



Camp Breckinridge

The Army's Camp Breckinridge, in Kentucky, was originally built in 1942, on 36,000 acres, at a cost of \$39,000,000. It was named for John C. Breckinridge, US Vice President, 1856-60; Confederate Secretary of War, 1865. It was designed as an infantry training center for up to 40,000 men.

Military Corner

It was also used, however, as a prisoner of war camp for as many as 3,000 non-com German prisoners from 1943-46. I don't know of any actual 'POW' covers from the camp, though. After the war, the camp

was deactivated in 1949.

From 1950-54, during the Korean War, Camp Breckinridge was reopened for the training of infantry. It was used as a summer training facility for 4,500 National Guard troops from 1954 to 1963.

The Army began to dispose of the camp in 1963. The Department of Labor obtained 853 acres for a, Job Corps Training Center, which opened in 1965. Remaining acreage was eventually acquired by individuals, the adjacent city of Morganfield, and the state of Kentucky.

As an interesting footnote, there was a long-running law suit (decades) by various Kentucky families originally displaced when the government appropriated the land for the camp. I believe the suit was finally settled in 2008!

