Fort Hunt Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Memorial Parkway
District of Columbia\Maryland\Virginia

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

This is to certify that

_____

has completed the requirements to be a

Junior Ranger

at

Fort Hunt

As a junior Ranger, I pledge to explore the wonders of the national parks, learn about the world around me, and protect the natural and cultural resources of the National Park Service.

_____ _____

Ranger Signature Date

Here's how:

To receive your Junior Ranger gift, finish the booklet and mail it in to:

National Park Service
Attn: Virginia District
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101-1717

Rules:

If you are 6 or younger, do three of the activities.
If you are 7 or 8 years of age, do five of the activities.
If you are 9 or 10 years of age, do seven of the activities.
If you are 11 years old or older, complete the whole book.

Safety:

Keep pets on leashes
Do not feed the animals
Park Police at 202-610-7500

The History of Fort Hunt

Several miles down river from the Nation's capital, Fort Hunt Park has had a unique history. The park has had many different uses, from being part of George Washington's River Farm, to a coastal fortification, to the location of top-secret WWII military intelligence operations. Today, the park is a popular picnic area along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Most of the structures are gone, but the ground still tells the stories.

What do you think a fort should look like?
Draw a picture.

American Indians

The land, now known as Fort Hunt, was used by the American Indians as hunting and fishing grounds, from 6000 B.C. to the early 1600s. As time passed, the land was used as campsites for seasonal food collection.

By 1500 A.D., warfare had broken out among the native peoples of the area. This led to the formation of large warring communities.The Conoy chiefdom is believed to have been the tribe in control of the area where you stand today. In 1608 the Conoy people encountered Captain John Smith and a small exploratory party of Englishmen.

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Listen

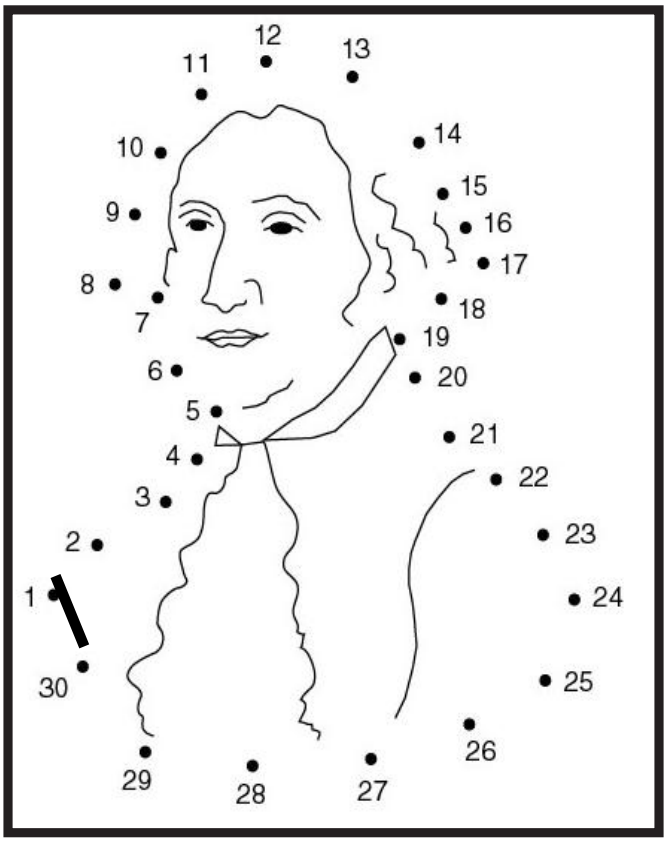
Find a quiet spot. Stand or sit still, and close your eyes. Breathe deeply. Listen for a bit. . .
Which sounds do you think would have occurred during the American Indians' time here? Circle your answers.

