

The Western Front in the Backyard
The Archaeological Survey of Camp Howze, Texas

by

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A Thesis

In

Anthropology

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty
of Texas Tech University in
Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for
the Degree of

Master of Arts

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August, 2014

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Acknowledgments

First and foremost I have to acknowledge the help and support of the people of Muenster and Gainesville, Texas. This project began from the interest of the local community. None of this would be possible without the help of Claude Walter, Gus and Evie Felderhoff, Jerry Hess, and Roy Hartman.

I especially need to thank my advisor, Dr. Tamra Walter, and Dr. Michael Jordan for their help and support throughout this process. Also a thank you must go out to everyone who came out to help me on the survey. This project was done without a field school, and everyone who came out did so on a purely voluntary basis. Thank you to Heather Fischer, Michael Hogan, William Cawley, David Hacker, Aaron Gibson, Jonathan Welch, Brian Heisinger, Lorissa Cortez, and Stephen Phillips.

And finally a thank you to all the men and women who lived, trained, and worked at Camp Howze during the war, for all their service and sacrifices.

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Chapter I

Introduction

In March of 1942 as part of the buildup of World War II, the United States Army designated a new infantry-training base north of Gainesville, Texas, along the Red River (Figure 1). Camp Howze opened on August 14th of that year. During its brief four year existence, the camp was home to several hundred thousand soldiers training for combat, as well as over six thousand German and Italian prisoners of war captured during campaigns in Africa and Europe. When the war ended, Camp Howze was deemed no longer necessary, its land auctioned off to prospective landowners, as well as its equipment and what structures could be removed or salvaged. Today Texas back roads surround the land and the area is used for cattle ranching, farming, and residential housing.

The establishment of large military bases like Camp Howze displaced landowners and in some cases entire towns resulting in significant alterations to the landscape that can still be seen today. Given the enormous size of these bases (Camp Howze alone is 93 square miles in size as shown in Figure 2), archaeologists will increasingly be called on to investigate and record these sites. The continued expansion of urban areas, modernization, and population growth have caused military camps erected during World War II to be steadily encroached upon, requiring archaeological investigation. Identifying how the lands upon which these camps sit were reclaimed and absorbed back

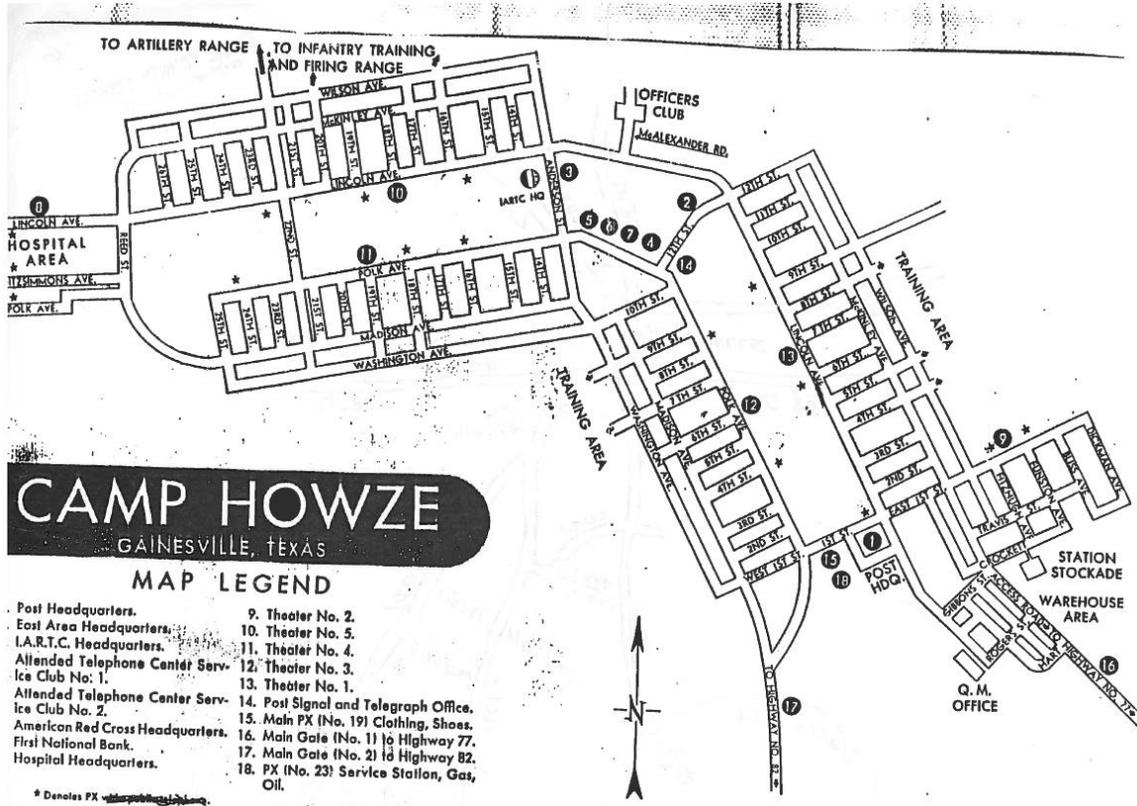


Figure 1 - A Map of Camp Howze for New Arrivals

into the surrounding communities along with documenting extant architectural and other features associated with the camps will be important parts of these investigations.

The purpose of my thesis was therefore to conduct a surface survey of Camp Howze to identify and document features related to the base to determine how the property has evolved since it reverted back to private ownership. The vast majority of the area was given over to training courses and artillery ranges, and the survey specifically focused on the former barracks, office, and medical structures of Camp Howze, as well as one former artillery range and its structures. The primary focus area is located along Texas Farm to Market Roads 1200 and 1201. The goals were to conduct a survey of these areas, document the remaining structures, and find archaeological evidence

demonstrating the use of the base, with a special focus on the identification of the prisoner of war holding sites. Archaeological evidence is used along with historical records, oral histories from the local area, and archival research to address these goals.

Rationale of the study and its significance

As one of hundreds of planned temporary military bases that sprang up across Texas and the United States of America during World War II, Camp Howze offers the chance for an archaeological investigation into these short-lived camps. While there has been a strong historical focus on World War II, little archaeological study of the American bases has been completed. Camp Howze itself has had no archaeological work done on the site prior to this survey, and has only a Texas State historical marker to publicly identify it.

Research into the site offers several valuable insights. First is the impact on the local area during the period of wartime industrialization and preparation. While built as part of the response to the war, the idea of a locating a base near Gainesville was forwarded years before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, as town leaders believed it would be economically beneficial to have a military base in the area. The selection of the land displaced many farm families in the area who were given little option or time to prepare. Few of the displaced families were able to return after the war. While local papers presented this as a simple change acknowledged as patriotic duty (Muenster Enterprise 1942) oral histories and memoirs of the displaced families recall it as bitter and

antagonistic (Felderhoff, personal communication). Archaeological data may show evidence of the displaced farm families, structures, and the rushed removal.

Like many of the other bases created during this time, Camp Howze was intended to be temporary. Construction was quick, and the camp greeted its first training command only five months after work began. Most buildings were of wood construction, with concrete block piers forming foundations that are still present today. More permanent structures include three water towers that still stand. Remnants of stone hallways are also present along Farm to Market road 1200. According to locals these belonged to the Camp medical complex. Camp Howze offers a significant opportunity to study these very time period specific temporary bases.

Over its short life, Camp Howze was also home to over 6,000 German prisoners of war captured in the African and European theaters of the war, as well as an unknown number of Italian soldiers, including the Italian artist Alberto Burri who began his painting career while held here (Oisteanu 2008). The prisoners were moved to Camp Howze where they were kept in three compounds, and often worked on local farms and ranches. The quality of life for these prisoners of war was surprisingly different from modern understandings of the POW experience. Few Americans knew of the horrors of the Third Reich at this time, and the local area (particularly the towns of Muenster and Lindsey) had a large German population. The European POWs at Camp Howze were seen as low risk, and often worked under limited supervision even while on civilian work projects. Soldiers at the base commented on how the Germans could see them drilling and practicing. Despite being enemy soldiers during an ongoing war, the German POWs

possessed a higher quality of life than American citizens of Japanese descent who were being held in Japanese internment camps at the same time. Some German POWs even chose to immigrate back to America after the war ended, stating that they had come to enjoy the country during their stay (Weber 2011).

The following chapters will address the research and data collection completed as a part of this project. Chapter 2 provides an overview of the history of Camp Howze, the conditions under which it was established, and the activities that took place over its short lifespan. This includes a history of the base itself, the soldiers that were sent there, and the interment of prisoners of war. The impact of the base on the local community is also examined, both during the Camp's operation and afterwards. Historical information was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources utilized local newspapers, personal letters of soldiers stationed at the camp, and original Camp Howze documents and maps obtained through the Gainesville Public Library as well as the National Archives, necessitating a trip to Washington DC and the release of information through the Freedom of Information Act.

Chapter 3 presents the results of the archaeological survey of the camp. Several different regions of the camp were surveyed and methodologies for each are varied. The sampling techniques and data recovery methods for each region are therefore discussed separately in this chapter.

Chapter 4 addresses the analysis of cultural materials recovered from the Camp Howze survey. Material types are discussed in separate sections and reviewed in light of the contexts in which they were found.

Finally Chapter 5 summarizes the research at Camp Howze and provides some preliminary conclusions and potential research questions for future investigations.

