Berrima and Trial Bay were satellite camps of the very large Holsworthy Camp at Liverpool. The German Concentration Camps (Holsworthy) was made up of several different satellite camps that were all connected to the main camp by rail. The system of rotations was aimed not only to minimise guards becoming too friendly with internees but also to ensure that internees were not in the same place for too long.

The solution was for the internees to erect a high barbed wire fence enclosing 17.5 acres on the left bank of the river Yippiranga, a former Hamburg American steamer. On 28 June 1915, the internees took possession of the area and the camp was opened. The system of rotations was aimed not only to minimise guards becoming too friendly with internees but also to ensure that internees were not in the same place for too long.

Below left: German Concentration Camp Guard insignia from Holsworthy Camp. Liverpool Regional Museum. Photograph Stephen Thompson. Above right: The 29th Berrima Guard. Known as the ‘Permanent Guard’ as they served the longest. Berrima District Museum.

Some people came to pick fights and cause trouble. It was ironic that the internees, in the middle of the war, brought popular as simple crystal radios could pick up local transmissions. Often the internees knew the latest world news well before the villagers.

Funding came from the camp canteen which was managed as a commercial enterprise. The canteen was the main source of income for the camp and provided a wide range of goods and services for the internees.

Education classes were established. English was popular as all letters sent out of the camp had to be written in English. Other subjects included mathematics, science, history, geography, German, and music. The camp had a comprehensive collection of German classics and general literature.

Many of the shipping companies’ shore-based employees had lived in Australia for some time before the war. Most had Australian friends who provided many books to the camp library that had been transported complete from the German Club in Sydney.

The camp library was well-stocked with books on a wide range of subjects, including history, politics, literature, and art. The internees were encouraged to read and to participate in intellectual activities.

The system of rotations was also used to ensure the security of the camp and to prevent any one group from becoming too close to the other. The camp was divided into three sections, each with its own guards and internees.

The internees were not only guards but also workers, they were responsible for maintaining the camp and for providing food and other supplies.

While Berrima Camp was formally controlled by the Australian Army, the system of rotations was a way of controlling the internees and preventing any one group from becoming too close to the other. The camp was divided into three sections, each with its own guards and internees.

On 12 August 1919 the internees assembled to depart. The Berrima Guard took the head and rear of the column and the guard led the way down the road to the train. The internees were handed over to the army and taken to the train. The train took them to the port of Liverpool where they were put on board a ship to return to Germany.

The war that had so suddenly and German guards decided to stay in the country. This led to a month of tension and uncertainty for all. The internees were not happy about leaving their homes in the bush but the army was happy to have them as prisoners. The camp was dismantled and the internees were taken to the port of Liverpool where they were put on board a ship to return to Germany.

The majority had to build their furniture from timber found in the forest.
Over 30,000 Germans lived in Australia in 1914. Germany and Austria were allies of each nation until the outbreak of war. 

On 4 August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany. Within two days, the Australian government declared war on the Central powers. By the end of the month, Australia had declared war on Germany. The Australian government was faced with a difficult task of raising an army and providing support for the soldiers overseas. The Australian government passed the War Subsidy Act which gave it the power to raise taxes. The Australian government also passed the Military Service Act which gave it the power to conscript men into the army. The Australian government also passed the Munitions Act which gave it the power to control the sale and manufacture of munitions. The Australian government also passed the Alien Act which gave it the power to intern enemy aliens. The Australian government also passed the Alien Act which gave it the power to intern enemy aliens. The Australian government also passed the Alien Act which gave it the power to intern enemy aliens. The Australian government also passed the Alien Act which gave it the power to intern enemy aliens. The Australian government also passed the Alien Act which gave it the power to intern enemy aliens.