

BACKGROUND

Henry Fischer, a local police sergeant in Balsall Heath, was born in Germany, as was his wife. He has received notice that he must register at his own police station as an Alien and knows he will almost certainly be sent away to a holding camp.

Fischer calls in to the Francis Stores on Runcorn Road in Balsall Heath to say goodbye to his old friends...

ELIZABETH (shop owner): (*enters from back room*) Ah Mr Grimsley. No bills I hope.

GRIMSLEY (the postman): I don't think so. Mrs Edwards next door had a card...

ELIZABETH: About her son, Jack? Oh my what was it, what did she say?

GRIMSLEY: He's a Prisoner of war...

MRS EDWARDS (neighbour): (*comes rushing in*) Liz. Liz. He's alive. Jack has been taken prisoner.

ELIZABETH: Yes Mr Grimsley just said. Let's see it.

MRS EDWARDS: (*hands Elizabeth the card*) He's in a camp. I can't make the name out right on it though.

ELIZABETH: I must tell the others. Albert is always asking after your Jack.

FISCHER (the policeman): (*enters shop*) Hello everyone. Grimsley told me about Jack Mrs Edwards. Good news indeed.

MRS EDWARDS: It is. Thank you Mr Fischer.

FISCHER: Liz, is Bill around at all?

ELIZABETH: No he's popped out to the wholesalers. You know him - hates to get low on stock. Mind you, I think he stops at the pub on the way. Can I give him a message Henry?

FISCHER: Things are...difficult as you know, being we're from Germany.

ELIZABETH: This Enemy Aliens business you mean

GRIMSLEY: Now Henry that's as nothing to us.

FISCHER: Thanks Fred, but not everyone feels like you about it.

GRIMSLEY: Well I can see their point. I've seen all that post from Germany over the years. You've still got relatives there, haven't you?

ELIZABETH: But you are a policeman. Surely it won't apply to you.

FISCHER: It does Liz. And being a policeman makes things worse. So I am leaving the force and probably leaving Balsall Heath too, for some sort of holding centre it seems.

MRS EDWARDS: A camp you mean? My Jack's in a camp too. Yours won't be so bad will it - compared to a prison camp.

FISCHER: (*To Elizabeth*) Look I don't want to make a fuss so please give Bill my best. And Albert, Jane and your mother.

ELIZABETH: Yes of course Henry. What about your wife?

MRS EDWARDS: Will she go home?

FISCHER: This was her home.

City of London Police.

NOTICE TO ALIEN ENEMIES.

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9 P.M. & 5 A.M.

male alien enemies are required, with effect from 18th May, to remain at their registered places of residence unless furnished with a permit from the Registration Officer of the Registration District in which that place of residence is situate.

The Police are directed to enforce this restriction.

CITY POLICE OFFICE,
30, OLD JEWRY,
LONDON, E.C.

J. W. NOTT-BOWER,

Commissioner of Police for the City of London.

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