

as much as 25 miles away in a New York or New Jersey suburb and commuting to the island daily. (Another island structure was completed in 1949, but has no connection with the garrison. This is the octagonal tower of white masonry at the island's northeast tip, which provides ventilation for the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel)

General Hodges completed his span of active duty in 1949 and was followed by Lieutenant General Walter Bedell ("Beetle") Smith, ex-Chief of Staff to General Eisenhower and ex-ambassador to Russia. But the mills of the military gods grind fast and as 1950 waned, General Smith left to head the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington with Lieutenant General Willis D. Cristenberger from the United Nations Military Staff as his successor.

Literally holding the fort during these sudden and rapid shifts of command, Major General Roscoe B. Woodruff, as Deputy Army Commander, exercised the benign influence of a steel hand in the velvet glove.

And so Governors Island entered into its

fourth century of existence. Directly or indirectly, it has contributed to every war in our nation's life and to every peace which those wars have made increasingly worth living. Its soldiers have worn every uniform in our Army's catalog from the homespun hunting shirt breeches, and leggings of the Colonial riflemen clear around the cycle back to the wool shirt, breeches, and combat boots of today's G.I. It has watched many of our greatest generals pass through its high command echelons. The Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Ordnance, Medical Service, Transportation Corps, Corps of Military Police, and Quartermaster Corps have contributed troops to its station complements—not forgetting the feminine touch offered by the 1203d WAC Detachment which arrived in July 1946.

Year by year it has noted and kept pace with the science of arms to which it is dedicated — in the 1950s a helicopter landed for the first time on that same polo field from which all planes were once forbidden, as the latest addition to the First Army's Air Section.