**Camp 167** **- Shady Lane Camp, Stoughton, Leicestershire (aka Evington)**

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| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 167(G.W.C.) | Shady Lane Camp, Stoughton, Leicester | N. | Priswar, Oadby | Oadby 584 | Thurnby | Lt.Col.E.L.Farnell | 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 627 024 | 140 | 167 | Shady Lane, Stoughton, Leicester | Leicestershire | 5 | Base Camp |  |

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| **Location:** On the SE edge of Leicester.  **Before the camp:** From 1942 the site was in military use. For a short time used by the US 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment before D-day.  **Pow Camp:** Italian and then German pows.  **1945** – Camp opened  **1945** - aerial photo;  [raf\_106g\_uk\_1011\_fv\_7123 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_106g_uk_1011_fv_7123)  The camp appears to be divided into separate compounds.  **13 March 1946** – Camp magazine; [Der Neue Weg : Lagerzeitung des P.O.W. Camp 167 - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/113193/)  Mainly world news and political views + short article on camp life – “*What does the new week bring?*  *Wednesday, March 13 - T.O. Feuchtner: Will discuss a book: "From Weimar to Hitler," edited by former Prussian Minister President Otto Braun. Chapel B-compound, 7:30 p.m.* |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1956 |

*Saturday, March 16 - R. Raedel: Press review followed by a discussion on "Problems of the Time." Compound B, 6:30 p.m. / Concert by the entertainment band. New Dining Hall, 8 p.m.*

*Sunday, March 17 - W. Kaftan will read from English poetry. New Dining Hall, 8 p.m.”* I believe this is the same pow that became puppet master – see memories, below.

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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. If there were still Italian pows in hostels, they were usually ignored by PID. |

The PID reports below werecarelessly written with repetitive comments, multiple spelling mistakes for names of people and places, and data frequently omitted.

**20 December 1946** – Re-educational and General Survey. Strength: 2 officers; 1963 Other Ranks. The first PID visit.

Commandant: Lt Col Farnall Camp leader: O/Fw Pitzler (A)

Interpreter: None Deputy C/L: None

German M.O.: Dr Polena (B)

The Commandant and British staff were new to pow camps. They ‘co-operated’ with the aims of re-education, but were not actively involved.

The German staff had been appointed by the previous Commandant.

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| Political screening: | A | B | C | C+ | Unscreened |
|  | 3 | 752 | 363 | 2 | 845 |

This is a high number of C grade (Nazi) pows, though numbers tended to fall rapidly when pows were re-screened.

Discipline had been, “*abnormally strict*” under the previous Commandant, but regulations had been slightly relaxed and morale had improved.

About 300 pows were ‘youth’ (25 and under). A youth group had been created and were given “*special instruction*.” (No details given).

Developing re-education activities was in the hands of the pows – as in most camps, the British staff were not interested. The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate report.

Newspapers – *“Adequate*” - a range of British papers were received and distributed to the hostels. No record of any foreign papers.

Library – 2195 books.

Lectures – Regular and well received.

Discussion groups – Well attended Q and A and news sessions

Films – YMCA visited HQ and hostels.

Wireless – Good reception. Set controlled in Camp leader’s office + 6 loudspeakers.

Press review – Articles from British press were translated and displayed in the reading room.

English instruction – 85 pupils in 2 classes.

Other camp activities –

Religion – Protestant padre Hpt Bucholz (A) held weekly services and visited the hostels. A Catholic Priest, Father Dumont, from Scraptoft Camp 4, visited monthly.

Education – Lectures were give by a pow.

Theatre – a 25 member theatre group were preparing a Christmas performance. They occasionally visited the hostels.

Orchestra – Good, with 15 performers for mainly dance music. Another orchestra played mainly classical music.

**8 April 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength: 0 officers, 1586 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Farnall Camp leader: Uffz Goebel (A)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Butcher Deputy C/L: Fw Boske (A)

German M.O.: Not recorded – but still Dr Polena in the next report

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| Political screening: | A | B | C | C+ |
|  | 64 | 1187 | 332 | 2 (being removed) |

No appeals against screening grades had been heard. Number of pows repatriated – not recorded. Morale was recorded as good.

About 600 youth pows – no mention of any special arrangements for them.

There were few changes to the standard list of activities. The number of pows studying English had dwindled to 17 beginners and 20 advanced.

Religion – pows were allowed to visit Evington Church.

Education – small classes for French, history and geography.

Entertainment – the orchestra was reduced to just 7 members due to repatriations.

No mention made of any outside contacts.

**16 June 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 4 officers, 1663 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Farnall Camp leader: Ofw W Krabbe (B)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Butcher Deputy C/L: Fw K Boske (A)

German M.O.: A/Arzt Dr B Polena (Pulina)

The camp leader had been hostel leader at Wigston. Aged 32, Nazi Party member 1933 to 1936 – “*No Nazi tendencies, but lacks the quality of leadership*.”

Deputy leader Boske, aged 30 – “*a pleasing personality.”*

Simplified screening figures were given – A 48; B 1619. Most C grade pows had been upgraded to B. 320 appeals had been heard – only 2 were rejected, (the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory). 6 further appeals were pending. 800 pows repatriated since November 1946.

Morale was generally ‘good’ – negative factors, as elsewhere, was slow repatriation and bad news from Germany.

25% were ‘youth’. 10 had formed a youth movement and published a magazine, ‘Jugendruf.’

Changes to re-education activities –

Library – reduced to 1200 books.

Information room – had been formed showing exhibitions of text and pictures on a theme, last being ‘Krieg-Frieden’ (War & Peace).

English instruction – carried out in the hostels as well as HQ.

Changes to other camp activities -

Religion – RC pows allowed to attend mass in Leicester. Priest from camp 4 visited weekly.

Education – Small classes for French, shorthand, bookkeeping, bookbinding and agriculture. Only about 10% of the pows attended classes.

**26-30 August 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 3 officers, 1478 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Farnall Camp leader: Fw Hessing (B)

Interpreter: None Deputy C/L: Gefr Klinkow (B)

German M.O.: Stabsarzt Dr Hoffmann (B)

The camp leader had been in place for about 6 weeks. Aged 31, a motor salesman – “*a pleasant personality but a weak character*.” The Commandant thought he was satisfactory.

The Deputy C/L also started about 6 weeks earlier. Aged 38, Nazi Party member since 1933 – “*He is not a very good type, weak and an opportunist.”*

25% were youth pows – they had a special discussion group and occasional lectures.

No screening figures given. 1000 pows repatriated to date. Morale was recorded as ‘good,’ “*but would be improved if the Commandant took more interest in his camp.”* Complaints had been raised that many of those who had been repatriated were too often “*wrong types*” – this opinion was raised in many camps.

Changes to activities –

Newspapers – some foreign papers were being received as well as British.

English Instruction – down to just 36 pupils in 2 classes.

Entertainments – the theatre group was down to just 3 members, but they were still giving performances. The 9 member orchestra had given concerts in local churches and at the university.

Outside contacts - Pows were developing good informal relationships with many local civilians. Formal contacts were limited to pows attending a few lectures at the University.

**3-7 November 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 2 officers, 1089 OR.

The only change to senior personnel was the German M.O., Dr Hoffmann with the intriguing comment; “*is sent to an asylum*” – as a patient or doctor? U/Arzt Dr Schott (B-) was listed as deputising.

300 pows repatriated since August 1947.

There were very few changes to the previous report:

Library – 2685 books.

Films – YMCA every three weeks, Travelling Films Ltd fortnightly.

Religion – The protestant padre had been repatriated and not been replaced.

Outside contacts – Some pows attended classes at Vaughan College.

**3 – 6 December 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 2 officers, 1168 OR.

The only change to senior personnel was a German M.O.: Stabsarzt Dr Alfred Kruger (B-), aged 41, joined the Nazi Party in 1937; “*not a particularly pleasing personality, but efficient as a doctor.”*

A more direct comment was made regarding the Commandant; “*not interested in re-education, neither does he believe that it can do much good.”* However, he did not obstruct activities from being carried out.

Morale was still ‘good.’ The usual negative factors applied – slow repatriation and bad news from Germany. Positive factors were recorded as the friendly attitude of most farmers, outside contacts, entertainment and cultural amenities both inside and outside the camp.

