

= Indianapolis in the American Civil War =

During the American Civil War , Indianapolis , the state capital of Indiana , was a major base of support for the Union . Governor Oliver P. Morton , a major supporter of President Abraham Lincoln , quickly made Indianapolis a gathering place to organize and train troops for the Union army . The city became a major railroad hub for troop transport to Confederate lands , and therefore had military importance . Twenty @-@ four military camps were established in the vicinity of Indianapolis . Camp Morton , the initial mustering ground to organize and train the state 's Union volunteers in 1861 , was designated as a major prisoner @-@ of @-@ war camp for captured Confederate soldiers in 1862 . In addition to military camps , a state @-@ owned arsenal was established in the city in 1861 , and a federal arsenal in 1862 . A Soldiers ' Home and a Ladies ' Home were established in Indianapolis to house and feed Union soldiers and their families as they passed through the city . Indianapolis residents also supported the Union cause by providing soldiers with food , clothing , equipment , and supplies , despite rising prices and wartime hardships , such as food and clothing shortages . Local doctors aided the sick , some area women provided nursing care , and Indianapolis City Hospital tended to wounded soldiers . Indianapolis sent an estimated 4 @,@ 000 men into military service ; an estimated 700 died during the war . Indianapolis 's Crown Hill National Cemetery was established as one of two national military cemeteries established in Indiana in 1866 .

During the war , the city 's population increased with the arrival of new businesses and industries that offered additional employment opportunities , spurred real estate development , and ushered in the beginning of the city 's urban , industrial development . In addition , street crime was prevalent , causing the city government to increase its police force and local merchants to hire private security . The era was also a time of bitter political disputes between Indiana 's Democrats and Republicans . In May 1863 , in an incident sarcastically called the Battle of Pogue 's Run , Union soldiers stopped and searched two departing trainloads of delegates to a statewide Democratic convention , many of whom tossed their personal weapons into a nearby creek . In July 1863 Indianapolis residents feared an attack from Confederate forces during Morgan 's Raid into southern Indiana , but the Confederates turned east toward Ohio and never came to the city .

After the war , increased wartime manufacturing and industrial growth ushered in a new era of economic prosperity , and Indianapolis 's population increased from 8 @,@ 000 in 1850 to 45 @,@ 000 at the end of 1864 . A real @-@ estate boom led to the establishment of new residential suburbs , but the city retained its slums . Indianapolis also experienced improvements to its public services , such as health care , utilities , street railways , and public schools . By 1880 Indianapolis was Indiana 's commercial and industrial center . Construction for the Soldiers ' and Sailors ' Monument began in 1888 , in the center of downtown Indianapolis , after decades of discussion . The city 's iconic monument was dedicated on May 15 , 1902 .

= = War years = =

During the American Civil War , Indianapolis served as a gathering place for organizing troops . As Indianapolis 's citizens rallied in support of the Union , its population increased with the arrival of new businesses and industries that offered additional employment opportunities and spurred real estate development . City residents experienced rising prices and wartime hardships , such as food and clothing shortages . It was also a time of bitter political disputes between Indiana 's Democrats and Republicans . The Civil War era ushered in the beginning of the city 's urban , industrial development , its connections to an expanding railroad network , and the growth of local charitable organizations .

= = = 1861 = = =

During the winter of 1860 ? 1861 , there was talk throughout the region of a possible of war with the South , but Indianapolis had only four militia groups ready to fight : the National Guards , the City

Greys , the Indianapolis Independent Zouaves , and the Zouave Guards . On January 7 , 1861 , the Indianapolis Zouaves volunteered for service if Indiana 's governor , Oliver P. Morton , requested it , but they were not needed until spring . On February 11 , 1861 , president @-@ elect Abraham Lincoln arrived in Indianapolis , one of several train stops he made en route to Washington , D.C. , for his presidential inauguration . The pre @-@ inauguration stop made Lincoln the first president @-@ elect to visit Indianapolis . Two months later , the United States was on the brink of war .

