



In 1942, a military installation took root in land that only months before had been home to more than 500 farm families. The camp was named for Indiana native, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and World War I veteran Brigadier General William Wallace Atterbury, who served as a staff member to General John G. Pershing in World War I.

In just six months, from February to August 1942, Camp Atterbury rose from the once-fertile farmland in parts of Bartholomew, Brown, and Johnson Counties to prepare troops for service in World War II. Divisions and units from across the country, all of them with specialties ranging from artillery to engineering to tank battalions and chemical companies, arrived at Camp Atterbury for basic and advanced training that would prepare them for service overseas.

*Brigadier General William Wallace Atterbury*

Under the tutelage of the Army's 5th Service Command during World War II, Camp Atterbury trained more than 275,000 troops and housed various facilities that supported the war effort, including:

- 1,780 buildings that housed approximately 44,159 officers and troops
- Wakeman General Hospital, a pioneer in plastic and neurological surgery that treated more than 85,000 patients
- Prisoner of War internment camps that housed 15,000 Italian and German POW's from 1943 to 1946



*Wakeman Hospital, Camp Atterbury*

As World War II drew to a close, Atterbury took on a new mission: preparing Soldiers for life at home. Nearly 561,000 personnel were separated at Camp Atterbury from 1944 -1946, and thousands more were treated at Wakeman General Hospital. Wakeman Hospital, under the direction of Col. Truman G. Blocker, served thousands of soldiers over the course of the war and specialized in plastic, neuro-, and reconstructive surgery.

Camp Atterbury and its hospital were deactivated in December of 1946 and stood dormant until August 1950, when they were reactivated to support the Korean War. Atterbury was again deactivated in 1954 and remained almost dormant until the late 1960s, when change again came to Atterbury.

Camp Atterbury, once a premier installation of the U.S. military, was discontinued as a Department of the Army installation on December 31, 1968, and the Military Department of Indiana assumed control of the area on January 1, 1969. This transition marked the beginning of Indiana National Guard oversight at Camp Atterbury.

From the 1970s through the 1990s, the primary mission of Camp Atterbury was to support to the Indiana National Guard and its various missions, including providing support with conflicts in Vietnam, Desert Shield, and Desert Storm.

With a new mission for a new century, and under the tutelage of the Indiana National Guard, Camp Atterbury has found new life as a premiere training and mobilization site in support of U.S. military efforts around the globe. Today, Camp Atterbury continues the mission started in 1942 of preparing America's troops for service and in this, embodies the installation motto: *Preparamus* (we are ready).