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Stalag VIIA

Moosburg



Stalag VIIA (in full: Kriegsgefangenen-Mannschafts-Stammlager VIIA) was one of Germany's largest prisoner-of-war camp during the Second World War, located just north of the town of Moosburg in southern Bavaria. The camp covered an area of 35 hectares (86 acres). It served also as a transit camp through which prisoners, including officers, were processed on their way to other camps. At some time during the war, prisoners from every nation fighting against Germany passed through it. At the time of its liberation on 29 April 1945, there were about 80,000 prisoners in the camp, mostly from France and the Soviet Union. Many others were billeted in Arbeitskommando working in factories, repairing railways or on farms.

The camp was opened in September 1939 and was designed to house up to 10,000 Polish prisoners from the German September 1939 offensive. The first prisoners arrived while the wooden barracks were under construction and for several weeks lived in tents.

British, French, Belgian and Dutch soldiers taken prisoner during the Battle of France started arriving in May 1940. Many were transferred to other camps, but close to 40,000 French remained at Stalag VIIA throughout the war. British, Greek and Yugoslavian prisoners arrived from the Balkans Campaign in May and June 1941. A few months later Soviet prisoners started arriving, mostly officers. At the end of the war there were 27 Soviet generals in the prison. More Commonwealth and Polish prisoners came from the North African campaign and the offensive against the Italian-held islands in the Mediterranean. They were brought here from Italian PoW

camps after the Armistice with Italy in September 1943, including many who escaped at that time and were recaptured. Italian soldiers were also imprisoned.

The first American arrivals came after the Tunisia Campaign in December 1942, and the Italian Campaign in 1943. Large numbers of Americans were captured in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Among the last arrivals were officers from Stalag Luft III who had been force-marched from Sagan in Silesia (now Żagań), Poland). They arrived on 2 February 1945. They were followed by more prisoners marched from other camps threatened by the advancing Soviets.

During the 5½ years about 1,000 prisoners died at the camp, over 800 of them Soviets. They were buried in a cemetery in Oberreit, south of Moosburg. Most died from illness, some from injuries during work. It has been said that there were some casualties from Allied bombs at work sites. On 1 August 1942 Major Karl August Meinel was shifted into the Führerreserve, because on 13 January 1942 he wrote a critical report to General Hermann Reinecke on the segregation and execution of Russian prisoners of war in Stalag VIIA by the Gestapo and the Sicherheitsdienst SD (security service) of the Reichsführer SS (Heinrich Himmler).

Links for More Information

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_VII-A

<http://www.moosburg.org/info/stalag/indeng.html>

<http://www.wartimememories.co.uk/pow/stalag7a.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjMwof-xtLA> (video)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/61/a3592361.shtml>

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/articles/rare-footage-of-stalag-7a-moosburg-german-pow-camp-bridge-at-remagen-and-destruction-of-cologne.html> (video)

http://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/cSt_7A_History1.htm

Names:

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· [Albert Conn Fields](#) · also these links: [Fields Gallery](#) [Fields Army Records](#)

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