**Camp 47** **- Motcombe Park Camp, Shaftesbury, Dorset**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 47. Motcombe Park Camp, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp list** |
| 47(G.W.C.) | Motcombe Park Camp, Shaftesbury, Dorset | S. | Priswar, Shaftesbury. | Shaftesbury 366/7 | Gillingham (Dorset)(S.R.) | Lt.Col.L.H.De.C. Woodward, M.C. | 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 |
| ST 847 244 | 183 | 47 | Motcombe Park Camp, Shatesbury | Dorset | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type |

The history of this camp falls into 3 parts;

1. 1942 – 1945; Italian camp with little known, as with most other camps. 2. 1945 – July 1947; Good reports on the camp, even recorded as; “*one of the best I have visited*.” 3. July 1947 – 1948; Negative reports; “*an unhappy camp.”*

Judgements based only on written reports make it difficult to assess the accuracy of parts 2 and 3. Negative comments were written mainly by one Foreign Office visitor who frequently made arrogant and insulting comments, but not necessarily untrue.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** The site is about 2 km NW of Shaftesbury. What was left of the camp was shown on the 1962 map.**Before the camp:** The school shown on the map was Motcombe House. The camp was sited in the grounds.**POW Camp:** The site was accepted for a pow camp in December 1941. It was a ‘standard’ camp with a main pow compound and a British / administration section at the ‘front.’**1942** – the camp opened for Italian pows.It was listed as an Italian working camp / labour battalion to at least 1945. German pows from 1945.**1943** – Hostels listed for Italian pows; Corfe Mullen -Godmanstone – Wilton.**May 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Southern Command area; and again, in **November 1944**, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were recorded as co-operators.**1945 (before September)** - Hostels opened during  |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1962 |

the year for German pows - (FO939/383) - Rampisham with 150 pows; Godmanstone with 70 pows; Corfe Mullen with 70 pows.

**September 1945** - Appendix to HQ Southern Command War Diary– Motcombe Park, Shaftesbury – German labour camp – capacity 850 – 121/286452

Italian hostels – Shaftesbury, Farnham, Poole, East Stour – total cap 350

German hostels – Corfe Mullen, Godmanstone, Rampisham, Little Canford, Yellowham Wood, Yetminster – total cap 500

|  |
| --- |
| 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. |

**9 October 1945** – Visit by English Inspector.

Commandant: Lt Col L H de C Woodward, M.C. Camp leader: Reichling (or Reichlinger)

2nd I/C: Major Rendell

Interpreter Officer: Lt Sely

There were 8 German hostels, holding 700 pows - and 4 Italian hostels, numbers not given. The accommodation was described as “*exceptionally good*.”

The camp leader had attended / taught at Columbia University, New York and Koln University – “*efficient and keen on his job.”*

The visitor did not believe that the 6 pow teachers, other than Reichling, were of a good enough standard.

There was a camp magazine – ‘Zeitspiegel’ (Mirror of the times). A wireless set received BBC programmes. A group performed plays in the camp theatre. Attempts were being made by the camp leader to encourage handicrafts and study. An ‘Information Bureau’ had been started. There was a shortage of texts of all kinds for teaching, theatre, and only 30 books in the library.

**26 March 1946** – A very short report by an English Inspector. No numbers given.

*“This camp is one of the best I have visited*.” More books had been purchased from the Welfare Fund which was created through the sale of goods in the canteen.

Pows had arrived from camps in the US. (In other camps this usually resulted in low morale as the pows had been incorrectly informed in the US that they were being returned to Germany).

**21 to 24 May 1946** – English Inspector’s report. Total strength 1805. 3 classes with 45 pupils in the main camp.

Lager Sprecher (Camp leader): O/Wm G Boveleth

“*This is the best run camp I have visited. The commandant most interested and is much concerned with P.W’s morale.”*

**5 – 9 November 1946** – Brief re-education survey and political screening. Strength: 1 officer (M.O.), 2131 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col L H de C Woodward M.C. Camp leader: Owm Gerhard Boveleth (B)

Interpreter: S/sgt R Mandl Deputy C/L: O.Fk.Matr Rheo Wiekhorst

 Geman M.O.: Ass Arzt Alfons Nelke

Only half of the pows were screened.

