

FORT BENNING ★ COLUMBUS  
**CENTENNIAL**

**1918**  
**2018**  
**0**

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF

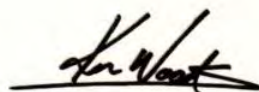
**LEADERSHIP**

# Acknowledgement

From its conception to the final corrections, this book has been organized, researched and compiled through the efforts of many people. Fort Benning Garrison Commanders Col. Andrew C. Hilmes and Col. Clinton W. Cox provided the leadership and guidance that embarked and directed this project to completion. Team leaders Mr. Brandon C. Cockrell, Director of Plans Analysis & Integration, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Charles H. Auer Jr., Plans Analysis & Integration, and Mr. Jerry A. Madden, Strategic Planner, G-3 Operations, were instrumental in organizing the structure of the book and facilitating research. Mr. Al Gelineau, Director of Fort Benning Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Mrs. Shannon Beck, Marketing Director, Fort Benning Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, were key in seeing this book to manifestation.

Research and photograph contributions from Mr. David Owings, University Archivist at the Columbus State University Schwob Memorial Library, and Ms. Rebecca Bush, Curator of History and Exhibitions Manager at the Columbus Museum, were of great assistance; and content reviews from Mr. David Stieghan, U.S. Army Infantry Branch Historian, and Dr. Robert Cameron, U.S. Army Armor Branch Historian, were of noted benefit. Armored vehicle identification through the expertise of Mr. Len Dyer, Director of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum, provided invaluable assistance. Much gratitude is extended to Col. (Ret.) Michael L. Townes, Chief, Communicative Skills Branch, and Ms. Joanie Horton, former Communicative Skills, Command and Tactics Directorate, for their editorial corrections.

A special thanks goes to Mr. Z. Frank Hanner, Director of the National Infantry Museum, and Mr. Edward Howard, Fort Benning Historic Preservation Specialist, whose contributions to this book were paramount. Countless hours were spent searching through and digitally archiving thousands of photographs to select those with historical significance to be depicted in this work. Unless otherwise cited, all of the photographs in this book are courtesy of the National Infantry Museum.



Ken M. Woods  
Captain, Infantry  
Author





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Dear Friends of Fort Benning,

In 2018 we proudly celebrate, alongside the City of Columbus, Fort Benning's 100th anniversary. Establishing this post was a vision originating with the city leadership. Since that time, Fort Benning has demonstrated exceptional leadership, creativity, and innovation by solidifying the Maneuver Center as the U.S. Army's center of gravity for producing combat-ready Soldiers and developing our Army's Maneuver Force.

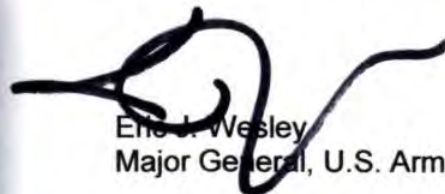
Fort Benning embodies leadership and has been instrumental in providing our Army professional, competent Soldiers capable of winning our nation's wars. Distinguished Army leaders like Marshall, Eisenhower, Patton, Ridgway, and Powell, among countless other leaders, have roamed Fort Benning's training areas and classrooms, and are inextricably linked to our Centennial theme of "100 years of leadership." Their efforts have been crucial in generating top-tier Soldiers who are prepared to defeat any future adversary.

While near-term readiness is critical, "development" always feeds the *next* generation's readiness. Fort Benning has consistently been the center of innovation and modernization. From serving as the home of the Infantry School since 1919, to serving as the home of the Tank School in the 1930s, to its critical role in developing and refining Airborne and Air Mobility tactics, Fort Benning has consistently prioritized forward thinking and creativity as means to surmount complex battlefield challenges. The fact that our Army has an unparalleled Maneuver Force is largely attributable to the efforts undertaken at Fort Benning over the past century.

I am incredibly proud to be a part of the Fort Benning team partnering with Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley Region as we embark on another 100 years of leadership, and as we prepare our Maneuver Force to fight and win on the battlefields of tomorrow. We must continue to produce the very best combat-ready Soldiers, and to invest in a Maneuver Force capable of confronting future threats and challenges. I hope you find this book a stimulating look at our remarkable path that has set the conditions for where we are today, and where we are going in the future. Fort Benning has a proud legacy that will continue to endure and grow, and we are privileged to be a part of it.



One Force, One Fight!



Eric J. Wesley  
Major General, U.S. Army



1827 to 1920s

## The Early Years Of Columbus And The Plight of Camp Benning

In the first 100 years of the City of Columbus, the foundations of a union between the City and military encampments were laid. Early years saw conflict with the Creek Indians, the native inhabitants of the land that Columbus and Fort Benning now rest upon, and led to the establishment of Fort Mitchell. Later, as the Spanish-American War arose, a brigade of troops was quartered next to Columbus at Camp Conrad and consequently demonstrated to the citizens of Columbus the lucrative benefits of having so many soldiers nearby.

The excitement of World War I in 1917 was strong in Columbus, as it was elsewhere in the United States, and served to build upon the previously laid foundation of a strong desire by Columbus citizens to establish an Army Post in Columbus. With senior members of the community holding recent memories of Camp Conrad and the subsequent wealth that was brought by such a large military body stationed in close proximity to the city, the drive to have a military training camp established in Columbus was at an all-time high.

On April 4, 1917, the day after President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a Declaration of War against Germany, the Columbus Enquirer-Sun printed a story regarding the local Chamber of Commerce's desire to have an Army camp stationed near Columbus with at least a brigade of troops.

After the formal Declaration of War by Congress on April 6, 1917, the push to have the camp established in Columbus was emboldened. Congress passed the Selective Service Act on April 28, 1917 and by June, all men between the ages of 21 and 31 were registered and the first were being called to duty to begin their training.

An Encampment Committee of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce voyaged to Washington, D.C., to promote Columbus as a site for one of the new camps, but was met with little success.

Several members of the committee remained in the nation's capital to speak with War Department officials and members of Congress until February, 1918, when they returned home, saddened by what seemed to be futile efforts.

Unbeknownst to them, on October 21, 1917, Gen. John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in France, sent a cablegram to the War Department asking for better trained soldiers. Due to the reports from other high-ranking field officers and the high number of battlefield casualties, the War Department decided to create a Special Board to select a site to train soldiers on infantry skills and tactics.

This board was headed by Col. Henry E. Eames, Commander of the School of Musketry at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Columbus was selected as one of four prospective sites, largely due to the hard efforts of the Columbus Chamber's Encampment Committee.

When Chamber of Commerce officials learned that the school would be created, a full-time representative was sent to Washington, D.C., to promote Columbus' cause. He telegraphed home on August 17, 1918, relaying the news that the General Staff of the U.S. Army had approved the recommendation of the investigating board and that the Infantry School of Arms would be located near Columbus.

Maj. J. Paul Jones was assigned as construction quartermaster for the project. Although no funds had yet been allocated and nothing had been formally approved by the Secretary of War, Maj. Jones received word on September 20, 1918 that the Infantry School staff and troops from Fort Sill were en route and would arrive on October 1, 1918.



With great haste, and with the willing help of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Maj. Jones and Col. Eames began looking for a site for the coming camp. An 84-acre farm belonging to Alex Reid on Macon Road was selected due to its close proximity to downtown Columbus, the city water supply and the streetcar service.

Though no money had been appropriated, it would take \$100,000 to build the temporary mess halls, tent frames, bath houses and water supply installations needed to form the infrastructure of the camp. Maj. Jones set to work and his acquisition of construction supplies and lumber proved pivotal. Local civilians were so eager to have the Post located in Columbus they contributed the supplies without initial payment, as they were willing to wait for payment until proper authorization could be handled.

A total of 400,000 feet of lumber was hauled to the camp site on Macon Road, and 300 tent frames, mess halls and warehouses were completed in seven days.

The first detachment arrived on October 7, 1918 and on October 19, the new facility was formally christened Camp Benning. Soon after, it became clear that the Post's current location was not large enough for suitable terrain for rifle ranges.

The new site chosen for Camp Benning was a 1,800 acre plantation owned by Arthur Bussey eight miles to the south. The Bussey Plantation, along with numerous buildings to include the plantation house known as Riverside, and an additional 115,000 acres was purchased for \$3,600,000 on October 19, 1918. Construction of new facilities and infrastructure began immediately and an additional \$9,119,875 was approved by the Secretary of War to fund the establishment of an Infantry School of Arms for 25,000 men. This appeared to confirm the permanence of the camp, however, on November 11, 1918, the Great War came to an end. On January 7, 1919, an order from the War Department halted funds and directed the abandonment of all new construction and lease options, cancellation of all condemnation proceedings and salvaging of all work already done.

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce representative immediately returned to Washington, D.C. to organize a campaign to present Columbus' case before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. In addition, Chamber members visited the camp commander and asked Col. Eames to delay the dismantling of buildings until they had time to settle things in Washington. He agreed to work on the salvage portion of his duties and Maj. Jones interpreted the word "salvage" to mean "save," and thus had all of the buildings repainted; an order that would subsequently greatly aid in the salvation of the camp.

Over the next three months, Columbus citizens and military leaders lobbied the Senate Committee stating that Benning was a worthwhile endeavor. Many infantry officers would go before the Committee to petition the necessity of the Infantry School to ensure better training for soldiers. In their experience, they felt that had soldiers received better training, the loss of life in the Great War would not have been so severe.

In early 1920, a bill to establish a permanent Infantry School at the new camp in Georgia was defeated by a vote of eight to six. Several other Chamber members joined their colleague and Army officers in the capital and had the matter reopened. The second vote that finally established Camp Benning on a permanent basis was cast on March 8, 1919 and stood at seven to six in favor of the Post.

As the camp grew rapidly in the 1920s, technology and weapons also advanced. The tank arrived to Camp Benning as part of the infantry and thus gave birth to mounted armored maneuver. Lessons learned from World War I precipitated advancements in infantry tactics and techniques. Meanwhile, the infrastructure blossomed and Camp Benning received its first Presidential visit on October 27, 1921, by President Warren G. Harding. Several months later on January 9, 1922, the War Department issued General Order No. 1, making Camp Benning a permanent military installation. On February 8, 1922, Camp Benning was re-designated Fort Benning, and the rapid development of the Post ensued.

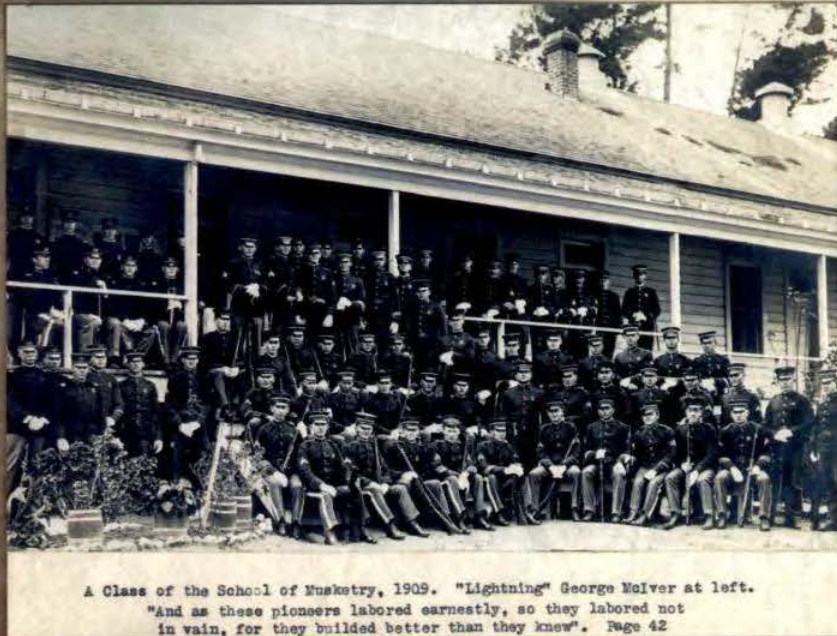




Lt. Gen. Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben introduced a system of small unit tactics and drills to Washington's Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777. These tactics began a new era of Infantry training for the Army. (Portrait by Ralph Earl).



In 1826, Maj. Gen. Edmund P. Gaines persuaded the War Department to establish a post dedicated solely to the education and training of infantrymen.



A Class of the School of Musketry, 1909. "Lightning" George McIver at left.  
"And as these pioneers labored earnestly, so they labored not in vain, for they builded better than they knew". Page 42



Machine Guns of the 8th Inf.

The Army established the original School of Musketry in Monterey, California on February 21, 1907. The school moved to Fort Sill, Oklahoma in January, 1913. This was the predecessor of the Infantry School of Arms that would find its home at Camp Benning, Georgia.

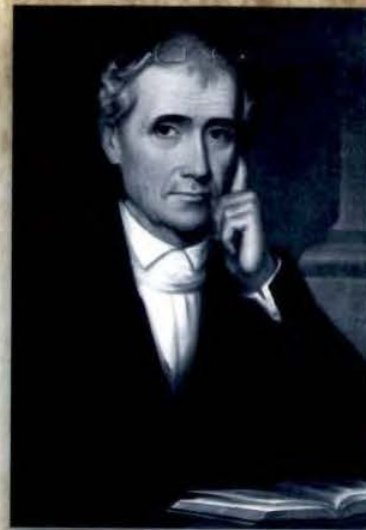


The Infantry School of Arms Detachment, c.1911-17.

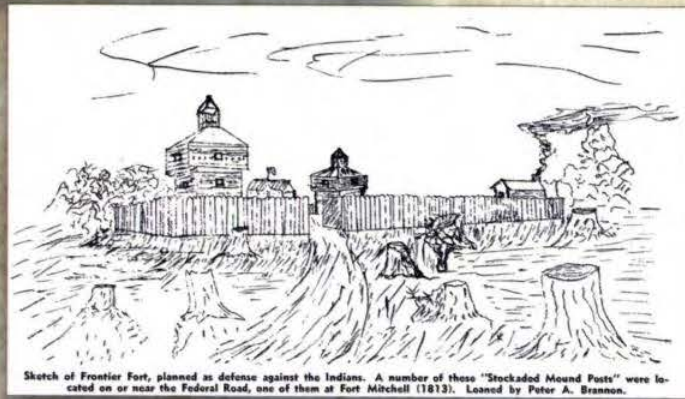




John Forsyth, Governor of Georgia from November 7, 1827 to November 4, 1829. Before serving as Governor, Forsyth was the U.S. Minister to Spain under John Quincy Adams and before that, both a Congressman and a Senator. Later, he would serve as Secretary of State under both Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren. Forsyth appointed Columbus' original five Commissioners and supervised the lot sale from July 10-24, 1828.



Ignatius Few (left), Dr. Edwin L. de Graffenried (right), along with James Hallam, Philip H. Alston and Elias Beall were appointed by Governor Forsyth as the five original Commissioners "to lay out and dispose the Town of Columbus at the Coweta Falls on the Chattahoochee," as stated from the Executive Minutes of the Governor, December 26, 1827. The land that was sold was acquired from the Creek Indians through a treaty that was signed at Indian Springs in February, 1825. (Photos from F. Clason Kyle, *A Pictorial History of Columbus, Georgia*).

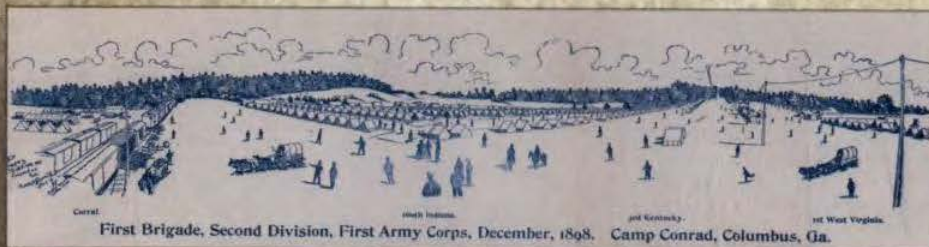


Sketch of Frontier Fort, planned as defense against the Indians. A number of these "Stockaded Mound Posts" were located on or near the Federal Road, one of them at Fort Mitchell (1813). Loaned by Peter A. Brannon.

Preceding the Indian Springs Treaty and prior treaties, the area along the Chattahoochee saw great conflict between the Creek Indians and Georgia settlements which prompted the establishment of Fort Mitchell (named after David B. Mitchell, Governor of Georgia from November 10, 1809 to November 5, 1813) and thus establishing the long standing relationship between Columbus and the military. (Drawing by Peter A. Brannon, *Columbus on the Chattahoochee*).



Camp Conrad hospital tents, December 28, 1898.



First Brigade, Second Division, First Army Corps, December, 1898. Camp Conrad, Columbus, Ga.

Camp Conrad, where the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 1st Army Corps consisting of 3,500 troops was stationed in the winter of 1898-99 during the Spanish American War, proved to the local population of Columbus of the economic benefit of having a large body of soldiers in close proximity to the town. The brigade was composed of the 160th Indiana, 3rd Kentucky and 1st West Virginia Regiments.



Christmas dinner at Camp Conrad, 1898. (Left to right) Cpl. Mathews, Co. F., D. B. Elrod, photographer, and Pvt. Roy Perkins, Co. L., all of the 3rd Kentucky Regiment.



# The Columbus Enquirer-Sun

VOL. 13,332—NO. 84 COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 3, 1917—TWELVE PAGES. 100 PER COPY.

## President Asks Congress to Declare That a State of War Exists Between Government of the United States and That of Germany; Resolutions to This Effect Introduced in Both Houses of Congress

**RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS DECLARING A STATE OF WAR EXISTS**

**AMERICAN SHIP AZTEC IS SUNK BY A SUBMARINE**

**WE WILL NOT CHOOSE PATH OF SUBMISSION," DECLARES THE PRESIDENT BEFORE CONGRESS WHICH AROUSED HIS AUDITORS TO CHEERS**

**SENATOR LODGE THE BRITISH ONLY KNOCKS PACIFIST TWO MILES AWAY DOWN AND OUT FROM ST. QUENTIN**



### THE PRESIDENT

VICTIMS OF THE ARMY OF SILENCE

Universal Military Service in the Proposed Constitution Being Discussed Before the Senate

**Senators Praise Address Saying It Is Sentiment Of the Mass of People**

**General Wood Must Say Whether Guardsmen May Go Home On Furlough**

**Georgia Offers Their Services To Government**

**Colonel Mandulley Surrenders Force Of 500 Followers**

DAY MORNING, APRIL 4, 1917.

### COLUMBUS WILL SEEK LOCATION OF ARMY CAMP

Resolution Adopted by Business Men to That Effect, at Members' Council Yesterday.

CITY COUNCIL WILL BE ASKED FOR AID

Probable Increase of U. S. Army Leads to Action to Secure a Bridge at Least—R. Curtis Jordan Chairman of Encampment Committee.

### QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS

Are ripe and ready for delivery. When you get yours, keep them busy. They will earn interest if deposited under our orders.

**IF YOU PREFER A GOOD BOND**  
We can help you to increase your interest, and direct your investments.

**THEIR SUCCESS IS ALWAYS OURS**

We pay 4% compounded twice each year—on deposits. Open till 6:00 P. M. Saturdays and Mondays.

### Columbus Savings Bank

—At The Sign of The Electric Clock—

### United States Government Indian Land Opening In Southeastern Oklahoma

This land is located in the new belt, near, retirement, town, good water, churches and schools. You select your own tract of land at prices ranging from \$2 to \$5 per acre. Long term payments. No interest or improvements required as the Government will not appropriate. OIL LEASE ENTITLES you to a CASH BONUS and ONE EIGHTH OF ALL THE OIL OR ONE SIXTH OF ALL GAS produced. All in the Famous OKLAHOMA PROSPECTIVE OIL BELT.

A chance for a fortune with a value in the land area in excess of the amount paid.

**United States Government**

Call at the INDIAN LAND SCHOOLING CAR and learn how to get a part of the valuable land.

Car is at Ninth and Front Streets. Open from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M., including Sunday.  
Bring the wife and children and let us talk it over.

PERSONALS

A. F. Kunze, a prominent member of Fort Worth, Texas, who has been visiting in Columbus, spent yesterday at Fort Mitchell, left yesterday for his home.

A. F. Kunze, traveling agent of the A. C. and T. S. R. M., of Atlanta, spent yesterday in Columbus on business.

MARRIAGES

**BAUGH-EVERETT.**  
Miss Frederica C. Baugh, and Mr. G. Everett were united in marriage yesterday afternoon by Rev. Chas. G. Eason, pastor of the First Methodist church, at the presence of the pastor's wife, the ceremony being performed at a residence.

THE ENQUIRER-SUN, COLUMBUS, GA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 4, 1917.

**MILITIA DETAIL FOR PATROL DUTY SOUGHT FOR CITY**

Armer's Visit Arouses Interest

**CHERO-COLA MEN LEAVE FOR HOMES, RETURN IN 1918**

Interacting Committee Plans After Fulfilling Its Mission

**COLUMBUS WILL SEEK LOCATION OF ARMY CAMP**

Adopted by Business Men at Members' Council Yesterday.

**QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS**

Are ripe and ready for delivery.

**PACKERS BOOST EGG PRICES FOR WINTER SALES**

Advertised Shind That Agents of Packing Houses Have Been Told to Pay Higher Prices for Eggs to Be Held in Cold Storage.

**Small Soils Filled Yesterday**

Glory Heisted Per Municipal Building by Firemen

**PERSONALS**

**MARRIAGES**

**COMB SAGE SEA BY FINE TO DANES ST.**  
The Commissioner's Order to Fine for Letting a Street Run Down.

**Reaching for the Perfect Drink**

## = CAPACOLA =

5c

Distributors—Incorporating  
Capacola Bottling Co.

1233 W. Broad St. Phone 238.

**Illustration Electric Portable Sewing Machine**

To afford ladies of Columbus and vicinity the opportunity of seeing the new shine, we are giving a personal demonstration in our showrooms for one week, beginning Monday, April 2. PATRICK's experienced seamstresses, will be in charge. You are personally invited to attend.

# y-Morton Co. 1223 BROAD STREET

Columbus Enquirer-Sun front page, April 3, 1917  
(Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Archives).

Columbus Enquirer-Sun article announcing Columbus' intent to host an Army camp, April 4, 1917. (Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Archives).

From the time President Wilson asked Congress to declare War against Germany on April 3, 1917, Columbus citizens, through their Chamber of Commerce, endeavored to prompt the United States government to establish one of its training camps near the city. An Encampment Committee of the Chamber of Commerce worked arduously to secure the Camp at the Columbus location. At this time, A. F. Kunze, President of the Board, along with a number of Columbus citizens to include H. R. McClatchey, Marshall Morton, John A. Betjeman, Henry B. Crawford, J. Albert Kirven, Frank U. Garrad, T. T. Miller and J. Ralston Cargill made the initial trip to Washington to express Columbus' interests. In mid July, 1917, the War Department announced its selection of camp sites and to the disappointment of Columbus citizens, left Columbus off the list. This prompted the Chamber of Commerce to dispatch Betjeman to Washington as its resident agent to convince the War Department to reconsider Columbus. (Portraits of Kunze, McClatchey and Kirven from *A History of Columbus, Georgia 1828 - 1928*, by Nancy Telfar; Betjeman portrait from the Ledger-Enquirer Archives).



Albert Frederick  
Kunze



Homer Reynolds  
McClatchey



John Augustus  
Betjeman



Joseph Albert  
Kirven





Gen. Pershing upon his arrival to France,  
June 13, 1917.



Gen. Pershing, 1918.

On October 21, 1917, General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces to France (AEF) sent a cablegram from France to the War Department to send men to Europe who were well trained and expert marksmen, stating “recommend that instruction of divisions in the United States be conducted with a view of developing the soldiers physically and in knowledge of sanitation, inculcating high standards of discipline, producing superior marksmanship both on the range and in field firing exercises in large bodies. Close adherence is urged to the central idea that the essential principles of war have not changed, that the rifle and the bayonet are still the supreme weapons of the infantry soldier and that the ultimate success of the army depends upon their proper use in open warfare.”



Due to Gen. Pershing’s cablegram and the reports from other high-ranking field officers, compounded by the high number of battlefield casualties suffered in the war, the War Department decided to create a Special Board to select a site to train soldiers on infantry skills and tactics.

Because Fort Sill was deemed inadequate for both infantry and artillery training, the War Department issued Special Order No. 119 on May 21, 1918, appointing a four-officer board headed by Col. Henry E. Eames to select a new location to move the Infantry School of Arms to. He chose the Columbus, Georgia location and then served as Commandant of the Infantry School of Arms from 1918-1919.





Columbus Enquirer-Sun front page, September 10, 1918  
(Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Archives).



Columbus Enquirer-Sun front page, September 26, 1918  
(Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Archives).

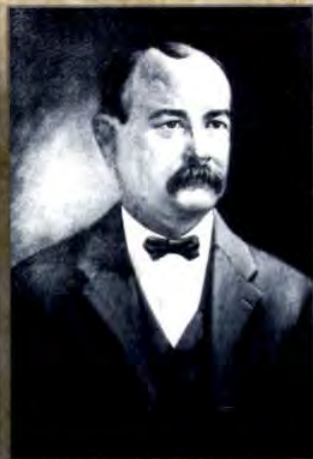
News of the War Department's decision to place the Infantry School of Arms in Columbus was hailed with such enthusiasm that a special Military Committee of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce was soon formed to establish and maintain the friendliest relationship possible between the Post and the townspeople. This Committee included: Leighton W. MacPherson, Chairman, R. C. Jordan, Walter A. Richards, R. E. Dismukes, A. F. Kunze, H. R. McClatchey, Joseph Homer Dimon (Columbus Mayor 1922-1931), R. W. Page (early reporter for The Ledger and later sole proprietor of the paper), T. G. Reeves, W. J. Fielder, Reynolds Flournoy, H. C. Smith, James B. Key and Rhodes Browne (Columbus Mayor 1908-1911). (Dismukes portrait from *Columbus on the Chattahoochee*, by Etta Blanchard Worsley; portraits of Dimon and Smith from *A History of Columbus, Georgia 1828 - 1928*, by Nancy Telfar; portraits of Page and Flournoy from *Columbus, Georgia's Fall Line Trading Town*, by Joseph B. Mahan; Browne portrait courtesy of CSU Schwob Library Archives).



Robert Ernest  
Dismukes



Joseph Homer  
Dimon



Rinaldo William  
Page



Reynolds  
Flournoy



Henry Clifford  
Smith



Rhodes Browne





Lucius Henry Chappell

Other Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce during the uncertain years of Camp Benning were H.R. McClatchey, J. Ralston Cargill, Lucius H. Chappell and Frank G. Lumpkin, Sr., for whom Lumpkin Boulevard was afterwards named due to his great interest in the construction of the public roads leading to and from Columbus. (Portraits of Chappell and Lumpkin from *A History of Columbus, Georgia 1828 - 1928*, by Nancy Telfar).



Frank Grieve Lumpkin, Sr.

Maj. J. Paul Jones, the construction quartermaster for the establishment of Camp Benning in 1918, played a crucial role in the Post's development. On September 20, 1918, while still in Washington, Maj. Jones was notified that the School of Musketry at Fort Sill would arrive to Columbus on October 1st. Though funding had not yet been allotted, Maj. Jones was instructed to provide shelter and facilities for the troops. On September 22, Maj. Jones departed the capital for Columbus and wired for construction materials and labor, to which the citizens of Columbus hastily responded. Through their collective efforts, the camp was declared ready to receive soldiers on October 1, 1918.

**The Columbus Enquirer-Sun**  
 WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1918  
 VOL. 22--NO. 287

**Labor, Material and Co-operation Needed, Says Major Jones**  
 First Americans Killed in Russia Buried at Night  
 Camp Must Be Ready for Onset of Troops by Tomorrow—News Agency That Labor and Materials Be Had at Once

**Latest Allied Victory**  
**Enemy Given No Rest on Near Eastern Front; Nets Closing in West**  
 Rebel Yell Heard in Jobs as Vets Meet in Reunion

**SIX BILLION IN LIBERTY BONDS ARE TO BE SOLD**  
 Nearly 3000 New Cases Influenza in U.S. Army Camps  
**MANY PROTEST AGAINST FIXING COTTON PRICES**  
 This Was a Feature of the Session of Committee to Investigate the Cotton Situation

**THE NATION'S HONOR ROLL**

**Government Must Adopt Plan to Stabilize Wages**

**Buy a LIBERTY BOND For Your Country's Sake**

**Active Boys Require Sturdy Clothes**

**A. C. Chancellor Co.**

Columbus Enquirer-Sun front page, September 25, 1918, announcing Maj. Jones' call for materials and labor. (Columbus Ledger-Enquirer archives).

**The Columbus Enquirer**  
 TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 1, 1918  
 COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

**LIBERTY LOAN GOING STRONG IN THIS ZONE**  
**TEMPORARY CAMP READY FOR SOLDIERS**  
**Hun 'Shotgun' Threat Replicated to by Lansing**  
**Wilson Asks Senate to Pass Suffrage Bill**

**PITTSVIEW TO HAVE EXHIBIT AT COLUMBUS FAIR**

**Correction of Story About John Garner**

**More Thorough Canvass Than in Previous Years**

**Active Boys Require Sturdy Clothes**

**Official Moving Day Here Again**

**Sunday Was Practically Gasless Day**

**Road Sentence Will Be Imposed on All Russell County Prohi Offenders**

**A. C. Chancellor Co.**

Columbus Enquirer-Sun front page, October 1, 1918, announcing the camp ready to receive soldiers. (Columbus Ledger-Enquirer archives).





**Confederate Brig. Gen. Henry  
Lewis Benning.  
April 2, 1814 to July 10, 1875**



**In 1918, the tradition for naming Army installations called for the local community to decide on a name, often naming them after Civil War generals. Each region often chose their own side's heroes from either the Union or Confederacy, although they could have chosen any figure. With this in mind, Anna Caroline Benning and Mrs. J. E. Minter, prominent members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Columbus, suggested the camp be named for Henry L. Benning, Anna Caroline Benning's father and a Confederate Brigadier General with a local connection as a Columbus attorney and judge. This notion was supported by the Rotary Club of Columbus and the camp was officially named after him on October 19, 1918, when Anna Caroline Benning raised the first flag over the camp.**



*Volley Ball  
Camp Benning*

**Shown on a postcard from 1918, soldiers play volleyball in a camp detachment street of the original camp before it moved to its present location. (Courtesy of the Columbus Museum, Georgia; James E. and Kelli Hall).**



**Soldier with his tent flap open, showing the cement base which the citizens of Columbus helped construct, 1918. (*Fort Benning (Images of America Series)* by Kenneth H. Thomas Jr.).**





The first troops from Fort Sill arrived on October 7, 1918, and occupied a temporary camp three miles east of town on Macon Road, pictured above. The site was originally intended to be the permanent site of Camp Benning, but its hilly terrain prohibited the creation of rifle ranges. This, along with a desire for greater distance from a populated area, influenced the leadership to select the Bussey Plantation eight miles to the south.

**The Columbus Enquirer-Sun**  
 COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18, 1918. 40 CENTS PER MONTH.

**CAMP SITE IS CHANGED TO SOUTH OF CITY**  
**FLEEING HUNS HARASSED BY BELGIANS**

**Eight Miles South and Five Miles East of Bradley Landing**

**Will Not Recommend That Fairs Over State Be Closed Account Influenza**

**Ostend Is Captured by the British; Belgians Are Now Taking Bruges; Americans Control Cote Chatillion**

**HUNS FLEEING IN MAD SCRAMBLE BY ONLY ROAD**

**German Abandoning Entire Belgian Coast and Seeking Refuge Behind Outer Division of Antwerp**

**BRITISH TAKE TOWNS OF LILLE AND DOUAI**

**New Arranged With Lines Will Be Much Shorter—German Lines Will Extend From Antwerp to Namur to Metz and to the Swiss Border.**

**Remoted Charles Grants Autonomy to Nationalities**

**W. Cecil Neill May Be a Candidate Attorney General**

**Report That All Submarines Have Orders to Return**

**Congress Takes Recess on 27th Over Elections**

**Urgent Patriotic Appeal From Mr. McAdoo to Make the Loan Go Over**

**LIBERTY LOAN**

**For Unconditional Surrender of the Hun! BUY BONDS!!**

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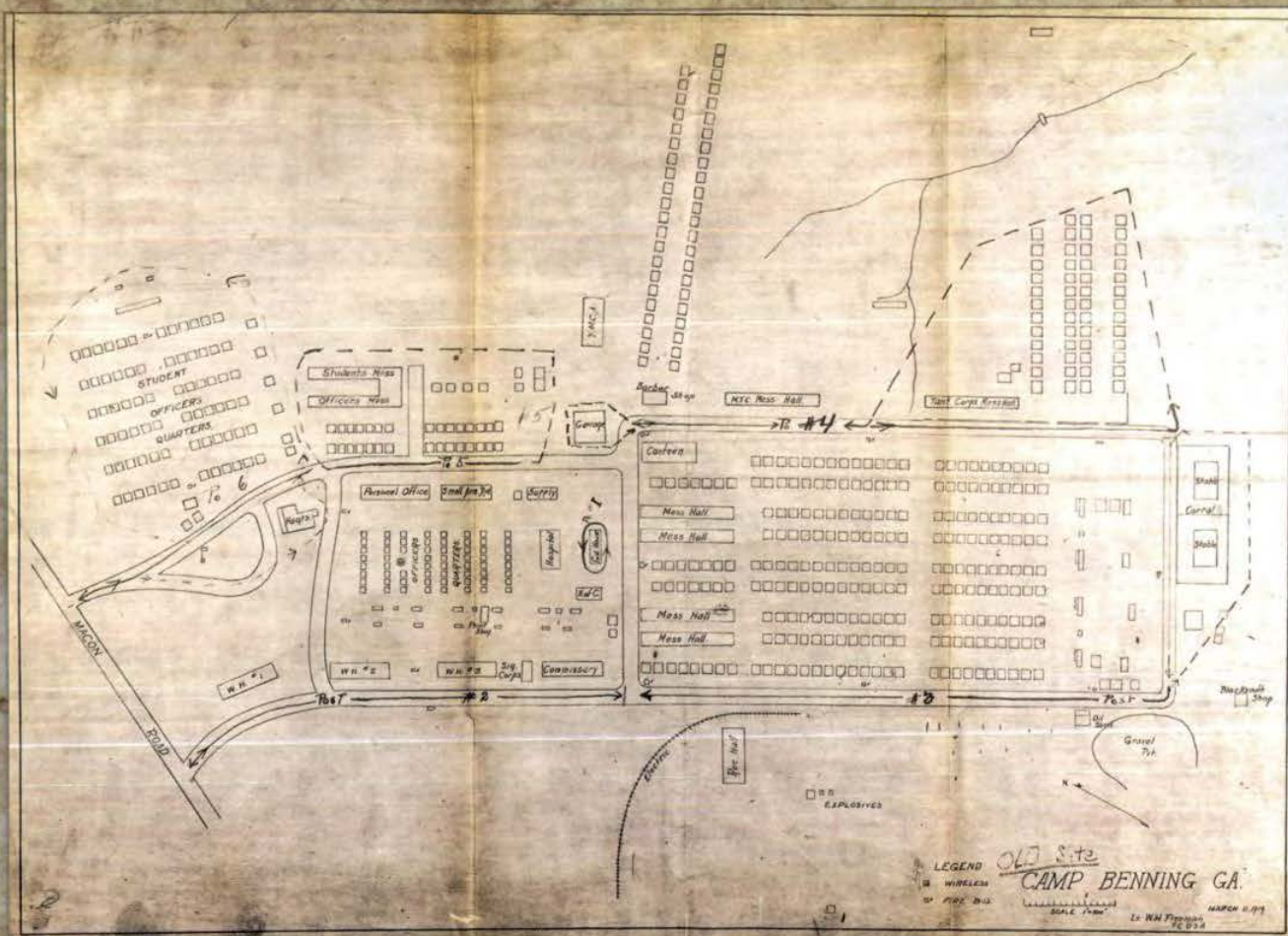
Columbus Enquirer-Sun front page, October 18, 1918, announcing Camp Benning's migration south of the city. (Columbus Ledger-Enquirer archives).

On January 7, 1919, when the order came to abandon Camp Benning and salvage the equipment, Maj. Jones interpreted the word "salvage" to mean "save," and thus ordered all the buildings to be painted to save them. Soon after, Col. Eames headed to Washington to meet with members of the General Staff whereupon it was decided to establish a peacetime Infantry School near Columbus.



On February 6, 1919, Soldiers of the Tank Corps Detachment posed with their French FT-17 Light Tank equipped with a model 1914 Hotchkiss 8mm machine gun, a combat veteran of World War I. To the right is their French FT-17 Light Tank hull with turret removed to house the SCR-189 radio.





Camp Benning layout, March 11, 1919. Outlined in dashes in the upper right is the location of the "Tank Corps" picture from the previous page.

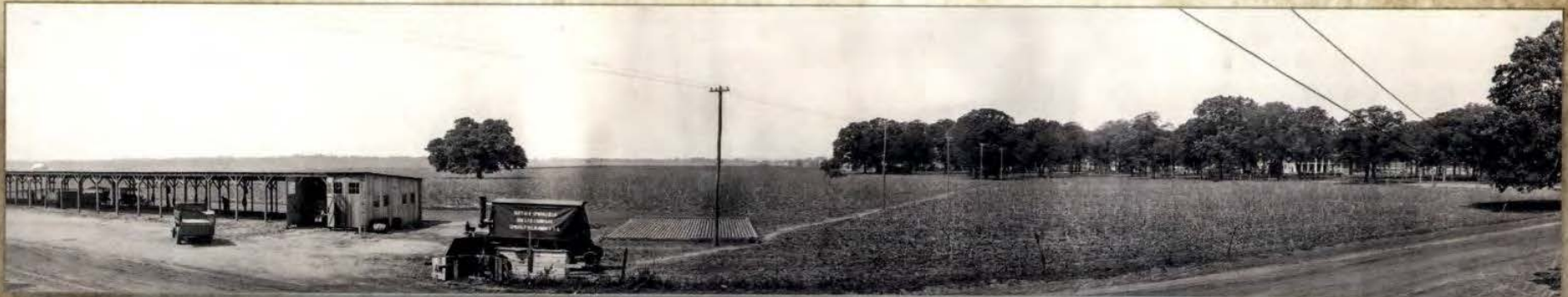


The first elements of the 29th Infantry Regiment arrived at Camp Benning from Camp Shelby on March 23, 1919. The regiment assumed the duties of the Demonstration Regiment for the new Infantry School. In addition, it was given the mission of actually building the post. For eight years, the men of the 29th lived in tents while they built the Cuartel Barracks, Gowdy Field, and Doughboy Stadium, among other infrastructures.





**The Riverside Plantation House, 1919. Built by Arthur Bussey in 1909 and since its acquisition on October 19, 1918, Riverside has been called home to every Post Commander at Fort Benning.**



**The Riverside Plantation, 1919 (Riverside Plantation House far right in treeline). In addition to dairy, the plantation grew cotton, corn and sugar cane.**



**Arthur Bussey**



**The Bussey's Riverside Plantation, the 1,750 acre dairy farm and second home of Arthur and Starlight Bussey of Columbus, was purchased in 1918 to be used as the permanent site of Camp Benning. It formed a large portion of the new post. The large building in the lower left is the first building built by the Army on Ft Benning: The Constructing Quartermaster's building. Bussey's creamery building, seen to the right of the Quartermaster building, became Fort Benning's first Headquarters.**





The first Infantry School of Arms was completed on October 26, 1918. On February 22, 1919, 100 West Point graduates became the first class to finish the course while the school was at the Macon Road location. Pictured above are the two-story wooden structures of the new camp that comprised the academic area on what is now Stillwell Field, c. 1920s.

Pictured here are the Post Stockades, surrounded by fencing, and soldiers' tents in the back right that housed soldiers as the new camp was constructed, c. 1919. The stockades are located where the middle cuartel barracks stands today.

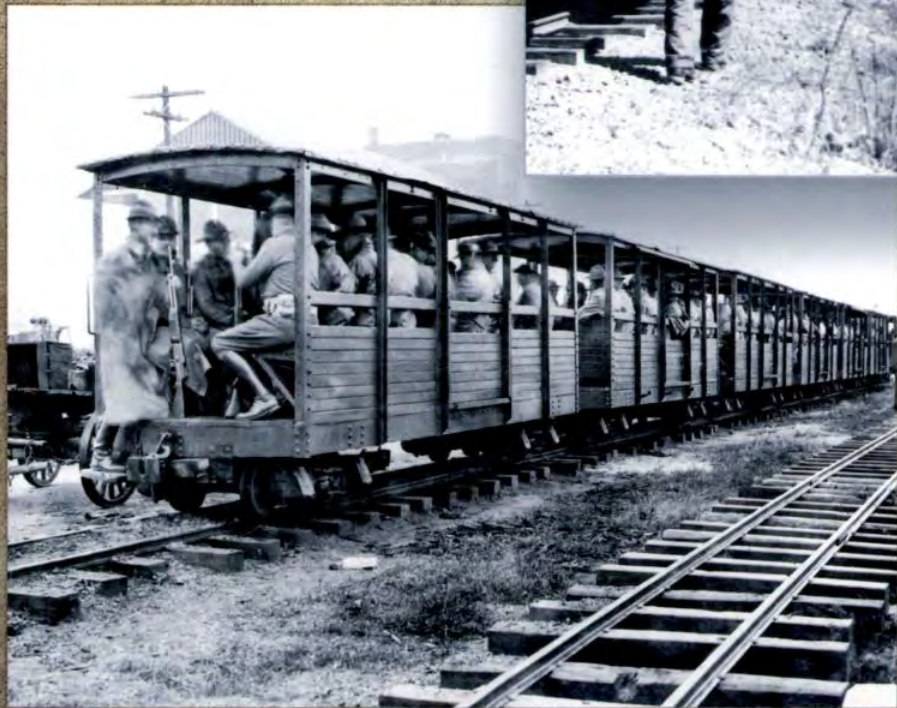
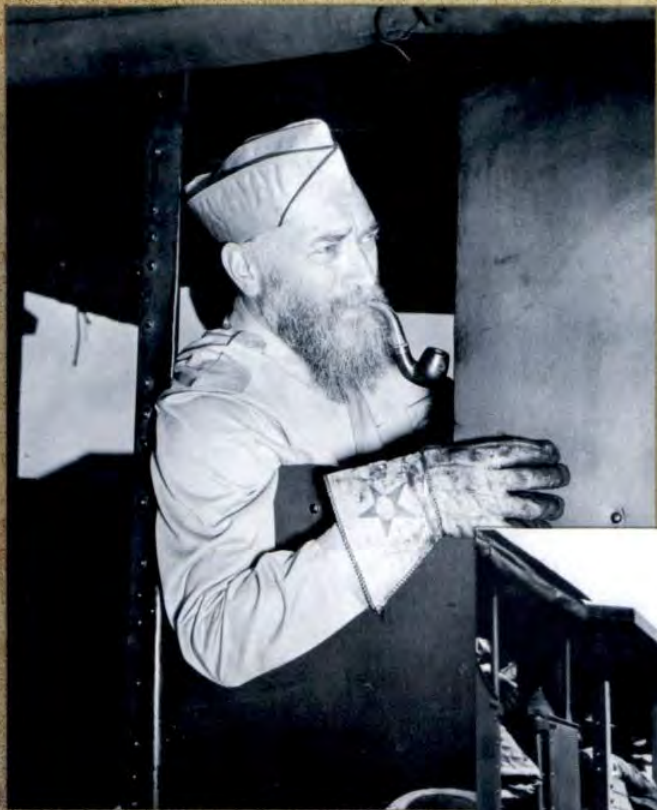


Camp Benning, erected within the first 6 months of Camp Benning's transition to the Main Post location, June, 1919. These two-story wooden structures, railroad system, power lines and telephone lines helped establish the permanency of the post.



Dispensary Tent, 1919. The only medical facility on Post until the Infirmary was erected in 1920.





**A standard gauge railroad to Post and telephone line were established on May 18, 1919 and was vital in bringing construction supplies to build the Post as well as move troops. This rail system also had a passenger depot. On Post, the narrow gauge railroad system was developed to transport troops to the various training sites, move supplies of all kinds, even timber for the sawmills, and was the largest narrow gauge railroad line on any military installation in the country.**





Aerial view of Camp Benning, 1919, showing the wooden buildings constructed for the expanding enrollment of the Infantry School.

**The Post Infirmary, erected in 1920 and not abandoned until 1929. The Medical Demonstration Detachment arrived at Camp Benning on November 1, 1920. Serious cases were sent to the Columbus City Hospital for treatment during this time. Shown here are two of the six buildings that composed the infirmary, with corridors connecting the six buildings.**







**On March 24, 1920, the 32nd Balloon Company arrived on Camp Benning with the principal mission of determining if data obtainable by balloon observation would be of material benefit to infantry troops on attack.**



**A DeHavilland DH-9A at Camp Benning, c.1920. Ten DeHavilland DH-4 airplanes arrived at Camp Benning on May 12, 1920, forming the Post's air detachment.**





This c. 1921 photograph shows a DeHaviland DH-4 and the Air Service officers who arrived at Camp Benning in May, 1920.



Service Club No. 1, the Enlisted Men's Service Club, c. 1924.



The Enlisted Men's Service Club, January 1921. Completed in 1920, this was one of the first of two major permanent buildings built on Post. It was demolished in the 1990s.

Enlisted Men's Service Club postcard, c. 1923.



JOIN THE  
**29th INFANTRY**  
at  
**Camp Benning, Ga.**

FOR REGULAR SOLDIERS,

A MOTORIZED REGIMENT  
NO GUARD—NO FATIGUE  
A DEMONSTRATION UNIT

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GOOD BATHING IN CAMP EIGHT MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

GREAT FISHING AND HUNTING  
—BASS - COON - \*POSSUM - FOX - RABBIT - SQUIRREL

OVER \$7,000,000 WORTH NEW BARRACKS NEARLY  
COMPLETED. CAMP IS ONLY THIRTY MINUTES RIDE  
BY GOVT. R. R. TO COLUMBUS - WHICH HAS 35,000 POP

COME AND TALK IT OVER AT THE  
U. S. ARMY RECRUITING STATION,

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A 1920's  
recruiting poster  
in Pennsylvania  
with glowing  
accounts of  
accommodations  
at Camp  
Benning.



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1st Battalion, 83rd Field Artillery, c. 1920.



The 83rd Field Artillery arrived on November 20, 1920, from Camp Knox, Kentucky, having marched over land.



Maj. J. Wright  
Rumbough  
Commander, 1st  
Battalion, 83rd Field  
Artillery,  
October, 1920 - June,  
1923.

83rd Field Artillery soldier posing  
with a Model 1905 3-inch field gun,  
c. 1919. This gun was in service  
between 1905 - 1919 and phased out  
in the 1920s.







The Infantry School, Camp Benning, Georgia, February, 1920, 2nd Platoon Student Officers.



Soldiers assembled to spell out the words "The Infantry School, Camp Benning, Georgia, 1921." In this photo are tanks, an observation balloon, airplanes, artillery pieces and machine guns; all of the weapons and equipment of the modern Army at the time. Student officers who were trained at Camp Benning incorporated these into their warfighting skills. The balloon was operated by the 32nd Balloon Company and housed at what later became Lawson Field.



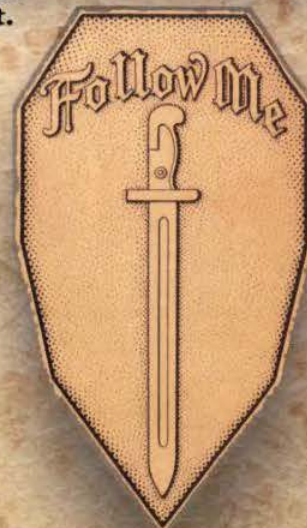
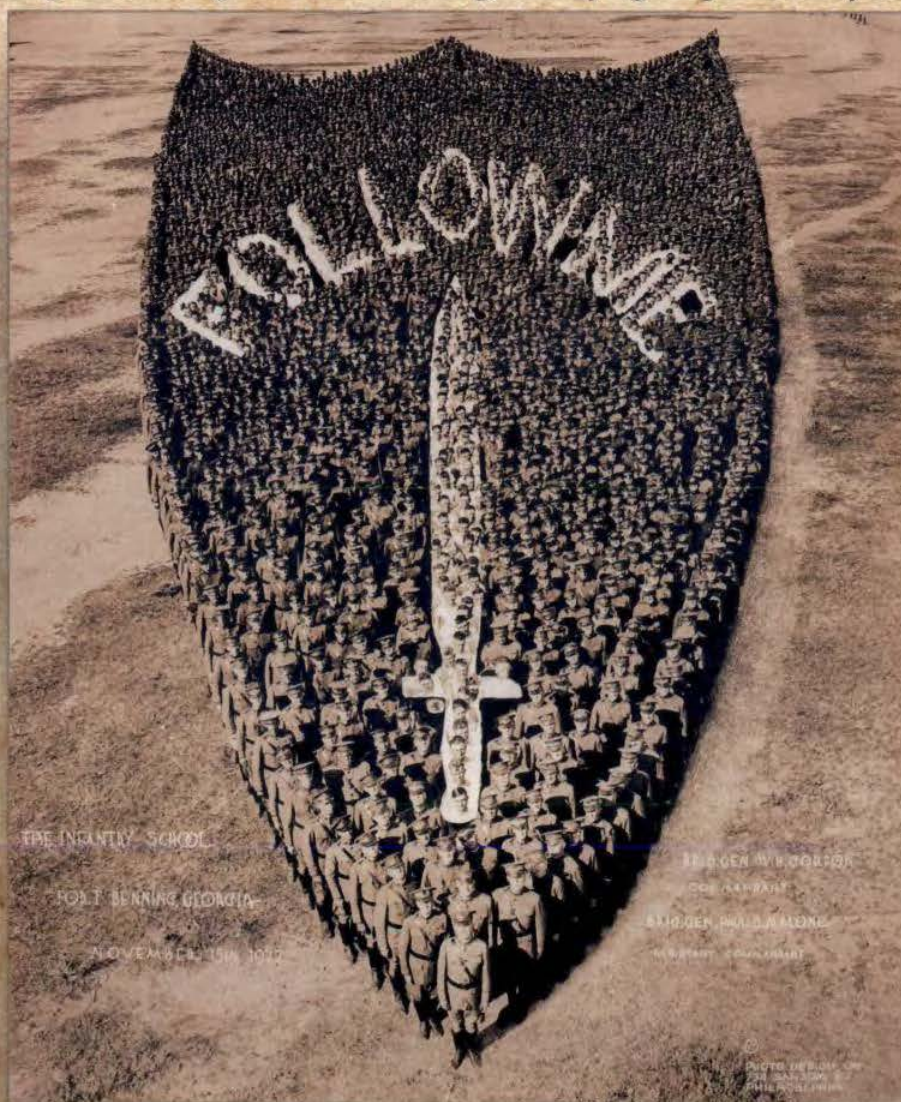


President Warren G. Harding, holding his cane, was the first President to visit Camp Benning on October 27, 1921. Next to him is Maj. Gen. Walter H. Gordon, Fort Benning Commandant 1920-1923, and Columbus Mayor Rhodes Browne. The following year on February 8, 1922, Camp Benning was re-designated Fort Benning, solidifying the permanency of the Post.



Cover of *The Doughboy*, 1920-21.

Shown on the cover is the first publication of the original Infantry School insignia depicting a 1905 bayonet, manufactured for use with the 1903 Springfield. The emblem was not authorized for use until the badge for the school was approved in April, 1935. The shoulder sleeve patch was approved in April, 1951.



The original Infantry School insignia with downward pointing bayonet depicted on the cover of the 1920-21 *Doughboy*. The bayonet was changed to face upward in 1922 when the camp became a fort. The original drawing was made by Lt. Bernard A. Byrne, a student at the Infantry School in 1919, and the description of the emblem was assigned to Capt. Elbridge Colby.

The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, November 15, 1922, showing the newly changed direction of the bayonet.





Upatoi Creek Bridge, after the Pershing Floods, c. 1923.



"Greetings to The Infantry School, and congratulations upon its signal success, - John J. Pershing. March 22, 1921." From *The Doughboy*, 1920-1921.



Second "Pershing Flood"

Gen. John J. Pershing visited post on an inspection tour on December 10, 1919 and March 6, 1922. During both visits, Upatoi Creek flooded. They have since been remembered as the "Pershing Floods".



Two steel-trussed bridges across Upatoi Creek were completed on January 20, 1923 by A Co., 7th Engineers and soldiers from the 24th Infantry. The completion was marked by a ceremony with the 24th Infantry Band playing in front as the soldiers marched across.



Finishing construction on the Upatoi Creek bridge, January, 1923.



Upatoi Creek Bridge, 1925.





**Infantry School Detachment (Colored) tent housing area, January, 1921. The Detachment was reorganized on December 1, 1921 as the 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry. This area is approximately where the western most cuartel stands today. Wold Ave. can be seen extending to the top right of the photo.**



**The 24th Infantry greatly improved its living conditions by erecting wooden barracks to replace the tentage of the initial camp as seen in the top photo.**





Calculator, the Post mascot and beloved by all, died from strychnine poisoning on August 29, 1923. He was called "Calculator" because of a limp leg which caused him to "put down three and carry one" as he walked. He was often described as lame, but it was an act to get pity and food. The leg he carried was a matter of whim, and on long walks, he would occasionally change midstride. His name also inferred that he "calculated" which leg to keep from touching the ground. His spectacular leaps onto the narrow gauge train cars proved he had use of all four legs.



Upon his death, soldiers from all over the country, who remembered him from their time at Fort Benning, donated money to build his monument, which was erected in 1929 and pictured here in 1933 at its original location, between the Post flagpole and 29th Infantry Cuartel. It is now on Sacrifice Field.



Construction of first Post Theater, October 24, 1924. The theater was built during the early post buildup of the 1920s.

The Main Theater opened on February 18, 1926. The first talking picture was shown here on January 5, 1930 when more than 1,700 paid patrons packed into the 1,200-seat main theater to view *Oh Yeah*, starring Robert Armstrong and James Gleason. The Post was the first of 85 Army theaters to install the new sound equipment.







**Station Hospital main building, completion day, March 27, 1925.**



**Soldiers of the 15th Tank Battalion conducting a river crossing with a M1917 Tank, c. 1926. To the left of the picture is a foot-bridge that soldiers would train on how to construct and cross.**

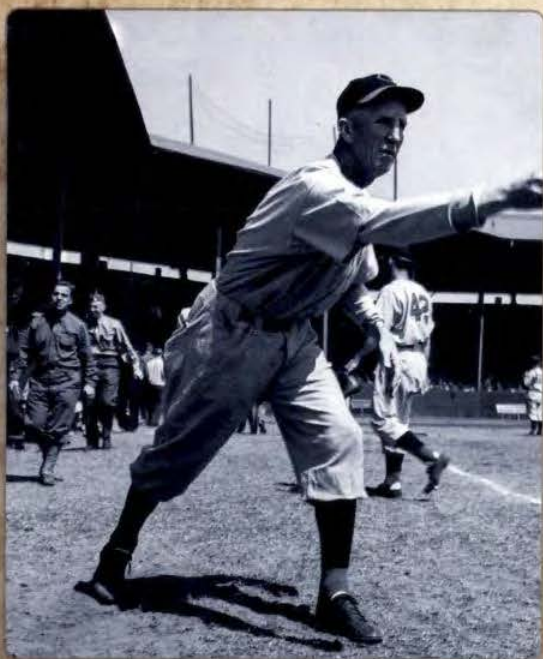


**The Infantry School Library, 1925. This building housed the Infantry School Library until it was moved into the Infantry School building on August 7, 1928.**





**Gowdy Field, 1927. The first baseball game was played on Gowdy Field between the Infantry School team and the University of Georgia on March 27, 1925. The field was formally dedicated on March 31, 1925 by a game between the New York Giants and the Washington Senators. The roof over the stands was completed on May 30, 1925. The baseball stadium, football stadium and service club composed the hub of the recreational life of the soldiers of early Fort Benning.**

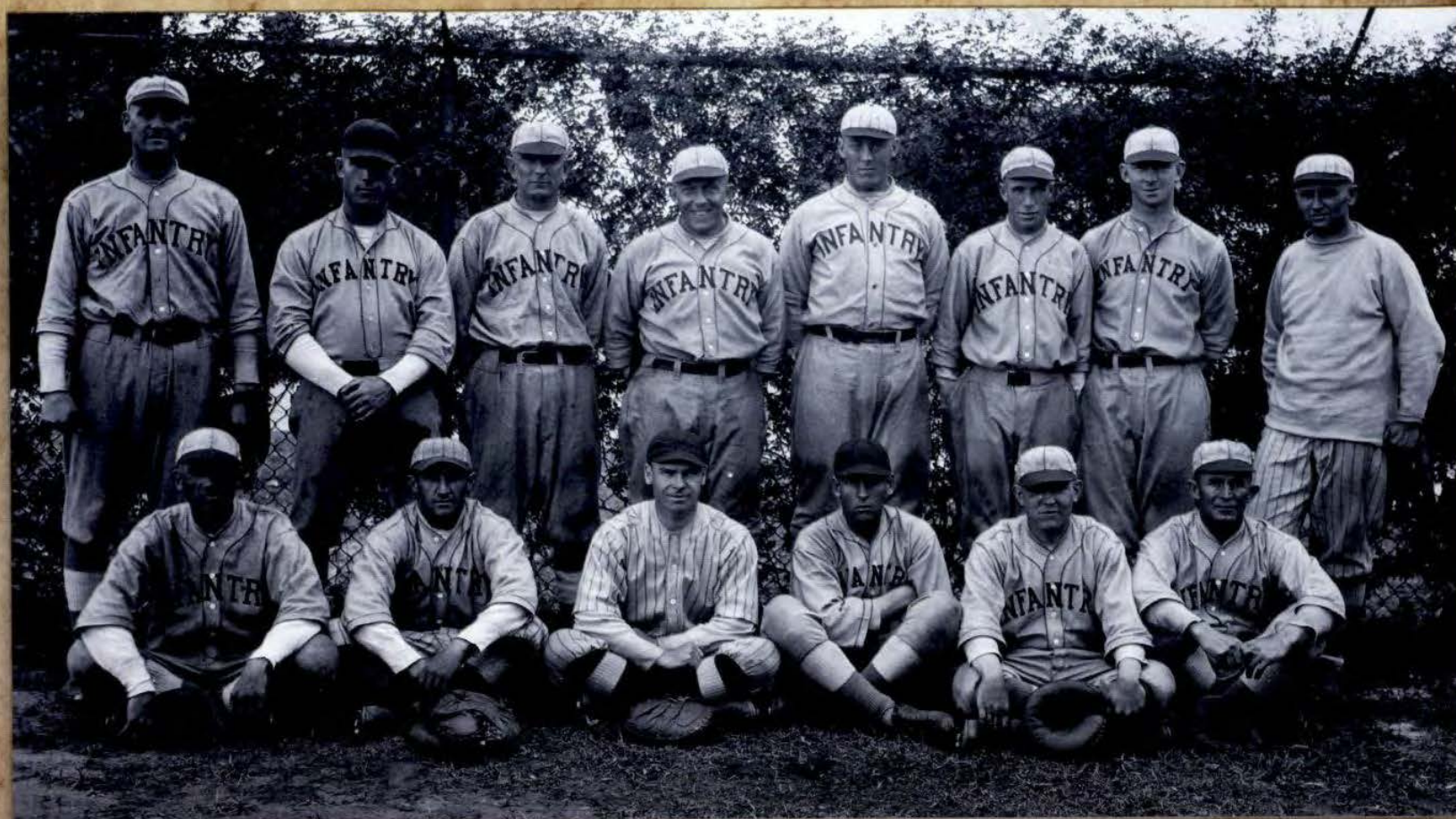


**Hank Gowdy, for whom Gowdy Field is named after, was a player for the New York Giants and the first major league player to enlist in World War I.**



**The Reds, September 8, 1926. Baseball champions of the Post in 1925-26-27 were The Reds of the 24th Infantry. The 24th Infantry (Colored) Regiment was a segregated unit with white officers and black enlisted men.**





Infantry School Baseball Team, April 12, 1927.



24th Infantry Baseball Team, May 15, 1928.





Aerial view of Doughboy Stadium and Gowdy Field stands, September 1, 1925. Doughboy Stadium was named in memory of infantrymen killed in World War I. Gen. John J. Pershing poured the first bucket of cement on May 22, 1924 and the stadium was finished on September 11, 1925. The sidewalk leading away from the Enlisted Men's Service Club at the top right extends from the front door of the Club to the grand entryway of the 29th Infantry Cuartel.



Coach Dwight Eisenhower (wearing his West Point football letter jacket) and his assistant coaches, who led the Benning Football Team to the All Army Championship in 1926.



Maj. Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1926, as an officer in the 24th Infantry Regiment.





Football practice, Fort Benning, c. 1926.



Football team mascot, c. 1926.



Army beats King College 20-0, October 9, 1926.



Fort Benning football players, c. 1926.



The 15th Tank Battalion won the Intramural Football League Championship in 1927.





Doughboy Stadium's 60 ft towers are of Spanish mission design and were completed in 1928 by New York architect Ralph Rice, a former WWI officer. These 5 story towers housed the offices of the Post Exchange as well as other offices.



Doughboy Stadium Tower, 1928. The sides of Doughboy Stadium housed various Post Exchange shops. These were located under the stands, accessed by doors in the archways along the sides of the stadium.

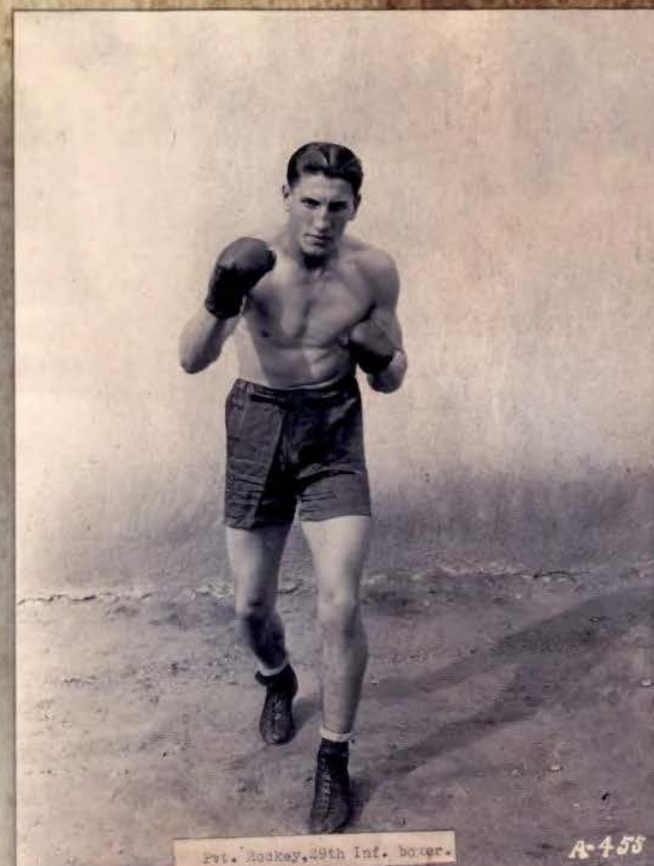


The 24th Infantry Regimental Football Team, "The Dusky Warriors," November 15, 1929.





Service water main repair, September 30, 1926, Fort Benning.



Pvt. Roskey, 29th Infantry boxer, c. 1926.



The Model T1E1 Light Tank, Fort Benning, 1926. Designed by James Cunningham and built only in prototype form, this two-man tank featured a front loaded engine and was equipped with 37mm and .30 cal machine guns but was never mass produced or used in combat.

Post  
Gymnasium,  
1927. The  
Gymnasium  
and Main  
Theater behind  
it were some of  
the facilities of  
the recreational  
and athletic  
complex. Other  
buildings  
included the  
Enlisted Men's  
Service Club,  
Doughboy  
Stadium and  
Gowdy Field.







The Infantry Polo Team, October 5, 1928. Polo was an integral part of Fort Benning for several decades. The polo playing fields along First Division Road are named for two early polo players who died in polo matches. French Field dedicated in 1926 for First Lt. Harry W. French, and Blue Field dedicated in 1934 for Capt. John W. Blue.



First Lt. Harry Waldron French, 29th Infantry Polo Team Captain. Killed during the 29th Infantry vs. 6th Cavalry polo game, April 14, 1926.

Infantry polo players, December 2, 1926. The Fort Benning Polo Club was part of the Southeastern Circuit of the United States Polo Association and provided entertainment twice a week for the Post.



Maj. Gen. Cambell King, Infantry School Commandant, May 4, 1929 to May 31, 1933.

Maj. Gen. King was a fine horseman for whom the Campbell King Horse Show Bowl is named after. His influence grew the Fort Benning Polo Club and helped contribute to the fast growing status of Fort Benning as one of the most desirable Posts in the service.







In 1928, the Army Air Corps carried out a series of aerial operations at Army service schools in place of the normal maneuvers. The first Curtiss A-3s arrived in time to take part in these exercises with nine of them forming a squadron alongside sixteen Curtiss O-2s.



Airman next to his Curtiss A-3, Fort Benning c. 1928.



Curtiss A-3 on Lawson Field, 1928.



Curtiss A-3 with a French foreign officer standing in front, Fort Benning, 1928.





29th Infantry Barracks, March 24, 1927. On February 6, 1925, construction began on the 29th Infantry Barracks, the 1st of 3 large square groupings of buildings with central courtyards known as the "Cuartels," which is a Spanish word meaning "barracks."



View from March 3, 1927 showing three types of enlisted housing. In the foreground are the c. 1919-1920 wooden barracks, to the left the Cuartel Barracks under construction, and in the distance is a vast sea of tents used for housing.

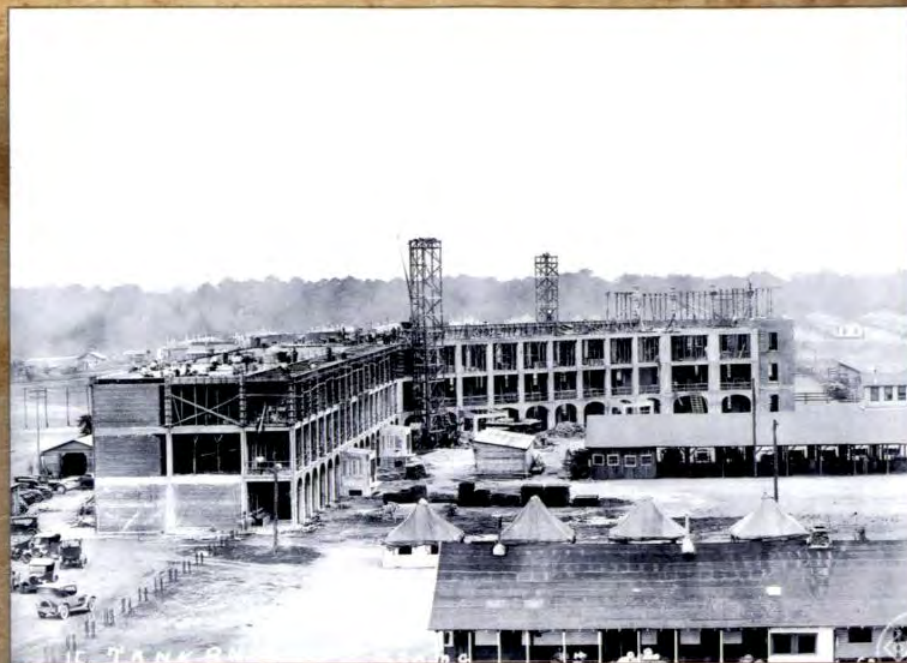


View of the new barracks interior, c. 1929, which constituted a great improvement from the wooden structures and tents the 29th Infantry previously inhabited.

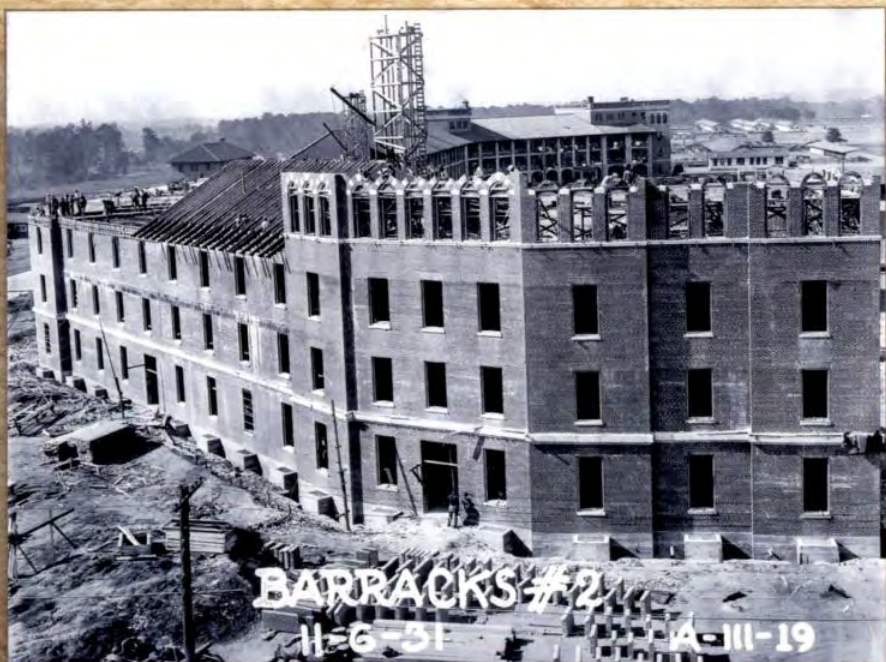




View of the 29th Infantry Barracks on April 8, 1930. Referred to, then, as Barracks No. 1 (now Olson Hall), the Cuartel was completed on February 10, 1929.



View of the 15th Tank Battalion Barracks being built, August 30, 1929.



2nd Battalion, 1st Tank Regiment (formerly the 15th Tank Battalion) Cuartel Barracks, November 6, 1931. Referred to, then, as Barracks No. 2.



The 3rd Cuartel housed the 24th Infantry. Work began on November 30, 1933 and completed on May 13, 1935.





Testing regimental communication equipment to be packed in Phillips Pack Saddles, 1928.



37mm gun and crew from the 29th Infantry in a four wheel drive truck, 1929.



C Co, 15th Tank Battalion, December 7, 1928, in front of their M1917 Light Tanks.



# **The 1930s**

## **Post Expansion And Mechanized Infantry**

The 1930s were eventful years for Fort Benning. George C. Marshall was concluding his influential tenure and names such as Bradley and Stillwell could be found throughout the staff and faculty at the Infantry School. The 1930s brought the Great Depression and with it, large amounts of money to be spent in the construction of permanent buildings at Fort Benning. Such projects as the Public Works Administration, Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps enabled Fort Benning to obtain modern facilities.

Building 35, which for years served as the Post Headquarters as well as the Academic Center of the Infantry School, was completed in 1935. A chapel was constructed along with a radio building, noncommissioned officers' quarters, a guardhouse and apartment buildings for bachelor officers. In addition, a print shop, field grade officer quarters and a new street lighting system were constructed.

It was during the 1930s, more than any other time, that Fort Benning emerged as the "Home of the Infantry." The automatic weapon, the machine gun and the tank demanded that alterations and adaptations be made in the world of warfare. A new configuration focused on mobility and firepower gave precedence to tactics and techniques. On June 17, 1932, the Tank School was transferred from Fort Meade, Maryland, to Fort Benning to align the tank as an asset of the infantry.

As the 1930s came to an end, the world situation became more ominous. On September 1, 1939, war in Europe erupted and a week later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a state of limited national emergency. The effect was immediately felt at Fort Benning when the 1st Division arrived during the winter of 1939 for field training, bringing the strength of the Post up to 16,000 men.

In 1939, the Infantry School allotted 428 of the 1,234 hours of the Regular Course to motors and weapons, including the study of tanks. Another block of 186 hours was used for teaching the logistics of supply and movement and also emphasized at this time was the study of maps and aerial photographs, mobilization, terrain application, combat intelligence and field orders.





**The Infantry Board, 1928-1929.**

**Back: Lt. Col. C. A. Hunt, Maj. R. A. Jones, Maj. S. H. MacGregor,  
Maj. B. C. Chynoweth, Maj. C. B. Lyman.  
Front: Col. C. D. Roberts, BG E. T. Collins, Lt. Col. G. C. Marshall,  
Col. G. C. Shaw**



**New officers quarters, January 12, 1931. The 1930s was marked not only with the Great Depression, but with large government construction projects to help simulate the economy.**



**View of the Main Post flag pole with the Enlisted Men's Service Club in the background, c. late 1920s.**



**Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Regiment head to the field for training on Fort Benning on a truck driven by a soldier of the 24th Infantry, c. 1932. This image was captured on Indianhead Road, where now exists the traffic circle. The truck is seen moving away from the built area, headed towards wooded training areas and the airfield.**





15th Tank Battalion formation of Mark VIIIs with 57mm guns, Camp Benning, 1928.



Mark VIII in maneuver, Camp Benning, 1928.

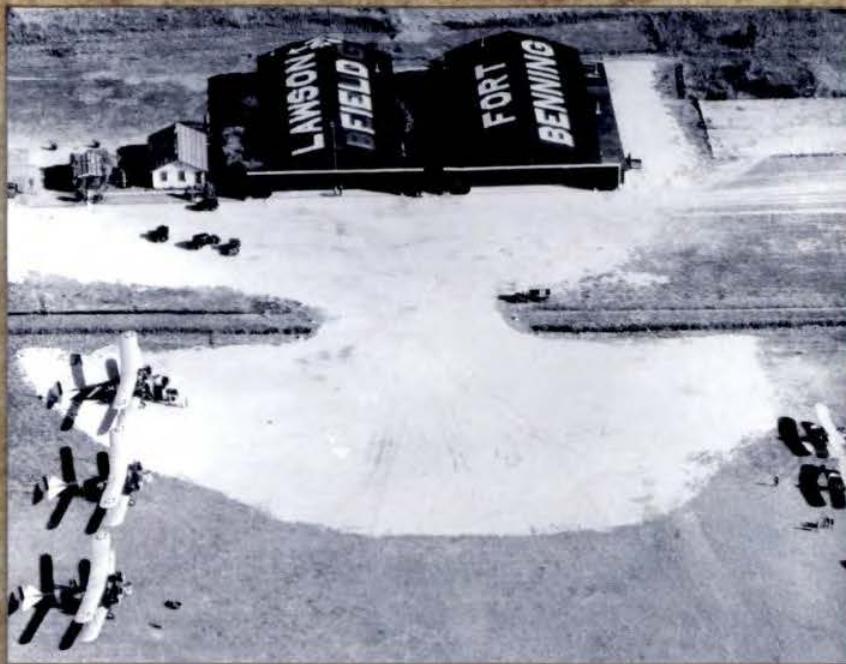


8th Attack Squadron, Lawson Field, April 18, 1931.



24th Infantry Band led by Warrant Officer R.B. Tresville, Fort Benning, December, 1930.



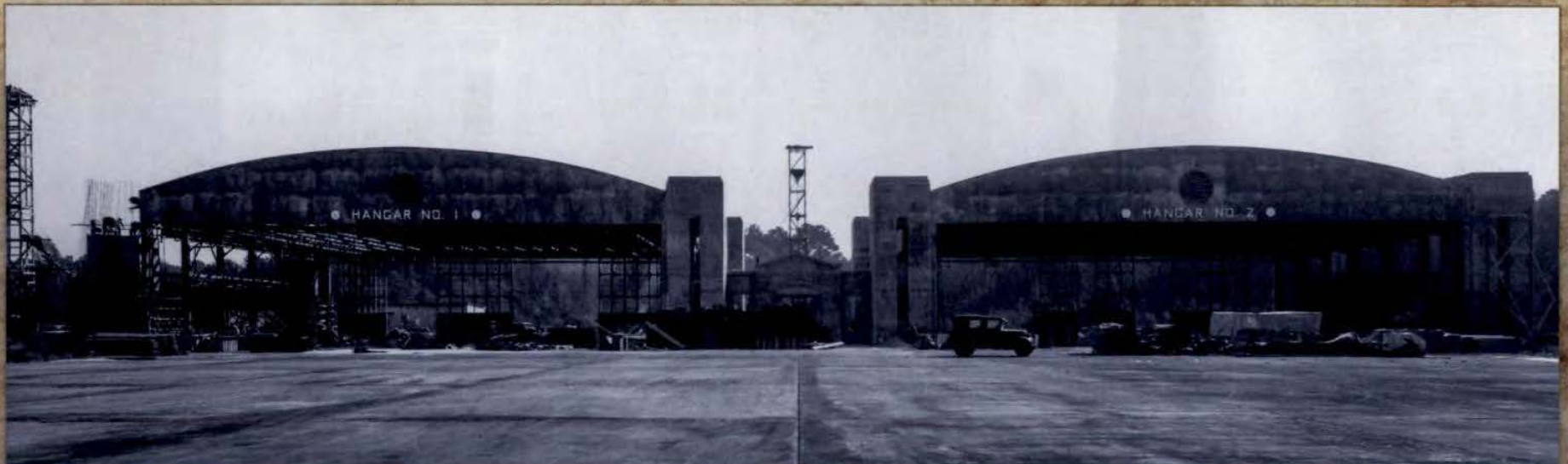


Lawson Field was established in 1919 as an Observation Balloon Post for the 32nd Balloon Company to support the infantry. The hangars shown here were completed on February 8, 1921.

Airfield Hangars, May 1921.



On July 6, 1931, the Post Airfield was officially named Lawson Field in honor of Capt. Walter R. Lawson, two-time Distinguished Service Cross recipient who served in WWI with the 91st French Escadrille and who was killed in an airplane accident in 1923.



These airfield hangars, still in use today, were completed on March 15, 1935.





Experimental horse drawn field kitchen, c. early 1920s.



Fort Benning Fire Department, c. 1920s. The Fire Department was manned by soldiers in its earliest days.



Fort Benning Fire Department, c. 1920s. The need for a Post fire department was demonstrated early on when, on September 12, 1925, the Post Headquarters burned down along with many records lost in the fire.



Fort Benning military police section, 1930s.





The Officers Club, c. 1934. Started on September 1, 1932 and finished on August 16, 1934, the Officers Club cost \$102, 811. The 1930's brought the Great Depression and large amounts of money to be spent on the construction of permanent buildings on Fort Benning.



The Officers Club, February 28, 1935. Projects such as the Public Works Administration, Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps enabled Fort Benning to obtain modern facilities.



The Officers Club, 1941.

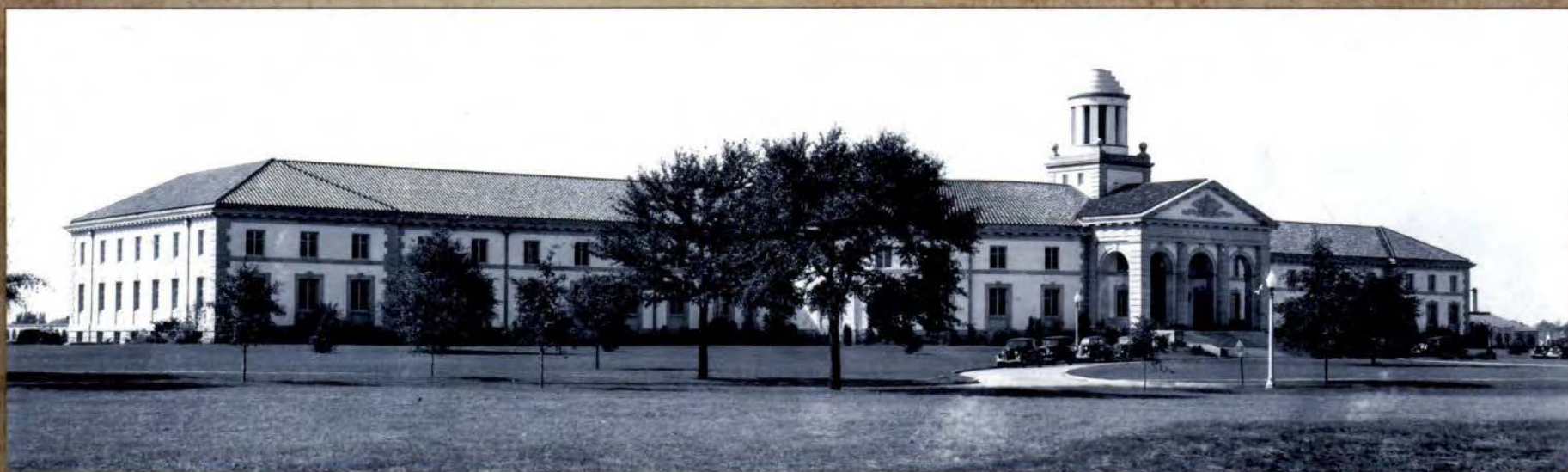




Rear view of The Infantry School under construction. Started April 6, 1934 and completed July 21, 1935, The Infantry School was built by the Dice-Schmidt Construction Company out of Chicago at a cost of \$556,321.



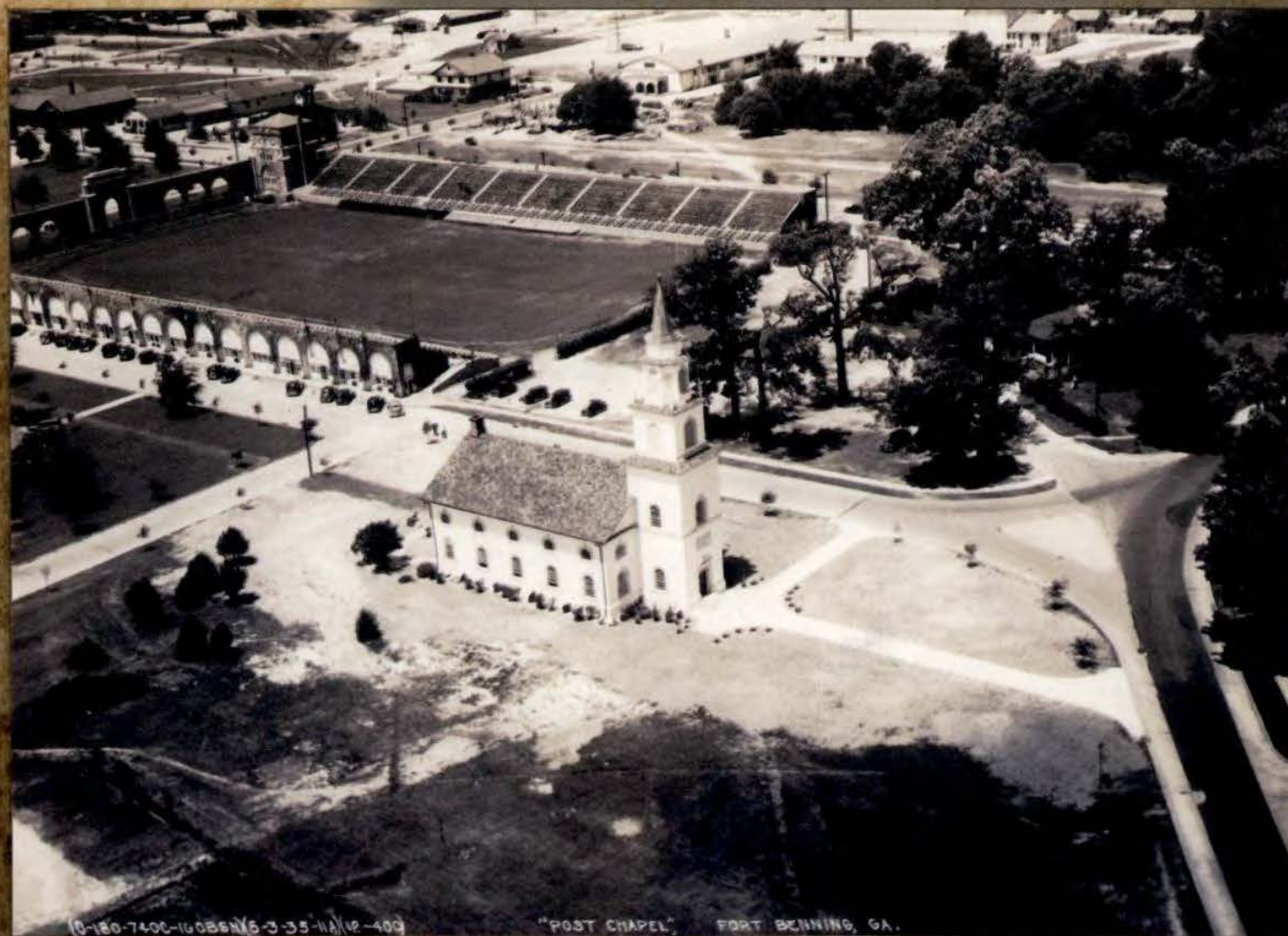
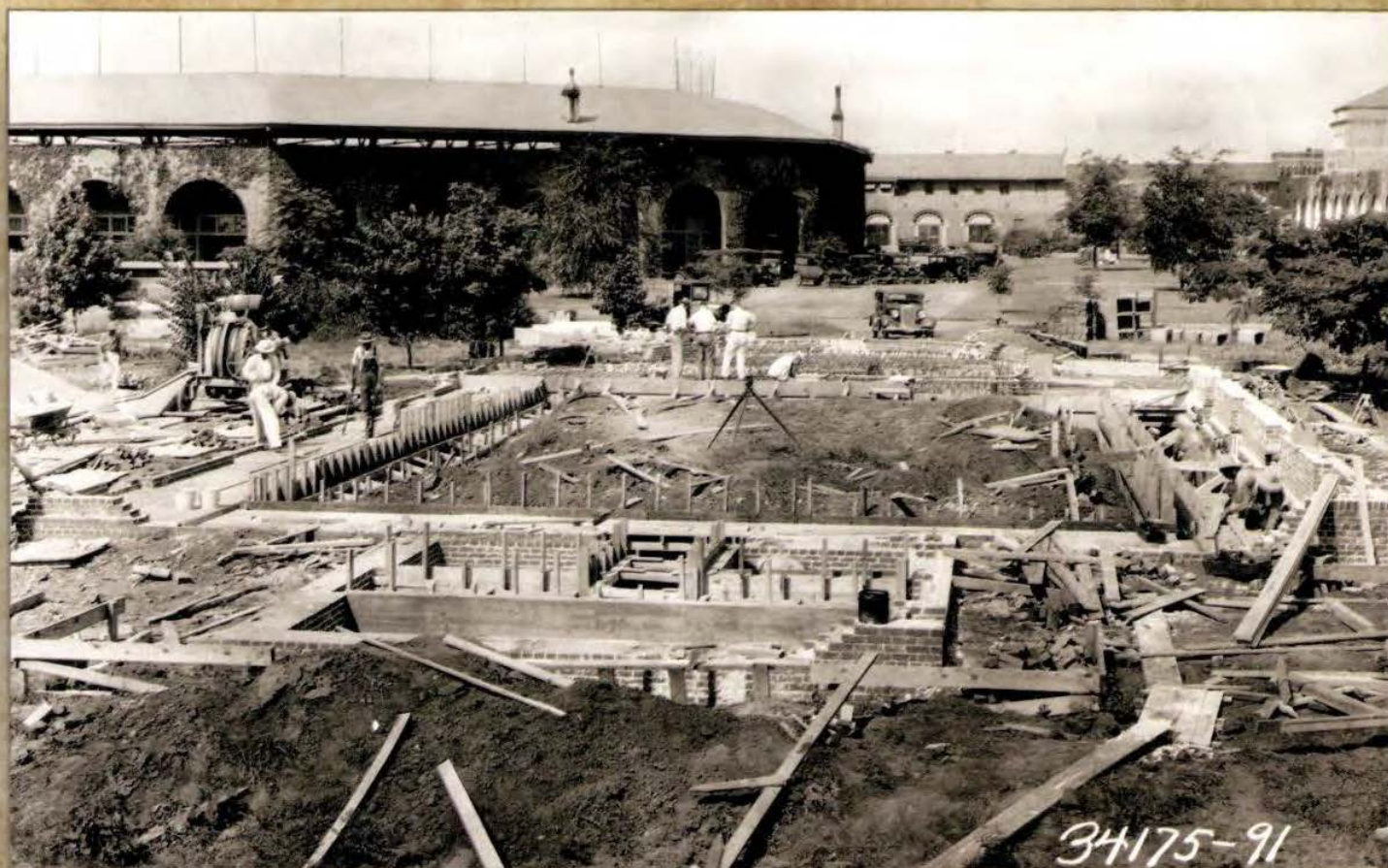
Front view of The Infantry School, 1935. Built with a design of stately grandeur, The Infantry School served in its role as head of infantry training and Post Headquarters until 1964, when Infantry Hall (Building 4) was completed.



The Infantry School building, shown in this late 1930s picture. In 1935 the mission of the school was stated to be “designed to impart to officers of the United States Infantry the latest principles and tactics used in the art of modern warfare and the course of instruction has been arranged to that end.” It was during the 1930’s that Fort Benning would emerge to solidify its permanency as the “Home of the Infantry.”



The Main Post Chapel was constructed from May 15, 1934 to March 21, 1935 at a cost of \$81,169 by the Dice-Schmidt Construction Company. Formally dedicated on November 18, 1934 with the laying of its cornerstone, the first service was held on Easter Sunday of 1935. The Chapel was designed to accommodate three separate congregations: Protestant, Catholic and Jewish.



The Main Post Chapel, May 3, 1935. Modeled after the Bull Street Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Georgia, it is still in use today.

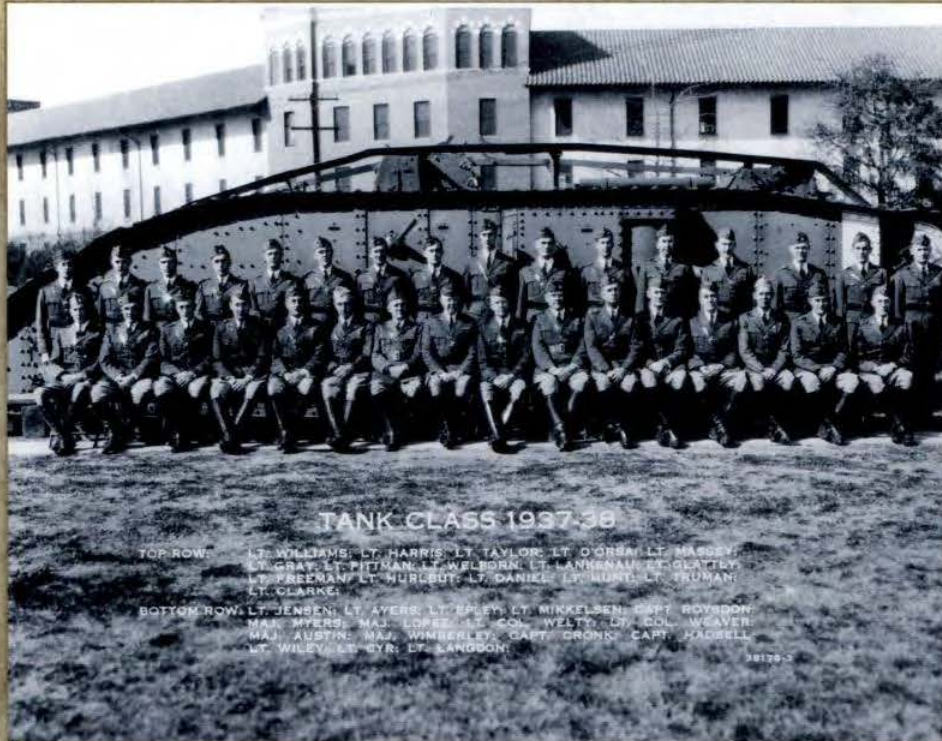








The Infantry School, Fort Benning, c. 1936. From left to right is the Post Theater, Post Gymnasium, Doughboy Stadium and Gowdy Field, the Cuartel Barracks, the horse stables and rail yard.



Tank Class 1937-38, in front of a Mark V Star combat veteran with the 301st Heavy Tank Battalion, WWI. This tank was introduced first into the British Army in early 1913. The specific tank in this picture still rests in the U.S. Army museum system.



Night live fire, 1938. Shown in this delayed shutter release photograph are machine gun tracer rounds lighting up the night sky.



The Howie-Wiley Carrier, or "Belly Flopper," was tested on post in 1937. It was the only one ever produced and is the pre-cursor to the Jeep that was so widely used during WWII.



**Easter morning sunrise service at the Campbell King Horseshow Bowl, April 9, 1939. This service was held from 1937 to 1940, after which they were discontinued because of World War II. In 1937, when this service was first held, six thousand people came from towns within a wide radius to participate. In 1938, ten thousand came. At this 1939 service, an estimated 10,000 are in attendance with 1,200 soldiers making up the cross. In 1946, the sunrise services returned to the Bowl.**



**The Horseshow Bowl, completed in 1930, is on the northwestern edge of Main Post near the Chattahoochee River. Originally built to show horses, it was later named The Campbell King Horseshow Bowl for former Commandant Maj. Gen. Campbell King.**





By the end of the 1930s the world situation was more ominous. As part of mobilization preparations, units of the 1st Engineers arrived in October, 1939 to clear ground for the first contingent of the 1st Infantry Division and by November, 1939 the entire Division occupied a "tent city" near Kissick Pond.



A soldier eats his chow in the mud, c. 1939. One week after war was declared in Europe, President Roosevelt declared a state of limited national emergency and the 1st Infantry Division's arrival brought the Post's strength to 16,000 men. With the influx of soldiers coming to Fort Benning to train, many of the new arrivals lived in tents until new housing could be built.



In the fall of 1939, the war in Europe erupted and the Infantry School changed its curriculum, allotting 428 of the 1,234 hours of course instruction to motors and weapons.



Evolving warfare such as the automatic weapon, machine gun and the tank demanded the Infantry School make adaptations to focus instruction on mobility and firepower. Captured here in this 1939 image are soldiers working on an early M1919 .30 cal machine gun in front of a T-4 Convertible Medium Tank.





Pfc. Lester C. McLaney played on the 1939 Doughboy Team as a right halfback. McLaney was an original member of the Airborne Test Platoon and went on to make four combat jumps during World War II, and participated in several campaigns in Northern Africa and Europe.



Field artillery soldiers during training, Fort Benning, 1939.



On the left, a T-4 Convertible Medium Tank "Christie" on level ground (67th Infantry Tank Regiment) with a M-2AA2 Light Tank, 4th Company (66th Infantry Tank Regiment) moving upward conducting field training at Fort Benning as emphasis for training shifted to mobility and firepower, 1939. The right picture is the same M-2AA2 Light Tank.



## **The 1940s**

# **WWII Mobilization**

As 1940 emerged, Fort Benning was indisputably the "Home of the Infantry." The vast amount of construction completed in the 1930s, combined with the intellectual growth and advancements in technology, enabled Fort Benning to establish itself as a permanent and influential base of military operations.

Fueled by the eminent threat of war, the construction boom and personnel expansion continued into the 1940s. The Post not only increased its training load a thousand-fold, it also served as an assembly and training area for major ground combat units that were destined for the overseas theaters. Among those units were the 1st, 4th and 71st Infantry Divisions and the 2nd, 7th and 10th Armored Divisions. The original Sand Hill area was constructed to house an armored division with facilities to include regular barracks, maintenance sheds and covered work areas to accommodate the hundreds of vehicles in an armored division. In all, more than 100,000 divisional soldiers trained at Benning during the war years.

The Post's wartime population fluctuated between 45,000 and 100,000 personnel. Hundreds of temporary buildings were erected to house the enormous influx of soldiers. The Soldier's Plaza area that once stood along Dixie Road contained the last of the WWII era buildings on Main Post before their demolition in 2016. In general, the Main Post area was reserved for officer training courses, the newly developed airborne school and a few specialty courses. Sand Hill was used by the divisions and Harmony Church housed the officer candidate companies and other specialized training courses. The narrow gauge railroad system was used to transport soldiers from one training area to another and proved indispensable for logistical operations.

The first paratroopers in the Army fell from the sky and safely landed over Lawson Field in 1940 as members of the Parachute Test Platoon from the 29th Infantry Regiment demonstrated the fearless aptitude of the infantryman.

Officer Candidate School was established at the Infantry School in July, 1941 with the first class graduating on September 27, 1941 after a 13 week course. Some 65,000 infantry second lieutenants graduated from the OCS program during the war years. In addition, more than 110,000 soldiers graduated from the Infantry School's specialist classes and advanced officer courses. An additional 100,000 soldiers earned their jump wings from the School's airborne training program. All together, more than 600,000 soldiers trained at Fort Benning between 1941 and 1945.

In February, 1943, the first Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) arrived on Post and were housed in barracks located behind the Main Post printing plant. They replaced male soldiers in clerical jobs and at the Post's theaters and service clubs.

In May, 1943, and again in July, 1943, prisoner of war camps were established to house captured Italian and German soldiers. Prisoners of war contributed greatly to the construction of facilities and maintenance of infrastructure on post.

In February 1944, the first black paratroopers graduated from the airborne course and joined the newly formed 555th Parachute Infantry Company, "Triple Nickels." This company would later be moved to the northwest coast for service as the first trained smoke jumpers by the U.S. Forestry Service in Operation Firefly to combat fires from Japanese incendiary balloons.

By 1946, with the end of the war, Post activities began to return to more normal schedules. Units were deactivated and soldiers by the thousands were discharged. The wartime training necessities such as the OCS training program would be discontinued and the drawdown would continue as the Army's demobilization program neared its end. Post activities would remain at a low level until the outbreak of war in Korea in June, 1950.





Infantry soldiers conducting a bayonet assault during training on Fort Benning, 1939.



A group of Infantry School students learn the fundamentals of reconnaissance, Fort Benning, c. 1940.



Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Regiment enjoy their leisure time by building a snowman during the winter of 1940.



Field artillery soldiers firing during IV Corps spring maneuvers, Fort Benning, 1940.



**Aircraft fly overhead with tanks in the distant background during IV Corps spring maneuvers, Fort Benning, 1940.**



**Infantry soldiers fire from a trench during IV Corps spring maneuvers, Fort Benning, 1940.**



**Aircraft fly overhead with tanks and infantrymen advancing during IV Corps spring maneuvers, Fort Benning, 1940. The 5th and 6th Infantry Divisions, and the 34th Infantry Regiment arrived to take part in this training.**



**Infantry soldiers capture a hill after artillery bombarded the objective and laid smoke screens, Fort Benning, 1940.**





IV Corps spring maneuvers, Fort Benning, 1940. Shown here are M-2A1, M-2A2 and M-2A3 tanks of the 66th Armored Regiment, Light.





During field training at Fort Benning, machine gunners in vehicle convoys would train to react to surprise attacks by hedge-hopping airplanes, 1940.



Soldiers training for chemical warfare, 1940. The helmet worn by the soldiers is the model 1917A1 helmet which would be replaced by the M1 helmet the following year.



T1 Tank Trainer, Fort Benning, 1940.



Soldiers conduct a pass in review, Fort Benning, c. 1940.





Soldiers crossing a pontoon bridge over Upatoi Creek, 1940.



T-4 Convertible Medium Tank, c.1940.



T-4 Convertible Medium Tank during a capabilities demonstration, c.1940.





**Original members of the Parachute Test Platoon, 1940. The Parachute Test Platoon was established on June 25, 1940, with volunteers from the 29th Infantry Regiment. On August 13-16, 1940, the platoon made its first jump by separating into four groups that jumped over the four days. Platoon Leader, 1st Lt. William T. Ryder, was the first man to jump. The first enlisted man to jump was Pvt. William N. "Red" King.**



**Final mass test jump of the Parachute Test Platoon on August 29, 1940, over Lawson Field. This jump was attended by Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George C. Marshall, and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.**



**Capt. W. T. Ryder explaining the methods of parachute training to visiting reporters, October 29, 1941.**



**Soldiers jump over Lawson Field, c. 1941. Airborne students would later jump over Fryar Field after its acquisition in 1941 as part of the second major land purchase of Fort Benning.**

**An Airborne student descending after being released from the 250-foot tower, June 19, 1941. The free decent tower had only been operational for approximately 6 weeks at this point.**







**Members of the 501st Parachute Battalion pose in front of their C-39 aircraft on Lawson Army Airfield before making a special demonstration parachute jump for visiting South Americans, October 1940 . The 501st Parachute Battalion was established on September 26, 1940 as the first parachute unit in the Army.**



**Members of the 501st PB demonstrate the suspended harness training to visiting South American officials, c. 1940.**



**Airborne student descending from the 250-foot tower with the center cuartel barracks in the background, c. 1946.**



**Soldiers enjoying the ride as they are lifted into the air on the buddy seat which introduced them to heights, c. 1944.**





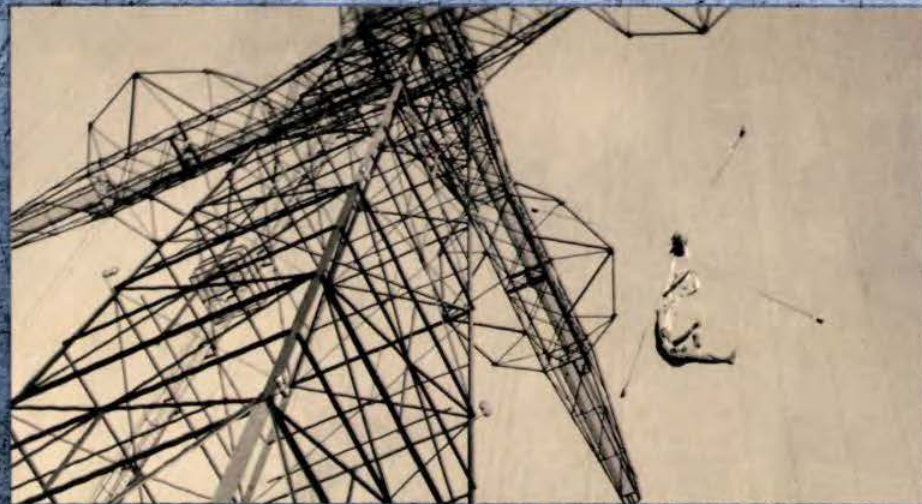
Parachute jump towers at Eubanks Field. The first two towers were completed in May, 1941, the third in November, 1942, and the fourth in December, 1942. Today, only three survive as the November 1942 tower was destroyed by a tornado on March 13, 1954.



Airborne students learning how to react to being dragged by the parachute upon landing with the aid of mobile wind machines, c. 1942.



Airborne students being dropped from the 250-foot towers for a free-fall jump, c. mid 1942. The building underneath the tower houses four elevator motors which raise the jumpers via cables through the roof.



Shock harness training on the controlled released tower, c. 1942. Students were raised between 50-100 feet upon which they pulled the release, causing them to fall 15 feet to the end of the extended risers.





Citizens of Columbus cheer on soldiers of the 29th Infantry Regiment during the Army Day parade held in downtown Columbus, April 7, 1941.



Army Day parade held in downtown Columbus, April 7, 1941. Featured here are M2A4 Light Tanks, predecessor to the M3 Stuart Light Tank.



Soldiers conduct a pass in review at Fort Benning, 1941.



M-3 Light Medium Tanks being demonstrated to visiting Russian Officers, 1943.





Sectional from the above panoramic picture of the 8th U.S. Infantry, Commanded by Col. Carlin C. Stokely, Fort Benning, May 21, 1941.



OCS (Officer Candidate School) opened at The Infantry School in July, 1941 with the first class, pictured here, graduating on September 27, 1941 after a 13 week course. Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army, was the guest speaker at the ceremony. Some 65,000 Infantry second lieutenants graduated from the OCS program during the war years.





**2nd Armored Division, The Fighting "Hell on Wheels," Commanded by Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, at the 2nd Armored Division Bowl, also known as Patton Bowl, Fort Benning, October 25, 1941.**



**Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, Commander, 2nd Armored Division, during an address to the Division, Fort Benning, October 25, 1941.**



**Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, Commander, 2nd Armored Division, Fort Benning, April 4, 1941 to January 15, 1942.**



**Maj. Gen. Patton addressing the 2nd Armored Division, October 25, 1941.**





Lawson Field Hangars and a North American O-47 observation aircraft, July 30, 1941. Expansion of Lawson Field began in February, 1941 at a cost of over \$1 million. Units stationed there in 1941 were the 15th Bombardment Squadron, 16th Observation Squadron and the 62nd Air Base Group.



Lawson Field Hangars and soldiers on a Martin B-10 Bomber, c. 1942.





A vehicle convoy with an observation aircraft during field training, 1941. 441347-10



A 2nd Lt. conducting bayonet training, c. 1941.

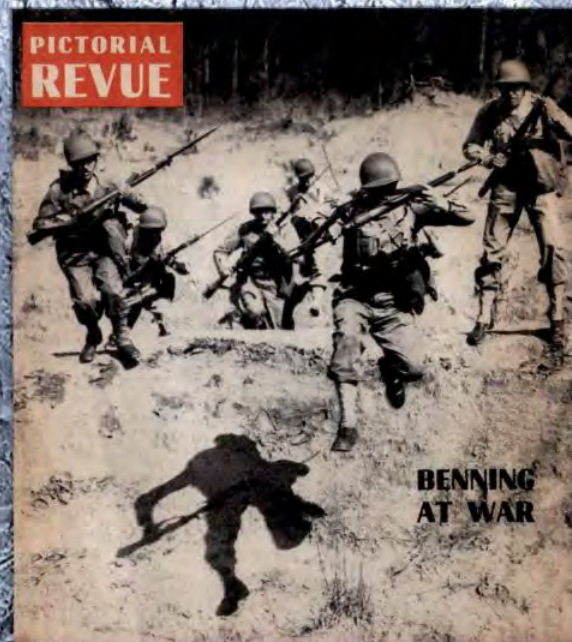


87th Engineer Battalion placing far-shore treadways with a crane across Upatoi Creek, January 9, 1942. 124354





**M2A1 Medium Tanks training at Fort Benning, March 1942.**



**FORT BENNING, GEORGIA**

*"America's Most Colorful Army Post"*

**Cover of the 1943 Fort Benning Pictorial Revue, featuring infantry soldiers training from A Co, 124th Infantry Regiment. Cover photo by John W. Cumbie, 124th Infantry Staff Photographer.**



**Infantry soldiers training on amphibious landing, c. 1942.**



**Infantry soldiers learning field expedient river crossing techniques across Upatoi Creek, c. 1943.**





Soldiers conduct personal hygiene in wooden barracks, 1943.

Soldier shooting an azimuth during land navigation training, 1944.



Mortarmen set up a firing position during training, Fort Benning, 1944.

A soldier demonstrates the capabilities of a M2 Flamethrower, 1944.







**An M3 Lee Tank from the 67th Infantry Tank Regiment (later the 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Division) plows through water during training, Fort Benning, 1943.**



**An M4 Sherman Tank weighing 30 tons crosses a ravine using a steel trestleway constructed by the 55th Engineers, Fort Benning, 1943.**



**An M3 Lee Tank attempts to breach an obstacle emplaced by the 55th Engineers, Fort Benning, 1943.**





The Company Commanders of the two Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) companies stand on either side of Brig. Gen. Walter S. Fulton, Fort Benning Post Commander. Arriving from Daytona Beach, Florida, in March 1943, the WAAC comprised the first women soldiers to arrive to Fort Benning.

WAAC soldiers are transported from their barracks to duty, Fort Benning, 1943.



Lieut. Eleanor Wildes, 84th Post Headquarters Company Commander, and Capt. Evelyn Rothrock, 43rd Post Headquarters Company Commander, Fort Benning, 1943.



A WAC soldier assigned to the Airborne Department, c. 1943. (Courtesy of the Columbus Museum, Georgia; The General Acquisitions Fund).



Members of the WAAC dine in a mess hall, Fort Benning, 1943.

On July 1, 1943 the WAAC became the Women's Army Corps (WAC), giving the women full military status. Pictured here, members of the WAC are assembled in front of their barracks to receive an "Award of Merit" unit citation in 1946.







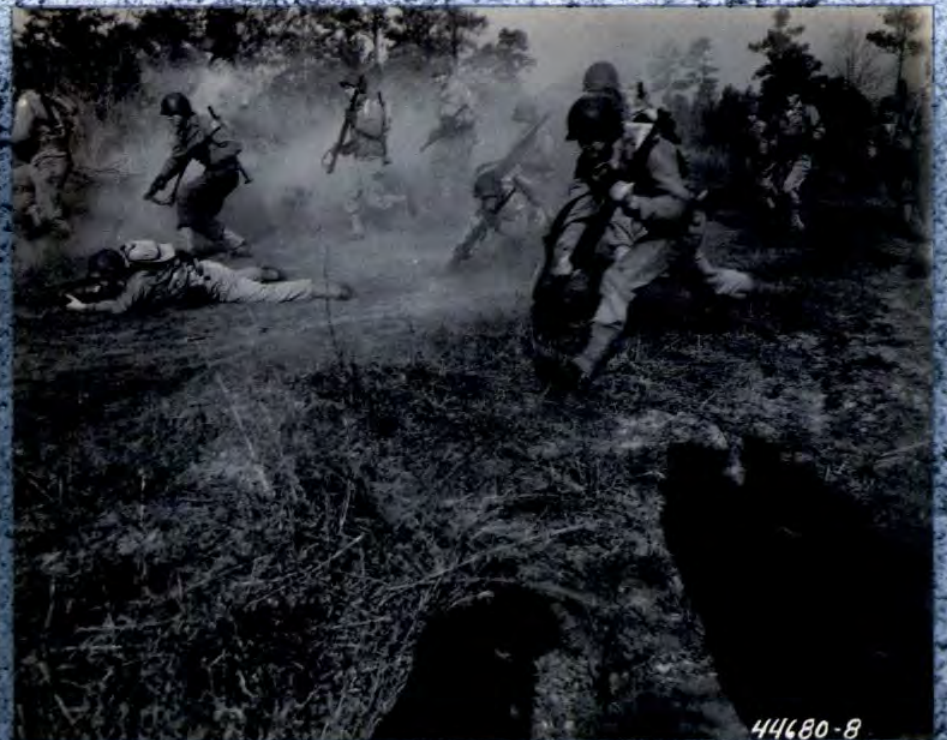
Field training, 1943. The M1 helmet worn by the soldiers was developed at Fort Benning by Infantry Board member Col. H.G. Sydenham and Mr. John T. Riddell, Jr. in early 1941 and was adopted by the Army later that year to replace the Model 1917A1 helmet to better protect soldiers in a more modern war that moved away from the trenches that the M1917 helmet was designed for.



Soldiers clearing a bunker during training, Fort Benning, 1943. The M2 flamethrower was first introduced to the Army in 1943.



Soldiers conducting personal hygiene in the field, 1944.



Field training, 1944.





In February 1944, the first black paratroopers graduated from the airborne course and joined the newly formed 555th Parachute Infantry Company, "Triple Nickels." This company would later be moved to the northwest coast for service as the first trained smoke jumpers by the U.S. Forestry Service in Operation Firefly to combat fires from Japanese incendiary balloons.



555th PIC final inspection behind the old McCarthy Hall building on Lawson Field, January, 1944.



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, talks with a soldier of the 25th Combat Team Motor Pool during an inspection tour of Fort Benning, April 1947. By 1946, with the end of the war, Post activities began to return to more normal schedules. Units were deactivated and soldiers by the thousands were discharged. The drawdown would continue as the Army's demobilization program neared its end, and activities would remain at a low level until the outbreak of war in Korea in June, 1950.



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# **The 1950s**

## **The Korean War, Cold War And Army Aviation**

**The Korean war began on June 25, 1950, and once again energized Fort Benning. The 3rd Infantry Division, which had been stationed at Fort Benning for several years, would depart its Benning home for the Korean peninsula.**

**The Infantry School led the way in the development and use of several new weapons and technologies that made their operational debut in Korea. One was the 3.5 inch rocket launcher known as the “bazooka,” which replaced the 2.36 inch rocket launcher that had been developed and used during WWII. Two other weapon systems were the 57mm and 75mm recoilless rifles.**

**Working with the Army Aviation community, the Infantry School did much to develop the Army’s Air Mobility doctrine. The helicopter came into its own during the Korean Conflict and by 1953 was playing an increasingly important role in improving the mobility and logistics of the ground forces, and the Infantry School added air mobility to its training curriculum.**

**Despite the three years of active warfare in Korea, the Cold War loomed and the Infantry School devoted a considerable portion of its instructional hours to the subject of nuclear war. Chemical warfare also received a proper amount of attention from the various instructional departments, but the threat of nuclear war remained prominent to courses of instruction. Tactical and operational problems of operating on a nuclear battlefield were studied, as were the effects of nuclear weapons on personnel and equipment. Ground force organization in a nuclear age was also intensively discussed, particularly with the 1956 introduction to the Army of the Pentomic Concept, subsequently facilitating an increase in funding for the Army and allowing it to modernize alongside the Navy and Air Force.**

**Brown Hall, on Ingersoll Avenue, was built as the Center of Nuclear Weapons Instruction. Many infantry officers were classified as nuclear weapons officers after completing the Prefix-5 Course.**

**The Infantry School also reintroduced the Ranger concept and Ranger training at Fort Benning that began in September, 1950, during the Korean war with the formation and training of 17 Airborne Ranger companies by the Ranger Training Command. In October, 1951 the Commandant of the Infantry School established the Ranger Department and extended Ranger training to all combat units in the Army. The first Ranger Class for individual candidates graduated on March 1, 1952 . On November 1, 1987, the Ranger Department reorganized from the Infantry School into the Ranger Training Brigade, and established three Ranger Training Battalions.**

**The idea of transporting infantrymen on the battlefield in fully tracked armored vehicles also received attention in the Infantry community, particularly in view of the lessons learned during WWII and the nuclear warfare threat with the beginning of the Cold War. The M-75 and M-59 full-tracked armored personnel carriers were the Army’s initial attempts to give infantrymen their own armor protected battlefield vehicle. The 2nd Infantry Division, which was assigned to Fort Benning after the Korean War, was used as a test-bed for developing mechanized infantry tactics and techniques.**

**Post infrastructure continued with development and Martin Army Community Hospital was opened in 1958. Airborne training continued after WWII ended and the volume of graduates from the airborne school increased to meet the needs of the Army, as well as the Rangers. Advancements were made in the Pathfinder field, as well as in the development of new parachutes.**

**The OCS program expanded greatly during the Korean War and produced thousands of Infantry officers for the ground combat units. It reduced operations after the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, but the OCS program continued to operate.**





A Sikorsky H-5 Helicopter lands and takes off in front of The Infantry School, 1946.



President Harry S. Truman before a reviewing parade in honor of his visit to Fort Benning, April 21, 1950. From left to right, President Truman, Secretary of Defense Louie Johnson, 3rd Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. P. W. Clarkson and Maj. Gen. Withers A. Durress, Infantry Center Commander. Soon after, the 3rd Infantry Division would depart for Korea.



President Eisenhower, Col Charles D. Birdsall, Executive Officer, Lawson Airfield, and Maj. Gen. Guy S. Meloy Jr., Commanding General, welcomes the President where he arrived to pick up his son's family for the Thanksgiving Holiday, November 24, 1953.





**On March 13, 1954 a tornado swept through Fort Benning, causing extensive damage on both Main Post and Lawson Army Airfield. The November, 1942 jump tower was destroyed by this tornado.**





**Small Arms Firing School: Since 1956, the USAMU has trained military marksmanship instructors, as well as marksmanship and safety classes to civilians, at the annual Small Arms Firing Schools conducted at Camp Perry, Ohio. Classes conducted in 1956 are much the same as they are taught today. (Courtesy of the USAMU).**

**The United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) was established on March 1, 1956, at the direction of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army.**

**The USAMU's primary mission was almost exclusively that of winning competitions during the Cold War against the Soviet Union.**

**Currently, the United States Army Marksmanship Unit's mission is to win national and international shooting competitions, support marketing engagements that connect America to its Army, and advance small arms lethality to demonstrate Army marksmanship capabilities and enhance marksmanship effectiveness in combat.**

**In support of the USAMU lethality and to enhance marksmanship effectiveness in combat, the Custom Firearms Shop has contributed to multiple projects since 1956. These include the M21, M24 & M2010 Sniper systems, Squad Designated marksman Rifle (SDMR), MK 262 5.56 Ammunition, G28E Compact Semi-Automatic Sniper System (CSASS), and M17 Modular Handgun System (MHS). (Courtesy of the USAMU).**







OCS Class 103-52 receives instruction, 1952.



On November 10, 1954 a Cuban Flag was presented to the Airborne Department by Maj. Gen. Francisco Tabernilla Dolz, Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army, in appreciation of the training given to the original cadre of the Cuban Airborne Forces.



Bayonet training, c. 1955.



A soldier checking his compass azimuth during training, May 14, 1957.





Ranger students prepare to board a Sikorsky H-34 helicopter, February 5, 1957.



EM Radio Course, February 5, 1957.



Ranger student learning to rappel, February 5, 1957.



Ranger combatives training with pugil sticks, c. 1958.





**Ranger survival training, c. 1958.**



**Ranger combatives demonstration, May 9, 1958.**



**Ranger students learning to rappel, c. 1958.**



**Ranger students conducting combatives training in "The Pit," c. 1958.**





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MARCOA Media would like to congratulate Fort Benning on its centennial celebration. The last century of preparing our young men and women for service in defense of our nation, at world-class schools including the United States Army Armor School and United States Army Infantry School, has been instrumental in protecting the freedoms our country holds so dear. Preparing and deploying units such as the 75th Ranger Regiment and 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division in support of humanitarian crisis and national security interests around the world, as well as supporting the families they left behind, has helped solidify the United States as a country willing to sacrifice in defense of those unable to defend themselves. The unique mission Fort Benning holds within our armed forces ensures a positive, outsized and lasting impact on the professionalism and effectiveness of not only the United States Army, but the United States Armed Services overall.

On this, the celebration of Fort Benning's 100-years of leadership to our country, MARCOA Media would like to thank current and former Fort Benning service members, civilians and their families for their continued sacrifice for our county and for embodying the very best that the United States has to offer.

Sincerely,

Matt Benedict  
Chief Executive Officer

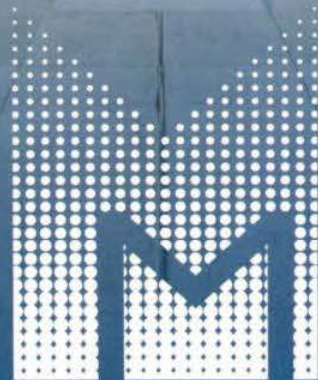
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Congratulating Fort Benning on  
100 Years of Leadership





# The 1960s

## Vietnam And Air Assault

The 1960s flew in on helicopter blades. The Howze Board, Chairmanned by, and named after, Maj. Gen. Hamilton Howze, Chief of Army Aviation, worked to successfully establish the 11th Air Assault Division (Test). This was a test unit created to specifically exercise the air assault doctrine, something the Army had been contemplating since the end of the Korean War. The Division was commanded by Maj. Gen. Harry W.O. Kinnard and was staffed by air mobile-minded young men. The UH-1 series of helicopters became the chief troop transport helicopter and other helicopters, including the UH-1S, were armed with rockets and machine guns to furnish ground troops with close fire support. Other helicopters were designed for command and control purposes and for scouting and observation.

Between 1963 and 1965, the test division worked on fully developing the air mobile and air assault concepts. Declared a success, the Army moved the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division from Korea to Benning to replace the colors of the 2nd Infantry Division, which relocated to Korea. The 11th Air Assault Division (Test) deactivated and many of its members joined the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). Subordinate units of both the 1st Cavalry and 2nd Infantry Divisions were appropriately redesignated, and the 1st Cavalry Division was sent to Vietnam, where a full-developed war had emerged with U.S. ground combat troops being committed in increasing numbers. The 199th Infantry Brigade was activated and trained at Fort Benning to meet the demands of the Vietnam Conflict.

Around Post and within the Infantry School, the tempo of activities increased as the Post mobilized for its third war in 25 years. In 1964, the Headquarters of the Infantry Center and Infantry School's academic function moved to Building 4, which was then called Infantry Hall. The focus of instruction at the School became increasingly combined-arms oriented.

For the remainder of the decade, "win in Vietnam" became the slogan, although there were other hot spots in the world that required attention. OCS, Airborne, Ranger and all the School's courses stepped up to meet the demands of Vietnam. For the first time in its history, Benning was assigned the task of training newly recruited infantrymen for war. It did so by establishing the 3rd Army Infantry Training Center in the Sand Hill area to conduct Basic Training. The Center conducted its mission remarkably well and was down-sized as U.S. commitments in Vietnam were reduced.

The Infantry Platoon Scout Dogs (IPSD) program developed at Fort Benning in September 1965 due to necessities stemming from the Vietnam Conflict and lasted until its deactivation in 1975. The dog teams, consisting of a handler and a German Shepherd, carried the mission of leading combat patrols and providing early silent warnings as "point men."





U.S. Army Ranger student SP4 (Specialist 4th Class) Robert Polite of Brunswick, GA, slips along a steel cable using a metal clip and rope harness 50 feet above the waters of Fort Benning's Ochillee Creek. The student is completing the "suspension traverse," one of 13 obstacles on the Ranger's combat conditioning course, May 17, 1960.



Ranger School PT (Physical Training) test, August 18, 1961.



U.S. Army Ranger student 2nd Lieut. Alexander Bojak, left, of Lindon, NJ, and Arthur De La Cruz, of Guatemala, negotiate the "two cable bridge," one of 13 obstacles on the Ranger's combat conditioning course at Fort Benning, May 17, 1960.





Lack of submission sends Infantry School students to a "cramp box" during training at Fort Benning as part of instruction during the Survival, Evasion and Escape phase of instruction to teach students what it could be like if captured by the enemy, March 17, 1960. The "captors" were Infantry School cadre assigned as Aggressors. The U.S. Army organized its maneuver enemy, Aggressor, in 1946 which evolved into a full-fledged "enemy" with its own uniforms, tactical doctrine, order of battle, and a language, "Esperanto," to serve as a realistic training aid.



In the interrogation room, "prisoner" and aggressor, "captor," once more become student and instructor as methods of interrogation are explained at the Infantry School, March 17, 1960.



Students of the Infantry School getting a sample of what can be expected in the event of capture by an enemy, March 17, 1960.

Students of the Infantry School, the "prisoners," close packed, are herded into a high walled compound to hear a welcome from the Compound Commander during the Survival, Evasion and Escape instruction of the Infantry School, March 17, 1960.











A Sikorsky H-34 Helicopter from the 94th Transportation Company, Lawson Army Aviation Command, displays a 30-foot banner publicizing the inauguration of Operation Searchlight, an Army-wide improvement program, January 22, 1960.



An Airborne School student poses before boarding a Fairchild C-123 Provider airplane for a jump, September 14, 1960.

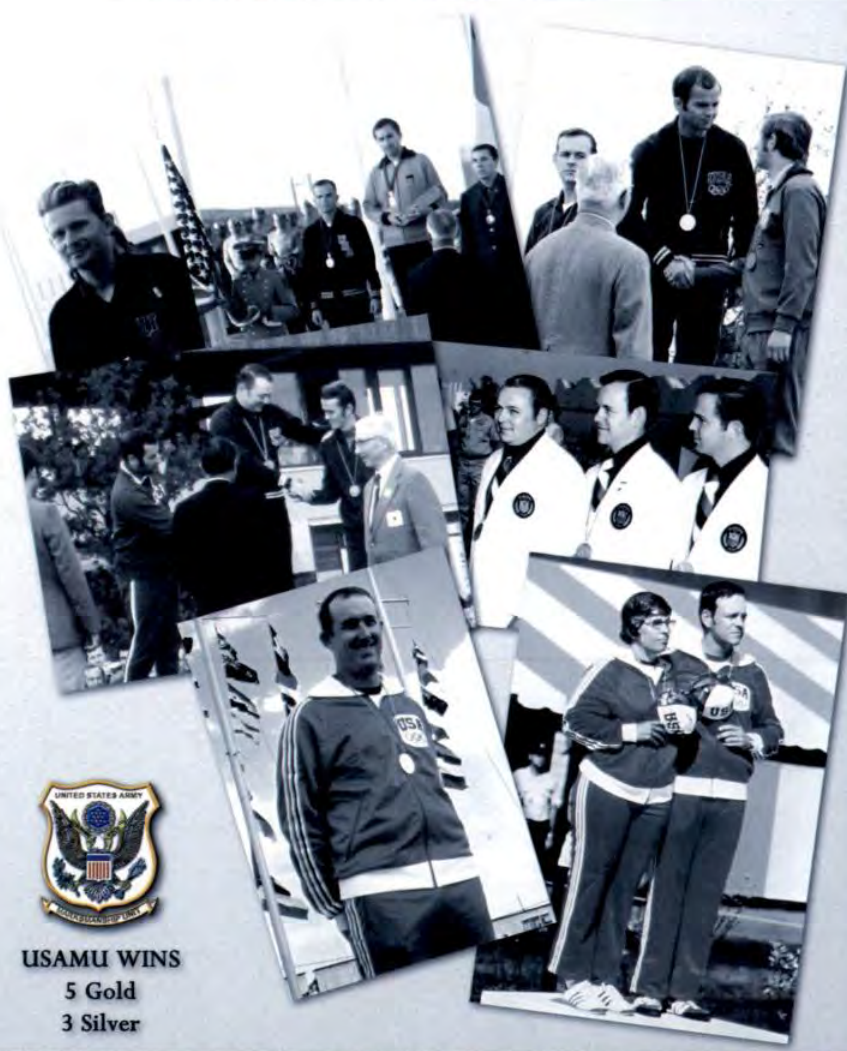


A Sikorsky H-34 Helicopter lands on Lawson Field during Operation Searchlight January 22, 1960.



## USAMU IN THE OLYMPICS

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**USAMU WINS**  
5 Gold  
3 Silver

USAMU Soldiers have represented the United States in every Summer Olympics since 1960. USAMU Soldiers have earned 24 Olympic Medals. (Courtesy of the USAMU).



In 1963, Cpl. Gary L. Anderson was invited to the White House to be presented the United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge by President John F. Kennedy for Anderson's record setting performances at the 1962 World Shooting Championships. (Courtesy of the USAMU).



**Conseil Interational du Sport Militaire (CISM):** The World Military Championships have been conducted annually since 1957. From 1957 to 2016, CISM has been conducted 52 times with the United States earning the title "Best Nation" a record 23 times. Above, the U.S. Team for the 1962 CISM Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina - Pictured with the "Best Nation" Duelling Pistols won in 1961. Front Row: John Kahoilua, Col. Montgomery, Oscar Weinmeister; Bobby Harris. Center Row: George Snavelly, Charles Feuerbacker; Phillip Cannella, Jr., Herbert Roberts, Jr. Back Row: Thurston Banks, Milton Nagrone, James McNally, Hershel Anderson. (Courtesy of the USAMU).





These three photos show soldiers conducting Infantry Board testing of weapons and equipment, c. early 1960s. The U.S. Army Infantry Board (USAIB) was established at the General Service and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in March, 1903. It was located at Fort Benning from December 1919 to March 23, 1991 when it relocated to Fort Hood as a part of Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) new Test and Experimentation Command (TEXCOM). The Board planned, conducted and reported on material tests of equipment and ancillary items to be used by infantrymen.



Lawson Field and L-20 DeHavilland Beaver aircraft. Selected as the service's new utility aircraft in 1951, the Army and Air Force purchased 970, over half of the entire production run. It was phased out of service in the 1970s.





Above, an aerial view of the newly constructed Academic Building, (Bldg 4), June 3, 1964. Dedicated on June 5, 1964, The Academic Building was renamed "Infantry Hall" on December 10, 1965. Below, Infantry Hall, c. 1966.







On July 1, 1965, the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) was re-flagged as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and 27 days later, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the airmobile division to Vietnam. Pictured here is the parade commemorating the occasion at Doughboy Stadium.



Deploying from Fort Benning, Lt. Col. Moore led the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) to battle in the Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam on November 14, 1965.



Lt. Col. Hal Moore and Sgt. Maj. Basil Plumley, Commander and Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry.





Soldiers on patrol in front of an M-60A1 tank with M-113 Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) during training at Fort Benning, c. 1965

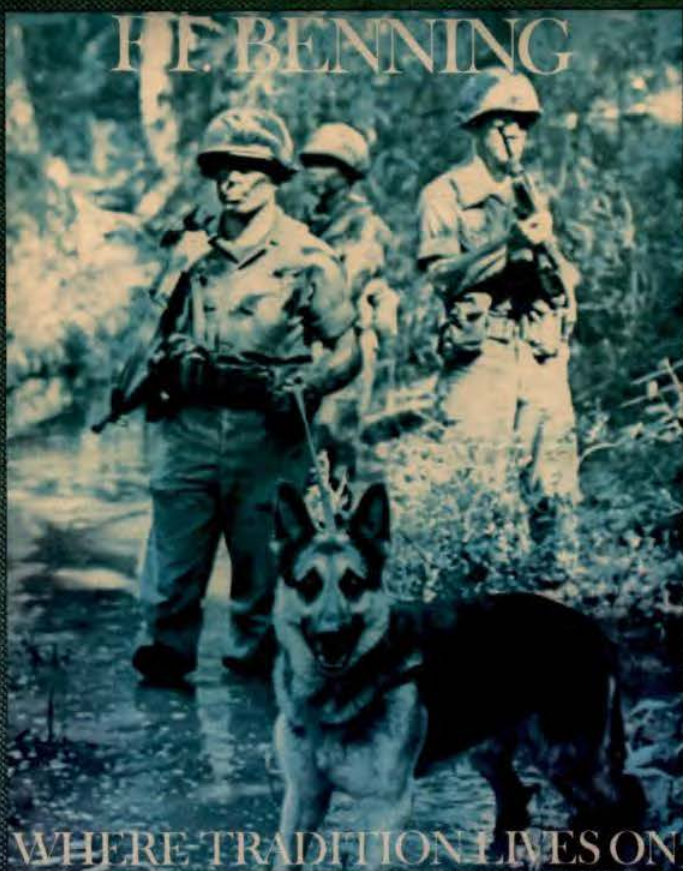


Soldiers dismounting a M-60A1 tank during training, 1965.





M-48A1 tanks during training, c. 1965.



Infantry Platoon Scout Dogs (IPSD) were trained at Fort Benning with the job of being paired with a handler to serve as silent "pointmen" during patrols, the most vulnerable and dangerous position of a tactical combat formation. The program lasted from September, 1965 to its deactivation in 1975 at Fort Benning, where all of the scout dog teams that served in the Vietnam War were trained.





West Point Cadets practicing the parachute landing form (PLF) at Airborne School, February 9, 1966.



Airborne school swing landing trainer, February 9, 1966.



Soldiers at the Infantry School learn how to operate a mine detector, July 8, 1966.

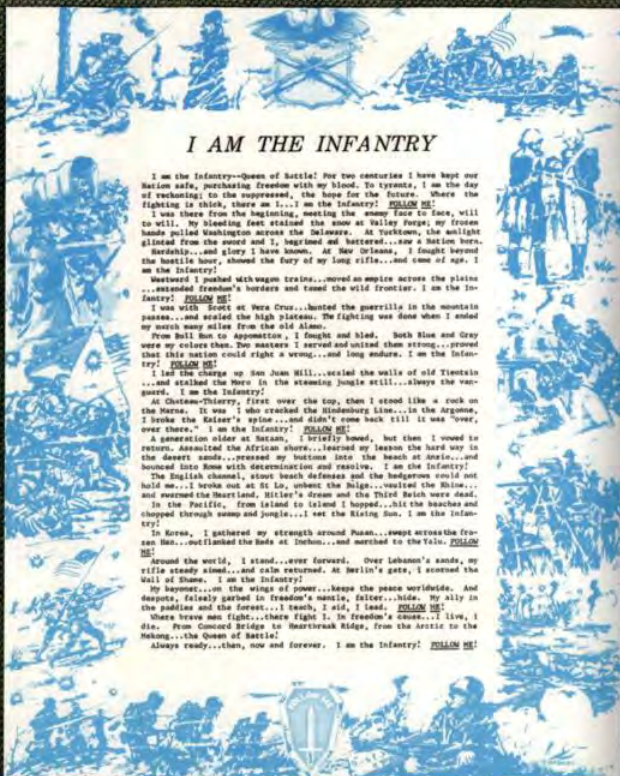


M79 Grenade Launcher testing by the Infantry Board, 1967.





Fort Benning, Georgia  
Home of the Infantry  
1918-1968



I AM THE INFANTRY

I am the Infantry—Queen of Battle! For two centuries I have kept our Nation safe, purchasing freedom with my blood. To tyrants, I am the day of reckoning; to the oppressed, the hope for the future. Where the fighting is thick, there am I... I am the Infantry! **PAUL JONES**

I was there from the beginning, meeting the enemy face to face, will to will. My bleeding feet stained the snow at Valley Forge; my frozen hands pulled Washington across the Delaware. At Yorktown, the sunlight glinted from the sword and I, battered and battered... saw a Nation born. Hardship... and glory I have known. At New Orleans, I fought beyond the battle line, showed the fury of my long rifle... and tone of war. I am the Infantry!

Hastened I pushed with wagon trains... moved an empire across the plains... extended freedom's borders and tamed the wild frontier. I am the Infantry! **PAUL JONES**

I was there at Vera Cruz... hunted the guerrilla in the mountain passes... and sealed the high plateau. The fighting was done when I ended my march many miles from the old Alamo.

From Bull Run to Appomattox, I fought and bled. Both Blue and Gray were my colors then. Two masters I served and united them strong... proved that this nation could right a wrong... and long endure. I am the Infantry! **PAUL JONES**

I led the charge up San Juan Hill... scaled the walls of old Tientsin... and stalked the Wre in the steaming jungle still... always the van-guard. I am the Infantry!

At Chateau-Thierry, first over the top, then I stood like a rock on the Marne. It was I who cracked the Hindenburg line... in the Argonne, I broke the Kaiser's spine... and didn't come back till it was "over, over there." I am the Infantry! **PAUL JONES**

A generation older at Saipan, I bristled broad, but then I vowed to return. Assaulted the African shore... learned by lesson the hard way in the desert sands... pressed my notions into the beach at Anzio... and banded into Rome with determination and resolve. I am the Infantry! The English channel, stout beach defenses and the hedgerow could not hold me... I waded out as it lay, unbothered the Belgians... visited the Rhine... and resumed the heartland. Hitler's dream and the Third Reich were dead. In the Pacific, from island to island I hoped... hit the beaches and chopped through swamp and jungle... I see the Rising Sun. I am the Infantry!

In Korea, I gathered my strength around Pusan... swept across the frozen Han... outflanked the Reds at Inchon... and marched to the Yalu. **PAUL JONES**

Around the world, I stand... ever forward. Over Lebanon's sands, my rifle steady aimed... and calm returned. At Berlin's gate, I opened the wall of doom. I am the Infantry!

My bayonet... on the wings of power... keeps the peace worldwide. And day after day, I'm guard to freedom's music, father... child. My ally in the paddies and the forest... I teach, I aid, I lead. **PAUL JONES**

There brave men fight... there fight I, to freedom's cause... I live, I die. From Comond Bridge to Bearstreak Ridge, from the Arctic to the Mekong... the Queen of Battle!

Always ready... then, now and forever. I am the Infantry! **PAUL JONES**



FORT BENNING TODAY

Ranger: The Ranger course is a grueling eight-week program designed to develop leadership in young officers and noncommissioned officers through the conduct of arduous field operations in difficult terrain.

Pathfinders: The Pathfinders are a highly select and elite body of men whose mission is to work as an advance group behind the lines to secure and direct the subsequent deployment of men and materials.

Cover and first pages of the 1968 publication for the Fort Benning 50th Anniversary Commemoration Book.



A parade in downtown Columbus celebrating Fort Benning's 50th Anniversary, October 5, 1968. In color, seated next to Maj. Gen. John M. Wright, Jr., is General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.





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[www.rangerjoes.com](http://www.rangerjoes.com)

**Fort Benning**

4030 Victory Drive  
Columbus, GA 31903

**Inside The National  
Infantry Museum**

1775 Legacy Way  
Columbus, GA 31903

**Fort Stewart**

771 Veterans Pkwy  
Fort Stewart, GA 31313



## The 1970s An Evolving Army

As a result of Cold War tensions, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) warfare continued to receive considerable attention at the Infantry School. Another item that required a significant amount of attention from the School's staff and faculty revolved around the Army's decision to redact the Pentomic Organizational Concept and replace it with the ROAD (Reorganization Objectives Army Division) structure. This called for reorganizing and restructuring all of the Army's divisions, a task in which the Infantry School played a vital role. ROAD also called for the increased mechanization of Infantry units, and this, in turn, led to the appearance of the M-113 series of armored personnel carriers. Accordingly, mechanized infantry doctrine began to receive more and more attention in the School's classes.

On August 22, 1972, the last U.S. Army combat unit left Vietnam. By this time, the entire Army, at home and abroad, was plagued by morale and discipline problems. Congress ended the draft in late 1972 and the Army began as an all-volunteer force in 1973 for the first time since 1946. Its strength dropped precipitously and in an attempt to attract new enlistees, the Army introduced Project VOLAR (Project Voluntary Army). More women were brought in to fill some of the gaps in the Army's ranks, and on December 13, 1973, the first two female soldiers graduated from the Infantry School's basic airborne course.

Fort Benning felt the effects of the Army's rapid demobilization and the ill-received Project VOLAR and consequently, the leadership instituted the Benning Plan, which was designed to improve the soldiers' quality of life. Many of the customs soldiers referred to as "Mickey Mouse" events, such as reveille, were eliminated; discipline was relaxed in the barracks areas and more modern barracks were constructed.

The Army continued to grow and reoriented toward Europe where the Soviet threat loomed ominously. The Infantry School placed increasing emphasis on mechanized infantry operations and the 197th Infantry Brigade at Kelly Hill was used to test the new doctrine. The 197th was ably assisted by the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, along with the Infantry School's support unit. The various Middle Eastern conflicts offered many lessons for Infantrymen which were seized upon, modified as necessary, and incorporated into the School's courses. Instructional keywords such as "active defense" and "fight outnumbered and win" were familiarized within the School. The newly established National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California aided in the mechanization effort and the 197th was one of the first units to go through the Center's intensive training program.

The Infantry Board spent most of the decade testing various versions of the new Bradley Fighting Vehicle and it was hoped that the platform would give the infantryman a real chance of surviving on an armored battlefield. Eventually, the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry would become responsible for all Bradley training at Fort Benning and would dispatch Mobile Training Teams to other Posts and units to train soldiers on the vehicle platform.

Airborne and Ranger training continued at a reduced pace, and a limited number of hours were devoted to air assault training. CBRN warfare, subjects which had been generally overlooked during the Vietnam Conflict era, moved up in importance, with chemical warfare considered the more prominent threat of the time. The OCS program changed from a branch material (infantry only) to a branch immaterial (all branches) course and became the Army's only OCS program. On November 7, 1976, Class 1-77 became the first OCS class to contain both men and women.

The 3rd Army Basic Training Center closed in 1970 and a new training center was opened in 1976 in the Sand Hill area when Advanced Individual Infantry Training was centralized at Fort Benning. Then, in June, 1978, the Training Center adopted the One-Station Unit Training (OSUT) concept and from then until now, all U.S. Army infantry soldiers receive both their Basic and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Benning.

The Main Mall and Commissary were opened in November 1974, and on July 1, 1977 a dedication ceremony, presided over by General of the Army Omar Bradley, was held for the National Infantry Museum's new home in Building 396, once the Main Post hospital.





CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear) training, September 13, 1974.



During the 1970s, nuclear and chemical warfare, which had been generally ignored during the Vietnam War era, elevated in importance with chemical warfare considered the more prominent threat. Training focused on CBRN readiness and the Infantry Board continually tested new equipment and tactics.





President Gerald Ford visited Fort Benning on the 200th Anniversary of the Army. To the right rear is Maj. Gen. Tarpley, Commander, U.S. Army Infantry Center, June 14, 1975.



President Gerald Ford shakes hands with one of the Ranger Cadre who demonstrated the Combat Water Survival Assessment, June 14, 1975.



Static displays in front of Infantry Hall during the Bicentennial of the Army's 200th anniversary, June 14, 1975.



Ranger Cadre demonstrate evacuating a casualty techniques during a Rangers in Action demonstration, June 14, 1975.





Soldiers disembark UH-1A Huey Helicopters and a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter during field training at Fort Benning, 1975.



Soldiers conduct Jacob's Ladder insertion/extraction operations with a CH-47 Chinook, 1975.

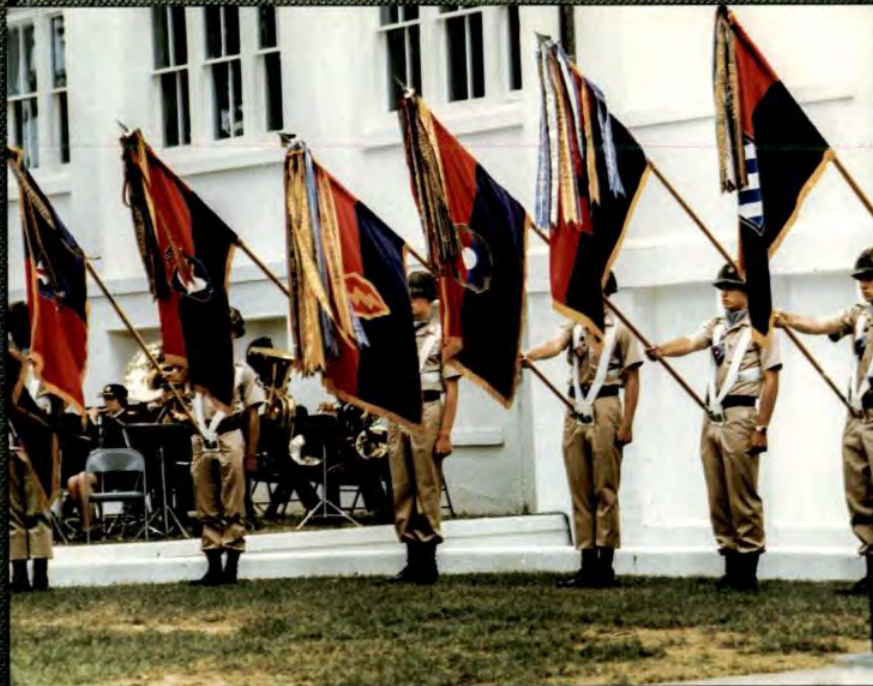




Aerial picture of the original post hospital before being dedicated as the National Infantry Museum, c. early 1970s.



General of the Army Omar N. Bradley visits Fort Benning for the dedication of the National Infantry Museum, July 1, 1977.



Ceremonies held with distinguished visitor, General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, for the dedication of the National Infantry Museum, July 1, 1977.

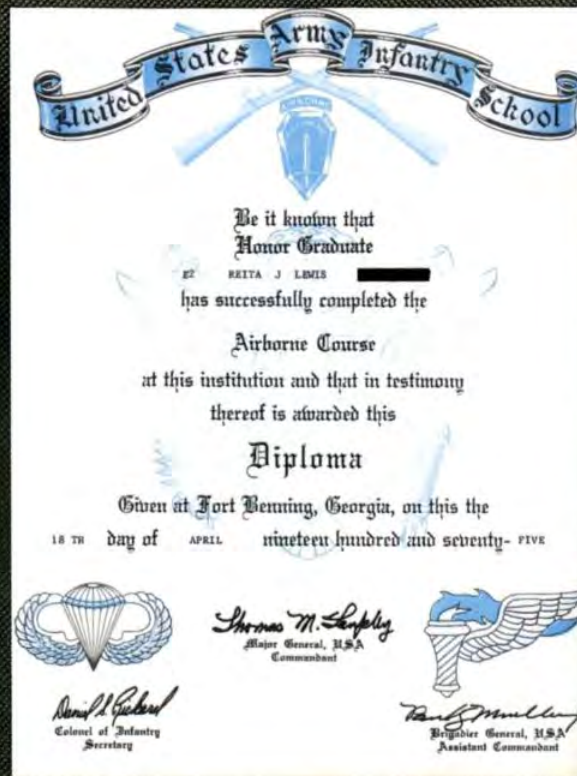


On December 14, 1973 a milestone in Airborne history was established when Privates Joyce Kutsch and Rita Johnson became the first women to graduate from the Basic Airborne Course. Taken in Old McCarthy Hall at Lawson Army Airfield, they are pictured with their graduation certificates in left hand and plaque in right hand. The Airborne Department gave them handmade plaques featuring the jump boots and parachutist wings of the paratrooper. Similar plaques would continue to be given to most of the first 100 female graduates. Following graduation from a modified, but rigorous, airborne course, the two women successfully completed the U.S. Army Quartermaster School Parachute Rigger Course and were assigned to Aerial Delivery Companies at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Since then, women do not attend a modified airborne course, but complete the full course and meet the same standards as their male counterparts.



Pvt. Joyce Kutsch (L), a Black Hat Instructor (C) and Pvt. Rita Johnson (R) walking off Fryar Drop Zone, December 1973.



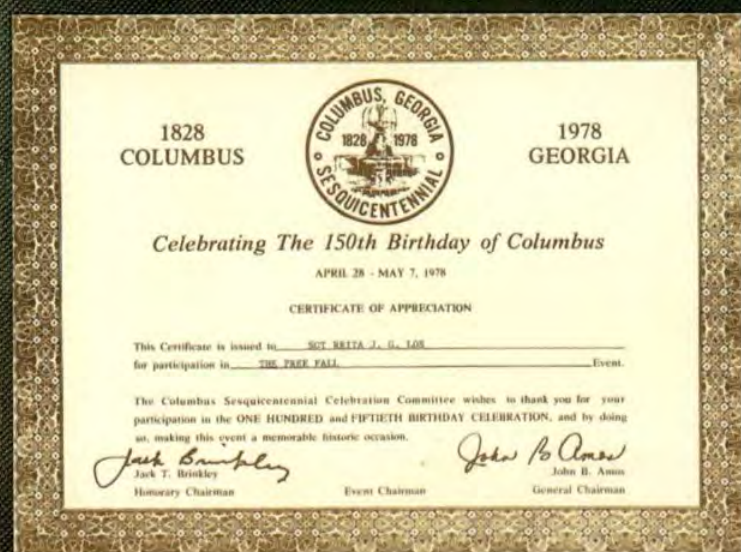


PVT Reita Lewis receives her graduation certificate from the Airborne Department Commandant, Col. Jack Whitted, April 18, 1975, at the Old McCarthy Hall.

PVT Lewis and Col. Whitted at the unveiling of the framed list of the first 100 female Airborne School graduates. PVT Lewis completed the list as the 100th and final name.



SGT Reita Lewis Los became the first female Airborne Instructor, pictured with her parachute and polished cadre helmet (top left) and black jacket worn by the parachute school cadre (top right). She became the first female Jumpmaster and first female Pathfinder (middle left), and was a member of Fort Benning's Silver Wings Parachute Demonstration Team. (Photos courtesy of Reita Los).





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GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL  
NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM,  
COLUMBUS, GA



# American Soldier

The Guardian of Freedom  
American Way of Life



Liberty  
Utilities



## The 1980s

# Benning On The Global Stage

With the election of Ronald Reagan to the Presidency in 1980, one of the Defense Department's top priorities was to rebuild the Armed Forces. Fort Benning would begin to modernize the Post to meet new training requirements for new weapon systems. New barracks would be constructed with each housing 1,120 recruits and 50 cadre. Bayonet training, dropped at Benning in 1972, was reinstated in 1981 "to foster aggressiveness, develop esprit-de-corps and help build confidence."

The U.S. government approved the training of 600 El Salvadorian officer candidates at Fort Benning. They would be trained for four months in leadership, tactics, maintenance, and troop leading procedures. They were being trained to fight the guerrillas in the Salvadoran Civil War.

On May 26, 1982, the first two production Bradley Fighting Vehicles were accepted by the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, 197th Infantry Brigade. It would prove to be one of the Army's finest advancements for the infantry for its time; allowing infantry soldiers protection and the ability to maneuver with the new Abrams tank.

Infantrymen trained at Fort Benning would help secure the island of Grenada on October 25, 1983, during Operation Urgent Fury. By November 2, 1983, hostilities were declared ended.

On October 3, 1984, the 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger) and 3rd Battalion, 75th Infantry Regiment (Ranger) were activated at Fort Benning. The regiment consolidated with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Ranger Battalions, and was designated as the 75th Ranger Regiment and reorganized under the Regimental System on February 3, 1986.

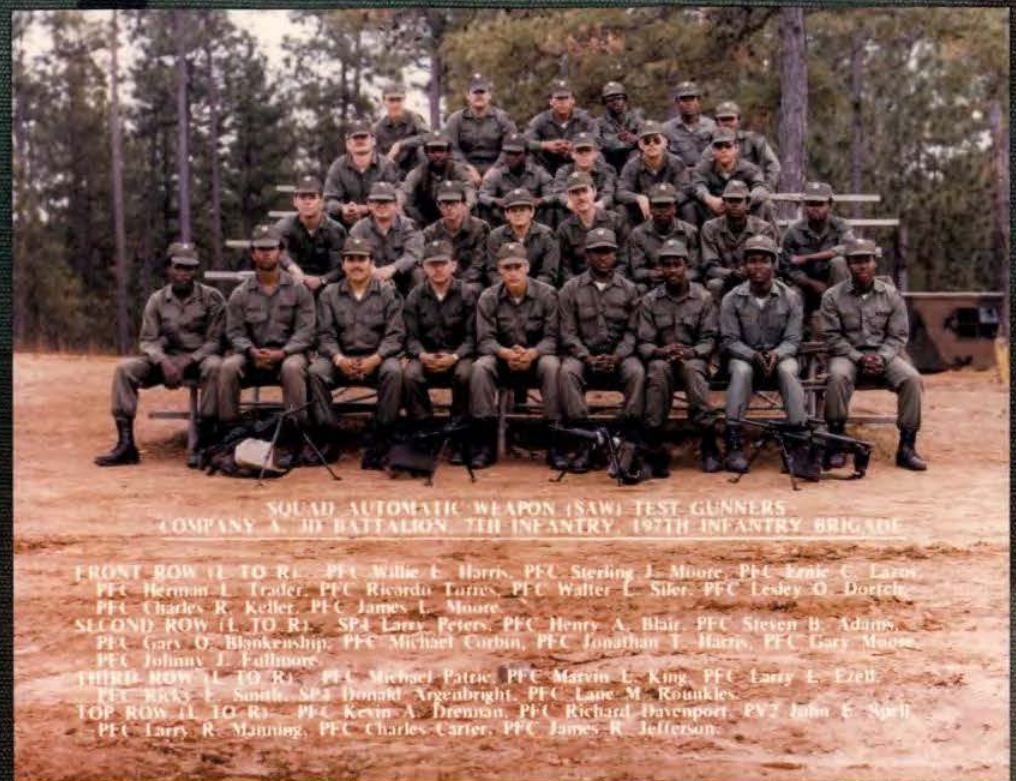
A few weeks later on October 24, 1984, the Department of the Army announced that Benning had been selected as a transitional training site of the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA). The school was relocated from the Panama Canal Zone, which was being returned to the Panamanian government. On August 6, 1986, the School of the Americas was permanently located at Benning.

On December 20, 1989, the 75th Ranger Regiment would parachute into Panama as part of Operation Just Cause, a successful Operation that led to the end of the Dictatorship of General Manuel Noriega from 1983 to 1989.

Fort Benning personnel watched TV in awe as the Berlin Wall separating Communist East Berlin from the Capitalist West Berlin fell on November 9, 1989. On December 26, 1991, the Soviet Union was dissolved and the Cold War ended.

The 1980s ended with a stronger military force. Fort Benning played a key role in making sure that the force was properly trained and proved it was capable of sending forces anywhere in the world within days.





197th Infantry Brigade soldiers who conducted the Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) Operational Test II for the Infantry Board, June 24, 1980. The 1980s saw much weapons and equipment development and testing by the Infantry Board before its relocation to Fort Hood on March 23, 1991. As the Cold War ensued, much emphasis was placed on the advancement of weapons, equipment and tactics to ensure the U.S. maintained a modern Army.



Senator Matt Mattingly, R-GA, and Maj. Gen. R.L. "Sam" Wetzel are briefed on the turret trainer and Bradley Fighting Vehicle at Lee Field, August, 1981. (Courtesy of Lt. Gen. R.L. "Sam" Wetzel).





To the left, Maj. Gen. Carl H. McNair of Fort Rucker, left, and Maj. Gen. Wetzel following the Blackhawk Acceptance Ceremony, September, 1981, at Fort Benning. Above, Maj. Gen. Wetzel and a representative of Sikorsky Aircraft converse before the Blackhawk Acceptance Ceremony depicted below. (Courtesy of Lt. Gen. R.L. "Sam" Wetzel).



A soldier tests prototype optics for the Infantry Board, 1982.





**Gen. E.C. Meyer, Chief of Staff of the Army, speaks with soldiers during a visit to Fort Benning, May, 1982. (Courtesy of Maj. Gen. R.L. "Sam" Wetzel).**



**Above, the WASP II (Williams Aerial Systems Platform), an experimental aircraft powered by a turbofan engine, could take off vertically and fly for 30 minutes at speeds up to 60 mph. Though never used in service, test flights were conducted at Fort Benning by infantry soldiers without piloting experience under a contract to the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command (TACOM), June 18, 1982.**





Above, a soldier displays an M-16 to French Lt. Gen. André Sciard, French Army Schools Commander, April, 1983. Left, an awards ceremony for the presentation of the United of Omaha Public Service Award (Mutual of Omaha) to the 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) in front of Infantry Hall, November, 1982. (Courtesy of Lt. Gen. R.L. "Sam" Wetzel).



Infantry Hall (Building 4), December, 1983.





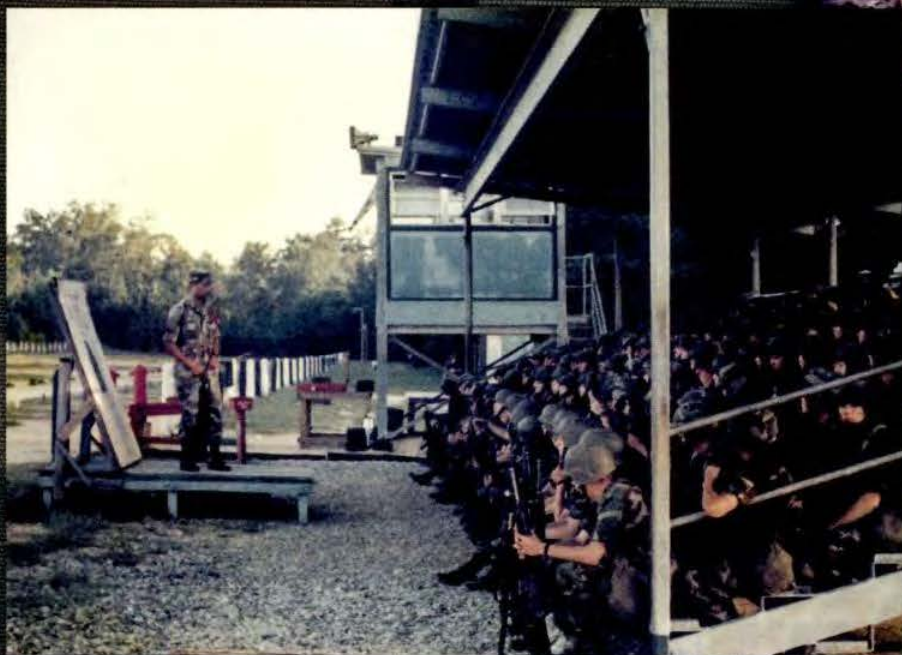
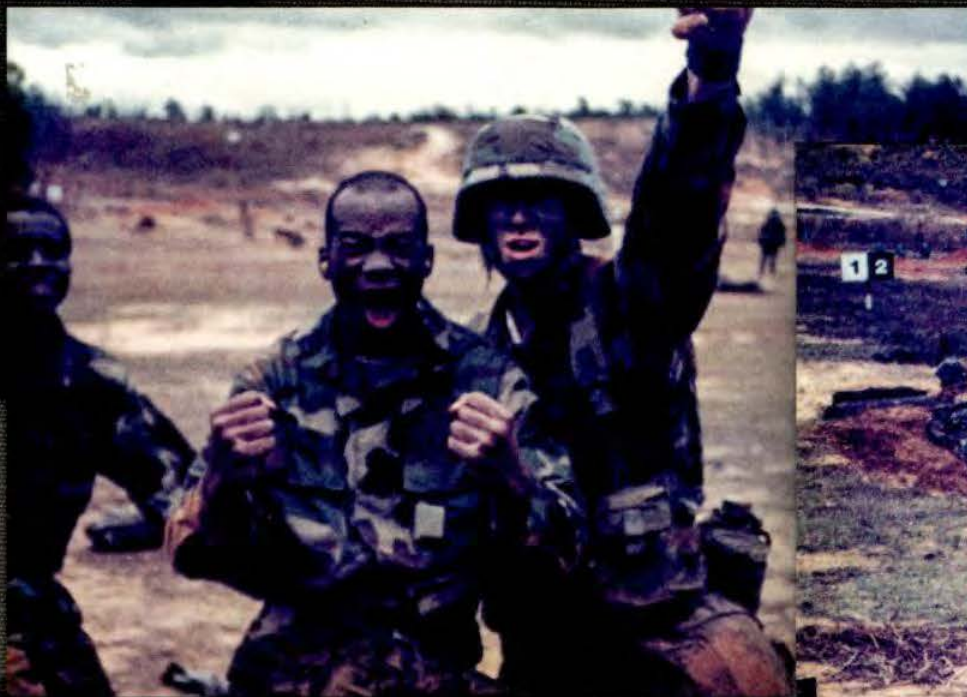
Testing the Bradley Fighting Vehicle's amphibious capabilities at Victory Pond, Fort Benning, 1987.



Above, recruits learn the fundamentals of drill during Basic Training, 1989. Right, recruits conduct tactical road marches on Sand Hill during Basic Training, 1989. (Photos Courtesy of Ed Howard).

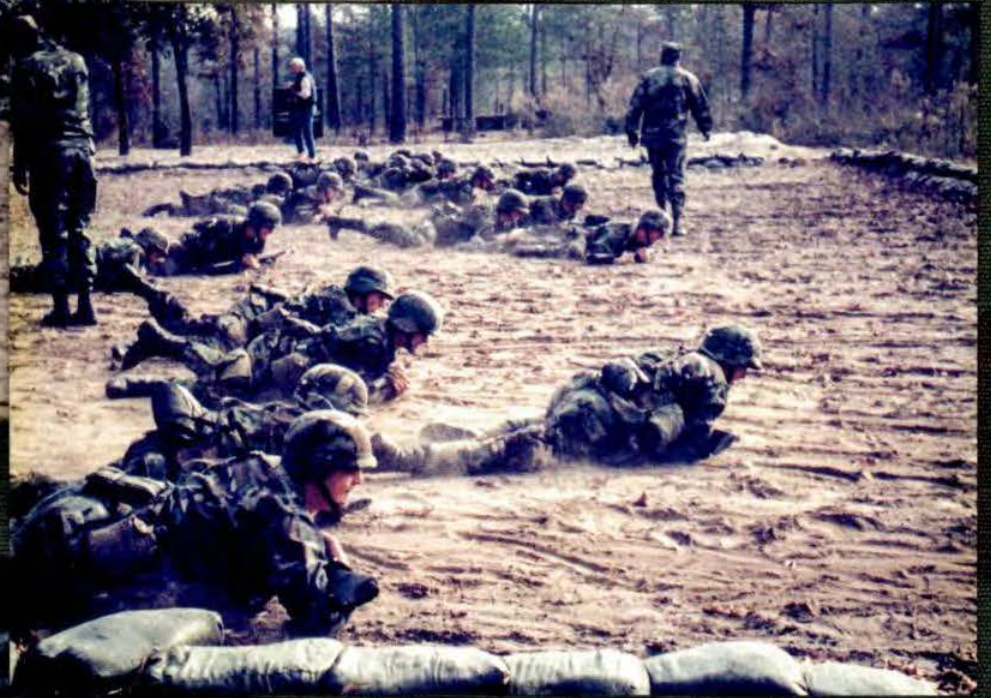






Recruits learn basic rifle marksmanship and how to emplace a claymore mine during Basic Training, 1989. (Photos Courtesy of Ed Howard).





Recruits learn movement techniques and river crossing and pose for a picture during Physical Training at Basic Training on Sand Hill, 1989.  
(Photos Courtesy of Ed Howard).





Field training and team building exercises, 1989. (Courtesy of Ed Howard).



A soldier during field training, 1989.



Graduating Basic Training soldiers of 4th Platoon, Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, November 27, 1989.



# The 1990s

## The Persian Gulf And Horn of Africa

The 1990s would again see Fort Benning deploying soldiers around the world. The largest effort would come after Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, igniting the Persian Gulf War with Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, marking the largest military force sent into a war zone since WWII. On November 29, 1990, the U.N. Security Council authorized the use of "all necessary means" of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15, 1991. In January, the Coalition Forces that prepared to face off against Iraq numbered approximately 750,000, including 540,000 U.S. personnel and smaller forces from Britain, France, Germany, the Soviet Union, Japan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, among other nations.

Fort Benning would play a key role not only in providing a "Power Projection Platform" for units to deploy from, but also for the training it provided soldiers. Fort Benning's educational and leadership programs, which educated Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr., Central Command Commander and Commander of Coalition Forces in Iraq, and Gen. Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, helped to bring about the strategic defeat of the Iraqi Army.

In what was the United States' last conventional war against another country's uniformed military, the Iraqi Army, under Saddam Hussein, the then 4th largest Army in the world, was stopped after Operation Desert Shield's air campaign and Operation Desert Storm's 100-hour ground campaign; with Coalition forces suffering 149 killed in action and over 500 wounded next to the over 100,000 Iraqi casualties.

Soldiers returned to Fort Benning to a heroes welcome by the local community and the Post. A new era of appreciation for the armed forces and their professionalism emerged. The infantry performed well and the success of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle was proven in combat. Soon, critics emerged who felt that Saddam's regime should have been eliminated, but the United Nations Resolution called for the retaking of Kuwait and not the invasion of Iraq. Saddam would continue to create problems in the region throughout the rest of the 1990s.

Other missions awaited the infantry around the world, one of which would be one of the last actions taken by President George H.W. Bush before he left office in January, 1993. Answering U.N. Resolution 751, the United States sent food aid via Operation Provide Comfort in August, 1992. Intense fighting between warlords in the Somali Civil War impeded the delivery of food aid and by December 5, 1992, the United States began Operation Restore Hope in which President George H.W. Bush authorized the dispatch of U.S. troops to Somalia to assist with famine relief as part of a U.S. led, U.N. effort. On October 3, 1993, warlord Muhammad Farah Aidid's militia shot down two Black Hawk helicopters in a battle which led to the deaths of 18 U.S. soldiers and hundreds of Somalis. The deaths, incurred by the Rangers at Fort Benning, turned the tide of public opinion in the United States, and newly elected President Bill Clinton withdrew U.S. troops from combat four days later, with all U.S. forces leaving the country by March, 1994.

As a result of the negative public opinion of Operation Restore Hope, President Clinton ordered his national security advisors to consider how and when the United States should become involved in peacekeeping operations. The resulting document was Presidential Decision Directive 25, issued on May 3, 1994, outlining a series of factors which the Executive Branch must consider before involving the United States in peacekeeping missions.

As the U.S. remained aloft from engaging troops in conflicts for the the remainder of the decade, Fort Benning continued on its mission of training and educating soldiers. The military, under a new Presidency, began to downsize and once again wholesale numbers of soldiers were released from service.





**Graduating soldiers and training photos of 2nd Platoon, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, March 26, 1990.**



Today's Weather

HIGH  
mid-60s  
LOW  
low 30s

Partly cloudy today. For more about the weather, see Page A-3, or call Weatherline at 298-0005.

SEC ACC RESULTS

N.C. State.....82  
Georgia Tech.....68

North Carolina.....67  
Clemson.....59

Alabama.....71  
Florida.....85

Auburn.....92  
LSU.....77

Tennessee.....87  
Mississippi St.....70

TOWARD PEACE

Friday's developments related to the Persian Gulf war.

Homecoming joyous  
American troops arriving home were greeted by cheering crowds, yellow ribbons, red, white and blue and patriotic songs.

Journalists released  
They handed over 40 foreign journalists and freed American soldiers that had captured in the southern part of the country, the Red Cross said.

Iran supports rebellion  
The president of Iran, which proclaimed neutrality in the war, declared his sympathy for the attempt to overthrow Saddam.

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A soldier is about to receive a long-awaited hug at Fort Benning Friday night.

BENNING REUNION

1st returning soldiers get a rousing welcome

By Mike Walsh  
The 1st returning soldiers of the 18th Aviation Brigade were greeted with a rousing welcome at Fort Benning Friday night. The soldiers, who were deployed to Iraq in January, were met by family members and friends at the Kelly Hill Reception Center. The soldiers were greeted with a rousing welcome at Fort Benning Friday night. The soldiers, who were deployed to Iraq in January, were met by family members and friends at the Kelly Hill Reception Center. The soldiers were greeted with a rousing welcome at Fort Benning Friday night. The soldiers, who were deployed to Iraq in January, were met by family members and friends at the Kelly Hill Reception Center.

America welcomes its warriors with ribbons, flags

Iraq frees 40 journalists, 2 more American POWs

Planned after arrival of 10 troops returned home Friday, greeted by yellow ribbons, the red-white-and-blue patriotic emblems and associates.

The span has been building up for months. As you've got to expect a lot of them. "It's a homecoming after all," said a Benning spokesman. "It's a homecoming after all," said a Benning spokesman. "It's a homecoming after all," said a Benning spokesman.

Re-enlistment atop Iraqi tank, Scud miss among Benning GI's moments

By Clint Claybrook

DEBRA, Va., Arabia — Sgt. Richard Moore said Iraq kept him in the line of duty with the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He said he was in the line of duty with the Army's 1st Infantry Division. He said he was in the line of duty with the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

Jobless rate hits highest mark since '87

Records biggest 1-month leap in 5 years now at 6.5%

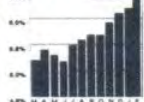
WASHINGTON — America's unemployment rate jumped to 6.5 percent in February, marking the biggest one-month jump in five years, to hit the highest jobless rate since March 1987.

The nation's jobless rate rose to 6.5 percent in February, marking the biggest one-month jump in five years, to hit the highest jobless rate since March 1987.

The nation's jobless rate rose to 6.5 percent in February, marking the biggest one-month jump in five years, to hit the highest jobless rate since March 1987.

U.S. unemployment rate

Percent of civilian labor force, seasonally adjusted



Percent by group, Feb. 1991

Group	White	Black	Hispanic	Man	Woman
White	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%
Black	11.8%	12.1%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%
Hispanic	9.5%	9.3%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%
Man	6.3%	6.8%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%
Woman	6.4%	6.2%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%

TROOPS RETURN TO BENNING



Joint master displays a cardboard American flag welcoming home the troops at Lawson Army Airfield Friday night.



Photos by Joe Maher Ledger-Enquirer



1st Lt. Alan Edwards hugs and kisses his wife, Sherry, after a year's absence. (Photo by Joe Maher Ledger-Enquirer)

Spec. Randy Larson (right) and dad Lance Larson of Debra, Ohio, walk down the street in front of the reception center as other relatives join in the celebration.



11 Benjamin Harris and wife Catherine share smiles over Benjamin Jr., who was born Feb. 1 while dad was gone.

11 Norman Hilton is greeted by a friend at the reception center.

11 Jennifer Mackey gets the head of John Patrick.

Front page of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, March 9, 1991, welcoming soldiers home to Fort Benning after the Persian Gulf War. (Columbus Ledger-Enquirer archives).



Page A-5 of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, March 10, 1991, depicting soldiers returning home to Fort Benning after the Persian Gulf War. (Columbus Ledger-Enquirer archives).

The 18th Aviation Brigade redeploys from Iraq at Lawson Army Airfield after the Persian Gulf War, April 14, 1991. (Photo by Joe Maher, courtesy of the Columbus Museum, Georgia; The Evelyn S. and H. Wayne Patterson Fund).





## Atlanta fans stick around to cheer Dodgers

By Charles Odum  
Staff Writer

ATLANTA — These Braves fans will do anything — even cheer for Tommy Lasorda and his hated Los Angeles Dodgers — to see their team back in the playoffs.

Several thousand fans stayed at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium Sunday, savoring the Atlanta Braves' 5-3 win over the Colorado Rockies and cheering as the Dodgers, the enemies of 1991, beat the San Francisco Giants, 12-1. The ESPN telecast of the game was shown on the jumbo screen beyond the center-field stands.

It was almost like a doubleheader. Concession stands were open, the MARTA buses

continued to service the stadium, the fans were chopping and chanting their favorite Tomahawk tune. The fans even sang an enthusiastic version of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh-inning stretch of the Giants-Dodgers game.

Then they were back cheering for the Dodgers.

"I've never, ever done that before," said Bill Hunicutt of LaGrange, Ga. "Matter of fact, I hate them. But I'm happy to do it — for today. Lasorda said he'd beat the Giants when they came to L.A. I guess he's kept his word."

Added Dallas Hudgens of Alpharetta, Ga. "This is really neat. To see 7,000 or so fans watching an out-of-town baseball game. It looks like the kind of crowd you used to see for

a final. The fans once in certain players watch staying. I just fans. These Giants really get. The Giants straight. See BR



### SOMALIA

## American death toll jumps in Somalia fighting Benning mum as it awaits word of Somalia casualties

By Clint Claybrook  
Staff Writer

A veil of silence wrapped itself around Fort Benning on Monday, Oct. 5, as the post awaited word of local casualties from the fighting in Somalia.

By Monday night, the names of two Benning-based soldiers had been listed as killed in a fierce gun battle Sunday between

American forces including U.S. Army Rangers, and the forces of Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid in Mogadishu.

Sgt. James C. Joyce, 24, and Pfc. Richard W. Kowalewski, 20, both of the 75th Ranger Regiment, headquartered at Fort Benning, were listed as killed by the Pentagon.

See BENNING, Page A-10



A Somali woman beats the wreckage of two U.S. helicopters that crashed in Mogadishu.

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon ordered fresh infantry, aerial gunships and top-of-the-line tanks to Somalia Monday to bolster U.S. forces after at least 12 Americans were killed, 74 wounded and others captured in the fiercest fighting since the mission began.

The casualties, inflicted by the forces of warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid, were the most for the United States in such a short period since the Persian Gulf War. The battle began late Sunday and stretched into Monday.

On Capitol Hill, some lawmakers called

for U.S. withdrawal. But President Clinton insisted American forces would remain until order was restored.

Reinforcements were being sent, he said, because "I'm not satisfied that the folks that are there now have the protection that they need."

Disturbing pictures of dead and captured American soldiers filtered back from Mogadishu. Television footage showed a frightened, wounded soldier being questioned by his captors — prompting a warning from Clinton.

See AMERICAN, Page A-10

### SOMALIA

## At least five Americans are killed in assault

### Two Army helicopters reportedly shot down

Clinton offers condolences but stands firm on mission. A-10

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — At least five Americans were killed Sunday during a U.N. military operation against Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid, the Pentagon reported.

Some U.S. troops were also wounded and two U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters were shot down during the operation, said a statement issued in Washington. Details were not clear because the military operation was still under way, the statement said.

About 20 Somalis, including at least one high-ranking member of Aidid's leadership, were detained during the operation, the statement said. The operation involved elite U.S. Rangers, it said, referring to the troops sent to Somalia in August to try to seize Aidid.

Earlier Sunday, a Somali U.N. employee was killed and three U.S. Marines were wounded when a mine explosion ripped through their military vehicle in Mogadishu, a U.N. spokesman said.

The latest violence underscored the

See AT LEAST, Page A-14

### At least five Americans killed in Somalia, Pentagon says

Continued From Page A-1

difficulty the U.N. forces have had in trying to capture Aidid, who is blamed for masterminding attacks that have killed 54 peacekeepers since June.

Aidid says the U.N. troops have become an unwanted occupying force. Some U.S. lawmakers have called for a pullout of U.S. troops.

President Clinton offered sympathy to the friends and families of U.S. Americans who were killed, but gave no indication he had second thoughts about continuing the U.S. role in the U.N. mission in Somalia.

U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin rejected suggestions that the United States immediately withdraw from U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Somalia, saying such a move would lead to a return of famine in the African nation.

Three Americans were killed Sept. 25 when their Blackhawk helicopter was downed by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by Somali militiamen. That was the first loss of a helicopter by U.S. forces to hostile fire in Somalia.

Earlier Sunday, a mine explosion occurred about a quarter-mile from the U.N. port complex, the U.N. spokesman Maj. David Stockwell, said by telephone from the Somali capital.

Three Marines were hospitalized in stable condition Sunday evening with shrapnel wounds and burns.

Stockwell said the mine was remotely detonated and apparently specifically targeted the Humvee utility vehicle. After the explosion, Somali gunmen ambushed the Humvee, he said.

"It is just another in a series of unprovoked attacks on U.N. troops in general and on U.S. troops in particular," he said.

A Blackhawk helicopter was shot at when it arrived at the scene, but managed to land and rescue the survivors, Stockwell said.

The Blackhawk and two other helicopters returned fire with machine guns and cannons, Stockwell said. He said there were "undoubtedly" casualties on the other side, but said he did not know how many.

Clinton said the U.N.-led effort in Somalia has succeeded in bringing order to most of the country with district councils being chosen, schools and hospitals reopening and crops harvested.

"The positive developments must not be lost because of the willingness of a few to reject the peaceful political process and seek to achieve power by

## Kenya accused of failing to protect female refugees

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — A human rights group has accused Kenya of failing to protect Somali women refugees from rape.

The government has shown "an appalling lack of concern for the plight of Somali refugees," the New York-based Africa Watch said in a report released Sunday.

Victims of rape and sexual assault in and around Kenya's refugee camps ranged from 4-year-old girls to 50-year-old women, the report said. Most victims were also robbed, beaten, knifed or shot, it said.

Refugees have been attacked by Kenyan bandits and Somali raiders from across the poorly guarded border, the report said. Some women have reported being raped by Kenyan police or military personnel.

The report said 192 refugee women reported being raped in the first seven months of this year.

The Kenyan government has said it does not sanction rape. The government blames the assaults on criminals who get firearms in Somalia.

About 300,000 Somalis live in refugee camps in northeastern Kenya.

The United States said last week that it will give Kenya \$2.5 million to improve security along its border with Somalia.

## Jordan retiring

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Jordan, the world's most famous athlete and basketball's greatest player, will announce his retirement today, according to NBC and published reports.

"Dialtone NBC" the Denver Post and the Chicago Sun-Times reported the news almost simultaneously Tuesday night.

His father's slaying this summer apparently robbed Jordan of his desire to play, the Post said.

See Sports, C-1.

## Three plan D.C. trip to discuss school fight

By Lisa Benham  
Staff Writer

Three Columbus school board members plan to talk with U.S. Department of Justice officials today about the city's desegregation fight, a move that has prompted another board member to brand them renegades.

Muskegon County School Board members John McEachern, Russell Funk and Craig Davis were to be in Washington, D.C., today. But board President Dan Doleman and board member Merrill Person blasted the trip.

"At a time like this, there should not be any side in tell," Doleman said Tuesday at a news

See THREE, Page A-12

### SOMALIA



Small children play around the wreckage of a U.S. Blackhawk helicopter Monday in Mogadishu.

## More troops head for Somalia

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 600 U.S. troops armed with specialized weapons were beginning to head for Somalia Tuesday as administration officials tried with little success to quiet calls from Capitol Hill for quick withdrawal of American forces.

President Clinton met late Tuesday with his top national security advisers — including the commander for the region, Mattis Gun Joseph Hoar — to review the situation, especially increased casualties suffered by U.S. forces.

A senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said no decisions were made at the session — which lasted just under two hours — and that the meeting would resume early today.

Clinton asked participants to run down options for him to nullify, the official said.

"The president was clearly disturbed by the

state of developments in Mogadishu," the Somali capital, the official said. "I don't know if he was clearly disturbed."

The official, speaking on grounds of anonymity, said the overall goal remained the same: to draw down U.S. troops in Somalia without a "return to the kind of chaos and anarchy" that existed there before U.N. troops began their humanitarian mission.

Defense Secretary Les Aspin, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and White House adviser David Gergen briefed more than 150 House and Senate members but failed to placate scores of Democrats and Republicans.

"The administration needs a plan and needs it now. We're not hearing it yet," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said following the closed session that lasted just over an hour.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said it

See MORE, Page A-3

## Six from Benning among the dead

### Another 150 Rangers leave local post for Somalia duty

By Clint Claybrook  
Staff Writer

The number of U.S. Army Rangers from Fort Benning killed during last weekend's fighting in Somalia rose to six Tuesday night as the Pentagon completed the identification of the 12 dead soldiers.

Cpl. James M. Cavaco, 26, of Forestside, Mass.; Spec. Dominick M. Pilla, 21, of Virosland, N.J.; Sgt. Lorenzo M. Ruiz, 27, of El Paso, Texas; and Spc. James E. Smith, 21, of Long Valley, N.J., all assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, were listed among the eight soldiers identified Tuesday night.

On Monday night, Sgt. James C. Joyce, 24 and Pfc. Richard W. Kowalewski Jr., 20, also of the 3rd Battalion's B Company, were listed as killed in the action.

Listed as dead Tuesday night with the four Fort Benning soldiers were CWO Donovan L. Briley, 33, North Little Rock, Ark., of D Company, 1st Battalion 10th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky., and Master Sgt. Timothy L. Martin, 28, Aurora, Dearborne, Ind., Sgt. 1st Class Earl R. Filmore Jr., 24, Blarville, Pa., and Staff Sgt. Daniel D. Busch, 23, Portage, Wis., all assigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

In addition to the dead, the Army said Tuesday that another 35 soldiers from Fort Benning have

See SIX, Page A-3





**The 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment training on insertion tactics with MH-60 Black Hawk, MH-47 Chinook and MH-6 Little Bird helicopters.**

**Mobile Training Teams have been a facet of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit since its creation. USAMU Soldiers have participated in every major conflict the U.S. has been involved in since 1956. Operation Joint Endeavor, 1998. USAIC Sniper School Cadre provided instruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina. USAMU Service Rifle personnel attached to the Mobile Train-the-Trainer Team included Staff Sgt. Emil Praslick (kneeling- center) and Sgt. 1st Class Grant Singley (standing - second from left.) (Photo courtesy of the USAMU).**







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To Fort Benning military personnel, their families and the surrounding community,

On behalf of the Armed Services YMCA, I congratulate you on your Centennial Celebration.

For 100 years Fort Benning has been a cornerstone of our Nation's defense preparing young men and women for service. Educating these service personnel in top schools such as the United States Army Armor and Infantry schools. Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military – along with family members, retirees and civilian employees – on a daily basis. This is no small feat.

Fort Benning has not only been instrumental in protecting our Nation's freedoms but through operational units such as the 75th Ranger Regiment, the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division have supported humanitarian efforts and protected national security interests throughout the world.

One of the greatest factors for the success of service men and women at any military base are the families and community that surround and support them. The Armed Services YMCA has been supporting military service personnel since 1861 when dedicated volunteers went onto the battlefields to offer comfort and support in any way possible and continues today with over 200 centers nationwide that offer numerous programs to the junior enlisted men and women along with their families. The Armed Services YMCA is honored to be a small part of the Fort Benning community and blessed to have the ability to strengthen our military families by helping to make their lives easier.

Congratulations,

William D. French, VADM, USN (Ret.)  
President | CEO

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# 1000 years



*On*

behalf of the Fort Benning's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, I want to congratulate the team of incredibly dedicated men and women who have orchestrated a phenomenal year-long celebration of the Fort Benning Centennial. The publication of this book is one of many ways we mark the occasion and perhaps among the most notable, as it will be around long after the year has become a footnote in Fort Benning history. We applaud the efforts, the creativity and the ingenuity that have brought us to the point that we hold this product in our hands.

I want to take this opportunity to say what an honor it is to be part of the MWR team that has been part of the rich history of the greatest military installation in the world. For more than half a century, it has been our mission to support the Fort Benning community, but in doing so, we have always received the support of the leadership on post and the Fort Benning community inside and outside the gates. I have always believed ours is an exceptional relationship, this vast and cohesive network of service members, veterans, civilian employees and family members who comprise the Fort Benning Family.

We salute the pioneers of Camp Benning; the community partners from Columbus who believed in the vision; the men and women who persevered through the challenging early days when muddy water ran like rivers between tent rows; and generations of Soldiers and family members who left their mark on the Fort Benning family and left the installation better than they found it. The nation owes you a debt of gratitude, but none so much as those of us who enjoy the fruit of your labor every day.

We dedicate ourselves to preserving your legacy!

Al Gelineau  
*Family and MWR Director*

HOAH





# The 2000s

## Counter Insurgency And The War On Terrorism

The 2000s brought with it one of the most rapidly developing and highest operational tempo eras in the history of the Army. Following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York City, the U.S. quickly mobilized for war. The attacks transformed the first term of newly elected President George W. Bush and became the catalyst to what was called the Global War on Terrorism. The U.S. increased military operations and economic measures and on October 7, 2001, launched Operation Enduring Freedom, initiating military action with the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) invasion of Afghanistan in order to remove the Taliban regime, headed by Osama bin Laden, and expel or capture al-Qaeda forces, who were harbored by the Taliban regime.

On March 20, 2003, Operation Iraqi Freedom commenced as U.S. forces invaded Iraq with major combat operations lasting until May 1, 2003, marking the deposition of the government of Saddam Hussein. The U.S. was engaged in war in both Afghanistan and Iraq. On December 13, 2003, during Operation Red Dawn, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces after being found hiding in a hole in the ground near a farmhouse in ad-Dawr, near Tikrit, Iraq. Following a surge in U.S. troops in 2007, U.S. forces began withdrawing from Iraq and on September 1, 2010, Operation New Dawn saw an end to combat operations in Iraq and a new phase of the war. On October 21, 2011, President Barack Obama announced the full withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Meanwhile, Operation Enduring Freedom continued in Afghanistan and with the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, efforts in Afghanistan increased.

Fort Benning continued in its capacity to produce infantry soldiers with training spanning from new recruits in basic training to Captains in the Maneuver Center Captain's Career Course. The Maneuver Center of Excellence was officially activated on October 22, 2009, and the U.S. Army Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, transferred to Fort Benning in 2011 as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision. The relocation, which occurred in stages from August, 2010, to June, 2011, transferred more than 7,500 soldiers and 500,000 pieces of equipment to new facilities at Harmony Church and supported the overarching concept that since infantry and armor fight together, they should live and train together.

In 2014, al Qaeda in Iraq invaded Syria and the Levant and began participating in the ongoing Syrian Civil War; strengthening and subsequently re-invading Iraq's western provinces under the name of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/ISIL) and eventually separating completely from al Qaeda. The Obama administration began to re-engage in Iraq with a series of airstrikes aimed at ISIS starting on August 10, 2014. On September 10, 2014, President Obama authorized the deployment of additional U.S. forces into Iraq, as well as authorizing direct military operations against ISIS within Syria, and on September 22, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Qatar started air attacks against ISIS in Syria. On October 15, 2014, the military intervention became known as Operation Inherent Resolve.

Currently, the U.S. is still engaged in Operation Inherent Resolve with troops present in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Fort Benning continues to train, educate and inspire soldiers to shape the effectiveness and resiliency of the U.S. Army. The 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, stationed at Fort Benning, regularly deploys in direct actions in the War on Terror. The present mission of The Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning is to provide trained and combat-ready soldiers and leaders; develop the doctrine and capabilities of the Maneuver Force and individual soldier; and provide a world-class quality of life for our soldiers, civilians, and Army families to ensure our Army's Maneuver Force remains the world's premier combat force ready to "Win in a Complex World."



# EXTRA

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

COLUMBUS

# Ledger-Enquirer

COLUMBUS GEORGIA

30 CENTS

# TERROR ATTACKS



Plumes of smoke pour from the World Trade Center buildings in New York City on Tuesday. Planes crashed into the upper floors of both World Trade Center towers minutes apart in a horrific series of explosions and fires that left gaping holes in the 110-story buildings. The Empire State building is seen in the foreground.

## Terrorist planes collapse Trade Center towers

Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — In a horrific sequence of destruction, terrorists crashed two planes into the World Trade Center, and the twin 110-story towers collapsed Tuesday morning. Explosions also spread fear across the nation.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "I don't know yet. Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers, but many were thought to have been trapped. About 50,000 people work at the Trade Center.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jan's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list. ... I would name at the top of the list Osama bin Laden."

President Bush ordered a full-scale investigation to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

Within the hour, an aircraft crashed on a helicopter landing pad near the Pentagon, and the White House, the Pentagon and the Capitol were evacuated.

In Pennsylvania, a large plane, believed to be a Boeing 747, crashed about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

Authorities went on alert from coast to coast, halting all air traffic, evacuating high-profile buildings and tightening security at strategic installations. The Situation Room at the White House was in full operation.

EVERYONE WAS

IN ATTACK, Page 3

PAGE 2

COLUMBUS LEDGER ENQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



An aircraft is seen as it is about to fly into the World Trade Center today in New York.

## 'I just saw the top of Trade Two come down.'

Associated Press

American watched in horror Tuesday as New York turned into a crumbling, smoking nightmare in the wake of an apparent terrorist attack.

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Ikon, shaking in shock outside City Hall a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Center behind him. "I just saw the top of Trade Two come down."

Nearly a crowd mobbed a man on a pay phone, screaming at him to get off the phone so that they could call relatives. Dust and dirt flew everywhere. Ash was 2 to 3 inches deep in places. People wandered dazed and terrified.

"I was in the World Financial Center looking out the window," said one woman. "I saw the first plane and then 15 minutes later saw the other plane just slam into the World Trade Center."

Another eyewitness, AP newsmen Danusia Pral, described a strange ruckus sound from the Trade Center buildings after the first building collapsed.

"Windows shattered. People were screaming and diving for cover. People walked around like ghosts, covered in dirt, weeping and wandering dazed."

"It sounded like a jet or rocket," said Eddie Gonzalez, a postal worker at a post office on

West Broadway. "I looked up and saw a huge explosion. I didn't see the impact. I just saw the explosion."

Morning commuters heading into Manhattan were stranded as the Lincoln Tunnel was shut down to incoming traffic. Many left their cars and stood on the ramp leading to the tunnel, staring in disbelief at the thick cloud of smoke pouring from the top of the two buildings.

On the streets of Manhattan, people stood in groups talking quietly or watching on television at ground-level network studios.

Joan Goldstein, communications project leader for The Associated Press, was on a bus from New Jersey at about 8:50 a.m. when she

was "smoke pouring out of the World Trade Center building. We said, 'Oh, my God! The World Trade Center's on fire!'"

Perhaps 10 minutes later, "All of a sudden, there was an orange plane, a huge explosion. It shot out the back of the building. Everybody on the bus was just screaming and gasping," said Goldstein, who wept and trembled as she spoke.

The plane was from the second plane, but she didn't see the plane because of the thick smoke.

"It was the most horrible thing I've ever seen in my life," said Goldstein.



Smoke pours from the World Trade Center towers after an apparent terrorist attack today in New York.

## World Trade Center facts

- Construction began: 1966
- Completed: 1970
- Dedicated: 1973
- Architects: Skidmore, Yasui & Associates and Emery Roth & Sons
- Owner: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Configuration: Complex of six buildings, including two 110-story towers, the 22-story Vista International Hotel and three lower buildings, on a 15-acre site which includes a 5-acre plaza
- Major tenants: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Sunamco Bank, U.S. Customs House, New York Mercantile Exchange and more than 1,000 other businesses and trade organizations including importers, freight handlers, steaming lines, commodities exchanges and international banks
- Height: 1,350 feet. ■ Elevators: 104 in each of the two towers. ■ Windows: 21,800 in each of the two towers.

- Space: Total office space of 9.5 million square feet — one acre of rentable space per floor in the towers.
- Workers: 50,000.
- Visitors: Up to 200,000 daily.
- Parking: Space for 2,000 cars.

## Height comparison



Sources: "New York City Guide," "Directory of Metropolitan Office Buildings," "New York City Guide," "New York City: A Manual of Urban Publications," "Companions," World Trade Center

On September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked when hijacked planes crashed into and brought down the World Trade Center towers in New York City. Above is the Extra publication of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. (Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Archives).





**The Air Assault Expeditionary Force (AAEF), December, 2005. Organized within the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, the AAEF operated with the Soldier Battle Laboratory (SBL) at Fort Benning over a four year campaign as the principle live prototype discovery in TRADOC, with the responsibility for experiment design, organization and execution.  
(Col. Clinton W. Cox, Fort Benning Garrison Commander).**





The AAEF, shown here in December, 2005, enabled the examination of the impact of technology on battle command by using live, virtual and constructive simulation. Through the AAEF, the integration and implementation of emerging technology, such as robotics and ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) assets, was made possible for the Army. (Col. Clinton W. Cox, Fort Benning Garrison Commander).







**The Maneuver Center of Excellence was officially activated at a ceremony at Ridgway Hall (Building 35) on October 22, 2009. (John Adams, MCoE PAO).**





Lt. Col. Jon Ring, 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment Commander, was among the first paratroopers jumping with the Army's new T-11 parachute at 11 a.m. March 15, 2010. The T-11 parachute became the official parachute of the U.S. Army Airborne School following this jump. Students in Airborne School conducted the first official jump with the T-11 parachute as part of their three-week training course. The students conducted all training in the first two weeks with the T-11 to fully prepare them for their jumps. The T-11 parachute replaced the T-10 parachute, which was designed in the 1950s. The average paratrooper at that time, wearing all of their combat gear, weighed less than 300 pounds. In today's battlefield, the weight of a paratrooper wearing the average combat load has increased to more than 400 pounds. The new parachute has been modified according to the change in today's military fighting force.



The T-11 reduces a paratrooper's landing impact by 49 percent, and this reduction is expected to significantly reduce jump-related injuries. The total weight of the parachute is 52 pounds and was designed to improve fit and comfort. (Brenda Donnell, MCoE PAO)



Basic training soldiers with E Co, 2-58 Infantry were introduced to the gas chamber on as part of Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) training, July 30, 2010. (MCoE PAO).





**A Hands-On Training Exercise was hosted at Red Cloud Range in May of 2011. These exercises are open to the public and showcase the capabilities of Fort Benning's trained warfighters. The purpose is to familiarize the public with Fort Benning's mission and capabilities. Featured is an infantry squad, M2/M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1126 Stryker Combat Vehicles. (MCoE PAO).**





**75th Ranger Regiment conducting the Ranger Rendezvous demonstration, July 25, 2011. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**





**A Hands-On Training Exercise at Fort Benning's Red Cloud Range February 2, 2012 brought out spectators from Columbus to watch a live-fire exercise, combatives demonstration and a squad display. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**





ABOLC students from K Troop, 2/16 Cavalry practice maneuver drills with the M1 Abrams, July 10, 2012. (Ashley Cross, MCoE PAO).



2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment (IBOLC) group photo, October 10, 2012. (MCoE PAO).





FORT BENNING, GA

U.S. ARMY RANGER SCHOOL GRADUATION  
CLASS 08-12

25 JUN - 24 AUG 2012

U.S. Army Ranger School Graduation Class 08-12, August 24, 2012.



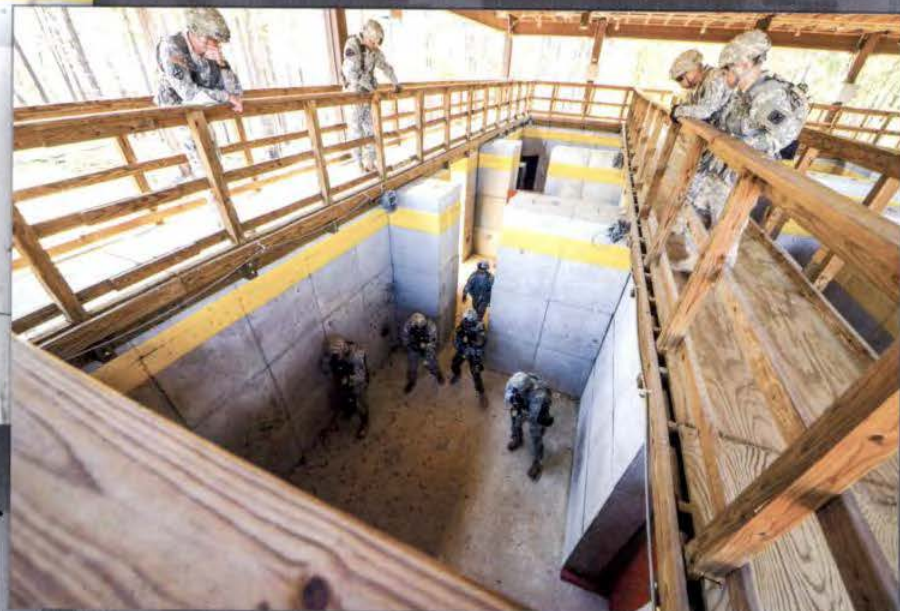
Max Boot, Author, *Invisible Armies*, and Maj. Gen. McMaster, Commanding General, speak to senior leaders and Soldiers during the Combat Lecture Series, March 15, 2013 at Derby Auditorium, Maneuver Center of Excellence (Building 4). (Ashley Cross, MCoE PAO).





**Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course students made history as the first IBOLC class to conduct live-fire training with a high explosive Anti-Tank projectile, May 07, 2013. The training event was part of heavy weapons familiarization training for IBOLC's C Company, 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment at Fort Benning. The purpose of this training is to develop competent Infantry Platoon Leaders who understand the capabilities of these weapon systems. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**





**IBOLC students train in room-clearing exercises with blank-fire iterations and live-fire iterations, March 25, 2014, at Buchanan Range. This type of training had not been conducted for several years at Fort Benning. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**



**Soldiers from C Co, 2-11 Infantry (IBOLC) conduct training for urban operations in the 1958 Martin Army Community Hospital, utilizing "Simmunitions," (simulated ammunition) and RHTTS (Robotic Human Type Target System) targets together, June 15, 2015. This is the first time that all three of these training enablers have been used together, thus giving students the more realistic training. Students are able to maneuver a multi-level, multi-room, complex urban environment and engage targets that move in unpredictable ways and react to contact, and fire with Simmunitions to give instant target feedback. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**





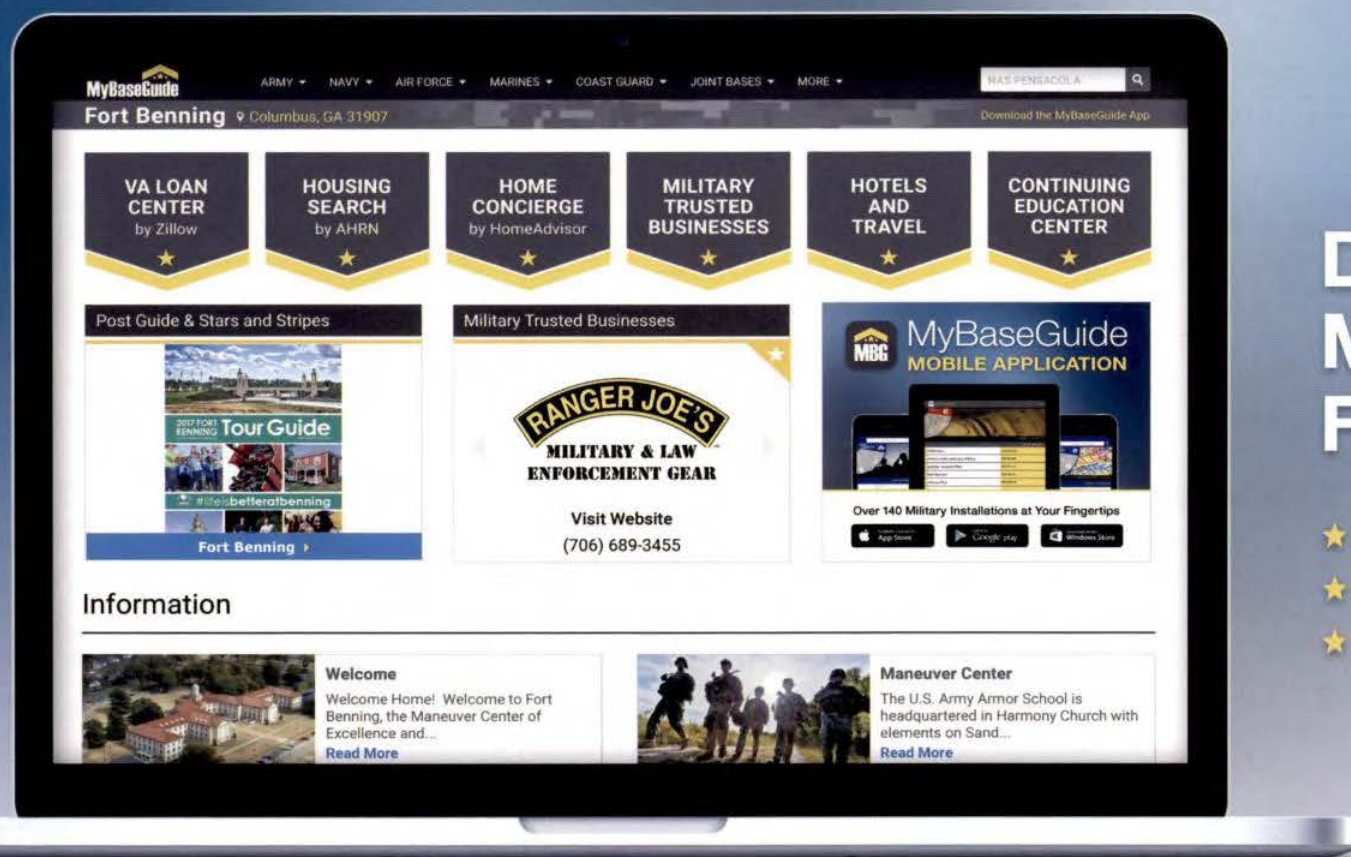
**Aerial photos of Fort Benning showing the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Abrams and Bradley Vehicle Maintenance and Instruction Facilities, Armor Basic Training Barracks on Harmony Church and Smith Fitness Center during an overflight on August 15, 2014. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**



**Aerial photos showing the newly Lawson Army Airfield during an overflight of Fort Benning, September 22, 2016. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**



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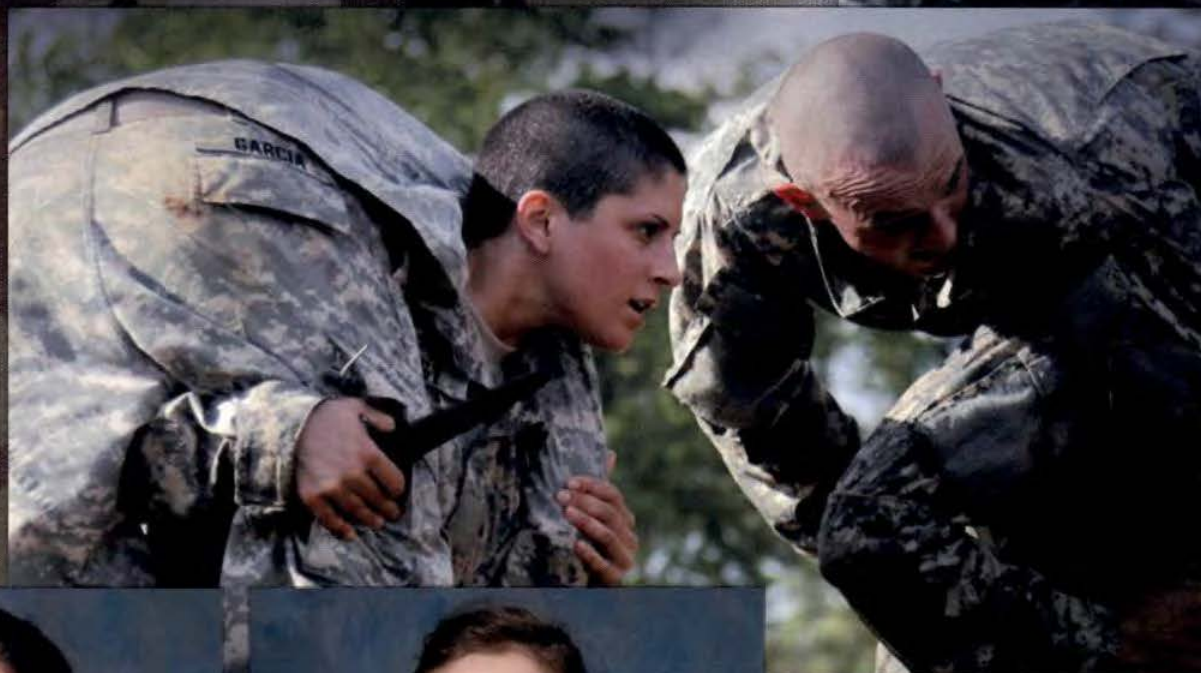
Lieutenants of the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) take part in Call For Fire training as they execute the individual soldier skill of hanging and employing mortars and executing a gun line with an 81-mm mortar tube and 10 rounds of explosives on July 22, 2015 at Malone 25 Range as part of their joint fire week. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).





Paratroopers from across the Army participated in a historic jump commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Airborne Test Platoon, August 15, 2015 at Lawson Army Airfield. Two C-17s, one C-130, one C-47 and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters provided the air support. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).





On August 21, 2015, Capt. Kristen Griest (left cadet portrait) and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver (right) made history by becoming the first female soldiers to graduate from the U.S. Army Ranger School. 1st Lt. Haver is an Apache helicopter pilot and 2012 graduate of the United States Military Academy. Capt. Griest is a fellow USMA graduate with the class of 2011 and was a military police officer upon her graduation from Ranger School and became the first female infantry officer on April 28, 2016 when she graduated from the Maneuver Captain's Career Course.





The Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (ABOLC) conducts a tank night live fire January 12, 2016 at Fort Benning. On the right, a M1 Abrams tank in motion is captured as it moves to the firing range. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).



Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, visits Fort Benning and the Marine Corps Detachment stationed at Fort Benning, February 04, 2016. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).





Task Force 1-28 conducts "Lion Focus" Live Fire Training Exercise February 11, 2016 at the Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex. The soldiers of Task Force 1-28 execute leadership training and certification, perform battle drills, learn self-sustainment techniques, and integrate indirect and direct fire systems to meet their assigned mission objectives. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).





(Markeith Horace, MCoE PAO)

(Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO)

2016 David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition, the 33rd anniversary of the competition, was won by Team #47, Capt. Robert Killian and Staff Sgt. Erich Friedlein of the Army National Guard. The BRC was started in 1982 after Dick Leandri found a way to honor his personal friend, Lieutenant General David E. Grange, Jr. It has evolved over the past thirty years from one that was originally created to salute the best two-man "buddy" team in the Ranger Department at Fort Benning, GA to determine the best two-man team from the entire United States Armed Forces. (Photos by CPT Ken Woods, MCoE PAO).





The top 5 tank crews participate in the final shoot off of the last day of the 2016 Sullivan Cup Competition on May 6, 2016 on Fort Benning. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer)



(Markeith Horace, MCoE PAO Photographer)



The MCoE hosted biennial competition featured 16 crews from throughout the Army, Marines and Canadian Forces, who competed over four days on gunnery, maintenance tasks, mounted land navigation and other similar events all focused on the tank crew's combat mission. The winners were from C Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor Regiment of the North Carolina Army National Guard, commanded by 1st Lt. John Dupre.

The 316th Cavalry Brigade hosts the 2016 Sullivan Cup Awards Ceremony and St. George Ball May 6, 2016 at the Columbus Iron Works and Trade Convention Center. Lt. Gen. Michael S. Tucker was the guest speaker. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer)





The 1-507th PIR conducts a C-130 Ramp Jump and students in Airborne School jump from a C-17 to commemorate the 76th National Airborne Day, August 16, 2016. (Photos by Capt. Ken Woods).





Maj. Gen. Eric J. Wesley leads Fort Benning soldiers assigned to the Maneuver Center of Excellence and tenant units on a formation run around Main Post in honor of those lost in the 9/11 tragedy, September 9, 2016. (Capt. Ken Woods).



The National Infantry Museum is voted the best free museum in America, September 9, 2016. Brig. Gen. Jones, Infantry School Commandant, Lt. Gen. (Ret) Cavezza and Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson spoke and cut the ceremonial cake. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).





(Markeith Horace, MCoE PAO Photographer)



More than 40 Sniper Teams from across the globe traveled to Fort Benning to compete in the Annual International Sniper Competition, October 17-21, 2016. Sgt. Saykham Keophalychanh and Sgt. Nicholas Mitchell, from Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, Michigan National Guard, won the competition. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).



TODAY AT THE  
MANEUVER CENTER  
OF EXCELLENCE



ABOLC - IBOLC  
Combined Competitive  
Maneuver Exercise



Students from the Armor and Infantry Basic Officer Leader Courses (BOLC) train and develop realistic tactical skills during a combined competitive maneuver exercise at Fort Benning's Good Hope Training Area, November 16, 2016. Students are tasked with the objective of defending or seizing an installation. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).





**Task Force 1-28 "Black Lion" Field Training Exercise  
February 7, 2017, at Field BB-5 on Kelly Hill. The Soldiers of  
Task Force 1-28 execute cold load and hot load training,  
conduct battle drills, learn techniques and integrate indirect  
and direct fire systems to meet their assigned mission  
objectives. (Markeith Horace, MCoE PAO Photographer).**





**Students from the Armor Basic Officer leaders Course (ABOLC) Practice tank gunnery at the Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex, February 09, 2017, on Harmony Church. 2nd Squadron, 16th Cavalry Regiment trains and inspires Armor Lieutenants in order to provide the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps and allied nations with confident, competent, and agile Armor Officers capable of conducting Unified Land Operations as part of a combined arms team. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**





Students in the Stryker Master Gunner Course, taught by the 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, train on various platforms of the Stryker Combat Vehicle, March 22, 2017 at Carmouche Range. The eight-wheeled Stryker combat vehicle is the U.S. Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team primary combat and combat support platform. Significantly lighter and more transportable than existing tanks and armored vehicles, the Stryker fulfills an immediate requirement to provide Commanders with a strategically deployable and operationally deployable brigade capable of rapid movement anywhere on the globe in a combat ready configuration. The Stryker Master Gunner Course is taught in 39 days. The curriculum focuses on Weapon System Technology and Trains students to perform diagnostic maintenance procedures used to identify, troubleshoot, and repair complex malfunctions at the unit level that occur in the weapon and fire control systems of Stryker Variants: M1126 ICV, M1127 RV, M1128 MGS and M1134 ATGM vehicles and to fully engage the weapons and fire control systems capabilities in preparation for precision direct fire engagements. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).





The Maneuver Center hosted a Scouts-in-Action live-fire demonstration to kick off the 2017 Gainey Cup on May 1, 2017, at Red Cloud Range. The demonstration highlights the vehicle platforms and lethal capabilities that scout squads bring to the battlefield. (Markeith Horace, MCoE PAO Photographer).



The 2017 Gainey Cup, in honor of retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. William J. (Joe) Gainey, Best Scout Squad Competition from May 1-4, 2017, with scout squads from across the Army and partner nations competing in obstacle courses, squad live-fires and stress shoots, at various locations across post. The biennial competition is designed to identify the most competent and versatile scout squad in the U.S. Army and partnering allied Armies. The competitors are challenged with extremely physically and mentally challenging event centered on essential reconnaissance and security tactics, techniques and procedures. The winning team from 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Fort Bliss, was comprised of Staff Sgt. Eric Atkinson, Sgt. Zachary Diglio, Sgt. Joseph Main, Pfc. Timothy Wood, Pfc. Ryan French and Pvt. Jeremy Blevins. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).



# *Fort Benning* *Then* & *Now*

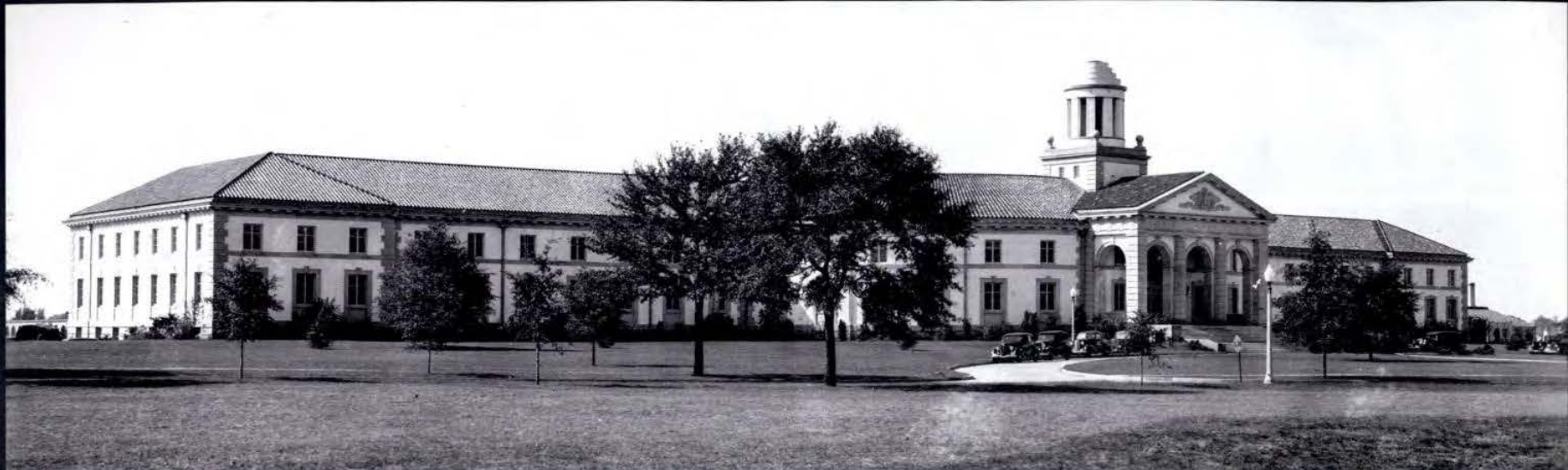


Infantry Hall, c. 1966.



McGinnis-Wickam Hall, June 27, 2014. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).



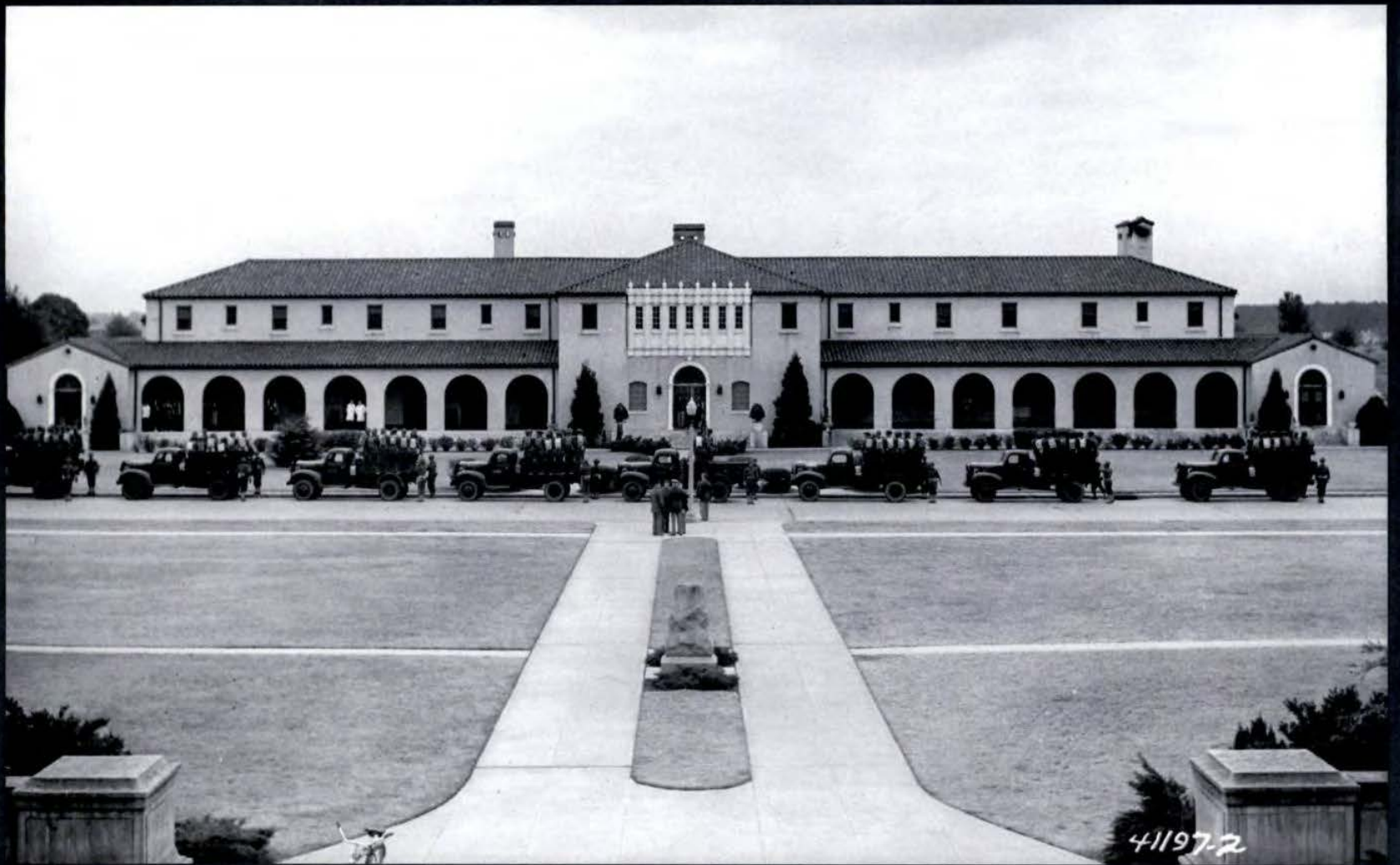


**The Infantry School (Building 35), c. late 1930s.**



**Ridgway Hall (Building 35), September 9, 2017. (Capt. Ken Woods).**





The Officers Club , 1941.



The Officers Club, September 9, 2017. (Capt. Ken Woods).





Lawson Field Hangars, February, 1941.



Lawson Field Hangars, September 09, 2017. (Capt. Ken Woods).





**Doughboy  
Stadium, Gowdy  
Field and the  
Enlisted Men's  
Service Club , c.  
1929.**



**Doughboy Stadium, Gowdy Field and the Post Chapel, July 20, 2015. (Patrick Albright, MCoE PAO Photographer).**





# Fort Benning Commanding Generals



MG Eric J. Wesley  
18 Mar 2016 - 19 Mar 2018



MG Austin S. Miller  
11 Jul 2014 - 18 Mar 2016



MG H.R. McMaster  
13 Jun 2012 - 11 Jul 2014



MG Robert B. Brown  
10 Nov 2010 - 13 Jun 2012



MG Michael Ferriter  
24 Jun 2009 - 10 Nov 2010



MG Michael D. Barbero  
18 Nov 2008 - 24 Jun 2009



MG Walter Wojdakowski  
12 Aug 2005 - 18 Nov 2008



MG Benjamin C. Freakley  
14 Jul 2003 - 12 Aug 2005



MG Paul D. Eaton  
29 Oct 2001 - 9 Jun 2003



MG John M. Le Moyne  
14 Sep 1999 - 28 Oct 2001



MG Carl F. Ernst  
10 Jul 1996 - 13 Sep 1999



MG John W. Hendrik  
15 Sep 1994 - 9 Jul 1996



MG Jerry A. White  
4 Oct 1991 - 14 Sep 1994



MG Carmen J. Cavezza  
19 Jun 1990 - 03 Oct 1991



MG Michael F. Spigelmire  
21 Sep 1988 - 18 Jun 1990





MG Kenneth C. Leuer  
19 Jun 1987 - 20 Sep 1988



MG Edwin H. Burba Jr.  
10 Jan 1986 - 18 Jun 1987



MG John W. Foss  
29 Mar 1984 - 10 Jan 1986



MG James J. Lindsay  
13 Jul 1983 - 29 Mar 1984



MG R.L. "Sam" Wetzell  
3 Aug 1981 - 13 Jul 1983



MG David E. Grange Jr.  
15 Jun 1979 - 2 Aug 1981



MG William J. Livsey  
26 Jul 1977 - Apr 1979



MG Willard Latham  
28 Aug 1975 - 25 Jul 1977



MG Thomas M. Tarpley  
16 Feb 1973 - 26 Aug 1975



MG Orwin C. Talbott  
Sep 1969 - 15 Feb 1973



MG George I. Forsythe  
Jun 1969 - Aug 1969



MG John M. Wright Jr.  
31 Jul 1967 - May 1969



MG Robert H. York  
16 Jul 1965 - 31 Jul 1967



MG John Heintges  
1 Aug 1964 - Jul 1965



MG Charles W. G. Rich  
25 Feb 1963 - 01 Aug 1964



MG Ben Harrell  
1 Aug 1961 - 16 Feb 1963



MG Hugh P. Harris  
19 Apr 1960 - 31 Jul 1961



MG Paul L. Freeman Jr.  
1 May 1958 - 8 Apr 1960



MG Herbert B. Powell  
20 Aug 1956 - 8 Apr 1958



MG George E. Lynch  
13 May 1956 - 20 Aug 1956





MG Joseph H. Harper  
14 Jun 1954 - 12 May 1956



MG Guy S. Meloy Jr.  
15 Jan 1953 - 13 Jun 1954



MG Robert N. Young  
9 Jun 1952 - 15 Jan 1953



MG John H. Church  
3 Mar 1951 - 1 May 1952



MG Withers A. Burress  
2 Jul 1948 - 21 Jan 1951



MG John W. O'Daniel  
23 Jul 1945 - 1 Jul 1948



MG Fred L. Walker  
24 Jul 1944 - 11 Jul 1945



MG Charles H. Bonesteel Jr.  
30 Sep 1943 - 27 Jun 1944



MG Leven C. Allen  
14 Feb 1942 - 18 Sep 1943



BG Omar N. Bradley  
4 Mar 1941 - 10 Feb 1942



BG Courtney H. Hodges  
7 Oct 1940 - 3 Mar 1941



BG Asa L. Singleton  
1 Oct 1936 - 31 Aug 1940



BG George H. Estes Jr.  
25 Sep 1933 - 30 Sep 1936



MG Campbell King  
4 May 1929 - 31 May 1933



BG Edgar T. Collins  
9 Mar 1926 - 1 May 1929



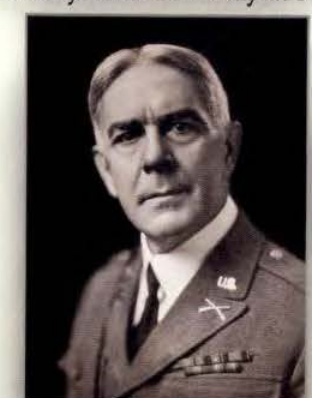
BG Briant H. Wells  
9 Nov 1923 - 8 Mar 1926



MG Walter H. Gordon  
11 Sep 1920 - 8 Nov 1923



MG Charles S. Farnsworth  
23 Apr 1919 - 31 Jul 1920



Col. Henry E. Eames  
5 Oct 1918 - 22 Apr 1919



