

OMC:vm

Informal Action Sheet from Operations Branch, A. G. O.; File No. AG 680.9 (5-17-43); dated June 4, 1943; Subject: Change of name of Camp Thalia.

14 June 1943.

**MEMORANDUM FOR OPERATIONS BRANCH, A. G. O.:**

**Names for Semi-Permanent Camp Areas in Chesapeake Section:**

a. The designation Camp Somerset for the camp at Westover, Somerset County, Maryland, is considered entirely satisfactory, of sound historical origin, and local association.

b. The designation Camp Battle for the Beaufort Inlet Defense Force installation at New Bern, North Carolina, is considered satisfactory. It is in honor of Cullen A. Battle; credited to Alabama; Colonel, 3d Alabama Infantry, May 31, 1862; Brigadier General, C.S.A., August 20, 1863; commanded brigade (formerly commanded by Brigadier General Robert B. Rodas) composed of 3d, 5th, 6th, 12th, 26th, and 61st Alabama Regiments of Infantry, D. H. Hill's Division, T. J. Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. General Hill cited General Battle for "admirable conduct" at Sharpsburg (Antietam). General Battle was wounded at Cedar Creek.

c. The designation Camp Ashby for the camp located ten miles from Camp Pendleton, Virginia, east of Norfolk, is considered satisfactory. It is in honor of Turner Ashby; born in Fauquier County, Virginia, October 23, 1828; appointed from Virginia; Lieutenant Colonel, 7th Virginia Cavalry, July 17, 1861; Brigadier General, C.S.A., May 23, 1862. Stonewall Jackson, his commanding general in the Valley Campaigns, wrote of him "as a partisan officer, I never knew his superior." General Ashby was killed near Harrisonburg, Virginia, June 6, 1862.

There is no real reason why an artillery camp should not be named for a cavalryman, and as a cavalry officer General Ashby was outstanding. If artillerymen are to be considered, the names of two able Virginians, are listed: Brigadier General "Dick" Garnett and Brigadier General A. L. Long. General Garnett was killed in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg and General Long was an early biographer of General Lee.

Richard Brooke Garnett; Born in Virginia, 1819; appointed from Virginia; U. S. M. A. Class of 1841; 2d Lieutenant, 6th Infantry; 1st Lieutenant; Captain. Resigned U. S. Army, May 17, 1861. 3d Lieutenant, 14th Virginia Infantry, 1861; Major, Corps of Artillery, C.S.A., March 16, 1861; Brigadier General, U.S.A., November 14, 1861; killed in action, July 3, 1861.

Armistead Lindsay Long: Born in Virginia, 1827; appointed from Virginia; U.S.M.A. Class of 1850. 2d Lieutenant, 2d Artillery; 1st Lieutenant; Captain; resigned U. S. Army, June 10, 1861. Captain, Corps of Artillery, C.S.A., 1861; Colonel, Military Secretary, April 21, 1862; Brigadier General, C.S.A., September 21, 1863. Chief of Artillery, Swell's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Died, April 29, 1891.

d. For the camp west of Morehead City, North Carolina, including elements of the Beaufort Inlet Defense Force, the names of three Brigadier Generals credited to North Carolina are listed. General Lawrence O'Brien Branch; General James Johnston Pettigrew; and General Alfred M. Scales.

Brigadier General Lawrence O'Brien Branch, soldier and statesman, born in Halifax County, North Carolina, July 7, 1820. Appointed from North Carolina. Graduated Princeton college, Class of 1838. Representative in U. S. Congress from North Carolina, 1854, and twice reelected, his last term ending March 3, 1861. Colonel, 33d North Carolina Infantry, 1861; Brigadier General, C.S.A., November 16, 1861; A. P. Hill's Division, T. J. Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Killed at Sharpsburg (Antietam), September 17, 1862.

Brigadier General James Johnston Pettigrew, soldier, mathematician, traveller, lawyer, was born at Lake Phelps, Tyrrell County, North Carolina, July 4, 1828; credited to North Carolina. Graduated University of North Carolina, Class of 1841. Professor in the National Observatory, Washington, D. C., 1848. Moved to Charleston, South Carolina. Travelled in Europe. In South Carolina Legislature, 1858-59. In 1859 joined the Sardinian Army in Italy, returned to Charleston, and in 1860 organized a regiment of riflemen. Commissioned Colonel, 22d North Carolina Infantry, 1861; Brigadier General, C.S.A., February 26, 1862. Peninsular Campaign, wounded at Seven Pines, taken prisoner, exchanged August, 1862. On the third day at Gettysburg, General Pettigrew commanded Heth's Division, A. P. Hill's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, and took part in Pickett's charge. Fatally wounded at Falling Waters, West Virginia, July 14, 1863. Died near Winchester, Virginia, July 17, 1863.

Brigadier General Alfred Moore Scales, soldier and statesman, born in Reidsville, North Carolina, November 26, 1827; appointed from North Carolina. Educated in the University of North Carolina, lawyer, representative in North Carolina Legislature; representative in U. S. Congress. Enlisted as a private, C.S.A., April, 1861. Captain, later Colonel, 13th North Carolina Infantry, October, 1861; Pender's Brigade, A. P. Hill's Division, T. J. Jackson's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Wounded at Chancellorsville. Brigadier General, C.S.A., June 13, 1863. Severely wounded at Gettysburg. Wilderness, Petersburg, Appomattox. Again served in North Carolina Legislature, in U. S. Congress, 1875-85; Governor of North Carolina, 1885-89. Died at Greensboro, North Carolina, November 9, 1892.

OLIVER L. SPAULDING,  
Brig. Gen., U.S.A., Ret.,  
Chief, Historical Section.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1943.

Subject: Change of name of Camp Thalia.

To: Commanding General,  
Eastern Defense Command,  
Governors Island, New York.

1. With reference to the attached report of change, the military activities located at Thalia, Virginia, have not been officially designated by the War Department as Camp Thalia or Camp Ashby.

2. The naming of posts, camps or stations, whether permanent or temporary, is a function of the War Department and is governed by established policies and procedures. In order to avoid duplication in names, local objections and controversies, and to meet certain Post Office Department requirements, the procedure of naming posts, camps or stations is coordinated with all interested agencies, including the Historical Section, Army War College. To delegate the function of naming temporary camps to commanders of field installations would result in duplication and confusion both from the standpoint of administration and for the handling of mail.

3. It is, therefore, desired that announcements designating Camp Thalia and its subsequent redesignation as Camp Ashby be revoked.

4. Your recommendations will be considered by this office in announcing the names of these temporary installations.

By order of the Secretary of War:

OTTO JOHNSON,  
Adjutant General.

1 Incl.,  
WD Form 303