**Camp 53** **- Sandbeds Camp, Gateforth New Road, Brayton, Yorkshire (aka Brayton Camp).**

Included in the 1945 ICRC Camp list – Labour Camp. 53. Sandbeds Camp, Brayton, Selby, Yorks.

|  |
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| **1947 Camp List** |
| 53(G.W.C.) | Sandbeds Camp, Brayton, Selby, Yorkshire | N. | Priswar, Selby | Gateforth 40 | Selby | Lt.Col.E.T.Dobbie | 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 |
| SE 5735 2970 | 105 | 53 | Sandbeds Camp, Gateforth New Road, Brayton | Yorkshire | 4 | GermanWorking Camp | STANDARD type. Site occupied by amushroom farm |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** About 5km SW of Selby. On the map the site is marked as ‘Hostel (West Riding CAEC)’ - County Agricultural Executive Committee – opposite sand pits. Also, on this map is another site just to the NE, not marked, (I think it was a US army camp – on the 1966 OS map it is marked as ‘Camp (Dis)’ – whatever it was it has now been removed by the A63.**Before the camp:** Farmland**Pow Camp:** Italian and then German pows. **1942/3** - opened for Italian pows. Standard layout with a main pow compound and British / administrative section at the ‘front.’ **1943** – Hostels listed for Italian pows; Becca Hall, Aberford / Doncaster / No 2 P.W.Cage Doncaster / Monk Fryston Lodge, Selby.**May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Northern Command area, (WO 32/10737).**October 1944** – camp starts to be changed to a German camp. Italians moved to hostels or other camps prior to repatriation.**2 November 1944** - Pows working on local farms were in high demand. In a debate in Parliament regarding ‘Prisoner-Of-War Labour’ in 1944:*“Colonel Ropner asked the Minister of Agriculture whether, in view of the shortage of agricultural labour in the Selby district of Yorkshire, immediate arrangements can be made to transfer more prisoners of war to the prisoners-of-war camp at Brayton in order that they may assist in the lifting of sugar beet.**Mr. Hudson - I am informed by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for War, that this camp is now full to capacity on the basis of the standards laid down by the Geneva Convention.”* (House of Commons, **2 November 1944,** Volume 404).Colonel Ropner was persistent – 12 days later: |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1958 |

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| “*Colonel Ropner asked the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the shortage of labour in the Selby district of Yorkshire, arrangements can be made to enlarge the prisoners of war camp at Brayton.**Sir J. Grigg - I understand that the shortage of civilian building labour is at present so severe that it will not be possible to enlarge this camp*.” (House of Commons, **14 November 1944,** Volume 404).Italian pows were held at Camp 53, probably in hostels, in 1945. They were completely ignored in the following camp reports. Italian pow postcard from 1945 >

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| 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. |

 |  |

**11/14 April 1945** – Visit by two members of PID for political screening. Strength c.861 (did not state if hostels were included).

Commandant: Lt Col Levis Camp leader: Wm Werner Scheller

Interpreter: S/Sgt Kaufmann Deputy C/L: O/Funkm Kilian Konrad.

The Commandant started on 7 April, he was new to pow work. He was co-operative with the visitors.

The two German leaders were seen to be positive influences together with the German interpreter, Uffzr Rolf Becker. “*These three men have done splendid work… they are wholeheartedly Anti-Nazis, although good Germans*.”

This was not the first visit to the camp, it was stated that the political aspect had improved. Those pows who had believed in the Nazi regime stated, “*Dass wir betrogen worden sind*” (We have been betrayed). There were a few Marxists and ‘*possibly*’ a few Nazis. Possibly should be ‘definitely,’ considering later comments:

The Medical Officer, Oberarzt Hans Gunter Hohn had already been spoken to; now described as, “*a dyed-in-the-wool Nazi, and must now go*” – together with 5 others.

The protestant padre was described as a, “*loud mouthed man does not make a good appeal*.” He also visited Storwood Camp 73 and they requested that his return be prevented. His name was later added to the list of those to be removed from this camp.

