



*Photos from Te Papa's collection on line.*

This sextant was made from scratch by officer cadet Walter von Zatorski. He was captured by the New Zealand Navy in German Samoa at the beginning of World War I. Fourteen cadets were on board the steamship *Elsass*. They had gone to Samoa in the hope of getting back to Germany to join in the war. However, they were brought back to New Zealand and interned on Motuihe Island. Von Zatorski would have been very familiar with sextants and he set about making one out of the brass tank of a primus stove, the hinges from a rudder washed up on a beach, a penny and a razor. He was able to get access to tools and ordered solder through the camp canteen.

The sextant was used to navigate to the Kermadec Islands during an escape attempt led by Count Felix von Luckner. Von Zatorski was one of six cadets on board the *Moa*, a captured scow, when they were caught at the Kermadecs by the New Zealand Navy. The Head of Navy was so impressed by the workmanship of the sextant that he donated it to the Dominion Museum in Wellington which later became Te Papa. The sextant is still there and the curator, in a Youtube interview, (2020) said that about 20 or so years ago he was contacted by von Zatorski, a very old man by then, who explained how he had made it and how proud he was of it. Von Zatorski died soon after getting in touch.