**Camp 28** **- Garendon Park / Knighthorpe, Loughborough, Leicestershire (aka Knight Thorpe)**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 28. Knighthorpe Camp, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leics.

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| **1947 Camp List** | | | | | | | |
| 28(G.W.C.) | Knighthorpe Camp, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire. | N. | Priswar,Loughborough | Loughborough 2392 | Loughborough (LMS) | Lt.Col.E.A.Walmisley | 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 |
| SK 50 19 | 129 | 28 | Garendon Park, Loughborough | Leicestershire | 4 |  |  |
| SK 452 320 | Knighthorpe Camp (Knight Thorpe), Loughborough | 5 | German Working Camp |  |

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| Note – English Heritage have listed 2 camps at two different locations. However, the location details are inaccurate; the first NGR is just a general area; the second is for a location in Derbyshire, not Leicestershire, and is 16 km away from Loughborough.  **Location:**  1 location - 2 names; Garendon used during Italian phase, Knighthorpe in German phase.  NGR SK 505 191 for the pow camp which was marked as a ‘hostel’ in 1955. It was within Garendon Park, and the Lodge nearby was ‘Knight Thorpe’ - the road was Ashby Road, (now called Old Ashby Road). The camp was accessed by crossing the footbridge over the Charnwood Forest Railway. The map shows the footbridge, a main rectangular pow compound, with other huts and buildings for British administration and guards outside.  Garendon Hall was in the N part of the park, it was not part of the pow camp.  **Before the camp:** Part of large Garendon Park and estate.  **POW Camp:** It was established during 1941 to house Italian pows working on farms in the counties of Leicester, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland.  The war diary for August 1941 to April 1942 contains various references to visitors arriving at the camp, but does not give reasons or outcomes for the visits.  **28 July 1941** – War diary for ‘*28th POW Camp.’* The unit was formed at Hathern, Loughborough; about 3 km N of Garendon Park. No pows at this time.  Commandant: Capt A K G Cra’ster O.B.E. Interpreter: Lieut L C de Abela Borg |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

**2 August 1941** – Unit moved to Garendon Park. During the next few weeks, the camp was inspected for readiness.

**23 August 1941** – First pows arrived; 502 Italians. Tented accommodation.

**6 September 1941** – Camp Inspected by Sen. J De Sousa-Leon and Sen. G Barbara de-Silva from the Brazilian Embassy. Brazil acted as Protecting Power for Italy up to 1942.

**13 September 1941** – First consignment of huts arrived – **17th** arrival of bricks for foundations – **19th** layout of camp approved – **30th** posts for extending perimeter.

**30 September 1941** – The pows were found to be in generally satisfactory health apart from 1 or 2 cases of scabies and lice.

**4 October 1941** – All pows accommodated in huts. The guards were accommodated in huts by the end of the month. Additional huts were being built.

**6 October 1941** – 25 Italian pow tradesmen arrived.

**12 November 1941** – “*Three PsOW (Italian) killed in motor accident. Driver exonerated from all blame*.” The three killed were, Soldatos Antonio Fava; Umile Guzzo; Francesco Ilacqua. Their funeral was held on 17 November at Loughborough (Leicester Road) Cemetery. A letter of thanks and appreciation was sent by the pows for the funeral service.

**30 November 1941** – Hutted camp complete except for the Dining Hall and Guard Room.

**December 1941** – Lighting being installed, (completed February 1942); temporary paths laid down, and ablutions being constructed.

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|  | **1 January 1942** – The commandant was recorded as holding the rank of Major.  **14 January 1942** – An “*experimental*” hostel was established at Whissendine with 36 Italian pows. It was recorded as working successfully.  **31 January 1942** – Roads and parade ground under construction; Ablutions still in progress.  **3 February 1942** – A new commandant – Major G J F Leonard.  **28 February 1942** – Perimeter wire extended.  **10 April 1942** – A new commandant – Captain F A Hanson  There are no further War Diaries for the camp in the National Archive files.  **1943** – Hostels listed for Italians – Shellbrook; Sutton Cheney; Rosliston.  **May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Northern Command area (+Pioneer Corps Groups), (WO 32/10737).  **1945** – German pows arrive; Italians placed in hostels or billets, then repatriated. |
| November 1942 pow postcard – no address allowed, just a number. |

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 mentioned welfare, sports, games, pastimes, crafts, etc of the pows.

