

THE BRITISH EMPIRE UNION.

REGISTER

OF

Changes of Names

DURING THE WAR

BY

Deed Poll and Enrolment

as announced in the "LONDON GAZETTE."

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Collected by E. F. CORY KERNICK.

It is not suggested that those whose names appear in this Register effected the change of name from any improper motive, but we have thought it worth while to print as complete a list as we could obtain in order to point out possible dangers to the Empire which might arise from the laxity of legislation in this respect, and to emphasise the need for reform.

Published by THE BRITISH EMPIRE UNION,  
346, Strand, London, W.C.2.

## **NOTE.**

### **Re REGISTER OF CHANGES OF NAME.**

We beg to call attention to the fact that the names contained in this Register do not include those of persons resident in Scotland and Ireland, which are separately recorded in Edinburgh and Dublin.

E. F. C. K.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE UNION,  
316, STRAND,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

# PREFACE.

## Names changed during the war by Deed Poll and Enrolment as announced in the "London Gazette."

COLLECTED BY E. F. CORY KERNICK AND PUBLISHED BY THE  
BRITISH EMPIRE UNION.

IT is impossible to say how many names have been changed during the war. One-fourth, perhaps, of the total changed by Deed Poll and Enrolment (viz., all those which have been advertised in the "London Gazette") will be found in the accompanying Pamphlet. These, some 3,000, comprise persons of almost every class and calling; many among them are all-British subjects, who have changed their names for family or other cogent reasons. A large majority, however, are German names changed to British names. A number of these no doubt belonged to persons whose families for generations have resided in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and have become British in everything but name. The outstanding facts for the public to note, however, are:—

(1) That a German name invariably betokens German origin, whether remote or recent.

(2) That those who have German names realise fully the handicap they are under, and are changing them rapidly. In the first three years of the war the change of names advertised in the "Gazette" (where the large majority of names changed did not appear) was at the rate of over 400 per annum, but in 1918 this figure had greatly increased, and announcements in the "Gazette" were at the rate of 1,200 per annum. The total in the Records Office for 1918 was very far beyond, probably quite double, that number.

In October, 1914, under D.O.R.A., no "enemy aliens" were permitted to change their names. On July 19th, 1918, it was further enacted that no persons not being Natural-born British subjects could do so, and all aliens were called upon to revert to the names (personal, trade, or of business firms) which they used prior to the war; meantime all were permitted to continue the use of their changed names until the Home Office should decide on their applications for exemption—a most dilatory proceeding. Hence it is a matter of uncertainty whether any single person has reverted to his original name, or has been prosecuted for not doing so, or has been made to pay any but a nominal penalty if he has been prosecuted.\* It will be noticed that all aliens, other than "enemy" aliens, have been able to change their names during practically the whole four years of the war. Up to July 19th, 1918, they and naturalised British subjects also were even able to assume British names without going through any formality whatever.

To change his name without any formality at all, is a privilege that has always belonged to the "Natural-born British subject," and it is a privilege that should only be allowed him, if his parents were British. At present, as the law stands, the man or woman of German parentage (one or both) born in Britain, or in British Dominions, or on a British ship, is a Natural-born British subject; and the son or daughter of a German (naturalised or unnaturalised) born on British soil or on a British ship is regarded as a Natural-born British subject. Hence the anomaly of volumes in the Records Office filled with names entirely German, of persons who have the title and full status of "Natural-born British

\* Since these words were written one or two prosecutions for unauthorised change of name have been reported in the Press.

subjects," and have therefore been permitted by Deed Poll and Enrolment (with or without announcement in the "London Gazette" up to January 1st, 1918) to change those names for British names.

A Deed Poll may cost about £2; in some cases it will cost £5 or more; if complying with all formalities the Deed Poll should be enrolled, and if enrolled must, since January 1st, 1918, be advertised in the "London Gazette." Formerly it was customary to announce the change of name in "The Times" and also in a local paper.

If all the formalities are duly observed, "the Deed Poll must recite the fact that the person changing his name is a Natural-born British subject, and a birth certificate must be produced proving the fact, and exhibited to a Statutory Declaration, by some reputable person who has known the applicant for at least 15 years, and can certify as to the birth." It is questionable whether such a witness is procurable in every case.

The Natural-born British subject may also change his name by simple announcement in the newspapers or not, as he may prefer. The "Regulations only apply to the changing of name *when done by Deed Poll if the Deed is enrolled.*" The Orders 25A and 14H under D.O.R.A. have been framed to cover "enemy aliens," other aliens, and also naturalised British subjects in regard to change of name.

