**Camp 73** **- Storwood Camp, Cottingwith, Yorkshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 73. Storwood Camp, Melbourne, York.

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp List** |
| 73(G.W.C.) | Storwood Camp, Melbourne, York. | N. | Priswar, Melbourne, York | Melbourne 209 | York | Lt.Col.M.G.Beckett | 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 |
| SE 720 443\* | 106 | 73 | Storwood Camp, Storwood, Cottingwith | Yorkshire | 2 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** The NGR above should be SE 720 433. The site can be seen on the map. It is about 15 km SE of York.**Before the camp:** Farmland**Pow Camp:** Standard layout – with a main pow compound and guards’ / administration huts at the ‘front’ by the road. The camp was built by Italian pows. Held Italian pows to 1945/6.**1943** – Hostels listed for Italian pows: South Cave, East Riding / Nafferton / Arnold / Beverley / Neswick.**May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Northern Command area, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were recorded as co-operators.*“Some of the Italians were accomplished artists. Look out for the statuesque fountain that they built on site. On the road from Cottingwith to Storwood is a field with a circular brick building. This was a sewerage works for the camp, the first mains sewerage system in the Parish!”*[www.eastcottingwith.org.uk/history.aspx](http://www.eastcottingwith.org.uk/history.aspx)From; ‘A History of the World’: Spitfire sculpture …The sculpture belongs to Will Davis from York and he was given it during the Second World War, when he was just a boy. It was made by an  |  |
| Ordnance survey 1958 |

Italian prisoner of war, Giovanni Cassaro whilst he was interred at Storwood with the inscription; “*Ricordo* [souvenir] *Cassaro Giovanni Italia*.’ The sculpture was made from metal salvaged from a crashed Wellington bomber. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/m-OWz3-2TwiI4XhyOny63Q>

A decorated chapel was built by the Italians in one of the huts.

**April 1945** – German pows recorded. There were still some Italians in separate hostels. The camp was receiving visits from a protestant padre, Peter Heinemann from Sandbeds Camp 53 – he was described in reports as a “*loud mouthed man*” and it was requested that he did not return again – he was later removed from Camp 53.

|  |
| --- |
| 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. |

**4/5 August 1945** – English Inspector’s report.

Commandant: Lt Col Bromley.

The visit coincided on the first day with a football match followed by a camp concert so the inspector only met 40 pows, (150 the next day). He interviewed and assessed the English teachers and gave short talks. He requested that £10 worth of books / texts be sent.

**15 September 1945** - Hostels listed for pows from this camp on, (WO 32/10737): Everingham, York. (Italians not included).

**27/28 November 1945** - English Inspector’s report. Very brief.

Camp commandant: Lt Col Hanbury. Mention of a hostel at Bubwith.

**End 1945** – the camp officially changed from an Italian to a German camp. The remaining Italian pows were held in hostels until repatriation.

**24/25/26 April 1946** – English Inspector’s report. Main + 3 hostels listed – Grimston / Strensall / Wheldrake – hostels with Italian pows were ignored.

Same Commandant. He refused to let the English teachers take time off work to prepare for lessons.

2nd i/c: Major Fry. Was considered “*at heart, against welfare work for Germans*” – I think that the visitor meant he was opposed to re-education work.

Some of the pows had arrived from camps in the USA. It does not state this, but usually these pows had low morale as they had been misinformed in the US that they were being returned to Germany.

Brief notes – many pows transferring in and out of the camp – a piano had been bought from welfare funds, (money raised through sales in the canteen).

**7/8 May 1946** – Visit to; 1. Review and re-organise re-education, 2. “*Interview selected priorities*.” Strength - 1 officer (the M.O.); 1505 Other Ranks in main, 5 hostels and billets.

Commandant: Lt Col R H O Hanbury, M.C. Camp leader: U/Fw Karl Grebe (B)

Interpreter: Capt A G Bentley Deputy C/L: Fw Artur Kaiser (B)

 S/Sgt D E Jones German M.O.: Ob.Arzt Wolf Hegelmaier (B)

The Commandant was absent so the visitor was received by the Adjutant, Capt BBE Stroud, “*whose attitude was strongly hostile. The general atmosphere was one of complete indifference to re-education*.”