PID reports for German Working Camp 28 use either ‘Knight Thorpe’ or ‘Knighthorpe.’ My guess is that Knight Thorpe Lodge was requisitioned as the administrative / postal centre for Camp 28 that was within Garendon Park – hence the 2 names for 1 location.

**2/3 July 1945** – Report by Mr James Grant, English Language Inspector – note this was only regarding German pows. There were 5 beginner and 2 advanced classes with 270 pows learning English. Other education courses included French, Russian, chess, mathematics, Latin, technical drawing and book-keeping.

**28 October 1945** – A report was made by a Capt Batlett – it is missing from the file, but referred to in a later report. It detailed how all badges of rank had been voluntarily removed by the pows in an attempt to develop democratic decision making.

**December 1945** – a later report stated that the camp was taken over by German pows from the Italians. Some Italians remained for a few months until repatriated.

Camps were the responsibility of the War Office, and pows were retained in this country primarily to increase the labour force. Many commandants were apathetic towards ‘re-education’ activities, which were largely developed by the Foreign Office. There was no compulsion on commandants to use British staff to promote these activities. If the commandant did not support them it was up to the pows to provide their own in limited form. There were several camps where the commandant did not support re-education, but which were still regarded as excellent camps as they actively supported the pows’ welfare, social life, sports and entertainment. Unfortunately, this was not the case for Camp 28 under its new commandant.

**3-4 January 1946** – Visit by English Inspector, Mr Dadley-Potter. The visitor tested and instructed the pow teachers. There is a passing mention of a hostel at Ticknall.

The new commandant, Lt Col Walmisley, insisted that badges of rank had to be worn and ‘political’ actions, (i.e. democratic decision making in the camp) were halted.

**11/14 April 1946** – F/Lt E W Hooton-Smith made a progress report on re-education; selected candidates for the special training camp; and selected candidates for a travelling theatre group. Strength – 2 Officers (the M.O.s); 1380 O.R. – at the main camp + 2 hostels.

Commandant: Lt Col E A Walmisley Camp leader: O/Fwl Reininger (B)

Interpreters: S/Sgt F A Claire Deputy C/L: Fwl Bill (B)

S/Sgt H Glatt German M.O.: Oberst/Arzt Laun (A); St/Arzt Kutsch (ungraded).

The commandant was reported as supportive of re-education – this opinion soon changed. S/Sgt Claire, the senior interpreter – *“hard-working and conscientious in his duties, but by no means brilliant; he had however a good knowledge of the PWs of the camp and hostels.”* S/Sgt Glatt was “*satisfactory*.”

The camp leader; “*lacks the qualities of leadership and energy*,” he was due to be repatriated on medical grounds, (left June 1946). It was later reported that he was a member of the S.A. and had an adverse affect on the camp and its activities.

General morale was low, the main reasons given were: length of captivity and news from Germany. 295 pows had been transferred from camps in Canada and if these were similar to other groups, many would have been politically Category C, Nazis. There was also a small intake of 30 pows from the USA, their morale was usually very low as they had been misinformed in the States that they were to be returned to Germany.

About 40% of the pows had not been politically graded. A small group of communists was noted, but they were not regarded as a problem.

About 25% of the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25), they were not regarded as a problem. The German PW deacon held religious lectures and Bible classes for the youth pows.

There was slow progress developing re-education activities – farm and land work took priority. The standard list was given:

Wochenpost – 350 received regularly. Ausblick separate appendix.

Newspapers – paid for from the Welfare Fund (profit from canteen sales); a wide range of British newspapers. 4-5 German newspapers received. 0 Swiss papers since February.

Library – 700 books.

Lectures – a regular programme.

Films – PID documentary films fortnightly; YMCA entertainment films only 6-7 weeks. The were problems showing films in the hostels.

Wireless – set installed in the camp leader’s office + 3 loudspeakers. Sets in each hostel.

Camp newspaper – issued fortnightly, ‘*Lagerecho*’ (Camp Echo).

English Instruction – 70/80 pupils at 2 levels.

Other activities -

Religion – Protestant deacon, Hornung, held weekly services in the main camp and at least fortnightly at the hostels + various classes. 1/3 of pows were RC, but no priest.

Education – held in just 2 huts which was inadequate. A lack of text books.

Theatre Group – Energetic with 16 players. Nothing was noted about the visitor’s unusual search for travelling theatre group candidates.

Orchestra – piano, cello, 2 violins, saxophone, accordion, etc. “*Good and gives frequent concerts, chiefly light music.”*

Choir – “*quite a good camp choir.”*

5 candidates were recommended for the special training camp, (Wilton Park Camp 300).

