

Germans and Austrians resident in Britain are considered a threat to Britain's security and many, including Jews who have escaped Nazi persecution, are summarily arrested and interned. Following the invasion of the Low Countries all German males between 16 and 60 are immediately interned and on Italy's declaration of war in June 1940 all Italian adult males are similarly incarcerated.



Motivating the policy of internment is the fear of a 'Fifth Column' undermining Britain's security.



Italians living in Edinburgh are initially incarcerated in the city's castle. Perforation shift (1988 printing) with normal.



The Police round up 'undesirables'

P.C. 66
OPENED BY CENSOR



Following their initial incarceration some internees are quickly released having been before a tribunal and judged not to pose a threat to Britain's security. Bier returns to London following his release from the Huxton internment camp. Huxton is a disused council estate on the outskirts of Liverpool. While the new P.C. 90 censor label was being applied to civilian mail the P.C. 66 label continued to be used on internees' mail.



Warner's Camp in Seaton, set up to receive internees in late 1939, is a former holiday camp on the Devon coast. The octagonal censor with code O.16 was used until November 1940, the letter code 'O' possibly being used on internee mail. The censor has neatly removed the stamps to check for hidden messages.



In Canada internees are sometimes employed in lumbering. Plate 1 imprint entitled 'Felling big trees in British Columbia'.



Heinz Bing, a German-Jewish refugee, is a doctoral student in chemistry at Imperial College at the start of the war. Interned as an 'enemy alien' he is transported to Canada aboard the *Efferick*. There he is housed first at Monteith (Camp Q) before being transferred to Sherbrook (Camp N). Following representations by his fiancée to various authorities Bing is released and returns to England in December. Both items are endorsed with a 'CANADA INT. OP. 21' censor cachet (Internment Operations) and back-stamped with a dated 'BASE A.P.O. CANADA' receiving office cancel.



The *Arandora Star* with 480 'A' class German merchant seamen and 730 Italian civilian internees destined for Canada is torpedoed and sunk by U-47 on 2 July, 75 miles off Bloody Foreland with the loss of 805 lives.



The principle destination for most internees, because of its isolation, is the Isle of Man. The majority of camps are set up in requisitioned seafront lodging houses and hotels in the island's seaside resorts.



The Manx packet *Snaefell* brings internees from Liverpool to the Isle of Man.



Peveril Camp, Peel



Palace Camp is housed in a terrace of 38 houses overlooking Douglas seafront.



Smoking in Palace Camp



Two letter sheets, the first (bottom) from Prees Heath Camp, a tented transit camp near Whitchurch, and the second from Hutchinson Camp in Douglas. Both are from Dr Eric Singer to Mrs Edith A Singer, thus tracing the internee's progress from transit to permanent camp. Both letter sheets are cancelled with 'OFFICIAL PAID' date stamps, stamps not being made available to internees.



Female internees are housed in camps situated in the villages of Port St Mary and Port Erin while camps for men are established in Douglas, Peel and Ramsey.



The Promenade, Douglas

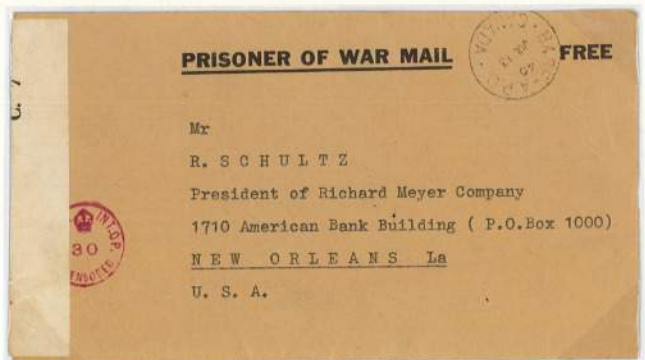


Some internees find themselves in the company of POWs. In Britain internees and captured German seamen and aircrew are housed separately, but following the fall of France the majority of POWs are sent to Canada where they are housed in the same camps as internees.

Addressed to a POW in No 11 Camp situated on York Racecourse this mail surprisingly appears to be uncensored.



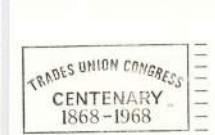
Resealed with a Canadian 'EXAMINED BY CENSOR C.7' label the sender, 'Kapitän Max Jessen', probably a German seaman, is incarcerated in Camp 'T'. (The sender's details appear on the back flap.)



In the aftermath of the German attack on France the British Government passes the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act 1940 giving it the authority to direct industry to produce what is required to enable the country to prosecute the war effectively.



Factories are put on a war footing.



The T.U.C. is persuaded by the Minister for Labour, Ernest Bevin, to agree to changes in working practices.



