA 38)  
Melbourne      1.44 metres**

**Lt AA [Asher] Joel, RANVR: Appointment as Rep of Naval Info Sec, NID, 1943–  
44      MP1185/9, 432/211/3406**

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<sup>53</sup> W.D. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia*; a Thematic History, p.13-5.

## Rabbis and community leaders

Leading communal identities, who have become well-known as spokespersons for the Jewish community to the wider population, have included Rabbis Joseph Abrahams, Israel Porush, Jacob Danglow, Herman Sanger, John Levi, Rudolph Brash and Shalom Coleman, and lay leaders such as Isi and Mark Leibler or Jeremy Jones.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53                      A367**

**Recorded by:**

1919–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office (CA 747)

1946–1953: Commonwealth Investigation Service (CA 650)

Canberra      64.08 metres

Blumenthal, Rabbi Hans, 1942–49      A367, C55992

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1908–38                      A1**

**Recorded by:**

1932–1938: Department of the Interior [I], Central Administration (CA 27)

Canberra      337.14 metres

Hirsch Munz – Naturalisation, 1933      A1, 1933/792

Rabbi J L Gurewicz – Naturalisation certificate, 1937      A1, 1937/201

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G' (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1956–                      A463**

**Recorded by:**

1956–1971: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra      701.38 metres

The series deals with general and policy matters, including diplomatic relations with other countries, immigration, defence, industry and honours.

John Goulston – Civil honour, 1958      A463, 1958/2369

Sanger, Rabbi Dr H M – Honours, 1961      A463, 1961/4626

Dr Eric Goulston – Honour, 1965      A463, 1965/4814

Rabbi Jacob Danglow – Honour, 1955      A463, 1959/3902

Alroy Cohen – Honours, 1963      A463, 1963/3271

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1942–5  
A989****Recorded by:****1942–1945: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra     30.42 metres**

This series relates to the administrative and gathering functions of the Department. Generally, the series is concerned with Australia's relations with other countries, specifically in the context of World War II. Subjects of files include aliens, deportations, naturalisation, passports and landing permits, plight of refugees.

**Schenk, Rabbi Max. Requests official sponsorship for speaking tour in NT,  
1942–45     A989, 1943/700/3****MICROFILM OF COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND ASIO FILES, 1968  
A9108****Recorded by:****1968–1968: Australian Security Intelligence Organization (CA 1297)****Canberra     11.88 metres****Sanger [Rabbi Herman Max; 7 pages], 1941–44     A9108, ROLL 22/53****R G CASEY, MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES,  
1956–60     A10302****Recorded by:****1956–1960: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra     9.1 metres****Epstein, Julius, 1956     A10302, 1956/811****Frenkell, Rabbi Dr M, 1956     A10302, 1956/735****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL (EXCLUDING WAR FILES),  
1912–27     CP78/22****Recorded by:****1912–1927: Governor-General (CA 1)****Melbourne     28.98 metres**

Contents dates for this series are 1884–1937.

**Jews in Victoria, 1921     CP78/22, 21/805**

This file simply consists of notification that Rev Jacob Danglow is the official Victorian Jewish representative for official functions.



**CORRESPONDENCE RE NATURALISATION AND INTERNEES [SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NSW) PREFIX], C1914-46 ST1233/1**

**Recorded by:**

1920-1946: Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904)

Sydney 28.62 metres

Rabbi Hans Blumenthal, 1940-44 ST1233/1, N31894

**PHOTOS OF MISCELLANEOUS PERSONALITIES: TELEVISION, RADIO, STAGE, CONCERT VISITS, ETC, WITH SOME PUBLICITY MATTER CONCERNING SPECIFIC TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, 1940-67 SP1011/1**

**Recorded by:**

1940-1967: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)

Sydney 25 metres

[ABC Publicity Photos] Dr R Brasch, Chief Rabbi [Box 78], 1958 SP1011/1, 1238

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION BROADCAST TRANSCRIPTS AND PRESS RELEASES, 1939-50 AWM80**

**Recorded by:**

1939-1950: Department of Information, Central Office (CA 24)

Australian War Memorial (AWM) 25.2 metres

[Department of Information - Broadcasting Division:] Talks by Rabbi Dr H Freedman (Jan 1943) [transcripts], 1943 AWM80, 1/173

**GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1902- B13**

**Recorded by:**

1902-1985: Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Melbourne 54.90 metres

Rabbi Dr H M Saenger - Arrival Melbourne per 'Viminale' Aug 1936, 1936 B13, 1936/21418

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924-62 B741**

**Recorded by:**

1927-1946: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)

1946-1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Victoria (CA 916)

Melbourne 29.88 metres

Dr Judah Leon Jona, 1932-44 B741, V/10021

Alfred Lipshut and Hirsch Munz, 1928-48 B741, V/5127

**Abraham Smorgon, 1932–38      B741, V/10638**

**Rabbi Gurewicz and family – naturalisation granted 27 Nov 1939, 1932–48  
B741, V/10563**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1930–39      B1535**

**Recorded by:**

**1930–1939: Army headquarters, Department of Defence (II) (CA 2671)  
1939–1939: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)**

**Melbourne      30.20 metres**

**[R J Wolman – Rabbi], 1937      B1535, 731/2/74**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1871–1962  
D596**

**Recorded by:**

**1871–1962: Australian Customs Service, State Administration, SA (CA 802)**

**Adelaide      65.34 metres**

Files in this series deal with bond store matters, operational policy, passports and immigration.

**Rabbi Dr H M Saenger to enter Australia, 1936      D596, 1936/6246**

## Jewish congregations and other communal institutions

Among the many records of Jewish interest held by the National Archives, a small number have been identified relating to various synagogues, Boards of Deputies or other communal facilities and organisations. Several files have been located, for instance, which provide valuable early statistical detail on the Jewish community in Western Australia (as well as specific information on the Perth Hebrew Congregation). These include:

### **INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF INTERNMENTS, REPATRIATIONS, AFFILIATIONS AND GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1915–20 PP14/1**

**Recorded by:**

1915–1919: Headquarters 5th Military District (I), CMF (CA 4811)

1919–1920: Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)

Perth 6.48 metres

Perth Hebrew Congregation, c1915–20 PP14/1, 1/12/78

### **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, METHODS AND PRINCIPLES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1899–1956 PP95/1**

**Recorded by:**

1899–1956: Colonial Secretary's Office (CA 1256)

Perth 13.14 metres

Files in this series show methods and principles to be used in continuing statistical activity in WA.

Statistical return relating to the Hebrew Churches and Sunday Schools in the colony, c1899 PP95/1, 1899/321

### **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, METHODS AND PRINCIPLES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1898–1960 PP131/1**

**Recorded by:**

1898–1957: Colonial Secretary's Office (from 1926), Chief Secretary's Office (CA 1256)

Perth 12.60 metres

1898 – Statistics from Hebrew Congregation, Western Australia, 1898  
PP131/1, 1898/114

'Hebrew Standard' with article on Western Australia, 1905 PP131/1,  
1905/187

Population of the state and Hebrew population in the state at each census,  
1905 PP131/1, 1905/74



Jewish boys singing at the Synagogue, Melbourne in 1969.  
NAA: A1200, L8906

**APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION OF BOOKS, PAPERS AND PERIODICALS FOR  
TRANSMISSION BY POST AND ASSOCIATED CORRESPONDENCE, MULTIPLE NUMBER  
SERIES, 1965–67 PP263/1**

Recorded by:

1965–1967: Post-Master General's Department, GPO, Perth (CA 1035)

Perth 1.8 metres

Registration of newspapers, periodicals and books – Perth Hebrew  
Congregation Inc., 1964–70 PP263/1, 228/4/1527

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL, PASSPORTS), 1939–50 A659****Recorded by:****1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II), Central Office (CA 31)****Canberra 101.25 metres****The Great Synagogue – Information re Jewish Cemetery, 1942 A659,  
1943/1/7303****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA PREFIX, 1924–62 B741****Recorded by:****1927–1946: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)****Melbourne 29.88 metres****Diamond, Joseph – Ruschin, Jacob – Bear, Nathan – Rischin, Jacob –  
Dabscheck, Jacob – Solomon, Moms – Krakowski, Louie – Trustees of Carlton  
Hebrew Congregation, 1918–28 B741, V/485****Isaac Hurwitz. Application for permission for relatives to enter Australia.  
Jewish National Library 'Kadimah' [27 pages], 1924–38 B741, B/675****Palmerston Street Synagogue – application for admission of a rabbi, 1932  
B741, V/10212****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'D' (UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFIT) PREFIX, 1946–74 A887****Recorded by:****1946–1972: Department of Social Services, Central Office (CA 32)****Canberra 15.21 metres****The series consists of personal benefit and administration files.****Melbourne Jewish Friendly Society – East Malvern Victoria, 1946 A887,  
D407****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1927–42 A981****Recorded by:****1927–1942: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra 163.27 metres****External Affairs Department. Jewish Organisations in Various Parts of the  
World, 1942 A981, ORG 82**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SC SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL SERIES (OLD FILES), 1926  
A3934****Recorded by:****1926–1926: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 1.62 metres****Jewish National Fund, 1917–18 A3934, SC17 4****SUBJECT FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1949– A6122****Recorded by:****1949–: Australian Security Intelligence Organization (CA 1297)****Canberra 34.74 metres****Jewish Board of Deputies, 1944–51 A6122, 185****R G CASEY, MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES,  
1956–60 A10302****Recorded by:****1956–1960: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra 9.1 metres****World Jewish Congress, 1959 A10302, 1959/146****PROPERTY HIRING FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX,  
1946–52 B985****Recorded by:****1946–1949: Hirings Section, Central Office, Department of the Interior (II) (CA 2777)****Melbourne 18.94 metres**

The series consists of property hiring files, inherited from the Army History Service (in 1946).

**Hunters Hill. Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home Serial 2038 [contains plan of property and Annual Report and Financial statement of 1942], 1942–47**

**B985, N/5/64**

**ARCHITECTURAL PLANS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'HA' (HOMES ACT) PREFIX,  
1954– J1079****Recorded by:**

**1972–1984: Department of Social Security, State Headquarters, QLD (CA 2394)  
Brisbane 4.08 metres**

The series consists of plans associated with the construction of homes for the aged.

**Jewish Community Centre, 1975 J1079, HA184/1**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SUBSIDISED PENSION HOMES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES  
WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1955–75 PP572/1****Recorded by:**

**1955–1972: Director of Social Services, WA (CA 848)  
1972–1975: Department of Social Security Headquarters, WA (CA 2386)  
Perth 3.43 metres**

These records contain statistical information, reports on investigations about subsidies paid by the Government to homes for the aged.

**Perth Jewish Aged Homes Society Inc. [Maurice Zeffert Memorial Home] –  
Stage 2 (subsidised aged pension homes), 1955–75 PP572/1, WA26 Part 1**

**Perth Jewish Aged Homes Society Inc. [Maurice Zeffert Memorial Home] –  
Stage 2 (subsidised aged pension homes), 1955–75 PP572/1, WA26 Part 2**

## The Jewish press

The first bid to institute a home-grown Australian Jewish newspaper was in 1842 when a Sydney edition of the London journal *Voice of Jacob* failed to survive more than three issues. Twenty years later, a Victorian edition of London's *Jewish Chronicle* disappeared even more quickly (and without trace). The *Australian Israelite*, founded and edited in Melbourne by the indomitable Solomon Joseph in 1871 endured longer, finally succumbing to economics and communal factionalism after four years. Critically acclaimed, and fearlessly frank, the *Australian Israelite* was a model for newspapers of its time. It remains a milestone in Australian Jewish journalism and an invaluable source for historians of the period.<sup>54</sup>

Since then, an estimated 140 Jewish newspapers and periodicals (of many descriptions) have been produced in Australia.<sup>55</sup> Some newspapers, like the *Dialectic*, *Australian Hebrew Times*, *Australian Jewish Gazette* and the lavishly-illustrated *Australasian Hebrew*, failed to endure beyond a few months. By contrast, the [Australian] *Jewish Herald*, under the editorship of such formidable identities as Rev Elias Blaubaum, Nahum Barnet and Newman Rosenthal, survived more than 80 years. The *Australian Jewish News* still appears weekly more than 60 years after it started, while the *Hebrew Standard*, established in Sydney in 1896, continues (following several name changes) thanks to its merger with the *AJN*.

A wide range of other serials has included journals as varied as the *Australian Jewish Forum*, *The Progressive Outlook*, *The Bridge*, *Generation*, *Menorah*, *The Australia-Israel Review* and *Without Prejudice*. For a comprehensive listing of Australian Jewish periodicals – at least to the 1980s – see Marianne Dacy's *Periodical Publications from the Australian Jewish Community: A Union List*. A survey of holdings has located a number of items relating to the Australian Jewish press (including issues of censorship). These include:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53      A367**

**Recorded by:**

**1919–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office (CA 747)**

**Canberra      64.08 metres**

**'Jewish Call', 1940      A367, C1822/15**

**'Australier Leben'. Jewish newspaper, 1931–9      A367, C1822/17**

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<sup>54</sup> Rechter, p.152.

<sup>55</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p.134-5.



**SPECIAL FILES, SF SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1952– A467****Recorded by:****1952–: Attorney–General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)****Canberra 27 metres**

The series consists of bundles about miscellaneous subjects, including transcripts of evidence from commissions of inquiry, statutes, pamphlets, etc.

**Publication of 'Jewish Youth Magazine' in Foreign Language, 1946 A467,  
BUNDLE 89/SF42/35****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953– A1533****Recorded by:****1953–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Central Office (CA 650)****Canberra 160.58 metres****Jewish Post – establishment of Australian representative, 1956 A1533,  
1956/2365****Unser Godank – Foreign Yiddish newspaper (0.5cm), 1953–5 A1533,  
1953/736****The Australian Jewish News – foreign language newspaper [0.5cm], 1948–53  
A1533, 1953/691****R G CASEY, MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES,  
1956–60 A10302****Recorded by:****1956–1960: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra 9.10 metres****Australian Jewish Herald, 1955 A10302, 1956/48****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE PA FILES (PUT AWAY), 1940–45 CP439/4****Recorded by:****1940–1945: Department of Information, Central Office (CA 74)****Melbourne 1.8 metres****State Publicity Censor – 'Jewish Herald', 1943–45 CP439/4, PA98**

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS  
FOR TRANSMISSION BY POST, AND ASSOCIATED CORRESPONDENCE, MULTIPLE  
NUMBER SERIES, 1908–64 PP198/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1908–1964: Post-master General's Department, GPO, Perth (CA 1035)**

**Perth 7.38 metres**

**Jewish Evangelical Witness [Registration and application for transmission by  
post; Postmaster General's], 1908–64 PP198/1, 228/4/164**

**CORRESPONDENCE RE PUBLICITY CENSORSHIP (PC FILES), 1939–45**

**SP106/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1939: Department of Information, Central Office (CA 34)**

**1939–1954: State Publicity Censor, NSW (CA 8217)**

**Sydney 7.56 metres**

Files in this series deal with censorship of published material, mainly newspapers  
and magazines.

