

World War I and World War II Military Camps (Callan, Matthews, Kearny)

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Descriptive Summary

Title: World War I and World War II Military Camps (Callan, Matthews, Kearny)

Dates: 1929 - Present

Collection Number: RG005.53

Creator/Collector: La Jolla Historical Society

Extent: .1 linear foot

Repository: La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla, California 92037

Abstract: The World War I and World War II Military Camps (Callan, Matthews, Kearny) Collection is made up of documents, photographs, ephemera and other archival material pertaining to three World War I and World War II military camps located in La Jolla. Camp Calvin B. Matthews was active between 1917 and 1964, when the base was decommissioned and the land transferred to the University of California, San Diego. Camp Matthews was used by the U.S. Marine Corps as a gunnery range. Camp Kearny was a U.S. military base, first Army and later Navy, on the site of the current Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. It operated from 1917 to 1946. The base was named in honor of Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny. In 1941 the first Army recruits arrived at Camp Callan; a large WWII training camp on Torrey Pines mesa where part of the University of California, San Diego campus sits and also the Torrey Pines Golf Course. At its peak the camp housed about 40,000 Army personnel. The last soldier left Camp Callan in December 1945. **The La Jolla Historical Society also houses more extensive archival material on these military camps. See Subject Files RG002.08.** This material pertains to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Language of Material: English

Access: The Collection is open for research

Publication Rights: The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials

Preferred Citation: Courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

Acquisition Information: RG005.53

Biography/Administrative History: The La Jolla Historical Society inspires and empowers the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

The La Jolla Historical Society's Collections encompass over 80 years of actively collecting archival material, books, maps, scrapbooks, ephemera, fine art, newspapers, street and land use files, business and personal documents and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Society boasts over 20,000 photographs, over 1000 postcards, 400-plus architectural drawings and approximately 200 oral history recordings.

Collecting was initiated by Howard Randolph and volunteers on the historical committee of the Library Association of La Jolla. The Collection began by gathering photographs and documentation in the late 1930s, which later became the nucleus of the La Jolla Historical Society's Collections. The Society was created in 1963.

Through many moves in location the Society continued collecting and expanding. Accumulated Collections took on its current construct in 2010 after the renovation of the La Jolla Historical Society's campus of structures in central La Jolla, which consists of the 1904 Wisteria Cottage and 1940s Balmer Annex used for exhibits and programming, and a 1909 cottage used for business and research offices. The late Ellen Browning Scripps' 1916 automobile garage was also renovated and now houses the Collection in a modern collections storage facility. Materials are housed in archival boxes, sleeves, envelopes and other archival-safe materials and are cared for according to standards and best practices of the museum profession. In 2016, the Society initiated new PastPerfect Museum Software to manage and catalog its Collections and in 2018 started using the Online Archive of California to upload searchable information from its Collections to enable improved public access. The Society will continue these processes and look forward to utilizing new opportunities to collect, preserve and share the history of La Jolla.

Scope and Content of Collection: The World War I and World War II Military Camps (Callan, Matthews, Kearny) Collection is made up of documents, photographs, ephemera and other archival material pertaining to three World War I and World War II military camps located in La Jolla. Camp Calvin B. Matthews was active between 1917 and 1964, when the base was decommissioned and the land transferred to the University of California, San Diego. Camp Matthews was used by the U.S. Marine Corps as a gunnery range. Camp Kearny was a U.S. military base, first Army and later Navy, on the site of the current Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. It operated from 1917 to 1946. The base was named in honor of Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny. In 1941 the first Army recruits arrived at Camp Callan; a large WWII training camp on Torrey Pines mesa where part of the University of California, San Diego campus sits and also the Torrey Pines Golf Course. At its peak the camp housed about 40,000 Army personnel. The last soldier left Camp Callan in December 1945. **The La Jolla Historical Society also houses more extensive archival material on these military camps. See Subject Files RG002.08.** This material pertains to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Container List Below

Container List

RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Box 53 – Military Camps

Camp Matthews

Personnel roster. United States Marine Corps personnel roster for Camp Calvin B. Matthews. 1943.

Photograph. Photo of civilians receiving arms training from the Marine Corps at Camp Matthews 'E' Range. 1945.

Article. "Camp Calvin B. Matthews – The End of An Era". La Jolla Journal. August 20, 1964.

Camp Kearny

Excerpts. Bound excerpts from H.R. Document 561, a Hearing on H.R. 6808 and 6810, authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to accept a site for a lighter-than-air base at Camp Kearny. 1929.

Camp Callan

Research project. Research project by Christopher Marsh on Camp Callan and its history.

Magazine. Traditions Magazine on Camp Callan titled "Storming La Jolla". July 1994 (two copies).

Pamphlet. "Trainees' Guide Book" for the Antiaircraft Replacement Training Center at Camp Callan. 1940's (two copies).

Pamphlet. Informational pamphlet about Camp Callan for newly stationed soldiers there. 1941 (two copies).

Postcards. Fourteen postcards adorned with photos of Camp Callan and the La Jolla area. 1940's.

Research project segments. Additional chapters to Christopher Marsh's research project on Camp Callan and its history.

Article. "Co-Eds Enjoy Dance at Army Post As Boy-Friends Burn in Background" on SDSU girls going to a dance held at Camp Callan. United Press. 1940's.

Photograph. Photo of a girl and soldier dancing at Camp Callan. 1940's.

Photograph. Photo of a dance at Camp Callan between SDSU students and soldiers at Camp Callan. 1940's.

Maps. Series of three topographic maps of the Camp Callan area. 1940's.

Photograph. Photograph of soldiers from Camp Callan during bayonet practice. 1940's.

Photograph. Photo of soldiers from Camp Callan at a drug store soda fountain. 1940's.

Menu. Thanksgiving dinner menu for Battery C of the 54th Antiaircraft Training Battalion at Camp Callan. U.S. Army. November 26, 1942.

Menu. Souvenir menu for Battery C of the 54th Antiaircraft Training Battalion at Camp Callan. U.S. Army. October 27, 1942.

**Camp Callan
(oversized
folder)**

Photograph. Aerial photograph of northern Camp Callan by the U.S. Navy. 1940's.

Photograph. Aerial photo of southern Camp Callan by the U.S. Navy. 1940's.

Pictorial review. Pictorial review of Camp Callan and the different aspects of G.I. life there. 1943 (five copies).

Pictorial review. Pictorial review of Camp Callan titled "The Oozlefinch". First Edition. 1942 (two copies).

Pictorial review. Pictorial review of Camp Callan titled "The Oozlefinch". Third Edition. 1943 (three copies).
