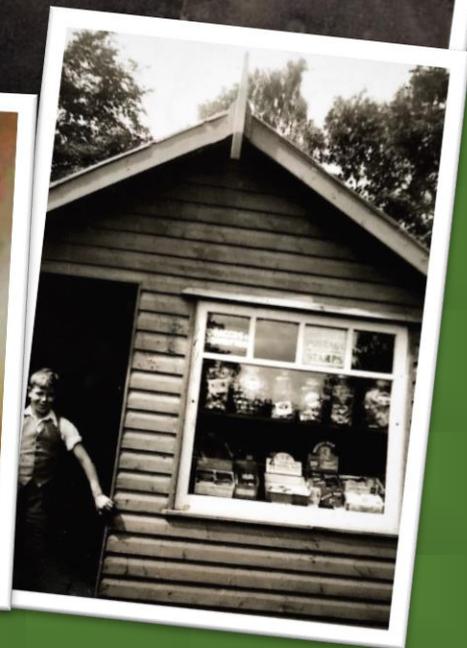
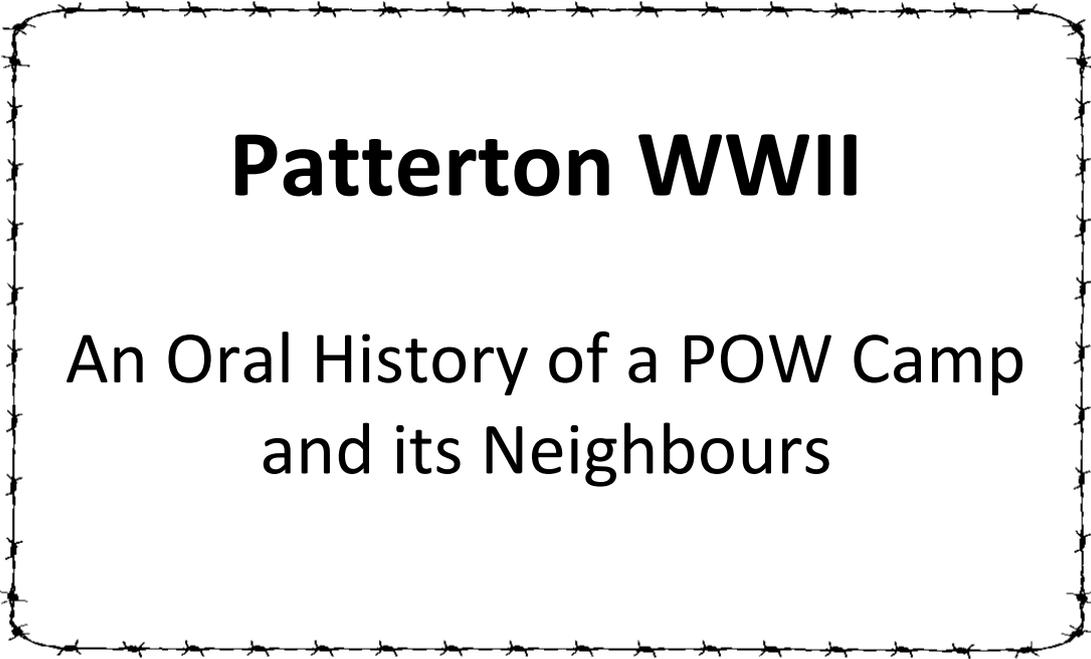


Patterton WWII

A POW Camp and its Neighbours



Lost Strathclyde Heritage Group



Patterton WWII

An Oral History of a POW Camp
and its Neighbours

by
Rachel Kelly
Dr Sue Morrison

Lost Strathclyde Heritage Group



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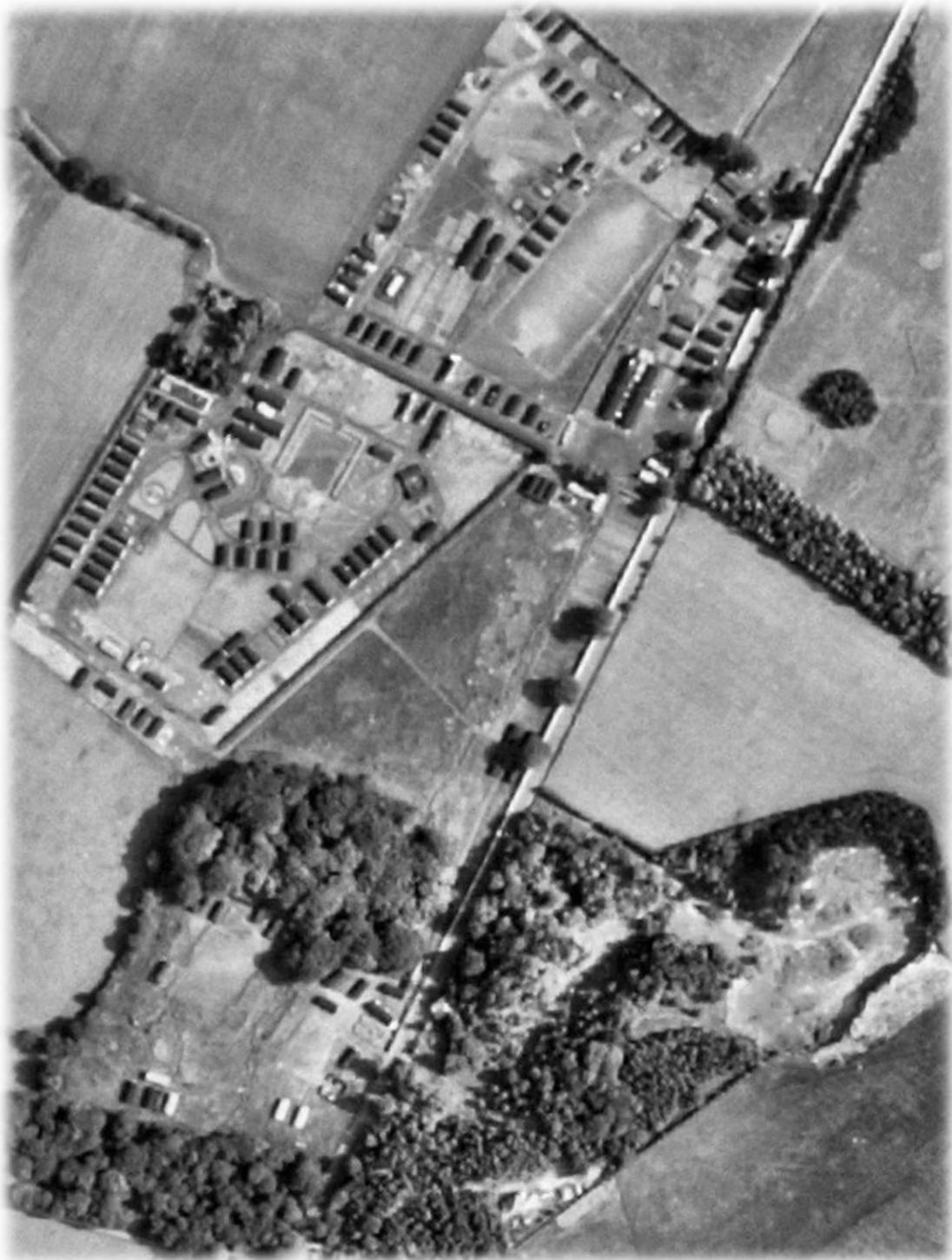
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Aerial photograph Patterson Camp, 1946.
Courtesy of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

Foreword

Focusing on Patterton Camp, this intergenerational oral history project has captured much of the history of the camp and its impact on local people between 1939 and 1959.

Around fifty local volunteers, including many young people, received filming, research or oral history training and interviewed over twenty respondents who lived in or near Patterton during WWII and the post-war era of rationing and austerity. Volunteers worked with Dr Sue Morrison, a professional oral historian, to produce audio clips from the oral history archive; others worked with a film maker to film interviews and create short videos. These digital products are available to view on the project website.

The project offered further opportunities for cross-generational learning through creative activities and exploration of experiences through reminiscence events, public talks and film screenings. These evoked memories of living near Patterton Camp when Italian and German prisoners of war were there, or when they themselves occupied the camp's huts after the war, when the shortage of housing stock led families to seek shelter wherever they could. Some of our wonderful respondents also shared with us their wartime recipes, and they gave WWII era dress and make-up tips to volunteers. Young volunteers even learned how to dance, 1940s style!

Most importantly, this project has resulted in the creation of a unique oral history archive, which is a priceless learning resource for local people and researchers worldwide.

We are grateful to National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Lottery Players, Oral History Research & Training Consultancy, and Communities Past & Futures Society, for their generous support, and, in particular, we extend our deep gratitude to everyone who participated in this hugely successful project.

Iris Larkins
Lost Strathclyde Heritage Group

December 2019



Introduction

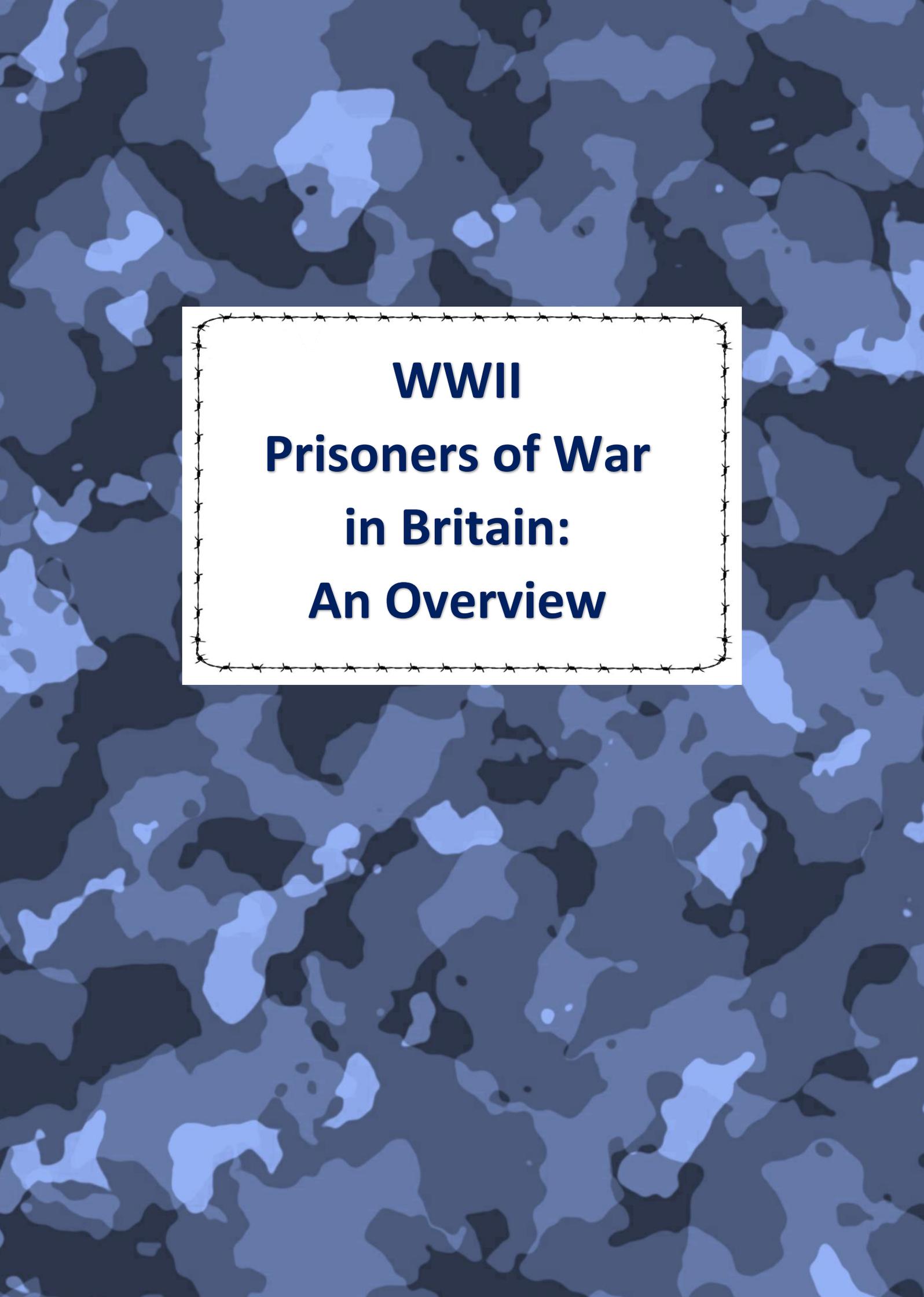
Patterton Camp, located between Newton Mearns and Thornliebank, in an area known locally as the 'Jenny Lind' and straddling Deaconsbank, was a prisoner of war camp during WWII. It was sited to the west of Stewarton Road, Glasgow G46, just a quarter of a mile from Patterton Station. The area is now overbuilt with housing.

The site was close to two rifle ranges, Patterton Range and Darnley Range, which had been established in the late 19th century. The fields where the camp was later built may have been used as a tented camp intermittently until a more permanent camp was erected during the early stages of WWII. First a military base and supply depot, Patterton became a POW Camp when Italians were moved there; it then became Working Camp 660 at the end of the war. This working camp housed German prisoners being rehabilitated before being repatriated back to their homeland. A Polish Repatriation Corps unit was set up in the camp after the Germans left in 1947. At that time, part of the camp was also occupied by homeless families, some of whom may have moved into an outlying section of the camp soon after the Germans moved into the secured sections. Patterton Camp was gradually demolished, with little left of it by 1960.

Funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by Oral History Research & Training Consultancy and Communities Past & Futures Society, 'Patterton WWII: A POW Camp and its Neighbours' is an oral history project exploring the different phases of the camp through the memories and stories of its inhabitants and neighbours.

Volunteers and staff received professional oral history training and set about identifying, contacting and recording the memories of twenty-five people with connections to the camp. The resulting oral testimonies have shone a light onto an area of the past which was in danger of being lost to time. They tell of interactions and relationships between prisoners and local families, of food being passed through the fence or traded for wooden toys made by the POWs, of ogling girls, handsome Italians, and of staying in touch after war's end.

We are indebted to our funders and national lottery players, and to project organisers, volunteers and respondents, for coordinating the project's many activities, recording testimonies, and sharing personal stories and memories. These testimonies have been, and will continue to be, shared and promoted through a range of events and activities, and on a unique bespoke website. We are also grateful to the artists, photographers and curators who gave us permission to their images in this publication.



**WWII
Prisoners of War
in Britain:
An Overview**

WWII POW Camps in Britain: An Overview

A prisoner of war camp, often referred to as a 'POW' camp, is defined as a 'site of containment of enemy combatants by a belligerent power in time of war.' The world's first purpose-built prisoner of war camps were built in Britain in 1797, during the Napoleonic wars. There were a number of such camps in Scotland, including at Penicuik. Prisoner of war camps have been built and created from requisitioned sites and buildings in Britain during every conflict since that time, up to and including WWII, when they were built across the whole of the United Kingdom.

The 1929 Geneva Convention underpinned the ideal scenario for the provision and the running of such camps during WWII. Officially entitled 'Convention Relating to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (1929)', the document was created as a response to warfare protocol failings during WWI that had been set out in the Hague Regulations of 1899 and 1907 by what are now named the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

This third Geneva Convention required that belligerents treat prisoners of war humanely, furnish information about them, and permit official visits to prison camps by representatives of neutral states. It also set out a number of prisoners' rights to proper food, clothing and sanitation, to religious observance, and to intellectual and sporting stimulation within the camps. Also, it secured the right to have a commanding officer in charge of the camp, and to be without fear of reprisals when captured after an escape. POWs had the right to be put in camps with other prisoners of similar political views. It must be noted that the Convention was not a legal document but a moral code to be followed as captors chose.

It appears that WWII POW camps located in the UK, with some exceptions, did a comparatively good job of keeping to the Geneva Convention of 1929. However, there were outbreaks of medical epidemics in some camps that resulted in the deaths of POWs. There were also a few murders of prisoners by other prisoners, including the 'trial' and subsequent hanging carried out in Cultybraggan camp in Comrie in Scotland. This was one of the 'black' camps reserved for committed members of the Nazi Party. Inmates there killed a fellow prisoner who they regarded as not sharing their Nazi views. There were also debates as to whether using POWs as workers was morally correct. On the other hand, there are accounts of prisoners enjoying some of the camps so much they did not want to leave and, more generally, of them participating in activities within the camps and making improvements to camp life, which will be explored further on. The Red Cross also carried out inspections of the camps. The government emphasised strongly to inmates, guards and the local population, that they must not talk about the camps and many of them kept to this rule of

silence throughout their lives. This, and the fact that access to the few surviving official records of POW camps is difficult, few people actually know what happened in the camps and they and the inhabitants have largely been forgotten.

Initially, the British government had no desire to keep prisoners of war and, as a result, they were sent to the USA and Canada in the early part of the war. As the number of prisoners increased, beginning around 1942, they were brought to Britain; their first place of detainment being what is known as the 'London Cage'. They were then moved to tented camps and requisitioned buildings, and in later years to purpose built camps. Hostels were also used when prisoners started working on farms and in industry and building work. There were more than 400,000 POWs in Britain during WWII. They were mainly Italians and Germans but there were also some 8000 Ukrainian prisoners and a few people of other nationalities, including Czechs and Austrians who had been pressed into service by the Nazis. The Italians were the first to arrive, with many being replaced in the camps by Germans in 1943 when a great deal of the Italians became co-belligerents, and many returned home to Italy. German prisoners were sent to selected POW camps based on their classification as white, grey or black belligerents. This took account of the prisoners' political views, with black belligerents being considered the most dangerous.

The number and location of all the holding facilities and POW camps in the UK has not been fully established, partly due to many of them frequently being renumbered and reclassified throughout the war and to the general necessity for secrecy which surrounded their locations. Temporary and transit camps were not listed in official military records. An added complication to wartime research is that many of the POW camps were destroyed just after the war, with a few very notable exceptions, including Cultybraggan Camp in Perthshire, which is now a museum and a place of business, and the Eden Camp Museum in Malton, Yorkshire. Many people today will be living on or near the site of a former POW holding



facility or camp and have no idea what was going on there some 75 or more years ago. And without knowing, they may live near farm buildings formed from Nissan huts or Jane huts that originally came from a local POW camp. Recent research of military records has uncovered the names and locations of around 400 POW camps in the UK, including about 52 in Scotland.

The POW camps were usually built away from possible invasion sites, military headquarters and airfields for obvious security reasons. One German escapee did manage to make it to an airfield, where he planned to escape by flying out a plane; the trouble with his audacious plan was, that despite having worked in an airfield, he did not know how to fly a plane. Needless to say, he did not get very far. The POW camps were often located near areas of arable farming, which provided work for the majority of the prisoners; others worked in factories or the building industry. The camp locations were ultimately dependent on practicalities such as water, drainage, electricity and accessibility. The main type of construction was the Nissan hut (which can be seen at the aforementioned Cultybraggan camp), with lighter wooden constructions, which could be easily disassembled and relocated, being built after 1943. Huts could usually house up to 80 men. Heating came from wood burning stoves and prisoners were issued with blankets. In the 'black' camp at Watten, in Caithness, the number of blankets was increased from 2 to 3 due to harsh winter conditions in that area. Some of the buildings, such as latrines and ablution units, were often built from concrete blocks. There would also be hospital wings and kitchens, which were often manned by the prisoners.

The POW camps usually provided entertainment and education for the prisoners. There were often camp orchestras and theatre groups which frequently performed to fellow prisoners and to local public audiences. There also prisoner football teams, which would sometimes play against local teams outwith the camp, and allotment sites where the men could grow food to supplement their rations. The prisoners were often active in making these entertainments and pastimes a reality. In the camp at Watten, prisoners made requests for makeup and sheet music for theatre and musical productions. Prisoners often made their own entertainment by knitting or carving objects, which were sometimes sold or traded to the locals. Educational programmes were varied and often enthusiastically attended. Re-education programmes also existed for German prisoners who had grown up knowing nothing but the Nazi regime.

The large part of the Italians, as has been mentioned, went home after becoming co-belligerents in 1943, though some stayed in Britain. The reaction by the local population to them was coloured sometimes by notions (real or imagined) that they were leading local young ladies astray. There is at least one newspaper article to that effect. There were also fights between Italian and German soldiers and members of the local populations, on occasion. These would sometimes have been sparked by emotions running high during wartime. Equally, there are many stories of soldiers being taken into farmers' homes and of them befriending and sometimes (after fraternisation was legally allowed) marrying into the

local population. Some German soldiers kept in touch with the farming families and some even came back and worked again on those same farms after the war.

After WWII, many of the POW camps in the UK were used for the repatriation of Polish soldiers who wished to stay in the UK, or by 'squatters' responding to the severe post war housing crisis. It is thought that a substantial number of Scottish POW camps were used for these purposes.

