HELP WITH RESEARCH

Author: Brian Cooper

4. Researching Individuals in National Collections.

4.1 UK.

The National Archives

Refer to https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-prisoners-second-world-war-korean-war/

While a researcher would ideally be able to visit The National Archives at Kew to review documentation it should be noted that

- The National Archives provides a copying service for researchers who cannot visit Kew. Researchers
 may though find that a more cost-effective way of obtaining copies is the service of an independent
 researcher. https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/paying-for-research/independent-researchers/
- Where documents have been scanned and made available through a commercial partner, the original
 documents are not made available to view at Kew. Researchers are initially referred to the copies
 provided online. Only if the scanned copy is illegible will the original document be made available.

RESEARCHER BEWARE.

The National Archives Discovery Search Engine might be described as a sledgehammer being used to crack a nut. With this search engine less is more should always be the researcher's motto unless for example the search is for men with a common surname such as Smith.

It is recommended that the catalogue is searched using the Advanced Search function of the National Archives Discovery Search Engine.

https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search

focussing on "Exact word or phrase" and restricting the search to the "WO" series.

The other "Find words" functions should be used with care as the more data entered the greater the number of irrelevant results that will need sifting through. Where words are used in combination and they are not defined as "Exact word or phrase" the search engine will deliver results that include just one of the individual words or any possible combinations of the words used.

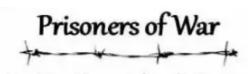
The Discovery Search Engine is certainly one where practice makes more perfect. The more a researcher uses it the more knowledge a researcher develops of how to minimise the search engine's delivery of superfluous results.

4.1.1 WO 392 Prisoner of War Lists.

These lists have been digitised and transcriptions/scans are available on https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/prisoners-of-war-1715-1945

Data within the lists is generally confined to Name and Initials, Service or Official Number, Rank or Rating, Prisoner of War and Camp No. For Army personnel Regimental details may be given. For the Merchant Navy a ship's name may be given.

Extract from a British Army Prisoner of War List.



	P.O.W. No.			Rank	Army No.	Regt. or Corps	R.O. No.
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Abbreviations for Camp No. and Regt. or Corps are explained in the first few pages of each list. The column R.O No. refers to the WW2 location of the Record Office where the individual's service records were lodged during the period 1939-1945.

Only the British Army lists include the R.O. No.

For other services the column headings vary.

<u>WO 392/1</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 1: British Army. Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/2</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 2: Australian Imperial Force. Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/3</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 3: Canadian Army. Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/4</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 4: 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/5</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 5: South Africa (Union Defence Forces). Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/6</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 6: Indian Army (includes British and Indian officers and other ranks. Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/7</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section7: Naval Forces. Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/8</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 8: Air Forces (includes RAF, RAAF, RCAF, RNZAF and SAAF). Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/9</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 9: Merchant Navy. Published Sep 1944.

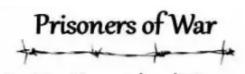
<u>WO 392/10</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 10: Miscellaneous (includes Palestinians, Cypriots, Locally-Engaged Personnel, Cyrenaica Defence Force, Mauritius Pioneer Corps, Seychelles Pioneer Corps, African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps and Spanish Volunteers in Queen's Royal Regiment). Published Sep 1944.

<u>WO 392/11</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 11: British Army. Published Apr 1945.

<u>WO 392/12</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 12: Australian Imperial Force. Published Apr 1945.

<u>WO 392/13</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 13: Canadian Army. Published Apr 1945.

<u>WO 392/14</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 14: 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Published Apr 1945.



<u>WO 392/15</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 15: South Africa (Union Defence Forces). Published Apr 1945.

WO 392/16 IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Section 16: Indian Army (includes British and Indian officers and other ranks. Published Apr 1945.

WO 392/18 IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Section 18: Air Forces (includes RAF, RAAF, RCAF, RNZAF and SAAF). Published Apr 1945.

<u>WO 392/19</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 19: Merchant Navy. Published Apr 1945.

<u>WO 392/20</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Section 20: Miscellaneous (as in WO 392/10, but also includes Italian and North-African personnel). Published Apr 1945.

WO 392/21 IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN ITALY OR ITALIAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Section 1: British Army. Section 2: Australian Army. Section 3: Canadian Army. Section 4: New Zealand Army.

Section 5: South African Army. Section 6: Indian Army. Section 7: Naval Forces and Merchant Seamen.

Section 8: Air Forces. The document includes men listed who died as a POW at sea in 1942, and also some listed as being in Libyan camps or buried in Greece. Published Aug 1943.

<u>WO 392/22</u> IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN ITALY OR ITALIAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. Miscellaneous: POWs in Italy; Palestinians, Cypriots, Mauritians, East Africans, Cyrenaica Defence Force and Seychelles. Published in Oct 1943.

