

This Clipping From

Corpus Christi (Tex) Times

Date APR 18 1941

# Officials Gather At Site of Big Bomber Plant

## Air Station Head Among Those at Fort Worth

FORT WORTH, April 18 (U.P.)—Ground-breaking for a \$10,000,000 Consolidated Aircraft bomber assembly plant here today brought Uncle Sam's defense program and the long-dreamed industrialization of the Southwest one step nearer reality.

A score of prominent Army and Navy officials were here today to scoop up a shovel of dirt at the 1,400-acre site near beautiful Lake Worth.

Here in this cow town, where close to 200,000 have tuned their living to the easy-going manner of the cattle country, the ceremonies today harken a new era that most expect to transform the rural metropolis into a top-flight Southwestern industrial center.

### 15,000 Employees

The initial shot in the arm from Consolidated will bring a payroll of more than \$1,000,000 monthly to more than 15,000 employees at the peak of productivity. The factory will manufacture four-motor bombers of the B-24 type from parts pre-fabricated at large industrial plants in the East and northern Midwest.

Ceremonies at the plant today follows close on an announcement of a new Army air training school expected to be built near the bomber plant. Brig. Gen. G. C. Brant, commander of the Gulf Coast Air Corps Training Center, Randolph Field, one of the speakers here today, made the recommendations to the War Department in Washington yesterday.

Consolidated's plant here starts construction a few weeks before another plant awarded to Tulsa and follows the completion of the first large airplane factory in the Southwest—the North American plant near Dallas.

### Bernhard Present

Other speakers today included Col. William B. Wright, commander of the Meridian, Miss., air base, who will represent several high-ranking Army officials; Capt. Alva D. Bernhard, commandant of the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station; Lieut. Comdr. Clifford H. Duerfeldt, also of Corpus Christi; Col. George E. Lovell, Fort Sam Houston; Col. Lawrence Westbrook, assistant WPA commissioner; Col. S. O. Scott, Dallas; Albert S. Low, vice-president and chief engineer of Austin Co., contractors.

Amon Carter, well-known Fort Worth publisher, will preside at the ceremonies. Austin Co. offered to lend the group a steam shovel for the ground-breaking—"Son, you could really get some dirt"—but the novel idea was vetoed in favor of a gilded handspade which may be kept as a memento of the occasion.

A delegation headed by Mayor C. A. Veale came down from Tulsa to get a pre-view of the ceremonies which will be duplicated in the Oklahoma city the first week in May. The party included C. A. King, chamber of commerce president; Marvin Hurley, assistant chamber manager, and Louis W. Grant, prominent Tulsa businessman.