**Camp 65** **- Setley Plain, Brockenhurst, Hampshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC Camp list – Labour Camp. 65. Setley Plain Camp, Brockenhurst, Hants.

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| **1947 Camp List** | | | | | | | |
| 65(G.W.C.) | Setley Plain Camp, Brockenhurst, Hants | S. | Priswar, Brockenhurst | Brockenhurst 2241-2 | Brockenhurst | Major E.E.Utley. | 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 |
| SU 301 998 | 196 | 65 | Setley Plain, Brockenhurst | Hampshire | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. |

\* Excellent website for ‘New Forest Knowledge’ - <https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/setley-prisoner-of-war-camp-overview/>. Includes overview, time-line, interviews, memories, 3d graphics of the camp, photographs, documents….. I give the information I have here.

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| **Location:** The NGR above is incorrect – it should be SZ 302 998. Part of the camp is shown on the 1947 map. Just off the A337, about 2.5 km S of Brockenhurst.  **Before the camp:** Part of Setley Plain  Aerial photograph, 1946 - 4142 CPE/UK1893. 12 DEC 1946 - F/20 ¦ 82 SQDN. © Crown Copyright  **Pow Camp:** Listed as an Italian working camp / labour battalion, then a German working camp.  **1941** - The camp was built - Standard type – a main pow compound with British / administrative section at the ‘front’ alongside the road.    **1942** – the camp opened for Italian pows. They were considered to be low risk in the main HQ camp. The pows mainly worked on farms and in the New Forest. There were no recorded escape attempts.  **1943** – Hostel for Italians: Havenstreet, Isle of Wight. Believed to have held high risk Italian pows. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1947 |

**May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Southern Command area and then as an Italian POW Working Camp, (Pioneer Corps Group), (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 of the Italian pows were in hostels / billets.

**September 1945** - Appendix to HQ Southern Command War Diary: Setley Plain, Brockenhurst – Italian labour camp – capacity 670 – 131/736197

Italian hostels on Isle of Wight – Shalfleet, Haven Street, Whitwell, Godshill, Newport – total cap 350

German hostels on Isle of Wight – Hamstead, Osborne – total cap 200

It is strange that the HQ camp was retained on the mainland, while all hostels were based on the Isle of Wight – there does not seem to be any advantage at all to this arrangement.

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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. |

**14 October 1945** – English Instruction report.

Commandant: Major Uttley.

The HQ camp was still for Italians – they are not mentioned in this report. All German pows were held in three hostels on the Isle of Wight.

**29 March 1946** – Report on political screening. Number of German pows = 424 in 3 hostels; Italians not counted.

The Commandant was not obstructive of re-education, but was not active in developing it.

Interpreter: 2/Lt A D Gluck, had lately been commissioned.

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| This political screening: | A | A | B+ | B | B- | C | Unknown |
|  | 1 | 44 | 68 | 96 | 64 | 23 | 7 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| + previous screening: | A | B | C |
|  | 10 | 70 | 41 |

The C grade Nazi pows were not active.

Re-education activities had barely started in the German hostels due to – 1. Remoteness from the HQ camp, 2. Shortage of books, 3. Only 1 visiting lecturer, 4. Isle of Wight not on travelling film circuits.

It was known that the HQ camp at Brockenhurst would soon become a German camp and a pow had been identified to be Camp Leader. St/Fw Ludwig Műller (B-) (aka Mueller) had been a compound leader at Le Marchant Camp 23. The visitor did not recommend that his appointment should go ahead as the man had a Nazi background and needed further checks. Not known if these checks occurred, but St/Fw Műller did become the leader.

**15/16 April 1946** – English Education Visit. The HQ was still for Italian pows.

The sites for the three German hostels were described as poor, but a good deal of gardening work was being carried out.