It will be noted that no list for the Merchant Navy is available for Apr 1945; possibly one was produced but did not survive to handover to the National Archives.

Each document is a compilation of lists of members of the Allied Forces who were reported by German or Italian or Red Cross sources as being prisoners of war, minus those known officially to have died in German or Italian hands. The listed Camp refers to the last known location of the prisoner of war.

A scanned copy of WO 392/1 can be found at

https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/uploads/6/4/2/7/6427590/british army pows national archives.pdf Note: This file occupies 180mb of storage space.

A scanned copy of WO 392/4 can be found at https://zenodo.org/record/3955186#.Y0YNP3Yzbb0

RESEARCHER BEWARE.

The lists do not provide for a complete listing of prisoners of war held by the German and Italian authorities throughout WW II.

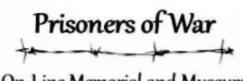
There are no complete listings of prisoners of war held in German captivity prior to 1944. There are no complete listings prisoners of war held in Italian captivity prior to 1943.

There are no dedicated listings that provide for all prisoners of war:

- Who escaped from either German or Italian captivity prior to the dates of these lists.
- Who died after entering either German or Italian captivity.
- Who were repatriated by agreement with either the German or Italian governments.

There are no dedicated listings of military personnel interned by neutral countries.

There was confusion as to whether merchant navy personnel were civilians or military. The German authorities moved some merchant navy personnel between civilian internee camps and military prisoner of war camps. It was not unknown that civilians found themselves held at military prisoner of war camps. They are not included in WO 392 lists.



As the war drew to a close the chances that a prisoner of war does not appear in these lists increased. Information often took months to move from the Italian and German authorities to the British War Office. Some never arrived at all.

The lists published in April 1945 do not reflect:

- The great movement of prisoners of war from camps close to the advancing front line of the Soviet Army.
- The significant numbers of prisoners of war resultant from the hard-fought Allied advances in the west and the air war.

A variety of other lists are available on Findmypast. See

https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/prisoners-of-war-1715-1945

The author was advised in a conversation with a National Archives employee that Findmypast decided which documents they would scan and index/transcribe. The author notes that Findmypast have either not recognised or ignored other lists of value to researchers e.g. WO 361/1797 Title "Prisoners of war, Germany: Stalag XIB, Fallingbostel; nominal rolls consists of two parts." Findmypast have ignored the second part (WO 361/1797/2) yet it contains useful prisoner of war

lists for the early part of 1945. Many being men taken prisoner at Arnhem and later who do not appear in the WO 392 Prisoner of War lists.

4.1.2 WO 361/172 British Army List of Missing

These lists have been digitised and transcriptions/scans are available on https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/prisoners-of-war-1715-1945

The UK War Office published A List of Missing in March 1941, and again in April 1942

Both documents were circulated to Prisoner of War Camp Leaders seeking information on UK Army Men listed as missing in War Office records at the time. The cut-off date for information to form these lists seems to have been end of year 1940 and end of year 1941 respectively.

Note: Findmypast erroneously describe WO 361/172 as a Far East record; "WO 361/172 Far East: Singapore; dead prisoners of war at Changi Hospital; list compiled by Reverend Chambers."

4.1.3 WO 416 German Record cards of British and Commonwealth Prisoners of War and some Civilian Internees, Second World War.

These cards have not been digitised but are available for viewing and photographing at The National Archives, Kew.

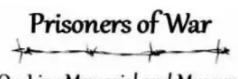
The researcher's attention is drawn to the comments concerning these cards at https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14541141

The National Archives operate a 100 year rule to govern open access to the cards i.e. the subject of the cards must have reached the 100th anniversary of their birth. Cards are released for viewing on 1 January of the following year. For individuals where the date of birth is unknown to the National Archives the record opening date is set at 1 January 2029. Copies of cards can be released earlier on submission of a freedom of information request accompanied by a death certificate.

See also 11. Help with German to English Translations.

RESEARCHER BEWARE.

German Record cards do not survive for every prisoner of war.



These cards were recovered from prisoner of war camps and the Wehrmacht central record system for prisoners of war located at Saalfeld and Meiningen, Thuringia by Allied forces advancing into Germany from the west. It can be presumed likely that the Soviet army recovered records from prisoner of war camps liberated by them and camps which subsequently became part of the Soviet Occupation Zone of Germany. it also seems likely that many records were destroyed and lost during the chaos of the closing months of the war.

The principle German record for a prisoner of war record was the Personnalkarte. Personnalkartes I and II were maintained at each camp for each prisoner. Such cards were normally sent to the Wehrmacht central record system for prisoners of war only when a prisoner was released or reported dead. Personnalkartes do not survive for every prisoner of war.

