

# Shortened British-Greek Defense Line Holds Nazi Hordes

## Speakers, Listeners, Ground-Breakers at Bomber Plant Site Ceremonies



AMONG THE SPEAKERS AT FRIDAY'S GROUND-BREAKING ceremonies for the Lake Worth bomber plant was William Holden, executive vice president of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, shown above as he addressed the crowd.



MASTER OF CEREMONIES FOR THE PROGRAM WAS AMON Carter, pictured during a serious moment in his continuity of comment and introductions of many distinguished visitors and speakers from all over the United States.



AN UMBRELLA CAME IN HANDY FOR MR. AND MRS. N. C. Hott, 3300 West Sixth Street, who stayed for the entire program despite the inclement weather which sent most of those present scurrying to their cars.



BRIG. GEN. G. C. BRANT, UNITED STATES ARMY AIR Corps, turns the first spade full of dirt, watched by (left to right) City Manager Bothwell; Albert S. Low (the Austin Company); Col. Lawrence Westbrook and Col. S. L. Scott.

## Brant Turns First Dirt for Bomber Plant

Hundreds of persons, keenly aware of the significance of the occasion, stood through an hour of intermittent rain on the south shore of Lake Worth Friday to witness breaking of ground for one of the most important projects in the Nation's vast defense effort—the War Department's \$10,000,000 heavy bomber assembly plant.

Using a brightly silvered spade, Brig. Gen. G. C. Brant, commander of the Gulf Coast Air Corps Training Center at San Antonio, turned the first dirt with the comment that

"We're digging Hitler's grave here today."

General Brant also revealed while here that he has recommended establishment of an Air Corp pilot training base on an 850-acre site adjacent to the bomber plant and landing field.

### Advantage Foreseen.

Pilots would be trained there in handling of the four-motored bombers to be turned out by the plant and also would have an opportunity to study the planes while they were being assembled.

One of the speakers on the program preceding the ground breaking made it clear that he believes permanent operation of the plant is inevitable, irrespective of how soon the war emergency may end.

The speaker was T. E. Braniff of Oklahoma City, president of Braniff Airways, Inc.

### Place in Economy.

"There is a question in the minds of some people," Braniff said, about what will become of these defense projects when the emergency is over, but to men in the aviation industry, there is no ques-

Other stories and pictures on the bomber plant may be found on Pages 2, 8 and 9.

tion but what they will find a place in our economy of the future."

Braniff also expressed his approval of the new government policy of locating such plants in the Middlewest, out of the zone of danger of attack on either the East or West Coasts.

After being introduced by Amon Carter, master of ceremonies, to the crowd on the ground and to the radio audience, Mayor McCrary declared the occasion was a momentous one, and the beginning of a new era for Fort Worth.

### Material Part.

"We are making a material contribution to the national defense program," he said, "and starting an industrial plant that will mean much to the future prosperity of Fort Worth."

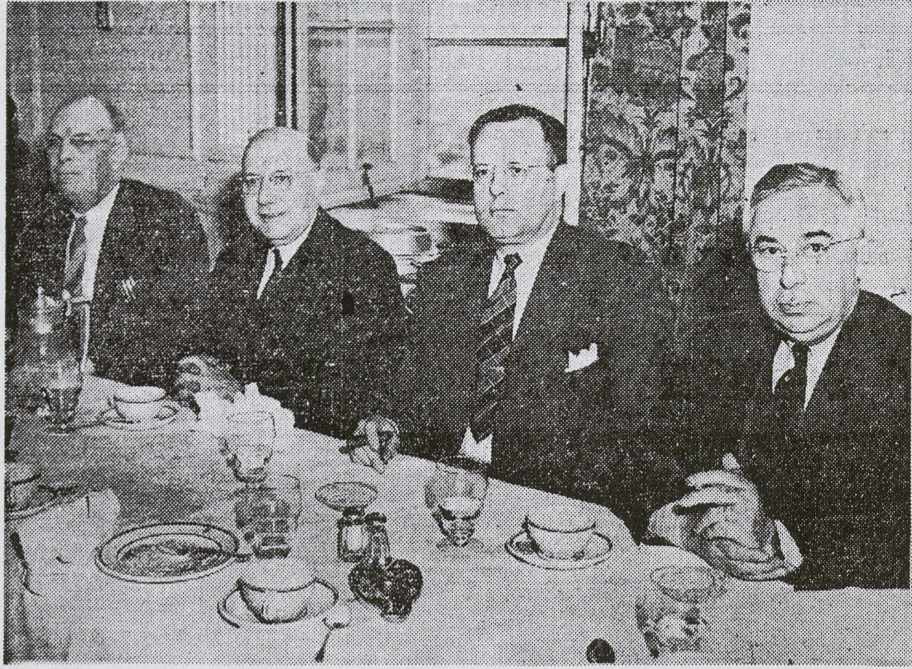
County Judge Dave Miller, spokesman for Tarrant County, promised that county officials will do all in their power to get roads to the plant built as rapidly as they are needed. Several crews already are at work on Roaring Springs Road, White Settlement Road and Grant's Lane.

