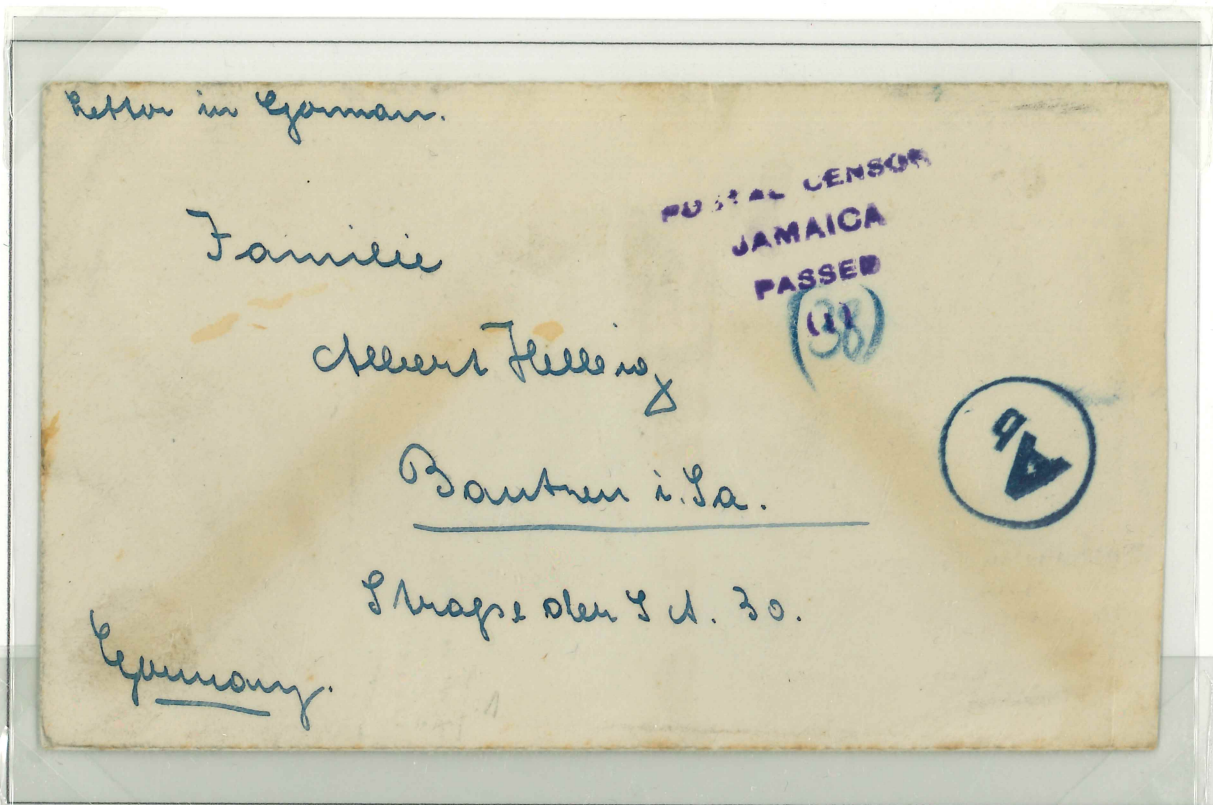
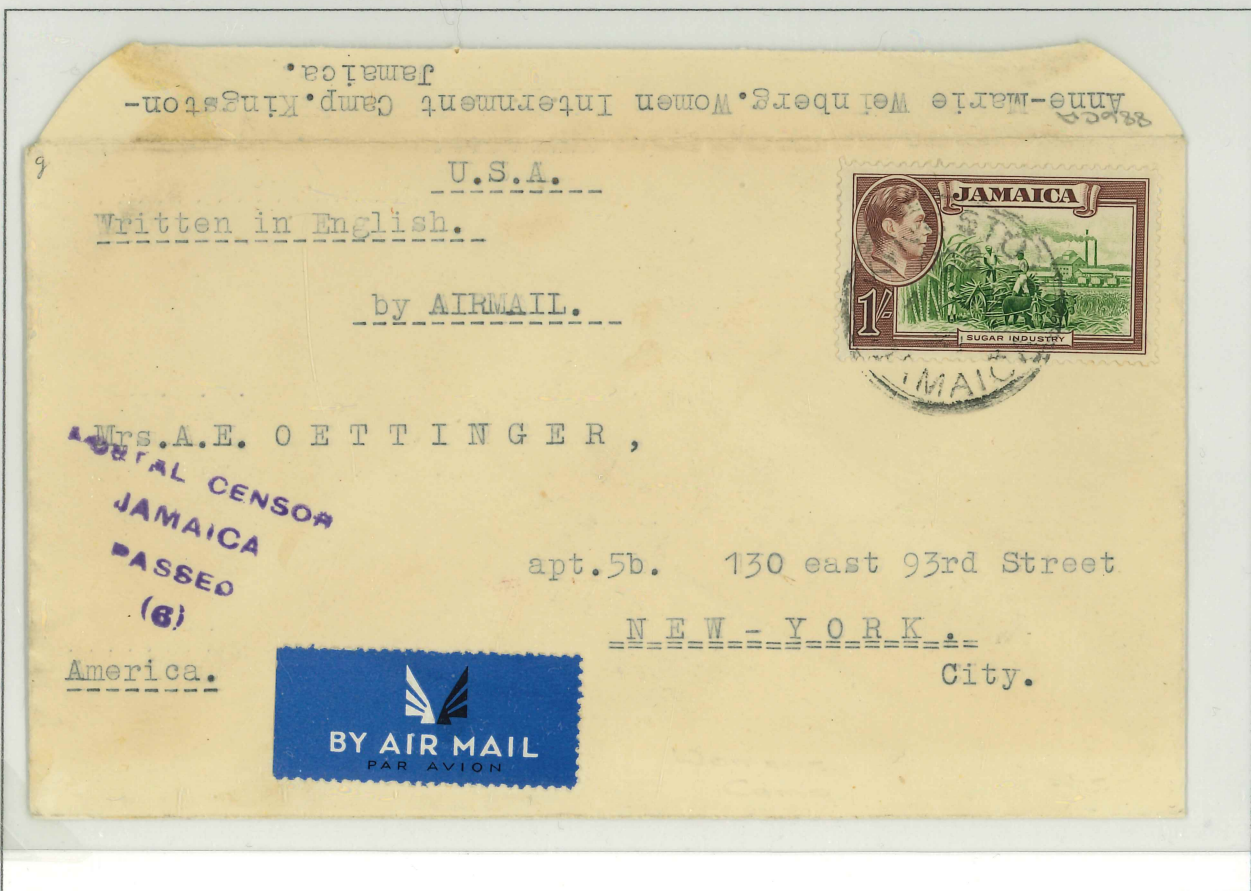


