

# The Archives of the International Prisoners-of-War Agency

1914-1919

During the First World War, 8 million soldiers fighting on the front and 2 million civilians, mainly those living abroad in enemy countries or areas under enemy occupation, were taken prisoner and interned in camps for several years.



On 21 August 1914, the ICRC established the International Prisoners-of-War Agency in Geneva, to which the warring States submitted, more or less regularly, lists of prisoners. The Agency received 400,000 pages of documents: lists of prisoners' names and records of capture, of transfers between camps and of deaths in detention.

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Seite Nr. <u>4</u> <small>(Zu den Lagern)</small>	<b>Gefangenenliste</b>	Seite Nr. <u>21045</u> <small>(Zu den Gefangenenlisten)</small>			
<b>des Lagers II Münster 1/V.</b>					
abgeleitet vom Tag <u>10.5.18</u>	eingelagert beim Nr.-Min. <u>12.5.18</u>	abgeleitet vom Nr.-Min. (H. B.) <u>21.5.18</u>			
Staatsangehörigkeit: <u>Engländer.</u>					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1 a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur der Rufname) c) nur bei Russen Vorname des Vaters	a) Dienstgrad	a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)	a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)	a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)	a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)   a)   b)   c)
a) 1.	ALIEN.	Pte.	14th	Huddersf. 23. 3. 18.	9. 3. 90. Blyth.
b)	Robert G.		N. Fus.		63 Gladstone St.
c)	10038.		G.	Front.	Blyth.
a) 2.	ASHWORTH.	L/Cpl.	3/5th	Hargreaves 31. 3. 18.	26. 4. 95. Grasshambrook.
b)	Hindle.		R. Lance.		33 Adelaide St.,
c)	30308.		D.	"	Grasshambrook.
a) 3.	BAILLY.	Pte.	3rd.	Cour. 28. 3. 18.	8. 1. 98 Hinchley
b)	Sidney Chas.		W. Yorks.		45 Ten Foot
c)	53934.		A.	"	Factory Rd.,
a) 4.	BARKER.	L/Cpl.	6th	Peckham 23. 3. 18.	10. 8. 85. Rotherham
b)	James.		N. Fus.		Boys Garden City
c)	32061.		A.	"	Canon Fleming.
a) 5.	BARLOW.	Pte.	6th	Saulcourt 23. 3. 18.	7. 7. 85. Tunstall
b)	Thomas A.		Leics.		36 America St.,
c)	11148.		B.	"	Tunstall.
					Stoke.

One of the lists of British prisoners of war sent to the Agency by the Kriegsministerium (Ministry of War) in Berlin.

For each name listed, the Agency made out an index card. The cards were then classified by nationality and the detainee's military or civilian status and filed alphabetically in 29 different card indexes. These indexes also contain enquiry cards, drawn up on the basis of data taken from the thousands of written requests for information submitted daily by relatives of the missing, which the Agency indexed before destroying the correspondence.



*Comparing an enquiry card with an index card to determine whether they relate to the same person.*

The Agency's archives hold 5 million index cards, containing data on 2 million prisoners, primarily from the Western, Romanian and Serbian Fronts. Indexes relating to the vast Russian Front are kept in the archives of the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen, as Denmark was a neutral State during the First World War.

Alongside its efforts to restore contact between relatives separated by war, which remains a vital part of the ICRC's work today, the organization also sent delegates on missions to inspect 524 prisoner-of-war and internment camps in Europe, the French colonies in North Africa, India, and even as far afield as Japan. They interviewed prisoners and camp authorities, and inspected detention conditions in the camps: hygiene, food, working conditions, and whether prisoners were able to write to their families. This website contains the delegates' mission reports, along with postcard photographs of the camps.