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| Later reports comment on ‘youth’ pows (under-25), this early report split the ages down further: | Up to age 20 | 20-30 | 30-40 | 40-50 |
| 125 | 235 | 363 | 138 |

Re-education activities had not yet started. Classes were given for history, geography, current affairs, maths – and 250 pows taking English classes. In addition, Professor Hardy from Leeds University visited to give lectures – this sort of visit was very rare at this time. A request for various textbooks was made. 200 copies of Wochenpost were received weekly.

Recreation – football, handball, and chess. Concerts were also given.

Another 400 men arrived shortly after this report.

**3-4 May 1945** – brief report on English education. More books requested.

**25 August 1945** – brief report on a camp visit. Strength 1313. Pows mainly in huts, with a tented extension.

S/Sgt Kaufmann was, “*well in touch with the P/W*,” he was joined by another interpreter, S/Sgt Allen.

Politically the pows were seen as mainly white (A) / grey (B). Part of the reason for this political complexion was that the original 800+ pows were mostly from the same regiment and Rhineland district, including the camp leader – “*and of whom the esprit de corps is predominantly anti-nazi.”*

c.200 pows were ‘youth,’ with c.60 still under 21. They were not seen as a particular problem, but the camp leader believed some sort of compulsion would be needed to get them to participate in re-education activities.

Pows were kept busy with the harvest. Some re-education activities were listed:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – popular. Sufficient Wochenpost received, only 60 Ausblick – more requested.

Newspapers – 20 copies of the leading British daily papers and 2 weekly papers. More needed.

Library – 645 books, more requested. Pows were willing to buy additional books.

Camp newspaper – not started.

Lectures – some given by a pow in the camp.

Films – weekly show (not stated, but these were usually documentaries supplied by PID) + YMCA every three weeks. Commercial films would be shown later.

English teaching – 3 classes with 150 pupils + 300 studying privately. In nearly all camps, the numbers studying English reduced rapidly after the initial interest.

Other activities –

Religion – Protestant padre O/Leut Bauer. A visiting RC padre O/Gefr Jungbauer stayed in the camp 1 week in four, otherwise services were conducted by a British padre. Church music requested.

Education – Classes of c.25 for geography, history, chemistry, maths.

Theatre – 48 shows in 11 months, mostly variety. A good orchestra, some excellent musicians including a former member of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Recreation – football, handball, boxing, table tennis, chess, playing cards.

**7 March 1946** – Visiting lecturer’s report – H A Kluthe.

Lecturers were expected to complete a report on their visits – and the camp made a report on the lecturer. In this camp lectures were relayed by loudspeakers to other huts.

“*This is by far the best camp I have yet seen. It is a tonic for me to take in the atmosphere of this model camp which shows what can be achieved by the right methods*.”

An interesting remark was made at the end; “*P.S. In this camp I found again two Jews doing excellent work: a British captain and a German born Interpreter.”*

The camp submitted a highly positive report on this lecturer.

**Spring 1946** – pows who had previously been held in camps in the USA arrived. Many had very low morale as they had been mistakenly informed in the US that they were being returned to Germany.

**1 May 1946** – Report by a very well respected lecturer, Harald von Waldheim. *“My fugitive impression is that this can become one of the most advanced camps in this country now.”*

**9-11 May 1946** – Visit to review re-education and interview pows. Strength; 3 officers, 1505 Other Ranks.

A new Commandant; Lt Col E T Dobbie, showed enthusiasm for re-education

S/Sgt Kaufmann came in for praise; “*has put an enormous amount of effort into his work and no praise is too high for the excellent results he has achieved*.”

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| Political screening: | A+ | A | B | C | Ungraded |
|  | 4 | 371 | 1005 | 89 | 39 |

Morale was considered to be ‘*very high*.’ The main positive factors were the S/sgt and leading German personnel developing education, vocational instruction and entertainment.

The political complexion of the camp had changed. At one point it was recorded that up to 85% of the camp were ‘white;’ (A), but many of these were transferred and some were the first to be repatriated. By the time of this report, it was estimated 25% white and 75% grey (B).