Col. George E. Lovell of Fort Sam Houston, representing the 8th Corps Area, said that Fort Worth is well situated for a plant of this type.

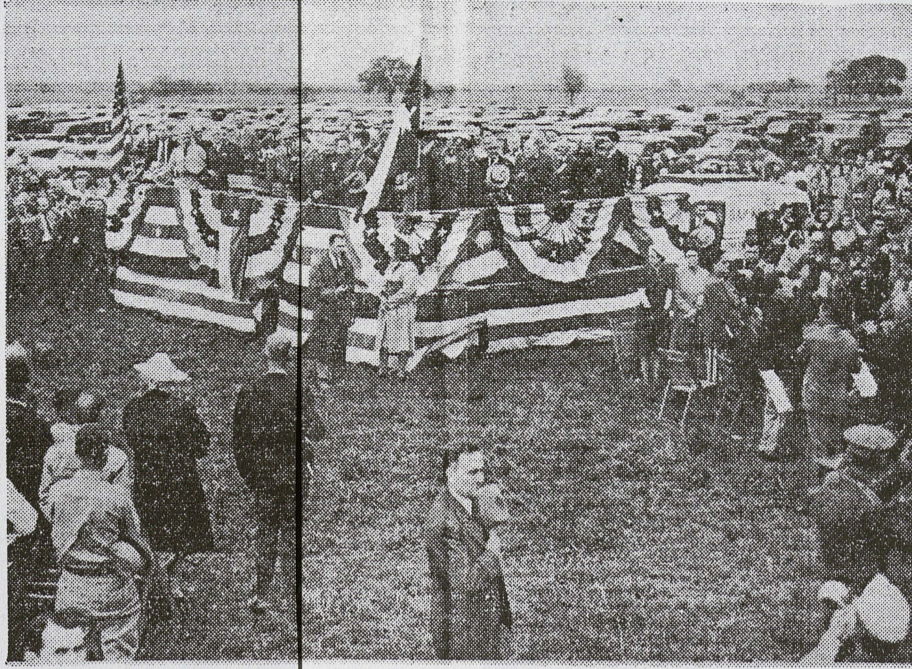
"It is far enough away from the borders to be safe from attack," he pointed out, "and the excellent

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# Austin Company Officials—At the Ceremony—3 Aviation Branches



THESE FOUR KEY OFFICIALS OF THE AUSTIN COMPANY, SNAPPED AT THE luncheon preceding the Lake Worth bomber plant ground-breaking ceremony, will play important roles here in the construction of the \$10,000,000 establishment. All have been employed by the company, which holds the construction contract, for 20 or more years, and will be stationed in Fort Worth for duration of the work. Left to right are Norman R. Crater, New York City, general superintendent; Edwin Renz, New York, assistant chief engineer; A. D. Engle, Cleveland, chief engineer; and R. C. Farrington, Cleveland, chief mechanical engineer.



DIGNITARIES CROWDED THIS FLAG-DRAPED PLATFORM FOR THE BOMBER plant ceremony. In the front row, beginning at left, were City Manager Bothwell (head barely visible); Albert S. Low, vice president of the Austin Company; Capt. Alva D. Bernhard, naval air station commander; Col. George E. Lovell, Eighth Corps Area, Fort Sam Houston; Amon Carter, immediately to the right of the microphone; Mayor McCrary; Brig. Gen. G. C. Brant, commander of the Gulf Coast Air Corps Training Center; and Col. Lawrence Westbrook of the Federal Works Agency. Saluting, immediately to right of the Texas flag, is Lieut. Col. H. W. Holden, executive officer of the GCCTC.



THREE BRANCHES OF AVIATION—ARMY, NAVY AND COMMERCIAL—WERE represented at the bomber plant ground-breaking ceremonies and the luncheon preceding the event. Here, left to right, are Lieut. Col. H. W. Holden, of Randolph Field, executive officer of the Gulf Coast Air Corps Training Center; T. E. Braniff, Oklahoma City, president of Braniff Airways; and Lieut. Comdr. C. H. Duerfeldt, assistant supervisor of aviation training at the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi. The Gulf Coast is the army's largest air training group, and the Corpus Christi station holds first rank in that respect for the United States Navy.

