

**CAMP CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY: A HISTORY OF
CONSTRUCTION AND OCCUPATION DURING
WORLD WAR II**

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CAMP CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY:
A HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION AND
OCCUPATION DURING WORLD WAR II

An Abstract
Presented to
the Graduate Council of
Austin Peay State University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
Clyde Larry Jonas
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ABSTRACT

World War II created the need for many facilities that were previously unnecessary. One example was Army training camps. In these camps, civilians from Main Street U. S. A. were taught the arts and crafts of modern warfare. These men would ultimately participate in victory over the Axis Powers.

One such training camp built in 1942, occupying nearly 102,000 acres in lower Kentucky and upper Tennessee, was Camp Campbell, Kentucky. Camp Campbell represented work, sacrifice, time and effort of the American people and especially those of Tennessee and Kentucky. Without Camp Campbell and other similar camps, the war could not have been won.

The concept of Camp Campbell began to take shape in 1941. After a land survey and appraisal, the camp was confirmed in January, 1942. During the following months, the many farmers in the camp site area were moved out and a camp consisting of hundreds of barracks, mess halls and other structures was constructed. Following this intensive period of construction, the camp received its first training units in September, 1942.

Throughout the remaining war years, Camp Campbell continued to serve as a training camp turning civilians into soldiers. These individuals who trained at the camp called it home even if it was for a short period before departing for the battlefields of Europe. During these war years, the

camp also served as a prisoner of war camp for numerous German prisoners.

This study is an attempt to depict the events that brought Camp Campbell to the rich farmlands of Tennessee and Kentucky, and the work, effort and sacrifice that made the camp come to life. It is also an attempt to tell the story of the element that made Camp Campbell what it was, the people--those who built the camp, those who called it home and those who gave up their farms so that the United States would have one of the facilities needed because of World War II.

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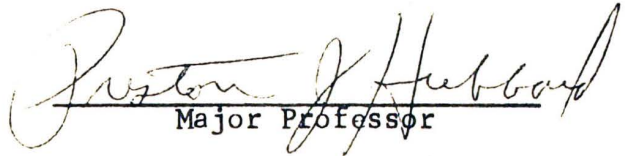
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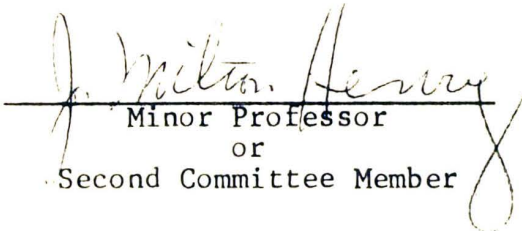
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To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a Thesis written by Clyde Larry Jonas entitled "Camp Campbell, Kentucky: A History of Construction and Occupation During World War II." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, with a major in History.

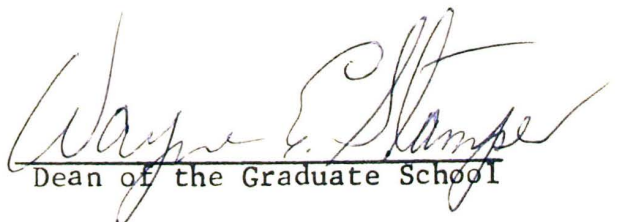

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The American period of peacetime military preparations which followed Dunkirk, May, 1940, and the Fall of France, June, 1940, was ended not by American design but by enemy action. Consequently, the War caught the United States somewhat unprepared and with a small military establishment. To remedy this situation, many military training centers and camps sprang up throughout the Nation. These centers trained and prepared men for the war that raged in Europe and the Pacific. In the end, when all was said and done, the individual soldiers, sailors, and airmen trained at these out of the way places would win ultimate victory over the Axis Powers.

These training centers and camps occupied thousands of acres of land and included hundreds of huts, two-story barracks, or tents along with buildings for administrative offices, recreation and medical care. Many also had extensive areas for drill and maneuver. Such camps had complete public utilities, such as water, sewage, and electrical facilities, and were, in fact, self-contained communities.

The site for such centers and camps were usually selected with the aim of healthful living conditions and a climate suitable for outdoor training the year around. Other factors such as a suitable terrain and local conditions such as labor, construction materials, and other elements

pertinent to such camps were kept in mind.

One such camp, situated in the midst of the richest farmland in lower Kentucky and upper Tennessee, was Camp Campbell, Kentucky. Located five miles north of Clarksville, Tennessee, and twelve miles south of Hopkinsville, Kentucky,¹ the camp served in the important task of training armored and infantry units for the bloody war in Europe.

Built in 1942, Camp Campbell occupied nearly 102,000 acres in an area of four different counties. Approximately two-thirds of the camp is located in Tennessee with the remaining one-third in Kentucky. The camp itself was divided into two general areas. The cantonment or actual camp site where the soldiers lived formed one area. Today as then this area is located along Highway 41A covering approximately 4,000 acres. The other general area was the maneuver section where the actual training took place. The maneuver area takes in the thousands of acres of open rolling terrain.

Camp Campbell did not just happen. The camp represents the work and effort of a Nation engaged in a bloody struggle and stands as a special tribute to the people of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Before the camp was built, the many farmers of the area were moved and their land bought by the government. Some were happy with what they received for their land and many were not. All shared the same sadness of moving from

¹Russel B. Reynolds, "Army Posts and Stations," The Officer's Guide (1968-1969 ed.; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books, 1968), p. 142.

land that had been their home.

As area farmers moved out, thousands of workers moved in to construct the actual buildings that would make up the camp. Beginning work in January, 1942, the construction job was completed by late summer. The speed with which the camp was constructed was amazing.

By mid-summer 1942, Camp Campbell received its first personnel, a cadre force of twenty men. This was only the beginning. Before the War was ended, thousands of American fighting men had passed through Camp Campbell on their way to fight on the battlefields of the world. These men, that at one time or another called Camp Campbell home, were the elements that made the camp come to life.

Camp Campbell did not come to an end with the War as originally planned. The word "camp" infers only a temporary facility. Today Fort Campbell, which gained the status of a permanent installation² or fort, remains an important element in our Nation's defense system.

"Camp Campbell, Kentucky: A History of Construction and Occupation During World War II," will follow Camp Campbell from the early days when the camp was only an idea to the end of World War II. This history will cover the land survey, appraisals, land acquisition, naming, and actual construction work at the camp. Lastly, the men who called Camp Campbell home will be discussed.

²Department of the Army, General Order, No. 13
(Washington: Department of the Army, April 20, 1950),
Section III.

Camp Campbell served a necessary role and forms an integral part of our Nation's history during World War II. For these reasons, Camp Campbell, Kentucky, deserves remembering.

Chapter 2

AN ARMY CAMP FOR THE CLARKSVILLE-HOPKINSVILLE AREA

"The War Department has decided to build the Clarksville-Hopkinsville cantonment and construction will begin as quickly as possible."³ These headlines to many would appear to be the beginning of the Camp Campbell, Kentucky, project. In reality, the announcement of the Clarksville-Hopkinsville camp was just a major milestone in an effort that had begun many months before. The placement of Camp Campbell did not just happen. The coming of the camp to the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area was the fulfillment of much work and effort. The people of Tennessee and Kentucky, especially those of Clarksville and Hopkinsville, and the need of our Nation for trained soldiers to fight a brutal war combined to bring about the great project known as Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

No one is exactly sure of the date on which the War Department began to take an interest in the area between Clarksville and Hopkinsville. It could have been as early as 1935 or as late as the spring of 1941. Mr. Frank Goodlett, Sr., a local real estate agent and employee of the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle in the 1930's, stated that the War Department had contacted the newspaper as early as 1935 and asked if Clarksville would accept an Army camp near their city. The War Department further stipulated this may

³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 7, 1942, p. 1, cols. 1-8.

be a Negro camp. An affirmative response was given the War Department. Any type camp would be welcome.⁴ As far as can be ascertained, nothing came of this inquiry at this time.

World War II began in Europe in September, 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland. In the ensuing months, the United States edged nearer the brink of involvement, especially after the Fall of France in 1940. Thus, by 1941, the War Department's preparations included an intensive search throughout the country for sites on which to build training camps. Many areas wanted and bade for one of these camps. Therefore, it was not unusual that by 1941 numerous business and civil organizations in northwestern Tennessee and southwestern Kentucky were active in their efforts to promote the building of an Army training camp in the vicinity of Clarksville, Tennessee, and Hopkinsville, Kentucky.⁵ It was clear that if the United States Army chose to locate a training camp in this region, it certainly would be welcomed by many of the local citizenry.

The first suggestion offered was one initiated by the citizens of Hopkinsville, Kentucky. They suggested and offered the 18,000 acre Federal Game Refuge located twenty miles northwest of the city as the future site for the camp.⁶

⁴ Statement by Frank Goodlett, Sr., personal interview, October 4, 1973.

⁵ Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), June 28, 1941, p. 1, col. 4.

⁶ Ibid.

This area today is known as the Pennyrile State Park. By employing this site, Hopkinsville could gain financially and possibly gain other benefits. One such potential benefit that formed a major idea in this plan was to gain support in obtaining a hard surface for the gravel road between Hopkinsville and the Outwood Hospital located between the proposed site and the city.⁷ Hopkinsville truly wanted an Army camp and had put much effort in this endeavor. As stated by John L. Thurmond, Secretary of the Hopkinsville Chamber of Commerce, "The Chamber of Commerce has been working on the training camp project for more than a year."⁸

Clarksville during this period was also working in an effort to gain the camp for its area.⁹ This effort to gain a camp was conducted primarily through local government officials; and from all indications, it was not as intensive a drive as that conducted by Hopkinsville. The citizens of Clarksville realized a camp could greatly benefit their city. An Army camp's payroll alone would amount to millions of dollars.

Besides the various citizens of Clarksville and Hopkinsville, the Congressmen from the area worked in bringing a camp to the area. Congressman J. Percy Priest represented Tennessee, while Congressman Noble Gregory of Mayfield,

⁷ Kentucky New Era, June 28, 1941.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Statement by Mrs. Oscar Beach, personal interview, October 2, 1973.

represented Kentucky.¹⁰

In response to these requests for an Army camp, War Department representatives arrived in Hopkinsville in early spring 1941. Their purpose was to investigate the possibility of using the wildlife refuge and verifying the local sentiment as to the camp. These representatives found the wildlife refuge unsuitable; but on the positive side, they found local sentiment very much in favor of a camp. It was during this visit that the War Department became interested in the La Fayette area located between Clarksville and Hopkinsville.¹¹

The Army became interested in the La Fayette area because the terrain that encompassed this area fulfilled the requirements desired. The future camp was to be an armored training center. For this reason, the Army desired a gently rolling terrain such as that found in the border region. The need for such terrain was the reason the citizens of Hopkinsville could not sell the Army on using the wildlife refuge. Armored training in the refuge would be difficult due to the many ravines and other areas impassable by tracked units.

After reviewing the area, the representatives of the War Department returned to Washington with the border region in mind; however, there were other areas to be

¹⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 16, 1941, p. 1, col. 7.

¹¹Kentucky New Era, June 28, 1941.

considered. In fact, there were some 250 areas throughout the country being considered as possible camp sites.¹²

The War Department finally decided at least one of the future Army camps would be located in the states of Tennessee and Kentucky. Following this decision, the various proposed sites within the two states were considered. It was during this time that the War Department narrowed the choice down to two sites on which to locate the camp. The first was the La Fayette area located between Clarksville and Hopkinsville. Another potentially suitable area was in the vicinity of Paris, Tennessee, south of Paducah, Kentucky.¹³

In the end, the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area was chosen as the future site for the armored training camp. This area was most feasible. The area of Paris, Tennessee, did not lose out completely. The War Department utilized this site for the Army Barrage Balloon Training Center. The camp, named Camp Tyson, was located there in 1941. Later units trained at Camp Tyson would train with the armored units at Camp Campbell.¹⁴

In choosing the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area, many factors were considered. As already mentioned, the terrain

¹²Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 16, 1941.