The standard list of re-education activities was given. Changes to the last report –

Discussion groups – a small group had started.

Lectures – regular visiting lecturers.

Films – PID films fortnightly, but only to the main camp. YMCA films every 3 to 4 weeks.

Wireless – excellent set kept in the camp leader’s office, with extension speakers to the huts.

Camp magazine – very high standard. 200 copies fortnightly. PID requested extra copies to distribute to other camps.

Information room – education and news materials, texts and pictures, were displayed.

Other activities –

Religion. 60% protestant, 40% RC. The camp had its own church made in a converted hut (it was later described as ‘*unattractive*’).

The protestant congregation was dwindling as the padre was, “*somewhat lacking in personality*.” RC padre shared with Camp 296.

Vocational training – very rare for a report to include this; apprenticeship training in bakery, boot-repairing, cooking, weaving, tailoring, joinery, bricklaying and gardening.

Theatre – disbanded and then restarted.

Orchestra – 12/14 players of a very high standard. Well equipped with instruments and music. Concerts given at least weekly. Visited the hostels when transport available.

**1946 – 1947** – from mid 1946, several of the visiting lecturers commented on the presence of Rumanian-Germans

**8-11 November 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1975. 34 pupils in 4 classes in the main camp (+131 in the hostels).

**8/11 July 1947** – Re-education survey. Strength; 3 officers, 1579 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col F A M Marshall Camp leader: Fw Josef Hempfling

Interpreter: S/Sgt E Ehrlich Deputy C/L: Ofw Ernst Remmele

 German M.O.: O/Arzt Werner Menne

The new Commandant had been in place for 2 weeks. The new (since the last report) Interpreter was said to take a great interest in re-education. *“The rest of the British staff is not interested but falls in line with the attitude of the Commandant towards the Ps/W, which is sympathetic and understanding*.”

The new (since the last report) Camp Leader was stated to be good and created a happy atmosphere. The hostel leaders were not so well regarded, but replacements could not be found.

Simplified screening in use: A 3; B 1576. 59 pows appealed against their grading, the better the grade, the earlier the repatriation, in theory. 703 pows repatriated to date.

Good morale and political progress.

Re-education activities continued, very similar to previous reports, though some activities were being affected as leaders were repatriated. The Information Room had closed. Outside contacts were rare due to the isolation of the camp.

Education – just one class for book-keeping. Other courses had ended as teachers were repatriated.

Entertainment – 20 members of the theatre group gave performances. Only 8 members of the orchestra left, but still gave frequent concerts. 25 member choir, also performed in local churches.

*“A happy and well run camp.”*

**August 1947** – two lecturers from Leeds University started to give a series of lectures at the camp, up to mid October.

**7/10 October 1947** – Survey of re-education. Strength; 138 officers, 1493 OR.

Changes to senior personnel – the deputy, Ernst Remmele, became the Camp Leader. The new deputy C/L was O/F.z.See Gerhard Schnitter.

The 4 officers recorded at the main camp were – 2 officers, 1 padre and 1 M.O. No description of the ‘2 officers.’

1239 pows repatriated to date.

The Interpreter continued to be very active with re-education activities, but was due to be demobilised in 6 weeks. The 2nd in command, Major Farmer (Royal Pioneer Corps) also took an interest.

The Information Room was restarted with exhibition materials sent by COGA. There was an attempt to set up a camp parliament, but it ended as there was insufficient interest.

Education – only English classes continued. The English Inspection Report soon after showed just 28 pupils in 2 classes.

Entertainment – only a 7 piece band was mentioned, and that rarely visited the hostels due to lack of transport.

No formal outside contacts had been established. Many pows had their own personal contacts with local families and farmers.

Overall, the camp was in decline, repatriation was the main concern.

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

**19/22 January 1948** – Survey of re-education. Strength; 129 officers, 1074 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col F A M Marshall Camp leader: Hugo Kiefer [new]

Interpreter: S/Sgt H W Pfander [new] Deputy C/L: Heinz Jenner [new]

 German M.O.: O/Arzt Werner Menne

Interpreter – since the last report, S/Sgt Ehrlich was demobilised – a Captain Stemme arrived but was not liked as he was too strict – a few weeks before S/Sgt Pfander started. The latest S/Sgt was an Anglo-German, aged 20, 4 months in the army and of no help to re-education “*owing to his lack of experience*.”

