**Camp 81** **- Pingley Farm Camp, Bigby High Road, Brigg, Lincolnshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 81. Pingley Farm Camp, Brigg, Lincs.

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp List** |
| 81(G.W.C.) | Pingley Farm Camp, Brigg, Lincs | N. | Priswar, Brigg | Brigg 3216 | Brigg | Lt.Col.L.J.Paine | 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 |
| TA 0178 0700 | 112 | 81 | Pingley Farm Camp, Bigby High Road, Brigg | Lincolnshire | 2 | GermanWorking Camp | STANDARD type. Low grade agricultural use. Assessed unsuitable for Scheduling due to a variety of constraints. See Alternate Action Plan. |

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| There are many entries for this camp, some written in the last few years – some of which begin; “*Pingley POW (prisoner of war) camp is one of the few prisoner of war camps in the United Kingdom that remains in good condition….”* - It was demolished in 2010 and is now a housing estate.**Location:** Alongside the town of Brigg.**Before the camp:** Farmland.**Pow Camp:** Opened c.1942/3 capacity 750. Listed as an Italian working camp / labour battalion, then German pows. The camp was the ‘standard type’ with a main pow compound; and guards’ huts and offices at the front alongside the road.HER Description of the site – *“An outer plain wire fence supported by concrete posts and an inner barbed wire fence enclosed the prisoner compound and the recreation ground. Within the prisoners' compound a 'sterile' area was established between the inner fence and a further coiled 'Danart' barbed wire entanglement. 'Danart' barbed wire is pre-coiled barbed wire usually laid in triangular configuration with two rolls for base and one for top. \** |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1956 |

*The complex was accessed from a public highway by a single-track spine road. The guards' compound consisted of a group of some fifteen huts: administration offices, soldiers' quarters and ablutions, officers' quarters and mess, fuel store, detention block (calaboose) and a brick water tower occupied a rectangular parcel of land immediately north of the main gate to the prisoners' compound. The prisoners' compound occupied a six-acre square area of land and contained 35 huts, including a cookhouse, grocery and produce store, two dining huts, two recreation huts, drying room and showers, two ablution and latrine blocks, a camp reception station (sick quarters), a living and carpenter's hut, and 23 living huts.*

*The majority of the living huts at the camp were ten-bay Ministry of War Production standard huts built using pre-cast reinforced concrete frames and wall panels, but 8 of them were Laing composite timber-framed huts clad in weather boarding and internally lined with plaster-board. Secondary cladding with bitumised corrugated iron sheets has since*

**< Picture taken 2008 showing water tower and giving a better view of the type of huts in use.

*altered the appearance of these huts. Both the MoWP and the Laing living huts were 60ft in length and built in ten 6ft bays with windows occupying alternate bays. Outward opening doors with padlock hasps were located in each gable wall.*

*The interiors were open-plan and heated by two cast iron pot-belly stoves. One living hut was sub-divided providing accommodation for the camp leader and a carpenter's workshop.*

*The largest single structure within the prisoners' compound was the Camp Reception Station (CRS), also known as the sick bay, hospital, or the Red Cross building. The CRS consisted of three interlinked MoWP huts. The left hand eight-bay range contained the Medical Officer's Room, Dental Surgeon's Room, Orderly Rooms and a variety of store rooms, showers and lavatories. The main and isolation wards occupied the twelve-bay central range, while the remaining seven-bay range contained a boiler room, pantry, kitchen, and the Medical Officer's Bedroom. The CRS at Pingley retains its original plan form and all of the room functions (written in Italian) can still be read when cross-lit, for example, Gabinetto Dentistico (Dental Surgeon) and Sula Pulizia (Sluice).*

*In May 1946 Pingley Camp was responsible for 1862 prisoners, 984 of whom were housed at the camp and the remainder were either billeted out, or lived at one of four hostels at Elsham Hall, Elsham Mount, Elsham Manor and Scawby. After the repatriation of PoWs, and probably after 1948, Pingley Camp became a hostel for farm workers, perhaps until the late 1960s or early 1970s, and under the name Concordia Camp, Pingley Camp continued into the 1980s as a foreign student hostel.*

