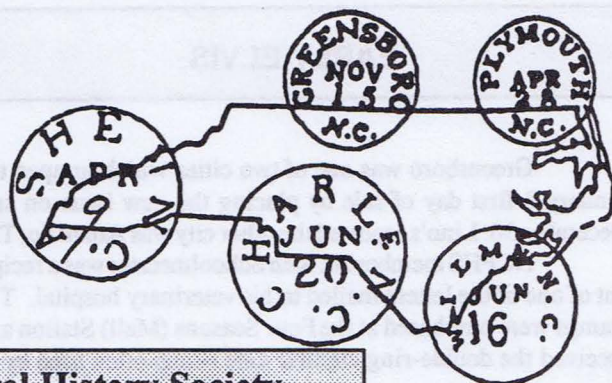


NCPHS Newsletter



The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 12, No. 1

Winter 1992-93

Whole 44



The Fortifications
of North Carolina

Let's Go . . .
IT'S "K.O." FOR TOKYO!
Ready!
Aim!
FIRE.....



Within
Range
Sight
MARK! MARK! FIRE!



"REMEMBER
PEARL
HARBOR"

Josephine M. Warner
1505 29th Street
Galveston, Texas

Remember Pearl Harbor

BUY WAR STAMPS AND BONDS



All For One

One For All

Josephine M. Warner
1505 29th Street
Galveston, Texas

The Rise and Fall
of
Camp Davis

EARLY ELVIS

Greensboro was one of two cities which jumped the January 8 first day of sale by placing the new issue on sale December 30. Linn's reported the other city was Amarillo, TX.

NCPHS member Dr. Ken Schoolmeester was a recipient of one of the letters mailed to his veterinary hospital. The stamps were purchased at the Four Seasons (Mall) Station and received the double-ring circular date stamp often used by



clerks at the counter to cancel stamps on parcels, receipts and postal money orders.

Linn's reports that pre-release usage of issues is not uncommon. In 1992, 24 stamps or issues were recorded as early usage.

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A NEW PROJECT AWAITS US

The NCPHS recently received a letter from the Postmark Collectors Club (PMCC) requesting our assistance. PMCC has determined that the UPS ZIP Directory Guide does not list all open post offices, and they would like to compile a list of all unlisted post offices. The unlisted offices include small contract branches and stations. These facilities are certainly part of our postal history and should be recorded.

I have agreed to act as a coordinator for the N.C. effort, and will pass on any information available for their up-coming publication. If you know of any contract station or branches within the state, please forward the information to me and I will forward it on to PMCC.

Thanks for your support.

Tony Crumbley
PO Box 219
Newell, NC 28126



NCPHS Newsletter

The NCPHS Newsletter is the official journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society. It is published quarterly in January, April, July and October.

Membership in the Society is \$10 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the Newsletter or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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An Introduction To THE MILITARY ENCAMPMENTS OF NORTH CAROLINA by Tony L. Crumbley

Ever since the first colonist settled on Roanoke Island, North Carolina has laid claim to many 'firsts'. One of those 'firsts' is the fact that North Carolinians were the first to take up arms to save the country. Certainly those first colonists bravely fought the Indians more than once.

Since that early beginning, North Carolina has done more that it's part when the battle cry was sounded. From the War of the Regulation and the Battle of Alamance in 1771 through Desert Storm, North Carolina troops have held a role. While only a relative few of these battles have been on our soil, N.C. has supported and trained the men and women to win.

Names like Fort Butler, Fort Caswell, Fort Defiance and Fort Fisher bring back memories for the historian. However, few recall the names of Camp Battle, Camp Ferebee or Camp Jeter. As postal historians, we have allowed a major portion of North Carolina's postal history to go unstudied. Little is known about the military markings used in N.C. during wars and peace time operations of the military. Numerous cancellations exist which tell a history of our involvement.

Even today that history continues to evolve with bases like Camp Lejeune, the largest concentration of Marines and sailors; Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, the worlds largest military complex; and Cherry Point Marine Air Station, the worlds largest Marine Corps Air Station. Perhaps it is time to take hold of this history and document it from which future students can learn.

This listing of military bases and the Rise and Fall of Fort Davis are the beginning of a series of articles on military postal history of North Carolina. It is hoped that these first articles will lead you to explore other areas of military postal history. The sheer numbers of military bases in North Carolina is surprising. As we explore their operations, I am sure the results will be even more surprising.

Currently in process are articles on N.C. during the Civil War, during World War I, Camp Greene and Fort Fisher. I would like to encourage you to pick your war, or pick your installation and dive into it's history. And, share it with us.

NORTH CAROLINA FORTIFICATIONS

An Encyclopedia of Military Bases in North Carolina

*Compiled from Encyclopedia of Historic Forts -
Roberts, North Carolina Gazateer-Powell, and
Others.
Part One*

CAMP ADVANCE. A Confederate Civil War encampment located near Garysburg, Northampton County, Camp Advance was named for Governor Zebulon B. Vance and was established in the fall of 1862. The camp continued in service throughout the war.

CAMP ALAMANCE. Located on the Alamance Battlefield near modern Burlington, it was established in May 1861 and continued for the duration of the war.

FORT ALLEN. An unfinished Confederate two-gun defense, Fort Allen was located near the town of Lane, a short distance south of Fort Ellis, in Craven County.

CAMP AMORY (Fort Amory). A federal encampment located on the south side of the Trent River from New Bern, Camp Amory was established in 1862 and occupied by the 45th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia Regiment. Fort Amory, located a half-mile away, was part of a mile-long defensive line between the Trent and Neuse rivers. Both were named for the brigade commander, General John Thomas Amory who died

of yellow fever at New Bern on October 8, 1864.

FORT AMORY. Camp Amory.

CAMP ANDERSON. A Confederate encampment located at or near Garysburg in Northampton County.

CAMP ANDERSON. A Confederate post located within present-day Wilmington's city limits, Camp Anderson opened in June 1861 when the 4th North Carolina Regiment established the camp.

FORT ANDERSON. Located about 12 miles south of Wilmington on a hillside overlooking the Cape Fear River are the remains of old Brunswick Town, the first settlement on the river and the home of two royal governors, that has lain buried since the Revolution.

During the Civil War, a Confederate fort was built diagonally across the ruins of the town. After the fall of Fort Fisher across the river, Fort Anderson withstood a month-long siege by Federal forces and was abandoned by the Confederates after it was severely bombarded for three days, February 17-19, 1865. With its fall, it became possible for the Union army to march freely on Wilmington, and three days later it was occupied by Federal troops. The earthworks of Fort Anderson, complete with gun emplacements intact, stand today as a great monument of the War Between the States and a vantage point from which to view the preserved ruins of old Brunswick Town.

FORT ANDERSON. A defense erected by Federal troops after

their capture of New Bern on March 14, 1863, Fort Anderson, garrisoned by the 92nd New York Infantry with Lieutenant Colonel Hiram Anderson, Jr., in command, was an earthwork on the north bank of the Neuse River directly opposite New Bern.

ANDREWS BATTERY. Confederate gun emplacement at Wilmington.

CAMP ARGYLE. A temporary Confederate encampment, Camp Argyle was located in the Beaufort-Morehead City area.

CAMP ASHE. A temporary Confederate encampment, occupied by 8th North Carolina Infantry troops, Camp Ashe was located at Topsail Sound, 12 miles from Wilmington.

FORT ASTOR. Located on the north bank of the Trent River, just south of New Bern, Fort Astor was erected by Confederate troops early in the war to protect the city.

ATLANTIC FIELD. A U.S. Marine Corps Auxillary air facility near Beaufort, Carteret County. (NPO 12012).

CAMP BADGER. Named for George E. Badger, North Carolinian and former secretary of the Navy under Presidents Harrison and Tyler. Camp Badger was established near the city of Raleigh by the Confederates and used for the duration of the war.

