

A3392

PASSENGER LISTS OF AIRPLANES
DEPARTING FROM HONOLULU, HAWAII,
JANUARY 27, 1942–JULY 1, 1948

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INTRODUCTION

On the 18 rolls of this microfilm publication, A3392, are reproduced passenger lists of airplanes departing from Honolulu, Hawaii, January 27, 1942–July 1, 1948, for U.S. and foreign destinations. Some crew lists are also included. These records are part of the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group (RG) 85.

BACKGROUND

Early records relating to immigration originated in regional customhouses. The U.S. Customs Service conducted its business by designating collection districts. Each district had a headquarters port with a customhouse and a collector of customs, the chief officer of the district. An act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 489) required the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or any of its territories from a foreign country to submit a list of passengers to the collector of customs. The act also required that the collector submit a quarterly report or abstract, consisting of copies of these passenger lists, to the Secretary of State, who was required to submit such information at each session of Congress. After 1874, collectors forwarded only statistical reports to the Treasury Department. The lists themselves were retained by the collector of customs. Customs records were maintained primarily for statistical purposes.

On August 3, 1882, Congress passed the first Federal law regulating immigration (22 Stat. 214–215); the Secretary of the Treasury had general supervision over it between 1882 and 1891. The Office of Superintendent of Immigration in the Department of the Treasury was established under an act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1085), and was later designated a bureau in 1895 with responsibility for administering the alien contract-labor laws. In 1900 administration of the Chinese exclusion laws was added. Initially the Bureau retained the same administrative structure of ports of entry that the Customs Service had used. By the turn of the century, it began to designate its own immigration districts, the numbers and boundaries of which changed over the years. In 1903 the Bureau became part of the Department of Commerce and Labor; its name was changed to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization when functions relating to naturalization were added in 1906. In 1933 the functions were transferred to the Department of Labor and became the responsibility of the newly formed Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Under President Roosevelt's Reorganization Plan V of 1940, the INS was moved to the Department of Justice.

RECORDS DESCRIPTION

These records are arranged chronologically by date of departure from Honolulu. There is occasional minor disarrangement that sometimes results in overlapping date spans between rolls of film, as noted in the Table of Contents.

The passengers were predominantly U.S. citizens, but there were many foreigners as well. Some crew lists are also included. During World War II, most passengers were U.S. military personnel destined for California. Post-war destination airports include those in California, Philippines, China, Australia, and New Zealand. Some airplanes were simply going from Honolulu to California. Other airplanes stopped at Honolulu enroute from California to foreign airports or vice versa.

The passenger lists are recorded on various airline-produced forms as well as Customs Form 7509. The most common forms are described below. Many are carbon copies of an original form; these have a “blurry” look that may be difficult to read.

Customs Form 7509, *Clearance Declaration of Aircraft Commander (Clearance Immigration and Customs)*, includes aircraft identification, commander’s name, date and airport of departure, and date and airport of last U.S. arrival. It also provides the name, age, sex, and citizenship of each passenger. It also gives the date and place of each alien’s last arrival in the U.S.

Airplane passenger lists are recorded on a variety of airline-produced forms. These typically include aircraft identification, date and airport of departure, and date and airport of arrival. Some or all of the following information may be provided about each passenger: name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, citizenship (“nationality”), passport number, ultimate destination (city and state), date and place of last arrival in the U.S., ticket number, weight, baggage weight, and number of pieces of baggage.

Airplane crew lists are recorded on a variety of airline-produced forms. These may include the crew member’s name, rank, citizenship, and passport number.

The records were filmed by the INS on 35mm microfilm in June 1955 and transferred to the National Archives on microfilm. Although some of this film may be difficult to read, it is impossible to correct the situation since the INS destroyed the original records.

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