**Hebrew Standard, 1940–43 SP106/1, PC268**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM, 1945–46**

**SP109/3**

**Recorded by:**

**1945–1946: Department of Information, Central Office (CA 34)**

**Canberra 8.37 metres**

**Censorship 'The Australian Jewish News' published in Yiddish, 1940  
SP109/3, 316/19**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1939–46**

**SP112/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1946: Department of Information, Central Office – Press Division (CA 34)**

**Canberra 13.68 metres**

**Publicity in Jewish and Anglo-Jewish Press, 1941 SP112/1, 352/27/23S**

## Religious observances

On a number of occasions issues related to aspects of Jewish religious observance or Jewish communal politics have been raised and investigated by Government departments, eg inquiries into the humaneness of kosher killing of animals. A suggestion by the Attorney-General that the Executive Council of Australian Jewry be empowered to nominate Jewish marriage celebrants (in line with the new *Marriage Act*) caused a major *contretemps* between the community's lay and spiritual leaders in the 1960s.<sup>56</sup>

Records of these controversies are located in the following series:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–** **A432**

**Recorded by:**

**1929–: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)**

**Canberra 1957.68 metres**

**Marriage Act 1961 authorisation of celebrants of Jewish faith, 1960–72  
A432, 1961/2363**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX,  
1927–73** **A9778**

**Recorded by:**

**1927–1949: Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research  
(CSIR), Head Office (CA 486)**

**1949–1958: CSIRO, Headquarters (CA 641)**

**Canberra 31.86 metres**

The main correspondence series of CSIR and CSIRO, the subject matter of these files includes semi-personal information, detail on publications, and material on secondary industries.

**Cattle. Jewish Method of killing cattle – enquiry by Rabbi Porush, 1947–56  
A9778, A30/1/74**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–39** **MP341**

**Recorded by:**

**1901–1939: Post-Master General's Department, Central Administration (CA 9)**

**Canberra 107.64 metres**

**Telegrams. Special greeting Jewish New Year, 1935–39 MP341, 1939/8667**

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<sup>56</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History*, Vol 1, p.400.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1915–66****MT1131/1****Recorded by:****1939–1960: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne      143.82 metres****Jewish Holy Days 1952, 1948–64      MT1131/1, A251/8/3****APPLICATIONS, ETC FOR REGISTRATION OF COPYRIGHTS OF LITERARY, DRAMATIC  
AND MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS, PICTURES, ETC, 1878–1906****AP476/4****Recorded by:****1878–1904: Patents, Copyright and Trade Marks Office, SA (CA 6825)****1904–1906: Patents, Trade Marks and Designs Sub-office, Adelaide (SA) (CA  
900)****Canberra      1.8 metres**

The series consists of forms for registration or assignment of copyright.

**A Abrahams card (Jewish Calendar) 35th year of publication 1889, 1888  
AP476/4, B264****A Abrahams Calendar. Jewish Calendar. 36th year of publication, 1889  
AP476/4, B301****A Abrahams Calendar Jewish Calendar, 1890      AP476/4, B327**

## Antisemitism in Australia

'Antisemitism was never part of the Australian mainstream', observes historian Hilary Rubinstein, noting that no social or legislative impediment prevented Sir John Monash or Sir Isaac Isaacs from reaching the pinnacle of military and civic leadership in their time.<sup>57</sup> To some extent, this was due to the 'normalcy' of Jewish life in this country – Jews had been here ever since 1788, and until the 1930s, the majority were English-speakers. Also the Australian colonies were born 'modern', spawned by an English-speaking (Protestant) democracy which had no strong indigenous tradition of Jew-hatred. Indeed, Australia – and Britain – have been notable for an ongoing tradition of philosemitism. The small size of the Jewish community ensured that Jews were non-threatening numerically.

Even so, antisemitism has always been a factor (more often a minor 'irritant' than a full-blown pathology, admittedly) with which Australian Jews have had to contend. In general, the local Jewish community has managed to keep manifestations of Jew-hatred in perspective (the exception clearly being the response to the 'Russian invasion' of the 1880s and 1890s).<sup>58</sup> Communal commentators have argued that the rise and consolidation of the home-grown Anglo-Australian Jewish middle class in the late 19th century was paralleled by the emergence of 'populist, pro-Labor antisemitism'.

At one level, this took the form of the proliferation of unflattering mythology, including the depiction of Jews in popular literature and culture as stereotyped unscrupulous financiers, parasitic profiteers or social-climbing vulgarians. A number of well-known literary figures were persistent offenders in this regard, among them Marcus Clarke, Norman Lindsay, Henry Lawson and 'lesser' contributors to *Smith's Weekly*, *Melbourne Punch*, *The Bulletin*, or Labor newspapers such as *The Worker*, *Tocsin* or *Labor Call*. *The Bulletin*, for instance, 'used the euphemism 'Cohen' for international finance, and 'John Bull Cohen' for British-Jewish monetary power, just as it used 'Ikey Mo' in its mocking portrayal of Jewish bookmakers and moneylenders'.<sup>59</sup> There were claims, quite widely believed, that the Boer War had been fought primarily in the interests of Jewish capital. Subsequently concerns were expressed at seemingly dubious financial and familial links between Anglo-Jewry and 'the enemy'. Lawson, for one, expounded the view that Jews were profiting from World War I.

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<sup>57</sup> L.M. Goldman, *The Jews in Victoria in the 19th Century*, Melb 1954, p.405-6.

<sup>58</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p.133-9; Hilary L. Rubinstein, *Chosen*, p.153-9; Hilary L. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History*, Vol 1, p.400-6; Harold Boas & A.W. Hyman, "The Australian Jew in the Great War", *AJHSJ* 1(4), 1940, p.97-105; David Mossenson, *Hebrew, Israelite, Jew*, Perth 1990, p.88-9.

<sup>59</sup> *Australian Jewry's Book of Honour World War II*, ed. Gerald Pynt, Netley (SA), NAJEX 1973, *passim*; Hilary L. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History*, Vol 1, p.400-6.

At another level, anti-Jewish sentiment was clearly linked with the rise of Australian nationalism, akin to anti-Orientalism and part of a generalised xenophobia. As noted earlier, White Australia Policy lobbying was, in part, spurred by the desire to keep Russian Jews out of the country. Fear or dislike of the Jew as all-powerful capitalist was compounded by claims that the Jew was spiritually 'in tune' with Bolshevism or other manifestations of political subversiveness in the wake of the Russian Revolution.

'Grumblings and rumblings' increased inevitably (as they had done in the 1890s) in response to the arrival of sizeable numbers of refugees in the 1930s and 1940s. The Australian branch of the Social Credit movement warned against Jewish banking interests in its journal *New Times* and even went so far as to reprint the notorious forgery *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (two decades after the London *Times* had publicly exposed the booklet as a fake). Several other right-wing, antisemitic groups emerged briefly in the 1930s, among them the Guild of Watchmen (with headquarters in South Australia), the Sydney-based New Guard, a scattering of Nazi Party offshoots, and the Australia First movement. Public statements by antisemitic politicians such as Victorian MLA Sir Frank Clarke or Federal Liberal H M Gullett, while isolated, were nonetheless disturbing. See Chapter 2 of this guide for records which appear to underline a degree of antisemitism in Government departments which formulated and implemented immigration policy.

From the early 1940s, the chief mouthpiece for lunatic-fringe anti-Jewish rhetoric was the League of Rights. As W D Rubinstein has written:

For over fifty years its magazines have presented a ceaseless stream of antisemitic hatred and propaganda, while today it is the most important Australian distributor of antisemitic books from overseas, many from European and American neo-Nazi sources...<sup>60</sup>

A degree of antisemitism has characterised some criticism by left-wing groups of Israel (particularly since the Six-day War of 1967). The phenomenon of Holocaust denial has enjoyed some vocal endorsement in Australia while periodic attacks on Jewish buildings continue to cause concern to the community.

By and large, however, antisemitism has declined markedly in Australia, in line with the trend towards multiculturalism and in line, also, with the average Australian's increasing sophistication. Surveys conducted by the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs indicate a predominantly positive view of Jews among the greater Australian public. The Jewish community itself has worked concertedly

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<sup>60</sup> Raymond Apple, "The Jewish Military Chaplaincy in Australia", in *A Portion of Praise: a Festschrift to Honour John S. Levi*, ed. Howard Freeman, Melb 1997, p.238.

to arrest any outbreak of antisemitic fervour, first through the Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism, and latterly, through the anti-defamation and public relations sub-committees of the various communal roof-bodies.<sup>61</sup>

A survey of records has located several series which contain items dealing with antisemitism. These include:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G' (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1956– A463**

**Recorded by:**

**1956–1971: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra 701.38 metres**

**Anti-Jewish Campaign, 1960 – General, 1960–61 A463, 1960/3107**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'W' (WAR) PREFIX, 1939–49 A472**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1949: Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)**

**Canberra 32.34 metres**

Files in this series arise out of wartime legislation, particularly National Security regulations.

**Australian Jewish Welfare Society Advertisement in 'Daily Telegraph' 9 Feb 1940. Formation of anti-Jewish association, 1940–41 A472, W2233**

**Crown Solicitor's Opinion No. 69 of 1941 Pamphlet 'The World Government Plot Exposed'. Victorian Jewish Advisory Board, 1941 A472, W2695**

**Samuel Biber – re anti-Jewish Propaganda. Distribution of leaflets, 1941 A472, W4046**

**L J Darling – re Jewish and Other organisations, 1941 A472, W4408**

**Acquisition of land by aliens – Protests. Jewish aliens, 1941 A472, W4542/11**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES (CLASSIFIED), 1957– A1209**

**Recorded by:**

**1957–1971: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)**

**Canberra 1131.67 metres**

**Anti-Jewish Manifestations 1960, 1960 A1209, 1960/52**

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<sup>61</sup> Raymond Apple, "Francis Lyon Cohen: the Passionate Patriot", *AJHSJ* 12(4), 1995, p.696-7.

**SUBJECT FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1949– A6122****Recorded by:****1949–: Australian Security Intelligence Organization (CA 1297)****Canberra 34.74 metres****Communist Party of Australia – Attitude towards Antisemitism, 1953  
A6122, 462****CORRESPONDENCE FILES OF COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRATION SERVICE, 1916–60  
A8911****Recorded by:****1919–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)****Canberra 3.51 metres****Jews – Anti-Jewish Propaganda (Letter to West Maitland 'Mercury' newspaper), 1942 A8911, 258****R.G. CASEY, MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1956–60 A10302****Recorded by:****1956–1960: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra 9.1 metres**

This series was the main filing system of Lord Casey during his ministry, covers both official and electoral business.

**Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism, 1956–57 A10302, 1957/320**

This file contains correspondence between the Council and Government regarding antisemitic publications and individuals in Australia.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM, 1945–46 SP109/3****Recorded by:****1945–1946: Department of Information, Central Office (CA 34)****Canberra 8.37 metres****'Programme of Confusion'. Article on Jewish financiers by Gustard, 1941  
SP109/3, 304/03****Censorship, Subversive Organisations and Literature. Racism and Antisemitism, 1944 SP109/3, 316/39**



**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1939–46****SP112/1****Recorded by:**

**1939–1946: Department of Information, Central Office – Press Division (CA 34)  
Canberra 13.68 metres**

**Memorandum from the Jewish Welfare Society of Australia on the subject of  
publicity to counter anti-Jewish feeling in the community, 1940 SP112/1,  
5/1/4**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1871–1962  
D596****Recorded by:**

**1871–1962: Australian Customs Service, State Administration, SA (CA 802)  
Adelaide 65.34 metres**

**Alleged importation of Fascist and Anti-Jewish booklets, 1947 D596,  
1947/4792**

**INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SA' (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)  
PREFIX, 1917–69 D1915****Recorded by:**

**1919–1946: Investigation Branch, SA (CA 905)  
Adelaide 50.76 metres**

The series consists of sensitive case files on issues of national security.

**Anti-Jewish Laws of NSDAP, 1933–39 D1915, SA19622**

## Jews and Australian communism

Claims of sinister conspiracies by Jews to achieve world domination by manipulating foreign capital or overthrowing the established order, have been manufactured and propagated by antisemites since the late 19th century. In particular, the belief that Eastern European Jews dominated the Bolshevik movement, and that they had actively colluded with German Jews to bring down Czar Nicholas, was widespread among sectors of the population in Britain (and the Empire), and was reinforced by perpetuation of the myth in popular fiction during the inter-war years. Although vastly exaggerated, this Jew-communist linkage was not without some basis in fact. A small number of Jews had been part of Lenin's first government. Lev Davidovich Trotsky, People's Commissar for Foreign and Military Affairs under Lenin, and the two best-known women revolutionaries, Rosa Luxemburg and Emma Goldman, were Jews. Russian-born Jews were active (and visible) in running the Communist Party in Britain. David Rechter has written:

In the period following the Russian Revolution, communists and the Soviet Union were seen by many Jews as their staunchest defenders and most reliable allies in the fight against fascism. This period saw a marked coincidence of interests between Jews and the communist Left, with anti-fascism providing a framework within which Jews could be both communist and Jewish.<sup>62</sup>

It is not surprising, therefore, that public concern at the so-called 'red menace' focused, not infrequently, on Jews.

Although W D Rubinstein has argued that the organised Jewish 'Left' in this country has always been discernibly weaker than in many other Diaspora communities and that the majority of Eastern European Jewish migrants were Zionists, Bundists, religiously Orthodox, and otherwise fundamentally opposed to communism. But he acknowledges that there can be no doubt that a sizeable number of Jews has been active in left-wing politics in Australia (including the running of various socialist and communist groups) from pre-1917 to the present.<sup>63</sup> As a local variant on a worldwide phenomenon, a small Jewish communist movement emerged and evolved in Australia from the 1920s to the 1950s. Immigrant-based, its centre was in Melbourne.

The Gezerd, for instance, a fearlessly Stalinist 'satellite' group which endorsed Jewish agricultural settlement in the USSR, dominated leftist politics in the 1930s. Newman Rosenthal, conservative editor of the *Australian Jewish Herald* and spokesman for the Anglo-Jewish establishment, bluntly dubbed Gezerd members

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<sup>62</sup> Apple, "The Jewish Military Chaplaincy", p.239-243.

<sup>63</sup> W.D. Rubinstein, "Jewish Contribution to Australian Elites", p.646-7.

an 'undesirable foreign element'.<sup>64</sup> Founded by Polish Jews, the group boasted several hundred members by the mid-1930s. It opened 'Culture House' in Carlton in 1938, established a sub-branch in Sydney, and joined forces briefly with the staunchly anti-communist workers party, the Bund, in the common fight against European Fascism. The alliance broke down following the Nazi-Soviet pact in 1939. The Gezerd's membership declined rapidly during the war, the group folding in 1944.

The Jewish Left in Melbourne continued its wartime engagement in anti-Fascist activity through the Jewish War Effort Circle, the Jewish committee of the Australia-Soviet Friendship Society and, most importantly, the Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism (JCCFAS), the last founded in 1942. The JCCFAS rapidly became a major player in communal politics in Melbourne. However, claims that it was increasingly dominated by communists and fellow-travellers by the late 1940s, ultimately led to it being expelled from the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies in 1952. That expulsion, at the height of the Cold War, has been judged 'one of the fundamental turning points in our recent history, marking the end of an effective or organised [Jewish] left' in Australia.

During the same period, with the Communist Party Dissolution Bill being debated by Federal parliament, attention focused also on the Kadimah Youth Organisation (group members were interviewed by the police) and other youth groups such as the Habonim Zionist Club. W D Rubinstein notes that the youth organisations were effectively 'purged' of communist influences.<sup>65</sup>

Meanwhile, individual Jewish activists such as Alick Mushin, Norman Rothfield, Isaac Gust, Amirah Inglis and Judah Waten, were subject to systematic surveillance and police harassment. In most cases, the commitment of Australian Jews to communism did not survive revelations of Stalinist atrocities. As David Rechter has written:

Developments in the post-war period – the impact of the Holocaust, the creation of Israel, Soviet antisemitism and the cold war – undermined Jewish communism, and helped bring about new expressions of Jewish political and cultural identity. By the mid to late 1950s, the Jewish political environment (international and Australian) was transformed, and an active Jewish communist had become almost an anachronism.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Hilary & W.D. Rubinstein, *The Jews in Australia: a Thematic History*, Vol 1: p. 359-570, Vol 2: p.295-378. I note here that work is currently progressing on a comprehensive biographical dictionary of prominent Australian Jews. Originally an initiative of Deakin University, the project is being completed by the A.J.H.S. Victoria for the centenary of Federation.

