

“ENEMY ALIENS” RESEARCH GUIDE

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L-R: Metal cup from Camp B ([2011.009.003](#)); Camp money from internment Camp N ([2014.003.001](#)); Handmade box from Canadian internment camp ([2011.009.001](#))

INTRODUCTION

The “Enemy Aliens” Research Guide provides an introduction to archival, library, museum and testimony holdings at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre related to the theme of “enemy alien” internment in Canada during the Second World War. This guide includes primary and secondary sources and recommended resources found at other organizations. Resources are linked directly to their catalogue records in the VHEC’s collections database: collections.vhec.org.

Researchers wishing to access materials in person on-site are encouraged to review the Plan a Research Visit section of our website: collections.vhec.org/About/plan. Materials in the archives, museum and testimony collections are made available through an appointment by contacting: collections@vhec.org. The library is open to visitors during the VHEC’s hours of operation.

Research guides are an introduction to a particular topic, theme or collection. They are not an exhaustive list of collection holdings; independent research is recommended and encouraged.

BACKGROUND

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Canada's restrictive and discriminatory immigration policies denied those seeking refuge, particularly Jews, entry into Canada. In 1940, Britain requested that Canada aid the war effort by taking in "enemy aliens" and prisoners of war. Canadian officials did not expect the approximately 2,300 civilian refugees from Nazism, most of them Jews, who applied to immigrate.

Of those deemed "enemy aliens" by Canada were German and Austrian citizens—Jewish and non-Jewish—between the ages of 16 and 60 who had found asylum in Britain only to be arrested under the suspicion of espionage. After a brief period of internment in England, they were deported to Canada and imprisoned in New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec alongside political refugees and, in some camps, German prisoners of war.

On June 29, 1940, the first group of male internees arrived in Canada and was transported to various camps located throughout Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. The Jewish internees spent months, even years, in all-male internment camps during the Second World War. They were not granted refugee status by the Canadian government until June 25, 1941. The refugees faced the injustice of internment with remarkable resilience and strived to make the most of their time behind barbed wire.

With the help of the Canada's Jewish community and other advocates, the Jewish refugees were eventually released. Students sponsored by community members, schools and yeshivas were released first, while others left as labourers or skilled professionals. The last of the refugees were released in 1943. Many of the Jewish refugees stayed in Canada, became Canadian citizens, and made enormous contributions to the nation.

ACCESS POINTS

Access points are key people and organizations, places and other topics that can be searched in the catalogue to locate records pertaining to those subjects.

Access Points: People, Organizations and Ships

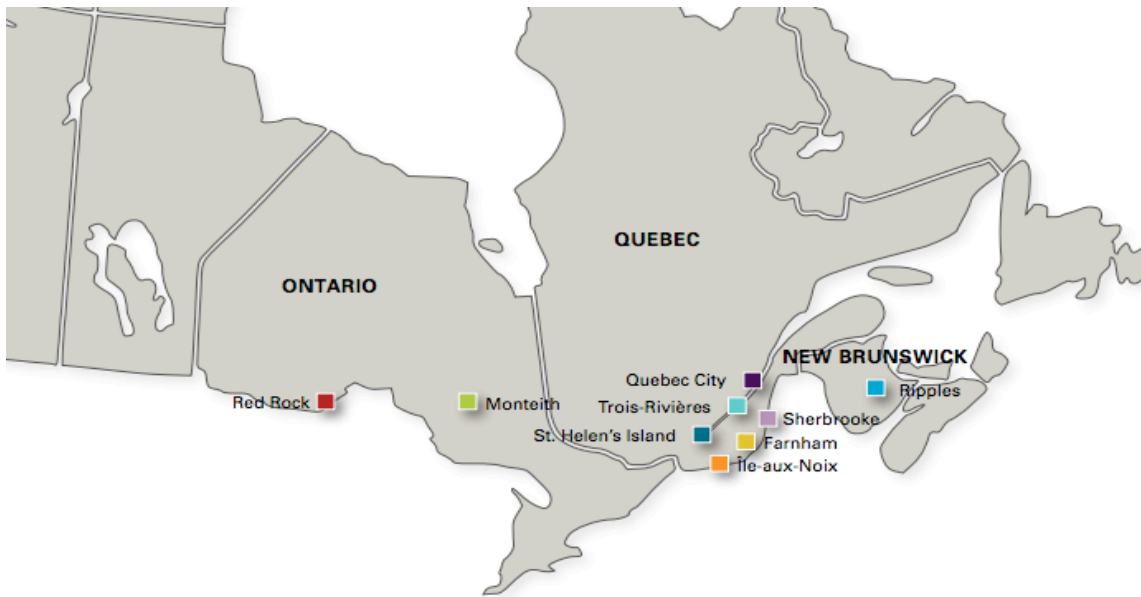
People	
Stanley Goldner	Liaison Officer, Central Committee for Interned Refugees (CCIR)
Saul Hayes	Director of United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies (UJRA), 1938–1942 Executive Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, 1938–1974
Alexander Paterson	Representative from the British Home Office, Commissioner of Prisons
Cairine Wilson	Canadian Senator and Chair of Canadian National Committee on Refugees (CNCR)
Organizations	
Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC)	An organization of Canadian Jewry representing the Jewish community in most dealings with the Canadian government, as well as with the international Jewish community.

