**Camp 32** **- Scrubs Lane Camp, Shepherds Bush, London W12 (aka Scrubbs / Wormwood Scrubs Camp)**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 32. Scrubbs Lane, Shepherds Bush, London W12

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| **1947 Camp list** |
| 32(G.W.C.) | Scrubbs Lane Camp, Scrubbs Lane, Shepherds Bush, London, W.12. | LD. | Prislab, Chisk, London | Shepherds Bush3753 & 2655 | Wood Lane (Central) Willesden Junc. (L.M.S.) | Lt.Col.R.E.M.Cherry 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 |
| TQ 22 81 | 176 | 32 | Wormwood Scrubbs, (Scrubbs Lane Camp), Shepherds Bush, London W12 | London | 5 | German Working Camp |  |

All entries above refer to Scru**bb**s – map entries etc., use Scru**b**s.

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| --- | --- |
| **Location:** Wormwood Scrubs is an open space, common land. During the war it is recorded that the prison was taken over by the War Department. Prisoners were moved out and the prison building was used by MI5 and MI8.There is no reference to Wormwood Scrubs Prison being used as a pow camp, but only to Scrubs Lane or Wormwood Scrubs, the road / area. A report stated that the camp was located on Wood Lane. Probably in the parkland where Wood Lane and Scrubs Lane meet.Note there was the HQ site at Wood Lane; but also, nearby hostels recorded as ‘Scrubs Lane’ and ‘Shepherds Bush.’**POW Camp**: Italian, and later German pows.**15 April 1944** – In the report of May 1946 below, it was stated that the camp opened on this date.**1 August 1945** - an urgent memorandum was sent to this camp, and others, about maintaining records of Italians who were classed as ‘co-operators’. At this point many, sometimes all, of the Italian pows were in hostels / billets. Italian mail seen for September 1945.< Single ring cachet 1946Oversight and development of re-education activities and English 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.**March 1946** – first German pows arrive. Camp still listed as an Italian Labour Battalion. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1951 |

**4 April 1946 –** General survey. 1st visit from a member of PID. Total strength; 0 Officers, 262 OR., all German. NOTE Italian pows were not counted in this report.

*“HQ and one Italian hostel are situated in Wood Lane… The Italian hostels are scattered over an area extending from Walham Green and Islington in central London to the northern and western outskirts. The Italians will be replaced by Germans by the end of this summer.”*

Commandant: Lt Col (R E M) Cherry M.C. Lagerfűhrer (Camp leader): Not recorded.

Interpreter: Capt. E J Donovan German MO: None.

The commandant appeared interested in re-education, (an opinion soon revised). He was able to speak some Schwyzer Deutsch.

The interpreter spoke Italian and some German.

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| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | Unscreened |
|  | 8 | 11 | 184 | 40 | 18 | 1 |

Morale was regarded as ‘fair.’ Living conditions were improving, but there was alack of activity. News that Russia had commenced releasing some pows caused discontent – ironic considering how long it took the USSR to release all the German pows who survived their regime. Communism or Nazism was not observed in the main camp.

The standard list of re-education activities was given, but it was very basic – no lectures, discussion groups, camp magazine, or English classes. There were plans for press reviews, but the leading pow was a suspected Nazi.

Only British newspapers from the Officers’ Mess were received at the hostels. The library had just 73 books sent by PID. Films only from the YMCA. The wireless was satisfactory, but the pows had not managed to locate the broadcast by Hamburg Radio.

Other activities were in a similar undeveloped state – no general classes or theatre. Four musicians, but no instruments. Catholics were able to attend a local church, but there was no provision for protestants.

**12 May 1946** – English Inspector’s Report.

The Lagerfűhrer was recorded as; [St.Fw Gerhard] ‘Albrecht’; later noted as; “*Efficient non-political professional soldier*.”

Details recorded – total strength 800 pows; 300 of which were Germans in the main camp. All accommodated in huts. No library. No classes. Lights out - 10:15.

Most of the German pows had been sent from camps in the USA where they had mistakenly been informed that they were to be returned to Germany - morale was consequently low. More pows were expected soon.

