



508th PIR

508th PIR CAMP



82nd Airborne

From March 1944 Wollaton Park was used by the US 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division as a base camp, prior to D-Day. The resulting Tent City became home to 2056 men. On the 6th June the 508th played a significant part on D-Day, being parachuted around Ste-Mere-Eglise. Thirty-three days later only 895 paratroopers returned to Wollaton Park. Following replacements and resting, the 508th finally left in September to take part in the battle for Nijmegen and the race for Arnhem, followed by the Battle of the Bulge.

The members of the 508th made many friends amongst the citizens of Nottingham, a link which has been kept to this day. In 2009 surveys and excavations were carried out by Trent & Peak Archaeology of the University of Nottingham on the site of the 508th camp, coinciding with the 65th anniversary of D-Day and a visit by veterans of the 508th & 507th PIR. The results highlighted the significant and varied role played by Wollaton Hall in World War Two.



Many artefacts were found relating to the former 508th camp including an M3 fighting knife (1), various bullets and cases (2), an M1 carbine clip, a paratroopers webbing buckle, various tent fittings and coins.

(1)



(2)



WOLLATON POW CAMP

From 1945 to 1948 Wollaton Park became a German prisoner of war camp housing over 4000 POW's. Although demolished in the early 1950's, recent excavations revealed the survival below ground of extensive structural remains. Hundreds of artefacts were also recovered including tools, British (1) and German army buttons (2), various cartridge cases (3), bottles, NAAFI glasses, plates and mugs.



(1)



(2)



(3)

WOLLATON HALL

Memorials to the 508th and the remains of the POW camp can be seen within the grounds of the hall. Entry is free. Further events linked to World War Two include the popular annual Armed Forces Weekend. This involves WWII re-enactment groups associated with the 508th, along with stalls and displays by the modern armed forces.



EVENTS

26th-27th June 2010 Armed Forces Weekend

For further details of events and opening hours at the hall please call 0115 915 3900.
www.wollatonhall.org.uk



WOLLATON HALL



WORLD WAR TWO HERITAGE OF WOLLATON HALL



For details further details of the excavation go to www.nottingham.ac.uk/tpa



HALL

Dedicated June 14th 1978, to our friends in Nottingham
Wollaton Park was our home in the months prior to our
D-Day jump into Normandy and our Jump into Holland
September 17th 1944
May our friendship be everlasting.
American 508th Parachute Regiment Association



508th PIR Plaque (at base of tree)
Dedicated by 508th PIR Association

AREA SURVEYED FOR EARTHWORKS IN 2009

POW Camp Building
Foundations exposed along the former
camp fence-line by excavations in 2009.
Built using local brick from Kirkby
and Ollerton.



**POW Camp Buildings
1945-1948**
Foundations for these survive below ground
and can be seen as small rises in the grass
across the park in front of the hall.

CAR PARK

CAR PARK



508th PIR Memorial
Dedicated to the 508th PIR



508th PIR Tent City
In 1944 hundreds of tents like this extended
in rows across these areas, divided into
battalions, and companies.
Each tent accommodated eight men and
had a central stove.



POW Camp Building
This represents the only upstanding
POW camp building within the park.
Similar constructed buildings extended
across the park (shown in blue and black)
for use by the POWs and camp guards.

