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THESE BLACK INFANTRYMEN were among the 6,000 soldiers, mainly from the Northeast, who trained at the Fort Fisher anti-aircraft firing range. Women piloted the aircraft that towed their targets.

PROGRAM SET NOV. 6-8

Fort's Role In WWII To Be Recalled

BY SUSAN USHER

Most visitors associate Fort Fisher with the role that won it a major place in American history forever—the last bastion of the Confederacy.

But for a few days in November, visitors will be invited to recall another era in the historic site's military career: World War II. On Nov. 6-8, special activities and exhibits will mark the 50th anniversary of the height of Fort Fisher's utilization during the war.

Wilmington's area military bases, its deep-water port and shipyards helped bring Southeastern North Carolina into the war and out of the Depression.

The largest U.S. Army encampment was at Camp Davis, near Holly Ridge, on land that is now owned by Camp Lejeune, home of the 2nd Division, U.S. Marine Corps. Infantrymen from Camp Davis were garrisoned on the Fort Fisher peninsula for anti-aircraft gunnery training.

Some of those veterans, as well as other World War II veterans from all services, are expected to return to the area for the program and a reunion at Fort Fisher, a portion of which is being co-sponsored by the North Carolina National Guard Training Center on Carolina

SOUTHPORT-FT FISHER FERRY SUMMER SCHEDULE (Through October 31)

Leaves Southport	Leaves Ft. Fisher
8:00 AM	8:50 AM
8:50 AM	9:40 AM
9:40 AM	10:30 AM
10:30 AM	11:20 AM
11:20 AM	12:10 PM
12:10 PM	1:00 PM
1:00 PM	1:50 PM
1:50 PM	2:40 PM
2:40 PM	3:30 PM
3:30 PM	4:20 PM
4:20 PM	5:10 PM
5:10 PM	6:00 PM
6:00 PM	6:50 PM

WINTER SCHEDULE 11/1-93 through 3/31/94

Leaves Southport	Leaves Ft. Fisher
8:00 AM	8:50 AM
9:40 AM	10:30 AM
11:20 AM	12:10 PM
1:00 PM	1:50 PM
2:40 PM	3:30 PM
4:20 PM	5:10 PM
6:00 PM	6:50 PM

Fisher, with local historians volunteering as costumed interpreters.

"We're going to have some half-trucks, some deuce-and-a-half-ton trucks and some Jeeps," said Leland Smith, site manager. "It will probably be one of the best programs we've ever done, and we've done some good programs here."

That's not all.

Vets and other interested parties can sign up for (no later than Sept. 22) a guided bus tour of the Camp Davis and Fort Fisher base sites. The \$21.50 per person package also includes a box lunch and dinner, talks by guest speakers, and two books, David Stallman's *The History of Camp Davis* and Dr. Kristin Szylyvian's *Fort Fisher and Camp Davis During World War II*. Szylyvian will be among the speakers, discussing the impact of the war on Southeastern North Carolina.

"I think people will really like it," said Smith. "You can't beat that for \$21.50."

Registration for the 100 seats is on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference given to World War II veterans. For registration forms or more information, contact Fort Fisher State Historic Site, 1-919-458-5538.

Fort Fisher is located on U.S. 421 near Kure Beach in New Hanover County. It can also be reached by way of the Southport-Ft. Fisher Ferry. The fort is 2 miles from the ferry landing.

To reach the ferry crossing from the South Brunswick Islands area, take N.C. 211 from Supply to Southport, where it becomes Howe Street. In Southport, turn left onto Moore Street, then right onto Ferry Road at Price's Creek. No reservations are accepted.

One-way fares: \$.50, pedestrian; \$1, bicyclist; \$3, car or vehicle 20 feet long or less; \$6, vehicle or combo up to 32 feet. For information on accommodations and fees for larger vehicles, call the ferry office, 1-919-457-6942.



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