**15 – 22 July 1946** – Members of the ‘Segregation Section’ carried out political screening. Total strength; 2 officers, 1240 O.R. (1 Austrian, the rest German). HQ site + 11 hostels. Not known if any Italian pows were still attached to this camp.

The 2 officers were the German M.O. – Stabsarzt Dr Schack (B+) “*Anti-Nazi, but not very active*”; and the dentist – O/Stabsarzt Haas (B) “*Not quite as white as reputed.”*

Change of opinion about the commandant – “*personally friendly and charming, did not strike us as being interested in either the complexion, screening or re-education*.” It was recommended in writing to the commandant that three hostel leaders be replaced; “*but seems unlikely to do anything about it himself.”*

The camps were the responsibility of the War Office, their main functions were to accommodate pows and provide a labour force. Re-education was under the direction of the Foreign Office; commandants were not required to develop their activities – and many did not. If the commandants concerned themselves instead with welfare, sports, work and other activities, a camp could still be very good – though some did not do this either.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening for camp + hostels: | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Not known | Hosp/Det |
| 2 | 27 | - | 137 | 462 | 342 | 195 | 51 | - | 26 |

A high number of ‘black’ (C / C+) graded pows – “*usually ‘Americans’ recently arrived in this country* [i.e. from camps in the US] *and/or U-Boat volunteers.”* Although it was noted that some allowance needed to be made for the bitterness caused by the misinformation they had received about going home – “*Their fanaticism, stupidity and ignorance is something which must be seen to be believed.”*

In the US, some pows had completed a certificated 14 hour course about the American constitution and civic rights – this was carried out by ‘written interrogation’ and the value was doubted. However, the visitors bemoaned the lack of any re-education the pows had received in the UK.

Educational standards were regarded as low – “*90% of the pows are labourers, artisans or peasants*.”

The three nearby sites at HQ, Shepherds Bush and Scrubs Lane were described as politically “*stagnant*” with a danger of a number of pows “*slipping back into black.”*

Main recommendation; that the majority of C/C+ pows be removed.

**2 August 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Just 2 classes with 37 pupils in the main camp, other classes in the hostels except Boreham Wood. Some pows studied privately.

**18 March 1947** – Re-education survey. Strength; 11 officers (9 at Brondesbury), 1553 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col R E M Cherry M.C. Camp leader: St/Fw Albrecht (B+) – no deputy.

Interpreter: Capt. E J Donovan / S/Sgt Zlodnicki (or Zlotnicki) German MO: Stabsarzt Hanow (B-)

The commandant seemed to have had a change of attitude to re-education, he; “*showed every interest in the arrangements now made, and promised full support*.”

The camp leader was described as; “*Efficient, cheerful, reliable; protégé of Skeffington-Lodge, M.P. for Hammersmith who is striving to get him repatriated.”* This must have been Thomas Skeffington-Lodge who was MP for Bedford, 1945-50 – he spoke about pows many times in the Commons).

Simplified screening; A 28 / B 1330 / C 206. Still a high number of C grades. 30 appeals had been heard against political grades – 22 were allowed, a further 150 appeals were pending. Better grades = earlier repatriation. 209 pows had been repatriated in 3 months.

Morale – “*erratic.”* Although increased repatriations was regarded as positive by many, others saw it as unfair to them. Young SS men believed it penalised them, family men disliked that age and size of family was not counted…. Other negative factors included news from home; many pows being unemployed for a long time and so unable to earn money. The lack of re-education activities caused “*no apparent distress*.”

Positive factors noted; Friendly contacts with civilians; Cordial relations with British staff; “*A spirit of co-operation – were everywhere apparent*.”

The standard list of re-education activities was given, with comments that they had barely started;

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – Satisfactory delivery of English papers. A few German papers received from COGA – these were mounted for display. Some Russian zone papers were also getting through.

Library – about 750 books. Some sent to hostels every 6-8 weeks. Chiswick Free Library supplying 20-30 German books.

Lectures – started, but not well organised with titles being given when the lecturer arrived.

Discussion groups – none, but planned to start.

Films – YMCA to all sites. Films (mainly newsreels) sent by COGA only to the main camp.

Wireless – Satisfactory except at N Finchley and Bells Hill.

Camp magazine – 240 copies of 8-12 page monthly magazine. Poor quality and not popular.