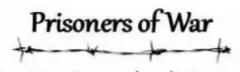
After recovery and initial processing, the cards in WO 416 were handed over to the (British) 21st Army Group in early June 1945 and presumably forwarded to the War Office in London. The Ministry of Defence passed them to the UK National Archives in 2014.

Other cards were forwarded to American, Belgian, Danish, Dutch, French, Norwegian and Polish authorities. The destiny of cards for Balkan, Czech, Greek, Italian. Yugoslav, and Russian

prisoners of war is not recorded but it seems likely that they were left at Meiningen and fell into Soviet hands when Meiningen became part of the Soviet Occupation Zone of Germany in July 1945.

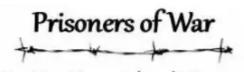
These cards may comprise some or all of the following five cards; other documents may survive.

a. Personalkarte I: Personelle Angaben [Personnel card I: Personal Details].

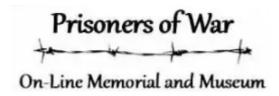


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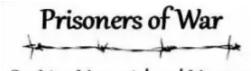
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b. Personalkarte II: Wirtfchaftliche Angaben [Personnel card II: Economic Information].

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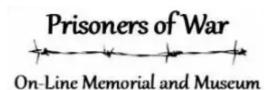
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c. General Administration Cards

Two types were in use.

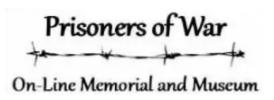
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And Obverse.



This second type of General Administration Card may be found with text on the reverse. Most often though this refers to another prisoner and should be ignored; (an early example of recycling). The indexing of the cards in WO 416 does not include the indexing of other prisoners mentioned on the reverse of these cards.

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The German authorities used these cards for both internees and prisoners of war.

Variants of these forms have been noted e.g.

- The German Luftwaffe had its own variant of the Personalkarte I which can be found for some air force prisoners of war whose cards start at, for instance, Dulag Luft.
- Cards apparently printed to meet a local demand not met from a central supply of card blanks.

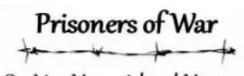
Other cards/records have been found in German Record cards.

The card sets held at The UK National Archives range from simply a single General Administration Card/Hospital Card to up to 30 cards for an individual. These cards are the main repository for German Record cards and include cards for prisoners of war held by the German authorities who were either British nationals or foreign nationals serving with British military forces. The term British here refers to the UK, British Dominions and British Colonies as existent at the time. The cards include some national strays e.g small numbers of USA military forces.

Cards can also be found for civilian internees.

These cards were delivered to the British Government after the end of the war as part of the dispersal of captured German records. While individual prisoners/individuals may have returned possessing their cards, the only other known location for German Record cards is Australia where service and other records for some Australian prisoners include their German Record cards.

The German Record cards only cover time under control of the German authorities. There are no similar cards for time spent under the control of the Italian authorities.



The German Record cards are not necessarily a complete record of a prisoner of war's imprisonment. Only the finding of a Personalkarte I: Personelle Angaben that covers the full period of a prisoner of war's captivity will do this. Such surviving cards may cover only part of a prisoner of war's captivity.

For those who moved from Italy to Germany in 1943, usually because of the Italian capitulation, the German authorities included the last Italian camp name/number when commencing cards.

The German Record cards generally were started at the camp where their Prisoner of War (POW) No was allocated. This was generally the first camp where long term residence commenced.

RESEARCHER BEWARE.

The cards are catalogued by individual. A typical catalogue entry is:

Reference: WO 416/334/531

Description: Name: John [M] Smith.

Date of Birth: 01/08/1905.
Place of Birth: Arbroath.
Service: British Army.

Rank: Private.

Regiment/Unit/Squadron: The Black Watch Regiment.

Service Number: [2750072].

Date of Capture: 12/06/1940.

Theatre of Capture: St Valerie.

Camp Name/Number: Stalag XXIB Schubin.

POW number: 7798.

Date of Death: [unspecified]. Number of Photographs: 1. Number of Fingerprints: 3. Number of X-rays: 0.

Number of X-rays: 0 Number of Cards: 5.

Date: [1939-1945]

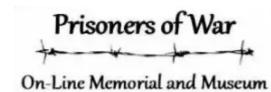
Held by: The National Archives, Kew

From research work with the catalogue data, it is clear that very significant problems exist as to the accuracy of the data entered into the catalogue. There has been a lack of quality control. Errors have been detected across many of these data fields. Data has been included that is not in the German Record cards and a lack of specialised knowledge of the prisoner war experience has led to the introduction of error.

It is recommended that the WO 416 catalogue is searched using the Advanced Search function of the National Archives Discovery Search Engine.

https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search

focussing on "Exact word or phrase" and restricting the search to WO 416; see below.



Advanced search	
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Search for records	Clear form Search
Find words	
All of these words	
Exact word or phrase	ABCDEFG
Any of these words	
Don't find words	
Any of these words	
Search for or within references	
Any of these references	WO 416

The other "Find words" functions should be used with care as the more data the greater the number of irrelevant results that will need sifting through.

If an individual's Service No./POW No. is known one or either of these should be preferentially used as the 'exact word or phrase'. This will limit the number of results compared to just searching for a surname.

Putting the full name in as the 'exact word or phrase' may of course delver the man concerned but if he was not recorded as this it will not. It is better to put in the surname as the 'exact word or phrase' and then just one forename in as 'all these words'. Variations of name spellings may need to be considered. The cataloguers used what is on the cards not what the researcher thinks should be on the cards.

The WO 416 search function included on https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14541141 Is a blunt instrument compared to the Advance Search function.

4.1.4 WO 344 Liberated Prisoner of War Interrogation Questionnaires.

Planning for the recovery of prisoners of war included their completion of a Liberation Questionnaire summarising their experience while prisoner of war. The chaos of the final months of the war stopped The War Office: Directorate of Military Intelligence achieving its objective.

The questionnaires are not catalogued by individual's name. They are filed alphabetically in multiple volumes commencing with

Reference: WO 344/1/1

Description: AALBERS R - ABRAHAMS J

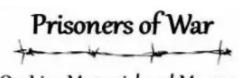
And ending at

Reference: WO 344/359

Description: ZAAIMAN - ZVOLENSKY

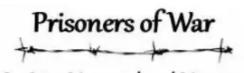
These questionnaires have not been digitised but are available for viewing and photographing at The National Archives, Kew.

The researcher's attention is drawn to the comments concerning these records at https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14548

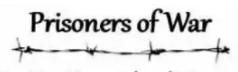


The National Archives have advised a partnership between themselves and Ancestry to scan and make available the questionnaires. This work has a publicised availability date of Autumn 2022. Updates on progress have not been publicised.

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			1	10					
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		TOP SECRET
	GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE. PART II. TOP SECRET. (continued)	M.1.9 Gen/ MIS-X
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-		
-		
	SECURITY UNDERTAKING.	
I fully are of	realise that all information relating to the matters covered by the questions is a highly secret and official nature.	n Part II.
I have U.S.A	thad explained to me and fully understand that under Defence Regul. R. 380-5 I am forbidden to publish or communicate any information of matters.	ations or oncerning
te 30-	4-19ht Signature H. Jackson	



RESEARCHER BEWARE

Not every prisoner of war completed a Liberated Prisoner of War Interrogation Questionnaire.

The completion of questionnaires varies between questionnaires which simply record a name to questionnaires where the liberated prisoner has completed in detail as the form was intended to be used. Many questionnaires exhibit:

- Data at variance with data found in WO 416 German Record cards of British and Commonwealth Prisoners of War and some Civilian Internees, Second World War.
- Spelling mistakes when recording place names.
- Missing requested information.

4.1.5 WO 417 British Army [UK only] Casualty Lists.

The WO 417 series contains lists of casualties sustained by the British Army during the Second World War. There are volumes for officers/nurses, and separate volumes for other ranks.

Lists are in chronical order of publication by the British War Office. The Casualty List number and publication date are to be found on page 1 of each list.

These lists have been digitised and transcriptions/scans are available at https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-army-casualty-lists-1939-1945

There are no known equivalent lists for the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Merchant Navy. There are no known equivalent lists for Dominion and Colonial Forces.

For Prisoners of War there are four key stages of record.

- a. Reported missing, date if known and the operational theatre of war.
- b. Known to be prisoner of war.
- c. Known to no longer be a prisoner of war.
- d. Reported dead while a prisoner of war.

The report date has no constant relationship to the date of event being recorded.

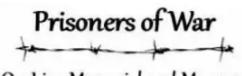
RESEARCHER BEWARE.

Not all Casualty Lists appear to have made it to the Findmypast website. Reports are occasionally missing when searching for the key stages of record listed above. There is no indication as to whether:

- a. A list has not survived.
- b. A list has been inadvertently retained by the War Office.
- c. Findmypast have inadvertently failed to scan/transcribe a list.

Not every British Army prisoner of war is recorded in surviving British Army Casualty Lists.

There are frequent errors in the Casualty Lists; often accompanied by later Casualty Lists correcting the error. Errors may persist for up to five years only to be corrected at the end of the war.



4.1.6 WO 224 International Red Cross and Protecting Power Reports concerning Prisoner of War Camps.

This series comprises a collection of reports by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Protecting Power (as allowed by the Geneva Convention) and deals with conditions and events in various Prisoner of War Camps etc.

Some reports can also be found in Series FO 916. See https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C8215

The Foreign Office were the contact department for all inter-governmental interaction with the Axis governments via the Protecting Power and The International Committee of the Red Cross.

