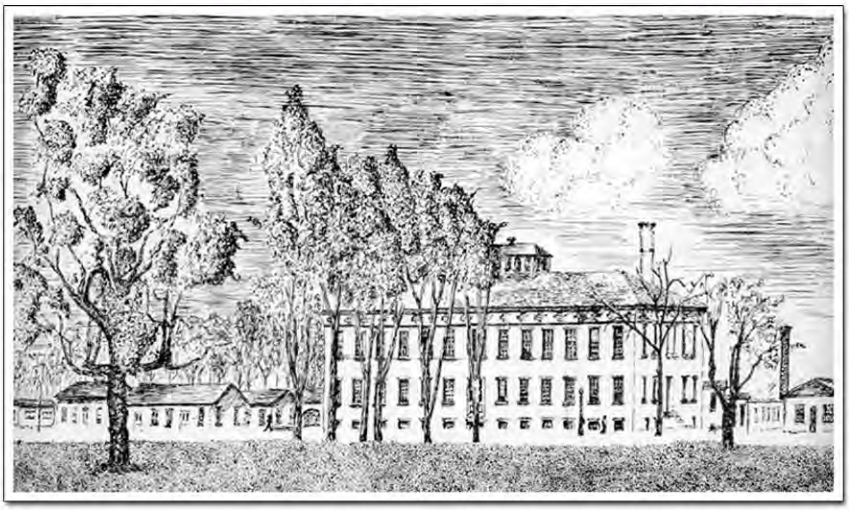
ARSENAL BUSINESS CENTER

Alfred Mordecai
Commander
Frankford Arsenal



History Of The Frankford Arsenal

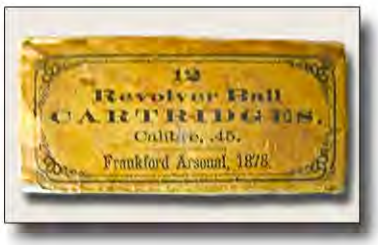
On February 8, 1815 the Congress of the United States passed an act which provided for the establishment of depots for munitions in various parts of the country. On May 27, 1816, The Federal Government acquired a tract of ground in the northeast section of Philadelphia consisting of 20 acres and 34 perches for $7,860.75. This was the beginning of the Frankford Arsenal.

The May 7, 1862 "Saturday Evening Post" reported that the Arsenal was completed in 1830, stating that it consisted of six stone building and two small workshops. Since that time the original tract was expanded by the acquisition of additional tract in 1837, 1849, 1917, 1943 and 1951. These tracts, plus the original tract, constitute the present area on which Frankford Arsenal now stands.

During the U.S. war with Mexico, the Arsenal was used as a general storage and distribution depot for ammunition, small arms, artillery and cavalry equipment. Shortly before the Civil War, the first power-driven machinery was introduced into Frankford Arsenal and the Arsenal was used for the manufacture of percussion caps, bullets, cartridges and other small arms ammunitions, as well as for the receiving, storing, inspecting and distributing of all kinds of supplies. The number of personnel at that time 1550; at the end of the Civil War that number dropped to 550.

In 1892, just prior to the Spanish American War, the first research work at the Arsenal was begun when Captain Pitman was assigned there to conduct research work in smokeless propellants. He was followed in 1894 by Captain Beverly Dunn who was instrumental in initiating research work in explosives.

During the Spanish American War, research and development work was conducted in the fields of small arms ammunition and fire control instruments as well as in artillery ammunition. For many years, the Frankford Arsenal remained an important production facility for artillery ammunition components, fire control instruments and small arms ammunition, producing small arms ammunition at the rate of millions of rounds per year.



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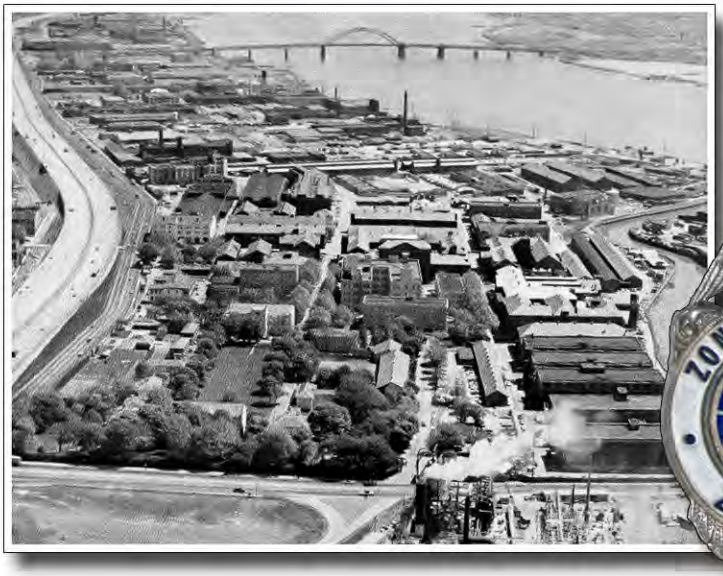

Women firing .50 caliber machine guns at Frankford Arsenal

Clip spring and body assembly
for .30 caliber cartridges

During World War I, the Arsenal produced millions of round of shrapnel and high explosive artillery ammunition, and it produced instruments and fuses and small arms ammunition at the rate of 251 million rounds per year. The arsenal also manufactured caliber .30 tracers, incendiary, and armor piercing ammunition for Army and Navy aircraft.

During World War II, greater emphasis was placed on caliber .50 ammunition. Experts at the Arsenal developed new types of ammunition, prepared drawings and specifications, set up quality standards, and conducted proof testing.

In addition, small arms ammunition inspectors were trained here and caliber .60 ammunition was developed, tested, and pilot lines were set up and operated. Approximately 1,386,000,000 rounds of service ammunition were produced from January 1942 through August 1945. Depot operations had been restricted to those in connection with supply of fire control instruments only.

test to determine the mechanical
properties of the metals

The Frankford Arsenal was heavily involved in research and development work in the commodity areas of fire control instruments and small arms ammunition and, to some extent, artillery ammunition shell and cartridge cases.

The small arms ammunition production increased to a rate of eight million rounds per day, or approximately 2,580,000,000 rounds per year. The demand for ammunition in a war of this magnitude was such that the production quantities possible within Frankford Arsenal were becoming insignificant. At the height of World War II, the personnel number reached 22,000. At the end of the Warm personnel was cut back to a proximately 6,850.

After World War II, the character of the Frankford Arsenal changed and emphasis was placed on research, development and engineering in its assigned mission areas. The manufacturing facilities remaining the Frankford Arsenal's limited production facilities were used to prove our "engineering and technical data package" before purchase. On occasion and on very limited quantity, the Arsenal would also undertake emergency or fill-in production until American industry could supply the needs.

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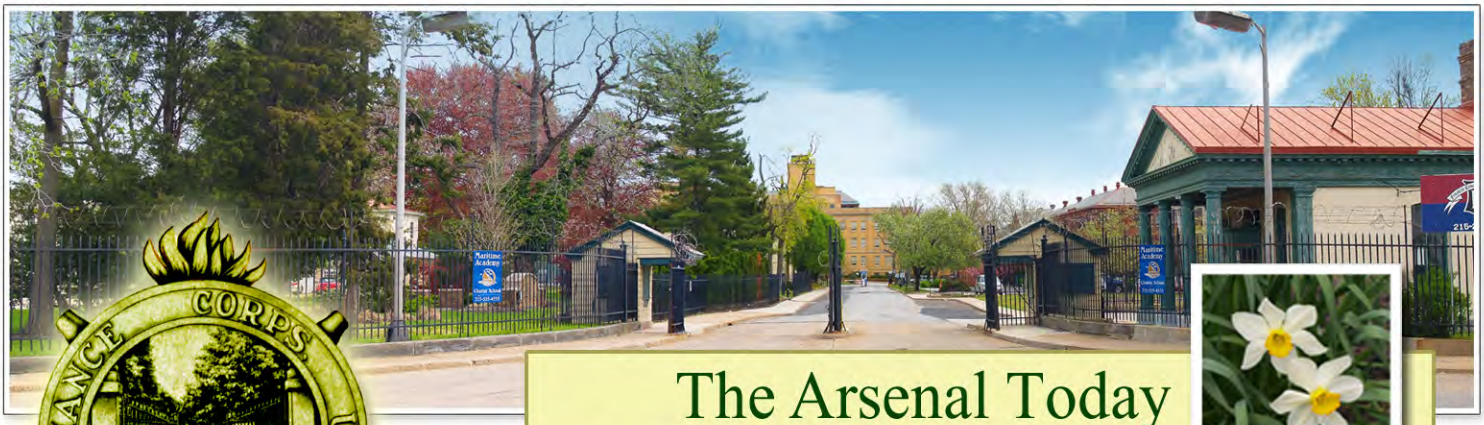
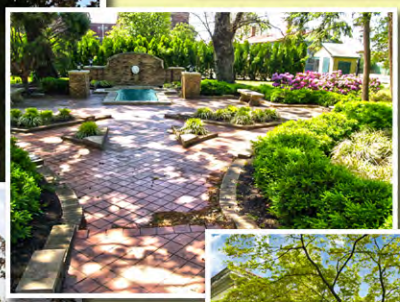


The Arsenal Today



The Army-wide reorganization of 1962 brought the Frankford Arsenal under the control of the U.S. Army Munitions Command, a part of the U.S. Army material complex. The Command jurisdiction of the Frankford Arsenal was formerly Office, Chief of Ordnance. Faced with a tremendous increase in the complexity of weaponry, Army Ordnance had planned to decentralize the direction of field operations from Washington to the field. Other commands under U.S. Army material Command were U.S. Army Weapons Command, U.S. Army Electronic Command, U.S. Army Missile command, U.S. Army Mobility Command, and U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command.

In support of the conflict in Southeast Asia, as it had in other wars, The Frankford arsenal played an important role in the small caliber ammunition build-up. This exemplified the teamwork functioning within the Munitions Command family. Such teamwork was also a dominant factor in the Frankford Arsenal's relations with industry. Within the scope of its assigned mission, until its close in 1976, the Frankford Arsenal's goal was for

TOTAL TECHICAL TEAMWORK

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