**Camp 1****8 - Featherstone Park Camp, Haltwhistle, Northumberland (+Camps 224 and 225)**

Notes on Camps 224 / 225 at end.

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Base Camp. 18. Featherstone Park Camp, Haltwhistle, North’b’l’d.

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| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 18(B.C.) | Featherstone Park Camp, Haltwhistle, Northumberland | N. | Priswar.Haltwhistle. | Haltwhistle 328/9 | Haltwhistle. | Lt.Col.H.McBain., O.B.E., M.C. | v/202/4 |

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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 |
| NY 6735 6027 | 86 / 87 | 18 | Featherstone Park Camp, Haltwhistle | Northumberland | 4 | Base Camp | Large hutted camp consisting of a guards' compound, two prisoners' compounds and a sports field. Site footprint still discernable. |

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| **Location:** NY 674 605. Beside the River South Tyne. About 27 km E of Carlisle.  **Previous use:** Parkland for Featherstone Castle. Camp built for US troops in early 1940’s.  **POW Camp:** **November 1942** – listed as having capacity for 5,150 other ranks. Standard camp for Italian pows.  **November 1944** – Base camp. Reported up to 7000 prisoners at one point, though official capacity was less. 200 Huts + tents in four compounds.  Facilities included a chapel, theatre, library, medical centre, bakery, cookhouse and sewage system, (part still shown on map). The pows put on a wide range of entertainments including plays, opera, puppet shows and concerts. (The puppets and scenery are now in the Munich Puppet Theatre).  **10 May 1944** - ICRC visit; Italian prisoners, stated capacity was 5000.  **May 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Northern Command area (WO 32/10737). |  |
| **Ordnance Survey 1957** |

**Spring 1945** - became a camp for over 3000 German officers and 580 orderlies, (at one time it reached 4000 officers and 600 orderlies). The pows were divided into compounds, roughly in line with their political categories. From camp plans and details, the number of compounds varied. British and Polish guards.

At this time there was a lot of ill feeling recorded. Exercise was only allowed with armed guards. A pow, Horst Woetzel, commented, “*There was tremendous tension. The camp leadership was Nazi and militarist in the worst way. Extracts from newspapers were read out, censored heavily; when a lieutenant-colonel of the paratroops protested he was court martialled.”* (Quoted in ‘Thresholds of Peace’ – Matthew B Sullivan – Hamish Hamilton – 1979).

**1April 1945** - eight pows escaped using wire cutters made from a window latch. Once outside the camp they split into two groups. One group tried to cross the River South Tyne which had become flooded after a thunderstorm. 24-year-old Karl Kropp attempted to wade across, but his body was discovered three days later. The seven other prisoners were captured shortly after and were returned to the camp. Karl Kropp was later re-interred at Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery, death recorded as 4 April 1945.

