**Camp 25** **- Lodge Farm Camp, Baydon, Newbury, Berkshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 25. Lodge Farm Camp, Farncombe Down, Lambourn, Berks.

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| **1947 Camp List** |
| 25(G.W.C.) | Lodge Farm Camp, Farncombe Down, Lambourne, Newbury, Berks. | S. | Priswar. Baydon | Aldbourne 95 | Lambourne (G.W.R.) | Lt.Col.H.Mc.G.Boyle,M.C. | 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 |
| SU 296 773 | 174 | 25 | Lodge Farm Camp, Baydon, Newbury | Berkshire | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type |

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| **Location:** About 15km SE of Swindon. The M4 now runs alongside the Baydon Road nearby.**Previous use:** Farm land.**POW Camp:****Autumn / Winter 1941 –** Standard type camp established to house 500 Italian pows to work on farms in the counties of Wiltshire, Berkshire and Hampshire – organised by the War Agricultural Committee. The camp was listed in December 1941 as holding Italian pows, some of whom were formed as a construction crew to build Camp 41.**1943** – Hostels for Italians; Challow, Swindon, Marlborough.**5 May 1944** – Hostel for Italians, (WO 32/10737): Challow, (Marsh Farm), Oxfordshire.**May & November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Southern Command area and then as an Italian POW Working Camp, (+Pioneer Corps Groups), (WO 32/10737). **1945** - Hostels opened before September 1945, (FO 939/383) – W.D.Camps, Snelsmore, Newbury and at Kingston Lisle, both with 100 pows.Latton, Swindon with 100 pows.**27 June 1945** – the first large batch of German pows arrived: 1023 from Le Marchant Camp 23. Italian pows were gradually replaced by Germans and the camp became a ‘German Working Camp.’ C.800 of the pows were from the German Navy. Some Italians remained at hostels, separate from the Germans, until they were repatriated or moved to another camp. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1960 |

Some of the first Germans arrived from the Channel Islands. Many were in a bad state of health due to malnutrition. Some of the pows had been based on Alderney – but it was reported that they were not the Nazis who ran the concentration camps on the island, and that they were all anti-Nazi - some had been in forced / punishment labour units.

The C.I. pows expressed the view that they should have priority for release; 1. they were disarmed on surrender; 2. they had acted honourably on the islands (debatable); 3. they stated they had been assured by no less than Winston Churchill that they would receive positive consideration for surrendering peacefully; 4. many were anti-Nazi. These opinions were largely ignored until October 1946.

Some pows worked on the local railway.

Oversight and development of re-education activities, including English Language teaching, for German pows was carried out by PID (Political Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office) / COGA (Control Office for Germany and Austria – UK). Visits and reports were made. The standard of the reports varied greatly. The visitors took little interest in activities other than re-education, they rarely mention welfare, sports, games, pastimes, crafts, etc of the pows.

**8-10 August 1945** – Mr R A B Young from PID visited the camp. Total strength 1243 – NOT including Italian pows remaining at hostels.

Commandant: Lt Col. A HICKMAN. Camp leader: O/Wm Walter Wockatz

2nd i/c: Major Atkins Leader for tented camp: S/Fwl Fell (B)

Interpreter: Staff sergeant FALCONER (Austria).

There was also an unnamed Interpreter Officer who spoke Italian, not German.

The M.O. was Italian, and though the men expressed confidence in him, he did not speak German.

Tented accommodation was a temporary measure due to the large influx of pows. Most of the pows in this part of the camp were captured in the Channel Islands.

Morale was recorded as ‘very low’ – partly due to concerns for families in Germany, partly as work was available for only 70 pows. Without work the pows were paid on the minimum rate of 3 farthings, (¾ of 1 penny). Most pows were regarded as politically apathetic. Although 113 were classified as ‘C’ (Nazis), they were not regarded as active. No communists were noted.

Some general attitudes to recent events were recorded – To the atom bomb; “*This will make war impossible, and a good job too*.” To VJ Day; *“Now that the war is finally ending, we should get home sooner.”*

A limited number range of re-education activities had started:

Wochenpost / Ausblick – 150 copies received weekly / between 30 & 100 copies received. Both publications received general approval.

Newspapers – only ‘The Times’ passed on from the officers’ mess.

Discussion groups – just started.

Library / books – no library, very few books. Paper and pencils also needed.

Lectures – The first had been given on 10 August.

Films – 2 films so far. One was light entertainment, the other was the film shown to all pows concerning Belsen Concentration Camp.

Radio – 1 set in the Guard Room with 3 loudspeakers in the camp. Tented section had no radio. “*Programme was controlled by the guard, who were also using it for dance music for their own entertainment. This was rectified.”*

Other Activities –

Religion – Weekly well-attended RC services with German speaking civilian padre. There was a well-equipped church which could also be used for protestants, but there was no protestant padre.

General - education classes had not started. A theatre was available for use and the pows were keen to start. Instruments and music scores were requested. A rare mention of games, however it was only a note to say that there were just 8 packs of cards and 2 chess sets available for the whole camp. There was a football field; the shoemaker had made a ball, but there was no bladder.

**10-11 August 1945 –** A visiting lecturer made some negative comments:

A lack of food was reported by the pows. The Commandant gave assurances they were receiving the proper ration – however, for many this would have been the lower ration for non-working pows. The lecturer also noted that there were no complaints about food from another camp he visited on the following days.

There were; “*a number of ardent Nazis who obviously try to exploit the difficulties*”… within the camp. Some pows expressed Nazi attitudes and ideas during the lecture, but it was believed that these were in the minority.

Not all pows were German / Austrian – some were from Poland and Czechoslovakia, and so had their own particular problems regarding returning to their homes.

**September 1945** - Appendix to HQ Southern Command War Diary – Lodge Farm, Lambourne – German Labour camp – capacity 1200.

Italian hostels – Challow, Purton, Hampstead Marshall, Lydiard Millicent – total cap 600

German hostels – Elcot Lane, Snelsmore, Kingston Lisle, Latton, Wantage – total cap 300.

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| **20/21 September 1945** – English Education Report by Mr Dadley-Potter and Mr Dagnall.It was stated that there were 5 hostels and a visit was made to the largest at Marlborough (Elcot Lane) with 70 pows.**12 October 1945** – Report by visiting lecturer H V WaldheimHe complained of poor arrangements made in the camp for his visit. His impressions of the camp overall were ‘not favourable.’The commandant stated that there had been trouble between Nazis and anti-Nazis. However, despite the controversial subject for the lecture – ‘Causes of German Collapse’ – there were no disturbances during the lecture or follow-up discussion.**7 January 1946** – Mr Dagnall returned to make another English Education Report and to give a talk to the pows in the main camp and some hostels.He omitted to visit 2 hostels – Kingston and Furzewick – giving his reason that; “*mentality is low*.” He had not previously visited these hostels.**23/24 February 1946** – Lecturer’s Report.It was noted that there was a Youth Group (Youth = pows  |  |
| Lodge Farm Camp 1947 |

under-25), but it was being *“continuously obstructed by elder PsW who interfere and tell youth that it is poisoned by Nazism beyond redemption.”* There was also a ‘court of arbitration’ to resolve minor disputes between pows. It was stated there were many education classes, but not the subjects taught.

**5 May 1946** – English Education Report by Mr C M Griffiths.

Re-education and PID were not being promoted by the Commandant or British staff.

Morale was regarded as very good, (no other reports agreed with this). The visitor thought the pow teachers in the main camp were good, while all but one of the hostel teachers were a lower standard. Some activities were taking place – films nearly every week; monthly lectures; an active orchestra and theatre.

A comment was made about the changing number of attached hostels; “*These spring up like mushrooms in the night.”* There were 8 hostels at this time. Kintbury and Chieveley had only been open for a few days - and 2 more were due to open.

There were 228 pows in billets, mainly farms, over a widespread area. They were contacted once a month by the main camp.

Another English Inspector, Mr Peeler, arrived just 3 days later and carried out some tasks not completed by Mr Griffith.

**29/31 July 1946 –** Capt J L Martin completed an English Inspector’s Report. Total strength, main + 11 hostels + billetees = 1968. 8 classes with 99 pupils in the main camp.

Commandant: Major Atkins Lagersprecher: Fell.

Recorded that all pows were in huts, none in tents.

**2-6 August 1946** – A visiting lecturer’s report noted a general atmosphere of despair, apathy and hostility towards the English. He did not give direct details for this situation, but there was resentment over the way they had been treated. There were some justifications for this – some had been lied to in the US about their destination, many had been beaten and near starved in camps in Belgium, and those from the Channel Islands had their own reasons mentioned above.

The next lecturer also noted a rise in anti-democratic and anti-semitic attitudes.

**3 October 1946 –** Capt Martin returned for another English Inspector’s Report. Total strength, main + 9 hostels + billetees = 1658. 6 classes with 72 pow pupils in main camp.

Commandant: Lt Col. Boyle, MBE, MC. Lagersprecher: Fell.

**October / November 1946** – Dr. H v Waldheim, a very well respected lecturer visited the camp. He submitted a report which raised the issue of the Channel Island pows, and in particular those who had been on Alderney, many of whom were from forced labour units and were anti-Nazi, (the SS and Nazis from Alderney had been ‘weeded out’).

The matter was raised with Col. Henry Faulk the head of re-education at the PID. A solution was suggested where the pows were re-screened with comments by a member of PID – *“It certainly looks as if we should find a considerable number of ‘whites’* [political category A] *there. Those who are screened ‘white’ will of course automatically receive priority treatment in the matter of repatriation.”*

There are no further documents relating to this matter in the National Archive file – and no further mention in any of the following reports. Morale continued to be low until late 1947, but the C.I. issue was not listed as a factor.

**2/5 January 1947 –** Capt Martin gave another English Inspector’s Report. Total strength, main + 8 hostels + billetees = 1601. 5 classes with 68 pow pupils in main camp.

