

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME: Piggery Breeding Pens -
Loveday Internment Camp Complex

PLACE: 26509

ADDRESS: Costello Road, Loveday

This heritage assessment considers that the place meets criterion (a). Refer to Summary of State Heritage Place for final approved wording, including criteria statements.



Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Loveday Internment Camp Complex is rare as it is the only purpose-built internment camp in South Australia during the Second World War and demonstrates a way of life, social customs and land use that is of exceptional historical interest. The Piggery Breeding Pens are an integral component of the Camp Complex and the only remaining physical fabric that demonstrates the agricultural operations undertaken by prisoners of war.

Both POWs and civilian internees made a vital contribution to agricultural production during the Second World War when there was critical rural labour shortages. Built and

operated initially by Japanese and then both Japanese and Iranian-German POWs between 1943 and 1946, the breeding pens were an integral part of piggery operations and contributed to South Australia's food supplies. At the end of the war, the piggery became a civilian operation and the breeding pens continued to be used in the postwar years.

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

The Piggery, Loveday Internment Camp demonstrates the following themes and subthemes in *Historic Themes for South Australia* (Draft 29 May 2020).

3. Governing South Australia

3.4 Defending South Australia and Australia

5. Developing South Australia's economies

5.3 Developing primary production (pastoralism, agriculture, biosecurity)

Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

Detainment of Prisoners of War and Civilian Detainees

The following section has been compiled by DASH Architects for the Western Cell Block, Camp 14, Loveday Internment Camp Complex Assessment Report and has only been lightly edited by Heritage South Australia.

There are two places on the South Australian Heritage Register that are associated with the internment of prisoners of war during the Second World War in South Australia:

- Former Gladstone Gaol (SHP 12704, listed 1985); Ward Street, Gladstone
- Loveday Internment Camp Site - General Headquarters site (SHP 13761, listed 1989); Thiele Road, Loveday.

The Gladstone Gaol was used as accommodation for Italian prisoners of war with forestry skills who worked in the Wirrabara and Bundaleer forests. There is no fabric at the gaol known to be directly associated with this period of use. However, the remains of charcoal kilns provide some evidence of the activities of the Italian prisoners who were professional carbonari (charcoal burners). The charcoal made in the kilns was used in gasifiers to make producer gas to fuel cars during wartime petrol rationing.

The Loveday Internment Camp Site - General Headquarters (SHP13761), was used by the Australian Army to support its activities at the Loveday Internment Camp complex and did not house civilian internees or prisoners of war. The Headquarters site also does not reflect the significant agricultural work of detainees during the War – work that had a profound effect on the local landscape and economy.



Recreation Hall, Loveday Internment Camp - General Headquarters site.

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020



Cell Block, Loveday Internment Camp - General Headquarters site, was used to detain Australian Army personnel and not internees and POWs

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020

A temporary internment camp located at Sandy Creek near Gawler was used to accommodate the Italian prisoners of war who worked on farms in the Adelaide Hills. Prior to the arrival of the POWs, the camp had been constructed to house American troops and consisted of tents surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Only a section of fence along Williamstown Road remains.¹

Italian POWs (and later civilian internees) were employed as maintenance fitters on the Trans-Continental Railway across the Nullarbor Plain. Evidence of some of their camp sites remain. They too were housed in tents with ephemeral kitchens and ablution buildings, which were shifted from place to place as the work required. Only concrete floors, stones and minor debris remain of the sites today.²

Piggeries & Pigsties

There are two State Heritage Places listed in the Register that contain a piggery as a part of a broader farming complex and one State Heritage Place that includes a pigsty, namely:

- Homestead Complex, including main house, two cottages, shearing shed, stable and piggery, Palmer Road, Palmer (SHP 14486)
- Stagg Farm Complex (including substantial ruins of farmhouse, water closet, hay shed, implement shed, former pigsty, dam and old fencing), Tarcowie to Appila Road, Tarcowie (SHP 19043).
- Dwelling ('Belmont' formerly 'Willapunga'), including Pise Outbuilding, Piggery Ruins, Galvanised Shed, Main Shed and Greenhouse Ruins, Old Norton Summit Road, Teringie (SHP 10632).

**Assessment against Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.
All Criteria have been assessed using the 2020 Guidelines.**

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.

The Piggery Breeding Pens at the Loveday Internment Camp Complex are associated with the detention of Japanese, German, and Italian prisoners of war and civilian internees in South Australia during the Second World War and demonstrate the use of detainee labour to produce food for both the civilian population and Australian troops engaged in conflict overseas.

The Loveday Internment Camp Complex was the largest constructed in Australia and the only purpose-built internment camp in South Australia. Military service and industrial production during the war resulted in a shortage of rural workers and while the Australian Women's Land Army partly filled that gap, POWs and civilian internees became a critical part of the rural workforce. So much so that the Australian government shipped additional prisoners held in camps in India to Australia to supplement the rural workforce.

