**Camp 76** **- Merry Thought Camp, Aikbank Common, Calthwaite, Cumberland**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 76. Merry Thought Camp, Calthwaite, Penrith, Cumberland.

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| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 76(G.W.C.) | Merry Thought Camp, Calthwaite, Penrith, Cumberland | W. | Priswar, Penrith | Calthwaite 18 | Calthwaite | Lt.Col.T.O.C.Doherty | v/1453/2 |

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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 |
| NY 4861 4048 | 86 | 76 | Merry Thought Camp, Aikbank Common, Calthwaite | Cumberland | 2 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** About 10 km N of Penrith. Merry Thought House was alongside the camp, (shown on map).  **Before the camp:** Part of Aikbank Common.  **Pow Camp:** Listed as an Italian working camp / labour battalion to 1945, then a German working camp. The camp had a standard layout with main pow compound and guards’ huts and offices at the front alongside the road.  **1942** – believed to have opened for Italian pows.  **1943** – 4 Hostels listed for Italian pows, (see chart below).  **May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Western Command area, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were recorded as co-operators.  Memories – “*Quite early in the war, Merry Thought Prisoner of War Camp (Camp 76) was built at Calthwaite, about a mile and a half from our farm at Plumpton. During the six months that it took to build the camp, two of the soldiers doing so were billeted with us. One came from Tyneside, the other from Merseyside.*  *The first occupants of the camp were Italians, one of who, Carlo Agrimi, lived with us for two years. Carlo was a good worker. Occasionally, friends of his from the camp would visit the farm, the most notable of who was the camp tailor, Giuseppe Semminara, who we always knew as Joseph. Joseph made a wonderful Harris* |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1956 |

### MEMORIAL DETAILS

*Tweed coat for my Father and several skirts for Mother and me. After the war, he returned to Sicily but, in 1949, Joseph came back to England, to start a new tailoring business at Carlisle….*

*When the Italians were moved out of the Prisoner of War camp German prisoners moved in. Again, we had one billeted with us, to work on the farm. Unfortunately, I cannot remember his name but he, too, was a very good worker. He kept in touch when he returned to Germany and I remember him sending us a copy of his wedding photograph.”* (Story by Ella Thwaites (nee Richardson) contributed by newcastlecsv to ‘bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar' – 2005).

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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. |

**28 April 1946 -** German pows replaced the Italians in the main camp. Italians, awaiting repatriation, were located in hostels – they were completely ignored by PID.

**7-10 May 1946** – Dr R Koch from PID made his first visit to conduct a General Survey and Select Candidates for Beaconsfield, (the special training camp at Wilton Park). Strength – 1 officer; 1566 Other Ranks – at main + 5 hostels and billets.

Commandant: Lt Col Doherty Camp leader: O/Gefr Werner Schramm (B)

Interpreters: Capt Moran and S/Sgt Brooke Deputy C/L: St.O/Masch Joh Engelkes (B)

German M.O.: None.

The Commandant had been appointed a few months earlier. The only comment was that he “*co-operates*” – which generally meant he accepted re-education activities, but did not promote them. This attitude was displayed by most Commandants – and was not necessarily a bad thing if instead they promoted welfare, sport, entertainment, etc.

Interpreter Officer did not speak German, (was he an Italian speaker?). The S/Sgt Interpreter was not regarded as suitable and the commandant; “*dislikes and ignores him.”*

The Camp Leader had been a Nazi party member, however he was described as; “*anti-militaristic, has personality and should prove suitable.”* He had previously been held at a camp in the USA.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | Unscreened |
|  | 75 | 37 | 157 | 10 | 1 | 1287 |

15 candidates were suggested for Beaconsfield.

Morale overall was recorded as ‘*very low*.’ The main reasons were uncertainty over repatriation and news from home. Many of the pows had arrived from camps in the USA – they were described as ‘*very depressed’* as they had been misinformed in the States that they were being returned to Germany, instead they found themselves in British pow Working Camps. 75 pows were ex-SS and had been sent from camps in Belgium where conditions had been very poor. Most of these were young and had not been given a choice which unit they served in.

Extreme political views were not observed.

About 1/3 of the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25) – they were not regarded as a problem.

Re-education activities had barely started. The standard list was given:

Wochenpost / Ausblick – 100 / 40 copies received. More requested.

Newspapers – it was difficult to obtain a sufficient range of papers locally, so arrangements were being made for PID to buy papers in London and post them. They would be paid for from pow funds (monies raised from sales in the canteen). “*Few and irregular*” copies of German and Swiss papers were received.