¹³John G. Moser, "A History of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, 1941-1951 (Fort Campbell: Public Information Office), p. 1. (Mimeographed.)

¹⁴Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 23, 1942, p. 1, col. 5.

was a key item in selecting the border region. Another factor also mentioned was the desire for such a camp expressed by both Clarksville and Hopkinsville. There were other factors.

The labor force available in the area played an important role. As stated in the Kentucky New Era on July 17, 1941:

It is believed here the action of the War Department in selecting the site from a group of about 250 is due partly to the amount of labor available in a section of the country which has practically lost its dark fired market.¹⁵

Labor was definitely a key factor when one considers there were as many as 10,000 workers employed on the Camp Campbell project at one time. Another factor that points out the labor consideration was the fact that the War Department checked on the labor situation before making its final decision. In July, 1941, the War Department sent Major A. J. Mitchell to Hopkinsville to survey the labor situation in the area surrounding the proposed camp site.¹⁶ Major Mitchell reported favorably on the labor situation.

The actual land survey of the projected camp site was another factor in the decision to place the camp in the border region. The survey was begun August 1, 1941, and completed before the end of the year. The survey comprises

¹⁵Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), June 17, 1941, p. 1, cols. 5 & 6.

¹⁶Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), July 28, 1941, p. 1, col. 4.

a major section of the Camp Campbell history and will be covered in much more detail in a later chapter. At this point, let it suffice to say the survey definitely affected the considerations in picking the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area.

Also in the mind of the War Department was the geographical relation of the projected site to Fort Knox, Kentucky. Since the projected camp was to be an armored training center, its nearness to its supply of instructors and needed equipment located at Fort Knox was important.¹⁷ Fort Knox, located less than 200 miles from the projected site, presented easy access to the Army Armored Branch responsible for setting up the camp. Besides Fort Knox, the new camp would also receive support from the Barrage Balloon Training Center located at Paris, Tennessee, which was also very near and accessible.

An adequate transportation system linking the proposed camp site to the rest of the country was another key factor in the placement of the future camp. Both highway and rail transportation would be of major importance, with air transportation playing a minor role.¹⁸ In 1941, the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area offered ready highway transportation. Highway 41A ran directly through the proposed site linking the future camp with other major highways.

¹⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 29, 1941, p. 1, cols. 6 & 7.

¹⁸Ibid.

Railroads offered the camp its other major form of transportation. Because of their ability to handle the movement of the heavy tanks, supplies and essential building materials, railheads in the area were essential. At the time the camp was proposed, a branch of the Tennessee Central Railroad ran to Outlaw Field, located in the vicinity of the future camp. An extension to this branch could easily be extended to connect the camp site to the outside world. Lastly, Outlaw Air Field could be used to connect the camp site with other facilities throughout the country.

The availability of construction materials was an additional consideration.¹⁹ The building of a camp such as Camp Campbell required a vast amount of construction materials. These materials were in ample supply in the areas surrounding the Clarksville-Hopkinsville region. Of special importance was lumber, since the majority of the structures of the camp were to be made of wood. The pine forests of Georgia and of the other Southern States stood ready to fulfill the demand. Thus, by locating the camp in the border region, the War Department saved itself and the country much time, effort, and cost.

Recreation and favorable climate were other factors to be considered.²⁰ In order to achieve maximum effectiveness, a camp had to be located so that year round training

¹⁹Kentucky New Era, June 17, 1941.

²⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 29, 1941.

could be done. The weather in the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area offered favorable year round weather conditions. Besides a favorable climate, the area also offered many recreational facilities. Within a radius of twenty miles from the future camp, were located Clarksville, Tennessee, and Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Both cities offered theaters, recreation halls, and other features to keep off-duty soldiers busy. For an even larger variety of activities, Nashville, Tennessee, was within easy distance. Also adding to recreation possibilities were the many rivers, lakes, and public woodlands in the area.

Lastly, the war itself was a consideration. Although it did not dictate a camp for the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area, it made such camps necessary. For if there were no wars, there would be no armies and no need for Army camps, such as Camp Campbell, Kentucky. Camp Campbell was a direct outgrowth of a need created by the war. The camp stands as a concrete example of a nation in dead earnest, a nation at war.²¹

When all factors were considered, the border region between Clarksville and Hopkinsville presented an ideal site for the future camp. As stated in the opening paragraph of this Chapter, the placement of Camp Campbell did not just happen. Much thought and deliberation were behind the decision.

²¹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, September 15, 1942, p. 2, cols. 1 & 2.

On July 16, 1941, the anxious speculation by the local populace as to the camp was ended by an official announcement. It was officially announced that an Army camp would be located in Christian and Trigg Counties, Kentucky, and the two Tennessee Counties of Stewart and Montgomery, with the bulk of the camp to be located in Tennessee.²² The people of the Clarksville and Hopkinsville area and those who had worked so long and hard to bring an Army camp to this area could rejoice at the fruits of their labors.

Camp Campbell was born. An Army camp for the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area was a reality.

²²Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 16, 1941.

Chapter 3

THE LAND SURVEY AND APPRAISALS

With the announcement on July 16, 1941, that an Army camp would be located in the Clarksville-Hopkinsville area, the next step was to determine an exact location. To determine the precise location, a survey of the area was necessary. Besides the land survey, the various properties within the proposed site would be appraised. By appraising early, much delay could be avoided later. Thus, the first two steps in the building of Camp Campbell were begun.

THE LAND SURVEY

The land survey was of major importance because it not only pinpointed the future camp, but final approval depended heavily on its outcome. The War Department would make no further decisions until the survey was complete.

Within two weeks of the July 16, 1941, announcement, the survey was begun. On July 29, 1941, Lieutenant Colonel B. F. Vandervoort of Zone 5 Construction Quartermaster's Office, Columbus, Ohio, authorized the architect-engineers of Wilson, Bell and Watkins, of Lexington, Kentucky, to make a complete survey of the proposed site.²³ It should be noted that the Construction Quartermaster's Office,

²³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 29, 1941, p. 1, col. 8.

Columbus, Ohio, handled all work on the Campbell project until actual construction of buildings began. At this time, the Nashville office took over.

The firm of Wilson, Bell and Watkins immediately sent their representatives to Clarksville to set about their assigned task. Inasmuch as Clarksville was closer than Hopkinsville to the proposed camp area, the survey team established its offices in Clarksville. They immediately met with city leaders to outline a plan of action. Since there was no office space available, the first three or four days were spent in a local hotel, the Hotel Montgomery. By August 4, 1941, the old Darnell and Bellamy tobacco warehouse on North Second Street was made available as survey headquarters.²⁴ The warehouse had been quickly remodeled for the firm and was leased for a period of five months.

The survey project was to take three and one-half months, being completed on or about November 15, 1941. To meet this deadline, the employment rolls of Wilson, Bell and Watkins grew daily. An effort to employ as much local labor as possible was put into effect. The survey force grew from eight people on July 30, 1941, to over 175 by August 21, 1941.²⁵

Using an eight man survey party, the actual land

²⁴ Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 31, 1941, p. 1, col. 5.

²⁵ Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 21, 1941, p. 1, col. 4.

survey started on July 30, 1941, an historic moment for the future Camp Campbell. The highlight was noted in the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle:

Professor D. V. Terrell, surveying engineer of Wilson, Bell and Watkins, architect-engineers on the project, began the work this morning, starting at the intersection of Kentucky State Highway 117 (the old railroad bed highway) where it intersects 41-W.²⁶

Working from the starting point above the Kentucky border, the survey party first surveyed the proposed Army camp or cantonment area. With this task completed, they continued work until they had gradually encompassed the entire project area. When this had been done, a total of approximately 102,000 acres were included in the future camp.²⁷ (See Figure 1, official map of Tennessee-Kentucky Army Camp, page 18.)

A narrow strip of land connecting the southeastern corner of the projected camp site to the Red River was also surveyed. The purpose of this survey was to establish a water easement that would supply the water needs of the camp.

It was at this time that many farmers became alarmed when they realized that it was very probable they would lose their land. The area encompassed by the proposed camp took in much of the richest farmland of the four counties in which the camp was to be located. So as to save this rich land,

²⁶Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 30, 1941, p. 1, col. 2.

²⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 30, 1941, p. 1, cols. 3-7.

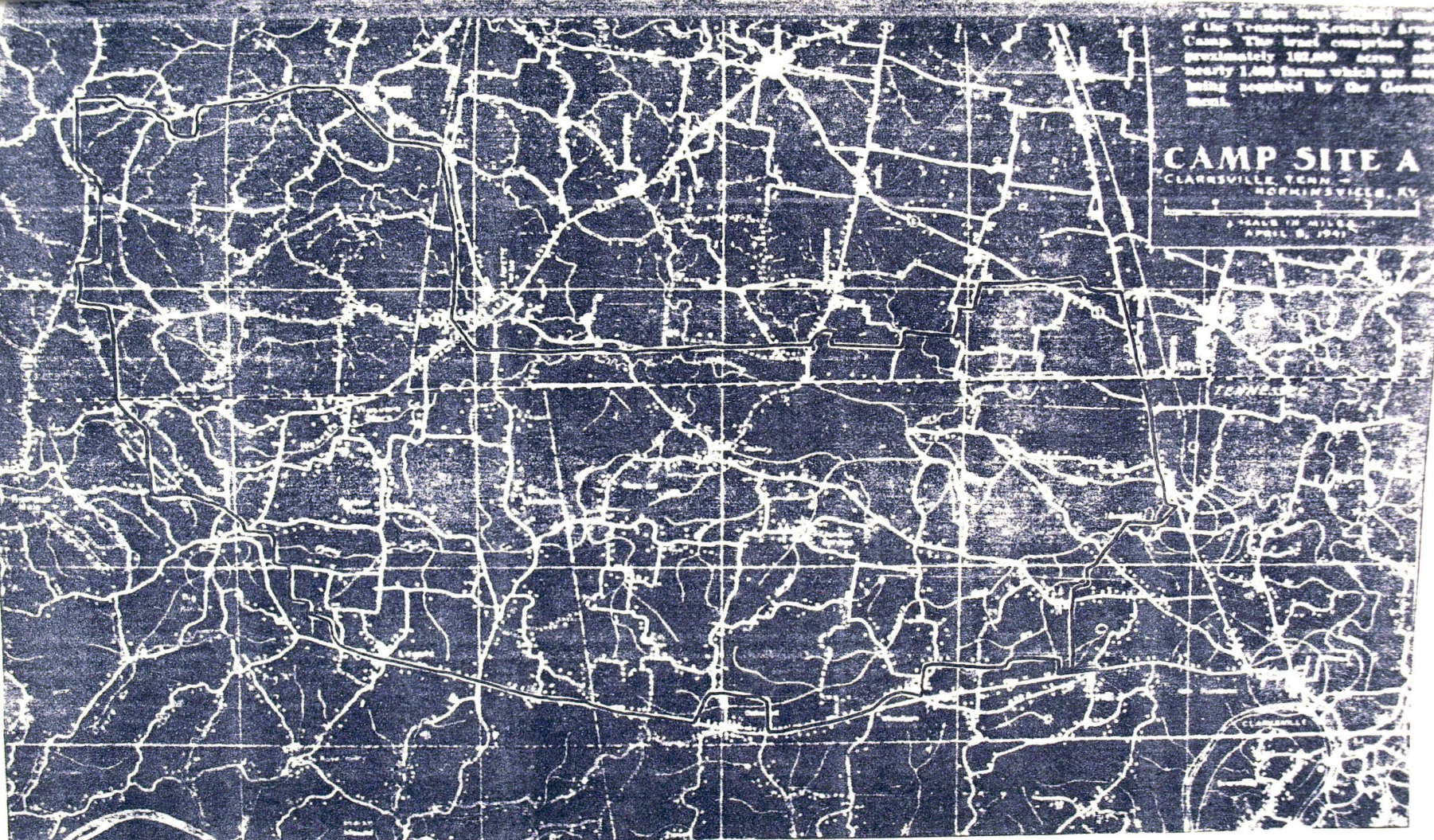


Figure 1 - Official Map of Tennessee-Kentucky Army Camp
The area enclosed by the red line represents the original camp site.
The broken black line represents the Tennessee-Kentucky state line.

many farmers, located in the proposed camp site area, requested that the camp site be moved to the east. Thus, the camp would be located in the northeastern section of Montgomery County where the farmland was not so rich. The War Department would not honor this request. Plans had already been made, and they could not be changed without loss of valuable time and effort.²⁸

The attitude of the various survey teams also affected many farmers in the area. As stated by Mrs. J. C. Gill, whose father owned a farm in the area:

The survey teams would come on your land and showed little regard for the local farmers. They also showed little respect for his property. If something got in their way, it was removed without exchange of words. These actions gave local farmers a bad image of the project.²⁹

In general, the farmers of the area were not happy to see the survey parties on their land. This fact was pointed out by both Frank Darnell and Mrs. J. C. Gill, who owned land in the proposed camp site area. It was a normal response. Who wants to take a chance on losing something that may have taken a lifetime to gain?

Area farmers still had one hope. Maybe final approval would not come. This hope was fired by both civilian and military officials working on the project. These officials kept pointing out the work being done was merely

²⁸Statements by Frank Darnell, personal interview, October 3, 1973.

²⁹Statements by Mrs. J. C. Gill, personal interview, October 3, 1973.

preliminary. The Army had not been authorized to purchase the area and to build the camp, since Congress had not yet authorized the Army expansion program.³⁰

As planned, the survey was completed by November 15, 1941. The results were immediately sent to the War Department. Here the survey would be analyzed and a final decision made as to the building of the camp.

THE LAND APPRAISALS

Along with the survey, a land appraisal was to be performed. The appraisals were begun at this early date so that this vital project could be completed by the time final camp approval was received.

The land appraisals would be handled by a land acquisition office under the leadership of Major John Retter. Assisting Major Retter was M. J. O'Byrne, zone real estate director, Columbus, Ohio.³¹ E. E. Shore, appraiser for the Federal Land Bank of Louisville, would head the group of eight to ten appraisers.³²

Actual land appraising began around the third week of August, 1941. As with the land survey, the projected cantonment site was appraised first. This was achieved by

³⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 29, 1941.

³¹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 2, 1941, p. 1, col. 1.

³²Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 7, 1941, p. 1, col. 5.

the first week of September. Next the land within the proposed maneuver area and the water easement area was appraised.

A few words on the means of appraising seem to be in order. Each farm was to be considered individually, and even field by field of each farm was to be considered. The appraisers were also to take into consideration buildings, fences, crops, and anything else that would have to be left behind. Any bargaining would be done, when and if final approval to purchase the land was received.

The individuals doing the appraising were to be local men familiar with the area. This way a fair price could be placed on each farm. Not all local farmers felt this was what was really done. Chapter 6 will go into more detail on this issue.

Besides the land appraisal, another separate appraisal covering the timber in the area was conducted. F. E. Waters, of the Federal Land Bank of Louisville, handled this appraisal.³³ Timber usable for building would be valued and added to the land appraisal.

Along with the land appraisal, a force of lawyers were commissioned to begin preliminary title work on the land within the proposed site. The lawyers working in the various counties were as follows: Ben B. Wright of Cadiz, Kentucky, assigned to the duty for Trigg County, Bill McElroy of Dover, Tennessee, attended to the work in Stewart County,

³³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, December 16, 1941, p. 1, col. 4.

Branch H. Henrod of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, worked on the Christian County property, and Collier Goodlett, Jr., and Dempsey Marks of Clarksville, Tennessee, handled the work in Montgomery County.³⁴ The duty of these lawyers was to go to the various county seats and check on the land titles. By checking these titles, the lawyers were to determine the proper owners and to begin work in settling debated titles. The object of this title work was the same as the land appraisals, to allow quick action later.

By January 5, 1942, the land appraisal was completed. The findings were forwarded to Washington.³⁵ There they could be analyzed and a cost estimate figured.

SUMMARY

For all practical purposes, the land survey completed by the middle of November was the most important in deciding the final fate of Camp Campbell. Although the land appraisal was important, the final decision did not hinge upon it.

Both the land survey and appraisal proved favorable. The area chosen for the future camp was what the War Department desired. This can be attested to by the Senior Army Officers that visited the proposed site during the month of

³⁴Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 7, 1941.

³⁵Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 5, 1942, p. 1, col. 8.

October, 1941.³⁶

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With the survey and appraisals complete, the next step depended upon the War Department.

³⁶Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, October 20, 1941, p. 1, col. 1.

Chapter 4

A SHORT PERIOD OF WAITING

Most interested parties had planned on quick action once the War Department received the land survey. To the disappointment of many, this was not the case. To some, it appeared the officials in Washington had forgotten all about the Clarksville-Hopkinsville project. Instead of final approval, the project entered a short period of waiting.

As previously stated, the land survey was sent to Washington by November 15, 1941. Two weeks and the month of November passed, but still no word. Individuals who had been hired for the survey work and promised more work when the camp was confirmed were laid off. Farmers in the proposed camp site felt a little relieved. With the end of November and no confirmation, there was still hope among some farmers that the camp would not come.

Then, as sure as day follows night, the camp was confirmed; not by any action of our War Department, but by the Armed Forces of Imperial Japan that attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Although the War Department did not immediately confirm the order to build, it was realized it was only a matter of a short wait. Still many local people wished faster action.

The first sign that approval might be on the way was related to the local community on December 13, 1941, in the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle. The paper stated that the order

to build the camp might come the following week since the plans were ready. This prediction had been made after newspaper officials had contacted General Jacob L. Devers, head of the Armored Forces of the United States Army, and Congressman Percy Priest of Tennessee. Both individuals felt that the camp approval was imminent.³⁷

Another week passed and still no word. Congressman Priest continued to tell local residents the final word was certainly to be made soon.³⁸ As with November, December passed without final approval.

By the first of the year (1942), there began to arise real doubt that final camp approval was near. The Clarksville newspaper bears this out with its headlines of January 1, 1941: "Army Camp Here Still Expected, But! When?"³⁹

Finally on January 6, 1941, things began to happen. Area newspapers stated reliable sources were saying that the project would start shortly. On this same day in Washington, the War Department finally gave the approval that would start the Campbell project.⁴⁰ The final word was immediately relayed to the local area by the various Congressmen. The

³⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, December 13, 1941, p. 1, col. 4.

³⁸Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, December 19, 1941, p. 1, cols. 1 & 2.

³⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 1, 1942, p. 1, cols. 3 & 4.

⁴⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 7, 1942.

news of the final approval was greeted with a mixture of feelings by the local populace. The mixed feeling is pointed out in the Kentucky New Era by personal interviews the newspaper conducted when it learned the camp was approved. Some of the citizens interviewed were Willis Martin, Joe Edwards, Norman Proctor and R. C. McKinney. These individuals felt the camp would be of great financial benefit; however, bad side effects, such as higher rents, housing shortages and disruptions of normal community functions might also follow.⁴¹ The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle stated that most citizens of Clarksville were taking a watchful waiting attitude.⁴² Since most citizens had not experienced an event of this nature before, they were generally unsure of its outcome. Consequently, for good or bad, the short period of waiting had ended.

Before moving to a new chapter, a few words as to the reason for the short period of waiting seem appropriate. One reason offered by the Nashville newspaper, The Tennessean, was the fact Tennessee, unlike the other Southeastern States, lacked representation in Washington on defense matters.⁴³ Although the lack of representation may have had some effect, it was really minor. The main reason for the

⁴¹Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), January 7, 1942, p. 1, col. 1.

⁴²Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 8, 1942, p. 1, cols. 7 & 8.

⁴³Nashville Tennessean, January 2, 1942, p. 1, col. 1, and p. 6, cols. 3-5.

short period of waiting was twofold: the War Department needed time to make a complete study of the land survey received November 15, 1941. And secondly, the War Department had to wait for Congress to appropriate funds for an expanded Army.

The end of the short period of waiting ushered in a time of immense activity. Camp Campbell was officially a reality.

THE LAST OF THE WHIG GOVERNORS

Beginning with the announcement that the Clarksville-Hopkinsville camp would be built, considerable thought was devoted to the selection of a suitable name. To the people of the area surrounding the proposed site, a proper name was an important issue. Many names were offered by the citizens of both Tennessee and Kentucky and especially by the citizens of Clarksville and Hopkinsville. Thus, the decision of the War Department in picking the proper name would not be an easy task. Any name chosen would inevitably please some and offend others. With this in mind, the search for the proper name was begun.

Camp Wilson seemed an appropriate name to many of the citizens of Clarksville. A resolution presented by Dr. J. H. Lacy to the Clarksville Ministerial Association is evidence of this fact. Dr. Lacy in his resolution, adopted by the Association, stated that since the Wilsons had lived in Clarksville for a number of years, it seemed appropriate to name the camp after their son, Woodrow Wilson.⁴⁴ Since Wilson had been President, the name had a national flavor and would belong to the whole country. Most important, Clarksville could not claim exclusive possession. Consequently, the people of Hopkinsville would not be offended.

⁴⁴Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 3, 1942, p. 1, col. 3.

Other citizens of Clarksville were not as concerned, their only desire being that the camp be named for a Southerner from the Civil War era.⁴⁵ To the citizens that held this belief, one of the chief names expressed was that of Jefferson Davis. Davis seemed a fitting name since he had served as Secretary of War under President Buchanan and also as the President of the Confederacy. His birthplace at Fairview, Kentucky, was near the proposed camp site; and the monument located at Fairview could easily be seen from a plane flying over the camp.⁴⁶

Another chief candidate was the name of Colonel Henry Burrnett, a Kentuckian, former member of Congress and a Confederate Army officer during the Civil War. Representative Noble Gregory was the chief backer in the Burrnett campaign. The main support for naming the camp after Burrnett stayed centered on the Kentucky side of the border.⁴⁷

Other names submitted for consideration were those of Douglas MacArthur, Austin Peay, George Rogers Clark, Moses Renfro, an early settler of the area, Montgomery, for whom the Tennessee county was named, Donelson, although this would be confusing because of the other Fort Donelson at Dover, Tennessee, and many others were suggested. As stated in the

⁴⁵ Statements by Mrs. Oscar Beach.

⁴⁶ Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 28, 1942, p. 2, cols. 1 & 2.

⁴⁷ Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), September 15, 1942, Sec. 3, p. 1, cols. 1-3, and p. 4, cols. 1 & 2.

Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, "Any nominations are in order and this newspaper will be glad to forward them on to the proper authorities in Washington."⁴⁸

William Bowen Campbell was another name suggested. This name was more popular with Tennesseans around Nashville than around the actual camp site which is proven by a statement that appeared in the Clarksville newspaper: "So far as we have been able to learn, no one in this community has ever heard of Campbell. The Kentucky area of the camp seems to be in about the same fix."⁴⁹

After being besieged with suggestions for names from all corners, the War Department finally announced its decision. On February 17, 1942, it was announced the camp would be named for William Bowen Campbell, a veteran of the Creek and Florida Wars and the Mexican War.⁵⁰ Although Campbell was a Tennessean, representative Gregory stated that he had no particular objections against General Campbell's name. However, a distinct North-South flavor was added to the competition since General Campbell was a Union man and Colonel Burrnett was a Confederate.⁵¹

At this time, it seems appropriate to cover a brief

⁴⁸Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 28, 1942.

⁴⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 21, 1942, p. 2, cols. 1 & 2.

⁵⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 17, 1942, p. 1, col. 3.

⁵¹Kentucky New Era, September 15, 1942.

history of the man for whom the camp was named, William Bowen Campbell.

William Bowen Campbell was born February 1, 1807, on Mansker's Creek, Sumner County, Tennessee, within a few miles of Nashville. His parents were David and Catherine (Bowen) Campbell. The Campbells were of Scottish ancestry, and William was proud of the fact that eight blood relatives had fought in the Battle of King's Mountain in this country's earliest struggle for freedom.

Young Campbell received his law education under the direction of his cousin, Governor David Campbell of Abingdon, Virginia. In 1829, Campbell was admitted to the Tennessee Bar and practiced law for several years in Carthage, Tennessee. In 1831, the State Legislature appointed him Attorney-General of his circuit. Then in 1835, two major events occurred in Campbell's life. The first of these events was his marriage to Frances Owen; the second was the winning of a seat in the State House of Representatives.

During this period, the Creek and Seminole Indians were becoming increasingly restless. Finally in 1836, this restlessness led to the waging of warfare against the defenseless frontiers of Georgia, Florida and Alabama. At this time, the Federal Government called on Tennessee to furnish a regiment of volunteers to help put down the Indian uprisings. Campbell immediately resigned his seat in the legislature and volunteered to serve. Because of his

leadership ability, Campbell was elected Captain of his local company and led these volunteers into the swamps of southern Georgia and northern Florida. He and his men served gallantly during the Battle of Wahoo Swamps and later in an engagement near the fork of the Withlacoochee.

Campbell was mustered out of the service in 1837 at the end of hostilities. He immediately became a member of the newly formed Whig party and became a candidate for Congress. Running against General William Trousdale, his regimental commander during the Indian Wars, he was elected to the Congress by a large majority. In 1839, he again defeated General Trousdale despite a tireless effort by the opposition party to defeat him. After six years in Congress, Campbell voluntarily retired to private life and again took up the practice of law.

His practice of law again came to a halt in 1846 when he volunteered for service in the Mexican War. Because of his outstanding service in the Indian Wars, he was elected Colonel of the Tennessee contingent and soon led this unit into the heart of Mexico. The First Tennessee Volunteers to which Campbell belonged first saw action in the taking of the city of Monterrey. During this battle, Campbell became well known when he led a charge against a heavily fortified position using the battle cry: "Boys, follow me!"

Colonel Campbell returned from Mexico in 1847 and was elected a Judge of the Circuit Court holding this place

on the judicial bench for several years. In 1851 he was nominated by popular acclaim to run against Governor William Trousdale, the most influential and powerful man in the Democratic party. It was during the height of this political campaign that his famous Monterrey battle cry, "Boys, follow me," became the battle cry of the Whig party, the spark that carried him and his party to the highest executive post in the state. He became the last Whig Governor of Tennessee.

At the end of his term, he voluntarily retired to private life, refusing to accept the nomination offered him.

During the presidential campaign of 1860, Campbell again became active in politics, supporting John Bell, the Union candidate. Lincoln won the election. Thus, the Civil War was assured, since the South would not follow this Northerner from Illinois.

Following Lincoln's election, Campbell used his influence and reputation to try and keep the various elements in Tennessee calm. No matter how hard he worked, he could not keep Tennessee within the Union. Campbell was torn between the Country he loved and the people to whom he owed so much.

Both sides sought his service. The South offered him command of all forces raised or to be raised in Tennessee; but he refused this commission. He felt he could best serve both the Country and the people by accepting a commis-

sion as a Brigadier General in the Federal Army. He hoped that he could use this office as a place of mediation between the Union and the people of Tennessee. On discovering that the situation was hopeless, he resigned his commission.

In 1865, he was elected to Congress where he supported the conservative policies of President Johnson. It was at this time that his health began to fail him. He died at his home near Lebanon, Tennessee, on August 19, 1867. Campbell was a man of courage and unquestioned integrity, who commanded the respect of those who knew him.⁵²

The War Department made the name Camp Campbell official on March 6, 1942, by the publication of General Order No. 12. (See Figure 2, General Order No. 12, page 35.)

The reason the name Campbell was chosen over all other names depends upon which authority one studies. The reason the War Department gives is simple. After being besieged with suggestions from both Clarksville and Hopkinsville, it was decided to name the camp for Campbell in order that neither city would feel they had been favored or discriminated against.⁵³ The War Department's reason was the one listed in most local newspapers.

Another reason given was the rumor that the name

⁵² Margaret Campbell Pilcher, Historical Sketches of the Campbell, Pilcher and Kindred Families (Nashville: Marshall and Bruce, Co., 1911), pp. 142-175.

⁵³ Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 23, 1942, p. 1, col. 1.

[G. O. 12]

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 12 }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, March 6, 1942.

Authority to appoint general courts martial. _____ Section I
Designation of military reservations. _____ II

I Authority to appoint general courts martial.—By direction of the President, the commanding officer of each of the following air forces, is empowered, pursuant to the eighth article of war, to appoint general courts martial:

5th Air Force,
6th Air Force,
7th Air Force,
8th Air Force,
9th Air Force,
10th Air Force,
11th Air Force.

[A. G. 230-1 (2-5-42).]

II Designation of military reservations.—The military reservations situated at the locations indicated are named as follows:

Name	Location
Camp Atterbury (named in honor of Brigadier General William Wallace Atterbury, United States Army).	Columbus, Ind.
Camp Butler (named in honor of Major General Henry W. Butler, United States Army).	Durham, N. C.
<u>Camp Campbell (named in honor of Brigadier General William Hosen Campbell, United States Volunteers).</u>	<u>Chicksville, Tenn.</u>
Camp Carson (named in honor of Brigadier General Christopher ("Kit") Carson, United States Volunteers).	Colorado Springs, Colo.
Camp Gruber (named in honor of Brigadier General Edmund L. Gruber, United States Army).	Cookson Hills, Okla.
Camp Hood (named in honor of General John Bell Hood, Confederate States Army).	Killeen, Tex.
Camp Pickett (named in honor of General George Edward Pickett, United States Army).	Blackstone, Va.
Camp Rucker (named in honor of General Edmund W. Rucker, United States Army).	Ozark, Ala.
Camp Swift (named in honor of Major General Elia Swift, United States Army).	Bedrop, Tex.
Camp White (named in honor of Major General George A. White, National Guards).	Medford, Oreg.

[A. G. 689-1 (2-27-42).]

By ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

J. A. FLIO,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1942

Figure 2 - General Order No. 12

(Underlined portion of Order applies to Camp Campbell.)

Campbell was picked because of a deal made between the various Congressmen of Tennessee and Kentucky. The deal called for the camp to be named after a Tennessean. In return, the designation was to be Kentucky.⁵⁴ This rumor is a little hard to prove when one considers that when the camp was officially named in March, 1942, it was officially designated as being in Tennessee. Kentucky was never mentioned. It was not until problems with mail arose that the camp was redesignated as being in Kentucky. This did not happen until six months after the original order. If such a deal existed, the proof was not located.

The designated location was another aspect involving the naming of the camp that caused considerable problems. This problem is somewhat alluded to in the previous paragraph.

When the surveyors laid out the cantonment and maneuver area for Camp Campbell in 1942, approximately two-thirds of the reservation was located in Tennessee. This fact alone caused considerable misunderstanding as to the exact location of the camp. Also, the close proximity of Clarksville, Tennessee, did much in deciding the name of the installation. Therefore, when the official order naming the camp was published in March, 1942, the camp was designated as Camp Campbell, Clarksville, Tennessee.

On activation, it was noted that the camp Headquarters

⁵⁴ Statements by William T. Turner, personal interview, October 5, 1973.

building and post office were located in the state of Kentucky. This caused much confusion. Both official and unofficial mail was addressed to Camp Campbell, Tennessee, and Camp Campbell, Kentucky. Other activities such as bus and train schedules were also confused because one schedule would list the camp in Tennessee while another would list it as being in Kentucky.⁵⁵

In an effort to settle once and for all the misunderstanding as to what the correct address should be, Colonel Guy W. Chipman, the first Post Commander, brought this situation to the attention of the War Department.⁵⁶ He suggested that the camp be designated as being in Kentucky because of the location of the Post Office. The War Department agreed with Colonel Chipman; and by General Order No. 48 (see Figure 3, General Order No. 48, page 38), dated September 23, 1942, the camp was officially redesignated as Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

When General William Bowen Campbell became the last Whig Governor of Tennessee in 1851, little did he realize that nine decades later a major military camp would be named in his honor. Camp Campbell stands as a lasting monument to a man who did so much for Tennessee and the Nation.

⁵⁵ Statements by Frank Goodlett, Sr.

⁵⁶ Moser, p. 9.

[G. O. 48]

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 48WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, September 23, 1942.

Designation of military reservation	Section
Award of Distinguished Service Cross	I
Award of Soldier's Medal	II
	III

I Designation of military reservation. 1. So much of section II, General Orders, No. 12, War Department, 1942, as pertains to Camp Campbell, Clarksville, Tenn., is rescinded.

2. The military reservation situated at the location indicated is named as follows:

Name	Location
Camp Campbell (named in honor of Brigadier General William Bowen Campbell, United States Volunteers)	Kentucky.

[A. G. 6809.9 15 12.]

II Awards of Distinguished-Service Cross.—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Pub. L. W. D., 1918), a Distinguished Service Cross was awarded by the Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, to the following named officer and enlisted men:

Satutaro Ballagha (Army serial no. 6576253), staff sergeant, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Midway Island, June 4, 1942. Staff Sergeant *Ballagha*, as aerial engineer and gunner of a medium bombardment airplane, displayed extraordinary heroism during a torpedo bombing mission against the Japanese Navy. The success of the mission was dependent entirely upon the skill, courageousness, and unflinching devotion to duty of the crew members of the airplanes participating, who unhesitatingly entered into the attack at great personal risk to their own lives in the face of concentrated gunfire of the Japanese Naval forces and fighter airplanes. During this, the first torpedo attack ever carried out by the Army Air Forces, the airplane on which Staff Sergeant *Ballagha* was aerial engineer and gunner was lost. Residence at enlistment: New York City, New York.

Richard C. Decker (Army serial no. 17017220), staff sergeant, 69th Bombardment Squadron (MD), Army Air Forces, United States Army. For extraordinary heroism in action near Midway Island, June 4, 1942. Staff Sergeant *Decker*, as aerial engineer and gunner of a medium bombardment airplane, displayed extraordinary heroism during a torpedo bombing mission against the Japanese Navy. The success of the mission was dependent entirely upon the skill, courageousness, and unflinching devotion to duty of the crew members of the airplanes participating, who unhesitatingly entered into the attack at great personal risk to their own lives in the face of concentrated gunfire of the Japanese Naval forces and fighter airplanes. During this, the first torpedo attack ever carried out by the Army Air Forces, the airplane on which Staff Sergeant *Decker* was aerial engineer and gunner was lost. Residence at enlistment: Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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Figure 3 - General Order No. 48

(Underlined portion of Order applies to Camp Campbell.)

Chapter 6

THE LAND ACQUISITION

With the order to build and a site chosen, the first order of business was the acquisition of the land making up the camp site. The land had already been surveyed and appraised. Government negotiators would now move in and settle with the various farmers owning the land. Quick action was necessary because camp construction was to begin immediately. The land acquisition was handled very quickly considering the many difficulties that arose between the farmers and the government over land prices. This event, the land acquisition, was a vital step in the history of Camp Campbell. It was also one of the saddest events. This is due to the fact that so many people were forced off the land their families had farmed for generations.

As with the land appraisals, the land acquisition would be handled by a land office under the leadership of Major John Retter. Assisting Major Retter was a negotiating force who would go to the various land owners and bargain with the owner for his land. Eight negotiators under the supervision of L. B. Herrington of Madisonville, Kentucky, the chief negotiator, formed the government's negotiating force.⁵⁷

The procedures to be followed in acquiring the

⁵⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 20, 1942, p. 1, col. 1.

land were stated by Major Retter and printed in the Clarks-
ville Leaf-Chronicle: 40

A group of negotiators either local men or men familiar with land values in this area would be appointed to work directly under Major Retter. These negotiators would visit each farm and contact the land owner. If the farmer believed that his land was appraised too low, the negotiator would go over the property with him, field by field. If the negotiator was convinced that the land was valued too low, he could take it up with Major Retter. Authority for an increase in valuation, must however, finally come from Washington.⁵⁸

If the farmer or land owner considered the appraised value a fair price, he could settle immediately. It should be pointed out, the farmer was not told the appraised value until after he had made a statement as to the value he himself placed on the land.⁵⁹ Land owners not satisfied with the price offered, as a last resort, could take their case to court.

It must be stressed when reading over the land acquisition procedures, that the negotiators would deal only with the land owner. Major Retter made it clear very early that it was no use to sell to any real estate agent or company. The government would deal only with the land owner who held title to the property when the camp project was announced in 1941. It would deal with no third party, and above all, no land profiteering would be allowed. Avoiding profiteering was the main reason for keeping all third

⁵⁸Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 11, 1941, p. 1, col. 4.

⁵⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 20, 1942.

Following the procedures outlined above, the government negotiators set to work. The first farmers contacted by the government negotiators were those living in the cantonment area and the land needed for the water easement to the Red River. Quick action in these areas was mandatory since work on the camp was to start immediately. After settling with the farmers in these areas, the negotiators would move to settle with the many farmers holding land in the maneuver area.

Many land owners were concerned over the appraisals placed on their farms. By January 21, 1942, it was already becoming apparent that this concern of the land owners was real. Many stories of dissatisfaction began to pour into Clarksville and Hopkinsville; and in time, made their way into the local newspapers. Two of these stories concerned Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Thompson, whose farm was within the cantonment site, and Mrs. Ledford, who also owned a farm in the camp site. The Thompson farm consisted of 180 acres for which they were offered \$11,675. This may seem a fair price until one considers the fact that twenty-one years earlier the Thompsons had paid \$22,500 for the farm. They sold at the cheaper price because they did not know what else they could do. Mrs. Ledford also felt she had received a bad deal but sold regardless because she knew no alternative.

⁶⁰ Statements by Frank Goodlett, Sr.

As she said later, "I was told if the owners were not satisfied 'their papers' would have to be sent back to Washington." The negotiators made it sound like a crime if Mrs. Ledford did not sell. Others, such as A. E. Anderson and Jim Darnell, just completely refused to deal with the negotiators.⁶¹

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Further points of dissatisfaction were pointed out in a personal interview with one of the land owners, Mr. Frank Darnell, Sr. He stated that the prices paid for the land were very low and in his case, attributes the low price to the individual who appraised his farm. Darnell states the individual was from Eastern Tennessee and unfamiliar with the tobacco land of Middle Tennessee. Thus, the appraiser set a value on the Darnell farm at a low price, a price comparable to the rocky land of Eastern Tennessee. Darnell also stated there was the fact that many farmers were somewhat threatened into selling by the negotiators with talk of three to four year court battles. During this period, all the farmers' assets centered in their farm would be tied up, leaving most farmers with nothing on which to live. Another tactic employed by some of the negotiators, as stated by Darnell, was the use of patriotic talk. Negotiators would go to the land owners and tell them the land was needed to train our soldiers who were

⁶¹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 22, 1942, p. 1, col. 7, and p. 8, col. 3.

dying for them on the battlefields of Europe.⁶²

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In summary, the farmers felt they had been mistreated. They felt the appraisers had not taken into consideration the cost and inconvenience to which they were being placed by having to move. Further, the mounting costs of farm lands which the displaced farmers must now buy were not considered. The farmers also pointed out the fact that the war had made land more valuable. Most of the land appraising had been done before December 7, 1941, when the United States was still technically at peace.⁶³ The final complaint expressed by many farmers concerned the time period in which they were given to move; for moving periods of from ten to twenty days were not unusual.⁶⁴

Because work was to start immediately on the camp, families living in the area had to move out fast. The various move out dates set by the government ranged from February 10, 1942, for the cantonment and water easement area, to June 1, 1942, for parts of the maneuver area.⁶⁵ A better picture of the move out dates and the various areas affected can be obtained from the map (Figure 4) on page 44. The move out dates were strictly enforced by federal marshals. The families that were forced to move were allowed to take

⁶²Statements by Frank Darnell.

⁶³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 22, 1942.

⁶⁴Statements by Mrs. J. C. Gill.

⁶⁵Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 3, 1942,
P. 1, cols. 3-6.

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⁶²Statements by Frank Darnell.

⁶³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 22, 1942.

⁶⁴Statements by Mrs. J. C. Gill.

⁶⁵Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 3, 1942,

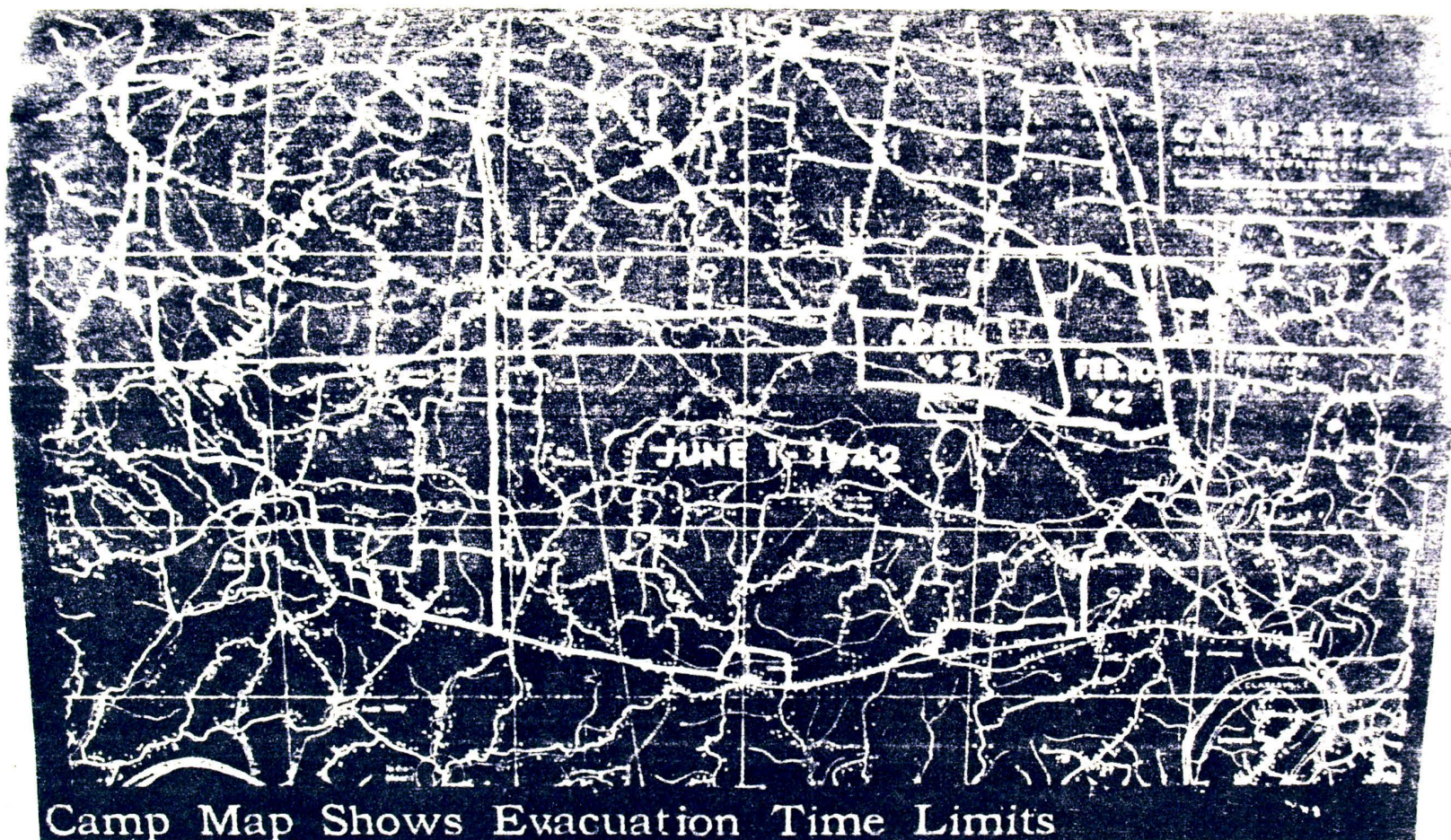


Figure 4 - This official map shows the areas in the Army camp site that had to be vacated by given dates. The February 10 deadline applied to the cantonment area, shown in the upper right hand corner, and a small strip running along the Bridgewater Mill Road that embraced Boiling Springs. Immediately back of the cantonment area is a tract that was to be vacated by April 1. The large tract west of the white line in Stewart and Trigg Counties also had to be vacated by April 1. The balance, most of which is in Montgomery County, was required to be vacated by June 1.

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only furniture and personal property. No buildings, fences, or crops were allowed to be removed. The Army would use these items as it saw fit. Those items not needed would be auctioned off later.

Within this air of activity and dissatisfaction, a plea for help was asked by many area farmers. They felt they had to do something about a situation they felt unjust. Thus, on January 27, 1942, two lawyers, H. B. Stout and A. B. Broadbent, of Clarksville, were hired to help the area farmers in a campaign to get land prices increased.⁶⁶ After some discussion, it was decided the best chance the farmers had to settle their difficulties was to send a delegation to Washington. Consequently, the two lawyers along with two area farmers, Lurton Griffin, of Stewart County, and Gold Smith, of Montgomery County, departed for our Nation's capital on January 31, 1942.

The chief aims of the delegation were to get a ten to fifty percent adjustment in the land prices and make the officials in Washington aware of the problems involved in buying new farms, while receiving below par prices for the farms they had previously owned.⁶⁷

Upon arriving in Washington, the delegation went immediately to the Capitol Building. Here they received

⁶⁶Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 26, 1942, P. 1, col. 2.

⁶⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 31, 1942, P. 1, cols. 3 & 4.

a warm welcome and met with Congressmen Priest of Tennessee, and Gregory of Kentucky, as well as Senators McKeller and Stewart of Tennessee, and Barkley and Chandler of Kentucky. After conferring with the Congressmen and Senators and receiving their advice, the delegation moved on to the War Department. At the War Department, the delegation told of their problems. Officials in the War Department promised that they would send someone to investigate the farmers' complaints.⁶⁸ The delegation returned to Clarksville with high hopes.

In a matter of days, George E. Fuller, of the real estate division of the War Department, arrived at the camp site to investigate the complaints expressed by the area farmers. Arriving the first week of February, Fuller completed a three day study and returned to Washington on February 7, 1942.⁶⁹ The federal land officer stated that the findings of his investigation would be published in the February 9, 1942, edition of the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle. The findings did not appear in the newspaper as planned for Fuller's report was not made public. From all indications, the Fuller report did not support the farmers' claims for increased land prices. No more was heard of this report.

Many farmers lost hope after the Fuller incident and sold outright. Others refused to sell feeling they had

⁶⁸Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 26, 1942.

⁶⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 7, 1942, p. 1, col. 2.

a better chance by settling in court. Those refusing to sell were put off their land regardless and their farms condemned. As early as January 24, 1942, the government began filing condemnation suits in the United States District Court at Nashville. These first suits were for 6,335 acres mainly in the cantonment area and involved 102 farms in Kentucky and 23 in Tennessee.⁷⁰ Before the land acquisition phase of the camp project was complete, 376 tracts or 33,813 acres were procured through condemnation proceedings.⁷¹

Besides the lands that were bought or condemned, the government received other lands for which no compensation was given. This land consisted of the numerous public roads that ran through the camp site. There were 100 to 150 miles of roads taken over for which there is no record of payment.⁷² The four counties involved in the area of the camp project not only lost money in the form of roads, they also lost much tax revenue. This valuable rich tobacco land that was now going into the make-up of Camp Campbell had previously furnished a large portion of the county land tax revenue. As an Army camp, the four counties involved

⁷⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 24, 1942, p. 1, cols. 1 & 2.

⁷¹War Department, Completion Report, Job T-1 (Camp Campbell, Clarksville, Tennessee: 1942), paragraph 4 (e).

⁷²Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, May 13, 1942, p. 1, col. 7.

would no longer receive property tax from these lands.

During this phase of the land acquisition, many agencies and groups worked to help the many displaced land owners re-establish themselves in new farms or useful jobs. These agencies and groups ranged from a government sponsored relocation office to groups of businessmen and farmers of neighboring counties. Their chief aim was to make the troubled times for the dislocated people pass quickly.

A relocation office under the general supervision of the Farm Security Administration was one such agency set up to aid families that had been forced off their land. The relocation office would arrange for displaced families to meet with individuals that had farms for sale. Besides finding new farms, the office also helped in finding work for the numerous sharecroppers and farm workers that had been displaced because of Camp Campbell.⁷³ For many farmers, the relocation office served a useful purpose. Consequently, the office remained in operation until the middle of May when the office was closed down because most families had been relocated.⁷⁴

In addition to the relocation office, various groups from neighboring counties also aided in the task of finding the homeless farmers homes and jobs. One such county was

⁷³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 29, 1942, p. 1, cols. 7 & 8.

⁷⁴Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, May 14, 1942, p. 1, col. 3.

Lawrence County, Tennessee. Here a group of leading farmers and businessmen got together and chartered buses so that farmers from the camp site could travel to Lawrence County. Upon arriving, the farmers were taken around the county and shown farms that were for sale and other job opportunities. A large group of farmers took the trip to Lawrence County and some eventually moved there.⁷⁵

Besides the agencies and groups, the displaced farmers received additional help in the form of additional tobacco, wheat, and cotton allotments. On February 27, 1942, it was announced the government would allow farmers, who had been displaced by the camp, to add their former tobacco allotments to their new farm if they found one. A little later wheat and cotton allotments were also added to this provision.⁷⁶ Through these additional crops, a farmer could make up some of his losses from moving.

The government also allowed farmers, at a reasonable rate, to purchase the hay and grain crops that were ready for harvest on their previously owned farms. These crops could be used at a new farm or sold.⁷⁷

As the officials of the relocation office and other groups continued to aid the area farmers, the land acquisition

⁷⁵Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 17, 1942.

⁷⁶Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 27, 1942, p. 1, cols. 4-6, and p. 4, col. 1.

⁷⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, April 24, 1942, p. 1, col. 1.

went on. The land acquisition continued until the spring of 1942 when, for all practical purposes, it was ended. By this time, all families had been moved out of the camp site and the Army had taken over. Only a few condemnation cases pending in court remained to be settled. 50

When the land acquisition was complete, 1,105 separate tracts of land had been procured for a total area of 101,755.44 acres.⁷⁸ One small tract of 55.44 acres was in such a shape and location as to be of no practical use to the government; so it was subsequently returned to civilian control.⁷⁹

In the final analysis 756 tracts of land totaling 67,758 acres were optioned and procured through direct purchase, 376 or a total of 33,813 acres were procured through condemnation proceedings and a single tract of 224 acres was obtained by direct transfer from the Farm Security Administration.⁸⁰ These figures include 28 separate tracts of land amounting to 32.34 acres which were procured for the water easement to the Red River.

A breakdown of the final procurement figures show the following statistics:⁸¹

⁷⁸War Department, Completion Report, Job T-1, paragraph 4 (e).

⁷⁹Moser, p. 3.

⁸⁰War Department, Completion Report, Job T-1, paragraph 4 (e).

⁸¹Ibid., paragraph 4 (a).

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TRACTS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
Montgomery	466	42,841.71	\$1,757,051.00
Stewart	<u>335</u>	<u>25,750.57</u>	<u>1,076,919.00</u>
Total Tennessee	801	68,592.28	\$2,833,970.00
Christian	76	10,489.20	\$ 629,336.00
Trigg	<u>228</u>	<u>22,673.96</u>	<u>601,642.00</u>
Total Kentucky	304	33,163.16	\$1,230,978.00

The estimated cost for the land acquisition was \$4,064,948. This worked out to \$39.94 per acre for land in the camp site. Land acquired for the water easement to the Red River cost \$4,525 or an average of \$139.91 per acre.⁸²

The amount of \$39.94 per acre is only an average. The actual price paid per acre varied between each farm depending on such things as productivity of the soil, type of land, kinds of crops, accessibility, and proximity to schools and churches. By using the prices paid for some of the farms in Montgomery County, one can see the price variation. The James T. Darnell farm of 18.5 acres sold for \$1,033 or an average of \$55.84 per acre.⁸³ The S. F. Wootten farm of 245 acres sold for \$10,724 or an average of \$43.77 per acre.⁸⁴ The Barney Darnell farm of 110 acres

⁸² Moser, p. 4.

⁸³ Montgomery County, Land Titles, Vol. 89 (Montgomery County, Tennessee: 1942), p. 30.

⁸⁴ Ibid., p. 133.

sold for \$3,281 or an average of \$28.91 per acre.⁸⁵ The A. N. Darnell farm of 306.25 acres sold for \$11,900 or an average of \$35.60 per acre.⁸⁶ These examples show the price variation. A survey of farms in the other counties would show similar results.

Those individuals settling in court on the average received a little more for their land.

In summary, the land acquisition was handled in a fast and efficient manner considering the situation. This does not stop one from feeling sorry for the individuals that lost their farms. Perhaps if time had been available, other means causing less hardship could have been employed. One such example appeared in an editorial in the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle on January 29, 1942. In the editorial, the editor states that in many instances landowners were treated unfairly causing grief and mistrust of the American system. The editor goes on to state that instead of condemnation suits, the government could have acquired the land under the right of eminent domain. Under this system, a board of five judges, two local men, two men representing the government, and a fifth chosen by the other four, would settle all cases where there was a dispute over prices. Thus, the local landowners would have been able to present their cases to a local tribune containing individuals from the local community. In this

⁸⁵Montgomery County, Land Titles, p. 61.

⁸⁶Ibid., p. 8.

manner, the landowners would feel they were more fairly judged instead of dealing with a powerful government from Washington, a government that many farmers felt lacked feeling.⁸⁷

The land acquisition was now complete. The next step would be the actual building of Camp Campbell.

⁸⁷Editorial, Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 29, 1942, p. 2, cols. 1 & 2.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF CAMP CAMPBELL

When final approval for the camp was completed in January, 1942, the construction of the camp was planned to start as soon as possible. The land acquisition began immediately in order to clear the cantonment area for the purpose of construction. Since the camp was to be completed by late summer, immediate action was necessary. Quick action was facilitated by Army Engineers who had begun planning in July, 1941, when the camp became a possibility. These plans were now to be put into effect in the construction of Camp Campbell.

In preparation for the tremendous task of construction, the War Department chose one engineering-architectural firm to supervise the total construction. There were to be as many as fifteen or more construction companies working on the camp project at one time.⁸⁸ Consequently, supervision and leadership of construction was a key item. As with the land survey, the firm of Wilson, Bell and Watkins was chosen to supervise the total construction. The firm appointed H. St. George T. Carmichel as the chief engineer for the project.⁸⁹

⁸⁸Statements by Paul E. Busteed, personal interview, October 4, 1973.

⁸⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 9, 1942, p. 1, cols. 1-3.

Construction planning done months ahead by the Wilson, Bell and Watkins Company were now to be utilized. In order to carry out the plans, a camp project headquarters was established on the second floor of the Montgomery County Courthouse in Clarksville. From this headquarters, all construction would be directed.⁹⁰

The first step in the construction of the camp would be a survey to lay out the streets and blocks in the cantonment area. By the middle of January, a survey for this purpose was initiated. The size of the area to be laid out was three miles by a mile and one-half, half being in Tennessee and half being in Kentucky.⁹¹

Also, during the early weeks of January, invitations for bids for construction work were mailed to major contractors.⁹² Bids were to be returned to the United States Corps of Engineers Office at Nashville, Tennessee. From this point in time, all matters concerning the camp project would be handled by the Nashville office. At this same time, arrangements were being made through the Tennessee Employment Service and other interested agencies to draw as much labor from the local area as possible. By using local labor, the housing situation in the camp area would

⁹⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 10, 1942, p. 1, col. 1.

⁹¹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 13, 1942, p. 1, col. 3.

⁹²Moser, p. 2.

be helped. A survey had been made in the early fall of 1941 to determine if 11,000 workmen could be housed within a forty mile radius of the project. This survey pointed out the need for using as much local labor as possible.⁹³

Survey work continued until all streets and blocks were laid out. At this time, the various streets were named. In order to maintain simplicity and yet be consistent, it was decided that all streets running east and west would be numbered starting with First Street at the south end of the cantonment area. All streets running north and south would be named after the various states of the Union. This plan was followed with only a few exceptions. Those being the main access streets leading in from Highway 41A and a few streets in the hospital area. The main entrance to the Post Headquarters at Gate 4 was named Chaffee Road. Chaffee Road was named for Major General Adna Romanza Chaffee, the father of our present day armored forces. Other noted streets were Lee Road at Gate 1, named for Robert E. Lee, Jackson Road starting at Gate 3 and named for President Andrew Jackson, and Morgan and Forrest Streets named for John Hunt Morgan and Nathan Bedford Forrest, both former Confederate Army Officers. In the hospital area, such streets as Reed, Gorgas and Letterman Streets were used since these were the names of famous Army doctors.⁹⁴

⁹³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, October 31, 1941, p. 1, col. 1.

⁹⁴Moser, pp. 14 & 15.

After surveying, the next major step in the construction would be the grading and leveling of the cantonment area. To achieve this next step, the first contract in the construction of Camp Campbell was let on January 23, 1942. The Forcum-James Company of Dyersburg, Tennessee, received this first contract which totalled \$750,000. Besides grading and leveling the cantonment area, the company was to prepare a ten mile railroad bed between the camp site and Outlaw Field.⁹⁵

The grading work was to begin the first week of February, but two problems arose. The first was a short delay due to inclement weather.⁹⁶ Problem number two was more serious. This problem involved the hiring practices of the Forcum-James Company. Labor represented by the Nashville Building Trade Council felt the workmen employed on the camp project should be members of the Labor Union.⁹⁷ The labor problem was not limited to the Forcum-James Company but involved all future contractors on the camp project.

Labor continued to be a problem until the first week of March. The main complaint centered over the hiring of non-union workmen. Labor leaders wished only union

⁹⁵Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 23, 1942, P. 1, col. 1.

⁹⁶Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 14, 1942, P. 1, col. 6.

⁹⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 7, 1942, P. 1, col. 6.

labor to be hired. This was unsatisfactory to the contractors primarily because they felt there was not sufficient union labor available. In an effort to settle the dispute, the Department of Labor sent G. C. Peek, a labor conciliator, to try and work out a favorable solution for all parties involved. Peek arranged for the various parties in the dispute to meet at the Hotel Montgomery in Clarksville beginning on March 4, 1942.⁹⁸ By March 5, 1942, a favorable solution was proposed when Peek offered the following measures to be taken to settle the problem:

Make the construction project a union shop, but not a closed shop. In other words, it was explained, a union shop contract permits employment of non-union labor after the union becomes unable to supply the demands for labor. In time, however, the non-union workers would be required to join the union.⁹⁹

Both sides accepted the proposal for a union shop and the labor problem was settled. No further labor problems would occur during the camp project.

