

REPORT 2: THE SALVATION ARMY'S CHILD EMIGRATION POLICY IN PRACTICE, 1900-2014

ABSTRACT

This report addresses The Salvation Army's practice in respect of the migration of children whose care originated in Scotland, for the period 1 January 1900 to 17 December 2014. The information and evidence provided in this report has been taken from surviving records at The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre. Few records have survived that document this sector of The Salvation Army's work between 1900 and 2014 but where possible, evidence has been provided.

To the best of our knowledge, The Salvation Army has never had any establishments in Scotland that had either as their primary function or as a routine function the migration of children overseas.

Scottish children may, however, have emigrated through The Salvation Army's UK-wide emigration schemes. It is assumed that some did, as the Emigration Department had a branch office in Glasgow, but The Salvation Army UK & Ireland Territory has no surviving records of either the total number of participating British children or their nations of origin.

There is no evidence that Salvation Army emigration policy was applied differently in Scotland to the rest of the UK. Consequently, this report detail how the emigration schemes functioned throughout the UK. Although no specific reference is made to Scotland in these sections, the information given should be assumed to include Scotland.

**The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre
November 2018**

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(a) Did the Organisation and its establishment(s) adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in terms of child migrants relating to the following?

- **Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent**

Colonel David Lamb, leader of The Salvation Army's Emigration Department between 1903 and 1929, visited the farm sites abroad and made reports on the progress and success of the children at a settlement near Tisdale, Saskatchewan: 'I had an opportunity of seeing the children at school, and on examination was particularly impressed with the general intelligence shown by scholars, young and old, in answering questions I put to them...The health of the community is excellent...I visited every Homesteader in whom we had any "concern", as well as others...The Army carries on the children's work – the Sunday school' (Lamb in White, 1909-1910: 61-67).

The Salvation Army's annual Year Book reported that visits by officers were made to the sites that children would be sent to both before and during migration took place. It also reported that visits were made by representatives of the Board of Agriculture and the Treasury to Hadleigh Farm Colony in England, which is where young boys received training before migrating to Australia, Canada and New Zealand for employment (1925: 35).

Bramwell Booth, General of The Salvation Army between 1912 and 1929, also visited potential colony sites in Australia and wrote a report stating the possibilities for development in *The New Exodus*, 1927.

The 1937 Year Book also states that The Salvation Army collected reports from both Government officials and samples of migrated children to assess the suitability of migration destinations (32). Visits to Salvation Army settlements in New Zealand by the Prime Minister and the Governor General along with meetings with the Chamber of Commerce are also mentioned by Colonel David Lamb in *The Empire Settlement Act Part II*.

A letter from William Fairhurst Cooper, Chief Secretary for the Australia Eastern Territory, to Commissioner William Alex Ebbs, Secretary for the Public Relations Department and for Parliamentary and Migration Affairs, 13 October 1953, regarding the conditions and experiences of boys migrated to Riverview Home for Boys in Australia also demonstrates practical checks of settlement sites for the migration scheme. In addition, a report by the Riverview Training Farm Manager, Major A Chambers, relating to a group of five migrant boys settled at Riverview Farm, dated [REDACTED] 1955, details information such as the maintenance costs of the children, their arrival, progress at the farm to date, health and behaviour (Chambers, 1955).

- **Selection of children to migrate including age, gender, background**

A sample letter and application form for the boys farming scheme in Canada contains questions to find out information about prospective applicants with regard to their selection, for example relating to health and previous experience (EM/2/2/3).

- **Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration**

The New Exodus by Bramwell Booth includes a section that contains questions submitted by interested applicants and their parents, and answers from The Salvation Army about policy and procedures involved in their child migration programme (1927).

- **Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated**

Information about The Salvation Army's migration scheme was available in public periodicals produced by The Salvation Army such as *The War Cry*, *Salvationist* and the *Emigration Gazette*. These periodicals contain both reports on The Salvation Army's migration work and advertisements for it.

- **Obtaining consent of child**

The Salvation Army International Heritage Centre has one case file for a child migrant from a migration scheme. This file contains a letter written by [REDACTED] who migrated to Canada from Hadleigh Farm in 1928. The letter contains a statement about his migration from England and is attached to his Scheme for Boys statement document (EM/3)

A sample letter and application form for the boys farming scheme in Canada has also survived (EM/2/2/3).

- **Obtaining consent of parents of child**

To the Boys of Britain by Colonel David Lamb contains reprints of letters written by parents regarding their sons' migration through The Salvation Army's schemes (1923: 21).

Letters between Colonel Owen Culshaw, Director of the Migration Department, and other Salvation Army officers detailing parental enquiries, the process of child adoption and the need for parental understanding and consent for The Salvation Army's provision of adoptive parents for children who were sent abroad (1948) (Culshaw, May 1948).