**17/19 July 1946** – Mr Dadley-Potter, English Inspector, returned. Strength 2828 – in main, 9 hostels and billets. 7 English classes for 2 lessons per week with 146 pows.

300 pows in the main camp were temporarily accommodated in tents. There was a new lagersprecher (Camp leader) – ‘Benner.’

**< 1946** – Bridge by Shepshed Water Mill, about 3km NW of the camp.

**9 September 1946** – General survey by L P D Cooper. Strength 2 officers; 1946 O.R. (main + 5 hostels and billets).

Commandant: Lt Col E A Walmisley Camp leader: O/Wm Ernst Benner (A)

Interpreters: S/Sgt H Glatt [previously deputy] Deputy C/L: Gefr. Witte (A+) [new]

S/Sgt McAllister [new] German M.O.: Oberst/Arzt Laun (A); St/Arzt Dr.Fischbach [new]

Despite a previous request, still only just over 50% of the pows had been politically screened. A general survey estimated that 50% of the pows were ‘C’, Nazis - the overall grade for the camp was grey/black.

Morale was regarded as good in the main camp, but not in the hostels which needed better amenities and re-education activities. Slow repatriation was the main negative factor.

The standard list of re-education activities was very similar to the last; changes - a discussion group had started; YMCA films were every 3 weeks, including the hostels except Staunton Harold; 8 loudspeakers around the camp.

Other activities – little change; a RC priest from Loughborough attended weekly.

**21 September / 13 October 1946** – Various days; political screening and a general report was made by 2 members of the ‘Segregation Section.’ Strength; 2 officers, 1497 OR.

The only change to senior personnel was a new deputy camp leader: Fw. Franz Becker (C).

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| Political screening | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown | TOTAL |
| for the main camp: | 6 | 67 | 0 | 146 | 439 | 50 | 82 | 2 | 0 | 792 |

The report on the regime within the camp was largely negative - “*The camp has been organised on strong military lines…* *not a flicker of political interest… general apathy… authoritarian… no proper encouragement…”*

The Commandant was described as; *“a strict disciplinarian who runs the camp very efficiently from the Labour point of view. He is well satisfied with the work done by his prisoners but is critical in respect of innovations likely to interfere with man-power and output, such as the intended segregation of young prisoners in special ‘Youth Camps’….”*

The camp leader, Benner, aged 31, was described as; “*an anti-Nazi with clean record and socialist background. Anxious to organise the camp on democratic lines as he did at Camp 166, he is full of good ideas and schemes… However, most of his projects remain on paper, for his principal concern is to avoid all possible friction with the British staff in order not to ‘get into trouble’*.”

Deputy leader, Becker, aged 32 – “*also in charge of the camp police. This man has no Nazi record and I would consider him to be anti-Nazi though not a very active one. His chief aim is the smooth running of the camp on military lines according to the wishes of the commandant*…” The C grade of this man was questioned and was later altered to B.

The German doctor, Fischbach, aged 29, had been a member of the SA, but had since; “*realised the falsehood of Nazi doctrines.”* He was; *“considered a nuisance by the Camp Commandant who wishes to get rid of him because of his leniency with Ps.W. who report sick and also because he has recommended too many for medical repatriation.*” He was not listed in the next report.

One of the pows, Oberfaehnrich Stefan Lorenz (A) was on the Crowcass List of suspected war criminals.

Youth problem – Over 50% of the pows were under 25, this included boys of 17 – 19 years old; *“who had been forcibly conscripted into the Waffen SS at an even earlier age during the last months of the war (all boys over 6 feet were automatically sent to the SS troops). The collapse of Hitlerism has left a void in their mind and this has not yet been filled with any positive ideal.”* 73 were recommended to attend the special youth camp. Many of these pows were classed as B- or C meaning they would have late repatriations, causing them more dissatisfaction.

Re-education activities and education in general was regarded as poor. It was stated there was a lack of books and teaching texts in the main camp and hostels - only 200 books in the library, (April 1946 stated 700) – the commandant agreed to allow the purchase of 200 more from Welfare Funds. The camp magazine had reduced to monthly editions due to lack of paper. There was a lack of other equipment and items such as footballs.