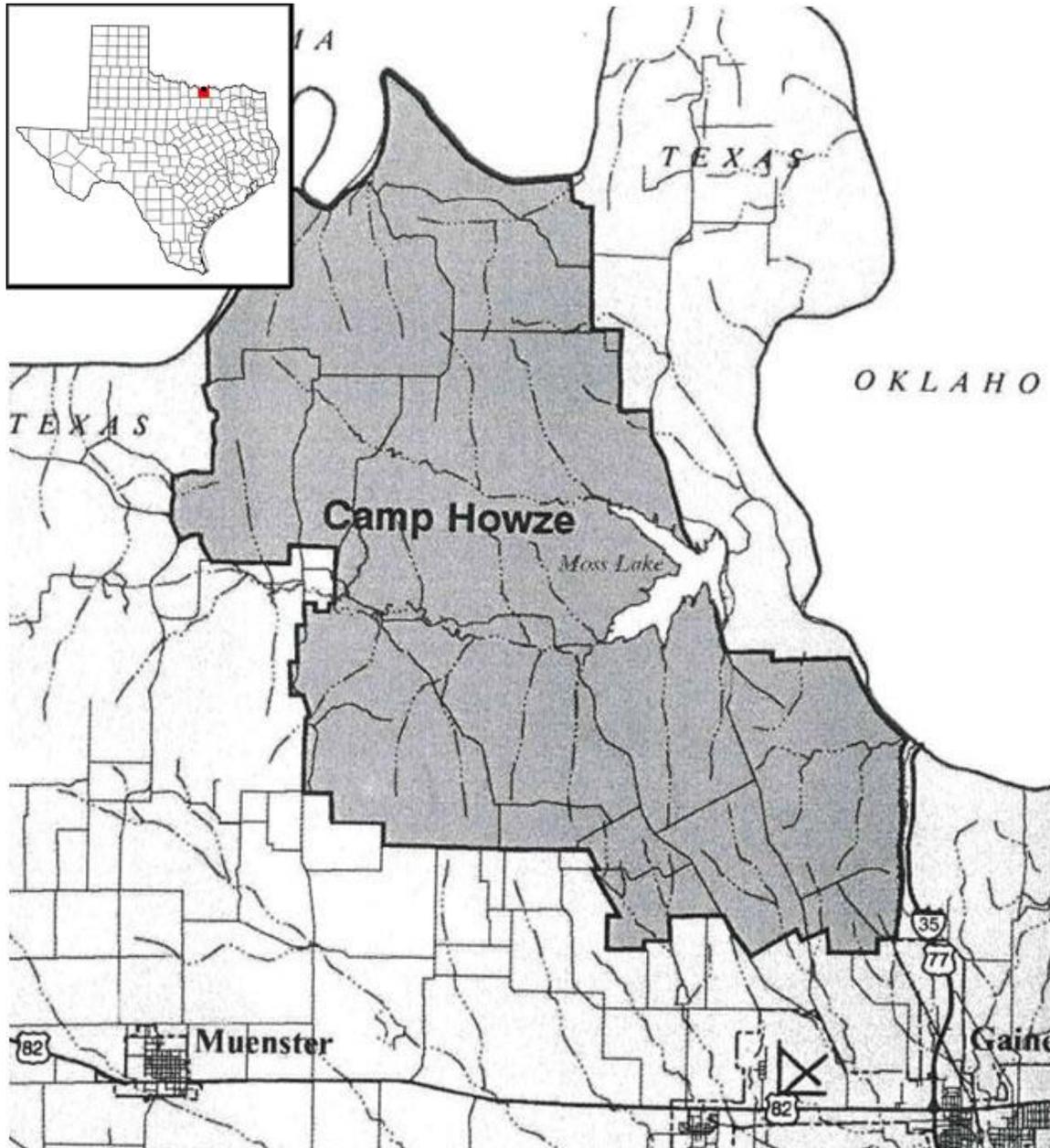


Figure 2 - Cap Howze's Original Boundaries

Chapter II

The History of Camp Howze

The Establishment of the Camp

Camp Howze was built in a relatively short amount of time given its size and scope, with the gates opening for the first training regiments on August 17, 1942 (Gainesville Daily Register & Messenger 1942). This was only five months from the start of construction, and only nine months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The selection of the site for Camp Howze was not a quick, arbitrary choice taken in response to the onset of the war. The army had scouted the area as a possible location for a new base only a few years earlier. Military officials had come to the region specifically at the invitation of the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, who believed a military base would provide a huge boon to the local economy (Burns, 1984). The area recommended by the Chamber lay outside the city, occupied primarily by small family farms. This large community of farmers had lived outside the residential areas of Gainesville since the region was opened for settlement, with a connection of roads, and even a network of small one-room schoolhouses to serve the rural communities. Many of these landowners greatly resented their lands being offered up by the city businessmen, who would lose nothing themselves.

At first the Army rejected the proposal for a Cooke County base. But after the United States entered World War II there was a sudden need for bases to support the war effort. The previously scouted out region was regarded as a prime choice for one of these wartime bases. The announcement of the Camp's designation came in March, and was

met with enthusiasm in Gainesville. Other Cooke county residents responded with mixed emotions. Initially the War Department did not release the exact boundaries of the base, though they told the press that the area would be north and west of Gainesville, with its main entrance located near the city, but that the camp would extend west “almost due north of Muenster” (Muenster Enterprise 1942). The law of Eminent Domain was asserted to access the land, with a flat rate offered to the families who lived in the area based on government evaluation. Fifteen farm families were initially instructed not to plant their crops that year (Muenster Enterprise 1942), though not all obeyed the directive, a choice that prompted problems with the military. Anecdotal stories say that after the Army claimed the territory, some farmers tried to sneak back onto their former land trying to claim their crops. One local legend tells of an early army training platoon coming across a farmer in their path. When the young lieutenant told the farmer he was on Army land, the farmer raised his shotgun and said “No I’m not. I’m on mine.” According to the story, the lieutenant perhaps wisely decided not to press the issue, and led his platoon away (Hess, personal communication).

Construction

Construction of the base began in March of 1942 with a number of separate contractors hired to work on the project. Around \$20 million (over \$250 million, adjusted for inflation to 2013) was spent on the construction of the base, and hundreds of local workers hired, resulting in an incredible boon to the local economy just as the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce had hoped. In April the Army began work on the base. By July

30th, work was already underway, with the various subsections of the base laid out. The concrete pylons that formed the foundation of the infantry barracks were mostly poured, even as new areas for barracks were added. Work also began on the base water and sewer systems, with concrete foundations laid for large tanks. Other underground utilities were rushed as materials were finally allocated for construction, particularly in the base hospital area (Gainesville Daily Register & Messenger 1942). The construction further impacted the local area as traffic was rerouted or significantly slowed near the camp's boundaries, and a non-military police force was employed under Chief Harold Tanner. The paper described the police specifically as wearing "natty" uniforms with "Frank Buck" style hats (Gainesville Daily Register & Messenger 1942).

The majority of buildings on the base were wood construction, hastily assembled on a foundation of poured concrete piers that still litter the fields to this day. The buildings were normally roofed in tin, and had tar paper and asbestos siding. Concrete was a standard foundation material, and often poured for more load bearing structures. Three large concrete water towers were constructed, and still stand as monuments to the former camp.

The naming of the camp was left to the local community, with a number of suggestions given, ranging from national heroes to local politicians, and including one nomination that it be named for Carole Lombard, an actress who had been killed in a plane crash while returning from a tour to sell war bonds. (Muenster Enterprise 1942) Many ideas were struck down by the military for not meeting proper army naming conventions, but eventually one was chosen. The Camp was named in honor of Major

General Robert Lee Howze, a Medal of Honor recipient and Texas native. Howze was a West Point graduate, and had served in the World War I, the Spanish American war, and had received the Congressional Medal of Honor for “Bravery in Action” while fighting against the Brulé Sioux in South Dakota. (Gainesville Daily Register & Messenger 1942; Center of Military History, United States Army 2013)

The camp officially opened on August 17th, 1942 under the command of Col. John P. Wheeler as the first soldiers arrived (Gainesville Daily Register & Messenger 1942). Colonel Wheeler was a 30-year veteran of the army at the time. Originally from Maryland, Wheeler served with the Fifth Cavalry for many years, and was with the unit during General Pershing’s expedition into Mexico to hunt down Pancho Villa. He brought with him a wealth of experience in training soldiers, having been the cavalry instructor at the infantry training command in Fort Benning, Georgia for three years, the



Figure 3 - An Infantry Training Exercise

executive officer and senior cavalry instructor for Texas A&M for six years, and the executive officer of the cavalry school he once attended at Fort Riley, Kansas for five years. (Gainesville Daily Register & Messenger 1942)

Camp Training and Operations

Camp Howze was designated for the explicit purpose of training infantry and artillery soldiers to be shipped to the Western Front of World War II (Training exercises are shown in Figures 3 and 5). Howze had a training capacity for 40,000 soldiers at a time, and during its four year life span pushed through several hundred thousand American soldiers. This included the 84th, 86th, and 103rd infantry divisions, known as the Railsplitters, the Blackhawks, and Cactus Division respectively (The patches and designations of each division are shown in Figure 4). A monument to the 103rd division stands at the Texas welcome center just north of Gainesville, bearing the names of every man who died or went missing in battle (Phillips 2006).

Most of the men arriving at Camp Howze were coming to Texas for the first time. The area was experiencing an exceedingly hot period that turned the normally green lands into a dusty brown expanse. Soldiers wrote home describing the area as a desert. Sam Jones, a former MP on the base who came from Corpus Christi said “I was led to believe Camp Howze was in beautiful green rolling hills. When I got here, I thought the world had turned into dead grass and dust” (Stephenson 2004). Some soldiers were known to approach local townspeople asking about cowboys, gunslingers, and other

stereotypes they'd learned about in popular culture, apparently unable to believe that this was not the "Wild West" of Hollywood. Despite the recent building of the camp, Verne Brooks, a private from New York described the buildings as "so old and so about to fall down" when he arrived only two years after the camp opened (Brooks 1944).



**THE 83RD INFANTRY DIVISION
"RAILSPLITTERS"**



**THE 86TH INFANTRY DIVISION
"BLACKHAWKS"**



**THE 103RD INFANTRY DIVISION
"CACTUS DIVISION"**

Figure 4 - The Unit Patches of the Camp Howze Divisions

The new soldiers came from all corners of the United States, from every economic background, a wide range of ages, and were both volunteers and draftees. Most of the soldiers were welcomed in the local communities, which were not only eager to support the war effort, but happy for the extra business and income the trainees brought. Some communities were less enthusiastic, however. The small town of Marysville found itself bracketed in by the camp on three sides. To make matters worse, this area was designated for artillery testing. The residents of the town reported that they felt like they were living in a war zone themselves. The town was slowly but steadily abandoned throughout the war years with only a few buildings remaining to this day (Stephenson 2004).

Another camp-related conundrum for many people in the local area was the presence of African-American soldiers at Camp Howze. Segregation was a prominent part of Southern life and culture during the war years, and was an official policy of the United States Military. Southern politicians actively opposed the stationing of black soldiers in southern states, claiming they would be a possible threat given that many of them came from non-segregated states. They also fought to force black soldiers to pay Southern poll taxes, even for absentee voting. The army, however, stated that the priorities of the military would take priority over ‘cultural sensitivity’, and the poll tax was abolished at the senate level (Wehrwein 1942). Black soldiers were restricted in what jobs they were allowed to do, and the roughly 2,000 man black unit stationed at Camp



Figure 5 - A Bridge Building Exercise

Howze primarily served in the motor pool. The unit had separate barracks, PX (an army anagram for a postal exchange), and a separate service club (Stephenson 2004).

Unfortunately, base maps did not specifically identify the segregated portion of the base.

The primary purpose of the camp was training for infantry and artillery soldiers. To this purpose, most of the camp's grounds were given over to training fields. This included drill ranges for firearms, grenades, and bayonets, as well as large scale artillery ranges used to train both the operators of the artillery and the spotters. Large areas were left mostly untouched to be used for hikes and field exercises, and in one location a mock German village was constructed for urban exercises. For these soldiers the majority of their time was taken up in honing the skills they would need to survive in war.

The military recognized the recreational needs of the soldiers as well. One of the first buildings to be ready on base was the USO (Stephenson 2004). There were

numerous stores set up on the base, known as PX's, where soldiers could do convenience shopping as well as receive and send mail. Five theatres were constructed on the base, two in each division's area, and one near the main entrance to the camp. The area in between the two enlisted barracks grounds had three enlisted clubs, as well as two call-centers where soldiers had access to telephone services.

While several hundred thousand men trained at the camp for deployment, not everyone in the camp followed suit. For example, a permanent detachment was needed at Camp Howze to maintain base operations. Permanently stationed staff included officers in charge of the base, enlisted staff, medical personnel, and specialists to oversee the armories and motor pool. With wartime deployment however, as few soldiers as possible were permanently stationed in the US. The camp supplemented its work force as much as possible with Civilian workers hired from the local community (Burns 1984).

Prisoners of War

Early in the war the military was faced with the question of where to house prisoners of war. At the beginning of the war, most captured German and Italian soldiers were considered low risk prisoners, many of whom saw their part in the war as completed, and were glad to be out of combat (Krammer 1979). The first large groups of prisoners were captured in the North Africa campaigns where the U.S. military was not ready to create long-term prison camps. Under the articles of the Geneva Convention, prisoners were to be housed in an area of a similar climate to where they were captured. While it is a debatable choice, the military chose Texas as one of the best areas to meet the standards of the Geneva Convention as well as the needs and capabilities of the army (Waters 2004).



Figure 6 - German POWs Working on a Ranch in Cooke County, Texas

Camp Howze was not initially intended to serve as a Prisoner of War camp, but it was deemed one of the best places to create one. This is likely due to the large areas of space available to convert into prisoner housing. The new prison camp was constructed on the east end of the base, not far from the entrance, along Farm to Market road 1202, near what is now Interstate-35. It was constructed similarly to the enlisted barracks and built to house 3,000 prisoners at any given time, but was surrounded by a 10 foot high fence. Eight guard towers were built around the POW camp, with machine guns posted that utilized a special “swinging-arm mount” designed by the post engineer. The officer reporting on the camp was so impressed by this design that he had the blueprints kept, and recommended that other camps make use of the new design (Headquarters Army Special Forces 1944). The prisoner of war camp contained barracks, offices, a small store for the prisoners, a small theater, and recreational fields. One American soldier stated it was occasionally demoralizing for the American troops to be coming back to base from long field exercises, to see the POWs playing soccer, stating “The war was over for them, but it hadn’t even started for us” (Reveley 2011)

Howze was one of many destinations for prisoners of war who were considered low risk. Dedicated Nazis, SS troopers, and other high-risk prisoners were kept in separate high security prison camps, often specifically constructed for that purpose. The prisoners sent to Camp Howze were considered low risk and not particularly dangerous. Red Cross liaisons made regular trips to the PW camp (the term used at the time, before POW was adopted) and never found serious troubles. The German soldiers were allowed regular mail deliveries with Germany, though anything that went through the camp was

screened first for classified or sensitive information. US military courts had determined that the Geneva Convention requirement that prisoners not be coerced to aid the enemy did not apply in America, as they would not be aiding combat operations (Krammer 1979). Therefore prisoners were regularly employed around the base, often in the motor pool, laundry, woodshop, and other menial jobs that did not require a security clearance. The prisoners were paid for this work, and were able to spend the money at the store provided in the POW camp (Turner 1945). Occasionally the prisoners were allowed to put in requests to have relatives who had been captured in battle moved to Camp Howze from other POW camps. Two German prisoners put in requests to have brothers who had been captured in the war transferred to Camp Howze so they could be interred together, and one request was made by a son to have his father brought to the camp. In all cases, the prisoners were required to pay the cost for the transfer out of the money they had made in work programs (Smith 1944). Other transfers were made for prisoners who were believed to be useful in “anti-Nazi” divisions, units of former Axis soldiers who wished to join the allied side, and were being trained by American soldiers in New England. This could happen for German POW’s who were from occupied regions, and had reason to hate the Axis forces they had been drafted into. One prisoner of Polish birth asked to be transferred to serve in the Russian army along with his brother (Rutledge, Transfer of Prisoner of War 1944). Another soldier, Julius Bellerich, claimed to be embittered after serving for three years at the Dachau Concentration Camp, and learning of the suffering of his Italian mother in Nazi Germany. Both prisoners had been held at Camp Howze

when they were recommended for and granted reassignment to the anti-Nazi forces. (Rutledge, *Transfer of Prisoners of War* 1943).

As the war rolled on and the lack of manpower on the home front created a demand for workers, the prisoners of war were ‘hired’ out to local farms and ranches for work (Figure 6). This brought the German prisoners into regular contact with the local populace. Despite the state of war, there was very little trouble between the German soldiers and the locals, owing in part to the strong German heritage in the nearby towns of Lindsey and Muenster. The officers of Camp Howze regularly hired local townsfolk as base translators, as military personnel who spoke German were needed in the front lines and intelligence services (Krammer 1979).

Disciplinary problems in general were rare, though they did happen. In 1945 for example when four POWs working in the motor pool decided to take a stolen automobile for a joy ride around the base. Despite the opportunity, the men did not attempt to leave the camp. The men were placed in a more restrictive brig, but under orders from the camp commander, discipline with the prisoners was to be handled exactly the same as discipline for American soldiers (Turner 1945). Notably, one escapee was reported from Camp Howze. Wolfgang Ritter escaped on September 20, 1945. No account remains of how he escaped, but he was later apprehended in October, having made it across multiple states to the city of Springfield, Illinois (Tollefson 1945).

Local anecdotes tell of other disciplinary problems and other escape attempts, however. One local legend tells of a German POW who simply walked off away from his

work detail. He was apprehended 60 miles away, marching along the road while singing German marching tunes to himself. Another group of three men attempted to escape along the Red River, building a makeshift raft. Not knowing North American geography, they believed they could raft back to Germany (Krammer 1979). Not every story deals with escape, however. One tells of a work detail sent to work on a nearby ranch. The POWs had only one overseer, a sergeant who had had too much to drink the night before. Thoroughly hungover, he passed out. When the POWs finished, they found that the sergeant was impossible to wake up. With no other option, the German prisoners loaded the American sergeant into the back of the truck, and drove back to Camp Howze themselves (Felderhoff, private communication).

Many stories traded around the area speak of a good relationship between the prisoners and the German-American locals, and sometimes more. The POWs were known to occasionally wander off to talk to locals, try to get a beer, and to speak to the women they saw. One prisoner was reported missing after a work detail, and after a quick investigation, written down as an escape attempt. The next morning he was driven back to Camp Howze and dropped off at the gate by a local woman (unnamed in the stories) who apologized for keeping him overnight (Stephenson 2004). Reportedly a local author wrote a theatrical play, about a romance between a German POW and a Gainesville girl. The play was believed to be in the possession of the Cooke County Library, however no evidence for its existence remains. Likely, the play was lost after the end of World War II, when the revelation of Nazi atrocities made the tender treatment of German soldiers somewhat embarrassing, to say the least (Felderhoff, personal communication).

When the war ended, the POWs remaining at Camp Howze were transferred first to bases in England, remaining there often for years before final release back to Germany. There they were finally able to return to normal civilian lives. Perhaps unsurprisingly, some of the former POWs even chose to move to America after the war (Weber 2011).

The Closing of the Camp

The need for wartime bases created within the US was ended with the war. In 1946 the camp was declared no longer necessary. Howze was disbanded and closed. Every bit of material that could be salvaged and sold was auctioned off, including the wood structure buildings. These buildings were often used as supplementary housing during the housing shortage that followed the war as soldiers returned home. North Texas State College (now the University of North Texas) at Denton purchased several of the buildings to use as classrooms, offices, and student dormitories (Coppedge 1956).

The land that made up Camp Howze was likewise sold. Legally, the former owners were supposed to have the first chance to buy the property, but most had moved away during the war years, could not afford the prices, or did not seek to return to farming. Others found their chance to re-purchase the land lost when the city of Gainesville seized a portion of the closed base to be used for emergency housing as a housing crisis hit the area (Stephenson 2004). Most of the land leftover went into the hands of private owners, with one of the largest areas bought by the Felderhoff family.

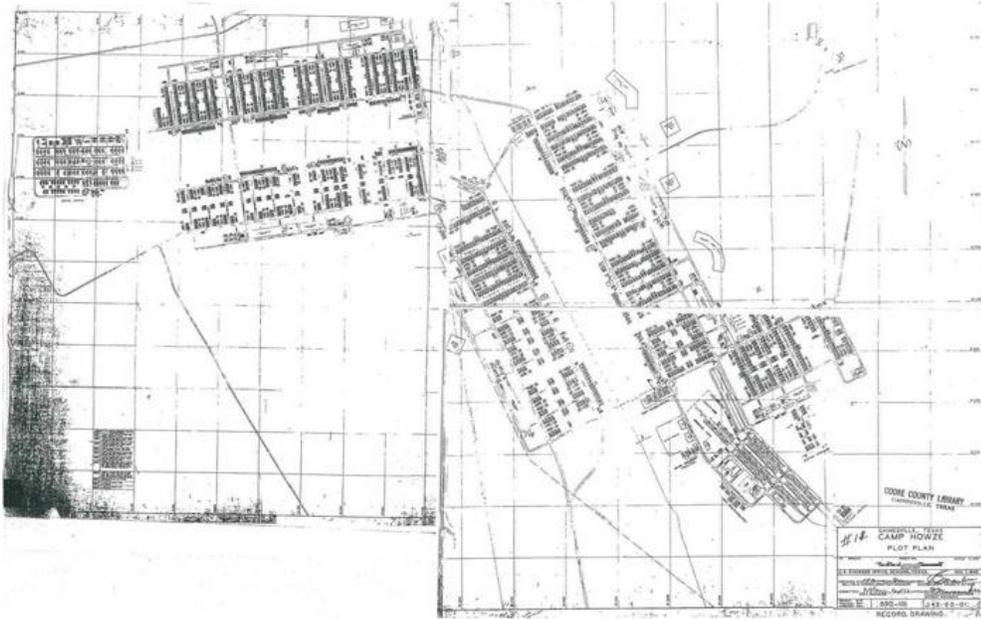
As the new owners took possession of the property they found that much of the land was fundamentally altered. The concrete pylons that served as the foundations for most buildings were nearly impossible to remove, and generally considered not worth the effort. This rendered the land that held the buildings incapable of standard farming. Even in other areas concrete foundations disrupted normal use of the land. Many of the owners intended to use the land for cattle ranching instead of farming, since the scattered

concrete was not a problem for the livestock, other than some pits left from the sewage network that required covering.

A greater problem for the new owners was the presence of munitions left behind. Unexploded ordinance was found somewhat routinely after the war, and local stories tell of one farmer who was killed when his plow found an old explosive (Walter, personal communication). It was not until recently that outside experts were hired by the federal government to remove unexploded ordinances (UXOs) from the area (Gibbons Media & Research LLC 2013).

Despite the difficulties and risks, the land that was once one of the first and largest training commands of World War II has now returned fully to private ownership. Cattle graze on former testing ranges, oil derricks sit not far from where soldiers used to sleep, and hunters sit in deer stands looking for prey walking across land that was shelled repeatedly by artillery training. Seventy years later few standing structures mark what used to be the camp. Three water towers survive, serving as local landmarks. Drivers passing by can see the geometric patterns of scattered concrete pylons, but little else remains to mark the presence of the camp. Along Farm to Market Road 1202 the most identifiable pieces of the base are left, and include brick structures that served as the junctions of the base hospital's hallways. A historical marker sits on Farm to Market Road 1202 commemorating the existence of the camp, not far from where the main gate once stood, but with no remnants of the base in sight. The area has returned back to the people of Texas, with only ruins and stories to remind them of what once stood there.

CAMP HOWZE, 1942



CAMP HOWZE, TODAY



Figure 7 - The Original Plan Map for Camp Howze's Main Compound, Contrasted With a 2012 Satellite View

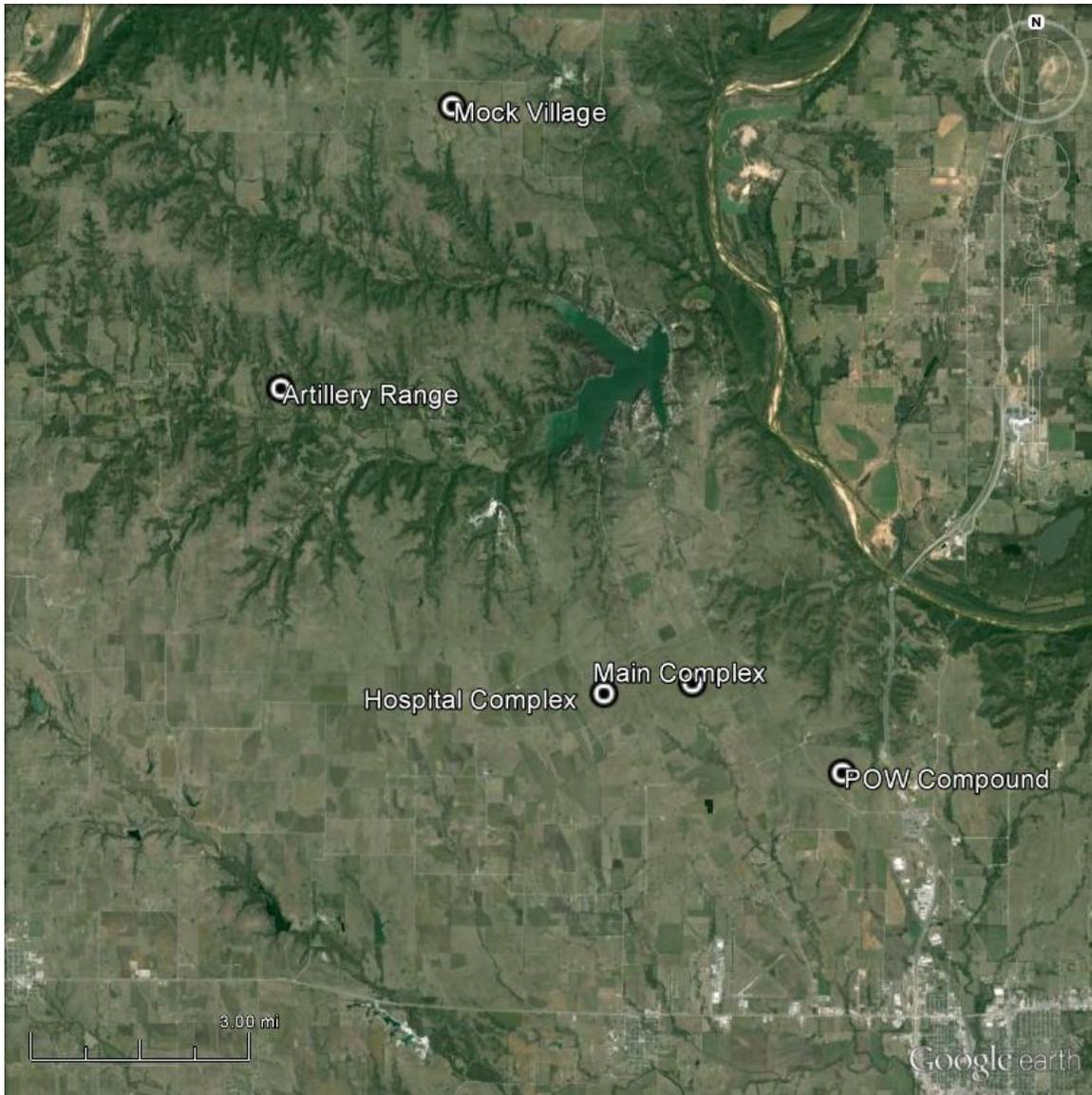


Figure 8 - The Survey Areas of Camp Howze

Chapter III

The Survey

A sampling strategy was essential for the survey of Camp Howze. Due to the vast scale of the base, different strategies were employed depending on the area under investigation. The original boundaries of Camp Howze covered an area of 93 square miles, stretching from the northern side of Highway 82, where the Gainesville Municipal Airport now stands, north to the Red River, and West to the small town of Marysville (Figure 2). Further complicating the investigations is the fact that nearly the entire former base is now private property, which limited our access to certain sections of the former camp. Thankfully a number of landowners gave consent to work on their properties, which included several of the major features of the base (Figure 8). Among these features are the main base compound, barracks, hospital, and several training ranges.

With maps and documentation of the former base available, and taking in the other mitigating factors, a non-probabilistic approach was utilized for choosing sites for the survey. Selections were made based first on accessibility and once established concentrating on significant features within those regions. Shovel tests were dug around the surveyed features based on the potential for encountering possible cultural deposits.

Four surveying trips were made to Camp Howze. These surveys were guided by historical information and documents, most notably maps of the base obtained from the local libraries and from the national archives (Figure 7 shows the original Camp Howze plan map contrasted with modern satellite imagery, showing the footprint of the camp visible). We were also able to utilize certain camp maps and official records that had been

maintained, as well as civilian newspaper archives from the local communities. The first survey was completed on November 1st at one of the former artillery ranges near Marysville, now located on private property. The second survey followed on November 10th and 11th, 2012, with a larger crew that surveyed the western base hospital grounds. A third survey trip took place on February 16th, 2013 to the former site of a mock German village constructed for combat exercises. The fourth survey was conducted on April 13, 2013, and included the area of the hospital, as well as the POW hospital area, and other local buildings. The last survey trip was conducted from May 29th to June 2nd, 2013, and covered the area of the base originally given to the 86th infantry division, including barracks, PX stations, and two theaters. This survey also covered an area of the base headquarters, the officer's quarters and clubs, former grenade and bayonet ranges, and the enlisted clubs. Each survey required different methods based on the specific needs of the areas targeted for investigation and are discussed separately.

The goal of the surveys was to record any evidence of the base that remains and to identify how the remnants of the camp have been affected and modified since the time of the camp's establishment and subsequent abandonment. Camp Howze was one of many such temporary camps setup during the war, and now serves as an example of what a WWII military base looks like some 70 years after closing. Despite the relatively recent use of the land by the army, in historical terms, the knowledge of what had been at the base was already disappearing from the local community. Surveys of this type can provide a basic idea of what to expect both archaeologically and architecturally.



Figure 9 - The Western Artillery Range Feature Locations

Western Artillery Range Survey

The initial survey was conducted on a former artillery range located near County Road 411, just east of Marysville (Figure 9). The US Army referred to the area as the “East Marysville Area”, and the artillery ranges were in a designated “fortified area” (Kaden 1943). The land is now private property and is mostly undeveloped, though the owner uses the land for deer hunting.

Methodology

A pedestrian survey was conducted of the region, concentrating in particular on the concrete remains left behind by practice bunkers. During a reconnaissance survey and with the aid of the landowner, seven distinct features were identified, consisting of separate concrete structures left from the Camp Howze years. A pedestrian survey was conducted on the field between Features 2 and 3 using five meter transects. A small collection of shrapnel was collected during the initial survey. These samples were brought to the lab for analysis and measurement. The shrapnel data is recorded on Table 1 in Appendix A. No shovel testing was done in the area given the potential for unexploded ordinance left from previous base activities. Each cement feature was individually measured and documented. GPS coordinates were taken at each feature with a handheld Garmin. Artifacts were collected from the features’ surface and returned to the lab for analysis.

Feature 1

Feature 1 is a concrete structure located on a hill overlooking the landowner's house (Figure 10). It is the largest of the artillery range features in size, though most of the structure is broken up and has fallen down the hill. The one standing wall is 493 cm (16 feet) long, and 15.24 cm (6 inches) thick. The material is shaped concrete containing metal rebar. A rubble push pile (designated Feature 1A) sits at the top of the hill, measuring 310cm (10 feet 2 inches) by 288 cm (9 feet 5 inches). The landowner believes this structure was the launching platform for the artillery, or possibly the observation bunker (Hess, personal communication).



Figure 10 - Feature 1

Feature 2

Feature 2 is a concrete structure located on the western side of the target field north of Feature 1. The west wall has broken off and collapsed. A window along the base of the structure facing the target field suggests that this was a sighting bunker for forward observers to practice calling in artillery strikes (Figures 11 – 12).

Between Features 2 and 3 lies the target field for the artillery. The field is a larger hilltop heavily pockmarked by repeated shelling, the damage made obvious by the relatively flat surface of nearby hilltops. A large amount of shrapnel debris still remains on the surface, and a sample was collected on the surface survey. However there remains a large amount of shrapnel scattered openly around the field.

Table 1 – Measurements of Feature 2

Southeast wall width	4.87 m (15 ft 11 in)
Southwest wall width	4.85 m (15 ft 10 in)
Northwest wall width (collapsed)	4.90 m (16 ft)
South corner height	2.52 m (8 ft 3 in)
East corner height	2.03 m (6 ft 8 in)



Figure 11 - Feature 2 South Wall



Figure 12 - Feature 2 East Wall

Feature 3

Feature 3 compliments Feature 2 and is located on the eastern side of the same field. Low windows appear on the eastern and southern walls, measuring 31cm (1 foot) high, and 61 cm (2 feet) across on the inside, but 91.5 cm (3 feet) on the outside. The south and west walls are broken off of the structure, and lean inward (Figures 13 – 14).

Table 2 provides wall measurements for Feature 3.

Table 2 – Measurements of Feature 3

East wall width	4.75 m (15 ft 7 in)
East wall height	2.36 m (7 ft 9 in)
South wall width	4.6 m (15 ft 1 in)
South wall height	2.27 m (7 ft 5 in)
West Wall height	2.2 m (7 ft 2 in)



Figure 13 - Feature 3 East Wall



Figure 14 - Feature 3 West Wall

Feature 4

Feature 4 is a fallen bunker to the northeast of the target field. Only one small piece of a wall remains standing, and its original purpose is not known (Figure 15). The wall is on the west side, with 18 cm (7 inches) thick prefab walls, and is 89 cm (2 feet 11 inches) at the tallest point, with a base width of 198 cm (6 feet 6 inches).



Figure 15 - Feature 4

Features 5 and 6

Features 5 and 6 lie off of the artillery range, and form a parallelogram with observation windows. Feature 6, the most intact of the features, is the only structure to have wooden remnants of the original construction. The wooded beam is 16 cm (6 ft) thick. Feature 6 also has a window measuring 92cm (3 ft) wide originally but now 106 cm (3 ft 6 in) tall and 45 cm (1 ft 6 in) high (figures 16 – 19). Tables 3 and 4 provide measurements of the walls of each feature.

Table 3 - Measurements of Feature 5

Southeast wall width	4.14 m (13 ft 7 in)
Southwest wall width	4.75 m (15 ft 7 in)
East -> West corner distance	8.93 m (29 ft 4 in)
Southeast wall height	2.41 m (7 ft 10 in)
South corner height	2.40 m (7 ft 10 in)
West corner height	2.28 m (7 ft 5 in)
North corner height	1.92 m (6 ft 3 in)

Table 4 - Measurements of Feature 6

Northeast wall width	.92 m (3 ft)
Northeast wall height	2.14 m (7 ft)
Southeast wall width	4.94 m (16 ft 2 in)
Southeast wall height	2.99 m (9 ft 9 in)
Southwest wall width	4.91 m (7 ft 10 in)
Southwest wall height	2.15 m (7 ft)



Figure 16 - Feature 5



Figure 17 - Munitions Damage on Feature 5



Figure 18 - Feature 5 Interior Wall



Figure 19 - Munitions Damage Interior

Feature 7

Feature 7 is a bunker similar to Features 5 and 6, but sits on a neighboring property where we did not have permission to survey. The structure is designated a feature because it is part of the same original complex, and is easily visible from the landowner's property.



Figure 20 - Feature 7

Western Artillery Range Survey Conclusions

The concrete structures showed evidence of not only heavy wear from time and the elements; but also showed what appeared to be considerable combat style damage. This is consistent with what one would expect to find from structures taking artillery damage, but many of the structures appear to have taken heavy firearms damage as well. The structures themselves have not been utilized in any regular way since the closure of the base. The owner enjoys having them as a reminder of what the place once was (Hess, personal communication), and the only structure that seems to have attracted post-war attention was Feature 1, due to its proximity to the main house, resulting in the push pile Feature 1A.



Figure 21 - Mock Village Feature Locations

Mock German Village Survey

As an infantry training command, the facilities of Camp Howze needed to prepare soldiers for the battlefield situations they would face. Much of the training grounds were used for hikes and combat exercises. However, at least one location, identified on Army maps as the “Combat Village” within the ‘South Hickman’ Area (Kaden 1943), was designed for combat training around ruined buildings. Little to no information regarding the site was recovered, so it is unclear if the mock German village was designed originally as ruins, or if it had a more substantial construction that was destroyed either through combat exercises or over time.



Figure 22 - The Mock Village Entryway

The site of the Combat Village is now located along Country Road 410 (Figure 21). Today, most of the area consists of cattle pastures and farm land, but a series of small walls that were once training ground buildings remain, as well as the bases of an archway that were constructed at the entrance of the village. These structures are retained in a fenced area used for corralling cattle and for parking (Figures 22 - 23). Within the area of the small walls there is a circular construction that was dubbed the “wishing well” by the locals, and may have been constructed to represent a village’s central well.

The area opposite from the village is now a field for growing hay, but the owner remembers taking down concrete bunkers built in the area. By his description the structures were similar to Features 5 and 6 from the artillery range. He identified them as



Figure 23 - Northern View of the Mock Village

bunkers used for live grenade training, remembering such structures from his army boot camp training during the Korean War. He also related that adjacent to that range to the south, his plow had turned up several ‘dummy’ land mines used for training (Hartman, personal communication).

Methodology

A surface survey was conducted over the accessible areas of the mock village. As the area is heavily utilized for ranch work, a systematic pedestrian survey was not feasible and the survey concentrated on recording the extant features. Measurements and photographs were taken of the series of small walls remaining from the Camp Howze occupation, and GPS positions were recorded with a Garmin Trimble. Several features were identified and recorded at the mock village and each is described below in more detail.

Features 8 and 9 – The Archway

The front archway is a brick, mortar, and cement construction that served to mark the entryway to the mock village, though it may have been constructed as two separate pieces designed to look like the remnants of an entrance. The north section is designated Feature 8, and the south part Feature 9 (Figures 24 – 27). Both segments are of concrete construction with a brick and mortar core, with the brick section exposed above the base. Feature 8 has the number 1492 placed in the cement base. Bricks lie scattered around both segments, the result of fall from the crumbling features over the years.

Table 5 – Measurements of Features 8 & 9

North Arch		South Arch	
N-S	2.1 m (6 ft 10 in)	N-S	2 m (6 ft 7 in)
E-W	.85 m (2 ft 9 in)	E-W	.97 m (3 ft 2 in)
Height	2.44 m (8 ft)	Height	1.87 m (6 ft 2 in)



Figure 24 - Feature 9

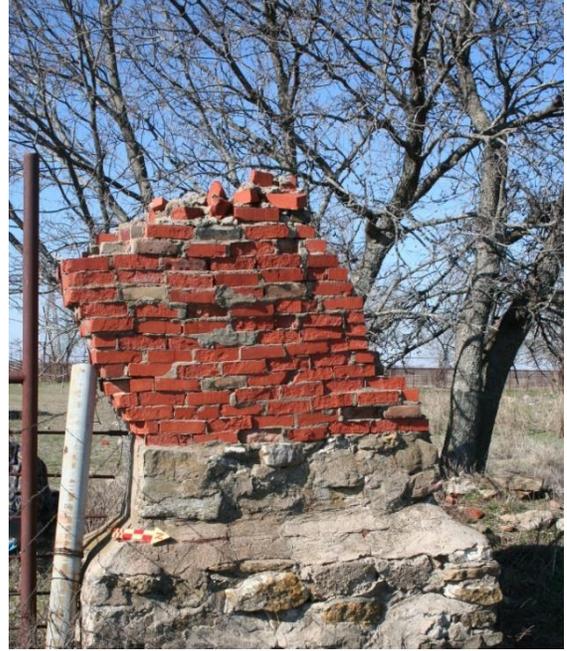


Figure 25 - Feature 8



Figure 26 - Features 8 and 9



Figure 27 - Feature 9

Feature 10 – Central Structure

The central walls of the Mock village are of stone and mortar construction. The remaining walls within the corral were left standing by the land owner. While there is a certain amount of wall fall located around these features, there does not appear to be any floor foundation within the walled area. The construction neither conjoins any foundation, nor is there any change in the soil or grass to suggest a buried foundational structure. The visible construction of Feature 10 strongly suggests that the Combat Village was constructed to appear ruined in order to simulate bombed out regions. Feature 10 is formed by three wall segments that form a curved structure. The eastern segment has a short straight side stretching south to north towards a 90° corner that extends west. The central fragment continues curving gradually along a shape that is continued with the eastern fragment (Figures 28 – 31).



Figure 28 - Feature 10

Table 6 – Measurements of Feature 10

East Fragment	
East - West length	4.07 m (14 ft 4 in)
North - South length	3.88 m (12 ft 9 in)
Average Width	.55 m (1 ft 10 in)
East end height	.98 m (3 ft 2 in)
Corner height	.97 m (3 ft 2 in)
South end height	.94 m (3 ft 1 in)
Central Fragment	
Width at north end	.1 m (4 in)
Height at north end	1.01 m (4 ft 4 in)
Distance to center	3.16 m (10 ft 4 in)
Height at center	1.07 m (3 ft 6 in)
Center to south end	4.49 m (14 ft 9 in)
Height at south end	.16 m (6 in)
Width at south end	.4 m (1 ft 4 in)
Western Fragment	
Width at north end	.36 m (1 ft 2 in)
Height at north end	.27 m (10 in)
Length north to south	5.69 m (18 ft 8 in)
Width at south end	.45 m (1 ft 6 in)
Height at south end	.49 m (1 ft 7 in)



Figure 29 - East Fragment of Feature 10



Figure 30 - Central and Western Fragments



Figure 31 - Eastern and Central Fragments of Feature 10



Figure 32 - Feature 10

Feature 11 – Wishing Well

Near the south end of the corral is a circular stone structure that the property owner refers to as the “wishing well”. The small structure perhaps represented a well or central fountain. There is a stone bench of the same construction located directly west that is included within the same feature (Figures 11 – 35). Table 7 lists the measurements for both the well and the bench structures.

Table 8 – Measurements of Feature 11

South Wishing Well

Diameter	1.23 m (4 ft)
Height	.35 m (1 ft 2 in)

Well Bench

North side length	.98 m (3 ft 3 in)
NW Corner height	.91 m (3 ft)
SW corner height	.77 m (2 ft 6 in)
S side length	.99 cm (3 ft 3 in)



Figure 33 - Feature 11



Figure 34 - Feature 11 Western View



Figure 35 - Feature 11 Eastern View

Feature 12

In the southwest corner of the corral, Feature 12 was identified. The feature is a simple wall structure that has suffered some damage due to the growth of a nearby tree. The feature consists of two parts: a short northern wall that is largely clear of overgrowth, and the more fully overgrown southern wall (Figures 36 – 38). Table 8 provides measurements of Feature 12.

Table 10 – Measurements of Feature 12

North Wall		South Wall	
South end width	.4 m (1 ft 4 in)	East end height	.46 m (1 ft 6 in)
South end height	.08 m (3 in)	East end width	.35 m (1 ft 2 in)
N-S length	5.07 m (16 ft 7 in)	E-W to center point	3.53 m (11 ft 7 in)
North end width	.4 m (1 ft 4 in)	S-N sub wall length	.93 m (3 ft)
Height	.5 m (1 ft 8 in)	Center to west side	5.2 m (1 ft 5 in)
		West width	.3 m (1 ft)
		Height	.41 m (1 ft 4 in)



Figure 36 - Feature 12



Figure 37 - Feature 12 Western View



Figure 38 - Feature 12 South Eastern View

Feature 13

Feature 13 is a long section of a stone wall located just to the south of the corral (see Table 9 for measurements). The wall is of stone construction and curves along its length towards the north. The top of the wall is leveled off, but the interior area contains large quantity of collapsed wall fall, with a number of trees growing around the stone. Five of these trees are growing directly against the north side of the wall (Figures 39 – 41).

Table 12 – Measurements of Feature 13

West Width	.59 m (1 ft 11 in)
West Height	.63 m (2 ft 3 in)
Length W-E	6.08 m (22 ft 11 in)
Height at center	.8 m (2 ft 7 in)
Width	.46 m (1 ft 6 in)
Center to "tree" length	.33 m (1 ft 1 in)
Height	.7 m (2 ft 6 in)
Width	.56 m (1 ft 10 in)
Tree to North end	2.49 m (20 ft 9 in)
Height	.45 m (1 ft 6 in)
Width	.53 cm (1 ft 9 in)



Figure 39 - Feature 13



Figure 40 - Feature 13 Western View



Figure 41 - Feature 13 Northern View

Features 14 and 15

These two identically sized features are concrete walled shafts that have been filled in since the closing of the base, the original purpose of which is unknown. There is wall fall around both shafts, as well as brush growth. Feature 14 is located south of the corral, with Feature 15 directly south of there. The two Features share identical measurements (Figures 42 – 43 and Table 10).