Commandants were not required to promote re-education, which was developed by the Foreign Office – the camps were under the control of the War Office. The purpose of the camps was to hold pows and to set them to work when possible. Many Commandants preferred to concern themselves with welfare and other activities rather than re-education – though some did not do that either. If the camp was working and kept under control, that was sufficient as far as many Commandants (and the War Office) were concerned. In this camp a heavy emphasis was placed on entertainment, rather than re-education.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A+ | A | A- | A/B | B+ | B | B- | C | Unscreened |
|  | 2 | 21 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 540 | 5 | 477 | 445 |

Very high number of C category (Nazi) pows; 32%. It was noted that many pows had arrived from camps in Canada (as well as the USA) – these were often category C having been captured earlier in the war. This number of C grades would fall rapidly after re-screening. 85 pows had been repatriated since 1 January 1946.

The IO was in hospital and only knew Italian. The S/Sgt had been at the camp for 2 months, but had little idea of what his work entailed.

Morale was regarded as ‘low.’ This was in part due to a high turnover of pows being transferred in and out of the camp. Lack of interest was also cited as a factor. Mail was poor from the French, Russian, American and Polish zones which increased anxieties.

Approximately 400 pows were ‘youth’ (under-25). They were not seen as a problem and no special provision had been made for them.

Re-education activities had not been developed due to lack of enthusiasm by British staff and German personnel in the camp. The standard list was given:

Wochenpost / Ausblick – 300 / 95 copies received.

Newspapers – Only copies of the Express, Herald and News Chronicle + Times Weekly and Manchester Guardian weekly. No German press received.

Library – 684 books, some circulated to the hostels.

Discussion groups / Camp magazine / Information room – none.

Films – YMCA and PID films were well received.

Wireless – adequate and kept in the Camp Leader’s office. 6 extension loudspeakers located in; 2 dining rooms, canteen, sick bay, M.O.’s room and Hut 16. (No reason given why Hut 16).

English Instruction – 16 hours of lessons per week for 100 pows of various grades. Excellent teachers.

[Lectures - should have been recorded but were omitted].

Other activities –

Religion – 2/3 protestant 1/3 RC. Protestant padre, Gefr Ulrich Bohmer had a Sunday congregation of about 70. RC Joseph Jungbauer came from Naburn Pow hospital 162 each Friday / Saturday for a congregation of about 120. The padres tried to visit at least one hostel per week as transport allowed.

Education – classes for Spanish, mathematics, German literature and shorthand.

Theatre Group – very active with 13 members. 15 performances given since January. Excellent stage, beautifully painted scenery, with spot-lights, footlights and a terraced auditorium.

Orchestra – first rate with 12 members – 3 violins, piano, 2 clarinets, 2 saxophones, trumpet, drums, guitar and accordion. Frequent performances. A lot of the music was copied out by hand.

Choir – very active with 40 members giving 2 performances per week.

The second purpose of the visit – ‘*Interview selected priorities’* – was not referred to in the main report, separate appendices were issued which are not in the NA file. I think it refers to selecting pows who would get early repatriation for work identified as important in Germany – e.g. miners who are mentioned in the December 1946 report.

**29/31 July 1946** – English Inspector’s Report on 1 satellite camp and 2 hostels. See North Cave below.

**12/15 November 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 2656 in main, 12 hostels and billets. 55 pupils in 5 classes.

Commandant: Lt Col M G Beckett Lagersprecher: Graeber. (The same as ‘Grebe’ in last report – also recorded as Greber).

2nd i/c: Maj H C Fry

Additional books and texts were again requested.

**10 December 1946** – Re-education report. Strength; 2 officers, 2348 OR in main + 11 hostels and billets.

Only change to senior personnel - Interpreter: S/Sgt H Herman RAOC, he was stated to be supportive of re-education.

The Camp leader, U/Fw Karl Grebe had ben upgraded to ‘A.’ “*A genuine Anti-Nazi, who took active participation against the Party*.”

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unscreened |
|  | 21 | 164 | 1331 | 338 | 410 | 5 | 81 |

The pows were unaware of their political grades and release groups (the order pows were to be repatriated), as the Commandant in this camp had not yet received instructions to inform them.

The pows considered the Commandant to be fair, and they showed trust in the S/Sgt Interpreter. Sport and entertainment were still the main activities, rather than promoting re-education. The pows stated that it was unfair for some to be given early repatriation by volunteering for essential work such as mining.

There were few changes to the standard list of re-education activities:

Newspapers – 7 / 8 German papers were being received as well as British papers.

Lectures – were occurring and were generally popular.

Information room and Camp magazine – both started. There was a shortage of paper and stencils which were requested.

Other activities.

Religion – the previous protestant padre had been replaced by A Tadge (B+), however the Commandant and visitor wanted him to be replaced – “*he has no heart in his work, and is only concerned in getting home.*”

Education – there were classes for English, French, Spanish, Maths, Shorthand and ‘Electrical’.

**20/22 April 1947** – Survey of re-education. Strength; 2 officers, 1995 OR in main + 9 hostels and billets.

There was a new Camp Leader; Fw Willi Langer.

Simplified screening was used – A 81 / B 1914 / C+ 2. The large number of C grade pows previously recorded had mostly been upgraded, or moved to other camps if they were hard-core Nazis. There were 7 appeals against grades which is a very low number in comparison to most camps. The better the grade, the sooner repatriated in theory. 654 pows had been repatriated to date.

As in most camps, the British staff in general were not interested in re-education. The active Interpreter, S/Sgt Herman was due to be demobilised and the visitor was concerned about what would happen to re-education.

Morale was considered to be good, particularly in the main camp. Re-education activities were being developed by the pows. There had been an attempt to start a ‘camp parliament,’ but the commandant had stopped this as it appeared to undermine the authority of the camp leader. (A pretty poor example of democracy not working, and a single leader having control?).

The standard list of re-education activities;

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – 12 daily British papers – no mention of German papers – PID had neglected to send any Swiss papers.

Library – 900 books, but many of little interest and more German books were again requested. As those in billets were unable to attend the camp cinema and other activities, they were given preference in the library. 5 books of light literature were issued to each hut of 50 pows.

Lectures – every 2 to 3 weeks with large attendances.

Discussion groups – a small group met weekly, larger meetings were fortnightly. There were groups in all the hostels. Request for PID to send more materials for discussions.

Films – adequate in main camp – some were also able to attend shows given in the British lines. Gaumont British also visited main camp, but only some of the hostels.

Wireless – adequate.

Camp magazine – ‘*Storwood Stimme’* – [Storwood Voice]. Very popular. The editor, Werner Pauli, illustrated the magazine with excellent lino-cuts in several colours and built his own printing press. Paper was sufficient, but stencils in urgent need.

Information room – Exhibition materials were received from PWD/COGA and circulated to the hostels. The Yorkshire Post sent a number of photos each week for exhibition.

Other camp activities –

Religion – “*There is a remarkable church in the Main Camp, beautifully decorated partly by Pauli, partly by the Italians, who had built the camp*.” A new protestant padre, San.Gefr Martin Benzing, and attendance at services had risen. RC pows received services by pow chaplain Annas from Naburn Military Hospital Camp 162.

Education classes had decreased to English, French and shorthand.

Entertainment – 2 theatre groups in the Main camp – 1 for light and 1 for ‘serious’ plays. An orchestra. “*Ample facilities for sport.”*

**17-20 May 1947** - Paul Bondy, a German-speaking refugee gave lectures at the main camp and 6 hostels. He recorded a camp complement of 1,997. In his report he stated that previous details of good morale and “*steady political progress”* at the camp were incorrect; he found the camp to have an unbalanced morale based mainly on reports they had received of conditions back in Germany.

**7 – 11 October 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 2 officers, 1701 OR at main + 8 hostels and billets.

Commandant: Lt Col M G Beckett Camp leader: Hfw Willi Langer (B)

Interpreter: S.Sgt Benton Deputy C/L: Fw Kaiser (B)

 German M.O.: Oberarzt. Dr Hegelmaier (B) and Ass.Arzt Dr Hahn.

The visitor stated that the Commandant “*appears to be somewhat negative towards re-education. His main concern seems to be good labour output and the smooth running of the camp. He maintains a strictly military attitude.”* It was noted that even the weekly conference with hostel leaders was held in “*strictly military character*.”

The new interpreter was showing some interest in re-education.

Simplified screening used: - A 4 / B+ 186 / B 1262 / B- 251. 1428 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was recorded as reasonably good mainly due to efficiency in the camp and the increased speed of repatriation. Few pows held on to Nazi attitudes.

Newspapers – adequate at main camp, but not at the hostels. Weekly editions of Hansard were received – “*only read by a small number of Ps/W*” (hardly surprising).

Library – not enough books to go round. Many books worn out.

Lectures – none for a few months.

Discussion groups – started a week earlier by Dr Hahn.

Films – fortnightly by YMCA and ‘Travelling Films.’ A private company also visited the British troops and a small group of pows were able to attend.

Wireless – Adequate. German stations could be received.

Camp Magazine – “*beautifully set up and designed”* – but few contributors of articles. No longer censored by the British staff.

Press review – None

Information room – An exhibition about Russia was being shown.

Other camp activities – appeared to be winding down as many participants were repatriated.

Religion – only 8% of pows attended services.

Education – classes for maths and French.

Outside contacts – the camp was remote and so there were no formal contacts established. Some pows had informal links with local families.

**14/17 October 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. 128 pupils in 11 classes at main and hostels.

**14 November 1947** - Camp number included in an ‘Urgent Memorandum’ (FO 939/270) regarding inspection of food parcels.

**26-30 November and 2-5 December** **1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1528 OR at main + 8 hostels and billets.

Only change to senior personnel; Dr Hahn was attending a course at the special training centre. The Camp leader was soon to be repatriated and it was suggested that the leader at Riccall hostel should take over.

Strict military discipline continued, commented on by the visitor; “*seems to conflict with the desired principles of freedom and good citizenship*.”

Simplified screening: A 2 / B+ 140 / B 1159 / B- 228. 1624 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was recorded as having deteriorated owing to lack of work, strict discipline, lack of local contacts, and news from Germany. It was stated that the civil population were ‘aloof.’

There was little difference in re-education activities since the last report. Some lectures had taken place.

The theatre and orchestra continued to give performances.

There are no further reports in the National Archive file. It is believed that the camp was closed in early 1948.

Known Camp Commandants:

1945 Lt Col L Bromley, from the Royal Pioneer Corps. Moved in 1945 to Camp 94, Gaulby Road, Billesdon, Leicester

1945 Lt Col R H O Hanbury, M.C. from the Royal Armoured Corps. Later Commandant at Eden Camp 83.

1946 Lt Col M G Beckett, from the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

**After the camp:** The site is clearly seen in aerial photos. The main compound area is now used for storing cars.

**Further information:**

National Archives FO 939/153 – 73 Working Camp, Storwood Camp, Melbourne, Yorkshire. Dated 1945-1947 – used above.

Church Register of the Evangelical congregation at camp 73, Storwood Camp, Melbourne, Yorks, 1947 –

 <https://www.thcatalogue.org.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=W%2FSGG%2FA%2F5%2F5%2F17>

Picture of a wooden tray made by a pow at Storwood - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pocklingtondistrictheritage/posts/3077509135831827/>

**Numbers of pows**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Open |  |  | With other camps |  |  | Unknown |  |  | Not listed / not open |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 (2) | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Main |  |  |  | 915 (1) |  | 958 | 932 (1) | 686 | 705 | 540 |
| Arnold |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beverley |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nafferton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Neswick |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| South Cave E R |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| South Cave Castle |  |  |  |  | (260) | 143 |  |  | 52 | 47 |
| South Cave No.1 |  |  |  |  | (92) | 86 | 87 | 76 |  |  |
| Everingham (1 and 2) |  |  |  |  |  | 61 / 61 | 55 / 63 | 144 | 63 | 55 |
| Bubwith |  |  |  |  |  | 81 | 78 |  |  |  |
| Grimston House |  |  |  | 149 |  | 152 | 148 | 156 | 70 | 63 |
| Strensall House |  |  |  | 77 |  | 64 | With C108 |  |  |  |
| Wheldrake House |  |  |  | 175 |  | 145 | 137 | 119 | 138 | 142 |
| Melbourne |  |  |  | 140 |  | 306 | 302 | 247 | 199 | 239 |
| Barlby |  |  |  | 50 |  | 38 | 37 | 49 | 31 | 30 |
| North Cave Sat |  |  |  |  | (100) | 108 | 120 | 68 |  |  |
| Bellasize |  |  |  |  | (272) | 204 | 198 | 155 | 173 | 157 |
| Riccall |  |  |  |  | With C53 | 250 | 193 | 217 | 150 | 147 |
| Billetees |  |  |  | ? | (44) | 109 | ? | 80 | 122 | 109 |
| TOTALS | ? | ? | ? | 1506 | - | 2656 | 2350 | 1997 | 1703 | 1529 |

(1) Including billetees. (2) From report on satellite camp and 3 hostels ONLY

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Satellite - North Cave Camp**, Station Road, North Cave. Tel: North Cave 324.

