

Library and Archives

Internment during the Second World War on the Isle of Man

During the Second World War, civilian internment camps for male internees were located in Douglas, Onchan, Peel, and Ramsey. A smaller number of women and children were interned in Port Erin and Port St Mary, whilst a 'married camp' operated for a short time. The 'enemy aliens' interned on the Island included German and Austrian refugees from the Nazi regime, together with large numbers of Italians and other 'Axis power' nationalities such as Hungarians, Finns and Japanese. A detainment camp called Peveril camp in Peel held political detainees, including those held under section 18B of the Defence (General) Regulations. This enabled the British 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.

Records for 1939-1945 were kept both by the British Government and the IOM Constabulary. British records are held at The National Archives at Kew. Police completed an alien registration card for each internee over 16. The men's cards were destroyed after the war but around 75% of the cards survive for the smaller amount of women interned.

Personal research

Online

Registration card information is searchable using the 'People' search option on our website www.imuseum.im. Manx newspapers carried some mention of the camps. A paid subscription to our digital newspaper archive is available via the imuseum homepage.

Source material on individuals

A volunteer has collated information from assorted resources, printed and otherwise, regarding male and female internees. On request this small database can be searched by library staff (some references may not be shared because they relate to living people). Please email library.MNH@mnh.im to request a search providing full name information, nationality and any other identifying details available. Due to the large number of enquiries, be aware that we are unable to provide copies of documents. You may need to contact a researcher unless you can visit the Reading Room yourself.

Academic research studies

Interest in interment generates a steady stream of new material and we are interested to learn of any new publications or research. Academic researchers may wish to contact us for a longer list of printed and manuscript resources.

The library catalogue of printed material has been added to the 'Explore Collections' part of the imuseum website. There are multiple sources in our printed and manuscript 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 camp operated. We hold some reference copies of items held in the National Archives, Kew: please check the online catalogue.

The Arts

We receive regular requests for materials relating to the artistic community in the camps and welcome submissions of dissertations with any Isle of Man internment-related content. The library holds books on painters and musicians who were interned on the Island and exhibition catalogues relating to ex-internees.



Primary Sources

Camp Administration

Barwick, John- Report on Alien Internment Camps in the United Kingdom

War Prisoners Aid of the World's Committee of Young Men's 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 Internment camps in the IOM during the 1939-45 war

Typescript account noting the requisitioning of properties, lack of help and consideration given to displaced residents and the damage and losses that resulted, 1996.
Manuscript 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. <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/>
Manuscript ref: MS 11196

Home Office Orders for Internment Camps Revised Issue including all Amendments up to 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 the Onchan Internment Camp in July 1941.
Manuscript ref: MS 11293

Hutchinson Square 'P' Camp, Douglas c. 1941

Illustrated 19 page typescript account of the routine, facilities and administration of the camp. Probably written by an internee; unfortunately it lacks the final page(s)
Manuscript ref: MS 10739

Internee statistical returns

Weekly returns of the number of internees held in the Douglas, Onchan, Peel and Ramsey internment camps (they do not include Rushen camps or names of internees)
Manuscript ref: MS 06472 MD 354

Isle of Man Government: Circulars relating to Aliens, Internees 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

Copies of 17 Camp location plans and restricted access areas from Isle of Man Government Circulars relating to Aliens, Internees or Detainees 1939-1945.
Originals held in the IOM Public Record Office Library ref: B.115/117f

Palace Internment Camp- List of Internees in August 1940

This camp on Douglas Promenade was for Italians and this list includes a home address.
Manuscript ref: MS 10147 (copy available in the Reading Room)

Biographies/Autobiographies

Dalheim, Rosemarie - the Sunny Hours

Brighton: Indepenpress Publishing Ltd. 2011
Autobiography including her time her family spent as internees in Rushen Camp May 1941 -June 1943. The author went to school, passed her matriculation examination and worked in camp kindergartens.
Library ref: B. 115/DAL

Emmanuelli, Hector- A sense of Belonging: from the Rhondda to the Potteries: Memories of a Welsh- Italian Englishman

Langenfeld: Six Towns Books 2010
Formerly Ettore Emanuelli. He was held as an 18B detainee in Peveril Camp, Peel 13 May 1941 -13/14 April 1942. Chapter 8 pp. 77-80 and illustrations on pp. 85-92 detail his experiences. Copies of his papers in MS 12552
Library ref: B.115/EMA

Giovanelli, L.N- paper Hero: a 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

Johnson, Harry- Personal Papers: relating to his involvement with the 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.
Manuscript 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.
Manuscript ref: MS 08866; MD 1171

Parman, Frey- En alandsk sjomans intenering pa Isle of Man: An Aland Sailor Interned in the Isle of Man

In Sjohistorisk arsskrift for Aland 2006-2007: 19 pp. 60-71.
The authors father Frej Parman, was in Ramsey Mooragh Camp 1941-1944. This article includes some of his letters with an English summary.
Library ref: B.115/PAR

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: (See pp. 43-62) with internee photographs.
Library ref: B.115/ROS

Underhill, Arthur C- A Policemen's Lot

Douglas: Manx Experience 1993
ISBN 1-873 1 20-11-7
Chapter 3. Alien Internment camps. The author, with Constable Wally Curphey, was the police officer responsible for completing alien registration record cards. He comments on the types of individuals interned.
Library ref: G88/UND



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/CAMq

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 of regulations 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: B115/13xf(7)

Onchan Pioneer

Numbers 1-47, 27 July 1940 to 20 July 1941.

Library ref: B115/4xf

Sefton Review

Numbers 2-7 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: B.115/SURq

Peveil Guardsman

Newsletter of the Peel International Camp Guards. A view from the other side of the wire 1941-1945.

Library ref: L6.PEVq

Photographs

We only hold a small quantity of images from the period as photography was heavily restricted. Most of these can be seen in books by Chappell, Cresswell and Franklin. See the other useful resources section for pictures held by The Tate.

Secondary Sources

Chappell, Connery – Island of barbed wire: The remarkable story of World War Two Internment on the Isle of Man *

London: Robert Hale, 1984

ISBN 0 7090 7754 8

Library ref: B115/CHA

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

Franklin, Alan – Involuntary Guests: Enemy Aliens and Political Detainees on the Isle of Man in World War Two *

Ramsey. Lily Publications. 2017.

*The first three titles are available to purchase from the Manx Museum shop.

<https://manxnationalheritage.im/shop/product-category/books-media/books/page/2/>

Cesarani, David & Kushner, Tony (1993). The Internment of Aliens in Twentieth Century Britain

Library Ref: B.115/CES

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: B114/77q

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

Library ref: B.115/FRAq

https://ajr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2010_june.pdf

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: B115/FRYq

Itoh, Keiko – The Japanese Community in Pre-War Britain from integration to disintegration

Richmond: Curzon Press, 2001

ISBN 0-7007-1487-1

This book explains the background and details of some of those interned.

Library ref: B.115/ITO

Kochan, Miriam (1983). Britain's Internees in the Second World War

Library Ref: B.115/KOC

This contains a chapter called 'Luxurious Idleness' on women's Rushen camp, and 'The Isle of Men' which quotes extensively from the account by Paul Jacobsthal of Hutchinson Camp. (also see MS 11626/1).



Nylund, Sven-Erik- Suomalaisen merimiesten internoinnit toisen maailmansodan aikana [Internment of Finnish seamen during the Second World War]

Helsinki: Finnish National Archive 2008

Westerlund, Lars- Prisoners of war and Internees. pp 430-513, mentions Finns held on the Isle of Man. In Finnish with a brief English summary.

Library ref: B.115/NYL

Simpson, A.W. Brian –In the Highest Degree Odious: Detention without trial in wartime Britain

Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1994 ISBN 0-19 825949-2

The book 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 Italian 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 camps on the Island, also leisure activities and details of voluntary and paid work in and out of the camps.

Library ref: B.115/SPO

Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies Yearbooks. Amsterdam: E

Library ref: B115/RES. Of particular note are:

Volume 3 (2001)-German speaking exiles in great Britain. Edited by J.M. Ritchie

Thuncke, Jorg – Die Isle of man- Lagerzeitungen 'The Camp' und 'the Onchan Pioneer'. pp.41-58. The article attempts an analysis of two camp newsletters.

