



1950s

At the time of the Korean conflict, July 1950, Letterkenny Ordnance Depot was in much better condition to meet the requirements than back in WWII. However, the gears had to be shifted from peacetime drive to high war-time production and the work force swelled to 6,500 persons, with as many as 50 new employees coming each day. Letterkenny's mission of receiving, processing, storing and shipping vehicles was strong. In 1946, experimental long-term de-humidified storage tanks were built to "can" or preserve vehicles. With the demands for ordnance materiel, the process was soon tested and deemed a success as vehicle after vehicle came out of the 169 petroleum storage tanks - all in excellent condition.

The 50s were a time of growth as new technologies in electronics and guided missile maintenance increased the depot's workload. Employees were trained in these fields and began working on NIKÉ missile components in 1953. Letterkenny became a pilot depot for the implementation of the Depot Command Management System and System-wide Project for Electronic Equipment at Depots (SPEED). In 1955, Major Item Supply Management Agency (MISMA), which provided control functions on a world-wide basis, became a tenant of Letterkenny. It evolved into the U.S. Army Depot System Command, Letterkenny's immediate higher headquarters.

With the growth in operations came the need for expanded physical facilities. Renovation and the replacement of outdated machinery was needed to modernize some existing buildings, but major construction projects led the way in the 1950s to meet the depot's new needs. Letterkenny became a permanent military installation on July 1, 1954.



Switching gears from peacetime drive to high war-time production indicates Letterkenny's strong presence in receiving, processing, storing and shipping vehicles.



Seven depot employees move briskly forward portraying the spirit of Letterkenny on a background simulating the theme of Armed Forces Day.

Sgt. Richard Chronister, Air Corps Reserves; AEM 1/C John P. Horn, Navy Reserve Corps; PFC Warren Diffenderfer, Marine Corps Reserves; FSC Ernest A. McGee, 9339th TSU; Elmer F. Bossom, a veteran representing "white collar" workers; Ross McCleaster, a veteran representing "blue collar" workers; Genevieve H. Lynch, a veteran representing female workers on the depot.



Depot's First Female Automotive Mechanic Workers:
Sara Gruver, Dorothy Frey, Leota Foreman, Elsie Cramer, Helen Barton, Rose Jacobs, Ruth Hampton and Janet Cordell.



Engines are disassembled, cleaned and component parts separated for further processing in sub-assembly sections.



In September 1951, the American Red Cross bloodmobile first starts coming to the depot.



In 1954 activities center on guided missile NIKÉ maintenance and missile components fill vast storage areas.

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Miss Letterkenny pageants are held at the summer employee picnics, during the 1940s and 1950s.

The 1952 Miss Letterkenny winner, Ms. Kathryn Schaffnit Thomas, COL T.F. Donahue and runner-up, Ms. Ramona Colberg Foose.