From 1940 to 1941, the United States of America was the Protecting Power for British, Dominion and Colonial nationals. Following Germany's declaration of war on the United States of America Switzerland became the Protecting Power.

Reports include locations in Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania and France.

- a. Camps.
- b. Hospitals.
- c. Prisons.

Visits to locations where UK nationals, British Dominion nationals and British Colonial nationals were held commenced shortly after the fall of France in June 1940 and continued through to 1945.

RESEARCHER BEWARE.

In the period up to about April 1941 the German authorities appear not to have used numbers to identify work camps. This is true for Stalag VIIIB and seems likely to be the case elsewhere; this problem is compounded by reports not identifying work camp locations.

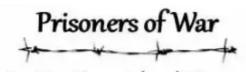
Visits always followed an application for a visit by either the Protecting Power or the International Committee of the Red Cross. The detaining power had ample time to show a camp in the best light and attempt to control the joint discussions with the protecting power and senior prisoner of war and internee representatives. There was an additional private session with senior prisoner of war and internee representatives from which the detaining power was excluded.

Visit reports must be treated with some circumspection as they were sent to both the British Government and the detaining power.

4.1.7 Camp Histories.

The National Archives catalogue lists the following camp histories.

Reference	Title	Covering Dates
WO 208/3269	Dulag Luft (Oberusel)	1939 Dec1941 June
WO 208/3270	Marlag Und Milag, Nord, Westertimke	1941-1945
WO 208/3271A	Stalag IID Stargard	1944-1945
WO 208/3271B	Stalag IID Stargard	1944-1945
WO 208/3272	Stalag IIID Steglitz/Berlin	1939-1945
WO 208/3273	Stalag IVA Hohnstein	1941 June-1945
WO 208/3274	Stalag IV B Muhlberg	1941-1945
WO 208/3275	Stalag IV F Hartmannsdorf/Chemnitz	1941-1945
WO 208/3276	Stalag VII A Moosburg	1940-1945
WO 208/3277	Stalag VIII C Kunau	1943-1945



WO 208/3278	Stalag IX C Muhlhausen	1941-1945
WO 208/3279	Stalag XIII C Hammelburg	1940-1945
WO 208/3280A	Stalag XVII A Kaisersteinbruch	1940-1945
WO 208/3280B	Stalag XVII A Kaisersteinbruch	1940-1945
WO 208/3281	Stalag XX A Thorn	1940-1945
WO 208/3282	Stalag Luft I Barth	1940 July-1945 May
WO 208/3283	Stalag Luft III Sagan	1942 Apr1945 Jan.
WO 208/3284	Stalag Luft III Belaria	1944 Jan1945 Jan.
WO 208/3285	Stalag Luft III E Doberlug-Kirchhain	1941 July-1942 May
WO 208/3286A	Stalag Luft VI Heydekrug	1943 June-1944 July
WO 208/3286B	Stalag Luft VI Heydekrug	1943 June-1944 July
WO 208/3287	Stalag Luft 357 Thorn and Fallingbostel	1944 Aug1945 Apr.
WO 208/3288	Oflag IVC Colditz	1940 Nov-1945 Apr
WO 208/3289	Oflag VA Weinsberg	1943 Oct-1945
WO 208/3291	Oflag VIIB Eichstatt	1942 Sept-1945 Mar
WO 208/3292	Oflag VIIIF (Oflag 79) Querum Brunswick	1944 May
WO 208/3293	Oflag IX A/H Haina Kloster	1940-1945
WO 208/3294	Oflag IXA A/Z Rotenburg	1940-1945
WO 208/3295	Oflag XIIB Hadamar	1940-1945
WO 208/3296	Oflag XXIB Schubin (Oflag 64)	1942 Sept

At the time of writing, the following item appears in the National Archives catalogue with the note "This record is missing and is unavailable".

WO 208/3290 Oflag VIB Dossel-Warburg 1941 Oct

4.1.8 Repatriation Lists.

Repatriation here means the occasional formal exchange of prisoners of war on medical grounds negotiated with either the Italian or German Governments. See 3.4.1 above.

Each repatriation involved prolonged negotiation as each side sought to achieve its own goals. Numbers and lists of individuals to be exchanged were constantly moving as the moment of exchange approached. Numbers and lists had to be verified before neutral flag repatriation ships were allowed to complete their journey e.g ships from Gothenburg sailed to the UK via the Faroes Islands where their documentation was checked before being allowed to enter British waters.

Repatriation lists are not identifiable in the UK National Archives catalogue. Some fragmentary lists are to be found in general files on repatriation of prisoners of war and civil internees.

