**Camp 151** **- Lawn Camp, Coven Lawn Camp, Coven Lane, Coven, Staffordshire (aka Coven / Lawne)**

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp list** |
| 151(G.W.C.) | Lawne Camp, Coven, Wolverhampton, Staffs | W. | Priswar, Wolverhampton | Fordhouses 3221/2 | (Blank) | Lt.Col.A.W.Hawkins | 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 |
| SJ 904 053 | 53 | 151a | Lawn Camp, Coven Lawn, Coven Lane, Coven | Staffordshire | 3 |  | Former Heavy Anti-aircraft battery (HAA Bty) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** NGR above as marked. Coven Lawn at SJ 906 059. On later maps ‘Coven Lawn TA Centre’ is shown at the site – did this use existing huts? The AA site is clearly seen. 1961 > [raf\_543\_1311\_1f21\_0025 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_543_1311_1f21_0025)**Before the camp:** Fields**Pow Camp:** **Pre 1946** – Camp 151 was listed as Pendeford Hall Camp – less than 2 km away. I believe the HQ moved site from Pendeford to Coven Lawn. The Coven site may have been a hostel before the move.**22 May to 11 July 1946** – Coven camp changed from Italian to Germans. The Italians were placed in hostels awaiting repatriation. Many of the German pows were from camps in the USA and Canada via other camps in the UK. Most of the ex-US pows had very low morale as they had been misinformed in the US they were being repatriated. Instead, they found themselves in working camps in the UK. Pows from Canada were often C grade; they had been captured early in the war and retained their Nazi ideology. |  |
| Ordnance Survey |

|  |
| --- |
| 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. |

**11-13 July 1946** – Visit to report on; 1 Re-education, 2 Vet pow personnel, 3 Special report on Wordsley Hostel. Stated strength; 1 officer (the M.O.); 1508 Other Ranks – in HQ, 1 satellite, 12 hostels + billets. The numbers given totalled 1428, which is 80 less; + another 1043 held at the satellite camp and its hostels. Total = 2471. The 80 may be an error, ignored Italian pows, or pows on attachment.

This was the first visit by PID, it had been requested by the Commandant as the camp had recently changed from being an Italian to a German camp. The Coven Lawn HQ was an administration centre with few pows. All hostels were hutted. A separate report was issued for the satellite camp which was more advanced in its activities.

Commandant: Lt Col F Bullen M.C. Camp Leader: Gefr Fritz Wriedt (A)

Interpreter: Lt P Walker Deputy C/L: Ogefr Karl Heinz John (A)

 German M.O.: Ob.Stabsarzt Werner Willerding.

The I.O. had been an Italian interpreter since 1942, he spoke some German and generally supported re-education.

Camp leader Wriedt, aged 40, “*A strong personality from a Social Democrat family*.” He supported re-education.

Deputy C/L John, “*a sincere and intelligent Anti-Nazi.”*

Only 86 of the pows had been politically screened. 1 accounts clerk was recommended to be removed from the administrative staff.

Low morale recorded, especially amongst those from US camps. Little had been done to improve recreation and education facilities other than providing a wireless and football field for each hostel except Drakelow. Some English classes had started.

Other Camp activities –

Religion – No overall camp padre as the Commandant believed the sites were too scattered. The Commandant arranged for pows to attend local churches – 35 to 40% did so. There was a protestant padre at Park Hall hostel.

Education – None, other than English classes. Each hostel had a blackboard, but no books, paper or pencils.

Entertainment – No theatres. An orchestra from the satellite camp was touring some of the hostels.

The ‘special report on Wordsley’ was not in the file.

**4-17 December 1946 –** Visit by members of the Segregation Section to review political screening. Strength: 2 officers, 2273 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col F Bullen / Lt Col Hawkins Camp Leader: Uffz Walter Guenther (B+)

Interpreter: Lt P Bader Deputy C/L: None

 German M.O.: Not listed.

During this visit a new Commandant started.

The new IO started 2 months earlier, he was of Czech origin and fluent in German. In this report it stated he showed no interest in re-education activities – but this was changed in later reports.

The new camp leader was aged 27, “*quiet and moderately efficient*.”

