HELP WITH RESEARCH

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Introduction

Currently we do not offer a personal research service although some of our members/supporters do. We do however provide this comprehensive guide to assist you in your journey of self-discovery.

We have no information about individual former prisoners of war and civilian internees apart from what is already on this website.

We regularly receive emails from people who say "Please can you give me more information about my father/grandfather/etc. who was at Lamsdorf (or some other camp)?" Regrettably the answer is "no", as we only know what people tell us or can access from public bodies; we have no other records.

We are regularly asked questions on the liberation of individuals. 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, they are not identifiable in the UK National Archives catalogue. An investigation is ongoing.

Guidance notes specific to civilian and military internees are still under development.

Where views are expressed, they are the personal views of the author alone.

Compiled April 2023.

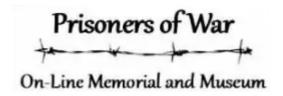
Acknowledgements.

Section 12. Help with German to English Translations reflects work by Mary Cameron who reviewed and expanded her work which had previously been published on the STALAG VIIIB/344 LAMSDORF PRISONERS OF WAR website.

Rick Catt and Dave Lovell for reading and commenting on the initial draft.

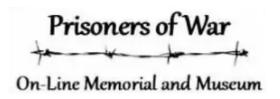
Any comments, errata and additional material should be submitted here: https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/contact-us/

You may download this entire document (54 pages) if you wish to or you can click on entries in the contents table to jump to the section of interest to you. Note carefully however that no section can stand on its own and you are encouraged to read the entire document.



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1. SCOPE.

These notes are applicable to

- World War II (1939 1945).
- The European, North African and Middle East theatres of the land and air war.
- The seas where German and Italian military forces conducted war.
- Prisoners of war and civilian internees held by the German and Italian authorities who were either British nationals or foreign nationals serving with British military forces. The term British here refers to both the UK and British Dominions and Colonies as existent at the time.

It should be noted that some other national 'strays' can be found in the records referred to e.g. small numbers of US, Norwegian, Dutch, Belgian and French etc. military forces and civilians whose German Record Cards have found their way into The UK National Archives Series WO 416.

It should also be noted that both military and civilian internees were also held in Europe by other belligerent Axis states in Europe i.e. Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia as well as the neutral states of Vichy France, Spain and Portugal.

The bulk of surviving records refer to military prisoners of war. Civilian internees are much scarcer in the known record.

These notes do not concern themselves with the burgeoning numbers of books on individuals and the general WW2 prisoner experience except where it is necessary to give guidance. See https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/books/ and please inform us of books covering other camps and POWs https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/contact-us/

RESEARCHER BEWARE.

The British Government was given delegated authority by the Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and South African Governments as well as by the Governor-General of India to negotiate of their behalf with the individual Axis Powers (principally Germany and Italy) on all matters regarding Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees. These negotiations took place via the good offices of the Protecting Power (see section 5). As such the British Government received significant documentary records relevant to prisoners of war and civilian internees that required onward transmittal to the Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and South African Governments as well as the Federal Government of India.

IT MAY WELL BE THAT FOR DOMINION AND COLONIAL PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES THE RESEARCHER NEEDS TO CONSULT UK ARCHIVED MATERIAL AS WELL AS OTHER NATIONAL RECORDS.

Significant volumes of data about prisoners of war (POWs) can now be found via the Internet including various lists and transcriptions. A number of problems have been identified:

- 1. Lists of individuals and data drawn from identified archive sources are often presented as transcriptions rather than scans of original documents.
 - The quality control of the transcriptions is often inadequate.
 - Where archive catalogues include data on individuals, quality control of the cataloguing is often inadequate.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE YOU SHOULD CHECK TRANSCRIPTIONS AGAINST EITHER ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS OR SCANS OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.



ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO CONDUCT SEARCHES NOT ONLY BY NAME BUT ALSO BY SERVICE NUMBER AND BY POW NUMBER WHERE THESE ARE KNOWN.

- Service men may not be known by the names they were known to the family. Records are
 often dependent on the abilities of the recording clerk either when joining a service or
 becoming a prisoner of war. Spelling mistakes occur. Forenames may disappear. Men for
 whatever reason may change their names. Birth dates may be either deliberately given
 falsely or mis-recorded.
- 3. Records of prisoners of war captured by the Germans are generally weaker for the time period between capture and arrival at the main camp where they entered the German Prisoner of War System and were allocated a prisoner of war number which they retained throughout their imprisonment. This is not to say that records do not exist but German Record Cards (see 4.1 below) do not provide a full record of a prisoners full movements.
- 4. Records of prisoners of war captured by the Germans after the Allies invasion of France in June 1944 may not be found; the later the date the more likely the case. This reflects the progressive breaking down of German bureaucracy and its forwarding of information to the British Government.
- 5. Records of prisoners of war held in camps in the east of Germany and marched west, from January 1945, may abruptly end with the start of the marches. The same would apply to marches from camps in the west as the Germans tried to move prisoners of war from late March 1945. This is not to say that records do not exist but if they do they constitute a small minority of men.
- 6. All prisoners of war captured in North Africa were initially held by the Italians in North Africa and then in Italy. Records of such prisoners of war are generally weak for the time period between capture and arrival in Italy. Once in Italy the Prisoner of War bureaucracy was apparently unsophisticated compared to that used by the Germans. No POW numbers were issued by the Italians; see WO 392/21 at the UK National Archives. There is no evidence of the Italians using record cards that recorded an individual's movement through Italian prisoner of war camps before the German takeover of these camps in September 1943 following the Italian capitulation to the Allies.

It is unclear to the author as to whether any British prisoners of war captured in Greece and on Crete were moved to Italy; Greek prisoners of war certainly were including some who were eventually moved to British prisoner of war camps in Germany. If any were moved to Italy the comments made with respect to those captured in North Africa must apply.

Prisoners of war captured in Sicily and in mainland Italy by the Italians/Germans after the Allies invasions of 1943 were initially sent to Italian run prisoner of war camps. The comments made above with respect to prisoners of war captured in North Africa must again apply.

Following the Italian capitulation in September 1944 those prisoners of war unlucky enough to fall into German hands were moved to Germany and thus entered the German bureaucracy.

7. Websites listing main prisoner of war camps and their subsidiary work camps abound on the internet.

There is clear evidence of data being copied from website to website perpetuating errors. As with much that appears on the internet, there is a lack of detailing of references used as data sources.



A further, perhaps underused, internet resource is the scanned copies of newspapers. While national newspapers reported stories of national importance in so far as they were allowed by government censorship control, local newspapers maintained a keen interest in reporting on local prisoners from when they went missing until their repatriation.

