

## BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Return of convicts arriving in NSW on the ship *Earl Spencer* 1813**

This document is a return (list) of convicts who had arrived at Sydney on the ship *Earl Spencer* on 9 October 1813. The document is an annotated copy based on indents and lists sent with the ship made by the Colonial Secretary as part of the convict arrival muster he conducted on board.

The return gives the name and trial date and sentence of the 200 convicts embarked on the ship, as well as the name of the hulk from which they had been embarked.

The document was sent back to London and kept in Colonial Office files, now in the National Archives, Kew, London (UK Colonial Office, Secretary of State, New South Wales Despatches, Jan-Apr 1814 Jan ref TNA CO 201/72/214-219).

Hulks were decommissioned ships moored in coastal rivers and harbours in the United Kingdom where convicts were detained. The hulks from which the *Earl Spencer* convicts came were the *Retribution*, *Zealand*, *Portland*, *Laurel* and *Captivity*.

The return annotates details of the four convicts who died on the voyage and four other convicts who missed the arrival muster owing to their being hospitalised immediately on arrival.

The document was among Colonial Office files microfilmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project, subsequently digitized on [www.trove.nla.gov.au](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au) under the category Diaries, Letters and Archives.

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For other miscellaneous convict record datasets included in the BDA see:

<https://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/convict-records/>

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