

# CAMP REYNOLDS

Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot  
1942 - 1946



## CAMP REYNOLDS INFORMATION CARD

### **Camp Name**

Original Name: Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot  
Renamed: Camp Reynolds (9/21/1943); In Honor of  
PA Civil War Hero Major General John F. Reynolds,  
Killed on 7/1/1863, the first day of the battle of Gettysburg

### **Location**

Pymatuning Township, Mercer County, PA

### **Why Camp Location was Selected**

#### Major Reasons

Winters were Mild

Good Railroad Facilities

Close to East Coast Embarkation Points

#### Other Reasons

Land was Cheap (around \$70 an acre)

Land to Expand / Water Supply was Adequate

Terrain for Obstacle Courses & Rifle Range

### **Time Frame**

War Department Contract Awarded 6/23/1942

Officially Activated 1/6/1943

Closed 2/28/1946

Operated for 3 Years & 8 Months

### **Architects**

Gannett, Eastman, Fleming of Harrisburg, PA

### **Builders**

Mellon-Stuart Construction Company of Pittsburgh, PA

### **Land Size**

Approximately 2500 Acres

Main Part of the Camp was 1600 Acres

Rifle & Pistol Range was 900 Acres

### **Cost**

Original Estimate \$3 Million

Final Cost was Estimated at around \$20 Million

### **Three Part Camp**

Battalion Area - Consisting of Barracks & Other Facilities

Service Area - Consisting of Theaters, Gyms, etc.

Headquarters and Hospital Area

## **Capacity**

Camp was built to house 90,000 Troops

Highest number was estimated at 48,000 to 75,000

Over one Million Soldiers passed through the Camp

## **Buildings**

The Camp consisted of over 1000 Buildings:

Barracks, Officers Quarters, Theaters, Recreation Halls,

Service Clubs, Libraries, Infirmaries, Dental Clinics

Guest Houses, Mess Halls, Post Exchanges, Fire Stations,

Motor Pools, Chapels, Warehouses, Guard Houses,

Headquarters, Officers Clubs, Hospital, Post Office,

Train Station, Telephone-Telegraph Office, etc.

## **Water System**

Wells were the Main Water Source for the Camp

Water pumped from Wells to Water Towers & Reservoirs

## **Uses of the Camp**

1. Personnel Replacement Depot - Until 12/11/1944  
Soldiers sent to European & Pacific Theaters of Operation
2. Prisoner of War Base Camp - 4/4/1944 to 1/15/1946  
Had Four Branch POW Camps
3. Army's First Full Time Canvas & Webbing Repair Facility  
12/1944 to 1/1946

## **Commanders**

Colonel George H. Cherrington - 11/4/1942 to 5/22/1943

Colonel Zim E. Lawhon - 5/22/1943 to 11/8/1943

Colonel George M. Couper - 11/8/1943 to 12/15/1943

Brigadier General Jesse A. Ladd - 12/15/1943 to 12/11/1944

Lt. Colonel George Blaney - 12/11/1944 to 9/17/1945

Colonel Medorem Crawford, Jr. - 9/17/1945 to 1/16/1946

Major Roy E. Hultz - 1/16/1946 to 1/29/1946

Major Roy H. Winters - 1/29/1946 to 2/28/1946

## **Entertainers & Sports Stars who visited the Camp**

Judy Garland, Benny Goodman, Wayne King, Joe Louis,

Louis Armstrong, Cleveland Indians & Pittsburgh Pirates

Baseball Teams, Art Rooney, Lou Boudreau among others

## **POWS**

The Camp housed 1800 Prisoners of War (Mainly German)

800 On-Base - 1000 at Branch Camps

Branch Camps - North East, Marienville, Sheffield & Kane

## **Contact Information**

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## ***Camp Reynolds Project***

*Preserving & Sharing the History of Camp Reynolds*