**Camp 87** **- Byfield Camp, Byfield, Northamptonshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 87. Byfield Camp, Byfield, Rugby, Warwicks.

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| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 87(G.W.C.) | Byfield Camp, Byfield, Rugby, Warwickshire | E. | Priswar, Byfield | Byfield 15 | Woodford & Hinton (L.N.E.R.) | Lt.ColJ.A. McDonnell O.B.E. | v/1453/2 |

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| **Prisoner of War Camps (1939 – 1948) - Project report by Roger J.C. Thomas - English Heritage 2003** | | | | | | | |
| OS NGR | Sheet | No. | Name & Location | County | Cond’n | Type 1945 | Comments |
| SP 5020 5340 | 151 | 87 | Byfield Camp, Byfield, Daventry | Northamptonshire | 3 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. |

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| **Location:** About 1.5 km W of Byfield.  **Before the camp:** Farmland.  **Pow Camp:** The camp was built by the Banbury building firm Hinkin and Frewin. Opened to house Italian pows working on local farms in the counties of Leicester, Northants and Warwickshire. 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 alongside the road. 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. Buildings were made from pre-fabricated concrete sections.  **1942/43** – Camp opened.  Information from “Bygone Byfield” by Pam Hicks and Barry Thompson, 2015:  Italian and German POWs worked on the land, with the Italians being engaged in flax pulling. POWs also worked in the kitchens at the camp. A German POW worked at Judd’s garage in Byfield. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

POWs made items such as ships in bottles, lamp holders, brooches, and willow baskets. These were either sold or given away. Italian POWs melted down silver coins to make rings and cigarette cases.

**4 January 1944** - There was an International Red Cross visit - Italian prisoners, capacity 520.

**5 May 1944** - Hostels listed for Italian pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Green’s Norton, Towcester, Northamptonshire, (previously attached to Camp 35) / Sulgrave, Northamptonshire, under Banbury PO, Oxon.

**May and November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Eastern Command area and then as an Italian POW Working Camp, (WO 32/10737). Recorded as holding non-co-operator Italians.

**Spring / Summer 1945** – Italian pows were moved from the main camp into hostels, billets and other camps.

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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. |

Memories of Guenther Rosenkranz: “*In April 1945, I arrived in Byfield at Camp 87, where there were already some POWs. Now we were about 400 men in this camp. Here were no watchtowers with guards and no searchlights going back and forth all night, as it was in Camps 9, 196 and 186. Also, no large rolls of barbed wire, seven rolls deep, stretched before a high barbed wire fence, and no dead zone, just a high barbed wire fence. Here guards were patrolling the outside path.*

*Byfield Camp was always our mother-camp and all mail incoming and outgoing went through Byfield. Our camp hospital was in Byfield and manned by a German Army doctor, a German dentist and some trained orderlies. All surgical operations and more serious sicknesses were transferred to an English Army hospital or to a civilian hospital, both during and after the War.*

*A friend and I worked together for the same farmer, who was right in the village of Byfield, for nearly nine months. Some others were working for different farmers in the village too and we all were walking to work. Every farmer in walking distance had some POWs working, while many men were driven by lorries away to nearby villages. Many men, in groups of between ten and twenty, were digging ditches. Others again worked on threshing crews. All larger groups had one or even two armed guards along and only single or two-man crews had no more guards. After a short while, when the War had ended, guards were replaced by British civilians, who acted as foremen.*

*Our life in the camp was filled out with a theatre group, a musical band and games of cards, darts or chess in the evenings or on weekends in the dining barracks. Here in this camp we had no Nissen huts, all barracks were built from building blocks.”* Guenther later moved to Barby Hostel. Extract: [www.barbylhg.org.uk/Guenther'sStoryFeb13Web.pdf](http://www.barbylhg.org.uk/Guenther'sStoryFeb13Web.pdf)

**17 July 1945** – PID Progress Report from the Segregation Section – the camp had been politically screened and a recommendation made that 92 nazis be removed and replaced by A/B grade pows from Camp 23.

**July 1945** – English Inspector’s report. The current teacher, Walter Johannes, aged 41, formerly the headteacher of a “Volksschule.” He not only spoke English badly, but he was politically graded as ‘C’ (Nazi) and due for transfer to another camp. The pows at this time were unaware of their gradings. Another teacher was suggested.

The Commandant was Major McDonnell, his rank indicates that this was a small, but growing, pow camp - the War Establishment later gave him the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The Major was not supportive of re-education, it was recorded that he thought; “*the idea of teaching farm labourers English was ridiculous*”. The commandant seemed to dislike visitors in general. A previous experience related to a YMCA visitor who apparently offered to send an accordian – but on arrival the instrument was not only faulty, but was accompanied by a bill for £25 – it was returned.

**15 September 1945** – 8 Hostels listed for pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737) – see chart below.

**29 November 1945** – English Inspector’s Report.

The Inspector recorded a level of hostility from Commandant McDonnell – now recorded as a Lieutenant Colonel. There was a shortage of text books, pencils and paper.

**1 June 1946 –** English Inspector’s Report. Strength 850 – 500 in main camp; 350 in hostels.

Commandant: Lt Col MacDonnell Lagersprecher: Hertlein

Interpreter: S/Sgt Brainin (at this camp from November 1945) Studienleiter: Krauss

The amount of English teaching had declined considerably – only 1 teacher with 3 pupils in 2 classes were recorded for the main camp. The reason for this was stated as; “*the large proportion of Ps/W on night shift.”* (Some pows worked in a cement factory).

**16 – 17 July 1946** – A Re-education Progress report was made by Major C H B Readman. Strength 1 officer (the Medical officer); 1186 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col J A McDonnell Lagersprecher: Fw otto Hertlein (A)

Interpreter: S/Sgt Hays (appointed 2 weeks previous). Deputy C/L: Uffz Franz Scholz (B)

German M.O.: Lt Arzt Ottersky

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| Political screening: | A+ | A | B | C | Unscreened |
|  | 1 | 22 | 507 | 138 | 519 |

The visitor stated that the Commandant believed that; “*his main job is to ensure that his Ps/W work and his interest in P.I.D. activities is very small.”* This is in fact correct – pows were not kept in the UK to re-educate them, but as a workforce. However, it was also stated that the Commandant was not obstructive and did allow the interpreter to promote activities.

The new interpreter was a refugee and regarded as a “*worthy successor*” to the previous popular interpreter.

The Camp Leader was aged 37, a Protestant and a Bavarian forest-ranger. “*He takes an active part in re-education and does everything he can to promote a friendly democratic atmosphere in the camp. No badges of rank are worn.”*

The deputy C/L was aged 40, R.C., a farmer from Silesia – “*not particularly intelligent…. Does his job satisfactorily in a quiet unobtrusive manner.*”

Recent intakes of pows from other camps included a large number of pows previously held in the USA – they were largely the group that was unscreened. Their morale was low as they had been incorrectly informed in the States that they were to be returned to Germany. The overall political complexion of the camp was seen as Grey (B) – there were some Nazis, but their activities were being closely watched.

The 14 hut leaders were elected by secret ballot every 3 months. Hostel leaders came to the main camp once per month to discuss issues.

Living conditions were described as very good and the barbed wire was gradually removed. The type of work carried out by the pows appears to have changed as now only 65 were working in shifts in a cement factory – the rest were working on farms. Post was increasingly arriving at a steady rate. The health, canteen and clothing were satisfactory.

There were 391 Youth (under-25) pows. 54 were under the age of 20. 50 youth pows were held at Barby hostel. Some political talks were given for the youth pows, but many were described as being “*apathetic and unwilling to learn*.”

Standard re-education activity list:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 120 / 85 received.

Newspapers – 14 daily papers for the main camp and 20 for the 8 hostels were purchased locally. 8-10 German papers were sent by P.I.D. once a fortnight and 5 copies of Blick in die Welt.

Library – 489 books.

Lectures – approximately monthly. Although the visitor described the camp as “*intellectual level – low*”; about 75% of the pows attended the lectures, even with titles such as *‘Illegal political activity in the 3rd Reich’* and ‘*Co-operation between capital and labour’*.

