**Camp 230** **(& 618) Stuckenduff Camp, Shandon, Dunbartonshire (aka Shandon)**

Included in the 1945 ICRC Camp List – Labour Camp. 618. Stuckenduff, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonsh.

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| **1947 Camp List** |
| 230(G.W.C.) | Stuchendoff Camp, Shanden, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire | Sc | Priswar, Helensburgh | RHU 334 | (Blank) | Major S.H.Anstey | v/1452/2 |

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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 |
|  |  | 230 | Stuchendoff (Stuckenduff) Camp, Shanden, Helensburgh | Dumbartonshire |  | Base Camp | Scotland |

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| **Location:** The camp was located on the E side of Gare Loch in the grounds atStuckenduff and Ardgare House NS 257 859. Stuckenduff Farm is located at NS 259 864.**Pow Camp:** Camp 618, then 230. (Number probably altered when it changed from a base Camp to a German Working camp). Over 60 Nissen type huts.**1946** – Additional intake of many pows from camps in the USA. Most had very low morale as they had been misinformed in the US that they were being repatriated. Instead, they found themselves in working camps in the UK. For a while many refused to work.**November 1946** - Paul Bondy, a visiting lecturer to the camp, noted that there was a main camp and two satellite camps with 1,224 pows.**Christmas 1946** – Camp magazine: [Rundblick : Lagerzeitung Camp 230 - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/112847/)A short article refers to previous camp leader, Ernst Franke – and the new leader; Otto Winkelmann. Two hostels mentioned – Fruin and Whistlefield.

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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. |

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| Ordnance Survey 1958 |

Memories by Shandon resident Mrs Elinor Grummitt – “*My mother used to take me to Stuckenduff Farm to buy eggs, and we had to pass the camp,” she says. “I always felt a bit apprehensive at the sight of the German POWs in their brown trousers and tunics with the letters POW on the back — but on reflection they probably did not pose any threat to local people. In fact, they seemed to become part of the community, as I remember one Christmas in particular when they were escorted along to Shandon Church for the Christmas service. When 'Silent Night' was sung, one POW I could see had tears running down his cheeks. And I am sure he wasn't the only one.*

*“They also made a wonderful gesture, to the delight of the children of Shandon Sunday School, by presenting to us at our Christmas party toys which they had made from driftwood collected from the beach. Each boy received a wooden hobby horse, and each girl a doll's rocking cradle. The toys were beautifully made and brightly painted, and gave us endless hours of enjoyment. I do believe one or two of the POWs actually stayed on in the locality after the war. I can't confirm it, but one, I believe, worked at Stuckenduff Farm*.” (From the Helensburgh Heritage website).

**9-11 January 1947** – Re-education report. Strength; 1 officer (the M.O.), 591 Other Ranks in main + 2 hostels; Whistlefield (267) and Fruin (8). This was listed as the 2nd visit, but the previous report is not in the National Archive file.

Commandant: Major S H Anstey Camp leader: St Fwl Winkelmann (B)

Interpreter: None Deputy C/L: Fwl Hartmann (B)

 German M.O.: St Arzt Dr Ringel

The Commandant was actively supportive of re-education activities.

Camp leader Winkelmann – *“ a ‘solid’ type, exercising discipline without militarism and proud of the re-educative effort in the Camp*.”

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| Simplified political screening figures were given:  | A | B | C | Unscreened |
|  | 3 | 342 | 40 | 207 |

120 pows were appealing against their political grades, (the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory). 101 pows had been repatriated to date, mainly volunteers to work in mines and forestry in Germany.

Morale was recorded as being high. However, working conditions were very poor and were having a negative effect. Pows were working on a Ministry of Works contract in connection with the Loch Sloy Hydro-electric scheme. They were getting up at 5.30 a.m. and travelling up to 35 miles to various work sites. They did not return to the camp for 11½ hours. If weather conditions were bad, which it often was at this time of year, the pows were accommodated in tents at the work sites – and were not paid. The average pay-out for the previous week amounted to 2½d per man. Not surprisingly, the pows thought this was very poor treatment.

This lack of pay also affected the Welfare Fund (mainly raised through sales in the canteen) which purchased items such as books for the camp.

Favourable factors included – the start of repatriations; the keen interest in camp activities led by the Commandant; relationships with local families with 60-80 pows invited to homes in the neighbourhood at weekends.

Although some pows were screened as C grade (Nazis), the visitor believed that if they were re-screened they would attain a better grade. The Nurernberg trials affected the outlook of many pows. There was no trace of communism in the camp.

About 30% of the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25). They were not considered to be a problem. A short course was designed for these younger pows – 9 each fortnight were excused normal work to attend classes, and still received their pay from the Welfare Fund.

The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – A wide range of British papers were received and sent on to the hostels. German newspapers were received from COGA.

Library – 600 books. More requested.

Lectures – regular and popular.

Discussion groups – Weekly meetings

Films – The camp was on 3 film circuits; Gaumont British, YMCA and Wochenschau. Gaumont British films were a problem as they charged 6d (6 pence) admission fee per head and 12 shillings per performance from the Welfare Fund.

Wireless – The camp had its own sets. Some pows had also purchased sets in the USA.

Camp magazine – Fortnightly. Paper in very short supply.

Press review – A daily news sheet was posted in the camp, hostels and the medical centre (CRS).

English instruction – separate appendix.

Information room – exhibiting text and pictures on a theme; current display entitled ‘The British Commonwealth of Nations.’

Other camp activity –

Religion – Protestant padre Kaiser (A) only had 10-12 pows attend services. “*This is entirely due to the unpopularity of Kaiser who is recognised as a pervert.”* It was recommended he be transferred if progress was to be made. An outside RC padre visited fortnightly. Pows were able to attend local churches.

Education – Classes for mathematics, French and Spanish.

Entertainment – 6 members of an active orchestra giving fortnightly concerts in main camp and the hostels. A theatre group was being re-formed.

**April 1947** - The Helensburgh and Gareloch Times gave a report on the camp:

*“As regulations are relaxed, life in a prisoner of war camp becomes much more bearable for the inmates.*

*At Stuckenduff Camp near Shandon over 500 Germans live, to a considerable degree free from the restrictions one associates with a prison camp. The Germans really run the camp. They have their own police force, cooks, bakers, interpreters, doctor and chaplain. They organise their own sport and spare-time activities. Through the week they work on the Loch Sloy Hydro-Electric Scheme, some being conveyed by train to Inveruglas and others by bus to Butterbridge, beyond Rest and Be Thankful.*

*They are good, hard workers and are paid at the rate of one and half pence per hour. This pay can only be used in their canteens for such extras as cigarettes and notepaper. Their food is similar in calorific value to that of the British Army ration, but it differs greatly in form, and as far as practicable their tastes are catered for. The Commandant has, as one of his assistants, keeping the camp accounts, a German who was formerly an official of the Reichsbank in Berlin.*

*A camp newspaper called the ‘Randblick’* [sic – ‘Rundblick’ = Panorama] *is edited and printed in the camp, and though it is subject to censorship, the prisoners are allowed great freedom in their writings on international as well as local affairs.*

*In their spare time they play football — their team has attained considerable skill and can give a good account of itself against much more experienced local clubs. They also play a game similar to netball. Many are keen walkers and can be seen on the Garelochside Road and strolling in the streets of Helensburgh. As a race the Germans were pioneer hikers and in the pre-war years flocked to the many beautiful parts of their homeland. Hikers with their rucksacks were a familiar sight in the Black Forest and on the Harz Mountains, and indeed at all the beauty spots.*

*In the evenings they hold whist drives and concerts. They provide their own band and male voice choir which are very popular and contain some outstanding talent, a fact not surprising when one remembers the musical genius of their race. On Sundays, parties of prisoners attend church services and their fine singing has been much appreciated by the congregations.*

*The Commandant estimates that at least 80% of the prisoners now believe that the only satisfactory way to rebuild Germany is by a democratic form of Government. They are keen to learn English and to study our way of life. Of Hitler, they don’t want to speak. They seem to want to forget him completely and banish the thought of him into oblivion.*

*Almost 200 prisoners are invited to local houses every weekend and they are most appreciative of the kindness shown them. This hospitality shows the prisoners the way back to normal life, after, in some cases, being years behind barbed wire. The opinion prevails that after having contact with our people the Germans overcome the prejudices they were burdened with and learn that we only want a long and lasting peace and understanding among nations.*

*Always clever with their hands, many of the prisoners are expert toy and model makers, and using only odd pieces of wood and metal found on the foreshore, they have produced many amazingly ingenious articles. They are not allowed to sell or exchange these with outsiders but can give them away on obtaining permission from the Commandant. On occasion, however, their desire to obtain extra cigarettes overcomes them and they endeavour to smuggle their handiwork out of the camp. Though no rigorous guard is kept, if a prisoner is seen leaving camp with a sizeable article he is stopped and his work confiscated. The other day when the Commandant was walking in his garden, which is adjacent to the camp, he noticed something covered with sacking hidden among the bushes. On investigation he found a beautifully made child’s wheelbarrow which had obvious been hidden there after dark and would be collected later and delivered to its unlawful destination. It was confiscated, and in the next issue of ‘Randblick’ a notice appeared asking prisoners not to compromise the Commandant in their unlawful activities*.”

**22/23 May 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 446 OR. No hostels.

Changes to senior personnel; a new Interpreter S/Sgt Bruder; no deputy camp leader.

Simplified screening figures given; A 3 / B 444. 1 appeal was pending. 335 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was recorded as ‘fair’ with continuing work issues and bad news from home. Positive factors; welfare in the camp, hospitable local citizens, a range of sports with matches played against other camps. There was a carpenter shop and many pows made various handicrafts, (often to sell but this was usually ignored).

The number of youth pows had fallen to 10%. The special class ended as the leader was to be repatriated. For a short while there had been a scout group, visited by the local scout master, but members transferred away from the camp brought the group to an end.

Re-education activities had decreased a little as the men were able to leave camp in their free time. Changes to activities –

Newspapers – a wider range of dailies and periodicals received. 20 German papers from COGA + Swiss and German papers received privately.

Library – 750 books.

Discussion group – abandoned due to long work hours.

Films – Travelling Films had replaced Gaumont British.

Wireless – all barrack rooms had loudspeakers. Reception of German stations was often poor.

Camp magazine – 130 copies every 3 / 4 weeks.

Religion – a new Protestant padre; Wurster (B). Attendance continued to be low.

Education – classes for English (80/100 pows), mathematics (10) and shorthand (10).

Entertainment – the theatre group was giving occasional performances. The orchestra disbanded due to lack of instruments; previously they had been privately owned. A choir was being reformed. Football, table tennis, chess and ‘skat’ (card game) were popular.

**June 1947** – Camp magazine: [Rundblick : Lagerzeitung Camp 230 - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/112847/19/#topDocAnchor)

The Camp Commandant, Major Anstey, wrote to say farewell to the pows as he was leaving.

**24 June 1947** – the matter of pay for the pows was raised in the House of Commons (some general comments cut):

*Mr. McKinlay asked the Secretary of State for War what hourly rate of wages is paid to his Department by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board for the services of German prisoners of war at their Loch Sloy scheme; what proportion is paid per hour to the men concerned; what are the average weekly earnings of the men; and what amenities does his Department provide.*

*Mr. Bellenger - The rates charged for the services of prisoners of war are fixed by my right hon. Friend the Minister of Works. I understand that they are the rates which would be paid to British civilian workers engaged on the same type of work. The pay received by the prisoners is determined by their status as prisoners of war, not by reference to the charges made for their services. Under the arrangements hitherto in force, the average earnings of a prisoner engaged on skilled work would amount in a 48 hour working week to 15s., consisting of 6s. cash and 9s. bonus credit. The prisoners receive in kind all necessities such as accommodation, food, clothing, medical and hospital services. A canteen and normal recreational facilities are provided at the camp.*

*Mr. McKinlay - Is my right hon. Friend aware that the Hydro-Electric Board pay 2s. 0½d. an hour, and the portion returned to the men in wages is three farthings an hour? Is he aware that in some weeks they may earn just 6d? Is it not the case that civilians in the Helensburgh district are not permitted to entertain these men, or take them on public service vehicles, or to the cinema?*

*Mr. Bellenger - In answer to the second part of my hon. Friend's supplementary question, I think he will be satisfied by my reply to a previous Question. In reply to the first part of his supplementary question, I have not worked out the exact amount the prisoners get per hour but merely answered the Question on the Paper.*

*Mr. McKinlay - Is my right hon. Friend aware that in inclement weather they do not even receive three farthings an hour? Is this the best way to teach these people to adopt our mode of life?*

*Mr. Bellenger - I am doing what I can, and I think the House will agree with the announcements I have made from time to time to improve the lot of these prisoners of war.*

*Mr. Stokes - Is my right hon. Friend aware that the difference between the amount paid for the services of these men and the amount they receive is accounted for by the Chancellor, who expects to net £36 million this year as a result of their sweated labour?*

*Mr. Bellenger - That is the kind of question my hon. Friend should address to my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.*

Hansard - Volume 439: debated on Tuesday 24 June 1947. In a later report it was recorded that this debate resulted in no change at all.

**25/30 July 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 378 O.R. No hostels.

Commandant: Major Cox Camp leader: St Fwl Winkelmann (B)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Bruder Deputy C/L: None

 German M.O.: St Arzt Dr Ringel

The new Commandant was interested in re-education and the welfare of pows. That is not to say he was actively involved, and his priority was in getting the pows to work.

Screening figures: A 1 / B 378. 372 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was ‘*fairly good*.’ The pows had been given a week’s holiday – without pay. The pows were aware that the matter of their pay had been raised in the House of Commons and this gave them some encouragement that changes might occur. Relations with local citizens were generally good, but there had been two cases of pows being refused admission to a café and a cinema.

Youth pows were down to about 5% - others had been transferred to the special youth camp at Radwinter Camp 180.

Changes to activities –

Library – 800 books, a supply of books from the International Red Cross had been received.

Information room – an excellent exhibition of pow handicraft and art works had been displayed.

Religion – The recently started Protestant padre (Wurster) was not popular, but his influence was very small. Helensburgh Churches had organised a room for pows to relax in at weekends when visiting.

Education – only small English classes.

Entertainment – The theatre group had ended. A small selection of instruments had been obtained and a small orchestra formed.

Outside contacts – apart from informal family contacts, the YMCA had organised visits to Glasgow and nearly all pows had participated.

**10/14 October 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officers, 155 OR. No hostels.

With such small numbers there were rumours that the camp was to be closed. This was unfortunate as it led to a lack of interest in developing activities which was never recovered.

Only 1 change to senior personnel, the Interpreter had left and not been replaced.

Screening figures: A 1 / B 155. 429 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was ‘fair.’ There were good relationships between the pows, the British staff and local civilians. The work issues at Loch Sloy had not been resolved. Many pows had been given work gathering the harvest – activities further dwindled due to long working hours. Changes to activities –

Lectures – none during harvest, recently restarted.

Discussion group – discontinued and unlikely to start unless numbers increased.

Films – YMCA twice every five weeks, attended by 65%. Travelling Films Ltd, twice monthly, attended by 50%, charging 6d admittance.

Religion – the unpopular padre had left the camp. A RC padre, Schachner, from Camp 64 visited monthly and was popular with both denominations.

Entertainment – the orchestra had been discontinued.

Outside contacts – the visits to Glasgow were discontinued due to petrol restrictions.

**5-9 December 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 478 OR in main and 1 hostel (Whistlefield – 11).

Commandant: Major Cox Camp leader: Huppertz

Interpreter: German pow; Heidecke Deputy C/L: None

 German M.O.: St Arzt Dr Ringel

The previous camp leader was being repatriated on compassionate grounds. Huppertz had been in the camp for a long time, working at Loch Sloy.

Screening figures; A 2 / B 477. 449 pows repatriated to date.

Morale remained at ‘fair.’ Repatriation was considered to be unfair as many married men with families were still being held, while younger men were being sent home.

Discipline was recorded as “*strict but fair.*” Some new arrivals were; “*troublesome through a ‘go-slow’ policy”* - not surprising considering the lack of any active response to clearly unfair and poor working conditions.

There were more false rumours that the camp was about to be closed down and this affected activities. Changes -

Lectures – had restarted, but at weekends. Most pows preferred to walk out of camp and so attendance was extremely low.

Films – 2 YMCA films each month, shown by an operator from Gosford Camp 16 – a ‘News’ film was also included. Travelling Films fortnightly.

Entertainment – Concert parties visiting from Camp 16.

**9/12 February 1948** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 2 officers, 553 OR – main (346), Whistlefield (179), Ballagan (30). The camp strength rose to 700 in December.

Commandant: Major Cox Camp leader: Koller

Interpreter: S/Sgt Oehringer Deputy C/L: None

 German M.O.: St Arzt Dr Ringel

The previous camp leader had been ‘civilianised’ – i.e. for settling within the UK.

Camp leader Koller had been at the camp since it became a German camp. He was conscientious, but played no part in re-education activities.

Screening figures – A 3; B 550. 550 pows repatriated to date.

The same bad working conditions were recorded at Loch Sloy. Despite this, it was recorded there was little problem with discipline.

Changes to activities –

Lectures, attendance had risen from about 20 to up to 70. This was put down to having better speakers from Germany.

Religion – new Protestant padre, Reinhart, was, “*depressed by the small number of PsW interested in religion*.”

Entertainment – YMCA gave occasional concerts in a local hall.

**15/17 March 1948** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 407 OR – Main (375), Whistlefield (4), Ballagan (29). One of the last camps to close in Scotland.

Only 1 change to senior personnel – a new German M.O.: Dr Loew.

Screening figures – A 1; B 407. 658 pows repatriated to date.

All activities were being wound down as the camp expected to close.

**After the camp:** 2020 residential area.

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 1120/233 – Re-educational survey visit reports for camps 230 to 235. Dated 1 January 1946 to 31 December 1948

IWM have a copy of the camp magazine Rundblick dated April 1947, Catalogue LBY E.J.412

<http://canmore.org.uk/site/272623>

Vertical air photographs (106G/Scot/UK 85, 4147-4149, flown 10 May 1946

**Hostels**

**Ballagan.** Previously attached to Castle Rankin Camp 64.

**9/12 February 1948** – 30 pows. Hostel leader; Pinz. Hostel leader at C64, “*has always been co-operative.”* Poor wireless reception.

**15/17 March 1948** – 29 pows. Hostel leader; Raabe.

**Fruin.** Probably around Glen Fruin – NS 340 852.

**12/1946** – referred to in Camp magazine. Hostel leader; Willi Karzak.

**1/1947** – Hostel closed.

**Whistlefield.** 6 miles away from main camp. “*A very beautiful situation but is rather isolated.”*

**12/1946** – referred to in Camp magazine. Hostel leader; Wm Heinz Vogel (B).

**1/1947** – same hostel leader.

**5/1947** – closed.

**5-9 December 1947** – Newly re-opened. 11 pows. Hostel leader; Schoenmann.

**9/12 February 1948** – 179 pows. Hostel leader; Wantje; “*capable and intelligent.”*

**15/17 March 1948** – 4 pows – “*caretaker party*.” No leader.