

Basic Detail Report

ANMS1099

Title

Collection of papers from 1891-1917 relating to Frederick Heggen, a Balmain-based merchant seaman, ferry driver and Cockatoo Island painter and docker

Date

1891-1917

Medium

Ink on paper

Name

Archive series

History

Frederick Heggen was a merchant seaman, ferry driver and Cockatoo Island painter and docker, born in Castletown, Islandmagee, County Antrim, Ireland in 1873. He emigrated to Brisbane, Australia in 1885 and died in Sydney in 1964, living in the Sydney suburbs of Balmain and Lilyfield. Heggen worked at Cockatoo Island until 1948 when he was 75 years old. According to family history, Heggen went to sea in 1891 as an Able Seaman on the barque KOSCIUSKO from Sydney to Gothenberg, Sweden. He mainly sailed on cargo ships around the world and coastal coal ships. Heggen had a varied, maritime related career, also working on river dredges on the north New South Wales coast, a Wollongong lighthouse and a master on the Balmain ferry. He then worked on Cockatoo Island as a rigger and took vessels on sea trials. His last employment on Cockatoo Island was as a nightwatchman. Discharge certificates and references were important in gaining employment as a merchant seaman.