

## World War II Army Training Camp at New Point Beach

### Army Training Camp In Mathews

The U. S. Army has leased the farm of George C. Diggs, near Diggs P. O., on White's Creek and while the Gazette-Journal has been unable to get official confirmation, it is reliably reported that an advanced training camp is to be established on the property. Tents, it is said, will be used to shelter approximately 2,000 men.

*Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal*  
Thursday, July 23, 1942

### Army Plans Camp At New Point Beach

MATHEWS— Chief topic of conversation on Main Street Saturday night and this week, was the rumored establishment of an Army anti-aircraft gunnery training station on New Point Beach.

This reporter feels that the rumor is so well substantiated by at least second-hand information, that it is safe to report that the camp will, in fact, be established soon, and that from 600 to 1,000 men will be stationed there.

Stores and amusement places at Mathews Court House have been contacted by Army officers with the purpose of ascertaining what facilities for recreation are available. Land has been leased in considerable acreage in the beach area and it is understood that as quickly as arrangements can be made in detail, preparation of the Camp will begin.

Quite naturally, there is much speculation as to whether the establishment of the camp will be beneficial to the community. Those who have any merchandise or services to sell, are rather delighted. Some others are skeptical. All, however, seem gratified that the Army has found a spot in Mathews which can be used to advantage in the war effort, while some even suggest that in case of air raids, the outfit might come in handy.

*Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal*  
Thursday, March 11, 1943

### Soldiers Move In At New Point Camp

Mathews C. H. is beginning to look like an Army Camp town since an anti-aircraft outfit moved in to open a camp on New Point Beach and the adjacent area early in the week. Army vehicles in small groups and long caravans pass through the village daily while curious citizens wonder about the nature of their caravans.

While a few soldiers have been seen on the streets they have not come up from the camp in any considerable numbers, possibly because they are too busy with the preliminary work of making camp.

A camp officer said yesterday that most of the men at the camp will remain there only about two days at a time, but that several hundred will be permanently located there. Various groups will come from other camps for practice shooting of anti-aircraft weapons and after about two days' practice will move out and be replaced by other groups. When all installations at the camp have been completed, the officer said the men stationed there will have time off and would probably be coming up to the village in considerable numbers.

*Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal*  
Thursday, April 15, 1943

## World War II Army Training Camp at New Point Beach

### Artillery Firing At New Point Comfort

1. Pursuant to the agreement reached at a joint Army and Navy Conference held on March 19, 1943, artillery fire conducted by units from Fort Eustis Antiaircraft Replacement Training Center will take place within the area delimited as follows:

a. Danger area: A 51 degree arc described south of a line projected from the safety tower on the beach at New Point Comfort to Wolf Trap light. Maximum range: 20,000 yards.

b. Left limit of fire: The line from the safety tower on New Point Comfort Beach through Wolf Trap light.

c. Right limit of fire: A line extended due east from New Point Comfort light.

d. On days of firing, a large red flag will be displayed from the safety tower during the actual time of firing.

2. It is hoped that insofar as practicable, aerial and marine operations will be reduced to a minimum in the area above described.

3. Firing notices from this headquarters will be addressed to your office prior to each week of firing.

4. Firing will be conducted over the area above described during the daylight hours on the week of April 19, 1943, Monday through Saturday inclusive.

For the Commanding General:  
Clark R. Nickerson,  
Lt. Col., CAC,  
Acting Adjutant General.

### ARMY CLOSES CAMP AT NEW POINT

MATHEWS—The Army Anti-Aircraft camp at New Point has been closed and all personnel, except a small guard and a crew of firemen, has been withdrawn.

Abandonment of the camp resulted from the transfer of the AAA units from Fort Eustis to Camp Stewart, Ga.

It is reported that the camp will later be used by the Army or Navy, for other purposes.

The camp, which was used by Anti-Aircraft units as a firing range, was constructed at considerable expense and was completely equipped with barracks, mess halls, a post exchange and fire house. A hard surfaced road connected it with the main highway.

Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal  
Thursday, May 26, 1944

Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal  
Thursday, April 22, 1943

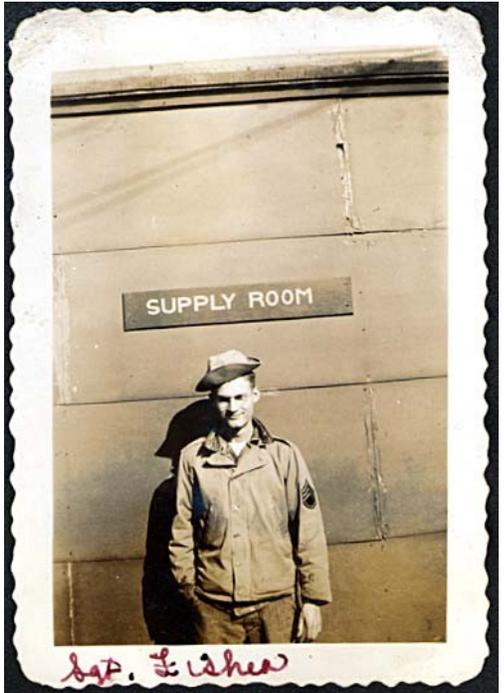
# World War II Army Training Camp at New Point Beach



*New Point Camp*



*Jack Penland & Al Shraw*



*Sgt. E. E. Egan*



*Howard Hampton*

Photographs courtesy of Mary Ann Foster & Becky Foster Barnhardt

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