



HOLING THROUGH

GENERAL SOMERVELL AND ARTHUR JOHNSON TO RECEIVE
MOLES 1944 CONSTRUCTION AWARDS AT FEB. 2 DINNER



LIEUTENANT GENERAL SOMERVELL

Lieutenant General Brehon Burke Somervell has been selected by The Moles for the 1944 non-member Award for outstanding contributions to construction progress. This honor will be conferred in recognition of those qualities of courage, initiative, loyalty and constructive ability which have marked his entire career and elevated him to the head of the Army Service Forces, the very backbone of the Army.

"Everything but the actual fighting" in this war is directed for the Army by General Somervell, as chief of the Army Service Forces. It is his job to receive raw recruits, feed, house and clothe the troops, build camps, roads and bridges, provide the weapons of war, operate lines of communication, and transport troops, wea-

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Formal presentation of the 1944 Moles' Awards to Lieut. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell (non-member) and to Arthur A. Johnson (member) will be made at a gala dinner in the Ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel, Wednesday evening, Feb. 2. List of distinguished guests has not yet been released, but it is certain that a glittering array of the Army and Navy "brass-and-braid" will be on hand. The Award Committee is headed by Charles B. Spencer, who will act as toastmaster.

MOLES' AWARD DINNER TICKET DEADLINE, JAN. 4

There's no time to lose if you want to be sure of a place at The Moles' Award Dinner on Feb. 2! All reservations must be mailed to The Moles, 11 W. 42nd St., New York, by Jan. 4, as allocation of the 600 tickets to the dinner -- at which attendance will be limited -- will be made on Jan. 5, according to Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Atwater and Dinner Committee Chairman Al Warwick.

Members who plan a table should be able to obtain an average of five tickets under the allotment plan, which will work in this manner: One ticket will be assigned to all members requesting two or more; a second ticket will then be assigned to all who request two or more; and this process will be repeated until the 600 tickets are allocated.



ARTHUR A. JOHNSON

Arthur A. Johnson is The Moles member named for the 1944 Award for construction achievement as a tribute to his engineering skill and executive talents, particularly in the field of foundations and tunnels, his major contributions to the nation's war effort, and his constructive influence in post-war planning.

Born in England, Yorkshire's gift to The Moles is a pioneer in subway and tunnel work, having come to New York in 1904 as general superintendent for S. Pearson & Son on the construction of four tunnels under the East River for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Although subaqueous tunneling was then in its infancy and little was known of the effects of working in compressed air, this job was completed on schedule in 1909.

(continued on next page)

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The MOLES

January, 1944

Eleven West 42nd St. New York City
An organization of construction men experienced in the building of tunnels, subways, sewers, foundations, marine and other heavy structures.

pons and supplies in this country and overseas. Nearly 1,000,000 civilians work for General Somervell and one man out of every four in Army uniform will belong to the ASF.

Graduated from West Point in 1914 and assigned to the Corps of Engineers, General Somervell was in Paris on leave when World War I broke out. He became assistant military attache at the American Embassy, helping to repatriate stranded Americans. Three years later he returned to France, where he served as engineer officer, staff officer, and, finally, officer in the Army of Occupation. He received the Distinguished Service Cross and Distinguished Service Medal. The citation for the latter summarizes a few of the qualities that have marked the General's entire career - "unusual vision, sound judgment and high professional skill." To this medal in 1942 was added the Oak Leaf Cluster for exceptionally meritorious services in furthering the emergency construction program.

Between World Wars I and II General Somervell's activities included a survey of navigation conditions on the Rhine and Danube Rivers for the League of Nations. As a result of a field survey he made of Turkey, he is said to know more about that important country than the Turks themselves. Between these jobs and after his return from Turkey, he went back to straight engineering and construction and spent several years on important engineering works, finally having charge of the construction of the Florida Ship Canal.

In August, 1936, Somervell, then lieutenant colonel, took on one of the toughest jobs in the country - WPA administrator in New York City - and handled this thankless task with the same skill he was to later show in the ASF. Many members of The Moles had contacts with Col. Somervell at this time and all were impressed not only by his engineering ability

(Continued on next page)

HEADS AWARD COMMITTEE



Choice of The Moles' member and non-member to receive the 1944 Construction Achievement Awards was made by a committee headed by Charles B. Spencer, vice-president, Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc. Members of all other committees worked with him in making the selections.

In the intervening years Arthur Johnson has become one of New York's leading contractors, with an important place in the community and an influential voice among heavy construction men. The present Moles' vice-president served two terms as president of the General Contractors Association of New York and is now chairman of its Post-War Public Works Committee, charged with breaking down into man-hours, administration, etc., New York City's \$750,000,000 post-war construction program. He was also recently appointed by Mayor LaGuardia to membership of the City's Post-War Committee.

