



# MULTICULTURAL MILITARY BASE



## FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA

### 1917-1994

# *This Land is Made For You and Me*



## Research Question

**What is the History of the Multicultural Personnel  
and Troops at Fort Ord During World War II?**

# **Disclosure Statement**

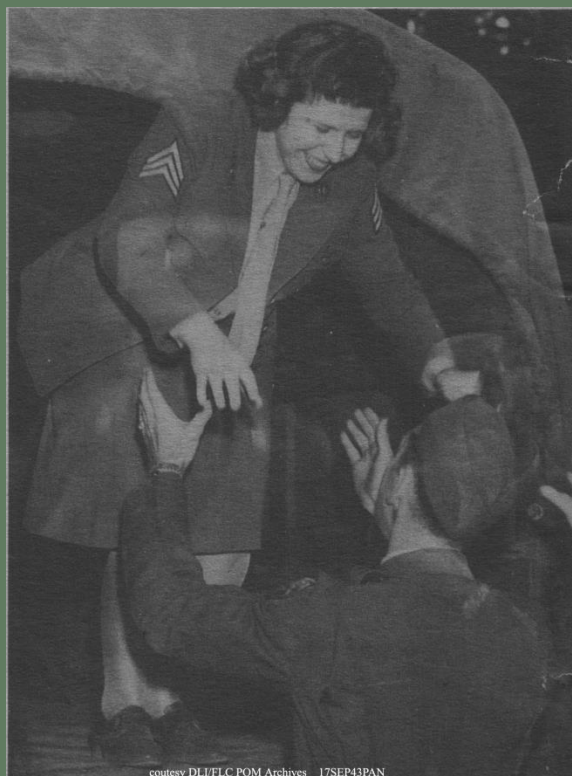
**Due to the changes in terminology throughout history that describes different ethnic cultures some of the terminology and spelling used in this presentation are according to the original research documentation.**

# The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives



courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives 5FEB43PAN

February 5, 1943



courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives 17SEP43PAN

THIS IS PROBABLY the only time you'll ever see one soldier being so polite to help another doggie out of a GI rig. But in this case who can blame the Amphib Engineer. He's helping WAC Sergeant Mary Louise Juelke who attended an Amphib dance at the American Legion Hall in Monterey.  
Panorama photo

