

Henry Barracks Military Reservation¹: The evolution of a military facility to public lands

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¹ A former Military Installation located in Cayey, Puerto Rico.

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Henry Barracks Military Reservation⁴: The evolution of a Military facility to Public Lands

Abstract

This paper provides a historical overview of the geographic evolution of the Henry Barracks Military Reservation located in the proximity of the town of Cayey, Puerto Rico (1898 to 1967). The public lands became the University of Puerto Rico-Cayey (UPR-Cayey), the municipality of Cayey, private housing, and the municipality. The paper is divided into four major segments: (1) the Spanish Barracks (1897-1898), (2) Camp Henry (1899-1912), (3) The Cayey Naval Radio Station (1914-1932), (4) Henry Barracks Army Post 1910-1962).

The researchers relied on interviews, pictures, and narratives of key informants that either lived, grew-up or used the facilities of Henry Barracks Army Post. A review of the literature, consisting of over three thousand pages, pictures, and maps from the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Museo de Historia Militar, Madrid, Spain, provided original documents. These documents led us to an understanding of the decision-making process and actions taken at certain times during the evolution of the Military Reservation.

After triangulating the literature, the study concludes that after the Spanish Government withdrew the troops from the Spanish Barracks on October 18, 1898. The War Department of the United States ordered the troops under the command of Gen. Brooke to remain in the former Spanish Barracks until 1899 when Hurricane San Ciprian destroyed the buildings. Camp Henry was constructed in 1903 until 1930.

⁴ A former Military Installation located in Cayey, Puerto Rico.

The Department of the Navy took over a part of the lands purchased for a radio station. Camp Henry transitioned to a US Army military installation, Henry Barracks, in 1920. Permanent buildings were constructed between 1930-1932, and additional land and facilities were used to train an army going to war were developed by 1950. The Post was deactivated in 1967.

The study concludes that the construction and care given to this land set the stage for the current public structures. Much of the history of these 499 acres of land has been lost in the rapid economic development of the region, the housing needs of the area, the growth of a major university campus, the construction of two public schools, land used for recreational purposes as well as population shifts.

1.0 Context

This paper provides a historical overview of the role of the Henry Barracks Military Reservation in the development of the town of Cayey, Puerto Rico from 1898 to 1967. The paper clarifies at least two popular myths: (1) the Spanish soldiers did not have an underground passage from the barracks to magazine hill, and (2) the metal salvaged from the destruction of the Navy towers were not sold to Japan as scrap metal, but rather were used to reconstruct the towers located in the San Juan Naval Station. The paper presents visual representation of how changes in the land and the construction of structures in the north camp prepared the way for what is today the University of Puerto Rico in Cayey.

Cayey is located in a valley in the central mountain range of the Island of Puerto Rico (Latitude: 18.1144, Longitude: 66.1681). It is located at the crossroads of major roads that permit travel and flow of goods from the San Juan area in the north, and Ponce the second largest city to the south. It is an entry point for the panoramic route that crosses the Central Mountain range, and the catalytic point to some important events in the development of the Island.

By the 18th century, Cayey became a town⁵. The self-defense of the Puerto Rican people had begun as far back in 1642, when Para-military groups were organized in towns and villages as the island's population grew. Field Marshal Alejandro O'Reilly was tasked in 1765 with the responsibility of organizing an urban militia⁶ which would provide safety and security to the population and allow him to augment the Spanish soldiers at the Garrison when needed. The rule remained that only Spanish soldiers would live in the Barracks established throughout the Island.

In 1887, there is a request from the Governor, General D. Romulo Palacios, to the Central Government in Spain to establish a military hospital. The purpose was to provide a place for

⁵ . Cayey was founded on August 17, 1773.

⁶ In 1765, he was appointed marshal and destined to Puerto Rico with a mission to create a loyal following to Spain that protected the island from possible invasion militia. O'Reilly managed to form a professional and highly disciplined militia and is remembered on the island as "father of the Puerto Rican militia." www.biografiasyvidas.com/biografia/o/o_reilly.htm. Accessed from Internet on July 3, 2014.

troops who were recently arrived from Spain to adjust to the climate and the tropical illnesses. A decision is made to construct a Spanish Barracks in Cayey for 250 men, a Headquarters (HQ) component and two Infantry Companies in 15 acres of land on a hill over looking the town.⁷ The proposed Barracks was to be comprised of ten one-story buildings. The reason for selecting this site was threefold: the easy availability of raw materials locally⁸, the low cost of workmanship, and the appropriateness of the climate. Construction began on 5 April 1897.⁹

The Barracks was occupied by recently arrived troops, who spent time in Cayey getting acclimatized for service in the San Juan Fort (El Morro). In 1898, there were two Infantry companies (293 men). All the personnel in the Barracks were Spanish citizens. The personnel in the Cayey Barracks would be responsible for the defense of the Guayama road in the event of an invasion.

2.0 The Spanish-American War and its impact on Cayey

In 1898, the Spanish-American War brought The U.S. Army to Puerto Rico and to Cayey. The American forces were organized into four columns. On August 1, 1898, General Brooke and his troops, landed in Arroyo¹⁰. The objectives of the column under the command of General Brooke was to advance to the capital of San Juan through the center of the island from Arroyo to Cayey and into San Juan, neutralize all Spanish Army resistance, and capture the strategic crossroads located in Cayey. On the way to Cayey, there was a skirmish in the Guamaní path. The path was located on the road from Guayama to Cayey on a road cut along the face of the hill, and by a circuitous roundabout, wound its way around toward the Spanish positions, who were

⁷ The land was purchased from Francisco Fernandez Navas.

⁸ The blocks came from the furnace of Mr. Manuel Nuñez Romeu, the raw material for the blocks from the property of Mr. Jose Benito Dumont, and the wood was gathered from the forest around Cayey and molded for use by Mr. Jose V. Philemon.

⁹ Letter written by Mr. Vicente Rodriguez the mayor of Cayey to the Captain General of Puerto Rico dated 5 April 1897.

¹⁰ Darrach, J.M. (Aug 20, 1898). Descriptive account of the operations and skirmishes about Guayama, Puerto Rico. *Harper's Weekly*, Vol. XLIL(2179), 942.

commanded by Julio Cervera Baviera, the commanding officer of the Spanish Army's Engineer Company posted in Aibonito¹¹. The one-hour exchange of fire between the Spanish and the Americans resulted in three American soldiers and several Spanish troops being injured. General Brooke's soldiers captured the Spanish "Cuartel" town of Cayey on August 8, 1898, en route to an attack on the capital of San Juan¹².

The morning of August 8, 1898 the valley of Cayey woke up to an impressive military display. General Brooke had positioned three batteries of artillery (Battery B, Pennsylvania, Battery A Missouri Artillery, and the 27th Indiana Artillery) on the hills from the Guayama road overlooking the town. He then proceeded to the Cuartel Español (the Spanish Barracks) with two Calvary troops from the 6th U.S. Calvary, Troop H, and the Pennsylvania Volunteer Calvary¹³. There was no resistance offered by the Spanish Army and by noontime on that day General Brooke sent a message to the War Department "Cayey taken". This personnel was repatriated to Spain on 25 September 1898.

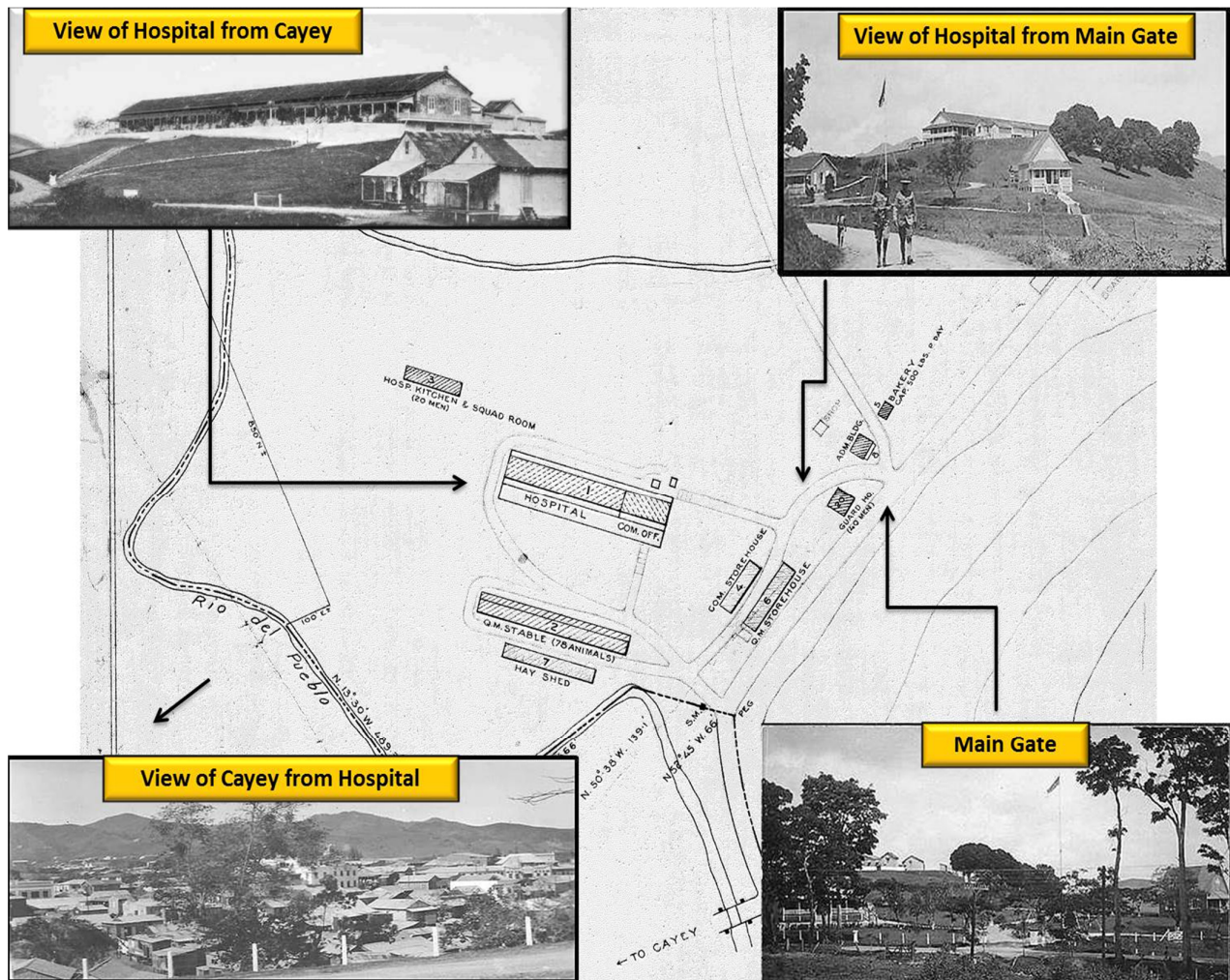
3.0. The Spanish Barracks (Cuartel Español)

This captured piece of real state consisted of 15 acres of land on a hill east of the town of Cayey. It overlooked the entrance of the town from Caguas, Guayama, Salinas, and Aibonito. From that vantage point, all activities of the town were monitored.

¹¹ Ibid. Darrach op cit

¹² Trask, D.F. (1981). *The war with Spain in 1898*. New York: MacMillan Publishing C. Inc. (page 339).

¹³ Ibid. Darrach op cit

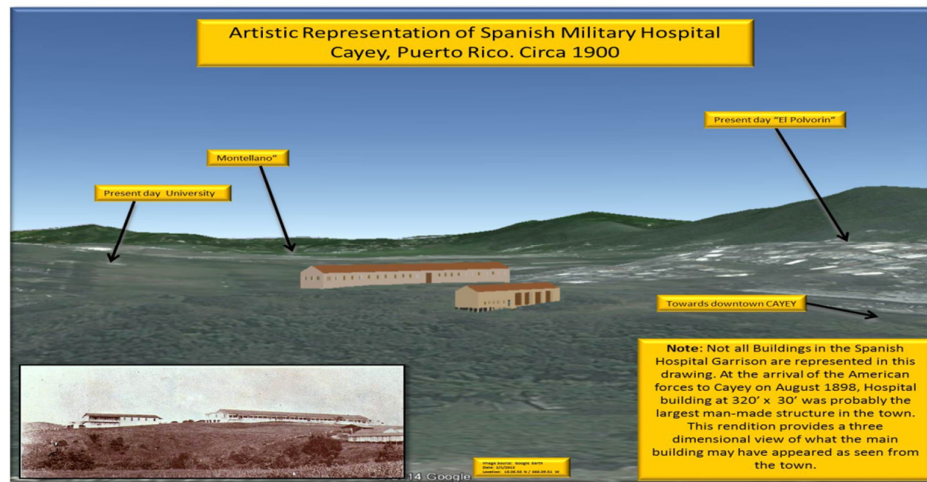


Map 1: Map showing boundary lines of the original Spanish Reservation and the present reservation as described General Order # 97 War Department July 7, 1903. Post and Reservation Map of Henry barracks, P.R. Library of Congress G-30-11-2-Mil Sta-PR. The inserts are pictures that capture the view from different parts of the Camp.

The main building was 320 feet by 30 feet, the largest building in the region. It housed the Surgeon General, Officers, and a 112-bed Hospital. The largest building (Hospital) was located at the top of the hill, known as Hospital Hill (La Loma del Hospitalillo) by the locals¹⁴. Northeast of the hospital there was the kitchen and a squad room with a capacity for 20 men (probably cooks and orderlies). Just below the top plaza was a Quartermaster stables with a capacity for 78 animals, and a wagon shed with a capacity for 20 wagons. Three smaller buildings in the same area accommodated (1) the plumbers and tinsmith, (2) the Quartermaster (QM) barracks with a

¹⁴. Description of buildings-Spanish Barracks, Cayey, Porto Rico. G.O. 97 War Department- July 7, 1903

capacity for 17 men; (3) a QM storehouse; (4) twenty-six QM shops; and (5) an oil house with a capacity for 5,000 gallons.



Photograph 1: A photographic rendition of the Spanish Hospital in the Cuartel Español 1898.

On the access road from the Hospital, there were two wooden quarters that accommodated non-commissioned officers (NCOs), and two cavalry companies were housed at the bottom of the hill. At the bottom of the hill were the Headquarters and a guardhouse¹⁵. The Spanish soldiers were repatriated back to Spain on October 18, 1898.

4.0. Camp Henry

In October 1898, with the creation of the American military government, the Military Department of Puerto Rico assumed control of insular military affairs, and Cayey became one of twelve posts that remained from the Spanish Government. On February 23, 1901, American troops were relieved from their duties of occupation of former military lands and were repatriated to the United States.

On August 8, 1899, the San Ciprian Hurricane destroyed the former Spanish barracks. In 1900, there was a name change to Camp Henry in honor of General Guy B. Henry. The American forces used the remnants of the Spanish Barracks for a period of three years (1898-1901) when

¹⁵ This description is on a map compiled and corrected from existing maps. By Maj. H.C. Price and Lt. Carlos M. Lopez of the Puerto Rico Regular Infantry, April 27, 1915. NARA . Map Collection.

they were repatriated and replaced by troops of the Puerto Rico Voluntary Infantry on 23 February 1901.

The second battalion of the Puerto Rican Volunteer Regiment was moved to Camp Henry under the leadership of Col. Eben Swift. In July 1, 1901, General Order # 72 renamed the regiment as the Puerto Rico Provisional Infantry Regiment. The Battalion had two infantry companies and two calvary companies (E, F, G and H). The old hospital building was reconstructed and occupied as officers quarters, and a post exchange was erected. The two smaller structures were served as housing for NCOs. The companies were billeted in four wooden barracks with galvanized steel roofs on the Eastern side of the hill near the Headquarters and the entrance to the Camp. Toward the northern side of Hospital Hill were the stables. In 1902, a guardhouse was also erected made of wood and a galvanized steel roof.

In 1902, the Calvary companies were dismantled, and the restriction of serving only in Puerto Rico was lifted. The orders for the Puerto Rican Regiment were extended until it was dissolved on 30 May 1908. The U.S. Congress authorized a Puerto Rican Provisional Infantry Regiment through General Order # 100 of 18 June 1908.

On June 16, 1916, a third Battalion was formed (General Order #4, 1916) with four companies one machine gun company, a quartermaster company and a transportation company. The companies (I, K, L, M) had their permanent barracks in Camp Henry. Two companies from the Second Battalion were deployed to the Panama Canal on 3 of May 1917. Camp Henry had been left with a skeleton crew that consisted of military police (MP), and post maintenance personnel. The

assessment of the battalion commander at the time of deployment was that “except for one building everything else would have to be rebuilt¹⁶”

5.0. The El Cayey Naval Radio Station (1912-1932)

In 1914, the Secretary of the Navy had planned to establish a high power station in Cayey. Because of this decision, the southern side of the Henry Barracks Reservation was surveyed and chosen by the U.S. Navy for the establishment of a radio communication base. Cayey became one of five radio communication stations in the world (the others were located in Cordova, Alaska, Arlington, Virginia, Cavite and Tutuila in Guam, and Pearl Harbor) that formed the most powerful chain of communications for the United States¹⁷.

In 1915 the Secretary of War had began negotiations to transfer a track of land from the War Department to the US Navy¹⁸. In August 29, 1916, the War Department transferred a track of land from the Henry Barracks Reservation to the Navy Department by authority contained in the Naval Appropriations Act (39 Stat. Law 568). The Naval Reservation at Cayey Puerto Rico comprised of 59 acres of land known as Magazine Hill, transferred to the Navy in 1916¹⁹.

On December 18, 1916, the White House approved the transfer of \$400,000 for the construction of a protected High Power Radio Station in Cayey. The justification for this expenditure was stated as follows: “The island of Porto Rico is of extreme strategic importance in connection with fleet operations, due to its location. A High Power Radio Station would ensure communication with the fleet, Europe, and South America to a greater degree than by any other

¹⁶ See Letter from Brig. Gen. R.N. Christnum, Commanding General, Camp Las Casas dated January 27, 1919. In this letter he presents the misgivings of Henry Barracks as a military installation and suggest that some construction would have to take place before the troops arrived from the Canal Zone.

¹⁷ For further reading see: Hooper, S. C. (1922). Developments in high-power radio and its applications in the services of the United States Navy. *Radio Broadcasters Magazine*. 1 (3) 484-489. The Army was authorized to use the Navy generated electrical energy to use in lighting of Henry Barracks, not to exceed 600 kH per month.

¹⁸ Letter from the Secretary of War dated August 26, 1915. NARA 12479-424:15

¹⁹ Draft Clause for approval from the 64th Congress to be incorporated in the Navy Bill. The following described part of the military reservation of Henry Barracks, Cayey Puerto Rico is hereby transferred to and placed under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department for use for Naval Purposes. “The part of the military reservation of Henry Barracks knows as magazine hill, comprising that portion of said reservation lying westerly of Quebrada Las Lleras and south and east of the Caguas and Guayama Roads. NARA 12479-424:6.

means.”²⁰



Photo 1: El Cayey U.S. Navy High Frequency Radio Station Towers were part of the international communication net for the U. S Navy (Copied from Hooper, S. C. (1922). *Developments in high-power radio and its applications in the services of the United States Navy. Radio Broadcasters Magazine. 1 (3) 484-489.*

Congress approved a high power radio station²¹. The Naval Appropriation Committee disbursed the already approved \$400,000 for the establishment of the radio station. The Secretary of the Navy reported for both in 1918 (Serial Set Volume 7495, House Document 1450, page 529), and in 1919 (Serial Set Volume 7703, House Document 729, page 357) the approval for the construction of the High Power Radio station in Cayey.

Three 620-foot towers of steel were constructed. On February 5, 1920, the High Power Radio Station was placed in commission²². In addition, the following projects were developed at the Cayey Radio Station: (1) the establishment of distant control for the Station, (2) the movement of one generator from Cavite in the Philippines for installation in Cayey, and (3) the enlargement

²⁰ Letter from Josephus Daniels, Secretary of Navy to the Secretary of Treasury (Dec. 18, 1916). NARA-28677:26

²¹ Public Law # 64-391, approved Mar 4, 1917. Congressional Records. NARA.

²² Radiogram to the Secretary of the Navy. NARA 12479-424:21

of the water supply for engine cooling purposes at an additional cost of \$104,000.²³ The photo below shows the Cayey Radio Station in full operation. The Radio Station ran with General Electric High Compression Oil Engines (Type GM-52)²⁴. On August 16, 1920, there was approval for additional work on the Radio Station. These included walks, sanitary facilities, hurricane doors and windows, and the connection of a three engine-driven generator with a concrete base to eliminate vibration²⁵.

The amount of \$12,600 was authorized to complete the water system at the radio station in Cayey. The Navy provided electricity to Henry Barracks (Radio Telegraph - Electric current for lighting Henry Barracks -- Oct 4, 1919). They used 600 kW / h. The connection between the Naval Station and Henry Barracks was the responsibility of the War Department²⁶. In 1922, the transmitting wave of 10.510 was changed to 8.785²⁷. The reason was that the Station was so powerful that it created a conflict with the transmission from the San Francisco transmitter. The Army provided security and care for the portion of the reservation occupied by the Navy. In 1922 the personnel of this station consisted of 27 enlisted Navy enlisted men and a guard of 20 Marines²⁸. Their personnel was moved to San Juan because of the Hurricane of 1928, never to return on a permanent basis to Cayey, but rather travel to the base on an as needed basis. The U.S. Army took over the maintenance and protection of the Naval Radio Station.

²³ Budget submitted by the Bureau of Steam Engineering to the Secretary of the Navy (July 14, 1919). NARA 432010-914-W

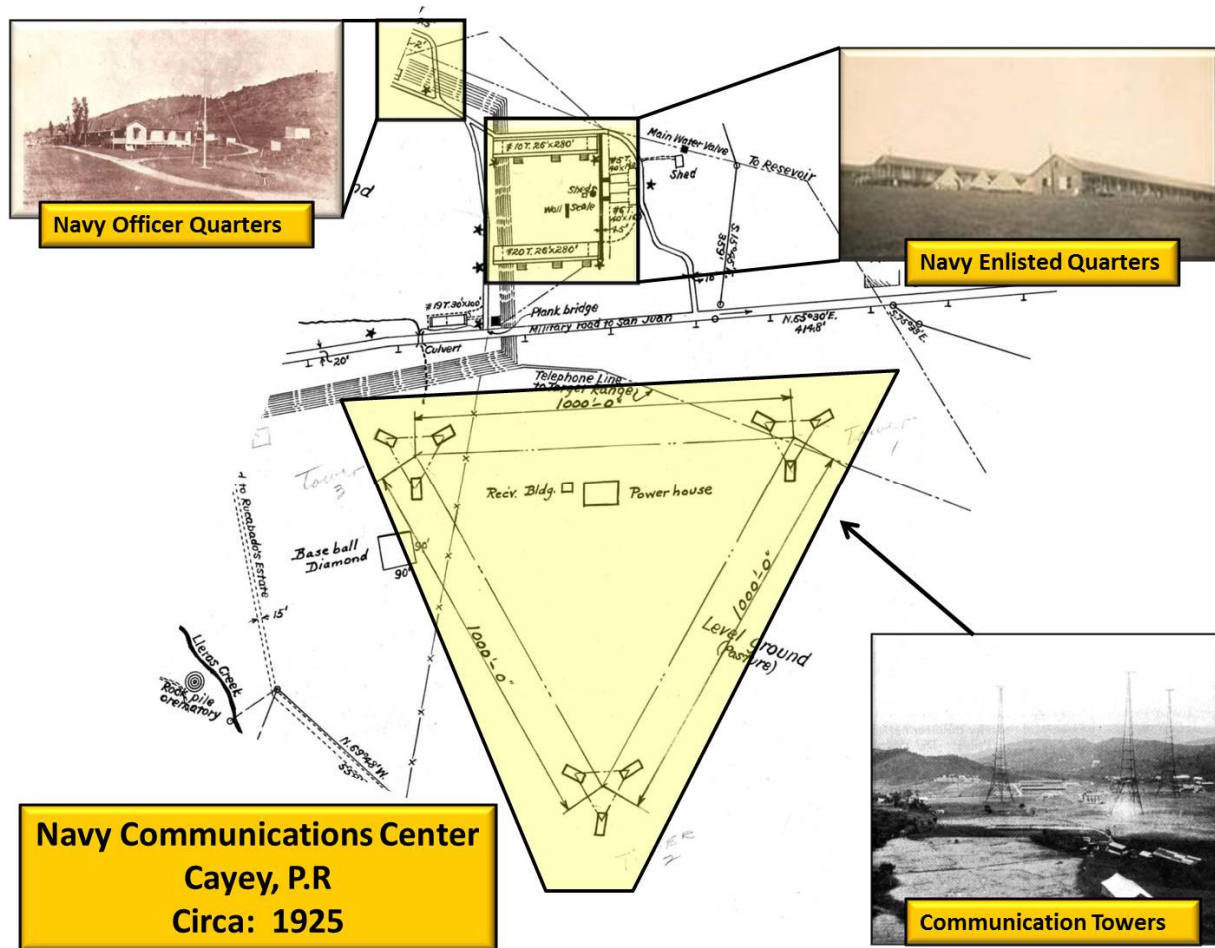
²⁴ Letter from the Commandant of the Navy Yard in New York City to the Chief of the Bureau of Engineering (January 15, 1923). NARA 12479-424:32.

²⁵ Outline of radio work for the fiscal year 1921 in US Naval Radio El Cayey. dated August 16, 1920. NARA: 464310-604-W-K 10

²⁶ Ltr from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of War (October 25, 1919). NARA 12479-424:19

²⁷ Letter from Chief of Naval Operations to the Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet. (October 22, 1922). NARA 12479-424: 29.

²⁸ Letter from Chief of Naval Operations to the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, June 15, 1922. NARA 12479-424:24



Map 2: El Cayey Navy Radio Station High Frequency Towers and Navy Officer and enlisted quarters. Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1915. The photographs come from the National Archives. Washington, D.C.

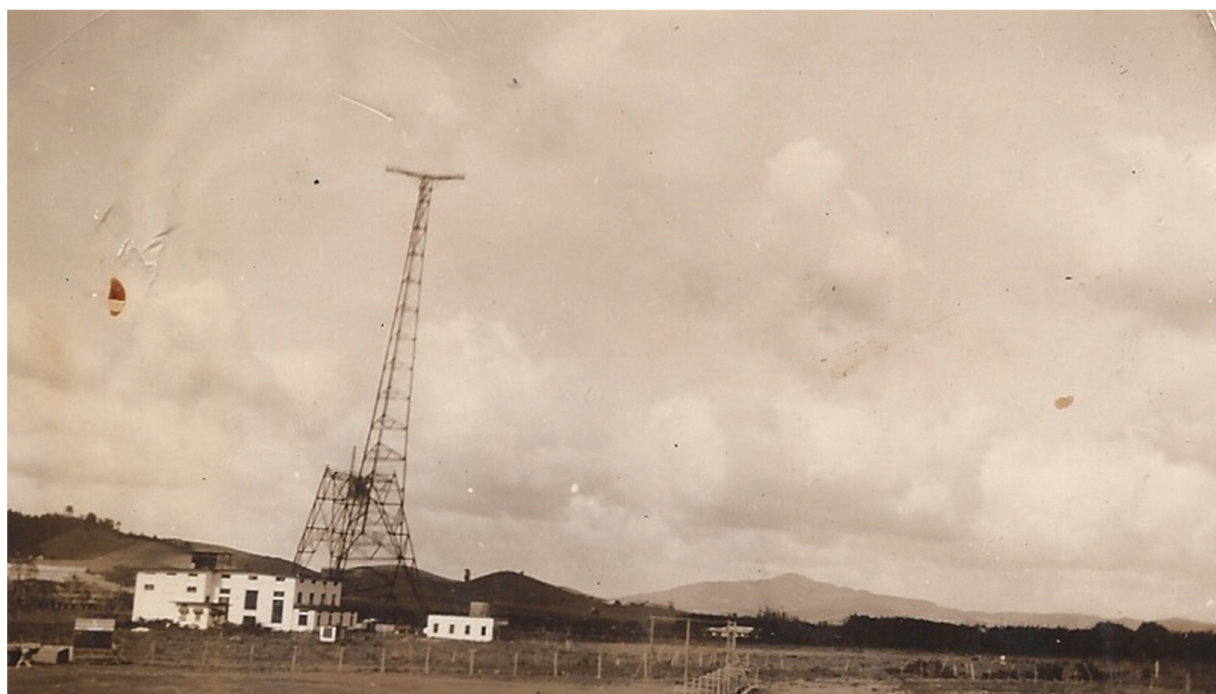
The municipality of Cayey was looking at Magazine Hill (known in Spanish as “El Polvorin”) for the expansion of the town and the construction of a hospital. The municipality requested that the US Government return Magazine Hill to the town since they had learned that the Navy would not be using it²⁹. Magazine Hill was transferred to the municipality of Cayey on March 5, 1923³⁰.

²⁹ On June 2, 1922, the Municipal Assembly of the City of Cayey adopted a resolution “requesting the transfer in favor of the Municipality of Cayey the Magazine Hill (59 Acres) for the construction of a Hospital to handle general medicine and surgery”. NARA 12479-424:27 P

³⁰ Executive Order #3806 ordering the return of Magazine Hill to the Municipality of Cayey, (March 5, 1923). NARA-12479-424:27-3 P

In 1918, the base was operational with 25 men per shift, working three shifts. The station was used exclusively for receiving messages for the Commander of the Caribbean Fleet. The station received 5,000 words daily³¹.

In Puerto Rico, the Greenland Plan³² called for the development of a major operating base as the keystone of the Caribbean defense, with facilities to include a thoroughly protected anchorage, a major air station, and an industrial establishment capable of supporting a large portion of the fleet under war conditions.



Photograph 2: Depicts the fall of the last High Power tower at El Cayey Naval Radio Station (Courtesy of SGT Joe C. Prewitt Collection).

Puerto Rico was to be the "Pearl Harbor of the Caribbean," furnishing logistical support to outlying secondary air bases developed on Antigua, St. Thomas, and Culebra³³. World War II was

³¹ En el cuarto de control, operadores especializados hacían turnos de relevo de día y noche en puestos de recibo individuales; siendo el propósito principal de la estación

³² The Framework of Hemisphere Defense, Chapter 1, page 10. Accessed on 17 July 2014 from <http://www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/Guard-US/ch1.htm>.

³³ U.S. Department of the Navy. (1940) Building the Navy's Bases in World War II. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Service . Vol 1., Chapter 18, page 5.

just around the corner and this required yet another adjustment to the Henry Barracks Military Reservation. The Navy Station was closed down, the towers dismantled and the land in the southern part of the Reservation was taken over by an Army that was preparing for war. By 1938, the El Cayey Radio Station was closed and the towers transferred to Isla Grande in San Juan, where the high power radio station would be nearer the Fleet Command.

6.0 The Henry Barracks Army Sub-Post³⁴

There were two additional reasons to change Camp Henry into Henry Barracks: (1) the 65th Infantry Regiment had been deployed to the Panama Canal and had successfully completed their deployment, and (2) more importantly, on March 17, 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens with the signing of the Jones Act by President Woodrow Wilson. On 4 June 1920, Congress renamed the regiment as the “65th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army,”. Henry Barracks became a sub-post attached to Fort Brooke in San Juan where the First Battalion and the band were posted.

The life of Henry Barracks Army Post was intertwined with the life of the Puerto Rican soldiers that served in the 65th Infantry Regiment and the weather. Puerto Rican men wanted to serve in the military for two reasons: (1) as a way to provide for their family with a steady income, and (2) for the prestige of being a cut above other men in society. As long as there was a need to accommodate the soldiers, there was a role for the Post³⁵.

The weather played an important role in the evolution of the Post and in the construction of permanent structures. For example three hurricanes: San Ciriaco in 1899, San Felipe in 1928, and San Ciprian in 1932 had a major impact in the physical development of the Henry Barracks Army

³⁴ Parsons (2010). *Henry Barracks Military Reservation-Cayey, Puerto Rico*. Norcross, Georgia. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (p.2-1 to p2-3).

³⁵ Since the Department of War took over the management of the land of the Spanish Barracks, there were discussions about the value of maintaining an Infantry Battalion in Cayey. The argument was that the Post was far away from easy access to transportation and could not rapidly deploy. It was not until 1939 that Henry Barracks was recognized as an Army Post.

Post. Another important factor was the deployment of the 65th Infantry Regiment to assist in several little known campaigns in Central America³⁶

The custody of the post in Cayey had been placed under the jurisdiction of the Second Battalion of Puerto Rican Regiment US Volunteers-Mounted Battalion since 1901^{37,38}. Two companies from the Second Battalion were deployed to the Canal Zone on 19 May 1917³⁹. At the time of deployment, the assessment of the Battalion Commander, was that “except for one building everything else would have to be rebuilt. Henry Barracks is situated in the center of the island. It is thirty-seven miles from the nearest coast and all supplies of every kind had to be transported at a high cost over mountain roads, by mule teams or trucks.⁴⁰. It was a great expense to transport freight and passengers. (NOTE: Joe, if this is a direct quote, where does the quote end? It should have ending quotation marks.)

Henry Barracks was not the preferred spot for an infantry regiment. At the time it served well as a training site. With the troops at war, Henry Barracks became the first officer training site in Puerto Rico. Between August 27, 1917 and November 27, 1917, one hundred and eighty officers were commissioned as second lieutenants. These cadres lead the Regiment into war.

With the regiment due back from Panama, there was a need to return the Barracks used by the Naval Station back to the 65th Infantry Regiment. On February 24, 1919, Major Emmanuelli (NOTE:

³⁶ Langley, L.D. (1983). United States interventions in the Caribbean 1898-1934. Delaware: Scholarly Resources Inc.

³⁷ On May 20, 1899, Brigadier General George W. Davis, US Volunteers, who had succeeded General Henry in command of the Department, published General Order, No. 65, "Headquarters Department of Porto Rico", series of 1899, for the formation of the Battalion and designation of the companies as A,B,C, and D, fixing the enlisted strength to 100 men each. On February 12, 1900, General Davis issued General Order No 34, "Headquarters Department of Porto Rico", series of 1900, directing that under instructions from the President of the United States, through the Secretary of War, a Mounted Battalion of Porto Ricans, be organized. The order prescribed that the battalion should consist of four companies designated E, F, G, and H, to be the Mounted Battalion of the "Porto Rican Regiment". On February 20, 1900, "Headquarters Department of Porto Rico" issued General Order No. 38, prescribing that the two Battalions of native troops should be known as the "Porto Rican Regiment US Volunteers". The mounted Battalion was to be stationed at Camp Henry, Post of Cayey. (Assessed on July 7, 2014 from: <http://www.valerosos.com/65thpg1.htm>)

³⁸ U.S. Army Center of Military History. (12 March 2010). *Linage and Honors: 65th Infantry Regiment* (The Bonriqueneers). Assessed on July 7, 2014 in <http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lienages/branches/inf/oo65in.htm>

³⁹ See Letter from Brig Gen. R.N. Christsum, Commanding General, Camp Las Casas dated January 27, 1919. In this letter he presents the misgivings of Henry Barracks as a Military installation, and indicates that some construction will have to happen before the troops arrive from the Canal Zone since Hurricane San Ciprian had destroyed one of the Company size structures.

⁴⁰ Report from the Inspecting Officer with a recommendation of maintaining the troop in the San Juan area with its Headquarters in Las Casas.

what was his first name?) requested all buildings occupied by the Naval Stations to be returned to the Troops that were returning from the Canal Zone⁴¹. Regimental Commander Lt Colonel Orval F. Townshend recommended that two companies of the Regiment be returned to Henry Barracks on or by May 24, 1919⁴². On May 7, 1919, authorization was approved for the construction of one company-size barracks to be constructed atin Henry Barracks at the cost of \$12,750⁴³. A recommendation was made to purchase land at Camp Henry. This land was north of the Reservation following a small ridge and south of Route 1. This is the land where the University of Puerto Rico-Cayey has its main campus today on the north side of the previous Post.

After the Regiment returned from Panama in 1919, two companies (L and M) of the Third Battalion returned to Henry Barracks. The Puerto Rican Regiment became the 65th Infantry Regiment in 1920 ⁴⁴.

On September 13, 1928, the Island of Puerto Rico was swept by a hurricane called San Felipe. It carried sustained winds of over 160 miles per hour. Henry Barracks was destroyed⁴⁵. The loss of a company-size building that housed Co. M, 65th Inf. damaged the infrastructure, quarters, and government and personal properties. All the buildings made of wood and galvanized steel were damaged beyond repair. These included all the buildings in Hospital Hill that housed officers and NCOs (El Olimpo); a Kitchen and Mess Hall erected in 1900 from material salvaged from the Ponce Cantonment, and several wooden buildings with galvanized steel roofs constructed in 1901, 1905 and 1919, when the troops returned from the Canal Zone.

⁴¹ Letter dated February 24, 1919 NARA 620 Barracks

⁴² Ltr from Lt Col. Orval P. Townsend dated March 25, 1919. NARA 680.3 Intended Resident La Puntilla, San Juan, Puerto Rico

⁴³ Letter from H.C.S. Neidtand, Adjutant General. NARA 320.3-Barracks and Quarters.

⁴⁴ U.S. Army Center of Military History. (12 March 2010). *Linage and Honors: 65th Infantry Regiment* (The Bonriqueneers). Assessed on July 7, 2014 in <http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lienages/branches/inf/oo65in.htm>

⁴⁵ Cablegram # 596. From San Juan, Puerto Rico to the Adjutant General, War Department from NAU 28-September 18, 1928-NARA A.G. 600.913-Henry Bks. (9/17/28).

A Board of Officers was convened to determine the extent of damages to Henry Barracks. The Board met on September 14, 1928. The Board found that the greater majority of the buildings damaged or destroyed were wooden with galvanized steel roofs. The Board recommended that all buildings of the sub-post of Henry Barracks be replaced in concrete or suitable material other than wood⁴⁶.

By July 5, 1929, replacements for the buildings lost in the Hurricane the previous year were completed. These included the commissary warehouse, two kitchens, and mess halls located on the land used by the Navy on the eastern side of the North camp. In addition, fifty-eight pyramidal tents were completed by December 1928. An electrical light system was completed by April 1929, and a gasoline shed was completed in June 1929. The hay shed, wagon sheds, and QM shops were completed by March 1929.

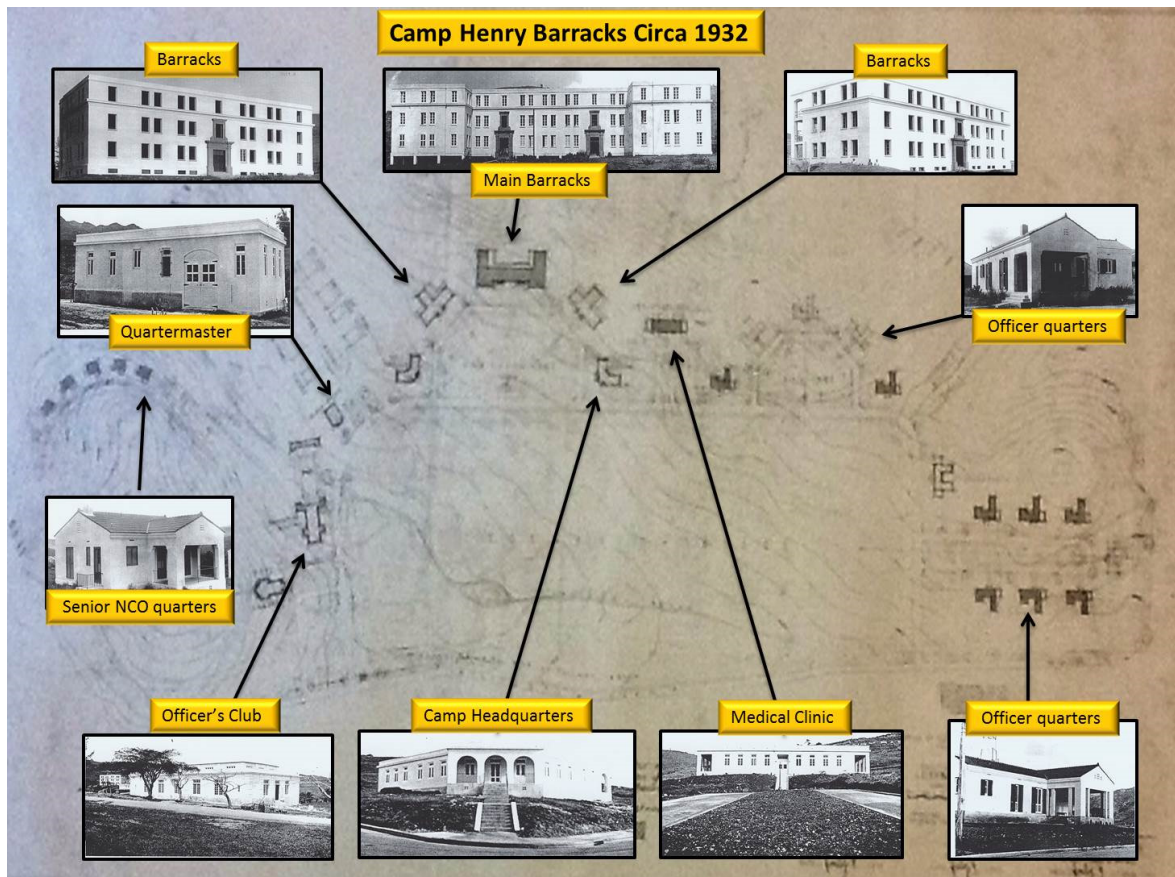
Shortly after arriving at Henry Barracks, Mr. Ford⁴⁷, a civil engineer working for the Quartermaster (his Job Title was Construction Quartermaster⁴⁸), was presented with several layouts. Mr. Ford was confronted with two problems: (1) the standard plans for construction of an Army Barracks could not be fit into the contour of the land to the east of the that had been previously purchased in 1919; and (2) the terrain was made of about eight inches of black soil and solid rock. Any excavation would have to be done through solid rock. A new layout was developed following the contour of the land, with an effort to keep the floors at approximately the same level⁴⁹.

⁴⁶ Proceedings of a Board of Officers to determine the estimated damage and the cost of repair or replacement as a result of hurricane of September 13th, 1928. NARA-A-4.Box 913-Porto Rico 9-18-1928.

⁴⁷ War Department Office of Chief Engineers, Construction Completion Reports NARA: NM-19-391, Box 121

⁴⁸ War Department Office of Chief Engineers, Construction Completion Reports NARA: NM-19-391, Box 121

⁴⁹ War Department Office of Chief Engineers, Construction Completion Reports NARA: NM-19-391, Box 121



Map 3: Map indicates the buildings constructed by 1932. The pictures indicate the location and the physical appearance of the structures.

Funds to construct a hospital were approved by the 70th Congress on March 3, 1929. The building was completed on May 9, 1931 at a final cost of \$35,000. The hospital served as facility for soldiers to be cared for near their battalion barracks. Therefore, dependents would not have to travel to Fort Brooke for treatment.

In addition to the quarters for officers and NCOs, on July 15, 1930 the construction of three barracks was begun. There were two one-company barracks (each accommodated one rifle company) and one two-company infantry barracks (which accommodated the battalion headquarters, and a

machine gun company)⁵⁰. The two-company barracks were completed on July 4, 1930. The two one-company barracks were completed on April 14, 1931.

By January 1932, the Constructing Quartermaster reported⁵¹ that twelve sets of company officers quarters, one set of field officer's quarters and six sets of non-commissioned officer's quarters had been completed. These buildings were constructed to house officers and non-commissioned officers for one battalion of the 65th Infantry. These new housing quarters substituted the temporary shacks, since the previous quarters were destroyed by the Hurricane of 1928.

Another set of construction included a post exchange building, a post headquarters building, a guardhouse and fire station, stable and hayshed, wagon shed, store house and maintenance building and a recreation hall⁵². Construction of these facilities were completed between March and September 1931. The recreation hall was completed on February 24, 1932⁵³.

On May 17, 1932, the construction of the installation's utilities was completed⁵⁴. The following utilities were constructed: roads, walks, an electric distribution system, a well, pumping stations, a reservoir, a water system, a bridge, a sewer system, a sewage disposal plant, and grading and drainage.

In a Memorandum dated October 28, 1933 from Gen. Douglas McArthur, Chief of Staff of the War Department, regarding the proposed disposition with the subject being "Disposition of Henry Barracks, Cayey, PR"⁵⁵, the guidance was as follows: "Relative to a transfer of Henry Barracks to Puerto Rico, the Commanding General, 2nd Corps, states that Henry Barracks is required for military purposes, and therefore neither the proposed sale or transfer to the Puerto Rican Government can be favorably

⁵⁰ There were two contracts issued for the construction of the Barracks W-6578qm-2, and W-6578qm-58. Each building would be three story type with a built up roof. Each company had its own kitchen and mess-hall. They had a basement under the kitchen to serve as an armory and supply. The building were based on QMG Plans # 621-727 and 621-720. NARA NM-19-Box 122

⁵¹ War Department Office of Chief Engineers. Construction Completion Reports 1917-1944. NARA NM-19-391, Box 122

⁵² Completion Report April 22, 1932. NARA-QM 600.92 C-NE (Henry Bks P.R.).

⁵³ These buildings were constructed through and appropriation for F.Y. Army Appropriation Act, Public Law NO. 278, 71st Congress approved May 28, 1930.

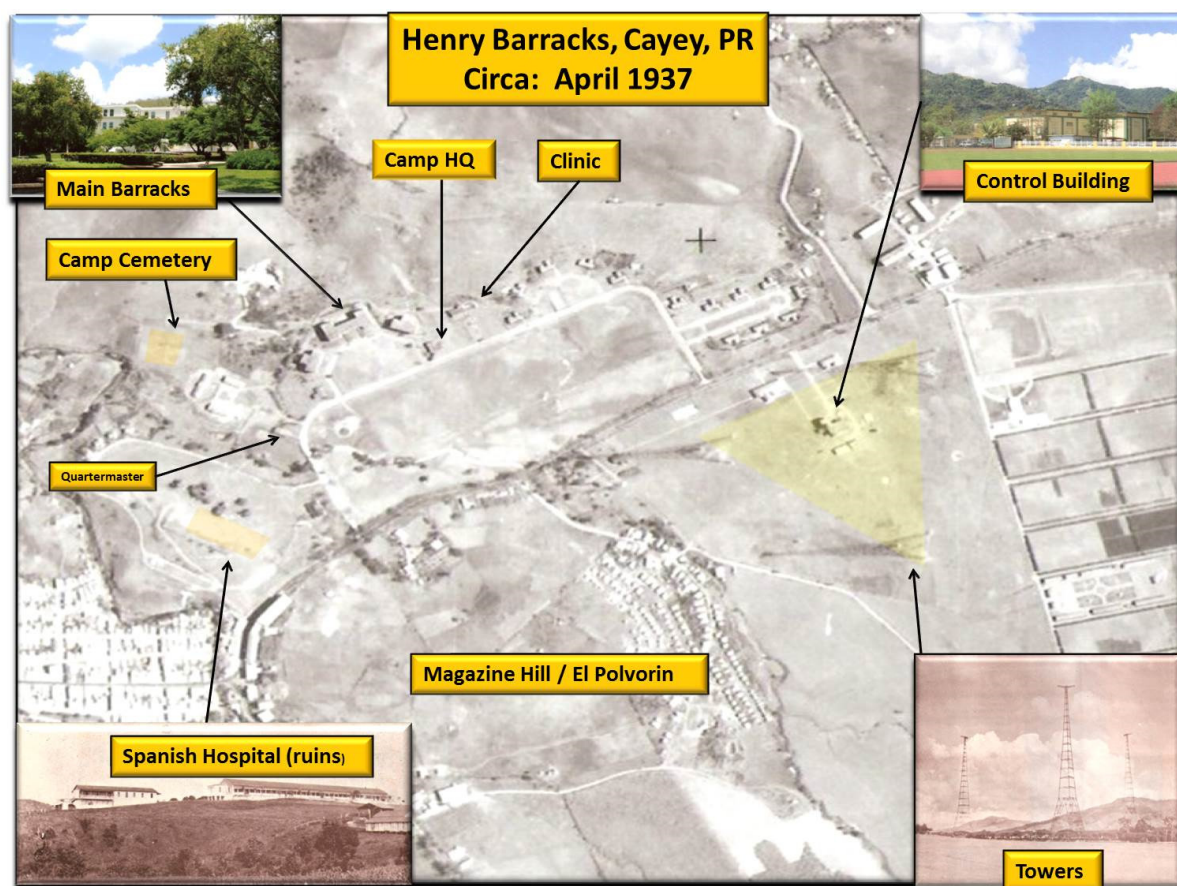
⁵⁴ Completion Report for Installations at Henry Barracks, Puerto Rico. NARA QM 600.92 C-NE (Henry Bks PR), May 17, 1932

⁵⁵ Memorandum to the Chief of Staff (October 28, 1933). Disposition of Henry Barracks, Cayey, P.R. NARA- A.G. 602 Henry Bks (9-26-33)

considered by the War Department. The costs for improvements in Henry Barracks were in excess for \$620,000⁵⁶.

7.0 Henry Barracks declared a separate Post in 1939

Henry Barracks continued to be a sub-post of Fort Brooke until 1939 when Henry Barracks was declared a separate post in 1939⁵⁷. By this point Henry Barracks was comprised of 264.54 acres in order to provide access to land where an infantry cadre could be trained in combat tactics.



Aerial Photograph 1: Aerial Photograph shows a composite of the ruins of the Spanish Hospital on the Southwest side, Henry Barracks on the north side hills (including the three main barracks, HQ building, the Hospital the maintenance building, and parade ground. The Naval station towers appear in yellow, as well as the control Room see picture, and magazine hill are included in the South part of the camp.

⁵⁶ Letter from Brig Gen Guiney to the Quartermaster General re: cost of Henry Barracks. Nov 22, 1933. NARA-602-Puerto Rico-25796-13.

⁵⁷ General order No. 19 dated December 2, 1939, from the Headquarters of the Puerto Rican Department reads as follow: "Pursuant to authority contained in list endorsement, War Department, The Adjutant General's Office AG 323.341 (9-30-39) M (Ret)-C, October 30, 1939, the post of Henry Barracks, Cayey, Puerto Rico is designated as a separate post". (NARA).

The aerial photograph shows Henry Barracks in 1937. We have highlighted for the reader several areas of interest such as the Spanish Hospital, Motor Pool, Cemetery, the three main barracks in the north part of the Post, the Headquarters building, and the clinic (where many children were born). The southeastern part of the Post includes the three High Frequency towers (in yellow) constructed sometime after the 1920's, and the control facility (large building by the track). Notice that the town of Cayey is still quite small and that the Magazine Hill ("Polvorin") had not been developed. At the top, there is a small plot of cultivated land with two trees.

This 1937 aerial photograph does not show any military structure at the top of *Polvorin* , which leads to the conjecture that the ammunition dump on top of "El Polvorin". (NOTE: This previous sentence is not clear. Please rewrite.) There is a structure in the west side that may have been a magazine. The structure does not fit any image of a magazine constructed by the Spanish Army, and therefore may have been constructed for other purposes.

By 1940 Henry Barracks had been developed into a complete military facility which included housing for the Second and Third Battalions of the 65th Infantry Regiment and was comprised of approximately 190 structures and a 1,000-yard rifle range, ammunition storage, waste water treatment, vehicle maintenance, sanitary landfill, various other miscellaneous support facilities, housing and improvements such as roads and utility systems⁵⁸. It also housed a reorganized Second Battalion of the 25th Field Artillery, and a company of the Second Battalion of the 107th Quartermaster. The facility had crossed Route 1 and went well into the Cayey mountain range where the "Pepe Hoyo" neighborhood has been developed today⁵⁹.

⁵⁸ Army Corps of Engineering. (2008). *FUDS Property Name: Henry Barracks Military Reservation (Property Number 102PR0979)*. *County: Cayey City: Cayey Region: Puerto Rico*. *Property Description*. (Accessed from Internet on 7 July 2014)

⁵⁹ An area of 1.94 acres was purchased in Barrio Montellano (now Pepe Hoyo) for water supply. It was about 1.4 miles from the Post up in the mountain range (now past Route 52).

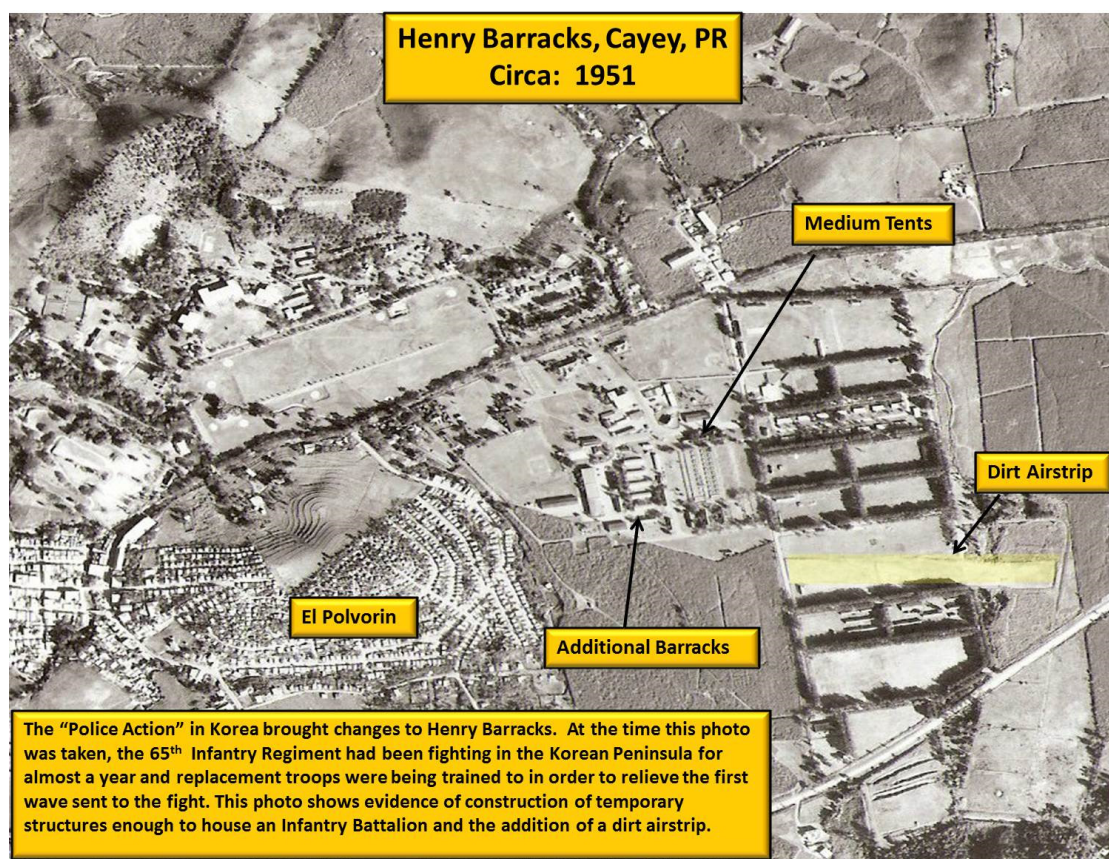
In the South side, the FHA constructed its first housing project in Puerto Rico. At the time, it housed families of soldiers from the “continental” (non-Puerto Ricans from the U.S. mainland) outfits. The housing units have since been refurbished and are currently used as housing for UPR-Cayey students.

On March 7, 1944, the First and Second Battalions left for Europe. The Third Battalion left for Africa on 30 April 1944. The three battalions were dispersed throughout Europe serving in various capacities. In March 1945, the three battalions of the 65th were reunited and crossed the Rhine remaining in Germany as part of the Army of Occupation until October 1945. The Regiment was attached to the 7th Army under the command of General George S. Patton in Europe where it participated in the charge up the Maritime Alps in Italy. The regiment returned to Henry Barracks on November 9, 1945. (NOTE: I think this paragraph needs to be rewritten. Only the 3rd Battalion was sent to the Maritime Alps in the Franco-Italian border to defend the Sixth Army Group’s right flank. I am forwarding to you an article about the 65th’s role during World War II written by Col. Gilberto Villahermosa which will help clarify this.)

By 1950, Henry Barracks is preparing for war. There is one important addition: an airport strong enough to support the landing of C-45 & C-47 airplanes. In the aerial photograph, an aviation company can be seen in the plot of land south of the airport. These buildings that served as housing and as a control tower for the airport in the southeastern part of the Post have been remodeled and are used today as a pre-school for the children of employees from the UPR-Cayey, as well as a model school.

To the east of this structure there are now four new wooden structures to accommodate one Company each, in addition to 30 squad tents. While the new military road goes through the firing range, the area where Fullana was built and the area to the east where Reparto Montellano was constructed still provided a 1,000 foot firing range.

On August 20, 1950, the 65th Infantry was deployed to Korea. By 1951, the First Battalion of the 296th Infantry Regiment, a National Guard unit, was activated and assigned to Henry Barracks⁶⁰. The units assigned to Henry Barracks were Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Company A, Company B, Company C, and Company D which had its own motor pool. The companies and all ancillary resources were located in the southern part of Henry Barracks on the grounds recently vacated by the U.S. Navy. To accommodate more than 1,000 of these troops four temporary barracks were constructed and 30 pyramid squad tents. Aerial Map 2 below presents the 296th encampment area.

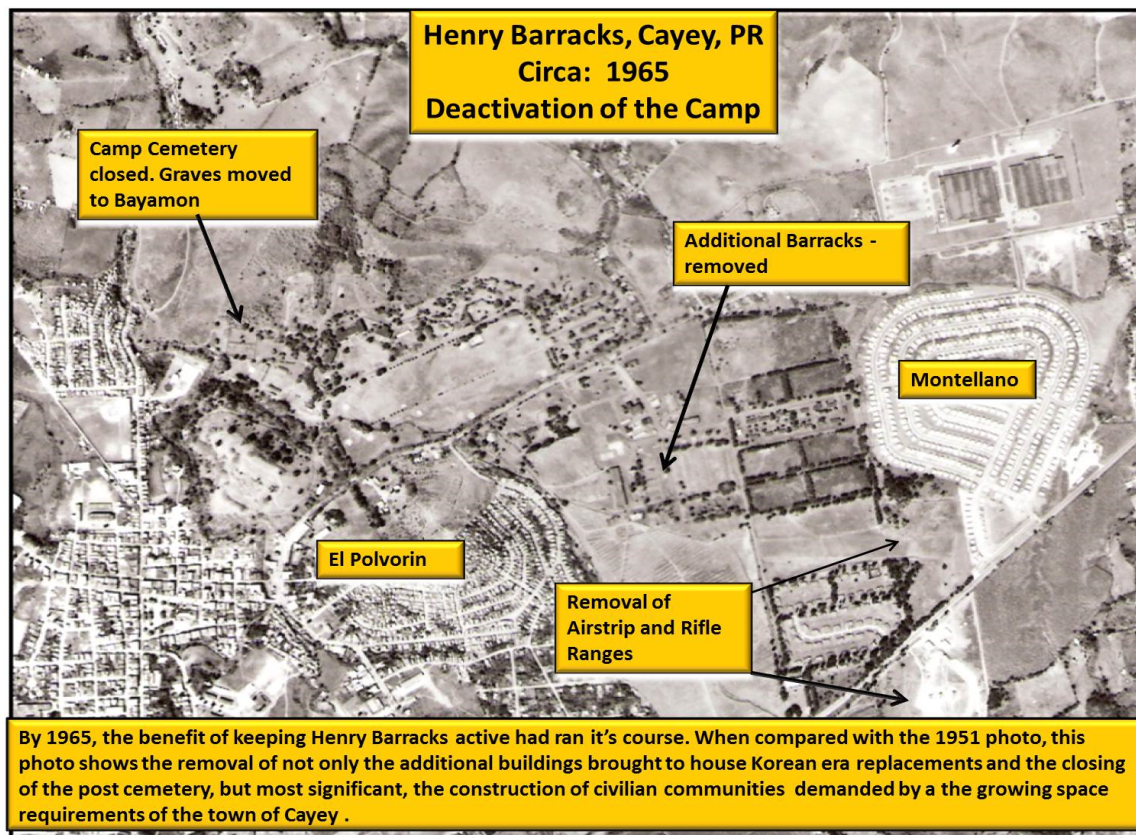


Aerial Photograph 2: The aerial photograph shows the build up in Henry Barracks as a complete location to prepare troops to go to war. The insertions indicate the development of a landing strip and temporary barracks for the 296th Inf personnel.

By 1955, the decision was made to de-activate Henry Barracks. It was passed from the control of the Army Corps of Engineers to the General Services Administration to dispose of the

⁶⁰ Units at Henry Barracks 1939-1962. NARA: 887540

lands. The Puerto Rican National Guard Armory and the San Juan Geophysical Observatory are currently located on the site. The airfield has been closed. At *Reperto Montellano*, five single family homes have been constructed. At *Fullana*, another single-family size private enterprise has been constructed. The temporary building in front of the Commissary (currently the Office of the Superintendent of Schools) has been destroyed.



Aerial Photo 3: The Post was transitioned to GSA for disposal of the property. The map shows the dismantling of the military machine into a space of land ready for civilian use.

8.0 Deactivation of Henry Barracks

While the University of Puerto Rico-Cayey began operation in the northern part of the former Post in 1967, there were several activities of significance in the acreage comprising Henry

Barracks⁶¹, ⁶². These activities were as follows: (1) The National Guard began an Officer Training School in 1965 and 1966⁶³; (2) YMCA, *Cuerpos de Paz* (Peace Corps), and *Voluntarios En Servicio a Puerto Rico en Accion* (VESPRA) (1965-1968) used the headquarters building, the swimming pool, the former golf course and three houses in the area formerly housing the mayor and other families⁶⁴; and (3) The Encampment for Citizenship 1966. The 5th Encampment for Citizenship took place in 1966 in the double barracks, currently identified as the Miguel Melendez Munoz Building.⁶⁵; and (4) The Foundation for Community Development⁶⁶

9.0 Summary and Conclusion

This paper has presented the evolution of a place called Henry Barracks, Cayey from its origins under Spanish rule and the outpost in Cayey, to the occupation of the only segregated Spanish-speaking regiment of the United States Army. As we conduct an analysis of the place over a period of approximately 100 years, there are visible signs of the people that once lived in that piece of land.

It provides a historical overview of the role of the Henry Barracks Military Reservation in the development of the town of Cayey, Puerto Rico from 1898 to 1967. The paper clarifies at least two popular myths: (1) In the first place there are no caves that join the small structure in Magazine Hill and

⁶¹ The University of Puerto Rico-Cayey was inaugurated By Lic Jaime Benitez, President of the University system on August 20, 1917. Periodico El Mundo. Coleccion Fotografica. Universidad de Puerto Rico, Ri Piedras.

⁶² The University of Puerto Rico finally took control of 150 acres of land in the north side of Henry Barracks. Comprising 190 permanent structures. Periodico El Mundo (Junio 5, 1969). Benitez firma escrituras. Periodico El Mundo. Proyecto de Digilitazion, Universidad de Puerto Rico 5 de junio de 1969.

⁶³ It was later moved to Camp Santiago in Salinas. The golf course was used as a helicopter landing strip.

⁶⁴ VESPRA moved to the first FHA project in Puerto Rico in the Eastern part of the Post. The sector currently known as VESPRA housing is used for student and faculty lodging by the University.

⁶⁵ The six-week encampment brought together one hundred and one (101) young leaders from 56 countries from all over the world to develop self-government and to perform community development projects. During the six week project, one week was dedicated to a community activity. The one-week community project followed with one day of discussions, created a climate where the participants became involved with their own home communities in New York, Connecticut, Montana, Puerto Rico, France, India, Kenya, Peru, and Guatemala

⁶⁶ Moved to the VESPRA housing is located in the southeastern part of the Post until 1972. Thousands of people received training in community development, and leadership during those years.

the Spanish Barracks; and (2) secondly, as the towers were dismantled they were inventoried and codified for use in Isla Grande and Puerta de Tierra (Stop 7 ½).

A potential result of this narrative is that it may serve as catalytic agent to re-ignite emotional and spiritual bonds to Henry Barracks in the pre-1967 residents of Cayey. Some recommendations include: (1) naming Henry Barracks as a historical landmark to acknowledge what happened there and to recognize the Spanish, Puerto Rican and American soldiers that interfaced on this land; (2) creating a historical exhibit by taking photos of people from the pre-1968 Cayey—the sons and daughters of former soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment, and exhibiting the narratives with the photos (new and from old albums); (3) conducting experiential activities that would educate people about the past struggles, dependence and survival of the Henry Barracks community – with an emphasis on Cayey as the center focus in the development of the Central Mountain Region and the important presence of the U.S. Government at Henry Barracks military reservation which served as an economic boost and cultural vehicle for change; and finally (4) developing an awareness of this place which would provide an opportunity to explore it and would help describe the cultural, historical, and spatial context within which meanings, values, and social interactions were formed.