

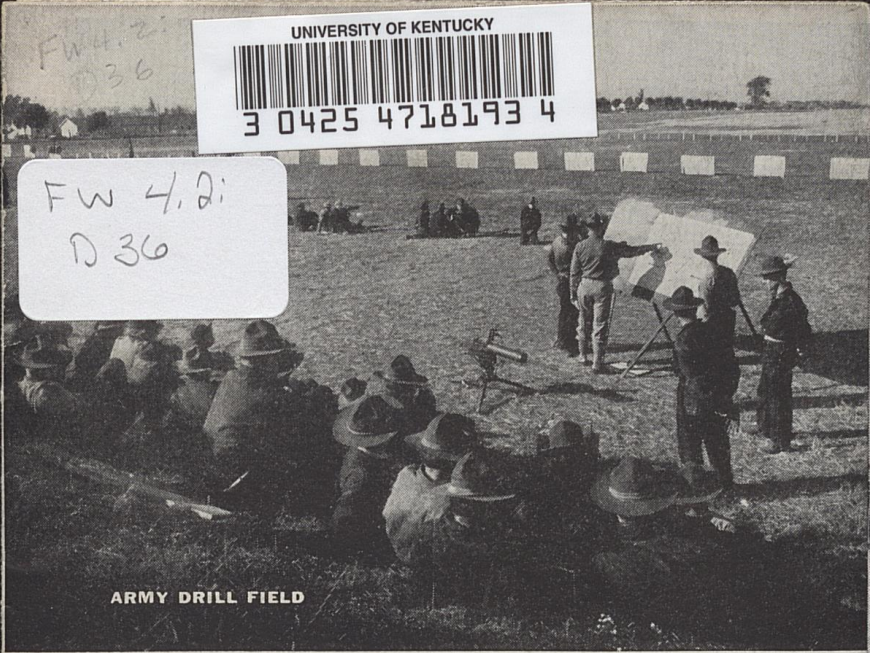
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NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE WPA

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WHAT THE WPA HAS DONE TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA

Work of many kinds, important to national defense, has been done by the Work Projects Administration ever since it began to provide public work for the unemployed in 1935.

In addition to other public improvements and services, the WPA has constructed or enlarged or otherwise improved some 550 landing fields for aircraft. This is 85 percent of all work done on American airports in the past five and one-half years.

WPA workers have also built or improved more than 15,000 military and naval buildings, such as barracks and officers' quarters, mess halls and kitchens, armories, storage buildings, and garages.

Other WPA work at military and naval reservations includes installation of utilities, road building and railway extension, and construction of gun ranges and maneuver grounds, docks and wharves.

EXPANSION OF DEFENSE WORK

When our national defense program got under way in summer 1940, Congress authorized an expansion of WPA defense work. Since then, defense projects have had priority. By mid-December, projects worth \$350,000,000 were in operation, and the total value of all defense projects operated by the WPA since its establishment had risen to well over \$800,000,000.

Besides other defense work, the WPA is now building and improving roads that give access to airports, military and naval reservations, and centers of defense industry; doing work on strategic highways designated by the War Department; and operating health and sanitation projects in the vicinity of training camps.

Thousands of WPA workers are being trained for jobs in defense industries; others, as aviation ground servicemen, and as hospital orderlies and ward helpers.

White-collar activities include research and records projects related to defense, making maps and surveys for the Army, and education and recreation work in areas of military or industrial concentration.

In all these ways, our men and women who cannot find private employment make their own contribution to national defense. And in so doing, they become effectively a part of our American democracy, with faith in its institutions and a stake in its future.



HANGAR ADDITION AT RANDOLPH FIELD—ONE OF MANY WPA IMPROVEMENTS AT FAMOUS ARMY PILOT-TRAINING CENTER NEAR SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

THE WPA HELPS THE NATION TO PUT ITS UNEMPLOYED TO WORK ON NATIONAL DEFENSE PROJECTS



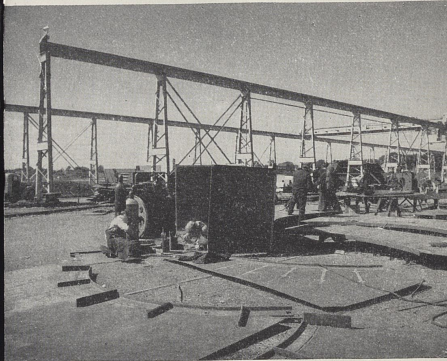
Army posts, to accommodate a prospective land force of 1,400,000 men, will need more and better facilities. The WPA has already done work at 80 percent of all Army reservations. This is the receiving room of a WPA-built infirmary at Fort Moultrie in South Carolina.



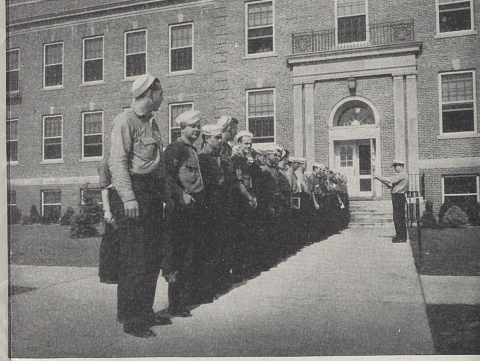
National Guard armories in 1935, in one out of three cases, were reported inadequate for training purposes or safe storage of rifles and other Federal property. Since then, the WPA has built or improved 600 in all parts of the country. This one is in Oklahoma.



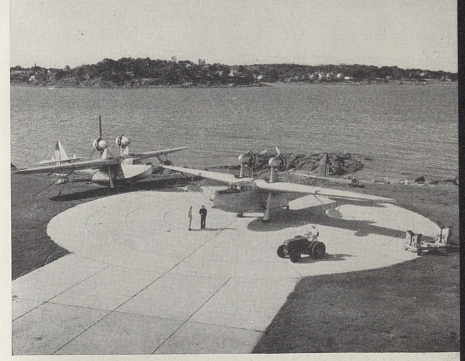
Training camps today are far better equipped than they were in 1918. Thanks in many cases to the WPA, they have proper drainage and sewerage, and either ample barracks or tents with concrete foundations and electric lights—like these at Fort Hancock, New Jersey.



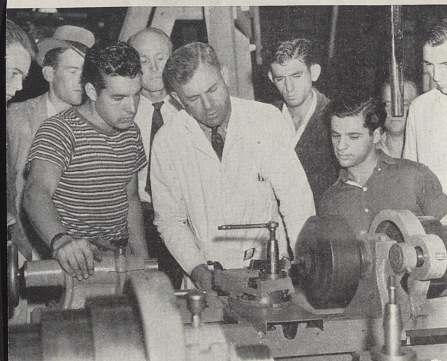
Navy yards and other shore facilities will become increasingly important as our Navy grows. The WPA has done work at 90 percent of all naval establishments. It built these overhead crane tracks, as well as racks to store armor plate, at Portsmouth, N. H., Navy Yard.



Training stations are as indispensable to the Navy as yards, ordnance plants, and ammunition depots. This barracks building was erected jointly by the WPA and the Public Works Administration, at the U. S. Submarine Base & Training School, New London, Conn.



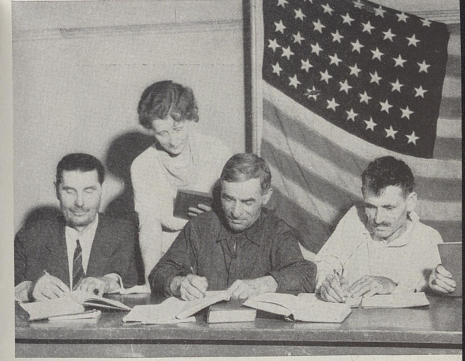
Seaplane bases as well as land airports must be developed to meet increases in our air force and our pilot-training program. (Such work also benefits civil aviation.) This shows a compass-calibration platform built by WPA workers for the Coast Guard at Salem, Mass.



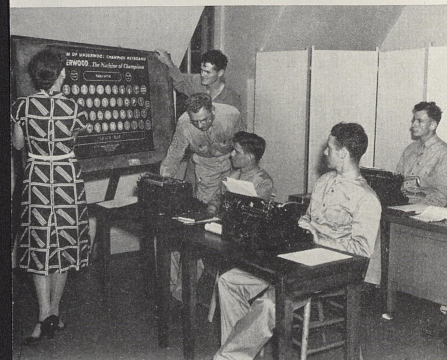
Vocational training of workers for skilled jobs in defense industries is increasingly important. Thousands of WPA workers with proven aptitude and work habits are attending classes to fit themselves for such jobs. Thousands have already graduated into private employment. This is a machine-shop class at Los Angeles.



Good roads are essential in these days of motorized movement. Already the WPA has built or improved over half a million miles of roads; and it is now emphasizing construction of "access" and reservation roads, and improvement of strategic highways. These troops are on maneuvers near Fort Benning, Georgia.