With the labor problem settled, attention was again returned to the task of building. During the first weeks of February, the bids sent out in January began to return. Thirty such bids were opened on February 16, 1942. Everyone believed the camp construction would now go into high gear, but this was not the case. Instead of awarding contracts, most bids were rejected and re-advertised. Those

⁹⁸Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, March 4, 1942, p. 1, col. 7.

⁹⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, March 5, 1942, p. 1, cols. 2-3, and p. 7, col. 2.

bids rejected were either too high or did not meet construction specifications. At the February 16 opening, a few contracts were awarded. These contracts involved three barrack projects and were valued at \$1,000,000.¹⁰⁰

On February 20, 1942, another contract was awarded. This was a sizeable contract totalling \$2,000,000. It was awarded to the Nile Yearwood Company of Nashville and called for the construction of several blocks of barracks and associated buildings. The construction of Camp Campbell was now off the ground.¹⁰¹

Another contract of a primary nature was awarded the E. H. Marhauffer Company of Chicago. The contract covered the installation of the water and sewer system. Like the grading, this work was a task that had to be achieved early.¹⁰²

Besides the grading and installation of the water system, the other key project that had to be achieved at an early date was the laying of the railroad line to the camp site. This was important since the lumber and other building materials were to come into the project area by rail. In order to get the railroad linked to the camp, a branch line of the Tennessee Central Railroad had to be

¹⁰⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 19, 1942, p. 1, col. 7.

¹⁰¹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 20, 1942, p. 1, cols. 1 & 2.

¹⁰²Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 23, 1942, p. 1, col. 8.

run from Outlaw Field. After the railroad bed was prepared, track was quickly laid. The difficult portion of this project was the construction of a trestle bridge across highway 41A. The bridge would allow a large amount of railroad traffic without tying up the automobile traffic on the highway. By February 23, 1942, the trestles for the bridge were in place. Consequently, by the time construction began on the various buildings in the camp, the area had rail service.¹⁰³

Work on settling the rest of the construction contracts continued. In order to save time, the War Department decided to negotiate all further bids instead of advertising for bids as previously done. By the first week of March, several more bids covering barrack construction were signed. A couple of examples of these new construction contractors were the Whitenbourg Construction Company of Louisville and the O'Driscoll and Grove Company of Chicago.¹⁰⁴ Finally, by the end of March, all necessary contracts had been settled and work on the camp project swung into high gear.

With the grading and construction under way, the Army now turned its attention to another matter that had to be settled before construction could be completed. This matter concerned the numerous graves located in the camp site. Before barracks could be built, these graves would

¹⁰³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, February 23, 1942.

¹⁰⁴Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, March 7, 1942, p. 1, col. 5.

have to be moved. Therefore, on March 30, 1942, the Army sought a petition to allow it to move the numerous cemeteries from the camp site. The petition was granted and the dead moved. The bodies of the whites were moved to a three acre plot owned by Mrs. Viola Farley on Liberty Church Road; the colored were moved to four acres belonging to W. P. Hambough on Britton Springs Road. The dead were moved in an orderly fashion. Next of kin could be present for the movement if they wished. Also, the Army would move the dead to sites other than those stated above if requested by the family and as long as the costs involved did not exceed that of those moved to the common sites.¹⁰⁵

During these early months of construction, the numerous buildings left behind by the farmers who had moved out were inventoried. Some would be used by the Army for such purposes as building a mock Nazi village. Those not used were sold at auction.

Beginning in March, the construction went very smoothly. The numerous construction companies at work on the project used lessons learned on other camps to increase their output. Some of these lessons were the use of prefabricated building materials. By using such materials, buildings could be constructed in a matter of days.¹⁰⁶ Another lesson learned was the concept of total building.

¹⁰⁵Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, March 30, 1942, p. 1, cols. 2-5.

¹⁰⁶Statements by Frank Goodlett, Sr.

This meant building all structures at the same time. In other words, it was better to build barracks, mess halls and all other assorted buildings at the same time instead of building barracks and then trying to go back and fill in the other structures.¹⁰⁷

To achieve this great construction task, workmen poured into the area. At first, mostly local labor was used; but as the project continued to grow, additional labor was brought in from the outside. Offices to help find housing for these additional workmen were set up. As would be imagined, housing became a critical item. Homes in Clarksville, Hopkinsville and the other towns surrounding the camp were turned into boarding houses. In the end, all the workmen were taken care of and housed.¹⁰⁸

Work on the project was going so well, additional construction was authorized on June 25, 1942. The construction was for additional housing.¹⁰⁹

Work on the project continued at a fast pace. Changes plainly noticeable from day to day were taking place in the cantonment area. Consequently, it was reported that the camp was seventy percent complete on July 18, 1942.¹¹⁰ By

¹⁰⁷Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, September 10, 1942, p. 1, cols. 4 & 5.

¹⁰⁸Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, April 29, 1942, p. 1, col. 8.

¹⁰⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, June 25, 1942, p. 1, col. 6.

¹¹⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 18, 1942, p. 1, cols. 2 & 3.

September, the majority of the construction work was complete and ready to be turned over to the using agencies. The only work yet to be done was a \$3,000,000 project for additional temporary housing authorized October 23, 1942.¹¹¹ In later war years, a few additional service clubs, a swimming pool and three prisoner of war camps were added to Camp Campbell. Thus, the construction of Camp Campbell was complete.

When finally completed, the camp contained housing for 33,011 men and 1,738 officers. In addition to this housing, a 1,254 bed semi-permanent brick hospital had been built. Closed storage space in the warehouse area amounted to 288,000 square feet. There was to be 349,692 square feet of vehicle storage space and 397,000 square feet of hard stand suitable for outside storage and 116 company size motor repair shops complete with built-in arms rooms.¹¹²

Besides the above stated facilities in the cantonment area, numerous ranges and training areas had been constructed in the maneuver area. This construction included a full size mock German village which provided a valuable training experience.¹¹³

¹¹¹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, October 23, 1942, p. 1, cols. 1 & 2.

¹¹²War Department, Completion Report, Job T-1, paragraph 1 (b).

¹¹³XX Corps Personnel, The XX Corps: Its History and Service in World War II (Japan: The Mainichi Publishing Co. Ltd., 1946), p. 29.

The cost of the camp project was sizeable. At first, the War Department had planned for a camp that would house 24,000 men. The estimated cost for such a camp ran from 22.5 million dollars to 24.5 million dollars. These figures did not include the money that was spent on land acquisition.¹¹⁴ As time passed, the earlier plans were revised so that the camp would be able to handle 30,000 to 35,000 men. Thus, the planned cost for construction increased to 30 million dollars. However, by the end of 1942 when the camp was completed, the cost had increased to 35 million dollars.¹¹⁵

The speed with which Camp Campbell was constructed was truly amazing. In less than a year, a modern and carefully planned training center for the armored command was complete. The camp now stood ready to serve the purpose for which it was conceived: "the training of fighting men skilled in the arts and crafts of modern warfare."¹¹⁶

¹¹⁴Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, January 7, 1942.

¹¹⁵Moser, p. 3.

¹¹⁶Military Photo Division, Camp Campbell, Kentucky (Nashville: C. P. Clark, Inc., 1943), p. 1.

Chapter 8

THE WARTIME OCCUPATION OF CAMP CAMPBELL

Camp Campbell was conceived to train fighting men. No matter how well planned or designed, the camp could achieve none of its planned goals without the individual soldiers and civilian personnel that made things happen. After the camp was completed, both men and women poured into the camp with the mission of making Camp Campbell a success. These individuals would call Camp Campbell home. Another group that came to Campbell but for a different purpose was the German prisoners of war who would spend the duration of the war at the camp. All these individuals combined to help write another chapter in the history of Camp Campbell, that being the wartime occupation of the camp.

At first, the camp was planned to be the training site for one division. This original plan was later changed. The new plans called for Campbell to house and train two divisions.

A cadre of one officer and nineteen enlisted men assigned duty at Camp Campbell on July 1, 1942, were the first individuals to call the camp home.¹¹⁷ With the assignment of this first group of men, Camp Campbell was officially activated. From this small detachment, Camp Campbell would grow until at its peak in 1944 nearly 100,000 men and women

¹¹⁷ Special Order No. 189 (Kentucky: Headquarters Fort Knox, 1942).

The first cadre of twenty men formed the nucleus of the 1580th Service Command Unit. This Unit was to be the station complement or the housekeepers for the camp. While the various combat units trained at Campbell, the 1580th would furnish these units housing and all other necessary services. Colonel Guy W. Chipman became the first commander of the 1580th. In addition to commanding the service unit, Colonel Chipman would also serve as Post Commander. As Post Commander, Colonel Chipman would be responsible for 200 officers, 5,000 enlisted men and 2,000 civilian employees.¹¹⁹

It is important to understand that each major division or corps would have its own individual commander and staff, who was completely separate from the post or camp command. Campbell was like a big hotel where combat units came to train. As one unit moved out, another would move in. The 1580th and Colonel Chipman were like the hotel staff; they furnished facilities and services but did not get involved in the training or chain of command of the combat units.

By the summer of 1942, the 1580th was ready to furnish the necessary support. Thus, the first combat troops

¹¹⁸History Prepared for Commanding General (Headquarters Third Army, dtd. March 19, 1946).

¹¹⁹Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, June 27, 1942, p. 1, cols. 2-5.

began to arrive at Camp Campbell. These troops were to join together to form the 12th Armored Division. Under the command of Major General Carlos Brewer, the 12th was activated in an impressive ceremony on September 15, 1942. This ceremony also served as the formal activation of Camp Campbell. High government officials from both Tennessee and Kentucky attended the ceremony, as did numerous local officials and citizens from Clarksville and Hopkinsville.¹²⁰ Included in the list of distinguished guests were a number of descendants of General William B. Campbell for whom the camp was named. These descendants, who included two grandsons, Russell Campbell and David Campbell Kelley, a great grandson, Russell Campbell, Jr., a great-great grandson, Robert Bruce Kelley, all of Nashville and Mrs. Paul Moore, a granddaughter from Huntingdon, Tennessee, were given a complete tour of the camp and were guests of honor at the activation ceremony.¹²¹ The 12th Armored Division was the first combat unit to come to Camp Campbell. The camp was now on the road to fulfilling its assigned task, training fighting men.

The 12th Armored Division trained a year at Campbell before departing the camp in September, 1943. After departing the camp, the Unit took part in the Second Army Maneuvers at the Tennessee Maneuver Area. The 12th proved to be a very

¹²⁰ "News Feature," Tennessee Historical Quarterly, ed. Daniel M. Robison, II (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission and Tennessee Historical Society, 1943), p. 190.

¹²¹ Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, September 15, 1942, p. 1, col. 5.

capable unit during the maneuvers. Following this exercise, the 12th Armored Division was shipped overseas to the European Theater of Operations; here it joined the 7th United States Army.¹²²

In January, 1943, the second unit to call Camp Campbell home arrived, this being the 8th Armored Division. Very little training was accomplished by the 8th during its stay at Campbell because the stay was a very short one. The 8th departed Campbell in March, 1943.¹²³

A second armored division was organized at Camp Campbell, activation ceremonies being held on March 13, 1942. This new unit was designated the 20th Armored Division under the command of Major General Stephen G. Henry. Spending its entire stateside tour of duty at Campbell, the 20th acted as a training division, training and shipping large numbers of armored personnel replacements overseas. Finally, in December, 1944, the 20th Division departed Camp Campbell, with a brief stop for maneuvers in the Midwest, then went on to Europe.¹²⁴

Probably the best known of all the organizations that trained at Camp Campbell was the IV Armored Corps. The IV arrived at Camp Campbell in April, 1943, from the Desert Training Center where they had taken part in an intensive

¹²²Moser, p. 9.

¹²³Ibid.

¹²⁴Ibid.

period of desert warfare. The IV spent the next five months⁶⁹ training and preparing for the Tennessee maneuvers. The highlight of the IV's stay at Campbell was the celebration of its first anniversary of activation held on September 2, 1943. The climax of this celebration came the evening of the second when the Columbian Motion Picture "Sahara" held its world premier for the IV in Camp Campbell's field amphitheater. "Sahara," a desert epic, starred Humphrey Bogart. The reason the film premiered at Campbell was stated by the films' producers.

The picture was dedicated to the IV Armored Corps in recognition of the technical assistance donated by the officers and enlisted men during production of the film in the Desert Training Theater of Operations and in appreciation for the film's action scenes of the men and the machines of the Corps.¹²⁵

In October, 1943, the IV Armored Corps was redesignated the XX Armored Corps.¹²⁶ The XX Corps continued to train until February, 1944, when the unit shipped out for England and eventual combat in the European Theater of Operations. In Europe, the XX participated in numerous engagements and was subsequently chosen to lead General George S. Patton's Third Army in its eastward drive across France to the banks of the Moselle River.¹²⁷

When the 12th Armored Division moved out in September,

¹²⁵The XX Corps, p. 32.

¹²⁶Retreat to Taps (Camp Campbell's Newspaper), November 13, 1943, p. 1, cols. 3-5.

¹²⁷The XX Corps, p. 40.

1943, it was replaced by the 26th Infantry Division. Under the command of Major General William S. Paul, the 26th or Yankee Division, as it was called, was the only strictly infantry unit to train at Campbell during World War II.¹²⁸ The Yankee Division trained only a short period at Campbell before departing in February, 1944, for maneuvers.

The last two units to train at Camp Campbell before the end of the war were the 22nd Corps and the 14th Armored Division. Major General Henry Terrell, Jr., commanded the 22nd Corps which arrived at Campbell in January, 1944.¹²⁹ Remaining almost a year, the 22nd departed in December, 1944.

After completing maneuvers, the 14th Armored Division arrived at Camp Campbell in February, 1944. Training under the direction of the XX Armored Corps, the unit commanded by Major General Vernon E. Prichard, became a very efficient unit.¹³⁰ This unit left for duty in Europe in October of the same year where it joined the 7th United States Army.

In all, eight major combat units trained at Camp Campbell during World War II. These units proved highly efficient and distinguished themselves in the European Theater of Operations.

¹²⁸ Retreat to Taps (Camp Campbell's Newspaper), September 18, 1943, p. 1, cols. 1-5.

¹²⁹ Retreat to Taps (Camp Campbell's Newspaper), February 5, 1944, p. 1, cols. 1-3.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

These eight major combat units were not the only units to call Camp Campbell home during the war years. There were two other groups that resided at Camp Campbell during the war period. One group was women and the other prisoners of war.

Women filled many of the jobs formerly held by men during the Second World War. This included civilian jobs as well as military. These women who donned fatigues did their part at eighty-two Army posts both in the States and overseas; Campbell was no exception.¹³¹

In September of 1942, the idea of using women at Campbell began to take shape. Major G. T. Gifford, head of the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps), later changed to WAC (Women's Army Corps), arrived at Camp Campbell on September 8, 1942. The purpose of Gifford's visit was to study the feasibility of using women at Camp Campbell. The study showed that women would be a valuable asset and could free men for combat.¹³² Consequently on March 5, 1943, the first group of two officers and seventeen enlisted women of the WAAC arrived at Camp Campbell. These women reported for duty from the Second WAAC Training Center at Daytona Beach, Florida.¹³³

¹³¹"Yesterday's Army," Army Times, June 6, 1973, p. 4, cols. 1-3.

¹³²Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, September 8, 1942, p. 1, col. 7.

¹³³Retreat to Taps (Camp Campbell's Newspaper), July 1, 1944, p. 1, cols. 4 & 5.

The first group of WAAC personnel were under the command of First Lieutenant Charlotte B. Rice and formed the nucleus of the 1580th Service Command Unit, WAAC Detachment. After preliminary arrangements were completed by the advanced party, a group of 419 additional WAAC personnel arrived at Campbell. Captain Mary N. Seymore, who was in charge of these additional women, became the new detachment commander.¹³⁴

The WAAC detachment formed an administrative unit with the mission of establishing a motor pool and motor corps. In addition to the duty as serving as sedan drivers, many of the women were assigned specialist duties in the hospital and to administrative positions in the Post Headquarters, Post Finance and Post Range Headquarters. The WAAC proved to be a very efficient unit that performed valuable services at Camp Campbell during the war years.¹³⁵

By October, 1942, it became clear Camp Campbell would be home for a third group, this being German prisoners of war. During the later months of 1942 and the early months of 1943, the first of three prisoner of war stockades

¹³⁴Moser, p. 11.

¹³⁵Ibid.

Dr. Preston Hubbard, Professor of History, Austin Peay State University, expresses the opinion: (1) that the study made as to using WAAC's probably showed what they wanted it to show. (2) That WAAC's probably kept more men away from the front than they ever sent to the front, thus lowering military morale. Interview with Professor Preston Hubbard, November 24, 1973.

was constructed. In mid-1943, the first prisoners began to arrive.¹³⁶

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The first group of prisoners were housed in one stockade but problems developed. The problems centered around the differences of views between the hard core Nazi prisoners and the anti-Nazi prisoners. Troubles developed when the Nazi prisoners tried to force their views on their fellow prisoners. Consequently, it was decided that Nazi and anti-Nazi prisoners should be segregated and a second compound was constructed to achieve this end. Later, a third compound was constructed to accommodate the overflow of prisoners that poured into Camp Campbell. A maximum combined capacity of 3,000 men was planned for the three compounds. In the end, this capacity was surpassed when the number of prisoners reached approximately 4,000.¹³⁷

During their stay at Camp Campbell, the prisoners of war were utilized primarily on labor details. The prisoners' services were utilized not only by the personnel of Camp Campbell but also by the farmers in the area. Prisoners were loaned to the farmers to work on their farms. Those prisoners who possessed special skills were utilized where they were best suited. One Major and two Captains, for example, worked as watch repairmen in the Post Ordinance Shops. The vast majority of the prisoners caused little

¹³⁶Moser, p. 11.

¹³⁷Statements by Glen Coon, personal interview, October 6, 1973.

problem.¹³⁸ The number of prisoners who died in the prisoner of war camp at Campbell tends to bear out that the prisoners were treated in a humane manner. For the thousands of prisoners of war who ended up at Camp Campbell, there is record of only five deaths. 74

At the end of the war, the prisoners were returned to their home country, the last departing Camp Campbell in April, 1946.¹³⁹

Camp Campbell achieved the task for which it was conceived by helping to supply the United States with the necessary fighting men to win the war. For many of those who came to Camp Campbell during World War II, the camp was a home and will be remembered.

¹³⁸Moser, p. 11.

¹³⁹Ibid.

CLARKSVILLE AND CAMP CAMPBELL

In order for an Army camp to come into being and survive, cities and towns must accept and support them. Camp Campbell was no exception. Cities like Clarksville, Hopkinsville and others were in some measure responsible for the relative success or failure of Camp Campbell and the type installation it would become. Since it would be very difficult to cover the contributions of all the cities to the camp, the contributions of Clarksville will be studied. Its activities and assistance mirror the activities and assistance of the other cities that meant so much to Camp Campbell.

As already stated, Clarksville did much to bring Camp Campbell to the area. In bringing the camp to the area, the city leaders felt they would not only aid their city but help the Nation in its struggle against the Axis Powers.

It is important to understand that even after the camp was approved for this area, the city did not relax in past achievements. It was at this time that the city of Clarksville truly came to life.

The first task was to prepare the people of the city mentally for the tremendous change that was about to take place. In order to achieve this task, community leaders kept the populace well informed as to what was taking place.

Reading the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle any night after July 15, 1941, will bear out this fact. Also, the city officials surveyed and did studies on cities where a large Army camp had been situated nearby. Camp Forrest and Tullahoma, Tennessee was one example of such a study.¹⁴⁰ By studying these cities, the officials of Clarksville hoped to prepare the populace and prepare for the future. Their efforts from all indications seemed to have been successful.

During the early phases of the Camp Campbell project, the city went to great lengths to see that all went smoothly. They immediately got in contact with government officials and offered their support. An example of this early support was the remodeling of the old Darnell and Bellamy Tobacco Warehouse. This task was achieved in a matter of weeks so that the surveying firm would have adequate office space from which to work. It was also at this time that many of the local people offered their services in the conduct of the land survey and appraisals.

When final approval was given and construction began, the city of Clarksville again offered its support. One such offer that was taken up was the use of the second floor of the County Courthouse as the construction headquarters. The most important contribution made during the construction phase was the housing of the numerous workmen. There were a few whose only motive was profit, usually through providing

¹⁴⁰Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 16, 1941, p. 1, cols. 3 & 4, and p. 3, col. 5.

poor housing at a high rent. This was the exception and not the norm. The majority of the people furnished the best housing possible at a reasonable rate. Many people opened up their own homes so that the workmen would not have to sleep in the cold. In the end, the people of Clarksville tried to make the workers feel welcome.¹⁴¹ Helping to find housing was not limited to workers from outside areas; the citizens of Clarksville also worked to help the many displaced farmers find new farms and adjust to the changing situation.

When the camp was finally completed, the local populace turned out at the opening ceremonies and tried to make the new occupants of Camp Campbell feel welcome. Just because the camp was complete, it did not mean an end to the contributions by Clarksvillians. They launched various programs to aid the soldiers, many of whom were away from home for the first time, in making them a home away from home. Some of these programs were the housing of soldiers in private homes on weekends and setting up clubs with planned activities to help keep the wives of the servicemen busy during the week when their husbands were in training.¹⁴²

In order to provide more recreation, the city of Clarksville immediately set out to get a recreation center built. This project required much work and effort but was finally achieved on July 22, 1942, when final approval for

¹⁴¹ Statements by Mrs. Oscar Beach.

¹⁴² Statements by Mrs. J. C. Gill.

a recreation hall was given.¹⁴³ After the recreation hall was completed, it was the local populace that furnished volunteers who maintained the hall. 78

The assistance given by the Clarksvillians was not only limited to the city; they also helped at the camp itself. Two such projects to help at the camp were the furnishing of volunteers to assist at the camp hospital,¹⁴⁴ and a program by the Clarksville Garden Club to beautify the main entrance to the camp.¹⁴⁵

The contributions of Clarksville were summed up by Lieutenant Ralph H. Weston, Camp Campbell Public Relations Officer, in an address to the local Rotary Club. "Thank God for the people of Clarksville, they have been swell and all officers and men have only praise for their hospitality."¹⁴⁶

Clarksville and the other cities surrounding Camp Campbell contributed greatly to the camp's well being. From the very beginning, these cities wanted an Army camp and were willing to work to make it a success.

¹⁴³Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 22, 1942, p. 1, cols. 3 & 4.

¹⁴⁴Statements by Mrs. J. C. Gill.

¹⁴⁵Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 3, 1942, p. 1, col. 2.

¹⁴⁶Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, August 12, 1942, p. 1, col. 6, and p. 6, cols. 2 & 3.

Chapter 10

SUMMARY

Camp Campbell, straddling the Tennessee-Kentucky state line, was a direct outgrowth of World War II. The camp was conceived to train fighting men for the United States. These men would join together with others to help win the ultimate victory over the Axis Powers.

Camp Campbell did supply the fighting men needed and if nothing else, for this reason alone, the history of the camp is a story of success. But, the history of Camp Campbell was so much more. It is a history of farmers that were forced off their land to make room for the camp. It is the history of local citizens who worked long and hard to make the camp exist and survive. It is the history of workmen who constructed a camp in such a short period of time that people are still amazed today. Lastly, it is the history of men and women who were taken from their homes and way of life to help win a war which they did not cause.

Camp Campbell was a success, a success based on the hard work and sacrifice of so many. For this reason, Camp Campbell, Kentucky, deserves remembering.

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