

FORT DUNCAN, TEX. (1849-59, 1860-61, 1868-83)

This post was originally established March 27, 1849, by Companies A, B, and F, 1st Infantry, commanded by Capt. Sidney Burbank, and was called Camp near Eagle Pass or Camp on the Rio Grande.

On November 14, 1849, Orders No. 74, 8th Military Department, changed the name of the post to Fort Duncan in honor of Col. James Duncan, Inspector General, U. S. A. The post was occupied until June 11, 1859, when it was abandoned pursuant to Special Orders No. 38, Department of Texas.

Company F, 1st Artillery, from Fort Clark reoccupied Fort Duncan on March 18, 1860, but it was evacuated March 20, 1861, in compliance with Special Orders No. 44, Department of Texas.

Eight companies of the 41st Infantry arrived at Fort Duncan on March 23, 1868, as directed by Special Orders 3, District of Texas. Seven companies left Fort Duncan for other posts, leaving Company I as the permanent garrison. In addition, on the day of his arrival, the commanding officer of Fort Duncan received authority to organize a company of one hundred men for special service in protecting the frontier.

Fort Duncan was finally abandoned August 31, 1883, by Troop L, 8th Cavalry, and Companies D and F, 19th Infantry, pursuant to Special Orders No. 98, Department of Texas.

Records. 1858-60, 1868-83. 8 ft.

None of the records cover the entire period of the existence of the post, but several series are seemingly complete for the period 1868-83, including copies of letters sent, endorsements, and orders; there are registers of letters received, 1870-83; letters received file and related documents (including reports of Indian scouts), 1868-83; guard reports, Ringgold Barracks, November 1858-March 1859; records of elections in Harris County, Texas, and other papers of the civil affairs officer, 1869-70; charges and specifications, 1878-82; and copies of letters sent and registers of letters received by the post quartermaster, 1875-83.