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| **Late 1945** - the new Camp Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Vickers began a new regime at the camp. He reduced the height of barbed wire fencing, merged some of the compounds and removed some watchtowers. He had been a prisoner of the Germans during WW1 and told his pows; “*Gentlemen! In the First World War* *I was treated like a gentleman, and that is how I will treat you.”* (Quote in Hermann Ziock – Jeder geht seinen Weg allein (‘Everyone Goes His Own Way’ – diary published by J. G. Bläschke, St. Michael, 1981). Soon after, the Polish guard company was removed.  **13 December 1945** – A report on English Education by Mr James Grant noted the improved relationships within the camp created by the Commandant. One of the measures taken included; “*Some of the discordant colonels etc have been shut off in Compound E and cease to impede progress.”*  Numbers in each compound were given as:   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | A | B | C | D | E | C.RS | | Officers | 1453 | 807 | 755 | - | 60 | 46 | | Other Ranks | 125 | 86 | 84 | 259 | 20 | 34 |   English classes were taken by the majority of pows and there was a very wide range of other education courses in 666 classes! Featherstone became the largest study camp in the UK, often referred to as being more like a university. The pow teachers included university lecturers and graduates, lawyers, doctors, engineers, farmers and master craftsmen. Courses included high school graduation, law, economics, construction, technology, science, medicine, languages (9, other than English), philosophy, literature and history. Academics from Durham University helped out. There were also vocational training courses such as teacher training, baking, cooking, tailors, carpenters, locksmiths, bookbinders, etc. The courses were recognised as being of very high standard. Diplomas and certificates were issued and these were considered valid on return to Germany, at least in the British occupied zone.  **January 1946** - Herbert Sulzbach, (a great history for this man) arrived at Featherstone after working at Comrie Camp 21. Officially he was an Interpreter Officer with the Pioneer Corps, but he further developed education programmes and positive relationships with the pows. In this he was fully supported by a new Camp Leader (Heim – see below) and Commandant Vickers.  Political education often featured lectures from visitors, including Pastor Martin Niemöller, the legal expert Professor Gerhard Leibholz, and the historian Hugh Trevor-Roper. Much of the organisation of the work for re-education and reconciliation was developed by the Interpreter Officer, Herbert Sulzbach. An ICRC inspector wrote to him from Geneva, stating, “*I think your methods are one of the best arguments I know for the humanitarian ideals embodied in the Geneva Convention.*” (Quoted by Ainsle Hepburn – ‘Reconciliation and the Work of Herbert Sulzbach’ - *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2012).  The camp newspaper was called, ‘*Die Zeit am Tyne’* (The Times at Tyne). It was supported and encouraged by Commandant Vickers – he later said, “*I feel that* Zeit am Tyne *is* The Times *among camp papers.*” It was published between 1946 to 1948 by the pows. The main editor was Rolf von Bargen. The first editions were mainly information sheets, later as it developed into a newspaper, it covered local news, news from Germany, items of importance to the pows, entertainment and wider political articles. It proved to be very popular, perhaps because it was uncensored. At times it even criticised British policies for pows and especially the method and fairness of politically categorizing pows, (white, grey, black). |  |
| J Anthony Hellen – ‘Temporary Settlements and Transient Populations – The Legacy of Britain’s Prisoner of War Camps: 1940 – 1948’. Plan reconstructed from a 1946 aerial photograph and pow information. |

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|  | ***Left*** *- Edition 1 of the forerunner to Die Zeit an Tyne. January 1946. Copy in the Deutsches Historisches Museum.*  ***Right*** *- Easter 1947, Die Zeit Am Tyne.**Cartoon shows Europe in balance – War on one side / a united Europe on the other. Copy in the Northumberland Archives*.  The first edition ran to 250 copies, by June 1946, with the new title, there were 1000 8 quarto pages being printed. It was published in tabloid format by the Hexham Courant’s printers reaching 2,500 copies. For the later editions, about 1000 were sold in the camp, the rest went to other camps and to the British Occupied Zone in Germany. (Figures from; ‘*The Boys’ Own Papers: The Case of German POW Camp Newspapers in Britain 1946-8*, Ingebord F Hellen, German Historical Institute, London Bulletin, 30.2.2008).  There was also a weekly newsletter called ‘Billetee Post’ which was sent to all pows accommodated in billets and sub-camps. |  |

**January 1946** – the first repatriations of pows from this camp to Germany.

**Spring 1946** - The new Camp Leader was General Ferdinand Heim. Heim had been put in prison for a short time by Hitler for refusing to lead a suicidal counter attack after Stalingrad. He was later sent to France and captured in Boulogne, September 1944. He had been specially selected for this position by Sulzbach from pows held at the officers’ Camp 11 Island Farm, Bridgend. >>>

**12 / 14 July 1946** – English Inspector’s Report by Mr James Grant. Total strength – 2640.

Commandant: Lt.Col Vickers Lagersprecher: Gen Lt Heim

A British officer was appointed as Entertainments Officer. There were four theatre stages in the camp – a puppet theatre; opera and light entertainment; two playhouses – ‘*Theater der Zeit’* and ‘*Theater am Tyne*’.