Religion – Protestant padre Obergefreiter Richard Hornung (A), aged 43. “*He is not a strong personality and his religious services are not well attended*.” He had previously been described as working with youth pows, this report comments; “*He is unable to find the solution to the existing Youth problem.”*

Despite previous recommendations, there was still no RC priest for the 40% Catholic pows. Spiritual welfare was administered in the main camp by Obergefreiter Johannes Kloss (A+) –“*by far the best influence in the camp*.” It was suggested that he be employed as a lay-priest on full time duty (he was working at farms) and let him assist at hostels – the commandant agreed, but there is no further mention of this in any report.

Theatre / Orchestra – group of 12 actors. Orchestra played every Sunday and visited hostels. “*The director in charge is a medical student aged 26, Unteroffizier Gnuechtel (C), an innocuous Nazi… Refuses to play modern pieces which he considers probably as ‘Kultur-Bolschewismus’…* [Cultural Bolshevism] *Narrow minded, with reactionary views, he should be replaced as soon as possible…*”

The visitors were clearly very unhappy with the morale and political progress in the camp – “*Authoritarian principles should be abandoned” –* this was ignored.

**31 October 1946** – English Inspector’s Report by Cap J l Martin. Total strength 1468 – in main, 5 hostels and billets.

4 English classes with 43 pows; numbers declining as pow teachers were repatriated. Other language classes had ended.

**24 December 1946** – Re-education and general survey by L P D Cooper. Strength – 1 officer; 1277 O.R.

Commandant: Lt Col E A Walmisley Camp leader: Fw Franz Becker (B) [was deputy]

Interpreters: S/Sgt H Glatt Deputy C/L: -

German M.O.: Oberst/Arzt Laun (A); U/Arzt Rommel (B) [new]

Simplified screening – A 9; B 1133; C 136.

Many aspects of this report are at variance with the previous general report and the next. Mr Cooper laid the blame for lack of progress on the pows inability – no comment at all was made about the regime within the camp. A remarkable statement was made about discussion groups – “*None have been held so far as the standard of intelligence does not lend itself to discussions*.”

Morale was regarded as good – “*The troublemakers were removed some time ago.”* This visitor stated the youth pows were not a problem. There was little change in any re-education activity. 400 books were recorded in the library.

Religion – Protestants as before. RC pows were able to attend church in Loughborough.

Theatre – “*There is an entire lack of theatrical interest in the camp*.” This may be down to the removal of the previous theatre group leader. Orchestra – 9 members.

**16 April 1947** – L P D Cooper returned for another re-educational survey. Strength – 1 officer; 1771 O.R.

Changes to senior personnel – additional interpreter: S/Sgt Peters and Deputy C/L: Fw Rabe.

There were major changes in the reporting by Mr Cooper since his last report in December:

*“The commandant is not in the least interested in re-education, moreover he maintains excessive discipline which has an adverse effect on morale*.”

“*The camp leader and his deputy… carry out their duties efficiently*.”

“*Morale is adversely affected by the severe discipline imposed by the C.O. The Ps.W meet others from neighbouring camps and hear how much freer the conditions are compared with their own camp*.”

“*There is no marked political interest. The majority of the PsW were originally land workers and possess no special political conviction*.”

The visitor maintained that youth pows were not a problem – though no special provision was provided for them.

Work on developing re-education was stated as making a good effort with the materials available. However, in comparison to many other camps its progress was very poor. There is no mention of news reviews, information room, or outside contacts in the standard list given:

Newspapers – adequate.

Library – adequate.

Lectures – After a two month gap, a lecture was held 4 weeks earlier. “*More regular lectures would be welcome*.”

Discussion groups – fortnightly; attendance had fallen due to longer working hours, but between 12-20 attended.

Films – YMCA and Gaumont British monthly, including the hostels.

Wireless – A set controlled in Camp leader’s office – loudspeakers in main huts. BBC Pow broadcasts listened to regularly.

Camp magazine – Original articles and translations from the press. Copies sent to the hostels.

English instruction – 59 pupils at three levels. Classes in all hostels except Staunton.

Other activities –

Religion – no change.

Education – bookkeeping, carpentry, plumbing, etc in the main camp and larger hostels.

Entertainments – no theatre group due to repatriations. 5 pows met to read plays. Orchestra down to 4 members, and a shortage of instruments – they gave occasional short music evening performances.

**4/6 July 1947** – English Inspector’s Report by Mr P Donovan. Strength – 2048 in main, 1 satellite, 6 hostels and billets.

A new commandant – Lt Col. J L Lotinga.

Classes were affected by repatriations. There were also more relaxed rules for pows which allowed greater contact with civilians and going out of the camp after work – many preferred this than attending lessons.