Factory workers increase their hours in a bid to raise production, but output does not improve so working hours are regulated.

Black die proof on un-gummed paper with issued stamp. Only 2 - 5 proofs were made.



Imperatore proof pane in final colours on gummed paper with issued stamp.



Skilled trades in heavy industry, due to their importance in the manufacture of armaments, are categorised as reserved occupations.

The Schedule of Reserved Occupations is enacted. Drawn up in 1938, it creates categories of skilled workers exempt from being conscripted into the armed forces.



The Minister of Supply, Herbert Morrison, instructs workers to 'Go to it'.



Farmers and train drivers are among those classified as reserved occupations but surprisingly, considering coal is an essential war commodity, mine workers are not included.

Directed work is introduced on 6 June. The manufacture of many commodities cease, including hundreds of household goods, companies now being ordered to produce items essential for fighting a war.



Buck & Hickman Ltd provides tools and supplies for mechanical trades and continues to do so under wartime conditions. Both the 1/- and 3d adhesives have 'B&H' perfin. The airmail rate to the USA in 1940 was 1/3.



House building ceases, many bricklayers now being employed on the construction of defence facilities. Toy manufacturers find themselves making much less playful products.

Pikington advertises safety glass for protection against bomb blast injuries. 3M diverts production into defence materials including abrasive papers and masking tape for the aircraft industry.

Armament production is necessarily increased following the disastrous loss of military equipment in France and the desperate need for convoy escorts and more fighter and bomber aircraft. British industry strenuously strives to meet the challenge.



An advert appearing in the 9 May edition of Flight magazine reads 'GKN Nettlefolds locating screws - simplifying an essential aircraft process'.



A number of aircraft are under development including the four engine Halifax bomber.



Babcock & Wilcox supplied boilers for Royal Navy ships including the battleships Revenge and Ramilies. The 2½d adhesive bears a 'BW' perfin.



The Albion Works in Scotstoun produced commercial trucks and buses but now commences the production of Enfield No 2 Mk 1 revolvers to aid the war effort.

The 25 pounder field gun, produced in large quantities, becomes standard equipment. Preliminary artwork for the 4p stamp in the 1987 Gibraltar 'Gun' issue. The 25 pounder gun is depicted on the issued 18p stamp.



Formidable is commissioned on 24 November, but Charybdis, ordered under the 1938 Building programme, does not enter service until December 1941. Limbourne, is ordered in July, but is not launched until May 1942.



Shipyards work flat out, but it takes time to build and trial new warships before they can go into action.

With men enlisting into the Armed Forces the resulting shortage of labour has to be addressed. Although women are not conscripted into essential war work until 1941 many enter employment in areas not traditionally considered 'woman's work'. Others enlist into the female branches of Britain's armed forces thus releasing men to join fighting units.



Mothers with young children are expected to remain at home and care for their offspring.



However their domesticity is expected to be productive. Worn out clothes are mended or remodelled. The sewing machine comes into its own.



Reverse reduced



Grandmothers also play their part, caring for children while their mothers are at work. Many contribute to the war effort by knitting garments for the fighting men.

From 1910 to 1937 Bundesteier postal stationery cards were issued each 1 August by the Swiss National Day Committee in co-operation with the Swiss Post Office. The proceeds from the sale of these cards were devoted to worthwhile causes.



This wartime Australian poster graphically illustrates the range of opportunities open to women.



Soon women are working in occupations traditionally the preserve of men. By the middle of the year the TUC has agreed to let women into trades previously barred to them, including munitions factories.

The Post Office calls upon women to volunteer. Within a day over 4,000 respond. Stamps for training purposes bear double line obliterations.

WOMEN IN THE FLYING SERVICES

Although women have officially served in nursing roles in the Army since the 19th century it took the manpower shortages of the First World War to make the military authorities realize that women could also contribute usefully in other ways. By 1917 the voluntary organisations that had been established by patriotic society ladies were accepted as necessary. The Royal Navy introduced the Women's Royal Naval Service and the Army introduced the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. On the formation of the RAE the women serving in the RNAS and the RFA were transferred to the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF). The duties performed by the WRAFs included clerical, catering and domestic work, but they were also used as motorcycle dispatch riders, staff-car drivers, stores clerks, photographic processors and in the minor servicing of engineering components. The RAF also had its own nursing service.



Women joining the WAAF undertake duties previously carried out by their male colleagues. The variety of tasks undertaken is described on this page from the Great Britain 'Pilot to Plane - RAF Uniforms' 2008 prestige booklet.



Many women join one of the various civilian or military nursing organisations.



The Women's Land Army is reformed in 1939. By the middle of 1940 women are employed on nearly every farm in Britain. Not only do they work in the fields and care for the animals, they are also allowed to drive tractors.