September 24, 1943

WAC SSgt. Mary Louise Juelke



courtesy of DLI/FLC POM Archives 12JUN42PAN

June 12, 1942

## Guadalcanal Vets October 8, 1943



courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives. 8OCT43PAN

**The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Filipino Unit Regiment

September 18, 1942



October 30, 1942



The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives

# Quartermaster Units

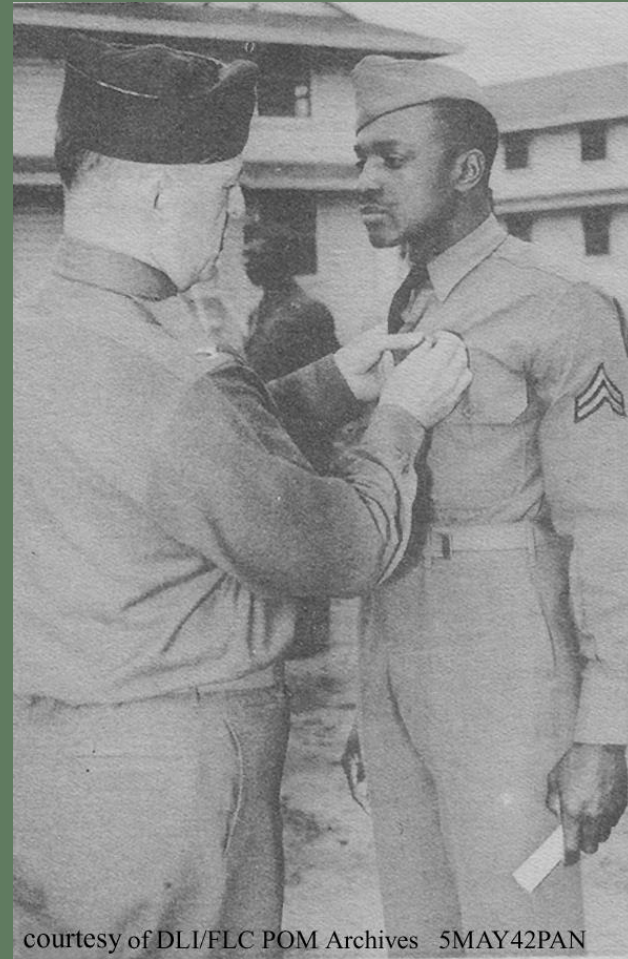
March 20, 1942



courtesy of DLI/FLC POM Archives 20MAR42PAN

May 22, 1942

Cited For Bravery



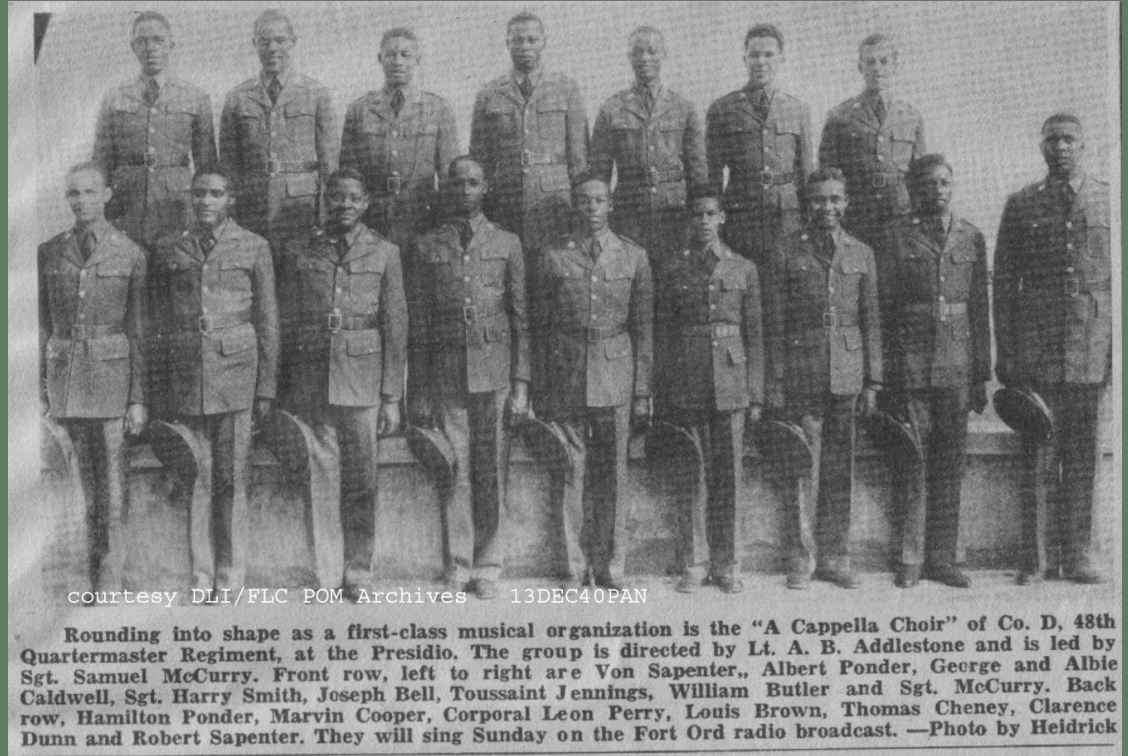
courtesy of DLI/FLC POM Archives 5MAY42PAN

**The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives**

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# Quartermaster Units

## First “Colored” New Service Club 1942



December 11, 1940 Capella Choir Co D  
48<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Regiment

The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives

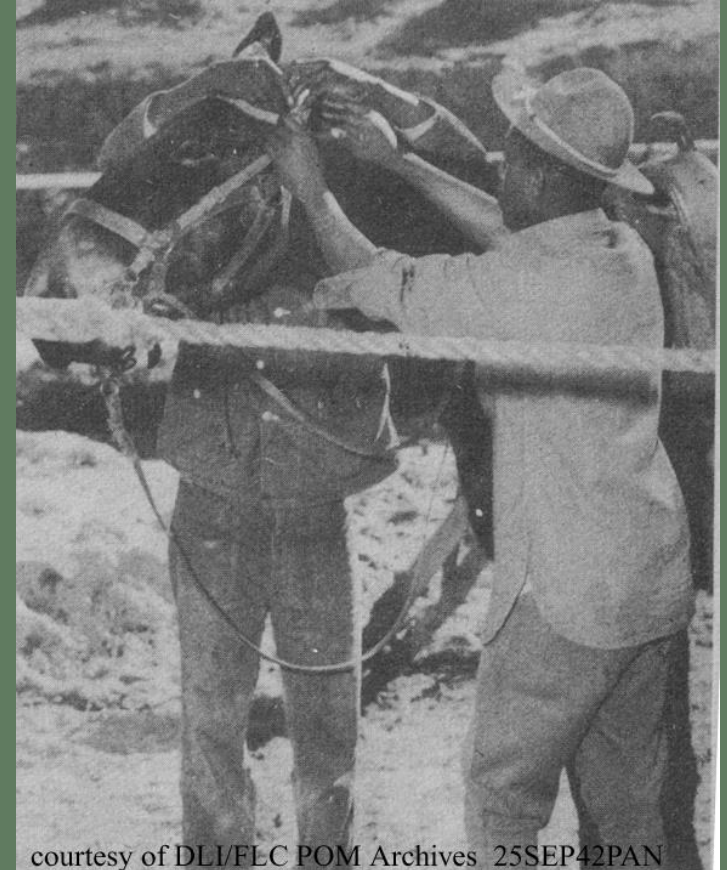


# Quartermasters Units

December 25, 1942



September 25, 1942



**The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives**

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# “Negro Service Club ”Members of the Colored Unit now at Fort Ord” (Fort Ord Panorama 1943)



courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives 22JAN43PAN

“CHECKERS” McTEER, member of a colored unit now at Fort Ord and former checker-playing champion in civilian life, takes on 12 checker players and two chess players at one sitting in the Negro Service Club. “Checkers” won all his games and his challenge is still open. Any one on the Post is eligible to take a crack at beating him .That goes for Officers, EM and Civilian Personnel. Call 519 for further details.