CAMP BADGER. A temporary Confederate encampment located near Fort Fisher and Camp Wyatt on Confederate Point on the north side of the Cape Fear River, Camp Badger was named for former Secretary of the Navy George E. Badger.

CAMP BAKER. A temporary Confederate encampment, possibly fortified, it was located on the Roanoke River near the town of Hamilton in Martin County.

CAMP BAKER. A temporary Confederate encampment, Camp Baker was located at or near the town of Greenville in Pitt County.

FORT BARNWELL. Located at the junction of Cotechney Creek and the Neuse River, two miles north of present day Barnwell in Craven County, Fort Barnwell was erected in April 1712 by South Carolinian Colonel John Barnwell to protect the German Palatine settlements during the campaign against the warring Tuscarora Indians.

FORT BARTOW. (Fort Foster). Fort Bartow, an earthwork mounting nine 32-pounder guns commanded by Lieutenant B. P. Loyall, was located on Pork Point on Roanoke Island. It was erected by Confederate troops for the defense of the island and Roanoke Sound. Bombarded by the Federal Fleet on February 7, 1862, the fort was taken the following day by Union forces. Renamed Fort Foster for Brigadier General John G. Foster, it remained in their possession until the end of the war.

CAMP BATTLE. A temporary World War II encampment

located on the site of a former C.C.C. camp just northwest of the city of New Bern, Camp Battle was established during the early days of the war. It was occupied by coastal artillery units primarily intended to guard the bridges over the Neuse and Trent rivers. Camp Battle was named in honor of Confederate Major General Cullen A Battle.

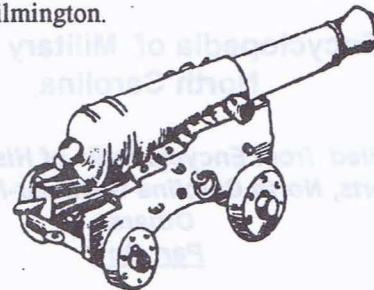
CAMP BEAUFORT. A temporary, probably fortified Confederate encampment, Camp Beaufort is believed to have been located at Topsail Inlet near Bogue Island, south of Fort Macon and the Morehead City area.

FORT BEAUFORT. Located at Topsail Inlet leading to the city of Beaufort. Fort Beaufort was a Federal- built granite defense mounting 40 guns of various caliber.

CAMP BEAUREGARD. A temporary Confederate encampment, this camp was located near the town of Ridgeway in Warren County.

CAMP BEECH GROVE. Its site now occupied by the Beech Grove Church on present-day N.C. Rural Road 1401, nine miles west of New Bern, Camp Beech Grove was established in 1864 and occupied by elements of the 3rd and 12th New York Cavalry.

BATTERY BELLAMY. A Confederate gun emplacement protecting Wilmington.



CAMP BELVIDERE. A temporary, possibly fortified Confederate encampment, Camp Belvidere was located near Belvidere Plantation on the west side of the Cape Fear River, about 10 miles southwest of the city of Wilmington.

CAMP BENBOW. Probably a temporary Confederate encampment, Camp Benbow was reportedly located 14 miles below Wilmington.

FORT BENJAMIN. A Union defense located at Shepherdsville, opposite Newport, in Carteret County, Fort Benjamin was garrisoned by elements of the 9th Vermont Volunteer Regiment.

FORT BETHABARA. During the French and Indian War, the Cherokee in western North Carolina rose against the white settlers. Following several massacres along the Catawba and Yadkin rivers in 1759, settlers fled in panic to the Moravian settlement at Bethabara established in 1753, now called Old Town in present central Forsyth County. Anticipating a possible attack by the Indians, the Moravians erected a palisade

around their town and posted sentries. "Fort" Bethabara, fortunately, never had to test the strength of its defenses. With the defeat of the Cherokee in 1761, the palisade was removed and life in the settlement returned to normal.

CAMP BLACKJACK. After the fall of New Bern to Federal forces in March 1862, General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch concentrated his troops at a fortified encampment, designated Camp Blackjack, five miles east of Kinston in Lenoir County.

FORT BLANCHARD. Fort Parke, Roanoke Island.

BOGUE FIELD. U.S. Marine Corps auxillary air base near Morehead City, Carteret County. (NPO 12011).

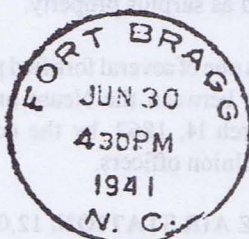
BATTERY BOLLES. Fort Fisher.

CAMP BOYLAN. A temporary Confederate organization encampment established June-August 1861, this camp was located near the city of Raleigh. Company E of the 10th N.C.T. (1st North Carolina Artillery), known as the Wilmington Light Artillery, was mustered into state service here in August 1861.

FORT BRAGG. Fort Bragg is located 50 miles south of Raleigh and 10 miles northwest of Fayetteville. Encompassing about 200 square miles, the post serves some 158,000 persons, including 40,000 assigned active duty soldiers. The present post is far from its modest genesis in 1918, when 127,000 acres of desolate sandhills and pine trees were designated as a U.S. Army installation. Camp Bragg emerged as a field artillery site on August 21, 1918.



It was named in honor of Confederate General Braxton Bragg, a North Carolinian and an artillery officer.



CAMP BRANCH. Named for Confederate Brigadier General Lawrence O'B. Branch, Camp Branch was located four miles below New Bern, near the Neuse River, and was active until the fall of the city to Federal troops on March 14, 1862. Another Camp Branch was a fortified encampment outside the town of Winton, near Murfreesboro, in Hertford County. Troops of the 9th New York Infantry stormed the town in March 1862, pillaged and burned it, and destroyed the Confederate encampment.

CAMP BRANCH. A World War II training facility named in honor of Confederate Brigadier General Lawrence O'B. Branch, Camp Branch was located west of the town of Beaufort in Carteret County.

FORT BRANCH. A Confederate earthen work, Fort Branch was constructed late in 1862 on the site of a prior battery to block the passage of Federal ships and troops up the Roanoke River into agriculturally rich eastern North Carolina and, as the war progressed, to protect the Confederate shipyards at Edward's Ferry, about six miles north of Scotland Neck, and the navy yard at Halifax. Completed in two months and ready to have the big guns emplaced by February 4, 1863, the fort was located on present S.R. 125, three miles southeast of the town of Hamilton, at Rainbow Banks in Martin County. Fort Branch was evacuated on April 10, 1865, after the Confederate occupants threw much of the ammunition into the fort's well and dumped the artillery into the river.

FORT BROWN. According to a National Archives citation, Fort Brown was a temporary Confederate fortification near New Bern, mounting eight guns, two of which were powerful Columbiads. The fort was evacuated when the Federals seized New Bern and its environs on March 14, 1862.

BRUNSWICK FERRY. Near Wilmington.

CAMP BRYAN GRIMES. A Spanish-American War recruiting and training encampment established in 1898 near the city of Raleigh, it was named for the Confederate general.

FORT (BATTERY) BUCHANAN. Fort Fisher.

CAMP BURGWIN (BURGWYN). A fortified Confederate encampment located on Bogue island at or near the present community of Atlantic Beach, just west of Beaufort, in Carteret County. Camp Burgwin (Burgwyn) was established in 1861 for several regiments, including the 7th and 26th Regiments N.C.T. (Infantry), assigned to assist in the defense of nearby Fort Macon. Named for Lieutenant Colonel Henry K. Burgwyn, the camp was abandoned in early March 1862 when its troops were withdrawn to defend New Bern from Federal forces.

CAMP BURGWIN. A prominent Confederate encampment, active throughout the war, located northeast of Wilmington, Camp Burgwyn was occupied from time to time by numerous military units, including the 50th North Carolina Infantry in March 1864.

