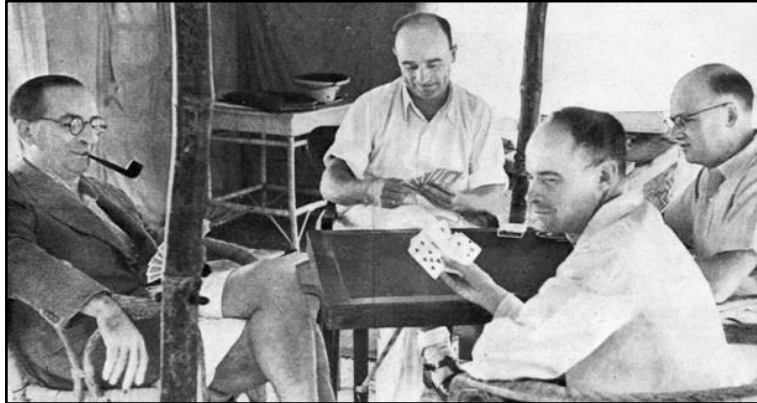


“Interned for the Duration”

GERMANS' LIFE AT AHMEDNAGAR CAMP

Exiled perhaps for the rest of the war, are the German subjects still interned at Ahmednagar Central Internment Camp. These are all that remain of nearly 900 brought there from all over India shortly after war broke out. The rest, over 500 chiefly Jewish refugees and missionaries, have been released.



"THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY"

made special arrangements to enable their own photographer to take this candid series of photographs of internees' living conditions in the Central Internment Camp at Ahmednagar, high upon the Deccan. Here German nationals who were in India at the outbreak of war are taking a compulsory rest cure for the duration - and a rest cure their sojourn in camp very obviously is when compared with the recently published pen pictures of life in concentration and internment camps in their own country.

Last November Government appointed an interrogation Committee, headed by Sir Malcolm Darling, and each internee has been personally questioned by members of the Committee, some of them many times. If their release is unlikely to be "prejudicial to the defense and order" of India they are set free, though the Committee has also to make sure they will be able to maintain themselves in freedom. Better (for India) an internee than a tramp. It is not easy for a German to find a job in India nowadays.

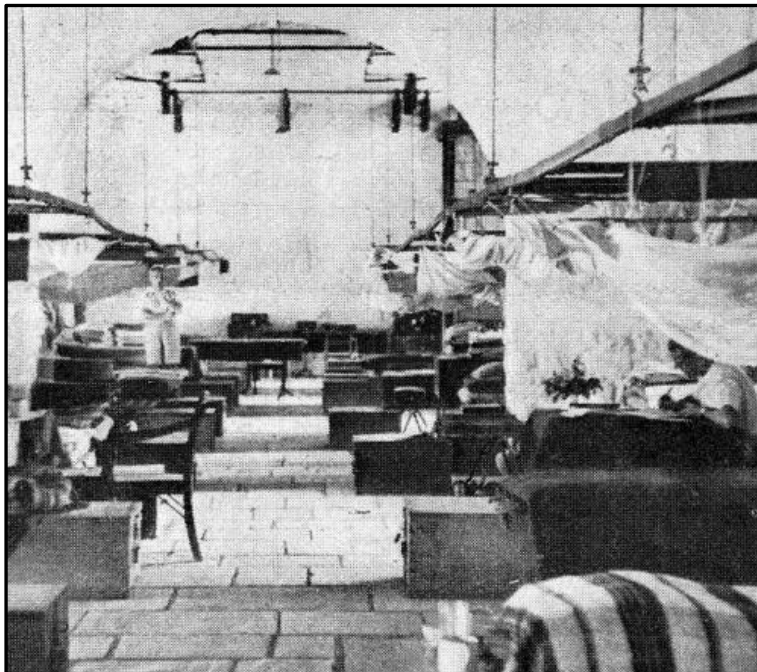


CAMP SWIMMING BATH

The bath is really used for swimming and not as an aquarium for raising fish for food as in internees' home country. Hockey and tennis are also available.