**Summer / Autumn / Winter 1946** - Commandant Vickers suspended all classes for a couple of months in order to encourage pows to volunteer for work on farms during the harvest period.

Although officers were not required to work, many did, either within the camp on education courses, in workshops in the camp, or on the land. This was encouraged by the Commandant. The officers were required to sign a declaration for good behaviour and were sent out to work without guards. The camp’s newspaper reported on 15 November 1946 that up to 850 volunteers worked on 18 drainage sites and 250 local farms.

Commandant Vickers reduced the number of other ranks acting as orderlies in order to further encourage the officers to be more active. Officers trained to work in the kitchens, as tailors, hair-dressers… For many it was a means of utilising time, others gained certificates in recognition of their work. At one point he arranged for a new hut to be built with huge ovens. 150 officer-bakers worked three shifts and supplied bread for Featherstone and several other nearby pow camps.

Commandant Vickers was replaced by Hubert McBain who ran the camp as a “*model Christian democratic village.”* (recorded in a letter from H McBain to Camp Leader Heim on relinquishing his command). Hubert McBain commissioned the conversion of a Nissen hut into a chapel. Many letters to H McBain give evidence that he was also very well respected.

**23 September to 3 October 1946** – Mr Grant returned to make another English Report. Total strength – 2146. There were 4 hostels.

Commandant: Lt.Col McBain Lagersprecher: General Heim

**14 October 1946** - The camp earned a great deal of respect. From a letter sent by pow Kurt Schilling to Adjutant, Captain Walter Merkel;

*“I cannot but thank you for all the kindness and humane understanding you showed, not only to myself, but also to the other PoWs in ‘C’ compound… I myself am grateful to you and those officers like you who made my unpleasant duty much easier by their excellent understanding of the mentality of prisoners of war. Most of those British officers under the command of Colonel Vickers have done more for understanding between our two nations, by the way of treatment in the camp, than statesmanship can ever hope to achieve.”* (Quoted in The Jewish Chronicle, May 2018).

Contact between pows and the local population was the major contributor to establishing positive attitudes and reinforcing re-education, in this and any other camp that allowed it. The Camp magazine reported; “*The German name has a good ring to it in Northumberland. This is proved by the daily thank-you letters received from farmers, etc. The contribution that our camp contributes to feeding Europe can only be small, but the base which was laid by our work for the understanding of two peoples will bear fruit. That is the idea behind our voluntary work!”*

**November 1946** – resumption of classes.

**17 November 1946** – a Thanksgiving service was held at Hexham Abbey with 1000 pows and 400 civilians. Parts of the service were in German led by the camp priest Reinhard Witzig, and in English led by the Rector of Hexham, Rev A G Hardie. Music by Bach, Schubert and Mendelssohn was played with performances by Heinz Markus Göttsche (pow – church musician and composer) playing the organ, and Hans Heim (baritone), the camp choir and string orchestra.

Links with Hexham Abbey continued – during 1947 several concerts were given by the pows at the Abbey. The Parish Magazine in November 1947 recorded that pows from Featherstone worked restoring the grounds and building a garden.

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| **18/25 April 1947** – Mr Grant gave an English Inspector’s report. Total strength – 2130. Only 1 hostel.  Commandant: Lt.Col McBain Lagersprecher: General Heim  **2 May 1947** - The Manchester Guardian wrote under the headline ‘German Prisoners in Britain – Political Enlightenment’; “*I would never have believed that prisoners could create such a happy and vital community; everyone seemed to be looking forward to the future to the prospect of a new life in Germany, not backwards to past injustices and failures*.”  **July 1947** – Commandant McBain was replaced by G Bartlett.  **17 - 18 September 1947** – A general report was made by A. Heron. Strength; 1750 officers; 271 O.R. = total 2021.  Commandant: Lt.Col G McL Bartlett Lagersprecher: General Heim  Interpreter: Capt H Sulzbach Deputy C/L: O.St.Ing. Rommel  German M.O.: St.Arzt Dr Ruegenberg  Basic political screening figures were given: A – 11 / B – 2009 / C – 1  “*This camp enjoys an unparalleled degree of self-government under the imaginative and enlightened guidance of the Commandant, the Interpreter Officer, and the Senior Camp Leader,* | |  |
| **Bavarian style chapel at Featherstone c.1947**  Commissioned by Lieutenant Colonel McBain, designed by Siegfried Bohner, built by craftsmen from the POW camp and dedicated on 21 April 1947 by the Bishop of Newcastle. Haltwhistle Partnership © |
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*whilst freedom from heavy manual labour leaves energies free for congenial arts and studies to an extent rarely known elsewhere.”*

