

CIVILIAN INTERNMENT IN BRITAIN DURING WW2: HUYTON CAMP

EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

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The Alien Internment Camp at Huyton near Liverpool was the largest civilian internment camp on the British mainland. From the spring of 1940 until 1941 it housed up to 5,000 enemy aliens, all theoretically in transit to the Isle of Man or the Dominions.

As a transit camp it never supported a camp newspaper – so the vivid picture of camp life which emerges from these eye-witness accounts acquires added importance.

- Early reports show the chaos and mismanagement of the early months, with soldiers forcing internees at bayonet point to ‘volunteer’ for deportation.
- Later accounts demonstrate the gradual improvement of living conditions in the camp under a new Commandant who was more sympathetic than his predecessor to the plight of the internees.