Canadian National Committee on Refugees (CNCR)	An interfaith pro-refugee coalition of 25 Canadian groups. They lobbied for greater refugee admissions into Canada.
Central Committee for Interned Refugees (CCIR)	A committee formed in January 1941 when the Canadian National Committee on Refugees (CNCR) and United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies (UJRA) joined. The CCIR compiled individual case files that would facilitate release of internees in Canada.
United Jewish Refugee and War Relief Agencies (UJRA)	An umbrella organization of Jewish community organizations involved in refugee assistance in Canada and abroad, organized by the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) in 1939.

<i>Ships</i>	Ships carrying refugees and prisoners of war from the United Kingdom to Canada in June and July of 1940
<i>SS Arandora Star</i>	A luxury cruise ship converted for military troops. It was destined for Canada when, on July 2, 1940 it was torpedoed by a German submarine. The 805 victims included many prominent anti-fascists who had escaped from Germany, Austria and Italy.
<i>SS Duchess of York</i>	Refugees onboard the ship endured harassment and threats from Nazi prisoners of war also on board.
<i>SS Ettrick</i>	Conditions were so crowded on the ship that the refugees, unprotected from the Geneva Convention which applied to Nazi prisoners of war, were consigned to its bowels. Surrounded by barbed wire, they nicknamed their quarters "Torpedo Class."
<i>SS Sobieski</i>	This ship offered safer passage. Escorted by destroyers, it was one of five vessels involved in the largest overseas transfer of wealth of the time: 450 million pounds sterling in gold and securities. Conditions on the ship were tolerable; the refugees had run out of the ship and food was sufficient.

Access Points: Places

Internment Camp Name	Alternate Name (LAC Authority)	Location
Camp L		Cove Fields (Quebec City), Quebec
Camp R		Red Rock, Ontario
Camp T		Trois-Rivières, Quebec
Camp Q	Camp No. 23	Monteith, Ontario
Camp A	Camp No. 40	Farnham, Quebec
Camp I	Camp No. 41	Ile-Aux-Noix, Quebec
Camp N	Camp No. 42	Sherbrooke, Quebec
Camp S	Camp No. 43	Ile St. Helene (Montreal), Quebec
Camp B	Camp No. 70	Fredericton, New-Brunswick



Access Points: Topics

Topics are subject terms from the VHEC's local thesaurus that are used to tag related items in its collections. Searching or browsing by topic can help users find additional materials about a particular topic.