2. Introduction.

The record of prisoners of war and civilian internees is spread far and wide. The record is often fragmentary. Many records created by the Axis powers failed to survive the destructive chaos in Italy and Germany of 1944 and 1945. Many records created by the western Allied powers have failed to survive a culling of records as files moved from operational to archive status. Plans for the collection of data from liberated prisoners of war could only be partially implemented because of the sheer numbers being liberated almost simultaneously and in a manner that the planners had not considered.

This page is not meant as a catch all identifying all possible sources of information but rather a guide to significant sources of information that can be used as avenues of opportunity to the story of either individual prisoners or their general experience.

This page was written over the period October-December 2022. All internet links quoted were accessed and proven during this period of time.

3. The Prisoner of War Experience.

3.1 Capture and the Move to the Camps.

For most men captured, this period of time is a reporting void unless they made their own record of it. The protections offered under the Geneva Convention may have been theoretically in place but would not in practice start until they had reached their first long-term residential camp.

No in-depth study of the experience the experience of capture and move to long-term camps is known to have been published. Reports of this time are almost exclusively at an individual level. These reports are difficult to translate into the experience of others unless there is corroborating evidence for the second prisoner being present.

For prisoners captured in Belgium/France reference can be made to the book Dunkirk: The Men they Left Behind by Sean Longden.

For prisoners captured in North Africa and Greece/Crete reference can be made to https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH2Pris.html

For air force personnel there was a more defined course of process. Air force personnel were to be interrogated by Luftwaffe interrogators before being moved on to prisoner of war camps. In general this meant an initial move to Dulag Luft Oberursel where the interrogation took place. The Luftwaffe also opened Dulag Frankfurt and Dulag Wetzlar for the same purpose. Reference can be made to Footprints in the Sands of Time by Oliver Clutton-Brock. Chapter 2. Dulag Luft: December 1939-April 1945.

3.2 The Camps and Associated Facilities.

Reference to the reporting by the Protecting Power (see 5 below) and International Committee of the Red Cross (See 6 below) provides the basis for most contemporary reporting.

Newspaper reporting of this period of time was limited by wartime censorship and was based on letters sent home by prisoners that had been subject to censorship by the detaining power. This started to change as the collapse of Italy and then Germany became inevitable although wartime censorship continued to provide a restraining hand on what was published.



Studies of this part of the prisoner of war experience may be coloured by whatever hypothesis the author wishes to set out; these include the books:

- POW: Allied Prisoners in Europe 1939-1945 by Adrian Gilbert.
- Hitler's British Slaves: Allied POWs in Germany 1939-45 by Sean Longden.
- The Colditz Myth: British and Commonwealth Prisoners of War in Nazi Germany by S.P. McKenzie.
- Confronting Captivity: Britain and the United States and Their POWs in Nazi Germany by Arieh J. Kochavi.
- Captives of War: British Prisoners of War in Europe in the Second World War by Clare Makepeace.

3.3 The Long March West for Those in the East.

For those in the east of Germany 1944 and 1945 posed a new threat to their camp life. The advance of the Soviet Army towards the pre-war German borders threatened the continued existence of their camps. The German authorities determined that prisoners held in the east would not be allowed to fall into Soviet hands and that prisoners would be moved west. For most this involved a walk west through the height of winter in 1945. Those too sick to walk were provided train transport but some were too sick to be moved. Some decided to take their chance by being liberated by the Soviet Army. Some in work camps not threatened by the Soviet advance remained at work camps until May 1945.

Once in the west the German authorities faced a similar problem from Allied forces advancing from the west. Here again the Germans sought to avoid prisoners being liberated by Allied forces and new forced marches started away from the front line.

Reporting of these events is a comparative void barring short statements of advice from the Protecting Power and International Committee of the Red Cross that prisoners were on the move across Europe.

The book The Last Escape - The Untold Story Of Allied POWs 1944-45 by John Nichol and Tony Rennell provides an overview of these marches.

https://www.lamsdorflongmarch.com/ provides a study of the marches from Stalag 344
Lamsdorf and Stalag VIIIB Teschen. The maps of this study are complimented by the book The Long March In Their Own Words by Philip Baker.

3.4 Repatriation.

3.4.1. Medical Repatriations.

Ten formal exchanges of prisoners of war were agreed during World War II.

- Between the British and Italian Governments at Smyrna on 7 April 1942.
- Between the British and Italian Governments at Smyrna and Lisbon on 12 April 1943.
- Between the British and Italian Governments at Smyrna on 12 May 1943.
- Between the British and Italian Governments at Smyrna on 2 June 1943.
- The next repatriation which should have taken place in September 1943 but was upset by the Italian capitulation. The British prisoners, who were on the point of leaving Italy for Lisbon, were in the end sent to Germany, whence their repatriation met with all kinds of difficulties.
- Between the British and German Governments at Gothenburg, Barcelona and Oran in October 1943. The Oran exchange comprised only German nationals.
- Between the British and German Governments at Barcelona on 17 May 1944.



- Between British and German Governments at Gothenburg on 8 and 9 September 1944.
- Between France and Germany at Constance on 1 November 1944.
- Between the Allies and Germany at Kreuzlingen in January 1945.

Some repatriations including the run-up to a repatriation were extensively covered by UK newspapers; reports of individuals repatriated appearing in local newspapers in the following weeks. A situation no doubt reflected through the Dominion and Colonial countries.

The UK National Archives catalogue shows few documents that are linked to these repatriations.

3.4.2. 1945.

Consideration of plans for the repatriation of prisoners of war from Europe following the defeat of Germany commenced in 1944 under the code names ENDOR and then ECLIPSE. The presumption was an orderly collection from prisoner of war camps and movement west by land and by sea across the English Channel.

The War Office also considered the problem of the processing and treatment of prisoners of war on their return to the UK. Surviving files on ENDOR and ECLIPSE are to be found at the UK National Archives as are various versions of documents on the processing and treatment of prisoners of war after liberation.

Late in 1944 responsibility for the collection and repatriation of prisoners of war was devolved by the UK and USA Governments to SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) and in particular the Prisoner of War Executive (PWX), G1 Division which drew up the final detailed plan for repatriation activities in continental Europe.

The chaos of war as the German war machine collapsed in 1945 led to the need to abandon the collection and movement strategies of Operation ECLIPSE. Thereafter operations were conducted under the name of Operation EXODUS and emphasised repatriation by air where possible.

Surviving files, few in number and limited in content, on Operation EXODUS are to be found at the UK National Archives.

The possible political strategy and demands of the Soviet Government had not been considered. The Yalta Agreement and subsidiary documents agreed by the UK, USA and Soviet Governments in February 1945 included arrangements for the repatriation of prisoners of war liberated by Soviet armies. While the Soviet authorities were responsible for moving liberated prisoners of war to Odessa the repatriation of prisoners of war from Odessa was added to the responsibilities of SHAEF. In practice it fell to the British War Office/Admiralty to provide shipping away from Odessa; documentation on shipping movements is found in the UK Archives Series FO, WO and ADM. See also 4.9 SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) below.

3.5 Crime and Punishment.

As with every part of society, crime and punishment was part of the prisoner of war experience but with an added dimension; attempted escape, sabotaging the detaining power's war economy and refusal to obey orders were punishable. Prisoners of war were also subject to arbitrary mass punishments dictated by the higher echelons of the military and civilian authorities.

Within camps judgement and punishment for what were considered minor offences was the camp commandant's responsibility and in the main meant solitary detention in the camp "cooler" barracks.



a. In Germany.

Repeat offenders could be dealt with by German commandants by sending them to strafkommandos (punishment camps)/sonder commandos (special camps); work camps dedicated to holding repeat offenders.

For serious crime, the alleged criminality was referred to the German Military Court system. Those found guilty were sentenced to imprisonment in German Military Prisons where, as at Stalags etc, they were expected to work. There is evidence that this included being sent to work camps away from the main prison itself.

For men held in Germany punishment records may be found in German Record Cards if the Personalkarte I survives, and Liberation Questionnaires. Records of trials are rare and may simply be a summary saying that a trial was held, and the accused found guilty/not guilty together with the sentence to be served.

b. In Italy.

For men held in Italy the only records seem likely to be found in Liberation Questionnaires. The Protecting Power and the International Committee of the Red Cross both visited prison facilities. Visit reports can be found at the UK National Archives for military prisons in Germany at

- Graudenz.
- Fort Zinna, Torgau.
- Brandenburg-Görden.
- Bernau am Chiemsee
- Zwickau.
- Warthenburg [now Barczewo].

And, in Italy, San Vittore prison, Milan.

All are presumed to have held British prisoners of war.

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.			Rank	Army No.	Regt. or Corps	R.O. No.
		Accleton, F.W.			a necessary and the second	Buffs A. & S.H.	23 16
344	220247	Acey, J. Achilles, C.	2.	Cfn.	7614430	R.E.M.E.	44
		Achurch, Aw. Ackerley, W.			1602431 3450922	Lan. F.	18
		Ackers, E. E.			1493901	R.A.	6

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.

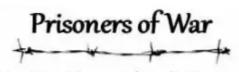
For other services the column headings vary.

<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.

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



On-Line Memorial and Museum

<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.

WO 392/10 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.

<u>WO 392/16</u> 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.

<u>WO 392/18</u> 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.

<u>WO 392/21</u> 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 ar chives.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.

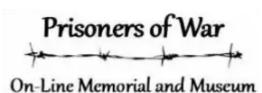
The lists published in April 1945 do not reflect:

- 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.

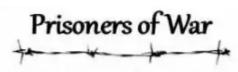
These cards were recovered from prisoner of war camps and the Wehrmacht central record system for prisoners of war located at Saalfeld and Meiningen, Thuringia by Allied forces advancing into Germany from the west. It can be presumed likely that the Soviet army recovered records from prisoner of war 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.

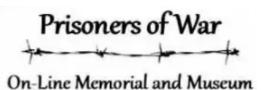


On-Line Memorial and Museum

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

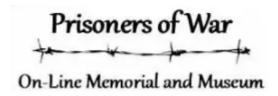
a. Personalkarte I: Personelle Angaben [Personnel card I: Personal Details].

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10 m	23.	Ringerabbrud bes rechten! Beigefingers	W.	Name und Anschrift der zu benachrichtigenden Person in der Geimat des Kriegsgefangenen
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26.7.41) Mec Patibo	htal Kr.Be	rt bes Rommandos	or E 13	7. 10M	12.1.41
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26.7.41	Mec Ratibo	htal Kr.Be	rt bes Rommandes	or E 18	, we a	12.1.41
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26.7.41	Ratibe E 155	htal Kr.Be	rt bes Rommandes	or E 13	, we a	12. 7. 41
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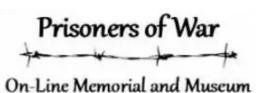


b. Personalkarte II: Wirtfchaftliche Angaben [Personnel card II: Economic Information].

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c. General Administration Cards

Two types were in use.

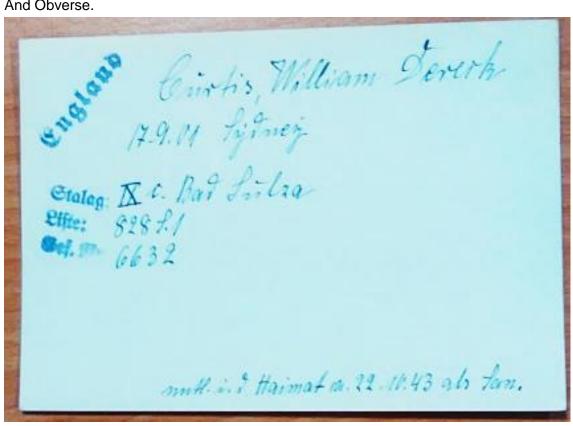
Befangenenlager: La msdorf	Staatsangehörigfeit:	Nr. der Liste: 212
Befangenen-Nr.: 15356	England	Seite der Lifte: 15
Name: /		Beruf:
Jacpeson		Religion:
Bornamen: Jackson Bornamen: Jeanold William Beharden William		Dienstgrad: Pold.
Beburtstag u. Beburtsort: 18.7, 13	Truppenteil:	, , , , ,
Borname des Baters:	Komp. ufw.	Matr. Nr. 5882 476
	Ort und Tag der nahme oder Int.	Gefangen.
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Name u. Anfdrift der	Berletjungen obe	r Tod:
zu benachrichtigenden Berfon:	wann und vor wo zugegangen	
Aufenthalt u. Beranderungen:		

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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.

[Continued]



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	J. vs. ruccover	Multal	,
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San. 3514. Rorbmann & P	aersche, Erfurt.	2. 1. 41	Wenden!

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 Cards: 5.

Date: [1939-1945]

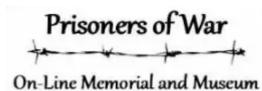
Held by: The National Archives, Kew

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	
Search for records Search for record creators	
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

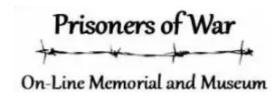
And ending at

Reference: WO 344/359

Description: ZAAIMAN - ZVOLENSKY

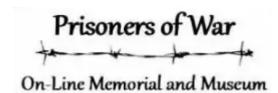
These questionnaires have not been digitised but are available for viewing and photographing at The National Archives. Kew.

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

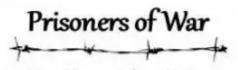


The National Archives have advised a partnership between themselves and Ancestry to scan and make available the questionnaires. This work has a publicised availability date of Autumn 2022. Updates on progress have not been publicised.

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No. 5882776 RANK	PRIVATE SURNAME 1	achson.
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DECORATIONS	IGS.M.	
SHIP (R.N., U.S.N. or MERCHA	NT NAVY)	
	1. Honithampions Hick	Rugi
SQUADRON (R.A.F. or A.A.F.)		
DIVISION (ARMY), COMMA	ND (R.A.F. or A.A.F.)	
DATE OF BIRTH	18/4/1918	
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	1/4/1922	
5. CIVILIAN TRADE OR PRO (OR EXAMINATIONS PASSI		
7. PRIVATE ADDRESS	23. Hough STREET Woodwich S.E. 18	Landon
	RIGINAL CAPTURE LILLE.	
8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W	RIGINAL CAPTURE LILLE.	
8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W 10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPIT	THEN CAPTURED? TALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED. Location	28 May 1940
8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W 10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPIT Camp No.	THEN CAPTURED? TALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED. Location	28 May 1940. From TIII
8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W 10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPIT Camp No.	THEN CAPTURED? TALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED. Location	28 May 1940. From TIII
8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W 10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPIT Camp No.	THEN CAPTURED? TALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED. Lecation Lamadore	28 May 1940. From Till 24-6-49 21-7-43
8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W 10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPIT Camp No. THE P. (144).	THEN CAPTURED? THEN CAPTURED? TALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED. Lecation LAMADORE	28 May 1940. From Till 24-6-40 26-7-40. Nature of Work
8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W 10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPIT Camp No. THE P. (344).	RIGINAL CAPTURE LILLE. THEN CAPTURED? TALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED. Lecation LAMADORE ING CAMP? From Till	28 May 1940 From Till 24-6-49 26-7-40 Nature of Work Labbook
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8. PLACE AND DATE OF O 9. WERE YOU WOUNDED W 10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPIT Camp No. THE P. (144). 11. WERE YOU IN A WORKI Location VIII G 3444. COSEL HOSEN	RIGINAL CAPTURE LILLE. THEN CAPTURED? TALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED. Location Lamadore ING CAMP? From Till 24-6-1940. 26-7-40	From Till 24-6-40 16-7-40 Nature of Work Labourk Parce Making
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GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE, PART II. TOP SECRET.	M.L9/Gen
	MIS-X
1. No. 5-88471 RANK PTE. SURNAME TACK	
CHRISTIAN NAMES HAROLA W TACKBON.	
2. LECTURES before Capture:	
(a) Were you lectured in your unit on how to behave in the event of capture? (State where, when and by whom).	
NO	
(I) We see the seed on some and service (Controllers where when and he when)	
(b) Were you lectured on escape and evasion? (State where, when and by whom).	
NO	
1.0	
3. INTERROGATION after capture:	
Were you specially interrogated by the enemy? (State where, when and methods employed by	by enemy).
NO	
4. ESCAPES attempted: Did you make any attempted or partly successful escapes? (Give details of each attempt sep when, method employed, names of your companions, where and when recaptured and be physically fit? What happened to your companions?)	arately, stating where by whom. Were you
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Did you make any attempted or partly successful escapes? (Give details of each attempt sep, when, method employed, names of your companions, where and when recaptured and be physically fit? What happened to your companions?)	y whom. Were you
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		TOP SECRET
5	GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE. PART II. TOP SECRET. (continued)	M.L.9 Gen/ MIS-X
Have you any or	ther matter of any kind you wish to bring to notice?	
-		
-		
-		
-		
-		
	SECURITY UNDERTAKING.	
I full	ly realise that all information relating to the matters covered by the questions is of a highly secret and official nature.	n Part II.
	tive had explained to me and fully understand that under Defence Regu A.R. 380-5 I am forbidden to publish or communicate any information of	lations or concerning
these	e matters.	
Date 30	2-4-1945 Signature H. Jackson	
	the same plants are a facility	



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.

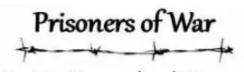
Visits always followed an application for a visit by either the Protecting Power or the International Committee of the Red Cross. The detaining power had ample time to show a camp in the best light and attempt to control the joint discussions with the protecting power and senior prisoner of war and internee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



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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.

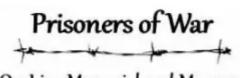
4.2 Australia.

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



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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://qallerv.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-world-war/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-and-medals/#:~: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#. YOYNP3Yzbb0



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 Department of Defence

Command and Management Command and Management Information Systems Division Information Systems Division

Documentation Centre DoD Archives
42 Saturnus Road Private Bag X289

Irene, Pretoria Pretoria 0157 0001

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

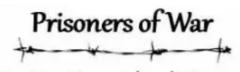
https://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/finding-aid/military/rg-331.html and https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/331.html

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 APO757 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	75-86
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



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383.6-15-5	TRANSFER OF ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR FROM EASTERN GERMANY (Repatriation of Allied PW's through Odessa)	462-470
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."

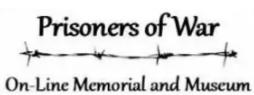
4.9 Russia.

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.

5. The Protecting Power.

The role of a Protecting Power was formalised in the Geneva Conventions of 1929.

The Protecting Power acted as the diplomatic intermediary between the British Government and

- The German and Italian Governments,
- Other belligerent Axis states in Europe i.e. Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia, and
- The nominally neutral Vichy France when no diplomatic ties existed.

Protecting powers were allowed to inspect prisoner of war and internee camps, interview prisoners in private and communicate freely with prisoners.

From 1939 to December 1941, this role was undertaken by the Federal Government of the United States of America. With the entry of the United States of America into the war, the Federal Government of Switzerland took up the role of Protecting Power.

Visits were organised on a rolling basis throughout the war. Visits comprised visits to main camps plus a limited number of work camps. With the number of work camps dependent on a single main camp possibly running into the several hundred, the Protecting Power's coverage of work camps was obviously limited.

The UK National Archives collection of visit reports to prisoner of war and internee camps is incomplete. The reports are in UK National Archives catalogue reference WO 224 plus Foreign Office files in FO 916. The incompleteness is particularly acute for the early years of the war. Correspondence files relating to concerns about the treatment of prisoners of war and internees are fragmented across series FO and WO and also appear to be incomplete.

The US National Archives and Swiss Federal Archives may hold a more complete set of visit reports.

The National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001 https://www.archives.gov/

Swiss Federal Archives Archivstrasse 24 3003 Bern Switzerland

https://www.bar.admin.ch/bar/en/home.html



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 the Protecting Power to the German authorities in Berlin providing the camp commandant with opportunity to stage manage the general inspection of the camp facilities.

