



# Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program

PROJECT NUMBER 05-256

**Historic Context:  
World War II Prisoner-of-War Camps on  
Department of Defense Installations**

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10 July 2007



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## ACRONYMS

AGO	Adjutant General's Office
ASF	Army Service Forces
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps
DOD	Department of Defense
FUDS	Formerly Used Defense Sites
IRC	International Red Cross
ISU	Italian Service Units
MP	Corps of Military Police
MPEC	Military Police Escort Company
MID	Military Intelligence Division (replaced by SID)
OSS	Office of Strategic Services (forerunner of the CIA)
POW	Prisoner-of-War
PMGO	Provost Marshal General's Office
SID	Security and Intelligence Division (replaced MID)
WAC	Women's Army Corps

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 SCOPE**

Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor drew the United States into World War II, plans were made for the internment of enemy alien civilians within the United States. As early as 9 December 1941, preparations were started for the construction of the first permanent alien enemy camp on the Florence Military Reservation in Arizona, as well as 10 emergency camps on Army posts located on each coast and land frontier of the United States. Populations housed within these camps remained small (less than 4000 enemy aliens and 1881 prisoners-of-war) through the end of 1942.

In anticipation of housing more than 150,000 German and Italian prisoners-of-war (POWs) captured by Great Britain late in 1942, the Provost General submitted plans for the distribution of the first 50,000 among existing facilities, and construction of new facilities for the second wave of 100,000 prisoners-of-war. By September 1942, seven permanent internment camps capable of housing 17,400 prisoners were completed, eight other permanent camps were under construction, and six more were authorized. In addition, ten temporary camps were established at Camp Blanding, Florida; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Fort Meade, Maryland; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Camp Shelby, Mississippi; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The expected 150,000 POWs from Great Britain never materialized, but the successful North African campaign in 1943 resulted in an influx of 130,000 POWs into the United States camps. By June 1945, the total number of prisoners-of-war interred in the United States had reached 425,086; these men were housed in a combination of base camps, branch camps, points of embarkation/repatriation, and at least two re-education centers located in 45 of the 48 states (Figure 1-1). The POW population included 87 percent Germans, 11.7 percent Italians, and 1.3 percent Japanese. Prisoners were segregated according to the following categories—German Army anti-Nazi prisons, the remaining German Army prisoners, German Navy anti-Nazi prisoners, the remaining German Navy prisoners, Italian prisoners, and Japanese prisoners. Officers were incarcerated in the same camps but in different compounds from enlisted personnel. Facilities at POW camps abided by the rules and regulations established by the War Department in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1929. These same rules governed processing of prisoners and all aspects of their daily lives while incarcerated. The repatriation of POWs from the United

States was completed by June 30, 1946, except for 162 prisoners who were serving prison terms in penal institutions.

While POW camps took several forms, including both permanent and temporary encampments, a significant number were incorporated into military installations. As a result, current Department of Defense (DoD) installations in the continental United States include a number of locations that served as prisoner-of-war camps between 1942 and 1945 (Figure 1-2). Many of these encampments exist only in ruins or in installation records; others are represented by isolated features, such as extant buildings, cemeteries, or landscape elements constructed by the prisoners (e.g., irrigation ditches, sidewalks, monuments, mosaics, and gardens). Not only do these camps represent cultural resources that may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but they also represent an important facet of history on the home front during World War II that remains largely undocumented.

Building on the context information provided by the National Park Service in the theme study “World War II and the American Home Front,” and information found in DoD records held at the National Archives regarding prisoner-of-war camps, the larger project includes the following deliverables

- A historic context regarding development and use of World War II POW camps in the United States.
- An inventory of World War II POW camps on current DoD installations.
- Evaluation and documentation of 10 representative World War II POW camps on those installations.
- Creation of an online guide to World War II POW camps on DoD installations for use in heritage tourism and public education initiatives.

## **1.2 METHODS**

Primary research for the historic context was conducted at the Library of Congress and the National Archives between June and December 2005. Materials from both the general POW files and installation-specific files were reviewed. Copies were made of relevant forms and correspondence to be cited in the context. Photographs were taken of black and white images in the files, and the negatives developed and scanned. Call information for large format graphics (maps and aerial images) were noted; these images were later pulled by National Archives staff and scanned by Do You Graphics, Inc. of Woodbine,



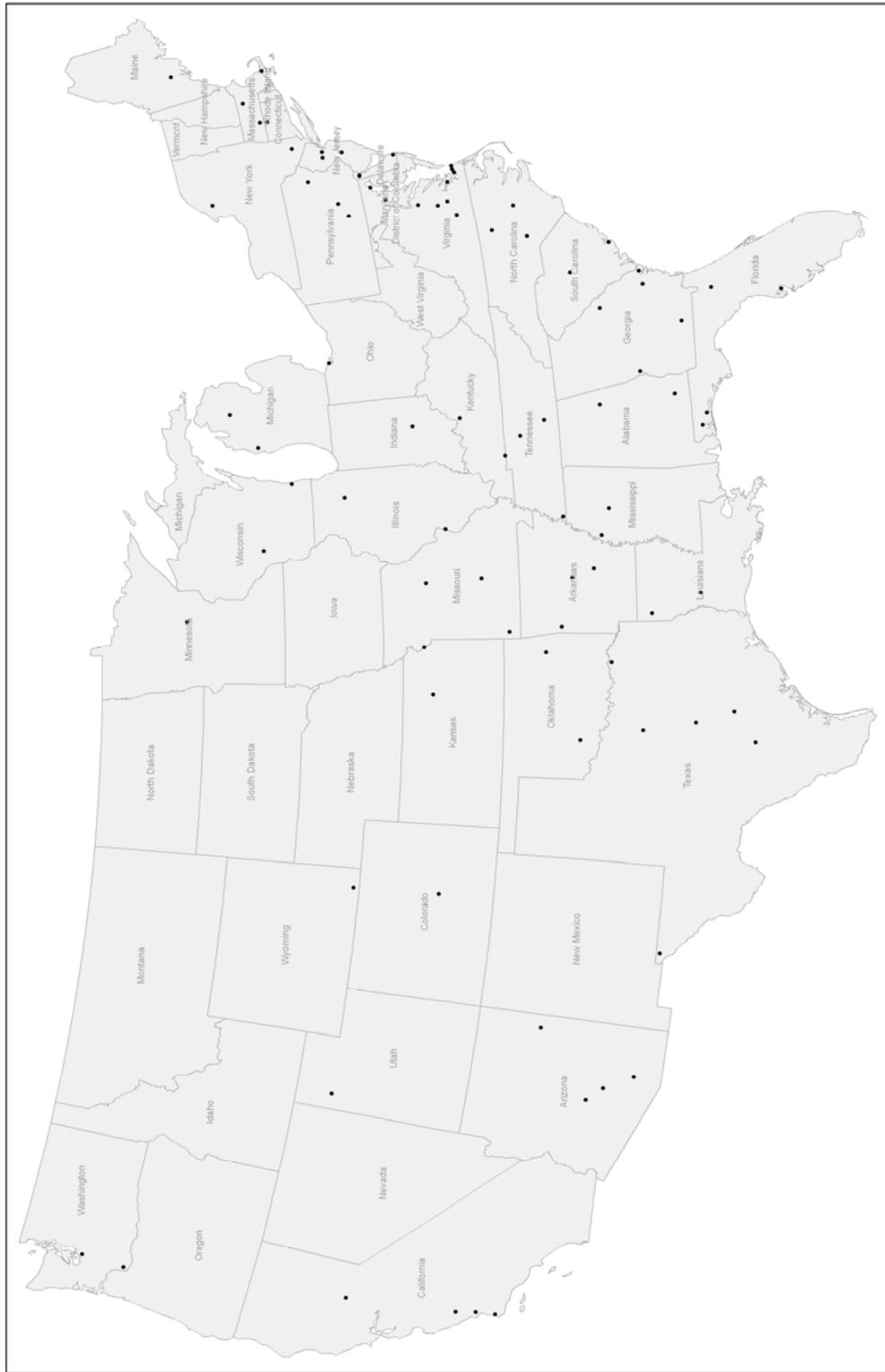


Figure 1-2 Map of continental United States showing locations of current DoD facilities that hosted World War II POW camps

**FIGURE 1-2. MAP OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES SHOWING LOCATIONS OF CURRENT DoD FACILITIES THAT HOSTED WORLD WAR II POW CAMPS**

Maryland. Secondary research involved reviewing materials collected by authors of published works on World War II POW camps in the United States, including the following

- Billinger, Robert D. *Hitler's Soldiers in the Sunshine State, German POWs in Florida*, Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2000
- Cowley, Betty. *Stalag Wisconsin, Inside WW II prisoner-of-war camps*, Oregon, WI: Badger Books, Inc., 2002
- Fiedler, David. *The Enemy Among Us, POWs in Missouri During World War II*, St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 2003.
- Koop, Allen V. *Stark Decency, German Prisoners of War in a New England Village*, Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 1988
- Krammer, Arnold. *Nazi Prisoners of War in America*, Lanham, MD: Scarborough House, Publishers, 1996.
- Thompson, Glenn. *Prisoners on the Plains, German POWs in America*, Holdrege, NE: Phelps County Historical Society, 1993

Secondary research also involved phone calls, emails, and questionnaires sent to historians and cultural resources managers at specific installations, military museums, and commands. Internet research provided links to other secondary source information, including local historical societies and museums that maintain information on POW camps not housed within military installations, newspaper articles from the 1940s focusing on the POWs, and organizations collecting oral histories of former POWs and guards at POW camps.

The inventory of POW camps was developed through a combination of primary research at the National Archives, phone and email interviews with historians and cultural resources managers, questionnaires submitted to cultural resources managers (particularly within the Army National Guard), and Internet research. Names and locations of camps, and the type of the camp (base vs. branch), were confirmed through at least two sources. For example, if the camp was initially identified on a Web site, confirmation was sought from the records at the National Archives, the books listed above, through interviews, or by checking the lists of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). Information regarding the current conditions of POW camps on DoD installations was provided entirely by interviews with installation personnel.

All notes and materials collected during the course of this research are archived at the Massachusetts Army National Guard Military Museum and Archives in Worcester, Massachusetts.

### **1.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The following context document was prepared between 1 September 2005 and 12 May 2006, by individuals contracted by the Massachusetts Army National Guard using funds providing by the DoD Legacy Cultural Resources Program. John Listman, a historian now on staff at the National Guard Bureau, was the primary researcher and author for the historic narrative portions of the context (Chapters II-IX). Chris Baker, M.A., and Jayne Aaron, M.A., of engineering-environmental Management, Inc. (e<sup>2</sup>M) developed the discussion of character-defining features of POW camps and the criteria to be used in evaluating camps on current DoD installations (Chapter 10). Susan Goodfellow, Ph.D., Cultural Resources Manager for the Massachusetts Army National Guard, served as the project coordinator and primary technical editor. Scans of large format aerial photographic maps and negatives from the National Archives were provided by Do You Graphics of Woodbine, Maryland.

## **2. PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE UNITED STATES**

When the United States was drawn into World War II by the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines on December 1941, it was unprepared in many respects to engage in a worldwide conflict. There were so many projects and priorities requiring immediate attention that little thought was given to the planning for an influx of enemy POWs, who needed to be securely housed and guarded as the war progressed.

In fact, the United States had not taken a large number of foreign enemy prisoners to be housed on its soil since the War of 1812. During that conflict, there were no treaties or accords in place outlining how enemy combatants held as prisoners should be treated. Often both sides would agree to an exchange of prisoners or to a parole of a single prisoner. In an exchange, each side would arrange for the release of a specified number of men held in enemy custody, exchanging those prisoners for a like number of prisoners in their custody at the same time. The former captives were then permitted to resume their duties, saving the cost of housing and feeding prisoners. Parole, usually offered only to officers, involved the captive's agreement that, for his freedom, he would not engage again in hostilities until an officer of equal rank of the capturing army was released, thus allowing both men to return to duty. While in captivity, prisoners were housed in existing forts to make them easier to guard. Not enough enemy soldiers were captured to make it worth the expense of building special camps for their detention.<sup>1</sup>

During the American Civil War, tens of thousands of soldiers on each side were captured. Though parole and exchange were adopted early in the conflict, by 1864 the Union armies, with much more available manpower, declined to continue the policy. This led to huge numbers of captured men on each side spending the rest of war as prisoners. Some were mistreated, beaten, starved, or allowed to die from disease. The Army had no formal guidelines or regulations for the handling of such prisoners. It should be noted that, after the Civil War, the only man tried and executed as a war criminal was Henry Wirz, the former commander of the infamous Andersonville Prison Camp in Georgia.<sup>2</sup>

The Spanish-American War of 1898 was over in a matter of only five months. Those Spanish soldiers captured by the United States Army were held on the islands where they were taken. None were brought to the United States. Once the war ended, prisoners were returned to Spain with few losses incurred during captivity.<sup>3</sup>

During World War I, the United States military only had a few prisoners to deal with on home soil. These consisted of about 1,300 German seamen, mostly submariners, captured when their ships were

sunk in United States waters. Most of these men were held in military stockades (Army and Navy) usually reserved for criminals.

Accordingly, when the United States entered the war in 1941, its military had no practical, first-hand experience of how to handle an influx of hundreds of thousands of enemy combatants, almost none of whom spoke English, and some of whom had completely different customs and beliefs.<sup>4</sup> The United States was fortunate in that, for the first few months of World War II, only a small number of POWs came into its custody.<sup>5</sup> As in World War I, most of these were enemy seamen taken off submarines attacked and sunk near its coasts. Most of these men were held in fort stockades or jails, guarded by military police accustomed to guarding Army prisoners confined for criminal offenses.

By the autumn of 1942, as the United States military was about to take part in its first invasion of enemy territory—the German- and Italian-held areas of North Africa—decisions were being reached with its allies regarding the custody of Axis prisoners. The British and Canadians had been at war with Germany and Italy since 1939 and already had thousands of enemy prisoners in their custody. The British established POW camps mostly in Wales, Scotland and North Ireland to make it harder for any prisoner who escaped to get to back to their forces on the continent. Other captured Axis soldiers were shipped to Canada, which operated POW camps throughout the country. By 1942, however, there were too many POWs in Britain to be properly handled and secured. Much of the food, oil and other necessities required for the British people, as well as for the POWs in British camps, had to be imported by ship through the German submarine screen. As increasing numbers of supply ships were capsized, and food supplies became scarce, it became important to the British government to reduce the number of prisoners it had to feed.<sup>6</sup>

To relieve some of the pressure on Britain's resources, the United States and Britain negotiated an agreement in August 1942 to transfer 50,000 POWs from Britain to the United States. These POWs started arriving in the United States early in 1943. Meanwhile, the Allied invasion of North Africa during Operation Torch in November 1942 led to total victory for the Allies in that theater, as the Allied forces defeated the elite German *Afrika Korps* and its Italian allies by May 1943. Nearly 276,000 Axis soldiers were taken captive; the largest number of enemy POWs taken in the war to that point in time.<sup>7</sup> Together, the POWs transferred from Britain and the captives taken in North Africa, formed the first great infusion of what would eventually number nearly a half-million German and Italian POWs to come to the United States during the war.<sup>8</sup> Though hundreds of thousands of Japanese prisoners were also taken, mostly in the last months of the war, only a tiny fraction of them (about 5,400) came to the United States for

internment. Most remained in camps established on the Pacific islands liberated by the Allied advance toward Japan.

The United States government established policies for prisoner treatment and housing based upon the guidelines set up by the Geneva Convention of 1929. The Convention, while not an enforceable treaty, set a code of conduct and standards that all signatories agreed to follow in future wars. These included standards for the treatment of POWs. All of the major powers involved in World War II except the Soviet Union and Japan signed the accords.<sup>9</sup>

While the overarching policy for the housing and treatment of POWs was developed by the United States (U.S.) State Department, foreign political considerations made it more expedient to entrust the day-to-day operation of the POW program to the U.S. Army. It was important that enemy nations knew that the Allies were treating their men fairly and within the guidelines of the Convention as an incentive to those nations to treat Allied captives in the same manner. As will be discussed further in Chapter 4, the treatment of POWs varied greatly from nation to nation despite the Convention. While the Nazi government adopted a policy to care for “Western” prisoners (American, British, Canadian and French) under the Convention guidelines, it all but totally disregarded the Convention when dealing with Russian and other non-Western POWs.<sup>10</sup> The Japanese government, which had not signed the Convention, made a public announcement in February 1942 that it would follow the Convention in its standards for the treatment of POWs. However, by the end of the war, the high rates of death and disease among POWs in Japanese camps made it clear that the Japanese largely ignored the Convention. Both findings led to war crimes trials against German and Japanese leaders after the war ended.

To operate the POW program the Army placed all matters related to the prisoners under the control of the Commanding General of the Army Services Forces (ASF). The Commanding General was, according to a memorandum dated 21 September 1943, “responsible for the custody and utilization of prisoners of war including location of prisoner of war camps and all security matters connected therewith.”<sup>11</sup> The task of overseeing the day-to-day operation of the camps was assigned to the Provost Marshal General’s Office (PMGO), commanded by Major General Allen Gullion. This agency was the most logical choice for the assignment since in the pre-war Army it operated the Corps of Military Police and Army prison system.<sup>12</sup>

The PMGO had numerous responsibilities in fulfilling its mission such as directing construction of the camps to house the POWs, setting up the process by which the prisoners would be entered and tracked into the POW program once they reached the United States, and determining how the POWs

would be repatriated after the war. It also set up and operated the system of employing POW labor both on-post and for hire by contractors off post. To accomplish these tasks, the PMGO divided the nation into eight jurisdictions known as “Service Districts”, each of which had a commanding general and office that controlled the camps within it, and which reported up the chain of command to the PMGO in Washington, DC. In all, 45 of the 48 states had some form of POW camp(s) eventually constructed in them.<sup>13</sup>

Supporting the PMGO’s efforts were several other branches of the Army. The Corps of Engineers supervised the construction of the camps. The Quartermaster Corps furnished all supplies to the camps. The Army Medical Corps was responsible for the health of the POWs. The Security and Military Intelligence Division was responsible for interrogating the prisoners for useful information and later to determine the political feelings of many of the POWs especially as related to trouble makers in specific camps. Finally, the Army Transportation Corps was responsible for the movement of the POWs from the time they arrived in an American port until the time they sailed home after the war.<sup>14</sup>

Under Article 88 of the Convention, each signatory was required to allow inspections by members of the International Red Cross (IRC), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland; to check on the conditions and treatment of the prisoners. These inspections were to be conducted in every camp at least once annually. The inspections would provide a chance for prisoners to complain face-to-face with an IRC representative about anything they considered as mistreatment. Under the Convention, POWs would also be allowed to write the IRC regarding any problems they had with their captors.<sup>15</sup>

The IRC was also responsible for the handling of “Red Cross Packages” paid for by international donations. These contained essential items many POWs could not expect to be issued such as tooth polish, razor blades, foot powder, writing paper and envelopes. They also included a few luxury items including cigarettes, candy and supplemental foodstuffs such as condensed milk, tea and powdered fruit drink (basically Kool Aid) which was enriched with vitamins.<sup>16</sup>

A third IRC responsibility was the exchange of mails between the belligerent nations’ POWs and their families and friends. When a prisoner posted a letter home from his camp it was first read by a camp censor for any deletions of subversive or objectionable content. It was then resealed and passed along to the IRC who passed it in turn to the enemy country for delivery. In these ways the IRC became an important partner in safeguarding the treatment and well being of POWs of many nations during the war.<sup>17</sup>

With all of the pieces in place, the Army began planning for its role as prison guards. The first item of business was the location and construction of the prison camps.

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### **3. CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAMPS**

When the first POWs arrived individually or in small groups in the spring and summer of 1942, most were housed in existing Army stockades and jails until Convention-specified housing could be arranged. Under the terms of the Convention, POW housing was to be of the same quality, including square footage allowed per man, heating, and latrine facilities, as those employed by the troops of the captor nation. The PMGO realized even before the August agreement to accept 50,000 POWs from Britain that the Army was going to need to construct specially-designed camps to house large numbers of prisoners in a very short period of time.<sup>18</sup>

On a separate, but in some ways parallel, track, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the Attorney General to have the Army begin the systemic removal of large numbers of American citizens and legal aliens of Japanese, German and Italian descent into “internment camps.” These camps, established in 1942, were located away from coastal areas and large cities for fear of sabotage or other acts of subversion. This program, like that set up for the POWs, was operated by the PMGO, with the Army being responsible for security and logistical support. More than 100,000 people were forcibly relocated to isolated camps in the American interior.

While some old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps such as Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, were renovated to bring them up to more modern and functional standards, most of the internment camps were constructed per plans developed by the Army Corps of Engineers for POW camps. Since the purpose of these camps was basically the same as that of camps needed to house combatant POWs, namely to hold people in custody and safeguard them with a reasonable amount of comfort, many of the same camp layouts and designs were adopted.<sup>19</sup> Exterior building structures were exactly the same as far as size and materials used, but the interior layouts of internment camps were designed for family living rather than for single male prisoners. The interiors of internment camps were subdivided into small, apartment type separate living quarters for each family, whereas almost of the POW housing was set up on an ‘open bay’ concept used by the Army. The open bay design consisted of one large empty room, filled with bunks and furniture that allowed little personal privacy. In fact, the interiors of most of the POW barracks were just exposed open beams. In colder climates, these were later insulated and had an interior wall installed to reduce the cold and draft.<sup>20</sup>

It should be noted that, at the same time all of these plans were being prepared and put into action, the Army was also greatly expanding military bases nationwide to train the millions of soldiers it needed to prosecute the war. The basic Army barracks used in these cases were single story, temporary

wooden structures. Though similar in appearance and basic construction, the barracks built for the Army and the POWs had dramatic differences. First, the barracks for enlisted POWs were designed to accommodate 50 men each, whereas a comparable-sized Army barracks would house 33 men. The Army barracks had private rooms for higher-ranking non-commissioned officers (NCOs) to live separately from the lower ranking enlisted men. The POW billets had no separate interior rooms. When occupied by officers, who were allowed more room than enlisted personnel, wall lockers and temporary wooden walls subdivided the space. The Army barracks usually had inside latrines, with open shower, sink and toilet areas, which, while not private, did allow the men to use the facilities without having to walk outside in bad weather. In the POW camps an effort was made to reduce the amount of plumbing work needed to set up the facilities, as well as to limit the expenditure of valuable war-related metals required for the pipes. As a result, the POW camps had no latrine facilities in the living quarters; POWs used common latrine buildings designed to support several barracks together. A drawing published in the February 1946 issue of *The Military Engineer* shows five barracks, holding approximately 250 men, sharing one latrine.

There was an exception to this concept. By war's end the Army held about 40 German generals and admirals captive in America. They were held in a special camp within Camp Clinton, Mississippi, where they were housed in separate wooden houses, all situated among old trees. It is noted that each house had its own refrigerator. Specially detailed enlisted POWs served as gardeners to keep up the grounds, maintaining flower and vegetable gardens. Others were detailed to serve as orderlies and aides. The general's compound also had an extensive library housed in its own building.<sup>21</sup>

There were two categories of POW camps used during war: main or "base" camps usually developed on an existing Army post, and "branch" camps, designed to allow smaller numbers of prisoners to be closer to employment locations once the contract labor program was undertaken. Many of the branch camps were developed to allow short-term prisoner labor to harvest crops or do other seasonal work; some of these smaller camps consisted of tent compounds designed for 1-2 seasons. In other instances, particularly later in the war, POWs were housed in local National Guard armories. All prisoners were initially assigned to a base camp and from there dispatched as required to the branch camps. Each type of camp had separate roles and functions to play in maintaining the two most basic requirements of the POW program, security and accountability of the POWs, and the safeguarding of the prisoners from harm.

### **3.1 BASE CAMPS**

As previously noted, when the first POWs started coming to the United States they were temporarily housed in Army stockades but soon began moving into renovated CCC compounds like that on the grounds of Camp Blanding, Florida. Other former CCC compounds, such as Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, were renovated and used to house for period of time both American internees and a small number of POWs. As the number of prisoners steadily grew, the internees were transferred to specifically designated internment camps. The CCC camp at Camp McCoy was then converted with the addition of new buildings into a POW camp, eventually holding some 5,000 prisoners, including 3,500 Japanese POWs, the largest group confined together in the country.<sup>22</sup>

Some of the small former CCC camps were used apparently with little Army renovation except paint. The old CCC camp near Stark, New Hampshire, closed in 1938, was reopened in April 1944. It contained five, single story, wooden barracks that could hold about 250 men, a wooden mess hall, and a recreation room. After the Army arranged to acquire the site as a POW camp, it leased farmland across the road from the camp and had guard barracks and other facilities constructed. At the same time a barbed wire fence was placed around the perimeter of the camp, overlooked by four guard towers. Once the camp was established, some additional structures like a chapel and medical clinic were added.<sup>23</sup>

Of the 166 base camps established over the course of the war, about 100 were located on existing military posts. Several advantages for this are quickly apparent. Security was enhanced by having a second layer of military-controlled space around the camp perimeter. Even if a prisoner did escape from the POW compound, he would still find himself trapped on an active duty base with hundreds of American soldiers available to search for him. Supplying the POW camp through the post quartermaster office made the logistical requirements of the camp easier to fill. Since almost all Army bases had direct railroad access either right onto the base or near enough to quickly move men and supplies by truck, this reduced the number of guards and vehicles needed to transport prisoners to areas not near rail access. Because POW camps were not designed to have a hospital within their compound, POWs with serious medical problems were taken to the post hospital, usually just a few minutes away by ambulance. Finally, post fire stations could respond to calls from the POW camps the same way they did for any other activity on base.

Setting up a camp not situated on an Army post faced a number of challenges. The case of Camp Atlanta, located near Holdrege, Nebraska, is a typical example. Selected as a POW camp location in June 1943, it was in the middle of farm country. The POW labor program was in the early stages of planning

for the employment of tens of thousands of prisoners to replace those American men gone to war. The POWs were being used across the nation to work on farms planting, tilling and harvesting crops. Central Nebraska was one of those areas with thousands of square miles of wheat and cornfields under cultivation, but with most of its young male population taken by the war effort. The Army arranged to build a prison camp designed to hold about 3,000 POWs.<sup>24</sup> Construction of Camp Atlanta started in late summer and, by December 1943; it was ready to accept its first prisoners. The camp was laid out in the same standard pattern as most other prison camps. For each company of 250 prisoners there were five barracks buildings, one mess hall, and all the other accompanying facilities developed by the Army.<sup>25</sup>

One of the drawbacks to building camps like Atlanta off a military post became quickly apparent. The closest railroad station, where virtually all the supplies for the camp arrived, was 6 miles away. This meant a large fleet of trucks, with the accompanying fuel and maintenance expenses, was required first to move all the building materials to the campsite and then to keep the camp operational after it opened.<sup>26</sup> With no post hospital available, one had to be included in the camp itself. It consisted of 11 separate buildings, situated in a compound adjoining the POW camp, and had 113 beds in five wards. These included medical, surgical, and convalescent wards, plus a small “lock down” or jail ward, for problem patients.<sup>27</sup> Staffed by Army personnel and used by prisoners and guard staff together, it could treat all but the most serious cases. Those requiring special or prolonged care were transferred to large station hospitals located on military posts.

Another operation normally handled by post facilities that had to be constituted new for POW camps located off-post was a fire department. With buildings constructed entirely of wood, most of them covered with tarpaper, fire was a real threat. Camp Atlanta was provided with two old pump trucks. All of its firemen, working in 12-hour shifts, were civilian firefighters. Starting in August 1944 they were supported by 20 POWs, some of which had been firemen at home, and who were trained to assist as needed.<sup>28</sup>

Once Camp Atlanta was open and operating, it ran as efficiently as those located on a military post. However, due to its almost daily use of its 60 vehicles to move everything and everybody between the camp and town and the various farms in the area, the ability to get enough fuel and parts was a particular concern for the camp commander.<sup>29</sup>

Regardless of where any base camp was planned for construction, whether on a military post or as a stand-alone operation, certain requirements had to be met. There had to be at least 500 feet of open, unobstructed space outside the perimeter wire. This allowed the guards in the towers good visibility to

observe and act if they saw anyone trying to escape. It also meant that if guards were forced to shoot to prevent an escape, they would not have to worry about hitting people or property in the background. Adequate sources of clean water and electrical power also had to be readily available. Some camps, mostly those built in rural areas like Camp Atlanta, had to drill their own wells for water. If railroad access was not possible, then at least a good, hard surface highway was necessary.<sup>30</sup>

Surrounding each camp were usually two cyclone wire fences standing 8 feet high and topped with coiled barbed wire. In the 12 feet of space between the two fences the ground was kept bare, so that footprints of anyone trying to escape would be easily detected. Located at the corners of these compounds and, in larger camps mid-way along the long sides of the wire enclosure, were situated guard towers. At first, some of these were just quickly fabricated wooden frame boxes open to the elements. The box was only partly enclosed on the lower portion with four vertical posts that extended from the floor high enough to support a roof. This left the upper third of the box open so the guard could observe the camp. The box was erected on four legs that placed the observation portion high enough over the wire fence to allow clear visibility of the compound perimeter. To aid visibility at night, each tower had a transversing searchlight. As the war progressed, guard towers became more comfortable, incorporating windows that shut and a catwalk around the outside of the box (Figures 3-1 and 3-2). The costs for eruping the perimeter wire fence and guard towers, as well as some unspecified minor improvement to existing buildings to house 750 POWs at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts<sup>31</sup>, was estimated in 1944 to be \$23,000.<sup>32</sup>

Besides the guards in the towers and the roving patrols along the perimeter, guards were stationed at each gate into the compound. To help them stay out of inclement weather, most camps constructed small guard sheds to shelter them. The duty of the gate guards was manly to open and close the gates, monitoring who was coming and going and whether they were authorized to do so. They were also to check every vehicle leaving the POW compound in case any prisoner was hiding in it in an attempt to escape.

Around the outer perimeter was a patrol road that completely encircled the compound. This was be used by jeep mounted guards to check the perimeter fence for any damage and to look for signs of escape. Some camps, mostly in rural areas like Camp Atlanta, Nebraska, had horse-mounted patrols as well. The benefit of these was they could approach any suspected activity more quietly than a jeep. Often assisting the guards on their rounds were K-9 dogs trained to both track escapees and to subdue them without injury when found.<sup>33</sup>

Camp plans mandated that an open space of 40 feet was to be maintained between all buildings. In addition, a minimum of 200 square feet per man was required when setting up the recreation field. Camps planned for thousands of men therefore had to be quite large. For example, the design plan for the main POW camp at Camp Pickett, Virginia, gives its total compound size as 620 by 1970 feet, or 1,221,400 square feet, for 1,000 POWs (excluding the guards living area). Its recreation field was big enough to allow 310 square feet per man if the entire 1,000 man compliment gathered at one time. Variations on this design, including camps designed for smaller numbers of POWs, are illustrated by the maps provided in Appendix A.

Once a campsite was selected, it was laid out following the plans formulated by the Corps of Engineers. The Army issued each new camp a five digit identification or “Station” number used by all contractors and venders to track shipments and bill the government for payment. Civilian contractors were then hired to construct the camp. The Army supplied all initial building supplies. Due to high volume, the Army had contracts with certain saw mill operations to work exclusively for the Army. When the materials arrived at the campsite much of the lumber was precut to size, ready to be nailed into place. After the camp was completed, additional supplies were purchased on an “as needed” basis from private firms. Other contractors, such as electricians and plumbers, also developed their own system of standardization to allow for a faster completion time.<sup>3435</sup>

Based upon the Corps of Engineers’ designs, most of the camps had wood-frame, single-story barracks measuring 2,000 square feet (Figure 3-3). This allowed 40 square feet per enlisted man, given the planned capacity of 50 men per barrack. Officers were allowed 120 square feet of space, meaning that the same sized building could only accommodate 16 officers. Most of the barracks appear to have been built on top of a cement slab the same size as the building. Concrete block piers were set upon this slab, raising the floor level about 2 feet off the ground, just as in Army barracks. The raising of the floor improved ventilation, prevented mold growth, and made it harder for vermin to gain entry. Each barracks of this type had 12 windows on each side wall and 2 at each end next to a screened door. This arrangement allowed for cross-ventilation during warmer months. In photographs, most of the roofs appear to be the standard 35-degree pitched roof; some show small ventilation ducts along the peak of the roof, probably to allow heat loss in the summer months. Others have visible ventilation openings at each end of the roof truss for heat loss. The roof sheathing of the typical POW barracks, such as the ones at Camp Pickett, Virginia, was gypsum board.<sup>3637</sup>

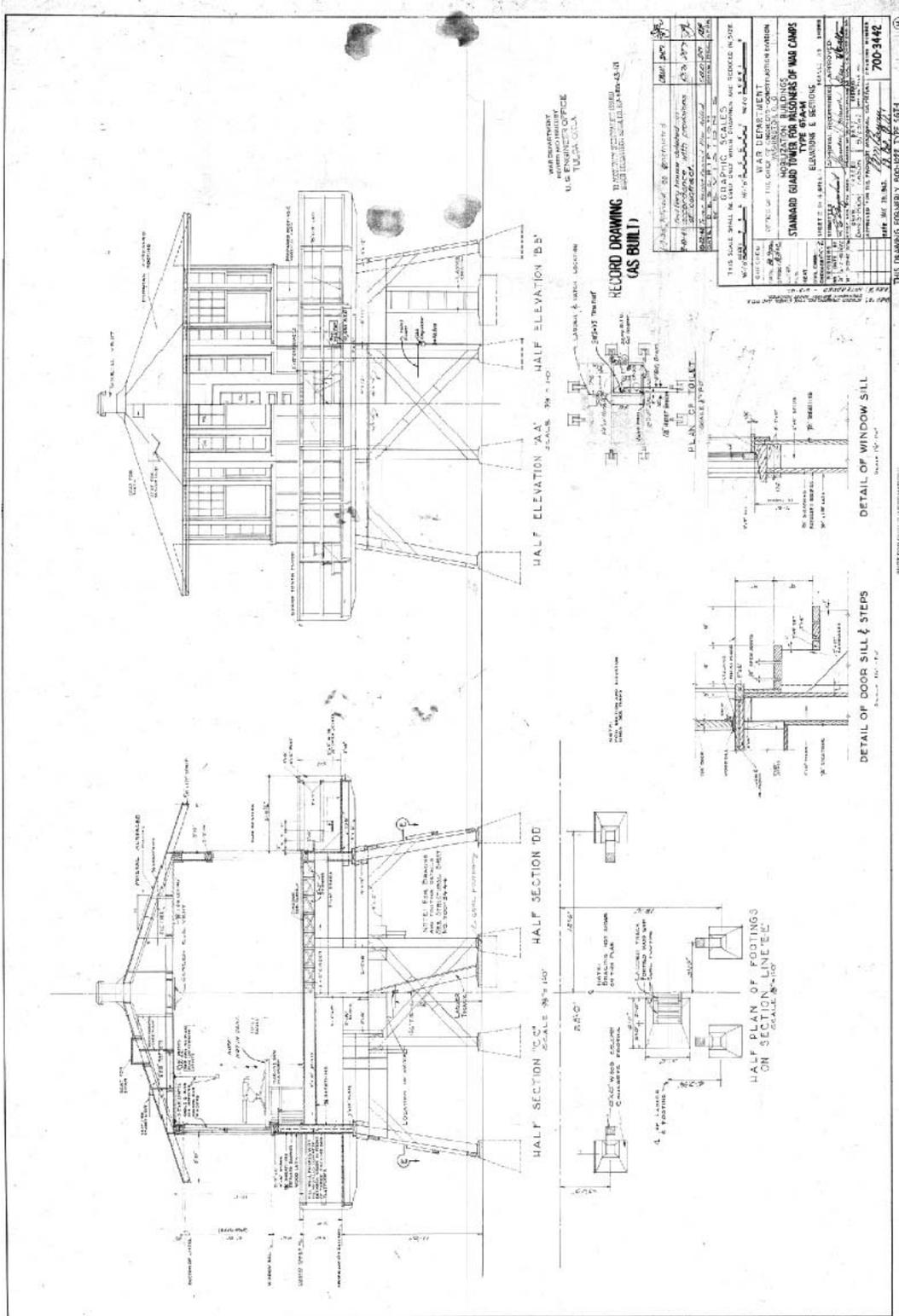


FIGURE 3-1. TYPICAL PLAN, GUARD TOWER FOR POW CAMP (FROM ARCHIVES OF CAMP GRUBER)



**FIGURE 3-2. NEWER TOWER BEING MOUNTED AT THE COLUMBUS ASF DEPOT POW CAMP, FEBRUARY 1945 (NARA 1710-327850 [ROLL #2-33])**



**FIGURE 3-3. POW BILLETS AT CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, ARKANSAS (NARA 211N-189398 [ROLL #6-3])**

Methods for heating the barracks and other buildings seemed to range between coal burning furnaces with visible flue pipes extending above the barracks roof to electric space heaters referenced in research conducted at Camp Pickett.<sup>38</sup> However, there were some problems with this system, the

foremost being fire. Whenever the furnace was in use, day or night, a soldier often referred to as a “fire watch” had to be on duty to keep it stoked and, at the same time, safeguard against fires. If a fire did occur, it was the guard’s job to be sure everyone was evacuated from the building and to call the fire department. There is less risk of causing an accidental fire with a space heater if they are properly ventilated and placed in safe locations. Their use might have been a cost saving measure compared to the transport and distribution of coal. Godburn also notes that the two buildings at the Camp Pickett POW camp heated with hot air rather than space heaters were the infirmary and guard house (jail).<sup>39</sup>

There were other styles of buildings used as billets in some camps. For example, Camp Blanding, Florida, housed their German Army POWs in what Billinger<sup>40</sup> refers to as “victory-type hutments” measuring 256 square feet (16 x 16’), constructed in much the same style as a medium-sized Army tent of the period (Figure 3-4). At 40 square feet per enlisted man, this only allowed for 6-7 men per building. The buildings had high peaked roofs to allow for runoff of the heavy seasonal rains, and were painted in olive drab. Billinger also notes that some of the old CCC barracks were renovated for use by the POWs and that they too were painted green instead of basic Army white.



**FIGURE 3-4. TWO MEN CONSTRUCTING MODEL RAILROAD TRACK IN FRONT OF DISTINCTIVE HUTMENTS (NARA 308K–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #5-27])**

The outer wall coverings seem to have varied, according to both written and photographic evidence, from unpainted black tarpaper (Figure 3-5) to clapboard painted white (Figure 3-6). Some photos, unidentified as to specific camp, show barracks with what appears to be solid walls, but in a color and texture unlike tarpaper. Perhaps these are the “light-colored insulite rather than tarpaper” cited as in use as siding on the

POW barracks at Camp Robinson, Arkansas.<sup>41</sup> Or these might have been what a note about the side coverings used at Camp Pickett references as "exterior siding...1" gypsum board, 2-ply mill laminated, with any of the treated surfaces".<sup>42</sup>



**FIGURE 3-5. ITALIAN POWS RECEIVE MAIL FROM HOME. NOTE TARPAPER WALLS ON STRUCTURE IN THE BACKGROUND. (NARA 182O-340229 [ROLL #1- 31])**



**FIGURE 3-6. 2<sup>ND</sup> COMPANY BARRACKS (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP). NOTE LIGHT-COLORED WALL COVERINGS. (NARA 309A—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #4-19])**

All of the other buildings within the POW compounds followed this same design styles as their counterparts on typical Army posts. Mess halls measured 1,280 square feet (64' x 20'); chapels and theaters, with seating for 250 persons, measured 1,720 square feet (43' by 40'); and day rooms measured 1,200 square feet (60' by 20'). Wall finishes appear to have varied for these buildings as they did for barracks; however, wall finish (tarpaper, gypsum board) appears to have been consistent within each compound.

One exception to this standard design appears in the photograph collection at the National Archives, which depicts POW buildings at an unspecified camp, modified to look something like an Alpine village (Figures 3-7, 3-8, 3-9). The buildings have shuttered windows in which the shutters open outward at a downward slope to allow for ventilation while blocking direct sunlight. These shutters could also be left open in the rain. The barracks have what appear to be round ventilation holes beside each window, although only one picture shows one of them open. The doors on the ends of the buildings are made like swinging panels, and are painted in bright colors. One non-barracks building even has a front porch and an Alpine motif of lattice-work decoration.

Each camp compound had a combination snack bar and small store selling personal items not issued by the Army. This building was located within the POW compound and was usually referred to as the "canteen." It was the only place where POWs could spend their earnings from work. One such structure located at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, is noted by an IRC inspector as being a "special barracks, 33' by 176' in dimension." At 5,808 square feet, this structure was more than twice as large as a typical barracks.<sup>43</sup>

All POW compounds had some form of jail, known in Army terminology as the "guard house" because it was usually also used to house the officer of the guard and his support staff while on duty. Each of these guardhouses had a couple of standard size jail cells to separate prisoners from each other and the guards. On many occasions, prisoners fearing for their personal safety from attacks by other POWs would seek shelter in the guardhouse. Extremely violent prisoners were often transferred to the jail on post or to another camp in an attempt to calm them down.

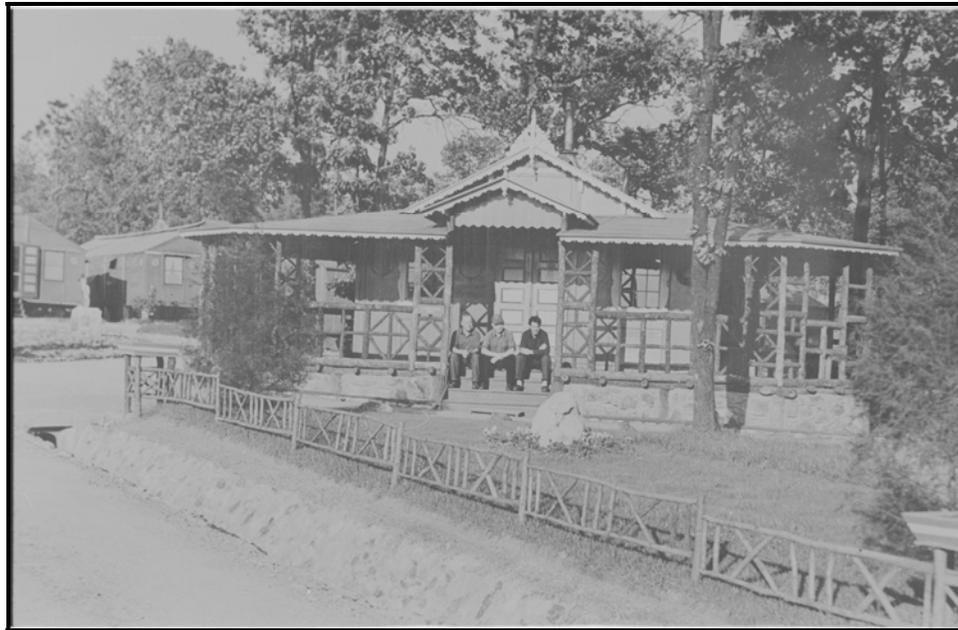
Another use for the guardhouse was as a temporary home for POWs deemed too important to allow them to mix with the general prisoner population. An example was reported by a POW camp commander at Fort Meade, Maryland, in August 1944. He still had 23 German naval POWs secured in his 6-room guardhouse awaiting disposition following intelligence interviews conducted almost a month previously. He was instructed to hold said prisoners separate from all other camp POWs, allowing no



**FIGURE 3-7. A POW TENDS HIS GARDEN BESIDE THE BARRACKS (NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #5-13])**



**FIGURE 3-8. CLOSE-UP IMAGE OF FRONT BARRACKS WITH BENCH OUTSIDE (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP) (NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #5-20])**



**FIGURE 3-9. DAY ROOM (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP)  
(NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #5-21])**

contact. Since holding men who had committed no crime in the guardhouse was supposed to be only a temporary measure (and a violation of the Convention), the commander wanted to know what to do with these men after the lapse of a month. He wrote to complain that these men were still basically in jail waiting to learn their fate. He also states that this situation is “justification of the urgent need for the addition of a suitable segregation compound to the P/W Stockade...(I have) urged this addition for two months, submitted a plan with cost estimates, and advised the allocation of necessary funds.”<sup>44</sup> While his next higher headquarters approved his request, the final decision rested with the PMGO. Their reply indicates no relief for the interned men and states that, as of 20 September, his original letter (dated 29 July) was never received. Under the signature block is a pencil notation, “Basic communication dated 21 July 44 is filed in Meade file.”<sup>45</sup>

The Corps of Engineers developed a set of plans for standard sized camps, depending on how many prisoners were to be housed in the compound. The standard layout was for a company of 250 men and included 5 barracks buildings, 1 latrine, 1 mess hall, 1 chapel (designed to hold 250 men), a day room and a work shop. Four companies, each with this standard layout, would comprise a battalion compound of 1,000 men; battalion compounds were separated from one another on a single post. Several posts housed more than 5,000 POWs in separate compounds at one time. For example, Camp Florence, Arizona, already had a battalion-sized POW camp when it received a transfer of 5,000 additional POWs in April 1945 to help with the harvest.<sup>46 47</sup>

Regardless of how large or small the base camp, they all had the same minimum facilities and often looked the same. This factor is best summed up by Krammer, who makes the following observation: “with some variations in camp size and structure, most of America’s main prisoner of war camps looked remarkably similar.”<sup>48</sup>

### **3.2 BRANCH CAMPS**

As the Army prepared for its first large influx of POWs in mid-1942, its major concern was securing the prisoners. As the war continued, the manpower shortage on farms and in factories, some vital to the war effort, increased. To help mitigate the manpower shortage, the PMGO established the POW labor program, which hired out POWs under certain specific circumstances, to private contractors to work on farms or in light industry. Because many of the work sites were located out of commuting distance from the base camps (determined as 50 miles), a system of branch camps was established.<sup>49</sup>

The authority to establish the branch camps was granted in a memorandum signed by the Adjutant General of the Army (its highest administrative officer) dated 22 July 1943. He states,

For the purpose of enabling more extensive use of prisoner of war labor to alleviate current labor shortages, the Commanding Generals Second to Ninth Service Commands, are authorized to establish temporary prisoner of war camps as branches to permanent prisoner of war camps.

Former Civilian Conservation Corps buildings, existing facilities, or tents may be utilized at the discretion of the commanding general of the service command. Determination of the necessity for renovation of existing facilities involving only minor repairs will be the responsibility of the commanding general of the service command, together with the duty to assure the maintenance of adequate security measures. In no event will additional housing be constructed.

Housing facilities, rations, and the treatment of prisoners of war will be in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Convention, 1929.

No temporary camps will be established within the Eastern Defense Command or within the restricted areas of the Western, Southern, and

Central Defense Commands without the concurrence of the commanding general of the defense command concerned<sup>50</sup>

All of the costs associated with the creation of these camps were paid by the contractors, who often pooled their money to fund the operation so it cost the Army nothing over the routine costs of caring for the prisoners.

When the need for a branch camp was identified and certified as valid to the Army, it sent a team to select a site for the camp to fulfill the contractor's requirements while still ensuring that the prisoners would be properly housed and secured. In many cases, few or no adequate buildings were available for prisoner relocation, so the Army developed a "mobile unit" package that could be set up quickly to temporarily house 250 POWs. It consisted of 42 tents, sized 16' by 16', allowing 6 or 7 men per tent. Seven additional tents of the same size were used as office and storage buildings. Four larger tents were used, one each, for mess hall, shower, latrine, and chapel/recreation purposes. This entire layout was set up in a compound bordered by a single wire fence that measured 282 by 550 feet (155,100 square feet). Portable guard towers, with searchlights, were placed at opposite corners of the compound to permit clear observation in the camp. Light poles were erected at intervals both inside and outside the camp. Each tent would have one or more light bulbs for night use.<sup>51</sup>

The guard force for a branch camp of 250 POWs consisted of approximately 160 officers and men. It was composed as follows: 30 camp guards; 70 "prisoner chasers" who were the guards accompanying the POWs to and from work sites and monitoring them during work hours; 15 NCOs to oversee the guard force; seven support staff such as cooks and clerks; 33 drivers and mechanics; and five medics. Usually five officers were assigned including the camp commander, three camp officers, one supply and mess officer, one POW company commander, and one medical officer (if available). For a camp holding 500 POWs, the number increased to a total of 300 officers and men. This reflects a savings of about 20 personnel, mostly due to fewer (percentage-wise) camp guards; just 40 (as opposed to 60), and only 55 truck drivers (as opposed to 66). However, the number of prisoner chasers more than doubled from 70 for 250 prisoners to 150 for 500 prisoners. The guards lived in the same types of tents as the POWs, only situated on the outside of the wire fence. All of the additional items needed by both prisoners and guards, from cots to tables and chairs, to cooking pots, was determined ahead of time. Everything thought to be necessary to outfit the camp efficiently was pre-packaged in crates that, with a forklift, were easily put on trucks used to transport it to the site.<sup>52</sup>

As the camps were being set up, local contractors were hired to perform many of the tasks necessary before the prisoners and guards arrived. An August 1944 memorandum from the Deputy Director of the POW Division to the Chief, Camps Operations Branch, highlights some of the problems encountered in getting the branch camps prepared to receive the prisoners. He makes special mention of the following when dealing with local contractors,

“...that it is the duty of the contractor to run pipe or other utilities from useable outlets of these utilities all the way to the branch camp without expense to the Government. This will avoid the interpretation of various field offices that utility connections include only pipe fittings and wiring at the camp to which the utilities will have to be connected after the Government runs the lines from the source of power.”<sup>53</sup>

Another recommendation related to branch camps in this memo suggests that they use “pistol grip flashlights” for the guard force at all camps, especially the branch camps. He notes that it is reported to be “always impossible to secure auxiliary lighting at branch camps.”<sup>54</sup> These flashlights would be a substitute for some of the camp lighting otherwise unavailable.

Out of a total of 511 branch camps created, most were in support of agricultural needs to plant or harvest crops, thus only requiring extra labor for selected periods of time, rather than for an entire year. The numbers of POWs involved in these areas varied greatly depending on the employment available within commuting range of the camps. Most branch camps held between 250-750 POWs, plus the appropriate guard force. The smallest branch camp consisted of 91 POWs employed at Knoble, Arkansas. The largest branch camp was Camp Billy Mitchell, Wisconsin, which employed 3,000 POWs for five months in 1945.<sup>55</sup>

When each branch camp was set up, it was controlled by a base camp. Most of the administrative paperwork, from tracking where POWs were housed to weekly labor reports and all the other correspondence needed to operate the camp was handled at the base camp. All POW mail continued to be delivered to the base camp and then forwarded to the branch camps. All the branch camp’s needs, from food and clothing, to toilet paper, were handled by the permanent staff stationed at the base camp. Depending on distance from the base camp, fuel and food deliveries to the branch camps were often contracted locally by the quartermaster at the base camp.<sup>56</sup>

All of the POW labor used in a branch camp was transferred from the controlling base camp. POWs transferred from other camps expressly for branch camp labor still had to be processed through the

base camp before being delivered to the branch camp. Some of the base camps were heavily involved in branch camp administration. For instance, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, in Arkansas, maintained support for 25 branch camps scattered over northern and central Arkansas. However, the largest number of branch camps controlled by a single base camp totaled 41; this was Fort Sheridan, Michigan, which controlled branch camps spread across Michigan and Wisconsin. It should be noted that, while this is certainly a large number, not all camps were operating all of the time. Most were open only a few weeks to a few months to provide labor a specific project. When the project was completed, the branch camp either moved to a new location or it and its POWs and staff returned to the base camp for transfer to another location needing their services.<sup>57</sup>

At least one camp went from being a base camp to a branch camp, and then back to a base camp again during the war. The POW compound at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, was activated as a base camp on 1 May 1944. By the end of that month, there were 750 German POWs housed in it. By July 1944, the prisoner population had decreased to 500, at which point it was decided to restructure the camp as a branch camp under the control of Fort Devens, Massachusetts. This change took effect on 1 July 1944. Due to the rapid increase in the number of POWs arriving from Europe from mid-1944 through the end of the war, however, Camp Edwards was reinstated as a base camp effective 4 January 1945. An inspection report from September 1945 states that there were 1,837 Germans interned in the camp.<sup>58</sup>

### **3.3 INCREASED CONSTRUCTION, 1944-1945**

When the United States agreed to accept the transfer of 50,000 POWs from Britain in September 1942, it was estimating a total number of enemy combatants from all theaters of operations as about 144,000. But, by the spring of 1944, after the defeat of Axis forces in North Africa resulted in the capture of nearly 250,000 German and Italian prisoners, the number of expected prisoners increased dramatically. Thousands more were added after the capture of Sicily in July 1943.<sup>59</sup>

In an internal memorandum written by the Chief, Internment Branch, to the Director of the Prisoner-of-War Division, dated 26 July 1943, he estimates that the Army will soon require the bed space for at least 263,000 POWs. He goes on to note that currently there was only enough capacity already built or under construction to house 218,700 men. He requests the immediate increase in camp location and construction for an additional 36,870 prisoners, while planning ahead for a total increase of about 75,000 more.<sup>60</sup> But even this allowance proved too low to keep up with the influx of POWs coming in almost daily. By August 1944, there was enough housing in either base or branch camps for a total of 338,559

prisoners. Almost all of this space was in use but more POWs were bound for the United States. In August 1944 alone, 19,563 more POWs were in route to the United States.<sup>61</sup>

Balanced against this need for more housing was the Army's desire to hold down new construction costs, as expressed in a memorandum in March 1944 which stated, "In view of the constant reduction in troop strength in the continental United States, all construction must be drastically curtailed; approved only when absolutely essential for the effectual troop training, for the health of the troops, for the housing (of) prisoners of war, for the efficient movement of personnel and materials overseas."<sup>62</sup> But more camps continued to be built, mostly by adding additional compounds onto existing base camps. An example was Camp Campbell, Kentucky, which in November 1944 requested authorization to add an additional 1,000-man anti-Nazi camp onto its existing 3,000-man POW compound. The request was approved within the month.<sup>63</sup>

Official records do not indicate exactly when the construction of new POW camps ended. German prisoners were still arriving in the United States several weeks after the end of the war in Europe. The greatest number of Japanese POWs to come to the United States came in 1945. In all, the Army housed nearly 430,000 enemy prisoners during the war, trying its best to make sure that every barracks, tent, or other structure used by these men was of acceptable quality to meet the IRC inspectors' standards as outlined by the Convention. Few problems or complaints were reported, so overall, the Army achieved and, perhaps in some ways, surpassed its goal.

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#### **4. THE GUARD FORCE**

The soldiers tasked with guarding the POWs, both in the camps and during the transfer of prisoners from the Ports of Embarkation to the camps and between the camps themselves, were all members of the Corps of Military Police, usually referred to as “MPs.” This group was divided into two divisions, one composed of men detailed to guard the prisoners in the camps and a second group known as the Military Police Escort Companies (MPEC) responsible for the transfer of POWs between different locations. All were assigned to, and directed by, the PMGO.<sup>64</sup>

When the United States entered the war it had no institutional memory or experience handling foreign POWs on American soil. The last time this occurred was during the War of 1812. The small number of peacetime MPs, who were used mostly to guard Army prisons and jails, would be far too few to staff what finally numbered 155 POW base camps and 511 branch camps by wars end.<sup>65</sup> In early 1942 the Army determined it needed to establish a guard force allowing a ratio of one guard for every three prisoners. Starting with only 36 MP companies, each numbering about 325 men (all ranks), for a total of about 11,000 men, the numbers rose steadily until reaching about 47,000 personnel by 1945.<sup>66</sup>

Who were the men selected to work as either a camp guard or as an escort guard? As noted above, there were few Regular Army, pre-war military police available for POW duty. These men, along with the greatest percentage of healthy young men available, were needed for overseas service. Instead, in the early part of the war the men selected as camp MPs were generally older, with an average age of early- to mid-30s. A number of them were veterans, many of whom had served in World War I but were now thought too old for front line service. The PMGO considered these men the best recruits since they had previous military training and proved less trouble-prone than younger soldiers. They could also speak with some authority, if not in a military sense, as a respected “fatherly” figure to some of the younger prisoners.<sup>67</sup>

As one of the cost cutting measures undertaken by the Army, many of the men serving in these units found promotions slow, with some serving the entire war and being discharged after 5 years service still only being a private making less than \$75 a month.<sup>68</sup>

The Army of World War II was a racially segregated force, with African American soldiers organized into their own units composed of men only of their race. A large number of these units were combat support organizations like transportation and engineering battalions. There is photographic evidence that black truck drivers were assigned to transport prisoners to and from work assignments

(Figure 4-1).<sup>69</sup> African-American MP Companies also were organized, but there is no evidence to indicate that any of them were assigned to guard POWs.

A quick training program was established giving at least a basic level of police and prison guard expertise to what men the PMGO could acquire from the manpower pool (Figures 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, and 4-5). Since the first camps were set up on existing posts, the instructors were the existing MPs. Once enough camp cadres were trained, they in turn instructed the new men coming in as the camps were still under construction.

As the war progressed, many of the first camp guards were transferred to the rear areas of the war zones to handle prisoners. Men with no police training replaced them and were allocated to guard duty as what Billinger calls “superfluous” personnel. Billinger goes on to comment “these were men deemed physically or psychologically unfit for overseas service.” Many of the officers coming aboard in this period had low achievement scores.<sup>70</sup>



**FIGURE 4-1. POW WORK TRANSPORT TRUCK DRIVEN BY AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIER  
(NARA 308K—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #5-31])**



**FIGURE 4-2. MPs IN JEEP, CAMP GORDON JOHNSON, FLORIDA, 1945  
(NARA 438N-252927 [ROLL #3-7])**



**FIGURE 4-3. INTERROGATION OF JAPANESE POWS IS PART OF TRAINING FOR MPs AT FORT  
SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 1942 (NARA 508N-272762 [ROLL #3-10])**



**FIGURE 4-4. SIX “GERMAN” PRISONERS AND THEIR “GUARDS” LEARN HOW TO HANDLE THEIR JOBS AS FUTURE MPs, FORT SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS (NARA 508N-272763 [ROLL #3-12])**



**FIGURE 4-5. METHOD OF SEARCHING PRISONERS IS TAUGHT TO FUTURE MPs AT FORT SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS, SEPTEMBER 1942 (NARA 508N-272764 [ROLL #3-14])**

Another late war source of guard personnel was combat veterans returned home to recover from wounds. Many of these soldiers were able to perform reduced duties, such as sitting in a guard tower or driving in a roving patrol. But psychological problems arose with some of these men, often attributed to

combat stress. This usually presented itself as shouting at the POWs, name calling, occasionally pushing them into line, or other such ‘bullying’ actions.<sup>71</sup>

A serious incident occurred at Camp Atlanta, Nebraska, in the summer of 1945 when a guard shot and killed a German prisoner without warning for crossing the “dead line” near the perimeter wire to retrieve a soccer ball. While technically a breach of regulations, it had become common practice since the end of the war for the POWs to retrieve their own balls, rather than having a guard get it for them. The guard, a former combat veteran, was relieved from duty but never charged, though he too broke the regulations for failing to shout a challenge to “halt!” before shooting. Prior to the shooting the camp’s commander, Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Smith, had warned Headquarters, Seventh Service Command in March 1945 that as many as a third of these returned to duty combat veterans were, in his opinion, “mentally unstable and trigger happy” and their actions with the prisoners were “detrimental” to maintaining their good behavior.<sup>72</sup>

Even more shocking was the machine gun murder of eight German prisoners in their sleep by Private Clarence Bertucci at Fort Douglas, Utah. This event occurred on 8 July 1945, two months after the war ended in Europe. The camp commander, much like Lieutenant Colonel Smith at Camp Atlanta, had warned that Bertucci “had twice before been tried before a summary court-martial...sentenced to hard labor...and had been in several Army hospitals in the last year.”<sup>73</sup>

Most of the guards were not mentally ill and did not attack or mistreat their prisoners. To most of the men serving as guards or camp staff it was a safe, if at times routine and boring, job with little variety. There was no glory or medals to be earned, but neither was it especially dangerous. Unlike men fighting overseas, these soldiers got leave time to go home and some, mostly officers, even brought their families to live with them off base.<sup>74</sup>

POW camp support staff was not trained as MPs although they were all assigned to MP organizations. All camps, regardless of size, had some basic staff personnel, commanded by the camp’s Headquarters Company, such as clerks, including administrative and quartermaster, plus truck drivers and maintenance specialists such as carpenters and plumbers. In most camps these positions were filled by a combination of Army and civilian employees hired from the local community.<sup>75</sup> At some posts, such as Camp Crowder, Missouri, members of the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) staffed these positions. Apparently these women had no or very limited contact with the prisoners.<sup>76</sup>

One other aspect of most camp staffs was the inclusion of one or more intelligence officers assigned to interview the prisoners in depth for information not collected when the men were captured.

Unlike all other staff members of the camp administration, these men were not assigned to the PMGO, rather they were members of the Military Intelligence Division (MID), a branch of the OSS, and attached to the Prisoner of War Branch. Many of the letters recommending transfers of POWs to other camps for their safety originated from these men, who often spoke the language of the prisoners and interviewed them to pinpoint troublesome prisoners within the camps. A sample of the type of information gathered is provided in a transfer request from the commander of the POW camp at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, to move 40 “fanatical Nazis” as determined in discussions and by observations with Germans held in the camp. These conclusions were made by men assigned to the MID and eventually the men in question were transferred to camps for pro-Nazis before any serious disturbances occurred.<sup>7778</sup>

In addition to all of these support personnel each camp, depending on its size and the number of prisoners held, had one or more MP guard companies assigned to it. As noted above, each company was about 325 personnel and was intended to allow a ratio of one guard to every three prisoners. However, with guards required on a 24-hour, 7-day a week basis, this really worked out to about one guard on duty per each 15 prisoners at any one time.

By 1944 even this ratio was hard to maintain due to two factors; more POWs coming to the United States for internment, and reassignment of many guards to overseas assignments without an adequate number of replacements being available. This led to what had been unthinkable when the POW program started in 1942, the use of prisoners to, in effect, guard themselves. In fact, a memorandum marked “Confidential” distributed to all Service Command commanders on 24 March 1944 outlined this policy as follows:

“Because huge numbers of German prisoners are expected in the immediate future, camp administrators ...are advised to let the prisoners do everything in running the camps. Weigh work done against reasonable risk. In other words, take a calculated risk. This policy of calculated risk will result in larger reductions of American guard personnel, the majority of whom can be transferred to combat units for action in France” (Thompson 1993: 47).

By war’s end it is estimated that some camps, those with the least volatile populations, mostly very anti-Nazis, had as few as one guard for every 20 POWs. However, most camps probably maintained a ratio around 10 to 15 prisoners per guard.<sup>79</sup>

Late in the war, officer prisoners, if they offered their pledge of honor, or parole, not to try to escape or in any other ways cause trouble, were allowed out of their compounds during daytime hours to conduct business on-post without a guard. These occurrences included such activities as visits to the post dentist or a medical clinic, camp library or chapel. They were required to be back in their camps by nightfall.<sup>80</sup>

Many thousands more prisoners kept coming during 1944-1945 and they all had to be moved from seacoast ports to interior camps. An example of how an MP escort detachment was composed is outlined by a transfer order in March 1944 to move by train 485 German prisoners from the Port of Embarkation at Camp Shanks, New York, to Camp Carson, Colorado. The entire detachment, drawn from the 716<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, consisted of four officers, including a doctor, and 95 enlisted men. This latter group included a mess sergeant, four cooks and six KPs to furnish the meals in route from an attached kitchen car. Also included were two medical corpsmen and one interpreter along with 81 guards. Attached was an enlisted intelligence soldier, presumably to conduct interviews with some of the prisoners while in route. The trip took three days and, while it encountered some railroad problems, the prisoners were well behaved.<sup>81</sup>

Regardless of their assignment, whether it was to escort prisoners from point to point or to man a tower overlooking a few hundred to many thousands of enemy prisoners, the guard force played a vital role in the United States' POW program. Overall they did their jobs well, with little recognition either from the Army or in the press.

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## 5. TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

### 5.1 THE FIRST PRISONERS

In the early morning hours of 8 December 1941, less than a day after the Japanese attacks at Pearl Harbor, Corporal David M. Akui (Figure 5-1), a member of the 298<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the Hawaii National Guard, was walking on patrol along the beach near Bellows (Air) Field when he spotted someone coming out of the water. Akui challenged the man and ordered him to halt and lie down. While covering his prisoner with his rifle, he telephoned the Officer of the Day to report the incident. The stranger was quickly taken into custody and identified as Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki, the commander of one of the five Japanese two-man midget submarines that were supposed to be used in the Pearl Harbor attacks. Sakamaki's sub had been hit and damaged by American depth charges outside the harbor entrance, later forcing it to surface. It was found in the morning floating near the shore, close to where he was captured. The other crewman was found dead.

Akui had captured the first of more than a million enemy prisoners taken by American forces during World War II.<sup>82</sup> Nearly 430,000 of them were brought to the continental United States to be held in captivity between 1942 and 1946. The overwhelming numbers of these,



**FIGURE 5-1. CORPORAL DAVID M. AKUI (NARA 5290-76B)**

more than 360,000, were German (or men of other nationalities incorporated into the German army); about 53,000 were Italians and about 5,400 Japanese.<sup>83 84</sup> Japanese POWs were generally kept in encampments in the Pacific Islands, as the Pacific front moved closer to Japan.

Ensign Sakamaki was held in Hawaii several months for interrogation and was subsequently transferred to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, arriving on 9 March 1942. His arrival was noted as “Report arrival at Camp McCoy Wisconsin 3:30 PM this date...one Jap sub LT Sakamaki Prisoner of War under directive fifth March HQ WDC and Fourth Army.”<sup>85</sup> He remained at Camp McCoy for the next 4 years, until repatriated back to Japan in 1945.

Within weeks of the Pearl Harbor attack the Army designated Camp McCoy as a central location for approximately 100 German and Japanese civilian internees considered by the Department of Justice as high security risks. The Japanese held at Camp McCoy were citizens of Japan, not American-born “Nisei”. During the first six months of 1942 a number of these high-risk individuals arrived at the camp. Since there were no other prisoners of war at the time, Camp McCoy was probably the most logical site to house Sakamaki. He was allowed to interact freely with the other Japanese.<sup>86</sup> No other captured Japanese military personnel were brought to the mainland U.S. for internment until early 1943, about a year after Sakamaki arrived at Camp McCoy.<sup>87</sup>

Over the course of 1942, a small number of enemy combatants were captured by the American armed forces. Almost all of these were German submarine crews taken after successful Navy or Air Corps attacks forced their subs to surface near the Atlantic or Gulf coasts of the United States. Their numbers were relatively small, amounting to about 500 officers and men.<sup>88</sup> They were scattered among Army camps, often housed in older, usually World War I-era barracks, quickly surrounded by wire fencing. Some, such as the 14 housed at Camp Blanding, Florida, in September 1942, were placed in the post stockade until an adequate POW camp could be completed.<sup>89</sup>

During this early period many of the prisoners arrived at their camps with no clothing other than what they were wearing when captured. Many came off damaged or sunken submarines and had abandoned ship with their personal gear still onboard. In 1942 they were issued plain American Army khaki uniforms without any markings that they were POWs. If any of them did escape it could be difficult at a glance to distinguish them from any actual American soldiers. These concerns were outlined in a letter sent from the Military Intelligence Service to the Provost Marshal General on 24 September 1942. It addresses these specific concerns after receiving a report of the transfer of 19 German prisoners from U-162 who were moved by rail from Camp Blanding, Florida, to Fort Meade, Maryland. They were then

moved from the railroad station near Fort Meade to the post itself "...in two motor coaches without any provisions being made to deprive these prisoners of war from looking out of the windows and orienting themselves."<sup>90</sup> This letter also expresses serious concern because the men were dressed in American Army khaki uniforms "...less cap, necktie, insignia, and in a few cases tennis shoes in lieu of the regular issue. One Prisoner wore Corporal chevrons and another Pvt 1cl chevrons. There were no markings or stamps upon these uniforms to show that the wearer was not a member of our own forces."<sup>91</sup> The letter goes on to state:

"It is requested that steps be taken to inform all commands that may have anything to do with the handling and transportation of Prisoners of War that they are at no time permitted to wear the United States uniform unless it is so conspicuously marked that no one could recognize it as belonging to a member of our establishment."<sup>92</sup>

By 1943, most of the clothing concerns were corrected. Photographs from the period show that prisoners, especially those working outside of the camps, were given Army-issued blue denim fatigue clothing stenciled with large white letters "PW" on front and back (Figure 5-2). This type of clothing was usually worn by American troops, when doing dirty work on post and few civilians were familiar with it, so any POW wearing them outside of the camp would draw immediate attention. When prisoners were transferred from one camp to another they were ordered to wear their own uniforms, if they still existed, so they could be easily spotted. If they no longer had their own uniforms, they wore Army issue clothing marked with big "PW" stencils. In addition, they were given various items of standard Army clothing such as underwear, socks, fatigue caps, raincoats, and low quarter Army shoes without the gaiters (leggings). Without the leggings, as were given to American troops, the shoes were prone to slip off if the wearer ran over rough terrain. In cold weather climates the prisoners were issued overcoats or jackets and wool trousers. Those men housed in camps having severe winter climates, such as in Wisconsin or New England, were issued parkas and heavy gloves for working outdoors. However, these items were only issued on a daily basis and prisoners were required to turn them in when they returned to camp.<sup>93</sup> These clothing policies were standard throughout the POW program. It should be noted that officers were not required to mark their clothing with the "PW" as it was felt to be below their military dignity.<sup>94</sup>

## **5.2 RECEPTION CENTERS**

Following the pattern of the British POW system, in the autumn of 1942 the Army established two reception centers for POWs at the Ports of Embarkation located at Camp Shanks, New York, and



**FIGURE 5-2. GERMAN POW FIXING BRAKES ON A TRUCK. NOTE 'PW' STENCIL ON BACK OF HIS CLOTHING (NARA 438N-252929 [ROLL #3-8])**

Norfolk, Virginia. All Japanese POWs came into the country through Angel Island, San Diego, California.<sup>95</sup>

All of these centers had some type of barracks space available or converted from existing buildings, including empty warehouses. More temporary housing was quickly constructed to house the POWs for their day or two of processing before they were sent to their permanent camps. Army bunks were installed and mess services were set up.

The process started when a troopship packed with POWs arrived in the port. An officer from the commanding general's office of the Port of Embarkation would decide if the ship was permitted to dock at the quay or if its human cargo was to be ferried ashore by barge. American military traffic always took priority, so sometimes the POWs had to wait for a day or more to be unloaded (Figure 5-3). Either way, once the prisoners reached the dock they were put into a military formation and marched to the Reception Center. Those too sick or injured to walk were carried off the ship by litter (Figure 5-4) and placed in military ambulances that took them to prearranged Army hospitals for treatment and in-processing.<sup>96</sup>

The POW registration procedure determined the camps in which the prisoners would, with exceptions, spend the rest of the war. The first part of the process was segregation by rank and branch of service. As would be Army policy throughout the war, most officers were separated from the enlisted men at the reception center (Figure 5-5). The officers were then further separated with field grades, majors and



**FIGURE 5-3. SEVERAL ITALIAN GENERALS (POWs) WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS AT PIER 5, HAMPTON ROADS EMBARKATION STATION, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA (NARA 404N-243466 [ROLL 3-4/5])**



**FIGURE 5-4. WOUNDED GERMAN SOLDIERS CAPTURED IN NORTH AFRICA ON THEIR WAY TO THE UNITED STATES, PHOTO TAKEN IN CASABLANCA, FRENCH MOROCCO, JUNE 1943 (NARA 187N-182714 [ROLL 1-15])**



**FIGURE 5-5. THESE OFFICERS IN LINE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR VALUABLES  
(NARA 240N-197679 [ROLL 1-8/9])**

above, being placed in separate camps from lower ranked captains and lieutenants. The field grades were further divided with general officers removed from the colonels and majors. Equivalent ranks of naval personnel followed this formula. The same system of stratification held true with non-commissioned officers being sent to separate camps from the lower ranking enlisted personnel.<sup>97</sup>

Some confusion arose when American administrators thought the German rank of “corporal” was considered a non-commissioned rank as it is in the United States Army. A memorandum correcting this mistaken perception was issued as Circular No. 7, dated 20 January 1944, directing that corporals were not NCOs in the German army and should not be considered as such.<sup>98</sup> Italian Warrant Officers were another category that caused confusion. While the American Army considers them officers, for some unexplained reason the staff at Camp Clark, Missouri, placed 27 Italian warrant officers in with enlisted personnel. A letter from the War Department through the Seventh Service Command to the commander of Camp Clark specifies that they be immediately transferred to Weingarten Internment Camp, Missouri, an Italian officer camp.<sup>99</sup>

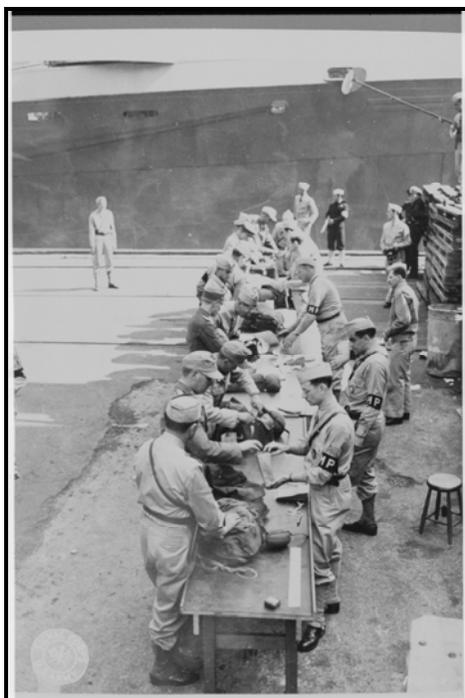
A further separation was by service, Army and Air Force from Navy. Under a directive issued by the Secretary of War, dated 18 February 1943, “Army and Naval prisoners of war will in no case be consigned in the same camp.”<sup>100</sup> This was done primarily in the belief that German naval personnel, especially the submariners and marines, considered themselves, as they had been told by their commander

Grand Admiral Karl Donitz, an elite force and should always act as such, even if captured. Among the enlisted ranks this often led to problems since many of the Navy men were considered more likely to be pro-Nazi; while by 1944-1945 most of the Army soldiers were at least politically ambivalent, if not directly anti-Nazi. Robert Billinger (2000) cites an Army intelligence study conducted on German POWs being prepared to return home after the war. The study found that even at that late date, about 13 percent of the Navy men interviewed still had strong Nazi sentiments.<sup>101</sup>

Once assigned to the proper rank and branch group, each prisoner was inspected for contraband, including pro-Nazi or Fascist literature or propaganda (Figure 5-6). All currency was confiscated and equivalent values in United States credits were issued. These would only be good at the camp exchange where the men were housed. Alternatively, they could request it be placed in a savings fund to be returned to them after the war. All men wearing combat awards and medals were told these must be removed from their uniforms (Figure 5-7), though the prisoners were permitted to retain them as a personal possession. Rank emblems, chevrons and epaulettes were retained on their uniforms to help men unknown to each other identify who was the superior rank and preserve military authority. Every prisoner completed a 3-page Army Form W 3000, answering questions on their physical description, education, civilian occupations and training plus their military history prior to capture. Attached to each was a card containing the prisoners' photograph and fingerprints.<sup>102</sup>

Exceptions to the rank segregation policy were made to allow a small cadre of the next higher classification in each major camp to be the "camp spokesman", acting as the representative between the prisoners and the camp administration. They were expected to control the prisoners and be responsible in turn for their good conduct. The Italian officers assigned to Camp Perry, Ohio, had as their spokesman a general, but this was rare.<sup>103</sup> Most Axis general officers, 40 German generals and three admirals, were housed together at Camp Clinton, Mississippi.<sup>104</sup>

As part of the interview process at the reception centers, the prisoners were asked their political views concerning the Nazi or, in the case of the Italians, Fascist leadership of their homelands. Their responses, if believed to be truthful, saw them divided into groups labeled "pro-Nazi" and "pro-Fascist" or as "anti-Nazi" and "anti-Fascist". In the first two years of the POW program those of a selected category were usually sent to camps specifically designated to hold their classification. However, by late 1944, as an ever increasing number of POWs arrived needing housing, the Army started subdividing these categories within the same camps. The most strident Nazis, numbering about 4,500 men in 1945, were held at Camp Alva, Oklahoma.<sup>105</sup>



**FIGURE 5-6. PART OF PROCESSING UNDERGONE BY POWS UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT THE PORT OF BOSTON, MA. HERE EACH PRISONER'S CLOTHING AND PROPERTY ARE SEARCHED AND WEAPONS AND PROPAGANDA ARE CONFISCATED. EACH MAN'S VALUABLES ARE PLACED IN A PAPER BAG WHICH IS HANDED TO HIM BEFORE HE ENTRAINS, DECEMBER 1944.  
(NARA 240N-197666 [ROLL 1-4/5])**



**FIGURE 5-7. THIS PRISONER'S IRON CROSS, SECOND CLASS, IS REMOVED FROM HIS BLOUSE, PRISONERS ARE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THEIR MEDALS, BUT NOT TO DISPLAY THEM  
(NARA 240N-197669 [ROLL 1-6/7])**

The first large influx of German prisoners came from Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's *Afrika Korps* in 1943, an army that considered itself to be an elite force. Many of its soldiers had strong Nazi beliefs. After the successful Allied invasion of Italy in September 1943, and especially the Normandy invasion in June of 1944, many more of the Germans being taken prisoner declared they were anti-Nazi. Unlike the North African veterans, these men were aware of how bad things were going for Germany both on the battlefield and at home with the Allied bombing. Some of these latter men offered their services to the American army to fight the Japanese to end the war more quickly. A secret Army committee actually studied the proposal to organize a "German Volunteer Corps" but soon rejected it.<sup>106</sup>

An important step of the in-processing scheme had each man issued a serial number by which he would be tracked during his captivity. Many of the documents generated by the PMGO uses the POW's number in conjunction with his name, when referring to these men. The serial numbers incorporated both numerals and letters in the following sequence. The first number was the Armed Service Command (ASC) district of the camp to which the prisoner was being assigned, ranging from 1-9. Next came a "W" signifying the War Department, followed by one of three combatant nations code; "G" for Germans, "I" for Italians and "J" for Japanese. They were then assigned their individual personnel number, which could be as many as six digits. An example of the completed serial number is cited in Krammer.<sup>107</sup> The number 8WG-1234 would indicate the prisoner was assigned to a camp in the 8<sup>th</sup> Service Command district and was German, followed by his personal number.

