

CAMP HOOD

KILLEEN, TEXAS

SELECTION OF SITE, AND CONSTRUCTION

The Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center was activated at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, 1 December, 1941. The mission of the center was to devise methods of combating the German Panzer divisions. This mission, included organizing tank destroyer units, training troops in this type warfare, selecting weapons and ammunition capable of knocking out enemy tanks, and designing gun mounts best suited for tank destroyer tactics. In the beginning, detailed planning and a tremendous amount of research was necessary in order to accomplish this very important mission.

Selecting a Camp Site: The necessity of securing a suitable camp, to take care of the expansion that was foreseen, soon became apparent. Several proposed sites were inspected by Colonel Andrew D. Bruce, commanding officer of the center, and officers from the War Department and the Corps of Engineers. All were rejected for various reasons with the exception of an area northwest of Killeen, Texas, which was favorably considered pending proof of an adequate water supply. The tests which were made proved the water supply entirely sufficient.

Area Northwest of Killeen, Texas Ideal: It was of primary importance in considering a camp site to find an area best suited for the training and supplying of the troops that were to occupy the camp. The area northwest of Killeen, Texas, was found to be ideally suited for the type of

training required for tank destroyer units, providing excellent maneuver grounds and ideal range facilities. It possessed a variety of contours, open fields, wooded areas, slopes, and sharply cut stream lines. Good training weather was afforded by mild winters, pleasant springs and autumns, and hot summers. The area was near adequate communication facilities and sufficiently removed from other military installations to avoid congestion. Recreation for the camp personnel was of utmost importance, and could be provided in the nearby towns of Killeen, Copperas Cove, Lampasas, Gatesville, Belton, Temple, Waco, and Austin.

Area Northwest of Killeen, Texas, Selected: The War Department announced, 15 January 1942, that a camp would be constructed in the vicinity of Killeen, Texas, with staging area in Temple, Texas, this camp to be the permanent station of the Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center. Orders were issued to the Real Estate Branch of Engineers, to acquire title to 108,000 acres of land northwest of Killeen. 4,000 acres of this land was to be used for the cantonment proper, which was to be located two miles northwest of Killeen, and twenty miles west of the town of Temple.

Naming the Camp: The camp was named Camp Hood, this was announced by the War Department, 17 February, 1942. The name was selected in honor of General John Bell Hood, the "Fighting General" of the famous "Texas Brigade", of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. General Hood, who was later commanding general of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, although not a native Texan was considered a state hero for his connections with the "Texas Brigade", and his name for the camp was well received by the people of Texas. (A-1).

Preliminary Planning: Major Gerald B. Tyler, Area Engineer in charge of construction, arrived in Temple, 20 January, 1942, and immediately

proceeded with the formulation of preliminary details and plans. Plans as drawn were submitted to the War Department for approval. The plans finally approved provided for construction of a camp with facilities to accommodate 23,475 troops, with development of utilities and hospital facilities based on an eventual garrison of 35,000 troops. The buildings were to be of the mobilization type construction. It was estimated that the camp would cost, including land, \$22,800,000.00, and the date of completion was set for the 15th day of August, 1942.

Construction: Drilling of wells, to supply water for the camp, started in early February, 1942, and work on the waterworks and water lines began in March of the same year.

Bids were opened for construction contracts 12 March, 1942, and contracts were awarded to nine separate firms, by the War Department. (A-2)

23 March, 1942, marked the beginning of what was to be the largest camp in the United States, and one of the largest in the world. The contractors moved into the camp area and the actual building began with the staking out of building locations.

Due to the extreme emergency, the date of occupancy was set less than five months from the date of beginning construction. It was necessary to proceed with the work at a high rate of speed in order to complete the camp on the date set. The contractors were hampered in their work by shortage in manpower and materials, and a very rainy fall, but in spite of all obstacles, construction was on or ahead of schedule at all times.

Two months prior to the date set for completion of the camp, it was found necessary to make additions to take care of an authorized increase of 15,000 troops. The same contractors were awarded the additional construction, which, together with the original facilities, would create a

camp that would house and train in the neighborhood of 38,000 troops.

Occupation of Camp Hood: The camp, not including the additions, was substantially complete, and occupation of the camp began in the middle of August, although the official opening date was not until 18 September, 1942.

There remained a tremendous amount of work to be done before the camp would be complete, but the only major facility not sufficiently complete to enable the required efficiency, at the time of occupation of Camp Hood, was the station hospital. There were only a few wards available for use as of 24 September, and it was not until February 1943, that the 1487-bed hospital was complete and operating efficiently.

North Camp Established: In January, 1943 the War Department purchased an additional 16,000 acres of land in Bell County, south of the main camp, for training purposes, and 34,943 acres in Coryell County near the town of Gatesville, Texas. The purchase of land in Coryell County was for the purpose of building a cantonment of house Tank Destroyer Basic Replacement Training Center and Tank Destroyer Basic Unit Training Center, and to furnish training areas sufficient to accommodate the extensive training that would be necessary for the fulfillment of the mission of these two activities of the Tank Destroyer Center. This addition was to be a sub-camp of Camp Hood.

