

## **Escape to London**

In December 1938, shortly before German troops invaded Czechoslovakia, Heartfield managed to flee to London. While in Prague he had been part of a group of German migrants, and was thus able to continue making his photomontages, but in England he found it much more difficult to build on past successes. This became apparent on arrival when, as an 'enemy alien', he was forced to spend several weeks in an internment camp.

As a fervent communist, Heartfield came to the attention of the British intelligence service MI5 immediately after the signing of the non-aggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union on 23 August 1939. He was placed under surveillance. It was not until 1943 that he received a work permit, allowing him to work as an independent cartoonist. Eventually, Heartfield was employed by Lindsay Drummond, the publisher specialising in popular science. There, he produced many book designs. Though some of his photomontages were published in British magazines, Heartfield never managed to continue with his own work, or establish himself as an independent artist.