Press reviews – only at Hanworth, others planned.

Information room – none.

Other activities –

Religion – Protestant padre, Machmar (A), was based at Finchley – “*where nobody attends his meetings, so he has stopped them*.” Unpopular with the pows. RC – satisfactory.

Education – only a slight interest at Cockfosters.

Entertainments – some small orchestras – practically no theatre activity. Popular – walks out of camp, chess tournaments, football.

**5 July 1947** – Re-education survey. Total strength; 7 officers, 1499 OR.

A new commandant (6 weeks) – Lt Col [M F F] Buszard; said to be co-operative with re-education.

The camp leader had been upgraded to A. Deputy, Wm Erwin Reich (B+) - previously at Scrubs Lane.

Simplified screening; A 12 / B 1494. 73 pows repatriated during June.

Fewer restrictions on the pows raised morale. Negative factors were the same here as in other camps – in particular, bad news from home, and delays to repatriations. Most pows had rejected Nazism and there was little enthusiasm for Communism.

About half the pows were under-25, they were not seen as a problem and no special arrangements were made for them. 5 attended the special youth training camp.

The standard list of re-education activities was given – with only minor changes. The library had more books. Some discussion meetings were held. Additional films supplied by ‘Travelling Films’ were not popular with a charge of 6d (6 pennies). Press reviews took place fortnightly at the main camp and six hostels. An information room had been set up.

Religion – An Evangelical padre; Albert, served the main camp and visited the hostels. A RC priest from Oxhey Lane Camp 122 occasionally visited four hostels. Some pows attended local churches.

Education – only very few classes in some hostels.

Entertainment – very little as before.

The most successful activities in any camp for promoting positive attitudes was developing outside contacts. The main camp had done little to promote this. Visits to the camp included the Salvation Army, YMCA, and some church groups. Some of the hostels, especially Brondesbury, had developed more and included visits by pows to outside groups.

**27 September 1947** – Another re-educational survey. Total strength; 12 officers, 884 OR.

New camp leader; Friedrich Hartmann, previously hostel leader at Bells Hill and then Turle Road; “*Strong, efficient and politically-minded, he is willing to co-operate in re-education, but finds conditions unpropitious at present.”*

Simplified screening; A 10 / B 869 / Unscreened Ukrainian pows 5. 359 pows repatriated to date.

A breakdown of those repatriated was given – 19 ‘white’ pows; 309 ‘Groups’ – selected by COGA as needed back in Germany; 11 sick; 18 compassionate; 2 protected personnel.

Morale was recorded as good. Informal relations with local citizens were a positive factor. The number of transfers to camps in Scotland and other hostels was unsettling. Most pows showed little interest in politics, though some of the conferences on the future of Germany were discussed. Youth pows down to 30%.

The few re-education activities were in decline due to repatriations and lack of interest. German newspapers were arriving more steadily. Discussion groups were only held at Hanworth. English classes had ceased, though many studied privately. The information room had not received any new display materials from PID for several months.

Religion – Padre Albert had been repatriated, replaced by Werner Krause; “*young and keen; not yet ordained.”*

Entertainments – The orchestra at the main camp had re-started and expected to tour the hostels.

An effort was being made to develop outside contacts. There had been visits to several local councils; social clubs; and tours to the Tower of London, Hampton Court and the BBC.

**6 October 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Total strength; 790. Just 1 class of 12 pupils in the main camp.

**21-24 October 1947** – Final re-education survey. Total strength; 12 officers, 834 OR.

No changes to senior staff at main or in the hostels. The commandant and Interpreter Officer were both described as being, “*extremely popular*.”

Morale again, ‘good.’ The main positive factors were good relations with British staff, and activities organised by the camp leader. Rumours about the future of the camp, (possible merger with 122) were causing some unrest. The political apathy of the majority continued.

There was little change to re-education activities. This appears to be one of those camps where other priorities were more important and successful. Outside contacts continued on a formal arranged basis with local councils, courts and other agencies – with many more informal arrangements with local families. It is likely that other activities such as games, sports, pows additional earnings through making objects and toys, gardening, odd-jobs, etc – were filling the pows time.

The orchestra played frequent concerts in the main camp and hostels. One of the members was the camp leader who played the violin.

