**Camp 99 - Military Hospital, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (And Foxley M.H.)**

Included in the 1945 IRC camp list - Hosp.99.The Military Hospital, Chepstow, Monmouth.

Not included in the 2003 English Heritage Report.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location:** NGR ST 524 936. Main entrance off St Lawrence Road. On the W edge of Chepstow.**Before the camp:** Farmland across the road from Mount Pleasant Hospital**POW Camp 99:** **1942 – June 1946:** Chepstow Military Hospital. (part of). **June 1946 – July 1946:** Foxley Military Hospital.  **July 1946 – 1948:** Shugborough Military Hospital (separate details).

|  |
| --- |
| **War Establishment Numbers.**VIII/356/1; 12.08.1942 to 23.07.1942 - Guard for No. 99 POW Hospital - 122 all ranksVIII/356/2; 22.12.1943 to 09.12.1943 - Guard for No. 99 POW Hospital - 91 all ranksVIII/356/3; 21.02.1945 to 01.02.1945 - Guard for No. 99 POW Hospital - 134 all ranks, 3 attached. |

**20/21 July 1942** – International Red Cross (ICRC) report; capacity 270.The prisoners' compound was a six-acre square with 35 huts, including a cookhouse, grocery store, dining huts, recreation huts, showers, and more.**9 July 1943** – ICRC report; capacity 500 beds. Same **October 1943** and **May 1944**.Memories - "*An interesting aspect of the period concerned the use of Chepstow Racecourse. The entire property was requisitioned early in the war, the stables being converted into a Prisoner of War Camp for the German Army with a portion of* ***St. Lawrence Hospital*** *being set aside as a Prisoner of War Hospital*  |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1955 |

*where severely wounded prisoners were treated.."* (From BBC People’s War – Memories of George Francis – 2005 – Article ID A4065996.)

[St Lawrence Hospital was the name given to the Military Hospital on the opposite side of the road to Mount Pleasant Hospital].

**3 January 1945** - There is a record for Major George Andrew Douglas Gordon joining Pow Camp 99, Military Hospital Chepstow.



**1 September 1945 –** ICRC Report – see below. Note – this was included in ‘*Zur Geschichte Der Deutschen Kriegsgefangenen Des Zweiten Weltkrieges; Band XI/1*; Munchen, 1974, under Shugborough. This was incorrect, the place name was added to the report by the editor / book publishers, not the ICRC.

Unknown dates - At some point, Camp 99 also administered Camp 234, Talgarth Military Hospital, Breconshire.

**1946** – Foxley Military Hospital took in pow patients – it is likely that this work was administered by Chepstow.

**May 1946** – Some evidence for the administration of Foxley MH before the move from Chepstow with the publication of a weekly magazine for ‘POW Hospitals 99 FOXLEY,’ dated 25 May 1946. The end note stated that the magazine was; ‘Published by the democratic working group P/W Hosp. Foxley.’

**16 June 1946** – The official date of the MH moving from Chepstow to Foxley, Herefordshire for a short term. Unknown why the move was not made direct from Chepstow to Shugborough. Foxley MH was a huge site in the grounds of Foxley Manor on the outskirts of the village of Mansel Lacy, NGR SO 418 464. It started as a US/Canadian military camp and hospital.

**14 July 1946** – The MH moved from Foxley to Shugborough.

The Mount Camp 197 was alongside the MH. The house may have been used as an extension for the hospital.

**After the camp:** The Chepstow military hospital continued for some time after 1945. 2019 a residential area.

At Chepstow Community hospital there are high quality photographic replicas of wall paintings created by prisoners of war in the 1940's at St Lawrence.

**Further details:**

Catalogue entry - [*20 - Church Register of the Evangelical Church in the POW Military Hospital, 99, Foxley, Hereford - 1945-1948*](https://www.thcatalogue.org.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=W%2fSGG%2fA%2f5%2f5%2f20)

Foxley Camp magazine may 1946 - [Der Neue Weg : Wochenzeitung des POW Hospitals 99-Foxley - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/99719/)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| MILITARY HOSPITAL CAMP 99.Visited on 1st September 1945Address: POW Camp 99, Great Britain.Commandant: Major Wakeling, R.A.Doctor: Lt Col R R Evans, R.A.M.C.Camp leader: Dr Kummler [?] Max, "Oberstarzt,” No. 512l02.Strength: 2 officers, 9 non-commissioned officers and soldiers. Members of protected personnel: 16 medical officers. 127 non-commissioned officers and soldiers 31 nurses 10 patients who help a little in the barracks,  Patients: 8 officers 168 Surgical cases 13 cases of otorhinolaryngology 24 cases of internal medicine 25 cases of tuberculosis 5 cases in isolation 1 case in custodyGeneralities and accommodation (See our previous reports),Since our last visit important changes have taken place. Since May, medical personnel, (doctors and orderlies) are all Germans working under the supervision of a British R.A.M.C. Lieutenant Colonel. Medical care is entirely entrusted to sixteen German medical officers, 31 nurses and 127 non-commissioned officers and soldiers.Most illnesses are bedridden; the vast majority of surgical cases are war wounded. Medical officers have the impression that the number of illnesses will gradually decrease, due, among other things, to |  | - 2 -the repatriation of workers which has already begun. Last week 200 men were repatriated; a new list of 182 men has just been drawn up.Patients are housed in 15 dormitories, and in an isolation area comprising several rooms with one or two beds. Two dormitories are reserved for prisoners suffering from tuberculosis; the other dormitories accommodate surgery and internal medicine cases.Patients have beds with sheets and two blankets. The staff live in other premises, with 4 or 5 men per room. They have bunk beds with one blanket and one sleeping bag per person. The nurses [female] are grouped in a separate section, including a mess hall and a foyer. They have rooms with one or two beds, with sheets and two blankets. The officers are installed in a special section; they are housed with the same conditions as the nurses.Each room is equipped with the necessary sanitary facilities. Heating is by central heating or by means of stoves. Electric light is installed everywhere.Prisoners have very pleasantly furnished dining rooms, as well as a recreation room.Medical facilitiesA medical officer and a few nurses and soldiers who are members of the medical staff are attached to each room. The operating room is very well equipped (two special lamps, 4 operating tables, a sterilization room, and the most modern facilities for anesthesia). Important operations can be carried out; we saw two cases of partial gastric resection, and one case of post-traumatic left diaphragmatic hernia which had been operated on successfully. The radiological section is very well equipped, (a large device and a mobile device allows all necessary research to establish the diagnosis of cases of surgery and internal medicine). Recently, the hospital was equipped with an electrocardiograph. Effective treatments can be applied to tuberculosis patients (pneumothorax and special diets). We will soon be sending a kit of special instruments for adhesion removal.A laboratory allows all necessary clinical research to be carried out (hematology, bacteriology, histology).A pathologist responsible for the laboratory carries out autopsies. The pharmacy is very well stocked.We are in the process of organizing an otolaryngology section; it will soon receive the necessary instruments. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| - 3 –Dental care is provided by a German dentist, who comes twice a week from a nearby prison camp. The dental office is equipped with everything needed.Deaths19, occurring on the following dates:April 1945 3May 4June 1July 8August 3When a death occurs, an autopsy is carried out. Burials, attended by the chaplain, 2 officers, 2 nurses, and 30 patients, take place in a neighbouring cemetery. Details of the case, along with the personal effects of the deceased, are sent to the War Office.FoodThe food complies with the scale in force in base camps. Supplementary rations are distributed for set diets. Food is prepared in a central kitchen using steam boilers. The cooks are German; a German quartermaster is responsible for distributing the rations. No complaints were made about the food. It is even possible to overfeed the patients.Work and payAll protected personnel are recognized. Other prisoners who work are paid. New instructions relating to the pay of members of protected personnel have been transmitted. The exchange rate is currently fixed at £1=40M, instead of £1=15M, so that a soldier member of the protected personnel receives 15/- per month, that is to say, less than an ordinary working prisoner.Work starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m. The prisoners are responsible for maintaining the hospital.ClothesThe sick have a uniform; members of protected personnel, officers and nurses, have two. The distribution of underwear is satisfactory. Nurses receive the same quantities as the A.T.S. |  | - 4 –A common laundry room has been fitted out for the hospital and for the officers. Nurses and protected personnel are responsible for their own laundry,CanteenThe canteen sells toiletries, notebooks, non-alcoholic drinks, as well as 50 cigarettes per week and per man. The Welfare Fund buys 10 cigarettes per week for every patient, as well as a razor blade. This Fund also allows them to buy shaving soap and a tube of toothpaste for each man. Every six months patients receive paper, pencils, containers and packets sent by the International Red Cross Committee and the YMCA, or purchased from medical officers or nurses.Welfare FundThis fund amounts to £60. The amount was much more, but recently a large sum was sent to a central relief fund organized by the War Office. Religious servicesA priest and a pastor hold services on Sundays. Mass is said every morning; religious meetings are held during the week.LeisureEvery day a group of prisoners takes a walk with an unarmed escort. The patients, nurses and officers take walks in separate groupsThey can use a handball pitch. Physical exercises and rehabilitation treatments are placed under the supervision of a specialized nurse and 4 masseurs. This treatment begins in the physiotherapy section and continues with various games and exercises in a small sports area inside the enclosure. The hospital is well equipped for this kind of special physical training.LibraryThe library has 1,600 volumes. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| - 5 –StudiesMedical sessions take place once a week; there are reports on medical literature (prisoners have an excellent English medical library containing the most important volumes and 4 or 5 periodicals), and lectures on pathology, pharmacology, and radiology. They also organize clinical demonstrations. The British doctor generally attends these sessions; he is very interested in the scientific development of his hospital. We attended one of these sessions and saw and heard many interesting things.A refresher course is given to nurses and members of health personnel.Classes in English, stenography, and mathematics are also organized.Theatre etcA theatrical troupe and an orchestra regularly visit the camp.The hospital possesses 4 gramophones and 160 records of classical music. They also have a piano, an accordion and 2 violins. A choir gives regular concerts.FilmsEvery 10 days, a few short films are screened; once a month, a session with film-talks takes place.RadioThe hospital posses a wireless set; loudspeakers are installed in each room.NewspapersThe hospital receives English newspapers and copies of Wochenpost and Ausblick.CorrespondenceWe explained the International Committee of the Red Cross plan to obtain the organization of a normal postal service. |  | - 6 -ComplaintsNo complaints have been raised.DisciplineDiscipline is excellent.Pow Notification CardsInternational Committee of the Red Cross ‘capture cards’ [postcard notifying that a pow had been captured] were completed and shipped for the first time last week.RequestsTable tennis ballsGerman medical periodicalsA copy of “Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift”Tools and materials about physiotherapy for workPencilsPaperWater coloursTobacco for the patientsConclusionsThis is an excellent hospital. The medical officers are very happy to be able to work in such good conditions. The British doctor and the Camp Commandant try to help them in their task.The lack of correspondence and the concern that prisoners have when thinking about their country and their families affects their morale. They become impatient when reading the news about the release of prisoners of war in certain countries (Germany, Norway, etc.). |