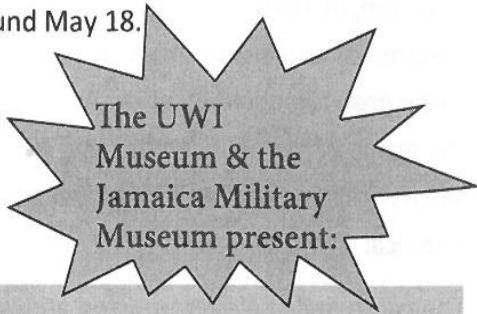


The UWI Museum in collaboration with the Jamaica Military Museum presents an International Museum Day 2017 focus on the two World Wars of the twentieth century. International Museum Day is celebrated annually on or around May 18.



- “ ‘A Bad Blunder’: The Story of the 3rd Jamaica Contingent & the Halifax Incident of 1916.”

Prof. Hyacinth Simpson, Dept. of English, Ryerson University, Canada

@ Military Museum

Followed by Tour of MILITARY IMUSEUM

- ‘Internment Camps in Jamaica during World War 2’

An introduction by Dr Suzanne Francis-Brown, Curator, UWI Museum

- GERMANS IN JAMAICA: Of War, Spies & Camps

The inaugural screening of a documentary film by Kevin Kennedy , followed by a Q&A with Dr Kennedy.

Two showings: Evening showing in association with the Jamaica German Society

@ UWI Museum

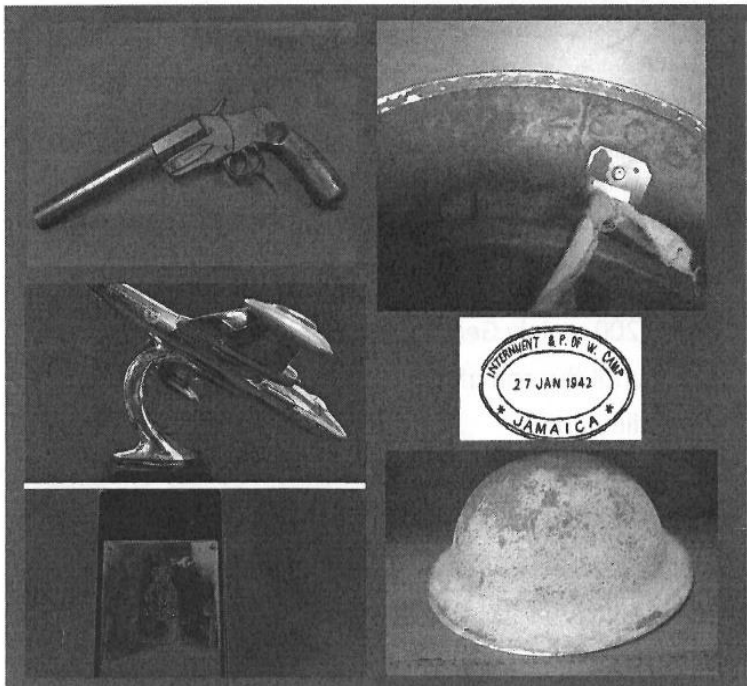
There were three internment camps, run by the military in Jamaica during World War 2, holding military prisoners and civilian internees detained in Jamaica and other parts of the then British West Indies, as well as in British West African colonies.

These men, women and children were part of an international population of persons detained during the war for reasons of warfare or security. The treatment of military prisoners was set out in the Geneva Convention of 1929. The aim was not to criminalise them but to prevent them taking further part in the conflict.

Civilian internees were detained for security reasons and could appeal their detention.

Of the three Internment Camp’s during World War 2, the first and main one was the Male Internment Camp adjacent to the Military Headquarters at Up Park Camp, Swallowfield, Kingston, which held both military prisoners or prisoners-of-war as well as enemy aliens or civilian internees.

A Women’s Camp, housing mainly civilian internees , operated for three years at Hanover Street in Downtown Kingston. In response to pressure, it was eventually closed and the women, along with the husbands and fathers of some internees, were transferred to a new Family Camp within the original perimeter of Gibraltar Camp—a civilian camp at Mona for evacuees and eventually also for refugees of the European theatre of the war.



7 DECADES AGO

WORLD WAR 2, INTERNMENT & JAMAICA

POP-UP EXHIBITION

MAY 15—19, 2017

@ UWI MUSEUM

In association with the Jamaica Military Museum

MALE INTERNMENT CAMP

The Male Internment Camp was established in September 1939, at the start of World War 2. A camp had also been established at Up Park Camp during World War 1.