“*The standard of saluting and deportment is high and appearance of PsW unusually smart. The CO has obtained written permission to reduce the wire stockade around the compound and this will give a good lift to morale*.” The ‘saluting’ was regarded as a sign of good morale, however a pow who had attended the special training course at Wilton Park commented; “*feeling himself handicapped in re-education by the prevailing military atmosphere and emphasis on rank.”*

It was stated that the pows from US camps had got over their disillusionment at finding themselves in the UK. The start of repatriations also boosted morale.

Comments on political views after screening about 200 pows – “*the Nuremberg trial has convinced the majority of the wickedness of Nazism. They admit the German people’s responsibility for this regime and are ashamed*.”

Very few re-education activities were taking place – the reason given was long hours gathering the harvest.

**23/26 November 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 2300. 22 pupils in 2 classes in the main camp.

**2/12 January 1947** – 3 members of the ‘Segregation Section’ of PID arrived to carry out political screening. Strength; 1 officer, 2086 OR.

No change to senior personnel. Although the S/sgt I.O. spoke fluent English and German, the report stated that his organising capacity was not very effective.

The Camp Leader was previously a hostel leader, and then deputy leader at the main camp. “*A first class type, well liked by British Staff as well as PW. Upgraded to ‘A’*.”

Deputy C/L – Aged 32, “*bright and intelligent, no Nazi affiliation. PW since November 1944, Radio specialist, upgraded from C to B.”*

The M.O. was aged 41, “*not liked by British or German staff… has a snobbish manner and outlook*.” He did convince the visitors that he disapproved of Nazi methods and was graded B+.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political gradings :  | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown |
|  | 1 | 296 | - | 597 | 1086 | 93 | 30 | - | 2 |

[These figures add up to 2105 – 18 pows too many!]

A large number of pows were aged 40 years or more – unusual in a pow camp, but no reason was given.

A new batch of pows had arrived from camps in Canada. As they had been captured in the early stages of the war, many had retained their Nazi ideas. It was noted that these pows, “*had the customary ill effect*” but were settling down.

Re-education – despite previous comments, it was stated that there was not much encouragement for re-education activities from the Commandant or British staff.

Religion – Protestant padre; Joachim Fincre – “*quiet sincere type, had been arrested by the Gestapo. ‘A’*”

**26 February – 1 March 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1815. 21 pupils in 2 classes in the main camp.

**26 / 27 April 1947 -** English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1520 – but not certain if this figure includes billetees. 8 pupils in 1 class in the main camp.

There was a shortage of texts (GOS) as repatriated pows were taking copies with them. Teachers called from the hostels to meet the Inspector were missing several days pay as, due to transport difficulties, they had to be brought in well before the visit, and often waited a number of days afterwards. Some funds were found to make up the missing pay.

**9/11 May 1947** – W G W Aston carried out a Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1790 OR.

The visitor from PID described various pows as; “*tall Prussian type*” – “*of short stature*” – “*common type*” – “*horsey appearance” – “ignoramus”*

Another interpreter had started – S/Sgt L Adler, due to be demobilized soon.

The camp leader had deferred his repatriation for one year – described as, “*efficient and enlightened.”* He visited all hostels at least once a month.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 58 | 505 | 1057 | 119 | 52 |

224 pows were appealing against their political screening – the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory. 474 pows repatriated to date.

50 pows were with Southern Command under leadership of Wm Hermann Fuest (B+) – no reason for this was given.

Morale was stated to be ‘fairly high,’ except at Kingston Lacy. Positive factors included relaxation of restrictions, repatriations and re-educational activities.

30% of pows were ‘youth’ (under-25). They were not seen as a problem and few were still *“Nazi-tainted*.”

Re-education activities – In reverse of a previous report; “*The British Staff shews some interest in these matters.”* Hostel leaders attended monthly meetings to discuss re-education and entertainment. Apart from the leader at Kingston Lacy, the leaders were described as being “*of the right type.”* Activities were affected by the greater freedoms given to pows - “*Ps/W prefer to spend their spare time out of the camp in the pleasant countryside or in the town of Shaftesbury.”* The standard list was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 230 / 165 copies received.

Newspapers – 6 British daily papers in the main camp, 3 at the hostels. 20 German papers received monthly. Some Swiss papers received.

Library – 1164 books + 195 GOS textbooks.

Lectures – regular, well attended, usually monthly.

Discussion groups – political discussions held fortnightly.

Films – Gaumont British and YMCA films on alternate weeks. Films also shown at the hostels.

