Famagusta's Historic Detention and Refugee Camps

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Abstract
This is an exploratory qualitative documentation about the camps in Famagusta, Cyprus, erected and run by the British Government, 1915 - 1949. There were at least five different groups to be interned in the camps, for various reasons and circumstances. This documentation maps the locations of the camps, outlines the circumstances which brought about their existence, describes some aspects of life in the camps, and relations between the camps’ residents and the local population. The paper concludes that very little of the camps has survived, except for graves of some internees. Some of the British structures still exist in Karaolos and Xylotimbou; and perhaps some of the escape tunnels in the Gülseren Camp. Another possible finding is that the presence of the Germans on the island was kept secret from the locals for various reasons. It is hoped that further research will be carried out on some of the camps, especially the Russian, the German POWs, and the Turkish POWs.

Keywords: Cyprus, refugee camps, detention camps, Famagusta, 1915-49.