Nazi beliefs had all but been eradicated from the pows, though some negative attitudes still existed, in particular about the length of captivity. The visitor was interested in the possible utilisation of the officer pows to further re-education elsewhere. The idea was to place them in other camps, or in locations where they would have greater contact with British civilians. There was opposition to these ideas, especially from the War Office.

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| Re-education activities came under three headings:  a. Politische Arbeitsgemeinschaft (Political Working Group) - organising many of the standard activities listed below.  b. Press Section – purchase and distribution of newspapers, press reviews, publishing the pow magazines.  c. Kultur-Abteilung (Culture Department or ‘University’) overseeing the education studies.  The standard list of re-education activities was given:  Newspapers – very large quantities. Many pows buying 2 or 3 papers.  Library – extensive with lending systems in place.  Lectures – regular with ‘top-ranking’ speakers.  Discussion groups – continuing with changes in the leadership of the groups.  Films – adequate  Wireless – adequate.  Camp magazine – considered to be of very high quality.  Press Review – broadcast weekly.  Information Room – adequate  Other activities –  Education – extensive with a new programme of study courses being drawn up. |  |
| **c.1947** Haltwhistle Partnership © |

Entertainment – facilities excellent.

Outside contacts – As fraternisation rules were relaxed, outings were arranged for the pows; in one 10-month period 330 coaches were hired. At a time of petrol rationing, it is not surprising that there were some in the local community who questioned this practice, however, the War Office saw it as bearing a great deal of goodwill. Some of these outings were for sight-seeing, others were part of re-education / education activities, visiting universities, local government and court sessions in Durham and Newcastle.

Although not mentioned in the report, there were many sporting opportunities. The football team played against local British teams. There was even an ice-hockey team set up for 1 match at Durham Ice Rink.

**6 October 1947** – English Inspector’s Report by Mr R D Miller.

Total strength 2080. As before, many classes at various levels.

**14 November 1947** - Camp number included in an ‘Urgent Memorandum’ (FO 939/270) regarding inspection of food parcels.

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|  | **18/22 November and 9 December 1947** – A Re-education survey by A Heron. Strength - 2183 Officers; 229 OR.  Only change to senior personnel was the German M.O. – O/Arzt Dr Wicht.  Basic screening figures; A 4 / B 2406 / C+ 2. 1751 pows repatriated to date.  Morale was “*generally satisfactory*”. A large group of pows had been transferred from Llanmartin Camp 184 – they found the area to be bleak and without close ties to the local population. A further relaxation of fraternisation rules allowing pows to visit local families at Christmas was appreciated.  Approximately 10% of the pows were ‘youth’ (under 24) – but they were not seen as a problem.  Links with local organisations continued, but with so many pows, and the remoteness of the camp, actual contacts for each pow was limited. The cost of transport for these visits were largely paid for by the pows themselves.  As repatriations increased there was some waning of interest in re-education. There were also, at times, difficulties heating classrooms due to a shortage of coal and coke. The standard list of activities was given – very similar to the previous report.  **17/19 December 1947** – English Inspector’s report by R D Miller. Total strength – 2750. |
| **Featherstone c.1947** Haltwhistle Partnership © |

**15 May 1948** - The camp closed.

Listed as American Transit Camp No. 6 located in the UK– probably 1944 / 1945, uncertain if this was the whole camp or just some of the compounds.