Library – 220 books only – more requested.

Lectures – had recently started with mixed reception according to the quality of the speakers. The lecturers also visited the hostels if transport was available.

Discussion groups – only at Hethersgill hostel.

Films – just 1 YMCA film so far. None sent from PID.

Wireless – 3 sets in main camp with 4 loudspeakers for the hospital, dining-halls and canteen. One set was being sent to Brampton hostel.

Camp Magazine – not started. Paper needed from PID.

Press review – Published daily in main camp.

English Instruction – not started. (Very late).

Other camp activities –

Religion – RC priest, Heinrich Rick held weekly services and visited hostels once or twice monthly. No protestant padre.

Education – some classes just starting.

Theatre – a stage was available. Scripts requested.

Orchestra – no instruments had been sent by PID.

The report and the list of items still to be sent - including games, cards and chess sets – makes it clear that PID had neglected this camp.

Dr Koch was to visit the camp 9 times up to its closure in 1948 – no other inspector was sent by PID to give a different point of view.

**21 June 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 1550. 228 pupils in 20 classes at all sites.

The Inspector noted some “*passive resistance*” to re-education. Reason stated for lack of books etc was lack of camp funds. Major shortages of teaching books reported.

**15-20 August 1946** – Dr R Koch visited the camp to report on re-education. Strength; 5 officers; 2192 OR.

Only change to senior personnel - German M.O.: O/Arzt Dr Poser (B-). The Commandant was described more favourably as cooperating fully with re-education.

S/Sgt Brooke had “*improved by gaining experience*” – however he was to be discharged in October. As Captain Moran did not speak German, a replacement for the S/Sgt was needed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unscreened |
|  | 3 | 115 | - | 98 | 797 | 189 | 238 | 10 | 747 |

Morale was still regarded as ‘*very low*.’ Another 200 pows had arrived from USA in the last 3 months; they were regarded as a bad influence. A cut in cigarette rations increased pow bitterness. 6 of the 10 C+ pows were recommended for removal without delay.

The study leader, Fritz Hellwig was recommended to be removed. He was a university lecturer, “*whose intellectual superiority makes him a dominating figure.”* Dr Koch regarded him as untrustworthy, an opportunist and nationalist whose influence was undesirable. It was considered that if he was not continuously supervised, he “*might even become dangerous*.” These opinions were backed up by the Interpreter S/Sgt and other members of the camp staff. However, Fritz Hellwig was not removed from the camp, and though he was replaced as study leader by the next report, he remained as a teacher. A short time later he became Camp Leader – see February 1947!

Re-education activities had barely improved since the last visit. There were still shortages of newspapers and books.

Discussion groups – weekly, mainly concerning historical subjects, (Bismark, 1848, Weimar….).

Films – visits from YMCA and COGA films at the main camp and Brampton.

Wireless – all hostels had a set.

Camp magazine – started, but short of paper for future editions. “*Gluck Auf! Lagerzeitung der Kriegsgefangenen des lagers 76*“ (Good Luck! For prisoners at Camp 76).

Other camp activities –

Religion – RC priest Rick was still in place with c60 pows attending services.

A protestant padre had been found. Major v.Amsberg (B-). Only 25 pows attended his services. Dr Koch and the Commandant regarded him as unsuitable and wanted his removal – *“He is extremely stupid, has a long army career, starting shortly after the last war with service with an infamous unit (“Schwarze Reichswehr”). He will always remain a hopeless militarist*.”

Education – Classes for German, Russian, French, technical subjects, economics, and sign writing.

Theatre – a performing group of 25 pows. Scripts requested again.

Orchestra – 9 members. Instruments had newly arrived. A circle of 6 members also performed chamber music.

Information room – no exhibition materials had been sent by COGA.

**20-26 November 1946** – Dr Koch’s 3rd visit. Strength; 5 officers, 1755 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Doherty Camp leader: St.O/Masch Joh Engelkes (A) – was deputy and upgraded from (B)

Interpreters: None Deputy C/L: Uffz Winkler (B)

German M.O.: Dr Poser (B-)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Simplified screening in place: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 95 | 163 | 1052 | 222 | 228 |

Pows had recently been informed of their political gradings, and many were unhappy; the better the grading, the sooner the repatriation, in theory. 228 C+ pows was a very high number at this time in comparison to most other camps where re-grading had occurred.

**8/10 January 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1625. 96 pupils in 26 classes at all sites.

The new camp leader (Lagersprecher) was – Fritz Hellwig, the pow previously recommended to be removed.

