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runway runs in a northeast/southwest direction, from the air the faint outline of the runway can still be seen.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Dateland Air Force Auxiliary Field

Near Camp Horn also was the Dateland Air Force Auxiliary Field, named after the Dateland, Arizona road stop. It was also used to support Camp Horn. The runway was long enough for the large planes to used in training exercises also. The United States Army Air Forces opened on 1 January 1943. It was also used for Air Forces training by the 3037th Army Air Force Base Unit. The landing strip was under the direction of the Yuma Army Airfield, Arizona.

## Markers

Marker at the site reads:

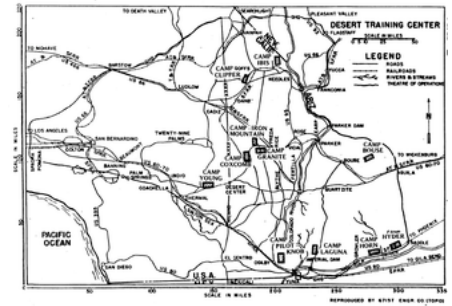
- Camps Hyder & Horn were established 10 miles north of Dateland in the fall of 1943. They were 2 of 15 desert camps built to harden and train United States Troops for service in World War II. The Desert Training Center was a simulated theater of operations that included portions of California, Arizona, and Nevada. The camps were Bouse, Clipper, Coxcomb, Desert Center, Essex, Goffs, Granite, Horn, Hyder, Ibis, Iron Mountain, Laguna, Pilot Knob, Rice, and Young, as well as Rice Army Airfield. A total of 13 infantry and 7 armored divisions plus numerous smaller units were trained in this harsh environment. The training center was in operation for 2 years and was closed early in 1944 when the last units were shipped overseas. During this brief period over a million American soldiers were trained for combat. Units stationed at Hyder and Horn were the 77th, 81st and 104th Infantry Divisions. This monument is dedicated to all the soldiers that served here and especially to those who gave their lives to end the Holocaust & defeat the Armed Forces of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan. Erected 2002 by Lost Dutchman, Billy Holcomb, John P Squibob, Queho Posse, Peter Lebeck and Matt Warner Chapters, of E Clampus Vitus and Dateland Elementary School. (Marker Number 110.)<sup>[9]</sup>*

The Camp Horn Monument or Fort Horn Monument Marker, in memory of seven servicemen killed in a training accident, at the site read:

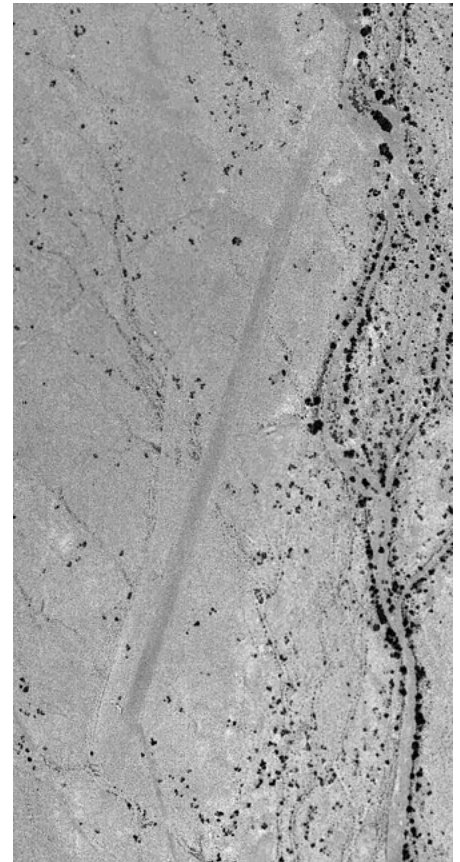
- Here trained For Victory, Under Desert Skies, The 81st Infantry Division, The Wildcats 1943, In Memoriam: Privates Robert J Vilella, Paul M. West, Earl S. Smith, James J. DeCarlo, Lynn Ramsey, Clyde B. Slayton, Arden W. Bridges.<sup>[10]</sup>*

Marker at the Dateland Air Force Auxiliary Field site reads:

- Datelan Army Air Field was established here January 1, 1943. The site was chosen due to the*

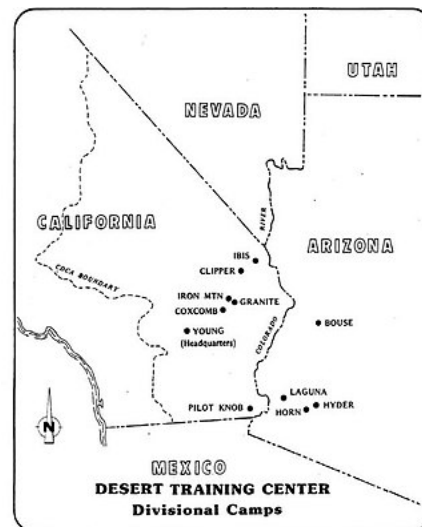


Map of Desert training center with Camp Horn



Camp Horn Airfield from a 1963 USGS aerial photo

availability of water and the adjacent location of the Yuma Gunnery Range. Construction was completed June 1, 1943. Datelan AAF was a sub-base of Yuma Army Air Field, which was the location of the Army advanced flying school. Colfred, Stovall, and Wellton Gunnery Ranges were also established nearby. The base was originally designed for single engine gunnery training, but was converted to twin engine gunnery school in September 1943. The post was garrisoned on July 8, 1943. In addition to security and maintenance of the base, the troops provided services for several flying organizations. Among these were Mather Army Air Field, which based 60 B-25J gun ships here from December 25, 1943 to January 20, 1944, logging a total of 11,000 hours of flight training. This monument is dedicated to all the soldiers and airmen that served here, especially those that gave their lives in training and in the skies above Europe, Asia, and the Pacific as they defeated the Axis powers. Holcomb, John P. Squibob, Queho Posse, Peter Lebeck and Matt Warner Chapters of E Clampus Vitus and Dateland Elementary School. (Marker Number 111.)



Desert Training Center map US Army 1943

## See also

- Camp Coxcomb
- Marine Corps Air Station Yuma
- Arizona World War II Army Airfields

## External links

- Training Center Boogie - Sony by John Malcolm Penn, song about : Desert training camps (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbyzUsws-58>)

## References

- historicalmarkerproject.com Camp horn ([https://www.historicalmarkerproject.com/markers/HMYY7\\_hyder-divisional-camp-horn-divisional-camp-desert-training-center\\_Dateland-AZ.html](https://www.historicalmarkerproject.com/markers/HMYY7_hyder-divisional-camp-horn-divisional-camp-desert-training-center_Dateland-AZ.html))
- US Army, Camp Horn and Camp Hyder, Arizona, Once prominent, now forgotten:In the desert they sleep (<https://www.atec.army.mil/ypg/outpost/2017/15May2017.pdf>)
- waymarking.com Camp Horn ([http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM8VKN\\_Camp\\_Horn\\_Monument\\_Dateland\\_AZ](http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM8VKN_Camp_Horn_Monument_Dateland_AZ))
- US Army, Historic Properties Report: Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona, 1984 (<https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a175813.pdf>)
- The Desert Training Center, "The Place that God Forgot" (<http://discipleup.org/dtc-cama/>)
- Arizona Goes to War: The Home Front and the Front Lines During World War II, page 195
- US Army, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona 2010 ([https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/docs/FUDS/Kofa\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/docs/FUDS/Kofa_FactSheet.pdf))
- [http://www.members.tripod.com/airfields\\_freeman/AZ/Airfields\\_AZ\\_Yuma.htm](http://www.members.tripod.com/airfields_freeman/AZ/Airfields_AZ_Yuma.htm) Airfields in Yuma, AZ, Camp Horn Army Airfield]



US Army live fire exercises remains at Desert Training Center

9. [Marker Data Base, Camps Hyder & Horn \(https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=78546&Result=1\)](https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=78546&Result=1)
  10. [Marker Data Base, The 81st Infantry Division, Camp Horn \(https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=78546&Result=1\)](https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=78546&Result=1)
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**This page was last edited on 9 March 2021, at 23:59 (UTC).**

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