

## HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

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**NAME:** Camp 10 Detention Cell Block –  
Loveday Internment Camp Complex

**PLACE:** 26506

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**ADDRESS:** First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee Region Country  
Yeo Road, Loveday

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



**Camp 10 Cell Block, Loveday Internment Camp Complex**

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

### Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Loveday Internment Camp Complex is rare as it is the only purpose-built internment facility in South Australia and demonstrates a way of life, social custom and land use that is of exceptional historical interest. The Camp 10 Cell Block is an integral component of the Camp Complex and one of only three cell blocks remaining at Loveday. It demonstrates important aspects of South Australia's role in the detention of civilian internees and prisoners of war (POWs) during the Second World War, and in particular, the experience of additional levels of imprisonment.

POWs were imprisoned in the detention cell block as punishment for a variety of 'illegal' activities, including failed escape attempts, espionage, physical violence and acts of civil disobedience. Imprisoned POWs included members of a small Nazi 'elite' who tried to gain control over the other detainees in early 1943. The walls inside some cells are inscribed with names of some of the POWs incarcerated in that cell, and in some instances dates of and reason for incarceration, while other walls have dashes or crosses. One cell also bears the names of three privates from the 25/33 Garrison Battalion who were court martialled in August and September 1942.

### Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

The Camp 10 Cell Block, 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

##### 3.5 Maintaining Law and Order

### Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

#### Second World War Internment

There are three places on the South Australian Heritage Register that are associated with the internment of prisoners of war (POWs) and/or civilian internees 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.
- Piggery Breeding Pens, Loveday Internment Camp Complex (SHP 26509, listed 2021 under criteria (a) and (b)), Costello 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 POWs. Rather detention cell blocks were built in the guard compounds associated with each of the three camps, Camp 9, Camp 10 and two at Camp 14, to incarcerate POWs and civilian internees as required.



**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 civilian internees and POWs.**

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020

A temporary internment camp located at Sandy Creek near Gawler (unlisted) was used to accommodate the Italian POWs 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.<sup>1</sup>

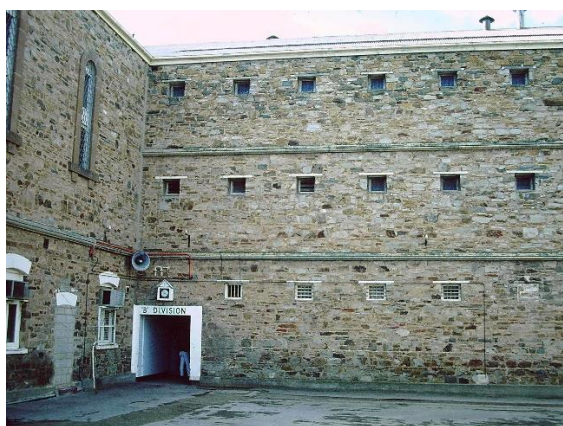
Italian POWs (and later civilian internees) were employed as maintenance fitters on the Trans-Continental Railway across the Nullarbor Plain. Evidence of some of their camp sites remain. They too were housed in tents with ephemeral kitchens and ablution buildings, which were shifted from place to place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

### **Cell Blocks and Lock-ups**

The Camp 10 Cell Block is also associated more broadly with cell blocks and lock-ups. Cell blocks and/or lock-ups tend to form a component of a larger complex, typically gaols, police stations and courts, and can be integrated into other buildings or be stand-alone structures. There are a number of cell blocks or lock-ups listed in the Register, of which the greater majority were constructed in the nineteenth century. Most of the cell blocks or lock-ups in the Register were State heritage listed as they

demonstrate aspects of the history of the provision of law and order in South Australia. Examples include:

- 'B' Division Cell Block, Yatala Labour Prison, Grand Junction Road, Northfield listed under the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*, built 1858, (SHP 10713). The 'B' Division Cell Block represents a significant phase in the history of penal management in South Australia and is the first cell block to accommodate prisoners in single cells, rather than communal wards.
- National Trust Museum (former Willunga Police Station and Residence, Cell Block and Courtyard, Stables and Courthouse), 61 High Street, Willunga listed under the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*, built c.1860, (SHP 10342).
- North Adelaide Police Station red brick residence, cell block and walled yard, 61-69 Archer Street, North Adelaide listed under criteria (a) and (g) s16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, built 1864, (SHP 17034).
- Former Lock-Up Millicent Police Station, 48 George Street, Millicent listed under criteria (b) and (d) s16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, built 1874, (SHP 13849). The argument to list the cell block under criterion (d) largely relates to the nineteenth century materials used and quality of the construction of the building. As such the class of place would be nineteenth century cell block.



