This guide illustrates the type of resources available at MNH to those researching the British Government's use of the Island to detain people considered ‘aliens’ during and shortly after the First World War.

The two alien detention camps were located at the requisitioned Cunningham’s holiday camp in Douglas and at a purpose-built camp on agricultural land at Knockaloe near the town of Peel; the latter was divided into four large compounds using pre-fabricated huts for accommodation and it had its own railway link. Numbers at Knockaloe peaked in July 1916 at 22,769 men while the smaller Douglas camp held around 5,000. Probably around 30,000 men were interned, almost equal to the resident civilian population (allowing for those absent on military service).

Unfortunately for researchers, many of the primary records were destroyed in the 1950s. Some survive in the Isle of Man Constabulary archives including an admissions and discharge register for internees held at Douglas Alien Detention Camp; the equivalent registers for Knockaloe are no longer available.

### Searching for Individuals

Men held in the Douglas Camp may be searched by name using the ‘people’ search option on our website [www.imuseum.im](http://www.imuseum.im). This index is made up of information collated from various sources, including the administrations register (part of Constabulary archives ref MS 09310) and indexes compiled by the Anglo-German family History Society from German archives held at Koblenz (Archive ref MS 09395).

We hold a list of staff in both camps in July 1917. Reference copies are available at Archives ref: MS 11062.

Occasionally individuals may be identified in the digitised camp newspapers and regular Manx press; also in over 3,000 digitised photographs documenting life in both camps, all available through [www.imuseum.im](http://www.imuseum.im)

Access to newspapers after an initial free search is via a subscription (one day to one year long).

### Academic Research

The library catalogue of printed material is searchable using the turquoise Library tab on the iMuseums home page. The following selected items provide an idea of the range of printed and archival resources for research. The years shown are those during which the camp operated.

If you plan to visit and would like a list of manuscript sources, please email us at Library@MNH.gov.im
**Primary Sources**

**Baily, James T**
Papers of the Society of Friends (Quaker) Industrial Superintendent at Knockaloe including scrapbooks, photographs, loose leaf ephemera, 1915-1920.
Archive Ref: MS 09417

**Catering records of Knockaloe Alien Detention Camp,**
Patrick, 1915-1919
Archive Ref: MS 09377

**Douglas Camp** journals 1914-1919; register of documents received & notes of action taken, 1915-1917
Archive Ref: MS 06465; MD 15028/1-3

**Hartmann, Rudolf, Pastor**
Papers in German and English of this Knockaloe internee, 1915-1919
Archive Ref: MS 12779

**Jeger, Maurice. 22 Monate in englischer Kriegsgefangenschaft**
First World War internment memoir in German. The German word ‘Kriegsgefangenschaft’ in the title translates as ‘captor as a prisoner of war’. Maurice Jeger (anglicised as Morris Hunter) was an Austrian Jewish internee during the First World War.
Library ref B.115/JEG

**Kahn, Benno**
Douglas Alien Detention Camp School papers belonging to this internee, 1914-1918
Archives ref: MS 09379

**Knox, Archibald**
Correspondence regarding his work as a postal censor at Knockaloe, 1919
Archive ref: MS 09954

**Photographs:**
Prisoners of War- Douglas and Knockaloe Camps.
Over 3,000 glass plate negatives have been digitised (ref PG/7870) as well as a selection of other prints. These are free to view through [www.imuseum.im](http://www.imuseum.im)

**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**
This pamphlet, with Knockaloe diary extracts, helps explain German migration to England and the causes of anti-German sentiment.
Library Ref B115/BER

**Cohen-Portheim, Paul - Time Stood Still, my Internment in England 1914-18**
London: Duckworth, 1931
Chapter 2, 3 and 4 on Knockaloe.
Library Ref B115/COH

**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
Library Ref B115/CRE

ISBN 90-420-1658-2
Library Ref B.115/RES

**Draskau, Jennifer Kewley - Prisoners in petticoats:**
_Drag Performances in Great War Internment camps_
Library Ref L.6/PRO
Library Ref B115/1x and /2x
Some other useful resources:

Knockaloe Visitors Centre, Patrick
http://www.knockaloe.im/

This registered charity opened its centre in spring 2019. Volunteers do not charge for providing research for off island enquirers seeking specific information regarding an internee, guard or camp staff member during the Great War, irrespective of which Manx camp is involved.

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.cwc.org and /or Imperial War Museum, London www.iwm.org.uk/research/research-facilities

The National Archives at Kew, London has an online guide to its records (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk), see particularly FP 383 for the First World War. A list of researchers who act for enquirers is available at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/irlist

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

International Committee of the Red Cross
https://grandeguerre.icrc.org/
Access to digitised ICRC records of First World War prisoners’ index files and lists.