<sup>65</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p.86-9.

<sup>66</sup> Hilary L. Rubinstein, *Chosen*, p.201-4; Kwiet, p.207.

The National Archives holds numerous records dealing with Jewish involvement in communism and other radical political activity, most of them records of investigations (by ASIO and its forerunners) into groups or individuals. Implicit in many of the records is the assumption that Jews – as recently arrived 'foreigners' – may have dual loyalties and may be working *against* the national good. Major sources for records of investigation into suspect organisations or individuals include:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'W' (WAR) PREFIX, 1914–27  
A456**

**Recorded by:**

**1914–1927: Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)**

**Canberra      8.28 metres**

The files in this series deal with policy and cases arising from special legislation enacted during World War I. Significant numbers of files deal with the administration of property of German nationals living in Australia and New Guinea.

**Nathan Schwartz, alleged Bolshevik, 1921      A456, W26/241/104**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1917–29      MP367/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1917–1921: Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)**

**Melbourne      40.14 metres**

**Investigation into activities of the Jewish National Fund, 1918      MP367/1,  
552/8/343**

**PERSONAL FILES, ALPHA-NUMERIC SERIES, 1949–      A6119**

**Recorded by:**

**1949–: Australian Security Intelligence Organization (CA 1297)**

**Canberra      37.08 metres**

This series contains many individual case files. All records are retained by ASIO, transferable on request to the National Archives.

**MUSHIN, Aaron, 1936–53      A6119, 102/REFERENCE COPY**

**ZUSMAN, Nathan, 1948–59      A6119, 370**

**WATEN, Judah, volume 6, 1962      A6119, 817**

**SUBJECT FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1949–****A6122****Recorded by:****1949–: Australian Security Intelligence Organization (CA 1297)****Canberra 34.74 metres**

This series consists of files (or 'volumes') covering administrative matters, operational matters and specific topics. Some material dates back to 1915. All records are retained by ASIO, transferred to the National Archives on request.

**Kadimah Youth Organisation A6122, 153**

The file contains press reports of secret police harassment of Jewish youth-group leaders, and a censored Special Branch report on the KYO.

**Jewish Unity Association, 1948–51 A6122, 155****Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism, 1943–55 A6122, 169****Communist Party of Australia – Jewish faction, 1949–56 A6122, 915****Communist Party interests in Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism, Vol. 2, 1955–60 A6122, 1247****Communist Party interests in Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism, Vol. 3, 1960–61 A6122, 1248****Communist Party of Australia – Interest and Activities in Jewish Community, 1943–54 A6122, 444****Associations Individual – Jewish Progressive Centre, 1952–62 A6122, 1435****Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism – ASIO File – Vol. 3 [23 pages], 1962 A6122, 1879****Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Antisemitism – ASIO File – Vol. 7, 1942–51 A6122, 1883****MICROFILM COPIES OF PERSONAL AND SUBJECT FILES (A6119 AND A6122), 1960–  
A6126****Recorded by:****1960–: Australian Security Intelligence Organization, Central Office (CA 1297)****Canberra 17 metres**

This series consists of copies of inactive files, formerly part of A6119 and A6122. The material is retained by ASIO and transferred to the National Archives on request.

**Habonim – Alleged Jewish activities at Warrandyte, 1943–50 A6126, 13****Jewish Community Activities, 1942–46 A6126, 35**

This file consists of old – barely legible – photocopies (mainly from the Jewish press) on a variety of topics, including Jewish participation in the Zionist movement, Jews at protest meetings, the association of Jewish refugees. The underlying theme

would seem to be concern at possible subversive political activity amongst Jewish youth.

**MUSHIN, Calman Alik, 1937–53      A6126, 43**

**MARKS, Morris David, 1942–55      A6126, 90**

**SECRET CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH BLOCK  
ALLOCATIONS AND 'S' PREFIX, 1972–      A6980**

**Recorded by:**

**1972–1974: Department of Immigration, Central Office (CA 51)**

**Canberra      79.61 metres**

The series contains secret individual case files as well as policy files regarding assisted passages, passports, applications for naturalisation, and deportation orders. Some material dates back to 1932.

**Jewish Council to Combat Fascism [2cm], 1946–67      A6980, S250256**

**MICROFILM OF COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND ASIO FILES, 1968  
A9108**

**Recorded by:**

**1968–1968: Australian Security Intelligence Organization (CA 1297)**

**Canberra      11.88 metres**

**Australian Council for Jewish Rights [15 pages], 1944–46      A9108, ROLL  
4/10**

**Jewish Youth Activities in Victoria [52 pages], 1949–51      A9108, ROLL 5/15**

**Australian Jewish Citizens Association [0.5cm], 1949      A9108, ROLL 13/14**

**Gezard [0.5cm], 1931–43      A9108, ROLL 4/2**

## 7 The Armed Services

As with immigration and naturalisation records, the National Archives holds substantial collections of records which deal with all aspects of wartime and peacetime defence. Such a panorama of material is beyond the scope of this guide and what is provided here is a comprehensive sampling of series in which items of Jewish interest have been identified. Although occasional reference is made to individuals who attained distinction in the peacetime militia or army reserves (Major Isidore Isaacson, for instance), coverage is limited mainly to Australian Jewish participation in three major conflicts – the Boer War (1899–1902), World War I (1914–1918) and World War II (1939–1945). Documents are cited which reflect Federal Government perspectives on what Lucy Dawidowicz and other historians call Hitler's 'war against the Jews' in Chapter 8. Series are also identified which contain material on the Australian Jewish military chaplaincy. For a full listing of series relating to defence (including civilian services and national service), see *Finding Families* and relevant Fact Sheets published by the National Archives.

Jews have served with distinction in the Armed Forces throughout this country's history – in line (for much of that history) with the normative Australian Anglo-Jewish commitment to the defence of monarch and empire. Participation in the services (and, in particular, in the war effort) was seen as both an expression of loyalty and an act of gratitude for the toleration, favour and equity rendered Jews in Britain and the colonies. It is unsurprising, therefore, that Jews were prominent in the campaign for conscription during World War I. Rabbi F L Cohen, Daniel Levy, Ernest L Davis and other pillars of the Jewish establishment actively fostered the foundation of the Universal Service League.<sup>67</sup>

This chapter summarises the Jewish contribution to national defence, and identifies key records which deal with that contribution. Records which deal (in a general way) with Jewish participation in the forces are covered first, followed by records which highlight contributions made by individual Jews.

A small number of Jewish recruits appear to have been in the contingents sent to avenge General Gordon in the Sudan (1885),<sup>68</sup> and there was a small but solid Australian Jewish presence in the Boer War (1899–1902). Prominent among the soldiers were Major Walter 'Karri' Davis (who endured two years as a prisoner of war), Myer Blashki, Louis E Phillips, Alfred Saunders (son of Rev Moses Saunders

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<sup>67</sup> Rubinstein, *ibid.*, p.204-7

<sup>68</sup> Kwiet, p.202-4.

of Melbourne) and two sons of Ballarat's Rev Israel M Goldreich. A Jewish woman, Rose Shappere, was notable among nurses who volunteered to tend the sick and wounded on the South African front.<sup>69</sup>

Harold Boas, the YMCA's Jewish representative to the troops in Europe and compiler of *Australian Jewry Book Of Honour – the Great War* (1923), estimated that 2 304 Jewish males enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in World War I, ie 13 per cent of the Jewish community at that time. Of these, some 300 made the 'supreme sacrifice'. Of Western Australian recruits alone, 47 died out of a total enlistment of 180 (when the WA community numbered less than 2000 in all). More than 100 Australian Jews earned military honours or were mentioned in despatches, and one was awarded the Victoria Cross: Leonard Keysor served with the AIF First Battalion at Gallipoli and was decorated for the 'most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty' at the Battle of Lone Pine. He subsequently served at Pozières in France, and attained the rank of Lieutenant. Another Australian, Issy Smith (formerly Israel Shmulevitch), who served with the British in the First Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, was also awarded the VC (for heroism at Ypres in 1915). Smith joined the Australian Civil Aviation Department in the late 1930s.

Other prominent Australian Jewish servicemen were Eliezer Margolin, who was awarded a DSO for his part at Gallipoli, commanded the 39th Battalion Royal Fusiliers in Palestine, and (following the Armistice) organised the 'First Jewish Battalion of Judea'. Lieutenant Philip Harris edited the trench magazine *Aussie*. Leon Goldberg claimed credit for both inventing the military tank and for inspiring the Balfour Declaration (by which the British Government voiced its commitment to a Jewish state in Palestine following recovery of the Holy Land from the Turks in 1917). Harry Bernstein found fame as a machine-gun expert and, later, as an explorer in South America. Dr Simon Crownson Joel of Western Australia was commissioned as a medical officer and attained the rank of captain. Sydney solicitor Arthur Wellesley Hyman served as a captain in the Light Horse and on the staff of the Fourth Australian Division, was awarded an OBE for his service, and later attained the rank of Colonel with the Army Legal Corps. Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Cohen commanded units in the Middle East, Britain and France, was highly decorated, and (like Hyman) twice mentioned in despatches.

A number of Jewish women emulated the South African experience of Rose Shappere and served at the front with distinction, among them Leah Rosenthal who earned the Royal Red Cross decoration 'for conspicuous application to duty whilst in the danger zone'.

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<sup>69</sup> *ibid.*; Paul Bartrop, *Australia and the Holocaust 1933-45*, Melb 1994, p.xii-xiii, xv



Without doubt, the greatest and most revered of all Australian Jewish servicemen was former engineer John Monash who commanded the Fourth Infantry Brigade of the AIF in 1914–15, the Second Australian convoy (landing in Egypt in 1915), the Third Australian Division in 1916, and was appointed Lieutenant-General and commander of the Australian Army Corps in 1918. Following the Armistice, Monash directed the general repatriation and demobilisation of the AIF. He was honoured with the KCB (1918), GCMG (1919), France's Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre, and the American Distinguished Service Medal. In 1930 he was conferred with the full rank of General, the first Jew in any army to attain that rank. Monash was once described by British Prime Minister David Lloyd George as 'the most resourceful General in the British army.' The *Times* correspondent Liddell C Hart assessed that Monash would have become commander-in-chief of the combined Allied forces had the war lasted beyond 1918.<sup>70</sup>

Australian Jews were similarly conspicuous during World War II when some 4000 enlisted in the various services. Nearly 200 died in action: 40 were decorated for gallantry and 30 more mentioned in despatches. Prominent Jewish servicemen included Major-General [Sir] Paul Cullen, Brigadier Alexander Roby, Major Hedley Freedman, Brigadier Philip Masel and Captain Colin Pura (who emulated Philip Harris by editing and publishing a serviceman's journal, *Guinea Gold*). Lionel Van Praag, Eric Silbert, Julius Cohen, Julius Epstein and Peter Isaacson all served in the RAAF with distinction. [Sir] Asher Joel, [Sir] Zelman Cowen and [Judge] Trevor Rapke were all lieutenants with the Royal Australian Navy. Again, several Jewish nurses served with distinction, among them Rachel Reuben and Adeline Marks, while Sydney science graduate Edna Goulston attained the rank of Second Officer with the WRANS and Doris Selby, a medical practitioner, attained the army rank of captain.<sup>71</sup>

For full details of Australian Jewish participation in World War II, see *Australian Jewry's Book of Honour World War II* in Appendix 2.

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<sup>70</sup> Bartrop, *ibid.*, p.xii, 246-8; Blakeney, p.281-2, 287-8

<sup>71</sup> Bartrop, *ibid.*, p.246.

## General records

The following records provide general information on the participation of Australian Jews in the Armed Services.

### WRITTEN RECORDS 1914–18 WAR, 1914–93

**AWM25****Recorded by:****1918–1920: Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 145 metres**

This is an artificially created series containing records of AIF headquarters and units. The records were heavily culled after the war to provide source material for the writing of an official history.

**[Casualties] 'List of Jewish men in the AIF who have been killed in action or who have died of wounds', 1914–19 AWM25, 171/12**

**Commissions AIF. Comment by Major General John Monash. Rules as to new commissions. Circulars and memoranda relating to appointments, 1916–18 AWM25, 201/1**

**Routine Orders. 3rd Australian division. Brigadier General John Monash, Commanding. July–Aug 1916, 1916 AWM25, 707/3 Part 29**

**Special Order. By Major-General John Monash, Commanding troops, Larkhill, 24 Sept 1916, 1916 AWM25, 713/15**

**[Parades] March of Dominion troops through London, 3 May 1919, Anzac Day, 25 April 1919. March of Australian troops through London. Copies of orders by Lt Gen Sir John Monash, Commanding, April–May 1919 AWM25, 729/1 part 1**

### RECORDS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO AWM LIBRARY SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION, 1927–70

**AWM27****Recorded by:****1927–1970: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 17.8 metres**

The series consists of unrelated items dealing with most conflicts and interwar periods from New Zealand 1860–61 to Korea 1950–53.

**[Conduct of Operations:] Letter to the Sunday Chronicle concerning discipline of the AIF, by John Monash, 13 April 1919, 1919 AWM27, 310/81**

**[Special Orders and Complimentary Communications:] 3rd Australian Division – Message from Sir John Monash, Salisbury Plain (Nov 1916), 1916 AWM27, 354/43**

**[Special Orders and Complimentary Communications:] Australian Army Corps – Farewell Orders by Lt Gen Sir John Monash KCB VD, 26 Nov 1918, 1918 AWM27, 354/216**

**AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL REGISTRY FILES, 1913–79****AWM93****Recorded by:****1919–1925: Australian War Museum Committee (CA 467)****1925–1943: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****1943–1945: Official History 1939–45 Wa (CA 7040)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 78.8 metres****Information regarding members of the AIF required by Gen. Sir John Monash, 1930 AWM93, 12/6/39****UNIT MANUSCRIPT HISTORIES 1924–15****AWM224****Recorded by:****1924–1925: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 28.48 metres****Palestine Mule Corps: the Jewish Legion of the Zion Mule Corps 1915, memoirs of S Nissenbaum, written in 1955, 1915 AWM224, MSS612****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1917–18****A2479****Recorded by:****1917–1918: Australian Soldiers Repatriation Fund (CA 1459)****1918–1918: Repatriation Department (I) (CA 16)****Canberra 2 metres****Files in this series deal with the ASRF scheme, administrative matters, state war councils, etc.****Major Isaacson re Home industry for Disabled, 1917 A2479, 17/6****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1919–29****A2487****Recorded by:****1919–1920: Repatriation Department (I) (CA 16)****1920–1929: Repatriation Commission (II) (CA 225)****Canberra 500 metres****Files in this series deal with general matters referred to the Repatriation Department by state branches, MPs, other departments and the public.****Perth Hebrew Congregation Inc: Erection of memorial to Jewish soldiers of Western Australia, 1918–19 A2487, 1919/195****Supply of publications to Major Isaacson, 1919 A2487, 1919/5240****I ISAACSON (Maj.): Suggestions for Repatriation Scheme, 1919–20 A2487, 1920/1793**

**ARMY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42****MP508/1****Recorded by:****1939–1942: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne      0.72 metres****Letter to enlist into the militia – from a German Jewish refugee, 1940  
MP508/1, 56/701/97****German Jewish refugees enlistment in Armed Forces, 1938–40      MP508/1,  
115/702/20****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1952–62****MT1131/1****Recorded by:****1939–1960: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne      143.82 metres****Authority to purchase miniature medals and ribbons. Vic Association of  
Jewish ex-servicemen and women, 1958–59      MT1131/1, A36/1/286****N/S Feeding of Jewish Soldiers, 1953      MT1131/1, A264/8/43****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1942–68****PT524/1****Recorded by:****1942–1968: HMAS Leeuwin, Western Australia (CA 4210)****Melbourne      20.88 metres****Perth Hebrew Congregation and Jewish ex-Service Association (Defence,  
Navy), 1942–68      PT524/1, 51/6/16****PROPERTY FILES FOR SITES IN NSW HIRED OR ACQUIRED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENCE DURING WORLD WAR II, 1940–48****SP16/4****Recorded by:****1940–1946: Works and Services Branch, NSW (CA 965)****1946–1948: Property and Survey Branch, NSW (CA 1599)****Sydney      30.96 metres**

Records in this series document the (large amount of) property in NSW acquired by the Department of Defence during World War II.