As time progressed, many prisoners, for a variety of reasons, were moved from one camp to another, often outside of their original ASC assignment, however; their ASC code number was not changed. In an age before computers, when nearly a half million prisoners were tracked by hand using a note card system, prisoners were sometimes "lost" in the system. Confusion was also caused when clerks mistakenly typed the wrong numbers on orders and other documents. One miss-typed digit could cost days of delay in transfers or the search for information about a prisoner.

Such was the case when a clerk at the PMGO responsible for ordering the transfer of prisoners to new camps typed the wrong number for Emanuel Rosenhammer, a POW at Fort Meade, Maryland. For a reason not stated he was ordered to be transferred to Fort Hunt, Virginia, not later than 20 November 1944. However, since the wrong serial number was cited for this name a memorandum, dated 19 November, was returned to Fort Hunt asking for written clarification. The transfer order cited his serial number as 8WG-253322 when, in fact, it was 8WG-253222. No written answer was found in the record, so perhaps the mistake was straightened out by telephone. Even with a quick correction by telephone, his arrival at Fort Hunt was probably delayed.<sup>108</sup>

Once processing was completed and enough men were assigned to camps in the same region they were marched from the reception center to the railhead located in the port (Figure 5-8). In the first year of the prisoner program the train windows were screened off to block the view outside. There was a fear that these men might escape and perform acts of sabotage or that they might somehow get picked up by friendly submarines off the Atlantic coast. In fact, two German sailors made the first documented escape by jumping from the train carrying them through Kentucky to Camp Forrest, Tennessee. They were caught two days later, having made little progress.<sup>109</sup> Among the precautions taken were measures to prevent the prisoners from knowing where they were relative to roads, railroads and waterways; and to keep them ignorant of what lay outside the gates of their camp, so if they did escape they would become lost and could be quickly recaptured.



**FIGURE 5-8. PROCESSING COMPLETED, THESE POWS ARE FILING ABOARD THE TRAIN THAT WILL TAKE THEM TO THEIR PERMANENT CAMPS. NOTE THE ARMED GUARD ATOP THE TRAIN (NARA 240N-197674 [ROLL 1-10/11])**

However, by mid-1944 the fear of escapes was so diminished that the windows on transport vehicles remained unscreened. As an added security measure many of the trains were scheduled to depart at night, both so the men were tired and also to prevent them from possibly seeing any landmarks in the distance to help them get their bearings. The prisoners and their guards usually rode in the standard Pullman cars, with two men per seat (Figure 5-9). They had to sleep seated. However, to many prisoners, used to living sometimes for months in combat conditions, this trip was almost pleasant. One Italian prisoner remarked “It was paradise! We were in first-class, and we thought, could it be propaganda?”<sup>110</sup>

For trips of short duration coffee, sandwiches and fruit were made available, often served by African American porters. Longer trips saw the use of dining cars to feed the prisoners and their guards. If the trip took longer than 24 hours, preplanned stops were arranged in rural areas so the prisoners could get off to stretch their legs. And sleeper cars were often arranged with the prisoners “doubled up” in each breath.<sup>111</sup>

During these initial movements, when large numbers of enemy prisoners were involved, the security force usually numbered approximately one guard for every three to five POWs. There was some fear and mistrust on both sides. The prisoners did not know what to expect about the treatment they would receive at the hands of the Americans, and the GIs did not know if the enemy soldiers would attempt to overpower them and escape. Later in the war most of the men on both sides became more comfortable in dealing with the other; a normal guard to prisoner ratio could be as high as 10-15 POWs per guard.<sup>112</sup>



**FIGURE 5-9. THESE POWS, PROCESSED AT THE BOSTON PORT OF EMBARKATION, ARE SEEN ABOARD THE TRAIN THAT TOOK THEM TO THEIR PERMANENT CAMP, DECEMBER 1944. (NARA 240N-197675 [ROLL 1-12/13])**

### **5.3 ARRIVAL AT CAMP**

Almost all of the camps had direct rail access on-post, primarily used to bring in supplies and large contingents of troops for training. If rail access was not directly into the post at least a railhead had to be close to it. In those cases without direct access, the POWs were off-loaded and boarded on buses or Army trucks and moved, again usually in “blackout conditions,” to the camps.

As the first prisoners arrived at many of the camps, the local citizens would turn out to watch them disembark and form up to move off to the camp (Figure 5-10). The crowds, mostly curious, just stared in silence. But on a couple of occasions someone, probably a person who lost a family member in the war, would shout insults at the prisoners. There is no record of any violence against the POWs from these crowds of onlookers.



**FIGURE 5-10. NEWLY ARRIVED GERMAN POWS MARCHING FROM RAILWAY STATION TO CAMP ROBINSON, ARKANSAS, OCTOBER 1943 (NARA 211N-189399 [ROLL 6-1/2])**

When the prisoners finally reached their camp compound they were organized into a large formation. Here they would be greeted and addressed by the camp commander, who would lay out the rules. An example of this greeting remains from the Fourth Service Command. Entitled “Message To German Prisoners of War Confined in the Fourth Service Command” it outlines several points of expected conduct for each prisoner. These included

1. Failure to obey orders from either their own leaders and/or camp guards will be punishable in the same way as U.S. troops guilty of the same offense.
2. Any violence either to another prisoner, camp guards, or civilians the PW might come in contact with will be punishable by court martial.
3. Any prisoner who believes the work assigned to him is contrary to the rules of war as outlined by the Geneva Convention has the right to file a protest through proper channels

with the International Red Cross; but he must continue performance of said work until ruling by Red Cross is received.

4. Prisoners who try to escape are subject to be shot and killed by their guards or civilian law enforcement. “As the result of such attempts, prisoners of war in camps within this Service Command have already been shot and killed by guards.”<sup>113</sup>

Prisoners were then put through a new system of processing for the camp itself. Each man was given a packet (in his own language) that contained a message of POW rights under the Geneva Convention, and cards for the IRC to notify their families that they were alive, well and a prisoner in American custody. This also instructed the families how to write and send packages to the prisoner. They were given clothing lists to fill out with sizes to bring with them to the quartermaster depot for their basic issue. Each man was given a ‘pay record’ to keep track of his earnings from labor (Figure 5-11). In the case of officers, who were not required to work under terms of the Convention, it recorded their monthly allotment ranging from \$20-\$40, depending upon rank.<sup>114</sup>

When all the paperwork was completed, the men were assigned to barracks and set up in squads and companies based upon the barracks to which they were assigned. Each squad was told to select a leader and each company picked a commander. These men in turn reported to the prisoner representative or “camp spokesman,” usually of a higher rank compared to the other prisoners in camp. Once the men of each barracks were determined, a roster was established for use in the daily roll calls.



**FIGURE 5-11. GERMAN POWS ARE BEING PAID BY CAPTAIN OHET, THE AMERICAN COMMANDING OFFICER OF CAMP OWASSO, MICHIGAN. THE POWS RECEIVE CHITS (RATHER THAN CASH), GOOD ONLY IN THE CAMP CANTEEN, AUGUST 1944 (NARA 223O-390370 [ROLL 2-19])**

Once branch work camps were established, those men assigned to them seldom had leaders of the next higher rank level. Instead, they elected one member of their number to represent them with the camp administration. Any serious discipline problems would have the men involved returned to the base camp for judicial review and any punishments deemed necessary.

#### **5.4 PRISONER TRANSFERS**

Over the four years that the prisoner of war program existed, every POW was moved at least twice, from his arrival Port of Embarkation to his camp and after the war back to the port to return home. But many tens of thousands of the prisoners were transferred from one camp to another or other military facility more than once during their interment. The causes of these transfers can be broken into several categories.

The largest requirement for transferring prisoners was the need to support local industries and agriculture with labor, usually seasonal in nature. Some of these moves involved hundreds of prisoners at one time, taking up whole trains expressly for this purpose. Equally important to the Army was the maintenance of discipline and good order, often necessitating the separation and removal of potential and real threats, such as pro- and anti-Nazis (Fascist), from each other. Transfer of this latter category of POWs will be discussed in a separate section discussing the Army's entire program of dealing with these groups of often hostile prisoners. As noted above, other necessary transfers involved getting patients having long-term medical requirements to facilities capable of treating their illnesses. The last large category of prisoner transfers is perhaps the most intriguing. Of all the warring nations engaged in World War II, only the United States allowed, and even encouraged, the placement of family members held as POW into the same camp.

Since the United States Army had no recent experience in handling large numbers of prisoners, many of the policies and regulations were formulated as the program developed. For instance, in peacetime whenever an Army prisoner was transferred, he was always shackled to prevent escape. As custody of the first POWs started in 1942, some Army officers wanted to restrain the prisoners with handcuffs. However, Army policy, following the Geneva Convention, forbade it unless the POW was deemed a direct threat to others. This policy was outlined in a February 1943 transfer order to move two German crewmen from the U-595 from Fort Hunt, Virginia, to Camp Blanding, Florida. It states, "In accordance with a recent directive from the Secretary of War, these prisoners should not be handcuffed for any reason whatsoever."<sup>115</sup> Confusion about this policy apparently continued because this same phrase was still being used on transfer orders as late as the middle of 1943.<sup>116</sup> By late 1943, and through the rest

of the war this phrase no longer appears on transfer orders, so it is assumed that all Army personnel working with POW transfers were evidentially aware of the ban on handcuffs.

The physical movement of the prisoners, unless within a few hours drive by car or truck, was always handled by train. Since these transfers were considered permanent changes of station for the prisoners, the commander of the originating camp was usually instructed in the orders to be sure each individual being moved had with him his personnel and medical records, pay credit booklet and all personal possessions. For large prisoner movements the POWs were broken down in to packets of manageable size, generally about 500 men at a time. These groups were spaced to arrive several days apart so the receiving camp could process them efficiently. Upon arrival at their new post, each man had to be checked in on the camp roster, assigned a barracks and bunk, and given time to acquaint himself with the basic layout of the camp, location of the mess hall, chapel, and canteen, before starting work.

For most of the POW program the largest prisoner movements were in response to labor requirements. Starting in 1943, and continuing until the end of the prisoner program, orders would be issued by the PMGO to specific camps outlining how many and what types of prisoners were requested to be transferred with an effective date for the action to start and to be completed. An example is an order sent on March 8, 1944, to the commander of the POW camp at Fort Douglas, Utah, to transfer a total of 2,700 German enlisted prisoners to Fort Lewis, Washington. He is instructed that the first increment should arrive at Fort Lewis by March 16, with follow on increments “spaced at three to four day intervals.”<sup>117</sup>

As the war progressed the process became more refined. By late spring 1944, more detailed transfer orders appeared, specifying not only the number of prisoners required but the rank distribution and physical capabilities of the men needed. For instance, an order issued on May 19, 1944, to the Commanding General, Fifth Service Command at Fort Hayes, Ohio, requires him to expect the delivery at Camp Perry, Ohio, of 1,650 German Army enlisted men. The order also states that these men “be physically capable of performing a full day of manual labor and noncommissioned officers included in this transfer be limited to ten per cent (10%).”<sup>118</sup> The limit on the number of NCOs was because they were not expected to do the labor themselves, but rather to act as supervisors of the lower ranked enlisted men, so a one in ten ratio seemed right for an oversight role.

However, this policy left a large number of prisoner NCOs with little or no gainful employment, as outlined by the commander of the POW branch camp located at Casa Grande, which was a satellite camp of the main POW facility located at Camp Florence, Arizona. He lists 124 Italian NCOs cited as

“unsatisfactory for supervisory work” and notes that his camp has “an excessive number of NCOs for supervisory assignments” and requests they be transferred to another camp. The first endorsement agrees to this request, stating in part “It has been necessary to segregate these Italian NCOs in the interest of discipline. They are classed as trouble-makers and pro-Fascists.”<sup>119</sup>

Some of the transfer orders got very specific as to not only the number of personnel required and their physical abilities but what work they would be required to perform once on-site. Such is the case in a request made of the PMGO by the commander of the Second Service Area for 220 German prisoners to be transferred to Fort Eustis, Virginia. The request states that the POWs must be “qualified as laborers” and “physically capable of performing a full day of manual labor” in the pulpwood industry.<sup>120</sup>

Besides requirements for manual labor, many posts identified additional jobs they needed POWs to perform. On April 6, 1944, the commander of the POW camp at Fort Douglas, Utah, was instructed to transfer a total of 2,000 German enlisted men, in groups of 400 men each, to the newly opened POW camp housed at Camp White, Oregon. The first increment was to arrive on April 15 and the other increments as the two commanders could arrange as convenient. What is most interesting is the list of specialized requirements that commanders hoped would be found among the men being transferred. Among the 89 positions Camp White needed to fill were “washermen, extractors, tumblermen, shoe repairmen (senior, junior and orthopedic), mattress repairmen, tent repairmen, power machine operators, office appliance repairmen, blacksmith’s and helpers, sheet metal workers,” and various mechanical specialties.<sup>121</sup>

Other posts had different, more common, types of needs like those requested by the POW camp located at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania. The camp commander asked that of the 750 German enlisted prisoners being transferred by the Seventh Service Area Command, 15 men should be cooks and an additional 10 should be clerk-typists. It was explained that these additional specialties were required as the camp was being expanded from 450 to 1,200 POWs and the personnel were needed to support the larger operation.<sup>122</sup>

In addition to meeting labor requirements, the Army was keenly aware that prisoners with special requirements, such as medical needs, were to be given a high priority for getting treatment while they were being held in confinement. As noted in the section discussing the arrival of the prisoners at the Ports of Embarkation, many were sick and needed medical treatment at the time or developed problems enroute to their assigned camps. Such cases as that of Italian prisoner Picco Gino were common. He was removed from the POW train in Richmond, Virginia, and hospitalized for an unknown illness. When he was well

enough to be “dehospitalized” he was to be transferred under guard to the POW camp at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.<sup>123</sup>

Other medically-related transfers were necessitated not only by the patient’s personal condition but its effect on those people coming in contact with him. German prisoner Hans Rohr was admitted to the post hospital at Camp Perry, Ohio, where he was diagnosed with acute pulmonary tuberculosis (TB). The hospital was unable to effectively treat his long-term illness and so it was ordered that the patient, with his personal records and possessions, be transferred to Army General Hospital at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, for treatment.<sup>124</sup> A review of the files found several other similar transfers for men suffering from TB, all going to Camp Forrest, which may have been the Army’s only TB treatment facility.

Perhaps the most unique category of prisoner transfers was the honoring of POW requests for family members also held in American custody to be placed together in the same camp. The program is outlined as follows

“Present policy permits the transfer of German (also Italian) prisoners of war in order that they may be interned in the same prisoner of war camp provided the relationship of brother and brother or half-brother, or father and son exists, and provided the transfer can be accomplished without cost to the United States Government, including transportation and meals for the guard personnel. In the event the prisoners of war involved in the transfer are noncommissioned officers, they must be considered cooperative and willing to sign for work.”<sup>125</sup>

The monies used by the prisoners were drawn from one or both accounts each man had set up in his name. Some of his earned income (or in the case of officers, paid salary) was placed into a canteen fund used to buy items at the camp store. The balance was set aside in a form of savings account, or trust fund, which was paid to the POWs when they returned to their countries so they did not go home penniless. To arrange for the payment to cover the expenses of the transfer of a relative, most of the men had to pool both accounts into a lump sum, transferred to the Army to cover the costs. Some men without the total fee available still tried to get their relatives transferred on the promise of future earnings. This was not allowed as outlined below.

“Transfers of this nature can not be charged against future earnings of any prisoner of war. However, withdrawal of trust

funds for this purpose may be accomplished under Section VIII,  
Prisoner of War Circular No.7, dated 9 November 1943.”<sup>126</sup>

A search of published materials outlining the records of the holding of POW by other Allied nations during the war found no evidence of any similar program to reconnect families in one camp.

What prompted the Army to develop this program, which had genuinely great costs on many levels? Despite the fact that the POWs paid the actual expenses incurred for the transfer, the Army still had an investment in time, personnel used and other ‘overhead’ expenses to arrange and execute these transfers. For each request, the PMGO had to completely research to be assured the named family member actually existed in the camp identified. While many prisoners were informed of relatives being held by the IRC, the Army still needed to verify the situation. The commander of the ‘gaining’ camp also had to confirm that the requester had enough funds to cover the expenses of the transfer. Once this was done, orders had to be typed, mailed and posted at each camp involved. Guards had to have their schedules arranged to be available for escort duty and the return trip to home station. With what appears have been thousands of requests, this took a considerable amount of time and resources that may have been better used elsewhere. In fact, the Army’s reasoning was quite simple; it was believed that serving time with family members had a calming effect on those men directly affected; as well as on their fellow prisoners who saw that the Americans were trying as much as possible to treat their prisoners with humanity.

A typical case of how this system worked is that of prisoner Hans Blossey, interned at Camp Crowder, Missouri, who requested on 29 May 1944 the transfer of his brother, Max, from Camp Swift, Texas to join him at Camp Crowder. In his request he states he will pay all expenses of the transfer. The first endorsement from the camp commander actually cites an approximate cost of the transfer as follows:

Three meals for going trip of guard	\$3.00
Three meals for each for return trip for guard and prisoner	\$6.00
Round trip for guard, including tax	\$25.70
Return trip of prisoner, including tax	\$14.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48.95</b>

The transfer of Max Blossey was approved on 5 July 1944.

However, not all transfer requests were granted. The Army decided when it established this program that it would only honor those requests made by men deemed suitable for their good behavior and hard work. It was viewed as a reward, not a right. Those men found in either camp to be uncooperative, troublesome, or lazy were not allowed to transfer or have a relative transferred in to be with them.

Germans were not the only POWs taking advantage of the family transfer policy. Italians too requested to be housed with their relatives. For instance, First Lieutenant Pasquale Falduto, a prisoner at Camp Rucker, Alabama, requested that his brother, Second Lieutenant Antonio Falduto, a prisoner at Camp Monticello, Arkansas, be transferred to join him at Camp Rucker. What makes this so interesting is that Pasquale was the commander of the 29th Italian Engineer Dump Truck Company (an Italian Service Unit) and that his brother would join the organization as an additional officer. The prison camp commander at Camp Rucker endorsed this idea, stating there was indeed a vacancy for another Italian officer.<sup>127</sup>

Aside from transfer orders moving Japanese POWs for various labor projects, or in one case, a hospitalized prisoner, no documents were found pertaining to the reuniting of family members held by the Army. The lack of family pairings among the Japanese POWs may be due to the small number of Japanese brought into the United States, or may be that, with so few camps housing Japanese prisoners, grouping of family members in the same camp may have occurred by accident anyhow. For instance, at its peak, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, housed about 3,500 Japanese POWs, more than half of the total brought to America. It is possible some of these were family members.<sup>128</sup> One other explanation, although not cited in any of the references used for this narrative, was the Japanese soldiers provided false names to their American captors in order to save their families from disgrace.

Even when transfers were approved they were not always carried through without problems. Such was the case with Arthur Jaeger, who was a prisoner at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. In a memo dated 5 January 1945, he states he paid the required fee of \$105 for his transfer to join his brother at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, to the “German interpreter” who told him that it would be forwarded to headquarters to pay for his transfer. However, on the day he was to leave, the camp issued him a transfer charge receipt for only \$81.60 plus \$6.88 remaining in his trust fund. Upon arriving at Gruber he requested an investigation as to where the rest of his money went. After more than a month and 12 endorsements later it was determined that the prisoner was owed \$3.23, a check for which was forwarded by Camp Van Dorn to his account at Camp Gruber.<sup>129</sup>

Other mistakes occurred through no fault of anyone but just from a slow system trying to track nearly a half million men in more than 155 camps nationwide. The story of German prisoner Edmund Gondo, whose brother Hans tried to have him transferred from Camp Gordon, Georgia, to Hans' location at Camp Cooke, California, in July 1944, illustrates the case. It turns out that when the request arrived at Camp Gordon, Edmund had already been transferred to Camp Butner, North Carolina, the previous May. The commander of the POW camp at Camp Butner did not want to transfer him out so took no action. This was normally the camp commander's prerogative. They could block any transfer if they had a need for the skills of any individual prisoner. In most of these cases, the other prisoner would be transferred. However, Hans was not to be put off, because after two months of attempts, and after involving the Legation of Switzerland, Department of German Interests, finally, on September 29, 1944, the matter was resolved by an order issued by the PMGO authorizing Edmund's transfer to Camp Cooke.<sup>130</sup>

Some family members reported to be held in the United States proved to be mistakes as noted in a file dated 10 May 1944. It informs the commander of Camp Blanding, Florida, that the brother of one of his prisoners (unnamed), one "Lance Corporal Max Girschik is (not) presently interned in this country."<sup>131</sup>

Aside from mistakes in family transfers were errors made by clerks at the camps involved in transfers of all kinds. For instance, some POWs, whether as individuals or in large groups, had problems with their paperwork or, worse yet, had no paperwork accompanying them at all. A remarkable document entitled, "Report on Prisoner of War transferred to this Camp", written by the commander of the POW camp at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, outlines some of the problems encountered in a recent series of incoming transfers. He states in part

1. On 17 February 1945 two groups of German prisoners of war were received at this camp. One group of two hundred fifty (250) arrived from Camp Fannin, Texas. This group was physically able; their records were in usually satisfactory condition.
2. The other group consisted of five hundred (500) German prisoners from Camp Livingston, Louisiana. Of these, there were twenty (20) who were physically incapacitated. And 200 prisoners who claim to be able to perform only light duty. Physical examinations are being made to determine just how many of these claims are justified. Since this is a labor camp, and since it is understood that only able bodied prisoners of war were to be transferred, it is not understood why physically incapacitated and light duty men were included.

3. An examination of the records received from Camp Livingston discloses the following conditions, all percentages being approximate:
  - a. About 50% of pay records showed various balances due the prisoners of war, which had been due them for many months, in some cases for more than a year.
  - b. Many files had no photographs of the prisoners
  - c. Many Form 2's had no signature
  - d. Only about 10% (?) of WD AGO Form 20's were signed
  - e. About 50% of MD form 81's were incomplete
  - f. Several days later there arrived, by unregistered mail, a large manila envelope containing a bundle of receipts for Camp Livingston canteen coupons and a check for Eight Thousand Fifteen Dollars and Eighty Four cents (\$8,015.84). There was no cover letter, nor was there a list of the accounts to be paid. Had this envelope broken open receipts would have been lost and there would have been no record of to whom the money was to be disbursed.
  
4. These deficiencies have thrown a considerable burden of labor on this headquarters which it is believed should have been performed at Camp Livingston. Had this been the only case of the sort, no complaint would have been made; but the same deficiencies occurred in transfers of prisoners from Camp Livingston to Fort Jackson during May and June 1944.<sup>132</sup>

This letter was forwarded from the Fourth Service Command to PMGO and then sent with endorsement recommending an investigation by the commanding general of the Eighth Service Command (under which Camp Livingston operated). No record was found of the resulting investigation or corrective actions taken.

And then there were those camp commanders who tried to keep POWs deemed important to the smooth operation of their camps. A query dated 6 February 1945 was received by the commander of the Pine Grove Furnace POW camp, in Pennsylvania, asking why, of 34 German prisoners ordered transferred to Camp Ruston, Louisiana, in November 1944, five of the requested men were not transferred with the others. His answer stated that four of the five had been sent to Camp Ruston on 13 February but that one had been retained because he was the "stable orderly" a position for which he was well qualified.

The camp commander goes on to complain that, in some cases, in the space of a week three conflicting sets of orders transferring the same man were received and some transfers were required to happen so quickly that there was no time to train a new man to take the departing POW's place, thus having a negative impact on camp operations. After numerous letters and endorsements up and down the command chain outlining such problems, the PMGO finally sent a clarification that, while the office understood the problem of the camp commander, when POWs are ordered transferred it must be assumed that the Army understands the greater need for their service than the individual camp commander. Transfer orders must always take precedent over camp concerns.<sup>133</sup>

For whatever reason, whether it was to work, get medical treatment or rejoin a family member, certainly many tens of thousands of POWs were transferred during their time in the United States. And, of course, every one of them had to be transferred out of the last camp to a Port of Embarkation for the return trip home after the war. Though the hostilities were over, these transfers were handled in just the same manner, with guards accompanying the prisoners not just to the Port but all the way back to their country to be released.<sup>134</sup>

## **6. LIVING EXPERIENCE**

### **6.1 DAILY LIFE IN THE CAMPS**

While it is difficult to say exactly how life for each prisoner in every camp was lived many aspects of the prisoner of war experience can be highlighted. The Germans, being the largest group of POWs, are the best documented when it comes to daily activities. The Italians, who were mostly held in camps co-located on the same posts but separated from the Germans, seemed to generally follow the German pattern of daily routine. However, the Japanese seem to have had some more restrictions on them than their European counterparts. This was due to several factors, including racism, fear and hatred for the attacks on Hawaii and other Pacific bases in the early days of the war. With their different appearance, customs and totally foreign language, it was easier for many Americans, including some of their guards, to dislike the Japanese. Because of this pattern of distrust and the problems of language few Japanese were allowed to work off the compounds where their camps were located.<sup>135</sup>

The European-based prisoners started their daily routine much like armies everywhere, with reveille around 5 AM (later in the winter months). After a period to wash and straighten up the barracks they would fall out into formation by barracks for morning roll call. In inclement weather this could be held barracks by barracks. This was the time for any man who needed to see a doctor to ask permission to report for sick call.

Once the guards were satisfied that the morning roll accounted for everybody (Figure 6-1), the prisoners were marched by company to the mess hall for breakfast (Figure 6-2). After eating, the men were returned to the barracks where they either prepared to move out to their work assignments or, if it was a weekend or holiday, they spent their time with leisure activities including sports, crafts, reading or other amusements to keep them busy.

Those men detailed to work parties were formed up and loaded aboard trucks (Figure 6-3) to take them either to locations on post or to the work assignments off post. Usually they were given a box lunch for their noon meal. Those lucky enough to work in agricultural jobs during harvest season often got fresh fruit or vegetables to supplement what one POW referred to as “miserable sandwiches”.<sup>136</sup>



**FIGURE 6-1. AN AMERICAN MSG WATCHES AN ITALIAN NCO ABOUT TO DISMISS HIS MEN FROM FORMATION (NARA 177N-180081 [ROLL 6-21/22])**



**FIGURE 6-2. GERMAN POWS ON ROAD MARCH.  
(NARA 308K –UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-32])**



**FIGURE 6-3. POW WORK TRANSPORT TRUCK  
(NARA 308K–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #5-31])**

Every day around noon, before the prisoners went to lunch, a second formation was held to again take the roll. Guards on-site counted those prisoners working out of the camp. During the morning those men transferred into or out of the camp were balanced on the rolls along with accounting for the men in the hospital or the guardhouse for discipline. This had to be done in time for the noon call to minimize the chance of mistaking a possible escape.

During the mid- to late afternoon of workdays, the prisoners returned to camp, usually before darkness fell in the winter months. There was an evening formation to call roll before the POWs were dismissed to supper. After eating, in the warmer times of the year, the men were allowed outdoor evening exercise up until near dark. They were then confined to barracks for the night (Figure 6-4). In most cases, the guards did a bed check just prior to lights out. If a “troubled” barracks with pro and anti-Nazi factions (or pro and anti-Fascist if Italian) the MP guard often did “walk thru’s” during the night to look for problems.



**FIGURE 6-4. GERMAN POWS IN COMMON ROOMS IN THE EVENING  
(NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-17/18])**

## **6.2 LIVING CONDITIONS**

All prisoners while living in base camps were housed in barracks. As noted above, while most followed the Corps of Engineers pattern for POWs buildings, some buildings do appear to vary in size, shape and construction materials from camp to camp. This was due in part to the use of old CCC structures that differed in style from the Corps of Engineer designs, and in part to shortages of different types of building materials in different regions of the country as the war progressed. In many barracks, bunks plus foot and wall lockers were provided to secure the prisoners' personal property. Other camps did not furnish lockers, so the POWs had to hang their clothes on hangers on pegs on the wall above their bunks. Communal furnishings included chairs, often folding so they could be removed to make floor space available, plus wooden benches and tables, many of which also could be folded to be put aside.

Photographic evidence shows that the bunks ranged from single level to double-decker (Figures 6-5 and 6-6), depending upon the camp and ranks of the men using them. Many appear to be the standard Army-issue metal-frame bunk with thin feather ticking mattress, just like those used by American soldiers of the period. Others are simply Army-issued cots with no mattress. Still others are of wood frame construction with the standard Army mattress. Each man was issued one feather pillow and two wool blankets. All POWs received clean sheets once a week, just like the GIs (Figure 6-7).



**FIGURE 6-5. GERMAN POWS IN BILLETTS, CAMP BLANDING, FLORIDA, JUNE 1943.**  
(NARA 309S—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-33])



**FIGURE 6-6. DOUBLE BUNKS**  
(NARA 308K—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-35/36])



**FIGURE 6-7. POWS MAKING UP BUNKS, UNIDENTIFIED CAMP.  
(NARA 309A–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-18])**

How the prisoners decorated their personal spaces also seems to have varied from camp to camp. Some images show little wall artwork, posters or other private mementos. Other prisoners, such as those held at Camp Blanding, Florida, were permitted to put up pictures of pin-up girls and other items torn from magazines. Photos do not indicate how the interiors were painted. At least one billet in an unidentified camp, probably an officer’s barracks, was extensively decorated by the men themselves with fineries including curtains and what appears to be paneling on the walls Figure 6-8).

After the time spent in their barracks, the most indoor time the prisoners spent was probably in the mess hall for three meals a day. These were set up just like those used by American soldiers. The prisoners moved through in a single-file line, cafeteria-style, to get their food served by other POWs working as “kitchen police” (commonly referred to as “KPs”) (Figures 6-9 and 6-10). The prisoners then took a seat at a single-piece table constructed of heavy wood in the style of a picnic table (Figures 6-11 and 6-12).



**FIGURE 6-8. INSIDE OF A POW BILLET. ALL DECORATIONS WERE MADE BY THE POWS, DECEMBER 1944. (NARA 223O-390-352 [ROLL 2-4])**



**FIGURE 6-9. AT A GERMAN POW CAMP IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, THE MESS PERSONNEL IS MADE UP OF GERMAN POWS, DECEMBER 1944. (NARA 223O-390351 [ROLL 2-3])**



**FIGURE 6-10. JAPANESE POWS WORK IN THE CAMP CLARINDA, IOWA, POW CAMP KITCHEN, APRIL 1945 (NARA SC#207763-S [ROLL 4-16])**



**FIGURE 6-11. GERMAN POWS WAIT FOR THE ORDER TO START EATING IN THEIR MESS HALL AT CAMP ROBINSON, ARKANSAS (NARA 2230-390375 [ROLL 2-24])**



**FIGURE 6-12. GERMAN POWS EATING IN MESS HALL AT UNIDENTIFIED CAMP  
(NARA 308K–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-25/26])**

Unlike GIs who were assigned KP duty on a rotation basis, meaning most men only worked in the kitchen once or twice a month, the prisoner KPs were mostly volunteers who had the assignment as their full-time work duty. They were paid the same \$ .80 per eight-hour day as any other POW worker, and they only worked a five-day week. While this duty required some men to start work as early as four in the morning (mostly the bakers) (Figures 6-13 and 6-14) and others to work until well past the end of evening meal to clean up and prepare for the next days' service, in most camps there was no shortage of volunteers. This was primarily due to the realities of the job. It was usually indoor work, warm in cold weather, and offered plenty of leftovers to eat. Some POWs were caught sneaking food out to share or trade with their bunkmates for cigarettes or candy.

The quality and most of the quantity of the food served was the same as that given to American soldiers. One of the common complaints of many of the German POWs was the use of white bread, instead of the common black bread served by their army. They were so unused to eating it that some got stomach aches. Eventually they grew accustomed to it and other foods richer in calories than what most European armies issued their men. Many POWs of all nations were amazed at the sheer volume and variety of meats, fresh vegetables and fruits they could never receive at home. A large number of prisoners actually gained weight while in captivity.



**FIGURE 6-13. THE POST BAKERY AT FORT McCLELLAN, ALABAMA, IS STAFFED LARGELY BY INTERNEES FROM THE POW CAMP LOCATED THERE, NOVEMBER 1944. (NARA 223O-390357 [ROLL 2-9])**



**FIGURE 6-14. GERMAN POWS WORKING IN THE FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY, POW BAKERY MAKING BREAD FOR 724 MEN. THE AMERICAN OFFICER SHOWN IS MAJ JOHN WARRICK, WHO IS INSPECTING THE OPERATION (NARA 223O-390366 [ROLL 2-16])**

The Army even tried, within reason, to furnish foods specific to the cultural tastes of their prisoners. For instance, the Japanese were not used to eating beef, most having been raised on a diet consisting mainly of fish, so the Army arranged for the camps housing Japanese prisoners to receive a greater issue of fish than was standard in European prison camps. Rice was another ‘special’ food issued more to the Japanese than European prisoners. Many American foods created a bit of ‘culture shock’ to the Japanese. One of the more amusing stories concerning the rations issued to these prisoners occurred when many Japanese were first introduced to corn on the cob, a food that was totally alien to them. Some thought the kernels had to be peeled away to reveal the meat inside, much like a banana.<sup>137</sup>

The food and other supplies used to feed the prisoners came to most posts by the same railroad system that brought in the supplies for the GIs stationed on-post. Those camps not having direct rail access had the food brought by truck. In either case, it was moved to a central distribution warehouse located near the prison camps. A POW detail of KPs from each mess facility would then come to pick up their issue (Figure 6-15). They were furnished with handcarts, each marked with the mess hall number they represented. This allowed an accounting of what was issued to every kitchen by the post quartermaster who was responsible for all supplies issued.

Many prisoners supplemented their diets by growing their own food in gardens permitted and even encouraged by the Army (Figure 6-16, 6-17, and 6-18). Located within their compounds, these provided a way to both increase the amount and variety of fresh vegetables and add some foods not issued by the Army such as hot peppers. The Army furnished the tools and seeds while the prisoners did all the labor on their own time and without pay.

One final way to add variety to their diet was to buy candy, sodas, cookies and other sweets from the POW-run camp store, usually referred to by the military term “canteen.” Some post even allowed the sale of 3.2 beers, but only two bottles a day per man. This was the only place the credits earned from work and placed in the prisoners’ pay book could be spent. The canteens offered not just snack foods but also tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco (Figures 6-19 and 6-20). It also stocked items not issued by the Army, ranging from shaving soap and shampoo to playing cards. This was the only place a POW could get the little things that helped to make life in captivity a bit more bearable.



**FIGURE 6-15. DRAWING SUPPLIES FROM WAREHOUSE. THESE WERE LOADED INTO PUSHCARTS MARKED WITH EACH COMPANY'S DESIGNATION (NARA 308K—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-30])**



**FIGURE 6-16. ITALIAN POWS WORK IN THEIR VEGETABLE GARDEN IN UNIDENTIFIED PRISON CAMP TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR DAILY RATIONS, APRIL 1943 (NARA 182O-340225 [ROLL 1-28])**



**FIGURE 6-17. GERMAN POWS WORKING IN THEIR VEGETABLE GARDEN AT CAMP ALVIN, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 1944 (NARA 2230-390377 [ROLL 2-25])**



**FIGURE 6-18. ITALIAN POWS WORKING IN THEIR VEGETABLE GARDEN (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP) (NARA 177N-180071 [ROLL 6-9/10])**



**FIGURE 6-19. THE POW CAMP CANTEEN AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY. THE MEN WHO WORKED EARNED \$0.80 A DAY, PAID IN CANTEEN COUPONS. THEY COULD BUY CANDY, TOBACCO, SOFT DRINKS, AND OTHER NON-ISSUED ITEMS. PROFITS FROM THE CANTEEN WENT INTO A PRISONER WELFARE FUND, JULY 1944. (NARA 223O-390365 [SPACER FOR ROLL 2-15])**



**FIGURE 6-20. ITALIAN POWS AT CAMP CANTEEN (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP)  
(NARA 177N-180077 [ROLL 6-13/14])**

### **6.3 RECREATION**

Obviously even those men, mostly in their late teens and twenties, who worked the regulated eight-hour, five-day week had a considerable amount of ‘free time’ on their hands. How did the Army authorities provide distractions and outlets for their energy? Basically they treated the POWs’ free time almost exactly as they did GIs’ off-duty time. Recreational opportunities were made available to the POWs included sports; the production of theater activities, concerts and plays; the showing of movies, the use of day rooms, as well as the opportunity to enroll in educational activities located inside their camp area.

Sports were a popular pastime, whether the prisoner was a participant or a spectator. Without doubt, soccer was the number one sporting event for all the European prisoners (Figure 6-21 and 6-22). The POWs would form teams from within their compound, who would then play each other in serious competition. These teams wore special team colors, adding to the excitement. Photographs of some of these games show the spectators standing behind or seated on rail fencing. None show any type of bleacher seating. On those posts where more than one POW camp was housed, winning teams from each compound would often play in a round of elimination-style games. There is no evidence of teams traveling to other posts to play other prisoner teams. And, apparently to avoid causing trouble, German and Italian teams housed in camps on the same post never played against each other.



**FIGURE 6-21. GERMAN POWS PLAYING SOCCER AT CAMP OWASSO, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 1944  
(NARA 223O-390369 [ROLL 2-18])**



**FIGURE 6-22. GERMAN POWS PLAYING SOCCER AT UNIDENTIFIED CAMP  
(NARA 308K –UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-33])**

The favorite sport played by the Japanese was baseball, widely adopted from America in Japan before the war. Again, the Japanese selected teams and played against each other within their camps. Other popular sports were boxing, with matches becoming spectator events, and basketball; though many prisoners had little previous experience with this sport before arriving in America. They soon learned the game from the GIs and started their own teams.

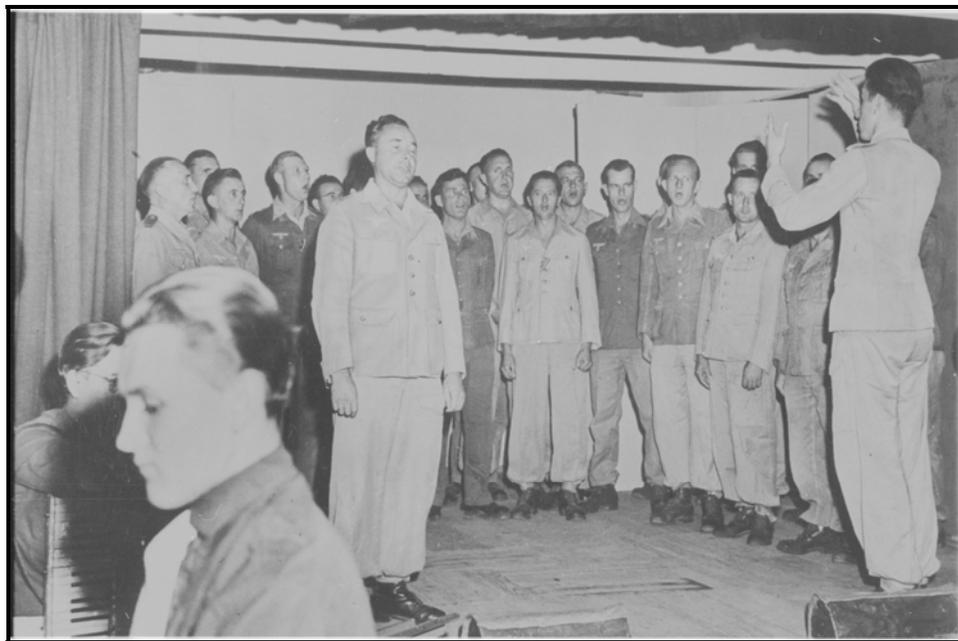
Besides sports, many camps, especially those containing officers, featured theatrical plays and concerts (Figures 6-23 through 6-26). As with the sports, those not directly participating benefited from watching and enjoying the show. Early in the POW program these productions were usually quite small and were often held in the day room or mess hall, buildings central to each company-sized area. As camps grew larger and more men wanted to become involved, actual theater buildings were constructed. These were used also for indoor meetings and the showing of movies. A remarkable set of images in the National Archives shows an elaborate outdoor stage, all made of logs and milled wood, under construction in an unnamed POW camp. Built at their own expense and on their own time, it is truly a beautiful structure considering the circumstances under which it was constructed (Figure 6-27).



**FIGURE 6-23. ITALIAN POW BAND AT CAMP OGDEN, UTAH, MAY 1944  
(NARA 220O-387224 [ROLL 1-23])**



**FIGURE 6-24. UNNAMED GERMAN OFFICER CONDUCTS 32-PIECE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT CAMP TRINIDAD, COLORADO, MAY 1944. HE STUDIED MUSIC IN BERLIN FOR SIX YEARS PRIOR TO THE WAR. THE ORCHESTRA, AND A SMALLER GROUP, PLAYED CONCERTS FROM CLASSICAL TO SWING MUSIC FOR POWs (NARA 309C—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM AMERICAN PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-20])**



**FIGURE 6-25. GERMAN POW OFFICERS SING IN CHOIR AT UNIDENTIFIED CAMP, APRIL 1944  
(NARA 309C–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM AMERICAN PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-21])**



**FIGURE 6-26. GERMAN POWS ON STAGE PREPARING FOR PLAY AT UNIDENTIFIED CAMP  
(NARA 309C–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM AMERICAN PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-22])**



**FIGURE 6-27. GERMAN POW CAMP THEATER BUILT AT POW EXPENSE AND TIME, UNIDENTIFIED CAMP (NARA 308A-Q–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM AMERICAN PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-7])**

Local civilian social or church groups who spoke the same language as the prisoners donated the sheet music, play scripts, and other written elements used in these productions. The Germans, in particular, received numerous offers of this type of assistance from German, mostly Protestant, church congregations all across the nation. The Italians got support from predominately Catholic churches and fraternal societies. These groups also furnished old musical instruments for the prisoners' use.

While church and civic groups helped in these regards, in most every other aspect of the prisoners' stay in America, the Army furnished all the equipment, sports uniforms and items necessary to support these activities. Though some civilians thought this was an unnecessary expense in time of war, the Army felt that if they could keep the POWs occupied with productive projects, there was less reason for trouble in the camps; an assumption proven to be overwhelmingly correct.

For day-to-day ways of passing time each company had a day room that the men could use in their off-duty periods up until lights out. Most day rooms were furnished in much the same fashion as those used by GIs in their cantonments. Most had a game room that might have several tables for card or board games like chess (Figure 6-28). Gambling was strictly prohibited. Photographs show that at least one dayroom, probably in an officers' camp, had an old, well-used, pool table.



**FIGURE 6-28. ITALIAN POWS PLAYING CARDS AT CAMP PERRY, OHIO, OCTOBER 1943  
(NARA 220O-387222 [ROLL 1-22])**

Other features included several writing desks, sometimes with pen and paper supplied. Since all mail had to be screened by the censors, when a prisoner was ready to send a letter he attached an addressed envelope to it with a paper clip. Once passed, the censor would then put it in the envelope and it would eventually be transferred to the IRC for delivery.

Since barracks can often be quite noisy, with people shouting and laughing, reading or quiet areas were set aside in each day room. The day room in many camps also served as a makeshift mailroom from which letters and packages from home were sorted and distributed to the men (Figure 6-29).

A variety of newspapers and magazines, often in the POWs language such as *Staats Zeitung Und Herold*, a German language newspaper published in New York, were furnished to German POW camps by the IRC. Other, camp-wide newsletters like *Die PW Woche (The Prisoner of War Weekly)* were actually printed in small press room operations right in the POW compound. Several prisoners working on the newspaper ‘staff’ would read stories usually published in English language publications and translate them into the POWs language, type the copy on a mimeograph paper and run off prints for distribution in the camp (Figures 6-30 and 6-31). It appears that some of these camp produced newspapers were distributed to smaller camps that had no printing facilities.



**FIGURE 6-29. ITALIAN POWS RECEIVE MAIL FROM HOME (CAMP PERRY), SEPTEMBER 1943 (NARA 182O-340229 [ROLL 1-31])**



**FIGURE 6-30. GERMAN POWS DISTRIBUTING THEIR CAMP NEWSLETTER, *DIE WICHE*, CAMP CARSON, COLORADO, OCTOBER 1943 (NARA 223O-390373 [ROLL 2-22])**



**FIGURE 6-31. GERMAN POWS WORKING IN EDITORIAL OFFICE OF DIE PW WOCH (THE PRISONER OF WAR WEEKLY), UNIDENTIFIED CAMP (NARA 309S–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-34])**

But, in spite of the freedoms given the prisoners to communicate in print with their comrades, some tried to take advantage of the situation. On 10 December 1943, the commander of the POW camp at Camp Carson, Colorado, wrote the PMGO requesting the immediate transfer from his post of one Staff Sergeant Albrecht to Camp Alva, Oklahoma, the repository for all the most strident Nazi prisoners. He explains, “Albrecht is editing a P/W newspaper which is very radical in content and which is a gross misstatement of fact. He is a Nazi agitator and it is felt that the camp will be benefited materially by his removal.” His transfer order to Alva was authorized on 14 December.<sup>138</sup>

Unlike prison camps for Allied soldiers in any of the enemy states, radios were furnished in each day room so the men could enjoy music, sports and even news (Figure 6-33). The Army felt by late 1944 that Allied victory was assured and wanted to share the progress of the war with their captives, in part to help prepare them for the inevitable defeat of their countries and their eventual return home to a defeated nation.

Many prisoners were fascinated with the freedom of the press they witnessed in American publications, ranging from newspapers to weekly magazines like *Time*, *Life*, *Saturday Evening Post* and many others. By mid 1944 it was not uncommon to find some articles critical of certain aspects of the war appearing in these journals. Men coming from authoritarian nations



**FIGURE 6-32. GERMAN POWS IN UNIDENTIFIED CAMP READ STAATS ZEITUNG UND HEROD, A GERMAN-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN NEW YORK CITY (NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-4])**



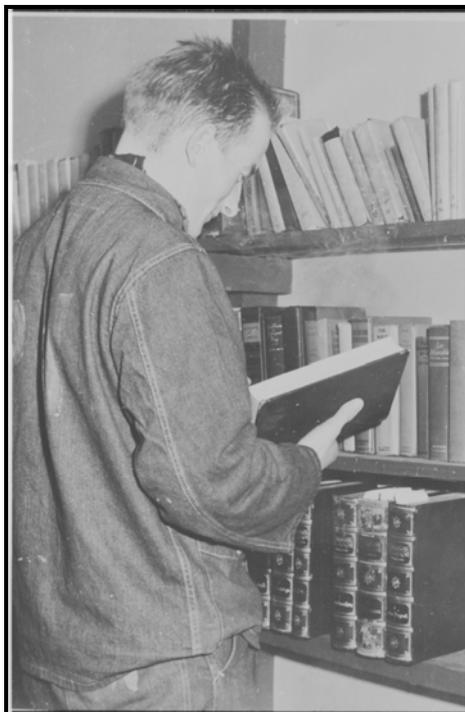
**FIGURE 6-33. ITALIAN POWS LISTEN TO A POPULAR MUSIC PROGRAM ON A RADIO FURNISHED BY THE U.S. ARMY (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP), SEPTEMBER 1943 (NARA 182O-340228 [ROLL 1-30])**

were overwhelmed by the extent that American people were allowed to openly question and criticize American leaders. This proved especially confusing to many POWs during the 1944 general election race. Most came from nations that had not known of an elected leader in years. While it was true Hitler was appointed Chancellor in 1933 after his Nazi party won enough seats to control the German parliament, he quickly abolished elections after gaining office. The Italians and the Japanese never had the right to vote. Many watched the election process with great interest.

One area that did cause concern was the reporting of the Allied victories on all fronts as the war in both theaters drew toward an end. By early 1945, Allied and Russian soldiers were fighting on German soil and the Third Reich neared collapse, while Japan was being progressively cut off from its overseas possessions. Many German and Japanese soldiers, especially those taken early in the war, had no idea how powerful and effective the Allied, particularly the American, war effort had grown. They did not believe their homelands were being bombed on a daily basis or that defeat of their nation was ever possible. Others, mostly Germans captured after the Normandy and Riviera invasions of France in the summer of 1944, were more willing to accept the American reports as true.

Other reading materials were made available in many of the larger camps with the establishment of libraries within the POW compounds (Figure 6-34). These contained donated books in the prisoners' native language. Most of the books were collected and given by the same groups supplying scripts for plays, etc., noted above. A prisoner could visit the camp library and check out a book to read back in his day room or barracks.

The final manner in which the prisoners received news was probably the simplest—by the company bulletin board (Figure 6-35). News was posted, in their language, on or near the building that served as the company mailroom, so that it was easier for the men to review the latest official news while attending mail call. Postings usually included camp rules, regulations, announcements of upcoming events, duty assignments and other important day-to-day information. In most cases, only the company leader or spokesman had the authority to post or remove documents from this panel. The camp commander provided the POW spokesman with information provided by the Army for the camp. He in turn passed it along down the chain of command to each company leader who was responsible to inform his men.



**FIGURE 6-34. LIBRARY FOR GERMAN POWS (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP) (NARA 309S—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-32])**



**FIGURE 6-35. GERMAN POWS READ THE LATEST WAR NEWS ON THE POW CAMP BULLETIN BOARD (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP) NOVEMBER 1944 (NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-6])**

Many of the prisoners had been skilled artisans and tradesman prior to entering the nations' military. Larger camps had craft shops in the compound where such men could spend their time in woodworking, painting and other similar pursuits. Samples of their work could be seen around most of the camps, ranging from elaborate decoration of their barracks to carved wooden statuettes to stonework or murals and other artworks found enhancing the grounds between the barracks (Figures 6-36 through 6-39). The Army authorities encouraged this expression as long as it was not used to present a political message.



**FIGURE 6-36. POW MURAL, CAMP ATTERBURY, INDIANA**

Starting in 1944 the Army supported the idea of allowing adult education classes to be held for off-duty prisoners. Subject matter was mostly selected to allow the student to better function while a POW and, after he returned home, to be able to contribute in the democratic rebuilding of their nations. Books and other materials were furnished again by a combination of Army and private sources. Instructors were usually Army officers or soldiers but, in some cases, civilian teachers volunteered for service. Curriculum included topics such as English, accounting math, history (with an obvious slant toward the American ideals of liberty and democracy), mechanical drawing and design, construction techniques and other topics (Figure 6-40).



**FIGURE 6-37. A GERMAN POW WORKS ON A SCULPTURE OF COMPOSER RICHARD WAGNER, CAMP DOUGLAS, WYOMING; SCULPTURE IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NARA 308K–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-28])**



**FIGURE 6-38. PAINTING ATTRIBUTED TO UNKNOWN POW, DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION DEPOT, SUSQUEHANNA, PENNSYLVANIA**



**FIGURE 6-39. THE STAR OF HOPE, SYMBOLIZING THE FAITH OF ITALIAN POWS AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, WAS DEDICATED AT THEIR COMPOUND BY CHAPLAIN FRANK THOMPSON, CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS AT THE POST. BUILT IN HONOR OF COLONEL THOMPSON, WHO RETIRED SOON AFTER, THE CONCRETE MONUMENT WAS BUILT BY THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES, MANY OF WHOM WERE FORMER ARTISANS IN ITALY. CENTER IS CHAPLAIN THOMPSON IN BLACK GOWN, WITH COL GEORGE CHESCHIER, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE POW CAMP ON HIS LEFT, AND LT RODERICK MACEACHEN, CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN FOR THE ITALIAN PRISONERS, ON THE RIGHT, DECEMBER 1944 (NARA 220O-387221 [ROLL 1-19])**



**FIGURE 6-40. POWS TAKING ENGLISH CLASS (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP) (NARA 310N-2—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-8])**

The Army also concerned itself with the spiritual life of its prisoners. Every POW camp had at least one chapel; these were used by all faiths jointly (Figures 6-41 and 6-42). Staffing was by the POWs themselves; however, leadership often proved a more difficult matter. For instance, one German camp leader requested that a priest from another camp be transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, as they had no one to hold mass or hear confessions. As explained, “The foregoing request is based on the antipathy which a considerable number of PW’s at this Camp seem to share, to having a German soldier make Catholic confession to a non-German priest.” The Army found such a priest, named Anton Goldsburger, a German Catholic chaplain then a POW at Camp Aliceville, Alabama, and made arrangements for his transfer to the camp at Leonard Wood.<sup>139</sup>

However, not all cases could be honored. The Germans at Camp Carson, Colorado, made a similar request for a Catholic chaplain in July 1945. The Army had to deny it due to a lack of enough POW chaplains to staff every camp.<sup>140</sup> Where clergy could not be found from within the ranks of the POW community itself, Army or, in some cases, civilian ministers and priests were employed. The same church groups noted above furnished hymnals and other published items in the prisoners’ language.<sup>141</sup> In some of the smaller camps the chapel building itself was often employed for non-religious functions such as classes and meetings out of bad weather.



**FIGURE 6-41. THE RUSTIC ALTAR WHICH WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE ITALIAN POWS AT FORT BENNING'S POW CAMP; IN THE PHOTO, CHAPLAIN MACEACHEN IS SAYING A CHRISTMAS MASS AS IT IS BEING RECORDED BY RADIO STATION WRBL FOR LATER BROADCAST TO ITALY VIA SHORTWAVE RADIO (NARA 2200-387219 [ROLL 1-18])**



**FIGURE 6-42. ABOUT 3,000 ITALIAN POWS ATTEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MASS WHICH WAS RECORDED BY RADIO STATION WRLB FOR REBROADCAST VIA SHORTWAVE RADIO TO ITALY FROM THE POW CAMP AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, DECEMBER 1943 (NARA 220O-387220 [ROLL 1-20])**

The Japanese, with their faith in Shinto Buddhism, proved somewhat more difficult. Monks and priests were virtually non-existent in the ranks of captured POWs. American-born Nisei clergy were mostly being held in Japanese internment camps, thus unable to offer any support to the Japanese POWs. Apparently at least some of the prisoners worked together to establish their own religious instruction from memory.<sup>142</sup>

## **6.4 MEDICAL CARE**

The last aspect of most prisoners' daily life involved the use of the medical services of the camp and post in which they were held. Almost all camps had a dispensary staffed by POW medics (Figure 6-43) to act as the first line of treatment for the sick or injured. All POWs were required to fill out a medical treatment card, listing past and current diseases and operations. The medics were given basic medicines to dispense such as aspirin, stomach remedies and muscle rubbing liniments. They could apply dressings to minor wounds and some were apparently allowed to perform minor suturing of small cuts. They were not authorized to perform any serious surgical treatments. Since most camps had no officers, including POW doctors or dentists, all major or life-threatening medical problems or emergencies had to be referred to the post medical clinic or hospital. Before a prisoner could be taken to such a facility, permission from the

camp commander or Officer of the Day had to be secured so that a guard could accompany the prisoner. If the man was too sick to walk on his own, a post ambulance would come into the camp to pick him up.

A few of the larger camps did gain POW doctors as they became available (Figures 6-43, 6-44 and 6-45). A large number of Italian doctors, probably captured in North Africa, arrived at Camp Monticello, Arkansas in the summer of 1943. They were soon distributed to camps needing their services. Camp Atterbury, Indiana, received two Italian medical officers per the camp's request on 9 September 1943. The order authorizing their transfer was "being made in order to supplement the present prisoner of war medical personnel at Camp Atterbury."<sup>143</sup> A second request, this time from Camp Clark, Missouri, was fulfilled by the transfer of three Italian doctors to that post, again coming from Camp Monticello.<sup>144</sup>

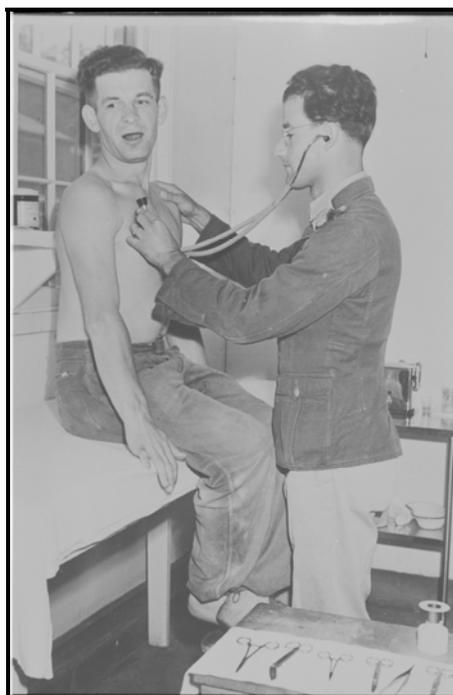


**FIGURE 6-43. A GERMAN POW, A TRAINED LABORATORY TECHNICIAN, WORKS IN THE DISPENSARY OF THE POW CAMP AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY (NARA 2230-390363 [ROLL 2-14])**

Doctor transfers could work both ways. A letter from the commander of the Italian POW camp at Fort Benning, Georgia, dated 21 March 1944, outlines his request that two of his Italian medical officers be transferred to another camp due to being "actively engaged in organizing Fascist groups within this Prisoner of War camp and persuading enlisted prisoners not to sign the Application for Service in Italian Service Units." He goes on to additionally request replacements for said transferred doctors to be sent. His request was approved on 7 April, with the two officers being moved to Camp Monticello. However, the authorization letter also states that new "...Italian medical officers are not available at this time."<sup>145</sup> While he got rid of one serious problem, the commander may have created a new one by not having any Italian doctors to treat his POW population.



**FIGURE 6-44. A GERMAN DENTIST WORKS ON FELLOW PRISONERS AT THE CLINIC AT CAMP FANNIN, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 1944 (NARA 2230-390381 [ROLL 2-27])**



**FIGURE 6-45. A GERMAN POW RECEIVES A MEDICAL CHECK FROM A FELLOW POW WORKING IN THE CAMP DISPENSARY (UNIDENTIFIED CAMP) (NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-12])**

With so few POW dentists available, those men requiring dental care usually were scheduled for an appointment, sometimes days away, at the post dental clinic; though American personnel always had

top priority. If the pain got to be too much, the tooth was usually quickly extracted in the post emergency room and the man returned to duty.

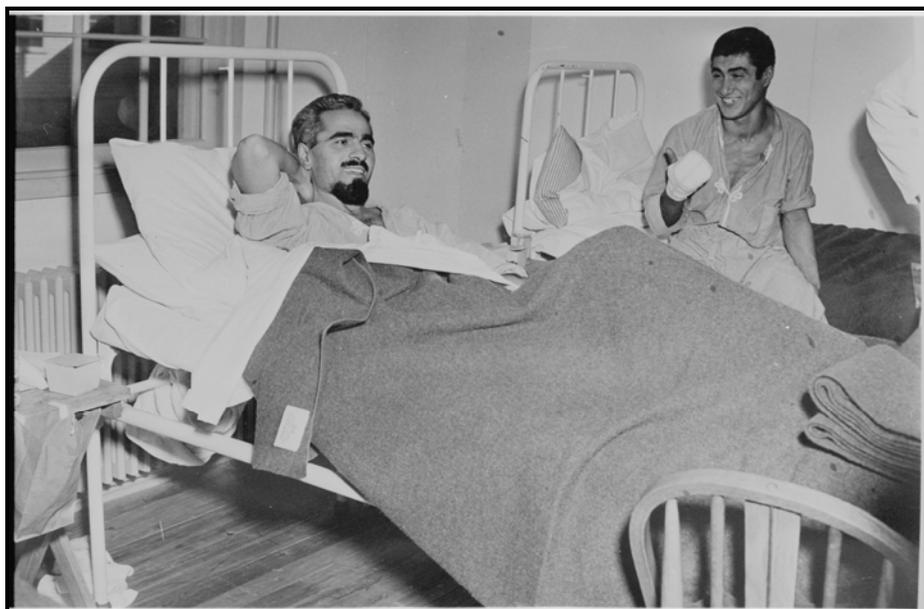
Prisoners requiring special care or treatment, such as prolonged recovery from heart attacks, cancer, or other potentially deadly diseases were often shipped to specialized Army hospitals for prolonged convalescent care (Figure 6-46). Some serious, but non-life threatening, cases were handled as routine transfers. German Sergeant Alex Pydd, a POW at Fort Benning, Georgia, was examined in the post hospital for severe headaches. In a transfer request from the camp surgeon to the PMGO dated 23 June 1944, the doctor outlines the problem as follows, “Sgt. Pydd received a skull fracture in an automobile accident in 1936. Since that time he has been troubled with severe headaches. All examinations...have been negative. Diagnosis is that of a post-concussion syndrome. There is an exacerbation of his headaches during hot weather. Therefore, it is recommended that he transferred to a cooler climate.” The request was granted and Pydd was transferred to the POW camp at Fort Custer, Michigan.<sup>146</sup>

Some prisoners even received psychiatric care. One of the more serious cases was that of Italian POW Attilio Forcucci who was held at Camp Clark, Missouri. A request from the camp commander was forwarded to the PMGO on 13 October 1943, stating that a board of doctors had examined the prisoner and asked that he be reassigned to a hospital capable of treating extreme mental illness. He had attempted suicide on four occasions and it was feared he was insane. The letter goes on to state that the facilities at Camp Clark were “inadequate at this station to properly care for this patient. He is difficult to handle...” Authority to transfer and commit him to an Army hospital in Long Island, New York, was issued on 14 October, just one day after the initial request.<sup>147</sup>

Even with the best medical care some prisoners still died of disease. Other causes of death were accidents. According to Army records at least 72 POW deaths were ruled suicides and 42 were murders by fellow prisoners. In most of these cases it proved almost impossible to find the guilty parties. However, in one case the seven men who murdered a fellow POW were uncovered, tried and the two ring leaders were executed by the Army, with President Harry S. Truman’s approval. The other five received long prison sentences.<sup>148</sup> A few POWs were shot and killed while trying to escape and at least 9 POWs were shot by guards that suffered mental disorders.<sup>149</sup>

Deceased POWs were placed in graves located near the POW compound. Burial of the dead was a formal ceremony (Figures 6-47 and 6-48). The POWs wore their tattered uniforms, marched with the body to the graveside and paid the deceased full military honors. Coffins were draped in the nation’s flag

(Figure 6-49). If it was a German funeral, often the Nazi salute was rendered. An honor guard of American MPs would fire a rifle salute over body. After the war, as the POW camps were being destroyed, the bodies were disinterred and most were returned to the nations from where they came for burial in family or military cemeteries.



**FIGURE 6-46. ITALIAN POWS IN HOSPITAL AT CAMP PERRY, OHIO, OCTOBER 1943 (NARA 220O-387223 [ROLL 1-21])**



**FIGURE 6-47. GERMAN POW OFFICER RECEIVES FULL MILITARY HONORS AT HIS FUNERAL. HIS NAME AND LOCATION ARE NOT GIVEN, SEPTEMBER 1943 (NARA 183O-340219 [ROLL 1-24])**



**FIGURE 6-48. AMERICAN SOLDIERS FIRE A SALUTE AT THE FUNERAL FOR POW RICHARD WENNINGER (RANK NOT GIVEN), HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 1943 AT CAMP MAXEY, TEXAS (NARA 1780-336-134 [ROLL 1-33])**



**FIGURE 6-49. GERMAN FUNERAL PROCESSION LEAVING THE POST CHAPEL, WITH FLAG-DRAPED CASKET, FORT CUSTER, MICHIGAN (NARA 2230-390371 [ROLL 2-20])**

## **7. THE POW WORK PROGRAM**

### **7.1 TREATMENT OF POWS**

The Convention allowed the use of POW labor with certain, specific restrictions. For instance, work was allowed as long as it was not done under “dangerous conditions” where the prisoner could be injured. The Convention also prohibited the employment of POW labor for jobs that would directly aid their captor’s war effort. However, the line between what directly aided the war effort and what did not became blurred. If a prisoner worked on a vehicle battery, it might end up in a family car in the next town or in a truck hauling men into combat. The Army tried its best to hold to the definition as it thought it applied. During their frequent inspections of the various POW camps across the nation, members of the IRC never reported any serious violation by Army authorities in the employment of POW labor in regards to aiding the American war effort.<sup>150</sup>

This was not true of the treatment of American and other Allied soldiers at the hands of our enemies. The labor policies and treatment of Allied prisoners taken by the Axis powers varied greatly, ranging from the Geneva Convention standards to practices bordering on slavery.

The Italians captured few American soldiers before Italy withdrew from the war in September 1943. Italy had captured large numbers of British and French soldiers during its campaigns in Southern France in 1940, and Greece and North Africa in 1941-1942. Most of these prisoners were returned to Italy and held in camps. They were not allowed to work for fear of escapes. When Italy abandoned the Axis cause in 1943, the Germans occupying most of the country took charge of these camps and moved the prisoners north into Germany, where they joined a vast number of Allied prisoners set up in POW camps.

The German treatment of prisoners from “western” nations such as Britain, France and America differed greatly from that of the Soviet troops captured in Russia. The western POWs were held in camps somewhat similar to those used to hold Axis prisoners in the United States, while many of the Russians were held in camps connected to concentration camps. The Nazis neglected to follow the Geneva Convention when dealing with their Russian prisoners; most suffered from mistreatment ranging from beatings, to starvation, to being worked to death in war-supporting industries as slave labor.

By contrast, the captivity of Western prisoners was within most IRC guidelines. During the early years of the war, up until 1944, few western Allied prisoners saw any work outside of their camps. As the manpower shortage increased in Germany some Allied POWs were employed on farms harvesting crops

and in factories making items like shoes and clothes. Some of these operations were set up within the prison camps themselves to prevent Allied bombings. No pay was offered but small increases in rations were promised to those who worked. As the aerial bombing campaign intensified in 1944-1945, some Allied prisoners were used to help clear city streets of rubble and bury the dead. But for the most part western POWs did not work outside of their camps.

The Japanese made no pretense of following the Convention. In fact, they had never signed the treaty and felt no obligation to abide by it. All POWs in their charge were subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment. All were required to work, often until they dropped dead from exhaustion. Thousands more were starved to death or died of disease. Life in the Japanese camps was a very different situation from the fate of those enemy soldiers held in American camps, housed and treated exactly as expected by the writers of the Convention.

It was not until early 1943, with manpower shortages starting to have a serious impact on American industry and farms that the War Department started putting a POW work program into motion. In the use of POW labor, the Army tried its best to adhere to the Convention to safeguard both the prisoners' rights and the government from any impact negative IRC reports would have on world opinion of America. In fact, when the American record is compared to any other nation in this respect, only Canada ranks on the same level as the U.S. in its care for the welfare and rights of its POW labor force. This probably had more to do with the fact the two nations were safe from large-scale enemy attack, unlike Britain and Australia that both suffered air raids and feared invasions.<sup>151</sup>

## **7.2 THE POW WORK PROGRAM**

Even before the start of the POW work program, all prison camps employed some of their POWs to perform routine jobs in maintaining the camps themselves. These men were at first unpaid, but as the program progressed, they were paid the standard wage. The jobs they performed included cooking, baking and KP as well grounds keepers who picked up trash, raked leaves, cut grass and trimmed trees in those camps which had them within their compounds. As a separate duty was the tending of the vegetable gardens most POW camp commanders allowed to be established to supplement the men's rations. Unpaid volunteers usually tended these gardens, although on at least one post the gardeners also were paid. The Richmond Army Air Base, Richmond, Virginia, reported on its weekly "Prisoner of War Camp Labor Report" for the week ending on 31 May 1945<sup>152</sup> that "2 (German) PW's employed as gardeners for PW vegetable garden."<sup>153</sup>

In most camps POWs did light construction work like the annual painting or mending of their billets and other buildings within their compound. The actual construction of “official” buildings, such as barracks, mess halls and chapels, was restricted to hired construction firms under contract with the Army. Other structures, such as POW theaters, craft shops and special library/day rooms the POWs themselves wished to add to their camps were permitted to be built by the men. They were not paid for this work and all the construction materials used had to be paid for from the POW fund. The Army furnished tools as well as electrical power and water. This was also true of the specialized decorative features some POWs added to their barracks and other buildings.

Some camps employed prisoners with special skills to assist the post community as a whole in select occupations which available soldiers or civilian contractors could not easily fill. These included professions such as shoe and clothing repair. Under the “remarks” section of the Labor Report filed by the camp commander of Camp Blanding, Florida, for the week ending on 31 May 1945, he states that German POWs had fixed 16 pairs of shoes and that other German POWs had been employed to mending 41 pieces of clothing.<sup>154</sup>

Prisoners with special skills were in great demand. One such case involved a highly trained blacksmith, whose assignment resulted in a series of memos between various officers ‘fighting’ over his transfer. German POW Paul Kohler, who was interned at the Ashford General Hospital, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, had a brother, Johann, being held in the POW compound at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. Johann requested the transfer of Paul to join him. The commander at Ashford wrote back that he would not transfer Paul because: “Kohler is physically able to do manual labor and has been continuously employed as a blacksmith and general mechanic in the post blacksmith shop since his arrival at this camp. Kohler’s mechanical ability makes him a valuable asset and [he] would be difficult to replace.” It was suggested that Johann instead transfer from McCoy to Ashford, but that was blocked by the commander at Camp McCoy who was also employing him as a blacksmith. The memos and requests started on 10 February 1944 and ran through at least 13 April without a firm indication as to which, if either, brother was eventually transferred.<sup>155</sup>

Other prisoners, usually those thought to be the most trustworthy, were employed in work on the military posts where their camps were located (Figure 7-1). Again, many of these jobs were much the same as those done in the POW camps; routine grounds cleaning and maintenance, light construction jobs, etc. In almost all of the posts housing POWs, these men were selected to work in the post laundry washing and pressing sheets and uniforms. There was additional employment in selected, non-military, areas such as vehicle maintenance (though they were not permitted to drive) and medically-trained

personnel were used on some posts to assist in clinics and hospitals. Work for this latter group ranged from treating minor problems to conducting routine nursing duties such as giving patients baths, feeding the disabled and changing bed linen. Like most of the prisoners working in the POW camps who received regular daily pay, most of these men were paid at the standard rate. This became an incentive for good behavior so men could earn more canteen coupons or credits in their savings accounts.<sup>156</sup>

Private contractors employed most of the prisoners in the POW labor program for jobs ranging from agriculture to light industry unconnected directly to the war effort. This employment was strictly guided by the Geneva Convention, restricting prisoner labor to no more than 10-hours a day, six days a week. However, due to the concerns voiced by many contractors and union leaders, who feared that cheaper prisoner labor could put American citizens out of work, the Army agreed to adopt the standard American work week of an 8-hour workday, five days a week, with no work for the private sector during national holidays. For security reasons as well as to meet agreements with the unions, POW labor was further restricted to working off-post only in daylight hours. As the war progressed, this latter rule relaxed somewhat, as recounted by Thompson.<sup>157</sup> He relates that several German POW bakers were allowed to start work in a civilian shop in the local town at 4 AM so the bread and pastries would be ready for morning customers. But this appears to be one of the few exceptions to the no work at night rule.<sup>158</sup>



**FIGURE 7-1. A GERMAN POW ACTS AS A CLERK IN THE CAMP DISPENSARY, FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS (NARA 309K—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-30])**

The Convention further stipulated that appropriate and adequate clothing must be furnished, and whatever tools were commonly needed to perform the job without undue risk to life or limb must be

issued to the men. Compulsion to work, either by force or from the withholding of basic needs such as food or medicine, was prohibited. However, the offer of pay, while not mandated, could be used as an incentive to get prisoners to work. Under the Convention all commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers were exempted from work, although the latter group could volunteer to work for additional pay.<sup>159</sup>

In the matter of pay, all enlisted POWs received a monthly stipend of \$3 in canteen coupons or in their savings accounts, whether they worked or not. Those prisoners signing up for work were paid \$ .80 per day for each day worked. Later in the war the rate was raised as high as \$1.20 a day for some occupations that proved harder to fill or required special skills. These jobs included outdoor work in harsh winter conditions such as cutting timber or gathering natural ice for use in industrial plants.<sup>160</sup>

Non-commissioned officers were paid \$5.00-\$10.00 per month, depending on rank. They were not required to work but they could volunteer to act in a supervisory capacity for additional pay. Generally they were employed at a rate of one NCO for every eight or ten lower ranking enlisted men. So many NCOs wanted this extra money that there were always too many of them waiting for employment. Many of the intercamp transfer requests for POW labor specified that only NCOs in the ratio of 1:10 be transferred with the enlisted prisoners. An example is found in a transfer order dated 11 May 1944, moving 750 German POWs from other camps to Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.<sup>161</sup> It specifies that the men must be able to perform “a full day of manual labor and that noncommissioned officers be limited to ten per cent (10%).”<sup>162</sup>

Commissioned officers were exempt from any physical labor by the Geneva Convention. They each received a monthly stipend of \$20.00-\$40.00 depending upon rank. Some, mostly those with a talent, earned extra money by performing musical concerts or plays (in English) for post officers, their families and other invited guests. During such performances a voluntary collection to be shared by the actors and musicians was taken. Some camps actually stopped the practice of taking up these collections because of complaints by non-participating officers that there was no way for them, without a similar talent, to earn this type of money.<sup>163</sup>

Another method for any prisoner to make more income was if he had a talent for drawing, painting or sculpture. The prisoners would often sell their work to the American guards and even to civilians off-post. In all of these transactions, the monies had to be paid to the camp commander so it could be credited to the prisoner's account. Under no circumstances was the POW permitted to receive actual money for fear it would aid in an escape.<sup>164</sup>

One area of deep concern for the Army was the contracting of POW labor to private businesses and farms. In peacetime, the Army never hired out its soldiers for civilian work, thus, it had no established mechanism to quickly adopt this policy. However, a system was worked out that allowed the contractor to pay the Army for the use of POW labor. This money was then used to pay the prisoners. In effect, the contractors were “renting” the POWs from the Army. Union leaders feared that the use of prisoner labor, which was held at a lower price than many union wages, would put their members out of work. The Army tried its best to work with the unions and some solutions were reached, such as no night or weekend work. But the reality was that the labor was needed to support the economy and keep America strong during the war. POWs were going to be used as much and in as many ways as possible to aid in the effort, regardless of union misgivings.<sup>165</sup>

Depending on location in the country, time of the year, and other factors, there was not always work available or not enough work for the number of men seeking a paying job. On some occasions a prisoner might only work a day to two a week because of bad weather or just not enough work requiring their employment, while others in the same camp but assigned to a different task worked every day possible.

To maintain an accounting of how many prisoners were working and in what jobs the camp commander was required to file a weekly report to chain of command. These reports were made by filling out a WD, PMG Form 27 adopted in 1943 (Figure 7-2). Each form required the name of the camp, the ending date of the period under consideration, and the nationality of the POWs being reported. Those camps with multiple nationalities of POWs had to do a separate form for each group. The commander would then fill in the proper number of “man days” worked in the different jobs listed. A ‘man day’ is the Army’s way of accounting for work hours performed, regardless of how many men it took to do the work. If 5 men each work only one day a week it would be reported as 5 man-days, the same would be true if only one man worked all 5 days. This system accounts well for the labor being produced but can not be used to accurately determine the number of men actually involved in the work. Later in the war a new form, WD AGO Form 19-21 (Figure 7-3), was adopted in July 1945. Though it gives a more accurate picture of the types of work being performed it too only reports on the number of man-days and not the actual number of personnel involved.<sup>166</sup>

Since many of the work sites were not located near enough to the POW camps for a daily commute of the prisoners, a system of branch camps was established with the POWs being relocated closer to their work sites. In total 511 branch camps were created, some holding between 250-750 men each. They had all the required necessities such as barracks and mess halls; most had a chapel/recreation



WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL PRISONER OF WAR CAMP LABOR REPORT				Reports Control Symbol M.G.A. 48 (R2)	
				P.M.O. OFFICE USE ONLY	
CAMP <b>FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA</b>				PERIOD ENDING <b>31 October 1945</b>	
BASE CAMP <b>FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA</b>				NATIONALITY <b>Italian</b>	
<b>Part I. TOTAL MAN-DAYS AND LABOR AVAILABILITY</b>					
1. TOTAL MAN-DAYS OF ALL PRISONERS IN THIS CAMP DURING THIS PERIOD:		OFFICERS	NCO'S <b>18</b>	PRIMATES <b>1362</b>	TOTAL <b>1380</b>
NONWORKERS			WORKERS		
2. REASON FOR NONWORKER STATUS:			3. WORK ASSIGNMENT STATUS:		
(a) PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO WORK			(a) WORKED		<b>217</b>
(b) TEMPORARY MEDICAL REASONS			(b) ASSIGNED, DID NOT WORK		
(c) DISCIPLINARY ACTION		<b>40</b>	(c) NOT ASSIGNED TO WORK		<b>917</b>
(d) NONWORKING OFFICERS			TOTAL, WORKED OR AVAILABLE		<b>1134</b>
(e) NONWORKING NCO'S			4. REST DAYS OF WORKERS		<b>206</b>
(f) OTHER REASONS (explain)			TOTAL MAN-DAYS, WORKERS		<b>1340</b>
TOTAL MAN-DAYS, NONWORKERS		<b>40</b>			
<b>Part II. MAN-DAYS WORKED, BY PROJECTS</b>					
PROJECT CODE	SHORT TITLE	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	PROJECT CODE	SHORT TITLE	TOTAL MAN-DAYS
<b>PW CAMP OVERHEAD</b>			<b>CONTRACT WORK</b>		
10	COMPANY AND STOCKADE, UNPAID		51	AGRICULTURE	
11	COMPANY AND STOCKADE, PAID	<b>101</b>	52	PULPWOOD, LOGS, AND LUMBER	
12	PW CANTEEN		53	MINING AND QUARRYING	
13	PW OFFICERS' ORDERLIES, COOKS		54	CONSTRUCTION	
14	PW MEDICAL		55	FOOD PROCESSING	
15	CAMP HEADQUARTERS		56	OTHER MANUFACTURING	
16	CAMP PW FUND		57	TRANSPORTATION	
19	OTHER PW CAMP (explain)		58	TRADE	
SUBTOTAL		<b>101</b>	59	OTHER NONGOVERNMENTAL	
<b>SERVICE COMMAND ACTIVITIES</b>			60	PUBLIC CONTRACT (explain)	
			SUBTOTAL		
21	SVC POST CONTRACT WORK		<b>NAVY WORK</b>		
22	SVC ACTIVITIES, THIS POST	<b>116</b>	71		
23	SVC ACTIVITIES, OTHER POSTS:				
SUBTOTAL			<b>RECAPITULATION</b>		
			PW CAMP OVERHEAD		<b>101</b>
			SERVICE COMMAND ACTIVITIES		<b>116</b>
			TECHNICAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES		
			ARMY AIR FORCES ACTIVITIES		
			CONTRACT WORK		
SUBTOTAL			NAVY WORK		
			TOTAL		<b>217</b>
41			* Must equal Part I, Item 3c.		

WD AGO FORM 19-21 Replaces WD PMG Form 27, rev., and WD AGO 19-21 (1 Apr 1945), which are obsolete.

16-45116-1

FIGURE 7-3. WD AGO FORM 19-21 (1945) (NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

facility. Often buildings were not available so tents were used. Due to shortages of specialized personnel among both the Army and the POWs, few of these camps had doctors available for the troops (including the guard force). Prisoner medics treated POW medical emergencies and, if it proved too serious, the sick or injured man was taken to the local hospital for treatment.<sup>167</sup>

Few of these camps had activities to occupy the men in their off-duty time. A rotation system was created in some camps so that the men (including the guard force, which was basically in the same situation as the prisoners) could, after about a month, move back to the main camp for a month to enjoy the more comfortable quarters. New men sent out to the branch camp would take their places. Some branch camps existed for only short periods of time, just until the harvest in the area was finished and then they would be closed. Some would be reopened the next year and others were not. The branch camps set up on a more permanent basis were usually upgraded over time, with day rooms and sports areas being constructed.<sup>168</sup>

The single largest sector employing POW labor was the vitally important occupation of farming. Tens of thousands of prisoners, German and Italian, worked on farms large and small performing tasks as varied as tilling the fields, planting new seeds, harvesting the crops and picking fruits and vegetables. Some even fought off snakes while working in the sugar cane fields of Florida. Besides the growing and harvesting of food products, other POWs worked in production of cotton, from planting it, to bailing it and preparing it for use in America's textile industry.<sup>169</sup>

To gather the substantial manpower often required to work the fields, especially for planting and harvest periods, large numbers of prisoners were transferred around the country much like migrant workers. Perhaps the single largest such move was the transfer of 5,000 German POWs from various camps in the Eighth Service Command to Camp Florence, Arizona in April 1945. The transfer order specifies that all these men should be "able-bodied," probably for farm work as there is no large industrial base located in this region.<sup>170</sup>

The farm jobs varied depending on the region of the country (Figures 7-4 and 7-5). For instance, in the southern states prisoners could find themselves employed picking apples in Virginia, pulling peanuts in Georgia or cutting sugar cane in Florida. Those men working in the cane fields often encountered rattlesnakes hiding in the brakes. When they found these snakes they would call to the guards who usually shot them. Other crops harvested by POWs included citrus fruits such as oranges and grapefruit.<sup>171 172</sup>



**FIGURE 7-4. GERMAN POWS WORKING IN A FIELD NEAR PEABODY, KANSAS, 1944  
(NARA 180N-180763 [ROLL #1-16])**



**FIGURE 7-5. GERMAN POWS PICKING POTATOES, CAMP HOULTON, MAINE  
(NARA 329N-222447 [ROLL 2-35])**

The prisoners working on the farms in the Midwest planted and harvested corn, wheat, hay, sugar beets and other large farm crops. Among the various tasks was the detasseling of hybrid corn to obtain

seeds for the next planting year.<sup>173</sup> California saw a large number of POWs used to work in the fields, performing tasks ranging from picking lettuce and other vegetables plus fruits including strawberries and oranges. POWs pulled potatoes in Idaho and picked apples in Washington.<sup>174</sup>

Among those selected to work in the fields of California was the one group of prisoners not employed by off-post contractors during the war. Japanese POWs were not offered the chance to work off-post during their captivity. There were several reasons for this. First was the fear of continued public hatred against them because of the attack on Pearl Harbor and, after 1944, the growing number of stories printed in the press of the cruel treatment of Allied prisoners by the Japanese army. Secondly, there were few interpreters available, not enough to accompany small parties away from the camp to overcome the language barrier. Thirdly, there was a serious problem of Japanese officers and enlisted men of their army and navy not getting along with each other and not accepting orders from each other's officers and NCOs. Since all POW work parties were under the leadership of at least a POW NCO, this could complicate trying to put Japanese labor parties together. Because there were so few Japanese POWs in America, only about 5,500, the Army decided it was not economical to hire them out to civilian contractors. The only exception to this policy occurred in October 1945 when the entire contingent of 3,500 Japanese POWs housed at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, was set to be repatriated home. They were ordered to stop to harvest vegetables in California in route to the Port of Embarkation at Angel Island, near San Diego<sup>175</sup> (Figure 7-6).

Another aspect related to agricultural employment also falls into the category of industrial production. One of America's largest industries in the 1940s was forestry, which included the growth and harvesting of trees for board lumber and pulpwood plus the production of associated goods such as turpentine. This was a vital war industry since the military was the primary consumer of wood products, from boards for the construction of the massive number of new posts being built worldwide, to lumber needed for the millions of wooden crates required to ship items from airplane parts to food and ammunition overseas (Figure 7-7).

The POWs worked in all these jobs, basically taking the trees from woods to mills to lumberyards to, in some cases, working on the finished products. Teams of prisoners cut stands of trees from New England and the pine forests of the southern states to the Pacific Northwest forests. Other teams loaded the trees on trucks for transport to mills, where yet other POWs processed them for cutting into boards and other whole wood products. If the timber was destined to be pulpwood, it was shipped to a plywood factory where prisoners loaded it onto conveyer belts for chipping and crushing. When mixed with water

and glue and pressed this becomes plywood. Whether raw boards or finished plywood, it was then loaded by prisoners onto railcars and/or trucks and shipped to its end user (Krammer 1996: 85) (Figure 7-8).



**FIGURE 7-6. JAPANESE POWS, CARRYING THEIR BELONGINGS, BOARD THE TRAIN AT CAMP MCCOY, WISCONSIN, FOR CALIFORNIA, WHERE THEY WILL AID IN THE HARVEST, OCTOBER 1945 (NARA 313Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-13])**



**FIGURE 7-7. TWO GERMAN POWS SAWING A LOG AS PART OF A LOGGING OPERATION NEAR CAMP LUFKIN, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 1944 (NARA 223O-390384 [ROLL 2-29])**



**FIGURE 7-8. GERMAN POWS STACKING FRESHLY CUT LUMBER IN THE W.A. ZEAGLER LUMBER COMPANY, LUFKIN, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 1944 (NARA 223O-390389 [ROLL 2-31])**

The number of prisoners used in some of these jobs ranged from a few hundred men to nearly 1,000 workers in one operation. For example, in December 1944, 850 German prisoners were transferred from the New York Port of Embarkation to Fort Eustis, Virginia, to join other POWs already housed there to assist in the production of pine trees into pulpwood.<sup>176</sup>

Maximizing the production of wood-based materials was considered so important to the war effort that 300 German prisoners were transferred to Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, in January 1945, to work on a timber salvage project after a hurricane hit Cape Cod. Their tasks, as outlined in detail by the camp commander, included “66 men for sawmill crews, 24 lumber handlers, 105 choppers and swamper, 10 truck drivers, 6 log hookers, 6 tractor drivers, 4 tool maintenance men, 2 bulldozer operators, 50 labors, 1 tractor service man, 2 clerks, 1 draftsman and 23 miscellaneous.”<sup>177</sup>

Wood production was so important to the economy that camp commanders whose POWs were involved in this industry reported the weekly output as separate entries on the weekly Labor Reports. For instance, the commander of the POW camp at Camp Gordon, Georgia, cited the following for the week ending December 16, 1944: “Wood Cutting (Pulpwood)” as “1481.5 cords cut” with “228.5 cords loaded”, ready to be moved to the sawmill.<sup>178</sup>



**FIGURE 7-9. GERMAN PRISONERS SPRAY PAINT U.S. ARMY HELMET LINERS, CAMP CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY, NOVEMBER 1944 (NARA 223O-390361 [ROLL #2-12])**

Aside from the large forestry operations conducted coast to coast by POW labor, POWs were also employed in various other industries, ranging from the canning of food to packing items for shipment to American forces overseas. Some of these occupations seem close to violating the restrictions against direct support of the enemy's war effort but the Army and American government ruled that they fell into the "acceptable" category.

Though there is little evidence of a large-scale use of prisoner labor in direct support of the war effort, it did occur. One such group of jobs consisted of fabricating and loading packing crates for aircraft parts bound for Army use. In his 30 April 1945, Labor Report the commander of the camp at Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, notes that 559 German prisoner man-days were employed in "loading and unloading crated gliders for the Air Corps Supply at this station." Since gliders are used by airborne troops in combat operations, this seems like a misuse of POW labor. A photograph taken at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, in November 1944 shows a German POW spray-painting a rack of American Army helmet liners (Figure 7-9), which again seems to be in direct support of the armed forces. But these small examples seem to be a rare use of prisoner labor in questionable work.<sup>179</sup>

However, the overwhelming industrial employment of POW workers was in the more common tasks (Figure 7-10). These ranged from working in textile mills, such as the Federal Compress &

Warehouse Company of Little Rock, Arkansas, where the prisoners moved bails of raw cotton in off the rail platform (Figure 7-11) and then moved crates of finished products back out to the platform and loaded them into railcars for shipment. Other POWs were employed working in various food canning operations across the nation.<sup>180</sup>



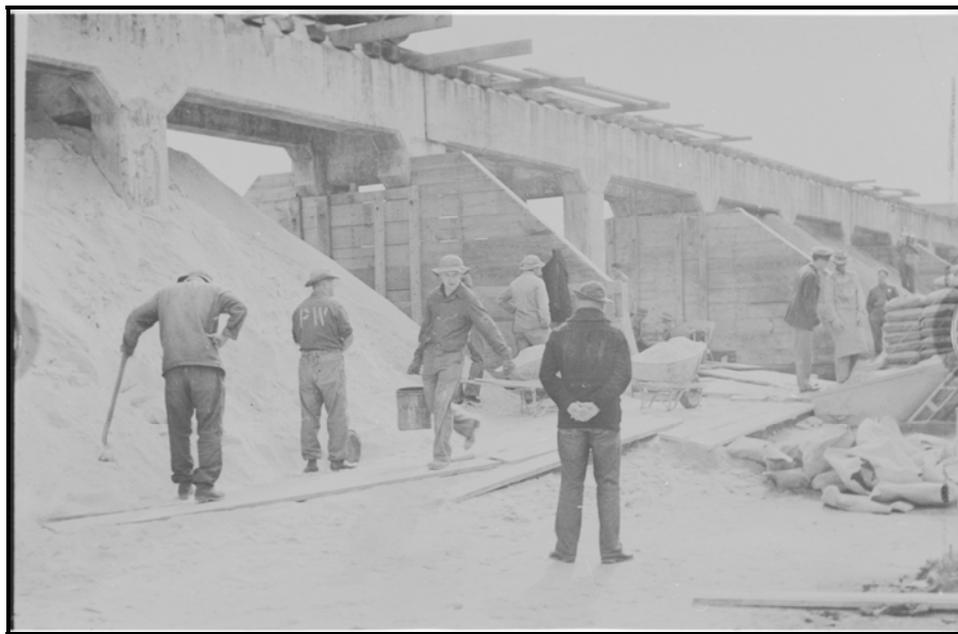
**FIGURE 7-10. GERMAN POWS WORKING IN THE CLOTHING WAREHOUSE AT CAMP BEALE, CALIFORNIA, APRIL 1945 (NARA 599-298085 [ROLL #3-16])**



**FIGURE 7-11. GERMAN POWS AT CAMP ROBINSON MOVE BAILS OF COTTON IN THE FEDERAL COMPRESS & WAREHOUSE CO., NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, NOVEMBER 1944 (NARA 2230-390374 [ROLL #2-23])**

Some prisoner labor was hired out to railroad contractors to work on rail bed maintenance. At least one such POW crew from Camp McClellan, Alabama, constructed a railroad viaduct as part of a spur extension near the post (Figure 7-12). Fifteen prisoners being transferred to a branch camp of Fort Jackson, South Carolina, were hired out to repair and maintain contractor automobiles and trucks.<sup>181</sup>

In the meat packing and other cold storage industries of the day, natural ice was used as much as possible to aid in refrigeration. Large numbers of POWs were sent to camps primarily in New England and the upper Midwest, where they were hired to contractors to ‘harvest’ this ice from clean lakes, streams and rivers. It required the men to cut the ice into blocks and move them to trucks for transport to waiting rail cars for cross-country shipment. Unlike other harvested goods that only grow once per season, this product regenerated itself overnight or in just a few days in the dead of winter so there was no shortage of material to harvest. This was hard, backbreaking work performed in often very cold and wet conditions. Many of the prisoners complained about the work and some refused to continue, even with increases in pay.<sup>182</sup> But enough new prisoners kept volunteering that there was little disruption in deliveries.<sup>183</sup>



**FIGURE 7-12. GERMAN POWS FROM FORT MCCLELLAN, ALABAMA, HELP CONSTRUCT A RAILROAD VIADUCT NEAR THE POST, 1944 (NARA 309J—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #4-26])**

One area not normally associated with POW labor is what, in peacetime military terminology, is often referred to as “Aid to Civil Authorities.” This is generally the use of the state’s National Guard forces to render service in the wake of natural disaster. However, since the entire National Guard had been mobilized and was serving overseas in the war, the states did not have a reservoir of young, able-bodied, men to draw upon in a crisis. So POW labor was often used to make up the difference.

The earliest recorded instance was the use of German POWs newly arrived at Camp Weingarten, Missouri, in May 1943. The prisoners had only just entered the camp about a week before the Mississippi River flooded over its banks and threatened nearby homes and farms. The Army was still in the process of developing its contractor program when the governor of Missouri requested its help in building sandbag levies to hold back the river. Immediately PMGO authorized the use of the POWs from Weingarten and soon Germans were working side-by-side with civilians and even soldiers from the post in erecting the levies. Their story was told to the entire nation in a photo essay published in *Life* magazine.<sup>184</sup>

In 1944 the Mississippi River and its tributaries again flooded prompting another call for POW labor to help stem the floods. This time German prisoners from Camp Grant, Illinois, built sandbag levies along the Mississippi itself while other German POWs did the same along the Platte River in Nebraska (Figures 7-13 and 7-14).



**FIGURE 7-13. GERMAN POWS STAND IN THE RAIN, WAITING TO BE DEPLOYED WITH SANDBAGS TO AID IN FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS NEAR CAMP GRANT, ILLINOIS, MARCH 1944 (NARA 223O-390368 [ROLL #2-17])**



**FIGURE 7-14. GERMAN POWS AFTER STACKING SANDBAGS TO FIGHT A FLOOD NEAR OMAHA, NEBRASKA, APRIL 1944 (NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #5-3])**

What remains unclear is if the POWs were paid for this duty. If so, was it money from the states, which in peacetime pay their Guardsmen for this service out of state funds, or did the Army such cover the expenses without reimbursement? No document or published source consulted mentioned who covered these costs.

### **7.3 ITALIAN SERVICE UNITS**

The creation of the Italian Service Units (ISU) was authorized by the Army soon after Italy became a co-belligerent by joining the Allied cause in November 1943. Soon after Italy's change in status, the Secretary of State, after consulting with the IRC, and with President Franklin Roosevelt's approval, issued an opinion that since America was no longer at war with Italy and that, in fact, Italy was now declared to be at war with Germany, that former Italian soldiers who wished to aid in the war effort should be free to do so. The ISU would only serve in the United States and, while directly supporting the American military effort, the units remained totally unarmed. Nor were any of the units or their personnel directly involved with the guarding, overseeing or in any other way allowed to interact with other POWs. Though similar units were created in Europe none of the units organized in America deployed to the continent until after the war ended<sup>185</sup> (Figure 7-15).



**FIGURE 7-15. ISU ARM PATCH (US ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM DIVISION: COLLECTIONS BRANCH)**

One of the major effects of this concept was that most Italian POWs, whether volunteers and selected to join the ISU or not, would find themselves being moved to new camps. ISU were organized at larger camps where they could be of the most help to Army authorities. Some of these camps had no Italian prisoners when the program started so all would have to be transferred in from other camps. Some of the camps with Italian POWs needed to move the men not selected for ISU to other camps for consolidation of the remaining Italian POWs in fewer camps. This also helped in making more space available for the increased number of German prisoners coming to America.<sup>186</sup>

Planning the doctrine and use of these units was tasked to the Army Service Forces. They developed a training program to teach the men the skills necessary to work on direct military support projects. The establishment of this program added a greater burden on the PMGO to transfer large numbers of former POWs to new camps set aside for this training and employment. Depending upon their future work assignment, most of the men in the classes were taught just those skills needed for their new jobs. Those who might find themselves working off-post were taught useful, everyday skills like American traffic signs and laws plus some very basic English. Once their training was finished, usually in just a few days, the men who completed the course (not all did) were organized into company-sized units, based upon U.S. Army Tables of Organization. Most of these companies numbered five officers and 177 NCOs and enlisted men each, although there were some variations. When assigned to larger posts some of these companies were further organized into a battalion, with both American and Italian commanders. These battalions, usually no larger than three companies each, could number as many as 550 men, all ranks.<sup>187</sup>

The types of units organized in the ISU included quartermaster service companies used to transport, store, and issue supplies to other ISU. Engineer base depot companies employed on military posts performed construction tasks ranging from erecting buildings and fabricating other structures to

paving roads and clearing forest areas to enhance training sites. Still other members of the ISU were assigned to truck and other vehicle maintenance companies to perform routine preventive maintenance and minor repairs. Several ISU transportation companies were organized to drive supply trucks. Some of these men would on occasion find themselves off-post to pick up materials. And other ISU personnel were trained to repair selected weapons systems, such as machine guns and antiaircraft guns.<sup>188</sup>

While some Italians remained pro-Fascist and expressed contempt for those who volunteered, other POWs apparently wanted to join but feared if word of their “collaboration” with the Americans reached back to those portions of Italy still under German control it could be harmful to their families. To give those interested a chance of joining without undue negative influence from fellow prisoners, officers of the Security and Intelligence Division (SID-formerly the Military Intelligence Division, MID) traveled to each of the 25 camps housing Italian POWs and conducted personal, one on one, interviews with almost 55,000 prospective recruits. From these interviews more than 34,700 men were selected to serve in the ISU at some point. They were eventually organized into 180 units, assigned to posts nationwide. To the Army, this represented the equivalent of three combat infantry divisions in the number of American troops it freed up for overseas duty.<sup>189</sup>

However, problems did occur. For instance, not one Italian soldier interviewed in Camp Hereford, Texas, was found to be acceptable into the program, as noted in a memorandum dated 1 May 1944. “A responsible officer (of the SID) was recently sent from this headquarters to Prisoner of War Camp, Hereford, Texas for the purposes of re-screening all Italian Prisoners of War there and found none eligible for Italian Service Units.”<sup>190</sup>

Other camps fared better. In March 1944, the commander at Fort Bliss, Texas, reported that he had 792 volunteers for ISU duty. Of these, only 22 were found to be pro- Fascist and thus eliminated from consideration.<sup>191</sup>

Finding Italian officers to command these units and to act as on-site supervisors proved less of a challenge. Officers were required to speak at least some basic English but otherwise the opportunity to join was unrestricted unless they voiced pro-Fascist sentiments. As the units began to take shape, Italian officers were being transferred into the camps housing the ISU. This brought them into contact with large numbers of their country’s enlisted men for the first time since arriving in America often more than a year earlier. Among the types of officers being transferred were doctors, such as the two moved from Camp Atterbury, Indiana, to Pine Camp, New York, to run the medial clinic of the newly organized quartermaster battalion at that post.<sup>192</sup>

Other officers were needed in various ISU to perform specific, highly technical tasks. A listing of required job skills for Fort Knox, Kentucky was forwarded to the Commanding General of the ISU program in October 1944. Among the skills sought in ISU officers were two chemists for sewage disposal and water filtration plant; one civil engineer to serve as a draftsman for construction projects; one ordnance or engineer officer demolition expert (probably to help clear “duds” left in artillery training impact areas on-post); one photographic technician; one film repair technician; one 16mm and 35mm projector specialist (assumed for projector repair); one laboratory expert—either bacteriologist or pathologist; one entomologist (sic) (study of insects) and one roentgenologist (x-ray) specialist.”<sup>193</sup> The commanding general approved the request but it is unclear how many of the requested officers with these skills were located and transferred to Fort Knox.

Despite the intense interview and screening process, some bad officers did get assigned to the ISU. A particularly poor choice was the commanding officer of the 6<sup>th</sup> Italian Quartermaster Service Company stationed at Camp Cooke, California. In a request for his transfer, the American commander states his reasons as follows

- “1. This officer is by nature highly nervous and although I have had many talks with him to try and help him in this respect, he has made no apparent improvement.
2. He persists in cursing and being overbearing toward the Italian enlisted personnel, both by group and individually, making references of a degrading nature about their families.
3. He wants to shift the Italian NCOs from jobs in which they are excellent, just to place some other man in the position, and invariably wants to change back within 24 hours to the original assignments.
4. He has no training or previous experience in the type of work this unit is expected to perform and very stubborn in accepting instructions or training.
5. He has offered no constructive ideas toward the accomplishment of any job.”<sup>194</sup>

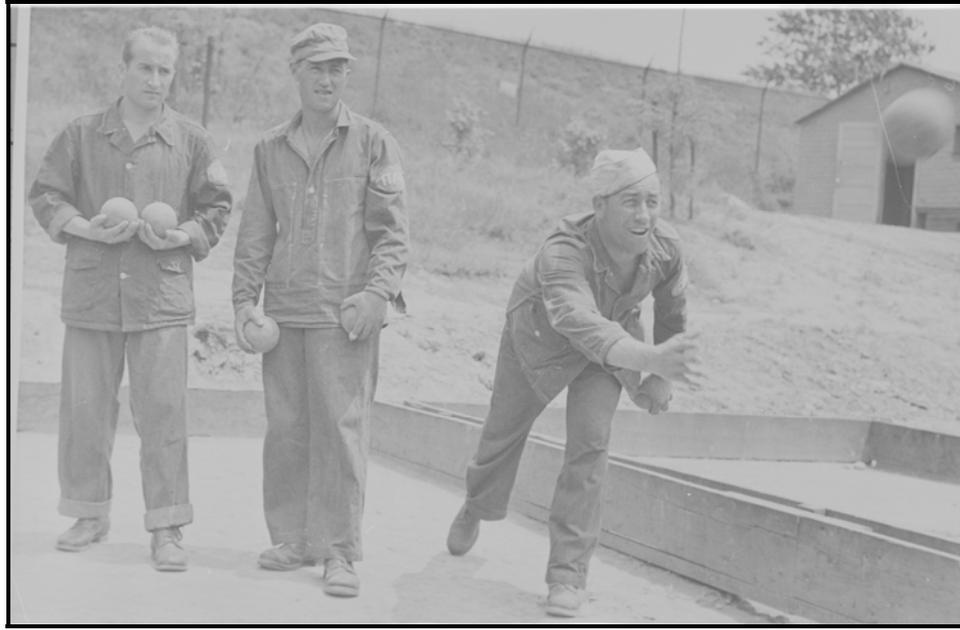
Then he makes his key point in requesting the transfer: “This officer is distrusted and hated by the Italian Enlisted men of this organization. The Italian EM have threatened to kill him on two recent occasions.”<sup>195</sup> He was soon transferred for his personal safety.

Those men selected for ISU were not “free,” like soldiers serving in the American Army. They still had restrictions placed upon them to safeguard themselves, the Army, and any civilians they might come in contact with during the performance of their duties. It was also important to the Army, from a public relations standpoint, that these units be greeted with acceptance by the American people. Since some of these former prisoners would indeed be working with little or no Army supervision off-post, only those thought to be the most trustworthy were assigned to units allowing them almost total freedom of movement.<sup>196</sup>

One restriction adopted to safeguard the public was in the uniform they were required to wear, especially when leaving post. It consisted of a khaki or medium green cotton shirt, trousers and cap. On the left sleeve of the shirt, just under the shoulder seam, appeared a dark green oval patch edged in black piping with the word “ITALY” in white block letters (Figure 7-16). These also appeared on some of the ISU caps seen in photographs. In cold weather the outer jacket or overcoat would also bear similar patches. This was the same concept as the stenciled “PW” worn by POWs on their blue denim outfits. In case of trouble, the man wearing such clothing was thought to be easily identified, even at a distance.<sup>197</sup>

Once finished with their training and after arriving at their assigned posts, the men were allowed the freedom of the post in their off-duty time. They could enjoy a movie, buy a Coke, use American sporting equipment and participate in activities such as boxing not usually offered to POWs (Figure 7-16). Selected men working in truck driving units were permitted to leave post on official business. They were not permitted to stop in town or have direct contact with civilians except in an official capacity. As a rule, all were required to be back on post by dark, unless accompanied by an American soldier on official business. However, as the war neared its end in 1945 the rules relaxed a bit and members of the ISU who proved themselves trustworthy were allowed to request a day pass on weekends to visit the local town. They still had to be on-post by lights out.<sup>198</sup>

Fraternization, especially with American women, was strictly forbidden. But human nature often overrides Army rules and some ISU members did strike up friendships with local ladies. In fact, at Camp Perry, Ohio, this led to Sunday visits by women bringing baked goods and other gifts from the town to the ISU camp. The Army tried to stop these interactions, with mixed results.<sup>199</sup>



**FIGURE 7-16. ITALIAN POWS ENLISTED INTO THE NEWLY ORGANIZED ISU BOWLING, FORT HAMILTON, NEW YORK (NARA 310N-2–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 4-2])**

As with any such program, not everybody even made an attempt to obey the rules. On 13 September 1945, the American commander of the ISU located at Fort Knox, Kentucky, requested the transfer of two members of his unit back at an Italian POW camp. He states his reasons for this request as follows. “(the men were) AWOL, Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, Suspected Stealing of Organization Rations, Causing Adverse Publicity of ISU, General Undersirability (sic) for service with ISU...”<sup>200</sup> After some dispute over the difficulty of arranging the transfers it was finally approved on 19 October, with the men being moved to Fort Eustis, Virginia. Since Fort Eustis was at this point a clearing station for POWs being returned to Europe, it is probably safe to assume these men were quickly shipped out of the country.

The pay of ISU members was initially based upon the base pay of American soldiers of comparable rank. Later, an across the board rate of \$24 per month for each man was established. This was on top of the base pay already paid to them as a POW. One third of their ISU money was paid in American cash with the balance credited to the member’s coupon or trust fund account. Participating officers were paid the \$24.00 on top of their monthly stipend.<sup>201</sup>

Since these men were allowed to directly support the American war effort, many were trained to clean and repair damaged weapons for reissue to soldiers in the field. An example is the ISU Company that was housed at Camp Perry and assigned to work at the Erie Proving Grounds machine shop. There

they stripped down and rebuilt 90mm antiaircraft guns. Some of the men proved quite good in their jobs, receiving praise from the American supervisors, while others wasted time and proved basically unproductive. This program lasted until the POW and ISU camps at Perry were finally closed down in late autumn, 1945.<sup>202</sup>

Soon after the end of the war in Europe, ISU began shipping back to Europe. Four quartermaster companies were sent, not to Italy as the men hoped, but to supply depots in Scotland, Belgium and even Germany. None were sent to Italy, although similar units organized by the American Army in theater did serve there. Those ISU that remained in the U.S. were gradually disbanded and the men returned home as individuals. It seems that the last of the ISU personnel to depart for home were 833 members transferred on 19 February 1946, to Camp Shanks, New York when Fort Eustis, Virginia, closed its Italian camps<sup>203</sup>. No further record has been uncovered of any ISU members still being in the U.S. after February 1946.<sup>204</sup>

By doing work that freed up thousands of American soldiers for overseas duty, these Italian soldiers helped win the war and rebuild a post-war Europe, left shattered in the war's aftermath.

## **8. PRISONER POLITICS**

In setting up the POW program, one of the Army's main concerns, based on advice from their British and Canadian counterparts, was to identify and segregate as much as possible the most strident pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist elements from the bulk of the POW population. From the Allied experience the U.S. Army learned this category of prisoner would engage in intimidation, beatings and even killing of their fellow prisoners if they thought or believed those prisoners to be less devoted to political leaders at home. The pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist elements also considered those prisoners who readily accepted their captivity and agreed without question to work for the Americans to be traitors to the causes against which their home nations were fighting.

Since the German forces, in particular, contained many men unwillingly conscripted from conquered lands, not surprisingly, many of them quickly abandoned any pretense of allegiance to Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime. They willingly cooperated with the Army authorities in all aspects of their captivity, causing little trouble. A number of them even volunteered to join in the American war effort, if not against the Germans (for fear of capture by the Nazis), than against the Japanese. One such prisoner was Heinrich Hubert who, though born in Germany, grew up in Holland and considered himself Dutch. In a two-page letter to the PMGO dated 22 May 1945 (two weeks after the war in Europe ended), he volunteered to serve in the American army to fight the Japanese, wanting nothing to do with Germany.<sup>205</sup> While the Army studied his and other similar proposals, it soon decided that it could not accept their service.

Other German forces prisoners requested American citizenship based upon a number of differing factors. Among these was Hermann Konietzko-Schierloth who, in a letter to the PMGO in December 1943, stated that he had two brothers, both of whom were born in Germany but were now serving in the United States Navy. One brother had become an American citizen before the war and he wanted to follow their example. As with the volunteers to fight Japan, none of these requests were granted during or in the immediate aftermath of the war.<sup>206</sup>

Nikolaj Martinow, a native-born Russian captured while serving with the German army, tried a different approach. He wrote that he had no living family left in Russia and wanted to live in America after the war and, therefore, requested citizenship. Like many others from non-German lands forced into the German army and then captured and brought to the United States, his request was denied. However, the Army did offer that if he declared himself a Soviet citizen and wanted to return to Russia, the Army would transfer him to Camp Rupert, Idaho, in preparation for his repatriation to Russia. There is no

indication in the file of how this offer was received or acted upon. A number of similar requests from other Russians were uncovered, all with this same offer but no indication of their decisions either.<sup>207</sup>

Many of the Italian troops captured in North Africa and Sicily were disgusted with the dictator Benito Mussolini and readily surrendered by the thousands in a quest to survive the war. However, even among this group of prisoners there were some that still supported the Fascist party and, like their pro-Nazi German comrades, needed to be segregated from the majority of Italian prisoners.

To define its position in these matters, the Army adopted the following policy, as expressed by Major General William Donovan, Chief of the Security and Intelligence Division and Director of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), in a 1944 memo to the Commanding Officer of the POW facility at Camp Swift, Texas. This camp had a number of incidents between pro- and anti-Nazi elements. The commander was advised that

“It is imperative that no prisoner of war suffer punishment or abuse at the hands of other prisoners of war. To prevent threats, beatings, injury or other untoward incidents immediate segregation of Nazi and anti-Nazi prisoners of war is desired.

To accomplish this, the Provost Marshal General has authorized the immediate transfer of a limited number of anti-Nazis prisoners of war and others who may be persecuted by fellow prisoners because of political beliefs.”<sup>208</sup>

As outlined above, the segregation process started at the Reception Centers. Some men arrived at the Centers already labeled “pro-Nazi” by the intelligence officers interviewing all POWs soon after capture, before they sailed to America. These men were immediately assigned to one of the camps designated for the most hardened Nazis. But not all pro-Nazis were discovered this way. In fact, large numbers were shipped to the more ‘neutral’ camps where men of less passionate political beliefs usually lived together in relative peace.

Easier to segregate at the Reception Centers were the German naval personnel from the army and air force (Luftwaffe) soldiers. Many of the German sailors, especially early in the war, were pro-Nazis and considered themselves an elite force. They looked down upon most of the soldiers.

How far the Army would go in expense and inconvenience in transferring large numbers of prisoners to maintain this policy of keeping men from these branches apart is demonstrated in an order marked “Secret” dated 22 May 1944. It first states that “Camp McCain, Mississippi, has been designated for the internment of German Navy officers and German Navy enlisted men, prisoners of war classified as Nazi.”<sup>209</sup> The memo then instructs the commander of Camp McCain to prepare to transfer “all German Army officers and enlisted men to Camp Ruston, Louisiana”<sup>210</sup> to make room for the incoming naval POWs. It further notes that:

“The 500 German Army POWs classified as Nazis, presently interned at McCain and now being used to operate the post laundries are to be interned in one of the end compounds and are to remain at that camp until a sufficient number of German Navy POWs are transferred to this camp to assume the operations of the post laundries.

The German Navy prisoners who will be transferred to this camp are to be interned in the opposite end compound. The middle compound is to remain vacant to provide proper segregation between the Army and Navy prisoners of war. When the German Navy POWs have been transferred to McCain in sufficient numbers to operate the post laundries the 500 German Army POWs are to be transferred ... (to camps within the Fourth Service Command area).”<sup>211</sup>

It is clear that the Army wanted to keep men from these two groups apart, even if it cost thousands of dollars and a large commitment of guard personnel to shuffle them from camp to camp. As late as August 1944, the Army was still transferring German naval POWs to Camp McCain. A letter to the Commanding General, Fourth Service Command, informed him that Camp McCain would receive approximately 700 German navy POWs from seven camps in the Seventh Service Command area in the next few days.<sup>212</sup>

The segregation of German army and navy personnel continued until the last week of the war in Europe when, on 1 May 1945, a memo to the PMGO arrived from the Captured Personnel and Material Branch, Military Intelligence Service, outlining a change in policy. It says; “At this time, it is not deemed necessary to continue segregating those few prisoners of war who are classified as naval prisoners.”<sup>213</sup> Within the week, Germany surrendered and soon many Army policies including the segregation of army and navy POWs were relaxed.

By far, the largest number of political problems amongst the prisoners was between those of pro-Nazi and anti-Nazi beliefs, regardless of branch. Even before the first large contingents of German POWs arrived from North Africa in the summer of 1943, some camp commanders noted problems. The commander of the prison camp at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, requested the immediate transfer of eight POWs, six of whom were of non-German nationality. All were being held in isolation either due to threats of, or actual attacks by, a small group of pro-Nazis “who” he states “comprise a radical element which is difficult for the (POWs) company leaders to control.”<sup>214</sup> Besides these eight men, he mentions two more prisoners “who are desirous of being transferred” but he goes on to state that they had not been interviewed “because they apparently are being accepted and to interview them in the face of the present situation appears inadvisable.”<sup>215</sup> The American commander of the camp was not in control of the situation; instead, a small group of staunch Nazis seem to have been running things inside the wire. The eight men were transferred, but these kinds of situations continued in POW camps across country.

While some commanders made various attempts to maintain order, most thought it best to remove either the trouble makers, if they could be specifically identified (not always easy in the state of tension of some camps), or their victims who were usually easier to identify.

Commanders often had to ask themselves, ‘what types of men were considered as “anti-Nazi?” It was not an easy question to answer. In January 1944, the POWs held at Camp Polk, Louisiana, staged a work stoppage strike so as not to help the American war effort. This action was the idea of the pro-Nazi elements in the camp. A side effect of the strike was that it reduced the amount of food coming into the compound, since the men detailed to receive the groceries from the camp quartermaster also refused to work. After just a few days the strike ended, due primarily to the hunger issue. The Americans made no overt attempts to end it by force.

On 4 February 1944, the Intelligence Officer of Camp Polk submitted the transfer requests of five different prisoners seeking to be moved to safety. During the strike the five men had become targets of the anger of the pro-Nazi leaders. The five came from varied backgrounds and had different reasons to fear for their lives. The five men included<sup>216</sup>

1. Wolfgang Knust, who, though born in Germany, had lived ten years in the United States (in fact his request states his mother was coming to Camp Polk to visit him). He was seen as very pro-U.S. having, in his own words, “always spoke up for the United States.” He was called a traitor and threatened with death.

2. Eugene Maxa, who was from Austria and had both his parents taken by the Nazis and placed in concentration camps. He hated the Nazis and stated, “Before I go back into the compound I will ask the American soldiers to shoot me.”
3. Helmut Scholz was from Silesia (a border area between Germany and Poland) and his mother was Polish. While working in the POW camp office, he had spoken with an American officer, which led the Nazis in the camp to call him a traitor and threaten his life.
4. Oscar Weight, who ran errands for “Major Morris” (an American camp officer), which led the Nazis to accuse him of “catering to the Jews” and threaten to cut his throat.
5. Phillipe Obmann, born in Rhineland, joined the French Foreign Legion about 1920, and was captured by the Germans in Tunisia. Because of his German birth, he was held as a prisoner for a period before being released, only to be captured by the Americans who suspected him of being German. He asked to be returned to the Legion (then part of the Free French forces fighting in Italy) and that he never considered himself a German, but a Frenchman.

On 18 February the request of all five was granted. They were transferred to Camp McCain, Mississippi, an anti-Nazi camp.

At about the same time, February 1944, another group of prisoners, this time six anti-Nazis held in the POW compound of North Camp Hood, Texas, requested transfer away from the pro-Nazis terrorizing their camp. The six men were transferred as recommended by the camp intelligence officer. He also recommended that the pro-Nazi ringleaders of the camp be removed to a pro-Nazi camp, however; no file concerning this request was uncovered.<sup>217</sup>

The power that pro-Nazis held over the balance of the prisoners was both psychological, denouncing some prisoners as “traitors,” and physical, using handmade weapons such as the “3 knives hidden away” described by one prisoner.<sup>218</sup> Other kinds of weapons employed by prisoners included clubs, ropes used to bind and even hang other prisoners, and a form of ‘brass knuckles’ made from a variety of available metals.<sup>219</sup>

With these weapons in the hands of the supporters of the pro-Nazi leaders, they were often able to control the entire compound from within. Some Army and camp authorities, seeing fewer problems in some of these Nazi-controlled camps, often looked the other way as long as the violence was not overt or manifested itself in serious injuries that would then bring inspections upon their facilities.<sup>220</sup>

Other camp commanders acted quickly in removing prisoners who posed potential problems from their care to camps designated for pro-Nazis such as the one at Camp Alva, Oklahoma. One case in point

is that of German prisoner Anton Wolfgang Guenther Guse, who was transferred on 3 September 1943, from Fort Meade, Maryland, to the POW camp at Fort McClellan, Alabama. While at Fort Meade, he gave no sign of trouble. Upon arrival at Fort McClellan, he willingly signed the normal agreement to work that all prisoners were asked to sign (as per the Geneva Convention). Soon after his arrival he began encouraging the other prisoners not to work, saying in part that, “for every month that you do not work in the United States, the German Government will pay you ten (10) dollars when you return to Germany.”<sup>221</sup> As soon as the camp commander became aware of his political troublemaking, it was requested that he be removed, as it was “believed that the transfer of this man from this camp will have an important influence on the actions of the other prisoners of war.”<sup>222</sup> On 23 September, less than three weeks after his arrival at Fort McClellan, he was ordered transferred to Camp Alva.

In the next month, October 1943, two other prisoners labeled as “Nazi Trouble-Makers” and as “agitators” were transferred to Alva from Camp Polk, Louisiana. Again, these men apparently did not speak of offering any violence but only wanted the prisoners to stop working for the Americans. This was enough for the camp commander to request their transfer, which was granted on 21 October.<sup>223</sup>

Guse and the two prisoners from Camp Polk were German enlisted men; however, not all of these problems were caused by just the lower ranking enlisted men. Often German NCOs caused problems. German officers also tried to encourage their fellow prisoners to offer non-violent resistance. Six such German officers, one of whom was a doctor, were accused of being the “ringleaders in camp disturbances,” encouraging their fellow prisoners at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, to “sabotage equipment in every way possible.”<sup>224</sup> It was requested that they be transferred to the officers’ compound at Camp Alva but no record of a transfer order was found.

While many of the pro-Nazi Germans came into the prison camps with unknown beliefs, others whose Nazi records were known were still sent to anti-Nazi camps. Two “fanatical Nazis”, who claimed to be “Gestapo SS Storm Troopers and 100% for the Fuhrer,”<sup>225</sup> were received at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, an anti-Nazi camp. They were immediately segregated from the rest of the prisoner population for their own protection and a request to transfer them to Camp Alva was forwarded. While the POW camp they came from, in Aliceville, Alabama, said they were “definitely Anti-Nazis,”<sup>226</sup> they either lied there or upon arrival at Camp Campbell.

Not all the Nazi threats or actions remained unfulfilled. On his first night at Fort Eustis, Virginia, Wilhelm Schroeder was attacked by several Nazis for writing a letter to an army officer aboard the transport ship bringing him to the Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation. In it he outlined his anti-Nazi and

pro-democratic opinions. Somehow it appeared that fellow prisoners, more pro-Nazi than him, got access to the letter and informed the pro-Nazis at Fort Eustis who attacked him. He was removed from the prisoner compound and held in protective custody waiting for transfer to an anti-Nazi camp.<sup>227</sup>

The POW compound at Camp Campbell, Kentucky, had problem with German First Sergeant Franz Carls, who beat a fellow prisoner after he expressed his desire to become an American citizen. He explained his reasoning to a visiting priest, stating that if he “did not use this method soon the entire camp would go over to the Americans.” He too was transferred to Camp Alva.<sup>228</sup>

Some of the assaults were so severe that the victim or victims died as a result of their injuries. German prisoner Hugo Krauss was beaten to death by an unstated number of other German POWs while interned at Camp Hearne, Texas, in June 1945. Eight witnesses were immediately transferred to other POW camps for their own protection while waiting for the trial to be held. None of these witnesses were called to testify and, finally, in February 1946, they were allowed to embark for home. It is not revealed why Krauss was killed, how many men took part, or what happened to those tried by the General Court-Martial.<sup>229</sup>

Other POW witnesses were quickly moved following the deaths of beaten prisoners to protect them both, before and after testifying. In the case of the beating death of Corporal Johann Kunze at Camp Tonkawa, Oklahoma, two prisoner witnesses were held at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, (site of the trial) and one at Camp Howze, Texas. After testifying all were moved to anti-Nazi camps outside the Eighth Service Command where the death and trial occurred. Five German NCOs were tried and convicted of the crime. After all the legal formalities of communication with the German government (via the International Red Cross) were completed the guilty men became the first foreign POWs executed by the United States in its history.<sup>230 231</sup>

No less than a riot among the prisoners occurred in Camp Blanding, Florida, on 22 December 1943. As outlined in a request to transfer 37 German enlisted personnel to anti-Nazi camps, the camp commanding officer relates the following story. He starts by saying, “there is evidence of two classes of Prisoners of War within the compound.” A post-riot investigation discovered that many of the men attacked had served in several regiments in the German army, which were thought of as “anti-Nazis and communists.” Others had been in the French Foreign Legion and expressed their desire to rejoin it to fight against the Germans. The 37 were transferred to other camps. No one died in the riot but its causes were just another form of friction among the POWs.<sup>232</sup>

One of the most serious incidents involving prisoner on prisoner violence actually resulted in American guards having to shoot seven prisoners, two of whom died. The Commanding Officer of the POW camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, relates that two German POWs were responsible for this event, as follows:

“Prisoner of War (Sgt Hans) Cordts, after the investigation, was found cooperating with factions in the compound which resulted in the beating of several prisoners. He also misrepresented to the Commanding Officer, this organization, the German holiday of 9<sup>th</sup> November, for which he is to be tried by court-martial. Prisoner of War (Pfc Wilhelm) Klocke, while acting as interpreter for the Camp Spokesman, on several occasions misrepresented conditions in the compound. At this camp he also participated in an altercation between several prisoners of war.”<sup>233</sup>

In the Second Endorsement to this request, further information was furnished including the following:

“Sgt. Cordts was the former camp spokesman at Fort Knox and Pfc Klocke was his interpreter. Between the two of the, they were largely responsible for recent unrest and disturbances at that installation, culminating in the shooting of seven Prisoners of war, two of whom died. It is important that these two men be transferred from Fort Know, Kentucky, as soon as possible.”<sup>234</sup>

What is not explained is exactly what role they played in the riot that caused the guard to shoot seven men, or why they were not being held for any punishment resulting from it.

While most trouble in the camps related to conflicts between pro-Nazi and anti-Nazi factions, there are also a few accounts of Italian Fascists having negative influences on men in their camps as well. These accounts are far fewer and none found involved violence. One case is that of two Italian soldiers and civilian policemen all brought to the POW camp at Ogden, Utah. As soon as they arrived, the camp commander requested their transfer based upon stories told by other men transferred in with them. The camp commander feared they would have a bad effect on the other Italians POWs. All three expressed anti-American sentiments, best summed up in the statement, “Italy and Germany are fighting for their rights...Americans are not fit to set foot on Italian soil.”<sup>235</sup>

One Italian soldier was captured with German forces and was naturally placed with German POWs at Camp Hood, Texas. However, he was not accepted by the Germans, who threatened him with harm. He became so afraid he displayed what a post doctor termed “psycho-neurotic manifestations...in the nature of Anorexia Nervosa.” Upon a personal interview with the camp’s executive officer it was determined he spoke fluent Italian, but German only with difficulty. There is no explanation of how he came to serve in the German Army. He was ordered transferred to Camp McCain, Mississippi, in February 1944. What is unclear from the available documentation is whether he was placed in a German camp or an Italian camp as recommended by the doctor.<sup>236</sup>

Punishments for political troublemakers and riots usually followed those proscribed for American soldiers convicted of the same crimes. These ranged from confinement in jail for minor infractions, such as two Italians who were locked up for 30 days “for insulting language, insubordination, and disrespectful manner” toward camp leadership, to execution by hanging for murder.

One other category of problem prisoners were those wanted back in Europe after the war to stand trial for war crimes. Two requests for the transfer of some of these prisoners were made by the PMGO to the commander of the POW camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in March 1946. They were to be transferred immediately to Fort Meade, Maryland, from where they would be taken by aircraft to Europe. One interesting aspect of these orders is that they rescind the ban on using handcuffs on these prisoners while in route.<sup>237</sup>

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## 9. REPATRIATION

On 8 May 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced to the American people that the war in Europe is over and that all German forces had surrendered. Workers flocked out of their offices to dance and celebrate in the streets of New York City. There is an interesting photograph showing a group of German prisoners standing on a pier in New York that same morning; instead of celebrating, they are watching a GI read a newspaper with a big banner headline about the surrender (Figure 9-1). These POWs have just arrived to join the more than 400,000 other POWs now interned in the United States.

Across the country, in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, Lieutenant Colonel E. R. Schuelke, commander of the POW camp located on post, reads the statement of surrender to the German camp spokesman to relay back to his men (Figure 9-2).

To many Germans the news of the end of the war led to mixed feelings. While they were happy they survived the war, they also worried about the fate of their families at home. They had seen newsreels and pictures in newspapers of the devastation of their country and wondered what they would return home to find. And above all, they wanted to know when they would be able to go home. For almost all, the answer was not for some months. For some it would be almost another year before they sailed home.<sup>238</sup>



**FIGURE 9-1. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CLARENCE AYERS READS THE NEWS OF V.E. DAY AS NEWLY ARRIVED GERMAN POWS STAND ON NEW YORK CITY PIER, 8 MAY 1945 (NARA 309CC–UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL #4-35/36])**



**FIGURE 9-2. THE GERMAN CAMP LEADER OF THE POWS AT CAMP SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS, IS OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF THE GERMAN SURRENDER IN EUROPE ON 8 MAY 1945 BY LTC E.R. SCHUELKE, CAMP COMMANDER (NARA 308A-Q—UNOFFICIAL IMAGE FROM ARMY PICTURE SERVICE [ROLL 5-5])**

Why so long? Several reasons can be given. First, the war with Japan was still raging in the Pacific with no foreseeable end in sight. This meant that while the fighting in Europe was over, tens of thousands of GIs over there started preparing for shipment, not to come home, but to being transferred to the Pacific. This in turn meant that the pressing labor shortage in America would continue and that the POWs, who had been working in various agricultural and industrial jobs, were still needed. In fact, with the end of the war, so ended most of the Geneva Convention imposed restrictions of the use of POW labor, so more jobs would open up for the prisoners to perform. Second, although the war was officially over, there were rumors of a last gasp Nazi assault to be staged out of the mountains of southern Germany. Until the Army was satisfied that no armed resistance movement was going to spring up, it saw no need to return potential combatants back to Germany. Third, much of Europe, especially all the major German cities and industrial plants, was devastated from the Allied bombings. Hundreds of thousands of citizens and former soldiers were homeless and hungry. The Army determined now was not the time to add more mouths to feed and bodies to house until some order could be brought to the situation. To help do this a small group of former POWs did sail for Europe. But they were not Germans heading home, but four ISU quartermaster companies who sailed for duty in Britain, Belgium and Germany.<sup>239</sup>

During the summer of 1945, most of the POWs continued to work in the fields and factories just as they had done before Germany surrendered. While the reasons for the delay in sending them home had

been explained and most understood, it was still hard to not know how long before they could ship out. Then on 2 September 1945, Japan formally surrendered and the entire world was at peace. Surely now they could quickly be sent home? In fact, the Army had been planning to send a large number of the Germans back to Europe, but not the men working in the fields or factories. Rather it was approximately 50,000 prisoners that the War Department termed as “useless.” This number included some men too sick to work, but the overwhelming majority was Nazis who refused to work and proved uncooperative. Representing a little more than 10 percent of the entire POW population, they were a drain on valuable resources for no benefit in return.<sup>240</sup>

However, when the word got out that the first Germans to go home were not the men who worked and cooperated with the Americans but the most radical members of the former regime, newspapers editorials and many members of Congress questioned the Army’s priorities. Why were they planning to send Nazis home when there was still the threat of resistance? So the Army backtracked a bit and reformulated its policy.

Helping this was the forecast of a severe winter in Europe for 1945-1946 that would mean an even higher demand for coal for heat than normal. The Army checked through the files of the ‘useless’ men and found 2,605 of them that had experience working in coal mines before the war. They were immediately sent home to mine coal. But when they arrived they were still treated as POWs. They were kept under guard, along with thousands of former Nazis never sent to America but still held in detention in Germany. This proved to be the solution. Soon other ‘useless’ Germans were sent home but not as free men. Now that the war was over, more pressure to make them work, like “no work, no eat” could be applied. Perhaps not surprisingly, few problems with these men occurred once they saw the damage to their country and finally accepted the fact the war and Nazism were over.<sup>241</sup>

The first large groups of former POWs to return home were Italians. More than half of the 54,000 Italian POWs brought to America were returned to Italy by the end of 1945. Most of these men were the non-members of the ISU. ISU organizations began disbanding and their men started shipping home late in 1945. The last recorded ISU organizations were disbanded at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in February 1946 and their men transferred to New York to sail home.<sup>242</sup>

But what of the more than 300,000 Germans not affected by the policy allowing Nazis to go home first? The Army was slow in arranging for them to return home. Finally in the late autumn of 1945 it released a timetable of POW transfers back to Europe. Krammer cites it as follows<sup>243</sup>:

December 1945	60,000
January 1946	70,000
February 1946	70,000
March 1946	83,000
April 1946	43,000

As might be imagined, not everybody was happy with this solution. American farmers and contractors saw the loss of cheap labor, especially since they did not know many local men would be coming home and able to work. More than 400,000 Americans died during the war, and an additional million more were wounded or seriously ill. How many fit young men were available to replace the POWs? No one was sure. But the decision to send them home to help rebuild their own country was made and would be kept.

And of course, most of the Germans were not happy about this turn of events. But not all found it disheartening. Who wants to go home to be cold and possibly hungry? Who knew if they had a home and in some cases, family, to return to? Some Germans liked America and even asked permission to remain in the United States and become citizens. All were denied. It was a firm American policy that all POWs must be repatriated back to the nation in whose army they were captured.<sup>244</sup>

This policy led to a number of problems. Many men serving in the German armies, especially those captured in France and Germany in 1944-1945 were not, in fact, German. They were conscripts from the many lands controlled by Germany and forced to join its army. Among these were French, Dutch, Czech, Polish, and Russian citizens. Many, like Marcel Pierre, wrote letters to the Army requesting to be released in their homelands. He states in part "I was born at Lixing near St. Avoird [in] Lorraine...On December 18, 1943 I was forced to be a soldier of the German Airforce but never had any enemy actions up to the time of being captured in September 1944..."<sup>245</sup> Hundreds of such letters with similar requests flooded into the PMGO. All were denied; the Army was firm in its policy that all men captured under German command would be returned to Germany for disposition and release.

For many of the Russians, in particular, this posed a problem. Once returned to Germany, screened and determined to be a Soviet citizen, they would be turned over to Russian authorities. Men from the Soviet Union (at this time led by Joseph Stalin, a dictator as ruthless as Adolf Hitler), taken in German uniform were suspected, whether true or not, of being traitors to Russia. Many were shot outright upon return. Most of the others were shipped off to work camps in Siberia, where many died of

disease and starvation. The American government was aware of this turn of events; in fact, it was openly reported in the newspapers. However, the agreement made between the United States government and the Soviet Union that all Soviet citizens would be returned.

The Army did establish a board to screen applicants who wished to plea for asylum. One such application dated 20 August 1945, was made by a POW held at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, named Vladimar Malinka. In his application he claims to have been born in the Ukraine, a state forced into the Soviet Union in the 1920s. He admits to voluntarily joining the German army to free his country from Soviet domination and states that he fears for his life if returned to the Russians. The letter back from the PMGO in reference to his request says he will be screened to determine his asylum status. No further record was discovered to indicate his fate. The chances are that he was returned to Germany and, from there, back to Soviet authorities. Few applicants could prove they faced impending death so they were returned. But by screening them at all, the Army seemed to hope to avoid the charge of aiding in any deaths relating to government policy.<sup>246</sup>

In one of those twists of fate that seem a bit ironic, all 5,400 Japanese POWs brought to camps in the U.S. would be home before the end of 1945. They started the U.S. involvement in the war and were the last nation to surrender. Yet they would all be back in Japan before most Europeans were returned home. The Army's reasoning was simple; as noted earlier in the discussion about POW labor, none of the Japanese were permitted to work off post. Given the policy of returning home the "useless" first, it is clear why they were sent home faster than most of the Germans. In fact, within days of the Japanese surrender, plans were already underway to return them to Japan.

On 7 September 1945, just five days after Japan's surrender, 83 Japanese POWs were ordered transferred from Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, to the Port of Embarkation at Angel Island, San Diego, California. On 5 October, they were followed by balance of more than 2,700 Japanese POWs as Camp McCoy closed out its Japanese POW camp. While these men were held enroute in California harvest crops (the only time they worked off post during their captivity) they were all still shipped home in December.<sup>247</sup>

No matter how long they had to wait, eventually all the POWs that survived the war finally got home. Over the years many have returned to the United States; some to visit their old camps and reminisce about their captivity; others came back to stay and become citizens of the nation who held them captive but treated them fairly.

## **10. APPLICATION OF THE HISTORIC CONTEXT IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF WORLD WAR II POW CAMPS**

Between 1942 and 1946, more than 900 POW camps were constructed in the United States. Of these, 218 were constructed within the boundaries of military installations. Since the end of the war in 1946, 136 of these installations have been closed and the land is no longer owned by the Department of Defense (DoD). As of July 2006, 82 of the installations that once housed POW camps remained in DoD control (Table 10-1).

**Table 10-1: Current DoD Installations that Housed World War II POW Camps**

<b>State</b>	<b>POW Camp Name</b>
Alabama	Camp Rucker (now Fort Rucker)
Arizona	Camp Navajo
Arizona	Camp Papago Park
Arizona	Davis Monthan AFB
Arizona	Florence Military Reservation
Arkansas	Camp Chaffee (now Fort Chaffee)
Arkansas	Camp Joseph T. Robinson
Arkansas	Pine Bluff Arsenal
California	Camp Beale (now Beale AFB)
California	Camp Cooke (later part of Vandenburg AFB)
California	Camp San Luis Obispo
California	Camp Roberts
Colorado	Camp Carson (now Fort Carson)
Connecticut	Bradley Field (Windsor Locks) IAP
Delaware	Bethany Beach
Delaware	Fort DuPont
Florida	Banana River NAS (now Patrick AFB)
Florida	Camp Blanding
Florida	Eglin Army Air Field (now Eglin Air Armament Center)
Florida	MacDill Field (AFB)
Florida	Naval Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field
Georgia	Camp Stewart (Fort Stewart)
Georgia	Fort Benning
Georgia	Fort Gordon
Georgia	Hunter Army Airfield
Georgia	Moody Field (Valdosta)
Indiana	Camp Atterbury
Indiana	Indiana Army Ammunition Plant (former Indiana Ordnance Works)
Kansas	Fort Leavenworth

**Table 10-1: Current DoD Installations that Housed World War II POW Camps**

State	POW Camp Name
Kansas	Fort Riley
Kentucky	Camp Campbell (Fort Campbell)
Kentucky	Fort Knox
Louisiana	Barksdale Field (Bossier City)
Louisiana	Camp Polk (Fort Polk)
Maine	Camp Keyesour
Maryland	Edgewood Arsenal (Aberdeen Proving Ground)
Maryland	Fort George G Meade
Massachusetts	Camp Edwards
Massachusetts	Fort Devens
Michigan	Camp Grayling
Minnesota	Camp Ripley
Mississippi	Camp McCain
Mississippi	Camp Shelby
Missouri	Camp Clark (Nevada)
Missouri	Camp Crowder (Neosho)
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood
Missouri	Sedalia Army Air Field (now Whiteman AFB)
New Jersey	SGT JW Joyce Kilmer USARC (former Camp Kilmer)
New Jersey	Fort Dix
New Jersey	Jersey City OM = Caven Point
New Mexico	Kirtland Field (AFB)
New York	Camp Pine = Pine Camp = Fort Drum
New York	Popolopen (renamed Camp Buckner)
North Carolina	Camp Mackall (next to Fort Bragg)
North Carolina	Fort Bragg
North Carolina	Seymour-Johnson Field
Ohio	Camp Perry
Oklahoma	Camp Gruber (Braggs)
Oklahoma	Fort Sill (National Historic Landmark)
Pennsylvania	Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna, Pennsylvania (formerly Camp New Cumberland)
Pennsylvania	Carlisle Barracks
Pennsylvania	Indiantown Gap Military Res
Pennsylvania	Middletown Air Depot (Harrisburg IAP)
Pennsylvania	Tobyhanna Military Res
Pennsylvania	Letterkenny Army Depot (Chambersburg)
South Carolina	Charleston AFB
Tennessee	Camp Forrest (now Arnold Engineering Development Center)
Tennessee	Nashville Army Air Center (Nashville IAP)
Texas	Camp Hood (Fort Hood)

**Table 10-1: Current DoD Installations that Housed World War II POW Camps**

State	POW Camp Name
Texas	Fort Bliss
Texas	Fort Sam Houston
Utah	Tooele Army Depot
Virginia	Camp Allen (part of Sewalls Point Naval Complex in Norfolk)
Virginia	Camp Lee (Fort Lee)
Virginia	Camp Peary (Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity)
Virginia	Camp Pickett (Fort Pickett)
Virginia	Fort Eustis (combined with Fort Story)
Virginia	Old Camp Shelton (part of Little Creek Amphibious Base)
Virginia	Defense Supply Center Richmond (former Richmond ASF Depot)
Washington	Fort Lewis
Wisconsin	Camp McCoy (Fort McCoy)
Wyoming	Fort F.E. Warren (former Fort DA Russell; now FE Warren AFB)

This chapter provides a discussion of the various property types associated with World War II POW camps and the application of this historic context to their evaluation. The presentation format, as well as much of the regulatory text in Sections 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4 is adapted from Chapter 5 of the Army’s historic context document, *Army Unaccompanied Personnel Housing 1946-1989*<sup>248</sup>.

## **10.1 PROPERTY TYPES ASSOCIATED WITH WORLD WAR II POW CAMPS**

As noted above, there were two categories of POW camps used in the United States during World War II; main or “base” camps usually developed on existing Army posts and “branch” camps designed to allow smaller numbers of prisoners to be closer to employment locations once the contract labor program was undertaken. Many of the branch camps were developed to allow short-term prisoner labor to harvest crops or do other seasonal work; some of these smaller camps consisted of tent compounds designed for one to two seasons. In other instances, particularly later in the war, POWs were housed in local armories. POWs assigned to work in military hospitals were housed in tent camps located adjacent to hospitals, or in unused staff quarters, where such facilities existed.

### **10.1.1 BASE CAMPS**

The base camps were usually located within the boundaries of existing military reservations, though there were some exceptions. Almost all of the base camps had direct rail access. If direct rail

access was not available, at least a railhead had to be close to the camp. If railroad access was not possible, a good, hard surface highway was necessary for transport and supply.<sup>249</sup>

Camp location minimally affected layout and design; though additional buildings, such as fire stations and medical clinics, were often constructed at the camps outside military reservations. For example, renovations of former CCC camps would include the alteration of existing buildings, usually wooden barracks, a wooden mess hall, and a recreation room. The Army would then lease nearby land for guard barracks and other facilities (including medical clinics and fire houses). A barbed wire fence and guard towers would be placed around the perimeter of the camp.

Most of the POW camps were constructed per standardized plans developed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers standardized plans for camps were tied to the proposed capacity of the camp (Figures A-1, A-2, and A-3). The standard layout was for a company of 250 men and included 5 barracks buildings, 1 latrine, 1 mess hall, 1 chapel (designed to hold 250 men), a day room and a work shop. Four companies, each with this standard layout, would comprise a battalion compound of 1,000 men. Often, an aerial view of the camp would show four identical arrangements of buildings located next to each other in an orderly manner. Battalion compounds were separated from one another on a single post. Several posts housed more than 5,000 POWs in separate compounds at one time.

While the construction of “official” buildings, such as barracks, mess halls and chapels, was restricted to hired construction firms under contract with the Army, other structures, such as theaters, craft shops and day rooms were built by the POWs themselves, if they chose to have them. This was also true of the specialized decorative features some POWs added to their barracks and other buildings.

Regardless of capacity, base camps all had the same minimum facilities and often looked the same. The essential spatial organization, buildings and structures found at the POW base camps are described below. Figures A-1, A-2, and A-3 in Appendix A provide illustrations of typical camp layouts, while the remaining figures in Appendix A illustrate variations of these designs at specific military installations. As the war continued, some installations created POW compounds from previous company barracks, simply enclosing the buildings within a fence (e.g., Fort Leonard Wood). A discussion of elements that contribute to the historic integrity of the camps and their features is included in section 10.2.3.

#### **10.1.1.1 Buildings**

Barracks. The basic Army barrack design (700- and 800-series, single floor, 33-man barrack) was used in the POW camps and, from the exterior, the buildings appeared ostensibly identical. Though

similar in appearance and basic construction, the barracks built for U.S. soldiers and the POWs had dramatic differences. First, the barracks for enlisted POWs were designed to accommodate 50 men each, whereas a comparable-sized Army barracks would house 33 men. POW housing was set up on an ‘open bay’ concept used by the Army. The open bay design consisted of one large empty room, filled with bunks and furniture that allowed little personal privacy. The Army barracks had private rooms for higher-ranking non-commissioned officers (NCO) to live separately from the lower ranking enlisted men. The POW versions had no separate rooms. When occupied by officers, who were allowed more room than enlisted personnel, wall lockers and temporary wooden walls subdivided the space. Second, the standard Army barracks usually had inside latrines, with open shower, sink and toilet areas. The POW camps had no latrine facilities in the living quarters; POWs used common latrine buildings designed to support several barracks together.

Most of the barracks were single-story and measured 2,000 square feet. This allowed 40 square feet per POW, given the planned capacity of 50 men per barrack. Officers were allowed 120 square feet of space, meaning that the same sized building could only accommodate 16 officers. Most of the barracks appear to have been built on top of a cement slab, the same size as the building. Concrete block piers were set upon this slab, raising the floor level about 2 feet off the ground, just as in Army barracks. Each barracks of this type had 12 windows on each side wall and two at each end next to a screened door.

Roofs were usually 35-degree pitched gables. Ventilation was provided by ducts that were located along the peak of the roof or by ventilation openings at each end of the roof truss. The usual roof sheathing was gypsum board. Outer wall coverings varied from unpainted black tarpaper or light-colored insulate to clapboard painted white. Gypsum board and laminated siding also were used. Figures 3-3, 3-4, and 3-9 in Chapter 3 provide photographs of barracks constructed with these different wall coverings.

While the description above applies to the buildings in most base camps, some camps featured unique barracks buildings. As mentioned in the narrative, Camp Blanding, Florida, housed its German Army POWs in “victory-type hutments” measuring 256 square feet (16’ x 16’), constructed in much the same style as a medium-sized Army tent of the period. At 40 square feet per enlisted man, this only allowed for 6-7 men per building. The buildings had high peaked roofs to allow for runoff of the heavy seasonal rains, and were painted in olive drab.

Mess Halls. Mess Halls followed the same design styles as their counterparts on typical Army posts (700- and 800-series single floor mess halls and day rooms). Mess halls measured 1,280 square feet (64’ x 20’). Like the barracks, outer wall finishes were varied. However, camp-wide wall finish was

consistent. The interiors of the mess halls were set up just like those used by American soldiers. The prisoners moved through the mess line in single-file to get their food served by other POWs working as “kitchen police” (commonly referred to as “KPs”). The prisoners then took a seat at a single-piece table constructed of heavy wood in the style of a picnic table (see figures 6-13 and 6-14).

Guard Towers. Base camp perimeters were punctuated with four or eight guard towers. The towers were located at the fence corners. At some of the larger camps additional towers were erected at the mid-line of the camp perimeter. Initially the guard towers were basic wooden frame boxes resting on four post column piers. The lower third of the boxes were mostly enclosed. Four vertical posts extended from the floor to support a roof. The upper two thirds of the boxes were left open so the guard could observe the camp. The boxes were erected to a height that placed the observation portion high enough to allow clear visibility of the compound perimeter. Each tower had a transversing searchlight. As the war progressed, guard towers did not change dramatically, but they did become more comfortable, incorporating windows that shut and a catwalk around the outside of the box. An Army Corps of Engineers typical plan drawing for a guard tower is presented in figure 3-1; figure 10-1 provides a photograph of tower located at an inflection point along a fence.

Stores. Within each camp compound there was a combination snack bar and small store (called the canteen) selling personal items not issued by the Army. The form and size of these buildings varied, but was usually simple and followed general military guidelines. The canteen at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, was similar in form to a barracks building, but was 33’ by 176’ in dimension, twice as large as a typical barracks. Interior photos of canteens are provided in figures 6-19 and 6-20.

Special Function Buildings. Additional buildings common to base camps include chapels, theaters, day rooms, and jails.<sup>250</sup> Each of these building types was constructed using the typical designs for such buildings on regular Army posts (700- and 800-series chapels, day rooms, theaters, jails). Like the barracks buildings, wall finishes could vary depending on availability of siding materials; however, camp-wide wall finish was consistent. Examples of these buildings on POW camps are provided in figure 3-9 (day room) and figure 6-27 (partially constructed theater).

#### **10.1.1.2 Structures**

Fencing. The camps were usually surrounded by two cyclone wire fences standing 8 feet high and topped with coiled barbed wire. There was a 12-foot space between the two fences where the ground was kept bare. A patrol road encircled the outer perimeter of the fence. Gates were placed at the entrance and any other location deemed necessary. Small, nondescript, guard sheds were constructed at the gates.

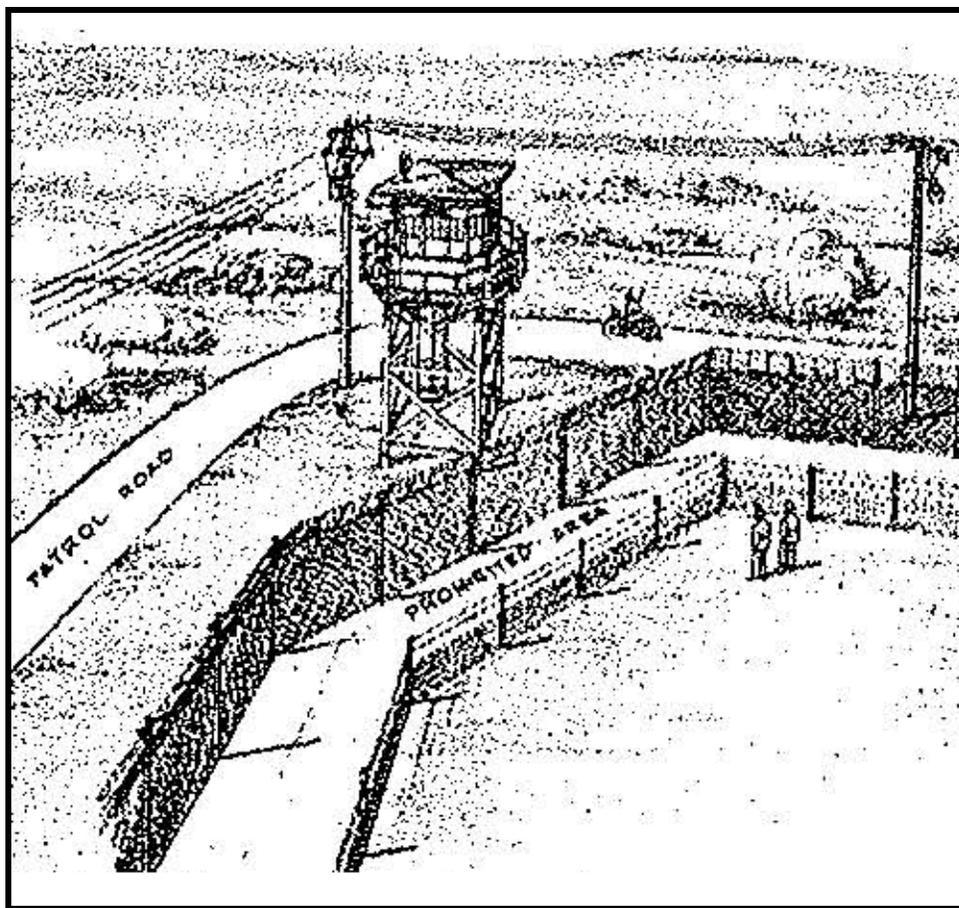
Figure 10-1 shows POW camp fencing and figure 10-2 is a drawing of a typical fence layout showing the patrol road clearing between inner and outer fences.

Miscellaneous structures and features. POWs were employed on military posts to perform tasks ranging from the construction of buildings and other structures to paving roads and clearing forest areas to enhance training sites. They were also hired out to railroad contractors to work on rail bed maintenance and construction. Moreover, the POWs tended their own vegetable and, sometimes, flower gardens.

At most camps, POWs shaped their landscape and decorated their buildings. This artistic work included decoration of their barracks, carving of wooden statuettes, stonework, and painting of murals and other artwork found enhancing the grounds between the barracks (Figures 5-37, 5-38, 10-3, 10-4, 10-5, 10-6, and 10-7). The Army authorities encouraged this expression as long as it was not used to present a political message. Supplies used in these endeavors were provided through a variety of sources. POWs could use a portion of their wages earned in the work program to purchase supplies at the canteen; POWs could put in a special request to the camp commander to order supplies; or local church groups or volunteer organizations might provide the supplies for a specific commission, either on- or off-camp.<sup>251</sup>



**FIGURE 10-1. FENCING AND GUARD TOWER (KRUSE 1946)**



**FIGURE 10-2. ARTIST'S RENDERING OF POW CAMP FENCING AND GUARD TOWER (KRUSE 1946)**

### **10.1.1.3 Open Space**

According to standards established by the Army, there had to be an open space of 40 feet between all buildings within a POW camp. A minimum of 200 square feet per man was required for setting up a recreation field. Camps planned for thousands of men were, therefore, quite large. The rectangular recreation field was usually located at one of the ends of the compound with the structures consolidated at the other end (see Appendix A). Recreational fields were used for outdoor exercise, soccer competitions, and periodic musters for announcements.

### **10.1.2 BRANCH CAMPS**

Branch camps were designed to be used for a limited time. When the project or work assignment for which the camp was constructed was completed, the branch camp either moved to a new location or it and its POWs and staff returned to the base camp for transfer to another location needing their services.<sup>252</sup>



**FIGURE 10-3. POW CONSTRUCTED SUNDIAL LOCATED AT CAMP GRUBER OKLAHOMA  
(PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMP GRUBER)**



**FIGURE 10-4. POW CONSTRUCTED MODEL OF THE BRANDENBURG GATE AT CAMP GRUBER  
OKLAHOMA (PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAMP GRUBER)**



**FIGURE 10-5. STONE “DER WIENER STEFFL” MOSAIC AT CAMP ROBINSON ARKANSAS  
(PHOTO REPRODUCED IN BUCHNER, C. ANDREW AND ERIC ALBERTSON 2005)**



**FIGURE 10-6. STONE CASTLE MOSAIC AT CAMP ROBINSON ARKANSAS  
(PHOTO REPRODUCED IN BUCHNER, C. ANDREW AND ERIC ALBERTSON 2005)**



**FIGURE 10-7. STONE SEAL AND CIGARETTE MOSAIC AT CAMP ROBINSON ARKANSAS  
(PHOTO REPRODUCED IN BUCHNER, C. ANDREW AND ERIC ALBERTSON 2005)**

The layout and construction of branch camps reflects this concept. There are no known existing branch camps with extant structures.

Branch camps were rather differentiated. Army policy dictated that former CCC buildings, existing facilities, or tents might be utilized at the discretion of the commanding general of the service command as long as renovation would be limited to minor repairs. In no event was additional housing to be constructed.

Since the availability of existing facilities could not be counted upon, the Army developed a “mobile unit” package that could be set up quickly to temporarily house 250 POWs (Figure A-3). It consisted of 42 tents, sized 16’ by 16’, allowing 6 or 7 men per tent. Seven additional tents of the same size were used as office and storage buildings. Four larger tents were used; one each, for mess hall, shower, latrine, and chapel/recreation purposes. This entire layout was set up in a compound bordered by a single wire fence that measured 282 by 550 feet (155,100 square feet). Portable guard towers, with searchlights, were placed at opposite corners of the compound to permit clear observation in the camp. Light poles were erected at intervals both inside and outside the camp. Guard tents were erected outside the fence.

## **10.2 REGULATORY OVERVIEW**

Cultural resources, including resources like World War II POW camps, are identified and managed by the DoD in accordance with Federal laws and internal DoD regulations. Cultural resources management can be seen as comprising three overall phases of investigation: identification, evaluation, and treatment.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 915, 16 U.S.C. 470, as amended, established the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the official list of properties significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. The NRHP includes properties that merit preservation and is an important planning tool that is updated continually to represent the many facets of American history. The NRHP is maintained by the Secretary of the Interior and administered by the National Park Service. The Department of the Interior has developed criteria defining the qualities of significance and integrity for listing properties in the NRHP (36 CFR Part 60).

To qualify for NRHP listing, properties must possess integrity and significance within an important historic context applying the National Register Criteria for evaluation. Resources generally must be at least 50 years old for NRHP designation. Resources that have achieved significance within the past 50 years may be eligible if they are integral parts of an historic district or meet one of seven criteria considerations necessary for individual designation.

Federal agencies are required to consider the effects of their undertakings on properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. In order to assess the effects of undertakings, Federal agencies identify and evaluate properties to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register prior to assessing project impacts. The Secretary of the Interior has developed standards and guidelines for both identification and evaluation.

### **10.2.1 RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

Historic properties must be located, or *identified*, in order to be included in the planning process. The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44716) define the Standards for Identification. These standards are:

**STANDARD I:** Identification of Historic Properties is undertaken to the Degree Required to Make Decisions

**STANDARD II:** Results of Identification are integrated into the Preservation Planning Process

**STANDARD III:** Identification Activities Include Explicit Procedures for Record Keeping and Information Distribution.

Identification activities include the development of a research design, archival research, field surveys, and analyses. The research design describes the objectives and methodology of the identification activities. The approach to identifying historic properties depends upon the goals of the survey and the information available.

#### **10.2.1.1 Objectives**

The objectives of the identification activity will determine the appropriate methodology. Identification of historic properties may be undertaken to:

- *Update existing survey information*

The identification of historic properties is an on going process. Inventories of an installation's historic properties may not include all properties associated with an installation's former World War II POW camp. Built resources associated with World War II POW camps are often difficult to distinguish from typical World War era construction, and some structures or features, such as tent pads or POW-constructed sculptures or gardens, are atypical built resources that may have been excluded in building surveys.

- *Gather information for the planning of a particular project*

An undertaking may be planned in an area that has not been surveyed previously for historic properties. Thus, the identification of historic properties may be limited to a single property, to a discrete area, or might encompass an entire installation. The research design for the identification activities should indicate clearly the objectives of the effort to identify historic properties.

#### **10.2.1.2 Methodology**

Once the objectives of the identification activities are determined, the appropriate methodology can be selected. For documenting World War II POW camps, a research design should identify all properties associated with a POW camp complex. The methodology should be designed to collect data to determine a property's historical functions, construction date, alterations or modifications, and historical relationship to the complex and to surrounding properties.

Archival research and field survey are the two primary means of identifying historic properties. Archival research provides information on what was constructed, why it was constructed, and where it was constructed. Primary sources include historic maps, historic photographs, real property records, completion reports, and original construction drawings. These materials are located in a variety of repositories, including: installation real property offices and engineering offices; installation, Command, or service wide history offices; installation and local museums or libraries; and the National Archives.

Secondary sources include installation or activity histories, nationwide historic context studies, and previous cultural resources studies. The Secretary of the Interior's *Guidelines for Identification* distinguish two categories of survey: reconnaissance and intensive<sup>253</sup>. Reconnaissance surveys provide general information about the location, distribution, and characteristics of properties. The purpose of intensive surveys is to document historic properties in sufficient detail to allow evaluation of their significance applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. Reconnaissance surveys can be useful in establishing boundaries of an area that needs intensive survey. Current installation maps and real property lists, with building numbers and dates of construction, are basic data necessary to conduct a field survey. These documents assist in identifying the properties that should be surveyed and in recording their location.

Survey documentation provides a written record of the survey efforts, including maps indicating the boundaries of the area surveyed and the location of properties identified during the survey, survey forms, photographs of surveyed properties, and a survey report. The survey report should describe the survey objectives, methodology, and results.

### **10.3 CAMP EVALUATIONS**

Once properties are identified, their historic significance can be evaluated. The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 44716) define the Standards for Evaluation. These standards are:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>STANDARD I:</b>   | Evaluation of the Significance of Historic Properties Uses Established Criteria  |
| <b>STANDARD II:</b>  | Evaluation of Significance Applies the Criteria within Historic Contexts   |
| <b>STANDARD III:</b> | Evaluation Results in a List or Inventory of Significant Properties That Is Consulted in Assigning Registration and Treatment Priorities |

**STANDARD IV:** Evaluation Results Are Made Available to the Public

The objective of the evaluation process is to identify historic properties, or those resources that require additional consideration and treatment. The accepted criteria used to evaluate historic properties are the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 60.4). To evaluate World War II POW camps, whether an entire complex or a single element, the following information about the property is needed:

1. Date constructed.
2. Type of construction, e.g. permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary.
3. Function of the particular buildings or structures.
4. Relation of the property to the POW Program.

**10.3.1 NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 60.4) were developed to assist in the evaluation of properties eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation are:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The National Park Service has published guidance for applying the criteria in *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*<sup>254</sup>. To qualify for the National Register, a property generally must be older than 50 years, must be associated with an important historic context, and must retain historic integrity.

### **10.3.2 NATIONAL REGISTER CATEGORIES OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

The NRHP includes real property of several different categories. The following definitions for the categories of historic properties considered for listing in the NRHP are taken from *National Register Bulletin 15*<sup>255</sup>. Where applicable, examples of World War II POW camp-related properties are provided to illustrate these categories.

- *Building*: A building, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction, is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. “Building” also may refer to a historically and functionally related complex, such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.
  - Examples: barracks, administration buildings, jail, mess hall, theater, chapel
- *Structure*: The term “structure” is used for constructions erected for purposes other than creating human shelter.
  - Examples: tent pads, irrigation ditches, lined walkways
- *Object*: The term "object" is used for resources, other than buildings and structures that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply constructed. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment.
  - Examples: POW-created sculptures, mosaics, murals, paintings, lost or discarded personal or domestic items.
- *Site*: A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.
  - Example: ruins of POW camps
- *District*: A district is a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Historic landscapes (historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and historic sites) are considered a type of District for the purposes of NRHP evaluation.
  - Example: POW camp compounds

### **10.3.3 EVALUATING PROPERTIES WITHIN THE WORLD WAR II POW CAMP HISTORIC CONTEXT**

Historic contexts are organizational frameworks that assist in interpreting the broad patterns or trends of history by grouping information related to a shared theme, geographic area, and time period. Historic contexts provide the framework for the application of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and the foundation for decisions about the comparative significance of properties. The significance of a property is best evaluated within the property's historic context.

The National Park Service offers guidelines in assessing the significance of a property within its historic context<sup>256</sup>. The language of the following guidelines has been adapted to apply to World War II POW Camps.

1. Identify the historic and current role(s) of the World War II POW camp compound and whether it represents the World War II POW camp Historic Context.
2. Determine if the World War II POW camp is significant in local, state, or national history.
3. Determine to what extent World War II POW camp-related property types are present;
4. Determine how the extant property types within the former World War II POW camp illustrate an important aspect of World War II POW camp history; and,
5. Determine whether the former World War II POW camp or any its component elements retain sufficient physical features to convey its significance.

#### **10.3.3.1 Issues Related to Evaluating Properties Using the World War II POW Camp Historic Context**

Historic District versus Individual Eligibility. While World War II POW camps, as a class of resources, may be significant, not every structure associated with former camps are eligible for listing in the NRHP. The framework established by the historic context for World War II POW camps focuses on the role of individual POW camps within the United States POW Program in order to assess its significance and the significance of its component resources. In general, former World War II POW camps first should be evaluated as potential districts.

Components of POW camps generally were constructed as part of a compound in which each building, structure, and object historically contributed to the mission of housing and guarding POWs. For component structures and buildings to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP within the context of World War II POW camps, they should (1) individually embody a significant artistic or architectural aesthetic of the POWs housed in the camp; or, (2) represent the location of a specific event or set of

events significant in the history of former POW or the POW program (e.g., the altar and stage from which the Christmas Mass was broadcast to thousands of POWs; the building that housed the printing press used to print NAME). Infrastructure and support buildings typically are not individually eligible.

Comparing Related Properties. During the process of evaluating a property's significance, the property usually is compared with other examples of the property type that illustrate the selected historic context. This is not necessary if (1) the property is the only surviving example of a property type that is important within the historic context or (2) the property distinctly has the characteristics necessary to represent the context (National Park Service 1998). In other cases, the property must be evaluated against other similar properties to determine its significance. For example, a former World War II POW camp should be compared historically and physically with other former World War II POW camps to determine whether it contains the components of a World War II POW camp and to assess its level of integrity.

Levels of Significance. The NRHP Criteria for Evaluation define three levels of significance: local, state, and national. The level of significance is based on the selection of geographic area, one of the three components of the framework of a historic context.<sup>257</sup>

Local historic contexts are related to the history of a town, city, county, or region. A property could be an example of a property type found in several places, but in a local historic context the significance of a property is assessed in terms of its importance to the local area. Although World War II POW camps constructed within military installations were small components of the larger installation, unlike other components whose importance largely hinged upon the importance of the installation as a whole, the presence of a POW camp had a considerable impact upon communities located in proximity to the installation. In the early years of the POW program, the proposed construction of a POW camp often brought protests from the local community due to fears that escaped POWs could harm community members; in later years, protests about the "luxurious conditions" of the camps compared to what the American soldier was provided became more frequent. Beyond the sensational aspect of having a camp within the local community; however, local communities were often the first to draw upon POW labor to help with agriculture, construction, or manufacture, and saw considerable economic benefit as a result. Local communities also benefited from the assistance that POWs provided during natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes. Men from local communities found jobs as guards at POW camps, local businesses sold goods and services to the camps (food stuffs, construction materials), and charitable groups (ethnic or religious) had new missions and a new audience in the POWs, as evidenced by the common practice of providing POWs with art supplies, reading material, theatrical supplies, and similar recreational materials.

State historic contexts are applied when a property represents an important aspect of state history. Examples of properties significant within a statewide historic context are not necessarily located in every part of the state, but are important to the history of the state as a whole. State Historic Preservation Offices have developed historic contexts relevant to state and local history; for example, the California State Historic Preservation Office includes a theme for POW camps and World War II internment camps in its state context. The assessment of a World War II POW camp to the level of state importance will need to be made on a site-specific basis. As noted in the narrative, 45 of the 48 states comprising the United States during World War II hosted POW camps. States with POW camps realized significant economic benefits as the war progressed, as POW labor enabled states to resume much of their agricultural, logging, or manufacturing production, and it became common for state governments to lobby the Army for POW labor and offer assistance in finding camp locations within their states. As noted above, POW labor also augmented the labor of the state's National Guard corps by providing assistance during natural disasters.

National historic contexts are related to aspects of history that affected the nation as a whole. A property that illustrates an aspect of national history should be evaluated within a national context. The POW program during World War II represented a huge investment in infrastructure, national security, and international relations for the United States. From constructing the camps, hiring and training the Guard force, transporting the POWs to their base camps and between base camps and work camps, and ensuring that life in the camps met the standards of the Geneva Convention, implementation of the POW program was a logistical challenge comparable to any of the major campaigns of the war. Given that the quality of life in the camps was regularly assessed and publicized to the international community by the Red Cross, maintaining camps in adequate condition had implications both for the United States' relationships with its allies, but also for how United States' prisoners were treated within enemy camps. Finally, treatment of prisoners within the camps, including re-education programs that highlighted the differences between the political dictatorships of Germany, Italy, and Japan with the democratic governments of the Western nations, had long-term implications for peace after the war ended. Given the national significance of the POW program, a national context is recommended as the appropriate context for assessing World War II POW camps.

The distinction between properties that are related to a national context and those that are nationally significant should be noted. Nationally significant properties illustrate the broad patterns of U.S. history, possess exceptional value or quality, and retain a high degree of integrity. Nationally significant properties are eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks. The National Historic Landmark Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR Part 65) are more stringent than the National Register Criteria.

#### **10.3.4 APPLYING THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**

Constructed and used between 1942 and 1946, World War II POW camps meet the 50-year standard for evaluation under the NRHP Criteria of Evaluation.

##### **10.3.4.1 Criterion A: Association with Events**

Criterion A of the National Register recognizes properties associated with events important in the broad patterns of U.S. history. These events can be of two types: (1) specific events or (2) patterns of events that occurred over time. World War II POW Camps embody the former in that they were constructed and used in direct association with the events of World War II. Specific POW camps or property types within POW camps may also be associated with specific events, such as escape attempts, disaster relief efforts, POW trials, or re-education programs.

A methodology for determining if a POW camp is significant under Criterion A within the World War II POW camp Historic Context is detailed as follows:

1. Determine the role of the POW camp, its historic associations, and current purposes;
2. Determine if the POW camp is associated with a specific event apart from the national POW program; and,
3. Evaluate the property's history to determine whether it is associated with the World War II POW camp Historic Context in an important way.

##### **10.3.4.2 Criterion B: Association with People**

Properties may be listed in the NRHP for their association with the productive lives of significant persons. The individual in question must have made contributions to history that can be specifically documented and that were important within a historic context. This criterion may be applicable to structures or objects created by individual POWs (e.g., famous artisans), to POW camps administered by historically important military personnel, or to camps that housed historically important POWs, such as the officers of the Rommel's *Afrika* Corps.

##### **10.3.4.3 Criterion C: Design/Construction**

To be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C, properties must meet at least one of the following four requirements: (1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; (2) represent the work of a master; (3) possess high artistic value; or, (4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. *National Register Bulletin 15*<sup>258</sup> defines "distinctive characteristics" as "the physical features or traits that

commonly recur” in properties. “Type, period, or method of construction” is defined as “the way certain properties are related to one another by cultural tradition or function, by dates of construction or style, or by choice or availability of materials and technology.”

World War II POW camps or their component buildings were constructed using standardized designs developed by the Quartermaster Corps, and included a mixture of permanent construction, mobilization structures, and temporary structures. As such, they may be considered to embody the characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; however, these characteristics are shared with all other World War II-era buildings and structures on military installations and are not specific to POW camps.

Within World War II POW camps, rare POW-constructed buildings, structures, or objects may qualify as the works of a master, in those instances where the designer, builder, or artisan was a recognized master within his own country, or as possessing high artistic value.

The term “significant and distinguishable entities” refers to historic properties that contain a collection of components that may lack individual distinction but form a significant and distinguishable whole. This portion of Criterion C applies only to districts. World War II POW camps constructed within military installations are most likely to meet Criterion C as they represent physically and functionally distinct compounds within the installation.

#### **10.3.4.4 Criterion D: Information Potential**

Properties may be listed in the NRHP if they have yielded, or might be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Two requirements must be met for a property to meet Criterion D: (1) the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to the understanding of history or prehistory; and, (2) the information must be considered important. This criterion generally applies to archaeological sites, which makes it a potentially important evaluation criterion for application of the World War II POW camp Historic Context.

Since many POW camps are in ruins or contain no structures, they are considered archaeological sites. An archaeological site is considered eligible if it possesses integrity in the form of features and/or artifacts that can contribute knowledge about our past. Sites can be evaluated using historic contexts or other similar sites identified at the local, regional or national level. The general history of World War II POW camps is well represented in the archival record, but the reconstruction of daily life at specific camps will depend ultimately on the data that can be gathered from oral histories, archival research, and the archaeological record. Therefore, a historic archaeological site that preserved sufficient data to

answer research questions concerning the daily life of POWs would be considered to be significant and eligible for nomination to the NRHP. For example, study of the pollen or residual plant remains in garden plots might provide information on crops used to supplement POW diets. Artifactual remains may provide information on the social status or interests of particular prisoners. In those instances where the archival record is minimal, the remnants of foundations and features can provide information on the camp layout and size.

Archaeological investigations conducted at the former POW camps at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Arkansas<sup>259</sup>, Camp Gruber in Oklahoma<sup>260</sup>, and Fort Chaffee in Arkansas<sup>261</sup> have found fairly abundant intact structural features of these camps, including concrete slab foundations, piers or footers, sidewalks, drainage ditches, and POW-constructed features such as garden areas, sculptures, mosaics, and monuments. Excavations around these features have encountered few artifacts, however, and no clear depositional stratum associated with occupation of the camps. Evidence for grading of the camp area prior to the construction of the various camp buildings and infrastructure is apparent in some areas; given that the camps were occupied for only 3 or 4 years, and within the recent past (60 years ago), it is not surprising that deposits are either lacking or superficial.

It should also be emphasized that the degree of preservation of the POW camp features at these locations is high compared to that at most installations. In each of these cases, the POW camp was somewhat isolated from the rest of the installation and, although the buildings were demolished after the war, the installation did not reuse the land beneath the camp for another activity. Similarly, the records associated with the POW camps at these installations appear to be fairly extensive, and include fairly detailed maps and photographs documenting the physical features of the camps. Again, research at the National Archives and responses to questionnaires by installation historians and cultural resources managers indicate that retention of adequate records is unusual; most installations that hosted POW camps retain few or limited records.

In summary, due to their short period of use (1942 to 1946 for the longest-used camps), these sites often do not retain significant archaeological deposits (buried strata) or artifacts, making it unlikely that excavation will yield significant information in most cases. As noted above, however, in those cases where the archival record is minimal, documentation of the positions of foundations and features can provide significant information on the size of the camp, how the camp was laid out in comparison to the standard plans, and the range of recreational activities (e.g., garden plots, special use buildings, sculptures) available to the POWs. Artifacts may also provide some information on the ethnicity of the POWs, if records are not available. In those cases where the archival record is intact; however, the

archaeological record at most POW camps is likely to provide only confirmatory data to support the information in the camp records.

### **10.3.5 INTEGRITY**

To meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, a property, in addition to possessing significance within a historic context, must have integrity. Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance through the retention of essential physical characteristics from its period of significance. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation list seven aspects of integrity. These aspects of integrity are:

**LOCATION:** Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

**DESIGN:** Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

**SETTING:** Setting is the physical environment of a historic property.

**MATERIALS:** Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

**WORKMANSHIP:** Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

**FEELING:** Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

**ASSOCIATION:** Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

A property eligible for the NRHP must possess several of these aspects of integrity.

The assessment of a property's integrity is rooted in its significance. The reasons a property is important should be established first, then the qualities necessary to convey that significance can be identified.

1. Determine the essential physical features that must be present for a property to represent its significance;

2. Determine whether the essential physical features are sufficiently visible to convey their significance;
3. Compare the property with similar properties if the physical features necessary to convey the significance are not well-defined; and,
4. Determine, based on the property's significance, which aspects of integrity are particularly important to the property in question and if they are intact.

To evaluate the integrity of a World War II POW camp as an historic district or historic landscape, the majority of the POW camp-related properties in the district must possess integrity to the identified period of significance. A sufficient number of resources must remain from the period of significance to represent that significance. In addition, the relationships among the districts' components, i.e., massing, arrangement of buildings, and installation plan, must be substantially unchanged since the period(s) of significance. A critical part of evaluating the integrity of a district should include an assessment of whether later building campaigns have disrupted the plan, changed configurations, or obscured the relationships between the buildings and structures.

The integral features of properties associated with World War II POW camps are delineated below.

#### **10.3.5.1 Open Space**

It would not be expected that open spaces would be eligible for the NRHP individually. Rather, they would be contributing elements to historic districts (designed or vernacular landscapes) or cultural landscapes. In order to maintain integrity, the open spaces must communicate the layout of the POW Camp. This may include recreational areas, clearings between buildings, gardens, and perimeter clearings.

#### **10.3.5.2 Buildings**

Buildings (including barracks, mess halls, stores, jails, guard towers, chapels and theaters) may retain integrity as individual structures, or as part of a historic district. In order to maintain individual integrity they must not have undergone significant modification to the interior or exterior plan, cladding, or fenestration. They must also be located in their original location. Minor modifications are acceptable, but the existence of original or similar (in design) windows, siding, decoration, and open interior space are important in communicating integrity.

Jail buildings should have the original cells in order to communicate integrity of design. Moreover, in buildings that were built by the POWs themselves (including theatres, stores, and day rooms), any evidence of unique craftsmanship might contribute to integrity.

Buildings that have lost integrity individually may still retain integrity as part of a historic district as long as they contribute to the feeling of the district as a POW camp.

### **10.3.5.3 Fencing**

A fence may retain integrity in one of two ways: (1) if the fence is still standing and the original or similar fencing material is still used, or (2) if the fence line is still obvious on the landscape. Other remaining associated features that would be necessary to contribute to integrity would be extant guardhouses and an extant perimeter road. Given that fences were constructed per standardized plans, integrity of feeling, design, materials, and workmanship, while potentially present, is not particularly significant. The fence must communicate its' association with the POW camp. Fences that have lost integrity individually may still retain integrity as part of a historic district as long as they contribute to the sense of the district as a POW camp.

### **10.3.5.4 Miscellaneous structures and objects**

Many of these varied structures could individually retain integrity, and/or contribute to historic districts. In either case they must communicate the activity of the POWs and, in the case of POWs' artistic expressions, be relatively unmodified. Original materials, location, and design must be maintained in order for the features to communicate integrity of workmanship, feeling, materials, and design.

### **10.3.5.5 Branch camps**

It is not expected that there are any buildings associated with the branch camps still standing. However, there may be structures, such as tent pads and light poles, and clearings still in existence. These features probably do not retain integrity because it would be difficult to ascertain a sense of feeling, workmanship, association, design, or materials these ephemeral camps. They might be considered to retain integrity as part of a larger context, such as agriculture during World War II, or as archaeological sites.

## **10.4 RESOURCE TREATMENT**

One of the DoD's responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is to assume control for preserving historic properties owned or controlled by the DoD in a

manner consistent with the mission. The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings* recommends four interrelated approaches to the treatment of historic properties, as follows:

**Preservation** focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it evolved over time. (Protection and stabilization also are included under this option.)

**Rehabilitation** is the process of returning a property to a useful state. This treatment encompasses altering or adding to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's character-defining features.

**Restoration** returns a property to particular period(s) of time. This treatment option may include the removal of later additions or changes, the repair of deteriorated elements, or the replacement of missing features.

**Reconstruction** recreates missing portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

Management of historic properties requires the development of appropriate treatment strategies. Choosing an appropriate treatment for a historic property should take into account a number of factors, including the property's historical significance, physical condition, proposed use, intended interpretation, and mandated building codes. Due to operation priorities defined by mission and funding limitations, preservation and rehabilitation will be the treatment options most often selected for historic properties related to World War II POW camps. Rehabilitation of buildings and structures provides a pragmatic approach appropriate to preservation when substantial upgrades and modifications are necessary for facilities to remain in continued use.

## **10.5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

DoD installations in the continental United States include a number of locations that served as POW camps between 1942 and 1946. Many of these encampments exist only in ruins or in installation records; or exist as isolated features, such as extant buildings, cemeteries, or landscape elements constructed by the prisoners (e.g., irrigation ditches, sidewalks, gardens). Not only do these camps represent cultural resources that may be eligible for nomination to the NRHP, but they also represent an important facet of history on the home front during World War II that remains largely undocumented.

In order to begin the process of recording the physical history of the United States' World War II POW camps, the next stage of DoD Legacy Project 05-256 is to document and evaluate ten representative camps on DoD installations. The ten representative camps will be selected from the inventory of installations still in DoD control that once housed World War II POW camps (Table 10-1), and this historic context applied to any extant features.

The former POW camps at Fort Chafee in Arkansas and Fort Carson in Colorado have been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP and found not to retain sufficient integrity or information content. The POW Camps at Camp Gruber in Oklahoma and Camp Robinson in Arkansas have been evaluated and deemed eligible for the NRHP as archaeological sites. The former is eligible under Criteria D and the latter is eligible under Criteria A, C, and D. Buildings associated with POW camps have been evaluated at Beale Air Force Base, Coronado Naval Air Station, and the Tracy Site (DDJC) in California, but found to lack integrity for eligibility. Stone lined drainage canals built by POWs at the Naval Supply Annex in Stockton California have been deemed eligible for the NRHP.

There also have been investigations of POW camps on property outside the jurisdiction of DoD property. A detailed study of the POW camp at Camp Hearne in Texas was completed, but no official determinations were made in regards to NRHP eligibility. A branch camp located in Arkansas, Blytheville, has received some archaeological attention, but it is unclear whether a determination of eligibility for the historic features has been made. It is located within the boundaries of a site that is listed on the NRHP as a multi-component prehistoric site. Other investigations have certainly been completed informally or without wide publication and, presumably, without determinations of eligibility.

A number of POW Camps still have extant features, including Camp Blanding in Florida, Camp Grayling in Michigan, Camp Perry in Ohio, Camp Atterbury in Indiana, Camp Keyes in Maine, Fort Benning in Georgia, Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, Seymour-Johnson Field in North Carolina, and Camp Ripley in Minnesota. These may be eligible for listing in the NRHP under the World War II POW Camp Context.

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## 12. ENDNOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Billinger 2000: 7

<sup>2</sup> Glueck 1944: 196

<sup>3</sup> Ibid: 246

<sup>4</sup> Fiedler 2003: 5

<sup>5</sup> Krammer cites only 431 by December 1942 (Krammer 1996:1)

<sup>6</sup> Krammer 1996: 1-2

<sup>7</sup> Correspondence file, Camps-General, Chart labeled “Prisoners of War To Be Transferred To The United States” undated (circa 1943); gives exact number of POWs captured in North Africa but only speculates on numbers to be captured in 1944 as 175,000 (Krammer 1996: 237; Billinger 2000: 8).

<sup>8</sup> Krammer 1996: 2

<sup>9</sup> Glueck 1944: 193,199

<sup>10</sup> Appleman 1971: 310

<sup>11</sup> Correspondence file, Camps-General, “Prisoners of War Camps”, 21 September 1943 (Koop 1988: 17)

<sup>12</sup> Koop 1988: 17

<sup>13</sup> Billinger 2000: xiii; Krammer 1996: 31

<sup>14</sup> Krammer, *passim*

<sup>15</sup> Ibid: 38, 170

<sup>16</sup> Ibid: 258

<sup>17</sup> Ibid: 5

<sup>18</sup> Billinger 2000: 7

<sup>19</sup> Cowley 2002: 14

<sup>20</sup> Buchner and Albertson 2005: 15

<sup>21</sup> Krammer 1996: 33, 35

<sup>22</sup> Billinger 2000: 8; Cowley 2002: 14-15

<sup>23</sup> Koop 1988: 9, 11

<sup>24</sup> Thompson 1993: 5-6

<sup>25</sup> Ibid: 21

<sup>26</sup> Ibid: 3

<sup>27</sup> Ibid:122-123

<sup>28</sup> Ibid: 135

<sup>29</sup> Ibid: 47

<sup>30</sup> Kruse 1946: 71; Thompson 1993: 21

<sup>31</sup> Construction Report, Camp Edwards, MA, 3 April 1944

<sup>32</sup> Kruse 1946: 71,74; Billinger 2000: 9

<sup>33</sup> Kruse 1946: 72-73; Thompson 1993: 40-41

<sup>34</sup> Correspondence-General File, Memorandum No. S580-7-43, 3 August 1943.

<sup>35</sup> Krammer 1996: 35-36

<sup>36</sup> Correspondence-General File, Memorandum No. S580-6-43, 1 August 1943); also mentioned in notes on blueprint for Camp Pickett (Appendix A).

<sup>37</sup> Krammer 1996: 33

<sup>38</sup> Godburn 1977

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Billinger 2000: 9-10

<sup>41</sup> Buchner and Albertson 2005:14

<sup>42</sup> Camp Pickett blueprint notes (1943) (Appendix A)

<sup>43</sup> Inspection reports, Fort Devens, MA, dated 19 May 1944, page 6

<sup>44</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Meade, MD, 5 August through 20 September 1944

<sup>45</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Meade, MD, 5 August through 20 September 1944

<sup>46</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Florence, AZ, 27 April 1945.

<sup>47</sup> Kruse 1946: 71

<sup>48</sup> Krammer 1996: 33

<sup>49</sup> Correspondence- General file, Assistant Provost Marshall General, “Subject: Establishment of Temporary Prisoner of War Camps”, 30 June 1943.

<sup>50</sup> Correspondence-General file, Adjutant General Office, Memorandum No. S580-4-43, 22 July 1943; also noted in Krammer 1996: 88.

<sup>51</sup> Krammer 1996: 72

<sup>52</sup> Correspondence- General file, “Overhead for Temporary Prisoner of War Camp for 250 and 500”, Headquarters, Fourth Service Command, September 1943.

<sup>53</sup> Correspondence –General file, Memorandum for Chief, Camp Operations Branch, 10 August 1944.

<sup>54</sup> Correspondence –General file, Memorandum for Chief, Camp Operations Branch, 10 August 1944

<sup>55</sup> Krammer 1996: 88; Cowley 2002: 51-52

<sup>56</sup> Krammer 1996: 88; Buchner and Albertson 2005: 19

<sup>57</sup> Buchner and Albertson 2005: 19; Cowley 2002: 49

<sup>58</sup> Correspondence file – Camp Edwards, MA, 18 July 1944; Inspection reports, Camp Edwards, NA, 10 April 1945 and 14 September 1945.

<sup>59</sup> Krammer 1996: 26-27; Billinger 2000: 7

<sup>60</sup> Correspondence – General file “Construction of Prisoner of War Camps”, dated 26 July 1943.

<sup>61</sup> Correspondence – General file “Special Recap of Prisoner of War Housing” dated 8 August 1944.

<sup>62</sup> Correspondence – General file, ASF, “Construction”. Dated 18 March 1944

<sup>63</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Campbell, KY, “Additional Anti-Nazi Prisoner of War Compound” dated 1 November 1944

<sup>64</sup> Krammer 1996: 37

<sup>65</sup> Ibid: 28

<sup>66</sup> Ibid: 38-39

<sup>67</sup> Ibid: 39

<sup>68</sup> Thompson 1993: 49

<sup>69</sup> Lee 1966: 178-180

<sup>70</sup> Billinger 2000: 13

<sup>71</sup> Thompson 1993:112-113

<sup>72</sup> Ibid:113

<sup>73</sup> Krammer 1996: 40

<sup>74</sup> Thompson 1993: 49

<sup>75</sup> “Table of Organization-Division Headquarters, Prisoner of War”, undated,-POW Camps-General files, RG 389, Entry 461, Box 2475

<sup>76</sup> Fiedler 2003: 237

<sup>77</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Campbell, KY, 7 and 23 August 1943

<sup>78</sup> Krammer 1996: 37

<sup>79</sup> Ibid: 39

<sup>80</sup> Thompson 1993: 47

<sup>81</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Carson, CO, 24 March 1944

<sup>82</sup> Editor. “First POW Captured,” *National Guard*, Vol. 44 , No. 4, April 1996, pg. 76

<sup>83</sup> Note: in all reference to “prisoners of war” in this work, it represents only male members of the Axis powers. While the German military did enlist female soldiers, some of which were captured by American forces, none of the sources consulted made reference to any of them coming to America as POWs.

<sup>84</sup> Krammer 1996: 115; Knight 2004:65; Fiedler 2003:33

<sup>85</sup> There is no explanation as to why his rank is misstated as “lieutenant” when all other sources indicate he was an ensign. Telegram from commander, Camp McCoy to Provost Marshal General, March 9, 1942. NARA RG 389, Correspondence, Camp McCoy, WI, Box 2482

<sup>86</sup> Cowley 2002:15

<sup>87</sup> Ibid: 14

<sup>88</sup> Krammer 1996: 4

<sup>89</sup> Billinger 2000: 48

<sup>90</sup> “Prisoners of War of the U-162” September 24, 1942, NARA RG 389, Correspondence, Fort Bragg, NC, Box 2476

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Krammer 1996: 46-47

<sup>94</sup> Fiedler 2003: 16

<sup>95</sup> Krammer 1996: 17

<sup>96</sup> Ibid:17

<sup>97</sup> Ibid: 4

<sup>98</sup> “Transfer of Prisoners of War” October 14, 1944, NARA RG 389, Correspondence, Camp Clark, MO, Box 2477

<sup>99</sup> “Transfer of Italian Warrant Officers Prisoners of War” May 13, 1943, NARA RG 389, Correspondence, Camp Clark, MO, Box 2477

<sup>100</sup> “Personnel” May 3, 1943, NARA RG 389, Correspondence, Camp Chaffee, AR, Box 2477

<sup>101</sup> Krammer 1996: 4; Billinger 2000:164

<sup>102</sup> Krammer 1996:14-15

<sup>103</sup> Knight 2004: 62

<sup>104</sup> Krammer 1996:33

<sup>105</sup> Ibid: 14

<sup>106</sup> Billinger 2000:164; Krammer 1996: 217-219

<sup>107</sup> Krammer 1996:4

<sup>108</sup> “Transfer of German Prisoner” November 16, 1944, NARA RG 389, Correspondence, Fort Meade, MD, Box 2482

<sup>109</sup> Krammer 1996:116

<sup>110</sup> Fiedler 2003: 63

<sup>111</sup> Fiedler 2003: 63; Krammer 1996: 19-26

<sup>112</sup> Krammer 1996: 38-39

<sup>113</sup> Correspondence-General, 14 Sept 43. Note: No record was found in any secondary source of POWs being killed by guards as early as this date, so the warning in this memo may have been just a threat to scare prisoners into compliance.

<sup>114</sup> Note found with photo of Italian cobblers dated 3-11-44, location of camp where image was taken is unknown

- <sup>115</sup> Camp Blanding, 10 February 1943
- <sup>116</sup> Correspondence file, Camp McCoy, 2 August 1943
- <sup>117</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Lewis, WA, 8 March 1944
- <sup>118</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Perry, OH, 19 May 1944
- <sup>119</sup> Correspondence, file, Camp Florence, AZ, 3 June 1944
- <sup>120</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Eustis, VA, 23 January 1945
- <sup>121</sup> Correspondence file, Camp White, OR, 6 April 1944
- <sup>122</sup> Correspondence file, Indiantown Gap M.R., PA, 3 January 1945
- <sup>123</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Atterbury, IN, 5 August 1943
- <sup>124</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Perry, OH, 17 July 1945
- <sup>125</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Perry, OH, 16 Nov 1944
- <sup>126</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. McClellan, AL, 20 Nov 1944
- <sup>127</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Rucker, AL, 16 August 1944
- <sup>128</sup> Cowley 2002: 25
- <sup>129</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Gruber, OK, 5 Jan 1945
- <sup>130</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Cooke, CA, 10 July and 29 Sept 1944
- <sup>131</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Blanding, FL, 10 May 1944
- <sup>132</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Jackson, SC, 24 February 1945
- <sup>133</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Meade, MD, 6 Feb 1945 through 29 March 1945
- <sup>134</sup> Krammer 1996
- <sup>135</sup> Cowley 2002:26
- <sup>136</sup> Thompson 1993: 94
- <sup>137</sup> Cowley 2002: 12
- <sup>138</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Carson, CO, 10 and 14 December 1943
- <sup>139</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, 21 September and 9 November 1943

- <sup>140</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Carson, CO, 5 July 45
- <sup>141</sup> Krammer 1996:148
- <sup>142</sup> Cowley 2002:17
- <sup>143</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Atterbury, IN, 9 September 1943
- <sup>144</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Clark, MO, 10 September 1943
- <sup>145</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Benning, GA, 21 March 1944
- <sup>146</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Benning, GA, 23 June and 27 July 1944
- <sup>147</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Clark, MO, 13 October 1943
- <sup>148</sup> Krammer 1996: 171-173
- <sup>149</sup> Krammer 1996: 40; Thompson 1993:113
- <sup>150</sup> Fiedler 2003: 318-319; Krammer 1996: 88
- <sup>151</sup> Krammer 1996: 82; Knight 2004: 66
- <sup>152</sup> Prisoner of War Labor Report, 31 May 1945
- <sup>153</sup> Krammer 1996: 82
- <sup>154</sup> Prisoner of War Camp Labor Report, Camp Blanding, FL, 31 May 1945
- <sup>155</sup> Correspondence file, Camp McCoy, WI, 10 February-13 April 1944
- <sup>156</sup> Krammer1996: 82-83
- <sup>157</sup> Thompson 1993
- <sup>158</sup> Krammer 1996: 80; Thompson 1993: 47
- <sup>159</sup> Krammer 1996:79-81
- <sup>160</sup> Fiedler 2003:66; Knight 2004:68
- <sup>161</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Edwards, MA, 11 May 1944
- <sup>162</sup> Krammer 1996: 83-84
- <sup>163</sup> Krammer 1996:. 52,59
- <sup>164</sup> Krammer 1996: 84

<sup>165</sup> Krammer 1996: 85-94,103-106

<sup>166</sup> Labor Reports, War Department, Provost Marshal General Form 27 & War Department, Adjutant General's Office for 19-21

<sup>167</sup> Krammer 1996: 35-36

<sup>168</sup> Krammer 1996: 35-36

<sup>169</sup> Krammer 1996: 88-89, 93-94, 107; Billinger 2000: 73

<sup>170</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Florence, AZ, 27 April 1945

<sup>171</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. McClellan, AL, 4 September 1943

<sup>172</sup> Billinger 2000:73

<sup>173</sup> Thompson 1993:88

<sup>174</sup> Krammer 1996: 93-94

<sup>175</sup> Cowley 2002: 26-27

<sup>176</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Eustis, VA, 27 December 1944

<sup>177</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Edwards, MA, 6 January 1945

<sup>178</sup> Attachment to Labor Report, Fort Gordon, GA, 1 January 1945

<sup>179</sup> Labor Report, Camp Tobyhanna, PA, 30 April 1945

<sup>180</sup> Thompson 1993: 73

<sup>181</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Jackson, SC, 14 March 1944

<sup>182</sup> Labor Report, Camp Tobyhanna, PA, 15 February 1945

<sup>183</sup> Krammer 1996: 89

<sup>184</sup> Fiedler 2003: 83

<sup>185</sup> Knight 2004: 69; Fiedler 2003:389, 392

<sup>186</sup> Fiedler 2003:152

<sup>187</sup> Knight 2004: 69

<sup>188</sup> Ibid: 72

<sup>189</sup> Knight 2004:70; Fiedler 2003: 385

<sup>190</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Clark, MO, 1 May 1944

<sup>191</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Bliss, TX, 21 March 1944

<sup>192</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Atterbury, IN, 20 May 1944

<sup>193</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Knox, KY, 4 October 1944

<sup>194</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Cooke, CA, 3 May 1944

<sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>196</sup> Knight 2004: 72

<sup>197</sup> Ibid: 70

<sup>198</sup> Fiedler 2003: 390

<sup>199</sup> Knight 2004: 72

<sup>200</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Knox, KY, 13 September and 19 October 1945

<sup>201</sup> Knight 2004: 71; Fiedler 2003: 390

<sup>202</sup> Knight 2004: 72

<sup>203</sup> Labor file, Fort Eustis, VA, February 1946-note on back page of transfer of men to Shanks

<sup>204</sup> Fiedler 2003: 392

<sup>205</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 22 May 1945

<sup>206</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Swift, TX, 10 December 1943

<sup>207</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Swift, TX, 26 Feb 1945

<sup>208</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Swift, TX, 17 March 1944

<sup>209</sup> Correspondence file, Camp McCain, MS, 22 May 1944

<sup>210</sup> Ibid.

<sup>211</sup> Ibid.

<sup>212</sup> Correspondence file, Camp McCain, MS, 21 August 1944

<sup>213</sup> Correspondence files, Fort Story, VA, 7 April and 1 May 1945

<sup>214</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Chaffee, AR, 11 May 1943

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

<sup>216</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Polk, LA, 4 and 18 February 1944

<sup>217</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Hood, TX, 12 February and 1 March 1944

<sup>218</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Sill, OK, 28 February 1944

<sup>219</sup> Krammer 1996: 147-149

<sup>220</sup> Ibid: 149

<sup>221</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. McClellan, AL, 18 and 23 September 1943

<sup>222</sup> Ibid.

<sup>223</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Polk, LA, 18 and 21 October 1943

<sup>224</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Gruber, OK, 30 November 1943

<sup>225</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Campbell, KY, 6 April 1944

<sup>226</sup> Ibid.

<sup>227</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Eustis, VA, 6 March 1945

<sup>228</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Campbell, KY, 2 and 9 November 1943

<sup>229</sup> Correspondence file Camp Swift, TX, 19 July 1945 and 1 February 1946

<sup>230</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Gruber, OK, 12 January 1944

<sup>231</sup> Krammer 1996: 171

<sup>232</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Blanding, FL, 4 and 13 January 1944

<sup>233</sup> Correspondence file, Ft. Knox, KY, 20 and 23 November 1944

<sup>234</sup> Ibid.

<sup>235</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Ogden, Utah, 21 January 1944

<sup>236</sup> Correspondence file, Camp Hood, TX, 7 and 13 January and 10 February 1944

<sup>237</sup> Correspondence files, Fort Knox, KY, 4 and 22 March 1946

<sup>238</sup> Krammer 1996: 235

<sup>239</sup> Fielder 2003: 392

<sup>240</sup> Krammer 1996: 235

<sup>241</sup> Ibid: 235-237

<sup>242</sup> Labor Report, Fort Eustis, VA, February 1946. Note on back page notes transfer of all Italians to Fort Shanks, NY, for shipment home

<sup>243</sup> Krammer 1996: 237-238

<sup>244</sup> Ibid: 232

<sup>245</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Bliss, TX, 21 May 1945

<sup>246</sup> Correspondence file, Fort Jackson, SC, 20 August 1945

<sup>247</sup> Correspondence file, Camp McCoy, WI, 7 and 26 September 1945

<sup>248</sup> R. Christopher Goodwin Associates, 2002.

<sup>249</sup> Fiedler 1971

<sup>250</sup> Krammer 1996; Fiedler 1971

<sup>251</sup> Cowley 2002; Fiedler 1971

<sup>252</sup> Krammer 1996

<sup>253</sup> Parker 1985

<sup>254</sup> *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (National Park Service 1998)

<sup>255</sup> Ibid.

<sup>256</sup> Ibid.

<sup>257</sup> Ibid.

<sup>258</sup> Ibid.

<sup>259</sup> Buchner, C. Andrew, and Eric Albertson, 2005. *Archaeological Investigations of the POW Camp (3PU641) at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Pulaski County, Arkansas*. Prepared for Genesis Environmental by Panamerican Consultants, Inc., Memphis, TN.

<sup>260</sup> Gaither, Steve, Charles D. Neel, Allan J. Schilz, Timothy G. Baugh, Kirsten Kahl, Jana Whaley, Myra L. McMinn, and Jennifer Fry, 2005. *Cultural Resources Inventory of 6,800 Acres and National Register Eligibility Evaluation of Eight Archaeological Sites, Camp Gruber Army National Guard Training Center, Muskogee County, Oklahoma*. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, by Lopez Garcia Group, Dallas, TX.

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<sup>261</sup> Northrup, John D., and W. J. Bennett, Jr., 1990. *Archaeological Investigations at the German Prisoner of War Camp Location, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas*. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, by Fort Chaffee Archaeological Assessment staff.

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**APPENDIX A:  
SELECTED PLANS AND MAPS**

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## MAPS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS IN APPENDIX A

- Figure A-1. Typical Drawing for 3,000-Man POW Camp (from *the Military Engineer*, Vol. 38, No. 244, February 1946)
- Figure A-2. Typical Layout for 1,800-Man POW Camp (from *the Military Engineer*, Vol. 38, No. 244, February 1946)
- Figure A-3. Typical Layout for a 25-Man Mobile POW Camp (from *the Military Engineer*, Vol. 38, No. 244, February 1946)
- Figure A-4. Map of POW Camp at Camp Pickett, Virginia (Office of the Area Engineer, Camp Pickett, Blackstone, Virginia, 10-Sept-1943, Plan 7087-AE-55). Scanned of original, completed January 2006.
- Figure A-5. Map of POW Camp at Fort Benning, Georgia (detail from 1943 USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Fort Benning, Georgia)
- Figure A-6. Map of POW Camp at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, in 1943 (map courtesy of the Arkansas Army National Guard Museum, Camp Robinson)
- Figure A-7. Map of POW Camp at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma (U.S. Engineer Office, Camp Gruber, October 1946)
- Figure A-8. Map of POW Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana (reproduced from <http://groups.msn.com/FortBenjaminHarrisonHistoricalSociety/pows.msnw>, February 2006)
- Figure A-9. Map of POW Camp at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas (U.S. Engineer Office, Fort Chaffee, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 23, 1942). Scanned from original by Arkansas Army National Guard, June 2005.
- Figure A-10. Enlargement, Aerial Photographic Map of POW Camp at Camp Crowder, Missouri (taken from Records Group 77, Army Map Service, Camp Crowder and Vicinity, Missouri. 1945). Scanned at 300 dpi from full-scale original.
- Figure A-11. Aerial Photographic Map of POW Camp at Camp Atterbury, Indiana (from Record Group 77, Call Number V051-M, Camp Atterbury Photomap 1944). Scanned at 300 dpi from full-scale original.
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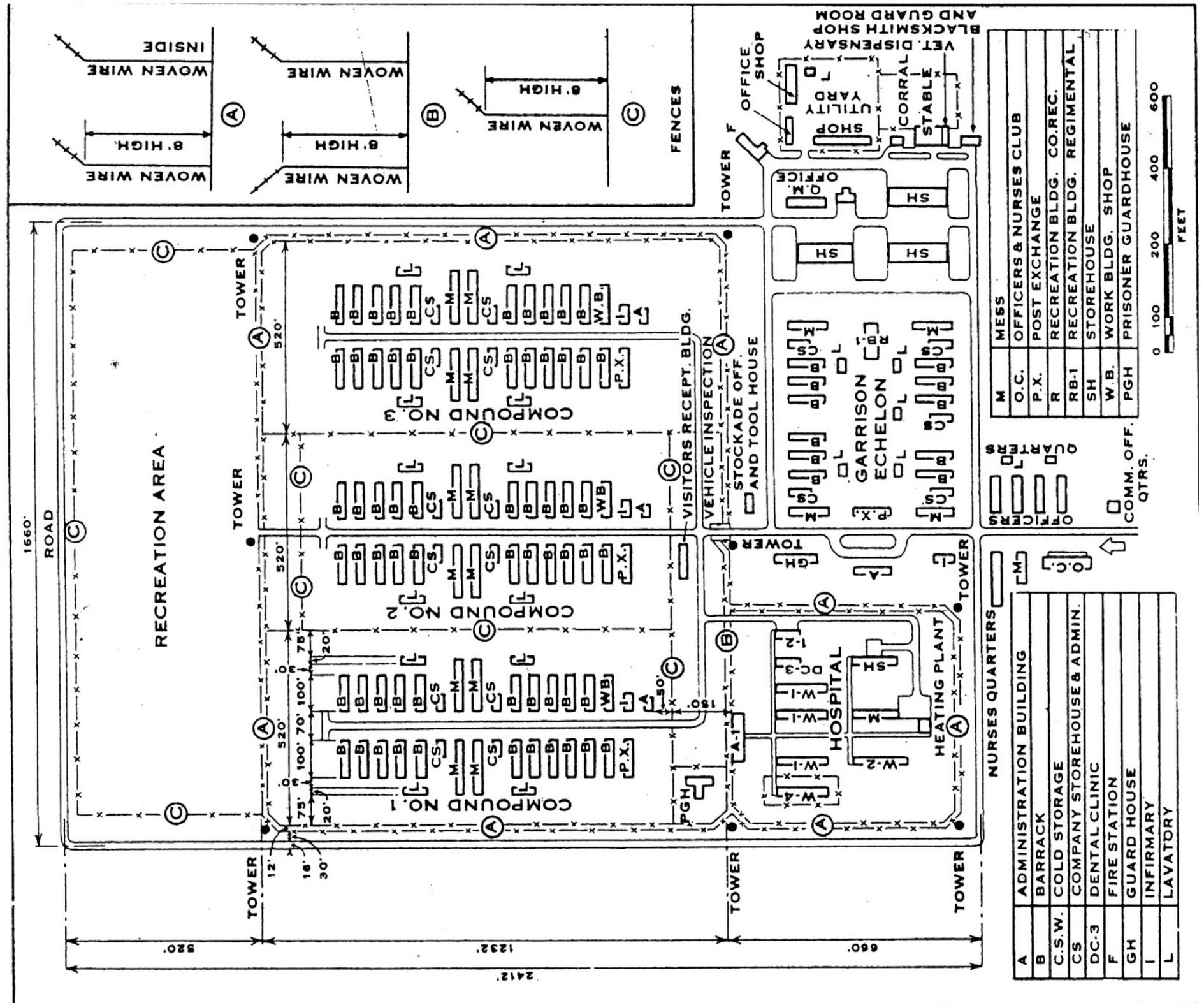
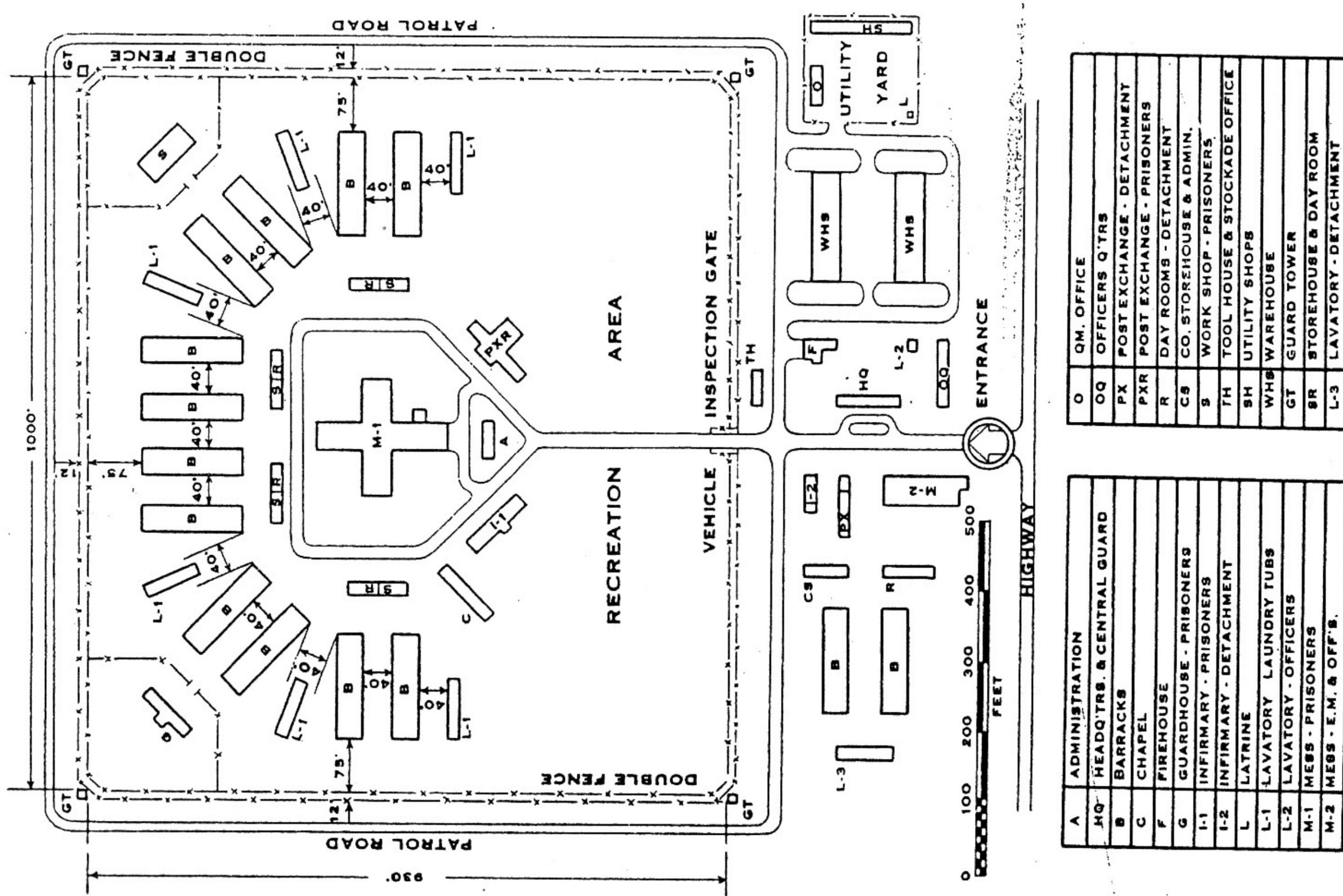


Figure A-1. Typical Drawing for 3,000-Man POW Camp (from the Military Engineer, Vol. 38, No. 244, February 1946)



A	ADMINISTRATION
HQ	HEADQ'TRS. & CENTRAL GUARD
B	BARRACKS
C	CHAPEL
F	FIREHOUSE
G	GUARDHOUSE - PRISONERS
I-1	INFIRMARY - PRISONERS
I-2	INFIRMARY - DETACHMENT
L	LATRINE
L-1	LAVATORY LAUNDRY TUBS
L-2	LAVATORY - OFFICERS
M-1	MESS - PRISONERS
M-2	MESS - E.M. & OFF'S.

O	QM. OFFICE
OQ	OFFICERS Q'TRS
PX	POST EXCHANGE - DETACHMENT
PXR	POST EXCHANGE - PRISONERS
R	DAY ROOMS - DETACHMENT
C9	CO. STOREHOUSE & ADMIN.
S	WORK SHOP - PRISONERS
TH	TOOL HOUSE & STOCKADE OFFICE
SH	UTILITY SHOPS
WHS	WAREHOUSE
GT	GUARD TOWER
SR	STOREHOUSE & DAY ROOM
L-3	LAVATORY - DETACHMENT

Figure A-2 Typical Layout for 1,800-Man POW Camp (from *the Military Engineer*, Vol. 38, No. 244, February 1946)

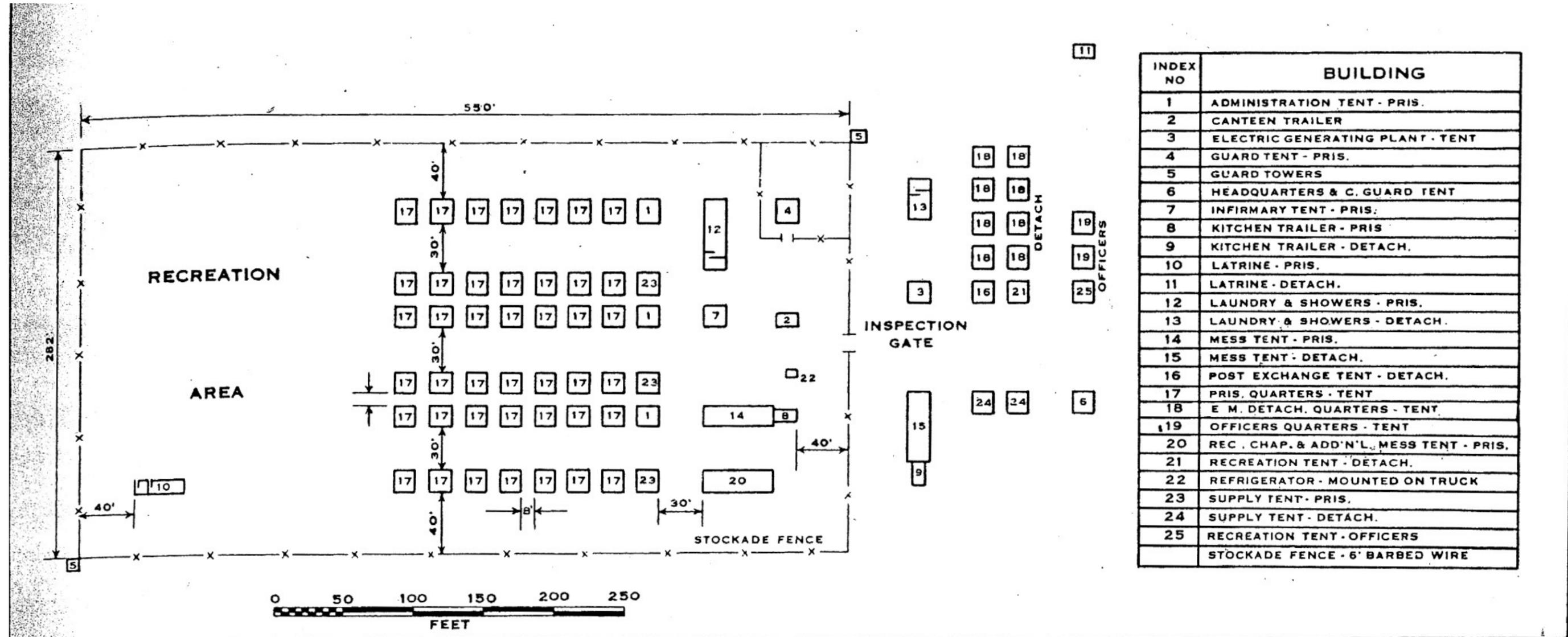
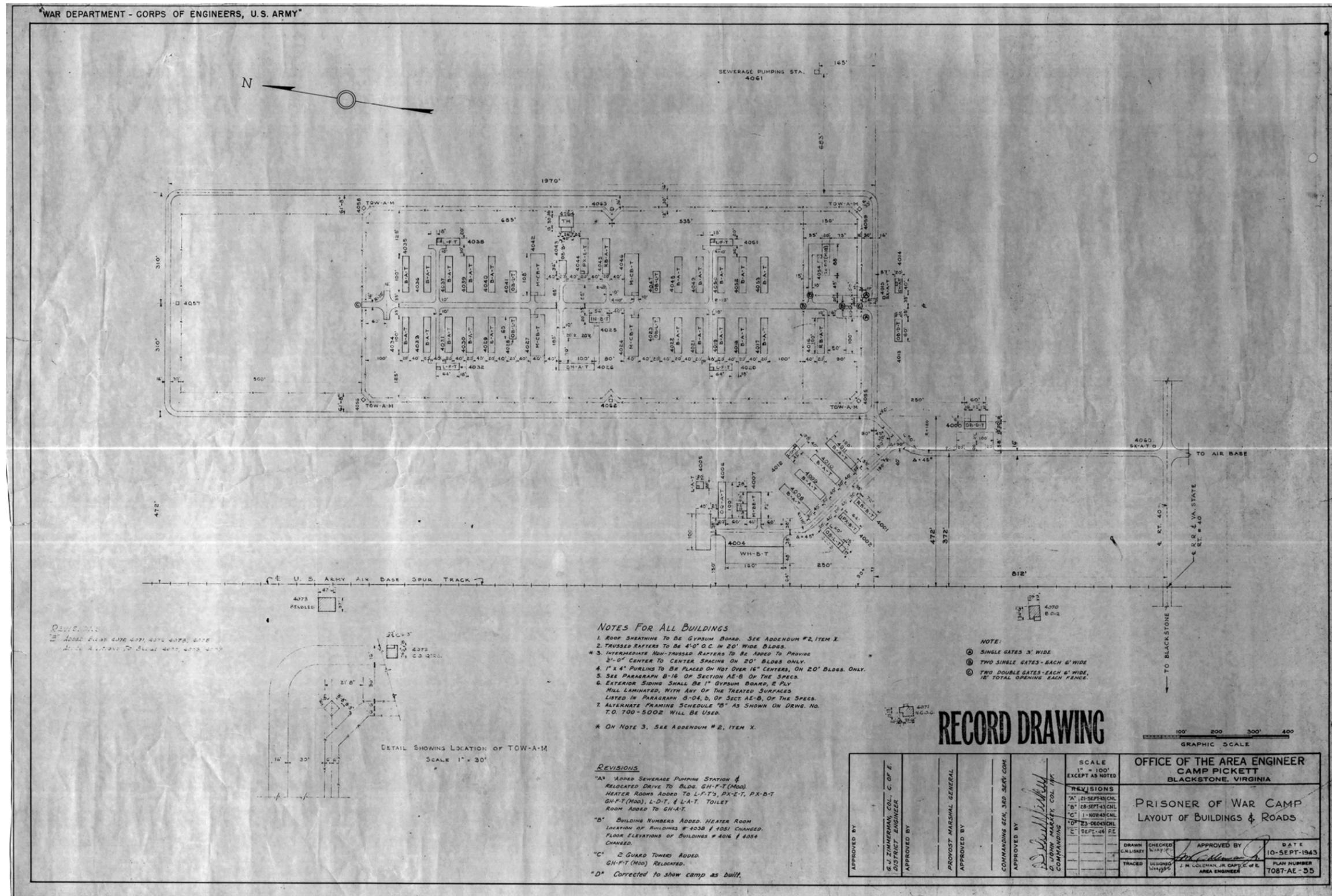


Figure A-3 Typical Layout for a 25-Man Mobile POW Camp (from *the Military Engineer*, Vol. 38, No. 244, February 1946)



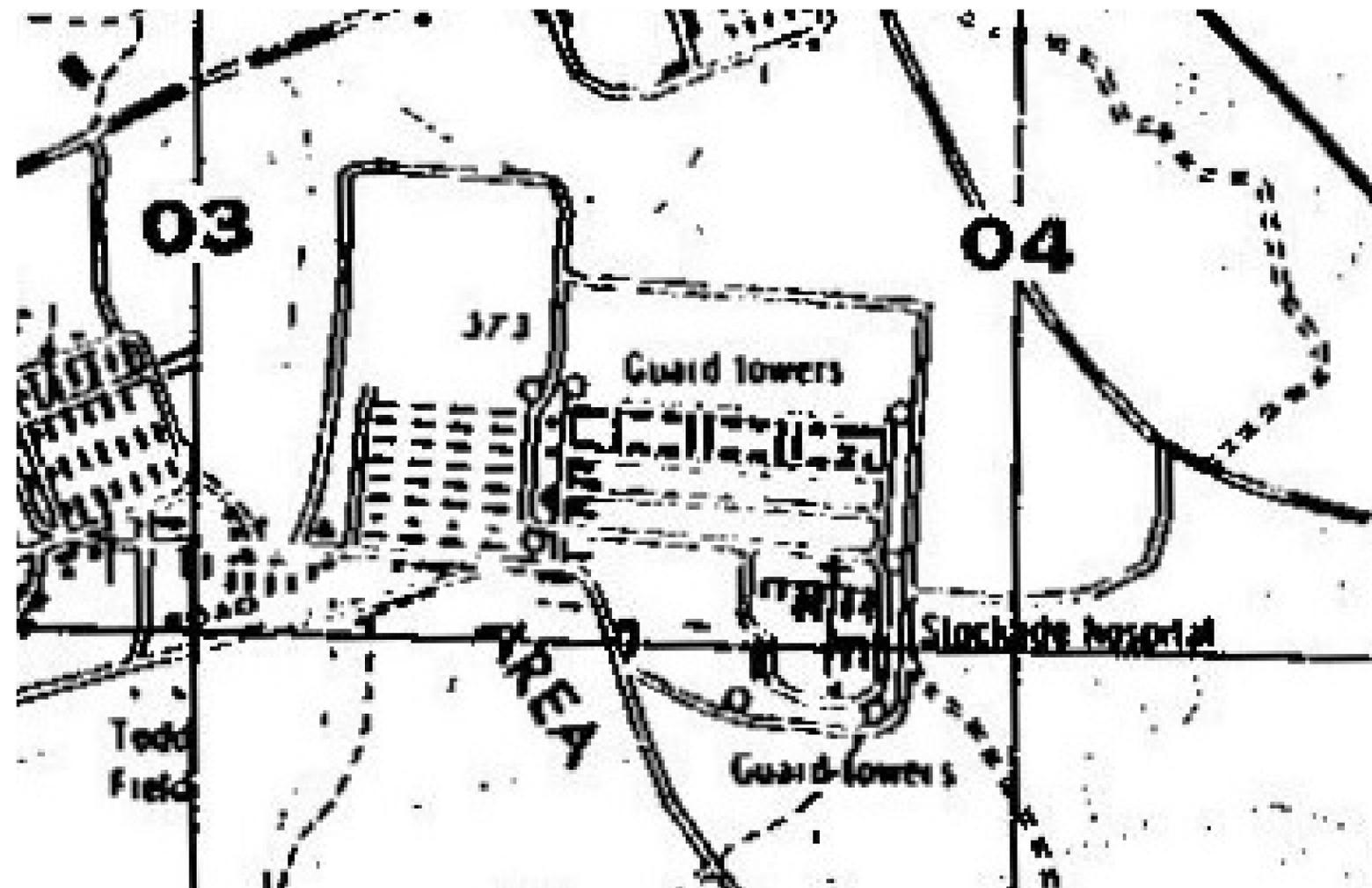


Figure A-5. Map of POW Camp at Fort Benning, Georgia (detail from 1943 USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Fort Benning, Georgia)

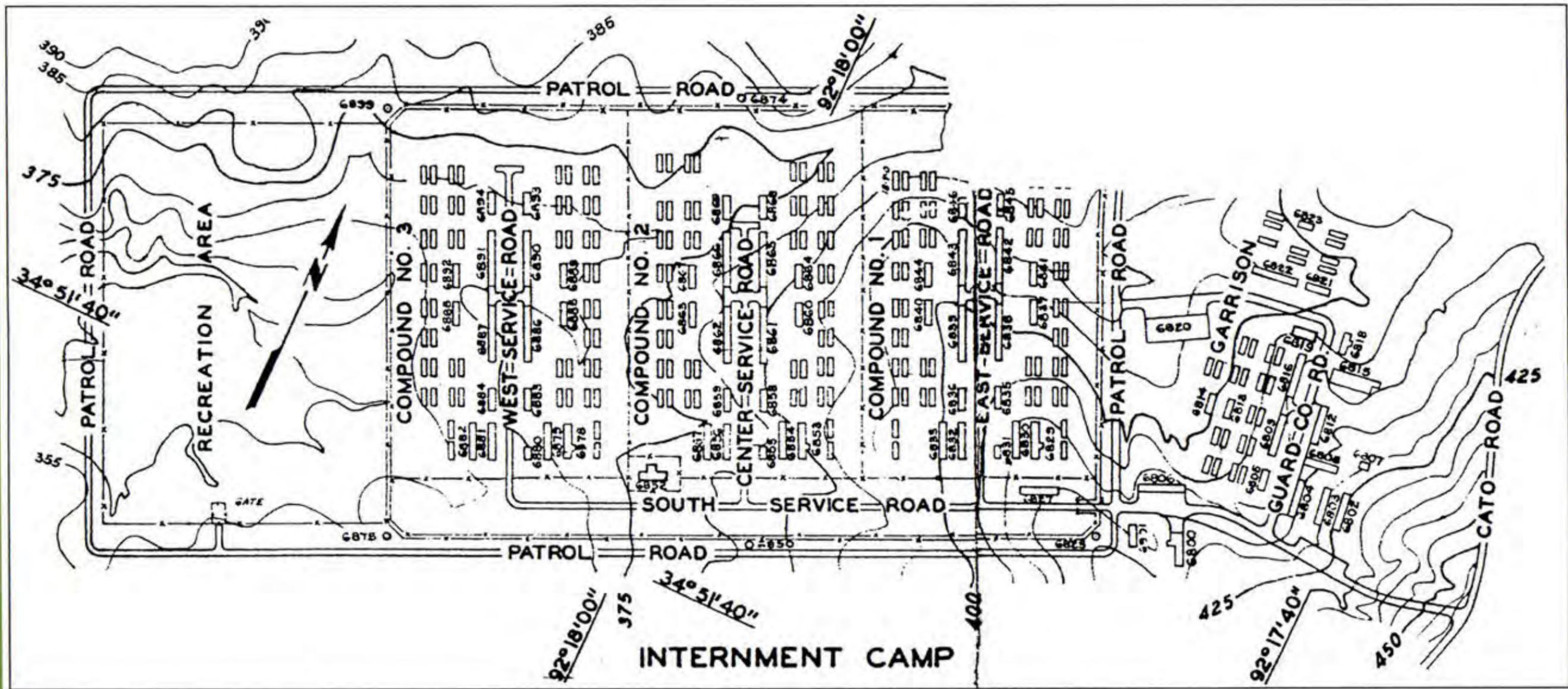


Figure A-6. Map of POW Camp at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, in 1943 (map courtesy of the Arkansas Army National Guard Museum, Camp Robinson)



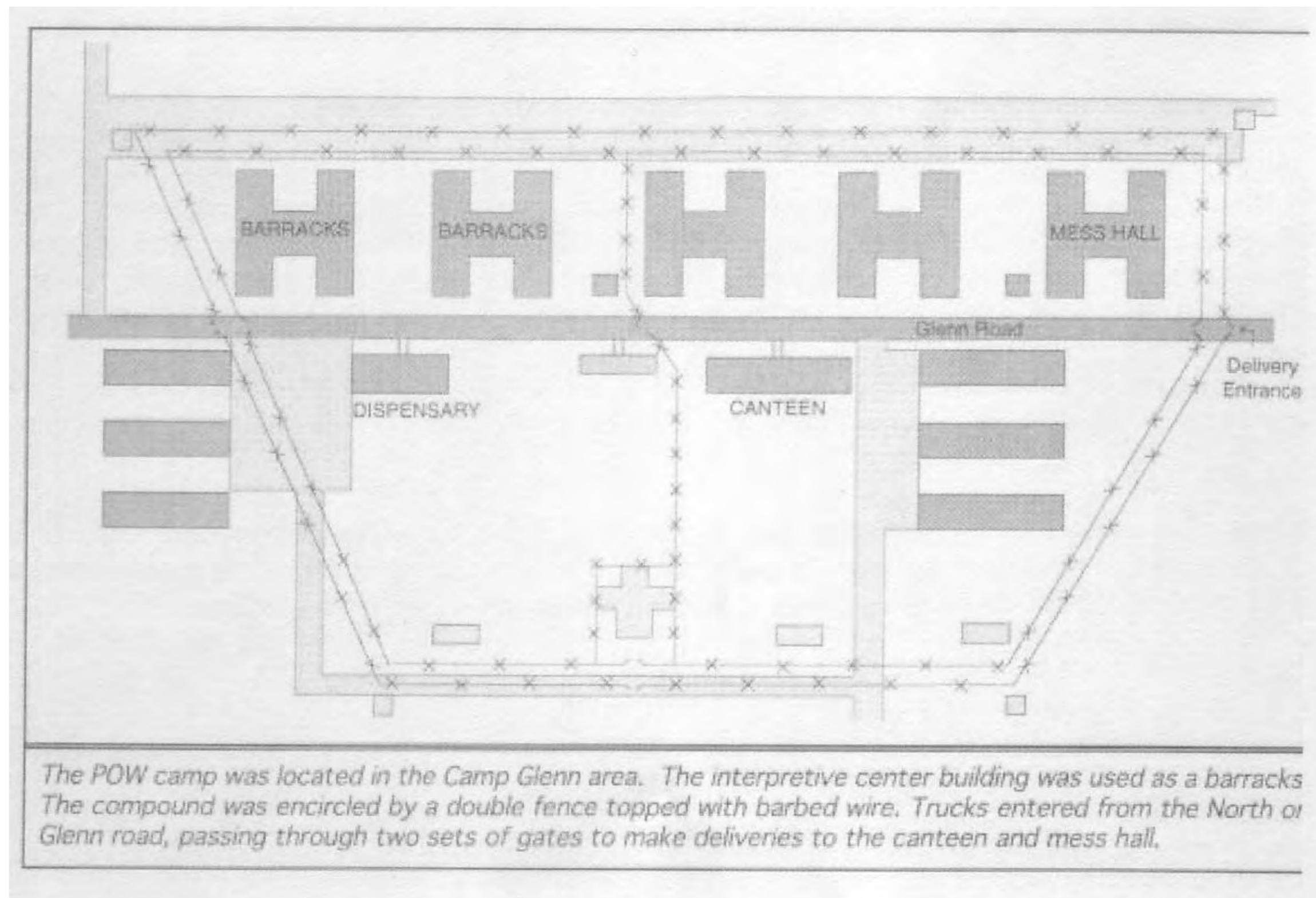


Figure A-8. Map of POW Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana (reproduced from <http://groups.msn.com/FortBenjaminHarrisonHistoricalSociety/pows.msnw>, February 2006)

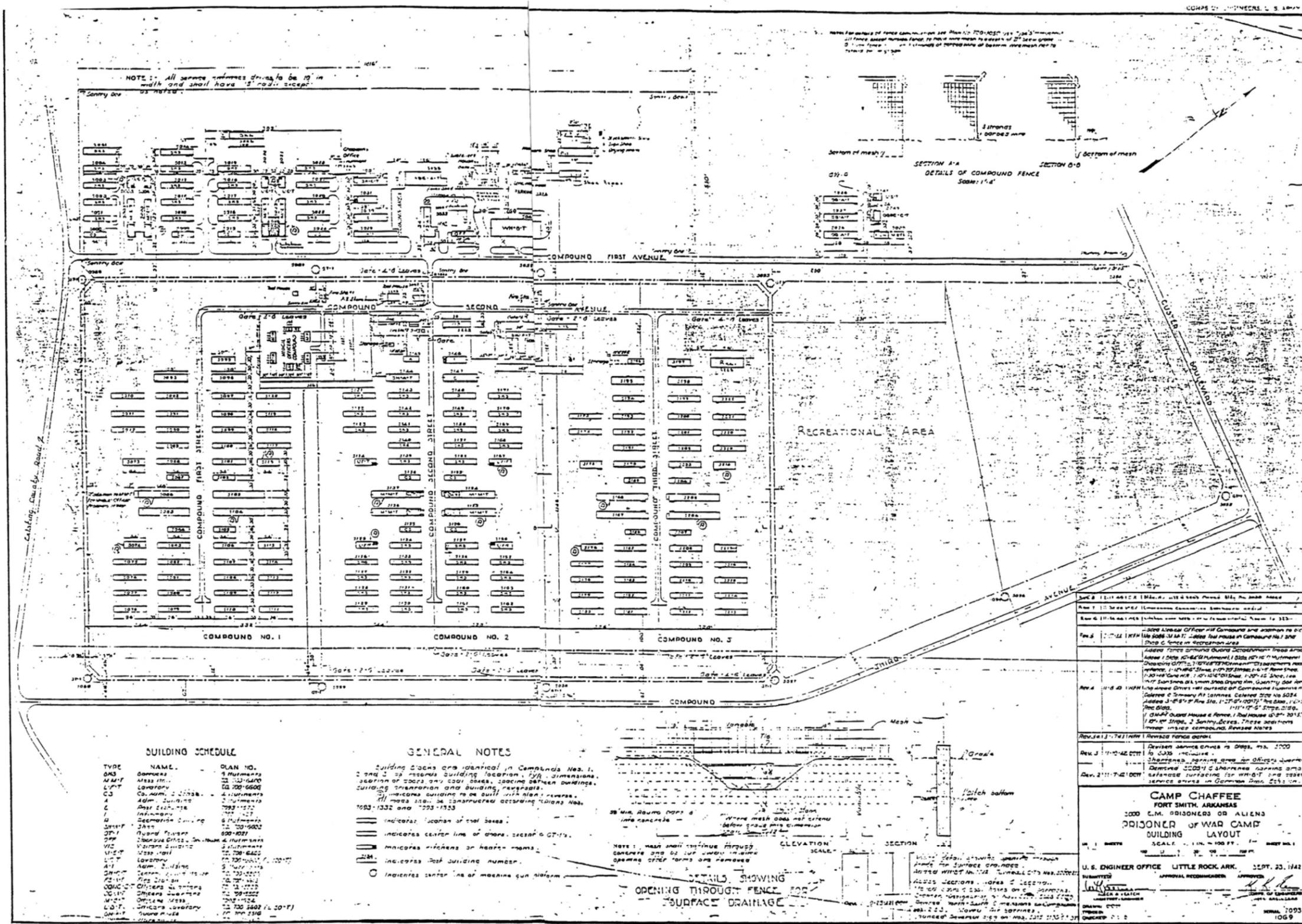


Figure A-9. Map of POW Camp at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas (U.S. Engineer Office, Fort Chaffee, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 23, 1942). Scanned from original by Arkansas Army National Guard, June 2005.

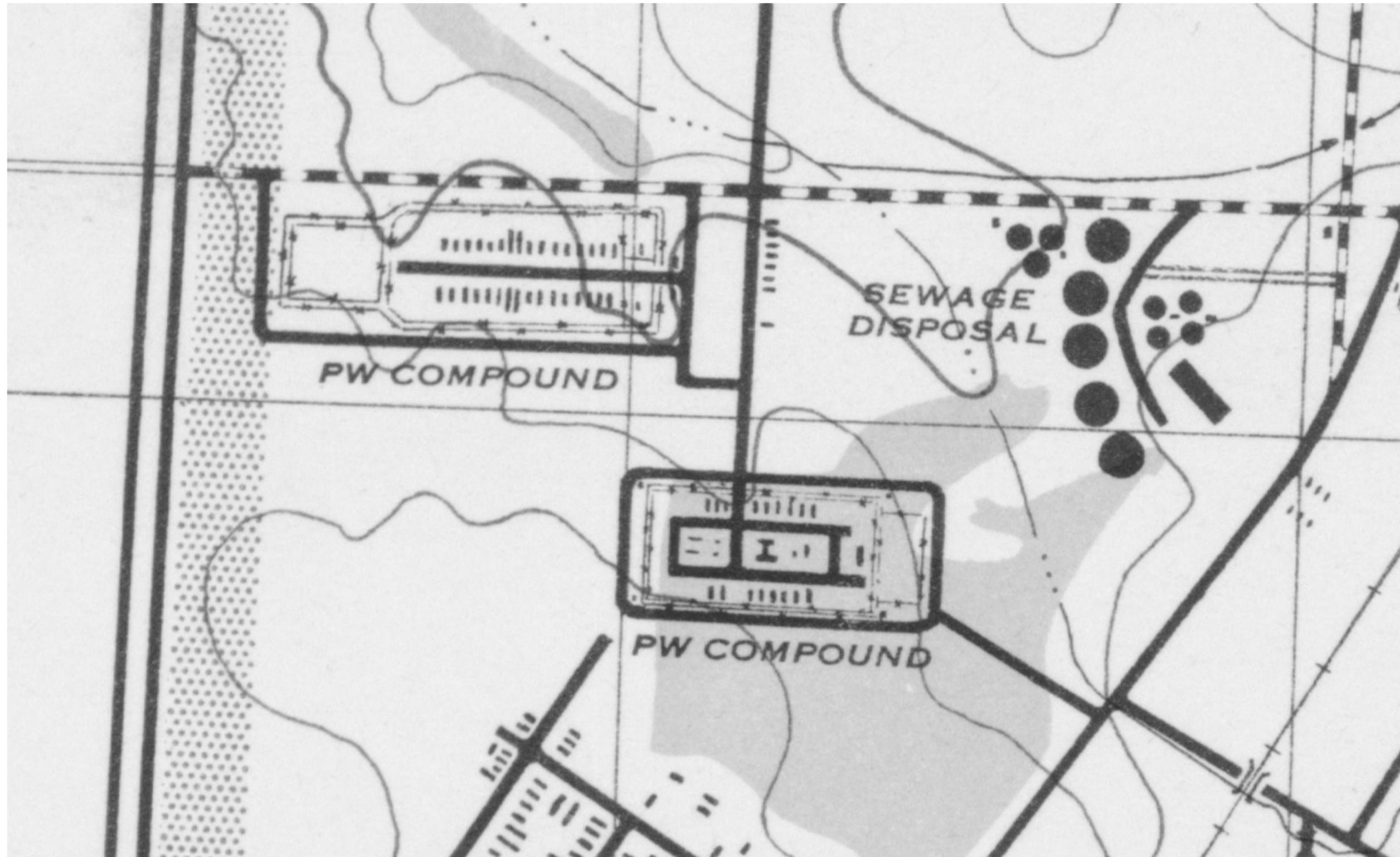


Figure A-10. Enlargement, Aerial Photographic Map of POW Camp at Camp Crowder, Missouri (taken from Records Group 77, Army Map Service, Camp Crowder and Vicinity, Missouri. 1945)

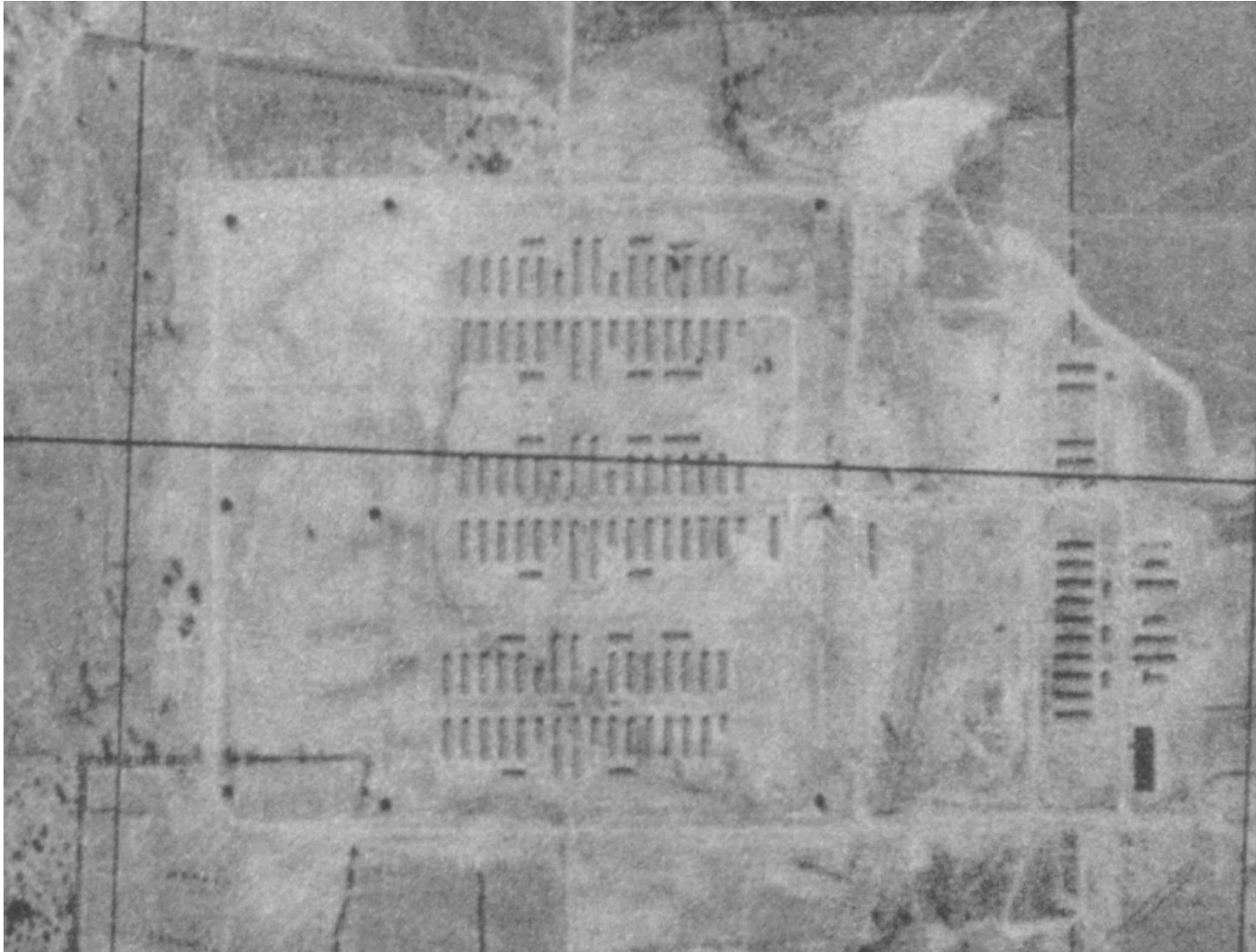


Figure A-11. Enlargement, Aerial Photographic Map of POW Camp at Camp Atterbury, Indiana (from Record Group 77, Call Number V051-M, Camp Atterbury Photomap 1944). Scanned at 300 dpi from full-scale original.

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**APPENDIX B:  
INVENTORIES OF WORLD WAR II POW CAMPS**

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**INVENTORY AND HERITAGE TOURISM ASSESSMENT: CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS THAT HOSTED WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS**

State	POW Camp Name	Camp Type	Owner Service	Contact Information	Condition of Camp	Records?	Other POW features	POWs visit?	Other Notes	Current Heritage Tourism Assessment	Heritage Tourism Potential
Alabama	Camp Rucker (now Fort Rucker)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army Aviation Warfighting Center	Dr. John Dabrowski (334-255-9151)	Really nothing left of the barracks, but some foundations.		There is a wooden altar that was built by the POWs; now in the chapel. Has been documented. German liasons hold their services there each Christmas.	None recorded		Moderate - POW camp-related tourism centers on the altar in the chapel	Could develop interpretive materials relating to the camp as an archaeological site, or develop an exhibit in the chapel
Arizona	Camp Navajo	Military Installation Base Camp	AZARNG	David Larsen (602) 267-2740	All that remains of the camp are building foundations and an archeological deposit	Extensive records held at Northern Arizona University	Rock lined paths and gardens, a portion of a shrine		Was the only exclusively Austrian POW camp from 1945-46	Moderate - ARNG has recently placed a historic marker at the camp location	Could develop interpretive materials relating to the extant buildings or camp as an archaeological site, or develop interpretive signage along paths and gardens
Arizona	Camp Papago Park	Military Installation Base Camp	ARNG/Reserves	David Larsen (602) 267-2740	Only one structure left; has been altered and is in use by Reserves	Photos	No	Yes	German U-boat officers at camp built an escape tunnel to get to Salt River, but they were recaptured at the river because it had no water	Low - although a building remains, it has been altered and contains nothing evocative with respect its use by POWs	Could develop interpretive materials centered on the remaining building
Arizona	Davis Monthan AFB	Military Installation Base Camp	Air Force	Gwen Lisa 520-228-3	No, there are no remains left, nor is there an archeological site either. Has been built over completely	No, only reason that they knew they had one, the former base historian included a note about the camp and its cross streets.	No	No		Non-existent	No potential
Arizona	Florence Military Reservation	Military Installation Base Camp	AZARNG	David Larsen (602) 267-2740	One structure (incinerator or furnace) remains; also remnants of a slaughter house		15-mile long rock lined path			Low - POW features not marked or generally known by staff or public	Could develop interpretive signage along the path, and could do some interpretive work on the slaughter house
Arkansas	Camp Chaffee (now Fort Chaffee)	Military Installation Base Camp	ARARNG	Chris Page (501-212-5889)	Only archeological site left (foundations)	yes	No			Low - POW features not marked or generally known by staff or public	Could develop interpretive materials relating to the camp as an archaeological site
Arkansas	Camp Jos T. Robinson	Military Installation Base Camp	ARARNG	Chris Page (501-212-5889)	Archeological site only (3PU641) is all that's left of 3 compounds, large recreation area, and attached guard garrison; site was recommended eligible to the NRHP	Display at Museum; 1943 map (221 structures inside fence; 56 structures in guard garrison); roster of POWs interned at camp in 1943; copies of <i>Der Robinson</i> (POW newspaper) Photos of POWs in mess halls, canteen, on soccer field, marching from train, creating rock art, and examples of lots of artwork.	Architectural and artistic works - some of which involved use of local Jackfork sandstone and quartzite. POWs were noted for tending "elaborate gardens with featured attractive miniature models of European cathedrals, castles, landscapes, and other landmarks familiar to the homesick soldier" - of those, only some cobble-lined paths, a rock basin or pond, and flagstone-lined ditches still exist.		held Rommel's Africa Corps; also served as supply and admin center for 25 branch camps; see Panamerican Consultants site report ((2005)	High - presence of POW camp is relatively well known among staff; and the Museum has a good display as part of its permanent exhibit.	Could develop interpretive materials at archaeological site, or centered on the remaining paths, basin or ditches
Arkansas	Pine Bluff Arsenal	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Historian (870-540-3421)	It was news to him; he's following up on a contact and will get back to me	All records at National Archives	No				
California	Camp Beale (now Beale AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	Air Force	Tamara Gallantini (530-634-4409)	Camp included standard WWII temps for most facilities, but also had a concrete blockhouse to house the Nazi sympathizers (hard core POWs). The WWII temps are mostly gone now, but the concrete blockhouse remains. It is subdivided into cells, some of which contain POW graffiti. Some foundations also exist. The Air Force has evaluated the jail as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.	Minimal records at the installation	No		They may remove the old foundations in the next few years. The remaining building was the solitary confinement for the POWs. It is a small (approx 20' x 50') concrete structure. There is intact graffiti - mostly drawings of women and writing in what appears to be German. They started getting modern graffiti, so fenced and locked it 10+ years ago to protect it. It is still exposed to weather though, as there are open doors and openings in the ceiling. There also was a Phase I survey done of the foundation area, which was determined ineligible.	Low - staff is aware of existence of the jail with the graffiti, but it is fenced off for protection	Could develop interpretive materials centered on the jail
California	Camp Cooke (later part of Vandenberg AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	Air Force	Nancy Read 805-734-5242	Camp Cooke torn down in 1990s	None noted	No			Non-existent	No potential
California	Camp San Luis Obispo	Military Installation Base Camp	CAARNG	Saundra Peralta, Site Agreement Mgr (805-594-6517); Ethan Bertando, CRM (805-238-8013)	It's unclear if this is a current DoD installation - active army left in 1965 and she doesn't reference the CAARNG. ; there's a rock monument from the Italian POWs.	Most of the documentation left with the DA in 1965, but she does have all volumes of the Camp's newspaper between March 24, 1941 and March 17, 1943.	No		The area was originally founded and farmed by many northern Italian immigrant families. Many of the dairies were taken over by the government by eminent domain during the war; the Italian POWs (two companies) were treated very well here, attending dances and even courting many of the local Italian descendants	Low - currently, no interpretive materials and little knowledge of POW camp history or visitation of monument; could also publish the newspaper or develop a pamphlet that summarizes the pertinent articles from the newspaper	If the area that hosted the camp is still under DoD control, could develop interpretive materials centered on the monument
California	Camp Roberts	Military Installation Base Camp	CAARNG	Ethan Bertando, CRM (805-238-8013)	There were two camps; nothing remains of German camp. What remains of Italian camp is a fountain and some remnants of gravel path. Bldgs were built on sleds, dragged on and off site. May be some landscaping left	Italian camp was previously recorded since it sits on a prehistoric site	No			Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials about the camps into an exhibit that incorporates the fountain
Colorado	Camp Carson (now Fort Carson)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army/ARNG	719-526-1694 (general contact)	Now an archeological site; due to numerous impacts from subsequent activity, site determined not eligible	1945 aerial photos; NPS arkeo investigation report (Conner et al. 1999)	No			Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials about the camp, but no physical remains to tie into
Connecticut	Bradley Field (Windsor Locks) IAP	Military Installation Base Camp	Air National Guard	Lt Col Kenneth Finger, EPM (860) 292-2790	The only physical remains are the four footings from one guard tower. They did get a couple of the original maps from the Corps of Engineers, but no other records or photographs. There will be an archeological survey done in the spring as part of our Cultural Resources Survey, so we'll see what they dig up.	None noted	No			Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials related to the archaeological remnants of the camp, if site is determined eligible
Delaware	Bethany Beach	Military branch camp to Fort Miles	DEARNG	Mark Orndorff (302-326-7488)	Buildings are still there, but have been renovated; could also have arkeo potential; were initially used as Army barracks and converted to house POWs, then converted back to Army use.	They don't maintain any of those records, may have some photos and a short narrative	No	No		Low - although several buildings remain, they have been renovated and aren't interpreted for staff or public as part of the former POW camp	Could develop interpretive materials centered on the buildings
Delaware	Fort DuPont	Military Installation Base Camp	public/private/DEARNG	Mark Orndorff (302-326-7488)	There are 2 buildings left, although caved in/ruins; tower still exists, but they are on state land (part of a FUDS site). Rest of camp buried under modern armory	Recalls seeing a map of the camp at one point, but doesn't know where it is currently.	No	No		Low - the extant tower and the ruins of the two barracks do not appear to be on DEARNG lands, and aren't signed	Preservation of the tower structure would be crucial if there is a DoD tie-in
Florida	Banana River NAS (now Patrick AFB)	Military branch camp to Fort Benning	Air Force	Mark Cleary, Wing historian (321-494-2710)	They have no records regarding use of Banana River NAS as a POW camp; however, since the Air Force took over the installation after the it was deactivated by the Navy in 1947.	Navy has stated that they have no records; installation has no records					

**INVENTORY AND HERITAGE TOURISM ASSESSMENT: CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS THAT HOSTED WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS**

State	POW Camp Name	Camp Type	Owner Service	Contact Information	Condition of Camp	Records?	Other POW features	POWs visit?	Other Notes	Current Heritage Tourism Assessment	Heritage Tourism Potential
Florida	Camp Blanding	Military Installation Base Camp	FLARNG	Kent Petelle (Museum) 904-682-3196	There are several concrete foundations and a perimeter road can be identified. Guard tower locations can be identified.	Records include history and development of POW camp, information on separate kriegsmarine (navy) camp and stories relating to camp life. There are two personnel records of German prisoners on file. Two books are available; "Hitler's Soldiers in the Sunshine State" by Billinger and "Think For Yourself" by Rupert Metzroth a German POW.	glass lined paths; POW cemetery; scale model of the camp created by a German POW	Yes	separate Navy and Army camps	Moderate - the POW cemetery and the scale model are both existing attractions	Could develop further interpretive materials to accompany the scale model, particularly along the glass lined paths
Florida	Eglin Army Air Field (now Eglin Air Armament Center)	Military branch camp to Camp Gordon Johnston	Air Force	Joe Meyer (950-882-8459)	He returned my initial call, but wasn't aware of a POW camp on Eglin. He planned to do some follow-up research, but never called again.	None noted	No			Non-existent	No potential
Florida	MacDill Field (AFB)	Military branch camp to Camp Blanding	Air Force	Jason Kirkpatrick (813-695-3206)	CRM and historian have no records of the camp; likely was a tent camp, or folks housed in structures that were since torn down	No records housed at installation	No			Non-existent	No potential
Florida	Naval Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field	Military branch camp to Camp Rucker, AL	Navy	Ron Johnson (843) 820-5990	Definitely not; had surveys done, no archeological site either	No records; contractor that did ICRMP checked the National Archives and didn't find anything on the camp for this installation either	No	No		Non-existent	No potential
Georgia	Camp Stewart (Fort Stewart)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Paul Maggioni (912-767-3339)	Some buildings from Italian camp are left; none of the German camp remains intact. Buildings in Italian camp are primarily administrative and motor-pool related, and have been modified. Fort Stewart evaluated the buildings as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.	Some records available at the installation	Legend has it that the Germans built one building at Fort Stewart; the façade of this building was hit by a truck		separate Italian and German camps; Army formed a transportation unit from the Italian POWs	Low - although a few buildings exist, there are no interpretive materials to tell staff or the public their history	Could develop interpretive materials focused on the remaining buildings
Georgia	Fort Benning	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Dr. Chris Hamilton (706-545-2377)	Some features may be left, but buildings largely gone	Installation sent some photos from a study done on historic properties at Fort Benning in 1981; this study included "an area used as a prison location for the German prisoners captured during the war" (area is signed)	brickwork, including a barbecue grill			Moderate - there is signage around a portion of the former camp and at least one stone marker	Camp could be investigated archaeologically; could develop interpretive materials focused on the camp area
Georgia	Fort Gordon	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Renee Ballard (706) 791-2403; Steven J. Rauch (706) 791-5212	No features of the POW camp still exist.	Although we have a few bits and pieces of information related to the POW camp, we do not have any archives on the installation's history at our office. But you may want to contact Steven Rauch who is the current command historian to see what he has.	All we have as physical evidence of POW's being here are two cemeteries. One that has 21 German graves and the other has only one grave on an Italian prisoner. These two cemeteries are separated by about 30 meters. While at Gordon the POW's work involved working in the mess hall, the laundry, some agricultural work, and other similar types of labor. So my understanding is that they did not work in any type of construction capacity.			Low - existing grave sites are called out as POW graves	Could develop interpretive materials such as signage or an exhibit
Georgia	Hunter Army Airfield	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Paul Maggioni (912-767-3339)	No extant buildings; location of camp unknown	No known records	No			Non-existent	No potential
Georgia	Moody Field (Valdosta)	Temporary camp, military	Air Force	Johnna Thackston (229-257-2396)	Nothing remains of the camp.	No known records	No			Non-existent	No potential
Indiana	Camp Atterbury	Military Installation Base Camp	INARNG	Kirsten Carmany	POW camp is designated as site 12Jo429; most of the buildings are gone, but there are foundations and some infrastructure elements.	Moderate records available online and through National Archives	Atterbury Rock - carved by Italian POWs; POW cemetery; POW chapel with murals			Moderate - a special interest group helped restore the chapel a few years ago, and staff are aware of the chapel, cemetery, and Atterbury Rock	There are a lot of records relating to Camp Atterbury still in the archives at the installation and at the National Archives. Could develop exhibit or other interpretive materials centered on the chapel.
Indiana	Indiana Army Ammunition Plant (former Indiana Ordnance Works)	Military branch to Jeffersonville QM Depot	Army	Cary Dupaquier (812-256-7315)	Camp is gone; has a yard waste compost on it; did some minimal shovel testing, didn't find anything.	He has a plot plan; camp was there when plant was first constructed and in operation; DNR did a photodocumentary last year	No			Low - there is a photodocumentary about the plant, but it doesn't highlight the POW workforce	Could develop interpretive materials, but nothing physical to tie into
Kansas	Fort Leavenworth	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Kelvin Crow, Asst. Command Historian	The "Camp" was the old USDB facility. It held German and Italian POWs who had been convicted of crimes while prisoners of the United States. The main confinement facility was demolished in 2004, but was extensively photo -documented before destruction. Fourteen German POWs were executed at the end of the war. The building in which the executions were carried out remains, as do their graves. These are the only POWs ever executed by the United States.	They have many maps, photos and illustrations of the old DB and may have some of the period records in the archives. They also have a list of some former guards during the period and there are any number of newspaper articles and two books on the subject.	The Prison Cemetery is not strictly a POW cemetery as it has only 14 POWs out of 240 some graves. But it is well maintained and marked. No other buildings or structures on post.	Two children of the executed came to visit the graves of their fathers.		Moderate to high - camp already visited by children of former POWs; cemetery is signed, there is public interest in the form of articles and books; still have an extant building	Could develop an interpretive exhibit centered on the building where the executions occurred, or on the cemetery
Kansas	Fort Riley	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Robert Beardsley (785-239-6646)	Not much left; could have archaeological potential	None noted	Stone hydrological features			Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials focused on the irrigation features
Kentucky	Camp Campbell (Fort Campbell)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Richard Davis (270-798-7437)	The area used for POW compounds has long since been given up for other uses, and there is little or nothing tangible at the locations related to the POWs.	None noted	5 German POW graves		A study in progress to produce a Historic Context document on the WWII uses at Fort Campbell	Low - the gravesite may be visited by children of former POWs	Could use the information developed in their context as source of materials for interpretive display
Kentucky	Fort Knox	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	R. Criss Helmkamp (502-624-6581)	Nothing other than possible archaeological deposits remain of the POW camp	unknown	18 POW graves; POW graffiti			Low - the gravesite may be visited by children of former POWs	Could develop archaeological site as an interpretive area if there's anything left; could place signage at gravesite or could document the graffiti
Louisiana	Barksdale Field (Bossier City)	Military branch camp to Camp Ruston	Air Force	MSgt Shawn Bohannon (318-456-4219) or Buck Rigg (318-456-5553)	Not a thing left; area has been partially redeveloped with a new building complex and road	They have a few excerpts from base histories, may have a few photos, not of the camp, but of POWs working around the camp	POWs maintained the base Victory Garden; found stepping stones with German names on bottom (now in Museum)	The Museum was contacted by a German POW once upon a time		Low - the installation Museum apparently has some exhibit that includes the stepping stones from the Victory Garden	Could develop a more in-depth exhibit at the Museum
Louisiana	Camp Polk (Fort Polk)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Historian (337-531-7905)	The post has been closed three times since WWII. Former camp area was torn down in 1955 and bulldozed; now used as parade field.	No records	Had some murals, have been destroyed, not even photos of them kept.		Former POW who worked in the bakery visited twice; now deceased	Non-existent	No potential
Maine	Camp Keyesour	Military Installation Base Camp	MEARNG	David Brandt	POW camp buildings were scattered in a few different areas, with billets and messhalls separated by a road. All but one of these buildings is gone, and the last building has been extensively altered. The buildings occupied by the POW camp guards are still extant, but also have been altered and determined not eligible.	Architectural survey report done in 1998-99 provides a limited bibliography, including notes from the TAG reports to local articles; two plans (1947 and 1957) of the facility showing the POW camp and its diminishing remnants	No	No	see articles by Russell Wright	Low - although there are extant buildings, they have been heavily modified and none are interpreted as elements of the former POW camp	Could develop interpretive materials focused on the remaining buildings
Maryland	Edgewood Arsenal (Aberdeen Proving Ground)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	410-278-1147 George Mercer (PAO)	No buildings left, but there are still some of the buildings used by support staff; camp areas has been redeveloped	Have a chapter of a book written during WWII; have an aerial image; have a personal letter that cites an escape attempt; and a news article from 1986 documenting a friendship between farmer and POW	No	No	there was an obituary in the MD paper this morning about a woman associated with the POW camp	Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials focused on the support buildings
Maryland	Fort George G Meade	Military Installation Base Camp	Army IMA	Bob Johnson (Historian) 301-677-6966	No remnants apart from cemetery, parts have been redeveloped, some may still have archeological potential	Some records	POW section in the post cemetery	No		Low - any visitation is tied to the POW section of the post cemetery	Could develop interpretive materials for a display near the cemetery

INVENTORY AND HERITAGE TOURISM ASSESSMENT: CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS THAT HOSTED WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS											
State	POW Camp Name	Camp Type	Owner Service	Contact Information	Condition of Camp	Records?	Other POW features	POWs visit?	Other Notes	Current Heritage Tourism Assessment	Heritage Tourism Potential
Massachusetts	Camp Edwards	Military Installation Base Camp; started as branch camp to Fort Devens	MAARNG	Mike Ciaranca (508-968-5121)	All of the structures in both the 3500 Area POW camp and the East Coast Processing Center were WWII temp buildings; these were torn down in the 1970s; foundations of the guard towers and some of the buildings still exist, so there may be an archaeological deposit	We have at least 2 maps showing the layout and location of the POW camp, plus some typical drawings showing how WWII temps were converted into POW camp buildings. Also have some articles from Falmouth Enterprise discussing use of POWs in cranberry harvest and to clean up after hurricane. Just obtained copies of records from NARA as well	No	Not to my knowledge	There was a local gentleman doing research on the camp here - he indicated that some local resident had a stockpile of copies of the newsletter produced by the POWs	Non-existent	There is a lot of local public interest, since a number of residents still remember the POWs helping out with the cranberry crop and hurricane clean-up. Archeological site could be interpreted after investigation, or the MAARNG Museum could host a permanent exhibit relating to the use of Fort Devens and Camp Edwards as POW camps
Massachusetts	Fort Devens	Military Installation Base Camp	Army Reserve	PAO (978-784-3956)	Nothing remains of the camp; area BRAC'd in 1995.	Most of the records are at the National Archives	Walks, gardens, sporting fields; still have a POW cemetery with bodies on Devens RFTA; 22 Germans and 2 Italians.	Installation hosts a commemorative ceremony every year; have had a number of former POWs visit		High - as noted, there's a commemorative visit every year by former POWs and their families.	Current experience could be enhanced by development of interpretive materials, either at the cemetery or along the walks and gardens.
Michigan	Camp Grayling	Military Installation Base Camp	MIARNG	Carla Elenz, CRM	According to Carla, the POW camp at Grayling is of recent vintage - developed as a MOUT						
Minnesota	Camp Ripley	Military Installation Base Camp	MNARNG	Bill Brown (320-616-2726)	They have little information - appears that they may have used HQ as housing in association with hutments, but installation architect at Museum is saying that no POWs were ever housed there	No records	No features	No		Non-existent	No potential
Mississippi	Camp McCain	Military Installation Base Camp	MSARNG	CPT Bob Lemire	No buildings left, but they have not explored potential for archeological site	All records are housed at the Camp Shelby Museum. There are pictures, paperwork and some personal items from the POW camp on display.	None	No	No contact from former POWs	Moderate to high - Museum includes a display on POW camp	If archeological site investigation provides good data, could either interpret the site for the public, or add to the Museum exhibit
Mississippi	Camp Shelby	Military Installation Base Camp	MSARNG	CPT Bob Lemire	No buildings left, but they have not explored potential for archeological site	All records are housed at the Camp Shelby Museum. There are pictures, paperwork and some personal items from the POW camp on display.	A soccer complex that was built for the POWs has berms surrounding the complex left; HQ bldg in neighboring state park was built by POWs; possible swastika dug in ground			Moderate to high - Museum includes a display on POW camp	If archeological site investigation provides good data, could either interpret the site for the public, or add to the Museum exhibit
Missouri	Camp Clark (Nevada)	Military Installation Base Camp	MOARNG	Regina Meyer (573-638-9607)	Latrines, foundations	Maps, photos	Cemetery	Yes		Low - features not currently marked or interpreted for public	Could develop interpretive materials focused on foundations, possible archeological site, or cemetery
Missouri	Camp Crowder (Neosho)	Military Installation Base Camp	MOARNG	Regina Meyer (573-638-9607)	Nothing left	Maps, photos	No	Yes		Non-existent	No potential
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Richard Edging, CRM (573-596-0871)	No extant buildings, but were having an archeological survey done by USACERL	unknown	Stonework	No		Low - no indication that camp is marked or interpreted for public	Could develop interpretive materials for the archeological site or in association with the stonework; could add exhibit to the Museum
Missouri	Sedalia Army Air Field (now Whiteman AFB)	Military branch camp	Air Force	Sgt Fleming (660-687-6560)	They only know about it from the researchers or family members from the area.	unknown	used for agricultural labor; did soil erosion control and repair on the installation, Sedalia Democrat article	No		Non-existent	No potential
New Jersey	USARC (former Camp Kilmer)	Point of Arrival for POWs into US	Army Reserve	COL Porto (800-575-9073 x2169)	No response to multiple phone messages; no alternate POC with information regarding history of Camp Kilmer						
New Jersey	Fort Dix	Military Installation Base Camp	Army IMA	Museum (609-562-6983)	No buildings left. They know where they were; new structures on the site (brick and concrete to replace the WWII wood). USCG also moved one of its facilities there eight years ago; parking lots there as well. He thinks that the USCG may have done an arkeo survey, but doesn't have a report.	No records; contained within Military Police Files at Suitland MD. The Museum has a couple of newspaper articles and a couple of photos.	Small wooden wheel found in a building; has German names on it. No other buildings or sculptures	Fort Dix Museum sent a letter to the POW newsletter maintained by the Germans asking for information on Fort Dix; got a few responses and had some good correspondence. A few have come back (physician assigned to Tilton Gen Hosp at Fort Dix). Most recent was from East Europe (Irina Trisnar) whose father was a POW at Fort Dix for awhile and wanted photos		Low - Limited display in Museum	With more research, could develop a more extensive exhibit at the Museum
New Jersey	Jersey City OM = Caven Point	Military Installation Base Camp	Army Reserve	201-333-3444	It's just one building, but it's still there.						
New Mexico	Kirtland Field (AFB)	Military branch camp	Air Force	Valerie Renner	No record of former branch camp at installation						
New York	Camp Pine = Pine Camp = Fort Drum	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Laurie Rush (315) 772-4165	Had two - Italian and German compounds on opposite sides of installation. Only German cmpd shown on maps. Have a brand new curator that handles the archives. German camp is gone; thinks Italian camp may also be gone, but she will check.	They are in transition between curators. Old curator (Jim Neville Hagerstown Historical Society, MD)	Gravesite; one German was repatriated, but still have 5 Germans and 1 Italian	Not that she knows about		Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials for gravesite or at Museum

**INVENTORY AND HERITAGE TOURISM ASSESSMENT: CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS THAT HOSTED WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS**

State	POW Camp Name	Camp Type	Owner Service	Contact Information	Condition of Camp	Records?	Other POW features	POWs visit?	Other Notes	Current Heritage Tourism Assessment	Heritage Tourism Potential
New York	Popolopen (renamed Camp Buckner)	Military Installation Base Camp	West Point USMA	Steve Grove (845-938-4820)	According to our files the P.O.W. camp was located on what is now named Camp Natural Bridge. This area is currently used to house troops who augment the Cadet Summer Training programs. The 1982 HABS/HAER report includes the following information gleaned from the National Archives and local files: Vol. 2 pp. 82-85 (August 7th 1944). The acting Superintendent of the Military Academy requests authorization to create a POW camp. The goal was to have a labor pool to help with clearing of land for artillery ranges, to cut fire lanes and clear lines for surveys and to improve roads and drainage in the training areas. The camp was activated on January 13, 1945 under Captain J. Edward McEvoy. The prisoners were housed in five 20' x 120' buildings, sixty men per building. The camp included a ball field, an eight bed dispensary and a small library. Plans also showed a dining facility. HABS/HAER researchers were unable to determine whether the existing barracks buildings at Camp Natural Bridge are new structures or whether they are the original wooden buildings re-clad in metal during the 1950s and 1960s. They concluded that no architecturally significant buildings remained (as of 1982).	The Museum curator and archivist have come up with two sets of plans for the camp area; still looking to see what else they may have	Ski slope and golf course are within the installation - still exist	They have a copy of a letter from a former P.O.W., Herr Borge Kourist, dated January 18, 1972. Herr Kourist tells us he worked with an ax and a power saw on the artillery range and helped plan and build a ski lift next to a silver depository. He also worked in the kitchen.		Non-existent	Clear opportunity to develop an exhibit for the Museum and/or signage for the ski slope and golf course
North Carolina	Camp Mackall (next to Fort Bragg)	Military branch camp to Camp Butner	Army	Lowell Stevens (910-396-1836)	No - nothing left of the camp; was a tent camp, with tents built on wooden frames	He has dimensions of the camp; some Swiss delegation inspection reports, lots of information about individual POWs; also have some copies of orders to transfer POWs	POWs did mosquito control; they were in a swampy area.; one of the German POWs made a leather box for a guard; they have photos of it.	They've had a few POWs come visit; most recently the son of a German POW who is writing his memoirs. In exchange, grandson may translate the memoirs.		Low - visits by former POWs or family members, but no interpretive materials	Could develop interpretive materials, but no physical remains to tie into
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Jeff Irwin (910-396-6680)	Camp has been completely destroyed; no archeological evidence either	Have maps that show locations; don't know if they have any POW built features. Have a yearbook with 3 pictures of the POWs	No	No		Non-existent	No potential
North Carolina	Seymour-Johnson Field	Military branch camp to Fort Bragg	Air Force	Dr. Roy W. Heidicker, Wing Historian, (919) 722-0024	Head of the local historical society remembers the POW camp; as does a local radio interviewer when they were kids. That being said, he doesn't think that they have anything left given the number of changes made to the camp since war.	They weren't aware that they were anything except a transport station, so don't think they have any records	May find something out by talking to the local informants	Unknown		Non-existent	Local informants could provide good oral history information; could develop interpretive materials
Ohio	Camp Perry	Military Installation Base Camp	OHARNG	Kim Ludt	Some huts and possibly some bath houses are left; condition of huts ranges from good to poor	OHARNG not aware of any pictures or records	All of the huts were built by the POWs; some prominent German artists included in POW camp -- painted murals on the walls of the huts (may still survive under the paint)	Yes, but years ago	See book by Anne Bovia	Moderate to high - OHARNG plans to relocate a sample of the huts to an interpretive park area within the installation, refurbish them, and create interpretive materials for the public.	Clear opportunity to develop an interpretive tour around the huts that focuses on the huts and murals
Oklahoma	Camp Gruber (Braggs)	Military Installation Base Camp	OKARNG	Jennifer Lynn	Only an archeological site now (34MS302) - recorded in 1997 as containing various features such as roads, bridges, sidewalks, waterlines, terraces, drainage ditches, building foundations and piers, guard tower piers, and sewer manholes, as well as an array of water fountains and monuments built by the German POWs. Recommended eligible under Criteria A and D.	Extensive (CD and website); Vehik and Vehik 1997; Shilz 2005; 1942 and 1946 maps of the facility; a typical drawing for the standard guard tower	Cemetery, chapel, water fountains and monuments, pools, mosaics, and planters, as well as stone-lined irrigation ditches. Highlights include a chess board and a Viking ship patio (35 features)	Yes	Site has been partly impacted by two powerline corridors	High - installation has developed a CD and website for interpretation, and has relocated the various sculptures to a central plaza for ease of visitor viewing	Clear opportunity for short film or interpretive tour (possibly virtual)
Oklahoma	Fort Sill (National Historic Landmark)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Towana Spivey	No buildings left; no archeological deposits left.	The installation maintains some records, but not extensive.	One POW is buried at Fort Sill. Others were relocated to nearby Fort Reno (both German and Italian) in years past. Fort Sill had direct responsibility for the cemetery at Fort Reno. It is now under the Department of Agriculture.	Several former POWs have visited Fort Sill. One POW who resettled in the region after the war visited periodically; Ms. Spivey has interviewed his son.		As noted, some POW visitation, but no interpretive materials developed	Without physical remains, could develop an exhibit, but no direct physical tie
Pennsylvania	Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna, Pennsylvania (formerly Camp New Cumberland)	Military Installation Base Camp	DLA	Larry Dolinger	At least one extant building, but was heavily modified for use as jail for disciplinary center and then for subsequent administrative uses since 1956.	Few records; existing records deal mostly with the reuse of the former POW buildings as disciplinary center from 1945-1956.	There is a painting done by a POW in their officers club	No		Low - visitors to the Officers Club are told of the painting, but no interpretive materials	Could develop interpretive materials tied to the remaining building or put in the Officer's club
Pennsylvania	Carlisle Barracks	Military Branch camp	Army	US Army History Institute (717-245-3971)	According to a newspaper article from the file the Camp was not located on the Barracks proper but was sited "in a field along the Pike" located about a mile east of Carlisle borough. The site comprised only a temporary stockade with tents for accommodations. No record of facilities on the Barracks' being used for other than ancillary purposes for the POWs can be found.	They hold a file among their archive collections in the <i>Installation Collection : Carlisle Barracks, PA</i> ( Box 1 File "Data Cards & News Clipping on WW2 POW Camp"). The contents consists of a copy of the document titled " Historical Data Reference." This reflects only that a "Prisoner of War Base Camp" was established at Carlisle Barracks effective 26 July 1945. It continues to indicate that the Camp was "discontinued effective 10 October ,1945." In effect the site existed for less than three months.	None noted	No record of POWs ever visiting the installation		Non-existent	No potential
Pennsylvania	Indiantown Gap Military Res	Military Installation Base Camp	PAARNG	Rita Meneses	During WWII, German prisoners held in areas 17 & 10 & 6. Buildings were built as temporary WWII buildings and were torn down in 2002.	No records noted	None noted	Yes, many former POWs visit the reservation museum, which has some newspaper articles regarding such visits		High - as noted, many former POWs visit the Museum	Without any physical remains, could increase the Museum exhibit, but not much else

**INVENTORY AND HERITAGE TOURISM ASSESSMENT: CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS THAT HOSTED WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS**

State	POW Camp Name	Camp Type	Owner Service	Contact Information	Condition of Camp	Records?	Other POW features	POWs visit?	Other Notes	Current Heritage Tourism Assessment	Heritage Tourism Potential
Pennsylvania	Middletown Air Depot (Harrisburg IAP)	Military branch camp to Gettysburg ag labor	Air National Guard	Sgt. Damian Smith at Fort Indiantown Gap (717-861-2464)/ also try MAJ Mekissick at 717-948-2202 after 11/9	Unequivocally no -everything has been redeveloped since 1967.	He went to the archives, but it may take them awhile to look	No features	Never		Non-existent	No potential
Pennsylvania	Tobyhanna Military Res	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Kevin Toolan (PAO)	Camp is gone, to his knowledge. Only WWII buildings there are from an hospital that didn't come online. Was a German camp.	Few records; at end of war, Army left and took records	No artwork, no other features	No		Non-existent	No potential
Pennsylvania	Letterkenny Army Depot (Chambersburg)	Military Installation Base Camp?	Army	717-267-5102/9356	These former Italian POWs were assigned to the Depot after the surrender of Italy. They remained in US custody/service until such time after the war when they could return to their native land.	No records on the installation.	Chapel and one other building were constructed by Italian Service Units assigned to the Depot, these were given to the Chambersburg Council of Churches	A few POWs have returned; at least one to settle in Chambersburg.		Non-existent	No potential
South Carolina	Charleston AFB	Military Installation Base Camp	Air Force Base	843-327-8145 (Historian)	They don't even know where it was; no remnants that they are aware of	Records would all be at AFHRA at Maxwell AFB	No artwork, no other features	No		Non-existent	No potential
Tennessee	Camp Forrest (now Arnold Engineering Development Center)	Military Installation Base Camp	Air Force	Rick McWhite (931-454-5086)	The remains of at least one building (a jail) from the German POW camp is located on land leased by the TNARNG from the Air Force. The condition of the building is poor. On AF property, there are at least two or three standing structures, a bunch of foundations and chimneys, and many photos.	AF has photos	None	No	POC recalls that the camp was researched and documented w/ Legacy money many years ago and a report and perhaps a video (?) were produced. He thinks there was also some archaeological documentation completed, but the "site" was considered ineligible so no further work was done.	Low to moderate depending on whether a video and other documentation was done, but no interpretive materials currently developed	Could develop interpretive materials relating to the extant buildings
Tennessee	Nashville Army Air Center (Nashville IAP)	Military branch camp	Air National Guard	615-399-5410	possible ruins of one camp; other is likely under their commissary	No records noted	None			Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials, but no physical remains to tie into
Texas	Camp Hood (Fort Hood)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Dr. Cheryl Huckerby; Karl Kleinbach (254.287.4027)	There were actually two camps at Fort Hood. One however was built on in the 70s (I believe) for a commissary and PX (Clear Creek). Working with the Fort Hood CRP, the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute (MAI) conducted archaeological investigations at the North Camp Hood Internment Camp (NCHIC) during the summer of 2006. This WWII POW camp is within the Fort Hood Army Reservation, Killeen, Texas. Although the archaeological excavations were limited to a small area, they were able to identify and characterize the extent and condition of the site. An airfield that was emplaced ca. 1952 impacted a portion of the site (the recreation area) but, otherwise, the site is in good condition. Although there are no extant superstructures, many of the concrete foundation pads are present. The post plans to recommend the site as eligible.	Some maps and records held at CR office. The NCHIC investigations also included National Archive research at the College Park and Fort Worth facilities. Unfortunately, the result of this research has been limited. The paucity of archival materials concerning the NCHIC is probably attributable to the short existence of the POW camp. It was active as a POW camp for only one year (1943-1944) and then it was designated a US Army Detention facility which closed ca. 1947.	No evidence for POW-constructed features	No record of visitors			
Texas	Fort Bliss	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	Hugo Gardea (915-568-3134)	Camp started out as internment camp, then was replaced by POW camp. Original POW camp was tent camp for 200; later expanded to buildings for 1300. Separate stockades for Italian and German POWs. None of the buildings remain (all torn down and replaced); may still be a water tower from the Italian camp.	Records at the installation include a 1920s photo of the stockade at Fort Bliss that was located behind the red brick barracks on the main post; an aerial view of the stockade taken in 1964; a 1942 plot plan that shows the location of the detention camp near Logan Heights; and a 1950s location map that shows the location of the stockade on the main post.	POW section in the post cemetery; may also be a section of sidewalk inscribed by an Italian POW	No record of visitors		Low- POW section in cemetery not marked or interpreted	Could develop interpretive materials related to the cemetery or the water tower (if extant)
Texas	Fort Sam Houston	Military branch camp	Army	210-221-1211	Tent camp only; no physical remains left	No records of camp; all sent to National Archives	None	No			
Utah	Tooele Army Depot	Military branch camp	Army	Kathy Anderson (435-833-2693)	No, new buildings there now	They have a few records, but she hasn't seen very many. Italian camp, but she's new and hasn't got a good handle on their resources	None	No		Non-existent	No potential
Virginia	Camp Allen (part of Sewalls Point Naval Complex in Norfolk)	Military branch camp	Navy	pamela.p.anderson@navy.mil or (757) 322-4880	Nothing left, area has been redeveloped	Navy POC says no records of camp at installation	None	No			
Virginia	Camp Lee (Fort Lee)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army IMA	QM Museum Director	No - all underneath a playground and family housing. It has been paved over. A second location where the Italian camp was is in still in woods on CASCAM property.	They have some photos (maybe 50) from the camp at the installation; also have several maps showing the camp and may have a plan of some of the buildings; have a uniform, but not sure if it's from there; also have the general technical manual; have a portion of the Fort Lee Museum dedicated to it, so a link to the Museum would be something for heritage tourism.	They have two paintings supposedly painted by a POW from Fort Lee; donor said that it came out of one of the POW office buildings. In extremely poor condition, though. Happy scenes of the Black Forest. There are items in the region antique stores that are actually signed or marked as POW-made furniture.	Yes, several have come through, typically one per year (or their kids). Hasn't kept contact information on them, though.		Moderate to high - Museum includes an exhibit on the POW camp that is open to public	Other than provide a link to the Museum, no physical remains left to interpret
Virginia	Camp Peary (Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity)	Military Installation Base Camp	DoD/CIA	No available contact	Restricted area						
Virginia	Camp Pickett (Fort Pickett)	Military Installation Base Camp	ARNG	Wayne Boyko (434-292-4588)	Archeological site only - maybe. Some of the stockade area is still open. That area was used as building material storage area, but there are still foundations.	Have a map, which was used in the context. Not much else; but do have uniforms and some other artifacts (county is claiming them - says that the camp gave it to them in 1995 BRAC)	Had 2 camps; VA tech owns property where one of the camps was; they have tree carvings that seem to have been done by POWs (William and Mary College documented it in 1992)	No contact from former POWs		Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials relating either to the archeological deposit or to the tree carvings
Virginia	Fort Eustis (combined with Fort Story)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army	History (757-878-2856); John Curry 757-874-3106	No. all features gone. Main PX and commissary have replaced the camp; other part of the camp was Fort William Henry, now airport. Matthew Jones house built in the 1600s was used to show American living to the "white" POWs - that's still there.	All records are in the National Archives.	No, primarily at Camp Patrick Henry - murals and beer hall.	John Curry was contacted by the son of a POW; gave him directions to Fort Hood. One of his colleagues in the Lions Club, Gunther Bergdhal, was a POW at Camp Eustis; moved to DC a few years ago, but has passed away. Bill Bourque helped build the POW camp at Fort Patrick Henry, he's still around (757-877-2463).		Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials at the Matthew Jones house; some potential for oral history
Virginia	Old Camp Shelton (part of Little Creek Amphibious Base)	Military Installation Base Camp	Navy	pamela.p.anderson@navy.mil or (757) 322-4880	Navy contact says no remnants of camp exist	Navy POC says no records of camp at installation	None			Non-existent	No potential
Virginia	Defense Supply Center Richmond (former Richmond ASF Depot)	Military Installation Base Camp	DLA	Richard Claytor	Nothing - POW camp location no longer part of DSCR property; last building demo'd in 1990s	No records at installation, but do have a local news article with photograph	None			Moderate - DSCR is including an interpretive sign on the POW camp as part of an installation interpretive tour	Given that the actual camp is off of DSCR property and there are no records or physical remnants, there's not much interpretive potential

INVENTORY AND HERITAGE TOURISM ASSESSMENT: CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS THAT HOSTED WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS											
State	POW Camp Name	Camp Type	Owner Service	Contact Information	Condition of Camp	Records?	Other POW features	POWs visit?	Other Notes	Current Heritage Tourism Assessment	Heritage Tourism Potential
Washington	Fort Lewis	Military Installation Base Camp	Army IMA	Alan Archambault, Fort Lewis Museum (253-967-7800)	No remnants, parts have been redeveloped, some may still have archeological potential	They have several reports, including one written in 1945 that gives a good overview. Recently got photos of the camp; he'll come in and give some larger versions from a guy who's father worked as a Guard at the camp; he doesn't think that the mass of that vintage that show the camp location; know its location anecdotally	None that he's aware of. Most of their activities at Fort Lewis were sent out to do farm work. The man that is bringing in the photos has a boat that was made by a POW	Yes, not in the past few years, but they have records of visits. In the past year, he's been contacted by two families		Low - no interpretive materials, but have had visits from families of former POWs	Could develop some interpretive materials, but no physical remnants to tie into
Wisconsin	Camp McCoy (Fort McCoy)	Military Installation Base Camp	Army Reserve	Public Affairs (608-388-2407)	There are a couple of foundation posts for the Guard towers, but that's about it. There is an archaeological survey done -	They have some photos, one map showing location and some records regarding the building of the camp; some artifacts from individuals (postcard; ring manufactured by former POWs)	May have a map mural painted on sheetrock that may be done by POW; have a copy of a book that a POW produced (sketches); was distributed to fellow POWs when they left	Yes, have been contacted by former POWs (German); most recent was Japanese, probably about 5 years ago; don't know if any are still alive Japanese guy may be		Low - they apparently have a collection of items, but it's not clear if they are on display	Could develop an exhibit of the various maps, photos, POW book, etc.
Wyoming	Fort F.E. Warren (former Fort DA Russell; now FE Warren AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	Air Force	Rick Bryant (307-773-3667)	Yes, they have several buildings that were used - were originally stables converted to barracks for POWs. Nothing really there that says POW camp unless you knew it already, though. The area around the buildings is gravel parking lot, so may not have a lot of potential for archaeology.; the buildings are included in the NHL district because of their history as stables; no mention of use for POW camp included in the NHL paperwork.	They have a little bit of history on the camp, including a map showing where the boundary fence was	They have some POWs in their post cemetery (6 Germans and 2 Italians); Nothing else that he knows about	Not that he knows about		Non-existent	Could develop interpretive materials for the extant buildings or POW section of the cemetery

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

<b>State</b>	<b>POW Camp Name</b>	<b>Camp Type</b>	<b>Current DoD?</b>	<b>Owner Service</b>
Alabama	Camp Rucker (now Fort Rucker)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army Aviation
Alabama	Camp Sibert (Chemical Warfare Training Center)	Military Installation Base Camp	No	
Alabama	Fort McClellan	Military Installation Base Camp	No - BRAC'd	
Arizona	Camp Navajo	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	AZARNG
Arizona	Camp Papago Park	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	ARNG/Reserves
Arizona	Davis Monthan AFB	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Air Force
Arizona	Florence Military Reservation	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	AZARNG
Arizona	Marana AAF	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Arkansas	Camp Chaffee (now Chaffee Maneuver Training Center)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	ARARNG
Arkansas	Camp Jos T. Robinson (now Robinson Maneuver Training Center)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	ARARNG
Arkansas	Grider Field	Military branch camp to Dermott	No - deactivated	
Arkansas	Pine Bluff Arsenal	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Arkansas	Walnut Ridge AAF	Military branch camp to Fort JT Robinson	No -deactivated	
California	Birmingham General Hospital	Military branch camp to Camp Haan	No	
California	Camp Beale (now Beale AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Air Force
California	Camp Cooke (later part of Vandenburg AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Air Force
California	Camp Haan (adjacent to March Field)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
California	Camp Lockett	Military Installation Base Camp	No - BRAC'd	
California	Camp Roberts	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	CAARNG
California	Camp San Luis Obispo	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	CAARNG
California	DeWitt General Hospital (initially Auburn G.H.)	Military hospital	No - deactivated	
California	Fort Ord	Military Installation Base Camp	No - BRAC'd	
California	Minter Field	Military branch camp to Sacramento SD	No - deactivated	
California	Mitchell Convalescent Hospital	Military hospital	No	
California	Pomona Ordnance Depot	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
California	Sacramento Signal Depot	Military Installation Base Camp	No - BRAC'd	
California	Stockton Ordnance Depot	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
California	Torney General Hospital	Military Hospital	No - deactivated	
Colorado	Camp Carson (now Fort Carson)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army/ARNG

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

Colorado	Camp Hale	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Colorado	Fitzsimons General Hospital	Military hospital	No	
Colorado	Rocky Mountain Arsenal - Rose Hill POW camp	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Connecticut	Bradley Field	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	CTARNG
Delaware	Bethany Beach	Military branch camp to Fort Miles	Yes	DEARNG
Delaware	Fort DuPont	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Delaware	Fort Saulsbury	Military branch camp to Fort Miles	No - deactivated	
Delaware	Georgetown Naval Air Field	Military branch camp to Fort Miles	No - deactivated	
Florida	Banana River NAS (now Patrick AFB)	Military branch camp to Fort Benning	Yes	Air Force
Florida	Camp Blanding	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	FLARNG
Florida	Camp Gordon Johnston	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Florida	Dale Mabry Field	Military branch camp to Camp Gordon Johnston	No - abandoned	
Florida	Eglin Army Air Field (now Eglin Air Armament Center)	Military branch camp to Camp Gordon Johnston	Yes	Air Force
Florida	MacDill Field (now MacDill AFB)	Military branch camp to Camp Blanding	Yes	Air Force
Florida	Naval Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field	Military branch camp to Camp Rucker, AL	Yes	Navy
Florida	Page Field (also Fort Myers AAB)	Military branch camp to Blanding	No - deactivated	
Florida	Welch Convalescent Hospital	Military hospital	No - deactivated	
Georgia	Camp Stewart (Fort Stewart)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Georgia	Camp Wheeler	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Georgia	Chatham Field	Military branch camp to Fort Benning	No - deactivated	
Georgia	Finney Hospital (Thomasville)	Military branch camp to Fort Benning	No - deactivated	
Georgia	Fort Benning	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Georgia	Fort Gordon	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Georgia	Fort Oglethorpe	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Georgia	Hunter Army Airfield	Military branch camp to Fort Benning	Yes	Army
Georgia	Moody Field (Valdosta)	Military branch camp	Yes	Air Force
Georgia	Savannah ASF Depot	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
Georgia	Spence Field (Moultrie)	Military branch camp to Fort Benning	No - deactivated	
Georgia	Toccoa	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

Georgia	Turner Field (Albany)(Turner AFB, NAS Albany, a portion later became Defense Distribution Depot Albany)	Military branch camp to Fort Benning	No - that portion sold	
Idaho	Camp Farragut (Naval Training Station)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Illinois	Arlington Field	Military branch camp to Fort Sheridan	No - deactivated	
Illinois	Camp Ellis	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Illinois	Camp Grant	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Illinois	Fort Sheridan	Military Installation Base Camp	No - that portion sold	
Illinois	Mayo General Hospital	Military branch camp to Camp Ellis	No - deactivated	
Indiana	Billings General Hospital	Military hospital	No - deactivated	
Indiana	Camp Atterbury	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	INARNG
Indiana	Fort Benjamin Harrison	Military Installation Base Camp	No - BRAC'd	
Indiana	Fort Wayne = Camp Thomas Scott	Military branch camp to Camp Perry, OH	No - deactivated	
Indiana	Indiana Army Ammunition Plant (former Indiana Ordnance Works)	Military branch camp to Jeffersonville QM Depot	Yes	Army
Indiana	Jeffersonville QM Depot	Military branch camp to Fort Knox, KY	No - deactivated	
Iowa	Schick General Hospital	Military hospital	No - now private	
Kansas	Fort Leavenworth	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Kansas	Fort Riley	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Kentucky	Camp Breckinridge	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Kentucky	Camp Campbell (Fort Campbell)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Kentucky	Darnell General Hospital	Military hospital	No - now private	
Kentucky	Fort Knox	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Louisiana	Barksdale Field (Bossier City)	Military branch camp	Yes	Air Force
Louisiana	Camp Claiborne (former Camp Evangeline)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Louisiana	Camp Livingston (former Camp Tioga)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Louisiana	Camp Polk (Fort Polk)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Louisiana	Hammond AAF	Military branch camp (industry)	No - deactivated	
Louisiana	Houma NAS (blimp base)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Louisiana	Jennings Satellite Airfield	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
Louisiana	Lake Charles (Chennault AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Louisiana	New Orleans Port of Embarkation	Military branch camp	No	

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

Louisiana	Tallulah AAF	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
Maine	Camp Houlton (Houlton Army Air Base)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Maine	Camp Keyes	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MEARNG
Maryland	Edgewood Arsenal (now part of Aberdeen PG)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Maryland	Fort Meade	Military Installation Base Camp	Partially - included in the 2005 BRAC	Army IMA
Maryland	Holabird Signal Depot (also Camp Holabird?)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - BRAC'd	
Massachusetts	Camp Edwards	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MAARNG
Massachusetts	Fort Devens (now Devens RFTA)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes (partially)	Reserves
Massachusetts	Lovell Hospital	Military hospital serving Fort Devens	No	
Massachusetts	Westover Field	Military Installation Base Camp	No - that portion sold	
Michigan	Camp Grayling	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MIARNG
Michigan	Fort Custer	Military Installation Base Camp	No - that portion sold	
Minnesota	Camp Ripley	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MNARNG
Mississippi	Camp McCain	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MSARNG
Mississippi	Camp Shelby	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MSARNG
Mississippi	Camp Van Dorn	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Missouri	Camp Clark (Nevada)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MOARNG
Missouri	Camp Crowder (Neosho)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	MOARNG
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Missouri	Jefferson Barracks	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
Missouri	O'Reilly General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Missouri	Sedalia Army Air Field (now Whiteman AFB)	Military branch camp	Yes	Air Force
Montana	Glasgow AAF	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Nebraska	Hall County Cornhusker Division Ammo Plant	Military branch camp of Camp Atlanta	No - transferred	
New Jersey	Fort Dix	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army IMA
New Jersey	Jersey City OM = Caven Point	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army Reserve
New Jersey	NAS Wildwood	Military branch camp to Fort DuPont, DE	No - deactivated	
New Jersey	SGT JW Joyce Kilmer USARC (former Camp Kilmer)	Military port	Yes	Army Reserve

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

New Jersey	Somerville Depot	Military branch camp	No	
New Mexico	Deming AAF	Military branch camp	No - closed	
New Mexico	Fort Bayard	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
New Mexico	Fort Sumner RRS	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
New Mexico	Kirtland Field (now Kirtland AFB)	Military branch camp	Yes	Air Force
New York	Camp Pine = Pine Camp = Fort Drum	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
New York	Camp Shanks	Military port	No - deactivated	
New York	Fort Niagara	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
New York	Halloran General Hospital	Military hospital	No - deactivated	
New York	Mason General Hospital (Edgewood Hospital)	Military branch camp	No	
New York	Mitchel Field (Camp Mills)	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
New York	Popolopen (renamed Camp Buckner)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	West Point USMA
North Carolina	Camp Butner	Military Installation Base Camp	No - that portion sold	
North Carolina	Camp Mackall (next to Fort Bragg)	Military branch camp to Camp Butner	Yes (partially)	Army
North Carolina	Camp Sutton	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
North Carolina	Moore General Hospital	Military hospital	No - deactivated	
North Carolina	Seymour-Johnson Field	Military branch camp to Fort Bragg	Yes	Air Force
Ohio	Camp Perry	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	OHARNG
Ohio	Crile General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Ohio	Fletcher General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Oklahoma	Camp Gruber (Braggs)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	OKARNG
Oklahoma	Chickasa (Borden General Hospital)	Military hospital for Fort Reno	No - deactivated	
Oklahoma	Fort Sill (National Historic Landmark)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Oklahoma	Gene Autry (Ardmore Army Air Field)	Military branch camp to Camp Howze, TX	No - deactivated	
Oklahoma	Glennan General Hospital	Military hospital for Fort Gruber	No	
Oklahoma	Will Rogers Field (Oklahoma City)	Military branch camp to Fort Reno	No - deactivated	
Oregon	Camp Adair	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

Pennsylvania	Camp New Cumberland (Army Depot)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	DoD Dist Center
Pennsylvania	Camp Reynolds	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Pennsylvania	Carlisle Barracks	Military branch camp	Yes	Army
Pennsylvania	Indiantown Gap Military Res	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	PAARNG
Pennsylvania	League Island Navy Yard (also Philadelphia Navy Yard)	Military branch camp	No -BRAC'd	
Pennsylvania	Middletown Air Depot (Harrisburg IAP)	Military branch camp (agriculture) to Gettysburg	Yes	Air National Guard
Pennsylvania	Olmsted Field (AFB)	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
Pennsylvania	Tobyhanna Military Res	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes (partially)	Army
Pennsylvania	Valley Forge General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Rhode Island	Fort Getty	Military re-education center	No - deactivated	
Rhode Island	Fort Kearny	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Rhode Island	Fort Wetherill	Military re-education center	No - deactivated	
South Carolina	Camp Croft	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
South Carolina	Charleston AFB	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Air Force
South Carolina	Charleston Navy Yard	Military Installation Base Camp	No - BRAC'd	
South Carolina	Charleston Point of Embarkation	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
South Carolina	Columbia AAB	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
South Carolina	Coronaco AAF	Military branch camp (forestry)	No - deactivated	
South Carolina	Florence AAF	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
South Carolina	Fort Jackson	Military Installation Base Camp	No - that portion sold	
South Carolina	Holly Hill	Military branch camp	No - closed	
South Carolina	Myrtle Beach AAF	Military branch camp (forestry)	No - deactivated	
South Carolina	Shaw Field (now Shaw AFB)	Military branch camp (forestry)	Yes	Air Force
South Carolina	Stark General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
South Carolina	Walterboro AAB	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
Tennessee	Camp Tyson	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Tennessee	Camp Forrest (now Arnold Engineering Development Center)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes (partially)	Air Force/ TNARNG
Tennessee	Memphis General Depot	Military branch camp	No - Brac'd	
Tennessee	Nashville Army Air Center	Military branch camp	Yes	Air National Guard
Texas	Ashburn General Hospital (now Vets Admin Hospital in McKinney)	Military hospital	No - deactivated	

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

Texas	Camp Barkeley	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Camp Hood (Fort Hood)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Texas	Camp Howze	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Camp Hulen (former Camp Palacios)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Camp Maxey	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Camp Swift (Bostrop)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - that portion sold	
Texas	Camp Wallace (Anti-aircraft, then Navy)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Camp Wolters (Fort Wolters, then Wolters AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Childress AAF	Military branch camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Denison = Perrin Air Field	Military branch camp	No - closed	
Texas	Fort Bliss	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Texas	Fort Crockett	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Fort D.A. Russell	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Texas	Fort Sam Houston	Military branch camp	Yes	Army
Texas	Harmon General Hospital	Military hospital	No	
Texas	McCloskey General Hospital	Military hospital	No	
Utah	Bushnell General Hospital	Military hospital	No - deactivated	
Utah	Camp Ogden (now Hill AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Utah	Clearfield Naval Supply Depot	Military branch camp	No - closed	
Utah	Deseret CW Depot (now Tooele Chemical Disposal Facility)	Military branch camp	Included in 2005 BRAC	
Utah	Tooele Army Depot	Military branch camp	Yes	Army
Virginia	Camp Allen (part of Sewalls Point Naval Complex in Norfolk)	Military branch camp	Yes	Navy
Virginia	Camp Lee (Fort Lee)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army IMA
Virginia	Camp Patrick Henry (Hampton Roads POE)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Virginia	Camp Peary (Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	DoD/CIA
Virginia	Camp Pickett (Fort Pickett)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	ARNG
Virginia	Fort Eustis (combined with Fort Story)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Virginia	Fort John Curtis	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Virginia	Fort Story (see Fort Eustis above)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army
Virginia	Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation	Military Installation Base Camp	No - deactivated	
Virginia	Norfolk Army Supply Base (Hampton Nat. Cem)	Military port	Yes	

**WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

Virginia	Old Camp Shelton (part of Little Creek Amphibious Base)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Navy
Virginia	Richmond ASF Depot (now Defense Supply Center Richmond)	Military Installation Base Camp	No - this portion sold	
Washington	Barnes General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Washington	Baxter General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Washington	Fort Lawton	Military Installation Base Camp	No - that portion sold	
Washington	Fort Lewis	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army IMA
Washington	Magidan General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Washington	McCaw General Hospital	Military hospital	No - closed	
Washington	Vancouver Barracks (former Fort Vancouver)	Military branch camp	No	
West Virginia	Ashford General Hospital (Camp Ashford; Greenbriar hotel)	Military hospital	No - deactivated	
Wisconsin	Billy Mitchell Field	Military branch camp of Camp McCoy	No - this portion sold	
Wisconsin	Camp McCoy (Fort McCoy)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Army Reserve
Wisconsin	Genesee Depot	Military branch camp of Camp McCoy	No - closed	
Wyoming	Fort F.E. Warren (former Fort DA Russell; now FE Warren AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp	Yes	Air Force

## MASTER LIST OF WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS IN THE UNITED STATES

State	POW Camp Name	Camp Type
Alabama	Aliceville	Base Camp
Alabama	Andalusia	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Camp Rucker (now Fort Rucker)	Military Installation Base Camp
Alabama	Camp Sibert (Chemical Warfare Training Center)	Military Installation Base Camp
Alabama	Chatom	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Clio	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Daleville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Dothan	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Dublin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Foley	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Fort McClellan	Military Installation Base Camp
Alabama	Geneva	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Greenville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Jackson	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Loxley	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Luverne	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Oneonta	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Opelika	Base Camp
Alabama	St. Bernard Abbey	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Troy	Branch camp (unknown function)
Alabama	Tuscaloosa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Buckeye	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Camp Baley	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Camp Navajo	Military Installation Base Camp
Arizona	Camp Papago Park	Military Installation Base Camp
Arizona	Camp Pima (CCC camp)	Base Camp
Arizona	Continental	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Coolidge	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Cortaro I and II	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Davis Monthan AFB	Military Installation Base Camp
Arizona	Duncan	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Eloy I and II	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Fennemore	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Florence Military Reservation	Military Installation Base Camp
Arizona	Litchfield Park	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Marana AAF	Military Installation Base Camp
Arizona	Maricopa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Mesa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Mount Graham	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Parker	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Queens Creek	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Rolle	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Safford	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Tolleson	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arizona	Yuma	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arkansas	Altheimer	Monticello, and Pine Bluff
Arkansas	Bassett	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Blytheville	Branch camp to JT Robinson

Arkansas	Camp Chaffee (now Fort Chaffee)	Military Installation Base Camp
Arkansas	Camp Dermott (started as Jerome Relocation Center)	Base Camp
Arkansas	Camp Jos T. Robinson	Military Installation Base Camp
Arkansas	Crawfordsville	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Earle	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Elaine	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Eudora corner of 11th and Haskell, Douglas Co.	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arkansas	Grady	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Grider Field	Military branch camp to Dermott
Arkansas	Harrisburg	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Hot Springs	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arkansas	Hughes	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Jonesboro	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Keiser	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Knobel	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Lake Village	Branch camp to Dermott
Arkansas	Luxora	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Magnolia	Branch camp to Monticello
Arkansas	Marked Tree	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Monticello	Base Camp; also branch camp to Dermott
Arkansas	Mufreesboro	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	New Sobiaco	Branch camp (unknown function)
Arkansas	Newport	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Osceola	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Parkin	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Pine Bluff Arsenal	Military Installation Base Camp
Arkansas	Russellville	Branch camp to Camp Chaffee
Arkansas	Simsboro	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Springdale	Mobile work camp, branch to Camp Chaffee, AR
Arkansas	St. Charles	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Stuttgart	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Turrell	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Victoria	Branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	Walnut Ridge AAF	Military branch camp to JT Robinson
Arkansas	West Helena	Branch camp to JT Robinson
California	Angel Island (Fort McDowell)	Temporary for POWs, mainly used as internment for Japanese Americans
California	Arbuckle (former Emergency Rubber Plant)	Branch camp to Beale
California	Ashville	Branch camp (unknown function)
California	Bacon Island	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Birmingham General Hospital	Military hospital for Haan
California	Blythe	Branch camp/possible relocation ctr
California	Boswell Ranch	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Bouldin Island	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Buttonwillow	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Camp Beale (now Beale AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Camp Cooke (later part of Vandenberg AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp

California	Camp Flint	Branch camp to Florence, AZ
California	Camp Haan (adjacent to March Field)	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Camp Lockett	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Camp San Luis Obispo	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Chino	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Chowchilla	Branch camp (unknown function)
California	Clarksburg	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Coronado	Branch camp (unknown function)
California	Cucamonga	Branch camp (unknown function)
California	Delano	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	DeWitt General Hospital	Military hospital
California	Firebaugh	Branch camp (agriculture) to Ord
California	Five Points	Branch camp (unknown function)
California	Fort Ord	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Garden Grove	Branch camp (agriculture) to Pomona
California	Goleta	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Irwin	Branch camp to Haan
California	King Island	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Kohler	Branch camp (unknown function)
California	Lakeland	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Lamont	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Lemoore	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Letterman General Hospital	Military hospital
California	Madera = Dairyland	Branch camp (agriculture) to Ord
California	Minter Field	Military branch to Sacramento SD
California	Mitchell Convalescent Hospital	Military hospital
California	Old River	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Pomona Ordnance Depot	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Rank	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Rindge Tract	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Roberts	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Sacramento Signal Depot	Military Installation Base Camp
California	San Joaquin County Fairgrounds	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Saticoy	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Shafter	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Soledad	Branch camp (agriculture) to Ord
California	Stockton Ordnance Depot	Military Installation Base Camp
California	Tachi Farms	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Tagus Ranch	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Tipton	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Torney General Hospital	Military hospital
California	Tulare Fairgrounds	Branch camp to Camp Cooke
California	Tule Lake	Branch camp (agriculture) to White
California	Upper Jones Tract	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Vernalis	Branch camp (agriculture) to Stockton
California	Windsor	Branch camp (agriculture) to Beale
Colorado	Ault (high school gym)	Branch camp (agriculture) to Camp Carson
Colorado	Brighton	Branch camp (unknown)
Colorado	Brush (ARNG Armory)	Branch camp (agriculture) to Camp Carson
Colorado	Camp Carson (now Fort Carson)	Military Installation Base Camp
Colorado	Camp Gould (former CCC camp)	Branch camp (forestry)
Colorado	Camp Greeley	Base camp

Colorado	Camp Hale	Military Installation Base Camp
Colorado	Deadman Mount	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Delta	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Eaton (Great Western Sugar Company dorm)	Branch camp (agriculture) to Camp Carson
Colorado	Eau Claire	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Fitzsimons General Hospital	Military Hospital - used for sick POWs
Colorado	Fort Holly	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Fort Morgan	Branch camp (agriculture) to Camp Carson
Colorado	Fraser	Branch camp (forestry) to Greeley
Colorado	Galeton	Branch camp (agriculture)
Colorado	Gilcrest	Branch camp (agriculture)
Colorado	Glenwood Springs	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Grand Junction	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Johnstown	Branch camp (agriculture) to Camp Carson
Colorado	Keenesburg	Branch camp (agriculture)
Colorado	Kersey	Branch camp (agriculture)
Colorado	Kremmling	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Longmont (Great Western Sugar Co. hotel)	Branch camp (agriculture)
Colorado	Loveland	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Minturn	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Monte Vista	Branch camp (agriculture) to Trinidad
Colorado	Montrose	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	New Castle	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Ovid	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Pando	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Pierce	Branch camp (agriculture)
Colorado	Redfeather	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Rocky Ford	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Rocky Mountain Arsenal - Rose Hill POW camp	Military Installation Base Camp
Colorado	Sterling	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Sugar City	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Trinidad	Base Camp
Colorado	Walden	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Walsh	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Weston	Branch camp (unknown function)
Colorado	Wiggins	Branch camp (unknown function)
Connecticut	Bradley Field	Military Installation Base Camp
Delaware	Bethany Beach	Military branch camp to Fort Miles
Delaware	Bridgeville	Branch camp to Fort Miles
Delaware	Fort DuPont	Military Installation Base Camp
Delaware	Fort Saulsbury	Military branch camp to Fort Miles
Delaware	Georgetown Naval Air Field	Military branch camp to Fort Miles
Delaware	Harrington	Branch camp to Fort Miles
Delaware	Leipsic	Branch camp to Fort Miles
Delaware	Lewes	Branch camp to Fort Miles
Delaware	New Castle (Cape Henlopen Park)	Branch camp to Fort Miles
Florida	Banana River NAS	Military branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Bell Haven	Branch camp to Blanding

Florida	Belle Glade	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Camp Blanding	Military Installation Base Camp
Florida	Camp Gordon Johnston	Military Installation Base Camp
Florida	Clewiston	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Dade City	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Dale Mabry Field	Military branch camp to Gordon Johnston
Florida	Daytona Beach	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Drew Field	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Eglin Army Air Field (now Eglin Air Armament Center)	Military branch camp to Gordon Johnston
Florida	Green Cove Springs	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Haag Show Grounds (Marianna)	Branch camp to Fort Benning, GA
Florida	Homestead	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Jacksonville	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Kendall	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Leesburg	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	MacDill Field	Military branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Melbourne	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Naval Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field	Military branch camp to Camp Rucker, AL
Florida	Orlando	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Page Field	Military branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Telogia	Branch camp to Gordon Johnston
Florida	Venice	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Welch Convalescent Hospital	Military hospital
Florida	White Springs	Branch camp to Blanding
Florida	Winter Haven	Branch camp to Blanding
Georgia	Americus	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Ashburn	Branch camp to Wheeler
Georgia	Atlanta	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Axson	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Bainbridge	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Blakely	Branch camp (unknown function)
Georgia	Brunswick	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Camp Stewart (Fort Stewart)	Military Installation Base Camp
Georgia	Camp Wheeler	Military Installation Base Camp
Georgia	Chatham Field	Military branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Daniels Field	Branch camp to Wheeler
Georgia	Dublin	Branch camp to Wheeler
Georgia	Fargo	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Finney Hospital (Thomasville)	Military hospital to Benning
Georgia	Fitzgerald	Branch camp of Wheeler
Georgia	Fort Benning	Military Installation Base Camp
Georgia	Fort Gordon	Military Installation Base Camp
Georgia	Fort Oglethorpe	Military Installation Base Camp
Georgia	Griffin	Branch camp of Wheeler
Georgia	Hawkinsville	Branch camp of Wheeler
Georgia	Hunter Army Airfield	Military Installation Base Camp
Georgia	Hunter Field	Military branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Jesup	Branch camp (unknown function)
Georgia	Monticello	Branch camp to Wheeler
Georgia	Moody Field (Valdosta)	Military branch camp (tents)
Georgia	Perry	Branch camp (unknown function)

Georgia	Reedsville	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Sandersville	Branch camp of Wheeler
Georgia	Savannah ASF Depot	Military branch camp
Georgia	Spence Field (Moultrie)	Military branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Statesboro	Branch camp (unknown function)
Georgia	Tifton	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Toccoa	Military Installation Base Camp
Georgia	Turner Field (Albany)	Military branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Wadley	Branch camp (unknown function)
Georgia	Waycross	Branch camp to Benning
Georgia	Waynesboro	Branch camp to Wheeler and Benning
Idaho	Aberdeen	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Blackfoot	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Camp Farragut (Naval Training Station)	Military Installation Base Camp
Idaho	Camp Rupert	Base Camp
Idaho	Filer	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Fort Hall	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Franklin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Idaho Falls	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Marsing	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Nampa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Preston	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Rigby	Branch camp (unknown function)
Idaho	Wilder	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Arlington Field	Military branch camp to Fort Sheridan
Illinois	Camp Ellis	Military Installation Base Camp
Illinois	Camp Grant	Military Installation Base Camp
Illinois	Des Plaines (Camp Pine)	Branch camp to Fort Sheridan
Illinois	Eureka	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Fort Sheridan	Military Installation Base Camp
Illinois	Gibson City	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Hampshire	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Hoopeston	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Lanark	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Mayo General Hospital	Military hospital to Camp Ellis
Illinois	Milford	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Pomona	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Skokie Valley	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Streator	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Sycamore	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Thornton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Illinois	Washington	Branch camp (unknown function)
Indiana	Austin	Branch camp (industry) to Camp Atterbury
Indiana	Billings General Hospital	Military hospital
Indiana	Camp Atterbury	Military Installation Base Camp
Indiana	Eaton	Branch camp (industry) to Camp Atterbury
Indiana	Fort Benjamin Harrison	Military Installation Base Camp
Indiana	Fort Wayne = Camp Thomas Scott	Military branch camp to Camp Perry, OH
Indiana	Indian Ordnance Works	Military branch camp to Jeffersonville
Indiana	Jeffersonville QM Depot	Military branch camp to Fort Knox, KY
Indiana	Morristown	Branch camp (industry) to Camp Atterbury

Indiana	Vincennes	Branch camp (industry) to Camp Atterbury
Indiana	Windfall	Branch camp (industry) to Camp Atterbury
Iowa	Camp Algona	Base Camp
Iowa	Camp Clarinda	Base Camp
Iowa	Charles City	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Clinton	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Eagle Grove	Branch camp (unknown function)
Iowa	Eldora	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Marston	Branch camp (unknown function)
Iowa	Muscatine	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Onawa	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Shenandoah	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Shick General Hospital	Military hospital
Iowa	Storm Lake	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Tabor	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Toledo	Branch camp to Algona
Iowa	Wadworth	Branch camp (unknown function)
Iowa	Wapello	Branch camp (unknown function)
Iowa	Waverly	Branch camp to Algona
Kansas	Big Springs	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Camp Lawrence	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Camp Phillips (Salina)	Base Camp
Kansas	Cawker City	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta, NE
Kansas	Concordia	Base Camp
Kansas	Council Grove	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	El Dorado	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Elkhart	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Eskridge	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Fort Leavenworth	Military Installation Base Camp
Kansas	Fort Riley	Military Installation Base Camp
Kansas	Hayes	Branch camp of Concordia and Atlanta
Kansas	Hutchinson	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Neodesha	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Ottawa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Peabody	Branch camp of Concordia
Kansas	Smolan	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kansas	Wadsworth	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kentucky	Camp Breckinridge	Military Installation Base Camp
Kentucky	Camp Campbell (Fort Campbell)	Military Installation Base Camp
Kentucky	Danville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kentucky	Darnell General Hospital	Military hospital
Kentucky	Eminence	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kentucky	Fort Knox	Military Installation Base Camp
Kentucky	Maysville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kentucky	Owensboro	Branch camp (unknown function)
Kentucky	Shelbyville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Algiers	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Arabi	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Barksdale Field (Bossier City)	Military branch camp
Louisiana	Bastrop	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Beil City	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Bogalusa	Branch camp (unknown function)

Louisiana	Camp Claiborne (former Camp Evangeline)	Military Installation Base Camp
Louisiana	Camp Livingston (former Camp Tioga)	Military Installation Base Camp
Louisiana	Camp Polk (Fort Polk)	Military Installation Base Camp
Louisiana	Donaldsonville	Branch camp (agriculture)
Louisiana	Edgard	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Edgerly	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Eunice	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Franklin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Gueydan	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Hahnville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Hamlin Beach	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Hammond AAF	Military branch camp (industry)
Louisiana	Harahan (Camp Plauche)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Houma NAS (blimp base)	Military Installation Base Camp
Louisiana	Humboldt	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Innis	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Jeanerette	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Jennings Satellite Airfield	Military branch camp
Louisiana	Jonesville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Kaplan	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Lake Charles (Chennault AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp
Louisiana	Lake Providence	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Lockport	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Iowa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Mansfield	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Marksville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Mathews	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Melville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Monroe	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	New Iberia	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	New Orleans Port of Embarkation	Military port
Louisiana	Point à la Hache	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Port Allen Fairgrounds	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Port Sulphur bei Empire	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Rayne	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Reserve	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Ruston	Base Camp
Louisiana	Saint Martinville (Longfellow - Evangeline State Historic Site)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Simmesport	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Sulphur	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Tallulah AAF	Military branch camp
Louisiana	Thibodaux	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Welsh	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	West Monroe	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Whitehall (LaSalle Parish)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Louisiana	Youngsville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maine	Camp Houlton (Houlton Army Air Base)	Military Installation Base Camp
Maine	Camp Keyes	Military Installation Base Camp
Maine	Princetown	Branch camp of Fort Devens, MA
Maine	Seeboomook	Branch camp to Houlton

Maine	Spencer Lake	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Andrews Field	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Berlin	Branch camp to Somerset
Maryland	Cambridge	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Camp David (CCC)	Base Camp
Maryland	Camp Somerset	Base Camp
Maryland	Church Hill	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Easton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Edgewood Arsenal (now part of Aberdeen PG)	Military Installation Base Camp
Maryland	Edwards Ranch	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Flintstone	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Fort Meade	Military Installation Base Camp
Maryland	Fort Washington	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Holabird Signal Depot (also Camp Holabird?)	Military Installation Base Camp
Maryland	Hurlock	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Nanjemoy	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Pikesville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Point Smith	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Westminster	Branch camp (unknown function)
Maryland	Woodstock	Branch camp (unknown function)
Massachusetts	Boston POE	Point of Embarkation for POWs
Massachusetts	Camp Edwards	branch camp to Fort Devens
Massachusetts	Fort Devens	Military Installation Base Camp
Massachusetts	Lovell Hospital	Military hospital serving Fort Devens
Massachusetts	Rutland	Work location (POWs housed at Westover AFB)
Massachusetts	Westover Field	Military Installation Base Camp
Michigan	Allegan	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	AuTrain	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Barryton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Benton Harbor	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Blissfield	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Cairo	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Cama	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Camp Evelyn (CCC camp)	Base Camp
Michigan	Camp Grayling	Military Installation Base Camp
Michigan	Coloma	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Dundee	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Fort Custer	Military Installation Base Camp
Michigan	Freeland	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Fremont	Base Camp
Michigan	Germfask	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Grant	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Grosse Ile	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Hart	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Hartford	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Lake Odessa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Lakeview	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Marquette	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Mattawan	Branch camp (unknown function)

Michigan	Owasso	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Pori	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Raco	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Romulus	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Shelby	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Sidnaw	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Sodus	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Waterloo	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Wetmore (former CCC camp)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Michigan	Wilmingtonyer	Branch camp (unknown function)
Minnesota	Ada	Branch (agriculture) to Algona
Minnesota	Bena	Branch (forestry) to Algona
Minnesota	Bird Island	Branch (cannery) to Algona
Minnesota	Camp Ripley	Military Installation Base Camp
Minnesota	Crookston	Branch (agriculture) to Algona
Minnesota	Deer River (Cut Foot Sioux)	Branch (forestry) to Algona
Minnesota	Fairmont	Branch (multiple industries) to Algona
Minnesota	Faribault	Branch (cannery) to Algona
Minnesota	Grand Rapids	Branch (forestry) to Algona
Minnesota	Hollandale	Branch (agriculture) to Algona
Minnesota	Howard Lake	Branch (cannery) to Algona
Minnesota	Montgomery	Branch (cannery) to Algona
Minnesota	Moorhead	Branch (agriculture) to Algona
Minnesota	New Ulm	Branch (multiple industries) to Algona
Minnesota	Olivia	Branch (cannery) to Algona
Minnesota	Ortonville	Branch (cannery) to Algona
Minnesota	Owatonna	Branch (multiple industries) to Algona
Minnesota	Princeton	Branch (agriculture)
Minnesota	Remer	Branch (forestry) to Algona
Minnesota	St. Charles	Branch (multiple industries) to Algona
Minnesota	Warren	Branch (agriculture) to Algona
Minnesota	Wells	Branch (cannery) to Algona
Mississippi	Belzoni	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Brookhaven	Branch camp (forestry)
Mississippi	Camp McCain	Military Installation Base Camp
Mississippi	Camp Shelby	Military Installation Base Camp
Mississippi	Camp Van Dorn	Military Installation Base Camp
Mississippi	Clarksdale	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Clinton	Base Camp
Mississippi	Como	Base Camp
Mississippi	Drew	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Elkas	Branch camp (unknown function)
Mississippi	Greenville	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Greenwood	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Gulfport	Branch camp (unknown function)
Mississippi	Indianola	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Lake Washington	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Leland	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Merigold	Branch camp (agriculture)
Mississippi	Picayune	Branch camp (forestry)
Mississippi	Richton	Branch camp (forestry)
Mississippi	Rosedale	Branch camp (agriculture)

Mississippi	Saucier	Branch camp (forestry)
Missouri	Camp Clark (Nevada)	Military Installation Base Camp
Missouri	Camp Crowder (Neosho)	Military Installation Base Camp
Missouri	Charleston	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Chesterfield	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Chesterfield Riverboat	Boat Camp
Missouri	Columbia	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood	Military Installation Base Camp
Missouri	Fulton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Gasconade	Boat Camp
Missouri	Glasgow	Boat Camp
Missouri	Grand Pass/Malta Bend	Boat Camp
Missouri	Hannibal	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Independence	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Jefferson Barracks	Military branch camp
Missouri	Kennett	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Lexington	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Liberty	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Louisiana	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Malden	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Marshall	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Marston/Portageville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	O'Reilly General Hospital	Military hospital
Missouri	Orrick	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Parkville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Perryville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Riverside/Kansas City	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Rosati	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Sedalia Army Air Field	Military branch camp
Missouri	Sikeston	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Springfield	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	St. Louis	Boat Camp
Missouri	St. Louis/Baden	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Warrensburg	Branch camp (unknown function)
Missouri	Washington	Boat Camp
Missouri	Weingarten	Base Camp
Montana	Ballantine	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Bridger	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Chinook	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Forsyth	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Fort Shaw	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Glasgow AAF	Military Installation Base Camp
Montana	Hardin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Harlem	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Laurel = Riverside Park	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Malott	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Miles City	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Rupert	Branch camp (unknown function)
Montana	Sidney	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Alma	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Bayard	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Benkelman	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta

Nebraska	Bertrand	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Bridgeport	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Camp Atlanta (Holdrege)	Base Camp
Nebraska	Camp Indianola	Atlanta
Nebraska	Camp Scottsbluff (CCC then WPA)	Base Camp
Nebraska	Elwood	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Franklin	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Grand Island	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Hall County Cornhusker Division Ammo Plant	Military branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Hastings	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Hayes Center	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Hebron	Branch camp of Concordia, KS
Nebraska	Kearney	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Lexington	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Lyman	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Mitchell	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Morrill	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Norfolk	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Ogallala	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Palisade	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
Nebraska	Sidney	Branch camp (unknown function)
Nebraska	Weeping Water	Branch camp of Camp Atlanta
New Hampshire	Camp Stark (former CCC)	Branch (agriculture) to Fort Devens, MA
New Jersey	Bridgeton	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Jersey	Camp Kilmer	Military port
New Jersey	Camp Upton	Branch camp to Fort DuPont, DE
New Jersey	Dias Creek	Branch camp for NAS Wildwood
New Jersey	Fort Dix	Military Installation Base Camp
New Jersey	Glassboro	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Jersey	Gloucester City	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Jersey	Jersey City OM = Caven Point	Military Installation Base Camp
New Jersey	NAS Wildwood	Military branch camp to Fort DuPont, DE
New Jersey	Parvin State Park	Branch camp (housing only; worked elsewhere)
New Jersey	Raritan Arsenal	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Jersey	Somerville Depot	Military branch camp
New Mexico	Albuquerque Fairgrounds	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Anthony	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Artesia	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Camp Roswell	Base Camp
New Mexico	Carlsbad	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Clayton	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Clovis	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Deming AAF	Military branch camp
New Mexico	Dexter (Bogle Farm)	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Eleven-Mile Corner	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Elk	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Fort Bayard	Military branch camp
New Mexico	Fort Sumner RRS	Military branch camp
New Mexico	Hatch	Branch camp (unknown function)

New Mexico	Hazen	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Kirtland Field	Military branch camp
New Mexico	Las Cruces I and II	Branch camps (incl. Japanese POWs)
New Mexico	Lordsburg	Base Camp
New Mexico	Mayhill	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Melrose	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Orchard Park	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Portales	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Pyote	Branch camp (unknown function)
New Mexico	Santa Fe (started as Internment Camp)	Branch camp (unknown function)
New York	Attica	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Boonville	Branch camp (unknown function)
New York	Camp Pine = Pine Camp = Fort Drum	Military Installation Base Camp
New York	Camp Shanks	Military port
New York	Clyde	Branch camp (unknown function)
New York	Cobbs Hill Park	Branch camp (industry)
New York	Dunkirk	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Edgerton Park	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Fair Haven Beach	Branch camp (unknown function)
New York	Fort Niagara	Military Installation Base Camp
New York	Geneseo	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Halloran General Hospital (Staten Island)	Military hospital
New York	Hamlin Beach	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Letchworth State	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Marion	Branch camp (agriculture)
New York	Mason General Hospital (Edgewood Hospital)	Military branch camp
New York	Medina	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Mitchel Field (Camp Mills)	Military branch camp
New York	Newark	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Oakfield	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Oswego	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Popolopen (renamed Camp Buckner)	Military Installation Base Camp
New York	Rochester	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
New York	Sodus Point	Branch camp (unknown function)
New York	Van Etten (The Factory)	Branch camp to Fort Niagara
North Carolina	Ahoskie	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Camp Butner	Military Installation Base Camp
North Carolina	Camp Davis	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Camp Mackall (next to Fort Bragg)	Military branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Camp Sutton	Military Installation Base Camp
North Carolina	Carthage	Branch camp (unknown function)
North Carolina	Edenton	Branch camp (unknown function)
North Carolina	Edgerly	Branch camp (unknown function)
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	Military Installation Base Camp
North Carolina	Greensboro	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Hendersonville	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Monroe	Branch camp (unknown function)
North Carolina	Moore General Hospital	Military hospital
North Carolina	New Bern	Branch camp to Bragg
North Carolina	Roanoke Rapids	Branch camp to Butner

North Carolina	Scotland Neck	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Seymour-Johnson Field	Military branch camp to Bragg
North Carolina	Whiteville	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Williamston	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Wilmington	Branch camp to Butner
North Carolina	Winston-Salem	Branch camp to Butner
North Dakota	Grafton	Branch camp to Algona
North Dakota	Grand Forks	Branch camp to Algona
Ohio	Bowling Green	Branch camp (unknown function)
Ohio	Cambridge	Branch camp (unknown function)
Ohio	Camp Perry	Military Installation Base Camp
Ohio	Celina	Branch camp (unknown function)
Ohio	Cile General Hospital	Military hospital
Ohio	Defiance	Branch camp (unknown function)
Ohio	Fletcher General Hospital	Military hospital
Ohio	Fort Hayes	Branch camp (unknown function)
Ohio	Portsmouth	Branch camp (unknown function)
Ohio	Wilmington	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oklahoma	Alva	Base Camp
Oklahoma	Bixby	Branch camp of Gruber
Oklahoma	Caddo (school gym)	Housed POWs on temporary work assignment
Oklahoma	Camp Aline	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oklahoma	Camp Gruber (Braggs)	Military Installation Base Camp
Oklahoma	Chickasha (Borden General Hospital)	Military hospital for Fort Reno
Oklahoma	Chickasha (east)	Branch camp to Alva, then Fort Reno
Oklahoma	Eufaula (ARNG Armory)	Housed POWs on temporary work assignment
Oklahoma	Fort Reno	Base Camp
Oklahoma	Fort Sill (National Historic Landmark)	Military Installation Base Camp
Oklahoma	Gene Autry (Ardmore Army Air Field)	Military branch camp to Camp Howze, TX
Oklahoma	Glennan General Hospital (Okmulgee)	Military hospital for Gruber (POW wards)
Oklahoma	Haskell (ARNG Armory)	Branch camp of Gruber
Oklahoma	Hickory	Branch camp to Camp Howze, TX
Oklahoma	Hobart	Branch (agriculture) to Fort Sill
Oklahoma	Hyrdo (may be Hydro)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oklahoma	Jay	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oklahoma	Konawa (ARNG Armory)	Housed POWs on temporary work assignment
Oklahoma	Lindsey	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oklahoma	Madill Provisional Internment Camp HQ	Admin HQ
Oklahoma	McAlester (former Alien Internment Camp)	Base Camp
Oklahoma	Morris (Watson Ranch)	Work camp for McAlester, then branch of Gruber
Oklahoma	Okemah (ARNG Armory)	Branch camp of Gruber
Oklahoma	Okmulgee (fairgrounds)	Branch camp of Alva, then Gruber
Oklahoma	Pauls Valley	Mobile work camp, branch to Camp Chaffee, AR
Oklahoma	Porter (Community Center)	Branch camp to Gruber
Oklahoma	Powell	Branch camp of Madill HQ, later branch to Camp Howze, TX

Oklahoma	Pryor	Base Camp for POW Officers
Oklahoma	Sallisaw	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oklahoma	Seminole (Municipal Bldg)	Housed POWs on temporary work assignment
Oklahoma	Stillwell (Candy Mink Springs)	Housed POWs on temporary work assignment
Oklahoma	Stringtown	Base Camp
Oklahoma	Tipton	Branch camp to Fort Sill, OK
Oklahoma	Tishomingo	Branch camp of Madill HQ, later branch to Camp Howze, TX
Oklahoma	Tonkawa	Base Camp, later a branch of Alva
Oklahoma	Waynoka (Santa Fe Railyards ice plant)	Branch camp to Alva
Oklahoma	Wetumka (former CCC camp)	Branch camp of Gruber
Oklahoma	Wewoka (NYA Bldg and fairgrounds)	Housed POWs on temporary work assignment
Oklahoma	Will Rogers Field (Oklahoma City)	Military branch camp to Fort Reno
Oregon	Abbott (associated with Deshutes NF)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oregon	Athena	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oregon	Bend	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oregon	Camp Adair	Military Installation Base Camp
Oregon	Camp White	Base Camp
Oregon	Nyssa	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oregon	Pendleton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oregon	Stanfield	Branch camp (unknown function)
Oregon	Vale	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Bark Shanty	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Bull Hill	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Camp Michaux/Pine Grove Furnace	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Camp New Cumberland (Army Depot)	Military Installation Base Camp
Pennsylvania	Camp Reynolds	Military Installation Base Camp
Pennsylvania	Camp Sharp	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Carlisle Barracks	Military branch camp
Pennsylvania	Durhing (near Sheffield)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Galeton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Gettysburg Battlefield	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Indiantown Gap Military Res	Military Installation Base Camp
Pennsylvania	Kane	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	League Island Navy Yard	Military branch camp
Pennsylvania	Lewisburg	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Marienville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Middletown Air Depot	Military branch camp (agriculture) to Gettysburg
Pennsylvania	Northeast	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Olmsted Field (AFB)	Military branch camp
Pennsylvania	Red Bridge	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Sidling Hill	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Stewartstown	Branch camp (unknown function)
Pennsylvania	Tobyhanna Military Res	Military Installation Base Camp
Pennsylvania	Valley Forge General Hospital	Military hospital
Rhode Island	Fort Getty	Military re-education center

Rhode Island	Fort Kearny	Military Installation Base Camp
Rhode Island	Fort Wetherill	Military re-education center
South Carolina	Aiken	Branch camp (forestry)
South Carolina	Barnwell	Branch camp (ag/forestry)
South Carolina	Beaufort	Branch camp (unknown)
South Carolina	Bennettsville	Branch camp (forestry)
South Carolina	Camden	Branch camp (ag/forestry)
South Carolina	Camp Croft	Military Installation Base Camp
South Carolina	Charleston AAB	Military Installation Base Camp
South Carolina	Charleston Navy Yard	Military Installation Base Camp
South Carolina	Charleston Point of Embarkation	Military Installation Base Camp
South Carolina	Columbia AAB	Military Installation Base Camp
South Carolina	Coronaco AAF	Military branch camp (forestry)
South Carolina	Florence AAF	Military branch camp
South Carolina	Fort Jackson	Military Installation Base Camp
South Carolina	Hampton	Branch camp (forestry)
South Carolina	Holly Hill	Military branch camp
South Carolina	Myrtle Beach AAF	Military branch camp (forestry)
South Carolina	Shaw Field	Military branch camp (forestry)
South Carolina	Stark General Hospital	Military hospital
South Carolina	Walterboro AAB	Military branch camp
South Carolina	Whitmere	Branch camp (unknown function)
South Carolina	Witherbee	Branch camp (forestry)
South Carolina	York	Branch camp (unknown function)
South Dakota	Belle Fourche (former CCC camp)	Branch camp (unknown function)
South Dakota	Sioux Falls	Branch camp to Algona
South Dakota	Yankton	Branch camp to Algona
Tennessee	Camp Forrest	Base Camp
Tennessee	Camp Tyson	Military Installation Base Camp
Tennessee	Crossville	Base Camp
Tennessee	Forrest General Hospital (part of Camp Forrest)	Military hospital
Tennessee	Jackson	Branch camp (unknown function)
Tennessee	Lawrenceburg	Branch camp (unknown function)
Tennessee	Memphis General Depot	Military branch camp
Tennessee	Nashville Army Air Center	Military branch camp
Tennessee	Tellico Plains	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Alto	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Alvin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Anahuac	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Angleton Fairgrounds	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Ashburn General Hospital	Military hospital
Texas	Bannister	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Bay City	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Beaumont	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Bryan = Chance Plantation	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Camp Barkeley	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Camp Bowie	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Camp Brady	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Camp Bullis	Branch camp to Fort Sam Houston
Texas	Camp Cushing	Branch camp to Fort Sam Houston

Texas	Camp Fannin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Camp Hood (Fort Hood)	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Camp Howze	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Camp Hulén (former Camp Palacios)	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Camp Kenedy (former Alien Detention Camp)	Base Camp
Texas	Camp Maxey	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Camp Swift (Bostrop)	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Camp Wallace (Anti-aircraft, then Navy)	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Camp Wolters (Fort Wolters, then Wolters AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Canutillo	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Center	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Chance Farm	Branch (agriculture) to Hearne
Texas	Childress AAF	Military branch camp
Texas	China	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Chireno	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Cleburne	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Corpus Christi	Branch camp to Fort Sam Houston
Texas	Corsicana	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Dallas (next to WRR radio station)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Denison = Perrin Air Field	Military branch camp
Texas	Eagle Lake	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	El Campo	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	El Paso County Colliseum	Temporary (tent) before Fort Bliss
Texas	Fabens	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Fort Bliss	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Fort Clark	Houston
Texas	Fort Crockett	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Fort D.A. Russell	Military Installation Base Camp
Texas	Fort Sam Houston	Military branch camp
Texas	Galveston	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Ganado	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Garwood	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Harmon General Hospital	Military hospital - POWs as orderlies
Texas	Hearne	Base Camp
Texas	Hempstead	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Hereford	Base Camp
Texas	Huntsville	1945
Texas	Kaufman	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Liberty	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Lufkin I and II	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	McCloskey General Hospital	Military hospital
Texas	McLean	Base Camp
Texas	Mexia	1945
Texas	Milano = Milam	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Mont Belvieu	Branch camp (unknown function)

Texas	Navasota	Branch (agriculture) to Hearne
Texas	Orange	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Patroon	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Princeton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Rosenberg	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	San Augustine	Branch camp to Fannin - wood products
Texas	Stowell	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Wharton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	White Rock Lake (former CCC camp)	Branch camp (unknown function)
Texas	Ysleta	Branch camp (unknown function)
Utah	Bushnell General Hospital	Military hospital and camp
Utah	Camp Ogden (now Hill AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp
Utah	Clearfield Naval Supply Depot	Military branch camp
Utah	Deseret CW Depot (at Fort Douglas)	Military branch camp
Utah	Logan Fairgrounds	Branch camp (unknown function)
Utah	Orem	Branch camp (unknown function)
Utah	Tooele Army Depot	Military branch camp
Utah	Tremonton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Camp Allen (Fort Ethan Allen?)	Military branch camp
Virginia	Camp Ashby	Base Camp
Virginia	Camp Hill = Fort AP Hill	Military branch camp
Virginia	Camp Lee (Fort Lee)	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Camp Patrick Henry (Hampton Roads POE)	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Camp Peary	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Camp Pickett (Fort Pickett)	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Catawba	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Chatham	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Cumberland	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Danville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Ettinger	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Fort Eustis (combined with Fort Story)	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Fort Hunt	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Fort John Curtis	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Fort Story (see Fort Eustis above)	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Lyndhurst	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Norfolk Army Supply Base (Hampton Nat. Cem)	Point of Repatriation for POWS
Virginia	Old Camp Shelton (part of Little Creek Amphibious Base)	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Radford	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Richmond ASF Depot	Military Installation Base Camp
Virginia	Salem	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Suffolk	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Timberville	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	White Hall	Branch camp (unknown function)
Virginia	Winchester	Branch camp (unknown function)
Washington	Barnes General Hospital	Military hospital

Washington	Baxter General Hospital	Military hospital
Washington	Dayton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Washington	Fort Lawton	Military Installation Base Camp
Washington	Fort Lewis	Military Installation Base Camp
Washington	Magidan General Hospital	Military hospital
Washington	McCaw General Hospital	Military hospital
Washington	Peshastin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Washington	Spanaway	Branch camp (unknown function)
Washington	Squaw Creek	Branch camp (unknown function)
Washington	Toppenish	Branch camp (unknown function)
Washington	Vancouver Barracks (former Fort Vancouver)	Military branch camp
West Virginia	Ashford General Hospital (Camp Ashford; Greenbriar hotel)	Military hospital and camp
West Virginia	Martinsburg	Branch camp (unknown function)
West Virginia	Rainelle	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wisconsin	Antigo	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Appleton	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Barron	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Bayfield	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Beaver Dam	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Billy Mitchell Field	Military branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Cambria	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Camp McCoy (Fort McCoy)	Military Installation Base Camp
Wisconsin	Chilton	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Cobb	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Columbus	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Eau Claire at Altoona	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Edenton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wisconsin	Ellison Bay	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wisconsin	Fish Creek	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wisconsin	Fond du Lac	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Fox Lake	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Fredonia at Little Kohler	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Galesville (also Camp Trempeleau)	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Genesee Depot	Military branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Green Lake	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Hartford	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Hortonville	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Janesville	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Jefferson	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Lake Keesus	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Lodi	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Markesan	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Marshfield	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Merton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wisconsin	Milltown	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Oakfield	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Plymouth	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Reedsburg	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Rhinelanders	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Rice Lake	Branch camp (unknown function)

Wisconsin	Ripon	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Rockfield	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Sheboygan	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	St. Croix Falls	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wisconsin	Sturgeon Bay	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Sturtevant	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Waterloo	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Waupun	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wisconsin	Whitewater	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Rapids	Branch camp of Camp McCoy
Wyoming	Basin	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Centennial	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Cheyenne	Base Camp
Wyoming	Clearmont	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Deaver	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Douglas	Base Camp
Wyoming	Dubois	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Esterbrook	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	now FE Warren AFB)	Military Installation Base Camp
Wyoming	Huntley	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Lingle	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Lovell	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Pine Bluffs	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Riverton	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Ryan Park	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Torrington	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Veteran	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Wheatland	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Wind River	Branch camp (unknown function)
Wyoming	Worland	Branch camp (unknown function)

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**APPENDIX C:  
DOCUMENTATION REPORTS**

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## DOCUMENTATION REPORT: CAMP ATTERBURY

### Brief History of Camp Atterbury

Camp Atterbury is a multi-use training facility southwest of Indianapolis and 5 miles west of Edinburgh, Indiana. The facility is used by all branches of the military; however, the majority of the installation is used by the Indiana National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. Measuring approximately 12 miles by 7 miles, the 33,484.64-acre installation contains many types of terrain and vegetation, providing training opportunities for a wide variety of offensive and defensive maneuvers. Air assault, rappelling, ground reconnaissance, and other specialized training operations occur at Camp Atterbury.

The installation was named after Indiana-born William Wallace Atterbury, who was commissioned as a Brigadier General during World War I. Camp Atterbury was established in 1942 during World War II as a U.S. Army training camp. In only 7 months 1,780 buildings were constructed, and operations were started by June 1942. During the war, more than 275,000 U.S. soldiers were transferred to Camp Atterbury for training.

During World War II, a prisoner of war (POW) camp was established on a portion of Camp Atterbury. Italian POWs that had been captured in North Africa were transferred there in 1943 and remained until 1944. German POWs followed and were interned at Camp Atterbury from 1944 to 1946. The POWs worked not only inside the camp, but on local farms and in canning companies where they helped to alleviate the local labor shortage during the war years.

Camp Atterbury was put on inactive status in 1955, although the installation occasionally was used for weekend training by Indiana National Guard and Army Reserve units. In July 1958, the Indiana Air National Guard established an air-to-ground gunnery range in the southwestern portion of the installation. The control of the southern three-fourths of the original camp was transferred to the Indiana National Guard in 1970.

The gunnery range continues to be used today by fighter aircraft of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, Marine units, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Units, which practice strafing and bombing gunnery on the range. Training exercises are regularly conducted at Camp Atterbury and include an annual 2-week training exercise for the 76th Separate Infantry Brigade (Light) of the Indiana National Guard and a U.S. Navy SEAL Training Camp, in operation since 1990.

### Camp Atterbury POW Camp Timeline

30 Apr 1943	First Italian POWs arrive at Camp Atterbury.
19 May 1943	Colonel Modisette announces that POWs are available for civilian work projects outside the camp.
5 Jun 1943	An announcement is made that Camp Atterbury will be a permanent POW camp.
31 Mar 1944	106 Fascist Italian POWs are transferred from Camp Atterbury to Camp Monticello, Arkansas.
4 May 1944	All Italian POWs transferred from Camp Atterbury to other locations for placement in Italian Service Units.
8 May 1944	German POWs begin to arrive at Camp Atterbury.
6 Jul 1944	All German POWs [number unknown], who had been members of the German Navy when captured, are transferred to Fort McCain, Mississippi.
14 Jul 1944	225 German POWs are transferred to Camp Atterbury.
20 Sep 1944	2 German POWs escape.
22 Sep 1944	Escaped German POWs are captured.

27 Sep 1944	A request is made to transfer 147 German POWs of Dutch origin to Camp Butner, North Carolina.
11 Oct 1944	A request is made to transfer 350 German POWs to Camp Atterbury.
20 Oct 1944	A request is made to transfer 200 German POWs from Camp Atterbury to Camp Reno.
14 Nov 1944	An urgent request is made to transfer 102 German POWs of Russian descent from Camp Atterbury to another camp.
6 Jan 1945	1,000 German POWs are used by the Morgan Packing Company at nearby Austin, Indiana. The company's owner purchases land to house tents for the POWs.
27 Apr 1945	1 German POW escapes.
7 May 1945	Escaped POW is captured.
8 May 1945	German POWs are notified of Germany's surrender.
11 May 1945	2 German POWs escape.
25 May 1945	It is announced that 500 German POWs are available for local farm work.
5 Sep 1945	400 additional German POWs are transferred to Camp Atterbury.
7 Sep 1945	1,200 German POW officers are moved to Branch Camp at Windfall, Indiana.
27 Jun 1946	The last German POWs are repatriated from Camp Atterbury.

### **Description of Camp Atterbury POW Camp**

The Camp Atterbury POW camp consisted of 60 acres in the western section of the U.S. Army's Camp Atterbury training installation. Between 1943 and 1946 almost 12,000 Italian and German POWs were transferred in and out of the camp. The administration, training, guarding, and disciplining of the POWs were handled by the 1537th Service Unit of the U.S. Army, formed on 15 December 1942 specifically to run the internment camp. The unit was stationed at Camp Atterbury and was housed outside of the POW camp.

Almost 3,000 Italian POWs were interned at the camp from 1943 to mid-1944. Inspection reports on file at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) (Record Group 389, Entry 461, Box 2654) indicate that, as of January 1944, the camp contained 2,741 Italian POWs, including 2,485 privates, 254 non-commissioned officers, and 2 officers. During their internment the Italian POWs worked both on and off the camp's grounds. Work inside included what was known as Class I and Class II labor and consisted of administration, grounds-keeping, kitchen and laundry work, decorative construction, and maintaining Camp Atterbury's 50-acre farm. Class I labor included a 55-piece paid orchestra and other skilled labor (e.g., shoe repairs, medicine). Approximately 1,166 POWs were employed on Class II labor.

Most of the remaining Italian POWs worked on local farms in Johnson and Selby County, helping to alleviate their labor shortage during the summer and fall seasons. At first the POWs' work was restricted to an area within a 25-mile radius of the POW camp, but the restriction was soon lifted. Farmers' requests for POW labor had to be made through the county agricultural agents to Colonel John Gammel, the Internment Camp Commander. After Italy became a co-belligerent nation to the United States in November 1943 following Mussolini's oust from power, Italian POWs were given the opportunity to form Italian Service Units (ISUs) and support the war effort. Most of the prisoners at Camp Atterbury volunteered for the ISUs and were transferred to other camps. By 4 May 1944 all Italian POWs had departed Camp Atterbury.

Four days after the Italian POWs left Camp Atterbury; German POWs arrived at the camp. By 30 June 1944, 2,940 German POWs had arrived, and by October there were 8,898 German prisoners at Camp Atterbury and its branch camps at Austin, Windfall, Vincennes, Eaton, and Morristown. Like the Italian POWs before them, German prisoners had work assignments within the camp, at local farms and

orchards, and in local industry. Saunders Orchard, north of the camp, used the POWs for harvesting of peaches and apples, and many area tomato farmers used them to cultivate and harvest their crops. The largest labor contract was held by the Morgan Canning Company, which employed more than 1,500 POWs.

A site plan of the POW camp found in the Inspection Reports file for Camp Atterbury at NARA shows that the area consisting of the barracks and recreation area, or stockade, and the administration area were arranged in an east-west orientation north of 31st Street, which appears to have been extended to accommodate the POW camp. The stockade was bounded by West Patrol Road on the west, North Patrol Road on the north, East Patrol Road on the east, and South Patrol Road (also 31<sup>st</sup> Street) on the south. Mills Road bisected the stockade and administration areas, running in an east-west direction. (NARA, RG 389, Entry 461, Box 2654)

According to the site plan, the stockade was enclosed by a double row of barbed wire fence, with guard towers covering a narrow alley between the fences. The stockade was divided into three compounds, with four POW companies housed in each compound. Each of the compounds contained 20 barracks, 4 mess halls, 4 storehouse and administration buildings, 4 lavatories, 1 Post Exchange, 1 recreation building, 1 administration building, 1 shop, and 1 infirmary. A visitors' building sat at the east end of Compound No. 2. At the entrance to the stockade, near the intersection of East Patrol Road and Mills Road, were the stockade office and tool house, a guard tower, and the guard house.

The recreation area was in the western portion of the stockade and contained a small chapel, three soccer fields, six volleyball courts, three bocce fields, one boxing ring, and one gymnasium equipped with horizontal and parallel bars and other equipment. Nine guard towers sat at the corners, mid-way points, and entrance to the stockade.

The site map shows that the administration area had 10 barracks, 3 lavatories, 2 officers' quarters, a day room and exchange, 4 lavatories, 3 mess halls, and 3 administration buildings. The buildings were arranged along two north-south roads, Garrison Road, and Cook Road. A large warehouse sat at the northeastern corner of Cook Road and 31st Street.

NARA records describe the barracks as one-story buildings with walls of Celotex brand wall board painted a buff sand finish. The roofs were light green, and fence posts in the yard were painted white. The shelter interiors allowed for more than 40 square feet per person, per stipulations in the Geneva Convention, according to the NARA records. Beds were of metal and were kept single as double bunking was unnecessary. Beds were kept at least 2 feet away from space heaters. A dispensary was used for sick call, and two wards of one wing of Wakeman Hospital (outside the stockade and to the southeast) were set aside for the POWs; these wards were enclosed in a double row of fencing and closely guarded. (NARA RG 389, Entry 461, Box 2654)

There were few trees at Camp Atterbury after its construction, but during their internment the Italian POWs improved the grounds by planting evergreen shrubbery in the stockade area. They also created rock gardens outside of their barracks, including a 15-foot mosaic of the American flag formed of small pieces of stone. A cemetery south of the POW compound was expanded to hold the graves of POWs. Fifty acres of land north of the camp were cultivated by the Italian POWs during 1943 to provide crops to supplement the food supply of the camp. In 1944, the farm was expanded to include 150 acres during the tenure of the German POWs.

After World War II, Camp Atterbury was placed in inactive status, and the dismantling of the buildings within the POW compound began. The only building left standing was the small chapel built by the Italian POWs in 1943.

## Description of Extant Features

The only extant features of the original camp are a chapel and two carved rocks, all of which are attributed to the Italian POWs. The chapel, first known as a shrine and later known as the Chapel in the Meadow, was constructed by the Italian prisoners for their use shortly after their arrival at Camp Atterbury.



**Chapel in the Meadow (Goodfellow 2007)**

To build the chapel, the POWs collected leftover building materials from other construction projects at the camp. Many were artisans skilled in wood and stone carving, masonry, and painting, and they applied their crafts to the construction and decoration of the chapel. An altar at the north end was painted to resemble marble, with a painting created above it. Frescoes were applied to the two side walls, and the floor was painted red to simulate carpet. The prisoners had limited art supplies and used mixed dyes from berries, flower petals, and even their own blood to achieve the colors for the paintings and floor. The chapel was completed and dedicated on 16 October 1943.



**Altar and Paintings, Chapel in the Meadow (Goodfellow 2007)**

The rocks also were carved by the POWs, and one adjacent to the chapel reads “Atterbury Internment Camp, 1537th S.U. 12-15-42.” The second rock marked the camp’s eastern entrance. Carved by two

POWs, it read “Camp Atterbury 1942” and had what has been described as an Italian dagger carved in the center of the year. The foundations of the buildings within the POW compound and those for the entrance gates and towers around the stockade still exist, and have been documented as archaeological site 12JO429. A portion of the site sits on land owned by Camp Atterbury, and a portion sits on land now owned by the Indiana State Department of Natural Resources.



**POW Rock Carvings, Camp Atterbury (Goodfellow 2007)**

The cemetery south of the POW compound that once contained the graves of 19 POWs includes a marker noting its former function as a POW cemetery. The bodies of 16 German and 3 Italian POWs were removed to a cemetery at Camp Butler in Springfield, Illinois in 1970.

### **Heritage Tourism Potential**

The Camp Atterbury Museum, which is open to the public, includes a wall display relating to the POW camp and a display case that contains photographs, programs for the annual Italian Heritage program at the Chapel in the Meadow, and copies of news articles. The Chapel in the Meadow, although on Camp Atterbury property, can be accessed by members of the public. The chapel is kept locked but has a clear glass wall on the front so that visitors can see the paintings and altar inside. Once a year, the Italian Heritage Society hosts a mass and picnic at the Chapel in the Meadow which are attended by camp personnel and a number of former Italian POWs (and their families) who relocated to the area after the war. The event is attended by Liberto Puccini, one of the men who carved the Camp Atterbury entrance rock. Finally, as noted above, the cemetery south of the POW compound features a marker noting its previous use as a POW cemetery.

The heritage tourism materials relating to the Camp Atterbury POW camp could be enhanced by the following elements:

1. Add text and maps describing the POW camp to the wall display in the Camp Atterbury Museum.
2. Excavate the ruins of the POW compound, in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, and publish the results for the public.
3. Place an interpretive sign(s) adjacent to the ruins that summarizes what is know about the camp.
4. Add information about the POW camp to the Camp Atterbury Museum Web page.

### **Research Notes**

Research about the POW camp at Camp Atterbury included a visit to the camp on 12 February 2007, research at the Camp Atterbury Museum and the Edinburgh Public Library on 13–14 February 2007, and

research at NARA on 28 February and 8 March 2007. Photographs were taken of the Chapel in the Meadow, the two carved rocks, and the display at the Camp Atterbury Museum. Small images and articles housed in the Museum display were scanned, and articles were printed from microfilm files at the Edinburgh Public Library (later scanned). Karstin Carmany-George, the Cultural Resources Manager of the Indiana Army National Guard, provided a copy of the site form completed for the ruins of the POW compound and a copy of the chapter relating to the POW camp in *The Atterbury File*. The book was compiled by the 8th grade class of Custer Baker Middle School, Franklin, Indiana, the staff of Camp Atterbury, and the Johnston County Historical Society during the early 1980s. The research project examines the history of Camp Atterbury and includes information obtained from oral history interviews with former guards of the POW camp. Records at the NARA were scanned or, in the case of the site plan, copied by NARA staff and then scanned. NARA records include inspection reports, labor reports, detention rosters, and correspondence files.

## References

### Camp Atterbury Museum

var. Miscellaneous newspaper articles, maps, photos, and records, on display at the Camp Atterbury Museum, Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Camp Atterbury Site Plan, N.d., on display at the Camp Atterbury Museum Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

### Johnston Country Historical Society

n.d. *The Atterbury File*. Volume compiled by the 8th grade class of the Custer Baker Middle School in Franklin, Indiana, the staff of Camp Atterbury, and the Johnston County Historical Society.

### National Archives and Records Administration

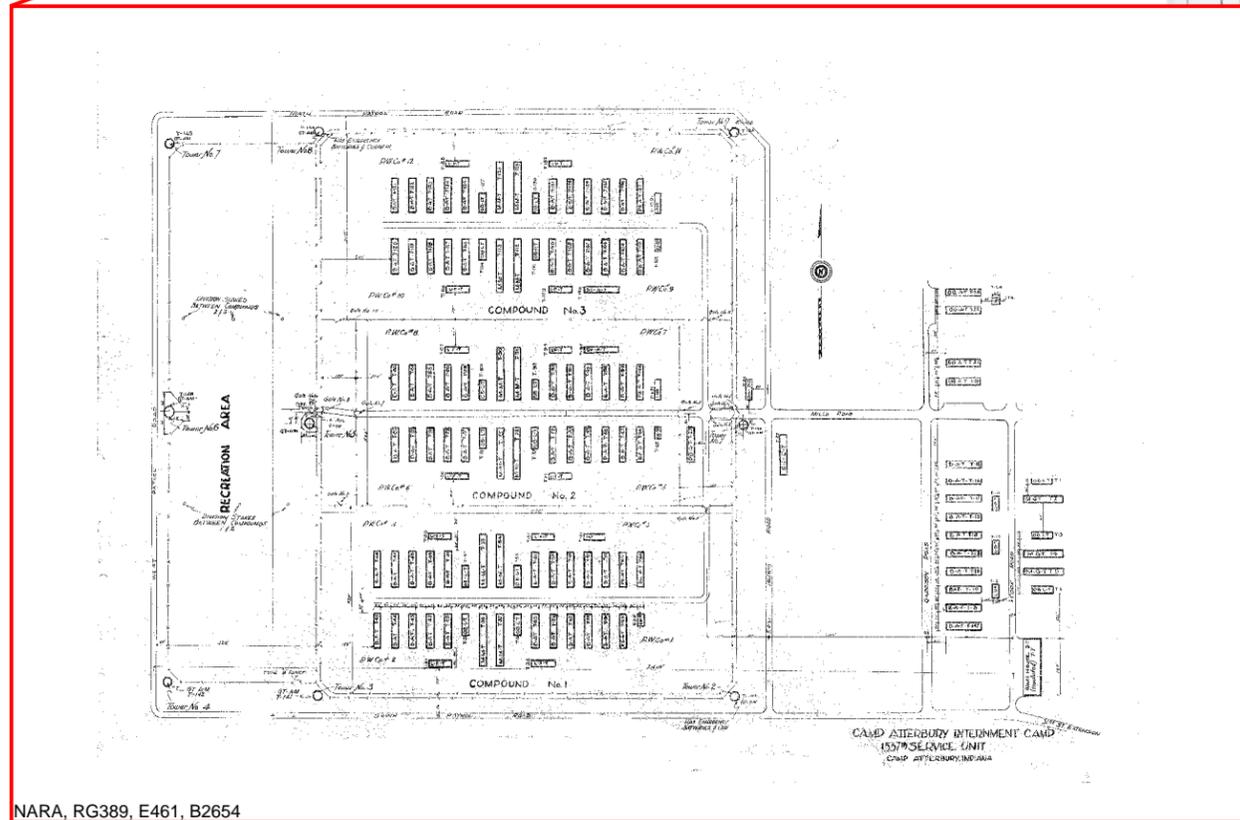
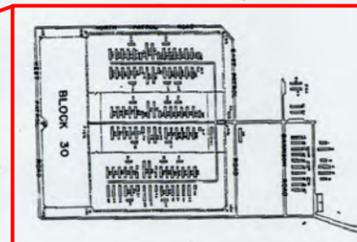
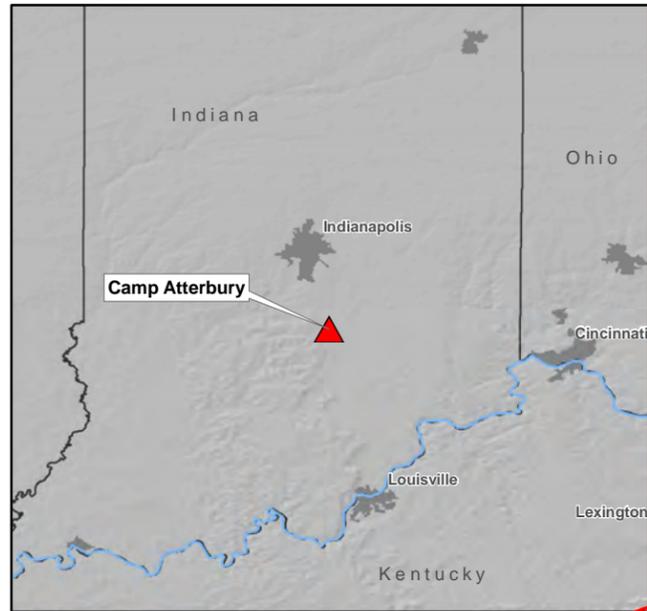
var. Inspection and Field Reports, Camp Atterbury. Office of the Provost Marshal General, Washington D.C. Record Group 389, Entry 461, Box 2654. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

var. Correspondence, Camp Atterbury. Office of the Provost Marshal General, Washington D.C. Record Group 389, Entry 461, Box 2475. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

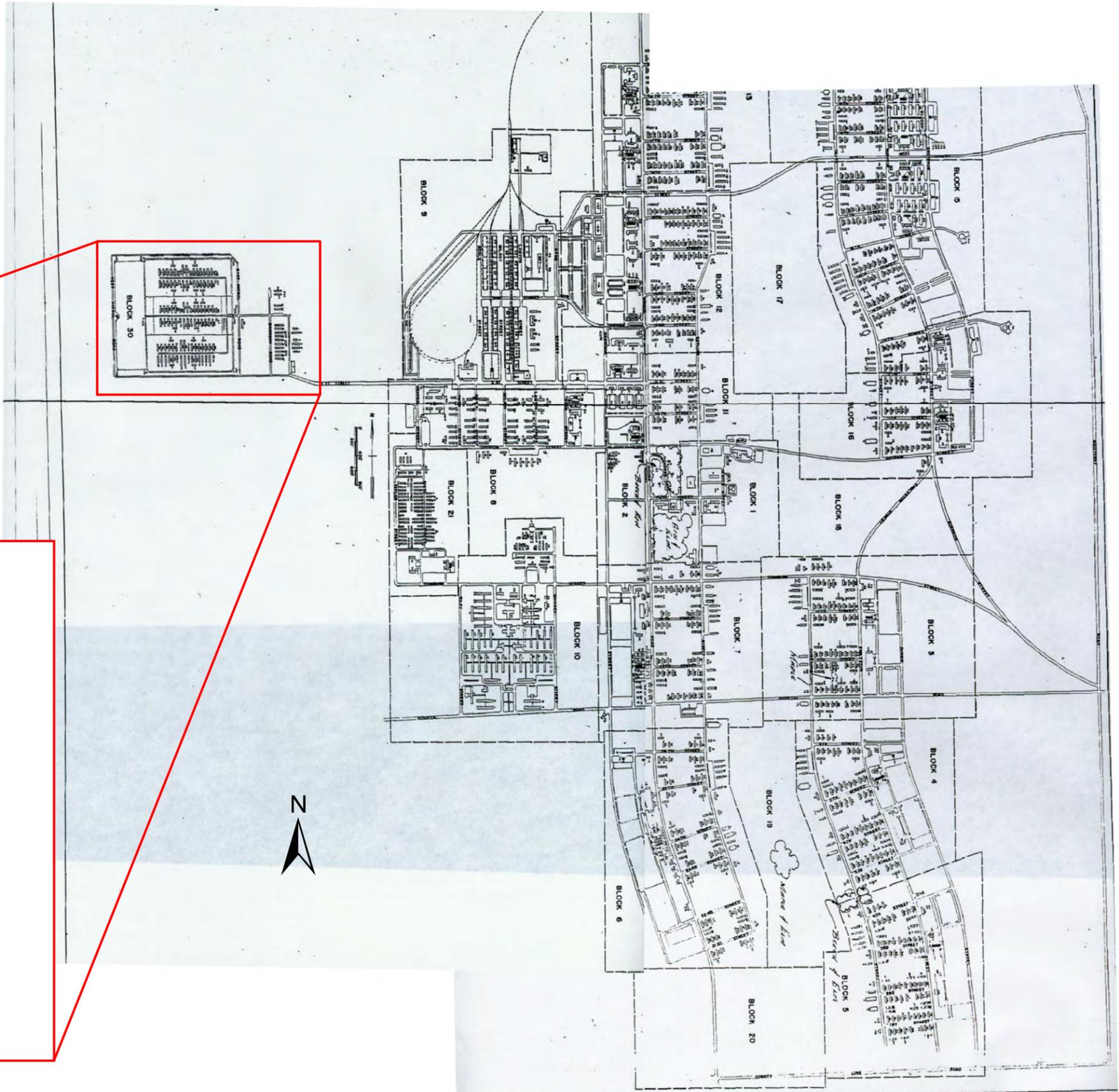
## Useful Web sites

[www.GlobalSecurity.org](http://www.GlobalSecurity.org)- provides information and history of Camp Atterbury

# POW Compound - Camp Atterbury



NARA, RG389, E461, B2654





## DOCUMENTATION REPORT: CAMP BEALE

### Brief History of Camp Beale

Camp Beale, now Beale Air Force Base, is on the eastern margin of the Sacramento Valley, approximately 6 miles east of Marysville, in Yuba County, California. The brief historical overview provided here was derived from a number of sources, with the greatest proportion drawn from *Historic Architectural Study of Beale Air Force Base Yuba County, California: A Preliminary Survey and Historic Overview of World War II and Cold War Era Properties* (Corbett 1994).

The more than 30 sections of land that later became Camp Beale were first divided during the 1850s under the Federal Ordinance of 1785. A small portion of the camp (approximately three sections) was part of the Johnson Rancho, established in 1844 under Mexican law, and was not included in the Federal land survey in the 1850s. Except for Johnson's Ranch, which was grazed as early as 1844, most of the future land of Camp Beale was settled by farmers beginning in the 1850s. The farms were small and diversified and approximately ¼ section in size. By 1942 many of the small farms were consolidated and were leased rather than owner-occupied. Wheat, barley, oats, figs, and olives were the main crops, with fruit orchards and hay added in later years.

In December 1941, the Army selected an 86,000-acre site west of Marysville for a training camp and staging area to be called Camp Beale. The camp was named for Edward Fitzgerald Beale, a Navy Officer who came to California in 1846 with Commodore Stockton. Beale fought against Mexico under Stephen Kearny, worked with Kit Carson, led the state militia (1853–1856), served as U.S. Superintendent for Indian Affairs (1852–1854), surveyed rail and wagon roads, established the U.S. Army Camel Corps, developed Rancho El Tejon, served as Surveyor General of California and Nevada during the Civil War, and served as minister to Austria-Hungary in 1876. There is no evidence that Beale ever had any direct association with the area that became Camp Beale and Beale Air Force Base (Hart 1987:39; Krahulec and Goddard 1980:1–3).

The site of the Camp Beale cantonment was selected by the War Department in the spring of 1942. A plan for the post was prepared by the Army Corp of Engineers with the goal to erect facilities for 35,000 men and women by October 1942. A spur from the railroad line to Marysville was built to provide rapid access for building materials. The cantonment was built along roads remaining from the farm community of Erle. All of the existing buildings, including all farm buildings and other structures within the area of the new post, were removed. Early Camp Beale buildings appear from photographs as wood frame construction on concrete foundation posts and were a type of construction classified as “temporary” (Beale AFB, Office of History 1943).

The primary tenants of Camp Beale were the 13th Armored Division and, for shorter periods, the 81st and 96th Infantry Divisions. In addition to its primary function as a training base, Camp Beale served as a personnel replacement depot from 1942 to 1946, an induction center until 1946, and a West Coast separation center until 1947.

From 1944 to 1947 Camp Beale was the site of a large Prisoner of War detention center for German and Italian detainees. There were as many as 3,000 prisoners at Camp Beale and 3,000 additional prisoners at the five branch camps in the surrounding towns of Windsor, Davis, Arbuckle, Chico, and Napa. After the surrender of Japan in September 1945, the camp accomplished a staged process of shutting down. By the fall of 1947 Camp Beale came under the jurisdiction of the War Assets Administration, which was responsible for disposing of most of the facilities on the camp.

With a small remaining remnant of buildings and facilities, only the California Army National Guard used the camp in 1947 and early 1948. In 1948, the Air Force claimed the Camp and it was transferred to the Air Training Command and reestablished as the Beale Bombing and Gunnery Range. The Beale Bombing and Gunnery Range became Beale Air Force Base in 1951. In 1956 the Air Training Command was reassigned to the Strategic Air Command (SAC). Under SAC, Beale became an important base in the Cold War defense program. In 1964, Beale Air Force Base became the primary base for the SR-71 or “The Blackbird.” In 1975, the base also became headquarters for microwave radiation radar facilities (PAVE PAWS), which can detect and provide early warnings of sea-launched ballistic missiles. In 1983, the 9<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing became the host unit of the facility.

### **POW Compound Timeline**

- 17 Aug 1943     Initial memo regarding feasibility of constructing a 3,000-man POW camp at Camp Beale is forwarded to the Office of Provost Marshall General.
  
- 28 Jan 1944     Construction of a 3,000-man POW camp at Camp Beale is authorized; construction is initially planned as conversion of buildings in the northern portion of Block 2600.
  
- 1 Mar 1944     Design plan changes; construction is now proposed for a 1,000-man camp in one-half of Block 3800. Construction apparently starts in March, despite several subsequent memoranda requesting modifications to the design prior to official approval.
  
- 22 Apr 1944     Request for 1,000 POWs for Camp Beale cancelled; the intended prisoners were to be transferred from Papago Park, however labor was not available.
  
- 17 May 1944     Prisoners arrive at the installation. Camp Beale is the base camp for the area with five branch camps in Windsor, Davis, Arbuckle, Chico, and Napa. The capacity of Camp Beale is 3,000 prisoners; an additional 3,000 are allocated to the branch tent camps.
  
- Sept 1944     Discussions occur between Camp Beale and the Office of the Provost Marshall General regarding plans to expand the POW compound to accommodate another 4,500 POWs. The expansion would be accomplished through conversion of existing housing.
  
- May 1945     Camp Beale is at the height of POW activity; war with Germany ends.
  
- July 1946     Final prisoners sent home from Camp Beale. Josef Roesch is one of the last prisoners to be sent home. He carries a check for \$250 representing the value of the coupons he earned for assigned work.
  
- May 1947     Camp Beale is declared surplus by the War Department
  
- 7 May 1947     Six POWs buried at Camp Beale are exhumed and reburied at the Golden Gate National Cemetery.
  
- 29 Sep 1947     War Asset Department disposes of most of the facilities on base; buildings are sold and moved away to the local community.

## **Description of the POW Camp**

Camp Beale was selected as a POW internment site because of available land and the availability of employment for POWs in surrounding region. The compound was established on a portion of the Camp bounded by “D” and “E” Streets, and 2nd and 4th Streets. The buildings used were part of the original cantonment, so new construction was kept to a minimum. The POW compound was surrounded by a double fence, lit with floodlights, with guard towers at each corner. Many of the prisoners who were detained at Camp Beale were captured while serving in Rommel’s Afrika Korps. Many were originally confined in Houston, Texas, or Oklahoma before transferring, via train, to Camp Beale.

The POW camp included 17 barracks, 4 mess halls, a canteen, 6 company storehouses (which also served as recreation buildings), and a chapel (Beale AFB 1984; Krahulec and Goddard 1980). In addition, a building with 10 cells for solitary confinement was built of reinforced concrete (Building T-3400) within a wooden storehouse structure. This building is the only standing structure from the POW compound and is on the western edge of the former compound.

The initial request for prisoners from the Army Services Forces, 9th Service Command, noted that the POW camp at Beale would be ready for occupancy on 10 May 1944. The letter dated 22 April 1944 also requested that 1,000 German prisoners bound for Camp Beale would be ready for shipment on or about 10 May 1944.



**Historic Photo Showing Guard Tower #3  
(Signal Corps Photo Archive, May 1944)**

A report from the Army Service Forces Headquarters, Office of the Provost Marshal General provides a detailed description of the camp prior to the arrival of the prisoners:

*The prisoner of war camp is a part of the military reservation of Camp Beale, California. Camp Beale lies in the flat level country of the Sacramento Valley district of California. At the time of this visit the camp was under construction and had not been completed. The camp itself was built utilizing existing housing facilities. In general it conforms to the standard plan for prisoner of war camps approved by this office. However, two exceptions were noted, one being the construction of an additional gate on the east side of the POW compound to allow for ease of entrance to the compound area for administrative personnel and also to be used by the fire depot in case of fire. In addition a separate disciplinary area has been constructed on the southwest side of the camp across the road from the prisoner compound.*

*The list of overhead personnel included 8 officers and 21 enlisted men. Major Walter Millis served as the Prisoner of War Camp Commander, Capt. William Montgomery was the POW Executive Office and Stockade Commander, and Capt. Benjamin Wassell the Medical Officer. [Headquarters Army Service Forces, Office of the Provost Marshal General, letter dated 25 May 1944]*

The camp was completely self-sufficient with approximately a tenth of the prisoners worked within the camp and a number of prisoners labored elsewhere within Camp Beale. Jobs held by prisoners included hospital work, motor vehicle service, laundry work, railroad maintenance, plumbing, and carpentry. Other prisoners were escorted from the camp 6 days a week to work in the orchards and fields in the Yuba-Sutter area. The day laborers wore dark blue fatigues with a white "PW" stenciled on their shirts and trousers. For work off the base they were paid 80 cents a day in coupons. On base, their basic pay was 10 cents a day. Officers were not required to work and received \$20–40 a month depending on their rank. Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) prisoners worked in supervisory positions only. The farmers had to pay the prevailing wage for the type of work done; after the prisoner received his 80 cents a day, the remainder went to the government. The prisoners received a portion of their pay in coupons and used these to buy cigarettes, newspapers, ice cream, and two glasses of beer per man, per day. The rest of their pay went into an account to be issued to the prisoner upon his repatriation.

Four letters from the International Red Cross Committee obtained from the NARA provide additional information on the make-up of the camp and daily operations. In one of these, a report of a 1944 visit to the camp by M. Maurice Perret of the Geneva International Red Cross, the author notes:

*The total number of prisoners is 764 sailors and 90 noncommissioned officers, for a total of 854 German prisoners, all part of the Navy. Of this number 292 sailors and 18 noncommissioned officers (310 men) are in a work detachment at Windsor, California.*

*The prisoners are in a part of the camp formerly occupied by American troops. The prisoners' camp has a capacity of 1250 but up to the present the maximum has been 1017 prisoners.*

*The residence barracks are two-storied; in addition to the sleeping quarters there are toilets and showers and some rooms with 2 or 4 beds for the non-commissioned officers. Each company has a refectory with a kitchen and a recreation room. For the whole camp there is in addition a two-story building with downstairs, chapel and sacristy for the chaplains, and upstairs, a class room, library, office of the spokesman and of the chief of studies.*

*Few classes are given at this time because almost all of the men work and the heat is too great. A more complete program will be set up later and will include elementary and advanced mathematics, technical drawing, English, mechanics, and artistic drawing and painting.*

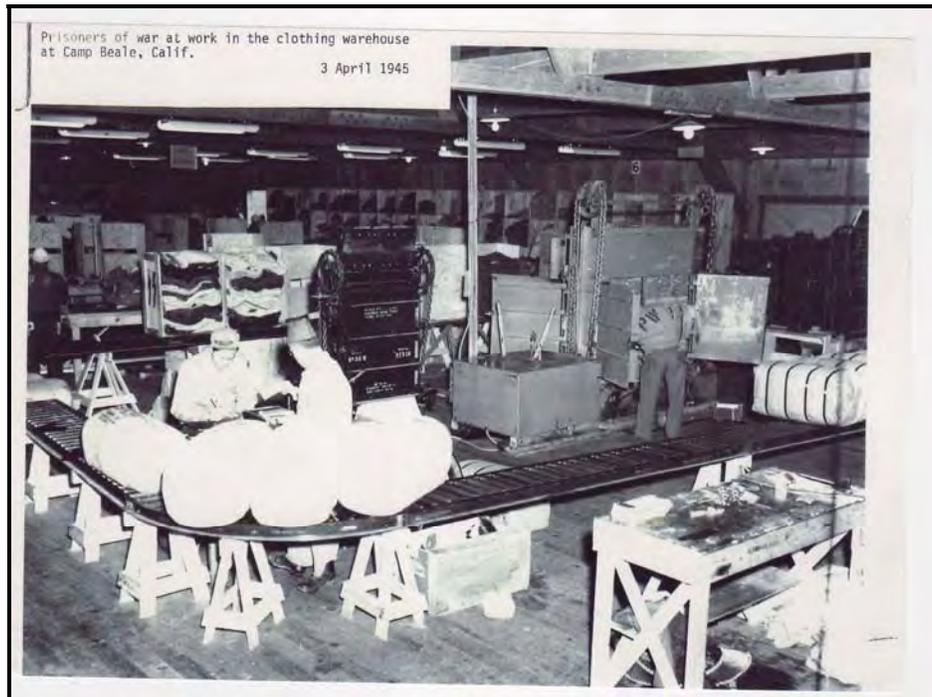
*The prisoners have a moving picture presentation once a week; they have 12 radio sets and a gramophone. They have a small orchestra, of which were bought with the profits of the canteen.*

*Inside the camp there is a large football field; in addition, the prisoners box and play ping pong. A part of the sports equipment has also been bought with the help of the profits of the canteen.*

*A prisoner, a Catholic Priest, takes care of the religious needs of the prisoners. A Lutheran Pastor comes from the next town to hold services on Sunday but has only a very small attendance.*

*The greater part of the prisoners works in the military camp. The principal groups are laundry (70), automobile mechanics (20), assistant cooks (60), and repairing of uniforms and equipment (15). There are no night shifts. All the prisoners who work are paid 80 cents a day. [International Red Cross Committee Letter, Visit to Camp Beale, 11 September 1944; report issued from the Special War Problems Division Department 9 April 1945]*

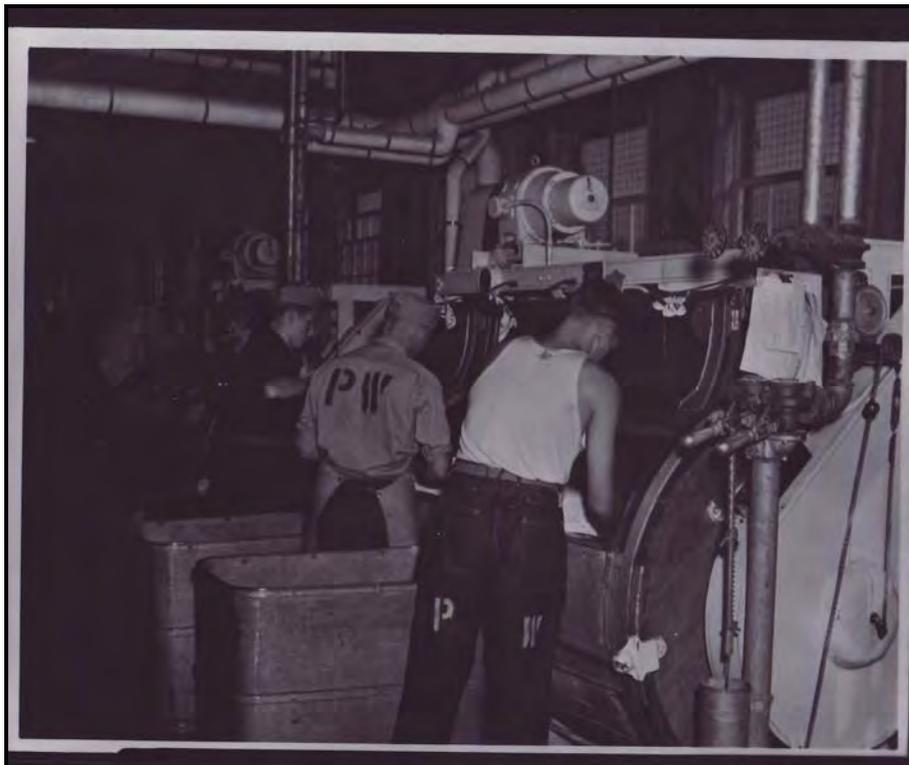
A Prisoner of War Camp Labor Report for Beale (dated 15 October 1944), listed a total of 1,053 non commissioned officers and 7,890 privates working at the camp. The majority of the prisoners were listed as working in the laundry (1492), followed by other post activities (749), engineering (998), post medical (544) and EM mess (434).



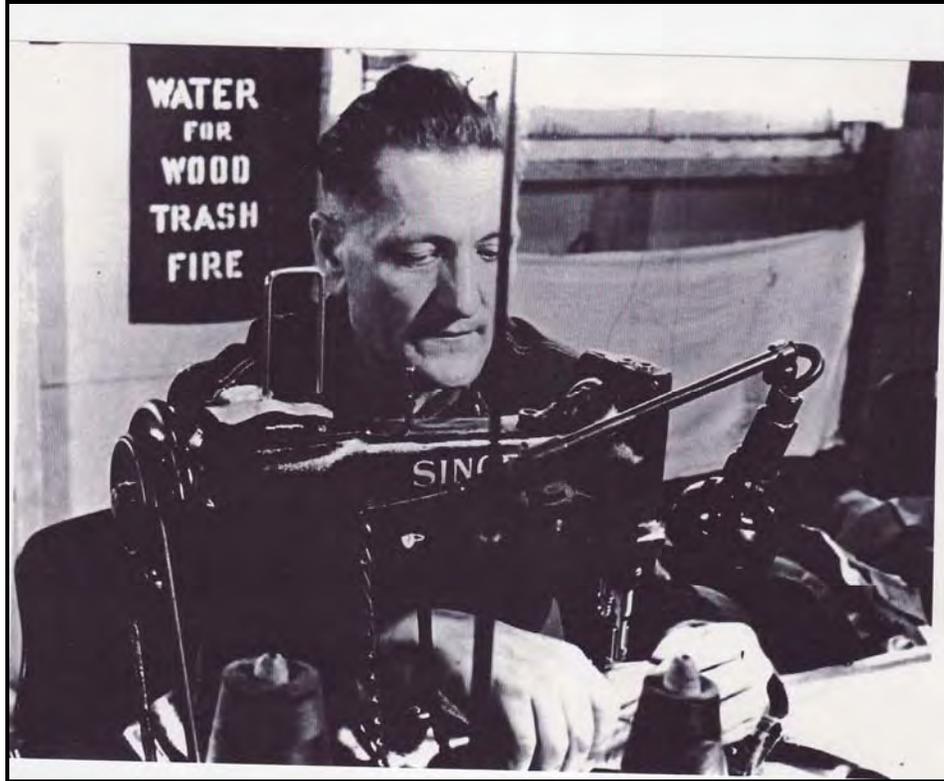
**POW Clothing Warehouse (Signal Corps Photo Archive, 4 April 1945)**



**POWs Sorting Shoes (Signal Corps Photo Archive, 3 April 1945)**



**POW Laundry (Signal Corps Photo Archive, 3 April 1945)**



**POW Sewing (Signal Corps Photo Archive, 3 April 1945)**



**POW Cobbler Shop (Signal Corps Photo Archive, 3 April 1945)**



**POW Butcher Shop (Signal Corps Photo Archive, circa 1944)**

Movies were shown in the camp and prisoners paid to see them. The movies were screened to give a favorable impression of American life and democracy. Most of the prisoners at Beale donated money to the Red Cross for European relief after the war ended. The base paper, *The Bealiner*, carried a report that \$6,214.52 was contributed by prisoners at Camp Beale and one of the branch camps at Windsor.

Prisoners were able to enroll in night classes and had available hobby shops for woodcarving, painting, and watch-making. Individual barracks were decorated with paintings of the Alps and “busty girls.” In one camp, an artist painted a group of nude women with the warning: “A good soldier must learn to do without.”

A POW visit by a Swiss representative offers insight into the camp in April 1945:

*On the day of the visit 1255 German prisoners of war were held at the base camp and 202 held at a side camp at Windsor. The principal changes in the occupancy were the shipment of 250 prisoners to Papago Park, Arizona, and the receipt of 500 prisoners from Huntsville Texas.*

*The prisoners made no complaints regarding washing or toilet facilities. The cost of the daily ration for the month of March averaged \$0.52 per man per day. No complaints were received regarding the food or cooking facilities. On the day of the visit there were nine prisoner of war patients in the post hospital, none were in critical condition. Two prisoners who were patients at the Post Hospital committed suicide since the last visit.*

*There are no complaints about the clothing issued to the prisoners. There was no complaint about the canteen.*

*Incoming mail has averaged about 600 letters per month.*

*Of the 66 recognized non-commissioned German officers, 17 have refused to sign up for work. For several days prior to the visit they had been segregated during the eight hour work day in a separate compound where they were held. They were denied beer and cigarettes and were served cold meals.*

*During the month of April there were four disciplinary cases, involving confinement of 10 days or over. There were 24 individuals subject to disciplinary punishments during that period. There have been no court-martials.*

[Prisoner of War Camp Beale Inspection, April 29 and 30, 1945; Visited by Mr. Verner Tobler, Legation of Switzerland].

There are few documented cases of prisoners attempting to escape from Camp Beale and it appears none were successful. One known attempt at Camp Beale is referred to by historian Peggy Bal (1979). According to the former Provost Marshal who served at Camp Beale during the war, a tunnel was excavated near the southeastern corner of the camp under the guard tower. The tunnel was discovered and filled in. Records for one prisoner, a Karl Czosnowski, indicated that he was transferred to the POW Camp, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland (letter dated 19 March 1945, Headquarters 9<sup>th</sup> Service Command, Fort Douglas Utah; letter dated 13 March 1945, Army Services Forces Office of the Commanding General, Washington, D.C). The importance of this prisoner is unknown.

There was a small cemetery southeast of the camp for prisoners who committed suicide, were killed, or died while at Camp Beale. There are records for six POW burials in the Camp Beale cemetery, four German and two Italian. This cemetery no longer exists at Camp Beale; the remains were exhumed and re-interred at the prisoner of war cemetery at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in 1947 (Attachment A, State Department Letter dated 7 May 1947).

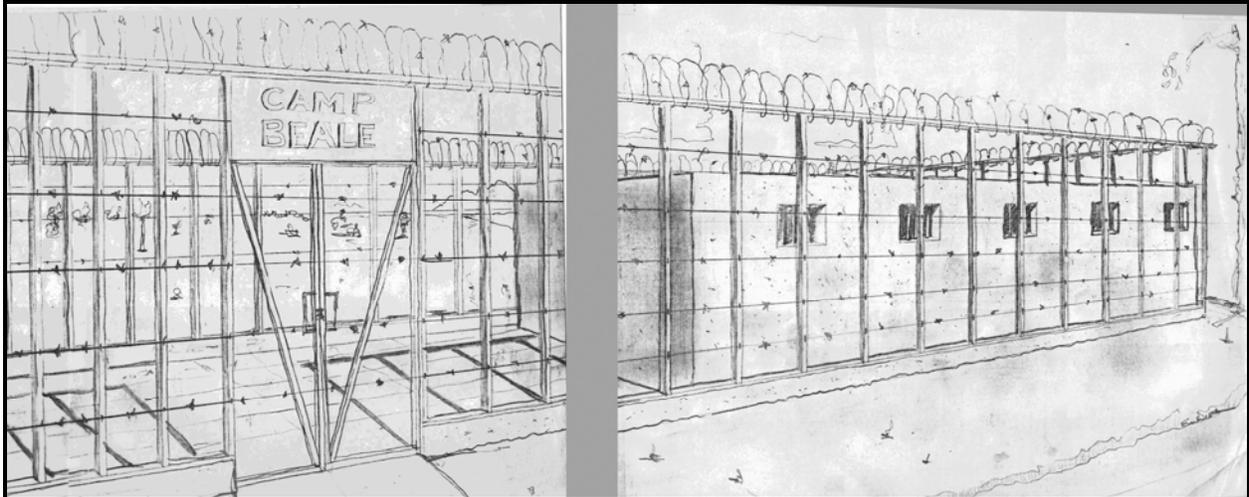
Although the war with Germany ended in May 1945, prisoners were detained at Camp Beale until July 1946 as the return of these prisoners to their countries of origin was a time-consuming and logistically taxing process.

### **Description of Camp Beale Features**

An historic architectural evaluation of the POW camp and original Camp Beale facility was conducted by Dames and Moore for the National Park Service in 1994. Their study identified 294 individual properties, ranging in date from the World War II period through the Cold War. The only remaining feature associated with the POW camp is the poured concrete solitary confinement block, known now as Building #245. The remaining structures within the POW camp were demolished in the early 1950s. The useable buildings and wood from the structures were sold to local schools and other community groups. All that remains from the POW camp is broken cement foundations and footings, asphalt, concrete and inlaid slate walkways, roads, rock-lined pathways, and remnants of the drainage and sewage system.

Prisoners of War Interred in the United States (cont'd)			
NAME OF DECEASED	NATIONALITY	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL IN U. S.
Fuchs, Gottfried	German	2 November 1944	Prisoner of War Cemetery Camp Atterbury, Indiana
Giere, Heinrich	German	7 February 1945	" " " 10
Harnisch, Ludwig	German	26 December 1945	" " " 16
Kaunlbinder, Adolf	German	1 December 1945	" " " 16
Kellner, Andreas	German	27 November 1944	" " " 8
Krauske, Walter	German	29 October 1944	" " " 6
Kraus, Max	German	11 December 1945	" " " 17
Marrollo, Umberto	Italian	31 May 1944	" " " 3
Pfadenhauer, Erhard	German	a/m 1 September 1945	" " " 14
Robasik, Wolfgang	German	19 August 1944	" " " 4
Thallinger, Franz	German	15 November 1944	" " " 7
Tota, Francesco	Italian	28 February 1944	" " " 1
Trani, Giovanni	Italian	19 April 1944	" " " 2
<del>Altmann, Albert</del> Ansmann, Albert	<del>German</del> German	<del>13 March 1944</del> 13 March 1944	Prisoner of War Burial Plot, Camp Beale, Calif.
Den-el, Johann	German	20 December 1944	" " " 1
Di Gioia, Sante	Italian	20 February 1945	" " " 3
Kuerschner, Wolfgang	German	1 February 1945	" " " 3
Pellino, Vincenzo	Italian	a/m 9 July 1944	" " " 1
Prisoners of War Interred in the United States (cont'd)			
NAME OF DECEASED	NATIONALITY	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL IN U. S.
Riggi, Niccolo	Italian	9 February 1945	Prisoner of War Burial Plot, Camp Beale, Calif.
Forst, Georg	German	14 October 1943	Prisoner of War Cemetery Camp Bowie, Texas
Kafka, Alfred F.	German	21 September 1943	" " " 36
Kesse, Walter	German	15 July 1945	" " " 33
Sickel, Albin	German	22 March 1944	" " " 31
Staudinger, Karl	German	30 November 1944	" " " 35
Kalusner, Josef	German	17 November 1944	Prisoner of War Cemetery Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky
Mayer, Daniel	German	21 September 1945	" " " 5
Mollmeier, Stefan	German	23 August 1943	" " " 1
Peter, Heinz	German	21 March 1945	" " " 4
Sell, Helmut F.	German	27 February 1944	" " " 2
Berlinghof, Heinrich	German	28 February 1945	Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, Ill.
Giorgani, Fabio	Italian	26 February 1945	" " " 1
Bautz, Ernest	German	27 April 1945	Camp Butler Post Cemetery Camp Butler, North Carolina
Bednarski, Vincent	German	8 September 1945	" " " 14
Boerger, Hermann	German	14 September 1945	" " " 13
De Marchi, Paolo	Italian	2 December 1943	" " " 1

Listing of Prisoner of War Burials



**Artistic Drawing of the Solitary Block (no date)  
(Drawing not to scale; on file with Base Historian)**

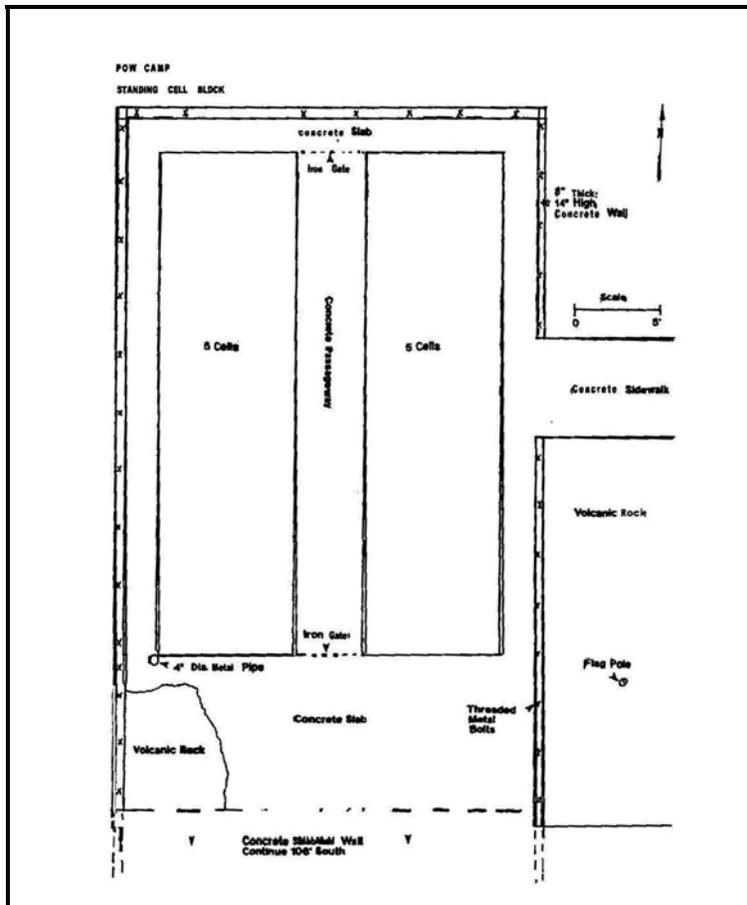
Based on the Dames and Moore report, the original complex was divided into two areas:

- Area bounded by 6th, 2nd, F, and E Streets- the features included a variety of structures, many of unknown function. The remains of identified structures include three prisoner's guard houses, a carpenter shop, and two storehouses. One of the storehouses was converted to a guardhouse for the camp. The solitary confinement cellblock was in this area. Also within this portion of the camp are remains of a structure which includes a small foundation attached to a large courtyard.
- Area bounded by 6th, 2nd, E, and D Streets- includes foundations for enlisted men's barracks and storehouses/recreation building. Included in this area are the foundations for thirty-seven 74-man barracks and 11 storehouse/recreation structures. For the most part, the barracks were grouped in sixes, divided by a road, with a storehouse serving each group of 3 barracks. The southern half of this area, south of 4th Street included the POW compound. Twenty-four barracks and 7 storehouse/recreation buildings were in this portion of the camp. A large storehouse across E Street to the west of the POW camp served as a guardhouse and contained the still-standing solitary-confinement cellblock. It is now identified as Building #245.

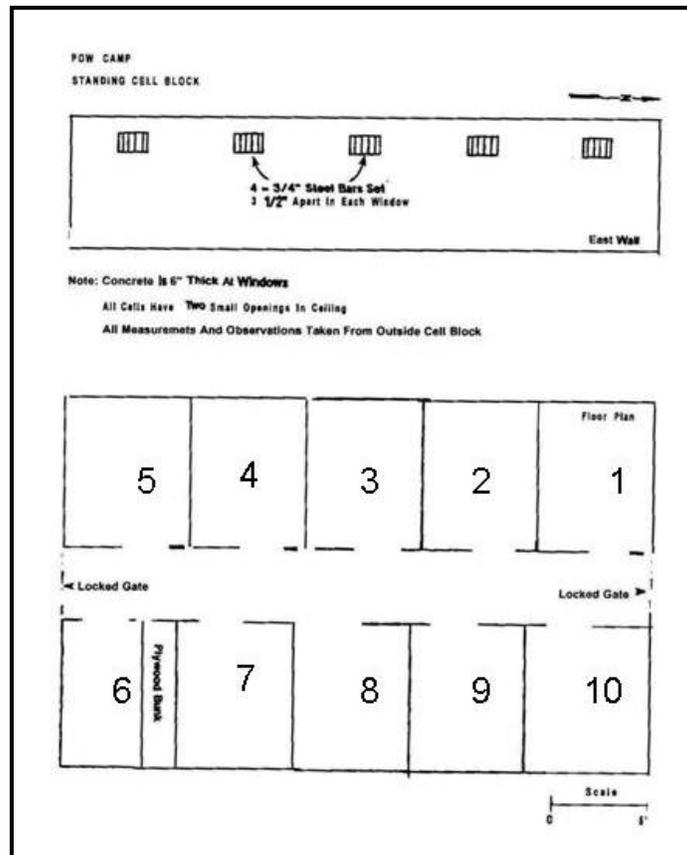
The standing solitary confinement block (Building #245) consists of a reinforced concrete structure with a common hallway, off of which ten small cells were accessed. Originally a storehouse, this was converted to a confinement area for problem prisoners. The building measures approximately 16 by 30 feet with a height of 7 feet. There are five cells on each side of a central hall with an open roof. The individual cells measure approximately 6 by 8 feet and contained a wooden bench along one wall with two skylights on the ceiling of each cell. Each cell also had one window with bars looking outside. The doors to the cells are not present in the preserved cement structure. There are no indications of the type of door that was used, though it seems likely they were wooden. The offset of the door openings on each side of the central hall, might have been intentional to limit prisoner face-to-face interaction.



General POW Camp Setting, foundations in the background (Cheever/Berryman 2007)



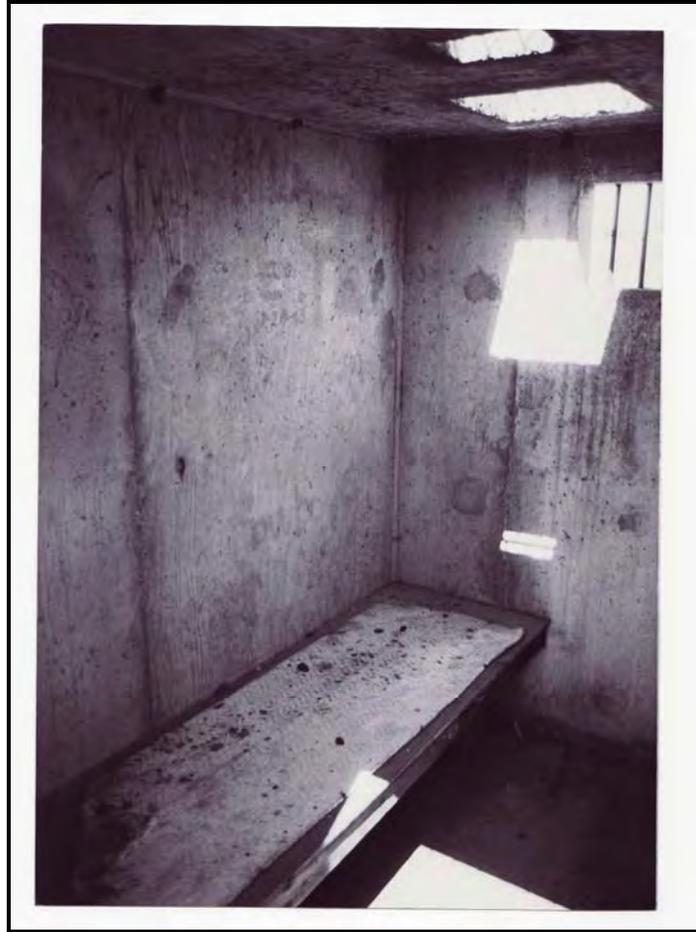
Plan Drawing of the Solitary Confinement Block  
(Department of Parks and Recreation, DPR Site Form; Feature AH-29)



**Individual Cells in the Solitary Block  
(Department of Parks and Recreation, DPR Site Form- Feature AH-29)**



**General Setting of Building #245, looking north (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**



**Cell #6 with surviving bench (undated, on file at Beale AFB)**



**View of Building #245 looking northeast (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**



**View Looking north into the Cell Block central hallway (Cheever/Berryman 2007)  
(Wire mesh covers top of the building)**

The interior walls of the cells are relatively smooth, unpainted concrete. There are numerous pencil illustrations, messages, and calendars sketched on these walls with a limited number of pecked or scratched alteration. A number of these representations are attributed to POWs though more recent graffiti is also present. There were no records found that provide information on who may have been confined to these cells, though several dates with names do appear and these could represent detainees and the lengths of their stays. One message reads “Heini Trommer 28-9-45 and 23-10-45” and seems to indicate a stay of approximately one month. Other calendars or clusters of line marking appear to indicate somewhat longer stays. Each of the ten cells has some form of writing or pencil artwork; four of the cells have extensive drawings of women in various poses or other human representations. Several examples of swastikas were noted and in two examples these symbols were etched into the concrete rather than drawn. Surprisingly, given that the building has lacked a roof for many years, the artwork remains in excellent condition, with no obvious signs of deterioration.

### **POW Graffiti**

To document the graphics, the individual cells were numbered 1 through 10 starting at the southeastern corner of the cell block. Virtually all the drawings are in pencil and range from simple to extraordinarily detailed. The representations include calendars, line bundles that may mark time in the cell, names, dates, animals, people, and slogans. There are some post-POW era markings, and it is not always easy to distinguish the original work from more recent additions; however the representations shown here appear to have a strong association with the POW time period.

**Calendars.** A number of examples of calendars and clusters of lines marking time are present in several of the cells. The lines appear to be for counting days of the week. In addition, there are more formal calendars. It appears that most of the marked time is for a month or less, which could indicate that stays in the isolation area were somewhat limited in overall time.

**Human Figures.** Human figures include a possible self portrait and a number of drawings of women in various poses. These are lifelike representations and in most cases were drawn with exceptional detail. The work, done entirely in pencil, is skilled and beautiful given the uneven quality of the cement walls.

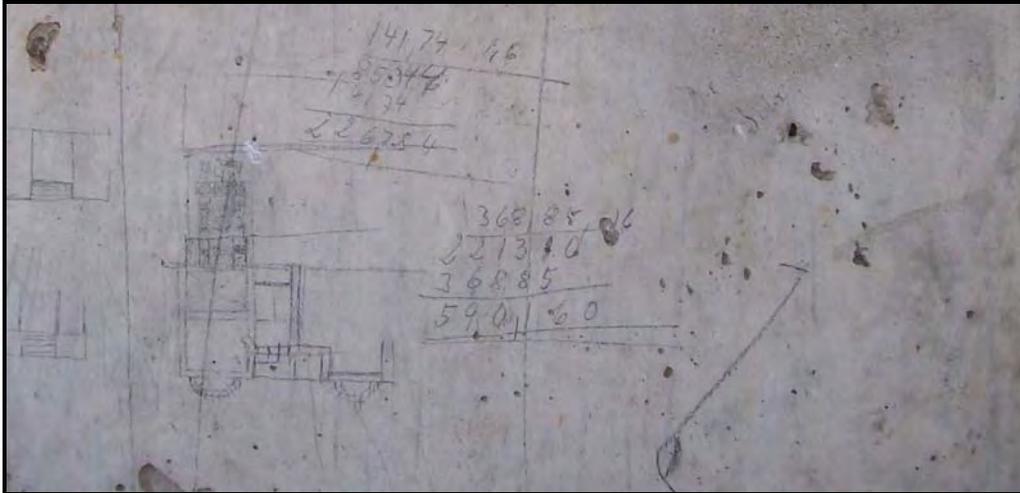
**Animal Depictions.** There is one animal depicted in the cell block. Cell 10 has a small drawing of the head and shoulder area of either a dog or a wolf.

**Structures.** One structure, Hitler’s cottage in the Alps, is depicted in Cell 8. There is some modern yellow paint that has been added to this drawing.

Cell	Representation
1	House, man in a hat
2	Two women and a violin player; woman in cowboy boots and hat, woman embracing someone
3	Limited markings, words and numbers
4	Limited markings, words and numbers
5	Reclining woman
6	Standing woman, writing in German with dates of 1945 and 1946
7	Swastikas
8	Extensive writing in German
9	Standing woman with bent leg, smaller than the figure in Room 6
10	Wolf or dog, writing in German



Examples of Calendars (Cheever/Berryman 2007)



**Examples of Numeric Marking (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**

**Cell 1:** Drawings include a possible self portrait of a man wearing a hat that might be signed or identified with information on the necklace.



**Cell Block 1, Possible Self-Portrait (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**

**Cell 2:** Includes a representation of a woman in cowboy boots and a cowboy style hat on the south wall; there is a violin player and a woman with her arm above her head in a somewhat seductive pose on the west wall and a third woman that appears to be kissing or embracing another person on the north wall. None of the women appear to be the same individual. All three drawings appear to be from the same artist and were done with pencil. The violin player and the woman are interesting in that the technique that was used includes the absence of graphite to represent significant elements of both the musician and the woman. This is not found on any other drawings with the exception of the woman embracing someone, which shows some similarity. As can be seen in nearly all the larger representations, the background or natural concrete surface does play a part in many of these drawings.



**Women and Violin Player, Cell 2 (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**



“Cowgirl”, Cell 2 (Cheever/Berryman 2007)



**Woman Embracing Someone, Cell 2 (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**

**Cell 5:** Artwork includes a woman in a reclining pose with modern military scribbling across the figure that appears to say “PFC M ROSE.”



**Reclining Female Figure (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**

**Cell 6:** Representation of a standing woman from the back. There are also various words in German and dates of 1945 and 1946.



**Female Figure in Cell 6 (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**



**Standing Woman with Bent Leg, Cell 9 (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**



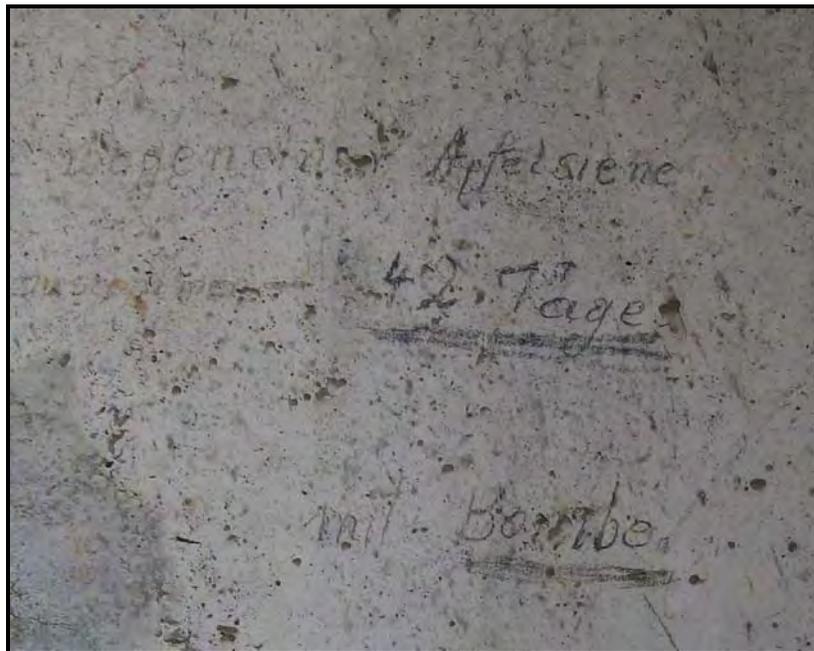
**Cell 10, Animal Figure (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**



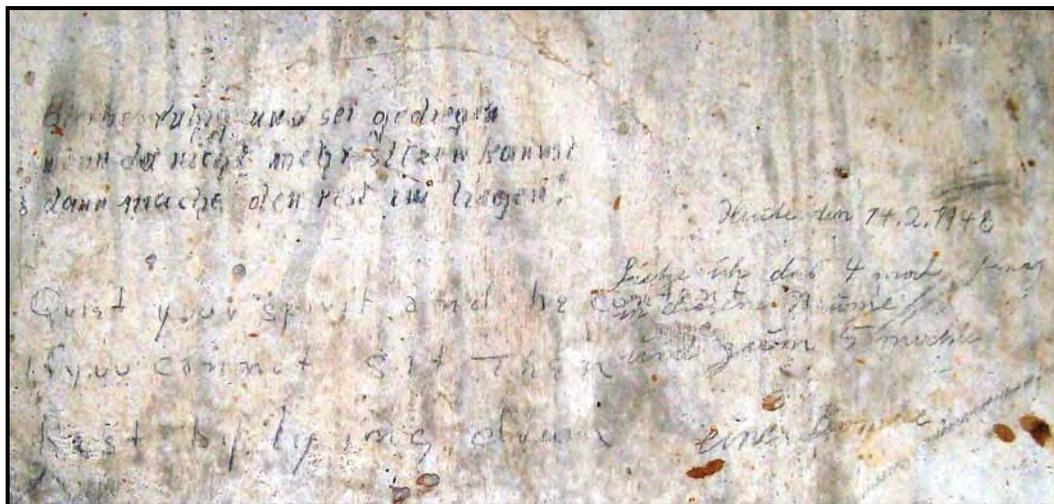
**Cell 8, Possible representation of Hitler's Cottage in the Alps (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**

**German Phrases.** Few of the cells have names of specific towns or places. The majority of the writing refers to the time (day, week, or month) or duration of a stay. German text appears to be more abundant in Cell 8. A number of the phrases in the various cells have been translated, these include

- Live and let live
- Never look back in life, always look forward
- Tell me what you read and I will tell you what you are
- Whoever is alone, it is great, because no one will tell him what to do
- What is the truth in America (“was ist die wahrect in America”)
- I had it so good in America I wish I had never seen it
- Oh how I would like to go home (“Ach wie ish da herm mochte gehen”)
- Accomplish what you think (“A Vollbringe was du denkst”)



**Examples of German Writing (Cheever/Berryman 2007)**



## Heritage Tourism Potential

The remnants of the POW camp at Beale are ideally situated as a potential heritage tourism destination. Although the detention block is the only standing architectural feature remaining, the individual cells contain well-preserved pencil drawings of individuals, time-tables and calendars, German phrases that allow the general public and military personnel the opportunity to relate to a slice of “life” during this period of history and relate in a more immediate sense to World War II. Both current and retired military personnel, local historical organizations, and the general public have expressed interest in preserving the drawings and applying for National Register status. An interpretive sign, a flagpole, and a visitors’ bench were installed at the cell block as an Eagle Scout project by the Base Troop.

## Research Notes

Beale Air Force Base itself has few records of the former POW camp. The current base historian (Dr. Coy Cross) has put together available information and photos for the camp. The images of the camp were acquired from the Signal Corps Photos File in the National Archives (95C-45-CB-4450). Although the camp had its own newspaper during World War II, *The Bealiner*, copies were not found in the local libraries. The book *Pebbles in the Stream: A History of Beale Air Force Base and Neighboring Areas* gives a general history of Beale Air Force Base and includes the background for Camp Beale (Peggy Bal 1979, Nevada County Historical Society, Nevada City). Donna Lamderman, the County Historian and Sue Cejner-Moyers, President of the Friends for the Preservation of Yuba County History Society have also collected information regarding the entire facility. Both groups are active in seeking monies and recognition to preserve the standing cell block and its associated artwork. Joe Roesch, the son of a POW at Beale, still lives in the area and might have additional information regarding his father and the conditions at the camp.

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### **Base Contacts**

Tamara Gallentine, Beale Air Force Base  
Dr. Coy Cross, Beale Air Force Base, 9<sup>th</sup> Wing Historian

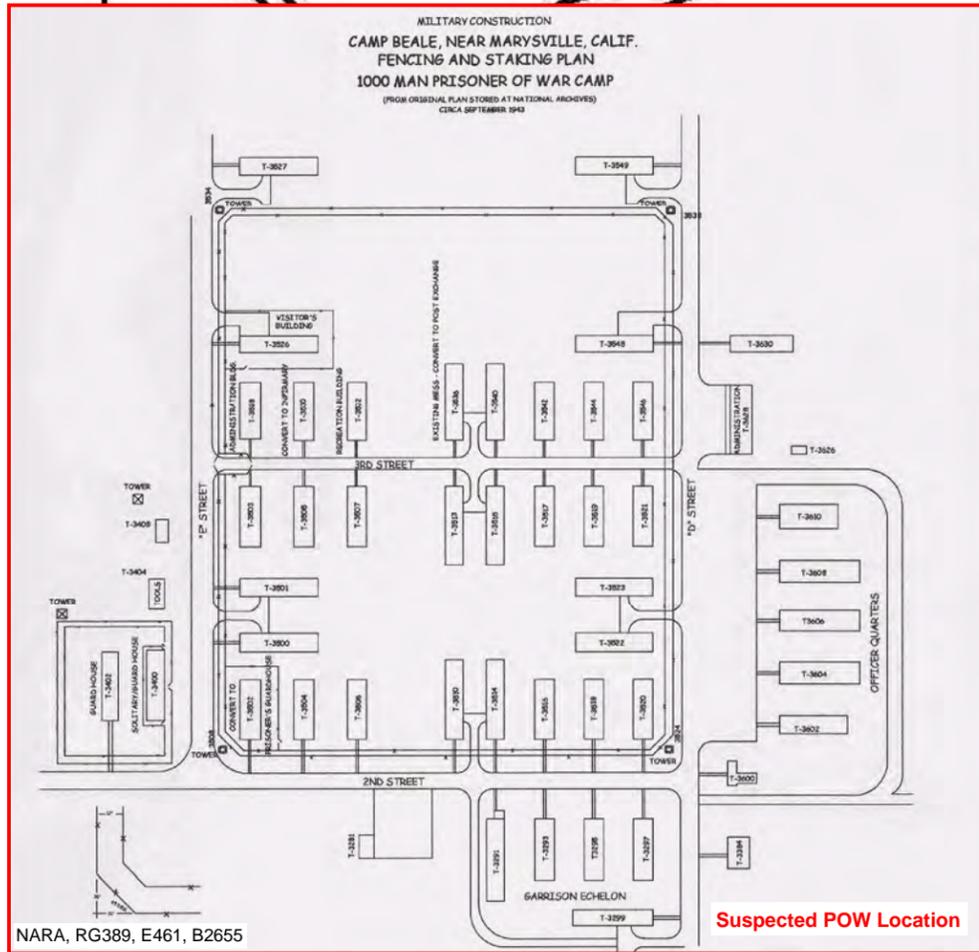
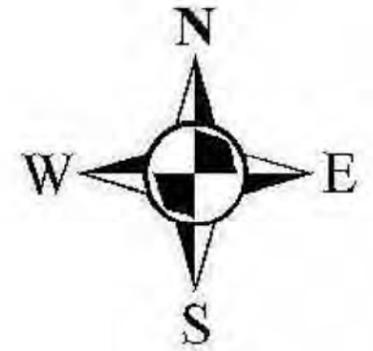
### **Useful Websites**

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Camp Beale Military Munitions Cleanup Project. [www.campbeale.org/beale/iproj\\_profile/history](http://www.campbeale.org/beale/iproj_profile/history)

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# POW Compound - Camp Beale





## DOCUMENTATION REPORT: CAMP FORREST

### Brief History of Camp Forrest

The following summary of the history of Camp Forrest is taken from [www.globalsecurity.com](http://www.globalsecurity.com). Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, Tennessee, was constructed as one of the Army's largest training bases during the World War II period between 1941 and 1946. The camp, named after Civil War cavalryman General Nathan Bedford Forrest, was built east of Tullahoma, Tennessee. Forming the initial cantonment area of Camp Forrest was a small World War I military post named Camp Peay after 1920s Tennessee Governor Austin Peay. Camp Peay was constructed as a National Guard Camp in 1926 and covered 1,040 acres. Camp Forrest covered 85,000 acres just beyond the old Camp Peay.

Camp Forrest was a training area for infantry, artillery, engineer, and signal organizations. It also served as a hospital center and temporary encampment area for troops during maneuvers. MG George S. Patton brought his 2nd Armored Division, "Hell on Wheels," from Fort Benning, Georgia, for maneuvers. Incoming troops were provided with amenities such as service clubs, guest houses, library, post exchanges, post office, hospital, religious services, theaters, showers, Red Cross, and Army emergency relief. Recreation facilities included swimming, archery, tennis, a sports arena, and a 9-hole golf course. Northern Field, an air training base, was an addition for war preparation. The field was used as a training site for crews of multi-engined B-24 bombers of the Army Air Corps.

Camp Forrest was designated as the site of an alien enemy internment camp on 12 May 1942, and the Camp Peay section of the cantonment area was converted to house internees of Italian-American, German-American, and Japanese-American descent who were suspected of aiding the enemy. Between May and July 1943, the internees were transferred to internment camps in Bismarck and Stanton, North Dakota. With the internee's departure, Camp Forrest's prison compound was converted and enlarged for use as a POW camp. The initial prisoners were Germans captured in North Africa. More than 20,000 POWs were interned at Camp Forrest between 1943 and 1946, many of whom were processed as laborers at Camp Forrest, in the hospitals, and in the local community on farms.

After the war in 1946, Camp Forrest and Northern Field were declared surplus property. Buildings were sold at auction, torn down, and carted away. Water and sewage systems and electrical systems were sold as salvage. All that remained were roads, brick chimneys, and concrete foundations.

In 1949, Congress authorized \$100 million for the construction of the Air Engineering Development Center at the former Camp Forrest. The site was chosen for its abundance of land, water, and power. Land was needed to buffer surrounding communities from potential test hazards and noise. Water was needed to cool rapidly flowing air and hot exhaust gases. Abundant electricity was needed to power huge testing systems. Construction on the center started in 1950. On 25 June 1951, a year after General Arnold's death, President Harry S. Truman dedicated the Air Engineering Development Center in Arnold's honor, naming it the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC).

The 1950s saw the development of three major test facilities that remain active today—the Engine Test Facility (ETS), the von Karman Gas Dynamics Facility (VKS), and the Propulsion Wind Tunnel (PWT) Test Facility. The first jet engine test equipment installed at the center was acquired from the Bavarian Motor Works in Munich, Germany. It took 58 railroad cars, 2 barges, and a truck loaded with another 450 tons to move the equipment. After refurbishment, this equipment became the cornerstone for the Engine Test Facility, which was completed in 1953. By May 1954, the facility was put to work, testing the General Electric J49 engine for the B-47 bomber. Construction was completed on the PWT Test Facility

at the end of the decade. PWT's huge wind tunnels have become hallmarks of the center and are perhaps the most heavily used facilities on base.

As the space race heated up, so did AEDC's workload. PWT was used to investigate configurations for the Mercury space capsule, which sent Alan Shepherd and John Glenn into space. The center was a key player in supporting Project Gemini, and the center played a multifaceted role in supporting the Apollo Program, which put man on the moon. Apollo tests included aerodynamic assessments of the Apollo capsule and tests of Saturn 5 rocket upper stage engines.

Some new test facilities came on line to help turn numerous aerospace system ideas into reality. The J-4 Large Rocket Engine Test Facility was dedicated in 1964. For years later, PWT facilities expanded to include the 4-foot Transonic Tunnel to test store separations.

With several test facilities running at full bore, the pace of testing increased. Among the systems tested during the 1960s were the F-105 Thunderchief, C-141 Starlifter and C-5 Galaxy cargo planes, the E-3 Sentry, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), the TF39 engine for the C-5, and the upper stage rocket motors for the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. In the middle of the decade, the University of Tennessee Space Institute became a place for AEDC engineers and scientists to further their education, and for students and professors to work on research projects to help AEDC.

During the 1970s, AEDC helped explore alternative energy sources. A 750-ton magnet was used as part of a magnetohydro-dynamics (MHD) research demonstration sponsored by the Department of Energy. The demonstration assessed the effectiveness of using a large MHD generator to boost coal's efficiency in producing electricity. AEDC later transferred the project to the University of Tennessee Space Institute.

The 1980s also marked the addition of the world's largest jet engine testing facility—the Aeropropulsion Systems Test Facility—to the center's collection of aerospace flight simulation test facilities. AEDC also worked on technologies that would be later deployed during the 1990 Gulf War, from the Patriot Air Defense Missile to the F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter. The center's workload split into three contracts—support, propulsion testing, and aerodynamics testing. In 1981, Pam Am World Services became the support contractor, Sverdrup Technology Inc., took over propulsion testing, and Calspan Corporation began aerodynamics testing. In 1985, Schneider Services International replaced Pan Am as support contractor.

The 1990s were a decade of change at AEDC. From opening its doors to commercial customers to “reengineering,” the center's people explored better ways of doing business. Early in the decade, the center signed formal, long-term working alliances with a number of commercial aerospace organizations (Boeing, General Electric, Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, Pratt & Whitney) in hopes of steadying workload and to offset dwindling defense budgets. That led to companies like Pratt & Whitney and Boeing bringing projects that were strictly commercial to AEDC. In 1998, the center was designated as one of the Department of Defense's (DOD's) High-Performance Computing Centers, making funding available to augment its supercomputing capability. This made AEDC the 9th largest computer center in DOD.

The Navy docked at AEDC when its engine test facilities at Trenton, New Jersey, were transferred to AEDC as part of DOD consolidations under the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Act. The move added four engine test facilities (SL-2, SL-3, T-11, and T-12) and about 10 Navy personnel. The Air Force and Navy quickly integrated, making the center's vice commander and other slots Navy positions.

Later in the decade, on 1 October 1997, AEDC assumed management for the former Navy Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 in White Oak, Maryland.

Other facilities that came on line during the 1990s included J-6—the world’s largest solid rocket motor test facility—and DECADE, a nuclear weapons effects facility. Among facilities that saw significant modernization were the J-4 Liquid Rocket Engine Test Facility, the Aero propulsion Test Unit, and the Engine Test Facility. PWT also saw a major sustainment and modernization program. A number of major aerospace programs came to AEDC for testing, including the F-22 Raptor, the Joint Strike Fighter, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, the Pratt & Whitney 4000 series engines for the Boeing 777 and F119 engines for the F-22 and Joint Strike Fighter, the Boeing 747 and 767, and the RL-10 rocket engine.

### **Camp Forrest POW Camp Timeline**

- 20 May 1943    Camp Forrest is activated as a POW camp.
- 02 Jun 1943    First German prisoners arrive at Camp Forrest (1,495), all of whom were captured in North Africa.
- Sep 1943        1,000 POWs are sent as labor detachment to aid the peanut harvest in Alabama and Georgia.
- Jan 1944        Side camps are established at Lawrenceburg, Tennessee (248 POWs) and Hampton, South Carolina (253 POWs) to help cut pulpwood and do farm work.
- Dec 1944        The capacity of the POW facilities at the Camp Forrest hospital are increased by the construction of a convalescent compound 1 mile north of the hospital. A total of 4,000 POWs are housed in the clinic and convalescent compounds.
- Jan 1945        Side camp at Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is increased to 300 POWs and new side camps established in Huntsville, Alabama, (250) and Tellico Plains, Tennessee (242). Work on convalescent compound of hospital is completed, and a separate compound for Protected Personnel (POWs of non-German nationality drafted into the German military) is established to house 32 Russian, Czech, Polish, and French prisoners.
- Jan 1945        Net project is initiated by Southeast Division, U.S. Engineers, with 230 POWs.
- Apr 1945        Blocks 18 and 19 are converted for use to house POWs. The camouflage net project is moved to Blocks 11 and 12, and 2,300 POWs are transferred from other camps to staff the project.
- Jul 1945        Inspection report notes 9,781 POWs at base camp (not differentiated between main stockade and hospitals) and six branch camps under Camp Forrest management: Huntsville, Alabama (648); Lawrenceburg, Tennessee (339); Jackson, Tennessee (250); Sales Creek, Tennessee (201); Tellico Plains, Tennessee (247); and Nashville, Tennessee (234).
- Sep 1945        Net project comes to a close.

Jan 1946      Camp Forrest reaches its maximum capacity of more than 20,000 POWs. Repatriation of POWs occurs between January and March 1946.

31 Mar 1946    Camp Forrest is deactivated.

### **Description of Camp Forrest POW Camps**

Prior to its use as a POW camp, Block 26 of Camp Forrest was the location of an alien enemy internment camp. Block 26, also referred to as “old Camp Forrest,” consisted of a small compound of buildings left from Camp Peay, the precursor installation to Camp Forrest. The number of internees held at this facility ranged from 124 in May 1942 to a peak of 868 in March 1943. The internees were transferred to Fort Lincoln in Bismarck, North Dakota, by June 1943, at which time the prison compound was expanded to accommodate the arrival of the first German POWs from North Africa. The first inspection report, dated 4 September 1943, notes the presence of 3,532 German prisoners housed within three compounds. Problems were cited in terms of poor drainage within the compound and insufficient latrine and shower facilities; however, the POWs had already constructed two theaters and had plans for an orchestra. POWs at the camp worked in the post bakery and laundry, as mechanics in the automotive shop, doing shoe repair, or on the post farm producing crops to supplement the diet of the camp. Large work detachments also were sent out from Camp Forrest, such as a 1,000-man detachment sent to Alabama and Georgia to help with the peanut harvest in 1943.



**1943 Aerial Photograph of Original POW Compound (on file at AEDC)**



**1946 Low angle aerial view of POW compound and recreational field (on file at AEDC)**

Although no map of the original POW compound has been found in the installation files or at NARA, a 1943 aerial photograph shows its layout, as does a low angle aerial photograph from 1946. Within the fence line were rows of standard 16-foot-by-50-foot theater of operations barracks each used to house 20 POWs, and 15-foot, 10-inch square “victory-type” hutments each used to house 6 men. Recreational buildings were standard 20-foot-by-100-foot theater of operations buildings. Fourteen towers surrounded the stockade and four towers surrounded the recreational field. The towers noted in the initial inspection reports (September–December 1943) were poorly constructed, one-man towers with no heating facilities; these were subsequently replaced with towers manufactured per the standard tower design plans issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The fence line comprised a standard double fence with three-strand overhang of barbed wire.



**Close-up view of POW hutments, Camp Forrest (Tullahoma Fine Arts Center)**



**View of POW hutments showing gravelled walkways and garden plots  
(Tulahoma Fine Arts Center)**

Capacity of the compound in Block 26 appears to have been 3,600 prisoners, based on the numbers of prisoners reported within the compound in inspection reports from 1943 through early 1945. Buildings for the guards lay immediately outside the fenced compound, and a large recreational field was attached to the compound. Separate compounds were used to house protected personnel, ardent Nazis, and ardent anti-Nazis. Drainage problems quickly became apparent within the compound and were fixed by excavation of numerous drainage ditches, both around the perimeter of the camp and bisecting the camp between rows of hutments. These ditches were lined with timber or concrete. A hospital and infirmary with 175 beds were immediately adjacent to the stockade; this hospital operated under the jurisdiction of the station hospital at Camp Forrest.

By January 1944, an outdoor theater was constructed, the athletic grounds were completed, roads and walks were gravelled, and the camp was beautified by the addition of flowers, shrubs, and grass. The capacity of the main compound remained fairly constant throughout 1944 and into 1945, but small branch camps were established in Tennessee, Alabama, and South Carolina to help cut pulpwood. As the war progressed, the POW hospital at Camp Forrest became the primary facility for infirm POWs by directive of the Office of the Provost Marshall General, and POWs were transferred to Camp Forrest from camps across the country. The hospital housed the infirm POWs in its main clinic and in a large convalescent compound located 1 mile north of the hospital. Each of the facilities had the capacity for at least 2,000 prisoners, and each compound included chapels, canteens, and the full range of recreational materials (e.g., books, movies, outdoor equipment, radios, and musical instruments) available in the main stockade. These materials were provided by the YMCA, which sent a regular representative to check on conditions at the compounds.

By January 1946, at the peak of its use, at least 40 percent of the cantonment area of Camp Forrest had been converted for use to house POWs; between the hospital compounds, Block 26, and the remaining portions of the cantonment area, Camp Forrest held 20,479 POWs. Blocks 18 and 19 were used for housing, while a series of large warehouses in Blocks 11 and 12 were converted for use by 6,351 POWs working for the Southeast Division U.S. Engineers Net Project, which involved manufacture of camouflage netting.



**View of Forrest General Hospital Compound in 1946 (POW camp is in background).**

Camp Forrest processed 68,103 POWs for job placement over the course of the war. In addition to the camps referenced in the timeline, branch camps administered by Camp Forrest included the following:

<b>Camp</b>	<b>Activated</b>	<b>Inactivated</b>	<b>Max Cap.</b>	<b>Function</b>
Jackson, TN	9 Feb 1945	3 Jan 1946	389	Agricultural, food processing, lumbering, pulpwood
Thayer General Hospital, Nashville, TN	18 May 1945	16 Dec 1945	250	Building and grounds maintenance
Crossville, TN (previously a Class I camp)	1 Oct 1945	5 Dec 1945	1,340	Processing for repatriation and closure of existing labor contracts with local farms
Barnwell, SC	2 Sep 1943	6 Oct 1943	250	Peanut harvest
Aiken, SC	2 Sep 1943	6 Oct 1943	250	Peanut harvest
Hampton, SC	6 Sep 1943	3 May 1944	249	Peanut harvest and pulpwood production
Bamberg and Holly Hill, SC	6 Sep 1943	Transferred to Fort Jackson 15 Oct 1943	250	Pulpwood production and agricultural work

<b>Camp</b>	<b>Activated</b>	<b>Inactivated</b>	<b>Max Cap.</b>	<b>Function</b>
Camp Croft, SC	20 Mar 1944	Became Class I camp on 1 May 1944	250	Labor pool for work at Camp Croft
Fort Oglethorpe, GA	21 Mar 1944	Became Class I camp on 1 May 1944	250	Labor pool for work at Fort Oglethorpe
Camp Tyson, TN	5 Apr 1944	Became Class I camp on 1 May 1944	250	Labor pool for work at Camp Tyson
Hendersonville, NC	4 Jul 1944	18 Sep 1944	251	Agricultural work
Oneonta, AL	19 Sep 1944	11 Nov 1944	249	Agricultural work
Sales Creek, TN	19 Jul 1945	10 Aug 1945	251	Agricultural work

\*Class I = POWs used for skilled labor activities only (e.g., shoe-making, mechanics, medics)

### **Description of Extant Features**

After World War II, Camp Forrest was deactivated. All of the buildings were removed, although their foundations remain; some of the buildings were moved to other locations to provide housing or administrative offices for colleges or agencies, some were demolished for salvage, and others were simply demolished. Accordingly, there are no standing buildings at AEDC from the World War II era. A portion of the cantonment area has been redeveloped for use, first as AEDC, and more recently as Arnold Air Force Base. The remaining areas are unused and are gradually reverting to forest.

A field visit to the site of the original POW compound at Camp Forrest, built over the site of Camp Peay and initially used to house alien internees, found intact foundations for all of the buildings within the POW compound, as well as foundations of the guard towers and the irrigation ditch that paralleled the fence line for the compound. The 1943 aerial photograph of the POW compound was used to confirm the locations and number of the foundations. The area of the former compound is now forested and, although it lies within the boundaries of Camp Forrest, it is not enclosed by a fence. Private houses line the street immediately across from the compound entrance. The former entrances to the compound have been filled with bulldozer push-piles to prevent cars or ATV vehicles from entering it, and the perimeter is posted with No Trespassing signs.

A small building in the woods on property leased from AEDC by the Tennessee Army National Guard is anecdotally known as the “POW jail.” This building is a small brick building with four cells located far away from the original POW compound and the portions of the cantonment area known to have housed POWs when the camp was expanded. It appears to have been a jail, but it is considered unlikely that it would have functioned as part of the POW camp except as an overflow facility.



**Building foundations, POW compound at Camp Forrest (Goodfellow 2007)**





**“POW Jail” (Goodfellow 2007)**

### **Heritage Tourism Potential**

AEDC does not have a heritage center, although it is considering one. The installation library houses most of the installation’s historic collections; what is not in the library archives is in the Historian’s office. AEDC could interpret the POW camps through development of a display that could debut at the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center and then be housed permanently at the installation library; preparation of a commemorative book or film about the POW camp; and development of the archaeological site comprising the original POW compound, the site of the alien internment camp, and the World War I Camp Peay. The site needs to be surveyed and archaeologically tested and, if it is determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, developed for interpretive purposes in consultation with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office.



**Painting by Camp Forrest POW (Tullahoma Fine Arts Center)**

## Research Notes

Research on Camp Forrest was conducted 12-14 February 2007. Shawn Chapman, Base Archeologist for AEDC, served as escort around the installation and provided copies of maps and aerial photographs. Dr. David Hiebert, the AEDC Historian, was an invaluable source of information regarding the POW camps. Under a previous project completed with funding from the DOD Legacy Resource Management Program, Dr. Hiebert had contracted Michael Bradley, a local university professor, to compile a history of Camp Forrest. Under this study, more than 400 oral history interviews of former soldiers, former POWs and, local townspeople were collected and transcribed by students. A full set of copies of one POW newspaper was archived on microfilm, and hard copies of all of the issues of the POW newspaper “Der Scheinwerfer” were added to the installation archives.

Lucy Hollis, the owner of the [Tullahoma Fine Arts Center](#), was an unexpected jewel—not only did she host an exhibit on World War II featuring the Tullahoma Home Front and Camp Forrest, but she helped transcribe a number of the oral history interviews completed for Bradley’s study that were conducted at the time of the exhibit. Her gallery collection included several paintings by POW artists, and she had numerous photographs and other memorabilia related to the POWs at Camp Forrest.

Review of articles published in local papers during the war years (on microfilm) was completed at the Tullahoma and Manchester Public Libraries. Although the *Manchester Times* included some articles relating to the POW camps at Camp Forrest, the quantity was considerably less than anticipated given the proximity of the town to the camp and the size of the POW camps. The microfilm records for the Tullahoma News did not include issues for 1941–1945. Copies of articles published in 1946 that documented the removal of all of the World War II buildings, including those used for the POW compounds, were printed from the 1946 issues of the Manchester Times.

Research at the NARA encountered four primary files on Camp Forrest within Record Group 389 (Office of the Provost Marshal General): construction reports, correspondence, detention rosters, and inspection reports. Copies of correspondence relating to large prisoner transfers or significant policy decisions were scanned, as were all construction reports for the POW camp (not the alien internment camp) and inspection reports. No maps were found within the construction reports or inspection reports files.

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## DOCUMENTATION REPORT: NAVAJO ORDNANCE DEPOT (CAMP NAVAJO)

### Brief History of Navajo Ordnance Depot

On 17 August 1941, Colonel Charles Steese of the Field Services Division, Ordnance Department from the War Department arrived in Bellemont, Arizona (approximately 10 miles west of Flagstaff) to evaluate the surrounding area for its suitability for an ordnance depot. He was impressed by the amount of available land and the nearby natural springs that provided the area with potable water. His visit was short but decisive, and the area around Bellemont was slated to become an armed ammunition depot. The \$17 million ammunition depot was soon scheduled for construction and represented the second largest War Department expenditure in Arizona. The depot would cover an area of 48 square miles (nearly 29,000 acres), and employ 6,000 people during construction, and 2,000 people continuously through the war. This was a monumental development for Bellemont, as the small town was still struggling with the Great Depression (Westerlund 2003).

The Navajo Ordnance Depot was officially established 5 February 1942 by War Department General Order Number 9 (MS 44 Box 1, folder 1, page 4). Construction of the depot began in April 1942. The bulk of the project consisted of constructing 800 steel-reinforced, earth-covered concrete ammunition bunkers or “igloos” along with shelters, loading platforms, and ramps. In June 1942, a transportation network comprising dozens of miles of railroad tracks and hundreds of miles of roads and highways was created. Within a month, workers labored around the clock to complete the construction. Completed in record time, the depot provided 3.5 million square feet of storage space in 1,060 storage structures (Westerlund 2003).

On 1 November, the first shipment of ordnance arrived at the depot. The depot was officially dedicated 7 December 1942, one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. By this time, it had already been assigned its first missions of storing combat vehicles, artillery pieces, small-arms fire control equipment, and related supplies for eventual export to units overseas; stockpiling all classes of ammunition except chemical shells and bombs; training civilian personnel; and performing minor maintenance on war materials. These missions were expanded as the war continued (Westerlund 2003).

One of the unique features of the depot was the “Indian Village,” which had been constructed for the Navajo laborers who formed the backbone of the depot’s labor force. Major Myrick, the first commander of the depot, realized he could not rely on the transient construction workers to continue as laborers at the depot. Facing a severe labor shortage, Myrick began negotiations with local American Indian tribes. He offered reliable jobs, steady income, and family housing for any American Indians who would work at the depot. Response was good. The Indian Village was built and eventually housed a majority of depot workers, both American Indian and non-Indian. Hundreds of American Indians labored at the depot during the war. Translators had to be hired to facilitate communication; only 20 percent of the American Indians spoke English. The American Indians proved to be the saving grace and lifeblood of the depot, providing a steady labor pool for the grueling work conducted there (Westerlund 2003).

The Navajo Ordnance Depot became the busiest installation in Arizona, and one of the busiest depots in the country. However, it was plagued by chronic labor shortages. Turnover was high, training for the many technical specialties was costly and time-consuming, and the constantly expanding missions caused continual growing pains for the depot and residents of Bellemont and Flagstaff (Westerlund 2003).

In the midst of these many problems and mission expansions, a new commander was assigned to the depot. Colonel Huling was a career ordnance officer and World War I veteran. He immediately tackled the problems with ruthless efficiency. He instituted a wide range of improvements in the work regimen

and benefits for civilian laborers, while simultaneously juggling the constant expansion of the depot. To address the labor gap caused by a shortage in local labor, he lobbied to bring POWs to the depot. He had vast experience with transporting ordnance, one of the other major problems at the depot. His expertise soon eased many of the issues associated with moving and storing ordnance, yet operations at the depot were always hectic (Westerlund 2003).

Despite Huling's best efforts, manpower continued to decrease and by May 1944, the number of laborers was down to only 1,516 from a high of more than 2,100. The depot strained to keep pace with the incoming railcars, increasingly heavy with ordnance. This challenge was compounded by the additional missions being assigned to the depot. Initially it was not authorized to store chemical shells and bombs; however, that soon changed and caused many of the civilian workers to become increasingly uneasy. Absenteeism, especially among the Native Americans, increased drastically (Westerlund 2003).

Finally in March 1945, Huling received some relief for the labor shortage. Thirty Austrian POWs arrived at the depot. These first 30 men were used to construct a stockade with barbed wire fences and guard towers around the old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp on the northeastern corner of the depot (Westerlund 2003:120). Work continued through the spring, the POW compound was completed, and the POW camp was activated on 5 May 1945. A week later, 220 more Austrians arrived at the camp, bringing the total POW population to 250 (*Coconino Sun* 1945).

The prisoners were immediately put to work. They were responsible for a variety of tasks, though facility maintenance was their main chore (Navajo Army Depot Collection, Cline Library MS 44, Box 5, Folder 5). Twenty-one POWs worked inside the fenced stockade as cooks and kitchen labor. Others were responsible for barracks maintenance or worked in the company administration. A few were barbers and carpenters (Westerlund 2003). Thirty worked on railroad maintenance, while 18 maintained sidewalks and roads. Another group of 18 collected and cut firewood. The camp gas station and motor pool employed 14 POWs. Five worked in the bowling alley as pin spotters. POWs were also released to other branch camps to help with their labor needs, usually agricultural work in the Phoenix basin (Westerlund 2003:129). The prisoners were paid laborers. The going rate for Arizona POWs was 10 cents per hour (Krammer 1979; Lewis and Mewha 1988).

For the most part, the POWs were competent and agreeable, despite increasing disciplinary problems when they were not sent home after Victory in Europe (VE) Day and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day (Westerlund 2003).

After VE Day in May 1945, U.S. military focus turned to defeating Japan. This strategic shift greatly intensified operations on the west coast, and caused a large surge in the volume of war materials being routed through the depot. The depot operated at breakneck speed, slowed by the labor force still far short of the 2,200-minimum-number of workers identified as necessary. Despite the labor shortfall, the massive depot reached capacity. Every inch of the depot was crammed with ordnance and war material. An emergency contract was instated to construct additional storage space and, despite the lack of space, railcars full of ammunition arrived at the depot in anticipation of the invasion of Japan (Westerlund 2003).

With the defeat of Japan and VJ Day on 15 August 1945, a hectic demobilization began and the first personnel reduction of 100 people (nonammunition handlers) occurred. Demobilization did not mean that the depot would be closed. In fact, an August 1945 Ordnance Department report announced that the Navajo Ordnance Depot was found to be the most effective ordnance installation in the United States. This success was due in large part to Huling's administration and to the Indian Village foreman who was known as a constant source of morale and an efficient administrator. This high praise and the 750,000 tons of ordnance stored at the depot meant the depot would soon be in the business of disposing of the

excess ordnance after the war. Twenty-five of 60 similar depots were closed after the war. The Austrian POWs would be kept until April 1946 to provide labor during demobilization (Westerlund 2003).

As demobilization continued, the mission of the depot was eventually fully dedicated to demilitarization of the stockpile. Demilitarization entailed destruction by explosion of outdated and unserviceable items stored in the arsenal at the depot. Surveillance, maintenance, repair, and destruction of munitions were daily activities, as well as the dangerous task of “washing out” TNT from shells and bombs.

In 1962, the Navajo Ordnance Depot was redesignated the Navajo Army Depot. The depot’s post-war mission continued to be storing intercontinental ballistic missile motors. This mission ended in 1994 when destruction of stockpiles ceased and the primary mission became storage of approximately 60,000 tons of the nation’s strategic weapons, which continues today (Westerlund 2003).

### **Navajo Ordnance Depot POW Camp Timeline** (Information adapted from Westerlund 2003)

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Feb 1945               | Colonel Huling, commander of the Navajo Ordnance Depot, requests POWs to alleviate the local labor shortage.   |
| 24 Mar 1945            | 30 Austrian POWs are escorted from Camp Florence to Navajo Ordnance Depot. They are housed at former CCC camp built in 1933 while they convert the camp to a POW camp.   |
| 24 Mar –<br>5 May 1945 | 30 POWs prepare the CCC camp for additional POWs by building the stockade, rehabilitating buildings, and constructing new buildings.   |
| 5 May 1945             | The camp is activated with 3 officers and 27 enlisted men.   |
| 7/8 May 1945           | Victory in Europe Day (VE Day).  |
| 10 May 1945            | 220 additional Austrian POWs arrive bringing the total to 250 men.   |
| 11 May 1945            | Stone and cement marker is constructed to identify the area where religious services would take place.   |
| Jun 1945               | Surge in munitions shipments for Operation Olympic (invasion of Japan) means 10-hour work days for the POWs and civilian workers.  |
| 1 Jul 1945             | The International Red Cross inspects the camp and criticism spurs the beginning of mail service, payment, and an increase in rations.  |
| 27 Jul 1945            | Local Flagstaff newspaper owner Platt Cline reports on conditions of POW camp and the “excesses” such as extra sugar provided the POWs, starting a short-lived scandal. The story is retracted and corrected the following week. |
| Jul-Aug 1945           | Disciplinary violations increase after VE Day as prisoners become unsettled about not being repatriated.   |
| 15 Aug 1945            | Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) spurs increasing disciplinary violations when POWs are still not repatriated. Peacetime status is not reinstated until September 1946.   |
| late Sep 1945          | 146 POWs temporarily transferred to Camp Florence to assist farmers.   |

- 24 Jan 1946 International Red Cross visits and assesses conditions at the camp as good.
- Feb 1946 116 additional Austrian POWs arrive to help alleviate the labor shortage.
- 17 Apr 1946 Bellemont camp is officially closed. POWs are sent to Camp Florence and then repatriated to Austria.

### **Description of POW Camp**

Life at the POW camp revolved around the converted CCC buildings and others built especially by and for the POWs. An inner and outer fence, with lights placed at set intervals, encompassed the buildings forming a stockade. This compound was home for the POWs for over a year. Guards' barracks, headquarters, and guard towers were located outside the stockade. The entrance to the compound was situated along the south fence line slightly west of center (War Department 1945).

A cinder road entered the gate and extended north between the laundry building and administrative buildings, ending just north of them in a "T" intersection where it met a second east-west road. Four barracks and the kitchen were north of the east-west road. A cesspool was placed at the east terminus of the road. Another road ran from the hospital in the northwest, parallel to the western fence line, and ended at the guard headquarters (War Department 1945).

POW quarters consisted of four barracks. Two were designed for 60 men, while the other two were designed to house 45 men (although they housed more than that, making for cramped quarters). They were arranged in a row from east to west with the mess hall between the first and second barracks to the west. Each building was approximately 25 feet by 160 feet with 25 windows and three coal burning stoves. The mess hall had two stoves, an oven, a large refrigerator, and large tables. The mess hall was approximately the same size as the barracks with a few small additions that made it slightly wider at some points (Westerlund 2003).

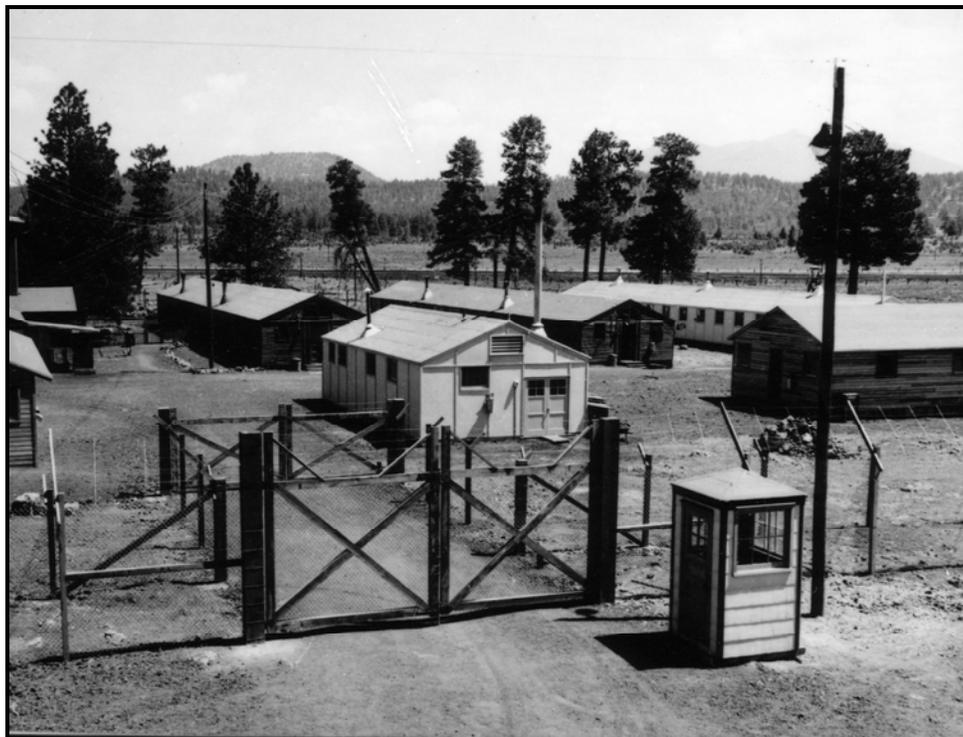
South of the barracks and mess hall were the jail, shower/latrine, laundry, and administration buildings. The shower/latrine building had 15 showers and 21 hand sinks. The laundry building had 10 large laundry sinks. There was also an administrative building south of the barracks and just north of the entrance gate. The POW jail was in the southwestern corner of the compound near the guard headquarters, which was just outside the stockade (Westerlund 2003).

North of the barracks were two large field latrines and a chapel/POW monument area. The chapel and monument were not enclosed by a building, but were outdoor features of the camp. At the time of construction of the camp, a time capsule was entombed in the monument by the POWs. The capsule was discovered in 2001 during restoration of the monument (Westerlund 2003, War Department 1945).

Outside the stockade were the guards' barracks, headquarters, and latrines, as well as two guard towers. The barracks and headquarters were immediately south of the entrance gate. The latrines were south of those buildings. The guard towers were at the northeastern and southwestern corners of the stockade (War Department 1945).



**POW Camp ca. 1945, before prisoners arrive**  
(Courtesy of Navajo Army Depot Collection, Cline Library)



**POW Camp ca. May 1945**  
(Courtesy of Navajo Army Depot Collection, Cline Library)

## **Description of Extant Features**

The buildings and structures used by the POWs at Camp Navajo were removed shortly after the departure of the POWs. Remaining debris was scavenged and the area was subsequently bulldozed, cleaned, subjected to tree harvesting and brush clearing. The war-time prison was transformed into a dumping ground for abandoned automobiles, and later a temporary camp site for a veteran with a travel trailer. All that remained were the scattered remnants of the once busy facility.

The remains of the Camp Navajo POW compound are now an archaeological site. The Camp Navajo POW compound was initially recorded by archeologists with SWCA, Inc., in March 1999 as Arizona State Museum site number of I:13:304 (Purcell et al. 1999). Though none of the original buildings remain, a number of cement piers, a cement foundation pad with stem walls, and a variety of building debris can be found on the property. They are the remains of the camp's main gate guard house, corner guard house, administration building, a frame barracks, and privy and cesspool. The perimeter of the site is delineated by the remains of the stockade fences and associated two-track patrol road. The two parallel wire-mesh and barbed-wire fences were 10 feet apart. Posts were made of 4-inch-by-4-inch wood beams set in concrete and placed every 13 feet. Concrete post anchors remain along the northern and southern fence lines, although few on the eastern and western fences. The two-track patrol road is visible on the south side, the east side, and the eastern portion of the north side. The road is highlighted by piles of volcanic cinder stones on the road edge.

The frame barracks remains consist of 30 cement footers with the impressions of 10 inch-by-10-inch posts (Feature 8). Wood debris scattered west of the footers and was recorded as Feature 20. The foundation of the main gate guard house is a 3-foot-3 inch-by-2-foot-9-inch concrete slab (Feature 1). The remains of the concrete foundation of the administration building measure 33 feet-by-16 feet-6 inches. The guard house that was located at the southeastern corner of the prison consists of assorted boards, plywood, and roofing paper scattered in a 20-by-20-foot area (Feature 16). The remains of the cesspool, a circular cobbled-lined pit, are approximately 26 feet in diameter (Feature 15). There are five pit features at the site. One pit, Feature 17, is the only remaining evidence of the camp privy. The other four pits appear to be post-occupational and were likely created when the camp was being demolished.

Other recorded features include rock-lined paths, rock piles, and a religious shrine. The shrine in the northern portion of the site includes an obelisk built of locally available volcanic cinder boulders and mortar cement. The obelisk is 4 feet high.

Although the site has been severely damaged by clearing, razing, and other recent activities, it has been recommended as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; presumably under Criterion A, for its association with an important event in history and potentially under Criterion D, for its information potential.



**Feature 2 at AZ I:13:304 (ASM)  
(Courtesy of Arizona ARNG)**



**Feature 2 foundation remains at AZ I:13:304 (ASM)  
(Courtesy of Arizona ARNG)**



**Feature 12 at AZ I:13:304 (ASM) Restored POW monument  
(Courtesy of Arizona ARNG)**



## Heritage Tourism Potential

The POW camp at Camp Navajo is a razed complex with no standing structures. A large poster has been placed at the southern edge of the site. The poster includes a short description of the camp, pictures and newspaper articles. It is not weather-resistant and is faded and water damaged. A new weather resistant sign would be advisable although it is not clear how many people would have the opportunity to see it. Site access is not difficult but it does require visitors to pass through a security gate. There are few other reasons for nonmilitary individuals to visit the facility. Replacement of the existing sign with one that includes more information would provide an opportunity to educate staff and visitors at the depot about this resource.

Information on the World War II POW camps in Arizona is presented in a short exhibit at the Arizona Military Museum on the Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix. The exhibit discusses some of the World War II POW activities in Arizona including a brief treatment of the POWs at Navajo Depot. The exhibit could be improved and expanded to include more information about each of the Arizona POW camps with more pictures and maps. Improvement of the POW exhibit at the Arizona Military Museum is the most logical and economical exhibit option. The exhibit would be part of a broader military museum and would be located in Phoenix where more people would see the exhibit than would see the sign at the actual site.

## Research Notes

Information on the POW camp at Camp Navajo is curated in the Navajo Army Depot Collection, Cline Library, University of Northern Arizona, in Flagstaff. The collections include photo scrapbooks, year books, maps, letters, and other military documents. Articles from the *Coconino Sun* newspaper are available in the general collection at the Cline Library and on file with the Arizona Army National Guard environmental office.

John S. Westerlund has done the most research on the site and the occupants. He interviewed a POW and participated in a site visit with POWs. His research is presented in *Arizona's War Town: Flagstaff, Navajo Ordnance Depot, and World War II* (Westerlund 2003).

The National Archives Research and Administration (NARA) facility in College Park, Maryland, contains limited records regarding the POW camp at Camp Navajo. Records at NARA include a detention roster and an inspection report, both from Record Group 289, Entry 461.

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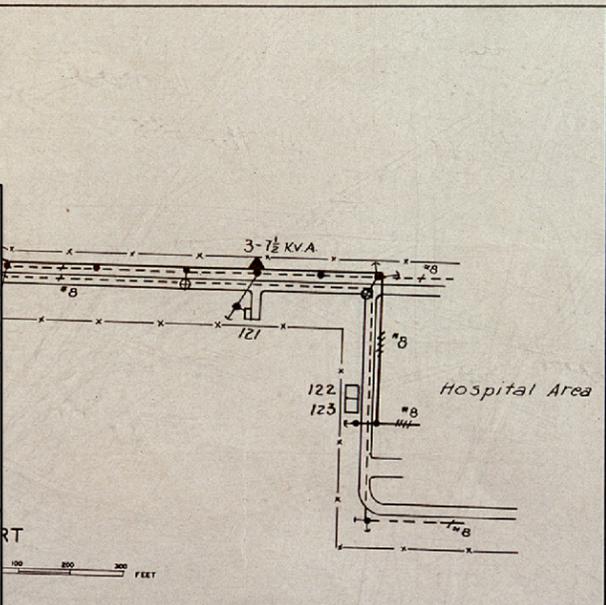
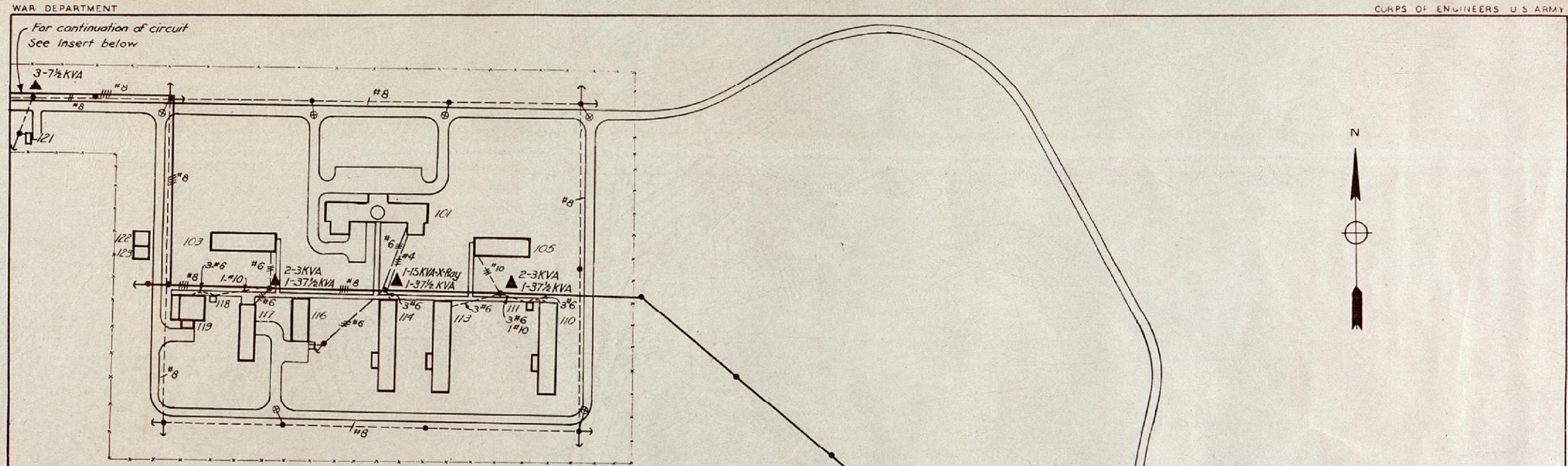
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# POW Compound - Camp Navajo



- LEGEND**
- #6 PRIMARY - SIZE
  - #8 SECONDARY - SIZE
  - TRANSFORMER
  - POLE
  - ANCHOR GUY
  - CONSTANT CURRENT REGULATOR
  - SERIES STREET AND FENCE LIGHTING SYSTEM

**RESTRICTED**

MASTER PLAN - BASIC INFORMATION  
**NAVAJO ORDNANCE DEPOT**  
 BELLEMONT, ARIZONA

IN SHEETS \_\_\_\_\_ SHEET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**HOSPITAL & PRISONER OF WAR AREA**  
**DETAIL UTILITY MAP**  
**ELECTRICAL**

GRAPHIC SCALE: 0 50 100 150 200 FEET

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER  
 LOS ANGELES DISTRICT  
 LOS ANGELES 33, CALIFORNIA

SUBMITTED: *R.C. Hunter* COL. C.E. DISTRICT ENGINEER DRAWING FILE NO. 1086 / 73

APPROVED BY DIST. PLANNING BOARD



## DOCUMENTATION REPORT: CAMP PERRY

### Brief History of Camp Perry

Camp Perry is a National Guard training facility on the shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio near Port Clinton. The original land for Camp Perry was purchased in 1906, and the reservation was named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the American naval commander who won the Battle of Put-in-Bay during the War of 1812. Most of the streets within the camp were named after vessels under Perry's command.

Constructed as a state firing range, Camp Perry has hosted National Rifle Association (NRA) matches since 1907. Rudimentary structures were constructed for use by competitors in the NRA matches and for transient personnel; however, tents were the most common form of housing for match attendees. During World War I, Camp Perry served as a training center for Army officers and marksmanship instructors. Additional acreage on the western edge of Camp Perry was acquired in 1918 for construction of the Erie Army Depot (later renamed Erie Proving Ground [EPG]), an artillery ordnance storage facility.

In the 1930s, facilities at the camp were augmented by construction of three buildings—a post headquarters, a theatre, and a chapel—by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Hundreds of concrete tent platforms also were laid out within the camp's cantonment area to support periodic training by the Ohio National Guard and groups using the firing ranges.

In 1940–41, Camp Perry served as an Army training camp for Ohio National Guardsmen mobilized for a year of Federal service. The Army initially housed the troops in tents surrounded by waist-high wooden barrier walls. In 1942, the tents were replaced with rows of hutments constructed on the former tent platforms. From October 1943 through February 1946, Camp Perry served as a POW camp for Italian and German prisoners. After the war, the Army deactivated the post and it once again became a training post for the Ohio Army National Guard. The EPG closed in the mid-1960s and was eventually converted to industrial use.

At present, Camp Perry is the home of the 213th Ordnance Company (Missile Support, Corps), the 372d Missile Maintenance Company (DS) Detachment 1, the 200th Red Horse Civil Engineering Squadron (Ohio Air National Guard), and the Ohio Naval Militia (the naval arm of the State of Ohio's Adjutant General's Department and part of Ohio's State Defense Forces).

Camp Perry also continues to host the annual NRA-sponsored National Rifle Match and is home to the Small Arms Firing School, which provides shooters with expert training and facilities for improving their shooting ability.

### Camp Perry POW Camp Timeline

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 30 Sep 1943 | Announcement is made by Fifth Service Command, Fort Hayes (Columbus) that Camp Perry will be used to house POWs. Stockade around existing housing is constructed in anticipation of the arrival of the first POWs. |
| 3 Oct 1943  | First Italian POWs arrive, approximately 1,000 POWs and 140 guards.  |
| 10 Dec 1943 | POWs start work contracts on local farms and highways but remain housed at Camp Perry.   |
| 11 Feb 1944 | Second group of Italian POWs arrive (several hundred), and the camp is substantially expanded to accommodate them as well as additional guards.  |

- 3 May 1944 Italian Service Unit (ISU) is formed at Camp Perry as 323d Italian Quartermaster Battalion (9 of 10 POWs at Camp Perry volunteer for the ISU).
- 12 May 1944 ISU is activated at EPG. Men are assigned to recondition and service equipment and load and unload trucks. Italian POWs are relocated to EPG.
- 02 June 1944 First German POWs arrive at Camp Perry.
- 07 July 1944 Second group of German POWs arrive, straight from Normandy invasion.
- 01 Aug 1944 Side (branch) camps are established at Celina, Bowling Green, and Defiance. ISU is used to set up the camps and get them ready for occupants—Celina and Bowling Green are tent camps, while Defiance is an old CCC camp with buildings. A total of 1,500 POWs are transferred to side camps (600 each to Bowling Green and Defiance, 300 to Celina).
- 02 Nov 1944 Remaining ISUs are transferred to Rossford Ordnance Depot (does not include ISU at EPG). Camp Perry POW camp contains only German POWs at this point.
- 19 Jan 1945 Third group of German POWs arrive (several hundred).
- 13 July 1945 German POWs are provided the opportunity to take classes in English and American History.
- 03 Aug 1945 Final group of German POWs arrive (1,250 from German Navy).
- 17 Aug 1945 First group of ISU personnel sent home from EPG (less than 100 sent home in first round).
- 15 Feb 1946 Final group of German POWs leave.

**Description of POW Camp**

Camp Perry was selected as an internment site because it contained substantive existing housing and facilities, and because of the availability of employment for POWs in the region. Reports suggest that up to 6,000 POWs went through Camp Perry between 1943 and 1946; however, a map of the initial POW camp established in October 1943 shows sufficient hutments within the POW compound to support 1,600 prisoners (27 rows of 12 hutments, 5 men per hutment). Total figures provided for Camp Perry might reflect POWs temporarily housed at branch camps, as well as ISUs assigned to EPG, Rossford Depot, and Defiance Depot.



**Camp Perry in 1943. Hutments in left foreground might have been part of an expanded POW compound in 1944 (image on file at Camp Perry)**

As noted, Camp Perry was selected to house POWs because of substantive existing housing in the form of hutments. A map found in the NARA Inspection and Report file for Camp Perry (Record Group 389, Entry 461, Box 2669) shows the original POW compound included hutments, mess halls, latrines, support buildings, recreational area, and guard towers. A discrete section of the camp, bounded on the south by Caledonia Road, on the north by Trippe Road, and on the east by Arial and Scorpion roads, was fenced, enclosing 32 acres. The western boundary of the compound lay halfway between Harmon and Niagara roads. Ten guard towers, built per the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' typical design, were erected along the borders, and a guard house and gate were placed along the western edge. This general layout is confirmed in Fifth Service Command Memorandum No. 14, dated 17 February 1944, regarding the posting of the 412<sup>th</sup> Military Police Escort Guard to Camp Perry (cited in Bovia and Wirzlyo 1992).

Within the enclosure, POWs lived within the hutments, 5 men per each. The hutments were 16-x16-foot single-story, wood frame buildings on concrete slab platforms, heated by a central wood stove that vented through the roof. Winterized with tar paper and double windows, these structures stood in evenly spaced rows of 12, with a set of 4 bathhouses for every 9 rows (108 hutments, 545 men).

Other facilities within the enclosure included mess hall(s), a chapel renovated by the Italian POWs that apparently included significant decoration, a bakery, a large exercise field, a barber shop, a carpentry shop, a shoe repair store, two canteens (supposedly decorated with images of Mickey Mouse by an Italian POW and left in place by the Germans), and a 5-acre garden plot cultivated by the German POWs to grow crops for their own meals. These buildings were located along the western edge of the compound, on the west side of Harmon Road.

Outside the fence, a small group of rectangular, single-story, gabled-roof buildings constructed of hollow-tile (cinder blocks) housed the facilities for the camp guards. Building T3000, in particular, was noted in Fifth Service Command Memorandum No. 14 as being the primary guard administration building. Medical services that could be accessed by POWs also were outside the fenced compound.

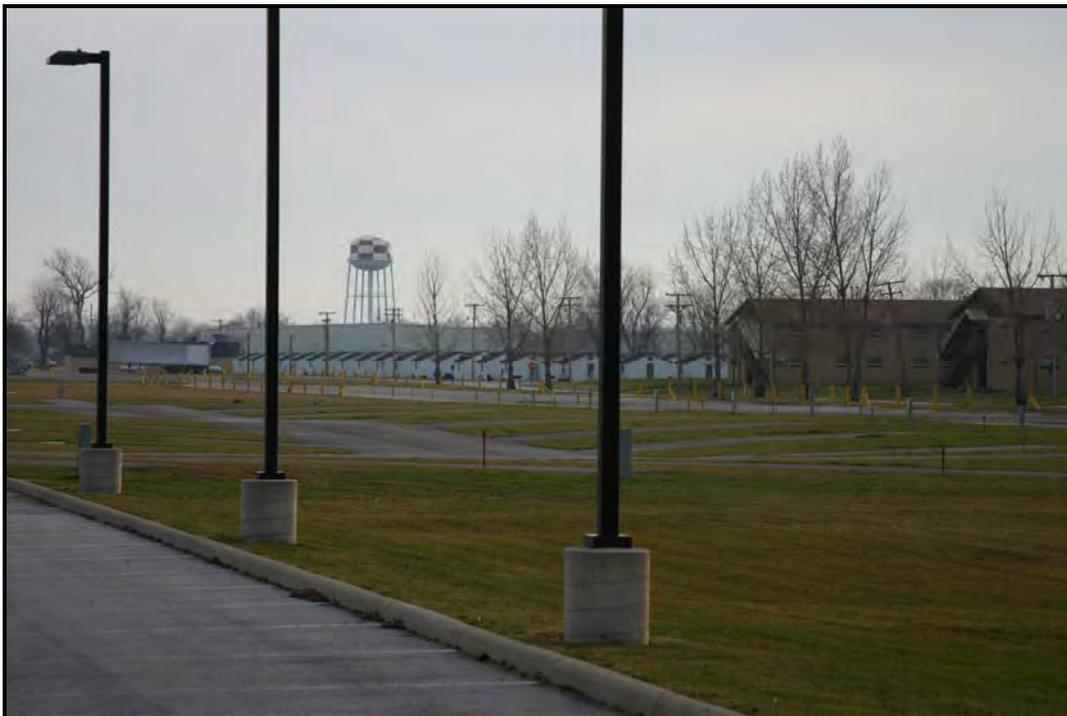
### **Description of Extant Features**

Of the more than 324 hutments that once stood within the original POW compound, 182 were still extant in December 2006. All of the bathhouses have been demolished, as had the 9 rows of hutments on the south end above Caledonia Road. The 18 rows of hutments that remain formed the central group of the POW compound and were designated (from north-south) as Rows U through Z, and AA through AM. The westernmost hutment in each row has been removed, leaving only 11 hutments per row in most rows. In rows V through Z, a 3-hutment section has been removed to create a large open space. Finally, a tornado in the late 1990s removed the second hutment in row Y, leaving only the concrete pad on which it stood.

The exteriors of the hutments have been substantially altered by the addition of transite siding and asphalt shingle roofing to their exteriors, removal of the wood stoves, and plugging of the roof vents for the stoves. The only original exterior features of the hutments at this point are the concrete pads, the tar paper and wooden frames and planks beneath the transite siding, and the window and door sills. The tar paper was replaced at least once before the transite siding was added, and the windows have been replaced in most of the units. Storm doors were added to some units, and only a portion of the huts have their original doors.



**Camp Perry hutments in 2006 (Goodfellow 2006)**



**View looking southwest from Scorpion Road (Goodfellow 2006). Grassy area in midground was the recreational yard of the POW compound.**

The recreational area has been partially paved, the guard towers and fencing have been removed, and only a few of the hollow-tile mobilization buildings used by the guards (e.g., building T3000) remain intact.



**Building T3000 (Goodfellow 2006)**



**Typical exterior and interior views (Goodfellow 2006)**

The interior space has been modified by the removal of the original woodstove, installation of a dropped ceiling and drywall to the walls, addition of shelves above each bunk, and electrification. Most of the hutments are in poor condition and are only rarely used by visitors attending the annual NRA National Matches.

Similarly, the larger setting around the former POW compound has been substantively altered. The main gate posts and basic traffic patterns are still there, as are the WPA-constructed post headquarters building, theater, and chapel. There are some additional complexes of hutments. Most of the World War II buildings have been demolished or replaced with newer construction. The complexes of hutments on the west side of the post are in the process of being demolished or renovated, and look very little like the original buildings.

## Heritage Tourism Potential

Camp Perry is ideally situated as a potential heritage tourism destination. It is periodically open to the public as a result of the annual NRA matches, when it draws a huge number of visitors. Many of them have rented a hutment as their accommodation during the matches. Although little of the POW compound remains intact apart from the rows of hutments, potential exists to preserve and develop a subset of the extant hutments for interpretive purposes. A number of the POW images found in the NARA were taken at Camp Perry and both the Ottawa County Historical Society Museum and the *Ottawa News Record* (now the *News Herald*) have anecdotal information about life at the POW compound.

## Research Notes

Camp Perry itself has few records remaining of the former POW camp. The former post historian, Anne Bovia (deceased), authored two volumes on the history of Camp Perry, both of which contained information on the POW camp gleaned from local newspaper articles from the time period and from oral history interviews conducted with members of the 412th MP Escort Guard during the 50th anniversary of World War II celebration at Camp Perry. Camp Perry has copies of both books, as does the Ottawa County Public Library. Another local resident, Glenna Meckstroth (deceased), wrote a book on the POW camp at Camp Perry, which includes text from her interviews with former German POWs. Unfortunately, this volume was self-published and is out of print. The Ottawa County Historical Society Museum in Port Clinton has some photographs, a file of news clippings about the POW camp and the ISU units at the EPG, and a jacket from an ISU uniform in storage. Information relating to Camp Perry obtained from the NARA included inspection reports, a map, and correspondence regarding prisoner transfers and the health of a few prisoners. The NARA files did not include detention rosters for POWs at Camp Perry.



ISU uniform, Ottawa County Historical Society Museum (Goodfellow 2006)

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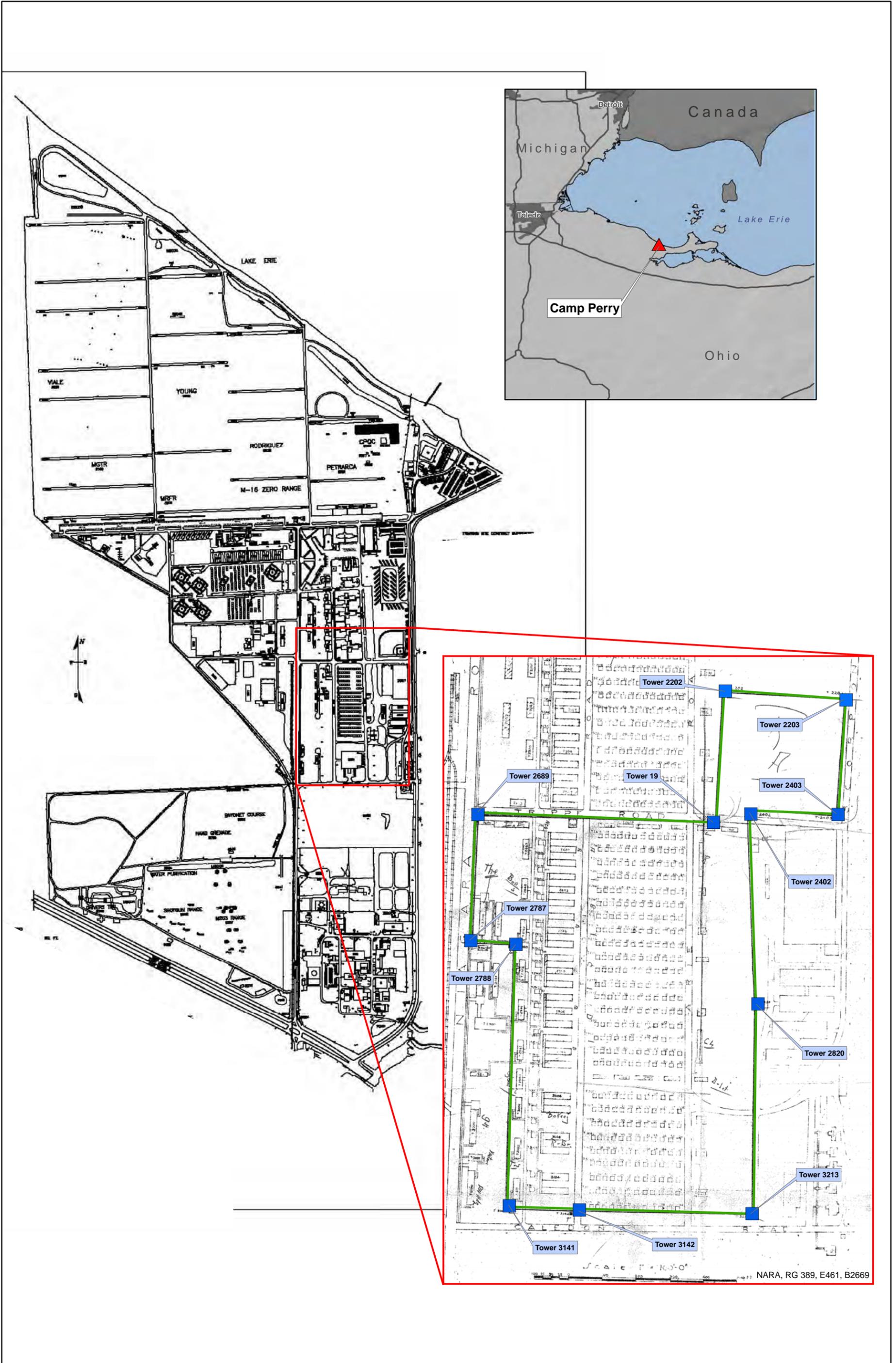
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var.        *Ottawa News Record*, 1943-1946 editions, on microfilm.

### **Useful Web sites**

[www.gentracer.com/powcamps.html](http://www.gentracer.com/powcamps.html) - provides list of Italian POWs from Camp Perry that served in Italian Service Units at Erie Proving Ground from September 1943 to December 1945.

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# POW Compound - Camp Perry





## DOCUMENTATION REPORT: CAMP STEWART

### **Brief History of Fort Stewart**

In June 1940 Congress authorized funding for the purchase of property in coastal Georgia for the purpose of building an anti-aircraft artillery training center. It was to be located just outside of Hinesville, Georgia, some 40 miles southwest of Savannah. Eventually the reservation would include more than 280,000 acres and stretch over five counties, making it the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River. The large expanse of property was required for the firing ranges and impact areas which an anti-aircraft artillery training center need for live fire training.

In November 1940 the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center was officially designated as Camp Stewart, in honor of General Daniel Stewart, a native of Liberty County who had fought with Francis Marion during the American Revolution and became one of the county's military heroes. During the early months, National Guard troops mobilized for a year of Federal service conducted training exercises at Camp Stewart, using wooden mock-ups since real anti-aircraft guns were in short supply. Live firing exercises were conducted on the beaches of St. Augustine and Amelia Island, Florida, since the necessary ranges and impact areas had not been completed at Camp Stewart. This live fire training over the ocean continued until September 1941, while at Camp Stewart, practice firing and searchlight training progressed.

When war was declared in December 1941, facilities at Camp Stewart were expanded and improved. Anti-aircraft artillery training was upgraded and soon a detachment of Women's Air Service Pilots (WASPs) arrived at the air facility on post, Liberty Field, to fly planes to tow targets for the live fire exercises. Eventually radio-controlled airplane targets came into use as a more effective and safer means of live-fire practice. As the war progressed, Camp Stewart's training programs continued expanding to keep pace with the needs placed upon it. Units were shipped out promptly upon completion of their training and new units received in their place. The camp provided well-trained soldiers for duty in Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Pacific theaters. Camp Stewart also served as a Cook and Bakers School and as a staging area for a number of Army postal units.

By late 1943 Camp Stewart assumed a new responsibility as one of many holding areas designated in this country for German and Italian prisoners of war who had fallen into Allied hands during fighting in North Africa. These men were held in two separate prisoner-of-war facilities on post and used as a labor force for base operations, construction projects, and area farmers.

By the spring of 1944 the camp was bulging at its seams as more than 55,000 soldiers occupied the facility during the build-up for the D-Day invasion. However, almost overnight, the post was virtually emptied as these units shipped out for England. With the D-Day invasion and Allied control of the air over Europe, the need for anti-aircraft units diminished and, in response, the anti-aircraft training at Camp Stewart was phased out. By January 1945 only the POW camp and training for two Italian Service Units (ISUs) was still functioning.

With the end of the war, Camp Stewart came to life briefly as a separation center for redeployed soldiers, but on 24 July 1946 the post was inactivated. The Georgia National Guard continued to use the installation as a training facility through June 1950, when the U.S. involvement in the Korean conflict caused the Army to reactivate the post. On 28 December 1950 Camp Stewart was redesignated as the 3rd Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center. Intensive training of soldiers destined for service in Korea began. Since control of the air in Korea was not seriously challenged by the Communist forces, in late

1953 Camp Stewart's role changed from solely anti-aircraft training to include armor and tank firing as well.

On 21 March 1956, the installation was redesignated as Fort Stewart and became a permanent Army installation. Its role would continue to evolve in response to specific needs and world events, including use for training artillery, as a staging area for the response to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, and helicopter pilot training and helicopter gunnery courses in 1966.

When the Air Force closed their base at Hunter Field in Savannah in 1967, the Army promptly assumed control and in conjunction with the flight training being conducted at Fort Stewart, the U.S. Army Flight Training Center came into being. The helicopter pilot training was rapidly accelerated and pilots were trained and soon sent to duty all over the world, with a large percentage seeing active duty in Viet Nam. In 1969 President Nixon planned to reduce American involvement in Viet Nam by training the South Vietnamese military to take over the war. In conjunction with this, helicopter flight training for South Vietnamese pilots began at the Training Center in 1970 and continued until 1972.

Gradually U.S. involvement in Viet Nam dwindled and by mid-1972 the flight training aspect of Fort Stewart's mission was terminated and both Hunter Field and Fort Stewart reverted to garrison status. The following year Hunter Field was closed entirely and Fort Stewart sat idle with the exception of the National Guard training which continued to be conducted at the installation.

In 1974, both Fort Stewart and Hunter Field were reactivated to support the training of the first Army Ranger units activated since World War II. With the reactivation of the 24th Infantry Division, the post entered a new phase in its history. Facilities were upgraded and new permanent structures replaced many of the old wooden buildings from the days of Camp Stewart. On 1 October 1980, the 24th Infantry Division was designated a mechanized division and assigned as the heavy infantry division of the newly organized Rapid Deployment Force. The mission of the Rapid Deployment Force was to be prepared to deploy to practically any point on the globe at a moment's notice to deal with whatever threat might be discerned.

In August 1990, Iraq invaded and overran neighboring Kuwait and threatened to do the same to Saudi Arabia. The Port of Savannah worked around the clock to load and ship the Division's heavy equipment, while aircraft shuttles from Hunter Field flew the Division's personnel to Saudi Arabia. Within a month the entire Division had been reassembled in Saudi Arabia to face the possible invasion of that country by Iraqi forces. Fort Stewart saw a growing influx of National Guard and Reserve units who were being mobilized to support the operations in Saudi Arabia and to assume the tasks at the post which had formerly been accomplished by Division personnel. Within 8 months the crisis in the Persian Gulf had concluded and the 24th Infantry Division triumphantly returned to its home in coastal Georgia. On 25 April 1996 the 3d Infantry Division was activated at Fort Stewart.

### **Fort Stewart POW Camp Timeline**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 20 Feb 44  | Camp Stewart is established as a POW labor camp for German prisoners under the control of Aliceville, Alabama.                              |
| 22 May 44  | Camp Stewart POW camp becomes an independent camp. At this point, the camp houses 169 prisoners in a small compound in the cantonment area. |
| Jul-Nov 44 | Two ISUs, the 25th Italian Dump Truck Company and the 10th Italian Ordnance MAM Company come to train at Camp Stewart.                      |

- 14 Nov 44      Announcement of two new branch camps at Chatham and Hunter Fields is made, to be managed by Camp Stewart. Capacity of each branch camp was estimated at 250 German POWs to be housed in a mix of tents and hutments.
- 15 Dec 44      249 POWs now at camp (capacity) and Post Commander is making plans to move prisoners to a new compound within the camp.
- 19 Feb 45      POWs are in the process of moving from original compound to new compound with Camp Stewart.
- Xx Apr 45      Bicentennial report notes that by April 1945, operations at Camp Stewart have virtually come to a stop. The German POW camp is still present, and the two ISUs are the only units still training at the camp.
- Xx Jan 46      German POWs transferred to other camps in anticipation of repatriation. ISUs likely repatriated in November–December 1945.
- 24 July 46      Fort Stewart is inactivated.

### **Description of Fort Stewart POW Camps**

The Inspection and Field Report file for Camp Stewart at the NARA included only one map (Record Group 389, Entry 461, Box 2673). After comparison with the installation plan maps on file at Camp Stewart, this map was determined to depict the original 1943 POW compound in the 800-block near the main gate. Buildings within the compound are numbered 814–825 and 843–847.

Inspection reports from 1944 relate that the original POW compound at Camp Stewart had a capacity of 250 men. It measured 540 by 230 feet and had an attached recreation area measuring 60 by 100 feet. The compound included a group of 14 existing barracks, each of which could house 12–14 men, 1 mess hall, 1 recreation building that housed the library, canteen, theater, chapel, and classroom; and 1 barrack housing the showers and latrines. The guard house, for prisoners requiring disciplinary action, was an unheated trailer. The prisoners had been able to add decoration to the exteriors of their barracks. According to the reports, all of the prisoners were involved in work tasks within Camp Stewart. For recreation, the prisoners had the outdoor recreation field, a library, a weekly movie in the theater, and the canteen, and the prisoners had formed their own choir and orchestra.

Descriptions of the second compound, established in February 1945 in Area G-3 indicate that it included barracks (unknown capacity), 1 day room, 1 canteen, 1 office for the camp spokesman, 1 classroom, 1 orchestra studio, 1 carpenter's workshop, and 1 outdoor stage (not built as of February 1945). The chapel was located outside the compound, and the recreation field had not yet been built. The prisoners had established a small beehive within the compound as a pet project. A 1943 plan map of Area G-3 was later annotated to show the boundaries of this POW compound (Engineering Office, Camp Stewart).

The same series of maps from 1943 shows a fenced compound in Area B-4; however, there are notations on this map to identify it as a POW compound. The Post Engineer had heard anecdotal evidence to suggest that it was used to house POWs. Similarly, anecdotal evidence suggests that the CCC camp to the southwest of the Post Engineer compound was used to house Italian POWs; this compound could support 100 prisoners. No information was available regarding the layout of this camp.

## Description of Extant Features

Fort Stewart had been selected for documentation based on the belief of most of the staff of the Environmental office that the area now used by the Department of Public Works (DPW), which includes a number of World War II-era buildings, was the location of the Italian POW camp. However, the buildings in question are clearly administrative and industrial in function—no barracks or mess halls—making it unlikely that the area functioned as a POW compound. During the documentation effort, a review of 1943 plan maps of the installation, combined with the recollections of Mr. Tommy Houston, who had spent time on the post as a boy during World War II, confirmed that the POW compounds were located elsewhere on post. The DPW area instead housed the Post Engineers during the 1940s. It is curious that one of the boundary streets of the DPW section was renamed “Italy” street at some point after the war; however, Fort Stewart has no record of the rationale for the renaming of this road. It is possible, given the relative proximity of the actual Italian POW compound to this section of the installation, that it could have been an area where ISUs were assigned to work. A map showing the locations of these buildings and photographs of the buildings as they appeared in February 2006 is included at the end of this report.

The three POW compounds identified during the review of installation maps from 1943 have long since been demolished. The compounds in Areas B-4 and G-3 have been redeveloped, while the former CCC camp location that housed Italian POWs has been taken over by woods. Although there might be some potential for archeological deposits at this location, Mr. Maggioni and Mr. Houston both felt that the camp foundations had been removed and the area re-graded before it was allowed to revert to forest.

The final rumor regarding the POWs at Fort Stewart was that they constructed Building 5019, a single-story hollow-tile, wood and brick building located off of Hero Road, just south of the current Hinesville/Ft. Stewart wastewater treatment plant, and approximately 800 feet northeast of the location of Area B-4 and west of Area G-3. The building, which now houses the offices of Family Housing and Maintenance Services, is rectangular with a gabled roof, one window opening per side, and one entry door. The building is thought to have been built by the POWs because the measurements of the building are metric. The building is atypical in construction; although configured similar to other hollow-tile administrative buildings of the era, there are brick quoins on the corners of the building and the windows are framed with brick in a distinctive pattern. The building also features two windows per side as compared to the more typical single, centered windows found on most World War II mobilization buildings. There are no records regarding the original function of this building. It has been painted white with blue trim accents, the roof has been replaced with asphalt shingle roofing, and the windows at one end have been blocked.



**Building 5019 (Goodfellow 2007). Note the use of brickwork around the windows.**

## Heritage Tourism Potential

If sufficient information can be compiled through this study, the Fort Stewart Museum will develop an exhibit on the POW camps on post. The Museum is open to the public 1000–1600 Tuesday–Saturday. Apart from the potential to develop an exhibit, there are no physical remains of the POW camps that could be interpreted for the public. Fort Stewart could place historic markers at the locations of the former compounds, but the setting has changed so drastically since World War II that the markers would be out of context.

## Research Notes

Mr. Paul Maggioni, the Architectural Historian for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, provided two reports containing short excerpts regarding the presence of POWs at the post during World War II. However, he has no other information on the POW camps on file. Typical plan maps of the installation found in the Post Engineer's office included notations of at least two camps, one in Area B-4 and one in Area G-3. A note on the plan map for the main gate section notes that elements of one POW camp were once located near the main gate, but had been moved to Area G-3. An interview conducted with Mr. Tommy Houston, DPTMS (Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, & Security) LRAM (Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance) Coordinator, who interacted with members of one of the ISU when he was a boy, revealed that a third area of the post, one designated internally as the site of a former CCC camp, was used to house the Italian POWs at Fort Stewart, while Areas B-4 and G-3 were compounds for German prisoners. No buildings or foundations remain at any of these locations.

Research at local repositories resulted in little additional information on the POW camps at Fort Stewart. The Fort Stewart Museum had some photographs of POWs taken at Chatham Field and provided some anecdotal information on local community members, like Mr. Houston, that had memories of the POWs. The Museum curator, Walter Meeks III, told a story about his father going to Georgia Teachers College with a former Italian POW who immigrated to the U.S. after the war. The Division Historian, Dr. Judith Brown, was a recent transplant to Fort Stewart, but noted that oral histories taken from members of the Tuskegee Airmen included a number of references to POWs on U.S. military bases; most of the airmen commented that the POWs were typically given better treatment than the black troops at the time.

A search for copies of the local newspaper in distribution during the war years proved fruitless. The Hinesville Public Library had copies of the *Liberty County Herald* for 1936–1940 and 1960 forwards. The *Coastal Courier*, which took over the *Liberty County Herald* in the 1960s only had copies of the Herald from 1954 onwards, and reported that the archives of the early years had been lost in a fire before the owner of the Courier purchased the Herald. Calls to the Liberty County Historical Society, the Liberty County Probate Court, and the Liberty County Board of Tourism also were negative; no copies of the *Liberty County Herald* from 1941–1953 are on file with these agencies.

The public library in Savannah had copies of the *Savannah Morning News* and the *Darien Gazette* on microfilm. Review of the issues of these newspapers for the years 1943–1946 found 16 articles relating to POWs in the state of Georgia (see list below), but few provided information on the POW camps at Fort Stewart. Finally, a review of the collections at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah found no materials dealing with the topic of POWs in the state during World War II.

Accordingly, the primary source of reference material on the POW camps at Fort Stewart is the NARA. A search of files relating to Camp Stewart in Record Group 389 (Records of the Office of the Provost Marshall General) found three sets of records: a correspondence file, a set of detention rosters, and a file of Inspection and Field Reports. A map of the original POW compound near the main gate was included with the latter file. It is interesting to note that the inspection reports in the NARA, dated 1944 and 1945,

do not include any reference to Italian POWs or to ISUs, although the reports on file at Camp Stewart clearly note the existence of two ISU companies at Camp Stewart through 1945.

## References

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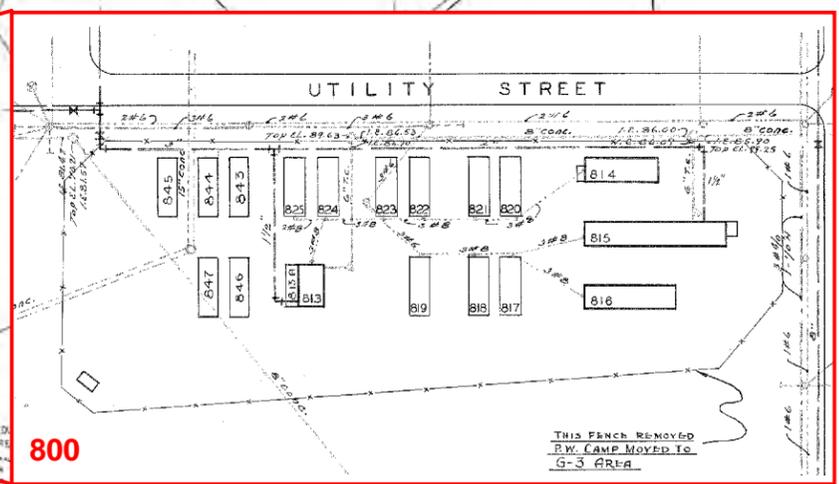
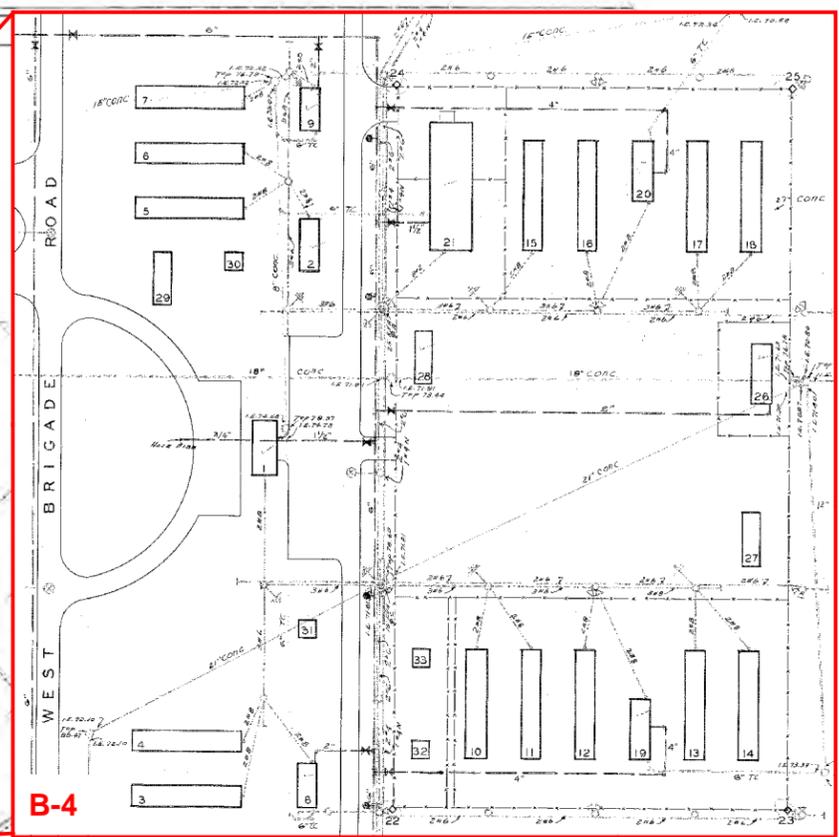
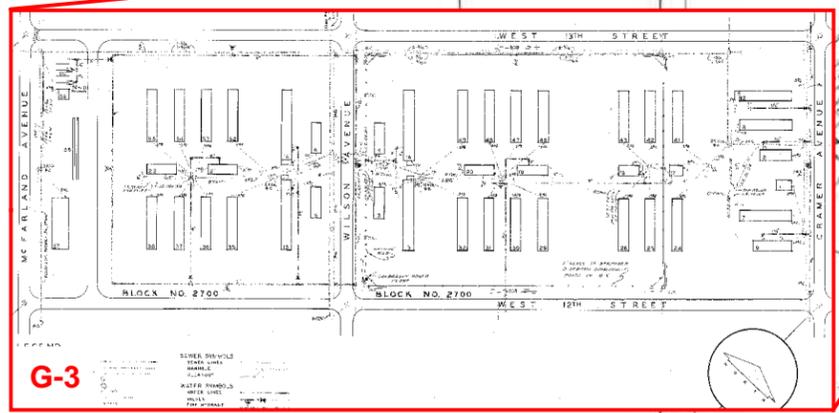
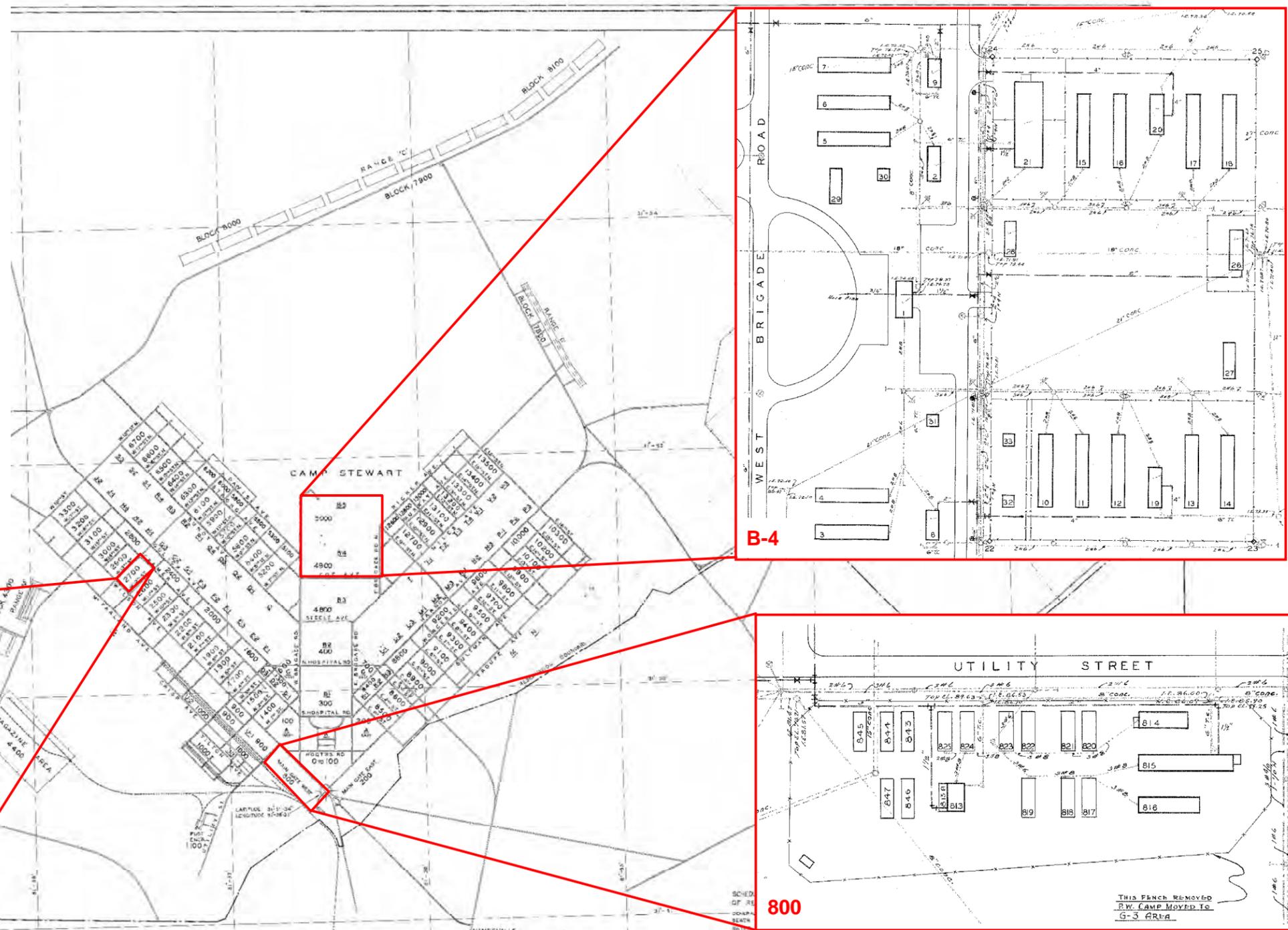
Savannah Public Library (Bull Street)

var. Issues of the *Savannah Morning News*, 1942–1946, on microfilm.

## Useful Websites

[www.gentracer.com/powcamps.html](http://www.gentracer.com/powcamps.html) - provides list of Italian POWs from Camp Perry that served in Italian Service Units at Erie Proving Ground from September 1943 to December 1945.

# POW Compounds - Camp Stewart



INDEX OF DRAWINGS		A. A. A. T. C. CANTONMENT AREAS				A. A. A. T. C. RANGES				LIBERTY FIELD	
DRWG NO.	TITLE	DRWG NO.	TITLE	DRWG NO.	TITLE	DRWG NO.	TITLE	DRWG NO.	TITLE	DRWG NO.	TITLE
REC 00	RESERVATION MAP	REC 11	UNIT MAP MAGAZINE AREA	REC 21	UNIT MAP AREA	REC 30	UNIT MAP AREA	REC 40	UNIT MAP AREA	REC 100	GENERAL LAYOUT PLAN
01	INDEX MAP	12	UNIT MAP WEST	22	UNIT MAP AREA	37	UNIT MAP AREA	52	UNIT MAP AREA	85	RANGE A, B, C
02	WATER DISTRIBUTION	13	AREA A	23	AREA A	38	AREA A	53	AREA A	86	RANGE G, H
03	SANITARY SEWERS	14	AREA B	24	AREA B	39	AREA B	54	AREA B	87	RANGE I, J
04	ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION	15	AREA C	25	AREA C	40	AREA C	55	AREA C	88	RANGE K, L
05	STREET LIGHTING DIAGRAM	16	AREA D	26	AREA D	41	AREA D	56	AREA D	89	RANGE M, N
06	STREET LIGHTING & PARKING PLAN	17	AREA E	27	AREA E	42	AREA E	57	AREA E	90	RANGE O, P
07		18	AREA F	28	AREA F	43	AREA F	58	AREA F	91	RANGE Q, R
08		19	AREA G	29	AREA G	44	AREA G	59	AREA G	92	RANGE S, T
09		20	AREA H	30	AREA H	45	AREA H	60	AREA H	93	RANGE U, V
10		21	AREA I	31	AREA I	46	AREA I	61	AREA I	94	RANGE W, X
11		22	AREA J	32	AREA J	47	AREA J	62	AREA J	95	RANGE Y, Z
12		23	AREA K	33	AREA K	48	AREA K	63	AREA K	96	RANGE AA, AB
13		24	AREA L	34	AREA L	49	AREA L	64	AREA L	97	RANGE AC, AD
14		25	AREA M	35	AREA M	50	AREA M	65	AREA M	98	RANGE AE, AF
15		26	AREA N	36	AREA N	51	AREA N	66	AREA N	99	RANGE AG, AH
16		27	AREA O	37	AREA O	52	AREA O	67	AREA O	100	RANGE AI, AJ
17		28	AREA P	38	AREA P	53	AREA P	68	AREA P		
18		29	AREA Q	39	AREA Q	54	AREA Q	69	AREA Q		
19		30	AREA R	40	AREA R	55	AREA R	70	AREA R		
20		31	AREA S	41	AREA S	56	AREA S	71	AREA S		
21		32	AREA T	42	AREA T	57	AREA T	72	AREA T		
22		33	AREA U	43	AREA U	58	AREA U	73	AREA U		
23		34	AREA V	44	AREA V	59	AREA V	74	AREA V		
24		35	AREA W	45	AREA W	60	AREA W	75	AREA W		
25		36	AREA X	46	AREA X	61	AREA X	76	AREA X		
26		37	AREA Y	47	AREA Y	62	AREA Y	77	AREA Y		
27		38	AREA Z	48	AREA Z	63	AREA Z	78	AREA Z		
28		39	AREA AA	49	AREA AA	64	AREA AA	79	AREA AA		
29		40	AREA AB	50	AREA AB	65	AREA AB	80	AREA AB		
30		41	AREA AC	51	AREA AC	66	AREA AC	81	AREA AC		
31		42	AREA AD	52	AREA AD	67	AREA AD	82	AREA AD		
32		43	AREA AE	53	AREA AE	68	AREA AE	83	AREA AE		
33		44	AREA AF	54	AREA AF	69	AREA AF	84	AREA AF		
34		45	AREA AG	55	AREA AG	70	AREA AG	85	AREA AG		
35		46	AREA AH	56	AREA AH	71	AREA AH	86	AREA AH		
36		47	AREA AI	57	AREA AI	72	AREA AI	87	AREA AI		
37		48	AREA AJ	58	AREA AJ	73	AREA AJ	88	AREA AJ		
38		49	AREA AK	59	AREA AK	74	AREA AK	89	AREA AK		
39		50	AREA AL	60	AREA AL	75	AREA AL	90	AREA AL		
40		51	AREA AM	61	AREA AM	76	AREA AM	91	AREA AM		
41		52	AREA AN	62	AREA AN	77	AREA AN	92	AREA AN		
42		53	AREA AO	63	AREA AO	78	AREA AO	93	AREA AO		
43		54	AREA AP	64	AREA AP	79	AREA AP	94	AREA AP		
44		55	AREA AQ	65	AREA AQ	80	AREA AQ	95	AREA AQ		
45		56	AREA AR	66	AREA AR	81	AREA AR	96	AREA AR		
46		57	AREA AS	67	AREA AS	82	AREA AS	97	AREA AS		
47		58	AREA AT	68	AREA AT	83	AREA AT	98	AREA AT		
48		59	AREA AU	69	AREA AU	84	AREA AU	99	AREA AU		
49		60	AREA AV	70	AREA AV	85	AREA AV	100	AREA AV		
50		61	AREA AW	71	AREA AW	86	AREA AW				
51		62	AREA AX	72	AREA AX	87	AREA AX				
52		63	AREA AY	73	AREA AY	88	AREA AY				
53		64	AREA AZ	74	AREA AZ	89	AREA AZ				
54		65	AREA BA	75	AREA BA	90	AREA BA				
55		66	AREA BB	76	AREA BB	91	AREA BB				
56		67	AREA BC	77	AREA BC	92	AREA BC				
57		68	AREA BD	78	AREA BD	93	AREA BD				
58		69	AREA BE	79	AREA BE	94	AREA BE				
59		70	AREA BF	80	AREA BF	95	AREA BF				
60		71	AREA BG	81	AREA BG	96	AREA BG				
61		72	AREA BH	82	AREA BH	97	AREA BH				
62		73	AREA BI	83	AREA BI	98	AREA BI				
63		74	AREA BJ	84	AREA BJ	99	AREA BJ				
64		75	AREA BK	85	AREA BK	100	AREA BK				

**CAMP STEWART, GA.**  
**INDEX MAP**  
 SCALE: 1"=1000'  
 DRAWN BY: AREA ENGINEER OFFICE, CAMP STEWART, GA.  
 CHECKED BY: SURVEYED BY: *D.C. Macomber*  
 U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE, SAVANNAH, GA.  
 DATE: NOV 1943  
 APPROVED: WILLIAM N. PARSONS ARCHITECT - PROJECT ENGINEER  
 THIS MAP COMPLETE TO 11-22-43

All Maps on File at Engineering Office, Fort Stewart



## DOCUMENTATION REPORT, CAMP F.E. WARREN

### **Brief History of Camp F.E. Warren (F.E. Warren Air Force Base)**

The following synopsis of base history is taken from the F.E. Warren Air Force Base (AFB) entry on <http://www.globalsecurity.org> and from the “History” page of the F.E. Warren AFB Inter-continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) and Heritage Museum Web site [http:// www.warrenmuseum.com/history.htm](http://www.warrenmuseum.com/history.htm), both accessed on 20 March 2007.

F.E. Warren AFB has a long history that parallels the history of the United States military in the West. It was established in 1867 on the South Platte River, approximately 3 miles west of Cheyenne Wyoming, as an Army fort (Fort D. A. Russell). The primary purpose of the fort was to protect railroad workers from hostile Indians. Later, troops from the fort participated in the Great Sioux War.

Detachments of the 30th Cavalry formed the first garrison. Initially, they lived in tents until wood structures were constructed. Fort Russell was made a permanent post in 1884 and, in 1885 the War Department ordered the post be rebuilt to serve eight infantry companies. The Fort’s built environment expanded and brick buildings replaced the wood structures.

The fortunes of military posts are often influenced by war. Fort D. A. Russell (F. E. Warren) was no different. In 1898, the Spanish-American War broke out and, the 8th Infantry left the fort for Cuba. Shortly thereafter, the Wyoming National Guard mustered for service in the Philippines and departed from Fort Russell. Two years later, troops from Fort Russell again went to the Philippines.

In the first decades of the 20th century, the post expanded again, eventually tripling in size from its 1885 boundaries. As a reflection of changing military technologies, Fort Russell’s cavalry troops were supplemented by artillery troops. Post artillery units saw service along the United States/Mexico border during the Mexican Revolution (1913–1916). During World War I, the post served as a mobilization point and training facility for field artillery and cavalry groups. As World War I began, Fort Russell had become one of the largest military posts in the United States.

In 1927, the last cavalry units left, ending 60 years of cavalry history at Fort Russell. In 1930, the name of the post was changed to Fort Francis E. Warren, honoring Wyoming’s territorial governor and first state governor. Warren also served as a U.S. Senator for 37 years. He received the Medal of Honor when he was 19 years old for heroism during the Civil War.

With the United States’ entry into World War II, Fort F.E. Warren was the training center for up to 20,000 of the Quartermaster Corps. More than 280 temporary wooden buildings were constructed to house the increased number of troops. In the harsh Wyoming winter, these barracks offered inadequate protection against the cold and snow. A German POW camp was established at the post on 12 November 1943 and deactivated on 27 April 1946.

Fort F.E. Warren became an AFB in 1947. F.E. Warren AFB was initially used as a training facility, but became the home of the 4320th Strategic Missile Wing in 1958. The 4320th had responsibility for 24 Atlas missile sites under the Strategic Air Command (SAC). On 2 September 1960, the 564th Strategic Missile Squadron was declared the first fully operational Intercontinental Ballistic Missile squadron. Atlas D and E missile sites in eastern Wyoming, western Nebraska, and northern Colorado were placed under the command and control of F.E. Warren AFB.

Soon the unit became the 90th Missile Strategic Missile Wing. On 1 July 1963, the wing became the free world's largest ICBM unit. It controlled 200 Minuteman I missiles in the tri-state, 12,600 square-mile area. The Minuteman I sites were converted to Minuteman IIIs in 1975, and in 1986 F.E. Warren AFB became the only base in the nation to deploy the Peacekeeper missile. By the end of 1988, deployment was complete with 50 Peacekeepers replacing 50 Minuteman IIIs.

After an Air Force restructure in June 1992, the 90th dropped its "strategic" designation and became the 90th Missile Wing. SAC was inactivated and F.E. Warren AFB belonged to Air Combat Command (ACC), headquartered at Langley AFB, Virginia. In July 1993, the realignment of the Twentieth Air Force from ACC to Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) moved the responsibility of ICBM operations to AFSPC, headquartered at Peterson AFB, Colorado. The realignment was designed to take advantage of the similarities between missile launch and space launch operations.

Twentieth Air Force, headquarters for the nation's ICBM wings, relocated to F.E. Warren AFB on 1 October 1993. The base remains an important missile defense installation.

### **F.E. Warren AFB German POW Camp Timeline**

12 Nov 1943	350 German POWs arrive at Camp F.E. Warren. At this time the camp was a branch camp.
20 Mar 1944	Camp F.E. Warren activated as a permanent POW camp.
Apr 1944	First issue of the German language camp newspaper, <i>Der Zuangast</i> , is published.
1–2 Jun 1944	Field visit to camp from Headquarters Army Services Force reports 497 German POWs at camp (62 noncommissioned officers and 435 enlisted men).
17–19 Feb 1945	Second field visit to camp from Headquarters Army Services Force reports 742 POWs at camp (1 officer, 49 noncommissioned officers, and 692 enlisted men).
Apr 1945	Brick barracks building is remodeled.
May 1945	Final issue of the German language camp newspaper, <i>Der Zuangast</i> , is published.
Aug 1945	First issue of the German language camp newspaper, <i>Lager-Magazin</i> , is published.
Jan 1946	Final issue of the German language camp newspaper, <i>Lager-Magazin</i> , is published.
23 Apr 1946	100 POWs remain at the camp (from a peak of 894 prisoners).
27 Apr 1946	POW camp is closed.

### **Description of POW Camp**

On 12 November 1943, Camp F.E. Warren received its first group of German prisoners, all of who were members of General Rommel's Afrika Corps captured in Tunisia (Wyoming State Tribune 1943). Serving initially as a branch camp, the camp consisted of a small compound of buildings once used as stables, and subsequently adapted as housing for American soldiers. Less documented is the assignment of an Italian Service Unit (ISU) to the camp. It is believed that the ISU was housed in barracks at the south end of the base, near the current base exchange complex (Bryant 2007; F.E. Warren AFB n.d.a); however, no

independent verification of this latter compound could be found in the records at the NARA or in the lists of ISU assignments at military installations do not include Camp F.E. Warren.

F.E. Warren's POW camp is thought to have been unique among Wyoming's many POW work camps as the longest, continuously serving detention camp in the state and for not sending prisoners into the community for day labor (Bangerter 1979). The first group of German POWs numbered 350. By June 1944, the camp was occupied by 500 prisoners and, by February 1945, the camp population had increased to 742. It peaked at 894 prisoners prior to the camp's closure in April 1946. About 5 percent of the prisoners might have been Austrians.

The German POW camp fronted Fourth Avenue between Sixth and Ninth Streets on the floodplain of Crow Creek. Its location was somewhat remote, away from F.E. Warren's cantonment and beyond (south of) the base railroad tracks. The site had been the post's former trash dump. By the time the POW camp was established, the trash dump was sealed beneath the quartermaster's stables that had been erected ca.1910. The stables were remodeled as vehicle garages in the mid-1930s and again in the early 1940s to serve as barracks for American soldiers.

Guards occupied two buildings north of the camp across Fourth Avenue (Buildings 347 and 348). From the guard towers at the northwest and southeast corners of the compound, guards watched over the five or more long and narrow brick or frame structures aligned north/south in the fenced compound. A June 1944 field report concerning the POW camp described 500 prisoners being housed in two barracks buildings, one brick and the other frame. Steel cots were double-decked. When the numbers of prisoners increased, a third barracks building became necessary. Support buildings included a 50-by-190-foot frame building used as a mess hall and a 20-by-110-foot frame building used as a recreation center. A historic exterior photo of the camp shows additional buildings, likely built later when the camp population increased to 894 prisoners. In the small camp dispensary were beds for 12 prisoners. The compound also had a soccer field (National Archives June 1944 Field Report).



**F.E. Warren POW Camp: Mess Hall Interior  
(National Archives RG 389, E 461, Box 2661)**

While in camp, the prisoners tried to make life as pleasant as possible. They sang German songs, played instruments, and formed an orchestra. A camp theater group performed Shakespearean plays such as *Romeo and Juliet*. Some prisoners wrote for and published two camp publications, *Der Zuangast* and *Lager-Magazin*. Using equipment donated by Argentina, they played soccer (Ledford 1997). Other sports were popular also, and the camp newspapers published the rules of baseball and football so the prisoners could learn to play American sports. The internees attended Catholic and Lutheran church services on Sundays, or could play football in the base stadium on Sunday mornings (National Archives 1945 Field Report). The recreation hall was outfitted with comfortable chairs, tables for crafts and card games, and a radio. In 1945, there was reported to be three radios in camp. Some POWs beautified the compound by building concrete bird baths and fish ponds (National Archives 1944 Field Report) and planting small shrubs and trees, although none of these features remain today.

Shortly after their arrival, the POWs set up a camp school. Initially, there was a dearth of materials and a lack of space. For the first year of its existence it served only a handful of students. In 1945, the ranking officer among the prisoners ordered all POWs to attend the school. Shortly thereafter, 241 men enrolled in classes. A few months later 150 students were still participating in classes. With assistance from the Americans, more space was provided for education and additional materials were acquired. The curriculum included such subjects as German, English, Latin, history, geography, botany, zoology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, business, political science, drafting, carpentry, masonry, cabinet work, statistics, and economics (Bangerter 1979).

German POWs received regular, if small, payment to work 6 days per week on the post. POWs worked at the base motor pool and hospital, did grounds maintenance, and stoked the coal-burning furnaces in various buildings. One Inspection Report admonished the camp commander for paying the prisoners for working 7 days per week, interestingly noting the payment irregularity but not that labor for all 7 days was against policy. The POWs could use their earnings to purchase items at the camp canteen. The POWs were dressed in blue uniforms with the letters P and W emblazoned on their pant knees.

POWs did escape from the camp. Ms. Alice Grange, supervisor of the camp warehouse, recalled two prisoners escaping to the mountains and later being found. POWs who violated the rules were put on a starvation diet for 2 or 3 days and not allowed to sleep (Wyoming Tribune Eagle 1993).



**F.E. Warren POW Camp: Former quartermaster stables and frame buildings of camp  
(National Archives RG 389, E 461, Box 2661)**

## Description of Extant Features

Extant features of F.E. Warren AFB's German POW camp include four brick buildings and surrounding landscape, building foundations and retaining walls, artifacts, and the graves of eight German and one Italian POWs within the base cemetery. Buildings 354 and 356, both located within the fenced compound, remain; Buildings 347 and 348, across Fourth Avenue, housed the camp guards. All four buildings lie within the Fort D.A. Russell Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings are just outside the National Historic Landmark historic district boundaries. Buildings 347, 348, 354, and 356 are contributing elements of the National Register-listed historic district for their associations with the cavalry period of the post's history. Thus, although they are contributing elements of the National Register-listed district, they are not officially recognized for their contributions to F.E. Warren AFB's German POW camp or World War II-era history.

The two extant buildings of the POW camp compound, Buildings 354 and 356, are red brick buildings with monitor roofs. Both were erected in 1911 as quartermaster stables and were built per Office of Quartermaster Plan #139-L. Building 354 had been modified for vehicular use during the mid-1930s with its short stable windows lowered and door openings enlarged. Of one-and-a-half stories, Building 354 is of load-bearing masonry with wood post and beam framing. Measuring 195 by 65 feet, it has 19 bays with a loft partitioned into smaller rooms. A single-story boiler room was added to its west façade for coal-fired steam heat; the tall smokestack is a prominent feature of the structure today.



**F.E. Warren AFB, German POW Camp. View west down Fourth Avenue with Buildings 354 and 356 on left, and Building 347 on right**

Building 356 lies about 200 feet east of Building 354. It is similar to Building 354 but slightly smaller, measuring only 171 by 30 feet. It, too, is a one-and-a-half story, red brick structure with a loft beneath an end gable monitor roof. To the east of Building 356 is an open area where another building stood. Some of its concrete foundations are barely visible as archaeological features. A small concrete “plug” to the south of the foundations might have served as the base for a bird bath or fountain, or had another function. Building 356 is designated historic structure 48LA1943, and Building 354 is designated historic structure 48LA1942. Beneath and to the east of Building 354 is the site of the post historic trash dump. It has been tested archaeologically, and contains materials dating to pre-1900 (Bryant 2007).

Across Fourth Avenue are Buildings 347 and 348, used by the POW camp guards. Building 347, the westernmost of the two, is a two-and-a-half story building of red brick. It has load-bearing construction and a side gable roof. With nine bays in the main structure, it has a raised front porch of three bays leading to the main entrance. Erected in 1910 according to Office of Quartermaster Plan #258, Building 347 was the former teamsters’ quarters and later the noncommissioned officers’ club.

Building 348 is a small, one-and-a-half story, three-bay, side-gabled, brick structure. It was erected in 1904 per Office of Quartermaster Standard Plan #59-K. Its doors and windows have been modified. To the west of Building 347 is a flat area where Building T-347A once stood. Little is known about this latter building. At the rear of where this building stood is a low stone retaining wall that is thought to have been laid by the camp POWs (Bryant 2007). It is about 2 feet high, of common uncoursed sandstone laid in plain concrete mortar with capstone. Building 347 is designated 48LA1940 and Building 348 is designated 48LA1941.

The base cemetery north of the cantonment contains the graves of eight German POWs and one Italian POW who served in an Italian Service Unit at Camp Beale. They are buried in a separately fenced area south of the cemetery proper. The graves were reinterred in this location from elsewhere. Each has a headstone with name, nationality, rank, and date of death. The families of the interred could not be found so the graves remain in the United States.

### **Heritage Tourism Potential**

The German POW camp at F.E. Warren AFB has considerable heritage potential. Its four extant buildings, streets, and landscape on Crow Creek are very evocative. These physical remains could be used, in combination with signage and brochures, to interpret the history of the POW camp and their earlier history. Existing uses of the buildings could continue without interruption. Interpretation of the camp could incorporate locations elsewhere on the base such as the POW graves at the cemetery, and locations where the Italian prisoners worked, such as the former laundry and bakery. From the base’s current heritage museum, the F.E. Warren ICBM and Heritage Museum, the public could pick up maps and brochures for a self-guided interpretive visit to the camp. Tree-lined Fourth Avenue and Crow Creek could be pleasant locations for picnic tables, and visual elements corresponding to the locations of the towers and fence line around the compound could be added.

The ICBM and Heritage Museum has two German helmets and a large oil painting of a red-headed woman signed, “Hans Pirker, German POW, 1945”<sup>1</sup>. These artifacts, in combination with photographs,

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<sup>1</sup> It is assumed by the Heritage Museum that the painting is associated with the F.E. Warren POW camp. The painting was purchased by the base’s former deputy commander at an estate sale in Cheyenne, and donated to the museum. The comment about the camp commander having female visitors who were red-headed, the signature as a German POW in 1945, and purchase in Cheyenne are all circumstantial but suggestive that the artist was from Warren’s camp. The artist’s name was not verified on the only roster of prisoners available in the National Archives records.

copies (and translations) of the POW camp newspapers, and historical documents at the National Archives and State Archives, could be the centerpiece of an exhibit about the POW camp at F.E. Warren AFB.

The base is an active Air Force installation, and visitors must go through security to gain entrance. The base has special events during Cheyenne's annual Frontier Days Celebration every July, which draw hundreds of thousands of visitors to the city. The base could organize escorted public tours of the German POW camp, exhibits, and lectures during Frontier Days or at other times of the year. There are also opportunities for the development of wayside exhibits that could be visited by base personnel year-round.

### **Research Notes**

F.E. Warren AFB has few records remaining for the former POW camp. The base Historic Preservation Officer's files include historic structures inventory forms, field notes, and a handwritten manuscript describing interviews with various sources about the POW camp. The base History Office has a typescript about the POWs buried in the cemetery (F.E. Warren AFB n.d.b.). The base Heritage Museum has several books with small entries about the POW camp, a [*Warren Sentinel*] article, building project sheets describing architectural alterations, the oil painting, and two German helmets. The Wyoming State Archives has copies of the Warren POW camp newspapers, *Der Zuangast* and *Lager-Magazin*, and a nearly complete run of the base newspaper, the [*Warren*] *Sentinel*, which featured occasional articles about the POW camp. The NARA (Archives II: College Park, Maryland) houses extensive records related to POW camps. Records consist of various inspection reports, financial matters, instructions to guards, and similar records. There are some limited photographic records.

In 1997, one of the camp POWs visited the base, and was interviewed by the base historian, Ms. Paula Taylor, and in the base newspaper, the *Warren Sentinel*. He had been a pastry chef in Germany and was assigned to bake for the Officer's Club. When shown the oil painting of the red-headed woman, he recalled that the camp commander had red-headed women visiting the camp, perhaps family members. He reported being well-treated (Taylor 2007).

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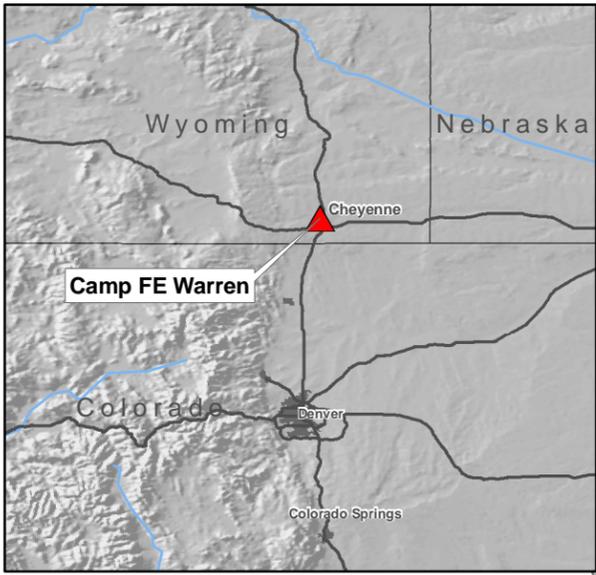
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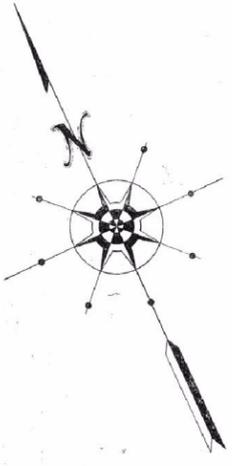
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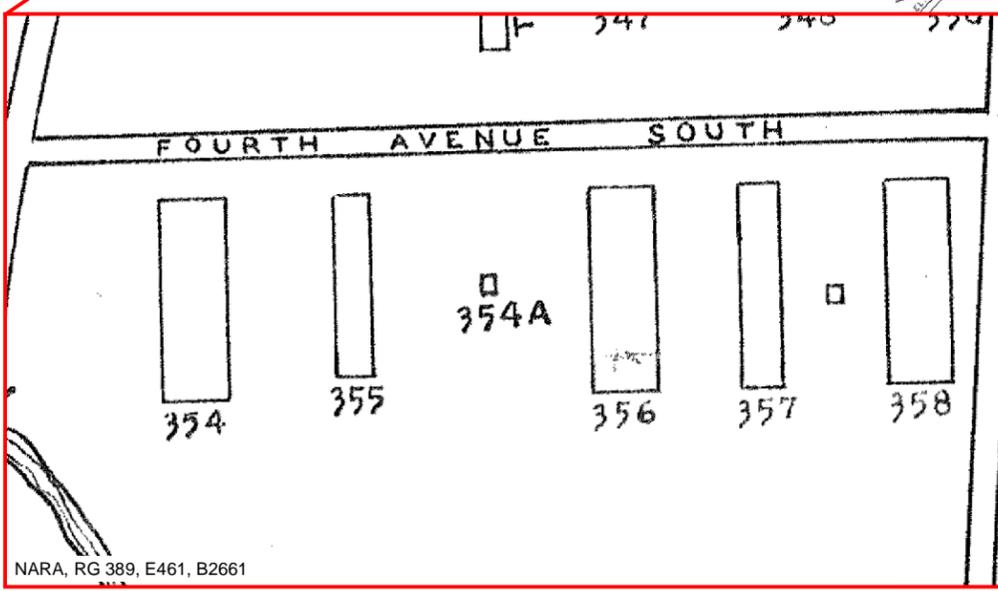
# POW Compound - Camp FE Warren



U.S.C. & G.S. TRIANG STATION  
 ABANDONED FORT D.A. RUSSELL  
 "WATER TOWER"  
 LAT. 41°09'23.24" LONG. 104°52'12.934"



P.O.W. CAMP



NARA, RG 389, E461, B2661

0 100 200 300 400 500  
 SCALE OF FEET

SCALE 3/8" = 100'			POST ENGINEERS OFFICE FORT FRANCIS E. WARREN, WYO.		
REVISIONS BY DATE H. E. B. 11-1-43			POST MAP FORT FRANCIS E. WARREN & QUARTERMASTER REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER		
DRAWN BY V.H. ABE		SUBMITTED BY MAJOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS		DATE 11-1-43	
TRACED BY M/SGT. H.E. BURGE		APPROVED BY DIRECTION		PLAN NUMBER U-100-216-A	
CHECKED BY		COLONEL Q.M.C. POST COMMANDER		SHEET 1 OF 1	

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**APPENDIX D:  
RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **APPENDIX D: RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY**

This bibliography is intended to provide researchers with a starting point for their own research on the topic of World War II Prisoners of War (POWs) in the United States. While the authors made every attempt to make it as comprehensive as possible, it is far from an exhaustive list of all of the materials available to researchers in the United States, let alone in international repositories. What the bibliography does provide is an idea of the variety of research materials available, repositories where productive research may be conducted, and some potential avenues for research.

The bibliography has been compiled from numerous sources, including bibliographies compiled in the books and reference materials consulted in the preparation of the historic context, lists of holdings provided by museums and repositories, primary research at the National Archives and Records Administration, and citations provided on Web sites. The authors have had many discussions on the most useful way to present the bibliography (e.g., organize by reference type, reference topic, overall usefulness for research, and so on) and it's probable that some researchers will be unhappy with the final presentation. Ultimately, the authors chose a format considered to be sufficiently intuitive for more casual researchers to use, while providing sufficient structure for professional historians.

- Published Materials (books, journals, newspapers)
- Unpublished Materials (professional papers, gray literature, newsletters)
- Holdings at Specific Repositories
- Other Sources.

References within the first two categories are listed by topic, although there is some bleed over into reference type (e.g., reference guides and bibliographies is more of a reference type than a specific topic area). References that could not be easily restricted to one topic are repeated where appropriate to ensure that researchers interested in a particular topic could focus on that section of the bibliography without missing an important reference. However, since the authors have not read every page of every reference provided here, there is always the possibility that a reference classed as "General" could include discussions on a number of more specific topics or camps. The authors have provided annotations regarding the content of references in instances where the reference title is not sufficiently descriptive, but only for those references that they were able to personally review.

Many of the published books in this bibliography are available at commercial booksellers such as Amazon, Borders, or Barnes & Nobles, either through their normal catalogs or through used bookseller lists. Copies of other materials, such as some journal articles or materials scanned by the authors at the National Archives and Records Administration, can be obtained by following the hotlinks on the on-line version of this bibliography provided on the project Web page. For the repositories, the authors have chosen not to provide specific contact information, as this type of information and the name of specific staff at the repositories is liable to change.

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Bundesarchiv, Militararchiv (Federal archive, military archive), Freiburg, Germany Bestand: B 205/322, POW-Zeitspiegel (POW Times Mirror), Camp Blanding, Florida. Bestand: v. 109: Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, Wehrmachtuntersuchungsstelle für Verletzungen des Völkerrechts, U.S.A.

Kriegsrechtsverstöße gegen Kriegsgefangenen in den Lagern. Lager: Blanding (Supreme command of the armed forces, armed forces research office for violations of international law, U.S.A. Law of war violations against prisoners of war in the Camps. Camp: Blanding].

Deutsche Dienststelle für die Benachrichtigung der nächsten Angehörigen von Gefallenen der ehemaligen deutschen Wehrmacht (WASt) (German office for the notification of the next of kin of the deceased of the former German armed forces) Berlin. Information on seven German POWs interred at Camp Blanding POW Cemetery and reinterred at Fort Benning Post Cemetery.

Wissenschaftliche Kommission für Deutsche Kriegsgefangengeschichte, Munich.

#### *Great Britain*

Imperial War Museum, London, England. Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library, London.

War Office records. W.O.32. Public Records Office, London.

#### *Switzerland*

Archives of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, Geneva, Switzerland.

### MUSEUMS, HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, LIBRARIES

In general, the authors found local libraries and historical societies to be good sources of anecdotal information on POW camps within a region. Local libraries maintain microfilm copies of old newspapers, which often include copies of press releases from the War Department, Camp Commanders, or other agencies regarding major developments related to POW camps (e.g., opening or closing of camps, new influxes of prisoners, availability of POWs for work programs). Historical societies may have clippings from articles, photographs donated from local residents, memorabilia such as POW uniforms or arts and crafts made by POWs, and can provide some leads on individuals who can provide oral histories (former

guards, former POWs who relocated to the U.S., local businesses or farmers that hired POWs). Similarly, the State Archives and State Historic Preservation Offices in each state should be consulted for records and reports of previous context studies or resource investigations.

Archdiocesan Archives, Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri. Report of work at Chesterfield, Camp Weingarten and Louisiana, Missouri

Arkansas History Commission, Small Manuscript Collections:

Letter from Radinger, Heinrich, to Lt. Col. Virgil E. Caldwell, dated December 16, 1943, Small Manuscript Collection Box 32, No. 10, Item 2.

The Letters of Heinz-Joachim Bartels, 1944-1946. Arkansas History Commission, Manuscript Collection Book 33: 67.

Season's Greetings Notice to all PW Camp and Guard Personnel, Dec. 20, 1943, from Colonel Virgil E. Caldwell. Arkansas History Commission, Small Manuscript Collection Box 32, No. 10, Item 2.

Note pertaining to the German Prisoner of War Camp at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas between August and December 1943. Arkansas History Commission, Small Manuscript Collection, Box 32, No. 10, Item 1.

Bushwhacker Museum, Nevada, Missouri.

California Center for Military History. Arbuckle Branch Prisoner of War Camp Historical Documents. Compilation of copies of historic documents regarding the POW branch camp located at the Emergency Rubber Project Arbuckle Camp. Includes excerpts of Helen D. Young's *Arbuckle and College City*.

Camp Atterbury Museum. Miscellaneous newspaper articles, maps, photos, and records, on display at the Camp Atterbury Museum, Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Camp Crowder Collection. Crowder College, Neosho, Missouri.

Camp Gruber Museum, Oklahoma.

Cloud County Historical Museum, Concordia, Kansas.

Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis., Missouri. Lawrence B. Meyer Collection:

"Minutes of Conference of Chaplains and Pastors Working in Prisoner of War Camps." January 21, 1944. Item 23261.

"Letter to Chaplains and Civilian Pastors at Work in Prisoner of War Camps." June 15, 1944. Item 23191.

Synod Western District History. "Report on Inadequate Financing of Neosho Missionary." Item 8322, Box 12, 11 1.132 of Lutheran Church-Missouri.

Dannenfeldt, Paul L. "Report on POW Work." Box 1, File 5, Item 6, IILIX.01, Supplement of Armed Services Commission. Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Missouri.

“Work of Our Planning Council.” Item 26156 of Lutheran Commission for Prisoners of War. Lawrence B. Meyer Collection. Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis. Missouri.

Gebhardt, Hold and Otto Scheins. “Survey of Neosho, Missouri.” Item 8221, Box 12, 111.132 of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Western District History. Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis. Missouri.

Fort Benning Post Cemetery, interment records for German POWs in post cemetery, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Fort Leonard Wood Historical File, Prisoner of War Camp. Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Frank Carlson Library, Concordia, Missouri.

Jefferson Barracks Museum, St. Louis, Missouri. Contains POW Camp Historical File (Note – many of the records at this museum were destroyed or damaged during Hurricane Katrina; clean-up and restoration of salvaged materials is ongoing).

Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka, Kansas.

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Western District History Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Missouri.

Missouri State Archives, Secretary of State's Office, Jefferson City, Missouri. Camp Crowder photo file.

Ottawa County Historical Society Museum, Port Clinton, Ohio. Contains clippings file, photographs, and ISU uniform.

Stephen M. Farrand Collection, Hoover Institution of War, Revolution, and Peace, Stanford, California.

The Stanley Drury Collection. A collection of material compiled over the years by Ste. Genevieve historian Stanley Drury. Held by Professor Max Okenfuss, Department of History, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. Contains “History of Camp Weingarten, 1942-1946” among other items.

Walter Schonstedt Collection, Department of Special Collection, the University Library, University of California, Davis, California.

U.S. Corps of Engineers, Maps, Kansas City, Missouri.