Religion – Padres from Camp 4 visited the camp. About 50 pows attended services.

Entertainment – the theatre group and orchestra had reduced in size and produced combined variety shows.

More formal outside contacts had been developed – mainly for those who had a good knowledge of English. Daily groups of 6 pows attended the magistrates court in Leicester. Pows visited council meetings. 74 pows attended classes at Vaughan college. A small group attended Southfields Cooperative Youth Club.

**7-9 January 1948** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 2 officers, 1179 OR.

The only change to senior personnel was the arrival of an Interpreter Officer, Capt Henderson, from Sudbury Camp 23.

The report mainly consisted of repetitive comments and “*no change*.”

**5 April 1948** – Re-educational survey (by a different PID visitor to the reports above). Strength; 5 officers, 1457 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Farnall Camp leader: Johann Tinnefeld (B)

Interpreter: Capt Henderson Deputy C/L: Wilhelm Reinhold (B+)

German M.O.: S/Arzt Dr Krueger / O/Arzt Dr Schott.

The camp expanded as it took in pows from other camps that were closing down.

A survey was conducted in camps still open at this time concerning pow attitudes to the British. It was pointless, carried out far too late and in totally random ways. Some visitors simply gathered whoever was around and asked them to give a show of hands to the questions, some only asked a ‘selected’ group – most – including the Shady Lane reports - did not state how the data was gathered or the numbers involved. For what it is worth, the results here were –

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| **Political attitudes** | **1st survey early April – unknown number** | **2nd survey later April – 150 pows** (see below) - |
| Hate | *“no evidence of any Ps/W”* | *“almost non-existent.”* |
| Dislike | *“no pows in this category”* | 80% - *“Widespread”* coupled with dislike |
| Distrust | 40% |
| Indifference | 50% | 10% |
| Ready to give us the benefit of the doubt | 10% | 5% |
| Liking | 0% | 5% This was mainly towards civilians, rather than official British policy. |

A letter had been sent by the previous camp leader and reported on his experiences during repatriation - “*pilfered kitbags, bad behaviour of British escorts and poor conditions at Munsterlager.”* Sadly, similar experiences were recorded by many pows. The PID visitor dismissed it as, “*a readiness to take the bad behaviour of a small minority as being truly representative of the whole.”*

Some pows from other camps, having been through the process of ‘civilianisation,’ had expected to be released when their camps closed and felt aggrieved to be sent here.

Resettlement officers were touring pow camps – none had visited here.

This was a general, self-satisfied report by PID on the good work that PID had achieved.

**22/23 April 1948** – Re-educational survey barely 2 weeks after the last – why? Strength; 2 officers, 1089 OR.

No changes to senior personnel.

150 pows were interviewed for the ‘attitude survey’, there was no recognition that this had been carried out previously. This time it was stated that the pows were, *“openly sceptical*.” The different set of ‘results’ are recorded above.

Whereas the previous report hailed the success of PID and re-education of pows, this time it was recorded; *“Their thinking is completely nihilistic; despite a rejection of Nazism, they seem to believe in nothing but the superiority of German ideas and methods….* [they] *state quite openly that Europe would not have been in the chaotic state it is in to-day if Germany had won…. The Germans are the unfortunate victims…. Re-education does not seem to have made much headway amongst the PsW seen.”*

A further complaint regarding repatriation arose here and at other camps as returning pows were issued with very poor, often second hand and badly repaired, clothing.

No resettlement officers visited.

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

Memories – *“Karl Hohn, who was sent to Evington as an eighteen-year-old prisoner, having been wounded and captured in the Ardennes region of France during the Allies’ advance towards Germany. He confirmed that relations between the local population were friendly; indeed, he said, compared to conditions in Germany at the time, Evington seemed like paradise, what with biscuits and invitations to Sunday and Christmas dinners with local families. He even married a local girl while still a prisoner – although he had to return to the camp each evening!” (*[www.evingtonecho.co.uk/shady-lane-pow-camp/](http://www.evingtonecho.co.uk/shady-lane-pow-camp/) )

