

## DO YOU KNOW THESE AUSTRALIAN WWII POWs?

(Posted 26 July 2007)

**(Peter Martin**, a Senior Translator in Hammelburg, north west Germany, has written to AHU trying to find anyone who knows the identity of the Australian POWs seen in these photograph. Peter's message to AHU follows.

*If you know these POWs, please contact Peter directly.  
His contact details are below.)*

The four photographs below are from the scrapbooks of Mrs Josephine Meder of Gräfendorf, former County of Gemünden am Main, now County Main-Spessart, in the northwestern corner of Bavaria, Germany.

During WWII, this family was assigned a number of Australian POWs as farm labourers.

As Mrs Josephine Meder, the last person to have had direct contact with the Australians, died a few years ago, it is probably impossible to ascertain the names of the individuals.

The Meder Family still lives on this farm which lies on the edge of the village. Their address is Burgsinner Strasse 22-24, D-97782 Gräfendorf.

The photos ( a group photo of 12 Australian POWs – I don't know if they all worked for the Meders or if some of them also worked for others farmers in Gräfendorf; one shows a young man, probably an Australian POW bringing in straw on a small horse-drawn wagon; another shows two POWs going about their chores in the Meder farmyard; the last one, labelled "Hard at work", shows five young men enjoying a spell of hot weather for some swimming on the banks of the River Saale) give the impression that the POWs were treated probably more as "family" rather than as POWs, they appear to be reasonably well fed (probably better than the German population in the cities, where food was rationed).

These photos were "unearthed" by a friend of mine, Mr. Martin Heinlein, a leading member of the "Task Force Baum Working Group" in his research of the activities of an American Task Force launched by General Patton to liberate his son-in-law from the German prisoner-war-camp in nearby Hammelburg. For more information see: [www.taskforcebaum.de](http://www.taskforcebaum.de).

In late March 1945, the Task Force drove past the Australians' accommodation below Burgsinner Strasse, within a stone's throw.

I presume that these Australians belonged to this camp for administrative purposes.

If any wanted to visit the scene of their work in Germany, I don't think that anybody would mind, quite the contrary, I believe they would receive a warm welcome.

*If anyone has any information about the individuals in the photos, please let Peter know:*

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