

N62/51913

PEERSON Harry Peter

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Spouse N 62/51954

St 9138—2 V. C. N. Blight, Government Printer

CROSS-REFERENCE

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

If not delivered within 7 days, return to
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION,
BOX 3914, G.P.O., SYDNEY, N.S.W.

**STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 40(5)
OF THE ARCHIVES ACT 1983**

Series	SP1122/1
Control Symbol	N1962/51913
Item ID	14904350
Title	Peerson, Harry Peter [Dutch migrant born on 5 July 1905 - Immigration NSW office naturalization case file; box 7310]
Decision Maker	A. Robinson
Designation	APS4 Archival Officer
Date	21.05.2024

In accordance with requirements of subsection 8(1) of the *Archives Act 1983* (Cth) (Archives Act), I am a person authorised by the Director-General, pursuant to an Instrument of Delegation, to make a decision in relation to access to the requested item.

Basis for decision

In making my decision, I considered:

- the content of the item requested
- *the relevant provisions of the Archives Act 1983*
- policy and guidelines of National Archives of Australia that relate to the access examination of Commonwealth records
- information provided by Commonwealth agencies which I have relied upon in formulating my decision

Decision

After examining this item I have decided that this item is open with exemption under 33(1)(a) and (d) of the Archives Act for the reasons set out below.

One folio (1) has been exempted from public access.

The findings of facts

Section 33 (1)(a) of the Archives Act provides that:

a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth.

Section 33(1)(d) of the Archives Act provides that:

a record is exempt from public access if it contains information or matter the disclosure of which under this Act would constitute a breach of confidence.

This item contains:

- Details of operational procedures and techniques used by ASIO which may still be relevant today.
- Information or material that could reasonably be expected to disclose, or enable a person to ascertain, the existence or identity of a confidential ASIO source or agent.

Reasons for decision

33(1)(a)

The public disclosure of these procedures and/or techniques, most of which are still in use, and other relevant details could be used by organisations or individuals of national security interest to take counter measures against ASIO security operations. Such action would impair ASIO's capacity to fulfil its statutory responsibilities and would reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security of the Commonwealth.

ASIO guarantees the identity of its sources remains confidential and protected. In order to carry out its statutory responsibilities under the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979, it is necessary for ASIO to rely extensively on confidential sources of information.

There is clearly an established confidential relationship between ASIO and its sources. These sources have indicated that they would not be prepared to continue providing information to ASIO if their role was ever to be publicly revealed at any stage in the future.

Any diminution of ASIO's ability to obtain information from confidential sources would restrict ASIO's capacity to carry out its statutory responsibilities and, as a consequence, cause irreparable damage to the security of Australia.

33(1)(d)

Disclosure of this information could identify past or present ASIO officers or employees or sources. Their identities are understood to only be known by ASIO.

There is a mutual understanding between ASIO and its staff and its sources of information that the anonymity of officers, employees and sources should be protected.

The public disclosure of this information would constitute a breach of confidence.

Review of decision

The National Archives of Australia (the Archives) carefully examines items before deciding to exempt any part of them. As part of that process we may consult with other agencies which have expertise on specific national and international matters.

If you do not agree with the decision, you can formally appeal within 28 days of receiving a decision:

1. by first applying to the Archives for an internal reconsideration of my decision; and
2. if you still do not agree with the decision, you can apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for a review.

For more information please see [What to do if we refuse you access](https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access) (<https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/using-collection/access-records-under-archives-act/what-do-if-we-refuse-you-access>).



NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

DOCUMENT REMOVAL ADVICE

Series number: SP1122/1 **Control symbol:** N1962/51913 **Barcode:** 14904350

1 folio has been removed from this item because it

- ☒ is exempt from public access under section 33(1)(a)(d) of the Archives Act 1983,
- ☐ is vulnerable to loss, or
- ☐ has been referred to another agency for advice, or
- ☐ is not in the open period as defined in the Archives Act 1983.

A copy or expunged copy has been inserted in place of folio/s: No

For further information about the removal of folios from this item, please ask a reference officer.

Removed by: A. Robinson

Position or designation: APS4

Date: 21.05.2024



Australian Government
National Archives of Australia

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