

GROUP ACTIVITIES

As the industry of handicraft production grew some of the interneers soon showed themselves to be talented artisans and artists. From this realisation developed a number of "handicraft" exhibitions which were held in Biberach, Laufen, Liebenau and Wurzach.

One such exhibition on 23 May in the Wurzach camp saw over 400 items made by internees on display. These included oil and water colour paintings, sketches, clothes, pottery, toys, paper decorations and models.

Also extremely popular was theatre and all the camps held plays and variety shows on a regular basis. Backdrops, props and costumes all had to be made from re-cycled materials including crepe paper, packing cases, Red Cross cartons and packing wrappers. The performances provided a welcome distraction from the reality of imprisonment.

As one Wurzach internee wrote in his dairy...

... "although the Germans have got us behind barbed wire, they cannot stop us from smiling and enjoying ourselves".

Fancy dress parades and Carnivals were also held at most of the camps. One of the most memorable was held on the August Bank Holiday 1943 in the camp at Biberach. The German Camp Commandant filmed and photographed the parade. It was testament to the extraordinary resourcefulness of the internees that they were able to make costumes, props and floats from the paltry items available to them.

“THEY CANNOT STOP US FROM SMILING AND ENJOYING OURSELVES

Wurzach interne



Channel Island male hockey team in
an internment camp in Germany.
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