

The Bases
The Story of Norman's Naval Bases during 1942

Breanna Edwards
History 3503

World War II brought changes throughout the United States. Many men left their homes for military training and to fight in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. At the same time, many men and women moved throughout the country to take jobs in war industries. These changes were especially felt in Norman, Oklahoma. At the beginning of the war, Norman, home of the University of Oklahoma, was a relatively quiet college town. In 1942, however, it changed drastically, when the U.S. Navy constructed four major naval projects in Norman and the surrounding area. These projects included an air reserve base, a training school specializing in aviation mechanics, a hospital, and an air gunnery training school near Lexington. All served to bring both naval personnel and new workers to the Norman area, as well as changes and challenges for the city. Throughout 1942 the local newspaper, *The Norman Transcript*, recorded many of these changes. This paper will examine the impact these naval bases had on Norman, specifically: the steps the city took— both socially and structurally— in order to prepare for the arrival of the bases, the challenges the city faced as it prepared for the servicemen and workers, and the city’s response to the arrival of the Navy. The naval bases in Norman, Oklahoma left a lasting impact both by bringing money and people into the community, and by helping to transform Norman from a small town into a thriving city.

On March 20, 1942 the headline of *The Norman Transcript* declared that a “\$4,500,000 Naval Base Is Located at University Airport.” The article explained that the base was to be a naval reserve aviation training base and was expected to hold up to 3,500 naval men. □ *The Transcript* also reported that “Part of the officers are expected to live in the barracks and the others would live in Norman.”¹ Although the naval base would be located at the airport, which

was part of the University of Oklahoma, its impact would extend far beyond the University. The naval base promised to affect the entire city of Norman, as officers were to live within the city itself. In addition to bringing new people to the city, the base also brought money. On March 23, 1942 *The Transcript* reported that the government had designated an additional \$2,500,000 for construction of the base. The additional money raised the total amount set for the construction of the base to \$7,000,000.²

The naval base promised to bring drastic economic and societal changes to Norman. Near the end of March, *The Transcript* published an article titled “What the Naval Base Means to Norman: It Is Just Like Getting Another State University,” which noted the potential impact of the base on the economy and population of Norman. Comparing the impact of the base to the impact of the University of Oklahoma, the article described how **“The base payroll, which is expected to be \$350,000 or more when training gets into full swing, will be equal to the combined University payroll and student spending in Norman estimated at \$4,000,000 a year.... The base should add anywhere from 250 to 700 families to the population of Norman.”**³ The article went on to note that the Navy’s lease was for 99-years, revealing the potential for the base to be operating in Norman even after the war.⁴

With the new base set to bring people and money into the city, *The Transcript* believed that the city of Norman had a responsibility to both the coming servicemen and workers and to long-term Norman residents. On March 24, 1942, *The Transcript* issued an editorial entitled, “Our Obligations to Both The Navy and Home Folks.” The editorial detailed three ways that the city needed to prepare for the naval base. First, the editorial argued that the city needed to **“[p]rovide plenty of good housing facilities to the men who have families and will want to live in Norman.”** Secondly, the city must **“[m]aintain reasonable rent levels for both navy**

men and our permanent residents.” Finally, Norman had a responsibility to, “[m]aintain a clean, sanitary, healthful community with vice of all kinds barred.”⁵ In the coming months all three of these obligations would be taken seriously by city officials, who worked to provide a welcoming community for the naval servicemen and workers, while also serving the residents of Norman.

A week after the announcement of the new base, the Norman Chamber of Commerce was already considering its responsibilities to the Navy personnel by addressing several important issues in the city. *The Transcript* described how the Chamber of Commerce determined to “[s]ponsor with city officials a home and apartment modernization and repair campaign to provide adequate housing for both navy men with families and workmen who will be employed on the construction job.”⁶ The Chamber also agreed to “[c]o-operate with city officials in the development of a program to meet needs on sewage facilities, water supply, additional police, additional fire fighting facilities, and a swimming pool.”⁷ These plans would bring important improvements to the Norman community by modernizing homes and by improving city facilities to be able to better serve its residents.

In the process of preparing the city for the Navy’s arrival, concern regarding the moral character of the servicemen began to appear in the newspaper. In an article which appeared on March 29, ROTC commandant Captain J.F. Donelson explained that “[n]o man is in the navy because he has to be...It’s purely a voluntary unit and any man chosen for service has to meet high qualifications in character and physical and mental fitness.”⁸ The article was meant to reassure Norman residents that men in the Navy were in fact morally upstanding and trustworthy. A few days later, an editorial appeared in *The Transcript* which clarified that in the previous articles the paper was not questioning the moral character of the sailors themselves, but

that it was concerned about what it termed the “members of the underworld” who were known to come where naval bases were located. It was these people, the newspaper believed that residents should be concerned about, not the sailors.⁹

On April 14, the day after the arrival of Lieutenant Commander R.H. Meade, the commander in charge of the base construction, *The Transcript* announced the establishment of a “Fair Rent Program.”¹⁰ This program would serve as another way Norman officials planned to meet the city’s obligations to the Navy and to the Norman community. The Chamber of Commerce, the University, and the Navy organized the program, and its purpose was to establish a system of fair rent for the people living in Norman.¹¹ *The Transcript* reported, “Three possible methods of control of rents are open, Mr. Wiedman [Chamber president] said. One is to set up a housing authority created by the city commission, the second is to place such authority in the housing officer of the training unit, and the third is to invoke the rental control power over defense areas provided in the federal price control act.”¹² Although the program was only in the preliminary stages, it revealed a serious issue the city would need to address as more people began moving into the area in the coming months.

Another issue facing Norman, specifically the University of Oklahoma, was what to do with the Civilian Pilot Training program located at the Westheimer airport. In March the University’s student newspaper, *The Oklahoma Daily*, reported that there was confusion regarding whether the program could remain at the airport or if it needed to move to another location.¹³ This confusion persisted, and on April 16, *The Daily* reported, “The future still looked gloomy for the university civilian pilot training program... When the navy moves its planes and pilots onto Westheimer field, federal regulations say that the CPT will have to pack up and

leave.”¹⁴ The uncertainty regarding the CTP would continued for months to come, creating a problem the University needed to address as it prepared for the arrival of the naval base.¹⁵

As the time for the base construction to begin grew closer, the questions of housing and rent became more pressing. The city expected many workers from outside of Norman to move into the community to work on the construction project and to need places to stay. In an article entitled, “Sudden Influx of New Families to Hit Norman When Base Work Starts,” *The Transcript* reported, “The [Chamber of Commerce] committee believes that just as soon as the base here gets under way, Norman houses will fill up and business will increase to about 110 or 115 percent of what is normally considered good business.”¹⁶ This increase of people also resulted in many base workers living in city or federally run “trailer camps.”¹⁷ The base, however, did not simply bring an increase in the population of Norman; it also brought jobs to Norman workers. *The Transcript* reported, “The Norman and Oklahoma City carpenters have worked out an agreement under which the Oklahoma City union will have jurisdiction on the job because of its size, but the Norman men will have preference for the work and assignments will be made through the Norman union.”¹⁸ Although Norman workers had first preference for work at the base, there were plenty of jobs for new workers as well.

One of the ways that the city hoped to prepare for the construction of the naval base and the increase of people in the community was by instituting a home improvement campaign. On April 17, Sylvester Grim, the mayor of Norman, issued a proclamation declaring a “Clean Up, Paint Up, and Fix Up” campaign. In his announcement of the campaign, which was to begin on April 20 and to last until May 30, Grim stated, “I hereby call upon and urge all citizens to clean up, paint up, and beautify their homes, repair and modernize their rental properties, and put the City of Norman in spic-span condition for the benefit of the navy personnel, other incoming

residents, and ourselves.”¹⁹ This proclamation and the campaign were aimed at preparing the city of Norman to welcome the new workers and Navy personnel, who would be arriving soon. It was only ten days later, on April 27, that construction work on the naval reserve aviation base started.²⁰

On May 5, in the midst of the Mayor’s campaign to improve Norman and the construction of the base, the Navy announced that it also planned to open a trade school in Norman. The technical training school would be located on a large tract of land south of the University campus.²¹ The school would cost \$12,000,000 and was projected to train 10,000 men in six months.²² *The Transcript* reported, “The men sent here will spend four months at the technical school and two months at the Max Westheimer base, it is expected.”²³ The article also noted the possibility of a naval hospital being located in Norman and a potential growth in the number of men stationed at the school in the months to come.²⁴ With the announcement of a second base, the city of Norman now had a greater need to prepare for the Navy’s arrival.

