

CAMP IS NOT READY FOR STATE TROOPS

Southern Training Grounds for Pennsylvania Guard Totally Unprepared

SITE NOW WINTER RESORT

By J. HAMPTON MOORE

AUGUSTA, Ga., July 25.

About 500 feet above sea level, 220 miles from the ocean following the course of the Savannah River, and overlooking the pretty city of Augusta, which is less than 150 miles above the sea, is the site of Camp Hancock, the new home of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, now mustered into the service of Uncle Sam for the purpose of the European war.

In fact it is the same site that President McKinley visited December 19, 1898, when troops of the National Guard were stationed there. The Spanish-American War camp was known as Camp McKinley, and covered about 500 acres, while the new European war Camp Hancock will cover more than 2000 acres.

The Government does not buy a foot of this property—it simply leases it for the modest sum of \$1 for a period of two years from a group of citizens who have subscribed a fund to buy up the crops and property rights of the owners.

At the present time cotton, corn and other vegetables are ripening in separate tracts of ground to be covered by the encampment, but they have been taken over and will not stand in the way of the contractors, who are to erect mess halls, hospital buildings and the like. There is also scrub timber on the ground, much of which has been cut away and much more of which will have to be cleared before the Pennsylvania boys set up their tents.

The only visible evidence of preparation for the encampment at this time is the introduction of a 16-inch water main from the city water works which borders the camp, to serve such streets or sections of the camp ground as the army officers may determine.

Augusta folk pump their water from the Savannah River and consequently the water they get from their pumping station is so conveniently located. They also point with some pride to the fact that this same water is served to the handsome houses of the well-to-do residents of Georgia and many wealthy northern families who make those attractive hills of Georgia their winter abode. It is the same water which goes to the Country Club and the big hotels which are frequented when the snow is flying in the North, by such northern and eastern notables as Henry C. Frick and former President Taft. President Taft's cottage and that of Robert T. Lincoln are pointed out to visitors to the camp site.

Mr. Taft's interest in Augusta is well known. His aid, the popular Major "Archie" Butt, who went down on the Titanic, was an Augusta boy, and to his memory the people of the city have erected a beautiful stone bridge. They have also marked with a stone memorial the place on the present camp ground at which President McKinley disembarked from the train to inspect Camp McKinley in 1898.

The Pennsylvania boys will thus have substantial reminders of northern interest in Augusta. If they are students of Civil War history, they will also find much to interest them in and about this famous southern city, whose Federal arsenal was taken over by the Confederates at the outbreak of hostilities, and many of whose citizens attained distinction during the war. They will pick up much of the history of Sherman's march to the sea, and of the reconstruction period, since Hamburg, the scene of the negro riots, is over in South Carolina, just across the Savannah River. It is only a few miles out of Augusta and along the levels and hills bordering the Savannah that the story of "The Clansman" and the scenes of "The Birth of a Nation" were laid.

But when are the Pennsylvania boys coming to Augusta? That's the question. When the orders came to mobilize it looked as though Mount Gretna would hold the troops for a few days only. Then there was a good deal of talk about going south in hot weather. The people of Augusta do not deny that the summer months are warm, but not more so, they think, than a city like Washington. They do not have the tropical heat, and they do assert that the hills where the soldiers are to live, are cool at night and free from mosquitoes. But, hot or cool, any concern about climatic conditions is unnecessary at the present time.

Camp Hancock is not ready for its guests and cannot be for some time to come. The army has its own way of doing things, and soldier officers who have a good big treasury behind them are not half so rapid as they would be if a good strong money were in sight.

The army is preparing to keep Camp Hancock in working order for two years. That seems evident. A few officers have put in an appearance here, and there is a dispute about contracts. No one seems to know exactly how much money is to be spent by the Government on this 2000 acre leased for one dollar, but it is approximated at a million.

It is to be a tent camp rather than what is known as a cantonment, but many wooden structures are to be erected nevertheless. A body of 17,000 men will make a good-sized city and a city's accommodations will have to be provided. But at present there is no water-supply pipe on the ground and no other structure material except a few wagon-loads of lumber.

The army was tendered the use of a commodious new stone and brick building for hospital purposes capable of receiving 600 sick men, but the offer was declined upon the ground that plans had been prepared for a one-floor wooden structure that would cost probably \$100,000. The preferred building, which is at the edge of the camp site, was erected with great care for the Sisters of St. Joseph. It is a landmark resting in the hills in full view of Augusta, about miles away, and will now probably be turned into a hotel to accommodate the wives of officers and other visitors who will come to camp from distant points.

To an observer the rejection of such a substantial building by the Government would pay rent and which it could abandon at any time, for a frame structure, which the Government would probably be glad to give away at the close of the camp, though it cost as much as \$100,000, does not look like good business. It spells delay in making ready for troops supposed to be needed immediately "somewhere in France."

But the army has tremendous plans and Congress had voted it vast sums of money, and when it begins to move on Camp Hancock it may move more rapidly than present conditions at Augusta seem to indicate that it will.

