



Friday, January 4, 2002 A.D.

Annadorf, Part 2

A German Town In The San Gabriels

Part 2 of 3

Training Lasted One-Week

Desert Vegetation

The facility trained a company of men for one week per training. And, weather permitting, this schedule was followed. The trainees were bivouacked about a quarter mile southeast of the village. They ate field rations and slept in tents. To comprehend the site fully one should know the elevation was in excess of 5,280 feet above sea level. Less than one mile away was Big John Peak, recorded to be 6,033 feet above sea level.

The vegetation was an upper sonora combination of Joshua Tree, Pinon Pines, Canyon Live Oak and some Ponderosa Pine Clumps of Manzanita, White Thorn and Juniper added to the variety. Access to the site was a narrow truck trail, unsurfaced and showing the increased military traffic. So to capsule the conditions on hand as winter came on, you could say the facility was high, remote with limited access.

All Was Not Calm!

As 1943 ended and 1944 began, the facility



Pat Krig Collection
Annadorf Buinesses. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection
Annadorf Construction Crew. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10021gt.tif
 Another Building Going Up In Annadorf.
 (1944 ca)

experienced minor storms, cold west winds and freezing temperatures. Not enough to shut it down, but things were beginning to approximate European conditions. Then came the “Grand Daddy” of snow storms.

Ten-Feet Of Snow In Wrightwood

It began on February 25, 1944. When it stopped,



Pat Krig Collection m10039gt.tif
 Some Of The Annadorf Construction Crew In
 The Winter. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10018gt.tif
 Army Engineers Building The Annadorf Town
 Hall. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10037gt.tif
 Army Engineers Admire Their Work. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10006gt.tif
 Annadorf Town Hall. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10036gt.tif
Painting Town Hall. (1944 ca)



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Annadorf Town Hall. (1944 ca)

Wrightwood recorded in excess of 10 feet! With Big Pines, an excess of 12 feet! Though no record can be found of the estimated depth of the snow pack at Big John Flat, it had to be in the range of six to seven feet. To compound the access problem, an avalanche roared down



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Annadorf Town Hall. (1944 ca)

Mescal Creek and destroyed the wooden trestle bridge spanning the gorge. Thus future routing of men and supplies would come through Valyermo.

Sgt. Walter Whitney remembers the snow storm story going around at Camp Santa Anita, "Major Shellcross put together a rescue operation" but as Walter recalled, "it took some time before the training facility was back in operation." "Word was that they ran short of rations and went deer hunting with a machine gun," Whitney recalled, "Instant deer burgers" he chuckled. Deer were numerous in the area as Whitney remembers, "They were always around the camp" as he noted.



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Beer Hall Fabrication. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10018gt.tif
Annadorf Beer Hall. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10043gt.tif
Annadorf Beer Hall. (1944 ca)



Pat Krig Collection m10045gt.tif
Inside The Beer Hall. (1944 ca)

Part 3 Next Month

"George"



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