**Camp 114** **- Eden Vale Camp, Westbury, Wiltshire**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. 114. Edenvale Camp, Westbury, Wiltshire.

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| **1947 Camp list** |
| 114(G.W.C.) | Edenvale Camp, Westbury, Wilts | S. | Priswar, Westbury, Wilts | Westbury 235 | Westbury (G.W.R.) | Lt.Col.H.G.G.Digges | 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 |
| ST 863 503 | 183 | 114 | Eden Vale Camp, Westbury | Wiltshire | 4 | German Working Camp | STANDARD type. Site occupied by housing |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location:** On the SW edge of Westbury. Map shows the main camp, A, at NGR ST 863 514 + a smaller site located at B.Camp 658 Hill Camp was near this site just over 2 km to the N.**Before the camp:** Fields.**Pow Camp:** Listed as Italian working camp / labour battalion to at least 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. Buildings included a water tower, offices, officer's mess, a canteen, guard rooms, barrack huts, ablution blocks, cell blocks, a camp reception station (CRS = medical facility/hospital), a cookhouse, dining rooms, recreation rooms and living huts or tents.**1943**  - camp opened for Italian pows. |  |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |
|  |
| **< 1945 -** [raf\_106g\_la\_268\_rp\_3003 - Aerial Photo | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/raf_106g_la_268_rp_3003) |

**1943** – hostels listed for Italian pows; Devizes (The Castle) – Larkhill – Patney - Shipton Bellinger - Tidworth (Arena Road).

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

**1 August 1945** - an urgent memorandum was sent to this camp, and others, about maintaining records of Italians who were classed as ‘co-operators’. At this point many, sometimes all, of the Italian pows were in hostels / billets.

**3 September 1945** – a new hostel for Italians recorded as ‘White House Camp’ with a capacity of 200 pows, later called Frome Hostel. (Progress Report 153 – FO 939/383).

**September 1945** - Appendix to HQ Southern Command War Diary - Eden Vale Camp, Westbury – Italian labour battalion – capacity 750 – 121/302717

Italian hostel – Patney – cap 70 / German hostel – Frome – cap 200

**23 May 1946** – The HQ site became a German Camp, the remaining Italians awaiting repatriation were placed in hostels. 430 Germans arrived – 220 from camps in the USA, 70 from Canada and the rest from camps in UK and Belgium.

Most pows arriving from the USA had very low morale as they had been misinformed in the US that they were being repatriated. Instead, they found themselves in working camps in the UK. Pows from Canada were often C grade; they had been captured early in the war and retained their Nazi ideology. Many pows transferred from Camps in Belgium had experienced extremely poor conditions.

|  |
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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. |

**16-19 July 1946** – 1st PID visit; Report on Re-education. Strength; 0 officers, 964 Other Ranks.

Commandant: Major W L Hughes Camp Leader: Feldw. Karl Hermann Leinberger (B+)

Interpreter: Lt G H Edmonds Deputy C/L: Feldw. Erwin Heupel (A)

 German M.O.: None

Commandant Hughes was “*fairly co-operative*” – he was more interested in the physical welfare of the pows than re-education. He discouraged all political activity.

The Interpreter Officer was of Turkish-Austrian descent, he did not participate in re-education activities.

The Camp Leader had been transferred from Bourton Camp 157 and was considered to be “*suitable*.”

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Ungraded |
|  | 49 | 20 | 148 | 7 | 105 | 1 | 634 |

Morale overall was considered to be “*rather low.”* This was mainly due to; length of captivity, some who had been in USA and Canada had been held for 5 / 6 years – uncertainty about returning to Russian zones – bad news from Germany. The good treatment received at this camp was a positive factor. It was recommended the camp be politically screened as soon as possible.

1/3 of the pows were ‘youth’ (under-25), they were not considered to be a problem.

Re-education activities were just starting. The British staff took little, if any interest. The standard list was given:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – 325 / 25 copies respectively. More Ausblick requested.

Newspapers – 5 British dailies and 2 weeklies. Inadequate - more required, especially for the hostels.

Library – only at Frome hostel.

Lectures – Started, regular, at HQ and hostels.