Aid or relief organizations	Guards and camp personnel
Antisemitism and discrimination	Internees
Arts, culture and sports	Internment camp
Correspondence and communication	Politics and government
Education	POW camp
Enemy aliens	Psychological aspects
Evacuation	Refugee camp

The library uses the following **Library of Congress Subject Headings**:

Jewish refugees -- Canada.	World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons, Canadian.
Concentration camps -- Canada.	Canada -- History -- 1914-1945.
Jewish refugees -- Government policy -- Canada.	World, War, 1939-1945 -- Refugees.
Aliens -- Canada -- History -- 20th century.	

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

Testimony is a first-hand personal account of an event. A Holocaust survivor's testimony is micro-history, one person's story told from a specific and subjective perspective. Since most survivors are not historians, they will tell personal stories that will connect with the historical details acquired from other sources. Historians listen to testimony in order to understand the personal experiences of people who were involved in an historical event. When historians examine testimony as an historical source, they must carefully consider the challenges and the benefits that accompany the use of such testimonies. It is important to consider why survivors testify and under what circumstances.

<i>Interviewee</i>	<i>Date of Interview</i>	<i>Object ID</i>	<i>Link</i>
Alfred Bader	26 April 2010	AB1012_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/332
Gunter Bardeleben	25 March 2011	GB1103_06_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/335
Gregory Baum	29 March 2011	GB1103_08_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/339
Len Daniel	2 February 1984	LD8402_01_VA	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1097
R. Walter Dunn	10 March 2011	WD1103_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/342
Gunther Erlich	1 November 2011	GE1111_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/344
Jack Hahn	10 July 2011	JH1107_02_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/392
Fred Kaufman	8 July 2011	FK1107_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/347
Eric Koch	21 March 2011	EK1103_03_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/258
Walter Kohn	2-3 March 2012	WK1203_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/395
Edgar Lion	27-28 March 2011	EL1103_07_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/351
Sigmund Muenz	11 September 2011	SM1109_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/358
Ernest G. Poser	3 April 2010	EP1004_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/292
Gideon Rosenbluth	23 March & 16 April 2010	GR1003_01_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/364
Erwin Schild	24 March 2011	ES1103_05_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/372
Gerry Waldston	19-20 March & 11 July, 2011	GW1103_02_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/377
Peter Ziegler	22 March 2011	PZ1103_04_VD	https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/389

PRIMARY SOURCES

Primary sources are the raw materials of historical research—original artefacts and documents or first-hand accounts created at or near the time of the event being studied. Primary sources provide direct evidence about the events, practices or conditions during the period in question.

Primary Sources: Archives and Museum

Knoll family fonds [RA029]. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

<https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/collections/686>

Fonds consists of personal records, passports, Bert Knoll's notes, speeches and drafts of his life writing and photographs taken in Austria, Germany, Israel and Canada. Most of the documents pertain to the Knoll family's life in Austria until the *Anschluss* and Bert's experience as an "enemy alien" in camps in England and Canada.

Gerry Waldston 'Enemy Alien' collection. Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada. <https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/collections/880>.

Consists of drawings and sketches, correspondence and personal records related to Waldston's experience as an "enemy alien" internee.

Museum Artefacts

<i>Item</i>	<i>Creator</i>	<i>Object ID</i>
Handmade box from Canadian internment camp, 1941 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/931	Unknown internee	2011.009.001
Heart-shaped ornament, circa 1941 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1023	Unknown internee	2011.009.002
Metal cup from Camp B (Ripples, New Brunswick), used 1940-1941 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1583	Unknown	2011.009.003
Barbed wire from internment Camp N, circa 1940s https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/904	Unknown	2011.010.001
Prisoner of war mail postcard, 3 September 1940 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1581	Peter Ziegler	2011.011.001
Linocut self-portrait (linocut), circa 1941 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1570	Robert Langstadt	2011.012.001
Christmas card from Camp "A", 1941 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/2964	Unknown internee	2012.003.001
Abandoned rail siding (watercolour), 1941	Robert Langstadt	2012.008.001

https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1561		
Camp money from internment Camp N, circa 1942 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/914	Unknown	2014.003.001
Undershirt issued at internment camp, circa 1940s https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6579	Unknown	2018.032.001
Metal cup from Camp B (Ripples, New Brunswick), used 1940-1941 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6843	Unknown	2018.040.001
Train station outside of camp (watercolour), 1941 https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6938	Robert Langstadt	2018.040.002
Suitcase belonging to Peter Oberlander https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/8476	Josef Nigst & Sohn	2019.048.001
Backpack belonging to Peter Oberlander https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/8480	Likely Canadian military surplus	2019.048.002
Wallet belonging to Peter Oberlander https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/8481	Unknown internee	2019.048.003