A few days later, an editorial titled “Addition of Navy School Triples City’s Problems” appeared in *The Transcript*. The editorial revealed the unexpectedness of having two naval bases located in Norman, especially when, according to *The Transcript*, only three months prior the population and economic situation of the city and the University had been waning.²⁵ As a result, the paper explained, “The University decided to offer its facilities to the army and navy for any use either could make of them in the war effort. The Chamber of Commerce decided to join in the effort to get the army or navy interested in the University.”²⁶ According to the editorial, however, what happened caught everyone by surprise: “**No one ever dreamed that today we would have two big naval training units, a naval air base that eventually will have a personnel of 3,000 to 5,000 men, and a Navy aviation service school that will bring 11,000**

or more men to Norman.²⁷ The editorial revealed that the city had only expected between 1,500 and 2,500 men to be stationed in Norman. There was now, however, the potential for 15,000 men to be stationed in the city.²⁸ With the announcement of a second base it was clear that the arrival of the Navy would make a greater impact on the city than previously thought.

Eight days later, Lieutenant Commander Meade announced that a naval hospital would also be located in Norman. It would accommodate servicemen from the naval reserve air base on the north side of the city and the Navy service school on the south side. The hospital was projected to hold 400 beds and to have a staff of 400 doctors and nurses.²⁹ It was now clear that Norman was a much more favorable location to the Navy than the city had originally anticipated.

On June 1, Lieutenant Commander Meade and Lieutenant Commander Nicholson, a public relations officer in Oklahoma City, along with other officers, spoke at a luncheon of the Rotary Club in Norman. Lieutenant Commander Nicholson explained partially why Norman was such a favorable location for the Navy by noting the logistical advantages of a naval base in Norman. *The Transcript* reported, "Mr. Nicholson said he had been in Oklahoma City for 13 years and that he had been awarded [sic] for a long time that the area here is ideal for flying conditions and that Norman and Oklahoma, being located mid-way between the two coasts, make an ideal location for the navy program."³⁰ The location of Norman was perhaps one of the most appealing reasons for the Navy to station a base in the city.

June proved to be a busy month in Norman, following the announcements in May of the construction of a naval training school and hospital. By June 10, *The Transcript* announced that 2,000 people were working on the construction of the naval air base and the naval training school.³¹ The women of the community were also busy planning ways to entertain the naval officers and service men when they began to arrive.³² By June 21, the hospital construction was

underway and the Lieutenant Commander Meade reported that 2,500 people were now working on construction jobs.³³ The following day the Navy announced plans for the construction of a U.S. Naval Aircraft Gunnery school, near Lexington, which meant that by the end of June 1942, there were four naval projects set for Norman and the surrounding area.³⁴

As the time drew closer for the first of the bases to open, the paper expressed some concern about what the establishment of these bases would mean racially. In an article published on July 10, *The Transcript* explained, "One of these developments may change a situation that has prevailed ever since the day Norman was first settled in the run of 1889, that of having no negroes here."³⁵ The article went on to explain that "A Negro band will be located at the airbase; Negroes will serve as cooks and mess attendants at the air base, the aviation service school, and the hospital. These Negroes, perhaps 100 or more, will be quartered at the bases, but some of them may have families who will want to reside in Norman."³⁶ The article also urged the people of Norman to face the increase in the black population "...calmly, gracefully, and with no racial protests."³⁷ In addition to the other changes that the new naval bases brought to the city, the arrival of the first African American residents of Norman was certainly an important one.

By the end of July, the naval reserve aviation base on the north side of Norman was ready to be commissioned. This ceremony did not mean that construction on the base was complete, only that it was at a point that the command of the base could be transferred from Lieutenant Commander Meade to Commander Williams, who would now be in charge of running the new base.³⁸ A few days later, *The Transcript* reported that with 8,000 people working on the naval bases it believed that the construction had reached its peak.³⁹ It would still be several months, however, until all of the naval projects were completed.⁴⁰

As the status of construction began to level off, Norman continued to institute many new policies to improve the city. On August 6, *The Transcript* announced that the federal government had designated Cleveland County a war project center and rents in the area would remain the same as the rates in effect on March 1, 1942.⁴¹ Within a few weeks, a Fair Rent Committee formed, with the mayor as chairman.⁴² The committee's responsibility was to solve the rent crisis⁴³ by the middle of October so that the federal rent administration would not become involved in the city's rent problems.⁴⁴ Members of the community also began to open their homes to the servicemen stationed in Norman. The paper noted that 25 residents served Sunday meals in their homes to servicemen.⁴⁵ City officials, along with members of the Norman community, actively worked to make the town a welcoming and fair community for both its permanent and temporary residents.

