

In June 1941 Italian Seamen who had been detained in this and Central American countries were transferred to an old Army post, taken over by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for this purpose, Fort Missoula, Montana. Because of the War, our government was unable to deport them to Italy.

Immediately following Pearl Harbor, they became enemy aliens and were interned for the duration, or until such time as they could be repatriated through an exchange with the protecting power, which for Italy was Switzerland.

After Pearl Harbor Japanese picked up on the West coast as dangerous were brought to Missoula for trial or to be held until the results of their case was known. From Missoula the Japanese were served with an order of Internment and sent to another camp, sent to a Relocation Center or released.

Our peak number of combined Italians and Japanese at Missoula as near as I can remember was 2700 males.