**26-29 January and 2 February 1947** - Paul Bondy, a German-speaking refugee gave lectures at the main camp and 7 hostels. He recorded a main camp complement of 600, with 900 in the hostels.

**14-19 February 1947** – Dr Koch’s 4th visit. Strength; 5 officers, 1439 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Doherty Camp leader: Gefr Dr Hellwig (A)

Interpreters: None Deputy C/L: Gefr Villmer (A)

German M.O.: Dr Poser (B-), Dr Thyssen (B), Dr Kaatz (A)

The “*untrustworthy… opportunist… nationalist,*” Fritz Hellwig, became Camp Leader on 12 December 1946 and was upgraded to (A)! 34 years old, a lecturer at Heidelberg University and a teacher training college – still described as “*the dominating figure of this camp*”. His lectures were then described as being of the highest standard and his re-education activities justified his upgrading. Dr Koch gave a weak excuse for this complete change of opinion by stating that he, “*was misled by the hostile feelings of the former S/Sgt Interpreter and some white PsW whose motive was jealousy*.” Dr Hellwig was due to be repatriated.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Simplified screening in place: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 21 | 131 | 955 | 195 | 142 |

266 pows appealed against their political grades – 76 C-grades had been heard and ALL were allowed. This rate of success was reflected in most camps – and brings into question the screening process. 664 pows had been repatriated to date.

Morale was said to have improved mainly due to speedier repatriations. Other positive factors were “*the sympathetic attitude of the Commandant*,” extended educational activities, and discussions over affairs in the camp.

About 40% of the pows were youth – a special youth group had not been formed.

The standard list of re-education activities probably showed improvements – it is difficult to tell as Dr Koch simply stated “*Adequate*” for most aspects. The Information Room had received exhibition materials from COGA.

Religion – The protestant padre, Major v.Amsberg, previously regarded as; “*unsuitable*… *extremely stupid… a hopeless militarist*” – was still in place with the comment; “*Amsberg takes an active part in the educational life of the camp*.” This positive comment would be repeated in a later report.

Entertainment – a theatre group of 10 pows; 8 players in a chamber orchestra; a dance band performing monthly; 35 member choir also gave performances to local churches and were well praised in the local press.

The competence of Dr Koch must be questioned. He was responsible for many of the original political gradings, which were 100% successfully appealed against. He insulted and then completely reversed his judgements over Study Leader Fritz Hellwig and Padre Amsberg; and he was deceived by a S/Sgt and other pows.

**6-10 May 1947** – Visit number 5 for Dr Koch. Strength – 6 officers, 2100 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Doherty Camp leader: Ofw Gross (A)

Interpreters: Lt Stone, Sgt Fleming, Pt Lustig. Deputy C/L: Uffz Wick

Adjutant: Capt Maier German M.O.: Dr Poser (B-), Dr Wohl (A), Dr Kaatz (A)

Lt Stone was based at Moota – he was “*trusted by his PsW but he is without initiative and influence*.”

Sgt Feming – aged 21, was an ex glider pilot, and very popular with pows.

Pt Lustig was “*useless”* – the Commandant was trying to get him posted. Can Dr Koch’s judgement be trusted?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Simplified screening in place: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 174 | 325 | 1248 | 356 | 3 |

A further 34 appeals had been heard against political gradings – all but 1 was successful. 1276 pows repatriated to date, including Moota Camp.

Overall morale was ‘*fair*.’ Positive factors included; speedier repatriations, better weather, contact with civilians, links with Featherstone Camp 18, sympathetic treatment by British staff. Negative effects continued to be bad news from home and increased price of cigarettes. Politically, many pows were becoming sceptical and cynical.

Re-education activities continued to be mainly “*adequate*.”

Relaxation of fraternisation rules led to many pows developing good relationships with civilians. Only a few formal contacts had been established with visits to council meetings at Carlisle and Penrith, and to local libraries and museums.

Dr Koch believed that this was now a ‘*good*’ camp.

**9/12 July 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 2000. No classes at the main camp due to lack of teachers. 70 pupils in 14 classes at other sites. This fall in numbers was common to most camps.

Uffz Wick, previously deputy leader, had become the camp leader.

**23-27 July 1947** – Dr Koch’s visit number 6. Strength; 3 officers, 2182 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Glendinning (acting) Camp leader: Uffz Wick (B+)

Interpreters: Lt Stone, Sgt Fleming, Pt Lustig. Deputy C/L: Fw Rathert (B)

German M.O.: Dr Poser (B-), Dr Wohl (A), Dr Doege (B-), Dr Franz (B), Dr Schiff (A)

Pt Lustig remained in place though the Commandant had requested his transfer.