A memorandum dated 15 November 1948 refers to correspondence with 'several families' regarding the agricultural training scheme for boys and migration to Queensland to work as farmers and states that parents had requested more detailed information about the scheme (EM/2/2/2/2).

- **Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State**

A letter from the Director of the Migration Department, Colonel Owen Culshaw, to civil servant Sir Eric Machtig, 6 February 1945, states that the High Commissioner of New Zealand had received permission from the Government for The Salvation Army to send 50 British boys between ages 10 and 17 to New Zealand. There are also letters between Colonel Owen Culshaw and the Australian News and Information Bureau relating to matters of migration (unknown, June 1950). There is also a letter from an unknown officer to Colonel J P Dean stating that he had met with the Scottish Home Secretary regarding child migrant proposals for Australia (unknown, September 1949).

In 1957 a maintenance agreement was made between The Salvation Army and the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations for the migration of children from the United Kingdom to Riverview Farm in Australia, dated 16 August 1957 (EM/2/2/2/3).

There is also a letter from Ewen Macdonald, European Colonization Manager for the Canadian Pacific Railway, to Colonel T E Dennis, Director of the Migration Department, dated 20 May 1958 stating that The Salvation Army's Juvenile Migration Scheme had been approved by the authorities in Ottawa.

- **Responding to requests for information from former child migrants**

Our records do not show any requests for information from former child migrants.

- **Other issues**

No further issues to report.

(b) How was adherence demonstrated?

The Salvation Army also produced a public periodical called *The Emigration Gazette* (1907-1914) specifically to report on and advertise the work of the Emigration Department.

As a part of their aftercare scheme, Salvation Army officers conducted reports on migrated children placed in homes in Canada and Australia (Year Book, 1917:15).

In Colonel Lamb's article *Juvenile Migration and Settlement*, he also refers to reports made by the Overseas Settlement Committee in 1923 (6).

(c) How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?

In the 1914 Year Book, Colonel David Lamb reports that 'a large number' of 'orphaned, deserted, and otherwise unparented children', have been 'placed in happy Canadian homes, where they are now regarded as the most cherished possession' (63).

A letter dated 24 March 1952 details Salvation Army procedure in practice relating to the appointment of an escort for a party of boys sailing to Australia. It states that the Australian government insisted on an escort for the journey, which is also stated as Salvation Army practice in the Year Books (EM/2/2/2/2).

File EM/2/2/2/3 contains several reports from Riverview Home for Boys detailing individual reports on each child between the years 1951 and 1961.

With regard to adherence to their finance policy, file EM/2/2/2/3 contains correspondence relating to the provision of maintenance grants to a child migrants and a means test conducted by The Salvation Army to determine whether he was eligible (Watts, 1961).

(d) Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?

The 1925 Year Book references a report made about child migrants: 'A recent report of the Overseas Settlement Committee (The Government Committee operating under provisions of The Empire Settlement Act of 1922) says: Juvenile migrants readily adapt themselves to their new environment, and for this reason are regarded by Overseas Authorities as among the most desirable settlers.' (Year Book, 1925: 35). While there is information to suggest that regular reports were made, few reports have survived. Many are referenced in literature written by Colonel David Lamb with some containing quotations such as the above.

There is a surviving certificate of children maintained at The Salvation Army Training farm, Riverview, Queensland, Australia (EM/2/2/2/3). The certificate states children's names, date of birth, date of sailing, date of entry into the establishment, date of leaving the establishment, period of maintenance in weeks, amount claimed in sterling.

Another example is a report made by Lt-Colonel Ernest Rance, Director for Migration Affairs, on 16 March 1960 regarding the progress of migrant boys at Riverview (Rance, 1960).

(e) Have such records been retained?

Few records remain from The Salvation Army's migration work with children. The annual Year Books contain information relating to policy and some correspondence and reports survive.

(f) If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?

There has been no evidence found relating to this question.

(g) How many children were sent as child migrants from the Organisation's establishments, and where were they sent?

The Salvation Army's residential establishments in the UK were run by its social work divisions (separate women's and men's services until 1978; combined social services from 1978). These operated entirely separately from the Migration Department, so the policies, procedures and practices described elsewhere in this report do not relate to children who resided in the organisation's establishments, with the exception of Hadleigh Farm (see below).

The men's social work headquarters of The Salvation Army ran two residential homes for children/adolescents in Scotland: Redheugh in Kilbimie (1952-1993) and Mount Bruce in Pollokshields (1964-1981) which moved to Ralsdale in Barrhead (1981-1998). As far as we can ascertain, neither home was involved in the migration of children. There is no mention of migration in any of the articles about Redheugh that appear in *The War Cry* in the 1950s and 1960s and the migration schemes had finished by the time Mount Bruce/Ralsdale opened.

