**Camp 45** **(& 180) - Trumpington Camp, Trumpington, Cambridgeshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 45. Trumpington Camp, Cambridge.

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp List** |
| 45(G.W.C.) | Trumpington Camp, Trumpington, Cambridge | E. | Priswar, Trumpington | Trumpington 351/2 | Cambridge | Lt.Col.R.K.Stanley | 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 |
| TL 441 541 | 154 | 45 | Trumpington Camp, Trumpington | Cambridgeshire | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. See Camp no.180 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** NGR TL 440 537. The camp was shown as a hostel on the 1960 map. On SW edge of Trumpington. Now close to M11.**Before the camp:****Pow camp:** **December 1941** - The site was accepted as a pow camp. **Early 1942** - An Italian pow construction gang was allocated from Royston Camp 29 to work with the Pioneer Corps. The camp opened in spring.**9 February 1943** - International Red Cross inspection - Italian prisoners, capacity 750. The capacity was increased after this as shown in the war establishment number and rank of commandant.**1943** – Hostels listed for Italian pows;Green House (Balsham); Elsworth; Bourn.Italian pows were recorded as co-operators after the armistice.**May 1944** - The camp was listed in records as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Eastern Command area – again **November 1944**, (WO 32/10737).  |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1960 |

Italians increasingly based in billets on local farms and in hostels awaiting repatriation. The camp then became a German Working Camp – though for a time it held all Austrian pows.

**19 May 1945** – Wochenpost reprinted the text of a statement made by pows at Trumpington [abridged]:

*“With horror and disgust, we Christian Germans have heard of the crimes which have taken place in concentration camps in our homeland for years. The worst injustices have been wrought on the people in these camps…. We declare as honourable Germans that we despise from the bottom of our hearts these horrific crimes carried out…”*

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|  | **Postal items:** Unusual item. An ICRC Express -Message sent from Camp 45, via Geneva, to Italy. The message simply reads, ‘*He asks for news’*. Dated July 1944.Cachet shown below in use 1946. |  |

**June 1945** - Hostels listed for this Camp; Cherry Hinton, Balsham, Cottenham, and Impington.

Oversight 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, if any, in activities other than re-education. They rarely mention welfare, sports, games, pastimes, crafts, etc of the pows.

**6-7 November 1945** – an English Education visit commented on the lack of accommodation for classes and shortage of books. 1825 Austrian pows.

**17-20 February 1946** – English Education visit. “*This is an all Austrian camp and Ps/W are expecting to go home shortly and are consequently restless.*” The visitor repeated that accommodation for education was lacking though the pows were eager to learn.

**April / May 1946** – Most of the Austrian pows were being repatriated – a few remained at Anstey Hall until later in the year. The camp became a German Working Camp.

**25 June 1946** – ‘Re-educational Visit’. “*First visit since arrival of new personnel*” i.e. German staff. Total strength 3043 – 2 officers (medical officers) and 3041 Other Ranks. 1182 pows were at the main camp, the rest were accommodated in 10 hostels.

Commandant: Lt.Col.R.K.Stanley. Camp leader: Ofwbl. (Heinrich) Sintern (B+).

Interpreter: Lt.Marx Deputy C/L: StFwl.Traka (C).

German M.O.: Ass.Arzt.Dr. (Hans) Dobeneck (B-), the other M.O. was a Dr.Kruger(C).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unscreened | Overall grading – ‘Grey’ |
|  | 6 | 2 | 108 | 15 | 338 | 6 | 657 |

The 6 pows listed as C+ were “*going shortly*” – to other camps.

The camp and hostel leaders were recorded as being satisfactory, except for the one at satellite camp 150 who was “*being dealt with.*”

The camp at Cherry Hinton reverted back to being a satellite of Camp 45 in May/June 1946 together with two hostels at Balsham and Cottenham - there was a third hostel for C150 at Impington, but this was not listed. Woodbury and Gransden hostels were to be transferred to Beeson House, Huntingdonshire C141.

*“The majority of the PW have come from the USA (405) and Canada (123) during the last few months and have not yet settled down completely. However, the accommodation is good and they say they are receiving better treatment than in their previous camps, especially those who came from the USA via Belgium (1166). 1220 PW came from BAOR.*”

The pows from the USA were mis-informed that they would be returning to Germany – consequently morale was often very low. The camps in Belgium had extremely poor conditions and shortage of food. BAOR = British Army of the Rhine.