FORT BURNSIDE. After the Battle of Roanoke Island on February 8, 1862, Union forces occupied the island and began building a new defense, known as Fort Burnside (probably named for General Ambrose Everett Burnside) on the north end of the island. The fort was constructed with the help of a number of freed able-bodied Negro men who had escaped up the Chowan River from their owners and fled to the protection of the Union banner.

BURNT CANE-BRAKE BLOCKHOUSE. During 1792-93, because of raids perpetrated by hostile Cherokee and Creek, guards were stationed for the protection of the frontier along the French Broad River in present Madison County. They also occupied or garrisoned three other blockhouses-Hough's, at Painted Rock and at Warm Springs.

FORT BUTLER. Located across the Hiwassee River from the present-day town of Murphy in Cherokee County, just above the Georgia border in the southwestern corner of the state, Fort Butler was erected in early 1838 by General Winfield Scott and named for then Secretary of War Benjamin F. Butler. Fort Butler was one of the temporary fortifications built to accommodate congregated Cherokee pending their tragic "Trail of Tears" march to barren Indian Territory in the West.

CAMP BUTNER. Located at present Butner in southwest Granville County, Camp Butner was a World War II Army post occupying a reservation encompassing parts of three counties. It was established in 1942 as an infantry and reassignment center and named in honor of World War I veteran, Major General Henry Wolfe Butner. The camp was closed in 1948.



CAMP CAMERON. Reportedly located near present-day Jacksonville in Onslow County, Camp Cameron was a small temporary Confederate encampment occupied September-October 1862 by Company H of the 41st N.C.T. Regiment (3rd North Carolina Cavalry).

CAMP CAMPBELL. A temporary Confederate training encampment located near Kinston in Lenoir County, Camp Campbell was probably named for Colonel Reuben Campbell, who retreated to Kinston with his troops from New Bern in March 1862.

FORT (BATTERY) CAMPBELL. A well proportioned earthwork, Fort Campbell was an outlying work of Fort Caswell located one mile to the east on Oak (now Smith) Island near present-day Southport. It was built by Confederate forces sometime between 1862 and 1864. The fort was last garrisoned by elements of the 3rd North Carolina Artillery, when it was abandoned and destroyed on January 16, 1865, after the fall of Fort Fisher.

CAMP CANAL. A temporary Confederate training camp, probably established in 1861, Camp Canal was located at or near Morehead City, Carteret County.

CAMP CAROLINA. A large Confederate encampment established in 1861 near Morehead City, Camp Carolina was captured by Union forces on March 23, 1862, during their campaign against Fort Macon. Elements of the Union army occupied the site for the remaining years of the war. The State National Guard later trained here for a time. The site of the camp is now the Morehead City Park.

FORT CASWELL. (Fort Lane: Fort Spinola). Originally known as Fort Caswell when built on the south bank of the Neuse River south of New Bern by North Carolina troops during 1775-76 to protect New Bern from British warships, it was named in honor of North Carolina's first governor. Seized by state troops prior to the actual outbreak of Civil War hostilities and renamed Fort Lane by the Confederacy. After the capture of New Bern on March 14, 1862, by Union forces, it was renamed Fort Spinola when occupied by Federal troops. Remains of the old fort are still visible today.

FORT CASWELL. One of the better-preserved examples of the Endicott Era coastal defense fortifications is Fort Caswell, on Oak Island at the strategic mouth of the Cape Fear River, just offshore of the town of Southport on the mainland. Oak Island was first fortified in 1825-26, when the original Fort Caswell was begun as a brick work surrounded by earthen ramparts and named in honor of Major General Richard Caswell, Revolutionary War veteran and first governor of North Carolina. Prior to the actual outbreak of the Civil War, the fort was seized by state troops on January 8, 1861, and held by the Confederates, who heavily reinforced it, until the fall of Fort Fisher January 16-17, 1865, when its garrison blew up the fort and abandoned it.

The almost-forgotten fort was reactivated and received modern coast defense armament in accordance with recommendations of the Endicott Board of Fortifications (1885), with seven batteries, each named for a military hero, constructed of masonry between 1815 and 1902.

*Fort Caswell
April 23/64*

After World War I, Fort Caswell was placed in caretaker status, then declared surplus by the War Department. With the outbreak of World War II, however, the government reacquired the old fort for use as a Navy depot. Subsequent to the war, it again was declared as surplus property.

FORT CHASE. This fort was one of several fortified positions on a line west of New Bern, between the Neuse and Trent Rivers, established after March 14, 1862, by the occupying Union forces and named for Union officers.

CHERRY POINT MARINE AIR STATION. 12,000 acres

in Craven County on the Neuse River, the largest Marine Air Station in the world, opened March 1942. (NPO 12040).

CAMP CHRONICLE. A World War I training camp located on the present site of present South Linwood Street in Gastonia in central Gaston County. Camp Chronicle was operated in connection with an artillery range at the foot of Crowders Mountain. The camp was named in honor of Major William Chronicle, killed at the Battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, on October 7, 1780.

CAMP CLARENDON. A temporary Confederate encampment located at or near Garysburg, Northampton County.

CAMP CLARK. Located on Kittrell's Springs in Granville County, Camp Clark was a temporary fortified cavalry encampment occupied by element of the 2nd North Carolina Cavalry in 1861.

FORT CLARK. Located about three-fourths of a mile east of Fort Hatteras on Hatteras Inlet and nearer the sea, Fort Clark was an irregular-shaped redoubt mounting five 32-pounders and two smaller guns. The Confederate defense was named in honor of then governor of North Carolina, Henry Toole Clark. The fort, along with Fort Hatteras, was surrendered about noon on August 29, 1861, to a joint Army-Navy task force from Fortress Monroe under General Benjamin F. Butler and Flag-Officer Silas Stringham. In the afternoon, after leaving part of the land forces and three vessels to hold the forts and guard the Inlet, the fleet sailed with 670 Confederate prisoners. (See: Fort Hatteras.)

CAMP CLINGMAN. This Confederate encampment was established during the summer of 1861 on a site now located on French Broad Avenue near Philip Street within the present city limits of Asheville. It was named for Brigadier General Thomas L. Clingman, former U.S. Senator.

CAMP CLINGMAN. A temporary Confederate encampment, apparently established in 1862, and located near Goldsboro in Wayne County, it was probably named for Brigadier General Thomas L. Clingman.

FORT COBB. A Confederate battery mounting four guns rescued from a sunken ship, Fort Cobb was located at Cobb's Point four miles below Elizabeth City in Pasquotank County. It was destroyed on February 10, 1862, by bombardment by ships of a Union task force.

CAMP COLLIER. Probably a temporary Confederate encampment, Camp Collier was located near Goldsboro in Wayne County.

COLSON'S SUPPLY DEPOT. A fortified Revolutionary War depot built in 1781 to store and protect supply and arms for General Nathanael Greene's forces, it was located near Mt. Gilead in Montgomery County.

FORT COMFORT. (Fort Conpher, Fort Jones). A Federal-built defense, also known as Fort Conpher, the fort was located on the east side of the town of Plymouth, between Columbia Road and the Roanoke River in Washington County. It fell into Confederate hands when forces under General Robert Frederick Hoke took Plymouth on April 20, 1864. The defense was renamed Fort Jones in honor of Colonel J. G. Jones, 35th Regiment N.C.T. (Infantry) who was killed leading the charge against the fort.

FORT COMPHER. Fort Comfort.

COOWEECHEE BLOCKHOUSE. This short-lived Spanish defense was erected in the autumn of 1566 by Captain Juan Pardo and his 14-man expedition, which had been ordered to explore the country's interior by Pedro Menendez de Aviles, founder of St. Augustine. The blockhouse is believed to have been located at an Indian village known as Cooweechee in western North Carolina near the Tennessee border.

CAMP CRABTREE. The 26th North Carolina Regiment was organized at this camp of instruction on the Crabtree Plantation, three miles west of Raleigh, on August 27, 1861. Its first commanding officer was Zebulon B. Vance.

CAMP DANIEL. A temporary Confederate encampment located near Kinston in Lenoir County.

DAVIDSON'S FORT. (Fort Rutherford; Upper Fort). Also known as Fort Rutherford and Upper Fort. Davidson's Fort was originally a fortified dwelling and refuge on Davidson's Plantation located near the present-day town of Old Fort in Burke County. The structure was converted into a fort by North Carolina militia under Brigadier General Griffith Rutherford during his expedition against the Cherokee in the late summer and fall of 1776.

CAMP DAVIS. Established originally in 1861 as a Confederate infantry training camp, Camp Davis was located on Middle Sound, known today as Topsail Sound, in Pender County. The post was thereafter intermittently occupied by various Confederate units until at least June 1864.

CAMP DAVIS. A World War II Coast Artillery anti-aircraft and infantry training base located at Holly Ridge, 31 miles northeast of Wilmington, in Onslow County. Closed in October 1944, Camp Davis was reactivated for a brief period in the summer of 1945 as an Air Force convalescent hospital and redistribution center. The post was named in honor of Major General Richmond Pearson Davis (1866- 1937), a North Carolinian and World War I veteran.

FORT DAVIS (Fort Strong). Confederate fortifications comprising several batteries, Fort Davis was located three miles south of Wilmington opposite Big Island Shallows. It was evacuated on February 22, 1865, after an engagement with Union gunboats commanded by Rear Admiral David Porter. At the end of the war, the defense became known as Fort Strong.

FORT DEFIANCE. Located close to the Yadkin River near the present city of Lenoir in Caldwell County, Fort Defiance was erected in 1776 during the campaign against the hostile Cherokee. Militia and volunteers under Captain Jacob Ferree constructed the defense and garrisoned it for a short time until the warring Indians returned to their villages in the Cherokee Nation. During 1788-92 General William Lenoir, a leading participant in the Battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, October 7, 1780, constructed a strong, heavy timbered farmhouse on the site of the frontier defense and named his new home Fort Defiance.

*Fort - Defiance N.C. 3
14 July 1841*

FORT DEFIANCE. (Fort Russell). A Confederate defense also known as Fort Russell, it was located near the center of Roanoke Island on the main north-south causeway or road. The island and forts were captured by Union forces on February 8, 1862, during General Burnside's expedition by sea against the Confederacy's coastal defenses in North Carolina.

FORT DILLARD. (Fort Wingfield). A Union-built defense, also known as Fort Wingfield, located on the Chowan River in Chowan County on the plantation farm owned by Dr. Richard Dillard, it consisted of a blockhouse and earthworks erected by "Buffalo Soldiers" (North Carolinian Union sympathizers) in September 1862. Union warships provided protection on the river. The fort and Dr. Dillard's plantation home were destroyed on March 23, 1863, by a detachment of Confederate troops commanded by Lieutenant Colonel J.E. Brown, 42nd Regiment N.C.T. (Infantry) dispatched there by Lieutenant General D. H. Hill.

FORT DIXIE. A Confederate work mounting four 24-pounders, Fort Dixie was the left bank of a line of entrenchments known as the Croatan Line, about 10 miles below New Bern, on the west bank of the Neuse River. The fort was abandoned by the Confederates on March 13, 1862, shortly before the final battle for New Bern.

FORT DOBBS. A western outpost of the Province of North Carolina during the French and Indian War, Fort Dobbs was home base for a company of some 50 Rangers who patrolled the frontier from 1755 or 1756 until it was abandoned in 1764. Standing on an eminence about two miles north of the present-day town of Statesville in Iredell County, the fort was begun in the autumn of 1755 by Captain Hugh Waddell of the Rangers and completed the following year. It was named for Governor Arthur Dobbs, who had persuaded the Provincial Assembly to make an appropriation for its construction. Troops appear to have garrisoned Fort Dobbs almost continuously from the time of its completion until 1762. After its abandonment, the structure is said to have stood there until well after the Revolution, during which it served as a rendezvous for militia troops. According to tradition, the logs of the fort were later removed for use in the construction of a schoolhouse nearby.

FORT DOBBS. Governor Arthur Dobbs in May 1755 visited the town of Beaufort and selected a site on the southwest point of Beaufort inlet for the building of a fortification. The governor's judgment in selecting the site on Bogue Banks has been sustained by future military engineers. A fort was located there almost continually from his day until the twentieth century, within a few hundred feet of the original site selected in 1755. Fort Dobbs was replaced in 1808 by Fort Hampton, which was in turn replaced in 1834 by Fort Macon, which remains today as a state park.

FORT DUTTON. (Fort Union). A fortification built by Union troops after their capture of New Bern on March 14, 1862, Fort Dutton was located on the south bank of the Neuse River. Also known as Fort Union, it was a component of the Federal complex of defenses established to ensure the occupation.

EDENTON NAVAL AIR STATION. (NPO 13000). A 4,000 acre Marine Corps site on the north shore of Albemarle Sound for sea and land planes, and later gliders. Operational 1942-1959.

ELIZABETH CITY COAST GUARD AIR STATION. (NPO 1003). Six miles east of Elizabeth City on Hwy 34.

ELIZABETH CITY NAVAL AIR STATION. (Weeksville NAS) A WWII auxiliary patrol plane base. (NPO 10193).



CAMP ELLIS. One of the state's first recruiting and organization camps established after Governor Ellis arbitrarily put North Carolina into the Confederacy, Camp Ellis was set up in May 1861 on the 16-acre grounds of the State Fair Grounds in Raleigh's eastern suburbs.

FORTELLIS. A Confederate eight-gun battery, Fort Ellis was located four miles south of New Bern on the bank of the Neuse River. It was named for North Carolina Governor John Willis Ellis.

FORT ELLIS. (Fort Shallowbag Bay). Located at Ballast Point on Shallowbag Bay opposite Nags Head on Roanoke island, this three gun fort was referred to as "Fort Ellis" in Union reports but was called Fort Shallowbag Bay or Ballast Point Batter. in Confederate correspondence.

FAYETTEVILLE ARSENAL. The U.S. Arsenal at Fayetteville was authorized by Congress in 1836. Very soon after the outbreak of war in 1861, it was taken over by North Carolina troops. The site of the arsenal, destroyed by General Sherman in 1865, is located on present-day U.S. Highway 15A.

CAMP FEREBEE. A temporary Confederate encampment located four miles from the town of Snow Hill in Greene County, Camp Ferebee was occupied from December 1862 to March 27, 1863, by elements of the 59th Regiment (4th North Carolina Cavalry), commanded by Colonel Dennis Ferebee.

CAMP FEREBEE. A temporary Confederate encampment named for cavalry Colonel Dennis Ferebee, it was located near Garysburg in Northampton County.

CAMP FISHER. (Camp Hill). The 6th Regiment N.C.T. (Infantry) commanded by a Colonel Fisher trained at Camp Hill at, or near, the town of Salisbury, Rowan County, in 1862. The name of the camp was later changed to Camp Fisher to reflect the replacement of the ranking commander in the Confederate military district.

FORT FISHER. (Battery Bolles). Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, there were no fortifications on what was then known as Federal Point, on the peninsula between the Atlantic Ocean and the Cape Fear River. In April 1861 however, the state of North Carolina placed a battery there and sent the Wilmington Light Infantry to man the guns. This fortification, known as Battery Bolles (named for Captain Charles P. Bolles) was the beginning of Fort Fisher, named in honor of Captain Charles F. Fisher, who was killed at the first Battle of Manassas in 1861.

