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Camp Funston

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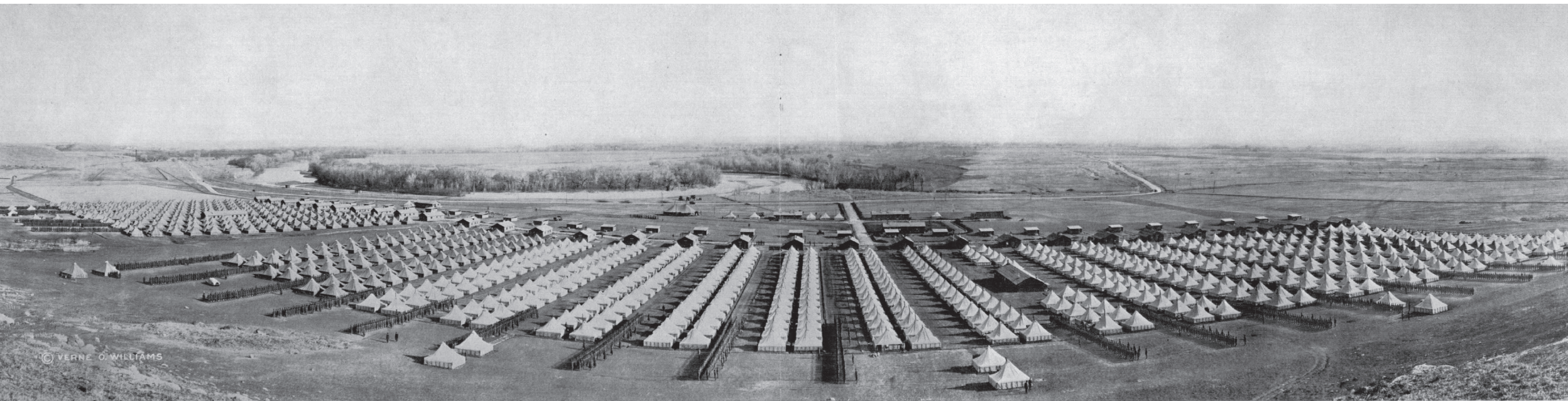
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CAMP

FUNSTON

“The land selected was a large meadow near the Kansas River, bounded by high

bluffs on the north and on the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad.”

Cantonment Life Camp Funston Illustrated (Baird Company Engravers, Kansas City, Missouri 1918)

Camp Funston

After the outbreak of the First World War, the US Army needed training camps to house and train soldiers for the war effort. Fort Riley was selected as the location for the largest of sixteen divisional training camps.


PREVIOUS PHOTOGRAPH CAMP FUNSTON, CAMP REPUBLICAN, DETENTION CAMP NO. 2

The Detention Camp provided accommodations for thousands of men. After new recruits had passed the medical examination and been completely equipped with clothing, etc., they were taken to Detention Camp for a period of three weeks training and observation, after which time they were returned to the Camp proper for assignment.

FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPH FIRST ENTERTAINMENT GIVEN THE NEW ARRIVALS AT THE DETENTION CAMP UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE Y.M.C.A.

Camp Funston had fourteen Y.M.C.A. buildings, three Knights of Columbus buildings, a large library, a hostess house under the auspices of the Y.W.C.A., and numerous places of amusement and recreation.

All photographs in this article courtesy Kansas State Historical Society

	
In June 1917 Secretary of War Baker directed a team of civilian and US Army professionals to meet at Fort Riley for the purpose of selecting a site for the construction of a large Army cantonment. Among others, the team included Professor James S. Pray of Harvard University, engineer and expert in town planning; Herbert Hare, landscape architect of Kansas City, Missouri; and Lieutenant Colonel (then Captain) Fred J. Herman of the Quartermaster Corps, United States Army.	the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad,” stated <i>Cantonment Life Camp Funston Illustrated</i> . Construction began July 1, 1917, and the cantonment was completed December 1. Buildings were laid out uniformly in city block squares with main streets and side streets on either side. Approximately 15,000 carpenters built an estimated 2800 to 4000 buildings to accommodate over 50,000 soldiers. Camp Funston also had its own fire department, police force, and hospitals.
“The land selected was a large meadow near the Kansas River, bounded by high bluffs on the north and on	Camp Funston was the only cantonment that had a Zone of Camp Activities.



FIRST ENTERTAINMENT GIVEN THE NEW ARRIVALS AT THE

DETENTION CAMP UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE Y.M.C.A.

It was financed and built by private capital, without any cost to the government. Four city blocks long, it contained an arcade with refreshment booths, complete restaurants, large stores carrying complete lines of merchandise

attractive to the soldiers, theatres, pool halls, picture shows, barber shops, bowling alleys, etc. "At no time in the world's history has the soldier been so well cared for as he is today in Cantonments and Army Posts of the

United States," claimed *Cantonment Life Camp Funston Illustrated*.

After the war Camp Funston became a "mustering-out" center as soldiers prepared to return to civilian life. In 1924 the military decommissioned the 2000-acre

site with the dismantling of the buildings.

The camp was named after Brigadier General Frederick Funston who grew up in Iola, Kansas, and became well known for his role in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.