Known Camp Commandants:

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Roger Vickers, DSO, MC, 1945 / 46 – from the West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales’s Own). Described in the Manchester Guardian as an open-minded commander who was very interested in the prisoners’ welfare.

Camp Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Hubert McBain., Durham Light Infantry, O.B.E., M.C., 1946 – July 1947. Previously at Rippon Camp 121.

Camp Commandant Lieutenant Colonel G McL Bartlett (‘Bottles’ Bartlett), Royal Artillery, July 1947 – May 1948

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|  | Interpreter Officer Herbert Sulzbach was one of those people whose real life was more interesting than many fictional characters. Born into a wealthy German Jewish family in 1894, he served in the German Army and was awarded the Second and First Class Iron Cross medals. His diary of service in the trenches was published in 1935, ('Zwei lebende Mauern' (Two Living Walls) – translation: ‘With the German Guns, Fifty Months on the Western Front, 1914-1918).  He escaped from Germany to England in 1937. He was interned as an ‘enemy alien’ at Kempton Park and the Isle of Man. Later in the Second World War he joined the Pioneer Corps at first involved in building military defences. He became an interpreter in 1944 and posted as staff-sergeant to Comrie Camp. He also worked at Droitwich and Featherstone Camps and was promoted to captain. He worked to develop re-education and reconciliation, and after the war founded the ‘Featherstone Park Group’ to foster Anglo-German friendship. He gained the O.B.E. and the European Cross of Peace. Post-war he worked as a Cultural Attaché in London. He died in 1985.  At the entrance to the camp is a plaque in tribute to his work.  Documents related to Sulzbach are held by the IWM – Documents.4007 |  |
|  | Herbert Sulzbach’s medals - © The Trustees of the Royal Logistic Corps Museum. |

**Camp numbers:**

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|  | Open |  |  | With other camps |  |  | Unknown |  |  | Not listed / not open |

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|  | 1943 | 5/44 | Spr 45 | 12/45 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 4/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 1st 12/47 | 2nd 12/47 |
| Featherstone | ? | Cap 5000 | c.3580 | 3729 | 2585 | 1814 | 2030 | 1828 | 2000 | 2121 | 2450 |
| Catton | With C69 | | | | 55 | 69 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Plenmeller |  |  |  |  | ?(2) | 72 | ? | 60 |  |  |  |
| Colwell |  |  |  | With C69 | | 51 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Raylees |  |  |  | With C69 | | 140 | 100 |  |  |  |  |
| Brancepeth |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 87 (3) | 80 | 91 |  |
| Hull |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 46 (3) | ? | 53 |  |
| Billetees |  | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | (1) | 36 | (1) |
| Detached (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 111 | 300 |
| Total |  |  | c.3580 | 3729 | 2640 | 2146 | 2130 | 2021 | 2080 | 2412 | 2750 |

(1) The number of billetees was often not recorded separately from the main camp figures.

(2) Plenmeller is referred to in the July report, but no figures given – so unknown if the number of pows there was included in the total for the camp.

(3) Working parties working on camp construction for the army.

**After the camp:**

The site as it is today – [repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-north-west/pow-camp-18-featherstone-park/](https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-north-west/pow-camp-18-featherstone-park/)

Building foundations and some brick buildings remain in the parkland.

From Historic England - Remains of a Second World War Prisoner of War camp were recorded from air photographs. Remains of demolished buildings, a probable athletics track and enclosing banks were all seen on photographs from 1993. The site footprint of a large hutted camp, consisting of a guards' compound, two prisoners' compounds, and a sports field were still discernible in 2003. The camp in its entirety can be seen on 1946 vertical photographs. (RAF 106G/UK/1392 4139 10-APR-1946)

**Further information:**

\* ‘*War on The Banks of the Tyne’* website - <https://haltwhistle.org/wotbott/index.html> - excellent resource from the Haltwhistle Partnership with many photographs.

National Archives –

FO 939/104 (used above) & 294 – 18 Officers Camp, Featherstone Park Camp, Haltwhistle, Northumberland – dated 1945 – 1947.