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

**5/6 December 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Final report in the National Archive file. Total strength 1176. Billetees mentioned for the first and only time for this camp.

2 classes with 20 pupils in main + 20 in Brondesbury, but it was reckoned another 160 studied privately with materials such as ‘English For All.’

It was noted that the whole camp was to be handed over to Oxhey Lane Camp 122 by 31 December.

Known commandants:

1946 – 1947 Lt Col R E M Cherry M.C. from the West Yorkshire Regiment.

1947 – Lt Col Martin Frank Forster Buszard. 1901 -1962. Eton and Sandhurst. Northamptonshire Regiment. He had previously been commandant at Luton Airport Camp 270.

**Further information:**

National Archives FO 939/116 32 Working camp, Scrubs Lane Camp, Shepherds Bush, London W12. Dated 1946-47 – used above.

Camp and hostels + number of pows where known:

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Main |  | 7 | 300 | 78 | 292 | 78 | 266 | 198 | 200 | 560 |
| Boreham Wood |  | 60 | 65 | 55 | 55 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Radnor Hall |  | 195 | 190 | 186 | 55 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bell’s Hill |  |  | 70 | 66 | 71 | 58 | 74 | 56 | 90 |  |
| Heddon Court / East Barnett |  |  | 110 | 120 | 121 | 99 |  |  |  |  |
| Scrubs Lane Hostel |  |  |  | 214 | ?\*\*\* | 216 |  |  |  |  |
| Shepherds Bush |  |  |  | 71 | 71 |  |  |  |  |  |
| South Mimms | Notes below | 18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cockfosters | Notes below | 195 | 195 | 227 | 216 | 126 |  |  |
| Turle Road |  |  |  | 65 | 64 | 53 | 47 |  |  |  |
| Poets Road |  |  |  | 72 | 72 | 53 | 57 |  |  |  |
| (N) Finchley |  |  |  | 100 | 100 | 67 | 49 |  |  |  |
| Chiswick Sports Ground |  |  |  |  |  | 69 | 80 | 55 |  |  |
| Chiswick Magnolia Road |  |  |  |  |  | 59 | 69 | 59 | 75 |  |
| Hanwell |  |  |  |  |  | 78 | 77 |  |  |  |
| Brondesbury | With C7 | With C122 | 88 | 95 | 88 | 85 | 90 |
| Hanworth (Sat) |  |  |  |  |  | 419 | 468 | 314 | 350 | 511 |
| Billets / Attached |  |  |  |  |  |  | 8 (A) |  |  | 25 (B) |
| Total | ? | 262\* | 800\* | 1242\*\* | 1248 | 1564 | 1506 | 896 | 790 | 1176 |

\* + Italian pows. \*\* includes 26 in hospital or detained. \*\*\* Missed out, and 152 difference in total to figures given.

**Hostels**

**Bell’s Hill, Barnet** – 11 miles from the main camp. Huts – though one report stated; “*house*.”

Local memories place the camp where Oakmede flats, Bells Hill are now (TQ 239 961). There were also recollections of Italian pows – in which case the hostel would have been open before 1946 and attached to another camp – possibly Dancers Hill Camp 33.

**July 1946** – Small hostel containing mostly young men conscripted into the SS. Few had been held in the US and they were not seen as fanatical Nazis. Hostel leader; Uschaf Hartmann (B), “*Good influence on young SS men*.”

**March 1947** – Same leader; “*A 100% convert from Nazism,”* he had been a conscripted member of the SS. Recommended to take over the Hanworth Satellite camp. Wireless set in British office and ownership claimed by them.

**July 1947** – pows able to use local tennis courts.

**September 1947** – Hostel leader; Maat Kurt Hahle (B)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Bell’s Hill |  |  | 70 | 66 | 71 | 58 | 74 | 56 | 90 |  |

**Boreham Wood, Elstree** – 12 miles from the main camp. Nissen huts.

Article about pows working on farms - *“Some of these farms were in Borehamwood and Elstree, and there was a small camp near Station Road, possibly at the site now occupied by the town's fire research station. German prisoners at the camp spent some of their time making model ships, which they put in old coffee bottles, and sold to raise money for cigarettes.”* <https://www.borehamwoodtimes.co.uk/news/39769.pows-model-sails-in-to-display/>

**April 1946** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr Nieberle (B) – “*some character and ability.”* No accommodation for recreation other than a dining room.