While the city worked to make itself more inviting to new residents, it also faced the problem of an increase in undesirable activity within the community. In early August, an article revealed that there was an increase in the need for law enforcement during the month of July compared to the same period the year before.⁴⁶ There was also a new law passed which put strict rules on dance and beer halls in the city.⁴⁷ In its effort to fulfill its responsibility to the Navy and to the Norman community, the city continually attempted to make itself as respectable and safe a community as possible.⁴⁸

By August of 1942, the community of Norman could already feel the impact of the four naval bases. The increase in population had created a housing crisis in Norman. To alleviate this problem, many trailer homes and tents had appeared throughout the city. *The Transcript* noted that "[a]pproximately 400 persons are living in this temporary housing in the Norman area."⁴⁹ Two big trailer parks had formed in Norman to house workers for the naval bases and a few

people had actually begun living in people's backyards in order to find a place to stay in the crowded city.⁵⁰ Toward the end of the month, the Navy also began recruiting men from Norman and across Oklahoma for naval service. The Navy planned to station these men initially at the naval bases in Norman.⁵¹ This plan allowed men from Oklahoma to stay close to their families during their training for service in the Navy.

As summer faded into early autumn, construction continued on the naval projects and more naval men began to arrive. On September 20, the U.S. Naval Training School was officially commissioned in a special ceremony.⁵² *The Transcript* reported that at the ceremony, "Captain Read congratulated Norman and said the establishment of the station here enables the city to do a big part toward winning the war... The Pensacola captain explained to the civilians the reason for establishment of inland shore stations. He said the Navy needed shore stations for training purposes because the fleet is busy fighting and cannot train men."⁵³ With the naval bases on the north and south of the city officially open, Norman was now ready to welcome more naval men into the area.

A few days before the commissioning of the trade school, *The Transcript* announced the arrival of 19 cadets at the Naval Reserve Aviation base on the north side of Norman. The cadets were stationed at the base for three months.⁵⁴ The following day, *The Transcript* also reported the arrival of 300 men to the naval training school on the southeast side of Norman, which significantly increased the number of servicemen at the base.⁵⁵ By October 5, *The Transcript* announced that classes had begun at the training school.⁵⁶ Within weeks of the commissioning, the naval bases were beginning to function fully and would continue to grow and expand.⁵⁷

As more servicemen arrived in the city, the Norman community responded by finding many ways to welcome them and to help them feel at home. *The Oklahoma Daily* newspaper

reported, however, that as the University of Oklahoma attempted to welcome the sailors, it was faced with the problem of a false rumor circulating on the campus about disputes between students and servicemen.⁵⁸ *The Daily* explained that to stop this rumor, the University and the Navy requested the FBI to discover the source of the rumor, which they thought was a possible attempt of sabotage.⁵⁹ From all appearances, these rumors were false and University students were receptive to the arrival of the servicemen.⁶⁰ The community of Norman also worked to entertain the newly arrived naval men.⁶¹ On September 25, the USO held a street dance for the sailors. In an article written for *The Transcript*, Jo H. Hoskinson described plans for the dance by writing, “Jazz music by the 17 piece WPA orchestra of Oklahoma City will play for the dancing and all girls who have been approved for the USO squads will be present to assist in entertaining the sailors on duty here.”⁶² The University also began coordinating with the Navy to offer night classes for naval personnel.⁶³ In an article, *The Transcript* quoted Royden Dangerfield, Dean of University Faculty, who stated, “It is the purpose of the University to assist the personnel to qualify for higher ratings... and to make possible their continuance of college work leading to degrees. Courses of study are scheduled to run for 12 weeks terms to allow sailors stationed here for short periods to complete them.”⁶⁴ The city and the University hoped to help the servicemen feel at home within the community and to make the most of their time in Norman.