Most of the pows were working in heavy industry, mainly foundries and brick factories, and were considered to be politically apathetic.

**December 1946 -** edition 13 of the camp magazine - [Der Lagerspiegel : Camp 151 - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/99583/)

It stated that there were 13 hostels - I think that includes the satellite and the small HQ. It mentions football matches between hostels; Worfield, Hamstead, Halesowen, Halfpenny Green, Marsh & Baxter, Mellish Road, Studley Gate, Moor Lane, Wordsley – and Donnington Camp 651 and a local RAF team.

**March 1947** – Camp magazine - Number ‘1’ – no explanation for this re-numbering of the magazine - [Der Lagerspiegel : Camp 151 - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/99583/21/#topDocAnchor)

**1-4 April 1947** – Re-educational progress report. Strength; 2 officers, 2011 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col A W Hawkins Camp Leader: Uffz Pump (B-)

Interpreter: Lt P Bader / S/Sgt Smith Deputy C/L: Ogefr Mueller (B)

 German M.O.: Oberstabsaerzt Dr Meissner (B-)

The new Commandant was not interested in re-education activities, (most were not).

The S/Sgt interpreter spoke Italian, not German, and was only employed on clerical duties.

Camp leader Pump was in his early 30’s, “*sincere and outspoken.”* The visitor was considering whether to upgrade him.

Despite recommendations that he be removed when he was at the satellite camp, the M.O. was placed in charge of the whole camp. He had been upgraded from C to B-.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 1 | 356 | 1288 | 261 | 107 |

87 pows were appealing against their grading – the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory. 506 pows repatriated to date.

Pows who worked in heavy industry (the majority), had a generally lower morale than those who worked in agriculture – apart from factory conditions, farm workers often received extra food and perks, though this was not supposed to happen.

Youth pows (under 25) were not seen as a problem and no special facilities were provided.

The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – Only The Times, Graphic and Express were received – all ‘right-wing’ press; delivery of a wider range of papers was to be arranged. There was a varied supply of German and Swiss papers, more were requested.

Library – Adequate, 1300 books, though many getting old. A better lending system was developed to send books to the hostels.

Lectures – approximately monthly.

Discussion groups – Informal meetings at small HQ. Good groups at the satellite, Drakelow and Wordsley.

Films – Adequate. YMCA every 3 weeks, Gaumont British fortnightly, but only to the larger hostels. Some small hostels did not have AC current and could not show films. GB charged 6d (6 pennies) and this was considered to be excessive, (in all camps).

Wireless – at all sites, but the Halesowen set had been broken for 3 months!

Camp magazine – regular. Produced at the satellite camp.

Press review – Held at most sites with translated British papers.

English instruction – separate appendix.

Information room – none.

Other Camp Activities –

Religion – Adequate facilities. The excellent padre was due to leave.

Entertainments – Regular football matches. The satellite camp orchestra was still performing.

**14-19 July 1947** – Re-education progress report. Strength; 2 officers, 2173 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Bush Camp Leader: Uffz Pump (B+) – upgraded from B-

Interpreter: Lt P Bader Deputy C/L: Ogefr Mueller (B)

 German M.O.: Oberstabsaerzt Dr Meissner (B-)

The new commandant was *“interested*” in re-education (not active) – “*but he has recently figured in one or two unfortunate incidents which have not served to better relations between Ps/W and the British Staff.”* Unfortunately, the ‘incidents’ were not described.

The IO was said to be supportive of re-education activities and was thus a positive influence.

No screening or repatriation numbers given. Working conditions for those in heavy industry had improved and there were better working relationships with the British factory workers as initial distrust was reduced.

Changes to re-education activities:

Newspapers – a wider range of British papers received. More German papers arriving.

Library – 1653 books. More political books requested.

Camp magazine – lapsed in the last few weeks due to “*minor difficulties and differences.”* It restarted before September.

Press review – a daily news sheet issued as well as meetings to discuss the news.

Other Camp Activities –

Religion – a new padre Schuler (B+), he was not as popular as his predecessor.

Entertainments – Sport was the main activity, there had been a successful ‘sports meeting’ which involved athletics clubs from Walsall.

