

POST-GREECE

Trooper Sidney Bayliss, 4th Queen's Own Hussars, RAC

Relevant parts of his post-liberation PoW questionnaire are shown overleaf, but significant, interesting, essential and frequently hard-to-read details are highlighted here. The original layout, (mis)spelling and punctuation is preserved as far as is reasonable.

Liberated PoW Questionnaire (from National Archives, Kew)

Ser No: *878760* Rank: *Trooper* Surname: *Bayliss*

Christian Names: *Sidney*

Ship:

Unit: *4th Hussars*

Division: *2nd Armoured Div*

Date of Birth: *21 - 5 - 20*

Date of Enlistment: *9 - 5 - 39*

Civilian Profession: *Labourer*

Civilian Qualifications: *No*

Private Address: *73 Dorsett Road, Friar Park
Wednesbury Staffs England.*

Place & Date of Original Capture: *Greece 25 - 10 - 1941*

Wounded when Captured? *No*

Main Camps in which Imprisoned:

<i>57</i>	<i>Udine</i>	<i>12 - 11 - 41</i>	<i>31 - 12 - 41</i>
<i>59</i>	<i>Port St Grekko?</i>	<i>1 - 1 - 42</i>	<i>12 - 4 - 42</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>Near - Milano</i>	<i>14 - 4 - 42</i>	<i>4 - 9 - 43</i>
<i>Stalag VIIA</i>	<i>Mooseberg (sic)</i>	<i>12 - 11 - 43</i>	<i>11 - 12 - 43</i>

Working Camps: *Pasing* *22 - 12 - 43* *20 - 5 - 45* *Tiling Timber*
Munich *-----* *-----* *Houses*

Serious Illnesses: *-----*

Medical Attention: *-----*



Campo 57, Udine, Main Entrance Gate

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126543

TOP SECRET
MIN/Gen
MIS X

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BRITISH/AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

1. No. 278160 RANK T.P.O. SURNAME BAYLISS
CHRISTIAN NAMES SIDNEY
DECORATIONS None

2. SHIP (R.N., U.S.N. or MERCHANT NAME) None
UNIT (ARMY) 2nd HUZZARS
SQUADRON (R.A.F. or A.A.F.) None

3. DIVISION (ARMY), COMMAND (R.A.F. or R.A.F.) 2nd FERDRED DIV

4. DATE OF BIRTH 21-6-25

5. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 7-5-39

6. CIVILIAN TRADE OR PROFESSION LABOURER
(OR EXAMINATIONS PASSED WHILE P.W.) None

7. PRIVATE ADDRESS 73 DORSETT ROAD, FRUIT PARK,
WEMBLEY, STAFFS, ENGLAND

8. PLACE AND DATE OF ORIGINAL CAPTURE GREECE 28-10-41

9. WERE YOU WOUNDED WHEN CAPTURED? No

10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPITALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED
Camp No. Location From To
57 UDINE 12-11-41 31-12-41
59 TONY ST. GREGO 1-1-42 12-12-42
29 KERR-MILANO 10-12-42 21-9-43

STALAG 113 MUSZBERG 22-11-43 11-12-43

11. WERE YOU IN A WORKING CAMP?
Location From To Name of Work
PASING 22-11-43 00-1-44 TILING, DAMAGED
MUNICH None None NURSES

12. DID YOU SUFFER FROM ANY SERIOUS ILLNESSES WHILE A P.W?
Name of Disease Cause Duration

13. DID YOU RECEIVE APPROPRIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT?

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8. Have you

t. No. 278760 RANK TPR SURNAME BEYLISS

CHRISTIAN NAMES SIDNEY

1. LECTURES before Capture:

(a) Were you lectured in your unit on how to behave in the event of capture?
(State where, when and by whom).

YES - EGYPT - OFTEN BY OFFICERS

(b) Were you lectured on escape and evasion? (State where, when and by whom).

NO

3. INTERROGATION after capture:

Were you specially interrogated by the enemy? (State where, when and methods employed by enemy).

NO

Date

4. ESCAPES arranged:

Did you make any unarranged or partly successful escape? (Give details of each attempt separately, stating where, when, method employed, names of your companions, where and when recaptured and by whom. Were you physically fit? What happened to your companions?)

YES - TWICE - BUT ONLY OUTSKIRTS OF
CITY. THE CONTROLL. CRUFTS AND TOTH
TIMES.

5. SABOTAGE:

NON

Did you do any sabotage or destruction of enemy factory plant, war material, communications, etc., when employed on working-parties or during escape? (Give details, places and dates.)

6. COLLABORATION with enemy:

NO

Do you know of any British or American personnel who collaborated with the enemy or in any way helped the enemy against other Allied Prisoners of War? (Give details, names of personnel concerned, camp(s), dates and nature of collaboration or help given to enemy).

7. WAR CRIMES:

NON

If you have any information or evidence of bad treatment by the enemy to yourself or to others, or knowledge of any serious violation of Geneva Convention you should ask for a copy of "Form Q" on which to make your statement.

Note: Form Q is a separate form asking information on "War Crimes" and describes the kinds of offences coming under this title.

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3. Have you any other name or say that you wish to bring no name? YES

RETER THE FREN. OF GREECE - SEVERAL OF MY
COMPRADES FLEED TO THE HILLS. WE LIVED WITH
WITH THE PEOPLE FOR SEVERAL DAY. RECHIEFERED
IT WAS A GREEK INFORMER. 620 CHOROON
LOS. WAS THE MAN FOR OUR RECHIEFERED. HIS
HOME IS BETWEEN ITALON AND GREEK MATH.

SECURITY UNDERTAKING.

I fully realize the of information relating to the matters covered by the questions in Part II
are of a highly secret and official nature.

I have had explained to me and fully understood the strict Defense Regulation of
U.S.A. that I am forbidden to publish or communicate any information concerning
these matters.

ASC.
Greece

Jan 12 1945

S. Bayliss

742

W
365

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Sid's Pertinent Additional Comments:

"After the fall of Greece, several of my comrades fled to the hills. We lived with the people for six months, but recaptured. It was a Greek informer Leo Caraberos? was the man for our recapture. His house is between Italon and Calamata."

Campo 57, Grupignano, Udine, Italy

From the "grupignano.com" website:

Campo 57 was a WWII Prisoner of War camp that interned principally Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) non-commissioned soldiers with smaller numbers of British, Indian and South African men. The camp was situated close to the city of Udine, in the Province of Fruili in Northern Italy. Fruili itself lies in the foothills of the Alps and was close to the Yugoslavian border.

Prisoners were transported to campo 57 by train with the last leg of transportation terminating at Cividale. The POWs were then marched through the hamlet of Premariacco to the site of the camp. The camp itself was set on flat terrain proximal to the river Natisone. Surrounding the camp was predominantly farming land.

On the chosen site for campo 57 was a chapel known as San Mauro or Grupignano. The chapel was torn down to allow construction of the camp but was rebuilt by prisoners of war in 1943. The chapel still stands today and inside bears the signature of the POWs that rebuilt the chapel of Grupignano.

Campo 59, Servigliano, Italy



Campo 59 as it was at the time

Camp 59 on the Internet:

A comprehensive American website on Campo 59 exists at "camp59survivors.wordpress.com". Here follows a brief extract.



"After the Armistice (between Italy and the Allies) of September 8, 1943, 3,000 Allied prisoners escaped through the opening they had dug on the west side of this camp. They will forever be grateful for the immediate and courageous generosity shown by the Italian people."

Indeed, it is our hope that these kindnesses will be remembered by the servicemen's families for generations to come. Despite the number of prisoners recorded on the plaque, the number of escapees is generally thought to be closer to 2,000. Some escaped through the hole knocked through the brick wall at the rear of the camp, others escaped through the front gate, which was opened on the night of September 14, 1943.

According to the International Red Cross, Camp 59 was one of 52 main camps in Italy, served by 18 hospitals and a number of work camps. Although many prisoners were transferred north to Germany after the signing of the Italian Armistice, as many as 50,000 men left the camps in an attempt to reach freedom. Some were sheltered by the poor Italian farmers—the *contadini*—of the Tenna Valley. Others made their way north to Switzerland or south to the Allied lines.

Copyright for stories and personal images rests with the contributors to the Survivors of Camp 59 site.
These images, provided by Ian McCarthy of Associazione Casa della Memoria, show the camp as it appears today.



Inside the walls (today used as a field for sports)



The patched escape hole in the wall, but still the barbed wire on top



Two surviving buildings outside the camp walls that were used as barracks for guards and/or storage



The brick-built infirmary

Memorial plaques

Stalag VIIA, Moosburg, Bavaria, Germany



Welcomen – Moosburg Main Gate