Screening – A 17; B+ 365; B 1405; B- 398. 1765 pows repatriated to date.

Morale continued to be ‘*fair*,’ but delays to repatriations had a depressing effect. New arrivals from pow camps run by the RAF commented on poorer conditions in army run camps. Many of the pows believed that war would occur between the Allies and Russia.

Re-education activities were described as “*not satisfactory at the moment”* – the main reason being that there was no study leader. However, the standard list was repeated with little change from previous comments – discussion groups had ended at most sites, but the number of lectures had increased. In most camps there was a diminished number of camp activities during the summer months when pows preferred to leave the camp.

There were new contacts with the WEA and Toc-H at Penrith.

Religion – there was a new protestant padre; Junge (B). RC priest Rick was still at the camp.

Education classes – suspended for summer.

Entertainment – The theatre group continued to be active. Orchestra and choir concerts were given in and outside of the camp.

**16-20 September 1947** – Visit number 7 for Dr Koch. Strength; 3 officers, 1681 OR>

Commandant: Lt Col Lowe Camp leader: Uffz Wick (B+) [due to be repatriated].

Interpreters: Sgt Fleming, Pt Lustig. Deputy C/L: -

German M.O.: Dr Wohl (A), Dr Sator (A)

Repeated favourable comments for Sgt Fleming and that Pte Lustig was “*useless*.”

Simplified screening; A 9; B 1675. 2300 pows repatriated to date.

Morale still ‘*fair*.’ Repatriations had increased. Negative comments expressed by pows about the Labour Officer having an “*unfriendly attitude.”*

Throughout the report, previous statements were repeated. It was hoped that further formal outside contacts would be developed with youth clubs in Kendal and Carlisle.

**11-16 November 1947** – Visit 8 for Dr Koch. Strength; 3 officers, 1374 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Lowe Camp leader: Ofw Willi Klein (B) [previously hostel leader at Brampton].

Interpreters: Sgt Fleming, S/Sgt Morgenstern Deputy C/L: Ogefr Schneider (B)

German M.O.: Dr Wohl (A), Dr Sator (A), Dr Eckes (B), Dr Zimmermann (B-)

The commandant showed great interest in re-education and welfare of pows; “*an outstanding personality, demonstrates British fairness and justice and impresses the men under his command.”*

Pte Lustig had been posted elsewhere. S/Sgt Morgenstern was transferred from Camp 104, but had not yet arrived.

Screening; A 5; B 1372. 2686 pows repatriated to date.

Complaints made by pows against the Quarter Master being too strict when checking the luggage of pows being repatriated, with allegations that he was including the weight of containers in the maximum limit of 15lb (15 pound weight) of food allowed and that articles too heavy were confiscated and not returned. The Commandant was to investigate these complaints. News from Germany and length of captivity were making many pows feel “*helpless, bitter and nihilistic*.”

Formal outside contacts from main camp –

Penrith: WEA, 3 pows attending lectures; 12 pows allowed to visit library; 8 pows attended Police Court proceedings, 12 pows attended County Council meetings.

Carlisle: 12 pows attended ‘Model Parliament’; pows attended sports clubs.

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

**18/22 November 1947** - English Inspector’s Report. Total strength 1255. 48 pupils in 5 classes at all sites – a number of pows preferred to study privately.

**20-24 January 1948** – Dr Koch’s last visit. Strength; 4 officers, 1227 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Lowe Camp leader: Ofw Willi Klein (B) [previously hostel leader at Brampton].

Interpreters: Sgt Fleming Deputy C/L: Fw Haensch

German M.O.: Dr Eckes (B), Dr Zimmermann (B-), Dr Eckes.

Screening: A 2; B 1229. 3140 pows repatriated to date.

It was stated that morale had declined. The main reasons given – bad news from Germany and various issues affecting repatriation. 100 pows had their repatriation cancelled due to a clerical error at NW District HQ. Clothing had become unsatisfactory here, and in many other camps. A list of articles that the pows were allowed to take home had been issued which placed further restrictions, an example given was that they were only allowed 1 shaving stick, even if they had paid for others from their earnings in the canteen.

Two final performances were given by the theatre group to civilians in Longtown and Kirkby Stephen. The orchestra had already closed down due to repatriations.