A site was selected for the sub-camp, approximately seven miles east of Gatesville and twenty miles north of the main camp. The addition would house about 40,000 troops. The buildings were to be of the theater of operations type, with the exception of the 1139-bed hospital, which would be of the mobilization type.

A. Farnell Blair, contractor from Decatur, Georgia, was awarded the

contract for building North Camp Hood and construction was started 4 January, 1943. The deadline date for occupancy was 30 June, 1943.

Favored with good weather, and hampered only slightly with shortages in materials and manpower, the work went forward at a rapid rate, and while not entirely complete, it was possible for the troops of the Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center and the Tank Destroyer Basic Unit Training Center, as well as the personnel of the station complement, to move in on 23 May 1943. Six days later the sub-camp was officially opened.

Roads: Two roads were constructed between Camp Hood and North Camp. One was built around the west ranges and entered the western end of the sub-camp, and the other followed the east ranges and led into the eastern part of North Camp. Time was important factor in the construction of these two roads, and as a result they were poorly built, but were made adequate by constant repair.

Water Supply: Water for North Camp was furnished by twelve wells in the Leon River Valley, on the Camp Hood reservation. Water for the main camp was obtained from six wells located 18 miles east of the camp near the town of Belton, Texas. This source of water was later used as a standby supply and the main course of supply was the Lampasas River.

Prisoner of War Camps: Prisoner of war camps were constructed at both North Camp and Camp Hood. The two facilities were built to provide accommodations for 4,000 prisoners, 1,000 at the main camp and 3,000 at the sub-camp. The buildings were of the theater of operations type and were ready for occupancy 15 May 1943. The contractor for the internment camp at Camp Hood was B. B. Smith, and for the one at North Camp, A. Farnell Blair.

Civilian War Housing: A civilian war housing project was erected at both North Camp and the main camp. R. D. Jones Construction Company built the apartments at Camp Hood, and A. Farnell Blair was contractor for the housing at the sub-camp. The one at the main camp, named Hood Village, consisted of 765 dwelling units, in addition to 389 dwelling trailers, and 88 laundry and utility trailers. The village at North Camp, named North Village, consisted of 465 dwelling units and did not have any trailer units. The trailers at Hood Village were occupied in early April, 1943, and the dwelling units at both villages were completed and fully occupied in early August of the same year.

General Facilities at Completion of Construction: Construction of Camp Hood was completed 1 September, 1943. This military installation contained 160,000 acres of land which constituted one of the largest and best maneuver areas in the United States, and 35 ideal firing ranges. There were 5630 buildings, which included: 18 chapels, 1 fieldhouse, 26 recreation buildings, 35 post exchanges, 1384 barracks, 367 messhalls, 373 bachelor officers quarters, 4 clubs for officers, 4 clubs for enlisted men, 2 laundries, 2 hospitals (the hospitals had 132 buildings), 12 theaters, 1 bus station, 1 post office, 516 warehouses, 432 shops, and 2014 buildings for miscellaneous purposes. The recreational facilities included: 3 swimming pools, a nine-hole golf course, several tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, a football field, basketball courts, and three bowling alleys.

Transportation Facilities: Camp Hood was served by two railroads: the Gulf Colorado and Santa Fe served the main camp and the Saint Louis Southwestern served the sub-camp. There were approximately sixteen miles of trackage, including warehouse tracks at both camps and a loading area

at each camp. The loading facilities at Camp Hood included 4 tracks with concrete end ramps, and 4 side ramps of the same material, and for night loading this area was lighted by flood lights. North Camp had 3 loading tracks with temporary end ramps and was lighted with ordinary street lights.

Practically all the transportation to and from camp, for small groups and casualties was by bus. Direct bus service to all nearby towns was furnished by two bus companies. The Creamer Stage Lines and the Southwestern Transit Company. There were many times when this service was far from adequate, although these two companies used 108 buses on the camp operation. The inadequacy of the bus service was no reflection on the bus companies as all transportation facilities throughout the entire country were not adequate to take care of the tremendous amount of travel

This gigantic military installation was originally built for the purpose of housing and training tank destroyer troops, but was so constructed that with a few alterations it would be suitable for other type troops. The fact that this camp was suitable for housing and training of all type troops was a great saving to the government, because it was found necessary to utilize this camp for infantry and field artillery units when the activities of the Tank Destroyer Center were curtailed in the early part of 1944.

LA / From 12 March, 1942 to 1 September, 1943, 160,000 acres of rough cattle country had been made into the largest and one of the best equipped army camps in the United States, at an approximate cost of \$84,000,000.00.

CAMP HOOD

KILLEEN, TEXAS

ORGANIZATION - EXPANSION - ACTIVITIES

14 FEBRUARY to 31 DECEMBER

1942

Colonel Andrew D. Bruce, Commanding Officer of the Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center, was designated Commanding Officer of the cantonment at Killeen, Texas pending the completion of the camp. Orders covering the above were issued by the War Department 17 January, 1942. The original plan called for all post duties to be performed by the personnel of the Center.

Upon receipt of advice of the impending move of the Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center, from Fort George G. Meade, Maryland to the staging area, Major Thomas G. Shaffer, an officer of the Center, was ordered to Temple to make preliminary arrangements for the housing of Center Headquarters and its subordinate activities, and also to look into the housing facilities for military personnel and their families.

Adequate office and warehouse space was acquired, with the approval of the Eighth Corps Area, and repair and minor rearranging of the rented space was started. A billeting board was formed in Temple, consisting of an army officer and two local business men, to list available living quarters and to establish fair rents. This procedure was later followed in the towns of Belton, Killeen, Copperas Cove, Lampasas, and Gatesville.

The Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center Completed the move from Fort George G. Meade to Temple 14 February, 1942. The activities of the Center and those of the post were carried on at this location from that

date until the camp at Killeen was ready for occupancy.

Colonel Bruce was promoted to the rank of brigadier general, 16 February, 1942, in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments as commanding officer of the Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center.

The Tank Destroyer Tactical and Firing Center was designated the Tank Destroyer Command, 12 March, 1942. At that time the Commands activities had expanded to such an extent it was found necessary to relieve it of some of the post duties.

A quartermaster detachment cadre, of 124 enlisted men, was transferred to Camp Hood from Camp Bowie, Texas, and the Eighth Corps Area ordered Major A. Murphey, QMC, to Temple as camp quartermaster.

The first troop unit to populate Camp Hood area as the 893rd. Tank Destroyer Battalion, which arrived in Gatesville, Texas, 31 March, 1942. This battalion was commanded by Major Samuel E. Mays, and had a strength of 1,000 officers and enlisted men. The 893rd. was the first tank destroyer battalion in the United States Army, having been organized as of 5 June, 1940, as the 3rd Anti Tank Battalion, it was later named the 93rd Anti-Tank Bn and in the fall of 1941 was designated the 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion.

The station complement at Camp Hood was activated 13 April, 1942. The creation of the post headquarters relieved the tactical troops of all administrative and supply and service duties. A staff of Eighth Corps Area Officers were assigned to Camp Hood, and under the command of General Bruce organized the branches and sections of post headquarters. On the date of activation the station complement consisted of:- Post Headquarters, Quartermaster, Ordnance, Finance, and Post Engineers. The

personnel of these detachments was part of the 1848th. Corps Area Service Unit.

The duties of the post setup increased steadily with the rapid growth of the Tank Destroyer Command. The influx of tactical troops in Temple was steady and tank destroyer battalions were moving into the camp area at a rapid rate. To properly serve and supply the ever growing Tank Destroyer Command it was necessary for the station complement to secure additional personnel, many of whom were untrained and for whom training was necessary. Eighth Corps Area Officers and enlisted men were sent to Camp Hood to fill this growing need, and hundreds of civil service employees were put to work in order to efficiently carry on this job, which was speedily reaching tremendous proportions.

General Bruce found it necessary to request that he be relieved as camp commander in order that all his efforts might be devoted to the perfection of a fighting force capable of successfully combating enemy tanks. His request was granted 21 July, 1942, and Colonel Charles M. Thirlkeld was made commanding officer as of the same date.

When Colonel Thirlkeld assumed command of Camp Hood, there were approximately 15,000 troops stationed within the camp area and at Temple, Texas. The population continued to increase rapidly. Under his direction the administrative and supply and service branches functioned in an efficient manner, satisfactorily taking care of the needs of the tactical forces. The post setup was far from complete at that time, but due to the energy and foresight of the commanding officer and his staff, organization and expansion was accomplished with the minimum of confusion.

The Eighth Corps Area was designated Eighth Service Command in July of 1942, and concurrently the 1848th Corps Area Service Unit was

changed to the 1848th. Unit Eighth Service Command. The 1848th Unit Eighth Service Command was made a provisional battalion in August of the same year; its mission was administration and training.

The entire post organization moved into Camp Hood proper, 21 August, 1942, and by the end of that month, all of the tactical forces were out of Temple and were housed in their permanent quarters at the new camp. At that time the population of Camp Hood was made up of the following: - the 1848th. Unit Eighth Service Command, and the Tank Destroyer Command and attached units. (A-3).

The camp was officially opened 18 September, 1942. Under Secretary of War Robert Patterson was the main speaker. The honor guest included, among other, Major General Richard Donovan, commanding general of the Eighth Service Command, Major General Harold Bull, commanding general of the School and Replacement Center, Birmingham, Alabama, Major General Harry Twaddle, Camp Swift, Texas, and Colonel John Bell Hood, son of the famed confederate general for whom the camp was named.

From March, 1942 to September, 1942 to the move from Temple, supplies were received at Killeen, on the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe railroad, and at Gatesville on the Saint Louis Southwestern railroad. Troops units, with military equipment detrained at Copperas Cove (GC&SF), or Gatesville. Outgoing units with equipment, were shipped from Gatesville, as the railroad serving that town had thousands of feet of loading track, and a number of heavy duty loading ramps. After the camp was populated, all freight was received at the camp, but it was necessary to continue detraining units with equipment at Copperas Cove, and ship such units with equipment out at Gatesville,

until the camp loading facilities were completed. These facilities were completed in early April of 1943, and greatly simplified the receiving and shipping of troops and equipment.

In September, 1942, the Tank Destroyer Command was named the Tank Destroyer Center, and a general staff was authorized. On the 20th of the same month Brigadier General Bruce was promoted to the rank of major general. Those events marked a step forward in prestige and importance of the camp and the Center.

The camp grew, in 1942, from a very small wartime military installation of little personnel strength, with a temporary home in the staging area, Temple, Texas, to a completely equipped camp with a strength of approximately 45,000 troops; and at the end of the year an addition to this installation was under construction, which would double the size of Camp Hood.

From the date of inception of Camp Hood to 31 December, 1942, there were 4,769 carloads of freight received, and 343 carloads shipped, this was augmented by the receiving and shipping of hundreds of vanloads of motor freight. The above figures do not include shipments received in camp by the contractors. The shipments out included a large number of units being shipped to ports of embarkation for re-shipment overseas.

While there were only approximately 45,000 troops in camp at the end of 1942 (A-4), the post setup actually received, housed, and equipped thousands more during the ten months of that year, as many units and casualties were ordered to Camp Hood, for short period of training with the Tank Destroyer Center, and were shipped to other camps or to ports of embarkation when they completed the tank destroyer training.

CAMP HOOD

KILLEEN, TEXAS

1 JANUARY to 31 DECEMBER, 1943

The strength of activity of Camp Hood, showed a tremendous increase during the first six months of 1943. Prior to the completion of North Camp, it became necessary to utilize many field camps, and for several months after the sub-camp was put into use, there was sufficient space to house all tactical units stationed on the post, so field camps were continued in use.

With tactical units training twenty-four hours a day, and troops being received at all hours of the day and night, it was necessary

The 159th. WAAC, Post Headquarters Company arrived at Camp Hood in April, 1943, and was assigned to duty with post headquarters. The women personnel were given duties for which they were qualified to perform, such as stenographers, clerks, telephone operators, and chauffeurs. This resulted in releasing many men to combat, and other duties which required men.

Camp Hood received 4,000 prisoners of war in May of 1943. Of these 3,000 were confined in North Camp, and 1,000 in the main camp. These prisoners were the responsibility of the Service Command, therefore the guarding, working, and supplying of the prisoners was performed by the post setup.

Colonel Donald R. Dunkle, post executive, North Camp, together with officers and other personnel from each branch and section of the Camp Hood organization, moved into their quarters at the sub-camp in early May of 1943. Thus a complete camp administrative, and supply set-up was created for the addition to Camp Hood. Each chief of branch and section of the camp established a sub-office at North Camp, with an officer, assistant to the chief, in charge of direct supervision.

The Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center and the Tank Destroyer Basic Unit Training Center, with attached units, moved into their permanent quarters at the sub-camp in May, 1943, and proceeded with their training program on a full scale.

The populating of North Camp was completed on 23 May 1943, and six days later this large sub-camp was officially opened. General Lesley J. McNair, Commanding General, Army Ground Force, was the principal speaker.

Two days prior to the official opening of North Camp, Major General Bruce was transferred to the 77th Infantry Division, as its commanding

general; Major General Orlando Ward replacing him as commanding general of the Tank Destroyer Center.

With the completion of North Camp, Camp Hood constructed facilities were sufficient to accommodate 80,000 troops; however, from the date of completion of the sub-camp to early 1944, it was necessary to make use of many field camps to take care of the overflow. Camp Hood reached its peak strength in late June of 1943 something better than 95,000 troops, and there was very little decrease in population until early 1944. With the exception of the 1848th. Unit Eighth Service Command the entire population of the camp was either tank destroyer troops or troops of other branch, assigned to the Tank Destroyer Center, for training purposes; this was the case until early 1944.

Major General Orlando Ward was transferred 23 October, 1943, and Major General John H. Hester was made commanding general of the Tank Destroyer Center at that time. While General Ward was in command, the Tank Destroyer Center reached it's highest point in activity and strength. During the first few months after General Hester took command it continued at its peak, but as the accomplishment of its mission approached realization, it became evident that there would be a large reduction in tank destroyer activities in the near future.

The camp population was in the neighborhood of 85,000 at the end of 1943. (A-5). During the year there were 92 units shipped out of Camp Hood, of which a majority were shipped to ports of embarkation for further shipment overseas. There were 9,487 carloads of freight received in camp and 3,573 carloads shipped out, and in addition thousands of van-loads of motor freight was received and shipped during the year.

The year 1943 marked the growth of Camp Hood, from an average size, wartime, military installation, to the largest, and one of the best equipped camps in the United States.

CAMP HOOD

KILLEEN, TEXAS

1 JANUARY to 31 DECEMBER, 1944

During the first four months of 1944 there was a rapid shrinkage in the population of Camp Hood, due to the fact that the majority of the tank destroyer battalions completed their training and were shipped to ports of embarkation, from where they would be shipped overseas. The Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center continued to function, but with a tremendous curtailment of activity. As of 4 May, 1944, the Tank Destroyer Center had reduced in personnel to 22,082 troops, of which 10,999 were Tank Destroyer Training Center troops. The total camp population at that time was 49,591 troops.

Colonel Thirlkeld, who had served as commanding officer of Camp Hood since 21 July, 1942, was transferred 22 January, 1944. On assuming command of the camp, Colonel Thirlkeld has taken over a skeleton post headquarters setup, organized a complete and efficient staff, and guided it in its expansion to the largest camp organization in the United States Army.

Colonel L.A. Kurtz replaced Colonel Thirlkeld as camp commander at that time but was transferred to another assignment 4 March, 1944, and Brigadier General W.R. Nichols was designated commanding general of Camp Hood as of that date.

In early February, 1944, the first field artillery battalions arrived, and in the ensuing months many more such units were stationed at Camp Hood, and the training of that type unit became a major activity at North Camp.

at North Camp.

The Infantry Replacement Training Center was activated at Camp Hood 10 March, 1944; its mission was to receive inductees and train them in infantry tactics, in order to obtain trained men as replacements for battle casualties. The Infantry Replacement Training Center, within three months, became the largest single activity on the post, reaching its peak of 31,545 troops 21 September, 1944.

With the Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center at North Camp, and the Infantry Replacement Training Center at the camp, there was a rapid turnover in personnel of Camp Hood. While the camp, population remained pretty well constant, there was a stream of incoming inductees, and the same in outgoing trained fighting men every week.

Brigadier General Nichols was forced to retire from the army, due to failing health, after serving as commanding general of Camp Hood for three and one-half months. He was replaced by COL B.F. Delamater, Jr. 30 June, 1944.

The prisoners of war at North Camp were sent to other camps in early 1944; that reduced the number of prisoners at Camp Hood to approximately 1,000 and enabled the setting up of the Southern Branch of the United States Disciplinary Barracks at the vacated prisoner of war camp at the sub-camp; this was done during the second week of June, 1944.

Headquarters 11th. Special Troop, 4th Army moved into Camp Hood 17 September, 1944. All tactical troops at Camp Hood were under the command of this headquarters, except those of the Tank Destroyer Center and the Infantry Replacement Training Center.

From 1 May, to 31 December, 1944 the average strength of the camp was approximately 55,000 troops. During that period of time it reached a top population of 62,557 on 3 August.

There were 5,598 carloads of freight received in camp and 3,901 carloads shipped out during the year; in addition to thousands of vanloads received and shipped.

The camp population as the last day of the year was 50,288 troops (A-6).

CAMP HOOD
KILLEEN, TEXAS

1 JANUARY to 31 DECEMBER, 1945

The first week in January marked a reduction of 3,129 troops in the camp population. The strength of Camp Hood for the next six weeks gradually decreased to the extent that there were only 40,508 troops on the post as of 22 February.

In spite of the loss in population, there was no curtailment in the activities of the post organization for the first nine months of 1945. The Infantry Replacement Training Center continued to operate on full scale, receiving hundreds of inductees each week, and shipping out a like number of trained fighting men for battle replacements at the same time. This caused a continued, tremendous, activity in administration, and supply and service.

The combined Maintenance Shop at Camp Hood was one of the largest in the army. This organization was designated by the Eighth Service Command to rework thousands of vehicles, guns, and other types of army equipment for other installations of the Service Command. This equipment was received in by freight, and later, much of it was shipped out, thus the work of the post headquarters setup continued in large proportions.

The Quartermaster Reclamation Center was activated 19 March, 1945, and located at North Camp. It was composed of:-an administrative section, the Quartermaster Laundry, the Quartermaster Dry Cleaning Plant, the Clothing and Equipage Repair Shop, and the Clothing and Equipage Classification. Clothing and equipment were shipped, as directed by the Eighth Service

Command to the Reclamation Center, where it was cleaned, repaired, and disposed of as directed. It was necessary for this organization to work twenty-four hours a day for several months, in order to take care of the volume of work that flooded its facilities.

From VE-Day until 16 October, the camp population fluctuated between 40,000 and 48,000 troops. However, from VJ-Day to the last day of the year, there was a rapid decrease, the strength falling by the thousands each month. A separation center was set up at Camp Hood on 17 September and discharged on an average of better than 200 troops a day until it closed on 13 December, 1945.

The camp strength as of the last day of the year: -North Camp, 1,807 general prisoners, and 1,266 troops; the main camp had 9,584 troops, making an overall population of 13,206. This marked a reduction in strength at Camp Hood during the year of 37,079 troops.

Freight, in and out, was off, considerably, on 1945; there were 4,805 carloads in, and 1,617 carloads out, in addition there were thousands of vanloads received and shipped during that period.

While there had been a tremendous reduction in the population of Camp Hood during the previous year it was still a large camp at the beginning of 1945; it remained such until the last two months of the year.

North Camp, with 2,660 buildings, had the appearance of a deserted city, with only a few hundred soldiers stationed there as of the last day of 1945. The main camp, with the majority of its 2,970 buildings unoccupied and very little activity going on, appeared empty with its small population of 9,584 troops.

In spite of the reduction of activity and population, it was necessary to spend \$86,549.20 on a new construction during the first six months of 1945.

The year 1945 marked the end of Camp Hood as a major wartime army camp and its beginning as a peacetime military installation.

CAMP HOOD
KILLEEN, TEXAS

1 JANUARY to 31 DECEMBER, 1946

From the first to the ninth of January, 1946, the camp population shrunk from 13,206 to 10,847; however, with the arrival of the 2nd and 20th Armored Divisions, the camp strength increased to better than 14,000 troops.

The activity of the post headquarters organization was greatly curtailed at the beginning of 1946. The Combined Maintenance Shop, its mission completed, was inactivated 6 May of that year. All prisoners of war were shipped to ports of embarkation for retrun to their homeland, and the 1848th. Service Command Unit, Prisoner of War Camp was inactivated 10 May, 1946. The WAC Detachment, 1848th Service Command Unit, Station Medics inactivated the last day of May, of the same year.

The 20th Armored Division was inactivated 2 April the personnel, not being discharged, were transferred to the 2nd Armored Division or else to another station and in early May, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Special Troops, 4th Army was transferred, leaving the 2nd Armored Division, and its attached units the only tactical troops at Camp Hood.

Colonel B.F. Delamater, Jr. was transferred, 13 May 1946 after serving as commanding officer of the post since 30 June, 1944. Colonel O.P. Houston assumed command as of that date, and served as camp commander until 9 June, 1946.

In early June, there was a reorganization of the military setup in the United States; the Service Commands were abolished, and army areas were established. Under this setup, Camp Hood was an installation of the 4th Army. The commanding general of the tactical troops was also commanding general of the post. As a result, Major General John W. Leonard, Commanding General of the 2nd Armored Division, was made commanding general of Camp Hood 9 May 1946, and Colonel Houston was designated deputy post commander.

Major General Leonard was transferred 4 July, and Brigadier General J.H. Collier assumed command of the division and the post. Colonel Houston was ordered to another assignment, and was replaced as deputy post commander, by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew R. Lolli, 5 July, who in turn was replaced 16 July, by Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Muller. Brigadier General John M. Devine replaced Brigadier General Collier, as division and post commanding general 22 July. Colonel Carl I. Hutton was made deputy post commander 29 July replacing Lieutenant Colonel Muller. On September 20, Colonel Hutton was transferred, and Colonel Henry McE. Pendleton was designated deputy post commander as of that date. Major General L.S. Hobbs was transferred to Camp Hood, as commanding general of the division, and assumed command of the camp 10 October, 1946.

In October of 1946 the 1848th Unit Eighth Service Command was designated the 4005 Army Service Unit.

During the year 1946 the camp received 1,526 carloads of freight, and shipped 784 carloads; in addition, hundreds of vansloads of motor freight was received and shipped.

The population of Camp Hood varied between 10,000 and 12,000 troops in January and February. From 1 March to 23 October the strength fluctuated between 14,000 and 16,000 troops. There was a sharp decrease in military personnel from 23 October to 31 December, the population shrinking from 14,082 to 4,629.

The year 1946 marked the abandonment of North Camp, with the exception of the United States Disciplinary Barracks, in March; and at the end of the year even that activity was in the process of moving out of the sub-camp.

From 1 July 1945 to 30 June 1946 there was an expenditure of 159,902.39 on new construction at Camp Hood.

The year 1946 marked the naming of Camp Hood as the permanent home of the 2nd Armored Division.

CAMP HOOD

KILLEEN, TEXAS

1 JANUARY to 31 DECEMBER, 1947

The camp was very thinly populated, and there was very little activity, except of a routine nature, at the beginning of 1947. This condition continued for the entire year with little exception. The 4,629 troops utilized only a limited number of the many facilities that were available at Camp Hood.

In converting from wartime to peacetime activities it was necessary to terminate hundreds of civil service employees. In August of 1945, there were 3,014 such employees working at the camp, whereas at the end of 1947 there were only 810 employed.

Many of the military personnel who had served at Camp Hood during the war were sent overseas with the Army of Occupation. In some instances these men were replaced by men returning from overseas assignments; in other cases, jobs were either consolidated or abolished outright.

Major General L.S. Hobbs, after serving as commanding general of the post and division for eleven and one-half months, was transferred to another assignment, and Major General J.G. Christiansen assumed command, 27 September, 1947.

The only activity that varied from the routine was the amphibious maneuver staged by the 2nd Armored Division, in October and November of that year. This maneuver, known as "Operation Seminole", required the division to board ship in the vicinity of San Jacinto, Texas, and a landing at Panama City, Florida, establishing a beach-head at that point. There was quite a pickup in activity at Camp from July, 1947 until the completion

of this maneuver, as the division was planing and training for the part it was to take in "Operation Seminole". The troops departed for San Jacinto 17 October and returned to Camp Hood 17 November 1947.

The Post Engineer at Camp Hood found it necessary to expend \$47,803.18 on new construction, from 31 June, 1946, to 31 June, 1947, and from 1 July, to 31 December, 1947 new construction at the camp cost \$89,709.80. In addition to this, the District Engineer converted 164 barracks into 656 apartments as living quarters for military personnel and their families, at a cost of \$1,984.00.

There was a gradual decrease in the population in 1947, there being 4,629 troops in the camp on the first day of the year and only 3,394 as of 31 December, 1947.

Of the 5,630 buildings at the camp during the peak, 1,983 had been declared surplus by the end of 1947. Of the remaining 3,647, only a small percentage were in use. All buildings not surplusd were kept in good state of repair in order that they might be ready for use in case of expansion at Camp Hood.

The small amount of freight received and shipped in 1947 emphasized the tremendous reduction in personnel and activity. There were 425 carloads of freight received and 150 shipped during the year, and only a few hundred vanloads of motor freight received and shipped.

The year 1946 marked a period of very little activity at Camp Hood.

Annex-1

General John Bell Hood

John Bell Hood (1831-1879), American soldier, lieutenant general of the Confederate army, was born in Owingville, Ky., and graduated at West Point Military Academy in 1853. As a cavalry officer he was service against indians, and later was cavalry instructor at West Point. He resigned from the United States army in 1861, and becomes a colonel in the Confederate army. He was soon promoted to brigadier general, and with the famous "Texas Brigade" of the Army of Northern Virginia he served through the campaign of 1862. At Gettysburg he commanded one of the divisions of Longstreet's corps, receiving a wound which disabled his arm. With Longstreet he was transferred in the autumn of 1863 to the Army of Tennessee. At the battle of Chickamauga (Sept. 19-20) Hood was severely wounded again and his leg amputated. He remained with the Army of Tennessee as a corps commander, and when general dissatisfaction with the Fabian policy of General J.E. Johnston brought about the removal of that officer, Hood was put in his place. He had won a great reputation as a fighting general, and it was with the distinct understanding that battles were to be fought that he was placed at the head of the Army of Tennessee. But in spite of skill and courage he was uniformly unsuccessful in the battles around Atlanta. In the end he had to abandon the place, but he forthwith sought to attack Sherman in another direction, and finally invaded Tennessee. His march was pushed with the greatest energy, but failed to draw the main body of the enemy after him, and while Sherman with a picked force made his "March to the Sea", Thomas collected an army to oppose Hood. A severe battle was fought at Franklin on November 30, 1864 and finally Hood was defeated and his army almost

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annihilated in the battle of Nashville on December 15-16, 1864. He was relieved at his own request (Jan. 23, 1865). After the war he engaged in business in New Orleans where he dies of Yellow fever on August 30, 1879.

(See "Encyclopaedia Britannica. Vol.2).

Annex-2

Camp construction contracts awarded as follows:

Buildings: Tankersley Trapp Associates, Oklahoma City

Buildings: Taylor and Byrnes, Ft. Worth.

Clearing and site grading: R. F. Ball Construction Co., Ft. Worth.

Gas Distributor and fuel storage facilities: J.W. France Co., Corpus Christi.

Electrical distribution system: Taylor Construction Co., Taylor.

Asphalt surfacing, sidewalks and streets: Morgan Construction Co., Dallas

Water and sewer system: H.B. Zachery Co., San Antonio.

Camp railroad system: Martin and Grace, Dallas.

Water-wells: Wiegand and Co., San Antonio.

Sewage disposal plant: McKenzie Brothers, Williams and Whittle, Dallas.

Water lines from wells: H.B. Zachery Co., San Antonio.

Power hook-ups: Industrial Electric Co., New Orleans.

Station list, Camp Hood, 18 August, 1942: -

1848th. Unit Eighth Service Command.

The Tank Destroyer Command, (Headquarters and Headquarters Company).

Headquarters 1st. Tank Destroyer Group.

Headquarters 2nd Tank Destroyer Group

1st. Tank Destroyer Band.

2nd. Tank Destroyer Band.

Tank Destroyer School (Headquarters and Headquarters Company).

Tank Destroyer School Service Regiment.

Tank Destroyer Boards.

374th. Engineer Battalion.

49th. Ordnance Company.

1st. Battalion, 49th Quartermaster Regiment.

Company "B", 78th. Quartermaster Battalion.

786th. Sanitary Company.

10 Tank Testroyer Battalions.

1 Tank Battalion.

The above from the Station List Headquarters Eighth Service command,
Section 11, dated 18 August, 1942.

Annex - 4

Camp Hood station list, 31 December, 1942:-

1848th. Unit Eighth Service Command.

Tank Destroyer Center

Tank Destroyer School

Tank Destroyer Board

Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center.

Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center

35 Tank Destroyer Battalions.

8 Tank Destroyer Groups.

3 Tank Destroyer Brigades.

1 Tank Group

2 Tank Battalions

8 Ordnance Units.

1 Mechanized Cavalry Unit.

1 Motor Records Unit

1 Quartermaster Truck Regiment.

1 Medical Sanitary Company

1 Engineer General Service Regiment

Annex - 5

Camp Hood population, approximately 85,000, 31 December, 1943, made up of the following:-

1848th. Unit Eighth Service Command.

Tank Destroyer Center

Tank Destroyer School

Tank Destroyer Board

Tank Destroyer Unit Training Center.

Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center.

40 Tank Destroyer Battalions.

7 Tank Destroyer Groups.

1 Tank Destroyer Brigade

3 Tank Battalions.

16 Ordnance Units

4 Quartermaster Truck Units.

1 Medical Sanitary Regiment

1 Engineer General Service Regiment

5 Military Police companies

2 WAC Companies

1 Armored Group.

4 Army Bands.

1 Infantry Battalion.

1 Field Artillery Battalion.

Annex - 6

Station list, Camp Hood, 31 December, 1944:-

United States Disciplinary Barracks.

1848th Unit Eighth Service Command.

Tank Destroyer Center

Tank Destroyer School

Tank Destroyer Board.

1 Tank Destroyer Group

3 Tank Destroyer Battalions.

2 WAC. companies

Tank Destroyer Replacement Training Center.

1 Quartermaster Truck Company

1 Sanitary Company

Infantry Replacement Training Center

11th. Headquarters Special Troops 4th Army

1 Coast Artillery Regiment

2 Field Artillery Groups.

13 Field Artillery Battalions.

2 AAA. Battalions

9 Ordnance Units

1 Sanitary Company

1 Military Police Battalion

6 Army Banks

Total Population:- 50,288

CAMP HOOD

Killeen, Texas

1 January to 31 December 1948

At the beginning of 1948 the activities of Camp Hood continued to be of a routine nature of housekeeping and training. This situation existed through the first half of 1948 with the post military strength gradually climbing from approximately 3400 officers and men to approximately 4800 officers and men by the end of June 1948.

The 508th Armored FA Battalion (colored) and Bridge Company, 17th Armored Engineer Bn (colored) were activated on 19th March 1948 simultaneous with the reorganization of the 14th Armored FA Bn to zero strength.

At the beginning of the last half of 1948 Camp Hood started preparation for the enlarged peace time army as approved by congress. Post Engineer started rehabilitation and renovation of existing buildings to prepare for the enlarged complement of personnel expected.

The 2d Armored Division was designated as a training unit for 18 year old 1 year enlistees and Combat Command "A" was organized into a Replacement Training Center. 1st, 2d and 3rd Training Battalions Combat Command "A" were activated on the 18th of July 1948. Eventually 7 training battalions were utilized in the training of the 18 year old enlistees. By 6 October 1948 the Replacement Training Center had reached a strength of 2857. This strength gradually decreased until the last training battalion was discontinued on 4 December 1948.

Camp Hood was utilized as a training camp for ROTC, ORC and Texas National Guard Units during 1948. 427 students from 15 colleges and

universities attended ROTC summer camp from 20 June 1948 to 31 July 1948. These students were trained in the following branches of service:

Infantry	240
Cavalry	132
Corps Military Police	55

The 36th Infantry Division and the 49th Armored Division with attached units of the Texas National Guard trained at Camp Hood during summer camp, 15 August to 29 August 1948. There were approximately 769 officers and 7700 enlisted men in these units. Personnel of the organized reserve trained at Camp Hood from 30 May to 11 September 1948 for periods of two weeks with from 50 to 160 officers and up to 43 enlisted men per period. The 13th Armored Division of the Organized Reserve located in California also trained at Camp Hood with the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard.

The 2d Armored Division in it's initial phases of expanding for the enlarged peacetime army reorganized the 12th A.I.B., 14th Armored FA Bn and the 67th Medium Tank Bn from zero to T/O & E strength on 11 October 48. The following units attached to the 2d Armored Division were inactivated from zero strength effective 27 December 1948:

- 409 and 427th AAA - slt Battery
- 60th Engr slt MN Co
- 274th AFA Bn
- 7th FA Battery (Mtx) (240 mm Hdw, SP)
- 74th Order of Battle Team
- 191st Photo Interpreter Team

The civilian strength at Camp Hood for 1948 increased gradually from just over 800 employees on 1 January to approximately 1000 employees

by the 1st of July. Most of this increase was for the Post Engineer in the rehabilitation and renovation of buildings and facilities. Also there was an increase of approximately 200 positions in the Post Laundry as the Laundry was given the additional workload of providing laundry service for various Air Corps installations in the surrounding area. By the end of 1948 the civilian strength at Camp Hood had increased to approximately 1400 positions.

The end of the year 1948 found Camp Hood preparing to accomodate the expanding 2d Armored Division anticipating the reorganization of some 50 companies from zero strength during the month of January 1949.