**Camp** **86 - Stanhope Camp, Stanhope, Kent**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 86. Stanhope Camp, Ashford, Kent.

|  |
| --- |
| **1947 Camp list** |
| 86(G.W.C.) | Stanhope Camp, Asford, Kent | E. | Priswar, Ashford | Ashford 410 | Ashford | Lt.Col.P.H. Drake-Brockman | v/1453/2 |
| The entry above has been crossed out in blue crayon and the following details handwritten on. |
|  | *Henghurst House, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent* |  | *Woodchurch* | *Woodchurch 59 and 84* | *Not crossed out.* | *Name above has not been crossed out* |

|  |
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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 |
| TR 000 408 | 189 | 86 | Stanhope Camp, Stanhope | Kent | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. Site occupied by housing |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** About 1.5 km SW from Ashford centre.A few remains of the camp are shown on the map at ‘x’ in 1961.**Before the camp:** Farmland.**Pow Camp:** Built 1942 / 3.Italian pows up to 1945, then a German working camp. The site had a standard layout with a main pow compound, with guards’ huts and offices at the front. For a while, with a large number of German pows arriving during 1945, tents were also used while additional huts were built. Common buildings and facilities at standard type camps included water towers, offices, officer's mess, a canteen, guard rooms, barrack huts, ablution blocks, cell blocks, a camp reception station (medical facility/hospital), a cookhouse, dining rooms, recreation rooms and living huts or tents.Aerial photograph 1944 – tents seen at top left. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

**1943 and 5 May 1944** - Hostel listed for Italian pows from this camp: Robertsbridge, Sussex.

**17 April 1945** – Camp was designated as a German Working Camp. Italian pows were transferred to other camps or placed in hostels awaiting repatriation.

**8 June 1945** - PID Progress Report 101, from Segregation Section – *“In view of great demand for labour in recent weeks, we have had to ask D.P.W. to provide the 550 Ps/W required as additional labour for [Camp 86]. This camp was opened by the War Office and has not been screened by us…. D.P.W. agreed at our request to draw the Ps/W from Camp No.169.”* D.P.W. – Department for Prisoners of War.

**21 June 1945** – Segregation Section visited to politically screen pows. Some C grades (7 - Nazis) were due to be removed.

**26 June 1945 –** PID Progress Report 122 recorded German pows being sent to Robertsbridge and Wootton hostels.

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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. |

**3-6 July 1945** – Report by a visitor from the Re-education Section. Strength; 2 officers, 130 NCOs, 1079 Other Ranks, (1212 was the total recorded).

Commandant: Lt Col Spurell Camp Leader: Franz Schneider.

Interpreter: S/Sgt H Y Ullmann

The Interpreter was aged 19 and considered to be too young to carry out political education – interpreters were often Intelligence Officers at the same time. Both his parents were killed in Danzig.

Robertsbridge hostel was no longer listed. Wootton hostel held 100 pows, they worked without escorts and there was no barbed wire. (There may still have been Italian pows in other hostels – but they were not considered by PID).

Re-education activities were just starting. The Commandant stated he would welcome more, but there is no record of him actually doing anything to promote this, indeed the opposite is true.

**26 July 1945** – Visit to decide if a re-education team from the Special Camp at Ascot (Camp 7) should be sent.

The commandant had forbidden all political activity – therefore most re-education work could not continue. Political discussions were carried out in secret and, *“there is a sense of mental repression.”* This did not encourage any belief in the values of democracy. Welfare of the pows was well-developed by the Commandant.

The camp was divided into 2 compounds, “*each administratively self-contained*” at this time with 2 leaders.

The film about Belsen concentration camp had been shown – with compulsory attendance at all camps. It “*created a considerable impression*” and two pows confirmed the film from what they had witnessed.

Youth pows - usually under 25. Compound 1 held 1/3 youth, and Compound 2 held 2/3 between 18-23. The pow leaders were having considerable disciplinary troubles with these pows. Strict discipline was applied in the camp and the situation settled down - by early 1946 comments were made by lecturers regarding good discipline.