*{1} There is some surviving graffiti inside at least one of the huts, including an image of Mickey Mouse with Minnie Mouse. {2} Further graffiti were discovered during a building survey prior to the demolition of the camp. Some of these are of later date, however two landscape paintings with German titles are probably attributable to German prisoners of war. A piece showing three female figures and a male figure was also found loose on the floor of a hut, having been removed from the hut's south wall. Missing pieces of plasterboard on the walls of some huts indicate where paintings or graffiti have been removed. {3}{4}”*

[<1> SLI10427](https://heritage-explorer.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Source/SLI10427)  Unpublished Document: Thomas, Roger J. C.. 2003. Prisoner of War Camps (1939 - 1948). pp.5ff.

[<2> SLI10428](https://heritage-explorer.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Source/SLI10428)  Bibliographic Reference: Thomas, Roger J. C.. 2003. Conservation Bulletin. 44. pp.18-21, figure on p.20..

[<3> SLI12611](https://heritage-explorer.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Source/SLI12611)  Report: Pre-Construct Archaeology. Dec 2008. Pingley Camp, Brigg: Photographic Building Survey. PPCB08.

[<4> SLI12612](https://heritage-explorer.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Source/SLI12612)  Archive: Pre-Construct Archaeology. Dec 2008. Pingley Camp, Brigg: Photographic Building Survey. LCNCC 2008.189.

\* As in many camps, the barbed wire seems to have been largely removed in 1946 and the May report noted the ‘absence of barbed wire.

**1943** – Hostel listed for Italian pows: Crowle. The Italians were recorded as non-co-operators.

**5 May 1944** - Hostels listed for Italian pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Broughton, Brigg, Lancashire; Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

**May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Northern Command area and then as an Italian POW Working Camp, (WO 32/10737).

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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. |

**22 March 1945** – Progress Report 55; The Segregation Section of PID reported that the camp had become a German Labour Camp with 900 pows transferred from Camp 18.

**14/15 July 1945** – English Inspector’s Report. Stated that Commandant Lt Col Cutbill was to be replaced by Lt Col Paine.

The Inspector vetted the teachers and gave some lectures. There was a shortage of teaching materials.

**3 August 1945** – Progress Report 148 reported that screening of Germans had taken place. It recommended the removal of 10 Nazis (C grade) to be replaced by A / B pows.

**1/2 December 1945** – English Inspector’s Report.

He mentions that there are 3 hostels and that they are ‘together’ – so this must be Elsham Hall/ Manor/ Mount. It was expected that many of the pows would be moved when the sugar beet refining was finished in a month. The pows worked “*three 8 hour shifts.”* [06.00 to 14.00 / 14.00 to 22.00 / 22.00 to 06.00]. This made teaching and other activities very difficult to arrange.

**c.1945** Memories - “*The German and Italian POWs gave regular unusual concerts, classical and opera and various Brigg organisations were invited.*

*I was a counters clerk at Brigg Post Office in 1945 and office staff were always invited, transport was provided and after the concert refreshments were served. The standard of the music, singing and instrumental was high class. We had some very enjoyable evenings, the POWs we met were very friendly and polite.”* (Rubyn Allen – reported in the Market Rasen Mail, 4 April 2013).

**14-16 May 1946** – English Inspector’s Report.

Teaching was taking place in the two dining huts – the commandant was trying to get more huts built to be used as classrooms and for recreation.

The camp had recently received 120 pows from Canada – it does not say so in this report, but having been captured early in the war, they were often C grade. There were also 400 pows newly arrived from the USA – again, it does not say, but these pows usually had very low morale as they had been misinformed in the US that they were to be returned to Germany.

The weather was cold, but the pows were not allowed to light fires.

**22-24 May 1946** – 1 Re-education Progress Report, 2. Screen 23 pows, 3. Check 3 pows who had been to Wilton Park training camp. Strength 0 officers, 1862 Other Ranks.