Visits followed a standard format:

- A session attended by the Protecting Power, the camp commandant and prisoner of war representatives.
- A private session with senior prisoner of war and internee representatives.

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

See The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) below for comment on the organisation of visits and content of visit reports; Protecting Power visit reports suggest that Protecting Power visits and ICRC visits operated in similar manners.

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

The ICRC carried out the role of a central agency of information regarding prisoners of war as set out in Geneva Conventions of 1929.

The early simplicity of reports moving between the German and British authorities via the ICRC British Section and following Italy's entry into the war the Italian and British authorities via the ICRC British Section became complicated as a result of negotiations in 1941 with the various Dominions when it was decided that the British Section of the ICRC should cable direct to the relevant department the information it received concerning the nationals of these countries.

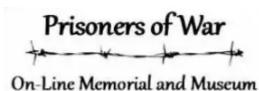
This decision meant that the British Section of the ICRC was now communicating directly with

- The UK, Prisoners of War Information Bureau.
- Canada, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa (July 2, 1941).
- Australia, PW Information Bureau, Melbourne (Sept. 1, 1941)
- New Zealand, Prime Minister, Missing PW Enquiry Office, Wellington (Sept. 10, 1941).
- South Africa, South African Red Cross, Johannesburg (Oct. 9, 1941).
- India, Adjutant General Branches, Delhi (Nov. 10, 1941).

At the same time communications were passing to the UK, Prisoners of War Information Bureau for onward transmission to other parties.

Research may need to be carried at both UK National Archives and other national archives to locate information relevant to non-UK prisoners.

The activities of the ICRC included the reporting of individuals becoming either prisoners of war or an internee, visiting and monitoring prisoner of war and internee camps, organising relief assistance, and administering the exchange of messages regarding prisoners, internees and missing persons. By the end of the war, world-wide 179 ICRC delegates had conducted 12,750



visits to prisoner of war and internee camps in 41 countries. The Central Information Agency on Prisoners-of-War (Zentralauskunftsstelle für Kriegsgefangene) had a staff of 3,000 and their card

index tracking prisoners contained 45 million cards, and 120 million messages were exchanged by the Agency.

The ICRC in its Report Of The International Committee Of The Red Cross On Its Activities During The Second World War (September 1, 1939 - June 30, 1947) Volume 2 noted the general efficiency of the German authorities in forwarding information except during the chaos of the outcome of the Greek campaign in 1941 and the chaos in Europe in 1944-1945 but of the Italian authorities it said

Although the telegraphic notification of capture by the Italian Official Bureau did as a rule operate normally, the notice of transfers to permanent camps was most unsatisfactory. This was due to the notorious inadequacy of the information given by the Italian military authorities to the Bureau, in spite of the praiseworthy efforts it made. In a great number of cases, it was only after considerable delay or insistent requests that the British Section was informed of the prisoners' permanent camps.

During the whole period, the frequent omissions in notifying deaths and the delay in the receipt of hospital returns were likewise the cause of considerable difficulties to the Section. These difficulties were all the more appreciable, since prisoners in Italian camps were, until April 1943, unable to send capture cards. It is true that from this date the Italian authorities introduced a system of cards called " initial capture cards ". These were at once established in triplicate; one copy was sent by post to the man's relatives, the second to the Agency and the third kept by the Ufficio.

This interesting innovation unfortunately came too late to be of any real value.

The ICRC knowledge of individuals centres on capture cards and movement lists to and between main camps provided to it by the detaining authorities. The ICRC in general have no knowledge of work camps.

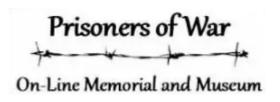
Requests for information about people held during Spanish Civil War or Second World War. See https://www.icrc.org/en/archives and https://www.icrc.org/en/archives and https://www.icrc.org/en/archives and https://www.icrc.org/en/archives and https://www.icrc.org/en/archives and https://www.icrc.org/en/document/request-information-about-individuals-detained-during-second-world-war-or-spanish-civil-war-quota

The application is presented as a standardised form requiring details as follows:

- Surname.
- First Name.
- Gender.
- Date of birth.
- Place of birth.
- Date of death.
- Nationality.
- Place of residence at the time of the conflict.
- Father's surname and first name.
- Mother's maiden name and first name.

Person about whom information is sought:

Wife/Husband's name.



- Conflict.
- Status.
- · Rank.
- Unit.
- Army.
- · Service number.
- Date of capture.
- Place of capture.
- Prisoner of war number.
- Place(s) of detention.
- Date of release (and repatriation).
- Additional information.
- Family tie (the person about whom I am seeking information is my).
- · Reason for enquiry.
- Reason for enquiry
- Reason for enquiry (additional information).

While not all of this may be in the knowledge of the applicant, the applicant needs to provide sufficient information to allow the ICRC to identify the correct individual in their files. An application for a John Smith, and that alone, clearly leads to a plethora of possibilities. The progressive addition of data is essential to allow the ICRC to identify the correct John Smith.

Responses to requests for information from the ICRC summarise their knowledge of an individual in the form of an ATTESTATION statement.

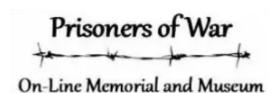
RESEARCHER BEWARE

Requests for copies of documentation held by the ICRC should be included either when submitting a request or on receipt of acknowledgement of the request. Submissions not requesting copies of documents may not bring forth copies of documents without a further request.

The ICRC can only provide data provided to them by the detaining authorities.

The German authorities provided lists for movement into and between main detention camps i.e, Stalags, Stalag Lufts, Marlag und Milag Nord, Ilags. They did not provide movement to and between work parties.

As outlined above the inefficiency of the Italian reporting system may mean that some moves between camps will likely be unrecorded.





CIM/AIM/PTA/1CT

Geneva, 30.09.2011

ATTESTATION

The International Committee of the Red Cross has received the following information:

Name and first name

JACKSON Harold William

Date of birth

18.04.1913

Place of birth

Woolwich

Father's first name

Edward

Mother's name

JAMESON

Rank

Private

Unit

2nd Batt. Northamps. Regt.

Service number

5882776

Date and place of capture

28.05.1940, Lille

Prisoner of war number

15556

Places of detention

• Arrived at Stalag VIII/B on 23.06 1940, coming from Stalag XII/A (according to a list dated 31.07.1940).

From

One list issued by the German authorities



International Committee of the Red Cross 19 Avenue de la Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland T+41227346001 F+41227332057 www.icrc.org



Repatriation Lists.

When discussing repatriation, The Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on its activities during the second world war (September 1, 1939 -June 30, 1947) Volume 1 (Page 397 - 382.) says in specific reference to the repatriation of 17 May 1944 that its delegates present at the exchange were to "request and obtain two copies of the nominal rolls of the PW". These lists are likely in the ICRC Archives.

