

OCCUPIED

BEHIND BARBED WIRE

2

THE INTERN CAMPS

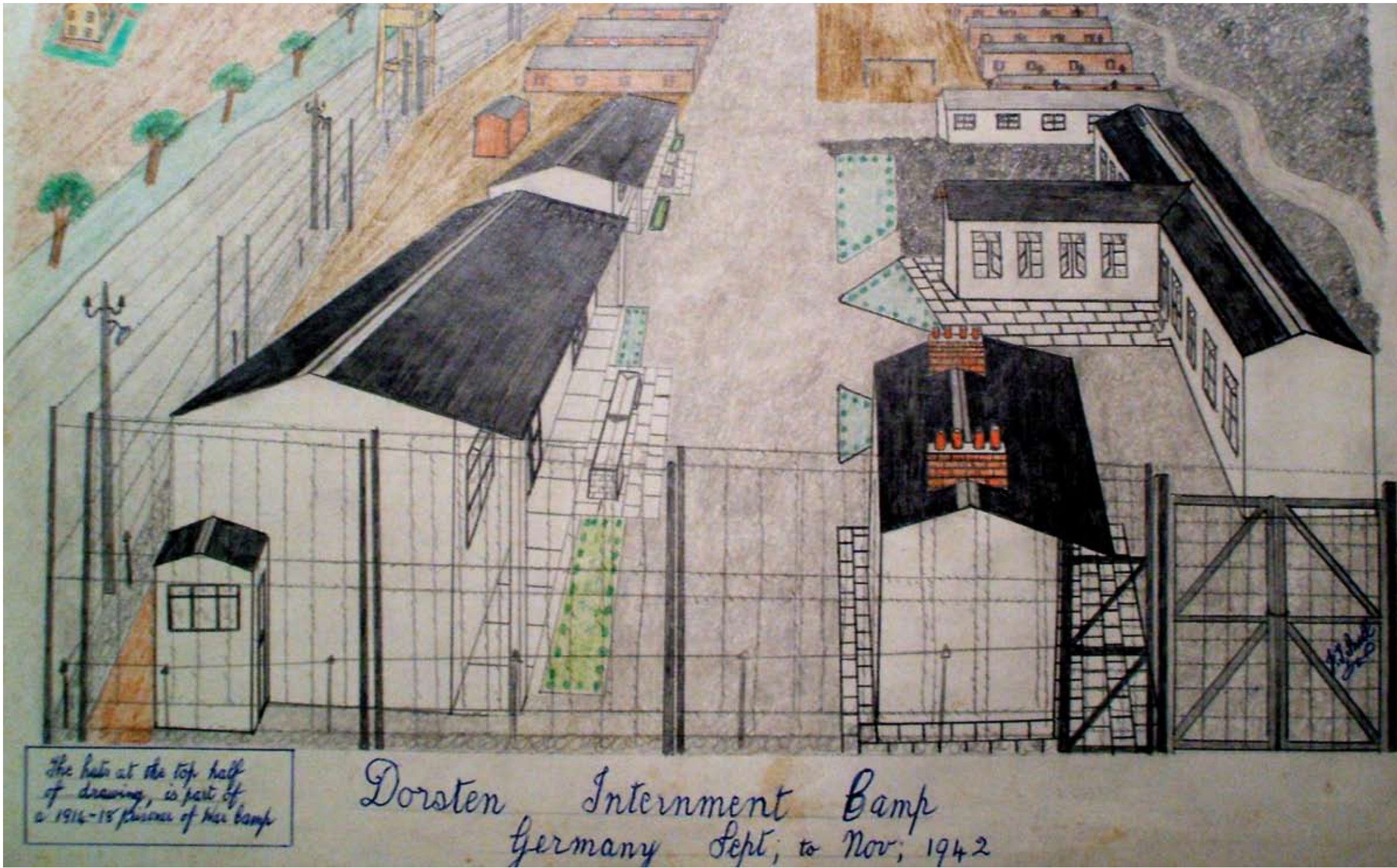
Preston John Doughty from Jersey recorded in his diary that the day they arrived in Wurzach...

“...will be remembered as long as we live, for the state of the place and our rooms were like pigsties and so everywhere we went, tears began to flow ... Scrubbing of floors, doors, tables, chairs and, in fact, the whole place was undertaken to make it a fit place to live in. My room was like a large barn, and in it they put 46 men to eat and sleep. My wife was lucky for in her room they put 23 women, but it was to my mind the best in the camp.”

After the stress and shock of the Deportation process the Channel islanders were interned in their respective camps. The uncertainty of their future remained a constant spectre in the back of every person’s mind.

The Internees were billeted in barrack-block type huts in camps whose perimeters were ringed with barbed wire fences and watch towers manned by German soldiers. Communal living in such impersonal and cramped conditions was desperately difficult for people to come to terms with. All had to wash in communal showers under the eye of an armed guard. No-one had a quiet moment or a quiet corner in which to relax – this led to private misery for many and endless quarrelling amongst others.

After a number of months of internship, however, the Islanders in both Biberach and Wurzach were permitted regular walks in the local countryside. A line of internees flanked by German soldiers and an Alsatian guard dog would spend time outside the camp walking through the countryside. This helped to keep people fit but was also a means of staying sane, providing relief from the oppressive overcrowding in the camps.



above
Entrance to the German Army Camp in Dorsten, Germany. Vacated by the Geman Army and then used as a Transit Camp for Internees and Concentration Camp Prisoners being transported to other destinations. Channel Islanders came through Dorsten on their way to Internment Camps.

©MAG 2005,286.59

left
Entrance to the internment camp at Biberach, Germany. The building on the right accomodated the Camp Commandant and German Officers.

©MAG 2005,286.59



left
Schloss at Laufen in Bavaria, Southern Germany. Taken during the winter, 1940 - 45. The Schloss was used as an internment camp during this period and Channel Islanders were interned here.

~~~~~



left  
Schloss at Laufen in Bavaria, Southern Germany. Taken during the winter, 1940 - 45. The Schloss was used as an internment camp during this period and Channel Islanders were interned here.

~~~~~

below
Internee behind the wire in one of the camps

~~~~~



above  
Idunt aut volenim nim quatin vesele consed eugiat, consectetuer sed magna facin vel et nulpit ulla feu

~~~~~

left
Dorsten Internment Camp Germany, September 1942

~~~~~



“OUR ROOMS WERE LIKE PIGSTIES AND SO EVERYWHERE WE WENT, TEARS BEGAN TO FLOW

Preston John Doughty