The new Camp Leader was described; “*does his job fairly well, but is not an outstanding personality*.”

Morale was still good. Some pows expressed anxiety over their future having been away from civilian life for so long. Negative factors included news from home and the possibility of war with the USSR. There was no sign of Nazism, but democracy was still treated with suspicion by many.

30% of the pows were ‘youth.’ They were not seen as a problem and spent as much time as they could out of the camp.

Re-education suffered as a pow (Wegner) was appointed as study leader by the short-lived interpreter, Capt Stemme – the previous leader (Krohn) having been sacked from the post. The new study leader was disliked by British and Germans; “*he has done more damage than good to re-education*.” Wagner was posted to camp 60, and Krohn was given his post back – “*he is a sensible, sincere man, who is doing a good job*.” Repatriations took away many leaders of activities. The standard list was given –

Newspapers – adequate supply, “*but the selection favours the more popular section of the Daily Press. I understand that this is due to the difficulty of obtaining more serious papers in a small Yorkshire town*.” I would think it was more likely due to personal preference.

Library – 2200 books, sufficient. Comment that pow Wagner, had disrupted the organisation of the library.

Lectures – Regular with good attendance.

Discussion groups – this had been taken over by the disliked pow, Wagner, and then ceased to exist.

Wireless – adequate.

Films – 16 mm projector owned by the YMCA in the camp. YMCA films weekly, Central Office of Information documentaries every 3-4 weeks. Pows stated there were too many American films.

Camp magazine – twice a month. Was ‘*fairly popular’* but sometimes “*above the intellectual level of the average PW*.”

Press review – popular, with extracts from British and German papers. Held fortnightly with discussions afterwards.

Information room – Exhibitions from COGA were displayed.

Outside contacts – Estimated that 60% of pows had good contacts with local families. A small number of pows were attending education courses at Selby.

Other activities –

Education – none

Religion – small interest.

Entertainment – No orchestra or theatre group. Football matches were played against some outside teams.

**1-3 April 1948** – Re-education survey. Strength; 4 officers (in main), 116 OR. (including 147 Ukrainians)

Only change to senior personnel – a new German M.O.; Julius Heilemann (B-)

Screening; A 3 / B 1117. 2200 pows repatriated to date. Groups of 40-60 pows were being repatriated in batches – they were sent on to Camps 4 (Scraptoft, Leicester), 17 (Lodge Moor, Yorkshire), or 18 (Featherstone, Northumberland).

High morale recorded – especially with increased speed of repatriations. There was a general fear of Russia, and possible further war. The European Recovery Plan was welcomed, but with a degree of suspicion if it would truly benefit Germany. “*There was almost 100% support for the idea of some form of European Federation*.”

The visitor asked the pows what they thought about re-education. General views were positive in that it made them ‘*critical*.’ The term ‘re-education’ was disliked as it implied a ‘teacher / pupil’ relationship. Political screening was condemned as being unfair, for example regarding members of the Hitler Youth recorded as Nazis. Bringing pows from Germany / Belgium /and the USA to work in Britain was deeply resented.

Re-education activities were ending. The camp magazine had ended.

Outside contacts had started to be established, including – the WEA; visits to Sheffield and Leeds Universities; Selby Methodist Church; visits to Doncaster and Rotherham art galleries; weekly visits to the West Riding Police Courts in Rotherham.

No mention was made of the three escapees.

**Late April / early May 1948** – the camp closed. There was a letter dated 8 May to the camp about lectures due to be given on 11/12 May – but these were cancelled.