**There are no further reports in the National Archive file.**

Known Camp Commandants:

1946 - 1947 Lt Col T O C Doherty. Terence O’Cahir Doherty of the Essex Regiment. Moved to become Commandant of Sheet Camp 84.

Memorial card at Carlisle Archive Centre Document (DFCRC 1/62). On the front page is PAX symbol – inside inscription reads: “*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity – 1 Cor 13.13 / The Catholic Camp Parish of POW Camp 76 Merrythought gives thanks to the Commandant Lt Colonel T.D.C. Doherty for all the work of mercy and all the trouble he took in the fitting out of the catholic camp chapel, On this day of the Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving for all donors of charitable gifts, we ask our Lord to reward the love of English Catholics who gave them to our chapel through the mediation of the Commandant and to give them his blessing.*” This was originally given to Lt Col T.D.C. Doherty. The middle initial would seem to be an error.

August 1947 – Lt Col Glendinning, acting Commandant detached from Garswood Camp 50.

September 1947 – Lt Col Lowe.

**After the camp:** Mainly woodland.

**Further information:**

National Archives FO 939/156 – 76 Working Camp, Merry Thought Camp, Calthwaite, Cumberland. Dated 1946-1948. Used above.

The Imperial War Museum has a copy of the magazine dated 1947. Ref LBY E.J. 363.

**Numbers of pows**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Main |  |  | 781 | 800 | 728 | 623 | 558 | 470 | 477 | 673 | 568 | 539 | 605 |
| Barrels Appleby |  |  |  |  | 70 | 66 | 65 | 57 | 70 | 55 | 58 | 49 |  |
| Greenside |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hadrians Camp |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hethersgill |  |  | 70 | 72 | 68 | 63 | 60 | 52 | 67 | 64 | 59 | 63 | 35 |
| Alston |  |  | 86 | 121 | 139 | 74 | 78 | 73 | 110 | 75 | 70 | 41 | 33 |
| Brampton |  |  | 175 | 193 | 176 | 168 | 157 | 144 | 173 | 195 | 140 | 121 | 59 |
| Dalston |  |  | 152 | 127 | 57 | 49 | 39 | 37 | 71 | 149 | 99 | 67 | 42 |
| Hornick Hill |  |  | 123 | 156 | 145 | 129 | 122 | 112 | 148 | 150 | 114 | 124 | 54 |
| Harkers |  |  |  | 76 | 44 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hornby Hall (Sat) |  | Camp 155 | | | 469 | 352 | 333 | 305 | 373 | 242 | 156 | 100 | 91 |
| Moota (Sat) | Camp 103 | | | | | | | | 237 | 38 |  |  |  |
| Wath Head |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 66 | 117 | 57 |  |  |
| Brougham |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13 |  |  |  |
| Borwick |  |  |  |  | With Camp 104 | | | | | | | | 123 |
| Billetees |  |  | 141 | 169 | 301 | 236 | 183 | 155 | 292 | 414 | 346 | 248 | 109 |
| TOTALS |  |  | 1567 | 1550 | 2197 | 1760 | 1625 | 1444 (1) | 2106 (2) | 2185 | 1684 (3) | 1377 (4) | 1231 (5) |

(1) +20 detached to Beela River Camp 104 and 19 attached from ‘Number 4’ Camp 692. No reasons given.

(2) + 22 detached to Warwick Camp 696. No reason given.

(3) + 17 detached, no location or reason given. (4) + 25 detached. (5) + 80 detached.

**SATELLITE CAMPS**

**Hornby.** Previously independent camp 155 - see for location.

**August 1946** – Commanding Officer: Capt Pratt. Camp leader: Stfw Ellermeier (A)

Morale *‘very low’* – many pows from USA had “*brought unrest into the camp*.” 5 pows were C+ (hard-core Nazis) and their removal was recommended.

50% of the pows were ‘youth.’

There was no electric supply. Re-education activities were “*not flourishing.”* There were classes for Russian, technical and agricultural subjects. A 6 member orchestra provided light entertainment.

**November 1946** – Camp leader; Feldw Voss (B-) February 1947 – same leader.

**May 1947** – Camp leader; Uffz Bruger (B+). 3 new pows transferred to this camp were downgraded to C+. The site still had no electricity supply.

**July 1947** – Camp leader; Fw Kubusch (B). The camp had its own orchestra and theatre groups. November 1947 – same leader.

6 pows attended the YMCA weekly.