WO 166/16298 224 Prisoner of War Camp at Haltwhistle, Northumberland. Camp moved from Haltwhistle to Rothwell. (See below).

WO 166/16299 225 Prisoner of War Camp. Moved from Haltwhistle, Northumberland, Maybole, Ayrshire; from there to Girvan; from there to Thorpe Bay, Essex. (See below).

Imperial War Museum – Documents.27036 – Documents related to service as Adjutant (Walter Merkel) at Featherstone Park… - dated 1946 – 1947.

Interview with Erwin Grubba, POW – (Reels 7 and 8) - [Grubba, Erwin Albert (Oral history) | Imperial War Museums (iwm.org.uk)](https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80009789)

Prisoners Of England – M Kochan – 1980 – MacMillan – various entries and 1 chapter about “*The Featherstone Spirit”.*

Northumberland Archives has many items.

Zeit am Tyne -

German Federal Archives – list - <https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/searchresults?isThumbnailFiltered=true&query=zeit+am+tyne>

Hexham Library holds copies of 5 issues of camp newspaper, 'Die Zeit am Tyne' for June-October 1946.

University of London, 1 copy, June 1947 - <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb367-pcb/pcb/9/9>

Sketches and photos of the camp were published in the magazine in its last edition. March 1947 edition had sketches of 3 hostels.

Information about Herbert Sulzbach -

‘Kriegsgefangenschaft in Groꞵbritannien’ – Section 11.1 Das Offizierslager Featherstone – Oldenbourg Verlag, Munich 2008.

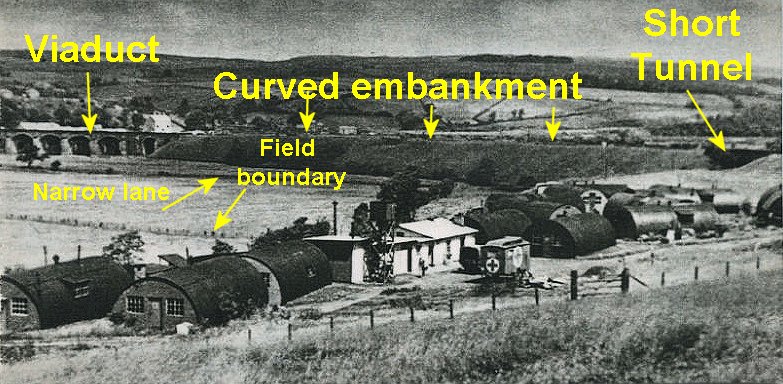
‘Total War to Total Trust’ – Editor Rolf Breitenstein – Wolff Books – 1976 – Section by Herbert Sulzbach; ‘Inside Featherstone Park’.

‘A Jew Who Defeated Nazism: Herbert Sulzbach’s Peace, Reconcilliation and a New Germany’ – Ainslie Hepburn – Pen and sword - 2022

**Hostels / Satellites**

**Plenmeller satellite camp**

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| **Plenmeller** is a village about 1½ km SE of Haltwhistle  It was the site of a satellite camp to Featherstone. |  |
| **Plenmeller satellite camp c 1947** Haltwhistle Partnership © |

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I have tried to find its location using clues from the photograph – NGR NY 706 632

**December 1945 –** site opened with 120 pows from the main camp.

**September 1947** – Camp leader Oberst R Schwarze

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|  | 1943 | 5/44 | Spr 45 | 12/45 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 4/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Plenmeller |  |  |  |  | ?(2) | 72 | ? | 60 |  |  |

**Brancepeth –**

Was probably linked to another main pow camp before September 1947.  Possibly situated in the disused ATS camp at Brancepeth, (a series of huts between Brancepeth Castle and the main 4th ITC Camp.

**September 1947** – Camp leader OLt E Marx – same in December 1947.

Developed links with Durham University – 10 pows attended lectures on economics, history, mathematics and music.