Commandant: Lt Col L J Paine O.B.E. Camp Leader: Fw Weidtmann (A)

2nd i/c: Major S C Stockbridge M.M. Deputy C/L: O/Fw Iburg (B-)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Sanders German M.O.’s: U/Arzt Cordes (B) at Main; U/Arzt Busch (A) at Scawby.

The Commandant and 2nd i/c were considered to be genuinely interested in re-education (doubtful - see October 1946 report).

The interpreter, a young German Jewish refugee, had been at the camp for 4 months. Unfortunately, the Commandant thought he was, “*of very little use*” – the visitor agreed.

The Camp Leader was generally satisfactory, but was not organising re-education activities.

The deputy C/L was new to the post. A Luftwaffe pilot shot down in October 1940 and shipped to a pow camp in Canada. He had been a member of the N.S.F.K. (National Socialist Flyers Corps). The visitor requested that a special watch be kept on him. The leader of the education and welfare committee had a similar history and also needed to be watched.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B | C | Unscreened |
|  | 118 | 997 | 491 | 256 |

This was a high number of C grade (Nazis). It was noted that the camp and hostels were very tidy and there was an absence of barbed wire.

Morale was regarded as only ‘fair.’ It had been better before the arrival of pows from USA and Canada. Most of the ex-Canada pows were; “*ex-Luftwaffe men captured in 1940/41 who aggressively wear their light blue uniforms with their badges of rank and war decorations*.” The ex-USA pows raised the claim that they had been promised repatriation in the US and on board ship – this was undoubtedly true.

‘Youth’ pows (under 25). 85 pows were under 20, and 441 aged between 20 and 25. They were not considered to be a problem and no special provision was made.

Committees were being formed to develop activities. There was still a shortage of accommodation for classes. The Welfare Fund, raised from sales of goods in the canteen and used to fund many activities, was low as work was driven by seasonal demand. The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick - 250 / 130 respectively.

Newspapers – 9 British papers bought for the whole camp from the Welfare Fund. PID occasionally sent more. No mention of German or Swiss papers.

Library – over 700 books. The ex-Canada pows complained that they had bought books with them which were last seen in Camp 183 before their transfer to this camp. They asked for their books to be returned and refused to contribute to the library fund.

Lectures – regular and popular.

Discussion groups – none, but planned to start.

Films – only at main camp as it was the only site with AC electricity. YMCA films every three weeks. Pows were sometimes brought in from the hostels.

Wireless – All sites except Scawby. Loudspeakers in dining-halls and canteen at main. Radios bought by pows in the USA had been confiscated, but were being released back.

Camp Magazine – First issue called; “*Notizen*” had just appeared.

Press review – carried out at weekends.

English instruction – separate report.

Other camp activities –

Religion – Camp padre, Wm Machmar (B), at main, also visited all hostels on Sundays. A very good church hut in the main camp. Only about 80 protestants attended services. A British RC priest visited on Sundays and twice weekly in the evenings.

Education – hindered by lack of space. Small classes for accounting and electricity.

Theatre – a small hut with a stage could hold up to 150. Mainly variety shows.

Orchestra – a good orchestra of 10 men at main, playing light and classical music. Instruments – 3 violins, cello, piano, trumpet, drums, accordion, guitar and banjo.

Choir – 40 men, + a quartet.

**14 to 22 October 1946** – Members of the Screening Section carried out further political screening. Strength; 2 officers, 3420 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col L J Paine O.B.E. Camp Leader: Ofw Gerhard Stengel [New]

Interpreter: Capt I Acostin [New - listed elsewhere as Agoston] Deputy C/L: None

Camp Leader – I think he was the man who had been leader at Elsham Hall, but a different rank given. “*Appears to be carrying out his duties satisfactorily*.”

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political gradings: | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unknown | Total |
|  | 6 | 255 | - | 920 | 1166 | 223 | 32 | - | - | 2602 |

These figures are difficult to understand – it was stated that they are for the; “*Complete Camp (including Hostels and Billetees)”* - as there were no unknowns, why is the total short of 818 pows from the declared camp strength? Is it possible that the total strength was incorrect? There was another column stating screening numbers; “*During this visit (incl. re-screenings,”* – but the numbers were exactly the same as above. One aspect that it does show was a major decrease in C grades – they had either been regraded or transferred.

The introductory comments are a major change from previous views of the camp – “*COGA activities seem to be non existent and little co-operation is received from the British staff. We encountered considerable difficulty in carrying out our work…*.” The lack of educational facilities was said to be adversely affecting morale as the pows had little to do to occupy their spare time. Various deficiencies were listed for the hostels giving the impression that the camp was neglected.

**11/14 January 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 2640 OR.

Only change to senior personnel – Deputy C/L; Stabs/Wm Heinriche Wicke (B)

There was just one German M.O. listed: U/Arzt Dr Claus Cordes, (as before). German dentist; San.Uffz Karl Mottan (A). I think Ass Arzt Dr Gerhard Busch was still at Scawby as his name reappears in September.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unscreened |
|  | 15 | 615 | 1355 | 215 | 149 | 2 | 289 |

Morale was generally low, especially at Sandtoft – main cause was slow repatriation. Many pows held on to their Nazi sentiment. The lack of interest from British staff was again recorded – similar to most camps.

A high percentage of youth pows overall. No separate activities were provided.

Re-educational activities took place in the main camp, but very little at the hostels. The standard list of activities was given, it had very few changes from the previous report with the exception that the Commandant had prohibited all discussion groups – hardly encouraging a belief in democracy and toleration.

Gaumont British films were visiting as well as the YMCA.

Other camp activities –

Religion – the previous protestant padre had been transferred, but no reasons given.

Education – only small classes for shorthand.

Entertainment – Theatre group, orchestra, choir and sport continued – but none of the hostels were allowed to participate in the activities at main camp, “*not even Castlethorpe only 3 miles away.”*

The overall impression is of an apathetic Commandant imposing petty restrictions, leading to general neglect, and a British staff all too willing to follow suit.

**27/28 February 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 2432 in main, 8 hostels and billets. 174 pupils in 13 classes at all sites.

A general comment was made – “*My impression of this camp is that it needs a good deal of help*…”

Classes had been suspended at most sites due to bad weather. Many more books and teaching texts were requested again.

**1/3 June 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 2665 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col L J Paine O.B.E. Camp Leader: Owm Erich Struszmann (B+) [New]

Interpreter: Lt H J R Peters [New] Deputy C/L: H/Fw Anton Broeker (B+) [New]

The camp leader had previously been a hostel leader at Westerton, in Scotland. Aged 31, a book-keeper, “*bright, intelligent and enterprising personality who has shaken this camp out of its lethargy in the six weeks he has been camp leader. He is able to face up to the stern Commandant…”* Expected to be repatriated soon.

The Deputy C/L, aged 37, insurance official, in training to take over as camp leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening was increasingly simplified: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | Unscreened |
|  | 21 | 537 | 1673 | 428 | 6 | 1 |

16 pows were appealing against their grading – the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory. 1233 pows repatriated to date.

The visitor believed that the Commandants attitude towards re-education had improved, but he was mainly concerned with discipline. Morale had improved, stated to be due to the Commandants “*softening his attitude”* and a new active camp leader. However, I think the main reason would have been increased repatriations. There were some pows who were anti-British, and some held on to their Nazi views, but, as the atmosphere in the camp improved, they had less influence than formerly.

Despite the better weather, and the reduced restrictions on pows leaving the camp, re-education activities continued:

Wochenpost & Ausblick – 40 / 27 on average.

Newspapers – 16 British papers ordered for the whole camp + some weeklies. 10 German papers were received fortnightly from COGA and some others sent privately.

Library – 1668 books, though 250 of these were text books, and 300 were not read. More required.

Lectures – regular, with mixed interest according to the title.

Discussion groups – previously banned, but now allowed weekly. Varied attendance according to the weather. Low Santon and Winteringham had difficulties arranging discussion groups due to shift work.

Films – YMCA every three weeks and Travelling Films Ltd fortnightly.

Wireless – set in the writing room with 17 loudspeakers. German stations not easy to receive during the day.

Camp magazine – was published monthly, but due to shortage of paper was changing to every six weeks.

Press review – lapsed during the good weather.

English Instruction – separate report.

Information room – showed exhibitions of materials sent by COGA, was shown in the main camp and then toured the hostels.

Other camp activities –

Religion – Services held at all sites. Lutheran padre, Martin Haberkamp (A) – “*a placid type*” – he visited the hostels by bicycle. There was a Bible study group and prayer meetings. Pows were able to attend local churches.

Education – small classes (c.8 pows) for French, mathematics and Latin, and 20 pows learning shorthand.

Entertainment – 2 theatres at main camp, (one outside the compound for civilian audiences). 15 players produced mainly comedies.

Orchestra of 12 played light and operetta music.

A rare mention of sport – football, boxing, athletics, table-tennis, handball and chess tournaments.

**2-5 June 1947** - English Inspector’s Report. 86 pupils in 10 classes at all sites.

**1/4 September 1947** - English Inspector’s Report. 150 pupils in 13 classes at all sites.

**3/6 September 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 2 officers, 2497 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col L J Paine O.B.E. Camp Leader: Fw Anton Broeker (B+) [was deputy].

Interpreter: None Deputy C/L: O.Fw Werner Zeitz (B) [New]

German M.O.’s: U/Arzt Dr Klaus Cordes (B) listed as before – No dentist recorded – Ass Arzt Dr Gerhard Busch (A) at Scawby.

The visitor found the Commandant to be friendly and gave full cooperation.

Between June to September, I/O Lt H J R Peters left, to be replaced by S/Sgt Gellert, who was then demobilised 31 August.

The camp leader was described as “*a ripe minded man, outspoken and generally interested in re-education*.” Deputy C/L – a professional soldier, “*not very intelligent.”*

Simplified screening in use: A 8 / B+ 502 / B 1586 / B- 403. Stated “911” pows repatriated to date, which is less than the “*1233*” given in June!

Overall morale was, “*surprisingly high*” – the main positive factors stated as; Change to Commandant’s attitude, changes to undesirable leaders, *“just and efficient British Staff*,” good links with civilians. The last item was cited in many documents / diaries as being a very important factor on pows positive attitudes towards Britain and democracy. Only a few pows were considered to be still *“infected with Nazism*.”

Over all sites, 35% were youth, not seen as a problem.

Pows were busy with the harvest. The standard list of re-education activities was given, very similar to previous lists. The camp magazine had been suspended due to the repatriation of its editor. Other activities were much the same, one addition – the orchestra played concerts at the local cinema in Brigg.

Civilian contacts – Many pows had informal links with families. Concerts and boxing matches were provided by the pows. Very few problems had been recorded. Only negative note was that “*certain families*” were causing trouble by telling them they were slave labour, exploited by the government, and should be returned to Germany.

There are no other re-education reports in the National Archive file, but the camp continued to 1948 so there were probably more visits.

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

**3/6 February 1948** - English Inspector’s Report. 40 pupils in 7 classes at all sites. Strength 1508

New leaders - Commandant: Lt Col K C Miller Camp Leader: Karl-Heinz Böck

**1 to 3 May 1948** - English Inspector’s Report. 0 lessons. Strength 1652.

One of the last camps to close.

Known Camp Commandants:

1945 - Lt Col Cutbill

1945 - Lt Col L J Paine O.B.E.

1948 – Lt Col K C Miller, transferred from Overdale Camp 60.

**Numbers of pows**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Main |  |  |  | 984 (1) | 1593 | 636 | 630 | 693 (2) | 602 | 384 (4) | 437 |
| Crowle |  |  | With C 148 | 10 | 55 | 55 | 4 |  |  |  |
| Broughton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Market Rasen |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Elsham Hall |  |  | + C148 | 180 | 75 |  With C 292  |
| Elsham Mount |  |  | + C148 | 41 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Elsham Manor |  |  | + C148 | 52 | 16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scawby |  |  |  | 406 | 259 | 300 | 240 | 83 | 215 | 126 | 77 |
| Sandtoft |  |  |  |  | 679 | 650 | 501 | 701 | 610 | 202 | 101 |
| Castlethorpe |  |  | Was C 148 | 246 | 220 | 250 | 284 | 199 | 99 | 103 |
| Low Santon |  |  |  |  | 171 | 250 | 240 | 253 | 203 | 300 | 213 |
| Keadby North |  |  | With C 148 | 116 | 90 | 88 | 94 | 89 | 113 |  |
| Keadby South |  |  | With C 148 | 29 | 90 | 85 | 141 | 160 |  |
| Winteringham |  |  |  |  |  | 200 | 180 | 233 | 199 | 232 | 195 |
| Killingholme |  |  |  |  |  | See below | 62 (3) |  |  |
| Lea Hall |  |  |  |  | With C143 | With C 52 | 196 |  |
| Kirmington |  |  |  |  | With C256 | With C 292 | ? | 224 |
| Billetees |  |  |  | 196 | 223 | 150 | 132 | 172 | 160 | ? | 36 |
| TOTALS |  |  |  | 1862 | 3422 | 2641 | 2432 | 2666 | 2497 | 1652 | 1508 |

January 1946 – 1245 total pows – no breakdown given.

(1) + 3 in hospital. (2) + 8 in hospital. (3) detached. (4) including billets.

**After the camp:** see notes above. Modern map (2019) shows residential area with a garden centre alongside.

Note – there are some online references to a murder at Pingley Camp of Major Charlie Spasic; this occurred after it was a pow camp (1975), and not actually at the site.

**Further information:**

National Archives FO 939/161 – 81 Labour camp, Pingley Farm Camp, Brigg, Lincolnshire. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.

**Hostels**



**Broughton**, Brigg - just to the NW of Brigg, Lincolnshire. Local memories place it in the woodland at the junction of Appleby Lane and South View; SE 954 091.

**May 1944** – listed for Italian pows.

< 1948 aerial photograph.

Used for emergency housing after the pow camp – huts shown in 1956 picture >

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Broughton |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Castlethorpe** Lincolnshire – (this was previously Camp 148). Huts. For map and location see Camp 148. The dates for the camp ( and to some extent even its name) are NOT resolved.

**October 1946** – new Hostel leader; Georg Heinemann (B+), “*Quite satisfactory.”* Lack of tables and seating.

**January 1947** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr Peter Bosz [or Boss in other reports] (B), aged 45, law official, “*a good type and displays initiative in re-educational organization*.”

**June 1947** – same leader; “*with a fatherly attitude towards the youth has gained their confidence and co-operation*.” A small theatre group of 6.

**September 1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Castlethorpe |  |  | Was C 148 | 246 | 220 | 250 | 284 | 199 | 99 | 103 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crowle** – NGR SE 777 131. Huts.**January 1947** – Hostel leader; H/w Wehn (B), aged 33, “*although not yet imbued with democratic thought has kept up a fairly high morale*.”Aerial photo 1947.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Crowle |  |  | With C 148 | 10 | 55 | 55 | 4 |  |  |  |

 |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1956 |

**Elsham Hall / Manor / Mount –** 3 separate hostels close to each other. Hall TA 031 120 / Manor TA 034 122 / ‘The Mount’ TA 035 120.

**1945/1946** – Hostel administration transferred from Camp 148

**May 1946** – Hostel leaders: Hall – Fw Stengel (B); requested to be relieved of the post, no reason given / Mount AND Manor – Uffz Meyer (B), aged 43, municipal employee.

Elsham Hall – pows were in Nissen huts with electric lighting, (they had their own generator). A small stage in the canteen.

Mount and Manor – run as one hostel. 2 small private houses close to each other. Lit by oil lamps. Pows working in shifts at sugar beet factory making activities difficult to organise.