It is possible for any person to obtain a Deed Poll Form and fill it up himself, and get it signed by two witnesses. Such a document (?) would not be accepted by any lawyer, of course, but even the Deed Poll that has been enrolled and advertised has only a modified legal value; it is simply "the customary method," and as such is the recognised form of effecting a change of name.

No "Naturalised" British subject may change his name by Deed Poll now without permission of the Home Secretary; but that disability was only enacted by an Order of the Privy Council of July 19th, 1918. During nearly four years of the war "naturalised" persons with German names were changing them for British names. Only since the above date, if a naturalised person "*assume* a name without any formality, the penalty is a fine of £100 or imprisonment with or without hard labour, and the Court may require recognisances and sureties to carry out the provisions of the Order." Issued when "the sword" was almost at the point of being "sheathed," this was indeed a brave decree!

The Records of Deeds Poll which have been enrolled are kept from 1916 (inclusive) to present date at Room 81, The Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, W.C. The Records of earlier years are at the Records Office, Chancery Lane. A general search of these is permitted at a charge of 2s. 6d. per hour. These Records, however, do not form a complete record of all persons who have changed their names by the authorised customary methods, but only of those whose Deeds Poll have been enrolled.

If there be, anywhere at all, a complete list of persons who have changed their names by all customary authorised methods (Deed Poll, Enrolment, and advertisement in the "Gazette"), since August, 1914, it must be the list at the Home Office; and even there there will be no record of the persons who have simply *assumed* other names without any formality whatever. The names in this Register are those only which have appeared in the "London Gazette" since August 1st, 1914. They are perhaps one-fourth of the number in the Records at the Courts of Justice for the same period, and those again are, I submit, but a drop in the ocean compared with the number of British names in lieu of foreign, mostly German names, which have been, and are being, just "assumed" without any authority whatever taking note of them. The number of these, if it were known, would be a staggering total, and would mock at any semblance of fact in "Britain for the British."

The truth is that the whole business of the treatment of both enemy aliens and other aliens has been loosely handled, and *as, on conclusion of Peace, D.O.R.A. and enemy aliens, in the legal sense, will disappear, it is the urgent duty of all electors to urge their Members of Parliament to take instant action in regard*

to the whole question of the future treatment and restriction of aliens, particularly and most emphatically the restriction of enemy aliens. We must demand drastic reform of the existing laws, which, in view of the endless "exemptions" made, can only be called the merest shadows of laws.

The fact that many thousands of German names, probably some 8,000, have been changed for British names during the war is a proof of the futility of our laws in all matters relating to aliens, for it is impossible of belief that all these persons are "Natural-born British subjects" with the freedom to change their names which that status connotes. Very few of those in this Pamphlet mention that they are "Naturalised British subjects," and in a very large number of cases *no statement whatever in regard to nationality is made!*

The least public method of changing the name and the one which without any doubt has been widely adopted by those who have wished to avoid publicity is simply "the assuming and using" of the name of their fancy! It is a fact that names the most honoured and revered from association with great achievements in the past, have been taken by persons of enemy-origin, as is clearly illustrated by instances innumerable in the lists in this Register.

But the deep significance in the fact of large numbers of persons of enemy origin now using British names is that the assumed British name is "camouflage" over an instrument of danger!

Under this camouflage there are thousands of aliens trading under British names and so deceiving their customers. During the war very many have deliberately changed their names and by this means have captured the businesses of our men who went to defend their country.

**IS THIS FACT REALISED BY THE PUBLIC—THAT CAMOUFLAGED ENEMIES ARE IN OUR MIDST IN NUMBERS THAT SHOULD CAUSE ALARM?**

The changed name is a mask, a disguise, and in it, the enemy people are going about among us freely, *completely hidden*, and what is worse, immune and exempted, just as is the most British of the British, from the restrictions and limitations which during the war have been the portion of recognised enemy aliens. I submit that from this time forward no alien should be permitted to change his name; that should be one of the limitations imposed upon all alien residents in Britain. Further, that no alien should be given the full privileges of the Native Briton, born of British parents and living in his own land; that no enemy alien should for a long period be allowed to become A NATURALISED BRITISH SUBJECT; and that the Naturalisation Law should be reformed and certificates already granted, revoked where necessary.

Up to the war the fullest citizen rights and privileges have been allowed to any alien taking out naturalisation papers, and we have had even during the war aliens and persons of enemy origin in Government Departments, in Parliament and as Magistrates.

