

damp, rat-infested habitations that were little better than hovels. The situation finally became so bad that the New York newspapers took up the cudgels on behalf of the residents and forced remedial action that was as immediate as it was imperative.

The first result of the new building program was the completion in 1930 of the massive barracks building designed by the famous architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White. Liggett Hall, now known as Building 400, stretches completely across the northern end of the island extension and was the first Army structure of its kind to completely contain an entire regiment with squad rooms, day rooms, offices, kitchens, mess halls, and all the other necessary facilities. A contemporary rumor had it that Ely placed Building 400 in its present location in order to forestall certain commercial aviation interests who were lobbying for the government to lease the island for a municipal airport, but the doughty general never publicly commented upon this.

Concurrently, various thoroughfares and premises on the island received their present official names memorializing men and actions connected with the Island's history. Among these are Andes, Carder, Clayton, Comfort, Craig, and Evans Roads,

and King and Wheeler Avenues, named in memory of officers of the 1st Division who were killed in action in France. Of special interest are Enright, Gresham, and Hay roads honoring Corporal Gresham and Privates Enright and Hay of F Company, 16th Infantry, who were the first American casualties of World War I, losing their lives simultaneously in a trench raid by the Germans near Barthemont, France, on the night of Nov. 3, 1917.

The San Juan and Soissons Docks are similarly named after important victories of the 13th and 16th Infantry in the Spanish-American and World Wars; Sergeant Diehl and Corporal Van Horne of the 16th planted the first U.S. flag on the crest of San Juan. Barry Road is named for Major General Thomas H. Barry who commanded on the island in 1912, 1913, 1914,

and 1919.

Caught up in the whirl of all this activity, an arboreal enthusiast on the staff was inspired to attach name tags to the trees in the residential areas of the island, so that they might be identified by those interested in forestry. The serious intent of this pleasant little scheme fell somewhat short of success when a careless sign painter permitted the island's handsomest trees to break out in a rash of labels reading "Popular."

Within the next four years a new hospital, Headquarters Building, school, Y.M.C.A., and non-commissioned officers' apartments were erected—the foundations of those built on the extension being placed on piles sunk in harbor bedrock because of the porous condition of the made ground—and the quadrangle quarters and the Admiral's House were completely renovated. At the same time the latter also received a new commanding general in the person of Major General Dennis E. Nolan who had been Pershing's Chief of Intelligence. He administered the command from 1931 to 1936, when he was relieved by Major General Frank R. McCoy who had an infantry brigade overseas with the 32d Division.

In 1937, under General McCoy's direction, Governors Island fittingly observed its tercentenary with a daily schedule of special events during the week of June 13-20. All the units on the island held open house and gave public exhibits and demonstrations of their duties and abilities, in addition to which there were special parades and reviews, a historical pageant, polo matches, band concerts, and appropriate religious services.

In 1938 Second Corps Area Headquarters received the general who would command it through the troubled times immediately ahead and the dark days of our entry into World War II—Major (later Lieutenant) General Hugh A. Drum.

The outstanding record of this brilliant officer began with his original direct commission as second lieutenant by special Act of Congress to mark the heroic death of the young man's father, Captain Drum, on the slopes of San Juan. He had risen to an infantry majority when he went to France on Pershing's staff

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