**Camp 46** **- Kingsfold Camp, Marringdean Road, Billingshurst, Sussex**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 46. Kingsfold Camp, Billinghurst, Sussex.

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| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 46(G.W.C.) | Kingsfold Camp, Billingshurst, Sussex | E. | Priswar, Billingshurst | Billingshurst 217/8 | Billingshurst | Lt.Col.A.C.W.Upton | 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 088 246 | 197 | 46 | Kingsfold Camp, Marringdean Road, Billinghurst | Sussex | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type |

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| **Location:** Next to a farm called Kingsfold off the Marringdean Road, on the S edge of Billingshurst.  **Before the camp:** Farmland on edge of Daux Wood. The original listing for the proposed site was; ‘46. Horsham, Sussex – Wisborough Green.’  **Pow camp:** The site was accepted as a pow camp in December 1941, it opened in 1942.  The camp was constructed by a local company; ‘Charles Wadey and Sons’ probably with the assistance of the Pioneer Corps and Italian pows.  The layout was the ‘Standard’ type with a main pow compound (A), and a guards and administration area (B). The main entrance was at (C).  Listed as Italian working camp / labour battalion to 1945, then a German Working Camp.  **1943** – Hostels listed for Italian pows: West Hoathly; Ardingly; Charlwood; Midhurst. (+ a site I do not understand - Snedshill (West Hoathly) – I can find no reference to any ‘Snedshill’ in the area).  **5 May 1944** - Hostels listed for Italian pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): West Hoathly; Sharpthorne, East Grinstead, Sussex. |  |  |
| Aerial photo 1948 | Ordnance Survey 1952 |

**May 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the South East Command area and as an Italian POW Working Camp in **November 1944**, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were recorded as non-co-operators.

Local memories of Italian billetees – “*Local labour became scarcer and scarcer but the government organised a scheme whereby Italian prisoners of war could be dropped at the farms from the local POW camp at Billingshurst, collected in the evening and taken back to camp. The Hosking family thought the system more or less like cattle being collected and they did not approve, so they asked if the men might live on the farm. Agreeing to stringent rules, this was allowed and the large former play-room building at the back of the house i.e. East Harting farmhouse, was fitted out with a stove, 3 beds, tables and chairs.*

*The men were very pleased with this arrangement, as at the camp they only had straw mattresses to sleep on – what luxury! They had exactly the same food as the family so that they could see the shortages which were being imposed on the British. There was a large gathering at the farm in those days: four family children, two Jewish refugee children, two Danish students who had been unable to return to Denmark before the outbreak of the war and a Swiss girl who was acting as gardener at the farm. Of the three Italians, one was 'a little peasant fellow who could neither read or write', one was an intelligent man 'with whom we are still in correspondence', and one was a 'shy, miller's son', but always their response was, when they came for orders in the morning, 'What you want, I do'.*

*They did all kinds of farm work, helping with the sheep, calves, pigs, poultry and the corn crops. However, they were not allowed to mix with the villagers and were supposed to stay on the farm. Once a month, they returned to Billingshurst to spend their wages of 5 shillings a week which had to be spent in the camp.*

*The Italians always went 'passeggiata' – strolling about here and there in the evenings – as is the Italian habit. One of their chief pleasures was to catch little birds such as larks, thrushes and blackbirds and fry them. This horrified Mrs Hosking as they would present the birds to her as a great treat and she didn't like to say no. They had to wear brown uniforms which were patched in certain places, 'where they could be shot at if they tried to escape.' Mrs Hosking disliked that, and when Tullio wanted to go to Church with the family one Easter, she refused to take him in POW dress, so she lent him a suit. Some good soul reported it to the camp and he was withdrawn, put into solitary confinement for one month, 'and it was with great difficulty that we got him back'. When the youngest Hosking child was killed in an accident, Tullio was asked by Mrs Hosking to be one of the bearers of his coffin.*

*The Italians were withdrawn from the farm at the end of the war with Italy, and German POWs were offered instead.”* From [www.westsussexpast.org.uk](http://www.westsussexpast.org.uk)

**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 most of the Italians were in hostels / billets as the main camp changed to hold German pows.

**15 September 1945** - Hostels listed for pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Ardingly / Charlwood / Forest (Farm) House / Kingscote / Loxwood / Midhurst / Newent / Rusper / West Hoathly. Some of these would still be holding Italian pows, (Midhurst known).

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

At some point the camp also held Austrian pows. They were all removed by September 1946.

**20 September 1945** – English Inspector’s Report. He stated that this was a; “*new camp, opened on 3.8.45*,” but he only referred to German pows, he ignored that it had held Italians beforehand and that many Italians were still based in attached hostels.

There were 4 pow English teachers. Apart from receiving Wochenpost and Ausblick, there was a shortage of texts and reading books.

**22 December 1945** – English Inspector’s Report. The numbers given were again ONLY for German pows in the main camp + 2 hostels = 1341.

87 pupils learning English with 5 teachers. There was a shortage of accommodation for teaching; lessons were mainly carried out in the unsuitable dining hut which was also used for games. There was still a shortage of texts.

**4 and 5 March 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. 4 teachers in the main camp.

**19 March 1946** – 485 German pows arrived from camps in the USA, (via Berechurch Camp 186). They had been misinformed in the US that they were to be returned to Germany; consequently, morale was often low when they arrived instead in camps in the UK.

**9/12 April 1946** – Visit to survey re-education, screen billetees, and a special report on a pow. Strength; 1 officer (M.O), 1800 OR.

Note – there were still some Italian pows – but they were not mentioned at all.

