

KEEPING YOUR IDENTITY

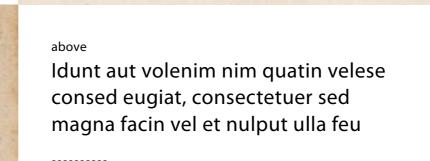
One of the more insidious effects of internment was the gradual loss of identity brought, in part, by the long separation from the Islands which dulled the memory of home for many. In a concerted effort to counter this, the internees used their handicraft skills to continually manufacture reminders of their Islands and British identities.

Decorations on items such as cups and cans often featured images of the islands. Badges were made and worn that featured the Union Jack flag or its' distinctive red, white and blue colours as powerful reminders of their cultural identity.

Religion was also a source of great support for those imprisoned. However, as with so many other aspects of the internees' lives, there had been little space for it when packing the bare essentials for deportation. As a consequence, Islanders were left with few symbols of their religious beliefs with which to worship. With stoic dedication they set about manufacturing these missing symbols, producing crosses, statues of Christian icons and various items integral in the conduction of Christian services.

Efforts were also made within the camps to voice more active feelings of defiance with use of the V-for-Victory sign. A woman interned in the Wurzach camp had a pair of rope-soled shoes made which had a victory sign plaited from Red Cross parcel string on the soles. Everywhere she went she would have left footprints in the ground with a distinctive "V" in the middle. Other more overt methods were used including Vs decorating tablecloths, on the bottom of mugs and embroidered onto cushions. It was also common practice to have large painted V-signs and home-made Union Jacks above the doorways of their rooms. Within the confines of the barracks this level of defiance seems to have been tolerated to a certain extent by the German authorities.





Biberach 1944.

Idunt aut volenim nim quatin velese consed eugiat, consectetuer sed magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu

Idunt aut volenim nim quatin velese consed eugiat, consectetuer sed magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu





magna facin vel et nulput ulla feu

SOLED SHOES HAD A VICTORY SIGN PLAITED FROM RED CROSS PARCEL STRING ON THE SOLES