There were small general education classes. The library contained just 35 books. There were orchestras, a theatre group and choir.

**15/16 September 1945** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength: 1512 in main and 4 hostels. 565 in huts / 550 in tents.

Inspectors met teachers, gave talks, checked teaching texts and resources, and tested the pow pupils. No change to senior staff. There were 98 pow pupils.

Pows requested dictionaries and had the funds to pay for them. The hostels had no teaching texts and these were requested by the inspector.

**12 December 1945** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1028 in main camp.

Some pows were still in tents, but the Commandant hoped they would all be in huts by Christmas.

Just 10 pow pupils for English in the main camp mainly due to lack of accommodation for lessons. The ‘classroom’ used was a small space (1½ x 5½ yards – 1.37 x 5.02 m) behind the chapel with poor lighting and no heating. Lessons had taken place in the dining huts, but these were now put to other use. A recreation hut was being built.

Re-educational activities were still at a very basic stage. English newspapers received at all sites, some visiting lecturers, a library started and sending books to the hostels.

Other education activities (where were these taught?) – Chemistry (30 pupils) / Maths (30) / Pelztierzüchter (Fur animal breeding) / Bienenzüchter (Beekeeping).

**Early 1946** – February, a visiting lecturer, Fritz Beer, mentioned 2 hostels; Tilmanstone and Dover. They were again listed by a lecturer in March, and Dover again in April. Both these sites were not mentioned in later PID reports, and by May, only one hostel at Charing is listed.

Pows in all camps raised the question of when they would be repatriated, it was always the main concern. The fairness of having to work in the UK when Germany needed rebuilding was another issue raised. Many comments made to lecturers visiting this camp seemed more vociferous than others and with talk of being kept as slaves. Overall, this camp suffered far more complaints by pows than most others.

**28 February 1946** – Short English Inspector’s report.

Reception – “*Rough, decidedly rough. Hospitality, none.”* The Inspector thought this might be down to a new Commandant being due to start – it was more than that. Arrangements were not made for him to complete tasks. No English teaching had occurred due to lack of accommodation.

“*This visit was not worthwhile.”*

**17 to 24 May 1946** – Visit by three members of PID, no reason given, but probably to conduct political screening.

The new commandant, Lt Col PH Drake-Brockman was in place. As in most camps, he had little interest in re-education. Commandants were not required to promote re-education, which was developed by the Foreign Office – the camps were under the control of the War Office. The purpose of the camps was to hold pows and to set them to work when possible. Many Commandants preferred to concern themselves with welfare and other activities rather than re-education. If the camp was working and kept under control that was sufficient as far as many Commandants (and the War Office) were concerned.

Interpreter S/Sgt Ullmann had been joined by S/Sgt H F Epps.

The dividing wire between the two separate compounds was removed to form 1 compound.

Pows working on demolishing air-raid shelters in Ashford and those employed in Canterbury on building sites, complained that the food ration was inadequate to carry out such heavy manual labour.

Some farmers complained that the standard of work had fallen away.

Pows who served on U-boats stated that their Commander (Oberlt Turre) received a promise from a British Admiral that if they volunteered to take their U-boats to England they would be immediately repatriated, instead they were held in various pow camps. (This same complaint was raised in other camps). To make matters worse they received news that the crews who did not volunteer had been sent direct from Norway to Germany.

There was no information about what, if anything, was done about these complaints and in June a Special Visit was made to investigate labour problems.

**4 June 1946** - English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1461 in main + 1 hostel and billets. 180 pupils at all sites. (This sudden huge jump in numbers was not explained).

Commandant: Lt Col Drake-Brockman Camp Leader: Schneider. (The second compound had a leader, St.Fw Niemeyer).

Interpreter: S/Sgt Epps and S/Sgt Ullmann.

Stated that other hostels were transferred to Langdon Camp 412.

Classes were taking place in the potato peeling hut at the main camp. There was a shortage of texts and books. Mr Rees from Ashford Grammar School was giving advanced English lessons.

Reception – “*Poor. Hospitality nil*.” There was a resistance to “*interference from outside*” – “*The Adjutant’s sigh rippled gently through the camp on my departure*.”

*“The general atmosphere is of depression, and dissatisfaction*…” The main cause was lack of news about repatriation, but the general atmosphere created by a Commandant who had little contact with the pows and a disinterested British staff certainly played a part. Mail being received was erratic.

**24-26 June 1946** – Special object of visit; Re-education, Investigate Labour Trouble. Strength 1493.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C | Unknown |
|  | 2 | 87 | 2 | 247 | 558 | 322 | 159 | 116 |

There had been large transfers of pows – since February, nearly 550 pows arrived from camps in the USA and Canada, and 678 left for other camps. Those arriving from the US had very low morale as they had been misinformed that they were being repatriated, instead, they found themselves in working camps in the UK.

There was now a single leader for the whole camp - St/Fw Schneider. The visitor stated he had, “*no personality and is totally uninspiring*” and recommended he be removed, (he was not). The leader of what had been compound 2, St/Fw Niemeyer became assistant leader.

There was a list of complaints regarding repatriation, bad news from Germany, rates of pay, too much barbed wire, insufficient food, lack of interest by British staff, and work at cement and brick works being too hard.

The camp labour officer believed there was a ‘go-slow’ amongst the pows working on farms. There were various factors that had created this problem, mainly;

* the charge to farmers for hiring pows had increased in April, and they expected more work
* travelling time was not paid for and many had to travel 1½ to 2 hours per day
* pay was deducted if it rained and they were unable to work.

Most complaints came from the pows from USA and Canada. The issues were raised with the commandant. Problems were not reported again.

During this visit a security suspect was raised – Wilh Riedle was listed in the War Criminals registry (Crowcas) and held under arrest since December 1945, but nothing had happened. The matter was taken up with Kent Sub District and the pow was released from arrest. Further investigation found that he had been in the Waffen SS, “*but only since 1941,*” and he was politically re-graded as B-.

**7-8 September 1946** - English Inspector’s Report. Strength 2196 in main + 5 hostels and billets.

Classes had been suspended during the harvest. “*This visit was largely a waste of time.”*

**August 1946** – At the start of the month complaints were raised as to why German officers in other camps did not have to work. Hopefully they were informed that the Geneva Convention stated they did not have to and it was nothing to do with the British. Towards the end of the month, after an announcement about increased speed of repatriations, the atmosphere began to improve in the camp and this was commented on by visiting lecturers.

**20-21 November 1946 –** Segregation Section visit mainly to look at political screening.

No changes to senior personnel.

The interpreter, S/Sgt Epps was a regular soldier who had been a pow in Germany for nearly 5 years in WW1 – he spoke fair German, was efficient and well liked by the pows.

500 pows remained unscreened – grades for the others were not given.

Good discipline and the British staff liked and respected by the pows. The Commandant was regarded as fair. The pows were largely contented with conditions. However, morale was regarded as low due to a slow down in repatriations – and especially with not knowing when their repatriation dates would be. There were complaints about the fraternisation rules which only allowed German camp staff to walk out without guards.

**30 November 1946 –** English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1919 in main, 5 hostels and billets. 31 pupils in 2 classes

Another waste of time with no arrangements made for the visitor to carry out tasks.

The lessons by Mr Rees were in doubt as he wished to charge 15 shillings per lesson. He was not recorded again.

**During 1947** – a small detachment of German pows working with a bomb disposal platoon were based at this camp. (FO 939/83). They were not mentioned in the reports below.

