

World War II internee, alien and POW records held in Sydney

During World War II thousands of men and women were interned in 'camps' around Australia, some for the duration of the entire war. These people consisted of 'enemy aliens' (especially Germans and Italians), naturalised and Australian born persons of enemy alien descent, enemy aliens arrested overseas and transferred to Australia, and prisoners of war transferred to Australia. Some Australians were also interned because of their political activities.

Tracing individual internees or prisoners of war

The camps in New South Wales were at Liverpool, Orange, Cowra and Hay. It was not uncommon for internees to be moved from one camp to another and to camps in other states. This can make it difficult to identify information on an individual because records may be held in more than one office of the National Archives.

The office in Sydney holds a large collection of records of people who were interned in New South Wales during the war. Reference staff will assist you in using the control records listed below to identify the dossier on a particular internee.

Holdings on individual prisoners of war are not extensive, and those record items held relate only to the prisoner's internment in a New South Wales camp.

Records held in Sydney relating to individual internees

Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946) 1 Jan 1941 – 15 Dec 1945

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Nominal index cards (by citizenship) to service records on internees</u>	1942–1945	C125
<u>Nationality index cards to service records on internees</u>	1942–1945	C126
<u>Location index cards to service records on internees</u>	1942–1945	C127
<u>Key to service records</u>	1939–1945	C124

Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946) (to 1945)

Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904) (1946)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Service records concerning internees</u>	1942–1945	C123
<u>Transcripts of internees' appeals before the Aliens Control Tribunals and Advisory Committees</u>	1939–1945	C329
<u>Investigation files (persons and organisations)</u>	1942–1946	C320

Commonwealth Investigation Branch, NSW (CA 904) (1919–1946)

Commonwealth Investigation Service, NSW (CA 912) (from 1946)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Criminal investigation files</u>	1914–1962	SP1714/1
<u>Correspondence re naturalisation and internees</u>	1914–1946	ST1233/1
<u>Service records of Italian prisoners of war in Cowra and Liverpool camps repatriated on vessels <i>Chitral</i> and <i>Katoomba</i></u>	1946–1947	C131

Headquarters, Eastern Command [I], Australian Military Forces (CA 1876) (to 1942)

Headquarters, NSW, Lines of Communication Area, Australian Military Forces (CA 1877) (from 1942)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Personal files of prisoners of war</u>	1939–1946	SP196/2
<u>General correspondence, 'S' (secret) series</u>	1922–1951	SP1048/7

General records on internment

There are many series which contain records relating to internees and internment generally during World War II. These general records can be a useful source of information about individual persons. Included in the records are nominal rolls of internees, memoranda noting internees released on particular dates, and notes regarding internees' personal correspondence.

General records relating to internment held in Sydney

Headquarters, Eastern Command [I], Australian Military Forces (CA 1876) (1939–1942)

Headquarters, NSW, Lines of Communication Area, Australian Military Forces (CA 1877) (1942–1946)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>General correspondence files</u>	1871–1965	SP1008/1

<u>Correspondence</u>	1912–1964	SP459/1
<u>General correspondence, 'S' (secret) series</u>	1922–1951	SP1048/7
<u>Subject files to POW and internees</u>	1939–1946	SP196/1

Commonwealth Security Service, NSW (CA 946)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Various exhibits re internment of Italians</u>	1939–1941	ST2476/20
<u>Security Service weekly reports</u>	1941–1945	C128
<u>General correspondence files</u>	1942–1945	C417
<u>Transcripts of the Australia First inquiry</u>	1944–1945	C418

Directorate of Manpower, Central Office (CA 533)

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>General correspondence</u>	1942–1945	SP191/1

For more information

See the following fact sheets for more information.

- *Fact sheet 59 - WW II internee, alien and POW records held in Canberra*
- *Fact sheet 107 - WW II internee, alien and POW records held in Adelaide*
- *Fact sheet 180 - Wartime internee, alien and POW records held in Perth*