Perhaps the clearest example of Norman’s support for the war and for the Navy was revealed by the large Navy Day Parade, which the city planned for October 27. By the middle of October, *The Transcript* was already announcing plans for the parade. *The Transcript* reported that “[f]ifteen hundred uniformed men representing the Navy, the Marine corps and the Army are scheduled to march.”⁶⁵ The Navy Day celebrations encompassed many aspects of Norman society, including local churches, which invited naval personnel to attend Sunday services in

celebration of Navy Day, followed by Sunday lunch in church members' homes.⁶⁶ On the day of the parade, thousands of civilians attended the event, which *The Transcript* described by writing, "It was the first time this inland area had an opportunity to view the men of Uncle Sam's Navy in anything like large numbers, and the demonstration proved to be one of the most inspiring sights of the year."⁶⁷ The parade, in which 3,500 men marched, undoubtedly was the fulfillment of the hard work of city, University, and Navy officials during the months of planning and preparation leading up to the official openings of the bases.⁶⁸

By the end of October 1942, the city of Norman had dramatically changed. The construction of the four naval projects helped to change Norman from a quiet university town into a city. Today, nearly 70 years after their construction, Norman still remembers what have become know as the "North" and "South" bases, along with the city's support of the U.S. Navy during World War II. The challenges the city of Norman faced during the construction of these bases revealed many of the potential problems cities encountered throughout the country as they welcomed new military facilities into their communities. Not only did these bases bring money to the community, but also a large population growth. Although they increased the problems of housing and rent in the community, the bases also brought new jobs and a boost in the economy. Perhaps most importantly, the establishment of naval bases provided the community of Norman with an opportunity to support the Navy during World War II. Many Norman residents, churches, and clubs invited servicemen into their community, and hosted events to help them feel welcome and at home as they prepared to fight for their country. Although the establishment of military bases undoubtedly brought challenges to communities throughout the country, as evidenced by the story of Norman, Oklahoma, they were challenges that city officials and

residents were willing to face in order to support the United States during one of the most important wars of the twentieth century.

⁰ “\$4,500,000 Naval Air Base Is Located at University Airport,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 20, 1942, 1. Microforms Collection at The University of Oklahoma Library.

¹ “\$4,500,000 Naval Air Base Is Located at University Airport,” 1.

² “Seven Million Allotted For Naval Air Base Here,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 23, 1942, 1.

³ “What the Naval Base Means to Norman: It Is Just Like Getting Another State University,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 31, 1942, 1. Emphasis in original.

⁴ “What The Naval Base Means to Norman,” 1.

⁵ “Our Obligation to Both The Navy and Home Folks,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 24, 1942, 1. Emphasis in original.

⁶ “Chamber Enlarges Civic Program to Keep Steps With Navy Base Needs,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 27, 1942, 1.

⁷ “Chamber Enlarges Civic Program to Keep Stops With Navy Base Needs,” 1.

⁸ “Enlisted Men of Navy are High-Type Citizens,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 29, 1942, 1.

⁹ “Navy Men Good Citizens,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 1, 1942, 4.

¹⁰ “Meade Here To Start Navy Base,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 13, 1942, 1.

¹¹ “Fair Rent Program Is Under Way,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 14, 1942, 1.

¹² “Fair Rent Program Is Under Way,” 1.

¹³ “University Gets Huge Training Unit: Navy to Build Air Base Here,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, March 21, 1942, 1. Microforms Collection at The University of Oklahoma Library.

¹⁴ “CPT Future Still Enigma; Navy Soon to Take Field,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, April 16, 1942, 1.

¹⁵ In September, *The Daily* reported that the CTP would hold its initial training in the stadium on the campus of the University, while the flight training would take place at Will Riley airport in Oklahoma City. This solved the uncertainty of the previous months. (“40 Service Men Enrol in Campus Pilot Training,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, September 17, 1942, 1.)

¹⁶ “Sudden Influx of New Families to Hit Norman When Base Work Starts,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 17, 1942, 1.

¹⁷ “Sudden Influx of New Families to Hit Norman When Base Work Starts,” 1.

¹⁸ “Navy Base Employment Office Here,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 17, 1942, 1.