Commandant: Lt Col. Boyle, MBE, MC. Lagersprecher: Eisele. [Started December – previously deputy].

**11-14 March 1947** – Report on re-education by Dr R Koch. Strength: 1 officer, 1679 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col. Boyle, MBE, MC. Camp leader: O/Wachtm J(osef) Eisele (B).

Interpreter: 2nd Lt R Buchbinder Deputy C/L: O/Feldw H Keller (A).

 German M.O.: Dr Bochberg (B).

Simplified political screening results: A 88; B 1473; C 119. Higher grades meant earlier repatriation. The classification system was highly flawed. The visitor upgraded 98 pows. 92 appeals had been made against political grading – ALL were successful. A further 90 appeals had still to be heard. 229 pows had been repatriated to date.

The British staff’s apathy towards re-education continued. The IO was described as; “*recently commissioned and posted is young, inexperienced and without influence. He remarked on several occasions that he thinks very little of COGA’s activities.*”

Morale was considered to be “*rather low.”* Reasons stated for this were – unfair screening, slow repatriation, and lack of work and small earnings during the last three months. Positive aspects were – the attitude of British and German staff, entertainment and sports. There was little political interest in the camp.

The lack of re-education activities was recorded as unsatisfactory. Commandants and their British staff were not obliged to support them, and many regarded them as a waste of time. Also, considering that some activities depended upon supplies of materials and guidance from COGA, a good deal of blame lay with them. This did not necessarily mean this was an unhappy camp – several comments about positive relationships between the British and the pows were made. Many commandants preferred to support welfare, sporting and social activities, rather than meet the aims of the PID’s political re-education.

There was also a lack of accommodation for activities – there were no spare huts to be used. The number of pows was expected to rapidly increase to 3000, but there were no plans by the Ministry of Works to provide additional space for activities.

About 30% of the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25). They were not seen as a problem and there was no special provision for them.

The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick - Separate appendix.

Newspapers - A selection of English papers received; supplies to the hostels were insufficient. Few German newspapers were arriving.

Library - 789 books, including 278 English books. Hardly any political books and therefore reported as; “*utterly insufficient*.” Hostels poorly supplied, billets had no library access.

Lectures – These were taking place, but no statement as to how often.

Discussion groups - Currently suspended due to a lack of interest and speakers. A ‘Brains-Trust’ took place monthly.

Films - “*Adequate*.” No record of distributors or frequency.

Wireless - “*Adequate*” – except in two hostels without electricity.

Camp magazine - *Stimmen aus aller Welt* (Voices from around the world). Not enough contributions. 400 copies issued monthly. [A later magazine was called ‘*Der Fährmann’*].

Press review – Weekly in the main camp.

English instruction - Separate appendix.

Information room - 3 exhibitions from COGA had been shown. The pows “*have not shown any initiative of their own*.”

Other activities –

Religion - Protestant padre Boehme (C) held weekly services for the main camp and hostels. The visitor believed his C grading was unjustified. A RC priest from Stanbury House Camp 135 visited regularly. An Irish priest from Kintbury held weekly services.

Education - Very little activity seen.

Entertainment – There was a theatre group. Plays were requested from COGA. There was also a small orchestra which needed more music scores.

The visitor made several recommendations:

1. That a good library be sent.
2. Plays for the theatre be sent.
3. 8 pows to be sent for the special training course.
4. 800 pows should be re-screened as soon a possible.
5. A re-visit to the camp should be made within 2 months.

**12/14 May 1947** – C Griffiths gave an English Inspector’s Report. Total strength; 2039. No changes to senior personnel.

Despite the rise in numbers, there were just 4 English classes with 43 pupils. Reasons given were repatriations and the relaxation of fraternisation rules allowing pows to stay out of camp later.

**11/13 June 1947** – Re-education Report by A T St L Duff. Total strength; 2 officers; 1940 OR.

Senior personnel – 2 changes; Deputy C/L: Erich Dey (B+); German M.O.: O/Arzt Wolfgang Knollmann (B-).

Brief details of the camp leader - Josef Eisele, aged 28, a surveyor, single, RC. Had been a member of the Hitler Youth from 1933 to 1936, the SA in 1937, and the NSDAP in 1938. *“A decent individual who treats his men well but he has very little political understanding*.”

Deputy leader – Feuerwerker Erich Dey, aged 25, student engineer, married, RC. Hitler Youth from 1934 to 1939. “*Intelligent and willing to help*.”

Screening: A 6; B 1935; C 1. (All but 1 C category upgraded). 4 appeals pending. 483 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was regarded as poor throughout the camp due to: 1. Delays to repatriations; 2. News from home; 3. Concerns amongst those from the Russian Zone. The usual complaint was made by the visitor that most of the British staff showed no interest in re-education, though the IO was allowed to work with some pows to develop activities. Despite this, it was stated that relations with the British staff were good throughout the camp. It was noted that there was a good range of ‘*physical recreation.*’ Another positive factor was long working hours – this meant more pay, and with relaxed rules, more ways to spend it in and out of the camp.

Overall, re-education activities had increased since the last report. There were more newspapers, 400 more books, regular films and lectures. The main activities within the HQ camp were – a political discussion group, a camp parliament, daily press review, a wall newspaper and the camp magazine. Little occurred at the hostels, though Lydiard and Highworth were more active.

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| One area of re-education being promoted nationally was forming outside contacts. Lodge Farm Camp was fairly isolated and opportunities were limited. 6 pows were able to visit Swindon Council meetings. Not mentioned were various football matches played against local clubs and other pow camps, (results were in the camp magazine).Religion – The padre’s C category had been upgraded to B+. Education – there were small classes for French and mathematics.‘The Ferryman’ – Monthly Magazine for Camp 25 >**16-19 September 1947** – I R Bell visited to survey re-education. Strength 2 officers; 1680 OR. No changes to senior personnel.Pointless screening figures were given: A -; B 1682. 784 pows repatriated to date.Morale; “*mediocre to poor*.” Negative factors - many pows were in a repatriation group that still had some months to go; isolation of the camp. Positive factors - smooth running of the camp, satisfaction with work and recreation. There was little interest in politics, which was regarded negatively by the visitor.The standard list of activities was given with few changes to the previous report.Organised outside contacts were slight. Small groups continued to visit meetings of Swindon Council. Two groups had visited Oxford University. There was a social club for pows in Newbury. |  |

**14/16 October 1947** – English Inspector’s Report by Mr C M Griffiths. Total strength 1581. 4 classes for 36 pupils in the main camp.

**3-6 November 1947** – Maj P J O’Donohue carried out a re-education survey. Total strength 2 officers; 1496 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col. H M Boyle, MBE, MC. Camp leader: O/Wachtm J(osef) Eisele (B).

Interpreter: Lt R Buchbinder Deputy C/L: A Junge (B) and K Krause (B),

 German M.O.: O/Arzt Knollmann (B-) and Dr Bochberg (B-).

Morale reported as ‘*fairly good’* – mainly due to an increased speed of repatriations. Political apathy largely continued, though there was interest in the London Conference considering the future of Germany.

The camp parliament discussed problems and activities. A “*new and very comfortable*” reading room had been opened with papers, periodicals and Hansard available. The Commandant continued to be sceptical about re-education, but allowed his IO to work with pows. The standard list was given:

Newspapers – British papers, adequate. German, generally satisfactory – some Swiss papers also received.

Library – Additional books received from camps that were closing down. An exchange system with the hostels was working well.

Lectures – Regular. Attended by between 60 to 100 pows.

Discussion groups – Held at main camp and Lydiard hostel.

Films – From YMCA at main and hostels, except Furzewick with no electricity. Travelling Films fortnightly at main and some hostels. A private film company from Burwich also showed old English films weekly.

Wireless – Adequate. German stations generally receivable.

Camp magazine – ‘Der Fährmann’ Monthly; “*a well-balanced publication*.”

Press review – Cuttings from the German papers were exhibited in the reading room. There was a daily news-sheet.

English Instruction – Separate report. One of the M.O.’s, Dr Knollmann held discussions in English for advanced students, but the IO stopped him on account of his Nazi views.

Information room – Exhibitions held from materials sent by PID. No exhibitions produced by the pows.

Outside contacts – Very limited with small groups attending: WEA classes, discussion groups, Salvation Army, Newbury Trades Council every three weeks.

Other activities –

Religion – Slight interest by the protestants with Evangelical Padre, BOEHME. Father Breithaupt from Camp 135 visited regularly. A RC priest from Kintbury also visited. Local churches attended.

Education – Classes for French, mathematics and Natural Science at the main camp.

Entertainments – a theatre group in the main camp gave regular performances. A small orchestra performed at the camp and was due to perform in Coronation Hall, Kintbury. There was also a choir. Only limited performances at the hostels.

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

**14-16 December 1947** – W G W Aston reported on re-education and cultural links. Strength: 2 officers, 1459 OR. 927 pows repatriated to date.

No changes to senior personnel. There is little change from the last report issued in the previous month, large sections were copied.

**21/24 January 1948** – W G W Aston conducted another re-education survey; looked at cultural contacts; and interviewed pows for the training centre. Strength 2 officers; 1485 OR. No changes to senior personnel. 1361 pows repatriated to date.

Remarkably, after all this time, the visitor stated that he and his advice were welcomed and there was a definite increase of interest in re-educational matters… especially from the commandant, Adjutant and IO.

Morale seen to be “*still rising.*” A positive factor was the 48-hour ‘Christmas leave’ pows had been allowed. Many of the new intake had come from camps in Scotland, they regarded this camp as more restrictive than those they had left. There were no ‘Nazi diehards.’

A list of outside contacts was given –

Some lectures on International Affairs were arranged by the University of Bristol and delivered in nearby Aldbourne church room fortnightly.

Visits to local churches at Baydon and Newbury. Some ministers visited the camp.

