

INTERNMENT RECORDS


by Ilma Martinuzzi O'Brien

At the outbreak of World War II there were approximately 33,000 people of Italian birth living in Australia. Nearly 5,000 of these Italian born were interned by the Australian government during the war. Such a large number means that the internment records are an important source of Family History information for a sizeable proportion of the prewar immigrants.

Those who had only recently arrived from Italy at the outbreak of war or who were Italian citizens, were not the only ones interned. Nearly one quarter were naturalised British subjects (these were the days before we had our own Australian citizenship), and a small number of Australian born citizens were also interned, the majority from Queensland. These figures are taken from a paper I presented at a conference at the University of Western Australia last year. This paper forms part of a larger project I have been working on for the past two years during weekends and holidays on the Internments of the war years. My interest is more than professional, because my father and other relatives from north Queensland were interned.

To aid Family History researchers, we are compiling an index of the basic internment records. Mrs Laura Mecca, Mrs Delfina Sartori and Miss Georgina Russell are to be thanked for the many hours they have given towards entering the data for this valuable index. The index will enable the researcher to find out, directly from the Society, basic information such as date interned, date released, place of arrest, place of birth, occupation, whether naturalised, and finally, the internment number, which is useful in seeking additional information in the Archives.

Having the internment number of an individual, which is available from the index here at the Society, you will be able to request a copy of a particular Service and Casualty Form. These records are held in the Australian Archives, Brighton in Victoria, and they record the details of places and dates where the internee was held during internment. (See below). Anyone wishing information from the index should contact me at the Society, either by phone or by post.

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES

JR
A.A.F. A. 112
Revised, May, 1941

INTERNEE
PRISONER OF WAR — **SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM** Identification No. Q. 30362

Rank _____ Other Names Alfred District QUEENSLAND
Surname MARTINUZZI
(INCLUDE CAPITALS)

Date of Capture <u>8/6/42</u> Place of Capture <u>Townsville</u> Date of Birth <u>17/12/1914</u> Place of Birth <u>Mourilyan</u> Trade or Occupation <u>Salesman</u> Religion <u>R.C.</u>	NATIONALITY <u>Italian Australian Born</u> Marital Condition <u>Married</u> Next of Kin <u>MARTINUZZI Elisa Munro</u> Address of Next of Kin <u>88 Charters Towers Rd Townsville</u> Relationship <u>Wife</u>
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REPORT No No Identification—Colour of Hair Brown Eyes Brown
Distinctive Marks Scar on right arm

Date	From whom received	Report of all activities including movements, transfers, prison establishments, etc., between dates specified, including transfers to and discharge from Hospital, Casualty Clearing Station, etc. Date of Despatch and destination from a theatre of war, and any other activities of interest.	Date of Casualty	Place of Casualty	Authority A.A.F. A. 113, or other Document	Signature of Officer Certifying Correctness of Entries
<u>22.6.42</u>	<u>Stuythorne</u>	<u>Interned</u>	<u>18.6.42</u>	<u>Stuythorne</u>	<u>A03</u>	<u>Dyason</u>
<u>6.7.42</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>Transferred to Townsville</u>	<u>1.7.42</u>	<u>Ida</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>a</u>
<u>7.7.42</u>	<u>Stuythorne</u>	<u>Marched on to Gaythorne</u>	<u>4.7.42</u>	<u>Townsville</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>L.B. Rowan</u>
<u>28.7.42</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>Transferred to Brisbane Internment</u>	<u>27.7.42</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>a</u>
<u>5.8.42</u>	<u>Stuythorne</u>	<u>Marched on to Stuythorne</u>	<u>25.7.42</u>	<u>Stuythorne</u>	<u>AV</u>	<u>Dyason</u>
<u>11.8.42</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>Released</u>	<u>1.10.42</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>a</u>	<u>Stuythorne</u>

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

An example of a Service and Casualty Form.