Official Guidebook

Camp Gruber

OKLAHOMA



An Army Service Forces Installation of the Eighth Service Command

CAMP GRUBER

Training Grounds for Three Famous Infantry Divisions



88th Division (BLUE DEVIL)

42nd Division (RAINBOW)

86th Division (BLACK HAWK)





TO CAMP GRUBER, OKLAHOMA

YOU ARE NOW stationed in the northeastern section of Oklahoma in the heavily wooded and picturesque Cookson Hills, a territory famed in Indian lore, held high in the regard of fishermen and hunters before it became a military reservation, and once serving as a hiding place for notorious bandits and gunmen during the late 1920s and early '30s.

Your first questions upon arrival here are certain to be: What are the facilities at Gruber that will benefit me the most—and where are they? To answer these questions is the precise purpose of this booklet. It is designed to orient you thoroughly on places and services in the camp area and surrounding territory.

You will find this booklet a time-saver and step-saver. Use it frequently. We believe you will find it helpful and easy to use.

« NEARBY COMMUNITIES »

OF THE TOWNS and cities which are near Camp Gruber, Braggs, Muskogee and Tulsa are probably the most popular communities with the personnel of the post.

Braggs is the nearest town to camp, being adjacent to the southwest corner and in easy walking distance of the main gate. Housing facilities are very limited, only a few soldiers finding accommodations for their families there. The Braggs USO, sponsored by the Salvation Army, is a splendid service center and easily located in the heart of the town. The Red Cross operates a health clinic in Braggs, where soldiers' dependents can obtain medical care and counsel. There is regularly maintained bus service between camp and the business section of Braggs.

Muskogee (population 35,000) is the "camp town". Most military personnel who have their families with

them find living quarters there, but like all other army camp towns securing housing is difficult. You are urged to be sure of satisfactory housing arrangements before you bring your family to Muskogee.



The Muskogee Chamber of Commerce maintains a war housing center located in the city hall building, corner of West Okmulgee and South Third Streets, which will gladly assist you in solving your housing problems.

Muskogee is 18 miles from camp and transportation is provided by hourly bus service. On weekends and during rush hours the service is stepped up to meet the increased demand.

There are two excellent USO organizations in Muskogee. A large building (no doubt one of the finest USO buildings in the States) is located at 515 West Okmulgee Avenue, and a smaller installation located at 627 North Third Street. In the main USO



are two spacious floors for servicemen's use. The Jewish Welfare Board is located on the second floor, and the Traveler's Aid Service is on the ground floor. Regular entertainment programs are sponsored here. The dance floor is

outstanding and there are games rooms, reading rooms and writing rooms. It is probably one of the busiest places in Muskogee.

There is a Masonic Service Center in Muskogee at 525 West Broadway. All GIs are welcome to use the complete facilities of this splendid recreation center.

Tulsa, which is billed as the "Oil Capital of the World", is located about 55 miles northwest of Muskogee. Regular buses run there over Highway 64. Tulsa is a modern city, supporting a population of about 150, 000. There is a USO is downtown Tulsa at 315 South Denver and a Victory Service Center where beds are available to visiting servicemen.

Other towns in the vicinity which Gruber soldiers visit are: Tahlequah, with a population of 3,500, about 15 miles northeast of camp; Wagoner, 15 miles north of Muskogee, population 3,500; Okmulgee, 45 miles southwest of Muskogee, population 16,000; and Fort Smith, Arkansas, which is 75 miles southeast of Muskogee with a population of 36,000.

« HISTORY »

CAMP GRUBER is an Army Service Forces installation, under the jurisdiction of the Eighth Service Command, which has head-quarters in Dallas, Texas. The Eighth Service Command comprises the states of Oklahoma,

Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico.

The military reservation which houses the camp encompasses 70,000 acres—more than 109 square miles. Its hills and valleys, cliffs, thick woodlands, swift streams, sparse top-soil, rocks and clay make the territory quite impractical for farming, but from the standpoint of military training the area is ideal. Gruber boasts some of the finest artillery firing ranges among the myriad of training camps in the States. The terrain features are well-suited to all types of military tactical training, and almost every type of army unit has trained here for battle.

In February, 1942, just two months following the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, government contractors moved into an open field bordering the Missouri-Pacific railway 18 miles east of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and 12 miles south of historic Fort Gibson, an Indian outpost garrisoned by U.S. soldiers of an earlier day. Thus, the construction of the camp began, and the transformation of this rugged territory into a modern city in every respect in a comparatively short time is one of the miracles of the prosecution of World War II. From mud, dirt and dust has sprung a great military cantonment which has sent thousands of well-trained soldiers

to battlefields in the world over.

The camp was named in honor of the late Brig. Gen. Edmund L. Gruber, famed as the founder of the field artillery firing center at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, but perhaps better known as the composer of the official field artillery song, "The Caisson Song". Gruber was officially open for business on May 21, 1942, when the first general order for the camp was published.

On July 15, 1942, the 88th Infantry Division (Bluedevil) was activated on the camp's vast one and one-half mile long parade ground, as a lineal descendent of the fighting 88th which distinguished itself on the battlefields of France in World War I.

On July 14, 1943—one year later lacking one day—the famed 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow) was recreated at Camp Gruber in the spirit and tradition of the World War I "Rainbow" which had fought and defeated the Germans in Five major battles in 1918-19.

Both of these divisions played an important role in the final submission of the Nazi and Fascist evil in Europe during this war. The 88th fought its way gallantly through Italy and the 42nd ended its share

in the European fighting by participating in the capture of Munich, birthplace of Nazism.

In addition to this record of accomplishment the camp has served as a training ground for engineer units, evacuation hospital units, war dogs, tank destroyer units, all types of field artillery units, ordnance and maintenance units, medical units and chemical warfare units.

