**Camp 129** **- Ashford (Lodge) Camp, Halstead, Essex (aka Golden Meadow).**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 129. Ashford Camp, Halstead, Essex.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1947 camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 129(G.W.C.) | Ashford Lodge Camp, Halstead, Essex | E. | Priswar, Halstead | Halstead 321/2 | Halstead | Lt.Col.F.Bullen | 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 |
| TL 824 322 | 168 | 129 | Ashford Camp, Halstead | Essex | 4 | German Working Camp | Depot with associated Nissen hut camp |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** About 2 km NE of Halstead. Field alongside Sudbury Road, between Ashford Lodge and Star Stile (was this field called Golden Meadow?).  **Before the camp:** Fields beside Ashford Lodge. Hutted site built 1943/44 for US army.  **Pow Camp:** Opened as a pow camp after the US troops left in 1944.  **1944** – opened as an Italian collaborator pow camp, then a German Working Camp. Mainly Nissen huts. There was a medical centre and one hut was used as a chapel.  **Autumn 1944** – a strike was held by the pows during the harvest. The strikers were placed under strict confinement and punishment rations.  **November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion, (WO 32/10737).  Initially holding about 500 Italian pows – the War Establishment number and rank of commandant (Lt Col) indicates that it grew in size after that.  **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 of the Italian pows were in hostels / billets. I have seen a POW Letter-sheet dated 10 December 1945 in Italian to Italy. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

**15 September 1945** - Hostel listed for pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Auberies, Sudbury, Essex

**1 September 1946 –** 1st Camp Magazine: [Der POW : Zeitung fur Deutsche Kriegsgefangene Camp 129 Halstead - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/112837/)

Mentions Beaumont hostel – 12 piece orchestra touring the hostels.

**23-26 November 1946** - As part of the re-education programme administered by the Control Office for Germany and Austria (COGA), Paul Bondy, a German-speaking refugee gave lectures at the main camp and 7 hostels. He recorded a camp complement of 1,200.

**May 1947** – RC priest from this camp also visited High Garrett Camp 78.

**16 October 1947** – “*German Pows from Halstead, Borley and Liston almost filled the public section of Sudbury Town Council on Tuesday night to watch how Local Government conducted their affairs.”* Suffolk Free Press.

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

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| --- | --- |
| Known Camp Commandants:  Lieutenant Colonel W G Petherick, from the Kings Own hussars - later High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1962.  1947 Lieutenant Colonel F Bullen  **After the camp:** Used for emergency housing. 2019 farm and farmland.  **Further Information:**  Local history website: <https://www.halsteadhistory.org.uk/pow.html> - information and pictures. |  |
| From website for Halstead & District Local History Society – after the pow camp. |

**POW NUMBERS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Open |  |  | With other camps |  |  | Unknown |  |  | Not open |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 9/1945 | 1946 |  |
| Ashford Lodge HQ |  |  |  |  |
| Auberies |  |  | c.100 |  |
| Beaumont |  |  |  |  |
| Borley Green |  |  | c.100 |  |
| Boxford | 1943 – with C78 |  | c.100 |  |
| Bulmer Village |  |  | c.100 |  |
| Liston Hall |  |  | c.100 |  |
| Stoke by Nayland |  |  | c.200 |  |
| Billets |  |  |  |  |
| TOTALS | c.500 |  | 1200 capacity |  |

**Hostels**

**Auberies Farm**, Bulmer. NGR TL 848 398

**Beaumont.**

**1 September 1946** – mentioned in the Camp Magazine.

**Borley Green.** Possible site next to Purkis Farm NGR TL 838 430.

**Boxford.** TL 969 408.

**1943** - Hostel for Italians with High Garrett Camp 78

**Bulmer Village**. Recorded as being near to the church NGR TL 844 401.

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**<<< Liston Hall.** NGR TL 846 450

**Stoke by Nayland.** At Tendring Hall. TL 992 357.

**1945** - listed as a hostel with Victoria Camp 85

**30 October 1947** - Bury & Suffolk Free Press: Five German POW`s were fined 10s each for distilling spirits without a license at Tendring Hall Camp, Stoke by Nayland.