WWII Internment Camp - Women's Camp



At the outset of internment, women and children were held separately, in a townhouse in Hanover St., Kingston. These covers are both addressed to Germany. The sender's name and address (Women's Internment Camp, Jamaica, BWI) is written on the flap, in ms for the upper cover.

WWII Internment Camp - Women's Camp



Two covers from Anne-Marie Weinberg, the first dated March 3rd 1942 and addressed to South Africa, the second to a New York address. Both have the handstamp of the same Jamaica postal censor, no. 6. The rear flaps have been butterflyed to show the typed sender's details.

WWII Internment Camp - Women's Camp



Cover sent from J. Berger from the Internment Camp to his wife in the Women's Internment Camp.

Prisoner of War, Internment Camps and Gibraltar Camp, Jamaica.

After the family units were completed at Up Park Camp, they and the rest of the Camp, were guarded by the Local Defence Force and the Gibraltarian Pioneer Corps, the numbers in the units having dwindled due to the release of Italians on capitulation of Italy, and the subsequent release and return to normal life of the Germans who had been naturalized but who had been interned during the wave of anti German hysteria in the early days of the war.

Correspondence from Hanover Camp is scarcer than that from the Camp but the ladies had to follow the same regulations as the men, their correspondence also falls into three stages; first manuscript endorsements, then typed and finally handstamps. To date, no examples of postal stationery has been recorded used from Hanover Camp, but there seems to be no reason why they should not exist.

WIC 1. Manuscript covers.