Wireless – 2 sets; 1 in camp leader’s office with loudspeakers in the canteen; 1 in the Information Room. All hostels had a wireless and loudspeaker.

Camp magazine – None.

Press review – None.

English Instruction – 150 pupils in 2 grades with 8 teachers in main and hostels. Others studied on their own.

Information room – also used as a teaching and reading room. News, pictures and occasional exhibitions from COGA.

Other activities –

Religion – Sunday services for protestants and RC. RC were able to attend church in Shaftesbury. Lutherans could visit churches in Motcombe and Shaftesbury. Evening bible study classes. Hostels were visited by the padres, and the pows were able to visit local churches. The RC padre (Priest San Obgefr Johannes Lausen (A)) also visited camps 295, 668 and 1021 – he was later described as, “*A shy little man with little influence in the camp.”*

Education – Chemistry (4 pupils), physics (4), French (6).

Entertainment – Theatre group of 20 players. Light and operetta music by an orchestra with 10 members.

A rare mention of recreation – football, basketball, light athletics, boxing, table tennis and chess, including tournaments.

**26/28 June 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1894. 1 class of 6 pupils in the main camp +73 in all hostels. The pay issue for attending meetings continued.

**10-14 July 1947** – Progress report by L A Bloxham. Strength; 1 officer, 1783 OR.

From this date, the camp is described very differently to previous reports. It started with one positive sentence; “*The HQ camp is beautifully laid out amid charming surroundings.”* It went downhill from there on:

*“All leaders had been carefully primed to tell me that morale was very high and that the men were pleased with their camp. They were not however sufficiently intelligent to deceive me.”* The second sentence strikes a note of arrogance, though may still be true. It implies that the Commandant was responsible for the deceit, and goes on;

*“I received the impression that the men were afraid to speak openly, especially in view of the Commandant’s recent order that all complaints must come through official channels and must not be made to visitors from outside.”* Apparently this arose after the M.O. had angered the Commandant by producing ‘scientific evidence’ that the food was dirty and unwholesome, and had presented this to a recent Red Cross visit.

The visitor arranged to hear pows secretly. “*The quantity and variety of complaints astounded me: insufficient food, badly cooked, but always good on inspection days, harsh military discipline, necessity to bribe camp staff in order to become a billetee or to work for a good farmer, etc. A number declared that it was the worst camp in which they had ever been. Allowing for exaggerations, these complaints reveal an unhappy camp*.”

This is disturbing – but too many questions arise to take the comments as certainty. How many pows were questioned, and how were they selected? To do so without the Commandant’s knowledge must have meant that no pow supporting him were questioned. Was the complaint over the food made by the same MO, or others? What did the visitor do to ascertain the truth about the sufficiency of food? The food was prepared by the pows, were these pow cooks in collusion to prepare bad food, except on inspection days? What are the examples of harsh military discipline?

The Camp leader – previously described as a “*first class type*” and “*efficient and enlightened,”*  had a very different report here. “*The whole camp is dominated by the personality of the Camp Leader…. He is intelligent, energetic and efficient… though genuinely white, his methods are dangerously akin to those of the Nazis.”* But, not a single incident was given as an example – and what does he mean ‘akin to’ – beatings, murder, racism, mass political control… ? The visitor asked the Commandant to curb the powers of the leader.

The visitor went on to describe the hostel leaders – “*they are as stupid a gang of mediocrities as I have met in any camp.*” In the previous report they were recorded as; “*of the right type.”* The visitor asked the commandant to allow each hostel to hold a secret ballot to elect a leader – it didn’t happen – in the next report every hostel leader was the same.

The camps were under the control of the War Office – PID and re-education came under the Foreign Office. The purpose of the camps was to hold pows and to set them to work when possible. Re-education was not compulsory and it was up to the Commandant if he wished to be involved. Many Commandants preferred to concern themselves with welfare and other activities rather than the list of re-education activities. If the camp was working and kept under control that was sufficient as far as many Commandants (and the War Office) were concerned. In this case it seems that the camp leader kept a tight control on the camp, and was very efficient – and so the Commandant was perfectly happy with his performance. The leader was still in place when the camp closed in 1948.

There was a new deputy C/L – Fw Keller (B+).

Simplified screening figures were used: A 5 / B 1779. 670 pows had been repatriated to date.

Re-education: It was remarked that the commandant had stated; “*that he is sympathetic to re-education; judging by the state of his camp, his sympathy has not been very deep*.” The visitor recorded; “*Re-education is in a primitive state at HQ and non-existent in the hostels*.” Yet, the standard list of activities was given and reads much the same as most camps.

