


Title:	WW1 POW
Date:	May 1914
Location:	Southend Pier
Image:	 <p>Royal Edward</p>
Headline:	Once a student, now a Prisoner of War
Fact 1	Frederick Dunbar-Kalckreuth was a student in London when on the 21st May 1914, he was told to report to the police station in Wandsworth and along with 500 other men transported by train to Southend, in front of every compartment there stood a menacing soldier on watch with fixed bayonet. Frederick kept a diary that was published in 1940.
Fact 2	“After 1 ½ hours we arrived in <i>Southend-on-Sea</i> . Here the whole platform was swarming with soldiers and officers. The ranks of soldiers stood three feet deep with bayonets fixed, and lined the edge of the streets we had to march through. The houses of the recently Zeppelined small town were full to the brim with inquisitive people, and threats and curses poured down on us from all windows, as if it had been we who had dropped the bombs.”
Fact 3	Frederick was put aboard ‘the stately <i>Royal Edward</i> , a former passenger liner.’ Everyone had to open a bank account to pay for services on the prison ship, and was allocated a cabin of the first, second, or third class, depending on what they could pay.

Fact 4	Many of the prisoners were taken off neutral ships in the Mediterranean and had never set foot on English territory.
Fact 5	“While we were talking in this way, smoking and drinking tea, there was an enormous explosion. 'Zeppelins!', everyone shouted, and we pressed our heads to the portholes. Where Sheerness was located, there rose a thick cloud of powder smoke. It wasn't until the following day that we discovered an English warship had blown up, taking six hundred men with it.” (HMS <i>Princess Irene</i> , which exploded off Sheerness, 27 May 1915, with 352 deaths.)
Fact 6	In the afternoons a countless number of boats flitting around our ship, full of inquisitive people, mostly ladies with parasols, who want to show they have the courage to take a closer look at 'the Huns'. Some even wave, and act offended, if some sailor or workman or other returns the greeting with ' <i>Halloo, deary</i> '.
Close:	In June 1915 the prisoners were taken to Alexandra Palace in London, before being transferred to the Isle of Mann internment camps. The Royal Edward then saw service as a troop ship but was torpedoed 13 August 1915 off the island of Kandelioussa, and sank in just 6 minutes, with at least 864 lives lost, and at least 661 rescued.
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