

# Subject Guide to Prisoners of War



## About our collections

The Wiener Holocaust Library holds books, journals and documents about Prisoners Of War (POWs) in Germany and other countries during World War II. It has material about Allied POWs, Jewish POWs, and German POWs in England, Europe and the USA.

The strength of our material is the breadth of the subject that is covered: We have POW literature and memoir, popular literature and illustrated books, unpublished manuscripts, and academic texts, formal documents, and an excellent selection of camp newspapers from Britain. We hold material in a variety of languages about POWs from different countries of origin, theatres of war, and locations of interment.

We do not hold information or primary sources about more than a handful of individual POWs, however, we do have a small sample of personal documents and unpublished memoirs. We offer our readers the opportunity to do deep contextual research on the subject of POWs, camps, wartime economy and labour, and related topics.



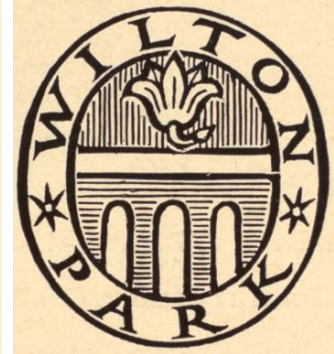
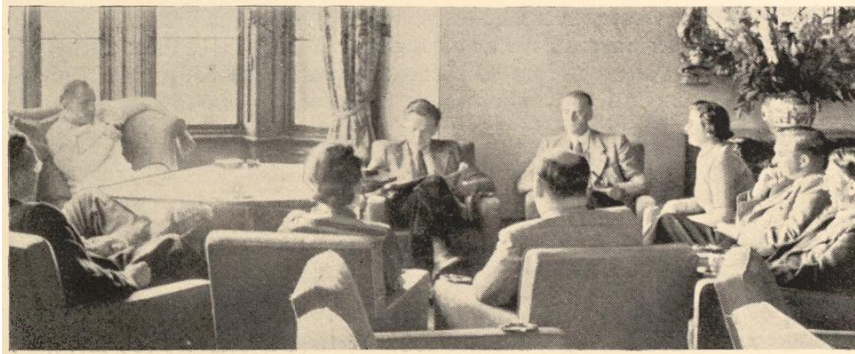
## Topics in POW research

- POW capture, experiences, memories and trauma
- Life in POW camps for officers, and ordinary men
- Mistreatment and war crimes relating to POWs, for example the Katyn Massacre
- The Great Escape, other escapes, and end-of-war marches
- The experiences of Jewish POWs in Germany
- The experiences of Soviet POWs
- War economy and POW labour

## German POWs in postwar England: The Re-Education Program

The Library holds material about German POWs held in England, Canada, and the USA especially during the postwar period. By 1946, most German POWs were transferred to England from where they were later repatriated; many of them remained until 1948.

The Foreign Office's re-education program went into full operation in Britain in 1946 to instil values of democracy in the minds of German POWs. Wilton Park was a special training centre, attended by selected POWs. Publications such as *Ausblick* and *Die Wochenpost* and BBC broadcasts were part of this scheme. Camps also hosted lecture programmes, and POWs were supported to start their own camp newspapers in which they discussed the politics of the day and camp life.



THE LIBRARY HOLDS THE FOLLOWING PAMPHLETS FROM WILTON PARK:

[Notes for guidance in selection of German personalities to participate in Wilton Park courses](#)

[Impressions of Wilton Park](#) – Report by a German civilian on her experiences as a student

[Wilton Park - a Foreign Office pamphlet](#)

## Re-education materials at the Wiener Library:

- Letter from the Foreign Office to lecturers visiting POW camps ([Collection 1430](#)).
- *Ausblick* – the monthly magazine distributed by the Prisoners of War Recreation Association to all German POW camps in Great Britain ([AUS](#))
- *Die Wochenpost*: Zeitung für die deutschen Kriegsgefangenen in England – a weekly newspaper distributed by the Prisoners of War Recreation Association ([P919](#) Microfilm)
- *Der Ruf*: a German POW newspaper published in the USA at Fort Kearny, headquarters of the US re-education campaign and widely distributed. (26 issues - [RUF](#))

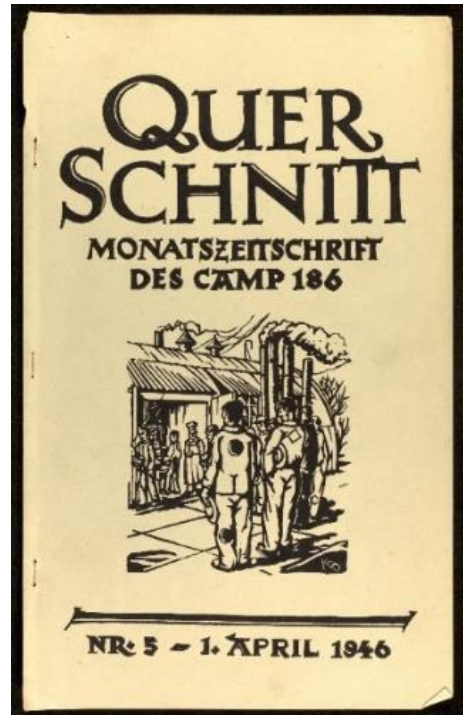




- **More than 300 German language POW camp newspapers from the UK** collected by the Foreign Office as part of monitoring the re-education program. Searchable by title, editor, region, camp location, name and number. ([POW](#))
- Transcripts and [Recordings](#) of interviews with individuals who monitored high-ranking German POWs at Trent Park.

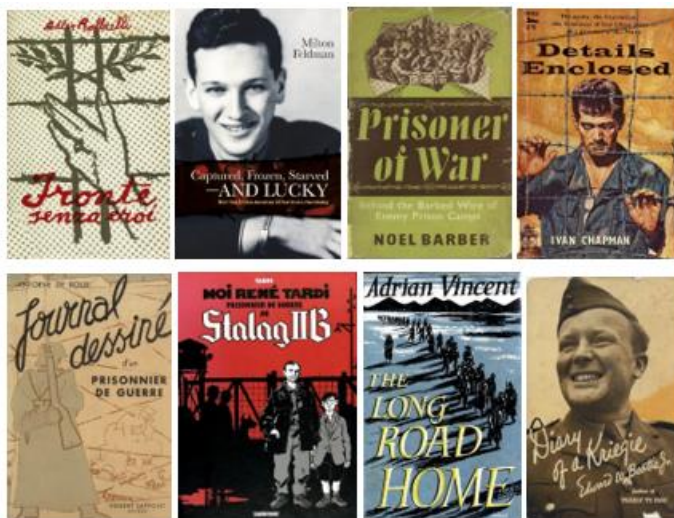
## Other Periodicals and Documents we hold

- “Far East : Companion Journal to The Prisoner of War” – British Red Cross Society ([P03409](#)).
- Fred Kormis documents and photos ([Collection 1032](#))
- Stalag VIII B Lamsdorf and Teschen documents ([Collection 546](#))
- Various official documents and camp regulations from POW camps in Germany ([Collection 1683/27](#))
- The Kaczynski collection - examples of POW and internment camp post ([Collection 2215](#))
- ‘The Camp: Illustrated weekly’ newspaper issued to POW camps in Germany 1941 to 1945 ([Microfilm P918](#))
- Ronald Roberts: personal papers covering imprisonment at camps in Germany ([Collection 1828](#)).
- Julius Kunig POW diary from postwar Germany, 1945 to 1948 ([Collection 2192](#))
- Ernst Velden correspondence, from a German POW in Sussex ([Collection 1715](#))
- Personal papers, photos of Heinz Werner Löwenstein, South African POW repatriated ([Collection 643](#))
- Documents evidencing Nazi allegiance among German POWs in the USA (Collection [1440](#))
- Nuremberg Trial documents about crimes against prisoners of war (1655/[536](#) and /[1802](#))
- Eyewitness testimony of assistance provided to escaped British prisoners of war ([1656](#))
- Documents about the interrogation of German and Russian POWs ([Collection 809](#)).



The Library also holds some unpublished manuscripts and memoirs by and about POWs

## Books about POWs and Related Subjects



The library has more than 600 academic and popular books about POWs in English, German, Italian, French and other languages.

POW books, pamphlets and unpublished memoirs are found at shelf reference **F6d(2)** - Use this term to search for all books about prisoners of war in the catalogue.

# F6d(2)



Berretti, Alessandro : Attenti al filo!

Ask us about our illustrated books and graphic novels.



Moi René Tardi : prisonnier de guerre au Stalag IIB

## Other archives and sites

[Int. Com. Red Cross Archives and Research](#) – law and protection of POWs past and present

[The Imperial War Museum](#) – reading material, photos and camp newspapers

[The National Archives](#) – liberation reports, camp reports, escape and evasion, merchant navy POWs, German record cards, enemy prisoners in Britain, and more

[Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) – POWs who died in captivity

[FindMyPast](#) – (paid subscription service) for online National Archives records about POWs

[Trent Park House](#) – Home of the Secret Listeners



### Ask a Librarian:

We will be able to help you locate relevant material about prisoners of war in our collections. Email [library@wienerholocaustlibrary.org](mailto:library@wienerholocaustlibrary.org) or call 0207 636 7247. You can also visit us at **29 Russell Square London WC1B 5DP**.