Table 14 – Measurements of Features 14 & 15

North to South	.94 m (3 ft 1 in)
East to West	1.57 m (5 ft 1 in)



Figure 42 - Feature 14



Figure 43 - Feature 15

Mock Village Survey Conclusions

Most of the old training grounds are gone, and only through the accounts of local informants are these areas remembered. The mock village is identified on the training area map, but that map's scale is too large to show the dimensions and layout of the village and its environs. Small stonewalls remain, but it is unclear if the walls were taken down, or fell down and if so, when. The archways that served as an entrance to the village now serve as the main entrance to the corral, with the ranch's fence connecting to them.

The area was heavily utilized in the post-war period, and the ground packed down regularly by traffic from humans, cattle, and trucks. Feeding troughs are lined up behind the features and spaced out unevenly. The nearby training fields are now hay fields. The former constructions were removed, and the ground is plowed regularly, making the possibility of retrieving artifacts from the military period extremely unlikely. Only small sections of architectural features survive, but these areas do provide useful information. If not for the corral, however, they likely would have been removed as well.

The existence of the mock village provides us with some evidence of how the training areas of the Camp were constructed and utilized, information that is not present on any of the remaining large scale maps that cover these areas. With only a notation on the base plan map, the mock village serves as an example of deliberate construction for training purposes. Further examination of the mock village site and other similarly marked combat training areas could provide further details.



Figure 44 - Hospital Complex Feature Locations

Hospital Complex Survey

The largest survey area covered half of the main base complex and is now located between Farm to Market Roads 1200 and 1201, and south of County Road 412 (Figure 44). This area contained the base hospital and the hospital constructed for treatment of POWs.

Methodology

Nine features were identified and documented in this survey. Six of these were hallway intersections left over from the base construction, identified as Features 16 - 21. One large remaining brick hallway bisects the hospital area, dubbed the “long hall”, and was used as a boundary for this survey, and was labeled Feature 22. Survey transects traversed the medical complex area in ten meter intervals. Two shovel tests were conducted at each feature and additional shovel tests were conducted in randomly selected locations within the survey area. All shovel tests were excavated in 50 cm levels due to the clay content of the soil, though few reached this depth due to the density of the clay deposits encountered at the bottom of the shovel tests. Sediment removed from the shovel tests was processed through 1/8 inch wire mesh, and any artifacts found were placed in bags, with one bag for each shovel test. Artifacts found along the surface of the transects were collected and bagged individually.

A second survey covered the eastern half of the medical complex as well as the attached POW hospital. The survey concentrated predominantly on the POW Hospital

area, documenting several features, and an in-depth survey of the Long Hall. Only two shovel tests were conducted, one each on either side of a partially buried grate to determine if the area was a natural or man-made drainage. The shovel testing yielded two metal staples. Both shovel tests terminated when a concrete layer was encountered. The concrete indicates that the drainage was definitely man-made.

Hospital Survey Area Overview

The majority of the former medical complex is now cattle pasture, and part of which includes the majority of the 86th Infantry barracks and office area (Figure 45). All of the wooden components of the hospital were sold off in the post-war auctions, and the remaining brick and concrete structures have collapsed. The majority of concrete pier formations remain in place, though some have been pulled from the ground, and one near Feature 16 was used to plug the open sewer pipes located in the northwest corner of that feature. There are no missing gaps in the concrete pier formations to show that any complete formations were removed, suggesting difficulty in removing the piers. The formations now dot wide sections of the pastures that used to house the main complex, an indication of where Camp Howze's wooden buildings stood.

The remaining concrete and brick structures have since fallen into ruin. Most are still standing, though all of the documented features show evidence of collapse. The Long Hall has collapsed wall in multiple areas, and a large section in the middle that has completely caved. The eastern half of the base also shows concrete foundations for many

of the buildings. Unfortunately the existing maps of this area are too blurry to definitively identify the individual structures.

The large water tower that marks the area, one of three built for Camp Howze, does not show strong evidence of post-war utilization. The interior has a collection of stagnant water, but a large opening on the north side makes it unsuitable for water storage in its current state. Just to the north a large concrete water reservoir was converted into a storage area, with part of the wall removed and converted into a door wide enough for vehicles to park. A sheet metal roof was added, but has severe damage on the south side. Large amounts of rubble inside seems to be from the incident that damaged the roof.



Figure 45 - Hospital Complex features

The section identified on maps as the “Prison Camp Hospital” shows little evidence of the structures that would have defined the POW area, especially compared to the number of remaining structures in the main hospital complex. The western corner was incorporated into part of Farm to Market Road 1200, as shown in Figure 44. Very little disturbance from the POW extension remains, save for part of a cement foundation in the south corner. The area was not an original planned construction as indicated on the base plan map (Figure 7), this suggests that the area was set up using temporary structures.

Hospital Features

The six hallway intersections identified as Features 16 through 22 were each measured and photo documented during the survey. The intersections were exceptionally uniform in construction, although over time weathering and collapse has taken various tolls on each. The hallways were all elevated for consistency across the hospital. Between each intersection, concrete pylon formations were found that served as the foundation for the wooden hospital halls.

Feature 16

Feature 16 is a 4 way brick and concrete hallway intersection with East, North, and West projections. The structure is largely collapsed, with the north floor still intact. No walls or roof remain standing (Figures 46 – 47). Table 11 lists the measurements for the feature.

Table 15 - Measurements of Feature 16

North to South length 6.08 m (20 ft)		East to West length 9.67 m (31 ft 9 in)	
North Projection		East Projection	
Length	3.85 m (12 ft 7 in)	Length	3.56 m (11 ft 7 in)
Width	2.24 m (7 ft 4 in)	Width	2.6 m (8 ft 6 in)
Elevation	1.31 m (4 ft 3 in)	Elevation	.72 m (2 ft 3 in)
South Projection		West Projection	
Length	Collapse	Length	3.87 m (12 ft 8 in)
Width	Collapse	Width	2.6 m (8 ft 6 in)
Elevation	Collapse	Elevation	.65 m (2 ft 2 in)



Figure 46 - Feature 16



Figure 47 - Feature 16

Feature 17

Feature 17 is a mostly intact brick and concrete hallway T-intersection with no south projection (Figure 48). Hanging metal pipe holders were found still attached to concrete beams, identical to those described as 6-inch government pipe holders in the metal artifact analysis section (Figure 61). Measurements for Feature 17 are listed in Table 12.

Table 16 - Measurements of Feature 17

North to South length 6.13 m (20 ft 2 in) **East to West length** 9.51 m (31 ft 2 in)

North Projection		East Projection	
Length	3.89 m (12 ft 9 in)	Length	3.83 m (12 ft 6 in)
Width	2.24 m (7 ft 4 in)	Width	2.24 m (7 ft 4 in)
Elevation	1.08 m (3 ft 6 in)	Elevation	1.05 m (3 ft 5 in)
South Projection		West Projection	
Length	Not present	Length	3.83 m (12 ft 6 in)
Width	Not present	Width	2.24 m (7 ft 4 in)
Elevation	Not present	Elevation	1 m (3 ft 3 in)



Figure 48 - Feature 17

Feature 18

Feature 18 is a four-way brick and concrete hallway intersection (Figures 49 – 51). Windows are arranged in a standardized pattern so that a window is located on the left side of each projection when facing out. Each window is 60 cm (2ft) from the left side of each projection when facing out. Each window is 60 cm (2ft) from the intersection corner, and 99 cm (3ft 3 in) wide. The eastern corner of the southern projection has collapsed. Floor elevations were not recorded for this feature. A concrete cistern is located directly to the south east of the structure, measuring 4.06 m (13ft 4 in) north to south, 2.84 m (9ft 3 in) east to west, and 2.6 m (8ft 6 in) deep. Table 13 lists measurements of the feature.

Table 17 - Measurements of Feature 18

North to South length 9.57 (31 ft 5 in)		East to West length 9.57 (31 ft 5 in)	
North Projection		East Projection	
Length	3.86 m (12 ft 7 in)	Length	3.86 m (12 ft 7 in)
Width	1.85 m (6 ft)	Width	1.85 m (6 ft)
Elevation	not recorded	Elevation	not recorded
South Projection		West Projection	
Length	3.86 m (12 ft 7 in)	Length	3.86 m (12 ft 7 in)
Width	1.85 m (6 ft)	Width	1.85 m (6 ft)
Elevation	not recorded	Elevation	not recorded



Figure 49 - Feature 18



Figure 50 - Feature 18 Window



Figure 51 - Feature 18 Cistern

Feature 19

Feature 19 is a brick and concrete T-Intersection with no southern projection. The roofs and walls have collapsed (Figure 52). Detailed measurements of the feature are provided in Table 14.

Table 18 - Measurements of Feature 19

North to South length 6.13 m (20 ft 1 in) **East to West length** 9.96 m (32 ft 8 in)

North Projection		East Projection	
Length	3.90 m (12 ft 9 in)	Length	3.87 m (12 ft 8 in)
Width	2.23 m (7 ft 4 in)	Width	2.23 m (7 ft 4 in)
Elevation	1.08 m (3 ft 6 in)	Elevation	.92 m (3 ft)
South Projection		West Projection	
Length	Not present	Length	3.87 m (12 ft 8 in)
Width	Not present	Width	2.23 m (7 ft 4 in)
Elevation	Not present	Elevation	1.18 m (3 ft 10 in)



Figure 52 - Feature 19

Feature 20

Feature 20 is a four-way brick and concrete intersection that has collapsed (Figure 53). Measurements for the feature are provided in Table 15.

Table 19 - Measurements of Feature 20

North to South length 9.57 (31 ft 5 in)		East to West length 9.57 (31 ft 5 in)	
North Projection		East Projection	
Length	3.86 m (12 ft 7 in)	Length	3.83 m (12 ft 6 in)
Width	2.12m (7 ft)	Width	2.08 m (6 ft 9 in)
Elevation	1.16 m (3 ft 9 in)	Elevation	.94 m (3 ft 1 in)
South Projection		West Projection	
Length	3.84 m (12 ft 6 in)	Length	3.82 m (12 ft 5 in)
Width	2.01 m (6 ft 7 in)	Width	2.15 m (7 ft 1 in)
Elevation	.96 m (3 ft 2 in)	Elevation	1.01 m (3 ft 4 in)



Figure 53 - Feature 20

Feature 21

Feature 21 is a four-way brick and concrete hallway intersection that remains standing. Windows are arranged in the brick construction in a manner identical to those in Feature 18. Table 16 lists the measurements for Feature 21.

Table 20 - Measurements of Feature 21

North to South length 9.57 (31 ft 5 in)		East to West length 9.57 (31 ft 5 in)	
North Projection		East Projection	
Length	3.36 m (11 ft)	Length	3.85 m (12 ft 7 in)
Width	2.33 m (7 ft 8 in)	Width	2.33 m (7 ft 8 in)
Elevation	not recorded	Elevation	1.14 m (3 ft 9 in)
South Projection		West Projection	
Length	3.86 m (12 ft 7 in)	Length	3.84 m (12 ft 6 in)
Width	2.33 m (7 ft 8 in)	Width	2.33 m (7 ft 8 in)
Elevation	.97 m (3 ft 3 in)	Elevation	1.22 m (4 ft)

Feature 22 – The Long Hall

Cutting across the center of the hospital complex is the longest still extant structure of the area (Figures 54 – 57). The Long Hall matches the construction style of Features 16 – 21 but is one originally continuous hallway. The central and southern sections have collapsed over time. The long hall served as a central landmark during the survey. Graffiti within the interior and modern trash around the exterior attest to its continued visitation.



Figure 54 - The Long Hall Seen From Farm to Market Road 1200



Figure 55 - The Long Hall Interior



Figure 56 - The Collapsed Mid-Section of the Long Hall



Figure 57 - A Collapsed Section of the Long Hall



Figure 58 - The Main Complex and 86th Infantry Cantonment

Main Complex Survey

The survey of the main compound covered selected area of the base's main complex, including: the 86th Infantry division areas, 86th Headquarters, officers' housing, the officers' clubs, and the enlisted clubs (Figure 58). Limited shovel testing was conducted on the 86th division areas after permission was obtained from the landowners and after it was determined there was no danger from leftover unexploded ordinance.

Methodology

The survey took place between May 24 and 29th, 2013 with two participants. Given the immense size of the potential survey area, it was decided to focus on several specific locations within the area as dictated by the camp maps. For the 86th infantry region, this included the two base theaters (identified on the Camp Howze map as Theaters 4 and 5), several PX (Postal Exchange) locations, the 86th command buildings, a grenade range, firing range, and randomly selected concrete pylon groups left from the 86th barracks. All of these were located between Farm to Market roads 1200 and 1201, south of County Road 412. The area is now cattle pasture. Shovel tests were conducted in each area chosen using the same procedures as the hospital area, though the ordinance ranges were excluded due to concerns over unexploded munitions. Based on the depths of artifacts retrieved from the medical complex, the shovel tests were conducted to a depth of 30 cm. Pedestrian surveys were also conducted over the officer's housing, officer's club, enlisted clubs, and telephone centers.

Survey area overview

Nearly the entirety of the 86th Infantry division area is in part of the same cattle pasture as the Hospital complex. While the area was used for small scale farming before, the presence of the concrete piers used for the foundations of the base structures makes the land unusable for traditional crops today. This presents little trouble however for cattle ranching. The majority of concrete pylons do have rusted metal struts extending from the top, formerly used for attaching the wooden base of the structures, but these are largely bent downward so as not to be a danger to the cattle. Farm to Market road 1201 cuts across the eastern section of the base, including several of the headquarters buildings, making those areas inaccessible.

Just east of 1201 stands the central water tower of the three built for the base. Close to the road, it has been a target for regular vandalism, and graffiti is present all around the base. The tower itself was converted into a cattle corral, complete with squeeze chutes leading into the structure, and with a barbed wire fence bracketing it off from the surrounding fields.

The officer's housing foundations are still visible along the surface. Unlike the enlisted barracks, the officer's quarters and club were brick and concrete constructions, affording the officers present the higher quality of life that is normally associated with rank.

The central area of what was Polk Avenue originally hosted two telephone centers for the base personnel, the Red Cross headquarters, and First National Bank. This section

of the road, located just south of the officer's clubs, is still utilized by the landowners, but the survey found no sign whatsoever of the former base structures.

Chapter IV

Artifact Analysis

Cultural materials were collected during the surveys of all sections of the base that were examined, save for the mock village site. Shovel tests were conducted in areas where permission was obtained from the landowners and where there was no danger from unexploded ordinance. These tests revealed a small number of material remains, mostly metal with nails predominating. Materials were examined in the lab and broken into separate lots by area and shovel test. Measurements and data were then collected and stored in an online sharepoint database.

Metal

Metal artifacts were the most common items recovered during survey, making up 73% of the collected artifacts (Figures 59 through 84). Surveyors collected a random sample of 18 shrapnel pieces from the target area of the artillery range located between Features 1 and 2 (Figure 59), and one additional piece near Feature 2 (Figure 60). The shrapnel was scattered across the region and collected by two local informants during an initial reconnaissance survey. The collection shows a mix of straight wedge-shaped pieces, and smaller grooved ones. The wedge pieces have similar horizontal groove styling along the surface. One piece has possible numbering from manufacture and reads, "1699". The individual shrapnel pieces were measured and weighed and are listed in Appendix A.

The most common type of metal artifacts found are nails. Sixty wire-cut nails were recovered in total. These were especially common in the medical complex and 86th infantry regions, both of which included a number of wooden structures. Given the amount of wooden buildings located at the base, the number of nails recovered is actually quite small and is, an indication that the military conducted standard cleanup operations for the base before it was permanently decommissioned. While nails were the most commonly found artifact in shovel tests, the majority recovered were from the survey of intact structures such as the medical complex intersections and the base theaters. Eight square cut nails were also recovered. These were also located in the areas that contained wooden structure, and from the remains of roofing tar located next to Theater #4, indicating that these were most likely roofing nails.

Several pipe hangers were also recovered from the medical complex surveys (Figures 61 through 65). The hangers were designed by the Modern Pipe Supports Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio (est. 1907). Three of the hangers are 7 inches in diameter, designed to hold 6 inch pipes. The modern version of the pipes are listed in the Modern Pipe Support catalog as "Government Ring" brackets, but are made of galvanized steel. The rings consists of two pieces, the left piece having the numeral 6 to designate the pipe size it is intended for, the right with the embossed company name "MODERN CLEVE. O." Two pieces have attached sockets with broken hanger rods attached. Two other pipe hangers, also designed by the Modern Pipe Supports Corporation, are 2 ¾ inches diameter, designed to hold 2 inch pipes. The Rings consists of two pieces, the left piece having the numeral 2 to designate the pipe size it is intended for, the right with the

embossed company name "MODERN". Each hanger has an attached socket and hanging rod 7/8 inch thick, but both are broken off.

Other common miscellaneous metal construction pieces were recovered from the main complex and hospital areas, including screw, nuts, bolts, wire cabling (with insulation), struts, and springs. The dimensions and locations of all metal artifacts are documented in the shrapnel measurements table in Appendix A.



Figure 59 - Artillery Range Shrapnel



Figure 60 - Shrapnel from the Interior of Feature 2



Figure 61 - 6 Inch Pipe Clamp



Figure 62 - 6 Inch Pipe Clamp



Figure 63 - 2.5 inch Pipe Clamps



Figure 64 - Half Pieces of 6 Inch Clamps



Figure 65 - A Small Pipe Clamp with Support Rod



Figure 66 - Uniform Wire-Cut Nails



Figure 67 - Broad Headed Nail



Figure 68 - Nails from Feature 18



Figure 69 - 9 Screws from Feature 18



Figure 70 - Bolts From Feature 18



Figure 71 - Wire-Cut Nails



Figure 72 - Screw



Figure 73 - Wire-Cut Nail



Figure 74 - Single Nail from Medical Complex



Figure 75 - Single Nail from Medical Complex



Figure 76 - Single Nail from Medical Complex



Figure 77 - Three Nails from 86th Cantonment



Figure 78 - Six Tacks from 86th Cantonment



Figure 79 - Uniform Metal Plates



Figure 80 - Chain



Figure 81 - Hinge with Attached Frame



Figure 82 - Gasket Cover



Figure 83 - Pipe Elbow



Figure 84 - Metal Slug

Glass

The second most commonly found item at Camp Howze was glass, numbering 22 pieces in all. The vast majority of glass was found during survey, but only one piece was recovered from a shovel test. Of the surface pieces collected, twenty were bottles or bottle glass, with thirteen of these brown glass, and seven clear.

Several soda bottles and fragments, were also found the survey. The western medical complex turned up one Pepsi bottle on the surface. The bottle is 10 oz. and fully intact with an embossed Pepsi logo (Figure 88). The maker's mark indicates a manufacture date of 1972 from Owens Illinois manufacture, from plant 5 which opened in 1963. The long hall turned up one green glass Coca-Cola bottle which is a D series "hobbleskirt" 6 oz. coke bottle, manufactured in Gainesville, Texas in 1943 (Figure 74). The surface survey of Theater 4 turned up two additional soda bottles. Two Dr. Pepper bottle pieces were found clearly showing part of the Dr. Pepper 10-2-4 "Clock" logo (Figure 87). The logo was in use from 1923 until it was phased out in the 1950's. Two other pieces were found with partial logos and reassembled, showing the Gold Dot Soda label, a short-lived soda sold during the World War II period by the Reitzel Beverages Company of Siler City, North Carolina (Figure 92).

A completely intact and undamaged milk bottle was uncovered from underneath the Medical Complex Long Hall. The logo and maker's mark identify the bottle as a product of Dairyland Milk in San Antonio (Figure 89), with the glass produced by Liberty Glass CO in Oklahoma. The bottle is embossed with 4 stars below the rim, with

the words "Safe", "Fresh", "Pure", and "Rich" each under one star. The logo is embossed on the bottle, resembling a stylized queen holding a musket with an attached bayonet, and the Dairyland logo on her dress, with "Pasteurized" underneath (Figure 90). Below it is embossed "ONE PINT LIQUID". The bottle bottom has a stylized D, with the number 41 (year of manufacture) and SA (For San Antonio). L-G is embossed on the heel (Figure 91).

A small glass tonic vial was found in the area of the 86th Infantry headquarters, broken into two pieces (Figure 85). The top piece has a screw top lid on a tonic bottle spout, with a 1 ¼ inch length broken neck. The bottom piece is rectangular with a maker's mark in three parts. The top reads "K 445 R", the middle has the number 5 to the left, and 4 to the right, with the bottom displaying "Inl".

The only glass recovered from shovel tests is one clear piece, possibly window glass, retrieved from a shovel test in the western medical complex.

The brown glass collected from the survey is identical to beer bottle glass, with many samples showing maker's marks, but with no labels remaining (Figure 93). Four of the identifiable maker's marks come from the Owen-Illinois Glass Company, with the fifth belonging to the Thatcher Manufacturing Company.



Figure 85 - Tonic Vial



Figure 86 - Coca-Cola Hobbleskirt Bottle



Figure 87 - Dr. Pepper Bottle



Figure 88 - Pepsi-Cola Bottle



Figure 89 - Dairyland Milk Bottle



Figure 90 - Dairyland Bottle Mascot



Figure 91 - Dairyland Bottle Maker's Mark



Figure 92 - Gold Dot Soda Bottle Fragments



Figure 93 - Beer Bottle Fragments

Ceramics

Ceramic materials came from only two sources, tile and toilets. A collection of ten tile fragments was recovered during the survey of Feature 18, one of the western medical complex hall intersections. The fragments are white and show signs of grout on the interior surfaces (Figure 94).

A number of broken toilets were found on the survey of the eastern portion of the medical complex. One large portion of a toilet bottom was collected and returned to the lab (Figure 95). The stool is mostly intact, with the tank broken off, and damage along the base. Marks along the bottom read - 2T, 100Z 4, Jul 14 1942, corresponding with the final construction of the base (Figure 96). The letters AJ are written on it, but are now mostly faded. Two metal bolts remain attached. Remnants of waterproofing putty remain



Figure 94 - Ceramic Tile and Glass

attached to the base. The toilet was taken as a sample from an area of the hospital that had similar pieces at the surface level, suggesting that this is a dump site.



Figure 95 - Toilet Profile View



Figure 96 - Toilet Maker's Marks

Asbestos

While one of the less commonly recovered artifacts, the asbestos siding recovered from several shovel tests may be the most significant artifacts for identifying the presence of a World War II era site. The temporary structures of Camp Howze were wooden frame construction, with asbestos siding (Figures 97 - 98). While the metal, glass, and ceramic artifacts are helpful and diagnostic, the presence of asbestos siding is a hallmark of that era of construction. Three shovel tests provided fragments of the asbestos siding, two within the western medical complex area, and one at the 86th infantry headquarters area. In total 22 pieces of siding were found.



Figure 97 - Asbestos from the Hospital Area



Figure 98 - Asbestos from the 86th Infantry Cantonment

Plastic

Two plastic objects were collected, and include one from a period of time after the base was disbanded, and another that might be the most interesting single find in the collection. The object is a red plastic drinking vessel and was found on the surface during the survey of the medical complex. The cup is 6 1/8 inches tall, and has a maker's mark from US Acrylic Inc. It is a common style of acrylic cup used by restaurants, and is similar to (and possibly one of) the cups used at the local German restaurant, "The Center". The Center was a local landmark specializing in German-American cuisine that opened in 1958, and where the survey crew regularly ate while in town. Sadly the Center closed its doors for the last time in 2014.

Shovel testing in the 86th Infantry Cantonment provided one of the few plastic artifacts available during the war period, a State of Utah five-cent sales tax token made of orange plastic (Figure 99 - 100). Produced by the State of Utah and issue within the state, sales tax tokens were an in-state currency provided to pay the newly implemented sales taxes, a practice utilized in Utah and many other states. Originally these sales tax tokens were aluminum, but plastic tokens were ordered when metal rationing became needed for the war effort. The token is in remarkably good condition, despite being bent severely along the rim.



Figure 99 - Utah Tax Token Obverse



Figure 100 - Utah Tax Token Reverse

Chapter V

Conclusions

Remnants of a World War II Base

With the large size of Camp Howze and the scope of activities taking place there, the survey has provided ample evidence of what a former World War II base's landscape signature looks like. The Second World War took place less than a century before the survey, and is one of the most recorded wars in human history. Entire sections of libraries are dedicated to books about this one war, and endless documentaries have been filmed. It seems there is little left to go over and rehash. Camp Howze is an example of how much is still unexplored.

The vast majority of attention paid to World War II focuses on combat exercises overseas, with less focus on the war mobilization on the American home front. Today the existence of the hundreds of temporary bases established during the war is largely unknown. Bases such as Camp Howze are often known only at the local level, and are increasingly forgotten.

When Camp Howze was closed, the Army took precise care to take down anything salvageable or sellable. The metal, vehicles, equipment, and even wooden buildings of the camp were auctioned off in an attempt to make up for the high cost of the war. The base was stripped of any temporary structures, leaving only an assortment of concrete and brick buildings, foundations, and other structures behind. The lack of base-

related artifacts uncovered in the surface survey and shovel tests serve as a testament to just how well the army cleaned up the area before auctioning off the land.

The most easily identifiable features of the former camp for the casual observer are the three water towers that were constructed, standing tall over the landscape. But what stands out most about the former complex are the rows upon rows of concrete pylons sticking out of the ground. Nearly all of these pylon groups remain intact, standing in precise formation, pockmarking the base's former layout. With no other context they can be confusing amongst the cattle pastures.

One side effect of the concrete pylons was that the land became unavailable for traditional farming. Plows were unable to till the soil with the remnants of the base in place. A few attempts were successfully made to remove the pylons, resulting in two push piles on the base, one on the western end of the medical complex, and one on the northern end of the 86th infantry cantonment. The removal of the former foundations was incredibly difficult, and generally more trouble than it was worth. While crop farming was no longer possible, the concrete formations have not proven dangerous to cattle, leaving the areas fully available for ranching.

Some of the base structures were converted for use by the local landowners. One striking example of this is the central water tower, which was turned into a cattle pen, complete with barbed wire fencing, a squeeze chute and a loading chute.

Two water reservoirs, one next to the hospital complex water tower, and the other in the northern 8th infantry area near the grenade range, were made into storage areas,

though those conversions are now also in disrepair. Both were refitted with sheet metal roofing, with a sloped drive entrance and large sliding metal doors.

While the base airfield was outside of the scope of this survey, it is worth noting that the airfield remains. Following a common trend among similar temporary army airfields, the site was transitioned for civilian use and is now the Gainesville Municipal Airport.

Much of the base however was left alone and unmodified. The surveyed artillery range is now private property and utilized only for leisure activity and hunting. The bunkers are left standing, but are not utilized in any way. Most of the standing structures of the main complex are likewise un-utilized since the base closed, and have been allowed to fall into ruin. The former mock village site is now used only as a parking area for the cattle corral next to it, with the features left unused, save for the gateway arch which now marks the entrance to the lot.

Graffiti

Visitors and perhaps trespassers alike have also left their mark on the ruins of the base. One local informant, when asked about the base, recalled that she and other high school students used to sneak back to the old medical complex areas (which they knew it had been) and “did what kids do when they sneak off”. Many structures at Camp Howze show the graffiti left behind by others who have come to the base, as shown in Figures 101 - 104. The central water tower/corral attracted the most graffiti, likely due to easy access along FM Road 1201. The converted reservoir by the medical complex water tower also has graffiti on the interior, with one tag which reads ‘sr “66”’, likely for the local high school seniors of 1966. Some of the structures, especially the long hall, also exhibit gunfire damage. The Long Hall of the medical complex features a fair amount of graffiti on the interior. The most prominent is a vulgar spray-painted poem reading “I SHITED (sic) IN ENGLAND, I SHITED IN FRANCE, BEFORE I SHIT HERE, I’LL SHIT IN MY PANTS” (Figure 101). Down the hall another bit of graffiti matches the same style of paint and handwriting appears to read “LONNIE HILLIS” (Figure 102). This may be a signature, but research failed to find anything on them and none of our local informants were familiar with the name.



Figure 101 - Graffiti From the Interior of the Long Hall: "I SHITED IN ENGLAND, I SHITED IN FRANCE, BEFORE I SHIT HERE, I'LL SHIT IN MY PANTS"



Figure 102 - Graffiti From the Interior of the Long Hall: "LONNIE HILLIS"



Figure 103 - Graffiti Inside a Hospital Complex Cistern: "Sr 66"



Figure 104 - Graffiti on the Exterior of a Base Water Tower Converted into a Cattle Corral

Further Excavations

Survey data shows that Camp Howze provides several opportunities for future excavations of the site, while others do not appear to need further study. The artillery range and mock village in particular do not appear viable for future study without highly specific research questions. Other areas however provide ample opportunity for archaeological excavation.

Of the areas surveyed, perhaps the most promising area for a full excavation is the POW medical extension attached to the medical complex. This is the one accessible location where the German POWs were kept. The wounded POWs were treated here, and it was the housing location for the injured POWs who required constant medical attention, yet it has no obvious structures or landscape signature, unlike the majority of the base. As a later addition, it is possible that this annex was composed of even more temporary structures than the rest of the base.

Time and personnel limitations placed severe restrictions on the survey of the 86th Infantry cantonment, requiring a severely scattered sampling of the large area. Diagnostic artifacts discovered, such as the Gold Dot soda bottle and Utah Sales tax token, indicate good potential for future archaeological investigations.

The location of the Prisoner of War complex was discovered from maps at the National Archives. This region provides a promising chance to uncover a good deal of information about the POWs and their living conditions. Unfortunately this land was not

accessible for this survey, and all attempts to contact the landowner were unsuccessful. Should conditions change, this site could be of great archaeological interest for future study.

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Appendix A

Shrapnel Table

Piece	Length(mm)	Width(mm)	Thickness(mm)	Weight(grams)
1	35	16	10	27
2	82	27	10	54.2
3	107	15	9	65
4	96	32	6	66.6
5	87	30	7	37
6	37	28	0.1	2.5
7	52	26	9	41.4
8	82	22	8	58.9
9	70	43	4	84.3
10	61	25	7	45
11	77	26	6	48.4
12	92	23	6	57.7
13	69	25	6	19.2
14	92	39	8	78.8
15	39	20	10	33.2
16	43	25	7	27.8
17	33	15	5	9.6
18	24	18	5	11.8

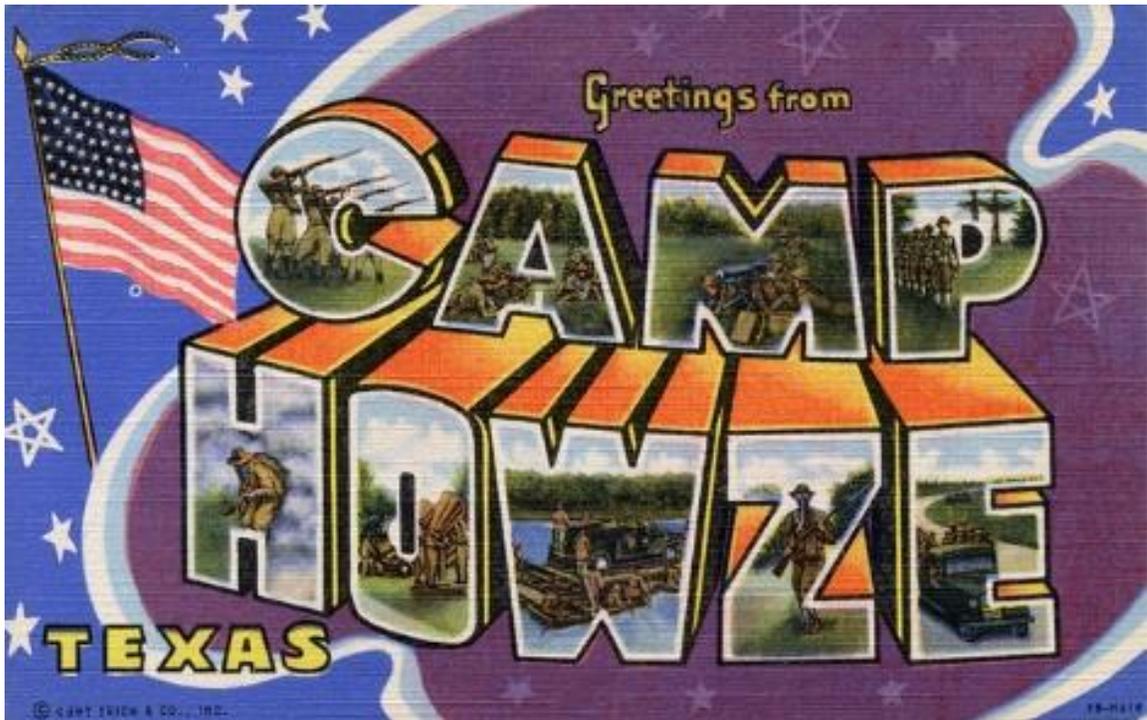


Figure 105 - A Post Card from the Camp Howze Postal Exchange