**July 1946** – “..*probably the best hostel, but also the smallest. It is well and pleasantly built and there seems to be a spirit of one happy family. Mostly workers and artisans. Good and decent camp leader.”* Hostel leader; O.Gfr Nieberle (B+), “*Decent religious non-Nazi.”*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Boreham Wood |  | 60 | 65 | 55 | 55 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Brondesbury Park Hostel.**

The hostel was located at 1a Brondesbury Park Road, Kilburn, London, NW6 7BS (NGR TQ 241 841).

First attached to Winter Quarter Camp 7 from late 1944; then Rayners Lane Camp 122 from December 1945. Pows were selected to work at the hostel with the Political Intelligence Department (PID). It held up to 90 pows. The pows were mainly involved in producing materials for re-education activities. About 30 worked with PID / BBC to produce radio broadcasts, (see Ascot-Brondesbury Scheme under Camp 7).

Standards of English were so high in this hostel that many could have taught the language.

**March 1947** – Brondesbury Park hostel was taken over by Wormwood Scrubs Camp 32.

*“The prisoners of war in Brondesbury Park Hostel were dependent on a main camp (Camp 32) with regard to discipline, rations and clothing. A British sergeant was nominally in charge of their hostel. In practice, the POW group at Brondesbury Park Hostel formed a free community under the supervision of a re-education department representative who treated them as equals. The group consisted of about 90 men, 30 of whom worked for the BBC. The older part of this latter group was replaced at regular intervals by "fresh blood". The re-education department was responsible for the transfer and for the selection of new employees.*” (Translated and slightly abridged from; Zer Geschichte Der Deutschen Kriegsgefangenen… Band XI/2 – H Faulk – München 1970 – p415).

**6 March 1947** – The last lecturer’s report in the file. The site was listed as “32 Brondesbury Hostel”.

**24 March 1947** - Brondesbury was mentioned by Tom Driberg, M.P. for Maldon, in a debate in Parliament about the continued detention and re-education of pows:

“*There is a very interesting and hopeful experiment going on in this country, and in Germany, in the re-education of the Nazi and ex-Nazi youth. At Wilton Park, Radwinter Camp and the Brondesbury Hostel, and elsewhere to some extent, extremely good work is being done; but the almost insuperable difficulty which the idealists who are devoting themselves to that work keep on coming up against is two-fold: first, the letters that the prisoners got from home describing conditions in Germany; and, secondly, the slow rate of repatriation. It is useless preaching to them about democracy while we keep them here. To be fair to the people who are running these camps, they do not try too much positive preaching of democracy. It would not work if they did. They merely try to loosen up the minds ​ of the young men in their charge, to get them thinking and arguing for themselves, and out of the terribly brutalised mental state in which they were brought up, in the Hitler Youth and so on. That is a very important work, but it is obstructed and frustrated all the time by this special factor of slow repatriation, and that is one reason why I particularly would like to see it speeded up.”* (House of Commons – 24 March 1947, Vol 435).

**July 1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Hans Rogge (B+). Outside contacts had been established with; Paddington and Willesden Councils, London University, and the British Federation of Unionists, (I cannot find any reference to this group).

**September 1947** – Same leader.

**December 1947** – many of the pows were attending Kilburn Polytechnic for courses in mathematics, commerce, economics, chemistry, English, Latin, French, geography, etc.

**Jan/Feb 1948** – With Camp 122? The camp magazine *– Auf dem Wege: Zeitschrift des Hostels Brondesbury* – (On the Way: Magazine for Brondesbury hostel) was still being issued.

**Further information:**

National Archives: FO 939/309 32 Working Camp, Brondesbury Hostel Camp, Kilburn. Dated 1946-47 – used above.

Recorded interview of pow held at Brondesbury Park in 1948 - <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80012309>

The Imperial War Museum has copies of the magazine dated March, May, 9 November, Christmas 1947; and **Jan/Feb 1948**. Ref LBY E. 78946-1. The German Federal Archives also has a copy, date unknown.

