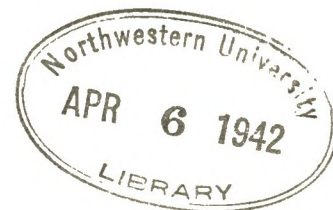


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
Work Projects Administration

For Release
Sunday, April 5, 1942.

900 SITES IN WPA AIRPORT RECORD; PROJECTS NOW OPERATING AT 350

Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner of Work Projects, reported today that the WPA airport construction and improvement program has bettered the facilities of the nation's flying forces at 900 sites, including 350 where projects are now in operation.

The current work represents a great part of all wartime airport construction and improvement for the armed forces. It comprises, almost without exception, projects for War and Navy Department airports and for civilian fields which the Army and Navy are using or will use and have certified to be of military importance.

As of December 31, 1941, Mr. Hunter said, WPA workers were employed on 354 airport sites and had worked previously on 533 others. Projects had been approved for 76 additional sites, bringing the total WPA airport program to 963 sites scattered throughout the country.

At the end of 1941, 61,500 WPA workers were employed on various types of airport projects and other projects relating to airports, ranging from grading of fields and construction of runways to work on hangars and the installation of utilities and boundary lighting. Expenditures at airport sites under the WPA program reached \$450,000,000 in December.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that the employment of needy workers during the depression years had provided a pattern of airports ready to meet the increased demands of military aviation during the last year and a half. The rate of airport construction was increased sharply after the national defense program began in 1940, and has remained high in spite of the drastic general reduction in the WPA rolls.

The total area of new airports constructed by the WPA is as great as the land area of the District of Columbia, and the acreage on which additions or improvements were made is twice that great. Runways constructed by WPA aggregate nearly 700 miles in length and have a paved surface equivalent to a highway across the continent. More than 1,000 buildings have been constructed and 2,700 improved or enlarged at airports.

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