

## **The Giddings News**

December 26, 1941

### **BASTROP ARMY CAMP**

Orders have been issued by the War Department to begin construction of the army camp near Bastrop. The plans were made some months ago for a 23 million dollar camp, but the plans have been reduced to a 12 million dollar camp. The original plans called for land in Lee County to include Manheim and Bastrop County as far as the county line at Grassyville.

The new plans call for an area of 12 square miles (4 miles by 3 miles) and extending along the M-K-T tracks between Elgin and Bastrop, toward McDade and then to the Bastrop park. This is much smaller than the original plan, but the right is reserved to expand the adopted plan, if necessary. The camp will accommodate 30,000 soldiers in training. There will be 1,500 officers who will not live on the camp premises and who will find accommodations in nearby towns and Austin.

The plans provide for complete water, light, sewer systems, graveled streets, and all modern conveniences of a temporary nature. The camps will be half wooden with the tops and parts of the sidewalls of canvas. The entrance to the camp will be on the highway between Elgin and Bastrop. The M-K-T will build a spur track from near Sayers. It will require about one year to complete the camp and 10,000 workmen will be employed. Anyone desiring to work on the construction job, may apply at the office in Bastrop or in Austin.

The Giddings News some months ago printed a map showing the outline of the first proposed area, but, as stated, this area was reduced. The newly proposed camp will take care of more soldiers than Camp Travis, San Antonio. The City of Austin, with federal aid is erecting three large recreational halls for the comfort and entertainment of the trainees. Giddings, doubtless, will receive a portion of workmen who will need accommodations during the construction, and then some of the officers who will need quarters.