



MissionBell

The Story: Port of Oakland Army Base

At the start of the 1940's, most of the world was at war. Looking to expand the San Francisco Port of Embarkation at Fort Mason, the United States Army began a search for a new West Coast base that had access to major railroads and roadways. The Navy offered the use of The Presidio in San Francisco. However, the plans required a much larger footprint. Seeing an opportunity in Oakland, the Army settled on four hundred acres along the Bay just south of the Bay Bridge.

With new land acquired, the army broke ground in June of 1941. On December 7th of that same year, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, spurring the army into action. The base was put into operation the next day - despite construction not being complete.

At its inception, the base would be known as the Oakland Sub-Port of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. However, in 1944 it was renamed the Oakland Army Base.

In 1946, at the end of WWII, construction at the base was complete. Throughout its nearly sixty-year tenure, the base served as a transportation terminal moving troops and materials into the Pacific. It also served as an administrative and military cantonment for thousands of military troops. The base grew to include 55 acres of covered warehouses, some of which were the size of a modern-day aircraft carrier.

On September 30th 1999 the base closed its doors. Its history is preserved in the patina of Douglas Fir posts, beams, and rustic shiplap.



FSC® Recycled 100%

Material #: OA-DF

Species: Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga Menziesii*)

