

Transferred to Featherston Camp

Somes and Motuihi Islands were needed as quarantine camps for returning soldiers. To facilitate this early in the morning, 14 December 1918, Albert, along with all Somes Island internees, moved to Featherston Internment Camp for anticipated departure to Germany. They were taken aboard the steamer *Duchess*, landed at Petone's wharf and marched to the railroad station. They were taken by train to Featherston and quartered in huts behind a barbed wire enclosure. During the ensuing months they planted a vegetable garden and fell into a bored routine.

Albert was still denied full mail privileges and sent 'capture cards' rather than letters. A visitor to the camp commented at the facility the internees to obtain articles which the British people find it virtually impossible to buy including whisky, eggs and fresh fruit. Albert was there for five months.

Free at Last!

Albert departed New Zealand on 14 May 1919, on the HMNZT troopship *Willochra* which was still in camouflage from her wartime duty. Four wives and their children followed their internee husbands aboard. During the voyage the internees made a still from an old oil drum and used potato peelings to make alcohol. It was found and confiscated by Major Issacson, and it is now on display at the Australian War Memorial along with the ensign von Luckner used when attacking merchant ships.

The ship picked up additional internees at Sydney, proceeded to Plymouth, and arrived at Rotterdam on 18 July 1919, where the internees disembarked. After 1802 days of captivity Albert was free – free to make his way home to Hamburg and his beloved Emmchen.

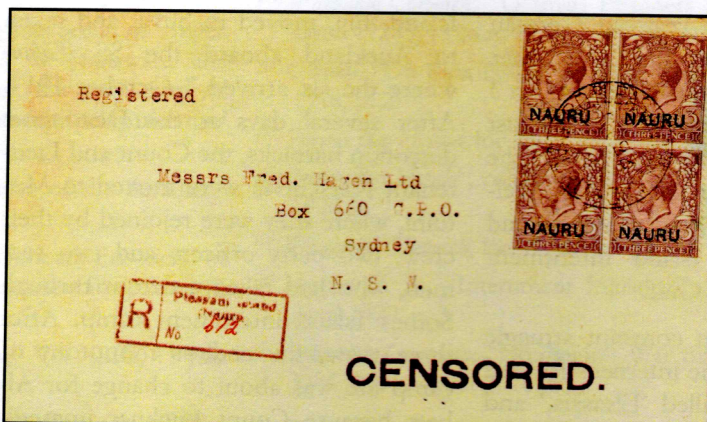
End Notes

Motuihi Island is also spelled Motuihe.

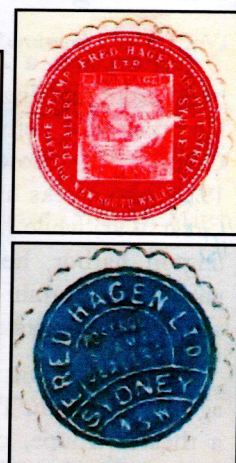
An interesting book on Count von Luckner is *Sea Devil: Count von Luckner in NZ and Pacific* by James Bade (Wellington: Steele Roberts, 2006) readily available. SAS/O

Fred Hagan, Early Philatelic Entrepreneur

Prabir Datta



(Above) 1917 Cover to Fred Hagen

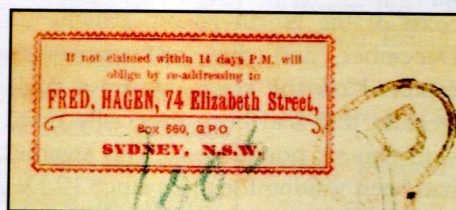


(Above Right) Hagan Advertising Labels

Recently I came across a Nauru Registered and censored cover addressed to Messrs Fred Hagen Ltd., Sydney, NSW posted from Nauru on 23 August 1917 shown above. It was backstamped Sydney, NSW 8 September 1917. The interesting feature of this cover is that it is addressed to Fred Hagen Ltd. Fred Hagen (1860 – 1935) was one of the Australia's leading philatelic traders and the publisher of the *Australian Philatelist*.

Hagen was a pioneer dealer, commencing his professional philatelic career in 1871. In 1891, he was admitted as partner in D. A. Vindin & Co, another early Australian philatelic trader.

The trading name was later changed to Fred Hagen Limited when he took over the business. In 1913 he produced First Day and early Sydney usage covers for the Kangaroo stamps. Later on Fred Hagen Ltd became Australasian Agent for Stanley Gibbons Ltd.



Above is an 1897 advertising corner card for Fred Hagen at 74 Elizabeth Street, Box 660 GPO. This same style had been used by D. A. Vindin & Co.

Hagen's advertisements can also be seen on back cover of *The Philatelic Society, New Zealand 1912 Annual Report*. Note the heading "Established 40 years," and "We hold the largest stock of stamps in Australasia" (below).



Fred Hagen covers are usually seen with a large red or blue advertising label on the back with POSTAGE STAMP/ DEALER/ FRED HAGEN LTD/ SYDNEY/ NEW SOUTH WALES around the four sides of the central square. Other covers bear a simpler blue label with FRED HAGEN LTD/ POSTAGE STAMP DEALERS/ SYDNEY/ NSW (above right).

Comments are welcome by the author at prabirdattaus@yahoo.com. SAS/O