Outside contacts. Many of the pows developed their own informal relationships with local families and those they worked with. There were very few formal contacts;

1. The Society of Friends – worked in the camp to help pows. They set up a popular Rest Centre in Brewood.
2. A Mrs Sipson entertained with puppet shows.
3. Visits made to TocH, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and local churches.

**14 September 1947** – 5 German journalists touring the Midlands visited the camp. It was not a successful visit with pows complaining of, “*insincerity and misunderstanding of the P.W. position and seeming evasion of several questions.”*

**23-27 September 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 2 officers, 1575 OR.

A new Deputy C/L; Sold Thorer (B), previously leader at Halford Lane hostel.

New German M.O.; Ass/Arzt Dr von Schindel (B)

Screening figures; A 2; B 1555.

Morale fairly good. Many pows were anxious about conditions in Germany. Positive aspects included; *“Improved civilian contacts and interests, ranging from amorous attractions to participation in sport and educational classes.”*

There were only minor changes to re-education activities – many had been affected during the summer months by long working hours and pows preferring to walk out of camp.

Some education courses were being set-up at local colleges.

**No further reports in the file.**

Known Camp Commandants

1946 Lt Col F Bullen M.C., later at Ashford Lodge camp 129.

1947 Lt Col A W Hawkins. (I think he was with the Green Howards).

1947 Lt Col Bush

**After the camp:**

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 1120/228 – Re-educational survey visit reports for camps 151 to 154. Dated 1 January 1946 to 31 December 1948. Used above.

IWM have a copy of the magazine dated Christmas 1946. Ref LBY E.J. 380.

**POW NUMBERS**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 \* | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Coven Lawn HQ |  | 68 |  | 117 | 99 | 77 |  |
| Halesowen |  | 148 |  | 140 | 131 | 107 | With Camp 54 |
| Halford Lane |  | 48 |  | 36 | 35 | 5 |  |
| Hamstead |  | 137 |  | 109 | 131 | 81 | With Camp 194 |
| Park Hall |  | 352 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rushall |  | 45 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Studley Gate |  | 89 |  | 55 | 31 | 30 |  |
| Swanshurst Park |  | 128 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Uplands |  | 149 | With Camp 39 |
| Wordsley |  | 250 |  | 166 | 223 | 173 | With Camp 54 |
| Worfield / Davenport | Was C 272 | 689 |  | 497 | 740 | 631 | With Camp 194 |
| Drakelow | With C 272 | 124 |  | 202 | 127 | 6 |  |
| Moor Lane | With C 54 / 272 | 146 |  | 108 | 121 | 94 |  |
| Marsh & Baxter | With C 272 | 76 |  | 62 | 53 | 31 |  |
| Halfpenny Green |  |  |  | 342 | 356 | 243 | With Camp 194 |
| Woods Lane | With Camp 54 |  |  | 53 | 58 | 32 | With Camp 54 |
| Mellish Road |  |  |  | 101 | 32 | 32 | With Camp 194 |
| Billets |  | 22 |  | 25 | 38 | 35 |  |
| TOTALS |  | 2471 | 2275 | 2013 | 2175 | 1577 |  |

\*Only the figures for those pows screened during the visit were given.

**Satellite Camp - Davenport House. Aka Worfield.** Previously independent camp 272.

*“In November 1943 work began in Davenport Park on the building of a camp for 2,500 men. A private pumping station was installed which also supplied Worfield and Bradney and the camp was completed in March 1944. Troops came shortly after completion who spoke with very odd accents. The Yanks had arrived….*

*When the Americans no longer needed Camp Davenport it was used by prisoners of war, Italians and Germans. They were taken out daily by the WARAG to work on farms and there were different uniforms for Italians and Germans. In their spare time they made craft items such as slippers and entertained themselves by singing.“*

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/historypie_devel/class/files/3117/original/worfield%20war%202.pdf>

**28 June 1946** – Taken over by Coven Lawn with 3 hostels; “*has a flourishing re-educational programme*.”

**9/11 July 1946** – Separate PID report from the main camp. Strength; 3 officers, 1040 OR at satellite + 3 hostels and billets.

