**Camp 22** **(& 157) - Bourton Camp, Bourton-on-the-Hill, Gloucestershire**

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| **1947 Camp List** | | | | | | | |
| 157(B.C.) | Bourton Camp, Bourton-on-the-Hill, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos. | S. | Priswar, Bourton-on-the-Hill | Blockley 297 | Moreton-in-Marsh (G.W.R.) | Lt.Col.A.F.B.Powell | v/202/4 (over 1500PW) |

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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 |
| SP 160 321 | 151 | 157 | Bourton Camp, Bourton-on-the-Hill | Gloucestershire | 4 | Base Camp | LARGE STANDARD. Large complex comprising six prisoner compounds. Each compound enclosed by a double wire perimeter and guarded by watchtowers. Site presently under forestry. |

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| **Location** SP 160 321 Large camp shown on OS map – smaller camp to north is listed as ‘Hostel – Gloucester County Agricultural Board’. Road running alongside is the A424.  **Before the camp:** Fields  **POW Camp:** Italian, then German POWs. If the pattern of other camps is followed, this camp would have been Camp 22 from 1942 – then US transit camp no.1 – then re-opening back under British control as Camp 157. I have NO documentary evidence for this.  **Late 1942** – about 500 Italian pows recorded.  **1944 / 45** - Listed as American Transit Camp No. 1 located in the UK united states pow theatre of operations enclosure no 1.  **6 June 1945** – record for another camp recorded Commandant here (Camp 157) as Lt Col Hanbury. Unknown if this was US or UK commandant.  **July / August 1945** – Camp returned to British authority as Base Camp 157.  **1 August 1945** – 1,284 pows = 1205 German; 60 Austrian; 6 Polish; 13 Czechs held in 2 compounds. Further details see \*  **September 1945** - Appendix to HQ Southern Command War Diary – Bourton On The Hill – Base camp – capacity 4000.  **17 September 1945** – ICRC Inspection by Major Frédérick Bieri. Commandant Lt.Col. A F B Powell \*. DER NEUE WEGDER NEUE WEGDER NEUE WEGDER NEUE WEG |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

**14 November 1945 –** ICRC Inspection by Rodolphe Haccius. 3,187 pows in 4 compounds. Same commandant. Camp leader Hpt Hans Sceibelein \*.

**February 1946** - A question was raised in the House of Commons about the repatriation of pows held here: “*Mr. Edelman asked the Secretary of State for War whether he will now consult with the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in order to expedite the repatriation and release of anti-Nazi German prisoners of war, formerly at Camp 7, Ascot, and now mainly at Camp 157, Bourton-on-Hill, who gave useful political information and service to the prisoners-of-war programme of the B.B.C. and who could play a valuable part in the reconstruction of a democratic Germany.*

*Mr. Lawson - 316 anti-Nazi prisoners of war from Camp 157, who were formerly at Camp 7, Ascot, were repatriated on 7th February. A further small number of prisoners of war who were at Camp 7 will be concentrated for repatriation in the near future. Others who are at present actively employed at this camp will be repatriated as soon*

*as replacements can be found.”* (House of Commons, Written answers, **12 February 1946,** Volume 419).

**January 1947** – 2 pows died from heart failure; Willhelm Schwarz (ex-German Merchant Navy - 15th) and Wilhelm Dettmann (listed as a German civilian - 21st). Both were late reinterred at Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery.

**11 November 1947** – ICRC Inspection by Edmond Aeberhard. 401 pows (including 107 pow staff) \*.

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

Known commandants:

c.1945 - Lt Col Hanbury.

1945 - ? Lt.Col. A F B Powell – from the Royal Artillery. Previously Commandant of North Burton Camp 158.

**Further information**:

The Imperial War Museum has two copies of the camp magazine ‘*Der Neue Weg’* (The New Way) for camp 157. Dated February and Jun 1947. Catalogue number LBY E.J. 398

\* *Inside the Wire* – Chapter 6 – Ian M C Hollingsbee – 2014 – The History Press.

Archived photos of the camp - <https://www.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk/content/catalogue_item/pow-camp-photos-bourton-on-the-hill-2009>