The British staff were regarded by the Inspector as not being overly interested in re-education, with pow discipline the main concern. Similar attitudes were reflected in many camps. Re-educational activities were listed as: Newspapers (Wochenpost, English, German and Swiss newspapers); a library with just 1000 books; no lectures had taken place; pow Dr.Hoeppken held discussion groups and press reviews – he also ran the camp newspaper called, ‘*Wille Und Weg’* (Will and Way); films; radios were in the main camp and all hostels; English language courses were held.

Other activities were listed as: attendance at a Roman Catholic chapel built by the Austrians + at the RC Church in Cambridge. Protestants had a Pastor (Hildebrand) and attended church in Trumpington. Music and drama activities were being organised.

**31 July – 2 August 1946** – ‘Re-educational Survey’. 2 medical officers and 2701 other ranks.

Political screening was similar to last report except for the removal of the C+ pows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unscreened | Overall grading – ‘Grey’ |
| 5 | 5 | 114 | 16 | 338 | 0 | 324 |

Morale was still recorded as being low. “*Political apathy is predominant. It is generally realised that National Socialism is a failure and the men would be open to re-education if the democratic idea were properly presented to them. There is no Communism. The hostel with the greatest anti-democratic feeling is Impington, but this may be due to the single influence of PW Heemeer – the interpreter – whose transfer to the main camp and replacement by PW Hanke has been accomplished. There is much resentment against democracy amongst the disappointed Ps.W from America.”*

There was no particular improvement in any of the re-education activities at the camp.

**4-7 October 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Main camp + 4 hostels, 2 satellite camps and various billets. A brief outline of the German pow teachers was given. English lessons had been shortened due to long hours working for the harvest.

**17-21 December 1946** – Re-educational Survey. 2 officers and 2631 other ranks. Simplified political screening: A- 60 / B – 1939 / C – 433 / Unscreened - 201. Similar comment to previous that the British staff were, “*not actively interested in re-education, most stress being laid on military discipline*.”

Morale – “*Is fairly low. There has been little repatriation so far and it is alleged that many Ps.W were denounced to screeners by their comrades and this has caused a feeliing of insecurity which is hampering participation in the re-education programme. There is a feeling of finality in the gradings which has created great apathy. International lack of agreement and depressing news from Germany are contributory factors. Food is good, and the prospect of more freedom of movement is heartening*.”

**December 1946** – The Cambridge Evening News reported that many pows were invited at Christmas to visit local families. The pows also made and donated a collection of toys to Addenbrooke’s Hospital.

**9-12 April 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Main camp, 2 satelllites and 5 hostels. 1019 German pows in the main camp and 159 Romanians. 1263 pows in hostels and satellites. A theatre was noted at the camp.

From this time the two satellites were listed as Cherry Hinton and Chrishall, (not Whittlesford). DID WHITTLESFORD MOVE A FEW KM TO A NEW SITE – OR WAS THIS THE SAME CAMP, DIFFERENT NAME? The Commandant for Crishall was Captian Davey – the same man was listed previously for Whittlesford.

A new Camp leader: (G.) ‘Mueller’.

“*Main camp and Cherry Hinton have the following facilities for English conversation, in addition to hospitality in private houses.*

*1. The “International Club” Cambridge. This is open to all nationalities and has a programme of entertainmennts, excursions, etc.*

*2. Rest room for Ps/W in Cambridge. Open from 2-5 on Sunday afternoons. Light refreshments and literature provided. This is run by Ministers of religion of all denominations.*

*3. The Cmdt is trying to arrange for some educational facilities with the university authorities. They, however, are proving rather “sticky” so far. But Col.Stanley has hopes of arranging something in the near future.*

*Some conducted tours of the FitzWilliam Museum and some of the colleges have taken place.”*

**14 May 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Main camp + 4 hostels and 2 satellites. Very brief comments. No breakdown of numbers. **20 May** a further visit to the Bourn and Elsworth hostels gave similar scant details.

**3/8 June 1947** – Re-education Survey. 1 (medical) officer and 2090 other ranks. Screening – A 29 / B2035 / C27. 770 pows repatriated to date.

Commandant: Lt. Col. Stanley Camp leader: OFw. Mueller, Georg (B)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Rubicek and S/Sgt Naphtalie Deputy C/L: OMt.Kissenkooter, Paul (B)

German M.O.: Ass/Arzt Dobeeneck, Hans (B)

The doctor was not well regarded by the inspector: *“Recently upgraded from C. NSKK, NSStB and PG.* [National Socialist organisations] *Volunteer for Luftwaffe. He is proud of his uniform and rank and still not convinced that Hitler was wrong. Contemptuous of the British. I think this man is graded too generously. His influence in the political life of the camp is bad.”*

*“Morale is generally good. Good relationships with employers, fair treatment, greater freedom and the steady progress of repatriation are favourable factors…. There are about 300 Rumanian Volksdeutsche whose uncertain fate is depressing them.”*

**5 August 1947** – Re-education Survey. 1 (medical) officer; 1732 other ranks. *“..little real interest, except polite interest to myself was shown in re-education.”*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | < No date – concrete slab buildings in foreground; and appears to be wooden huts for accommodation in background.“*Morale is fair to good, is best at Cottenham and Balsham and worst at Bourn. The depression occasioned at Chrishall Satellite by the withdrawal of surplus accommodation stores has been overcome. The presence of a number of Balkan Volksdeutche, whose fate is uncertain is a disturbing factor. At Chrishall the nearness of Poles has created an aloofness on the part of the locals. The new concessions and the resumed regularity of repatriation heighten morale whilst the slowness of incoming mail, especially from the American zone as well as the contents of letters generally have a bad effect. The fair treatment by the British staff helps considerably*.”Political Progress – “*Contact with the locals, especially at the main camp, where the University TocH. and Quakers and various church bodies take an interest has given a push to social thought. Vagueness is being replaced by faint but gradually getting bolder, outlines of a mental policy. There is a certain critical attitude to allied, especially Russian policy in Germany but with the exception of this latter, the criticism is rather intellectual than hostile.”*Youth [under-25’s] – “*About 30% are under 25 years. There is a lack of teachers for them. An attempt is being made to right this after the harvest. Several went to the youth*  |

 *hostel in July. There is a youth discussion group... The morale and political outlook is good.”*

Standard list of re-educational activities was given – “*at a low ebb owing to harvest and summer;”*

Visits to police courts, council meetings due to start early September + Cambridge University – Board of Extra-Mural Studies

Newspapers – Wochenpost and Ausblick; A range of English newspapers, some from Germany.

Library – 2314 books; 1327 in German.

Lectures – approximately fortnightly.

Discussion Groups – 1 for youths in main camp. Few other groups mainly due to repatriation of the study leader.

Films – fortnightly mainly in the main camp; 1300 attending.

Wireless – “*adequate”*

Camp magazine – 14 pages, 250 copies. “*Wille und Weg”*

Information room – just starting at the main camp.

Press review – Weekly at main camp and at Chrishall. Rarely in the hostels.

Other activities –

Religion – weekly visiting padres for catholics and protestants. Visits to local churches.

Education – English language, few other courses.

Entertainment – Main camp, Chrishall and Cottenham have bands and variety groups.

A rare mention of sports – “*Adequate. Material is on the short side. Exceptions: Bourn has no sports pitch and Chrishall whose pitch has been ploughed up, now has the use of one 3 miles away only for Saturdays and Sundays*.”

**September 1947 -** Camp 45 closed. It re-opened as Youth Camp 180 for the re-education and training of young German pows. Balsham and Crishall hostels were transferred to Royston Camp 29.

Previously the youth camp had been Radwinter Camp 180. The work was largely under the direction of Henry Faulk from the Intelligence Corps, head of re-education for pows. Radwinter became a hostel for the Trumpington Camp.

**15-16 September 1947** – English Inspector’s report. 1 hostel – (ex Camp 180 Radwinter)

Commandant: Major Woodnott; Lagersprecher: (Hans) Horstmann.

“*The present main camp used to be Camp 45 but the former occupants have now been moved to Radwinter, which is now a hostel of Camp 180. All the Ps/W in the former camp at Radwinter (Youth Camp) were brought to Trumpington, with the exception of about 200 who stayed behind. The reason for this move is that there is only sufficient agricultural work for 500 Ps/W, while at Trumpington 1000 men can be employed.*

*Amenities: Main Camp: Here about 900 young Ps/W (average age 22/23) take part in courses in preparation for their abitur: these courses last 14 weeks. Subjects include civics, history, geography, current affairs, agriculture, mathematics, horticulture, electricity, German, French, English and Russian*.”

There were ‘*obstacles*’ to overcome in the camp, such as lack of electricity in part of the site.

Most education courses at Radwinter ended as there were no teachers – one was sent later in September to sort things out.

**15/22/29 October and 5/12 November 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. The report was mainly notes on the Inspector’s own lessons.

**14 November 1947** - Camp 180 was included in an ‘Urgent Memorandum’ (FO 939/270) regarding inspection of food parcels.

**17 December 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. This was the last report that lists Radwinter.

**17 December 1947** – The first of a series of lectures was given to 25 pows by the Mayor in the Cambridge Guildhall about English community life.

**12-17 January 1948**. A conference was held at the camp, organised by the YMCA to provide a short course of training for 22 pow ‘studentleiters’ from other camps.

**3/4/8/15/22 March 1948.** Number of pows in main camp only listed – 898.

**5/12/19/30 April 1948** – English Inspector’s Report. Of note was the ‘*end-of-term’* atmosphere in the camp as final repatriations were made over the next few months. Resettlement officers visited the camp to assist the pows – rather late in the day.

**10 April 1948** - “*The last production of what is known as the German Youth Stage at Trumpington P.O.W. camp before they go home in June will be given at the Houghton Hall. It will be a performance of the classical comedy "Der Zerbrochene Krug". Not only will it be acted outside the camp, but amongst the cast of 12 will be four British girls. The play will be acted in German but an introduction in English is provided. The performance will be open, without charge, to anyone who may be interested.”* – from [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk)

**May / June 1948 -** Mr Bell made 5 more visits to the camp to give lessons. He did not note pow numbers as he stated that numbers changed from day to day. He believed that the work carried out in this camp had made valuable contributions to good relationships between Germany and England.

**10 June 1948** - last of the lectures. Given by Paul Roubiczek. He gave lessons to the pows at the Extra-Mural Department of Cambridge University and visited the camp several times to give lectures.

“*It was very gratifying that the Ps/W remained interested in these lectures even during the last week of their stay in the camp, in the midst of all their packing etc. This short course thus proved very much worth while indeed. The subjects of these last three lectures were Stifter, Naturalism and Thomas Mann*.”

**12 July 1948** - “*Sir - Last week the last German Prisoners of War left this district on their journey home. During their stay in local camps, they have received many kindnesses from corporate bodies, religious groups and men and women in this town. This has been deeply appreciated by the men, and as a former welfare visitor to the camps. I should like to help those who have helped in any way both before and after the fraternisation restrictions were lifted eighteen months ago - Mervyn Parry, Society of Friends, Jesus Lane*.”– from www.mikepetty.org.uk

Known camp commandants:

1943-? Major A Harris moved from Camp 61 to Trumpington

c1946-1947 Lieutenant Colonel R K Stanley. From the Royal Pioneer Corps.

September 1947 - ? Major F J Woodnott – Pioneer Corps, some further details under Camp 180 Radwinter.

**Camp and hostels + number of pows where known:**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Camp 45** |  | **Camp 180** |
|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Main | Cap750 | ? | 1182 | 1003 | 1007 | 910 | 1019 | 960 | 1104 | 847 | 1053 | 1040 | 1000 | 961 | 847 | 898 | 740 |
| Cherry Hinton |  | C150 | 471 | 194 | 374 | 383 | 405 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balsham |  | 68 | 68 | 67 | 64 | 41 | ? | 67 | 49 | To C29 |
| Cottenham |  | 68 | 68 | 70 | 70 | 70 | ? | 71 | 70 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Impington |  |  | 200 | 200 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bourn |  | 85 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 78 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Elsworth |  | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 78 | 78 | 80 | 78 | 76 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Melbourn |  |  | 159 | 186 | 186 | 190 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whittlesford |  |  | 586 | 557 | 513 | 543 | See notes |
| Chrishall | With C29 | 486 | ? | 443 | 400 | To C29 |
| Woodbury |  |  | 259 | To C141 |
| Gransden |  |  | 27 |
| Anstey (Hall) |  |  | 63 | 64 | 107 | 107 | 103 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Radwinter |  | C 180 | 505 | 330 | 100 |  |  |  |  |
| Billets |  | ? |  | 200 | 131 | 208 | 188 | ? | 248 | 213 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  | 1825 | 3043 | 2703 | 2815 | 2633 | 2282 | 2148 | 2091 | 1733 | 1108 | 1370 | 1100 | 961 | 847 | 898 | 740 |

**After the camp:** The camp became a National Service Hostel which closed c1954. The cleared area is now part of Trumpington Meadows Country Park.

The site as it is now: <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-eastern-england/pow-camp-45-trumpington/>

**Further information:**

[Trumpington Local History Group](http://trumpingtonlocalhistorygroup.org/) – website has many details, memories and pictures of the camp.

*‘Hauxton in Times Past’ -* Audrey Elliott and Ivor Jordan – 1993 – no publisher listed.

“*Cambridge Sporting Village, Cambridgeshire – Field walking, metal detecting and geophysical survey*” (Report number 1316) – Ricky Patten and Andrew Hall – 2015 – Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge University.

National Archives -

FO 939/127 45 Working Camp, Trumpington Camp, Cambridge. Dated 1945-1947. Used above.

FO 939/176 180 Working Camp, Trumpington Camp, Cambridgeshire. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.

FO 939/311 180 Working Camp, Trumpington Camp, Cambridgeshire and Radwinter Camp, Saffron Walden, Essex. Dated 1946-1948. Used above.

As a hostel – FO 936/177 Youth activities: Trumpington youth camp project. Dated 1947-1948

Group captives: The Re-education of German Prisoners of War – Henry Faulk – 1977 – Chatto and Windus.

There was a camp newspaper. A Christmas 1946 copy is held by the Imperial War Museum, catalogue number LBY E.J.442

**Satellite Camps / Hostels**

**Anstey (Hall – huts in the grounds) –** 1 mile from main camp. TL 444 548.

**August 1946** - Recorded as still having “*forgotten”* Austrian pows – the Commandant was “*taking steps, through the usual channels, to get disposal instructions*.”

**4-7 October 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. 107 ‘Romanians’.

**December 1946** - Camp leader; Uscha.Drottleff (B).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Anstey (Hall) |  |  | 63 | 64 | 107 | 107 | 103 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Balsham –** 12 miles from main camp. Described as converted stables and ‘Green House.’ Approximate NGR TL 586 508 – see Camp 29 for map.

**1943 –** Italian pows

**29 June 1945** - Transferred to Cherry Hinton Camp 150, (WO 166/17823).

**3 August 1946** – Back with Camp 45 / managed by Cherry Hinton satellite camp. An English Education visit was carried out. The pows were German.

**August 1946** – Hostel leader; Hfw.Schlusnus (B).

**December 1946** – Hostel leader; Ogefr. Schweikert (A)

**June 1947** - Hostel leader; Helmut Panning (B+).

**August 1946** - Hostel leader; Ofw.Hermann Hagenkamp (B-).

Transferred to Royston Heath Camp 29.

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Balsham |  | To C150 | 68 | 68 | 67 | 64 | 41 | ? | 67 | 49 | To C29 |

**Bourn** – 10 miles from main camp.

**1943** – Italian pows.

**August 1946** - Hostel Leader – Ofw. Alois Kortmann (B).

**August 1947** – Same hostel leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Bourn |  | 85 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 78 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Cherry Hinton – Separate details under Camp 150.** 5 miles from main camp

**June 1945** - became Camp 150, (WO 166/17823) – with Balsham; Cottenham and Impington as hostels.

**August 1946** - it was again a satellite camp for Trumpington.

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Cherry Hinton |  | C150 | 471 | 194 | 374 | 383 | 405 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Chrishall –** 9¾ miles from main camp. Previously attached to Royston Camp 29. Chrishall Grange – TL 445 427

**9 - 12 April 1947** - First reported as a satellite camp – officer i/c Capt Davey (as Whittlesford).

**June 1947** - Camp leader Otto Sterz (B+)

**June 1947** – “*A temporary setback has taken place at Crishall satellite due to the arrival of a new commandant who has brought barrack furniture down to the correct scale.”*

**23 July 1947 –** Suicide of pow Josef Giehl. He was later buried at Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery.



**August 1947** - camp leader as above. Re-education activities - “*Owing to its isolation and the aloofness of the locals Chrishall is badly off*.”

Transferred back to Royston c29

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Chrishall | With C29 | 486 | ? | 443 | 400 | To C29 |

**Cottenham** – 10 miles from main camp

**29 June 1945** - Transferred to Cherry Hinton Camp 150, (WO 166/17823).

**3 August 1946** – an English Education visit was carried out. The pows were German. The camp was listed as a hostel managed by the satellite camp at Cherry Hinton. 68 pows. Hostel leader; Hwm. Richter (B)

**December 1946** - Hostel leader; Gefr. Schnaas (B).

**June 1947** - Hostel leader; Edwin Richter (B). The hostel had, “..*close and friendly associations with the local Salvation Army.”*

**August 1947** - Hostel leader as above.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Cottenham |  | To C150 | 68 | 68 | 70 | 70 | 70 | ? | 71 | 70 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Elsworth** – 10 miles from main camp.

**1943 –** Hostel for Italian pows. The memories below state that it was a much larger site when the Italians were present – with 250 pows.

Abridged memories of Donald Gardner who was a guard at the camp for three to four months when it was an Italian hostel; *“To locate it, merely look to the right as you enter the village from Boxworth - the small industrial site marks the spot.*

*Three privates, one of whom was cook, plus a corporal or sergeant constituted the arm of authority. In their care were 250 Italians categorised as being well-behaved and trustworthy. The day commenced at 6.30 a.m., not with reveille, but rather with a kick on the door. Breakfast was at 7.00 a.m. and by 8.30 a.m. the prisoners were on their bicycles on the way to the farms where they were to work. The prisoners had to be in their huts by 7.30 p.m., with ‘lights out’ at 10.00 p.m. Earlier in the evening, from 7.00 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. they were allowed to listen to the radio news (in Italian).*

*Relationships between the Italians and their camp guards were good, but certain aspects of life in the camp might have not met with approval at Brigade headquarters, if known. It was not to be expected, for example, that the responsibility of the camp telephone might have been delegated to a prisoner - the fact that one Italian spoke very good English prompted the guards, at times, to leave the instrument in his hands while they enjoyed the hospitality of the 'George and Dragon!’ The Italians, too, took advantage of situations. On one occasion two prisoners were found in bed with ladies in Swavesey while assigned to work at a farm.*

*Don… speaks of the evening when his sergeant, returning from Boxworth a little merry with drink, took a course on the wrong side of the railings by the stream east of Elsworth and plunged into the water….*

*The buildings appear from the exterior much as they were; missing though are the fine statues which could be seen from the road.”*

Elsworth Chronicle - Issue No. 5 December 1992 <https://www.elsworthchronicle.org.uk/publications/Chronicle%2012-92.A5.pdf>

**1945 –** Italians replaced by Germans.

**August 1946** - Hostel Leader; Ofw.Buettering (B-)

**9-12 April 1947** English Inspector’s Report. “*Organised courses have lapsed, owing to apathy or laziness on the part of the pupils. They meet, however, for English conversation at irregular intervals*.”

**August 1947** – Same hostel leader. Elsworth hostel was friendly with the local sports club at Papworth Hospital.

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Elsworth |  | 80 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 78 | 78 | 80 | 78 | 76 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Gransden** – 13 miles from main camp

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Gransden |  |  | 27 | To Camp 141 |

**Impington**

**29 June 1945** - Transferred to camp 150 Cherry Hinton, (WO 166/17823).

Not listed **25 June 1946** – ‘Re-educational Visit’.

**3 August 1946** – an English Education visit was carried out. The pows were German. The camp was listed as a hostel managed by satellite Camp at Cherry Hinton. 200 pows.

**August 1946** - Camp Leader; Owm.Flacke (B-)

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Impington |  | To C150 |  | 200 | 200 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Melbourn** – 7 miles from main camp

**August 1946** - Hostel Leader; Ofw.Weber (B+)

**December 1946** - Hostel leader; Ofw. August Schulz. (B)

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Melbourn |  |  | 159 | 186 | 186 | 190 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Whittlesford** – Satellite Camp. 10 miles from main camp. Whittlesford hostel was founded in May 1946.

**June 1946** – Camp leader; Ofwl.W Hirschmann (B-).

**5 October 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Commandant; Captain E.N.Davey, DCM. Lagersprecher: W.Hirschmann. 513 pows in huts. Little to report – he calls the pows ‘pleasant’ and remarks; “*There is only one officer at this camp and therefore, there is no mess. A good lunch can be got at “Red Lion,” Whittlesford, about 1 mile from camp.”*

**December 1946** - same camp leader.

**9-12 April 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. From this point the two satellites were listed as Cherry Hinton and Chrishall, (not Whittlesford). DID WHITTLESFORD MOVE A FEW KM TO A NEW SITE – OR WAS THIS THE SAME CAMP, DIFFERENT NAME???? The Commandant for Crishall was Captian Davey – the same man was listed previously for Whittlesford.

From here see Chrishall

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Whittlesford |  |  | 586 | 557 | 513 | 543 | See notes |

**Woodbury** – 15 miles from main camp.

**August 1946** – Hostel leader; Ofw.Buettering (B-)

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|  | **1943** | **11/45** | **6/46** | **8/46** | **10/46** | **12/46** | **4/47** | **5/47** | **6/47** | **8/47** | **9/47** | **11/47** | **12/47** | **1/48** | **2/48** | **3/48** | **4/48** |
| Woodbury |  |  | 259 | To C141 |