Commanding Officer: Capt Wonack Camp leader; Gefr Ehrensperger (A)

Interpreter: None Deputy C/L: Gefr Schuelken (A)

 German M.O.: O.St.Arzt Meissner (est C) / St.Arzt Molineus.

M.O. Meissner was seen as “*an adverse influence*” and a militarist. He was disliked by the pows and arrangements were being made to transfer him away. (See 4/1947 above).

“*This is a happy camp, with morale high in the main compound and satisfactory in the hostels, which however, lack many of the facilities of the camp.”* Many of the pows were from camps in Canada and the US.

Re-education activities. There was an elected committee to develop activities.

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 150 / 50 copies respectively.

Newspapers – adequate number of British papers and periodicals. No German papers for 3 weeks.

Library – 350 books. More education texts requested.

Lectures – regular.

Discussion groups – 70/100 regularly attended.

Films – YMCA films every 3 weeks / PID films fortnightly at main camp.

Wireless – a set in the leader’s office + 7 loudspeakers around the camp.

Camp magazine – issued fortnightly. Needed more contributors.

Press review – ½ hour per week sessions + a wall newspaper every 3 weeks which was then sent to the hostels.

English instruction – 46 pupils in 3 classes. The Camp Orchestra 1947

Other camp activities –

Religion – Protestant padre O/Fhr Meier was in hospital and was to be posted away from the camp as a “*bad influence politically*.”

Education – classes for French, Spanish, engineering, chemistry and drawing for 80 pow.

Entertainments – a small theatre group produced light entertainment. 9 piece orchestra. 15 member choir.

**End 7/1946** – Camp magazine; edition after 272 became a satellite to 151 - [Der Lagerspiegel aus Worfield : Camp 272 - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/fullscreen/99584/10/)

**4-17 December 1946** – Camp leader; Uffz Hermann Schedler (B) – elected by the ‘camp parliament’ – “*Very hard working, pleasant and patient.”*

A new protestant padre – Sonderfuehrer Peter Heinemann (A) – “*outstanding personality*.” He visited the hostels and lectured on various subjects; liked by the pows, *“helping them to maintain their morale and advising them on their numerous domestic troubles.”* **April 1947** – same leader.

**July 1947** – Camp leader; Ofw Heyne (B), electrical engineer. “*Considered capable and honest.”* There was a new ‘Information Room’ to display news, pamphlets and other information. The orchestra was being ‘re-organised.’

**August 1947** – The orchestra, conducted by pow Horst Laemmerhirt, (ex- State Opera House in Meiningen, Germany) played to Worfield villagers. “*The prisoners were already a familiar sight to villagers, as every Sunday morning they had their own church service at St Peter's Church. They would walk from their camp accompanied by two British soldiers, who were there to ensure that they did not fraternise with the ordinary Worfield folk*. *The Germans had their own minister for the service, Pastor Peter Heinemann, from Frankfurt, and the organist was Schaller Walter, who had been a dance band pianist in Weimar.*” (Pictures –

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/features/2022/12/16/former-enemies-who-did-their-bit/>

**September 1947** – OC: Captain Macafferty. Same camp leader.

**Late 1947** – transferred as a hostel to Teddesley Hall Camp 194.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 \* | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Worfield / Davenport | Was C 272 | 689 |  | 497 | 740 | 631 | With Camp 194 |

**Hostels**

**Drakelow**

**7/1946** – under administration of Davenport Satellite camp. Hostel leader; Ofwl Fraas (A). YMCA films every 3 weeks.

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Ulrich Grevemeyer (B-), aged 39, Nazi Party member in 1930, elected to be leader; *“intelligent and for some time past has been most helpful in furthering re-educational activities.”* Many pows worked in a local sugar-beet factory. **7/1947** – same leader. A small group of communists noted.

**9/1947** – a small number of pows left on site to prevent squatters.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Drakelow | With C 272 | 124 |  | 202 | 127 | 6 |  |

**Halesowen**

**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Stfwl Mattuschka (B)

**12/1946** – Same leader, “*A pleasant type with a cheerful nature, but uneducated politically*.”

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Stfw Gehrke (B) – considered to be a; “*very poor type… a dull, uninspiring typical ‘stabsfeldwebel*.’” The hostel in general was stated to be a problem.