FORT FISHER AIR FORCE BASE. Air force TAC base near Kure Beach, New Hanover County.

CAMP FLORIDA. A temporary Confederate encampment located on Topsail Island on the Outer Banks in Pender County.

CAMP FLOYD. A temporary Confederate post located at Weldon in Halifax County, Camp Floyd was occupied by the 38th Regiment N.C.T. (Infantry) in February 1864.

FORT FORREST. An unfinished Confederate redoubt mounting seven guns, Fort Forrest was situated on the mainland opposite Roanoke Island and protected the west side of Croatan Sound, which was obstructed by a double line of 16 sunken vessels and a system of pilings. It did not play an effective part

in the battle for Roanoke Island and was burned by the Confederates on February 7, 1862.

FORT FOSTER. Fort Bartow.

CAMP FRENCH. A temporary French encampment located about two miles below Wilmington on the Cape Fear River and in operation as early as March 1862, Camp French was situated in the rear of a long line of batteries and occupied by a company of marines in 1862.

FORT FRENCH. A Confederate fortification located just south of Wilmington on the northeast fork of the Cape Fear River. It was occupied by Company K of the 1st North Carolina Artillery from January 1862 to June 1863.

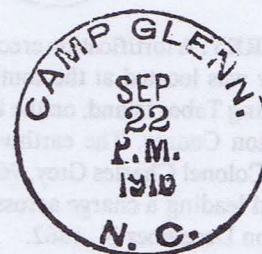
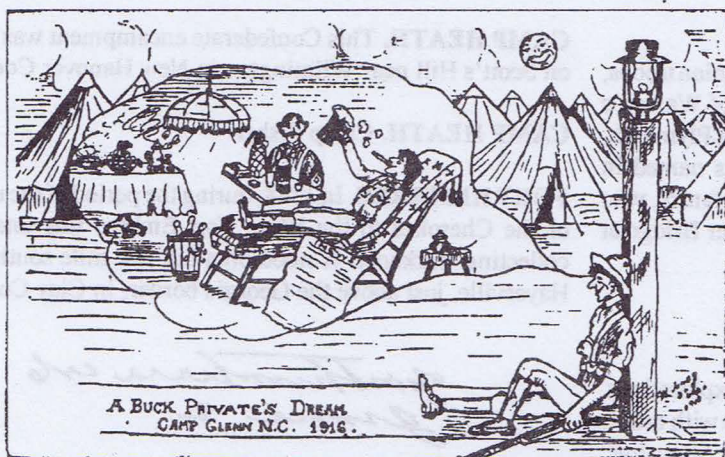
CAMP GASTON. A temporary Confederate encampment located near New Bern, Camp Gaston was intermittently occupied between October 1861 and February 1862.

FORT GASTON. A Union two-gun earthwork defense built in 1862 and located about six miles from New Bern, Fort Gaston was maintained for the remaining years of the war by Federal forces to defend the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad crossing over the Trent River. The fort was named for Judge William Gaston, who owned large parcels of land in the area.

CAMP GATLIN. A temporary Confederate encampment located behind Fort Lane on the Neuse River east of New Bern, it was occupied by the 27th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, during January-March 1862. It was evacuated by the Confederates when New Bern fell to the Federals on March 11, 1862.

CAMP GEORGIA. A Confederate encampment located on Roanoke Island. It was established by more than 1,100 Georgia troops in September 1861. It is believed that shortly before the battle for Roanoke Island on February 8, 1862, these troops were transferred to Virginia.

CAMP GLENN. A U.S. Army base established before WW I near Morehead City, Carteret County. Closed in 1929.



Pen-and-ink cartoon post card of Camp Glenn published by W.A. Jones, Raleigh, N.C.

CAMP GORDON. Located on the Tar River six miles below Greenville in Pitt County, Camp Gordon was a Confederate cavalry outpost, established probably in late September 1862.

CAMP GORHAM.

CAMP GRAHAM. A Confederate encampment active during 1861-62, Camp Graham was located on the Newport River opposite Shepherdsville, Carteret County, near later established Fort Benjamin.

FORT GRANVILLE. Located on the northern tip of Core Banks at the present-day town of Portsmouth at Ocracoke Inlet in Carteret County, Fort Granville was actually established by newly appointed Governor Arthur Dobbs in 1755 although it existed in name only since 1753, when it had been funded by a £2,000 appropriation by the North Carolina Assembly. Governor Dobbs, on a tour of the coast, reached Ocracoke Inlet on May 9, 1755. "Within twenty-four hours he had not only fixed a site for Fort Granville on Core Banks but had designed the structure, describing it later as 'a fascine Battery, secured by piles, with 2 faces'" (David Stick, *The Outer Banks of North Carolina* [1958]). By late 1757 the fort was sufficiently built to be put in active use when it was garrisoned by Captain Charles McNair and a company of men. From then on the strength of Fort Granville's garrison varied according to the exigencies of the French and Indian War and the state of the province's finances. With the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, its last garrison was withdrawn and the fort abandoned.

CAMP GREENE. A temporary World War I training post named in honor of General Nathanael Greene of the Continental Army, Camp Greene was established on July 18, 1917, about two miles west of the city of Charlotte. Construction of the installation, designed for a capacity of 48,500 men, began on July 20, 1917, and continued through 1918. It was designated a demobilization center on December 3, 1918, and ordered salvaged on January 20, 1919. Camp Greene was abandoned June 30, 1919.



FORT GREY. A fortification erected in 1863 by Union troops, Fort Grey was located at the southern terminus of Warren's Neck, facing Tabor Island, on the Roanoke River at Plymouth, Washington County. The earthwork defense was named in honor of Colonel Charles Grey, 96th New York Infantry, who was killed leading a charge across the Neuse River Bridge at Kinston on December 14, 1862.

GROVE CAMP. Camp Palmer.

GUATARI BLOCKHOUSE. In 1566, during explorations through the interior of the Southeast in compliance with orders of Pedro Menendez de Aviles, founder of St. Augustine, Captain Juan Pardo with an 18-man expedition erected a

blockhouse at Guatari on the headwaters of the Wateree (Catawba) River. No more definite location has ever been determined for the site of the Spanish fortification.

GUM SWAMP FORT. A Confederate defense about one mile west of Dover in Craven County, the location (sometimes referred to as Green Swamp) of Gum Swamp Fort was a strong position in opposition to Federal troops. Present-day U.S. 70 crosses the railroad about 100 yards from the site.

FORT HALL. This Confederate fortification was erected in October 1861 on the Pungo River in Hyde County.

CAMP HAMILTON. A temporary Confederate encampment located near Kinston in Lenoir County.

FORT HAMPTON. Fort Macon.

FORT HANCOCK. In 1778 Captain de Cottineau of the French frigate Ferdinand and Captain Le Chevalier de Chambray, an artilleryman, teamed up to lead a group of French volunteers interested in aiding the American cause during the Revolution. With a small measure of assistance from the government of North Carolina, they erected a fort on Cape Lookout, about four miles south of Harkers Island in Carteret County. It was later named Fort Hancock apparently for Enoch Hancock the owner of the island property. It is believed that the fort was garrisoned for two years and dismantled in 1780.

HARVEY POINT AIR STATION. A WWII Navy Auxillary Air Station near Hertford, Perquimons County on the Perquimons River. It was a seaplane base operational 1942-63. (NPO 10157).

FORT HATTERAS. The Confederates began construction of Fort Hatteras and its supporting redoubt, Fort Clark, about three-quarters of a mile to the east, in the early summer of 1861 at Hatteras Inlet on the Outer Banks. Fort Hatteras, the principal defense, was located one-eighth of a mile from the Inlet and commanded the strategic channel. Ocean tides during the subsequent decades gradually eroded the point of land to wash away the sites of Forts Hatteras and Clark.