Many women choose to enlist in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). The 'smoking WAAF' constant variety, Row 18 stamp 2 (right).



Women also enlisted in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the female branch of the Army.



Women, including Amy Johnson, join the Air Transport Auxiliary but are initially only permitted to fly trainers. They do not deliver fighter aircraft to the squadrons until 1941.

4.4 conserving resources is officially encouraged.

The British people strive to reduce consumption and recycle vital resources. Ways of minimising the use of a wide range of materials develops and a 'make do and mend' mentality becomes the norm.

The Post Office plays its part by reducing the size of greetings telegrams and issuing stamp booklets with unprinted covers.



Ink is saved by issuing the 6d (4x1d, 4x5d) booklet with a plain cover in June.



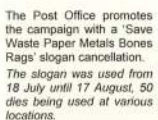
Clothes are made using a minimal amount of material. Furniture is patched or repaired.



The Government urges the public to recycle materials that are useful to the war effort. In towns and cities across the country collections for recyclable materials are held.



Designed by Macdonald Gill this much reduced in size Greetings Telegram, the first war economy telegram, is issued on 5 December. Its envelope, while remaining gold, is similarly reduced in size.



The Post Office promotes the campaign with a 'Save Waste Paper Metals Bones Rags' slogan cancellation.



Youth organisations, including the Boys Brigade, make door-to-door collections.



Few homes retain the iron railings in front of their houses.

With an 'every little bit helps' mentality the re-use of envelopes is facilitated by economy labels, in this instance produced for 'Official' use.

The Government considers ways of raising funds to finance the war. An initial idea is to produce surcharged postage stamps, the additional revenue going partly to the Post Office and partly to the war effort. The idea is dropped in favour of an all-round increase in postal rates. This is implemented on 1 May 1940.



During the First World War 27 countries in the British Empire adopted a postal War Tax to raise revenue for the war effort. Except for Canada stamps were overprinted with 'War Tax' or 'War Stamp'. The Jamaica stamp shows the overprint inverted in error.

Trial proof and essay for the proposed overprints for the 'War Tax' stamps. The trials were printed on un-watermarked and un-gummed paper. (C)



The printed paper rate is increased from 3/2d to 1d. This postal stationery envelope is posted on the day of the increase with the 3/2d definitive added to raise it to the new 1d rate.



The post card rate is increased from 1d to 2d, a second 1d imprint being added.



The inland rate is increased from 1 1/2d to 2 1/2d. Additional imprints are sometimes added to postal stationery. This is evidence by the instructions on the reverse of this letter card, reference being made for its use at the 1 1/2d rate.



On 13 June the Post Office and Telegraph Act allows for an increase of a fixed additional charge of 3d on ordinary, priority and greetings inland telegrams. Booklets containing 20 Inland Telegram forms with surcharged covers indicating the increased rate and Telegram forms with a 3d stamp affixed are made available at Post Offices. Examples of these are rarely seen. (C)

Taxes and duties are introduced or increased. In the Budget on 23 July the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Kingsley Wood, imposes purchase tax for the first time together with increases in duty on a range of products.



Luxury items including lace, cosmetics and articles not requiring immediate replacement like textiles are subject to 33% purchase tax.

The duty on wine is significantly increased.

Children's clothes are exempted.

Ensuring people are adequately fed compels the Government to introduce measures to increase food production. Britain had annually imported 55 million tons of foodstuffs, including over 50% of its meat, 70% of its cheese and sugar, nearly 80% of fruits and about 90% of cereals and fats, but now the importation of war materials must take priority.



Staple foods do continue to be imported, but in reduced quantities.



Bananas disappear from the shelves.



Exotic fruits while remaining available are in short supply and quickly become an expensive luxury. A pineapple provided the watermark for Jamaica's first postage stamps issued in 1860.

"Every endeavour must be made to... produce the greatest volume of food which this fertile island is capable of..."
Sir Winston Churchill - House of Commons 5 November 1940.



The farmer is to take on a pivotal role to ensure the country has the essential food stuffs to feed the population.



The farming industry comes under direct government control, food production on individual farms being determined by the national need.

Farmers quickly find themselves in the front line on the Home Front. Visited by officials of the County War Agricultural Committees they are directed as to what crops to grow. Non-compliance can result in them being dispossessed of their land.



Fruit growers work to meet demand.



'Post and Go' self service machine vended postage stamps were first introduced in the UK at Bristol on 8 October 2008. Illustrated stamps were launched on 17 September 2010.



Farmers are required to maintain healthy and productive livestock.



Farmers are directed to bring all available arable land into production.



Cultivation of staple food - stuffs has to be increased.



In October the clock is not put back at the end of British Summer Time enabling farmers to work longer in the fields.