(Star-Telegram Photos.)

## General Brant Turns First Dirt for Big Bomber Plant as Throng Braves Rain

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

climate here will permit year round production and testing of planes."

Lesson Learned.  
Colonel Lovell recalled that he was commander of Carruthers, Barron and Taliaferro Fields, pilot training centers, here during the World War.

General Brant, introduced by Carter as "the most genial and delightful representative of the War Department in the country," recalled that about 18,000 pilots were trained during the World War, most of them in Texas.

"We trained fliers then," he said, "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 said, "that America learned to stand on its own two feet."

General Brant said he considered it "very appropriate" to have the Air Corps training base adjacent to the assembly plant, and spoke of the difference in handling bombers and planes of other types.

Speaking as a representative of the Air Corps, General Brant congratulated Fort Worth on having men like Mayor McCrary, County Judge Miller and public-spirited citizens like Amon Carter to take the lead in acquiring such plants.

### Great Day for All.

Capt. Alva D. Bernhard, commandant of the new Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, declared that "this is a great day not only for Fort Worth but for the entire country."

He congratulated the voters of Fort Worth and Tarrant County on having given the bomber plant bond issues overwhelming majorities.

"You'll get the money back many times, and soon," he declared.

Full co-operation of the Works Projects Administration in doing its share of the work undertaken by the city and the county on the plant project was pledged by Col. Lawrence Westbrook of Washington, assistant administrator of the Federal Works Agency.

### One of Two Largest.

Lieut. Col. S. L. Scott of Dallas, division engineer of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army, which will supervise construction of the plant, said that "nothing is more important than the early completion of this project." He expressed confidence that the work will be done efficiently and speedily.

Carter read a telegram from C. A. Van Dusen, vice president of Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, which will operate the plant, in which he stated that the plant here will be one of the two largest in the entire country.

Albert S. Low of Cleveland, Ohio, vice president of the Austin Co., architectural, engineering and construction contractors on the project, revealed some of the details of the building plans.

It is to be a completely "blackout plant," he said, explaining that this meant it can be operated at night without a particle of light being visible.

### To Be Camouflaged.

It also is to be camouflaged so as to make it all but indistinguishable from the air in daylight.

Uniform lighting and atmospheric conditions will be maintained in the building 24 hours a day, he said, with temperature 15 degrees lower than outside in the Summer time and from 65 to 70 degrees in the Winter, with the proper humidity control.

The interior walls and the ceiling also are to be acoustically treated to lessen production noises, he said.

"It is to be the largest building ever erected anywhere with all of these conditions," Low declared.

The main building, 320 feet wide and 4,000 feet long, will be equivalent in height to a five-story building, he said.

Carter mentioned that 25,000 tons of steel will be used in constructing the plant, which is nearly three times as much as has been used in some other aircraft plants in this area.

After a concert by the WPA and

National Youth Administration bands, the ceremonies were opened by A. A. Lund, president of the Chamber of Commerce. The invocation was asked by Rev. Goldman Drury.

During the program a light army bomber circled over the site. In it were three members of General Brant's staff from Randolph Field, Lieut. Col. R. K. Simpson, Maj. C. R. Storrie and Capt. J. E. Smart.

William Holden, general manager of the Chamber of Commerce, after pointing out to the crowd the stakes marking the limits of the main building, said that "this will be a very active place for the next 10 months, and then it will be even more active."

### Tulsa Bid Extended.

It not only will be a most important plant for national defense and aid to Britain, he said, but will be the greatest industrial plant in this part of the country, providing employment for thousands of persons. C. A. King, president of the Tulsa,

Okl., Chamber of Commerce, invited Fort Worth 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. W. B. Wright, commander of the Air Corps Base at Meridian, Miss., and A. M. Hall of San Diego, Cal., who will be general manager of the plant here, also spoke briefly.

After General Brant, each of the following took a turn with the silver spade:

County Judge Miller, City Manager Bothwell, Mayor McCrary, County Commissioner Thannisch, Colonel Scott, Maj. Gordon E. Textor of Denison; Captain Barnhard, Lund, Hall, Holden, Low, Colonel Wright, Colonel Westbrook, Capt. John H. Anderson, Colonel Lovell, L. C. Elliott, CAA regional director; H. S. Foster of the Chamber of Commerce, and Carter.

General Brant and Carter also did a twosome with the spade for the benefit of news photographers and movie cameramen.