Polish soldiers, who had often worked as guards in the camps, were sometimes also treated with suspicion (people sometimes felt that they were taking local jobs after the war), though there are many instances of Poles marrying local girls and settling well into their adopted communities. Likewise, a number of former prisoners decided to stay in Britain after the war, for a variety of reasons including marriage and unwillingness or difficulty returning to areas of Germany that were now under Soviet control. Repatriation of German soldiers was still being undertaken two or three years after the war had ended. Polish soldiers who had fought alongside the Allies and were stationed in the UK (at the height there were 75,000 Polish soldiers stationed in Scotland) were often very reluctant to return to a Poland under Soviet influence. Those who wished to stay joined the Polish Resettlement Corps (PRC) and were housed in POW camps to learn English and work skills and to try to secure work. After two years they were recognised as civilians.

Along with former military camps, POW camps were also used extensively after the war as temporary accommodation by people who were classified as squatters; they sometimes competed for accommodation with the Polish Resettlement Corps, which could lead to heated arguments.

On the 8th of May 1946, a cinema projectionist and his wife and four children moved into the officers' mess of a former anti-aircraft gun site near Scunthorpe; newsreels reported this and soon a people's movement of civil disobedience began. An overall feeling of the need for fairness and a lessening of deference in the UK population have also been cited as factors in the growth



of this movement. This was during the worst housing crisis that the country had ever seen - due to the unprecedented amount of wartime bombing and a severe decrease in the number of houses being built during the war. Prefabricated houses, built in response to the shortage by Clement Attlee's government, often took a long time to build, particularly in

areas that had suffered bomb damage. People without houses were often returning servicemen and their families. Attlee's government did not make moves to remove people from these former military and POW camp accommodations (possibly even seeing it as a welcome relief from some of the problem) and councils eventually intervened to check on sanitation and to charge rents. These temporary homes were used up until the late 1950s and gave a roof to around 450,000 people. Yet, few people know about this post-war housing movement, and those who talk about it are often met with disbelief when they say that they once lived in a former POW camp. Most WWII POW camps were finally demolished by the late 1950s.



Scottish Volunteers
Commemorative Coins





**Patterton:
The Military
Presence**

Patterton: The Military Presence



Darnley and Patterton Rifles Ranges (OS 1888-1913, National Library of Scotland) with inserted aerial image of Patterton Camp, 1946 (RCAHMS,106GScotUK140PartIII).

Prior to the outbreak of WWII, Patterton was a largely rural area near Thornliebank, Scotland; its few dwellings mainly facilitated farming, small-scale quarrying and transport activities. The area close to what later became Patterton Prisoner of War (POW) Camp housed two neighbouring rifle ranges. These were the Patterton Rifle Range and the Darnley Rifle Range, which were opened in the 1870s and the 1880s respectively. They first appear on the 1896-1899 ordinance survey (OS) map (second edition, first revision) and seem to have been most active on the OS map third edition (1914-1920), when army and territorial forces were preparing for WWI, the 'Irish question', and the following period of post-war industrial and social unrest. The rent books of the Nether Pollok Estate show that the rifle ranges were being rented by the Territorial Force from 1909 to 1922. There are no rent

entries for the ranges after that, which suggests, as aerial photographs indicate, that the ranges fell out of use for a time. The ranges look to have fallen out of or perhaps diminished in use by the OS map 4th edition (1934-1938). However, our respondent, James Rodger (c.90 years of age), thinks that they were being used in the late 1930s for rifle practice, at the time when Britain was again preparing for war:

“I think they came up fae the Cooglen, for tae practice on the rifle range at Patterton. As far as I can recollect, pre-war, in the thirties.”



Patterton & Darnley Rifle Ranges. Canmore SC01452127 - 1937

What we know for certain is that Britain's rifles ranges, such as those at Patterton and Darnley, were created to support the movement for volunteer soldiering, which resulted in the formation of the Volunteer Corps and the National Rifle Association in 1859. This all came about as a result of a few factors. Newspaper reporting of uprisings in India, in 1857 and 1858, revealed to middle class readers that women and children were not safe during some conflicts. There was also the, mostly unfounded, fear of French invasion after an assassination attempt on Napoleon III in 1858, which was carried out with the use of a bomb manufactured in Birmingham.

At that time, the British Army was mostly recruited from the ranks of the working- and upper classes and was frequently deployed abroad; in its absence, the middle classes began to feel

that there was an imperative on them to help protect British shores. All over the country, the middle classes joined volunteer corps and, in effect, became a citizen army of part-time rifle, artillery and engineer corps. In the main, they took their roles seriously and often held competitions at their home rifle ranges and some would also compete nationally.

The craze continued long after fears of invasion had abated. This was partly due to a romance growing up around the Volunteer Force, encouraged, no doubt, by Alfred Tennyson, who captured the spirit of the time by publishing his poem 'Riflemen Form' in *The Times* on 9 May 1859. It was also a good way to find a wife and to generally impress the ladies, with the caveat that they were, at the same time, often lampooned in the press. As a basis for the units, many communities had rifle clubs for the enjoyment of the sport of shooting, and a whole industry of accessories, including beard oils and guns, grew up around the movement, thereby making being a member of a volunteer corps a fashionable pursuit. Other appeals which sustained the movement were that men who joined the volunteer corps were permitted to carry guns and could spend periods of time camping at the rifle ranges, thus offering some escape from the strictures of middle-class life.

Although originally highly autonomous, the units of volunteers became increasingly integrated with the British Army after the Childers Reforms in 1881, which reorganised the infantry regiments of the British Army, before forming part of the Territorial Force in 1908. Indeed, most of the regiments of the Territorial Army Infantry, Artillery, Engineers and Signals units are directly descended from Volunteer Force units.

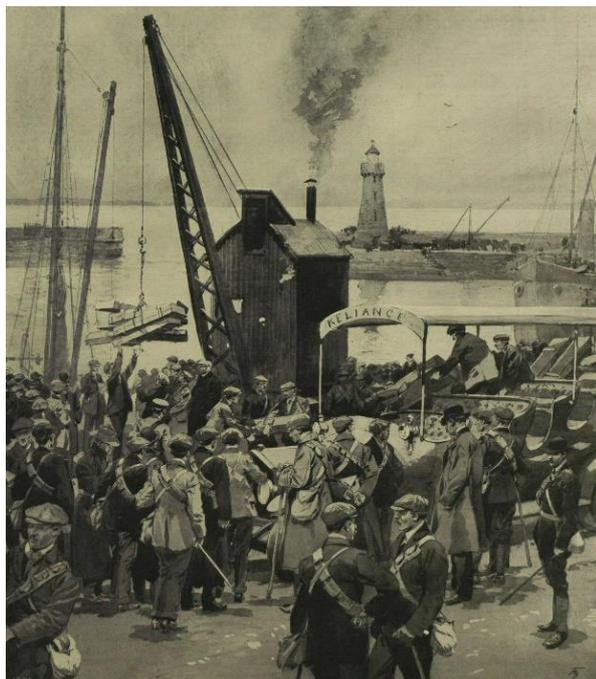
The Patterton and Darnley rifle ranges were home to three different volunteer corps. Without going into too much detail, Patterton was the rifle range and the battery for the 9th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, as it was known when it became part of the Territorial Force under the Haldane reforms of 1908. It had started life as the 105 Lanarkshire Volunteers, aka the Glasgow Highland Regiment, which was formed in 1868 by a group of Highland migrants as part of the volunteer corps. They went on to fight in World War 1

Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment)

The Glasgow Highlanders was a former infantry regiment of the British Army, part of the Territorial Force, later renamed the Territorial Army. The regiment eventually became a Volunteer Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment), which was formed in 1881. It drew its recruits mainly from Glasgow and the Scottish Lowlands. The unit took part in both the First and Second World Wars before joining with the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1959 to become The Royal Highland Fusiliers.



(1914-1918). They also fought in World War 1 (1939-1945) as part of the Territorial Army, which was formed in 1920.



A direct link between the Larne Gun Running incident in Ireland, which occurred on 24th to 25th of April 1914, and the Patterton magazine can be found in Hansard debates and newspaper articles of the time. The Larne Gun Running was an Ulster Volunteer Force operation, in response to moves towards Home Rule in Ireland, which saw in the region of, 25,000 guns and 3 million rounds of ammunition landed in Ireland, mainly at Larne in County Antrim. The arms had been purchased abroad but the movement had also been bringing arms in from Britain for a number of years preceding the incident. The timing of the debate seems to indicate that there may have been a link between what was debated and the events of around 10 days later. Below are the notes from the debate:

HANSARD

158: Mr F. Hall. (Dulwich) - asked by whose instructions a circular was recently issued to the officers and men of the Highland Light Infantry, asking for the names of those who would be willing to be enrolled as special constables to defend the battalion headquarters and Patterton Magazine; what were the circumstances that made this step necessary; and whether, having regard to the conditions of their service, it was open to those concerned to have refused this duty.

159: (the UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for WAR) Mr. Tennant – “The circular was issued by the officer commanding the 9th battalion Highland Light Infantry. This was done under a misapprehension and had no reference to any special circumstances. The answer to the last part of the question is in the affirmative.”

(Source: Highland Light Infantry (9th Battalion). HC Debs 15 April 1914 vol16)

Meanwhile, the Darnley rifle ranges were used by 1st Lanarkshire Volunteers and the 3rd Lanarkshire Volunteers. Formed in 1859, the 1st Lanarkshire Volunteers became part of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in 1881 under army reforms. This saw some of their number fight in the Boer War (1899-1902). The regiment fought in World War I, including at the Battle of The Somme. They became the 5th Battalion Cameronians (Rifle Brigade) in the new Territorial Force under the Haldane reforms of 1908. They then became part of the Territorial Army in 1920. The regiment absorbed the 8th Cameronians the following year. The 5th/8th Cameronians became part of the Royal Artillery Searchlight Division in 1938 and served in this capacity during World War 11, including as part of the defence for the West of Scotland.

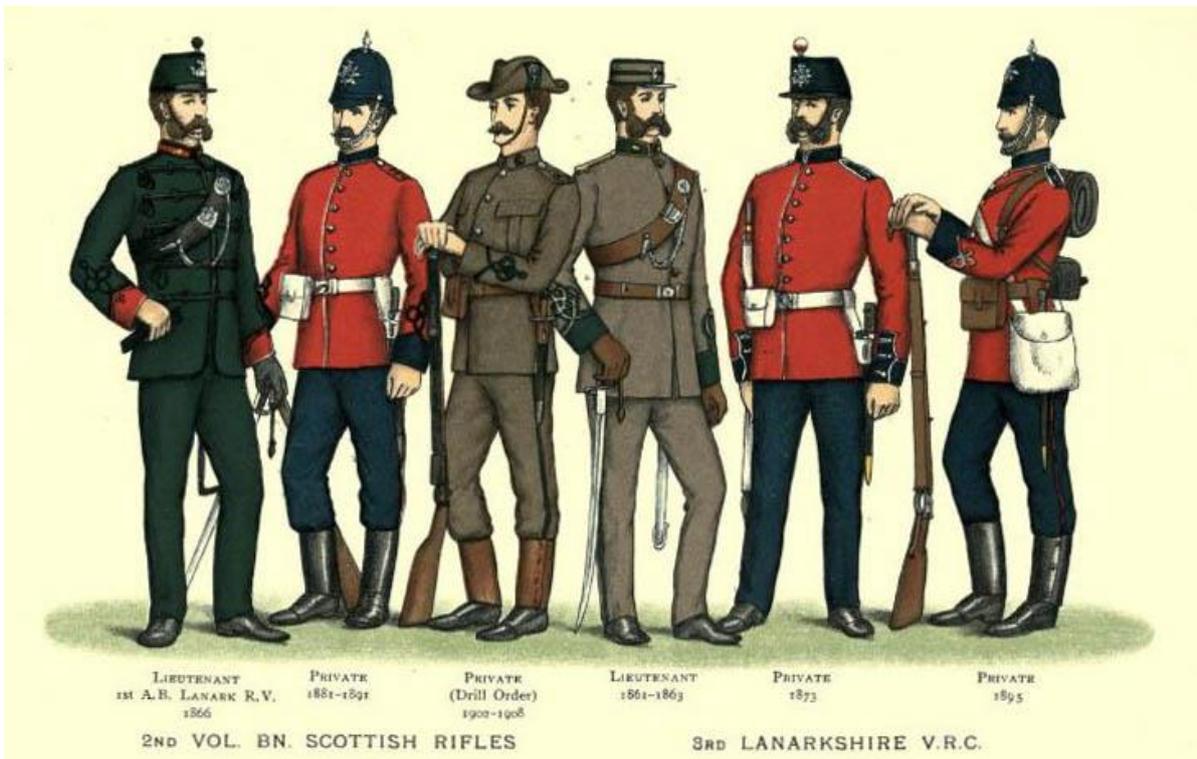
Third Lanarkshire Volunteer Rifle Corp



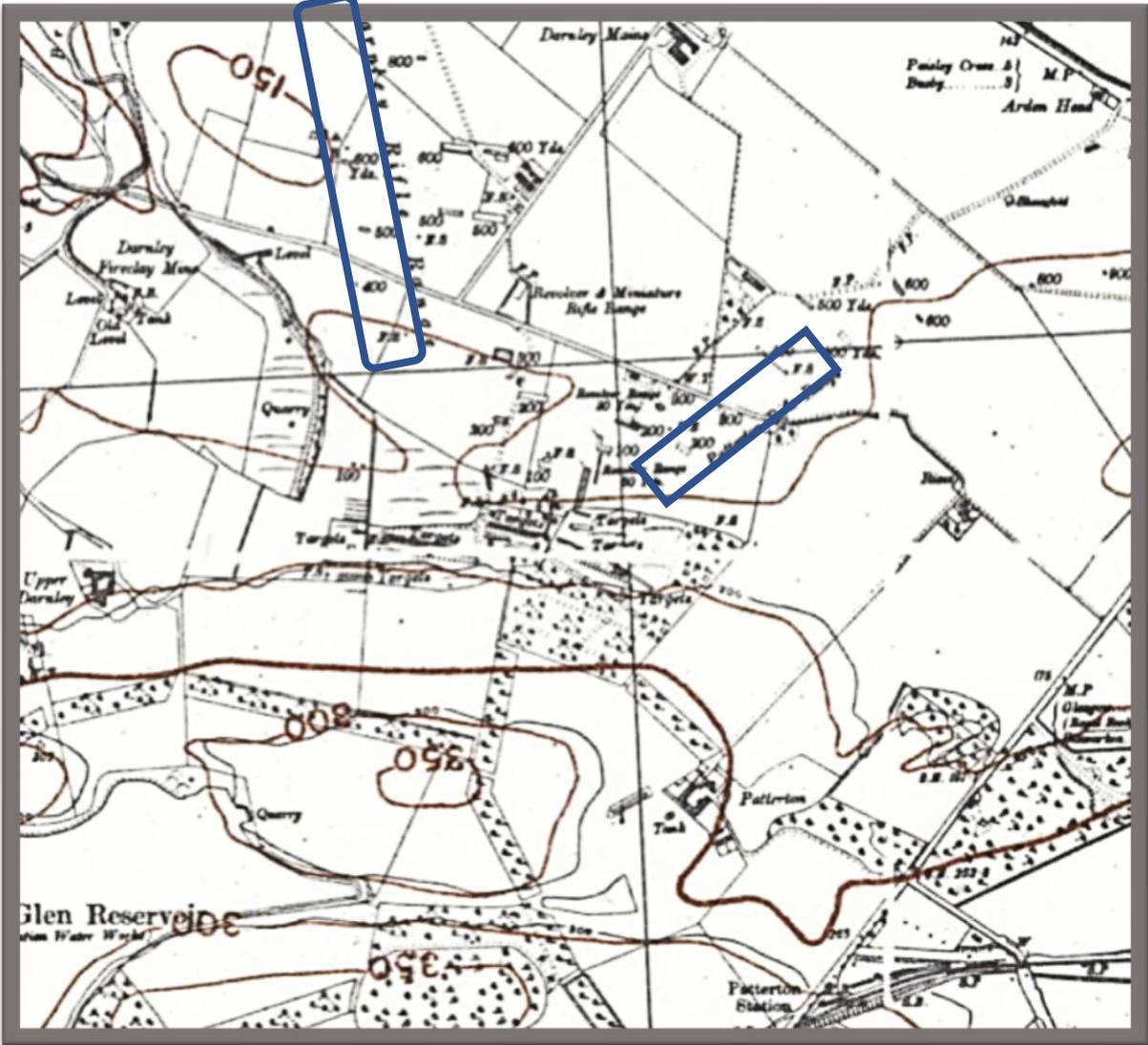
The 3rd Lanarkshire Volunteers were formed in 1859 as an amalgamation of the South Glasgow Corps. They created the famous Third Lanark Volunteer Football Club in 1872 which, amongst other achievements, went on to win the FA Cup in 1889 and 1905, and the football league in 1904. They were distinguished riflemen and two of the 3rds won the foremost prize in marksmanship, the Queen's Prize, in the 1890s. One of them would go on to win it again a few years later.

They became part of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in 1881 and went on to fight in the Boer War (and at Gallipoli in World War 1, where they suffered huge losses. Under the Haldane reforms of 1908 they became the 7th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), and like the 5th Battalion, they became part of the Territorial Army in 1920. During World War II they were deployed as part of the 156th Infantry Brigade to provide cover after the Normandy landings.

Pioneer Corp badge.



Source: tradeshouselibrary.com



Above: Patterton & Darnley Rifle Ranges, 1941



Left and upper right page:
Patterton and Darnley Rifle
Ranges,
now derelict.
(Source:urbanglasgow.co.uk)

Anecdotal evidence cited in the Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) Report, Deaconsbank Structure, Project 1772, suggests that both the Patterton and Darnley ranges were used by Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZACS) as a military base during WWI. The area was then expanded, as evidenced by the third edition of the 1914-1920 OS map. There is no trace of a military camp at that time. It has been speculated that this may be due to the fact it was not shown for military secrecy reasons. It has also been mooted that it may have been a tented camp. The fact that what had been the 3rd Lanarkshire Volunteers fought at Gallipoli perhaps adds weight to the theory that ANZAC troops were at the site during WWI.



The GUARD report states that the camp does not follow the standard form of The Ministry of Works design for prisoner of war camps. This suggests that there was a military camp in existence before it was used for POWs. Indeed, we have oral testimony that the camp was a military training camp at the beginning of WWII. James Rodger remembers British soldiers in a camp at Patterton in 1940 or 1941:

“It was the army, the British army. Yes, it was Nissan huts all the time. What they did for heating in the wintertime I couldnae tell you. I think they just hoped for the best. The only heating they had, ah think it was a stove. A kind of stove in the hut. That was all the heating they had. But I was only in the camp, where the soldiers lived, ah was only ever in once.”

“I don’t have any specific recollection what they were doing at the camp. I mind o’ them going out on route marches. What was the main street in Newton Mearns? I can mind on them going out on a 15, either a 15 or a 16-mile route march. And there all marching. They were split into so many on each side o’ the road. Single file. And they walked doon the main street. And ah can...the Sergeant in charge “Give us a tune Jack.” I can min’ his words yet. An, there were one o’ the soldiers had, a, a piano accordion. He slung his rifle ontae his shooder and then he got on to the accordion, and he struck up. Now it might no’ mean anything, but he struck up Mairi’s Wedding. And I can mind it yet...it put a spring in these soldiers’ step. When he struck up with Mairi’s wedding. Ah can min’ o’ that yet. Ah do kno’. They come doon. what is noo, the [M]77. The old [A]77, they come doon it and they came in at the Cross and then went doon the main street. Ah think they were going doon the camp. Because that’s where they were headin’. They were headin’ tae Patterton camp.”

James also remembers when a couple of the soldiers worked on his family's farm, Netherplace, during the harvest:

“Ma memory's no good enough to name what regiment o' the army it actually was. But ah can min' o' the two soldiers coming up here [Netherplace farm] to help wi' the harvest. That be what? 1940, about '40 or '41. It'd be 1941. At that time, it was a horse and carts. A' the harvest was brought in wi' horse and carts. And according ti the war time regulations, we couldnae bring in the harvest and stack them in roon about the yard, as we did pre-war and post-war. They'd to be spread oot in case o' fire. In case o' bombin' and fire. And they were a' just stacked in the field at that time. And we had a wagon. A horse drawn wagon. And it had sides, ah would say two feet high. And, eh, the framework. The bolts stuck up about two inches. An inch and a half above the frame for more or less tae haul the sheafs when they were built. And he, one o' the soldiers, jumped oot o' this and caught his troosers. And ripped his army troosers fae there tae here. Right doon ti the waist. We tied 'em up wi' a bit o' string. And he worked away like that a' day (laughs) . That's about as much as I can min' o' the actual harvest. But as I say, ma mother brought the two soldiers in and gave them their dinner. And if we happened to be working late, she brought them in to the hoose and they got their tea. They got their tea alang wi' the rest o' us. Doorsteps...oh my god. I can mine on...they were about that thickness. And I cannae...I havenae just mind whether they hid ony margarine on them or no. But ah can min' the bread was about that thick and the bully beef wasnae much thinner [laughs]. I can always mind o' that. But, and that's what ma mother said, “Och, you cannae work on that.” And that's when she brought them in for their dinner. They got their dinner alang wi' the rest o' us. And if we were working late, they got their tea tae.”

James Rodger's testimony provides strong evidence that there was British Army servicemen staying in the Nissan hutted Patterton Camp by 1941. He also states that, by his recollection, they stayed until 1944:

“Oh, during the war. They were there tae '43, '44. Till the end o' the war. The war ended in '45. Eh, they were there. The army was there then. No sorry, the army wasnae there tae 45. They were only there tae '44. It was then the POWs came in.”

Documentary evidence confirms that 120 Coy, Pioneer Corps were based at Patterton in the summer of 1941. The Pioneer Corps regiment magazine of October 2012 contains an article called 'What Saved Britain', which quotes from Sgt. Murphy MP, 120 Coy, Patterton Camp, Thornliebank based there on the 17th of June 1941. He was being interviewed about an incident which happened elsewhere the year before. There is also an entry on the RootsChat.com website referring to a Pte. Cyril Vincent attached to 120 Coy at Patterton on the 25th of June 1941.

Our respondent Susan McLelland (born 1929) used to go into the camp when Italian POWs were there; she visited the camp regularly with her father when he was home on leave from

the Pioneer Corps. Major William Michael Spreckley, the Patterson Camp Commandant during much of the stay of German Working Company 660, served with the Pioneer Corp, which might suggest that the Pioneer Corp were there throughout the time that POWs were at the camp. This is perhaps the reason that Susan's father visited there:

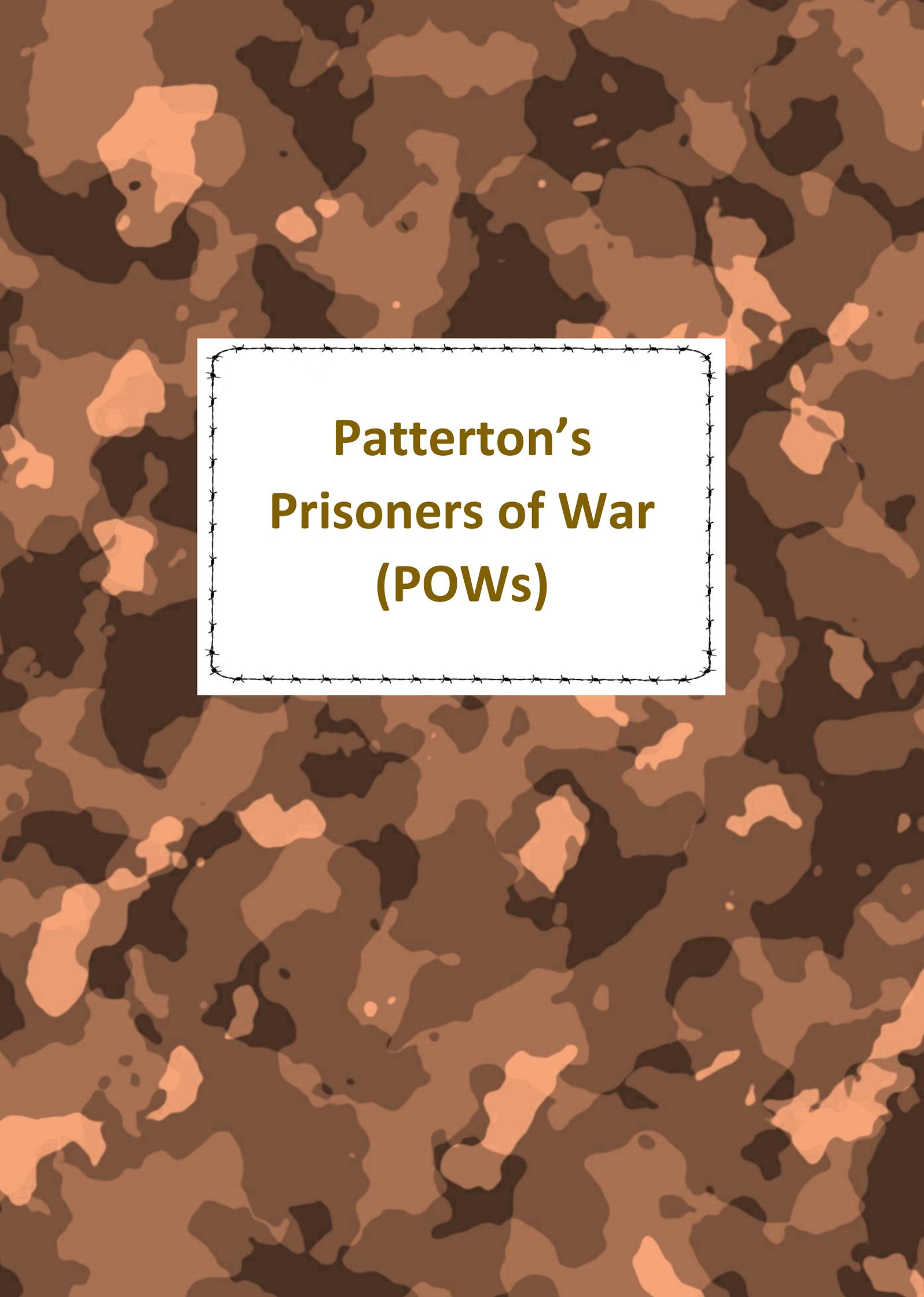
“My Dad was in the army. He was a sergeant in the Pioneer Corps. He was in the First World War as well. He was based at St Albans in England, and he used to come up fae St Albans and go up to Patterson for a walk.”

The Pioneer Corps were formed in November 1940. They were a combatant and light engineering regiment. Amongst other services they took part in beach assaults in France and Italy and they built anti-aircraft sites in Britain. There may be a connection between their building of anti-aircraft sites and a footnote in the book, called *Sparrow: A Chronicle of Defiance* by Grant McLachlan, which refers to POWs from Patterson working at an anti-aircraft site in 1942:

‘The Patterson Prisoner of War Camp was established in Thornliebank in 1941. Detached work parties of prisoners were used in Clarkston in September 1942 to clear ground next to the anti-aircraft battery.’

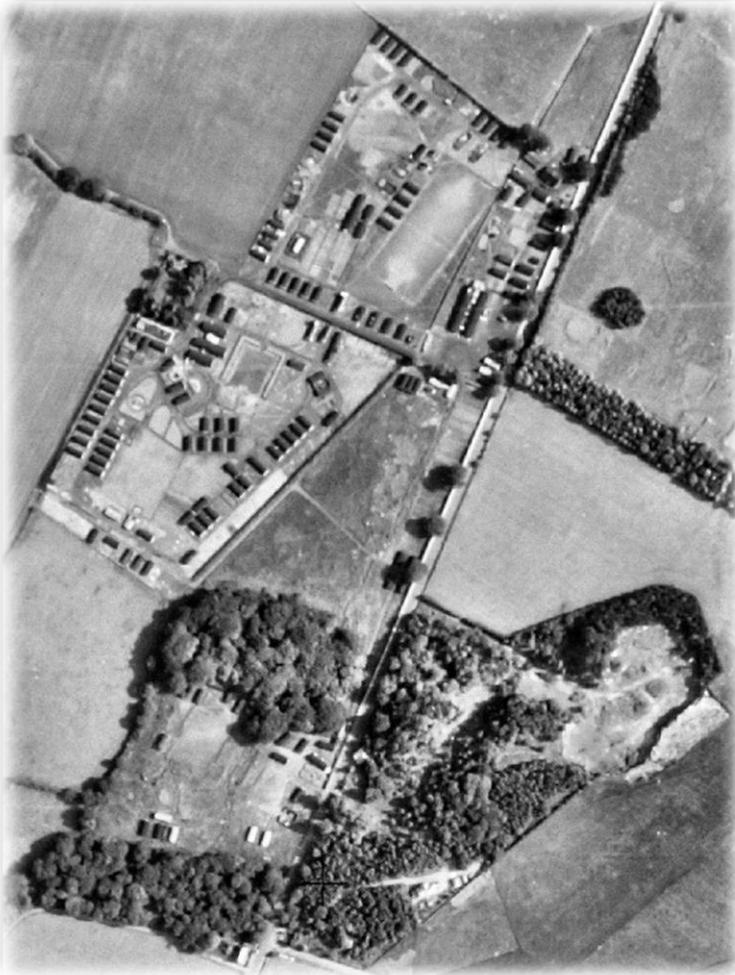
Pioneer Corps





**Patterton's
Prisoners of War
(POWs)**

Patterton's Prisoners of War (POWs)



How would it have felt to be a prisoner of war at Patterton POW Camp during World War II and its immediate aftermath? Obviously, in some ways it would have been different for every individual there. However, by examining the documentary and photographic evidence along with new oral and written testimony generated through the 'Patterton WWII: A POW Camp and its Neighbours' project, we can locate the history within the wider context and we begin to glean some insight into the lives of the men who spent some of their days there.

The Italians

The documentary evidence currently available points to the first POWs arriving at Patterton Camp in May 1944 and leaving in May 1945.

This comes in the form of the war diaries of the Italian working companies 556 (formerly 602) and 625. We also know from documentary evidence, found in an International Committee of the Red Cross report of November 1947 and four post-war surveys of the education programme undertaken by the Germans, that German working company 660 arrived in the camp in 1945, after the departure of the Italian working companies. It is documented that they were there until at least June 1947. There is anecdotal evidence that hints that there may have been both German and/or Italians POWs in the camp before the dates given in the aforementioned official documents. Indeed, we also have documentary evidence of one German-speaking civilian at the camp and testimony that Italian internees were in the camp as early as 1943.

As already stated, Italian working companies arrived at the camp in May 1944 and stayed for a year. The documentary evidence that is available for the stay of Italian POWs is in the

form of the war diaries of Italian working companies. There is no note of their numbers in the war diaries. We do know that they would have been allowed a certain amount of freedom as Italy had capitulated by this point, so conditions both in and outside the camp would have affected them.

An educational survey from August 1945 states that conditions were 'dreadful' when the Germans arrived a year later. By 'dreadful' they meant that the camp, which was built on clay soil, was extremely boggy and wet. Photographic evidence that shows that the Italian POWs at Patterton were equipped with boots, though the quality of the boots is unclear. The Italians, it must be remembered, had been through war and many would have come from rural areas. Whilst they may have found the soggy underfoot conditions unpleasant, most of them would probably have been quite resilient to these circumstances. At the same time, some of them would have been experiencing homesickness and trauma. Our respondent James Rodger (aged approximately 90) was inside the camp in around 1941, when he says the British Army were there, and he reports seeing Nissan Huts with wood burning stoves in them for heating. We can reasonably assume that the stoves were still there in 1944, as the Red Cross report on the Germans from 17th November 1945 asserts that there were stoves. These would have provided a little comfort, at least.

There are no Red Cross reports available for the time that the Italians stayed at the camp and the war diaries do not refer to health conditions, so it is uncertain whether these wet conditions caused any health issues. It is probable that none of them died whilst at the camp as a result of these wet conditions, as the war diaries for both Italian working companies



only record the deaths of one soldier, and that was as a result of a road accident near the camp. Another two Italians were killed in an accident involving a boiler explosion at a

workplace in Kilmarnock, along with a local caretaker named as Frank Boyd. A potential suicide is also mentioned but is not clear whether or not this actually happened.

These deaths would obviously have had an impact on the morale of the POWs at the camp, some of whom may have been friends with the men who died. Unfortunately, they would have been familiar with death, living, as they did, in a time of war and the often-unsafe workplaces, which were commonplace at the time. Equally, it is unlikely that this made their grief or disquiet at these events any less acute.

The camp had two Italian doctors who arrived at different times, which would mean that the POWs would have had access, at least some of the time, to doctors with whom they could converse reasonably well and this would, most likely, have been beneficial to their health care.

The war diaries show us that three permanently sick Italian POWs were transferred to Ascot Camp in Berkshire. This may have been because it was a winter quartering camp and therefore presumably more comfortable, or it may have had better medical facilities than those available at Patterton. The Red



Our respondent, Jim Boyd's,
late mother
Jean Watson Boyd
(Born 1921)

Cross report of 17th November 1945 on Germany Working Company 660 at Patterton Camp refers to an infirmary composed of three wooden huts. It states that this was still under construction at this point and that it was not winter ready. It is unclear which of the other facilities, that existed during the Germans stay, would have been available to the Italians. However, as Patterton was a military training camp before and probably during the POW phase, it is possible that the Italians had some access to existing facilities created for the British soldiers.

Our respondent Alan Flower (born 1939) ended up inside the camp, when he was a small boy, and thinks he saw the inside of the infirmary. He thinks he may be the only person ever to have broken into a POW camp:

The Daily Record
Friday 29th December 1944

Triple Tragedy in Kilmarnock Scaldings in Boiler House

An accident which resulted in the loss of three lives occurred in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock, yesterday afternoon. Mr Frank Boyd, Green Street, Kilmarnock, caretaker of the hall and two Italian soldiers were engaged in their duties at the boiler-house when there was a rush of steam. All three were badly scalded.

Mr Boyd and one of the soldiers were found to be dead on arrival at the Infirmary. The other soldiers died two hours later.

Mr Boyd would have been 50 years of age to-day. He had been Town Officer and Keeper of the Corporation halls since November 1933.

“This is a story that I’ve told over the years. I was out with my eldest brother on this so-called bogey [similar to a go-cart], which consisted of a tricycle with a plank at the back. And we pushed this up to the top of the Patterton hill near Hutchesons, which is, or was rather, a confectioner, and newsagents. And at that location there was a sentry box and a guard watching everything that was going on. And my brother and I set off down the hill being pushed, initially, by the guard. And, as we went down, we careered off the road, hit the fence and the back plank flipped up and I was thrown right over into the camp. Now, I can’t remember how high this fence was. But I always remember that the actual camp itself...it wasn’t what you’d call high security. Anyway, I landed in the camp. Then I was approached by, I think they were Italians, who had been pottering about in the [camp] garden. And they took me down to the medical centre where I was patched up, because I had various cuts and bruises. And then they gave me chocolate. And then they took me down to the guard house, which was at the bottom end of the camp. And my brother picked me up at that point, and we headed home.”

This testimony shows that there were at least rudimentary medical facilities at the camp during the Italians’ stay. Alan also mentions that there was a garden in the camp and the war diaries contain an entry about the garden, which notes that the company garden was judged and received third prize. It is unclear what the competition was, but it shows that the men took pride in their garden. Gardening would no doubt have been therapeutic for the prisoners as well as providing them with exercise and fresh produce, which would have helped to keep them healthy.

Patterton Memories

“[My mum] said, I presume it was Italian prisoners, they would cut up their army blankets, sew them and be waving them, wanting you to buy them. I presume it would be the barter system. Maybe it was for money so that they could buy things in the little shop. I’m not sure. But they would wave the slippers, hoping people, whoever, would buy them off them.

Remember when the war started, Britain got nervous of any foreign nationals living here. And I’m thinking that’s why they were prisoners. Not because they’d done anything wrong. Just because they were living in Britain. Just by talking to different neighbours and they just said they were warned. Their parents warned them to keep well away....I don’t get that. Did they think the prisoners were going to attack them? Because they were under guard when they walked down the road. It’s not like somebody was going to jump out and...with a weapon. So, the children on the whole just kept well away.

[Mum] made a comment. She asked if the prisoners, the Italian prisoners, would be allowed out to come and paper her house. Because they were renting a farmhouse at Crosslees Farm, Rouken Glen. And she asked if they would be allowed out to come and paper. This was when they were being marched down to the print works at Spiersbridge.”

Norma Wilson

Another respondent, Matthew McKinnon (born 1938), walked past the camp as a child and remembers his parents talking to the Italians through the fence. He had an impression that they were reasonably content given their circumstances:

“I didn’t ever see any hostility to the prisoners by people walking by, or anything. So...from the attitude of the prisoners that came to wire, they seemed as contented as prisoners could be. You know, they could laugh and smile and joke and so on...So, I guess that would be in the summertime. They had a kind of area where they could play games and football and stuff.”

James Rodger also stated that the Italian prisoners got a good reception in the local area and several respondents have backed this up. There would have been those local people that, perhaps understandably, had issues with the Italian prisoners due to the wartime situation and their close proximity to local females. This was the case nationwide and we have hints of this in some of our oral testimony.

We also have testimony that local girls and women would also visit the prisoners and that some of the girls had crushes on the prisoners. Although illegal at the time, it is clear from the testimony that fraternising, as it was known, sometimes happened. Testimony from James Rodger shows that some of the Italian prisoners dated and may even have married local girls. He tells us that some of the women from nearby Thornliebank, who worked at the Netherplace Dye Works in Newton Mearns, possibly later married Italians from the camp.

Patterton Memories

“The kitchen in my great uncle’s small holding in the Mearns was supposedly put in by a German POW. The Smiths lived at No.4 Pilmuir Holdings on Malletsheugh Road. The house and land aren’t in the family anymore and the original house has been demolished and replaced. The story that I heard was a German POW worked there and did odd jobs (my great grandfather was a market gardener and there were greenhouses around the place then). The POW did work on the house and installed the kitchen that was still there until a renovation in 1998.”

David Smith

“[Italian prisoners] used to wear brown uniforms with large yellow patch on the back, and on a Sunday the POWs marched to the Avon cinema, pictures, in Thornliebank.”

John MacDonald

“My mother spoke of the POW’s marching through the village of Thornliebank on a Sunday. I didn’t realise they were going to the Avon picture house. Amazing!”

Joan Livingston

“My Uncle Richard was there [Patterton POW Camp]! Now a modern suburb of Glasgow still called Patterton, though my mother and aunts would visit him through the wire taking food, etc. Eventually he was shipped off to Canada for the duration.”

Ronald Pierotti

However, some locals were wary of the Italians being around their daughters and we have at least two accounts of this. Susan McClelland (born 1929) remembers one local girl, who was older than her, climbing out of her window to meet the Italians. Susan's mother used to chase them away when they dared to look at Susan's older, quite attractive, sister:

"[They were] very lonely I felt. They would come, walk the streets. They would go to the picture hall as well. And we would sit next to them in the pictures. And they would walk the streets. And I'd an older sister and my mother used to get quite annoyed when they would stand and look, maybe at my sister in the garden. And she used to come out and shout "Away about your business" (laughs). Poor souls. But they were just...they walked in twos. Always in twos. Quite sad as well. But they were no bother. No bother...."

We have recorded other fascinating insights into Patterton Camp. For example, we have heard from Sandro Sarti and others that local Italian women took food to the camp, though we do not know if this consisted of traditional Italian favourites as the necessary ingredients would have been difficult to source. Scots also visited the prisoners, and at least one local man, a serving soldier in the Pioneer Corps and the father of our respondent Susan McClelland, would go into the camp with sweets and juice. It is possible that he had been based at the camp at some point.

Sandro Sarti remembers stories about Patterton POW Camp:

"What I know about Patterton Camp was, my mother, Luigina, she was a Fazzi, that was her maiden name. What she told me...and the conversation with my mother used to crop up...I used to remember seeing the foundations of huts there. And I believe there are still one or two left. And in the conversation with my mother saying that, of course, she used to go and bring the prisoners, the Italian prisoners there, little gifts of food or shaving stuff. And a lot of the girls, her friends, would also go up to the Patterton camp with little gifts. I think because they fancied the soldiers that were there.

I suppose she did feel sorry for the prisoners. Although, I suppose, in a way, she used to say they were some of the lucky ones who weren't involved in the war. They weren't badly treated. Some of the older girls, my mother was quite young at that time, yeah, some of the girls fancied some of the guys in the camp. And, I had heard, that at the end of the war, some of them went, the majority, I think, went back to Italy."

Matthew McKinnon was a small boy at the time but remembers this:

"We would take the bus to the Newton Mearns bus depot, which is where the Asda supermarket is now. Then we would walk down the hill where there was a field and a farm and a river. Paddle in the river, have a picnic... and then we would walk down

the Stewarton Road and past the camp. So, we did that on numerous occasions. And, the prisoners would come to the wire as we came down and we would always stop and chat with them. They were always attracted by the large number of young people. Because they thought my father and mother had all these children. They did have six (laughs), but there was probably at least a dozen of us there...on occasions, my father would have to bring the six of us together and say, "This is my six, and these are friends", sort of thing. Yeah, so that was really our connection with the camp.

There were countless numbers of times that we walked down the road and interacted with the campers. It was my father and mother who were conducting the conversations with the Italians and so on...and we were just children laughing and playing around. So, I don't really have any personal conversation I can tell you about with Italian prisoners of war. But they were always friendly and happy encounters. There was always a nice atmosphere. People were laughing and joking and waving their arms around and so on...I was never in the camp. We saw all the Nissan huts where the prisoners stayed.

I didn't ever see any hostility to the prisoners by people walking by, or anything...from the attitude of the prisoners that came to wire, they seemed as contented as prisoners could be. You know, they would laugh and smile and joke, and so on...So, I guess that would be in the summertime. They had a kind of area where they could play games and football and stuff."

Interestingly, there is also anecdotal evidence that there were possibly civilian internees in the camp at the same time as the POWs. These may have been belligerents who lived in the UK at the outbreak of war and were considered a security risk; perhaps they were conscientious objectors; they may even have been Scottish prisoners that could not be housed in British jails at that time.

From August 1944, the Italian prisoners were allowed out to go to the cinema; outings are recorded in the war diaries and in oral testimonies. This activity would have given them distraction and entertainment as well giving them the opportunity to chart the progress of the war through newsreels. Two of our respondents remember seeing the Italian prisoners of war at the Avion cinema and at a local café, Leo's in nearby Thornliebank. We also have anecdotal evidence of them visiting a local chip shop at the corner of Main Street and Barrhead Road in Newton Mearns. Anna Webster (born 1929) remembers feeling a little bit of resentment towards them but does not remember hearing it from anyone else in her circle:

"Well, you were young. You know, you didnae really...I don't know what I really thought. I wouldnae o' spoke to them or anything, you know... I mean seeing them in the picture halls, I didnae think that was fair. That they'd actually started it [the war] and you know, and they were enjoying themselves in the picture halls...and other

soldiers, British soldiers, were still overseas fighting and getting killed, you know. You think o' that. But then you're young."

Matthew McKinnon points to another of the ways in which the Italian prisoners would have found a distraction from thoughts of home and of death and conflict. There was a football pitch in the camp. The war diaries show that the Italians played football during their stay against local team Nitshill Victoria. This activity would have provided them with fun and exercise and with a forum for interaction with the local community.

Don Campbell recalls that the Italian prisoners had other forms of amusement:

"I was born and brought up in Carnwadric... I guess I did not understand what the 'Tallies camp', was all about. It was near the station and we would walk or cycle up there, hide in the trees on the opposite side of the road and throw stones at the Nissan huts in the camp. I do not know if the POWs complained to the sentries but eventually, they chased us away. POWs must have been allowed into Thornliebank since I can remember the guys with the patches on their back. My other connection was of a 'sexual' memory. I was in the Cubs who met in Thornliebank CoS at Speirsbridge. My 'Akela' [leader of the group] was a cracking blond who led us up the Patterton Road to study the countryside around the camp, where Ms Macauslin was treated to Italian wolf whistles. I do not remember what we cubs thought about this, but we did suspect that this may have been the motive for the walk."

We have testimony from respondent Paul Gillies, talking on behalf of his aunt who is in her 90s, that the Italians visited the centre of Newton Mearns and that Saint Cadoc's Catholic church was often a social hub. The altar in the chapel was screened off and the Italians would sing along to the piano-playing of the priest or Monseigneur, named Brendan Murphy. Our respondent thinks that there may have been dancing going on, too, as his then teenage aunt was scolded by her father for attending. No doubt the Italians would have also attended chapel there, which would have provided them with some comfort as many of them would have been religious. We also have anecdotal evidence that they attended St Vincent's RC chapel in Thornliebank.

The Italians worked in a variety of places both close to the camp and further afield during their year at Patterton, including at the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Engineer Stores depots in and around Glasgow, and at the RASC depot in Kilmarnock. They also worked at Shawfield in Glasgow, at Belleisle Camp in Ayr, and at Dechmont Rifle Ranges near Cambuslang. We have additional testimony that they worked on local farms in and around Patterton. Indeed, it seems that Patterton's Italian POWs were often in demand during this period, when many British males were enlisted in the forces or occupied with industrial war-work. We cannot be sure how the work that they did would have affected their state of mind. The fact that they were often working in places that were linked to the Allied war effort may have made them feel trusted as co-operators. This would no doubt be good for their morale. Like any work situation there no doubt would have been difficulties, but the

work would have provided them with some spending money for when they were out and about in the local area. What is clear is that they would have spent most of their time during their stay working.

Alistair Mutrie (born 1943) remembers hearing about them being marched to the Royal Army Services depot in Thornliebank, where his father worked. He stated that the prisoners used to hand out toys to children along the way. He said that this seemed to have endeared them to those he spoke with and that he never heard anything bad said about the prisoners by these people. Perhaps the fact that they were now working towards the allied war effort would have endeared them to some members of the local population. The Italian Working Company 556 (formerly 602) and Italian Working Company 625 left the camp on the 23rd of May 1945.

Daniele Salvatore gave the following information:

“I was born in Filignano on 1943; when the fightings around Montecasino started I was about 6 months old; together with my mother and my grandparents we were there, and we survived. Both my grandparents, father side, are buried in Glasgow cemeteries; I visited Glasgow the first time in 1952 and I have been there many other times. I enclose two photos of Italian POWs at Patterton with the names I know (always from left):



Camillo Rossi
(1913-2008)
1st

Camillo
Cocozza
(1913-1995)
2nd

Altieri
Verrecchia
(1920-1947)
4th



Camillo Cocozza
(1913–1995)
Top row: 3rd

Altieri Verrecchia
(1920–1947)
Bottom row: 1st

Camillo Rossi
(1913–2008)
Bottom row: 2nd

(Photographs
courtesy of Daniele
Salvatore)

One of our respondents remembers the Italians leaving the camp:

“Finally, when the Italian phase of the camp was winding up, there was a convoy of trucks passing through the village. My gang was out there to witness this. One of the trucks stopped and one of the POWs gave me a shell, without the warhead, of course. He said something to me showing that he recognized us, and this was a leaving gift. There was some discussion, with a school of thought suggesting they wanted to blow us up to pay us back for the stones! My mother would not let it in the house and when my dad came in, an old soldier, he ruled it was safe.”

Don Campbell

However, not all the Italians left, or perhaps they later returned. Whatever the sequence of events, local people remember that Italians certainly worked in the area until the 1950s and before moving on, perhaps to other parts of Scotland. John Manson remembers former Italian POWs working on farm long after the end of the war:

“There was still, as I say, some of the Italians, a couple of the Italians, worked in the farms. I can’t remember the family. It’s up where I said. If you imagine the dams being on left hand side, on the hill, there was this other farm.”



The German Presence

German Working Company 660 replaced the Italians at the camp some short time later. The Red Cross stated that 500 of the 535 prisoners had been transferred from Hanover Park Camp, Abergavenny, and all but one had been prisoners since D-Day in June 1944. There was one civilian in the camp.

In August 1945, Mr James Grant carried out a survey on the progress of the post-war re-education programme being carried out at Patterton Camp. Realising that there might well be security problems when German POWs were eventually released, the Foreign Office introduced the re-education programme just after VE day; its aim was the de-Nazification of German speaking prisoners of war.

Grant's subsequent report of Patterton Camp mentions that the Germans were already draining and terracing the site in their spare time. This meant that they would not have had to contend for long with the soggy clay ground that the Italians found when they arrived at Patterton camp. This report also mentions that although they had little to entertain them at the camp, when compared to other camps in which they had been based, they would prefer to stay at Patterton Camp providing that the commandant was still there. The commandant, Major Spreckley, was noted to have a great practical knowledge of the re-education

programme and to be able to speak some German. Born in Nottingham, Major William Michael Spreckley served with 16th Battalion Sherwood Foresters in WWI. By WWII, he was considered to be a professional, well-organised and capable officer who was well thought of by his men and, it appears, also by the German prisoners under his care. The report suggests prisoners were, in general, well-motivated and content at the camp during this period. It must be remembered that, like the Italians, many would have been traumatised by war and homesick for their own communities. Many of them would have been worried about their families living in what was now the Russian Zone of Germany. They also would not have had the freedom to wander around as the Italians had during their stay.

A slightly later International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) report, written by Frederique Bieri following an inspection on 17th November 1945, provides us with a window into the facilities available to the German prisoners. Bieri was touring Scotland's camps and was well thought of by staff and prisoners alike. Two days before his visit to Patterton, Bieri had surveyed the much larger Pennylands Camp in East Ayrshire (read more about Pennylands at: <http://cumnockhistorygroup.org/ww2-pennylands-about.html>). There were 59 huts at Patterton at this stage and their various uses may shed some light on the well-being of the prisoners at the time. There was a well-stocked canteen and provisions stores. A good supply of food would have been vital to the health of the men and, under the terms of the Geneva Convention, they had to be treated well. There was a well-stocked infirmary comprised of three wooden huts, which was being made winter ready. A couple of Germans were ill at the time the report was written, one with Influenza and one with heart trouble. The health and nutrition of the prisoners was said to be generally good by the German doctor at the camp, although he thought this might be difficult to maintain given the onset of winter weather. As with the earlier Italian prisoners, access to a doctor who could speak their native language would have been an advantage to the prisoners. There was also a British dentist. There were no serious cases of disease or contagion at that time. The huts had heating and electricity and the prisoners were all issued with a sleeping bag and a blanket. There were good showers and latrines. Prisoners were all issued with large coats as some of their uniforms were in poor condition. The prisoners were authorised to go for walks, and this would have been good for both their physical and their mental health, albeit that these walks would have been supervised.

Constructive activities were deemed advantageous to the smooth running of the camp and there were carpentry, craftwork and art workshops where skilled men earned more than unskilled men. It is stated that most of the prisoners worked in these workshops, with many learning new skills that would have been useful when they returned home. During the term of the camp, prisoners often made figurines and toys, such as this wooden snake toy.



James Rodger recalls that the prisoners tried to make the camp as comfortable as possible:

“They mixed the clay wi’ earth...and then they used it for whitewash. The Germans done it. But they done it with Arden lime. It was the time the Nazis were there. It was them that actually whitewashed the camp, wi’ Arden lime. Ah, they hid it looking well. They just wanted the camp to look better. I cannae just mind whether they whitewashed the, the corrugated iron, but they whitewashed a’ the ends and the sides.”

There was a theatre with 12 members preparing a show for Christmas, and a choir with 30 to 35 members. There was only one musical instrument at this point, which was a violin. Whilst this does not show a great deal of participation from a camp containing 535 prisoners, it can be imagined that a good deal of the others would have been entertained by these activities. The football ground was still there and may have been used at this point. There was a film shown once a week. These activities would have provided some distraction for the prisoners.

Patterton Camp also housed a library that contained some 140 books, though it lacked textbooks, which could have been demotivating for those trying to learn. A few men were taking part in educational activities (it is unclear exactly how many), and the most popular subject was English, with 75 pupils. Learning English would have been good for the men’s mental health as it would have made them feel more in control of their circumstances and less isolated in a foreign country. A Catholic priest regularly visited the camp’s chapel to deliver services.

	Pupils
English	75
German	15
arithmetic	15
mathematics	10
natural science	10
accountancy	10
shorthand	5

The report mentions the sending of brown cards, which were a means for the prisoners to let their families know where they were. The commandant stated that replies had boosted the morale of the prisoners and that only a few received bad news. 160 prisoners could not send brown cards as their families were in the Russian Zone, Berlin and Czechoslovakia. Some of the men

would have suffered a great deal from these circumstances. The 1945 Red Cross report concludes that the camp was generally excellent and that there were no complaints.

The next we hear in documentary evidence of the German prisoners is in newspaper reports dating from April 1946. Two prisoners escaped from a camp near Thornliebank and after 10 days on the run they were apprehended by the police in Largs. They had been hiding in the woods on the Kelburn estate between Largs and Fairlie. One of them had been affecting an American accent and spoke fluent English. He explained that he had lived in the USA for a few years. The prisoners had a collapsible rubber dinghy in their hide out and the fluent English speaker explained to the police that his companion had rowed the boat out on the Clyde river, and that they had climbed aboard the Steamer Kind Edward under the misapprehension that it was a boat heading for Ireland. They left when they realised their mistake. It is impossible to say why these men escaped from the camp; however, it does sound like there was some planning involved and that it was not an opportunistic escape.

A follow-up re-education report stems from another visit by Mr James Grant in October 1946. The commandant is still Major Spreckley. The number of men in the camp is 600 with numbers being strengthened, temporarily, by 130 men from another working company. Grant mentions intercamp football and concert activities, suggesting that leisure activities had improved in the camp since the report of May 1945. He also notes that the men asked for a talk on a novel that they had heard about from men from another camp. This suggests that they were doing more than just playing football when visiting other camps and that there was a genuine interest in the re-education programme.

In November 1946, Paul Bondy, a lecturer on the re-education circuit, visited Patterson camp. He wrote a short note to his wife about the camp. He also wrote a report from which we have a small extract. The note is short as Bondy had little time due to having to travel to another camp the next day. He described the site as being a 'very neat little camp', and further mentioned that the stove in his 'little red hut' was very warm. He also wrote that his bed had sheets, which was not the case at Johnstone Castle Camp where he had stayed the previous evening. It is likely that the POWs also had sheets as, according to the Geneva Convention, they would have had to have been treated equally. Bondy painted a cosy picture of



the mess, writing that he dined at a mahogany table in front of an open fire; he added that the 'beautifully polished' mahogany table had been made by the POWs. This indicates a high level of craftsmanship being carried out by some of the men in the camp. It is not clear how many prisoners attended Paul Bondy's lecture.

The re-educational survey of March 1947 was again carried about by James Grant. The commandant is now a Major T Chapline. Grant now finds the camp with a strength of 475 prisoners, with 75 of them enrolled in the new courses. He notes that books, apart from dictionaries, were plentiful and that prisoners from the previous year were keen to sit exams and get diplomas. This shows that at least some of the prisoners were getting the benefit of education, then.

The re-educational survey of May 1947 was carried out by a W. R. Lang. Two hundred prisoners had been repatriated at this point and 18 appeals were pending. 35% of prisoners were under the age of 25. The officer in charge was still Major T Chapline. Like Spreckley before him, Chapline was a German speaker who encouraged the prisoners to 'make the most of their talents with materials available.' The morale at the camp was said to be 'fairly high', which was partly attributed to the attitude of the British staff. Being involved in skilled work was also said to have helped morale and a transfer to agricultural labour was not popular. Camp activities remained good and it seem to have been more varied than in August 1945; however, at this point things were winding down due to the imminent disbandment of the camp. The thoughts of the prisoners must have been focused on their homelands and whether or not they could return there.

Lang posited that the intellectual level of the camp was 'Lacking in leading personalities. Repatriation took away the best.' He further stated that all 'disruptive Communists and black elements' had been taken out of the camp, meaning that Patterton had indeed housed Nazi-sympathisers or activists. By the time of this 1947 report, they had been moved to remote camps, such as Cultybraggan in Perthshire and Watten in Caithness.

Our respondent James Rodger thinks that some early prisoners at Patterton Camp were deemed to have strong Nazi ideologies and were moved to Cultybraggan camp. He thinks that these prisoners were in the camp before the Italians. Here he describes his impression of the local community's attitude to these prisoners:

"They were quite relieved to see them going. Because there was aye the possibility that they might try to escape. Because the guard patrolled the perimeter...was it every oor, two oors, or something. Ah think it was every oor. There were a guard room about the whole camp... Some o' them were in Perthshire. I think the camp's still there yet. Aye, some were up in Perthshire...because they were liable to escape. Liable to try to escape."

We have evidence from a historical biography that there were POWS staying at Patterton camp in 1942. In the book, *Sparrow: A Chronicle of Defiance*, by Grant McLauchlan, the following footnote appears:

The Patterton Prisoner of War Camp was established in Thornliebank in 1941. Detached work parties of prisoners were used in Clarkston in September 1942 to clear ground next to the anti-aircraft battery.'

As noted earlier, both documentary evidence and personal testimony describe that a military camp of some form was in existence at Patterton in 1941, so it is possible there were POWs there in 1942. Whether they would have been German or Italian is unclear.

Clarkston

A faint mist hugs the rolling landscape of Clarkston. The still dawn is interrupted by the rumble of several lorries arriving near the heavy anti-aircraft battery.

As the mist fades, a tall, barbed-wired fence emerges in front of the four lorries. The lorries stop, and soldiers yell as grey figures clamber off the back of the lorries. The grey figures form tidy rows in front of an army officer, and are then marched towards one long, corrugated-iron shed.

Mary and Mrs Asher are watching from their front doors. Mrs Asher calls across to Mary, "What is the commotion?"

Mary replies, "I don't know."⁹⁴

⁹⁴ The Patterson Prisoner of War Camp was established in Thornliebank 1941. Detached work parties of prisoners were used in Clarkston in September 1942 to clear ground next to the anti-aircraft battery.

Additional testimonies offer an insight into the local population's interactions with the German prisoners, though most of these memories are difficult to date. Alan Flower remembers himself and his young friends having good natured snowball fights with the prisoners. He also confirms that some of the Germans at one point worked at the printworks in Thornliebank:

"The other thing I remember, and these definitely were Germans, they used to march them from the camp down to the printworks in Thornliebank, to do a daily duty. They went down in the morning and they came back in the evening. Now, this was during winter, when there was a lot of snow on the ground. And, my friends and I used to hide behind a hedge at the junction of Arden Avenue with Stewarton Road. And when the prisoners were going past...in fact, the hedge was the boundary of what, something Lane running and cricket ground as was then. It's now the David Lloyd's fitness centre. We used to hide behind there and as they [the prisoners] went past, we pelted them with snowballs. Now, it was all done in good spirit, there was no animosity or anything. But they obviously...the Germans were getting wise to this...and on the way back, this particular day, they were all marching. And they had the big yellow capes which draped over everything and they were marching past. And we all stood up to throw our snowballs. They brought out these massive great, things, from underneath their coats or capes and hurled them into the hedges. And we were all covered in snow."

This is a poignant piece of testimony as it can be imagined that the Germans would have missed the company of children from their families and probably enjoyed these interactions as a result.

Andrew Green (born 1937) remembers Germans working on Greenlaw Farm, where his family lived, and said this about some of their activities:

“The German prisoners that we had were quite good. They used to make things out of bits o’ wood and then go doon the village and sell them, to get a few bob. I also remember them...they used to steal potatoes and they made, hooch, hooch, hooch, aye! They had this wee stil. They made a wee stil. Made this stuff and took it doon the village and sold it, until we found out they were doing it. My father found oot anyway. He had to phone the camp and tell them to come and take them [the prisoners] away. Because they were stealing tatties, they were stealing eggs. And things like that were beginning to disappear...”

Alistair Mutrie moved to Carnwadric at the age of 10 and vividly recalls chatter about the then long-gone POW camp:

“The women used to talk, you know, and you would hear them talking about [the prisoners] getting marched down from the camp. Right down into Thornliebank. Now whether they entered the main gate, I’m not sure about that... They [the prisoners] used to hand toys to the kids. So, I imagine there was a gate and somewhere along Carnwadric Road. That’s away at the other side... Just wood toys, card...but, there was a good...I mean, I never heard one person, no, women or men, say anything bad about these prisoners. There was almost an affection, because of these hand-outs to the children, you know. There was no catcalling or animosity or anything like that. I never gathered that. I always got that impression, listening to the older people.”

We have testimony from James Rodger that a German POW named Paul remained in Scotland and worked at Langton Farm into the 1950s:

“Paul was at Langton till ’53, ’54. Aye, he was there for a good while after the war. Because, he used to get Bobby Turner tae gi’ him the *Scottish Farmer*. And he had enough English that he could read bits o’ it. But he was an awfy nice chap, Paul. His home was in East Germany. And he didn’t...He’d been back [there] on a visit. And it was somewhere in East Germany. Well, as you’ll probably know, by that time East Germany was under the Russians. Paul went back to what was the Berlin Wall. And some of the ones he was brought up wi’, he was speaking to them through the wall. And after that, “No, no, no, I’ll no go back, I’ll no go back,” he said. “I would go back if East Germany was free, if we could do what we liked. Walk about as we liked, I would go back.” He did eventually go back, after. I cannae mind when the Berlin Wall was taken doon. But he went back after. East Germany was free o’ Communism.

There were another German POW on Faulds Farm. And when they met up, we didnae ken a word of whit they were sayin’. They were yattering away in German. It’s diversifying away a bit from the camp, but I always mind on Paul. I dunno what his

second name was. He really was an awfa nice man. An awfa nice chap. As I say he was...but he had broken English by this point, and he was quite keen tae to talk to you. Admittedly, if he could understand me, I don't know."

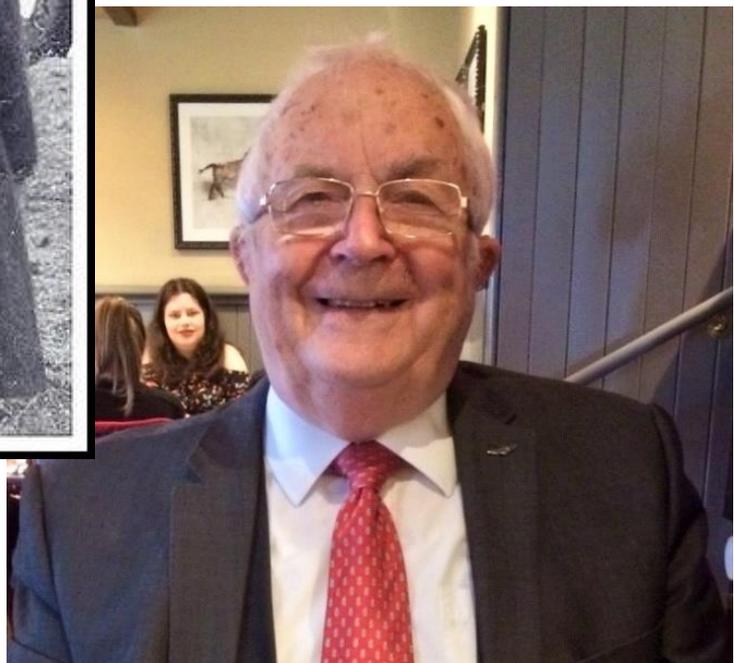
We cannot be sure that Paul was from Patterton Camp, but it seems likely. In any case, it demonstrates a positive interaction between a German POW and the local population. As with the Italian prisoners, there would have, no doubt, been a mixed reception in Scotland, as there was across Britain. We have testimony to the effect that some local children from Newton Mearns were warned off the camp by their parents. The Germans may have been treated by some with more suspicion than the Italians had been. However, testimony from residents in and around Patterton points to a warm reception from some of the local population. One such example comes from Matthew McKinnon, who remembers three POWs from nearby Cowglen Military Hospital being welcomed into his parent's home and church.



Left: Matthew McKinnon and his late brother Andrew wearing POW hats in Oban just after WW11.

Copyright Matthew McKinnon.

Below: Matthew as he is today



Below: Church group from Greenview Church in Leckie Street, Pollokshaws, in Oban post-war with three former POWs (Max, Fritz and Pawl). Copyright Matthew McKinnon.



After returning to their homeland, Fritz, Pawl and Max kept in touch with their Scottish friends. All the images of Fritz, Pawl and Max in this publication are copyright of Matthew McKinnon.

Embroidery Art
by
Jo Neill





Glücklich lebt hier Jahre
 im Jahr weit vom Welt-
 Getöse, und das junge
 Forstpaar still in Treu
 und Liebe.
 zur freundlichen
 Erinnerung
 Vom P.O.W. Fritz Balde

Left: Fritz, former POW

Translation
 From year to year the young woodsman and his
 wife live here happily and quietly in fidelity and
 love far from the bustle of the world.
 In friendly commemoration
 From P.O.W. Fritz

Ursprünglich wollte ich aufgeben, und ich
 glaubte nie, daß ich es aushalten würde, und ich
 habe nie aufgegeben, aber jetzt
 weiß ich nicht mehr.
 Ihre freundlichen Erinnerungen
 Anfang Januar 1947
 Pawl Pawl

Below: Pawl, former POW



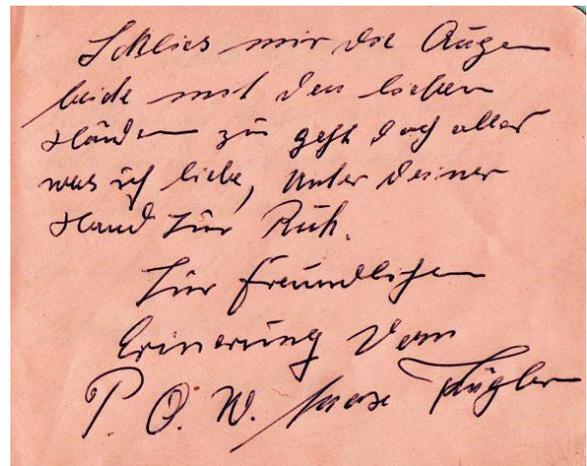
Translation (incomplete)
 At first, I wanted almost to give up hope,
 And I believed, I would never bear it,
 And yet I did (bear it-)
 But do not ask me, how.
 (Undecipherable place name) 1947
 POW Pawl



Right: Max, former POW.

Translation

Close both my eyes with your dear hands.
Let all that I love rest in your care.
In kind remembrance from
P.O.W. Max (Tangler?)



Julie Robertson being interviewed by Rachel Kelly

Julie Robertson's late aunt, Kathleen (aged around 18 at the end of the war), was engaged to one of the German prisoners. Photographic evidence points to them knowing each other by 1947. Here, Julie describes how the family met him:

“My aunt was engaged to one of the German prisoners of war, who was based in the camp. My grandfather befriended the German prisoners of war, perhaps some of the Italians too, because there was some sort of link through music, initially. Because, my grandfather was a tax inspector, but he was a talented musician. And somewhere along the line he managed to get together with these prisoners of war who were also musical.”

The engagement did not last but Kathleen Robertson had visited her fiancée in the Black Forest in Germany and kept in touch with his family there until her death. Julie is sure that the fiancée’s surname was Butz. This is an unusual surname, but it appears in the re-education report of May 1947. He is described as follows:

‘The study leader Voges (B) is in Hospital and his Deputy Ofegr Butz (A) has kept the classes running. Butz keeps the library going but otherwise does not give the impression of being a ‘Live Wire’. He is about to be repatriated.’

Photographic evidence shows ‘Butz’ and a fellow POW from the camp appear to be in good health and spirits.



Kathleen Robertson (circa 18 years old) and fiancée, surname Butz (Patterton German POW) and friend, 10 Auldburn Road, Pollokshaws, 1947.
Courtesy of Julie Robertson.

Kathleen Robertson with Gerard - a Patterton POW, a friend and her brother Douglas Robertson (Julie's father), at 10 Auldburn Gardens in Pollokshaws in 1947.
Courtesy of Julie Robertson.



Kathleen Robertson painted by an unnamed German POW from Patterton POW camp.
Courtesy of Julie Robertson.

“It’s a beautiful little oil painting. It’s maybe 6 by 8 inches. And it’s executed in, quite, a sort of, Germanic style. It’s quite funny because it looks kind of Aryan, when you look at German painting from that period. Everyone kind of looks very noble, very Aryan. So, my aunt’s got a kinda look of the ‘master race’ about her in the picture (laughs).”

Julie Robertson

Kathleen Robertson and her Patterson POW fiancée at Wiesbaden in Germany in 1952.
Courtesy of Julie Robertson



Hutchinson's General Store, Patterson

"Aye, wee Joe's was the place to go...It was the centre of attraction. Folk went there for their papers and their sweeties"

Andrew Green
(Born 1937)



Hutchinson's general store, housed in the shed of Patterton Cottage (above), has been mentioned by several respondents and descendants of those store owners came forward with the following testimony:

"My mum was born in Patterton (near Newton Mearns) and lived in Patterton Cottage near the station. Her dad, who I never met, was the station master and her mum ran the wee shop in the garden... My mum lived there before and during the war and my gran moved from Patterton in the late 1970s to Barrhead... My mum talked about Rudolph Hess arriving one night after being found in Eaglesham and also the time they were bombed and woke up to find an unexploded one in the garden. The family name is Hutchinson as my grandad was Cumbrian and my mum was called Betty, her older sister Bunty, her eldest brother Willie and other older brother Ian. Willie and Ian both served in the war in Burma as RAF wireless operators after their dad convinced that being a rear gunner was not a good career move. My mum was born in 1929 so she was 16 in 1945. I saw a [social media] post from someone who was born in 1945 and lived in Patterton but now lives in England who bought his lemonade and sweets from the shop and who still remembered the little old lady that served him. That was my 'wee gran', she was about 4 feet 10".



Fergus Murray's mum, Betty



I remembered that I had a couple of wee carvings that came from the camp which my gran swapped for some food. I think the girl is actually my mum who played tennis and I remember the rackets in the cottage."

Fergus Murray

From New Zealand, Fergus's cousin Anne, daughter of Bunty, sent us lots of information about the Hutchinsons:

'Robina (Ruby) Kennedy born in Patterton 1896 and grew up in a house somewhere on Stewarton Road. [She] married Joseph Pearson Hutchinson on 1920 and moved in to Patterton Cottage, Stewarton Road, which they rented from owner Sir John Maxwell. Joe was a Railway Signaller and was later promoted to Station Master at Patterton Station. Ruby was a tailoress, homemaker and entrepreneur. Joe and Ruby had four children who were all born in Patterton Cottage: William (Willie) 1921, Martha (Bunty) 1923, John (Ian) 1925 and Elizabeth (Betty) 1929.

Joe and Ruby purchased Patterton Cottage from Sir John Maxwell for one thousand pounds cash after renting for many years. [They] made many improvements to the cottage, including creating an inside toilet/bathroom, and creating a second storey and adding two bedrooms for their growing family. Ruby and Joe had a large

garden where they grew a huge variety of fruit and vegetables, kept chickens and had honey hives. They had a very well-kept front garden, which always looked very attractive.

They had many money-making enterprises including turning the front room of their home into a tearoom for visitors to the area, and catering for Sunday school picnic groups who would travel to the area for their annual day out. All the items for sale were home-made, including ice cream which Ruby would churn by hand. Eventually Ruby and Joseph opened a small general store in the garden of Patterton Cottage. Joseph negotiated hard with the Post Office to ensure that a post box was positioned outside of the shop – he eventually won! The shop sold a variety of goods: tobacco, newspapers, stamps, coal, sweets, soft drinks, eggs, and was a real asset to the local community. It was a successful business for many



Fergus and Anne's granny, Ruby, as a young lady.



Bunty, Anne's mother

years and all of the family were involved in the running of it until the family sold Patterton Cottage in 1973.

During the war years Ruby and Joe produced fresh food, including chickens, eggs, and honey, which they sold to the local community. Ruby had a connection to the POW camp during the war years. I think she must have visited the camp from time to time. She had a sewing box, which was made by the prisoners and I remember her telling me that the prisoners were “good people”. The prison may have had a shop where they sold the goods that they made. I think the sewing box is still in the family somewhere... Ruby also provided a dressmaking service.



Fergus and Anne's
Uncle Ian at Hutchinson's shop

During the Clydebank Blitz, a 'rogue' bomb was dropped and exploded close to Patterton Cottage, sending debris raining down on the house, which was a terrifying experience for the family who were huddled in darkness under the dining room table.

Neighbours included the Park family who owned the farm next to Patterton Cottage, the Strang Family (two brothers and a sister) who owned a pig farm opposite Patterton Cottage on Capelrig Road, Penny Slack, Oswald Wardrope... Joe died in the spring of 1959, very suddenly of a heart attack. Ruby and the four adult children continued to live on in the cottage after Joe died. The two girls eventually married, leaving Ruby with Willie and Ian, who remained at Patterton Cottage until November 1973 when they moved to Barrhead.'

Anne Bridgman



Left:
Betty (left) and Bunty
with oldest brother
Willie



Right:
Fergus and Anne's
grandparents,
Ruby and Joseph

*All photographs
courtesy of Fergus
Murray and Anne
Bridgman*



**Polish
Resettlement
Corp**

The Polish Resettlement Corp

Poland's connections with Scotland reach back centuries, with links largely based on trade, security, cross-migration, education and labour. Inter-marriage is fairly commonplace, and Bonnie Prince Charlie was half-Polish on his mother's side. During WWII and its aftermath, those links were further strengthened as many Poles moved to Scotland.

Poland had alternated historically between having its own monarchy and being occupied by foreign powers. After WWI, Poland regained its independence under the Treaty of Versailles, only to be invaded again twenty years later, this time by Germany and then Russia in 1939. In 1940, after Poland fell to the Nazis, what remained of the Polish army was evacuated, with many soldiers sent to Scotland by the Polish government, which was itself in exile, first in France, and then London.

The Polish army, air force and navy made huge contributions to the allied war effort, particularly the British campaigns. The following are only a few examples of their many achievements and sacrifices during World War II.

The 1st Polish Armoured Division landed in France in August 1944 and joined the Canadians to help close the Falaise Gap. The Polish air force was prodigious in their contribution during the Battle of Britain. The Polish Navy took part in the Normandy landings and escorted Atlantic convoys of ships. A great number of Polish soldiers ended up in Scotland, initially in camps in Biggar, Douglas and Crawford. Men and women (the great majority were men) who were of age were formed into military units and were stationed all over Scotland. Carry out work such as guarding in POW camps and making sea defences on the east coast of Scotland against possible Nazi invasion from Norway. Their numbers were



Engineers of the 1st Rifle Brigade (1st Polish Corps) constructing beach defences at Tentsmuir in Scotland. The concrete blocks were used as anti-tank obstacles.

added to, over time, by soldiers released from Soviet captivity and other members of the Polish diaspora.

The soldiers and other combatants from Poland mostly found a good welcome in Scotland and Britain generally, due to their anti-German stance. Crowds cheered them as they marched up Sauchiehall street in Glasgow. The Poles often involved themselves in sporting and artistic activities, involving the local communities where they were stationed, perhaps most notably in Fraserburgh and Arbroath.

Polish Squadrons

'The British now rose to the challenge of integrating the Poles into the RAF. By an agreement of August 1940 the PAF was granted independent status, though it remained under RAF command. Further national units were formed and, by VE Day, the PAF had a strength of 15 fighter, bomber, coastal and special duties squadrons supported by 14,000 airmen and airwomen. Poles continued to serve in the RAF and three Polish officers commanded RAF units. The RAF respected the Poles' culture and traditions and recognised their complete equality with British nationals. To help overcome the language barrier, English lessons were provided and technical manuals were translated into Polish.

The Poles appreciated this open-minded approach and continued to fight exceptionally well. Polish fighter pilots destroyed 957 enemy aircraft with 58 men claiming five or more victories. Polish squadrons in Bomber Command and Coastal Command dropped a total of 14,708 tons of bombs and mines on enemy targets. Sadly, the PAF's No.300 Squadron suffered the highest number of deaths of any Bomber Command unit. Throughout the war, Polish ground crews were known for their dedication and efficiency and aircraft serviceability rates on Polish squadrons were impressively high.'



(Source: <https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/>)

After the war, Stalin imposed a communist government on Poland, reneging on his promise at the Yalta Conference in February 1945 and in meetings which followed. The Polish Government in Exile was formally not recognised by the British Government from the 6th of July 1945. This was seen as a huge betrayal of the Polish forces and was named 'The Western Betrayal'. Most of the Polish forces in Britain were loyal to the Polish Government in Exile and did not want to return to a Poland under communism. Many were caught in a terrible dilemma between staying in Britain and going home, as they had wives and families back in their homeland. Persecutions were being carried out in communist Poland of soldiers who had fought for the allies.

The British Government agreed to the Poles staying in Britain, if they wanted to, in March 1946, after Prime Minister Clement Atlee had initially tried to encourage them to go back to Poland under the belief that they would be welcomed home. The government were undeniably under pressure to extend a welcome to the Poles due to what was viewed as a betrayal of both the British reasons for entering the war, and of the Polish troops who had served them loyally.

The Polish Resettlement Corp was announced by Aneurin Bevin, the Minister for Health, in May 1946, and began recruiting in September that year. The Polish Resettlement Act came into force in 1947 and was the largest ever immigration programme carried out by the British Government, with over 200,000 Polish men and women, and eventually their families, being welcomed into Britain. A minority of Poles refused to join the PRC, viewing it a betrayal of the Polish constitution and the end of the hope that communism under Stalin would quickly fall.

People joined The Polish Resettlement Corps on a voluntary basis and could leave at any time to take up work or emigrate. The aim was to prepare Polish people for British life, with English lessons and work experience and training. The Poles often trained in trades and some undertook professional training. The members of the corps came under British military rule and were entitled to army pay and unemployment benefits. However, there were some barriers to the Poles working in Britain, including opposition from trade unions who saw them as traitors to the left for fleeing communism. Many politicians and newspapers of the time spoke out against this. The trade union opposition to the Poles mainly dissipated as it became known how extreme and brutal the Stalinist regime was.

The Polish Resettlement Corps usually moved into former military bases and hospitals, or POW camps, like Patterton Camp. There were also family camps, where ex-soldiers could be accommodated with their families who had arrived from Poland.



The late Stanley Rootes (Stanislaw Rutkowski) who was in the Polish 14th Lancers Regiment (Armoured Division) and the PRC. His daughter knows that Stanislaw stayed with the PRC in or near Glasgow and he had mentioned Patterton Camp, though it is unclear whether he stayed there. Courtesy of Louise Rutkowski

We know very little about the PRC at Patterton, other than that they arrived after the Germans had left in the summer of 1947 and they stayed until the disbandment of the PRC unit in the spring of 1948. Some of the PRCs may have stayed longer and become part of the residential group – more on that later. One source describes them sharing the camp with people living there as a result of the post-war housing crisis. None of our respondents who were in the camp post-war remember the Poles, but then, they were children at the time and the Poles were only there for a short period. However, many people remember Polish people living in and around Patterton in the immediate post-war years and later. A couple of our respondents have memories of Polish people in the area but do not know if they were in the PRC:

“Not at the camp. Only the ones that were moved up here eventually. We’d a few just living round this area. Along the road.”

Norma Wilson

“And the Poles...my brother seems to remember, whether this is relevant or not, that we had one of the Poles visit us at our house, but I have no recollection of that whatsoever.”

Alan Flower

Nearby camps also housed some Poles, including Johnstone Castle Camp, where they constructed a chapel, and Stewarton Camp, which was for Poles who wished to return to Poland in due course.



Johnstone Castle Camp chapel. Constructed in a Nissen hut by members of the PRC.
Courtesy of Henry Suzter

How would members of the Polish Resettlement Corps at Patterton have felt during their stay? Many would have been worried about family members back home. There were various prejudices against the Polish in Scotland, as there were in other parts of Britain, which may have affected them. Ingrained sectarianism in certain parts of the country resulted in bad feeling towards the mainly Catholic Poles. Indeed, the Free Presbyterians in Dingwall and Tain protested the formation of the PRC, believing it was a Catholic plot to infiltrate the country; they were also fearful that the high unemployment rate in the Scottish Highlands at that time might be exacerbated. There were also those that believed that Poles committed a disproportionate amount of crime. There were incidents when these prejudices and fears came to the fore, such as in Caithness, where locals expressed their fears that there was something criminal with Polish people sending food parcels back to their relatives. Their fears were unfounded.

It has to be said that some Scottish men were threatened by the politeness and charm of their Polish counterparts. We have heard from the daughter of a former member of the PRC that her late father kissed a lady's hand on their first meeting and it always went down well with the lady in question, though some men were overtly unimpressed by this practice. Nonetheless, over 2500 marriages occurred between Poles and Scots after WWII.

Equally, there are many reports of kind treatment from the local population. Bonds formed with the Poles during the war over sports and entertainment would not easily be forgotten. Many people would also remember their contribution during the war. One ex-member of the PRC said that people generally could not do enough to help him but, of course, it depended on the person. The Ukrainian community in Scotland, who perhaps would have encountered the Poles in mining towns, were said to be very supportive of them.

The Polish Resettlement Corps were disbanded in 1949. By the 1951 census there were 10,613 Polish born people in Scotland. The vast majority were men. Many Polish people had emigrated to America, Canada and Australia, amongst other places. Polish societies and institutions were set up to support the Polish people in Scotland and to prevent Polish culture from being lost. Polish shops and restaurants opened. Many Poles kept their traditions going and sent their children to Polish school at the weekend; others did not. Nonetheless, members of the Polish Resettlement Corp formed the basis for much of the Polish community in Scotland and the UK today.



**Patterton's
Residential
Camp Era**

Patterton Camp's Residential Era

The background to, and the events of, the post-WWII housing crisis are complicated. Its roots lie in the industrial revolution of the 19th century when an unprecedented amount of people moved to urban and industrial areas in pursuit of work opportunities. They were almost invariably crowded into privately rented accommodation, which often caused overcrowding, substandard living conditions and the spread of disease. Some few notable philanthropists began to build social housing from the 1850s as a response to the social problems brought about by bad housing. By the 1890s, local authorities had taken over as the main providers of this type of housing and most of it was cheaply built and high density. However, demand was high and most of the housing available to working people remained privately owned.

During WWI, a series of rent strikes were staged across Britain, with Mary Barbour famously leading the 1915 rent strikes in Glasgow. These were targeted at private landlords charging what were regarded by the protestors as unreasonable rents to people working in munitions works and other war industries. This further highlighted the problem of slum housing at a time when house building was almost at a standstill.

The day after the armistice, Prime Minister Lloyd George promised "Habitations fit for heroes who have won the war," which was shortened in the press to 'Homes fit for Heroes'. The reality did not live up to the promises. Slum clearance far exceeded house building during the interwar period. There were also large shortages in manpower, materials and money for house building. The 1919 Housing Act put the responsibility for house building onto the local authorities. It also put caps on the amounts of rents that could be charged, which gave the local authorities less money to build houses with.

Post-war social and political unrest and a recession in 1921 did not help matters. Throughout the 1920s, social housing provision, in terms of both quantity and quality, was subject to large regional differences. Its providers were thought to penalise those people who could not show a flawless rent book. This meant that people in uncertain jobs, such as mining and dock work were not considered for council housing. Overcrowding in existing accommodation was often caused by people taking in lodgers to help pay the rent in times of economic downturn.

Post 1926, there was an ideological rejection of public spending and therefore cuts were made to local authority housing budgets. The 1930s brought a great deal of slum clearance, with around one million people removed from these housing conditions. It has also been

regarded as a time of strong government support for private building. These houses were being built for those who were reasonably financially comfortable. Only 18 per cent of manual workers were buying their houses during this period.



Housing provision between the wars was marked by the lack of consistent government subsidies towards social housing provision. It was also a time of great job uncertainty for many, which contributed to an inability for some of these people, so effected, to secure tenancies in any available social housing in their area.

During WWII, two thirds of the skilled building workforce went into the armed forces. Those that remained worked on government building contracts. 200,000 houses in Britain were destroyed by aerial bombardment, and two out of seven homes needed essential repairs.



Problems of overcrowding and lack of housing provision also continued. People rented out rooms at very high rates and people would often have to leave these rooms when members of the armed forces returned home.

A post-war housing crisis had been widely anticipated, and one of the proposed solutions was the use of former army and prisoner of war facilities as temporary housing. In 1943, the post-war reconditioning of these facilities had been mooted, but not taken seriously, by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Tom Johnstone.

Clement Atlee's post-war government prioritised the building of homes for people displaced by bombing and to address the long-standing housing deficit. This new social housing programme resulted in 79 per cent of new housing being in the hands of local authorities by 1950, with the incoming

Conservative government further expanding the building of council houses. However, an initial lack of labour and materials at the end of the war led to building delays and the resulting housing shortage was particularly acute in Scotland. Local councillors made appeals for former military camps to be used to help relieve the housing problem, arguing that some units were of better quality than the proposed prefabricated buildings. The idea of using ex-

army and POW camps was rejected by Nye Bevin, the Minister of Health, from 1945 to 1951, as he wanted any money available to be directed towards the building of quality housing. Some of the camps had also been earmarked as training facilities for builders and craftsmen, whilst others, including Patterton Camp, were still occupied by prisoners of war.

Despite Bevin's opposition, people were desperate, and some had already moved into a camp in Edinburgh as early as December 1945. Robert Thomson thinks that his family moved into Patterton from the Gorbals area of Glasgow at around this time. Robert remembers there being prisoners of war in one part of the camp, which is supported by another former resident of the camp:

"There was some prisoners o' war in the camp. Because there were actually three camps. We called it top, middle and bottom. We stayed in the top camp. And there was some prisoners o' war in the middle camp. I dunno if there was any in the bottom, but there was some in the middle camp when we moved there... We had a single end in the Gorbals. With me, my mum, my dad, big brother, big sister, a' stayed in this single end. And when the prisoners o' war, the Italian prisoners o' war left the camp...I dunno how it came about, but we got moving intae it as a family. You got a full hut or a half hut. We got a half hut. And later on, years later...we got a full hut. And how it worked oot, I don't know, but that's why I ended up there. The government, I take it, moved us from the Gorbals to the camp."

Robert Thomson

Members of the Polish Resettlement Corps stayed in the camp from 1947 to 1948 but we have no memories of them from our respondents who lived in the camp. *Hansard* records from November 1950 contain a statement from Commander Galbraith, MP for Pollok, that Patterton Camp had been occupied [by civilian families] for five years at that time.

The nationwide movement of civilians moving into former army camps and POW camps really took off in 1946. These people were called 'squatters' by the Department of Health, a term disliked by many former residents of these camps, including Phil Wilson:

"We were certainly not 'squatters' as some reports would have you believe! Both of my parents worked full time in the potteries, and I went to the nearest local school, which was Carnwadric Primary School, when I reached school age."

Phil Wilson





Above: Phil Wilson outside his family's Nissan hut home in Patterton camp, early 1950s.
Photographs courtesy of Phil Wilson

Hansard records from October 1946 reveal that 143 camps across Britain were then occupied by around 6800 people. Occupation of the camps was sometimes political, led by either the Communist Party or the Independent Labour Party, whilst other occupations were grass roots affairs. For example, there were 'kitchen conferences', with women in Maryhill, Glasgow, making decisions about which buildings to occupy. There is also a report that young men from Maryhill and Govan climbed the barbed wire fences at Patterton to gain access to accommodation at the camp. It is unclear what date this occurred, or whether it was linked to the 'kitchen conferences'. A lady from Maryhill points out that she had been living in one room, without heating or running water, for four years before moving into Patterton Camp. She explained that many people would have been living in far worse conditions than those they found at the camps.

Many ex-servicemen and their families moved into the camps, including a soldier from the Highland Light Infantry who brought his family to Patterton from Greenock. It is not known

whether the regiment's former links to Patterton had any bearing on his decision. Raymond Barnes' father had been a military policeman at Patterton. They lived in a wooden hut that would have been part of the infirmary when the German POWs were there:

"Well, it was the old corrugated huts. There was one hut at the beginning of the camp, which was wooden, that was the hut we stayed in because my dad was an MP, a military policeman, in the camp when it was in progress with the POWs. That was the MP's hut, so when the prisoners were all released and taken away, the MPs obtained that hut, and my dad was one of the last MPs to be there. So, we moved into that hut. That was the only one that was wooden, the rest was all corrugated, all tin."

Raymond's family got the hut because his father was serving at the camp, but other oral testimony and anecdotal evidence shows that people also moved into the camp of their own volition.

"Different families, more or less, people, I dunno where they all came from, different areas in Glasgow, and they all went back to different areas when the camp dispersed."

Raymond Barnes

These men and women would have been used to similar and sometimes even more basic accommodation during the war and would have perhaps, in some cases, been inspired by their war time experiences to make risky and pragmatic decisions for the welfare of their families. The trespass laws in Scotland meant that this was a riskier decision in the early stages of camp occupation than it would have been in the rest of the UK. However, the legal issue in Scotland seems to have been mainly focused on people who were 'squatting' in private property. A debate on housing shortage recorded in *Hansard*, October 1946, shows MPs urging local authorities to go immediately into camps to make sure that water and drainage and other essential services were made available to people living in them. At this point negotiations were ongoing with local authorities about these improvements.

A newspaper article from the *Scotsman*, August 1949, states that Glasgow Housing Committee had rejected terms laid down to them by the Department of Health to undertake the management of the camp and for the re-housing of 12 families of 'squatters'. The Glasgow Corporation did not admit 'squatters' onto its waiting list for council housing until 1956,



RE-HOUSING OF "SQUATTERS."— Glasgow Housing Committee have rejected conditions laid down by the Department of Health for Scotland for the re-housing of "squatters" in a hutted ex-Army camp at Patterton. The Department wished the Corporation to undertake the management of the camp and to accommodate in it not only twelve families of "squatters" from condemned property at Shamrock Street, Glasgow, but also ten families in Bella-houston Park and fifteen families at Tory-glen.

almost a decade after the war had ended. It is thought that some local authorities viewed squatters as potential queue jumpers, though the people concerned claimed to have no such guile and were merely trying to put a roof above their heads. Public opinion was generally on the side of the squatters in this matter. The Department for Health for Scotland was still managing the camp in 1950 when the MP for Glasgow Pollock (which the camp came under), Commander Galbraith, discussed the camp at a Housing Scotland debate in 1950:

“I have recently inspected these huts and I am perfectly amazed at the conditions which there exist. What amazed me more than anything was to be told that those who are collecting rents for these huts were reps of the Department of Health for Scotland. I discovered huts which could be made perfectly habitable under conditions existing today-not all good conditions- but which could be made very much better than they are. Many have never been divided at all, and those which have are in a most deplorable condition. There is no light in there whatsoever except by Paraffin oil. Officially there are 60 families here, unofficially perhaps more. There are four water taps for the people living in this camp and some have to proceed 60 or 70 yards to some of the taps. That should not exist, particularly if the department of health has any responsibility whatsoever. I have taken this up with the Secretary of State and he has undertaken to have a look at it. After five years we find this camp with 60 families with only four water taps. They have no other conveniences. That is a state of affairs which should not be allowed to exist, and in my opinion, it could easily be put right with small expenditure.”

(Source: Commander Galbraith, Housing Scotland Debate, *Hansard*, 16th of November 1950)

It must be remembered that Commander Galbraith probably came from quite a privileged background, which would have informed his view of conditions at the camp. He was also obviously trying to get something done for these families in a situation in which rehousing was not necessarily going to come quickly for them. It should also be noted that it was recorded that camps run by the department of health often had the worst conditions.

Robert Thomson describes the site:

“Oh, I remember very, very clearly. You came in the gates at the front. And in there you had one, two, three huts next to each other. Then you went by them and you got another three huts. And some o’ them were doubled, as in half a hut. And a full hut. And then when you went by them. You went doon a wee hill and there was a bridge specially built that looked brand new tae me. But it wisnae a’ big...It was only about four feet, five feet broad. An about ten feet long. It took you over the wee burn that was there. And it took you up the other side. There was one, two, three, four. Another four huts. You went along a kind a, flat bit. And it was a hut there on yer right. Two on yer left. And then another one straight on. And that’s the one that my uncle stayed in. Before that, there was over to yer left...there was other huts. But eventually they done away wi’ a’ them. Ah dunno why but they...maybe four o’ them five of them,

just seemed tae pull ‘em doon. And that was the size o’ the camp. Wasnae a lot of people in it...eventually...Eh, I dunno, about ten, twelve families.”

“Brilliant, eh, plenty a room tae run aboot. Enjoy masel. Have fun. And there was a farm back tae back on it...We used tae go in there and steal the potatoes and the turnips.”

We have evidence that there were tilly lamps in the huts. Robert Thomson remembers these and also when electricity was being introduced to the huts. It is unclear who made the improvements:

“Eh, the washing...we had a big white sink... When we went in, at first, we didnae have any water...we didnae have any lights in it. We didnae have any heating tae start aff wi’. And then, I dunno whether the council or who it was...but they put lights in it, and they put water in it. Wisnae hot water. It was always cauld water. And you had to boil up any hot water you wanted.”

Oral testimony suggests that there were a few more conveniences at the camp than Commander Galbraith mentioned, though it is unclear when improvements were made. Raymond Barnes remembers the large communal bath at the camp:

“No - there was only one... one hut. On the far side there were three huts, in the middle one was a communal bath, a big bath in it...and that was there when we were there but nobody ever lived in that one, y’know. Because that was a communal bath and that, maybe the prisoners... when they came off playing a game of football or something like that, they just went right into, just jumped into the bath.”

Phil Wilson remembers the wash house and the toilets at the camp:

“The outside toilets near the entrance, which we were not allowed to go to after dark, for obvious reasons. The wash house was at the top end of the camp, where the women gathered on wash day for a bit of a natter, with all the white sinks in a line.”

Robert Thomson remembers the toilets at the camp:

“The toilets, oh, there was a multiple o’ toilets. ‘Coz, where we stayed there was a big hut. And in there was maybe twenty cubicles. We could just use whichever one we wanted. And that’s where yer toilets were. Never had any inside toilets. And that was the toilets that we used. So that was the ones that the prisoners o’ war used.”

Our respondents also have some memories of the stoves in the huts. One talks about how these had been there since the camp’s days as an army training camp for the Pioneer Corps:

“What I remember of the hut was the black range, which my mother used to take

great pride in cleaning. My bed was the first on the right on entering the hut. When I was in bed, I was unable to move with all the blankets and coats piled on me! With no toilets in the huts, it was the potty under the bed, and I never wanted to get out of bed to use it, especially when I was nice and toasty under all the bed coverings!"

Phil Wilson

There is a general theme in our oral testimony of people taking pride in their homes and making small improvements to huts and the surrounding area. This was something which is documented as having happened in other camps throughout the UK. Here Robert Thomson remembers the work of his father, who was a monumental sculptor:

"What a' dae remember is...'coz you see it in the films, the round stove, and a chimney that went through the roof. That's what like oor first hoose was. Oor first hut. As I say my father was a stone mason and a monumental sculptor. And he got a grate, as you call it, and built it into the side o' oor hut. So that we had a fire on the side o' oor hut. No in the middle o' it...and he put a smaller chimney through the roof. And we had a grate. And that's what we had. And ma' uncle across the way, him and my da built one for him as well. So, we were toffs wi' these fancy fires."

Robert Thomson

Raymond Barnes remembers his mother had curtains up in their hut:

"No...she never really degraded it or anything - she made the most of it because, she always used to have the terylene curtains up in the windows and so forth, y'know. We tried to make the best of it...the best of what we had, and that was it."

The occupants may have used the gardens created by the POWs, as Raymond Barnes recalls that there were some flower beds still tended by some residents that dated from those days. Robert Thomson remembers some people growing vegetables. As it was just after the war and rationing was still going on, this would have provided a supplement to the residents' diets.

Norma Wilson also spoke about people growing vegetables in the post-war camp; at least one of them might have been a former POW:

"I've got a kind of cousin Jeanette. And she says she's got memories. She said he was an ex-German prisoner and he seemed to have a piece of land adjoining Lambie's [farm]. And he was growing vegetables on it, and I think he lived in one of the Nissen huts. She mentioned a name, but she couldn't quite remember. But it was an anglicised name, it wasn't a German name. But she said he was definitely a German. So, that must have been after the war. Late '40s, early '50s. Don't know what happened to him in the end."

Captain Galbraith stated that the rents were being collected by the Department of Health Scotland. Robert Thomson remembers the rents for the different sizes of hut being discussed at the camp. He states that it was around six shillings for half a hut, and eight shillings for a whole hut. He was not sure if that was for a week or for a month's rent. It is unclear who divided the huts.

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[View Tree for Francis Kelly](#) Francis Kelly (b. 28 Jul 1927, d. 03 Dec 1993)

Picture of Francis Kelly

Francis Kelly (son of **Francis Kelly** and **Helen Watson Hawthorne**) was born 28 Jul 1927 in 1889 Maryhill Rd, Glasgow, and died 03 Dec 1993 in Gartnavel Hospital, Glasgow. He married **Martha Cowan Algie** on 24 Feb 1950 in St Peter' Church, Partick, Glasgow, daughter of **James Balgarnie Algie** and **Sarah Cowan**.

More About **Francis Kelly**:
Occupation: Coal Merchant.
Residence: 38 Moraine Drive, Blairdarde, Glasgow.

More About **Francis Kelly** and **Martha Cowan Algie**:
Marriage: 24 Feb 1950, St Peter' Church, Partick, Glasgow.

Children of **Francis Kelly** and **Martha Cowan Algie** are:
+**Francis Kelly**, b. 01 Oct 1950.
+**James Balgarnie Algie Kelly**, b. 02 Jan 1952, Hut 59, Patterton Camp.
Helen Kelly, b. 05 Mar 1954, d. 02 Apr 2003, Southern General, Glasgow.
+**Jean Muir Fleming Kelly**, b. 07 Apr 1955, 88 Northinch St, Glasgow.
+**Mary Robson Kelly**, b. 03 Mar 1957, 88 Northinch St, Glasgow.
+**Paul Kelly**, b. 10 Mar 1960, 88 Northinch St, Glasgow.

James Balgarnie Algie Kelly, born in Hut 59, Patterton Camp. Source Genealogy.com

We know of at least five babies that were born in Patterton Camp. We have also heard about children going from the camp to school in Carnwadric and Thornliebank, and being bussed as far as the Gorbals for their schooling. We have heard tell of parents working in different jobs and industries. The course of normal life seemed to have generally gone on for these people, despite their unusual dwellings.

We have not heard a great deal in terms of relations with the local population. Most of our respondents who lived outside the camp have little recall of this phase of its existence. Two of the respondents who do remember, seemed to be under the impression that the camp had Irish travellers in it at some stage. John Manson said that he recalls being told to stay away from the camp for that reason. He also states that it was not exclusively Irish travellers who lived at the camp. James Rodger knew about Irish travellers living there during this time.

He remembers a man going in to pick a fight there every Saturday night. Robert Thomson recalls:

“The men from Thornliebank, came up to the camp. And there was a fight that seemed to be between the men in the camp and the men in Thornliebank. What it was about, haven’t a clue. But I remember it actually happenin’...As a’ say, I was only whatever age... And there was a battle royal going on outside. Maybe other people will remember it. But that was only the once it ever happened.”

Phil Wilson tells us that his mother was assaulted whilst pregnant with his younger sister, just outside the camp. Men from the camp scoured the area but could not find anyone. Thankfully there was no lasting damage to mother or baby. On a more positive note, Norma Wilson tells us about a relative from the area who used to visit a resident of the camp:

“And she mentioned there was some old lady lived in one of the Nissen huts after the war and Jeanette used to visit her.”

We have heard about people from the camp working on Patterton Farm, picking turnips, and of kids scrumping vegetables from there. Robert Thomson told us about getting paid with a toffee bar to go and collect papers from Patterton train station for Hutchison’s shop. He also told us about football matches against other camps that were being used as housing in the area.

There is a general feeling from our oral testimony that the children enjoyed the freedom of the countryside in the area around the camp. Phil Wilson sums this up below:

“We kids used to run all over the camp with not a care, and the corn fields were our favourite place in the summer months. We would be up there for hours, only coming home when we were hungry for something to eat. According to my mother, I used to bring all my pals back to our hut for bread and jam, no biscuits in those days!”

Both oral testimony and anecdotal evidence indicates that the Patterton camp was empty by 1957, and that this may be related to Glasgow Corporation finally putting ‘squatters’ on its housing list in 1956. However, it may be that one or two people lived there quietly until all the huts were eventually demolished a year or two later. Raymond Barnes’ and Robert Thomson’s families left Patterton in around 1955 to move to Pollokshaws and Priesthill, respectively. Robert Thomson would come back and stay over with friends still living in the camp until they, too, moved out. Phil Wilson’s family left in 1954 for the Wirral. Here, Phil sums up his thoughts about living in the camp:

“All in all, I do not think Patterton Camp did our family any harm at all. We were certainly not squatters as some reports think! It was the circumstances of the time, just after the war, that required people to do what they could for their families.

Phil Wilson



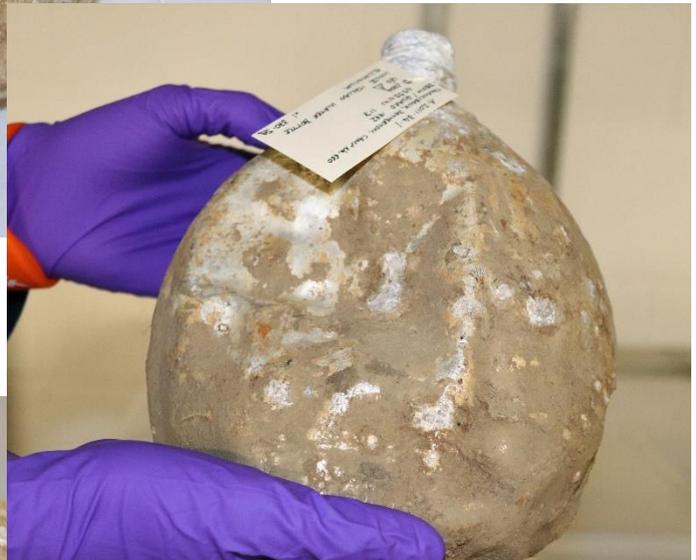
Patterton Gallery
Archaeology &
Original Artwork

Archaeological Artefacts

An archaeological evaluation of Patterton Camp site, undertaken by GUARD (GUARD 2004, RCAHMS MS 2320), unearthed the following finds.

Images of original artefacts by Dr Sue Morrison.

Reproduced courtesy of Glasgow Museums



Italian Army WWII tropical issue water bottle. Found with dump at hut base 20. Lead corrosion around neck of bottle. Evidence of object corrosion.

Toothbrush made of amber coloured Bakelite. Handle imprinted with 'The Tatler - made in England - pure bristle'.





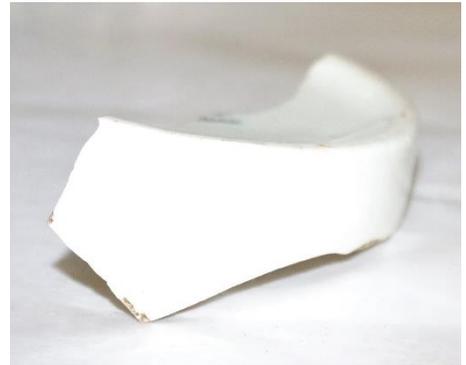
Table knife



Worked bone implement handle



Hinged iron cover plate. The writing in unreadable due to the corrosion products.



