**Camp 121** **(& 211, 905) - Scriven Hall Camp, Knaresborough, Yorkshire (+905 further)**

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp list** |
| 121(G.W.C.) | Scriven Hall Camp, Nr. Knaresborough, Yorkshire | N. | Priswar, Knaresborough | Knaresborough 2183 & 2338 | Knaresborough | Lt.Col.B.C.Wilkinson | 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 |
| SE 343 583 | 104 | 121 | Scriven Hall camp, Scriven Knaresborough | Yorkshire | 4 |  | See Camp no.211 |
| 211 | Knaresborough | Base Camp | See Camp no.121 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** Just NW of Knaresborough. **Before the camp:** Large country mansion and parkland. Requisitioned at the start of the war and used as an army camp.**Pow Camp:** Built 1942/1943, probably by Italian pows with the Pioneer Corps. Aerial photographs show mainly Nissen huts with some larger wooden huts.1951 aerial photo – [raf\_540\_520\_rp\_3027 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_540_520_rp_3027)**1942 / 1943 to September 1943 - Camp 211**. Italian pows were held here for only a short time, from late 1942 or early 1943.**11 September 1943 to Autumn 1944 – NOT a pow camp.** The Royal Scots Fusiliers took over the Hall and the huts on 11 September 1943. They remained at the site until Spring 1944. In March they were inspected at the camp by Winston Churchill as they prepared for D-day. The Royal Scots were also addressed by General  |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1956 |

Montgomery at the camp. For short periods the camp was then used by the Women’s Land Army and, for just a week or so, to house military casualties.

**[October 1944 to March 1945 – War Diaries and Orders – see Appendix A at end].**

**October 1944 to end of January 1945 – Camp 905.** Russian / Soviet Camp. Entries in the War Diaries often refer to ‘Russians’ in 1944, but then ‘Soviets’ in 1945. Considering the mixed nationalities, Soviets was a more accurate description.

**18 October 1944** - The new Camp Commandant, Major L.F. Poultney arrived and his staff followed over the next few days. The British staff were attached to H.M.S. Forest Moor Wireless Station which was a ‘Y Station’ in Nidderdale, between Harrogate and Skipton.

The British Staff consisted of 1 Commandant; 1 Adjutant and Quartermaster; 1 Interpreter; 1 Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant; and 3 clerks. This was a low security camp with only 7 guards. There were additional Soviet staff and guards. Trouble from the Soviet pows was clearly not expected even though they were aware of the plan to repatriate them by this time.

**26 October 1944** - Soviet and Polish pows were moved in, mainly from Mile House Camp 8. There were 741 pows, approximately 630 Soviets and 111 Polish nationals, by the end of October. The Poles were segregated at the request of the Soviet Military Mission – and also by necessity as mixing the two groups would have caused mayhem!

The 111 (or 113) Poles were held at the camp from late October to 15 December 1945, when they were transferred to a camp in Scotland.

**October to December 1944** – there were visits from Soviet officials to the camp. All the men declared themselves to be Soviet citizens – probably in the forlorn hope that showing loyalty would gain them some leniency on returning home.

There were limited attempts by officials to ameliorate the status of captured Soviet Nationals. Some had been held in appalling German pow camps - some had been used as forced, even slave labour, by Organisation Todt. However, some had fought willingly with German forces. Whatever their circumstances, they were regarded by their government as traitors, (Stalin – “*There are no prisoners of war, there are traitors*”). The UK authorities were aware of this. Many Soviet pows stated that they expected harsh treatment, or even liquidation, on their return to the USSR, but the UK had already reached agreement that all Soviet Nationals would be returned. In press releases and some official correspondence, the Soviets were referred to as ‘liberated’ from the German Army, and that they were ‘stationed,’ rather than imprisoned, at the camp. For Camp 905 the name was changed in early 1945 when it was no longer referred to as a pow camp, but instead as; ‘Camp for Soviet Nationals (Scriven)’.

There are no records of escape attempts of any Soviet from Scriven. Memories of locals confirm seeing them outside the camp, especially at Christmas time.

**23 December 1944** – An article in The Harrogate Advertiser noted that the pows were well regarded by the local farmers who employed them. “*Although the men receive only a few shillings a week, they have expressed a desire to make some contribution to the Christmas festivities of evacuated children in the town and have subscribed in small amounts a total of £16, which was presented by their representatives at a special meeting of Knaresborough Urban District Council on Tuesday afternoon. The men have also sent about 100 toys for the children. This is a thoughtful gesture that is very much appreciated*.”

**1 January 1945** – Russian pow, Sapar Kolishew, died at Harrogate Hospital following a kidney operation. He was buried at Horrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery.

**20 January 1945** - The Harrogate Advertiser reported; “*A good deal of interest was shown in Harrogate last Saturday morning when six hundred Russians stationed in Knaresborough paid their first visit to the town to see the film, ‘Song of Russia’ showing at St. James’s Cinema. The men marched smartly and frequently broke into song, much to the interest of spectators who lined the roadside. The Russians, accompanied by their own officers and camp commandant, were liberated when the allies invaded France and are now engaged in agricultural work in the neighbourhood.”* Note the use of the term *‘liberated’* as part of the propaganda used to support the Soviet ex-pows.

**January 1945** - Although Camp 905 moved site , I continue the details here. The Soviets were moved to Worthing. The march-out inspection at Scriven was on 26 January 1945.

At Worthing the Soviets were accommodated at Warnes Hotel. >>>

They received many visitors from the Soviet Military Mission and from British officials, including members of a Parliamentary Commission. They were officially ‘handed-over’ on 22 February 1945 in a ceremony recorded by the BBC, but continued to be guarded by the British army.

Some details from The Worthing Argus – ‘*A newspaper reporter noted: "There are a few distinctly Slavonic faces among them but for the most part they are dressed in British khaki and could well be mistaken for English soldiers except for their singing, which is musical and in harmony and compares well with the singing of Welshmen." The men paraded on the seafront every day, where a Russian-speaking officer would read them the latest war news. They queued for food under the Union flag, the Stars and Stripes and the Hammer and Sickle.*

*But ominously, when Worthing tried to organise a civic welcome for its guests, there was resistance from the top brass, perhaps conscious of the fact that some of the soldiers may have fought for the enemy. A Lancing man by the name of Oliver Bell was at pains to point out that many of the troops had joined the French resistance after D-Day and fought against the Germans, clearing a path for the advancing Allied armies.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *On March 2, 1945, a concert was staged for the Soviets at the Pier Pavilion, with the YMCA mobile canteen supplying hot drinks. A report of proceedings stated: "The Pavilion probably never contained a more appreciative audience than on Saturday when Russians were entertained by the Worthing Anglo-Soviet Friendship Committee. "Every item, but particularly the dancing of the children, was greeted with a storm of applause*.’**2 February 1945** - Worthing Herald, (from ‘Wartime West Sussex’). Painting a positive image of the ‘Red Army Men’ **>****<** **23? February 1945** - Worthing Herald, *“…Today is Red Army Day, the twenty-seventh anniversary of its foundation. But these ex-prisoners had a preliminary thrill when a convoy of American Army Air Force lorries drew up outside their headquarters.**They were loaded with cigarettes, candy and cookies, a present to the Red Army from the soldier technicians of No.2 Air Base Depot, Air Service Command. Within 48 hours of an appeal for funds the G.I. Joes had contributed sufficient to ‘provide 4,000 packets of cigarettes, 5,000 packets of candy and 50,000 cookies.**Solemn-faced Tartars, Mongols, Siberians, Ukrainians and Usbecks blossomed into smiles as the Americans broadcast the packages.”***24 February 1945** – Official note sent to the camp that; “S*oviet citizens in U.K. captured serving in German formations no longer P.O.Ws….. treat in all respects as members of allied forces. Jurisdiction in matters of discipline and internal administration over the members of Soviet Formations and Groups in U.K. will be exercised in accordance with Soviet Law, and offences against discipline will be treated and punished accordingly by the Soviet Military Court and authorities. British Admin. Staff will hence-forward be responsible only for Liaison between the Soviet Authorities in each camp and British Authorities.”***5 March 1945** - A news story in the Canadian press; “*Worthing, Sussex, March 5th. The Russians have "captured" this proud English town. The Red Flag flies from a promenade pole and beneath it Russian soldiers sing on the streets and play football in the parks. There are 2000 of them, all liberated from German prison camps by the Allied advance in western Europe. They are the counterpart of Allied soldiers freed from German camps by the Russians and, like their Allied comrades, await repatriation. Worthing has made guests of them. They spend their time roaming about and being entertained.**By order of the Soviet military commission, the men are forbidden to visit public houses, theatres, dance halls and private home. The citizenry, however, has other ideas and the Russians are welcomed into private homes and given free seats to theatres and other entertainment. The men are billeted in large hotels on the sea-front of this peacetime holiday resort. All wear British battledress - their clothes were rags when they were liberated - and the five shillings a week given each one is augmented by gifts such as cigarettes from civilians.* |  |