January 22, 1943



courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives 16MAY47PAN

May 16, 1943  
First “All Negro WAACS”

Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives

# June 6 1942 Cooks and Bakers



courtesy of DLI/FLC POM Archives 6JUN42

June 11, 1942

## Cooks and Bakers



courtesy of DLI/FLC POM Archives 11JUN42PAN

**The Fort Ord Panorama** Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives

# April 12, 1942 Filipino Barbeque



# October 23, 1942 1<sup>st</sup> Filipino Infantry Regiment at Dinning Hall



**The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Filipino Regiment

October 23, 1942



courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives 23OCT42PAN



courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives 23OCT42PAN

**The Fort Ord Panorama Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Women Auxiliary Army Corp and Quartermasters



**Fort Ord Yearbook 1968**

Courtesy of Steven Levinson Fort Ord Historical Archives

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## WACs and Patches

## 6<sup>th</sup> ID G Co 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment WACs Records



**Fort Ord Yearbook 1969**

**Fort Ord Yearbook 1955**

Courtesy of Steven Levinson Fort Ord Historical Archives

**Battalion Commander LTC Clyde  
Orr Second Battalion 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade**

**Sergeant Murphy 6<sup>th</sup>  
ID C Co 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment**



LTC CLYDE Orr  
Battalion Commander



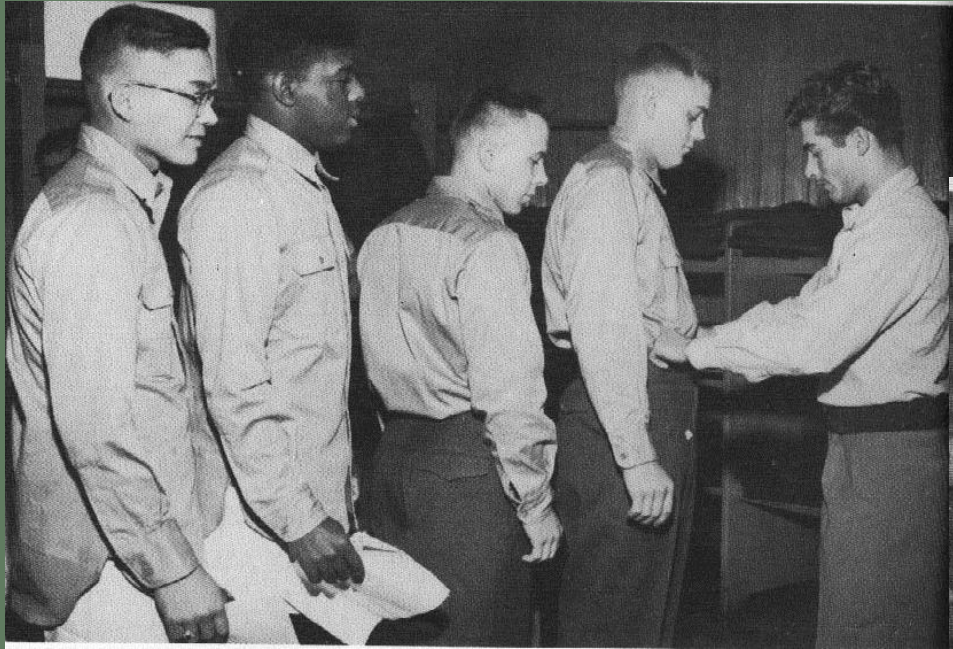
**Fort Ord Yearbook 1969**

**Fort Ord Yearbook 1953**

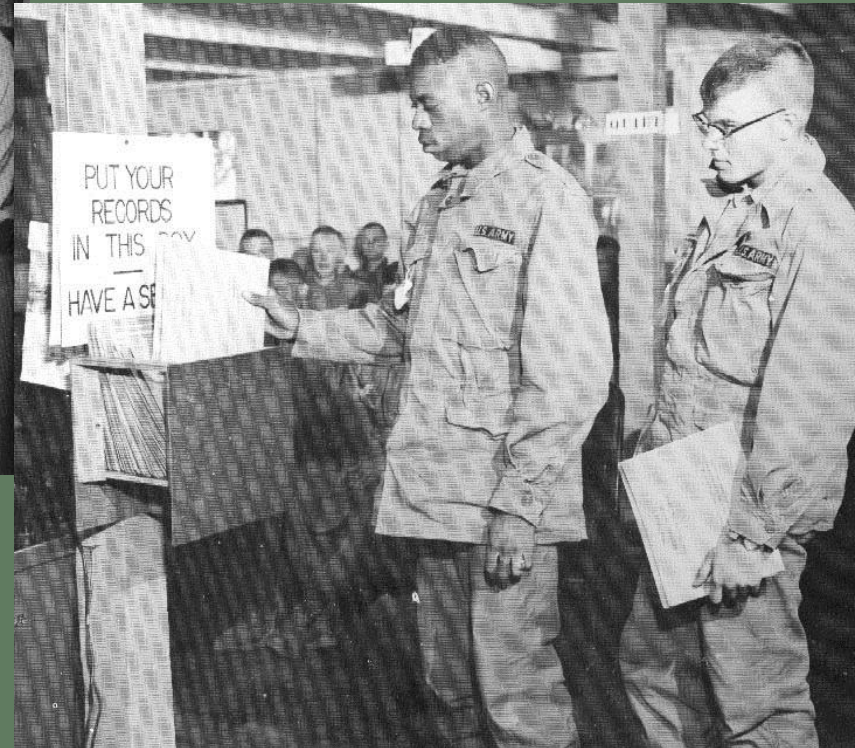
Courtesy of Steven Levinson Fort Ord Historical Archives



# “Goodbye Civvies” (Fort Ord Yearbook 1953)



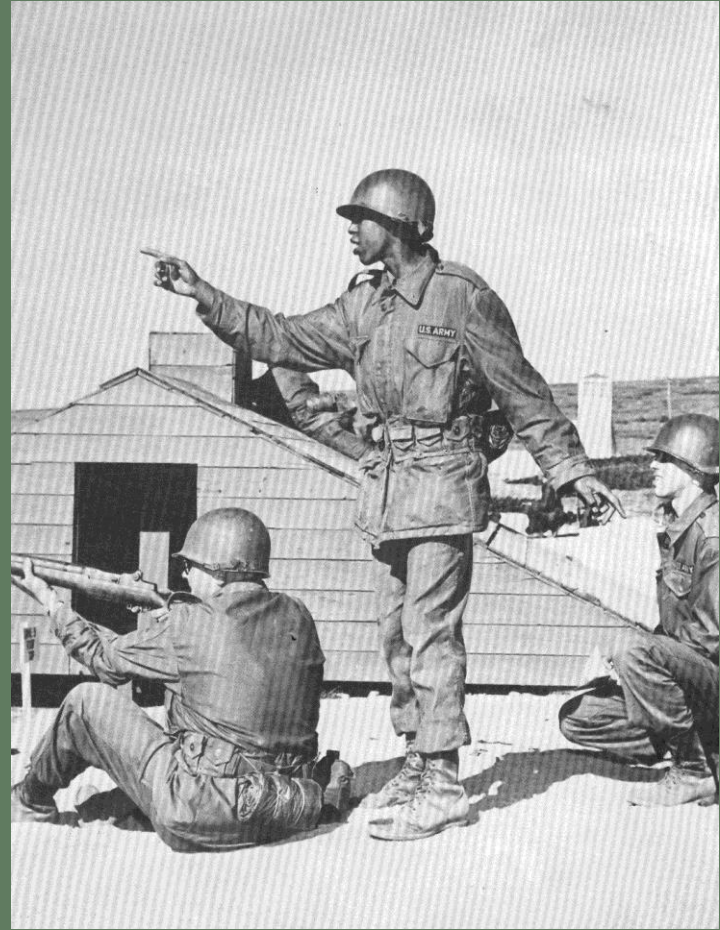
## Quartermaster Unit Record Processing



**Fort Ord Yearbook 1955**

Courtesy of Steven Levinson Fort Ord Historical Archives

# Troop Integration



**1958 Yearbook**

Courtesy of Steven Levinson Fort Ord Historical Archives

# 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Shipping Out



**Fort Ord Yearbook 1958**

Courtesy of Steven Levinson Fort Ord Historical Archives

# Italian Quartermaster Service Unit September 1944



A QUARTERMASTER SERVICE UNIT, composed of men formerly with the Italian Army, arrived at Fort Ord this week for duty, with the Service Command Unit here. Pictures here show the members of the unit going through the usual procedure connected with a change of station. At top, left, two Italian officers (left and center) confer with the Italian First Sergeant. At right, above, the boys dig in to fix the first meal for the unit. At left, the men are making their beds, cleaning the barracks, sweeping the floor, and getting ready for that Saturday morning inspection. All members of the unit were former Prisoners of War, but since the capitulation of Italy, have volunteered for service duty with the U. S. Army. (See story.)

