

J S Battye Library of West Australian History  
Private Archives – Collection Listing

MN1939  
Acc.5529A

**MENZEL, Charles Henry**

The construction of the Rabbit Proof Fence in Western Australia in the early 1900s was made necessary by the plague proportions of the imported rabbit. The wire mesh fence stretched from Hopetoun on the south coast to north of Port Hedland – a total of 1139 miles. All the wire and mesh was imported until 1925, when the W.A. Wire and Netting Company was established in Leederville. The donor was a rabbit poisoner and boundary rider for five years, 1925 –1928 and 1931 – 1933.

**The Papers**

The papers were donated to Battye Library by Mr. C. Menzel on January 11, 1999 (5529A).

Holdings = 0.06m

**Access**

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**Summary of classes**

BIOGRAPHIES  
BOOKLETS  
CONTRACTS  
CORRESPONDENCE  
DRAFTS  
EXTRACTS  
HISTORIES  
INFORMATION SHEETS  
LISTS  
NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS  
NOTES  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
POETRY  
POSTERS  
REMINISCENCES  
REPORTS  
WRITINGS

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- |          |   |                                |
|----------|---|--------------------------------|
|          | <b>BIOGRAPHIES</b>  |                                |
| 5529A/30 | n.d.<br>Biography of Charles Menzel, rabbit trapper and boundary rider.     |                                |
|          | <b>BOOKLETS</b>   |                                |
| /1       | 1921<br>Vermin Destruction – Dept of Agriculture                            |                                |
| /2       | 1928<br>Vermin Destruction – Dept of Agriculture                            |                                |
| /3       | December 1932<br>“The Rabbit Menace in Australia in 1933 and the Way Out”   |                                |
| /4       | 1956<br>WA Netting and Wire Co Ltd.   | Photocopy                      |
|          | <b>CONTRACTS</b>  |                                |
| /5       | 1902<br>Coastal Netting Hanging Contract - Blank                            | Original and Photocopy         |
| /6       | 1902<br>Fencing Contract No 3 - Blank                                       | Photocopy                      |
|          | <b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>   |                                |
| /7       | 1903 – 1907<br>Official correspondence within the Dept of Agriculture.      | Originals and some photocopies |
| /8       | 1944<br>Correspondence with the Select Committee into the Vermin Act        | Photocopies                    |
| /9       | 1984 –1992<br>Loose personal correspondence of Charles Menzel               |                                |
|          | <b>DRAFTS</b>   |                                |
| /10      | 1993<br>Draft of book (?) relating to animal pests in Australia.            |                                |
|          | <b>EXTRACTS</b>   |                                |
| /11      | 1907<br>Journal of Agriculture – Anketell’s Report on Rabbit Proof fencing  | Photocopy                      |
| /12      | n.d.<br>Extract from “The Beckoning West” relating to rabbit proof fencing. | Photocopy                      |
|          | <b>HISTORIES</b>  |                                |
| /13      | n.d.<br>Burracoppin in the 1930s  |                                |

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- /14 1991  
History of Narndee station
- /15 1992  
Narndee Station and Snowy Rowles
- INFORMATION SHEETS
- /16 n.d. Photocopy  
General instruction re Inspection of Netting  
Hanging
- LISTS
- /17 19 January 1904  
List of Rabbit Branch Employees
- NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
- /18 n.d.  
Cutting relating to rabbits and other pests and the  
fence
- NOTES
- /19 n.d.  
Notes kept by C Menzel on his experiences on the  
Rabbit Proof Fence.
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- /20 1990  
Four photographs taken at the 212 mile post on  
the Rabbit Proof Fence.
- POETRY
- /21 30 January 1992  
“Burracoppin in the 1930s”, based on his history of  
Burracoppin by Charles Menzel.
- POSTERS
- /22 n.d. Photocopy  
“No Trespassing” sign on the fence.
- REMINISCENCES
- /23 1990  
Recollections of the arrest of Snowy Rowles.
- /24 17 July 1992  
Reminders of events for Charles Menzel
- /25 n.d.  
C.H. Menzel - Memories
- /26 n.d.  
Recollections regarding Madeline Rennie
- /27 n.d.  
Burracoppin in the 1930s with sketch of town

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- /28 n.d.  
Memories of a rabbit poisoner
- /31 n.d.  
Memoirs of Roy Hayden and a murder on the  
Rabbit Proof fence
- REPORTS
- /29 30 June 1902  
Report of the Secretary of the Rabbit Department
- WRITINGS
- /32 23 January 1991  
“Opportunity by Coincidence” by C Menzel.
- /33 18 May 1994  
“On the Rabbit Proof Fence at Cunderdin”.
- /34 n.d.  
Untitled by J.S. Crawford on the rabbit problem.
- /35 n.d.  
“Rabbit Control” by ‘Burra’.
- /36 n.d.  
“The Magic of Innocence” by C Menzel.
- /37 n.d.  
“Friendship and Camels” by C Menzel
- /38 n.d.  
“Some Systems of Rabbit Control” by C Menzel.
- /39 n.d.  
“The Value of the Rabbit Proof Fence Since 1902”
- /40 n.d.  
“The Price of Vermin” by C Menzel’
- /41 n.d.  
“The Work Sheet – Cunderdin 1925”
- /42 n.d.  
“My Last Year (1928) at Cunderdin”
- /43 n.d.  
“Re Narndee Station – CH Bogles Diary” and “The  
Camel Paddock” by C Menzel.
- /44 n.d.  
“Arthur Upfield – the Writer” by C Menzel.

*1 November 2002*