

Everton v Spurs – the cup experience in peace and war

Mike Royden



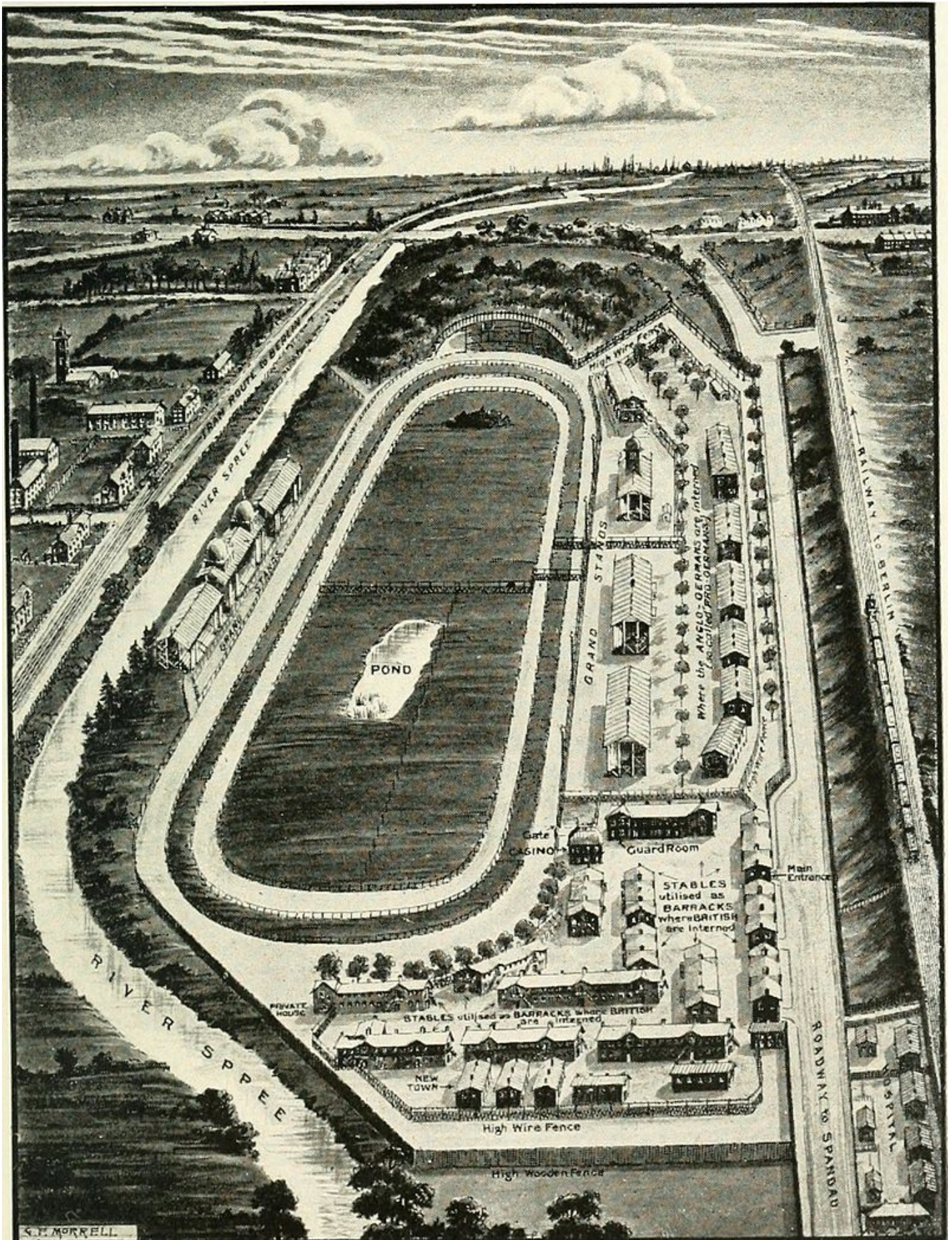
When Sam Wolstenholme lined up for Everton at Goodison in the FA Cup on 6 February 1904, against a Spurs side managed by his former teammate and Scottish international John Cameron, little could they both have imagined that a decade later they'd be playing in cup-ties together within the confines of a prison camp in Germany.

Everton went down 1-2 that day to giant-killing Spurs, then in the Southern League, although just two years earlier in 1901, under player-manager Cameron, Spurs had become the only club outside the English League to win the competition. Wolstenholme meanwhile, moved on to Blackburn at the end of the 1903-04 season, after 170 appearances and eight goals, as well as gaining an England cap. On retirement in 1913, he took up a coaching post in Germany. Cameron, who played 42 games for Everton between 1896-98, was already there, having left Spurs in 1907 to coach Dresdner SC. Also coaching in Germany at Viktoria 89 Berlin, was Jack Brearley, Everton's top scorer in the 1902-03 season. After 24 appearances and seven goals for the Blues, he was snapped up by Cameron for his Spurs side, where he played 133 times, netting twenty-four goals.

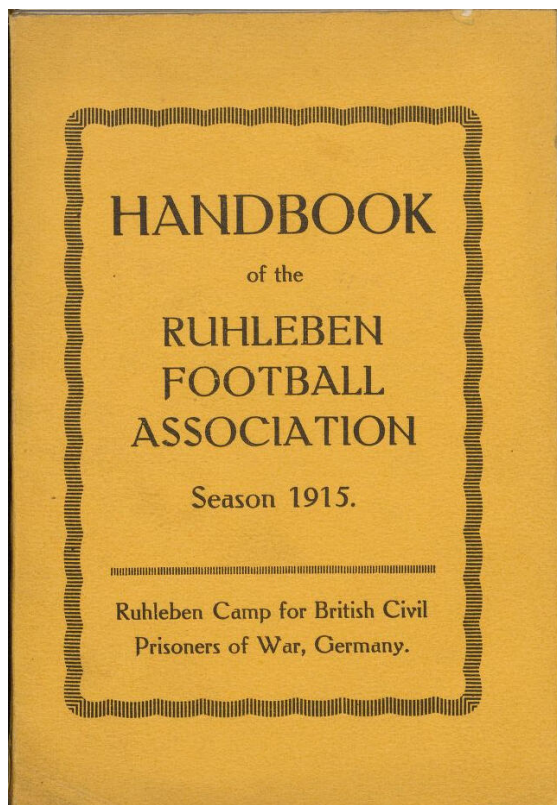
On the outbreak of WW1, all three men were interned in Ruhleben, a civilian detention camp in Spandau, Berlin, which held between 4,000 and 5,500 prisoners. The numbers had swelled after the arrival of 1,500 captured British merchant seamen, and among their number was star of Everton's 1890-91 championship side, Walter 'Wattie' Campbell.



Ruhleben Camp football match

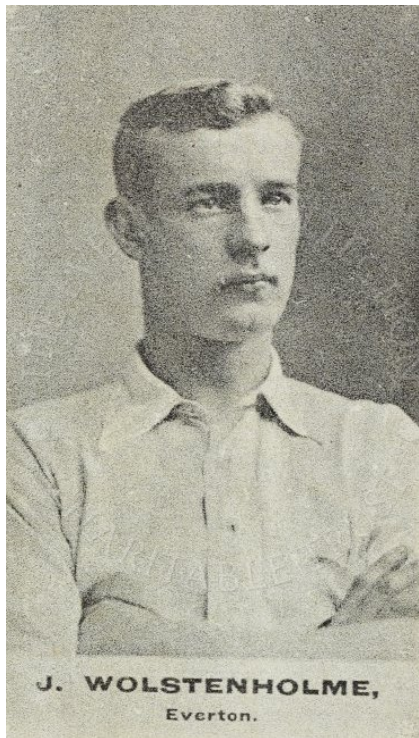


Ruhleben civilian detention camp



Ruhleben staff: Count Schwerin on left, Baron von Taube in centre.

They were not the only footballers incarcerated. Other professionals included former England internationals Fred Spiksley, Fred Pentland (who had been coaching the German Olympic football team) and Steve Bloomer, plus English born German international Edwin Dutton. As the camp developed its own society, sport - especially football, became an essential recreation. League and cup tournaments were organised with attendances of as many as 1,000 for the bigger games. The teams adopted the names of established clubs at home, and in the camp cup final of November 1914, both Dutton and Bloomer featured in the 'Spurs' team that defeated 'Oldham Athletic', the game being refereed by Sam Wolstenholme.