crickets	cars
picnickers	birds
wind	horses
airplanes	dogs

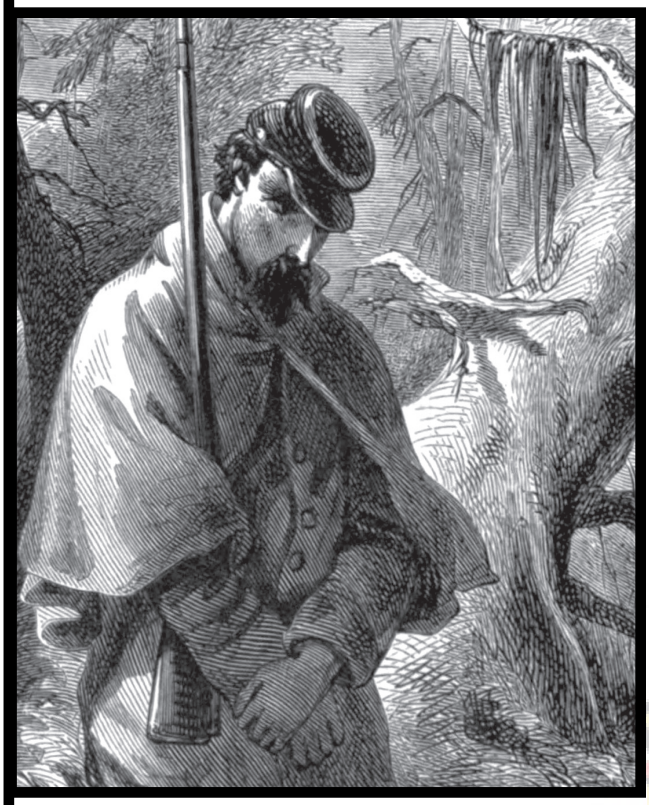
George Washington

The United State's first president, George Washington, saw himself as a farmer. After the Revolutionary War, he dedicated his life to increasing the productivity of his land.

Fort Hunt was part of Washington's River Farm, a segment of his Mount Vernon Estate.The land was worked by slaves, but Washington took an avid interest in everything that was done there.



Connect the Dots



Spanish-American War

After Washington, D.C. was burned during the War of 1812, the fear of future attack haunted the capital. In March, 1890, the U.S. Army Engineer Board recommended the construction of artillery batteries at Fort Hunt. A battery is a unit of weapons. The batteries were built to prevent attack from ships coming up the Potomac. However, Fort Hunt never came under attack.

Ready- Aim- Run

Go to the batteries near the entrance gate.
Start by walking to the first battery you see.
At the first battery, start to jog to the second.
Upon reaching the second battery run as fast as you can to the third.

Working guns took a lot of time and speed. You are now standing where men did during the Spanish- American War, and probably just as out of breath!

Between the World Wars

In the spring of 1931, the War Department assigned an African-American Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit to train at Fort Hunt; these troops drilled at the site for two years. The African-American trainees established their temporary quarters, mess, and lavatory where you're standing today.

The War Department, however, realized Fort Hunt's military value was not worth the price of its upkeep and the installation was shut down in May 1931. The 16th Infantry Brigade detachment was transferred, and by October, Fort Hunt was once again vacant.

Being part of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps means staying fit.

Try out these stretches and see what it's like.