**14 November 1947** – 22 year old Herbert Waluga of the Luftwaffe, committed suicide by climbing a 50-foot high pylon and touching the high-tension cable. Details from a report in The Penrith Observer, Tuesday, November 18th 1947, on the inquest held at the camp:

*“The Camp Leader, Herbert Kubusch, said he had last seen Waluga alive on Friday night. Waluga had not attended pay parade, but had called at his office later. He was told to return the following day… The Camp Leader described Waluga as a quiet man, who kept himself very much to himself… On Wednesday last he had asked to change his job, and had seemed rather upset. He said he wanted to go back to his former billet and apologised to the farmer for lying to him.*

*While working at the farm Waluga had applied to stay in this country after his discharge, but he afterwards cancelled the application. He got mail regularly from home and had, apparently, received bad news from Germany. He told the Camp Leader there was no one with whom he could discuss his affairs, and Kubusch suggested that he should go out more often, and go to the cinema. On Friday night at about 9-30, Waluga's companions reported that he was missing. Waluga had been suffering from nerves, said Kubusch. He had said he couldn't work and wanted to stay in camp for a couple of days. Normally he was quiet and of a cheerful disposition.*

*Corporal Peter Challiner, who was in charge of the Camp on Friday evening, said that the Camp Leader reported Waluga missing after the roll call. "His companions told me Waluga had said he was going to commit suicide," stated Challiner… The search party did not find anything that night… The body was found at about 8-30 the following morning.*

*Police Sergeant Ritchie said in evidence that Waluga had worked for some time for Mr. Fawcett, of Town End, Sandford. In July he was recalled to the Camp. He described how the body had been found in a field at Brougham Castle Farm, lying at the foot of a pylon, and produced a noosed rope which was found lying a short distance from the body, almost immediately below the cable.*

*Medical evidence was given by Dr. Friedrich Sater, Medical Officer at Merrythought Camp… Dr. Sater said he had seen Waluga on Thursday, when the patient had complained of pains and sleeplessness. He had prescribed for him several days' light duty. Waluga had not seemed depressed.*

*It would appear that Waluga had been in two minds about whether he should settle in this country or return to his native heath. Apparently he had been worried about reports he had heard of conditions at home, and this had so played upon his mind that he took his own life. Mr. Scorer expressed sympathy with relatives and friends in that the prisoner's untimely death should have come so close to the time when he was hoping to be reunited with his family*.”

Bottom of Form

Herbert Waluga was buried in St Ninian's Churchyard, Brougham, and later reinterred at the Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader not listed.

The Imperial War Museum has a camp magazine – *‘Der Wegweiser: Zeitschrift des Seitenlagers Hornby Hall / Lager 76’* (The Guide: News for Hornby ‘side camp’) – dated Easter 1947 (Ref LBY E.J. 434).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Hornby Hall (Sat) |  | Camp 155 | | | 469 | 352 | 333 | 305 | 373 | 242 | 156 | 100 | 91 |

**Moota.** Previously Camp 103 – see for location.

**May 1947** – Commanding Officer; Major Patterson. Camp leader; O/Maat Bacher (A)

Morale was lower here than in the rest of the camp. A high number of older men felt bitter about prolonged captivity and the Adjutant Lt Wood was alleged to be hostile to the pows.

**July 1947** – Camp leader; Fw Uhlig (B)

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Moota (Sat) | Camp 103 | | | | | | | | 237 | 38 |  |  |  |

**HOSTELS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Alston.** Hutted hostel - NY 7237 4633 (X on map). Aerial photo from 1948.  Video by Simon Danby providing an excellent background and scene shots to place the Italians at this hostel >  <https://vimeo.com/494267858>    Known to have held Italian pows – therefore it must have been attached to a different main camp before the PID entries below that started in May 1946.  One prisoner's name was highlighted, Gianna Emmiliani He was said to have stood up for prisoners' rights and made as sure as possible that everyone behaved with dignity. (Information from Simon Danby).  **27 August 1945** – Caporale Catullo Galvan was electrocuted while at work in a foundry. He was buried locally and later reinterred at the Brookwood Military Cemetery. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1954 |

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When German pows were placed into the hutted hostel, the remaining Italian pows awaiting repatriation were placed in ‘The Sun Hostel’ (Y on map – photo above).

**May 1946** – Hostel leader; Feldw Hans Bruders (B). No electricity. A battery operated wireless was to be bought from Italian pows.