**[Hire of 'Chelsea Park' at Baulkham Hills by Australian Military Forces,  
previously occupied by Australian Jewish Welfare Society, for use as Camp  
headquarters of 1 Cavalry Division], 1941–42      SP16/4, 366**

**Baulkham Hills – Chelsea Park Training Farm [Occupation by Australian  
Military Forces of Chelsea Park Baulkham Hills owned by the Australian  
Jewish Welfare Society. Includes claim for compensation and copies of plans],  
1941–44      SP16/4, 745**

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, BROADCAST TRANSCRIPTS AND PRESS RELEASES,  
1939-50 AWM80

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1950: Department of Information, Central Office (CA 24)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM) 25.2 metres**

[Department of Information – Broadcasting Division;] British press releases –  
News items of Jewish interest [transcripts], 1939–45 AWM80, 12/57

**WRITTEN RECORDS 1939–45 WAR, 1951–93** **AWM54**

**Recorded by:**

### 1951–1993: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)

<b>Australian War Memorial (AWM)</b>	<b>213.5 metres</b>
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[Leave – Recreation] Jewish settlement leave report by members of 2/7 Battalion (July 1941), 1941 AWM54, 449/4/6

[Spiritual Welfare – General:] Short History, Jewish and Arab Peoples – prepared for HQ 16th Australian Infantry Brigade by Chaplain F O Hulme Mair, 1940. Palestine – Journey of Jesus, by Chaplain H Hosur and Chaplain G Sandells, 1940 AWM54, 893/1/1

## Personnel records – Boer War and early 1900s

The following records relate to specific Australian Jews who served in the Boer War and in the period before World War I.

### GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE 1901–03

MP744/1

#### Recorded by:

1901–1903: South Africa Contingents Pay Office (CA 4423)

Melbourne 0.3 metres

Benjamin H A – result of medical examination, 1901 MP744/1, 1083/CS

Joseph Captain J E – payment for loss of kit, 1901 MP744/1, 1555/CS

Lissner G – medical record, 1901 MP744/1, 1557/CS

### NOMINAL ROLLS OF VICTORIAN CONTINGENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA (BOER WAR), 1900–1

B5179

#### Recorded by:

1900–1901: Department of Defence, Victoria (CA 1340)

Melbourne 1 microfilm reel

The series consists of two volumes:

[Muster rolls of Victorian contingents to the Boer War – First, Second (Mounted Rifles), Third (Bushmen's), Fourth (Imperial), nurses – and pensions and allowances granted by Imperial Government for wounds on active service], 1899–1900 B5179 VOLUME A

[Muster Roll of Fourth Victorian (Imperial) Contingent and Fifth Victorian (Mounted Rifles) contingent to the Boer War], 1900–01 B5179 VOLUME B.

Details regarding individual servicemen on the muster roll include birth date, occupation, marital status, home address, next of kin, height, chest size and religion. Although historians maintain that a significant number of volunteers failed to register their religion or enlisted under assumed (non-Jewish-sounding) names, several relevant entries have been located. For example:

**PHILLIPS, Louis Eleazer.** b. 7-11-61. Single. Station Manager. 5 ft 9 1/2", chest 37 3/4". ADD: Cathedral Hotel, Swanston Street (Melb). NOK: Mr H Phillips, Warracknabeal. RELIGION: Jewish

**1401 Private SIMMONS, Albert.** b. 15-2-80. Single. Farmhand 5 ft 7 1/2", chest 34". ADD: 94 Johnston Street, Collingwood. NOK: L Simmons (father), Collingwood. RELIGION: Jewish

**1460 POLLOCK, Samuel.** b. 28-5-79. Single. Boundary rider 5 ft 8 1/2", chest 34 1/4". ADD: 17 Hotham Street, Windsor. NOK: Louis Pollock (father). RELIGION: Jewish

See also:

**ENROLMENT FORMS OF VICTORIAN CONTINGENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA (BOER WAR),  
1899–1900 B5177**

**Recorded by:**

**1899–1900: Department of Defence, Victoria (CA 1340)**

**All states 0.05 metres**

This series consists of folio sized enrolment forms held between brown cardboard covers by two paper binders. The title on the front cover of the folio is "Enrolment forms." Each enrolment form has "Victorian Contingent South Africa" stamped in the right hand corner and is headed by an Oath to Serve our Sovereign Lady the Queen in South Africa." The main part of the form consists of the signature of enlisting soldier, age, martial status, occupation, signature of the Justice administering the Oath of Allegiance and date when sworn written in black ink. The folio also contains Defence correspondence relating to the enrolment forms.

There is no arrangement to this series. The first name is J.W. Healy and the last name is J.C. Barus.

This series has been copied in full as part of National Archives of Australia reprographic program.

**ARMY MILITIA RECORDS, DOSSIERS OF PMF (PERMANENT MILITARY FORCE) AND  
MILITIA PERSONNEL, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1901–40 B4717**

**Recorded by:**

**1901–1914: Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)**

**1914–1939: AIF, Base Records Office (CA 2001)**

**1939–1940: 2nd Echelon, Army Headquarters (CA 2002)**

**Melbourne 63.72 metres**

The series consists of dossiers about the enlistment, service and discharge of individual personnel.

**Solomon, Harold Isaac VP136, 1910–50 B4717, SOLOMON/HAROLD ISAAC**

**PERSONAL CASE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'BW' (BOER WAR) PREFIX, 1938–  
A2799**

**Recorded by:**

**1938–1947: Repatriation Commission (II) (CA 225)**

**Canberra 0.3 metres**

This series consists of personal case files raised for pensions and benefits for survivors of the Boer War.

**GOLDRING, Henry W – Repatriation case file (1 folio), 1941 A2799, BW97**

**DAVIS, Jacob John – Repatriation case file (2 folios), 1938 A2799, BW24**

## Personnel records – World War I (and the interwar period)

The following records relate to specific Australian Jews who served in World War I and the period up to the outbreak of World War II.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1917–18 A2479**

**Recorded by:**

1917–1918: Australian Soldiers Repatriation Fund (CA 1459)

1918–1918: Repatriation Department (I) (CA 16)

Canberra 2 metres

Major Isaacson re Appointment, 1917 A2479, 17/364

### **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE DEPOTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM HEADQUARTERS (SALISBURY PLAIN), CENTRAL REGISTRY FILES, OFFICERS' RECORDS, 1916–20 AWM15**

**Recorded by:**

1916–1920: Department of Defence (CA 6)

Australian War Memorial (AWM) 37 metres

Retention of Captain W J Symons (VC), 37th Battalion; Lieutenant L Keysor (VC), 42nd Battalion, 1917 AWM15, 1645

Captain G.A. Dunbar, 42nd Battalion, Lieutenant L Keysor, VC, 42nd Battalion, 1918 AWM15, 1869

Lieutenant A Isaacson, AASC, 1917 AWM15, 46

Major E L Margolin, DSO, 16th Battalion, 1918 AWM15, 2148

### **WRITTEN RECORDS 1914–18 WAR, 1914–93 AWM25**

**Recorded by:**

1918-1920 Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)

Australian War Memorial (AWM) 145 metres

[Gallipoli] Operation Orders Nos 2 and 3 by Major Margolin, DSO, 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF, 18-19 Dec 1915. Article donated to AWM by Lieut Col E L Margolin, 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF, 1915 AWM25, 367/153





General Sir John Monash at the head of the Anzac Day parade in Melbourne, 1931.  
NAA: A1200, L39602

**OFFICIAL HISTORY 1914-18 WAR: RECORDS OF C E W BEAN, OFFICIAL HISTORIAN, 1914-63  
AWM38****Recorded by:****1919-1942: Official History 1914-18 War (CA 7039)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 22.9 metres**

The series contains correspondence, photographs, telegrams, etc.

**Correspondence 1921-39 AWM38, 3DRL 7953/2**

Item includes correspondence from Lieut Leonard Keysor, Sir Charles Rosenthal.

**Drafts of broadcasts, addresses and articles mainly produced for 'Reveille'; manuscript of 'General Sir John Monash'. A broadcast for the Department of Information, 1914-63 AWM38, 2DRL 1273/4****Drafts of broadcasts, addresses and articles mainly produced for 'Reveille'; manuscript of article on Sir John Monash (Given to 'The Sun', Sydney, 8 Oct 1931), 1931 AWM38, 2DRL 449/1****Papers, consisting of a biographical sketch of Sir John Monash, 1914-63  
AWM38, 3DRL 8042/108C****OFFICIAL HISTORY 1914-18 WAR, BIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER RESEARCH FILES, 1939-42  
AWM43****Recorded by:****1939-1942: Official History, 1914-18 War (CA 7039)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 11.5 metres**

The series contains biographical information on Australian, New Zealand and British war servicemen, collected for use by CEW Bean for use (as footnotes) in his official history of World War I.

**Marchant, L A... Margolin, E L... Marks, A H, Marks, C B, Marks, C H , 1914-68  
AWM43, A567****AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL SECURITY CLASSIFIED RECORDS, 1926-86  
AWM51****Recorded by:****1926-1986: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 3.61 metres**

The series consists of records of the world wars.

**Correspondence between Mr C E W Bean, Sir John Monash and Smith's Weekly regarding articles appearing over the name of Sir John Monash, 1920  
AWM51, 114**

**PRIVATE RECORDS, 1917–****AWM92****Recorded by:****1919–1925: Australian War Museum Committee (CA 467)****1925–: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 360 metres**

The files contain personal records, administrative papers and official records, many derived from private donations.

**General Sir John Monash. Birth Certificate (April), 1934 AWM92, 3DRL 2316/6****Monash, General Sir John. Part of a tribute by W M Hughes on death of Sir John Monash (original), c1931 AWM92, 3DRL 2316/5****AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL REGISTRY FILES, 1913–79****AWM93****Recorded by:****1919–1925: Australian War Museum Committee (CA 467)****1925–1943: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****1943–1945: Official History 1939–45 War (CA 7040)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 78.8 metres****L Keysor, Esq., VC, London, England [Request for donation of private records], 1933 AWM93, 12/11/4906****Donation of records, etc. by Lieut Col I Isaacson, Melbourne, 1934 AWM93, 12/5/248****Lieut-Colonel E.L. Margolin, 16th Battalion, AIF [Request for donation of private records], 1928–30 AWM93, 12/11/1598****Annual Orations to memory of Sir John Monash, for AWM, 1936–41 AWM93, 12/5/305****Sword with which General Sir John Monash was knighted by the King, 1925–35 AWM93, 7/4/136****Compilation of the memoirs of Lieut-Gen Sir John Monash and Lieut-Gen. Sir H G Chauvel, 1928–29 AWM93, 12/1/55****RECORDS OF MILITARY HISTORY SECTION (ARMY), 1940–61****AWM113****Recorded by:****1940–1961: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 17.6 metres****Biographical Sketch of General Sir John Monash, 1940–61 AWM113, 5/8/2**

**UNIDENTIFIED AND UNCONTROLLED COMMONWEALTH RECORDS IN THE ACT  
REGIONAL OFFICE, 1987– A7359/84****Recorded by:****1998–: National Archives of Australia (CA 8550)****Canberra 188 metres**

The series is a diverse group of unidentified and uncontrolled records.

**Brigadier General John Monash – Correspondence – Censor's reports. Roth,  
Philip. (Appears to be a file of the Governor-General's office), 1916–17  
A7359/84, BOX 12/46****PERSONNEL DOSSIERS FOR 1ST AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES EX-SERVICE  
MEMBERS, LEXICOGRAPHICAL SERIES, 1914–20 B2455****Recorded by:****1914–1920: AIF Base Records Office (CA 2001)****Canberra 2118.42 metres**

This very large series consists of dossiers for personnel enlisted in AIF, as well as some records of RAN, AFC and Australian Navy personnel.

**Bernstein, Alexander Bernard: SERN DEPOT 1620: POB Melbourne VIC: POE  
Melbourne VIC: NOK F Bernstein, Aaron Richard, c1914–20 B2455,  
Bernstein A B****Bernstein, Harry: SERN DEPOT 501: POB Alexandria Egypt: POE Melbourne  
VIC: NOK F Bernstein Joseph, c1914–20 B2455, Bernstein H****Cohen, Myer: SERN 16795: POB Perth WA: POE Fremantle WA: NOK M Cohen  
Jessie, c1914–20 B2445, Cohen M****Cohen, Roy Gordon: SERN 6052: POB Sydney NSW: POE Sydney NSW: NOK  
F Cohen Charles Mosley, c1914–20 B2445, Cohen R G****Cohen, Alroy Maitland: SERN CAPT: POB Sydney NSW: POE n/a: NOK F  
Cohen George J, c1914–20 B2455, Cohen A M****Cohen, Morris: SERN DEPOT: POB Russia: POE Melbourne VIC: NOK F Cohen  
Abraham, c1914–20 B2445, Cohen M****Davis, Jacob Henry: SERN 5010: POB Ballarat VIC: POE Melbourne VIC: NOK  
S Cohen, Jane, c1914–20 B2455 Davis J H****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1917–29 MP367/1****Recorded by:****1917–1921: Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)****Melbourne 40.14 metres****Retention of Sir John Monash's services, 1919 MP367/1, 535/4/778****Farewell Order – Sir John Monash, 1918 MP367/1, 546/4/703**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1930–39****B1535****Recorded by:****1930–1939: Army headquarters, Department of Defence (II) (CA 2671)****1939–1939: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne      30.20 metres**

This series includes correspondence on matters within the jurisdiction of Military Board of Advice.

**[Death and Funeral of Sir John Monash], 1931–33      B1535, 746/1/27****[Application for Commission, SC G E Nathan], 1936      B1535, 736/25/234****No. 121 WO1, P J H Nathan, AIC Discharge, 1929–37      B1535, 751/2/125****[Application for Commission: A J Shappere], 1939      B1535, 736/19/314****ARMY PAY-FILES (1ST AIF), ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1914–23****D2994****Recorded by:****1914–1923: Headquarters, 4th Military District (I), CMF, Keswick, SA (CA 3208)****Adelaide      228.96 metres****Isaacson, W E [Army pay file], 1915–20      D2994, 2183****PERSONAL PAPERS OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES AS ATTORNEY-GENERAL, 1934–39  
CP450/7****Recorded by:****1934–1939: Attorney-General's Department, Central Office (CA 5)****Canberra      2.24 metres****Re Colonel Cohen, 1935      CP450/7, 53****INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF INTERNMENTS, REPATRIATIONS, AFFILIATIONS AND  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1915–20      PP14/1****Recorded by:****1915–1919: Headquarters 5th Military District (I), CMF (CA 4811)****1919–1920: Investigation Branch, WA (CA 908)****Perth      6.48 metres****Margolin, Major Eliezar Lazar, 1915–20      PP14/1, 4/7/501**

## Personnel records – World War II

The following records relate to specific Australian Jews who served in World War II.

### **CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'O' PREFIX (PRIMARY NUMBERS 1–224), 1940–57                      A663**

**Recorded by:**

**1940–1942: Department of Defence Coordination, Central Office (CA 37)**

**1942–1957: Department of Defence (III), Central Office (CA 46)**

**Canberra      33.12 metres**

The series records the main administrative activities of the Department of Defence.