**'B' Division Cell Block Yatala Prison**

Source: DEW Files 1981



**Former Lock-up Millicent Police station**

Source: DEW Files 2009

There are three cell blocks or lock-ups included in the Register from the twentieth century, two are associated with Australian Army activities during the Second World War. The three twentieth century cell blocks or lock-ups listed in the Register are:

- Former Wooden Lock-up from Whyalla Policeman's Dwelling (Relocated to the Mount Laura Homestead Museum Reserve in 1978), Ekblom Street, Whyalla, listed under the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*, c.1912, (SHP 10214).
- Cell Block of the former World War Two Staging Camp, Terowie Oval, Besanko Street, Terowie listed under criterion (a) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, (SHP 14878).

- Loveday Internment Camp Site – General Headquarters Site, Thiele Road, Loveday, listed under the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*, a cell block forms a part of the listing (SHP 13761).



**Former Wooden Lock-up from Whyalla Policeman's Dwelling (Relocated to the Mount Laura Homestead Museum Reserve in 1978), (SHP 10214)**

Source: DEW Files c.2019



**Cell Block of the former World War Two Staging Camp, Terowie (SHP 14878)**

Source: DEW Files c.2019

**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 Camp 10 Cell Block, Loveday Internment Camp Complex is associated with the detention of German and Italian POWs and civilian internees (collectively referred to as detainees) in South Australia during the Second World War.

The Loveday Internment Camp Complex was the largest constructed in Australia and the only purpose-built internment facility in South Australia. Camp 10 was the second of three camps at the Loveday Complex and detainees were interned at Camp 10 from June 1941 until January 1944 when all detainees were transferred to Camp 14. 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 actions and experiences of the detainees.

While most of the structures at Camp 10 were sold and relocated at the end of the war, the Camp 10 cell block remains in situ and demonstrates the experiences of the detainees who were further incarcerated as punishment for a variety of 'illegal' activities, including failed escape attempts, espionage, physical violence and acts of civil disobedience. Originally constructed as a two-cell facility, the cell block was enlarged to six-cells in January 1943 pre-empting emerging troubles experienced at the camp by authorities when a small Nazi 'elite' attempted to gain control over the other detainees.

Inside the building, some of the cell walls have been inscribed with pencil or engravings into the wall. The inscriptions record the names of some of the detainees incarcerated in that cell, and in some instances dates of and reason for incarceration, while other walls have dashes or crosses that probably denote each day of a sentence served. One cell also bears the names of three privates from the 25/33 Garrison Battalion who were court martialled in August and September 1942.

The Camp 10 Cell Block, Loveday Internment Camp Complex demonstrates important aspects of South Australia's role in the detention of civilian internees and POWs during the Second World War, and in particular, the experience of further incarceration.

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.*

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 Complex was spread over a number of sites cross Loveday (camps and HQ), and included hundreds of buildings and temporary structures, most of which have since been relocated and lost and/or demolished. The Camp 10 Cell Block is an integral component of the Camp Complex and one of only a few surviving intact buildings. It is also only one of three cell blocks remaining at Loveday to demonstrate the incarceration of detainees for activities deemed 'illegal' by the authorities, including escape attempts, civil disobedience and espionage. The only other State heritage listed element of the site to represent detainee experiences is the Piggery Breeding Pens (SHP 26509) where detainees undertook one aspect of the agricultural production that was an important part of Loveday Camp Complex work activities.

Although there is also a cell block that is included in the listing of the General Headquarters Site (SHP13761) it, like the headquarters site more generally, demonstrates the work of the Australian Army and army personnel experiences. Collectively, these sites capture the cultural significance of the camp complex of which the Camp 10 Cell Block is a fundamental component.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** 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 Camp 10 Cell Block, Loveday Internment Camp Complex demonstrates the further incarceration of detainees in South Australia during the Second World War, for activities found by the authorities to be 'illegal'. Austral Archaeology undertook an archaeological assessment of the site in 1991 and found no evidence to suggest that the Camp 10 Cell Block will yield information that will contribute meaningfully to our

knowledge of the past that is not already well documented and available from other sources, including the surviving building fabric. 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 Camp 10 Cell Block belongs to the class of places known as internment camps and twentieth-century cell blocks.

The cell block is one component of many that made up the Loveday internment camp, being part of the guard camp that was located adjacent to the detainee area at Camp 10. As a small part of a larger whole, the cell block cannot be considered to sufficiently represent the class of place. As the first test is not met, no further tests are considered for the cell block with regard to representing the class 'internment camps'.

The cell block also belongs to the class of place known as twentieth century cell blocks. The Camp 10 Cell Block is an uncomplicated concrete and brick structure with two rows of cells facing a central corridor. The layout of the cells and the cellularisation of prisoners follows nineteenth century incarceration practices, such as at 'B' Division Yatala Gaol (SHP 10713) that reflected the idea of separating prisoners to prevent 'moral' cross contamination. However, the lack of windows in the exterior walls to provide natural ventilation and lighting is out-dated even for nineteenth century cell blocks. In the twentieth century, new approaches to incarceration and rehabilitation of prisoners were incorporated into prison design, including the diametrically opposed ideas of the "supermax" and "unit management" models.

As a class of place, the Camp 10 Cell Block better demonstrates aspects of the class 'nineteenth century cell blocks' than it does 'twentieth-century cell blocks' and therefore cannot be considered an outstanding example of a twentieth century cell block. Further, as it is an outdated design for a nineteenth century cell block it cannot be considered to be an outstanding example of this class of place either.

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 cell block is a utilitarian, rectangular, reinforced concrete and brick structure comprised of two rows of cells facing a central corridor. The utilitarian design and construction techniques used to build the cell block do not demonstrate a high degree of aesthetic, technical or creative accomplishment. Reinforced concrete was commonplace by the 1940s, and while well-built, the structure is utilitarian in nature and features typical design characteristics for cell blocks from the nineteenth century, for example the rows of cells. As a functional structure built expeditiously to meet emerging requirements to incarcerate detainees at the Camp, it is not considered to demonstrate outstanding design characteristics or techniques.

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 Camp 10 Cell Block is directly associated with the small number of people who were incarcerated there, including both detainees from Camp 10 who were found to have carried out activities considered 'illegal' by the Australia Army and also Australian Army guards from the 25/33 Garrison battalion who were court martialled. More broadly, the cell block is also associated with the hundreds of detainees at Camp 10 who may have viewed it as a place to avoid. With the passage of time, most, if not all, of these individuals have now passed away. Some members of the public may also hold the cell block in high regard as a reminder of the Loveday

Internment Camp Complex and the role Loveday played in the internment of POWs and civilian internees during the Second World War.

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 they form an enduring group. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that any attachment formed is specifically for the Camp 10 Cell Block and not the Loveday Internment Camp Complex 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 Camp 10 Cell Block is associated with the Australian Army and some of the detainees interned at Camp 10.

The Camp 10 Cell Block was located in the guard compound built adjacent to the Camp 10 detainee compound and was used to incarcerate primarily POWs and civilian internees who had been found by the Australian Army to have undertaken further 'illegal' activities at Camp 10 while a POW or internee. A number of detainees and three Australian Army privates were incarcerated for short periods in the cell block, typically sentences were a number of days, weeks or month in duration.

However, none of the people known to have been incarcerated in the cell block or more broadly the Loveday Internment Camp Complex are recognised as a person who has made a strong, notable or influential contribution to the history of South Australia. As the first test has not been met, no further tests are considered under this criterion.

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

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Cell Block, Camp 10, Loveday Internment Camp Complex consists of two rectangular, gable-roofed structures, sited parallel to each other and built on a concrete slab. The siting of the structures creates a corridor between them with the slab extending to the north of the structures to create what was once a fenced exterior space. The slab features a drainage channel that extends along the corridor and to the edge of the slab to the north.

The eastern structure is constructed from reinforced concrete and brick, while the western structure is made from reinforced concrete. Each structure is internally divided into three cells creating six cells in total. The roof is a timber-framed structure clad with corrugated iron. The ceilings to the reinforced concrete portions of each structure are also reinforced concrete, however, in the brick section of the eastern structure the ceiling is made from iron bars that are covered with what appears to be a manufactured timber-board.

In the eastern structure, there is a small window in one of the brick walls opening into the adjacent cell and another small opening that has been bricked up. Otherwise, the only openings are a door into each cell that faces the corridor. Only two cells retain sliding timber doors, however, iron fittings above the door openings and channels in the concrete (now filled with dirt) suggest the remaining four cells also once had sliding doors. The door openings to the brick cells feature concrete lintels.

A reinforced concrete wall extends across the end of the cell block, connecting the eastern and western structures. A large opening has been cut into the wall – it is not clear if there was always an opening here which has been enlarged, or if the opening is new. A small ablutions block constructed from reinforced concrete and featuring a sloped roof abuts the northern end of the eastern structure and is divided into two spaces, one containing a shower and the other a toilet. There is a new low, concrete-block lean-to abutting the northern end of the western structure, this later post-internment camp addition has a flat concrete slab roof and is divided into three bays.

Inside each cell, the walls are left unfinished and a number of the cells contain pencil and engraved inscriptions. The inscriptions include the names of POWs and three Australian Army privates from the 25/33 Garrison Battalion incarcerated in the cells, dates and reasons for incarceration, sentence length and a number of dashes that probably denote the passing of each day served.

### **Elements of Significance:**

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

- The eastern and western cell structures, ablutions block, concrete slab and wall.
- Pencil and engraved inscriptions and markings on internal walls.

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

- Concrete-block lean-to.
- Concrete laundry trough and stand.
- Adjacent sheds and caravan.

## **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.

### **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 later Japanese residents from 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. Other 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 Indonesia 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.

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.

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 on the day following a successful site inspection on 17 July, Colonel HG Tolley of the Royal Australian Engineers informed Premier Playford 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. Camp 14 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 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.

## **Camp 10**

This summary of Camp 10's history has been abridged from the *Loveday Internment Group Historical Archaeological Survey* prepared by Austral Archaeology with some limited supplementary information.

Pegging of the areas for Camps 9 and 10 took place in July 1940, however, the construction of Camp 10 was delayed while the Australian government debated how many POWs Australia would accept from British Palestine and other British territories. Ultimately, it was decided to build the camp and Camp 10 was completed in June 1941 just before the arrival of the first 450 Italian internees from Tatura in Victoria.

The detainee compound of Camp 10 was comprised of 35 buildings, including 27 sleeping huts, messes, kitchens, canteens, latrines, and from early 1942, POW-built European-style cafes. The detention cell block was not located within the detainee compound but rather in the adjacent duty guard camp. Initially, when completed in mid-1941, it consisted of only two cells, however, the block was extended by a further four cells in January 1943, making a total of six cells.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

064843

### **Cell Block, Camp 10, Loveday Internment Camp Complex, 1943**

Source: AWM 064843

Camp Complex Commandant, Lt. Col. Dean noted that Camp 10 was probably 'one of the most difficult and dangerous in Australia as its inmates were overseas Germans – most of them ardent Nazis'.<sup>3</sup> The German detainees held in Camp 10 were known for their political intrigues, acts of disobedience and escape attempts. Five of the escape attempts were made by individuals or a small number of detainees. However, one attempt made in April 1942, if successful would have resulted in a mass break out and involved digging an escape tunnel that reached beyond the security perimeter before it was discovered.

It was the construction of the cafes that created the opportunity to dig the tunnel. Against regulations, the POWs had been permitted to manufacture the clay bricks within the camp compound and the clay pug hole was used to store and hide the dirt excavated from the tunnel. A more successful if only temporary escape occurred on 7 May 1942, when two detainees made it as far as Berri before Jimmy James, an Aboriginal tracker located them. Other attempts occurred in 1942 and 1943.





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

064879

### **One of the cafés built by the German detainees at Camp 10, 1943**

Source: AWM 064879

In general, the population of Camp 10 was ideologically moderate in their views and behaviour, however, in early 1943, a group of 40 detainees identified as a Nazi 'elite' made an attempt to gain control of the camp population. Led by German-Iranian Paul Pichtsmeyer, who the Australian Army intelligence staff named 'Black Spider', the group instigated a campaign of fear and disobedience resulting in a period of intense political turmoil in the Camp and the abuse of those detainees who did not comply with them.

In January 1943, there was an abortive 'putsch' intended to overcome the guards and disable communications. Then in mid-February, the German camp leader resigned, and new elections were held. When intelligence officers reported that the election was a farce, Commandant Dean refused to ratify the results and called for another election. The Nazi 'elite' then delivered a petition to camp authorities announcing a general strike until the election result was recognised. Other grievances referred to in the petition include the 28-day sentence of two of the 'elite' and the torture of a detainee known as Bausch by guards after an escape attempt.

The two 'elite' detained for 28-days had attacked a fellow detainee in the ablutions block, just prior to the February election, beating and whipping him with barbed wire until he was senseless. The two guards had stabbed Bausch in the buttock with fixed bayonets through his bedclothes, when after misunderstanding the instructions given to him by the guards he remained motionless. While it has been suggested that Bausch did not hold any animosity towards the guards for this incident, other

detainees at Camp 10 remember harsh treatment at the hands of the guards, including being beaten with rifle butts.<sup>4</sup>

The authorities at the Loveday Camp Complex contacted the Tatura Camp with a request that they take some of the Nazis to break the group up. Tatura refused on the basis that they were also dealing with problems caused by the Nazis already detained at that camp. Pichtsmeyer's final overt act to incite disobedience was a mass refusal to acknowledge orders during roll call. 48 offenders were imprisoned, with Pichtsmeyer being placed in the cells on 2 March for 28 days detention. On 3 March, a new election was held using a secret ballot. Pichtsmeyer was one of six to stand for the position of camp leader, however he failed to secure more than a handful of votes and Graf Von Mensdorf, who held more moderate views, was elected.

While in the cells, Pichtsmeyer requested a pair of shorts that on inspection were found to contain a number of maps showing the location of military installations and a list of munitions plants in Victoria. The maps had been drawn by another detainee named Thiefelder who subsequently received a five year prison sentence for espionage. The imprisonment of the 'elite' and election of Graf Von Mensdorf who was supported by camp authorities, reduced the influence of the 'elite', and detainees could again sign up for volunteer labour. Further acts of pro-Nazi disobedience, including towards Graf Von Mensdorf, were punished with periods in detention.

Inside the cell block, some of the cell walls have been inscribed with pencil, the inscriptions appearing to record the names of some of the detainees incarcerated in that cell and in some instances dates of and reason for incarceration, while other walls have dashes or crosses that possibly denote each day of a sentence served. Some examples are 'TH Eschler' '14 days for refusal to say 'Here Sir'' or more simply 'A Schirmer 17/3-7/4/43'. One cell also bears the names of Privates Grunert, Dale and Wyatt, all three from the 25/33 Garrison Battalion who were court martialled in August and September 1942.<sup>5</sup>

On 31 December 1943, the remaining 75 detainees from Camp 9 were transferred to Camp 10, however less than two weeks later on 9 January 1944, all 606 detainees at Camp 10 were transferred to Camp 14 and Camp 10 ceased to operate as an internment camp. On 22 July, Camp 10 became a Detail Issue Depot (DID) after the Depot was relocated from the Barmera Railway yards.

After the surrender of Japan on 15 August 1945, the DID at Camp 10 was closed, and on 10 October, a number of the buildings were sold to the South Australian Lands Department. On 15 October, the remaining Japanese detainees at Camp 14 began dismantling the fencing at Camp 9 and Camp 10, and the land was returned to the State Government. Additional sales of buildings from the Loveday Internment Camp Complex took place in mid-November 1945 and then in early March 1946. It was during these later sales that the buildings in the guard camps were sold, with only the more solid structures such as the cell blocks remaining. Other permanent structures that were not removed as a part of the sale, such as messes, have since been demolished.

The Camp 10 cell block is now one of a number of outbuildings that support the agricultural activities that dominate the Loveday area. Presently, grape vines are being grown on the land surrounding the Camp 10 cell block and it is used to store material and chemicals used on the farm.

## 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. <b>In South Australia, German residents are initially interned at the Keswick Army Barracks.</b>
<b>1940 (June)</b>	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. <b>A site for an internment camp is identified at Loveday.</b>
<b>July 1940</b>	<b>Plans for the Loveday Internment Camp are finalised and the Australian Army advises Premier Playford of its intention to construct the camp.</b>
August 1940	Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Theyer Dean is appointed Camp Commandant and arrives at Loveday. <b>Finances are approved and the construction of Camp 10 begins.</b>
11 June 1941	Loveday's first detainees arrive when Italian internees are installed at Camp 9. Camp 9 is quickly filled to capacity.
<b>12 August 1941</b>	<b>Camp 10's first detainees arrive – namely Italian Internees. They are later joined by German POWs and the camp is filled to capacity.</b>
July-August 1941	Fieldwork for Camp 14 is completed.
December 1941	Japan bombs Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, thereby 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	Camp 14 is completed and quickly filled to capacity with German, Italian and Japanese POWs and civilian internees.
<b>Early 1942</b>	<b>European-style cafes are constructed at Camp 10, enabling dirt from an escape tunnel to be hidden. The tunnel is discovered in April before escape was attempted.</b>

