

Worksheet: Internment of 'enemy aliens': Part 2

Heinrich David Pinkus and Release card

MALE ENEMY ALIEN - EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT - REFUGEE

(1) Surname (block capitals) PINKUS **INTERNEED (B)**
 Forenames Heinrich David. *Released on 23.11.41*
 Alias Heinrich David Israel PINKUS.
 (2) Date and place of birth 16 October, 1922, in Berlin.
 (3) Nationality German.
 (4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 731872 Home Office reference if known P.9261.
 Special Procedure Card Number if known
 (5) Address ~~prior to internment~~ 5 Park Grove,
Cardiff.
 (6) Normal occupation Schoolboy.
 (7) Present Occupation Trainee employment (Tool maker)
 (8) Name and address of employer Aero Zip Fasteners, Ltd, Treforest, Glam.
 (9) Decision of Tribunal Exempted from internment Date 7, November, 1939.
 (10) Whether exempted from Article 6(A) (Yes or No) No.
 (11) Whether desires to be repatriated (Yes or No) No.

(7335) 28717/835 20m 9/39 G & S 704

Handwritten notes on right margin:
 B.B.W.
 25/9/41
 AGE 17
 OCC. GR
 DI
 EX. GA
 and SA
 NO

Enemy Aliens and Internees card for Heinrich David Pinkus.

The National Archives, Kew, London, England, HO 396 WW2 Internees (Aliens) Index Cards 1939-1947, Archive Reference: HO 396/135.

Image: Findmypast.

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In August 1938, all Jews with “non-Jewish” names in Nazi Germany had to have their passports and other identification cards marked with an additional name: “Israel” for men and “Sara” for women.¹

By September 1939, the Home Office had set up internment tribunals throughout the country, to examine all UK-registered ‘enemy aliens’ over the age of 16 and classify them as either Category A, B, or C:

- Category A, to be interned.

¹ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *Timeline of Events, 1933-1938: Law on Alteration of Family and Personal Names* <<https://www.ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-events/1933-1938/law-on-alteration-of-family-and-personal-names>> [accessed 6 July 2022].

- Category B, to be exempt from internment but subject to the restrictions decreed by the Special Order.
- Category C, to be exempt from both internment and restrictions.²

TASK 1

Consider, as a group:

- What information about Pinkus does the card provide?
- Why is Pinkus's middle name listed as "Israel"?
- What does "Reclassify C" mean?
- Why were so many people who were initially exempted ultimately interned?

TASK 2

Read Heinrich Pinkus's and Evelyn Ruth Kaye's biographies and then listen to the clips of [Gaby Koppel](#) and Evelyn [Ruth Kaye](#) speaking about their fathers' internment.

Biographies:

Heinrich Pinkus was born in Berlin in 1922. His stepfather, Joachim Koppel, was a businessman who fled to Britain in 1938 and set up a factory at Treforest Trading Estate near Pontypridd. Heinrich and his younger sister, Ilse, followed soon afterwards and stayed with the rest of the family in Cardiff. In May 1940, both Heinrich and Ilse were interned as enemy aliens, and Heinrich was then deported to Canada. Ilse was released in February 1941, while Heinrich came back to the UK and was released in November 1941. After the war, Heinrich changed his name to Henry Koppel and became chief engineer for Aero Zipp, the family business. His daughter Gaby, who grew up in Cardiff, now works as a journalist in London.

Evelyn Ruth Kaye came to Britain from Vienna in Austria on the Kindertransport. Her father, a musician and journalist, was arrested and sent to Dachau concentration camp after *Kristallnacht* but was released and managed to flee to Britain on a forged visa. On his arrival he stayed briefly at Kitchener Camp, a welcome camp for Jewish refugees in Kent. In 1940, he was arrested and interned on the Isle of Man. Evelyn went to school in Builth Wells in Mid-Wales during the war. Her mother had also escaped on a domestic visa and worked in London and the Isle of Wight. The family were reunited in England after the war ended.

Answer the following questions:

² Robert Kershaw, *Internment of enemy aliens in 1940: The fate of Italians resident in a Britain at war* (2020) <[Page | 2](https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/internment-of-enemy-aliens-in-1940-the-fate-of-italians-resident-in-a-britain-at-war/#:~:text=The%20vast%20majority%20%28some%2066%2C000%29%20of%20enemy%20aliens,as%20Category%20B%20and%20569%20as%20Category%20A> [accessed 7 June 2022].</p></div><div data-bbox=)

1. How might internees who were being deported have felt? What about their family who were left behind?
2. How would you have tried to pass the time in an internment camp?
3. What might you have requested from a loved one while you were interned?