SECONDARY SOURCES

Secondary sources are created after a historical event and offer a description or interpretation of the event based on analysis of primary sources.

Secondary Sources: Books, periodicals and films available from the VHEC library

<i>Publications</i>	<i>Call Number</i>
Alexander, Robert. <i>Peter's Story</i> . 2nd ed. Ontario: Blurb Inc., 2012. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1821	REF 942.082 Z66p
Draper, Paula and Harold Trooper, eds. National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Canadian Jewish Congress Archives, Montreal. Vol. 15 of <i>Archives of the Holocaust</i> . New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1991. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/1759	REF 016.9405318 A673 V. 15
Igersheimer, Walter W. <i>Blatant Injustice: The Story of a Jewish Refugee from Nazi Germany Imprisoned in Britain and Canada during World War II</i> . Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/5723	942.082 I24b

Jones, Ted. <i>Both Sides of the Wire</i> . New Brunswick: New Ireland Press, 1988–1989. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6430	971.51 J79b v. 1–2
Kaufman, Fred. <i>Searching for Justice: An Autobiography</i> . Toronto: Key Porter Books Limited, 2005. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6445	971.004 K21s
Koch, Eric. <i>Deemed Suspect: A Wartime Blunder</i> . Toronto: Metheun, 1980. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/109	971.004 K76d
Lafitte, François. <i>The Internment of Aliens</i> . New edition. London: Libris, 1988. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/5757	942.082 L16i
Scheffler, Mattias, and Peter Weinberger, eds. <i>Walter Kohn: Personal Stories and Anecdotes Told by Friends and Collaborators</i> . New York: Springer, 2003. (Appendix I contains Walter Kohn's autobiography.) https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/5726	942.082 K79w
Schild, Erwin. <i>The Very Narrow Bridge: A Memoir of an Uncertain Passage</i> . Toronto: Adath Israel Congregation/Malcolm Lester, 2001. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/5737	942.082 S33v
Spier, Eugen. <i>The Protecting Power</i> . London: Sheffington and Sons Ltd., 1951. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/3816	RBSC 942.082 S75p
Theobald, Andrew. <i>"Dangerous enemy sympathizers": Canadian internment Camp B, 1940–1945</i> . Fredericton, NB: Goose Lane Editions, 2019. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/7665	971.51 T38d
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. "Enemy Aliens" The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943: School Program Teacher's Guide. Vancouver: Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, 2012. http://vhec.org/images/pdfs/EnemyAliens_TeachersGuide.pdf	Online
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. "'Enemy Aliens' Special Issue." <i>Zachor</i> , Spring 2012. http://vhec.org/images/pdfs/Zachor_Spring2012_EnemyAliensIssue.pdf	Online
Documentaries	
<i>Both Sides of the Wire: A Documentary Film</i> . Directed by Neal Livingston. Mabou, NS : Black River Productions Limited, 1993. https://collections.vhec.org/Detail/objects/6651	Videos B
<i>Nothing to be Written Here</i> . Directed by Wendy Oberlander. Vancouver, BC: Hahn & Daughters Productions, 1996. VHS.	Videos N

Secondary Sources: Exhibitions

Title	Summary
Krieger, Nina (curator). <i>'Enemy Aliens': The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943</i> . Exhibition, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, Vancouver, BC, June 12, 2012–October 11, 2013.	Through eyewitness testimony and artefacts, this exhibit illustrated a little-known chapter in Canadian history. The internees' journey—from fascist Europe to refuge in England, imprisonment by Britain and Canada, and eventual release—is a bittersweet tale of survival during the Holocaust.
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and 7th Floor Media. <i>'Enemy Aliens': The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943</i> . Digital Museum of Canada, 2012. http://www.enemyaliens.ca	Companion website that adapts the exhibition content online with integrated educational materials.