<b>7 May 1942</b>	<b>Two detainees escape Camp 10 and reach Berri before being found by Jimmy James an Aboriginal tracker.</b>
<b>August-September 1942</b>	<b>Three court martialled guards from the 25/33 Garrison Battalion inscribe their names on the wall of one of the cells.</b>
<b>January 1943</b>	<b>The cell block at Camp 10 is extended from 2 to 6 cells. An abortive putsch is staged by the Nazi elite interned at Camp 10.</b>
<b>February 1943</b>	<b>Lt. Col. Dean refuses to accept the election of Paul Pichtsmeyer known as 'Black Spider' to the position of camp leader and a general strike ensues. Several detainees including Pichtsmeyer are incarcerated in the cell block for 28 days.</b>
<b>3 March 1943</b>	<b>Graf Von Mensdorf is elected as Camp leader and supported by Camp authorities to maintain control of Camp 10.</b>
April 1943	The Australian Government decides to employ Italian POWs as farm labourers to help fill rural labour shortage.
November 1943	A strike by the Japanese POWs working at the piggery is broken by 10 German-Iranians from Camp 10 on the understanding they will be allowed to continue working at the piggery.
31 December 1943	75 detainees transferred to Camp 10 from Camp 9.
<b>9 January 1944</b>	<b>All detainees at Camp 10 are transferred to Camp 14 and Camp 10 is closed.</b>
<b>22 July 1944</b>	<b>Camp 10 becomes a Detail Issue Depot (DID).</b>
<b>15 August 1945</b>	<b>DID is closed.</b>
10 October 1945	SA Lands Department purchases a number of the buildings and relocated them to other sites.
15 October 1945	Japanese POWs begin dismantling the fencing to return the land where Camp 10 was to the State government.
<b>1989</b>	<b>The General Headquarters Site, Loveday Internment Camp Complex is entered in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.</b>
1991	The remains of Camp 10, including the cell block, are recorded by Austral Archaeology in an archaeological survey of the Loveday Internment Camp Complex
Present	Camp 10 cell block is used as an agricultural equipment store.

## References

Austral Archaeology (1992), *Loveday Internment Group Archaeological Survey* (Department of Environment and Planning, Adelaide).

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Grant, Elizabeth and Jewkes, Yvonne (2015), 'Finally Fit for Purpose: The Evolution of Australian Prison Architecture', *The Prison Journal* vol.95, no. 2.

Monteith, Peter (2018), *Captured Lives Australia's Wartime Internment Camps*, (NLA Publishing, Canberra).

National Archives of Australia, RecordSearch 'Grunert Colin S50221', 'Dale Bret Joseph S50958' and 'Wyatt Harold Leonard S43595', <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>

## SITE RECORD

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<b>NAME:</b>	Camp 10 Detention Cell Block, Loveday Internment Camp Complex	<b>PLACE NO.:</b>	26506
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<b>DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:</b>	Reinforced-concrete and brick structure comprising two cell blocks (3 cells each), facing a central concrete corridor with small ablutions block.
<b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>	1941, extended 1943.
<b>REGISTER STATUS:</b>	Identified by SAHC for assessment 1 August 2019
<b>CURRENT USE:</b>	Storage for agricultural equipment and supplies. 1946-present
<b>PREVIOUS USE(S):</b>	Detention Cell Block, Second World War Internment Camp. 1941-1945
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:</b>	Berri Barmera Council
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Street Name:</b> Yeo Road <b>Town/Suburb:</b> Loveday <b>Post Code:</b> 5345
<b>LAND DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Title</b> CT 5958/949 A8 D 69443 <b>Reference:</b> <b>Hundred:</b> Loveday

## PHOTOS

**NAME:** Camp 10 Detention Cell Block

**PLACE NO.:** 26505



**Cell Block showing the cells facing the central corridor, note the drain and sliding door.**

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020



**Ablutions block, toilet and shower.**

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020



**New or enlarged opening in the end wall of the cell block.**

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020



**Brick section of the cell block, showing the concrete lintel over opening and channel (now filled with dirt) to accommodate a sliding door.**

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020



**Inside two of the cells, showing concrete and brick versions, note the small barred window between cells and the difference between the ceilings. Most cells did not have any opening other than the door onto the central corridor.**

Source: DEW Files 29 October 2020



**Exterior wall of the cell block.**

Source: DEW Files 28 October 2020



**Concrete brick addition to cell block.**

Source: DEW Files 28 October 2020





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

030192/04

**Group of detainees at Camp 10, Loveday Internment Camp Complex, Graf von Mensdorf is back row, second from the left, 16 March 1943.**

Source: AWM 030192/04



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

030252/07

**Group of detainees, Camp 10 Loveday Internment Camp Complex, Paul Pichtsmeyer 'Black Spider' is in the back row, third from right. Kurt Elchlepp front row first on right was also incarcerated in the cell block and has written his name on the wall.**

Source: AWM 030252/07

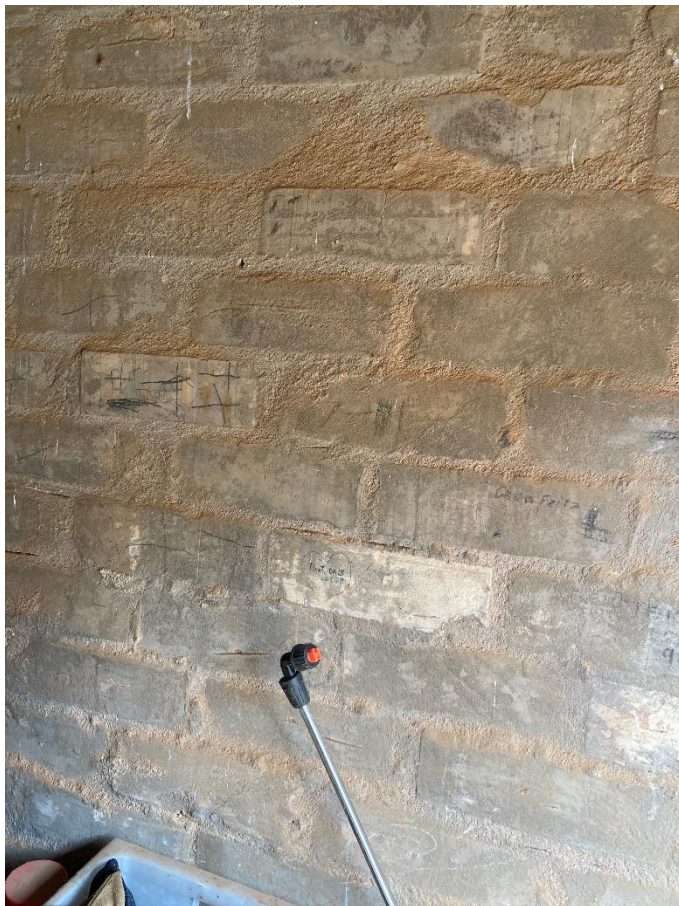


**Example of the pencil inscriptions showing the names and details of detainees incarcerated in the cell block, including Kurt Elchlepp (see image above).**

Source: DEW Files 28 October 2020

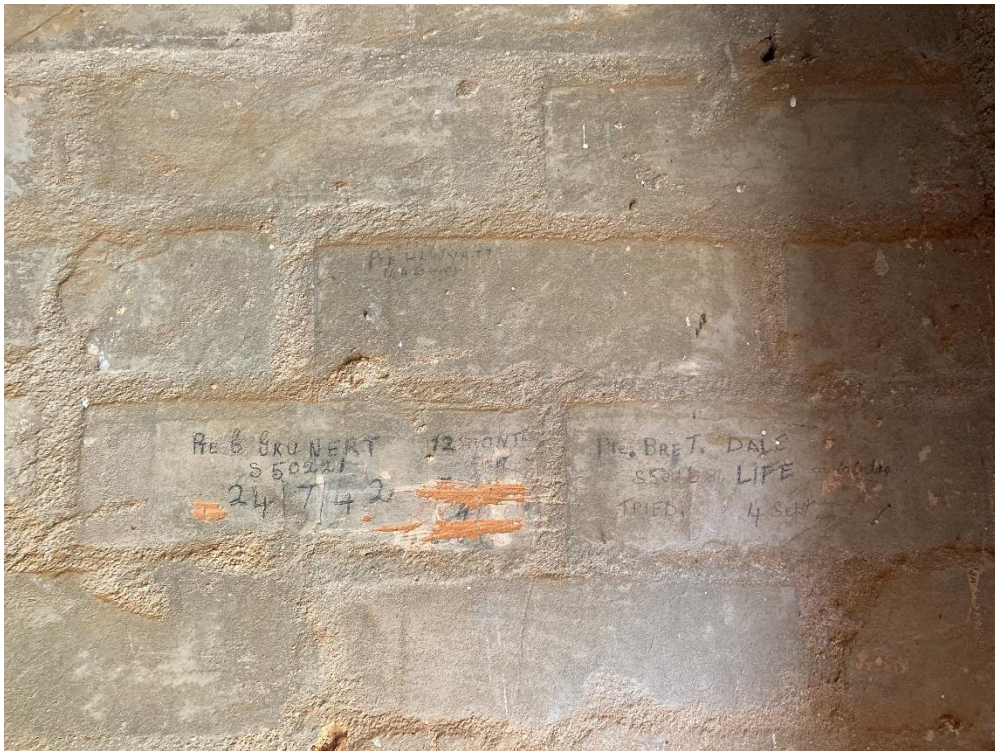
**Example of inscription carved into the brick, top left corner.**

Source: DEW Files 28 October 2020



**Pencil marks possibly denoting the passage of time served in the cells.**

Source: DEW Files 28 October 2020



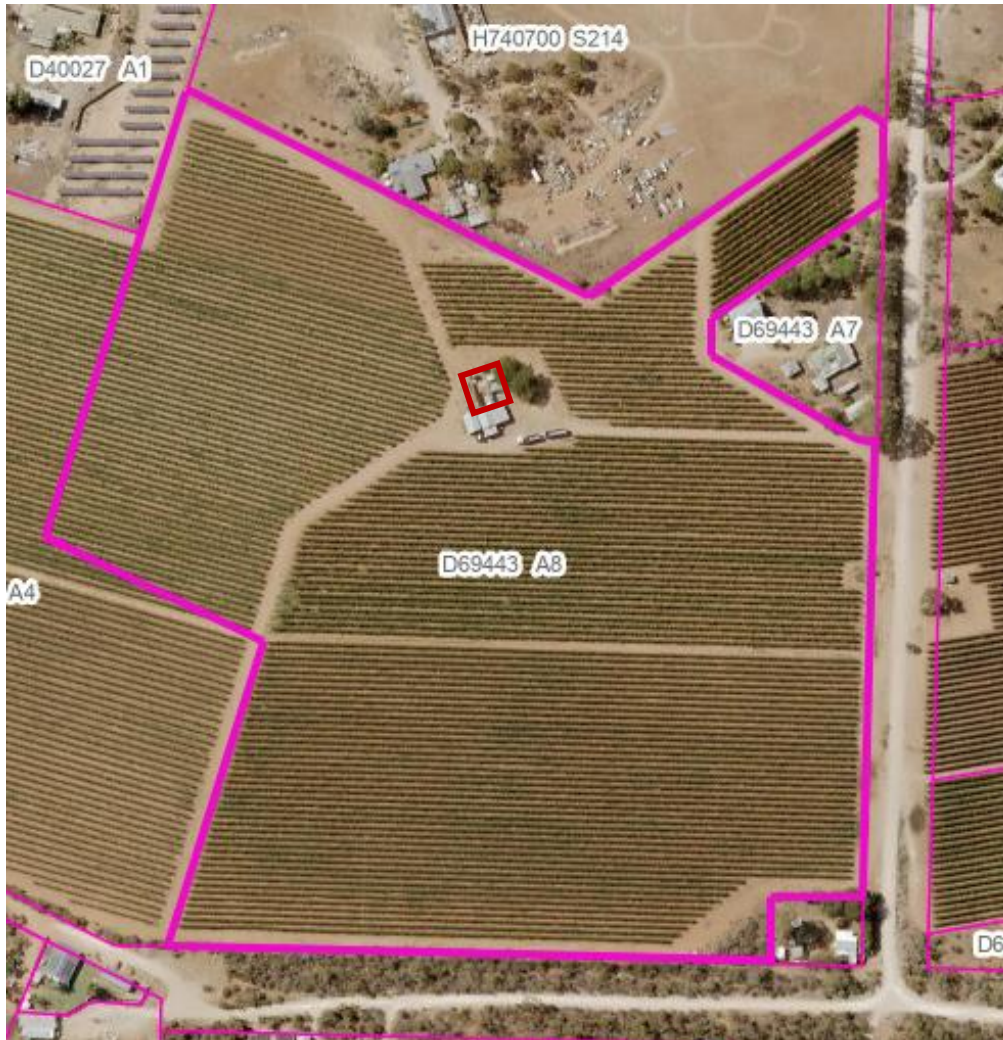
**The names of the three Australian Army privates (Grunert, Wyatt and Dale), from the 25/33 Garrison Battalion who were court martialled in 1942.**

Source: DEW Files 28 October 2020

## SITE PLAN

**NAME:** Camp 10 Detention Cell Block,  
Loveday Internment Camp Complex



**PLACE NO.:** 26506



**Camp 10 Detention Cell Block, Yeo Road,  
Loveday CT 5958/949 A8 D 69443 Hundred of Loveday**

N ↑

### LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  General location of the Cell Block see detail for elements of significance

## SITE PLAN

**NAME:** Camp 10 Detention Cell Block,  
Loveday Internment Camp Complex

**PLACE NO.:** 26506



**Camp 10 Detention Cell Block, Yeo Road,  
Loveday CT 5958/949 A8 D 69443 Hundred of Loveday**

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

- The eastern and western cell structures, ablutions block, concrete slab and wall.
- Pencil and engraved inscriptions and markings on internal walls.

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

- Concrete block lean-to.
- Concrete laundry trough and stand.
- Adjacent sheds and caravan.

N ↑

### LEGEND

 Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

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<sup>1</sup> (pers. comm. P. Bell 2017)

<sup>2</sup> (pers. comm. P. Bell 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Dean quoted by Austral Archaeology, p.14.

<sup>4</sup> Peter Monteith (2018), *Captured Lives Australia's Wartime Internment Camps*, (NLA Publishing, Canberra), p.133.

<sup>5</sup> National Archives of Australia, RecordSearch 'Grunert Colin S50221', 'Dale Bret Joseph S50958' and 'Wyatt Harold Leonard S43595', <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au>