**June 1946** – 7 accommodation huts.

**August 1946** – Hostel leader Gefr Heinz (A). A theatre group of 13 members had just started.

**November 1946** – Hostel leader: Uffz Grabowski (B). February 1947 – same leader.

**May 1947** – Hostel leader; Gefr Hergeroeder (B+). The site still had no electricity supply.

**September 1947** – same leader. 8 pows attended a meeting of the Rural District Council.

**November 1947** – same leader. Formal outside contacts at Alston; 5 pows attending Rural District Council meetings; 8 pows attended the Youth Club; 6 pows attended sessions of the Police Court.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader; Sold Strauss. No films were being shown due to transport difficulties.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Alston |  |  | 86 | 121 | 139 | 74 | 78 | 73 | 110 | 75 | 70 | 41 | 33 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appleby / Barrels Appleby [Burrells Appleby].** The site shown on the map is at NY 682 184.  **NOTE** – I do NOT know if the sites called ‘Barrels’ Appleby in 1943, and Appleby from 1946 are the same place. Burrells Appleby is less that 2km from Appleby. There is partial confirmation with the comment in August 1946 that the hostel was recently taken over from the Italians – PID reports ignored Italian hostels and that would explain the gap in the records.  **1943** – hostel for Italian pows.  **August 1946** – Hostel leader: Wachtm Vagt (B). Educational classes had been stopped due to late working hours.  **May 1947** – same leader.    **July 1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Waesch (B+)  **November 1947** – same leader. Formal outside contacts:  Kirkby Stephen: 6 pows attended County Council meetings; regular visits to TocH  Kirkby Thore – 2 pows attended Young Farmers Club meetings. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1957 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Barrels Appleby |  |  |  |  | 70 | 66 | 65 | 57 | 70 | 55 | 58 | 49 |  |

**Borwick.** Transferred from Beela River Camp 104.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader; Uffz Tischer. The hostel needed “*looking after, Accommodation at this hostel is bad, overcrowded and the Hostel NCO (S/Sgt Perkins) is unsuitable*.”

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Borwick |  |  |  |  | With Camp 104 | | | | | | | | 123 |

**Brampton. “***A building,”* rather than huts. There are many Bramptons – but, with a reference to Brampton Grammar School, I assume this is the one 14km NE of Carlisle.

Probably linked to a different main camp before these entries.

**May 1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Otto Westphall (B+); “*a weak personality*.”

**August 1946** – same leader. Improving morale. 40 pows had been working in mines for over 12 months, but were gradually being replaced.

**November 1946** – Hostel leader; Feldw Bednarek (B-). February 1947 – same leader.

**May 1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Klein (B)

**July 1947** – same leader. Mr Thomson, a teacher at Brampton Grammar School, gave English lessons to 12 pows. September 1947 – same leader.

**November 1947** – Hostel leader; Ogefr Heinze (B). Formal outside contacts –

Brampton; 10 pows attended weekly at WEA lectures, some pows attended the Magistrate’s Court.

Carlisle; 6 pows attended fortnightly meetings of the County Council.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr Ehrensberger.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Brampton |  |  | 175 | 193 | 176 | 168 | 157 | 144 | 173 | 195 | 140 | 121 | 59 |

**Brougham**.

Linked to a different main camp before these entries. Brougham Hall was known to have held pows – NY 526 284. Hornby Hall Camp 155 was at High Street, Brougham – so this hostel may have been attached.

**July 1947** – Hostel leader, not listed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Brougham |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13 |  |  |  |

**Dalston.** Site was next to Dalston Hall (NY 376 515).

Probably attached to a different main camp before these entries.

**May 1946** – Hostel leader; Feldw Herbert Hoffmann (B). Satisfactory wireless.

**June 1946** – 6 accommodation huts.

**August 1946** – same leader. Very bad morale. Barbed wire had been installed around the site – highly unusual. Very few activities.

**November 1946** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr. Kohl (B)

**February 1947** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr Sieberz (B-)

**May 1947** – Hostel leader; H.Gefr Suppa (B+). 60% were youth pows.

**September 1947** – same leader. 12 pows attended the local Co-operative Youth Centre. 8 German boys and girls who attended a Youth Leader Course at Dalston were able to visit the hostel to discuss life back in Germany.

**November 1947** – same leader. Formal outside contacts –

Dalston: 6 pows attended weekly WEA meetings; 3 pows attended the Boys Club

Carlisle: 1 young artist pow attended the School of Arts; links with the Boys Club.