**October 1946** – Ofw Gerhard Klein (A) at the hall, no other leaders listed – “*Doing a fine job*.”

**From October 1947** – Elsham Hall appears in reports for Donna Nook Camp 292; no mention of the sites at Mount or Manor.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Elsham Hall |  |  | + C148 | 180 | 75 |  With C 292  |
| Elsham Mount |  |  | + C148 | 41 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Elsham Manor |  |  | + C148 | 52 | 16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Keadby North and South.** Huts. 2 sites about 100m apart. Memories place it next to the tidal Trent Bridge, SE 839 107.

Previously with Camp 148 holding Italian pows.

**October 1946** – South hostel leader; Fw Rudolf Haupt (A), Austrian, road engineer. Had spent 4 years in Canadian camps. Spoke excellent English. “*Doing a really good job.”* Austrian pows arrived on 4 August 1946. There had been no concerts or films. The parish did not allow the use of the football pitch on Sundays.

North leader, not listed.

**January 1947** – South leader; St/Fw Ilg (B). North leader; St/Fw Witt (B+) – German.

**June 1947** – 1 hostel leader for both sites; Wm Karl Theil (B+), aged 32, a forester, “*lacks personality*,” but considered to be harmless.

**September 1947** – North leader; OMt Kurt Bartel (B+) / South leader; PGefr Enst Czech (B-) – both leaders described as “*mainly interested in discipline.”*

**February 1948** – Just ‘Keadby’ listed.

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|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Keadby North |  |  | With C 148 | 116 | 90 | 88 | 94 | 89 | 113 |  |
| Keadby South |  |  | With C 148 | 29 | 90 | 85 | 141 | 160 |  |

**Killingholme (North)**

**September 1947** – *“This hostel was recently taken over from 292 Camp.* [Donna Nook] *More than half the inmates work for the Bomb Disposal unit and are only attached to the hostel for administrative purposes; consequently there are no classes there.*” Killingholme was NOT listed in reports for Camp 292 before or after this date. One possible explanation is that the hostel was attached to one camp while administered by another – this happened to another hostel (Sibsey).

The 1947 list of BDU’s included:

No.4 BD Squadron RE (PW) No.1 PW Platoon (BD) Grenadier Guards, Well Camp, Nr.Alford, Lincs. Tel Alford 173 [Well Camp was a hostel attached to Moorby Camp 79 by 1948]

Detachments No.4 BD Squadron R.E. Detachments Killinghome, H 23 Camp, North Killinghome, Grimsby, Tel.Killinghome 239

Hostel leader; Kurt Dockerill (B).

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|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Killingholme |  |  |  |  |  | See below | 62 (3) |  |  |

**Kirmington** (this is also listed as Satellite Camp 292a – further details with Donna Nook Camp 292)

Note – there were 2 Kirmington sites – a satellite Camp and a large hostel. Not recorded which was transferred to Camp 81 (or both).

**1 February 1948** – administration transferred from Donna Nook Camp 292.

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|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Kirmington |  |  |  |  | With C256 | With C 292 | ? | 224 |

**Lea Hall** (Gainsboro’). Building and huts. [‘Lea Hall’ attached to Maxstoke Camp 39 was a different location.]

Previously with Camp 143 and then Nether Headon Camp 52

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Lea Hall |  |  |  | With C143 | With Camp 52 | 196 |  |

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**Low Santon** (Appleby). Huts. SE 940 128.

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Ofw Heinrich Kansy (B+), aged 35, “*doing a good job with little backing from Main Camp*.”

The only newspapers received were those passed on by British staff. Several huts had leaks, “*especially the hospital*.”

**January 1947** – same leader. Many pows worked in shifts at the local cement works.

**June 1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Gerhard Kirschke (B), aged 32, a farmer.

**September 1947** – Hostel leader; Ofk Heinz Schloeffel (B), aged 27, a merchant, “*very suitable*.”

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Low Santon |  |  |  |  | 171 | 250 | 240 | 253 | 203 | 300 | 213 |

**Market Rasen**, Lincolnshire

**1944** – recorded as a hostel with Italian pows.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Market Rasen |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Sandtoft** – next to aerodrome. Sometimes called a satellite camp rather than a hostel. OS map shows many sites with huts. Possible site - huts still visible in the grounds of 'Bracken Cottage' opposite the Trolleybus Museum and the adjoining farmland behind - SE 749 081.