War jobs handled by the Arthur A. Johnson Corp., which he organized in 1921, include the Letterkenny Arsenal, Chambersburg, Pa., completed in 200 days at a cost of approximately \$9,000,000; and the cofferdam, with structure therein, in the East River and deep salt water conduits at the New York Navy Yard for the U.S. Navy. He was one of three contractors who built the \$35,000,000 U.S. Army Air Base at Bermuda.

Some of the more important peacetime projects carried out under his direction include the foundations of many large buildings in New York and elsewhere; six sections of the New York City subway, including the very hazardous work on Sixth Ave., and two subway contracts in Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn. He developed Fort Tryon Park; constructed Quabbin Dam at Ware, Mass.; and built the 3½-mile Wards Island Tunnel in the Bronx. He prepared the site for the New York World's Fair, which involved the movement of 7,000,000 cu. yds. of earth.

In 1932 Mr. Johnson organized the Johnson-March Corp. which, through its research laboratory, has created materials that have revolutionized the curing of concrete. Its large and important field has included, also, the creation and marketing of materials for controlling coal dust.

Additional honors conferred on Arthur Johnson are the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce of the

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MOLES' PREVIOUS WINNERS OF CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

1941

- Robert Moses,
Commissioner of Parks, NYC
- John S. Macdonald,
*Vice-President,
Walsh Construction Co.*

1942

- M.J. Madigan,
*Madigan-Hyland,
Consulting Engineers*
- Edmund A. Prentis,
Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc.

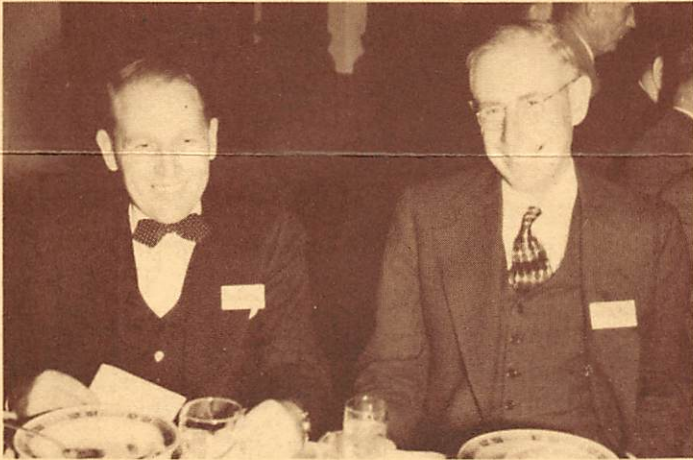
1943

- Rear Admiral Ben Moreell,
*Chief,
Bureau of Yards and Docks,
Navy Department*
- Frank Barnes,
*Construction Manager,
Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp.*

OFFICERS' TERMS EXTENDED, BY-LAWS REVISED AS MOLES HOLD BUSINESS MEETING

Terms of all officers, trustees and committeemen of The Moles are extended to Nov., 1944, by a resolution passed at the annual business meeting, Nov. 3. By-law revisions drafted by the special committee headed by Charles B. Spencer were also approved.

Following dinner at the Hotel Roosevelt, the meeting was called



THEY DO THE WORK. Snapped between courses at The Moles annual meeting are Second Vice-President Al Warwick and Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Atwater, who jointly arranged most of the dinners, outings and frolics.

to order by President John S. Macdonald, who told of his experiences as a shipbuilder.

GEN. SOMERVELL (Cont. from pg. 2)

but by his personality and the tact with which he handled the many divergent interests.

He successfully administered WPA until 1940, when he returned to Washington to take charge of the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps. The outstanding job he did in handling the army's camp-building program won him promotion to assistant chief of staff under General George C. Marshall. On March 24, 1942, he was appointed Commanding General of the Services of Supply, now Army Service Forces.

GROUNDHOGS AND MOLES COME OUT ON SAME DAY

The fact that The Moles Award Dinner will be held on Groundhog Day is not significant. It is purely coincidental, according to Howard L. King, chief engineer, Mason & Hanger Co., Inc. Feb. 2 is the day when legend says the groundhog comes out of his hole to observe his shadow and indicate an early or late spring. On the following morning, the newspapers fill

HAL HUNT COVERS WATERFRONT ON NAVY ASSIGNMENT

Hal Hunt, construction editor of Engineering News-Record and former editor of Holing Through, is on half-time loan to Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, to prepare "a comprehensive but readable report" on the floating dry docks and marine railways in the Navy's huge program. Hal has visited construction yards on the



HE LIVED TO TELL THE TALE. Harry Leeuw (head in guillotine) is helped to end it all by Charles DeLeon, who brandishes a gun, while Dell O'Dell, entertainer, stands ready with hammer, for the amusement of Moles at business meeting.

space that is not wanted for anything more important with an account of the groundhog episode and they commonly confuse groundhogs with sandhogs. This is inexcusable ignorance as the groundhog (*Arctomys monax*) is in no wise related to the sandhog, who is a member of the species *Homo sapiens*. This year, with the papers on Feb. 3 reporting the Award Dinner, the mole (*Scalops aquaticus*) will no doubt add to the confusion.

When the Founding Fathers picked the mole as the emblem of this society, they were certainly in a mood of unwonted modesty. The mole is a hard worker but he has no friends among lawn-growers; he is reputed to be blind; his nose is always in the dirt; and he does a lot of work at night.

Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific and reports that construction men who "never saw the sea" are doing a grand job for the Navy on this more-than-a-half-billion-dollar project under direction of Honorary Mole Rear Admiral Ben Moreell.

During Hal's tour of duty with the Navy, Holing Through is being edited by Robert K. Tomlin and his assistant, Miss Patricia McGerr, under the general direction of Eddie Mahoney, chairman of the Publicity Committee.

ARTHUR JOHNSON (cont. from pg. 2)

Borough of Queens, to which he has been elected five times; vice-presidency of the Long Island Association; and directorship of the Metropolitan Section, American Society of Civil Engineers.

ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOLES
SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF HOLING-THROUGH
 (Jan., 1943)

HERSCHEL H. ALLEN J. E. Greiner Company 1201 St. Paul Street Baltimore, Md.	WILLIAM S. DOWNING The Foundation Company 120 Liberty Street New York, N.Y.	WILLIAM V. McMENIMEN Raymond Concrete Pile Company 140 Cedar Street New York, N.Y.
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DAVID J. AYERS Ingersoll-Rand Company 11 Broadway New York, N.Y.	JOSEPH J. ELKIN Woodcrest Construction Company, Inc. 369 Lexington Avenue New York, N.Y.	GEORGE MILLER Underpinning & Foundation Company, Inc. 155 East 44th Street New York, N.Y.
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GEORGE BURROWS Spearin, Preston & Burrows, Inc. 50 Church Street New York, N.Y.	GEORGE L. FREEMAN Moran, Proctor, Freeman & Mueser 420 Lexington Avenue New York, N.Y.	JAMES E. O'ROURKE Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company 6 East 44th Street, New York, N.Y.
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ROGER H. CORBETTA Corbetta Construction Company, Inc. 220 East 42nd Street New York, N.Y.	WILLIAM F. HOLSTEIN Underpinning & Foundation Company, Inc. 155 East 44th Street New York, N.Y.	THOMAS A. SCOTT Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp. 17 Battery Place New York, N.Y.
JAMES P. DALY Koppers Company Kearny, N.J.	MOSES HORNSTEIN Chas. F. Vachris, Inc. 207 No. Hewlett Ave. Merrick, Long Island	RALPH S. SIEGRIST Hercules Powder Company Wilmington, Del.
WILLIAM C. DAVIS Atlas Powder Company Delaware Trust Bldg. Wilmington, Delaware	PETER A. IGOE Igoe Brothers, Inc. 73 Metropolitan Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y.	VINCENT B. SMITH McGraw-Hill Publishing Company 330 West 42nd Street New York, N.Y.
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FRANCIS E. DONAHUE Circle Const. Corp. Brockway Place White Plains, N.Y.		RICHARD WIGGINS Elmhurst Contracting Company, Inc. 21 West Street New York, N.Y.

MOLES IN THE ARMED FORCES

S.F. 1/c Seymour E. Alper, U.S.N.	Lt. Colonel Lester J. Hensley, U.S.A.
C.M. 1/c Glen M. Birely, U.S.N.	Major D.W. Lenahan, U.S.A.
1st Lt. Lionel F. Collis, U.S.A.	Capt. Robert S. Mayo, U.S.M.C.
Master Sergeant John Dale, U.S.A.	1st Lt. John C. Maxwell, U.S.A.
Lt. Commander Kendric P. Doane, U.S.N.R.	Capt. Hugh V. Roden, U.S.A.
Capt. Edward Ehrbar, U.S.A.	Lt. Paul D. Schlenker, U.S.A.
Lt. Edward W. Foley, Jr., U.S.A.	Capt. Kenneth A. Sheppard, U.S.A.
Lt. Donald Hardin, U.S.A.	Capt. William R. Whitney, U.S.A.