Whether the local trouble over contracts will halt the construction work is not clear. Augusta desired the contract work for its own contractors and workmen. The Builders' Exchange co-operated with leading citizens and offered to unite upon one contract to do the work. Another contractor, with the aid of the Mayor, seems to have withered the Exchange. All parties, however, seem agreed to push the work to hasten the coming of the troops. They do not know whether this will be two weeks or two months hence. It depends upon orders from Washington.

Of this, however, the Pennsylvania troops may be assured: If the camp is not ready for two months, the boys who came here to occupy it will find themselves accompanied by a host of visitors, who are seeking the same environment for health and recreation. By that time the climate and surroundings should be delightful.

Made Field Head of N. Y. Red Cross YORK, Pa., July 25.—Eunil G. Steger, general secretary of the Associated Charities of York for the last three years, has been named to become field secretary of the National Red Cross Society for the State of Pennsylvania.



—Photo by Photo-Crafters. MAJOR F. W. SMITH

Major Smith, who when in civil life is one of the best-known postal inspectors of the country and is attached to the Philadelphia inspectors' office, will today report to Washington for active service pursuant to a summons after training in the Officers' Reserve Corps. It is probable that he will soon be sent to France to take charge of the distribution of all the mail of the American troops in the war zone.

Point Breeze Oil Works Still Ablaze

Continued on Page One

saved the entire plant. Employees of the company also did noble work. The fire was the most spectacular Philadelphia has seen in years. The plant of the U. G. I. at Point Breeze was threatened with destruction. A change of wind after the fire had raged for half an hour is the only thing that saved it, firemen said.

As it was, flames came very close to the huge gas tanks which stand south of the refinery company's plant. In discrediting rumors of a plot, officials said that Point Breeze fires were of most common occurrence. Residents in the neighborhood also said that there have been many small fires at the plant ever since it has been there.

The fact that today's fire surpassed others in recent years, it was said, was no evidence that enemies of the nation had been at work in an attempt to burn or blow up the plant.

Virtually all Philadelphia, Camden and Delaware were aroused by the terrific report which gave the first intimation that the plant was ablaze.

EXPLOSION IN BIG STILL. The explosion occurred in one of the sixteen large stills, which stand nearly 100 feet high and are approximately fifty feet in diameter. This still, although made of steel, was shattered as though made of glass.

The terrific force of the detonation shattered ten other large stills standing nearby and rolled them over like so many tin-pins.

Thousands of gallons of petroleum caught fire instantly. The flames were probably 1000 feet in the time the first alarm was turned in. Four others followed in rapid succession.

Fire engines, ambulances, police patrols and other apparatus clanging together, together with the mountain of flame that was visible for miles, led many to believe that the navy yard had fallen prey to flames.

No sooner had the oil started to burn than the flames jumped across a space of more than seventy-five yards and attacked three large oil tanks almost simultaneously. These went up in rapid succession. They were three in diameter and more than twenty-five feet in diameter.

The boiler house was attacked next. Before the fire had been in progress half an hour the flames were sweeping across Passyunk avenue, more than 200 yards away.

Police were called from all sections of the city. Under Captain McCoch and Lieutenants Frank Boners, Noon, Barry and Daly, nearly 200 bluecoats stretched a dead line from Passyunk avenue and Twenty-eighth street to the Schuykill and would all low virtually no one to pass. Superintendent Robinson was there early.

Thousands of Philadelphians were attracted to the scene. Many stayed throughout the night.

GAS TANKS THREATENED. The crowd scattered on many occasions, when it was rumored that the U. G. I. gas tanks were about to explode. The flames crept dangerously near the monster gas tanks, but firemen and a favorable wind saved them from destruction.

Usually these different sources it was learned that eleven men were at work in the plant when the explosion occurred and that all had been accounted for.

Just inside the gates near where the agitators and stills which first caught fire were located are two large tanks filled with chemicals. These two have an outlet into a single pipe, from which the liquid is drawn for fighting fires anywhere in the plant. Usually these chemicals are successful against oil fires, but this time they proved virtually useless. It was said that only a month ago a similar fire to the present one started at the plant, but it was almost instantly stopped by these chemicals.

The fire was fought by one of the most formidable arrays of firemen ever witnessed in this city. There were more than 500 of the company's firefighters with all of their apparatus, and 250 city firemen with the equipment of twenty-five engine companies and ten hook and ladder companies. The city firemen were under six battalion chiefs and Acting Chief of the Fire Department Harry Davis.

PLANT HEAVILY GUARDED. Fire Marshal George W. Elliott and his men were on the scene until the fire was under control. Mr. Elliott said he could not estimate the loss until it had been gone over in detail. He also said it was impossible to determine how the fire started, when the first burst of flame came still when the first burst of flame came and who was badly injured that they have not been able to tell their story. They are in St. Agnes' Hospital.

The Fire Marshal said he neither saw nor heard anything that would indicate a plot. Men representing the Department of Justice were also on the scene investigating, to determine if the fire had been started in the hope that it would help to retard the activity of the United States in the war. They found nothing which indicated a plot.

the plant and refused to allow any one except firemen, officials of the company and police officials to enter. Across Passyunk avenue at the U. G. I. plant a force of company firemen turned out, as did the U. G. I. armed guards. They watched their own property.

Near the most intense part of the fire was located a gasoline tank about 125 feet high by 75 feet in diameter. The instant the fire started the plant firemen began sprinkling this tank with water to keep it from getting too hot. An automatic sprinkling system also sprayed the destroyed stills and agitators, but to no avail, for they soon caught fire and burned in spite of the spray.

Immediately after the fire started all pumps in the plant began forcing the oil from burning tanks, and tanks in the immediate vicinity to tanks far removed from the flames. This was kept up as long as there was danger of spread of the fire.

At 4 o'clock this morning it was said the pumps had stopped, as the fire was then confined to two small tanks in the center of the area of the conflagration. These were about 100 yards apart and it seemed that there was no danger of further spread.

Immediately after the fire started J. W. VanDyke, general of the company; W. M. Irish, general manager; J. C. Cutting, superintendent, and several other officials of the company were called by telephone and soon were on the scene. They remained on the ground until the fire was under control.

An hour after the fire started the police lines were relaxed as far as possible by streets were concerned and hundreds of people who live nearby lined the sidewalks. They found little comfort, however, for the mosquitoes came out in droves from the river and swamps nearby and attacked them.

The Ninth Regiment of engineers, who are training at the Commercial Museum, were notified that they might be needed for guard duty. They were ordered to fall in on the grounds adjoining the museum. They waited an hour or more and were ordered back to bed when word came that the fire was under control.

It was said at the plant that fires frequently start, but that they seldom reach alarming proportions, owing to the many devices and arrangements for instantly fighting them.

Battalion Chief Barrett was slightly injured while at work. He was treated by surgeons attached to the Philadelphia General Hospital ambulance.

Three firemen known to be injured are: John Potts, of Engine Company No. 22, severely burned and covered by smoke. Carried from plant by fire truck. Anthony Dillman, Truck No. 5, burned. John Milgrew, Truck Engine Company No. 22, burned.

All were taken to St. Agnes' Hospital. Officers and hundreds of marines from the Philadelphia Navy Yard were rushed at once to the fire zone in automobiles to help hold back the crowds. The hospitals nearby supplied a half dozen ambulances to succor the injured.

German Arrested at Trenton TRENTON, July 25.—Magnus Wehrkamm, a German, thirty-seven years old, of Spring Lake, was sent to jail here by Deputy United States Marshal Voll. He was found loitering near the United States radio station at Belmar and had no permit authorizing him to be within the zones barred to alien enemies.

Farmer Injured in Runaway LANCASTER, Pa., July 25.—The team of Harry M. Arment, a farmer, near Millersville, became frightened while he was operating a binder in his wheat field and ran away. He was caught by the machine and one leg was severed from the body, his shoulder broken and spine injured. His recovery is doubtful.

Recruiting Farm Hands for Gloucester The Bourse farm station today started recruiting farm hands for Gloucester County, N. J. An effort will be made to get forty-five youths about sixteen years of age as well as a number of men. The boys will be paid \$1.50 a day and the men from \$2.40 to \$2.50. The boys and men will live in a community camp at Glassboro.

The Hahnemann Hospital, which has been offered to the Government, owing to the fact that the first offer of the college furnish a unit was refused.

Advertisement for Clicquot Club GINGER ALE. Features a large bottle of the beverage and a portrait of a man. Text includes: 'Clicquot Club GINGER ALE', 'Pronounced Klee-ko', 'The Clicquot Club Co., Millis, Mass., U. S. A.', and 'What do you know about the Liberty? If You Knew One Half of What We Know, You Would Become the Owner of a LIBERTY SIX'.

Advertisement for Liberty Six cars. Text includes: 'What do you know about the Liberty? If You Knew One Half of What We Know, You Would Become the Owner of a LIBERTY SIX'. 'We had an opportunity to drive one of these cars at a time when we had no thought of becoming the distributors of the LIBERTY. The power—flexibility—and—smoothness of the engine—the ease of gear-shifting and control—and the comfortable riding qualities attracted our attention. Our experts then studied the car in every detail—design—construction—quality of material—and finish; and the unanimous opinion was that it was a MARVEL.' 'We went further—we consulted various dealers in other cities, who had sold many of the cars during the past year and we found—THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ONE SINGLE COMPLAINT—besides—we knew splendid things regarding the personnel of the company, the people back of the LIBERTY; every man of whom holds a high place in the automobile production world.' 'Then we went to Detroit, and visited the factory. What we saw there further convinced us that it was to our decided interest to take up the distribution of the LIBERTY, because—we knew we could conscientiously recommend it to every automobile buyer.'

Advertisement for Girard Cigar. Text includes: 'The Girard Cigar Never gets off your nerves', 'The Cigar that doctors recommend', 'Shade-grown. Real Havana', and '10c and up'.