**Camp 42** **- Exhibition Field Camp, Holsworthy, Devon (aka Holsworthy)**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 42. Exhibition Field Camp, Holsworthy, Devon.

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 camp list** |
| 42(G.W.C.) | Exhibition Field Camp, Holsworthy, Devon | S. | Priswar, Holsworthy | Holsworthy 160/1 | Holsworthy | Lt.Col.J.St.J,Balguy | v/1453/2 |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |
| SS 343 047 | 190 | 42 | Exhibition Field Camp, Holsworthy | Devon | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** N of the town of Holsworthy. Exeter is 59 km to the east.**Before the camp:** Fields. ‘Exhibition Field Camp’ was called this because it was erected on a field used for many years by the Holsworthy and Stratton Agricultural Association for the annual Agricultural Exhibition.**POW Camp:** The site was originally proposed in December 1941. The camp was builtmid-1942, opening October with an initial capacity of 750. Italian pows, then German pows from November 1944. Held German pows that had been based on the Channel Islands. Later held pows arriving from Belgium, USA and Canada.**1943** **/ 44** -A hostel was listed at Callington**May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Southern Command area, (WO 32/10737). Reports that two prisoners escaped, but were recaptured in Plymouth – no further details.The Church of St Peter has two hand-painted stained-glass windows (see below), made by Italian pows and used in a hut converted to a chapel. They were created using dyes extracted from vegetables and pow clothing. There is also a crucifix carved by a German pow.**17 February 1945** - The camp was visited by the ICRC. An unusual appendix was attached to the report:*“On the occasion of the visit described in the above report of this camp, the visitors stated that approximately 90% of prisoners wore a 'Democratic Germany' badge sewn onto their uniforms.**On enquiry with the commander, he stated the designation was made by the prisoners themselves, and had been sewn on to their uniforms without the British camp staff being notified in advance.* |  |
| ‘X’ - Ordnance Survey 1962 |

*He added that he has no reason to interfere with this practice, as he can see the prisoners were proud of it and actually tried to adapt to democratic principles.*

 *In their interview with the Camp Leader and his Deputy, the visitors gained the impression that the occupants, while taking the political inclination very seriously, showed little understanding of the limitations of disciplined democracy.*

*This affects the military bearing in particular and leaves the 'internal service' and the cleanliness of the barracks - in contrast to the work done outside the camp - with a lot to be desired.*

*The visitors reported that the prisoners were generally friendly and unconstrained, and that relations with the British camp staff was favourable. London 1 March 1945"* (Reported in the ww2talk.com forum)

When German pows arrived, visits from the Political Intelligence Department / COGA (Control Office Germany and Austria) started to review re-education activities within the camp. Reading through the reports there appears to be very little concern about this camp. Pows were active in re-education, sports and cultural activities as well as working in the local area, mainly on farms. However, the comments in the final reports, March / May 1948, should be read to give a different image of the camp.

**4/5 July 1945** – Mr Will Potter visited to review English language instruction.

This was after the compulsory viewing for pows of a film about concentration camps. It was noted that the pows had made a collection of money for the victims of the camps, but that the War Office refused to send it on. This made an unfortunate impression on the pows.

**September 1945** - Appendix to HQ Southern Command War Diary – Exhibition Field, Holsworthy – German Labour camp – capacity 650 – 127/779268

Italian hostels – Werrington, Boyton – total cap 250 / German hostels – Torrington, Zeal Head – total cap 170

**13 December 1945 –** Mr Dagnall visited to review English language instruction. The atmosphere of the camp was regarded as excellent and various activities were taking place. Two hostels listed – South Zeal and Little Bray.

**April 1946** – the hostel located at Little Bray (Brayton) was transferred to Brampton Road Camp 92.

**26 April 1946** – Major T Barry visited to review English language instruction. Main camp + three hostels and another being formed at Winkleigh, 22 miles from the main camp.

At the main camp there were 4 pow teachers for English. There was a good working library. Transport was a problem to get to the hostels.

**24 July 1946** – Major T Barry made an English Inspector’s Report. Total strength = c1600.

Commandant: Lt Col J S T Balguy. Camp leader (Lagersprecher): O/Fh E Hetzel

All pows were accommodated in huts. 5 classes were held in the main camp for English language in the dining hall + classes in each of the hostels.

