

THEODOR ALBRECHT CARL ENDLETSBERGER

26th April 1869, Vienna, Austria

14 September 1931, Auckland, New Zealand

*"A Powerful Person, Possibly six feet in height, and most certainly weighing over fourteen stone"
"That well known citizen Dr Endletsberger, with the duelling scar on his face, the spectacles, the cigarette and the slight limp".*

Theodor ENDLETSBERGER was Matamata's first Doctor. He qualified at the university of Vienna in 1895,¹ and arrived in New Zealand in January 1906, apparently fresh from a divorce² from his wife, whom he had married in Vienna in 1895.³

Dr T Endletsberger travelled aboard 'H.M.S. India' from London to Sydney and crossed the Tasman on the 'Edwin Phillips', arriving in Auckland on Sunday 7th January⁴, where he lost no time applying to have his name added to the Medical Register.

I, THEODOR ENDLETSBERGER, Doctor of Medicine, of the University of Vienna, now residing in Auckland, hereby give notice that I intend applying on the 10th February next to have my name placed on the Medical Register for the Colony of New Zealand, and that I have deposited the evidence of my qualification in the office of the Registrar at Auckland.—(Signed) TH. ENDLETSBERGER. Dated at Auckland, 10th January, 1906.

Auckland Star, 10 January 1906

By December 1906 he was working as a doctor, having also invested in farming, in the Matamata area and the following year must have been among the first people in the district to have a telephone connection.⁵

secretary respectively.
The Postal Department has erected a telephone wire connecting the post office with Dr. Endletsberger's residence.
A man charged with an offence at Wal-

NZ Herald, 10 September 1907

Given the small population in the district in 1906, he had what seems a sensible idea. Asking all settlers to pay him an annual levy for which he would provide half price medical care.

Unfortunately all did not go to plan, with a bankruptcy hearing in March 1908.^{6 7}

¹ At that time the Medical School at Vienna was probably at the height of its high international reputation.

² NZ Truth, 6 May 1916

³ There were two children from this marriage. Lucia Dorothea born in 1897 and Ernst Theodor Oscar born in 1900. They remained in Vienna.

⁴ Auckland Star 8 Jan 1906

⁵ according to Joan Stanley in 'Growth of a Town' This was the first telephone installed. And apparently the posts holding the line proved a source of danger to vehicles at night because some of them stood in the middle of the road.

⁶ Auckland Star, 4 April 1908 - Full clipping attached at the end of this document.

⁷ so losing someone who appears to have been a very highly skilled medical practitioner.

Resulting in the loss of his newly built small house, on four acres.⁸ (The corner of Tawa Street & Burwood Road).

Tenders.



I N B A N K R U P T C Y .

**ESTATE OF THEODOR ENDLETSBERGER,
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OF
MATAMATA.**

Tenders will be received at my Office, Custom-street, Auckland, up to Noon of TUESDAY, the 14th day of April, 1908, for—

A SMALL DOCTOR'S RESIDENCE, erected on Residential Site of 4 Acres, lease in perpetuity, at Matamata, annual rental £2 8s payable in advance, subject to a mortgage of £200 repayable on June 30, 1909, interest at 6 per cent. Government valuation of property, £450.

A deposit in cash, or a bank cheque equal to 20 per cent. of the amount tendered must accompany each tender.

Particulars and conditions of tender can be seen at my Office, Custom-street, Auckland, and at Mr. A. P. L. Weitemeyer's Shop, at Matamata.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

E. GERARD,
Official Assignee.

Auckland, March 31, 1908.

