**Camp 58 & 248** **- Nether Heage Camp, Belper, Derbyshire (aka Firs camp / Belper)**

Included in the 1945 ICRC Camp list – Labour Camp. Belper Camp, Belper, Derby.

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| **1947 Camp List** | | | | | | | |
| 58(G.W.C.) | Nether Heage Camp, Nr Belper, Derbyshire | N. | Priswar, Belper | Ambergate 156 & 41 | Butterley | Lt.Col.W.A.Dickens M.C. | v/1453/2 |

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| **Prisoner of War Camps (1939 – 1948) - Project report by Roger J.C. Thomas - English Heritage 2003** | | | | | | | |
| OS NGR | Sheet | No. | Name & Location | County | Cond’n | Type 1945 | Comments |
| SK 36 50 | 119 | 58 | Nether Heage Camp, Belper | Derbyshire | 5 |  |  |

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| **Location:** NGR SK 357 506. About 3 km N of Belper.  **Before the camp:** Farmland  **Pow camp:** Names seen – Nether Heage / Belper / Firs (from Heage Firs shown on map).  The site was accepted as a pow camp in December 1941. An Italian pow construction gang was allocated from Garenden Park Camp 28 to work with the Pioneer Corps.  **1942** - The camp opened for Italian pows.  **March 1942** – British staff of 4 Officers and 77 OR attached to The Hayes Camp 13 for training.  **1943** – Hostels for Italian pows; Huthwaite; Biggin  **May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Northern Command area, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were recorded as co-operators.  Italian pows up until at least 1945, then German pows.  **1 August 1945** - an urgent memorandum was sent to this camp, and others, about maintaining records of Italians who were classed as ‘co-operators’. At this point many, sometimes all, of the Italian pows were in hostels / billets.  **September 1947** - Hostel at Derby Old Race course was transferred to Knighthorpe Camp 28. Report that pows worked on local farms and a nearby flax factory. (British Hemp and Flax Development Company Ltd, Heage Road, Ripley).  Camp Number changed from 58 to 248: C248 was Drill Hall, Derbyshire up to at least September 1946 - and then Norton, Yorkshire (there was a Red Cross visit there in Feb 1947 using this number). |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

**November 1947** – The IWM hold a copy of a camp magazine - *Blinkfeuer* (Signal Fire?) – described as published by PWW Camp 248, Nether Heage, Derbyshire. Dated November 1947. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/1506002420> An earlier camp magazine for Camp 58 was called, *Aufbau Nether Heage Camp* (Construction).

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| **18 December 1947** – Letter.  Many families hosted German pows during Christmas 1947. The letter also confirms the use of the number 248.  Camp commandant c.1947 Lieutenant Colonel W A Dickens M.C.  **After the camp:** Site developed into light industrial area called the Firs Works.  The site as it is now - <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-east-midlands/pow-camp-58-nether-heage/>  **Further information:**  The Imperial War Museum has a copy of the magazine Aufbau. Dated 24 December 1946, Ref LBY E.J. 335 – Blinkfeuer is Ref LBY E.J. 337. |  |

**Hostels**

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| --- | --- |
| **Biggin.** NGR SK 160 592  *“5 or 6 Ministry of Supply huts for PoWs used as farm labour with Italians from 1943 and Germans by 1945.”*  **1943** - Listed with C58 holding Italian pows. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

**Derby Old Race Course**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unknown | | | | | | With Nether Heage | | With Camp 28 | | | |
|  | -/43 | 4/46 | 7/46 | 9/46 | 10/46 | 12/46 | 4/47 | 7/47 | 9/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 3/48 |
| Derby ORC |  |  |  |  |  |  | With Camp 58 | | 150 | 236 | 222 |  |

**Huthwaite**

**Location:** around SK 4683 5842 - on the B6027 (Common Road). It is about 6 miles NE of Swanwick.

**1943** - Listed with C58 holding Italian pows. Wooden huts (possibly 6, including 1 used for cooking / eating). Area enclosed by barbed wire fencing with an entrance gate almost opposite Pit Road. Transferred to The Hayes (see camp 5).