The July 1946 report stated that this was “*ex C.244*”. In lists C244 is Butterwick and Butcher Hill, in Yorkshire. So, was this another 244, or a hostel of the 2 that are known? There was also Camp 264 (cf 136a) at Welton, just 5 miles from North Cave. Bellasize was one of its hostels – Bellasize was later recorded as a hostel for Storwood. POW Lettersheet -1947 >

**29/31 July 1946** – English Inspector’s report on this satellite camp and 3 hostels. Strength 724 in satellite, 3 hostels and billets. 15 pupils in 3 classes in satellite.

Commandant: Capt N Graham, MC. Lagersprecher (camp leader): A Gruber

No electric supply, using Tilley lamps for lighting.

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Heinrich Ammann (became leader at Everingham). Note listed as a hostel rather than a satellite.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| North Cave Sat |  |  |  |  | (100) | 108 | 120 | 68 |  |  |

**Hostels**

**Arnold.** [Possible site at back of Bay Horse Pub – not confirmed].

**1943** – listed as a hostel for Italian pows.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Arnold |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Barlby** (Huts) (Some people put the location as ‘*behind Barlby Bridge Primary School’* – but this is in Selby).

Probably linked to a different main camp before these entries.

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Michael Zeindl (B)

**10/1947** – same leader. Recorded as still using paraffin lamps.

**12/1947** - same

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Barlby |  |  |  | 50 |  | 38 | 37 | 49 | 31 | 30 |

**Bellasize (Howden)** (Huts)

Previously listed with Welton House Camp 136a/244. Bellasize farm is at NGR SE 826 278

Probably linked to a different main camp before these entries

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Rudolf Lossie

**10/1947** – same leader. Low morale was recorded due to the “*strict military attitude of the British S/Sgt in charge*.” This was brought to the attention of the Commandant who promised to improve matters. Recorded as still using paraffin lamps.

**12/1947** – same leader. Morale had increased with a less strict regime.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Bellasize |  |  |  |  | (272) | 204 | 198 | 155 | 173 | 157 |

**Beverley**

Beverley memories – “*There were two prisoner of war camps, one was just through the Westwood gates as you go to Walkington, but the big camp was where the agricultural college is at Bishop Burton.”* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/73/a7832973.shtml> The main Beverley Camp was Number 136.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Beverley |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Bubwith**

*“Bubwith Hostel was built in 1941. It was used initially to accommodate prisoners of war and was subsequently used by the Women's Land Army. Later, and until 31 March 1951, it became one of the nationwide group of hostels jointly controlled by County Executive Agricultural Committees and the National Association for Mental Health.”*

I am fairly certain the second sentence should be reversed; WLA, then pow camp. <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/163961be-d31f-33f8-923c-573b922b80d3>

May have held Italian pows in the gap between 1945 / 7/1946 – these were ignored in reports.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Bubwith |  |  |  |  |  | 81 | 78 |  |  |  |

**Everingham, York** (Huts)

Memories - “*Nissan huts were then built in the field next to my house* [Park View] *leading to the Hall and the soldiers moved there from their tents. Italian prisoners of war were the next occupants of the huts followed by Germans POWs. Heinz Groneick, who was the interpreter for the Germans, became friends with my family and visited us twice in the 1970/80s staying with Millers in York, former Everingham residents. Heinz told us how well the German prisoners were looked after, no rationing of food, electricity and hot showers once a week in one of the stables in the Hall. I remember that they had electricity in their nissen huts while our house didn’t get it until 1950.”*

<https://www.everingham.org.uk/history/villagers-memories>

May have held Italian pows in the gap between 1945 / 7/1946 – these were ignored in reports.

**11/1946** - recorded as Everingham 1 and 2 with 61 pows in each.

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Herbert Piontkowski. Only listed as a single camp from this time.

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Ammann (B+) (previously at North Cave).

**12/1947** - same

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Everingham (1 and 2) |  |  |  |  |  | 61 / 61 | 55 / 63 | 144 | 63 | 55 |

**Grimston House** (Described as a building, rather than huts).

**11/1946** – pows worked at a sugar beet factory in 3 shifts.

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Stabsfw Fritz Grewer

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Seufert (B+)

**12/1947** – same.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Grimston House |  |  |  | 149 |  | 152 | 148 | 156 | 70 | 63 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Melbourne** (Huts) NGR SE 766 439Probably linked to a different main camp before these entries.**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Sold. Kurt Fritzke**10/1947** – Hostel leader: Grossmann (B)**12/1947** – same leader. Due to close. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1958 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 (2) | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Melbourne |  |  |  | 140 |  | 306 | 302 | 247 | 199 | 239 |

**Nafferton**

**1943** – Listed as a hostel with Italian pows.

Brief memory – “*In a nearby village called Nafferton, there were German POW's living in huts. They were not bad people and were mixed with the locals once they had been acclimatised*.” This would indicate that the camp was administered by a different main camp after 1943.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Nafferton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Neswick** (Just e of Bainton).