Volume 7 (2005)-Totally un-English. Edited by Richard Dove

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 erlebte hat, dr 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 Camp Journals July-October 1940. pp.139-152;

Sponza, Lucio- The Internment of Italians 1940-1945. pp. 153-163

Ritchie, J.M. – Exile. Internment and Deportation in Norbert Gstrein's Die Englischen Jahre. pp. 193-203

Volume 10 (2008) 'I didn't want to float; I wanted to belong to something'. Edited by Anthony Grenville and Andrea Reiter

J.M. Ritchie. Dr Karl Konig and the Camphill Community. (Konig was an internee in the Central camp and this is briefly mentioned).

The Arts

Fewster, Vanessa.(2005)'Art and Identity 'Behind Barbed Wire': Hugo Dachinger in Internment 1940-41'

Masters dissertation

Manuscript ref: MS 11308

Theatre programmes for three plays mounted by the theatre group of Hutchinson internment camp with full cast lists of internee actors for' Androcles and the Lion', 'Golden Boy' and 'Distant Point'

1942

Manuscript ref: MS 12633

Snizek, Suzanne (2011). 'German and Austrian Emigre Musical Culture in the British Internment Camps of World War II: Composer Hans Gal, Huyton Suite and the Camp Revue What a Life!'

Thesis,

Manuscript ref: MS 12959

Kaden, Herbert (1993).'Some memories of Peveril Internment Camp, Peel, I.O.M. 1940'

Manuscript ref: MS 12596

Ben Uri Gallery. Forced Journeys Artists in exile in Britain c.1933-45: catalogue of an exhibition at Ben Uri Gallery The London Jewish Museum of Art (2009)

Library Ref:B.115/FORf

Ben Uri Gallery. Forced Journeys: Artists in Exile in Britain c.1933-45 Exhibition Catalogue for exhibition at the Sayle Gallery 2010

Library Ref: B.115/FOR

Brinson, Charmian & Muller-Harlin, Anna (2009). His majesty's Loyal Internee: Fred Uhlmann in captivity

Library Ref: - B.115/BRI

Garnham, A.M. (2011). Hans Keller and Internment: The Development of an Émigré Musician 1938-48

Library ref: B.115/GAR

Gál, Hans. 2013.

Music behind barbed wire: a diary of summer 1940.

Library ref: B.115/GAL

Johnson, N; Geitner, A; Bacon, S.(2007) . Martin Bloch A Painter's Painter Exhibition catalogue .

Library ref: C.18/BLOq

Laurent, Livia. (1942). A Tale of Internment (in Holloway and the Isle of Man).

Description of life in Rushen camp pp. 49-126. Livia Laurent is the pseudonym of Eva Maierhof/Meyerhof.

Library ref: B.115/LAU

Bohm-Duchen, Monica; Dobson, Zuleika (1986). Art in exile in Britain c. 1933-45. Exhibition at Cambden Arts Centre Exhibition catalogue.

Library Ref:B.115/BOH. This has short write-ups on a lot of ex-internee artists.



Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies Yearbooks.
Amsterdam. Volume 6
Library ref: B.115/RES

Behr, S. –Klaus E. Hinrichsen: *The Art behind the wire* pp. 17-41;

Muller-Harlin, Anna – Fred Uhlman's *Interment Drawings*.
pp.135-163.

Some other useful resources

For internees who died and whose bodies were subsequently moved to the German Military cemetery at Cannock Chase, contact: Commonwealth War Graves Commission
<https://www.cwgc.org/>

The German war Graves Commission
<https://www.volksbund.de/en/volksbund.html>

The National Archives at Kew, London
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/internees/>

The Imperial War Museum
www.iwm.org.uk/collections

The Anglo German Family History Society
<http://www.agfhs.org/site/index.php>

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

Association of Jewish refugees
<https://ajr.org.uk/ajr-journal/>
The Association has digitised its entire run of journals since 1946

Online images of Hutchinson Camp
<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/archive/tga-20052-2-7/hinrichsen-photographs-of-hutchinson-interment-camp-isle-of-man?page=7>