**4 or 8 May 1946 –** The main HQ camp became a German Working Camp.

**6 June 1946** – English Inspector’s report. Total strength 1050. Not known if any Italians remained in hostels. 365 pupils in 10 classes

Commandant: Maj Utley Lagersprecher (Camp Leader): S/Fwl Műller

Interpreter: Lt Gluck

Due to the nature of the split sites, there was also an ‘Island Commandant’: Lt Widdicomb.

450 Austrian pows were being held at the HQ camp in Brockenhurst – they were due to leave very soon.

850 newly arrived Germans were held at a pow hostel at Epping – this was not listed as a hostel for Camp 65. They had been transferred from camps in the USA and it was expected they would be transferred to Brockenhurst. Pows from the US usually had low morale as they had been misinformed in the States that they were to be returned to Germany – instead they found themselves in Working Camps in the UK. To add to their unsettled feelings, the Epping site was still being re-constructed.

**12-15 August 1946** – Visit for; General Survey, Screen Billetees and Investigate Trouble. Total strength; 2 officers, 1232 Other ranks.

Commandant: Maj Utley Camp Leader: S/Fwl Ludwig Műller (A) – [upgraded from (B-) ? later recorded as (B)]

Interpreter: Lt Gluck Deputy C/L: Gefr Sender (est A)

German M.O.: A/Arzt Dr Drescher (B)

The Camp leader enforced strict disciplinary standards which suited the Commandant. There was no mention in the report of what trouble had occurred.

In the HQ, 361 pows had arrived from camps in Belgium where conditions had been very poor. The rest were from camps in the USA or US controlled camps within the UK.

Just less than 400 pows had been politically screened. The visitor estimated that overall, the pow grades were – White (A) 15%; Grey (B) 75%; Black (C) 10%.

Morale was recorded as “*fairly low*” – the main reasons being lack of news about repatriation, bad news from home, poor mail services from the French and Russian zones, and a news article that many children in the Russian zone were being taken from their parents. Positive factors were good living conditions in the HQ and fair treatment.

40% of the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25). They were not seen to be a problem.

The visitor felt that the Commandant and interpreter kept a too strict control on activities for re-education to flourish – “*There is a noticeable fear in the camp of expressing an opinion freely and the compulsory presence of the interpreter at all lectures does not help the ensuing discussions.”* Long hours for summer working and lack of materials were also adverse factors. The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 230 received – more requested.

Newspapers – HQ received 10 British papers each day, the hostels received 2 or 3. An indication of the type of control the Commandant exerted was that he did not allow papers such as The Daily Mirror, Daily Worker or Daily Express! About 10 German and 5 Swiss papers arrived each month.

Library – Only 36 books!

Lectures – regular.

Discussion groups – not started.

Films – none

Wireless – 1 set in HQ with 6 loudspeakers.

Camp magazine – not started.

Press review – regular at HQ and hostels. Usually news articles read out and a follow up discussion.

Other activities –

Religion – Youth pows had little interest. More interest was shown in the hostels. Local padres visited the camp and 2 pows looked after protestant / RC interests.

Education – Only classes for farming.

Theatre – a variety group had given its first performance.

Orchestra – a new 8 piece orchestra had started to give concerts of light music and were touring the hostels.

Overall, conditions seem to be more restrictive than most camps, and the list of re-education activities was very poor. This may give a false impression as the report did not mention other activities such as games, sport, workshops, etc. The next English report stated that; “*recreational activities are everywhere zealously pursued*.”

**31 October 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 1246. 161 pupils in 12 classes at all sites + some studying privately.

There was still a lack of books for the library, but 100, which had not yet been censored, had been received from a camp in Canada. Film shows had started.

A non-pc comment from the inspector sums up the militaristic atmosphere desired by the Commandant and Camp leader – “*There seems to be a superabundance of heel-clicking and hyperefficiency in the main camp, though the general atmosphere is contented enough, but then heel-clicking makes Germans happy.”*

**1946** - The work of the pows was described in the camp newspaper (‘*Lager Berricht’* – Camp Report): “*The various work assignments conveyed quite new and partly hitherto unexperienced prospects. In the forest, on the meadow and the field, at rivers, streams, canals, swamps and in bogs, in anti-tank barriers, bunkers and unnecessary fortifications, at war ruins and in former living quarters. In production facilities of peace and rebuilding, e.g. sawmills, tractor garages etc., for the first time in this southernmost part of England, the German POW appeared to contribute to the preservation of life in Britain and to clear possible food surplus for their own badly suffering and heavily afflicted home*.”

**27-31 January 1947** – Progress report. Strength; 2 officers, 1170 OR. Heavy snowstorms affecting the country.

Two changes to senior personnel – Interpreter, S/Sgt Ford - Deputy C/L, Fw Pilnick. A dentist was listed – St.Arzt Lorenz.

2nd i/c – Captain Galpin. Officer i/c of hostels on Isle of Wight – Lt Tregoning (“*the only person on the British staff interested in re-education*”).

Camp leader Ludwig Műller, aged 34, from American zone, professional soldier, a boxer and all round sportsman. There are 2 variations to his previous experience at Le Marchant Camp 23 – reports stated that he was either a compound leader or leader of the whole camp. He was accused of being a bully and a Prussian militarist. The visitor recorded that he was *“an excellent sergeant-major and runs the camp with smooth efficiency.”* His attitude matched those of the commandant.

Deputy leader Gerhardt Pilnick, aged 26, unmarried from Polish territory – “*a pleasant and intelligent youth, of no importance.”*

M.O. Heinz Drescher, aged 28, a Sudetan German; “*A pleasant and efficient man, quite unpolitical.”*

Study leader Fritz Becker, aged 42, married from the British zone; “*politically colourless…. Incapable of inspiring enthusiasm in others.”*

Simplified screening figures in use: A 10; B 372; C 61; Unscreened 729. Over 200 Waffen-SS men had been transferred to the HQ camp. 35 pows were appealing against their political grades, (the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory). 80 pows repatriated to date.

Monthly meetings were held with Lt Tregoning, the interpreter and pow leaders to co-ordinate policy.

Morale was recorded as being fairly high in HQ, but lower in the hostels. Positive factors were:

a. Efficient well disciplined camp. Anecdote given – when there was a shortage of cigarettes, an inspecting General Officer ordered a weekly allowance of 10 extra cigarettes per man, as he considered it the smartest camp in Southern Command.

b. Relaxation of fraternization rules.

c. Camp in a beautiful part of England.

Negative factors:

1. Some pows wished for democratic rules rather than the militaristic tone.
2. Men who were unscreened (729) had no idea on likely time scale for repatriation.
3. Pows in hostels felt neglected.
4. Bad news from home. An unusual comment – “*cases of infidelity seem abnormally high, no fewer than 27 men are seeing for divorce*.”

[Gordon Forsey, the Motor Transport Officer stated; “*The camp was a peaceful place, I remember walking round the camp and seeing model villages that the Germans constructed outside their huts depicting their own home towns.”* <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/news/occupants-return-to-new-forest-wwii-prisoner-of-war-camp-after-70-years/> ]

The standard list of re-education activities showed some, very limited progress;

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – adequate and efficiently distributed. No comment on whether the Commandant was still restricting the type of papers allowed.

Library - adequate and efficiently distributed – no comment on the number of books.

Lectures – inadequate. 1 in 8 weeks and hostels being missed out.

Discussion groups – regular meetings of up to 70 at HQ. 1 small group at Whitwell.

Films – all sites included on the YMCA and Gaumont British film circuits. GB films charged 6d and this was considered excessive.

Wireless – adequate.

Camp magazine – fortnightly, “*of little re-educational value*.” Materials paid for from the Welfare Fund.

Press review – Twice weekly at HQ only, followed by discussion - popular.

Information room – not started.

Other activities –

Religion – two huts used for protestant and RC chapels. Services by visiting English clergymen. Monthly parade to English churches. Adequate provision at the hostels.