**Louis Epstein Pty Ltd – Exemption – Tailor, 1942      A663, O130/3/1285**

### **OFFICIAL HISTORY 1939–45 WAR, BIOGRAPHICAL FILES, 1946–80                      AWM76**

**Recorded by:**

**1946–1980: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      3.6 metres**

The series consists of files of miscellaneous papers (including newspaper and journal clippings), letters, photographs, extracts of service.

**Official Historian 1939–1945 War, biographical files – Records of service' Cdr Appleton... NSW Arm of Jewish ex-Servicemen and Women, 1947–68  
AWM76, A25**

**Official historian 1939–45 War, biographical files – Irwin, A F A.... Isaacson, P S... Isle, J F , 1947–68      AWM76, B262**

### **ARMY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42                      MP508/1**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1942: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)**

**Melbourne      0.72 metres**

**AAMC – Appointments of Officers – Goulston, E H, 1940      MP508/1,  
21/706/296**

**AAMC – Appointments of Officers: Shappere, A J, 1940      MP508/1,  
21/706/278**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1939–54****B3856****Recorded by:****1939–1948: 2nd Echelon, Army Headquarters (CA 2002)****1948–1954: Central Army Records Office (CA 1919)****Melbourne 12 metres****Private Nathan E D, 1947 B3856, 140/7/34****PERSONNEL DOSSIERS FOR SECOND AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES EX-SERVICE MEMBERS, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'X' PREFIX AND ALPHABETIC REGIONAL PREFIXES, 1940–47 B883****Recorded by:****1940–1947: 2nd Echelon, Army Headquarters (CA 2002)****Melbourne 16.39 metres****COHEN, Francis Oswald, (16 pages), 1939–46 B883, NX142554****COHEN, Albert Percival (20 pages), 1911–46 B883, NX107757****COHEN, Mendal Berschoff (16 pages), 1940–45 B883, WX2641****CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS – NAVAL OFFICERS (FORMS S206, PP101), 1912–A3978****Recorded by:****1939–1973: Navy Office, Department of the Navy (CA 38)****Canberra 9.72 metres**

This series consists of confidential reports on RAN officers, giving personal and service details and assessments of the officers' qualities.

**Officers (RAN) Personal record – Alvord Sydney Rosenthal, 1920–58  
A3978, ROSENTHAL A S****Zelman Cowen – confidential report, 1942 A3978, COWEN Z****RECORD OF SERVICE CARDS – NAVAL OFFICERS, 1905–70****A6769****Recorded by:****1939–1970: Navy Office, Department of the Navy (CA 38)****Canberra 19 metres**

The series comprises cards detailing each officer's personal particulars and personal history (including date and place of birth, religion, occupation, next of kin, personal description, home port, personal number, marriage details, etc).

**Record of Service (Petty Officers and Men). Susman, Eric Leo, 1934–51  
A6769, Susman E L**

**RECORD OF SERVICE CARDS – PETTY OFFICERS AND MEN, 1911–70****A6770****Recorded by:****1939–1970: Navy Office, Department of the Navy (CA 38)****Department of Defence (Canberra) 70 metres**

The series comprises cards containing details as for records in A6769.

**Hyman Lewis R30861 – Record of Service (2 pages), 1946–56 A6770, LEWIS H**

**NOMINAL ROLLS OF NAVAL PERSONNEL, 1949–69****A9951****Recorded by:****1949–1969: Navy Office (IV), Department of the Navy (II) (CA 38)****Canberra 5.04 metres**

The nominal rolls are contained in volumes of roneoed sheets, and they include details of the individual's birth date, rank, order number, date mobilised, home address, next of kin, discharge details, religion, awards, whether served overseas.

**Nominal Roll – Original 3501–3542. Wragge, Keith Clement – Zusman, Solomon, 1949 A9951, 71**

**Nominal Roll – RAN. Duplicate 1–100. Aarons, Henry – Bentley, James Walter, 1949 A9951, 74**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER (MELB) SERIES (PRIMARY NOS 1–323), 1922–60****A705****Recorded by:****1922–1935: Air Services Branch (CA 778)****1939–1960: Department of the Air, Central Office (CA 35)****Canberra 655.65 metres**

This is the main correspondence file series used by the RAAF 1922–60 (including the area now known as Civil Aviation 1922–38).

**Epstein, B, 261714, 1929–60 A705, 163/30/83**

**RAAF PERSONAL HISTORY FILES OF OFFICERS, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1921–50****A9300****Recorded by:****1921–1939: Air Services Branch (CA 778)****1939–1950: Department of the Air, Central Office (CA 35)****Canberra 364.41 metres**

Records in this series contain forms and cards detailing aspects of officers' personal lives and service careers. Contact National Archives for access to records in this series.



**Joseph CASSEL – RAAF Service dossier, 1944–96      A9300, Cassel J**

**Samuels, Thomas Charles – RAAF Service Dossier, 1944–90      A9300,  
Samuels T C**

**RAAF BIOGRAPHICAL FILES, 1940–59      AWM65**

**Recorded by:**

**1940–1959: Department of Air, Central Office (CA 35)**

**Australian War Memorial (AWM)      7700 files**

The series consists of 7700 dossiers of World War II officers and non-commissioned officers, who passed through No. 3 Personnel Reception Centre and No. 11 Personnel Despatch and Reception Centre in England.

**[RAAF Biographical file] COHEN, Anthony Lawrence 432225, 1943–45  
AWM65, 751**

**[RAAF Biographical File] COHEN, Julius Allen 117, 1940      AWM65, 752**

**[RAAF Biographical File] EPSTEIN, Julius 423687, 1943–45      AWM65, 2007**

**[RAAF Biographical File] ISAACSON, Peter Stuart 401068, 1942–53      AWM65,  
2803**

**GOVERNOR–GENERAL'S OFFICE HONOURS AND AWARDS FILES, 1939–57  
AWM88**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1957: Governor-General (CA 1)**

**Canberra      9.89 metres**

**[Governor-General's Office, honours and awards file] RAAF. Air Force Cross:  
Flight Lieut P S Isaacson, 1943      AWM88, O/A 18 RAAF**

**PERSONAL FILES OF MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL CONSTRUCTIONAL CORPS ENLISTED IN  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1942–45      K1291**

**Recorded by:**

**1942–1945: Allied Works Council, WA Office (CA 8132)**

**Perth      12.42 metres**

These personal files include application forms, medical reports, compensation papers, discharge certificates and correspondence.

**Epstein, Nathan [Civil Constructional Corps file], c1942–46      K1291, 667**

## Chaplaincy and 'spiritual welfare'

Rabbi Raymond Apple, currently spiritual leader of Sydney's Great Synagogue and Senior Jewish Chaplain to Australia's Armed Forces since 1988, has analysed the 'paradox' of military chaplaincy as the attempt to balance armed power with divine spirit:

War is sometimes necessary; defence preparedness is essential to a nation; and a defence force needs a religious advisory arm to watch over the morality of its policies and the morale of its troops.<sup>72</sup>

Jewish chaplains have been attached to the Australian Army since 1908 and the appointment to the Commonwealth Military Forces of Rev (later Rabbi) Jacob Danglow of the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation.

Sydney's Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen, who had the distinction of being the first Jewish chaplain appointed by the British Military Forces (in 1892), involved himself similarly with the Australian national defence following his arrival in NSW in 1905, and served as chaplain from 1909 until his death in 1934. Cohen inaugurated an annual military service at the Great Synagogue during the festival of *Chanukkah* in 1907, was outspoken in favour of conscription during World War I because he saw support of the war effort as 'an act of religious virtue', and once exhorted the community's youth:

May they never forget that they are called upon to uphold not only their country's political independence, but still more her moral ideals of liberty and equal opportunity.<sup>73</sup>

On another occasion, Cohen declared unequivocally: 'We British Jews... who love the privilege of fully serving the Empire over which this flag waves, can none of us be too zealous, too devoted in her service'.<sup>74</sup>

Other clergy who have emulated the example of Danglow and Cohen, both in and out of wartime, include Rev Solomon Marks Solomon of Melbourne (who, by virtue of age and length of service, was officially senior Hebrew chaplain in Victoria from 1910 until his death), Rabbi Leib Isack Falk (a World War I veteran and long-serving assistant minister at the Great Synagogue, who was a chaplain with the Commonwealth forces from 1935), Rabbi Ephraim Moses Levy (Sydney), Rabbi Harry Freedman (Melbourne), Rev Isaac Amber Bernstein (Adelaide), Rev Nathan

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<sup>72</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p.311.

<sup>73</sup> *ibid.*, p.311-2.

<sup>74</sup> Rodney Gouttman, "First Principles: H.V. Evatt and the Jewish homeland", in *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, p.265-6; Rutland, *ibid.*, p.313-6.



**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES, ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS REGISTRY, 'A' (ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S BRANCH) FILES, 1916–20 AWM10****Recorded by:****1916–1920: Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 2.2 metres**

The series includes files on personnel-related matters.

**Report on Chaplain D I Freedman's visit to Jewish troops of AIF in UK (United Kingdom), 1917–18 AWM10, 4306/4/9****AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE DEPOTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM HEADQUARTERS (SALISBURY PLAIN), CENTRAL REGISTRY FILES, OFFICERS' RECORDS, 1916–20 AWM15****Recorded by:****1916–1920: Department of Defence (CA 6)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 37 metres****Rev Rabbi D I Freedman; Mr H Boas, 1917 AWM15, 1135****WRITTEN RECORDS 1914–18 WAR, 1914–93 AWM25****Recorded by:****1918–1920: Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 145 metres****Casualty sheets and hospital reports from Chaplain Danglow (Jewish chaplain), 1918 and January 1919 (Part 1 of 2), 1918–19 AWM25, 171/11 part 1****[Spiritual welfare] Australian Jewish troops serving with AIF Forces, Sept 1919, 1919 AWM25, 893/1****[Spiritual welfare] Notes concerning Jewish troops stationed in Cairo. Arrangements for celebrating 'The Feast of Passover' by members of the Jewish faith. Correspondence regarding Jewish sick and wounded, 1914–18 AWM25, 893/3****RECORDS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO AWM LIBRARY SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION, 1927–70 AWM27****Recorded by:****1927–1970: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 17.8 metres****[Religions and War] Circular Farewell Letter from Rabbi J Danglow to AIF Troops (May 1919), 1919 AWM27, 602/1**

**INTELLIGENCE SECTION RECORDS 1914–23****MP16/1****Recorded by:****1914–1923: Intelligence Section, General Staff, 3rd Military District (CA 1841)****Melbourne      13.68 metres****Rev S M Solomon, 1915      MP16/1, 1915/3/586**

This file contains paperwork about an investigation into allegations that Solomon, Senior Jewish chaplain to the Commonwealth forces, 1910–1941, had made subversive statements about the strength of Germany and the Empire's capacity to beat the 'Hun'. The investigation was dropped.

**ARMY GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1939–42****MP508/1****Recorded by:****1939–1942: Department of the Army, Central Office (CA 36)****Melbourne      0.72 metres****Department of the Army [chaplains] – [Approval sought for appointment Jewish chaplain], 1942      MP508/1, 56/701/97****WRITTEN RECORDS 1939–45 WAR, 1951–93****AWM54****Recorded by:****1951–1993: Australian War Memorial (CA 616)****Australian War Memorial (AWM)      213.5 metres****[Leave – Recreation:] Leave Policy 1942–1944 (Includes: personnel of Special units, Jewish Holy Days, Passover for Hebrew Personnel), 1942–44      AWM54, 449/4/4****CORRESPONDENCE 1912–64****SP459/1****Recorded by:****1939–1942: Headquarters Eastern Command (I), AMF (CA 1876)****Sydney      40.68 metres**

The series consists of correspondence regarding administration, function and policy of Eastern Command.

**Jewish Holy Days (Box 174), 1941      SP459/1, 496/1/339****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953–****B1535****Recorded by:****1953–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Central Office (CA 650)****Canberra      160.58 metres**

The series consists of files which deal with character checks, inquiries into specified persons, and matters of general security.

**Item: [Rev E M Levy – Other chaplains Jewish denomination], 1933–35  
B1535, 731/3/80**

This file contains formal paperwork about Levy's chaplaincy as well as correspondence about Rabbi F L Cohen continuing as Senior Jewish chaplain in NSW. Cohen and Levy led the Sydney Hebrew Congregation, at the Great Synagogue, in the 1930s.

## 8 The Zionist Ideal in Australia

In the past one hundred years the world has witnessed the emergence of the Political Zionist movement in response to the deteriorating position of the Jews in Eastern Europe; the movement's evolution and propagation as Jews became increasingly marginalised in the 'old world'; the climax of centuries of antisemitism in attempted genocide during the Holocaust; and, 'out of the ashes', the realisation of the Zionist dream of a Jewish national home in Israel.

This chapter surveys National Archives holdings which deal with Political Zionist activity in Australia. As a number of the items indicate, the movement – and the quest for Jewish nationhood – was viewed with some scepticism or concern by sections of the Government (and public). That Jewish national aspirations, and (in particular) the plight of the Jews in Europe during the 1930s and war years, simultaneously elicited more sympathetic reactions is also clear from an examination of Government correspondence. Accordingly, included here is a sampling of contemporary records which highlight both official and general (public) responses to news of the Holocaust. Finally, this chapter also identifies relevant series (and items) which illuminate the Australian Government's relations with Palestine (during the period of the British mandate 1917–47) and the new State of Israel (from 1948).

### Zionist activity in Australia

The love of Israel, and the dream of a return to Zion, have been central underpinnings of the Jewish religion through two thousand years in the Diaspora. However, it was not until the late 19th century that spiritual yearning for a restoration of the Holy Land 'at the end of days' crystallised into practical schemes to repopulate and rejuvenate Palestine. Having seen hundreds of thousands of Eastern European Jews flee Czarist oppression, and appalled at the antisemitism underlying the Dreyfus affair in a supposedly enlightened France, Theodore Herzl formulated a practical proposal to create a modern Jewish nation state in the Middle East. His scheme was formally ratified at the first World Zionist Congress at Basle in 1897.

Herzl's proposal touched a responsive chord among sectors of Australian Jewry which had previously been supportive of charitable schemes set up to assist small numbers of impoverished Jews who had elected to live in Palestine. The Western Australian Zionist Society was founded in Perth, under the aegis of Rev. D I Freedman, in 1900, and pioneering Zionist Leagues emerged in Sydney and Melbourne a few years later. A more formal NSW venture, the Sydney Zionist Society was established in 1908 while a succession of competing groups evolved

in Victoria in the early 1910s (among them Herzlia and Hatechiya). From the outset – the enthusiasm of Percy Marks, Nathaniel Levi, and others, notwithstanding – political Zionism in this country was dominated by Eastern European Jews, and was generally viewed with either scepticism or indifference by the Anglo-Australian Jewish establishment. The strongly pro-Zionist Rev. Freedman, for instance, was a glaring exception to the clerical rule while Rabbis Abrahams and Cohen, and Revs Danglow and Davis, were – at best – non-committal. In this regard, they took their lead from Chief Rabbi Hermann Adler who believed that the quest for a secular Jewish state was contrary to religious teachings, that it was an unworkable ideal anyway because of the harsh realities of the terrain, and that support for it might well lead to accusations of disloyalty to Britain.<sup>76</sup>

In 1917, as a result of General Allenby and the British forces taking control of Palestine from the Turks, and the Balfour Declaration, which committed Britain to the establishment of a Jewish national home in that territory, a flurry of interest in Zionism was apparent in Australia, even among members of the Jewish establishment. The movement was given further boosts by visits from international emissaries such as Israel Cohen, Bella Pevsner and Alexander Goldstein, and the news (in 1922) that the League of Nations had formally entrusted Britain with the Palestine mandate. Activity in the 1920s culminated in the formation in 1927 of the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand, under the presidency of Rabbi Israel Brodie and patronage of Sir John Monash. This proved to be the 'high water mark' of Anglo-Jewish participation in the movement, however. Brodie's involvement distanced him increasingly from his peers. As Jewish aspirations came more and more into conflict with British policy and administration in Palestine, the ambivalence of Rabbis Danglow and Cohen, and of lay leaders like Sir Archie Michaelis or Sir Isaac Isaacs, became outright hostility.