**23 July 1947** – L P D Cooper conducted another re-education survey. Strength 3 officers, 2104 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col J L L Lotinga M.C. Camp leader: Fw Becker (B)

Interpreter: S/Sgt H Glatt Deputy C/L: Fw Bohlmeyer (B)

German M.O.: O/Arzt Schreiner (B+) / O/Arzt Bussmann (B-)

The new commandant had no previous experience in pow camps, however, he was regarded as a; “*marked improvement on his predecessor*.” He showed a keen interest in re-education, (this opinion to be revised a few months later).

The interpreter, who had been at the camp since at least April 1946, was described as; “*not particularly good, and does not take any real interest in re-education*.”

The new Deputy C/L, aged 27, had been a member of the Hitler Youth, called up in 1939 – “*He is very intelligent and is responsible for most of the educational activity in the camp.”*

Morale had greatly improved – “*The petty tyranny that was found so irksome by the Ps/W has been abolished and the outlook for the future is distinctly lighter.*”

Religion – protestants no change; RC a priest from Camp 58 visited once a month for 3 or 4 days.

**23 – 27 September 1947** – L P D Cooper conducted yet another re-education survey. Strength – 3 officers; 1895 OR.

Sections of the report were just repeated comments from his last report.

There was a new camp leader, Ogefr Josef Schenzer (B). He had been the leader of the Satellite camp at Weston since October 1946 – aged 39, *“efficient and reliable… was a barge skipper on the Rhine… never in the party and has no strong political convictions… typical seaman, a good type.”* The previous leader became the leader of the satellite camp.

Doctor Schreiner – “*joined the SA in 1933. The typical German Doctor Type*…” [?!]

Simplified screening – A 3; B 1895. The pows were working long hours during the harvest.

Re-education activities were very similar to before. There had been a very large increase in books for the library sent from Switzerland – nearly 3300 altogether. An Information Room had been started with press cuttings and exhibition materials from PID about the ‘Reconstruction of Germany.’

One of the key positive factors for morale and attitudes towards the British was developing outside contacts. For Camp 28 there was minimal effort to establish these - about 20 pows visited Loughborough College, small parties attended Council offices, Council meetings and Civil courts. Later, there were limited links with local Toc H groups. The pows created their own links with local families and at the farms where they worked.

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

**15/17 November 1947** – English Inspector’s Report by P Donovan.

Camp leader – Josef Schenzer (previously deputy). 3 classes with just 25 pupils.

**16-20 December 1947** – L P D Cooper returned for another re-education survey. Strength 2 officers; 1510 OR.

Only change to senior personnel; M.O. O/Arzt Bussmann replaced by U/Arzt Wilhelm Vinke (B) – aged 32, ex-member of the Hitler Youth, “*He is the usual German army doctor, efficient in his work, but not a particularly pleasing personality.”*

Previous comments about the commandant were revised; “*Neither the commandant nor his staff are interested in re-education*.”

The interpreter was due to be demobbed. His successor was known by the visitor to be even less interested in re-education.

Morale was recorded as generally good. The main negative effects were waiting for repatriation; news from home, especially from the eastern provinces; winter weather – “*due to huts being unheated.”* I am not sure if this was a temporary matter, or if it was not considered cold enough - it is certainly very unusual for a pow camp.

Very small groups from the main camp visited Loughborough or Stamford College, Magistrates court, monthly council meetings, Toc H. There was even less provision for the hostels. The Chief Constable of Derby had been contacted by Mr Cooper and was willing to arrange for various further activities and pow visits.

The standard list of re-education activities showed little change, but they were being affected by increasing repatriations.

Religion – the protestant padre had been repatriated. A padre from Camp 9 visited, and a priest from camp 58.

The 6 member orchestra and the choir were regarded as good.

**26-28 January 1948** – Mr Cooper’s final visit to conduct another re-education survey. Strength 1 officer; 1781 OR.

The new interpreter, S/Sgt McDonald had arrived. S/Sgt Glatt was still recorded. There was a new deputy camp leader; O/Gefr Rudi Buchnald (B) aged 24.

Mr Cooper despaired over the lack of effort of the British staff for re-education. The contacts he had established with the Chief Constable of Derby had not been followed up, as promised by the commandant.

Morale was still good due to more rapid repatriations.

**15/17 March 1948** – W G W Aston carried out a re-education assessment and reviewed cultural contacts. Strength 0 officers; 985 OR. The camp was being disbanded.