Some rare comments on other activities. The main camp had two football teams – they had played 61 games, 36 away mainly at Aldbourne, Lambourn and against British troops. There had been 25 table-tennis matches, 18 away, mainly against Swindon and Lambourn clubs. Highworth Youth Club games sessions were regularly attended by 15/20 pows.

The visitor hoped to arrange further contacts, but there was some local resistance, for example the Newbury Council had refused to let pows attend their meetings.

Re-education activities were regarded as satisfactory. The standard list was given, but there was little difference to the previous report. Some activities were ending due to repatriations.

The camp magazine was then called; ‘*Der Fährmann’* (The Ferryman). The library had 3067 books. The radio had an amplifier and 50 loudspeakers around the main camp.

**29/31 January 1948** – C M Griffiths gave an English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 1395. 4 classes, 32 pupils.

**18/20 March 1948** – Final English Inspector’s Report by C M Griffiths. Total strength 2961. No classes.

**21-25 March 1948** – W G W Aston gave his final report. Strength; 3 officers, 2962 OR.

In most camps at this time, surveys were carried out of pows attitudes. Mr Aston did not do so, but held discussions with groups of pows. The same issues of repatriation, time in captivity, conditions in Germany cropped up. It was all too late to do anything about.

The camp received a visitor to talk about resettlement problems the pows would face when returning to Germany.

The camp closed April / May 1948,

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|  | <https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/the-german-pow-who-stayed-in-berkshire-9299925/>News article from Newbury Weekly News – undated. It refers to ‘the local pow club’ – this was formed in 1946 in Newbury.Known Commandants:c.1945 - 1946 Lt Col. A Hickman.1946 - 1946 Major Atkins [temporary? the size of the camp warranted Lt Col rank].1946 - 1948 Lt.Col.H.Mc.G.Boyle, M.C. – Hugh M(a)c**C**ormac Boyle of |  |
| The last hut at the camp. |

the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Winner of the Military Cross, promoted to temporary Lt Col in 1945.

Camp and hostels + number of pows where known:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not open |  | Unknown |  | Open |  | With another camp |

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|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945a | 1945b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Main | c.500 I | I | I | I | Cap1200 G |  | 806 | 710 | 677 | 806 | 717 | 642 | 690 | 586 | 707 | 727 | 518 | 725 |
| Challow |  | I | I | I | I |  | 69 | 25 | 26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Marlborough |  | I | I | I | 70 G |  | 130 | 134 | 133 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 114 | 110 |  |  |  |  |
| Latton |  | I |  | c.100 | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Snelsmore |  |  |  | c.100 | G |  | 101 | 89 | 98 | 96 | 100 | 99 | 64 | 57 | 63 | 54 |  |  |
| Kingston Lisle |  |  |  | c.100 | G |  | 49 | 51 | 47 | 50 | 48 | 49 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Purton |  |  |  |  | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hampstead M. |  |  |  |  | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lydiard M. |  |  |  |  | I | C 289 | 124 | 160 | 110 | 102 | 99 | 74 | 54 |  |
| Furzewick |  |  |  |  | G | G | 50 | 50 | 50 | 46 | 49 | 50 | 34 | 34 | 33 | 32 |  |  |
| Kintbury |  |  |  |  |  | G | 49 | 52 | 49 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 12 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chieveley |  |  |  |  |  | G | 50 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beedon |  |  |  |  |  |  | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harwood Stud |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Faringdon |  |  |  |  |  |  | 50 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 50 | ? | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bradford |  |  |  |  |  |  | 155 | 154 | 204 | 200 | 199 | 194 | 170 | 162 | 158 | 114 | 198 | 203 |
| Wormstall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Highworth |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With C 289 | 209 | 194 | 58 | 56 | 61 | 113 | 73 | 127 |
| Chiseldon |  |  |  | C 668 |  |  | With C 289 | 46 | ? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shrivenham |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | C 695 | 40 |  |  |  | 96 | 100 |
| Stratton |  |  |  |  | C 638 / 674 | 190 | 174 |
| Bicester | C 33 | 1221 |
| Over Norton |  |  |  |  |  | With C 31, 43 and 185 | 165 |
| Besselsleigh |  |  |  |  |  | With C 43 | 162 |
| Billets |  |  |  |  |  | 228 | 290 | 316 | 264 | 248 | 312 | 324 | 380 | 374 | 377 | 347 | 266 | 83 |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1968 | 1658 | 1601 | 1680 | 2039 | 1942 | 1682 | 1581 | 1498 | 1459 | 1395 | 2961 |

Slight discrepancies in total numbers are usually due to numbers in hospital or in detention.

**After the camp:** Farm land

**Further information**:

National Archives: FO 939/109 25 Working Camp, Lodge Farm camp, Farncombe Down, Berkshire – dated 1945-1948. FO 939/296 – same details. Used above.

<https://lambourn.org/ww11-lodge-farm-pow-camp/>

The German Federal Archives have a copy of the camp magazine.

