

W-2/10440

January 5, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Subject: NAMING OF ARMY CAMPS NEAR OAKS, ALABAMA; BASTROP, TEXAS, AND BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

I. Discussion

1. The construction of a camp for about 10,000 troops, including an Infantry Division, has been authorized at approved sites near Oaks, Ala., Bastrop, Tex., and Blackstone, Va. These sites should be named at this time to facilitate the issuing of orders and the handling of mail and other shipments.

2. To the 4 locations recommended by the Chief of the Historical Section, Army War College, and by other persons are considered, together with the reasons why these indicated names are believed to be the most appropriate. Tab A is a memorandum from the Chief of the Historical Section, Army War College, giving reasons for choosing the names and biographical sketches of those recommended.

3. It is recommended that the camps be named as follows, and that the biographical sketches indicated be shown if the one recommended is not believed suitable.

<u>Site near</u>	<u>Name recommended</u>	<u>Biographical sketch</u>
Oaks, Ala.	Camp Palmer	1891-1921
Bastrop, Tex.	Camp Swift	1866
Blackstone, Va.	Camp Eicher	1864-1914

II. Action Recommended

The Secretary of War directs:

1. That the camps now being constructed at the sites indicated below be named as shown:

<u>Site near</u>	<u>Name</u>
Oaks, Ala.	Camp Palmer
Bastrop, Tex.	Camp Swift
Blackstone, Va.	Camp Eicher

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TAB A

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- 2. That The Adjutant General make the necessary changes in War Department records and publications.
- 3. That the nearest relative of each of the persons for whom the camps are named be notified.

III. Concurrences.

A. G. of S., G-1 (W.H.M.) 1-10
 A. G. of S., G-4 (B.S.) 1-11
 The Adjutant General (C.S.A.) 1-8

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HARRY L. TWIDDLE,
 Brigadier General,
 Assistant Chief of Staff

Incls.
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JAN 20 1942
 APPROVED *As Amended*
 By Order of the Secretary of War W.T.S.
 G. C. MARSHALL
 Chief of Staff

WAR DEPARTMENT
 OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF

By W. T. SEXTON
 Lt. Col., G.S.C., Asst. Sec. W.D.G.S.

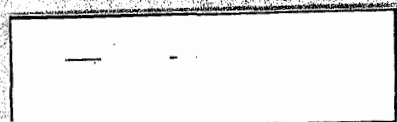
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TAB A

Tab A (Cont'd)

Site near	Names recommended by Chief of Historical Section, Army War College	Remarks
Ozark, Ala.	<p>PELHAM, John, Lt. Col. C.S.A.</p> <p>LONGSTREET, James, Lt. Gen. C.S.A.</p>	<p>Born in Alabama.</p> <p>Born in South Carolina.</p> <p>Appointed to U.S.A. from Alabama.</p>
Eastroop, Tex.	<p>ANDREWS, Sam E., 1st Lieut. A.E.F.</p> <p>HOOD, John B., Gen. C.S.A.</p> <p>SWIFT, Eben, Maj. Gen. U.S.A.</p> <p>GRAVES, William S., Maj. Gen. U.S.A.</p>	<p>Born in Ozark, Ala.; B.S.C. There is a Ft. Andrews, Miss.</p> <p>Born in Kentucky.</p> <p>Born in Texas. Commanded 52 Div in World War.</p> <p>Born in Texas. Name has unfortunate connotation.</p>
Blackstone, Va.	<p>SPOTSWOOD, Alexander, Colonial Governor of Virginia</p> <p>MORGAN, Daniel, Brig. Gen. Revolutionary Army</p> <p>EWELL, Richard S., Lt. Gen. C.S.A.</p> <p>PICKETT, George Edward, General Officer, C.S.A.</p>	<p>Born in Africa.</p> <p>Born in New Jersey. There is a Ft. Morgan, Ala.</p> <p>Born at Georgetown, D. C.</p> <p>Born in Virginia. Leader of the famous charge at Gettysburg.</p>

Gen. Longstreet's widow wrote a letter to the Secretary of War suggesting that a permanent camp or Army Post be named in honor of her late husband.

TABLE (Cont'd)

Mrs. Mary L. Boston Martin recommended the name of Brig. Gen. Edward Porter Alexander for the site near Blackstone, Va.

Major Stephen Wilson recommends the name Tyler for the camp near Blackstone, Va. in memory of Brig. Gen. Roger A. Pryor of the Confederate Army. He states that he was reared in Botetown County, Va.

G-3 believes that the name Woodrow Wilson should be considered for the camp to be established in Virginia, as the World War President was born in Virginia and there is no Camp Wilson.

Senator Hill of Alabama recommends the name "Ketcher" for the camp near York, Ala. in a letter which gives a number of instances connected with his military service (Tab 7). The Historical Section, Army War College, furnishes data on Gen. Ketcher (Tab 8) and concludes that he was not identified with Alabama sufficiently to justify the use of his name to designate this new post.

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January 13, 1942.

MEMORANDUM for Lt. Col. Fitts, G-3,
Room 2432, Munitions Building, War Department.

Subject: Name for new post at Ozark, Alabama.

As requested by telephone on the 12th instant, there are given below such data as are available here regarding Edmund W. Rucker, whose name has been suggested for the new post to be established at Ozark, Alabama:

RUCKER, Edmund W.: (Confederate Army) - No place or date of birth has been found; his name does not appear in any of the standard biographical publications. From the Confederate Section, Old Records Division, A.G.O. (now in the National Archives), the following has been obtained:

Age in 1864, 29 years; this would fix his birth in 1835. He is referred to as a "Tennessean." Entered the Confederate service as a second lieutenant in Captain W. D. Pickett's Company of Sappers and Miners, Tennessee Volunteers, April 24, 1861; later (no date shown) appears as a first lieutenant, Engineer Corps, Tennessee Volunteers; elected Captain of Company E, 1st Tennessee Heavy Artillery (no date shown); appointed first lieutenant (corrected in pencil to captain), Corps of Artillery, C.S.A., from Tennessee, to take rank from November 4, 1861; appointed major, 16th Battalion, Neal's Tennessee Cavalry, C.S.A. (no date given); the organization was formed in October, 1862; on March 10, 1863, he was appointed colonel of Cavalry (his highest rank); several recommendations in 1864 for him to be made a brigadier-general, but no action taken; from the "Prisoner of War" records, it is shown that "Edmund W. Rucker, Brig. Gen., Rucker's Brigade, C.S.A.," was captured at Nashville, Tennessee, December 16, 1864; imprisoned in the U.S. Military Prison at Louisville, Kentucky; sent to Johnson's Island, Ohio; paroled there and forwarded to Point Lookout, Maryland, for exchange, March 14, 1865; received at Cox's Wharf, James River, Virginia, March 22, 1865, by Confederate Agent of Exchange; Prison Records show him as a brigadier-general, but he claims to be "Colonel Commanding"; Report of Casualties - Tennessee Campaign, November-December, 1864, dated March 16, 1865, shows him as "Colonel commanding Brigade" and that he was wounded slightly in arm; "Parole: Surrendered by Lt. Gen. R. Taylor, C.S.A., and paroled at Columbus, Mississippi, May 18, 1865, as Colonel, 1st Tennessee Legion Cavalry, C.S.A."

"Confederate Soldier in the Civil War" (Louisville, Ky., 1897), page 170, shows no State or date of birth, or appointment in the U.S.A.; the following is the only reference to his rank or service:

"Rucker, E. W. _____ Acting Brigadier-General, commanding brigade in General Forrest's cavalry, composed of the 7th, 12th, 14th, 15th Tennessee regiments, Forrest's old regiment (Tenn. Cav.), and the 7th Alabama, and the 5th Mississippi."

From the above it does not appear that he was identified with Alabama sufficiently to justify the use of his name to designate this new post. Certainly there are a number of other personalities considered as more worthy and appropriate.

Since writing the above, a biography of Colonel Rucker has been obtained from Mr. Thomas Owen in the National Archives, and it is attached hereto. It does not change the view expressed in the above memorandum.

JOHN W. WRIGHT,
Colonel, U.S.A., Ret.,
Secretary, Historical Section.

Encl.