

Camp Crane History

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# CAMP CRANE HAS PASSED INTO HISTORY

Colors Lowered at Noon And  
Grounds Returned to Agri-  
cultural Society.

## COLONEL SLEE'S LETTER

Government. Officers and Men Spent  
Five Million Dollars Here Since  
May 1917.

4/10/19  
Camp Crane passed into history at noon to-day. Promptly at 12 o'clock the colors were lowered and the grounds automatically returned to the Lehigh County Agricultural Society.

Lieut. Col. Richard Slee, who has been the commanding officer at Camp Crane since the departure of Lieut. Col. Howard McSnyder, yesterday forwarded a letter to Mayor A. L. Reichenbach at Atlantic City, thanking him and the City of Allentown for the innumerable kindnesses shown to the officers and men who were trained at the Fair Grounds. A copy of this letter follows:

Hon. A. L. Reichenbach,  
Atlantic City, New Jersey.

My Dear Mayor Reichenbach:—On Thursday, April 10th, 1919, 12 A. M., noon, the colors will be lowered at Camp Crane, and the grounds turned back to the owners, The Lehigh County Agricultural Society. Camp Crane then will cease to be a Government institution, and will shortly become but a memory.

Through various circumstances it has been my lot to help open Camp Crane—to be on continuous duty throughout its entire history, and to close same.

I am therefore familiar with all that has transpired in connection with Camp Crane and its association with the City of Allentown. I am sure that the selection of the Fair Grounds by Colonel Persons as a site for the U. S. Army Ambulance Service has been of material benefit to the City of Allentown. It has made its name and location known practically throughout the world. The material gain in the expenditure of about \$5,000,000, estimated on the part of the Government, its various agencies and the officers and men stationed here, must be reckoned. The Fair Association has been paid practically \$100,000 in rental and damages.

But, it is not of these material results I write, but rather in connection with the innumerable and continuous kindnesses shown to our officers and men by the Citizens of Allentown, and the many and lasting friendships which have been made, friendships that will last through life.

My duties preclude my visiting the many friends who have contributed to the pleasure of our stay in Allentown, who helped to pass pleasantly and profitably the many weary hours which our men spent while awaiting orders, but on behalf of all of these officers and men, I take this means of publicly acknowledging the indebtedness of Camp Crane to the Citizens of Allentown, and to thank them

heartily for all that they have done, and I am certain that the other commanders, Colonels Persons and Snyder, would join with me in this expression of thanks.

Cordially yours,  
RICHARD SLEE,  
Lt. Col. Medical Corps, U. S. Army,  
Commanding Camp Crane.