In 1928 British troops removed traditional male–female partitions at the Wailing Wall in response to Arab claims that the barriers were infringing the religious status quo. World Jewry viewed the action as unwarranted interference and the Zionist Federation protested loudly to the Government. A furious Archie Michaelis (speaking for the Melbourne Jewish Advisory Board) declared that the Federation (made up primarily of non-Anglo 'newcomers') had no right to speak for the whole community, and that any attack on British policy in Palestine amounted to an attack on the British Government itself. Danglow believed it 'entirely wrong for Jews, especially British Jews, to hold public meetings of protest'. Subsequently, when Arab rioting led to the death of 133 Jews, the British administration implemented the Passfield White Paper, thereby modifying the Balfour Declaration and eliciting howls of outrage from Zionist groups around the world. The Peel

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<sup>76</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, pp. 86–9.



Commission, set up in 1937 to examine the problem of Arab-Jewish relations, finally declared the Mandate to be unworkable. A new White Paper (in 1939) drastically curtailed Jewish immigration into Palestine and severely limited the purchase of land by Jews.

Appalled at what they saw as British treachery in the face of impending disaster in Europe, disenchanted Jewish groups declared that the MacDonald Government had reneged unashamedly on its solemn promise. 'Convinced that 'Eretz Israel' could provide a haven for persecuted Jewry they embarked on a campaign designed to force the lifting of restrictions... Their criticism of England was loud and clear...', writes Konrad Kwiet. Hardly surprisingly, therefore, 'By the time the Second World War broke out' (Hilary Rubinstein notes), 'the Zionist movement in Australia was supported almost exclusively by Jews of Eastern European birth or recent origin'.<sup>77</sup>

The chief spokesman of establishment opposition, as support for Zionism spread, was undoubtedly former Governor-General Sir Isaac Isaacs. Isaacs continued to subscribe fervently to the view that a Jewish state must render Australian Jews second-class, 'tolerated aliens' in other lands. In his view, Jews were a religious grouping rather than a nationality, and nationalist activity would lead inevitably to antisemitism. Extremist activity in Palestine, such as the bombing of the King David Hotel, as well as escalating attacks on Britain over its apparent intransigence on the issue of immigration into Palestine (including the notorious *Exodus* incident), seemed to confirm Isaacs' claims, most of which were made in lengthy letters to the Jewish and general press in the early 1940s. He was bitterly opposed by such staunch Zionists as Rabbi L A Falk of the Great Synagogue, Temple Beth Israel's Rabbi Sanger and Dr Aaron Patkin. Professor Julius Stone's *Stand Up and Be Counted* (1944), an open letter to Isaacs, excited considerable interest and debate.<sup>78</sup> In the long run, of course, international reaction to the Holocaust and to the lot of Jews displaced by war ensured that the Zionist ideal was realised. Unsurprisingly, once Britain had withdrawn from Palestine and a Jewish state had become a *fait accompli*, Australian Anglo-Jewry abandoned its anti-Zionist stance.

A number of records have been located which contain material about the Zionist movement in Australia. These records include:

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<sup>77</sup> Hilary L Rubinstein, *Chosen*, pp. 201–4; Kwiet p. 207.

<sup>78</sup> Rubinstein, *Chosen*, p.204–7.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES 'B' SERIES (MAINLY RELATING TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES), 1918–19 A2483****Recorded by:****1918–1919: Repatriation Department (I) (CA 16)****Canberra 3 metres**

Files in this series consist of Repatriation correspondence, including policy documents, requests for information, offers of properties for sale, etc.

**Letter from Victorian Zionist Organisation, 1918 A2483, B18/5941****Dept. of Repatriation. Zionist Preparation Fund Appeal to assist Jewish refugees in Palestine, 1918 A2483, B18/7676****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1917–29 MP367/1****Recorded by:****1917–1921: Department of Defence (I) (CA 6)****Melbourne 40.14 metres****Zionist movement. Interview with Minister, 1919 MP367/1, 534/1/356****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929– A432****Recorded by:****1929–: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)****Canberra 1957.68 metres****United Zionist Revisionist Organisation of Australia, 1948 A432, 1948/240****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 11 (MIGRANTS A–C), 1951–52 A439****Recorded by:****1951–1952: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 6.66 metres****Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand, 1947–50 A439, 1951/11/372****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (SECOND SYSTEM), 1923–34 A458****Recorded by:****1923–1934: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 49.77 metres****The Union of Sydney Zionists, 1923–34 A458, 745/1/378**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1927–42****A981****Recorded by:****1927–1942: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra 163.27 metres****Zionism, 1917–35 A981, ZIO 1****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953–****A1533****Recorded by:****1953–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Central Office (CA 650)****Canberra 160.58 metres**

The series contains correspondence on character checks and inquiries into specified persons and general security.

**Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand, 1956 A1533, 1956/2834****MICROFILM OF COMMONWEALTH INVESTIGATION SERVICE AND ASIO FILES, 1968****A9108****Recorded by:****1968–1968: Australian Security Intelligence Organization (CA 1297)****Canberra 11.88 metres****Women's International Zionist Organisation [12 pages], 1950–51 A9108, ROLL 3/49****New Zionist Organisation – United Revisionist, 1948–49 A9108, ROLL 20/52****New Zionist Organisation – United Revisionist, 1947–48 A9108, ROLL 20/53****Zionist Organisations [4cm], 1941–49 A9108, ROLL 21/23****OFFICIAL HISTORY 1914–18 WAR: RECORDS OF C E W BEAN, OFFICIAL HISTORIAN, 1914–63****AWM38****Recorded by:****1914–1963: Official History 1914–18 War (CA 7039)****Australian War Memorial (AWM) 28.9 metres**

[Official History, 1914–18 War: Records of Charles E W Bean, Official historian:] Booklet, 1956; 'The Case for Israel' issued by the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand, 1956 AWM38, 3DRL 6673/960

**INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SA' (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) PREFIX, 1917–69 D1915****Recorded by:****1919–1946: Investigation Branch, SA (CA 905)****1946–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, SA (CA 914)****Adelaide 37 metres**

The series consists of sensitive case files dealing mainly with matters of national security.

**Zionist movement, New Zionist movement, 1942–53 D1915, SA19621**

A number of records have been identified which document official scepticism regarding the Zionist movement and the activities of Australian Zionists, some of them reflect Zionist opposition to British Government policy in Palestine.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–62 B741****Recorded by:****1927–1946: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)****1946–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Victoria (CA 916)****Melbourne 29.88 metres****Leon Bloom – Application for naturalisation and suspected Zionist activities, 1929–47 B741, V/6029****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1941–19****A373****Recorded by:****1941–1945: Security Service, Central Office, Canberra (CA 660)****1945–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office, Melbourne and Canberra (CA 747)****1946–1949: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Central Office (CA 650)****Canberra 7 metres****Jewish recruiting – Implications for Australia, 1948 A373, 12510**

An investigation into the possibility that Zionist groups were recruiting ex-servicemen to fight in Palestine.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES 'B' SERIES (MAINLY RELATING TO MEDICAL TREATMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEMES), 1918–19 A2483**

**Recorded by:**

**1918–1919: Repatriation Department (I) (CA 16)**

**Canberra 3 metres**

Files in this series consist of departmental correspondence, and include policy documents, requests for information, offers of property, etc.

**Paperwork re authorisation of Zionist Preparation Fund's appeal to assist Jewish citrus-growers in Palestine, 1918 A2483, B18/7676**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50 A433**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)**

**Canberra 8 metres**

**Palestine for the Jews – Zionist propaganda, etc, 1943–46 A433,  
1945/2/5153**

## Australian responses to the Holocaust

No sooner had the first reports reached Australia of the Third Reich's discriminatory measures against German Jews, than vocal sections of Australian Jewry and sympathisers within the wider community responded by mounting public protest meetings. At one point Rabbi D I Freedman and Mayer Breckler, President of the Perth Synagogue, personally telegraphed Chancellor Adolf Hitler, begging him to take into account the fact that 12 000 German Jews had died for the fatherland in World War I. Protests were frequent enough for the German Consul to complain to Canberra about an 'anti-German campaign'. Prime Minister Lyons demanded that no Federal or State minister support any such protest and it appears that few, if any, formal petitions were ever forwarded on by the Government.<sup>79</sup>

As we have seen, Australia did make some humanitarian concessions to its immigration policy in the late 1930s, but the view that direct criticism of Germany would serve 'no good purpose' appears to have persisted, even after *Kristallnacht*. Paul Bartrop cites National Archives records and contemporary press reports as proof of his contention that the Australian Government was kept informed of the situation in Europe as the Holocaust was in progress, yet the knowledge failed to impact significantly on refugee policy (which he maintains was predicated on motifs of 'indifference' and 'inconvenience'). In this regard, as with refugee immigration in general, Dr Bartrop maintains that Australia's record leaves much to be desired – 'not for what the Australians failed to do, but what they said they were doing and how that did not correspond with their actual behaviour'.<sup>80</sup>

In 1942 a formal declaration was issued simultaneously by London, Washington and Moscow, condemning the 'bestial policy of cold-blooded extermination' being practised by the Nazis. The Australian Government (largely through the influence of its philosemitic External Affairs minister H V Evatt) 'wholeheartedly associated itself' with the declaration. Michael Blakeney notes, however, that the news that two million Jews had already been killed met with a 'muted' response from the press and greater Australian public. During the same period Prime Minister Curtin rejected from the annual ALP Conference agenda a call by Victorian delegates for Britain to 'open up' Palestine to immigration. Similar calls for increased 'rescue' attempts from the United Emergency Committee for European Jewry met with the reply that the British and allied struggle to rid Europe of the Nazis was the most appropriate means of rendering service to the Jews. In 1944, with news filtering

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<sup>79</sup> Kwiet, pp. 202–4.

<sup>80</sup> Kwiet, pp. 202–4; Paul Bartrop, *Australia and the Holocaust 1933–45*, Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 1994, p.xii–x111, xv.

through of the mass murder of Hungarian Jewry, the Australian Government declared it could do no more to assist. As Dr Bartrop has observed:

while there were many who felt that the Nazi persecution of the Jews was abhorrent and evil, an oft-repeated opinion was that it should be the responsibility of the Great Powers to find a solution; it was, in the words of one commentator, 'not a problem for Australia'.<sup>81</sup>

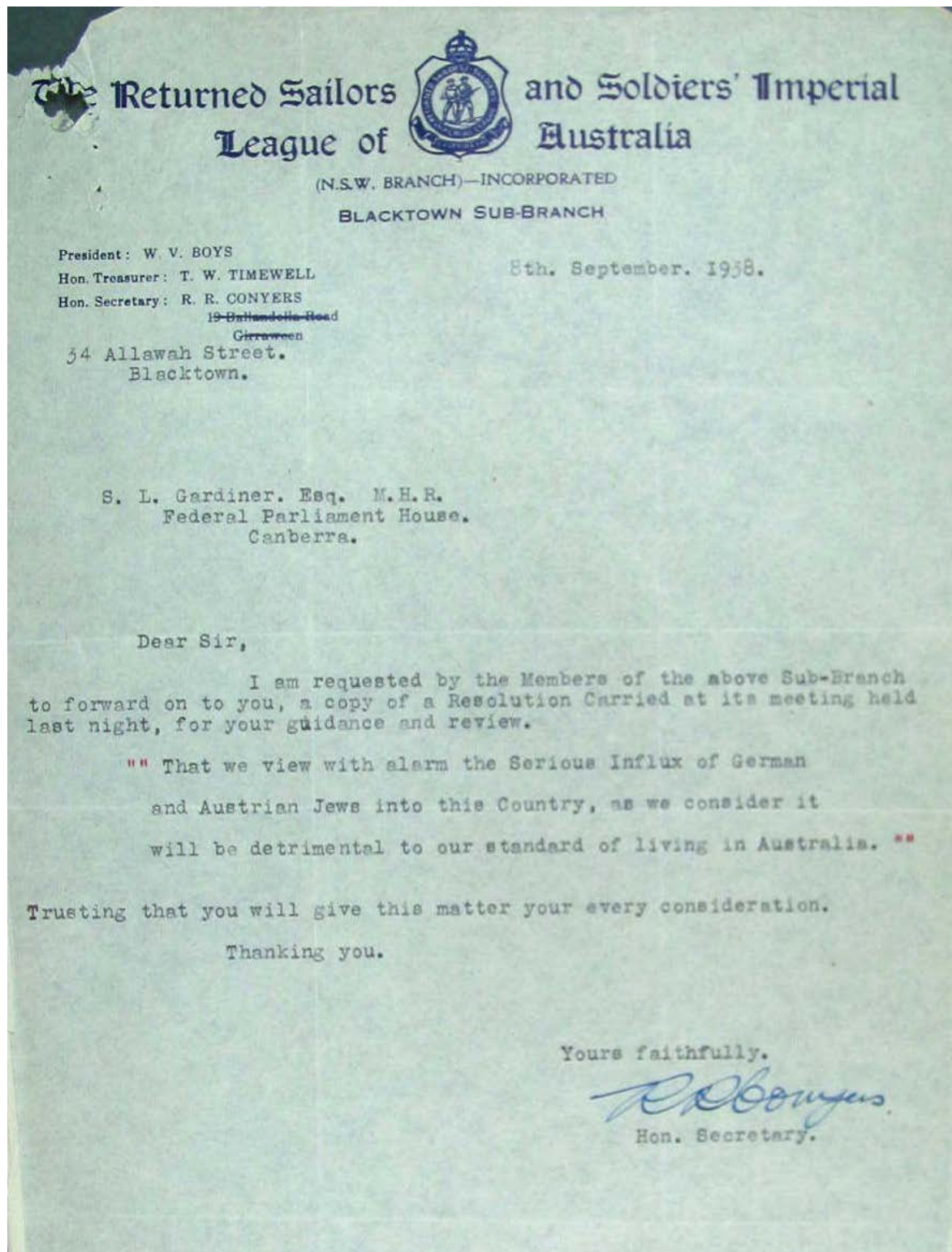
Revelation and confirmation of the Holocaust in the aftermath of allied victory undoubtedly brought home to the wider public the full enormity of what had occurred in Europe and (in Paul Bartrop's words) 'sensitised Australians to the needs of Jews still alive in Europe to find a place of refuge...'.<sup>82</sup>

Sympathy did not extend to large-scale immigration into Australia (see Chapter 2), but it ensured widespread Australian public support (even Government support) for a Jewish state in Palestine, once the 'thorny' problem of the British administration was no longer at issue.

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<sup>81</sup> Bartrop, *Australia and the Holocaust*, p. xii, pp. 246–8; Blakeney, pp. 281–2, 287–8.

<sup>82</sup> Bartrop, *Australia and the Holocaust*, p. 246.



An Australian responses to the Holocaust. A protest about Jewish migration.  
NAA: A445, 235/5/6



A survey of National Archives records has located relevant items regarding the plight of Jews in Europe prior to, during, and immediately after World War II, in the following series:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50  
A433**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)

Canberra 8 metres

Hungary – Anti-Jewish legislation and policy towards Jewish community,  
1942–44 A433, 1944/2/144

Declaration on German treatment of Jews, 1942 A433, 1945/2/6325

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50  
A434**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)

1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)

1945–1950: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 12.27 metres

Treatment of Jewish Displaced Persons in the British Zone, Germany, 1946  
A434, 1946/3/511

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50  
A461**

**Recorded by:**

1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Treatment of Jews in Germany, 1938–39 A461, R420/1

The file includes letters from CPA, trades unions, ALP, International Peace Campaign, etc, condemning Nazi persecution of Jews.