There are three points I wish to emphasise in this Preface:—

- (1) The first is, that the change from a foreign name to a British name *completely hides* the British subject of alien or enemy alien origin. Remember this: there remain only the features of his face given him by his German forbears, and his accent, to arouse any suspicion of him as he goes in and out where he will throughout the length and breadth of this so-called Country of "Ours" (?).
- (2) The second point is, that the lax application of inadequate laws has caused an immense amount of confusion and difficulty in the treatment of aliens; and that a reformed Naturalisation Law based on clear principles is essential.
- (3) The third point—and all three points are bound up with the laziness which has allowed names to be freely changed during the war, and at any time—is, that the public has no idea, I believe, of the number of persons of enemy origin in Great Britain and Ireland. I very much doubt whether the Authorities have any knowledge of the number,

for the figures they give from time to time are at variance entirely with the facts that are patent to all of us—I mean the large number of names on shops everywhere—German names—the innumerable names of business firms everywhere—German names. Wherever the observing person may go in Town, or in the Provinces, or, indeed, throughout the Empire, it is the same thing *everywhere*—an absolute Ocean of German names—and further corroboration of the truth of this statement may be found simply by referring to directories and telephone books everywhere! It should be borne in mind that the “naturalised” have always been very inconsiderable in numbers compared with the unnaturalised residents in Great Britain, where, in London alone in 1905, there were 40,000 Germans.

The Press writes of the dangers “of a German colony that *might* grow and communicate with the Germans in Germany.” That colony is not a thing in the air, in the future; it is a reality here, now, in our midst, everywhere; it is the serpent asleep in the grass; but the snake will uncoil himself perhaps before we wake, and then—all the just-hushed agony will be repeated over again!

One day during the war I met a working man in the British Museum (he was in munitions overalls) who told me that men in his “shop” were Germans, but that whereas before the war they had German names they now had British names! How was this done? By Deed Poll? Not likely; but by simply *assuming and using* British names. That little incident lets in light, but in whatever region one explore it is the same—Germans and their Evil everywhere, mostly underground, or hidden (as they themselves are hidden, in a very large number of cases) behind the British names they have assumed!

The proof of the outstanding inefficiency of all laws dealing with aliens at present operative, is that *the whole country is more filled, crowded, and packed with foreigners than has ever before been the case!* The total of persons of enemy origin here in our midst now is immense, and is, I submit, both unknown to our authorities and unsuspected by the great majority of the people of Great Britain.

This is a burning matter! Has the call “Britain for the British” lost its appeal? It is certainly losing any shadow of actuality, and the time presses! There must be action now, in this momentous present, or, having won the war on the battlefields, we shall yet be vanquished by these hordes of enemy origin in our land, who have hidden or are hiding themselves, for, if not discovered, rooted out and banished, they will yet be our destruction in the not distant future!

*The enemy in our midst is putting on the armour of a complete and unassailable disguise, for he is wearing a British Name!*

The simplest plan of meeting this danger is to lay down by means of legislation certain clear rules:—

- (1) All aliens admitted to the country must be registered.
- (2) No aliens shall be allowed for any purpose to change their names, and if trading under the name of a company, the words “foreign controlled” must be added.
- (3) No naturalised subjects shall be allowed to change their names without a license from the Home Secretary, in which case the old name, new name, nationality of origin, and all particulars of the applicant with the reasons for the change must be advertised in the London and provincial papers. Records of all changes must be kept at the Law Courts and be open for public inspection.
- (4) No enemy aliens shall be naturalised for a period of 21 years after the conclusion of peace.

E. F. CORY KERNICK.

**A natural born British subject includes under existing law not only all persons of British parentage, but all persons born within the British Dominions, even if both parents are aliens.**

# REGISTER OF CHANGES OF NAMES DURING THE WAR

By DEED POLL AND ENROLMENT as announced in the "LONDON GAZETTE."

