**Camp 19****2 (and 240) Adderley Hall, Adderley, Shropshire**

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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 |
| SJ 657 401 | 118 | 192 | Adderley Hall, Adderley, Market Drayton | Shropshire | 4 | Base Camp |  |

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| **Location:** Adderley Hall was near Market Drayton in Shropshire. Nissen huts seen in pictures of the camp. Various buildings were also used.**Before the camp:** Shropshire Council HER: “*WWII reinforcement camp to be occupied by 3 Corps in the event of an invasion of the UK. Capacity 1,000 personnel. Also known to be occupied by black American soldiers.*”**Pow Camp:** Shropshire Council HER: “..*used as a Italian POW Camp… An interesting feature of the stable block (PRN 19242) is a carved inscription in gothic script on the trusses of the single storey building attached to the stable block - Truth will set you free - in German, associated with the use of the parkland at the hall as a Prisoner of War camp in WW2.”***1944 to early 1945** - Italian pows recorded.**Easter 1945** – (End March / start April); escape by pows. 4 pows (surnames – Ruhland, Scholz, Schweiger, Wagner) escaped from Adderley Hall camp. The escape was made on 31 March. The military and police from Shropshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire were alerted and a search started. The pows were recaptured on 4 April after they had broken into a farm in search of food. They were returned to the camp. The capture of the pows was reported in the ‘Newport and Market Drayton Advertiser’ on 6 April.**1946** - One of the German pows held at the camp was the artist Wilhelm Rubenbauer (1916-1993). He drew the picture of the hall (below), dated 3 June 1946. (He was also at Camp 193). |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1954 |

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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. |

**30 July – 2 August 1946** – Report on a visit to Organise re-education / Screen pows at Adderley Hall, 240 Working camp. Strength; 2 officers (the M.O.s), 988 Other Ranks. About 200 pows were in billets. This was the 5th PID visit, but the previous reports are not in the National Archive file. No hostels.

Commandant: Major Thomas Camp leader: Ofw H Seifert (B)

Interpreters: S/Sgt Sinclair; S/Sgt MacFarlane Deputy C/L: Obwn H Bruening (C)

Adjutant: Capt Tarrant. German MO: St/Arzt Huethwohl (A); Ass/Arzt Dr Holzhausen (C)

The Commandant was co-operative with the visitor. The adjutant was assisting the development of re-education activities.

Neither of the interpreters were interested in re-education. The Commandant expressed dissatisfaction with both. The visitor recommended that Sinclair be replaced.

The Camp leader had been deputy C/L, he replaced the previous leader Fw Schilling who was in a billet, but no reason was given for this change. Neither Seifert or Bruenning were considered to be supportive of re-education activities.

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| Political screening: | A+ | A | A- | A/B\* | B+ | B/A\* | B | B- | B/C\* | C | C+ | Unscreened |
|  | 1 | 91 | 1 | 2 | 20 | - | 389 | 4 | 12 | 187 | - | 183 |

\*The visitor seems to have invented his own grades here, they are not included in other PID reports.

Some pows had been transferred from camps in Canada – most were political C grade. They had been captured early in the war and had retained their Nazi ideology. There were probably also pows from camps in the USA, but these were not mentioned.

It was reported that there was “*strife*” in the camp between various factions. Leading pows were interviewed and warned they would lose their posts if the troubles continued.

Morale was considered to be good due to good relations with British staff, recreation facilities, and freedom to walk around the camp within its boundaries. Mail was being received. There had been frequent changes in the pows held here – 500 in/out since January.

There were 250 ‘Youth’ pows (under-25). About 60% were resistant to re-education activities – they had been brought up under the Nazi regime since the early 1930’s. A youth group was formed to see if it would change ideas.

Re-education activities had been badly affected by factional rivalries and the frequent change of pows in the camp. It was hoped these issues would be settled. The standard list was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 250 / 90 respectively.

Newspapers – 2 copies of a range of papers and periodicals were bought by the Welfare Fund, (monies raised by sales in the canteen).

Library – 1197 books, but some duplicated.

Lectures – usually well attended. The pows walked out en bloc because of an opinion about repatriation expressed by 1 lecturer. It was also stated that lecturers were liable to have a difficult time “*owing to the activities of a cunning clique which manages to keep out of sight.”*

Discussion groups – a non-political group of 25 to 100 met on Tuesdays. It was hoped to set up a political discussion group.

Films – Very popular fortnightly films supplied by COGA.

Wireless – A new set had been purchased, but was unable to receive Hamburg station. 2 loudspeakers and a microphone.

Camp magazine – Excellent. 200/250 copies, but not stated how often. Some articles needed to be censored.

Press review – edited selections were reprinted. The previous editor was removed from the post as he selected articles intended to cause dissension.

English instruction – 85 pupils in 4 classes.

Other camp activities -

Religion – RC Padre Titus Goetzmann (B) had a congregation of about 80 on Sundays. He made allegations against the camp leader, *“regarding the posting of democratic individuals*” – but these accusations could not be substantiated. There was a Catholic youth group of 15-20. 30-40 RC pows attended services in Market Drayton.

Protestant padre, Haug (A) held services in the village church for 150-200 pows. There were also Bible classes, a choir and prayer meetings.

Education – Small classes of about 8 for French, Russian, history, law, finance and commerce.

Theatre – 12 member theatre group. The previous producer was a, “*one-time fanatical Nazi”* and though he had resigned, it was recommended that the activities of this group were kept under watch.

Orchestra – 14 players performing a wide range of music.

**26-28 August 1946** – A PID visit was made to Hawkstone Park, formerly independent camp 285, which had become a satellite camp for Adderley Hall. Hawkstone had one hostel at Cheswardine.

The new Commandant for the enlarged camp was Lt Col Attoe.



Major Thomas, who had been Commandant at Adderley was transferred to take over at Hawkstone. S/Sgt Macfarlane was also transferred, as interpreter.

The rest of the report concerned Hawkstone satellite – see under that camp for details.

**End 1946 –** reported that Adderley Hall camp had closed. Hawkstone Camp then became Camp 240.

**After the camp:** The Hall was demolished in 1955

**Further Information:**

National Archives – FO 1120/235. Used above.

Field survey report: King M J. 2004. Listed building conservation statement…The Stable Block and adjacent farm buildings at Adderley Hall Farm, Adderley in the county of Shropshire. King Partnership Rep. p.3.

Sketches of Adderley Hall pow camp - <https://adderleyheritage.co.uk/collection-location/adderley-hall/>