**Camp 119** **- Pabo Hall Camp / Bryn Estyn, Llandudno Junction, Caernarvonshire (Gwynedd)**

Included in the 1945 ICRC camp list – Labour Camp. “Pabo Hall” Camp, Llandudno Junction, Caernarvonsh.

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| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 119(G.W.C.) | “Bryn Estyn” Albert Drive, Llandudno Junction, Caernarvonshire | W. | Priswar, Conway | Deganwy 831188 and 83295 | Llandudno Junction (L.M.S.) | Major H.C.A.Edwards | v/1452/2 |

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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 |
|  |  | 119 | Pabo Hall Camp, Llandudno Junction | Caernarvonshire (Gwynedd) |  | German Working Camp | Wales |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I have used place names as written in the War Diaries / Reports.  **Location:** The HQ originated at Pabo Hall, then late 1946/early 1947 it moved to Bryn Estyn.  NGR SH 809 788 for the Pabo Hall site. 1.5 km NE of Llandudno Junction.  Bryn Estyn, SH 792 787, is about 1.75 km E of the marked Pabo site. A Badminton Centre is now in the area.  **Before the camp:** Pabo Hall was built in 1866 as a country house and estate.  **Pow Camp: Pabo Hall**  **1944 -** Pabo Hall was requisitioned as a pow headquarters / administration centre, there were also a few huts built in the grounds for a small number of administrative pows to be accommodated.  **May and November 1944** - Listed as an Italian Labour Battalion under the Western Command area and then as an Italian Working Camp, (WO 32/10737). The Italians were listed as non-collaborators.  **August 1944** - war diary started. Up to August 1945 there were a mixture of co-operator and non-co-operator Italian pows held in separate hostels.  The War Diary contained numerous cases of disciplinary issues concerning petty crime, non-cooperation and fraternisation. There were more entries for these issues than most camps. Though the records show that some of the accusations were made without proof, the camp and its hostels seem to have had a persistent level of disruption. |  |
| Pabo Hall site - Ordnance Survey 1957 |

Most pows worked at local farms, others were clearing drains and ditches, quarry work, or removing barbed wire and other wartime structures. There were some education courses, but few details were recorded other than pows achieving certificates for English language. The Commandant was Major P V A Reid. The first entry in the War Diary -

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information |
| Pabo Hall | 1944 Aug.1 |  | Commandant returned from inspection of Hostels and Billets in Dolgelley area. Prisoners becoming more difficult to deal with, especially in Billets. Very few volunteers for Billets.  Commandant met Commandant No.101 Italian Labour Bn. at Dolgelley to discuss modification of camp boundaries. Tentative agreement reached, to be settled at District H.Q. |

101 = Glandulas Camp, Montgomeryshire.

During August, most pows were working on gathering the harvest and were in great demand.

**3 August 1944.** “*Circularizing list of punishments awarded to Ps/W recently, some of which include relegation to status of non-cooperators. This last seems to have a salutary effect on crime.”*

**4 August 1944**. “*It appears that Ps/W at Four Crosses Hostel are adopting a ‘go slow’ attitude as regards civil medical practitioner’s reports, increase of those reporting sick who have nothing much the matter with them*.” After further investigation this claim was recorded as having been exaggerated.

**10 August 1944.** A military court at the camp tried two pows, (Valente and Porcu) for fighting with pen-knives and wounding each other. The pows were defended by 2 interpreters. They were found guilty, and received 6 months confinement at Pool Park Camp 38, and later Lodge Moor Camp 17.

10 pows regarded as agitators were transferred to Lodge Moor Camp 17.

A unit dance was held at Llangwstenin Church Hall in aid of the Army Red Cross.

**Mid-August** - the non-co-operator pows were again asked who wished to be regarded as co-operators under a revised system with further benefits.

**16 - 18 August 1944.** “*Commandant visited Non Co-operator Hostels of Bont Newydd and Four Crosses for ballot for co-operation under new status. Bont Newydd only 2 voted for co-operation. Four Crosses 18 voted for co-operation, making a total of 20 in favour out of 117. It does not appear that additional privileges will do much to change minds of Ps/W who did not co-operate in the first instance.”* The Commandant then visited billetees – only 4 agreed to co-operate. The new status came into force on 19 August.

**4 September 1944**. “*Dealt with two Ps/W for disciplinary offences. One relegated as non-co-operator*.”

**7 September 1944.** “*Commandant visited Tal-y-Cafn for investigation of case of p/w reported as having thrown himself into the River Conwy. Clear case of suicide, but body not yet recovered.*” The pow was from Tyn-y-Groes hostel – further details below.

“*Later visited Anglesey and inspected hostels there. Water problems much improved. Labour Officer reported that farmers were complaining the p/w left their work to gather willows for making baskets* [which they would sell]. *Decided to instruct lorry drivers to refuse to carry bundles of willows and report anyone trying to bring them back to Camp. Commandant told Italian officer to warn men that leaving their work meant a serious offence, and probable relegation to non-co-operator status.”*

**9 September 1944.** A Court of Inquiry was opened and adjourned at the Ferry Hotel, Tal-y-Cafn into the disappearance of the pow who threw himself into the river.

**19 September 1944.** A case of fraternisation with a girl occurred and the pow was transferred from the main camp to Sarn hostel – “*Complaints of this nature increasing since new concessions to co-operator p/w introduced.”*

**20 September 1944.** “*Trouble between civilians and p/w at Bala. Both p/w withdrawn from district.”*

**21 September 1944.** There was a case of sabotage at the Holland Arms Railway Station and pows were suspected, but there was no evidence to prove this.

**22 September 1944.** A report was made by the Medical Officer that some pows were reporting sick without reason. There were also complaints from Anglesey that pows were entering public houses, and of fraternisation with women. These incidents were investigated by the acting commandant and a police inspector. Again, little evidence was found to substantiate any serious complaints. However, as there were many minor incidents, a stern warning was given to all pows.

**10 October 1944.** A pow was sentenced to 28 days confinement for refusing to work and writing a threatening letter.

**19 October 1944.** Commandant PVA Reid transferred to Marbury Hall Camp. Adjutant as temporary Commandant, (Lieutenant W W Wickett, Pioneer Corps).

**18 November 1944** – a new Commandant Major A B Rogers, MC, arrived.

**December 1944 -** A quiet month. Supplementary orders regarding discipline were issued. The pows from the hostels came to the main camp on Christmas Day for dinner.

**24 February 1945 -** All non-co-operator Italian pows were moved to two hostels – Plas Llwynon and Dower House.

**9 March 1945 -** 96 non co-operator pows went on strike at the Plas Llwynon Hostel. This continued to **29 March**.

**23 March 1945 -** 8 pows escaped during the night of 23/24 March from the detention block at the main camp. Possibly due to there being no proper cells at the time as they were still being built. 6 pows were recaptured in the morning – 2 in the afternoon. 6 additional guards were sent from a local Royal Artillery unit until the cell block was completed.

**26 March 1945 -** 12 pows, including the 8 escapees, were sent to another camp.

**29 March 1945 -** Another Military Court held at the main camp. (Pow Vigoni – no details of offences).

**6 April 1945 -** “*Lieuts. P.G. Offord and A. Heathcote of this Unit tried by FGCM at Prestatyn.”* FGCM = Field General Court Martial – no further details. Later in the month on 28 April, Lieutenant Heathcote, Interpreter Officer, was transferred to No.30 Italian Labour Batallion. (Carpenters Road).

**11 April 1945** - 6 detention cells completed at HQ. At times this was not sufficient, e.g. on 26 April, 8 pows had to be transferred to the cells at St Martins Camp 100.

**8 May 1945** - “*V.E. Day observed. Parade of all H.Q. British and Italian personnel at 10.30 hours. Remainder of the day a holiday. All Italians confined to Camp*.”

**12 May 1945** - “*Received instructions to institute Italian Patrols in towns in our area*.”

**7 July 1945** - A new commandant started – Major L L Blackford, Pioneer Corps.

**12 July 1945 -** An unnamed pow escaped. He was re-captured on 15 July.

**25 July 1945 -** “*Court of Inquiry assembled re deficiency in boots.”* Sadly, no further details.

**1 August 1945** - An urgent memorandum was sent to this camp, and others, about maintaining records of Italians who were classed as ‘co-operators.’

**2 August 1945 -** The first German pows arrived. Italians at Bont Newydd Hostel were transferred elsewhere and the Germans moved in.

**9 August 1945 -** Italian pows were transferred from the hostels at Dolgelley, Sarn and Four Crosses to “*various camps.*”

**10 August 1945 -** German pows arrived at the three empty hostels – 70 in each. They were searched on arrival and their kit was checked.

**16 August 1945 -** 50 German pows arrived for Vaynol Park Hostel, and another 50 for Nevin Hostel.

**20 August 1945 -** A Military Court was assembled at HQ for the trial of pows F Di Liddo and P Alfonso. Both were sentenced a few days later, but no further details.

**Autumn** – camp redesignated as a German Working camp. Remaining Italian pows were transferred to other camps or placed in hostels while awaiting repatriation.

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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. |

**1946** – Intake of pows from camps in Canada, these were often C grade. They had been captured early in the war and retained their Nazi ideology. A later report stated that some pows were also transferred from camps in the USA.

**22 August 1946** – Re-education report for Pabo Hall German Working Camp. Strength; 1 officer (the M.O.), 1167 O.R.

Commandant: Lt Col P H W Russel OBE, RA. Camp Leader: O.Fw Walter Cramer (est A)

Interpreter: S.Sgt Colman Deputy C/L: O.Fw Hans Stass (est A)

German M.O.: O/Arzt Dr Voelkel (B+) – rescreened (C+)

The Commandant was supportive of the aims for re-education, (this does mean not he was actively involved).

The M.O. was described by the visitor as; “*one of the most dangerous opportunists I have ever met*” – he was accordingly regraded to C+ and recommended for transfer.

Political screening; Only 361 pows completed; A – 45; B – 300; C – 16. Estimate for the whole camp – A- 30%; B – 50%; C – 30%.

The HQ site was overcrowded. Morale was recorded as “*very good*” overall.

‘Youth’ pows, (under-25) were not regarded as a problem.

Re-education activities had barely started. The standard list was given:

Newspapers – Only 2 British papers bought by the Welfare Fund (profit from canteen sales). 7 / 8 German papers received weekly. Pows apathetic to the press.

Library – 430 books, inadequate. 20 books sent to hostels monthly. More requested.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lectures – regular and popular.  Discussion groups – none.  Films – fortnightly.  Wireless - at all sites.  Camp magazine – none  Press review – cuttings were translated ‘verbally.’ (No record of how this worked).  English instruction – separate appendix.  Other camp activities –  Religion – RCs and protestants able to visit local churches. No camp padres.  Education – None at HQ.  Theatre – None. Occasional impromptu shows.  Orchestra – None at HQ |  |
| Camp ‘money’ was issued as pows were not allowed to have British currency. The tokens were of different values and could only be used in the camp of issue. |

**November 1946** – RC padre shared with Pool Park Camp 38 and Queensferry 1014.

**12-14 November 1946** – Report on visit to the camp to screen pows. Strength; 0 officers, 952 OR.

The HQ address was given as “*Llandudno Junction*” Camp 119, which does not identify if it was Pabo Hall or Bryn Estyn, or possibly both for a while.

Commandant: Lt Col P H W Russel OBE, RA. Camp Leader: O.Fw Walter Cramer (A)

Interpreter: Nil Deputy C/L: Hermann Stumpp (B-)

German M.O.: None

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Not seen |
|  | 51 | 156 | 283 | 72 | 18 | - | 372 |

Morale was good. Mail was arriving, except from Poland. Discussion groups had started at most sites.

**18-23 December 1946** – Report on visit to organise re-education. Strength; 1 officer, 891 OR. The same ‘*Llandudno junction’* address given.

Commandant: Major H C A Edwards Camp Leader: T Bondue (B+)

Interpreter: Nil Deputy C/L: W Gattermann (A)

German M.O.: None

Problems arose in the camp with the lack of an interpreter.

The Camp leader had been leader at Tyn-y-Groes hostel – described as; *“most energetic and gifted with initiative and good organising powers.”* (Although the report stated no pows had been repatriated from this camp, it went on to state that the previous camp leader had been repatriated).

Details of the new Deputy leader (from a later report) – “*Excellent administrator with good knowledge of English.”* He had deferred his repatriation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C | C+ | Not seen |
|  | 45 | 186 | 384 | 112 | 15 | 1 | 149 |

19 pows appealed against their political grading, (the better the grade, the sooner repatriated, in theory) – 9 allowed, 10 rejected.

Good morale maintained. Satisfaction on the treatment received from the British staff and good relationships with local farmers. “*An issue of football kit would be a welcome aid to morale.”*

271 pows were ‘youth’ – they were, “*eager to learn and to rid themselves of Nazi fallacies.”*

Re-education activities were limited by long working hours at farms, there were few improvements and some reductions in provision:

Wochenpost and Ausblick – separate appendix.

Newspapers – British papers much improved with a wide range of dailies and weeklies purchased from the Welfare Fund. But, German papers were only received with private mail, and only 1 Swiss paper was obtained.

Library – still only 400 books.

Lectures – had not appeared since the last report. It was emphasised how important they were for such isolated camps.

Discussion groups – none. Some had started, but died out.

Films – regular from YMCA and COGA. Sarn was the only hostel without facilities to watch films, some pows at hostels visited other sites, (village halls, camps) to view films.

Wireless – one set in each hostel. These were insufficient in the larger hostels without loudspeaker systems.

Camp magazine / Information room – none.

Press review – Held at the hostels covering German, foreign and UNO news.

Other camp activities –

Religion – 60% protestant, 40% RC. Visits were only made by Tituos Goetzmann a RC padre from another camp. Pows were able to attend local services.

Education – none.

Entertainment – Only choirs at some hostels. No theatre groups or orchestras.

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| **BRYN ESTYN, Deganwy**  On the 1964 map the site is just E of the ‘Hall.’  **Thank you to Gwyn Hughes, member of the Deganwy History Group for supplying me with information and pictures.**  **5-9 May 1947** – Report on a visit to; Organise re-education – (again). Strength; 1 officer, 555 OR.  The HQ address was stated as ‘Bryn Estyn.’  An Interpreter had arrived – S/Sgt Adler.  The Camp Leader was upgraded from B+ to A.  There was a new German M.O.; E Schmidt (B-), aged 29. Described in a later report; a member of the Waffen-SS for 3 months prior to capture. *“A live wire in re-education. Organises discussion group, teaches English and contributes to camp paper… A most sincere and hard working young man.”* |  |  |
| 1964 Ordnance Survey |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 20 | 92 | 335 | 108 | 1 |

1 further appeal was allowed – 14 more pending. 490 pows repatriated to date.

Morale remained good, especially with steady repatriations. Pows praised the Commandant’s efforts for improving their welfare. Negative factors were; anxiety of those from the Russian zone; increase in the price of cigarettes, and dissatisfaction from a small group who had been transferred from Singapore. (Information from other camp reports – this group claimed to be non-combatants and so should not be classed as pows, and should be returned to Germany.)

Re-education activities had improved. The Commandant organised a monthly meeting for all leaders. Changes –

Newspapers – Good supply of British and German papers which were circulated to the hostels and then to billets.

Library – 100 new books. The Commandant was giving 120 more.

Lectures – resumed and popular.

Discussion groups – had either started, or were about to, at all sites.

Entertainments – sport was popular especially football, table tennis, handball and boxing.

**1 - 4 July 1947** – Survey of re-education. Strength: 1 officer, 764 OR.

Commandant: Major H C A Edwards, M.C. Camp Leader: H Boss (B+)

Interpreter: Nil Deputy C/L: W Gattermann (A)

German M.O.: E Schmidt (B-)

Once again the camp was without an Interpreter.

The Camp leader was previously leader at Bont Newydd hostel.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 5 | 129 | 458 | 172 | 1 |

52 appeals were pending against political grading. 545 pows repatriated to date. Morale still recorded as good.

Changes to re-education activities -

Library – still only 584 books, insufficient.

Outside contacts – apart from the informal local contacts some pows developed, formal contacts were being started:

Llandudno - Pows attended a lecture at the Christian Science Church, TocH provided rest rooms on Sundays with games, coffee and cakes.

Caernarvon Moriah Church – 30 pows took part in a singing festival. Bont Newydd hostel were invited to the church for tea.

Visits made to Pant Asaph Monastery and the Marble Church at Bodelwyddan.

**19-22 August 1947** – Survey of Re-education. Strength; 1 officer, 695 OR.

Still no interpreter. No deputy camp leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Political screening: | A | B+ | B | B- | C |
|  | 8 | 115 | 414 | 159 | 0 |

580 pows repatriated to date.

Morale was “*still satisfactory*.” Greater freedoms for pows allowed them to visit Llandudno, Colwyn Bay, Conway, Caernarvon, Bangor and Pwllheli. The prime negative factor was length of time imprisoned, especially for the older pows.

37% were youth pows. There was a comment about them being a social problem – *“At the lonelier hostels, the younger PsW are somewhat obsessed with the possibility of sexual adventures with local girls, many of whom are something of a menace.”*

Changes to re-education activities –

Newspapers - slight decrease in number of papers received due to national paper shortage.

Library – 611 books. Noted that 45 volumes had been sent off to undergo censorship since 1946 and had not been returned.

Camp magazine – ‘Das Offene Wort’ [The Open Word] – 2 editions printed with 120 copies each. High standard.

[1st edition – 1 August 1947 - [Das Offene Wort : Zeitschrift des Kriegsgefangenen - Lagers 119 Llandudno Junction, Nord-Wales - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/112828/) ]

Information room – showing text and picture materials on a theme - currently; “*British and German Youth Movements*.”

Outside contacts – in addition to links mentioned above, 4 pows attended the Summer School of the Independent Labour Party at Bangor. A small group of pows attended sessions at the Royal National Eisteddfod at Colwyn Bay.

Noted that it was planned to close this camp on 15 September and transfer hostels to Pool Park Camp 38.

**September/October 1947** – Closure of camp. 7 hostels transferred to Pool Park Camp 38 - Bodorgan, Bont Newydd, Four Crosses, Nevin, Sarn, Tyn-y-Groes, Vaynol Park.

Known camp commandants:

1944 Major P V A Reid, formerly of the Royal Artillery, and then Pioneer Corps. (Later in 1944 he went to Marbury Hall Camp 180).

1944 Major A B Rogers, MC.

1945 Major L L Blackford, Pioneer Corps.

1946 Lt Col P H W Russel OBE, RA.

1947 Major H C A Edwards, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Transferred to Glandulas camp 101.

**Further Information:**

National Archives

- WO 166 16295: 119 Prisoner of War Camp at Pabo Hall (Llandudno). 101 Italian Labour Battalion, among other prisoners. Dated Aug-Dec 1944. (Used above).

- WO 166/17822: 119 Prisoner of War Camp at Pabo Hall (Llandudno). Italian and German prisoners. Escape attempt 23 March 1945. Dated Jan-Aug 1945. (Used above).

- FO 1120/227: Re-educational survey visit reports for camps 117 to 119. Dated 1 January 1946 to 31 December 1948. (Used above).

**POW NUMBERS**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Pabo Hall HQ |  |  | 59 | 57 | 70 |  |  |  |
| Bryn Estyn HQ |  |  |  | 65 | 64 | 60 |
| Bont Newydd |  |  | 72 | 64 | 57 | 31 | 66 | 48 |
| Dolgelly |  |  | 48 | With C101 | | | | |
| Dower House |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Four Crosses |  |  | 64 | 50 | 48 | 40 | 61 | 42 |
| Llangefni |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Llanrwst |  |  | 37 | 40 | 37 | 8 | 35 | 34 |
| Plas Llwynon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sarn |  |  | 63 | 50 | 49 | 31 | 37 | 39 |
| Tyn-y-Groes |  |  | 74 | 64 | 63 | 37 | 51 | 59 |
| Nevin |  |  | 100 | 85 | 82 | 33 | 56 | 53 |
| Vaynol Park |  |  | 67 | 78 | 75 | 30 | 55 | 59 |
| Mona |  |  | 226 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harlech |  | C626? | 53 | 70 | 72 | 19 | 36 | With C101 |
| Bodorgan |  |  |  | 199 | 177 | 104 | 115 | 121 |
| Billets |  |  | 302 | 195 | 162 | 158 | 189 | 181 |
| TOTALS |  |  | 1168 | 952 | 892 | 556 | 765 | 696 |

**Hostels**

**Bodorgan.** Located at RAF Bodorgan.

Probably attached to a different main camp before these entries.

**11/1946** – Hostel leader, Erich Schuermann (A)

**12/1946** – Hostel leader, G Schmeling (B+)

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; G Miarka (B), aged 30, a clerk. Had been a member of the Hitler Youth and Nazi party. “*Not inspiring*.” It was recommended he be transferred to a smaller hostel.

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; H Ramm (B+), formerly camp leader for a short time at Pool Park camp 38. “*Very intelligent and doing excellent work for re-education.”* **8/1947** – same leader. A small orchestra had been formed.

**September/October 1947** – transferred to Pool Park Camp 38.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Bodorgan |  |  |  | 199 | 177 | 104 | 115 | 121 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bont Newydd (Bontnewydd).**  Location – S of village by ‘Lodge’ – SH 4819 5935.  Italian non-co-operator hostel to 1945, then German pows.  **14 August 1944**. It was recorded that 9 non-co-operator pows arrived from Pool Park Camp 38.  **16 August 1944.** “*….ballot for co-operation under new status. Bont Newydd only 2 voted for co-operation.*”  **20 August 1944**. A pow was sent to the main camp for trial – no record of name or offence.  **2 August 1945**. The first Germans arrived. Italians had been transferred to other camps.  **8/1946** – Hostel leader; H.Fw Buettner (est A)  **11/1945** – Hostel leader; Alfred Hell (B+). **12/1946** same leader.  **5/1947** – Hostel leader; H Boss (B+), owned a pharmacy. Not a member of the Nazi party. He had been held in a pow camp in Medicine Hat, Canada where he was threatened with death on account of his anti-Nazi activities. Recommended to be the next Camp leader.  **7/1947** – Hostel leader; H Freynick (B+), a shoe dealer. “*Pleasant manner, intelligent and helps with re-education activities*.” **8/1947** – same leader. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1954. |

Reverend Stephen O Tudor was the minister for Capel Moriah from 1935 to 1962 as well as being the chaplain to the locally-based pows. The couple set up a library for the PoWs and prepared dinner for them on Sundays. Mrs Tudor was greatly respected; she wrote letters to some of the pows families and later to some released pows.

**September/October 1947** – transferred to Pool Park Camp 38.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Bont Newydd |  |  | 72 | 64 | 57 | 31 | 66 | 48 |

**Dolgelley (Dolgellau).**

**September 1944** - further restrictions were placed on pows visiting Dolgelley after 7p.m on Saturdays – “*as Dolgelley is a very rough place on Saturday nights.”* Two weeks later two pows were assaulted by drunken Marines. The Commandant “*Decided that steps must be taken to protect the Pws.”*

**8 October 1944.** War Diary - “*Two women at Dolgelley complained about a PW, apparently out of revenge. Told them to take the matter up with Chief Constable. Dealt with 2 PWs for riding bicycles at Dolgelley without lights.”* The pow complained about was transferred the next day, “*for his own protection*.”

**9 August 1945**. Italian pows were transferred from Dolgelley, Sarn and Four Crosses Hostels to, “*various camps.*”

**10 August 1945.** German pows arrived at the three empty hostels – 70 in each.

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; H.Fw Behrendt (A)

Hostel Transferred to Glandulas Camp 101.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Dolgelly |  |  | 48 | With C101 | | | | |

**Dower House,** **Anglesey.**

**26 August 1944**. The Commandant investigated a case of indiscipline at this hostel.

**24 February 1945.** All non-cooperator pows were moved to two hostels – Plas Llwynon and Dower House.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Dower House |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Four Crosses (Llandysilio).**

**4 August 1944**. “*It appears that Ps/W at Four Crosses Hostel are adopting a ‘go slow’ attitude as regards civil medical practitioners’ reports, increase of those reporting sick who have nothing much the matter with them*.” After further investigation this claim was recorded as having been exaggerated.

**14 August 1944** recorded that 5 (or 6) non-co-operator pows arrived from Pool Park Camp 38.

**16 August 1944.** “*….ballot for co-operation under new status… Four Crosses 18 voted for co-operation*.”

**9 August 1945**. Italian pows were transferred from Dolgelley, Sarn and Four Crosses Hostels to “*various camps.*”

**10 August 1945**. German pows arrived at the three empty hostels – 70 in each.

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Karl Bardubitzky (A) – “*very good*.” No electric supply. **12/1946** – same leader.

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; W Dreymann (B+), shopkeeper. Not a member of the Nazi party - “*Very satisfactory*.”

**7/1947** – same leader, but no longer wished to be. Low morale in the hostel – an ‘incident’ (not described) had occurred and the commandant had withdrawn certain privileges as collective punishment.

**8/1947** – Hostel leader; E Kluas (B+), previously leader at Tyn-y-Groes

**September/October 1947** – transferred to Pool Park Camp 38.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Four Crosses |  |  | 64 | 50 | 48 | 40 | 61 | 42 |

**Harlech.**

Possibly independent camp 626 before this?

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Potthoff (A). The Camp was described as poorly laid out. No electric supply. Pows went to see films at the nearby Polish Camp.

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; August Sommer. **12/1946** – same leader.

In the next report it was stated that the leader of this hostel was killed in an accident. Commonwealth War Graves do not have a record for August Sommer, so most likely a different leader after him. [Possibly – Hans Rűhr / Ruehr – aged 37, died 14 April 1947, Porthmadog, Gwynedd – reinterred at the German Military Cemetery, Cannock Chase].

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; H Kroll (B-) since April. A clerk, had served 1 year in the SS. “*Fairly satisfactory but of a retiring nature*.” **7/1947** – same leader.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Harlech |  | C626? | 53 | 70 | 72 | 19 | 36 | With C101 |

**Llangefni, Anglesey**

**29 October 1944.** Acting commandant visited.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Llangefni |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Llanrwst.** Off Schoolbank Road. NGR SH 802 615.  “*The****Llanrwst camp****had a single wooden hut and housed up to 40 prisoners, initially Italians and then Germans at the end of the war. Newspapers and reading materials were provided and studying encouraged. Roman Catholics were escorted to a building on Station Road on Sunday mornings for worship.*  *The Llanrwst camp****closed in 1947****when the camp leader was Erwin May, a German soldier. He had started a discussion group there and taught many PoWs English. Having denounced fascism, he encouraged his fellow prisoners to do the same. While most of the PoWs returned to their homelands, Erwin settled in Old Colwyn and worked for a bakery, delivering bread and cakes*.” Details from the [*Home Front Museum*](https://historypoints.org/index.php?page=home-front-llandudno)  **11 September 1944.** The hostel was visited by the Commandant with a Dental Officer.  **30 September 1944.** War Diary - “*Report from Llanrwst of trouble concerning p/w and school girl. Girl disappeared from home. Commandant to Dolganog to investigate matter*.” On 7 October it was decided to charge, (and presumably transfer though this is not recorded), the hostel leader who was accused of associating with the schoolgirl |  |  |
| Aerial photo 1947 | Ordnance Survey 1954 |

who ran away. There was growing anti-Italian feeling in the area. However, it was recorded that there was no proof of the girl running away with the hostel leader.

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Erwin May (est A). A popular, nightly press review was held.

**7/1947** – same leader, (A) – “*ideal… speaks very good English*.” He had deferred his repatriation. Llanwrst Women’s institute provided daytime accommodation and refreshments for visiting pows. **8/1947** – same leader.

**September / October 1947** – site closed.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Llanrwst |  |  | 37 | 40 | 37 | 8 | 35 | 34 |

**Mona**

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; O.Fw Schlick (C+) – regarded by the visitor a2 a, “*dangerous opportunist*.” Expected to close soon.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Mona |  |  | 226 |  |  |  |  |  |



**Nevin / Nefyn**

Italians held before this first entry –

**16 August 1945** - 50 German pows arrived for Vaynol Park Hostel, and another 50 for “Nevin” Hostel.

Before the hostel - used by various regiments and then by Norwegians who had escaped from the invasion of their country.

Memories – “*Early in the war a small camp was opened in the field where Glan-y-Pwll is now located on the Morfa Road*….” (NGR SH 302 405). Aerial photo 1945.

*“Later in the war, the camp was converted into a barracks to billet first a group of Italian prisoners and then later a group of German prisoners. I don’t believe it was large enough to be listed as an official prisoner of war camp, but that’s what it was referred to locally. A major glitch was made apparently when they brought some German prisoners there before the Norwegians had departed the area. The Norwegian men raided the camp, and the authorities got there just in time to avoid a catastrophe. I was told the prisoners wore a uniform with a yellow-coloured diamond patch on the back. They worked on farms locally, and were even paid for their work. They had a relatively nice time in the camp, and were free to roam around Nefyn especially after the war was over. They were invited into local homes on special occasions such as Christmas. I was aware of two German prisoners who eventually married local women, and settled in the Nefyn area. Both were from the eastern part of Germany, which fell under Russian control, and after the war they could not return home to see their families. I do not remember the name of one of them, but he married a woman named Nellie and lived at Craig y Mor a house just opposite Nefyn Elementary School. The other was Siegfried Nierada, who ran a successful garage business opposite Glan y Pwll for many years. He married a woman named Megan and lived at Pen-y-Bryn. I remember Siegfried well since we lived directly opposite the garage. He was a very nice individual, and a highly respected motor mechanic. He later used to drive around Nefyn in a Mercedes, and had a pet Alsatian whom he trained as a watchdog to guard the garage. When the Berlin Wall was demolished in 1989 and Germany was re-unified, Siegfried was finally able to return home to visit his relatives – can you imagine that, nearly forty-five years after the war had ended!!*

*The camp was demolished around 1950 to make way for the Glan y Pwll council estate…”* Details from *-* <http://www.nefyn.com/Stories/NefynDuringTheWar.aspx>

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; St.Masch Risse (B). There was a small orchestra.

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; Gűnther Hansmeier (B+)

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; W Tschischank (Unscreened)

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; F Schutz (B-), a clerk. Had served in Jersey. “*Satisfactory*.” **8/1947** – same leader. Rev R W Rowlands gave a series of religious lectures which were well attended.

**September/October 1947** – transferred to Pool Park Camp 38.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Nevin |  |  | 100 | 85 | 82 | 33 | 56 | 53 |

**Plas Llwynon (Llanfair P.G.)** NGR SH 434 678.

Established in 1942 as Camp 32 for Italian pows to carry out a drainage project on Anglesey under the Ministry of Agriculture. At that time the capacity was stated to be 200.

By 1944 it had become a hostel for Camp 119.

**29 October 1944** - visited by acting commandant.

**24 February 1945 -** All non-co-operator pows were moved to two hostels – Plas Llwynon and Dower House.

**9 March 1945 -** 96 non co-operator pows went on strike at the Plas Llwynon Hostel. This continued to **29 March**.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Plas Llwynon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Sarn**

Location – I think this is the village of Sarn Meyllteyrn in the Llyn Peninsula. The village is often referred to simply as Sarn. There is a brief mention on the BBC People’s War website of an evacuee in the Sarn area – “*There was a prison camp in Wales where 71 P.O.Ws were interned and they worked locally on farms*.”

**8 August 1944** - visited by Commandant

**15 August 1944** - noted that 4 Italian co-operator pows arrived from Penleigh Camp 107.

**20 August 1944** - 2 pows sent to main camp for trial; no record of offences.

**7 January 1945** - “*P/W at Sarn confined to Camp after skirmish with civilians*.”

**16 April 1945** - “*Adjutant held identification parade re case of fraternisation. 8 PW named and identified*.”

**9 August 1945** - Italian pows were transferred from Dolgelley, Sarn and Four Crosses Hostels to “*various camps*”.

**10 August 1945** - German pows arrived at the three empty hostels; 70 in each.

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; O.St Beck (B). This hostel was more active than others. Classes held for English, French, Spanish and Russian. No electric supply.

**11/1946** – Hostel leader; Heinrich Garden. **8/1947** – same leader.

**September/October 1947** – transferred to Pool Park Camp 38

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Sarn |  |  | 63 | 50 | 49 | 31 | 37 | 39 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tyn-y-Groes (**Glan y wern in T’yn y groes)  **Location -** land now occupied by the Glan-y-wern estate – NGR SH 774 720 – on the map N of the chapel, possibly the two small buildings next to spot height 206.  Listed in 1943 holding Italian pows.  **11 August 1944** – noted that 5 pows arrived from Camp 108 (Thirklby, Yorkshire) for this hostel.  **7 September 1944 -** War Diary - “*Commandant visited Tal-y-Cafn for investigation of case of p/w reported as having thrown himself into the River Conwy. Clear case of suicide, but body not yet recovered.*”  **9 September 1944.** A Court of Inquiry was opened and adjourned at the Ferry Hotel, Tal-y-Cafn into the disappearance of the pow who threw himself into the river.  The pow was a 35-year-old former cobbler, Francesco Astolfo (Service Number T.82505) from Tyn-y-Groes hostel. Despite pleas from other pows he had jumped from the Tal-y-cafn bridge. The police were informed and a search of the river was made by local fishermen and pows. His body was recovered on 17 September.  An inquest was held the following day. Witnesses stated that he had been suffering from depression fearing that his wife and children had been killed, and was reported to have an additional ‘persecution complex.’ The coroner recorded that the pow had committed, “*suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed*.”  Francesco Astolfo was buried at the Great Orme Cemetery, Llandudno on 20 September – “*Impressive funeral with smart parade.”* His body was later reinterred at the Italian Section of Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1954 |

**8/1946** – Hostel leader; Fw Theodor Bondue (est.A) – “*a very good type.”* **11/1946** – same leader, but graded (B+).

**12/1946** – Hostel leader; H Stumpp (B-)

**5/1947** – Hostel leader; M Radike (B+), aged 37, studying for Lutheran ministry to take up mission work – he took services in the hostel. He had been a member of the SS for 6 months in 1934, but left as he rejected Nazism. “*Very conscientious and sound*.”

**7/1947** – Hostel leader; E Klaus (B+), aged 39, had been camp leader at 1014 camp and previously at a camp in the USA. Owned a small furniture shop.

**8/1947** – Hostel leader; C Beck (B), commercial traveller. Nazi Party member since 1938. Previously at camp 651. “*Intelligent, honest and sound.”*

**September/October 1947** – transferred to Pool Park Camp 38.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Tyn-y-Groes |  |  | 74 | 64 | 63 | 37 | 51 | 59 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Vaynol Park (Faenol)**  Location – from details below NGR SH 544 694, approximately where the 2 small buildings are shown just above the Air Shaft.  **16 August 1945 -** 50 German pows arrived for Vaynol Park Hostel, and another 50 for “Nevin” Hostel.  Memories – “*During the Second World War, German prisoners from the POW camp in Faenol Park (situated where the ‘Book People’ dispensary stands today) were marched to Llanfairisgaer Church Hall (next to the clock) to watch films*.”  **8/1946** – Hostel leader; Uffz Roscher (A) – “*very dull and stodgy and not very suitable for re-education*.” No electric supply.  **11/1946** – Hostel leader; Richard Edel (A). **12/1946** – same leader.  **5/1947** – Hostel leader; M Straszewski (B+). Not a member of the Nazi Party. *“Honest, good type but unlikely to be of much use for re-education.”*  **8/1947** – same leader. Bangor YMCA provided teas for visiting pows.  **September/October 1947** – transferred to Pool Park Camp 38. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1954 |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1944 | 1945 | 8/1946 | 11/1946 | 12/1946 | 5/1947 | 7/1947 | 8/1947 |
| Vaynol Park |  |  | 67 | 78 | 75 | 30 | 55 | 59 |