Discussion groups – not started. The Commandant objected to any groups being formed.

Films – only YMCA films.

Wireless – a set with 3 loudspeakers at HQ.

Camp magazine – not started. Insufficient equipment.

Press review – Every Sunday.

English instruction – 70 pupils, 1 teacher, 3 grades. More books required. ‘English For All’ was very popular.

Other Camp Activities –

Religion – No protestant or RC padre. RC pows attended services at a local church. The Protestant padre from Hill Camp 658, PW Farsold, held services at Westbury Church.

Education – Lessons for German grammar, Latin, Spanish, Russian, French and arithmetic. The teachers had been politically graded and were considered “*reliable*.”

Theatre and orchestra – None at HQ.

**8 /9 August 1946** – P F Doring, a visiting lecturer commented; *“A beautiful camp with flowerbeds and kitchen gardens. The Commandant does everything in his power to make his Ps happy. But out of 440, 118 are without work and 28 more were ill….. The men work in factories and mix freely with English labourers…”*

**18 November 1946** – Visit to carry out screening. Strength 0 officers, 954 OR. (930 German, 20 Volksdeutsch, 4 Dutch or Czech.

1 change to senior personnel; Deputy C/L O.Wm Reinhold Műller (B).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening:  | A | B+ | B | B- | C | Unscreened |
|  | 24 | 42 | 286 | 41 | 90 | 447 |

“*Camp and hostels appeared contented; repatriation and screening are arousing hopes*.”

**December 1946** – in a camp report for Le Marchant camp 410 - “*The camp will be disbanded at the beginning of January, the men and most of the British Officers under the CO will be posted to 114 camp at Westbury/Wilts*.”

**January 1947** – Camps 410 and 114 were amalgamated with HQ at Westbury. Strength; about 1940. Commandant: Lt Col K J P Oliphant, from Le Marchant Camp 410.

**5 – 8 February 1947** – Report on re-education and screening pows. Strength; 4 officers, 1813 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Oliphant MC Camp Leader: Feldw. Karl Hermann Leinberger (B+)

Interpreter: Lt G H Edmonds Deputy C/L: Faehnr Walter Moering (B-)

 German M.O.: Dr Bucholz (B-); Dr Alin (B); Dr Pfeil (B).

Apart from the IO, British officers from Camp 410 had been transferred to 114.

Commandant Oliphant was due to retire in March.

The deputy C/L had been deputy at Camp 410. Initially he had been politically graded as C, but allowed to remain in post and later upgraded to B-.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | Unscreened |
|  | 30 | 152 | 820 | 254 | 197 | 364 |

200 pows were appealing against their political grades – the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory. 24 appeals had been heard and all were successful. 264 pows repatriated to date.

Morale had improved to ‘*Fair*.’ The new Commandant was less restrictive than the one before. Improvements were started with the removal of barbed wire and the use of huts for educational purposes – though this was hampered through lack of materials. Additional privileges for walking out of camp had been granted.

New ideas were brought from Camp 410, for example a camp parliament had been held; it was hoped this would soon be put into place at 114. There was a youth group with 80 pows taking an active part, including producing their own magazine. There was an increase in re-education activities:



Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – Satisfactory supply of British papers at HQ and hostels. German papers were few and irregular.

Library – 1000 German books, 170 English, 200 French. More political books requested.

Lectures – temporarily suspended while the move took place.

Discussion groups – A weekly ‘Brains Trust.’ Camp parliament to start.

Films – regular, YMCA and a private distributor, (probably Gaumont British).

Wireless – Satisfactory.

Camp magazine - ‘*Neues Leben’* (New Life). 400 copies of the magazine and 185 of the youth paper were issued fortnightly. More supplies of stencils and paper urgently requested from COGA – since last November.

Press review – every Sunday + a weekly sheet issued to hostels.

English instruction – separate appendix.

Information room – exhibitions of text and pictures shown, some materials sent, others made within the camp. The last two exhibitions concerned German political parties and Systems of education.

Other camp activities –

Religion – Protestant padre Schwemmer (B), and 2 RC priests; Zander (B) considered to be a troublemaker, and Piechuta (B) active with a beneficial influence.

Education – Lessons on applied electricity, technical subjects, chemistry, and physics at HQ. Some unspecified lessons also given at Frome hostel.

Entertainments – theatre group of 12 men. Orchestra being formed.

**14 March 1947** – Lecturer, J M Friters, reported that his lecture was cut short as two pows had escaped and roll calls were held. No further details.

**22-25 April 1947** – Report on re-education / Re-screen C’s. Strength; 2 Officers, 1714 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Digges [new] Camp Leader: Wm Jetter (B) [new]

Interpreter: Lt G H Edmonds Deputy C/L: Fw. Pohlschneider (B) [new]

 German M.O.: Dr Bucholz (B+) [was B-]; Dr Alin (B).

The new Commandant had been transferred from Brockley Camp 403 at the end of March. The visitor found him to be; “*hospitable, friendly and co-operative, though rather sarcastic and critical.”* Like most Commandants, he had little interest in re-education activities. He was regarded as fair, but very strict.

Adjutant Captain Durrant was helpful for re-education.

The new Camp leader started in mid March; “*suitable but of weak personality*.”

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- |
|  | 86 | 221 | 1106 | 303 |

147 appeals against political grades had been heard – 100% were successful, and a further 41 had been upgraded from C without appeal - giving an indication of the validity of initial gradings. 71 more appeals were pending. 521 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was still recorded as *‘fair*,’ but considered to be lower than the last report. The new Commandant had replaced a very popular one. A new Quarter Master was alleged to bully the pows and “*behave tactlessly*” – this was being looked into by the Commandant. Some of the pows had served on the Channel Islands and were due for late repatriation, which many considered to be extremely unfair. Morale was better in the hostels.

Unlike most camps, some additional facilities were developed for youth pows. There was a youth leader (Brickelmayer (A)), a separate pleasantly furnished hut, political meetings were held weekly, and there were chess and card game competitions.

Changes to re-education activities –

Library – 1536 books.

Lectures – restarted, regular.

Discussion groups – Organised through the newly elected camp parliament.

Camp magazine – Despite complaints sufficient paper was still not being sent.

Press review – a daily news-sheet issued to HQ and hostels.

Other camp activities –

Religion – Interest was decreasing. A new Protestant padre, Fassold (A), had been posted from Camp 658. Same RC priests. A religious paper for RC pows was issued in this camp and distributed to others.

Print – picture of the camp included in the magazine >

**10/12 July 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 4 officers, 1803 OR.

Only changes to senior personnel – 4 German M.O’s listed -Dr Bucholz (B+); Dr Allin (B) [upgraded to (A) and due to be repatriated], Dr V Thuemen (B-), Dr Ruhland (B), considered to be unsuitable “*from every angle”* by the German staff.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- |
|  | 10 | 304 | 1182 | 311 |

15 appeals pending. 768 pows repatriated to date.

The deteriorating morale continued, reasons given – news from Germany, delays to repatriations, no mail for 12 days.

There were no noteworthy changes to re-education activities.

The RC priest Piechuta had been upgraded to A – this was regarded as “*utterly unjustified*” by the visitor as he was unco-operative and a troublemaker.

The theatre group was very active in camp and at the hostels.

Despite low morale, Eden Vale was considered to be a good camp – and this was backed up by most of the reports issued by independent lecturers.

**21-24 October 1947** – Re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1320 OR.

The previous deputy C/L, Fw. Heinrich Pohlschneider (B) was now Camp leader. A new deputy C/L; Ogefr Philipp Hamm.

The single German M.O. listed was O/Arzt Wolf-Dietrich von Thuemen (B-)

Simplified screening was in place; A 2 / B 1319. 13 appeals pending.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A breakdown of 344 pows repatriated since mid-July was given:  | Whites | Groups | Sick | Compass | U-boat crew |
| 8 | 198 | 97 | 36 | 5 |

Whites = political A grade / Groups = usually groups of workers requested to be sent back to work in Germany (eg miners) / Compass = compassionate grounds.

Repatriations meant that many of the leading pows had left, and some of the activities were beginning to wind down. Changes recorded -

Discussion groups - had ended.

Films – Fortnightly, supplied by YMCA and Travelling Films Ltd.

Wireless – HQ had a radiogram and a microphone system.

Camp magazine – the editor, Friedrich Schubert (B-) was allowed to continue though he was in an Automatic Arrest category. The youth magazine had practically ceased.

Information room – no exhibitions.

Education – classes had ended.

Entertainment – both the theatre group and orchestra had fewer members and performances were less often.

Sport – a rare mention. Football was the main sport. Matches were played against civilian teams. Frome hostel was particularly good and found it difficult to find teams to play against. Westbury FC regularly gave 50 free tickets for pows to attend. Table tennis, billiards, draughts and chess were later mentioned as popular.

Comments were made that the local population was not particularly friendly, though many pows developed their own informal contacts with local families. There was a very wide range of formal contacts. Visits had been organised to Buckfast Abbey, Salisbury and Wells Cathedrals, church groups, and council meetings.

**20-23 January 1948** - Re-educational survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1250 OR.

Only 1 change to senior personnel; a new Deputy C/L, O/Masch Wilhelm Beissner (B).

Simplified screening was in place; A 2 / B 1249.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A breakdown of 472 pows repatriated since 31 October was given:  | Whites | Groups | Sick | Compass | Specials |
| 4 | 415 | 17 | 35 | 1 |

No description of ‘specials’ – it often referred to pows sent back to Germany for investigation.

Morale was improving apart from Tidworth and Patney where new-comers found the situation unfavourable to agricultural camps in Scotland. Positive factors included speedier repatriations, good relations with employers and the British staff.

The number of youth pows had increased to about 50% - they were not seen as a problem, but the previous internal provisions for them had ended. A small number of pows were attending the Northgate Youth Club at Devizes.

There were no changes to re-education activities.

**9 – 12 March 1948** – General survey. Strength; 1 officer, 1388 OR.

Although still listed as a German Working Camp, Eden Vale became a base where the remainders of pows were sent from other camps that were closing down. Camp 89 and 3 hostels had been taken over a few days earlier.

Only change to senior personnel – German M.O. U/Arzt Dr Lenz.

Simplified screening was in place; A 2 / B 1386. 150 pows repatriated since 20 January.

A survey was conducted in camps still open at this time concerning pow attitudes to the British. It was largely 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 the results of attitudes at this camp were; Dislike 25% / Distrust 10% / Indifference 25% / Liking 40%.

A lecture was due to be given about ‘Resettlement problems’ – far too late.

Attempts were made to establish further local contacts, but the civilians were found to be “*negative.”*

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**4/5 May 1948** – “*Final Impression on Repat. Groups & General Survey*.” Strength; 16 officers, 1099 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Digges Camp Leader: Fw. Pohlschneider

Interpreter: - [Expected] Deputy C/L: O/Maschn Beissner

 German M.O.: U/Artz Dr Lenz

820 pows repatriated since 12 March.

This visitor must have been unaware of the previous report as he carried out the same pointless survey of attitudes. His worthless results were; Dislike 10% / Distrust 15% / Indifference 30% / Liking 45%. The visit achieved nothing as far as details in the report show.

Known Camp Commandants:

1946 Major W L Hughes M.C.

1946 Lt Col K J P Oliphant (from Camp 410)

1947 Lt Col Henry Geoffrey Goodson Digges, from the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

**After the camp:** Used as emergency housing. 2025 residential area.

**Further Information:**

Thank you to David Jenkins who provided further information about this camp.

National Archives FO 939/307 114 Working Camp, Westbury Camp, Westbury, Wiltshire. Dated 1946-1948

Camp Magazine – January 1947 - [Neues Leben : Lagerzeitung POW-Camp 114 Westbury - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/112820/)

IWM have a copy of the camp newspaper from 28 February 1948 – Ref E.J. 401. The German Federal Archives also have a copy – date unknown.

<https://westburyheritagesociety.org.uk/information/westbury-ww2-gallery/>

**POW NUMBERS**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Main |  | It. cap 750 | 430 | 410 | 740 | 675 | 591 | 622 | 395 | 664 | 489 | 411 |
| Devizes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Larkhill |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Patney |  | It. cap 70 | With C410 | 100 | 93 | 92 | 91 | 72 | 60 | 51 |  |
| Shipton Bellinger |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tidworth |  | Camp 581/632 | 174 | 160 |  |
| Frome |  | It. cap 200 | 288 | 312 | 330 | 320 | 312 | 304 | 268 |  |  |  |
| Melksham \* |  |  | 100 | 108 | 175 | 167 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Druid’s Lodge |  |  | With C410 | 248 | 216 | 172 | 194 | 85 | 110 | 152 | 42 |
| Everleigh |  |  | With C410 | 162 | 156 | 164 | 140 | 154 | 85 | 71 |  |
| Sandridge \* |  |  |  |  |  |  | 156 | 151 | 101 |  |  |  |
| Easton Grey | Camp 89 | 199 | 482 |
| Lyneham |  | With C89 | 31 |  |
| Ladyfield H |  | With C89 | 44 |  |
| Westonbirt H |  |  | With C89 | 15 |  |
| Shrivenham |  |  |  |  | Camp 695 | With C25 |  |  | 100 |
| Detached/Other |  |  |  |  |  |  | 40 (1) | 114 | 85/1 (2) | 76 (3) | 69 | 73 (4) |
| Billets |  |  | 146 | 124 | ? | 190 | 189 | 191 | 160 | 82 | 107 | 7 |
| TOTALS |  |  | 964 | 954 | c.1940 | 1817 | 1716 | 1807 | 1321 | 1251 | 1388 | 1115 |

1 – Recorded as ‘HQ Salisbury P.D. 2 – 85 detached / 1 escaped. 3 – 61 at Devizes attached to R.A.P.C. (Royal Army Pay Corps) / 15 at Bulford attached to Officers’ Mess.

4 – 71 detached, 1 hospital, 1 escaped. \*see note below for Melksham / Sandridge.

**Hostels**

**Devizes** (The Castle). NGR SU 002 613.

**1943** – recorded as a hostel for Italian pows. HER record states that it was an Italian pow camp and does not refer to German pows.

Site probably linked with Le Marchant Camp 23/410 after 1943.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Devizes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Druid’s Lodge.** NGR SU 097 390.

**2/1947** – Hostel leader; Wachtm Ebner (B). **4/1947** – same leader.

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Owm Skrobek (B). **10/1947** – same leader. Brigadier Rash at Woodford provided swimming facilities for this hostel.

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Uffz Jonny Peters (B-). **5/1948** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Druid’s Lodge |  |  | With C410 | 248 | 216 | 172 | 194 | 85 | 110 | 152 | 42 |

**Easton Grey.** Previously independent Camp 89.

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr Wirth, (probably Joachim Wirth who had been acting as an interpreter within the camp). **5/1948** – same leader.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Easton Grey | Camp 89 | 199 | 482 |

**Everleigh.** Possibly in large army camp located in Everleigh. General NGR SU 206 536.

**1946** – with Le Marchant Camp 23/410

**2/1947** – O/Wachtm Ramserger (B)

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Schwarz (B)

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Kurt Sachse (B-) [Was this the same Ofw Sachse that was at Patney?]. **10/1947** – same leader.

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Uscha August Beuck (B-).

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; Fhnr Nantschke.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Everleigh |  |  | With C410 | 162 | 156 | 164 | 140 | 154 | 85 | 71 |  |

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| **Frome** (White House).NGR ST 783 493.  Parts remain on 1961 map opposite Frome School on Bath Road.**1945 –** Called ‘White House’ – shown on map. Cap 200 Italian pows.**16 August 1945** – Opened for 288 German pows, 50 from USA.**6/1946** – Dr Lange, a visiting lecturer, was alleged to have remarked, “*all German units were criminal and that the German name ought to be eradicated*.” This led to political unrest at this hostel. The Commandant intervened and stopped further political activity. There was no recorded proof of the alleged statement and Dr Lange went on to lecture at many other camps.**7/1946** – Hostel leader; Feldw Max Schweiger (B) – “*suitable*.”Library – 375 books, 168 were in French.Press review – just starting. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

English Instruction – 40 pupils, 3 teachers, 2 grades, 75 textbooks. Others studied privately.

Religion – RCs visited local church. Protestant services led by PW Erich Műller.

Education – German, French and maths.

Theatre and Orchestra – 8 actors, 5 players. A cinema in Frome allowed 6 free tickets for pows daily.

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; St.Fw Anton Kroeger.

**2/1947** – Hostel leader; O/Masch Koenig (B). Had its own theatre and orchestra. **7/1947** – same leader.

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Josef Fischer (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Frome |  | Cap 200 | 288 | 312 | 330 | 320 | 312 | 304 | 268 |  |  |  |

Photo of POW Chapel from - <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10231970655066334&set=gm.10161169429723188&idorvanity=2434013187>

**Ladyfield H** (Chippenham). Memories placed the hostel on the playing fields by Ladyfield Road, NGR ST 908 727.

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr Ziegler.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Ladyfield H |  | With C89 | 44 |  |

**Larkhill**

**1943** – hostel for Italian pows.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Larkhill |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Lyneham**

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; Feldw Sailer

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Lyneham |  | With C89 | 31 |  |

**Melksham and Sandridge** – I think these may have been the same place – NOT confirmed. Melksham was also listed as ‘Tower camp,’ i.e. next to Sandridge Tower.

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| **Melksham** (Tower camp). NGR ST 938 647.**13 July 1946** – Opened for 100 pows, 90 from Devizes Camp 410. (It may have been open for Italian pows before this).**7/1946** – Hostel leader; O/Feldw Karl Huber (B-); a professional soldier, “*with militaristic ideas and, though harmless, not suited.”* It was recommended he be replaced.Press review – just starting. No English Instruction. No wireless – to be bought.**2/1947** – same hostel leader still in place despite the recommendation. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Melksham |  |  | 100 | 108 | 175 | 167 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Sandridge**

**4/1947** – Hostel leader Fw Meyer (B+). **7/1947** – same

**10/1947** – Hostel leader; Owm Kurt Steeger )B+)

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Sandridge |  |  |  |  |  |  | 156 | 151 | 101 |  |  |  |

**Patney.** Located wherePucklands housing estate is, NGR SU 071 586.

**1943** – hostel for Italian pows.

**27 February 1946** – A visiting lecturer reported that all 54 pows attended his lecture. Some complained about the isolation of the hostel and not receiving information.

**3 June 1946** – Patney hostel taken over by Le Marchant Camp 410.

**End 1946** – Hostel returned to administration of 114.

**2/1947** – Hostel leader; Ofw Sachse (C) – regarded as “*harmless*” but unsuitable, and to be replaced.

**4/1947** – Hostel leader; Uffz Binzen (B). **3/1948** – same leader.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Patney |  | It. cap 70 | With C410 | 100 | 93 | 92 | 91 | 72 | 60 | 51 |  |

**Shrivenham**

**5/1948** – Hostel leader; Fw Baumgarten.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Shrivenham |  |  |  |  | Camp 695 | With C25 |  |  | 100 |

**Shipton Bellinger**

**1943** – Hostel for Italian pows.

Camp 609/663, Parkhouse Camp was located at Shipton Bellinger – same site?

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Shipton Bellinger |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Tidworth** (Arena Road)

**1943** – a hostel for Italians was recorded at ‘Tidworth (Arena Road).’

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Fw Gerhard Ridder (B). “*Tidworth hostel has only been open about ten days and is mostly composed of Ps/W returned from Scotland”* – i.e. open as a hostel rather than as an independent camp**. 3/1948** – same leader.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Tidworth |  | Camp 581/632 | 174 | 160 |  |

**Westonbirt H**

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; Uffz Wittkoweski.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 7/1946 | 11/1946 | 1/1947 | 2/1947 | 4/1947 | 7/1947 | 10/1947 | 1/1948 | 3/1948 | 5/1948 |
| Westonbirt H |  |  | With C89 | 15 |  |