**1943** – Listed as a hostel with Italian pows.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 (2) | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Neswick |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Riccall** (Huts)Previously with Sandbeds Camp 53. Memories place it where Chestnut Terrace is now – NGR SE 619 376.

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Ogefr Karl Baur

**12/1947** - same hostel leader (spelling Bauer). The hostel was due to close.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 (2) | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Riccall |  |  |  |  | With C53 | 250 | 193 | 217 | 150 | 147 |

**South Cave,** **East Riding** / **South Cave Castle** / **South Cave No.1 –** 2 hostels, hard to distinguish between them with 3 names used.

**1943** – listed as a hostel for Italian pows.

Location – “*one was behind the castle, the other was along Beverley Road in the fields alongside the path which runs up mount airey, there's a bridge over the stream there with the pow camp number on it.”*

Gordon Bulmer recalls encountering Italian POWs at South Cave as a teenager in 1941 (too early – possibly 1942/3):

*"...going down into South Cave in the woods there and then suddenly this man appeared and he was an Italian prisoner of war ... their camp was on the way down that hill into South Cave on the left-hand side. They had some Nissen huts, they were working on the lands of the farmers and he said "don't do that" this Italian, he said "come and have tea and a cake with us" and we went into this camp and all the chalk in the area they'd carved it into beautiful statues did the Italian prisoners and he said "sit down and he said the only thing is we can't buy anything in the shops because we only have prisoner of war money and we can only use that at sort of the NAAFI but we could use it if you could change one of my notes for one of your notes". So, I think we swapped a pound coin or something can't remember what it was a pound note I suppose it was in those days and he gave us this prisoner of war money for it."* <https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/museums-online/east-riding-at-war/>

**1946** memories of a pow – NOTE Before the hostels were attached to Storwood:

*“Containing about 10 huts, drying room and showers, a shop and a recreation room. First time I met a paper written in German called LAGERPOST. I was very interested in that paper. I guess it appeared once or twice a month with news from other PoW camps and [news of] what was going on in Germany and some more [stories].*

*The camp itself was peacefully situated alike a park with wonderful big old trees. In the very early morning blackbirds were singing, by the way a remarkable peacefully calmness. From the second of April I was ordered to work in HULL building streets in a certain place of the town where bungalows had been building at the same time roughly. I was planned to control a concrete-mixer. Sometimes cement bags had to be carried out of a tent protecting the cement in case of rain. That was a heavy job taking two of the bags at one time to the mixer. You had to bend over backwards all day long. Sometimes I thought I'd never hold out this hard work I just was not strong enough. Every morning the lorries took us from our camp into Hull, along the Anlaby Road, to the building site. I could see all the damage caused by German bombs in the city of Hull. There was no doubt about [it,] we had to help rebuilding certain places - there was nothing wrong about it [, the reason] we were put to work for my opinion.*

*About 25th of April we all were pleased to see an old German film called “Die Geierwalli” and another one at the 18th of May called “Mann mit Grundsutzen”, a very nice change for all of us. I was sorry to leave that camp at the 11th of June.”* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/06/a5972006.shtml>

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Stfw Rudolf Grossmann

**10/1947** – Site named as South Cave Castle (Described as a building, rather than huts). Hostel leader; Leistritz (B)

**12/1947** - same

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| South Cave E R |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| South Cave Castle |  |  |  |  | (260) | 143 |  |  | 52 | 47 |
| South Cave No.1 |  |  |  |  | (92) | 86 | 87 | 76 |  |  |

**Strensall House.** (Possibly at Strensall Hall – an Italian camp has also been reported at Strensall barracks, but not confirmed).

Probably administered by a different main camp before these entries.

**11/1946** – transferred to Thirkelby Camp 108

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Strensall House |  |  |  | 77 |  | 64 | With C108 |  |  |  |

**Wheldrake House** (Huts)

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Heinz Eckler

**12/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 4/1946 | 5/1946 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 4/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Wheldrake House |  |  |  | 175 |  | 145 | 137 | 119 | 138 | 142 |