With its endless rows of neat frame barracks, five theaters, three service clubs, three guest houses, three libraries, 19 post exchanges, a chapel and recreation hall for every unit the size of a regiment, and a day room for each company, Camp Gruber is an efficient military installation for soldiers and civilians alike, designed to stimulate and maintain high morale. Victory in Europe has only served to speed the tempo of its operation, with V-J day the final objective.

THIS AREA RICH IN INDIAN LORE

THE WOODED HILLS which embrace the Camp Gruber military reservation are sacred to American Indian history — especially that of the Cherokees. They were once part of the Cherokee nation of the old Indian Territory—a designation which ceased to ex-

ist with the admission of Oklahoma to its statehood in 1907.

The story dates back to 1832 when the Cherokees were moved forcibly to this area from their native home in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, North and South Carolina by government contractors, many of whom were so unscrupulous that the road traveled by these unhappy Indians now is called the "Trail of Tears".

As a symbol of bitter resentment of their treatment by the white man the Cherokees, from the time of their arrival in Oklahoma until the present time, have met annually and reenacted a weird but fantastic ceremony around the light of an "eternal", or sacred, fire. This fire, brought from their ancestral homeland, supposedly still burns somewhere in the hills—undimmed from the time it burned brightly at a fateful meeting 100 years ago on a bluff overlooking what is now Greenleaf Lake located on the Gruber reservation.

Cherokee legend has it that buried on the bluff overlooking a creek named Tearful Waters is a "Y" shaped stone on which was inscribed secretive data at a meeting of the Cherokee chiefs in 1840. At midnight during the mystic ritual the "Sacred Fire" was placed on a flat rock near the edge of the bluff. As the ceremony progressed the "Y" shaped stone was cut from rock, and in the days that followed the recordings were inscribed.

According to the legend, on the last day of the meeting, a venerable Cherokee died and was buried at the camp site with the stone clasped in his arms. An oak bush was planted on the grave.

Leading credence to a legend handed down from generation to generation is a "Y" shaped cavity located 50 feet from the south corner of Greenleaf Lodge—now a Camp Gruber officers' club. A majestic oak tree standing 150 feet east of the lodge is said to be the small oak bush planted on the Cherokee elder's grave more than 100 years ago.

As further proof it is related that several old men of the tribe definitely verified the legend some 40 years ago, explaining that the creek named Tearful Waters now is known as Greenleaf creek which forms the lake, and that the meeting was held where the lodge now stands.

Many other Indian tribes are represent-

ed in the area comprising eastern Oklahoma. Muskogee, Indian capital of the world, is the home of the Federal agency, Five Civilized Tribes Agency, with offices in the Federal Building, to administer the affairs of the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles.

CAMP LAYOUT >

CAMP GRUBER HAS been laid out like the most modern of cities for convenience in locating buildings, offices, and any type of activity you would want to locate in the camp area.

The streets running from north to south are designated numerically, Second Street being the one nearest Highway 10 which runs adjacent to the west side of camp.

The streets running from east to west are lettered alphabetically with A Street being the street furthest to the north. All streets are clearly marked at each intersection.

⟨ INDIVIDUAL SERVICES →

INDIVIDUAL SERVICES may be a new term for you in Army lingo. It was recently established and covers several branches of Army activity which applies to you individually. As a matter of fact, Individual Services Division applies itself more directly to GI Joe's pleasure and relaxation than any other branch of the Army.

It consists of six branches at Camp Gruber, which are:

- (1) Army Exchange Branch
- (2) Athletics and Recreation Branch
- (3) Information and Education Branch
- (4) Chaplain Branch
- (5) Personal Affairs Branch
- (6) Life Insurance, War Bonds, and Savings Branch

The officer in charge of the Individual Services Division is located in the building on the corner of South Gruber Drive and Fourth Street.

SERVICE CLUBS

There are three excellent Service Clubs on the post for enlisted personnel. Service Club No. 1 is located on the corner of 3rd Street and North Gruber Drive near the main gate. Service Club No. 2 is located on 19th Street between C and D Streets. Service Club No. 3 is located on G between 19th and 20th Streets.

Service Clubs Nos. 1 and 2 are completely equipped to provide enlisted personnel with varied relaxation and entertainment.

Both have cafeterias for enlisted men, officers and civilians, with certain restrictions. One of the most popular spots in conjunction with the cafeterias is the soda fountain. They have writing rooms which supply free stationery and



envelopes. In the writing rooms are daily and Sunday newspapers from all over the United States. Also there is a wide range of magazine from the humorous type to those of a more serious nature. Clubs Nos. 1 and 2 each have extensive libraries where thousands of books to suit your individual reading habits line the shelves.

Several ping pong tables are situated throughout these clubs for your entertainment.

Each club boasts of a fine ballroom where dances are held weekly. Ladies from Muskogee, Tulsa and other nearby cities are in regular attendance at the dances. A mezzanine floor, provided with cushion chairs and a fireplace lounge, overlooks the ballroom. A long distance operator is on duty at both Service Clubs to help you place calls and several telephone booths are available just inside the Service Club entrances.

Each Service Club has a Senior and Junior Hostess, both of whom are more than glad to help you. It is the job of Service Club Hostesses to arrange entertainment and generally keep things humming. You can find out anything you want to know about the Service Clubs from the hostesses. There is some type of entertainment going on at the Service Clubs every evening in the week.

Clubs 1 and 2 have outside stages for summer entertainment programs.

Service Club No. 3 has the same facilities as Nos. 1 and 2, but is housed in a smaller building.

GUEST HOUSES

There are three Guest Houses on the post for the use of family and friends of

enlisted military personnel. It is wise to



make reservations in advance to assure your visitors of quarters. Rooms can be rented for three consecutive nights only. The rate is 50c per person a night. Soldier husbands may share the rooms with their wives if the soldiers

have written permission from their commanding officers. Guest House No. 1 is located on the corner of North Gruber Drive and 4th Street. Guest House No. 2 is located on 19th Street between C and D Streets. Guest House No. 3 is located on G between 19th and 20th Streets.

POST EXCHANGE BRANCH

Post Exchange Branch is one of the largest businesses at Camp Gruber, having under its supervision the 19 PXs located throughout the camp, the Post Exchange Service Station, Tailor Shop, Photo Shop, Cafeterias, Barber Shops, two Beauty Shops, the intra-camp buses, etc. The office of the Camp Post Exchange Officer is located at 6th and E Place (E Place is set back from F Street to accommodate a row of administrative offices). The Post Exchange Ware-

houses are across the street on 6th and F Streets.

LOCATION OF POST EXCHANGES

- PX 1-3rd and D Streets
- PX 3-21st and H Streets
- PX 4-8th and C Streets
- PX 5—14th and C Streets
- PX 6—17th and C Streets
- PX 7-19th and C Streets
- PX 8—19th between C and D Streets
- PX 9-14th and D Streets
- PX 10-12th and D Streets
- PX 11—8th and D Streets
- PX 12-7th and D Streets
- PX 13-6th and D Streets
- PX 14-24th and C Streets
- PX 16-25th and E Streets
- PX 17-20th and K Streets
- PX 17A-20th and J Streets
- PX 18-18th and G Streets
- PX 19—Station Hospital
- PX 20—Prisoner of War Camp

BARBER SHOPS

The camp barber shops are located in the following PXs: 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.

TAILOR SHOPS

There are eight camp tailor shops located on the post to serve you. They are located at the following PXs: 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18. The various staffs are capable of making alterations and generally keeping your apparel in tip-top shape.

CLEANING AND PRESSING

There are 13 cleaning and pressing pickup stations conveniently located throughout the post. PXs which maintain this service are: 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19.

PHOTO STUDIO

A regular civilian-operated, commercial photo studio is located in PX 12, 8th and D Streets, which is equipped to take care of any photos you wish. It is open to all officers and enlisted men (the camp photo studio is a civilian enterprise and has no connection with the U.S. Army Signal Corps).

PX SERVICE STATION

Location—8th and E Streets. The Post Exchange Service Station does not sell gasoline and does not do general repair work on civilian automobiles. However, it is equipped to perform the functions equal to a civilian super-service station such as changing oil, air, water, greasing, battery service and charging, washing, polishing, tire repairing. The station keeps in stock a small supply of standard parts such as battery cables, spark plugs, etc.

GASOLINE SALES

The camp gasoline station is located at 6th and F Streets, where fuel for your personal automobile can be purchased. Of course, you must produce the regulation ration coupons.

« ATHLETICS & RECREATION » SPORTS ARENA

CAMP GRUBER HAS ONE of the finest Sports Arenas in the State of Oklahoma with a vast hardwood floor capable of accommodating three basketball games simultaneously. It is located on 3rd Street behind Camp Headquarters. Station Complement attend-

ants are on duty at the Sports Arena, offering full cooperation to every unit on the post for an athletic program. The Sports Arena is equipped to give you an outlet for almost any type of athletic recreation. Equipment at the arena in-



cludes badminton courts, basketball courts, rowing machines, weight lifting rooms, a bouncer for gymnastics, and shower rooms. Equipment is furnished for use in the arena; that is, volley balls, boxing gloves, basketballs, etc. The arena is equipped with a loud speaker system, used to report varied events as they progress.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are three swimming pools on the post—Pools Nos. 1 and 2 are adjacent to the

Camp Filtration Plant, which is four miles



south of the main gate on Highway 10. Pool No. 3 is located across the street from the Station Hospital on 13th Street. The pools are patrolled by lifeguards.

A set of swimming pool regulations is published by the Camp Plans and Train-

ing Officer, who is located at Camp Headquarters—the regulations can be obtained from him. Different days of the weeks and times of the day are allocated to officers, enlisted men WACs and civilian personnel for using the swimming pools. This schedule can also be obtained from the Plans and Training Officer.

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL DIAMONDS

There are 24 Softball Diamonds and 10 Baseball Diamonds located throughout the camp area. The playing fields are maintained by members of the Sports Arena staff. The main camp Baseball Diamond is located at 10th and D Streets. The main camp Softball Diamond is located on D Street between 3rd and 4th Streets. There are several boxing rings located in unit areas.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

There are 14 Chapels conveniently located on the post.

No. 1—C and 4th Streets

No. 2-C and 8th Streets

No. 3—C and 11th Streets

No. 4—C and 18th Streets

No. 5—D and 18th Streets

No. 6-20th between J and K Sts.

No. 7—E and 25th Streets

No. 8—C and 24th Streets

No. 9—D and 15th Streets

No.10-D and 10th Streets

No.11-D and 7th Streets

No.12-D and 4th Streets

There is also a chapel in connection with the Station Hospital. It is located in Ward B-2.

The Prisoner of War Camp has its own chapel.

The Camp Chaplain has his office in Chapel No. 12

All chapels have fine Hammond organs. Services are conducted by chaplains of the three major religious faiths—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish—and special arrangement is made for those of other faiths in order that the privilege of worship may be available to all.

CHAPLAINS

The general welfare of all soldiers is the primary concern of the chaplains stationed on the post. Do not hesitate to see your chaplain concerning any problem. The chaplains have their offices in the chapels located throughout the camp.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

The Camp Information and Education Office is located on 7th and D Streets. The office publishes a Daily News Bulletin and furnishes all materials in connection with the Army's I & E Program. All information pertaining to the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) may be obtained at the Camp I & E office.

POST PUBLICATIONS

Publications and Blank Forms can be secured from the office and warehouse located in Warehouse 19, at 9th and F Streets.

« ENTERTAINMENT »

THEATERS

HEADING THE LIST for entertainment are five camp theaters which show the latest movies—even before they reach the civilian



channels. The price of admission is 15c. The theaters are open to all military personnel and their dependents. In the lobby of each theater, popcorn and candy are sold.

Theaters Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 can seat 918 persons, and

Theater No. 5 can accommodate 602 people.

Theater locations:

No. 1-7th and C Streets

No. 2-18th between C and D Streets

No. 3-D Street between 6th and 7th

No. 4—13th and D Streets

No. 5-20th and I Streets

The camp theater office is located at 4th Street and South Gruber Drive.

USO SHOWS

The camp entertainment branch of Individual Services brings frequent USO shows to the post. The larger shows are held in the theaters and are given plenty of advance publicity, so you will know where and when they will be held.

SPECIAL SHOWS

The entertainment branch of the camp brings special shows to the post which are

held in the theaters and Service Clubs. These would include name bands, popular artists, plays, etc.

A very popular special show which visits the post often is the "Hey Rube" organization from Tulsa.



HUNTING & FISHING

The Camp Gruber military reservation is also a game preserve and **no** hunting is allowed.

However, Greenleaf Lake is a fine fishing spot and military personnel are permitted to fish there. Boasts are not allowed on the lake and several areas are restricted. These areas are: (1) around the boat docks, (2) the area of water near the dam. Civilians are permitted to fish in an area on the south side of the lake beginning at the dam and

running east for two miles of shore line.

G. I. CLUB

The camp maintains a G. I. Club which is a large building suited for unit parties. It has a fine dance floor and a mezzanine floor overlooking the ballroom. The G. I. Club should e reserved in advance for parties through the entertainment branch of Individual Services. It is the camp regulation that all personnel must be out of the building by midnight when parties are held.

It is the responsibility of each unit using the G. I. Club to police it thoroughly by 0800 the following morning after the party is held.

It is located on 22nd Street between E and F Streets.

« WELFARE »

AMERICAN RED CROSS

CAMP GRUBER'S American Red Cross Field Office is located at 7th and D Streets. Every soldier is familiar with the Red Cross activities and the Field Office. It maintains a competent staff to help you with personal problems, the verification of emergency furloughs, and all types of social work.

The Red Cross also maintains an office at the Station Hospital. The office at the Station Hospital serves patients and the Station Complement Medical Detachment. Their program includes a Recreation Branch for convalescent patients, various social services and a service for soldiers who are getting medical discharges.

STATION HOSPITAL

Camp Gruber's Station Hospital is one of the most modern and efficient hospitals



to be found anywhere. It is a 1628 normal bed installation with an expansion capacity of 2117 beds.

An additional unit of the hospital is the Reconditioning Annex, which has 372 beds.

The hospital is complete in every detail; it has its own post exchange, a complete beauty parlor, a chapel, Red Cross headquarters, post office, library, long distance telephone room, recreation hall, game rooms, writing rooms, a public address system servicing every ward and office, and auditorium.

HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS

Hospital visiting hours are from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on week days and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. Special visiting permits may be obtained from the hospital duty officer or adjutant in emergency cases.

DENTAL CLINICS

Dental Clinic No. 1 is located between C and North Gruber Drive on 4th Street. Dental Clinic No. 2 is located between 18th and 19th Streets opposite Theater No. 2. Hospital Dental Clinic is in the Station Hospital.

MEDICAL AID & PROPHYLACTIC STATION

The "Pro Station" in Muskogee is located a 217 N. 2nd Street, and is open day and night. The station also handles emergency medical cases. A medical officer from the camp station hospital is on call in Muskogee each night. He can be reached by calling the medical aid station, the station hospital receiving office or the Muskogee Military Police office. His services are for military personnel only, **not** their dependents, and he is to be called **only** in emergencies.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

The Personal Affairs Officer is located next to the Individual Services office at the corner of 4th Street and South Gruber Drive. His job is to counsel with military personnel and their dependents, the dependents of deceased military personnel, and veterans who have problems and desire information and advice.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

The camp office of Army Emergency Relief is located on the corner of 4th and South Gruber Drive. This is a service maintained for military personnel who need financial aid when an emergency arises.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal assistance can be obtained free of charge at the Camp Judge Advocate Office, which is located at Camp Headquarters, first floor. The Camp Judge Advocate has two assistants trained in legal matters and they are glad to help you with legal problems—income tax, personal papers, etc.

CAMP CLAIMS OFFICE

The Camp Claims Office is located at Camp Headquarters, first floor. The office is maintained to administer claims of all kinds, and process Reports of Survey.

OTHER GRUBER FACILITIES > POSTAL FACILITIES

The camp's main Post Office is located on the corner of 3rd Street and South Gruber Drive across the street from Camp Headquarters. There are three camp branch Post Offices: 18th and C Streets, PW Camp and Station Hospital. At these Post Offices packages can be mailed and stamps purchased. They also handle money orders, registered and insured mail and offer such services as you will find at a civilian Post Office. The financial windows are closed on Sunday, but there is one mail call for incoming and outgoing mail.

All mail is dispatched out of the camp at 0930, 1330 and 1730. Bonds are sold at the main Post Office only.

LOCATOR SERVICE

The camp Locator Service is maintained by the Postal Branch and is located at the Main Post Office building. Here a record is kept of all military personnel stationed at Camp Gruber and the organization to which each individual is attached. When wanting to locate a person, giving his full name is usually all that is necessary. The Locator Service telephone number is 660.

BANKING FACILITIES

There are two banking facilities on the post. The First National Bank and Trust Company of Muskogee maintains a facility in the

Camp Finance Building on 3rd Street between South Gruber Drive and D Street. The Commercial National Bank of Muskogee offers a similar service in PX 11 at 8th and D Streets. Both of these facilities offer complete banking service.



CAMP FINANCE OFFICE

The Camp Finance Office is located on 3rd Street between South Gruber Drive and D Street.

WAC DETACHMENT

The WAC Detachment at Camp Gruber is located on F Street between 3rd and 4th Streets.

SALES COMMISSARY

The Sales Commissary is located at 10th and F Streets. It is a complete grocery store and market where soldiers and their dependents can purchase supplies at prices slightly lower than those in commercial channels. Wives of soldiers must obtain Commissary Cards, which permit them to make purchases there. These cards are issued at the Quartermaster Sales Office located on E Place between 6th and 8th Streets just off F Street.

In order to purchase meat at the Sales Commissary a meat ration card must be procured. This is obtained by making application through your organization commanding officer. You are allowed to purchase a definite amount of meat per month and a record is kept of your purchases. The meat rationing cards are issued by the Quartermaster Sales Office.

CAMP QUARTERMASTER

The office of the Camp Quartermaster is located on E Place between 6th and 7th Streets.

GASOLINE STATION

Location—6th and F Streets. This is the only place on the post where gasoline may be purchased for civilian automobiles. Application can be made for gasoline ration coupons at the Camp Ration Office, which is located on the first floor of Camp Headquarters.

CAMP LAUNDRY

Laundry for officers and enlisted men is done on the post in one of the largest and



finest laundries in the country. Service is weekly and to enlisted men the charge is set at \$1.50 a month (25-piece limit a week), with officers paying for their laundry service at piece rates. The laundry is located on F and 5th Streets.

COLD STORAGE PLANT

The Camp Cold Storage Plant is located on G Street between 10th and 11th Streets. It is maintained for the storage of meats and other perishable foods which eventually are delivered to various units stationed on the post.

BAKERY

The Camp Bakery is located at 11th and F Streets.

All bread consumed on the post is baked in the Camp Bakery, which has a capacity of 16,000 pounds per day, or approximately 12,800 loaves.

SUBSISTENCE OFFICE

The subsistence office and officer are located at 8th and E Place.

SUBSISTENCE WAREHOUSE

The subsistence warehouse building is located at 11th and F Streets. This is the place where units stationed on the post pick up daily rations.

SIGNAL CORPS

Camp Signal Corps Office is located on E Place and 6th Street. The Camp Signal Officer has his office there. The Signal Corps Property Office and Warehouse is located at 8th and G Streets.

WESTERN UNION

In connection with the Signal Corps is a Western Union agency which accepts telegrams from military and civilian personnel on the post. Address—E Place and 6th Street.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

The camp telephone manager, a civilian, has his office in conjunction with the Signal Corps Office. The telephone exchange is located at 15th and F Streets, where all calls are handled. The operators have their own

dormitory at 18th and I Streets. Long distance telephone booths are placed throughout the camp in the PXs.

Special long distance operators are on duty at Service Clubs Nos. 1 and 2 and their duty is to place your calls. Several telephone booths are available.

CAMP PHOTO LABORATORY

The Camp Signal Corps Photo Laboratory is located on 4th and D Streets. In this office all Signal Corps negatives are processed and printed. The Army Pictorial Branch also functions from this office. It is the place for procurement of Training Films, Orientation Films, projectors, screens, etc.

DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY

The Director of Supply Office is located on E Place between 6th and 7th Streets.

PURCHASING & CONTRACTING OFFICE

This is located in the same building with the Director of Supply.

ORDNANCE

The Ordnance operation on the post is consolidated into one large area. The camp ordnance area can best be located by going to the corner of G and 10th Streets. Then the main entrance is ½ block south on G Street. Encompassed in this wire-fenced area, which extends from G Street to H Street and from 10th to 11th Street, are ordnance warehouses, ordnance repair shops, and the office of the camp ordnance officer.

MAINTENANCE

The office of the Camp Maintenance officer is located on E Place in conjunction with the Director of Supply's Office. The principal maintenance motor repair shops are located on F Street between 2nd and 10th Streets. First, second, third and fourth echelon work is handled in these shops.

SALVAGE OFFICE & WAREHOUSES

The Salvage Office and Warehouses are located at H and 6th Streets.

POST ENGINEER

The Post Engineer Office, warehouses and shops are located at 10th and G Streets.

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station No. 1—15th and F Sts.

2— 6th and E Sts.

3—10th and B Sts.

4-24th and F Sts

OFFICERS' CLUBS

There are two Officers' Clubs on the military reservation. One, known as the Clarence Tinker Club, is located in the camp area

on 5th Street between A and B Streets. The other is Greenleaf Lodge overlooking Greenleaf Lake. It can be reached by driving east on F Street and turning to the right on 24th Street. It is approximately three miles from the camp area.



PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

The Prisoner of War Camp, under Camp Gruber's supervision, is located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the main gate on Highway 10. It is across the Highway from Gate No. 1.

CHEMICAL WARFARE OFFICE & WAREHOUSE

This building is located at F and 8th Streets and the Chemical Warfare Officer can be reached there.

CAMP NEWSPAPER

The office of the camp newspaper—THE GRUBER GUIDON—is located on the first

floor of Camp Headquarters. The Gruber Guidon is published weekly under the supervision of the Post Public Relations Office. The camp newspaper is published in the post print shop, which is located in the warehouse area at the Prison of War Camp.

CAMP HEADQUARTERS

The following officers and offices can be located at Camp Headquarters, which is situated just inside the main gate:

First Floor:

Public Relations Office Camp Judge Advocate Rationing Office Camp Claims Office Message Center Plans and Training Office Range Office

Second Floor:

Inspector General Special Orders Camp Commander Camp Executive Officer Camp Adjutant Billeting Office

PERSONNEL DIVISION

The Military and Civilian Personnel officers, which house all of their affiliated activities, are located in the building next to Camp Headquarters to the west.

RATIONING OFFICE

The Camp Rationing Office is located on the first floor of Camp Headquarters. This is the place to procure shoe coupons, gas coupons, tire applications, tobacco ration cards, etc.

DOG TAGS

New dog tags may be obtained at Warehouse No. 13, F Street between 6th and 8th.

CAMP REGULATIONS

A complete draft of camp regulations was published in December 1944 and a copy of this can be obtained from the camp Adjutant at Camp Headquarters.

CAMERAS

All cameras brought on the post must be registered with the Camp Provost Marshal.

NOTARY PUBLIC

There is a Notary Public located at Camp Headquarters.

TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

The camp Transportation Office and officer are located on E Place between 6th and

7th Streets. The Transportation Officer is in charge of handling of troop movements, shipping of property, etc.

CAMP BUS SERVICE

Regularly scheduled buses travel the camp area night and day. They leave from the Sports Arena, which is located on 3rd Street and South Gruber Drive. The fare is 5c per ride.

OUTSIDE BUS SERVICE

Buses leave from the camp bus terminal on Highway 10, a short distance south of the main gate, every hour on the hour for Muskogee, and on weekends and during rush hours additional buses are scheduled according to the number of passengers. Bus tickets can be purchased at the Sports Arena ticket window or at the Post Exchanges.

Buses also leave from the camp bus terminal for Tulsa on the weekends. Bus connections for Tulsa can also be made in Muskogee during the week and on weekends.

TAXI CABS

There is a Taxi Cab office in Braggs which services the camp area and the immediate vicinity of the post. There are adequate taxi facilities in Muskogee to service that territory.

RAILROADS

The Missouri-Pacific Railroad has a north-south line which runs through Braggs,



Oklahoma. The connection runs north through Kansas City and south via Little Rock, Arkansas. Muskogee, Oklahoma, is served by the Katy Railroad, which runs north through Kansas City and south to Dallas and San Antonio.

AIRLINES

Airline connections can be made in Tulsa.

CAMP STOCKADE

The camp stockade and camp Military Police barracks are located at 11th and E Streets.

CIVILIAN HOUSING AREA

The civilian housing area on the reservation is located on the west side of Highway 10, a short distance south of the main gate. Civilians who are bonafide employees on the post are allowed to live there, but no wives of military personnel stationed at Camp Gruber. Full particulars can be learned from the Individual Service Office.

PROVOST MARSHAL & MILITARY POLICE

The Provost Marshal's office is located at South Gruber Drive and 4th Street. Herein is a two-way radio communication system which keeps constant contact with military police radio-equipped vehicles, patroling between the camp and Muskogee. Also, the communications system is in direct connection with the Muskogee civilian police force, and through them, with the State Highway Patrol.

The Provost Marshal maintains a military police office in Muskogee, which is located in the basement of the city police station at the corner of Court and 3rd Streets.

MUSKOGEE QUARTERS FOR TRANSIENTS

Military Police stationed in Muskogee are quartered at the National Guard Armory, 324 Callahan Street. Free beds are provided there for soldiers in transit. They should report to the main MP station at the city police station and transportation will be furnished to the armory.

For servicemen not in transit beds are furnished to 50c per night.

CURFEW

The Eighth Service Command, comprising the state of Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico, has a curfew regulation of 0100 (1 a.m.). This applies seven days a week and all military personnel must be off the streets by that time.

AUTO REGISTRATION

All privately owned vehicles operated on the reservation by members of the military, or civilians employed or living on the reservation, will be registered with the camp Provost Marshal within three days of arrival at the station.

Before the camp Provost Marshal will accept registration of vehicles privately-owned, the owner must meet the following regulations: (1) He must show verification of insurance in force to the extent of: Public liability—\$5,000—\$10,000 (minimum). Property damage—\$5,000 (minimum). (2) The vehicle must be inspected by the

camp motor pool and declared satisfactory from the standpoint of safety features.

Camp tags are then issued for a charge of 75c. Officers' tags are colored green, enlisted men's red, and civilian tags are yellow. In the event of sale, trade or transfer of the vehicle the tag must be turned in to the Provost Marshal. When tags are issued the owner is given a copy of the camp traffic regulations, which are rigidly enforced.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Speed regulation:—(1) A, B, C, D, E and F Streets are boulevards east of 4th Street. Fourth Street is a boulevard from A to F Streets. (2) Speed limit on boulevards is 30 MPH except in areas designated by warning signs. All other streets have a speed limit of 25 MPH except the hospital area, which is 20 MPH. (3) Vehicles being used for tactical purposes and vehicles undergoing road tests are forbidden to enter or use the hospital area.

Maximum speed limit on Highway 10 within the military reservation is 35 MPH. Persons operating vehicles on the reservation will conform to the motor vehicle laws of Oklahoma, which include the observance of 35 MPH speed limit on all highways as

decreed by the President of the United States.

CIVILIAN PASSES

TEMPORARY PASSES: —Temporary passes are issued civilians wishing to visit the post for a short time. The pass is obtained at the M.P. office at the main gate. Civilians not living on the military reservation must leave the post by 2300 (11 p.m.), unless a special occasion warrants a longer stay.

PERMANENT PASSES: —Any relative of a member of the Armed Forces may apply for a permanent pass for entrance on the post at the Provost Marshal's office. The soldier of a relative does not necessarily have to be stationed at Camp Gruber.

Permanent passes are issued civilian workers on the post by authority of the officer for whom the civilian is employed. The application is taken to the provost Marshal where the pass is issued.

CLASSIFICATION WAREHOUSES

The classification warehouse office is located at 6th and G Streets.

CAMP VETERINARIAN

The office of the Camp Veterinarian is

located between 10th and 11th Streets on F Street. The camp veterinarian is charged with the inspection of meats, poultry, butter and eggs purchased by the military in this area.

All dogs and other pets subject to rabies and owned by military or civilian personnel living on the post, will be immunized once a year against rabies by the post veterinarian officer. The expense involved in purchasing the rabies vaccine will be borne by the owner. Thereafter, each such animal will be registered with the Provost Marshal.

SANITARY FILL

The camp sanitary fill is located at the south end of 11th Street, south of F Street. Trash, non-edible garbage and non-salvageable material are dumped here.

LIFE INSURANCE, WAR BONDS & SAVINGS

Promotion of these activities on the post is handled by the camp Insurance, War Bond and Savings officer, whose office is located at 4th Street and South Gruber Drive.

CAMP COURT BUILDING

The camp Court Building is located on 3rd Street between South Gruber Drive and

E Street. Practically all Special Courts Martial and General Courts Martial are held there, also various and sundry meetings, conferences and schools.

CLOTHING & EQUIPAGE SHOPS

The camp clothing and equipage shops, operated under Maintenance, are located on 6th Street between F and G Streets.

Here all types of repairs and alterations (within reason) of military clothing are made free of charge to enlisted personnel. However, units must issue work orders for such repairs and alterations, including the sewing on of chevrons, service stripes, insignia, etc. All items to be worked upon must be freshly laundered.

The shops **do not** repair civilian shoes owned by enlisted personnel. Officers may have their shoes repaired there at reasonable prices.

The C & E shops do repair and reconditioning work on military shoes, clothing, caps, herringbone twill clothing, field jackets, raincoats, tenting, etc.

BAGGAGE

All **prepaid** baggage consigned to Camp Gruber is handled through transportation warehouse no. 1, located at G and 6th Streets. This applies to baggage addressed to a unit or individual stationed at the camp, and the supervisor in charge of the baggage warehouse advises the shipper of receipt of the baggage. It is the responsibility of the shipper to pick up his baggage at the warehouse. Baggage **to be sent collect** from Camp Gruber should be sent from the Braggs Railway Express office.

Arrangements for outgoing baggage, being shipped at government expense, should be made with the camp transportation office located at 6th and E Place.

RAILWAY EXPRESS

The Railway Express agency has an office in the railroad station in Braggs, and may be called to pick up personal items (left at unit headquarters) which are to be shipped by express. Deliveries and pickups are made once each day inside the camp.

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JULY 1945

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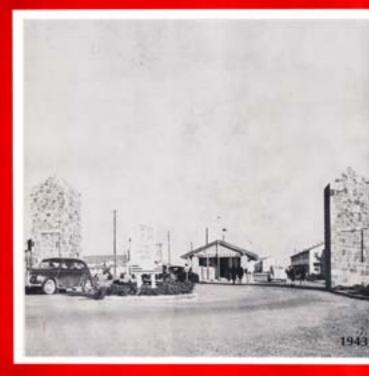
In Case of FIRE!

- 1—Shout "FIRE" —alarm occupants of buildings
- 2—Dial Fire Department, TELEPHONE NUMBER SIX-SIX-SIX.
- 3—Give building number, street name and nearest cross street also your own name and organization.
- 4—Stand outside of building, or in the street, to direct fire apparatus; do not leave scene of fire until arrival of fire fighting apparatus.

Fire alarm boxes are located on poles or buildings and are indicated by red markings of bands or circles. A red light burns above each alarm box at night. These boxes are for reporting fires only. Also, any phone on the post may be used for reporting a fire by dialing TELEPHONE NUMBER 666.



Camp Gruber



Located High in the Picturesque Cookson Hills of Eastern Oklahoma







Entrances to Camp Gruber Bus Jerminal

Camp Gruber

Camp Gruber, one of the many military training centers under the Eighth Service Command, ASF, is located high in the storied Cookson Hills of Eastern Oklahoma—an area once sacred in the lore of the Indian and, more recently, infamous in the eyes of the law.

Sprawled over 60,000 acres of rugged uplands, the vast reservation encompasses an area of hills and valleys, cliffs, thick woodlands, unruly streams, sparse top-soil, rocks and clay, which often had proved impractical from the standpoint of farming.

But, from the standpoint of military training, the area is ideal. Its history as an army cantonment perhaps reflects the tempo of America at War.

Before its construction, what is now Camp Gruber had long been an idea in the mind of the army. The area had been surveyed and, because of its big man-made lake and natural training facilities, had been approved by the War Department as a camp site.

For want of a better name, it was then known as the "proposed Cookson Hills cantonment."

But, on December 7, 1941, America went to War.

In February of 1942 government contractors with tools and equipment moved into an open field bordering the Missouri Pacific railway 18 miles east of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and 12 miles south of historic Fort Gibson, an Indian outpost garrisoned by U. S. soldiers of an earlier day.

In May of 1942, the U. S. Army moved onto the field with tools and equipment. At

its disposal was a new modern army camp, complete with endless rows of neat frame barracks, five theatres, three service clubs, three guest houses, three libraries, 19 post exchanges, a chapel and recreation hall for every unit the size of a regiment, and a day-room for every company.

For its name, the new camp went to the composer of the "hit-tune" of two World Wars. He is the late Brig. Gen. Edmund L. Gruber, famed as the founder of the field artillery firing center at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, but perhaps better known as the composer of the battle hymn of the cannoneers and gunners: "The Caisson Song."

Since its activation as a military training center, Camp Gruber has sent thousands of fighting men to the fighting fronts. It has served as the birthplace of two infantry divisions, both of them direct descendants of units whose valor in battle was established in World War I.

It has trained artillerymen, schooled on a range whose excellence frequently brings units from other camps visiting for firing exercises.

There have been engineers, quartermaster men, ordnance men, and others.

Before this time, the Camp Gruber Hills had known a history rich in the stories of Indians and gunmen, tragedy and tall tales—a history peculiar to the old Indian Territory.

Historically, Camp Gruber is located in that part of Oklahoma which once was part of the Cherokee nation of the old Indian Territory a nation which ceased to exist with the admission of Oklahoma to its statehood in 1907.

The story starts back in 1832 when the Cherokees were moved forcibly from their native home in Alahama, Tennessee, Georgia, North and South Carolina, by government contractors, many of whom were so unscrupulous that the road traveled by this unhappy people now is called the "Trail of Tears."

As a symbol of bitter resentment of their treatment by the white man, the Cherokees, from the first year of their arrival in Oklahoma until the present time, have met annually and reenacted a weird but fantastic ceremony around the light of an "eternal," or sacred, fire.

This fire, brought from their ancestral homeland, supposedly still burns somewhere in the hills—undimmed from the time it burned brightly at a fateful meeting 100 years ago on a bluff overlooking what is now Lake Greenleaf, Camp Gruber.

Cherokee legend has it that buried on a bluff overlooking a creek named "Tearful Waters" is a "Y" shaped stone on which at a meeting of the Cherokee chiefs in 1840 was inscribed interesting data, some of it concerning the lost colonists of Roanoke and other involving pre-colonial and post-revolutionary events never known to the white man.

At midnight, during the mystic ritual, the "Sacred Fire" was placed on a flat rock near the edge of the bluff. As the ceremony progressed, the "Y" shaped stone was cut from rock, and in the days that followed, the recordings were inscribed.

According to the legend, on the last day of the meeting, a venerable Cherokee died and was buried at the camp site with the stone clasped in his arms. An oak bush was planted on the grave.

Leading credence to a legend handed down from generation to generation is a "Y" shaped cavity located approximately 50 feet from the southeast corner of Greenleaf lodge—now a Camp Gruber Officers' Club.

A majestic oak-tree standing 150 feet east of the lodge is said to be the small bush planted on the Cherokee elder's grave.

As further proof; it is related that several old men of the tribe definitely verified the legend some 40 years ago, explaining that the creek named "Tearful Waters" now is known as "Greenleaf Creek" and that the meeting was held where the lodge now stands.

With the press of American civilization westward, the Cherokees soon found the white man again in their midst, and the Cookson Hills began to acquire a new reputation as a hideout and assembly point for assorted desperados.

The bandits and gunmen who hid in the hills are legion. Some are notorious. They range from the bemoustached Cherokee Bill of Indian Territory days down to Pretty Boy Floyd—the latter of whom achieved the dubious distinction of "Public Enemy No. 1."

So critical did the situation become as the wave of bank-robberies and murders increased in the early 1930's that the Oklahoma National Guard (45th Division) was called into service to comb the wild and silent hills for criminals known to be in hiding there.

From that time on, the reputation of the Cookson Hills as an effective hideout for criminals decreased.

The first General Order at Camp Gruber was issued May 21, 1942, assigning Lt. Col. (now Colonel) Harry C. Luck as Camp Commander, a position he has held continuously since that date.

On July 15, 1942, the 88th Infantry Division was activated on the Camp's vast one and one-half mile long parade ground, as a lineal descendant of the fighting 88th which had distinguished itself on the fields of France in World War I.

On July 14, 1943—one year later lacking one day—the famed 42nd (Rainbow) Infantry Division was created at Camp Gruber in the spirit and tradition of the old "Rainbow" which had fought and defeated the Germans in five major battles of World War I.

Because of the old "Rainbow's" fame, national interest in the creation of a new 42nd ran high. The activation date was set for July 14, the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Champagne, in which the old "Rainbow" helped to smash back the last German drive on Paris.

Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan commanded the 88th Division, while Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins commands the 42nd Division.

In May of 1943, when the greatest floods in midwestern history struck Oklahoma, soldiers of Camp Gruber proved to the nation that the U. S. Army can be of invaluable aid in time of national emergency as well as in War.

With untiring efforts, Camp and 88th Division authorities worked day and night, rescuing families from drowned bottom lands and providing food, shelter, and medical aid for flood victims. At one time, more than 1500 flood victims were quartered in the camp, awaiting the waters to subside.

So Camp Gruber carries on the legend and romance of the territory which it proudly occupies and adds its bit to the traditions of the Cookson Hills, the state of Oklahoma, and of the great Southwest.









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Camp Gruber Bakery



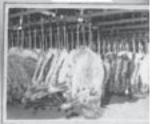
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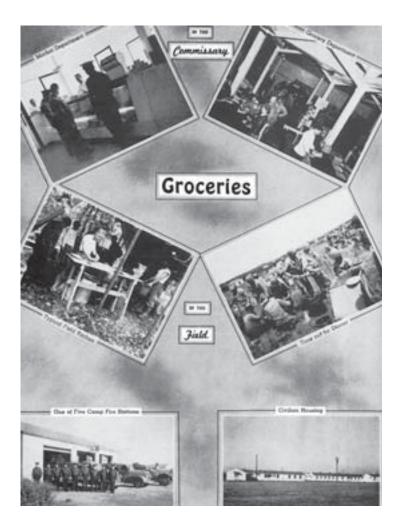
























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Camp Gruber's War Dogs











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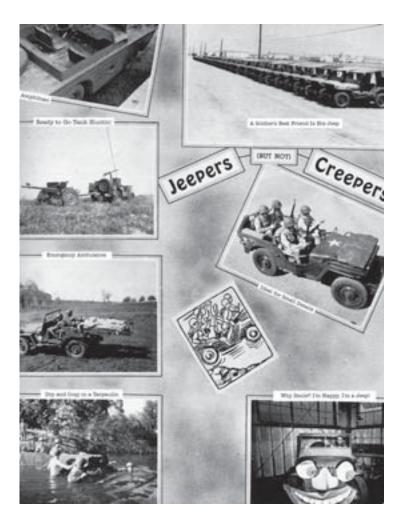
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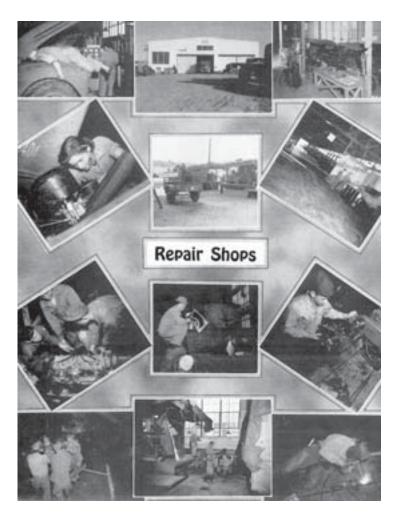














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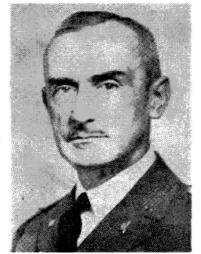
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PAPER



1944

July

Brig. Gen. Edmund L. Gruber *Nov. 11, 1879 — May 30, 1941*

Extra Service HOME

