*The soldiers come from all parts of the USSR. One billet alone contains men of 15 different groups, including Cossacks, Tartars, Siberians, Yahutsks, Tadzhiks and even an Eskimo from northeast Siberia. Some do not speak Russian.*

*Dairien Kalulov, 27-year-old Tadjik captured in 1943 at Veliki Luki, likes nothing better than to stare into shop windows. In a milk bar he "discovered" ice cream. He never had seen any before. Few of the Russians had. Makhvus Alyosov, captured near Zhitomir when he was fighting with the Red Army as a lad of 16, brought the feminine angle into an interview. "Your English girls are much paler than Russian women," he said. "They are fragile, but they are kind*." (from Sussex History Forum).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | < Soviets in British battledress at Warnes Hotel, Worthing. © IWM D 23936To a large extent the press coverage of Soviets as; ‘*all liberated from German prison camps,’* or *‘joined up with the French Maquis,’* was intended for the British public as well as good Anglo-Soviet relations. Some of these ‘liberated men’ had fought with the Germans and had killed allied soldiers – but an incident, or even rejection of the soldiers of the Soviet allies was to be avoided. It was hoped that stories of the positive treatment of Soviet soldiers would ensure that our own troops, released by - but under the control of - the Red Army in Germany, would receive similar good treatment.The book ‘Victims of Yalta’ mentions the camp and comments made by a local citizen; *“They were not allowed in the public houses, and it was surprising how many hobbled into chemists’ shops, complaining, in signs, of sore and stiff knees. Until the chemists realised that the methylated spirits they let them have was drunk, in lieu of alcohol otherwise unobtainable, they dispensed it freely. Then a circular went out to all of them warning them to be more discreet. One day when I was walking out with the pram, a really charming little man attempted to sell me his spare uniform.*” (p153)The book goes on to state – *“As in other camps, the inmates continually expressed dread at the thought of their return*.” **March 1945** - When the time for repatriation arrived, 1,048 Soviets were escorted in two groups with just 2 British officers and 7 Other Ranks, who were “*armed, but carry no ammunition*”. There was only 1 attempted escape, he was recaptured the following day and sent on with an escort. From Worthing Station, the Soviets were sent by train to Glasgow and from there shipped to the USSR. Most of the Soviets from Camp 905 probably went on the Almanzora, sailing from Glasgow to Odessa on 27 March.  |

On arrival in April, the majority were executed, imprisoned or sent to forced labour camps.

**January 1945 to early 1946 – NOT a pow camp.** Various army units, and in particular Paratroops, at the site. The Paratroops left in January 1946.

**Spring/Summer 1946 to Mid-1947 - Camp 121**: Links with Ripon Stadium Camp 121 and Ure Bank Camp (Ripon) 178.

One German, Unteroffizier Herman Machold, was captured in Italy by the American Army in early 1944. He was sent to a camp in the U.S. then in April 1946 he arrived at Camp 121 Ripon. By June 1946 he had been moved to Camp 121 Scriven Hall. In one of his letters home, Herman stated that he liked this camp better than the camp at Ripon, and wrote about his new desk job in the Camp Office of Labour.

**19 November 1946** - A German pow, Corporal Johann Jakob Schueller, was killed after being hit by a lorry while he was riding a bicycle. He was buried at Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery.

**Mid-1947** – Scriven Hall became a satellite camp for Ure Bank Camp 178. It closed in 1948.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Known Camp Commandants:(905) October 1944 to March 1945 - Major L.F. Poultney, R.A. T.D. from the Royal Artillery.(121) 1946-1947 Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Cautley Wilkinson (1900-1985), from the Kings’ Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.**After the camp:** Used for displaced persons under the European Volunteer Workers scheme. The Hall was demolished in 1954. The park was sold in the mid-1950’s and later gifted to the people of Knaresborough. 2020 open parkland. |  |
| Scriven Hall |

**Further Information:**

National Archives:

- WO 166/16301: 905 Prisoner of War camp for Soviet nationals at Scriven near Knaresborough, Yorkshire. Russians and Poles. Dated Oct-Dec 1944. Used above.

- WO 166/17827:905 Prisoner of War Camp for Soviet Nationals, at Scriven near Knaresborough, Yorkshire. Russians and Poles, including some named officers. Camp moved to Worthing, Sussex, in January 1945. Dated Jan-Mar 1945. Used above.

There is an excellent history of the camp by the Claro Community Archaeology Group at <http://scriven.wdfiles.com/local--files/examples/Pow%20Camp.pdf> . I have used several quotes from this document but there are many more memories and details of the camp. My thanks to Kevin Earl, one of the researchers who has supplied further information.

The Imperial War Museum has several photographs of Soviets in Warnes Hotel.

Victims of Yalta – Nikolai Tolstoy – Hodder and Stoughton – 1977.

**Hostels**

**Great Ouseburn**. NGR SE 435 617

Italian and then German pows were accommodated in the former workhouse. **1947** – administered by Ure bank Camp 178.

Possible:

**Staveley Court** (about 6km N of Knaresborough) – Not confirmed.

**Kirk Deighton** (cf Post Hill 91 and Thirkleby 108) – Not confirmed. Later with Ure Bank Camp 178.

**Harlow Grange**, Harrogate - Not confirmed. Later with Ure Bank Camp 178.

**Appendix A. Extracts from WO 166/16501 and 17827**

Commanding Officer Major L.F. Poultney, R.A. T.D. (he initialled each entry below).

War Diary for No.905 POW Camp (Scriven). 18th October 1944 to 31st October 1944.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
| Scriven | 18th |  | 32299 Maj L.F.Poultney T.D. RA arrived to form P.O.W. Camp.Attached to Forest Moor Wireless Station.133200 Capt C.W. Bruce RASC arrived to take over duties of Adjt and Q.M. Attached to Forest Moor Wireless Station. | Authy Memo W.O. dated 16 Oct 1944- Director P.W. Authy S.E.C. T.P.M. ST/6822 of 17 Oct 44. *[Below]* |
|  | 19 |  | British Staff of Camp assembled and attached to Forest Moor Wireless Station. |  |
|  | 26 |  | 250 Russian Nationals arrived by road from No.8 Camp. | *[Warth Mill or Mile House?]* |
|  | 28 |  | Maj Gavrillen Soviet Military Mission visited the Camp. There was no W.O. representative. |  |
|  | 30 |  | 318 Russian Nationals arrived from No.8 Camp. |  |
|  | 31 |  | 173 Russian nationals arrived from No 8 Camp. 111 of this party were reputed to be Poles and as such the Soviet Mission wished them to be segregated from the Russian Nationals. This was done. |  |
|  | 31 |  | Maj Gavrillin paid a second visit to the camp. There was no W.O. representative. |  |

Copy of War Office Memorandum – from THE WAR OFFICE, Curzon St. House, Curzon Street, London W.1. - 16 October 44.

