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Shipping during World War II

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File 202 notes

Shipping during World War II

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23rd May, 1946.

Captain R. S. Lewis,
Marine Superintendent,
Shaw Savill & Albion Co. Ltd.,
AUCKLAND. C. I.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your recent telephone enquiry the enclosed memorandum gives a brief summary of the shipping and trade returns at Auckland during the war period and some comments thereon.

I trust this is what you require, but if we can be of further assistance, I shall be glad to augment it in whatever direction you think desirable.

Yours faithfully,

DH: EERB.

SUPERINTENDENT.

to complete its discharge and loading at one port.

3. Increasing number of foreign (mainly U.S.A.) vessels arriving, reaching a peak in the year ended 30th September, 1943.
 4. Number of warships arriving.
 5. Number of Flying Boats arriving.
 6. Volume of goods handled reaching peak during year ended 30th September, 1944.
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PORT OF AUCKLAND DURING THE
WAR 1939 - 1945.

As in 1914-1918, during the early stages of the war the concentration of available shipping on the movements of troops and supplies in the war zone led to an appreciable diminution in volume of shipping and tonnage of goods passing through the Port of Auckland.

This feature was less marked in Auckland and Wellington than in other Dominion ports due to the action of the Ministry of War Transport in concentrating shipping in the main ports, transshipping cargo destined for other countries and thereby eliminating as far as possible the wasteful but established custom of overseas vessels visiting a number of ports to discharge and pick up part cargoes only.

With the outbreak of war in the Pacific in December 1941 and the entry of the United States of America on the side of the United Nations the situation was rapidly changed. Unaware of where the Japanese drive to the South East could be stemmed, Auckland was selected as the Naval and Supply base for the U.S. Forces and early in 1942 Officers of both land and sea forces arrived in Auckland to establish depots and make necessary arrangements.

The first U. S. Transport S. S. "Uruguay" of 22,754 tons arrived with troops on 3rd April 1942 and thereafter in quick succession followed supply ships, transports and warships.

Preferential berthage was allotted for both transports and supply ships, and also for repair and overhaul of war ships. Not only was the berthage so allotted fully and continuously occupied until the cessation of hostilities, but berthage at other wharves was provided as required for vessels unable to be accommodated at the berths reserved for the U. S. Forces.

The attached statistical records give an indication of the shipping and trade movements during the war period. Points of interest disclosed by these records may be noted as under:-

1. Reduction in coastal shipping.
Many of the vessels included in this category are small ships of which a considerable number were requisitioned for war purposes and sent overseas.
 2. Heavy reduction in British overseas shipping.
It must be realized, however, that in the pre-war period many overseas vessels visited Auckland twice on one round trip, whereas subsequently it was customary for each vessel to complete its discharge and loading at one port.
 3. Increasing number of foreign (mainly U.S.A.) vessels arriving, reaching a peak in the year ended 30th September, 1943.
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VESSELS ARRIVING AT THE PORT OF AUCKLAND.

1. MERCHANT VESSELS INCLUDING WAR SUPPLY VESSELS.

Year 1st Oct - 30th Sept.	NO. OF VESSELS.			TONS, GROSS.			TONS, NET.		
	N.Z. Coastal	OVERSEAS British	Foreign (including U.S.A.)	N.Z.	OVERSEAS British	Foreign (including U.S.A.)	N.Z.	OVERSEAS British	Foreign (including U.S.A.)
1938 - 1939	5,933	421	86	971,251	3,442,503	973,147	507,009	2,206,912	590,812
1939 - 1940	5,540	351	85	920,567	2,817,532	966,822	477,912	1,791,813	582,946
1940 - 1941	5,046	238	100	947,969	1,762,747	1,026,274	489,515	1,149,104	624,117
1941 - 1942	4,611	225	129	833,685	1,550,901	1,085,955	434,895	990,704	672,378
1942 - 1943	3,602	164	364	788,420	1,010,725	2,656,085	409,717	647,272	1,605,457
1943 - 1944	3,625	188	301	750,908	1,107,786	1,945,572	390,514	702,674	1,200,858
1944 - 1945.	3,564	166	202	707,591	1,062,251	1,008,716	368,341	672,680	607,575

2. WARSHIPS AND GOVERNMENT VESSELS.

Year 1st Oct - 30th Sept.	NO. OF VESSELS.		TONS, GROSS.		TONS, NET.	
	British	Foreign (including U.S.A.)	British	Foreign (including U.S.A.)	British	Foreign (including U.S.A.)
1938 - 1939	43	2	136,937	3,502	127,109	3,502
1939 - 1940	49	1	330,181	2,002	271,513	2,002
1940 - 1941	64	6	440,778	25,140	319,217	25,140
1941 - 1942	83	40	609,266	91,651	389,840	84,608
1942 - 1943	42	104	203,146	94,485	128,187	79,628
1943 - 1944	15	55	25,432	28,436	18,284	23,072
1944 - 1945	46	68	141,962	30,375	134,289	22,187

VESSELS ARRIVING AT THE PORT OF AUCKLAND (CONTINUED).

3. FLYING BOATS.

YEAR. 1st Oct. - 30th Sept.	NO. OF BOATS.		T O N S.	
	British	Foreign (including U.S.A.)	British	Foreign. (including U.S.A.)
1938 - 1939	2	1	42	41
1939 - 1940	39	8	819	328
1940 - 1941	81	26	1,701	1,066
1941 - 1942	81	44	1,701	712
1942 - 1943	78	91	1,638	1,557
1943 - 1944	117	160	2,457	2,817
1944 - 1945	225	23	4,768	416

TRADE OF THE PORT OF AUCKLAND.

1. NEW ZEALAND AND OVERSEAS.

Year. 1st Oct. - 30th Sept.	<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>		<u>OVERSEAS.</u>		<u>TOTALS.</u>		<u>TOTAL.</u>
	<u>Import</u>	<u>Export</u>	<u>Import</u>	<u>Export</u>	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Overseas</u>	
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
1938 - 1939	606,926	272,681	1,175,580	241,616	879,607	1,417,196	2,296,803
1939 - 1940	644,292	273,522	1,046,795	281,892	917,814	1,328,687	2,246,501
1940 - 1941	710,021	266,633	888,537	301,386	976,654	1,189,923	2,166,577
1941 - 1942	682,693	257,757	887,958	343,424	940,450	1,231,382	2,171,832
1942 - 1943	693,641	238,683	1,276,935	770,447	932,324	2,047,382	2,979,706
1943 - 1944	668,719	247,742	1,431,800	925,727	916,461	2,357,527	3,273,988
1944 - 1945	693,614	239,928	841,697	688,556	933,542	1,530,253	2,463,795

2. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Year. 1st Oct. - 30th Sept.	<u>IMPORTS.</u>		<u>EXPORTS.</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Overseas</u>	<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>Overseas</u>	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>	
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
1938 - 1939	606,926	1,175,580	272,681	241,616	1,782,506	514,297	2,296,803
1939 - 1940	644,292	1,046,795	273,522	281,892	1,691,087	555,414	2,246,501
1940 - 1941	710,021	888,537	266,633	301,386	1,598,558	568,019	2,166,577
1941 - 1942	682,693	887,958	257,757	343,424	1,570,651	601,181	2,171,832
1942 - 1943	693,641	1,276,935	238,683	770,447	1,970,576	1,009,130	2,979,706
1943 - 1944	668,719	1,431,800	247,742	925,727	2,100,519	1,173,469	3,273,988
1944 - 1945	693,614	841,697	239,928	688,556	1,535,311	928,484	2,463,795

