

## **HISTORY OF CAMP FICKES / CAMP BUFFALO**

### **Part 2**

Over time, and due to the curiosity of Frank McKeon (and others) more history of the range has been unearthed. Also, one of the mysteries to the difficulty in the discovery of that history seems to have been solved.

The U.S. Army took out a special use permit for the reconstruction of the range in 1936 and allowed that permit to expire after 1938. It appears the Army designated the range to be “Camp Fickes” after the 1937 incident mentioned in the first installment of “The History of the Buffalo Creek Gun Club”. However, in July of 1943 the 22nd Base Headquarters & Air Base Squadron from Lowry Air Base re-established an Army presence at the range, calling it “Camp Buffalo”. No permit was recorded for this newest renovation.

It appears the range, as occupied by the 22nd from Lowry, included a pistol range, a 1000 inch range, a rifle “long” range (which included a 200 yard firing line, a 300 yard firing line, a 500 yard firing line, and a sighting target for 1000 yards), and a large assortment of “camp facilities”. These included, at the least, six sentry houses, latrines, telephone lines, fences, roads, and a developed spring for water.

The 22nd was not new to Camp Buffalo. Many members of the Lowry group were formerly stationed with the 2nd Engineers from Fort Logan and had transferred from Fort Logan to Lowry when Lowry Air Base was established in 1938. These included Tech. Sgt. Howard Carpenter who became the first rangemaster for Camp Buffalo.

Some of the Army activities at Camp Fickes / Camp Buffalo were recorded in a camp newspaper at Lowry Air Base. This paper was titled the “Buffalo Bugle”. Buffalo Creek Gun Club is in possession of one printing of this newspaper, “Volume 1, Number 3”. Scans of this paper will be placed on the web site as part of the history. It is hoped other documents will be recovered

to add to this history before all have been lost to time and lack of interest.

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