No Women Internees

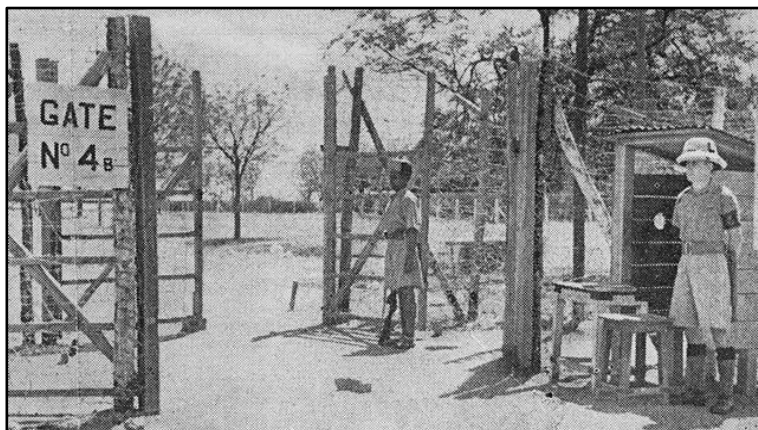
No women are detained either at Ahmednagar or elsewhere. All of them, Nazi or non-Nazi, are still at liberty, though many Nazis have returned to Germany. Their freedom has been criticized but one may be sure watch is kept on those suspected to support Hitler. Later, a Family Camp may be set up in another part of the country, but only for refugees and their wives and other proved opponents of Nazism.



INTERNEES' DORMITORY

Camp in Ahmednagar is well furnished and airy, with mosquito nets, writing tables, and camp beds with good blankets to keep out Deccan cold.

Women may visit Ahmednagar, but few do. They may stay only 30 minutes, may see and speak to their husbands only in the presence of a camp officer, and there must be no "personal contact", not even a handshake. No risk can be taken of smuggled messages.



A CAMP GATE

British and Indian sentries and double fence of barbed wire ensure that internees really are interned.

Letters in and out are censored but few deletions made. No postage is needed either way and internees may despatch three letters a week, sometimes more.

Healthy Camp

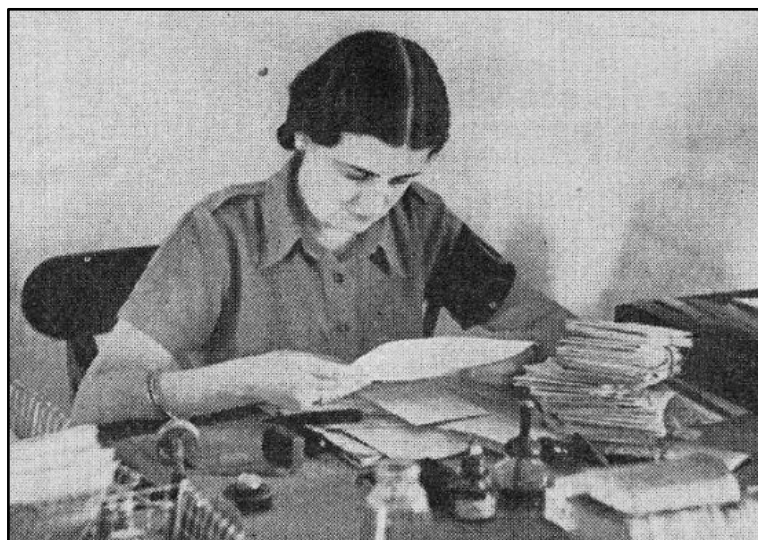
The camp is a few miles out of Ahmednagar, not far from the site of the Great War Internment Camp, and is in open, healthy country, 2000 feet up. It is divided into two wings, Nazi and non-Nazi, and surrounded by tall wire fences.



