**Camp 86 (86a & 282)** **- Woodchurch Camp, Hengherst House, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent**

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| **1947 Camp list** | | | | | | | |
| 86(G.W.C.) | Stanhope Camp, Ashford, Kent | E. | Priswar, Ashford | Ashford 410 | Ashford | Lt.Col.P.H. Drake-Brockman | v/1453/2 |
| *The entry above has been crossed out in blue crayon and the following details handwritten on.* | | | | | | | |
|  | *Henghurst House, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent* |  | *Woodchurch* | *Woodchurch 59 and 84* | *Not crossed out.* |  | |

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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 |
| TQ 95 34 | 189 | 86a | Woodchurch, Ashford | Kent | 5 |  | See Camp no.282 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OS NGR | Sheet | No. | Name & Location | County | Cond’n | Type 1945 | Comments |
| TQ 9505 3650 | 189 | 282 | Hengherst House, Woodchurch, Ashford | Kent | 5 | German Working Camp | Precise location not identified, NGR given for Hengherst |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Location:** The above NGR for Woodchurch is a general area. Woodchurch is about 10 km from Ashford.    < The NGR for Hengherst is for the House / Farm.  Mail / Reports for the camp use ‘Woodchurch’ or ‘Hengherst House, Woodchurch’ referring to the same site at the same time.  **Before the camp:** Farm.  **Pow Camp:** At this moment – from reading the camp reports – it seems that Hengherst House, Woodchurch was a satellite/hostel for Brissenden Camp 282 prior to 1946. NOT confirmed, although the following is an entry for Potters Farm NGR TQ 930 387: *“…an Italian prisoner of war camp (no. 282) was located near Brissenden Green. According to an English Heritage report, the precise location was not identified although the camp was associated with another at Woodchurch, Ashford (no. 86A)…*  [www.pottersfarm.co.uk/home/-history-3---site-of-ww2-pow-camps-in-woods](http://www.pottersfarm.co.uk/home/-history-3---site-of-ww2-pow-camps-in-woods)  In 1946 Woodchurch became a satellite camp for Stanhope Camp 86 – Brissenden Green also became a hostel for the same camp. (This is confirmed by reports in FO 939-166). Woodchurch then took the number 86a.  At the end of 1947, Hengherst House became the new HQ camp taking the number 86 when Stanhope closed - Brissenden Green continued to be a hostel. (Confirmed by reports in FO 939-166).  **2-5 December 1947** – In a report for Stanhope it was stated; *“The main camp is to be closed for Ps/W and the HQ moved to Woodchurch Satellite Camp. 412 Camp at Dover will be taken over by this camp*.” [412 = Langdon Barracks]. |  |
| Ordnance Survey 1961 |

**20-28 January 1948** – Re-educational Survey for Hengherst House Camp 86. Strength; 4 officers, 1502 OR. (1/1948a in chart below).

Commandant: Lt Col R G R Ames [moved from Stanhope] Camp Leader: Fw Erich Hinz (B+)

Interpreter: Nil Deputy C/L: Schűtze Walter Kunow (B+)

German M.O.: O/Arzt Dr Deutschlander (B) [moved from Stanhope]

Relations with the British staff were ‘*fairly good*.’ Most activities were disrupted due to the transfer from Stanhope.

A group of pows in transit complained that the huts were not clean and tidy. The suggestion that a rota should be drawn up to keep the huts clean was rejected as they stated they were being repatriated and should not be required to do such duties. This complaint was challenged as to who they thought should do the work for them.

Relationships with local civilians were good. One pow, Dr Knopf, gave numerous piano recitals in a variety of places.

**26 January 1948** – English Inspector’s Report. Strength 1105. (1/1948b in chart). There was no English teaching at any site.

This camp and associated sites became a transit camp. The HQ site at Woodchurch was an administration centre for controlling the repatriations.

**16-19 March 1948 –** Re-educational Survey (Why?). Strength 4 officers, 627 OR.

Commandant: Lt Col Ames Camp leader; Erich Hinz

I.O.: None

General comments about pow outlook. The main issue was always the desire to go home. Other criticisms were the unfairness of screening and the belief that Nazis had been allowed to go home before ordinary citizens. In some instances this was true, e.g. if they had ‘skills’ which were required back in Germany. Some complained about poor pay. Pows who had been held in camps in Belgium had suffered extremely poor conditions, however most agreed that they had been treated correctly and humanely in the UK. This was particularly true at Langdon Barracks where the commandant and staff were particularly well regarded.

Informal contacts with civilians had been a positive factor for pow attitudes to the British. Formal outside contacts listed – International Friendship league in Ashford and Dover; German Society at Ashford; local churches; Salvation Army. Dr Knopf continued to give concerts.

Final impressions by the visitor – Long captivity had led to apathy amongst many. A minority (c.25%) accepted Germany was responsible for the war – many still stated it was an economic war or a clash of idealisms. Conditions in the concentration camps were regarded as a gross exaggeration by many.

Some re-education activities continued; lectures, camp magazine (Der Neue Weg), press reviews and films.

**Numbers of pows**

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

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
|  |  |  | Woodchurch as satellite camp to Stanhope Camp 86 | | | | | | As independent Camp 86 | | |
| Woodchurch |  | With 282? | 505 | 418 | 375 | 379 | 335 | 136 | 318 | 60 | 273 |
| Brissenden Green | Camp 282 | | With Camp 86 | | | | | | 65 | 70 | 33 |
| Charing |  |  | With Camp 86 | | | | | | 183 | 180 | With C117 |
| Goodnestone |  |  | With Camp 412 | | | | | | 81 | 90 | 42 |
| Langdon Barracks |  |  | Camp 412 | | | | | | 202 | 290 | 111 |
| North Court |  | With Stanhope | With Camp 412 | | | | | | 69 | 49 |  |
| Wootton Court |  | With Stanhope | With Camp 412 | | | | | | 166 | 166 | With C117 |
| Stumblewood |  |  | With Camp 86 | | | | | | 233 | ? | 172 |
| Detached |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 9 |  |  |
| In transit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 111 |  |  |
| Billetees |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTALS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1506 | 1105 | 631 |

**After the camp:**

Hengherst House was demolished in the late 1940’s. One record states that the house suffered a lot of damage when it was used as a pow camp.

**Further Information:**

National Archives FO 939 / 166 and 350 – 86 Working Camp, Woodchurch Camp, Ashford, Kent. Dated 1945-1948. Used above.

Camp magazine – February/March 1946 - [Der Neue Weg : Camp 86a - The Wiener Holocaust Library](https://www.whlcollections.org/image/99720/)

**Hostels**

**Brissenden Green.** See Brissenden Green Camp 282 for map.

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; O/Gefr Kurt Mach (B)

**3/1948** – Hostel leader; Schneider

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
| Brissenden Green | Camp 282 | | With Stanhope Camp 86 | | | | | | 65 | 70 | 33 |

**Charing**

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Fw Walter Masslich (B)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
| Charring |  |  | With Stanhope Camp 86 | | | | | | 183 | 180 | With C117 |

**Goodnestone**

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Uffz Horst Broy (B-). **3/1948** – same leader

**4/1948** – attached as a hostel to Walderslade Camp 117 prior to closure.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
| Goodnestone |  |  | With Langdon Barracks Camp 412 | | | | | | 81 | 90 | 42 |

**Langdon Barracks**

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Gaentikow. **3/1948** – same leader.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
| Langdon Barracks |  |  | Camp 412 | | | | | | 202 | 290 | 111 |

**North Court.** See Stanhope for map.

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Wm Felix Berge (B)

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
| North Court |  | With Stanhope | With Camp 412 | | | | | | 69 | 49 |  |

**Stumblewood**

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Alfred Boldt (B). **3/1948** - same leader.

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|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
| Stumblewood |  |  | With Camp 86 | | | | | | 233 | ? | 172 |

**Wootton Court.**

**1/1948** – Hostel leader; Uffz K Schmidt (B+)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1943 | 1945 | 9/1946 | 11/1946 | 6/1947 | 9/1947 | 10/1947 | 12/1947 | 1/1948a | 1/1948b | 3/1948 |
| Wootton Court |  | With Stanhope | With Camp 412 | | | | | | 166 | 166 | With C117 |