On April 12 , news arrived in Indianapolis via telegraph that Confederate forces had opened fire on Fort Sumter , a federal fort in the harbor at Charleston , South Carolina . On April 13 , two mass meetings were held in Indianapolis , where resolutions were approved to support the Union . Indianapolis citizens proclaimed , " We unite as one man to repel all treasonable assaults upon the Government , its people , and citizens in every department of the Union ? ? peaceably , if we can , forcibly if we must . "

On April 15 , 1861 , President Lincoln responded to the surrender of the federal fort after the Battle of Fort Sumter by calling for 75 @,@ 000 volunteers to join the Union army and restore order . Governor Morton telegraphed Lincoln offering 10 @,@ 000 Hoosier men to defend the country , but the state 's initial quota was set at six regiments (a total of 4 @,@ 683 men) for three months of service . Orders were issued on April 16 to form Indiana 's first regiments and establish Indianapolis a gathering point for volunteers to enlist . On the first day , 500 men were encamped in the city . Within a week , more than 12 @,@ 000 recruits had signed up to fight for the Union , nearly three times as many needed to meet the state 's initial quota .

Governor Morton and Lew Wallace , Indiana 's adjutant general , quickly established Camp Morton on the former grounds of the Indiana State Fair (along Alabama Street , north of the city) as the initial mustering ground to organize and train the state 's Union volunteers . The camp 's first soldiers arrived on April 17 . During the war a total of 24 military camps were established in the vicinity of Indianapolis , including Camp Sullivan , Camp Morton , Camp Burnside , Camp Freemont , and Camp Carrington , which was the state 's largest .

On April 20 Indianapolis 's city council appropriated \$ 10 @,@ 000 for wartime use . Four days later , the Indiana General Assembly convened in Indianapolis to give the governor wartime powers and appropriate funds to support the war effort (\$ 1 @.@ 6 million for military purposes and a \$ 2 million bond issue for state and national defense) . To provide ammunition , Governor Morton established a state @-@ owned arsenal at Indianapolis . Congress passed legislation to establish a permanent federal arsenal at Indianapolis in 1862 .

By April 27 , 1861 , Indiana 's first six regiments , all of which were organized at Indianapolis , were fully organized as the First Brigade , Indiana Volunteers , under the command of Brigadier General Thomas A. Morris . These included the 6th Indiana , the 7th Indiana , the 8th Indiana , the 9th Indiana , the 10th Indiana , and the 11th Indiana infantry regiments .

Slightly more than sixty percent (104) of Indiana 's total regiments mustered into service and trained at Indianapolis . Men from Indianapolis and surrounding Marion County , Indiana , served in 39 regiments . In total , Indianapolis sent an estimated 4 @,@ 000 men into the service . The first resident of Indianapolis to die in the war was Private John C. Hollenbeck , of Company B , 11th Indiana . He died near Romney , Virginia on June 27 , 1861 . An estimated 700 Indianapolis residents died during the war .

The 11th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment , also known as the Indiana Zouaves , was the first regiment organized in Indiana during the war and the first one to leave Indianapolis , on May 8 , 1861 . All four of Indianapolis 's militia units (National Guards , the City Greys , the Indianapolis Independent Zouaves , and the Zouave Guards) , and an additional company of men from Indianapolis , became part of the regiment . Wallace , who resigned as Indiana 's adjutant general to take command of the 11th Indiana , went on to become a major general in the Union army . First Lieutenant Frederick Knefler , another Indianapolis resident , was an officer from Company H , 11th Indiana , who eventually rose to the rank of brevet brigadier general and became the highest @-@ ranking Jewish military officer in the Union . Francis A. Shoup , also from Indianapolis , briefly led the Independent Zouaves before the war , but he decided to go south and ultimately became a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army .

Most of Indiana 's regimental units were organized within towns or counties , but ethnic units also formed . The 32nd Indiana , the state 's first German @-@ American infantry regiment , and the 35th Indiana , the state 's first Irish @-@ American regiment , organized at Indianapolis in 1861 . Other regiments established in 1861 that included residents of Indianapolis and Marion County , Indiana , included the 19th Indiana , the 27th Indiana , and the 33rd Indiana , among others .

There was little doubt that the majority of Indianapolis residents supported the Union . The city became a hub for Union troop organization and training . Pro @-@ Union mobs would sometimes force individuals suspected of Confederate sympathies to take an oath of loyalty at the mayor 's office . The most notable of these was J. J. Bingham , the editor of the Indianapolis Sentinel . A mob forced Bingham to take a loyalty oath after articles critical of his political views appeared in the Indianapolis Journal .

= = = 1862 = = =

Union troops continued to organize and train at military camps in the city , as battles in Kentucky and Tennessee caused major changes to Indianapolis . After the battles of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson , the Union began to collect a large number of Confederate prisoners of war for transport to the North . Governor Morton volunteered to hold some of the prisoners at Indianapolis . Designated as one of four northern prisoner @-@ of @-@ war camps , Camp Morton was converted into one of the Union 's largest prisons for captured Confederate soldiers .

Camp Morton 's first Confederate prisoners arrived on February 22 ? 23 , 1862 . Many of the 2 @,@ 398 Confederates in the first group were sick , ill fed , and without sufficient clothing for the cold , northern winters . The citizens of Indianapolis rallied to provide humanitarian aid for the prisoners , which included additional food , clothing , and supplies . Local doctors aided the sick and local women provided nursing care . The Athenaeum , at the corner of East Michigan Street and Massachusetts Avenue , and another local building were converted into hospitals to treat the Confederate prisoners . For the remainder of the war , Camp Morton typically housed between 3 @,@ 000 and 6 @,@ 000 prisoners .

As regiments organized and reorganized , Union soldiers continued to gather at Indianapolis , sometimes as many as 12 @,@ 000 at a time . Indianapolis regiments formed in 1862 included the 70th Indiana , under the command of Benjamin Harrison , and the 79th Indiana , under the command of Frederick Knefler . Popular gathering spots for the soldiers included Monument Circle and University Park . A Soldiers ' Home and a Ladies ' Home were established in Indianapolis in 1862 and in 1863 , respectively , to house and feed Indiana 's soldiers and their families as they passed through Indianapolis . City residents continued to aid Union soldiers by providing food , clothing , equipment , and supplies . Soldiers ' aid societies and the Indiana Sanitary Commission , established in 1862 with its headquarters in Indianapolis , raised funds and gathered supplies for troops in the field . The women of Indianapolis also organized groups , usually local Ladies ' Aid Societies , to provide soldiers with blankets and clothing , and helped raise funds for additional troop supplies .

Street crime was prevalent in Indianapolis during the war . The city government increased its police force , local merchants hired private security , and guards were posted at Union Station to deal with law @-@ enforcement issues . Fights , robberies , gambling , prostitution , and drunkenness became significant problems . Prohibition of alcohol sales had to be established in the city . Because there was so much street violence , city police never bothered to discover who murdered an officer from Pennsylvania . The bodies of many deceased soldiers killed in the war were held at Indianapolis 's Union Station , awaiting transport to their eventual burial spots .

Several Indiana facilities cared for wounded soldiers , including Indianapolis City Hospital . Governor Morton and the Indiana Sanitary Commission began recruiting women to work as nurses at military hospitals and ships in January 1863 .

The city was also the wartime home of Richard Jordan Gatling , a physician and entrepreneur , who invented the Gatling gun . Tested in Indianapolis and patented in November 1862 , the hand @-@ cranked , rapid @-@ fire gun was a predecessor to the modern machine gun . The U.S. Navy

adopted the Gatling gun during the war , where it was used on federal gunboats , but the U.S. Army did not formally adopt it for use until 1866 .

== = 1863 == =

The first military execution in the war 's western theater occurred on March 27 , 1863 , at Camp Burnside (Burnside Barracks) . Robert Gay , a 27 @-@ year @-@ old schoolteacher from Clay County , Indiana , was executed by a 20 @-@ man firing squad . After his capture by Confederates at Richmond , Kentucky , Gay declared allegiance to the Confederate States of America to escape further army service . After his return to Indiana , Gay was convicted of treason and executed , but not before he apologized for what he had done . Other executions took place in 1864 , when three bounty jumpers were executed at Burnside Barracks .

Major political differences between Democrats and Republicans and wartime propaganda caused many Hoosiers to become suspicious of dissenters and fearful of potential insurrections , especially from secret societies sympathetic to the South . During the Indianapolis city election In May , the Democrats , who decided a fair election could not be held , withdrew their ticket . Only 14 votes were cast for Democratic candidates in the nine Indianapolis wards .

Prior to a state Democratic convention in May , rumors had spread that members of a secret society , who were planning to attend the convention in Indianapolis , were plotting to attack Camp Morton and the state arsenal . In response to the perceived threat , soldiers were posted to guard the city and protect government property . On May 20 Union soldiers attempted to the convention , forcing the proceedings to be adjourned . Elsewhere in the city , men were arrested for carrying concealed weapons or taken into custody for further questioning . After the convention adjourned , Union soldiers stopped and searched two departing trainloads of convention delegates , demanding that the passengers surrender their personal weapons . The soldiers seized " several hundred " weapons , while the passengers tossed others into Pogue 's Run , a nearby creek . The incident , later called the Battle of Pogue 's Run , caused no serious trouble , but it did illustrate the intensity of the state 's ongoing political feuds . The Republicans used the seized weapons as evidence that the Democrats were disloyal to the Union and guilty of treasonable plots .

Rumors of plots to overthrow Morton and Indiana 's government continued during the summer . On July 8 , 1863 , when Confederate general John Hunt Morgan crossed the Ohio River with 2 @,@ 400 troopers , Indiana went into a state of emergency . Only the day before , the citizens of Indianapolis were rejoicing over the Union victories at Vicksburg , Mississippi , and Gettysburg , Pennsylvania . The city 's mood turned to panic when Morgan 's troops appeared to be headed toward Indianapolis . Many Hoosiers feared Morgan would attack the city and attempt to free the Confederate prisoners at Camp Morton . The panic was increased as Morgan 's telegrapher , " Lightning " Ellsworth , posing as various Union telegraphers , claimed Morgan had far more men than he actually did . Ellsworth also sent false information suggesting Morgan would attack Indianapolis , among other locations . Within forty @-@ eight hours an estimated 65 @,@ 000 Indiana volunteers had assembled to fight the Confederate raiders . Five regiments encamped on the grounds of the Indiana Statehouse were prepared to defend the state capital . Tension in the city ended on July 14 , when it was confirmed that Morgan had left Indiana and entered Ohio . Morgan was captured on July 26 . Volunteers who served in the temporary regiments at Indianapolis mustered out of service on July 17 , once the threat from Morgan 's troops was gone . An accident caused by the explosion of ammunition in a caisson killed a boy , three soldiers , and two horses as some of the soldiers were departing town .

== = 1864 == =

New regiments continued to muster into service at Indianapolis . The 28th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops , organized between December 24 , 1863 , and March 31 , 1864 , was the only black regiment formed in Indiana during the war . The regiment trained at Camp Fremont , near Fountain Square . It included 518 enlisted men who signed on for a term of three years , but the war was

effectively over within a year , cutting short its term of service . The regiment lost 212 men before it mustered out of service on November 8 , 1865 .

Indianapolis 's " City Regiment " mustered into service as the 132nd Indiana Infantry Regiment in May 1864 as one of several regiments of Hundred Days Men . The regiment guarded railroads in Tennessee and Alabama , which were firmly in the control of Union forces , to relieve the regular U.S. army troops for active duty on the front lines . The 132nd Indiana , which was formed mostly of young boys and older men , was a favorite among Indianapolis citizens . Twelve of its members of disease before the regiment returned home .

Beginning in September 1864 , Indianapolis was the site of the trials by a military commission of several men accused and convicted of treason . In a landmark civil liberty case that became known as Ex parte Milligan , the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the convictions , On April 3 , 1866 , the Court ruled that the military trial was illegal because the civilian courts were open and functioning during the war . Following the Court 's ruling , the men were released .

= = = 1865 = = =

News of Confederate General Robert E. Lee 's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse , Virginia , reached Indianapolis at 11 p.m. on April 9 , 1865 , causing wild , public celebrations that the Indianapolis Journal characterized as " demented . " The celebrations soon turned to sadness when news of the assassination of President Lincoln arrived on April 15 . Lincoln 's funeral train passed through the city on April 30 , en route to Springfield , Illinois . An estimated 100 @, @ 000 people waited in long lines to pass Lincoln 's bier at the Indiana Statehouse , where the president 's remains lay in state .

Indianapolis residents saw much activity in the drawdown of military forces at the end of the war . The last military troops organized in Indianapolis was the 156th Indiana , which mustered into service on April 12 for a year of service . In June formal receptions honored soldiers who returned home . On June 12 the last Confederate prisoner was parolled at Camp Morton . On July 25 a military wagon train , 28 miles (45 km) in length , passed through the city . By the autumn of 1865 the city 's Soldiers ' Home and Ladies ' Home had closed , as did most of the city 's military camps after the soldiers left Indianapolis .

= = Aftermath = =

Indiana 's economic situation improved after the war , particularly in Indianapolis ; its population increased from 8 @, @ 000 in 1850 to 45 @, @ 000 people at the end of 1864 . The city 's population exceeded 75 @, @ 000 by 1880 . As a result of the war , the city experienced a real @-@ estate boom . Real @-@ estate transactions increased from more than \$ 1 million in 1860 to more than \$ 5 million by 1870 . New residential suburbs , such as Irvington and Woodruff Place , were established , but Indianapolis still retained its slum areas . As the city grew , it also experienced a need for more public services , such as utilities and street railways , as well as an improved public school system . A street railway came to the city in the 1860s , the city established its first sewage system in 1869 , most of the city 's downtown streets were illuminated with gaslights by 1870 , and the first water supplied from a central waterworks was delivered to city residents in 1871 . Health care in the city also improved . Indianapolis City Hospital was equipped and staffed to begin treatment of civilian patients in 1866 .

Increased wartime manufacturing and industrial growth ushered in a new era of economic prosperity and the rise of labor unions in the city . By 1880 Indianapolis was Indiana 's commercial and industrial center . New industries in Indianapolis included pork @-@ packing plants and foundries , as well as numerous manufacturers , small businesses , retail shops , and banks . In 1876 Colonel Eli Lilly opened a new pharmaceutical laboratory on Indianapolis 's Pearl Street , founding what later became Eli Lilly and Company . The Union Railroad Transfer and Stock Yards Company , another major employer , opened in 1877 . After the war , Indianapolis continued to develop into a transportation hub . Existing railroad lines expanded and new ones were established ,

linking Indianapolis to other cities across the nation .

Indianapolis residents continued to assist those in need . Veterans programs were initiated to help wounded soldiers with housing , food , and other basic necessities . New orphanages and asylums joined the Indianapolis Orphans ' Home , chartered in 1850 , to aid women and children . The German Protestant Orphans ' Association was organized in 1867 . The Indianapolis Asylum for Friendless Colored Children , the state 's only orphanage for African American children , was established in 1870 . Other major charitable groups included the Indianapolis Benevolent Society and the Indianapolis Flower Mission , both organized in 1876 .

When the South returned to firm Democratic control at the end of the 1870s , Indiana became a key swing state , one of a few that often decided the outcome of national elections . Five Indiana politicians were vice @-@ presidential nominees on the major party tickets in elections held between 1868 and 1916 . Benjamin Harrison , an Indianapolis lawyer and former officer in the Union army , was elected the 23rd president of the United States in 1888 .

= = Memorials and tributes = =

In 1866 Indianapolis 's Crown Hill National Cemetery was established within the grounds of Crown Hill Cemetery , a privately owned cemetery northwest of downtown . It is one of two national military cemeteries established in Indiana as a result of the war . That same year , the first Union soldiers ' bodies that had been buried elsewhere in the city during the war were reinterred at Crown Hill .

In November 1866 the city continued to honor the service of Civil War veterans as the host of the first national Grand Army of the Republic encampment .

The Soldiers ' and Sailors ' Monument in downtown Indianapolis was erected to honor Indiana veterans of the Civil War . Construction began in 1888 after two decades of discussion . The monument was completed in 1901 and dedicated on May 15 , 1902 .