Panorama photos

## Italian Service Company Arrives; Duties Here to Be Determined Later

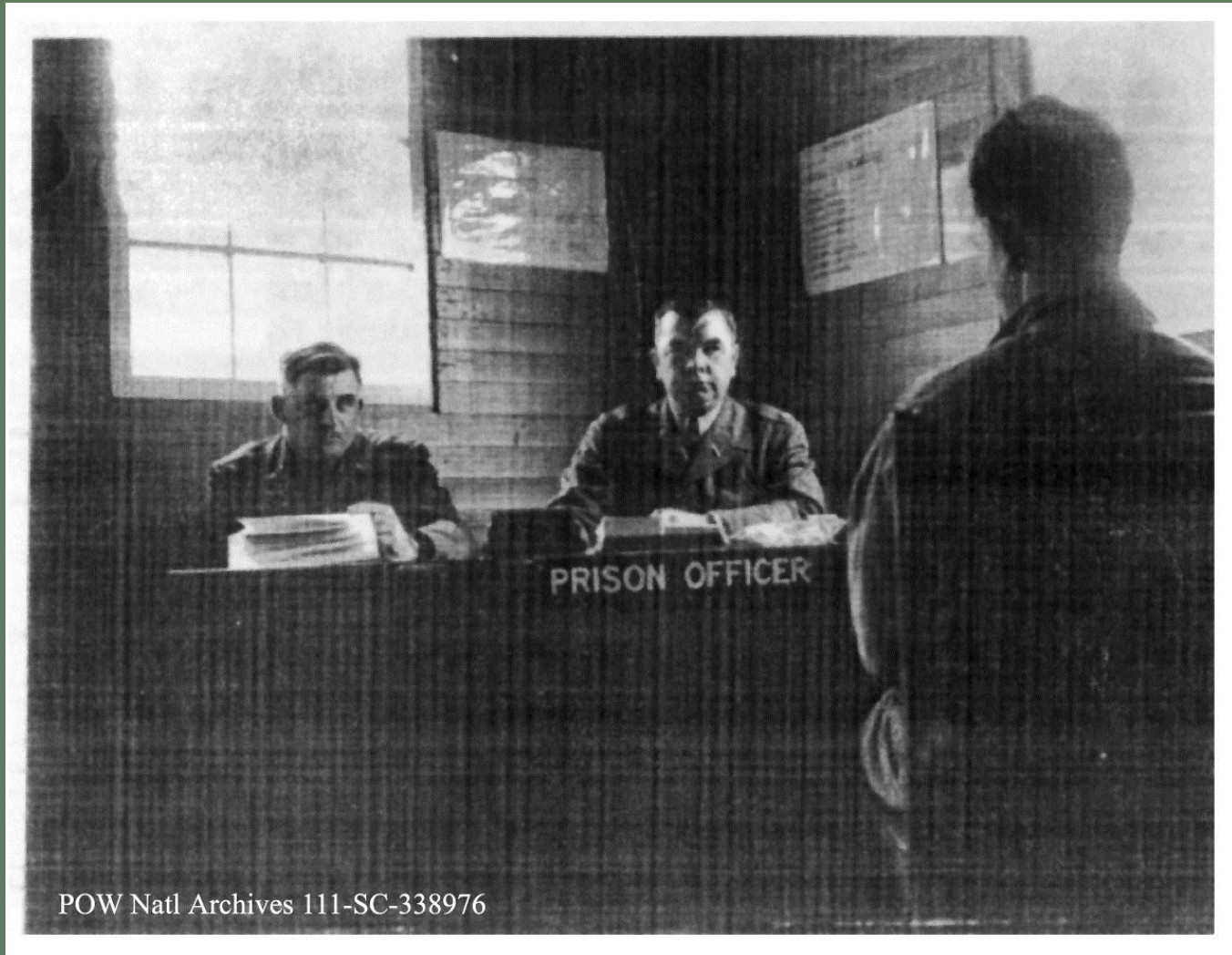
A Quartermaster Service Unit, composed of 102 former members of the Italian Army, arrived for duty at Fort Ord this week; while at the same time post policy regarding their status while garrisoned here was being formed by staff officers at Post Headquarters.

Members of the unit were formerly Prisoners of War, most of them, it was learned, captured by the Allies during the North African campaign. Since the capitulation of Italy, the men have volunteered for duty with the U. S. Army, and have been formed in to a Quartermaster unit.

the same as working Prisoners of War. Food rations are the same as those of an American unit, and are slightly altered to suit the Italian taste. The men are issued Class "X" American clothing. Shoulder and cap patches reading "Italy" have been sewn on all uniforms.