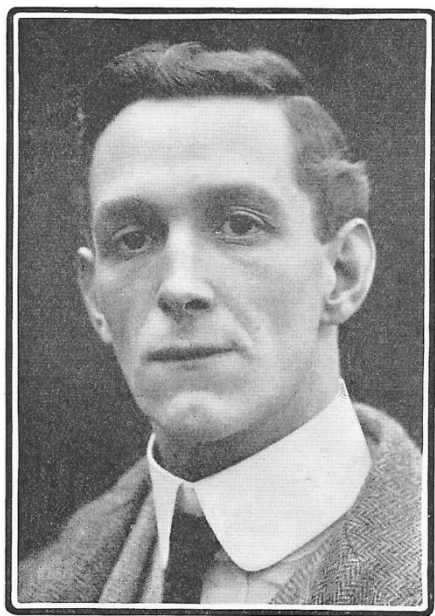


Wolstenholme



Sam

John 'Jack' Cameron



John



'Jack'

Brearley

Walter 'Wattie' Campbell

On 26 March 1915, the first 'grand exhibition match' was staged; Bloomer, Cameron, Wolstenholme, Brearley, Pentland, and Dutton, all featured in Steve Bloomer's XI versus The Rest. For those spectating, such games would have been welcome relief from the appalling conditions, but the added attraction of former internationals must have lifted camp spirits enormously. For most of the men their captivity would last four long years before their repatriation in 1918.

Later, Wattie Campbell poignantly recalled his experience in Ruhleben declaring, "The game helped break the monotony of camp life and carried away thoughts of home for a while. Football kept us alive."

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The Everton Collection www.evertoncollection.org.uk

Billy Smith, *Blue Correspondent* www.bluecorrespondent.co.uk

Tony Onslow, 'The Forgotten Blue of Ruhleben Prison Camp' *The Tales from the Hill Country*

Paul Brown, *The Ruhleben Football Association: How Steve Bloomer's Footballers Survived a First World War Prison Camp* (2020)

Matthew Stibbe, *British Civilian Internees in Germany: the Ruhleben camp, 1914-18* (2008)



Steve Bloomer's Farewell Match, Ruhleben, 1918

Teams and officials from Steve Bloomers farewell match





by Mike Royden



Pentland, Bloomer, Brearley, Owen, Wolstenholme, Nicol, Hartley, Litheow, Dutton, Stewart, Slade

Football greats become POW pals

WHEN Sam Wolstenholme lined up for Everton at Goodison Park in the FA Cup on 6 February 1904, against a Tottenham Hotspur side managed by his former teammate and Scottish international John Cameron, little could they both have imagined that a decade later they'd be playing in cup ties together within the confines of a prison camp in Germany.

Everton lost 2-1 that day to a giant-killing Spurs, then in the Southern League, although just two years earlier in 1901, under player-manager Cameron, the north Londoners had become the only club outside the English League to win the competition.

Wolstenholme moved on to Blackburn Rovers at the end of the 1903/04 season, after 170 appearances and eight goals for Everton, as well as one game for England, and on retirement in 1913, he took up a coaching post in Germany.

Cameron, who played 42 games for Everton between 1896-98, was already there, having left Spurs in 1907 to coach Dresdner SC. Also coaching in Germany, at Viktoria 89 Berlin, was Jack Brearley, Everton's top scorer in the 1902/03 season. After 24 appearances and seven goals for the Blues, he was snapped up by Cameron for Spurs, where he played 133 times, netting 24 goals.

At the outbreak of the First World War, all three men were interned in Ruhleben, a civilian detention camp in



Sam Wolstenholme

Spandau, Berlin, which held between 4,000 and 5,500 prisoners. The numbers had swelled after the arrival of 1,500 captured British merchant seamen, and among their number was a star of Everton's 1890/91 championship side, Walter 'Wattie' Campbell.

There were other footballers incarcerated and the legendary Steve Bloomer was among them, as was another England international Fred Pentland. As the camp developed its own society, sport - especially football - became an essential recreation. League and cup tournaments were organised with attendances of as many as 1,000 for the bigger games.

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John Cameron

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Copy of the article which appeared in the Everton match-day programme

Everton v Tottenham Hotspur

FA Cup 5th Round, 10 February 2021