Jews – general, 1938–46 A461, MA349/3/5 part 2

The file includes reports of the extermination of Hungarian and Czech Jewry; correspondence about the admission of displaced persons into Australia; calls for child migration; notification that ECAJ is the federal roof-body of the Jewish community; Letter about influxes of Jews.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G' (GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1956– A463****Recorded by:****1956–1971: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 701.38 metres****Compensation of Jewish Victims persecuted in European countries, 1954–56  
A463, 1956/1271****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1927–42 A981****Recorded by:****1927–1942: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra 163.27 metres****Defence – stranded non-British subjects – re parcels to Jews in Occupied countries, 1942 A981, DEF 373****External Affairs Department. France. Jews. I, 1942 A981, FRA 38****Germany – Jews Part 1, 1939–41 A981, GER37 part 1****Poland – Internal Jews, 1939 A981, POLA 24****Soviet Union. Russia. General. Jews, 1942 A981, SOV 4 part 1****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1942–45  
A989****Recorded by:****1943–1944: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)****Canberra 30.42 metres**

This series relates to both the administrative and gathering functions of the Department. Generally, the series is concerned with Australia's relations with other countries, specifically in the context of World War II. Subjects of files include aliens, deportations, nationality and naturalisation, passports and landing permits, plight of refugees.

**Misc. Reps. Jewish Advisory Board, 1943 A989, 1943/561/40**

The file contains Victorian JAB papers about Nazi atrocities.

**Misc. Reps. World Jewish Congress – re Bermuda Conference, 1943 A989,  
1943/561/13****Misc. Reps. Koornung School, Warrandyte, Vic – re plight of Jewish people in Europe, 1943 A989, 1943/561/20****Misc. Reps. The National Council of Jewish Women of Australia – re plight of Jews in Europe, 1943–44 A989, 1943/561/25****Germany – Treatment of Jews, 1942–44 A989, 1943/360/4/2**

Nationality, etc. Denationalising of Jews – Enquiry regarding, 1943 A989, 1943/580/1/7

Norway. Treatment of Jews, 1942 A989, 1943/645/1/2

Refugees. Evacuation of Jewish Refugees from Vichy France, 1943 A989, 1943/755/6

Refugees. Deportation of Bulgarian Jews, 1943–44 A989, 1943/755/7

Post-war Reconstruction. Atrocities, Special United Nations Commission for Poland. American Jewish Committee Proposal, 1944 A989, 1944/735/586

PWR [Post-war Reconstruction] – General section – World Jewish Congress, 1944 A989, 1944/735/717

France French North Africa – Treatment of Jews, 1943 A989, 1943/350/7/1/2

Germany – Treatment of Jews, 1942–44 A989, 1944/360/4/2

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1945 A1066**

**Recorded by:**

1945–1945: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)  
Canberra 31.23 metres

Relief – Australian Council for UNRRA. Relief teams from United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund, 1945–46 A1066, ER45/6/8/7/3

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER PREFIX, 1945–46 A1067**

**Recorded by:**

1946–1946: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)  
Canberra 31 metres

General. Jewish Displaced Persons in Europe, 1945–46 A1067, E46/38/1

Australian Council for UNRRA – Relief teams from United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund, 1946 A1067, R46/7/6

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH VARIABLE ALPHABETICAL PREFIX AND GENERAL PREFIX 'SC' (FOURTH SYSTEM), 1939–47 A1608**

**Recorded by:**

1939–1945: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)  
Canberra 21.97 metres

War Section. Enemy atrocities 1. Joint declaration by allied countries 2. Treatment of the Jews in Europe 3. Shackling of prisoners of war Part 1, 1941–44 A1608, K41/1/1

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89****A1838****Recorded by:****1948–1989: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra 3224.6 metres****War Graves – Proposed War Memorial for Jewish Martyrs, 1965 A1838,  
1510/3/75****War Graves – China – Jewish Cemeteries in China, 1967 A1838,  
1510/3/81/1****Property and Compensation Claims. Germany – Jewish Claims, 1950–60  
A1838, 1533/5/1T****THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION [RECORDS COLLECTED BY SIR FREDERICK SHEDDEN  
DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND IN RESEARCHING THE  
HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE POLICY], TWO NUMBER SERIES 1901–71  
A5954****Recorded by:****1937–1939: Department of Defence (II) (Central Administration) (CA 19)  
1939–1942: Department of Defence Co-ordination, Central Office (CA 37)  
1942–1971: Department of Defence (III), Central Office (CA 46)****Canberra 193 metres**

The series consists of files of papers accumulated by Shedden, Secretary of  
Department of Defence Co-ordination and Secretary to the War Cabinet.

**Conditions in Occupied territories, 1942 A5954, 1979/105**

This item is a 20-page booklet, no. 6 in a series of reports issued by Inter-allied  
Information Committee, London, titled 'Persecution of the Jews.'

**DOSSIERS ON JEWS RESIDENT IN AUSTRALIA COMPILED BY THE GERMAN CONSULATE,  
1943–57 C422****Recorded by:****1943–1945: Security Service, NSW (CA 946)****Sydney 0.36 metres****[Guitermann and King Ltd. Letters – rejected stories of ill-treatment of Jews in  
Germany], 1933 C422, 88**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES 1939–46****SP112/1****Recorded by:****1939–1946: Department of Information, Central Office – Press Division (CA 34)****Canberra 13.68 metres**

This series, transferred from NSW in 1975, is mainly correspondence between the Department and various newspapers and authorities.

**Jews and the War. Inquiry, Vic Branch, 1939 SP112/1, 265/1/12****VANCE PALMER COLLECTION – SCRIPTS OF TALKS PRESENTED DURING HIS REGULAR ABC RADIO PROGRAMMES, 1941–59****SP300/7****Recorded by:****1940–1959: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney 0.9 metres**

Vance Palmer ABC talk scripts – Current books worth reading – 8 Dec 1943  
[Appeasement's Child – Thomas J Hamilton; Aims for Oblivion – Dr Angus;  
The Persecution of Jews in Occupied Territories] [Box 1], 1943 SP300/7, 85

**SCRIPTS – RADIO FEATURES, 1936–74****SP1297/2****Recorded by:****1936–1974: Australian Broadcasting Commission, Head Office (CA 251)****Sydney 10 metres**

The series consists of typewritten scripts of features broadcast over the ABC network.

**Out of the Ashes, a story of Jewish poets who wrote and died in the Warsaw ghetto, written by Hyam Brezniak [ABC Radio Features Script] [30 pages; box 12], 1936–66 SP1297/2, NN**

## Palestine and the State of Israel

Reports of the plight of the Jews of Europe in World War II impelled concerned Australian Zionists (among them Abram Landa and Max Freilich) to canvass political support for immediate repeal of the MacDonald White Paper and the prompt creation of a Jewish homeland. As Suzanne Rutland has observed, Zionist leaders 'met with a significant response' from Dr H V Evatt, Minister for External Affairs, through whom Australia subsequently played a central role in facilitating the birth of modern Israel.<sup>83</sup>

According to Dr Rutland:

The devastation caused to world Jewry by the Holocaust offended [Evatt's] sense of justice and democracy and convinced him that the Jews had a right to a sanctuary in Palestine.<sup>84</sup>

Further, as Labor Minister for External Affairs, Evatt was strongly of the opinion that Australia needed both to develop foreign policy independent of Britain, and that the Middle East was of potential importance to Australia, as a bridge between Africa and Asia. More prosaically, Evatt was an immensely ambitious politician whose aspirations encompassed (and achieved) presidency of the United Nations General Assembly. To some extent, his high-profile support for the Jews was dictated by its capacity to further his own career.<sup>85</sup>

Rodney Gouttman believes that Evatt was strongly influenced by the arguments of Professor Julius Stone in Stone's rebuttal of Sir Isaac Isaacs, *Stand Up and Be Counted*.<sup>86</sup> In 1947 Evatt chaired the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine, convened to weigh up the respective merits of two proposals: (1) that the UN supervise the creation of a 'unitary state' of Palestine, based on its existing population, and (2) that the UN oversee the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. A majority of delegates favoured the second option and, on 29 November 1947, the General Assembly put the matter to the vote. Thirty-three nations, the needed two-thirds majority (among them Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa), supported partition. At that point, the UN was to control sites of universal religious significance, including Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

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<sup>83</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p. 311.

<sup>84</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p. 311–2.

<sup>85</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p. 311–2.

<sup>86</sup> Rodney Gouttman, 'First principles: H.V. Evatt and the Jewish homeland', in *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, p.265–6; Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, pp. 313–6.

The State of Israel was declared by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion on 15 May 1948. The following year, as President of the General Assembly, Evatt was again a strong spokesman for admission of the new nation as a member of the UN. Citing the anti-Zionist feelings of a number of Australian leaders, among them conservative Anglo-Jews like Sir Isaac Isaacs, Dr Rutland suggests that:

without Evatt's idiosyncratic position on the need for a Jewish state it is possible that Israel would not have come into existence. Evatt's role was fostered by skilled leadership from Australian Zionists. In this way Australian Zionism played a critical role in the final stages of pre-State Zionist history. Since 1949, Israel has enjoyed consistently positive relations with successive Australian Governments (relations based on the position developed by Evatt).<sup>87</sup>

The records described below contain official correspondence between Britain and Australia regarding Palestine under the British mandate, as well as locally-produced briefing materials, policy documents, reports and memoranda. Individual items highlight the problems faced by Jews in entering Palestine during the final years of the Mandate; Jewish–Arab relations during that period; and opposition to British policy on Palestine.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1916–27, AND 'C' PREFIX, 1927–53                      A367**

**Recorded by:**

**1919–1946: Investigation Branch, Central Office (CA 747)**

**Canberra      64.08 metres**

**Palestine – Jews, National Status – Individual cases anti-British and anti-Jewish agitation in Egypt over the Palestine question, 1937–41      A367, C3075J**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50  
A433**

**Recorded by:**

**1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)**

**Canberra      8 metres**

**Correspondence/cables between Aust Government and London re illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine, 1946      A433, 1945/2/5153**

File includes newspaper clippings and statement on Jewish National Home by the ECAJ.

**Victorian Jewish Advisory Board Resolutions re immigration policy – Immigration into Palestine and European Relief, 1943      A433, 1943/2/4794**

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<sup>87</sup> Rutland, *Edge of the diaspora*, pp. 313–6.; Gouttman, 'First principles,' p. 262.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 3 (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50  
A434****Recorded by:**

1939–1939: Department of the Interior (I) (CA 27)  
1939–1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)  
1945–1950: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 12.27 metres

Palestine – United Nations Commission of Inquiry on, 1947 A434,  
1947/3/5952

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50  
A461****Recorded by:**

1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Jews – general, 1933–38 A461, MA349/3/5 PART 1

The file contains correspondence, some of it from the ZFA and ECAJ, about the King David Hotel bombing and tensions in Palestine. Also included is an antisemitic letter.

Jews – general, 1938–46 A461, MA349/3/5 PART 2

Jews – general, 1946 A461, MA349/3/5 PART 3

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHABETICAL SERIES, 1927–42 A981****Recorded by:**

1927–1942: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)

Canberra 163.27 metres

Palestine – British Policy. Jewish–Moslem relations I, 1928–31 A981, PAL  
8 part 1

Palestine – British Policy. Jewish–Moslem relations III, 1922–36 A981, PAL  
8 part 3

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR PREFIX, 1942–5  
A989****Recorded by:**

1942–1945: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)

Canberra 30.42 metres

Misc Reps Jewish Advisory Board, 1943 A989, 1943/561/40

This file contains NSW material about Sir Isaac Isaacs and his opposition to the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Palestine – reps re settlement of Jews, 1943–44 A989, 1943/660/9



This file includes material on the 'White Paper' and the problems thus faced by migrants attempting to enter Palestine.

**Post-war reconstruction. The Middle and North-East Africa. Palestine (including Zionist aspirations), 1941–44    A989, 1943/735/403**

**Misc. Reps. Jewish Migration and Land Settlements, 1944    A989, 1944/561/49**

The file includes correspondence by Bishop Venn Pilcher about the withdrawal of the Palestine 'White Paper' (1939), and asking that Palestine open its doors to Jewish migrants.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER PREFIXES, 1945    A1066**

**Recorded by:**

**1945–1945: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)  
Canberra    31.23 metres**

**Palestine – Political Situation (including Zionist aspirations), 1944–46  
A1066, M45/17/1**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH YEAR AND LETTER PREFIX, 1945–46    A1067**

**Recorded by:**

**1946–1946: Department of External Affairs (II), Central Office (CA 18)  
Canberra    31 metres**

**Palestine. Representations made by Jews in Australia, 1946    A1067, M46/17/1**

**Palestine. Activities of Jews in Australia, 1946    A1067, M46/17/3**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89    A1838**

**Recorded by:**

**1948–1989: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)  
Canberra    3224.6 metres**

**Palestine – Jewish State, 1948    A1838, 851/12/3 part 1**

This file includes a paper on the recognition of a Jewish state in Palestine, a summary of events following British withdrawal, secret despatches from Australia to Canada, and some correspondence.

**Palestine Jewish State, 1948–50    A1838, 851/12/3 part 2**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–62 B741****Recorded by:****1927–1946: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)****1946–1960: Commonwealth Investigation Service, Victoria (CA 916)****Melbourne 29.88 metres****Palestine and the Jewish Problem; report by Lt Drysdale , 1918–46 B741, V/277****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ALPHA-NUMERICAL SERIES, 1950–78 A1321****Recorded by:****1950–1978: Temple Society Trust Fund Advisory Committee (CA 3165)****Melbourne 3.12 metres**

The series contains the main correspondence files of the Temple Society Trust Fund.