Commandant: Lt Col A C W Upton Camp leader: H/Fw Franz Hulfenhaus (B) (Hilfenhaus / Huelfenhaus - spelling?)

Interpreter Officer: Capt R A Sanderson, (Pioneer Corps). Deputy C/L: H/Fw Otto Sellmer (B)

German M.O.: St/Arzt Dr Hans Dorfler (est B+)

The commandant was recorded as being keen to further re-education, but the IO had no interest.

It was stated that the camp leader, “*shows very little interest in the spiritual life of the camp*.” The German interpreter, (Deterding, A+) was more active, *“liked and respected by all and sundry and has an extremely good influence.”*

The camp was politically classified as grey/black with: white, A+ 4; / white, A 139; / grey, B 737; / black, C 107; / with 813 pows unscreened.

Morale was only seen as ‘fair’ in the main camp, but better in the hostels. Positive factors were; goodwill and fair treatment by the Commandant; improved range of canteen goods; billeting of some pows; film shows. Negative factors were; lack of repatriation; home news; lack of camp funds (raised mainly from canteen sales); a grievance over pay. Political progress had been hampered by the arrival of the pows from USA. Few communists.

[A pow (nicknamed barleylees – see North Munden below) was held here for three months just after this report – his comment; “*What a miserable place that was!”* The camp still had barbed wire fences and sentry towers].

375 pows were ‘youth’ (under-25) – regarded as apathetic and not keen to take part in re-education activities.

The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 370/100 received.

Newspapers – range of English papers. 12 copies of German papers received irregularly. More required.

Library – Poor, just 284 books (30 of them were Bibles) and only 60 German novels.

Lectures – Regular. Visitor described intellectual level as ‘low.’

Discussion groups – none.

Films – PID Van fortnightly; mainly information films – the hostels were not included. YMCA films were popular, fortnightly and included the hostels.

Wireless – 1 set with 5 loudspeakers. News and music preferred.

Camp magazine - ‘*Der Bruecke’* (The Bridge) due to be published.

Press review – extracts read every other day (c120 attending) with longer session on Sundays (200 pows).

English Instruction – 60 pupils. More teaching texts required.

Other activities –

Religion – 60% Protestant, 40% RC. British protestant padre visiting fortnightly; 25 pows attending. RC military chaplain or civilian fortnightly; 70 pows. Bible hour twice a week and a weekly evening service.

Education – French, German, arithmetic, maths, algebra. Teachers seen as reliable.

Theatre – Variety shows every 6 weeks in the dining hut.

Orchestra – dance band with a piano, 2 violins and 1 guitar.

Choir – 35 pows performing mainly folk song concerts.

Main sport – football.

There was no comment about the special report on a pow.

**8 June 1946 - *Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald - STURRY WOODS COMBED.***

*Large forces of Police, both military and civil, searched the Canterbury district in steady rain on Friday for three German prisoners of war who escaped during the night of May 4th—5th from Billingshurst camp (Sussex). Since their break-out the men were reported in the Romney Marsh area and a series of thefts of clothes and food were attributed to the Germans by the Kent Police. Late on Thursday night the prisoners were seen leaving farm buildings at Sturry. A Police patrol led by Insp. Percy Worth (Canterbury) was called to the scene and the village was combed.*

*Apparently, the Nazis stole bread from the bakery of F.Neame and were later heard by Mr.Leonard Roy, who lives at the ‘Swan,’ climbing over a wall. He came down from his bedroom and chased the men along Church Lane and into the darkness. They separated and later one was detected hiding in a ditch half full of water with a bundle of nettles pulled over his head as camouflage. P/Sgt. Leonard Jennings made the capture and the German gave in without a struggle. He was taken to Canterbury Police Station. Meanwhile, the search continued systematically all night, fresh Police officers relieving those who had been on the hunt for several hours. The general manhunt, under the direction of Supt. G. T. Hall, was augmented by 50 troops from the 12th I.T.C.*

*The woods and undergrowth on the Sturry side of the city were intensively investigated - all the searchers were drenched but no capture was made. Later another of the Germans made his way to the Canterbury Barracks and gave himself up to an Army Sergeant at the gale, saying that he was exhausted, cold, wet, hungry and completely "fed up." The German, who spoke a little English, was taken to the Police Station and interrogated. From this questioning it became clear that the third man, who was wearing stolen civilian clothes and spoke good English, had eluded the searchers and had got out of the district. Kent Police are still on the qui vive, jut in case.*

**27 June 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 2407. 35 pow pupils in 2 classes in the main camp.

The Inspector commented that re-education was; “*considered by the authorities to be rather a waste of time and energy*.”

There was a general decline in numbers of pows taking English lessons; this happened in the majority of camps. Reasons given – 5 years in captivity for some pows; considering themselves as “*slave labourers*” and taking no interest in anything. There was a shortage of teaching materials.

**22 August to 5 September 1946** – Segregation section visit to carry out further political gradings.

No change to senior personnel. Brief notes were given about some personnel –

Camp Leader – “*Apart from being a militarist, he has no party background. He now wishes to co-operate fully with Allies and has proved this by his present activities…. Appreciated by the majority on account of his fair handling of men, rations, and welfare fund.”*

Deputy C/L – “*Regular soldier with no party background, but was a full supporter of the Hitler regime. Co-operates with the Camp Leader.”*

M.O. – appears to have been regraded to B-, previously listed as B+, not surprising with his record; “*SA San Sturmfűhrer 1934, NS Aerztebund 36, NS Reichskriegerbund 35, DRK 1937. In spite of his bad record, he recognises the value of democracy*.” [SA = Nazi brownshirts – NS = Nazi Party – DRK = German Red Cross].

