



Civilian Internees, 1939-1945

Search No. 1. Personal Case Files of Internees, 1940-1949

Catalogue reference: HO 214

These Home Office files deal with individuals interned; mainly enemy or neutral aliens, but including a few British subjects detained under Defence Regulation 18B.

Information that this source should reveal:

They are particularly useful in showing the life of an internee.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Only 86 files have survived (less than a 1% sample) so the chances of finding a specific person are very small.

You can search under name in our online Catalogue, available at:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person

Our normal fee for one search in the Personal case files, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45.

Search No. 2. Aliens Personal Files

Catalogue reference: HO 382

This series contains a selection of files from the Home Office's Aliens Department on individual aliens who entered the United Kingdom after 1935.

Information that this source should reveal:

These are for famous individuals or they show the procedures for aliens entering the United Kingdom.

Factors affecting success of a search:

As only eighteen files have survived the chances of finding a specific individual are extremely small.

You can search under name in our online catalogue, available at:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person

Our normal fee for one search in the Alien personal files, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45.

Search No. 3. Applications for Naturalisation, 1934-1948

Catalogue reference: HO 405

These Home Office records are the personal files on foreign citizens who entered the United Kingdom between these dates and applied for naturalisation.

Information that this source should reveal:

All files include the application for naturalisation and police reports. Some also include initial applications for visas or employment permits, changes of name or business names and Second World War internment papers.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Approximately 40% of the files have survived but surnames L-Z have yet to be transferred to The National Archives. Some files are closed and applications to open these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Files relating to married couples are listed under the name of the husband and the wife's file is attached to that of the husband.

Note that the spelling of names sometimes varies within the file.

You can search under name in our online catalogue, available at:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- nationality of the internee
- date of birth of the internee

Our normal fee for one search in the Applications for Naturalisation, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45.

Search No. 4. Enemy Aliens' Index Cards, 1939-1947

Catalogue reference: HO 396

Digital images of the index cards for internees who remained at liberty in the UK can be found on www.movinghere.org.uk. The remaining index cards in this series are on microfilm.

Information that this source should reveal:

The cards give details including date of birth, address, occupation and the details of employers of Germans, Italians and Austrians who were interned or considered for internment. Note: The slips are arranged in different classifications so some individuals may have more than one card.

Factors affecting success of a search:

The nationality and full name of the internee are important pieces of information for this search.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- nationality of the internee

Our normal fee for one search in the Central Register of Aliens providing the information detailed above is supplied, is

Standard charge, where all the information marked with an asterisk* is supplied, is £30.

Search No. 5. Printed Indexes to the General Correspondence of the Foreign Office

This source is printed and may be available in other libraries and archives.

Information that this source should reveal:

Correspondence relating to internees may be found under topics such as internment and also under the names of individual internees.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Not all the papers shown in the indexes survive.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- approximate date of internment
- nationality of the internee
- date of birth of the internee

Our normal fee for one search in the Printed Index of Aliens providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £60.

Search No. 6. List of Aliens Interned in British Colonies

Catalogue reference: CO 980

These files from the Colonial Office's Civilian Internees Department contain lists of enemy aliens who had been interned in British colonial territories as well as British civilians interned by the enemy, including those detained after the capture of Hong Kong and Singapore.

Information that this source should reveal:

These lists sometimes only give names but can include other personal details such as birthplace, occupation and next of kin.

Factors affecting success of a search:

The name of the camp where the internee was held is important if we are to conduct this search. It is not known how comprehensive or accurate the lists are.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- approximate date of internment
- nationality of the internee
- name of the camp

Our normal fee for one search in the lists of aliens interned abroad, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £60.

Search No. 7. Lists of British Interned Overseas, 1939-1948

Catalogue reference: CO 916

This series of files from the Foreign Office's Prisoner of War Department contains lists of British civilians interned by the enemy overseas.

Information that this source should reveal:

These lists sometimes only give names but can include other personal details such as birthplace, occupation and next of kin.

The files also include a number of reports on internment camps while some cases of individual named internees are discussed in context).

Factors affecting success of a search:

The name of the camp where the internee was held is important if we are to conduct this search. It is not known how comprehensive or accurate the lists are.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- approximate date of internment
- nationality of the internee
- name of the camp

Our normal fee for one search in the lists of Britons interned abroad, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £60.

Search No. 8. List of British People Deported to Germany from the Channel Islands, 1940

Catalogue reference: HO 144/22920

Information that this source should reveal:
These lists can give names, date of birth, address and occupation.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person

Our normal fee for one search in the lists of aliens interned abroad, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45.

Search No. 9. Home Office General Files on Internment, 1940-1951

Catalogue reference: HO 215

These Home Office files consist of reports on internment camps in enemy territory.

Information that this source should reveal:
They also include a number of lists of alien internees, arranged by location, name and number of camp.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- name of the camp

Our normal fee for one search in the Home Office internment files, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £60.

Search No. 10. Passenger Lists of Aliens Deported from Britain

Catalogue reference: BT 27

These are the passenger lists of merchant ships leaving the United Kingdom for ports outside Europe and the Mediterranean.

Information that this source should reveal:
These can show the passenger's name, age and occupation.

Factors affecting success of a search:
These do not include ships travelling to European destinations.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- full name of the alien
- date of sailing
- name of ship
- port of departure

Our normal fee for one search in the passenger lists, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £60.

Search No. 11. Registers of Deportees, 1906-1963

Catalogue reference: HO 372

This series of Home Office records contains registers of deportees.

Information that this source should reveal:
The documents usually record the deportee's name, nationality, date of conviction, offence and whether the deportation order was revoked and, if so, when.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- year of deportation

Our normal fee for one search in the lists of aliens interned abroad, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45.

Search No. 12. Survivors' Reports

Catalogue references: ADM 1, ADM 116 and ADM 199

Information that this source should reveal:

These Admiralty papers may include lists of survivors or lists of those lost at sea but are unlikely to give personal information.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- the full name of the ship
- date of the vessel's sinking

Our normal fee for one search in the lists of aliens interned abroad, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £60.

Search No. 13. Records of Official Enquiries into Losses at Sea

Catalogue reference: CAB 66 and BT 341

CAB 66 contains the Cabinet Office's memoranda.

BT 341 contains the Board of Trade: Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen: Inquiries into Deaths at Sea: Papers and Reports
1939-1995

Information that this source should reveal:

These are reports of the official enquiries that went to the Cabinet.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Very few such reports went to the Cabinet.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- full name of the person
- date of the ship's loss
- name of ship
- date of the enquiry

Our normal fee for one search in the official enquiries into vessels lost at sea, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45.

Search No. 14. Reports on Conditions in Internment Camps in the UK and in Enemy Territories, 1940-1951

Catalogue reference: HO 215

These Home Office files include reports by the International Red Cross on internment camps in both the United Kingdom and in enemy held territory.

Information that this source should reveal:

These detail camp conditions. There is plenty of material on internment camps on the Isle of Man.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- name of the camp

Our normal fee for one search in the conditions in internment camps reports, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £60.

Search No. 15. Home Office Aliens Department Files

Catalogue reference: HO 213

These records contain Home Office policy files on subjects including internment, British citizenship and naturalisation.

Information that this source should reveal:

There are a selection of files relating to internment camps that mainly deal with policy and procedure but some files do relate to camp conditions.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the person
- name of the camp

Our normal fee for one search in the Home Office Aliens Department files, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £90.
