**Camp 82** **- Hempton Green Camp, Fakenham, Norfolk (aka Pudding Norton)**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 82. Hempton Green Camp, Fakenham, Norfolk.

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| **1947 Camp List** |
| 82(G.W.C.) | Hempton Green Camp, Fakenham, Norfolk | E. | Priswar, Fakenham | Fakenham 2011 | Fakenham | Lt.Col.V.C.Ashe | 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 |
| TF 910 282 | 132 | 82 | Hempton Green Camp, Hempton, Fakenham | Norfolk | 2 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. Caravan site |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location:** About 1.5 km SW of Fakenham.**Before the camp:** Farmland**Pow Camp:** Italian pows to at least 1945, then German and other nationality pows. Standard camp layout with a main pow compound and guards’ huts and offices at the front of the camp alongside the road.**5 May 1944** - Hostels listed for Italian pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Mousehold Farm, Salhouse, Norwich.**May 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Eastern Command area, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were recorded as non-co-operators.

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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. |

**29 May 1945** - Screening Section Progress Report 84; stated that 125 German pows were transferred to the camp from Camp 170.**17 July 1945** – Screening Section Progress Report 130; stated that screening of German pows had been completed  |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1958 |

and requested 195 Nazis (C grade) be removed and replaced with a like number of A/B grade pows from Le Marchant Camp 23.

**15 September 1945** - Hostels listed for pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Cley, Holt, Norfolk / Houghton (Hall), King’s Lynn, Norfolk / West Acre, Swaffham, Norfolk

**1946** – Intake of many pows from camps in the USA. It does not say so here, but most had very low morale as they had been misinformed in the US that they were being repatriated. Instead, they found themselves in working camps in the UK.

**3 March 1946** – English Inspector’s Report.

Commandant Lt Col Aske, was co-operative - though it does not state that he actually did anything in any of the reports, other than he allowed teachers to have Saturdays free to prepare lessons. His friendly personality, “*is palpable throughout the whole camp.”* Five hostels due to be opened. The Inspector gave tests and lectures about English.

**15/17 August 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 2160 in main, 1 satellite, 6 hostels and billets. 43 pupils in 3 classes at main camp.

Camp leader (Lagersprecher): Horst Kotte.

**23 October 1946** – Visit by the Segregation Section to review screening. Strength; 2 officers, 2093 Other Ranks. There were transport difficulties at the camp.

Commandant: Lt Col V C Ashe Camp Leader: Ogefr Horst Petrusch (A)

Interpreter: S/Sgt F Waldhorn RAMC. Deputy C/L: Omt Fritz Roemer

 German M.O.: Oberarzt Ernst Wehenkel (A) and Unterarzt Hans Richter (A)



<1946 aerial photograph.

The Commandant was very popular with the whole camp.

The Interpreter “*watches over the political life of the camp and knows the personalities in it intimately*.” He was highly regarded by the visitors, but kept busy with administrative work. Probably Austrian as he had studied at the University of Vienna.

Camp Leader, aged 27, previously deputy C/L at a pow camp in the USA. The Commandant was satisfied with his performance. “*Bad personal experience has made him violently anti-Russian*.”

Deputy C/L, aged 40, a clerk, member of SPD and anti-Nazi – “*has had a good influence*.”

MO Wehenkel, aged 37, “*upright man who has never been in a Nazi organisation and holds moderate Catholic views*.” Well liked.

MO Richter, aged 38, he had been given an A grade despite being a member of the SA, now considered to be anti-Nazi. Based at Satellite camp.

Two others mentioned - Heinz Elsner (B+), the organiser of studies was ex-SS, but claimed to have been thrown out for failure to obey orders and was anti-Nazi. Alfred Boehmer was an ex-Nazi Party member, then became a left wing lecturer in the camp.

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| Political screening: | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ |
|  | - | 379 | 1 | 426 | 806 | 305 | 161 | 17 |

This was a very high number of A grade pows in comparison to most camps. Negative factor for morale was bad news from home, especially the Russian zone.

A number of the pows were miners who expected to be repatriated under a volunteer scheme, but were still waiting.

A small number of communist pows had attempted to dominate meetings, but without success.

Religion – Protestant padre, Uffz Guenther Hausen (B+), aged 35, had been a member of the Nazi Students’ League. *“A good influence*.”

RC padre, Ogefr Werner Zimmer (A) [Zimmerman in later report], aged 34, “*a simple man… a convinced anti-Nazi”* Sunday services held with 100 of the 300 RC pows.

**3 December 1946** – Re-education survey. This was listed as the 7th visit from PID, so reports are missing from the file. Strength; 1 officer [the MO],1977 OR.

Just one change to senior staff – Deputy C/L; Ogefr R Fulge.

Although the Commandant was supportive of re-education, and the Interpreter was active, the rest of the British staff were not interested – as in most camps.

Simplified screening in place: A 346 / B 1480 / C 152. Still an extremely large number of A grades. Repatriations had started – about 80 to date. Morale was recorded as “*surprisingly good*.”

There was a range of re-education activities (not listed) and a very active Political Discussion Group.

**17 March 1947** – Re-education survey. Strength; 2 officers, 1357 OR. Very bad winter weather.

No changes to senior staff.

MO at main; Ass Arzt Blomberg (B) – at satellite; Ass Arzt Richter (A).

Over 100 pows had appealed against their political grading – mainly C’s. Unfortunately the report does not say how many succeeded. (The better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory).

Major change to political screening figures – A 15 / B 1217 / C 125. No explanation given for the drop in A grades, but likely to have been repatriations. c.900 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was generally good due to – repatriations, accommodation, treatment, and employment. Bad news from Germany continued to have a depressing effect.



33% were ‘youth’ pows – under 25. No special provision was made for them.

The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 160 each.

Newspapers – adequate dailies; main and satellite also received weekly papers.

Library – 916 German books, 43 English.

Lectures – regular. More requested.

Discussion groups – Only at the satellite camp.

Films – adequate, obviously German films preferred. YMCA and Gaumont British film circuits.

Wireless – adequate. Loudspeakers in barracks.

Camp magazine – “*Glocken*.” (Or ‘Die Glocke’ – The Bell). Shortage of paper, as other camps.

Press review – in main and some hostels. Interest falling off as the radio provided news.

English Instruction – High level of interest at all sites.

Information room – put on displays of text and illustrations supplied by PID Visual Education Section.

Other camp activities –

Religion – 75% protestant, 25% RC. Same padres. Guenther Hausen had been upgraded from B+ to A. 10% attendance at services.

Education – there were classes, but they were not listed.

Entertainments – a moderate orchestra which also visited the hostels. A keen theatre group. A good choir.

**4 June 1947** – Re-education survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1362 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col V C Ashe Camp Leader: Ogefr R Fulge (A) [new]

Interpreter: S/Sgt F Waldhorn RAMC. Deputy C/L: Uffz R Schleuss (A) [new]

 German M.O.: Ass/Arzt W Bloemertz (B+) [new]

The camp leader had deferred his repatriation, no reason given.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 12 | 359 | 813 | 178 | 1 |

Fall in number of C grades most likely due to regrading after further screening. In most camps, most of the appeals against a grade were upheld. 581 pows repatriated since January.

The main camp was due to hold Ukrainians who were members of the Waffen-SS Division Galizien which was accused of war-crimes. They were of no interest to the inspectors from PID.

Morale had been affected by overcrowding in the huts, restrictions on walking out, news from Germany and changes to employment. Many new pows had been transferred from camps where they had worked in depots with easy jobs, but when transferred to this camp they had to adjust to mainly agricultural work. This is like to have arisen as the pow camps based at RAF bases were closed down. There had been 7000 transfers in and out of the camp during May alone!

Re-education activities were similar to the previous report, but were disrupted by frequent changes to the pows, and would all transfer to the hostels when the Ukrainians arrived.

Religion – apart from camp services, pows could attend local Baptist services.

Other activities – a rare mention of sports; football, table tennis, and a tennis court. Concerts had been given by the pows in aid of the Flood Relief Fund and poor local children.

**12 – 15 August 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength 1 officer; 1088 OR – this does not include the Ukrainians.

Commandant: Lt Col L A Villiers [new] Camp Leader: -

Interpreter: S/Sgt F Waldhorn RAMC. [ due to leave] Deputy C/L: -

 German M.O.: Ass/Arzt W Bloemertz (B+)

The new Commandant started 2 weeks earlier – he was noted to be a strict disciplinarian.

35 German pows remained at the main camp as administrators.

Screening figures: A 16 / B+ 311 / B 598 / B- 164.

Relaxation of restrictions had a good effect where hostels were near to villages. Good relationships with many local citizens were developing.

The standard list of re-education activities was given for the hostels;

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – the distribution of papers to the hostels caused dissatisfaction. The visitors wanted ‘The Times’ to take priority for delivery at every hostel, and a decrease in “*some of the more sensational papers*.”

Library – satisfactory. Exchange system needed to develop.

Lectures – regular. Attendance between 15 and 50% depending on the subject and when the lecture was given, on some nights the pows preferred to walk out.

Discussion groups – suspended due to late night working.

Films – Adequate

Wireless – Satisfactory

Press review – popular and held at all sites.

English Instruction – separate appendix.

Camp magazine – 180 copies monthly

Other camp activities –

Religion – RC padre Zimmer had been repatriated – pows attended services in local churches. Protestant padre Hausen had deferred repatriation and asked to become a civilian – camp services continued.

Education – “*Arbiturientenkurs”* (basic education course) was held at Matlaske and Barningham. Other courses were planned.

Entertainment – The camp had the best pow football team in East Anglia. Frequent matches with civilians were played. A choir of 35 members.

**19 – 22 September 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 2055, including 994 Ukrainians and 18 Poles. 157 pows learning English in 8 classes at all sites.

Camp Leader – Wachuta (Ukrainian).

*“Fine evenings, some hospitality and the attractions of the local maidens draw away English students from their studies.”*

The visitor commented that some Ukrainians were also studying English.

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

**Closed at the end of 1947.**

Known Camp Commandants

c.1946/7 - Lt Col Vivian Charles Ashe from the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

1947 - Lt Col L A Villiers from the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

**After the camp:** The status of the Ukrainian pows changed in 1948 to displaced persons, there were 1,682 recorded at the camp in 1948. For a while the camp was used for emergency housing. 2019 a residential / mobile home area.

< In use 1944

**Further information:**

National Archives FO 939/162 – 82 Working Camp, Hempton Green Camp, Fakenham, Norfolk. Dated 1945-1947. Used above.

Vertical Aerial Photograph: RAF. 1946. RAF 3G/TUD/UK/50 6138 31-JAN-1946 (NHER TF9127A).

Local website with many more photos and memories - [**https://fakenhamcommunityarchive.weebly.com/pudding-norton-camp.html**](https://fakenhamcommunityarchive.weebly.com/pudding-norton-camp.html)

**Numbers of pows**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Main |  |  |  | 880 | 876 | 924 (1) | 688 | 334 | 35 | 1113 (1) |
| Mousehold Farm | With C56 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cley |  |  |  | 100 | 97 | 93 | 79 |  |  |  |
| Houghton Hall |  |  |  | 92 | 91 | 90 | 71 | 150 |  50 | 52 |
| West Acre |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Matlaske |  |  |  | 392 | 365 | 336 | 195 | 482 | 402 | 371 |
| Barningham Park |  |  |  | 250 | 243 | 238 | 181 | 300 | 238 | 237 |
| Holkham |  |  |  | 146 | 140 | 127 | 105 | 150 | 137 | 137 |
| South Raynham |  |  |  | 88 | 85 | 81 | 60 | 147 | 139 | 145 |
| Rookery Farm |  |  |  | 98 | 95 | 89 |  |  |  |  |
| Billetees |  |  |  | 108 | 103 | ? (2) | 89 (2) | ? (2) | 88 | ? |
| TOTALS |  |  |  | 2160 | 2095 | 1978 | 1359 | 1363 | 1089 (3) | 2055 |

(1) Including billets (2) included in figures above (3) + Ukrainians in main camp.

**Satellite Camp**

**Matlaske** (RAF / USAAF Matlask). Huts.

The RAF left the site in October 1945 and the pow camp opened soon after. Reported to be based in the logistics camp.

**October 1946 –** Camp leader; Fw Ernst Hermann, aged 33, bank clerk. “*An excellent man for his job…. His knowledge of English is valuable and he is universally liked and respected.”* Politically a “*white-grey*” (A-B grades) camp which helped the pows from USA to assimilate. **December 1946** – same leader.

**March 1947** – Camp leader; Ogefr Gretze (B). Flourishing discussion group.

The Imperial War Museum has copies of the camp magazine – *‘Der Regenbogen: Satellite Camp 82’* (The Rainbow). Ref LBY E.J. 409. Details are – “German POW in Camp 82, Matlaske, Norfolk and Barningham Park, Suffolk. Dated Christmas 1946 and March / May 1947.

**June 1947** – Camp leader; Hfw L Huhn (B+).

**August 1947** – same leader. Good overall morale.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Matlaske |  |  |  | 392 | 365 | 336 | 195 | 482 | 402 | 371 |

**Hostels**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Barningham Park.** (Close to Matlaske). Possibly the site in the Park shown on map at TG 140 352 (NOT confirmed).**8/1946** – administered by Matlaske satellite camp. Huts.**10/1946** – hostel leader; Wm Ernst Klinger, (B+) aged 36 - “*Trying hard to obtain a democratic outlook*.” He was trusted by British and Germans.A large group of pows had arrived from Belgium where conditions had been extremely poor. **December 1946** – same leader.**March 1947** – Hostel leader; Ogefr Göller (B-). **June 1947** – same leader.**August 1947** – Commanding officer – Captain Myers.Hostel leader; Gefr R Bussmann (B+), aged 23, RC., CO stated he was; “*a good disciplinarian and under his ‘rule’ no crime has been committed.”* However, the PID visitor advised strongly against him as he was “*offering only destructive criticism.”* The Commandant was considering the matter. ‘Fairly good’ overall morale. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1957 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Barningham Park |  |  |  | 250 | 243 | 238 | 181 | 300 | 238 | 237 |