As mentioned all the endorsements are in manuscript, except for the handstamps of the Postal Censorship Service which often appear as there are no other censorship markings.
EKD: 1941 LKD:

Cover from Hanover Camp, the "flap" reading Liza Kunth-Meyneke/Women's Internment Camp/Jamaica, Kingston. Addressed to Buffalo, U.S.A. in manuscript the cover is un-franked and although there is no authorization as to free postage the cover appears to have gone post free.



Prisoner of War, Internment Camps and Gibraltar Camp, Jamaica.

Section X. Women's Internment Camp.

As mentioned there is no philatelic evidence of women enemy aliens in World War I but the few there may have been were probably confined to local hotels or placed on parole, in both cases under police supervision, must likely the latter.

Although there are many references to a Women's Internment Camp during World War II the ladies and some of the Children were lodged at 93, Hanover Street, Kingston, a former girl's school; below it is now referred to as "Hanover Camp".

In World War II it appears that initially there were only four ladies and their children, long time residents, and although of they had been naturalized British subjects for some years they were imprisoned as they were of German extraction. These families were probably not connected with the former German residents and their descendants living in the isolated villages mentioned earlier. The ladies now mentioned stood trial in July, 1940, to argue their case against internment on the grounds of their British Citizenship - their application was turned down and they were interned.

It was at this stage that it was decided there must be separate accommodation for the women and men prisoners and Hanover Camp was requisitioned; the building was considered suitable as although in the business area of Kingston it was surrounded by a high wall and easy to control.

The situation soon changed with the arrival of the women and children from West Africa, at it's maximum the inmates comprised some 85 German women and 46 children, and there were also the Italian contingent, numbers not recorded here.

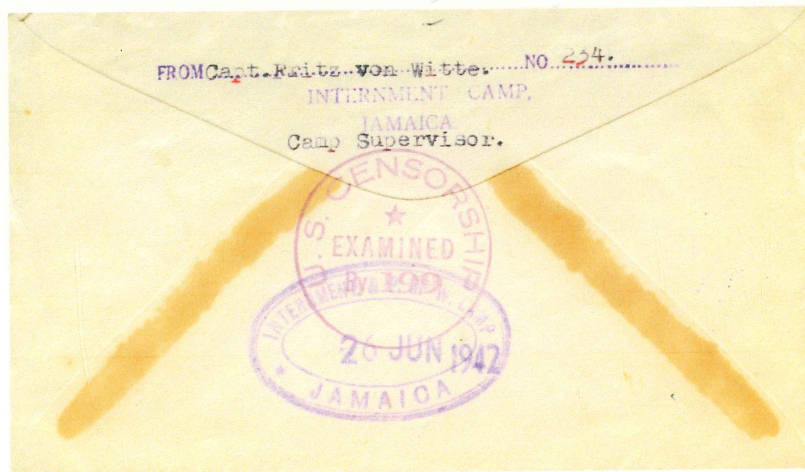
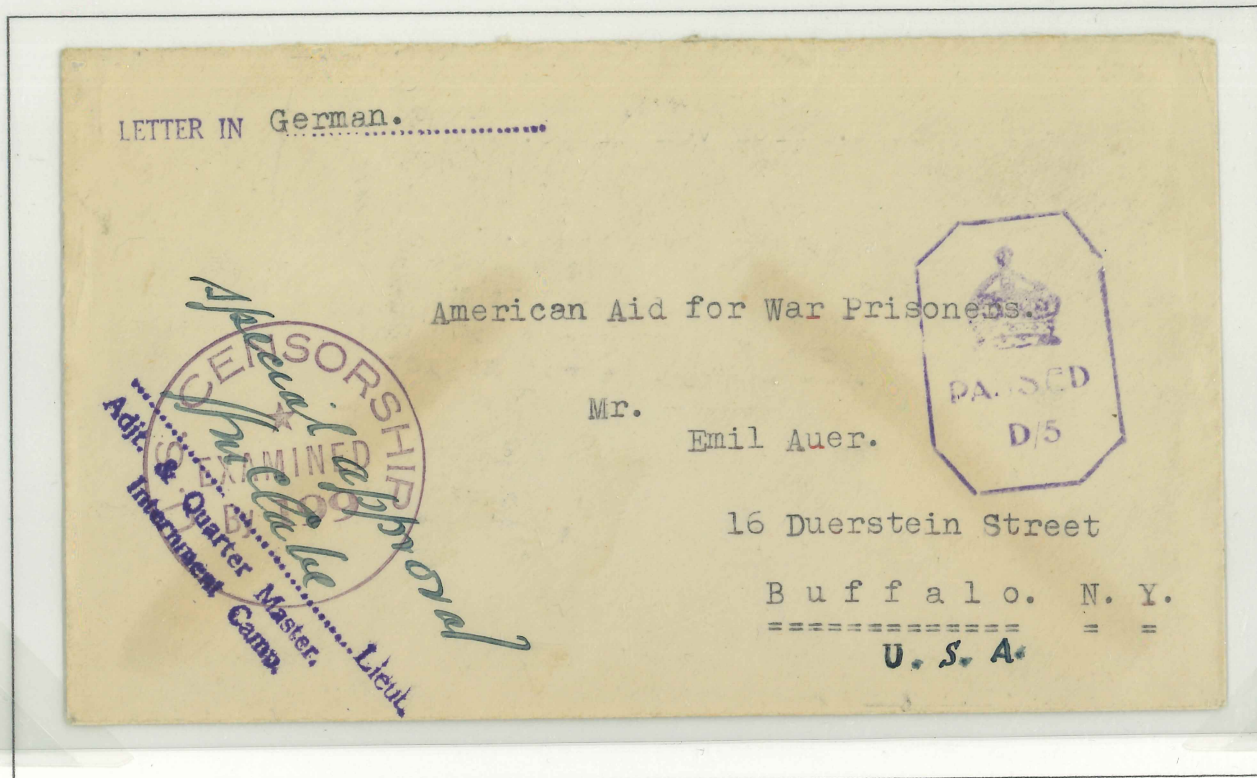
The quarters were said to be cramped compared to the men's quarters at Up Park Camp, and the Supervising Power (Switzerland) made complaints as to the quantities of food and arranged for money to purchase additional supplies through the German Red Cross, after which conditions were remedied. When the original women had appealed they had also requested the formation of family units, as did the West Africans, so they could be together with their menfolk.

Until the arrival of the West Africans life at Hanover Camp was probably quite peaceful, suddenly 63 families arrived, unfamiliar and alien. The original families having grown up in Jamaica's cosmopolitan population were suddenly forced to absorb the West African people, who were more used to a servile population of Negroes, and the newcomers therefore resented having to take orders from Jamaicans - a situation that spelled trouble!

Indeed, there was a hunger strike after which the idea of family units was agreed, the building of such units was a gradual process, but as Hanover Camp was closed down during 1942, it seems likely that by that time family and other units were available although these were reported not be completed until 1944. It should be added that the men were allowed to visit their wives and families and were ferried in coaches and occasionally the roles were reversed so that the women could use the sport facilities. Ever week or so excursions for the women and children were allowed and a kindergarten was established by the local YMCA; amongst the women were three doctors and seven nursing sisters who undertook medical care, serious cases went to Kingston hospital and several children were born in the Kingston Maternity Home.

It was thought that Hanover Camp was guarded by the Jamaican ATS as it was early decided that males should not be involved in internal security. However, internal security was the duty of female staff of the Prison Service and later female recruits. These officers were not popular with the West Africans, whilst the police provided the outside guard.

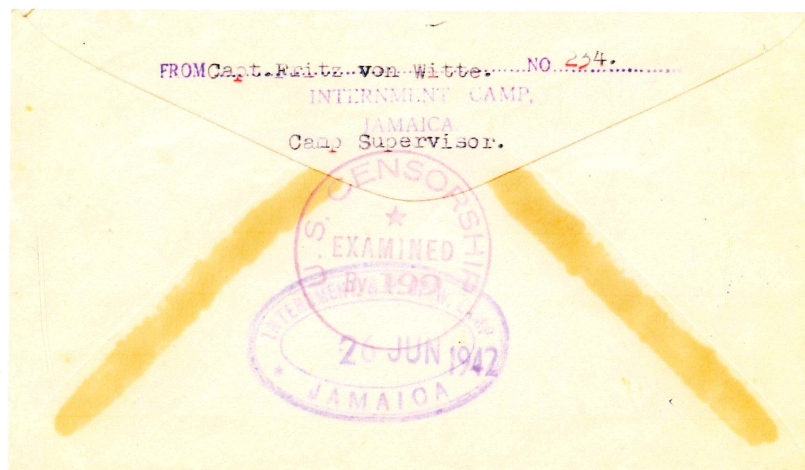
Internment Camp - Camp Supervisor, Special Approval



Cover to American Aid for War Prisoners
from Capt. Fritz von Witte, Camp Supervisor
with USA and Jamaica censorship handstamps
Ms 'Special Approval', signed Henry McCabe, above corner handstamp
'Lieut. / Adj. & Quarter Master. / Internment Camp.'
June 26th 1942

Internment Camp - Camp Supervisor, Special Approval

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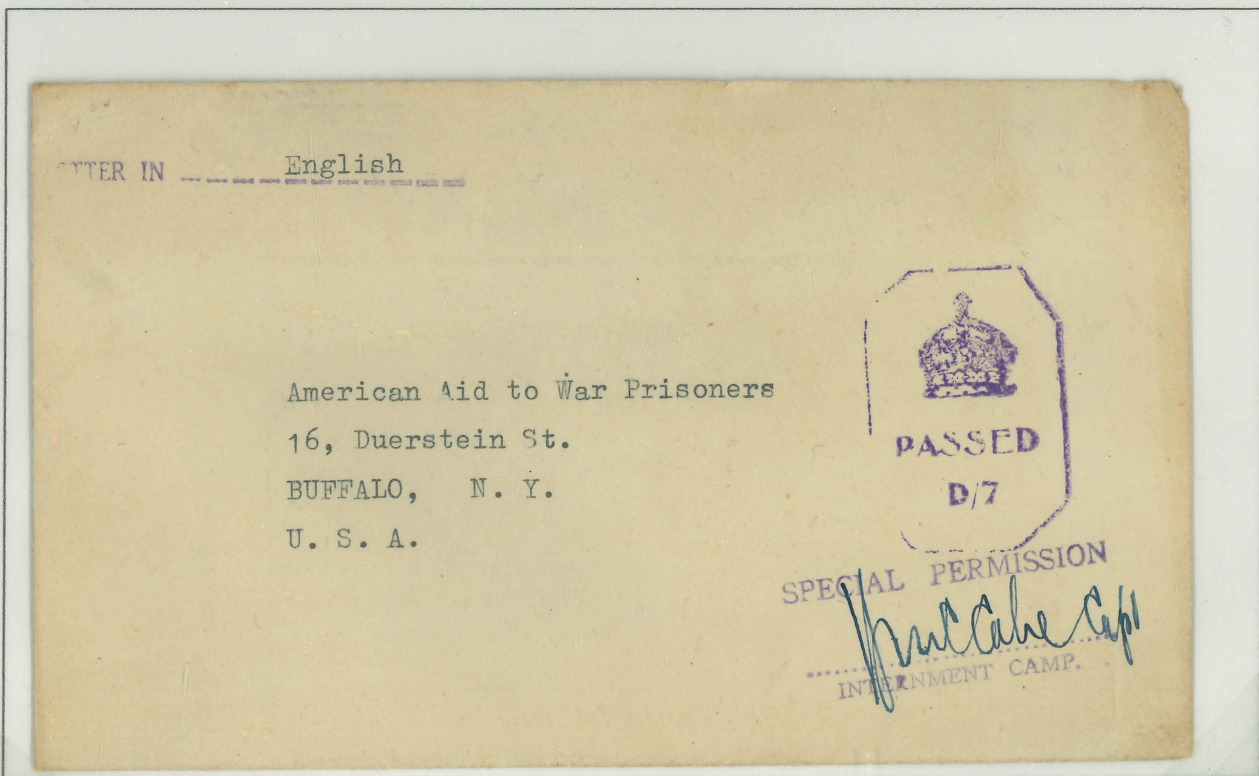


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June 26th 1942

WWII Internment Camp - Italian Internees



Censored envelope to a hospital in Switzerland.
D/7 censor handstamp. 'Letter in...' handstamp, with 'Italian language' in ms.
On reverse, oval 'Internment and P of W Camp, Jamaica' with date in ms.



From the Italian Supervisor. 'SPECIAL PERMISSION / INTERNMENT CAMP.' handstamp, signature of Henry McCabe, Camp Adjutant. Scan of flap.