FORT WORTH, April 18. (AP)—Commenting “we’re digging Hitler’s grave here,” Brig. Gen. G. C. Brant of San Antonio today spaded the first earth at ground breaking ceremonies for a $10,000,000 heavy bomber assembly plant.

General Brant, commander of the Gulf Coast air corps training center at San Antonio, recalled that about 18,000 pilots were trained in the United States during the World War.

“We trained fliers then but depended mainly on France and England to furnish them with combat planes, many of which did not materialize. We have learned our lesson and now we are building our own planes.”

“It is high time,” he added, “that America learned to stand on its own feet.”

General Brant disclosed he had recommended establishment of an air corps training base on an 850-acre site adjacent to the bomber plant.

Hundreds of persons stood through an hour of intermittent rain at the site on the south shore of Lake Worth. Publisher Amon G. Carter of Fort Worth was master of ceremonies.

Belief that permanent operation of the plant was certain after the defense emergency ends was expressed by T. E. Braniff of Oklahoma City, president of Braniff Airways, Inc.

C. A. King, president of the Tulsa, Okla., Chamber of Commerce, invited Fort Worth citizens to attend a similar function to be held there on May 2, when work is started on a duplicate plant to be operated by the Douglas Aircraft Company.

Col. George E. Lovell of Fort Sam Houston, representing the Eighth Corps Area, said Fort Worth is well situated for a plant of this type.

“It is far enough away from the borders to be safe from attack,” he pointed out.