Memorandum for:- Major L.F. Poultney RA.

 You will proceed to Scriven Camp Knaresborough Map Ref N 819786 – Station Knaresborough.

To assume command of Camp for Prisoners of War of Russian Nationality….

The British Staff, consisting of:-

 Adjutant and Quartermaster 1

 Interpreter. 1

 Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant 1

 Clerks. Corporals. 1

 Privates. 2

 Gate Picquets.

 Sergeants 1

 Corporals 1

 Privates 4

 Cooks 1

Will report on 18 October, 1944 all other personnel of guard and Staff will be formed from Soviet Troops provided by the Soviet Military Mission.

A War Establishment for the British staff is in the course of preparation, meanwhile all British personnel will be attached to Forest Moor Wireless Station.

Signed

Director of Prisoner of War.

War Diary for No.905 POW Camp (Scriven). 1st November 1944 to 30th November 1944.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
| Scriven | 8 |  | Soviet Remembrance Day. Major General P.J. Shears CB, visited camp and attended Soviet Parade and March Past. Russian Consul Mr Propov visited the camp and was in consultation with the Camp Leader. |  |
|  | 15 |  | Major Martin L.M.4 War Office visited camp in company with a representative of the Soviet Mission name not known. |  |
|  | 20 |  | Unit formation now P.O.W. Scriven camp, near Knaresborough W.E. No V/1327/1.Authy Notification in A.C.I 1598 of 6 Dec 1944.32299 Major L.F.Poultney TD RA assumed command.133200 Capt C.W.Bruce RASC assumed combined duties of Adjt and Q.M.Establishment as laid down in V/1327/1No of prisoners held at the camp 741 (Seven Hundred and Forty one) 111 of which are reported as being Polish. | *[W.E – War Establishment number giving details of numbers of personnel – see Memo above]* |
|  | 24 |  | All P.W. interviewed to find out whether any so called Russian Nationals were of other nationality. All stated they were Russians. This did not include the 111 personnel already screened as Poles by the Soviet mission. |  |
|  | 25 |  | Major L.F.Poultney TD RA attended a conference held by Dist Commander at Harrogate Sub District Headquarters. |  |
|  | 30 |  | Capt Youmatoff L.M.4 War Office visited the camp in company with Capt Khramov Soviet Military Mission. The latter remained in conference with Camp Leader – Capt Youmatoff departed on tour. |  |

War Diary for No.905 POW Camp (Scriven). 1st December 1944 to 31st December 1944.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
| Scriven | 1st. |  | Capt. Khramev, Soviet Mission continued his interviews with the Russian Nationals. |  |
|  | 2nd | 11.30 | Capt. Khramev returned to London |  |
|  | 3rd. |  | Report of complaints re Soviet Camps received from Harrogate Sub-district together with copies of letter N.0256 translation signed General Vasiliev dated 12th November, also annexure re Camps dated 8th November. |  |
|  | 4th. |  | Capt. N.Hanstock, M.C. No.114628, E.Yorks Regt. Taken on strength as Accounts Officer, to complete W.E. V/1327/1  | Appendix I. *[Brief note of this increase in strength]* |
|  | 8th |  | Capt.Youmatoff, War Office (L.M.4.) visited the Camp to interview one P.W. in respect of his nationality. |  |
|  | 15th | 07.00 | 113 Polish Nationals transferred to Balado Bridge Camp, Kinross*[Earlier reported as 111 Poles]* | Appendix II. *(Plans for moving the Polish POWs with an escort of 1 British Officer and 15 other ranks).* |

War Diary for No.905 Camp for Soviet Nationals (Scriven) ***[Note no longer listed as a POW Camp].*** 1st January 1945 to 31st January 1945.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
| Scriven | Jan. 3rd | 09.35 | Col. Ossipoff, Capt. Khramov, Major Martin arrived 09.35. hrs. departed 22.45 hours. Col.Hamilton E.W.R.D. Acting Commdr. Arrived 10.00 hours, left 14.00 hours. |  |
| “ | 20th |  | Maj. Poultney, L.F. proceeded on compassionate leave. Capt.C.W. Bruce assumed Command 905 Camp for Soviet Nationals. |  |
| “ | 21st |  | Major Poultney, L.F. recalled from leave and assumed command 905 Camp for Soviet nationals. |  |
| “ | 22nd |  | Advance Party. 1 British Officer, 6 British O.Rs, and 250 Soviet nationals proceeded to Worthing. | Appendix 1. |
| “ | 23rd |  | Col. G.H.Gilmore, D.S.O., M.C. addressed Soviets. |  |
| “ | 24th |  | Main body of 1 British Officer, 7 British O.Ps, and 499 Soviet Nationals proceeded to Worthing, 6 Soviet Nationals remaining in Hospital. | Appendix II. |
| “ | 26th |  | Rear Party of 1 British Officer, 2 British O.Rs proceeded to Worthing on completion of March-out inspections. |  |
| Worthing | 22ndTo25th |  | Major Martin, Capt. Youmatoff, Capt. Wallis, (L.M.4.) in attendance at Worthing accompanied by Lieutenants Petrokno and Dimitrov of the Soviet mission.  |  |
| “ | 30th |  | Brigadier K.E. S Stewart, M.C. Commander, West Sussex Sub-District and Acting District Commander visited Camp. |  |

Appendix 1.

905 Camp for Soviet Nationals – Movement Order No.1.

1. Move to Worthing – Advance Party.

 The following will proceed to Warnes Hotel, Worthing on 22nd January, 1945.

 Capt. H Henstock, M.C. 114628.

 6 British O.Ps.

 250 Soviet Nationals.

2. Details for Move.

 Reveille 04.30 hrs.

 Breakfast 05.30 hrs. - Hand in bedding & blankets 05.45.hrs.

 Parade 06.30 hrs. - March off 06.45 hrs.

 Entrain – approx. 07.25 hrs.

3. Rations.

 Haversack rations will be taken and enexpired portion of the days ration. In addition the full scale for the 23rd Jan. will be carried on baggage.

4. Interior Economy.

 All buildings will be thoroughly cleaned – all windows left open. Straw to be emptied at place arranged and nurned.

 All bedding to be arranged in bundles of 10 and stacked in Scriven Hall House.

 No.60 Company will arrange to commence clearing up lines at 09.00 hours on 22nd. January, 1945.

5. British Staff.

 Will move under verbal instructions to be issued by the Adjutant.

6. Conference.

 The instructions above have been communicated to the Camp Leader and his assistant acting as interpreter.

7. Authority for move: SD. 1. G.889 of 20.1240.

(Signed) Scriven, Major, R.A

22.1.45. Commdg: 905 Camp for Soviet Nationals..

Appendix II is very similar with the Main Body moving to Worthing, reporting to A/QC West Haven, Lancing on 24 January 1945.