FURTHER RESOURCES

The following list of additional resources on the topic of Jewish internment in Canadian are not available at the VHEC but were useful as source material for the 'Enemy Aliens': *The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-1943* exhibition produced by the VHEC or may feature material from the VHEC archives, museum and/or testimony collections.

<i>Publications</i>
Auger, Martin F. <i>Prisoners of the Home Front: German POWs and "Enemy Aliens" in Southern Quebec, 1940-46</i> . Vancouver: UBC Press, 2005.
Abella, Irving and Harold Troper. "'The Line Must be Drawn Somewhere': Canada and Jewish Refugees, 1933-1939," <i>Canadian Historical Review</i> 2 (1979): 178-209.
Bartrop, Paul R. and Gabrielle Eisen eds. <i>The Dunera Affair: A Documentary Resource Book</i> . South Yarra and Melbourne: The Jewish Museum of Australia & Wilkinson, 1990.
Bader, Alfred. <i>Alfred Bader: Adventures of a Chemist Collector</i> . London: George Weidenfeld and Nicolson Limited, 1995.
Bigley, Elise. "Creativity, Community, and Memory Building: Interned Jewish Refugees in Canada During and After World War II." Thesis (M.A). Carleton University, 2017. https://curve.carleton.ca/e5a979c1-a4fe-4e3a-81fe-7f0fccf314bc
Cesarani, David and Tony Kushner eds. <i>The Internment of Aliens in Twentieth Century Britain</i> . London: Frank Cass and Company Ltd., 1993.
Cresswell, Yvonne M., ed. <i>Living with the Wire: Civilian Internment in the Isle of Man during the Two World Wars</i> . Douglas, Isle of Man: Manx National Heritage, 2010.
Draper, Paula. "The Accidental Immigrant: Canada and the Interned Refugee." PhD dissertation. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1983. http://www.worldcat.org/title/accidental-immigrants-canada-and-the-interned-refugees/oclc/219307361
Hamilton, Graeme. "How Jewish 'enemy aliens' overcame a 'traumatic' stint in Canadian prison camps during the Second World War," <i>National Post</i> , February 7, 2014.
Kreisel, Henry. "Diary of an Internment." In <i>Another Country: Writings by and about Henry Kreisel</i> , edited by Shirley Neuman. Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1985.
Lowrie, Morgan. "Remembering the 'bittersweet' legacy of Canada's wartime Jewish and Italian internment camps," <i>The Canadian Press</i> , November 10, 2020.
Masis, Julie. "In WWII, an anti-Semitic Canada kept Jewish 'enemy aliens' in barbed wire camps," <i>The Times of Israel</i> , August 16, 2020.