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Brondesbury | With C7 | With C122 | 88 | 95 | 88 | 85 | 90 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Chiswick, Magnolia Road –** The Magnolia Road W4 camp was located opposite the junction with Ernest Gardens. The houses that were once there had suffered damaged from bombs landing on the other side of the railway in Thames Road. Approx NGR TQ 197 776.Almost certainly attached to a different main camp before March 1947.**March 1947** – Hostel leader; [Waldemar] Kisch (B), “*Unpolitical, but has given abundant evidence of reasonable outlook.”***July : September 1947** – same leader.**October 1947** – Hostel leader; OFw Wilhelm Kalina (B), from Cockfosters hostel.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Chiswick Magnolia Road |  |  |  |  |  | 59 | 69 | 59 | 75 |  |

 |  |
| Aerial photo 1946 |

**Chiswick Sports Ground** – Approx NGR TQ 210 764

Almost certainly attached to a different main camp before March 1947.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader; [Hermann] Schreiber (B), “*Unpolitical and erratic*.”

**July : September 1947** – Same leader.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Chiswick Sports Ground |  |  |  |  |  | 69 | 80 | 55 |  |  |

**Cockfosters** – 10 miles from the main camp. Described as a “*house*.” I believe this was Trent Park / Cockfosters that was independent Camp 10/11.

**July 1946** – Very large hostel. Politically ‘black’ – fanaticism was rampant. No wireless. Hostel leader; O/Fw [Siegfried] Greulich (B-), “*Nice type, but almost ‘C.’ Professional soldier*.” Deputy; Lt (NT) Wetzel (B-), “*Professional soldier. A slippery customer.”*

**March 1947 –** “*Once the black hostel, but now very changed*.” Same leader; “*An efficient active soldier who promises his every assistance in re-education, and will keep his word.”*

**July 1947** – Same leader. French lessons were given.

**September 1947 –** Hostel leader; OFw Wilhelm Kalina (B)

Closed shortly after.

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Cockfosters |  |  |  | 195 | 195 | 227 | 216 | 126 |  |  |

**East Barnett / Heddon Court**– 11 miles from the main camp. Huts. Heddon Court was demolished before WW2 – the hostel was based on the site.

Probably linked to another main camp before July 1946.

**July 1946 –** Nearly 15% of pows were C+ : hardcore Nazis. Over 30% were C – “*not much better in their views, though less tough and arrogant. They are mostly U-Boat volunteers from America. The British Sergeant recently found razor blades and broken glass in his bed, placed there as a practical joke. The culprit was given 4 days’ detention by HQ*.” Hostel leader; O/Bootsmaat Kisch (C), “*Brutal type and double-faced*.”

**March 1947 –** Hostel leader; Heyne (B), “*Unpolitical but helpful*.”

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Heddon C /E Barnett |  |  | 110 | 120 | 121 | 99 |  |  |  |  |

**Finchley (aka North Finchley).** Described as a, “*Building.”*

**July 1946 –** “*black… containing fanatical young toughs – both U-Boat volunteers and paratroopers – from the US. Some of them are very bitter. The wireless has broken down, and few know anything about Nuremburg.”* Hostel leader; O/Fw Fellner (B-), “*A very slow convert from Nazism.”*

**March 1947 –** POW radio kept in British office and never heard by the pows – reported to commandant.

**July 1947** – Hostel leader; Gefr Walter Boehlein (B) – “*Young, but has personality and is doing his best*…” French lessons were given. Visits to the RC Church Hall to play billiards.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| (N) Finchley |  |  |  | 100 | 100 | 67 | 49 |  |  |  |

**Hanwell**

Memories place the site at bottom of Lower Boston Road / Junction with Uxbridge Road, approximate NGR TQ 151 801. Some have stated that there was an earlier Italian site ‘over the fields’ near here.

**March 1947 –** Newly opened, with low morale due to lack of facilities. This seems a strange late date to open – was it in use before, and then ‘re-opened’?

**July 1947** – Hostel leader; Ogefr Helmut Rosen (B).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Hanwell |  |  |  |  |  | 78 | 77 |  |  |  |

**Hanworth Satellite –** [Camp 681?]

**March 1947** – Opened 7 weeks earlier. Does this mean opened as a hostel 7 weeks earlier? It is fairly certain to have existed before March 1947.

