

# CAMP REYNOLDS

Shenango Personnel Replacement Depot  
1942 - 1946



## CAMP REYNOLDS INFORMATION CARD

### **Camp Name**

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

### **Location/Size**

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

### **Time Frame** (Operated for 3 Years & 8 Months)

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

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

#### Major Reasons

Mild Winters / Good Railroad Facilities  
Close to East Coast Embarkation Points

#### Other Reasons

Land was Cheap (around \$70 an acre)  
Land to Expand / Water Supply was Adequate  
Terrain for Obstacle Courses & Rifle Range

### **Uses of the Camp**

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

### **Capacity**

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

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

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

Architects Gannett, Eastman, Fleming of Harrisburg, PA

Builders Mellon-Stuart Construction Co. of Pittsburgh, PA

#### Three Part Camp

Battalion Area - Consisting of Barracks & Other Facilities

Service Area - Consisting of Theaters, Gyms, etc.

Headquarters and Hospital Area

### Labor

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

### Buildings

The Camp consisted of over 1000 buildings:  
Barracks, Officers Quarters, Theaters, Recreation Halls,  
Service Clubs, Libraries, Infirmaries, Dental Clinics  
Guest Houses, Mess Halls, Post Exchanges, Fire Stations,  
Motor Pools, Chapels, Warehouses, Guard Houses,  
Headquarters, Officer Clubs, Hospital, Post Office,  
Train Station, Telephone-Telegraph Office, etc.

### **Commanders**

Colonel George H. Cherrington - 11/4/1942 to 5/22/1943  
Colonel Zim E. Lawhon - 5/22/1943 to 11/8/1943  
Colonel George M. Couper - 11/8/1943 to 12/15/1943  
Brigadier General Jesse A. Ladd - 12/15/1943 to 12/11/1944  
Lt. Colonel George Blaney - 12/11/1944 to 9/17/1945  
Colonel Medorem Crawford, Jr. - 9/17/1945 to 1/16/1946  
Major Roy E. Hultz - 1/16/1946 to 1/29/1946  
Major Roy H. Winters - 1/29/1946 to 2/28/1946

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

Judy Garland, Virginia Weidler, June Priesser, Wayne King,  
Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Sugar Ray Robinson,  
Joe Louis, the Cleveland Indians & Pittsburgh Pirates,  
Art Rooney, and Lou Boudreau among others.

### **POWS**

The Camp housed 1800 Prisoners of War (Mainly German)  
800 On-Base - 1000 at Branch Camps  
Branch Camps - North East, Marienville, Sheffield & Kane

### **Conversion**

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

### **Misc**

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

### **Contact Information**

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### ***Camp Reynolds Project***

*Preserving & Sharing the History of Camp Reynolds*