Moon, Barbara. "The Welcome Aliens," <i>Macleans</i> , February 10, 1962.
Rodrigo, Annelise. A Historiography of interned refugees in Canada during World War II. <i>Civilian Internment in Canada Workshop</i> , Manitoba University, June 2015, Winnipeg, Canada. https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-02529660
Seidler, Harry. Internment: The Diaries of Harry Seidler, May 1940-October 1941. Edited by Janis Wilton. Translated by Judith Winternitz. Sydney: Allen and Unwin Australia Pty Ltd., 1986.
Sinclair, Sonja. "No Ordinary Campers," <i>Macleans</i> , May 15, 2000.
Solyom, Catherine. "From refugees to enemy aliens," <i>Montreal Gazette</i> , June 30, 2018.
Strutz, Andrea. "Interned as 'Enemy Aliens': Jewish Refugees from Austria, Germany and Italy in Canada". In <i>Refugees from Nazi-Occupied Europe in British Overseas Territories</i> . Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2020.
Whitehouse, Christine. "'You'll Get Used to It!': The Internment of Jewish Refugees in Canada, 1940-43." PhD dissertation. Carleton: Carleton University, 2016. https://curve.carleton.ca/aaba4408-456d-42ce-9e15-bb58f8ce36eb
Zimmerman, Ernest Robert. <i>The Little Third Reich on Lake Superior: A History of Canadian Internment Camp R</i> . Edited by Michel S. Beaulieu and David K. Ratz. Alberta: The University of Alberta Press, 2015.
Documentaries and Television
<i>Land and Sea</i> . Season 9, Episode 4, "Ripples Internment Camp," host Tom Murphy aired 2009 on CBC Television, https://gem.cbc.ca/media/land-and-sea-network/season-9/episode-4/38e815a-00d10ef4c76
Rasky, Harry. <i>The Spies Who Never Were</i> . Toronto, Ontario: CBC, 1981.
Archival and Museum Fonds and Collections
Alfred Bader fonds. P0226. Canadian Jewish Archives. Montreal, Quebec. Includes documents relating to his internment at Ile aux Noix camp, his grant to Queen's University and photocopies of the official diary of the Canadian camp commandant.
Alfred Bader fonds. F02493. Queen's University Archives. Kingston, Ontario. Includes papers documenting his early life in England, Canada, and the United States; Prisoner of War shirt from Canadian internment camp.
Cahén Archives. Gabriola, British Columbia. http://www.oscarcahen.com

<p>The Canadian Jewish Heritage Network.</p> <p>Information about the holdings of the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives (formerly the Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives). CJHN also links to databases and digitized archival material from other Canadian Jewish organizations.</p>
<p>Hans Reiche fonds, 1914-2001. I0090. Ottawa Jewish Archives. Ottawa, Ontario.</p>
<p>Henry Cassel fonds. 93. Ontario Jewish Archives. Toronto, Ontario.</p>
<p>Montreal Holocaust Museum Collections. "Objects of Interest, Canadian Internment." https://museeholocauste.ca/en/objects-of-interest/?categ=canadian-internment-camps </p>
<p>Research Guide to the Holocaust-related Holdings at Library and Archives Canada [pp 10–14]. PDF. Ottawa: Library and Archives Canada, August 2013. http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/holocaust/documents/holocaust-research-guide.pdf</p>
<p>Thematic guides: Internment Camps in Canada during the First and Second World Wars. Library and Archives Canada, April 2017. http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/politics-government/Pages/thematic-guides-internment-camps.aspx</p> <p>Includes link to digitized Nominal Roll of Interned Refugees (Friendly Aliens) From the United Kingdom November 1946 (File: 1939-842-AF).</p>
<p>United Jewish Relief Agencies (UJRA) fonds, 1930-1978. I0062. Canadian Jewish Archives. Montreal, Quebec.</p>
<p>Web Resources and Podcasts</p>
<p>Koch, Eric. [2010-2016]. YouTube channel. http://www.youtube.com/eokoch</p> <p>The YouTube channel of former internee Eric Koch, who dedicates several videos to his internment experiences.</p>
<p>Theobald, Andrew and Alex Fitzgerald-Black. "Internment Camp B: Jewish Refugees." Produced by Juno Beach Centre. <i>Juno Beach & Beyond</i>. April 14, 2021. Podcast, audio. 00:40:38. https://www.junobeach.org/podcast/internment-camp-b-jewish-refugees-with-andrew-theobald/. </p>
<p>Exhibitions</p>
<p>Montreal Holocaust Museum and Idéeclac. <i>Building New Lives</i>. Virtual Museum Canada, 2017. https://refairesavie.museeholocauste.ca/eng </p> <p>Features biography, video testimony clips and photographs from internees Jack Hahn and Joseph Lazar. Includes "Kosher Section hockey team" photograph held in private collections.</p>
<p>New Brunswick Internment Camp Museum. Minto, New Brunswick (formerly Camp No. 70 / Camp B). Online exhibit. http://www.nbinternmentcampmuseum.ca/</p>