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|  | 1943 | 5/44 | Spr 45 | 12/45 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 4/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 1st 12/47 | 2nd 12/47 |
| Brancepeth |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 87 (3) | 80 | 91 |  |

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| **Catton** (Allendale) – Hutted camp.  Located in a field behind the Methodist Hall - NGR NY 830 575.  Recorded as holding Italian pows in 1943 when linked to Camp 69.  Listed as a hostel with German pows for Darras Hall Camp 69 in April 1946 – and was taken over by Camp 18 on 1 July 1946. (Recorded in Camp magazine).  A photograph of some pows at Catton can be found at: <http://www.allenvalleyslocalhistory.org.uk/photo/catton-1943-0007-004/>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1943 | 5/44 | Spr 45 | 12/45 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 4/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 1st 12/47 | 2nd 12/47 | | Catton | With C69 | | | | 55 | 69 |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1957 |

**Colwell** (Whittington) – huts

Taken over by Camp 18 on 4 August 1946.

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|  | 1943 | 5/44 | Spr 45 | 12/45 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 4/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 1st 12/47 | 2nd 12/47 |
| Colwell |  |  |  | With C69 | | 51 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Hull** –

Location – possibly Wymersley Road, Hull.

**September 1947** – Camp leader OLt G Klinger

**December 1947** – Camp Leader Oblt Eggstein.

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|  | 1943 | 5/44 | Spr 45 | 12/45 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 4/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 1st 12/47 | 2nd 12/47 |
| Hull |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 46 (3) | ? | 53 |  |

**Raylees** (Otterburn) – Hutted camp. Former radar station near Otterburn.

Taken over by Camp 18 on 4 August 1946.

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|  | 1943 | 5/44 | Spr 45 | 12/45 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 4/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 1st 12/47 | 2nd 12/47 |
| Raylees |  |  |  | With C69 | | 140 | 100 |  |  |  |  |

**P.O.W. Camps 224 and 225.**

In February 1944, 2 P.O.W. Units were formed at Featherstone Park – called Camp 224 and 225. They were located and trained there for several weeks, but were not actual camps holding pows. They were established prior to D-day in anticipation of pows to come / service overseas. These units later moved on to other sites before moving overseas.

National Archive file WO166/16298 shows that ‘Camp 224’ moved to Rothwell, again no pows held, then moved on again, but the file does not say where the camp moved to.

National Archive file WO166/16299 shows that ‘Camp 225’ moved to Maybole; then Girvan; then Thorpe Bay in July 1944. The ‘camp’ did not hold pows during these times. In August 1944, 225 embarked for overseas service.

A summary of the files is given below:

**WO166/16298 – 224 POW Camp.**

224 Unit newly formed 1 February 1944. Address “Featherstone Pk Camp, Haltwhistle, Northumberland.” Telephone Haltwhistle 328.

**April 1944** – from Field Return of Officers and Field Return of Other Ranks - signed by Lt Col H M Boyle.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lieut-Cols | Captains | WO Class I | WO Class II | Serjeants | Privates etc |
| 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 |

Lt Col Boyle was from the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

The 3 Captains were from the Pioneer Corps - Adjutant: R C Rowe; Interpreter: A MacDonald; Guard Commander: Captain R G Catt.

**1 April to 30 April 1944** - War Diary of 224 P.W.Camp. Headed - Unit 224 Prisoner of War Camp.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Haltwhistle | 1 Apr | Unit ceases to be affiliated with Infantry Records and Overseas documentation |
| Haltwhistle | 4 Apr | Received order for new location |
| Haltwhistle | 5 Apr | Advance party proceeds to Rothwell…. |
| Haltwhistle | 7 Apr | Unit departed Haltwhistle at 1153 hrs and arrived Rothwell 2100 hrs. |
| Rothwell | 8 Apr | Based here (Church House, Rothwell, Kettering) through rest of April |
| Rothwell | 26 Apr | Notification received for 1 Offr and 20 O.R’s to be attached from 375 PW Camp. |

375 Camp – unknown location. The additional personnel were in excess of the War Establishment for this camp.

**8 April 1944** – from Field Return of Officers / Field Return of Other Ranks - signed by Lt Col H M Boyle.

Address Church House, Rothwell, Kettering. Officers as above.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lieut-Cols | Captains | WO Class I | WO Class II | Serjeants | Privates etc |
| 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 |

After this - ?