While the Australian government did not officially employ detainees for agricultural production until 1943, the detainees at Loveday had begun growing food, ostensibly to supplement camp supplies from as early as 1941, or shortly after the arrival of the first internees. The piggery was established between June and September 1943, with the first livestock arriving on 28 September. The breeding pens were built by Japanese POWs in October 1943 who then undertook much of the labour at the piggery. Later, some German POWs also worked there as a condition of breaking a strike by the Japanese POWs.

The Loveday Internment Camp Complex is significant as it is the only purpose-built internment facility in South Australia and demonstrates the role South Australia played in securing POWs and civilian detainees during the Second World War. While the already State Heritage listed General Headquarters site (SHP 13761) demonstrates some of the activities of the Australian Army who were responsible for guarding the POWs and internees, it does not demonstrate the vital role played by the detainees in assisting South Australia and the nation to achieve food security during the war.

The piggery was one of a number of agricultural activities undertaken at Loveday and the breeding pens which are an integral part of piggery operations is now all that remains to demonstrate the vital contribution of the camp complex and detainees to food supplies. It was here that the piglets that would go on to become pork and bacon and assist in feeding the civilian population were born and raised until old enough to be weaned. Once weaned the pigs were moved to one of a number of paddocks that formed the rest of the piggery where they were able to free range while growing to market size. The pigs were fed on food scraps collected from the camps and also fattened on grain for market. During its operational life under military control, the piggery produced over 1,700 pigs, many of which were born in the breeding pens.

At the end of the war, much of the Loveday Internment Camp Complex was dismantled and sold, however, the piggery became a civilian operation and the breeding pens continued to be used. While the roof structure over the pens, wooden fencing, loading ramp and boiler house no longer exist and the status of the rails that were used to transport the cooked food remains unclear, the pens still remain largely intact and clearly demonstrate the purpose for which they were built.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion (a).

(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in the future.

At the meeting on the 18 February 2021 the South Australia Heritage Council (the Council) made a decision to also State Heritage List the Piggery Breeding Pen under criterion (b). They believed that to consider the rarity of the place from the perspective of its rarity due to its associations with piggeries only was too narrow a focus. This revised Assessment Report reflects the Council's decision.

The Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex are associated with the pork industry and the detention of POWs and civilian detainees in South Australia during the Second World War.

Pig farming is an ongoing agricultural practice, and a variety of facilities including piggeries and pig breeding pens continue to be built and used in South Australia. Consequently, the breeding pens cannot be considered to be rare, in danger of

becoming lost, nor do they represent aspects of cultural significance that are no longer practiced with regard to the pork industry.

The Loveday Internment Camp Complex is rare as it is the only purpose-built World War Two internment camp in South Australia and demonstrates a way of life, social custom and land use that is of exceptional historical interest. The piggery breeding pens are an integral component of the Camp Complex and the only surviving physical fabric that demonstrates the agricultural operations undertaken at the Camp by the POWs and civilian internees. Due to severe agricultural labour shortages during the war, POWs and civilian internees played a vital role in ensuring food security for the people of South Australia. The piggery was also the only operational component in the entire Loveday complex that survived the military's salvage drive and continued to operate in the years following the war.

While there are still cells blocks at what was Camp 10 and Camp 14 that demonstrate the incarceration of the detainees, and the General Headquarters Site (SHP1371) demonstrates the work of the Australian Army, those places represent other important aspects of the camp complex and not agricultural production. Collectively, these sites capture the cultural significance of the camp complex of which the piggery breeding pens are a fundamental component.

Although the boiler house, loading ramp, thatched roof and wooden fencing no longer remain, the structure still retains its distinguishing characteristics, the pens in which the piglets were raised until old enough to be weaned and relocated to the paddocks that comprised the rest of the piggery.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does fulfil** criterion (b).

(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.

The Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex demonstrate the contribution of POWs to food production in South Australia during the Second World War. Austral Archaeology undertook an archaeological assessment of the site in 1991 and found no evidence to suggest that the Breeding Pens will yield information that will contribute meaningfully to our knowledge of the past that is not already well

documented and available from other sources. As the place has failed the first threshold test, no further tests are considered.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (c).

(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.

Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.

The Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex are associated with a class of places known as piggeries. However, the breeding pens represent only a portion of the class of place, not the class of place as a whole, and as such cannot be considered to be an outstanding representative of the class. Further, while piggeries have been used for agricultural production in South Australia from the earliest years of the colony, they have not played a significant role in the development of the State in the same way that other primary industries have such as the pastoral and grain industries. Pigs were typically kept as a part of mixed farming enterprises before the introduction of more intensive farming methods in the latter half of the twentieth century. Consequently, even if pig breeding pens were to be considered as a class of place in its own right, they are not considered to be of special cultural significance to South Australia.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (d).