**Hostels**

**Beedon (Highclere).** 15 miles from the main camp. Huts.

Just one entry for this hostel so it was probably attached to another pow camp before / after this.

Local memories stated it was at Stanmore / North Stanmore Farm / Ball Pit Lane (NGR SU 474 790). This is just 2km NW of Beedon. Q – why (Highclere) ?

*“A Prisoner of War camp occupied a piece of ground at Stanmore, approximately 500 yards along the East Illsley Road (Ball Pit Lane) on the right hand side. My Dad supplied the camp with their main vegetables and other items for the cookhouse. We would transport their goods by bike and an ex-army jeep trailer tied to the bicycle underneath the saddle… When it ceased to be a camp, Dad bought their wooden worktop, which was used in the cookhouse, and it remains as the counter of Purton Stores today (as of 2002).”*

<https://communityramblings.wordpress.com/2013/02/19/memories-of-beedon-extracts-from-homespun-the-beedon-book/>

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|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Beedon |  |  |  |  |  |  | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Bessels Leigh / Besselsleigh**. 22 miles from the main camp. Previously with Harcourt Camp 43.

Location – *“…go past the greyhound pub I lived there, there is a thatched cottage past there, the next entrance is where the pow camp was before the farm*.”

Hostel taken over as the main Camp 43 closed down.

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|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Besselsleigh |  |  |  |  | With C 43 | 162 |

**Bicester.** 45 miles from main camp. Previously Old Windmills Camp 33.

March 1948 – hostel leader; Hans Bangert (B)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Bicester | C 33 | 1221 |

**Bradford (Stockcross)** – 9 miles from main camp. Huts.

Location – ? There is a Bradford’s Farm (NGR SU 419 681) and Bradford’s Gorse, 2km away from Stockcross.

**July 1946** – Recorded as just opened. (May have been associated with another camp before this).

**August 1946** – All pows had been sent from camps in the USA – 50 had also been in camps in Belgium where they had been badly treated. “*No tools, no musical instruments, no books, no toilet paper.”*

**March 1947** – Hostel leader O/Feldw Friedrich Christ (B). Morale recorded as very low, no particular reason given.

**May 1947** – Lecturer’s report; the pows were not allowed to leave the hostel as a collective punishment, consequently morale was low – unfortunately the reason for the punishment was not given. The majority of pows boycotted the lecture – was this because of the punishment, or a sign of disturbance within the hostel?

**June 1947** – Lecturer’s report; morale very low as ‘screening’ had taken place earlier in the day – many pows suffering from food poisoning.

**Up to January 1948** – same leader since March 1947. Contacts with local civilians in Newbury area. The small orchestra played at Newbury.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Bradford |  |  |  |  |  |  | 155 | 154 | 204 | 200 | 199 | 194 | 170 | 162 | 158 | 198 | 203 |

**Challow.** NGR for Challow Marsh Farm SU 372 901. 9 miles from main camp. Huts.

**1943** - Listed with Italian pows.

**5 May 1944** - Listed for Italian pows: Challow, (Marsh Farm), Oxfordshire.

**September 1945** – Listed as an Italian hostel.

**October 1946** – reported as due to close. Described as; *“not worth visiting since they only accommodate a few ‘sick, lame and lazy’, to keep out squatters.”*

**November 1946** – Lecturer’s report; all pows working at farms; good, comfortable accommodation; general contentment, but very little sport or other activities.

**January 1947** – Closing down and handed over to the Land Army.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Challow |  | I | I |  | I |  | 69 | 25 | 26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Chieveley.** 13 miles from main camp. Huts. Probably linked to another camp before or after these entries.

**May 1946** – recorded as newly opened with German pows. No electric lighting.

**August 1946** – Lecturer reported that there was still no electric lighting though this would have been easy to install. Oil lamps with red glass being used. No radio and no films. Some of the pows had been sent from English run camps in Belgium where they had been treated very badly.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Chieveley |  |  |  |  |  | G | 50 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Chisledon.**

**May 1947** – Attached to C25, previously independent Camp 668, then with Lydiard Millicent Camp 289. Due to close.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Chisledon |  |  |  | Camp 668 |  |  | With C 289 | 46 | ? |  |  |  |  |  |

**Faringdon.** 19 miles from main camp. Huts.

Location and memories - …[at] *the end of old Southampton Street, a footpath continued onwards and still does today… there were the ruins of a prison of war camp on the left-hand side of the footpath. The prisoners were taught to speak English and Agricultural Machinery; some stayed in Faringdon after the war to work. The huts continued to be used as extra classrooms by Faringdon Secondary Modern School back up on the street itself. They were reported to be bitterly cold in winter, even with the ‘tortoise heaters’ that were provided. They were known colloquially by their occupants as “The ‘Uts.” They were reached along the lane by the cricket field, which in winter often flowed with rainwater, inevitably known as “The River ‘Ut*”. <https://www.fdahs.org.uk/faringdon-streets/southampton-street/?fbclid=IwAR3uq8lcyQqOFM1Lwfy4vOr-kiH7b3J0e9gvDZR9CWk9oFDcuvc9sgu6BoM>

**November 1946 –** Lecturer’s report – all pows working on farms. 46 of them shared one big hut which was a bit overcrowded. There were some English classes. No sports.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader; Feldw. Hoffmeister (B+)

**May 1947** – listed as due to close.

**June 1947** – not in list of numbers for the camp, but a hostel leader recorded as Fw. Hans Fendel (B+), aged 27, professional soldier, single, RC. “*Good type but rather self-centred*.”

