



Military Corner

The United States Army

Camp Livingston

Camp Livingston was open from 1940 to 1945 and was first known as Camp Tioga. It was renamed Camp Livingston in honor of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, negotiator of the Louisiana Purchase. It was home to the 28th Infantry Division, 32nd Infantry Division, 38th Infantry Division, 86th Infantry Division, 327th Military Police Escort Guard, 93rd Engineer General Service Regiment, 7th Transportation Battalion 240th Quartermaster Battalion, 846th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 46th Field Artillery Brigade, 350th Field Artillery Group, 351st Field Artillery Group, 353rd Field Artillery Group, 1692nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 1693rd Engineer Combat Battalion, 1694th Engineer Combat Battalions, 527th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 510th Ordnance, Heavy Mechanized Field Artillery Company, and others during the war. In 1941 there was an aviation squadron of 250 African-American men in the Army Air Corps performing service function.

Camp Livingston was designated as an infantry replacement training center, as well as a garrison for these infantry divisions. The 38th Division was known as the "Avengers of Bataan" and was the first American unit to cross the Danube River into Germany. Over 500,000 troops trained on the 47,000-acre base during the war. On some old concrete walls in the site, beautiful artwork and graffiti has been discovered and is thought to have been drawn by Italian POWs.

In 1941, prior to the US declaring war, the camp was part of the Louisiana Maneuvers, a 400,000-man training exercise involving two imaginary countries fighting each other.

During WW II, thousands of Japanese, German and Italian prisoners of war were kept in internment camps at Camp Livingston and Camp Claiborne. In 1942, the first Japanese POW of the war, Kazuo Sakamaki arrived at Camp Livingston. Sakamaki was the only surviving crewman of a mini-submarine used in the attack on Pearl Harbor, and was captured by Corporal David Akui after abandoning his sub, which had run aground. The internees at the camps were used to supply logging and farm labor in the area. There was a P.O.W. cemetery located within Camp Livingston and in 1947 the headstones were relocated to Fort Sam Houston; the bodies of the P.O.W.s were left in the ground unmarked where they remain today.

The camp also held between 800-1,100 U.S. civilians of Japanese ancestry who were interned after Pearl Harbor. Most of these men remained in confinement throughout the war, despite a lack of evidence to prove they posed a threat to home front security.

