**Camp 108** **- Thirkleby Camp, Little Thirkleby, Yorkshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 108. Thirkleby Camp, Thirsk, Yorkshire.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 108(G.W.C.) | Thirkleby Camp, Thirkleby, Thirst, Yorkshire | N. | Priswar, Thirkleby | Hutton Sessay 203 | Thirsk | Lt.Col.A.H.G.Craster O.B.E. | v/1453/2 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Prisoner of War Camps (1939 – 1948) - Project report by Roger J.C. Thomas - English Heritage 2003** | | | | | | | |
| OS NGR | Sheet | No. | Name & Location | County | Cond’n | Type 1945 | Comments |
| SE 479 779 | 100 | 108 | Thirkleby Camp, Sandhill, Little Thirkleby | Yorkshire | 1 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. Pig farm |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** 6.5 km SE of Thirsk.  **Before the camp:** Farmland  **Pow Camp:** The camp was constructed in 1943. Italian pows until at least 1945, then a German Working Camp.  The site had a standard layout with a main pow compound, and with guards’ huts and offices at the front towards the road. Buildings included a water tower, 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.  **1943** – hostels listed for Italian pows: Dringhouses; Kirk Deighton; Lindley; York C.S.D. Cavalry Bks.  **November 1944** - The camp was listed as an Italian Working camp, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were recorded as non-co-operators.  **1945 (before September)** - Hostel at Kirkbank Hall opened with 100 pows (Progress Report 154 - FO939/383)  **15 September 1945** - Hostels listed for pows from this camp, (WO 32/10737): Cowling, Keighley, Yorkshire; Gilling (East), York; Rownton (Brook), Lancaster  **15 November 1946 –** Strensall hostel transferred from Storwood Camp 73. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1956 |

**1 September 1947** – extract from camp magazine about music; (my underlines) ‘*Twice a week - on Tuesdays and Thursdays - the now eleven-piece camp orchestra under its permanent director Werner Dombrowski gives concerts for the benefit of the neighboring camps and hostels. Some hostels have already used this opportunity previously to reinforce their mostly still loose connections to the surrounding civilians… During the most recent tour, most hostels held their events in the surrounding club halls or community rooms. So, the hostel 'Thormanby' in Raskelf, 'Hartforth' in Gilling, 'Stonecross' in Northallerton, 'Finghall' in Bedale, and Boltby, Rounton,* [and] *Great Smeaton in the community hall on the square itself. Gilling and Cowling hostels apparently weren't ready yet….* [Note – Hartforth is near Gilling West; Gilling East is some 40 miles away].

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

**19-21 January 1948** – Herbert Heineman recalled it as; “*Transit camp [waiting] to go to [join the] transport [to] South[ern] England*.”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/categories/c55619/>

Memories - "*During WW2 I was an apprentice plumber and brought over to the Thirkleby Prisoner of War Camp with others to work in the camp. We had to lay water to every hut. The Tower, which looked like a lookout, was a water tower and encased in brick.*

*The Italian soldiers were very different to the German prisoners in Skelton and Malton where I was working. They were very helpful and assisted us on our jobs. Later they were trusted to work on the nearby farms and fraternize with the local people. Some of these men stayed on in England when the war was over."* BBC WW2 People’s War – memories of ‘Mr Westmoorland’. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/89/a2839089.shtml>

Camp magazine – Deutsche Insel, 16 pages.

Known Camp Commandants:

1947 Lieutenant Colonel A K G Craster O.B.E. (1941 - 1942 Major A K G Craster O.B.E. from the E Surrey Regiment was Commandant at Garenden Park Camp 28).

**After the camp:** 2019 White Horse Farm (pig farm) – a lot of the camp still exists.

**Further Information:**

Camp Magazine No.4 - 1 September 1947 - [Deutsche Insel : Zeitschrift des Deutschen Kriegsgefangenenlagers 108 - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/112119/)

**POW NUMBERS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Open |  |  | With other camps |  |  | Unknown |  |  | Not open |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Main |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dringhouses |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kirk Deighton |  | With C 91 |  |  |  |
| Lindley |  | With C 91 / 60 | | ? |  |
| York CSD |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kirkbank Hall |  | Cap 100. | With C4? |  |  |
| Cowling |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gilling (East) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rownton / Rounton |  |  |  |  |  |
| Strensall |  | With C83 | With C73 |  |  |
| Thormanby |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hartforth |  |  | Camp 4 |  |  |
| Stonecross |  |  |  |  |  |
| Finghall |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boltby |  |  |  |  |  |
| Great Smeaton |  |  |  |  |  |
| Billets |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTALS |  |  |  |  |  |

**Hostels**

**Boltby**

3 pictures of pows at Boltby were dated on the back; 1947 and 1948. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/62092372@N04/albums/72157626609880212/>

Almost certainly administered by a different main camp before this entry in 1947.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Boltby |  |  |  |  |  |

**Cowling**, Keighley, Yorkshire

[1946 – probably open – no information].

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Cowling |  |  |  |  |  |

**Dringhouses** [Location – memories place it by the racecourse grandstand].

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Dringhouses |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Finghall** in Bedale. NGR SE 184 897 (not confirmed).  “*During the Second World War this land was used by the military as a Prisoner of War (POW) Camp. It housed around 25 German and Italian POWs in Nissen huts. The prisoners were transported daily to work on local farms. Many of the POWs formed lasting friendships with farming families.”*  <https://www.constableburtonfinghall-pc.gov.uk/council/constableburtonfinghall/assets/Finghall-A4-Walk-Leaflet-24_05_14.pdf>  Almost certainly administered by a different main camp before this entry in 1947.   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | | Finghall |  |  |  |  |  |   Ordnance Survey 1956 > |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gilling** (East), York  A hand drawn map of the area shows the hostel. The dotted line shows where there was a, “*12 foot high barbed wire fence with double gates at the end of Castle Drive (strands six inches apart).”* The local person who drew the map stated that the hostel held Italian, then Austrian and finally German pows. The area was still marked on the OS map at NGR SE 614 769. <https://ww2talk.com/index.php?threads/ww2-military-camp-in-gilling-east.91474/>   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | | Gilling (East) |  |  |  |  |  |   Ordnance Survey 1958 > |  |

**Great Smeaton**

Almost certainly administered by a different main camp before this entry in 1947.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Great Smeaton |  |  |  |  |  |

**Hartforth** near Gilling West.

Previously independent camp 4 / 288 - known as Gilling Camp, aka Hartforth. Located at Gilling West – NGR’s; C4 NZ 1633 0693 / C288 NZ 1655 0651.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Hartforth |  |  | Camp 4 |  |  |

**Kirkbank**

‘Kirk Bank’ Hall is located at NGR NZ 245 051.

**1946** – Believed to be a hostel for Gilling Camp 4.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Kirkbank Hall |  | Cap 100. | With C4? |  |  |

**Kirk Deighton,** Wetherby.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Kirk Deighton |  | With C 91 |  |  |  |

**Lindley,** Crosland Road, Lindley.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Lindley |  | With C 91 / 60 | | ? |  |

**Rownton** (Brook), Lancaster (spelling variation Rounton). Location – Probably at Rownton Brook House / Farm – NGR 529 592.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Rownton / Rounton |  |  |  |  |  |

**Stonecross** in Northallerton. AKA Stokesley Road Camp. Stone Cross is at NGR SE 370 949. Almost certainly administered by a different main camp before this entry in 1947.

Memories of Herbert Heinemann – *“As far as I can remember [the camp] consisted of one or two huts on top of soft rise at the outskirts of Northallerton, a lovely little town. The scenery in this particular area is delightful. We were put to work on local farms. Sometimes we went out at night for a walk in the town window shopping. That is about all I can remember there [from] 6.1.1948 until 19.1.1948*.” <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/categories/c55619/>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Stonecross |  |  |  |  |  |

**Strensall** (Possibly at Strensall Hall – an Italian camp has also been reported at Strensall barracks, but not confirmed).

**11/1946** - hostel transferred from Storwood Camp 73.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Strensall |  | With C83 | With C73 |  |  |

**Thormanby** in Raskelf

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| Thormanby |  |  |  |  |  |

**York C.S.D.** Cavalry Bks. (Command Supply Depot).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
| York CSD |  |  |  |  |  |