

# The United States Army

## Camp Claiborne



### Military Corner

It was established June 10, 1930, as Camp Evangeline, named for the Evangeline District of the Kisatchie National Forest, where it was situated. It was later renamed for the Governor of the Territory of Orleans and first governor of the State of Louisiana, William C.C. Claiborne. In 1939, construction crews were sent to expand the camp, and it was activated in 1940.

From 1939 to 1946, over half a million men went through Camp Claiborne. The camp was mainly used for basic training and artillery practice, which included the nearby Winn District-Kisatchie Precision Bombing Range. It was also home to the Engineering Unit Training Command (EUTC). Special service forces training was also conducted there, including railroad battalion training. The 34th Infantry Division came to Claiborne for its basic training and would be the first American force sent to the European Theater of Operations.

In 1941, prior to the US declaring war, the camp was used as part of the Louisiana Maneuvers, a 400,000-man training exercise involving two imaginary countries fighting each other. The two armies faced each other across the Red River, over 3,400 square miles of land, part of which was in East Texas. Near the end of the war, German prisoners of war were held at the camp.

Many of the men, like the ones from the 34th Infantry Division who were from IA, MN, ND, SD, and WI, had never been to the South. Not only did they have to get used to basic training, they had to get used to the climate of Louisiana. The camp was deactivated in 1945, and returned to Kisatchie National Forest as part of the National Forest System, administered by the U.S. Forest Service. [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp\\_Claiborne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Claiborne)]

