REVEILLE TO TAPS

CAMP FORREST, TN

1940 --- 1946

MICHAEL R. BRADLEY

Reveille to Taps is a treatise on the history of Camp Forrest. The book was researched and written by Michael R. Bradley pursuant to a grant from the Legacy program through the United States Air Force, and is the exclusive property of the United States Air Force. Any opinions expressed or implied in this book are solely those of Michael R. Bradley and do not promulgate policies or state the official opinions of the Department of the Air Force. The Department of the Air Force, and other departments and agencies of the United States Government do not necessarily concur with the views expressed in the book.

Units Which Trained At Camp Forrest

Long Term Assignment

33nd Division

75th Field Artillery Brigade

80th Division

8th Division

17th Airborne Division

5th Armored Division

2nd Ranger Battalion

5th Ranger Battalion

Short Term Assignment

5th Division

26th Division

78th Division

106th Division

30th Division

79th Division

Unattached Units

257th Signal Construction Company (colored)

118th Signal Radio Company

12th Field Artillery Observer Battalion

14th Field Artillery H.Q. Battery

775th Tank Destroyer Battery

809th Tank Destroyer Battery

810th Tank Destroyer Battery

633rd Tank Destroyer Battery

829th Tank Destroyer Battery

68th Medical Regiment

92nd Ordinance Company

108th Ordinance Company

78th Quartermaster Battalion

28th Quartermaster Regiment (colored)

98th Engineer Battalion (colored)

184th Field Artillery (colored)

24th IM Car Company (colored)

580th Ordinance Company (colored)

365th Engineering Battalion (colored)

65th Quartermaster Battalion (colored)

366th Engineering Company (colored)

216th General Hospital

12th Station Hospital Unit

65th Medical Regiment

68th Medical Group

106th Station Hospital Unit

23rd Hospital Train

24th Hospital Train

1st Hospital Train

7th Hospital Train

331st Medical Group

39th Evacuation Hospital

106th Evacuation Hospital

109th Evacuation Hospital

116th Evacuation Hospital

46th Medical Depot Company

48th Medical Depot Company

4 Medical Sanitary Companies - Unit numbers unknown

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Foreword

The United States Air Force, through its Legacy program, has made possible this investigation into the history of Camp Forrest. The support of Colonel William Rutley, commander of Arnold Air Force Base, and of Dr. David Hiebert, Base Historian, was crucial to the success of this project. Indeed, Dr. Hierbert took the initiative in pursuing a grant from the Legacy program and only after the plan was conceived did Motlow State Community College become involved. This involvement was much expedited by the guidance of Mrs. Ernestine Badman, Arnold Engineering Development Center Contracting Officer.

The Administration of Motlow College, especially the Vice-President of Business and Management, Mr. Mike Posey, and the Comptroller, Mrs. Gaye Martin, worked quite hard to enable the project to become a reality.

As Principal Investigator I have been most ably assisted by Ms. Debra Sain who has done a great deal of the field investigation and interviewing. Henry Morsette skillfully prepared the computer generated maps of Camp Peay and of the Camp Forrest hospital. Ms. Debi Hammond typed the manuscript from a handwritten version.

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the papers of Senator Kenneth D. McKellar and provided me with work space at the Cossit-Goodwyn Branch of the Memphis Public Library.

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Mrs. Prentice Cooper graciously made available to me material from the administration of her husband who was Governor of Tennessee during the Camp Forrest years.

Area newspapers were a source of many contacts thanks to publication of Letters to the Editor seeking Camp Forrest Veterans and employees. The Nashville Banner, the Chicago Defender, and the Baltimore African-American ran stories about the project.

Too much recognition cannot be given the hundreds of men and women who gave their time to be interviewed and who freely shared photos, mementoes, and souvenirs of Camp Forrest along with their stories.

But the greatest thanks of all should go to those thousands of men and women who built, operated, and trained at Camp Forrest. They placed their lives in the balance at a time of national crisis and many of them paid "the last full measure of devotion." This history is about them.

Michael R. Bradley

A Sleepy Southern Town

Founded in 1850, Tullahoma, Tennessee, was a sleepy little Southern town for most of its existence. During the Civil War there was a flurry of activity when, for six months, the town was headquarters and supply base for the Confederate Army of Tennessee under General Braxton Bragg. Despite building extensive field fortifications around the little town Bragg was maneuvered out of his base by the Union commander General William Rosecrans. Since no battle was fought Tullahoma became a footnote rather than a chapter in Civil War history.

In the last third of the Nineteenth Century Tullahoma developed a reputation as something of a health resort. This reputation revolved around the absence of malaria, thanks to the town's elevation above sea level; and an absence of typhoid, thanks to an excellent municipal water supply. In keeping with popular ideas of the time the town also touted the presence mineral water springs at locations in and around the town.

A modest land boom occurred about 1900 when conflict over tobacco marketing practices in parts of Tennessee and Kentucky caused many tobacco farmers to move to the Tullahoma area. This crop did well in the area. Because the local varitey of tobacco was cured by firing, as opposed to being air cured, much of the country around Tullahoma was stripped of its timber and left to be taken over by second-growth scrub timber.

Dark fired tobacco was very popular in Europe but the market for it collapsed when World War One broke out. That market was never regained and large-scale growth of tobacco disappeared form the immediate area.

Another popular local industry had been the distilling of fruit brandy. In 1915 there were a dozen distilleries in the Tullahoma area and extensive acreage was given over to peach and

apple orchards. The adoption of the Prohibition Amendment to the U.S. Constitution sounded the death knell for this activity. Tullahoma was too far from major markets and the fruit not of high enough quality to be sold as produce.

There was a small industrial base for the town's economy. The Campbell Company manufactured wheel hubs, wheel spokes, golf club shafts, hockey sticks, and some furniture. Lannom Manufacturing Company made baseballs. Clothing was produced by the Tennessee Overall Company, the Tennessee Glove Company, and General Shoe Company. There were also several lumber companies selling rough lumber and cross ties and an ice cream company. About 1,100 persons had industrial jobs in Tullahoma.

From 1850 to 1940 the main source of income for the town was the presence of the railroad, the main line from Nashville to Chattanooga and, subsequently, points north, south, and east. It was as a railhead and shipping point for the surrounding area of the highland rim that Tullahoma found its reason for existence.

In an attempt to stimulate more business the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway (NC and St L) gave the state of Tennessee 1,040 acres of land on the outskirts of Tullahoma with the understanding that a National Guard summer camp would be established there. This was done in 1926, the facility being named Camp Peay in honor of Governor Austin Peay. This camp contained a half-dozen permanent buildings, mostly offices and mess halls. There were crude latrines and showers but housing was in tents. Several dozen concrete pads were provided and the troops erected squad tents for shelter during the limited period of time the Camp was used each year. An average of 1,500 troops came to Camp Peay for two weeks at the end of July and the beginning of August each year.

Mr. Hubert Robertson and his sister, Mrs. Gladys Griffin, grew up on the Camp Peay property where their father, Kenneth, was the caretaker. They lived in one of the mess halls, a building 24' x 96'. Wires were strung from side to side of the building and curtains were hung to divide the building into "rooms." The family cooked in the mess hall kitchen.

For much of the year the main duty of the caretaker was to keep the grass cut using a horse-drawn mower. It was especially important that he keep the grass cut on the landing strip at the Camp because that was an emergency air field. If a plane going between Nashville and Chattanooga became lost at night one of those air fields would telephone Camp Peay and the caretaker would go out to the field and turn on the beacon light until the pane landed or buzzed the field to show they had regained their bearings.

Most of the Camp buildings were mess halls, 22 in all, one for each company. Behind the mess halls were rows of 12' x 12' concrete pads where tents would be pitched. At the far end of the company street from the mess halls were the latrines and showers. Shower water was disposed of in gravel-filled pits. There were sewer lines and a septic tank for the toilets.

While there was a garage for housing a few vehicles there was also a long hitching rack for horses. Many Tennessee National Guard units were still horse-mounted cavalry.

When the Guard arrived for training the Robertson family moved away from the Camp for the duration. Being caretaker was not a full-time job so Mr. Robertson held a variety of other jobs in the community.

In 1936 refugees from the great flood on the Mississippi River were sent to Camp Peay for temporary housing. Mr. Robertson helped haul the food scraps from the refugees to feed

hogs. About that same time he and his brother cut, hauled, and stacked a cord of wood (8' x 4' x 4') for each mess hall. He and his brother were paid $1.00 per cord.

One of the high points of the year was when FBI agents would come out form Nashville and Chattanooga for fire-arms training. The family did not have to move out then and the boys got to pull the targets up and down for the men. What was even better, the men left all their extra food for the family. This was at the height of the depression and the cheese, bread, and ground beef were welcome by the children since Kenneth Robertson was paid $25.00 a month as caretaker. This was considered a good job for the Tullahoma area during the Depression, but clearly, the military presence was not making a huge impression on the local economy.

The military presence, limited though it was, did make an impact on the social life of the community. When the National Guard arrived many officers brought their wives and families with them. All the hotels and boarding houses would be crowded and the town would experience something of a social whirl. Dances were held each week in the Officer's Club and dance hall, a skating rink would be set up near the Camp, and outdoors band concerts were often held in the evenings.

By 1940, the worst aspects of the Depression had been alleviated. There were no soup kitchens or bread lines and people no longer worried about starvation. But prosperity was not a reality either. National unemployment was quite high and, locally, was well into double digits. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was accepting between twenty and thirty young men from Coffee County every month. Since these were supposed to be selected from among the poorest of the poor, their numbers are a measure of the area's poverty. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) also employed a large, but fluctuating number of Coffee Countians. A

number of WPA projects were under way, including paving the road down Cascade Hollow towards the George Dickle Distillery.

A local farmer recalls that not only could agricultural labor be hired for $0.50 a day, most of the single men his father hired chose three meals a day over the money, correctly assessing they would eat more than $0.50 could buy.

The value of farm land in Coffee County ranged from just under $5.00 an acre for hill land to $9.00 an acre for creek bottom land. Much of the woods land was practically worthless since the scrub oak trees were useless for timber and much of the woodlands were set ablaze every winter to "clear out the brush." This burning over weakened the little valuable timber available.

The 1940 census shows that Manchester, the county seat, had a population of 1,750 while Tullahoma had 4,500 residents. Highway US 41 through Manchester had been paved from Nashville to Chattanooga as had the road form Manchester to Tullahoma (the "Old" Manchester-Tullahoma road). U.S. Highway 41A linking Tullahoma to Shelbyville and Winchester did not exist. Travel was by the "old" roads which were narrow and winding. Almost none of the farm to market roads were paved although graveled roads were rapidly replacing dirt ones. At this time Coffee County had 75 miles of paved road and 300 miles of gravel. Gravel did not guarantee a good surface, however. Mrs. Oscar Hill worked with the Red Cross and she recalls getting stuck on a public road in the Mud Creek community. As night approached she was greatly relieved to find a man with a team of mules who pulled her out of the mud. Mary Adams, now Mary Adams McKissick, was a welfare worker with the State of Tennessee. She

recalls that many of the poorer families did not live on a public road. She often drove her car up creek beds to reach isolated homes.

Tullahoma and Coffee County were not unaware of world conditions. Extant copies of local papers show that there were regular feature stories about events in Europe with some attention given to Asian affairs. The Congressman for the district, Albert Gore, Sr., ran a column regularly in the local papers. In this he frequently addressed international affairs and their potential impact on Coffee County. Although much of the rural area had not yet been reached by electricity, the Rural Electrification Authority was not created until 1935, many farm families had battery radios. WSM, Nashville, was a major source of news and information. Thanks to the railroad, papers from Nashville and Chattanooga arrived the day of publication. Therefore, the rise to power of Adolph Hitler, the militarization of Japan, the Munich Crisis, and the Anschloss with Austria were topics of discussion locally even if they did share top billing with the weather, crop conditions and prices, and local social or sporting events. The presence of Cordell Hull, a Tennessean, at the Department of State as Secretary no doubt added something to the local interest in international affairs.

Some area residents were very much interested in international affairs. One of Tennessee's U.S. Senators, Tom Stewart, was from near-by Winchester. The growing likelihood of U.S. involvement in the European war meant a crisis of foreign policy but it also meant expansion of the armed forces and of government expenditures. Senator Stewart was determined to see that some of that money would be spent in Tennessee, and Winchester would be as good a place as any.

Senator Kenneth McKellar, the other Tennessee Senator, was a powerful member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. His views on the advisability of having part of the pre-1940 military build-up occur in Tennessee were made well known to the Army and to the other members of the Appropriations Committee.

There is a persistent story, related by the Senator's son, Chancellor Fricks Stewart, among others, that Senator McKellar simply made a power play to secure the base for Tennessee. According to the story McKellar asked Stewart to accompany him to the War Department to review the list of potential new Army bases. There were no Tennessee locations on the list so McKellar said "Tom, get your hat. These boys have not put any bases in Tennessee so they can go fish for money." By the time Senator Stewart reached his office the War Department was on the phone saying a base would be placed at Tullahoma. Later McKellar called Stewart and said, "Tom, that is the way you handle these Army boys."

Given the nature of politics something like this may very well have taken place. However, Tullahoma Mayor Donald Campbell gave credit for the location of Camp Forrest to three men: State Treasurer John Harton, Sr., Governor Prentice Cooper, and Senator Tom Stewart. The voting record of Senator Stewart makes it quite clear he was a supporter of national preparedness. For example, he voted for the peace-time draft in 1940 and voted to extend the draft in 1941. This measure passed by only one vote. This record indicates Stewart pushed hard for the establishment of military bases, so why should one of them not be in a favorable location near the Senator's home?

Senators Stewart and McKellar were only reacting to the leadership of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his chief military advisor, General George C. Marshall. Roosevelt had been

worried about the future of world peace since the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1935. General Marshall was well aware that the U.S. Army was twenty-third in size world-wide, slightly larger than the army of Bulgaria but slightly smaller than that of Portugal. Marshall, at Roosevelt's behest, took action.

Ralph Smykal recalls that his father, Colonel Richard Smykal of the Thirty-Third Infantry Division of the Illinois National Guard, attended the Command and Staff school Marshall conducted for the Illinois Guard as their training director from 1934-1936. At this school the tactics of the Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest were studied. Forrest, in effect, invented the blitzkrieg using horses for rapid movement and highly mobile artillery for his shock force. When the war broke out in Europe on September 1, 1939, Colonel Smykal was assigned to a committee to select sites in the United States where an expanded American military could be trained for war. The existence of this committee is confirmed by a letter from General George Marshall to Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee, February 20, 1940. This committee visited several locations in Texas and the south-western United States where there was plenty of room for training but General Marshall continued to insist that training should include sites with a climate and topography similar to Europe. These criteria caused the Committee to focus on Middle Tennessee.

Colonel Smykal visited the Tullahoma area several times before 1940. He was impressed with the fact that Middle Tennessee offered a variety of terrain; rolling hills, mountains, rivers, and that Tullahoma had good transportation facilities thanks to the main line of the railroad. Immediately on the edge of town was the existing National Guard encampment, Camp Peay, and, just as vital, there were hundreds of acres of scrub timber and marginal farmland which

could be acquired cheaply to provide a place for housing and training troops. Good transportation, cheap housing area, appropriate terrain for maneuvers; the Tullahoma area had it all.

Because of the depressed economy there was a large number of people anxious to find work. This would allow for rapid construction of facilities, when the time came, and would produce a large number of civilian employees to run a camp should an operational facility be constructed. The use of civilian employees would allow the military to use all its resources for war.

Lacking in the Tullahoma area was an infrastructure to support a huge military training facility. The road system was poor, there were few railroad sidings and off-loading facilities, all the surrounding towns were small and could not supply food and housing for construction workers or for families of troops.

The local telephone system was just making the transition from the wall-mounted, hand-cranked magneto phone system to the battery operated-operator assisted system. Even so, the telephone system was geared only to a small town. Mr. W.E. Stephens recalls there being only eight or ten operators in the Tullahoma phone system. These, of course, were not all on duty at the same time because the exchange was open twenty-four hours a day. The town switchboard was housed on Lincoln street upstairs over a men's clothing store. There was one movie theater in Tullahoma, several beer taverns, and not much else for entertainment. One resident, Mrs. Shirley Gray, recalls that, while she was too young to participate, a favorite form of entertainment for teens was to park on Lincoln or Jackson street, sit on the fender or running board of the car, and watch to see who would go by. Although there were a number of

churches in Tullahoma they were all of the main-line Protestant denominations. There were no Catholic or Jewish congregations.

Also, the town was almost all white in race. Racial segregation was a fact of life virtually throughout the United States but in the South the customary separation of the races (de facto segregation) was reinforced by law (de jure segregation). The Armed Forces of the United States reflected this racial situation by maintaining rigidly segregated units in all branches of service, a situation which would endure until 1948. However, if a large army base were to be constructed it was to be expected that a significant number of African American workers would be attracted to Tullahoma and the surrounding area. There was also the possibility that a Negro unit would be stationed at the base. The potential for racial friction and the provisions for troops of a racial minority would have to be considered. If a camp were to be built it would have to be self-sustaining and would need to be prepared to cope with these problems.

Meanwhile events were moving rapidly. In the spring of 1940 dramatic events transpired in Europe. The preceding September the Wehrmacht had attacked Poland at Hitler's command. The Soviet Union had joined the attack at almost the same time as Stalin attempted to gain a cushion against further Nazi aggression. This fighting ended in about six weeks. The period of October 1939 to May 1940 was generally referred to as the "phoney war" or, as someone with a wry sense of humor put it, "after the blitzkrieg came the sitzkrieg."

With the spring of 1940 came a return to lightning war. Dry ground and clear skies gave Hitler's forces the conditions they needed to attack and to overrun western Europe. In a period of six weeks the Swastika flag advanced from the Rhine to the English Channel, from the Pyrenees to the Arctic Circle.

The U.S. response to these events was also dramatic. President Franklin Roosevelt encouraged Congress to write and to pass legislation which would establish a peace time draft, the first in the history of the nation. This legislation became know as the Burke-Wadsworth Bill. It created the Selective Service System and made provision for calling into Federal service of up to 500,000 men. This legislation passed Congress and was signed by the President on September 16, 1940. The President also signed an Executive order which called selected National Guard units into active service for one year of advanced training. Most of these units would report to training camps in the spring of 1941.

On May 16, 1940, the Congress had been asked to appropritate one billion dollars for the national defense. Part of this money would be used to build army training camps. It is possible that the presence on the appropriations committee of Senator Kenneth McKellar helped guarantee that some of this money would be spent in Tennessee. If this is the case, the Senator's influence was exerted behind the scenes. There is no evidence in te Senator's papers that special consideration was given to his home state. The Tullahoma site seems to have been considered on merit.

Now there were men to be trained. Camps were needed in which to train them. Camp Forrest was about to be born. And so was a new hit song: "Good-bye, Dear. I'll see you in Just One Year." Reveille had sounded.

A Tennessee National Guard unit on summer training bivouac at Camp Peay

Governor Austin Peay and unidentified guests

Senator Kenneth McKellar

Senator Tom Stewart

Boom Times In Tullahoma

Later it would seem Camp Forrest had arrived on the scene like Pallas Athene, fully grown. In reality there were stirrings in the political womb months before the birth. In June 1940 the State of Tennessee received up to $95,000,000 to improve National Guard training facilities around the state. This money was to be administered by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) but a considerable part of this sum was to be spent at Camp Peay. A firm commitment to expand Camp Peay came in September 1940 when Senator Tom Stewart announced that the Camp would become a tent facility for 18 to 20,000 troops. The state had already surveyed and placed under option 10,000 acres of land adjoining the existing facility and an additional 35,000 to 40,000 acres was expected to be optioned. A total of $160,000 had been spent on this process with most of the money coming from the WPA.

Plans changed as rapidly as the unfolding international situation. As the Luftwaffe pounded Britain in the Blitz the War Department decided Camp Peay would become a major military base. In October 1940, it was announced that work would begin immediately on a new Army base costing a minimum of thirteen million dollars. The University of the South had just begun a flying school at Manchester to train pilots in case of U.S. entry into the war. Two people suspected of being German spies were detained by the Manchester police. No more was Tullahoma a sleepy little southers town. Two things began to happen all at once.

The first major effort was land acquisition. The existing projections called for up to 40,000 acres of land for the Camp with about 13,000 acres needed immediately for the construction of buildings and training facilities. Only a small part of this initial area had ever been farmed. Most of the site was scrub timber which had been ruined for logging by frequent

woods fires. During the preceding weeks, since June, many landowners had signed agreements to lease their land to the State of Tennessee as a patriotic gesture. The state had offered to lease the land at a fee of $1.00 to $1.50 per acre annually. Now the leases were being taken up and there was a strong probability that the leased land would be purchased outright. This caused some regret on the part of many and an attempt to renig on the part of a few.

Henry A. Foutch and John Heiskell were the field attorneys for the sate working to acquire the land. These two men set up offices upstairs over the First National Bank on Atlantic Street and from there sent out a large volume of mail and received a steady stream of callers in their work to arrange the legal matters of land acquisition. Concern on the part of land owners increased in the early fall of 1941 when Foutch and Heiskell began to send out notices that leases would not be renewed at the end of 1941 but that the state would exercise its option to buy the land outright. This option to buy had been a part of the leases signed in 1941.

A surprising number of these landowners were absentee landlords. Elizabeth Worden, who owned 510 acres, lived near Mobile, Alabama. Agnes Towe, who owned 310 acres, lived in Delevan, Illinois. Andrew Lee Modlin, owner of 25 acres, lived in Inkster, Michigan.

After only a small start had been made on building, construction came to a halt because not enough land had been secured. The U.S. government spoke of the Camp being moved to a different location. Under this threatening possibility local civic leaders swung into action. Former State Treasurer John Harton, Mayor Donald Campbell, and others sent out patrols of citizens armed with lease forms to get landowners to lease their property or to sell it outright. By October 9, 1940, the necessary acreage was gained.

Naturally, some people attempted to profit unduly from this situation. Three local business men acquired 3,100 acres of land in the projected Camp site in September, just a short time before an official announcement was made that the project would begin. Although they apparently agreed to lease the land the state was forced to take the men to court to force them to execute the leases.

Of course, many well meaning people who were quite ready to support the war effort were simply hesitant to give up homes and the memories associated with them. To make sure such people were treated fairly, even in the rush to acquire the land, an appeals process was established for those who felt the price offered was too low. A five man Board of Appeals was established to hear appeals in the Circuit Court Clerk's office. If this did not resolve the matter, a second Board could hear the appeal and legal action was allowed. This did not prove to be necessary except in a very few cases.

A sampling of transactions in the office of the Registrar of Deeds for Coffee County shows large blocks of land sold to the State of Tennessee by the Tennessee Property Company and the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad for $5.00 an acre. C.A. Halloway received $3,250.00 for 65 acres, a house, barn, and improvements. Other farmers who had no houses or barns, such as O.T. Steele, received just under $21.00 an acre. G.G. Rhudy had 48 acres seized for non-payment of taxes. By contrast, H.W. Carroll of Tullahoma sold a city lot on Jackson street to the Southern Bell Telephone Company for $3,500.00. Land fronting the proposed entrance to the Camp was selling at $1.35 per foot of road frontage for lots two hundred feet deep. Clearly, Tullahoma was experiencing a real estate boom. There was talk

of a new hospital which might cost as much as one million dollars. A local paper made the prophetic statement that "an increase is expected in the demand for housing."

Another round of land acquisitions began in late 1941 and continued into 1942. This was made necessary by the decision to expand the Camp by an additional 21,000 acres. In this expansion about 5,000 acres were seized by the state under the Right of Eminent Domain. Seventeen landowners contested the state's valuation of their property and received higher prices than had been offered originally. The most expensive house purchased by the state for the Camp Forrest expansion was valued at $1,700.00 The house was owned by Hugh and A.D. Snoddy. They also had a barn valued at $450.00, other farm buildings valued at $200.00, fences worth $116.00, wells worth $105.00, and standing crops worth $95.00. The cleared land on their farm was valued at $2,075.00, woodland at $250.00, and orchards at $50.00. Shirley Cobb, a veteran of World War One, lost 133 acres to the Camp. He was paid $4,000.00 including $550.00 for "improvements." On the adjacent C.B. Ragan farm 72 acres were valued at $4,055.00 including two barns worth a total of $800.00 and a house worth $300.00.

Some disputes over land in this expansion area dragged on for several months. Dr. Jack Farrah did not reach a settlement with the state until 1944 while Alonzo Redferin settled his claim on November 16, 1945.

In the midst of these suits one reaction stands out by having an entirely different attitude. John Harton, Jr., owned 500 acres of land in the area desired by the Camp. His father, John Harton, Sr., State Treasurer, bought the land for $4,000.00 and gave it to the state because the did not think it proper for the state to do business with its own officials or their families. No

bill was ever presented the state for this land although friends of the Hartons spontaneously advocated their cause and were successful in having John, Sr., reimbursed.

Major C.H. Breitweiser of the Corps of Engineers was placed in charge of the construction and a hiring office was opened on Hogan street in Tullahoma. When this office was opened the city of Tullahoma employed six full time policemen, two on each shift. There were three reserve policemen. First National Bank had been designated the payroll office for Hardaway-Creighton Construction and it prepared for a payroll of $200,000.00 a week. The actual payroll was to be between $750,000.00 and $800,000.00. Fortunately, the bank president, E.D. Blackmon, had the bank remodeled so as to handle a larger crowd of customers. Instead of the usual fifteen to twenty people present during a busy hour he had been told to expect 4,000 customers on pay days.

Lee Beavers was in college in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and was in Tullahoma visiting his sister. He had gone to the depot to catch the train for Nashville when he saw a crowd of people near the old post office. When he walked over to investigate a man sitting at a desk asked if he wanted a job. He accepted immediately and reported to the site. The Camp Peay buildings were being used as offices for the construction site. He was assigned badge number twenty-two simply because he was among the first hired. Later on, this low badge number caused a lot of people to think he was an important official. His first job was to answer the telephone in a virtually empty building and then track down the people wanted on the phone. Later on he was given a small truck to use in this chore.

Edward Delk was a farmer in Bedford County, living with his foster parents. With the harvest in there was little work on the farm and he heard from a friend about work at

Tullahoma. This friend gave Delk and his father a note to a man on the site named "Red" Woods. With this personal recommendation Delk and his father were hired on the spot. While his father was hired as a skilled carpenter at $1.25 an hour, Delk went to work for B & W Sheetmetal Company putting flashing over the concrete foundation piers of buildings so termites would not infest the wooden structures. When the weather turned bad Delk again used his personal contact with Red Woods to get a job driving a station wagon taking engineers around the site and running errands into town. At this job Delk earned $0.80 an hour.

Charlie Ghea had been in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) when he heard of work in Tullahoma so he came home from the CCC and took a job digging ditches at $0.40 an hour. Later he became a time keeper and assisted the foreman in supervising a work gang of about seventy-five men. For this he was paid $0.60 an hour.

Homer Rogers of Manchester ran a tourist court. He and a group of men went down to Tullahoma looking for work. The carpenters were under a "closed shop" union agreement and the membership fee was $50.00. Rogers was the only person in the group with that much money so he joined the Local and was given a job. Because the shift had already started he was told to come back the next day but decided to go on to the site to see what was going on. "I got out there in the area they were building on, I saw these big stacks of lumber and a wire fence. Then I saw some people about a hundred yards away. I headed on over that way.

"Mr. Bryan was a guard and had a shotgun. He said 'Oh, no! You can't do that. I'm a guard and would be forced to shoot if you get near that fence.' I said I was going anyway.

"He said, 'Don't tell nobody I seen you.'"

Rogers had some carpentry experience so he went to work that day with badge number twelve. Because of his experience he was soon made a foreman and earned $2.00 an hour.

As a foreman Rogers was supposed to build the forms for concrete to be poured in to make foundations for buildings. Most crews had seventy-five men but Rogers felt this was too many, they just got in each other's way. He convinced the supervisor to give him twenty carpenters and ten laborers. With this crew they had their form completed by 3:00p.m. and it had passed inspection. After that Rogers was sent to a new crew each day to show them his style of building.

Larry Campbell of Manchester was selling insurance when a friend offered him a job as a time checker at the construction site. When people reported for work they came in through some fifty gates in a long shed-like structure. At that point they signed their time cards as being at work and then dispersed to their work sites. Security was so lax it was quite possible for a person to have more than one time card under different names and so draw more than one check. To prevent this "time checkers" were sent out to each work site at random intervals to make sure the people who were supposed to be there really were there. Campbell's shift was from ten p.m. to six a.m. About four thousand men worked on the night shift.

Moving about the site in the night to visit the various work crews was not without hazards. Water and sewer lines were being put in and the area was criss-crossed with ditches up to twelve feet deep. There were also holes four feet across and ten feet deep where posts for high-tension electric lines were to go in. One time checker fell in one of these holes one night and had to wait for daylight when a work crew came along before he could get out.

Clyde Hughes was a carpenter in McMinnville. There was no work available in that area and by the time he got to Tullahoma all the skilled jobs were taken. In desperation for work Hughes took a job as a laborer pushing wheelbarrows of cement to the forms carpenters had built and dumping the cement in to make pillars for the barracks to sit on. While doing this job he noticed one of the forms seemed to be in the wrong place so he checked the blueprint. The form was misplaced, so he told the foreman. The foreman did not know Hughes was a skilled carpenter who could read blueprints so he told Hughes to mind his own business. These two were arguing when a supervisor came by. He checked the blueprint and saw Hughes was right. Hughes was instantly promoted to carpenter, going from $0.40 to $1.25 an hour.

J.W. Hunter of Nashville was married and had one child. He was living on Fatherland Street and "starving to death" because his small construction company had been ruined by the depression. His brother-in-law helped him get a job as a time keeper. At this job he earned about $24.00 a week. He worked in the long entry shed already described. Each of the gates had numbers posted, for example, 1-150, 151-300, etc. These numbers matched the number on a workers' badge and each worker entered the gate with the proper number. The time keeper had cards in a large wooden rack, each card numbered to match a badge. As a worker came up to the gate they were given their card which they took with them. When the worker left the job they entered the hours worked and turned in their card. The time keeper checked the arithmetic and initialed the card. When all cards were in they were arranged numerically in the racks and taken to the payroll officer where they were kept locked up until the time keeper picked them up for the next day's work. The time keepers were themselves supervised by a "G Man" or government agent whose presence was supposed to prevent frauds.

Fred Hickerson hired on as a laborer. He was in his twenties and had a growing family. There was very little money in Tullahoma and none in his pocket. When he was hired there was a two dollar fee charged for his security badge. He had to borrow the two dollars from a friend. At first he cut bushes and then he dug ditches for water pipe. One day a concrete pourer was off sick so Hickerson took his place. He worked forty-eight- hours straight without leaving the job on this occasion. This earned him the better job of concrete pourer. In this capacity he helped build several of the warehouses on the base and the water treatment plant. Hickerson, an African American, recalls several black workers in the construction force but no others who still live in this area. He does recall there was occasional trouble on the job and in town, especially at pay-day. There were muggings and at least one murder with robbery as the motive. Since he walked to and from work and had to pass through a deserted wooded area he habitually carried a gun.

Joe Hill was also hired as a laborer. He helped cut timber and haul away the logs from construction sites. Both the cutting and logging of timber was done by hand. When all the sites were cleared his next job was breaking rocks by hand to prepare a base for road at what would become Gate Number One.

W.E. Stephens worked for the Southern Bell Telephone Company. Although not employed by a construction company it was his responsibility to oversee and assist in installing the trunk line that would serve the construction officer. This created a real crisis for the telephone company because the local office and staff of operators was so small. Telephone traffic was so heavy that there was frequently a waiting period of four hours on long-distance calls. The Southern bell headquarters in Atlanta did not, at first, understand what was

happening in Tullahoma but they finally sent a team up to investigate. This team was so impressed by the activity in the town that within six hours of their arrival they had purchase a lot for a new telephone exchange and had ordered a construction crew from their Atlanta contractor to be in Tullahoma the next day to begin work. This new building was to house dialing equipment, giving Tullahoma the most up-to-date telephones of any local town.

On the construction site, however, phone calls were received by an operator who forwarded incoming calls or gave those calling out a Tullahoma line. One of these operators was Margie Pearsall. Her husband was employed by General Shoe but the wages offered at the construction site were so good she decided to go to work. At one time she had been a telephone operator and she secured this position on the "swing shift," four to midnight. Because her husband drove their only car to work she walked from their home on Ovoca Road into downtown Tullahoma, about three-fourths of a mile, and then caught a ride in a company car. These cars cruised around town for the purpose of giving people rides to work.

There was only one operator on the switchboard during her shift so as soon as the night construction shift had checked in her job was usually quiet. On one occasion she had dozed off and was awakened by her call signal. From the position on the board of the flashing light she knew it was the phone of an isolated night watchman. Fearing the worst, she quickly plugged in and said "Operator!"

"Mert," the man replied, using her nickname, "have you seen that moon? It would make you want to hug a post." Her interrupted nap made her less than romantically inclined.

These stories seem to be typical of the thousands of people who came searching for jobs. Construction began in October 1940. By November over nine thousand were employed. This

number rose to fifteen thousand by the end of that month and peaked at about twenty-two thousand by the end of December. According to Foster Creighton of Hardaway-Creighton Construction Company, the payroll was $800,000.00 per week.

While this may have been "clean," or honest, money the construction was a dirty job. A universal memory of those who worked in construction was of the mud.

Weather records show that the winter of 1940-41 brought several days of sub-zero temperatures to Coffee County. These temperatures froze the ground to a considerable depth and the subsequent thaw was accompanied by rain. The thawed ground was already soft and the rain turned the soil to mush. The use of heavy construction equipment and the soil disturbance associated with building projects created something more like liquid glue.

Edward Delk remembers, "On the whole Camp we had two blacktop roads and the rest were mud. You ain't never seen such mud. I seen men bog down waist deep. I seen trucks sink down to the frame! We had a D-9 Catepillar that done nothing but go around pushing trucks out of the mud."

Charlie Ghea described the Camp as a "morass" of mud. Homer Rogers recalls construction delays because trucks could not drive across the area to get lumber to building sites.

Part of the Camp area tended to be marsh at the best of times. One such area was between the main road and the site of the post hospital, the area behind the current golf course. Foster Creighton says his company dumped seventeen thousand (17,000) tons of rock a day for twenty days to construct this one road. "There are places," he says, "where that rocks must extend twenty feet below the surface."

Bernard Franklin was an electrician at the Camp during the construction phase. He recalls that many people attempted to move about the site using motorcycles. The mud would cake so thickly under the fenders as to jam the wheels. The riders would have to dismount and clean the mud out with a stick. He also recalls working in mud so deep it flowed in over the tops of his rubber knee boots.

These conditions were appalling at times but they were not necessarily worse than those under which workers lived. The problem of living condition was really one of scope. The towns which would have to provide the infrastructure for the construction crews were all small. Tullahoma was the largest and it's population was only 4,500 according to the 1940 census. Hiring for construction jobs began in early October and by the end of that month 9,000 people had been employed while by the end of November 15,000 people were working at the Camp. Their numbers peaked at 21,500 in mid-December with a payroll of $748,000.00. Although the same local newspapers which reported these figures also carried stories of minor problems the financial impact of the project on the area communities made it overwhelmingly popular.

But where were workers to live? As Bernard Franklin put it, people in Tullahoma "just went crazy." Every spare room was rented, every hotel room was booked. Chicken houses, barns, and garages were converted to provide sleeping quarters for construction workers. Those who could avoided the problem by commuting. Edward Delk and his father drove about forty-five miles a day over bad roads just so they could be home every night. J.W. Hunter and three other men commuted daily from Nashville. Others drove from Chattanooga, Lebanon, and north Alabama rather than attempt to find living quarters in the immediate area. Larry Campbell recalls commuting to the construction site from Manchester. The only road was a two lane,

somewhat winding route, today known as "the Old Manchester-Tullahoma Road." As time approached for the shift to begin the traffic on this road would become heavier and heavier. Eventually someone would attempt to pass, then more and more would pass, and soon there would be two lanes of traffic all going the same way. When the shift was over the same pattern would be observed flowing in the opposite direction.

Ruth Harrel Bennett recalls her father and bothers getting up at 3:30 a.m. in order to be on time at work at 7:00. The Bennett's were owners of a sheet metal company in Manchester and were under contract to install furnaces at the Camp site.

In Tullahoma rooms came at a premium. Hazel Stubblefield rented out all the bedrooms in her house, moving her family on to fold-out sofas. She did not provide meals but her next-door neighbor did. The Stubblefield's had a stable group of roomers throughout the construction period and decided to keep up the practice of renting rooms through out the war. By 1945 Hazel had paid for her house in this way.

Myrtle Pearsall rented out all the bedrooms in her house to workers, putting double beds in all of them and two men to a bed. She had a total of ten men staying with her at $10.00 a week each. Although she did not provide meals she often came from her night-shift job as a telephone operator to find that the roomers had helped themselves to her groceries.

Lee Beavers recalls that at the present location of Mid-South Uniforms on Anderson street there was a large house which had seventy-five beds crowded into it. These beds were rented for fifty cents per shift. One person got the day shift and another the night. One group of workers, finding no place available for the night, went to sleep in an empty boxcar on a siding. They awakened the next morning in Chattanooga.

Charles Gowden recalls the aunt and uncle with whom he lived rented rooms at $6.00 a week and provided full board for an additional $6.00.

Zilla Payne kept boarders and charged $8.00 a week for room and board combined. She arranged to buy most of her food wholesale, purchasing eggs by the case and beans by the 100 pound bag. She borrowed $25.00 to get started in this line of work but after one week she was paying all expenses and supporting her entire family. Her husband worked construction and they banked his wages. They almost completely paid for a large farm in this fashion.

Even the better paid personnel had difficulty finding a place to live. Foster Creighton, partner in the company building the project, recalls one of his uncles bought a private railcar formerly used by some 1890's magnate and sent it to Tullahoma to be parked on a siding so the construction managers would have some place to live.

The Tennessee Public Health Service put over 400 temporary sanitary facilities at places where construction workers congregated or slept.

At least one barn was converted into a bunk house for one hundred persons, charging $3.00 a week or $0.50 a night. On property belonging to John Harton a camp of over 1,000 tents was erected.

When construction began to decline in December 1940 over 4,000 men who could not find work left the town, a number equal to the entire population of the city six months earlier.

The area around South Jackson Civic Center became an impromptu trailer park used by mobile homes, trucks with beds covered by tarps, and home-made jury built vehicles of all kinds. The Rev. Mr. John Ensor of Tullahoma's First Methodist Church convinced church

leaders to rent out the churches Sunday School rooms for sleeping spaces. Soon 80 workers were paying $3.00 a week each to sleep in the church. Other area churches soon followed suit.

Bernard Franklin with three other men moved into a room in the Dixie Hotel on the square in Shelbyville. While he does not recall the price of the room he does recall the lunch provided as a part of that cost. "They were small," he says. Sandwiches were often one piece of cheese between two slices of bread or bread spread with a thin layer of peanut butter. These were jokingly called "jam sandwiches" being mostly two pieces of bread jammed together. An occasional piece of fruit, boiled egg, or snack cake rounded out the fare. "Not much food for men working as hard as we were."

Bob Galbraith recalls visiting his grandparents, John and Leona Hitt, who had come to Tullahoma to open a restaurant. The Hitts had secured three "good sized" tents and put up a wooden frame to stretch them over. The precise location is not remembered but it was near the railroad. The tents faced east to take advantage of the light and to allow the evening sun to be blocked out. The tent was floored with scrap lumber and picnic-style tables were built in the same way. Using a large coal fired cook stove the Hitts opened a restaurant. The usual fare for lunch and supper was chili or stew. These were served in oval trays about ten inches by four inches by three-quarters inch deep. Stew with cornbread cost $0.30 and chili was $0.20. Electric lights were run in as was a line for a large, double-doored freezer. In addition to serving meals this tent-restaurant became an off-hours gathering place for lonely workmen. Informal worship services were held there on Sunday at whatever hours would accommodate people working that day.

Marvin Kerkus operated The Sweet Shop about mid-way of the block of Lincoln between Jackson and Atlantic. Business was so good that frequently the line of customers reached all the way back to the corner of Atlantic. Beer joints were plentiful. The Town Pump was located in Wall Street alley behind First National Bank. Night clubs and drinking places sprang up quickly. While beer was legal, whiskey was not so bootlegging became a profitable, if risky trade.

On pay day checks were usually cashed at First National Bank on Atlantic since this bank was the depository of construction funds. The lines for check cashing would frequently go around the corner to Lincoln Street and around the corner for half a block. Each payday a mysterious man would appear with a large satchel of cash and two body guards. Beginning near the end of the line he would offer to cash checks for a five per-cent fee. His business was usually brisk.

All this business and busyness was caused by the contract from the United States Government which had been secured by the Hardaway-Creighton Construction Company. Foster Creighton tells the story of that company.

"We worked together in a joint venture with the Hardaway Construction Company in Columbus, Georgia. We were both called to come to Washington to negotiate the contract with the Federal government. My uncle went up there with Ben Hardaway. It was in October 1940. While the state of Tennessee was in the process of getting all the land together we started remodeling the National Guard facilities that were on a training site they had there in Tullahoma. It was a warehouse and we remodeled it for an office. We started getting the organization together and the organization was know as Hardaway-Creighton Company. We decided

Hardaway was principally a bridge builder and in that kind of construction. We were principally builders. Hardaway would be responsible for all the utilities, construction utilities, roads, everything. And we started putting up a concrete mix plant.

"I was in charge of the estimate section which coordinated between the architect engineer and the purchasing department. Greely and Hanson from Chicago was the architect engineer on the job. My job was to get plans from Greely and Hanson and estimate the quantities of material to be ordered and send that estimate on to the purchasing department for purchase. For the purchasing department we had to outline the date of delivery and the designation of where it was to go. The material would go to one area or anther and we had a superintendent in that area and he had to sign for the material. So when the purchase order started out it had instructions on it as to where the material would be delivered. Jim White was my principal man, he is an engineer and there were two other men from my office who were professional engineers also. We had about a dozen people in the estimating department to control operations. Jim White was mainly the in the field. He reported to me daily the progress in the field and what was going on in the deliveries to us.

"Using a list developed for another army base job for a guide, we would take the Greely and Hanson plans and get a list of lumber to be used for that building. After we took the lumber estimate from these plans we had thirty stenographers who typed up the materials and lumber for different buildings. We had hired these thirty young women and girls, anybody who could use a typewriter, from wherever we could get them. Paul Beasley was in charge of that office. We used a ditto machine to reproduce the orders so we could send them out. We didn't have the office machinery you would today.

"As soon as it was typed the orders went to the purchasing department. Sometimes this was only an hour, that's how quick it was. The government bought the lumber and, I think, paid $33 a thousand board feet for it. Jim found out quick that we didn't get that lumber fast enough. We needed around sixty-five million board feet to do the job, sixty-five million! We took over every railroad siding in the county we could get, any siding at all, took all of them. The lumber would be scheduled to come in on those sidings and we had over 500 trucks to pick it up and bring it to the jobs.

"When we started out the government told us they were going to buy all the lumber, so they would send out a request for bids and they would get bids from a dozen or twenty-five agents offering to sell lumber. The only problem was, when the government agreed to buy all that lumber, they had actually only bought one lot. The same lot of lumber would have been listed with all those agents and they would all, independently, have tried to sell it.

"While this was going on we had started clearing the land. We had a fellow in charge of the clearing and he had 500 men working for him. They started clearing and it was like a plague of locusts! They were about to get clear over in the next county before we could stop them. Now, here is a funny one. There was a man that owned part of that property and he had a crop of about ten acres of popcorn. He has his money tied up in that property until he could get his popcorn out and he wasn't going to get out of the way of the construction crew. So, one of the first things I did, was to put together a crew that went through and harvested his popcorn for him.

"So the lumber finally started to come in. Somebody, I don't recall who now, worked out a system for processing it. We built a double track siding and right beside it we built a shed

more than three hundred yards long. We had a hundred and something saws in that shed. We had a big platform and on that platform we had patterns for every piece of lumber we would need in a building . The lumber came off the railroad cars, was marked according to pattern, and went straight through a saw. Then each piece was numbered and assigned to a job where we were building a specific building. The cut lumber was then loaded on a truck, usually a complete building on two or three trucks, and they would be sent off to the job site as a unit. It was prefabricated, is what it was. The thing was, it was so muddy we couldn't get the lumber out to the sites a lot of times. It was a tremendous project just getting the lumber out. Sometimes we had thousands of men waiting for lumber to arrive. It was almost impossible to get 2x10x14 and 4x4x10 which was what we used for main beams and corner posts. I'll tell you, we used some lumber on Mondays that had squirrels playing in it on Friday. That wood was so green that if you stood close to the saws you would get wringing wet with sap. Toward the end of the job that lumber started drying out and splitting open. I remember going in to this barrack one night and one of the boys on the night shift was a carpenter. He said, this is a scary place at night. There is always something popping. That was the green lumber drying. Some of those 2x10's would split so wide open you could put your hand in the crack.

"Now, to show you about the mud, we had these big tool chests we had built on the job to carry shovels and heavy tools. We had one worker who was just an enormous black man. He would have been a millionaire if he had been around today, because the pros would have wanted him for a linebacker. One day his gang bet another work gang Bigun, as we called him, could pick up one of those chests of tools. It must of weighed close to three hundred pounds full. So Bigun reached down and grabbed the handles on each end and heaved it up. Only

problem was he was standing in mud when he did that and he sank down to his waist. We had to take shovels and dig him out.

"We also had some run-ins with Major Breitwiser who was the project manager. He was with the Corps of Engineers but he was not an engineer by training. He was a pusher, though, and stirred up things when anybody slowed down.

"We had over twenty thousand people working at our peak and, in all, we hired twenty-eight thousand at one time or another. Of course, this was at the tail end of the depression and everybody was looking for work. Some of those country men we hired hadn't ever had a saw or hammer in their hand before, I don't think, but we got the job done in the end.

"One problem we had was that the camp had been designed by the WPA. They used people who didn't know about design. For example, all the centers of the dimensions were on even numbers. You don't design wood buildings on even foot lengths because you have to have some overlap. If you want a sixteen foot wall you actually come out with fifteen feet, six inches. This meant that when we ordered that sixty-five million board feet of lumber we would up having to cut several inches off every damn piece. We had a scrap pile of lumber as big as a good sized house. Every day I used to take a pick-up truck of scrap in to the house where I boarded for a while. I'd give half to my landlady and half to Mrs. Motlow. She kept me in whiskey.

"This job was so big and covered so much land it was almost unbelievable. The workers had a check in system. When the workers came through the gate they were given a card and a brass tag with their number on it. They hung the tag on a hook to show they were on the job and they took their time card with them to work. They had to have that card checked twice

during the day and we had the time checkers going out on horseback to check. The men working in a given area had to find a checker to mark their card, or the checker had to find them. That caused a lot of confusion. Sometimes a man would work in more than one area during a day or, at night, the checkers would not get in to an area. There was a lot of overlap.

"A friend of mine was a superintendent and his father died in Nashville. While he was gone he appointed someone else to sign the time cards for him. Well, while he was gone four cards came in with his name on them. This one worker had gotten four time cards for four different jobs and was drawing four checks. We had the first IBM machines that were ever used in this state or anywhere around here. We had a fellow in here named Housewell who was in charge of all the payrolls and IBM sent their own people in here to work the machines. They were the hole-punched cards. I don't know how in the world we would have handled that payroll otherwise."

Although Foster Creighton did not know this, one man who worked in the payroll office also recalled those IBM machines. Lee Beavers said the machine that wrote the checks was "as big as a bale of hay" and that the machine that computed the hours and wages was "as big as a bale of cotton."

General Leslie Groves came to Tullahoma. His nickname was "Greasy," Creighton remembers. He later was in charge of the atomic bomb project at Oak Ridge. "We entertained him in our railroad car and he said he realized that the big thing to be done to make the project go forward was to get roads in so we could deliver lumber to the building sites. So the General told me he wanted a wire from me every day telling how many tons of gravel were poured on the roads that day. We then bought all the stone in Estill Springs and we opened two quarries.

Within a few days we were delivering seventeen thousand tons of gravel a day to that site. On the road down to the hospital we would dump rock and it would be two feet above the surface. By the next day, it would be level, so we would dump more gravel. In places the gravel must be twenty feet thick under the ground. When we finally got it stabilized Hardaway put a concrete road on top of that. That was in the middle of winter and the weight of the concrete caused the gravel to sink. He must of put four feet of concrete in there in lots of places. Some of those construction crews, if they came to a mudhole they couldn't get across they would throw kegs of nails or bundles of lumber in there to get a firm base to cross on. It was pandemonium, but we finally did get enough stone and concrete to get out of the mud."

James R. Spence was one of the men hauling this gravel. He had just graduated form high school and was working at a service station in Normandy, Tennessee. He was offered a night job driving a truck to carry gravel to the camp. A rock quarry and crusher had been opened on the Normandy-Tullahoma road and it was running twenty-four hours a day. Spence was one of seventy-five truck drivers hauling from that location.

Spence recalls he worked from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. He was paid $0.50 for each load hauled and usually was able to make twelve loads a night. The trucks were weighed at the camp gate because the owner of the truck fleet and the owner of the quarry were both paid by the ton delivered. At the gate the trucks were then dispatched to various sites to dump their loads.

Foster Creighton continues, "About that time we temporarily lost one electricians crew. These two men were crawling around in the attic of some building, pulling wire, and they went to sleep. A carpenter crew came in and saw that the building was not fully ceiled, so they put the rest of the ceiling in. When the electricians woke up they had no way to get out. They

didn't have a hammer with them so they got to beating on everything and hollering until somebody heard them. We had to get another carpenter crew to go get them out.

"My Great-Uncle Lynn Buchanan was Comptroller of the NC and St. L Railroad and, of course, the railroad was getting a lot of business out of the camp. One day Uncle Lynn called Jim and me and said "we want you to have lunch with us on our rail car." They had this "gay 90's" railcar with brass ornaments and chandeliers and all such. So we had lunch with them and then Uncle Lynn said they were going to leave one of the cars there for us to use. They had two stewards on the car and it was fully stocked with everything we needed. We parked it right behind some public building or other and put a barrel out to take care of the sewage. That solved a lot of problems for us. Tullahoma had no place to eat. You could hardly get a cup of coffee for the crowds. The local grocery store couldn't get enough food to sell. I remember one man and his wife set up a tent and put an eating place in there.

"Toward the end of the construction, just about the time the first of the troops were moving in to the camp, General Benjamin Lear, Commander of the Second Army, came down to inspect the camp. He had been at West Point in the same class with Colonel Berry who was from Nashville and was the commander of the 191st Field Artillery Battalion. It was still very cold in the March wind and General Lear said he couldn't do anything about training any troops until we did something about the mud. So what we did was to take a lot of that lumber that had been thrown in the scrap pile and build duck boards all over the camp. Between the wet when the troops were outside and the dust when the mud tracked in the barracks dried they had an epidemic of respiratory infections there for a while.

"One of the things we were finishing up when the troops arrived was the laundry. There was approximately nine thousand square feet of floor space in the laundry. When it was time to put the roof on the only material we had on hand was two inch thick ship lap lumber so we used that. That building had a two inch thick roof before they put tar paper and shingles on it.

"The worst problem we had was the electricity. The country boys didn't know anything about putting it in. We had three or four barracks burn down."

This memory is corroborated by Bernard Franklin who was an electrician on the job. At first, Franklin says, the Union stewards hiring electricians insisted on the applicants passing a fairly rigid test about wiring skills. Toward the end anybody who knew what a light switch was could get a job. So many carpenters drove so many nails through the armoured BX electrical cable used to wire the barracks that the electricians began looking for shorts by testing nail heads with testers to see if the nails were conducting current!

Creighton continues, "One of the biggest mistakes we made was on the windows. We ordered the windows using the plans provided us. We had bought all these windows and had them ready for shipment. Then we got this letter from the government saying they would buy the windows and for us to cancel our order, so we did. The next day we got another letter saying that if we had already ordered windows, go ahead and take them. Se we phoned our supplier but he had already sold our windows to another job. I noticed in the Sears and Roebuck Catalog that they had this new material called polystyrene so I ordered a carload of the damn stuff. When that came our carpenters made frames that would fit the windows and we used those for a time.

"Another mistake was on the water tank. I don't know if we made the mistake of if Greely and Hanson made it. They sent the height of the tank to us and we ordered the material. A tank company from Rome, Georgia, came and started putting it up and one of their people came to the office and told me that if they put it up that high it would blow down and drown everything around it. We had to cut thirty of forty feet off the thing to finish it.

"Hardaway-Creighton had to finance the job. We had to borrow five million dollars to get started before the government reimbursed any back to us. This was a fixed fee job, not cost plus. Cost plus came later. On a job of $8,379,510 our profit was $258,090. We built rifle ranges and ammunition storage igloos and lots of things that were not in the contract expecting to get paid, but we never did. The final cost of the job was over thirty million dollars but we only got paid for what was in the original agreement.

"We had to take over the town of Tullahoma when we were there. We had to haul off the garbage and everything else. I don't know as we did that anywhere else but we sure had to take over Tullahoma."

Although the construction covered a very large area, about 19,000 acres, there was still one important hurdle to be overcome. The existing base did not have enough space to allow artillery units to fire their largest guns, the 155 millimeter howitzers (155 mm). This problem was partially solved in December 1940 by the state of Tennessee leasing 36,000 acres at Spencer, Tennessee, from the Rocky River Coal company for $0.32 an acre.

Because the Spencer property was only intended to function as an artillery range no barrack or mess facilities would be constructed there. All troops using the area for training would bivouac in the field. Gun crews would prepare firing positions, communications crews

would run communication lines, and field kitchens would provide food. The only site preparation was to fell the timber and to build a few observation platforms of logs.

This action only partially solved the problem of artillery training because the guns still had to be transported from the camp proper to the Spencer range a distance of approximately 50 miles. In the absence of a good road net with highways capable of supporting the weight of the guns, about 15,000 pounds each, a road would have to be built.

Up to that time all land for the camp had been acquired by the state of Tennessee and was leased to the U.S. government. In this case, the state insisted that the right of way for the proposed road would have to be acquired by Coffee County. Then the state and the Army would build the road. The County Court, the name of the local legislative body, objected to this expense. Led by Magistrates Rayburn of Manchester and T.R. Bean of Tullahoma the body voted by better than two-to-one not to purchase the right of way for the road. The response of the U.S. Army was quick and pointed. Less than a week after the vote by the County Court the army replied, on January 17, 1941, that the proposed road would be built through Franklin and Grundy counties. Since the road would clearly stimulate economic growth and since this newly proposed route would take all traffic from the camp away from the county seat at Manchester the County Court quickly reversed directions. At its monthly meeting on February 7, 1941, the Court voted 31 to 1 to purchase the right of way. T.R. Bean of Tullahoma cast the only "no" vote.

Construction on the road began as soon as the weather permitted. The Boyer and Johnson Construction Company began at Manchester and worked toward Hickerson Station while the

Hardaway Company worked from Tullahoma toward Hickerson Station. In the process about half the buildings in the hamlet of Belmont had to be moved to accommodate the new road.

During this same period about 4,000 acres of land was leased, primarily from Lem Motlow, for use as firing ranges for light artillery, mortars, and machine guns. Later a rifle range would be placed on this property also. This range was reached by the Cumberland Springs Road and by the Old Shelbyville Highway.

Larry Campbell recalls that on one occasion Lem Motlow himself came to watch his gang at work. The occasion was made especially memorable by a distribution of whiskey before the gentleman left.

Mildred Anderton McCall and Ruth Anderton Allen have a very different memory of the firing range. These sisters, then nine and eleven years of age, lived with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emmit Anderton, on the Ledford Mill Road. Nearby was one of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mannon Mullins. In the spring of 1941 the Andertons were told their farm was needed for the firing range and would be taken under the right of eminent domain if they did not sell voluntarily. They describe their father as a stubborn man who could not find another farm that suited him. Even when firing positions were put up in his father-in-laws yard and targets were erected on his own property he delayed. Even when firing actually began in May 1941, the family would leave home for the day and return at night. This went on for several days before their father gave up and moved to another farm.

At this point, phase one of the construction had come to an end. This phase saw the completion of 408 barracks, 158 mess halls, 14 officers' mess buildings, 19 guard houses, 35 warehouses, 20 administration buildings, 38 officers' quarters buildings, a bakery, an ice plant

capable of producing 62,000 pounds of ice a day, an incinerator, a cold storage building, a laundry, water and sewer treatment facilities, a hospital with a patient capacity of 2,000, warehouses, 10 miles of concrete roads, 15 miles of asphalt roads, 30 miles of gravel roads, and 5 miles of railroad track.

In addition, the WPA was working on improving the road connecting the camp with the Estill Springs road in order to improve access from Winchester. This was the site of gate number three. Another WPA road was under way to connect the Manchester-Tullahoma highway with the road to Hillsboro via Bobo.

Before the first phase of construction had been completed the War Department had ordered a change in the name of the camp. The National Guard camp had been called Camp Peay, in honor of former governor of the state. This name had continued to be used during the time of land acquisition and the beginning of construction. At the end of January 1941 the War Department ordered that the name of the facility should be changed in order to conform with the established practice of naming posts for military men. Governor Prentice Cooper, a native of adjoining Bedford County, suggested the camp be named for Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Confederate Lieutenant General who had been born and had fought in the area surrounding the camp. Not only was this considered appropriate because Forrest was born in the area but the name was militarily significant. During the Civil War, Forrest had utilized horses for rapid movement, allowing him to penetrate Union front line areas and then disrupt lines of service and supply. These tactics seem to have been the predecessor of the Blitzkrieg which had worked so well in Poland in 1939 and in Western Europe in the spring of 1940. There has been a persistent story in Tennessee, supported by some shreds of evidence, that Field Marshall Erwin

Rommel had toured the battle fields of Bedford Forrest during the 1920's when Rommel was a young lieutenant.

The use of Forrest's name was not without controversy. One of the units already scheduled for assignment to the camp was the 33nd Infantry Division, a unit of the Illinois National Guard. Some members of this unit objected that Forrest had been a slave-trader in the years prior to the Civil War and that he had been involved in a massacre of prisoners at Fort Pillow in 1864. The Regent of the State Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Mrs. Robert Bachman, rose to the defense of Forrest pointing out that when Abraham Lincoln was elected president and was a resident of Illinois his wife was a member of a slave-owning family. As to the Fort Pillow incident, no less a personage than Tecumseh Sherman had ordered a full investigation of the affair and had concluded that the facts did not justify the allegations of massacre. At any rate, long ago controversies quickly faded before the reality of Twentieth Century military demands. The issue was dropped and the War Department officially changed the name of the facility to Camp Forrest in February 1941.

In June 1941 Mary Forrest Bradley, grand-daughter of the General, was guest of honor at a review at the camp held on the birthday of Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Colonel Carl Adler was named Post Commander even as the construction was continuing. During March, as troops were arriving at Camp Forrest, it became clear that the camp would serve multiple purposes. The headquarters of the U.S. Second Army, led by General Benjamin Lear, announced that maneuvers would be held over 600 square miles of Middle Tennessee during the summer of 1941. This area would involve Camp Forrest although headquarters for Second Army would be in the County High School at Manchester.

During this same time, the land which had been leased by the state and which had been used for construction of facilities began to be purchased by the state. Throughout the existence of Camp Forrest the land was held by the state of Tennessee and was leased to the U.S. Government for a total fee of $1.00 a year.

Troops arrived in March 1941 and the area constituting the camp proper quickly filled up. However, construction entered a second phase almost immediately. In July 1941 Congress appropriated three million dollars for the construction of recreation and support buildings. Also, an air field was designed and the state began to purchase property on the northern edge of Tullahoma for this purpose. The average price for this land was $14.66 an acre and it was also leased to the U.S. Government. Construction of a landing strip, offices, barracks, and a water tower began in July 1941 and continued throughout the remainder of the year. A total of 1,200 acres comprised this segment of Camp Forrest. On November 11, 1942, the name of this area was officially designated Northern Field in honor of Lieutenant William Northern, a Nashville native, who had lost his life on December 21, 1941, while on active duty with the Air Corps.

Already appraisers were working on securing another 20,000 acres of land for the camp. This area would not be the site for buildings, but would be used for firing ranges, obstacle courses, and other training facilities. This extension of the camp would force one hundred twenty-five families to sell their land to the state. Since no families would remain within four miles of it and since the building would now be surrounded by Camp Forrest, the Dixie School and the community of the same name would cease to exist.

The Dixie community had originated in 1908 when Joe Sherrill bought land in the area. He recognized the need for a church and a school and gained the support of his neighbors in

constructing these facilities. The church became known as the Dixie Church of Christ and the school as the Dixie School.

The school had eight grades and, in 1941, had an enrollment of twenty-six. In 1941 the school was closed and the students transferred to other schools.

The church building was purchased by the New Union Church of Christ, torn down, and the lumber used to build a new building in that community.

Lillian Partin Tucker was a young woman just out of high school and living with her parents, Abner Brown Partin and Cassie Partin, in the Dixie community. She recalls that their farm and those of about fifty other people, were acquired by the state of Tennessee in forced sales. Her parents moved to a new farm outside Manchester while she came in to Tullahoma and took a job with the telephone company. Her sister got a job in the Camp Forrest library.

This expansion was the end of the physical growth of Camp Forrest. There were about 37,000 acres at Camp Forrest proper, 1,200 at Northern Field, 4,000 in the Motlow and Cumberland springs firing ranges, and 36,000 at Spencer in the artillery firing range for a total of about 78,000 acres. This land had been amassed by the state at a cost of $668,000.00.

The acquisition of land and the construction of Camp Forrest had been carried out with a minimum of dispute and of illegal activity. During the construction period there had been only minor labor disputes. On November 10, 1940, the Carpenters and Electricians Unions representing workers on the job asked for time and a half for overtime hours and double time for Sundays and holidays. Work stopped for two days while the matter was debated but the issue was settled in favor of the Union. In January 1941 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested two men for illegally advocating a strike among truck drivers at the camp. The

issue was pay which, at the time, was $0.65 an hour. There had always been allegations that union foremen collected fees for providing jobs for non-union members. The only arrests for any activity resembling this was in February 1941 when two men, one a foreman, were arrested by Federal officers for selling jobs.

Most of the crime during the construction phase was the sort of thing which always occurs when large numbers of people with money in their pockets gather in transient communities. John W. Goodson was murdered in February 1941 just after cashing his pay check. Robbery was considered the probable motive. In a single week in February 1941 sixty people were arrested in Tullahoma for gambling, drinking, and keeping disorderly houses. Twenty-eight men and women were arrested in a single raid on one such house.

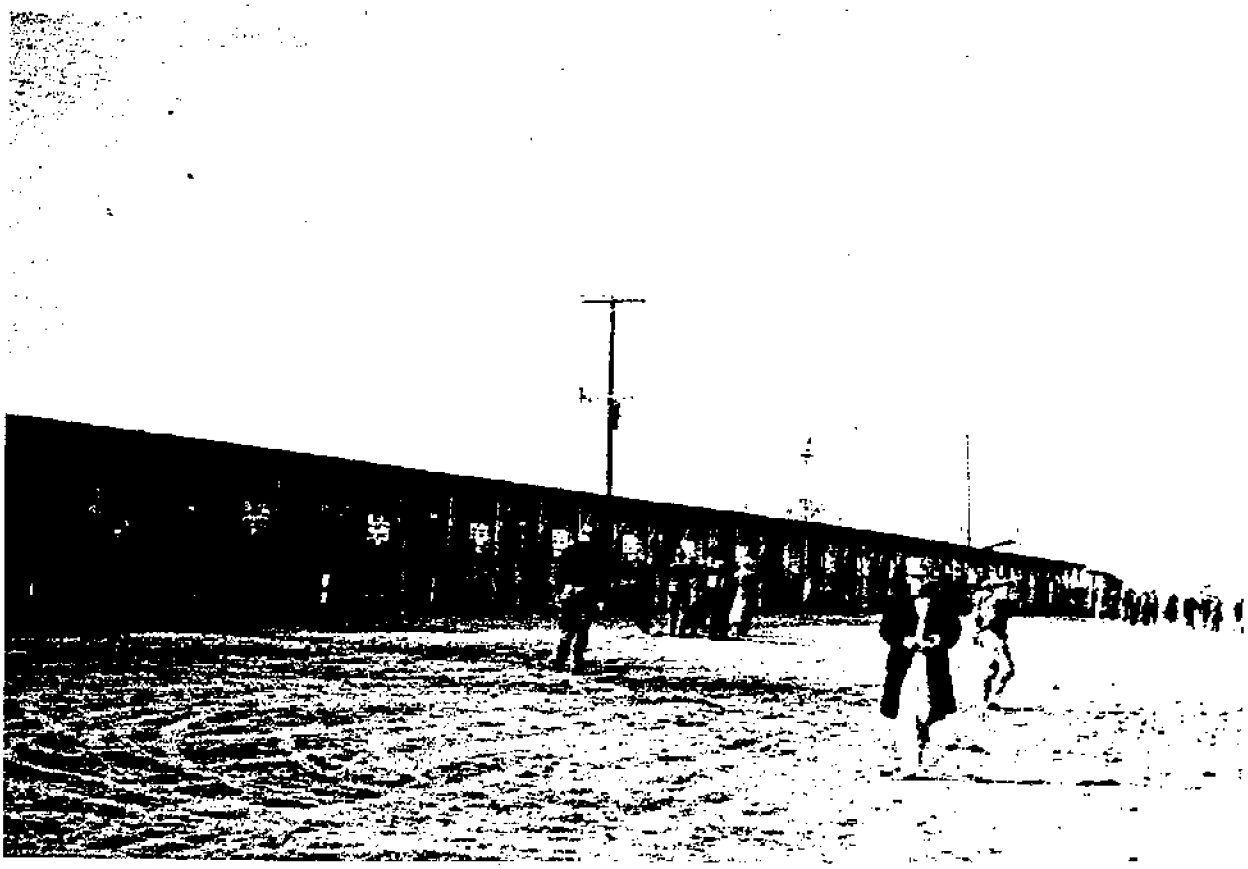
In a period of just over five months, from October 1940 to early March 1941, the state of Tennessee had assembled thousands of acres of land. Hardaway-Creighton Construction Company had erected about 1,300 buildings. Several thousand people had held well paying construction jobs. An undetermined, but large, amount of money had been pumped into the local economy and a significant number of spin-off businesses had been created to employ local residents. The economy of the area was jolted out of the depression. Wallace McMahon recalls that when his father went to work helping build Camp Forrest the family had kerosene lamps. When he was laid off at the end of the construction phase the family had electric lights and a radio. Myrtle Henley recalls that some residents feared for the safety of their daughters with an army base in the offing and they also feared their sons would get "war fever." Yet most people welcomed the economic opportunity the camp presented. In Tullahoma, Manchester, and other surrounding towns H.D. Marcrum recalls merchants ordered slickers, rubber boots, and

rain hats by the gross during construction period. These things, plus common tools such as hammers, saws, chisels, pliers, and screwdrivers, were in such demand that on arrival they were not even unpacked but were sold directly out of packing cases. Local bootleggers used to order 14 carat gold fountain pens by the dozen, apparently to use as bribes. It was even alleged by the Rev. Mr. John Ensor of Tullahoma's First Methodist Church, that Communists from the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle were attempting to disrupt work at the camp and cause riot in the community. The Dies Committee on Unamerican Activities was asked to look into the matter.

The presence of large numbers of construction workers and the immanent arrival of troops placed greater demands on public facilities than Tullahoma could meet. There was a severe water shortage in 1941 because of increased demand and it was anticipated that schools would be overcrowded. U.S. Senator Tom Stewart, from nearby Winchester, viewed these problems as a federal responsibility and introduced legislation to appropriate money to alleviate these conditions. As a result Tullahoma received federal aid for a new water system, new school buildings, and Coffee County got a new health department building. There would also be aid for the high school and Coffee County would get a new Health Department building. A public housing facility for 500 people was begun in Tullahoma on Cedar Lane in the area now occupied by the D.W. Wilson Community Center. About 20,000 rental units had been created in the area, excluding hotels and boarding houses. Among these was a four unit building erected by pharmacist L.E. Taylor on Grundy Street. The building serves today as an annexe to the First Presbyterian Church. Tullahoma officials estimated 98% of the houses in town had boarders, some housing as many as 40 persons. This demand for housing quickly led the Office of Price

Administration (OPA) to designate Coffee and surrounding counties a "war activity center." This meant price controls could be established and a Rent Director was appointed for Tullahoma in March 1942.

These changes transformed the sleepy little southern town. Tullahoma was sleepy no more. Camp Forrest had arrived.



Entrance to work area during construction

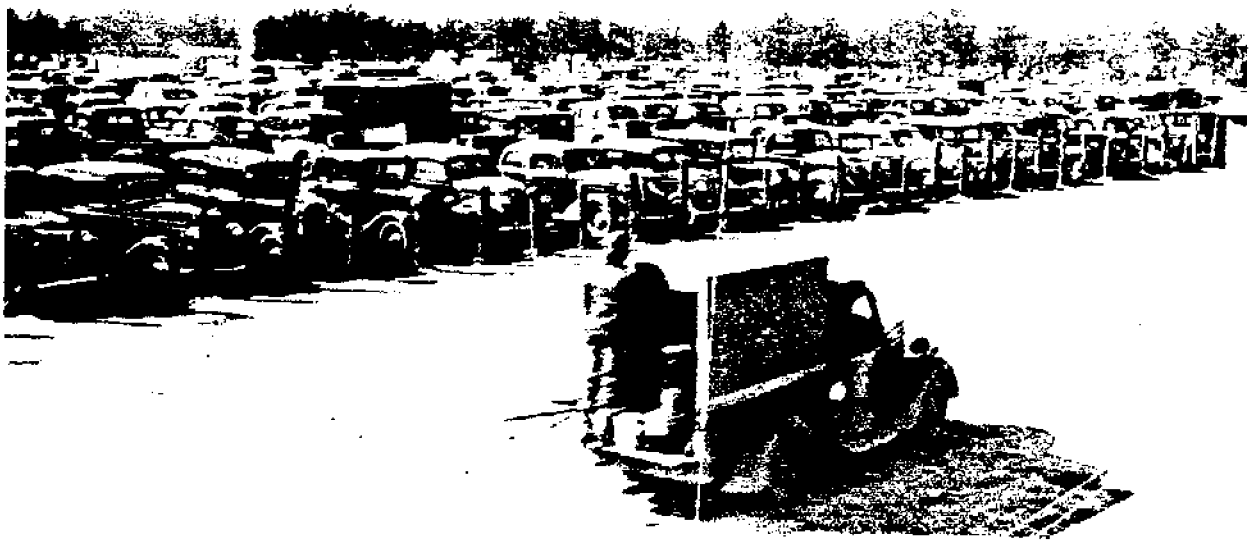
of Camp Forrest

A time keeper during construction

of Camp Forrest

Time Keeper

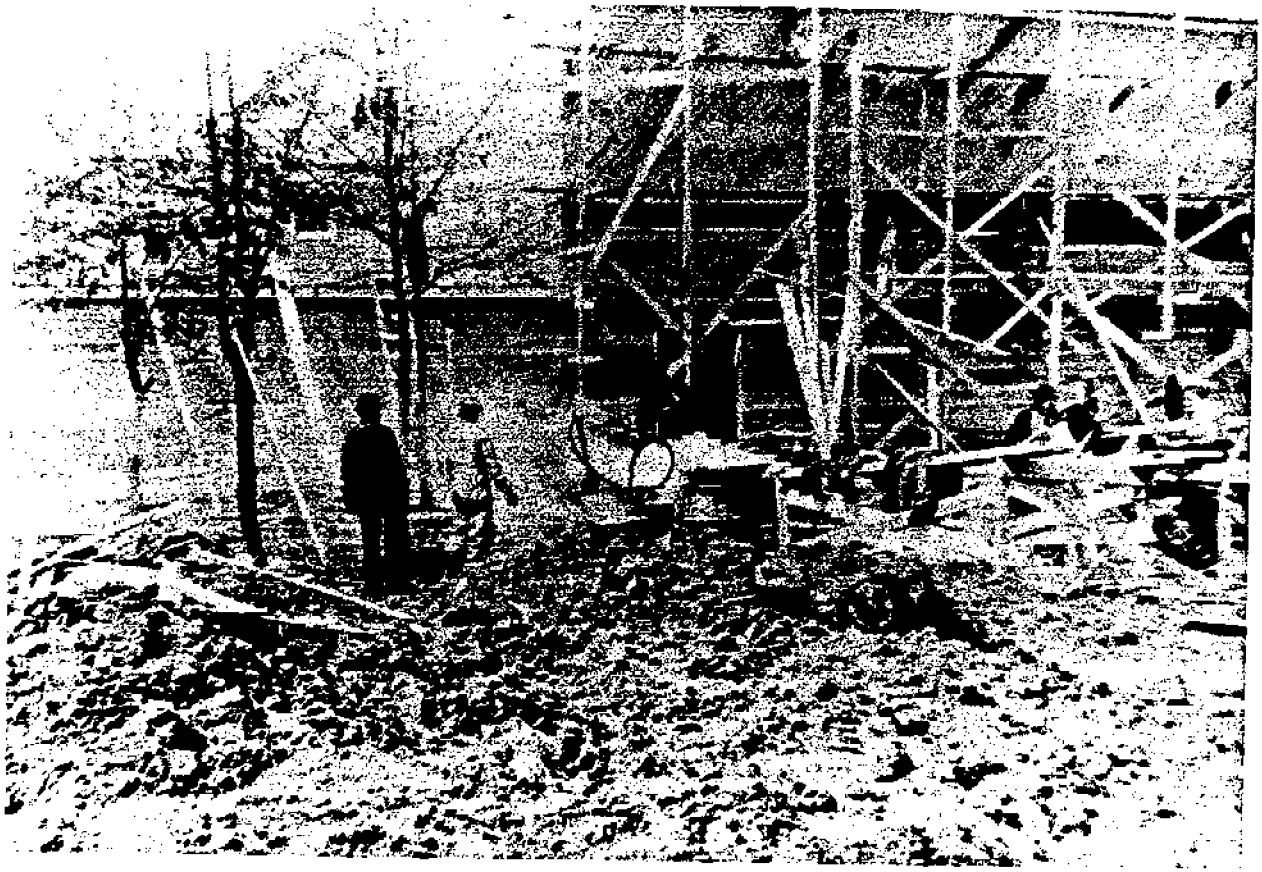
Supervisors, Construction of Camp Forrest



Parking lot during construction phase

Edward Delk, construction worker and driver,

in front of Camp vehicles



Working in a sea of mud.

Sports Arena is the building going up.

Barracks going up

Some construction workers

Infirmary used during construction

Trains At All Hours

As has been pointed out, the railroad created Tullahoma in the 1850's. Now the railroad was to transform the town. As a significant stop on the main line of the NC and St. L. the town was accustomed to the regular, scheduled arrival and passage of trains. But in March, 1940, as one resident recalls, "we began to have trains at all hours." This would continue until the end of 1945.

The Burke-Wadsworth Bill establishing the nation's first peacetime draft and the accompanying executive order calling out selected units of the National Guard for training were ineffective without induction facilities and training bases. This explains why the construction of Camp Forrest was done on such a rush basis. Now that the Camp was ready for use there were units waiting to occupy it.

The first major units to occupy Camp Forrest were the 75th Field Artillery Brigade composed of the 168th, 181st, and 191st Field Artillery Battalions. The 168th was a National Guard unit from Colorado while the other two were Guard units from Tennessee. The infantry component of the Camp was supplied by the 33nd Division, an Illinois National Guard unit. The 107th Cavalry, horse mounted, of the Ohio National guard, also came to the Camp. The ghost of Bedford Forrest must have given a chuckle at the presence of this unit.

The 75th Field Artillery Brigade was a new unit. It had been called into being on February 24, 1941, by redesignating some horse mounted National Guard Cavalry units as artillery. Although the Brigade was supposed to be equipped with 155 millimeter howitzers, both tractor and truck drawn, none of the units had guns and only a few of its officers had attended even the preliminary training schools for artillery officers. However, the Brigade was

designated Corps Artillery for the VII Corps with command going to Brigadier General Raymond A. Yenter, formerly of the 24th Cavalry Division. The official history of the unit says "The regiments began to arrive at Camp Forrest about March 3rd which was a newly constructed camp and was a veritable sea of mud. It was necessary to build duck-boards running from the roads to the barracks to allow the men and officers to enter without sinking calf-deep in soft, oozing, yellow mud."

At the end of 1940 the 33rd Infantry Division had also been reorganized. It was to be commanded by a Major General and was to be composed of two brigades each brigade having two regiments. A field artillery brigade would be attached as would be a regiment of combat engineers, a medical regiment, a quartermaster regiment, and a special detachment of military police, signal company, headquarters company, ordinance company, an aviation squadron for scouting, an anti-aircraft regiment, two squadrons of cavalry, and an understrength regiment of "colored" infantry.

The official history of the 33rd notes that the unit was inducted into federal service on March 5, 1941, "with a strength of 11,000 officers and men . . . The Division moved in early March 1941 to Camp Forrest, Tennessee which had been newly constructed for the housing of troops."

During the spring and summer of 1941 all the units at Camp Forrest received recruits from their home states as well as "selectees," as those brought in by the draft laws were called.

Major General Samuel T. Lawton was commander of the 33rd and all attached troops.

Although the organization chart of the 33rd Division called for an understrength Negro regiment to be a part of the unit and although the architect engineer's map of the camp labels

one area "colored" there is no evidence such a unit came to Camp Forrest at that time. The pictorial history of the Division covering 1941-41 has no African Americans and no interviewee at the Camp during that time recalls any African American soldiers. Because the United States Army was segregated any African American soldier would have been in an all-black unit. No member of such a unit has responded to inquiries made in the course of research for this history.

For some of the troops their arrival at Camp Forrest proved to be an anti-climax. Willy Isom had enlisted in the National Guard, Battery B of the 191st Field Artillery in Shelbyville, Tennessee, on April 15, 1940. He went to summer training camp that year at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and received some instruction as an artillery man. Because his unit was understrength Isom was asked to recruit in his home community of Haley, a rural area near Normandy, Tennessee. The incentive was that, when mobilized, his unit had been assured they would be sent to Florida for training. On Mobilization Day, he recalls, there was a big parade in Shelbyville and many tearful farewells were said as the unit prepared to leave for one year in Florida. The troops boarded the train and it moved off slowly down the branch line to Wartrace where they switched to the main line. Their train picked up speed for a few miles but suddenly slowed and pulled on to a siding. The men detrained to find themselves at Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, less than twenty miles from home. After completing the necessary work of unloading company and personal material several of the unit's members took a passenger train home for the night and then commuted to the camp daily.

Mike Nichols of Nashville had been a member of the Nation Guard's 109th Cavalry for some years. In February 1941 this unit was reclassified as part of the 181st Field Artillery. As an artillery unit they were mobilized at the Gerst Racing Stables at Craighead Avenue in

Nashville for the trip to Camp Forrest. This was somewhat familiar territory for Nichols as he had spent several training sessions at Camp Peay in the decade of the 1930's. Nichols was sent ahead of the rest of his unit as part of an advance party to prepare the barracks they would occupy. On his first night in camp he slept on the floor because there were no cots in the barracks. The battery mess hall was only piles of lumber when he arrived but on his second day a "swarm" of workers showed up and erected the building in a single day. It was wired and plumbed the second.

The 181st and 191st Field Artillery Battalions were the first to reach the camp because they were Tennessee National Guard units. The headquarters of these units were Chattanooga and Nashville, respectively, though their constituent batteries were scattered all over Middle and East Tennessee. Indeed, some of these men were employed in building the camp. They came to work one day, went home and put on uniforms to return next day as a soldier stationed at the base they had helped build. Norman Damron was typical of many of these men. Knowing he was facing the draft he joined the 191st Field Artillery on a Thursday. The following Monday he was mobilized. He knew this unit would be sent to Camp Forrest so, as a Tullahoma resident, he would have the opportunity to serve with friends and neighbors while coming home every free weekend if not on most week nights.

The experience of Bob Smith was somewhat different. He had lied about his age to gain admission to the 129th Infantry Regiment of the 33rd Infantry Division. He was sixteen at the time and was attracted by the promise of receiving two pairs of shoes on enlistment. The economy of his home town, Ottawa, Illinois, was so poor he didn't think he would ever own two pair of shoes otherwise. When the 33rd Division was mobilized he was given a few days to get

his affairs in order and then he joined his company, C Company, 129th Infantry, on a train bound for Camp Forrest. He recalls that it took about a week to cover the four hundred ninety miles from Illinois to Tullahoma.

Earl Reeder was also in C Company of the 129th Infantry. He was a mess cook and was promoted to mess sergeant soon after arriving at Camp Forrest. He had attended the Cook's School of the Illinois National Guard. Reeder also recalls the slow trip from Illinois to Tennessee and the difficulty of feeding the troops under the make-shift conditions of train travel.

By contrast, A.D. Bowman was working as a laborer at the Camp for Hardaway-Creighton Construction Company. When he heard his unit, Headquarters Battery, 181st Field Artillery, had been mobilized he sent his commander word he would be at the camp working when the unit arrived.

For many of these first arrivals the economic adjustment to Army life was a major shock. For example, A.H. Tipps was working at Camp Forrest as an apprentice carpenter at $1.00 an hour. Over a weekend his unit, A Battery, 191st Field Artillery, was mobilized. When he returned to Camp Forrest on Monday he was earning $21.00 a month. His disgusting first duty was to stand guard at the office where the civilian workers got paid.

W.C. McAllister began his interview by noting it was fifty-two years to the day since his arrival at Camp Forrest, March 11, 1941, to March 11, 1993. As a member of the Illinois National Guard who had never had much chance of travel, like most of the men in his unit, McAllister was expecting to find himself in a situation like "Dogpatch" in Al Capps "Li'l Abner" comic strip. Instead he found himself pleasantly surprised. Of course, he noted, the local people seemed just about as interested in the strange ways of the Illinois soldiers.

Roy H. Sullivan came to Camp Forrest with the 181st Field Artillery. This unit, like the 191st, had been a horse mounted cavalry unit until 1940. Sullivan was a school teacher and had no knowledge of artillery at all even though he was a second Lieutenant and nominally in command of a gun section.

By train and by road the troops flowed in to Camp Forrest. From as far away as Chicago and Colorado and from as nearby as across town, by the thousands they came. The 33rd Division was soon at a strength of 19,000 and the 75th Field Artillery Brigade at about 3,000. Various other contingents, medical, service, and Base contingent, soon brought troop strength to about 25,000 men.

One universal memory of those early arrivals was of the mud. Parts of the camp area were, and are, marshy. The severe winter of 1940-41 had softened the ground and constructing buildings had turned the ground to mush. Without exception people who were in the original garrison have described the mud as being shoe-top deep, knee deep, or hip-deep, apparently depending on location and weather conditions.

To combat these conditions it was found necessary to build duck-walks. A huge pile of scrap lumber had been left by the Hardaway-Creighton Company at the site of their saw shed. This pile was raided for suitable scrap to construct miles of board sidewalks. Every unit in camp participated in this activity with each barracks being responsible for "bridging" its own route to the company street.

The Company streets also had to be constructed. Robert Crauthamel was sent to Camp Forrest with the 609th Engineer Company at this time. His job was helping operate a rock crusher to produce gravel for this project. Crauthamel remembers two men in his unit being

killed at this time; one by driving a bull-dozer over the edge of the quarry and another who was struck by lightening. Hardaway-Creighton had put in the basic road net but the area was studded with tree stumps. Anyone who committed minor infractions of discipline was more likely to find themselves assigned to grub stumps than to go on K.P.

Bob Smith recalls his first duty at Camp Forrest was to help nail the siding on the barracks occupied by his company. The barracks Smith worked on was typical of those constructed at Camp Forrest and numerous other mobilization bases. The barracks were wood with a tar paper roof. In many cases the walls were not finished inside and consisted only of the outside weather-boarding with the studs exposed inside. All Camp Forrest barracks were two story. Inside the main room were lines of cots with the heads to the walls. Footlockers sat at the foot of each cot and an open wardrobe stood between each bed to provide a spot for hanging clothes. The upstairs bunk area was served by a staircase and by an outside ladder to be used in case of fire. At one end of the downstairs room was a "day-room" which had finished inside walls and which might contain chairs, tables for magazines, and some basic recreational equipment. This area had frosted glass light fixtures while the rest of the barracks had porcelain recepticals for light bulbs. There was a small, private room for platoon sergeants. Wash basins for shaving and hand washing were in each barracks while latrines were nearby. Showers were at a central location. Heat was provided by hot water radiators with a boiler house located between each two barracks. This boiler, coal fired, also provided hot water for the barracks. A two barrack unit housed one company.

Mile Nichols recalls that about four hours a day was given over to classes and training while as many hours as a person could stand was given over to construction of obstacle courses, grubbing stumps, building duck-boards, levelling streets, and building a parade ground.

For a time conditions at the camp were so raw that radio news commentator Walter Winchel, after visiting Camp Forrest, called it, "America's number one hell hole."

Representative Bender of Ohio charged that Camp Forrest soldiers were suffering unnecessarily from sore throats caused by "fine red dust." Camp Commander General W.T. Lawton replied that the sore throats were associated with wet weather which was ending, and the number of cases among nearly 50,000 men was down from 835 to 167, and that when dust had been seen at the camp the dust was white.

But the raw, cold, wet March did give way to more normal Tennessee spring weather. The ground dried, shrubs and flowers were planted, the lawns were seeded, and the Camp came to look "Army clean!" Work was tempered by novelty. On April 4, 1941, the Columbia Broadcasting System presented a live show from Camp Forrest. Participating were Chief of Staff General George Marshall, General Benjamin Lear of Second Army Command, and General W.T. Lawton, Camp Commander at Camp Forrest. A few weeks later the Chattanooga Civic Chorus gave a free concert to which the general public was invited at theater number one at the camp. The Fisk Jubilee Singers gave a concert to solicit donations to a find to purchase sports equipment for Negro soldiers at the post. And, in what is remembered as a gesture typical of many communities and churches in the area, the Summitville Community invited one hundred seven soldiers to worship at churches in their community and then held a community picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Roberts. Ralph Jackson recalls the Civil War was refought

almost every night. The changed conditions were introduced to those most concerned, the wives, mothers, and girl-friends, on Mother's Day 1941. A special invitation was issued by the governor of Tennessee through the governor of Illinois, to all mother's and wives to visit the state. General Samuel Lawton, 33rd Division Commander, extended the invitation to cover the camp and the city of Tullahoma urged all citizens to open their homes to the hordes of visitors expected. Special trains brought 3,000 women for the occasion. The barracks and mess halls were open for their inspection, drills, demonstrations, and parades were held, families worshipped together in the makeshift churches and the noon meal was served to soldiers and visitors alike in the mess halls. Sunday was climaxed with a mass retreat formation. Harry Paney recalls one of his squad mates who simply would not take a bath regularly or keep himself clean. When the squad found out the soldier's mother was coming they got a pair of his socks. On Mother's Day they marched out in front of the guests and forced him to bury the socks. This so embarrassed the soldier he kept clean after that.

Then it was down to work.

In early May the local papers noted that artillery firing was to begin on the Motlow range. Beginning on April 28 traffic on the Lynchburg road would be detoured from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. six days a week. Training had not been at a standstill but it had been generally agreed at the command level that no effective training could go on until the men had been gotten out of the mud. Now that the camp was in good condition and the weather had changed the training program would go forward full blast. The problem was lack of material.

A typical day would begin with Reveille at 6:00 a.m. This was followed by roll call and breakfast. Then the barracks and personal gear were cleaned up and, about 8:00 training began.

At some time between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. troops went to lunch and had a short break. Then training resumed until 5:00 p.m. After that came supper and, perhaps free time, although training exercises could continue until late in the night. Retreat would be sounded at sundown and the post flag lowered. Taps was sounded at 10:00 p.m.

Reveille was played, in good weather by the full band of each Regiment or Battery. The band would assemble for inspection 15 minutes before Reveille, march through the area of their unit, and then dismiss. In inclement weather Reveille was sounded by the unit bugler. Retreat and Taps were sounded by a bugler on all occasions. The headquarters company bugler would begin to sound Taps with the bugler of each unit taking up the call in turn as the sound of the first notes reached their area.

Tom Jennings was a member of the 191st Field Artillery Band. They were working hard to become a military band since most of the musicians had only played in dance bands. One band member pointed out that after playing Reveille the band members usually went back to bed. This person suggested that instead of dressing and then undressing the band roll up their pajamas and wear their long overcoats. Their boots reached the bottoms of the overcoat. This would help the band get back to bed faster. This plan worked well for several days. However, on the coldest day of the year a Colonel Brown happened to be watching the band. Brown was a retired Marine officer who had joined the National Guard and who placed a great deal of stress on doing things "by the book."

As Brown watched the band march by someone's pajama leg came unrolled and came into view below their overcoat. Brown halted the band, ordered overcoats removed, and kept the

band at attention in freezing weather for half an hour. Jennings recalls "we turned purple and we never tried that again."

Actually, there was a shortage of buglers and the 191st started a school to train them. Each regiment needed fourteen buglers. Each man would have to memorize and be able to play 21 routine duty calls and 15 special maneuver calls. Of course, all soldiers were supposed to recognize and to respond to these also.

Harold Martin came to Camp Forrest with one of the former Tennessee National Guard units mobilized for Federal service. His unit had no artillery equipment and no weapons of any kind other than the 1911 model .45 pistol. In June they were issued 1903 model Springfield rifles but still had no cannons. The artillery still had not arrived when he transferred to the Motorcycle Dispatch Courier service.

A.J. Townsend recalls that very few of the officers at Camp Forrest had any formal military training. The men were largely dressed in World War One uniforms with "wash basin" helmets and canvas leggings. Commands were issued from World War One training manuals. Even when a few rifles were issued there were not enough to go around so a number of men learned the manual of arms using sticks.

Norman Damron, of the 191st Field Artillery, recalls that of the limited number of field pieces available most were World War One 75 millimeter pieces of French manufacture. These had wooden wheels and were horse drawn.

Bob Smith recalls that the entire 33rd Division was armed with the 1903 Springfield while sidearms were a mixture of .38 and .45 revolvers and .45 automatics. He also notes that some people drilled with sticks. Smith was incurable left-handed and could not master shooting with

his right hand. This apparent problem made him an ideal rifle instructor, however, since in the prone or kneeling positions he could both see and demonstrate proper technique for a right handed shooter. According to Smith it was well into 1942 before the M-1 rifle became the standard issue shoulder arm. The first such rifles were issued in October 1941.

John Jacobs tells of Artillery training. For a long time there were no guns. In order to learn the proper stations around the piece a 2x4 was placed across a saw-horse and the men taught to simulate loading and firing. Later his battery received a 75 millimeter gun and only much later a 155 howitzer. This account is substantiated by Sam Erwin, Norman Damron, Walter Elliott, and several other independent interviewees.

Although these descriptions strike a contemporary as being like the mobilization of men for the Civil War instead of for a Twentieth Century conflict it is an accurate picture of the U.S. Military status in 1940. Mechanization was a concept just beginning to make itself felt. Indeed, one of the first fatalities at Camp Forrest was the death of William A. Skinner, age 24, who died as a result of being kicked by a horse on June 13, 1941.

It was also the case that the supply service had to learn how to do its job. In the early days of Camp Forrest there was one memorable occasion on which breakfast was one piece of toast, two steamed prunes, and a cup of black coffee.

Earl Reeder remembered marching out to the rifle range. Although the map of Camp Forrest shows several machine gun and rifle ranges on the base proper the Army had leased 4,000 acres of land from the Motlow family and had the State of Tennessee to acquire some other land as described earlier. There were at least two ranges on this property in 1940. Reeder recalls marching across Tullahoma and out the Cumberland Springs Road almost to Cumberland

Springs Lake. The rifle range was on the right of this road. This range was still in use in 1944 when Joseph Getsay was Range Master. At that time German POW's were used to patch holes in targets after firing

On Camp Forrest proper was a range three miles wide and two miles deep for use by machine guns, rifles, and pistols. On the three square miles of the Cumberland Springs range, or Motlow range, were two combat ranges, towed targets, pistols, rifles, and machine guns. 60 millimeter, 81 millimeter mortars were also fired there as were 37 millimeter anti-tank guns.

Bob Smith also used the Cumberland Springs area but more for route marches. His memory is of making the march out to the Springs in full field gear, getting a few minutes to swim, and then marching back.

Ed Kavanaugh had to receive some training on when to turn a blind eye. He was a member of the Regimental Band of the 191st Field Artillery and was a little unsure of some of the finer points of military behavior. While on guard duty he had been given orders to stop any vehicle driving over 30 miles per hour and to arrest all occupants. When a vehicle approached going faster than the prescribed speed Kavanaugh and his companion, Buster Gunn, flagged it down and announced all it's riders were under arrest. When the passengers got out they found they had arrested the commander of the 33nd Division, General W.T. Lawton, and two colonels. They were to learn that dedication to duty needed to be tempered by judicious application of regulations.

For thirteen weeks the process of basic infantry training continued. A.J. Townsend remembers that the day began at 6:30 a.m. with Reveille and morning formation. After breakfast the barracks were cleaned and men went to the training assignment posted on the

barracks bulletin boards. For those like Townsend this included a lot of hours in school since he was training as a communications specialist and artillery forward observer. The usual physical training was also included with time spent on obstacle courses; crawling under barbed wire entanglements; learning to fire, field strip, clean, and reassemble a variety of infantry weapons; throwing grenades in grenade galleries; target practice on the rifle ranges at ranges up to 1,000 yards; and marches. Charles Gallagher recalls that when he was fitted for shoes at Camp Forrest he was handed two buckets of sand weighing about thirty-five pounds each and his feet were measured while he was holding this load. There were trails and dirt roads running all over the acreage of Camp Forrest proper and numerous county roads were also utilized, especially the routes to Cumberland Springs, as has been described.

During the training process Captain Lowell Bean of the 75th Anti-Tank Battalion became disgusted with the fact that his unit could score only about 20% hits on stationary targets and even lower on moving ones. The problem seemed to be the gun sight being used. Although expensive, costing several hundred dollars, it allowed only one person to aim and that one person had to handle both horizontal and vertical corrections. One of Bean's friends recalled using a microscope in a college class where two people could look at the same object at once. Working from this suggestion Bean used common gas pipe and dime-store mirrors to produce a dual gun sight which allowed one person to make horizontal corrections and another vertical one. With this device, costing about $6.00, Bean's unit increased their accuracy to 80% on moving targets and more on stationary ones.

For others the training period was somewhat different. These people had special skills which the Army needed but in many cases these skills were discovered slowly. Charles Armstrong was one of these people.

Armstrong had been taught to cook by his mother who used a wood burning stove. When his artillery unit arrived at Camp Forrest they found the mess halls equipped with coal burning stoves. The battery cook was not very good at his job and requested a transfer to a gun section. In the reorganization Armstrong found himself, as a teen-ager, the Chief Cook although under another mess sergeant. Because of his ability as a cook he was sent to the Cooks and Bakers School which was a permanent part of the Camp Forrest post operations. This school was run by Regular Army non-commissioned officers. One day, during a rather strict "old Army" presentation a red convertible drew up outside the classroom, the horn blew loud and long, and the female occupant of the car yelled "I love little Willie, I do, I do!" The Sergeant leading the class blushed, a rarity for a Regular Army non-coms, and dismissed the class.

On one occasion on a field exercise the mess sergeant got drunk. Armstrong helped the man climb atop the canvas cover of a truck thinking he would be out of sight while he slept off his drink. The battery commander, however, came over a hill and saw the drunken man on top of the truck. After using language common to such occasions the offender was reduced in rank. The Captain then asked Armstrong if he could handle the kitchen and Armstrong replied, "I reckon so. I've been running it ever since we got to Camp Forrest."

Clearly, discipline had not yet been completely established among these citizen soldiers.

Armstrong recounts another such experience and the way perceptive officers approached the problem. Colonel Ralph Hospital was brigade commander of the 75the Field Artillery. On

one occasion Armstrong was taking a group of newly assigned cooks to the gas mask course to complete a phase of their training. The group in his charge strolled up to the gas tent and mulled around until called inside. While they were undergoing the gas mask drill inside Colonel Hospital approached Armstrong.

"Are you supposed to be in charge of these men?"

"Yes, Sir, Colonel."

"Come back here. I want to show you something."

The two went behind the gas tent where they were completely out of sight.

"Sergeant, you salute like this," demonstrating, "and when you take a group somewhere you march, don't stroll."

All this was delivered without the Colonel ever raising his voice above a normal speaking level. In 1943 Armstrong, then a Captain, reported to his new 91st Division Commander in Italy and found himself again facing Hospital, then a Major General. Hospital remembered the Camp Forrest incident and reminded Armstrong of it.

This incident seems to be typical of many training problems faced at Camp Forrest at this period. Much of the world was at war but the United States was not. Our burgeoning Armed Forces consisted of civilians temporarily in uniform. The common attitude seems to have been, "put in your year with as little trouble as possible and get out so you can get on with your life." The military training was a necessary evil to be tolerated but not to be taken too seriously. After all, if infantry drilled with sticks and artillery with saw horses and logs the whole situations seemed something of a farce.

But since jobs were scarce in civilian life the Army offered certain advantages. Food was plentiful and meals were served regularly. One of the comments made over and over by men who were in the 33rd Infantry and the 75th Field Artillery was that the food at Camp Forrest was good. Many of these men were coming from families pinched by the depression when a meal had frequently been a pot of beans and a pan of cornbread, but after some initial problems with supply the food served at Camp Forrest seems to have achieved high standards. Dr. Ralph Rosenfeld came to Camp Forrest with the 300th Medical Detachment, also called the "Vanderbilt Unit" since so many of its doctors and nurses were from that University. From the perspective of a professional man the food was "excellent in quantity and quality if not always so in preparation."

Equipment was in short supply and discipline was imperfect, especially since officers and non-commissioned officers were less than serious. The food was good and regular week-end passes kept life from becoming too tedious. Above all, the situation was only for one year. America moved languidly toward war in 1941.

During the summer of 1941 the troops at Camp Forrest were sent to Louisiana and Arkansas on maneuvers. These war games would bring to the attention of General George Marshall a field grade officer named Dwight Eisenhower.

While most of the Camp Forrest troops were in Louisiana and Arkansas other soldiers took their place in Tennessee to hold the first large scale operations in what would eventually come to be called the Tennessee Maneuvers. The most famous soldier associated with this event was General George Patton, commander of the Second Armored Division.

The purpose of these maneuvers was to test both offensive and defensive capabilities of the Army in situations of mechanized war. Secretary of State Henry Stimson and Chief of Staff, General George Marshall visited the site. In a display of offensive capacity Patton's 2nd Armored and the 5th Infantry Division "captured" Tullahoma after less than eight hours of "fighting" although 48 hours had been allotted for this exercise.

Manchester served as headquarters for one of the "Armies" in the Tennessee Maneuvers but the role of Camp Forrest was that of logistics and supply. The base hospital served as the treatment point for those who became ill or who were injured but the 1941 maneuvers were not a major event in the history of the installation.

It was during the period of the maneuvers that Cleveland Shannon, identified in the local papers as "a colored soldier at Camp Forrest," was arrested for murder. He was accused of shooting Jessie Harris at a segregated night club. A few weeks later Shannon was acquitted of the murder charge in the county Circuit Court after producing witnesses that said Shannon was not at the scene of the murder.

This is one of a few tantalizing mentions of African-American troops at Camp Forrest but accurate information concerning them is conspicuous by its absence.

Troops returning to Camp Forrest after the 1941 maneuvers did so with a certain sense of pride and accomplishment. During the two months of the war games Bob Smith recalls his unit of the 33rd Division marched 590 miles on foot. On one occasion they marched through an Arkansas town and went eight miles beyond it. They were then given passes so he and others walked eight miles back to town and eight miles back to camp. Not only were these troops toughened by exercise and life in the field, their spirits were high. Their year was almost up

and neither then nor later would all their time have been spent working. Even in circumstances of rigorous training time was made available for recreation and religious pursuits. On Camp Forrest itself was constructed a large sports arena which could also be used for plays, concerts, and shows. When the United Service Organization (USO) tours began a number of well known entertainers would appear at Camp Forrest. Adjacent to this facility was the post library containing eight thousand volumes under the supervision of Miss Martha LaGrone, camp librarian. There were four motion picture theaters with each having two shows nightly and a matinee on Sunday. There were thirty-eight post exchanges open from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekdays; 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

Spiritual needs were addressed by twelve chapels with four chaplains permanently attached to the base and other chaplains serving with the units training at Camp Forrest. In 1941 over five hundred Jewish servicemen celebrated Rosh Hosannah at the Camp. The main chapel was on Block 6, F Street. These chapels had been built at a cost of $21,220.00 each. They were constructed so all three major faiths, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish, could use them. The chapel altars were set on rails and could be slid into a recess in the back wall so as to become part of the paneling. Each building had a balcony at the rear on which was placed an organ. Each building was designed to seat 360 worshippers.

Because the camp was such a sprawling place busses and taxis were operated on the base. Within the camp bus fare was $0.10 and taxis could charge $0.25. The same fares were charged from Gate #1 to Tullahoma.

In Tullahoma itself were five USO clubs which had been constructed at a cost of over $100,000.00 These clubs were located on west Grundy Street near the current city hall, on South Jackson, the YMCA-USO in the Couch Building, and the "colored USO" on South Jackson Street at the current site of the Davidson Academy Community Center. Churches also operated service centers. These included the First Baptist Church, St. Barnabas Episcopal, the Lutheran Church, First Methodist, and First Presbyterian recreation room and hospitality house.

A large number of those interviewed who trained at Camp Forrest recall the townspeople to have been friendly, co-operative, and willing to extend hospitality to soldiers. Servicemen visiting local churches for Sunday services were often invited home with townspeople for Sunday dinner. Only a few of the interviewees recall a hostile reception.

W.C. McAllister recalls that a highlight of this peace time training was visits from families and girlfriends. Finding a place for them to stay was always a problem and McAllister recalls fondly the assistance given by Mrs. Womach of the Forrest Hotel in Manchester. Of course, this problem would grow more intense as larger and larger numbers of soldiers came to the camp. This must have been a problem for African American soldiers. Tullahoma, and the surrounding area had, and has, a small African American population so there would have been few rooms available in civilian homes. Camp Forrest was segregated, as was the entire U.S. Army. This meant guest housing on the base would be segregated and the pamphlet given to arriving troops, "This is Camp Forrest," notes there were 56 beds available in the guest house for white visitors and two smaller facilities for "colored visitors." Eventually the problem was partially addressed by erecting twelve tents with six cots in each to be used by soldier's wives.

Mrs. Ann McClain was the hostess at the Guest House where she was aided by Miss Cumi Campbell and Miss Gladys Addington. McClain had previously worked at the McCallie School in Chattanooga.

December 7. 1941, the day President Franklin Roosevelt said would "live in infamy," is etched in the memory of many of those who were at Camp Forrest. The sudden entry of the United States into the war automatically extended their terms of service and changed the attitude towards training. Suddenly things were very serious indeed.

Beryl Smith was in the 33rd Division at Camp Forrest. He says, "I was in the barracks when the news came over the radio of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The greatest majority of the unit were on weekend passes, and within a few hours of the announcement, all members had returned to their home base."

Martin Robinson, also of the 33rd Division, recalls he "worked at the motor pool at Camp Forrest the night of December 7th getting trucks assigned and ready to pull out the next day."

Norman Damron, of the 75th Field Artillery, was on a date with a young woman in Chattanooga. They were at the top of Monteagle Mountain on their way to Tullahoma when he heard the news of the attack on the car radio. He turned off the car radio because he thought there would be a call for all men to return to base and he saw no need to go. With no radio he would not hear the official order.

Bob Smith, 33rd Division, was in Nashville, just going up to his room in the Maxwell House Hotel on Church Street. Hearing the news on the lobby radio he immediately packed and set off for the train station to return to Tullahoma. He left Nashville at 1:30 p.m. and arrived at Camp Forrest at 11:30 p.m. Obviously the trains were jammed and the situation chaotic.

At the camp he was given thirty minutes to pack his barracks bag and was put on a truck. At day-light next morning he found himself at Nashville's municipal airport guarding the hangar. Later he guarded Norris Dam, railway trestles, and woolen mills in Knoxville. He feels this was basically a public relations move meant to impress on people that the nation was at war.

John Jacobs recalls he had only ten weeks to go on his term of enlistment when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He was actually discharged in 1945 after the war in the Pacific ended.

Bill Hoffert was one of the "selectees" who had been sent to Camp Forrest in the Spring of 1941 to bring the National Guard units to full strength. Because of his age he claimed the right of discharge under a piece of legislation called the "Overage Act." He was in charge of a motor pool warehouse at Camp Forrest and had just finished training his replacement and had been discharged when the Pearl Harbor attack came. As a member of the Enlisted Reserve he was ordered back to duty and returned to Camp Forrest by January 1942.

Joseph Clark recalls that on December 7, 1941, his anti-tank artillery battery had only two anti-tank guns. Fourteen months later they still had two.

Mike Nichols, Sr., was in charge of a group of men who were being discharged early because of age or because they had numerous dependents. This group had already turned in all equipment except bedding and were due to leave Camp Forrest for home on Monday, December 8. Instead, he and this group were sent into Tullahoma to round up men who were in town on passes. A few days later they shipped out to Camp Roberts, California.

Now the whole tenor of life on the base changed. There was a new seriousness, a new dedication to training. This was no longer mere time serving, mere learning the skills to keep

the officers out of your hair. Now the skills were means by which lives could be saved, there was a war to be won.

Camp Forrest had been designated an induction center for the state of Tennessee in November 1941. Now the first of what would eventually amount to more then 250,000 young men began to stream into the base for physical examinations, classification, and preliminary processing. The experiences of Paul Lee seem to have been typical.

Lee graduated from high school in Nashville in June 1942. When he received his draft notice he reported to the Selective Service Center in downtown Nashville on the day specified. When the group called for that day had assembled they walked to Union Station and took a train for Tullahoma. The trip which should have taken about ninety minutes took over five hours because their train kept getting sent onto sidings. His group arrived at Camp Forrest about 5:00 p.m. and had supper. They began processing by filling out papers and continued to about 9:00 p.m. when they were then sent to a barracks for the night. Beginning at 6:00 the next morning they finished physical exams. Those who passed were given lunch and were then sworn in. Lee's group was given a pass back to their homes for seven days and were then to report to Fort Oglethorpe, just outside Chattanooga, for assignment to basic training bases.

Virgil Harms recalls he spent four days at Camp Forrest as an inductee. During this time he volunteered for the Air Force and was told, face-to-face, by General Benjamin Lear of Second Army Command that he was making a big mistake.

Stanley Zeller was drafted in Nashville and came to Camp Forrest for induction on January 9, 1943. He came by bus. "It was very cold and all I saw of the camp was the inside

of one building where we had physicals and received shots. It was dark when we left to go back to Nashville."

Newell Halfacre came to Camp Forrest for induction on January 10, 1943. The height limit was supposed to be 5 feet, 2 inches. Halfacre was only five one but he was accepted for service anyway. The night he was sworn in he was sent to a mess hall to scrub floors. He was given a lye water solution so strong his shoes curled up at the toes.

Some found induction a comedy of errors which they laughed about all the way back to civilian life. Buford Greenwald came to Camp Forrest in 1942 to be inducted. He describes himself as a shy person who had never been away from home. On the morning of his physical examination he was the last person to get into the bathroom and was left behind when the group left to take the exam. Being confused about where to go, he waited in the barracks for someone to come get him. When a messenger did arrive he was told to hurry so he ran a half-mile to the examination building. The run left him with an elevated pulse rate so he was retained for examination the next day.

The second day Greenwald overslept because there was no organized group in his barracks. Again he had to run and again he had an elevated pulse rate. At this point he was sent home classified 4-F. These two days are the sum total of his Camp Forrest experience and his Army career.

Dr. Louis Rosenfeld had came to Camp Forrest with the 300the Medical unit. While awaiting overseas assignment the doctors of this unit were assigned to work in the Induction Center. The doctors found this a boring, assembly-line type of medical practice. The inductees stripped and passed slowly down the line of doctors who tested blood pressure, pulse,

temperature, lungs, and examined abdomen, ears, genitals, feet, etc. The doctors found a number of the men were acutely embarrassed to be nude before so large a number of persons and some actually impeded the examination by trying to keep their hands firmly clasped over their genitals. Dr. Rosenfeld also recalls he saw a lot of dirty feet.

For most of the inductees, however, induction at Camp Forrest was the first step into the mysterious world of the military, a step which would lead many of them into the four corners of the globe; a step from which many of them would not return.

The entry into the war also touched off a series of command changes. Many of the general officers and field grade officers who had come to Camp Forrest with their National Guard units were too advanced in years to command active units during war. Others were "political officers" who owed their positions to political contacts rather than to merit. These officers were noted by the War Department and marked for replacement. In some cases this was done diplomatically, by transfer to an administrative job which was suitable for the persons stamina or ability. In other cases, age made retirement from the service the only option.

Most of the officers involved seem to have been genuinely motivated by "good of the service" considerations and so took their changed status in good graces. Colonel Harry S. Berry, commander of the 191st Field Artillery was one of these. Berry had graduated from West Point in 1904 and had been the youngest combat Colonel in the U.S. forces during World War I where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. During the years between the World Wars he was in business and public service although remaining active in the Reserve and National Guard. During the Depression Berry became Chief Administrator for WPA in Tennessee and was serving in this capacity when his National Guard unit was mobilized. Upon

learning he would be retired from the service in 1942 Colonel Berry said to a fellow officer in similar circumstances, "well, they are going to send us home to take care of the women and children. You can take care of the children."

The 33rd Division was caught up in these command changes. General Samuel Lawton was succeeded by Major General Frank C. Makin with Lawton going to a staff post in Washington on April 29, 1942. Makin filled this post only three months before being killed in the crash of an airplane taking him to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he was to inspect the divisional artillery. General John Millikin, a former cavalryman, assumed command of the 33rd and led it to the Pacific Coast.

The command changes usually resulted in younger officers with a regular army background being promoted. As such, the command changes generally increased the efficiency of the unit and enhanced the changes necessary to enter combat.

An important part of this command change was to reorganized the infantry divisions from the old "square" units consisting of two infantry and two light field artillery units to the modern "triangular" divisions. This involved reassigning many ancillary units and support units while others were reclassified and retrained for completely new jobs. This process also meant a significant number of officers and men would become available to serve as "cadres" to form and train units being formed from new draftees.

The 33rd Division and the 75th Field Artillery Brigade both spun off numerous groups of cadres. The 33rd Division especially was altered by the reorganization process. Those units which remained together in the reorganized division left Camp Forrest on January 17, 1942, for

service in the Pacific Theater. The story of these units is told in Orchids in the Mud by Robert Muehrabe, published by J.S. Printing Company of Chicago in 1985.

This cadre process brought an important change to Camp Forrest. As the 33nd Division prepared to leave for its next assignments cadres from the 8th, 29th, and 44th Divisions began to arrive at Camp Forrest to assist in the reactivation of the 80th Division. The 80th, or Blue Ridge Division, had been formed for service during the First World War. It had been deactivated before 1920 but was now to be reformed. As had been the case in 1917 most of its personnel would come from the eastern United States from the states through which ran the Appalachian, or Blue Ridge, mountains hence the division nickname. Major General H.L. McBride would be the commander and the unit would eventually be attached to the U.S. 3rd Army. General McBride would be succeeded by General Joseph D. Patch.

The ceremonies marking the reactivation of the 80th Division were held in the post sports arena on July 18, 1942. Nine veterans of the unit from the First World War presented the original battle flags to their younger counterparts and there were speeches, music and a fly-past by three airplanes of the division observation squadron which scattered leaflets over the crowd. The leaflets contained the history of the division from World War One.

A disaster almost occurred during the fly-past. One of the planes snagged the high-tension electrical wires adjacent to the sports arena with its fixed landing gear. As the live, high-voltage wire swung over the assembled group the second plane caught it with a wing tip. The wire then swung in front of the third craft which tangled it in its propeller. This plane crashed atop two empty trucks but the pilot walked away with only minor injuries. This near-miss was news in both the Tennessean and the Banner in Nashville. The local newspapers noted that troops would

be arriving in large numbers for the rest of the month to make up the full strength of the division. The Tullahoma Guardian newspaper noted that the troops were constantly training on obstacle courses, assault courses, doing mass calisthenics, and going on marches of varying distances. Bayonet technique, scouting, patrolling, and all other necessary techniques were being taught.

Tom Jennings had left his field artillery unit for OCS. He now came back to Camp Forrest as a Lieutenant in the 80th Division. He recalls that the unit occupied Blocks 16-17-18 of the camp and that most of the basic training courses were set up adjacent to the barracks originally occupied by the 107th Cavalry. The Ranger School was in this same area.

Among those who came to Camp Forrest to make up the 80th Division was Ellwood Halderman. The reception center to which he reported was Fort Meade, Maryland. After a few days there he and other new recruits left on July 15, 1942, on a train made up of coaches, no sleepers, and travelled to Camp Forrest where they became part of Company H, 318th Infantry, 80th Division. Halderman trained with his unit for about nine months, making all the training courses and route marches. After one 35 mile march he failed a foot inspection and was made an ambulance driver for the station complement. Actually, he never drove an ambulance either. He delivered mail.

William C. Barnett felt he had an advantage when he arrived at Camp Forrest to become a part of the 80th Division. He came from a rural background and knew about guns and about physical labor. He was assigned to Battery B of the 905th Field Artillery. His first battery commander was a Captain Field who was a fatherly individual. Field was concerned to teach his recruits how to be good soldiers and good artillerymen. As a result, Field kept the men

focused on the fundamentals of their jobs and did not try to surprise or trick them. Because many of the men were not familiar with firearms their rifle training began with .22 rifles and then progressed to the M-1. His battery was equipped with 105 millimeter howitzers.

Barnett recalls that the days were full of activity with training going on from shortly after breakfast until dark. This did not prevent a good deal of beer drinking and gambling, especially after pay day. Barnett found his niche as a truck and tractor driver. As a tractor driver he was especially skilled at backing the howitzers into firing position. He was also a good mechanic and that allowed him to spend time with trucks.

Hartly Wildes came to Camp Forrest in 1942 from Officer Candidate School (OCS) as a Second Lieutenant. He was given a platoon in G Company, 319th Infantry. During the late summer he was sent out of Camp Forrest to act as an umpire in the maneuvers held that year. Upon his return he volunteered for the Second Ranger Battalion and spent the rest of his Army career with them.

Fred Beehm came to the 80th Division as a part of the oldest and most distinguished group to help form that Division, the Washington Artillery of New Orleans. This group traces its history in an unbroken line to the War of 1812. His most profound memory is that of seeing "a lady in a large brimmed hat, a man in a wheel chair, and an officer in high leather boots;" Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, the President, and General George C. Marshall.

The 65th Medical Regiment was attached to the 80th Division from the time of reactivation. James Burgess recalls this unit practiced a lot of night-time maneuvers since it was thought night would be the best time to evacuate wounded from the battlefield. He became very

excited one night when ordered to report to the Jack Daniels Distillery in Lynchburg and upon arrival, to load several barrels. They proved to contain water for a field kitchen.

John Conley was a volunteer from Clarksville, West Virginia. Upon arriving at what he recalls as "an obviously temporary rought looking camp" he was assigned as a mortar man to Company D, 319th Infantry. The chief weapon used by the mortar squads was a 60 millimeter weapon. The crew for the piece was a forward observer who stayed in voice contact, two ammunition carriers, a gunner, and an assistant gunner. The mortar crews practiced on the Motlow range.

Conley found, to his surprise, that his father had also served in the 80th Division during World War One.

Although training schedules were designed to keep everyone quite busy there was time for fun and practical jokes. One man in Conley's barracks, nicknamed Lucky, got drunk every pay day, came back to the barracks late, and woke people up. One pay day, after Lucky had left for town, the rest of the barracks got together and, using guy ropes from their pup tents, pulled Lucky's bed up to the open rafters. Lucky returned from town in his usual pie-eyed condition and was totally unable to find his bed. He slept on the floor.

Conley is the only person interviewed who remembers the civilian internees at Camp Forrest. He recalls that in the internment camp families lived together with each family having a small hut or a room in a larger building.

Another Second Lieutenant to join the 80th at Camp Forrest was Sam McAllister, an attorney in Chattanooga until drafted and sent to OCS. McAllister joined the 80th in November, 1942, although the Division had been in training since July. He arrived just in time for the wet

and muddy winter maneuvers but they were, as he would later find out, good practice for what the 80th would face at the Battle of the Bulge.

Davy Slater was involved in the winter maneuvers with the 80th purely by accident. He had been inducted at Camp Forrest on October 16, 1942, and volunteered for the Air Force. In January 1943 he was sent back to Camp Forrest to attend the Cooks and Bakers school. He was housed in a barracks otherwise filled with 80th Division men. The day after he arrived he was told his barracks was being closed and the heat turned off since everyone in it was going on winter maneuvers. Slater did not have field gear but was sent out in ordinary low shoes and with only the two blankets from his cot to sleep in. He worked in the field kitchen for seventy-two consecutive hours because it was too cold to sleep. When he did collapse for a sleep he waked up to find a tank track within eighteen inches of his head.

Slater did return in time for the last few weeks of the Cooks and Bakers course which he recalls as "an excellent school."

Ralph Cammack graduated from OCS at Fort Benning in August 1942 and was assigned to the 318the Infantry of the 80th Division as a heavy weapons officer. His platoon was armed with .50 caliber machine guns and 81 millimeter mortars. His unit trained on firing ranges located on the camp proper.

Cammack recalls there was a lot of physical training because the infantry was not mechanized. There were calisthenics and close-order drill every morning and most afternoons a hike. A common route for a training march was out Gate Number Two, the site of present-day Wagner Park, then up the Old Manchester road to the Manchester livestock sale barn and back.

During the winter of 1942-43 Cammack was temporarily assigned to a cannon company which was to test the practicality of using towed artillery for close support of infantry. This unit spent three weeks at the Spencer range in tents. The bad roads made delivery of rations unreliable so his unit often shot loose pigs. When towed artillery proved impractical for close support the cannon company was broken up and Cammack returned to his heavy weapons platoon.

During the final training exercise Cammack's heavy weapons platoon was the last unit in the division to be tested. Ammunition was short and his mortars only had 2 shells each. When the signal to fire was given the shells landed some 200 yards short of the target, just missing Division Commander McBride and his staff. General McBride was far from happy but an inspection quickly showed the range setting had been correct and that the shells were defective.

Carl Schramm was a mechanic in an Ohio National Guard unit which was mobilized to be part of the 80th Division. He was a good mechanic and quickly became head of the Headquarters motor pool. As a result of this assignment Schramm missed a good deal of the training many division members experienced. Of his own training he recalls it was vigorous but not excessive. In his work area the warehouses and repair shops were very well stocked and equipped so that he was able to repair almost anything that came to him. He also recalls the food as being very good because the cooks were well trained.

The experience of the men of the 80th Division at Camp Forrest does not seem to have been in any way unusual. The focus of the training program was on thirteen weeks of basic training, learning the fundamentals of being a soldier. This was followed by more specialized training in which advanced skills were learned in classrooms and controlled situations and were

then practiced in the field using field problems and maneuvers. Several of the interviewees had unusual or interesting encounters with civilians which will be described in another section of this book. It seems to be clear, however, that the declaration of war had brought a new sense of purpose to the men coming to Camp Forrest. Their focus was sharper and their dedication to training was more complete. The 80th was at Camp Forrest from July 1942 to July 1943. It left the United States for the European Theater of Operations where it became part of Patton's Third Army.

The available records make it clear that many small service units began to arrive at Camp Forrest in 1942. These included numerous quartermaster and construction units. Given the usual practice of the Army at this time most of these units were made up of African American enlistees with a sprinkling of white officers. One such unit was the 257th Signal Construction Company. This unit was activated on April 1, 1942, under the command of First Lieutenant J. Martin Kee. Lieutenant Kee had been sent to Camp Forrest from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, to lead the cadre which would become the company. Some six weeks later Captain Charles A. Newlin assumed command but basic training did not begin until July 28, 1942. Just over one month into their training program two groups totaling four officers and fifty-six men were detached for housekeeping duties to prepare Camp Atterbury, Indianan, and Camp Robinson, Arkansas. During their absence training was suspended and new recruits came into the company.

When the groups were reunited on September 23, 1942, basic training began for a second time. After further changes and delays caused by receiving new recruits and sending out

housekeeping parties the company started basic training again on October 18, 1942, and completed the course on January 17, 1943.

The company was sent to a bivouac near Lebanon to construct telephone lines prepatory to the "Tennessee Maneuvers." During this time the company ran lines from Manchester, the headquarters of one of the opposing armies, to Tullahoma, Shelbyville, and McMinnville.

By April the company was back at Camp Forrest for additional training which included riflery. On the firing range the men fired both with the '03 Springfield and the Thompson sub-machine guns. By May 20, 1943, the company was ordered to Camp Young, California. Eventually the 257th served in France and Germany following D Day, June 6, 1944.

The attitude of the Army toward these African American troops is seen in the interruption of their training so they could be used as housekeepers, cleaning up a base before it was occupied by other troops. Also, as late as May 1943 they were being trained with the obsolescent 1903 Springfield instead of the then standard issue M-1.

An unusual organization made its appearance at Camp Forrest in 1942. This was the Second Ranger Battalion, shortly followed by the Fifth Ranger Battalion. The British Commando units had been formed earlier in the war and these units had been of importance in boosting allied morale even through their raid on Dieppe, France, and the German submarine base there was bloodily repulsed. Colonel William Darby, of the U.S. Army, was convinced the United States needed such an elite force and he was allowed to form the 1st Battalion using the historic designation "Rangers," a term associated with U.S. military history as far back as the French and Indian War. This organization was resisted by the commanders of many units

on the basis of the argument that such elite units siphoned off their best fighters who would be natural leaders and role models in combat.

Despite this controversy, General Ben Lear, Second Army Commander, secured permission for and authorized the formation of additional Ranger Battalions. It was officially the case that these men would be rotated back into their regular units at some future date to act as combat specialists. One of the training bases for these elite units would be Camp Forrest.

Bob Clark had finished his basic training and had gone to Fort Meade, Maryland, for assignment. At Fort Meade he saw a notice for a special force of infantry to be called the Second Ranger Battalion. He signed up and was told he would go to a special destination although he was not told where this would be.

His troop train of Ranger volunteers travelled through Washington, D.C., to Saint Louis. It was late at night when the train left St. Louis and most men assumed they must be well on their way to California. In reality they had spent most of the night on a siding and had travelled only about twenty miles. Clark continues, "After riding most of the day we arrived at Camp Forrest. Again we didn't know where we were . After moving on to another siding we were unloaded and put on to covered 6x6 trucks and taken for a ride. The only thing we could see was out the rear of the truck. After a short ride we were unloaded in an area of 6 or 8 man tents. This was probably in early April and we found out that the Tennessee nights could be very cold. We were issued uniforms, blankets, and all the necessities of being in a tent camp including mess kits. We would crawl in our bunks and cover up with blankets and G.I. overcoats and anything else that would keep us warm. By noon the next day it would be warm

enough to wear short sleeves. We slept in these tents for what seemed like a very long time but in reality was probably only a few weeks.

"We had field kitchens to prepare our meals and the food of the day seemed to be goat mutton. The ice boxes for the kitchens would run out of ice and the meat would become rotten and have a horrible odor. We had to dig latrines away from the tent area because of odor and sanitation. After a time many of the fellows came down with dysentery because of rusty cooking pots and pans. You would see follows running full speed for the latrine area which was quite a distance and all of a sudden they would stop because the distance was too great. Needless to say one of the daily details was to clean up the parade ground where we did our drills and across which they were running. We were taken once or twice a week for showers in some empty barracks. Otherwise we washed and shaved in our steel helmets and cold water. This was supposed to harden us for combat duty. After some of the officers came down with dysentery also, we were moved into the soft life in barracks.

"We had some times in the tents though. Our company was made up of people from New York City, N.Y., Pennsylvania coal miners, midwest farm boys and some southern country boys. One of the pastimes was to take the metal cup from the mess kit, hold it like a movie camera and pretend you were making a movie of camp life. One quiet Sunday afternoon as we were sitting in our tents reading, writing letters, etc., there was a lot of commotion in another company area. We saw a fellow go running onto the parade ground chased by another who was carrying a rifle. All of a sudden a shot rang out, the lead fellow threw up his hands, stumbled and fell to the ground. We all thought some fellow had cracked up and someone called for the medics. By the time they arrived no one could be seen. It turned out some one had found some

"The purpose of our training was to make us into a unit that could strike very quickly behind enemy lines in a surprise attack to soften up the enemy for our regular troops to move in. We were supposed to have six weeks of intensive training and then be sent to England for some more training. However at the end of six weeks, we were below our prescribed strength because of injuries so we had to bring in new recruits and begin again. This happened 2 or 3 times in succession so that by the time I was put up for discharge some of the people had a lot of training and others had very little. We were trained in hand to hand combat, Judo, and Karate. We had training in night patrols being taught how to slip into an enemy camp under cover of darkness, take out the guards and blow up the installation if necessary. We were trained in demolition, in the handling of explosives of various kinds and where to place the charges to be effective. We also had training on climbing cliffs and rapelling which for some was very scary. Some would panic half way down where the cliff on which you placed your feet as a brace ended and you were left dangling in space. They would let go of the rope and fall on the rocks below. We were also trained to dig fox hoes and crawl into it and let a tank pass over you. We were sent through obstacle courses where you climbed walls, ran across rope bridges, went hand over hand on a rope across a stream with charges going off on the water beneath you, walked a log, climbed on cargo nets, climbed a rope hand over hand and then ran to the end of the course, all of this with rifle and full gear. We were taken to the Elk River and made rafts of brush cut with our machetes and with two people using each ones half of the tent to roll up the brush in to form a small raft we were to paddle across the river. At the mill pond called Cumberland Springs we had to go into the water with full gear and rifle and swim to the other side. We had 7 mph speed hikes in full gear in extremely hot weather.

"We also had the regular 25 mile hikes. We were sent into the hills with a compass and had to find our way back to camp. At times we were given a small amount of food and the different squads had to go out on a problem that required cooking your own food and living off berries and what ever food was around beside what you had with you. If you found water you would purify it with iodine before drinking. We had been issued machetes to carry for cutting through brush and vines. We were expected to know how to handle almost any weapon. We had to fire .30 cal. and .50 cal. machine guns, rocket launchers called bazookas, .45 cal. submachine guns, .45 cal. automatic pistols, both large and small mortars and BAR guns which was an automatic rifle.

"I remember at one time our company clerk became ill and they asked for volunteers who could type. I rather timidly held up my hand because I had been taught not to volunteer for anything. It turned out to be all right though because I was able to spend time in the Battalion H.Q. doing paper work and haveing regular hours while my comrades spent a particularly bad rainy period marching in the mud. The clerk recovered and I had to return to regular duty.

"During the time I was at the camp the 30th Infantry Division was training there. When they moved out the 80th Division, a black unit moved in to train. We used to watch the pilots of the Piper Cub artillery liaison planes practicing landings on the parade grounds. They were also used in our training to drop floursack bombs at us. We also watched the P 51 Mustang fighter planes as they would fly in circles using two water towers as pylons and chasing each other. These were stationed at Northern Field.

"Some of the interesting things that happened during our training session was that after a morning long march over the hills we came upon an old liquor still. It had been abandoned probably rather quickly after the Federal Government bought the land.

"One night we were marched into a forest in the midst of a downpour and told to pitch our tents. It was so dark that we had to put our hands on each others back in order to know where they were. If you lost contact you couldn't find the other fellow that had the other half of your tent. Most of us just took our half of the tent and rolled up in it keeping our rifle dry and went to sleep. Another time as we were on a march through Tullahoma, we had a ten minute break so we went into a drugstore to get something to eat. We were carrying a .30 cal machine gun and a tripod to hold it. We put the tripod down and placed the machine gun on it facing the door. A customer started to come in and was quite dismayed to find a machine gun pointed at him.

"One name that stands out in my mind from our company was Sgt. Herman Stein who was written up in the book The Longest Day. I suppose if I had a roster of the company other names would come to mind. We had started out I believe as Company C but that was later changed to Company D for some reason. We were the 2nd Ranger Battalion attached to the 2nd Army. The Battalion had an authorized strength of about 500 men. We had, I believe, 5 companies of about 100 men each divided into platoons and squads. Our whole battalion was only about as large as two infantry companies.

"After going through 2 or 3 of the intensive training periods I was discharged for medical reasons."

Hartley Wildes was already at Camp Forrest as a member of the 80th Division. During January, February, and March he taught hand-to-hand combat to the recently activated Second Ranger Battalion using materials developed by the First Ranger battalion in England. The Ranger school did a lot of its training on the base and built the first mock-up of a village ever used in training in the U.S. Army. However, river crossings and cliff scaling were taught all over the surrounding area.

One of the characteristics Rangers were supposed to develop was that of resourcefulness. Often training exercises were set which were unorthodox. On one occasion the Battalion was informed just before Taps, that they were to answer roll call the next morning at a site several miles away. No questions would be asked about how they got there. At the appointed hour most of the Rangers had turned up in jeeps. However, these jeeps were all assigned to other units who were, at that moment, calling headquarters at Camp Forrest to report their vehicles stolen. Four Rangers arrived in a Tullahoma police car. They had been walking through town when a civilian policeman stopped them and asked if they had a pass. They overpowered the policeman, handcuffed him, and took his car. The Camp Commander was not amused but the Ranger's instructors were delighted.

Wildes joined the Second Rangers on April 1, 1943. As he remembers their training they lost about two per-cent of their strength to casualties suffered in training. There were additional losses to drop-outs. Wildes himself became one of the training casualties, being injured in a live fire exercise about June 1, 1943. This caused him to be hospitalized for a lengthy period and he missed the Normandy landings of June 6, 1944, as a result. At those landings the Second

Rangers scaled the ninety foot cliffs at Pont-du-Hoc to wipe out a suspected German artillery position. Wildes unit lost 77 per-cent of its strength in this attack.

The Fifth Ranger Battalion was activated in September 1943. Thomas E. Herring was a part of this unit. He recalls the training received by this unit. A typical day was "arise at 0500, fall out for roll-call, return to barracks to make beds, and at 0600 eat breakfast. Following breakfast we returned to barracks to get our gear in order for the rest of the day. At 0800 we assembled by company and marched to the physical training area for an hour of physical training, followed by an hour of hand-to-hand combat. Following this we would indulge in squad tactics until lunch. After lunch, we'd get lectures, weapons indoctrination, etc. About 3 p.m. we'd go on a fast road march of approximately seven miles, wearing field packs and side arms. We eventually were able to do the seven miles in one hour. The marching built up our endurance to a high degree, which proved extremely beneficial in combat.

"A couple of weeks after arriving at Camp Forrest an obstacle course was added to our daily routine. It took about twenty minutes to run the obstacle course. This replaced part of our physical training.

"Later in the training at Camp Forrest our training routine included night situations such as cross-country routes via compass, mock attacks on assigned objectives at night--although a couple of these became more serious, and finding one's own way and means of reaching a distant objective. All this was later utilized to our advantage in combat in Europe."

As a part of their training program the Rangers built a mock-village for practice in street fighting. This was the first such facility on any Army post in the United States. The potential

training value of this device so impressed General Ben Lear that he ordered it copied for general infantry training throughout the Second Army command area.

Another elite unit which mobilized at Camp Forrest was the 300the Medical Group, also known at the Vanderbilt Unit since so many of its doctors and nurses had an association with that University.

The 300th General Hospital unit was authorized by the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust in the Spring of 1940. When war broke out in Europe on September 1, 1939, the Surgeon General of the United States asked that medical units be formed to assist in case the United States entered the war. The 300th was among the first to be formed. This unit was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on November 18, 1940.

Also in 1940, four thousand nurses were asked to volunteer from among those listed with the Red Cross. Margaret Buchanan had signed up with the Red Cross in 1935 when she had graduated from St. Thomas Nursing School in Nashville. In 1940 she was working with a doctor in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

On December 8, 1941, almost the entire population of Fayetteville assembled on the Court House lawn to listen to the broadcast of the address President Roosevelt would make to congress in asking for a declaration of war. Soon after this Buchanan began looking for a place to serve. She volunteered for the Army in March 1942, and went to Camp Forrest for a physical on May 27, 1942. Because she had ties with Nashville she was told she would be assigned to the 300th.

In the not unknown Army pattern of "hurry up and wait" several weeks then passed with no orders. In the meantime, the rest of the members of the 300th were ordered to report to

Camp Forrest on July 15, 1942. This was the same date that the 80th Division began to arrive for reactivation.

Initially all doctors and male officers of the 300th were graduates of Vanderbilt University or had a connection with the University. This caused the 300th to be known as the Vanderbilt Unit. Dr. Hugh Morgan was the first commanding officer of the unit. Later Colonel George Rogers, a graduate of the Vanderbilt Medical School and a former ROTC commander at the University, became the unit's commander. Dr. Louis Rosenfeld describes the group by saying "we were young, brave, idealistic, and ignorant."

Upon arriving at Camp the unit occupied barracks T-401, block 5. The quarters for the unit were much like all the other barracks at Camp Forrest being a two-story wood building. Because all its occupants were officers the building had been divided into two person rooms furnished with steel cots and cotton mattresses. On each floor were bathrooms with sinks, toilets, and showers. On the first floor was a recreation room.

The quarters for the nurses attached to the 300th were a barracks intended for enlisted men. About 50 nurses lived in it. Like the other barracks it was not sealed on the inside so the wall studs soon were being used as shelves. Later that same year, 1942, the nurses moved to a two story building covered with tar paper. The color and size of the structure gained for it the name of "The Black Castle." Being the only large building inhabited entirely by women it goes without saying it was the frequent target of mock air raids and fire drills. The only other quarters for nurses were for those doing surgical duty at the Station Hospital. They lived together so they could respond quickly if called in an emergency. The "Black Castle," although an improvement over the enlisted men's barracks, still had one serious draw-back. It was a long

way to the nearest mess hall. Even though it was against regulations the nurses often kept food in their rooms to avoid a long walk when tired.

When Margaret Buchanan was called to report for duty she found that uniforms for women at Camp Forrest came in two sizes; too large and too small. She also found a demanding schedule which, at first, had little to do with medicine. During the day the nurses had calisthenics, drilled, hiked, and were forever on the move. There was even military instruction in classrooms. Of all the drilling Buchanan says, "It had nothing to do with medicine and almost none of it was ever used again. It did build esprit de corps." One gets a sense of how little of this training would be used again when the schedule of drills for doctors lists small arms target practice.

The route marches did have value, though. The medical demands which would be made on the unit in the combat zone would be strenuous and would demand stamina. The marches helped build this stamina and also entailed some additional degree of realism; the marching columns were frequently "strafed" by aircraft also out for practice.

The 300th has one other distinction at Camp Forrest. They provided the only group of women ever to run the obstacle course. This occurred at 2:00 in the afternoon of June 15, 1943, the hottest time of day of one of the hottest months. As luck would have it, this was also the one year anniversary of the mobilization of the unit and a formal dance had been planned for the evening. After the mud and sweat of the obstacle course had been washed away there were still numerous grazed elbows and skinned knees among the belles of the ball.

Members of the 300th make obvious a facet of life at Camp Forrest that seems to have been true of all units, no matter the date of their posting to the camp. Buchanan recalls "social

life at Camp Forrest was quite a time and we tried very hard to keep it that way." Of course, things could go too far. One nurse was dating every night and,coming in late, would wake the whole barracks. The sleepy nurses soon provided their own discipline.

Food played an important role in social occasions. Although there is general agreement that the food at Camp Forrest was good it was, no doubt, institutional in nature. A frequent type of date was to go to one of the clubs on the base, non-commissioned or officers clubs, for a change of dining pace. A menu for one of the officers clubs dated October 1942 shows prices to have been reasonable when compared to officers' incomes. The prices listed are:

Cocktails and Relishes	$0.10 - $0.20
Salads	$0.15 - $0.20
Soup	$0.15
Fancy T-Bone Steak Dinner	$1.00
Extra cut T-Bone Dinner	$1.50
Sirloin	$1.00
Fillet	$1.00
1/2 Fried Chicken	$0.75

Those who lived in the area usually went home when they received weekend passes and friends were frequently invited to go along. This provided a welcome break in the routine as well as genuine "home cooking."

Formal dances were held in the Camp Forrest Officers Club each Wednesday and Saturday nights.

Dr. Rosenfeld recalls that except for the night-duty officer everyone was free in the evenings. The officers played volleyball or had a drink. The favorite beverage was 3.2% beer served in the Post Exchanges all over the camp. Movies, usually a double feature, were shown every night. For men on a week-end pass Chattanooga was the destination of choice because Fort Oglethorpe, just outside, was the site of a large Women's Army Corps (WAC) base. Dr. Rosenfeld says "If you went to the Reed House Hotel and walked down any corridor whistling a door would open. You would be grabbed by the neck and pulled inside by a WAC. It was dangerous but kind of fun."

The nurses of the 300th were the first female soldiers at Camp Forrest and were well received by the local people. When President Roosevelt visited the Camp on April 17, 1943, he paid special attention to the nurses.

Of course, the men training at Camp Forrest enjoyed mild flirtations with the women of the 300th despite the numerous regulations and strict discipline to keep things in hand. Most of the nurses were Lieutenants and, when in Tullahoma, were regularly saluted by all the enlisted men. It seems to have been something of a game to force the women officers to keep their right hands free.

At first it was assumed the 300th would go overseas quickly. This expectation was dashed on October 15, 1942, when the unit was removed from alert for deployment. Most of the personnel were given temporary assignments at Camp Forrest hospitals.

Nurse Lieutenant Buchanan says the Station Hospital at Camp Forrest had 32 wards. A ward was entered by a hallway off which opened doors leading to doctors and nurses offices, treatment rooms, the latrine, utility rooms, and a kitchen. The patients area was a long room

at the end of the hall housing thirty. There was a screened porch with beds for four. Patient beds were not separated by partitions but there were mobile screens which would be set around a bed. Each ward was connected to those on each side by ramps which were simply covered walkways. These ramps also connected with the hospital storehouses. When Buchanan went to the hospital in October of 1942 the facility employed seventy-seven officers, 18 nurses, 541 white enlisted men, 161 "colored" enlisted men and 368 civilians. Later on, these enlisted men, who had training as corpsmen were replaced by soldiers qualified only for limited service and who had no medical training. Still later one hundred fifty-four "colored" members of the Womens Army Corp would be assigned to the hospital to assist with clerical chores. The Alien Enemy Interment Camp had its own hospital served by four nurses from the 300th. Later, a Prisoner of War hospital would be opened as the Allied offensive in North Africa began to gain ground against Rommel's Afrika Korps and the Italian forces.

During this time Buchanan remembers the hospital was somewhat old fashioned in its procedures. Instruments to be used in operations were chosen on the day of the operation. After they were boiled they were placed on a tray and carried down a much-used corridor to the operating room. Also, each ward had its own kitchen and civilian cook. At least one case of food poisoning occurred because of faulty refrigeration in these kitchens.

Of all the duties performed by personnel in the medical services at Camp Forrest night duty was the most arduous. Rosenfeld remembers that there was only one medical officer in charge of a large number of wards at night. He thinks it was fortunate there were so few critically ill patients. Buchanan recalls the night duty nurses worked from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (1900 to 0700) while the other nurses worked sever hour shifts. This means that during

their four weeks tour of night duty these nurses worked 84 hours each week. It was not unusual for one night duty nurse to have 200 ambulatory patients under her care. At breakfast time eggs were served to most patients and these were cooked to order. Although there was supposed to be a civilian cook on each ward if one was absent the night nurse ended her shift by cooking for that ward.

During the time the 300th was there, ambulatory patients were assigned to appropriate hospital work details. Among these was cleaning because the hospital always had either a mud or dust problem, depending on the weather. There was also a spirit of camaraderie fostered by the 300th so that patients often did little services for each other in helping with trips to the latrine or fetching glasses of water, greatly relieving the work load on the nurses.

On the officer's wards there were no duty details. This was not a great privilege for officers because time passed slowly for many of these men. Buchanan recalls one officer patient found a turtle and kept it as a pet.

Throughout the convalescent wards a general lack of recreation caused problems, both medical and disciplinary. Gambling in the latrines and sneaking out of the hospital to get beer after bed check were common problems.

While the 300the was in the Army it was not necessarily of the Army. This is probably true of all the medical units that were stationed at Camp Forrest. Most of the medical officers took the attitude that patient care came before certain military concerns. This meant the weekly Saturday inspections were focused on issues of concern to doctors and nurses rather than on First Sergeants and Majors.

During the tenure of the 300th at Camp Forrest the 80th Division was in training there and two major series of maneuvers were conducted by the Second Army in Middle Tennessee. This means that in and around Camp Forrest were up to 250,000 men. Of course there were accidents in such a large group. One soldier treated at the Station Hospital had badly injured his leg scaling the wall on the obstacle course. The bones were so badly splintered the leg had to be amputated.

One duty performed by doctors of the 300th reveals a great deal about the size of Camp Forrest and the logistics required to operate it. The 300th doctors took turns doing health inspections on the food storage and preparation facilities. Dr. Rosenfeld states "the bakery was huge and, like all the subsistence buildings, was located alongside a railroad siding. The railroad was necessary to bring in the huge amount of food consumed. For example, 48,000 dozen eggs (576,000) were consumed every two and one-half days along with 40,000 pounds of meat every day. No wonder there were trains at all hours."

Thanks to their educational level and overall sophistication the 300th General Hospital unit has produced unusually good personal historical records. It would be a safe historical judgement to say that other units fitted much of this pattern of experience. The focus on social life, for example, would be an expected pattern of behavior on the part of people who were training to put their life on the line in combat. The combination of adherence to Army regulations and discipline which "made sense" and efforts to avoid this control in order to assert one's individuality has always been characteristic of the U.S. Armed Forces. During the Revolutionary War Major General Von Stueben said "tell an American soldier he must do

something and he will react in an insolent manner; tell him why he should do something and he will respond cheerfully." Little has changes from 1777 to 1943.

As training was completed units left Camp Forrest for ports of embarkation or for subsequent duty assignments. It should be remembered that the U.S. Army was not able to train and deploy significant infantry forces in either Europe or the Pacific until late in 1942. The process of drafting, equipping, and training personnel made deployment a slow process.

In the Pacific the naval battles of Coral Sea, May 1942, and Midway, June 1942, stopped the Japanese advance. Fighting on the island of Guadalcanal, coupled with naval losses, caused 1943 to be a year of rebuilding in the Pacific for both the United States and Japan.

In the European Theatre the Allied success in North Africa from November 1942 to March 1943 was followed by the invasions of Sicily and Italy in the spring and summer of 1943. The limited geographical area of these operations dictated the scope of manpower needs. Despite Churchill's advocacy of a thrust into "the soft underbelly of Europe" leading Allied strategists were thinking in terms of a cross channel invasion. Planning and preparation for this event were beginning early in 1943. Camp Forrest was to play a significant role in this climactic event of the Second World War.

When the 80th Division left Camp Forrest in July 1943 they were succeeded by the 8th Division. Actually, the 8th Division had spent some time at Camp Forrest in tents during the fall and winter of 1942 (September to December) while participating in the Tennessee Maneuvers of that year. This tent bivouac was located between the railroad tracks and the old Estill Springs highway. The railroad was crossed by an access road immediately beyond the current Law Enforcement Academy. This is the first railroad crossing after leaving the 1993 city limits of

Tullahoma. This bivouac was known by a variety of unofficial names but prominent among them were Camp Tick and Camp Chigger. Hubert Goodcourage recalls that the early winter of 1942 was quite cold and that rations were a little short. He, as a Transportation sergeant, was fortunate in being able to go into the camp proper as part of his duties. He was often asked to eat in the mess halls by the other Transportation non-commissioned offers.

During this initial stay the 8th Infantry was, according to Gustav Bachofner, putting its equipment bank in shape after the rigorous maneuvers and getting ready for deployment to another base for additional training.

In March 1943 the 8th Infantry returned to Camp Forrest and occupied the main part of camp, living in barracks until November 1943. During this stay the unit went through normal training, including infantry tactics, artillery firing, small arms training, and efficiency testing. Also, a number of recruits were received to bring all units up to full strength. Clothing and equipment were also replaced to make sure the unit was fully operational.

On leaving Camp Forrest the 8th Infantry moved to Great Britain via Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

Camp Forrest was never vacant for more than the few days it took to replace an outgoing unit with an incoming one. As the planning and preparation for "Operation Overload," the June 6, 1944, invasion of Normandy, moved forward the role of Camp Forrest grew more obvious. Beginning with the 80th Division, almost all the troops passing through Camp Forrest were destined for the European theatre of operations.

When the 8th Infantry left in November 1943 they were succeeded by the 17th Airborne and the 5th Armored Divisions.

George Strenbens, in his papers filed with the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, notes that in "the latter part of September 1943 the Division (17th Airborne) moved to Camp Forrest, Tennessee, for further field training and maneuvers. I remember it as a period of rain and cold during January, February, and March of 1944.

"On one occasion after days and nights of continuing rain, I awakened in the morning to find water flowing through my sleeping bag in my pyramid tent. When I stepped outside I discovered the top and side of another which housed some of my non-coms had burned during the night. None of the non-coms said anything, nor did I except to say I was going for a walk. When I returned a couple of hours later we had a new pyramidal tent, the men had provided me with some homemade peach jam and fried chicken. I never asked where they had gotten it or the new tent, nor did I want to know (officially, that is, but to this day I'm curious). My unit returned from maneuvers with more equipment than we had at the time we left camp. This was turned in to a very grateful supply officer.

"In July 1944 the 17th Airborne Division moved to Boston" and on to England.

Once the D-Day landings were made in Normandy on June 6, 1944, the level of activity at Camp Forrest began to decline. This was not unique to Forrest. The War Department correctly estimated it had sufficient manpower in the process of training and, for the most part, this training was well advanced. The war, especially in Europe, had reached a crisis and the Armed Forces had prepared for that crisis by building up the necessary reserves of men and material. The training of any additional men would take so long that the war would be won or lost before they could be used effectively.

Of course, a few units continued to arrive at Camp Forrest and to train there. Among these were four battalions of heavy artillery which arrived at the Camp in July, 1944. One battery in one of these battalions was commanded by William L. Goddard, Sr. Goddard had been drafted in Memphis and inducted at Fort Oglethorpe. He graduated from OCS in January 1942 and spent the next eighteen months training artillerymen at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In mid-1943 he was assigned to help organize a heavy artillery unit to be manned by soldiers previously assigned to the Coast artillery. When his battery was finally assembled it was staffed almost entirely by men from the Brooklyn area of New York city. This unit came to Camp Forrest and was immediately sent to the Spencer Range to learn to fire their guns. The unit would spend ten months in tents at Spencer, bringing in all supplies by truck. Some supplies were procured locally and unofficially. The Spencer range had acquired a large population of hogs which were allowed to roam loose by their owners. These hogs were attracted to the garbage pits dug by the long-term bivouac and a number of the hogs were "accidentally" shot by "nervous" sentries who wanted a change from Army field rations.

It should also be noted that a large number of units had a brief contact with Camp Forrest during various periods of the war. Most of these were involved in the on-going war games collectively known as the "Tennessee Maneuvers." These had begun in 1941, grew in size in 1942, reached their peak during 1943-44, and tapered off by the declining days of 1944. Many of these units used the Camp Forrest area as a tent bivouac, a medical center, and a supply point although they were not stationed there. Among these units were the 5th, 3rd, 26th, 78th, 106th, 30th, and 79th Infantry Divisions.

Typical of the experiences of these men was that of Raymond Deaton who served in Company C, 104th Regiment, 26th Division. His tent bivouac was a sea of mud and water. He slept in a pup tent and ate in a larger tent nearby. His days were taken up field maneuvers and river crossings but his small amount of free time was spent playing cards or softball. Deaton does mention one unusual facet of Camp Forrest lore. Deaton notes that the U.S. Navy had a presence at the Camp and the available records bear this out. The Induction Center had, at various times, a Naval Officer as its commanding officer because inductees were sent from the camp to that branch of service as well at to the Army.

Henry G. Ezell was in the 30th Division which spent about five months in the Camp Forrest tent bivouac area during the 1943 maneuvers. He was an artilleryman whose battery was armed with 105 millimeter howitzers and an anti-aircraft unit. Ezell recalls that those soldiers in the tent bivouac were not allowed on the main part of the base without a pass. Attempts had been made to make the tent bivouac an entirely self-sufficient area by providing outdoor movie theaters and a post exchange. Ezell became ill with chronic bronchitis and was given a pass to the Station Hospital. He was a patient there for sixteen weeks, became separated from his unit and has never seen any of his service friends again.

The Army Air Corps maintained a training facility as part of Camp Forrest. The construction of the facility has been noted in the preceding chapter. On November 11, 1942, the name of this facility was changed to Northern Field, honoring William Northern of Nashville, Tennessee, a pilot in the Army Air Corps who had lost his life while on a reconnaissance mission off the coast of California just after Pearl Harbor.

Colonel Christopher Scott was the first commander of Northern Field. The 1,200 acre facility was used primarily to train crews for the B-24 Liberator bomber. This plane was the workhorse of the U.S. War effort both in Europe and the Pacific. More than one hundred barracks were built at Northern Field along with a theatre, chapels, and classrooms. It's performance seems to have been quite smooth but fatal crashes did occur, for example, in April 1943 Second Lieutenant Clifford Hansen was killed when his light bomber crashed about a mile north of the field. For much of the war Northern Field was only an administrative adjunct of Camp Forrest and as training commands changed Northern Field was passed from commander to commander, often being more tightly linked with Seward Field at Smyrna, Tennesse, than with Camp Forrest.

The fullest utilization of the air field came from March to August 1944 when the 17th Airborne was stationed at Camp Forrest. The paratroopers used the field every day as the ascension point for training jumps. Training accidents had been frequent throughout the life of the field and the Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home records seventeen deaths of Second Lieutenants at the base, most probably all pilots in training.

The obvious decline in activity at Camp Forrest was marked by rumors of its impending demise. After the departure of the 17th Airborne in August 1944 and the 5th Armored in September no large contingents of new troops arrived. As early as July 7, 1944, local papers were reporting Camp Forrest would be closed as a training base but would remain open as an induction center. This report proved false, however, when the induction center was shut down on September 30, 1944. By that time over 250,000 men had been processed at the center and more than 144,000 had been inducted.

Senator Tom Stewart made strenuous efforts to have Camp Forrest named a separation center where soldiers being discharged would be processed but his efforts failed.

The operation of Camp Forrest was not without considerable impact on the surrounding area. Some of this impact produced a story of considerable human interest. In February 1942 a three week old baby girl was found in the Forrest Hotel in Manchester. The mother of the infant had checked in the day before, ostensibly on a visit to her husband who was stationed at Camp Forrest. The next morning the mother was gone, leaving behind a note saying she had registered under an alias and that she could not face raising the infant alone. Since there was no way to trace the parents the infant was dubbed "Baby Forrest." She was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Womack, the owners of the hotel. Today, she is herself married and still lives in the Manchester area. Mrs. Betty Womack Allen is proud to be known as "Baby Forrest," a true child of Camp Forrest.

Not all the impact of Camp Forrest was to have such a happy ending. As soon as the war began tires were rationed. All tires were then made of natural rubber and the Japanese quickly came to control 95% of the world's supply of this material. Soon there were reports of cars and trailers being stolen in order to get the tires off them. Of course, this would not be done by the military in the area since almost none of the soldiers had cars. The thefts were often committed by construction workers who needed transportation.

Discipline among the military personnel, even when off base, was strictly maintained. General Ben Lear, Second Army Commander, encouraged local law officers to arrest law violating soldiers and, he said, military discipline would follow their civilian punishment. Although there were the expected fist fights when too many young men consumed too much beer

and though some staid citizens had to become reconciled to finding people "sleeping it off" on their front lawns, there was little in the way of violence traceable to the large military presence. However, there was some.

With such a large number of people travelling in the area accidental deaths were to be expected. John T. Larkin, 181st Field Artillery, was killed in an auto wreck on November 1, 1941. Charles Straucli, 319th Infantry Regiment, was killed in a train wreck on February 10, 1943.

In May , 1942, Joseph Sykes, Battery C, 122nd Field Artillery, was found in downtown Tullahoma stabbed to death. In May, 1943, Mrs. Fay Scogin was abducted, beaten, and shot by three men. George Johnson was accused of the actual murder and he reportedly shot himself. Pittman Ward and Silas Keith were arrested as accomplices and were held in separate jails. Mrs. Scogin was the wife of a Lieutenant at Camp Forrest while the three men were Tullahoma area residents. This was a racial incident. The three men are identified in the papers as "negro" while Scogin is given the country title of "Mrs.," indicating, in the code of the times, that she was white. The newspaper accounts of the affair do not use the word "rape" but the circumstances described strongly suggest it. It is also suspicious that George Johnson, the accused murderer, is said to have shot himself while in police custody. The holding of accomplices Ward and Keith in separat jails would be a typical response to the likelihood of lynchings. According to stories related by more than one source all African-American troops were restricted to the base for several weeks following this incident.

The following May, 1944, Jimmy Sherill was shot and killed in an isolated stretch of road near Northern Field. His girlfriend, Ruth Yates, was then "criminally assaulted" by a man

dressed as a paratrooper. At least, this was the story. Subsequent investigation by the Sheriff revealed that Sherill had been killed by Yate's father and brothers who disapproved of her relationship with Sherill and the alleged rape was a red herring.

By far the most common causes of social disruption were liquor and sex. The local newspapers are littered with accounts of arrests for running stills, selling whiskey illegally, and bringing whiskey into a dry county. Actually, beer sales were legal in Coffee County and 3.2% alcohol beer was sold on the premises at Camp Forrest. Whiskey was illegal. By March 1943 law enforcement officials had confiscated 8,578 pints of whiskey in the Camp Forrest area according to the local papers. This surely represents a minute fraction of the total amount brought into the area and sold.

Norman Damron trained at Camp Forrest. He recalls that in 1941, before Pearl Harbor, he was coming into Tullahoma on a pass and purchased whiskey from a bootlegger. Two or three blocks further down the street he was stopped by three Military Policemen (M.P.) and was asked if he patronized a particular bootlegger. Upon admitting he did Damron was sent back up the street to warn the man he would shortly be raided. The bootlegger thanked Damron and gave him three bottles of liquor, one for each of the M.P.'s Obviously, such a level of enforcement was not going to damage seriously the flow of whiskey.

Prostitution was a serious problem, as might be expected. The Federal government took steps to control this activity through the May Act. This legislation made soliciting for prostitution a federal crime in designated "war activity areas." This act was to be enforced by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Camp Forrest was the first Army base in the nation to be regulated by this act. Fifty-two FBI agents were sent into the twenty-seven counties

surrounding Camp Forrest. During one month, May 1942, in Tullahoma alone forty women and five men were arrested for prostitution related activities. Sixteen of these women were arrested at a single house.

Lester Vihon was an M.P. who accompanied the FBI on one of their raids on a "disorderly house" near Ovoca Lake. It was his job to interview the women as they were brought out of the house and to type up their statements before they were taken to the Tullahoma jail. Since these women were wearing their "working clothes," or lack thereof, their presence at the city jail caused quite a stir.

The enforcement of the May Act had some impact on the fitness for duty of troops at Camp Forrest., whether it affected their libido or not. According to hospital records the venereal disease rate for white troops at Camp Forrest in 1943 was 24 cases per 100 while the rate for "colored" was 345 per 1,000.

Once the war began rationing took effect for the civilian population. The vast dumps of suppliers at Camp Forrest made a tempting target for corruption. Mrs. Marvin Hindman, a Camp Forrest laundry worker, recalls one sergeant arrested by the FBI for stealing sheets and towels turned in by troops leaving the base and selling these items to civilians.

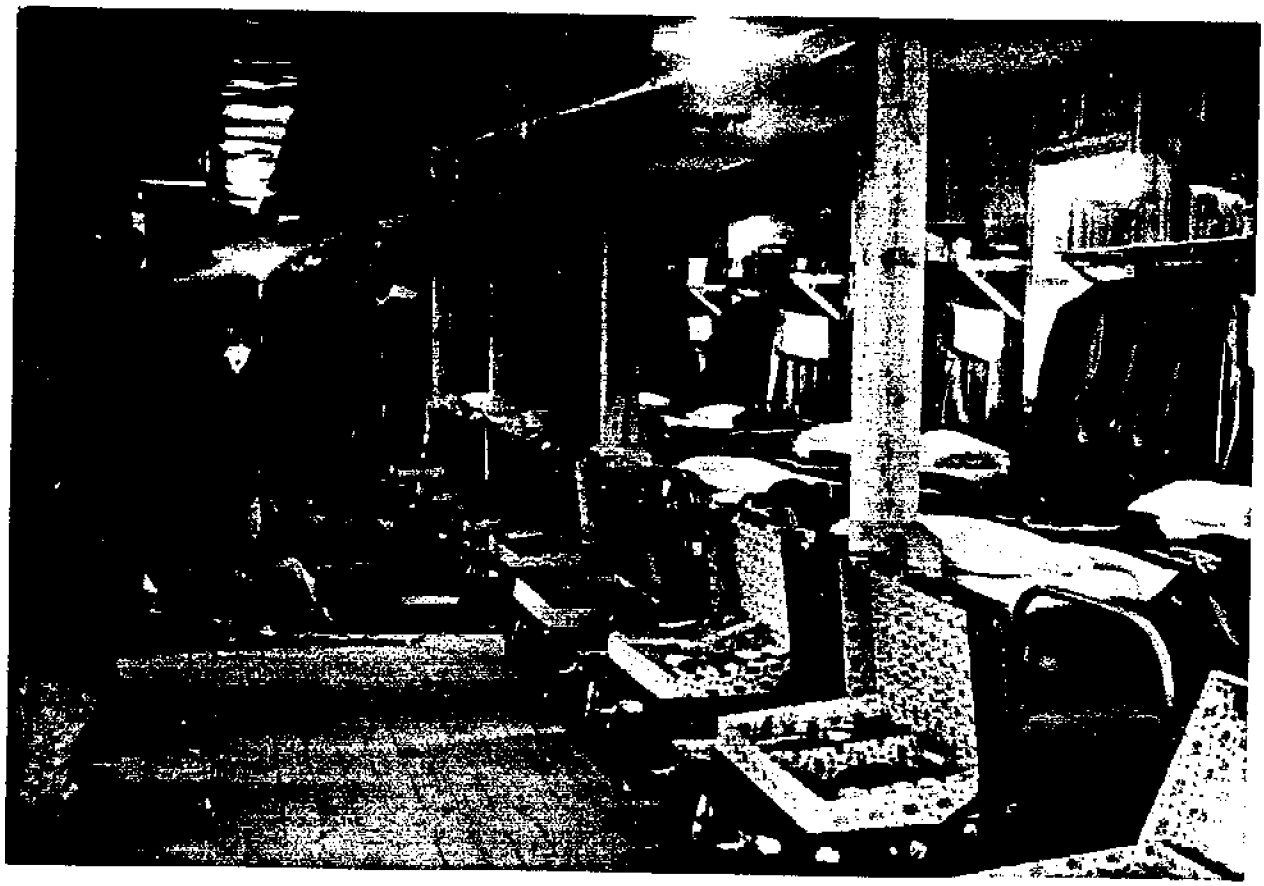
Taxi drivers who wished to operate on the base were supposed to procure a license from the Military Police. This license cost $1.50. One MP worked up a scam, according to Dewey Smith who was also an MP. The scam was to find some fault with the car so as to refuse the license and then ask for $50.00 "under the table." The MP was eventually apprehended and arrested. After being found guilty by Court Martial he was allowed to return to his barracks for

personal items before going to the stockade. While there he drew a .45 from his footlocker and killed himself.

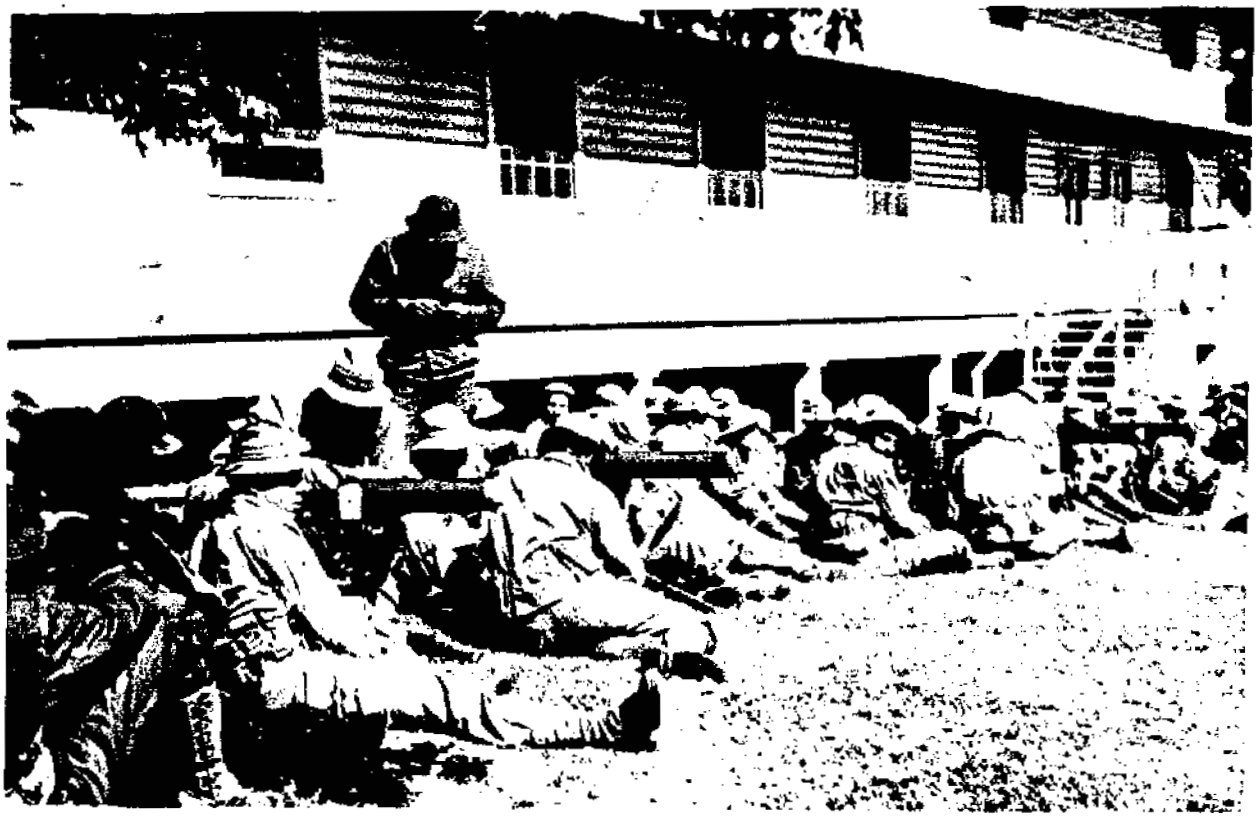
On another occasion FBI agents came out to the rifle range and arrested men who had been stripping jeeps of parts such as fuel pumps and generators and sending these out in footlockers to be sold on the civilian black market.

It is said that Camp Forrest was the second largest training base in the United States during World War Two. Six divisions and two battalions of Rangers had long-term contact with the Camp. At least seven more divisions had short-term stages at the base. If one adds to these numbers the Base Contingent, medical and supply units, inductees, those attending special schools, the Airmen at Northern Field, civilian employees, and Prisoners of War, a figure of one million people associated with the Camp does not sound unreasonable. The total number of people in military service in the United States during World War Two was about eight million. This makes Camp Forrest's contribution to the war effort stand out starkly. It's contribution was as great as the Camp's duration was brief.

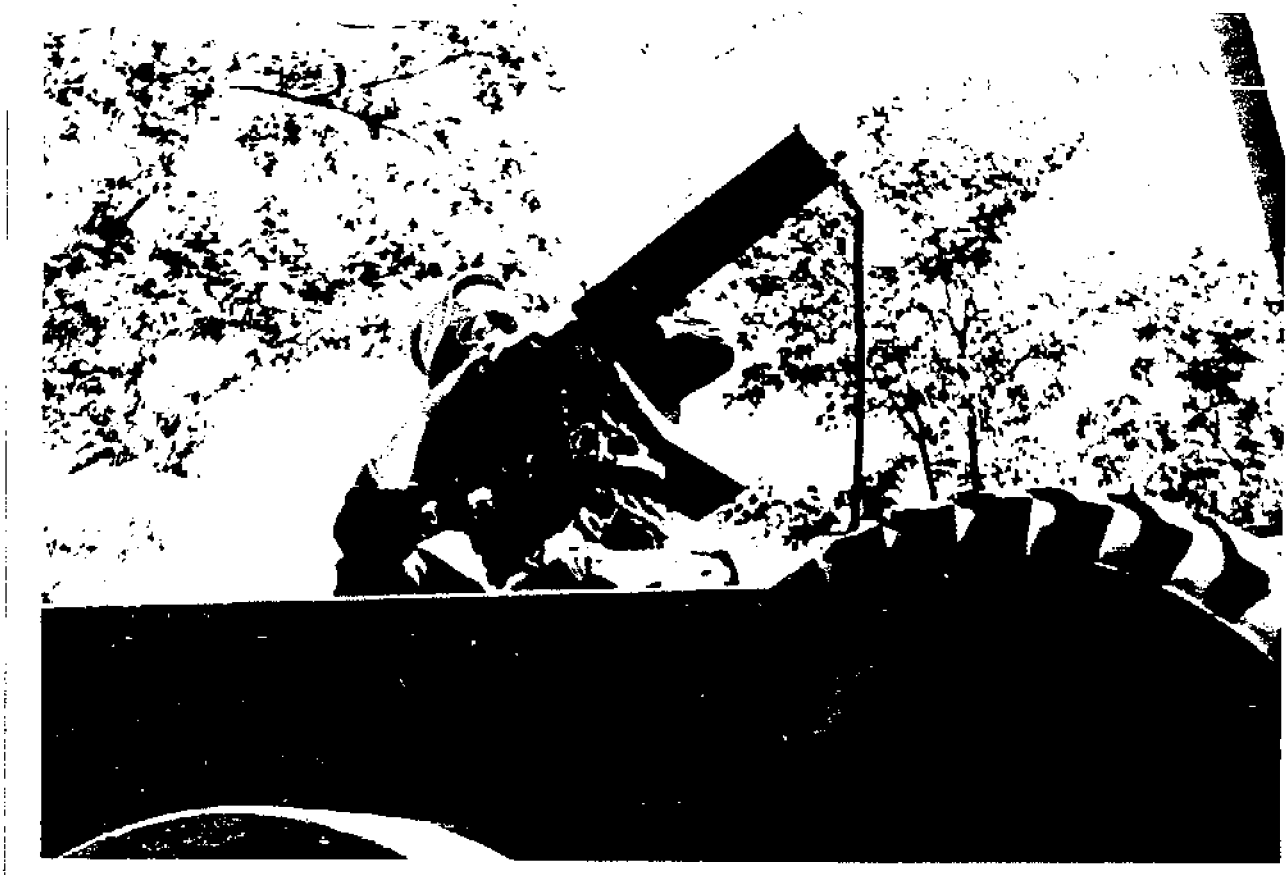
A Typical Trainee - 1940



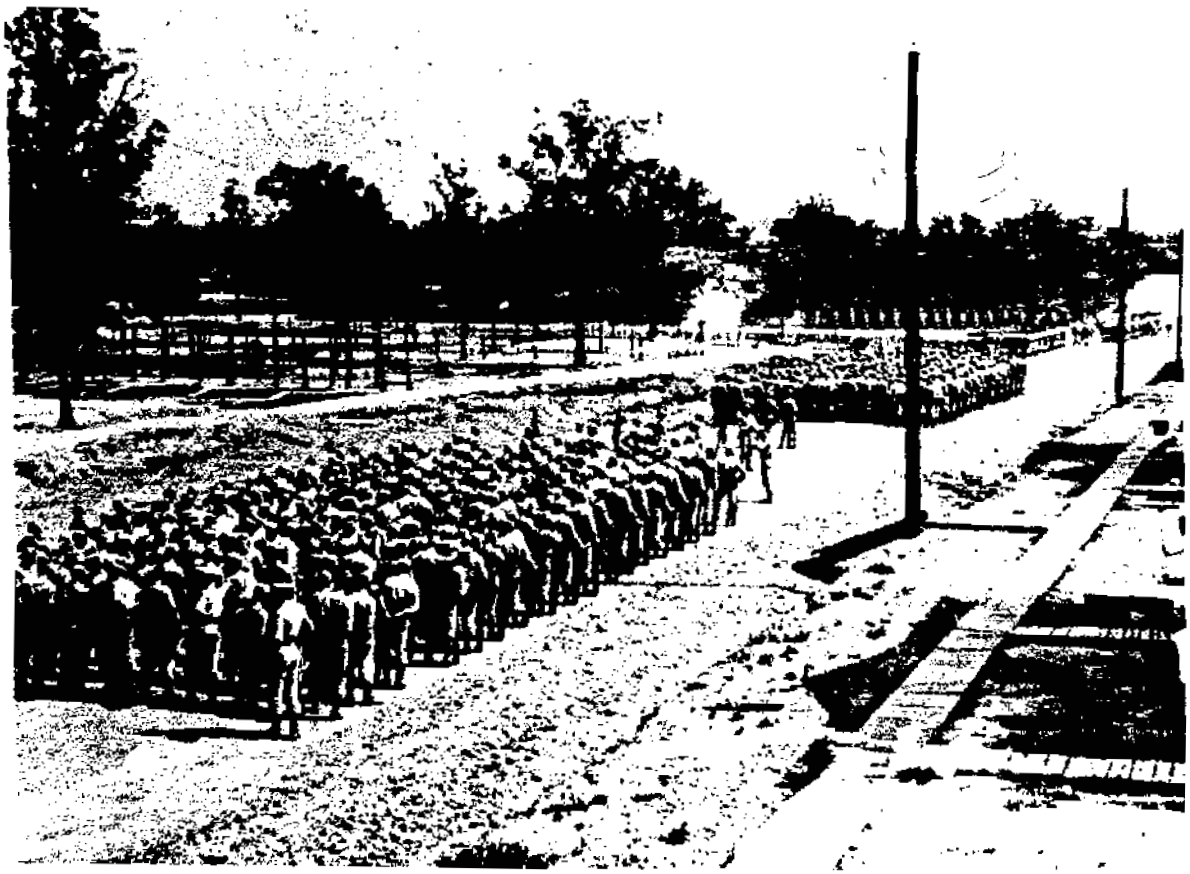
Barracks Inspection - 1940



Machine Gun Training - 1940
Note .30 calibre Weapons and Canvas Leggings



Anti-Aircraft Equipment - 1940

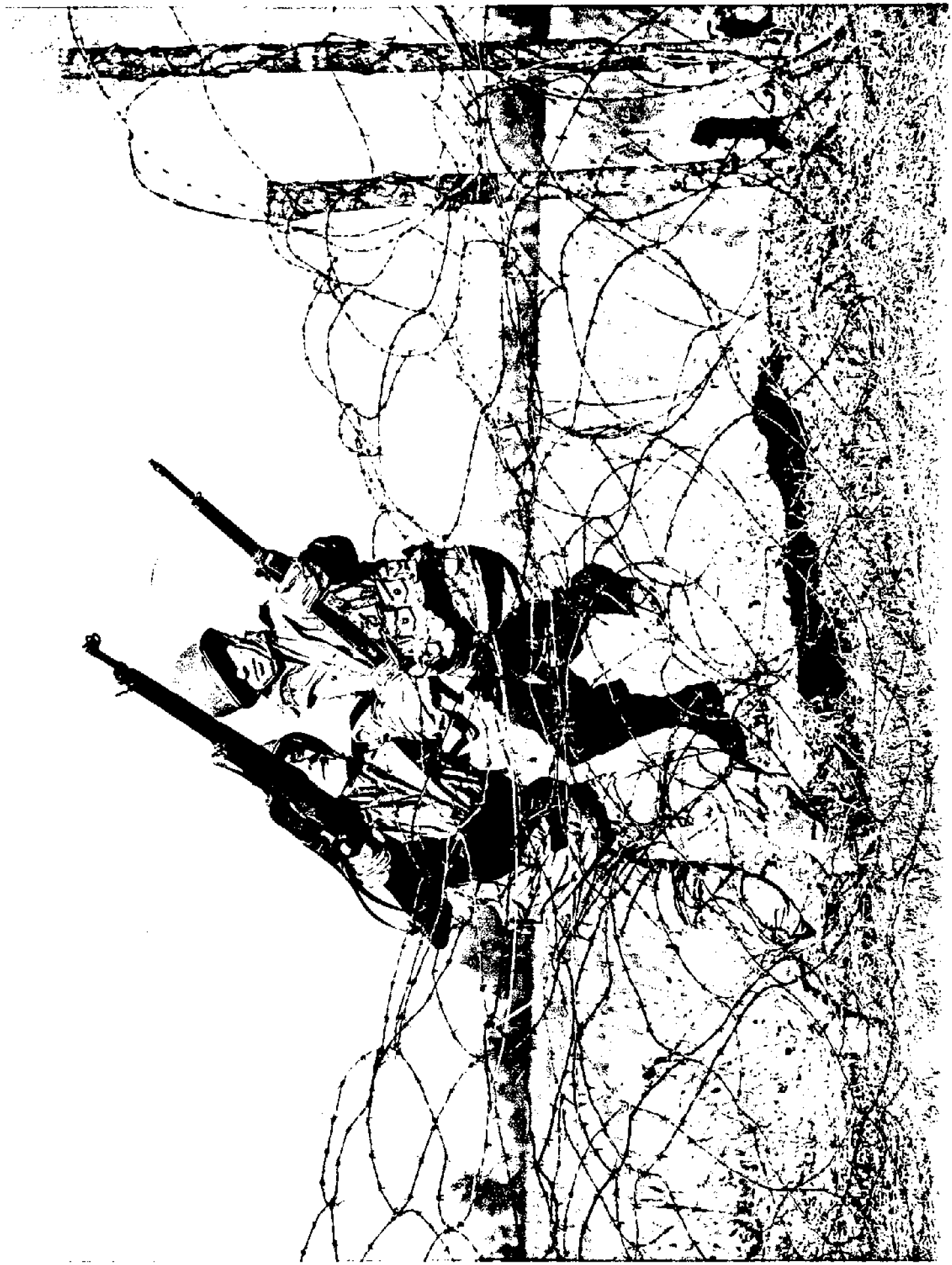


Forming up for parade. Note duckboards and physical training apparatus in upper left quadrant

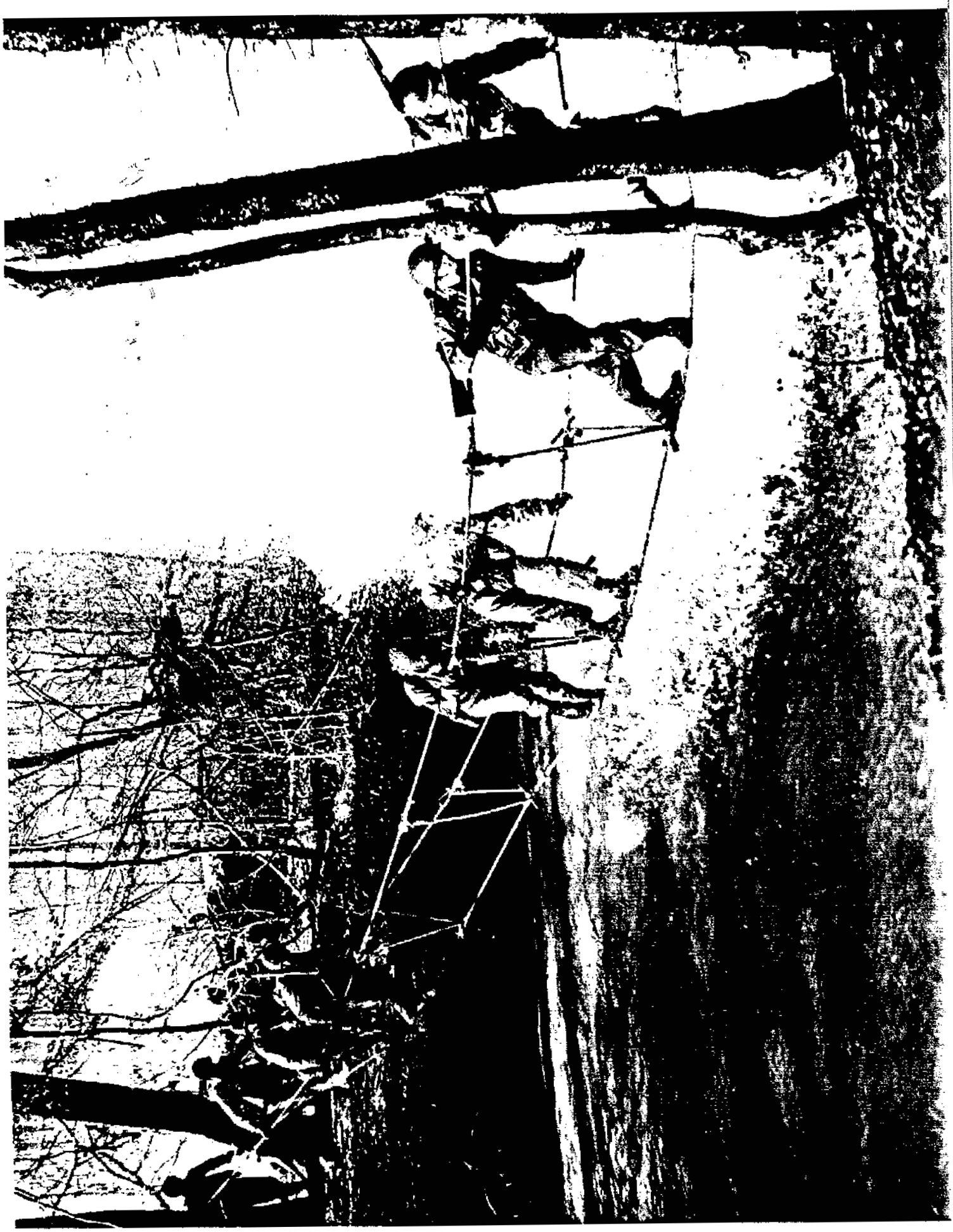
Mess Hall. Note coal stove and strips of fly paper suspended from ceiling. Also note fresh fruit on tables.

"Tent City" in the snow.

61mm Mortar and Crew Member



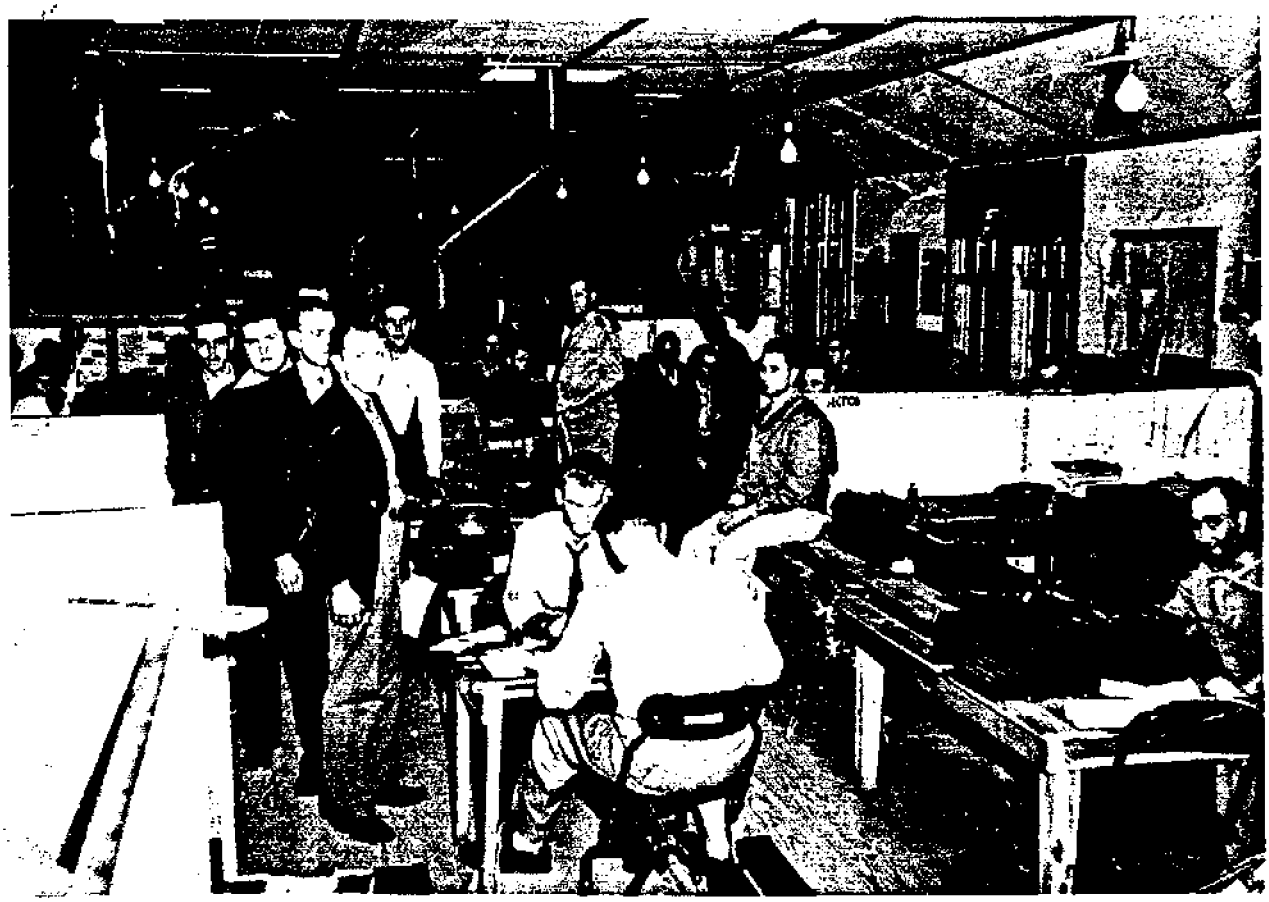
Combat training range at Camp Forrest



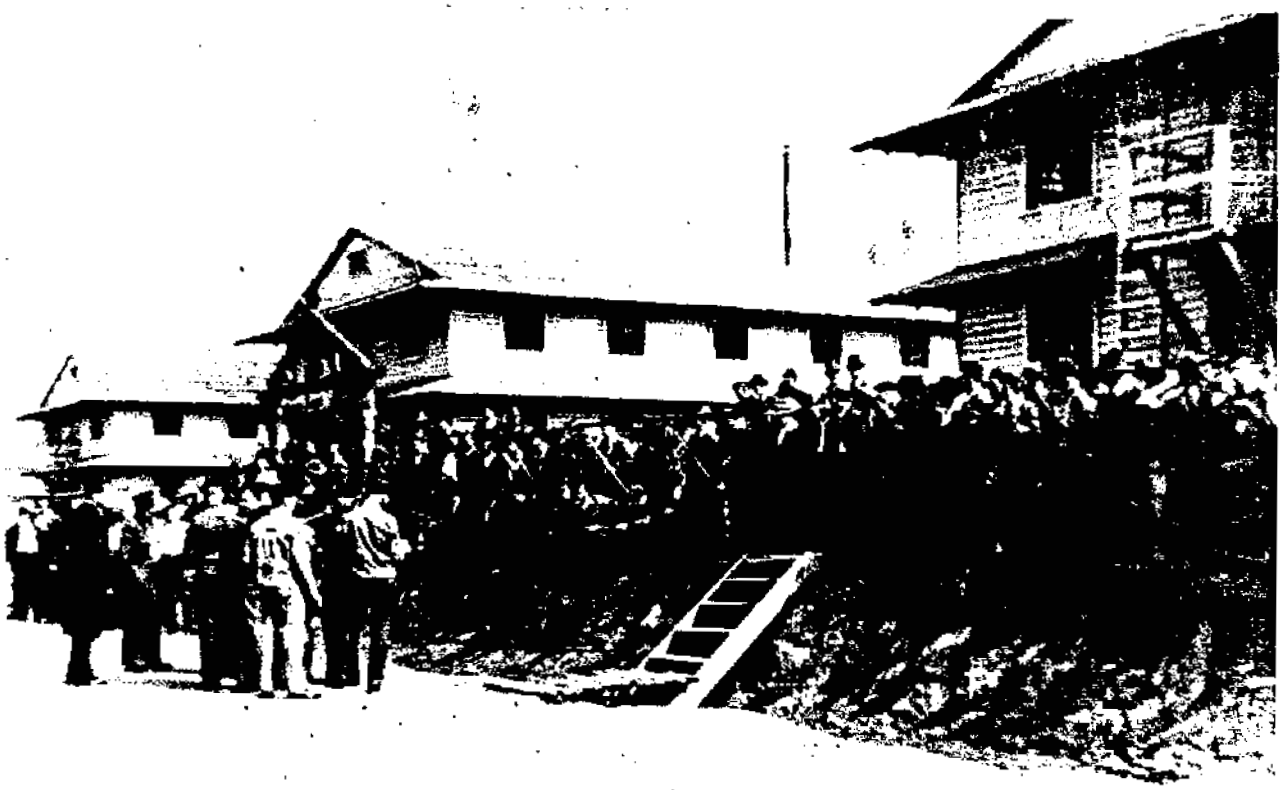
Combat training exercise Camp Forrest

Street fighting training range at Camp Forrest

Combat exercise in Mock Village Camp Forrest



Induction Center, Camp Forrest



Induction Center, Camp Forrest

Plenty Jobs for Everybody

From the very beginning many jobs at Camp Forrest were open to civilians. This decision had been reached by the War Department in order to maximize the military use of manpower and to minimize the training time spent on housekeeping chores.

This decision was a boon to Tullahoma and the surrounding area. Newspapers show that the CCC and the WPA were still hiring local workers up to the beginning of 1942. This means jobs in the area were quite scarce since both these New Deal agencies were employers of last resort. The creation of several thousand jobs in an area where there were few defense factories would not only put money into the local economy, it would prevent migration out of the area as people would not need to leave to find good jobs.

The economic impact of Camp Forrest in creating jobs will be considered from two perspectives; first, those directly employed on the Camp property during its operational phase and, second, those who were employed in satellite businesses set up to serve the Camp and its needs.

When the Camp opened in March 1941 several hundred workers were needed. The laundry hired two hundred, the bakery fifty-five, three hundred were employed by the Post Exchanges, road maintenance needed seventy-five, and another one hundred worked in the hospital. This number increased as the entry of the United States into the war brought an expansion of the base. Additional civilians were hired in the Induction Center, the hospital, pay-roll office, motor pools, and even ordinance service. Most of the clerks and typists in the Camp administrative offices were Civil Service civilians. Some of these people worked at the Camp for only a few months before being drafted, becoming pregnant, or following their husbands to

another Army base with another job. As Camp Forrest began to decline in the number of men based there a significant number of civilian workers shifted to Oak Ridge. A few of the civilian workers, such as telephone operator Myrtle Pearsol, began their employment in the construction phase, transferred to civil service, and were still employed when Camp Forrest was dismantled. Overall, a reasonable estimate would be that fifteen thousand civilians were employed for some period of time during the operational phase of Camp Forrest.

A major employer on the Camp Forrest property was the laundry. This was a very large operation, occupying a building 300 feet by 300 feet and operating twenty-four hours a day when the Camp was fully operational. The laundry, the largest in the state on a single floor, could handle 55,000 pounds of dirty clothes a day. The building contained a boiler capable of producing 750 horse power in steam, a water plant which softened 45,000 gallons of water daily, 124 small pressing machines, 5 flatwork presses, numerous washers and dryers, and a sewing machine capable of replacing 120 shirt buttons a minute. This facility used 30,000 pounds of coal a month. Lieutenant O.K. Lay was the laundry officer, having run a dry-cleaners in civilian life, while W.C. Paterson was the laundry supervisor. Paterson had been in the laundry business since 1924.

Mrs. Marvin Hindman was one of those who were employed in the Camp Forrest laundry. Her husband had come to Tullahoma from the family home in Alabama to work at construction in 1940 and 1941. When that job ended she decided to join her husband in Tullahoma to seek employment. Also, a job would offer her financial independence and a more secure future if her marriage did not work out. She found a job in the laundry in 1942 and stayed at that post until the end of 1944.

Mrs. Hindman's job in the laundry was one no one wanted to do. She was the "marker" who labelled each article of clothing with the owner's mane. Clothes arrived at the laundry in individual bags. These bags were emptied on a large table and each article, dirty or even bloody, had to be labelled with the name of the owner. Most markers were concerned about infection from handling so many dirty clothes and alcohol was made available for handwashing.

Beginning in 1943 a number of Prisoners of War were assigned to work in the laundry and Mrs. Hindman carried on conversations with some of these. One, however, became too much a flirt and she quieted his ardor by firmly stamping on his foot.

Two memories stand out for Mrs. Hindman. On one occasion she found herself marking the clothes of a young man she had known in high school. She sent him a note inviting him to supper with her and her husband. This young man spent many weekends with them prior to shipping out but he was always oppressed with a premonition of death. He was killed in combat less than two months after leaving Camp Forrest.

One another occasion Hindman recalls one of the generals participating in the 1943 maneuvers sent his wallet to the laundry in a dirty pair of pants. There was over $400.00 in the billfold. This sum represented several weeks pay for a laundry worker but the money was found and returned intact.

As a rule of thumb, laundry workers tried to return watches, rings, and cash over $1.00. Loose change was considered fair game. Hindman was paid $116.00 a month for four forty hour weeks. Often, she says, the loose change she accumulated amounted to more than her salary.

The level of gossip in the laundry was quite high, as might be expected with a job that kept hands busy but left minds idle. Naturally, there was a good deal of flirting between women employees and the soldiers, flirting which occasionally led to verbal and physical conflict among the women. Sometimes this flirting took the form of direct defiance of military authorities. When very tired troops marched past the laundry the workers often took water out to them. Once the officer in command of a group ordered Hindman not to give his men any water. She simply waited until the officer was out of sight and gave the men water anyway.

Russell and Ruby Keller both worked in the laundry. Russell had originally had a construction job with Hardaway-Creighton but became a repairman in the laundry when the base became operational. He developed his skills in this line and became a Machinist's Helper and, later, a Supervisor.

In 1943 German POW's began to be used in the laundry to mark and to sort dirty clothes. To prevent fraternization a curtain was hung between the POW's and the women workers. As a supervisor, Russell was in charge of a number of the POW's but he had no difficulty at all in managing them. One of the Germans who spoke English became spokesman for the group. He quickly informed Russell that all the POW's in the laundry had volunteered for the work and that they were all draftees. None of them were interested in doing any fighting but were glad to wash clothes.

Ruby worked folding sheets after they had been pressed. She also folded handkerchiefs and underwear, both of which were ironed.

The Kellers recall that for a fifty hour week they earned $33.00 each and that this was considered very good pay for the time.

They also recall that a man maned J.B. Fletcher was head of the laundry and was a good man to work for. So long as work got done Fletcher stayed out of the way.

A typical story is the employment record of Sylvia Carroll. She was working at Worth Sports but became a laundry worker at Camp Forrest to get better pay. Her first job at the laundry was counting sheets but she was transferred to the office. Because her typing was not good she was sent back to the laundry. Soon after, she became pregnant and left the Camp.

Beginning in 1943 Lilian Milburn and Margaret Anderson, sisters-in-law, got jobs in the Camp laundry. There were already a lot of German POW's in the laundry when they arrived. One of these ladies marked clothes and one posted tickets. Both worked the midnight to 8:00 a.m. shift and found the conditions difficult. Neither could adjust to sleeping in the daytime and so frequently had to resort to napping in the toilet.

For these two young women the laundry was their best chance for a job. Lilian's husband was in the Pacific Theatre and would be gone for 38 months. Both of them lived in the Noah Community and rode to work in a carpool. Laundry workers were allowed in a cafeteria or they could take a meal to work. Both preferred to take a lunch because it was cheaper although ice cream from the cafeteria was a favorite dessert.

The employees on the post received medical benefits as part of their pay. Lilian became ill with appendicitis and was sent to the post hospital for treatment.

Madge Crahill was working in the laundry as a marker when her son was born. She was in the Camp hospital for eleven days and her bill was eleven dollars. She was married to a soldier stationed at the Camp and so could claim medical benefits both as an employee and as a dependent.

From 1941 to 1943 Iris Quinones worked at the laundry. She had been employed at the Tullahoma laundry but left for the much higher Camp Forrest pay of $0.47 per hour. She recalls vividly that on December 8, 1941, all work stopped so everyone could listen to the address by President Roosevelt. After that, everyone was always encouraged to buy savings stamps to fill up a book which could then be exchanged for a war bond.

Jobs were hard to come by in Shelbyville but Virginia Martin and Grace Droupe had eventually secured employment at the Model Laundry. This job was under crude conditions and paid only $0.12½ per hour. When work became available at Camp Forrest in 1942 they were glad to take new jobs despite the commute. Because of their laundry experience they took jobs in the Camp Forrest laundry under a woman foreman who was also from Shelbyville.

Virginia ran the presser which ironed sheets. On one occasion the top descended before she could get her hands out of the way. The burns were so serious she fainted and was taken to the Camp hospital. Although offered complete treatment she would only stay in the hospital during the day, insisting on going home at night. This was not an uncommon attitude among women workers at Camp Forrest. Most had never been away from home, even to travel with friends, and the Camp environment offered something completely new and foreign to them. It was an introduction to an expanded view of life. For Virginia there were several days of treatment and therapy before she recovered. She also received $90.00 compensation for her injuries. She recalls that burns were frequent in the laundry.

One of the favorite jokes Virginia and Grace played on other young women was to write the name and address of the other women on notes and put these in the bundles of clean clothes, asking the soldier to call or write the person whose name appeared on the note. Although this

usually led to an embarrassed confrontation on both sides, some dates and even romances emerged from this type of practical joke.

The work experience of Virginia and Grace came to an end when Grace went to Oak Ridge for a better job and Virginia quit because she could no longer secure a reliable ride to work.

From the number of people who responded to offer interviews it is obvious that the laundry had a large work force. It's working conditions were such that a steady turnover in workers was to be expected. It is also clear that for more venturesome spirits the laundry offered a chance to meet new people and experience new things.

The Army wanted to make sure that meeting new people stayed within the bounds of propriety. Robert Clark trained at Camp Forrest and returned there for his discharge. While waiting for his discharge he was assigned to run a machine that made dog tags. This machine was in the laundry building and he had to have a special pass to enter this building because the Army wished to protect the large number of women working there. On one occasion Clark and a fellow soldier forgot their passes and were held by a sentry until the Sergeant of the Guard could arrive to investigate them.

Closely allied with the laundry was the Clothing and Equipment (C&E) Repair shop. This consisted of three large tents where clothes, shoes, tents, and blankets were brought after having been turned back to the quartermaster as needing repair.

Nell Pearson was teaching school in Coffee County, working with adults. She was paid $42.00 a month for teaching. In 1942 she went to Camp Forrest, remaining until July 1945. Her home was near Pelham and she rode to work each day with a neighbor. This neighbor had

taken his farm truck, put sideboards on it, covered it with a tarpaulin and installed benches. Each person paid $0.25 a day for the round-trip.

At first Pearson was a sewing machine operator in the C&E Shop but she decided to take the Civil Service exam and was promoted to Final Inspector. In this job she had to do a work order on each item as it arrived, describing the repairs needed, and she had to inspect the item before it left the shop to make sure the repair had been made.

By late 1943 most of the employees in C&E were German POW's who were paid in Post-Exchange vouchers. She vividly recalls one POW who was quite resentful of his own higher officers and who often said "Big man not see front lines."

Martha Bates also worked in C&E but she never spoke to the POW's. She was convinced they had done something quite awful. She did enjoy working at Camp Forrest because it allowed her to be with other women of her own age, just beyond high school age. On special occasions the civilian women were invited to have a meal in one of the mess halls but most times they went to a vending area or brought food from home.

Zachariah Pickett had the job of dealing with clothing which could not be repaired. Uniforms which could not be patched or repaired had all brass removed for recycling, buttons were cut off to be used in the C&E shop, and then the uniforms were placed on a chopping block and cut up with hatchets. This operation produced rags which were used in the motor pools and mess halls. In this operation POW's were also employed . One of Pickett's jobs was to check knives and hatchets in and out to the POW's. This work was considered vital to the war effort and Pickett was deferred from the draft because of it.

Geneva Brown had a more varied experience at Camp Forrest. At age 20 she took the Civil Service exam and was hired as a "jack of all trades." She was expected to help out in any area where there was a need and she was to be available on a 24 hour basis. To help her meet these unusual requirements she was provided housing in a civilian barracks located behind the current Wagner Park. This barracks had been provided because of a shortage of housing in Tullahoma and because the job demands of the Camp were drawing people to work from distances too great for commuting. At various times Brown worked in the laundry, the hospital, and in the office of the Provost Marshall, Major Fox. In this latter office she had frequent contact with POWs, a contact she enjoyed.

According to Brown, many of the POWs were quite young, several of them being "cute, blue-eyed boys of 16." She and several other of the women workers, had some degree of sympathy for these captives. On one occasion, she recalls, the Provost Marshall's office received a letter from Germany through the Red Cross. In the letter a German woman requested flowers be placed on the grave of her son who had died at Camp Forrest as a POW.

Despite the long work hours there was an active social life in the civilian barracks and the energy level of the young women there was high. Because "Tullahoma was swarming with people like maggots a-working" she and some of her friends were invited to take on a second job on their day off in a bar in the Arcade. This lasted only a short time because moon-lighting was against the rules.

Brown's hospital work was interrupted by a hospital stay when she contracted measles. Most of the patients in the hospital were like her, victims of disease or in need of surgery. There were few accidents at the Camp, considering its size.

The station hospital, as described, was a rather large operation which employed numerous civilians as cooks, orderlies, nurses's aides, maintenance workers, and Red Cross personnel. The doctors and nurses were all in the Army.

Walter Taylor recalls being paid about $0.15 an hour as a hospital orderly. He had been at the hospital several months before the U.S. entered the war. He was engaged in helping an African American soldier get in bed when a radio in the ward broadcast the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Shortly after Pearl Harboe many civilians in the hospital began to be replaced by draftees who were suited only for limited work.

Dora Galligan was a nurse's aide beginning in 1942. She was paid $2,218.00 a year or about $46.00 a week. Her job was largely bathing patients.

Margaret Moore Lord graduated from Nurses training in 1942 and went directly into the Army by joining the Red Cross. She was 28 years old at the time. Her entry pay was $70.00 a month but this was quickly increased to $90.00. Uniforms were issued in the traditional dress blue and white but these were almost immediately replaced by Olive Drab (OD) uniforms. The hospital was very well equipped but most of the medicine practiced there was just like in civilian life. There were no military injuries; just road accidents, broken bones, measles, and mumps. During the summer maneuvers she treated numerous cases of poison ivy.

On a typical day Moore came on duty at 7:00 a.m. She visited each patient to care for medical needs and to check on diet. Then she dealt with paperwork. The rest of the shift was, she says, "regular nursing." Each ward had two RNs assigned to it during the day as well as Ward Attendants who were Army Corpsmen. The hospital had a large number of wards.

During the 1943 maneuvers she was assigned to a field hospital unit, working with five other nurses out of a tent in Shelbyville.

The food provided the hospital staff was "excellent." Moore recalls lobster or shrimp at every Sunday dinner. When on night duty the food was even better.

Moore went to England in late 1943 and served in France in 1944. She stayed in the Army when the war was over.

James Duncan had worked construction at Camp Forrest but transferred to Civil Service in 1941. In February he became a clerk in Hospital maintenance, working under a Colonel Noah of the Post Engineers. As a clerk Duncan checked items out of the store rooms as they were needed for use in the hospital. Because male employees were so frequently drafted Duncan found himself transferred regularly to other jobs with the Post Engineers.

Anna Sawyer became a seamstress in the Camp Forrest hospital on April 30, 1941. She took a test repairing a sheet and passed with a score of 90--she still has the score card. As a hospital seamstress she occupied a room adjacent to the entrance to the nurses' quarters. She was supposed to repair only hospital bedlinens and nurses uniforms. Captain Bedenbaugh was the officer in charge of the Medical Administration Office at that time, she recalls. Mrs. Sawyer resigned her post in January 1942 because she was pregnant.

Doris Ash was only in his teens when he got a job as hospital cook in 1942. By this time the hospital was averaging about 1,500 patients a day, enlisted personnel. The cooks prepared meals for all those not on a restricted diet. The restricted diet meals were prepared in small kitchens on each ward. Cooks worked 24 hours on, 24 off, so that each crew prepared breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Each crew had three cooks, three pastry cooks, and whatever

kitchen police (KP) help was needed. The cooks prepared for themselves whatever they wanted to eat.

Martha Rawls had the job typing menus for restricted diet patients. Most of those she recalls dealing with were ulcer patients who were put on a diet of unsalted crackers and heavy cream.

Manda Limbough got a job in the hospital in 1943 because her uncle, who was already employed there, helped her get employment. She was assigned to the "juice room." Every day she would go to the hospital warehouse and draw out the daily supplies needed to make juice. She then mixed the juice and saw that it was delivered to the patients. There were two shifts of workers in her area with five women on each shift. She was paid about $0.50 an hour and her first raise was $0.02. Sometimes she went in at 5:30 a.m. and got off at 1:00 p.m., sometimes she went in later and worked through supper.

One morning when Limbough went in to work she was surprised to find that German POW's had not only arrived in Camp, some had been assigned to work with her. One, she recalls, was only about 16 and soon became the pet of the kitchen staff. There was also a POW orchestra which gave a concert each Sunday afternoon.

Ellen Harkins completed her B.S. at Tennessee Technological University in Cookville in March 1941. The head of the University Chemistry department was in the Army Reserve and was preparing to come to Camp Forrest. He offered Harkins a job in the hospital laboratory. She accepted, moved into the nurses quarters, and stayed until the end of the war.

A typical day for her began by going out on the wards to take blood smaples. Then, in the lab, sugar counts, blood counts, etc., were done and slides prepared for the doctors to use. She was paid about $135.00 a month for this work. About 80 people worked in the lab.

With so many men and so few women there was a very active social life at Camp Forrest, as a result of which she met her future husband, Leroy.

Toward the end of the war the hospital was largely filled with POWs. Harkins worked in the lab with many German doctors and professionals who took every advantage of the circumstances to study U.S. lab and medical techniques.

When Camp Forrest was closed down she and her husband purchased surplus equipment from the lab and opened the first medical laboratory in Cookville, Tennessee.

Mary Adams McKissack was a Red Cross member who was called to serve at the Camp at the end of 1942. She was assigned to work with patients in the hospital to aid them in reconciling personal problems such as unfaithful wives, loss of girlfriends, or no mail arriving. Worry about what was going on at home was the most common problem on the psychiatric ward. Adams would work through the soldier's home town Red Cross chapter to try to relieve this situation. Later in the war she had the duty of delivering toilet articles to POWs.

The Red Cross, Adams feels, did good work. "We earned our place" she says.

The Post Exchange was an important gathering place for soldiers at Camp Forrest. After the work of the day's training was over the PX was a place to relax, to meet friends, to drink beer, to purchase a few necessities or pleasures, and to meet young women with whom one could chat or flirt. There were 26 PX stores on the Camp Forrest property proper and

temporary facilities were set up in the "tent cities" as they were needed. Stocking these facilities was itself a full time job.

Paris Crabtree was a civilian who stocked the PXs at Camp Forrest. Crabtree lived in McMinnville and drove a delivery truck for Dr. Pepper, a favorite soft drink of the World War Two period. "Major Haskel and Lieutenant Green were in charge of vendor sales. Dr. Pepper was serving about twenty sites. Later on we put machines in the Day Room of every barracks. The machines were handled by company clerks but they handled them well. No company ever left Camp Forrest with shortages or non-payment. I had been working for about $25.00 to $45.00 a week but at a Camp Forrest I received $2.50 a day and a commission of $0.05 for each 24 bottle case sold. I averaged $500.00 to $600.00 a month and sometimes got $50.00 a day."

Notice the volume of sales necessary to achieve an income of $500.00 a month. After deducting the pay of $2.50 a day for a six day week Crabtree was earning $110.00 a week commission. At $0.05 a case he had to sell 2,200 cases or 52,800 bottles of Dr. Pepper each week. It should be remembered Dr. Pepper did not have a monopoly on sales of soft drinks. Coca-cola and other brands were also for sale as was beer, ice cream and milkshakes. Obviously the blazing hot Tennessee summers were working to the benefit of someone. Equally obvious is the sheer size of Camp Forrest and the number of soldier stationed there.

Geneva Henley lived in Decherd, Tennessee, when Camp Forrest began to fill with troops in 1941. Many families were hesitant to let their daughters work on the base but she was "a little bold" and didn't mind working among so many men. There were times, however, when she would not have minded having more women around. Generally, the soldiers of a unit were very protective about the young women in "their" PX and would not allow any harassment or

ill-treatment of "their girls." Henley rose to become assistant manager of one of the PXs responsible for ordering goods and keeping records. She worked every holiday because the PX was a gathering place for the soldiers and having it open helped keep morale up.

Mary Jane Henley, sister of Geneva, was a purchasing manager for a PX at Camp Forrest. Most of the items carried were standard goods, like shaving gear, but special order items were carried also. She, like her sister, heard numerous horror stories about what happened to female workers at Camp Forrest but none of them ever proved to be true. Jobs were so scarce in the area before Camp Forrest she was not going to be kept from a good job merely by talk.

As a civilian woman on an Army base she felt a good deal of sympathy for the young men who were so far from their homes and who were gong away to war. She also felt that having in the area so many people from other states helped to break down the cultural isolation of Tullahoma and the surrounding region.

In 1941 she recalls seeing General George Patton on several occasions. His wife also came in Henley's PX on several occasions. "She drove a red convertible, wore riding pants, and was very blunt spoken. It was very interesting listening to her."

Dorthy Limbough had been married about a year and was living with her husband in Grand Rapids, Michigan, when letters from Tennessee began to mention an Army base here. The couple returned here and "they needed a clerk in a PX. I was hired and left on the steps of the PX of the 129th Infantry Regiment. Being a farm girl I was no stranger to work. I learned quickly and was friendly. My cash register came up to the penny the first day. I

seemed to be a natural at merchandise display so I was soon doing a day here and a day there in some of the other PXs on display work.

"I had never seen men in uniform before I started working at Camp Forrest. I had noticed that some looked different from others but to me they were just men who came in to buy something they wanted or needed.

"The PX was closed while the 129th was gone on summer maneuvers in Arkansas and Louisiana. Upon their return we were preparing to re-open the PX. I happened to be the only one out front, all the others being in the stock room, when in marched a rather short, ramrod straight soldier. He came straight up to the soda fountain.

"I asked 'May I help you?' He looked around and said 'I want a chocolate milk shake!' I replied 'we have ice cream and syrup but no milk has been delivered yet. If you will run over to the mess hall and get a pint of milk I'll be glad to make your milkshake.' He seemed to draw himself up about seven feet tall, frowned, gave me an intensely puzzled look, shook his head, and, looking like a thundercloud, he turned and marched back out the front door without a word.

"I stood there with my mouth hanging open. Another older soldier came in as the first one went out. The second soldier walked up to me and asked 'child, what happened?' I told him what had taken place. He looked shocked and then began to laugh. He laughed so long and loud I was afraid he would lose his breath. When he calmed down he said 'child, that was the General in command of this entire post. My God, you tried to send the Commanding General on a simple errand. Don't you know rank?

"Hats off to the General for being a true gentleman and worthy of his rank. He realized I was not being disrespectful but was only ill-informed. The next day, however, all civilian

employees received a booklet on military rank which we were to learn in a week so nothing like this would happen again. I have many happy, sad, and funny memories of Camp Forrest but the one thing that sticks in my mind is the knowledge of the kind of officer and gentleman Camp Forrest had in that General."

Bobby Scharber went to work in a PX for POW guards during his school vacation in 1944. He was 15 years old and rode the bus from his home in Winchester to the vicinity of the current Corrections Academy, then he walked to the PX which was near the rear of the current golf course. He was below the legal age for employment on post but workers were very hard to find so an exception was made on his behalf. He worked form 1:00 to 10:00 p.m. handling soft drinks, beer, and ice cream, doing this six days a week.

The POWs in the nearby compound gave no trouble. The conflict came between the 17th Airborne troops and the M.P.s who guarded the Germans. There were eight or ten fights between these groups during the three months he was there.

In 1941 John Gray got a job in a PX at age 16. He recalls that the 33rd Division was a hard-drinking group. From the afternoon opening, about 5:00, he served beer non-stop until closing at 9:00. Just before closing many soldiers would come in with every pot and pan they could find and buy beer by the gallon.

Edna Conway worked in a PX as a soda fountain clerk while a high school junior. She was there from 1944 until the base closed down. One day a week she worked at a PX at Northern Field. Toward the end of the war there were only one or two PXs open and she would often spend the night at the Red Cross guest house to avoid the trip back to Winchester. The

guest house was adjacent to the Service Club which was a very lively place. Many people, by 1944, had completed their tour of duty and were at Camp Forrest awaiting discharge.

The PX was open from 10 to 1 and from 5 to 9. Between 1 and 5 there was a Post softball team of which she was a member. The problem with team practice was that there was no place to change clothes and she had to practice in the clothes she wore to work.

During the maneuvers in 1944 demand for cold drinks was so great Conway often worked 15 hours a day.

On an average, Conway recalls, the PX workers earned about $100.00 a month.. This was good compared to $20.00 a month at stores in Winchester.

Clennie Huddleston managed a Camp Forrest PX before being drafted himself. He had been employed managing a commissary for the Millard Stave and Lumber Company of Jasper, Alabama. The company had cut over all their timber land and was considering a move to Jasper, Tennessee. Unable to secure the timber land they needed the company laid-off a number of employees. Huddleston was quickly hired to manage a PX at Camp Forrest.

A typical day at a PX began with supervising the janitors so as to get the place clean. The manager then checked his stock and consulted with the Army PX officer assigned to check inventory, at this time, Major Haskel.

Merchandise was assigned to each PX on a retail basis. At the end of each month goods assigned plus goods on hand was supposed to match cash taken in. Although there was a monthly margin of $400.00, plus or minus, allowed to cover breakage, spoilage, and theft, Huddleston operated from April to December 1940 with a shortfall of only $2.65.

One section of the facility was taken up with watches, scarves, cameras, and fountain pens. Toiletries took up another section. The fountain area sold sandwiches, soft drinks, cookies, and ice cream. Beer had an area to itself and it was in this area that profits were to be made. When the beer was very cold it could be drawn from the tap with very little head and profits went down. But when the beer was somewhat warmer the head was higher and profits went up.

On the day he was inducted Huddleston took time off from work and walked down the street from his PX to the induction center.

Running a base the size of Camp Forrest required a large administrative section and this, in turn, means numerous young women were hired as secretaries. One of these was Annie Estes. She took a typing course her senior year in high school and was hired as a typist in the Camp Headquarters, working in the Military Personnel Records area. She dealt with pay, service records, furlough, and any other related paperwork. Estes went to work in 1941 and left only when the last buildings were scheduled for demolition in 1946.

During her five years at Camp Forrest Estes lived at home with her parents and commuted by bus from the Winchester area. She had to walk about a mile from their house to the road to catch the bus. Her highest pay during her years of service was $200.00 a month.

Estes recalls that the Camp Headquarters detachment included Military Police, Quartermaster Detachment, Finance Office, and Civil Service employees.

Although she lived at home Estes knew about the lively social life at the Camp. She recalls parties at the Southern Queen Club on the Manchester Highway, and at Clara's Place at Monteagle. Parties were regularly held at the NCO Club on the base.

POWs were used in the Headquarters buildings for janitorial and maintenance work. Estes recalls "Hans," a janitor POW from Poland. He had been drafted by the Wehrmacht and had surrendered to the Americans at his first opportunity. Although "Hans" spoke almost no English he communicated with gestures. Headquarters personnel often shared their food with POWs.

Elizabeth Cochran got a job in the Finance Department immediately after graduating from high school in Lewisburg. At first she commuted but the distance was too great over bad roads so she and a friend became boarders with the Stevenson family on Grundy Street. Then she lived for a time in the barracks provided for civilian workers, and later in a house on Washington Street, the house currently known as the Shemp House.

Often Cochran went home on the weekends but when she was in Tullahoma she enjoyed the lively social life.

The pay for a clerk in the Finance Office was about $1,800.00 a year.

At the beginning of the Second World War the United States Army was not a mechanized force. All artillery was towed, as opposed to self-propelled, and some was actually towed by horses. In 1941 horse mounted cavalry was still a feature of life in the military. The blitzkrieg of 1939 and 1940 in Europe convinced the War Department to begin the process of mechanization. This would not be a speedy process because of the need to design and develop the machinery needed. However, the escalating process meant that motor pools would be an expanding force at any Army camp and that maintenance on vehicles would be an important feature of life.

Jeff Stone was employed in a motor pool as a warehouse supervisor, later becoming chief of ordinance. He recalls that representatives from the major automobile manufacturing companies came to camp Forrest to help set up a warehouse inventory system and to train people how to use this system. Obviously, these companies had a great deal of experience in maintaining and utilizing large inventories of automotive parts and they soon devised a simple but accurate method of tracking stock on hand as well as who had requested what parts.

Onmon Hise was hired as a mechanics helper at Camp Forrest and, three and a half years later, was a senior mechanic. The Hise family lived within earshot of the base, so Onmon walked to work. In the early days of his job Hise checked supplies out of the motor pool store room. This was a very well stocked area and he almost always had what people needed to perform a repair. His boss at this time was Hugh Lay. Many of the vehicles he was repairing were Diamond T trucks, a very large truck with twelve cylinders. Hise is proud of his record while learning his trade. He was never in trouble, never used a day of sick leave, and feels he did a good day's work every day.

As a senior mechanic Hise was put in charge of a facility with two service bays and 75 German POWs. He did not like this arrangement because he could not talk to the men and direct their work; he could only inspect what they had done. The repair shop contained a blacksmith shop, a machine shop, and numerous power tools. The POWs would often make a part if something was not in stock.

The POWs were well treated and well fed. In addition to three meals of whatever was being served in the mess halls they received snacks at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

In 1944, after the D-Day Invasion, Hise recalls often working well into the night. Camp Forrest was forwarding units to the European Theatre.

Odus Price was a mechanic earning $18.00 a week. He did a difficult repair job for a soldier who was so impressed by Price's skill he helped Price get a job at Camp Forrest, a much better paying position. Price started in a warehouse and worked his way up to manager of Salvage and Reclamation for the Motor Pool. As a mechanic Price enjoyed the salvage work because it gave him the chance to tear apart engine types he had never seen before.

The salvage operation at Camp Forrest was quite large because material was sent there from numerous other camps for reclamation. As head of this operation Price supervised 12 inspectors, three typists, and 800 POWs. He used one POW for his interpreter and assigned men to jobs which best matched their skills. For example, one POW had been a watch maker and he was assigned to repair speedometers.

Being both conscientious and innovative Price was concerned about shipping out fuel pumps which had been salvaged but not tested. He devised a method of testing the pumps using a small motor to spin a scrap transmission which operated the fuel pumps.

There was some dishonesty since many of the things being salvaged or stored were in very short supply on the civilian market. The FBI arrested a fellow worker of Price because the man was stealing entire engines to resell to civilians.

So far as many of the operations on the base were concerned Price feels the civilian workers made a great contribution because they were permanent employees who had time and opportunity to learn the process while most of the military personnel were on the job only a short time before being shipped out to a new assignment.

Lloyd Mahon worked as a motor pool mechanic and was often sent out in the field to repair broken equipment. Not all motor pool work was done in garages.

In 1943, while still in high school, sixteen year old E.H., "Eddie," Scharber, went to work in the Camp Forrest motor pool during the summer. He filled out requisitions and put stock in bins in a warehouse. There was, he recalls, a well organized system of filing and finding parts. In his area they did major repairs on disabled vehicles. This was purely a civilian operation with only military supervision. In 1944 Scharber returned for a second summer of work. By this time numerous POWs were employed in the Motor Pool. These were, says Scharber, the first adult men he had ever seen wearing shorts. Most of the POWs were not much older than Scharber but they were quite innovative in making repairs and in handicrafts.

During the two summers he was there Scharber worked on weekends so regular employees could have some time off. He was paid $20.00 a week.

Another job which was, surprisingly, handled by civilians was that of Ordinance supply. The Ordinance officer for Camp Forrest was W.J. Knies. Before the war he was employed by Grant Food Store in Winchester and so had a working knowledge of logistics and distribution. He was hired at Camp Forrest in August 1941 and stayed until he was inducted into the Army in 1944. As ordinance officer Knies was responsible for issuing all weapons from pistols to 105 millimeter rifled cannon.

When the Camp was just opening the Ordinance office issued '03 Springfield and .303 Enfield rifles and .44 revolvers. The arrival of the first M-1 rifle in late 1941 was treated like a state secret. The crate containing the first of these weapons was uncrated in the Ordinance strong room in the presence of the base commander. During 1942 and 1943 train car loads of

M-1s arrived at Camp Forrest almost every day. Because this was the last training base before going to Europe Camp Forrest had a high priority assignment for rifles.

The freight traffic through the Camp was quite large. An average of 100 loaded freight cars arrived every day and 100 empty cars also went back out. In addition there was a lot of truck traffic. It seems that truck drivers were adept at getting the very best brands of whiskey and bottles kept appearing on Knies' desk. This whiskey traffic was clearly illegal and clearly impossible to stop.

After Durnkirk, June 1940, the Ordinance department began to speed up work considerably. The employees of this department worked sixteen hours a day and were paid overtime. There were eleven civilian experts in the Camp Forrest ordinance department. The experience they gained made them invaluable later in the war. For example, Knies always insisted that tanks being shipped out for repair have their gun barrels tied in a stationary position. Many of the tanks had stripped turret gears which would allow the gun to swing side to side. On one occasion Knies was overruled on this issue by a warrant officer just out of training school. One of the tank turrets swung going through the Cowan tunnel and jammed, blocking rail transportation for several hours.

Some instance of spying were suspected and Knies sent regular reports to FBI agents stationed in Tullahoma.

Knies preferred all male workers in the Ordinance department. On one occasion he was assigned members of the Womens Army Corps (WACs) but requested they be reassigned. He feared sexual incidents with women working at night in large warehouses.

Herchel Gray, ninety-one years old in 1993, worked construction at Camp Forrest and then became a heavy equipment mechanic for the Ordinance Department. When the 168th Field Artillery Battalion arrived at the Camp in 1941 Gray was the only person experienced enough to unload their 155 millimeter howitzers by backing them off flat cars using a catapillar tractor. His first duty, once the troops were in place, was to teach the artillery drivers how to handle the catapillars that towed the guns. The gun crews were to work on a schedule which allowed seven minutes for a gun to be backed into position, loaded, laid, and fired.

When training began at the Spencer range Gray always accompanied the unit going there to perform maintenance or repairs if needed. When a unit was returned from Spencer their guns were to be completely overhauled. Of course, Gray had no experience overhauling an artillery piece but he "figgered it out" based on his mechanical experience. He even designed a device to test the recoil mechanism without the necessity of taking a repaired gun back to the Spencer range for test firing. This device earned him a bonus of $125.00 which was almost a month's pay.

Another of Gray's duties was to supervise the ammunition dump and to dispose of defective ammunition. Disposal of .30 caliber rifle and machine gun ammunition was simple. He had a pit dug 6 feet by 6 feet by 6 feet. When cartridges were to be disposed of he built a fire in the pit, dumped in the cartridges, and dropped a sheet of steel over the pit. He described the result as sounding like popcorn going off. The disposal of 37, 75, 105, and 155 millimeter ammunition was much more of a challenge. The first time Gray exploded a cache of these shells he used too much TNT to detonate the ammunition and he "shook every window in the whole camp."

The event he recalls with the most glee occurred when a major and another officer came to the ordinance shop and requested a tank ride. The shop foreman took Gray aside and instructed him to "scare hell out of them" so asking for rides would not get to be a habit. Gray did such a good job that on return the major informed the shop foreman he "had better keep an eye on that fellow, he's gonna kill somebody driving the way he does."

A maxim attributed to Napoleon says "an army marches on its stomach." Trainees who worked in the Camp Forrest kitchens have already been quoted as to their role in making a reality of this proverb. But civilians also helped. The Subsistence Department employed numerous civilians, one of whom was Mary Lou Fisher.

Mary Fisher was employed in a restaurant in Murfreesboro but wanted a job at Camp Forrest because her husband was there. She was hired by the Subsistence Department where her job was to type menus for the troops. During the maneuvers this was especially difficult since the number of troops in the area increased by several thousand over their usual numbers.

Finis E. Gentry had a longer and more detailed involvement with the Subsistence Department. Gentry was employed by the Quartermaster Department as a storekeeper in March 1941. His duties were to "supervise all civilian and military personnel involved in receiving, storing, handling, and issuing all fruits and vegetables at Camp Forrest.

"At the beginning of the operation there was a problem in off-loading coal. The track for the rail cars was built on an incline for the purpose of bottom off-loading coal cars. There was some delay in receiving motorized equipment for use in moving coal from underneath the rail car tracks. A number of incoming rail cars could not be off-loaded for this reason. This caused a daily demurrage charge and also tied up the car at a time when rail cars were needed

throughout the country. To off set some of the charges I was unloading cars of fruits and vegetables in one day using an Ordinance Department conveyer belt to expedite my job. These cars were returned the same day they were received.

"On May 1, 1941, I was given permanent Civil Service status and, soon after, was made Government Inspector of Subsistence. This gave me the additional duty of inspecting all fruits and vegetables received at Camp Forrest.

"As I recall, the Camp was built to support about 40,000 to 50,000 troops. However, at the peak of the operation, during the Tennessee Maneuvers of 1943, we were supporting approximately 150,000 troops. This was prior to the establishment of Army rail heads throughout Middle Tennessee. During this period we would receive approximately two or three rail cars and approximately two truck loads of fruits and vegetables per day. To eliminate dual handling of the items we would issue certain items directly from the rail car to the Army units.

"All shipments received were normally off loaded on to rubber tired wagons, six feet by three feet. These were pulled by hand by Civil Service civilian workers who put the goods in the warehouse or in cold storage. There were about twelve men in my area. Overall, the civilian labor was about 80% colored and 20% white.

"After the North Africa Campaign, a large number of German soldiers were sent to Camp Forrest as POWs. I was assigned eight or ten of these for use as labor and general housekeeping chores. These men seemed to understand English quite well. One of them, Rhudy by name, told me he was a Czechoslovakian who had been drafted by the Germans. There was later a report that a cook on a troop train leaving Camp Forrest had found lye in some flour.

This was a suspected case of sabotage and was investigated by the Security Officers but with results unknown to me.

"I remember a rather interesting complaint from an officer in the 107th Ohio Cavalry, an officer, apparently, from an urban area. I can still see him standing in front of me in those highly polished tan riding boots. He said he was returning fresh corn which had been issued throughout the Camp because he had found some worms in his unit's corn. I informed him this was a common occurrence in fresh corn and that the wormy area could be broken off before cooking. Furthermore, I would not accept the corn back in the warehouse unless I also received a medical certificate labelling it unfit for human consumption. I never saw the officer again and I am sure the troops enjoyed the corn.

"I can recall one real problem that involved the inspection of a commodity shipped by rail. A rail car arrived containing a shipment of canned corned beef. Normally this would have gone to the dry storage warehouse but there was room in my facility at the time and I was to accept the beef. When I broke the seals on the car door I noticed a foul smell. Upon opening on of the cases containing twelve five pound cans of corned beef I found a hole had been punched in the can under its paper label. This was also true in several other cases. I informed the proper officer who made the final inspection. The corned beef had been packed and shipped in Argentina and this was, in my opinion, an act of sabotage."

Finis Gentry left Camp Forrest in late 1943 upon being drafted. In March 1946 he would return to close down the base.

The Induction Center employed a large number of civilians as clerks. This facility was located in the Post Headquarters area near Gate Number One. The experiences of some of the

inductees and the military doctors who were at the center have already been described. For the civilians employed at the Induction Center the job was much like any other typing and filing process.

Mrs. Paul Boswell was one of these civilians. She went to the Camp directly out of high school and worked filling out papers. She recalls there was a large number of employees in her office. When inductees arrived they immediately began processing. If a bus load of inductees arrived late in the evening the secretaries would work until late at night finishing their papers. This was done without overtime pay. Amusing incidents occurred when completely nude inductees mistakenly walked through the unmarked door to the typists office.

Virginia Dunkleberger also worked as secretary in the induction center. She found herself, one day, typing a name that looked quite familiar. She was helping induct her husband.

There were numerous miscellaneous jobs at Camp Forrest. Dorothy Wheeler came to the Northern Field project as a secretary with the Corps of Engineers in July 1941. She rotated from Nashville to Camp Forrest and back more than once before leaving to help with the family business in 1943.

Mrs. Charles Blankenship was a school teacher who took a job at Camp Forrest in the Field Director's office. Because she knew some academic German she was assigned to work with POWs, inspecting the Red Cross packages sent to the Prisoners. She recalls most of these came from prisoner's relatives who were citizens of the United States. Blankenship disliked this job and was transferred to Northern Field before returning to a teaching position.

Sam Scharber held several jobs around Camp Forrest and his career illustrated what an innovative and flexible person might have done. Sam worked in construction, then in the motor

pool during the operational phase of the camp. He was a railroad engineer driving the switch engine used to shuttle rail cars; he worked at Northern Field installing batteries in planes; he served as Chief of Maintenance at Northern Field. He ended his career as vehicle inspector at Camp Forrest.

In 1940 the Great Depression was still an economic reality, although its worst aspects were alleviated by the New Deal. With construction followed by operation of what may have been the second largest training base in the United States it must have seemed as if an economic bonanza had arrived for Tullahoma and the surrounding area. There were, indeed, plenty of jobs for everybody. And not all of them were "government jobs." The presence of soldiers and civilians with money to spend created numerous sources of income and employment in the communities surrounding Camp Forrest.

Mark Womack was one of those brought to Tullahoma as a civilian employee. He had worked for the NC and St. Louis Railroad as an "extra" since July 1941. In this capacity he worked different shifts at different jobs on an "as needed" basis. His first regular job was as a ticket seller at Tullahoma. Before Camp Forrest began the passenger station at Tullahoma had been served by a single operator-clerk on each shift who did all the work required in the office. With the arrival of troops at the camp two additional ticket sellers were added on the first and second shifts while one additional ticket seller was added on the third shift. The station also got a full-time accountant.

Womack was assigned to the 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. shift. Because housing was so scarce in Tullahoma he continued to live with his parents in Murfreesboro and commuted by bus. He recalls "while on the job I stood in the same spot for hours selling tickets to soldiers

on furlough or pass, and sometimes to relatives of soldiers who had been to visit them at Camp Forrest. I learned a lot about which railroads served which cities because I was constantly looking up routes and fares to places large and small." Womack also notes that there was a special furlough rate for soldiers which, though for a round trip, was only slightly more than the one-way coach fare. These tickets were good only for coach cars, not Pullmans, and the ticket holder had to be prepared to show his papers on request. Because of the presence of the 33rd Infantry Division from Illinois Womack sold lots of tickets to Chicago. He still recalls that the furlough rate to Chicago was $13.15.

Conditions at the Tullahoma passenger depot were often crowded and hectic. Passengers on regular coach trains were not guaranteed a seat. Frequently there were no seats in the waiting rooms either. And there was more than one waiting room because the train station was racially segregated with "colored" and "white" areas. These conditions were even more crowded on weekends when large numbers of soldiers went on week-end passes. The NC and St. Louis ran a special train to Nashville on Friday and another back on Sunday. The round-trip fare was just over $2.00. Some soldiers went to Chattanooga for their week-ends but Womack does not recall special trains being run there.

The freight depot was several hundred yards away from the passenger depot. Womack never worked there but he recalls that freight traffic was very heavy, so much so that several engines were added, round the clock. In 1942, when additional facilities were being added at Camp Forrest, an additional freight run was established from Cowan to Tullahoma each day for the purpose of bringing sand and gravel from Estill Springs to the Camp and returning empty cars to the gravel pit.

One type of work arose spontaneously and was beneficial to the Army and to the community. This occupation had begun during the construction phase of Camp Forrest and was reborn when troops arrived. Almost every house in the area with a spare room took in roomers and many residents offered board as well.

Mrs. Marian Hindman worked in the Camp Forest laundry and met many soldiers who were looking for rooms in Tullahoma so they could bring their wives to be with them. Not only did Hindman take in short-term roomers in her small house, she ran an informal network which helped find vacant rooms in the area. On one occasion she helped get permission for a couple to stay in a small log barn across the road from her house.

Zilla Payne saw the opportunity to make money so she borrowed $25.00 to get the things she needed to begin. She kept roomers and provided board for $8.00 per person per week. After one week she had paid back her loan and was making enough for the entire family to live on so that her husband's salary went into the bank. During one period of eighteen months her husband was working out of town at Vincent, Alabama, and Zilla was alone with a number of men in the house and in town. She recalls being a little apprehensive about this but no untoward incidents ever occurred.

Margie Pearsall kept roomers but did not provide board. Even so, she would sometimes come home from work to find roomers had been cooking her food. This was especially difficult when rationed items were involved because in addition to the cost of such goods was the great difficulty in replacing them.

Hazel Stubblefield took in roomers while her next door neighbor provided meals. Rooms were $20.00 a week and Stubblefield rented out both her bedrooms leaving the family to sleep

on fold-out couches. Four people were constantly in the Stubblefield house and the mortgage on the house was paid in this fashion. There was a constant stream of parents, wives, girl-friends, and just girls, all of whom stayed for a few days. Only once did she encounter a problem, however, and that was when a roomer got drunk.

Hazel Stubblefield does recall there was a "beer joint" across the street from their East Lincoln Street home in Tullahoma, and a roller skating rink and a permanent carnival were just down the street. This meant there was a lot of traffic on their street and drunks were often found in their yard or on their porch.

Hazel's daughter, Susannah McMillan, also recalls those days. She fell "madly and truly in love" with one soldier whose parents stayed with her family. She was in the eighth grade and this soldier was twenty-eight, "but he had a moustache and looked just like Clark Gable. Of course," she adds, "he didn't even notice me."

The reality and humanness of these "boarders" becomes apparent when looking at the Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home records. Relatives visiting service men died and bodies had to be sent back to their homes. Couples conceived children and infants were born, some to live only a few days. Spouses died. All the routine of daily life went on beneath the patina of a nation at war. It is still heart-wrenching to read "Infant Schmid, premature daughter of Lt. and Mrs. Edward Schmid; infant Carrico, daughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Frank Carrico; infant McGuire, daughter of Lt. and Mrs. W.B. McGuire; Eliza Kearse, wife of Sgt. Kearse, colored, Camp Forrest, charge American Red Cross."

Homer Rogers of Manchester provided for another perceived need. Homer ran a small tourist camp which stayed fully occupied but his real money came from slaking thirst. Rogers

recalls "I had the first beer license in Coffee County. Beer usually sold for ten cents. I could get twenty cents during the maneuvers. That meant I was making a profit of $2.00 a case. Sometimes I would sell a thousand cases a day. I sold so much beer the Gerst Brewery in Nashville would send a special truck just to my store three days a week. I also put up a shed with two shower heads and charged $0.50 for a shower without soap and towel. Lots of times I would get $100.00 a day off showers. Also, Army trucks would stop and put 200 or 300 pounds of ice in the boxes where I cooled the beer so I saved that money, too. Warren Waites ran a candy supply company out of Nashville. I would buy $500.00 worth of peanuts every week. The peanuts were in nickle packs." This means Rogers averaged 10,000 packs of peanuts a week.

Charles Gowen found what must have been a common job for a lot of boys his age. He was an orphan living with an Aunt and Uncle. They rented spare rooms to soldier's wives for $6.00 a week and provided full board for $6.00 more. Gowen found a source of income in shining shoes for $0.10 a pair. Competition for this money on the streets of Tullahoma was fierce so he would ride the bus to the Camp and, if the M.P. on the gate was in a good mood, he would get into the camp and could shine shoes in the barracks. When soldiers were passing through town and the column would stop Gowen would run errands to buy cokes or candy bars for the soldiers who could not go into the stores at such times. His tips from running errands often amounted to three or four dollars a day.

The expansion of the telephone exchange during the construction phase of the Camp has already been described. However, the volume of telephone traffic went up and up as the number

of troops at the base increased and, after war was declared, people wanted to contact family member as often as possible.

Lillian Tucker was just out of high school when, in 1942, her family lost their home in the Dixie community to the second phase expansion of Camp Forrest. Theirs was one of about fifty families dispossed by the expansion of Camp Forrest. However, Lillian came in to Tullahoma and got a job in the telephone office.

An unusual economic opportunity came to the school at Chapel Hill. In 1943 the Army purchased the standing crops of farmers in the Flat Creek community of Bedford County because maneuvers were to be held in that area. As a gesture of good will the Army offered to allow the students at Chapel Hill, the home of Nathan Bedford Forrest, to harvest the cotton crop on one farm and keep the profits for school projects. Sarah Harris recalls the students spent three days picking cotton. The profits were used to pay for machines the community could use to can and preserve vegetables.

Bob Couch recounts that restaurants and hotels, beverages and clothing, and taxis all were in great demand. There were three movie theaters and they stayed open 24 hours a day. Couch estimates there were 500 to 600 taxis. Many other people have noted that a lot of the taxi drivers sold liquor freely to their passengers.

In addition to taxis there was a bus line operating both in Tullahoma and on the Camp property. F.R. Goodwin was a driver for this company, the Consolidated Bus Line. Beginning with the construction phase of the camp the bus company extended its route to the site and, when troops arrived, ran a route through the barracks area. The bus depot was on the corner of Atlantic and Grundy streets, across the railroad tracks from the old post office. From there to

gate number one the fare was $0.10. From the gate to any point on the post the fare was also $0.10. A large number of civilian employees rode the bus to and from work and huge numbers of soldiers used the bus when going on leave. Although there were a few fights when people had been drinking the soldiers were Goodwin's favorite customers. He felt a bond with them and would do them small favors. For example, when "Retreat" was sounded at the end of the day and the sunset gun was fired to mark the lowering of the flag at Camp headquarters, all soldiers on the base, no matter where they were, were supposed to stand to attention. If the soldiers were at a bus stop Goodwin would wait until the ceremony was over so the soldiers could board his bus. Although there were several opportunities to get a job paying more than the $30.00 a week he earned with the bus company Goodwin kept his drivers job because he enjoyed the work.

Under federal war-time regulations prices were controlled as were wages. This was designed to prevent the run-away inflation that had characterized World War One. President Roosevelt established the Office of Price Administration (OPA) to supervise fixed prices. This meant that even in boom town situations such as Tullahoma prices remained within reason. Many merchants posted placards promising reasonable prices to soldiers. Even so, OPA kept an eye on matters. In 1943 a local hotel owner and banker was fined $1,000.00 for charging prices higher than the allowable at his Atlantic Street hotel. He had earlier been in conflict with the state over an attempt to profit unduly from the sale of land to Camp Forrest.

All of this meant crowds of people. Mrs. Brac Thoma recalls that her family lived in Bell Buckle, Tennessee, and had always done much of their shopping in Tullahoma. They cut back on this activity because of the crowds.

While these changes meant jobs and money there was some resistance, as when the County Court balked at helping build a road from Camp Forrest to the Spencer Range. There was also fear of what the crowds, new faces, and changes would mean.

Myrtle Henley lived in Franklin County at the time. She says some people expressed a fear of change when the Camp opened. Others feared for the safety of their daughters and that their sons would leave home with "war fever." At times, Henley says, she felt somewhat uneasy because of the presence of so many men. This feeling soon changed to one of concern and compassion for the soldiers who passed her house. Soon she was taking them water and fruit, so much so that she received a personal visit from General George Patton.

Maggie Cathey was only a child when the war came but she remembers being paid a nickel a night by her sister-in-law to stay in the house with her while the husband was away.

Shirley Gray, six years old at the time, relates that her father nailed shut the first floor windows of their house because of numerous reports of prowlers and peeping Toms. "There was some apprehension about soldiers and older teen-aged girls but events at the Camp and at the U.S.O. clubs were very well chaperoned," she adds.

The impact of Camp Forrest and its jobs is succinctly summed up by Wallace McMahon. "When Camp Forrest began we had coal oil lamps. It wasn't long before we had electric lights and a radio."

All work and no play would have made for a very dull war. There was a lot of hard work but the young men preparing for war and the young women working at the Camp had the irrepressible spirits the young always have.

Frances Fredeheil says "my days at Camp Forrest will always be 'special.' I was 19 years old, had always lived on a farm, and got a job having had absolutely no experience. There were men everywhere. A girl didn't dare go outside the office without another woman or a man from the office. Even in going to the restrooms you wanted someone to stand outside. I was so young that I think everyone at work felt they had to take care of me and thank goodness, they did.

"I was afraid to date and only dated a few boys right out of college. There was a popular honky-tonk on the Manchester Highway and we often went there on dates for dinners and dancing. (If Lem Motlow and Jack Daniel were along they were kept in a brown paper sack!) Other times a group would drive to Clara's at Monteagle or to Shelbyville."

The experience of one young woman's stay shows why many girls were suspicious of soldiers. She was a Civil Service worker at Camp Forrest beginning in 1992. She met, fell in love with, and married a soldier in the 80th Division. When he went overseas she went to visit her husband's mother only to discover there was another wife and a baby.

On a happier note, Herbert Goodcourage, a soldier in the 8th Division, went in the PX to buy beer one night and was served by a young woman. Upon returning to his barracks he announced he had met the girl he would marry. They did marry and celebrated forty-two years together.

Carl Schramm, 80th Division, was at the bus station in Winchester when he saw a young woman waiting for a bus to take her to work. He bought a post-card, put his name and address on it, and asked her to write him. She did and in 1993 they are still husband and wife.

Mrs. C.J. Ensminger says, "my brother, Colonel Paul Flanary, became post commander in 1943. I was 18, a senior at St. Bernard's Academy in Nashville. I used to go to numerous dances and dinners at Camp Forrest. It was great fun dating all the young officers. Eighteen was a great age to be a visitor at Camp Forrest but so many of those boys never came back from the war."

Irv Paley came to Camp Forrest in 1943 as part of the 4331 Quartermaster Sterilization Company. He was already engaged to a young woman, Florence, from his home town in New York. They decided to get married so she came to Tullahoma from New York by train on August 19, 1943. Two days later they were married in a chapel on the post by an Army Chaplain. Their wedding reception was held in the U.S.O. Club with a cake baked by a local volunteer in the U.S.O. He and his wife then rented a room in Tullahoma until he was transferred to Georgia. In 1993 the Paley's celebrated their 50th anniversary and at the party had the band play "The Tennessee Waltz" in honor of their Camp Forrest wedding.

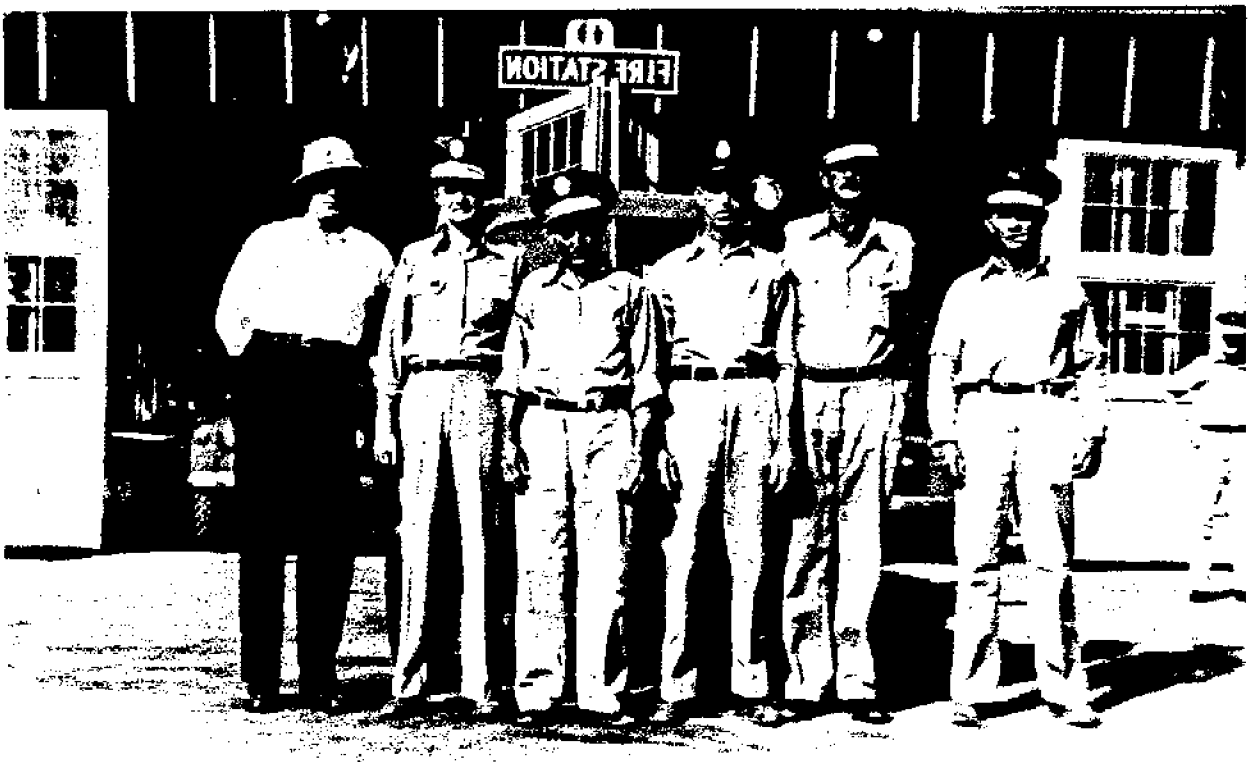
Plenty jobs for everybody, money in circulation, lots of hard work, a reasonable amount of fun, some heartbreak. Camp Forrest made a difference in the lives of those living in its vicinity.

Female employees had a Camp basketball team.

Civilian employees in the hospital.

Civilian employees of the Suppy Division.

Civilians ran the NCO clubs and the PXs.



and provided fire protection.

Der Wacht Am Der Elk

One of the popular military songs in Germany in the 1930's and 40's was "Der Wacht Am Der Rhine," celebrating a soldier who stood guard on the frontier of the Fatherland. For several thousand members of the Wehrmacht the tune became "Der Wacht Am Der Elk" as Camp Forrest, on the banks of Elk River, became a major Prisoner of War camp.

In the beginning the camp was intended for civilians. A contract to construct an internment camp was issued to Rock City Construction Company of Franklin, Tennessee, in early 1942. In a period of just under one month they had constructed housing for approximately 800 civilians on just over twenty acres of what had originally been Camp Peay. This housing was in wooden cabins, about twelve feet by twelve feet, having a pyramid roof of tar paper, a single door, and windows on all sides which were closed by wooden shutters which could be raised and attached to the rafters. Also in the prisoner compound where mess halls built of tar paper and battens, and toilet facilities separated by sex. The compound was surrounded by a double ten foot high barbed wire fence topped with additional wire which slanted inward. Twenty foot high guard towers with search lights and gun mounts were at each corner. This Alien Enemy Internment Camp, said to be the first in the nation, was activated on May 12, 1942, under the command of Major Clyde E. Lamiell. The camp had a staff of nine. Less than a month later, June 3, 1942, Colonel Frederick Griffith assumed command of the camp with a staff of twenty-two. When Griffith was transferred Colonel Percy McClung assumed command on September 2, 1942. In turn, McClung was relieved of command by Colonel Russell Wolfe on April 11, 1943.

Five companies of military police, the 326th, 331st, 336th, 316th, and 317th, were either activated at the camp or were transferred there. These, plus a Headquarters company, were the first enlisted men assigned by the U.S. Army to operate an Alien Enemy Internment Camp.

Within a week of its opening the camp contained one hundred twenty-four alien civilians, according to an official report submitted by Lt. Colonel Thomas J. McDonald, on February 12, 1946. This number increased, month by month, until December 1942 when the camp held 790 inmates. In March 1943 the number reached a high of 868. The number shrank in April and May as inmates were sent to Fort Lincoln, Bismark, North Dakota and the last civilian occupants of the camp left for Fort Lincoln on May 23, 1943.

Little seems to be known about these civilian aliens. Local residents do not seem to have had any contact with them, no one recalls working in the area even to provide medical care. The available records concerning these prisoners are included as an appendix to this book. The Federal records Center in Kansas City, Missouri, has provided a copy of the report filed by Lt. Colonel McDonald, also in an appendix. It is intriguing that Fort Lincoln received some of the more "hard line" internees during the Second World War.

Knowledge of one internee comes from an unusual source. Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home in Tullahoma contracted with Camp Forrest to prepare for burial all the bodies of any fatalities from the post. The records of the funeral home, compiled by O.B. Wilkinson of Tullahoma, record that on July 7, 1942, Protto Giuseppe, aged 49, a resident of the Alien Internment Camp, died at Camp Forrest. His body was brought to the funeral home, prepared for burial, and interred on July 9 in the paupers field at Maplewood Cemetery, at a cost to the U.S. government, of $79.32.

Local folklore contends that the civilian internees were Nesei but the one available name indicates otherwise. Not only was Giuseppe an Italian but many of the other internees collected at Fort Lincoln were members of German and Italian ships which happened to be in U.S. harbors when war was declared and which were compounded by the U.S. government.

Civilian internees were replaced by POWs. On July 26, 1943, the facility at Camp Forrest was officially designated a Prisoner of War Camp. Actually, the first POWs had reached Camp Forrest on June 2, 1943, before the facility was officially designated as a POW camp. On November 15, 1943, Major Thomas J. McDonald assumed command of the camp and retained this position until the end of the war. At Camp Forrest, as at all POW camps in the United States, the Geneva Convention was taken with great seriousness and was given a literal interpretation. The Convention demanded that food, clothing, and shelter be analogous to that provided to one's own soldiers. In the case of Camp Forrest the housing was identical for as the POW camp expanded barracks formerly used by GIs were fenced in and declared to be part of the POW compound. By 1945 approximately forty percent of the barracks on the post were occupied by prisoners.

Major McDonald, the Camp Commander, was in an awkward administrative position. As commander of the POWs he was responsible to the C.O. of Camp Forrest but on issues directly concerning prisoners he could deal directly with the service command headquarters. This was a situation replete with opportunities for friction.

Block 26 had been the original internment camp and this was the place first used as a POW facility. The original number of 1,495 grew to an average of 3,423 until early December 1944.

The original POW contingent was made up of soldiers captured in the North Africa campaign which had begun in November 1942. The Germans were members of the Afrika Korps; well trained, highly motivated, and proud of their accomplishments as soldiers. Their attitude struck their guards as arrogant and uncooperative. The German non-commissioned officers encouraged the enlisted ranks not to participate in work details and insisted on maintaining discipline and control within the camp.

As the numbers of POWs increased with the invasion of Italy in the summer of 1943 branch camps began to be established. There would be a number of these, some only temporary, but the largest would be at Lawrenceburg, Crossville, Tellico Plains, Tennessee, and Huntsville, Alabama.

Andrew Lee Bradley, Jr., was a electrician at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, when POWs came there. He was assigned the job of wiring the POW housing for electricity. The cabins were 14 by 16 feet square, boxed in with lumber to about waist height, and a pyramid tent set on top. The tent sides could be rolled up for ventilation in the summer. A single light bulb was suspended in the center of each tent.

About two weeks after the 400 to 500 prisoners had occupied the tents Bradley was ordered to inspect them for electrical problems. The POWs were found to have run all manner of outlets for additional lights and for home-made electrical fans. These fans were made like windmills with wooden blades and a drive belt run from the motor to the fan shaft. The source of the motors was never discovered. The tents also had numerous clocks and wood carvings.

On one occasion Bradley was working with an electrician who was a naturalized citizen. Suddenly the electrician dropped his tools, ran over to a POW and embraced him. The two

conversed in German for a time and then the conversation became hostile. When the electrician returned Bradley asked about the problem. The reply was "that POW is my cousin. After exchanging news about the family I asked him why he was in that uniform. He said he was drafted and forced to put it on. I told him that might be the case but nobody had forced him to put on corporal's stripes."

Dr. Robert Sanders was a boy of fourteen when the war began and Camp Forrest began to boom. In 1944 Robert E. Lee, the Superintendent of City Schools, arranged for the high school football team to go to the Prisoner of War Camp to play a scrimmage at the end of spring training. This was, Sanders thinks, part of the re-education program. When the team had played a regulation quarter of football they left the field and two POW soccer teams filed on to the playing area to demonstrate the European version of football. Their demonstration began with the two soccer teams facing each sideline and, in unison, giving the Hitler salute and a cry of "Seig Heil." Apparently the re-education program had some way to go to be successful.

Following the D-Day invasion of Normandy the numbers of POWs increased dramatically. By early 1945 about forty percent of the Camp Forrest housing capacity was being used for POWs. Also, by this time, it was clear that it would be advantageous to segregate prisoners so that those willing to work would not be pressured not to do so. The numbers willing to work was thought to be on the increase since many of those currently being captured were not Germans but were from the Central European countries which had been overrun by Hitler in the opening months of the war. One of the problems anticipated in the work program was communication since several European languages were spoken among the prisoners.

Beginning in February 1943 prisoners were segregated along the lines of cooperative/non-cooperative. Senior NCO's made up the largest number of the non-cooperative group and their segregation soon promoted a different attitude on the part of the remainder of the POWs. Where there was grumbling or hesitancy among the enlisted POWs, normal privileges were withheld and diet was restricted. These measures generally were successful. The work program then expanded. Branch camps, administered by Camp Forrest, were established at Aiken, Hampton, Bamberg, and Camp Croft, South Carolina; Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; Paris, Jackson, and Sales Creek, Tennessee; Hendersonville, North Carolina; and Oneonta, Alabama. The prisoners at these branch camps were placed there to provide labor for agricultural work, especially the cutting of pulp wood.

As the Reich collapsed the number of prisoners captured in Europe increased dramatically. At the same time the numbers sent to Camp Forrest also grew as other Army bases began to empty their POW compounds by sending them to Camp Forrest.

To deal with these numbers new areas of Camp Forrest were converted to prison use, with seven blocks of buildings being occupied by over 20,000 prisoners. The camp administration organized the prisoners into forty-five companies of about 350 men each. Including the satellite camps of a temporary nature and the larger camps at Crossville and Thayer General Hospital at Nashville, both of which came under administrative control of Forrest, the camp processed more than 68,000 prisoners and housed the equivalent of two Wehrmacht divisions.

One of those incarcerated at Camp Forrest was Helmuth Schulz. He had grown up under Hitler, having been ten years old when the Nazis came to power in Germany. Schulz was a five

year veteran of the German Army and a low-ranking officer when he was captured by soldiers of the 30th Division in April 1945. Ironically, the 30th Division had trained at Camp Forrest during the Tennessee maneuvers and now Schulz was on his way to Camp Forrest.

As an officer, and a supporter of Hitler, Schulz was segregated from the enlisted personnel and was placed on the last ship to bring German prisoners to the United States. By the time that ship had arrived in the States the war in Europe had ended.

Schulz recalls being brought by train to Tullahoma where he detrained at the tiny railroad station for a truck ride to the POW compound. There he immediately met a school mate. Compared to what he had experienced in combat being a prisoner was "sort of a recreation," he recalled. The food at the camp was good and Schulz gained weight. He attended the weekly concerts given by the POW orchestra, conducted by a pupil of Wilhelm Furtwangler, one of the premier conductors of the pre-war era. He also attended the re-education classes offered in the camp and began to understand the theory and practice of democracy. Schulz left Tullahoma in October 1945 but returned for a visit in September 1985.

The experiences of Schulz were typical of many POWs but were not comprehensive. It was generally agreed, by those who left a traceable record, that food and treatment were good. POWs were served the same food as was provided for U.S. forces. A typical day's food, according to a preserved menu, included: Breakfast-- frankfurters, cheese, corn flakes, bread, milk, coffee. Lunch--frankfurters, bread, coffee. Dinner--frankfurters, vegetables, bread, fruit, coffee. Prisoners who responded to a Red Cross interview said they had recently received turkey, chicken, veal, ice cream, and cake.

Army regulations interpreted the Geneva Convention as establishing 3,400 calories a day as the normal ration for working prisoners, 2,500 calories a day for non-working, and 2,500 calories for everyone on Sunday. The regular meat ration was not of the finest cuts. Army regulations provided that "meat from swine will be limited to feet, hearts, livers, kidneys, tails, neckbones, salt port, fatback, dry salt bellies, and oily pork not acceptable for U.S. Army rations."

A hospital for non-U.S. personnel had been established at Camp Forrest on September 8, 1942, with a facility opened in the compound for enemy aliens. Prior to this medical services for internees had been provided outside the compound. The new hospital facility had provisions for all major procedures and operations and it utilized internee labor. During 1942, 123 internees were admitted to the hospital and 622 were given outpatient care. On June 9, 1943, the Alien Enemies hospital became a POW hospital, supervised by the Station Hospital. Most of the services it provided were out-patient but serious cases could be treated if needed.

In the fall of 1944 it appeared that Camp Forrest was about to close. All tactical troops had been shipped out and the induction center was shut down. On November 23, 1944, the hospital was suddenly designated "POW General Hospital #2" and a flood of prisoners began to arrive. Sick and wounded prisoners began to arrive at month before the order was finalized and the hospital was soon full. There were several problems associated with superimposing a POW compound on a general hospital. These included security, verbal communication, medical types of patients, and a mixed staff of POW and U.S. personnel. These problems were worked out, however.

The POW General Hospital had 2,447 beds with an overflow area which would hold another 282 patients. For the entire base sixty-one wards were set aside for POWs and three for U.S. troops. About half the POW patients in the General Hospital were orthopedic cases during 1944 and, during 1945, 5,107 orthopedic patients were treated. Many POWs were kept busy manufacturing artificial limbs from scrap materials found on the base. In addition to orthopedics many of the prisoners needed surgery so that 2,500 surgery beds were provided in fifty-five wards. Blocks 15 and 16, originally occupied by U.S. tactical troops, became convalescent centers while Block 17 was set aside for POWs needing some hospital care while awaiting repatriation.

During 1945 396 U.S. medical personnel were assigned to the POW hospital while 905 German officers and enlisted men worked there. Of the German officers, 108 were medical doctors. Most of the kitchen staff were POWs and they fed an average of 4,650 people in the hospital each day. Additionally, the hospital staff published Das Echo, a bi-monthly newsletter whose mast-head proclaimed it was "From the Hospital, For the Hospital."

As repatriations began to occur on a large scale the hospital responded by performing over 900 major operations and reconstructive surgeries in 1945. A twelve chair dental clinic was established to take care of POWs. By the end of that year all hospital services combined had provided 5,569 operations, 20,557 x-rays, and 119,881 physical therapy treatments. Over 15,000 Camp Forrest hospital POWs had been repatriated to Europe.

One of the POWs, Walter Lorenz, wrote in 1992, "I was only for a few months in the United States and all the time in a hospital. I was wounded and had had both my feet frozen. And so, all my toes were amputated. Most of the time I lay in bed. But I remember the very

nice days in springtime and summer when I drove with a wheel chair to the recreation building to read or to go in the theatre or when, sometimes, on sunny Sundays our prisoner orchestra played classical music. These were highlights. It was a wonderful time and I remember it often.

"The treatment at Camp Forrest was correct, fair, exemplary, and excellent."

Despite excellent care the hospital could not work miracles. During late 1945 and 1946 many POWs came to Camp Forrest with incurable diseases or the effects of devastating wounds. Hospital deaths from these causes increased and eighty-six autopsies were preformed in those years. The Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home records show all these fatalities were buried in a cemetery which had been established at the branch POW camp at Crossville.

The last POW left the Camp Forrest hospital on April 13, 1946. The hospital closed on April 15.

Many of the POWs at Camp Forrest were able-bodied. Most of these worked at non-military jobs and were paid $0.80 a day. Under the terms of the Geneva Convention officers were not to be put to any form of labor, although "protected personnel" could do duty in hospitals. Non-commissioned officers could not be forced to work on paid projects without their consent. As has been noted, it was not until a policy of segregation was established in 1944 that the influence of the NCOs was broken and the number of work crews began to increase. Then it was the responsibility of the Camp Commander to utilize the POW labor in such a manner as to most effectively assist the war effort.

The Commander at Camp Forrest processed virtually every eligible able-bodied POW in 1944 and 1945. A persistent effort was made to place POWs in jobs for which they were

qualified. This effort had a positive impact on morale and efficiency. Branch camps were established, both permanent and temporary, to give employment to the POWs. At these camps the prisoners proved especially efficient in production of food and pulpwood. At Camp Forrest proper many POWs were hired by local farmers to help with agricultural labor. This was very important to local farmers. The mechanization of farming in 1945 was still at a basic stage and much work had to be done by hand. Not only had many farm laborers been drafted, many others had left the farms for higher paying jobs in war production factories.

Wallace McMahon recalls his experience with POWs. In 1944 he was sixteen years old. His father sent McMahon to drive the family car to the main highway to pick up some men who were coming to help the family cut tobacco. Much to McMahon's surprise, the farm labor proved to be German POWs. The realization that he had a car full of "the enemy" was enough "nearly to scare me to death," he recalls. "I followed the news and I knew the Germans were really bad, they were tough guys."

Myron Edwards, a civilian employee at Camp Forrest, drove a truck which took POWs to various work sites. Sometimes these sites were within the limits of the camp, as when POWs were used to dig up and replace water pipes, but often the work details were off the base. Quite often Edwards took POWs out without a guard. When he did have a guard the person was generally a wounded U.S. soldier who was convalescing while awaiting discharge.

Most of the POWs Edwards had contact with had been captured in Italy and were enlisted men. The officers were kept separated from the men. With some cynicism Edwards notes that all of the POWs were "anti-Nazi." It is true that S.S. troops were not sent out on work details but Edwards thinks that most became "anti-Nazi" following their capture. He was surprised at

the number of POWs who spoke good english and who had relatives in the U.S. Edwards also recalls that craft activities in the camp were quite common and that many of the prisoners were quite adept at making jewelry out of coins or scraps of aluminum.

Mildred Fulmer was one of the first women to work at the POW camp. She was in the Labor Relations Division which coordinated the requests for labor from farmers with the supply of POWs willing to do agricultural labor for $0.75 to $1.00 a day. Some of the pay received by POWs was placed in personal accounts in the camp PX while the remainder of the money was credited to the prisoners to be paid them when they returned home. Records available from official sources show that repatriated POWs took nearly $800,000.00 back to Europe with them. They also did work valued at almost $6,500,000.00 for area farmers and produced $577,000.00 in income for the federal government.

Fulmer recalls that many of the POWs were professional people while others were skilled laborers. The nationalities she remembers among them were Germans, Italians, Poles, Czech, and Russians. This memory is probably quite accurate because the Wehrmacht drafted people from most of Europe and many anti-communist Russians joined the German forces.

The POW compound is described by Fulmer as being "a double compound, fenced and guarded." The U.S. service men and civilian employees came into the outer compound to work and the POWs entered it from the inner compound. The inner compound held the living quarters, gardens, etc. for the prisoners. She also recalls POW burials in a small cemetery behind Wagner Park although funeral home records do not record such.

Curtis Cobb was an employee of the Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home at that time. He recalls conducting a POW funeral at which a German officer or chaplain officiated. One

hundred forty-five prisoners were allowed to attend the service and the entire area was surrounded by 8 jeeps mounting machine guns. The prisoners had made wreaths for the coffin using coat hangers, oak leaves, and wildflowers. Mr. Cobb recalls this funeral as being in the paupers field at Maplewood although Daves-Culbertson records do not show any POW burials there. This area was used for the burial of some dependents of U.S. servicemen.

Bill Gilliam, Sr., hired German POWs to work on his farm near Flintville, Tennessee. He was having difficulty securing tenant labor because pay in factories was so much higher than farm income. He hired ten POWs every day for $1.80 each. Of this amount $1.00 went to the government to cover expenses and $0.80 went to the POW. Most of his workers came and went but one constant returnee was a 54 year old who spoke five languages.

Gilliam took a pick-up truck with side-boards and a tarp over the top to pick up his POWs. He placed bales of straw in the back for them to sit on. He picked them up at the camp before light and brought them back at dark. This went on from May to November, 1945.

The older POW who spoke English convinced Gilliam to let him build a silo out of bales of straw when Gilliam found himself with more silage than he could store. When completed, this structure was sixteen feet high and contained 4,000 bales of oat straw. When the silage had eventually been used up Gilliam found the stock would now eat the straw because it had soaked up juice from the silage. This same POW repaired Gilliam's mother's gas powered washing machine.

Gilliam remembers the prisoners as quite docile. In October 1945 Gilliam had a convalescent U.S. serviceman as a guard for his work gang. While the POWs were cutting wood and cooking molasses Gilliam loaned the guard a shotgun so he could go hunt squirrels.

The POWs applauded this move because they were all tired of spam and wanted some fresh meat.

The POWs were very good farmers. When bailing hay they would pick up the loose hay missed by the bailer and tuck the wisps into the bales. The POWs also became quite fond of Southern cooking, especially cornbread. Gilliam found one draw back. So many German farmers used his mules that by November 1945 the animals would no longer respond to English commands.

Hervil McKelvey was another local farmer. In 1945 he, like most of his neighbors, had planted a large crop of Irish potatoes to boost food production. McKelvey arranged with the county agricultural agent to have POWs brought to the farm to pick up and store the potatoes. Several truck loads of men came out on the appointed day and were dropped off at various farms in the Hillsboro community. No guards were left with the group at McKelveys because "they were all very nice boys, just like ours, and nobody was afraid they would run off." The POWs brought their own food but McKelvey invited the crew boss to eat with him and his wife. McKelvey told the POWs that if they finished early he would take them swimming in the creek. This was a good motivator and the work was finished early. At the creek, McKelvey recalls, "they all stripped off naked and jumped in and had a high time."

The use of POWs as agricultural workers was a matter of more than local importance. In the fall of 1944 Vernon Sharp used twelve POWs to help harvest crops on 304 acres of land outside Brentwood, Tennessee. In a letter to U.S. Senator Kenneth McKellar in April 1945 Mr. Sharp urged that POWs be held in the U.S. until the 1945 crops were harvested. His voice was soon joined by many others. Correspondence sent to Senator McKellar, the senior senator from

Tennessee, shows an increasing volume of mail requesting the establishment of camps to provide POW labor. Many of these requests came from cotton growers whose crop required a great deal of hand labor but whose labor force, largely African Americans, had gone into war factories to secure better wages.

McKellar was sympathetic to these requests but recognized that availability of shipping would be the first priority in the movement of POWs. In September 1945 Brigadier General B.M. Bryan, Provost Marshall of the Army, wrote to the Senator noting that "movement of POWs to Europe had begun and will be greatly accelerated when the harvest of 1945 is completed."

The availability of agricultural labor was not the only concern. Businesses wanted the POW labor as cheap as possible. The organization of Memphis Cotton Growers and Compressors complained about paying $0.50 an hour for POW labor. Actually, only $0.80 a day went to the POW with the rest reimbursing the government for the cost of feeding and guarding the workers.

At the other end of the state the Stokley Company made use of POW labor from the Tellico Plains branch POW camp to harvest food crops in that area. The company stated that without POW labor their capacity to process and preserve food would be curtailed.

At the same time that requests for POW labor began to flood in so did complaints. Union members were concerned that POWs were being used to do skilled labor that should have gone to U.S. workers. H.H. Brannon of Shelbyville, Tennessee, wrote to complain about this practice at Camp Forrest. Other complaints came from Memphis and Nashville. The official

policy was to use POWs only in menial jobs and only where civilians were unavailable. However, the temptation of cheap labor must have been great for employers.

As the war in Europe approached its end and conditions in Axis POW and concentration camps became news in the United States complaints arose concerning the treatment of German prisoners. Not surprisingly, most of these concerned "coddling" German POWs. In April 1945 Dr. William A. Brewer of Monteagle, Tennessee, wrote to Senator McKellar complaining that POWs at Camp Forrest were receiving unlimited amounts of meat while civilians were still dealing with rationing. Within a few days Colonel Frank Addington, Camp Forrest Commander, had asked Brewer to visit the POW compound. Brewer then stated publically that the rumors about "coddling" at Camp Forrest were unfounded, that the regime at the camp was strict but decent.

From the other end of the spectrum came a complaint from the Reverend Mr. Richard Newby of Friendsville, Tennessee, who wrote Senator McKellar to say that POWs at the Tellico Plains camp were given inadequate food and were forced to work until they dropped. Again, a visit was made and the rumors proved to be false.

The work done by POWs on the base itself in various capacities has already been described. However, it should be mentioned that POWs were in charge of grounds keeping and repaired buildings.

The largest single work project engaged in by POWs was weaving camouflage nets. This project began on January 21, 1945, with some outbreak of controversy. About 3,000 prisoners questioned whether or not they could be required to engage in a project which had an apparently direct military application. On March 6, 1945, a work stoppage occurred which lasted forty-

eight hours. During this time normal privileges were stopped and prisoner's diets were restricted. On March 9 work resumed.

A great deal of space was required for this activity and two blocks in the camp, blocks 11 and 12, were fenced in to provide work space. At its height 7,000 POWs were engaged in this project, marching to work from their living quarters under the command of their own NCOs and guarded while at work by only two U.S. service men. This project ended on August 25, 1945.

Beginning in January 1945 a rather unusual program was established at Camp Forrest for the POWs. This "Intellectual Diversion Program" was an attempt by the camp administration to reeducate prisoners about America and about conditions in Germany. This program had been discussed for several months but had been rejected because the Geneva Convention prohibited forcing propaganda on prisoners. As with so much else, the U.S. followed the letter of the law partly as a matter of principle and partly in an attempt to secure better treatment of U.S. prisoners in Germany. On behalf of the American prisoners all appearance of ill-treatment of Germans was to be avoided. Prior to January 1945 no attempt was made to influence the attitudes of POWs through recreation and education. The U.S. officer commanding the camp provided activities such as movies, libraries, theatre groups, orchestras, athletics, gardening, and schools which made POW life more pleasant. The program which began in January 1945 was designed to influence the POWs to appreciate and respect the United States, its people, and way of life so that, to a limited extent, a foundation could be laid for a democratic and peaceful Germany.

While this program was going on in the prison compound proper a parallel program was organized in the hospital. Under the terms of this program the hospital published a POW run newspaper, Das Echo while the prisoners in the main compound published Der Scheinwerfer. Das Scheinwerfer, never translated, is included as an appendix to this project. Correspondence courses were established for prisoners to earn college credit at area universities. The former Red Cross building became a center for these activities.

Captain Joachim Liebman was placed in charge of POW "Diversion Program." He found one of his most difficult tasks was to get the prisoners to subscribe to newspapers in either English or German. Although they wanted news they feared retaliation from hard-core Nazi elements in the Camp. It was not until February 1946 that as many as one in ten of the POWs were reading newspapers.

By the end of February 1945 Captain Liebman had identified those prisoners who were actively opposing his program. These included librarians who prevented books banned in Germany from being read at Camp Forrest, some POW leaders who prevented access to U.S. news sources in order to spread their own version of events, and some POW teachers who were using their position in the school to disseminate subversive ideas. These opponents of the reeducation program were segregated and new workers, sympathetic to democratic ideals, were put in place.

After allowing these new educational and recreational leaders about six weeks to become established the reeducation program became more active. The leadership for the program was provided by the POWs while Captain Liebman assisted them. Additional books on history,

civics, geography, and world policies were made available to teachers and these ideas began to enter the existing classes. With V-E Day in May Nazi sentiment practically disappeared.

At this point the policy of the POW newspaper, Der Scheinwerfer, became more pronouncedly democratic. The result was frequent and wide-ranging discussions among the POWs which revealed a strong interest in politics even if there was not agreement on ideology.

In July 1945 the office of the Provost Marshal General issued Special Projects Letter Number 12. This Letter ordered the reeducation program to be simplified, and courses in U.S. History, civics, geography, and English to be encouraged. This meant the elimination of many technical and professional courses and most college correspondence courses ceased. The emphasis on the study of English met with enthusiasm. Attendance was limited only by the number of books available. American enlisted personnel taught many of these courses.

Captain Liebman gave a weekly lecture, in German, on America and American life. These were illustrated with colored slides, film strips, and short travel movies. About 80 percent of the prisoners attended these lectures.

The branch camps, a few of which still existed by late 1945, did not have as much success with the reeducation program. The branch camps were usually focused on work projects and the long work hours left little energy for study.

Captain Liebman did not claim his program worked miracles. He did feel that the one-sided point of view provided by the Nazism, under which the prisoners had grown up, had been challenged.

It is a generally accepted part of military lore that it is the duty of a POW to attempt to escape. The history of all wars is sprinkled with accounts of daring escapes from confinement.

Thousands of miles away from friendly territory, separated from home by the Atlantic, one might have thought the Camp Forrest prisoners to be beyond temptation on the subject of escape. This was not the case. A few daring, or desperate, souls made a bid for freedom.

In all, thirty POWs attempted to escape from Camp Forrest. Twenty-six escaped and were recaptured. Many of these never made it off the base. Three more POWs were shot and wounded by guards while attempting to escape and one POW was killed in an escape attempt.

James Brandon had worked on the construction of Camp Forrest and was later drafted. He was sent back to Camp Forrest as a POW guard in 1943 and remained until December 1945. During much of this time Brandon was assigned to Block 18 and was virtually in charge of running this section of the Camp. In late 1944 he was one of two guards assigned to watch 7,000 Wehrmacht soldiers who were making camouflage netting. Brandon recalls that on each eight hour shift there were never more than fifteen guards and there were up to 24,000 prisoners. Generally, he recalls the POWs as being well behaved although there was some trouble among the prisoners in 1943 and part of '44 when SS members tried to enforce Nazi discipline on all the prisoners. Most of the men, Brandon felt, were like himself, draftees who were told--not asked--what to do.

Dewey Smith, a M.P. at Camp Forrest from January 1943 to December 1945, often guarded POWs or helped capture escapees. On one occasion one POW walked away from a work detail and caught a train to Nashville. A day later the man turned himself in. He had simply taken a sight-seeing trip to Nashville. On another occasion Smith was sent to Sequatchie County to pick up five POWs apprehended by the sheriff there. These men had also left a work detail and had wandered through the woods until they got hungry and turned themselves in.

Lester Vihon came to Camp Forrest as an infantryman. He did not care for sleeping on the ground, so he volunteered for the Air Force. While awaiting transfer he was assigned to be a M.P. to guard Italian POWs. Vihon preferred to help soldiers rather than arrest them so he carried his sidearm unloaded and the clip in his picket. While taking prisoners to the Base Hospital for immunization shots one man noticed Vihon had an unloaded gun and ran. Other guards apprehended the man and Vihon was fined $1.00 for having an unloaded gun.

Allen Gibbs was on duty when the only Camp Forrest POW was killed trying to escape. The fatality occurred when one of the POWs who refused to work was found in a "dead zone" between the double fences surrounding the POW camp. This means he had already crossed one fence successfully. The POW was ordered to halt, but disobeyed, and the tower guard opened fire with a machine gun.

Wayne Patrick lived on a farm near Flintville, Tennessee. One morning he went to an unoccupied tenant house on the back of his farm where he had stored fertilizer. Five escaped POWs were sitting on the porch of the house. The offered to load the fertilizer on his truck if he would take them to the sheriff and turn them in. They were quite hungry and were ready to go back to Camp Forrest.

Heinz Hoefer, one of Rommel's panzer corps, merely walked away from Camp Forrest. Strolling into Tullahoma, he caught a train for Nashville where he met a GI home on leave. Together, the two went to several bars and spending the night in the same room. The next day, however, a routine check of papers revealed Hoefer's real status and he was shipped back to Camp Forrest.

For some the only escape was by death. James Brandon recalls being an M.P. who guarded POWs working on the camouflage net project. One prisoner marching out to work seems to have been crippled and a guard felt the man was deliberately not marching in time. The guard fired a shot to strike near the man's feet but the round hit a rock, ricocheted, and killed the prisoner. In doing heavy work some other accidents proved fatal. The hospital records show that one prisoner died when he was struck by a falling block and tackle in a motor pool garage. In all, four prisoners died in accidents at Camp Forrest and all associated branch camps. One was killed attempting to escape; one was killed attacking a sentry; one killed for failing to obey orders. Seven prisoners committed suicide. The best known suicide was Lieutenant General Karl Robers Maximillian Buelowins who, apparently, hanged himself in his quarters on March 29, 1945. Buelowins was captured while serving with the Afrika Korps.

Given the small number of guards assigned to the POWs the escape attempts were quite few. Although the absence of any support forces in the country-side, such as friendly civilians or a resistance movement, coupled with the impossibly long distance back to Germany made a complete escape unthinkable, it is odd that dedicated Nazis did not attempt to cause fear among the civilian population, disruption of daily life, and diversion of some military forces by making constant attempts to escape. Yet, of the more than 68,000 POWs who passed through Camp Forrest and its branch camps only thirty-four escaped. All were recaptured.

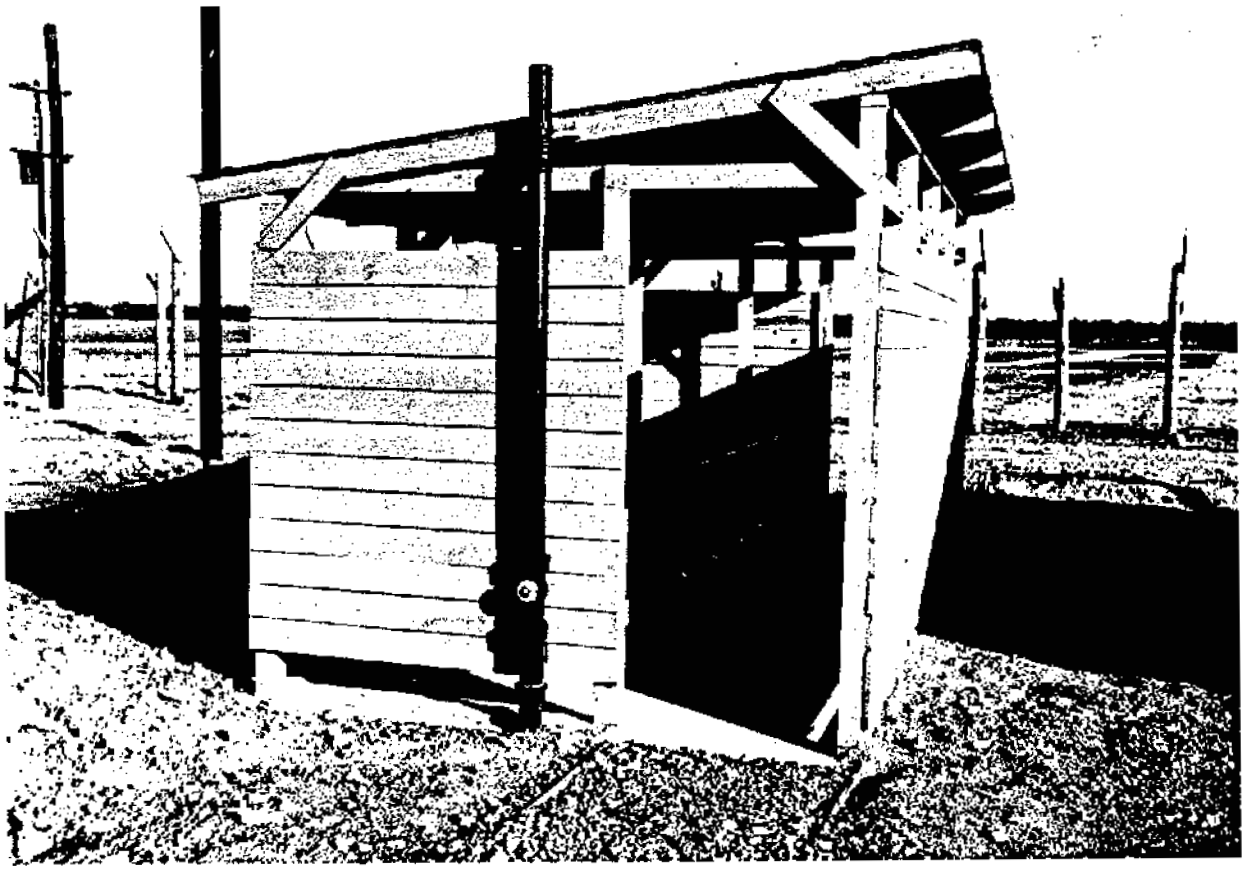
On V-E Day Camp Forrest had physically present enough members of the Wehrmacht to equal two full infantry division. These men were guarded by fewer than three hundred U.S. Army personnel The POWs performed a great deal of valuable farm labor and made an indirect contribution to the U.S. war effort by doing work that released manpower for the armed forces.

The work done by POWs in the Camp Forrest motor pool is an example of this contribution. Many of these POWs seem to have been draftees who realized the war was lost, who had more desire to live than to die, and who loved their country enough to want to help rebuild it when the war was over. The treatment they received at Camp Forrest was one brick in the foundation of positive post-war U.S.-German Relations.

General view, Camp Forrest

POW compound.

POW Barracks, originally used for Civilian Internees.



POW Latrine, originally for Civilian Internees.

POW Camp Guard Tower.

POW Orchestra - 1941.

POW Hospital Cooks with U.S. supervisor.

Hans, a 16-year old POW cook.

They Also Serve . . .

Any large organization requires an administrative effort. In the Armed Forces the ratio of personnel employed behind the fighting lines to support and direct one combat soldier is often six to one. Given the very large number of persons passing through Camp Forrest the administrative presence there was quite small. The "base contingent," permanently stationed at the Camp, was almost minuscule. In part, this was the result of the policy of assigning as many support jobs as possible to civilians. Additionally, this represents a conscious attempt of the U.S. Armed Forces to concentrate on the primary objective of ending the war as quickly as possible. However, those who spent their war years at Camp Forrest and who never heard a shot fired except in training also served. Their contribution, though not spectacular, was needed to help win the war.

In the public eye the officer who commanded the camp was not as important as the officers who commanded the divisions training on the base. This meant the post commander was not featured in local press reports. However, Colonel F.M. Waltz is known to have assumed command of the base in 1941. He served until October 1943 when command was turned over to Colonel J.F. Addington, formerly the commander of the POW camp at Crossville. Colonel Addington was still Post Commander in 1945. It should also be remembered that many administrative function were performed by civilian Civil Service employees.

Chuck Tyler come to Camp Forrest with the 33nd Division of the Illinois National Guard. Shortly after the 1941 maneuvers in Louisiana and Arkansas he was asked if he would like to transfer to the Post Engineers unit. This unit was responsible for the maintenance and

operation of the physical aspects of the plant. Since Tyler was something of a "handy man" this opportunity appealed to him. At one time Chuck Hanna was a life guard at Cumberland Springs while on other occasions he helped run electrical power and telephone lines on the camp property. For another lengthy period he was in charge of the camp dump. At that time all soft drinks were sold in returnable bottles which carried a deposit. Hanna set up a reclamation program for bottles at the dump and made quite a bit of money off it.

During this time Chuck met and married Hanna Tyler. At age 22 she had already risen to a Civil Service rating of GS-7 and was head of Headquarters Personnel. She supervised a staff of thirty and was responsible for hiring for some twelve post departments.

Chuck Tyler left the Post Engineers to enter the Second Ranger Battalion in 1943.

Allen Gibbs was inducted at Camp Forrest on September 15, 1944. He also did his basic training at Forrest but frequently found himself on K.P. At the end of his basic training he became a M.P. assigned to the base contingent. He spent the rest of the war at Camp Forrest.

Joseph Getsay arrived at Camp Forrest in late 1943 and was assigned to the base contingent. In this capacity he sometimes worked in the commissary section, sometimes served as M.P., and sometimes was Range Master at the rifle range on Cumberland Springs Road.

While working at the rifle range Getsay used POW labor to patch used targets and to erect new targets as needed. He recalls that although there was a high berm behind the targets trees had the tops shot out of them for some distance behind the range. In the 1990s spent rifle bullets could still be found on the campus of Motlow College several hundred yards behind the target zone.

One duty Getsay enjoyed was coaching the camp men's basketball team. This team played teams from local colleges and war industries. The men's team travelled with the women's team and in this way Getsay met his future wife. She worked in the laundry and played on the women's team. As an M.P. Getsay was often sent on patrol around the base to make sure all was in order. These patrols operated round the clock and the M.P.s would change work shifts periodically. Basically, the M.P.s directed traffic, looked for unruly or unusual behavior, and kept order. The two major problems Getsay recalls were speeding and "lovers lanes." Sometimes the M.P.s were called to a local night-club to break up a fight.

During his off-duty hours Getsay could do pretty much as he liked. All headquarters personnel had permanent passes and could leave the base as they pleased so long as they returned by "lights out."

Lester Vihon served as an M.P. on the base contingent in 1941 and 1942. In his squad of twelve M.P.s only one had received the proper training for the job. The approach Vihon took to his tasks was to attempt to help soldiers rather than arrest them. When soldiers got to the Camp gate with liquor Vihon usually tried to talk them out of taking their bottle onto the base since this was a violation of regulations. If a man refused to throw the bottle in the garbage can Vihon would break the bottle with his nightstick.

The most stressful duty Vihon recalls was being sent out to shut down the Oak Knoll Cafe, a beer joint near the present Law Enforcement Academy in Tullahoma. When the jeep load of M.P.s asked for the owner of the Cafe they found him coming out of the walk-in cooler carrying six cases of beer at once. He was so large three M.P.s were needed to restrain him.

Dewey Smith served as an M.P. at Camp Forrest from January 1943 to December 1945. He remembers that the M.P.s worked in four man patrols, working 84 hours a week. Day and night duty were alternated by weeks. Directing traffic was always a regular duty, especially at the time of shift changes for civilian workers. Taxi drivers in a hurry to find another fare were the most frequent offenders of the speed laws.

Smith did a number of patrols through the Middle Tennessee area looking for soldiers who were Absent Without Leave (AWOL). During his three years at Camp Forrest he estimates he picked up over three hundred such. These were mostly people who had gone home on furlough and simply didn't return to their unit. A few of these tried to hide in the woods and escape but most surrendered or were picked up by the local sheriff. The Moore County sheriff became a good friend and his wife always had an egg custard pie for Smith when he went to Lynchburg to pick up soldiers.

On one occasion Smith found an AWOL soldier with a desperately sick baby. On his own initiative Smith allowed the man to stay and did not report finding him. When he returned on patrol the next week the baby was better and the man had voluntarily returned to duty.

Smith recalls some notorious dives around Tullahoma. One of them was the Log Cabin where both the owner and his wife were frequently drunk. During one brawl the wife drew a pistol and killed her husband.

James N. Woodley had quite a different kind of experience as part of the base contingent, although it must have been quite typical of many people. He was sent to Camp Forrest in May 1942 and stayed at the base until June 1944. His assignment was with the medical supplies department at the Station Hospital. His job was to receive written requests from various wards

and service areas of the hospital, retrieve the material from the hospital stores, and deliver the supplies to the appropriate area. For the most part delivery meant pushing a cart up and down the hall. When not on duty Woodley lived in Winchester with his wife and took the train to work.

Robert Ecklund was in training at another Army camp when his unit was ordered overseas. Ecklund was found to have an allergic condition and was detached form his unit. Sent to Camp Forrest he worked in the ammunition dump where things were quite busy because of the large number of troops in the area, both training on the base and maneuvering in the area. One day his Sergeant-Major asked if Ecklund would like to be a projectionist and Ecklund accepted the assignment, becoming a sergeant in the Special Services area of the base contingent. In this assignment Ecklund was responsible for the operation of one of four theatres on the base.

Camp Forrest had four theatres. Ecklund was assigned to Theatre Number One, located near the monument erected in 1986. Every morning he made sure the theatre was clean. During much of the day he showed training films dealing with all aspects of Army life. He recalls that on the day before the 17th Airborne Division left for Europe he showed a film on hand-to-hand combat, a film that was put to practical use when Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery sent the division to "a bridge too far" in Holland. In the evenings Ecklund ran first-run Hollywood features. Often these were double-features and there was a matinee on Sunday.

After each feature film had been shown it was supposed to be hand-wound, using a crank operated device, to make sure there was no damage to the film before sending it on to its next

showing. Ecklund's commanding officer, Captain Adams, was quite a movie buff and, instead of hand-winding the film, the captain simply held a private viewing for himself.

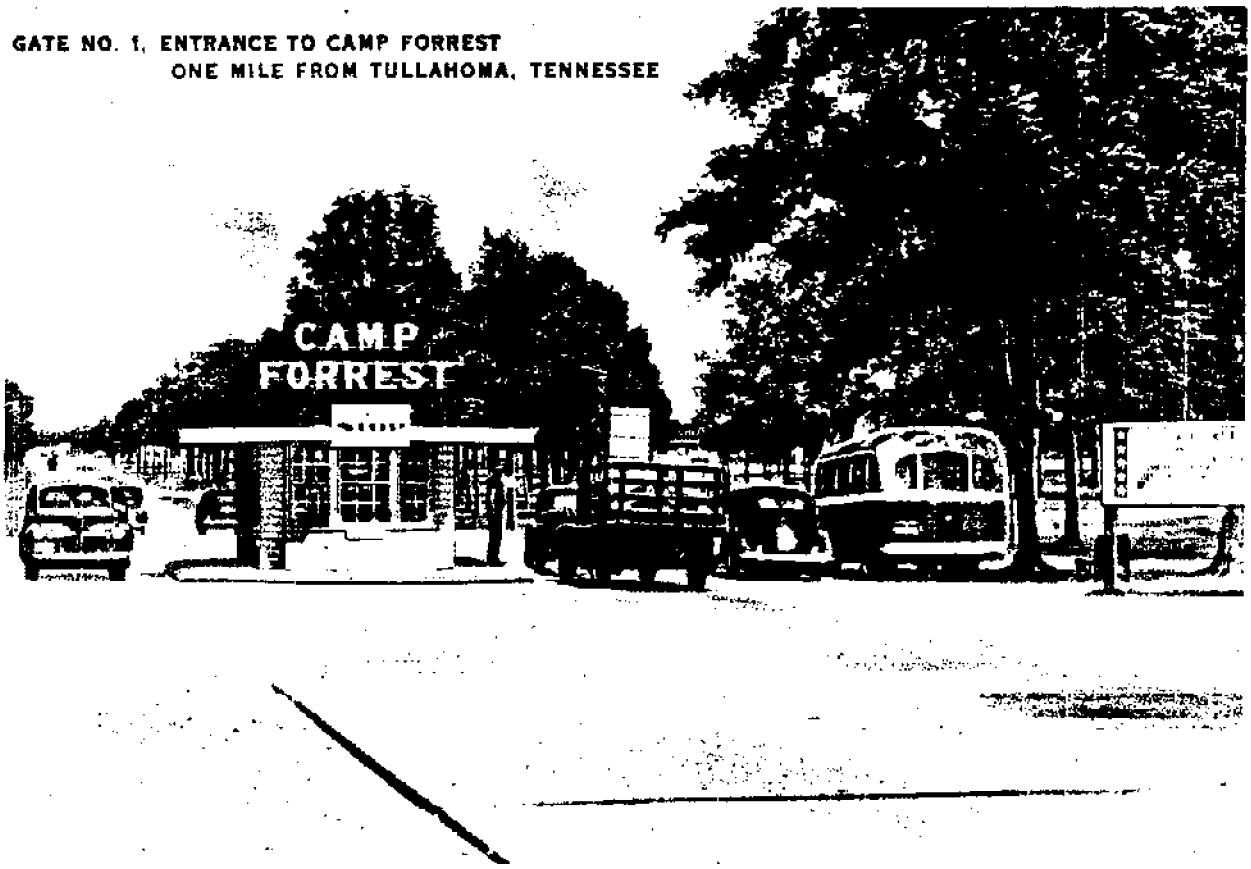
Elwood Haldeman came to Camp Forrest with the 80th Division in July 1942. The lengthy route marches undertaken in training revealed he had a foot problem so he was reassigned to the station complement as an ambulance driver. Actually, as an ambulance driver Haldeman delivered the mail! Since he had been a fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad Haldeman asked for, and received, a transfer to the rail service at Camp Forrest. His crew, a mixed group of military and civilians, started work at 5 p.m. and were responsible for moving goods to their assigned warehouses. These warehouses were so busy during the day dispersing goods there was little opportunity to restock them. In addition to the 80th Division in the camp itself there was another division in tents. Supplying two divisions meant the rail personnel worked twelve hours or more on each shift.

Haldeman later transferred to another railway operating unit and went to France in September 1944.

It is clear from the sources available that there were numerous African American soldiers in the base contingent. These available sources are the map of Camp Forrest which designates one section of housing as "colored," a history of Tullahoma which locates a "colored" U.S.O. Club in the area of the Stamps Community Center, the pamphlet "This is Camp Forrest" which speaks of a "colored" guest house on base maintained by the Red Cross, and the records of the Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home which had the contract with the camp to prepare bodies for burial. It is from the funeral records that names and units are available.

Beginning in early 1942 the funeral records show that African American soldiers were serving at Camp Forrest in the 28th Quartermaster Regiment; 98th Engineering Battalion; 184th Field Artillery; 24th IM Car Company; 580th Ordinance Ammunition Company; 365th Engineering Regiment; 65th Quartermaster Laundry; 366th Engineering Battalion; and 568th Quartermaster Battalion. The highest rank recorded for any of these soldiers is one man who became a 1st Sergeant and one Corporal. All the rest were privates. There is also recorded the death of one African American female who was the dependent of a soldier. This means black soldiers followed the pattern common for white soldiers, bringing their wives to the nearest town when housing could be found. Given the small African American population of Tullahoma and the surrounding area securing dependent housing must have been a challenge for black soldiers.

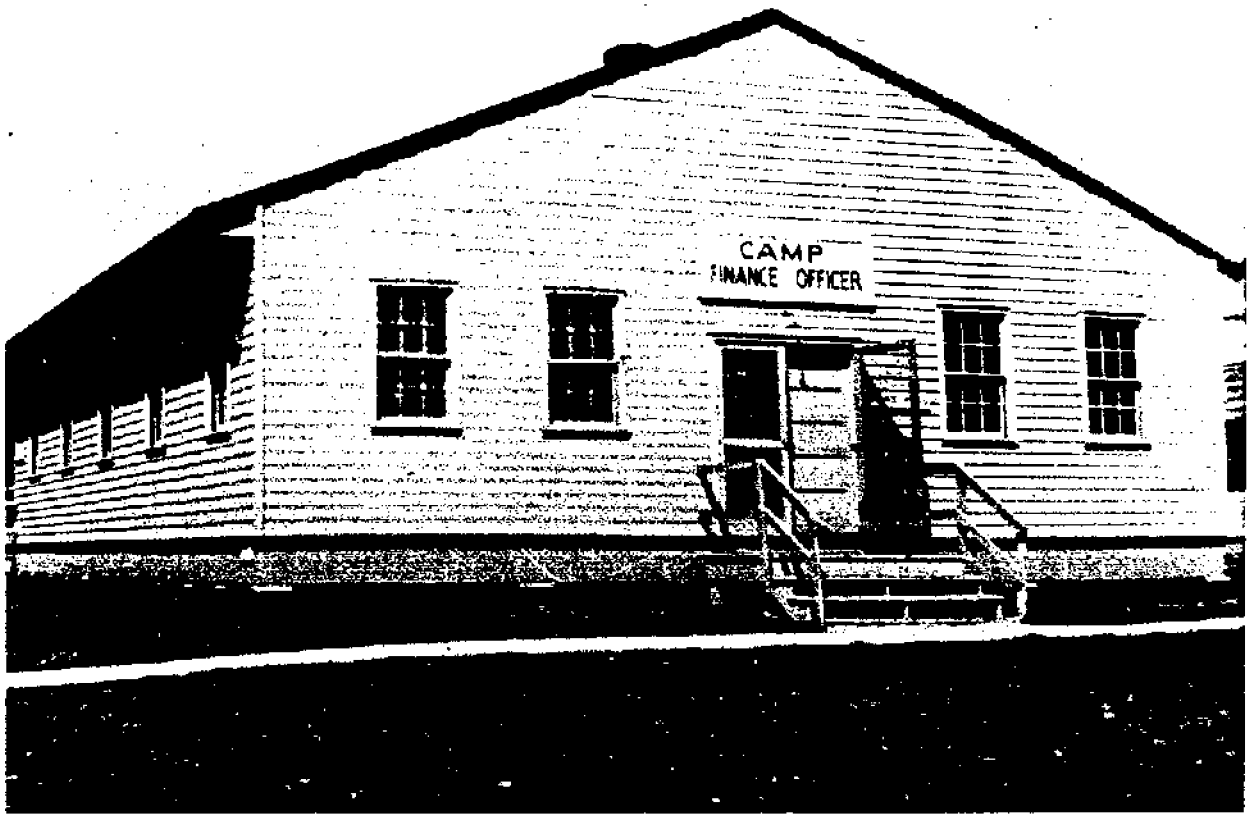
For most of the people who were part of the base contingent the war must have been quite boring. For them, Army service was typing forms or unloading boxcars or showing films. If they were safe from the enemy they were not sheltered from homesickness, boredom, and a deadly dull routine. For them, General Sherman's aphorism that "war is hell" had a unique meaning. But their contribution was necessary.



Gate #1, Camp Forrest. Photo courtesy of Bob Couch.

Camp Headquarters, flag pole.

Station Hospital, Main Entrance.



Finance Office.

Interior, Camp Finance Office

Brigadoon

There is a legend in Scotland about a village called Brigadoon. Once every one hundred years it magically appears, exists for a few days, and then magically disappears. Camp Forrest was an American Brigadoon, springing up from the mud and oak barrens in a period of just over five months and disappearing in a matter of thirteen months. Unlike Brigadoon, Camp Forrest is not likely to reappear.

The draw-down of tactical troops began in 1944 prior to the June 6 date of D-Day in France. The U.S. government was convinced there were enough troops "in the pipeline" to bring the war to a successful conclusion. Camp Forrest played an important role in processing trained troops for european assignment but the future clearly held the closing of the base. The Army had already announced the closing of the maneuver area nd that activity ended in May 1944. This reality became clearer when the Army-Navy Induction center was closed on October 1, 1944. This reduced the role of Camp Forrest as a supply and equipment depot.

As the year 1945 opened the only aspect of the camp which was growing was the POW area. As of this date the value of all facilities at Camp Forrest was $27,888,000.00. The only military training was done by the Tennessee State Guard, an organization of over-age, 4-F, and deferred men who received papa-police training in traffic and crowd control. Three thousand of these men came to Camp Forrest for twenty-four days of training in the spring of 1945. During that summer and fall a major task was closing the parts of Camp Forrest formerly occupied by tactical troops and not needed for POWs. When the atomic bomb was used against Japan and the end of the war was announced, pending a formal Japanese surrender, many civilian employees resigned in order to find new jobs. Civil Service began a process of transfer

and termination while the military was separating from the service personnel whose length and condition of duty qualified them for quick release.

State and local political leaders tried to secure a future for Camp Forrest. As early as January 1944 Senator Tom Stewart had begun to lobby the War Department to make plans for the post-war use of Camp Forrest. Plans and proposals from local and state political leaders were funneled through the senator and the War Department but responses were slow in coming. When an answer was received it was always a rejection of the suggestion of a long-term use of the Camp Forrest facilities. When the plea that the Camp be made a permanent Army base was rejected the Senator suggested that Camp Forrest be made a separation center to aid in the demobilization of service personnel from the Tennessee area. Governor Jim Nance McCord sent a personal representative to Washington to ask about the future of the base. The response of the War Department was to declare the facility surplus and announced plans to turn the land back to the state. The state had purchased the land in 1940 and 1941 and had leased the property to the U.S. government.

Local businessman and former state Treasurer John Harton and the Mayor of Tullahoma, Don Campbell, petitioned the federal government to keep in operation Northern Field, claiming that it was "one of the better airports in the state." This effort, too, failed, and Northern Field was declared surplus in November 1945. The final blow came on December 15 when it was announced that the POW General Hospital would close as the last prisoners left and only a dispensary would be maintained. This closing was accomplished in April 1946.

With the future of the camp decided the state began negotiations with the federal government for a financial settlement. Tennessee claimed to have spent $663,000 for all land

acquired for Camp Forrest. Just over $1,500,000 had been spent on access roads and road improvements. The U.S. government had paid the State of Tennessee $243,385.76 in lease payments for the property. Now the state was asking for damages to the state owned land.

David Shields, an attorney in Manchester, Tennessee, handled the legal aspects of damage to property owned by the state. According to figures collected by Shields damages were as follows:

Damage to houses on Camp Forrest property $35,776

Damage to barns on Camp Forrest property $17,698

Damage to other buildings on Camp Forrest property $6,535

Damage to fences on Camp Forrest property $5,110

Damage to growing crops on Camp Forrest property $2,814

Damage to cleared land on Camp Forrest property $84,634

Damage to woods land on Camp Forrest property $126,212

Damage to down timber on Camp Forrest property $795

Damage to orchards on Camp Forrest property $2,687

Total Damage Claimed $387,116

From June 1943 to April 1945 the Post Engineers ran a sawmill to produce logs and lumber for the use of Camp Forrest. Nine hundred thirty-one acres, in scattered tracks, had been cut. Forest fires had frequently broken out around the artillery ranges, caused by bursting shells. Some of these fires had burned extensive tracts of woods. Also, considerable damage was done by guns firing from fixed positions into the same stretch of woods for prolonged periods of time. After negotiations were complete Tennessee received $110,000 in damages.

In early February 1946 Camp Forrest was listed as "inactive" and, on May 31, 1946, was placed under the control of the War Assets Corporation as a deactivated military base. The following month it was decided that the Tennessee National Guard would conduct its training exercises at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, so the state of Tennessee did not intend to maintain Camp Forrest either. Bogard Turpley and E.F. Smith represented the state in negotiating with the federal government for some of the heavier equipment from Camp Forrest. The laundry equipment was desired for Central State Mental Hospital, machine shops were wanted for vehicle maintenance and the cold storage machinery was to go to Brushy Mountain State Prison. The County Court asked the state to sell 20,000 acres of Camp Forrest back to its original owners at the same price they had received in 1940 and 1941. This request was ignored by the state.

March of 1946 saw the United States hold a gigantic yard sale at Camp Forrest. Office equipment, electric fans, electrical fixtures, beds, kitchen equipment, automobile parts, plumbing supplies, and assorted hardware were offered for sale to the public. The community of Belvedere in Franklin County secured the Headquarters flag pole for their new school house, in 1993 a senior citizens and community center. The school dining room was furnished with tables from Camp Forrest mess halls. County Line Baptist Church in Moore County acquired light fixtures which they used until 1992, one of these fixtures now being on display at the Mitchell Museum in Tullahoma. Many local people acquired kitchen utensils which are still in use nearly half a century later. As soon as movable goods had been disposed of workmen began moving or destroying the 2,948 buildings which made up the physical structure of Camp Forrest, including Northern Field.

Lee Benners, who had held a construction job when Camp Forrest was constructed, was present at its demise. Discharged from the Army on Christmas Day, 1945, the Veterans Administration secured for him a job with the Mobile District of the Corps of Engineers in dismantling the camp. Benners was given the task of assembling and cataloging items on the base, from nuts and bolts to commodes. Many of these items had been in short supply during the war years so there was a brisk demand for them on the civilian market. German POWs assisted in this cataloguing until the last of them left in April 1946.

When goods had been assembled and catalogued Benners conducted bidders through the warehouses. A very large lot of goods was sold to a single company from Tifton, Georgia. Benners is proud that he was present the day the first man was hired and he was there the day the last building came down at Camp Forrest.

Finis Gentry returned to Camp Forrest after completing his military service and was reemployed there in March 1946. The first assignment given Gentry was to investigate the disappearance of K-rations. He could not think of anyone who would want K rations except the POWs who would see the chocolate and cigarettes as valuable trade commodities when they returned to Europe. Careful observation revealed this was indeed the source of the losses and M.P.s were assigned to stop the theft.

Gentry also loaded an entire rail car with 500 pound blocks of ice which were declared surplus. Since the freight car was not refrigerated and since it had only a little saw dust spread over the ice he has always wondered how much ice arrived at its destination.

The last job assigned Gentry was to check each building to make sure all government property had been removed and that the building was empty. In this task Gentry was given a

jeep and two assistants. Many of the buildings were locked and not keys could be found so they simply broke in. When government property was found to be still in the building a list was made and another crew called to come with a truck and remove it. One of the most interesting areas he checked was the original POW camp. Since many of these had been occupied for a long time by the same men they had been artistically decorated with everything from Alpine scenes to pin-ups.

Gentry left Camp Forrest on June 28, 1946 at which time almost all the surplus property was gone.

Buildings were removed in two ways. About 600 structures were acquired by the state and were moved to college campuses to house many of the veterans who were coming to those campuses under the terms of the G.I. Bill of Rights. Many of these buildings went to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and to Tennessee Technological University in Cookville where a few can still be seen in 1993. The Red Cross office building was moved into the town of Tullahoma where it is still in use by the Red Cross. One chapel was moved to Cowan, Tennessee, where it still serves as a church edifice.

Most of the buildings were torn down and the lumber sold as scrap. Zachariah Pickett worked at this task. "My job was to pull the bent nails out of each board. It was about the best job I ever had. I got to work in the shade and I got paid the same as the ones working in the sun." Local residents are quick to point out some still standing structures which were built with the surplus lumber from Camp Forrest.

Sam Schraber recalls loading box cars with scrap metal from Camp Forrest. He says there was a mound of scrap metal ten feet high for three hundred yards along the railroad.

By mid-1947 even the water lines were being dug up and then it was all gone. A few lonely chimneys continue, even today, to stand sentinel over the foundations of barracks, theaters, and office buildings. Roads still criss-cross the fields and woods. Where crisp commands once rang and the air was rent with the crackle of gunfire now there is only the soughing of wind in the trees. But, when the mood is just right, perhaps by the light of a waning moon, one can almost hear a ghostly bugler sound "Taps."

Analysis

What did Camp Forrest mean to Tullahoma and the surrounding area and, for that matter, to the nation?

When construction began in October 1940 the primary meaning of Camp Forrest was jobs. An area which had been in the lingering grip of the depression was suddenly faced with over employment. "Plenty jobs for everybody" was indeed the case. Not only did individuals find jobs but their paychecks spelled increased prosperity for area businesses. Pleasant though this must have been after the underemployment and low wages of the Depression years the new conditions were not an unmixed blessing. The rural agrarian way of life was challenged, suddenly and dramatically, by the emergence of an urban society. Instead of knowing all the neighbors, as had been the case for years, strangers now inhabited the spare bedroom of one's own house. An area in which stealing watermelons had once constituted a major source of crime now faced bootlegging, gambling, and prostitution on a major scale. A nickname for Tullahoma from those days was "Little Chicago," and this at a time when Chicago still meant Al Capone in the public mind. Instead of being a "sleepy Southern town," Tullahoma became a dateline in the national news as high ranking military officers, major political figures, famous entertainers, and hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizen-soldiers poured into the place. Not only did Tullahoma become the fifth largest town in Tennessee overnight, arguably it became the busiest.

During the construction phase of Camp Forrest the work force reached a peak of 21,500 during December 1940. The payroll each week was $748,000. Although some of the workers commuted from Nashville and Chattanooga the vast bulk of this money was being spent in and

around Tullahoma. Although many workers saved part of their pay to send away to their families necessary expenses were still being met in the local area.

The impact of construction jobs was limited in time, as is always the case, but construction workers were soon replaced by soldiers. The initial contingent was about 30,000 men assigned to Camp Forrest for one year's duty. When war was declared in December 1941 this number rose to a figure almost double that of the original contingent. During some phases of the maneuvers as many as 600,000 soldiers would be present in the environs of the town. The economic impact of these troops was limited to a degree by their ability to shop in the post exchange and because the attractions of the big cities of Nashville and Chattanooga drew soldiers with weekend passes. Even so, almost every homeowner within commuting distance of Camp Forrest rented rooms to dependents of soldiers and area businesses boomed as soldier's demands for all manner of goods and services were satisfied. For example, all manner of private cars became taxis to provide transportation back and forth from town to camp. Restaurants frequently had a waiting time of an hour and then ran out of menu items before the demand was satisfied. The restaurant of the King Hotel, the largest in the area, was open twenty-four hours a day.

This prosperity can be seen clearly in the conditions Tullahoma enjoyed at the end of the war. In 1940 the city was in debt, in 1945 there was a surplus above liabilities of $1,393,948. The net worth of its owned property had increased by $1,000,000. Population had grown from 4,500 in 1940 to over 7,500 in 1950, a 66% increase while the rural population grew by only 7.5%. Land values which had been about $5.00 an acre in 1940 were $75.00 an acre in 1946. While almost all farms were mortgaged in 1940 only 5% of the county's farms were in 1945.

First National Bank became the payroll bank in 1940 for construction of the camp. At that time its deposits were $700,000. At the peak of construction deposits were $2,800,000 and they remained at $2,500,000 in 1947. In that latter year Coffee County had the seventh largest per capita bank deposits in the state.

Perhaps the greatest impact of Camp Forrest was psychological. Area residents did not meet many outsiders before 1940. The 1940 census shows only 28 people int the entire county who were born outside the United States. Beginning in 1940 young men and women from every part of the United States poured into Camp Forrest. At least 300 local women married soldiers, typically from other sections of the country. After the war many people who had been stationed at Camp Forrest returned to the area to make a home. Also, through the POW work program, many area residents became acquainted with a variety of European nationalities and ethnic groups. Tullahoma, and its surrounding area, became more aware of the broader world, more cosmopolitan, as a result of the war and this cosmopolitan outlook has never been lost. Fifty years after the demise of Camp Forrest Tullahoma is still an unusual small town. It's population is more diverse and its outlook less local than one would expect from a Southern town of its size. Much of this is an indirect result of the presence of Camp Forrest . In the late '40's when a fledgling U.S. space program was looking for a nest the Camp Forrest acreage, still in the hands of the state, was offered to the U.S. government as a site for an engineering test facility. The establishing of the Arnold Engineering Development Center in 1950 has given Tullahoma a population with an unusually high education and income level with unusual diversity.

Citizens of the area developed an increased pride in their town. The contribution of Camp Forrest to the war effort was obvious as units trained at the camp and then reappeared in

the news as participants in major battles affecting the progress of military events. Citizens also found they could respond to meet challenges and to solve problems. Not only did the area adjust to the presence of a major Army base but local leaders had to learn to look at local problems in the light of national and international events.

These same local leaders travelled frequently to Washington, D.C., and became familiar with the workings of the federal government and how to use federal programs to benefit their area. It was this knowledge of the workings of the federal government and a determination not to slip back into the status of an economic backwater which caused Tullahoma to enter the competition for the location of the Arnold Engineering Development Center, a competition Tullahoma won in 1949.

The appeal of jobs and a degree of prosperity was strong when Tullahoma became the home of Camp Forrest in 1940. The development of a broader vision of the future was an even more important development which did not occur automatically but which was made possible by a town and its leaders having the vision to seize the opportune moment the camp represented.

What did Camp Forrest mean to the nation as a whole? Camp Forrest trained more troops for the U.S. Armed Forces than any other base except one. By using a figure of almost 12,000 men for each division and appropriate strength numbers for smaller units it seems that at least one million men were stationed at Camp Forrest during the Second World War. This does not include those who had incidental contact with the camp during the Tennessee Maneuvers. Since the United States had approximately fifteen million people in uniform during the war Camp Forrest was "home" to about 6.5% of the total U.S. manpower.

Additionally, the camp provided a base in the midst of terrain admirably suited for training troops for war in Europe. The terrain features available within a short distance of Camp Forrest are analogous to features found from Italy to the Ardennes. Battlefield tactics and larger strategy used to win the war in Europe were developed and practiced at Camp Forrest.

Although many specifics can be discussed, the overall impact of Camp Forrest cannot be assessed. The camp was a part of a larger event, a World War, which changed the course of human history and altered the history of many people in the process. Such changes are best analyzed by listening to the stories of those caught up in the change, their voices are the sounds of history. In this book they can be heard.

Some Remarks About Sources

Reveille to Taps is an exercise in primary research. There is nothing else which gives an overall picture of the life of Camp Forrest, therefore, there can be no bibliography in the traditional sense. This does not mean there are no additional books one can read about some aspects of Camp Forrest.

During the early days of the camp, in 1940 and 1941, several of the units stationed at Camp Forrest published year books, collections of pictures much like college annuals. Copies of these from the 33nd Infantry Division, the 75th Field Artillery brigade, and the Camp Forrest Medical Department have been donated to me and have been placed in the historical archives of the Post Historian for Arnold Air Force Base at the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) which currently occupies the Camp Forrest property. These year books also contain brief unit histories.

Two members of the Vanderbilt unit, the 300th Medical, have published memoirs of this unit which contains valuable information about Camp Forrest. Margaret Buchanan has written Reminiscing published by the Williams Printing Company of Nashville in 1988. Mrs. Buchanan was a nurse in this general hospital unit. Louis Rosenfeld's The Fighting 300th covers the same ground but from the perspective of a medical doctor. Rosenfeld's book was published by Vanderbilt University in 1985. Both books are well written and give a good look into a neglected aspect of military life.

Newspaperman Gene Sloan wrote numerous columns about the Second Army maneuvers in Tennessee during the war. These have been collected and published under the title With Second Army Somewhere in Tennessee. Although out of print the book is to be reissued by

1994 as part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Second World War. Although not specifically about Camp Forrest this collection does provide details about military life in Tennessee.

In 1985 Robert Muehscke wrote Orchids in the Mud, J.S. Printing of Chicago, which traces the history of several elements of the 33nd Infantry Division. Camp Forrest is discussed briefly before the author goes on to the overseas combat record of this unit.

In the public library at Manchester, Tennessee, can be found microfilmed copies of The Manchester Times for the period 1940-1946. In the Nashville public library are microfilmed copies of the Nashville Banner and the Nashville Tennessean. Only a partial file of the Tullahoma Guardian is available in the Tennessee Archives in Nashville. The closing report of the commanding officers of the POW camp and the Post Hospital have been secured from Army Archives and copies of these reports are now on deposit at AEDC. Also, a roll of microfilm containing Das Echo and Der Scheinwerfer, POW newspapers, was secured from the Library of Congress and is included in the AEDC Archives, along with untranslated full page copies of Der Schinwerfer.

Discovered as a part of this research project were 2,000 pages of documents relating to the civilian internees at Camp Forrest. These were in the National Archives and have been copied for deposit at AEDC.

O.B. Wilkinson of Tullahoma has compiled and has had privately printed the records of the Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home. Volume IV dealt with "Camp Forrest and the U.S. Army." This volume was compiled in 1993.

The papers of Senator Kenneth McKellar are in the History and Travel department of the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library. They do not contain as much information about Camp Forrest as might be expected since McKellar was the state's senior senator and was an important member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. There is a good deal of correspondence in the papers for 1945 and 1946 concerning prisoners of war.

There is one box of Camp Forrest papers in the State Archives and Library in Nashville. They are mostly records of land disputes from 1940 and 1941. Tthere is also one scrapbook containing some newspaper clippings from the Camp Forrest era.

The papers of Senator Tom Stewart are privately held by his family in Winchester, Tennessee. These papers are primarily newspaper clippings about the Senator. No correspondence is included in the collection made available to me.

John Wiley Rollins wrote an unpublished Master's Thesis on Camp Forrest and the military maneuvers in Middle Tennessee in 1970. A copy of this thesis is deposited at AEDC. Mr. Rollins is currently Circuit Judge in Coffee County.

I have been given a copy of a lengthy paper entitled Soldier Town. Unfortunately, the title page was not included and the donor has no idea who wrote it or where it was first published. A copy is included in the archives.

Paul Pyle and Jean Smotherman compiled a booklet entitled Camp Forrest, Tullahoma, TN 1941-46 for the Homecoming '86 celebration. This was published by the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce. A copy is included in the archives.

The major source of information has been the taped interviews made with numerous persons throughout the Middle Tennessee area and the correspondence sent me from a much

larger area. The tapes, and transcripts of them, form the bulk of the archives of this project and they with the correspondence are likewise on deposit at AEDC.

In Requiem for a Nun William Faulkner has one of his characters say "the past ain't dead; hell, it ain't even past." The lively memories of the people who told me about Camp Forrest, the youngest 64 and the oldest 91, vouches for the accuracy of Faulkner's statement.