**Camp** **90 - Friday Bridge Camp, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 90. Friday Bridge Camp, Wisbech, Cambs.

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| 1947 camp list |
| 90(G.W.C.) | Friday Bridge Camp, Wisbech, Cambs | E. | Priswar, Wisbech | Friday Bridge 253 and 256 | Coldham | (Blank) | v/1453/2 |

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| **Prisoner of War Camps (1939 – 1948) - Project report by Roger J.C. Thomas - English Heritage 2003** |
| OS NGR | Sheet | No. | Name & Location | County | Cond’n | Type 1945 | Comments |
| TF 4548 0417 | 143 | 90 | Friday Bridge, Wisbech | Cambridgeshire | 3 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. Agricultural and youth hostel |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** About 1.5 km from the small village of Friday Brdge.**Before the camp:** FarmlandCourtesy of the Wisbech & Fenland Museum |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1958 |

**Pow Camp:** Italian pows up to 1945, then a German working camp. The site had a standard layout with a main pow compound, with guards’ huts and offices at the front. Common buildings and facilities at standard type camps included water towers, offices, officer's mess, a canteen, guard rooms, barrack huts, ablution blocks, cell blocks, a camp reception station (medical facility/hospital), a cookhouse, dining rooms, recreation rooms and living huts or tents.

Ex guard remembers about 2000 German POWs in 1945. There are some references to Ukrainians pows being held at the camp – not confirmed.

One satellite and six hostels:

Bowthorpe Hall Hostel – 4 miles away at Wisbech.

Eastwood House Hostel - 8 miles away at March

Greenlands Hostel – 21 miles away near Kings Lynn.

Hilton Hall Hostel – 14 miles away at Parsonsdrove.

Manea Hostel – 5 miles away at March

Thorney Satellite Camp – also at some time a satellite camp for Sawtry Camp 59

Welney Hostel – 5 miles away at Littleport.

Camp commandant c.1947 – unknown

**After the camp:** Used as a hostel for migrant workers. 2019 still listed as a hostel, but with new buildings.

In 2013 a former pow, Wilhelm Lagoda, who stayed in England and served 22 years with the Wisbech Fire Service was given ceremonial honours at his funeral.

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 939/171 – 90 Working Camp, Friday Bridge Camp, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. Dated 1945-1948.

The Wisbech and Fenland Museum has some artefacts made by the pows.