Exchanges between the Germans and Allies on repatriation were difficult and fraught with difficulty right to the moment of exchange. Numbers and lists of individuals to be exchanged were constantly moving as the moment of exchange approached. With the ICRC sitting in the middle of these government level exchanges it is hard not to think that the ICRC may well have within its archives copies of repatriation lists for the German – British/American exchanges and possibly the British/Italian exchanges.

The ICRC holds no records with regard to repatriations via Odessa in 1945. The ICRC played no part in these repatriations.

ICRC Visit Reports

Like the Protecting Power, visits were organised on a rolling basis throughout the war. Visits comprised visits to main camps plus a limited number of work camps. With the number of work camps dependent on a single main camp possibly running into the several hundred, the ICRC's coverage of work camps was obviously limited.

The UK National Archives collection of ICRC visit reports to prisoner of war and internee camps appears incomplete; see UK National Archives catalogue reference WO 224 plus Foreign Office files in series FO. This appears particularly acute for the early years of the war.

Where an ICRC visit is either known of or suspected and not found at the UK National Archives a request should be made direct to the ICRC Archivist. The report provided will be in the original French.

RESEARCHER BEWARE

In the period up to ca. 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 the ICRC to the German authorities in Berlin providing the camp commandant with opportunity to stage manage the general inspection of the camp facilities.

Visits followed a standard format:

- A session attended by the ICRC, the camp commandant and prisoner of war representatives.
- A private session with senior prisoner of war and internee representatives.

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

The Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross on its activities during the second world war (September 1, 1939 -June 30, 1947) can be found on line here

The process of visit and visit reports is dealt with in Volume 1 Page 228 – 246 and sets out the bureaucratic restraints on the ICRC and illustrates the formulaic nature of ICRC reports.



7. Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Those who died in captivity who have a known grave/memorial are to be found on: https://www.cwgc.org/

8. Commercial Organisations.

We are unable to offer advice as to which Commercial Organisation's offering is the best for researching British prisoners of war.

Researchers may however like to search websites and facebook pages where the topic is regularly aired.

Researchers should emphasise what they seek and which commercial organisation best suits their needs when making their decision.

8.1 Findmypast.

Findmypast offers their Prisoners Of War 1715-1945 collection including scanned images of all source documents linked to their transcriptions. See:

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

Scroll down to World War Two (1939-1945)-Europe-Archive References for a full listing of their offering. All records are searchable with most providing access to the relevant scan of the original document at the UK National Archives. Records can be searched by name, service number, etc but not by prisoner of war number.

Names generally consist of surname and forename initials for prisoners of war held in Europe.

8.2 Ancestry

Ancestry offers their searchable UK, British Prisoners of War, 1939-1945 collection database. https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1601/

Ancestry describes it's source information as

"Ancestry.com. UK, British Prisoners of War, 1939-1945 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.

Original data: Prisoner of War Collections. Sussex, England: The Naval and Military Press."

The Naval and Military Press publication depends for its validity on The National Archives WO 392 Prisoner of War Lists, which were published first by the Imperial War Museum in book form. It is not stated which of the September 1944 and April 1945 lists were used in preparing the book.

Records can be searched by name, service number, prisoner of war number etc.

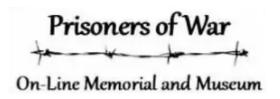
Ancestry provides no scanned images of original documents.

Names generally consist of surname and forename initials for prisoners of war held in Europe.

8.3 Forces War Records

Forces War Records website was developed, owned and operated by Clever Digit Media Ltd but since May 2021 has been part of part of Ancestry.com. The website details of content on prisoners of war need to be considered alongside those of Ancestry itself.

https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk



8.3 Fold 3

Another website whose parent ownership is Ancestry.com. This website is USA orientated with some British and Commonwealth content. The website details of prisoners of war content need to be considered.

https://www.fold3.com/?group=2

9. The Internet.

An internet search for "PRISONER OF WAR WW2" in November 2022 suggested a result of about 4,420,000 results. A google search for "PRISONER OF WAR WWII" suggested a result of about 3,450,000 results.

The Researcher therefore faces a dilemma of where to start and what to believe in a world where much is published without peer review.

The sites identified below may be of use to the researcher in pointing the way to knowledge.

Websites listing main prisoner of war camps and their subsidiary work camps abound on the internet.

There is clear evidence of data being copied from website to website perpetuating errors.

As with much that appears on the internet, there is inadequate detailing of references used as data sources.

A selection of websites:

The Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War.

https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-WH2.html

Contains much information of general interest not just New Zealand specific interest.

Moosburg Online https://www.moosburg.org/info/stalag/indeng.html
Including its list of POW Camps: https://www.moosburg.org/info/stalag/laglist.html

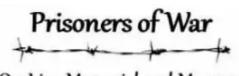
The Wartime Memories Project https://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/

The Pegasus Archive https://www.pegasusarchive.org/
The British Airborne Forces 1940-1945 including Prisoner of War https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/

BBC WW2 People's War Archive

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/categories/

Royal Air Force Commands http://www.rafcommands.com/



On-Line Memorial and Museum

Dedicated to UK and other nationals who served with the RAF, RCAF, RAAF, RNZAF. Includes databases associated with Prisoners of War, Casualty Lists. Aircraft Lists including details of their loss plus an active forum.

For prisoners of war refer to:

http://www.rafcommands.com/database/pows/index.php

Shipping Losses and Ships:

- https://wrecksite.eu/
- https://uboat.net/allies/merchants/listing.php
- http://www.tynebuiltships.co.uk/ShipsR.html
- http://www.sunderlandships.com/
- https://www.clydeships.co.uk/
- http://shippingandshipbuilding.uk/
- https://www.warsailors.com/freefleet/shipindex.html

WWII Escape and Evasion Information Exchange

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

This website concerns itself with military escapers and evaders.

Poland.

The Polish Central Prisoner of War Museum at Lambinowice (Lamsdorf)

Website https://www.cmjw.pl/en/muzeum2/

Contact details are:

Centralne Muzeum Jeñców Wojennych w Lambinowicach-Opoluul.

Muzealna 4, 48-316 Łambinowice

Email: cmjw@cmjw.pl

Arolsen Archives

https://arolsen-archives.org/en/

The German town of Bad Arolsen is home to the world's largest archive on the victims and survivors of the Nazi regime.

