Atterbury Presents Typical Picture Of Big Camp Approaching Death Bed

Vast Military Plant is Slowly Closing Up
Shop.

BY ROBERT J. MARSHALL.
Camp Atterbury today presents the typical picture of a big Army camp approaching its death bed, gracefully, quietly. It is part of winding up a war.
The Hoosier Army installation hasn't gone down for the count yet, but its legs are wobbly.
Friday a group of representatives from nearby towns pushed their campaign to give the camp a new lease on life by holding a meeting with Indiana's U. S. senators and then touring the camp.
Atterbury apparently now has until Dec. 31—after that date its doctors can give it only a slim chance, although the camp is slated for at least part-time use by National Guard units.
From a distance the camp looks the same. Row after row of white buildings, sprawled over the landscape with broad expanses of green-covered earth between.
But closer inspection shows big blocks of the barracks
standing
unoccupied. Windows have vacant expressions and here and there a screen dangles loose from a casing. Row after row of buildings are weirdly silent. What a difference from the time they boiled with men, shouts rang up and down company streets, gun butts banged barracks' steps and sergeants barked, orders to fall in.
Atterbury still gets good care. But an officer points out a few spots are bad because it is not now advisable to spend much money on their maintenance.
The tour group, sponsored by the inter-city committee heading the "Keep Atterbury" campaign, rode over Atterbury's smooth, hard-surfaced streets and viewed points of major interest. The bakery still turns out bread, but at a fraction of its peak. The laundry is at work—on only one shift, compared to three when the camp was full of men.
Temporary one-story buildings in the extreme west part of the cantonment area have been sold and are being torn down. An officer reports buildings in the former prisoner of war stockade also have been sold.
Buildings Unfinished.
Partly-finished buildings in the south end of the camp, which were under construction for the former Convalescent hospital, during the last days of the war are standing just as they were when work was suddenly halted following V-J day. Some may be sold for the materials they contain. The Reception center is in operation, processing new soldiers, but it, too, is well below peak.
At Wakeman hospital it is a different story. Here are 2,000 patients. Many are bad cases.

1946-08-10 Atterbury - Big Camp approaching death bed

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