Wolfgang Kaftan, a pow from Hanover, a puppet-master…. “*found ample talent from which to make up an eventual team of ten: artists, musicians, theatre experts, electricians, good English speakers. The puppet hands were made of papier mâché, later of wood, the first paint brushes of sticks and sweepings from the barber’s floor, the paint from crushed crayons and engine oil. Searchlights from the camp perimeter provided the lighting. After the first performance at Shady Lane the Canadian interpreter sergeant was so happy that he came behind the scenes and took Kaftan in his arms. In the end they had such a brilliantly contrived stage that today it is in the famous puppet museum in Munich.”* Kaftan continued working with puppets when he moved on to Norton Camp. Thresholds of Peace – Matthew Sullivan – Hamish Hamilton.

Known Camp Commandants c.1947 Lt Col E L Farnell (the PID visitors managed to spell his name with 4 variations).

**Numbers of pows**

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|  | Open |  |  | With other camps |  |  | Unknown |  |  | Not listed / not open |

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|  |  | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948 | 4/1948 (1) | 4/1948 (2) |
| Main |  | 1351 | 1189 | 1520 | 1423 | 1007 | 1170 | 1181 | 1462 | 1009\* |
| Bitteswell |  | 276 | 237 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dunton Bassett | With C49 | 183 | 63 | 59 | 58 | 84 |  |  |  |  |
| Enderby | With C94,28 | 112 | 94 | 88 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wigston | With C94 | 43 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Asfordby |  |  | With C 94 | | | | | | | 44 |
| Billets |  | Included above | | | | | | | | 37 |
| TOTALS |  | 1965 | 1586 | 1667 | 1481 | 1091 | 1170 | 1181 | 1462 | 1091 |

\* + 1 in hospital.

**After the camp:** Occupied by squatters when the camp closed. Part used by a riding school. Arboretum from 1970.

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 1120/230 – Re-educational survey visit reports for camps 165 to 175. Dated 1 Jan 1946 to 31 Dec 1948. Used above.

Leicester and Rutland Record Office – Papers including letters from German prisoners of war based at Stoughton and Scraptoft Camps. Dated 1946-1960. Ref DE6888

IWM has copies of the camp newspaper from 1947 to 1948

< Camp 167 token money. Could only be used in the camp as stamped. The back was stamped after each use.

**Hostels**

**Asfordby.** Memories locate it at the AA site, Welby Lane.

Previously with Gaulby Road Camp 94, and almost certainly another HQ before that.

**4/1948** – Hostel leader; U/Schafue Robert Lange (B-)

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|  |  | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948 | 4/1948 (1) | 4/1948 (2) |
| Asfordby |  |  | With C 94 | | | | | | | 44 |

**Bitteswell**

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Priebe (B). **4/1947** – same leader.

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|  |  | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948 | 4/1948 (1) | 4/1948 (2) |
| Bitteswell |  | 276 | 237 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Dunton Bassett.** SP 548 909 – see C49 for map.

**1943** – Attached to Fardon Road Camp 49 with Italian pows.

**1946** - became a German hostel with pows transferred from Shady Lane. Later that year the administration transferred to Shady Lane.

**12/1946** – Hostel Leader; Fw F Kupzyk (Kupszyck/Kupsyck) (B), he had been leader when the hostel was attached to C49. **11/1947** – same leader; “*efficient, a pleasant personality.”*

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|  |  | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948 | 4/1948 (1) | 4/1948 (2) |
| Dunton Bassett | With C49 | 183 | 63 | 59 | 58 | 84 |  |  |  |  |

**Enderby**

Previously with Gaulby Camp 94, then Garenden Park Camp 28.

**12/1946** – Administered by Shady Lane. Hostel leader; Fw A Koch (B). **6/1947** – same leader.

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|  |  | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948 | 4/1948 (1) | 4/1948 (2) |
| Enderby | With C94,28 | 112 | 94 | 88 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

May have become a hostel for Estonian refugees / workers.

**Wigston.** Memories place it at Wigston Grange, SP 607 997.

**1945** – Administered by Gaulby Road Camp 94.

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Krabbe (C).

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|  |  | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948 | 4/1948 (1) | 4/1948 (2) |
| Wigston | With C94 | 43 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |