

REPORT ON

Army Camps:

SURVIVAL

Stage 2 of the English Heritage Project

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REPORT ON ARMY CAMPS PROJECT STAGE 2

Introductory note

The printed version of this report consists of the main text with three Appendices -

Appendix 1 - Spreadsheet showing camp survival

Appendix 2 - Complete list of sites with NGRs as absolute references

Appendix 3 - Statistics relating to survival

Additionally, there are national and regional site distribution maps.

The digital version of the report is as above, but with the addition of the Database. It should be noted that the Database was designed to be used as a working tool and its content has not necessarily been entered with publication in mind. Also with the digital version are numbers of air photographs, largely gleaned from the Internet, as well as photographs from site visits, some historic photographs (mostly from the Internet), and extracts of maps (largely acquired at 1:5,000 scale from the Internet site, MAGIC - see below).

In addition, the physical archive of the Project Part 2 includes copy documents and maps, field recording notes, hardcopy printouts from the Internet, and prints of photographs taken on field visits.

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South Gloucestershire HER

Somerset HER

Suffolk HER
Humberside HER
West Yorkshire HER
Greater Manchester HER
Norfolk HER
Nottinghamshire HER
Cheshire HER
Essex HER
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PROJECT PART 1 - BACKGROUND

Part 1 of the Army Camps Project was carried out in the first half of 2005 by David Evans. It consisted of a documentary investigation of army camps in England from the time of the Crimean War to the present day. A report was issued by English Heritage in May accompanied by a Gazetteer of Sites, which included barracks and depots as well as camps and covered additionally Wales and Scotland.

PROJECT PART 2 -

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of Part 2 of the Project was to assess the surviving condition of army camps in England, reporting on the differing types of camps and their layouts and buildings for different periods, and to present the results in a spreadsheet ordered by County / Unitary Authority and by condition of survival.

METHODOLOGY

The work of Part 2 proceeded by examining each camp site set out in the Gazetteer, and, by using a variety of resources including a programme of fieldwork, assessing the degree of survival (if any) of the camp. The resources were -

National Monuments Record and County / Unitary Authority Historic Environment Records - An appeal for information on army camps within the required dates was forwarded to the National Monuments Record and to all Historic Environment Records. The response to this appeal is as acknowledged above. The information on individual sites was added to the Database [see below].

Publications - Where these were immediately available, a number of local guides to military remains within counties and other areas were gleaned for information on camps. Much valuable information on the military remains of the First and Second World Wars (in particular) is held at this local level, and the publications of local historians are generally a fruitful source. Two sample titles used were, Longstaff-Tyrrell, P, *Front-Line Sussex* (2000) and Pomeroy, C.A., *Military Dorset Today* (1995), but some ten additional publications were consulted.

The Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain 3rd Edition was used for place names appearing on the 1:50,000 series.

Internet resources -

Ordnance Survey 'Get-a-Map' <www.getamap.co.uk>: mapping at 1:25,000 obtained from these web pages was invaluable for checking the positions of camps. Some camp sites are marked on the maps as 'Camp disused'.

Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) <www.magic.gov.uk>: mapping used at 1:5,000, enabling street and road names to be obtained.

Old Maps <www.old-maps.co.uk>: this web site where scans of the First Series 6in. OS maps can be obtained also has an invaluable database of all addresses in Britain, enabling many camp names to be located.

Getmapping UK <www3.getmapping.com>: this web site enables modern air photographs of c.2000 to be obtained through a search by NGR or post code. Although free high-level previews, they generally allow key elements of the surviving condition of a camp site to be made out.

General searches of the Internet - using GOOGLE to input key words, it was possible to find information on a large number of camps. This information had been posted on the Internet principally by local authorities, local history groups, regimental associations, and as part of Second World War oral history projects. Some of this information was copied into the Database [see below].

GeoInformation Group Database of Historic and Modern Air Photographic Imagery - A six month licence was obtained allowing access to the air photographic imagery made available by the GeoInformation Group. The coverage is patchy only, and

of poor quality in some areas, but where it could be accessed it proved an invaluable resource for fixing the exact locations of sites and for examining the layout of camps and their buildings. 239 sites were identified through this historic imagery (20.12% of the total sites).

The National Archives - Limited research was carried out at The National Archives to obtain additional information on camp sites from a key source it had not been possible to utilise in the documentary assessment of Part 1 of the Project. The source was 'Location Lists' and 'Concentration Lists' included with many of the War Diaries of Military Districts in the record class, WO 166. In particular, the War Diaries for 1944 show the lists of camps pre D-Day at their fullest, often with tented and hutted camps differentiated, and with six-figure military (Cassini) grid references. By translating these references to those of the National Grid, it proved possible to gain exact positions not only of many of these additional sites but also of some of those with only approximate NGRs given in the Gazetteer from the Project Part 1. Some 250 camps were identified from this source out of a total of 453 camps additional to the Gazetteer, many of the others having been gained from Internet sources.

Field Work - Field visits were made to 68 sites (33.01% of the total of sites known with upstanding remains - see Appendix 3: Statistics). Most sites selected for a visit were those thought to have significant remains, although a small percentage of examples with potentially buried archaeology were also included. For practical purposes of time and distance, it was not possible to visit sites in the North of England and the far South West.

THE DATABASE

The complete information obtained on each camp was placed on a Microsoft Access database, with one record for each individual site, although for camps with two or more adjacent parts these were sometimes all placed under one record.

Database fields

ID - each camp site has a unique number which is shown as well in the Spreadsheet of Site Survival [see Appendix 1].

Name of Camp - The name of the camp is given here. If the name is assumed but not confirmed by documentary or other evidence it is placed between square brackets. If the name cannot be conjectured it is marked [Unknown]. Where there are two attested names for a camp both are given separated by a slash mark (/).

Place - Generally the place where a camp is situated, or that closest to it. The place is not necessarily the parish. Street and road names are sometimes included.

County - The relevant counties or unitary authorities are given.

NGR - The National Grid Reference is given in two fields (the grid 100 km square letters and the Easting and Northing figures). The latter are generally to the centre of the known site and are most commonly six-figure references, although some are eight-figure and a few four-figure. Where a site is not known for certain,

but only its approximate location, the word 'Approximate' is placed in an additional field. Appendix 2 gives the complete list of sites as 'absolute references' split into separate fields for Eastings and Northings'.

Date - The different periods in the overall life of a camp are given here, divided by 'Pre WW1', 'WW1', 'WW2', 'Post WW2', and 'present'. Where there is documentary or Internet evidence for particular dates, these are generally shown as well. The latter practice allows the dates of construction of camps built or developed in the inter war period also to be given. Certain of the date periods are used as well in the Type Code [see below].

Type / Purpose - The type of camp, or its particular use, is given here where known, using the classification of types set out on pp30-31 of 'Army Camps: A Documentary Investigation' from the Project Part 1. Information from this field is also incorporated in the Type Code.

Size - The area occupied by the camp, if known and quantified, is given here or the number of men occupying it at a particular period.

Buildings - Whether the camp was 'hatted' or 'tented' (if known) is stated here. Additional details of the type of huts or other buildings are also given.

AP Results - Any evidence seen on modern Internet APs or historic APs [see above] is noted here.

Map results - Any evidence gathered from 1:5,000, 1:25,000, or other OS mapping is noted here.

Field Visit results - Details of a site noted from a field visit, and the date of the visit, are recorded here. A separate check box field indicates which sites are considered candidates for a field visit (generally all sites where upstanding remains are likely to be encountered).

Further information - Any additional information known about a camp or its site is added here. This includes information obtained from the Internet, which in some cases has been copied into the field. Details of army units present at a camp are given wherever known. The military (Cassini) grid reference (if obtained from a documentary source) is recorded here, as are NMR and HER site references.

Gazetteer reference - If the camp is included in the Gazetteer from the Project Part 1, the page number within the particular region is placed here. If the site is additional to the Gazetteer, NIG ('Not in Gazetteer') is shown.

Grading Code - The surviving condition (or otherwise) of a camp is recorded here using a system of numbered codes from 1 to 7. The key to the codes is given below, and is also on the Database screen and at the front of the Spreadsheet. Where a camp is in present use and the state of any survival from an earlier period is unknown, the code 1* is used. However, where such a camp has a known earlier survival, then the relevant condition code for this is given. A 'p' within brackets (p) means the grading is uncertain and is provisional upon field inspection.

- 1 = substantial remains: many upstanding buildings and near complete layout
- 2 = less substantial remains: a few upstanding buildings and partial layout
- 3 = partial layout: roads, tracks, and foundations of buildings only

4 = scattered elements of layout only, perhaps including isolated upstanding buildings

5 = potential buried archaeological features and/or earthworks

6 = site destroyed

7 = unknown (where site can not be identified exactly)

Type Code - The information from the fields 'Date' and 'Type / Purpose' [see above] is shown here by a lettered code for easier identification on the Database. The key to the codes is given below, and is also on the Database screen and at the front of the Spreadsheet.

A = pre-1914

B = First World War

C = Second World War (generally), inc. inter-war

C1 = Militia camp

C2 = Specific D-Day marshalling camp

C3 = Overlord camp (generally)

C4 = Camp occupied by US forces

C5 = Specific WW2 training camp

D = Post-WW2 camp (not still in use today)

E = Camp used by MoD today

THE SPREADSHEET (Appendix 1)

The Spreadsheet is designed to present the surviving condition of camp sites in alphabetical order of counties / unitary authorities and, within them, by numerical order of grading codes. It is generated from the Database and contains data from the following fields arranged by columns -

County / Unitary authority

Grading code

Name of camp

Place

NGR (letter code and numerical reference, plus whether approximate)

Period code

Type / Period (labelled here 'Function')

ID

Gazetteer reference

The ID number forms the unique link with the Database, allowing both Spreadsheet and Database to be consulted side by side.

PROJECT PART 2

RESULTS

Survival: abandoned camps - Appendix 3 provides the total numbers of camps by county / unitary authority with statistics of those with surviving upstanding remains (i.e. complete buildings still in use, ruined or abandoned buildings, building foundations, earthwork hut platforms, earthwork banks, weapon pits and trenches, fence posts and fence lines, paths, roads, and areas of concrete or other hardstanding). Of the total of abandoned camps in England (that is, excluding the approx. 90 camps in current MoD use), 206 have such upstanding remains (18.78%). Of this figure, 23 are Category 1 condition; 56 - Category 2; 50 - Category 3; and 77 - Category 4.

Additionally, remains of camps may survive as buried archaeology, even where they were of short duration or of temporary construction (e.g. tented camps). Hut bases may now be covered by turf as may be roads and paths. Often the superstructures of buildings were demolished, or salvaged for use elsewhere, leaving only their foundations that were too labour-consuming and expensive to remove. Sometimes floors and wall foundations were deliberately buried, or this has happened gradually as the result of a natural process. Many camps were positioned in woodland where their remains, out of general public view, have been speedily covered and largely forgotten. In addition to foundations, the buried archaeology may consist of pits, both for rubbish disposal and for sewage, and of fire trenches for defence. Within woodland, cleared and levelled areas between the trees where tents would have been erected can sometimes be discerned. Iron picket posts for fixing barbed wire may also be found.

A further 521 camp sites without apparent upstanding remains but with the potential for buried archaeology were identified, making a grand total of 727 camps with surviving archaeological evidence (66.27% of the total of abandoned camps). This high figure reflects the rural location of many of the camps, largely unaffected since by development (in particular the temporary camps associated with the WW2 D-Day concentration of forces), or their placement in country parks and other private grounds, or on public land such as commons, recreation grounds, city parks, and open heathland.

Of the differing camp types and periods, there is no example identified of a pre 1914 camp with surviving upstanding remains, although five such sites have the potential for buried archaeological evidence (out of 36 such sites recorded). Four camps of the First World War period have upstanding remains and 23 potential buried archaeology (out of 128 such sites recorded). In both these categories, many other sites undoubtedly await recording.

By far the greatest period of surviving remains is that of the Second World War for which 1133 camp sites were recorded. Of these 202 have upstanding remains, including 23 in the Category 1 condition of very substantial remains including standing buildings. Of individual camp types, 26 purpose-built militia camps (of 66 recorded) have upstanding remains, as have 18 camps (of 225 recorded) associated with the D-Day concentration of

forces and 29 US hospitals built under Operation Bolero (76 of the latter are recorded on the Database out of 116 believed to have been built).

The above figures will undoubtedly be modified by further field work. Many sites in Category 5 (buried archaeological evidence) may prove, in fact, to have upstanding remains, falling most likely into Categories 3 or 4. Additionally, some of the 190 sites classified at present as 'Unknown', owing to their precise location being uncertain, may well prove to have remains of one category or other. Only 207 camps fall definitely into the category of 'Destroyed' where it is likely that all evidence has been removed.

Survival: camps in current MoD use - Only one current camp was visited (Bodney), but it was possible to assess several others from previous inspection reports and by observation from a distance. Many camps presently in use appear to incorporate numbers of buildings from earlier periods of occupation, predominantly of the Second World War and the 1950s (the period of National Service). Where camps have been largely rebuilt from the 1960s, the basic layout of roads, paths, and building blocks has often been retained. At Bodney (a camp for the adjacent Stanford training area formed from the accommodation site of an airfield) at least two Second World War buildings are still in use and the locations of the modern curved-roof accommodation huts probably correspond to their earlier positions. Areas now grassed over are likely to have once been built upon.

Much more work needs to be done to establish a complete record of the building and layout dates of the 91 camp sites recorded as in current use. Where the presence of surviving earlier structures is known, the site has been graded in accordance with the categories used for abandoned camps.

Survival: buildings - It has not proved possible to record surviving buildings at abandoned camp sites in detail, and only a few general notes of the types of buildings and their method of construction have been made: these are included on the Database. Of the 206 sites with upstanding remains, an approximate 90 have surviving roofed, or partly-roofed, buildings, either substantially complete and perhaps in use today for a non-military purpose or abandoned and in a ruined condition. This figure includes sites with single isolated survivals of buildings, but excludes sites where just the walls and / or foundations of buildings survive.

The most common surviving building is the brick-built hut or ward (the latter in the case of hospital camps). Because of its solid construction materials it lends itself most readily to a secondary use after the abandonment of a camp. Wooden huts, used in particular in First World War camps, survive least frequently: only a handful of surviving examples are known. The ubiquitous Nissen hut, and its related types, roofed by curving sheets of corrugated iron or of asbestos, with end walls of wood or brick, were erected in vast quantities during the Second World War, and modern versions of the type are still in use today. It survives most frequently where it has been salvaged from camps and re-erected, for example on local farms, less so on the camp sites themselves. However, significant numbers of examples are still in existence in situ, and some are still in use. It seems that

army units often had a supply of prefabricated hut parts which would be carried from camp site to camp site as the unit moved. Often a Royal Engineers Field Company preparing a camp appears to have done no more than lay the concrete bases for huts, the superstructure of which would be erected when the unit arrived.



Fig.1 (left) - Brick huts at Piddlehinton Camp



Fig. 2 (right) - The Guard House at Piddlehinton Camp converted to a private home.



Fig. 3(left) - Nissen hut in situ at Dunley Hill Camp.



Fig. 4 (right) - Wooden huts at Brigstock Camp.

The most commonly found surviving camp building type is undoubtedly the accommodation hut, but examples of other types of buildings have been noted during the field visits, including guard houses (Piddlehinton), generator houses (Wrotham), water towers (Wardon Hill), storage sheds (Burnshill), cook houses (Dunster), workshops (Houndstone), sewage works (Ullenwood), ablutions (Isle of Thorns), and armouries (Piddlehinton).

Survival: camp layout - The most common form of surviving camp remains are those that were constructed level with the ground surface, for example, roads and paths and areas of hardstanding including parade grounds, as well as the floors of buildings. The removal of these features is usually labour-intensive and expensive, and their retention can often serve a useful modern purpose. Their survival sometimes enables the form and layout of a camp to be determined, particularly when seen from the air. Other 'ground

features' that may survive are vehicle service ramps (Blackmore Park), concrete defence obstacles (Wouldham), entrance gates (Reigate), and fencing posts (Cranwich).



Fig. 5 (left) - Vehicle service ramp at Blackmore Park US hospital.

Fig. 6 (right) - Surviving fence posts at the gateway to Cranwich Camp.



Fig. 7 (left) - Standings for AFVs at High Ash Camp.

Fig. 8 (right) - Camp road at Chuck Hatch.



Fig. 9 (left) - Hut floor at Barns Farm Militia Camp.



Fig. 10 (right) - Excavated Nissen hut base at High Ash Camp.

Survival through modern use - Many Second World War period camps, now abandoned, have a good survival of layout and buildings often owing to their post-war use until relatively recently. The majority of these camps had been constructed under Defence Regulation 51 (the power of requisition), and after the war may have been purchased under the Requisitioned Land and War Works Act, 1945. A schedule of such camps was drawn up by the Holland Committee when reviewing War Department buildings and land in the late 1940s/early 1950s: that schedule was a principal source used in the compilation of the Gazetteer from the Project Part 1.

Even where Cold War period camps were not used actively by the Army, they were retained for emergencies. Such an emergency arose, for example, in 1972 with the sudden influx of Asian refugees from Uganda who were housed at several camps, including Piddlehinton in Dorset. Other camps have been called into use in civil emergencies for temporary housing or as detention centres. Some camps in the immediate post Second World War period served as homes for displaced persons, either civilians evacuated from bombed out cities or refugees from European nations. Polish refugees, in particular, occupied a number of former US hospital camps which remained in existence as Displaced Persons (DP) Camps until as late as the 1960s. Thirteen such camps are recorded on the Database, of which a major survival is Northwick Park. More recently, camp sites have become the homes of the gypsy (or travelling) community.

Some substantial hutted camps that had been purchased by the War Department were sold later to County Councils where their sites were used for housing developments (59 such sites are recorded), for the building of schools (16 sites), and for the establishment of trading and industrial estates which in some cases still make use of the army buildings (17 sites). Others were transferred from the War Department to other Government departments, such as the Home Office where they were retained as prisons, firstly perhaps making use of the army buildings but later providing a site for the development of an updated prison complex. Twenty-seven camps on the Database are today managed

by the Prison Service, some of which still have Second World War army buildings within their perimeters.

Camps that were not to be retained by the War Department (many of these obtained for perceived short-term purposes, e.g. D-Day marshalling camps, under Defence Regulation 50 which gave the power to enter land to construct military works, but not to occupy it entirely) were dismantled soon after their use was completed and the land returned to its owner. Dismantlement appears generally to have been of superstructures down to their foundations, the latter often being left in place. In some cases a landowner may have purchased (or otherwise acquired) complete huts, which, in the case of wooden or Nissen huts, may then have been moved to other sites. As already noted, the roads and paths, and areas of hardstanding, that were left have proved of benefit to landowners, forming farm tracks and agricultural yards. Some camp sites have found a use as caravan sites where the areas of concrete laid down at the expense of the War Department provide solid standings for both mobile and static homes as well as stable access routes (27 such sites are presently recorded).



Fig. 11 (left) - Army camp buildings still in use as part of a trading estate at Longbridge Deverill.

Fig. 12 (right) - A ward of the former US hospital at Northwick Park, now the Northwick Business Park. This camp was used to house displaced Polish families from 1947-1967.

Survival of camps, therefore, can be seen to be dependent on a variety of factors, from later Army or other Government use to the purchase of the sites by local authorities for a mixture of commercial and land regeneration purposes. In particular, the brick huts of many Second World War camps provided convenient and cheap accommodation, and their occupation and maintenance over the past sixty years has ensured the survival of many in good condition. Other camps, although their buildings have generally been entirely removed, still retain evidence of their layout and boundaries through the retention of paths and roads that delineate building plots, perimeters, entrances, and often the open area of the parade ground. A few camp sites, predominantly those of the First World War, show as low earthworks or as crop and soil marks. Much more work is needed in the identification of this category of site survival through the medium of aerial photography.



Fig. 13 (left) - Bushfield Camp. The site has been proposed as a 'park and ride' terminal for Winchester.

Fig. 14 (right) - A ward of the US hospital at Haydon Park (foreground) retained with an area of hardstanding for agricultural purposes. The three sheds in the background are probably modern.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What is a camp? - There is some confusion as to the definition of a camp as opposed to barracks and depots. These terms were often used synonymously in contemporary contexts, or sometimes were not used at all and just the name of the location given. In general terms, however, a 'camp' is a site providing accommodation and/or storage facilities for troops connected with the immediate operational or training needs of the Army (short term or long term) and not its permanent standing to which 'barracks' and 'depots' apply. In times of war, camps would be constructed alongside barracks, initially adjudged of a temporary nature but often being retained later as part of the barracks - this explains why named barracks and camps sometimes stand side by side in garrison towns such as Colchester. As the technical and mechanised nature of the Army developed, sites to cater for particular functions and storage needs (for example ammunition and petroleum products) were constructed away from the traditional army centres, and, although these might be termed depots, they often had attendant camps.

Included as camps in this study are the US hospitals constructed in the Second World War under Operation Bolero. The buildings and their arrangement had all the characteristics of large army camps, with accommodation huts for the staff alongside the wards for the patients, and often with an attached prisoner of war compound. PW camps, in fact, accompanied many army camps, or they may have alternated between both uses

at differing periods. Ninety-one camps are recorded on the Database as having some form of association with a PW camp.

Contemporary documents often distinguish between hutted and tented camps (HC and TC). Where this information is known, 658 hutted camps and 212 tented camps are recorded on the Database. Tented camps were designed principally for temporary summer occupation, but, although canvas structures provided the basic accommodation (brought by the unit coming into camp), there were often a number of more permanent buildings of concrete, brick, and wood providing, for example, secure administrative and storage facilities, magazines and armouries. Such a system of temporary tented camps appears to have prevailed from the militia camps of the second half of the 19th century through both world wars to the present. Bodney Camp, for example, is used periodically today by the Household Cavalry who set up tented accommodation and prefabricated wooden stables in an adjacent field while also using some of the permanent buildings of the camp.

Camp layouts - Although huts and other buildings were very often set out in a grid pattern along regularly aligned roads and paths, usually with a parade ground at their centre, such an arrangement throughout all the periods covered by this study was very far from standard. The tented camps of the latter part of the 19th century have a strictly formal arrangement while some of the First World War period appear widely scattered without apparent order. In some cases, the large areas of hutments of the latter were like small towns spread across fields and beside roads with no clearly identifiable pattern.

For the Second World War periods, the camps with the most consistent formal layouts are those built in 1939 for the raising of the militia. These are readily identifiable in air photographs with their overall rectangular shape and their grid pattern arrangement of buildings set around a square parade ground that often has curved corners.

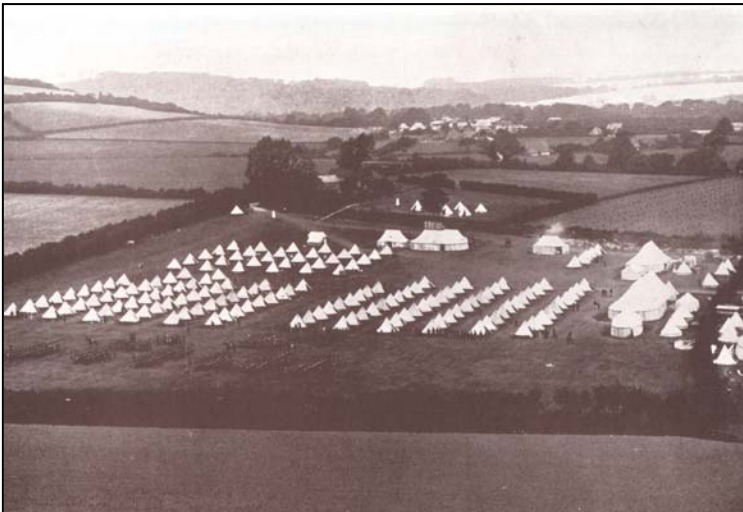


Fig. 15 (left) - The formal arrangement of a late 19th century tented camp.

Fig. 16 (right) - The distinctive rectangular shape, with central parade ground with rounded corners, of the militia camp at Ramsey, Cambridgeshire.

Some camps built during the Second World War appear to have been designed with the deliberate purpose of not introducing regular layouts of roads and buildings, probably for camouflage purposes. In an area around Barnard Castle six camps were built with curving roads and paths, and with groups of huts that were set at widely dispersed locations. A camp at Brandon in Norfolk was built to a very similar layout.

A further distinctive layout is that of the US hospitals where the principal grid pattern of wards and other service and administrative buildings was generally set alongside a secondary compound (probably a PW camp) that was constructed on a slightly different alignment. Why these two alignments were needed, when clearly the ground did not dictate it, is not known.



Fig. 17 (left) - The remains of Westwick Camp near Barnard Castle built in the Second World War with curving roads breaking up the regularity of the camp. Huts were at dispersed locations.

Fig. 18 (right) - Air photograph of Frenchay Park Hospital, Bristol showing its layout on two alignments.

The larger camps were like urban settlements, occupying as many as 500 acres, almost as large as some Class 'A' Bomber Command airfields, and, like them, planned with water supply, electricity, drainage, sewerage, and telephone communications. An average sized camp may have had space for some 1,000 men, but 5,000 men or more (a full division) could be accommodated in some plus all their vehicles and equipment. The extent of the camp used by the 7th Armoured Division before D-Day at High Ash Wood, Norfolk can still be appreciated today where various components over a wide area have been recently excavated and explanatory boards set up.

Some of the camps of the First World War were no less large, and their extensive acres of corrugated iron and wooden huts were given names such as 'Tin Town'. There is still evocative evidence of them in Wiltshire, on Cannock Chase, and on the heathlands of Surrey and Hampshire.

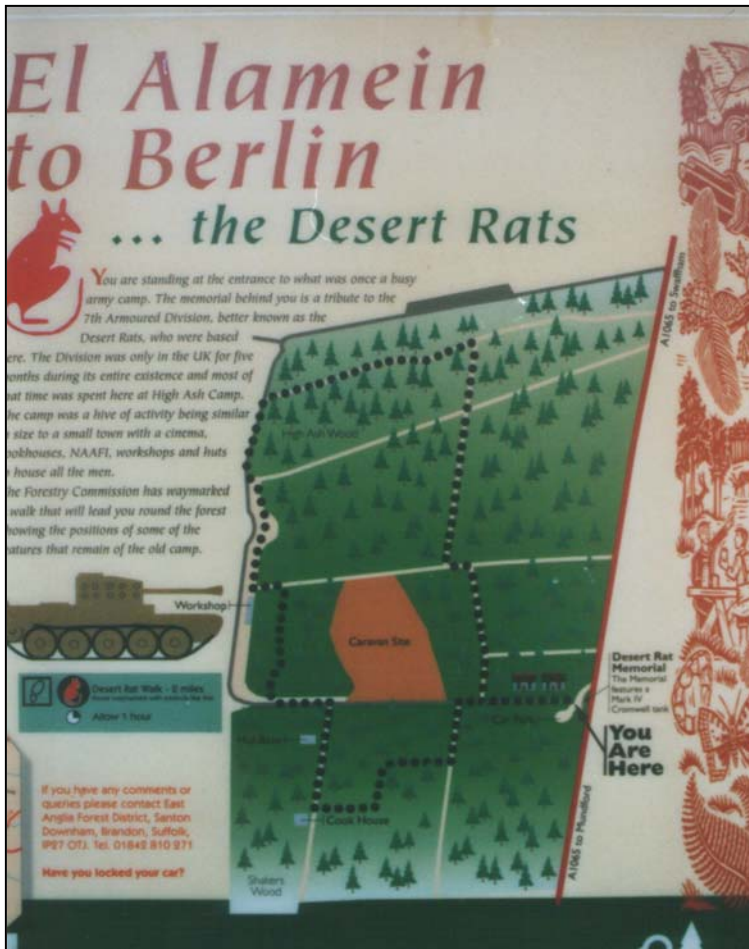


Fig. 19 - Plan of part of the series of camps in the area of Ash Wood, Thetford Forest from an information board on the site.

Camp locations - Up to and during the First World War camp sites were laid out in open places with no thought to disguise them. With the advent of the aeroplane, however, as a tool of observation and a weapon of war, attempts were made to conceal newly constructed camps. From the beginning of the Second World War this was chiefly achieved by building them beneath trees. Hence the locations of very many camp sites, substantial hutted camps as well as the temporary tented camps associated with the D-Day concentration of forces, can be found today in woodland. The marshalling camps for Overlord, in fact, were sometimes termed 'sausage camps' for they were often set out within narrow strips of woodland, perhaps at the edge of the parks or other grounds of large country houses.

The use of country house parks for camps was a practice going back to the days of the Yeomanry and Militia revues and manoeuvres of the 19th century. The Colonel of a regiment, or the Lord Lieutenant of a county, very likely owned a country estate, and the annual camp for the local volunteers regiment might be organised in its grounds. This arrangement became more formalised later when land was compulsorily obtained within country estates in the First World War for camps and for training. During the Second World War, the practice was greatly extended, the house itself often being requisitioned

and a camp, or series of camps, being set out in the park: there are some 250 such sites on the Database. In some cases, military rights over private parkland persist even today, for example, at Pippingford Park in East Sussex.

The Location and Concentration Lists of military districts in the Second World War referred to above in the section on the resources at 'The National Archives' include many locations that are not given the name camp, but which nonetheless would have been places where troops were accommodated. Such locations may have been houses providing billets or perhaps where a small number of huts or tents were placed in their grounds. Others may have been vehicle parks or temporary workshops. Three and a half million men were concentrated in southern England in the period before D-Day. Almost every town and village across more than fifteen counties must have accommodated troops in some way or other.

Camps were also established in the Second World War within public parks and on recreation grounds in urban areas. A considerable number were sited on racecourses at the edge of towns, and others on golf courses. The sites of some built on urban margins have since been absorbed by development, their land perhaps being taken for industrial estates. Camps built in the open countryside later in the war were often sited on common land, or on downland and heathland, so as not to diminish further the hundreds of thousands of acres of vital arable land already taken for military purposes. The isolated situations of many of the latter presented an additional problem of poor communications for the occupying troops as well as a lack of local recreational outlets.

In the First World War vast hutments were laid out adjacent to the principal areas of War Department estate, for example in Wiltshire, on the Surrey/Hampshire borders, in North Yorkshire, and in Staffordshire. Other camps, set up for easy access to the embarkation ports, sprawled beneath both the North and South Downs: an example was at Cheriton north of Folkestone of which evidence was found during the construction of the rail link for the Channel Tunnel. In the Second World War, there was a greatly increased diversity of purpose for camps - for the reception, training, and embarkation of troops to the battle front and for many other additional roles, from pay and education to the debriefing of returning PWs. Many camps were established around newly requisitioned training areas - in Sussex, Norfolk, and East Yorkshire, for example. Earlier in the war, commanders had had the dual problem of requiring troops to garrison areas against invasion while still being able to provide them with urgently required retraining.

The requirements of accommodation for American troops entering Britain from 1942, reaching a total of some 1½ million by May 1944, were answered by Operation Bolero which launched a programme of new camp construction and the conversion of existing British camps. In the run up to Overlord, the US forces were concentrated mainly in the central South and South West of England and had their own training areas, some only obtained by the compulsory evacuation of civilians. The Database includes records of 207 camps known to have been occupied by US troops. In the short time available to the present study, it has not proved possible to recognise particular differences in the camp

buildings or layouts used by the Americans, but further research may enable such differences to be identified [see 'Future work'].

Of other Allied troops in Britain, the Canadians formed another prominent group, based for much of the war in the areas of Surrey and Hampshire that they had defended in 1940/41. Some 20 camps occupied by their forces are recorded on the Database.

Camp names - Camps were generally named after the location where they were sited. This might be a town or a village, or a landscape feature such as a wood or a hill, or a house in whose grounds the camp was sited. Sometimes, particularly in urban areas, the camp would be known by the name of the road alongside which it lay. Very occasionally, its name might derive from that of the regiment which first occupied it, for example Warwick Camp in Carlisle. Some camps apparently were known by more than one name, while others were called by their function rather than by a place name, for example '58 Transit Camp' or '195 RE Bridging Camp'. Some name forms recur but their meaning now appears lost, for example a series of 'Crash Camps' in Northumberland.

Commemoration and Preservation - Rather as with airfields, army camps can serve as a focus of commemoration of wartime, or post war, military service. Information placed on the Internet shows that camps are still very much associated with the particular units that were based there, both in the memories of veterans and of local inhabitants. Often the camps were the last place in Britain that soldiers knew before proceeding overseas to the battlefronts, and they may thus have a particular significance in the remembrance of comrades who may not have returned. For soldiers who undertook the national service of the 1950s/60s, the camps can also evoke many memories of a formative shared experience.