LEXICON DER WEHRMACHT https://www.lexikon-der-wehrmacht.de/

10. Online Discussion Groups and Forums.

10.1 Facebook Groups

STALAG https://www.facebook.com/groups/1656055374652498/

POWs Italy https://www.facebook.com/groups/1098088790202648

STALAG VIIIB/344 LAMSDORF PRISONERS OF WAR https://www.facebook.com/groups/828123490592144/



South Africans in WW1, WW2 and Korean War https://www.facebook.com/groups/southafricansinww1ww2korea/

UK Military History/Military Genealogy and military photography https://www.facebook.com/groups/militarygen

For those interested in their families military history/military genealogy. A place to post your military history questions and photos. Posts on prisoners of war are comparatively few.

10.2 Other Groups

WW2 Talk http://ww2talk.com/index.php

FORUM DER WEHRMACHT https://www.forum-der-wehrmacht.de/

Axis History Forum https://forum.axishistory.com/

An apolitical forum for discussions on the Axis nations and related topics hosted by the Axis History.

US POW's https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=GP24

Histoires de Français Libres ordinaires http://www.francaislibres.net/

11. Other.

Researching a Prisoner of War by John Jay; author of Facing Fearful Odds – My Father's Story of Captivity, Escape and Resistance, 1940-45. One man's exploration of archives in pursuit of his father. From getting started to exploring Russian archives.

12. Help with German to English Translations.

This section presents some commonly met German prisoner of war record cards together with:

- · A transcription of the German, and
- A translation of the German.

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

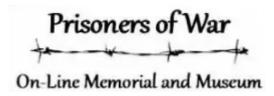
Variants of these forms have been noted .e.g.

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

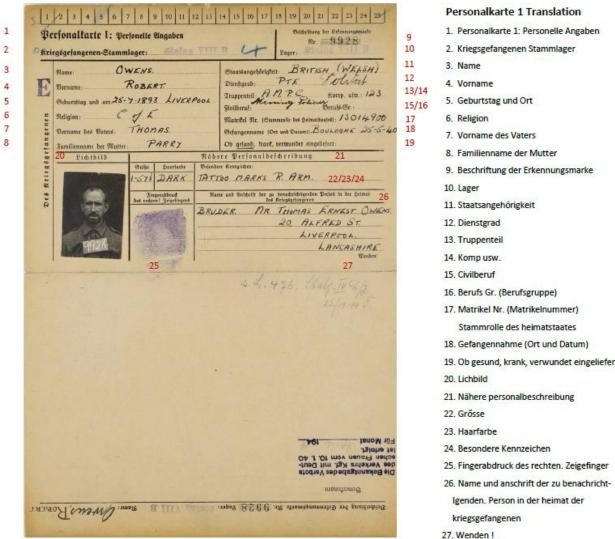
Other cards/records have been found in German Record cards.

The German military made use of abbreviations. This website may help where these are encountered.

https://www.leslufteaux.com/images/pratiqueLW/plaque/German%20Military%20Abbreviations.pdf There are other websites for the same subject.



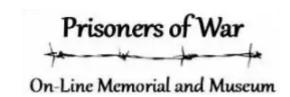
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Personalkarte 1 Translation	
Personalkarte 1: Personelle Angaben	Personnel Card 1: Personal Details
2. Kriegsgefangenen Stammlager	Prisoner of War Main Camp
3. Name	Surname
4. Vorname	First/Christian name
5. Geburtstag und Ort	Date and Place of birth
6. Religion	Religion
7. Vorname des Vaters	First name of the father
8. Familienname der Mutter	Family name (Maiden name) of mother
9. Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke	Labelling of the Identification Tag (POW Num
10. Lager	Camp
11. Staatsangehörigkeit	Nationality
12. Dienstgrad	Rank
13. Truppenteil	Unit
14. Komp usw.	Company etc.
15. Civilberuf	Civilian Profession
16. Berufs Gr. (Berufsgruppe)	Professional/Occupational Group
17. Matrikel Nr. (Matrikelnummer)	Matriculation/Roll Number of country of
Stammrolle des heimatstaates	origin (Service Number)
18. Gefangennahme (Ort und Datum)	Capture (Place and Date)
19. Ob gesund, krank, verwundet eingeliefert	Whether healthy, sick or wounded
20. Lichbild	Photograph
21. Nähere personalbeschreibung	More personal details
22. Grősse	Size
23. Haarfarbe	Hair colour
24. Besondere Kennzeichen	Special marks/Distinguishing marks
25. Fingerabdruck des rechten. Zeigefinger	Right fingerprint. Index finger
26. Name und anschrift der zu benachricht-	Name and address of the person to be
lgenden. Person in der heimat der	notified. Person in the homeland of the
kriegsgefangenen	prisoner of war.

Turn Over!

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Personalkarte II: Wirtschaftliche Angaben Personnel Card II: Economic Information

Kriegsgefangenenlager
 Der Kreigsgefangenen:
 Prisoner of War:

Name Surname

Vorname First/Christian Name
Geburtstag und Ort Date and Place of birth
Staatsangehörigkeit Nationality

3. Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke Labelling of the ID Tag (POW Number)

Camp

4. Buchstabe (Anfangsbuchstabe des Namens) Initial/First letter of the name
5. Diensterad Rank

5. Dienstgrad Rank
6. Civilberuf Civilian Profession

7. Berufs Gr. (Berufsgruppe) Professional/Occupational Group

8. Grad der Arbeitsfähigkeit Degree of work ability

9. Private Geldmittel Private Funds

10. Datum D

11. Dem Kriegsgefangenen abgenommene Amounts taken from Prisoners
Beträge in Valuta of War in currency

12. Postsendungen in Valuta Postal Items in currency

13. Gutschrift in Credit into
14. Hiervon ausgezahlt Paid out of this
15. Bleibt Guthaben Remaining Credit
16. Anerkennungsvermerk Acknowledgment Note
17. der Zahlmeisterei the Paymaster
18. des Kriegsgefangenen of the Prisoner of War

19. Abgenommene Wertgegenstände Valuables Confiscated

O. Datum Dat

 21. Nähere Bezeichnung
 Further Description

 22. Aufbewahrende Stelle
 Storage Place

23. Rückgabevermerk mit Datum Return Notice with Date 24, 25, 26 Identical to numbers 16,17,18



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Employer

Recording date

Personalkarte II (Reverse) Translation

2. Arbeitgeber

1. Arbeitslöhne nach den Lohnlisten Wages according to the wage lists (Payroll)

3. lahr Monat Woche Month Week Year

4. Lohn Wage

5. Ausgezahlt Paid Out

6. Guthaben Credit

7. Anerkenntnis Acknowledgment der Zalmeisterei Paymaster's Office of the Prisoner of war des Kriegsgefangenen

8. Lazarett, Krankenhaus und Revierbehandlung Military Hospital, Hospital and Infirmary Treatment (Krankenblätter, D.B. Verhandlungen werden (Medical Records, D.B. Negotiations are conducted on an individual basis) besonders geführt)

9. Aufnahmedatum

10. Ort Location

Nature of the disease and whether contracted in the 11. Art der Krankheit und ob auf dem Kriegsschauplatz theatre of war or acquired in captivity oder in der Gefangenschaft erworben

12. Entlassungsdatum Discharge date

13. Bemerkungen über Dienst und Arbeitsfähigkeit Remarks on duty and ability to work, injury Dienstbeschädigung sustained at work etc.