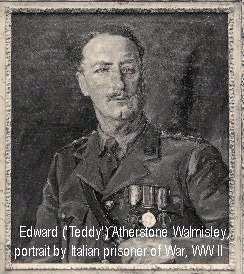
Most camps in 1948 had a survey of pow outlook – they were largely pointless and too late to have any effect. They were carried out with selections of pows in a non-scientific manner. Sometimes whole groups of pows were simply asked to put up their hands to the questions, being assured they were, “*an anonymous crowd.*” In many cases it became a free-for-all to raise personal grudges. All surveys seen for other camps gave %’s of the pows’ views about the British – Camp 28’s report did not even do that, it just gave a rambling review with a few comments thrown in from individual pows.

No resettlement officers had visited this camp – the pows were unaware that such officials existed.

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

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Main | 502 | ? | ? | 1244\* | 1386 | 1318\* | 801 | 763\* | 719\* | 813 | 828\* | 612 | 809\* | 1174\* | 877 |
| Whissendine |  | 36 | With C94/10 (to at least 4/47) | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rosliston |  |  | ? |  | 60 |  |  |  | 73 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shellbrook |  |  | ? | With C152 | 69 | 66 | 59 | 58 | 53 | 54 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sutton C- |  |  | ? | With C152 | 62 | 63 | 59 | 55 | 43 | 41 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ticknall |  |  |  | 70 | 217 |  |  |  | 189 | 221 | 205 | 183 | 184 | 155 |  |
| Bladon Castle |  |  |  |  | 133 |  |  |  | 74 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enderby |  |  |  | With C94 | 339 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Peckleton |  |  |  | With C94 | | 215 | 193 | 187 | 132 | 114 | 25 |  |  |  |  |
| Shenton |  |  |  | 68 | 165 | 161 | 139 | 122 | 91 | 124 | 120 | 104 |  |  |  |
| Staunton H- |  |  |  |  | 152 | 125 | 102 | 93 | 62 | 163 | 199 | 160 |  |  |  |
| Witherley |  |  |  |  | 253 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weston (Sat) |  |  |  | See C 407 | | | | | 336 | 404 | 371 | 316 | 297 | 382 |  |
| Derby ORC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With C58 | | 150 | 236 | 222 | 71 |  |
| Billets |  |  |  |  | 152 |  | 115 |  |  | 114 |  | 104 |  |  | 108 |
| Total | 502 | ? | ? | 1382 | 2828 \*\* | 1948 | 1468 | 1278 | 1772 | 2048 | 1898 | 1715 | 1512 | 1782 | 985 |

\*Including billetees. \*\*Total of recorded figures comes to 2988 = 160 too many on total strength (probably 152 billetees included in main camp number).

****Known Commandants:

1941 - 1942: Capt / Major A K G Cra’ster O.B.E. from the E Surrey Regiment.

1942 - 1942: Major G J F Leonard – from the 4th E Anglia.

1942 - ?: Captain F A Hanson

< January 1946 - 1947: Lieutenant Colonel Edward Atherstone Walmisley. The Queen’s Regiment, then transferred to the Pioneer Corps. Short biography – <http://www.theauxiliaries.com/men-alphabetical/men-w-x-y-z/walmisley-ea/ea-walmisley.html>

1947 - 1948 Lt Col J L Lotinga from the Royal Fusiliers.

**After the camp**: The railway closed in 1963. The hall was demolished in 1964. The site of the camp is now a residential area.

The site as it is now - <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-east-midlands/pow-camp-28-knighthorpe-garendon-park/>

**Further information:**

National Archives – FO 939/112 – 28 Working Camp, Knight Thorpe Camp, Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire – used above.

WO 166/10297 – 28 Prisoner of War Camp at Garendon Park (Loughborough) – dated 1942 Jan-Apr – used above.

WO 166/ 5980 – Miscellaneous: Prisoners of War Camps: 28 Prisoner of War Camp at Garendon Park (Loughborough). Prisoners included Italians. 25 Italian tradesmen arrived 6 November 1941. 3 Italians killed in a motor accident 12 November 1941. – Dated 1941 Aug-Dec – used above.

The IWM has a copy of the camp magazine dated January 1947. Ref LBY E.J. 374.

**SATELLITE CAMP.**

**Weston** –10 miles from the main camp. Previously main camp at Weston on Trent, Derbyshire – see Camp 407.

**September 1947** – C.O. Captain Gregory, previously Interpreter Officer at Camp 196. Hostel leader; Fw Becker (B); previously leader at the main camp.

