

Greek POWs

In 1941, simultaneously with the attack on Yugoslavia, the Germans, with the help of Italians, invaded Greece. Although Greece was supported by the British Expeditionary Corps, it was defeated and forced to surrender. Most of the Greek soldiers avoided captivity - they were just demobilised and permitted to go home. Only Crete resisted for a time, where a major airborne operation took place. The island fell into German hands and the Balkans campaign ended.

The number of Greeks taken prisoner is small. They came to Stalag VIII B Lamsdorf in April 1942. There were about 60 soldiers, probably captured precisely during the battle of Crete, because until autumn 1944 documents of the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht referred to them as 'Cretans'.

Little is known of the fate of the Greek POWs. From the general instructions of the German authorities and accounts of the Polish POWs it is generally assumed that they were treated worse than the French, British or Belgians, in a similar way to the Poles. There is no data on their deaths at Lamsdorf.