This guide has been revised to provide a summary of the type of resources available to those wishing to research the British Government’s use of the Island to hold large number of aliens during both wars.

During 1914-1919 there were two main sites on the Island, a requisitioned holiday camp in Douglas and a purpose built camp on agricultural land at Knockaloe near the town of Peel. This was a large site divided into four compounds using prefabricated huts and even had its own railway link. Knockaloe peaked in July 1916 at 22,769 men and the smaller Douglas camp held around 5,000. With transfers to other camps there were probably around 30,000 men, almost equal to the resident civilian population allowing for those absent on military service.

In WW2 camps were located in Douglas, Onchan, Peel, Port Erin/Port St Mary and Ramsey. These held much smaller numbers, sometimes only for a few months as many were swiftly released. Apart from refugees from the Nazis there were large numbers of Italians held in several camps. Others included Finns in Ramsey, over 100 Japanese and many other nationalities. There were also political detainees including those held under section 18B of the Defence (General) Regulations. This enabled the Government to imprison those thought to be a danger to national security without charge, trial or set term.

Examples were members of the British Union of Fascists and the IRA.

Interest in internment/detention generates a steady stream of new material and we are interested to learn of any new publications or research. This guide has been updated several times since it was first compiled in 1994 and this version anticipates renewed interest following the centenary of WW1 in 2014.

For WW1 most of the primary records have not survived, having been destroyed in the 1950s. However the library is actively collecting information on individuals and is attempting to build up a list of as many men as possible. A summary Register of Prisoners of War interned at Douglas Aliens Detention Camp has survived but the equivalent for Knockaloe has been lost.

For WW2 a partial listing exists for internees, this is much more complete for the smaller number of women, [4,000+], than men due to the survival of around 75% of their wartime registration cards. The equivalent men’s cards were unfortunately destroyed after the war.
Recent Developments

Access to resources online through www.imuseum.im

• The entire collection of newspapers held by the library up to 1960 is now available online. For a small subscription you can search issues for both wars and they include frequent mentions of the camps and internees.

• During WW1 the internees produced a number of camp newspapers, these have been digitised and will be available with English translations in the near future.

• 3,000+ photographs taken in both camps during WW1 have survived and are available through www.imuseum.im

• The library catalogue of printed material is gradually being added to the Explore Collections part of the iMuseum with monthly updates.

There are multiple sources in our printed and archive collections from which the following are a small selection to provide an idea of the range of material available. The years shown are those during which the camps operated.

World War One 1914-1919

Primary sources:

Baily, James T - Industrial Superintendent at Knockaloe
Personal papers: including scrapbooks, photographs, loose leaf ephemera.
Archive Ref MS 10417

Cohen-Portheim, Paul - Time Stood Still, my Internment in England 1914-18
London: Duckworth, 1931
Chapter 2, First Impressions of Knockaloe pp 33-40
Chapter 3, Organization at Knockaloe pp 41-46
Chapter 4, Some of the people pp 47-54.
Library Ref B115/COH

Dunbar-Kalckreuth, Frederic Lewis - Die Mannerinsel
Leipzig: Paul List Verlag, 1940
Supposedly based on contemporary diaries, its time and place of publication affect its accuracy.
See also Cohen-Portheim and discussion by Newton.
Library Ref B115/DUN

Internment Camp Magazines:
Douglas and Knockaloe Camps (Mainly in German). These have been digitally copied and will be available on subscription through www.imuseum.im

Internment Camps 1914-1917
Internment scrapbook: printed material produced for concerts and plays at Douglas and Knockaloe camps together with post cards, cartoons, propaganda material and miscellaneous items (1914-18) 2 volumes.
Library Ref B115/2x

Internment scrapbook a collection of material produced for events at Knockaloe and Douglas Internment Camps (1914-17) and newspaper cuttings and journal articles on Isle of Man internment during 1940-1941.
Library Ref B115/1x

Isle of Man Government Circulars relating to Aliens, Internees or Detainees 1914-1919
Useful series including camp rules and regulations.
Library Ref B.115/GOVq

Knockaloe Camp IV - Internal P.O.W. Administration, Camp 4 (organisational diagram); Camp Central Committee & other committees, 1917.
Archive Ref MS 08879 (MD 1178)

Kny, W.E.C. (Camp IV Secretary) - Knockaloe Camp Internal administration of the Prisoners of War Camp No. IV, 1915-1919
Official report by an internee to the IOM Government Secretary detailing camp life.
Library Ref B115/KNY

Photographs:
Prisoners of War - Douglas and Knockaloe Camps
Over 3,000 of these have been digitised from the original glass plates and are freely available to view through www.imuseum.im

Sargeaunt, B.E. - The Isle of Man & the Great War
Douglas: Brown and Sons, 1920
Chapter 3, The Prisoner of War Camps pp 58-86
Chapter 4, Some Official Visitors pp 87-94
Written by the wartime Government Secretary and Treasurer.
Library Ref B114/SAR

Stoffa, Paul - Round the World to Freedom
London: Bodley Head, 1933
Chapters 12 to 14 deal with life as a prisoner at Knockaloe Camp, pp 227-275
The author was an Austro Hungarian army officer.
Library Ref B115/STO
Secondary sources:
Baily, Leslie - Craftsman and Quaker: The Story of James T. Baily 1876-1957
Includes his work as Industrial Superintendent at Knockaloe.
Library Ref B.115/BAI

British Treatment of Enemy Prisoners:
Journalists visit Manx Camps.
In Manx Quarterly No. 17 Vol. 3 October 1916 pp.71-74
Brief account with details of prisoners’ rations.
Library Ref L.6/MQ

Bernard, Roy - My German Family in England
Anglo German Family History Society 1991
This helps explain German migration to England and the causes of anti German feelings.
His grandfather kept a diary at Knockaloe.
Library Ref B115/BER

Cresswell, Yvonne - Living with the Wire: Civilian Internment in the Isle of Man during the two World Wars
Douglas: Manx National Heritage, 2010
ISBN 978-0901106636
Revised and enlarged edition.
Library Ref L.6/CRE

Draskau, Jennifer Kewley - Prisoners in Petticoats: Drag Performances in Great War Internment Camps
Library Ref L.6/PRO

Drower, Jill - Good Clean Fun The story of Britain’s First Holiday Camp.
London: Arcadia Books, 1982
ISBN 0-9508344-0-8
Cunningham’s Men’s Holiday Camp above Douglas Promenade was requisitioned as Douglas camp. pp.40-50
Holiday Camp to Internment Camp. An illustrated summary showing life in tents and chalets.
Library Ref F71q

Francis, Paul - Isle of Man 20th Century Military Archaeology Part 1: Island Defence
Douglas: Manx Heritage Foundation 2006
Chapter 3 pp. 49-62 Alien & POW Camps, Cunningham’s Camp & Knockaloe; Appendix pp. 169-172 List of Internment Camp Deaths 1914 to 1918.
Library Ref B.114/77q

Mark, Graham - Prisoners of War in British Hands during World War 1: A study of their history, the camps and their mails
Douglas pp. 78-82 and Knockaloe pp. 121-129 with a list from the National Archives of all UK camps, principal camps have brief notes, [Knockaloe was the largest], minor sites are listed in an appendix.
Library Ref B.115/MARq

Newton, Gerald - Wie lange noch? Germans at Knockaloe, 1914-18
Frankfurt: Peter Lang
Offprint from Mutual Exchanges Sheffield-Munster Colloquium II, Sonderdruck 1999, pp. 103-116
Includes references to and extracts from the two main contemporary accounts of internment camp life by F.L. Dunbar-Kalckreuth and P. Cohen-Portheim.
Library Ref B115/NEW

Norris, Samuel - Manx Memories and Movements
ISBN 0-9524019-1-6. A reprint of the memoirs of a prominent Manx politician recording the social and economic effects of the war.
Library Ref G88/NOR

Ozuyar, Ali - Modern tarihin ilk sivil esir kampi: Knockaloe ve mecmul turkler
Istanbul : Turkiye Is Balkasi 2007
Includes an account of the Turkish internees held at Knockaloe Internment camp. [In Turkish]
Library Ref B.115/OZU

