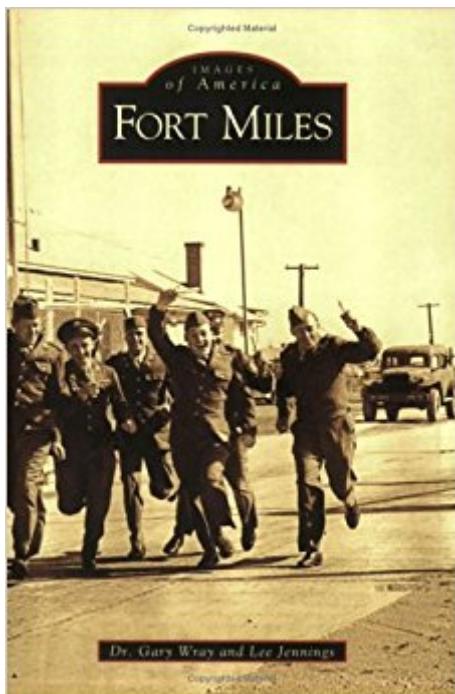


The book was found

# Fort Miles (DE) (Images Of America)



## **Synopsis**

Fort Miles is in Cape Henlopen State Park near historic Lewes and the site of Delaware's first Dutch settlement. Named for Gen. Nelson Appleton Miles, this powerful seacoast fortification was built during World War II to defend the vital industries of the Delaware Valley. Included in this volume are rare vintage photographs of the fort's heavy artillery, hundreds of 3,000-pound sea mines, and radar systems that searched the nearby ocean for the enemy surface fleet. Its powerful 12- and 16-inch guns could reach out between 15 and 25 miles to attack an adversary. Today, the fort is being reborn as one of the best World War II museums in the country; it is housed in a real World War II bunker and includes the barracks complex and fire control towers.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Dr. Gary Wray co-founded and now serves as president of the Fort Miles Historical Association. He also teaches history at Wilmington College and in the Ph.D. program at University of Maryland Eastern Shore Lee Jennings, historian for the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, has created a number of successful living history programs including Fort Delaware's award-winning effort. Jennings conceived the plan for opening Fort Miles to interpretation and leads the group charged with restoration and creative public programming. Lee Jennings, historian for the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, has created a number of successful living history programs including Fort Delaware's award-winning effort. Jennings conceived the plan for opening Fort Miles to interpretation and leads the group charged with restoration and creative public programming.

A very interesting pictorial summary of our country's recent history of World War II defense of our coast. I had no idea that a military fort was built under the sand dunes near Rehoboth beach, DE. Up to 2000 troops manned the Fort. Luckily we never had to employ the big guns to beat back an assault from Hitler's Navy. The first U-boat surrender, at the close of the war, occurred here. It is good that photos of this era have not been lost.

I bought this in conjunction with the book "Delaware's Ghost Towers: The Coast Artillery's Forgotten Last Stand During the Darkest Days of World War II" by William Grayson. Growing up in Delaware, I was always going to the beaches in Lewes and Rehobeth and one thing that has forever stuck in my mind was the remnants of the military structures located there. We used to explore them when I was in the Boy Scouts and the book(s) shed a lot of light on the military history of Delaware during WWII.

I owned a property adjacent to the Cape Henlopen State Park, which was previously Fort Miles. I was hoping his book would provide details about this Army base. I was frankly disappointed in the book. The author did not appear to know much about the base except for general information. I thought the book was poorly written and it did not meet my expectations.

I visited the Cape Henlopen State Park gift store located in Lewes, DE and was interested in purchasing a book titled "Fort Miles Images of America." I felt the cost of \$22 was out of my price range. I purchased a copy on [listed as used in excellent condition for approximately \\$13.](#) It arrived timely and appeared to be brand new. Thank you for a great product at a great price.

Although one picture (at least) is not correctly captioned, the book contains much information and memories of times past and of the lives of military personnel. Fort Miles was an important strategic military base and deserves its place in the history books. Kudos to the author for his tenacity in compiling the data.

I was looking for Civil War history, this was more on World War 1. The pictures were great and the text was interesting.

If you like WWII, Military, or Artillery history, you will enjoy *Images of America: Fort Miles*. This book tells the story of one of America's most interesting forts from the early days before it was a fort

through the time it was finally closed by the Army in the early 1990's. The authors do an outstanding job of making history come alive through interesting narrative and extensive use of pictures. Most of the book covers Fort Miles during World War II and successfully conveys what life was like for the soldiers stationed there at that time. I disagree with one of the author's use of the term "homeland security" in the acknowledgments section where he states "It is men and women like these who built and served at Fort Miles during World War II. I dedicate my part of this book to their efforts to protect us during our country's first homeland security endeavors". If fact their efforts centered on homeland defense which is and always has been an Army mission. Homeland security is a civilian activity (akin to Civil Defense). On page 38 the author's ask the reader to "Notice the reference to the "Separate Coast Artillery"" and then mentions on page 111 that "The Separate Coast Artillery ceased to exist after the war". This is likely to confuse the reader who does not have a military background. The reference on page 38 doesn't refer to the Coast Artillery (which had been a separate branch of artillery for many years previous), it is referring to the fact that the 261st Coast Artillery Battalion was a separate battalion (not having a Brigade or Regiment for its higher HQ). I do wish more had been written about the activities at Fort Miles after World War II. Almost nothing is said about the years that Fort Miles was used as a training location, the Top Secret Navy SOSUS (SOund SURveillance System) facility that tracked soviet submarines during the Cold War, or the years Fort Miles served as an Army Recreation Facility. Nothing at all is mentioned about the Navy ramjet program (code named Project Bumblebee) tested in 1946 at Fort Miles, nor is there any mention of the fact that the Army maintained a Nike Hercules Missile Master Site at Fort Miles (closed in late 1962). I frequently vacationed at Fort Miles when it was an Army recreation facility (a sub-post of Fort George G. Meade, Maryland) and am very grateful to the authors for writing this wonderful book. Michael A. HamiltonMajor, CmIC, USAR, Retired

I live in Delaware and I have been to Cape Henlopen State Park where Fort Miles was when there was a Fort Miles. I have seen the bunkers and the towers and the big cement buildings but this book didn't explain any of it. There were lots of pictures of the servicemen and how they lived but somehow I was disappointed by the information that was in the book. I was probably looking more for a link between the past and the present and it was all in the past. There were no links to the place as it is now and what is being done to the area to bring it alive again to today's people.

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