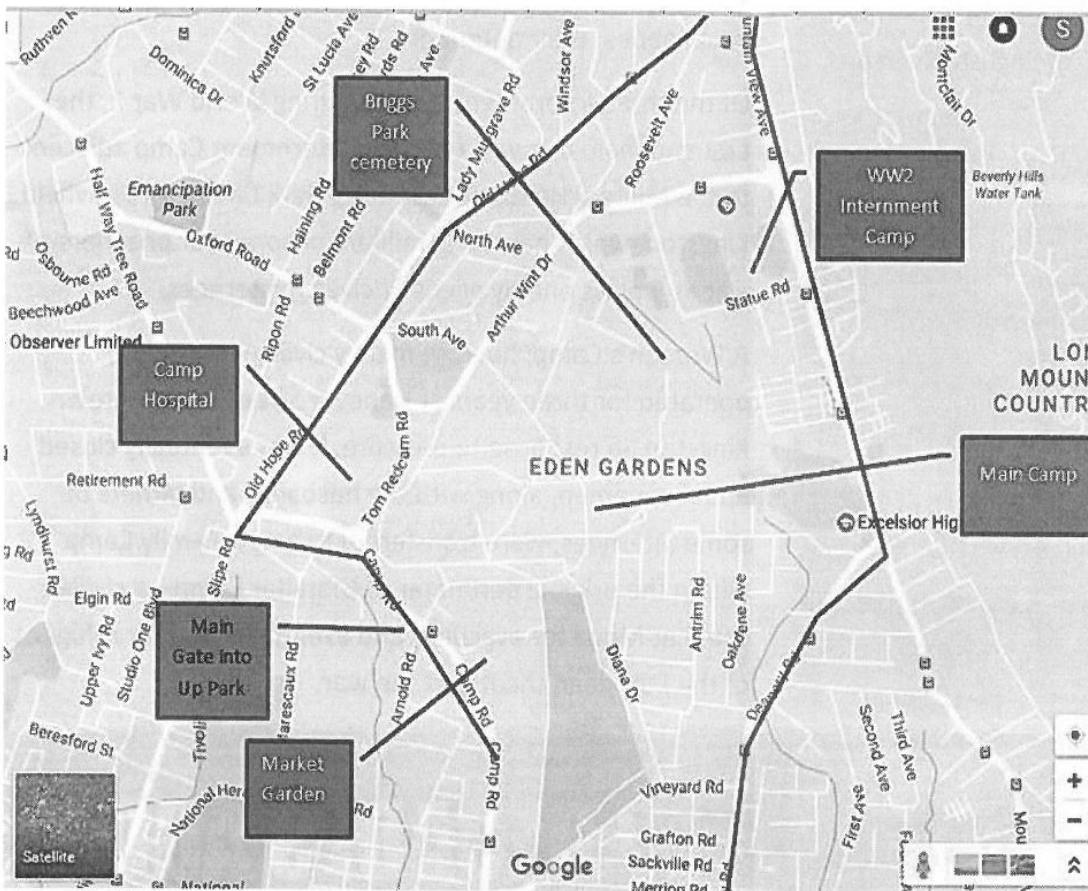
This camp originally held Germans, Austrians and Italians living and working in Jamaica, several of them with families who were initially allowed to remain at home under regulated conditions.

The population grew and diversified as prisoners were brought in from military operations in the Caribbean. In

WOMEN'S CAMP, HANOVER STREET

The Women's Camp was set up in the old Anglican Deaconess House on Hanover Street in Downtown Kingston, in 1940. The first residents were the wives and children of civilians interned at the men's camp. The camp grew significantly when women and children from the group of mainly Germans and Italians interned in West Africa, were sent to Hanover Street on arrival in Jamaica.

The camp became overcrowded and was finally closed in mid-1943.



Location of Male Internment Camp at Up Park Camp

December 1940 several hundred men, interned in West Africa, were sent to the camp while their wives and children were interned at a Women's Camp on Hanover Street, Kingston. By 1943, there were some 1,200 men in the camp, divided between several compounds to overcome differences between Nazis and Jews, Germans and Italians and other nationalities.

The Government in Jamaica refused to allow the men to be released at the end of the war, requiring that they remain in detention until they could leave the island. For some this meant remaining in detention as late as 1947.

MONA FAMILY CAMP

In September 1943, the women and children from the Hanover Street Camp were transferred to the newly prepared Mona Family Camp, where they joined husbands and fathers who had been separately interned at the Male Internment Camp for three years.

The Mona Camp was carved from the northern end of the lower level of Gibraltar Camp—a World War 2 evacuee and refugee camp. The facilities were the same, but Gibraltar Camp was a civilian run camp, unlike the

Mona Family Camp which, as an internment camp, was run by the military.

Under 200 mainly German families lived in the Mona Camp until the end of the war, and some remained in the facility until they could find job or family connections that would allow them to travel onward from Jamaica.



Barracks building at Gibraltar Camp