**September 1947** – Same leader. Probably kept open with a minimum number of pows to prevent it being taken over by squatters.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Faringdon |  |  |  |  |  |  | 50 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 50 | ? | 10 |  |  |  |  |

**Furzewick (Wantage).** 8 miles from main camp. Huts. Furzewick Farm, just S of Wantage = NGR SU400 852.

**January 1946** – recorded with German pows.

English Instruction had ceased. Reasons given – tiredness after a long day’s work; shortage of texts; only hurricane lamps for lighting. No electric lighting.

**November 1946** – Lecturer’s report; all pows working at farms; activities included football and chess - a Demokratische Arbeits-Gemeinschaft (working committee) was being set up to develop further activities. There was still no electricity, so no films or wireless. Morale quite good.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader Feldw. Beyer. No electricity.

**June to January 1948** – Hostel leader OMaat Helmut Winter (B), aged 29, radio mechanic, single, Protestant. “*Poor type and quite non-political.”* Poor morale. Few recreational facilities.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Furzewick |  |  |  |  | G | G | 50 | 50 | 50 | 46 | 49 | 50 | 34 | 34 | 33 |  |  |

**Hamstead Marshall.** NGR for village SU 413 654. Probably attached to another main camp before / after these entries.

**15 September 1945** – listed as an Italian hostel; Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks.

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|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Hampstead M. |  |  |  |  | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Harwood Stud.** 11 miles from main camp. Huts. Probably attached to another main camp before / after this entry. NGR for Harwood Lodge, Woolton Hill SU 431 621.

*“Gainsborough Stud was originally called Harwood Stud, and was established at Woolton Hill near Newbury, Berkshire.”*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Harwood Stud |  |  |  |  |  |  | 100 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Highworth.** Previously with Lydiard Millicent Camp 289.

**June 1947** – Hostel leader Uffz Felix Heim (B), aged 43, building engineer, married, RC. “*Intelligent, decent and cheerful.”*

**September 1947** – Hostel leader Ofw. Scheuer (B-), aged 43, merchant, joined NSDAP and SA in 1932. “*A regrettable choice, on account of his past record. Thoroughly obsequious in his manner, but so long as he feels the need to curry favour may do his work honestly*.”

**Up to January 1948** – same leader. Regular news-sheets issued.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Highworth |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With C 289 | 209 | 194 | 58 | 56 | 61 | 73 | 127 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kingston (Lisle)**. NGR for village SU 325 876. 9 miles from main camp. Huts.**Before September 1945** – listed as “*W.D.Camp, Kingston Lisle with 100 Italian pows*.”**September 1945** – listed as a German hostel**November 1946** – Lecturer’s report; living conditions satisfactory; all pows working at farms; “*many are peasants by profession*;” English classes. No sport, because they haven’t got a football.**March 1947 –** Hostel leader Feldw.Gertkaemper (A)**June 1947 –** Hostel leader OMasch Franz Tiegs (B), aged 44, professional soldier then post office official, married, Protestant. “*Appears quite dispirited and disinterested*.”

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|  | I = Italian / G = German | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Kingston L |  |  |  | c.100 | G |  | 49 | 51 | 47 | 50 | 48 | 49 |  |  |  |  |  |

 |  |

**Kintbury.** 8 miles from the main camp.

**May 1946** – recorded as newly opened. German pows. No electric lighting.

**November 1946** – Lecturer’s report; nearly all pows working at farms. Wooden huts, still no electric, so no wireless or films. Some football and gymnastics. Morale fair.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader O/Feldw. Walter Landgraf (B). No electricity.

**June / September 1947** – same leader, described as aged 33, soldier since 1936, divorced, Protestant. *“Indifferent and resigned. Not a very good type*.”

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Kintbury |  |  |  |  |  | G | 49 | 52 | 49 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 12 |  |  |  |  |

**Latton.** NGR for village SU 091 955. Possibly attached to another main camp after 1945.

**1943** – listed with Italian pows – Latton, Swindon.

**Before September 1945** – listed as Latton, Swindon with 100 Italian pows.

**September 1945** – listed as a German hostel.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Latton |  | I |  | c.100 | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Lydiard Millicent**

Could have opened as early as 1943.

**15 September 1945** – listed as Lydiard Millicent, Swindon, Wilts as an Italian hostel.

Became Headquarters for Lydiard Millicent Camp 289.

**May 1947** – listed back as a hostel for Camp 25. English Inspector’s Report; “*This was the HQ of Camp 289 and numbers of students have fallen as a result of the camp closing down, but 100 more Ps/W are expected here shortly and classes will soon increase. They have their own library with 100 very good English books*.”

**June to December 1947** – Hostel leader Sondf. Alfred Briege (B+), aged 43, shoe merchant, married, atheist. “*Not a good type. Sly and opportunist*.” Press review and discussions fortnightly. Had a small choir.

**2 December 1947** – Lecturer’s report; the lecture was not given as not a single pow turned up, they were all busy making toys which they could sell prior to Christmas.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader Gefr. Georg Meyer (B+)

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Lydiard M. |  |  |  |  | I | Camp 289 | 124 | 160 | 110 | 102 | 99 | 54 |  |

**Marlborough (Elcot Lane).** NGR for Elcot Lane SU 198 691. 10 miles from main camp. Huts.

**1943** - Listed with Italian pows.

**9 August 1945** - Changed to a German pow hostel. 70 pows arrived, including 4 Austrians. Hostel leader: W/M Ernst Dicklberger, Austrian, “*a self-confessed anti-Nazi.”* No radio, newspapers, or books in the hostel.

**November 1946** – Lecturer’s report; all pows working at farms, living conditions satisfactory; morale not bad. Activities included language classes, football and chess.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader Feldw. Robert Lueth (B).

**May 1947** – Hostel leader said to be ‘obstructive’ to activities.

**June / September 1947** – Same leader.

Due to close 18 October.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Marlborough |  | I | I | I | 70 G |  | 130 | 134 | 133 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 114 | 110 |  |  |  |

**Over Norton.** 53 miles from main camp. Previously attached to Camps 31, 185 and 43. Huts.

Taken over as Harcourt Camp 43 closed down.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Over Norton |  |  |  |  | With C 31 > 185 > 43 | 165 |

**Purton.** Probably attached to another main camp before / after this entry. POW Hospital 160 was located in Purton.

**September 1945** – listed as an Italian hostel.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Purton |  |  |  |  | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- |
|  | **Shrivenham.** 9 miles from the main camp. Was Borgard Barracks Camp 695.Described from web entry as; *“a traditional square shape with four guard towers on each corner. Now, it’s the old guard room, west of the entrance roundabout.”**<* Picture of tents used by pows as a temporary measure.**September 1947** – Hostel leader Uffz Jaeger (B), aged 25, member of Hitler Youth 1938-39, but left on account of his connections with YMCA. “*A cheerful and helpful young man who approaches his job with honesty and enthusiasm*.”Not mentioned after this until January 1948**January 1948** – ‘Shrivenham hostel’ - described as newly opened, but was this the 1947 Shrivenham |
| “*The location of the tents that can be seen in the photos was along side the road that runs from Watchfield to Longcott where the military houses of Bower Green now stand*.” <http://www.shrivenhamheritagesociety.co.uk/listing.asp?listID=1007> (2 other pictures – show a line of pows and model village created alongside tents) |

hostel re-opened? Hostel leader Fw Walter Baumgarten (B-), aged 30, *“fairly intelligent and suitable for a small hostel*.”

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Shrivenham |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | C 695 | 40 |  |  | 96 | 100 |

**Snelsmore** - approximately 3.5 miles (5.6 km) north of Newbury. 11 miles from main camp. Huts.

**Before September 1945** – listed as ‘*W.D.Camp, Snelsmore, Newbury with Italian 100 pows*”

**September 1945** – listed as a German hostel.

**August 1946** – Pows mainly Sudetendeutsche - news from their homes in Germany was not getting through.

**October 1946** – all lessons cancelled for last two months due to harvest.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader Wachtm Hopfner (A)

**June 1947** – Hostel leader SOMasch Hubert Scheeren (B), aged 48, professional soldier then civil servant, married, RC, member of the NSDAP since 1937. “*Slow thinking man, older than his years. No political understanding at all.”*

**September / December 1947** – Hostel leader Fw Koch (B), mechanic. “*Cheerful and decent type.”* Contacts with local civilians in Newbury area. Regular news-sheets issued.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Snelsmore |  |  |  | c.100 | G |  | 101 | 89 | 98 | 96 | 100 | 99 | 64 | 57 | 63 |  |  |

**Stratton St Margaret (Swindon).** Previously Camp 638/674.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader Fw Andreas Koch (B), aged 28, previously leader at Snelsmore.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Stratton |  |  |  |  | Camp 638 /674 | 190 | 174 |

**Wormstall.** 6 miles from main camp. Huts.

**October 1946** – “*just opening”* – But almost certainly attached to another main camp before this – and possibly after.

**November 1946** – Lecturer’s report; the hostel was being used for pows who were “*not 100% fit”* - they only had ‘light duties’ on routine jobs and fatigues; no sports. Wooden huts were fairly comfortable. English classes and press reviews, but no wireless or films.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Numbers : I = Italian / G = German if known | All German |
| 1941 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 a | 1945 b | 1946 | 7/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Wormstall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |