

J S Battye Library of West Australian History
Private Archives – Collection Listing

MN 545

Acc. 2389A, 3152A, 3338A, 5816A, 6185A, 6686A.

FORREST RIVER MISSION

The Anglican Forrest River Mission for Aborigines was founded in 1896 or 7 by Harold Hale but was abandoned after only a few months. A more permanent mission was established on the site in 1913. Rev ER Gribble took charge of the Mission in December 1913 and remained until the early 1930s. The Mission finally closed in 1969.

The Papers

The papers were deposited with the Battye Library by Rev David McDougall in October 1974 (2389A), by Father Ted Doncaster in September 1985 (3152A), July 2002 (ACC 5816A) and May 2006 (6686A) and by State Library of SA on 28 April 2005 (ACC 6185A)

Papers were also deposited by Mrs Sue Shields (via Mr Neville Green) in September 1982. The papers were written by Mrs Shields' aunt Miss Lizbeth Richards (3338A).

Holdings = 1.64m

Access

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ATTENDANCE REGISTERS
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES
DIARIES
FILES
LEGAL PAPERS
LETTERBOOKS

LETTERS
NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
REPORTS
SPEECHES

		ATTENDANCE REGISTERS	
2389A/84		November 1954 – August 1956	

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		<p>First column headed "Village People". Lists name possibly of head of household? Daily tally, possibly number of family members at the Mission on a particular day. Final column headed "Remarks", stating arrivals and departures of individuals, which corresponds to the daily tally figures</p>	
		BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES	
5816A/17		Biographical details of all inhabitants of the Forrest River Mission as at 11 September 1947	
		DIARIES	
2389A/1	M/FILM	June 1911 – January 1912 Superintendents' Diaries (believed written by Rev Gribble (Gosford NSW))	
2389A/2	M/FILM	November 1917 – May 1918 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/3	M/FILM	January 1917 – June 1919 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/4	M/FILM	May 1919 – August 1921 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/5	M/FILM	November 1921 – February 1922 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/6	M/FILM	May 1923 – August 1923 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/7	M/FILM	August 1923 – December 1923 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/8	M/FILM	December 1923 – April 1924 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/9	M/FILM	April 1924 – September 1924 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/10	M/FILM	September 1924 – March 1925 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/11	M/FILM	March 1925 – August 1925 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/12	M/FILM	August 1925 – December 1925 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/13	M/FILM	December 1925 – March 1926 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/14	M/FILM	January 1927 – August 1927 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/14a	M/FILM	August 1927 – April 1928 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/15	M/FILM	November 1927 – December 1928 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/16		January 1930 – March 1930 Superintendents' Diaries	

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2389A/17		March 1930 – December 1930 January 1931 – March 1931 Superintendents' Diaries with list of bullock kills	
2389A/18		February 1931 – November 1931 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/19		April 1933 – December 1933 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/20		January 1934 – December 1934 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/21		January 1935 – May 1935 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/22		May 1935 – December 1935 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/23		January 1936 – December 1936 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/24		January 1937 – December 1937 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/25		April and May (1939?) Superintendents' Diaries includes stock camp routes, 1939	
2389A/26		January 1940 – September 1940 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/27		October 1940 – January 1941 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/28		January 1942 – December 1942 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/29		January 1943 – March 1943 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/30		March 1943 – March 1943 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/31		March 1944 – April 1945 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/32		April 1945 – July 1946 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/33		January 1948 – September 1949 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/34		October 1949 – December 1950 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/99		January 1951 – December 1953 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/35		January 1954 – September 1955 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/36		October 1955 – December 1955 Superintendents' Diaries	
2389A/37		January 1960 – December 1961 Superintendents' Diaries	
		FILES	

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2389A/50		1951-1957 Correspondence Files. Superintendent's correspondence	
2389A/51		1963-1964 Superintendent's Correspondence	
2389A/52		1967 Superintendent's Correspondence	
2389A/53		1967 Superintendent's Correspondence	
2389A/54		1956-1958 Outward correspondence, mostly to the Forrest River Mission Committee, Perth	
2389A/55		Inward correspondence mostly from the Forrest River Mission Committee, Perth 1957 – 1959	
2389A/56		1947-1954 Correspondence with the Department of Native Affairs	
2389A/57		1956-1958 Correspondence with the Department of Native Welfare	
2389A/58		1955-1958 Correspondence with Police, Wyndham	
2389A/59		1939-1960 Correspondence with the Royal Australian Navy	
2389A/60		1933-1957 Letters of registration. Letters stating conditions of employment	
2389A/61		1964-1964 Financial statements and reports to the Archbishop of Perth	
2389A/62		1955-1957 Correspondence with the Australian Board of Missions	
2389A/63		1950-1957 File labelled school, also includes health matters	
2389A/64		1961-1964 Correspondence relating to Health	
2389A/65		1951-1957 Correspondence relating to stock	
2389A/66		1934-1958 Correspondence relating to air services	
2389A/67		Native Welfare Department circulars	
2389A/68		1950-1956 Correspondence with RJ Davies Pty Ltd, Building Contractors	
2389A/69		1961-1964 Correspondence with Peerless Roller Flour Mills Pty Ltd	