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Fritz Huffmeyer (B+) – “*a very hard working fellow – but found the work too much for him*.”

No wireless, newspapers or cinema. 1 lecture since May. A few Ps/W produced Russian certificates of discharge, and “*cannot understand why they were picked up in Germany after discharge and sent to this country as Ps/W.*” I have not seen this complaint elsewhere.

**January 1947** - Hostel leader; H/Fw Went (C), started December 1946, “*an ignorant type not suitable for the position.”* The study leader was also C grade, and the deputy was B-. All three were recommended for replacement. No organized activities taking place.

**June 1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Heinz Kansy (B+), aged 36, professional soldier - this was the same person who was leader at Low Santon (Ofw Heinrich Kansy). Total change in description; “*of subnormal intelligence… this ignoramus disposes of PsW running counter to his militaristic ideas by transferring them to the main camp… I have arranged for his removal*” - which makes you wonder why he was transferred from a hostel to this larger site. The visitor also recommended the removal of the deputy.

Generally, a low morale, partly due to the leader and that 300 of the pows were unemployed. Had its own theatre group which were in dispute with the leader (unknown reasons).

**September 1947** – Satellite camp leader Ofw Franz Rabke (B) – “*most unsuitable and has a bad influence*” – the Commandant intended to replace him.

Very poor wireless.

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|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Sandtoft |  |  |  |  | 679 | 650 | 501 | 701 | 610 | 202 | 101 |

**Scawby** (Appleby). Huts. SE 945 047. Aerial photo 1946.

**May 1946** – Hostel leader; St.Wm Huber (B), previously leader of Elsham Hall, aged 36, a watchmaker and then a Berlin policeman; “*the best hostel leader.”*

Huts with electric lighting – had their own generator. Small classes for French, Russian and architecture. A 5 man orchestra.

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Owm Helmuth Rattay (A), aged 30, a surveyor. Joined S.A. in 1934 in order to take his examination. *“Doing a fine job – very tactful but firm. Well liked by all.”* The cookhouse, only open for three months was already very dilapidated and seating was insufficient.

**January 1947** – Hostel leader; Fhj/Ofw Fleig (B)

**June 1947** – Hostel leader; Hfw Willi Gangkofner (B-). **September 1947** – same leader, a baker, due for repatriation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Scawby |  |  |  | 406 | 259 | 300 | 240 | 83 | 215 | 126 | 77 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Winteringham,** Winterton Road. Huts.HER record – SE 933 212. Full description;*“A former anti-aircraft battery on Winterton Road was converted to house German prisoners of war in 1946-47. Most of the prisoners worked at the Hydroprest company at Ashby Ville.* *The camp was subsequently occupied by squatters, due to the post-war shortage of housing. Later it became the responsibility of Brigg Urban District Council, who collected rents. A former occupant, interviewed by 'Nostalgia' magazine in 2002, said that there was a mixture of wooden huts and Nissen huts in the camp, around 30 buildings in all.”*Historic England – “*The monument includes standing, earthwork and associated buried remains of a World War II Heavy Anti-aircraft (HAA) gunsite known as Scunthorpe H8 in official records. It includes the functional core of the gunsite with four emplacements and the command post, located 1km to the south of Winteringham just east of Winterton Road. Gunsite H8 was one of 13 HAA gunsites established to protect Scunthorpe from enemy bombers….* *Towards the end of the war and in the years immediately following, the gunsite, with its domestic accommodation which was sited next to the road, was used to house first Italian and then German prisoners of war.”* |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1956 |

**January 1947** – Hostel leader; H/Fw Ernst Leibinger (B), aged 31, professional soldier - he had given complete satisfaction as leader. Several nationalities were held at this hostel. Activities were difficult to organise due to shift work.

**September 1947** – same leader, but now described as, “*not very intelligent and will be replaced.”*

75% were youth pows.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 1945 | 5/1946 | 10/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 2/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Winteringham |  |  |  |  |  | 200 | 180 | 233 | 199 | 232 | 195 |