Americanization work is being carried on by the WPA through literacy classes for aliens seeking citizenship and also through classes and discussion groups in the field of public affairs. These men are preparing to become American citizens by learning how to read and write in a WPA literacy class at Columbus, Ohio.



Educational activities of the WPA are being extended to Army and Navy reservations and centers of defense industry. Classes are conducted to meet special needs. This is a class in typing, intended to help soldiers with their "paper work," at Barksdale Field, in Louisiana.



Morale is the foundation of defense. A former WPA worker, John Lawton (right) of Massachusetts, was the first man taken into the Army under Selective Service. "Uncle Sam gave me a job when I needed it," he said. "I'm glad to do my bit for Uncle Sam now."



Wholesome recreation is being increasingly provided by the WPA in areas of military and industrial concentration. The program includes supervised entertainment, sports and games of many varieties. This is a WPA-conducted dance at Mitchel Field, Long Island.

THE WPA HELPS THE NATION TO PUT ITS UNEMPLOYED TO WORK ON NATIONAL DEFENSE PROJECTS



Our new soldiers benefit from many a WPA improvement. These members of an antiaircraft unit are eating in a WPA-built mess hall at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. Army officials have commended both WPA work already done and the speed with which new projects are begun.

Our new aviators generally learn to fly at WPA-built or improved airports. This shows a student pilot and his instructor at Lockport, Ill. Emergency expansion of our military air force and pilot-training program has emphasized the importance of WPA airport work from coast to coast.



TO BUILD UP ITS DEFENSES

WHAT ARMY AND NAVY MEN SAY

Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff:
"In the great task of preparing for national defense, the WPA has proved itself an invaluable aid."

Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War:
"The WPA is helping to provide the facilities which make it possible for us to mobilize and train an Army adequate for the defense of America."

Lewis Compton, former Asst. Secretary of Navy:
"From my own personal inspection, I can testify to the high value of the contribution which WPA workers are making to our national defense."

Brig. Gen. H. A. Dargue, Asst. Chief of Air Corps:
"Without the help of the WPA, we should be far short of our present state of preparedness for air defense."

Maj. Gen. John F. Williams, Chief of National Guard:
"Our task of training and caring for our men will be much easier this year than it was in 1917 and '18, because of the construction and improvement work that the WPA has done at training facilities throughout the country."

Admiral Wm. D. Leahy, former Chief of Naval Operations:
"Without the help of WPA workers, we would be unable to complete our vitally important defense facilities as rapidly and efficiently as we must."

WPA DEFENSE WORK *

Landing fields for aircraft. 205 new, 338 improved, and 56 additions.

Airport buildings. 570 erected, 1,101 improved, and 82 additions built. These include:

	New	Improved	Additions
Hangers	180	277	22
Administrative buildings	92	62	21
Other airport buildings	298	762	39

Other defense buildings (chiefly Army and Navy property). 2,643 new, 12,546 improved, and 289 additions. These include:

	New	Improved	Additions
Barracks	328	1,648	2
Officers' quarters	23	3,957	51
Storage buildings	362	1,819	37
Mess halls and kitchens	431	697	21
Garages	330	718	21
Armories	248	397	42
Administrative buildings	67	355	21
Barns and stables	43	233	19
Hospitals and infirmaries	99	197	5
Other buildings	775	2,653	70

Defense roads. 1,951 miles of roads built or improved on Army and Navy reservations. (Accomplishment figures are not yet available for work done on "access" roads and strategic highways.)

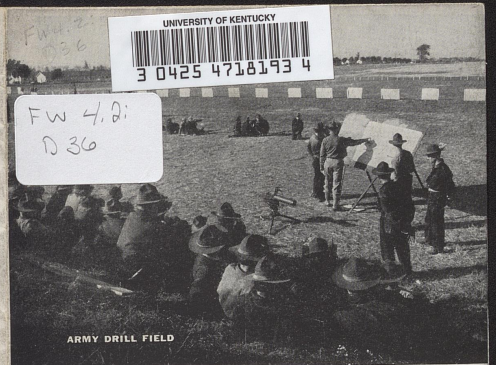
Defense utilities (on Army and Navy land). 130 utility plants, 226 miles of water lines, 289 miles of sewers, and 204 miles of telephone and telegraph lines built or improved.

*These figures cover 5½ years of WPA operation, to December 15, 1940.

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
JOHN M. CARMODY, Administrator
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
HOWARD O. HUNTER, Commissioner

April 1941

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