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2389A/70		1961-1964 Correspondence with ANI Perkins	
2389A/71		1961-1964 Correspondence with Master Butchers Co-Operative Ltd	
2389A/72		1961-1965 Correspondence relating to films – projection and equipment	
2389A/73		1962-1964 Correspondence with JR Manton & Co Pty Ltd	
2389A/74		Miscellaneous correspondence	
2389A/75		1949-1956 Subsidy claims (for persons at the Mission)	
2389A/76		1957-1959 Subsidy claims	
2389A/77		1950-1954 Endowments returns	
2389A/78		1957-1958 Discharge forms	
2389A/79		1961-1964 Admissions and discharge	
2389A/80		1967-1968 Correspondence concerning pensions	
2389A/81		1915 Forrest River Mission Court	
2389A/82		1920-1928 Marriages and baptisms (?)	
2389A/83		1938-1939 Births, deaths, hospital patients	
2389A/85		1919-1932 Stock book	
2389A/86		1917-1921 Register of stock	
2389A/87		1941-1955 Register of stock	
2389A/88		1967 Stock camp costing ledger	
2389A/89		1938-1944 Ledger	
2389A/90		1948-1951 Issue of blankets and clothing etc	
2389A/91		Accounts of individuals	
2389A/92		1939-1948 Local sales and rations book	
2389A/93		1956 Launch log book	

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2389A/94		1966-1967 Launch register	
2389A/95		1961-1962 Equipment log book	
2389A/96		Order forms	
2389A/97		Registration cards	
2389A/98		Various plans for school buildings	
		LEGAL PAPERS	
5816A/1		Willful Murder, Brief for the Prosecution	
		LETTERBOOKS	
2389A/38		1939-1941	
2389A/38a		1941 – 1942 (to Government Departments)	
2389A/39		1942-1943	
2389A/40		1942-1943 (miscellaneous)	
2389A/41		1948	
2389A/42		1948 Letters to Sydney Office	
2389A/43		February 1956 – June 1958	
2389A/44		June – November 1958	
2389A/45		March – August 1959	
2389A/46		August 1959 – February 1960	
2389A/47		1956 – 1957 Incoming telegrams 1956-1957 (Outgoing telegrams at back)	
2389A/48		1954-1956 Outgoing telegrams 1954-1956 (Incoming telegrams at back)	
2389A/49		1942-1945 Conversation Book	

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- 3338A/64
- LETTERS
- Folios written by Miss Lizbeth Richards to her relatives in Geraldton, Mullewa, Nannine and Kalgoorlie while she was working at the mission between April and October 1936. photocopy
- Miss Richards came from Mullewa where the then Superintendent of the Mission, Mr Dixon, had previously been Rector. The Bishop of the North-West had arranged for Miss Richards to work at the mission on a temporary basis.
- The folios include the following:
- 1-5 To Father and brother Jim at Mullewa written on board MV Koolinda and at Wyndham; 3 & 4 April 1936. Met Mrs Stephens (Darwin), Mrs Durack and Mrs Cross on board. Mission launch broken down. Stayed in hospital as hotel full with recently arrived meat workers. Mrs Thompson from mission having baby in hospital. Mission head stockman Mr Lacy arranged for Miss Richards to fly to mission.
- 6-17 and 18-22 - transcript of part of original letter which was for circulation to father, sister and brothers, 8-11 April 1936
- 20 minute plane flight to Mission. Arrival and daily routine. Writing to Spanish fathers at Drysdale Mission for stamps for nephew. Describes quarters (formerly Sister May's room). Mr Dixon going to Wyndham with Mrs Dixon who is ill and then on to Nulla Nulla. Vegetables and salads arrive by launch. Mr and Mrs Thompson return. photocopy
- 23-25. To sister Mrs Clar Boddington, Geraldton, 3 June 1936. "Mr D is sending a runner in the morning"...
- Mosquitoes are terrible they bite my hip right through my suspender belt and all" photocopy
- Family news;
- father going to brother at Nannine (?)
- 26-30. To nephew Freddie Boddington, Geraldton. 10 July 1936. Takes the girls' clothes – washing party twice a week to Bremla Pool a 3-mile walk there and back as no other water available. Has to wade across river first. Miss Violet Cochrane arrived after 24-hour launch journey. Mr Dixon ill – colitis?
- Bishop says Mr Dixon to be relieved because of ill health – may return on October boat. Doctor flew out to see him - enteric fever or food poisoning? photocopy

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- 31-34. To Father at Nannine (?) 28 July 1936
Experience teaching. Previous teacher Sister May
“used to beat children. She was cruel. Mr Dixon
asked the ABM to shift her.” Mr Dixon ill in bed for
10 days with dengue fever. Mrs Dixon down with
flu for 1 week. Bishop there for fortnight. Miss
Richards makes own bread and prepares “all our
staff food”. Mr Davis (Government Doctor for
aborigines) stayed for 5 days looking mostly at
leprosy and VD. “One native sent away”.
Meatworks closed a month earlier than usual due
to dry season (not cattle numbers)
Mr and Mrs Thompson leaving on holiday next
boat. Father now prospecting. photocopy
- 35-40. To brother Jim, Mullewa. 1 August 1936. photocopy
Affairs at Mullewa. Bishop worried about things at
Mission generally. Little illness in summer; “but
when there is a cold snap on top of the heat
(June) people at Mission get “flu and fever”
- 41-42. To sister Clar, Geraldton. 5 August 1936. photocopy
On Mission holiday went with children to Camera
Pool, a 5-mile walk each way along very rocky or
non-existent path. Wonderful cliffs with drawings
on of crocodiles and “funny looking men”. Boys
caught 30 lb fish in river
- 47-51. To aunt Nan. 30 August 1936 photocopy
Arrival of Sister Cochrane from Victoria. Mission
50 miles from Wyndham, no road, surrounded by
very rough steep hills.
Captain of mission launch Mr Haywood whose
“mother is Lady Mitchells’ sister.”
- 52-53. To sister Clar 6 September 1936.
Dixon leaving on next boat to go to Wiluna. Police Photocopy
gone to Deepdale and would be back in October.
Constable Napier “going down on next boat to get
married”.
- 54-59. Descriptions by Miss Richards of her arrival photocopy
at Mission and “Washing Day on Forrest River
Mission”
- 60-64. James H Boddington, Class VI, Geraldton,
Hymn written at school
- 5816A/2 n.d.
- 5816A/3 Letter from Geo Johnson to the Bishop
- 5816A/4 Letter from Ivy to the Bishop
22 March 1929
Letter from the Australian Board of Missions to
Rev. Canon Frewer
- 5816A/5 22 October 1929
Letter from Daffodil to the Bishop

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5816A/6		23 October 1929	
		Letter from Wilfred to the Bishop	
5816A/7		25 October 1929	
		Letter from Elsie to the Bishop	
5816A/8		6 July 1931	
		Letter from Stella to the Bishop	
5816A/9		Letter from Lily to the Bishop	
5816A/10		15 December 1931	
		Letter from the Church Office to Johnson	Incomplete
5816A/11		30 July 1932	
		Letter from Gerald Brisbane to the Archbishop	
5816A/12		20 October 1932	
		Letter from James Noble to the Bishop	
5816A/13		24 October 1932	
		Letter from A.S. Speer to the Rev Father	
5816A/14		1 March 1933	
		Letter from the Church Office to the Bishop	
5816A/15		9 March 1934	
		Letter from Ernest Gribble to Mr. Johnson	
5816A/16		24 July 1944	
		Letter from the Australian Board of Missions to the Bishop	
6686A/1		1968? From Neville Green to Ted Doncaster re Forrest River Mission research.	
NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS			
5816A/18		Newspaper cutting on Aboriginal Welfare	
REPORTS			
3152A	M/FILM	Letter and report dated 4 August 1932 from Harry Smith to Bishop Frewer, written at Forrest River Mission regarding the search for missing German aviators Hans Bertram and Adolph Klausman. Mss 1932, 14 p	
6686A/2		Report of visit and inspection of Forrest River Mission by S H J Best, 15-22 March 1968.	
6185A		1932 Copy of a letter sent to the Bishop of the North West regarding activities of personnel of Forrest River Mission during the search for the two lost German aviators Hans Bertram and Adolf Klausman, May-July 1932. Note that there are variations in the wording compared to the original.	Typescript
SPEECHES			
6686A/3		Ceremonial speech for the commissioning of Douglas Bayne Will as Superintendent of Forrest River Mission 5 March 1961.	

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5 May 2006