

PoW80: Commemorating 80 years since the release of Allied prisoners from Europe. Saturday 7th June 2025

Purpose: - To commemorate and remember the liberation of allied prisoners of World War II and the sacrifices they made.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pow80-80th-anniversary-event-of-the-liberation-of-wwii-prisoners-of-war-tickets-938621350727





Venue – The Midland Hotel, Manchester, England, UK



The Midland, 16 Peter Street, Manchester, UK, M60 2DS.

www.themidlandhotel.co.uk

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War is a registered charity that provides a permanent commemoration of prisoners of war, and a focal point for research, activities and events.

It is organising POW80, the 80th Anniversary Event of the Liberation of WWII Prisoners of War. The event will provide a place for relatives, researchers and interested parties to come together, share stories, gather new information, and make connections around common experience, as well as learn from expert speakers about the life and sacrifices the POWs endured.

As a result of our extensive network of contacts, and large online community, the charity can bring together representatives from across the world in one place and attract the most knowledgeable speakers and experts on topics of interests to the attendees.



MEET the SPEAKERS





Anna WickiewiczPow Lived Experience



Sean LongdenWorking Camps



Stephen Saunders
The Long March



Philip Baker Mental Health



Stacey Astill
PoW Lived Experience



Phil FroomEscape and Evasion

Included in the ticket price: -

- High quality venue and facilities in a city centre location.
- Refreshments (including tea, coffee and snacks) throughout the day.
- Buffet Lunch.
- Attendance at the POW Memorial Statement.
- Six presentations from expert speakers on various topics.
- Opportunity to network with other relatives and researchers.
- Panel Session with Q&A.
- 80th Anniversary Event Programme.



Anna Wickiewicz

POW80

Lived Experience

Anna Wickiewicz Phd is a historian, educator and museologist. She has been working at the Central Prisoners of War Museum in Łambinowice for 25 years. Her interests have focused on the subject of soldiers of the British Commonwealth in German captivity during

World War II. In her daily work, she had the pleasure of meeting many former prisoners, mainly Polish and British. As a result, she wrote a book entitled Captivity in a British Uniform. Stalag VIII B (344) Lasmdorf, published by the Museum, which synthetically presents the fate of almost 48 thousand soldiers in British uniforms, for whom Stalag VIII B (344) Lamsdorf was the place of their greatest concentration. Anna was a guest at the reunions of former POW families at Lamsdorf POW Day in Weston-super-Mare 2015, London 2017, Manchester 2018 organized by Philip Baker. Anna is also a co-author of several permanent and temporary exhibitions and many educational projects.



Sean Longden

POW80

Working Camps

Sean Longden is an author and historian whose work has focussed on telling the forgotten stories of the British Army in WW2. His books include: 'To the Victor the Spoils', a social history of the British Army from D-Day to VE Day; 'T Force' the hidden story of the British Army unit which searched Germany in the final days of the war to find secret Nazi technology; 'Blitz Kids', the forgotten story of British children during WW2 which focussed on the experiences of under-age soldiers and sailors. However, it is his research on the experiences of British prisoners of war that has had the greatest impact.



He is best known for his book 'Dunkirk: The Men They Left Behind' which told the long-forgotten story of the 40,000 British soldiers who were not evacuated from Dunkirk and instead spent five years in German POW camps, revealing the horrors and hardship they endured at the hands of their captors. His groundbreaking book 'Hitler's British Slaves' was the first complete history of how British POWs were forced to work as slave labourers for the Germans. His books were primarily researched from first-hand accounts, including interviews with many former POWs who had never spoken of their experiences.



Stacey Astill



Lived Experience



Dr Stacey Astill is a researcher and lecturer who specialises in the lived experience of Allied Anglophone Prisoners of War (PoWs) held in Europe during the Second World War. Her research includes the intersection of text and object, necessary invention, and experimental archaeology.

Stacey has spoken at various conferences and lecture series' on

topics from mental health to invention and creativity. She has organised PoW related events including Poetry of War, an exploration of PoW life via the medium of prisoners' poetry.



Philip Baker



Mental Health



Philip Baker was in the Royal Air Force for seven years before entering the teaching profession. Some twenty-four years later he had a complete change and became a tour operator. He organised and led many Prisoners of War tours that included visits to the Polish Central Prisoners of War Museum at Lambinowice (Lamsdorf) on the site of the former Stalag VIIIB (344), as well as POW Days in various locations in the UK, and publishing a number of books on the subject.

He has been recording the subject of Prisoners of War since 2001 and is the founder of the Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War.



POW80

Stephen Saunders

The Long March



Stephen Saunders, ASA
Productions founder, has a long and distinguished track record in the television and film industry. In 2011 he won a gold award at the World Media Fest in Hamburg for his educational programme 'Art & Design' produced for BBC. He was also nominated for a BAFTA for a TV series directed for Channel 4 and his directing skills have won him numerous further awards. Many of his recent productions feature on Netflix.



Phil Froom





Phil served nine years with the British Army in Signals Intelligence and Electronic Warfare, serving in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, Central America and Cold War Germany, before leaving the Forces for a career in Defence Electronics.

Having received a great deal of escape and Evasion training during his service with the British Army on the Rhine during the Cold War, Phil became intrigued by the escape and Evasion gadgets he had been issued, and began to research the entire field of E&E, it's origins, the devices produced and the training provided to Allied troops during WWII.



After twelve years of research, this resulted in 2015 in the Publishing of an acclaimed book titled "Evasion and Escape devices produced by MI9, MIS-X and SOE in WWII". Since then Phil has continued to promote the work of MI9 as the founding organisation of the doctrine and art of Escape and Evasion (today known as SERE) and taught across almost every Armed Forces in the world.

Phil is on the Advisory Board of the International Spy Museum and is a Friend of the British Military Intelligence museum, supporting both whenever possible. Phil married his high school sweetheart and lives in Berkshire, close to Windsor castle, and has two adult children. In his spare time he collects E&E devices and related British medals.



About the Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War

www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity number 1200975, in November 2022.

Its charitable object is to advance the education of the public on the subject of prisoners of war by:

- a) providing a permanent, online Memorial & Museum of Prisoners of War by maintaining and regularly updating an interactive, historical and educational internet resource which enables the collection and preservation of information concerning prisoners of war;
- organizing seminars, conferences and tours that educate the public on the experiences of prisoners of war, and to pursue any other activities that support these purposes;
 and the
- c) commemoration and remembrance for the public benefit, of former prisoners of war and the sacrifices they made.

The charity is managed by a board of trustees. They have established a number of policies to help them to properly and appropriately manage the charity's work.

With charitable status we will be in a better position to apply for funding to expand our important commemorative work.

For the time being our focus is on Allied Prisoners of World War II.