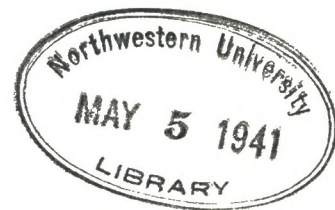


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## ARMY GETTING NEW MILITARY MAPS THROUGH WPA PROJECT

Topographic maps of some of the most vital areas in the coastal and border defense plans of the United States are now being revised for tactical uses by WPA workers under the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers, Howard O. Hunter, Acting Commissioner of Work Projects, said today. Covering an area aggregating over 200,000 square miles along the Eastern Seaboard, the Great Lakes States, the Mexican border and the West Coast, the maps will show natural and artificial features of the landscape on a scale of approximately one inch to the mile.

Only a small part of the country is adequately mapped for military purposes at present, Army officials declare. In time of war, they point out, up-to-date maps showing contours of the land and the location of roads, bridges, canals, railroads and even houses are an absolute necessity. This is particularly true, they add, in the control of artillery fire and the disposition of troops. The majority of maps available today are said to be inadequate for this purpose.

Thirty-two military mapping projects are currently operating, Mr. Hunter said, and plans for additional projects are being made by the Corps of Engineers. Approximately 1,000 cartographers, draftsmen and clerks drawn from WPA rolls are already employed and the number may be expected to increase as additional projects are approved.

The projects now operating represent an outlay of \$2,530,204 in WPA funds plus \$659,640 provided by the Army as official sponsor. All military mapping projects conducted by WPA have been certified by the Secretary of War as important to the defense program.

"Maps are an item of military supply which in many cases may assume an importance equivalent to the supply of ammunition and other necessities of combat," a spokesman for the Corps of Engineers declares. "A knowledge of the characteristics of the terrain is essential to the intelligent conduct of military operations. Frequently the only available means of obtaining this information is through the medium of maps.

"Through the resources of the WPA we are making important gains in supplying the deficiency in maps suitable for military operations. We hope to be able to extend this highly important work to other sections of the country in the near future."

The WPA military mapping project includes the preparation of tactical, strategic and fire control maps; harbor defense surveys; conversion of coordinates to the military grid system; utility and structure surveys on military and naval posts and surveys of highways, roads and streets of importance for naval and military purposes.

Most of the areas in which the military mapping projects are operating, Mr. Hunter continued, are vital spots in the nation's defense plans. Among the more important on which work is now going on are areas varying from 2,000 to 80,000 square miles each centering around New York City, the coast of Maine, southeastern Pennsylvania (including the City of Philadelphia) and northern Maryland, western New York centering around Rochester, southern New Jersey and eastern

Virginia. Other areas soon to be covered include large sections of the Mexican border and portions of Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, eastern Michigan and northeastern New York.

In the majority of instances, Mr. Hunter said, the work consists of bringing up to date maps originally prepared from field data assembled as much as 50 years ago. Revision is necessary to show the changes which have since occurred in natural and artificial features of the landscape. Forests may have grown up over areas originally shown as cleared, or swamps may have been drained or the courses of creeks and small rivers altered. In almost every case, it is explained, such old maps are useless in showing present locations of highways, bridges, railroads and even whole villages and towns which may have been established since the original map was prepared.

The basic data of these older maps, however, such as distance between geodetic control points and contour lines showing elevation, are considered correct. To make them usable for military purposes, they are first redrawn on a standard scale of approximately 2,000 feet to the inch, which permits the inclusion of greater detail. From a variety of sources, including aerial photography, new features of the landscape then are superimposed showing all roads, waterways, dams, bridges, buildings, etc. For final reproduction the scale is reduced to approximately one mile to the inch.

The finished product, printed in six colors on sheets approximately 24 inches square and representing a ground area about 12 by 15 miles, is as accurate a facsimile of the terrain as it is possible to produce at that scale.

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