**4-7 June 1947** – General Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer (the M.O.), 1741 Other Ranks.

Commandant: Lt Col Drake-Brockman Camp Leader: SWm Schneider (A)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Epps Deputy C/L: Fw Janssen (B)

 German M.O.: O/Arzt Dr Deutschlander (B)

Many of the pows in the hostels stated that the Commandant did not seem to be interested in them – it was suggested he held a monthly meeting with the hostel leaders.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 101 | 325 | 1084 | 231 | 1 |

The visitor was again not well received and little assistance was given other than by the Interpreter.

40 pows were appealing against their political grades – the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory. 440 pows repatriated to date

Morale was stated to have improved with the reasons given – better weather, full employment, increased privileges for walking out, and excursions. However, the main reason would have undoubtedly been repatriations. One pow commented; “*Protracted captivity is breaking the hearts and the spirits of the older men, who are continuously worrying about their families*.” News from home was often depressing.

The visitor believed there was considerable political progress with the vast majority of pow accepting the idea of a democratic form of government. A group of pows had visited the Labour Party Conference at Margate – and this was compared by those who could remember Nazi Party rallies.

One of the most positive factors affecting pows outlook was contact with civilians. Many pows at this camp had developed good informal contacts in Ashford and local villages.

Up to 33% of the pows were youth. They were not considered to be a problem.

Most re-education activities occurred at Woodchurch, and then at the main camp – a lot less at the other hostels. The activities were affected by the alternate attraction of walking out of camp and because many pows carried out ‘odd-jobs’ in the evening to earn extra cigarettes and items to send to their families. The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – adequate.

Newspapers – Supply of British papers was very good and many pows bought their own copies. German papers were eagerly read, but more requested.

Library – Adequate. 1600 books, including 450 German novels.

Lectures – had been irregular and advance notice sometimes not given.

Discussion groups – at Main and Woodchurch. Charing had a small group, but little interest shown.

Films – Main camp visited by YMCA films and Travelling Films Ltd. Hostels only received YMCA films.

Wireless – adequate, but reception of German stations was often difficult.

Press review – Weekly in main and Woodchurch. Woodchurch produced a daily news-sheet. Stumblewood had a wall-newspaper, changed weekly.

English Instruction – classes at all sites.

Information Room – held exhibitions of text and illustrations of materials sent by PID.

Other camp activities –

Religion – Good facilities in the camp and local places of worship. Some local clergymen visited the camp. RC Chaplain shared with Camp 412. Protestant Chaplain, Fw Paul Field (A) “*is not an impressive personality…. More interested in his own prospects of repatriation… During the recent spell of hot weather, he made no visits to the hostels as it was ‘too uncomfortable’.”*

Education – only English lessons.

Entertainments - Theatre group at Main and Woodchurch. Orchestra at Main. Hostels were not visited due to transport difficulties.

Formal outside contacts – Education; Labour Party Conference, Ashford primary and secondary schools, Southern Railway works, Ashford police court, Christs Hospital School (if transport available).

Formal outside contacts – Canterbury and Rochester Cathedrals, Dover Castle, Hythe Dymchurch and Romney Light Railway.

**2-6 September 1947** – General Re-educational Survey. Strength 1 officer, 1741 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col R G R Ames [New] Camp Leader: O/Maat Herbert Weier (B+) [New]

Interpreter: L/Cpl S C Kewell [New] Deputy C/L: Fw Josef Janssen (B+)

 German M.O.: O/Arzt Dr Deutschlander (B)

The new commandant held monthly meetings with the hostel leaders.

The Interpreter had been held as a pow in Germany for five years – he had learned some German, and gained his position merely on that basis.

The Camp leader was elected 1 July – “*very quiet and unimpressive and confessed that he thought the job would have been easier*.” The visitor arrogantly summed up the hostel leaders as, “*a dull and uninteresting lot.”*

Simplified screening figures in use: A 25 / B 1717. 1115 pows repatriated to date.

General morale was, “*not particularly high.”*

The number of youth pow had increased to 50% - the report did not state why, but it was usually with a new intake of young pows from camps in Belgium and Germany.

