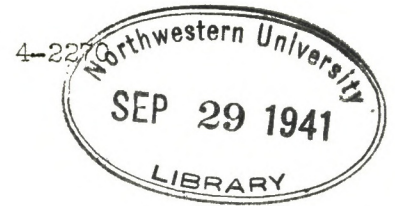


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WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION



For Release
Thursday, September 18, 1941

20,000 ARMY AND NAVY FLIERS TO TAKE WPA SPANISH CLASSES

A greatly expanded program of Spanish instruction for the flying personnel of both the Army and Navy air forces was announced today by Commissioner Howard O. Hunter of the Work Projects Administration.

The instruction is to be furnished by WPA teachers of the Adult Education Program under a \$415,644 supplementary project recently approved by the President and certified for national defense purposes by both the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy. The courses are designed to provide an elementary speaking and reading knowledge of the Spanish language for approximately 15,000 members of the Army Air Forces and 5,000 of the Navy's air arm.

Mr. Hunter also said that a new beginner's text in Spanish, especially adapted to the needs of the air forces, has been prepared by staff members of the Adult Education Program and will be off the presses within the next week. Fifty thousand copies of this have already been contracted for by the Army Air Forces and a somewhat smaller number by the Navy.

"This new program is an extension of a much smaller program which was initiated early in the summer," Mr. Hunter added. "At that time, at the request of Maj. Gen. H. H. Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Corps, the WPA set up a project for Spanish instruction for the officer personnel of the Air Corps only.

"Meanwhile, the Navy has requested a like service for its flying personnel and the Army has decided to extend the instruction to the non-commissioned as well as commissioned officers of the Air Forces. This involves an expansion of almost 100 percent in the present program.

"Members of our military and naval air forces are expected to be among our most effective 'ambassadors of good will' to the Central and South American republics. It is important, if they are to carry out their missions there efficiently, that they be able to use the language.

"The WPA has on the rolls of its Adult Education Program a large number of persons qualified to teach Spanish as well as other foreign languages. This program makes it possible for these unemployed people to earn their security wages by participating in the national defense program."

The Spanish teaching project is already operating at 40 Army air stations with a total of between 7,000 and 8,000 commissioned officers receiving instruction. Quarters are provided on the posts by the Army and the WPA teachers are brought in each day from nearby cities and towns. As currently operating, the program employs only about 150 teachers, but this number probably will be increased to 400 as the expanded program gets under way. Their WPA wages average between \$75 and \$80 a month, although many hold degrees and teaching certificates.

The new text book, which has been prepared under the direction of a group of language specialists by staff members of the WPA Adult Education Program, is probably unique, Mr. Hunter said. It makes use of a vocabulary of approximately 600 Spanish words and its mastery is expected to give the student an ability to discuss airplanes, flying, flying conditions, and to carry on simple conversations on general topics as well.

Most of the lessons are concerned with the fictional exploits of "Juan y Carlos," two American aviators who make a forced landing near a South American town. To the natives they explain what has happened to their plane, arrange to get necessary parts and seek directions to the nearest town where they engage rooms at a hotel and order food. They communicate with the American consulate, go on a shopping tour, attend several social functions, and in time

return home with two South American aviators with whom they have become friendly and show them around an Army air field in the United States.

The book is of a size to fit the pocket of a flying suit, contains several airplane charts with each part labeled in Spanish, a map of South and Central America and an exhaustive vocabulary of military and technical words and phrases.

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