NEW NAME.		OLD NAME.		OCCUPATION.	DATE OF CHANGE.	NATIONALITY.	ADDRESS.
Abbot	... Max	... Auerbach	... Max	Leather Goods Mer.	23 7 17	Not stated	19, Finsbury Park Road, London.
Abercrombie	Wm. John Thomas	Williams	W. J. T.	Not stated	2 5 18	Natural born British subject...	72, Lebanon Gardens, Wandsworth, S.W.18.
Adams	... George	... Zisseil	... Geo. Matthew	Baker	2 9 15	British subject	12, Randall's Road, Barnsbury, London.
Agar	... Hussein	... Agha	... Hussein	Not stated	8 10 15	Naturalised British subject	Eagle Lodge, Harrop Road, Hale, Cheshire, and 109, Portland Street, Manchester.
Ainley	... Eleanor	... Fearon	... Eleanor	Not stated	25 2 18	Not stated	62, Regent's Park Road, London.
Albion	... Henry John	... Albenhausen	... Henry John	Not stated	9 8 15	Not stated	Not stated.
Albright	... Allen Lippert	... Albrecht	... Allen Lippert	Civil Servant	19 5 15	Natural born British subject...	Font Hill, Scott's Avenue, Shortlands, Kent.
Albright	... Maude Augusta	... Albrecht	... Maude Augusta	Wife of above	20 5 15	Natural born British subject...	Font Hill, Scott's Avenue, Shortlands, Kent.
Albright	... Mary Sophia	... Albrecht	... Mary Sophia	Widow	19 5 15	Natural born British subject...	Worcester House Hotel, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London.
Aibright	... Thos. Wm. Henry	Albrecht	Max T. W. H.	Gentleman	20 6 16	Not stated	25, Beech Avenue, Blackpool, Lancs.
Albury	... Montague	... Ahronsberg	... M.	Jeweller	31 7 18	Not stated	77, Carlton Hill, London.
Aldhelm-White	Richd. Henry	White	R. H.	2nd Lieut. in Army	25 4 18	Not stated	Fir Bank, Weybridge, Surrey.
Aldridge	... Thomas	... Eldridge	... Thomas	Not stated	6 6 18	Natural born British subject...	Not stated.
Alexander	... Isaac	... Finckenstein	... Isaac	Pharmacist...	16 8 18	Natural born British subject...	62, Heywood Street, Cheetham, Manchester.
Alexander	... William Alfred	... Fincken	... Wm. Alfred	Provision Dealer	17 9 17	Brit. born subject of Brit. par.	9, Queen's Parade, Muswell Hill, Middlesex.
Alish	... Alexander Campbell	... Sutherland	... A. C. S.	Not stated	5 1 15	Not stated	20, Rue des Vignes, Le Perreux, Seine, France.
Alish	... Freda Campbell	... Alisch	... G. A. A. L. C.	Not stated	23 2 15	Not stated	Not stated.
Alish	... Georgina Campbell	... Alisch	... Georgina	Not stated	23 2 15	Not stated	20, Rue des Vignes, Le Perreux, Seine, France.
Allen	... Ernest	... Alheid	... E.	Sergt. in Army	16 1 18	British born subject	Larkhill Camp, Salisbury, Wilts.
Allen	... John	... Alheid	... John	Master Baker	16 1 18	British born subject	7, The Hyde, Hendon, London.
Allen	... Kate	... Siegenberg	... K.	Widow	11 3 18	Not stated	22, Spring Street, Brighton.
Allen	... Dorothy	... Siegenberg	... D.	Spinster	11 3 18	Not stated	22, Spring Street, Brighton.
Allen	... Bernard	... Siegenberg	... B.	Pte. in Army	11 3 18	Not stated	22, Spring Street, Brighton.
Allen	... Richd. James	... Pfanz	... Richard James	Not stated	10 1 18	British born subject	21, Howard Road, Cricklewood, Middlesex.
Allen	... William	... Alheid	... Wm.	Manager	16 1 18	British born subject	59, Kingsgate Road, West Hampstead, London.
Allen-Butler	... Walter	... Gottheimer	... W.	In the Army	9 8 18	Not stated	97, Chapter Road, Cricklewood, London.
Allison	... Louisa Harriet	... Althaus	... L. H.	Spinster	13 5 18	Natural born British subject...	The Cottage, Bramhope, near Leeds, Yorks.
Alston	... Joseph Andrew	... Olsen-Hafstad	... J. A.	Not stated	9 8 18	Not stated	Not stated.
Alstone	... Wm. Richard	... Alstone	... Wilhelm Renie	Clothing Manufr.	31 7 17	British born subject	Middle Grove House, Ealing Road, Brentford, Middlesex, and 19 and 21, Wilson Street, London.
Anderson	... Charles Anderson	... Krauss	... C. A.	Capt. in Army	29 9 16	British born subject	137, First Street West, Medicine Hut, Alberta, Can.
Anderson-Vowles	Leonard	Vowles	James Leonard	Dentist	26 2 18	British subject	3, Denbigh Terrace, Sidmouth, Devon.
Andrew	... Edward	... Kleinjung	... August Edward	Not stated	25 10 15	Natural born British subject...	17, Beaufort Avenue, Brooklands, Cheshire.
Andrew	... Hannah Elizabeth	... Kleinjung	... H. E.	Widow	29 8 16	Natural born British subject...	Trafford Arms Hotel, Alderley Edge, Cheshire.
Andrew	... John Barton	... Zietsch	... Carl Johann B.	Commercial Clerk	8 2 16	English born British subject...	3, Prestage St., Old Trafford, Stretford, Manchester.