

PART III

MATTERS AFFECTING BOTH ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR
AND ENEMY INTERNEES

PART III

CHAPTER 1

ACCOMMODATION FOR P.W. AND INTERNEES

CONVENTION REQUIREMENTS

1. In providing accommodation for P.W. and internees in Australia, regard had to be given to specific Convention requirements regarding locality of camps, type of hutments and cleanliness, etc. These may be summarized as follows:-

- (a) P.W. were to be lodged in buildings or huts affording all possible safeguards of hygiene and salubrity.
- (b) Premises were to be free from damp, adequately heated and lighted, and all precautions taken against possible fire.
- (c) The area, minimum cubic air space, fittings and bedding material in dormitories were to be equal to those of the depot troops.
- (d) P.W. were not to be housed in an area liable to exposure from the fighting zone.

2. It will be appreciated that the difficulties of accommodating internees at the outbreak of hostilities presented a difficult problem as at this time a sudden expansion of the Australian Military Forces was taking place. In addition to this problem, Australia later became, for the first time in history, a holding country for prisoners of war. The maximum numbers of P.W. and internees held was 28,933 in July 1945.

3. Permanent camps were situated in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. These were supplemented by certain transit camps, and later by camps in areas under AMF control north of Australia. This Chapter deals only with camps on the mainland as conditions of accommodation, design, etc., of camps in operational areas would be of little value as a guide to the general policy adopted in setting standards.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNEES

4. Accommodation requirements for internees were influenced by the fact that they comprised both sexes, single and married persons, family groups, and children, and thus special types of hutments were required to suit their needs.

5. Huts were sub-divided according to requirements, ie. Size of family etc. and a different camp routine to that of Prisoner of War Camps was evolved. Nos. 3 and 4 Camps Tatura were opened late in 1940 for the accommodation of family groups, and were used for the purpose throughout the period of the war. In these two camps facilities were provided for family life, including provisions of playing areas for the children and necessary school accommodation.

6. Accommodation for male internees was similar to that for prisoners of war, although aged men required consideration on account of age and infirmity and for this reason were quartered in huts separated from those occupied by younger and more agile men.

NUMBERS OF P.W AND INTERNEES HELD

7. The following figures show the number of prisoners of war and internees held in Australia during the period 1939/1946:-

Prisoners of War

Numbers held by the Australian Military Forces in Australia 1939/1946

As at 31 Dec	German	Italian	Japanese	TOTAL
1940	-	-	-	Nil
1941	1539	5195	-	6734
1942	1642	5217	30	6889
1943	1649	6617	1112	9348
1944	1568	15701	4322	21591
1945	1567	17022	4469	24158
1946	1467	4634	9	6110

Internees including 'Local' and 'Overseas'

Numbers held by Australian Military Forces in Australia 1939/1946

As at 31 Dec	German	Italian	Japanese	Others	TOTAL
1939	278	-	-	-	278
1940	3245	1976	-	-	5221
1941	3698	1957	968	36	6659
1942	2661	3836	4022	212	10731
1943	2396	852	3141	120	6409
1944	1851	226	2800	97	4974
1945	1576	99	2764	73	4512
1946	202	2	-	4	208

The various camps in which the abovementioned prisoners of war and internees were held are shown on the summary on page 223.

GENERAL STYLE OF CAMPS

8. In order to ensure proper control and ease of administration, camps were constructed in various States of the Commonwealth for the holding of prisoners of war and internees. The capacity, location and period of operation of these camps is shown in the table on page 223.

9. At the commencement of hostilities when enemy aliens were 'rounded up' in various States, use had to be made of temporary accommodation, but early in 1940 a commencement on the construction of permanent camps was made. Later, as the need arose, more camps were built and were occupied by internees or prisoners of war, who were to be segregated and held in different camps or compounds.

10. Compounds generally were constructed to accommodate 1000 persons, but varied in other cases from 150 to 1000 capacity. At Cowra, New South Wales, Murchison, Victoria, and Loveday, South Australia, camps of four compounds were built inside of one perimeter. Each compound held 1000 persons and the group was divided by two roads or divisions making four segments. A hospital was constructed in each camp area to receive patients from all compounds.

11. Examples of separate camps and/or compounds were at Hay N.S.W., Gaythorne Qld, and Loveday S.A. (camps No. 9 and No. 10). At Hay, two camps were separated by administrative buildings and a roadway, whilst the third camp was sited approximately one mile away Camps No. 9 and No. 10 Loveday (1000 capacity) were rectangular in shape and were 1 1/2 , miles distant from each other.

12. Prior to the entry of Japan into the war (Dec1941) a camp had been established at Gaythorne Qld., for the holding of male and female internees of all nationalities. The camp comprised three compounds each of 300 capacity. The compounds were 198 feet square, built in line and adjacent to each other. A fourth compound was built after the entry of Japan into the war, to hold Japanese internees. This compound (400 capacity) was erected in line with the others but separated by a one-chain road. When the first Japanese prisoners of war arrived in Queensland, most internees in that State had been moved to Southern Camps, but one compound was reserved for a few male internees permanently held in that State for health reasons. A second compound was retained to receive and hold female internees. As Japanese prisoners of war had to be segregated before and after interrogation, difficulties of accommodation arose. This was accentuated because Formosans, Koreans and Chinese being received had to be held apart, and to overcome this difficulty two compounds were sub-divided and another compound (500 capacity) was erected. As Japanese officers were moved south by rail directly after interrogation separate camp accommodation for them was not required.

HUTMENTS

13. Permanent camps contained within the compounds an appropriate number of sleeping huts, usually about 36 feet by 60 feet, strongly constructed and with iron roofing. In addition, large recreation huts were provided, kitchens and mess huts, and ablutions, etc. In the case of family camps for internees, the sleeping quarters were partitioned as required to accommodate a number of families. Adequate ventilation and light was provided in all huts.

HYGINE AND SANITATION

14. Action was taken in accordance with regulations to provide all necessary hygiene measures at Camps to ensure cleanliness and salubrity and to prevent epidemics. Where practicable camps were sewerred, and owing to the prevalence of amoebic dysentery and other intestinal infestations among P.W., the effluent from sewerage treatment systems in their camps was chlorinated before disposal. Drainage of all camps was carefully planned and shower-baths were provided to assist cleanliness.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

15. Under Camp Orders, the Camp Commandant of each P.W. and Internment camp issued Camp Fire Rules and members of camp staffs were trained in fire extinguishing. In some camps internal fire brigades were formed among the inmates, the leader being approved by the Camp Commandant in each case.

TRANSIT CAMPS

16. Transit camps provided for:-

- (a) Internees, pending transfer to permanent camps in other States or areas,
- (b) Internees, pending the hearing of their claims for release,
- (c) Prisoners of war, pending interrogation and movement to permanent camps.
- (d) Prisoners of war during movement to or from places of employment.

Camps of this type were Gaythorne Qld., Liverpool N.S.W., Sandy Creek S.A.

TEMPORARY PLACES OF INTERNMENT 1939/1940

17. When internment of enemy aliens was effected upon the outbreak of war, use was made of various places of internment shown in the table given in para 21 for limited periods, until internees were either released or moved to permanent camps which provided adequate security and control and conformed to standards required by the Convention.

18. In New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia use was made during the first few months of the war of civil goals and buildings available for temporary accommodation. Some internees, for example those in New South Wales, objected strongly to being quartered in a civil prison (Bathurst Goals were utilized for very limited periods only and their use was considered justifiable in view of the urgent nature of the position and the limited amount of accommodation available.

19. Internees held in South Australia were transferred from that State to Tatura Internment Group, Victoria early in 1940. Fremantle Civil Goal, W.A. was used in September 1939 to receive and hold internees in that State, but early in 1940 internees from that State were also moved to the Tatura Internment Group.

20. On entry into the war by Italy, it was found necessary to increase the accommodation in Western Australia for internees. A camp at Rottnest Island 500/1000 capacity had been established in January 1940, but later camps at Harvey, Parkeston and Woodmen's Point were occupied. In 1942 however, all internees in W.A. were transferred to other Commands and internment camps in that State were closed.

21. In the following table information is given of camps of a temporary nature used during the first few months of war.

State	Place	Period of Operation
N.S.W	Long Bay Goal	September 1939
	Bathurst Goal	Sep/Oct 1939
	State Reformatory, Long Bay	Sep 1939 and Jun 1940/ Feb 1941
	Peat's Island Hawkesbury River (Females)	Oct 1939/Feb 1940
Victoria	Dhurringile (Used later as a PW Camp)	January 1940
South Australia	Gladstone Goal	January 1940
Western Australia	Fremantle Civil Goal	Sep 1939/Jun 1940

SUBSIDIARY CAMPS, HOSTELS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION

22. With the employment of prisoners of war on work such as woodcutting, farming and other projects operated in conjunction with prisoner of war camps, it became necessary to provide accommodation for personnel so employed, and where it became more economical from the standpoint of time saving and vehicular running to establish a camp at or near the place of employment, this was done. Camps of this nature were either hutted or tented depending on the permanency of the site.

23. On the implementation of the scheme for the employment of Italian prisoners of war in rural industry (see Part III Chapter 2) a large number of Italians were distributed among rural centres throughout Australia. One condition of employment was that the employer supplied adequate accommodation for the number of prisoners of war which he contemplated employing. The accommodation provided was inspected from time to time by Prisoner of War Control and other officers appointed for the purpose, to ensure that a satisfactory standard was maintained. When the Rural Employment Scheme was discontinued about May 1946, prisoners of war engaged were withdrawn to parent camps or to Prisoner of War Hostels. The latter were established mainly in standing Army camps which at that time were no longer required for the accommodation of AMF personnel, and as good facilities existed in them, very little repair or reconstructional work was required and accommodation problems were negligible.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT CAMPS

24. Fencing. Perimeter fences of camps consisted of two or three fences of barbed wire, varying in height from six to ten feet. Fences were up to 30 feet apart and had a danert wire obstacle or double apron fencing in either one or both lanes. There was normally a 2 feet baffle on the top of the outer fence which extended inwards. Access to compounds was gained by an outer and inner gate-way through the perimeter fences, one of which was opened at a time while the other remained locked. In some cases, where three fences existed a moveable wire obstacle was placed between the gate opening of the centre fence. The majority of Hostels, occupied by Italian PW during the latter period of 1945 and up to the time of repatriation had no perimeter fencing nor were guards employed, but the number of escapes in comparison with the numbers held were surprisingly few. A constantly recurring difficulty was the growth of weeds around fences and the wire obstacles placed in lanes between fences. This seasonal growth resulted in a decrease of the effectiveness of the obstacles and at some camps was so dense that it obstructed the view of sentries and afforded cover from observation for anyone attempting to escape through the wire. Weed control was therefore essential and called for constant attention. The type of fencing required varied according to the national characteristic of prisoners, etc. it was designed to hold. In Australia the majority of permanent camps were occupied by both prisoners of war and internees of various nationalities, and so a standard type of wiring was indicated. Nevertheless, the type of fence, height, number of fences and obstacles required varied to some extent in the cases of internees (family groups), internees (male), and prisoners of war of European or Asiatic origin. Experience has shown that a European is more likely to go under the wire than over it. The Asiatic has different mentality, as evidenced in the Cowra outbreak, vide Part II Chapter 22. Fencing and obstacles should therefore be sufficient to delay a determined rush by fanatical members and also allow of adequate fire along all sections of the perimeter fences.

25. Guard Towers. Guard towers were sited on the outside of perimeter fences of camps, as well as in project areas in order to provide observation over the camp, compound or other area in which prisoners of war were held or employed. The platform of the tower was normally 20 feet high. Towers were manned throughout the day and night, and during all seasons of the year were enclosed so as to give protection against the weather, but observation was nevertheless not impaired. They were usually manned by one sentry armed with a rifle or bren gun and also a Verrey light pistol. The latter was used for signaling an alarm under an agreed system. Telephone communication was available from each tower to the guard room, although normally towers were not in direct telephone communication with each other. In addition to the normal lighting system, which will be dealt with later, guard towers were fitted with an emergency system operated by batteries, and a knife switch which was located inside the tower to enable the sentry to operate the light without leaving his post.

26. Lighting. Perimeter Lights. Lighting was arranged so that fences, gates, vital areas and compounds were illuminated during the hours of darkness. Lights were placed close enough to give an even distribution of light, sufficient for purposes of observation and arranged so that the vision of sentries on other posts was not interfered with. When viewed from the inside of compounds, outside areas were indistinct. Power supply for the normal lighting system was obtained usually from civilian sources, but in order to provide against unforeseen breakdowns or interruptions in supply, emergency systems of lighting were introduced. The emergency systems consisted of a plant operated and controlled within the camp, the maintenance and operation of which was the responsibility of AEME personnel. Inspections of equipment were carried out daily and the result of each inspection was recorded in accordance with orders laid down by the Camp Commandant. Battery type lights were sited in positions from where a beam of light could be thrown along a fence or section of fence, or if required could be traversed so as to illuminate a particular area. Their use was to provide illumination usually for brief periods when the main supply cut out (through breakdowns, etc.) and the time required usually seven minutes, before camp auxiliary generating sets could be started up and take over the load. In some camps generating sets were started manually whilst in other cases they were designed to cut in automatically on the failure of the main source of supply.

