**Camp 122** **(& 274) - Ministry of Works Camp, (Oxhey Lane Camp), Hatch End, Middlesex**

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp List** |
| 122(G.W.C.) | Rayners Lane Camp, Rayners Lane, Harrow, Middlesex | L.D. | Priswar, Harrow | Byron 4471 | Harrow Wealdstone (L.M.S.) Northolt G.W.R. Rayners Lane (Met and Picc Lines) | Lt.Col.G.F.Tillman | v/1453/2 |
| The entry above has been crossed out in blue crayon and the following details handwritten on. |
|  | *Oxhey Lane Camp, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Middx* |  | *Hatch End* | *Hatch End 1387* | *Hatch End (L.M.S.) & Bakerloo* | *Lt.Col.H.N.Drake* |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **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 |
| TQ 142 916 | 176 | 122 | Oxhey Lane Camp, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End | Middlesex | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. Site occupied by a sports centre |
| 274 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** N edge of Harrow. **Before the camp:** Farmland**Pow Camp:** This was at first Camp 274. It then became a satellite camp for Rayners Lane Camp 122. Then, when Rayners Lane closed, it became independent again and was allocated that camp’s number (122). Italian Pows until at least 1945, then a German Working Camp. **1943** – believed to have opened for Italian pows.Accommodation was at first in Bell tents with some huts used for other purposes (cooking, etc). Later, he site had a standard layout with a main pow compound, with guards’ huts and offices at the front. Buildings included offices, officer's mess, a canteen, guard rooms, barrack huts, ablution blocks, cell blocks, a camp reception station (medical facility/hospital), a cookhouse, dining rooms, recreation rooms and living huts.**1944** - as Italian pows were increasingly placed in billets and hostels, a question arose in Parliament:“*Sir R. Blair asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works how many former Italian prisoners of war are being accommodated in houses in the residential neighbourhood of Pinner and Hatch End; will he state the nature of their work; and how long are they expected to stay in view of the acute shortage of housing accommodation both for the families of Service men and others from the bombed areas.**Mr. Hicks Italian prisoners-of-war, on the application of Government Departments, have been allocated by the Ministry of Labour for essential work some of which is in the London area. This includes railways, food distribution and public utilities. In order to comply with the requirements of the Geneva Convention prisoners-of-war, at this time of the year, are moved out of tented accommodation and the War Office have released, in substitution for tents, accommodation including houses already under their*  |  |
| [raf\_cpe\_uk\_2155\_rvp2\_6123 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_cpe_uk_2155_rvp2_6123) |

*requisition… The numbers accommodated in Pinner and Hatch End are 1,146, and they are employed on essential work. The question whether it will now be possible to dispense in whole or in part with the use of this labour in London is at present being considered by the responsible departments.”* (House of Commons, **4 October 1944,** Vol 403).

**November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion, (WO 32/10737).**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.

< From the frontpage of the camp magazine – indicating that tents may have been used at the camp.

1st edition of the camp magazine – undated - [Der Zeitspiegel : Lagerzeitung des P.O.W. Camps 274](https://wiener.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/158330). Mentions a small orchestra and theatre group. The first films were shown in the camp.

**1 June 1946** – the camp was taken over as a satellite camp for Rayner’s Lane Camp 122. [The camp number 274 went with some British staff and 20 pows to form a new Camp 274 at Errol Airfield, Perthshire].

- - -

**13 March 1947** – The Rayners Lane site closed and Oxhey Lane became Camp 122. A ‘Report of Move’ was issued with completion expected by 15 March. A list of 92 organisations / individuals was listed to be contacted.

2 detachments were listed:

- Dancers Hill Camp, South Mimms, Herts (South Mimms 3130)

- Hostel, Radnor Hall, Allum Lane, Elstree (Elstree 1532).

**July 1947** – recorded that a RC priest from this camp visited Scrubs Camp 32.

**6 December 1947** - it was reported that Scrubs Lane Camp and its 2 hostels, Brondesbury and Hanworth, were to be attached to Camp 122 by 31 December. No further details if this happened.

Known Camp Commandants;

1946 Lt. Col. Stoddart. Mentioned in the first camp magazine. Commandant up to June 1946.

1947 Lt Col Henry Norman Drake from the Northamptonshire Regiment.

**After the camp:** 2019 sports centre and running track.

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 939/308 – 122 Working Camp, Hatch End Camp, Harrow, Middlesex. Dated 1946-1947. Used above – most of this file contains details of Rayner’s Lane Camp 122 with Oxhey Lane as its satellite camp.

The Imperial War Museum has an undated camp magazine – Der Zeitspiegel (Refection on the times) – Ref LBY E.J. 451 – described as published by German pow in Satellite Camp 122, Watford area.

**Dancers Hill Satellite Camp**, South Mimms, Herts (South Mimms 3130)

March 1947 – transferred from Rayners Lane Camp 122.

**Radnor Hall**, Allum Lane, Elstree (Elstree 1532).

March 1947 – transferred from Rayners lane Camp

May 1947 – Hostel leader; Linnecke