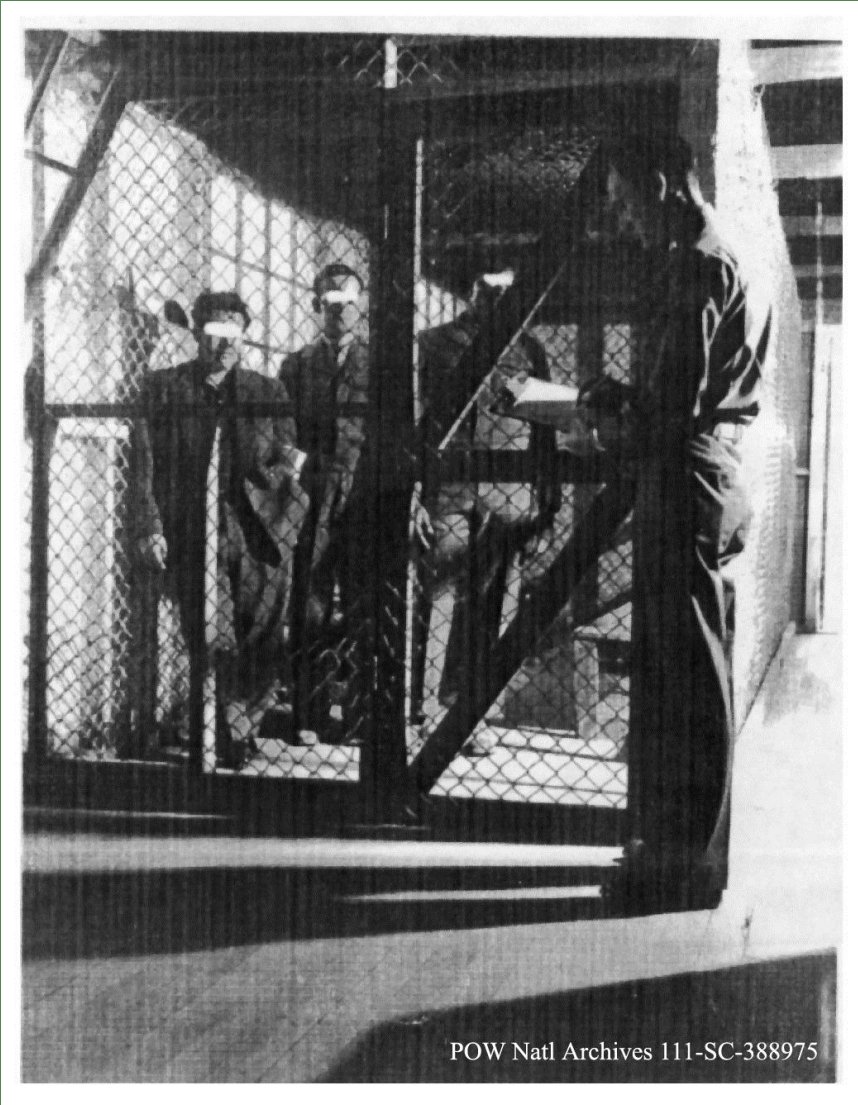
courtesy DLI/FLC POM Archives 29SEP44PAN

# Prison Officer Fort Ord Prisoner of War Camp March 1943

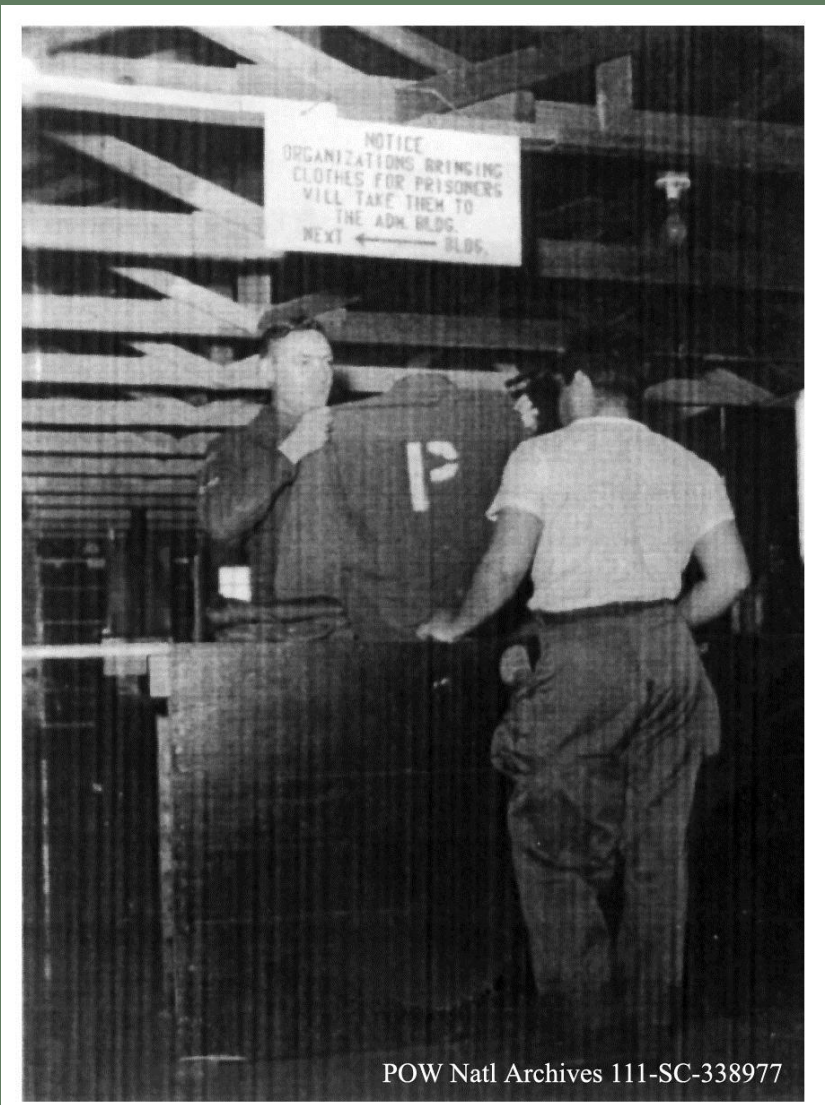


POW Natl Archives 111-SC-338976

# Italian and German Prisoners of War at Fort Ord POW CAMP



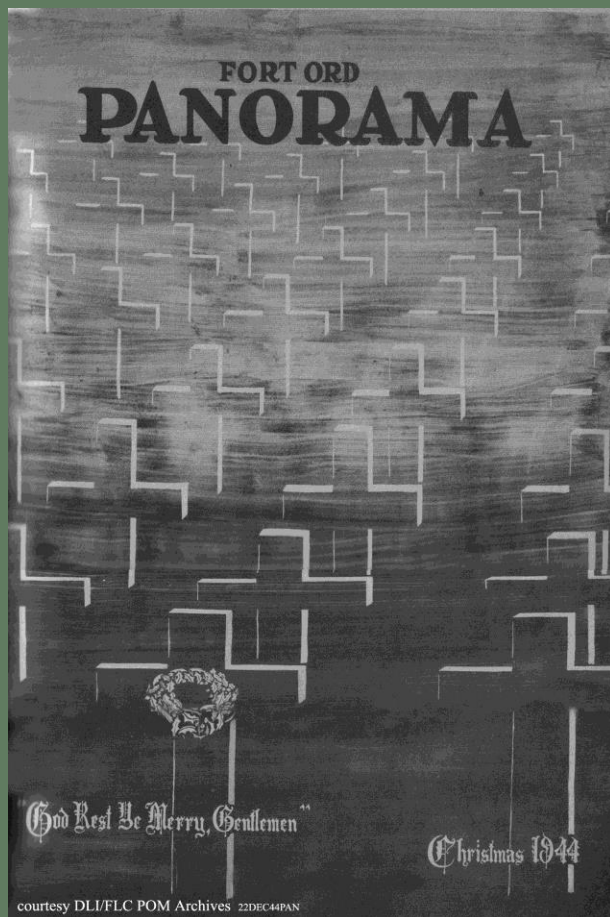
POW Natl Archives 111-SC-388975



POW Natl Archives 111-SC-338977

# “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Christmas 1944



286,959 casualties  
in World War II

50,000 trained for  
war deployment at  
Fort Ord.

**The Fort Ord Panorama** Courtesy of DLI.FLC POM Archives

# WHO



- Black Troops in the Quartermaster Units
- 1<sup>st</sup> Filipino Regiment Units
- Italian Prisoners of War/U.S. Army Quartermaster Unit
- German Prisoners of War
- Women's Auxiliary Army Corp
- Executive Order 9066 Japanese Internees/Draftees, Italian and German Relocation



# Unofficial Quartermaster Units

**Quartermaster Corp** was developed for organization, supply and services. Prior to the draft of WWII the “**Negro Personnel coming into the Army were processed and trained at Fort Knox and Fort Dix**”. (Royall 1948)

**February 1942** - First “**Colored**” USO opens in Monterey to accommodate the Black troops drafted to Fort Ord during World War II. (Porter,C. 2001)

**February 8, 1943** “**Negro History Week**” designated by Fort Ord Military Base. (Panorama 1942)

**May 1947** – The Only all “**Negro Women’s Army Detachment**” in the U.S. Army consisting of 107 at Fort Ord.

SFW/elp/2596  
 10 August 1948  
 Recd 13 Aug 48  
 Maj Mitchell/BmoP/215

# Why

I am writing in reference to your letter of August 2nd, with which you inclosed a telegram from the Mayors of Monterey, Carmel and Pacific Grove, California, concerning the training of Negro personnel at Fort Ord, California.

expanded existing facilities for the purpose of processing and training individuals at installations located in the general area from which they are enlisted or inducted. This procedure results in considerable saving in time and money, both to the individual and the Government, by reducing the travel involved. It is also considered advantageous to train personnel near their homes during their initial service in the Army.

For the foregoing reasons, Fort Ord, California, is the most favorable location west of the Mississippi River where both white and Negro personnel coming into the Army from the western part of the United States can be processed and trained. It has accordingly been designated as a Replacement Training Center for white and Negro personnel.

The Army headquarters responsible for the administration of Fort Ord has been directed to get in touch with the local civilian authorities in order to acquaint them with the problems with which they will be confronted and discuss measures for future cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) KENNETH C. ROYALL

Inclosure  
 Telegram fr Mayors to  
 Sen Knowland 31 July 48.

Kenneth C. Royall  
 Secretary of the Army

CC: Secretary of the Army (2)  
 Chief of Staff  
 TAG  
 LtLD Comeback

NOTED — DEWEY CHIEF OF STAFF

*2 Royall (10 Aug 48)*

15

Official Order for “reasons, Fort Ord, California is most favorable location... for both white and Negro personnel to be processed and trained”.

Secretary of the Army Kenneth Royall (1948)

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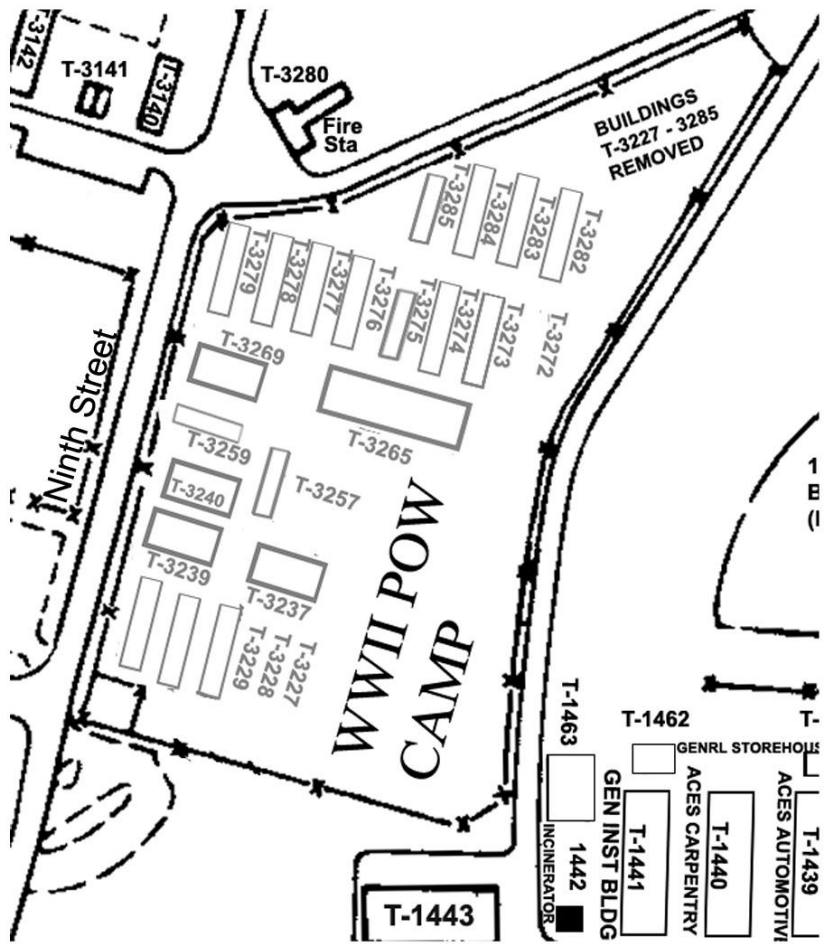
# April 1942 - 1<sup>st</sup> Filipino Infantry Regiment Activated at Fort Ord Military Base

Filipino troops fate was to be sent to the frontline for fighting of were a part of the “Cooks and Bakers” at Fort Ord.

## December 1942- The 1<sup>st</sup> Women’s Auxiliary Corp formed at Fort Ord.

The Women in the WAACs were a part of the Quartermaster Corp with supply, administrative or nursing duties.

FORT ORD FORMER PRISONER OF WAR CAMP 1943



**March 1943** - The First **Italian** and **German Prisoners** arrive at Fort Ord into the Confinement Center (estimated 500 prisoners) now removed but originally by the Horse Stable on Ninth Street.

**August 8, 1944** - Undisclosed number of **German prisoners** attempted to **escape** their internment at the Fort Ord prisoner of war camp by digging a tunnel under the recreation hall.

(Monterey County Herald 8Aug 1944)

# Italian and Japanese Fate

- **February 19, 1942** – President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 establishing military areas that removed Japanese, Italian and German American from those areas. (Ng 2001)
- 2500 Monterey Italians and an undisclosed number of Japanese and German were arrested and sent to internment camps within 5 days of the executive order.
- Japanese males 17 years in internment camps 17 years of age or older drafted into U.S. Army many sent back to Fort Ord for processing and training. 442<sup>nd</sup> (Japanese) Division (February 1, 1943) which ultimately received the President's Citation Award and Japanese from Hawaii became the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion (April 20, 1943).
- **September 29, 1944** – 102 members of former Italian Army arrives at Fort Ord to form a new U.S. Army Italian Quartermaster Unit.

# Conclusion-What is the History of the Multicultural Personnel & Troops at Fort Ord During World War II?

In answer to the above research question, Fort Ord Military Base 1917-1994 became a base for the multicultural personnel because of an official order sign by Kenneth Royall, the U.S. Department of Army Secretary of War in 1948. Though the order was not signed until 1948, troops from 1942 forward were unofficially sent to Fort Ord for processing and training. This became the precedent for the 1<sup>st</sup> Filipino and Women's Army Corp and a German and Italian POW Camp and later formed the 1<sup>st</sup> Italian Corp. Many of the Army personnel stationed at Fort Ord settle on the Monterey Peninsula as permanent residents making this a rare and unique multicultural community.

<http://www.fortordbase.org>



Garnero 2003

email

[fortordhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:fortordhistory@yahoo.com)

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The Fort Ord Panorama [Images] Courtesy of DLI/FLC Presidio of Monterey

The Fort Ord Yearbooks 1941 – 1968 [Images] Courtesy of Steven Levinson  
Fort Ord Historical Archives

National Archives [Image 111-SC-388975] [Image 111-SC-338976]  
[Image 111-SC-338977] College Park, Maryland