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its times. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.

Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.

The Piggery Breeding Pens at Loveday Internment Camp Complex are a simple utilitarian structure consisting of low, rendered stone walls constructed using typical building techniques and does not demonstrate a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment. While well-built, the breeding pens are not an outstanding representative of rendered stone walls, nor do they demonstrate outstanding design characteristics. Rather, the structure is characteristic of pens and sties built for pigs.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (e).

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.

Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.

The Piggery Breeding Pens are associated with a small number of people who were detained or worked there. The only people who worked at the piggery during the war were the Japanese POWs from Compound 14B Camp 14, 10 German-Iranian strike breakers and the guards from the Australian Army who supervised them. After the war there were also some civilians who continued to work the piggery. Each of these groups of people is very small and while as individuals some of them may have formed an attachment to the place, there is no evidence to suggest that they form an enduring group. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that any attachment formed is specifically for the breeding pens and not the piggery or Internment Camp more generally. As the place fails to meet the first threshold test, no further tests have been considered.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (f).

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.

Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.

The Piggery Breeding Pens at the Loveday Internment Camp Complex, are associated with the Australian Army, some of the POWs interned at the Camp Complex and Lt. Col. Edwin Theyer Dean who was the Commandant of the Internment Camp Complex and responsible for establishing agricultural production there.

While a number of Japanese and German POWs worked at the piggery breeding pens, their association with the place was only brief, lasting from mid-1943 until February 1946 when the piggery became a civilian operation. Further, while POWs and civilian internees made an important contribution to agricultural production in South Australia during the Second World War, only a limited number worked at the Loveday Internment Camp Piggery, namely 10 Iranian German POWs and some of the Japanese POWs detained in compound 14B in Camp 14. Consequently, the Piggery Breeding Pens cannot be considered to have a special association with the group 'POWs detained in South Australia during the war'.

Similarly, the association with the Australian Army is equally limited. Only a few individuals worked at the Piggery site guarding the POWs and the breeding pens do not represent the work of the army, which was in this instance to guard POWs and civilian internees. The pens are an animal husbandry facility and they demonstrate the activities of the POWs to produce food, not of the guards in the Australian Army to detain POWs and civilian internees.

The piggery was a source of pride for Lt. Col. Dean, however, it was one of the many agricultural and silvicultural activities he established at Loveday. These included a poultry, vegetable crops extending over several hundred acres, opium poppies, pyrethrum daisies, woodcutting to fuel the irrigation pumps and experimental crops for rubber substitutes.

Lt. Col. Dean's service as Commandant of the Loveday Internment Camp Complex encompassed only a short period of time within his extensive army career. Edwin Theyer Dean joined the army in 1905 as a second lieutenant, later going on to fight in World War One. In 1917, Dean was awarded the DSO for fearlessness and gallantry, and later that year promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Outside of his military service, Lt. Col. Dean was a grazier and ran the Karinya Station at Moculta near Angaston.

While agricultural production demonstrates an important part of the work established by Lt. Col. Dean at the Loveday Internment Camp Complex, he didn't build the

breeding pens, work in them or even supervise the day-to-day running of the piggery. These tasks were undertaken by others. The Piggery Breeding Pens are a small part of a broader complex and only a small part of the work undertaken by Lt Col. Dean at Loveday.

If Lt. Col. Dean is considered to be a person of historical importance and that importance is demonstrated by his work at the Loveday Internment Camp Complex, then it is the General Headquarters site (SHP 13761) that would have the closest associations with his work as Commandant of the Loveday Internment Camp Complex.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (g).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The piggery breeding pens comprise an angled structure made from two runs of pens or cells separated by a corridor or alleyway and are made from a series of low, concrete-rendered, stone walls ranging in height from approximately 1-2 meters. A set of rail tracks were built into the corridor to facilitate the easy movement of food and other materials to the boiler house (since demolished) sited at the northern end of the facility. The northernmost cell in the facility (also demolished), was used as a loading pen and contained a loading ramp. It is unclear if any of the rail tracks remain.

The western half of the structure is comprised of 12 pens, made up of 10 smaller cells, 1 cell each per mother and litter of piglets, and two large cells. A series of both concrete and timber piers set into the walls provided support for a thatched roof that covered a large portion of each cell to create shade and shelter from rain for the pigs. While the concrete piers still remain, the timber piers, roof structure and thatching have been removed.

The external wall to the western side of the structure is higher than the internal wall and has a series of windows, one per small cell, and in some instances door openings. There is also an opening into each of the 10 small cells from the internal corridor. Wooden gates were originally used to keep the pigs in their enclosure, however the gates have since been removed.

The eastern half of the structure is comprised of 2 large cells and 6 small cells. The 2 large cells were made from a low rendered-stone wall facing the internal corridor and a further low rendered-stone wall perpendicular to the main wall that divided the space into two. The external walls were made from timber fencing, which has been removed. The 6 small cells are similar to the 10 small cells on the western side of the structure and were once roofed with thatch (now gone). The low wall to the internal corridor continues past the 6 small cells.

To the south of the main pens is a small block of 3 small cells that has been identified as the isolation block.

The render has deteriorated in numerous places and is extensively cracked, resulting in some losses that has exposed the stone underneath. While the walls remain largely

intact, where sections have been removed (loading cell) and where the render is particularly damaged, those sections of wall have begun to also lose stones. The site is, when there is sufficient rain to support it, extensively covered in vegetation, much of which dies off in summer to regrow in autumn. The site has also been used to store a variety of objects both around and within the structure.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Surviving elements of the breeding pens and ancillary structures associated with it (ie drains), including isolation pens separate from main structure.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of the place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Farm material, machinery and equipment stored around the breeding pens.

HISTORY

The following history has been compiled from the histories prepared by Dr Peter Bell for DASH Architects for the assessment report of the Western Cell Block, Camp 14, Loveday Internment Camp, the *Loveday Internment Group Archaeological Survey* by Austral Archaeology and the *Twentieth Century Heritage Survey Vol 2 (1928-1946) Part 1* by Peter Bell, Carol Cosgrove, Susan Marsden and Justin McCarthy. Additional information about the piggery was obtained from the Australian War Memorial's pictorial collection.

Internees and Prisoners

A prisoner of war (POW) is a military combatant, while internees are civilians from an enemy country who were in Australia or an allied country during hostilities. The treatment of POWs and internees was regulated by the Geneva Convention and the international rules of war. However, civilian internees were often arrested using National Security Regulations and were denied legal process. There was no postwar compensation.

At the commencement of hostilities in 1939, many German citizens in Australia were interned, then in 1940 when Italy entered the war, large numbers of Italian residents were interned and then Japanese residents in 1941-1942. In some instances, Australian citizens were also detained. They were often men who had been granted citizenship or who had been born in Australia but had German, Italian or Japanese ancestry. Others Australians were also interned because they were considered to be subversive, such as fascists or communists, or were people who subscribed to a religion, in particular the Jehovah's Witnesses, and refused to swear allegiance to Australia.

POWs were mostly Italian and German soldiers captured in North Africa and elsewhere in the Mediterranean theatre, and later Japanese soldiers captured in the Indonesia (Dutch East Indies) and throughout the Pacific. Some pilots shot down over Australian territory and crews from captured vessels also became POWs in Australia. Many of the German and Italian servicemen were brought long distances from the Mediterranean to Australia, because it was thought that their chances of escape would be reduced. This came uncomfortably close to repeating the imperial theories on the isolation of convicts, which had led to the settlement of Australia by Europeans in 1788. For the same reasons, the Empire now saw the Australian continent as an escape-proof place to send prisoners of war.

Initially during the Second World War, internees and POWs were detained in repurposed facilities such as at the Keswick Army Barracks. However, as those camps became too small, the Australian government constructed purpose-built facilities in four States; namely, at Tatura in Victoria, Hay and Cowra in New South Wales, Harvey in Western Australia and the largest of the five camps at Loveday in South Australia.

The Loveday Internment Complex

In late 1939 and shortly after the commencement of the Second World War, some German citizens were interned in a temporary compound constructed at the Keswick Army Barracks. Initially, the number of internees was small, however, with the entry of Italy into the war in June 1940, the number of internees rapidly outgrew the capacity of the Keswick compound.

Almost immediately after Italy entered the war, Loveday in the Cobdogla Irrigation Area near Barmera was identified as the site for the South Australian internment camp. Simultaneously, similar camps were being constructed in the eastern states at Tatura in Victoria, and Hay and Cowra in New South Wales. While the Geneva Convention required POWs and internees to be housed separately, the administrative distinction between them became blurred in Australia and the Loveday Internment Camp became home to both types of detainees, albeit in separate compounds. In this report, POWs and internees are collectively referred to as detainees.

The Loveday Internment Camp was constructed in stages and would become the largest internment camp in Australia. It was a large complex spread across Loveday and was comprised of a headquarters site that housed the Australian guards of the 25/33 Garrison Battalion and their administration, three camps for detainees numbered 9, 10 and 14, various agricultural facilities such as a piggery, and also included three woodcutting camps on the Murray River at Katarapko, Woolenook Bend and Moorook West.

In July 1940, the plans for the first stages of the Loveday Internment Camp were finalised, and after a successful site inspection on 17 July, Colonel HG Tolley of the Royal Australian Engineers informed Premier Playford, on the following day, of the Army's intention to begin construction of two camps at Loveday. The construction of Camp 9 began on 2 August, while additional finances were granted on 29 August for Camp 10 to be built.

Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Theyer Dean (1884-1970), a South Australian Grazier, was appointed Camp Commandant and arrived at Loveday on about 12 August 1940 in anticipation of the arrival of the first internees. Lt. Col. Dean had a long career with the Australian Army beginning in 1905, eventually obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1917. He was awarded a D.S.O. (Distinguished Service Order) for his service during WWI with the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, and later an MBE, for his service at the Loveday Internment Camp Complex. He was the only Internment Group Commandant in Australia who maintained his command throughout the war. While he was responsible for the entire Loveday Internment complex, each of the three camps – Camp 9, Camp 10 and Camp 14 were also administered by separate Camp Commandants.

Ostensibly, the internment camp at Loveday was needed to detain internees being sent from British Palestine and Indonesia. However, on arrival in Australia they were absorbed into the camps located in the eastern states and Camp 9 remained empty.

Indeed the delay in the arrival of detainees was so protracted that Lt. Col. Dean was temporarily relocated to Terowie and mobilisation of guards halted.

On 1 June 1941, Lt. Col. Dean returned to Loveday and was joined by a Guards Battalion ready for the arrival of Italian POWs. However, the detainees were incarcerated at Hay, and it was not until 11 June 1941 that the first detainees for Loveday arrived. Rather than the anticipated POWs, 450 Italian internees were incarcerated at Camp 9 and were joined by a further 502 Italian internees the following day, filling the camp to capacity. After completion of Camp 10, a further 415 internees were transferred from the Tatura Camp in Victoria on 12 August. German POWs were also later incarcerated in Camp 10 with some causing unrest throughout their imprisonment.

Fieldwork related to the construction of Camp 14, the largest of the three, took place in July and August 1941 and it seems likely that the bombing of Pearl Harbour by the Japanese on 7 December 1941 may have hastened Camp 14's completion. It was finished in early January 1942 and over the course of that month was filled to capacity with German, Japanese and Italian detainees. At its peak in 1943, the Loveday Internment Camp housed about 6,000 detainees and 1,400 military personnel.

Detainees were housed in corrugated-iron-clad military barrack huts that were laid out in neat rows within barbed wire fences. Each camp was self-contained, with its own kitchens, hospital and sewerage treatment plant. The Australian Army ran the camps, and the huts were essentially identical to the ones built to house Australian soldiers. The management, daily routine, bathrooms, kitchen facilities and menus were all based on Army practice. Each camp had a cellblock with eight or more cells to detain troublesome prisoners. The Headquarters camp had its own, smaller cell block to detain troublesome guards.

During their incarceration and with official approval, many of the detainees pursued creative endeavours, including establishing art studios, craft foundries, playhouses, discussion groups, a school and gardens within their compounds. Many also worked in the agricultural schemes established by Lt. Col. Dean as a means to improve the self-sufficiency of the camp and to support the war effort.

Agriculture

The extensive agricultural program run at the Loveday Internment Camp took advantage of the camps' location within the Barmera Irrigation Scheme. Under the Geneva Convention, prisoners of war could be compelled to work, but internees could not, although many civilians volunteered to work in preference to the boredom of life in the camps. Military recruiting and the demands of industrial production had brought about a general shortage of rural workers throughout Australia.

The Australian Women's Land Army went some way to filling the gap, but the demand for rural labour remained serious. In April 1943, it was decided to employ Italian soldiers as farm labourers (internees were employed later). This was a radical step, as it would

mean that individual prisoners were dispersed through the countryside and billeted at farms, completely unguarded, although subject to regular checks.

At the height of the scheme, additional prisoners were being shipped to Australia from camps in India to increase the number of farm workers. By January 1944, over 4,000 Italian prisoners of war were at work on farms across southern Australia, and by March 1945, the number had risen to 13,000, an impressive 70% of the Italian prisoners in Australia. About 1,500 Italian prisoners worked in South Australia.

Towards the end of the War, the scale of the farming soldier's scheme led the army to establish another camp to house detainees closer to the agricultural districts. In 1944, an old US Army camp site was reactivated at Sandy Creek, between Gawler and the Barossa Valley, and a prison compound was built there. The Sandy Creek prisoner of war and internment camp functioned for two years, until 1946.

Although Italy surrendered in 1943, and was technically Australia's ally for the last two years of the war, no Italian prisoners went home until 1946. After the war ended, Loveday became a receiving centre for Italian prisoners being brought in from farming districts. By 1946, huts and other camp equipment from some of the compounds were sold at public auction and dispersed throughout the Riverland, while other compounds still held prisoners.

Many German and Japanese prisoners and internees also remained in custody long after the war ended, the last Japanese people returning home in 1947. The Australian government cited "shortage of ships" as the reason for the delays. Another reason was that from 1943 the internees and prisoners of war had come to play an important role in Australia's economy, and could not be released until most of Australia's troops and prisoners were home, and the workforce had returned to something resembling normal.

Agriculture at Loveday

A variety of agricultural endeavours were pursued by POWs and internees detained at Loveday. The surrounding land was cleared and existing farmland cultivated to grow vegetables, opium poppies, pyrethrum daisies and rubber substitutes for the war effort. Animal husbandry included pigs and poultry for meat and eggs.

While it was not until 1943 that Italian POWs were employed across southern Australia to increase agricultural production, Lt Col. Dean began subsistence farming to supplement rations at the Loveday Camp in 1941. On 21 July, soon after the first internees arrived at Camp 9, a payment system of a shilling a day was approved and the internees began clearing an initial 0.8 hectares of scrub. The land under cultivation was rapidly expanded and at its maximum reached 178 hectares. The internees were so successful that they were soon yielding a surplus that was initially distributed to other military units in South Australia and the Northern Territory. As the surplus grew it was also dehydrated or canned and sent overseas to feed the troops.

In addition to growing vegetable crops, the detainees were engaged in producing seeds to be distributed to the rest of Australia for planting. This was a vital contribution to food supply and security, as before the war seed stock (when not saved and replanted by farmers and market gardeners) had been imported from America, a process that ceased soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbour.

Loveday Piggery

The establishment of a piggery at the Loveday Internment Complex was first mooted in 1942. A document dated November 13 of that year, refers briefly to an 'application to be made to start a piggery to use offal from Camps and Compounds'. Three allotments were selected in Camp 10, namely blocks 210, 211 and 488, and a piggery complex was established between June and September 1943. This began with the construction of pens and feed lots on allotments 210 and 488 and expanded to block 211 in 1944.

On 16 September 1943, Captain Rudd, the Group Project Officer, left on a pig-purchasing sortie and the first occupants of the piggery arrived in camp on 28 September. The breeding pens (subject of this assessment) were built by Japanese internees in October 1943 from stone quarried locally and mortar/render containing lime burnt and crushed by the detainees from Camp 14. Fenced enclosures to the rear of the pens provided weaners with experience of life outside while still being able to be close to their mothers.

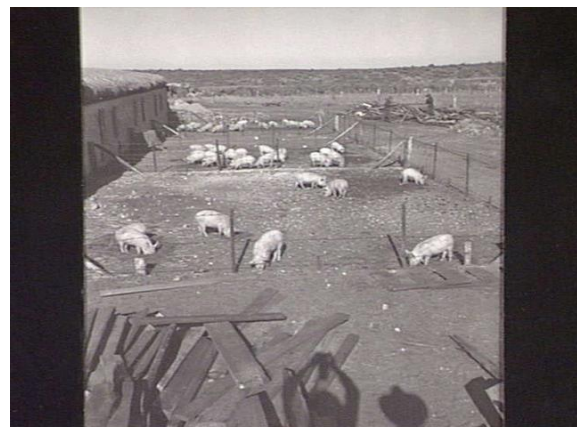


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

123120

Japanese detainees constructing the breeding pens in October 1943

Source: AWM



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

123125

Weaners experiencing life outside of the breeding pens

Source: AWM

Once large enough, the pigs were transferred to pens/feeding lots that were essentially large paddocks containing brush sleeping shelters. Food was placed into troughs sited on concrete pads that enabled the area around the troughs to be kept clean. The pigs were also able to free range and root around in acres of sandy soil, a circumstance that greatly assisted in reducing problems with disease.³



Outside 'pen' at the Piggery - note sleeping shelter in background

Source: AWM

Initially the piggery was operated exclusively by Japanese POWs from Camp 14B. A strike by them in November 1943 was successfully broken through the agency of a dozen Iranian-Germans from Camp 10 dubbed the '12 tradesmen'. The willingness of the German strike-breakers was conditional on their continued right to the piggery work, subsequent to the Japanese return to work.

In general, the animals were fed very economically on food scraps from the camps, however were fattened for market with purchased grain. The food scraps were cooked at the boiler house located adjacent to the breeding pens before being fed to the pigs. The scraps were loaded into 40 gallon drums which were placed on their sides, set on wheels and had an opening cut into them. Steam from the boiler house (now gone) was then used to cook the scraps, a process that took about 50 minutes, the food was then wheeled directly to the food troughs. Once ready for sale, the pigs were loaded onto a truck from the loading ramp located at the northern end of the breeding pens (now gone).

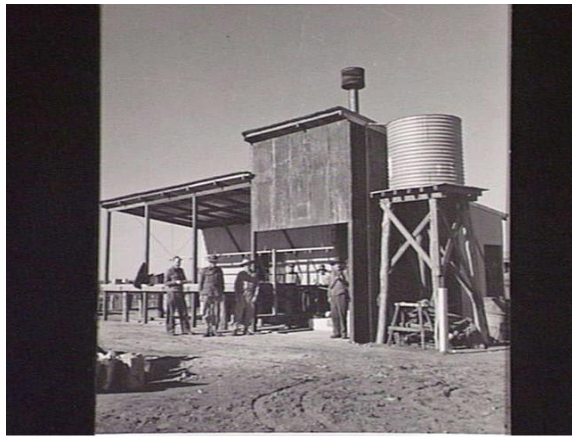


View of the breeding pens (subject of this assessment) from the roof of the boiler house, note the loading ramp.

Source: AWM



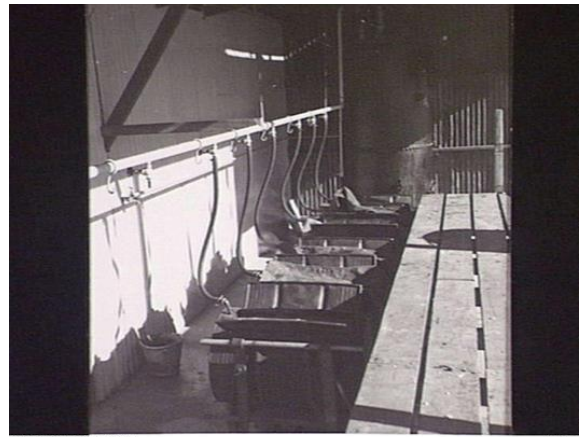
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 123119



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 123122

Boiler House, located to the north of the breeding pens

Source: AWM



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 123123

40 gallon drums used to cook the food scraps before it was fed to the pigs. Note the attachments to feed steam into the scraps to cook them

The bulk of the baconer pigs were sold to the Adelaide Abattoirs via the Government Produce Department. A number of unfinished baconers and weaners were sold locally at the Loxton market and in Adelaide by Goldsborough Mort Pty Ltd. During the operation of Loveday Camp, the detainees produced a total of 1,740 pigs with a value of £9,520.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 123110

Some of the first 40 pigs to be sold, 36 of them were classified as first class baconers and achieved a price of £6ea at market

Source: AWM



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 123116

Loading the pigs to be taken to market

Source: AWM

The piggery was a considerable source of pride for Lt. Col. Dean and there is anecdotal evidence suggesting that when an anticipated visit to the camp complex by the Prime Minister was cancelled, Lt. Col. dispatched a truck with the pigs ensconced within it, to intercept the Prime Minister at Renmark.

After the war, the piggery was the only operational component in the entire Loveday complex which survived the military's salvage drive. In February 1946, the piggery still contained 634 animals and continued operations under new civilian management.



A carbon and oil drawing of the piggery executed by official war artist Max Ragless

Source: AWM

Pig Farming in South Australia

Pigs were first introduced to South Australia by the sealers living on Kangaroo Island prior to colonisation and were later introduced to the mainland by the colonists who arrived after 1836. The pig industry only began to develop in South Australia during the second half of the twentieth century, before which pigs tended to be a sideline on mixed farms where they were fed food scraps and free ranged. The confinement of pigs to runs and then intensive farming techniques led to an increase in pig production and the development of the industry from c.1960s onwards.⁴

Chronology

Year	Event
1939 (September)	Second World War begins when Britain, France and British allies including Australia declare war on Germany after German troops invade Poland (September). Australia begins internment of German residents and in some cases naturalised and Australian-born citizens with German ancestry. In South Australia, German residents are initially interned at the Keswick Army Barracks.
1940 (June)	Italy enters the conflict, Australia begins internment of Italian residents and in some cases naturalised and Australian-born citizens

with Italian ancestry. Italian residents are also interned at the Keswick Army Barracks, quickly outgrowing the capacity of the compound established there. **A site for an internment camp is identified at Loveday.**

July 1940 **Plans for the Loveday Internment Camp are finalised and the Australian Army advises Premier Playford of its intention to construct the camp.**

August 1940 Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Theyer Dean is appointed Camp Commandant and arrives at Loveday.

11 June 1941 **Loveday's first detainees arrive when Italian internees are installed at Camp 9. Camp 9 is quickly filled to capacity.**

12 August 1941 **Camp 10's first detainees arrive - namely Italian Internees. They are later joined by German POWs and the camp is filled to capacity.**

21 July 1941 **A payment system of 1 shilling per day is approved and detainees begin clearing land for crop planting. By the end of the war, 178 hectares have been cleared and are under cultivation.**

July-August 1941 **Fieldwork for Camp 14 is completed.**

December 1941 Japan bombs Pearl Harbour, Hawaii entering the Second World War (December), Australia begins internment of Japanese residents and in some cases naturalised and Australian-born citizens with Japanese ancestry.

January 1942 **Construction of Camp 14 is completed and is filled to capacity with German, Italian and Japanese POWs and civilian internees.**

November 1942 **Idea of starting a piggery at the Loveday Internment Camp Complex is mooted.**

April 1943 The Australian Government decides to employ Italian POWs as farm labourers to help fill rural labour shortage.

June-September 1943 **Blocks 210, 211 and 488 are selected for the piggery complex and construction begins. The first pigs arrive on 16 September and are cared for by the Japanese POWs from Compound 14B Camp 14.**

October 1943 **Japanese POWs from Camp 14 build the piggery breeding pens.**

November 1943 A strike by the Japanese POWs is broken by 10 German-Iranians from Camp 10 on the understanding they will be allowed to continue working at the piggery.

1945 By the end of the war the detainees have produced 1,740 pigs.
The Australian Army begins selling off the buildings associated with the Loveday Internment Camp Complex. Only the cell blocks,

piggery and some structures at the General Headquarters site are retained.

February 1946 **The piggery is transferred from military to civilian management and continues to operate for a number of years.**

c.1960s The introduction of intensive farming techniques results in an increase in pig production and the development of the piggery industry in South Australia.

1989 **The General Headquarters Site Loveday Internment Camp Complex is entered in the South Australian Heritage register as a State Heritage Place.**

1991 The remains of the breeding pens are recorded by Austral Archaeology in an archaeological survey of the Loveday Internment Camp Complex

References

(Supplementary to Western Detention Cell Block, Camp 14, Loveday Internment Camp Complex Assessment Report prepared by Dr Peter Bell for DASH Architects and *Loveday Internment Group Archaeological Survey* by Austral Archaeology)

Cullen, Headly Keith, 'Barmera, SA The Piggery, Loveday Internment Group' Collection of 18 Photographs, Australian War Memorial:

https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search?query=loveday%20piggery&collection=true&facet_type=Photograph

PIRSA, 'Development of Pig Production in South Australia':

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/aghistory/industries/livestock/pig_production_in_sa

Zwillenberg, HJ (1981), 'Dean, Edwin Theyer (1884-1970), Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National

University: <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dean-edwin-theyer-6339/text10107>

SITE RECORD

NAME:	Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex	PLACE NO.:	26509
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DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: An angled structure comprised of two runs of pens or cells separated by a corridor or alleyway made from a series of rendered-stone walls, ranging in height from approximately 1-2 meters.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: October, 1943

REGISTER STATUS: Provisionally Entered

18 February 2021 TBC

CURRENT USE: Storage of farming materials, machinery and equipment

PREVIOUS USE(S): Piggery breeding pens

1943-unknown

BUILDER: Japanese POWs Compound 14B, Camp 14 Loveday Internment Camp Complex (1943)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Berri Barmera Council

LOCATION: **Street Name:** Costello Road

Town/Suburb: Loveday

Post Code: 5345

LAND DESCRIPTION: **Title** CL 6211/769

Reference:

Section: Sections 210 and 211

Hundred: Loveday

MAP REFERENCE GPS 34°17'26.5"S 140°26'44.2"E

PHOTOS

NAME: Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26509
Camp Complex



Piggery Breeding Pens, showing the extent of the facility

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020



Higher outer (western) wall showing window openings

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020

NAME: Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26509
Camp Complex



Northern elevation of the piggery breeding pens

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020



Northern end of the piggery breeding pens showing central corridor

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020

NAME: Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26509
Camp Complex



Pens on the western side of the structure

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020



Piggery breeding pens, note the upright supports for the roof

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020

NAME: Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26509
Camp Complex



Internal wall of the eastern pens, timber fencing to complete each pen has been removed

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020



Detail of the wall western elevation, note cracking and loss of render, the fencing is a later replacement

Source: DEW Files 15 August 2020

SITE PLAN



NAME: Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26509



Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex CL 6211/769 sections 210 and 211, Hundred of Loveday

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LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (partial)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

¹ (pers. comm. P. Bell 2017)

² (pers. comm. P. Bell 2017).

³ See collection of images and captions held by the Australian War Memorial and taken by Sgt Cullen, a guard at Loveday who pictorially recorded the piggery.

⁴ PIRSA, 'History of Agriculture in SA: Development of Pig Production in South Australia', https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/aghistory/industries/livestock/pig_production_in_sa#:~:text=The%20first%20recorded%20introduction%20of,with%20them%20to%20the%20mainland [accessed 22 January 2021]. PA Heap nd, *Pig Production in South Australia*, available PIRSA website.