**WO166/16299 – 225 POW Camp.**

225 Unit newly formed 1 February 1944. Address “Featherstone Pk Camp, Haltwhistle, Northumberland”. Telephone Haltwhistle 328.

**1 February – 29 February 1944** – War Diary of 225 P.W. Camp. Commandant Lieut Col. P.R.Ayers M.C.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Haltwhistle | 1st | Effective date of formation of unit…. |
| 19th | Unit received mobilisation instructions, to be mobilised to cadre strength by 18th Mar. |
| 23rd | Capt C V Mitchell reported for duty. |

**1 March – 31 March 1944** – War Diary of 225 P.W.Camp. Commandant Lieut Col. P.R.Ayers M.C.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Haltwhistle | 1st | Unit complete in personnel and cadre strength |
| 18th | Mobilisation date…. Unit came under command of 21st Army Group |

**1 April – 30 April 1944** – War Diary of 225 P.W.Camp. Commandant Lieut Col. P.R.Ayers M.C.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Haltwhistle | 26th | Unit received orders to move to Maybole, Ayr. |
| 27th | Advance party proceeded to Blairquhan Castle, Maybole |
| 29th | Unit moved to new location. |
| Maybole | 29th | Unit arrived at new location. Blairquhan Castle, Maybole, Ayrshire. |

**April 1944** – from Field Return of Officers and Field Return of Other Ranks - signed by Lt Col P R Ayers

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lieut-Cols | Captains | WO Class I | WO Class II | Serjeants | Privates etc |
| 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 |

Lt Col Ayers was from the Welch Regiment.

2 Captains were from the Pioneer Corps - Guard Commander: Capt J Schofield and Adjutant / QM C H P Claridge.

1 Captain was from the Intelligence Corps – Interpreter C N Mitchell

**1 May – 31 May 1944** - War Diary of 225 P.W.Camp. Commandant Lieut Col. P.R.Ayers

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Maybole |  | Cadre training was carried out with all available personnel. Particular attention being paid to weapon training, hygiene and anti-gas trg. |
| 22 | Lieut Filose, RAMC joined Unit as M.O. |
| 30 | Instructions received from West Scotland District to move Unit to Girvan. |

**May 1944** – from weekly returns - Field Return of Officers / Field Return of Other Ranks - signed by Lt Col P R Ayers

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lieut-Cols | Captains | WO Class I | WO Class II | Serjeants | Privates etc |
| 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 |

**June 1944** – Based in Birch House, Girvan, no war diary in file.

**1 July – 31 July 1944** - War Diary of 225 P.W.Camp. Commandant Lieut Col. P.R.Ayers M.C.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Girvan | 12 | Advance Party (Capt Mitchell i/c) set off in 3-ton lorry with stores from Girvan to new location. 1st stage Catterick:- excellent and most efficient reception. |
| Catterick |  |
| Stevenage | 13 | 2nd stage of advance party: Stevenage:- reception completely otherwise. |
| Thorpe Bay | 14 | 3rd stage and destination: Bock 45, Thorpe Bay, Essex.  Capt Mitchell took over 10 and 13 Gloucester Terrace for OR’s billets and “Eastbrook” for officers – including officers from other units. |
| Girvan | 15 | } Unit moved by train to Thorpe Bay, Essex. HQ established in 2 Gloucester Terrace –  } shared with 267 Petrol Dep., RASC. |
| Thorpe Bay | 16 |
| 19 | CO visited HQ 7 Base Sub-Area. 24 hrs leave authorised for all ranks. |
| 30 | 48 hrs embarkation leave (72 hrs over 200 mls) authorised for all ranks. |