War Diary for No.905 Camp for Soviet Nationals. 1st February 1945 to 28th February 1945.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
| Worthing | 2nd |  | Maj. L.F.Poultney, T.D., R.A., (32299) proceeded on leave. Capt. C.W.Bruce, R.A.S.C. (1332200) assumed Command. | Appendix I |
|  | 3rd |  | A.D.M.S. Sussex District visited the camp.4 men transferred to Lingfield Camp. |  |
|  | 7th |  | Parliamentary Commission visited Camp, consisting of Mr.Coats, Mr McLean, Mr.Ellis Smith and Maj. Birch jones. |  |
|  | 8th |  | Commander Bryken of the Soviet mission and Capt. Rienan visited the Camp. |  |
|  | 9th |  | 1674877 Pte.Ashton posted to this Unit to fill vacancy for Cook, W.E. V/1327/1 | Appendix II |
|  | 10th |  | Col.A. Hurland, R.F. and 12 Officers visited the Camp. |  |
|  | 16th |  | Capt. Petrukno, Soviet Military Mission visited the Camp to deal with charges against Lt.Gusalov and other Officers. |  |
|  | 18th |  | Maj.L.F.Poultney admitted to Baguley Hospital E.M.S. Capt.McLaglen visited Camp to arrange cinema show for Soviet Nationals. |  |
|  | 19th20th |  | Col. Ossipoff, Soviet Military mission arrived with one member of the Soviet Embassy. Stayed two days |  |
|  | 22nd |  | General Ratoff, *[Ratov]* Chief of Repatriation Staff arrived together with Interpreter. American Army made gift of cigarettes, chocolates etc. B.B.C. recorded the handing over and press facilities afforded without reference to the War Office.Brig.R.C.W.G.Firebrace and members of L.M.4. in attendance at a Conference, with General Ratoff, and Camp Commandant.297 Soviet Nationals arrived from Knutsford Camp. 1 Soviet National arrived from Aldershot – 633 Company 1 Soviet National arrived from Bexhill, - 631 Company 1 Soviet national arrived from Lingfield Camp. |  |
|  | 23rd |  | Red Army Celebration day. Major Jepson P.R.O. War Office, ‘phoned information that press would be given facilities for interviews, etc. |  |
|  | 24th |  | Maj.L.F.Poultney returned to duty and resumed Command. | Appendix III |
|  | 25th |  | Instruction by T.P.M. that Soviet Nationals are allowed by an Order in Council, full powers of discipline and that the Camp Commandant and Staff become Liaison Party. | Appendix IV. |
|  | 27th |  | Capt. Khramov, Soviet Military Mission arrived for a stay of four days. |  |
|  | 28th |  | 1148709 Gnr.Rouse, A, posted to 32nd. S/L Regiment, R.A. Manningtree. | Appendix V. |

Appendices I, II, III and V are brief notes about the changes.

War Diary for No.905 Camp for Soviet Nationals. 1st March 1945 to 31st March 1945.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
| Worthing | 6th | 18.45 | 1047 Soviet Nationals transferred for repatriation. One absentee. 2 Wireless Sets taken with party by order of the member of the Soviet Mission). | Appendix I |
|  | 7th | 13.00 | Absentee apprehended and transferred to port of embarkation. |  |
|  | 10th | 09.00 | Major L.F.Poultney, T.D. R.A. admitted to Hospital. Capt. C.W.Bruce assumed command. | Apendix II |
|  | 14th | 18.00 | 1 Officer and 28 Soviet Nationals arrived from Kempton Park and taken on strength. |  |
|  | 17th | 13.00 | 1 Soviet National arrived from Aderly Camp and taken on strength. |  |
|  | 18th | 13.00 | 1 Soviet National arrived from Chepstow and taken on strength. |  |
|  | 21st | 15.00 | 1 Soviet National arrived from Bury and taken on strength. |  |
|  | 28th | 15.00 | 1 Soviet National arrived from Woolwich Hospital and taken on strength. |  |

Appendix I

905 Camp for Soviet Nationals.

Movement Order No. 3

1. General

 The Soviet Nationals of this Camp will proceed to the Port of Embarkation on the 6th. March in two parties as detailed below..

2. Strength.

 The party will proceed in two bodies, each accompanied by a British Officer and 2 British Other Ranks as Conducting Party.

 Lt.Col. S Nicholson, T.D. R.A. will be the Officer conducting for the first train which will depart Worthing Central Station at 18.50 hours. N.C.Os accompanying will be detailed by O.C.901 Camp. *[901 Camp – see end]*

First Party.

 Consisting of 322 Soviet Nationals No.60 Company.

 180 Soviet Nationals No.100 Company.

 3 British Other Ranks Escort.

 1 British Officer Conducting Party.

 2 British Other Ranks “ “

Total: 1 British Officer, 5 British Other Ranks, 502 Soviet Nationals.

Major L.F.Poultney, T.D., R.A. will be the Officer conducting the second party. Train for this party departs from Worthing Central Station at 21.15 hours 6th March, 1945.

Second Party

 Consisting of 298 Soviet Nationals, 59 Company.

 248 Soviet Nationals, 99 Company.

 1 British Officer Guide,

 2 British Other Ranks, Guides.

Total: 1 British Officer, 2 British Other Ranks, 546 Soviet Nationals.

3. Escort.

 One Soviet national will be taken up under escort to be provided by O.C. 901 Camp. Strength of Escort: 1 N.C.O. and 2 men, British Other Ranks.

 This party will travel on the FIRST train and the prisoner will be taken over at this H.Qrs. at 17.50 hours.

 The escort will be armed, but carry no ammunition. It is essential that no incident of firing on allied troops occurs and that the escort duty is carried out as unobtrusively as possible. Should an escape be effected, the escort Commander will report full particulars to E.S.O. King George V Dock, Glasgow, and give details to Police in area to assist recovery.

4. Parade Timings.

 The first party will parade at 18.00 hours ready to march off. Camp Leader will ensure that rolls have been called and numbers checked prior to march off.

 The second party will parade at 20.15 hours ready to march off and numbers checked prior to march off.

 Absentees will be reported at once to the Adjutant by Name, Number and Company.

5. Baggage and Sick personnel.

 A three ton lorry will be available to take any sick personnel as per nominal roll supplied by the Camp Leader to the Station, and will be used to transport Officers Kits. R.Q.M.S. Blackburn will be i/c. of the lorries and will ensure their arrival at the following times and places:-

First Party: 2 Lorries report to Warnes Hotel at 17.00 hours to load Officers Kits, and Sick.

Second Party: 2 Lorries report to Warnes Hotel at 19.00 hours to load Officers Kits and Sick.

R.Q.M.S. Blackburn will ensure loading and unloading of these lorries, and the despatch of the sick personnel.

6. Haversack Rations.

Haversack Rations will be issued in bulk to Companies for redistribution to each individual. These will be issued at 12.00 hours 5th March, 1945.

Tea will be taken in Thermos Containers. Containers will be labelled “To be despatched by R.T.O. to nearest Ordnance Depot” – Authority: D.A.D.O.S., Sussex Sub-district.

The Senior Soviet Officer on each train will be responsible for collecting the containers and stacking them together on Glasgow Station.

 No.1674877 Pte.Ashton will assist with tea preparation for Haversack meal. He will report to the Adjutant after mid-day meal on 6th March, 1945.

7. Route for March

 Both parties will march to the Station by the following route: West to Pier, turn North to Station Road, turn West to Worthing Central Station.

 The second party will be issued with two White and two Red Lamps, Hurricane, by the R.Q.M.S. The white lamps will be carried at the head of the column, the red at the rear of the column. The R.Q.M.S. will arrange for these to be collected and returned to Warnes Hotel on completion of the march.

8 and 9. Return of Stores – 6th March, 1945.

*[Extensive details given of equipment to be returned].*

10. March Out arrangements.

 Representatives of O.i/c. Barracks and D.C.R.E. will be available to give an estimated amount for the damages to buildings and quarters. All buildings and stores not required will be handed back to O.i/c. Barracks and R.E. as early as possible.

Signed

Warnes Hotel, Captain, Adjutant,

Worthing, 905 Camp for Soviet Nationals.

5. March, 1945.

Distribution list has 13 copies including O.C. 905 Camp and O.C. 901 Camp. No further information about 901 camp.