



Today in History

15 February



1882 First shipment of frozen meat leaves NZ

The success of the sailing ship *Dunedin's* first shipment of frozen meat from New Zealand to Britain in 1882 eventually helped to lift the colony out of economic depression. This voyage from Port Chalmers to London paved the way for the trade in frozen meat and dairy products that was to become the cornerstone of New Zealand's 20th-century economy. The production of lamb, butter and cheese would flourish as New Zealand established itself as 'Britain's farmyard'.

The *Dunedin's* voyage was organised by William Soltau Davidson, general manager of the giant New Zealand and Australian Land Company, and the company's local manager, Thomas Brydone. Frozen meat had been successfully shipped to Europe from Argentina and Australia since the mid 1870s, but the voyage from New Zealand was even longer.

Brydone built an export slaughterhouse at Totara Estate, near Oamaru, where 95% of the first cargo originated. The carcasses were transported by horse and cart to Oamaru then by train (in ice boxes) to Port Chalmers, where they were frozen by a steam-powered Bell-Coleman freezing plant installed aboard the *Dunedin*. But after 600 carcasses had been frozen the plant failed, forcing the sale or disposal of the original cargo. Undeterred, Brydone had the plant fixed, and a further 5000 carcasses were frozen aboard the ship over two months.

The *Dunedin* sailed on 15 February. When the vessel became becalmed in the tropics, the crew noticed that the cold air in the hold was not circulating properly. To save his historic cargo, Captain Whitson crawled inside and sawed extra air holes, almost freezing to death in the process. Crew members had to pull him out by a rope attached to his ankles and resuscitate him. When the *Dunedin* arrived in London after three months at sea, all but one carcass was still in superb condition.

Image: Gear Meat Company label (Te Ara)

Internal links

Colonial beachhead - Oamaru Harbour

External links

Totara Estate Carcass Hanging Shed (Historic Places Trust) Totara Estate Granary (Historic Places Trust) Refrigeration (1966 encyclopaedia) Pre-1914 prosperity (1966 encyclopaedia) Meat company labels (Te Ara)



1978 New Zealand beats England in a cricket test for the first time

New Zealand suffered many defeats at the hands of English cricketers before finally winning its first test at Wellington's Basin Reserve in February 1978.

By early 2011 the two countries had met in 94 tests, with England winning 45. New Zealand had won just eight, with the remainder being drawn. Official cricketing contact with England began when the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) sent a team to New Zealand in the 1906-07 season. Founded in 1787, the MCC is a private members' club based at Lord's in London. It was the original governing body of cricket in England, and organised that country's national teams until the 1970s.

Games against the MCC were regarded as unofficial tests, with visits here usually coming at the end of the more important Ashes tours of Australia. A New Zealand team first went to England in 1927. On this visit no tests were played - New Zealand was not considered good enough - and 12 of the 38 games were second-class fixtures. After New Zealand was granted test status in the 1929-30 season, it played England in 19 of its first 22 tests over the following 21 years.

The lowest innings total ever made in a test match is unfortunately New Zealand's record. The 26 runs scored against the 1955 English tourists at Eden Park in Auckland perhaps confirmed why the MCC was reluctant to give New Zealand full test status.

Revenge was a long time coming, but for long-suffering New Zealand cricket fans the 1978 victory was sweet. Needing only 137 in their second innings to win, the English were all out for just 64. Richard Hadlee took 6 wickets for 26 runs and went on to become New Zealand's greatest wicket-taker in tests.

This first victory against England - at the 48th attempt - was a tribute to perseverance, and it was enthusiastically welcomed as proof that New Zealand could at last compete with our former colonial masters, the inventors of the game. The three-match series was drawn 1-1.

Internal links

Playing England - New Zealand cricket

Timeline Sections

Month Calendar View

Today in History

What happened

See historic day of the year date below. V birthday?

DD/

Visit the

Kiwi of the



Sidney Holland

Holland became Prime Minister of New Zealand a year later he became Minister of the Legislative Council after winning the 1908 election. Dispute, he increased his majority in a snap election.

more

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THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

Test your knowledge of NZ history

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External links

England vs. New Zealand: Test history (Cricinfo)

This Week in History



28 February
1945 Kiwi
soldier faces
Nazi firing
squad



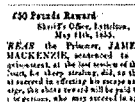
1 March 1901
Skippers
Bridge opened



2 March 1865
Missionary Carl
Volkner killed
at Opotiki



3 March 1960
Barry Crump's
novel *A good
keen man*
published



4 March 1855
Legendary
sheep rustler
James
Mackenzie
caught



5 March 1830
Outbreak of the
Girls' War at
Kororareka



6 March 1947
Debut
performance of
NZ Symphony
Orchestra

Culture and Society

PRE-1840 CONTACT
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War and Society

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