

## Fort Walla Walla

- One of the longest-occupied military posts in the Northwest
- Home to dragoon, infantry, artillery, and cavalry units from **1856 to 1910**
- **Six** forts were named Walla Walla:
  - three fur trade forts, until 1855
  - in **1856** the first temporary military fort was built east of the current city of Walla Walla
  - Colonel Edward J. Steptoe built a larger temporary fort later in 1856 on the old treaty grounds in what is now downtown Walla Walla
  - the final US military Fort Walla Walla was completed in **1858**
- The Fort was used primarily as a cavalry outpost with a local peacekeeping mission
- Soldiers from the Fort were involved in a number of military engagements, including battles during the Nez Perce and Bannock-Paiute Wars (1870s)
- After **closing in 1910**, the Fort briefly reopened during **World War I** as a training base for the 146th Field Artillery Regiment



## RESERVE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ROA) Walla Walla Chapter (NW 021)

*Reach out to learn more about  
Membership, Initiatives, & Meetings at*  
**roa21pr@gmail.com**

*This chapter supports the following  
local organizations and initiatives:*

- Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)
- Civil Air Patrol (CAP)
- Veteran Headstone Preservation and Restoration



Serving Citizen Warriors since 1922  
[www.roa.org](http://www.roa.org)

## Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery



## NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO SERVED

Established in 1858 the **Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery** is the resting place of **165 US Soldiers** who fought and died serving their country during the **Wars for the Pacific Northwest: “Indian Wars.”**

Additionally, **37 non-military personnel** are buried at the site.

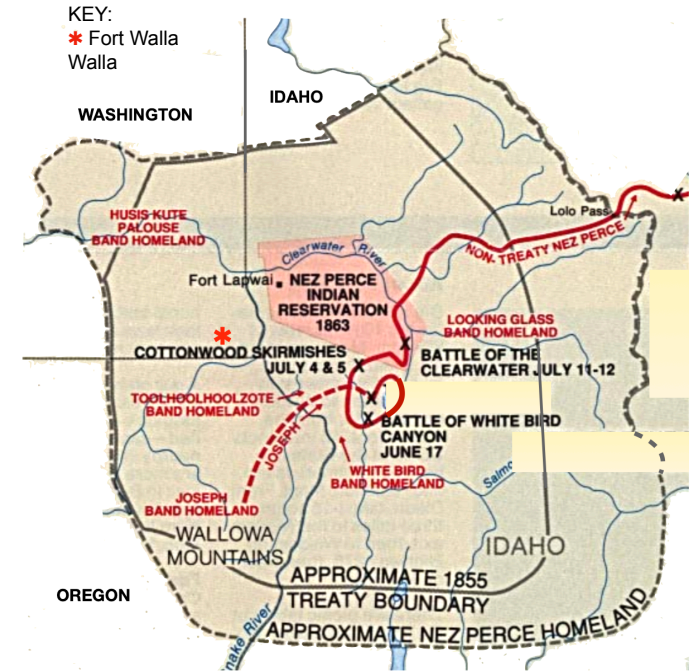
- First burial: 1859
- Last burial: 1906\*

*\*verification in process*



## The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) War of 1877

- In 1855, at the Walla Walla Council, the **Nez Perce** were coerced by the federal government into giving up their ancestral lands and moving to the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon Territory with the Walla Walla, Cayuse, and Umatilla tribes
- The tribes involved were so bitterly opposed to the terms of the plan that **Isaac I. Stevens**, governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for the Washington Territory, and **Joel Palmer**, superintendent of Indian affairs for Oregon Territory, signed the **Nez Perce Treaty in 1855**. This arrangement granted the Nez Perce the right to remain in a large portion of their own lands in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon territories, in exchange for relinquishing almost 5.5 million acres of their approximately 13 million acre homeland to the US government for a nominal sum.
- Tribes were allowed to hunt, fish, and pasture their horses on unoccupied areas of their former land – the same rights to use public lands as Anglo-American citizens of the territories
- In 1863 the Nez Perce territory was further reduced by coercion from the US government
- Tensions between Nez Perce and white settlers rose in 1876 and 1877. Initial raids by the Nez Perce in June 1877 prompted the US military to engage with the tribe at **White Bird Canyon**, then three weeks later at **Cottonwood Creek**, and finally at **Clearwater**.
- After a long fighting retreat to the east, Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce surrendered on October 5, 1877



*Three battles were fought between June - July 1877: White Bird Canyon, Cottonwood Creek, and Clearwater.*

*Map source: United States National Park Service*

### Fort Walla Walla Post Cemetery Today

- On Jan 15, 1958, the federal government transferred 6.35 acres, which included the cemetery, to the City of Walla Walla.
- The **City of Walla Walla Parks & Recreation Department** maintains the grounds as part of a public park. The **Post Cemetery** maintains its status as a historical monument. Future uses must be compatible with the property’s historic background.

**SAY A VETERAN’S NAME EVERY DAY TO ENSURE THEY ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN**