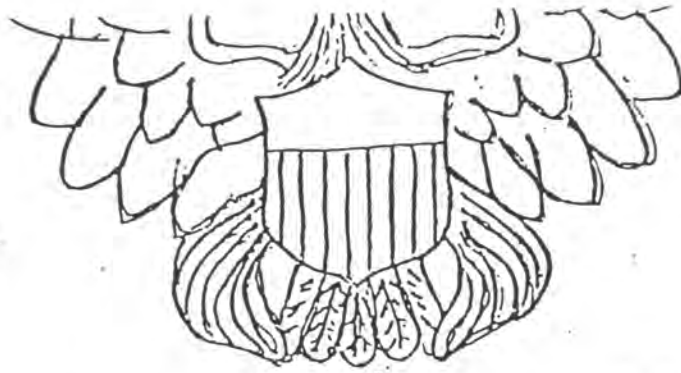
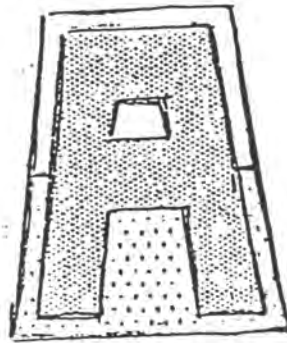




HISTORY
OF
FORT
WADSWORTH



TRICENTENARY

1663-1963

HEADQUARTERS FORT WADSWORTH
Staten Island 5, New York

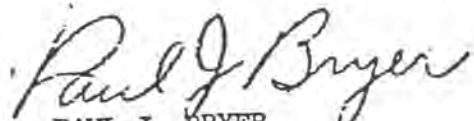
FORT WADSWORTH 1663-1963. . . A History. . .

Fort Wadsworth has the distinction of being the oldest continually-manned installation in the United States and this year marks the 300th Anniversary of its continuous use.

The military history of this old fort is a part of the ebb and flow of our Nation's past, from its birth to the current day. It begins when the Dutch purchased Staten Island in 1626 from the Indians. Settlement of the Island began slowly and it was 1632 before an attempt was made to establish a community. In 1636 an enterprising Dutchman built the first block fort on the heights now occupied by Fort Wadsworth; this was subsequently destroyed by the Indians in 1655. The Dutch, however, rebuilt the block house in 1663 only a few yards from the previous ill-fated fort, and this date marks the beginning of the uninterrupted use of this post as a military installation.

Through the colonial period, and the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, and World War I, the Fort continued to expand, occupying a prominent position in the defense of the vital New York Harbor from its defense post on the heights overlooking the Narrows. During World War II, old Fort Tompkins served as a lookout post for ships using the New York Harbor. More recently this station was used as the site of the Missile Defense Command of the New York Metropolitan area.

I am proud to present you with this copy of a special tricentenary edition of the history of Fort Wadsworth from 1663 to 1963.


PAUL J. BRYER
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

HISTORY OF FORT WADSWORTH

INTRODUCTION

For 300 years Fort Wadsworth has looked to the sea. Its guns were trained on the Narrows, defending the approaches to New York Harbor and the vast industrial complex that lies at the water's edge. This defensive mission was basically the same in 1636, when a couple of men guarded the first tiny Dutch blockhouse fort, as it was three centuries later, when several hundred soldiers manned the huge seacoast guns on the heights, and the anti-aircraft artillery of Post World War II period.

Geography pre-destined for Fort Wadsworth a vital military role. Situated high on the wooded bluffs overlooking the Narrows, control of the fort assured its master strategic control of the New York area. This basic principle has helped Fort Wadsworth become the oldest continuously manned position in the United States. The Indians grasped the principle in the early days of colonization when, from a lookout point on the fort's present site, they watched Henry Hudson's "Half Moon" sail into New York Harbor. It was also borne in mind by the Dutch, English, and American governments, all of whom garrisoned troops here.

One of Staten Island's historians, Ira K. Morris, says in his memorial study: "The Dutch had a fort on the heights of the Narrows (now Fort Wadsworth), during their control; the English enlarged and strengthened it; the State of New York increased its importance during the War of 1812, and the National Government*** has from time to time added to its importance, until now it is one of the strongest points of defense in the whole country." Thus, continues the historian, "*** the scene of the little Dutch blockhouse and trading-post of 1614, and later, the castle-like forts of 1812 has become one of the most important military posts on the continent."

DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT

Fort Wadsworth has been defended by Indian, Dutchman, Englishman, and American. But it was an Italian, Giovanni Verrazzano, carrying the flag of a French king, Francis I, who first discovered its present site. Verrazzano entered the Narrows in 1524, and anchored overnight opposite the hills on which the Fort now stands. The next morning, however, a violent gale drove him out to sea.

Not until 1609 were the Narrows again penetrated. On September 11, Henry Hudson, serving under the Dutch East India Company, discovered New York Harbor and began to investigate its upper reaches. Later explorers learned that as soon as Hudson sailed past the Narrows into the Harbor the Indians erected look-out towers on the highest point of the Post and at Todt Hill, in the middle of the Island. From these stations, signals were to be sent to all the neighboring tribes to rally and repel the intruders.

Hudson named this Island Staaten Eylandt (Island of the States), in honor of the Netherlands' governing body, the States-General.

The Dutch purchased Staten Island. Settlement proceeded slowly, Indians, a branch of the Raritan tribes. Settlement proceeded slowly, and it was 1632 before David Pietersen de Vries first attempted to establish a community. It was de Vries who, in 1636, built the first block fort, defended by one or two men, on the heights now occupied by Fort Wadsworth. De Vries also constructed a signal station on the hill, the first to be built by white men in North America.

The first permanent settlement came in 1641 at Oude Dorp (Old Town) just south of Fort Wadsworth and within walking distance. But the colony and de Vries' block fort and signal station, were destroyed by the Indians in 1655. The 1655 massacre was triggered by a Dutchman, Hendrick Van Dyck, form attorney-general of New Amsterdam. Van Dyck, "xxx on rising one morning, discovered a squaw in his garden stealing peaches; in a moment of anger he seized his gun and shot her, killing her instantly." In retaliation, the Raritan tribes dispatched 1,900 Indians in 64 canoes to Staten Island, killing 22 of the 90 inhabitants and carrying most of the survivors into captivity.

Three years later the Dutch settlers build a new colony, Nieuwe Dorp, on the site of the present Miller Army Air Field. By 1663 another blockhouse had risen, near the present Fort Tompkins and only a few yards from de Vries' ill-fated fort. This date marks the beginning of the uninterrupted use of this post as a military installation, although it was first used in 1636. Only 20 feet square, the wooden defense was guarded by six, or at most, ten men, armed with a grand total of two rifles. This Dutch garrison proved inadequate to stave off an attack by the Duke of York's huge fleet in the following year, and control of the region fell to England.

COLONIAL PERIOD

The British clearly recognized the strategic value of the positions straddling the Narrows. In 1707, they levied a tax of 3,000 pounds on the Justices of Richmond County, to defray the cost of fortifying New York City. Part of the funds were channeled into the construction of additional blockhouses along the Narrows.

With the start of the Revolutionary War, the Staten Island garrison again came into prominence. It is almost certain that Fort Wadsworth was used by General George Washington's men as a look-out and signal post. The entry for April 25, 1776 in the General's log book, which he kept for the Continental Congress to record his war expenditures, shows an item of 16 pounds, 10 shillings, "To the Expn. of myself and party recctg. the sevl. landing places of Staten Island." A week after Washington's reconnoitering mission, he sent a detachment of men to the heights overlooking the Narrows to keep watch for the arrival of the British fleet. The troops were posted on what was then "Signal Hill". To communicate with New York City, they used a primitive version of the telegraph. Black and white kegs or large balls were hoisted on the old flagstaff to signal the approach of enemy vessels.

Early in July, 1776, General Howe landed without opposition an English army of 9,000 men on Staten Island. Shortly afterwards his brother, Lord Howe, sailed into New York Harbor with a large fleet, and landed 20,000 more troops on the Island. Lord Howe, commanding the combined armies, crossed the Narrows a month later. A small garrison later reinforced, was left on the Island. One of the Briton's first jobs during the Fall of 1776 was the rebuilding of Staten Island's defenses, including the fortresses on this site. The British occupied the Island until 1783.

At the end of the Revolution, the Fort earned another distinction although a rather dubious one: it was the target for the last British shot of the War. On Evacuation Day, 25 November, 1783, a large civilian crowd gathered on the heights, near the present Fort Tompkins quadrangle to jeer at the British as they sailed out of the Harbor. The crew of one British gunboat, smarting from their defeat and resenting the Staten Islanders' derision, fired a shot into the crowd. But the ball fell short, and no one was injured.

THE WAR OF 1812

After the Revolutionary War the Islanders levied taxes to restore damaged fortifications. They renamed this part of the Island Fort Richmond. By 1808 four garrisons protected Signal Hill: Fort Richmond at the edge of the Narrows, Forts Morton and Hudson on the slopes of the hill, and Fort Tompkins, on the peak of the hill.

Despite restoration efforts, the Island's defenses were scarcely adequate as the War of 1812 drew near. In 1808, the same year the four forts were reconstructed, all of Staten Island had only 164 guns. New York's Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, frequent benefactor and idol of the Islanders, and later a Vice-President of the United States, appropriated \$25,000 for further fortification of the Narrows. With the outbreak of war, several artillery companies manned the batteries on the Island, and 500 militiamen arrived at Fort Richmond in August 1812. Two weeks later the Narrows defenses reached a maximum when 12 companies of volunteers arrived. But they were relieved from duty in November when news of the victories of the "Constitution" over the "Guerriere" and of the "Wasp" over the "Frolic" belatedly reached New York.

Early in 1813, several British vessels were sighted off Sandy Hook. The Fort swung into action. As one historian describes it, "xxx the furnaces for heating the cannon balls were made ready. The telegraph, consisting of a number of white and black balls or kegs hoisted in a preconcerted manner, gave signals easily seen from New York." But the batteries' state of readiness, and defensive precautions that had been taken, saved New York from assault; and the British ships were deterred and steered clear of the Narrows guns.

Still further precautions were taken. In June, 89 additional cannon were mounted at Forts Richmond and Hudson. The 24th US Infantry arrived in the late fall, bolstered by a regiment of New York volunteers. And in April, 1814 Governor Tompkins secured another \$50,000 to complete Forts Tompkins and Richmond. Until then, Tompkins had been only a series of temporary earthworks. Historians report that on its completion

in May, "the cornerstone was laid with great ceremony. The "Macedonian" was engaged and the band captured when the "Macedonian" was taken supplied the music." Red sandstone was used to rebuild the two outposts; Fort Tompkins resembled old Castle Williams, currently used as the Governors Island stockade, in its architectural style. Fort Richmond was half-moon shaped.

Governor Tompkins pressed for more improvements and in October, 1814, another \$50,000 was appropriated. The blockhouse and earthworks at Prince's Bay were strengthened, and the caliber of the cannon at the Forts along the Narrows was increased. By 1815, the shores near the present Fort bristled with 900 cannon, including 25 thirty-two-pounders, each weighing one-and-a-half tons, 44 twenty-four-pounders, 4 eighteen-pounders and 7 nine-pounders.

News of the Treaty of Ghent, concluding the War of 1812, did not reach New York until 11 February 1815, although the peace was made 24 December 1814. The celebration on Staten Island "took the form of a national salute from the guns at Fort Richmond, followed by a 'feu de joie' from the infantry with an extra ration of liquor.

PEACETIME DECLINE

A graphic memoir of the Post in 1830 was drawn by a member of one of Staten Island's old families, Julia H. Scofield, who lived on the edge of the reservation. In the 30 May 1895 edition of "Staten Islander", a gazette, she writes: "The old red sandstone fort which stood on the present site of Fort Wadsworth had many attractions. We loved to cross the rickety old bridge which spanned the grass grown moat, and entering the low portal to find our way to the damp and darksome casemates, listening to the echoes our voices woke in fear and trembling. There we would break off the long stalactites that hung like snowy icicles from the roof. Within the area enclosed by the Fort was an old Block House, built of huge logs fast falling into ruin. Another attraction was an uncovered, deep and dangerous well, the terror of our caretakers, but in which we delighted to throw pebbles and listen to hear them strike the water some hundred feet below. Leaving the old Fort and going southward we reached the Telegraph station standing on a high bluff--do not be startled at the seeming anachronism, for this was long before the days of electric telegraphs. The one which I remember was a telegraph of ten removable arms, each signifying a numeral which would be seen both at New York and Sandy Hook. The next object of interest on our way was a row of dilapidated barracks, the upper floor of which had been a mess room and where an ancient maiden lady told me she had danced at the 'Peace Ball' given by the officers of the Garrison in 1814. Next we came to the lighthouse, then much further south than it is now***. West of the lighthouse on a rising ground stood a pretty cottage that we were told had been the officers' quarters in the time of the war."

The ruin and disrepair of 1830 mentioned by Miss Scofield accelerated, until Forts Richmond and Tompkins were declared unfit for use in 1835. Rusted guns, decayed carriages, and rotted wood followed disuse and neglect. An account of the Forts in 1835 comes from a New York publication, "National Trades Union". In an article entitled, "A Visit to Fort Richmond and Tompkins," the author says:

"On the 17th instant the writer availed himself of an invitation from Commissary-General Arcularius, to accompany him and Captain Shaw to inspect the above-named forts, located at the Narrows, on the Staten Island side. This is a very important and strong military post. There our State expended, about the period of the late war (1812), upwards of \$500,000 in erecting breastworks and fortifications.

"In the half-moon battery there are twenty-five thirty-two pounders and two twenty-fours. My friend informed us of what, I could hardly realize, that these noble cannons, with but one exception, were fabricated in our own country upwards of forty years ago. They have a rough exterior, but are pronounced by him to be excellent guns. The carriages must have cost a great sum; by their appearance they are well made, but have been left exposed to the storms, the weather and sprays of the sea until they have sunk to the floor by decay and under the weight of their burthen. The iron work about them is good yet. The floor or platform, on which they are placed had yielded to the destroying elements, and there is nothing now fit for use in or about the works, except the interior of the barracks and a few implements for the service of the gun. There is not a single piece that could be used with effect, if the safety of the city depended upon a single shot!

"A great quantity of thirty-two pound shot scattered about the fort rusting and corroding away, invites pilferers to help themselves, and enough embraced the invitation and bore away many a shot and sold them for old metal. The Commissary-General secured the embrasures, gathered upward of six-thousand thirty-two pound shot (worth at least \$8,000), secured them in the old magazines, and has as far as the means allowed by him the niggard policy of our State, placed the public property thereabouts in a much safer condition.

"The General pointed out to us one piece of cannon, whose history is very interesting. It formerly held a position in and looked out of old Fort Amsterdam, afterward called Fort George, on the Battery, at the lower end of this (New York) city. It is a double thirty-two pounder and was used by the subjects of George II."

FORT WADSWORTH EXPANDS

The Federal Government decided to purchase the decaying Narrows outposts, "*** being now required by the United States for the purpose of constructing and maintaining proper defenses for the protection of the harbor of New York," according to the letters patent recording the sale. Authorizing legislation was passed in 1836, but formal purchase of the premises was made 15 February 1847. For a tract of 47.5 acres, the Government paid \$33,284.87.

The old red sandstone forts were torn down and the material sold. Construction of the outposts which still stand today, Fort Tompkins and Battery Weed, was begun in 1847. It took 14 years to complete them and the first troops were garrisoned on 8 August 1861.

The Richmond County Gazette of 7 May 1862, describes Forts Richmond (the present Battery Weed) and Tompkins:

"These defences of our harbor are being daily strengthened by all the means and applications of modern warfare. " Fort Richmond mounted between 140 and 150 cannon, nearly all in place. It was *** garrisoned by quite a strong force of soldiers from the 5th Regiment New York Volunteers Artillery; Col. Graham*** daily practices with the large guns." Tompkins, the account continues, is in *** a fair state of progression, "and *** besides these fortifications there are two powerful batteries, Battery Hudson and Battery Morton, one of which is located near the light-house."

On 7 November 1865, Fort Wadsworth's present name was established by War Department General Order No. 161. The order specifies, "The military post on Staten Island, New York Harbor, now known as Fort Richmond, will hereafter be called Fort Wadsworth, in memory of the gallant and patriotic services of Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth, who was killed, at the head of his command, in the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, May 6, 1864." General Wadsworth was also cited for bravery in the Battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where a statue of him was erected by New York State and dedicated in 1914.

Before the War Department re-named it, this Post bore several titles, all referring to its use for signalling before the era of electric telegraph. These include "Signal Hill", "Flagstaff", "The Telegraph", "Look Out" and "Clifton and Telegraph Stage".

In accordance with General Orders 66, War Department, dated 24 November 1897, the name Fort Wadsworth was extended to the garrison at the edge of the water. An on 14 February 1902, the War Department issued General Orders 16, revoking General Orders 66 and applying the name Fort Wadsworth to all the fortifications located on the military reservation on the west side of the Narrows. These Orders also directed that the stone fort at the water's edge be named "Battery Weed, in honor of Captain Stephen H. Weed, 5th U.S. Artillery, Brigadier General, United States Volunteers, who was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1863."

During the years between the Civil War and World War One, the Fort expanded nearly threefold. The major expansion took place between 1892 and 1901. To the original reservation of under 90 acres, the Government added several private properties it had purchased, giving Fort Wadsworth a total tract of 226.5 acres. Fortifications were modernized. "The effect" of the expansion, report a chronicler, "has been to form a considerable, somewhat park-like area in which, during the time of peace, one may take pleasant walks." While the area east of New York Avenue was occupied by the reservation prior to 1892, the Government's acquisitions added a large plot to the west of the Avenue.

The Post followed the pattern of normal garrison life toward the end of the century. A report by the Surgeon-General's Office on hygiene and living conditions in the Army gave this account in 1875:

"The men occupy four dormitories casemates in Fort Tompkins, averaging ten men and beds in each. The casemates are comfortably warmed by a large anthracite coal-stove in each, lighted by candles at night ***. Air space ample; each occupant has five-hundred cubic feet***."

Until the end of World War One in 1918, Fort Wadsworth remained a coast artillery post of the first magnitude, one of the continent's strongest garrisons. One author, writing in 1935, said:

"From the Civil War to shortly before the World War this post was one of the most heavily armed forts. Now after the advent of long range guns and airplanes, it has become an Infantry post with only a small C.A.C. (Coast Artillery Corps) detachment." The artillery unit maintained the heavy cannon still in commission at the time.

BETWEEN WARS

Fort Wadsworth assumed a new look between the wars. Most of its barracks, roads, administrations buildings, and training fields were erected during the 1920's and '30's. Long, bleak, brown wooded barracks of the Works Projects Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps mushroomed, housing men who assisted the Army Engineers with their face-lifting chores.

Infantry units from the famed First Division--first overseas in World War One, first to hit the Normandy beaches in the Second World War, and then the "Big Red One" in Gyroscopic from Germany after a decade of border patrol--made up the major complement of troops during this period. Elements of the 16th Infantry Regiment were here during the 1920's, followed in the early '30's by the Second and Third Battalions of the 18th Infantry. Both regiments boasted battled records dating back to Shiloh in The Civil War, Santiago and Manila during the Spanish American War, and Meuse-Argonne, St. Michiel, and Aisne-Marne during World War One. And both were destined to leave Fort Wadsworth just before World War Two to play a tremendous part in the African and European combat theaters.

A detachment from the 5th Coast Artillery Regiment maintained the guns overlooking the Narrows. Units from the Quartermaster Corps and the Medical Department completed the Post's inter-war garrison.

The year 1925 marks the jumping-off point for a cycle of major construction which lasted over a decade-and-a-half. In that year, the Post Engineers began work on a Parade Ground. Three major obstacles had to be overcome before the broad, level, grassy field could take shape: swamps, hills, and trees. The Engineers drained the swamps, leveled them off, and filled them in. Drainage was a particularly difficult job--a pipe had to be run from the field to the opposite side of New York Avenue, connecting with a sewage system. Both pipe and sewer were virtually on the same level, but a fractional difference enabled the Engineers to clear the water from the field and fill it in. The huge oak trees lining the field had to cut down, and the stumps dynamited. The noncommissioned officer in charge of the project, Master Sergeant Ed Crawley, recalls that one stump, blasted more than 100 yards through the air, came crashing through the roof and porch of an officer's residence. By 1927, however, the Parade Ground was completed, and grass was planted on it. Bounded by New York Avenue and a dirt road called "The General's Road", the Parade Ground was dominated by "The General's House", an old wood frame building which perched on hill above it. The house, intact from the day it was purchased as part of the old Joseph B. Whitney estate in 1898, was used as the Commanding General's residence until the beginning of World War Two.

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Modern concrete infantry barracks were begun in 1929. Two sets of battalion barracks, each designed to house 602 men, were finished by 1931 at an initial cost of \$675,727.49. The Engineers erected a large brick stable, with a capacity of 51 animals, to hold the Army's mules and horses. In 1932, a Post Theater was built by Federal prisoners, under the supervision of Army Engineers. The prisoners were quartered at the old Fort Tompkins Quadrangle while they were working on the structure.

In 1935, a group of W.P.A. laborers arrived on Post, moving into specially-built wood plank barracks at the western end of New York Avenue. They were followed by the 390th Veterans Company of the C.C.C., who occupied an encampment on the western section of the reservation. The W.P.A. accounted for the front and back gates of Fort Wadsworth, garages, several guardhouses, the Officers' Club, a handball court behind the infantry barracks, and several roads. It was also W.P.A. labor that constructed the old Post Exchange in 1938. C.C.C. workers are credited with building part of the sea wall, and with some limited forestry work around the reservation.

MILLER ARMY AIRFIELD

On 1 October 1931, Miller Field officially became a sub-post of Fort Wadsworth. Serving as a station for Army troops, an emergency landing field and maintenance area for land and sea planes, a training site and armory for air units of the New York National Guard, and later, the locale of 90mm antiaircraft guns and radar equipment, the field covers some 214 acres. It is located three miles southwest of Fort Wadsworth, in New Dorp, Staten Island.

Miller Field was authorized in 1917 as an Aero Coast Defense station. The Government considered it an ideal location for land and sea planes, and spent \$420,041.48 to purchase the acreage from the George W. Vanderbilt estate in 1919. Construction on the field began in the year it was purchased. The field was named under General Order 1, 1920, in memory of Captain James E. Miller, who was killed in action 8 March 1918, near Aisne, France. Miller had been serving with the 95th Aero Squadron on the Soissons sector.

During the 1930's the base was the home of the 1st Tank Company. Its hangars sheltered Admiral Byrd's planes briefly in 1933, when the planes were serviced at Miller Field before Byrd's expedition to the North Pole. An Italian seaplane created a stir at Miller in the mid-'30's when it landed there after a trans-Atlantic flight.

WORLD WAR TWO

With the approach of World War Two, Fort Wadsworth's mission changed once again. First Division infantrymen, including one battalion of the 16th Infantry and two battalions of the 18th Infantry, were transferred to other sites in the metropolitan area for training purposes. Little actual infantry training was done here and the battalions stationed at Wadsworth usually moved to Fort Dix for summer maneuvers. By 27 February 1941, the infantry units were cleared from the Post.

Early in March, Fort Wadsworth was controlled by Coast Artillerymen for the first time since 1919. At the same time, the 1205th Service Command Service Unit, provisionally organized in December, 1940, was officially designated and stationed here. After 22 years, the 1205th (now the 1205th US Army Garrison, is still at Fort Wadsworth. The troops immediately began intensive training for their new dual mission-- coastal and antiaircraft defense. Several command post exercises emphasized communications networks, mineplanting, and defense of vital installations. In giving a critique on one of the exercises, Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum, First Army Commanding General, stressed the new role of troops as active soldiers, no longer caretakers.

Relief from the pressures of all-out training came on 7 June 1941, when a ceremony was held on the Parade Ground for Chilean Ambassador Senor Don Rodolfo Michels and his staff. The Chilean Ambassador visited the grave of Chilena, world champion military mount which was buried on the Wadsworth reservation after its death on 30 November 1940. Chilena, a Chilean Army horse, had captured world honors in the jumping competition at Madison Square Garden just before it broke its neck in a fall.

Early in June, troop transports carrying the 16th infantry steamed past Fort Wadsworth, enroute to a new training camp. Within a year, the 16th and the 18th were shipped overseas, beginning a journey that carried them through Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, the Rhineland, the Battle of the Bulge, and finally, Central Europe. A few days later, the Post log book records the departure of the transport "West Point" from New York Harbor, bearing German and Italian consular personnel to their homelands.

Supplies and equipment began piling into Fort Wadsworth to aid in its task. Late in 1941, many of the heavy seacoast guns were dismantled and sold for scrap. Most of these were replaced during the early years of the War with searchlight batteries and antiaircraft artillery, including three-inch guns. Several 155 mm guns were emplaced. The "General Ord" a mine planter, arrived for the use of the Post's mine battery. The unit helped lay an extensive submarine net across the Narrows. Completed in 1944, the net stretched from Miller Army Airfield to Swinburne Island near the Narrows, and on to the main channel. A gap was left in the channel, and the net picked up again on the Brooklyn side of the Narrows, near Fort Hamilton, and extended to the Rockaways. A signal pole, to be used by the Harbor Entrance Control Post here, was raised on the parapet of Fort Tompkins. Erected in eight hours, the pole was equipped with radio antennae and signal halyards. The Harbor Entrance Control Post, composed of Army and Navy detachments responsible for checking vessels entering and leaving New York Harbor, remained here until 1946. Several powerful anti-aircraft portable searchlights and power plants were set up, tested and manned. The Post's batteries engaged in long firing practices.

In October, the area-wide "Interceptor" exercises began. A hostile "Black Fleet" with air and mosquito boat components attacked all the harbor defenses from Sandy Hook to the Narrows. Joint Army and Navy groups were responsible for protecting the installations, while searchlight crews from the antiaircraft batteries spotted the invaders. The Post log book reports: "Mosquito boat attack made at 7:45 PM in two waves Repulsed."

The garrison went on an emergency basis on 7 December, with the outbreak of World War Two. Guards were posted and the batteries manned 24 hours a day. Within a week after the start of hostilities, element of two Coast Artillery (Antiaircraft Artillery) Regiments poured into Wadsworth--the 61st C.A. (A.A.) and the 197th C.A. (A.A.) Batteries from these regiments fanned out in defensive positions throughout the metropolitan area. But neither of these Coast Artillery units was here for long. Three weeks after they arrived, the 61st troops shipped out for Fort Hancock, New Jersey. The log book entry for 61 January 1942 reads "Even a Post Diary is entitled to a bit of philosophic speculation as to another--and less pleasant--destination." An another destination it was, for by the end of the War, the 61st was credited with ground combat in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater. The 197th left the Post a week later, headed for Fort Dix.

The 213th C.A. (A.A.) moved in to replace the outgoing regiments, and began to assemble and man 90-mm antiaircraft guns. The 213th and the 245th C.A. (A.A.) National Guard Regiment from Brooklyn, took part in the first functional firing of all active batteries on the Post in thirty years. Batteries Catlin, Turnbull, Mills, and Dix fired their seacoast and anticraft guns during the exercises.

Before long, the 213th began preparations for departure. Movement of the regiment presented the Post Quartermaster with his biggest headache. Between 18-21 July 1942, well over 600,000 pounds of personal gear, supplies, and heavy guns were assembled, gutting the parapets of Fort Tompkins. Both civilian and Army trucks were requisitioned to transfer the equipment to the docks. The 213th eventually went overseas participating in the Algeria-French Morocco, Naples-Foggia, and Rome-Arno campaigns.

Two Military Police Battalions were activated and organized at Wadsworth, and later shipped out. The 731st left the Post toward the end of 1942, preceded earlier in the year by the 716th M.P. Battalion. After three years of distinguished service, the 716th returned to Wadsworth in October, 1945, moving back into the same barracks it had occupied when it was first activated. The 716th served as an honor unit in the burial rites for President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Hyde Park, New York, on 15 April 1945. - It also furnished the Honor Guard for the reception of General Jonathan Wainwright in 1945 after his release from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, and for General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower's arrival in New York during the same year. After spending several months here upon its return the Battalion moved to Fort Dix.

Thus, in the early years of the War, the missions of the Post were three-fold. First, several units were organized, activated, and equipped here, given some training, and shipped to other posts prior to overseas assignments. Second, most of Wadsworth's 3,500 troops were responsible for coastal and antiaircraft defense and third, some 12,000 to 15,000 manning gun positions throughout Staten Island and shore points along the New Jersey coast, in addition to several Military Police Escort Guard Companies, were supplied and serviced by the 1205th.

But the Post fulfilled several other jobs. For over 2 years, quartered an Italian Service Unit, composed of 25 officers and 250 enlisted men, all Italian prisoner-of-war. Commanded by Brigadier General John M. Eager, the unit arrived at Fort Wadsworth 20 March 1944. It was one of nearly 200 volunteers units formed throughout the United States during that year. Over 38,000 of the 52,000 Italian POW's in this country volunteered to work for the units and were soon contributing one million man-days of labor per month to the Allies' war effort against Germany. In return for their work, the Italians were paid eighty cents a day, which was then standard pay for prisoners engaged in hard labor. The Service Unit remained here until August 1945, when it was transferred to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, for repatriation. All through the War, other groups of prisoner--including Poles, Czechs, and Belgians--were sent to Miller Field before they were relocated in work or concentration camps.

Early in 1945, Fort Wadsworth was crowded with all Miller Field troops when they were moved to make room for the incoming 1247th Hospital Trains Group. Over 2,000 enlisted men and 165 officers from the Group encamped at Miller Field.

POST WAR PERIOD

War's end brought more changes--and a birthday--to Fort Wadsworth. Since its official naming dates from 7 November 1865, its anniversary is celebrated on that date. In 1945, the Post boasted 80 years of official service, and over three centuries of military tradition. The year 1945 also saw the transfer or deactivation of most of the M.P. Escort Guard Companies stationed here during the War. The 716th M.P. Battalion returned for a few months, and then was off again for a new assignment. Fort Wadsworth briefly became a separation center, and over 600 men, official record jackets under their arms, bade farewell to the service at the Post's main gate. A Classification and Assignment Detachment was established, processing during the last three months of the year over 5,000 replacements for service command installations.

The quiet years set in around 1946, the years when the most common log book entry was, "Usual garrison duties." One exception is recorded in December 1947, however, when a snowfall of blizzard dimensions hit Staten Island. After 20 inches of snow carpeted the Island, stranding hundreds of civilians at the St. George Ferry Terminal on their way home from work, eight Army trucks were summoned to the rescue. All civilian transportation had been halted, and, as the log book reports, as gentleman "xxx" from S.I. Assembly called and requested transportation as a riot might occur in the terminal."

In 1948, Fort Wadsworth became the home of New York City's first and only--trailer camp. Multiplying from one to nearly 40 families, the camp owed its growth to two factors: high-rent housing in the metropolis, and serviceman's natural desire to be with his family. The camp is unique in New York because the city code prohibits the use of trailers as living quarters within the city limits. Only its construction on Government property protects Fort Wadsworth's colony. Constructed on the site of the tar-paper barracks which had sprung up during World War

One, the camp boasted 36 trailer spaces with water and electric power outlets, and a pipe link to the Wadsworth sewage system. A chemical warfare training building, moved to the camp in its entirety from another part of the Post was used as a central heating and sanitation structure. Although most its inhabitants were Wadsworth and Miller Field personnel, the camp has been home to men in the Marines, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard as well. However, all good things must come to an end sometime, and this camp is scheduled to be closed in 1965.

Several units arrived on Post for duty during this period, including the 21st Signal Operations Company, the 1267th S.U. (First US Army Signal Service Unit), and the 24th Signal Service Battalion. The 34th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade arrived in 1950 from Fort Bliss, Texas, shortly to be replaced by the 102d AAA Brigade, a New York National Guard unit.

KOREAN WAR

When the Korean War erupted in June 1950, Fort Wadsworth was used briefly as a basic training station, as well as an antiaircraft defense site. Some 100 Selective Service draftees arrived early in 1951 from Fort Dix reception center for an eight-week infantry training cycle, and they were soon drilling on the Parade Ground and slashing through the Staten Island woods on tactical marches. But the facilities here proved inadequate for training recruits, and Fort Dix soon assumed Wadsworth's burden.

When in 1952, the Government directed that Federal units replace National Guard outfits in the antiaircraft defense of primary continental targets, the 102d AAA Brigade, a National Guard unit, was transferred from Fort Wadsworth. The 52 AAA Brigade, a distinguished World War Two unit, was reactivated, reorganized, and permanently assigned here on 13 June 1952.

NEW HORIZONS

In 1954 the big word was "NIKE". It has been the big word ever since. For it was Nike--the radio-controlled supersonic antiaircraft guided missile capable of tracking down and destroying enemy bombers--that more than ever before in its history made Fort Wadsworth one of our nation's most important military posts. Through late 1953 and into 1954, Brigade officers and Army Engineers studied areas in New York, Long Island, and New Jersey to be used as Nike launching sites under the command of the 52d AAA Brigade. Often accompanied by the protests of local citizens, who felt an Army installation in the middle of their own town would depreciate real estate values, sites were chosen and construction begun.

One of the chief difficulties posed by Nike was a knotty community relations problem. Sites mushroomed in heavily populated areas, and in quiet residential districts of smaller townships. Through lecture and interviews, the mission of Nike was disseminated. Newly aware that these men who stand by the deadly missiles 24 hours a day, seven days a week, are our final outpost of defense from nuclear attack, the public finally accepted and even welcome the Nike battalions as permanent neighbors.

While the Brigade's Nike sites sprang up and troops were sent to service the missiles, Fort Wadsworth involved in another development which portend great changes for the Post. Early in 1955, a \$220,000,000 bridge linking Staten Island and Brooklyn was authorized by the Federal Government. The 12-lane double-deck suspension bridge, a scheduled 2.5 miles long, including approaches, would stretch from Fort Hamilton on the Brooklyn side to Fort Wadsworth on the Staten Island side.

With the completion of the "Missile Master System" at Highlands, New Jersey, the 52 Brigade transferred all its activities to the Highlands Air Force Base. Fort Wadsworth is now awaiting the next development in its long history, the arrival of its latest tenant the II US Army Corps which will make its headquarters here in June 1963.

What the future hold for Fort Wadsworth no one knows, however, this much is sure, the Post is always ready and able to serve its country in the future as it has done so ably in the past.

ORDERS NAMING THE POST

GENERAL ORDERS)

Number 161)

WAR DEPARTMENT
Adjutant General's Office
Washington, November 7, 1865.

The military post on Staten Island, New York Harbor, now known as Fort Richmond, will hereafter be called Fort Wadsworth, in memory of the gallant and patriotic services of Brigadier General JAMES S. WADSWORTH, who was killed, at the head of his command, in the battle of The Wilderness, Virginia, May 6, 1864.

By order of the Secretary of War:-

E. D. TOWNSEND
Assistant Adjutant General.

General Wadsworth was born in New York, and appointed to the Army from the same state. His record is as follows:-

Volunteer Aid-De-Camp to General McDowell, July 6, 1861; Brigadier General of Volunteers August 9, 1861; Brevet Major General of Volunteers, May 6, 1864, for gallant conduct at the battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and The Wilderness, Virginia.

He died May 8, 1864, at the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia.

ORDERS NAMING THE BATTERIES

GENERAL ORDERS)

Number 66)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, November 24, 1897.

The following order has been received from the War Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington, November 12, 1897.

By direction of the President, the two batteries of 10-inch guns on Staten Island near Fort Wadsworth, New York, now designated as the Clifton and Ravenna Batteries, together with any adjacent defenses yet to be built, will hereafter be known and designated as Fort Newton, in honor of the late General John Newton, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, who for many years was in direct charge of the works in New York Harbor.

R. A. ALGER,
Secretary of War.

By command of Major General Miles:

SAM'L BRECK,
Adjutant General.

1. The following order has been received from the War Department and is published to the Army for the information and guidance of all concerned:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 11, 1902.

1. By direction of the President, War Department orders of November 12, 1897, published in General Orders No. 66, Headquarters of the Army, will hereafter apply to all of the fortifications at present located on the military reservation on the West side of the Narrows, and names to the batteries constructed thereon are given as follows:

X
X
BATTERY AYERS, In honor of Colonel Romeyn B. Ayers, 2d U.S. Artillery, Major General, United States Volunteers, who died December 4, 1888. X

X
X
BATTERY BARRY, in honor of Colonel William F. Barry, 2d U.S. Artillery, Major General, United States Volunteers, and Chief of Artillery, Army of the Potomac, who died July 18, 1879. X

X
X
BATTERY EMORY UPTON, In honor of Colonel Emory Upton, 4th U.S. Artillery, Major General, United States Volunteers, who died March 15, 1881. X

X
X
BATTERY WEED, In honor of Captain Stephen H. Weed, 5th U.S. Artillery, Brigadier General, United States Volunteers, who was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 2, 1863. X

X
Elihu Root,
Secretary of War

The specific batteries to which the foregoing names have been given will be communicated to Department Commanders by letter.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MILES:

H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General,
Major General, U.S. Army.

GENERAL ORDERS)

Number 43)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ADJUTANT
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, April 4, 1900.

The following order from the War Department is published to the
Army for the information and guidance of all concerned:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 24, 1900.

By direction of the President, and under the provisions of para-
graph 198, Army Regulations, names to new batteries which have recently
been constructed and sites for works to be constructed along the seacoast
of the United States are hereby announced as follows:

X X X
BATTERY DUANE, In honor of the late Brigadier General James C.
Duane, U. S. Army, a native of New York, a distinguished officer of the
War of 1861 - 1865, and Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, 1886 - 1888.

X X X
BATTERY HUDSON, after the old earth battery in which located.

X X X
BATTERY RICHMOND, after old Fort Richmond, now Fort Wadsworth,
which was named from the County in which it was situated.

X X X
Elihu Root,
Secretary of War.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL MILES:

H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General.

GENERAL ORDERS)

Number 78)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, May 25, 1903.

X X X
WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 30, 1903.

X X X
2. By direction of the President, and under the provisions of para-
graph 216, of the Regulations, names of seacoast forts and batteries are
announced as follows:

X X X
BATTERY BACON, In honor of First Lieutenant John D. Bacon, 6th U.S.
Infantry, who died October 12, 1847, of wounds received at the Battle of
Churubusco, Mexico.

X X X
BATTERY BARBOUR, In honor of Captain Philip H. Barbour, 3d U.S.
Infantry, who was killed September 21, 1846, at the Battle of Monterey, Mexico.

X X X
BATTERY DIX, In honor of Major General John A. Dix, U.S. Army, who
served during the War of 1812, and the Civil War, and who died April 21, 1879,
at New York City, New York.

X X X
Elihu Root,
Secretary of War.

The specific batteries to which the foregoing names have been given
will be communicated by letter to the Department Commander.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MILES:

H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General,
Major General, U.S. Army.

GENERAL ORDERS)

Number 194)

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 27, 1904.

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 198, Army Regulations, names of seacoast batteries are announced as follows:

X X X
BATTERY ROBERT CATLIN, In honor of Captain Robert Catlin, U.S. Army, who was wounded in action at Weldon Railroad, Virginia, August 21, 1864, and who died December 28, 1903.

X X X
BATTERY WILLIAM TURNBULL, In honor of Brevet Colonel William Turnbull, U.S. Army (Major, U.S. Topographic Engineers), who served with distinction during the War with Mexico, and who died December 9, 1857.

X X X
BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Adna R. Chaffee,
Lieutenant General, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

F. C. Ainsworth,
The Military Secretary.

GENERAL ORDERS)

Number 20)

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 25, 1906.

X X X
2. Under the provisions of paragraph 198, Army Regulations, names of seacoast batteries are announced as follows:

X X X
BATTERY CHARLES MILLS, In honor of Brevet Colonel Charles J. Mills, U.S. Volunteers (Captain, Assistant Adjutant General, U.S. Volunteers), who served with distinction during the Civil War, and who was killed in action at Hatchers Run, near Petersburg, Virginia, March 31, 1864.

X X X
BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

J. C. BATES,
Major General, Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

F. C. Ainsworth,
The Military Secretary.

BRIEF REFERENCES TO THE PERSONS FOR WHOM THE BATTERIES WERE

BATTERY AYERS: In honor of Colonel Remeyn Beck Ayers, 2d U.S. Artillery. Colonel Ayers was born in New York. He was appointed to the Military Academy from the same State July 1, 1843; graduated and appointed Brevet 2d Lieutenant, 4th Artillery, July 1, 1847; 2d Lieutenant, 3d Artillery, September 22, 1847; 1st Lieutenant, March 16, 1852; Captain 5th Artillery, May 14, 1861; Lieutenant Colonel 28th Infantry, July 28, 1866; transferred to 19th Infantry, March 15, 1869; transferred to 3d Artillery December 15, 1870; Colonel, 2d Artillery, July 18, 1879.

BATTERY BACON: In honor of 1st Lieutenant John Danforth Bacon, 6th U.S. Infantry. Lieutenant Bacon was born in Maine. He was appointed to the Military Academy from the same State July 1, 1836. He graduated July 1, 1840; appointed Brevet 2d Lieutenant, 2d Infantry July 1, 1840; 2d Lieutenant, 6th Infantry December 3, 1840 and 1st Lieutenant July 18, 1846. He died October 12, 1847 of wounds received August 20, 1847 at the Battle of Churubusco, Mexico.

BATTERY PARBOUR: In honor of Captain Philip Nordbourne Barbour, 3d U.S. Infantry. Captain Barbour was born in Kentucky. He was appointed to the Military Academy from the same State July 1, 1829. He graduated and was appointed Brevet 2d Lieutenant, 3d Infantry, July 1, 1834; 2d Lieutenant April 1, 1836; 1st Lieutenant July 7, 1837; Captain, November 26, 1845. He was killed September 21, 1846 in the Battle of Monterey, Mexico.

BATTERY BARRY: In honor of Colonel William Farquhar Barry, 2d U.S. Artillery. Colonel Barry was born in New York. He was appointed to the Military Academy from the same State September 1, 1834; graduated and appointed Brevet 2d Lieutenant, 4th Artillery July 1, 1838; 2d Lieutenant, July 7, 1838; transferred to 2d Artillery July 12, 1838; 1st Lieutenant August 17, 1842; Captain, July 1, 1852; Major 5th Artillery May 14, 1861; Lieutenant Colonel, 1st Artillery August 1, 1863; Colonel 2d Artillery, December 11, 1865. He died July 18, 1879.

BATTERY CATLIN: In honor of Captain Robert Catlin. Captain Catlin was born in Illinois. He was appointed from Washington Territory to the Military Academy July 1, 1859. He graduated June 11, 1863; was appointed 2d Lieutenant, 5th Artillery, same date; retired April 26, 1865; appointed Captain 43d Infantry, July 28, 1866; retired December 15, 1870. He died December 28, 1903, at Washington, District of Columbia.

BATTERY DIX: In honor of Major General John Adams Dix, U.S. Army. General Dix was born in New Hampshire July 24, 1798. He was appointed an Ensign in the Army from the State of New York May 10, 1813; 3d Lieutenant 21st Infantry March 7, 1814; 2d Lieutenant March 8, 1814; transferred to Corps of Artillery August 9, 1814; 1st Lieutenant March 23, 1818; transferred to 1st Artillery June 1, 1821; transferred to 3d Artillery August 16, 1821; Captain August 30, 1825; resigned December 31, 1828; Major General of Volunteers May 16, 1861; resigned November 30, 1865. He was U.S. Senator 1845 - 1849, and Governor of New York in 1872. He died April 21, 1879.

BATTERY DUANE: In honor of Brigadier General James Chatham Duane, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1886 - 1893. General Duane was born in New York. He was appointed to the Military Academy from the same State July 1, 1844. He graduated and was appointed Brevet 2d Lieutenant Engineers July 1, 1848; 2d Lieutenant March 16, 1853; 1st Lieutenant July 1, 1855; Captain, August 6, 1861; Major, March 3, 1863; Lieutenant Colonel, March 7, 1867; Colonel, January 10, 1883; Brigadier General, Chief of Engineers, October 11, 1886; retired June 30, 1888.

BATTERY HUDSON: After the old earth battery in which located.

BATTERY MILLS: In honor of Brevet Colonel Charles J. Mills, U.S. Volunteers (Captain, Assistant Adjutant General, United States Volunteers) who served with distinction during the Civil War, and who was killed in action at Hatcher's Run, near Petersburg, Virginia, March 31, 1865. Colonel Mills was born in Massachusetts. He was appointed 1st Lieutenant, 2d Massachusetts Infantry, September 5, 1862; honorably discharged, March 18, 1863; 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant 56th Massachusetts Infantry September 1, 1863; Captain, August 1, 1864; Captain, Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers, July 25, 1864.

BATTERY RICHMOND: After old Fort Richmond, now Fort Wadsworth, which was named from the County in which it was situated.

BATTERY TURNBULL: In honor of Major William Turnbull, Topographical Engineers. Major Turnbull was born in Maryland. He was appointed to the Military Academy from the same State September 30, 1814; 2d Lieutenant, Corps of Artillery, July 1, 1819; transferred to the 4th Artillery, June 1, 1821; 1st Lieutenant, January 1, 1823; Major, Topographic Engineers, July 7, 1838. He died December 9, 1857.

BATTERY UPTON: In honor of Colonel Emery Upton. Born in New York. He was appointed from the same State to the Military Academy July 1, 1856. Graduated and appointed 2d Lieutenant, 4th Artillery, May 6, 1861; 1st Lieutenant, 5th Artillery, May 14, 1861; Captain, 5th Artillery, February 22, 1865; Lieutenant Colonel, 25th Infantry, July 28, 1866; transferred to the 18th Infantry, March 15, 1869; unassigned, July 1, 1870; assigned to 1st Artillery, December 15, 1870; transferred to 4th Artillery, March 16, 1877; Colonel, July 1, 1880. He died March 15, 1881.

BATTERY WEED: In honor of Captain Stephen H. Weed, 5th U.S. Artillery. Captain Weed was born in New York. He was appointed to the Military Academy from the same State July 1, 1850; graduated and appointed Brevet 2d Lieutenant, 2d Lieutenant Artillery July 1, 1854; 2d Lieutenant, 4th Artillery, December 18, 1854; 1st Lieutenant, November 16, 1856; Captain, 5th Artillery, May 14, 1861; Brigadier General of Volunteers, June 6, 1863. He was killed July 2, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.