Thomas, Anna Braithwaite - St. Stephen's House London: Emergency Committee for the Assistance of Germans, Austrians and Hungarians in Distress, c. 1926.
This recalls the work of the Society of Friends with internees and their families.
Chapter 6 (pp 66-81) Knockaloe.
Library Ref B115/THO

West, Margery - Island at War
Laxey: Western Books, 1986
ISBN 0-9511512-0-7
Chapter 12, Behind Barbed Wire. pp 81-91
Chapter 13, For the Duration. pp 92-103
Chapter 14, Twilight of Knockaloe. pp 104-107
Historical account including photographs of camp life and personnel.
Library Ref B114/WES
World War Two 1940-1945

There is considerably more material available as many more people recorded their experiences, we have a number of personal accounts details of which are available on request. We do hold some reference copies of items held in the National Archives, Kew, however you are advised to check their online catalogue for relevant material.

Primary sources:

Barwick, John - Report on Alien Internment Camps in the United Kingdom
War Prisoners Aid of the World’s Committee of Young Mens’ Christian Associations, 1941
Detailed illustrated account of the administration, general features, cultural activities, sports, occupations and general services of the camps. Library Ref B115/BARq

Cannell, H - Hardships caused by the Internment Camps in the IOM during the 1939-45 war.
Typescript account (1996) about requisitioning of properties, the lack of help and consideration given to displaced residents and the damage and losses that resulted. Archive Ref MS 09555

Cuthbert, C.R. - Papers of the Commandant of Rushen Women’s and Married Internees Camps 1941-1945
Detective Inspector Cuthbert of New Scotland Yard succeeded Dame Joanna Cruickshank. This deposit contains newspaper cuttings relating to internment and internee messages. Archive Ref MS 11196

Dalheim, Rosemarie - The Sunny Hours
Brighton: Indepenpress Publishing Ltd. 2011
Autobiography including time her family spent as internees in Rushen Camp from May 1940 to June 1943. The author went to school, passed her matriculation examination and worked in camp kindergartens. Library Ref B.115/DAL

Emanuelli, Hector - A Sense of Belonging: From the Rhondda to the Potteries: Memories of a Welsh-Italian Englishman
Langenfeld: Six Towns Books 2010
Formerly Ettorino Emanuelli held as an 18B detainee in Peveril Camp Peel from 13 May 1941 to 13/14 April 1942. Chapter 8 pp. 77-80 and illustrations on pp. 85-91 detail his experiences. Copies of his papers in MS 12552. Library Ref B.115/EMA

Giovannelli, L.N. - Paper Hero: At His Majesty’s Pleasure
Douglas: Island Development Co., 1971
The experiences of an Italian internee and later Manx resident in the Metropole camp 1940-1944. Library Ref B115/GIO

Home Office Orders for Internment Camps Revised issue including all Amendments up to 30/06/1943
M.P. - 25492/200 July 1943. 63 page printed booklet containing administrative procedures and an enclosure with a schedule of the numbers of military and civilian personnel working at Onchan Internment Camp in July 1941. Archive Ref MS 11293

Hutchinson Square ’P’ Camp, Douglas c. 1942
A detailed illustrated 19 page typescript account of the routine, facilities and administration of the camp. unfortunately it lacks the final page(s). Probably written by an internee. Archive Ref MS 10739

Internee statistical returns
Summary of weekly returns of internees held in the Douglas, Onchan, Peel and Ramsey internment camps (it does not include the Rushen camps) Archive Ref MD 354

Internment Camp Magazines:
The Camp: Hutchinson Square Journal
Issues 1-13/14, September to December 1940
Issues 1-6, 8-16, & 20, January to November 1941
(Includes Camp Almanac for 1941)
Library Ref L6/CAMf

Camp Tribune No. 1. 16 August 1941: published in ’Y’ (married) camp, Port Erin
First (and possibly only) issue edited by Michael Corvin former editor of the Hutchinson Camp and Onchan Pioneer journals. Includes a letter to Miss Eleanor Rathbone M.P. and details ofregulations regarding immigration to the United States, also a comment on the shock of adjusting to life in the married camp after a year apart. Library Ref B.115/13xf(8)
Onchan Pioneer
Nos 1-47, 27 July 1940 to 20 July 1941.