The only negative aspect recorded from the previous report was the daily supply of British papers had stopped because the Welfare Fund was low. Pows could buy their own and the Foreign Office supplied a small number of German papers.

The library had increased with more books acquired from Camp 1021. Lectures, discussion groups, wireless, films – all continued as before. Two exhibitions of materials sent by PID had been held.

Other activities –

Religion – adequate facilities.

Entertainment – the theatre group continued. The orchestra had disbanded due to repatriations, but was being reformed.

**26-29 August 1947** – Progress report by same visitor as July, L A Bloxham + 1 other ‘Chappell’. Strength; 1 officer, 1437 OR.

1 change to senior personnel - S/Sgt L Adler had been demobilized. All hostel leaders the same as July.

The visitor toned down his comments a little. On the camp leader – “*an outstanding personality and a very efficient leader. He is apt to be rather a bully, and we again advised the Commandant not to allow him too much power*.” The visitor suspected that he chose the hostel leaders as they were “*mediocrities*” and would not become rivals. Only the hostel leader at Cranborne was regarded positively – but many of the hostel leaders had been on place before the Camp leader.

Morale was considered to have improved, but still rather low. The causes were stated to be: bad news from home, strict military discipline, comparison to other camps, and dissatisfaction with screening results. There was a belief, also held in many other camps, that Nazi pows had fooled the screeners and been repatriated sooner.

The standard list of re-education activities was given with very little change from the previous report. A new camp magazine had started, called ‘*Motcombe Echo*.’

Because most of the camps were in rural districts there were fewer outside contacts than many camps.

The theatre group and orchestra were struggling to survive due to repatriations.

**28/31 October 1947** – Mr Bloxham returned for a Progress Report. Strength; 2 officers, 2177 OR.

All senior staff were still in place. There was a second M.O. S/Arzt Dr Taeniges (B+)

British staff were not interested in re-education – “*Recently a British Officer, Lt Carrington, has been detailed to supervise re-education. This sounds a good idea, but unfortunately the Officer neither knows nor cares anything about the subject.”*

Simplified screening figures in use; A 3; B 2176. The 3 A’s had all deferred their repatriation. 104 pows had applied for ‘civilianisation’ to remain in the UK.

Motcombe took over Cattistock Camp 295 and five hostels, (Beaminster, Burton Bradstock (aka Clay Hill), Long Bourton, Piddle Trenthide, Bradford Down) about 4 weeks prior. The visitor was informed that these hostels had been in a very lax state and needed a firm hand.

The camp leader, clearly in Mr Bloxham’s bad books, was sent by the Commandant to visit the new hostels and was given a free hand to replace any hostel leader, subject to a formal confirmation by the Commandant. Not surprisingly, Mr Bloxham protested that the camp leader should not have such power. The Commandant stated that he had full confidence in the camp leader. Mr Bloxham had no power to overturn the Commandant’s wishes, but stated that the leader was, “*very efficient and could be an excellent CL…”* but that he was a bully.

Morale was still recorded as low – *“in spite of all attempts by the camp staff to claim the contrary.”* The discipline was recorded as being ‘severe’ at the HQ camp – *“which over a wide area is nicknamed the concentration camp*.” Abnormally low morale was recorded at the new hostels, due to, “*the increased severity of discipline*.” Politically there was no noticeable Nazism, but the pows were cynical.

The standard list of re-education activities was given – very similar to before. Changes – the supply of newspapers had restarted

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

**15/17 December 1947** – Mr Bloxham to meet the new Commandant and Organise re-education. Strength; 2 officers, 2018 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Winberg Camp leader: Owm Gerhard Boveleth (A)

Interpreter: S/sgt R Mandl Deputy C/L: Fw Keller (B+)

 Geman M.O.: Ass Arzt Alfons Nelke (B+) / S/Arzt Dr Taeniges (B+)

The new commandant was said to be fully in favour of re-education.

The much criticised, but efficient, camp leader had promised his full co-operation with the new commandant. Mr Bloxham stated, *“I still do not trust him, but think I can make use of him*.”

Morale was again recorded as low, due to - strict discipline of the previous commandant; bad hostel leaders; lack of re-education activities; local population around Shaftesbury and Wincanton being “*unusually cold and reserved*;” and German politics. Despite this, 400 pows applied to remain in the UK.