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| Political screening: | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Not known |
|  | 7 | 174 | - | 412 | 1762 | 499 | 180 | 15 | 4 |

Overall, the camp was regarded as politically ‘grey.’ A recommendation was made that the 15 C+ grade pows be transferred from this camp. There were few communists and none causing any problems.

Comments were raised about one pow in particular; “*Uffz Uhlenbruch, Karl:… has made statements about his having sent 20 people to the cemetery, and was at Ps/W camps for Russians, Poles, and French at Stalag 1a and 1b. Statements by prisoners who actually heard him say these things are not sufficient evidence to take more decisive action. He is at the moment serving in the Camp Police, where he is not engaging in any political activities…”* A watch was being kept on the man.

Religion – No camp padres. The camp was visited by the Bishop of Chichester.

**4 September 1946** – All Austrian pows were transferred to Wolterton Camp 409.

**21 September 1946 –** English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 3049. 96 pupils in 3 classes.

Late work gathering the harvest was affecting classes. A shortage of materials noted again. “*Theatre groups, art exhibitions and sports are the main activities*.”

**1-4 October 1946** – Survey of re-education. Strength; 2 officers (M.O.s), 2963 OR.

A second interpreter, S/Sgt Curtis joined. Comment remained that the commandant showed an interest in re-education, but the interpreters did not.

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| Political screening: | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | Not known |
|  | 7 | 233 | - | 410 | 1564 | 498 | 253 | 8 |

Number of C grade pows increased from 195.

Morale was regarded as ‘fair.’ Negative factors were slow repatriations, apprehension of pows from the Russian zone, conditions at home.

About 50% were ‘youth’, but no special provision had been made for them.

The provision of re-education activities was regarded as very good. The standard list was given:

Wochenpost / Ausblick – 600 / irregular respectively.

Newspapers – 4-6 papers daily, paid from the welfare fund in main and hostels except Midhurst, Temple Bar and North Munden. Only 10 German papers received at the main camp. It was suggested that the German papers should be placed in noticeboards.

Library – 450 books in main camp, 10-30 in the hostels. Completely inadequate. Books that had been ordered and paid for, had not arrived after two months. Many of the pows from US camps had sent their books home as they believed that was where they too were heading.

Lectures – regular, including speakers from the pows in the camp.

Discussion groups – rare, mainly because of late night harvest work.

Films – YMCA fortnightly; COGA news films monthly in the main camp only.

Wireless – All sites had a wireless set. Temple Bar set needed repair; Wooddale needed more loudspeakers.

Camp magazine – 750 copies of 12 pages monthly, next edition to have 20 pages.

Press review – Some had been halted due to harvest, but most sites continued, or planned to restart. Some held daily, some weekly. The main interests were the Nuremberg trials, German elections, possible war with Russia, and home conditions.

English Instruction – see separate reports.

Other activities –

Religion – no padres at the main camp; only monthly visits by padres. Provision was very poor at all sites in comparison to most other pow camps. Many of the billetees attended local churches.

Education – classes for engineering, French and maths.

Theatre – largely disorganised. Different groups at the sites, but often affected by late working hours.

Orchestra – 10 members who also visited the hostels when transport allowed. Mainly operettas, dance and some classical music.

**27/29 January 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 2706.

27 pupils in 2 classes at the main camp, though many others studied privately. It was estimated that 650 pows studied English at all sites and in private. In addition to the pow teachers, the camp was assisted by the Rev Downes with intermediate pupils, and he was also due to start teaching advanced students in North Munden. Local Quaker groups were also helping to teach English at the main camp and some hostels.

Despite the praise for re-education activities given in surveys, this inspector commented; “*the policy of re-education is rather looked upon as fruitless*.” He went on to comment that the camp leader, “*and his immediate self-chosen associates are apparently Nazi ideologists and consequently a menace to re-education. They should be removed as soon as possible*.” This put the camp in a very different perspective than the general surveys.

A good influence in the camp was listed as Pastor Reinhard Schmidt, the camp chaplain, editor of the magazine and study leader.

**26-29 March 1947** – Re-education survey and screening. Strength; 2 officers, 2792 OR.

The Interpreter Officer, Capt R A Sanderson, was 60 years old. The second interpreter, S/Sgt Curtis, was replaced by S/Sgt Lippman.

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| Simplified screening was in place: | A | B | C | Unscreened |
|  | 69 | 2502 | 207 | 16 |

300 appeals were pending against screening grades; the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory. No information was given as to how many appeals were successful, but in most camps, most appeals were accepted. 641 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was recorded as ‘low’ - reasons given; news from home, slow repatriation, strict discipline in the main camp. Although greater freedoms were given to the pows, this was considered to be two-edged in that they still had a limited ability to go out, which reminded them that they were prisoners. There was little active Nazi influence in the camp, but a growing nationalist and anti-British feeling. Their continued imprisonment led many to distrust democracy. In the view of the visitor; “*the great majority of Ps.W who are too idle or too sorry for themselves to think deeply, democracy means England and England spells captivity*.”

The standard list of re-education activities was given with little difference to the previous report. Recommendations were repeated about the need for more books and lecturers visiting the hostels. Passive resistance was being shown to re-education by the camp leader and this led to a strained relationship between him and the active study leader.

Formal outside contacts had been made with local Quakers, who gave gramophone concerts, and the Salvation Army from Horsham.

**7/10 June 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 2653. 20 pupils in 2 classes in the main camp.

There was a new commandant; Lt Col Dumain.

The relationship between the camp leader and study leader was said to be; “*cordial and co-operative”* – later comments differ.

**21-26 July 1947** – General re-education survey. Strength; 2 officers, 2408 OR.

The new commandant had been transferred from Western Command and had worked in pow camps. It was stated that he was in complete sympathy with the re-education aims of PID.