Discussion groups – held weekly at the same time as press reviews.

Films – Fortnightly with films supplied by the YMCA and P.I.D.

Radio – in the main camp with 4 loudspeakers, and at all the hostels.

Camp Magazine – 150 copies fortnightly: “Der Aufbau”. At this time a charge of 3d was being made with the money raised to purchase a duplicating machine.

Press review – weekly.

English Instruction – suspended due to movements of pows within the camp / hostels.

Other camp activities:

Religion – There was an evangelical padre, Karl Lucke, who also visited the hostels. There was a chapel in the main camp where services were held every Sunday, bar one per month when the pows were able to attend a service at the local village church. A British RC priest visited the main camp weekly.

Education – there were classes for chemistry, physics, agriculture, architecture, history and stenography – temporarly suspended due to movements of pows within the camp / hostels.

Theatre – A theatre hut with a stage. Variety shows and sketches were performed.

Orchestra – 8 men playing light music.

**22-24 November and 18 December 1946** – “Screening and routine” visit. Strength; 1 officer; 1049 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col J A McDonnell Lagersprecher: Uffz Franz Scholz (A – previously B and was deputy C/L).

Interpreter: S/Sgt H Gang (new) Deputy C/L: Uffz Erich Greiner (A - previously hostel leader at Litchborough)

German M.O.: Stabsarzt Dr Kurt Ottersky (B)

760 pows had been screened, but the political grading figures were not given. It was stated that the older men and ‘early groups’ (for repatriation) had been screened. Early groups would include disabled and those identified with skills required for rebuilding German society. 97 pows had been repatriated to date.

In complete contrast to previous reports, the Commandant was found to be; “*exceedingly co-operative and takes a great interest in the Welfare and morale of the P/W. Although in the past he seems to have spoken sceptically regarding the political side of re-education, there is abundant evidence in the main camp and in the hostels that his influence has been most excellent and a strong counter influence against the remnanants of Prussian Militarism*.” Comparing this to reports concerning other camps, they also changed in attitude towards Commandants – it seems to arise from a more realistic approach by the visitors as to what could be achieved with a limited British staff and the demands for a pow work force.

Morale was good due to good relationships with British staff, good leaders, change of work and recent repatriations. The work of the pows was practically all on agriculture.

There were 296 youth pows – but no special measures were seen to be necessary.

Standard Re-education activities were very similar to the previous report. An information room had been opened with displays on topics such as; The World Food Problem; Town and Country Planning.

**7/8 October 1947** – English Inspector’s Report by Mr T R Gibson. Strength 1225 in Main + 9 hostels and 1 satellite camp.

Commandant: Lt Col E I E Strong Lagersprecher: Tilger

**6-8 November 1947** – E E M Rolfe visited the camp for a Re-education Survey. Strength – 1 officer; 830 OR

Commandant: Lt Col E I E Strong Lagersprecher: Uffz Friedrich (or Fritz) Schmidt (B)

Interpreter: Lieut E J Bruckmann Deputy C/L: Ofw. Alfred Goll (B)

German M.O.: Stabsarzt Dr Kurt Ottersky (B)

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| Political Screening: | A | B+ | B | B- |
|  | 2 | 159 | 527 | 143 |

1000 pows repatriated to date.

The Commandant was described as “*intelligent*”. At times he spoke to the whole camp and his “*impartiality and just was well regarded by the pows. He arranged for charabanc excursions on Sundays to London.”*

The Interpreter Officer was regarded as; “*though much taken up with sporting interests, is charming and co-operative*.”

Morale was “*comparatively good”.* Conditions in the camp were also good. The main negative factor was the length of time in captivity. Relationships with local civilians was mixed – the population at Byfield were described as being “reserved”. There was a refusal by drivers with the United Counties Omnibus Co. to carry any pows from this and other local camps. It was considered to be important to develop further local community links.

Re-education activities were similar to previous reports, but repatriations were having an effect with some activities winding down.

Religion – Interest was slight. The evangelical padre, Karl Lucke continued to work in the camp and had an excellent influence. A RC Chaplain visited fortnighty from Shalstone Camp 55.

Education classes were winding down – English and book-keeping were taught in one hostel.

Entertainment – The theatre group was getting smaller due to repatriations; the band and choir were practising for Christmas. Football and table-tennis were the most popular sporting activities.

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

**4-6 December 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1060 OR. No changes in senior personnel since the last report.

Simplified political screening figures were given: A – 2; B+ - 187; B – 707; B- - 165. 1071 pows had been repatriated to date.

Morale reasonably good except at Yelvertoft. A large amount of political apathy was noted – no trace of communism.

About 30% of the pows were youth.

The standard re-education activity list was given – little change from before. Outside contacts were seen as increasingly important – a group had visited Byfield Parish council; a group attended a play at Rugby; several pows visited Guild House Community centre – visits to London continued. Efforts were still being made to get the drivers of the United Counties Omnibus Co to carry pows.

Religion – interest continued to be low, a Catholic Chaplain, August Muecke, had been transferred to this camp.

Entertainment – The theatre group and band continued and gave performances outside the camp as well as to pows.

**31 March – 2 April 1948** – Final re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 358 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col E I E Strong Camp Leader: Barth, Julius (previously hostel leader at Thorpe Mandeville)

Interpreter: None German M.O.: Stabsarzt Dr Kurt Ottersky (B)

A brief survey was carried out regarding pow attitudes towards Britain:

Dislike – 10%

Distrust - 5%

Indifference - 35%

Ready to give benefit of the doubt – 35%

Liking - 15%

Negative attitudes stemmed from; Length of captivity; pow pay; unfriendly civilians (notably Rugby Cinemas and bus drivers); unfair political screening; ‘Operation Fox’ (the transfer of pows from the US to the UK and not to Germany); Maltreatment of 2 SS men by the British\*; strict camp discipline.

\* story in the British press that two SS men were badly treated while in British custody – sometimes cited by pows to compare conditions in concentration camps.

Positive attitudes had been devloped through: friendliness of some civilians, particularly in Banbury and Daventry; fair treatment from British staff; adequate food and clothing; privileges granted to pows.

**April 1948** - The camp closed

Known Camp commandants:

1945 -1947: Lt Col J A McDonnell O.B.E. Pioneer Corps (was listed in 1943 as giving evidence at an inquest over the murder of a guard at Ducks Cross Camp 72).

1947 - 1948: Lt Col E I E Strong (from the Royal Artillery).

**Camp numbers:**

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

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Byfield |  |  |  |  | 500 | 623 | 550 | 449 | 417 | 685 | 254 |
| Greens Norton | With C 35 | With C? |  |  | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 42 | 38 | 2 |
| Sulgrave | With C 55 | |  |  | 50 | 51 | 50 | 41 | 37 | 35 | 3 |
| Barby | With C 35 | With C? | With C? |  | 50 | 50 | 50 | 46 | 44 | 37 | 1 |
| Bodicote |  |  |  |  | With C31 (7) | 96 | With C185 | | | |  |
| Litchborough |  |  |  |  | 70 | 89 | 90 | 42 | 42 | 30 | 22 |
| Newnham |  |  |  |  | 30 | 38 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Royal Oak Estate |  |  |  |  |  | 39 | 120 | 47 | 47 | 57 |  |
| Thorpe Mandeville |  |  |  |  | 70 | 96 | 90 | 47 | 43 | 38 | 18 |
| Long Buckby |  |  |  |  |  |  | 50 | 43 | 40 | 34 |  |
| Yelvertoft |  |  |  |  | With C 49 | | | 46 | 46 | 35 |  |
| Harrington Satellite |  | | | With C 54 | | With C 49 | | 323 | With C 259 | | |
| Naseby |  |  |  |  |  | With C 49 | | | 29 | 23 |  |
| Whittlebury |  |  |  |  | With C 55 | | | | | 49 |  |
| Turweston |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 56 |
| Billets \* |  |  |  |  | ? | 55 | ? | ? | 44 | ? | 3 |
| Total |  | Cap 520 | ? | ? | 850 | 1187 | 1050 | 1225 | 831 | 1061 | 359 |

\* many entries did not separate those pows in billets from those in the main camp and hostels.

**After the camp:** 2019 scrapyard.

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 939/167 – 87 Working camp, Byfield camp, Rugby, Warwickshire. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.

The Imperial War Museum has copies of the camp magazine. Ref LBY E. 78946-2

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| **?** This sign came up for sale (2021). Described as; “*Original painted wooden Prisoner of War Camp sign... The hand-painted design is a modified arrow with Prince of Wales type feathers on the left and lettering to the right. Interestingly the camp number has been changed at some point from 87 to 24.”*  I do not think this was related to a prisoner of war camp – but was linked to a Prince of Wales (PoW) Camp, hence the Prince of Wales feathers shown |

**Hostels**

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| **Barby, Rugby, Warwickshire.** **Note** – there was also a Barby Pow Camp 1005.  Previously attached to Boughton Park Camp 35. Hutted hostel.  **Location:** The Harrington Aviation site gives: “*Barby Hostel SP 545 706 Ware Road, Barby, Northamptonshire… Consisted of wooden buildings and brick building. Used by Italians and then Germans. Administration was from Byfield POW Camp No 87. The POW camp was closed in March 1948, buildings were used as a village hall after the war. Demolished 1972”*.  **July 1946** – Camp Leader: O/Gefr E Schicke, aged 44. The hostel held 50 ‘youth’ (under-25) pows.  **December 1946** – Same camp leader, political grading (A)  **November 1947** – Camp Leader: Uffz. Vielmeyer, Gerhard (B) – same leader December 1947  **March/April 1948** – Hostel closed. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

Excellent detailed account with pictures of life at Byfield and Barby Hostel written by a pow and published by the Barby Local History Group: <http://www.barbylhg.org.uk/Guenther'sStoryFeb13Web.pdf>

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Barby | With C 35 | With C? | With C? | With C 87 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 46 | 44 | 37 | 1 |

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| **Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon** – a house rather than huts – locals recalled huts being at the east side of Bodicote House (SP 461 380). Pows may also have been held at “Red House” to the S of Bodicote.  Memories from local residents include Italian pows – this would be before 1946.  **June 1946** – with Ettington Camp 31, just 7 pows – possibly Italians awaiting repatriation.  **July 1946** – with Byfield – German pows. Camp Leader: O/Gefr W Krauss (B)  **1947** – Banbury Guardian: *“CHAPEL IN POW CAMP – A hut at one of the P.O.W. hostels at Bodicote has been set aside for use as a Roman Catholic chapel, at the request of some of the prisoners. The P.O.W. themselves have erected an altar and a confessional in the chapel. The altar is covered with a blue frontal embroidered with a white cross, and the altar piece above the altar contains framed pictures of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Sorrows.*  *Gifts to the chapel include a large Crucifix for the altar, pictures of the Last Supper, the Nativity, Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter, and a Holy Water stoup. One of the prisoners has made a sanctuary lamp and another a missal stand for the altar. An organ has been loaned by a member of the congregation of St John’s, Banbury.* |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

*For Christmas the chapel was attractively decorated with evergreens, and a crib was erected near the altar. Two large Christmas trees, one on either side of the sanctuary, completed to scheme of decoration.*

*Father P R Heath, of St John’s, who acts as local chaplain to the POW, blessed the Crucifix and altar pictures before celebrating the first Mass of the New Year in the chapel.”*

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|  | 1941 | 1943 | 11/45 | 5/46 | 6/46 | 9/46 | 1/47 | 2/47 | 4/47 | 5/47 | 8/47 | 9/47 | 10/47 | 12/47 | 2/48 |
| Bodicote |  |  | With C87 | | With C31 | With C87 | With C185 | | | | | | |  |  |

**Greens Norton, Towcester, Northamptonshire**  - previously attached to Boughton Park Camp 35 (see for picture and map). Hutted camp.

**July 1946** – Camp Leader: Uffz H Woertzel (A). Same leader in December 1946.

**October 1947** – English lessons were provided by Toc H in the local market town.

**November 1947** – Camp Leader: Uffz Karl Weihe (spelling ?) (B+). Same leader in December 1947.

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|  | Pre-44 | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Greens Norton | With C 35 | With C? |  |  | 50 | 50 | 50 | 45 | 42 | 38 | 2 |

**Harrington** – Formerly attached to Hampton Camp 54 / 49. Further details see Camp 54

At first, large enough to be considered a satellite camp when attached to Camp 87 – designated as a hostel from late 1947.

JULY 1946 – listed with C 49. Only listed once with Byfield in 1947.

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Harrington Satellite |  | | | With C 54 / 49 | | | | 323 | With C 259 | | |

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| **Litchborough, Daventry, Northamptonshire** – Hutted camp. Remote location.  Information from Harrington Museum – “*Troop billets & prisoner of war accommodation. 13th Hussar Regiment lived in the WI room and the baptist schoolroom, and parked their tanks up on the Maidford Road at the top of Mell's Close. When they left their place was taken by prisoners of war.”*  **July 1946** – Camp Leader: Fw W Becker  **October 1947** – The Commandant allowed pows from this remote camp to visit Northampton. However, visits were rare as bus drivers refused to carry pows – this is not the only camp where this occurred in the Midlands area.  **November 1947** – Camp Leader: Fw Hagenow, Alfred (B-). Same December 1947.  **April 1948** – Camp Leader: Gaugel, Karl   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 | | Litchborough |  |  |  |  | 70 | 89 | 90 | 42 | 42 | 30 | 22 | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1958 |

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| **Long Buckby** – Hutted camp. Location: SP 625 674. Along Station Road, opposite The Mounts.  **Memories** – *“There was a prisoner-of-war camp in Station Road and as Christmas approached I remember my father asking my mother how she felt about inviting some German prisoners for Christmas dinner. Mummy said there would be room for two and my father and his sister, who both spoke good German, visited the camp and issued the invitation. Some of the men were not at all interested but two of them duly came and thoroughly enjoyed my mother's home cooking. My father had specially taught my little sister and me to sing a song in German which we performed after the meal with Lois standing on a chair beside me. I remember being fascinated by the fact that the taller man, who was the more out-going personality, smiled a lot and had several teeth missing and I can still recall how a tear rolled down his cheek as we sang. He picked me up afterwards and sat me on his lap and talked to me in German which my father translated for me. In spite of the big tear, he had apparently enjoyed our singing very much and was very touched. I remember the other man smiled a lot but was rather shy.”*  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/88/a3009188.shtml>  - “*When the war was over, regulations concerning Prisoners of War were relaxed somewhat and the church was able to show a caring spirit for the German prisoners who were stationed locally. On several occasions, Pastor Lucke, himself a prisoner, gave an address in German from the pulpit for the prisoners in the congregation. Permanent friendships were made and much good was done towards the building up of mutual understanding.”*  <https://longbuckbyurc.org.uk/church%20history.php> | |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1958 |
|  | The pows worked on local farms.  **December 1946** – Camp leader; Gefr. Richter P (B+)  < **28 June 1947** – Pow theatre group performed at Long Buckby Sunday school.  **October 1947** – The young vicar at Long Buckby, Mr Rowell, attended the camp and gave English lessons.  **November 1947** – Camp Leader; Fachnr. Gűnter Wagner (B). Relationships with the local population was described as “*extremely friendly.*”  **December 1947** – Camp Leader; Sold. Walter Rebmann (B). “*Ideal*” relationships with Long Buckby. Pows played tennis in the village. The local parson, Mr Rowall, visited. Mr Whitmore, the Ps/W blind patron had secured the repatriation of several men and met the hostel leader regularly to discuss any difficulties the pows had - it does not state if any of the pows were blind at this hostel.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 | | Long Buckby |  |  |  |  |  |  | 50 | 43 | 40 | 34 |  | | |

**Naseby** - Attached to Farndon Road Camp 49 from July 1946. NGR SP 688 782

**October 1947** – local bus drivers would not allow pows to travel.

**November 1947** – cl Fw. Ernst Ziemer, (B+)

**December 1947** – cl Flieg. Harry Schueler, (B)

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Naseby |  |  |  |  |  | With C49 | | | 29 | 23 |  |

**Newnham, Daventry, Northamptonshire** – Hutted camp.

**July 1946** – Camp Leader: Uffz E Greiner (B) - he became the main camp deputy leader.

**December 1946** – Camp Leader Wm Becker W (B+)

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Newnham |  |  |  |  | 30 | 38 |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Royal Oak** (Estate), Daventry, Northamptonshire – NGR SP 561 636 shown on the map looks like a possible site – not confirmed.  **July 1946** – Camp Leader: Uffz E Goette (A). Same leader December 1946.  **November 1947** – Camp Leader: H/gefr. Erich Kaeppler (B-). Same leader December 1947.  **December 1947** – pow football team played against a team from Daventry.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 | | Royal Oak |  |  |  |  | ? | 39 | 120 | 47 | 47 | 57 |  |   Ordnance Survey 1955 |  |
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| **Sulgrave,** Northamptonshire – Hutted camp.  The sulgrave.org site places the camp at SP 5612 4502 – the T shaped building on the Helmdon Road. The bases are still visible (2021). The site has a history of one of the Italian pows - <https://sulgrave.org/2019/12/village-advent-celebrations-2019-december-16th-hill-farmhouse-manor-road/>  Held Italian pows up to c.1946, then German pows.  **July 1946** – Camp Leader: Uffz E Hoffman (B) – same leader in December 1946, but regraded as A.  **November 1947** – Camp Leader: Uffz. Wilss, Erich (B). Same in December 1947.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 | | Sulgrave | With C55 | |  |  | 50 | 51 | 50 | 41 | 37 | 35 | 3 |   After the war, used as emergency accommodation for displaced families. |  | | |
| Ordnance Survey 1952 | | |

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**Thorpe Mandeville,** Northamptonshire – “*Permanent building*”

A message from a local resident regarding the location of the hostel – “*My latest researches leave me with no doubt that the POW camp was at The Hill - a substantial house, and at one time Italian POWs were also there. Accounts have been received of both German and Italian POWs assisting on the local farms. One Italian ex POW is reported to have revisited a local farm and also The Hill. The current owners of The Hill advise there is Italian signage and writing still visible in an attic.”* NGR SP 5167 4489

**July 1946** – Camp Leader: Uffz W Weyers (B). Same leader in December 1946, but regraded as A.

**November 1947** – Camp Leader: Uffz Julius Barth (B+). Same leader in December 1947. Good relationships were being developed with the village and in Banbury.

**December 1947** – there was a high number of youth pows (under-25) – 60%, but no special problems were noted.

**April 1948** – Camp leader Rudolf Walter

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Thorpe Mandeville |  |  |  |  | 70 | 96 | 90 | 47 | 43 | 38 | 18 |

**Turweston** –

Would have been inked to other main camp(s) before this.

**April 1948** - Hostel leader; ‘Wachtler’

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Turweston |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 56 |

**Whittlebury** –

**December 1947** – Camp leader; Fw. Rebesky, Gerhard (B)

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Whittlebury |  |  |  |  | With C55 | | | | | 49 |  |

**Yelvertoft** – Details from Harrington Museum - Yelvertoft Village Hall SP 594 758 Clay Coton Road, Yelvertoft - Constructed as a Land Army Hostel during World War 2 the site and buildings were used as a POW camp.

From June 1946 to Summer (? At least up to May) 1947 attached to Farndon Road Camp 49.

**November 1947** – Camp Leader; Ogefr. Max Beuthner (B). Same leader in December 1947.

**December 1947** – reported to have low morale, with “*an atmosphere of depression and aimlessness*” – no reasons for this stated.

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|  | Pre-44? | 1/44 | 5/44 | 9/45 | 6/46 | 7/46 | 12/46 | 10/47 | 11/47 | 12/47 | 4/48 |
| Yelvertoft |  |  |  |  | With Camp 49 | | | 46 | 46 | 35 |  |