

A *Soldier's Play* takes place in Fort Neal, a fictional army base in Louisiana, during WWII. During the war, the U.S. Army grew from a force of 174,000 to 8 million, and bases were constructed around the country to train these new recruits before deployment. Each base was a small, self-contained city, with a hospital, laundry, mess halls, barracks, offices, recreation centers, telephone and telegraph offices, and more. Fort Neal, like all U.S. military bases during the war, was segregated. Bases were often located near small towns, and soldiers would visit local bars, restaurants, and social clubs during their free time.

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