The standard list of re-educational activities was very similar to the previous report. Changes – Discussion groups had ceased; Films Ministry of Information films also arrived and hostels were visited more often.

A good supply of playing cards and indoor board games had been sent by the International Red Cross.

**13 October 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 1630. 30 pupils in 3 classes in the whole camp.

**27/31 October 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1615 OR.

Two new senior personnel – Interpreter: Capt J Fleming and Deputy C/L: O/Gefr Ingo Bennin (B)

The visitor was well received by the new Commandant - transport and other arrangements were made as required.

The new Interpreter Officer did not speak German, but oversaw the work of L/Cpl Kewell.

This visitor had a different opinion of the hostel leaders, stating that they were, “*all good, except at Charing.”*

Morale had improved since the new Commandant arrived. An increased speed in repatriations was another positive factor - 1276 pows repatriated to date.

Complaints were raised about the length of time for mail to arrive. A guide was given for letters from various zones:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Zone: | British | American | French | Russian |
| Time 2 months earlier: | 10 days | 3 weeks | 10-14 days | 3-4 weeks |
| Time taken now: | 8 weeks | 5 weeks | 6 weeks | Irregular. |

An approach was made to the Conservative Party for a group to attend their conference, as others had to the Labour Conference – it was declined “*with the utmost frigidity.”*

Youth - Many had served on U-boats. *“Their Nazi indoctrination is not yet eradicated. One of them said to me that the war was lost through Hitler's poor strategy, etc. One never hears it said that the war should not have been started, but only regret that it was lost."*

Religion – attendance was higher at churches outside the camp than inside – “*but not entirely for religious reasons.”*

Entertainments – no mention of the theatre group or orchestra, but preparations were underway for Christmas.

Outside contacts – “*no change.”*

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

**2-5 December 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1503 OR.

“*The main camp is to be closed for Ps/W and the HQ moved to Woodchurch Satellite Camp. 412 Camp at Dover will be taken over by this camp*.” Most activities were disrupted by this change.

No change to senior personnel. 1276 pows repatriated to date. News from the Russian zone led to 110 pows applying to remain in the UK.

The London Conference caused concern, many believing that the powers in Germany intended to exploit Germany and maintain a low standard of living.

One of the pows, ‘Seng,’ was awaiting trial by Military Court for “*misappropriation of monies*.”

**5 January 1948** – The last item of correspondence in file FO 939/305 using the Stanhope address.

**Further reports were made under Camp 86 at its new HQ site; Hengherst House, Woodchurch. Stanhope was no longer listed.**



Known Camp Commandants:

1945 Lt Col Spurell.

< 1946 Lt Col Paris Hilary Drake-Brockman, from the East Surrey Regiment. 1896 – 1975.

1947 Lt Col R G R Ames – transferred to the new HQ at Woodchurch.

**After the camp:** The camp was used for emergency housing. 2019 residential area.

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 939/166 and 939/305 – 86 Working Camp, Stanhope Camp, Ashford, Kent. Dated 1946-1948. Used above.

**Numbers of pows**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Main |  |  | 1115 | 1028 |  | 1214 | 1137 | 995 | 768 (1) | 785 | 906 | 689 |
| Robertsbridge |  |  | To C 145 |  |  |  |  |
| Wootton Court |  |  | 127 | 128 |  | To Camp 412 |
| Brook House, Ash |  |  | 70 | 93 |  | To Camp 412 |
| North Court |  |  | 100 | 98 |  | To Camp 412 |
| Trenley Park |  |  | 100 | 102 |  | To Camp 412 |  |  |  |  |
| Dover |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Charing |  |  |  |  |  | 247 | 237 | 222 | 185 | 160 | 120 | 233 |
| Brissenden Green | Camp 282 | 71 | 62 | 48 | 55 | 51 | 72 |
| Lydd |  |  |  |  |  |  | 67 | 60 | 74 | 59 | 71 |  |
| Stumblewood |  |  |  |  |  |  | 170 | 162 | 159 | 160 | 133 | 198 |
| Woodchurch | With Camp 282 | 505 | 418 | 375 | 379 | 335 | 136 |
| Billetees |  |  | ? | ? |  | 63 | 106 | 102 | 131 | 144 | ? (2) | 176 |
| TOTALS |  |  | 1512 | 1449 |  | 1461 | 2196 | 1919 | 1742 | 1742 | 1616 | 1504 |

(1) + 2 in hospital. (2) included in numbers above.

**Satellite Camp**

**Woodchurch.** 6 miles from main camp. Huts. TQ 9505 3650 for map see Woodchurch Camp 86.

At this moment – from reading the camp reports – it seems that Hengherst House, Woodchurch was a satellite/hostel for Brissenden Camp 282 prior to 1946. (NOT fully confirmed)

In 1946 Brissenden Green and Woodchurch were attached to Stanhope Camp 86. (Confirmed by reports in FO 939-166).

At the end of 1947, Hengherst House became the new HQ with the number 86 when Stanhope closed, and Brissenden Green continued to be a hostel. (Confirmed by reports in FO 939-166).

**6/1947** – Camp leader; Gefr Hermann Volke (A). A high level of re-education activities was taking place.

**9/1947** – Camp leader; Ofw Karl Hecht (A)

**10/1947** – Camp leader; Max Hoefler (B+). The camp was far more democratic than other sites – decisions about facilities and actions were made by committees.

**12/1947** – Camp leader; Robert Heise (B)

**1948** - Woodchurch became the HQ when Stanhope closed as a pow camp.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Woodchurch | With Camp 282 | 505 | 418 | 375 | 379 | 335 | 136 |

**Hostels**

**Brissenden Green**. 6 miles from main camp. Huts. Was independent camp 282 - see for map.

**6/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Gűnter Jung (B).

The hostel was isolated, there was little to do and few activities. The pows alleged a lack of food, though standard rations were issued to the hostel – this had been resolved by the next report through the appointment of new cooking staff.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Fw Josef Lernbecher (B+) **12/1947** – same leader.

**1948** – administration transferred to Woodchurch Camp 86.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Brissenden Green | Camp 282 | 71 | 62 | 48 | 55 | 51 | 72 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Brook House, Ash**. 40 miles from main camp. Huts. TR 301 592.Note there was another Brook House; Camp 238, Ardingley, Sussex.**11 August 1945** – hostel opened for German pows. May have been open before this for Italian pows.**12/1945** - 25 pow pupils for English. The recreation hut was used as a chapel for irregular services.Facilities – 1 football, chess, draughts, cards (more requested). 1 battery operated wireless.Aerial photo 1948 – appears to be huts to the north of the house – possibly Nissen type. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1938 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Brook House, Ash |  |  | 70 | 93 |  | To Camp 412 |

**Charing.** 10 miles from main camp. Huts.

**April 1946** – Hostel opened for Germans at about this time, (may have held Italians before this). Pows were from camps in the USA.

**June 1947** – Hostel leader; SFw Ulrich Medrow

Low morale recorded for this hostel was attributed by pows to the behaviour of the S/Sgt in charge who they claimed to be a bully and a militarist. The adjutant promised to investigate.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Kurt Burkhardrt (B). **12/1947** – same leader.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Charing |  |  |  |  |  | 247 | 237 | 222 | 185 | 160 | 120 | 233 |

**Dover.** Possibly Langdon Barracks, Dover which became Camp 412 and was later a hostel for Woodchurch Camp 86???

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Dover |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Lydd.** 20 miles from main camp. Huts.

**11/1946** – A lecturer stated that many of the pows were very depressed as they had just been told their political grades after screening. At first, only 2 pows were going to turn up for his talk on psychology in protest, but after he chatted with them, 55 out of 70 attended. The lecture was very well received.

**9/1947** – Hostel leader; Omaat Andreas Kirschbaum (B). Pows felt neglected as they were so far from the main camp. **10/1947** – same leader.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Lydd |  |  |  |  |  |  | 67 | 60 | 74 | 59 | 71 |  |

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**North Court, Tilmanstone**. 30 miles from main camp. Huts. TR 302 520.

*“At a harvest festival at Tilmanstone Methodist Church in October 1946 some 70 of the 120 PoWs at the camp joined in. Hymns were sung in German and English, and the PoWs were presented with a New Testament in German.”*

**20 August 1945** – hostel opened for German pows.

**12/1945** – 22 pow pupils for English. Black paint being sent to make a blackboard. A padre came from Dover to hold religious services.

Facilities - 1 football, chess, draughts, cards (more requested). No wireless.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 46 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| North Court |  |  | 100 | 98 |  | To Camp 412 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **Robertsbridge,** Sussex. Robertsbridge (on George Hill). With Normanhurst Camp 145, East Sussex. Heathfield Gardens / George Hill TQ 737 232.*“I was born in Robertsbridge in May 1946 and I remember as a baby being taken to (I believe) a satellite POW camp in Robertsbridge, East Sussex, England. The POW camp was demolished circa 1948. There is now a Housing estate known as Heathfield Gardens on this site. Some of the POW’s from this camp; German & Italian stayed on in the village, in some cases marrying local women. Throughout my life, I never witnessed or heard any animosity towards the men that stayed or their families, my father certainly was friends of some, and I went to school with their children.”* (Cited from: <http://www.militarian.com/threads/left-behind-pow.11350/>)

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early46 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Robertsbridge |  |  | To C 145 |  |  |  |  |

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| Ordnance Survey 1946 |

**Stumblewood.** 3 miles from main camp. Huts. There are different Stumble Woods – but to match the distance given, I think it would be TR 011 385

Probably linked to a different main camp before these entries.

**6/1947** – Hostel leader; OFhn Alfred Boldt (B). No organised re-education activities. **12/1947** – same leader.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Stumblewood |  |  |  |  |  |  | 170 | 162 | 159 | 160 | 133 | 198 |

**Trenley Park. (Trenleypark)** 18 miles from main camp. Huts. (Well Lane / Trenleypark Wood – TR 184 589).

*“Well Lane leads also to Trenley Park Woods, a restricted area in the war because of ammo depot and PoW camp… In 1943 the Fordwich platoon was on duty every night in Trenleypark Wood, patrolling a vast ammunition dump that was being built up in preparation for D-Day. There was a German PoW camp on the edge of the wood.”*

<https://powell-pressburger.org/Trips/Canterbury/19990829/19990829e.html>

**8 August 1944** – Hostel opened for German pows.

Ship and scenery in a light bulb - *“This rare and remarkable object was created by a German Officer called Willi Hallmann, at The Trenley Park P.O.W camp in Britain in 1945.”*

**12/1945** – 27 pow pupils for English. Lessons in dining hut lit by oil lamps and heated by a stove. Black paint being sent to make a blackboard.

Irregular religious services held in the canteen.

Facilities – 1 football, chess, draughts, cards (more requested). No wireless; with oil lamps used probably no electricity.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Trenley Park |  |  | 100 | 102 |  | To Camp 412 |  |  |  |  |

**Wootton (Court)**. 25 miles from main camp. A building. The large country house became a preparatory school in 1894 – it was evacuated in 1939. Later used for prisoners of war and then displaced persons. It was demolished in 1952.

**25 June 1945** – Hostel opened for German pows.

**12/1945** – 15 pow pupils for English. Religious services fortnightly.

Facilities – 1 football, chess, draughts, cards (more requested). No wireless.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1945 | 12/1945 | Early 1946 | 6/1946 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 |
| Wootton Court |  |  | 127 | 128 |  | To Camp 412 |