**13 – 15 November 1946 –** A short report was given by Mr A Thomas about the hostels at Winkleigh and Werrington. No particular reason is stated for this report, but a comment makes it seem like a reclassification of political grades was carried out. (See below).

Commandant as above. The Interpreter Officer, S/Sgt Mueller did not possess the Commandant’s confidence and was reported as unpopular with the pows.

**14 / 15 December 1946** – Major T Barry gave an English Inspector’s Report. Total strength = 1460.

**1947** – a small detachment of Bomb Disposal pows from this camp were based at ‘PW Hostel “A” Camp, Tregrehan, near St Austell, though it was administered by Camp 6). (FO 939/83).

**11/12 April 1947** - Major T Barry returned for another English Inspector’s Report. Total strength = 1200.

Commandant: Lt Col J S T Balguy. Camp leader (Lagersprecher): F/W A Schrueder

There were just 2 small classes for English in the main camp – the reasons for low attendance were stated as repatriations and greater freedom for pows to leave the camp.

Excursions were being arranged to Buckfast Abbey and Exeter. Visits were later halted due to petrol shortages.

**21/24 April 1947** – Major P J O’Donohoe carried out a Re-education Survey. Total strength – 2 officers; 1206 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col J St.J Balguy Camp leader: Schroeder, Arnold Fw. (B+)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Mueller, F Deputy C/L: Lenzbauer, Franz Ogefr (B) [Called Lenzbaum in a later report].

Adjutant: Capt Tuffley German M.O. Ass Arzt Baumann Ottmar (B)

 St/Zahnarzt Brahn, Hans Gustav (B) – [Dentist – called Braun in later report]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A+ | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
| 1 | 5 | 287 | 712 | 147 | 56 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 376 pows had been repatriated to date: | A’s | Groups | Sick | Compass | PP | Specials |
|  | 202 | 34 | 117 | 7 | 3 | 13 |

A breakdown of repatriations was rarely shown:

“A” – political category A, non-Nazis.

Groups – unknown meaning?

Sick – usually very seriously ill or injured.

‘Compass’ – short for ‘compassionate,’ usually pows with particular family issues.

‘PP’ – protected personnel.

Specials – unknown meaning, sometimes this referred to pows returning to Germany as they were in a particular profession required by the occupying forces.

181 pows were appealing the political grades they had been given by screening. Better categories were repatriated sooner, in theory.

There were mixed notes regarding the commandant and re-educational activities. He was regarded as *“interested,*” but a later statement says that he did not allow “*full scope*” to the interpreter to develop activities. He ensured that recreational outings were taking place and kept in touch with some repatriated pows.

The interpreter was regarded as capable, but he had reservations about re-education.

The camp leader was new to the post. Regarded as efficient, intelligent and a good worker. He was depressed as he had been down-graded from ‘A’ in a previous political screening to B+.

Overall morale was low for a variety of reasons. Slow repatriation was the main reason in this and other camps. A large number of the pows had been based on the Channel Islands and faced a longer wait for repatriation than others. Bad news from home was depressing. Relationships with the local population was limited and there were few invitations. Bad weather had led to a lack of employment and wages. Pows were largely indifferent to re-education, but interested in entertainment as a distraction. In the main camp there was some political activity – 150/200 pows were involved in an anti-fascist group and 50/60 had formed a socialist study circle.

Re-education activities were affected by repatriations. The Standard list was given –

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix

Newspapers - Adequate British and German papers.

Library – about 1600 books.

Lectures – only 2 lectures noted for 1947, very low in comparison to many other camps.

Discussion groups – only noted in the main camp with the SPD group. (SPD = Social Democratic Party)

Films – YMCA regular and popular with just 2d (2 pennies) entrance. Gaumont British films less popular with a charge of 6d and sub-titled films.

Wireless – adequate.

Camp magazine – “*Bruecke zur Heimat”* (Bridge to Home). Issued every 3 / 4 weeks – “*the layout is attractive and the matter interesting*”. A daily news-sheet “*Tagesspiegel”* (Daily Mirror) issued to the reading room at the main camp, each hut and the hostels

English instruction – separate report

Information room – Press displays and exhibitions from the POW Visual Education Section.

Visits had been made to Exeter and Buckfast Abbey.

Other activities –

Religion – Evangelical padre; Adolf Tadge (A), was occupied by thoughts of repatriation, but held regular religious study meetings and contributed articles to the magazine. RC priest; Bernhard Loecken (A) also ran a study circle. The padres visited the main camp and hostels. Neither of the padres were popular with the British staff, but no reason given.

Education – Russian and mathematics taught in the main camp, some interest in Spanish.

Entertainments – the main camp had a flourishing theatre group with its own theatre. The group also gave performances at Werrington. Pows at South Zeal and Winkleigh sometimes visited the main camp for performances. There was an orchestra which also visited the hostels, and a choir which had sung at the local C of E Church.

**17/19 June 1947** – Introductory and Re-education Survey by L H F Thornton. Total strength 2 officers; 1188 OR.

No changes to the senior personnel since the last report.

Simplified screening; A – 40 / B – 1150. 14 appeals pending. 325 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was low with slow repatriation still being the main concern. It was again noted that the local population were not hospitable – only 1 pow was being invited out. The pows were generally satisfied with their treatment, the camp and its amenities. The visitor considered that good political progress had been made.

The standard list of re-education activities was given. There was very little change from the previous report other than lectures were more regular, and the visitor found the tone of the camp magazine to be ‘*mournful.*’

Religion – this visitor gave a different view of the two padres stating he had a ‘*good impression’*; (however – cf. following September report). “*The camp chapel is quite a showpiece.*”

Education – apart from English Instruction, the only courses were for mathematics and a ‘Technical Workers Union.’

Some of the facilities were listed – reading room, library, billiards room, table tennis room, theatre, music room, “*the canteen is certainly worth a mention*”; sports against other camps and some local teams. Pows were encouraged by the commandant and artists decorated the camp *“to make the place look as little like a pow camp as possible*.”

Attempts were being made to develop outside links, but with little success.

**8/12 September 1947 –** L H F Thornton returned to conduct a Re-education Survey. Total strength 2 officers, 968 OR.

No changes to senior personnel. The adjutant was named as Captain Tuffley. The visitor commented that the doctors; “*leave much to be desired and whereas they could be a power for good outside their official duties, they do nothing.”*

Simplified screening; A – 2 / B – 968. 425 pows repatriated to date.

The increased speed of repatriations had lifted spirits a little. Since April, 200 of the A category pows had been repatriated, leaving just 2.

25-30% of the pows were ‘youth’ (under 25). They were not considered to be a particular problem.

Repatriations and the demand for pows as harvest workers had affected re-education activities. The hostels were also affected by petrol rationing and lack of transport. The standard list was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – a wide range of British newspapers and periodicals were available. Newspapers from Germany were received – some paid for from camp funds, but most were received privately. Papers were laid out in the reading room for all to see.

Library – 2317 books

Lectures – usually twice a month with about 200 pows attending.

Discussion groups – still the SPD group in the main camp. There was an urgent request made by the visitor; “*That material of a political nature, especially controversial, be sent for the use of the Discussion Group.”*

Films – regular in main and hostels. Some pows had been visiting the local cinema, but an outbreak of infantile paralysis had stopped this.

Wireless – each Nissen hut had either a wireless or a loudspeaker. Dance and light music were popular – jazz was generally disliked.

Camp newspaper – 300 copies issued monthly. “*Still doleful in tone but is becoming more original*”.

Press review – a review was issued daily including the hostels. Twice a month a larger press review was carried out on a variety of interests.

English instruction – separate report.

Information Room – this was in addition to the reading room. It held exhibitions which were sent by COGA

Other activities

Religion - Mr Thornton had changed his mind over the padres. “*Loecken made a poor impression, he lacks manliness and commands little respect; the Lutheran padre is little better”.*

Entertainments – theatre group, orchestra, sports committee (most popular). All manner of games are played and encouraged.

Education – a small class for mathematics; some lectures on the History of Art.

Outside contacts – Very few local contacts – no civilians visited the camp, the only invitations to pows were from religious groups. Visits were taking place on Sundays to Bude

**3-5 October 1947** – Major T Barry returned to give an English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 1704.

There was just 1 small beginners’ class at the main camp.

Notes – The camp was in the middle of taking over Pennygillam Farm Camp 257 which would become a satellite camp. South Zeal was due to be taken over by Camp 137.

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

**11/15 December 1947** – English Inspector’s Report by T R Gibson. Total strength 2331

Camp 42 took over the administration of other camps as they were being run-down and closed.

Numbers taking English classes were very low – 14 in a beginner’s class; 7 in an advanced class; 12 studying privately. You have to wonder why the visit took place at all – and especially for the length of time stated.

**9 – 15 January 1948** – L H F Thornton carried out a ‘Routine Re-education check’. Total strength 5 officers, 1720 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col J St.J Balguy Camp leader: Schroeder, Arnold Fw. (B+)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Mueller, F Deputy C/L: Kusch (B)

 German M.O. Ass Arzt Baumann Ottmar (B)

 St/Zahnarzt Braun, (B) – (Dentist)

Simplified screening: A – 4 / B – 1721. 825 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was low in the main camp, mainly due to strict discipline; it was better in the satellite and hostels. Increased repatriations raised the spirit of the pows.

One of the main positive factors for developing political views of pows in any camp were formal and informal outside contacts. Unfortunately, these were poor in Camp 42. The visitor laid the blame for this on the local inhabitants – “*Whenever an attempt has been made to improve outside contacts something has inevitable cropped up to thwart it.”* Examples were given; a pow who had served in Russia was asked questions about communism, his harmless answers were later reported in a “*virulent form*” in the ‘Daily Worker.’ Another case involved a pow who had been a Berlin County Court judge attending a session at Launceston Assizes – a harmless interview was reported as German criticism of an English court.

There were some invitations for pows to join families for Christmas meals – but these were few, while many other camps elsewhere received too many to cope with.

**15-19 March 1948** – L H F Thornton carried out a ‘Final check’ [not quite]. Total strength 3 officers; 1152 OR.

There was a new deputy camp leader – Schoeneberg (B+). German M.O.’s listed as Dr Lessmann / Dr Braun / Dr Hahn

Simplified screening; A – 2 / B – 1153. 1276 pows repatriated to date.

In many camps a ‘survey’ of pow attitudes was carried out. It was not in any way conducted in a scientific manner and was open to major bias from many factors. The ‘survey’ at Camp 42 gave a largely negative view, and although its accuracy has to be questioned, it did raise some points which had not been raised previously:

*“In the main camp HQ at Holsworthy most Ps/W feel, even at this date, that Britain has given them a raw deal. 60% of the Ps/W have been grumblers and this figure persists even at this stage.”* The use of the term ‘grumblers’ is interesting, considering the agreement the visitor seemed to have with them.

Some of the reasons for this negative attitude were stated as;

* “*The discipline at Holsworthy has been strict all along; although not harsh. Petty regulations have often proved a torment to the Ps/W and a non-understanding British camp staff (with exceptions, of course) a menace. It is no wonder that the majority outlook of the Ps/W is unfavourable to the British.”*
* “*The local population have never had a moment’s time for the Ps/W and with one notable exception have done nothing to promote understanding or enlightenment; feeling here is mutually hostile.”*

The one positive note regarding attitudes was that 220 pows were staying on in Britain – however this had the caveat that these pows, “*have nowhere to go in Germany and benefit from a longer stay in England.”*

All activities were winding down as the pows expected to be repatriated soon.

**April 1948** - There was correspondence to the camp in regarding certificates for English examinations.

**4/6 May 1948** – A visit to report on “*Outlook / Re-education*.” Strength; 1 officer, 614 OR.

The two hostels were expected to close on 7 May, and the main camp by 15 May.

Outlook – the visitor reported that many pows had a “*distorted outlook*” due to the remoteness of the camp and the “*general aloofness of the natives*.” Their impression of Cornish farms, often unclean, many with only oil lighting and without radio made them see England as being “*behind Germany*.”

A further, very dubious, survey was carried out on attitudes of the pows to Britain:

Hate – 0%

Dislike/Distrust – 30%; mainly due to length of captivity, bad screening, low pay, farmers indifference, unfriendly folk, bad treatment in Belgian camps by the British.

Indifference – 15%.

Giving benefit of doubt – 25%; those that managed to form good relationships with locals.

Liking – 30%; Britain regarded as a bulwark against Russia/communism.

At the same time as this visit, 3 people had been sent by COGA to discuss ‘Resettlement Problems.’ Though very late, most camps did not receive and visit at all.

Known camp commandants –

c.1944 Major C E Walker (Camp war establishment v/1264/2).

c.June 1945 to July 1946. Major John Vincent Cheslyn-Hall. From the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

July 1946 - 1948 Lieutenant Colonel John St John Baluy. From the Sherwood Foresters

**Camp numbers:**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 | 5/48 |
| Main | ? | ? | Cap.650 | ? | ? | c.750 | c.820 | 550 | 547 | 542 | 600 | 588 | 538 | 408 | 350 |
| Callington | ? | ? |  | No further reference |
| South Zeal |  |  |  | ? | ? | c.100 | 90 | 96 | 89 | 84 | 80 | To C137 |  |
| Little Bray |  |  |  | ? | To C92 |  |
| Werrington |  |  |  |  | ? | 166 | 250 | 161 | 160 | 145 | 160 | 117 | 106 |  |  |
| Torrington |  |  |  |  | ? | Not listed with C42 |  |
| Winkleigh |  |  |  |  |  | c.350 | 300 | 232 | 222 |  |  |
| Pennygillam | Previously Camp 257 | 804 | 428 | 267 | 214 | 144 |
| Boyton |  |  |  | Probably attached to another camp. | 35 | 36 |  |  |
| White Cross | Previously Camp 115 | 430 | 297 | 240 | 121 |
| Tregrehan A |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Linked to C6a | Attached to Camp 115 | 53 | 100 | 92 |  |
| Tregrehan B |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 114 |  |
| Helston |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Attached to Camp 115 | 35 | 87 | 58 |  |
| Cleve |  | Probably attached to another camp. | 12 |  |
| Billets |  |  |  |  | ? | c.350 | ? | 160 | 172 | 199 | 60? | c.31\* | 294 | 131 | ? |
| Total | Cap.750 | ? | Cap.1070 | ? | ? | c.1600 | 1460 | 1200 | 1190 | 970 | 1704 | 2331 | 1725 | 1155 | 615 |

\*Billetees from hostels / satellites were not separated.

**After the camp:** Camp became temporary emergency accommodation. 1961 Holsworthy Council sold 14 plots at the site. Now Doble Square industrial estate.

The site as it is now - <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-south-west/pow-camp-42-exhibition-field/>

**Further information:**

The 2 photos by SequenceDancer, CC BY-SA 3.0, [commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24370349](file:///D%3A%5CPOW%5CCamps41-60%5Ccommons.wikimedia.org%5Cw%5Cindex.php%3Fcurid%3D24370349) / [commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24370373](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=24370373)

# National Archives – FO 939/124 42 Working camp, Exhibition Road Camp, Holsworthy, Devon. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.

National Archives - FO 1120/212 – ‘Re-educational survey visit reports for camps 40 to 42’. Used above.

Royal Air Force, 1946, CPE/UK/1793/4092 (Aerial Photograph). SDV340810. The site is clearly visible on the photo.

**Satellite and Hostels.**

**Boyton** (about 4 miles from the main camp).

Location – The Womens’ Land Army were based in some Nissen huts during the war – it is possible these huts were used as the pow camp afterwards – “*The Camp at the bottom of Bragg’s Hill consisted of eight Nissen Huts in total and there is still evidence of their time by the river with a Nissen Hut that served as their camp bath house, still in evidence.”*

A contributor to geograph.org.uk visited the area and stated that the camp was possibly at NGR SX 327 921.

There were just two references to the hostel in the reports for Camp 42 stating numbers from late 1947 – this site was probably attached to another main camp before this.

**January 1948 –** Hostel leader Unbehahn (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Boyton | Probably attached to another camp. | 35 | 36 |  |

**Callington**

**1943** **/ 44** -listed as a hostel for Italian pows.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Callington | ? | ? | No further reference |

**Cleve**

**March 1948** – Hostel leader Richrath (B)

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Cleve | Probably attached to another camp. | 12 |

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| **Helston**Location – The Archaeology Data Service place the camp at NGR SW 6620 2650 (X on map). <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/record?titleId=53444>Prior to December 1947, attached to White Cross Camp 115**January to April 1948** – hostel leader Kueck (B+)The site as it is today – <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-south-west/pow-hostel-42-higher-nansloe-farm/>

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Helston |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Attached to Camp 115 | 35 | 87 | 58 |

 |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1963 |

**Little Bray**

NGR SS 686 356 – *“The site was used during World War II as a POW camp under army requisition of the Little Bray Estate.”* Little Bray House information.

Just one reference before being transferred to the administration of Bampton Road Camp 92 on 1 April 1946.

**December 1945** – “*study conditions are none too comfortable*”.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Little Bray |  |  | ? | To Camp 92 |

**Pennygillam Farm, Launceston** (about 18 miles from Camp 42).

**September / October 1947** - Previously Camp 257, taken over by Camp 42 as a satellite camp.

**January 1948** – 267 in camp / 142 billets

Officer in charge: Captain P Brand, R.P.C. Camp leader: Kretschmar (B-)

Interpreter: None Deputy: Weber (B-)

 German Interpreter: Rodecamp

 German M.O. Gill (A+)

**March 1948** - same camp leader.

POW attitudes to the British were more positive here than at the main camp – with 50% recorded as liking the British. This was due to an understanding English and German camp staff and a fine spirit of camaraderie. Re-education at this camp was regarded as “*wonderful,*” however links to the main camp had not helped.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 | 5/48 |
| Pennygillam | Previously Camp 257 | 804 | 428 | 267 | 214 | 144 |

**South Zeal –** 25 miles from the main camp.

**December 1945** - “*study conditions are none too comfortable*”.

**April 1946** – a class of 16 pupils for English.

**December 1946** – no English class. The hostel was (falsely) expected to close.

**April 1947** – Hostel leader; Hinkel, Edwin Fw. (B) – a fitter – “*quiet and serious minded*.”

30 pows participated in anti-fascist and socialist study circles. About 25% of pows were ‘youth’ (under-25). There were no particular difficulties for these pows.

Some RC pows attended services in Okehampton, and there were occasional visits from priests at Buckfast.

Some technical courses were being held. There was a choir.

**September 1947** – same hostel leader

**October 1947** – due to be taken over by Chaddlewood House Camp 137.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| South Zeal |  |  | ? | ? | c.100 | 90 | 96 | 89 | 84 | 80 | C137 |  |  |

**Torrington**

There is a brief mention of pows in an article about the Women’s Land Army in Torrington – “*They* [WLA] *worked with gangs of boys and conscientious objectors who were billeted down near South Drive.  They also worked with Italian POWs from the hutments by the senior school, who were ‘lovely’ and courteous, and with German POWs who were billeted out of town and driven to work by lorry. They were good workers but, unlike the Italians, weren’t allowed to talk to anyone*.”

<https://great-torringtontowncouncil.gov.uk/2019/10/24/the-womens-land-army-in-torrington/>

Local memories place the site just past the school on the Calvesford Road.

**April 1946** - had an excellent English teacher. Some pows were being moved into billets.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Torrington |  |  |  | ? | Not listed with C42 |

**Tregrehan A and B –** about 80 miles from the main camp

**1947** – a small detachment of Bomb Disposal pows from this camp were based at ‘PW Hostel “A” Camp, Tregrehan, near St Austell, though it was administered by Ashton Court Camp 6A). (FO 939/83).

**January 1948** – hostel leader Schreck (B)

**March 1948** - same hostel leader

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Tregrehan A |  |  |  |  |  |  | Linked to C6a | Attached to Camp 115 | 53 | 100 | 92 |
| Tregrehan B |  |  |  |  |  |  | 114 |

**Werrington -** 13 miles from the main camp.

**April 1946** – Described as; “*a very pleasantly situated hostel in Werrington Park on the banks of the River Tamar*.” Many of the pows had been transferred from a camp in Belgium where conditions had been extremely poor. Many were in a poor state of health and were placed on light duties. A comment about the German teacher for English suggests that many of the other pows had been brought from camps in the USA.

**November 1946** – c.150 pows. Hostel leader – O/Fhn Lorenz Paulus, aged 35, a policeman (Bavarian Landespolizei) then regular army. Regarded as; “*efficient and interested in re-education”.* His fiancées father was placed for 1 year in a concentration camp in 1933 and again in 1945, and this prevented Lorenz Paulus from gaining a commission. He deserted to the allies. A short list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick - received.

Newspapers – Range of English papers, 10 German newspapers per month, a few Swiss papers.

Press reviews - weekly

Films – fortnightly from YMCA and COGA. (Control Office for Germany and Austria (UK) – documentary films).

Youth group – for under 25’s.

**April 1947** – Hostel leader as above. Little political interest was shown within the hostel.

About 45% of the pows were ‘youth’, (under-25). There were no particular difficulties for these pows.

Pows were able to visit a camp at Launceston for religious services. There were occasional visits by priests from Buckfast.

Some technical courses were being held.

**September 1947** - “*Werrington Hostel is ideally and beautifully situated, excellently laid out and well run*.” Quite good morale.

**January 1948** – New hostel leader – Prosser (B)

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Werrington |  |  |  | ? | 166 | 250 | 161 | 160 | 145 | 160 | 117 | 106 |  |

**White Cross Satellite Camp** – about 55 miles from the main camp. Previously Camp 115.

**January 1948** – 297 in main camp + 102 in billets. The hostels at Tregrehan and Helston were administered by this satellite camp.

Officer in charge: Captain F Bennett (Hampshire Regiment) Camp leader: Engelbach (B+)

Interpreter: S/Sjt Glaser Deputy: Muetten (B-)

 German MO: Hahn (B) German dentist: Kruell (B)

**March 1948** – same camp leader. Described as a; “*bleak, wind-swept camp… high up, facing the Atlantic’s blast day and night”* – the conditions affected the pows outlook. It was described as not being an unhappy camp though, with great understanding shown by the camp staff. Visits to nearby Newquay had helped to develop a positive attitude to the British.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 | 5/48 |
| White Cross | Previously Camp 115 | 430 | 297 | 240 | 121 |

**Winkleigh**

Some memories of pows BEFORE the hostel was formed – “*A small contingent of well -behaved German prisoners of war were deposited on the Winkleigh Airbase and were used as labourers on local farms, escorted by guards in the latter part of 1945. They had played their part in a war they did not want and were pleased to give back to the community whose responsibility it was to hold them.*

*Though they never enjoyed complete liberty until after the surrender, the POW,s were not disliked by the Winkleigh community they mixed with and often provided toys and wood carvings in particular, which they seemed to be very good at, as gifts to local children.*

*In the Christmas of that year, the nativity crib set was fashioned for Winkleigh All Saints Church as a mark of respect to the parishioners from the prisoners who celebrated as enthusiastically as the villagers did on VE Day*.” <https://www.jackiefreemanphotography.com/RAF_Winkleigh_Americans.htm>

**May 1946** - hostel formed. If the notes above are accurate, it is possible the hostel was attached to another main camp before this date.

**November 1946** – 100 pows were from the Channel Islands garrison. Hostel leader – Uffz Bruno Dunkelmann, aged 32, architect, B+. Very few re-education activities were taking place, however, the hostel was politically rated as ‘white’ (A).

The pows were depressed by the low rate of repatriation and the manner in which it was being conducted. 200 former Nazi party members had been politically graded as ‘A’ (they would usually be B or C) and had been repatriated before others who had not been party members. The visitor commented that this occurred before he was able to carry out regrading.

**April 1947** - Hostel leader; Dunkelmann, Bruno Uffz (A) – architect – “*an efficient optimistic type*”. Little political interest within the hostel and general apathy was seen as a problem.

About 25% of the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25). There were no particular difficulties for these pows.

Occasional variety shows.

**June 1947** – same hostel leader

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 12/45 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 6/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Winkleigh |  |  |  |  | c.350 | 300 | 232 | 222 |  |