27. Catwalks. Catwalks were constructed so as to augment the general system of observation from towers or sentry posts. They were sufficiently high to provide observation by enabling sentries to look down into compounds or placed so as to command a view of one side of a compound or length of fence. Catwalks were a part of the security system of a camp, and were sited so as to fit into the general plan of observation, without exposing the sentry to small arms fire or the fire of weapons sited on fixed lines. They also prevented inundation of sentry beats in flat country during prolonged wet periods or in heavy rain.

28. General. The reader is referred to para 24 of Chapter I of Part II concerning planning and siting of PW camps, etc. These remarks cannot be over-emphasised.

29. Photograph. Photographs showing scenes in PW and Internment Camps in Australia are included for information on pages 217 to 222.

[Ed: four photographs follow, described as:

- Scenes at Prisoner of War Camp, MURCHISON, Victoria;
- Prisoners of War at work, Prisoner of War Camp, MURCHISON, Victoria.]

PRISONER OF WAR AND INTERNMENT CAMPS ON THE MAINLAND OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA

STATE	NAME OF CAMP	LOCATION	CAPACITY	NATIONALITIES PW	HELD INTERNEES	PERIOD OF OPERATION	REMARKS
Q'LAND	Gaythorne PW & I Camp	Gaythorne	1800	Italian Japanese Korean Formosan Sundry	Italian Sundry	1940/1946	3 compounds each 300 1 compound 400 1 compound 500
N.S.W	Cowra PW Gp No. 12	Cowra	4000	Italian Japanese Korean Formosan	Italian Indonesian Javanese	Jun 41/Jan 47	4 compounds each 1000
N.S.W.	Hay PW Gps No. 6, 7 & 8	Hay	3000	Italian Japanese	German Italian Japanese	Aug 40/46	3 compounds each 1000
N.S.W	Liverpool PW & I Camp	Liverpool	500	All nationalities		1939/1946	Also used as a Staging or Transit Camp.
N.S.W	Orange PW Camp	Orange	300/400		German Italian	Feb 40/Jul 41	
N.S.W	Yanco No. 15	Yanco	800	Italian		Mar 43/Dec 45	
N.S.W	State Refomatory Long Bay (Temporary Camp)	Long Bay			Various	Sep/Oct 39 Jun 40/Feb 41	
VICTORIA	Dhurringile	Tatura	150 Offrs 50 Ors	German Officer		Aug 41/Jul 45	Used in Oct 39/Jan 40 for internees. Partly stone building and Partly hutments.
VICTORIA	Tatura No. 1	Tatura	1000		German Australian Italian	Aug 41/Jan 47	
VICTORIA	Tatura No. 2	Tatura	1000	German	German Italian	Sep 40/Jan 47	Later know as No. 19 PW Camp Tatura

STATE	NAME OF CAMP	LOCATION	CAPACITY	NATIONALITIES PW	HELD INTERNEES	PERIOD OF OPERATION	REMARKS
VICTORIA	Rushworth No. 3	Rushworth	1000 (Family Gps)		Europeans	Sep 40/Feb 46	
VICTORIA	Rushworth No 4	Rushworth	1000 (Family Gps.)		Asiatics	Nov 40/Aug 46	
VICTORIA	Rushworth No. 4	Rushworth	1000 (Family Gps.)		Asiatics	Nov 40/Aug 46	
VICTORIA	Murchison PW Gp. No. 13	Murchison	4000	Japanese Offrs & Ors German Italian		Jun 41/Jan 47	4 compounds each 1000
VICTORIA	Myrtleford PW Camp No. 5	Myrtleford	1000 (offrs)	Italian Officers		Feb 42/Oct 46	2 compounds A and B
SOUTH AUST	Loveday PW Gp.	Barmera	4000	Italian German	Japanese German Italian	Jun 42/Dec 46	4 compounds A,B,C and D , each 1000
SOUTH AUST	Loveday No.9 Int Camp	Barmera	1000		Italian	Jun 41/Feb 44	
SOUTH AUST.	Sandy Creek (Transit Camp)	Sandy Creek	600	Italian		Apr 44/May 46	Sleeping tents
WEST AUST	Harvey No. 11 Camp		500		Italian	Sep 40/Apr 42	
WEST AUST	Marrinup PW Camp No. 16		1200	German Italian		Aug 43/Jul 46	
WEST AUST	Wembley		200	Italian		Jun 43/Aug 43	
WEST AUST	Northam		3500	Italian		1945/1946	
WEST AUST	Parkeston		500		Italian	Apr 42/Nov 42	
WEST AUST	Rottnest Island		500		Italian	Jan 40/Sep 40	
WEST AUST	Woodnans Point		Unknown		Japanese	Dec 41/Feb 42	
TASMANIA	Brighton PW Camp No. 18		600	Italian		Feb 44/1946	2 compounds each 300