See also 6. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

4.1.9 War Crimes.

Refer to https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/war-crimes-1939-1945/

4.1.10 Escape and Evasion Reports.

Reports made by individuals may be found at the UK National Archives in WO 208; refer to https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/C77595



For a listing of escapers/evaders, based on records in WO 208, refer to:

http://www.conscript-heroes.com/escapelines/index.htm

4.1.11 Enquiries into missing personnel including Prisoners of War.

UK Army; refer to:

https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14565

Royal Navy; refer to:

https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16485

Royal Air Force; refer to:

https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C16484

4.1.12 Service Records.

The vast majority of service records for all UK armed forces personnel since 1921 remain with the UK Ministry of Defence.

Internet claims by commercial companies to the contrary are false.

To request personal data and service records see:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/requests-for-personal-data-and-service-records

in 2022 a programme commenced to transfer post-1920 army service records from the Ministry of Defence Archives to the UK National Archives. See:

https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-soldiers-in-service-after-1918/

4.1.13 The Imperial War Museum, London.

The Imperial War Museum collection includes the Private Papers of both prisoners of war and civilian detainees. This material can only be accessed by visiting the Archive and Research Room https://www.iwm.org.uk/research/research-facilities

While a researcher would ideally be able to visit The Imperial War Museum Archive and Research Room to review documentation, it should be noted that the Imperial War Museum provides a copying service for researchers who cannot visit. https://www.iwm.org.uk/corporate/policies/copyright

Researchers may though find that a more cost-effective way of obtaining information/copies is the service of an independent researcher.

4.2 Australia.

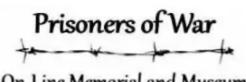
The National Archives of Australia holds

- Australian Defence Forces personnel records.
- Australian Prisoner of War records.

https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/BasicSearch.aspx

The Australian War Memorial commemorates the sacrifice of those Australians who have died in war or on operational service and those who have served in times of conflict

https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people



The Department of Veteran's Affairs has nominal rolls that list members of Australia's defence forces who served during World War II.

https://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/

The University of Melbourne Archives holds cards on Australian prisoners of war created by the Australian Red Cross from information provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

http://gallery.its.unimelb.edu.au/umblumaic/imu.php?request=search

Cards are best searched for with the service number rather than by name.

Prisoner of War Memorial Ballarat is dedicated to the memory of Australian prisoners of war. The trustees have defined a prisoner of war to be a person who was captured by a common enemy and/or interned in a neutral or non-combatant country.

To be defined an Australian prisoner of war, the person needs to be either an Australian born person serving in the uniform of an Australian Service; or in the uniform of a friendly country, or born elsewhere and serving in the uniform of an Australian Service.

https://www.powmemorialballarat.com.au/

4.3 Canada.

Library and Archives Canada holds Canadian Armed Forces service records.

https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/Pages/Home.aspx

https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/military-heritage/second-worldwar/Pages/second-world-war.aspx

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

A virtual war memorial and database.

https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial

4.4 New Zealand.

New Zealand Defence Force personnel records.

https://www.govt.nz/browse/history-culture-and-heritage/nz-history/military-history-records-andmedals/#:~:text=Personnel%20records,the%20person%20is%20still%20alive

The Online Cenotaph - Auckland War Memorial Museum.

The Online Cenotaph is a biographical database that allows researchers, enthusiasts, and veterans and their families to explore, contribute to, and share the records and stories of those who served New Zealand. Access via https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph

IMPERIAL PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN GERMANY OR GERMAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY, Section 4: 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Published Sep 1944 by the UK War Office.

A scanned copy can be found at https://zenodo.org/record/3955186#.Y0YNP3Yzbb0



4.5 South Africa.

The holdings of the Department of Defence Documentation Centre South Africa contain the archival records of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), including that of its predecessor the Union Defence Force.

The records of all South African servicemen in the Army, Navy and Air Force are held in the archives.

Physical Address: Postal Address:

Department of Defence
Command and Management
Information Systems Division
Department of Defence
Command and Management
Information Systems Division

Documentation Centre DoD Archives 42 Saturnus Road Private Bag X289

Irene, Pretoria Pretoria
0157 0001
South Africa South Africa

South Africa South Africa

Tel.: +27 12 670 8127 (ask for reading room and enquiries)

Fax: +27 12 670 8001 E-mail: archive@dod.mil.za.

4.6 India and Pakistan. [The Indian Army].

The UK National Archives holdings as set out in 4.1 above hold material on Indian Army prisoners of war but it is the author's view that some of these records show both a lack of reporting and inconsistent reporting of the presence of Indian Army personnel.

As the Indian Army was a separate entity to the British Army it might be expected that it's archives on individual service men, other than British Army personnel who chose to pursue a career in the Indian Army, were not brought to the UK after the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947 but were left in India as were the archives of the Imperial Records Department (now part of the National Archives of India).

We currently have no knowledge of Indian and Pakistani Archive sources with respect to individual service men.

The book The Indian Contingent by Ghee Bowman while focussed on specific Indian Army units who were sent to France in 1940 provides a short but important overview of some Indian Army prisoners of war in Germany pointing to sources at both the UK National Archives, the India Office files at the British Library and elsewhere including India and Pakistan.

Note the British Library blog on World War Two Reception Camps for Indian POWs in the UK. https://blogs.bl.uk/untoldlives/2022/07/world-war-two-reception-camps-for-indian-pows-.html

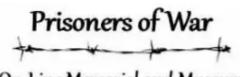
4.7 SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force).

SHAEF's Prisoner of War Executive (PWX), G1 Division was responsible for the management, movement and repatriation of liberated POW's from Germany.

Documentation produced by the UK War Office clearly set out that:

- Rolls of liberated prisoners of war were to be produced progressively as liberation occurred.
- Rolls of repatriated prisoners of war on arrival at reception camps in the UK and elsewhere.

It is also clear that for prisoners of war liberated by the Soviet Army, rolls were produced for all ships moving them from Odessa.



While rolls with the details of the liberation of individual prisoners of war were sent to the British Government (demonstrable via newspaper reports), they are not identifiable in the UK National Archives catalogue. An investigation is ongoing.

The folders in WO 219 appear to reflect part of the archives of SHAEF which were transferred to the US National Archives at College Park, Maryland, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001

https://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/finding-aid/military/rg-331.html and https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/331.html

See also https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/sites/default/files/finding-aids/pdf/shaef-sgs-records.pdf for a description of the records.

The UK National Archives Catalogue Reference WO 219/1456 includes the following list which may be indicative of the prisoner of war material transferred to the US National Archives.

COMBINED ADMINISTRATIVE LIQUIDATING AGENCY

Documents Section
LIST OF FILES

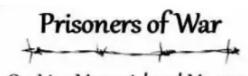
G-1 Division

Supreme Headquarters, AEF

AP0757

ROLL NO. 15

FILE NO	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
383.6-5	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Allied PoW Overtaken by Russians)	1-63
383.6-6	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Documentation)	64-65
383.6-7	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Tracing Missing Personnel)	65-74
383.6-8	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Requests for Information on Individual POW	
383.6-9	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Tracing Missing Personnel)	87-90
383.6-10	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Important Persons)	91-94
383.6-11	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Allied PoW in Austria)	95-106
383.6-12	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (PWX Personnel)	107-129
383.6-13	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Miscellaneous)	130-146
383.6-14	ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR (Detailed Plan for the Care and Evacuation Of British and American Prisoners of War)	147-215
383.6-15-1	TRANSFER OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EASTERN GERMANY (Policy)	216-317
383.6-15-2	TRANSFER OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EASTERN GERMANY (Reports of German Movements of AEF PW's)	318-393
383.6-15-3	TRANSFER OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EASTERN GERMANY (Mass Movement on Foot of AEF PW's from Eastern Germany)	394-427
383.6-15-4	TRANSFER OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EASTERN GERMANY (German Agreement with Reference to AEF PW's)	428-461
383.6-15-5	TRANSFER OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EASTERN GERMANY (Repatriation of Allied PW's through Odessa)	462-470



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383.6-15-6	TRANSFER OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EASTERN GERMANY (Repatriation of AEF PW's through Constance)	471-480
383.6-16	PWX INFORMATION ROOM	481-501
383.6-17-1	GERMAN CAPTURED RECORDS (German Casualty Records)	502-534
383.6-17-2	GERMAN CAPTURED RECORDS (Allied PWs)	535-564
383.6-18	SOLEMN WARNING	565-608
383.6-19	BELGIUM AND DUTCH PRISONERS OF WAR	609-620
383.6-20	FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR	621-648
383.6-21-1	CARE, AID, PROTECTION OF ALLIED PW'S (Report on PW Camps & Hospitals Operated by Enemy)	649-660
383.6-21-2	CARE, AID, PROTECTION OF ALLIED PW'S (Death sentences, Imposed Mistreatment by Enemy)	661-672
383.6-21-3	CARE, AID, PROTECTION OF ALLIED PW'S (Reports on Handling of Recovered PWs)	673-679
383.6-21-4	CARE, AID, PROTECTION OF ALLIED PW'S (Relief of PW's in Russian hands	680-685
383.6-21-5	CARE, AID, PROTECTION OF ALLIED PW'S (Plans. Policies, Meetings)	686-714
383.6/1	DAILY PRISONER OF WAR REPORT	715-1076
383.6/1-1	PRISONER OF WAR REPORTS – 7th ARMY	1077-1078
383.6/1-2	PRISONER OF WAR REPORTS – 12th ARMY GROUP	1079-1105
383.6/1-3	WEEKLY PW AND DEF. REPORTS	1106-1223
383.6/2-1	PW REPORTS, GENERAL	1224-1233
383.6/2-2	BRITISH/U.S POW REPORTS	1234-1299

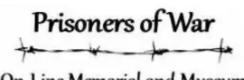
These seem to be at the National Archives but a full checking of folders at the UK National Archives is necessary before a definitive statement can be made. The UK National Archives catalogue lists 168 results when searching for "PRISONER OF WAR EXECUTIVE (PWX), G1 DIVISION"

SHAEF records are to be found at the UK National Archives in series other than WO 219. For instance the UK National Archives catalogue delivers 487 results when searching for "PRISONERS OF WAR" and restricting the search to Series WO 229 [War Office: Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force and 21 Army Group]. Not all results relate to British prisoners of war.

The SHAEF records held at the UK National Archives are based on microfilms provided to the British Government. Some folders are available as hard copy. Other folders are available as scanned images taken from the microfilms. Both microfilms and hard copy suffer from the technology capability at the date of production.

4.8 Germany

All contemporary military records, still held in Germany, are held at The Federal Archives, Department of Military Archives, Wiesentalstraße 10, 79115 Freiburg.



https://www.bundesarchiv.de/EN/Navigation/Use/Using-specific-types/Military-Records/military-records-en.html says "documents of the central offices of the Wehrmacht and the army command,

of the services and the troops of the army below division level as well as of the air force and the Waffen SS are largely lost. i.e. not to be found with them.

The author's review of The Federal Archives, Department of Military Archives online catalogue and contact with them leads him to say that no records of individuals are obvious in the catalogue and that only limited information is available on the prisoner of war camp system. To quote the advice given to him by the Federal Archives on records concerning the prisoner of war camp system:

"The records RH 49/20 and RH 49/21 have been digitized and it is possible to examine them online by clicking on the button "Digitalisat anzeigen".

We keep the archival tradition of the German prisoner of war institutions in the archival holding RH 49 (Einrichtungen des Kriegsgefangenenwesens des Heeres). But the archival tradition is incomplete because of war losses and it only contains few remaining fragments. If you research in RH 49, please look for references to other records. In addition to RH 49, the archival holdings RW 6, RW 48, RW 4, RW 5, RH 3 and MSG 194 contain supplemental records.

- RH 49 (Einrichtungen des Kriegsgefangenenwesens des Heeres)
- RW 6 (OKW / Allgemeines Wehrmachtamt mit nachgeordnetem Bereich); here: point 4 "Chef des Kriegsgefangenenwesens"
- RW 48 (Wehrmachtauskunftstelle für Kriegerverluste und Kriegsgefangene); here: point 2 "Referate", Unterpunkt 2.9. "Referat VIII. - Ausländische Kriegsgefangene"
- RW 4 (OKW / Wehrmachtführungsstab); here: point 6 "Versorgungsführung allgemein, Verwaltung der besetzten Gebiete, Angelegenheiten der inneren Ordnung (vorwiegend WFSt/Qu.), sub point 6.10 "Kriegsgefangenen-Angelegenheiten"
- RW 5 (OKW / Amt Ausland/Abwehr); here: point 5 "Abwehrabteilung III (Abwehr III), sub point 5.12 "Gruppe III Kgf (Kriegsgefangene)"
- RH 3 (OKH / Generalquartiermeister und nachgeordneter Bereich); here: point 2 "II. Abteilung Kriegsverwaltung", sub point 2.1 "Militärverwaltung", sub point 2.1.5 "Kriegsgefangenenwesen" • MSG 194 (Evangelisches Hilfswerk für Internierte und Kriegsgefangene e.V.); here: point 1 "Kriegszeit", sub point "Lager für Kriegsgefangene und Internierte"

With exception of MSG 194, the records of the mentioned archival holdings with regard to prisoner of war institutions have been digitized and it is possible to examine the digital copies online as well."

4.9 Russia.

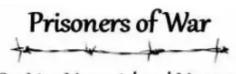
RUSSIAN STATE MILITARY ARCHIVE AND THE STATE ARCHIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION The Soviet Army took many records and documents from prisoner of war camps that they liberated in 1945 and sent them to Moscow:

The Russian State Military Archive https://www.lootedart.com/MFEU4M60512

The State Archive of the Russian Federation https://www.lootedart.com/MFEU4M48658

More details about this, and one man's exploration of them in pursuit of his father, can be found in John Jay's document https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/john-jay-researching-a-prisoner-of-war/

4.10 Italy



The book 'The International Committee Of The Red Cross On Its Activities During The Second World War (September 1, 1939 - June 30, 1947)' identifies The Italian Red Cross as providing all its data on prisoners of war held by the Italian authorities.

It might be concluded that no more information is held than that in the possession of The International Committee Of The Red Cross.

The Monte San Martino Trust https://msmtrust.org.uk/ might usefully be used as an alternative source.