Sefton Review
Nos 2-7, 25 Nov 1940-3 Feb 1941.
Camp magazines in German and English, with illustrations, giving a view of life in the camps.
Library Ref Microfilm MIC 126

Sursum Corda
Issues 1 & 4, November to December 1941
Italian language produced at Onchan Camp.
Library Ref B115/SUR

Isle of Man Government: Circulars relating to Aliens, Internese or Detainees 1939-1945
Administrative orders covering many aspects of camp life such as diet and medical care.
Library Ref B.115/GOVq

Isle of Man Government
17 Camp location plans and restricted access areas from Isle of Man Government Circulars relating to Aliens, Internese or Detainees 1939-1945.
Selection indexed and photographed from original plans in the IOM Public Record Office. These accompany Government Circulars detailing the boundaries of the camps.
Library Ref B.115/117f

Johnson, Harry - Personal Papers: relating to his involvement with Rushen Camp 1940 - 1945, whilst a Methodist minister in Port St Mary
Correspondence, notices, lists of individual women noting their faiths (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish); cuttings and photographs.
Archive Ref MS 09378

Johnson, Joan (daughter of Harry Johnson) - My memories of life in Rushen Internment Camp, May 29th 1940 to August 31st 1941: a personal experience
Recalls pastoral work with internees and the effects of internment on the women.
Archive Ref MS 08866

Palace Internment Camp - List of Internees 1940
This camp on Douglas Promenade was for Italians and this list includes a home address.
Archive Ref MS 10147

Parman, Frey - En alandsk sjomans intenering pa Isle of Man: An Aland Sailor Interned in the Isle of Man
The authors father Frej Parman, was in Ramsey Mooragh Camp 1941-1944. This article includes some of his letters, with an English summary. For original letters see MS 11087.
Library Ref B.115/PAR

Peveril Guardsman
Newsletter of the Peel International Camp Guards.
A view from the other side of the wire 1941-45.
Library Ref L6Pf

Photographs:

Prisoners of War - WWII
Hutchinson Square and sea-front, Douglas; Mooragh, Ramsey; Onchan and Peel Camps.
A small selection of views as photography was heavily restricted.

Rossi, Gaetano - Memories of 1940 Impressions of life in an internment camp
Rome: Associazione Culturale Foundation 1991
Memoirs of an Italian Catholic Priest who was interned in the Metropole camp: Isle of Man section is pp. 43-62; with internee photographs.
Library Ref B.115/ROS

Underhill, Arthur C - A Policeman’s Lot
Douglas: Manx Experience, 1993
ISBN 1-873120-11-7
Chapter 3 Alien Internment Camps
The author with Constable Wally Curphey were the police officers responsible for completing alien registration record cards.
He comments on the types of individuals interned.
Library Ref G88/UND
Secondary Sources

Cresswell, Yvonne - Living with the Wire: Civilian Internment in the Isle of Man during the two World Wars
Douglas: Manx National Heritage, 2010
ISBN 978-0901106636
Revised and enlarged edition.
Library Ref B115/CRE

Francis, Paul - Isle of Man 20th Century Military Archaeology Part 1: Island Defence
Douglas: Manx Heritage Foundation 2006
Chapter 6 WW2 Internment Camps pp. 107-118;
Library Ref B.114/77q

Franklin, Alan - Second World War internee records for the Isle of Man
AJR Journal February-March 2008
Summary of surviving information extracted from IOM Police records and other sources.
Library Ref B.115/FRAq

1940-2010: the individual and Family Legacy of WW2 Internment as it Relates to the Isle of Man.
A Guide to Aid Personal Research
From: AJR Journal June 2010
B.115/FRAq
online summary version of both these articles at http://www.ajr.org.uk/pdfjournals

Fry, Helen - Jews in North Devon During the Second World War: The escape from Nazi Germany and the Establishment of the Pioneer Corps
Tiverton: Halsgrove, 2005
Contains numerous mentions of internees released to join the Pioneer Corps at Ilfracombe.
Library Ref B.115/FRYq