Known Camp commandants –

c.1944 Lieutenant Colonel C (or G) A Fowler, then C27 Ledbury and C259 Weekley

c.1945 Lt Col F Levis

c1946/7 Lieutenant Colonel E T Dobbie, from the Regiment of Royal Artillery

c1947 Lt Col F A M Marshall

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|  | **After the camp:** the map shows it was a hostel at some point. Then a mushroom farm. Now a residential area.< 2012 before demolition – picture by The Amateur Wanderer on 28DaysLater.co.ukThe site now - <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-yorks-humber-and-lincs/pow-camp-53-sandbeds/>**Further information:** National Archives FO 939/135 and 302 - 53 Working Camp, Sandbeds Camp, Brayton, Yorkshire. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.The Imperial War Museum have copies of the magazine for February and December 1947, and January, March 1948. Ref LBY E.J. 365 |

**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 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 (2) | 1/48 (2) | 4/48 (2) |
| Main |  |  |  |  | 940 | 890 | 783 (1) | 4 / 859 | 4 / 913 (4) | 4 / 483 |
| Becca Hall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Doncaster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No 2 Doncaster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monk Fryston |  |  |  |  | 75 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Riccall |  |  |  |  | 189 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brotherton |  |  |  |  | 64 | 68 |  |  |  |  |
| Pinfold Lane |  |  |  |  | 55 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Methley Hall |  |  |  |  | 25 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Goole |  |  |  |  |  | 288 | 211 | 189 | 142 | 10 |
| Sherburn 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 221 | 212 | 1 / 274 |  |  |
| Sherburn 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 164 | 205 | 133 / 17 (3) | 127 / 17 |  |
| Sherburn 3 |  |  |  |  |  | 191 |  |  |  |  |
| Shelf |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 57 |
| Butcher Hill |  |  | Was Camp 244 / 245 | 63 |
| Huddersfield |  |  | With Camp 244 / 60 | 161 |
| Ravenfield |  |  | Was Camp 296, then hostel with Camps 127 and 17 | 276 |
| Billets |  |  |  |  | 160 | 163 | 146 | 154 | ? | 66 |
| Total |  |  | c.861 | 1313 | 1508 | 1975 | 1582 | 1631 | 1203 | 1120 (5) |

(1) + 25 detachments (2) Officers / OR (3) Ukrainians (4) Including billetees (5) including 3 escapees and 1 detached as YMCA film operator.

**Hostels**

**Becca Hall,** Aberford. Location – NGR SE 419 387. Probably in the grounds.

**1943** – just the one mention as an Italian pow hostel. Probably administered by a different main camp after this.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Becca Hall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Brotherton.** ‘A large house.’

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Brotherton |  |  |  |  | 64 | 68 |  |  |  |  |

**Butcher Hill.** Was Camp 244 / 245.

**April 1948** – Hostel leader; S/Fw Fritz Hildebrandt (B)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Butcher Hill |  |  | Was Camp 244 / 245 | 63 |

**Doncaster / No 2 P.W.Cage Doncaster.** Possibly linked to the Doncaster Racecourse Command Cages, (Camp 6 / 296).

**1943** – 2 sites listed as hostels for Italians.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Doncaster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| No 2 Doncaster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Goole.** Another site was at Centenary Road, Goole, Camp 637 - 0.75km away.

Location – “*The site of the former Google PoW was positively located through a photography website selling old images –*[*http://www.howdenshirehistory.co.uk/*](http://www.howdenshirehistory.co.uk/)*. Image GOOL248 of the PoW Camp clearly shows the site’s location at a road and rail junction North corner of Goole Docks.* [Coronation Street - SE 742 235]

*The camp as described within the Foreign Office inspection reports is listed at one time as having several hundred PoWs and given the location of this site it is reasonable to assume that the PoWs housed here may have worked within the Docks.*

*Today the former PoW site is a Depot for Damac Transport and used to park bulk powder HGV trailers. Whilst there are no remains of the former camp the size and shape of the site has been retained.*” <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-yorks-humber-and-lincs/pow-hostel-53-goole-coronation-street/>

**July 1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Martin Fuss. The local population in Goole were reported to have a hostile attitude, which had only improved slightly.

**January 1948** - 6 pows could attend Goole Council meetings. Weekly press reviews were held, followed by discussion. Exhibitions from COGA were displayed. Local vicar took an interest in the camp.