NZ Herald 2 April 1908

Later in that year, an Electro therapist in Rotorua was anxious to distance himself from Dr Endletsberger, late of Matamata.⁹

The official assignee, Mr E. Gerard, must have liked him well enough as in 1909 he (Mr Gerard) had a nervous breakdown and was granted three months leave of absence. He utilised this to go to Rotorua "Under the care of Dr Endletsberger, a specialist from Austria"¹⁰

Through 1909 and 1910 Dr Endletsberger is in Rotorua, often mentioned in association with Drs Anderson and Campbell-Smith. Perhaps he still went to Matamata by train as Mr & Mrs W. J. Holmes of Matamata thanked him in February 1910.¹¹

He was interested in the potentially radioactive properties of the hot springs at Rotorua and with Dr Bertram,¹² ran a private hospital.¹³

Finally in March 1911, he had his bankruptcy annulled, having managed to pay all his debts.¹⁴

Gazette in Bankruptcy.



**I N T H E S U P R E M E C O U R T O F N E W Z E A -
L A N D , N O R T H E R N J U D I C I A L D I S -
T R I C T , H A M I L T O N R E G I S T R Y .**

**I N T H E M A T T E R O F T H E O D O R E N D -
L E T S B E R G E R , o f R o t o r u a , M e d i c a l
P r a c t i t i o n e r , a b a n k r u p t .**

T A K E N O T I C E that on the application of THEODOR ENDLETSBERGER, of Rotorua, Medical Practitioner, and on reading the affidavit of WALTER SEPTIMUS FISHER, Official Assignee in bankruptcy, of the property of the said Theodor Endletsberger, and upon hearing Mr. M. H. Rampson, of counsel for the applicant, it was ordered that the order of adjudication, dated the 26th day of March, 1908, against the said Theodor Endletsberger, be annulled.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 1911.
W. S. FISHER,
Official Assignee.

NZ Herald, 13 March 1911

The next month saw him in Palmerston North working as a locum tenens for Dr Wilson, who had gone on an overseas trip.¹⁵ Dr Wilson may have had a parrot as the Manawatu Standard of 22 July 1911 advertises

Lost - from Dr Wilson's residence, Ferguson street, a green parrot. Reward on return to Dr Endletsberger or information given as to it's whereabouts.

⁸ See appendix for confirmation of the location of this site.

⁹ NZ Herald, 17 August 1908

¹⁰ NZ Herald, 2 April 1909.

¹¹ NZ Herald, 26 Feb 1910

¹² Auckland Star, 9 Sept 1910

¹³ Auckland Star, 27 Dec 1910

¹⁴ Auckland Star, 3 Mar 1911

¹⁵ Manawatu Standard, 4 Apr 1911

The NZ Times noted Dr Endletsberger's return to Rotorua from Palmerston North on 17th October 1911, from where he promptly went on a trip to Sydney.¹⁶

He had returned by sometime in February 1912 when he was working (and driving) in Auckland.

¹⁷

beach road.

Dr. Theodor Endletsberger was fined 10s and costs for driving his car round the corner of Durham and Queen Streets at a greater speed than walking pace.

NZ Herald, 12 April 1912

THANKS.—Mr. A. A. Yates and Family, of Rotorua, wish to return Thanks to Dr. Theo. Endletsberger for the serious operation he performed with great success, with his assistants, on Mrs. Yates, and for the careful nursing and kindest treatment tendered to her at the hands of the Nursing Staff, under Miss Foote, at the Rawlingstone Private Hospital.

NZ Herald, 23 December 1913

PERSONAL

CAPTAIN ELSMORE wishes to thank Dr. Endletsberger for the successful operation performed on his wife; also Dr. Bernardi and Nurses Campbell and West, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Dr. Darby, for their kindness during Mrs. Elsmore's illness at Dr. Endletsberger's private residence, 45, Symonds Street.

Auckland Star, 18 April 1913

Dr Endletsberger had applied for, and been granted on 10 March 1911,¹⁸ naturalisation as a British subject, but obviously with the onset of war in 1914, he felt he needed to advertise that fact.¹⁹

Dr. Endletsberger is a naturalised British subject, and wants the glad tidings spread around (says the Auckland Star).

