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SERVICE TO WAR AGENCIES BY NAT'L PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service has acted as host to nearly a million men in the armed forces since the outbreak of the war and has issued more than 100 permits to the war and navy departments and other war agencies to make use of National Park Service lands, buildings, and other facilities during the war period. The nature and extent of many of the permits is of necessity confidential. Two coastal areas—Fort Pulaski National Monument in Georgia and Cabrillo National Monument in California were assigned to the navy and army respectively. Numerous national military parks, recreational demonstration areas, and other park units were used for overnight bivouacking and for army maneuvers, drills, and studies. The terrain in the Civil War battlefields offers excellent opportunities for studies of tactics and strategy.

Steps were taken immediately after declaration of war to cooperate with the army and navy in manning lookouts and air raid warning towers in forest areas in the national parks. Constant vigilance was maintained against incendiary sabotage, including a 24-hour detection service for some areas. It was especially important to

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safeguard from fire forest watersheds conserving water supplies in communities occupied by military establishments and war industries. Paradise Valley section in Mount Rainier National Park, Wash., has been used for two winters to train mountain troops and for testing winter equipment. In Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, the park service assisted the army in testing winter equipment under Arctic conditions.

Federal buildings in the national park areas have been used as headquarters by the Selective Service System, Office of Civilian Defense, rationing boards, and other public organizations for war purposes in small towns and isolated areas. At the Boulder Dam National Recreational Area housing for defense workers and military trainees was made available through enlargement of public campgrounds and use of barracks previously occupied by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Special facilities were provided in the park areas for rehabilitation and recreation of members of the armed forces of the United States and other United Nations in the country, especially sailors from British ships coming to United States ports. The park service also assisted the War Department in planning and constructing army recreation centers and rest camps in areas of military concentration throughout the country. Since the beginning of this activity, the park service has built 33 such camps for the army.

All Federal admission charges have been waived for men in the uniforms of the armed forces; and many concessionaires cooperated by making special rates. More than 75,000 booklets on the historic, scientific, and scenic aspects of the national parks were furnished the United States Service Organizations by request for use of the men in their recreational centers. From October 1, 1941, to September 30, 1942, approximately 890,000 soldiers and sailors visited the national parks; and reports for November, 1942, indicate increasing military and naval use.