**April 1948** – same leader.

Hull Webs History – recollections of Herbert Heineman: “*This camp was well-situated in the middle of the town. We were housed in huts again after we were shared up to the single ones. Here I met a well-known PoW, his name Karl Gundlach. He lived at the same place where I come from. He had been taken prisoner in Africa and was member of the German Lagerpolizei, police of the camp composed by inmates. They were often hated by the other inmates at that time in Goole camp…*

*In the following time again and again I was designated to help various farmers in the area besides draining fields. In these cases, they gave us Wellington [boots] to be prepared for this kind of a job, a sort of a change anyhow. The camp was not fenced in with barbed wire and [there was] even no English guard. I am rather sure nobody of us prisoners intended to escape. We were paid with one Shilling a day. I remember on a weekend I bought a whole NAFI cake for 5 Shilling and eat all of it at once…*

*At night and on weekends we were watching the people passing our camp, persons out for a walk or shopping or having a pint of beer in one of the pubs. I could not remember even the taste of beer and there was none to buy in our canteen, never mind, but cigarettes called FIFTEENS, they tasted like straw comparing with WILD WOODBINE or PLAYERS****.”***

Probably administered by a different main camp before these entries.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Goole |  |  |  |  |  | 288 | 211 | 189 | 142 | 10 |

**Huddersfield** – Was a hostel attached to Butcher Hill Camp 244/245. NGR SE 149 131.

**December 1946** – listed for a short time with Overdale Camp 60.

**April 1948** – Hostel leader Fhr Erich Abel (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 (2) | 1/48 (2) | 4/48 |
| Huddersfield |  |  | With Camp 244 and 60 | 161 |

**Methley Hall.** Location – At the bottom of Park Lane on the right hand side near to the gatehouse to the farm – near to the lodge. NGR SE 379 260.

Wikipedia – “*POWs were used as agricultural labourers on the Mexborough Estate as many villagers had been recruited into the armed forces. The POWs were invited to perform Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht (Silent Night) in German during a Christmas Eve service at St Oswald's Church – an event still remembered by some villagers.*

*The BBC Inside Out programme (5 December 2011) reported that Artur Braun, one of the inmates of the POW camp, produced a large painting (size 8 ft x 8 ft) entitled 'Our Lady of the ruins' during the winter of 1944–45. It featured the Madonna with child in a ruined city surrounded by desperate people appealing to God for protection from war. The painting is believed to depict the artist's wife (as the Madonna) in the ruins of the city of Freiburg im Breisgau in Baden-Württemberg, (Germany) (the painting clearly shows Freiburg Munster in the background). Braun may have produced the painting after hearing of the death of his wife during an allied air raid on Freiburg im Breisgau (Braun's home town) during November 1944. For many years the painting was owned by a convent in Lancashire, then was sold at auction in 1997*.”

Arthur Braun – 1906 to 1977. Held in US pow camp before being transported to the UK and Methley pow hostel. “*Arthur Braun, being of the Roman Catholic faith was allowed with others to walk to St Joseph’s RC church at Castleford to celebrate mass. It was at this church he was able to converse with the nuns (teaching) where he must have told them of his interest in art at his home in Freiburg in Germany. It would also be about this time that he would have received correspondence regarding the death of his wife during bombing operations.*

*His desire to create a painting dedicated to his wife would have been treated by the nuns with the utmost sympathy and consideration, and to this end provided him with colouring pigments enabling him to mix these with linseed oil to create artistic oils. They also obtained a bed sheet which he used to cover a full sized mirror within an ornate frame and then proceeded to paint a copy of a picture introducing his wife as the Madonna with child within the background of war damaged scenery.”*

Details above from the history pages of - <https://www.methley-village.co.uk/> The BBC programme can be seen on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD9VG0AKG0M&t=19s>

Must have been administered by a different main camp outside of this one entry.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Methley Hall |  |  |  |  | 25 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Monk Fryston Lodge**, Selby. Location SE 489 293.