CAMP HEATH. This Confederate encampment was located on Scott's Hill near Wilmington in New Hanover County.

CAMP HEATH. Camp Fisher.

FORT HEMBREE. In 1838, during the period of the removal of the Cherokee to the West, Fort Embree was one of the collecting stockades. It stood on a hill one mile southwest of Hayesville, just above the Georgia border, in Clay County.

*Forth Hatteras c. 1861
June 2*

CAMP HILL. A Confederate recruiting encampment, Camp Hill was located near Garysburg in Northampton County and named for Major General Daniel Harvey Hill. The 4th North Carolina Infantry was organized here in May 1861.

CAMP HILL. Wilmington.

FORT HILL. The site of Confederate batteries, named Fort Hill for General Daniel H. Hill, at the mouth of the Pamlico River in Beaufort County, enabled the general's forces to besiege Washington in the spring of 1863.

CAMP HILTON. A temporary Confederate encampment located near Kinston in Lenoir County.

BATTERY HOBSON. On Smith's Island, se Brunswick County at mouth of Cape Fear River.

CAMP HOFFMAN. A Union encampment located on the north side of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad, near the town of Tuscarora northwest of New Bern, Camp Hoffman was a post of regimental size established after the occupation of New Bern on March 14, 1862.

CAMP HOFFMAN. Near Hoffman, Richmond County, during WW II.



CAMP HOKE. A Confederate encampment named in honor of General Robert F. Hoke, it was located near Kinston in Lenoir County.

CAMP HOLMES. Probably established in 1861, Camp Holmes was a Confederate encampment located near Weldon in Halifax County.

CAMP HOLMES. One of several Confederate "Camps of Instruction" located at and near Raleigh, Camp Holmes opened in 1861 and was active until April 1865. Colonel Peter Mallett (Mallet) served as commandant here and led a battalion known as the Camp Holmes Guard or Mallett's Battalion. In 1862 he was in charge of conscription in the state.

FORT (BATTERY) HOLMES. Situated on Smith's Island in the mouth of the Cape Fear River, Fort Holmes was a substantial Confederate fortification with four auxiliary batteries and entrenchments circumscribing the entire island. It was evacuated by the Confederates on January 16, 1865, and taken possession of by Federal land and naval forces on the following day.

FORT HOLMES. A Confederate defense of New Bern, Fort Holmes was evacuated on or just prior to March 14, 1862, when Federal forces took possession of the town.

HOUGH'S BLOCKHOUSE. Burnt Cane-Brake Blockhouse.

FORT HUGER. Fort Reno.

HUGGINS' ISLAND FORT. A Confederate defense guarding the entrance to Bogue Inlet, it was located near present-day Swansboro in Onslow County. The fort was attacked and burned by Union troops. on August 19, 1862.

FORT HUNTINGTON. A temporary Army post located in the Cherokee Nation in western North Carolina, Fort Huntington was established in February 1836 by Brevet 2nd Lieutenant John S. Hooper, with Company E of the 4th Infantry, aggregating 34 men. The post was abandoned in May 1836.

FORT HYDE. Constructed in late 1711 or early in 1712 at Core Point on the Pamlico River, near the town of Bath, the state's oldest community, in present-day Beaufort County, Fort Hyde served as a defense and refuge during the Tuscarora War, which began in September 1711 with widespread massacres and did not end until 1715. The fort was named for Governor Edward Hyde.

CAMP IRWIN. A temporary Confederate encampment located at, or near, Rutherfordton in Rutherford County.

CAMP JACKSON. A Confederate post of considerable size located at Wilmington and used 1863-65, Camp Jackson consisted of wood barracks and rows of tents. Evacuated by the Confederates early in 1865, the post's barracks were occupied February 24-26, 1865, by Union troops consisting of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division.

CAMP JETER. This Confederate post was located in the present vicinity of Cherry and Flint streets in the city of Asheville.

FORT JOHNSON. A Confederate defense located near the city of Wilmington.

JOHNSON'S MILL. Near Kinston.

CAMP JOHNSTON. This Confederate encampment, named for General Joseph E. Johnston, was located at Falling Creek on the north side of the Neuse River, about six miles west of Kinston and four miles east of La Grange, in Lenoir County.

FORT JOHNSTON. (Fort Pender). Fort Johnston was located on the west bank of the Cape Fear River, about four miles from its mouth, atop a six-acre bluff, a site now surrounded by the town of Southport (formerly Smithville) in Brunswick County. Begun in 1745 and completed in 1764, it was first known as Johnston's Fort, named in honor of Governor Gabriel Johnson. On the night of July 19, 1775, a band of Patriots seized the fort

and burned it. No efforts were made during the Revolution to rebuild the fort.

After the strategic site was ceded by the state in 1794 to the federal government provided a new fort was built there, it was occupied by U.S. troops. In 1804 a new fortification constructed of masonry and brick, designated Fort Johnston, was begun under the supervision of Lieutenant Joseph Gardiner Swift, West Point's first graduate, and completed in 1809. The post during the next half century was repeatedly abandoned and reoccupied from April 17, 1861, to January 17, 1865. Fort Johnston was in the possession of the Confederacy to protect its blockade-runners, during which time it was occasionally referred to as Fort Pender. Fort Johnston was finally abandoned in February 1881.

FORT JONES. Fort Comfort.

CAMP JOURDAN. A Union encampment established on or about February 9, 1862, on Roanoke Island, it was named in honor of lieutenant Colonel James Jourdan, 56th New York Infantry.

KINSTON MARINE AIR STATION. A WWII Marine Corps auxillary air facility. (NPO 12015).

KNOLLWOOD FIELD. South of Southern Pines on Hwy 501. It was a WWII Auxillary training facility.

CAMP LAMB. A large Confederate encampment established in 1862, it was located near the city of Wilmington. The 61st N.C.T. Regiment (Infantry) was organized here in August 1862. The camp was occupied by General Robert F. Hoke's division, Army of Northern Virginia, in January 1865.

FORT (BATTERY) LAMB. A Confederate fortification named for Colonel William Lamb, commander of Fort Fisher, and located on the west side of the Cape Fear River at Reeve's Point, below Price Creek, Fort (or Battery) Lamb served as a reserve magazine for Fort Fisher on the opposite side of the river. On January 18, 1865, the USS Tacony anchored off the fort and sent troops ashore to destroy its gun carriages and essential works.

FORT LANE. Fort Caswell.

FORT (BATTERY) LEE. A Confederate two-gun battery on the northeast side of the Cape Fear River, covering both the upper and lower obstructions and the mouth of the Brunswick River directly opposite, Fort Lee was situated between Fort Stokes and Fort Campbell.

CAMP LEJEUNE. U. S. Marine Corps advanced training base in Onslow County, straddling the New River. Originally known as New River Marine Base; later named for Major General John A. Lejeune (1867-1942), WWI Marine Corps Commandant. Base covers 173 sq. miles. (Powell).

CAMP LEVENTHORPE. A temporary Confederate en-



campment located at, or near, Garysburg, Northampton County, it was named for Colonel (later Brigadier General) Collett Leventhorpe, 11th North Carolina Infantry.

CAMP LEVENTHORPE. A temporary Confederate post located at Fowler's Point near Wilmington, it was occupied by the 11th North Carolina Infantry commanded by Colonel Collett Leventhorpe in June 1862.

CAMP LONG. A Confederate camp located at or near Garysburg, Northampton County, Camp Long was established in 1862. The 63rd Regiment N.C.T. (5th North Carolina Cavalry) was organized here in October 1862.

BATTERY MCRAE. Part of the Confederate defenses of Wilmington.

BATTERY MCREE. Part of the Confederate defenses of Wilmington.

FORT MCFADDEN. Meager information indicates that this defense was erected in the 1760s for protection from the Cherokee and Catawba Indians. It was located on Mountain Creek near the present site of Rutherfordton in Rutherford County. An additional citation reports that Fort McFadden was still in existence in 1776 and used during that year's expedition against the Cherokee.

FORT MCGAUGHEY. Erected about the year 1765 and used throughout the Revolution, Fort McGaughey was located within the present-day town of Westminster in central Rutherford County.

CAMP MCINTOSH. A temporary Confederate encampment located near Goldsboro in Wayne County.

CAMP MCLEAN. A Confederate encampment located near Goldsboro in Wayne County.

CAMP MACKALL. A sub-installation of Fort Bragg, approximately 40 miles east. Camp Mackall is located 3 miles east of Hoffman in Richmond County. It was named in honor of Pvt. John Thomas Mackall, the first paratrooper killed in North Africa during WWII. Camp Mackall was first activated in 1940 and dedicated in 1943. De-activated in 1948, the post is now used as a recreation retreat for Army personnel.



CAMP MACON. A Confederate recruiting and organizing encampment located at or near the town of Macon, Warren County. It was established in 1861.

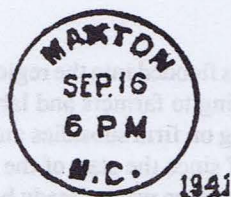
FORT MACON. (Fort Hampton). Located on Bogue Island at Topsail (now Beaufort) Inlet in Carteret County two miles from Beaufort and Morehead City. The site reaches back in history to a time when Beaufort and its environs were subjected to intermittent pirate raids and Spanish occupation.

Beaufort was protected during the War of 1812 by a small stone fort probably built about 1809 and named Fort Hampton in honor of Colonel Andrew Hampton, North Carolina Militia. This fort was destroyed by a severe hurricane soon after 1815. The present structure was begun in 1826 and named in honor of Nathaniel Macon, Speaker of the House of Representatives and U.S. Senator from N.C.

It was seized by North Carolina forces in April 1861 and was held by Confederates until April 26, 1862. After dispossessing the Confederates, the fort was occupied by troops of the 5th Rhode Island Brigade. For the remainder of the war, the fort served as a military and civil prison and an important coaling station for Union ships. On April 28, 1877, Fort Macon was closed as a garrisoned station and placed in a caretaker status.

Fort Macon was re-garrisoned during the Spanish-American War to man the two 100-pounder Parrott rifles, two 10-inch mortars, and two bronze 12-pounder Napoleons. The only guns mounted at that time in the fort. In 1924 the fort and the reservation of some 400 acres were transferred to the State of North Carolina for park purposes, but at the outbreak of World War II, the fort was reoccupied by the Federal government. Because of the strategic importance of Beaufort Inlet, a detachment of the 224th Coast Artillery remained in some numbers until October 1946, when once again the fort was returned to North Carolina. The Division of State Parks of the Department of Conservation and Development of the state now maintains Fort Macon as a historical monument.

MAXTON AIR BASE. A training base for the Air Transport Command established during WWII near Maxton, Robeson County.



CAMP MANGUM. One of the Confederate "Camps of Instruction," Camp Mangum was established in November 1861 and located three miles west of the 1862 city limits of Raleigh on the North Carolina Central Railroad. In the spring of 1862, spears or lances were issued to new recruits at the camp because of the shortage of weapons.

CAMP MARTIN. A temporary Confederate encampment located near Kinston, Lenoir County.

CAMP MASON. Probably a temporary Confederate encampment. Camp Mason was located near the town of Graham in central Alamance County.

CAMP MASON. A temporary Confederate encampment located at, or near, Goldsboro, Wayne County.

CAMP MASSACHUSETTS. A fortified Union encampment located one and a half miles across the Trent River from New Bern, Camp Massachusetts was almost adjacent to the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad, and in the rear or next to Fort Spinola. The post was probably established not long after Federal troops took possession of New Bern on March 14, 1862. On May 1, 1863, the camp was the headquarters of the 45th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia.

FORT (BATTERY) MEARES. Located south of Fort Campbell on the Cape Fear River near Wilmington. Fort Meares was a Confederate gun battery.

FORT MERCER. A Union-built fortification located a little more than a mile outside of what was then Plymouth's town limits, Fort Mercer was one of the defenses captured (April 18) when Confederate General R. F. Hoke's land and naval forces attacked and took the town during April 17-20, 1864.

BATTERY MILLER. Wilmington.

FORT MONTEIL. A Union fortification on the south side of Shallowbag Bay, on the east side of Roanoke Island, Fort Monteil's location was the same as that of Confederate Fort Ellis ("Ballast Point Battery"). The fort was named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Viguer de Monteil, 53rd New York Infantry, who was killed on February 8, 1862, during the attack against Fort Defiance (Fort Russell) in the center of the island.

MOORE'S BASTION. Part of the Confederate defenses of Wilmington.

FORT MORGAN. Fort Ocracoke.

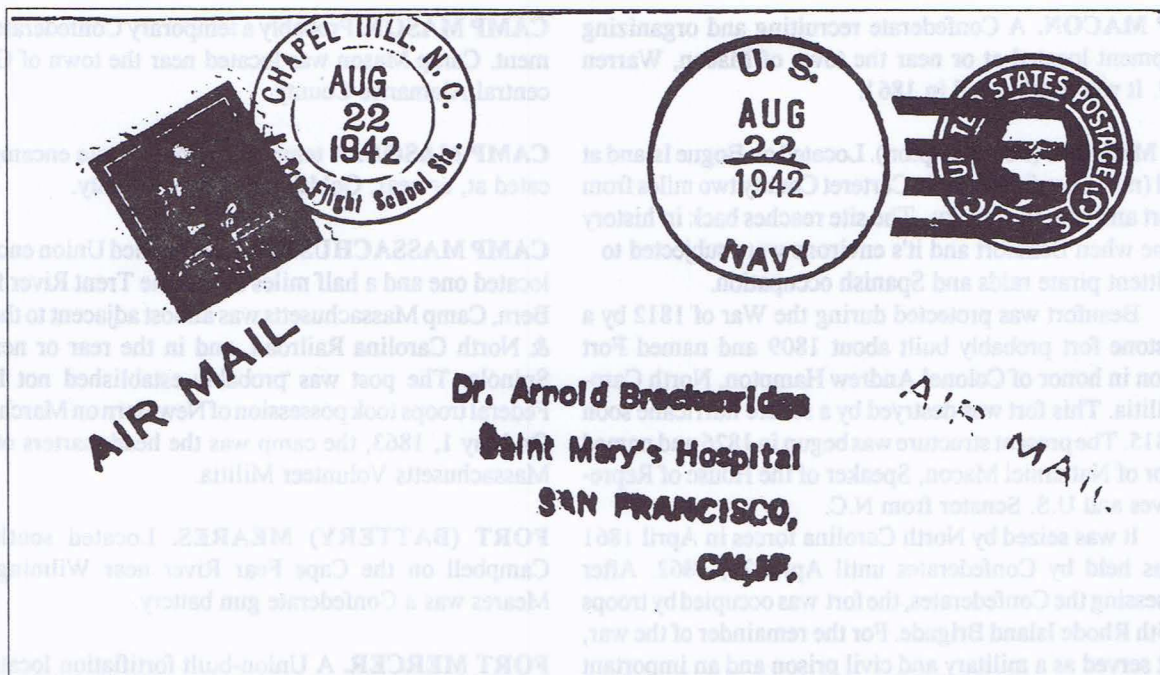
CAMP MORGAN. Wilmington.

MOUND BATTERY. Fort Fisher.

NAURI AIR STATION. An auxiliary Naval Air Station near Manteo, Roanoke Island, Dare County. (NPO 10161).

NAVAL CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL. During WWII the U.S. Navy transformed Kenilworth Inn, a large resort hotel in Asheville, and into U.S. General Hospital #12. (NPO 10162).

NAVY PRE-FLIGHT SCHOOL. A college pre-flight instructional course in conjunction with the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



CAMP NETHERCUTT. A temporary Confederate encampment located near Kinston, Lenoir County.

NEWPORT BARRACKS. located at Newport in Carteret County, these wooden Confederate barracks used during the winter of 1861-62 were captured by Union forces on March 22, 1862.

NEW RIVER MARINE BASE. Camp Lejeune.

NEW RIVER MARINE CORPS AIRSTATION. (Peterfield Point, McCutcheon Field). Rotary wing training center in support of Camp Lejeune at Holly Ridge. See Camp Davis.

NITRE & MINING SERVICE. Lexington, Davidson County.

OAK GROVE MARINE AIRSTATION. Auxillary Marine air facility near New Bern, Craven County. (NPO 12012).



(To be Continued)

THE RISE AND FALL OF CAMP DAVIS

by Scott Troutman

Before December 15, 1940 Holly Ridge, with it's 28 residents, was just a small Onslow County town half way between Wilmington and Jacksonville, N.C. But on that day things changed. A bulldozer began to dig into the loose sand, scrub pine and tail grasses while a hundred interested people gathered to watch. They included contractors, engineers, a few workers, job seekers, sightseers, a state highway patrolman and one reporter.

This was the beginning of construction on Camp Davis, a 3,200 acre U.S. Army anti-aircraft training base. The base was named fir Major General Richmond Pearson Davis, a Statesville native, who commanded the coastal deftnses at San Francisco during World War I and who was later a noted West Point instructor.

Within five days 500 workers, job hunters, suppliers

and curiosity seekers flooded into the region. The construction activity was a blessing to farmers and laborers who had been accustomed to living on firm subsidies and low wages. It was their first real relief since the start of the Great Depression.

Because draftees were already being assigned to the base, the contractors were instructed to complete the job in three months. It took five months and 10 days - less time than it takes to build a house. In that time they built 978 structures. Ninety-eight percent were wooden, forty five million board feet of lumber and 22,250 kegs of nails were used by some 22,815 people who worked on the construction, expenditures were \$16,797,000 with about half spent for labor. Some days as many as 170 freight cars loaded with building materials arrived on the Atlantic Coast Line railroad tracks paralleling the base while other materials arrived by truck daily.

During the construction phase, job seekers came from far and wide. Some slept in their cars and others camped in tents. Many new arrivals claimed to be "finished carpenters". The local joke was that they were farmers who "had finished their crops and killing hogs", and had bought a hammer. Many had trouble finding Holly Ridge as initially it had only seven residences.

All the little towns between Jacksonville and Wilmington became boom towns. They attracted not only the construction workers, but the usual unsavory hangers-on including derelicts and prostitutes. Honky tonks and filling stations blossomed for miles around and property values soared in direct proportion to their proximity to Camp Davis.

Trailers, lean-to's, shacks and other residences also multiplied. Some shacks were just three level bunks with ends and sides. The occupants crawled in from the ground, and dressed and undressed in less room than could be found in a Pullman upper berth.

Businesses as far away as Jacksonville adapted to the new prosperity. Car pools and buses went there to cash checks and banks stayed open until 9 p.m. to get the business. The Holly Ridge barber shop started staying open until 11 p.m., serving beer to the patrons if lines got long.

The completed Camp Davis was a training center with emphasis on barrage balloons and later became an artillery officer candidate school. Incoming troops swelled the camp to

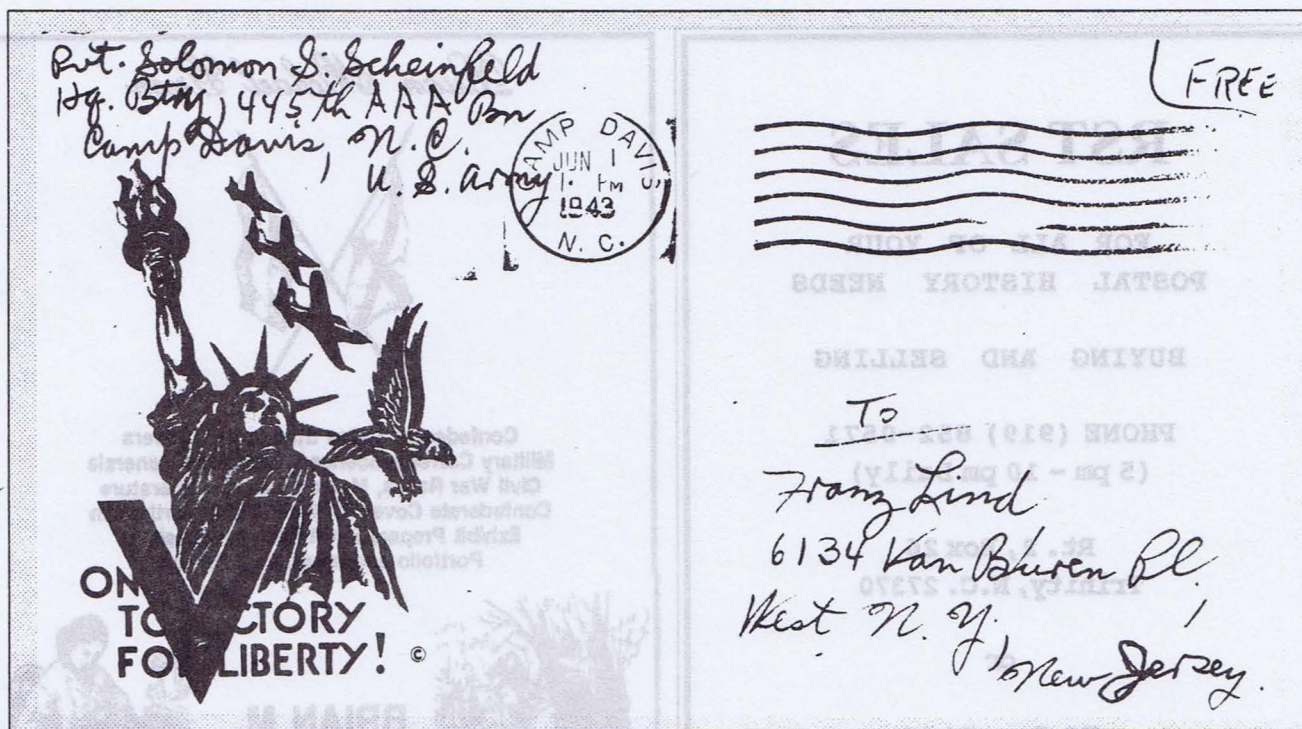
900 officers and 19,000 men. It opened two test firing areas for anti-aircraft weaponry, one along the Intercoastal Waterway and the other down at Fort Fisher. The camp sprawled to include most of Topsail Island. Under the old oak tree at Sound and Hester streets, Tar Landing residents brought in shrimp which was sold for 15¢ a quart to the soldiers. In cafes, at breakfast, 360 eggs were downed in 30 minutes. Mile long lines at bus stops were not uncommon.

Then, almost as quickly as it appeared, Camp Davis closed down. In August 1944 the Army moved out. The base was abandoned, surpassed in size and importance by Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point farther south. Except for use by the Navy as an ordinance test site from 1946 to 1948, the military felt Camp Davis had outlived its usefulness.

Because Camp Davis had opened up Topsail Island, it paved roads and other structures started the island on its way to being the beach resort town it is today. Some of the old observation towers are now used as ocean front residences. Holly Ridge now has 800 residents and is largely a support town and gateway to the Topsail Island resort area.

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A 1943 soldier's free frank on a WW II patriotic cover.



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