**Cley**, Holt, Norfolk. Listed as a building, rather than huts. TG 047 450. (Note, not the same site as Cockley Cley).

HER: A World War Two pow camp at Cley Eye is visible on aerial photographs taken in 1945 and 1946. A few sections of wall are all that survives above ground… It is located on Cley Eye a short distance to the south of the current coastguard lookout. The camp extends from NGR TG0473 4511 to TG0467 4497 to TG0481 4495, and was presumably associated with Cley Battery (NHER 24184).

There are about twenty-five buildings and structures within the area and tracks running between them. The buildings have been plotted, but the tracks have not. The tracks had a very scruffy appearance on most of the aerial photographs and determining which (if any) were proper roads/tracks was difficult. In the 1945 aerial photographs the whole ground area has this appearance. <https://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?MNF46290>

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Reinhold Winter (A), aged 32, a “*convinced anti-Nazi.”*

A high percentage of ‘youth’ pows (under 25), many having been in the Hitler Youth and holding on to Nazi views.

*“A bleak aspect on a deserted shore.”* No electric light. A faulty battery wireless.

**March 1947** – same leader.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Cley |  |  |  | 100 | 97 | 93 | 79 |  |  |  |

**Holkham.** Huts

“*Pow Hostel at Holkham*…. *On the night of 5 January 1946, 7 German pows, impatient to get home, stole a lorry and drove to the lifeboat house, broke open a window and tried to start the engine of the lifeboat but gave up the attempt. The men were arrested when they returned to the lorry*.” [www.kettlestonehistory.org/remembering-ww2/alec-peck](http://www.kettlestonehistory.org/remembering-ww2/alec-peck)

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Erich Witchel, [Witschel] (B+), aged 34, ex-member of SA, a savings bank clerk. Had spent most of the war based on the Channel Islands.

**March 1947** – same leader. No electricity.

**June 1947** – Hostel leader; Fw W Classen (B+).

**August 1947** – same leader. Poor overall morale mainly due to inconsistent employment. Still using oil lamps.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Holkham |  |  |  | 146 | 140 | 127 | 105 | 150 | 137 | 137 |

**Houghton** **Hall**, King’s Lynn, Norfolk. Huts

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Maat Ernst Schwaumbach (B), aged 38, clerk. Served most of the war on the Channel Islands. Non-political.

Pows were working four shifts at the local flax factory, including night-work, which made it difficult to organise activities. **December 1946** – Same leader.

**March 1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz H Schmidt (B). **June 1947** – same leader.

**August 1947 –** Hostel leader; H Mertz (B-), aged 46, tram driver, “*opportunist leanings, but remarkable personality, feels as father of family of his hostel*.” Good overall morale.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Houghton Hall |  |  |  | 92 | 91 | 90 | 71 | 150 |  50 | 52 |

**Mousehold Farm**, Salhouse, Norwich. TG 292 129. There was also Mousehold Heath Camp 253, Norwich about 6km away at TG 245 105.

Nearby airfield so many huts around area.

**1943** - listed as hostel for Italian pows with Botesdale Camp 56.

**May 1944** – listed as a hostel for Italian pows.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Mousehold Farm | With C56 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Rookery Farm.** Listed as huts and a house. 12 miles from main camp. [Possibly Rookery Farm, West Beckham, Holt NR25 6NX – TG 132 397 – NOT confirmed].

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Ofw Rudolf Wasserburger (B+), aged 33, regular soldier then a clerk. Satisfactory.

Some Nazi influences in the hostel.

**December 1946** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| Rookery Farm |  |  |  | 98 | 95 | 89 |  |  |  |  |

**(South) Raynham**. Huts. Possibly TF 880 238 – NOT confirmed.

**October 1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Walter Nickel, (B+), aged 28. **December 1946** – same leader.

**March 1947** – same leader but with different spelling and rank; “*Ogefr Michel (B)”* – back to W Nickel in next report. “*A decent man, but of despondent outlook, will be removed, as I suggested to the O.C.”*

**August 1947** – same leader – not removed. Satisfactory morale.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| South Raynham |  |  |  | 88 | 85 | 81 | 60 | 147 | 139 | 145 |

**West Acre**, Swaffham, Norfolk

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 5/1944 | 9/1945 | 8/1946 | 10/1946 | 12/1946 | 3/1947 | 6/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 |
| West Acre |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |