ANIMAL EMBARKATION DEPOT NO. 301
Between 30th and 34th Streets near downtown piers
On August 4, 1917, this depot had the capacity of 900 men, 10,000 animals and a veterinary hospital for 1,500 animals. A total of 5,744 animals were handled at this depot, and it was recorded that “when running at capacity, it required 900,000 lbs. of bran, 4,500,000 lbs. of oats and 9,000,000 lbs. of hay per month for feeding purposes.”

CAMP HILL
Warwick Blvd. and 64th St.
In July 1917, construction began for Camp Hill, named in honor of Confederate Lieutenant General A.P. Hill. In addition to serving as base to the Motor Truck Corps, Camp Hill also processed 67,887 men for overseas and 10,000 animals. This required 900 men to staff the large veterinary hospital and livestock pen. A total of 58,178 animals were handled by this camp.

CAMP ALEXANDER
Jefferson Ave. and Hilton Blvd.
Earlier known as “The Stevedore Cantonment and the Labor Encampments,” Camp Alexander was named in honor of Lieutenant John H. Alexander, one of the first African American graduates of West Point. The African-American personnel of the Stevedore Regiments formed 30 labor battalions totaling approximately 50,000 men sent overseas and three organized battalions that stayed for permanent duty.

CAMP STUART
20th St. and Marshall Ave.
Construction of Camp Stuart, named for Confederate Lieutenant General J.E.B. Stuart, commenced in July 1917 and included 481 buildings. It was located between the Small Boat Harbor and Salter’s Creek and was America’s largest troop clearinghouse during the war, with 3,071 officers and 111,475 enlisted men passing through its gates en route to Europe.

NEWPORT NEWS EMBARKATION PIERS
East of 23rd St. between the old C & O Depot and coal piers
Here the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad reached its deep water port. Between 1917-1919 the extensive freight and passenger facilities were used by the War Department for the rapid embarkation and return of men, animals and material from across the nation.

VICTORY ARCH
25th St. and West Ave.
On November 11, 1918 the war ended and Newport News’ embarkation camps were converted into receiving facilities. A Welcome Home Committee was established, and funds for a wood and plaster arch of triumph were collected through public subscription and built by volunteer labor. The words “Greetings with love to those who return, a triumph with tears to those who sleep” were penned by shipyard attorney Robert G. Bickford. Dedicated on April 13, 1919 (and reconstructed in 1962), over 441,000 doughboys found their way back home through Newport News.

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING & DRYDOCK COMPANY
4101 Washington Ave.
The Wicker-class destroyers built between 1917-19, along with the preceding Caldwell-class and Clemson-class destroyers, formed the “flush-deck” or “four-stack” type for the U.S. Navy. The shipyard constructed 30 Wicker-class and 25 Clemson-class destroyers, and today continues building ships for the U.S. Navy. It is the largest industrial employer in Virginia, is the sole builder of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and teams with General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, CT, to build nuclear-powered submarines.

B. Huntington Park
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS
300 Washington Blvd., Ft. Eustis
Camp Eustis, named after War of 1812 veteran Brigadier General Abraham Eustis and founder of Fort Monroe’s Artillery School of Practice, was created in March 1918. Although 20,000 soldiers were shipped overseas from this camp, its primary purpose was to house several schools. Used as a coast artillery training camp and artillery range, it also hosted transport, trench mortar and anti-aircraft artillery units. Of the various camps and depots established in present-day Newport News during WWII, Camp Eustis (known as Fort Eustis after 1923 and now known as Joint Base Langley-Eustis) is the only military installation which has survived. It is now home to the U.S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command and the U.S. Army Transportation Museum.

NEWPORT NEWS SHIPYARD & DRYDOCK COMPANY
1,442 students and provided specialized training for Army Air Service Officers on how to direct heavy artillery fire on the battlefield from observation balloons.

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LEE HALL DEPOT
Corner of Emmittst St. and Warwick Blvd.
With a wye turnaround at Camp Eustis, Lee Hall Depot served as the camp’s rail connection to the C & O Railway’s artery down the Virginia Peninsula. In addition, thousands of soldiers and civilians passed through en route to other embarkation camps, and downtown Newport News. To handle the increase of freight and ridership, a new passenger waiting room was built during the war.

LEE HALL ARMY BALLOON SCHOOL
Lee Hall District
Constructed at the cost of $1.5 million, this school had the capacity for 1,424 students and provided specialized training for Army Air Service Officers on how to direct heavy artillery fire on the battlefield from observation balloons.

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NEWPORT NEWS PORT OF EMBARKATION IN WORLD WAR I GUIDE

Lee Hall District
Constructed at the cost of $1.5 million, this school had the capacity for 1,424 students and provided specialized training for Army Air Service Officers on how to direct heavy artillery fire on the battlefield from observation balloons.
When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, it selected New York City as its Port of Embarkation, sending a massive number of forces to Europe. It was soon realized by chief of staff Quartermaster Gen. Henry G. Sharpe, “that the port of New York be designated for the transportation of troops and general supplies, and that Newport News be used principally for the shipment of animals, forage and heavy ordnance.”

Newport News was a natural choice as a port of embarkation due to its protected deep-water port, excellent rail connections through the C & O Railway, and its location in the middle of the Eastern Seaboard, which gave it a direct route to Europe.

During WWI more than 250,000 soldiers left Newport News for Europe, along with four million tons of supplies, and close to 500,000 horses and mules.

To handle the massive influx of men, animals and supplies, the City of Newport News was transformed through the building of:

- five Army posts and multiple depots
- an Army Balloon School and the Curtiss Flying School
- 35 Wickes-class and Clemson-class destroyers
- the country’s first federally funded housing project, Hilton Village
- the Victory Arch, a memorial for our returning soldiers.

By the war’s end, over 700,000 troops had passed through Newport News and over 9,000 acres of real estate, or roughly 20 percent of the present-day city, had been utilized by the Army during the 19 months the U.S. was involved in the war. By 1919 the economic impact of the war to Newport News was in excess of $35 million which equates to over $1 billion today.

Newport News World War I Sites and Related Attractions

A. Downtown / Newport News Point
1. BRITISH REMOUNT STATION
   Between 30th and 34th Streets near downtown piers
2. CURTISS FLYING SCHOOL
   30 Jefferson Ave. at Newport News Point
3. CAMP STUART
   20th St. and Marshall Ave.
4. NEWPORT NEWS EMBARKATION PIERS
   East of 23rd St. between the old C & O Depot and coal piers
5. VICTORY ARCH
   25th St. and West Ave.
6. NEWPORT NEWS SHIPBUILDING & DRYDOCK COMPANY
   4101 Washington Ave.

B. Huntington Park
7. ANIMAL EMBARKATION DEPOT NO. 301
   Between 30th and 34th Streets
8. CAMP HILL
   Warwick Blvd. and 64th St.
9. CAMP ALEXANDER
   Jefferson Ave. and Hilton Blvd.
10. VIRGINIA WAR MUSEUM
    9285 Warwick Blvd.
11. HILTON VILLAGE
    Main St. and Warwick Blvd.
12. CAMP MORRISON
    Warwick Blvd. and James River Dr.

C. Lee Hall
13. JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS
    10500 Washington Blvd. Ft. Eustis
14. US ARMY TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
    300 Washington Blvd., Bessell Hall (757) 878-1115
15. BOXWOOD INN
    10 Elmhurst St. (757) 878-4854
16. LEE HALL DEPOT
    Corner of Elmhurst St. and Warwick Blvd
17. LEE HALL ARMY BALLOON SCHOOL
    Lee Hall District

Modern Boundaries of the City of Newport News
A. Downtown / Newport News Point
B. Huntington Park
C. Lee Hall

Travel counselors are here to help with directions, up-to-date information on special events, museum exhibits, and much more. You’ll also find a wide variety of souvenirs - from teddy bears and mugs, to Virginia is for Lovers® merchandise, and discount coupons.