

## KNOCKALOE ALIENS CAMP

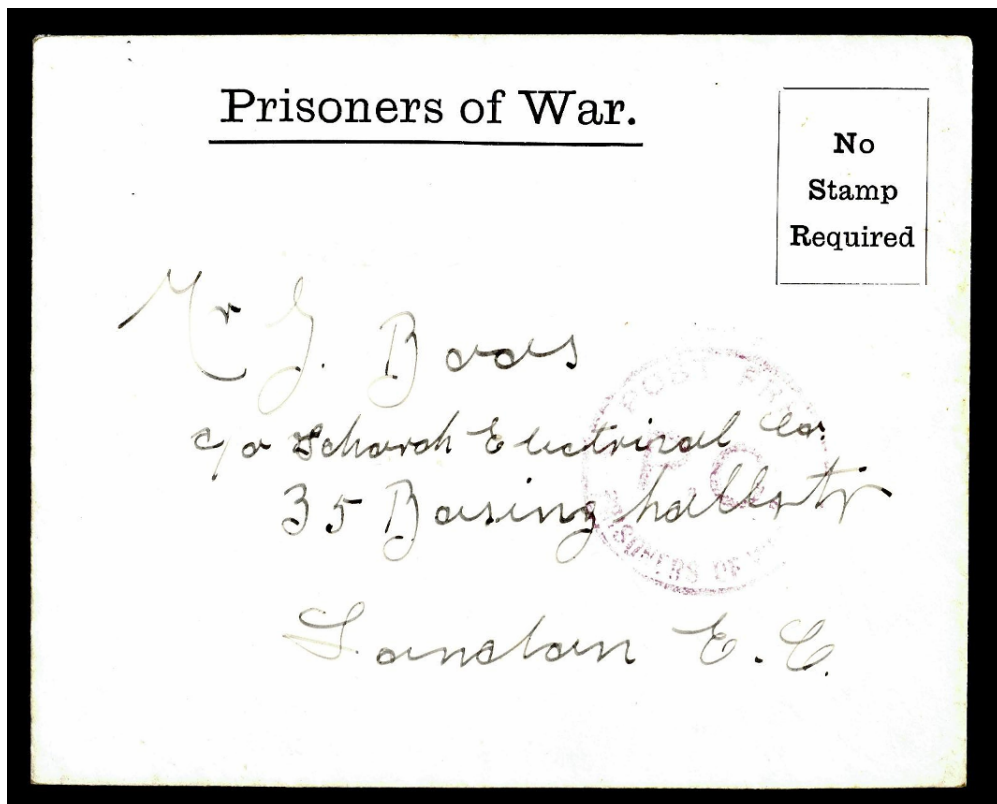
**Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:**

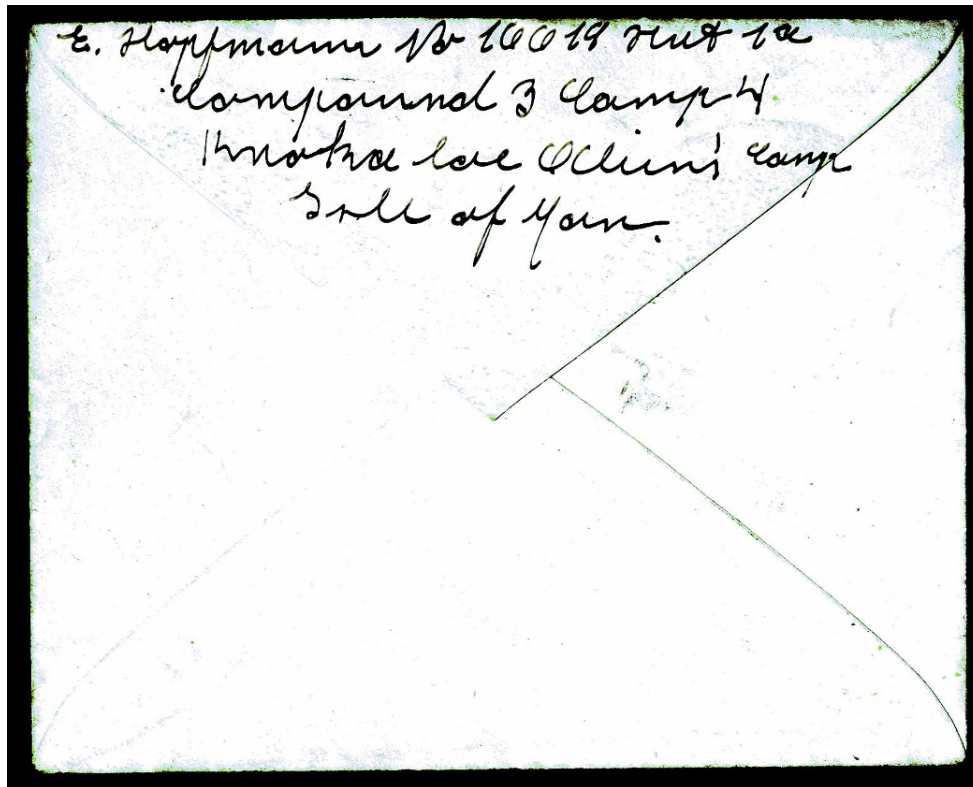
PRISONER OF WAR MAIL. Isle of Man to Great Britain 1914-1918. Pre-printed envelope headed "Prisoner of War." at top & boxed "No Stamp Required" at right, sent to London from Knockaloe Aliens Camp, circular POST FREE/ PRISONERS OF WAR/ P.C. (Passed Censor) h/s struck in violet on front

The Isle of Man was used as a base for Alien Civilian Internment camps under British Government control in both WWI (1914-18) and WWII (1939-45). During WWI, a very large camp for male internees was established on a farm, Knockaloe Moar, on the west coast near Peel.

Originally intended to house 5,000 internees, by the end of the war upwards of 23,000 persons were held there. The camp itself was built of wooden huts, covered 22 acres in extent and was divided into 4 camps subdivided into 23 compounds all told.

Knockaloe had the reputation of being something of a reputation as a socialist camp, the occupants coming from all walks of life and diverse occupations.

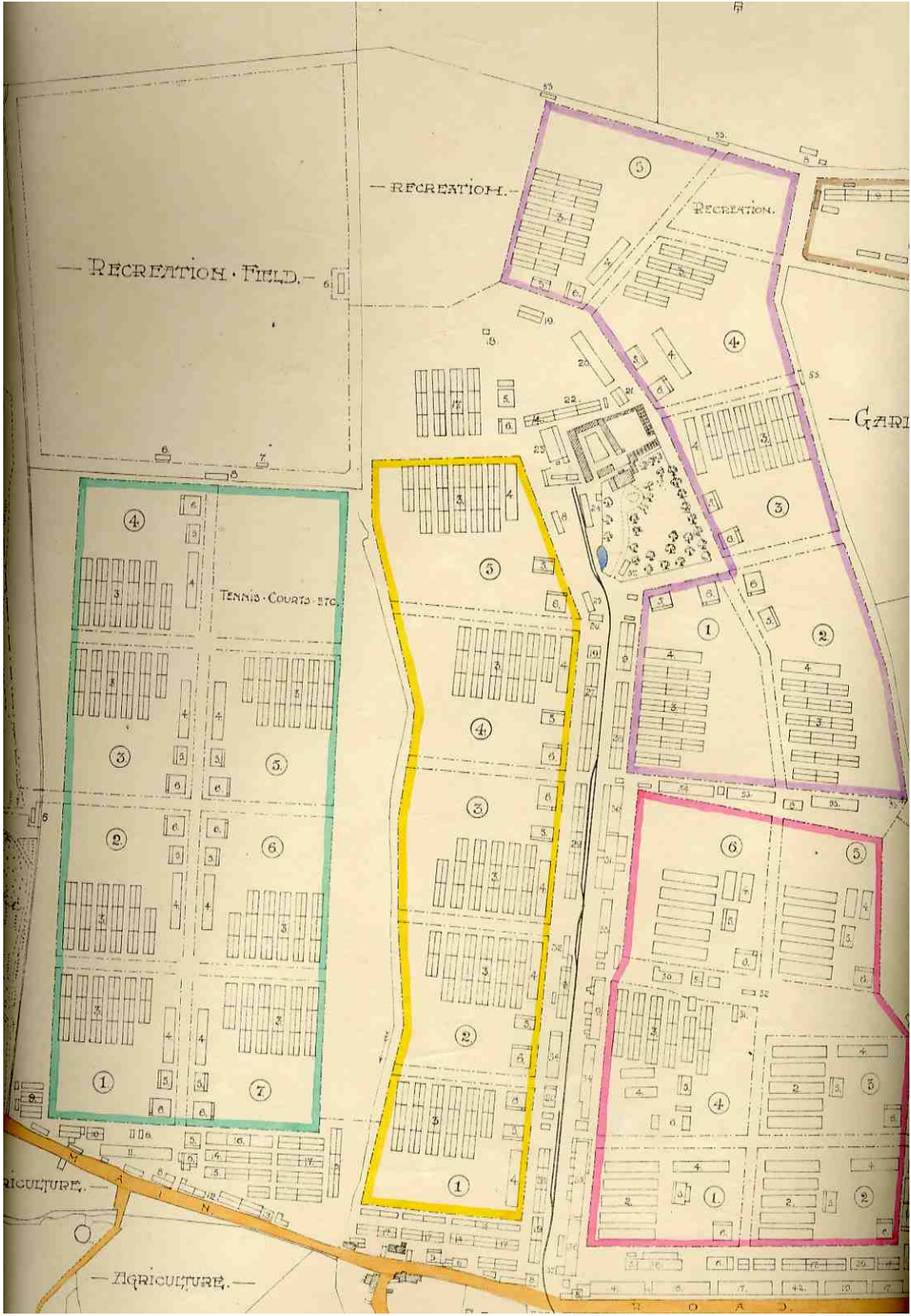




The camp was only closed late in 1919; most of the internees being deported, many against their will having established a life for themselves in Britain prior to the war.

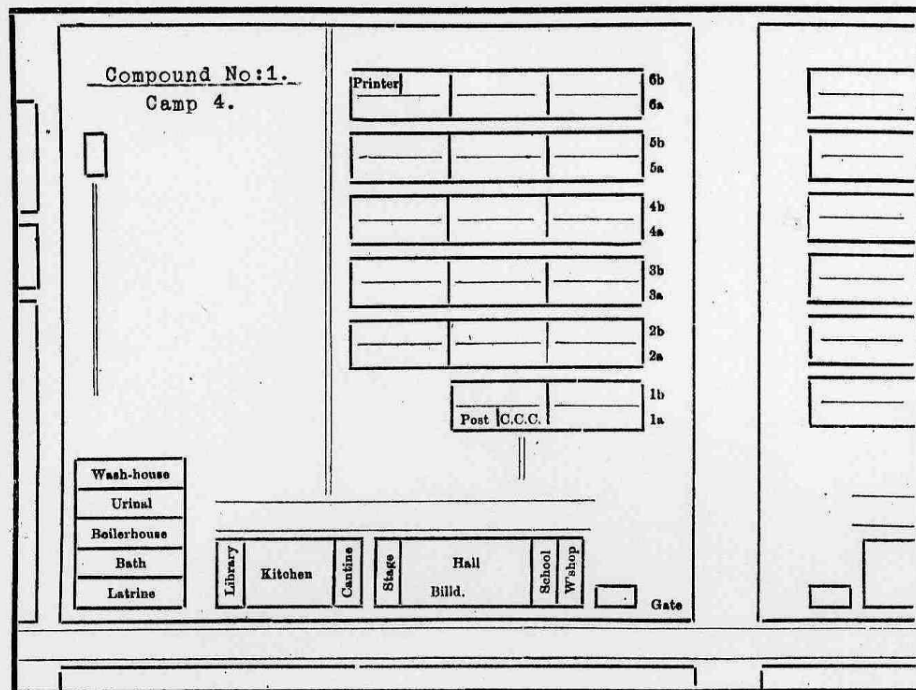
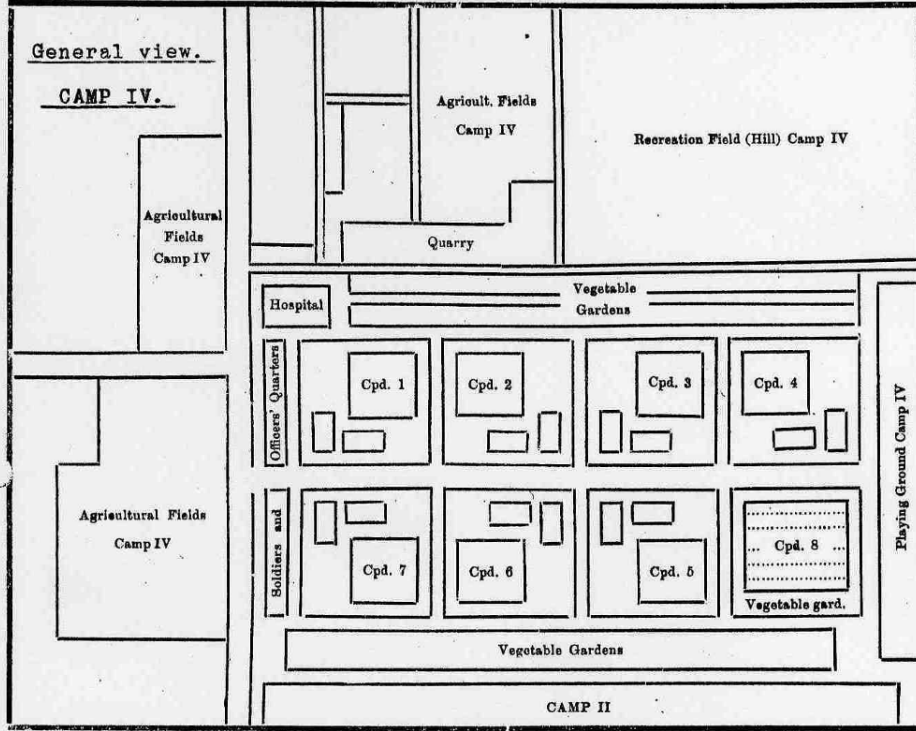
All records relating to the internees were held in London. The original card index was destroyed by enemy action in WWII. The personal files relating to WWI internees held by the British Government were destroyed possibly inadvertently during the 1970's. The International Red Cross, Geneva, holds records that were compiled from British weekly returns of internees and POW's

**Acknowledgement:** my grateful thanks to Mr. Alan Franklin MA MCLIP of the Manx National Heritage Library, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3LY for the plans which follow this.



General plan for Knockaloe camp

CIVILIAN PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP No: IV, KNOCKALOE, I.O.M.



Detailed plan one for camp four