

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/Size

Pymatuning Township, Mercer County, PA
Approximately 2500 Acres
Main Part 1600 Acres / Rifle-Pistol Range 900 Acres

Time Frame (Operated for 3 Years & 8 Months)

Activated 1/6/1943 - Closed 2/28/1946

Why Camp Location was Selected

Major Reasons

Mild Winters / 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

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
3. Army's First Full Time Canvas & Webbing Repair Facility
12/1944 to 1/1946

Capacity

Camp was built to house 90,000 Troops
Number estimated here at one time is 48,000 to 75,000
Over one Million Soldiers passed through the Camp

Construction (War Department contract awarded 6-23-42)

Cost Originally \$3 Million / Final Estimated at \$20 Million

Architects Gannett, Eastman, Fleming of Harrisburg, PA

Builders Mellon-Stuart Construction Co. of Pittsburgh, PA

Three Part Camp

Battalion Area - Consisting of Barracks & Other Facilities

Service Area - Consisting of Theaters, Gyms, etc.

Headquarters and Hospital Area

Labor

Over 16,000 total workers / 4,500 plus employed at one time.
Workers worked 6 days a week and 10 hour days.

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, Officer Clubs, Hospital, Post Office,
Train Station, Telephone-Telegraph Office, etc.

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, Virginia Weidler, June Priesser, Wayne King,
Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Sugar Ray Robinson,
Joe Louis, the Cleveland Indians & Pittsburgh Pirates,
Art Rooney, and 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

Conversion

After the Camp's closing the area was converted into a
industrial-residential community.

Misc

- * The Army built 10 single level dormitories across from the
Camp for civilian family workers
- * The Army and USO Organization built a USO Center in
Greenville's Riverside Park. It was visited by 812,530
servicemen and women.
- * Streets were lettered A, B, C, D, E & were numbered 1-27.
- * Theaters were named for local towns.

Contact Information

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Camp Reynolds Project

Preserving & Sharing the History of Camp Reynolds