**Camp 95** **- Batford Camp, Harpenden, Hertfordshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 95. Batford Camp, Harpenden, Herts.

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| **1947 camp list** |
| 95(G.W.C.) | Batford Camp, Harpenden, Herts | E. | Priswar, Harpenden | Harpenden 3855 | Harpenden | Lt.Col.E.Stoddart. | 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 |
| TL 148 153 | 166 | 95 | Batford Camp, Harpendon | Hertfordshire | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. |

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| **Location:** Batford is a small village on the NE outskirts of Harpenden. The front of the camp was alongside Common Lane.**Before the camp:** Part of Batford Common**Pow Camp:** Work started on constructing the camp in early 1943, the Italian pows were housed in tents while they built the hutted camp with an initial capacity of 600. Italian pows until at least 1945, then a German Working Camp. The site had a standard layout with a main pow compound (B), with guards’ huts and offices at the front (A). Buildings included water tower, offices, officer's mess, 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. Additional huts built 1946 (C).**May 1943** – camp opened.**1943** - Hostels listed for Italian pows: Breachwood Green; Newgate Street; St.Albans |  |  |
| Aerial photo 1947 | Ordnance Survey 1960 |

**1944** - 21 pows were charged with collective indiscipline after they refused to work, with the main reason being a lack of work clothing. They were punished with detention for up to 28 days and a punishment diet of bread and water, with normal rations every fourth day. A list for Italian camps state that the pows were at first classed as co-operators, then (after this event?) as non-co-operators.

**5 May 1944** - Hostels listed for Italian pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Breachwood Green; Newgate Street; St Albans; Welwyn Garden; 24 Ordnance Supply Depot, ?

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

**29 May 1945** – PID Segregation Section; Progress Report No.86. 550 German pows transferred from Camps 17 and 200. Any remaining Italian pows were placed in 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. If there were still Italian pows in hostels, they were usually ignored by PID. |

**23 July 1945** – English Inspector’s visit. Strength 1497 German + 1313 Italians attached in HQ, 5 hostels and billets.

English inspectors met teachers, gave talks, checked teaching texts and resources, and tested the pow pupils. 250 pupils were studying English at HQ. Other classes included business studies, Russian and history.

When German pows arrived in May, a team of 12 (A) grade pows from the special training camp at Ascott were also sent, however as numbers rose rapidly they had little effect on re-education.

**April 1946** – over 200 German pows were transferred to Scrubs Lane Camp 32. Many had been accommodated in tents at camp 95. Also stated that at this camp there were activities for ‘youth’ (under-25) pows.

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| **Spring 1946** - a new batch of pows arrived from Canada and the USA. The ex-USA pows had been misinformed in the US that they were to be returned to Germany, instead they found themselves in a working camp in the UK, morale was consequently low. The camp used tents for a short while as additional huts were built.**14-16 August 1946** – Progress report on re-education and Selection of leaders. Strength; 1 officer (the M.O.), 1419 Other Ranks.Commandant: Lt Col E Stoddart Camp Leader: Uffz S Dreyer (A)Interpreter: Lt Elliot Deputy C/L: Wachtm Schulte (A) German M.O.: Stabsarzt Kuhn (B-)The Commandant was stated to be “*well disposed towards re-education and encourages every effort in this work.”* The Interpreter was well regarded, but due to be de-mobbed.The camp leader had been selected by a previous Commandant in February 1946. He was a young assistant judge, *“most conscientious and hard-working and most energetic in re-educational activities*.” | Token money of differing values was issued to pows – it could only be used in the issuing camp and the back was stamped each time. The pows were not allowed to have real money until fraternisation rules were relaxed. |

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| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Unscreened |
|  | 61 | 136 | 782 | 242 | 146 | 13 | 40 |

It was recommended that 12 of the C+ pows be removed immediately, this had been promised before, but had not happened.

Morale was recorded as, “*not particularly good.”* This was due to; uncertainty when they would be repatriated; ex-USA pows as above; lack of news from home; half the HQ pows were still accommodated in tents – new hut building had started.

Youth pows (under 25) were not seen as a problem. A ‘Youth Parliament’ had been started, but then abandoned as it did not prove a success.

The standard list of re-education activities was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 200/250 and 100/150 copies respectively.

Newspapers – A range of British papers were purchased. German and Swiss papers were also being received.

Library – Good, 1200 books; also distributed to hostels and billets.

Lectures – mostly regular. Generally well received and attended.

Discussion groups – regular.

Films – YMCA films fortnightly, COGA films every 3-4 weeks. Also shown at the hostels.

Wireless – in Camp Leader’s office with 12 loudspeakers. All hostels had sets.

Camp Magazine – ‘Die Lagerzeitung,’ fortnightly.

English Instruction – adequate provision. 200 copies of ‘English For All’ received.

Other camp Activities –

Religion – Protestant pastor, Guenter Bartholomaeus (A+), “*an outstanding personality who does much good in the main camp and hostels*.” Sunday services and regular visits to the hostels. No camp chapel, services held in a barrack hut. RC pows could attend local churches for mass on Sundays.

Education activities – a wide range; English, French, German, Latin, history, geography, mathematics, physics, chemistry, applied electricity, building and architecture, commercial studies – this was more than most camps. In addition, lectures and exhibitions were taking place.

Theatre – there was a camp theatre with 24 members.

Orchestra – 12 members, good and with a range of instruments.

**24/25 September 1946** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 1383. 138 pupils in 7 classes at HQ and 3 hostels.

Lagersprecher (Camp Leader); Hensch.

**31 October 1946** – a very unusual report in the file. “*Monthly report on 95 Camp*” written by the camp leader and sent to COGA. Was he doing this as a one off? It was the only ‘monthly report’ filed. The previous leader (Dreyer) had been repatriated in September, and the new leader, (the person writing this report) was Alfred Haensch.

I. He began with a ‘General Survey.’ Stating that repatriation of pows had begun, he managed to make various points that their “*families are longing for us*,” and the pows who were Anti-Nazis should be considered reliable – while raising allegations that several members of the Nazi Party had already been repatriated.

II. All huts were in good condition, the camp was orderly and clean. Dining-halls, reading rooms and ‘school rooms’ were pleasant.

III. Welfare and Entertainment – a brief survey of concerts, the library, newspapers, films, radio broadcasts, football and table tennis. Each Tuesday, pow birthdays were celebrated with an address and music. Pows who were sick received a subsidy of 2/6d per week.

IV. Relations with British staff were of, “*an official nature and correct*.”

V. Education – a mention of a lecture about Berlin – “*Again we realized the enormous disaster brought over Germany by the criminal and irresponsible Nazi dictatorship*.” He then gave a mention to other lecturers while giving his own history of how the dictatorship in Germany arose. There was a list of other education classes, exhibitions, religious services and the camp committee.

To some extent the report follows the standard layout of reports written by PID visitors – so, perhaps he was requested to write this report?

**During 1947** – Some pows were transferred from camps in Belgium where conditions had been extremely poor. Many were malnourished.

**20 & 21 January 1947** – Re-education survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1227 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col E Stoddart Camp Leader: Stfeldw Breitenborn [new, had been hostel leader at Lemsford.

Interpreter: S/Sgt Lyner [new] Deputy C/L: Uffz Prosch (B) [new]

 German M.O.: Dr R Wenke [new]

210 pows were appealing against their political grades, (the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory). 282 pows repatriated since October.

Morale was recorded as “*not very good*.” Apart from length of captivity, employment played a factor as it was unskilled, they had very little civilian contacts and their pay depended upon the weather. Many of the pows were Sudeten-Germans and many had not received news from home. The ‘Rumanians’ had received mail and were relieved to find that civilian forced labour by the Russians was coming to an end.

The standard list of re-education activities was similar to the last. Changes – as well as YMCA, Gaumont British films were shown, they were not popular as they charged 6d

**28 January 1947** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 1184. 65 pupils in 3 classes at HQ and 1 hostel.

< Batford Camp from the collection of Eric Brandreth.

**19 + 30 August 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 976 OR.

A new Camp Leader: Owm Heinz Goerlitz (B) [previous leader repatriated] – “*young but cheerful and works well with others*.” A new Deputy C/L: Fw E Ahrens (B).

Morale was regarded as ‘generally good.’ German camp staff and chefs complained that unlike other pow workers they received no bonuses or cigarettes.

c.750 pows repatriated to date.

Many re-education activities had been reduced due to long working hours for the harvest. Films – British Gaumont replaced by Travelling Films Ltd. There were good relationships with the local population.

**3 September 1947** - English Inspector’s Report. Strength; 947. 48 pupils in 3 classes at HQ and 1 hostel.

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

**17-21 November 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1625 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col E Stoddart Camp Leader: Hfw E Ahrens [was deputy]

Interpreter: S/Sgt Lyner Deputy C/L: -

 German M.O.: S/Arzt Brenner [new]

The revival of re-education activities after harvest had not occurred. Discussion groups and the magazine had not re-started at all. Attendance at lectures was down.

Of all factors affecting pow outlook, contact with local civilians was always the most important as shown in pow diaries and memoires. Fraternisation restrictions had been eased and many pows formed their own links with local families and those they worked with. A limited range of formal contacts and activities were also established –

Pows had been travelling in small groups by car to London, this had to stop mainly due to petrol rations. Consideration was made whether groups could continue by train, but this would require escorts.

St Albans Church Committee organised activities for up to 190 pows per week.

Small group visits to Chorley Wood and Watford Councils, Quakers at Berkhamstead, the International Friendship League at Croxley Green, Hemel Hempstead Music Society, and various local churches.

There were not many links with Harpenden – 2 pows were able to attend a Monday lunch by the Rotarians.

Religion - Protestant pastor Bartholemaeus (as before); Catholic Priest Father Kunze (from Camp 411).

Entertainment – The orchestra was good and gave concerts at St Albans. Gramophone concerts were held at HQ. No mention of a theatre group.

**2 December 1947** - A question about the camp arose in the House of Commons:

*“Mr. Dumpleton asked the Secretary of State for War why money payments to billeted prisoners of war are distributed each week from Batford Camp, Hertfordshire, by lorry over a wide area; and what petrol consumption is involved in this procedure.*

*Mr. Shinwell - Billeted prisoners of war administered by this camp are paid once a month, not weekly. It is, however, necessary that they should be visited twice a month, not only that they may receive their pay, but for other administrative purposes, such as clothes changing. A 15-cwt. truck or a light car is used for these journeys and the petrol consumed on them at this particular camp has in the past been approximately eight gallons a month.”* **(Hansard, 2/12/1947**, Volume 445).

**29-30 December 1947** – Re-educational Survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1620 OR.

No changes to senior personnel. Increased speed of repatriations gave a boost to morale.

**2-5 and 8 March 1948** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 2 officers, 865 OR.

No changes to senior personnel.

A survey was conducted in camps still open at this time concerning pow attitudes to the British. It was pointless, carried out far too late and in totally random ways. Some visitors simply gathered whoever was around and asked them to give a show of hands to the questions, some only asked a ‘selected’ group. For what it is worth, (nothing) in this camp; 70% liked the British; 20% gave ‘the benefit of the doubt; 10% were indifferent – 0% hated/disliked or mistrusted the British – but see below.

A general compliant was raised concerning camp discipline – which even the visitor admitted was overly strict, (not mentioned in previous reports).

Formal outside contacts had been established with; Rotary Club – WEA - Luton Technical College - Peace Pledge Union – Baptist, Methodist, Quaker and Catholic Societies – Vauxhall, Luton.

Religion – a new Pastor ‘Wolf.’

**8 March 1948** – a far too late lecture was given concerning ‘Resettlement.’ Only 31 pows turned up. A general impression of conditions in Germany was given, no solutions to any problems the pows had. This was similar in other camps where the lecture was given.

**27/30 April 1948** – Re-education /Outlook. Strength; 1 officer, 815 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col E Stoddart Camp Leader: Boeck [new]

Interpreter: S/Sgt Lyner Deputy C/L: -

 German M.O.: O/Arzt Martius [new]

More details concerning the Commandant were given regarding his lack of imagination and “*slavish adherence to rules and regulations*” which seriously affected pow outlook on treatment received from the British. Other pows, transferred from camps closing down made the regime at the camp seem even worse. Eight pows were in detention for making false declarations of contents of parcels, and giving a bogus address as sender.

This visitor was unaware that the outlook survey had been carried out – and his results were very different from previously; Hate the British 3%; Dislike and distrust 50%; Indifference 10%; Benefit of the doubt and liking 38%.

Religion – Protestant Padre; Mueller; Civilian from Germany to assist – RC Padre O/Gefr Kunze (as before).

The camp closed down shortly after this report.

Known Camp Commandants:

c.1947 Lieutenant Colonel E Stoddart. (I think he was from the Royal Artillery).

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 939/175 – 95 Working Camp, Batford Camp, Harpenden, Hertfordshire. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.

National Archives - FO 1120/223 – ‘Re-educational survey visit reports for camps 93 to 99’. Used above.

Many further details can be found on: <http://www.harpenden-history.org.uk/page/no_95_batford_prisoner_of_war_camp?path=0p4p85p>

The German Federal Archives has a copy of the camp magazine.

**Camp numbers:**

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

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945(1) | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Batford | 600 cap |  |  | 932 | 907 | 1018 | 832 | 897 | 666 | 697 | 448 | 626 |
| Breachwood Gn |  |  | With C 270 |  |  |
| Newgate Street |  |  | 71 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| St.Albans |  |  | 76 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Welwyn Garden |  |  |  |  | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 OSD |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Northchurch |  |  | 51 | With C36 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lemsford |  |  |  | 265 | 260 | 210 | 70 | 50 | 57 |  |  |  |
| Stanborough |  |  |  | 56 | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hatfield Hyde |  |  |  | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chorley Wood |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 235 | 329 |  |  |
| Gorhambury |  |  |  | Was Camp 235 | 231 | 267 | 127 |  |
| Howes Retreat |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 272 | 173 |  |  |
| Luton Airport |  |  |  | Was Camp 270 | 285 |  |
| Putteridge Park |  |  |  | With C 270. | 7 |  |
| Leighton Buzzard |  |  |  | With C 702 / C270 / C268 | 190 |
| Billetees |  |  |  | 107 | (2) | (2) | 75 | (2) | 165 | 155 | ? | ? |
| Total |  |  | 2810 G + It | 1420 | 1383 | 1228 | 977 | 947 | 1626 | 1621 | 867 | 816 |

(1) 2 German hostels were unnamed + Italian hostels. (2) included in figures above.

**After the camp:** Used for emergency housing until 1958. 2019 residential estate.

**Hostels**

**24 Ordnance Supply Depot**. No details for location.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| 24 OSD |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Breachwood Green**, Hitchin, Herts. In Pasture Lane, just below Bailey’s Farm, (TL 1534 2158). See C270 for map.

**1943 / 1944** – Italian pows.

Recorded with Luton Airport Camp 270

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Breachwood Gn |  |  | With C 270 |  |  |

**Chorley Wood.** 20-30 Nissen huts in the grounds of Chorleywood House, + some outbuildings used. TQ 035 971.

Linked to a different main camp before these entries.

**11/1947** – Hostel leader; Hfw Hengstermann (B-) – “*very good all-round man and is genuinely keen of re-education and, speaking English well, has useful outside contacts*.” Good morale, good contacts with local civilians. **12/1947** – same leader.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Chorley Wood |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 235 | 329 |  |  |

**Gorhambury.** Previously independent Camp 235. TL 110 076.

**11/1947** – Hostel leader; Stfw H Lukas (B+) – “*has done very well.”* Very good morale, despite lack of heating in the barracks. **12/1947** – same leader.

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; Uffz Habermann

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Gorhambury |  |  |  | Was Camp 235 | 231 | 267 | 127 |  |

**Hatfield Hyde.**

Memories of the hostel holding Italian pows before this entry.

**8/1046** – Hostel leader; Bootmaat W Picard (B)

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Hatfield Hyde |  |  |  | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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**Howe’s Retreat.** TL 0395 0504

Most likely linked to another main camp before these entries.

**11/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz L Kirchhoff (B+). **12/1947** – same leader.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Howes Retreat |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 272 | 173 |  |  |

**Leighton Buzzard.** An old workhouse. Now Grovebury Road Industrial Estate, SP 923 244.

Memories of Italian pows.

**4/1948** – Hostel leader; Babin. Major resentment created by being transferred to this camp and its Commandant. Example given; lights out had been 12.15 on Saturdays, it was reverted to 10.15.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Leighton Buzzard |  |  |  | With C 702 / C268 | 190 |

**Lemsford**. Huts. On Marford Road, between Green Lanes and Sheriff Farm Drive – TL 215 120.

“*One lady’s recollection was the site had been originally an Anti-Aircraft gun site, during which time she worked in the canteen and another lady recalled going to dances there. But when an AA gun was no longer needed, the wired and hutted enclosure must have been ideal for housing non rebellious prisoners. The POW cookhouse ran parallel to the fence.”* <http://www.lemsfordvillage.co.uk/PMpdfs/Parish%20Mag%20Oct%20Nov%202020%20pdf.pdf>

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; H.Fw R Breitenborn (B). His leadership was questioned, but it was decided to leave him in place. Later promoted to camp leader.

**8/1946** – Vicar’s letter in Parish magazine – announced there would be a weekly service for German pows led by the German pastor.

**1/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Picard (B)

**8/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz H Weppner (B), ship-broker from Bremen. **11/1947** – same leader.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Lemsford |  |  |  | 265 | 260 | 210 | 70 | 50 | 57 |  |  |  |

**Luton Airport**

**3/1948** - Hostel leader; Gefr Mundt.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Luton Airport |  |  |  | Was Camp 270 | 285 |  |

**Newgate Street**, Herts. (Newgate Street is a small village in the Welwyn Hatfield district of Hertfordshire).

**1943 – 1945** – Hostel for Italian pows.

German pows also remembered, so would have been attached to a different man camp after these entries.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Newgate Street |  |  | 71 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Northchurch.** Memories place it at **-** SP 976 085. The shape of the buildings are those often used for other military purposes or Women’s Land Army hostels prior to being used as a pow hostel? Also shows on later OS maps.Recorded as being transferred to Hartwell Camp 36 in August 1945

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Northchurch |  |  | 51 | With C36 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Photo - [raf\_58\_4627\_f42\_0473 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_58_4627_f42_0473) |  |

**Putteridge Park**

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Putteridge Park |  |  |  | With C 270. | 7 |  |

**St Albans**, Herts. Memories place a possible site at; “*Verulam School Sports Field in Sandpit Lane*” – there is also a record of pows working at the nearby ‘Jersey Farm.’

**26 June 1945 –** PID Progress Report 122 recorded German pows being sent to St Alban’s hostel.

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| St.Albans |  |  | 76 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **Stanborough**. Huts.**8/1946** – Hostel leader; Gefr M Simmering (B)

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Stanborough |  |  |  | 56 | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Map - Ordnance Survey 1960 – Site A (TL 226 118) is described below. Site B (TL 231 115) may be the site for Stanborough Hostel – NOT confirmed.**Welwyn Garden**, Herts (Drill Hall). Huts“*at the end of Handside Lane on Lemsford Lane, where Lakeside School is now, there was an army prisoner-of-war camp. There were Nissen huts there and then when the War was over they did make them into dwellings for people who were homeless… I don’t remember the soldiers being there although my friends who live next door to me in Newfields they said that they used to go and shout at the Italian prisoners “silly old Eyeties” but I don’t really remember that.”* <https://www.ourwelwyngardencity.org.uk/content/places/neighbourhoods/handside/handside-lane/memories-of-handside-lane>

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|  | 1943 | 1944 | 5/1945 | 8/1946 | 9/1946 | 1/1947 | 8/1947 | 9/1947 | 11/1947 | 12/1947 | 3/1948 | 4/1948 |
| Welwyn Garden |  |  |  |  | 60 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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