

The Giddings News

July 10, 1942



Fort Sill, Oklahoma

June 28, 1942

Dear Editor:

Fort Sill is one of the oldest army posts in the great Southwest and home of the famed Field Artillery School. One of the largest training centers is located here. It's the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center. There are two other Field Artillery Replacement Training Centers in the United States, one at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the other at Camp Roberts, California. The Field Artillery is one of the principal "Arms" of the United States Army. The others being the Infantry, Cavalry, Coast Artillery, Air Corps, Corps of Engineers, Signal Corps, Chemical Warfare Service, and Armored Force. The main object of the Field Artillery is to assist other branches on the field of battle by providing additional fire power. The Field Artillery is armed with all sizes and types of mobile cannon.

Fort Sill was established in 1869 by General P. H. Sheridan, is the history of Oklahoma and the development of the West. Home of the Field Artillery School, it was first visited by forces of the U. S. in 1834, when Colonel Henry Dodge camped in the vicinity for a conference with the Comanches Indians.

Fort Sill was actually established Jan. 1, 1869 by Gen. Sheridan with an expedition of troops from Fort Cobb consisting of four companies of the 10th Cavalry, Custer's 7th Cavalry, the 19th Cavalry, and two companies of the 6th Infantry. There were ample supplies of wood, water and pasture and plenty of limestone hills nearby to provide rocks for building, and the higher peaks of the Wichita Mountains provided fine places for outposts and lookouts. The camp was first named Camp Wichita in honor of the Indians that had villaged there. Later it was known as Camp Medicine Bluff. Finally General Sheridan named the new post Fort Sill. He did this in honor of Brigadier General Joshua W. Sill, a West Point classmate of General Sheridan who was killed in 1862 at the battle of Stone River, Tennessee. Construction was hindered frequently by the Klowas and Comanches Indians. The famous Indian Gerolmo was captured at Fort Sill and was kept in confinement in a dungeon of the old guard-house.

The entire post contains about 65,000 acres which is shaped like a "7." The nearest city is Lawton, established Aug. 6, 1901 following one of the government's large land lotteries. Lawton has 18 churches of all denominations and 10 churches for colored persons, 7 U. S. O. Clubs, and a well stocked Carnegie Library.

One of the most famous places is "The Holy City" which is

at the base of Mount Roosevelt in a vast natural Amphitheater. It is here where the widely acclaimed Easter Sunrise Service is presented on a stage constructed of native stone and consisting of Calvary's Mount, the Temple Court, Pilate's Judgment Hall, the Jerusalem Gateway, Garden of Gethsemane, Watch Tower, Ancient Sepulchre, Music Room and Rock Shrines. Last year upwards of 200,000 persons gathered there for the impressive services on Easter Day.

I am just another Giddings boy helping Our Good Old U. S. A. And I am proud to be in the Army of the United States. I have been in the Army for just about 2 years and 10 months and I like it just fine.

I would like to hear from all my friends, especially those that like to read the article.

Yours very truly,
Sgt. Julius E. Urech
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U. S. Army