Records from the women's social work headquarters of The Salvation Army show that very occasionally people would emigrate directly from a period of residence in a Salvation Army establishment. However, inspection of the records covering 1900-1932 (the years Salvation Army migration work was at its height) has shown that in these 32 years, only one girl under-18 was migrated from a Salvation Army establishment in Scotland. A change in the format of subsequent records means it is more difficult to track the numbers migrated from homes later in the century, but this sample indicates that migrating children from women's social work establishments in Scotland was extremely rare.

(h) What was their age and gender?

The majority of Salvation Army establishments that housed children were run by the women's social work headquarters. Residential homes run by the women's social work that housed children under 18 fall into three broad categories: maternity homes (accommodating unmarried mothers, under- and over-18, and their infants); industrial or training homes (accommodating unmarried women and teenage girls); and children's homes. The organisation had homes of each of these kinds in Scotland.

The Salvation Army has never had any residential establishments in Scotland that had either as their primary function or as a routine function the migration of children overseas. It had only one such establishment in the UK: Hadleigh Farm in Essex.

(i) Over what time period were children migrated from the Organisation's establishments?

During the 1920s and 1930s Hadleigh Farm accommodated boys aged 14-18 from across the UK, including Scotland, who applied to participate in the emigration scheme for boys. The Salvation Army UK & Ireland Territory has no surviving record of how many Scottish children passed through Hadleigh Farm. Aftercare records of some Salvation Army migrants from the 1920s and 1930s are held by The Salvation Army in Canada and New Zealand but it is not known how complete these records are, nor how many relate to children (there were concurrent schemes for adults).

(j) Who funded the child migration?

In 1906 the Emigration Department received £79,609 from a capitation grant from the Canadian Government, passage money, fees and grants (Manson, 1908).

External Distress Committees and Public Bodies also provided funds through The Salvation Army agency (Taylor, 1908).

The Salvation Army asked for public donations and subscriptions to go into a loan fund for applicants to their emigration programme. For those who were able to, The Salvation Army asked that families fund the cost of their child's migration. With this system, each applicant's fee was paid into a central fund which was then divided to contribute to the expenses of others who could not fund the migration fee themselves (Year Book, 1913: 45; 1915: 60).

Both home and overseas governments contributed to the scheme (which also confirms their cooperation and approval of the scheme) and The Salvation Army acted as bankers for migrants who could not afford an upfront migration fee (Year Book, 1931: 24).

Colonel Lamb also refers to The Salvation Army's receipt of funding from the National Relief Fund and through private donations (Lamb, undated, in Mew, 1994: 34).

(k) Who received the funding in relation to migrant children?

In his text *The Recurring Problem of the Unemployed*, 1905, William Booth stated that loans for migration would be provided by The Salvation Army to 'deserving and desirable cases' (34).

In The Salvation Army's Scheme for Boys, children who were unable to provide the funding were loaned money from The Salvation Army with a repayment plan of two years. The 1924 yearbook also provides an example of this for young women who migrated to Canada to be domestic servants (31).

File EM/2/2/3 contains a copy of the Assisted Passage Loan form that would be signed by the migrant receiving the loan from The Salvation Army. This form refers to migration to Canada.

(l) In general terms, how much was this funding?

After subsidising the migration fees from other sources it cost The Salvation Army £10 per child to migrate them to Australia or Canada to stay in a home and then find them a foster family (Year Book, 1916: 73; 1925: 36).

In the 1925 Year Book The Salvation Army quoted the cost of migration per child as £48: 'the total cost, which covers selection, outfit, training, transportation, and after-care, averages £48 per boy'.

In 1928 the Year Book quoted the cost of migration as £60 per child (36) which was reaffirmed in *To The Boys of Britain* by Colonel David Lamb, 1923.

(m) How did the Organisation/establishment respond to requests for information from former child migrants?

Our records do not show any requests for information from former child migrants.

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Letter from William F Cooper to Commissioner William Alex Ebbs. 13 October 1953 (EM/2/2/2/2)

Letter from Lt-Colonel W B Watts to Colonel H G Wallace. 13 July 1961 (EM/2/2/2/3)

Letter from Ewen Macdonald to Colonel T E Dennis. 20 May 1958 (EM/2/2/3)

Letter from Colonel Owen Culshaw to Sir Eric Machtig. 6 February 1945 (COS/1/2/11a)

File of assorted letters relating to parental and governmental consent of child migration procedures (EM/2/2/1/1 & EM/2/2/2/1)

Letter from Colonel M Owen Culshaw to Major Heap. 14 May 1948 (EM/2/2/2/1)

Letter from unknown to Lt-Colonel J P Dean. 9 September 1949 (EM/2/2/2/1)

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Other

[REDACTED] Manuscript statement relating to his migration to Canada. 21 May 1928 (EM/3)

Certificate of Children Maintained at The Salvation Army Training Farm, Riverview, Queensland, Australia (EM/2/2/2/3)

Maintenance agreement between The Salvation Army and the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations for the migration of children from the United Kingdom to Riverview Farm in Australia. 16 August 1957 (EM/2/2/2/3)

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