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## Documentaries & Factual - Human/Social Interest



### The Exiles

**Episodes:** 2 x 60 mins

**Language:** English

**Year:** 2023

**Producer:** Mediacorp Studios

**Distributor:** Mediacorp

The Exiles reveals untold stories of love and loss during an era of racially motivated deportations from post-war UK and Australia. At the end of the Second World War, on opposite sides of the world, Asian men were forcibly deported from their adopted homes, tearing them away from wives and children and thrusting them into an uncertain future. This series tells poignant and little-known stories of men who served valiantly for the Allies during wartime; but in a new era of peace, found themselves unwanted and discarded. Faced with a hostile immigration system, these men were forced onto ships and deported, in some cases in secret and unknown to their own families. The Exiles follows the descendants of these men as they reflect on seismic events from the past which still resonate today. These are poignant and agonising stories of deception and betrayal, and of love and resilience.

Information correct at time of printing

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### Episode 1: My Stolen Chinese Father

At the end of the Second World War, hundreds of Chinese seamen who worked for the Merchant Navy during the conflict vanished from their homes in Liverpool, England. They left behind heartbroken wives and children, and many went to their graves believing they had been deserted. Decades later, the astonishing truth is finally revealed. Declassified documents prove these heroic men and their families were betrayed by the British government in an astonishing act of deception. As their descendants search for clues, could a potential relative in Singapore be the missing puzzle piece for one Liverpool family?

### Episode 2: Australia's Asian Deportations

In 1901, Australia passed a set of racialised laws around immigration commonly known as the White Australia Policy. It sought to severely limit the number of non-British immigrants to Australia. In the wake of the Second World War, Chinese and Malay men who had courageously defended Australia during wartime found themselves forcibly deported to Hong Kong and Singapore. Families were ripped apart, causing trauma that lasted generations. The Exiles follows the descendants who battled this discriminatory policy and reunites one Singapore family after seventy-five years apart from their Australian relatives.

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