
Internees

Internment was introduced when war started, to hold foreign nationals who were living in Britain, whose country of birth is an enemy state, and who therefore may be believed to pose a threat and have sympathies with the enemies' war objectives. This included over 70,00 Germans and Austrians.

On 10th June 1940, after Italy entered the war, Italian nationals were also included.

The internees were examined by internal tribunals and graded into 3 categories

- A - Internment in a camp
- B - Exempt from internment but with restrictions
- C - Exempt from all restrictions.

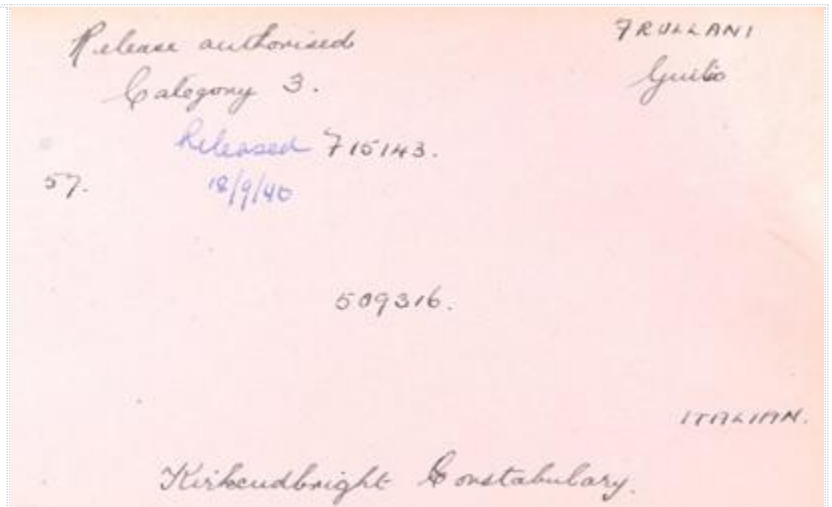
Many German Jews who had fled the Nazis, like Wolfgang Schmidt ([Antony Wolffe](#)), found themselves in categories A and B.

There were a number of Internment Camps around the UK but most were on the Isle of Man. When space ran out internees were sent to other colonial countries like Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Transportation by boat was dangerous. On July 2nd 1940 the Arandora Star was torpedoed in the Atlantic with a great loss of life including, Italians, Germans, British soldiers and seamen. This helped to sway sympathy towards the enemy aliens. Many like **Giulio Frullani** and his brothers, who had lived in Scotland since the early 1900s, were released later that year.



Giulio Frullani in 1918



1940 notice of release from internment

The Frullani family had migrated to Scotland from Italy in the early 1900s. At first they worked as miners. One brother was a coal miner in Ayrshire while Giulio came to Gatehouse to work in the Castramont copper mine.

By 1914 Giulio, known locally as Johnny, had bought a shop and cafe in the High Street and was also selling ice cream from a cart.

When war broke out Giulio and 2 of his brothers (one from Wigtown and one from Dailly, Ayrshire) were all interned on the Isle of Man. They were all released in 1940.