News article – *“Gloria Edwards has since published her book ‘With art you can change the world: The Life of Wolfgang Koeppe’, [Köppe] about the German man’s life. She travelled to Germany to meet Wolfgang Koeppe and find out more, not only about his time at a detention camp in Dalston – when he studied art at Carlisle Art College and fell in love with a local woman – but what happened to him afterwards….*

*Mr Koeppe was captured by the Americans during the D-Day landings of World War Two and taken across the Atlantic to a detention camp in Boston. After the war finished he was brought to a small prisoners’ camp in Dalston, next to Dalston Hall. While working on the land with other prisoners, he also painted.*

*Thomas MacDonald, a Carlisle education officer, who was later the mayor of Carlisle in 1961, spotted his good work and took the German man under his wing. He arranged for him to go to Carlisle Art College and between 1946 and 1948 he attended classes at Tullie House and earned a diploma.*

*While in Carlisle, Mr Koeppe became very close with local girl Jackie Sheckley. He wanted her to go back to Germany with him but she was not keen, because at the time the eastern part of Germany was under Russian occupation. Mrs Edwards said Mr Koeppe had a hard time when he did finally return to Germany alone. He spent six months in prison and his parents had to prove he was their son before they allowed him to go home*.”

<https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/16701972.war-veteran-tells-of-time-in-dalston-prisoner-of-war-camp/>

**January 1948** – Hostel leader; Fw Ochnit

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Dalston |  |  | 152 | 127 | 57 | 49 | 39 | 37 | 71 | 149 | 99 | 67 | 42 |

**Greenside (Glenridding).** Possibly at the Greenside lead mine NY 365 174 – Italian pows were recorded working there..

1943 – hostel for Italian pows.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Greenside |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Hadrians Camp (Carlisle).**

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

May have held Italian pows from 1943 to early 1947 as these were ignored in PID reports.

**February 1947** – no hostel leader listed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Hadrians Camp |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 19 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Harkers** – Kingstown. General area – NY 393 609.

Attached to a different main camp before these entries.

**May 1946** – hostel taken over from Italian pows.

**June 1946** – 3 accommodation huts.

**August 1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Wick (B+).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Harkers |  |  |  | 76 | 44 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Hethersgill** – Kirklinton. General area - NY 478 672.

**1943** – listed as a hostel for Italian pows. Probably continued to hold Italians up to 1946 – they were ignored by PID.

**May 1946** – Hostel leader; Gert van Soelen (B-); a Dutchman with “*a bad political record*.” He was rated as reliable, despite his record. Wireless to be bought from Italians.

**June 1946** – 3 accommodation huts.

**August 1946** – Hostel leader; Stfw Grunewald (B-). November 1946 – Same leader.

**February 1947** – Hostel leader; Feldw Wichardt (B+)

**May 1947** – Hostel leader; Ogefr Hermes (B)

**July 1947** – Hostel leader; Oscha Kampmann (B-). November 1947 – same leader.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader; Sold Winkenbach

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Hethersgill |  |  | 70 | 72 | 68 | 63 | 60 | 52 | 67 | 64 | 59 | 63 | 35 |

**Hornick Hill** – Longtown. Hornickhill Farm is located at NY 375 656, 3km S of Longtown.

Probably linked to a different main camp before these entries.

**May 1946** – Hostel leader; O/Feldw Joh Laven (B+). A more active hostel. Wireless to be bought from the Italians.

Estimated that political views were; 40% democrats, 10% Nazis, 5% communists – 45% indifferent. Small classes for shorthand, French, applied electricity, and the ‘Weimar Constitution.’ Morale was especially bad amongst those who worked in local mines. They stated the work was; “*heavy and unhealthy, food inadequate*.”

**June 1946** – 4 accommodation huts.

**August 1946** – same leader. “*This hostel still contains a percentage of nazi-minded men*.”

**November 1946** – Hostel leader; Hpt.Feldw Lorenz (B). February 1947 – same leader.

**May 1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Eichler (B). November 1947 – same leader.

**January 1948** – Hostel leader; Gefr Lass.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Hornick Hill |  |  | 123 | 156 | 145 | 129 | 122 | 112 | 148 | 150 | 114 | 124 | 54 |

**Wath Head**. (Possibly at Wath Head RAF base as comments made by pows coming from RAF to army pow camps).

Probably linked to a different main camp before these entries.

**May 1947** – Hostel leader; Sold Vogel (B+). The site still had no electricity supply.

**July 1947** – Hostel leader; Omaat Tausch (B+). September 1947 – same leader.

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|  | 1942 | 1943 | 5/1946 | 6/1946 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 1/1948 |
| Wath Head |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 66 | 117 | 57 |  |  |