ALL READY FOR THE CINEMA SHOW

Movies are just one of the many facilities provided for killing time in the internment camp until the war is over. The camp also has a library, store, lounge (frescoed by an interned interior decorator), and ground where internees may do gardening.

About 40 men in the non-Nazi wing pay Rs. 3 a day for special food. The rest are given free the food and lodging of a British soldier and, like him, draw 3½ annas a day "pocket money". They also receive an allowance of Rs. 20 a month for odd expenses.

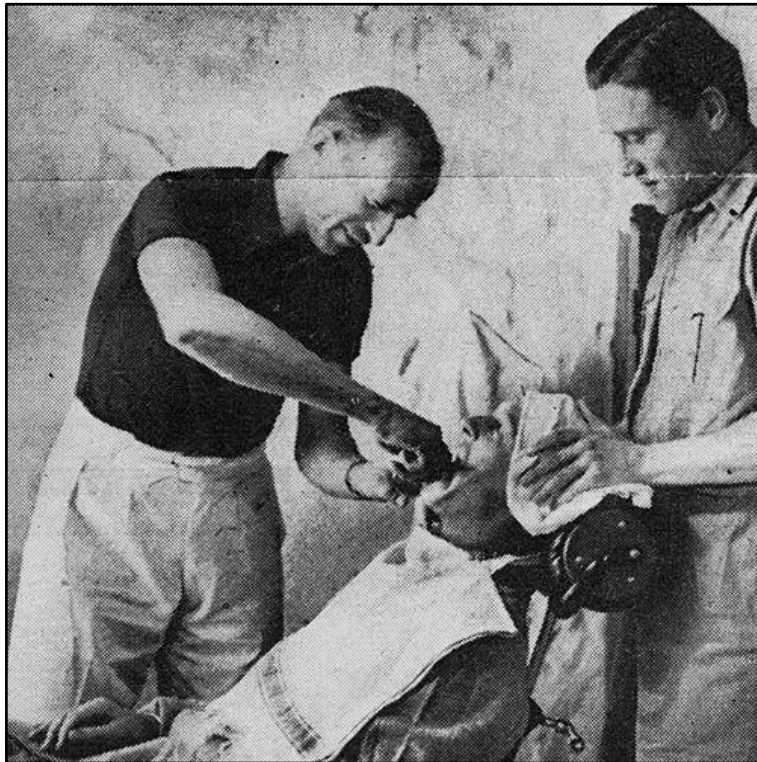


CAMP CENSOR

At work in the camp censors' office-one of the few features of the camp which differentiates it from holiday camps.

Duties are not arduous, chiefly cooking and washing-up, and all the men take up hobbies, gardening, languages, handicrafts, staff the dental surgery and assist in the hospital - a sinecure at Ahmednagar. They make their own fun-sing, run a dance

band and a string quartet, drink, read, sketch, write. Many have their own typewriters and gramophones but no radios are allowed. Indian newspapers are provided and there is a good library, most of the books from the German Clubs of Bombay and Calcutta.



CAMP DENTIST GETS BUSY

Internees' physical condition is not allowed to deteriorate. The camp also has its own hospital. Below: A camp gate. British and Indian sentries and double fence of barbed wire ensure that internees really are interned.

The men are fit. All but the oldest take exercise or play games, hockey, soccer, tennis. The swimming bath is open to them every day, the cinema programme changes three times a week. The latest British and American films are shown. Reveille is at 6-30, lights-out 10-30.

The Darling Interrogation Committee has now completed its enquiry and left Ahmednagar so that fewer releases must now be expected. A decision will soon be made whether or not to set up a Family Camp, but even if this is done most of the remaining internees, being Nazi, cannot hope to be moved from Ahmednagar. As enemy aliens they cannot complain. Where, while war lasts, would they be treated better?

THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA, April 7, 1940, page 20/21 - Photos, I. W.
<http://www.gaebler.info/2014/12/ahmednagar-weekly/>