**Temple Society Trust Fund. Jewish tributes to German colonisation in Palestine, 1884–1960 B1321, TSTF3J**

Finally, a substantial number of records have been located which deal with aspects of Australia's relations with the State of Israel since its foundation in 1948. By way of just a few examples, these include:

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929– A432****Recorded by:****1929: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)****Canberra 1957.68 metres****Israel – Question of Recognition, 1948 A432, 1948/594****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTI-NUMBER SERIES (THIRD SYSTEM), 1934–50 A461****Recorded by:****1934–1950: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Anniversary Inauguration of Israel, 1949 A461, AR317/1/1**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G'  
(GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS) INFIX, 1956– A463****Recorded by:****1956–1971: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 701.83 metres****Jewish National Fund – Naming of reclamation project in Israel after  
Australian Prime Minister, 1962–65 A463, 1962/3998****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–89****A1838****Recorded by:****1948–1989: Department of External Affairs (II) (CA 18)****Canberra 3224.6 metres****Israel – Internal – World Zionist Organisation, 1961–74 A1838, 175/1/10/2****Israel – Internal – Constitutional and citizenship, 1946–69 A1838, 175/1/2****Israel – Relations with the Arab States, 1943–52 A1838, 175/11/20 part 1****Israel. Political Jewish Anti-Zionist Organisation, 1958–60 A1838, 175/1/10/2****Israel. Political. Jewish Agency, 1951–66 A1838, 175/2/7****Israel – Political Parties – General – Zionists, 1955–69 A1838, 175/2/2/8****Israel – Jewish Agency, 1952–58 A1838, 1539/5****Israel – relations with Australia. World Zionist Organisation – representation in  
Australia (30), 1974 A1838, 175/10/14****Israel. Political – General (Zionist Council and Jewish Agency), 1949–50  
A1838, 175/2****Israel Jewish State, 1949–53 A1838, 851/12/3, part 3****Israel Jewish State (2cm folios), 1953 A1838, 851/12/3 part 4****Israel – Relations with Australia – Representatives from private individuals  
and organisations in Australia – Jews in Arab lands (215 pages), 1971–87  
A1838, 175/10/8 PART 2**

# Appendixes

## Appendix 1 Other sources of Jewish records in Australia

As this guide indicates, a substantial number of official Government records dealing with multiple aspects of the Australian Jewish experience are located in the collections of the National Archives of Australia, in the ACT Central office and state branches. For researchers who may wish to inquire further into the history of the Jews in Australia, there are several other valuable repositories of records. A number of synagogues (notably Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne) maintain their own archives, while (more generally) extensive and wide-ranging material is held by each of the following bodies:

### **Australian Jewish Historical Society Inc.**

Mandelbaum House  
385 Abercrombie Street  
Darlington NSW 2008

Phone (02) 9518 7596  
Fax (02) 9518 7596 (Hon Archivist: Helen Bersten)

### **Australian Jewish Historical Society, Victoria Inc.**

PO Box 608  
Carnegie VIC 3163

Phone (03) 9563 4737  
Fax (03) 9563 4767 (Hon Archivist: Beverley Davis OAM)

### **Archive of Australian Judaica**

Fisher Library  
University of Sydney, NSW 2006

Phone (02) 9351 4162  
Fax (02) 9351 2890 (Archivist: Marianne Dacy)

In addition to these major archives, there are specific collections of Jewish interest in the State Libraries of NSW and Victoria. These are:

- 'The Percy J Marks Collection of Australian Judaica', held in the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW. Phone (02) 9230 1414. A bequest to the Library, the collection is a miscellany of family papers, books, pamphlets

and periodicals, many of them difficult to obtain elsewhere. Catalogues of the collection are available. ML Ref 1 Q296.6/2A1–2.

- 'Australian Jewish Historical Society Papers' and 'Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies Papers', held in the La Trobe Library, State Library of Victoria. Phone (03) 9669 9923. The papers include boxes of documents from Temple Beth Israel, the personal papers of Rabbi Jacob Danglow, and records of various Jewish organisations. The general reference number for the collection is MS 9352A. Listings are available from La Trobe's manuscript section.

## Appendix 2 Select bibliography

In a recent address to members of the Melbourne Jewish community, the celebrated Australian historian Professor Geoffrey Blainey noted that 'it is a reflection of the intense interest in Jewish history that in the last half century a larger number of general works of substance seems to have been written in Australia about Jews than about Methodists, a denomination which in Australia usually held some 25 times as many adherents'.<sup>88</sup> Certainly original research and scholarship in many areas of Australian Jewish history has exploded in the past two decades or so.

For readers keen to explore the field in depth, there can be no better starting point than the comprehensive *Bibliography of Australian Judaica*, 2nd edition, (Mandelbaum Trust, Sydney, 1991) compiled by Serge Liberman and edited by Laura Gallou. Used in conjunction with Marianne Dacy's *Periodical Publications from the Australian Jewish Community: A Union List* (Archive of Australian Judaica, Sydney, 1986), which lists holdings of all available Australian Jewish serials, the bibliography provides researchers with an exhaustive listing of published material on all aspects of Jewish life in this country, including sections on genealogy, the press, demography, history, Jewish visitors, World Wars I and II, Zionism, and so on. It should be stressed, however, that a substantial body of new material has appeared since the last edition of the bibliography (the *AJHS* alone publishes two book-length editions of its journal every year, for instance), and there seems to be no decline in production.

The listing below is confined to books and articles (no unpublished post-graduate theses have been included), and is a general summary of publications in the area, ranging from general introductory booklets through communal histories to scholarly examinations of specific issues or topics. In selecting titles for inclusion, the emphasis has been on listing works which expand or illuminate the particular themes explored by this guide.

### Andgel, Anne

*Fifty Years of Caring: The History of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society 1936–1986*, Australian Jewish Welfare Society and Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney, 1988

### Apple, Raymond

*Making Australian Society: The Jews*, Nelson, Sydney, 1981

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<sup>88</sup> Geoffrey Blainey, 'Some thoughts on 200 years: the Jews in Australia', in *The Australian Jewish Experience*, p.15.

'Isaacs and Monash: the Jewish connection', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 11, no. 6, 1993

'Francis Lyon Cohen: the passionate patriot', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 12, no. 4, 1995

'The Jewish military chaplaincy in Australia', in H A Freeman (ed.), *A Portion of Praise: A Festschrift to Honour John S. Levi*, Progressive Jewish Cultural Fund, Melbourne, 1997

### **Aron, Joseph and Arndt, Judy**

*The Enduring Remnant: The First 150 Years of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation 1841–1991*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1992

*The Australian Jewish Experience: A Colloquium: Papers Presented on 26 August 1997 to Honour Rabbi Dr John S Levi*, Australian Jewish Historical Society (Victoria), Melbourne, 1998

### **Bartrop, Paul**

"Good Jews" and "bad Jews": Australian perceptions of Jewish migrants and refugees 1919–1939', in W D Rubinstein, (ed.), *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1987

'Enemy aliens or stateless persons? The legal status of refugees from Germany in wartime Australia', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 10, no. 4, 1988

'The Australian Government's "liberalisation" of refugee immigration policy in 1938: fact or myth', *Menorah*, vol. 2, no. 1, 1988

"Not a problem for Australia": the *Kristallnacht* viewed from the Commonwealth, November 1938', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 10, no. 6, 1989

'The *Dunera* affair: a scandal for whom?', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 11, no. 1, 1990

'The "Jewish race" clause in Australian immigration forms', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 11, no. 1, 1990

*Australia and the Holocaust 1933–1945*, Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne, 1994

'Britain's colonial empire and Jewish refugees during the Holocaust: the limits of rescue reached', *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, vol. 8, no. 2, 1994

**Bartrop, Paul and Eisen, Gabrielle (eds)**

*The Dunera Affair: A Documentary Resource Book*, Jewish Museum of Australia and Schwartz & Wilkinson, Melbourne, 1990

**Benjamin, David**

'The first century of Australian Jewry – an appraisal', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 5, no. 3, 1960

'Australia and the Evian Conference', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 5, no. 5, 1961

**Benjamin, Rodney**

*'A Serious Influx of Jews': A History of Jewish Welfare in Victoria*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1998

**Bersten, Helen**

*Jewish Sydney: The First Hundred Years 1788–1888*, Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney, 1995

'Jews in rural New South Wales', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 13, no. 4, 1997

**Blakeney, Michael**

*Australia and the Jewish Refugees 1933–1948*, Croom Helm, Sydney, 1985

**Boas, Harold and Hyman, A W**

'The Australian Jews in the Great War 1914–1918', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 1, no. 4, 1940

**Crown, Alan**

'The initiatives and influences in the development of Australian Zionism 1850–1948', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 8, no. 6, 1979

**Davis, Beverley and Cohen, Harvey**

'The Jewish genealogical records of Australia and New Zealand', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 11, no. 1, 1990

**Davis, Beverley**

'Alien Registrations in Western Australia during World War One', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 14, no. 3, 1998



**Elazar, Daniel and Medding, P Y**

*Jewish Communities in Frontier Societies – Argentina, Australia and South Africa*, Holmes & Meier, New York, 1985

**Encel, Sol**

'Antisemitism and prejudice in Australia', *Without Prejudice*, vol. 1, 1990

'The Australian Jewish population: How many are we?', in *Guide to Jewish Life in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific*, Australian Jewish Press, Melbourne, 1993

**Evatt, H V**

'Australia's part in the creation of Israel', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 5, no. 4, 1960

**Fabian, Alfred**

'The Jewish chaplaincy in Australia', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 6, no. 6, 1969

**Falk, Barbara**

*No Other Home: An Anglo-Jewish Story 1833–1987*, Penguin, Ringwood, 1988

**Fixel, Hedi**

*Hobart Hebrew Congregation: 150 Years of Survival Against All Odds*, Hobart Hebrew Congregation, Hobart, 1995

**Foster, John (ed.)**

*Community of Fate: Memoirs of German Jews in Melbourne*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1986

**Gettler, Leon**

*An Unpromised Land*, Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, 1993

**Goldman, L M**

'The history of Hobart Jewry', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 3, no. 5, 1951

*The Jews in Victoria in the 19th Century*, self-published, Melbourne, 1954

**Gouttman, Rodney**

'First principles: HV Evatt and the Jewish homeland', in W D Rubinstein (ed.), *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1987

'The Communist Party of Australia and "the Jewish problem" 1933–1953', *Menorah*, vol. 2, no. 2, 1988

'Jerusalem from the Antipodes: a political view 1947–1967', *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, vol. 6, no. 2, 1992

**Kwiet, Konrad**

'Responses of Australian Jewry's leadership to the Holocaust', in Rubinstein, WD (ed.), *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1987

**Lee, Godfrey S**

'Rescue or rhetoric? Australian Jewry's reactions during the Holocaust', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 10, no. 4, 1988

**Levi, J S and Bergman, G F J**

*Australian Genesis: Jewish Convicts and Settlers 1788 – 1850*, Rigby, Sydney, 1974

**Levi, J S**

*The Forefathers: A Dictionary of Biography of the Jews in Australia 1788 – 1830*, Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney, 1976

'Two hundred years: a Jewish perspective', in J Langley (ed.), *Australia and New Zealand Jewish Yearbook 1988*, B'nai Brith, Melbourne, 1987

*Rabbi Jacob Danglow: The Uncrowned Monarch of Australian Jews*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1995

**Maclean, Pam**

'Jewish migration in the twenties: a Jewish pioneering tradition in Australia', *Meanjin Quarterly*, vol. 42, no. 1, 1983

**Marks, Percy J**

'The Jewish press in Australia', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 1, no. 9, 1943

**Medding, Peter Y**

*From Assimilation to Group Survival: A Political and Sociological Study of an Australian Jewish Community*, Cheshire, Melbourne, 1968

**Mendes, Philip**

'Jewish involvement in the Communist Party of Australia', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 12, no. 3, 1994

**Mossenson, David and Hoffman, Louise**

*Hebrew, Israelite, Jew: The Jews of Western Australia*, University of Western Australia, Perth, 1990

**Munz, Hirsch**

*The Jews in South Australia*, Hebrew Congregation, Adelaide, 1936

**Ochert, Morris S**

'A history of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation 1865–1965', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 9, no. 6, 1984 and vol. 9, no. 7, 1984

**Palmer, Glen**

*Reluctant Refuge: Unaccompanied Refugee and Evacuee Children in Australia 1933–1945*, Kangaroo Press, Sydney, 1997

**Patkin, Benzion**

*The Dunera Internees*, Cassell, Sydney, 1979

**Pearl, Cyril**

*The Dunera Scandal: Deported by Mistake*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1983

**Piggott, Leanne**

'Lord Casey and the 1939 White Paper: how an Australian British minister of state fought to keep the Jews out of Palestine', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 14, no. 2, 1998

**Porush, Israel**

*The House of Israel: A Study of Sydney Jewry from its Foundation (1788) and a History of the Great Synagogue of Sydney*, Hawthorn, Melbourne, 1977

'The Australian rabbinate in 200 years of Jewish history', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 10, no. 5, 1989

**Price, Charles A**

*Jewish Settlers in Australia*, ANU Press, Canberra, 1964

**Pynt, Gerald (ed.)**

*Australian Jewry's Book of Honour. World War II*, Australian Federation of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, Adelaide, 1972

**Rubinstein, Hilary L**

'Zionism and Australian spiritual leaders 1896–1950', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 9, no. 5, 1983

'Australian Jewish reactions to Russian Jewish distress', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 9, no. 6, 1984

*The Jews in Victoria 1835–1985*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1986

*Chosen: The Jews in Australia*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1987

'From Jewish non-distinctiveness to group invisibility: Australian Jewish identity and responses, 1830–1950', in W D Rubinstein (ed.), *Jews in the Sixth Continent*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1987

'Australian Jewish parliamentarians, 1849–present: a complete listing', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 10, no. 4, 1988

'Critchley Parker (1911–42): Australian martyr for Jewish refugees', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 11, no. 1, 1990

**Rubinstein, Hilary L and W D**

*The Jews in Australia: A Thematic History from 1788 to the Present*, 2 vols, Heinemann, Melbourne, 1991

**Rubinstein, W D**

'The politics of antisemitism: the Australian experience', in Serge Liberman (ed.), *Antisemitism and Human Rights: Proceedings of a Seminar held at the Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne, Australia, on 10–11th June, 1984, under the auspices of the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs and the History Department, University of Melbourne*, Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, Melbourne, 1985

*The Jews in Australia*, A E Press, Melbourne, 1986

*The Jews of Australia: An Introduction*, Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, Melbourne, 1987

'Jewish contribution to Australian elites', in James Jupp (ed.), *The Australian People: an Encyclopaedia of the Nation, its People and their Origins*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1988

'Australia and the refugee Jews of Europe 1933–1954: a dissenting view', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 10, no. 6, 1989

'The attitude of the Australian Jewish community and of non-Jewish opinion leaders to the rise of Nazi Germany and Nazi antisemitism in 1933', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 12, no. 1, 1993

*Judaism in Australia* [Religious Community Profiles], AGPS, Canberra, 1995

**Rubinstein, W D (ed.)**

*Jews in the Sixth Continent*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1987

**Rutland, Suzanne D**

'A changing community – the impact of the refugees on Australian Jewry: NSW – a case-study', *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, vol. 31, no. 1, 1985

'Australian responses to Jewish refugee migration before and after World War II', *Australian Journal of Politics & History*, vol. 31, no. 1, 1985

'"Are you Jewish?": post-war Jewish immigration to Australia, 1945–1954', *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, vol. 5, no. 2, 1991

*Edge of the Diaspora: Two Centuries of Jewish Settlement in Australia*, 2nd ed., Brandl & Schlesinger, Sydney, 1997

**Rutland, Suzanne D and Caplan, Sophie**

*With One Voice: A History of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies*, Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney, 1998

**Sachar, Howard Morley**

*Diaspora: An Inquiry into the Contemporary Jewish World*, New York, Harper & Row, 1985

**Stedman, Solomon**

'The Jewish press in Australia', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 6, no. 1, 1964

**Steinberg, I N**

*Australia – The Unpromised Land*, Gollancz, London, 1948

**Turnbull, Malcolm J**

'Solomon Joseph and the *Australian Israelite*', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 11, no. 3, 1991

'Two pioneers of Australian Jewish historiography: Alfred Newton Super and Hirsch Munz', *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol. 13, no. 3, 1996

**Zuesse, Evan**

'From assimilation to affirmation: the Jews in Australia', in Norman C Habel (ed.), *Religion and Multi-culturalism in Australia*, AASR, Adelaide, 1992

## Appendix 3 Jewish research sites on the Internet

The following websites may be useful for research into Australian Jewish history, including Jewish Australian family history:

### Jewish Genealogy in Australia

This site provides links to Australian archives and information about local research. It also gives references and links for UK and international Jewish research.

### Australian Jewish Genealogical Society

This site provides meeting times, access to the library catalogue, and Kosher Koala journal indexes.

### Australian Jewish Historical Society

This site provides information on the Society's holdings, and links to other Australian Jewish centres.

### Archives of Australian Judaica

This site provides access to a catalogue and general information.

## Appendix 4 Guides to the collection

The National Archives of Australia creates and maintains guides to records in its collection to help researchers identify and locate records relevant to their research. These guides are available on the [National Archives' website](#).



## Appendix 5    Addresses and hours of opening

For contact details of the National Archives of Australia, see the National Archives of Australia [contact us page](#).