Some camps, now abandoned and largely destroyed, were in existence for fifty years or more, and in that time they became very much part of the local community into which they had been inserted. In many cases, the troops first occupying the camps were part of those communities, being militia units from the local county regiments. Towns and villages across Britain retain a pride in having acted as hosts to troops, and the local camps are recognised as an important part of their history. However, for every camp recorded in this way on the Internet or through local publications, there are several (in particular the temporary camps) for which there is no record whatsoever. It is no exaggeration to state that some sites may be lost forever once the wartime generation that knew them has been extinguished.

The sites of abandoned camps with surviving buildings are increasingly threatened by development. At the time of writing, two which have survived virtually complete until the present day are due to be destroyed - Brigstock Camp, Northamptonshire (a fine example of an early militia camp with wooden huts) and Barons Cross Camp, Herefordshire (a US hospital). Trading estates which have preserved camp buildings and layouts will be gradually redeveloped removing these earlier elements. It is considered that representative examples of camp buildings of different types and construction

methods should be selected for preservation on sites where it is also possible to preserve significant areas of the original camp layout.

The category of camps that generally survives in the most complete state, probably because of the durability and adaptability of its large brick wards and their later use as accommodation for displaced persons, is that of US hospitals. Several of these sites, which often had a later history of hospital use either for the military or the National Health Service, are currently lying derelict and will almost certainly be redeveloped in the near future (as at Barons Cross). A recurring feature of their remains is a covered walkway of which examples in differing conditions can be found at Northwick Park, Blackmore Park, Nocton Hall, Ullenwood, and Wolverley [see Fig. 20 below].



Fig. 20 - Framework of a covered walkway of the US hospital at Wolverley near Kidderminster.

As with other categories of military sites of the two World Wars, and of the Cold War, some camps are coming to be recognised and commemorated. There are memorials to First World War camps on Cannock Chase and in Wiltshire, and there is an inscribed plaque alongside a roundabout at Wootton near Northampton recording the former camp and barracks there. At Chiseldon, south of Swindon, a raised stone commemorates the camps that stood here throughout the 20th century on land now largely returned to agriculture.



Fig. 21 - Plaque affixed to a megalith recording the history of Chiseldon Camp, Wiltshire.

These abandoned camps deserve to be remembered and their remaining relics protected as they were once important centres within the military infrastructure while at the same time forming integral parts of local communities. In the case of many, they were the points where the generations of 1914 and 1939 gathered to go to war and as such should be commemorated as part of the nation's overall remembrance.

FUTURE WORK

From information supplied to Part 2 of this Project, it is clear that considerable work has already been carried out within certain counties in recording army camp sites. In particular, Cornwall, Somerset, Suffolk, and Essex have used historic air photographs to identify the temporary, often tented, camps of the Overlord concentration of forces. Much more remains to be achieved in other areas, however, for this and all other periods of late 19th century and 20th century camp history.

Because of time constraints, this study has only been able to set a framework upon which further work might be built, which, it is considered, should be carried out at a local level. It is certain other camp sites remain to be identified (for example only 76 US hospitals

out of 116 are known), and field checks need to be carried out on many given in the Spreadsheet and Database and marked with a (p).

In addition to the physical location of camp sites and the assessment of their survival, much work is required assessing the layouts of differing types of camps and the differing functions, and construction methods, of their buildings. In this regard, the almost total non-availability of site record plans from the complete records that must once have been maintained represents a major disadvantage. More work should be carried out at The National Archives, and elsewhere, to identify further documentary sources, perhaps within Royal Engineers War Diaries. Photographic and moving film archives will also contain a great deal of evidence that it has not proved possible to approach at all in this study. For US camps, much documentary material, including photographs, will undoubtedly be held in the United States. With this category of sites, considerable work is needed to assess differences in layouts, buildings, and space allocation from comparable British camps

Once a secure, accurate basis of camp locations, and camp types and functions, has been built up, work might be considered in developing the 'social history' of the camps, i.e looking at them in relation to their civilian infrastructure - their road and rail communications, the recreation facilities within adjacent communities, or problems of interaction between soldiers and civilians. The selection of a camp's location in relation to its function can also be analysed, e.g. how close was a training camp to the ranges it served and what were the routes of the marching troops and the vehicle convoys that would have come to and from it. Much more work should be done as well to identify the units that occupied a camp at different periods of its history.

Within the abandoned buildings of camps, or where buildings are still in use today for later non-military purposes, contemporary signage, graffiti, and wall art undoubtedly survive. These form a direct testimony of the camps' former use, which it is important to record, and, where possible, preserve. One example was noted during field work - wall art in a building used by the Army as a gymnasium at the Isle of Thorns Camp in East Sussex [see Fig. 22 below].



Fig. 22 - Part of a series of murals painted by the London Irish Rifles in the winter of 1939/40 at the Isle of Thorns Camp.