Re-education – 14 pows had attended the special training course at Wilton Park, despite this the visitor stated; “*they do not include one man competent to organise re-education for the whole camp*.” He went on; “*I searched the camp in vain for any man capable of organising re-education.”* […out of 2020 men].

**16/19 January 1948** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1619. There were no formal teaching classes in the main camp, and just 15 taking classes in the hostels.

**6-9 March 1948** – A G George visited for a re-education survey. Strength; 1 officer, 988 OR.

Changes to senior personnel - Deputy C/L: Hufnagel (B) / Dr Nelke had been repatriated.

A ‘survey’ was carried out in many camps still open at this time, about attitudes to the British. It was carried out in an entirely unscientific manner, often with just a show of hands from a small group of pows who could be bothered to turn up. The results were dubious at best. For this camp, for what it is worth:

Hate the British – none

Dislike – 20%

Distrust – 30%

Indifference – 50%

Most other reports also used the category, ‘Like.’

It was again noted that the local population had few relationships with the camp. In Shaftesbury, “*there seems to be a tendency to show old anti-German war films at the local cinema.”* Many pows commented that the farmers they worked for would often pass them in the street without recognising them, “*but as the Ps/W put it, “they soon know our Christian names when they want something done*.” There were always some local hostility towards pows, but this widespread level was unusual.

Pows expecting repatriation were concerned about the future of Germany, and many believed there would soon be another war with Russia as soon as it had enough atom bombs.

**The camp closed shortly after this report.**

Known camp commandants

c1947 Lt Col L H De C Woodward M.C. Previously with the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

1947-48 Lt Col Winberg

**After the Camp:** Report that there were Polish refugees here. Motcombe House became Port Regis School in 1947.

The site as it is now - <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-south-west/pow-camp-47-motcombe-park/>

“*From Ray Simpson - A member of the public… has a collection of Nissen huts which came from the camp and on the inside of one of them are 10 or more painted panels done by a prisoner with the initials ‘EG’. The paintings depict scenes from his homeland. The present owner is seeking help in tracing any descendants of the POW so that he might offer them these panels. I have asked the owner if the museum might have photographs of the panels to add to the archive.”* (The Byzant, January 2017 - The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society - Gold Hill Museum) I have asked if there are further details.

**Further information:**

National Archives – FO 939/129 47 Working Camp, Motcombe Park camp, Shaftesbury, Dorset. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.

National Archives - FO 1120/214 – ‘Re-educational survey visit reports for camps 47 to 49’. All but 1 report, duplicates of above.

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre – K3/140/59 Motcombe Park Camp Supply. Dated 1941-1949.

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

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 (1) | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Main | I | I | ? |  | 800 G | 680 | 716 | 871 | 644 | 723 | 687 | 676 | 627 | 485 | 590 | 578 (6) | 446 | 629 |
| Corfe Mullen |  | I | 70 G | G | G | 65 | 66 | 51 | 55 | 67 | 60 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 58 |  |  |  |
| Godmanstone |  | I | 70 G | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wilton |  | I |  |  |  | 65 | 64 | 65 | 60 | 50 | 70 | 64 | 63 | 59 | 61 | 55 | 47 |  |
| Rampisham |  |  | 150 G | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Little Canford |  |  |  | G | G | 42 | 46 | 30 | 30 | 62 | 61 | 63 | 60 | 55 | 51 | 46 | 28 |  |
| Yellowham W. |  |  |  | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yetminster |  |  |  | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bradford Down |  |  |  |  | G |  |  | With 295 | 182 | 156 | 91 | 109 |
| Dudsbury |  |  |  |  | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shaftesbury |  |  |  | I | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Farnham |  |  |  | I | I | 40 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 35 | 35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Poole |  |  |  | I | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East Stour |  |  |  | I | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ferndown |  |  |  |  |  | 325 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Downhouse |  |  |  |  |  | 104 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kingston L (A) |  |  |  |  |  | 350 (2) | 461 | 382 | 318 | 160 | 105 | 78 | 76 | 70 | 166 | 188 | 105 |  |
| Kingston L (B) |  |  |  |  |  | 350 (2) | 189 | 157 | 168 |
| West Bourton |  |  |  |  |  |  | 164 | 141 | 162 | 211 | 207 | 70 | 57 | 68 | 94 | 82 | 44 |  |
| Cranborne |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | C596? | 212 | 199 | 235 | 216 | 136 |  |  |  |  |
| Wincanton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 190 | 184 | 118 | 108 | 112 | 47 |  |
| Sawmills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 72 | 61 | 42 | 21 |  |  |  |
| Beaminster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 172 | 163 | 98 | 52 |
| Burton Brad.. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 53 | 47 |  |  |
| Long Burton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 119 | 111 | 89 |  |
| Piddle T |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 28 | 31 |  |  |
| Cattistock |  |  | Camp 295 | 57 | 77 |  |  |
| West Moors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 277 | 199 |
| Billets |  |  |  |  |  | 497 | 385 | 355 (3) | 300 | ? | 317 | 391 | 380 | 345 | 419 | 374 | 347 | 0 |
| Total |  |  |  | 850 cap | 1500(1) | 1805 | 2132 | 2087 | 1815 | 1520 (4) | 1791 | 1894 | 1784 (5) | 1438 | 2179 | 2020 | 1619 | 989 |