Some pows stated that the I.O., Capt Sanderson, was “*anti-German*” and unnecessarily strict when enforcing regulations about what items pows could take when being repatriated. The visitor did not accept these particular views, however, he did note that the I.O. was often, “*short tempered and impatient*.”

The visitor believed that the camp leader’s attitude to re-education had, “*undergone a change for the worst recently.”* Previous reports indicate this had been the case for some time. It was decided to leave him in place, but to look for a replacement.

Simplified screening in use – A 3, B 2407, C 0. The C grades had either been upgraded to B or moved to another camp. 17 appeals pending. 1092 pows repatriated to date.

It was believed that morale had improved due to better weather, increased employment, new privileges – and the attitude of the new commandant who was regarded as being a fair man. Morale was generally better in the hostels. Despite the better morale, there was an increase in nationalist, anti-British feelings.

One of the new privileges was being able to possess English money. This had unforeseen consequences as it led to a fall in items bought in the camp canteen and so the Welfare fund decreased. German pows who worked as camp staff were paid from the Welfare fund and so were not receiving their wages.

The standard list of re-education was given with little change from the previous report. Activities were affected as the weather was good and pows were able to leave the camp. Press reviews had ceased except at Lavant hostel.

Religion – Interest was generally low. There was, “*some considerable anti-clerical feeling, particularly among the younger men*.”

Evangelical chaplain – Gefr Schmidt; “*although sincere and honest, does not succeed in establishing contact with the pows and is not popular*.”

RC chaplain from Merrow Camp 57 visited – Hans Glasner (A) was, “*very well liked and respected by all and is a good influence in the camp.”*

Entertainments – the theatre group and orchestra were no longer listed in the main camp. There were choirs at the main camp and Wooddale. There was a puppet theatre in the main camp organised by P W Pancek – “*a masterpiece of skill, patience and artistry and can be packed and transported in a 15cwt truck…. Music and singing being supplied by gramophone records, with which the movement of the puppets is synchronised.”*

Contacts organised with – YMCA, Toc H., WEA in Billingshurst, Quakers who gave a food parcel to all pows being repatriated. Unfortunately, during 1947there was also a court case concerning a Quaker couple, Norman and Evelyn Cox, who lived near the camp. They gave refuge to escaped / awol German pows, twice, even lending bicycles to help them get to Southampton.

Concerts and a puppet show had been given in aid of Boy Scouts.

Visits to the camp included – Dean of Chichester (he spoke German), local clergymen, YMCA, Quakers, Salvation Army, WEA, three local residents gave song and piano recitals.

**28 August 1947**- Hull Daily Mail – “*P.C. RAN TO RESCUE, FOUND PRISONERS*.”

*“A policeman patrolling Worthing, Sussex, promenade today saw a car spin round, run across the promenade and fall on to the beach. Running towards the car, he met walking away from it the three German prisoners who had been missing from Billingshurst, Sussex, camp for several days. They offered no resistance, and he took them to a nearby hotel until assistance arrived. The three had eluded a widespread hunt over woods and farmland in the country. Today the car was still on the beach a short distance above high-water mark while inquiries as to its ownership were made.”*

**29 September – 1 October 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 1995.

Recorded - 118 pows, all advanced in 1 class in main camp. There was no explanation for this number which was wildly out of line to all other reports

**16/22 October 1947 –** Re-education survey. Strength; 2 officers, 1914 OR.

No change to senior personnel. Some details provided about German staff -

Camp leader Franz Huelfenhaus, aged 33, continued to be unco-operative and his removal was recommended.

Deputy C/L Otto Sellmer, aged 32, electro-mechanic – “*Quiet man of no great influence*.”

The visitor’s attitude to the study leader / chaplain, Reinhard Schmidt, had changed. At the beginning of the year, he was stated to be a “*good influence*” – now he was, “*an opportunist seeking his own advantage*.” His clashes with the camp leader and others, led to the recommendation that he be removed – “*His influence is not good any longer*.”

Morale recoded as low at the HQ camp, main reasons were the camp leader, and strict interpretation of instructions. Morale was higher in the hostels. Anti-British ill feeling had been encouraged by comments made by the Bishop of Chichester and some sections of the British press which referred to pows as ‘slave labour.’

Re-education activities continued, the only noteworthy change was that the library was now adequately stocked.

There was a light music band. The puppet theatre had closed down because of lack of performers, the equipment was being sold with funds going to the Welfare fund.

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

**21-24 January 1948** – “*Civilianisation and Re-education*” report. Strength; 1 officer, 1290 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Dumain Camp leader: H/Fw Paul Saworski

Interpreter Officer: Capt R A Sanderson Deputy C/L: Gefr Dieter Korfmann

German M.O.: St/Arzt Dr Hans Doerfler

Camp leader Huelfenhaus had been transferred. The new leader appointed; Saworski, was previously hostel leader at Wooddale.

The study leader Schmidt had been replaced by Gefr H Lepping – Schmidt had also been transferred.

Morale had improved considerably – due to good treatment, especially by the commandant; relaxation of rules on items to post home; Christmas leave – and the realisation that repatriations were happening increasingly rapidly. Many pows had spent Christmas with local families – informal contacts such as this had the greatest affect on morale and political views – far more than the planned re-education activities. A good range of formal contacts were also maintained.

An Information Room had been set up to show exhibitions of text / pictorial displays from the Foreign Office. The current exhibition was; ‘English Parliament.’

A new protestant padre – Siebert. A new RC priest visiting from Camp 57, Kastl. Both were regarded as first class.

Activities were slowly coming to an end – the theatre group had dissolved, there were just 3 band members, and only 3 members of the choir.

There were no comments at all about ‘Civilianisation.’

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|  | **10/11 February 1948** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 1041. 30 pupils in 3 different level classes.  The Rev Downes continued to teach advanced classes in the main camp. He arranged ‘lantern’ lectures and for other speakers to come in to the camp. He organised an ‘English Club’ to teach about the language and the English way of life.  The Inspector believed that about 300 pows from this camp had been ‘civilianised’ to settle in Britain – one of whom was ‘barleylees,’ – see North Munden below.  **9/13 March 1948** – Re-education survey. Strength; Officers 0, 631 OR.  Commandant: Lt Col Dumain Camp leader: H/Fw Paul Saworski  Interpreter Officer: Capt R A Sanderson Deputy C/L: None  At the end of the life of this camp, the visitor recorded, “*There are virtually no anti-British PW”* – a quite remarkable comment considering previous statements. It was said that of those who disliked the British it was because they had been; “*physically badly treated in transit camps in this country and those who passed through BAOR camps in Belgium where they saw too much brutality and corruption*” – ignoring the previous reasons including, rightly or wrongly, feeling as if they were being used as ‘slave labour.’  A team of lecturers were visiting camps to talk about resettling back in Germany – this camp had not been visited at all.  ‘Final Impressions’ – Pows from the Russian zone were reticent and guarded in their replies. Most pows were very eager to return home. “*They are all agreed, however, that contact with the civilians alone gave them understanding of the British way of life.”*  Known camp commandants:  < c1946/7 Lt Col Alan Cuthbert Waylan Upton (1896-1958), formerly commanded the 30th Battalion, The Queen’s Royal Regiment from 1943 to 1945.  1947 Lt Col Dumain. |

**After the camp:** The huts in the north section of the camp were sold off after the war. Now part woodland, part residential area.

**Further information:**

National Archives FO 939/128 46 Working camp, Kingsfold Camp, Billingshurst, Sussex. 1945-1948. Used above. The March 1948 report was mis-filed in the Trumpington file.

<http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=1577.0> – the forum published various facts and figures, some of which are quoted (\*). The history forum also has oral histories of memories of the camps.

The Imperial War Museum has an audio record (not online) of Ernst Meyer, a German private who served with the 9th Parachute Division – part of which involves his move to Kingsfold Camp; farm work in Sussex; treatment of pows; and settling in GB. Catalogue number 21559

Russell, J. (2015). An Archaeological Topographic Survey at Daux Wood, Marringdean Road, Billingshurst. Archaeology South-East. https://doi.org/10.5284/1074999

Recollections of Theo Dengel as a Prisoner of War (PoW) at Billinghurst and North Mundham, 1946-1948 – West Sussex Records Office; WSRO 15570/CD168.

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

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

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Main |  |  |  |  | 900 |  | 859 | 896 | 907 | 878 | 839 | 1019(3) | 793 | 705 | 786 | 627 | 650 | 426 |
| West Hoathly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ardingly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Charlwood |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Midhurst |  |  |  | Italians | | | | | 75 | 80 | 80 | 77 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forest F House |  |  |  |  |  |  | 90 |  | 83 | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kingscote |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loxwood |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newent |  | With C61 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rusper |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 | 40 | 36 | 36 | 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Westergate |  |  |  |  | 150 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sompting |  |  |  |  | 291 |  | 268 | 445 | 441 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Graylands |  |  |  |  |  |  | 198 | 190 | 189 | 200 | 164 | 131 | 182 | 157 | 132 |  |  |  |
| Temple Bar |  |  |  |  |  |  | 199 | 200 | 195 | 190 | 165 | 154 | 154 | 166 | 142 |  |  |  |
| Fernhurst |  |  |  |  |  |  | 49 | 50 | 47 | 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lavant |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 200 | 196 | 195 | 163 | 151 | 216 | 192 |  |  |  |  |
| Wooddale |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 190 | 460 | 551 | 543 | 479 | 364 | 106 | 361 | 287 | 205 |
| N Mundham Sat. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 316 | 460 | 421 | 400 | 463 | 467 | 515 | 168 |  |  |
| Bucks Green |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 119 | ? | 16 |  |  |  |  |
| Westhampnett |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 27 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Billets |  |  |  |  |  |  | 188 | 269 (2) | 334 | 326 | 287 | (3) | 339 | 343 | 314 | 135 | 104 |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  | 1341 |  | 1801 (1) | 2407 (1) | 3053 | 2965 | 2706 | 2794 | 2653 | 2410 | 1995 | 1291 | 1041 | 631 |

(1) + unknown number of Italians in hostel(s). (2) 269 German billetees were in 134 separate locations - and there were a further 82 Italian billetees awaiting repatriation.

(3) including billetees.

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| **North Mundham – Satellite Camp**  **Location** – “*Vicarage for St Leodegar’s Church Hunston, 11 acre garden. Huts built in the garden for RAF personnel, later used as pow camp before becoming two large council estates, Fletcher Close and Fletcher Place*.”  **September 1946** – Camp leader; H.Fw Alfred Hagens (A+) – “*An ideal hostel leader. Takes active part in re-education, which is a problem here as there are many young men of the Waffen-SS. He tries to handle them individually by reasoning with them and is very successful.”*  **October 1946** – Camp leader; Martin Endelmann (B+). German M.O. O/Arzt Schlosshardt.  Religion – Visiting padres, RC and protestant, every 2 weeks. Education classes for book-keeping  **March 1947 –** same leader.  **July 1947** – Camp leader; Ofw Arnold Rehren (A) – “..*outstanding personality. His grading is ‘A’ but his repatriation is frozen as he was an Oberscharfuehrer S.S*.” As he was doing his job well, spoke English well, and stated that his SS membership was “*purely nominal,”* he was kept in place with the recommendation he be carefully watched. [c.f. ‘barleylees’ comments below].  It was stated that although this was a “*’happy’ camp*,” it contained an, “*unusually large proportion of malcontents and* |  |
| Aerial photo 1948 – NGR SU 874 022 |

*agitators.”* Anti-British feeling was widespread and bitter. There had been incidents with the local population, including Chichester cinema which was closed to pows, and some bus drivers refusing to stop for pows. Some comments by pows were recorded:

The new privileges were; “*only the just rights of the Ps/W…. a sop to your own conscience, because you know you have no right to keep us here.”*

“*You can’t keep us as slaves forever.”*

After stories about maladministration in the British zone of Germany – “*We will wait and see what democracy has done for us when we get home, before we decide whether it is right*.”

Looking back on the Nazi regime, it was – “*Not so bad, after all, if it hadn’t been for the Concentration Camps putting the world against us.”*

**October 1947** – Leader, Arnold Rehren – spoke highly of by British staff - “*He makes a good impression*.”

“*High spirits at Mundham due to the excellent treatment by the satellite C.O. Capt.Brill.”*

**January 1948** – same leader.

\* Abbreviated memories of ‘barleylees’ (Theo Dengel), after being transferred from the main camp in August 1946 – *“What a difference!! No barbed wire fences, no watchtowers, the British camp management, including the Commandant, lived in the centre of the camp amongst the PoWs.*

*Just before Christmas 1946 I was given an intensive interview by the British Camp Labour Officer, Ted Page (who was also a conscientious objector), and a few days later I was offered the job of the second clerk in the Labour Office in the camp. A few months later, my friend got into trouble with the police, and was dispatched to Billingshurst  jail.  I was given the job of running the office, initially with a lot of help from Ted Page. I was responsible for the labour allocation from the various camps in the area:  Land Army girls, EVWs and of course the PoWs from the various camps/hostels in the area and arranging transport to the various farms throughout the coastal area of West Sussex - a job I held until September 49, when it all closed down.* [It was not a pow camp by this time, but a hostel for European workers].

*The German camp leader was a senior SS warrant officer, a NAZI through and through.* [This would have been Ofw Arnold Rehren mentioned in reports]. *Two of his henchmen were ‘camp police’ - they spent their time lounging about in the gate house. I got to know Guenter,* [name - Arnold?] *the camp leader quite well, as part of my job was liaising with him as to departure times in the morning, and what surplus labour there may have been. I detested his open political activities, and the irritation he caused the Camp Commandant. Incidentally, when we were all politically classified late 46/ early 47 the camp leader was classified as A1, I got a C-, I was rather uncooperative with the interviewer who was not at all interested in my political views.*

*Captain Brill’s contempt of the Camp Leader (appointed by Billingshurst), showed clearly when he set up bi-weekly meetings with representatives of each hut/ dormitory, to discuss any problems or grievances the men might have. These genuine meetings were greatly appreciated by the men.”*

*Ted Page held regular, well attended weekly meetings in the recreation room to discuss any topic the men might raise, in particular about the British way of life, the working of democracy in people’s every day life etc. Erwin Schloessinger and Karl Sommer (respectively the Camp Commandant’s clerk and interpreter, who had been to the study course at Wilton Park) assisted Ted, and after he was transferred to Billingshurst in July 47, they took over the meetings. Attendance declined rapidly; men preferred to relax in the evenings and enjoy the exceptional summer weather; at week-ends most had found a gardening job to earn some English money. Others were busy meeting their girl friends.”*

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| N Mundham Sat. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 316 | 460 | 421 | 400 | 463 | 467 | 515 | 168 |  |  |

**Hostels**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Ardingly** (Haywards Heath, Sussex).  Location Little London just N of Ardingly TQ 343 308.  **1943** – recorded as a hostel with Italian pows.  **1945** – listed, probably with Italians.  (Brook House Camp 238 for Germans was nearby at Hammingden Lane, Ardingly).   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 | | Ardingly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   Later used as a Polish resettlement camp.  1949 > |  |

**Bucks Green** (Bomb disposal unit).

Location – opposite Pennthorpe School at NGR TQ 086 332. The site housed Canadian troops up to D-day.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader; O.Sch Fritz Hungermann (B+)

It has been raised that the work of pows in Bomb Disposal Units was against the Geneva Convention – however, from what I have read, the pows in Britain who worked with various BDU’s were all volunteers.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Bucks Green |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 119 | ? | 16 |  |  |  |  |

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| **Charlwood** (Horley, Surrey)  Local memory – “*The POW prison was on Norwood Hill. On the south side of the road between 'Norwood' and 'Slaughterwyks'. Now a house*.” TQ 236 431.  1943 – recorded as a hostel with Italian pows.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 | | Charlwood |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

**Fernhurst.** 12/20 miles from main camp. Huts.

Location – local memories place it in the old army barracks at NGR SU 896 270

**19 March 1946** – reported to have opened for German pows. (May have been open and attached to a different camp before this.)

**April 1946** – no leader listed.

**September 1946** – Hostel leader; H.Fw Paul Saworski (B) – “*Open character, very capable*.”

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Fernhurst |  |  |  |  |  |  | 49 | 50 | 47 | 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Forest (Farm) House.** (Horsham / Worthing, Sussex – 12 miles from main camp). House.

# Location – There is a “Forest Farm House,” Forest Road, Colgate, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4SZ located at NGR TQ 234 330. However, on OS maps the name alongside is ‘Black Hill Farm.’

**September 1946** – Hostel leader; O.Fw Alfred Goetsch (B) – *“Efficient and capable*.”

Many of the pows were from camps in Canada – having been captured early in the war, many still held their Nazi views. They would not attend lectures and were openly hostile to re-education activities. One declared; “*We are only working animals that are driven out to work in the morning and back in the evening at feeding time. Animals do not need any politics, therefore don’t bother us with it*.” It was recommended that the Black, C grade pows be redistributed around other sites so that they could hear more of what happened in Germany.

**October 1946** – same leader. Political resistance to activities had decreased considerably. Received only irregular visits from a protestant padre.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Forest F House |  |  |  |  |  |  | 90 |  | 83 | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Graylands (Greylands).** 10 miles from the main camp. Huts.TQ 177 346  **12 January 1946** – reported to have opened for German pows. (May have held Italians before this).  **March 1946** – 0 classes for English started.  **April 1946** – Hostel leader; O/Fw Stumm (B). Morale fair – employment at brickworks a negative factor.  Some pows completed shift work at the brickworks just to the W of Graylands farm – there were complaints about the work and lack of free time.  Re-education activities –  Newspapers – 4 English papers received.  Lectures – if the speaker was able to travel to the hostel.  Films – YMCA fortnightly.  Discussion group – Camp committee of 9 met weekly.  Wireless – none. (It acquired one soon after).  Press review – Sundays with 50/60 attending.  English – 1 class of 20.  Religion – 125 protestants; 63 RC. English protestant padre fortnightly with just 8/9 attending. English RC padre every 6 weeks – 6 attending. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

**September 1946** – Hostel leader; O.Fw Erich Stumm (B) – “*Not in Party… Was in Catholic Youth Movement until forbidden. Quite capable*.”

**October 1946** – same leader. Monthly visits from RC and protestant padres. Education classes for ‘building’ and arithmetic.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader; Hfw Paul Saworski (B).

**July 1947** – same leader.

**October 1947** – Hostel leader; Swm. Hans Schulz (B), aged 35, professional soldier, “*not very bright*.”

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Graylands |  |  |  |  |  |  | 198 | 190 | 189 | 200 | 164 | 131 | 182 | 157 | 132 |  |  |  |

**Kingscote, (Tetbury, Gloucestershire)**

Kingscote is located at ST 818 962 – but there is a wide area of possible locations for this hostel.

1945 – listed once

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Kingscote |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Lavant.** (Chichester – 20 miles from main camp). House and huts.

**September 1946** – Hostel leader; H.Fw Fritz Fischer (A) – “*SPD Jugendbewegung 1926-33* [Democratic Party Youth Movement] *pressed to join the SA in 35…. Takes an active part in re-education.”*

**October 1946** – same leader. The hostel only had one visit from a padre since opening. Education classes for French.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader; St.Fw Heinz Gies (B).

**July 1947** – same leader.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Lavant |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 200 | 196 | 195 | 163 | 151 | 216 | 192 |  |  |  |  |

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| **Loxwood.** (Billingshurst, Sussex). 9/15 miles from main camp. Huts  Possible location – “*There was a report of a long brick building for prisoners of war near the junction of the B2133 and Plaistow Road, between the road named Lakers Lea and the sports ground.”* TQ 039 303.  **1945 –** May have held Italian pows.  **24 March 1946** – reported to have opened for German pows.  **April 1946** – Hostel leader; O/Fhr Steck (B+). Morale fair. Conditions needed to improve. No wireless.  **September 1946** – Hostel leader; O.Fw Karl-Heinz Stech (B) – “*Social Democrat with family background.”*   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 | | Loxwood |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

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| **Midhurst, Sussex.** House. Location – “*along the Bepton Road.”* SU 877 210  **1943** – recorded as a hostel with Italian pows.  **June 1946** – last hostel with Italians. Expected to be evacuated 3 July, and then used for German pows.  **September 1946 –** Hostel leader; St.Fw Kurt Henke (B) – “*Regular soldier with 20 years service, non political background, quite suitable*.”  **October 1946** – RC pows went to church fortnightly. Protestant pows had only 1 visit in 3 months.  **March 1947** – same hostel leader.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 | | Midhurst |  |  |  | Italians | | | | | 75 | 80 | 80 | 77 |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

**Newent, Gloucestershire.** 1943 and May 1944, listed with Wynols Hill Camp 61, Italian pows. SO 715 257.

**1945** – just one entry

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Newent |  | With C61 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Rusper.** 20 miles from the main camp. House.  Location – TQ 228 231  **September 1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Otto Kottmeyer (B) [or Kottmeier] – “*Architect… Efficient and well suited to the job.”*  **October 1946** – Protestant padre fortnightly; rare RC visits.  **March 1947** – same leader.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 | | Rusper |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 | 40 | 36 | 36 | 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

**Sompting.** 15/18 miles from the main camp. Local history group believe the site may have been in region TQ 163 051 – but not confirmed.

**26 September 1945** – hostel opened for German pows, (may have held Italians before this).

**December 1945** – Still a tented hostel.

0 English lessons due to lack of accommodation. 2 empty huts were nearby and it was hoped these might be used.

Re-education activities – Wochenpost and Ausblick received; 2 daily and 1 weekly English newspapers; No library.

Religion – 1/3 Catholics, 2/3 Lutheran. The dining tent was used as a chapel with occasional visits from and English padre.

Other activities – 2 footballs, chess, draughts, cards, 1 wireless in canteen.

**March 1946** – Still some tents in use with poor lighting and heating, (it snowed heavily throughout winter and still in March). Poor teaching accommodation with lack of heating.

Activities – classes for arithmetic, French (no books), Russian.

**April 1946** – Hostel leader; H/Fw Gerling (A). Still tented. Good morale.

Newspapers – 3 different English papers.

Lectures – if the speaker able to travel to the hostel.

Films – YMCA fortnightly.

Wireless – 1 set.

English – 2 classes beginners 20/25 pows and 1 class advanced 12/15 pows.

Education – French class with 8/10 pows.

Sports – Football, handball, boxing, etc. Well organised with certificates, cups and prizes awarded.

**June 1946** – mixed huts and tents. Classroom in canteen – “*one of a few huts with electric light.”*

**September 1946** – Hostel leader; O.Fw Hans Weber (B) – “*deals very well, with a very mixed lot of pows*..” The hostel was due to be closed down and pows moved to Wooddale.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Sompting |  |  |  |  | 291 |  | 268 | 445 | 441 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Temple Bar.** (Chichester – 20 miles from the main camp.) Huts. Unknown location, many sites possible near to Temple Bar at SU 895 071

**By March 1946** – pows transferred from Westergate hostel. 0 English lessons. Just 1 English newspaper received.

**April 1946** – Hostel leader; H/Fw Quatuor (A). Good morale recorded.

Newspapers – range of English papers.

Lectures – if the speaker able to travel to the hostel.

Discussion groups – 35 pows.

Films – YMCA fortnightly.

Wireless – controlled by leader.

Press review – Popular. every evening.

English – 1 class of 10. Many studied on their own.

Religion – 60 RC – 35 attending services; 139 protestant – 25 attending. Weekly English padres.

Education – 6 pows in class for Russian.

Theatre – successful group, a theatre under construction in one hut.

**September 1946** – Hostel leader; Bootsmaat Konrad Ambrasath (A) – “*A man with no German blood in him, father a Balt and mother Dutch, Merchant Seaman.. put into Armed Forces during D-day ‘crisis’. He takes a very active part in re-education at the hostel. He has voluntarily deferred his release for one year…”*

**October 1946** – same leader. Some of the pows had been held at Camp 23 where they had been informed that as non-combatants (merchant navy possibly?) they would receive preferential treatment for repatriation, however nothing had happened for this.

Weekly services for RC and protestants.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Richard Schaefer (B)

**October 1947** – same leader, aged 26 – “*not a strong personality*.” There was a light music band.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Temple Bar |  |  |  |  |  |  | 199 | 200 | 195 | 190 | 165 | 154 | 154 | 166 | 142 |  |  |  |

**Westergate**

**September 1945** – hostel opened for German pows (may have held Italians before this). A house.

**December 1945** – 35 pupils learning English in a small dining room. There was also a Russian class with 12 pupils.

Re-education activities – Wochenpost and Ausblick received; 2 English newspapers received and a press review each evening; YMCA films shown. No library.

Religion – 27 Catholics, 35 Lutherans attended services held in the dining room.

Other activities – 2 footballs, chess, draughts, cards, 1 wireless.

**By March 1946** – this hostel had been closed and pows transferred to nearby Temple Bar.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Westergate |  |  |  |  | 150 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Westhampnett** (Chichester)

**June 1947** - Just one entry, so most likely attached to a different main camp before this.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Westhampnett |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 27 |  |  |  |  |  |

**West Hoathly,** **East Grinstead, Sussex**

Location – local heritage information places it at The Beacon, West Hoathly – TQ 364 330.

**1943** – recorded as a hostel with Italian pows.

**1945** – listed; probably held Italian pows.

Memories – “*Just outside the village there was a prisoner of war camp containing Italian prisoners. Some of them, I don’t know how many, were allowed out of the camp in their prison uniform: with a big sign on the back. They would walk up and down the village greeting everyone as though they were just visiting.*

*The camp was surrounded by a thick hedge, just like those around the fields; not barbed wire like you see in the war films. Some of us boys used to break into the camp through the hedge and the Italians would be very friendly. I can remember them making us swings and things like that. We used to enjoy visiting the POW camp.*

*There was a steep wooded bank near our house, which us boys used, to scramble up and down to get from one road to another. The Italian prisoners were put to work building a smart flight of steps there. I walked up and down those steps only last year.”* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/07/a4215007.shtml>

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| West Hoathly |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Wooddale. (Wood Dale)**  Location – Wooddale is at TQ 100 265.  **September 1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Erich Buehner (A) – “*Member of SPD and Reichsbanner, takes part in re-education*.” [SPD = Social Democratic Party].  **October 1946** – same leader. RC padre from Camp 57 visited monthly. Lay reader from the main camp fortnightly. Education classes for Russian, maths, geometry and music.  **March 1947** – Hostel leader; Fritz Fischer (A) – previously leader at Lavant hostel.  **July 1947** – Hostel leader; Hermann Schumacher (B+). There was a theatre group and choir.  **October 1947** – Hostel leader; Paul Saworski, previously leader at Graylands, aged 33, judiciary employee – “*Intelligent and cheerful man who is resigned to his captivity and not resentful. Prospective camp leader at HQ.”* Theatre group continued. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

**January 1948** – Hostel leader; S/Fw H Schulz – previously leader at Graylands. The leader was reportedly anti-British and an insulting, offhand comment was made by the visitor; *“Intimidation and a few blows received at Camp 23 in May 1945 still rankle in his simple mind.”* [Camp 23 = Le Marchant].

**March 1948** – same leader.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 12/45 | 3/46 | 4/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 2/48 | 3/48 |
| Wooddale |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 190 | 460 | 551 | 543 | 479 | 364 | 106 | 361 | 287 | 205 |