Education – small classes for French, German, mathematics, commercial subjects and agriculture at HQ. None recorded for the hostels.

Entertainment – excellent theatre and active theatre group. Good orchestra. Arrangements for interchanging concert parties had been set up between camps 41 (Ganger), 65 (Setley Plain), 251 (East Cams) and 402 (Lopcombe Corner) – as transport and weather conditions allowed.

**2-6 June 1947** – Progress report. Strength; 2 officers, 1224 OR.

No changes to senior personnel.

Simplified screening in place – A 22; B 1203; C 1. 12 further appeals had been made against their grading. 170 pows repatriated to date.

Comments on morale were repeated from the previous report. Mail had deteriorated, particularly from the Russian zone. Good political progress in general was noted.

Just over 300 youth pows were not seen as a problem. A weekly Youth Discussion Group had been set up with 80 attending.

The standard list of re-education activities was given with slight improvements – a very good library with books supplied by COGA – lectures regular – an information room had been set up and showed display materials sent by COGA.

Religion – A protestant pastor had arrived 6 weeks earlier from Camp 1003; Fw Adolf Waertz (A), aged 41, married, from the French zone. “*A sincere man with a pleasing personality and is already highly respected in the camp.*”

Education – most classes had ceased during the summer. French and German continued.

Entertainment – A large variety show had been given in HQ, attended by pows from the hostels and local civilians, it attracted good press reviews. Amenities for sport and recreation were generally good. Arrangements had been made for regular sea bathing at all sites.

**21 August and 2-6 September 1947** – Progress report. Strength; 2 officers, 1066 OR.

No change to senior personnel.

The Study leader, Fritz Becker, despite previously being described as uninspiring, was recorded as having done excellent work. Together with the Political leader (Wetzel), they were both upgrade to (A) and had recently been repatriated.

Simplified screening given; A 8, B 1060.

Morale was recorded as ‘*generally high*.’ Further relaxions in regulations made the camp feel less oppressive. Good political progress had been made.

Re-education activities similar to the last report – changes: 1300 books in the library – discussion groups held at all sites – exhibitions sent by COGA had been suspended until later.

Religion – protestant and RC padres from Camp 41 visited fortnightly.

Entertainment – another well praised concert was given at HQ with several hundred civilians invited – it was to be played at 2 other venues. There was an excellent sports ground – a sports festival was to be held with 25 men from each hostel.

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| **10/13 November 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 916. 38 pupils in 4 classes at all sites  **14 November 1947** - Camp number included in an ‘Urgent Memorandum’ (FO 939/270) regarding inspection of food parcels.  **Christmas 1947 –** 20% of pows received leave of absence passes for 48 hours to join local families, a further 20% obtained late passes.  **30 December 1947 – 1 January 1948** – Re-education survey. Strength; 2 officers, 808 OR.  Commandant: Maj Utley Camp Leader: Fw Pilniok (was deputy).  Interpreter: S/Sgt Roitman Deputy C/L: Ofw Schulz (was hostel leader)  German M.O.: A/Arzt Dr Drescher  Screening figures – “*All B.”*  Morale recorded as ‘*very high*,’ mainly due to; 1. Sport, recreation and re-education, 2. Friendly relations with civilians, 3. Faster repatriation. The future downgrading of the camp to be a satellite in February was not regarded as good news. |  |
| From the 3d animation \* |

Outside contacts – at first the local population had been, “*anything but amicably disposed”* – good relationships had developed since then. Pow concerts had been held at HQ, Lymington and Newport. The orchestra would finish with the British national anthem, which was appreciated.

Hospitality had been offered by religious bodies, Toc H and the Rotary Club. The Further Education Society on the Isle of Wight provided free evening classes on a range of subjects, and free transport for pows from Hamstead to enable them to participate. Several pows attended the special training courses at Wilton Park and the youth training centre.

Re-education activities continued as before, with one minor change – Travelling Films Ltd had replaced Gaumont British. Education classes had been discontinued doe to repatriations.

**February 1948** – the camp became a satellite of Southampton Camp 41. (+Hamstead, Osborne and Whitwell hostels).

Known Camp Commandants:

c.1945 – 1948 Major E G Utley, transferred to be Commandant at Southampton when Setley Plain became its satellite. Previously 2nd i/c at Le Marchant Camp 23.

**After the camp:** New Forest Rural District Council used the site until the early 1950’s for emergency housing, in particular for the families of servicemen who had been housed in Nissen huts at Beaulieu aerodrome. Reverted to Setley Plain land.

Ludwig Műller, known as Max, the camp leader, settled in Brockenhurst. He possessed a large photo album with photographs, artwork and poems from the camp. He also had a small photo album, four wood carvings that had been at the entrance to the camp, a collection of camp newspapers and a script for a play. See website\*

The site as it is now - <https://repatriatedlandscape.org/england/pow-sites-in-the-south-east/pow-camp-65-setley-plain/>

**Further information:**

National Archives – FO 939/146 – 65 Working camp, Setley Plain Camp, Brockenhurst, Hampshire. Dated 1945-1946. Used above

**Camp and hostels + number of pows where known:**

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|  | Not open |  | Unknown |  | Open |  | With another camp |

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| HQ |  |  | 670 cap | ? - Italian | ? - Italian | 450 | 537 | 610 | 568 | 589 (1) | 548 (1) | 448 | 478 |
| Havenstreet |  |  | Italians  350 cap |  |  |  | 72 | 72 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Godshill |  |  |  |  | 70 | 67 | 58 | 54 | 50 |  |  |  |
| Newport |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shalfleet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Whitwell |  |  |  |  | 60 | 58 | 51 | 54 | 54 | 72 | 51 | 32 |
| Hamstead |  |  | Germans  200 cap | 197 G | 280 G | 250 | 281 | 249 | 223 | 245 | 206 | 158 | 164 |
| Osborne |  |  | 50 G | 99 G | 100 | 86 | 76 | 116 | 135 | 106 | 104 | 85 |
| ‘17a’ / Beatrice Ave |  |  |  | 50 G | 45 G | 50 | 39 | 50 | 46 |  |  |  |  |
| Newclose |  |  |  |  |  | 80 | 81 | 75 | 75 | 79 | 70 | 58 |  |
| Fort Warden |  |  |  |  | With C 675 | | | | | 74 | 66 | 34 |  |
| Billets |  |  |  |  |  | 17 | 11 | 30 | 36 |  |  | 63 | 51 |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  | 1050 | 1234 | 1246 | 1172 | 1226 | 1068 | 916 | 810 |

(1) Including billetees. HQ, Hamstead, Osborne and Whitwell with C41 from February 1948

**Hostels**

**Beatrice Avenue / ‘Hostel 17a.’** Road to the S of East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

The October 1945 report referred to “*Hostel 17a*” – I believe this is the same place referred to as “*Beatrice Avenue*” in later reports. 17a might refer to one of the houses in Beatrice Avenue???

Extract from camp magazine – “*The hostel is a camp with 50 men, situated at the Southern edge of the town East Cowes with wonderful views over West and East Cowes and the sea. Apart from the round tents, the camp also boasts a barrack for dining and reading*.”

**10/1945** – tented with large dining tent and a recreation tent. About 1 mile from Osborne Hostel. Some pows were learning English, but conditions were unsuitable with oil storm lamps.

**3/1946** – Hostel leader; O/Fahn Ernst Schulz (B+), aged 41, “*unimpressive type*… *Not too well liked by the Commandant” –* However, the visitor regarded him as being adequate.

**4/1946** – One “*gloomy*” pow was teaching English. Site still tented and no electric supply. A Nissen hut was on site for small classes. A blackboard had been made from a sheet of three-ply wood and chalk was dug up from the ground to be used - the visitor arranged for a supply of chalk to be sent from the HQ.