The Bonus Army

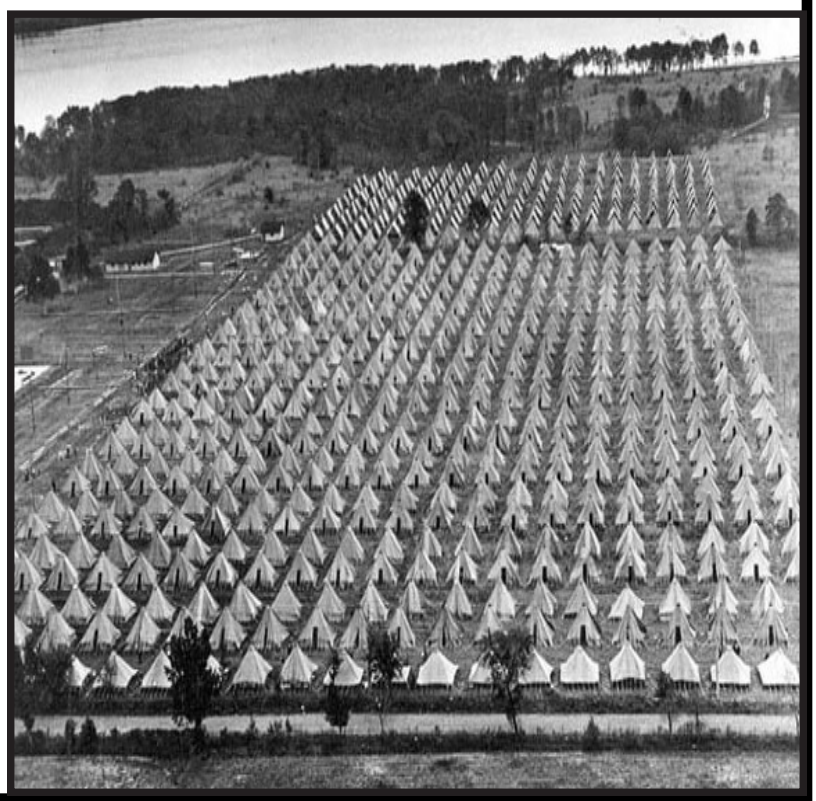
During the 1930s, Fort Hunt served as housing for World War I veterans who came to Washington to protest in the Bonus March. The Bonus Marches were in response to a nationwide economic depression; the veterans wanted money which had been set aside for them to be paid earlier than promised.

After the second march, Franklin D. Roosevelt offered the men a position in his newly created Forest Army, a project which later became the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Of the 3,000 marchers, 2,657 accepted FDR's offer of employment.

How do you think it would feel to live at Fort Hunt in a Tent?

What would you need to be happy?

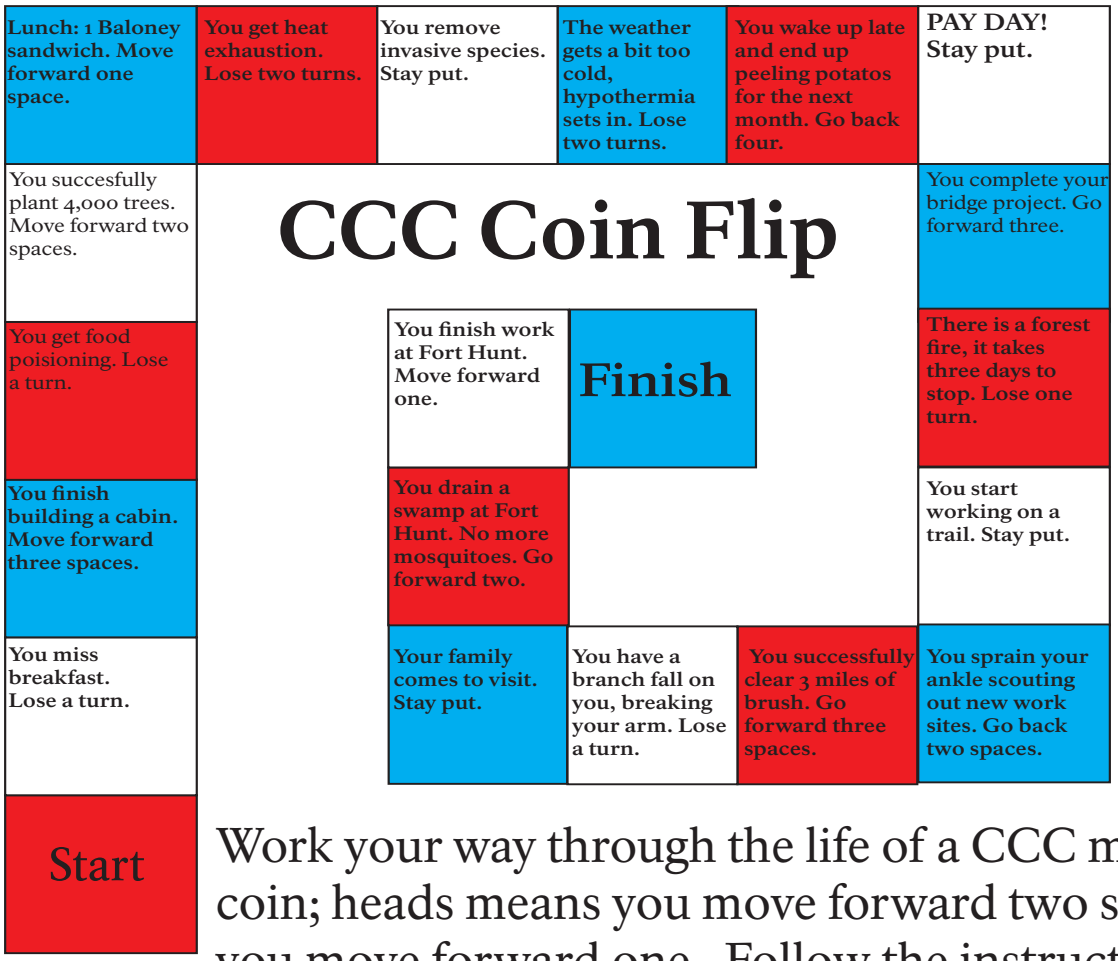
What would you need to live?



Civilian Conservation Corps

Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Forest Army as part of an economic stimulus plan during the Great Depression. The program was part of his Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) which later was known as the Civilian Conservation Corps, a segment of Roosevelt's New Deal. The New Deal focused on creating jobs, improving the economy, and changing the financial system.

The CCC was a huge success and provided jobs for many unemployed men. The program put men to work building everything from dams to trails, and also helped to fight forest fires throughout the United States.



Race to the finish.

Work your way through the life of a CCC member. Flip a coin; heads means you move forward two spaces, tails you move forward one. Follow the instructions for the first square you fall on, then stop and let the next person go.

Civilian Conservation Corps

OOVELTSER

4 6

GARET SOINEDERPS

3

NME

2

VNSEROTICIAON

1 5

Unscramble the words and place the letters in the spot with the matching number below. All the answers can be found on the previous page.

VV

1 2 3 4 5 6

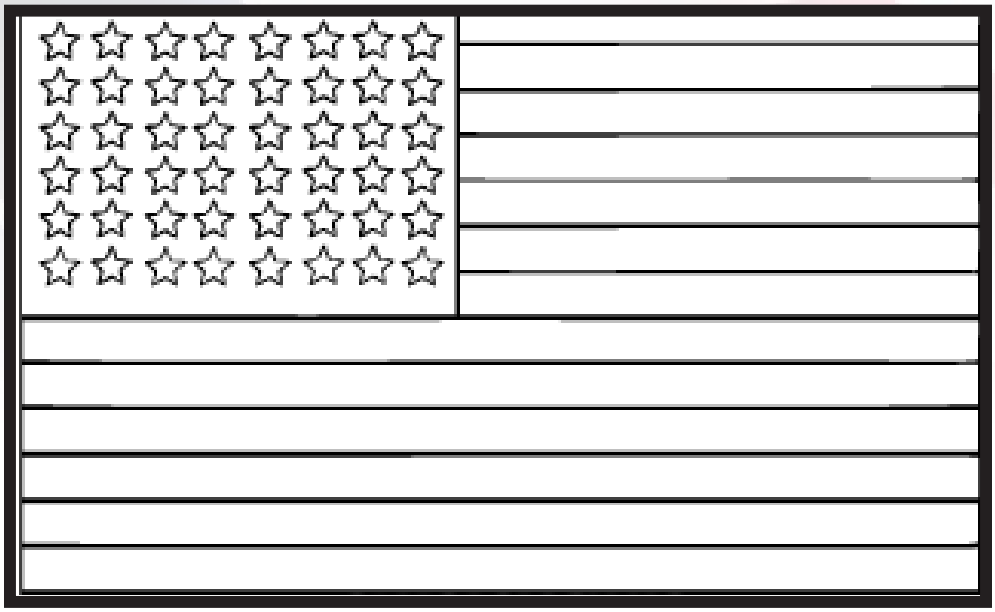
Signal Station

Starting two years before the December 7th, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Fort Hunt was already preparing for war.The War Department established a secret radio monitoring station at Fort Hunt that was intended to act as a “listening post” that collected information about enemies of the United States. The mission of the listening post was to monitor radio traffic from Mexico, Japan, Germany and Italy. The listening station intercepted, decoded and translated many messages. Fort Hunt gathered a lot of useful information during the pre-war period.

Flag Down the Facts

Why do you think the U.S. had less stars on its flag during World War II then it does today?

Color in the Flag!



How many stars does this flag have?

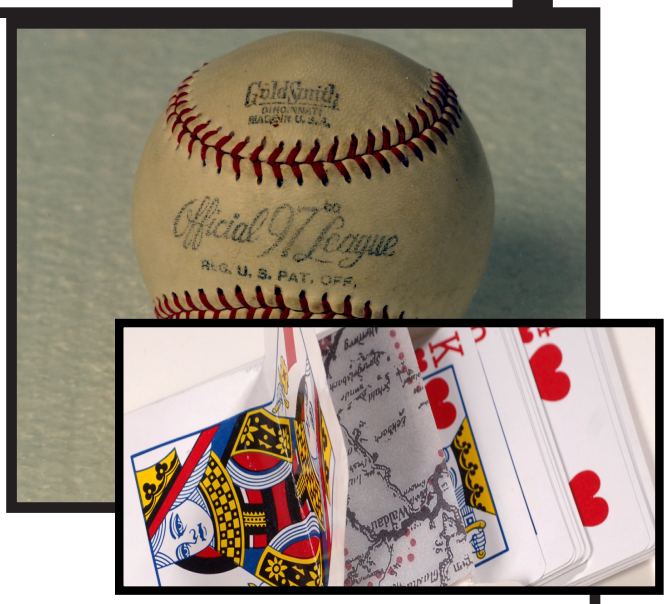
World War II

On May 15th, 1942, the U.S. Army was granted use of Fort Hunt. As an intelligence center, Fort Hunt was designed for the strategic and scientific interrogation of Prisoners of War who were thought to have information important to the war effort. At this time, Fort Hunt became known as P.O. Box 1142.
The next three pages describe the three units of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) program at P.O. Box 1142. Try your hand at some of the work they did by completing the activities. The accomplishments at Fort Hunt aided the war effort, the Space Race, and the Cold War because of the importance of the information gathered and the importance of the prisoners held there.

MIRS: Who are they?

One of the tactics used by the MIRS to gather information during WWII was close observation. Can you figure out who these men are just by looking at this photo?

World War II Escape Devices



The Military Intelligence Service-X program, which communicated via coded correspondence with American Prisoners of War (POWs) in European camps, created and coordinated the shipment of “escape and evasion” kits disguised as humanitarian aid packages. This baseball contained radio parts, while the cards had maps hidden in them.

MIS-X Crack the Code!

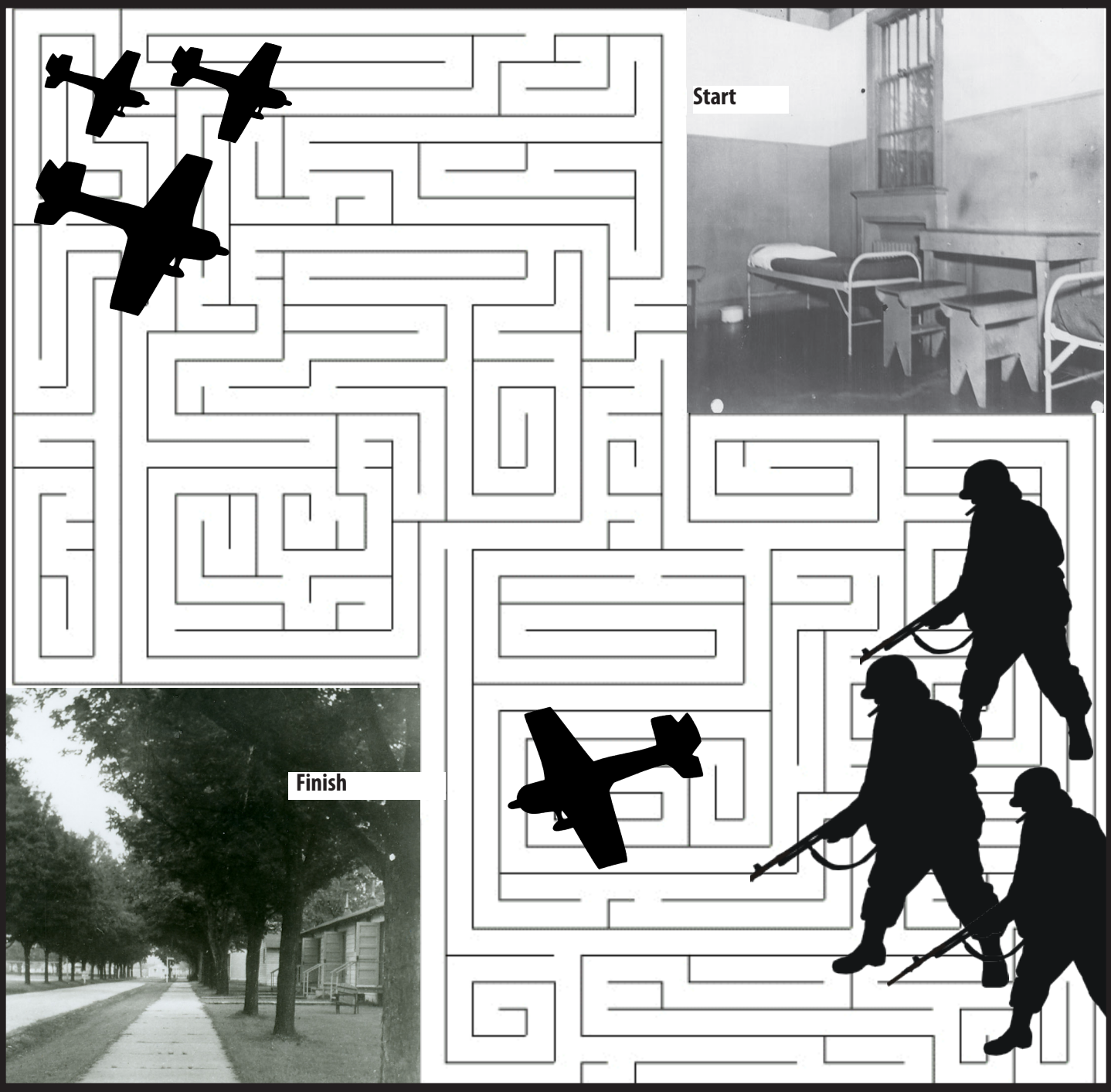
During the war members of P.O. Box 1142 had to solve all kinds of codes. Use the key code below to figure out the secret message. Every time a number is mentioned in the text it corresponds with a letter in the alphabet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

Dear sister,
I can’t believe I have been here for 25 days or is it 15? The days are blurring together so much I can’t read the tally marks on my wall any more. Some new guys have shown up this week, I think there were about twenty-one off the bus just today. They were all in uniforms like mine, but only three looked somewhat familiar. Maybe I knew them from training? One guy looked really surly. I hope they will offer some new entertainment, but I don’t think I’ll have a chance to see them as they are split between buildings 14A and 14B and I am in 15C. I received your package on the 23rd. When did you send it? I wonder how long my mail takes to get to you. Don’t you think twenty-one candy bars were a bit excessive? It was a sweet thought and I ended up sharing 19 of them with some guys who don’t have the support from home I do. Is dad still calling home five times a day to see if there is any update on my release? I hope mom can talk him down to three or less. Last time you wrote, you said John was up to 15 tardies this school year. That boy can never get up on time. So my big four complaints have stayed the same since last letter: the weather is horrible, the food is awful, the beds are uncomfortable and I miss the five of you terribly. I am sorry I missed your 19th birthday.

MIS-Y Maze Escape

The Prisoner of War Branch of the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service (MIS) had a sub-department, MIS-Y, concerned exclusively with interrogating POWs. No one ever escaped from Fort Hunt, but now it's your turn to try!



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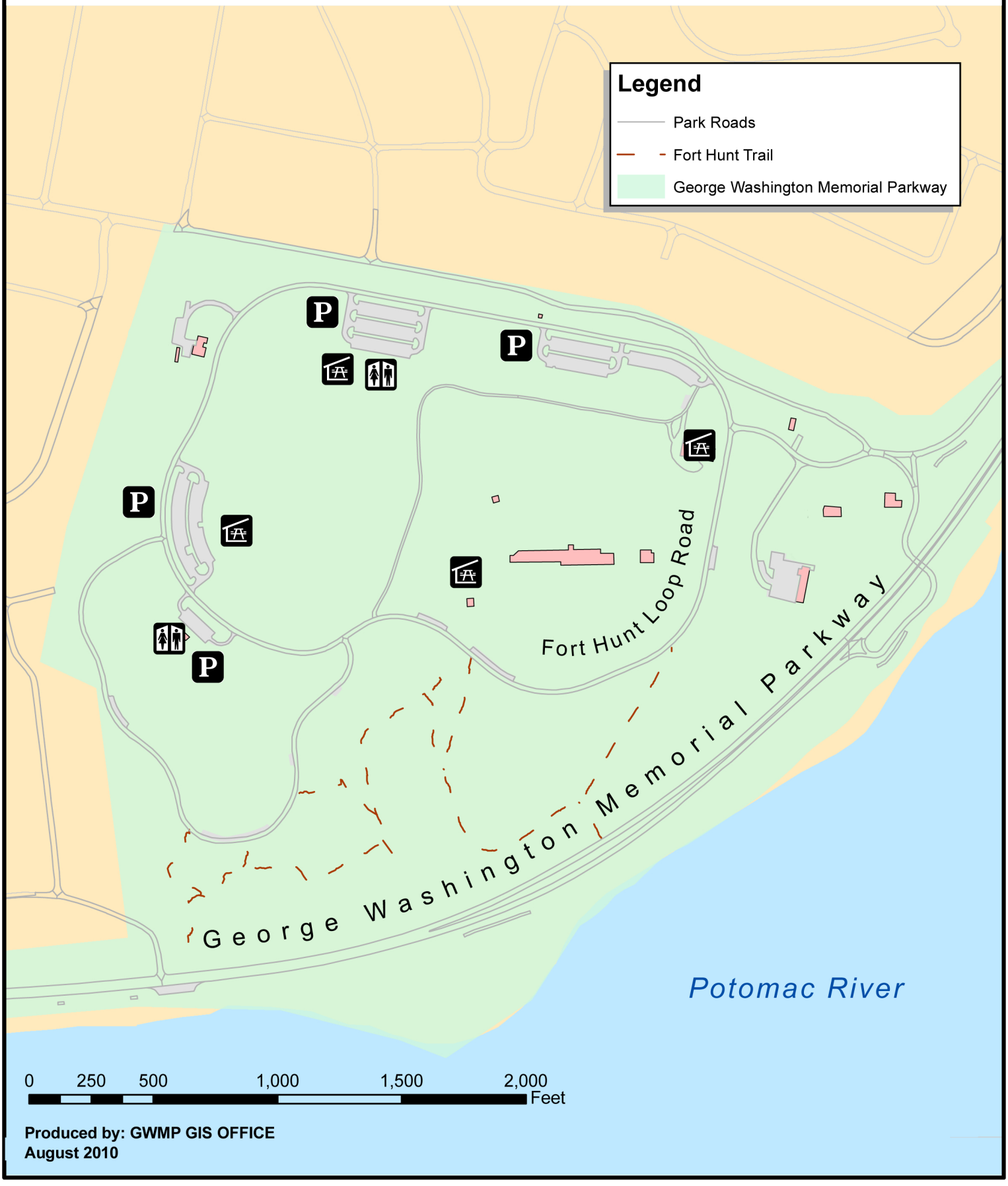

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