14. Bei Tod on death Datum Beerdigungsplatz **Burial Place** Nachlatz und an welche Stelle abgegeben Estate and to which office

(Where are the personal belongings to be sent)



Orfangenenlager: Stalag VIII B	Staateangehörigfeit :	Me, ber Lifte: 115			
Gefangenen-Nr.: 14 545	England	Ceite Der Lifte:			
name: Twee		Beruf:			
		Religion			
Dornamen: Michael		Dienstgrad:			
Beburtstag in Beburtsert: 1 3 14	Eruppenteil:				
Borname des Baters:	Komp. ujw.	Komp. ufw. 17 Matr. Re. 484 35 95			
Kamilienname der	Det und Sag ber Befrugen- nahme ober Internferung:				
Mutter:	Bermundungen, Berletungen obe	Bernundungen, Berlehungen ober Zob:			
Name 11. Anfdrift der 311. benachrichtigenden Perfon:	mann und ver	wann und ven we jugegangen			
Aufenthalt u. Beranberungen:		THE RESERVE			

Administration Card - Translation

Gefangenenlager	Prison Camp
2. Gefangenen Nummer	Prisoner Number
3. Name	Surname
4. Vornamen	First / Christian Name
5. Geburtstag und Geburtsort	Place and date of birth
6. Vorname des Vaters	First name of father
7. Familienname der Mutter	Family name (Maiden Name) of mother
8. Name und Anschrift der zu	Name and address of the person to be notified
Benachrichtigenden Person	
Aufenthalt und Veränderungen	Place of residence and changes
10. Staatsangehörigkeit	Nationality
11. Nummer der Liste	List Number
12. Seite der Liste	List Page
13. Beruf	Profession
14. Religion	Religion
15. Dienstgrad	Rank
16. Truppenteil	Unit
17. Komp usw.	Company etc.
18. Matrikelnummer	Matriculation number (Service number)
19. Ort und Tag der Gefangennahme	Place and day of capture or internment
oder internierung	
20. Verwundungen, Verletzungen oder Tod	Wounds, Injury or Death
21. Wann und von wo Zugegangen	When and from where admitted.

Owens, Robert

25.7.93 Liverpool

Stalag: 344 Lamsdorf Sold

2 Eiste: 1849,4

3 9988 Sug MII B

4 31.7.44 n.8flg. IVD Zw.

Transfer Card - Translation

1. Stalag 344 Lamsdorf

2. Liste: 184 S (Seite)4

List: 184 Page 4

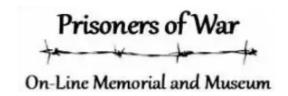
3. Gefangenen Nummer: 9928 Stalag VIIIB

Prisoner Number: 9928 Stalag VIIIB

4. 31.7.44 n. Gflg (nach gefangenenlager) IVD Zw. (Zweilager)

31.7.44 to prison camp IVD/Z (Z = 'branch' camp)

5. Soldat 13014900



Hospital Card Translation

1. Bei Verbündeten und Gefangenen die Staatsangehörigkeit angeben Indicate nationality for allies and prisoners.

2. Familien und Vorname

Surname (family name) and First Name

3. Formblatt 5a K.S.V.(H), II Teil

Nationality (Country of Origin), Part 2 Form 5a

4/5. Geboren ausgehen mit in 6. Kreis Date born

7. Truppenteil 8. Beschriftung der Erkennungsmarke Unit

Registration number (prisoner of war number)

9. Dienstgrad 10. Laufend Nummer des Lazarette Krankenbuches Rank

District

Consecutive number of the hospital sick book

12. Erkrankungstag, Art der Krankheit oder Verwundung Name of the Lazarett Day of illness, type of illness or wound

13. Zugang: woher:

11. Name des Lazaretts

Admission: from where:

Am (ausgehen mit) Date

14. Abgang: wie, wohin: Discharged, how (in what state), to where:

15. Armed Forces Publisher, Breslau

Translation for Back of Hospital Card

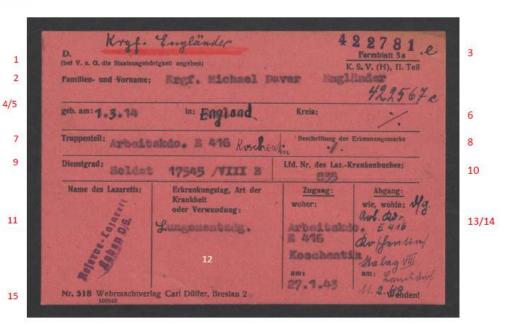
1. Bei Verbündeten und Gefangenen For Allies and Prisoners

Sowie verstorbenen deutschen Wehrmachtangehörigen: As well as deceased German Armed Forces:

2. Anschrift der zu benachrichtigenden Angehörigen Address of relatives to be notified

3. Bei Verstorbenen: For deceased:

4. Genaue Bezeichnung der Grablage: Exact Designation of the Grave Site





Ariegagefangenen-Durchgangelager som 7-8-1940

SINCES XXIBE

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Postcard (Capture Card) Translation

1. Kriegsgefangenen Durchgangslager

Prisoner of War Transit Camp

Keine ortsangabe / sondern Feldpostnummer des Kdt des Dulag oder sonstige besolene Bezeichneng.

No location information / but Field Post Number of the Kommandant of the Dulag or other designated Identification.

- Ich bin gesund leicht verwundet in Deutsche kriegsgefangenschaft geraten und befinde mich wohl.
 I am healthy slightly wounded in German captivity and I am well.
- Von hier aus werde ich in der n\u00e4chsten tagen in ein lager gebracht werden, dessen anschrift ich euchschreiben werde. Erst dort darf ich post von euch erhalten und euch schreiben.

From here I will be taken to a camp in the next few days, the address of which I will write to you.

Only there can I receive mail from you and write to you.

4. Herzliche Grusse Kind Regards Vor und Zuname: First and last name

Dienstgrad: Rank Truppenteil: Unit

5. (Nichtzutreffendes ist zu durchstreichen) If inapplicable to be crossed out.

Auber namen, Dienstgrad, Truppenteil nicht binzuzuftigen – Deinstliche schrift und unterschrift.

Only your name, Rank and Unit to be given - your own writing and signature.

Note: On this card, many of the words at number 3 have been deleted and the sentence adjusted to read:

I will write again from the above address.