Poverty Bay Herald, 17 August 1914

Probably he had been the victim of anti-German sentiment, as suggested two years later when he was fined for driving a car at night without sufficient lights,²⁰ and convicted & discharged for leaving his car standing in Queen Street without a tail-light.²¹ This case was reported in greater length in the Observer of 4 March 1916. Dr Endletsberger testified he felt people were deliberately interfering with his vehicle, perhaps because of his nationality.

Meanwhile he continued to work in Auckland and had found the time to tame a seagull.

LOST—Tame Black and White Seagull, right wing cut.—Ample reward on returning same to Dr. Endletsberger, York Ave., Epsom.

NZ Herald, 8 January 1916.

¹⁶ NZ Passenger Lists, 139-1974 Archives New Zealand

¹⁷ NZ Herald, 29 May 1912 - *Witness in court case. Had examined the plaintiff in February.*

¹⁸ NZ Naturalisations 1843-1981 ancestry.com

¹⁹ Although I cannot find that announcement in the Auckland Star itself

²⁰ NZ Herald 11 Feb 1916

²¹ Auckland Star, 25 Feb 1916

Perhaps it was inevitable that on April 19th 1916 he was arrested and interned on Motuihe Island. A public accountant was appointed to manage his estate.²²

Motuihe Island is said to have housed "Better class" internees. Including the Danish and Austrian Consuls and German Business men.²³

The same source records

*"Life on Motuihe for the internees was not hard. They were given reasonable freedom to roam the island during the day to fish, collect fruit, or swim. Some were even allowed to accompany the camp commandant on trips to Auckland to buy supplies not available at the canteen. It was a situation of mutual respect and trust. The internees were regarded as being of such a high calibre that they could be trusted not to abuse the freedom given."*²⁴

That well known citizen Dr. Endletsberger, with the duelling scar on his face, the spectacles, the cigarette and the slight limp, is, as most people are aware, at present a guest of the King. His reappearance in Queen Street on Friday last caused no comment, few people remembering that he had been away. The doctor, who was carrying his usual professional bag and his professional cigarette, appears in robust health. He was accompanied by a sergeant of the New Zealand forces, who (as is unusual) did not wear sidearms, clearly indicating that the doctor is not regarded as dangerous. Although not showing any outward sign of perturbation, the doctor took the sergeant affectionately by the arm and suggested "side streets." The average citizen, however, is so unobservant that if the Kaiser's Imperial Guards (in plain clothes) were to wander down Queen Street it would cause little comment.

Observer, 27 May 1916

ANOTHER ARREST. DR. ENDLETSBERGER'S CASE

REMOVAL TO FORT CAUTLEY.

During yesterday afternoon another arrest was effected by the police authorities under instructions from the Defence Department.

About 4.30 p.m. Chief-Detective McMahon, with Detective-Sergeant Hollis and Detective Powell, proceeded to the rooms of Dr. Endletsberger, in Edson's Buildings, in High Street, and placed the doctor under arrest. Dr. Endletsberger was removed to the Ferry Buildings and taken by the 5.50 p.m. ferry boat to Devonport, where he was handed over by Detectives Hollis and Powell to the military authorities, and later taken to Fort Cautley. He will probably be transferred later to one of the internment camps.

As in the case of the arrest made in the morning, secrecy is being observed by the authorities in regard to the reasons for the internment.

Dr. Endletsberger has been in New Zealand for about 10 years. Previously he lived in England for 25 years. He was born in Paris, his mother being an Englishwoman and his father an Austrian. He obtained diplomas in England, France, St. Petersburg, and Vienna. Since his arrival in New Zealand, Dr. Endletsberger practised for five years in Rotorua. He came to Auckland in 1911, and conducted a private nursing home in Symonds Street for some time, and he has resided at Epsom for about three years.

NZ Herald, 20 April 1916

²² Auckland Star, 28 April 1916

²³ Motuihe - 1914 WW1 Internment Camp

²⁴ Motuihe - 1914 WW1 Internment Camp - after an escape by some Germans who had been interred there from Samoa using the camp commandant's own launch, conditions were tightened.

DOCTORS

The duelling scar mentioned is interesting. A Theo Endletsberger is present in a list of reserve Military and Marine Officers in 1896, 1897, 1898 & 1899 ²⁵ and the entry for his marriage ²⁶ confirms this must be him noting he is serving as an Imperial and Royal Assistant Surgeon in the Reserve. ²⁷

On June 8th 1918, newspapers published a list of Enemy Aliens who had had their naturalisation cancelled. Theodore Albrecht Carl Endletsberger was one of them.^{28 29}. Interestingly, he remained on the medical register throughout his internment giving an address simply of Auckland.

On November 22nd 1918 he was released under escort to go to Rotorua to tend a patient, apparently at the request of the patient's husband.³⁰ The newspapers of the time reveal there was a great deal of surprise, discussion, questions in parliament, letters to the editor and other comment relating to this. He was absent from Motuihi for 6 days.

It was not until October 1919 that some further freedom was allowed for Dr Endletsberger. He was permitted a fortnight's parole. ³¹ Finally being given his full liberty in December 1919.³²

His notoriety did not end there. On December 20th protests arose that he had been granted a telephone connection having apparently jumped a waiting list at "the exchange".³³ Of course this was because he was a doctor and was wanting to resume his medical practice, but this fact rarely

Theodor Albrecht Carl ENDLETSBERGER

made it into the newspaper articles, which were carried country wide, and had headlines like

Dr ENDLETSBERGERS PHONE

ENEMY ALIENS - DEPORTATION URGED BY RETURNED SOLDIERS

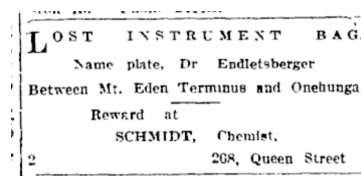
Just three or four months later, on April 1st 1920 ³⁴, he married Ethel Grace Bennetto, a singer & dancer from Australia. They had no children.

At last, thankful notices begin to appear and there is evidence his services were being requested much as before.³⁵

The Friends of the late MRS. ANNIE ELIZABETH LITTLE wish to thank all kind friends who sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement; also for letters, cards, telegrams and floral emblems received. Special thanks are due to Dr. Endletsberger for his unfailing kindness and attention during Mrs. Little's illness.

NZ Herald 1 November 1920

In 1921, Dr Endletsberger was fined for operating an unregistered private hospital at his residence, Hillside Crescent, Mount Eden.³⁶ However it was noted that the doctor and nurses were all highly qualified. Then, he lost his instrument bag!



Auckland Star, 9 January 1922

²⁵ Germany & Austria, Directories of Military & Marine Officers, 1600-1918 ancestry.com

²⁶ <https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/oesterreich/wien/04-st-elisabeth/02-15/?pg=72> (3rd entry on the page)

²⁷ An assistant surgeon held a commissioned officer rank, and primarily served during times of mobilisation

²⁸ Hawkes Bay Tribune, 8 June 1918

²⁹ I cannot find that he had this restored later, but he does appear on the electoral roll of 1928, so I think it must have been.

³⁰ NZ Herald 30 November 1918 - just one of many many articles about this

³¹ Auckland Star, 24 October 1919

³² NZ Herald, 12 December 1919

³³ Auckland Star, 20 December 1919

³⁴ , NZ Births Deaths & Marriages. Not 1910 as it says in one obituary

³⁵ Auckland Star, 25 November 1920

³⁶ NZ Herald, 10 September 1921

In 1923 he moved his private hospital & residence to 21, Shelly Beach Road, Ponsonby.³⁷

The Auckland Star of 25 June 1924 reported an accident, Mrs Julia Holly stepped from a tram into the path of Dr Endletsberger's car. She was knocked unconscious, but improving. In September, he was fined for failing to obey the signal of a traffic constable³⁸. In 1925 he advertised his lost brindle bitch bulldog.³⁹ He can't have had good fences, his White Samoed dog strayed in 1927.⁴⁰

His driving continued to cause problems, and in 1928 he hit an elderly man, who later died, in Karangahape Road.

Rats were a nuisance.

RATS.—Expert Rat Catcher, urgently needed.—Report Dr. Endletsberger, 270, Queen St., 5 p.m., any evening.

NZ Herald, 26 March 1928

Perhaps the Palmerston North parrot was his own. As he has now lost his galah!⁴¹

PARROT, grey and pink, young, Galah, Mt. Eden; reward.—Dr. Endletsberger, Phone, 21-243.

NZ Herald, 25 November 1929

³⁷ NZ Herald, 30 June 1923

³⁸ NZ Herald 4th Sept 1924

³⁹ Auckland Star, 7 July 1925

⁴⁰ Auckland Star 12 Jan 1927

⁴¹ His obituary records an interest in natural history, and this article records he caught a tuatara in Rotorua and gave it to the MP for Palmerston (North?) who was living in Plimmerton [NZ Herald May 1 1922](#)

⁴² [Auckland Star 29 June 1931](#) - with photograph of the car

He hit the curb on Brighton Street, Parnell in 1931, the car ended up on it's side. Dr Endletsberger climbed out unharmed,⁴² but died later in the year age 62.

ENDLETSBERGER. — On September 14, 1931, at a private hospital, Theodore Carl, medical practitioner, beloved husband of Ethel Grace Endletsberger. R.I.P. Mass will be celebrated at St. Michael's Church, Middleton Road, Remuera, at 8.30 a.m. to-morrow (Tuesday), the funeral then leaving for Waikumete Cemetery.

Many obituaries were published.

DR. T. C. ENDLETSBERGER.

WELL-KNOWN MEDICO PASSES.

The death occurred in Auckland last evening at a private hospital of Dr. Theodore Carl Endletsberger, after an illness of about three weeks.

He was born in Austria, and came to New Zealand when a young man. For some time he was a partner at Matamata with Dr. Bertram, and later practised at Rotorua. About 18 years ago he came to Auckland, and built up a large practice. For a time he had a private hospital near Mount Eden. A man of generous nature, he treated many poor people without charge.

Dr. Endletsberger was a man of learning, and took a deep interest in natural history and in flowers.

Dr. Endletsberger, who at one time of his life was attached to the Austrian Embassy, and lived for some time in India, qualified for degrees in three countries, France, Belgium and Austria. He was regarded as one of the best diagnosticians in New Zealand. He is survived by his wife and two children, who are living in Austria.

Auckland Star, 14 Sept 1931

DR. T. E. ENDLETSBERGER.

Dr. Theodore Carl Endletsberger, who was the first doctor to practice in the Matamata district, died in a private hospital in Auckland on Monday last. The late Dr. Endletsberger was the son of a prominent Vienna lawyer, and served for some time as medical officer at the German Embassy in St. Petersburg, and later conducted a private hospital in Vienna. Over twenty years ago he came to New Zealand, and settled in Matamata, at which time he could only speak broken English. For several years he was well-known in the Matamata district, his military bearing as he rode around the district making him a conspicuous figure. The late Dr. Endletsberger built the house in Matamata now occupied by Mr. J. McIntyre, and earned a reputation in the early days of never failing to answer a call no matter what obstacle was in his way. After several years he left for Rotorua, where he practised in partnership with Dr. Bertram. Some 18 years ago deceased left for Auckland, where he was practising at the time of his death. Dr. Endletsberger is survived by his wife.

Matamata Record 17 Sept 1931

THEODOR ENDLETSBERGER.

Bankrupt, with whom his creditors expressed sympathy on account of severe illness, states—"I came to New Zealand in January, 1906, and went into farming at Matamata with one Frederick Lang. I had £290 when I arrived. I lost my money at farming. I started as a doctor on May 1st, 1906. I had then £90 left. I had made an arrangement with the Matamata settlers that they should guarantee £120 per year. There were 80 subscribers at 30/ each. The subscribers were to get medical attention at half rates. I bought drugs and instruments and built a house. I arranged with Mr. Abbot, storekeeper, of Matamata, to supply me with building material. I was to give him a mortgage for £200 when the house was ready. The amount of the guarantee was to be paid to me on the 1st September, 1906, and in anticipation of receiving this money I incurred certain debts and was disappointed by not receiving the guarantee money at the right time. I gave the collecting of the guarantee money to Mr. Abbot. I believe he collected £71. Subsequently I collected about £30 more and there is still some owing. Mr. Abbot retained the £71, as the £200 mortgage was insufficient to satisfy his claim. I ex-

pected that the guarantee would be a continuous one; and that I should receive the same amount (£120) every year, but only a few of the subscribers would pay after the first year. I expected to make £300 a year in fees beyond the yearly guarantee. I have been disappointed in not getting the guarantee fee after the first year, and in the outside fees being less than the £300. I attribute my position to the failure of the guarantee as stated and to the insufficiency of the outside fees. I consider, however, that my assets are sufficient to pay my debts unless they are sacrificed by a forced realisation. I was compelled to incur heavy expenses when I went into practice and to go into debt for necessities such as a buggy, horses, house and furniture. I have not been able up to the present time to liquidate the claims against me. Given time I am satisfied that I should have been able to pay all claims. I have had considerable expense from illness. Last year I was laid up from Easter till after the middle of June, and I have been also partially incapacitated by a weak heart. Owing to a dislocated shoulder I was incapacitated throughout the whole of August last from outside practice by being unable to ride. In February last I was ill for three weeks. I have always lived economically and carefully." The bankrupt sets down his liabilities at £363 2/9 and assets £485 19/, including surplus from securities £288 16/, and book debts £100. The claims of secured creditors amount to £211 4/. The next meeting of creditors will be held at Hamilton on April 9.

Auckland Star, 4 April 1908

JAN. 10.]

THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE.

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REGISTER OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS—continued.

Date of Registration.	Name.	Qualification.	Residence.
1908, May 16	Elliott, James Sands ..	M.B., Bach. Surg., Univ. Edin. 1902	Wellington.
1908, Feb. 18	Elmslie, William Wallace ..	Lic. Fac. Phys. and Surg. Glasg. 1875. Lic. Soc. Apoth. Lond. 1877	Wellington.
1906, Feb. 26	Endletsberger, Theodor ..	M.D. Univ. Vienna 1895	Matamata.

Medical Register 1907

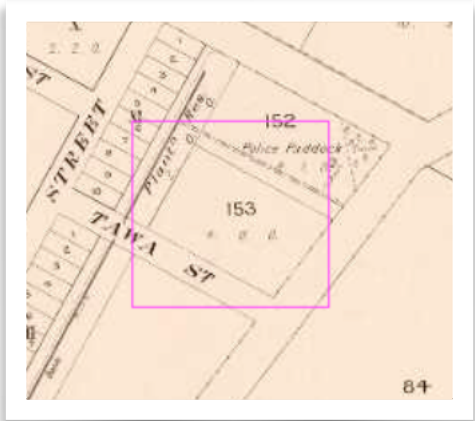
FRIDAY, JULY 14,
AT 11 O'CLOCK.

MATAMATA SETTLEMENT.
CORNER TAWA-ST. AND BURWOOD-RD.

SIX-ROOMED RESIDENCE AND
FOUR ACRES LAND.

T. MANDENO JACKSON,
Acting under instructions, will Sell by Public Auction, at their Rooms, Customs-st. E., on the above date,
THE GOODWILL OF THAT VALUABLE PROPERTY, containing four acres, corner TAWA-ST and BURWOOD-RD., MATAMATA SETTLEMENT, and being Lot 153, Block II., Tapapa S.D.; 999 years' lease, at £2 8/ half-yearly, payable in advance; together with the COMFORTABLE RESIDENCE OF SIX ROOMS and conveniences, detached man's room, and stable, known as Dr. Endletsberger's late residence

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Lot 153, Block II, Tapapa Survey District

Auckland Star 28 June 1911