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Hfw Gentil (B) – the hostel had improved with the removal of the previous leader. Mr Knight, a grammar school teacher from Wolverhampton, gave English lessons. **9/1947** – same leader. There had been a 3 week quarantine following a case of infantile paralysis (+ at Mellish Road).

**1948** – recorded as a hostel with Hampton Lovett Camp 54.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Halesowen |  | 148 |  | 140 | 131 | 107 | With Camp 54 |

**Halford Lane.** (Possibly Halford’s Lane, Smethwick, B66 1BB – heavy industry and colliery in area).

**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Guenther (B)

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Sold Juergen Thorer (B), aged 20, “*intelligent and efficient.”* Pows employed in heavy industry. **7/1947** – same leader.

**9/1947** – a small number of pows left on site to prevent squatters.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Halford Lane |  | 48 |  | 36 | 35 | 5 |  |

**Halfpenny Green.** Approximate areafor RAF baseSO 823 910.

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Ofw Waldemar Zetsche (C). “*Is doing his work to the satisfaction of both British staff and hostel inmates.”* **4/1947** – same leader.

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Weiss (B+), aged 50, a mechanic. He had been held in pow camps in France and the USA – *“active in all spheres and with his cheerful personality, is well liked by Ps/W and British Staff*.”

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Schnitzer (B+), aged 27, commercial traveller. Elected to this position. “*Outstanding addition to this camp*.” An exhibition was held in a hut outside the perimeter fence entitled; ‘A P.W’s activities in his spare time.’ It exhibited the camp magazine, sketches, paintings and garden produce and attracted a wide interest with local civilians.

**Late 1947** – transferred as a hostel to Teddesley Hall Camp 194.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Halfpenny Green |  |  |  | 342 | 356 | 243 | With Camp 194 |

**Hamstead**

*“There were Italian POW's in Hamstead, they were housed in nissen huts behind a wire fence in what we called The Lane, it's later name is Hamstead Road.”*

<https://birminghamhistory.co.uk/forum/threads/german-italian-pows-in-birmingham.15740/>

Hamstead Colliery SP 044 930, alongside Hamstead Road.

**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Ofwl Winter (B)

**12/1946** – Same leader. “*This is a depressing hostel adjacent to Hamstead Colliery with primitive accommodation. Winter is doing his work well however and morale is surprisingly good in spite of the poor conditions.”*

**4/1947** – same leader. The visitor gave some further details of the site; *“…the worst hostel I have ever seen. It is a depressing heap of huts – some almost derelict – set at the foot of a slag heap and hemmed in by colliery buildings and waste grounds. Washing and sanitary facilities are inadequate, the drying hut lacks a roof, and there is no provision for a sports field.”* The Commandant was making urgent requests for something to be done.

**7/1947** – same leader. Some improvement in conditions – though what had improved was not stated.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Gehlen (B-),aged 34, policeman, former SA and Nazi Party member since 1931. “*Not dangerous but should be watched*.”

**Late 1947** – transferred as a hostel to Teddesley Hall Camp 194.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Hamstead |  | 137 |  | 109 | 131 | 81 | With C 194 |

**Marsh & Baxter.** The Marsh and Baxter Factory was located in Brierley Hill, SO 918 870.

**7/1946** – under administration of Davenport Satellite camp. Hostel leader; Ofwl Brinkmann (A). Film shows came fortnightly.

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Max Werner (B+). Had been a Nazi Party member in 1937 – “*His ideas are now sound.”* **7/1947** – same leader.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Brand (B-), aged 27, a weaver, spoke English, “*sincere and honest*.”

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Marsh & Baxter | With C 272 | 76 |  | 62 | 53 | 31 |  |

**Mellish Road.** SP 031 993. This is very close to Rushall – possible the same site as the Rushall site below.

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Gerhard Jahnsmueller (A), “*a good hostel leader.”*

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Klose (B), aged 28, a machine-fitter, “*quiet and unassuming*.” It was planned that this hostel would serve as a transit site for those about to be repatriated. **7/1947** – same leader.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Dunz (B+), aged 33, elected, “*rather colourless.”* There had been a 3 week quarantine following a case of infantile paralysis (+at Halesowen).

**Late 1947** – transferred as a hostel to Teddesley Hall Camp 194.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Mellish Road |  |  |  | 101 | 32 | 32 | With C 194 |

**Moor Lane** (Witton, Birmingham – possibly SP 077 926 – not confirmed).

*“There was a German PoW camp on a strip of land 'borrowed' from the Lucas Sports Ground in College Road, running from Moor Lane down to the canal. The prisoners were there for about a year after the war, but I don't think they were while the war was still on.”*

**1943** - recorded as a hostel for Italians with Camp 54. Later recorded with Davenport House Camp 272

**7/1946** – under administration of Davenport Satellite camp. Hostel leader; Wm Seiffert (A). Film shows came fortnightly.

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Wachtm Wilhelm Ries (B), aged 33. The hostel had its own camp parliament and morale was “*outstandingly good.”* **7/1947** – same leader.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Rohr (B+).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946  | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Moor Lane | With C 54 / 272 | 146 |  | 108 | 121 | 94 |  |

**Park Hall**

**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Ofwl Zetsche (C) – recommended he be replaced.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946  | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Park Hall |  | 352 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Rushall**

**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Fwl von Hinten (B-) – recommended he be replaced.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Rushall |  | 45 |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Studley Gate.** NOT CONFIRMED – SO 890 842. Huts in photo appear to be much larger than Nissen huts.**7/46** – no leader listed.**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Wachtm Karl Mueller (B), a regular soldier, “*works satisfactorily*.” **9/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 \* | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Studley Gate |  | 89 |  | 55 | 31 | 30 |  |

 |  |
| 1948 - [raf\_541\_15\_rp\_3001 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_541_15_rp_3001) |

**Swanshurst Park.** SP 092 815.

My father told me of fights between the German pows and local youths, usually over dating girls in the area.

**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Ostm Sajonz (B+).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 \* | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Swanshurst Park |  | 128 |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Uplands. Handsworth, Birmingham.** NGR SP 035 914.Location – ‘The Uplands’ was a farm shown on the 1948 map – the 1955 map shows a ‘Hostel’ nearby. I believe this was the pow hostel, though by 1955 it would have been used for agricultural workers.**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Fwl Gramlich (B-)**< July 1946** - 3 escaped pows from Uplands, Handsworth. The last sentence stated; *“There are 148 prisoners in the camp.”***November 1946** – Attached to Maxstoke Camp 39.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946  | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Uplands |  | 149 | With C 39 |

 |  |
|  |

**Woods Lane,** Cradley Heath, Warley, Worcestershire. Area shows on 1955 map as a heavy industrial area.

**1943** – listed as a hostel for Italian pows with Camp 54.

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Erich Tuebbecke (B), appointed in May, “*has done his work to everybody’s satisfaction*.” **7/1947** – same leader.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Ogefr.Krause (B+)

**1948** – back with camp 54.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 \* | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Woods Lane | With Camp 54 |  |  | 53 | 58 | 32 | With Camp 54 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wordsley,** Bromley Lane, Wordsley. SO 896 879.Nissen type huts shown in photo.**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Obmaschinist Weigelt (B)**12/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Heinz Moseler (A), aged 31, captured after being shot down over London in 1940. “*A good type with clean and sensible ideas… a keen sense of humour and is an excellent example.”***4/1947** – Hostel leader; Gefr Ripsas (B-). **7/1947** – same leader.**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Grevemeyer (B-), previously leader at Drakelow.**1948** – with camp 54.1948 - [raf\_541\_188\_rp\_3148 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_541_188_rp_3148) |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 7/1946 | 12/1946 \* | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 1948 |
| Wordsley |  | 250 |  | 166 | 223 | 173 | With Camp 54 |

Herbert Langer, a German pow was held at Wordsley, resettled in the UK and opened an Army and Navy Store in Stourbridge. The store has been recreated at the Black Country Living Museum – see; <https://bclm.com/2024/07/01/recreated-high-street-shops-open-at-museum/>

And an interview with Herbert Erich Langer **-** <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80020539>

1955 picture of derelict site - <https://photo-archive.expressandstar.co.uk/collections/getrecord/GB149_D-EXP_P_B6_3>