Only a guess, but it may have been used to hold Italian pows between 1943 and 1945 – Italians were omitted from the PID reports, but we know they were still there until 1945.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Monk Fryston |  |  |  |  | 75 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Pinfold Lane, (Methley).**

Memories of Italian pows held here, so must have been administered by a different main camp before the 1946 entry.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Pinfold Lane |  |  |  |  | 55 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Ravenfield.** Was Camp 296 - then hostel with Potters Hill Camp127 – then Lodge Moor Camp 17 – (possibly 1 other) – finally with Sandbeds camp 23.

**April 1948** – Hostel leader; Fw Wilhelm Hopfensitz (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Ravenfield |  |  | Was Camp 296, then hostel with Camps 127 and 17 | 276 |

**Riccall.** Memories place it where Chestnut Terrace is now – NGR SE 619 376.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 |
| Riccall |  |  |  |  | 189 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Shelf,** West Yorkshire. Location SE 122 281

Italians remembered at this site. Certainly administered by another main camp before the 1948 entry.

**December 1946** – Listed just once with Overdale Camp 60.

**April 1948** – Hostel leader; Reinhard Schumann (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 | 1/48 | 4/48 (2) |
| Shelf |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 57 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sherburn-in-Elmet – 3 compounds.****Locations -** The three compounds were recorded as being; “*All within 1 square mile.*” There are many possible sites for the other two compounds as the location is alongside an airfield with many huts.Sherburn in Elmet History Society have located one very possible site – “*We believe that the pow hostel in Sherburn was located to the north of the original Moor Lane not far from Sherburn Station. There is no sign of it today because some houses have been built on the site as well as the modern bypass*.” The map location gives SE 504 337.Franz Kamp was a pow at this camp: “*Although our camp in Britain was reasonably comfortable, it never reached the level of camps in the USA. It had at least one advantage though over the USA. There was no barbed wire in Sherburn-in-Elmet. The guards were infinitesimally*  |  |  |
| Aerial photograph 1948 | Ordnance Survey 1958 |

*small in numbers. The labour and work was arranged and supervised by civilian personnel. Almost immediately teams were formed, but we had been short of food for some time, we were hungry men. Therefore, any farmer who recognised that and offered food was immediately acknowledged as a 'decent' man. He was literally quids in. The payment was similar to that in the USA - Camp Money.*

*The first teamwork for me was pea-picking in a field between Sherburn and South Milford on the A162…*

 *For some reason that I cannot remember, I had to go to the main camp - PoW Camp 53 - Sandbeds Camp near Selby. Walking into the hut to enquire about the whereabouts of my target, I bumped into Fritz Bürling from Münster. I had been to Grammar School and Technical College with him. In conversation I mentioned to him the shortage of food we had experienced during our period in Belgium. Fritz, well established at Brayton Camp, knew how to deal with the matter. From then on he would send me a loaf of bread when I needed it in a cloth bag which I would send back empty to him via the camp courier. It was then returned filled with a loaf. This exercise went on for at least two months…*

*In order to get to our workplaces, a bus would pick us up at the camp and take us to Barwick-in-Elmet where the first squad of prisoners was dropped off, followed by Kiddal Lane and A64 into Scholes…”* For the full story - The Barwicker No. 35 - Barwick-in-Elmet Historical Society

Most likely existed before these entries attached to a different main camp

**November 1946** – ‘Rumanian’ Germans recorded at Sherburn 2.

**July 1947** – Hostel leader C1; Fw Heinrich Koch. Hostel leader C2; Owm Rolf Garde.

**October 1947** – Hostel leader; O/Wm Rolf Garde. Hostel leader C2; Lt Col Roman Dolynskys (Ukrainian).

**January 1948** - Hostel leader C2 same

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 4/45 | 8/45 | 5/46 | 11/46 | 7/47 | 10/47 (2) | 1/48 (2) | 4/48 (2) |
| Sherburn 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 221 | 212 | 1 / 274 |  |  |
| Sherburn 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 164 | 205 | 133 / 17 (3) | 127 / 17 |  |
| Sherburn 3 |  |  |  |  |  | 191 |  |  |  |  |

(2) Officers / OR (3) Ukrainians