Various crockery shards







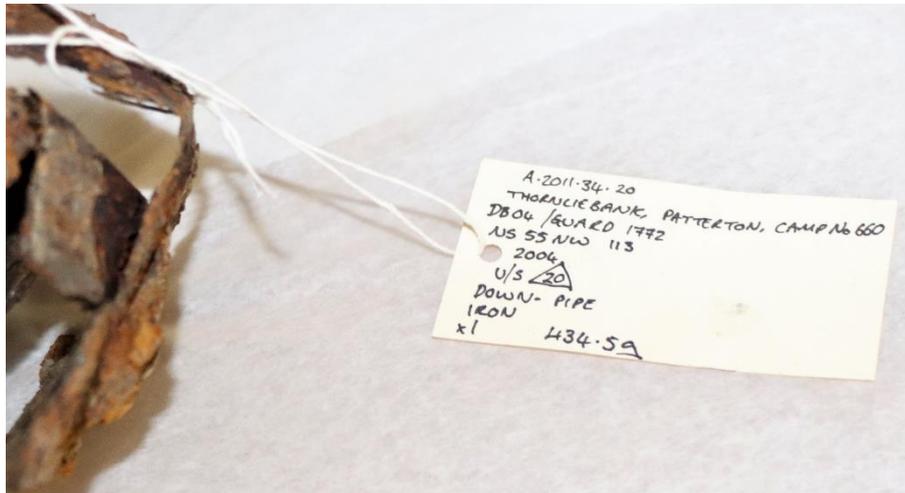
Reinforced glass sherds. Smooth on one surface and textured on the other.
Rectangular grill bar fragment associated with ventilation and drainage

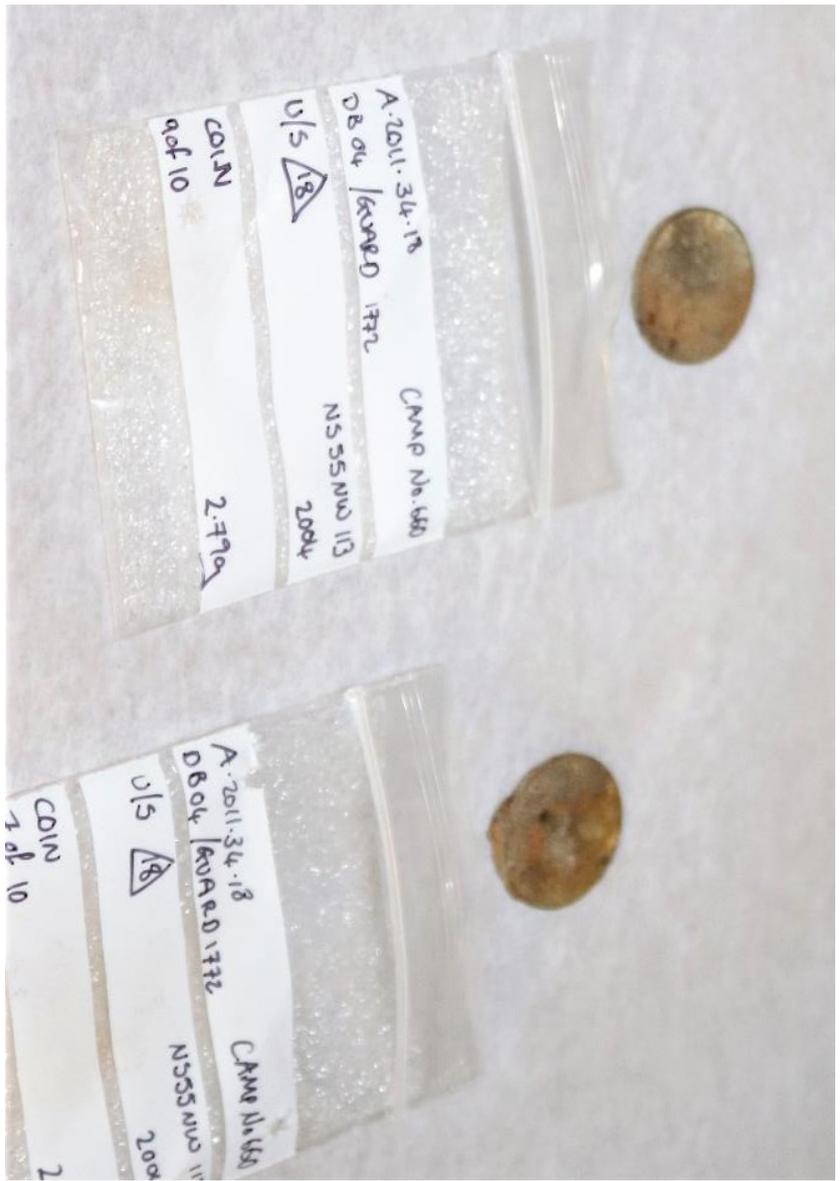


Lid of Cherry Blossom Boot Polish lid.
Nivea cream tin lid



Section of down-pipe





Ten unidentified copper alloy coins. Four large, two medium and four small.



Original Art from our very talented artists!



All
Embroidery Art
by
Jo Neill



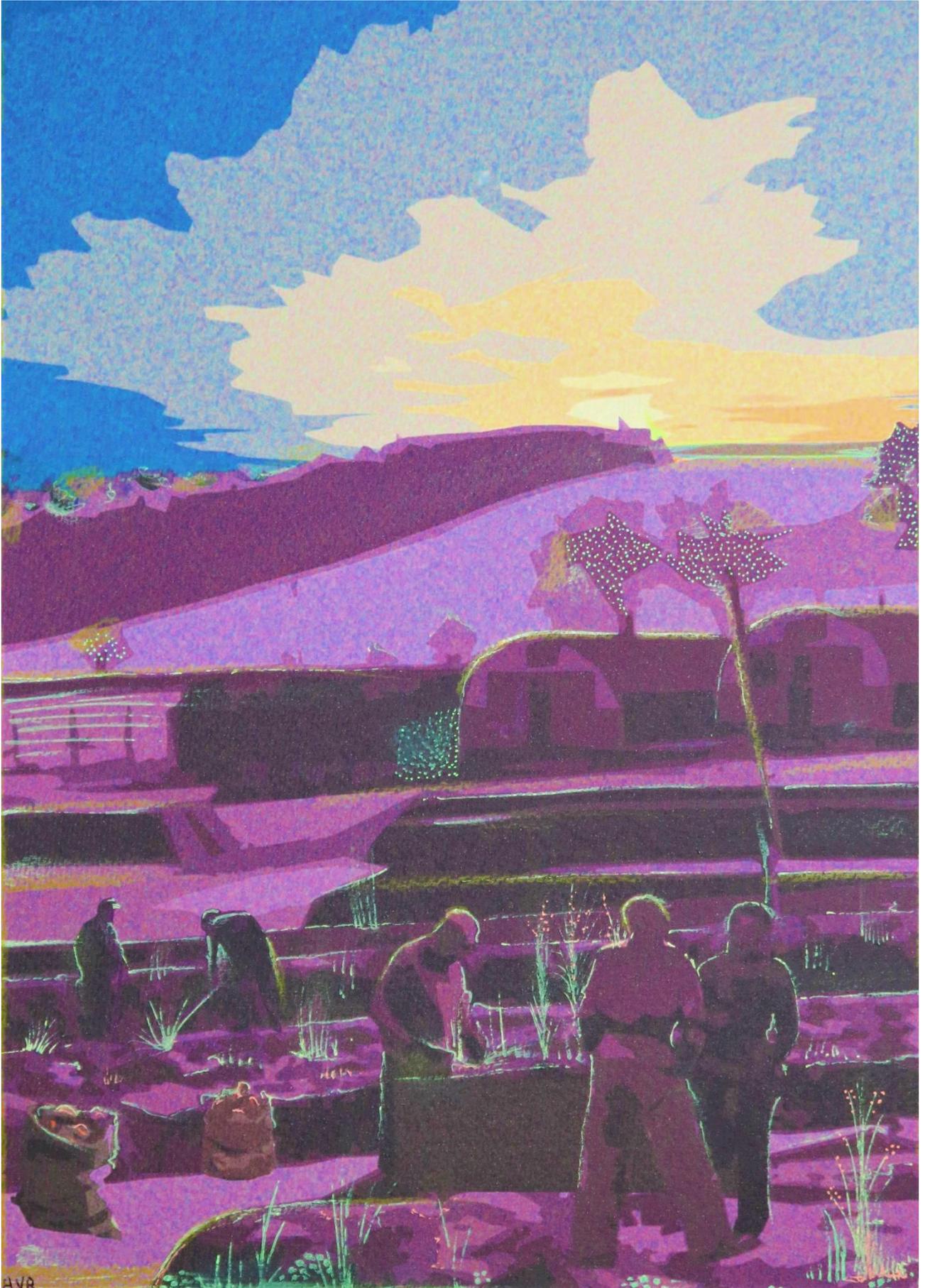






Amelia Rowe
Watercolours x3







Rachel Toner
Ink & Decoupage Art x3







**Guest
Research
Contributions**

Italian-Scots to Scottish-Italians 'Tallys', Cafés and Chippies - Their Story and Mine!

by Raffaello Gonnella

History and Background, 1880 - 1910

Italians immigrants first came to Britain in the very late 19th Century, settling firstly in London. By the start of the 20th Century these same Italians had been joined by others and had spread out to most of the major cities in the U.K.

Why were these Italians leaving their homes and families in their native Italy? The relatively new country of Italy was formed officially in 1861 but by the 1880s many Italians found themselves living below the poverty line. New horizons looked to be the best prospect of bettering themselves. The mass emigration of Italians to the United States of America has been quite well documented and scenes of shiploads of emigrants sailing past the statue of Liberty to land at the immigration centre on Ellis Island have been popular scenes in many films! But many other Italians did not make it as far as the U.S.A. Those Italians coming to Britain spread out, heading for Liverpool and Glasgow, and having got that far many decided not to go any further. Liverpool, being a major employer and important dock and port. While Glasgow was 'The Second City of The British Empire', enjoying a golden period in its history.

Scottish Italians, 1910 – 1939

There are no accurate statistics but there are undoubtedly thousands of contemporary Scots who can trace their Italian origins back to Northern Tuscany and the small Tuscan village of Barga and the surrounding countryside area of Garfagnana or to the southern area of Picinisco, and the Frosinone region including Cassino, Atina and Val di Comino. These immigrants were a uniformly and independent minded lot, and very few of the incomers had any intention of working for any other employer. Their ambition was to be their own masters. Their employment in the early days was varied, but the bulk drifted towards what is grandly known as the 'catering service'.

The modest café was commonplace in Italy but an innovation to Scotland, for which the Italians were largely responsible. In its own small way, its introduction was a revolutionary departure and one which added colour to the life of the nation, since it provided working class men and more especially women with a social meeting place. Some people regarded this novelty with dread and suspicion and Scotland, being what it is, there were those who were convinced that the café could only bode ill for the moral welfare of the people. And, of course, no district in any city town or village did not boast an Italian café or a fish and chip

shop, always fondly referred to as 'the chippie', and proprietors of both catering establishments as 'The Tallys'.

The desire to remain independent, allied with the choice of employment, meant there was never a 'little Italy' in Glasgow or any of the other UK towns or cities – the Italians spread themselves out. Because no matter how prosperous the districts in the city were, each district could only support two or three catering establishments. And these new Italian–Scots moved to where the work was to be found, immersing themselves into the host culture juggling the introduction of their new home and country with their memory and love of the land of their birth.

During the First World War, 1914-1918, Italy was an ally of Britain. Some Italians who had made new lives for themselves in Britain did feel compelled to return home and join the Italian Army. After 1918, the early immigrants who had arrived before 1914 had begun to prosper and word was sent back to towns, villages, hamlets and family in Italy for others to join them in this new adventure. For the next 20 years everything moved forward – every neighbourhood accepted their new Italian neighbours; the children of these immigrants made friends and went to school, most were bi-lingual, speaking Italian at home, and English both at school and when out playing with their Scottish friends. But the mothers and fathers still clung to their Italianism and families tended to spend leisure times with other Italian families, speaking their own language freely and catching up on news from 'home'.

Sunday was a day off, when the shop was closed, and these days were always spent with family. A full sit-down meal with the family all together was standard; later other people would go to each other houses for a visit, the men and women separating, the men to play cards and have a few tumblers of vino and the women all busy talking together. Italian Clubs were also set-up in some of the bigger locations. In Glasgow there was the famous Casa D'Italia in Park Circus. Special occasions and celebrations took place, but it was mostly dances, organised in the hope that Italian boys and girls would meet and eventually marry. The dream of joining two Italian families together was high on their hopes.

The War and Internment, 1940 – 1945

By the middle of the 1930s events and the political situation in Europe and beyond began to change quite dramatically and quickly. By 1939, Britain and France were at war with Germany. After the Munich crisis of 1938 war was unavoidable. Among the precautions the British Government took was the passing into law, only two weeks before the outbreak of war, the *Emergency Powers Act (1939)*, clause 18B of which dealt with the possible threat from British nationals. Foreigners could simply be detained under the Royal Prerogative, which required no legislation and guaranteed no appeal; in effect a suspension of *Habeas Corpus*, effectively ascribed them to one of three categories:

A: High Risk. Majority interned immediately.

B: Doubtful. Allowed to remain at liberty subject to travel restrictions.

C: No Risk. Allowed to carry on as normal.

In 1940 the situation escalated again when, on 10th June 1940, Italy declared war on Britain and her allies, and joined the war on the side of Germany. Churchill, the British Prime Minister, reacted to Italy's declaration of war and the question of what was to become of Italians in Britain by issuing his infamous decree to "Collar the lot". An order to arrest all Italian males aged between 16 and 70 was issued. Literally overnight, everything changed for Italians and their families living and working in Britain! Mobs went on the rampage and their targets were the shops of Italian owners, those same chippies and cafes that, only a few days before, they had frequented and enjoyed. The mobs smashed and looted, and in some extreme cases shops were set ablaze. Many Italians were injured trying to protect themselves their business and their families. Homes were visited and Italian males arrested; there was no set format or rules or order to these arrests. But it appears that membership lists of Italian clubs were obtained and used as a basis for arrest. And obviously, it was easier with the resources available to arrest and imprison Italian males from the main cities and towns. It took a lot longer to get the word and instructions out to the smaller towns and villages scattered across Scotland. By the end of June 1940, the response to Churchill's 'collar the lot' was put into top gear; Home Secretary Sir John Anderson ordered the round-up of the harmless, the category C aliens, and another 13,000 Italians swelled the numbers in the makeshift camps to nearer 30,000. George Orwell observed that he could not get a decent meal in London as the chefs from the Savoy, the Café Royal, the Piccadilly and most of Little Italy, had all been locked up. One camp was rumoured to hold no less than fourteen top London chefs.

The internment camps were under military control, haphazard, makeshift, unplanned, inconsiderate, insensitive, callous, criminal ... and it is from this period that most of the complaints about internment stem. The two most resounding complaints were the breaking up of families and the total deprivation of news, no newspapers, no radio and a cumbersome censorship of mail that led to a summer backlog of over 100,000 letters. Next was the loss of personal possessions, in particular the loss of documents such as passports and undeniably, there were plain acts of theft. The detention of German POWs alongside legitimate refugees was a cause of concern. A letter to the London *Times* on July 23rd protested about 'scenes of persecution which have already been alleged'.

What to do with these thousands of men they had arrested and held in local police stations and jails? The powers-that-be commandeered accommodation such as barracks and schools and the internees were transported to holding camps such as Woodhouselea (near Edinburgh), Kempton Park and Lingfield racecourses, or direct to camps across the British Isles and away from the south coast. None had been designed for this purpose. In Bury, Lancashire, a derelict cotton mill had simply been wrapped in barbed wire. In Huyton, Liverpool an unfinished housing estate was commandeered. Of the many camps, the worst seems to have been the camp at Bury, known as Warth Mills. It was termed a temporary transit camp, but the conditions were scandalous, and temporary transit could mean at least a week's stay. Two thousand men were housed in this semi-derelict building. There were

eighteen water taps and one bathtub; beds were only boards; there were neither tables nor benches; blankets were full of vermin, and they had to eat standing up. The lighting for the entire place came through the glass roof; partly broken, it also allowed the rain to come in. The commandant refused to give any drugs for the sick without payment. The officers confiscated wallets and the soldiers' seized all suitcases and took anything they fancied.

The next question was of course what to do with the internees: The increase in numbers of those interned led to a serious space problem within the UK and the answer was to ship them to the colonies. A decision was taken at the War Cabinet to export these internees/aliens to Canada and Australia. The first group of 7,500 were selected and, in mid-June, the British Government approached the governments of both Australia and Canada, who both agreed to take 7,000 internees.

On June 24, 1940, the first ship, the *SS Duchess of York*, headed off to North America with 2,602 internees, mostly German prisoners of war; this was twice her normal capacity for passengers. She sailed from Liverpool and arrived in Quebec on June 28. The internees then travelled by train for over two days to Nipogen, Ontario, where a discarded mining camp had been converted to an internment camp. The *SS Duchess of York* was an ocean liner (20,021 tons) built by John Brown & Co, Clydebank (Yard No.524), for the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company. Launched on the 28th September 1928, and completed in March 1929, she served on the Liverpool to St. John, New Brunswick route, via Belfast and Greenock. In 1940, she was requisitioned by the Admiralty as a troop ship. The *Duchess of York's* mission to deport such a large group of men was seen as a great success.

On the 1st July 1940, the *SS Arandora Star* was loaded with over 800 Italians. Germans and Austrians arrived at Liverpool docks and they too were put on board. No one knew where they were going, nor were they told when they asked. The *Arandora Star* slipped anchor at Liverpool docks on Monday, 1st July 1940, bound for Canada. She slowly made her way past the Point of Ayre, then the Isle of Man, where later many others were to be interred.

Sailing at 15 knots, the Mull of Kintyre was soon in the distance and at about 3am on the 2nd of July 1940, the *Arandora Star* passed Malin Head, heading towards Bloody Foreland and out into the Atlantic. However, the *Arandora Star* met its fate when she was torpedoed by a German U-boat, submarine, U-47, 75 miles west of Bloody Foreland, Ireland at approximately 7am on the morning of 2nd July 1940. Almost 1700 were onboard the *Arandora Star*, crew, guards, Italians, Germans and Austrians.

Of the 734 Italians on board	- 446 died
Of the 479 Germans/Austrians on board	- 175 died
Number of crew and guards who died	- 184
Total number of dead	- 805

The *Arandora Star* was built at the Cammell Laird Shipyard, Birkenhead on Merseyside Liverpool, for the Blue Star Line Company. She was 535 feet long 15,300 tonnes and was launched on January 1927. In 1929, just two years after her launch, the *Arandora Star*

underwent a major overhaul when she was converted into a luxury cruise liner by Fairfield of Govan, in Glasgow, to carry 164 passengers . The new, sleek looking 15,000-ton cruise liner was captained by Edgar Wallace Moulton. Captain Moulton was to take the *Arandora Star* on cruises to the most exotic ports and countries of the world. During the 1930s he took the *Arandora Star* on winter cruises to Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, Trinidad, Florida, Cuba and the Canary Islands. The springtime saw her cruising in the Mediterranean, and in summer it was to Germany, Scandinavia and the Fjords of Norway. She became one of the world's best-known cruise ships, and many of the world's top businessmen and women, royalty and literary figures, dined at the captain's table.

The third ship, *SS ETTRICK*, departed on July 3 with 3,062 internees. The *Ettrick* was accompanied by a destroyer escort and safely reached its destination after a 10-day voyage. The internees were badly treated and sailed in overcrowded and filthy conditions. When the ship eventually docked at Quebec, the prisoners were kept on board for a further 12 hours without food and when they were eventually brought ashore, they were made to hang around on the dockside for another six hours. It was during this wait that all of their possessions were taken from them. They were eventually interned in an old disused fort, known as Camp 43, on the Isle Sainte Helene in Montreal.

The fourth ship, the *Sobieski*, followed on July 7 with 1,828 internees who ultimately made their way to a camp near Fredericton in New Brunswick. *MS Sobieski* was a Polish owned ship built by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Wallsend. Launched on 25th August 1938 and completed on the 15th June 1939, she was almost immediately commandeered as a troopship. 11,030 tonnes, 155.8 metres in length with a beam of 20.4 metres and draft of 8.3 metres, she was powered by engines made by J. G. Kincaid & Co., Greenock.

The next shipments of internees planned were to go to Australia. The first, and as it turned out the only ship to depart, was *HMT Dunera* ,on July 10th, 1940. First of those who were on the *Dunera* were over 400 survivors of the *Arandora Star*, who had been disembarked at Greenock in Scotland from the Canadian destroyer *St Laurent*. Next were the 500+ German and Italian prisoners of war. And of the other 1500 men who went; many volunteered to go, deceived by false promises by camp commanders and others. The promises included, with some minimal restrictions, that enemy aliens would enjoy considerable personal freedom overseas and would be allowed to work at their chosen occupation.

The Isle of Man became the largest host to the interned' men, women and even children were imprisoned there. The Isle of Man was a blessing to the security forces because of its geographical location. It lay squarely in the Irish Sea between Scotland, Ireland and England; a five-hour sailing from Liverpool, it was more isolated than any Hebridean island, governed by its own parliament and practically immune, either from attack or rescue. Camps sprang up in Onchan, Peel, Ramsey, Port Erin and Port St Mary. In Douglas, whole streets of seaside boarding houses had been cordoned off, the windows blacked out and the summer guests replaced with prisoners.

The Isle of Man, having its own parliament, also had its own rations standard, somewhat more relaxed than on the mainland, and there was always the possibility of trade with the locals. By the end of 1940, 10,000 interned aliens who had been held on the Isle of Man, and a few others from camps in mainland Britain, had begun to be released. Many were eventually released back to their civilian lives, some joined the forces; many were allowed to join the Pioneer Corps, a non-combatant regiment that laid roads and dug drains. They were often regarded as the army's dumping regiment, but undeniably useful.

War is Over, 1945 - 1949

After the war, wounds between Italians who had lived through the most traumatic time were still very raw. Many were still registered as enemy aliens and the uncertainty and lack of contact and information from their homeland added to the sense of anxiety. Men were released from internment, returning home to find businesses either no longer there or in a very poor state. The women had been left to manage as best they could, with the main concern being the children and their day to day safety. The businesses were just another problem to contend with and lack of support, low rations, and the general mayhem that war brings, meant many businesses simply folded or were at their lowest point. All those who did return to their families and were reunited, were the happy stories, but for many other families who lost a loved one, this meant a new time of worry, fear and uncertainty. But these Italians were a resilient lot and gradually life and businesses were re-built. Contact made with family in Italy only confirmed that their homeland was in even greater disarray than what it had been 20+ years previous, when it had first forced them to consider leaving. The loss of so many males was felt by all peoples and slowly the same café's and chip shops began to appear flourish again.

1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

The late 1950s and the 1960s were the real zenith for chippies and cafes. The films of the time and news reports portrayed the USA-style drugstores and coffee shops, and then there was the rock'n'roll era. Music and youth culture exploded, and teddy boys were followed by rock and rollers, and then mods and rockers. The start of the swinging 60s saw a massive upsurge in café popularity. These cafes introduced jukeboxes, neon lighting and American diner furnishings and fixtures, although some of the smaller cafes still retained the look and feel of a quaint sweetie shop. But for all of them, the products they sold were at the root of their popularity. Cones and nougats, sponges, oysters, wafers and 99s some dripping with raspberry sauce, known as 'Tallys Blood', went together with new cappuccino-spluttering coffee machines, serving the milky coffee in Pyrex cups and saucers and the glitzy neon-lit jukeboxes. Businesses flourished, life got better, and Italians enjoyed a new-found affluence and a level of total acceptance and integration.

Yet, they were still referred to as 'Tallys', and the school kids with the strange and funny sounding names were still teased about being 'oily' and 'greasy', and coming from homes that emitted strange smells and where freshly ground coffee, parmesan cheese and Salsiccia (Italian sausage) were hung up like a large deformed necklace. Family was still paramount and important but now mixed marriages (Italian to non-Italian) were much more common than same nationality marriages, and names were changed or anglicized to immerse these new Scots into their surroundings; and not just the children, the old thought it better also; old Giuseppe became Joe, Luigi became Ian, and Giovanni, John. The children born after the war years spoke only English. And anyway, any prejudices, jokes or jibes against these Italians and their families were fading away as there was now a new arrival to contend with, as a huge surge and sudden and quick influx of all the new immigrants arrived from the Indian sub-continent (India and Pakistan).

St Andrew's Cathedral's Italian Garden

Today, families and descendants of those first Italian immigrant settlers have a monument and a reminder to everyone of what Italians brought to and gave to Scotland and the U.K. St Andrew's Cathedral's Italian Garden was officially opened on Monday 16th May 2011. Following 18 months of work (which is still ongoing), a new and dramatic space has been created next to the Cathedral.



The garden has, as its focal point, a monument commemorating the *Arandora Star* tragedy. Designed by Roman architect Giulia Chiarini, its monumental mirrored plinths with inscriptions from the Gospel and Italian poets, is set in a grass and slate landscape. A 200-year-old olive tree, gifted by the people of Tuscany as a sign of peace and reconciliation, has been planted and a fountain and stream traverse the central space. Around the walls, marble plaques tell the story of the Cathedral, of the Catholic revival in Scotland, and of the

Arandora Star tragedy. The names of every one of the Italian-Scots who drowned on the ship are carved on the central wall plaque. This splendid new facility is open from dawn to dusk and is fast becoming a favourite tourist spot for visitors in Glasgow. It offers a 'breathing space', a gathering area, and in future, maybe an exhibition area, a café space and a shop. It also provides a focus for a forgotten tragedy, which has never been appropriately marked - the new garden is the world's largest permanent memorial to all the victims of the *Arandora Star*, which on the morning of 2nd July 1940, off the coast of Ireland, was torpedoed and sank. In the sinking, 805 men perished, British, Germans and Italians. Of that total, 446 were Italian civilians, and of them, 96 were from Scotland.

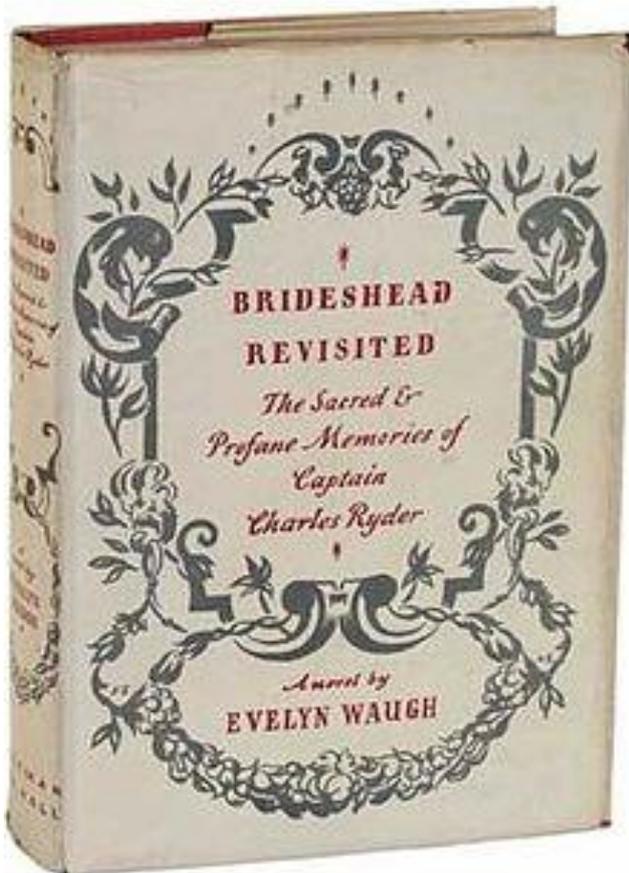
There are other memorials to the victims of the *Arandora Star* in Scotland, England Wales and Italy. With the creation of the Italian Garden and the memorial to all who died aboard the *Arandora Star*, and with the wall plaque displaying all the names of those Italian-Scots who died, It now seems, thankfully, that the new Scottish-Italians will never let the tragedy be forgotten and as new modern Europeans they have their monument to mark their ancestors journey and their own history!





Evelyn Waugh and Patterton Camp?

by Rachel Kelly



On a more whimsical note, there has been some suggestion that the first army camp described in the prologue of the novel *Brideshead Revisited*, by Evelyn Waugh, is based, at least partly, on the WWII army camp at Patterton.

Waugh's biographer, M G Brennan, places Waugh at a 'Pollock Camp'. This may have been another army camp in the area. However, it is entirely possible that Waugh visited Patterton during his stay. It must be remembered that *Brideshead Revisited* is a work of fiction and that, therefore, the descriptions of the camp and the surrounding area might not be accurate and may be based on aspects of various camps that Waugh visited during the war. Brennan writes, 'The prologue begins in 1942 with 'C' company and Ryder (like Evelyn, aged thirty-nine) about to leave the desolate Pollock Camp near

Glasgow (recalling Evelyn's dismal time there) for Brideshead.' A lot of these camps would have been in a rural setting, but Waugh's character Ryder's description of the camp seems to hint at it being based, at least partly, on Patterton:

'Here the tram lines ended, so that men returning fuddled from Glasgow could dose in their seats until roused by the conductress at their journey's end... Here the close, homogenous territory of housing estates and cinemas ended, and the hinterland began.'

Several respondents have stated that the Rouken Glen tram stopped at the end of the line, which was near to Patterton Camp. The sudden change from suburbia to countryside does seem to closely resemble the area during this era. It is also noteworthy that Waugh writes that the tram was returning from Glasgow. The camp was just on the border of Glasgow and Renfrewshire. Waugh states:

'The camp stood where, until quite lately, had been pasture and ploughland; the farmhouse still stood in the fold of the hill and had served us for battalion offices; Ivy still supported part of what once had been the walls of a fruit garden; half an acre of mutilated old trees behind the wash-houses survived of an orchard. The place had been marked for destruction before the army came to it. Had there been another year of peace, there would have been no farmhouse, no wall, no apple trees. Already half a mile of concrete road lay between bare clay banks, and on either side a chequer of open ditches showed where the municipal contractors had designed a system of drainage. Another year of peace would have made the place part of the neighbouring suburb. Now the huts where we had wintered waited their turn for destruction.'

This paragraph is full of clues that this could be partly a depiction of Patterton camp. The farmhouse in the fold of the hill. The Patterton farmhouse was on a hill above the camp. Here our respondent Jessie Jolliff, granddaughter of the Lambie family, who owned the farm from at least the 19th century up until 1952, describes the setting of the farmhouse:

"It's just beside the Patterton roundabout. You just go along that...you can't actually get up to it now. But it just, it overlooks Glasgow and the view is totally... They were up at the back. The camp would be down in the hollow. Heading towards Spearsbridge. It would be a wee, sort ah, distance from it...It wasn't just on the site that they lived...it was quite a bit down."

It is mentioned in the paragraph that the farmhouse served as battalion offices. This seems to suggest that the farmhouse was empty at the time, which it was not. It could be that this is a complete fiction. It is interesting, perhaps, that Jessie Jolliff also states that, it was related to her that her grandparents, who owned the farm at this point, provided accommodation for the wives of guards from the camp, during WWII:

"My gran used to open up one of her rooms for, I think it was, the guards' family to come and visit. I don't know how often that would take place. I think they all basically just tried to work together. I think it was like, say their wives, came to visit the guards and things... you know, they were sort of in the camp and, sort of, couldn't get away. I don't know if they were kept in the camp. At first, I thought it was prisoners but that wouldn't have been feasible. Em, but that was something...another way of her making some more money, you know... Like something that they did during the war to keep things sorta ticking over."

Waugh's 'The neighbouring suburb' could be a reference to the Jenny Lind housing estate, which is close to the camp; it was built in the late 1930s and was a council estate. To this day, there are apples trees and fruit bushes in part of the area where the camp was. These may have been planted later, perhaps when the POWs were in the camp. The Italians who were there from 1944 to 1945 certainly had a garden. Gardening enthusiasts have suggested

that the apple tree, in an area of woodland between the housing estate and the Patterton Railway Station just off Stewarton Road, looks around 70 years old.

Waugh mentions something called the 'Pollock Diggings' in his prologue. It is unclear to as to what this might refer but it does seem to be his name for what is described in the paragraph immediately preceding the use of the term:

'The smoke from the cook houses drifted away in the mist and the camp lay revealed as a planless maze of short-cuts superimposed on the unfinished housing scheme, as though disinterred at a much later date by a party of archaeologists.'

Of course, possible links between Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* and Patterton Camp are, at this point, simply conjecture, but it is certainly an interesting idea...





**WWII
Recipes**

WWII Recipes

Mock Banana*

Ingredients

Parsnips
Banana extract
Sugar to taste

Method

1. Select young, fresh parsnips as they are more tender and taste sweeter.
2. Peel the parsnips and leave them whole; steam until tender; dry the parsnips.
3. Slice the cooked parsnips and put into a bowl; thoroughly mash and add a few drops of the banana extract. Continue adding small drops of banana extract to taste; add sugar to taste, then mash until smooth.
4. Serve on two slices of National Loaf bread for a nice banana sandwich!

(Source: the1940sexperiment.com)

*A lady called Doreen Dunlop suggested this on our FB page. Her mum's family used vanilla extract. Her 80-year-old mum has not tried a real banana to this day as she hated the fake stuff.

Oatmeal Soup*

Ingredients

1-pint (570 ml) water or vegetable stock
3 tablespoons porridge oats/oatmeal
2 medium finely chopped onions
3 medium grated carrots
1/2 pint (285 ml) of milk
1 tablespoon of margarine
salt and pepper
herbs

Method

1. Place margarine in large saucepan and heat up
2. Add finely chopped onions and fry for 5 minutes on medium/high until translucent
3. Pour in vegetable stock or plain water
4. Sprinkle in the porridge oats and mix
5. Add in salt and pepper and herbs
6. Bring to boil and simmer for 20-30 minutes stirring frequently

7. Add in grated carrots and milk and carry on simmering for another 15 minutes uncovered and stir frequently and add more seasoning as required

(Source: *The Glasgow Cookery Book*)

* This was made at Watten camp in Caithness. Jessie Jolliff found a version in her college textbook *The Glasgow Cookery Book*. The Dough School gave some lessons in ration-based cooking during the war.

Egg in a Nest*

Ingredients

1 egg (fresh shell egg or reconstituted dried egg)
2 slices wheat meal bread
salt and pepper
dripping

Method

1. Beat the egg. Cut holes from the centre of each slice of bread with small scone cutter.
2. Dip the slices quickly into water and then fry on one side (in dripping if you have any available) until golden brown.
3. Turn on to the other side, pour half the egg into the hole in each slice of bread, cook till the bread is brown on the underneath side.
4. The bread cut from the centres can be fried and served with the slices. Serve straight away with salt and pepper to season and some HP or Daddies sauce or brown Chop sauce.

(Source: *Ministry of Food*, leaflet 11)

* A lady called Debbie Paterson mentioned that she was told by her mum that eggs were rationed so everything that involved eggs was made with powdered eggs. Rikki Traynor makes this with real egg! Perhaps he's older than he's telling us! Apparently, my Grandma Kelly had powdered eggs and camp coffee in the cupboard up till she died in '88. My aunt used the camp coffee in coffee cake.

Black Pudding Hot-Pot*

Ingredients

8 oz (225g) black pudding (skinned and cut into slices)
8 oz (225g) potatoes (thinly sliced)
8 oz (225g) carrots (thinly sliced)

1 large onion, if available (finely chopped)
1 teaspoon chopped sage or 1/2 teaspoon dried sage
1 oz (25g) flour
1 teaspoon gravy powder such as Bisto
3/4-pint (450mls) water
salt and pepper

Method

1. Arrange a slice of potatoes in a greased casserole, then a layer of black pudding and carrots.
2. Blend the onion and sage, sprinkle half into the casserole. Add another layer of carrots then the black pudding and chopped onion and sage. End with a layer of sliced potatoes.
3. Blend the flour, gravy powder and water together in a pan and stir overheat until thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Pour the gravy over the ingredients in the casserole and cover with a lid. Bake in a pre-heated oven 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4 for 1 hour.

(Source: Victory Cookbook by Marguerite Patten)

*The POWs at Patterton were served hotpot the night of the Red Cross visit in 1945. I chose this version as I like black pudding. Kidding on pescatarian that I am....

Scottish Vegetable & Meat Pudding*

Ingredients

Pastry

7ozs (200g) plain flour
3ozs (75g) oatmeal, such as pinhead medium oatmeal
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
salt and pepper
2 to 3ozs (50 to 75g) grated suet (I used vegetable suet)
water, to bind

Filling

8ozs (225g) stewing steak
12ozs (300g) mixed prepared vegetables such as carrots, swede, potatoes, turnip, leeks, onions and celery (I used a bag of Scotty Brand prepared Casserole Vegetables)
2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Method

1. Pastry: Mix the flour, oatmeal, baking powder, salt, pepper and suet together and then add enough cold water to make a dough with a soft rolling consistency.

2. Roll the dough out on a floured board and use three-quarters to line a 2-pint (1200ml) pudding basin.
3. Dice the meat finely and mix with the prepared vegetables. Add 3 to 4 tablespoons of water to the filling mixture and season well. Spoon the filling into the pastry lined pudding basin and then roll out the remaining dough to form a lid.
4. Moisten the edges of the edges of the pastry lid and put into position on top of the pie, crimping the pastry together around the edges to form a tight seal.
5. Cover with margarine paper or greased baking paper and add a lid if using a plastic steamer. Place in a steamer and steam for 2 1/2 to 3 hours, making sure the water is topped up regularly with boiling water.

*Terry Boyle suggested bacon pudding but the above was the closest that we could find.

Source: recipespastandpresent.org.uk

WWII Spam® and Egg Sandwich*

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
- 1 slice fully cooked Spam
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 slices bread
- 1 slice cheddar cheese (optional)
- 1 slice tomato (optional)

Method

1. Melt butter in a small skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté the onion in butter until soft.
2. Mash up the slice of luncheon meat with a fork and add it to the skillet. Cook for 2 or 3 minutes, until browned.
3. Pour the egg into the skillet so that it covers all of the meat and onion. Cook until firm, then flip to brown the other side.
4. Place the egg and meat onto one slice of the bread and top with cheese and tomato if desired. Place the other piece of bread on top. Bread can also be toasted first if desired.

(Source: the1940sexperiment.com)

*Gryffen Strong mentioned Spam. I will leave the jokes to Monty Python. Our respondent Mrs Warpole still keeps a tin of this in the cupboard as a guilty pleasure. And she's Jewish...

Cheese, Potato & Onion Pie*

Ingredients

3 lbs of potatoes chopped (or make up to 3 lbs with any chopped root veg)
2 onions chopped in half and very thinly sliced
2 oz grated cheddar cheese
tablespoon of margarine or butter (or fat saved from bacon)
Thyme, salt and pepper

Method

1. Scrub vegetables and scrape or peel if necessary.
2. Chop into smallish pieces (carrot needs longer to cook so if mixed with potatoes make sure the carrot pieces are smaller).
3. Simmer vegetables until tender in boiling water.
4. Meanwhile add sliced onion to a pan with a little butter/margarine/fat and sauté gently until golden.
5. When potatoes/vegetables are cooked and tender drain well and then mash with a tablespoon of margarine/butter and lots of seasoning. At this stage you can add extras such as some garlic powder or some chopped sautéed garlic to add extra flavour. Mix well and when you are happy with the flavour add to a pie dish.
6. Sprinkle over the top with some grated cheese and finally the sautéed long onion slices spreading out evenly over the top.
7. Place in a pre-heated hot oven at 220 C until the top is golden. This will take about 20 minutes.

(Source: Lynne Newman)

*Volunteer Lynne Newman sent us this one. She's so happy we've mentioned the war and specifically the cooking of that time. It has given her lots of ideas for cooking for Layla.

Carrot cake*

Ingredients

Cake

200 gr flour
175 gr sugar (dark muscovado, preferably)
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
pinch of nutmeg
pinch of salt
175 ml oil
3 eggs
200 gr grated carrot

zest of one lemon and of one orange

50 gr of chopped walnuts

Topping

150 gr cream cheese

75 gr butter (at room temperature)

50 gr icing sugar

lemon and orange zest

Decoration

50 gr of chopped walnuts

Method

Cake

Mix all the dry ingredients for the cake in a bowl.

1. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs and mix with the oil. Stir through the flour mixture.
2. Then add the grated carrot, the chopped walnuts and the zest of half a lemon and half an orange and fold it all in until it is mixed properly.
3. Grease a cake tin, pour in the mixture, and bake for 45-60 minutes, 175°C.
4. Roast the rest of the chopped walnuts for the topping in a frying pan. Do not burn.
5. Once hot, add two teaspoons of icing sugar and one teaspoon of sugar. Keep stirring and once the sugar goes soft, turn off the heat.
6. When the walnuts are coated in sugar, take them out of the pan and leave them on a plate to cool.

Icing

1. Set aside the cake to thoroughly cool.
2. Put the cream cheese, butter, icing sugar and zest of half a lemon and zest of half an orange in a bowl, beat with a mixer.
3. Then apply generously to the cake.
4. As finishing touch, sprinkle over the walnuts.

*Gryffen Strong mentioned how carrots were used as a sugar substitute during the war.

Thanks to everyone who suggested recipes or gave us tips!

Patterton WWII

An Oral History of a POW Camp and its Neighbours

Sincere thanks to everyone who participated in this wonderful project and its activities!

You can learn more about the project at:
pattertonpowcamp.co.uk.

Patterton WWII

A POW Camp and its Neighbours

In 2018, Lost Strathclyde Heritage Group received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to deliver an exciting heritage project, 'Patterton WWII: A POW Camp and its Neighbours'. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on a former WWII prisoner of war camp, and the nearby village of Patterton, which straddles East Renfrewshire and Glasgow. With wonderful support from local people, this intergenerational oral history project has captured much of the history of the camp and its impact on the local village and people between 1939 and the late-1950s.

The resulting oral testimonies have shone a light onto an area of the past which was in danger of being lost to time. They tell of interactions and relationships between prisoners and local families, of food being passed through the fence or traded for wooden toys and trinket boxes made by the POWs, of Scottish girls ogling handsome Italians prisoners, and of staying in touch after war's end!

Funded by
Heritage Lottery Fund

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Communities Past & Futures Society



LOTTERY FUNDED