Camp leader Ronneberger (B) – “*a job beyond his capacity*.” Recommended that he be replaced.

**July 1947 –** Hostel leader (6 weeks); Stfw Kurt Truschkowski (B) – “*regular soldier, efficient, stands no nonsense, unpolitical… has quelled the unrest in this hostel*.”

**September 1947** – Same leader. A visitor had been giving English lessons at the camp, but he complained of lack of organisation and too few pows. English teaching stopped.

CO Capt Hogan was popular with the pows – he arranged for some variety shows to be held at the camp. This hostel had a Demokratische Arbeitsgemeunschaft (Democratic Committee) to develop activities. Education classes were given for shorthand and horticulture.

**October 1947** – Hanworth amateur entertainments were given by Mr Harold Williams and his Feltham Juveniles. Social evenings were held in Hanworth Village Hall.

**4 December 1947** – 200 pows from Scotland were transferred here. No English classes.

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Hanworth (Sat) |  |  |  |  |  | 419 | 468 | 314 | 350 | 511 |

**Poets Road** – 6 miles from the main camp. Described as a “*house.”* Approx NGR TQ 326 854.

**July 1946** – politically “*dull and stagnant*.” The radio was being switched off during news from Nuremburg [trials] – it does not say if this was by the British or the pows. Hostel leader; Fm [Willi] Gersdorf (B-), “*Politically not too good.”*

**July 1947** – Same leader; now described as; “*has initiative and can be relied on to continue his efforts*.” Had a choir that sang at the local Methodist Church.

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Poets Road |  |  |  | 72 | 72 | 53 | 57 |  |  |  |

**Radnor Hall, Elstree** – 12/15 miles from the main camp. Huts. Rooms in Radnor Hall were used for recreation. Allum Lane, Elstree; NGR 183 958.

**April 1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Linnecke (B+) – a local government clerk, “*a quiet and solid type*”, interested in developing re-education. Deputy leader; Fw Lienig (C). Half the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25), but there was no special provision for them.

**July 1946** – Pows had been held in this country since capture. Hostel leader; no change. Deputy, Fw Lienig (B+), “*Non-active anti-Nazi. Disappointed man*.”

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Radnor Hall |  | 195 | 190 | 186 | 55 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Scrubs Lane** **Hostel** –

**July 1946** – Politically “*stagnant.”* Hostel leader; O/Fw Pfleger (B) – “*Efficient non-political professional soldier*.” Deputy; Fw Sura (B), “*unpolitical.”*

**March 1947 –** Newly appointed hostel leader; Reich (B) – “*Unpolitical but helpful.”*

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Scrubs Lane Hostel |  |  |  | 214 | ?\*\*\* | 216 |  |  |  |  |

**Shepherds Bush –** Huts. 2 miles from main camp.

**July 1946** – Politically “*stagnant*.” Hostel leader; Uffz Frank, B-, “*A typical opportunist*.”

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Shepherds B |  |  |  | 71 | 71 |  |  |  |  |  |

**South Mimms –** I believe that this was Dancers Hill Camp 33. In July 1946 it became a hostel for Scrubs Lane camp 32 details below. It may also have been a hostel for camp 122 before or after this - hence the recording of it being numbered 122g. NOT CONFIRMED.

**July 1946 –** “*black. This hostel contains only skeleton German staff of 18, mostly cooks and drivers*.” 1 ‘C+’ and 10 ‘C’. No radio, books, papers or contact with more politically advanced pows. “*Only a transfer to other hostels would be of any use.”*

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|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| South Mimms |  |  |  | 18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Turle Road** – 6 miles from main camp. Huts.

**July 1946** – politically “*dull and stagnant*.” Hostel leader; Uffz Buch (B), “*A decent type. Not Nazi*.”

**March 1947** – Same leader, regraded to A; “*Sound and keen.”*

**July 1947** – Hostel leader; Uscha Friedrich Hartmann (B) from Bells Hill Hostel. Due to close on 12 July.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 44 | 4/46 | 5/46 | 7/46 | 8/46 | 3/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 |
| Turle Road |  |  |  | 65 | 64 | 53 | 47 |  |  |  |