(1) German numbers only (2) due to open (3) on 200+ farms. (4) Not sure if this inc. billetees (5) inc. 50 pows ‘with Southern Command.’ (6) inc. 19 with Southern Command.

**Hostels**

**Beaminster** (Previously Beaminster I and II when attached to Camp 295 – now combined). In the grounds of Parnham House.

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz. Walter Schuerz (B+), aged 36, married. Had been hostel leader at one of the Beaminster sites, then elected by secret ballot when it combined.

**3/1948** - same

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Beaminster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 172 | 163 | 98 | 52 |

**Bradford Down**

**1945 –** listed as a German hostel attached to Camp 47. It was probably then attached to Cattistock Camp 295, and certainly was by 1947.

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Martin Walther (B-), aged 38, unmarried. Elected HL in June. *“Very low morale. At loggerheads with the Sjt Major in charge of the hostel. I expect him to be removed at an early date. He will be no great loss.”*

**3/1948** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Bradford Down |  |  |  |  | G |  |  | With 295 | 182 | 156 | 91 | 109 |

**Burton Bradstock**. NGR SY 4934 8897

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Johann Klee (B+), aged 29, married, carpenter. Elected by secret ballot in January 1947. *“A cheerful and pleasant young man, though not outstanding.”*

**12/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Burton Brad.. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 53 | 47 |  |  |

**Cattistock**. Previously Camp 295.

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Emil Jentz (B), aged 32, widower, clerk – “*A typical E Prussian, dull but conscientious.”* Appointed by the Camp leader at Motcombe, the previous leader having recently been dismissed for disciplinary reasons.

**12/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Cattistock |  |  | Camp 295 | 57 | 77 |  |  |

**Corfe Mullen** – Wimbourne. [One memory places it in Higher Merley Lane, SY 992 979].

**1943** – listed for Italian pows

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; Ofw Johann Meuer (B)

**1/1947** – same leader; aged 54; “*Old fashioned good type, local trades union leader. Upgraded to ‘A’.”*

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; Owm Otto Schimpfe (B+)

**7/1947** – same leader, aged 30, unmarried, a painter. Member of Hitler Youth 1936. “*Completely incompetent and unintelligent. How he obtained a (B+), I cannot imagine*.”

**10/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Corfe Mullen |  | I | 70 G | G | G | 65 | 66 | 51 | 55 | 67 | 60 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 58 |  |  |  |

**Cranborne**

Almost certainly attached to a different main camp before 4/47 – OR, was it formerly, “Camp 596. Nine Yews Camp, Cranborne.” ???

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Heinz Fritzkoleit (B) [or Pritzkoleit] – aged 27, mechanic – “*a tall Prussian type from Danzig, but his manners are less forbidding than his aspect.”*

**7/1947** – same leader, “*The only really good and intelligent hostel leader in the whole camp.”*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Cranborne |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | C596? | 212 | 199 | 235 | 216 | 136 |  |  |  |  |

**Downhouse** – Blandford. The stables at Down House were in military use, later site used for pow hostel. ST 863 045

May have been attached to another camp before / after this one entry:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Downhouse |  |  |  |  |  | 104 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Dudsbury** – General area SZ 076 982

May have been attached to another camp before / after this one entry:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Dudsbury |  |  |  |  | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**East Stour**

**1945** – recorded as hostel for Italians.

May have been attached to another camp before / after these entries:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| East Stour |  |  |  | I | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Farnham, Dorset** - Blandford