**1/1947** – same leader.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| ‘17a’ / Beatrice Ave |  |  |  | 50 G | 45 G | 50 | 39 | 50 | 46 |  |  |  |  |

**Fort Warden.** General area, SZ 325 877.

I have seen references to an Italian pow camp based here in 1941 – I believe that date is too early.

Memories – “*There were German prisoners of war at Fort Warden and Brambles and they rode bicycles out to work in the local market gardens. They had orange diamonds on their backs to identify them. There were also Italian prisoners of war at Fort Victoria. A lot of the locals resented the fact that they had so much freedom while the war was still on and they also got the front three rows at the cinema. Some of them married local girls.”*

<https://www.iwhistory.org.uk/HeritageStatements/Golden%20Hill%20Country%20Park%20Social%20History%20Report%20Volume%201.pdf>

**6/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Kurt Rudolf Boerner (B), aged 35, married, from the American zone. Had been a member of the Nazi Party. *“An intelligent and co-operative hostel leader.”*

Morale was recorded as low. The hostel had been attached to Hiltingbury Road Camp 675. “*They appear to have been somewhat neglected and are resentful. In addition, their work is unusually arduous and trying*.”

**9/1947** – same leader.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Fort Warden |  |  |  |  | With C 675 | | | | | 74 | 66 | 34 |  |

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| **Godshill.** Described as a building / house, rather than huts – believed to have been Godshill Park – SZ 535 813.  **1945** – listed as a hostel for Italian pows  **10/1945 – 6/1946** – Not listed in the reports about German pows – probably a hostel with Italians.  **6/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Singer (B+) – “*a shifty character who should be replaced*.”  **1/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Waldemar Stiller (C), aged 37, married from Berlin Russian sector. A waiter. “*An obsequious and silly little man, neither trustworthy nor very efficient.”* Unpolitical, appealing against his screening grade. It was recommended that he be replaced.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 | | Godshill |  |  | Italians |  |  | 70 | 67 | 58 | 54 | 50 |  |  |  | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1962 |

**Hamstead** (often spelled Hampstead), Isle of Wight. Huts.

**10/1945** – Lack of books, but some pows learning English. The canteen (30 feet x 21 feet) with 8 benches and 4 tables was used as a class room – some lessons also given in the dining hut. Electricity was supplied by a small 320V motor.

**3/1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Werner Meyer (C), aged 34. *“Intelligent, a strict disciplinarian*.” Had been a member of the NSDK (Nazi Flyers Corps) but stated this was only for 4 weeks. A factory owner in civil life. The S/Sgt i/c at this hostel did not approve of him and thought he was unfair to the other pows. The visitor recommended that the leader be replaced by the deputy – this was carried out.

Deputy leader; O/Fahn Rudolf Schneider (B+), aged 36, ex-teacher, spoke English. He had joined the Nazi Party to ensure his continued employment as a teacher.

**4/1946** – 4 pows acting as teachers of English. Other classes included French, shorthand, electricity…. There was a radio in the dining hall.

**6/1946** – same leader, Rudolf Schneider. More organised than other sites – with a library, press reviews, discussion groups and language classes.

**1/1948** – same leader.

**2/1948** - Transferred to administration of Camp 41.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Hamstead |  |  | Germans | 197 G | 280 G | 250 | 281 | 249 | 223 | 245 | 206 | 158 | 164 |

“*Although mostly destroyed, elements of the prisoner of war camp at Lower Hamstead survive in the form of gun emplacements on the south side of the road and further remains may survive but the site is heavily overgrown*.” <https://www.iwhistory.org.uk/resourceassessment/MilitaryHeapTypeReport.pdf>

*“Little is known or recorded regarding the one* [pow camp] *that existed at Hamstead Quay, Cranmore. Searching the undergrowth however reveals evidence of building structures situated within the area of the camps existence.”* <https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/19596912.discovering-isle-wights-little-known-war-relics/>

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| **Havenstreet.** Described as a house, rather than huts. Holmdale House. SZ 560 903.  **1943 / 1945 –** recorded as a hostel for Italian pows.  Gap in listing may be due to the site continuing to hold Italians – these were ignored in COGA reports.  **8/1946** – Hostel leader; O.Fw Kubiessa – “*a suitable type*.” Good accommodation, no books, but did hold press reviews and musical evenings.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 | | Havenstreet |  |  | Italians |  |  |  | 72 | 72 |  |  |  |  |  |   Picture -<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holmdale_House,_Havenstreet_-_geograph.org.uk_-_2936563.jpg> |  |

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| **Newclose / New Close**, Newport. I believe this was the same site as ‘Newport’ below, but have no direct evidence other than location near to Newport and time of existence. SZ 498 873.  Extract from camp magazine – “*A hostel which houses 80 men, is situated in deep isolation south of Newport. From the well-known mirror\* a path leads to the hostel which snuggles its back to the hill as if looking for shelter. Plants flourish abundantly in the small hostel garden. Exotic trees with wonderful blossoms surround it and even now display a markedly summery appearance.” \**meaning of mirror unknown – I wonder if it was a road mirror on the bend into the path?  **6/1946** – Hostel leader; O.Fw Rickert (A) – “*makes a good impression*.” A fairly new site. No re-education activities other than a press review.  **1/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Steiniger (C), aged 39, married from the Russian zone. A master builder. Joined the Nazi party in 1939. Unpolitical, appealing against his screening grade.  **6/1947** – same leader. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1962 |

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Schulz (B+), previously leader at Beatrice Avenue.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Newclose |  |  |  |  |  | 80 | 81 | 75 | 75 | 79 | 70 | 58 |  |

**Newport.** Probably same site as ‘Newclose’ above, with gap created in records from 1945 to mid 1946 as COGA did not count Italians.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Newport |  |  | Italian |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Osborne House,** Isle of Wight

**10/1945** – tented / one hut in which the pows gathered each night to play games and listen to the wireless.

**3/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Karl Schwantes (A), aged 47, “*The only real personality at this hostel. Quite suitable…”* however, “*inclined to be garrulous*.” He had been an official in the SPD.

**4/1946** – The pow acting as teacher and interpreter was described as not very good in either capacity. Hostel was still tented with the hut being used for English classes. No electric light at the site.

**6/1946** – same leader.

**1/1947** – Hostel leader; St/Fw Oskar Kubiessa (B), had been leader at Havenstreet. Aged 42, married, from Russian zone. Professional soldier, then inspector of taxes. “*Unpolitical but co-operative*.”

**1/1948** – same leader.

**2/1948** - Transferred to administration of Camp 41.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Osborne |  |  | Germans | 50 G | 99 G | 100 | 86 | 76 | 116 | 135 | 106 | 104 | 85 |

**Shalfleet**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Shalfleet |  |  | Italian |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Whitwell** (described as a building / house, rather than huts).

Extract from camp magazine – “*True, we are one of the smallest hostels on the Isle of Wight, but we are in a beautiful location and housed in an old fashioned, castle like mansion which is surrounded by a respectable fruit and vegetable garden. Such a spacious house and such a beautiful garden need a lot of maintenance which can only be done in our spare time.*”

**1945** – listed as a hostel for Italian pows.

**6/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Ernst Riedel (B) – “*seems to be very well suited to his job.”*

**1/1947** – same leader, aged 26, unmarried, Sudetan German, a clerk. “*Intelligent and co-operative.”* He was later dismissed from his post, but no reasons given.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Steiniger (B) – previously leader at Newclose.

**1/1948** – same leader.

**2/1948** - Transferred to administration of Camp 41.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 1945 | 10/1945 | 3/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Whitwell |  |  | Italians |  |  | 60 | 58 | 51 | 54 | 54 | 72 | 51 | 32 |