Itoh, Keiko - The Japanese Community in Pre-War Britain from Integration to Disintegration
Richmond: Curzon Press, 2001
ISBN 0-7007-1487-1
Often overlooked is the experience of Japanese internees. This book explains the background and details of some of those interned.
Library Ref B.115/ITO

Nylund, Sven-Erik - Suomalainen merimiesten internoinnit toisen maailmansodan aikana [Internment of Finnish seamen during Second World War]
Helsinki: Finnish National Archive 2008
Library Ref B.115/NYL

Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies Yearbooks. Amsterdam: Editions Rodopi B.V. Between 1999 and 2013 thirteen volumes have been published of particular note are:

Vol. 6 Behr, S. - Klaus E. Hinrichsen: The Art Historian behind ‘Visual Art behind the Wire’ pp. 17-41;
Muller-Harlin, Anna - Fred Uhlman’s Internment Drawings pp. 135-163.

Vol. 7 Cresswell, Yvonne - Behind the Wire: the material culture of civilian internment on the Isle of Man in the First World War pp. 45-61;
Hansen, Jutta Raab - Die Bedeutung der Musik fur 26,000 internierte Zivilisten während des ersten Weltkriegs auf der Isle of Man pp. 63-81;
Brinson, Charmian - Loyal to the Reich: National Socialists and Others in the Rushen Women’s Internment Camp pp.101-119;
Dove, Richard - Wer sie nicht erlebt hat, der begreift sie nie The Internment Camp Revue ‘What a Life’ pp. 121-137;
Taylor, Jennifer - Something to make people laugh? Political content in Isle of Man Internment

German Camp Journals July-October 1940 pp.139-152;
Library Ref B115/RES


Vol. 10 Dr Karl Konig and the Camphill Community, Konig was an internee in the Central Camp and this is briefly mentioned. pp. 169-182
Library Ref B.115/64
Web site www.igrs.sas.ac.uk/research-centre-german-and-austrian-exile-studies

Sargeaunt, B.E. - A Military History of the Isle of Man
Arbroath: T. Buncle and Co., 1947
Chapter 8, The 1939-45 War. pp 69-79
Brief details on internment.
Library Ref B114/15
Simpson, A.W. Brian - In the Highest Degree Odious: Detention without trial in wartime Britain
Explains detention under Regulation 18B which included Fascist sympathisers such as members of Oswald Moseley’s British Union of Fascists at the Peveril Camp in Peel.
Library Ref B.115/SIM

Sponza, Lucio - Divided Loyalties Italians in| Britain during the Second World War
Bern : Peter Lang AG 2000
Chapter 5 Life in the Internment Camps (Isle of Man) pp. 123-151, mentions the six camps in Douglas, Central, Granville, Hutchinson, Metropole, Palace and Sefton and the other island camps, also leisure activities and details of voluntary and paid work in and out of the camps.
Library Ref B.115/SPO
German War Graves Commission (in German with English abstract) www.volksbund.de/en/volksbund.html

British Library on-line public catalogue - explore.bl.uk

Some other useful resources:
For internees who died during either war and whose bodies were subsequently moved to the German Military Cemetery at Cannock Chase, contact: Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Broadhurst Green, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire. www.cwgc.org and/or Imperial War Museum, London www.iwm.org.uk/research/research-facilities

The National Archives in London guide to records held www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

For WW1 see FO 383. It also has a list of researchers who act for enquirers. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/irlist

Anglo German Family History Society
www.agfhs.org.uk

Anglo Italian Family History Society
www.angelo-italianfhs.org.uk/

Association of Jewish Refugees
www.ajr.org.uk/pdfjournals
Has digitised its entire run of journals since 1946.

International Committee of the Red Cross
grandeguerre.icrc.org
Archives 1914-18
5 million records for prisoners and detainees.
The most important resource for WW1.

OPENING TIMES
MANX MUSEUM READING ROOM:
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REGISTRATION
In order to use the Reading Room at the Manx Museum or the iMuseum you need to register your contact details. Proof of ID (driving licence or utility bill) showing your current address is required. A single registration covers the use of either or both facilities.

A range of Manx literary publications are available for purchase from the Manx Museum shop or online at www.manxheritageshop.com