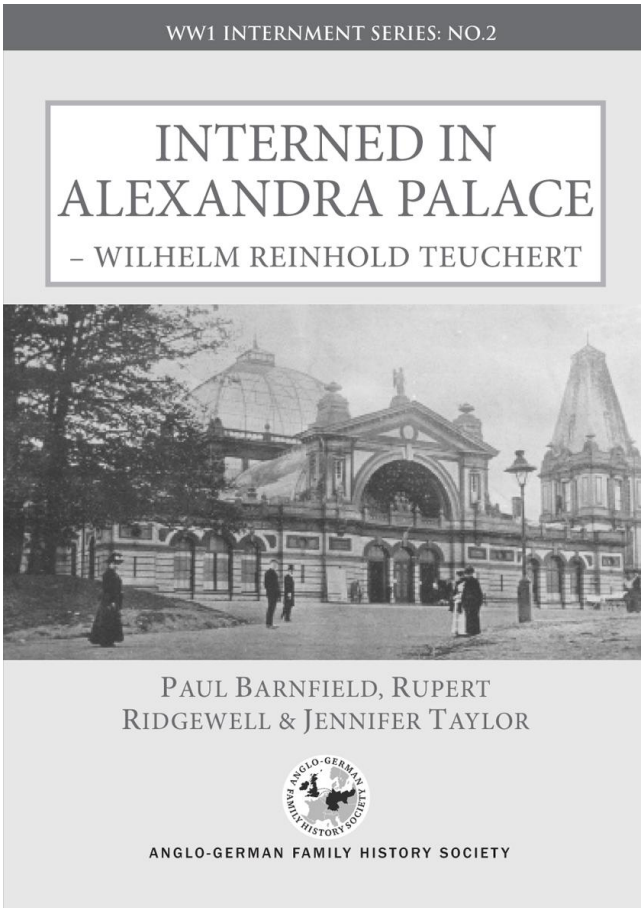
INTERNED IN ALEXANDRA PALACE – Wilhelm Reinhold Teuchert

Paul Barnfield, Rupert Ridgewell & Jennifer Taylor



This is the story of one of the many German economic migrants who came to Britain in the nineteenth century in search of a better life. Reinhold Teuchert trained as a chef, settled in London and raised a family, only to be caught up in the mass internment which followed the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. He became one of the approximately 3,000 German civilians interned in Alexandra Palace in North London for the duration of the war. His biography is, sadly, not uncommon. What makes it special is that he left a diary which chronicled in detail his feelings and experiences in the first months of his captivity. After the war he was 'persuaded' to return to Germany with his family, but finding the post-war conditions in Germany not conducive to prosperity he returned to Britain. Naturalised in 1939, he narrowly escaped the next wave of mass internment which began in 1940. His internment diary, reproduced here in its entirety, lifts him out of the faceless mass of his fellow migrants to give him a place in history, however modest.

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