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; Ofw Berthold Prohl

**1/1947** – same leader; pow since 1943; graded B, “*should be B+. Speaks a little English and seems keen on political re-education.”*

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; Wm Albert Wiechert (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Farnham |  |  |  | I | I | 40 | 40 | 35 | 40 | 35 | 35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ferndown** – WimbourneBelieved to be just S of St Leonard’s Hospital, between Ferndown and St.Leonards. SU 102 018Part of plan showing enclosure – for full plan use the link below. >>>May have been attached to another camp before / after this one entry for Motcombe:“*An amendment to the 1943 plan dated June 1945 maps a POW tented enclosure to the south of the main hospital buildings. The POWs are reported as working in the hospital*.” |  |

- <https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/st-leonards-hospital-pow-camp/?fbclid=IwAR1RhktjSQTW4V9p44qZAgmeosfQw-ybsdnKSwtphbFGKquTAZELwvny_pA#map=10/-1.83/51.54/0/24:0:0.6>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Ferndown |  |  |  |  |  | 325 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Godmanstone**

*“In the early 1940s a prisoner of war camp was established in Frys Lane. There were several single storey temporary buildings, including a wardens hut, a cookhouse and accommodation for the prisoners. The first prisoners were Italians, later Germans, and finally the camp was used for displaced persons from places such as Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland. Men from the camp worked on local farms and gardens. Several stayed in Dorset, and two married locally; Joe Pocus and Alfonso Bosas (known affectionately as Blondie). The site was eventually pulled down in the 1960s, having been empty since the mid 1950s. The existing four terraced houses, garages and six bungalows were built on the former camp*.” <https://godmanstone.wordpress.com/history/wartime/>

**1943** – listed for Italian pows

May have been attached to another camp after these entries:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 (1) | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Godmanstone |  | I | 70 G | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Kingston Lacy** ‘A’ and ‘B.’ [Listed as two compounds, A / B or I / II, and then as 1 compound].

The large US hospital site was completed in March 1944 and officially closed in 1947. Some of the pows in the pow compound worked in the hospital.

**1945** – recorded as being open with Italian pows. Unknown main camp.

**1946** – attached to Motcombe Park Camp 47.

**11/1946** – Hostel leaders; Hfw A Creutzfeldt and Ofw R Degen (B)

**1/1947** – Leader at A; Arnold Creutzfeld, pow since 1943 had been held in USA, formerly a fitter, no Nazi affiliation. A “*waning lack of enthusiasm.”* B+

Leader at B; Reitchard Degen, aged 52, graded B “*but a potential ‘A’*.” He went to the hospital during the visit. [As a worker or a patient?]

**April 1947** – the two compounds were combined.

**5/1947** – Morale was found to be low, largely blamed on the hostel leader and political gradings.

Hostel leader; Fw Georg Vinke (B), aged 26, “*common type*,” labourer. *“With his horsey appearance he reflects his pessimistic feelings and has infected the hostel likewise…. a disgruntled ignoramus…*” It was recommended by the visitor that he be replaced.

**7/1947** – same leader; “*I find him no worse than several other leaders in the camp*.”

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Fritzkoleit (B), previously leader at Cranborne.

**12/1947** – same

**20 January 1948** – set to close.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Kingston L (A) |  |  |  |  |  | 350\* | 461 | 382 | 318 | 160 | 105 | 78 | 76 | 70 | 166 | 188 | 105 |  |
| Kingston L (B) |  |  |  |  |  | 350 \* | 189 | 157 | 168 |

\* Capacity

**Little Canford** - Wimbourne

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; Wm Karl Huelsmann (B)

**1/1947** – same leader; aged 34 – “*Claims to have been brought up religiously by parents, therefore never had Nazi sympathies... upgraded B+.”*

**7/1947** – same leader, a bookkeeper. Not a member of the Nazi party. “*A pleasant and competent leader but not outstanding*.”

**12/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Little Canford |  |  |  | G | G | 42 | 46 | 30 | 30 | 62 | 61 | 63 | 60 | 55 | 51 | 46 | 28 |  |

**Long Burton (Longburton)** [One memory places it in the grounds of nearby West Hall – ST 653 129].

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Horst Graetz (B), aged 26, unmarried, mechanic, had been leader for a year at this hostel. “*An intelligent and co-operative HL.”*

**12/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Long Burton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 119 | 111 | 89 |  |

**Piddle Trenthide (Piddletrenthide)**

**10/1947** – no hostel leader, recorded as ‘closing down.’

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Piddle T |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | With 295 | 28 | 31 |  |  |

**Poole.** [Local memories placed it at Herbert Road, Poole where the Rossmore Community Centre is – SZ 046 936].

May have been attached to another camp after these entries:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Poole |  |  |  | I | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Rampisham**

May have been attached to another camp before / after these entries:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Rampisham |  |  | 150 G | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Sawmills** – Wilton. 20 miles from the main camp. (Sawmills Yard, Bridge and Weir were located in the grounds of Wilton House – SU 095 309). Local memories have a different site for Italian pows in Wilton, near to the cemetery.

May have been attached to another camp before these entries:

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Wm Albert Wiechert (B), aged 35, married, a solicitor’s clerk. Member of Nazi party from 1933. “*A harmless yes-man.”*

*“At Sawmills H. excessive working hours render all re-education impossible.”* The working times were amended soon after.

**10/1947** – same leader

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Sawmills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 72 | 61 | 42 | 21 |  |  |  |

**Shaftesbury**

May have been attached to another camp before / after these entries:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Shaftesbury |  |  |  | I | I |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**West Bourton** - Gillingham

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Willy Meyer (B) [later spelling Keyer]

**1/1947** – same leader; “*very good who had been employed in Holland. International outlook upgraded to ‘A’*.”

**5/1947** – “*A happy hostel.”* Hostel leader; Fw Karl Ranocha (B), aged 31, merchant, - “*is of short stature but an energetic speaker*.”

A visiting lecturer cut short his session as he found the pows to be still ‘*Nazi-minded*.’ The wireless needed repairing. The local parson gave English lessons.

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Wm Wilhelm Preusse (B+), aged 28, unmarried, electrician. Not a member of Nazi party. “*Fairly intelligent, but morale very low*.”

**8/1947** – a youth discussion group was established.

**12/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| West Bourton |  |  |  |  |  |  | 164 | 141 | 162 | 211 | 207 | 70 | 57 | 68 | 94 | 82 | 44 |  |

**West Moors**

*“…by the end of 1944, the fuel depot had seen its activity sharply decline (and with it the road and railway traffic it generated) and by 1946, the U.S. Army handed the depot back to the War Department. It was used to house German POWs in temporary huts.”* <https://www.westmoorsmiscellany.co.uk/the-railway-goes-to-war/> The fuel depot and huts were to the NE of the village of West Moors.

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; Kauczor (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Main | I | I | ? |  | 800 G | 680 | 716 | 871 | 644 | 723 | 687 | 676 | 627 | 485 | 590 | 578 (6) | 446 | 629 |
| West Moors |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 277 | 199 |

**Wilton** - Salisbury, Wiltshire

**1943** – listed for Italian pows – 1944 to 1945 possibly continued to hold Italian pows, but not listed in reports.

**11/1946** – Hostel leader since October, Ofw. Horst Schiemichen

**1/1947** – same leader; “*A very good type.. a compositor. Upgraded to ‘A’*.”

**5/1947** – same leader.

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Haisch (B-), aged 31, unmarried, a barber’s assistant – “*A low type, harmless but incompetent.”*

**10/1947** - Hostel leader; Fw Fuest (B)

**12/1947** – same leader

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Wilton |  | I |  |  |  | 65 | 64 | 65 | 60 | 50 | 70 | 64 | 63 | 59 | 61 | 55 | 47 |  |

**Wincanton** [Local memories place it where King Arthur’s School is now – ST 703 285].

Site was open and known to hold Italian pows before the entries below.

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Karl Ranocha (B), aged 31, unmarried, a clerk. Not a Nazi party member. “*A harmless mediocrity*.”

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Singendoch (B)

**12/1947** – Hostel leader; O/Wm Schimpfe (B+), previously leader at Corfe Mullen.

**16 January 1948** – closed.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 (1) | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Wincanton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 190 | 184 | 118 | 108 | 112 | 47 |  |

**Yellowham Wood –** Centre SY 731 935

May have been attached to another camp before / after these entries:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 (1) | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Yellowham W. |  |  |  | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Yetminster (**Cross Farm)

May have been attached to another camp before / after these entries:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 (1) | 9/45 | 10/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 1/47 | 3/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 6/47 | 7/47 | 8/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 1/48 | 3/48 |
| Yetminster |  |  |  | G | G |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |