



## FACT SHEET

### *Camp Bowie & WWI*

Fort Worth's military ties run deep. Most Fort Worthians are familiar with **Camp Bowie** and know it as a military training camp in World War I. It was named after the famed hero of the Alamo, James Bowie.

During World War I, Camp Bowie Blvd. became a training camp for the 36th Division soldiers and specialists. Construction of Camp Bowie began July 18, 1917. Maj. Gen. Edwin St. John Greble acted as camp commander. The camp in the Arlington Heights neighborhood encompassed about 2,186 acres.

Camp Bowie Blvd., originally called Arlington Heights Blvd., was the main roadway through the camp. In the 1920s, the boulevard served as a streetcar line and a major transportation route to the West Texas oilfields. It was paved with its characteristic Texas Thurber bricks in 1928.

Although classified as a tent camp, it required much construction to accommodate a division of men, and officially opened Aug. 24, 1917. Fort Worth residents neighbored soldiers during this time.

The 36<sup>th</sup> "Arrowhead" Infantry Division, also known as the "Panther Division", "Lone Star Division", "The Texas Army", or the "T-patchers", is currently part of the [Texas Army National Guard](#). It was organized during [World War I](#) from units of the Texas and Oklahoma National Guard.

On April 11, 1918, the 36th went on parade in the city for the first time. The four-hour event drew crowds estimated at 225,000, making it perhaps the biggest parade in Fort Worth's history.

For about five months after the departure of the 36th for France in July 1918, the camp functioned as an infantry replacement and training facility. Shortly after the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918, Camp Bowie was designated a demobilization center.

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