

Camp Atterbury World War II Photograph Collection

P 3

1943

1 card file box (294 images)

Manuscript Section, Indiana Division
Indiana State Library

Revised by: Elizabeth M. Wilkinson, March 2005

Historical Note:

Camp Atterbury was constructed in 1942 from land purchased in Bartholomew, Johnson, and Brown Counties. The Camp was named after Gen. William W. Atterbury, director of Transportation of the A. E. F. in World War I, and President of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The 83rd, 92nd, 30th, and 106th Divisions all trained at Camp Atterbury and the camp's hospital included a 9,000 bed facility. The hospital treated more than 85,000 patients during World War II, and was one of the U.S. Army's plastic surgery centers.

The Camp also served as an internment camp for approximately 15,000 Italian and German prisoners of war. The prisoners were housed in a large compound located on the extreme western edge of camp.

Sources:

Brown, Clifford M. "The History of Camp Atterbury." 1981.

"Indiana Village and Farms to Give Way to New 55,000 Acre Army Camp." Indianapolis Sunday Star 1 Feb. 1942.

"New Hospital Pride of Camp Atterbury." Indianapolis Star 25 Oct. 1942.

"U.S. Orders Work Started on Southern Indiana Camp." Indianapolis Times 7 Jan. 1942.

Biographical Note:

William John Moriarity, Sr. took the Camp Atterbury photographs. He was born November 11, 1903 in the Irish Hill area of Indianapolis, Indiana. He served in the U.S. Army from 1918-1922, spending the latter half of his tour in the Philippines. When he was discharged from the Army he returned to Indianapolis and worked as a farm hand. He married Wilma L. Fields in 1926 and took a job with the U.S. Post Office.

Mr. Moriarity joined the National Guard in the 1930s. He was called up for service in 1941 as a Master Sergeant with the 38th Infantry Division. Mr. Moriarity worked as an ultra-high speed Morse code sender/receiver. He went through Officer Candidate Schools at Ft. Benning, Georgia and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was selected for the Office of Strategic Services and assigned to a ten member team (Team 16D.) He also went through parachute jump school

and used those skills when he and his team parachuted into France eleven days prior to D-Day, June 6, 1944. Lt. Moriarity was severely wounded in the leg in 1945 when a German V2 rocket hit a building he was in.

After World War II Lt. Moriarity remained in the Army and became a courier. He carried sensitive documents all over the world, including making deliveries to General Dwight Eisenhower. Lt. Moriarity retired from the Army in 1951 and returned to Indianapolis, Indiana and worked at the Post Office. Mr. Moriarity passed away in 1978.

Source:

Biographical information courtesy of William J. Moriarty, Jr.

Scope and Content Note:

Collection consists of 294 black and white 3x5 inch prints of photographs of Camp Atterbury, Indiana taken throughout 1943. They demonstrate the daily activities of camp life and training, as well as social activities. They are filed by the negative number assigned to them by Lt. Moriarity.

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Collection Information

<i>Size of Collection:</i>	1 card file box
<i>Collection Dates:</i>	1943
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