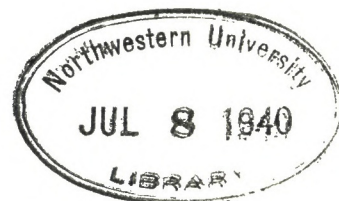


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

For Release to Newspapers
Sunday, July 7, 1940



COLONEL HARRINGTON CITES WPA DEFENSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS BASIS FOR EXPANDED
PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Now expanding the WPA program of preparedness projects to employ half a million men, Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner of Work Projects, today made public a summary of defense accomplishments showing construction or improvement of 12,000 military and naval buildings and 500 landing fields in less than five years.

These and hundreds of other defense projects represent an investment of \$346,689,000 in Federal, State and local funds from the inception of WPA in July, 1935, to June 1, 1940. They include 85 percent of all airport construction during the period and work on three-quarters of all army posts.

"One hundred thousand men were employed on projects of a national defense nature in June," Colonel Harrington said. "We plan to have five or six times that many at work on preparedness projects by fall, and the defense accomplishments of WPA in the single fiscal year just begun should approach the total of the five preceding years."

"The barracks, airports, armories, garages, utilities and other defense facilities provided this country by men who otherwise would have been idle now emerge as an important foundation for the intense period of training and material preparation ahead. In this work of preparedness the WPA is now multiplying its already substantial efforts."

The items listed in this summary of defense accomplishments, through March of this year, fall in two major classifications--projects sponsored by the War and Navy Departments and the Coast Guard and operated by WPA at the reservations or stations of these agencies; and airport and airway projects and National Guard projects sponsored by state and local government agencies and operated by WPA.

An important amount of defense work not included in this summary was conducted under the third classification--"Federal Agency" projects operated by the War and Navy Departments and the Coast Guard themselves under WPA

employment regulations and financed by funds transferred from WPA. These "Federal Agency" projects accounted for 39,650 of the 99,433 persons at work on defense projects on June 12.

Colonel Harrington further emphasized that the full scope of WPA work on behalf of national defense, both in the past and in the future, far exceeds the accomplishments in the three specific categories of defense work. He pointed out that many of the half million miles of roads and streets built or repaired and hundreds of public buildings would be of great importance in a time of national emergency.

A major item in the defense building program has been the construction of 222 new armories and 36 additions and the reconstruction or improvement of 356, in most instances under the sponsorship of State National Guard organizations.

Buildings constructed or improved for the armed forces include 141 new garages and 533 improved or enlarged; 146 storage buildings and 1,523 improved or enlarged; 35 new administration buildings and 231 improved or enlarged; and six new hospitals and 135 improved or enlarged. Other new buildings numbering 1,084 include barracks, quarters, mess halls, kitchens and barns. In addition 6,298 were improved or enlarged.

On the grounds surrounding these and existing buildings WPA has built, repaired or improved 828 miles of roads and 841 bridges and culverts.

Utilities provided on military and naval sites include 28 new plants and improvements to 35. In this connection 100 miles of water line, 130 miles of sewer line and 183 miles of telephone, telegraph and electric line have been provided and substantial mileages repaired by WPA workers.

The WPA airport and airways program has constructed for the War and Navy Departments, Coast Guard and National Guard 14 landing fields, additions to five and improvements to 30. The runways constructed total more than 40 miles in length. WPA has also built 90 buildings, including hangars, improved 479 and made additions to 23. It has provided boundary lights and airway markers in large numbers.

These airport facilities are in addition to a far greater number made available by WPA on state and local government sites throughout the nation,

all of them of value in a time of emergency. This group includes 171 new landing fields, 274 improved and 41 enlarged; and the construction or reconstruction of 10 seaplane bases.

New hangars numbering 150 are included among the 317 new buildings and 93 hangars are among the 212 buildings improved or enlarged on sites other than military and naval. Along the airways of the nation WPA has provided 9,733 new and 1,859 improved markers; 66 new beacons and 14 repaired. Sixty-six landing areas have been floodlighted.

Illustrating the extent of WPA defense work at various key points in the nation's defense system, the Army has obtained at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, powder manufacturing buildings, 10 powder storage magazines and a number of other storage buildings. The complete list of accomplishments includes construction of and improvements to officers' quarters, employees' buildings, garages, climb-proof fences, utilities and a bomb-proof shelter in the tetryl area. Several miles of railroad tracks, roads and sidewalks have been provided.

The variety and extent of projects at the important Charleston (South Carolina) Navy Yard presents a similarly impressive total. The list here includes, in addition to such items as roads and barracks, five crane towers, an ammunition storage building and piers.

"Such accomplishments, multiplied at other Army reservations and Naval stations all over the country and in the possessions and territories, already are indispensable parts of our national defense," Colonel Harrington said. "WPA will provide many more such facilities in the coming months."

(Attached are four tables showing in detail the accomplishments, expenditures and employment discussed in this release.)

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SELECTED ITEMS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SPONSORED OR
 CO-SPONSORED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT, NAVY DEPARTMENT,
 COAST GUARD AND NATIONAL GUARD

(4-2147)

Cumulative Through March 31, 1940

Item		Number or Amount		
Roads and Streets - Total	Miles			828
Bridges and Culverts - Total	Number			841
		<u>New Con-</u>	<u>Reconstruction</u>	
		<u>struction</u>	<u>or Improvement</u>	<u>Additions</u>
Buildings (other than utility plants and airport buildings) - Total	Number	1,598	8,975	137
Administrative Buildings	Number	35	225	6
Hospitals and Infirmaries	Number	6	133	2
Garages	Number	141	519	14
Storage Buildings	Number	146	1,507	16
Armories	Number	222	356	36
Barracks, Quarters, Mess Halls, Kitchens, Barns, Stables, etc.	Number	1,048	6,235	63
Utility Plants	Number	28	35	XXX
Water Mains and Distribution Lines	Miles	100	44	XXX
Storm and Sanitary Sewers	Miles	130	49	XXX
Telephone and Telegraph Lines	Miles	86	28	XXX
Electric Power Lines	Miles	97	467	XXX
Facilities at Airports and Landing Areas				
Landing Fields	Number	14	30	5
Runways	Lin. ft.	225,000	24,000	XXX
Airport Buildings - Total	Number	90	479	23
Administrative Buildings	Number	4	11	2
Hangars	Number	8	115	12
Other Airport Buildings	Number	78	353	9
Seaplane Ramps and Landing Platforms	Number	1	1	XXX
Landing Areas Floodlighted	Number	2	1	XXX
Boundary Lights	Number	90	330	XXX
Airway Facilities				
Airway Markers	Number	722	700	XXX

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
 WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
 Division of Statistics

ACCOMPLISHMENT ON AIRPORT AND AIRWAY PROJECTS
 (Other Than Those Sponsored or Co-Sponsored by the War Department
 Navy Department, Coast Guard or National Guard)

(4-2147)

Cumulative Through March 31, 1940

Item	New Construction or Improvement			Reconstruction Additions facing	
					Sur-
Facilities at Airports and Landing Areas					
Landing Fields	No.	171	274	41	xxx
Runways	Lin. ft.	1,676,000	426,000	xxxx	199,000
Airport Buildings - Total	No.	317	187	25	xxx
Administration Buildings	No.	68	33	9	xxx
Hangars	No.	150	88	5	xxx
Other Airport Buildings	No.	99	61	11	xxx
Landing Areas Floodlighted	No.	66	16	xxx	xxx
Boundary Lights	No.	11,596	1,320	xxx	xxx
Airway Facilities					
Airway Markers	No.	9,733	1,859	xxx	xxx
Airway Beacons	No.	66	14	xxx	xxx
Seaplane Bases	No.	7	3	xxx	xxx

NUMBER EMPLOYED ON WPA FINANCED AIRPORT PROJECTS AND PROJECTS
 SPONSORED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT, NAVY DEPARTMENT, COAST GUARD, NATIONAL GUARD
 As of June 12, 1940

Agency	Projects Operated by WPA	Projects Operated by Other Agencies and Financed by Transferred WPA Funds
TOTAL	59,783	39,650
War Dept.	34,648	28,917
Navy Dept., Coast Guard	6,542	10,783
National Guard	5,731	xxx
All Other Agencies (Airport and Airway Projects Only)	12,862	xxx

EXPENDITURES ON WPA OPERATED AIRPORT PROJECTS AND PROJECTS
 SPONSORED BY WAR DEPARTMENT, NAVY DEPARTMENT, COAST GUARD, NATIONAL GUARD

Continental United States
 Cumulative through May 31, 1940
 (Subject to Revision)

Sponsoring Agency	All Funds	Federal Funds	Sponsors' Funds
TOTAL A/	\$346,689,000	\$273,683,000	\$73,006,000
War Dept.	103,567,000	86,626,000	16,941,000
Navy Dept., Coast Guard	19,563,000	15,829,000	3,734,000
National Guard	46,171,000	38,051,000	8,120,000
All Other (for Airports and Airways Only)	177,388,000	133,177,000	44,211,000

A/ Does not include expenditures of \$36,317,000 from Federal funds on projects operated by the War Department, \$22,221,000 on Navy Department projects, and \$366,000 on Coast Guard projects financed with transferred WPA funds.