¹⁹ “Mayor Proclaims Clean Up, Fix Up Weeks to Get Ready for Navy: Proclamation,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 19, 1942, 1.

²⁰ “Air Base Work Started Today,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 27, 1942, 1. Engineers and around 200 men began working on April 22 (“Naval Air Base Work Under Way,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 22, 1942, 1.); however, construction was delayed several days because of rain. (“Air Base Work Started Today,” 1.)

²¹ In his book, *The University of Oklahoma and World War II: A Personal Account*, George Lynn Cross, who would become the president of the University, explained that not everyone was in favor of the location of the new base. He noted, “There seemed to be a feeling that having a naval establishment so near the university would constitute a threat to the morals of nearly all those of the feminine gender of the area, especially the young women enrolled at the university.” (Cross, George Lynn. *The University of Oklahoma and World War II: A Personal Account, 1941-1946*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980. 25.)

²² “Navy Locates Trade School In Norman to Train 10,000 Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, May 5, 1942, 1.

²³ “Navy Locates Trade School In Norman to Train 10,000 Men,” 1.

-
- ²⁴ “Navy Locates Trade School In Norman to Train 10,000 Men,” 1.
- ²⁵ “Addition of Navy School Triples City’s Problems,” *The Norman Transcript*, May 7, 1942, 1.
- ²⁶ “Addition of Navy School Triples City’s Problems,” 1.
- ²⁷ “Addition of Navy School Triples City’s Problems,” 1. Emphasis in original.
- ²⁸ “Addition of Navy School Triples City’s Problems,” 1.
- ²⁹ “Navy Locates Big Hospital Here,” *The Norman Transcript*, May 13, 1942, 1.
- ³⁰ “Rotarians Hear Navy Officers,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 1, 1942, 6.
- ³¹ “Navy Projects Employ 2,000 Persons Now,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 10, 1942, 1.
- ³² “Hostesses And Chaperons Meet,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 10, 1942, 1.
- ³³ “Construction Of Hospital Is Started,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 21, 1942, 1.
- ³⁴ “Air Gunnery School Gets Navy’s OK,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 22, 1942, 1.
- ³⁵ “Negroes at Naval Bases,” *The Norman Transcript*, July 10, 1942, 8.
- ³⁶ “Negroes at Naval Bases,” 8.
- ³⁷ “Negroes at Naval Bases,” 8.
- ³⁸ “Navy Base Ceremony Is Staged,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 2, 1942, 1.
- ³⁹ “Work on Four Navy Projects Reaches Peak,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 2, 1942, 1.
- ⁴⁰ One months later, *The Transcript* noted that work on the naval projects had reached a new peak with Lieutenant Commander Meade reporting that 10,000 people were working on the four naval projects. (“10,000 Working On Navy Jobs,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 3, 1942, 1.)
- ⁴¹ “Norman Rents to Be Frozen At Level of March 1, 1942,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 6, 1942, 1.
- ⁴² “Fair Rent Committee Is Set Up,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 25, 1942, 1. The Committee was important news in the city during the weeks preceding and following its establishment, and *The Transcript* reported on it many times during this period. (These are some of the articles: “Fair Rent Board Will Be Named,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 19, 1942, 1., “Fair Rent Committee Is Expanded,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 20, 1942, 1., “Mayor Will Head Fair Rent Unit,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 21, 1942, 1., and “Fair Rent Unit Hears 40 Cases,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 4, 1942, 1.)
- ⁴³ An editorial published on September 14, 1942, revealed that the rent crisis in Norman was perhaps not as dire as initially thought. According to the editorial only about five percent of renters and landlords of the nearly 1,800 rental properties in the city brought claims of unfair rent before the Fair Rent Committee. (“The Fair Rent Movement,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 14, 1942, 4.)
- ⁴⁴ “Fair Rent Committee Is Set Up,” 1.
- ⁴⁵ “Navy Men Honored At Sunday Dinners,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 10, 1942, 3.
- ⁴⁶ “Officers’ Job During July Is Heavier,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 11, 1942, 1.
- ⁴⁷ “Beer, Dance Halls Under New Laws,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 12, 1942, 1.
- ⁴⁸ The city’s efforts to minimize crime and “vice” in the community confused some servicemen, who believed the city was blaming them for the increase in “vice” within the community. On August 12, *The Transcript* issued an editorial clarifying that the city had high regard for the servicemen and their moral characters, and that the city was concerned with preventing people they termed “members of the underworld,” such as “bootleggers and prostitutes,” from establishing themselves in Norman. (“No Reflection on Navy Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 12, 1942, 4.)

-
- ⁴⁹ “Trailers Are Housing Many Navy Worker,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 17, 1942, 1.
- ⁵⁰ “Trailers Are Housing Many Navy Workers,” 1.
- ⁵¹ “State Men May Enlist For Duty at Base,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 23, 1942, 2.
- ⁵² “Navy School Officially In Commission,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 21, 1942, 1.
- ⁵³ “Navy School Officially In Commission,” 1.
- ⁵⁴ “19 Cadets Arrive At Navy Base,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 10, 1942, 1.
- ⁵⁵ “Navy School Gets 300 Additional Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 11, 1942, 1.
- ⁵⁶ “Naval Training School Classes Are Started,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 5, 1942, 1.
- ⁵⁷ The Oklahoma City newspaper, *The Daily Oklahoman*, now *The Oklahoman*, reported that the naval aviation training base would potentially accommodate as many as 16,000 servicemen, 6,000 more than the original 10,000 sailors, in the coming months. In addition, the base would also welcome 1,000 WAVES. (“1,000 Waves Will Train At Norman Naval Base,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, October 24, 1942, 1. *The Oklahoman Digital Archives*.)
- ⁵⁸ “Campus Rumor Hit,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, September 22, 1942, 1.
- ⁵⁹ *The Daily Oklahoman* and *The Norman Transcript* also reported on the rumor. *The Daily Oklahoman* explained the rumors by writing, “The rumors...told of violent gangfights between students and men from the bases, with serious injuries to naval men. Investigations by university, naval, and Norman police officials failed to find any proof or source for the talk.” *The Daily Oklahoman* also explained that both the University and Naval officials stated that if students and naval men treated each other disrespectfully that they would be dealt with (“FBI Will Study Student-Sailor Clash Rumor,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, September 22, 1942, 1., “FBI Agents Seek Source Of Rumors,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 22, 1942, 1.)
- ⁶⁰ “Campus Rumor Hit,” 1.
- ⁶¹ The community had begun making initial plans for a recreation program to entertain and welcome servicemen beginning in late March. (“Recreation For Navy Men Talked,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 25, 1942, 1., “Recreation Programs To Be Expanded,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 3, 1942, 1.)
- ⁶² Hoskinson, Jo H. “Street Dance For Sailors Set Tonight,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 25, 1942, 3.
- ⁶³ *The Daily Oklahoman* noted that the new classes had the potential to have 1,000 naval students by the end of 1942 (“Norman Night School Planned To Aid Sailors,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, October 8, 1942, 17.)
- ⁶⁴ “O.U. Plans Classes For Naval Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 8, 1942, 1.
- ⁶⁵ “Big Navy Day Parade Will Be Presented,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 14, 1942, 6.
- ⁶⁶ “Navy Day To Be Observed At Churches,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 23, 1942, 7.
- ⁶⁷ “Thousands See Navy Day Parade,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 28, 1942, 1.
- ⁶⁸ “Thousands See Navy Parade,” 1.

Bibliography

- “1,000 Waves Will Train At Norman Naval Base,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, October 24, 1942, 1. *The Oklahoman Digital Archives*.
- “19 Cadets Arrive At Navy Base,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 10, 1942, 1. Microforms Collection at The University of Oklahoma Library.
- “\$4,500,000 Naval Air Base Is Located at University Airport,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 20, 1942, 1.
- “Addition of Navy School Triples City’s Problems,” *The Norman Transcript*, May 7, 1942, 1.
- “Air Base Work Started Today,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 27, 1942, 1.
- “Air Gunnery School Gets Navy’s OK,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 22, 1942, 1.
- “Beer, Dance Halls Under New Laws,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 12, 1942, 1.
- “Big Navy Day Parade Will Be Presented,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 14, 1942, 6.
- “Campus Rumor Hit,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, September 22, 1942, 1. Microforms Collection at The University of Oklahoma Library.
- “Chamber Enlarges Civic Program to Keep Steps With Navy Base Needs,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 27, 1942, 1.
- “Construction Of Hospital Is Started,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 21, 1942, 1.
- “CPT Future Still Enigma; Navy Soon to Take Field,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, April 16, 1942, 1.
- “Enlisted Men of Navy are High-Type Citizens,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 29, 1942, 1.
- “Fair Rent Committee Is Set Up,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 25, 1942, 1.
- “Fair Rent Program Is Under Way,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 14, 1942, 1.
- Hoskinson, Jo H. “Street Dance For Sailors Set Tonight,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 25, 1942, 3.
- “Hostesses And Chaperons Meet,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 10, 1942, 1.

“Mayor Proclaims Clean Up, Fix Up Weeks to Get Ready for Navy: Proclamation,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 19, 1942, 1.

“Meade Here To Start Navy Base,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 13, 1942, 1.

“Navy Base Ceremony Is Staged,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 2, 1942, 1.

“Navy Base Employment Office Here,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 17, 1942, 1.

“Navy Day To Be Observed At Churches,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 23, 1942, 7.

“Navy Locates Big Hospital Here,” *The Norman Transcript*, May 13, 1942, 1.

“Navy Locates Trade School In Norman to Train 10,000 Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, May 5, 1942, 1.

“Navy Men Good Citizens,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 1, 1942, 4.

“Navy Men Honored At Sunday Dinners,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 10, 1942, 3.

“Navy Projects Employ 2,000 Persons Now,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 10, 1942, 1.

“Navy School Officially In Commission,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 21, 1942, 1.

“Navy School Gets 300 Additional Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 11, 1942, 1.

“Naval Training School Classes Are Started,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 5, 1942, 1.

“Negroes at Naval Bases,” *The Norman Transcript*, July 10, 1942, 8.

“Norman Rents to Be Frozen At Level of March 1, 1942,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 6, 1942, 1.

“Officers’ Job During July Is Heavier,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 11, 1942, 1.

“Our Obligation to Both The Navy and Home Folks,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 24, 1942, 1.

“O.U. Plans Classes For Naval Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 8, 1942, 1.

“Rotarians Hear Navy Officers,” *The Norman Transcript*, June 1, 1942, 6.

“Seven Million Allotted For Naval Air Base Here,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 23, 1942, 1.

“State Men May Enlist For Duty at Base,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 23, 1942, 2.

“Sudden Influx of New Families to Hit Norman When Base Work Starts,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 17, 1942, 1.

“Thousands See Navy Day Parade,” *The Norman Transcript*, October 28, 1942, 1.

“Trailers Are Housing Many Navy Worker,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 17, 1942, 1.

“University Gets Huge Training Unit: Navy to Build Air Base Here,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, March 21, 1942, 1.

“What the Naval Base Means to Norman: It Is Just Like Getting Another State University,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 31, 1942, 1.

“Work on Four Navy Projects Reaches Peak,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 2, 1942, 1.

Reference

“40 Service Men Enrol in Campus Pilot Training,” *The Oklahoma Daily*, September 17, 1942, 1.

“10,000 Working On Navy Jobs,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 3, 1942, 1.

Cross, George Lynn. *The University of Oklahoma and World War II: A Personal Account, 1941-1946*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980. 25.

“Fair Rent Board Will Be Named,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 19, 1942, 1.

“Fair Rent Committee Is Expanded,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 20, 1942, 1.

“Fair Rent Unit Hears 40 Cases,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 4, 1942, 1.

“FBI Will Study Student-Sailor Clash Rumor,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, September 22, 1942, 1.

“FBI Agents Seek Source Of Rumors,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 22, 1942, 1.

“Mayor Will Head Fair Rent Unit,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 21, 1942, 1.

“Naval Air Base Work Under Way,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 22, 1942, 1.

“No Reflection on Navy Men,” *The Norman Transcript*, August 12, 1942, 4.

“Norman Night School Planned To Aid Sailors,” *The Daily Oklahoman*, October 8, 1942, 17.

“Recreation For Navy Men Talked,” *The Norman Transcript*, March 25, 1942, 1.

“Recreation Programs To Be Expanded,” *The Norman Transcript*, April 3, 1942, 1.

“The Fair Rent Movement,” *The Norman Transcript*, September 14, 1942, 4.