Had an active theatre group. 50 pows were studying English. There was an ‘Information Room’ which displayed news and exhibitions. Concerts were given at the camp by the Salvation Army. The football team played against local sides. Boxing matches were popular. RC Priest visited weekly from Derby.

**December 1947** – leader Fw Reimann (B+).

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Weston (Sat) |  |  |  | See C407 | | | | | 336 | 404 | 371 | 316 | 297 | 382 |  |

**HOSTELS**

**Bladon Castle.** 20 Miles from the main camp.

Built 1795 - part folly, part country house. NGR SK 2698 2507

Probably attached to a different camp before these entries, and from July 1946 to April 1947 as there was no further listing until;

**April 1947** – Leader Uffz Dietrich (B).

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Bladon Castle |  |  |  |  | 133 |  |  |  | 74 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Derby Old Race Course.** 15 miles from the main camp. Huts.

NGR for centre of course – SK 362 372. The course closed in 1939. In 1942 the owners, Derby Racecourse Company, were told by the town council that the lease would not be renewed. Used by the Royal Artillery and as an anti-aircraft gun site.

Previously attached to Nether Heage Camp 58

**September 1947** – Leader Fw Roock (B)

**December 1947** – same leader.

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Derby ORC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With C58 | | 150 | 236 | 222 | 71 |  |

**Enderby.** 19 miles from the main camp.

Previously a hostel for Gaulby Camp 94.

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Enderby |  |  |  | With C94 | 339 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

May have become a hostel for Estonian refugees / workers.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Peckleton.** About 20 miles from the main camp.  Previously with Gaulby Road Camp 94. Local memories place the camp at the site marked (NGR SK 472 010), BUT in one report the hostel was listed as a ‘building’ rather than huts.  **September 1946** – First reported with Knighthorpe  **October 1946** – Hostel leader Obergefreiter Kurt Troeger (B), aged 30, former druggist, nominal Nazi party member since 1939. He was not regarded as suitable.  *“This hostel is the most backward from the political point of view.”* 126 of 198 pows were under 25 years old.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Screening | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown | TOTAL | | October 1946 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 62 | 91 | 15 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 198 |   **December 1946 and April 1947** – despite the recommendation, the hostel had the same leader.  **September 1947** – leader Fw Siepe (B) |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Peckleton |  |  |  | With C94 | | 215 | 193 | 187 | 132 | 114 | 25 |  |  |  |  |

**Rosliston.** 20 miles from the main camp. Huts.

**1943** – listed for Italian pows.

**July 1946** – Hostel due to be transferred to another camp. German pows.

No further mention until –

**April 1947** – Leader Fw Lambrecht.

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Rosliston |  |  | ? |  | 60 |  |  |  | 73 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

After the end of the war the camp was used to accommodate Polish servicemen.

**Shellbrook.** 9 miles from the main camp. Huts.

**1943** - listed for Italian pows.

Transferred to Camp 152 with Sutton Cheney hostel.

**July 1946** – listed as transferred back from Camp 152.

**October 1946** – Leader Gefreiter Heinrich Meyer, (A), aged 43 – “*excellent… ex-syndic of a big industrial concern, a former judge who was dismissed by the Nazis.”*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown | TOTAL |
| October 1946 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 26 | 5 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 61 |

**December 1946** – New leader, Fw Max Zurek (B)

**April 1947** – Leader Uffz Pelz (B)

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Shellbrook |  |  | ? | With C152 | 69 | 66 | 59 | 58 | 53 | 54 |  |  |  |  |  |



**Shenton (Hall).** Approximately 17 miles from the main camp. NGR SK 387 002.

Possibly attached to another camp prior to 1946.

**April 1946** – Hostel leader – O/Wmstr E Benner (A), previously a hostel leader at Wollaton Park Camp 166 – “*very satisfactory.”*

**October 1946** – Leader Oberfunkmeister Otto Hecklau (B), aged 32 – “*Nondescript, unpolitical type. No initiative*.” The visitor suggested another pow should be leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Screening | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown | TOTAL |
| October 1946 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 23 | 95 | 8 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 146 |

**December 1946** – same leader.

**April 1947** – Leader Fw Glockner (B)

**September 1947** – Leader Uffz Peltz (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Shenton |  |  |  | 68 | 165 | 161 | 139 | 122 | 91 | 124 | 120 | 104 |  |  |  |

**Staunton Harold.** (Hall). 8 miles from the main camp.

After being requisitioned it was recorded as a barracks for British troops and then holding Italian pows so it must have been linked to a different main camp prior to July 1946, possibly as early as 1943:

Memories - “*…1943 or 1944 when she had lodged for a week in what was then the stables, now the Ferrers Centre. She was one of a dozen members of the Girls Training Corps, a junior section of the WRENS. They were sixteen or seventeen years old and were there at the same time as a group of Italian prisoners, who she remembers singing operatic songs, something they hadn’t heard before. We must assume they were well chaperoned!”*

<https://www.stauntonharoldestate.co.uk/staunton-harold-bulletin-november-2019/>

**September 1946** – “*Lacks electricity*.”

**October 1946** – Hostel leader Obergefreiter Walter Hucke, (Hocke?) aged 28 – “*Although he has no party record and is an ex member of the S.A.J. (Socialist Youth Organisation) he has recently been graded ‘C’… Complete lack of initiative although the hostel is a good one owing to the beneficial influence of one of the English teachers, Soldat Werner Engel (A+).”* Morale was low as most of the pows were from US Camps and were “*embittered by promises of repatriation”* – made incorrectly in the States. Conditions were also poor with no lighting, heating or books being recorded.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Political screening | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown | TOTAL |
| October 1946 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 30 | 56 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 112 |

**December 1946** – **April 1947** – Same leader. It was expected to close in April as it was unsuitable with no electric light or gas. Not only did it not close – it expanded.

**September 1947** – Same leader

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Staunton H- |  |  |  |  | 152 | 125 | 102 | 93 | 62 | 163 | 199 | 160 |  |  |  |

< Covers produced by Robert Jennings (aka Roberta Louise Jennings 1919-2018) who was based at Staunton Harold. The collection was sold in 2022 – they appear to be in English, so were they produced for the guards?

<https://www.harboroughmail.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/retro/rare-set-of-wwii-magazines-produced-at-leicestershire-prisoner-of-war-camp-will-be-offered-for-sale-in-harborough-3678164>

The Hall was left in a very bad state and the family was forced to sell it not long after.

The site as it is today -

<https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-east-midlands/pow-hostel-28-staunton-harold-hall/>

**Sutton Cheney.** 18 miles from the main camp. Huts.

**1943** – listed for Italian pows.

Transferred to Camp 152 with Shellbrook hostel.

**July 1946** – listed as transferred back from Camp 152.

**October 1946** – Leader Stabsfeldwebel Gerhard Heinrich – *“a bank clerk and regular soldier since 1931. No nazi record. Unpolitical type, graded C in 1945, upgraded B at this visit. Gives English lessons and holds a press review*.”

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown | TOTAL |
| October 1946 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 26 | 8 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 63 |

**December 1946** – same leader.

**April 1947** – Leader Ogefr. Schenze (B)

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Sutton C- |  |  | ? | With C152 | 62 | 63 | 59 | 55 | 43 | 41 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Ticknall.** Approx 13 miles from the main camp. Huts.

**December 1945** - Listed as being opened.

**January 1946** – German pows

**April 1946** – Hostel leader – Gfr Meyer (B), was previously leader at Shenton Hall Hostel – “*satisfactory*.”

**July 1946** – Hostel due to be transferred to another camp.

No mention until –

**April 1947** – Leader Uffz Erdmann (A); he held a fortnightly discussion group.

**September 1947** – Uffz Kiesow (B)

**December 1947** – same leader

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Ticknall |  |  |  | 70 | 217 |  |  |  | 189 | 221 | 205 | 183 | 184 | 155 |  |

**Whissendine.** NGR SK 825 146.

**January 1942** – Started as an experimental hostel with 36 Italian pows attached to Garendon Park Camp 28.

Further details on other pages:

**1943 – 1945** Listed with Gaulby Road Camp 94 – Italian pows.

**1946** – Listed with Stamford Camp 10 – German pows.

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Whissendine |  | 36 | With C94/10 (to at least 4/47) | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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**Witherley.** (Hall) 22 miles from the main camp. NGR SP 325 976.

Probably attached to a different main camp before / after this entry.

In 1940 the Hall was requisitioned by the army. It accommodated Dunkirk evacuees and the Liverpool Scottish Regiment. Nissen Huts were erected on the back lawn and in 1943 the Royal Pioneer Corps came to Witherley Hall to guard prisoners of war.

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|  | 8/41 | 1/42 | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Witherley |  |  |  |  | 253 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |