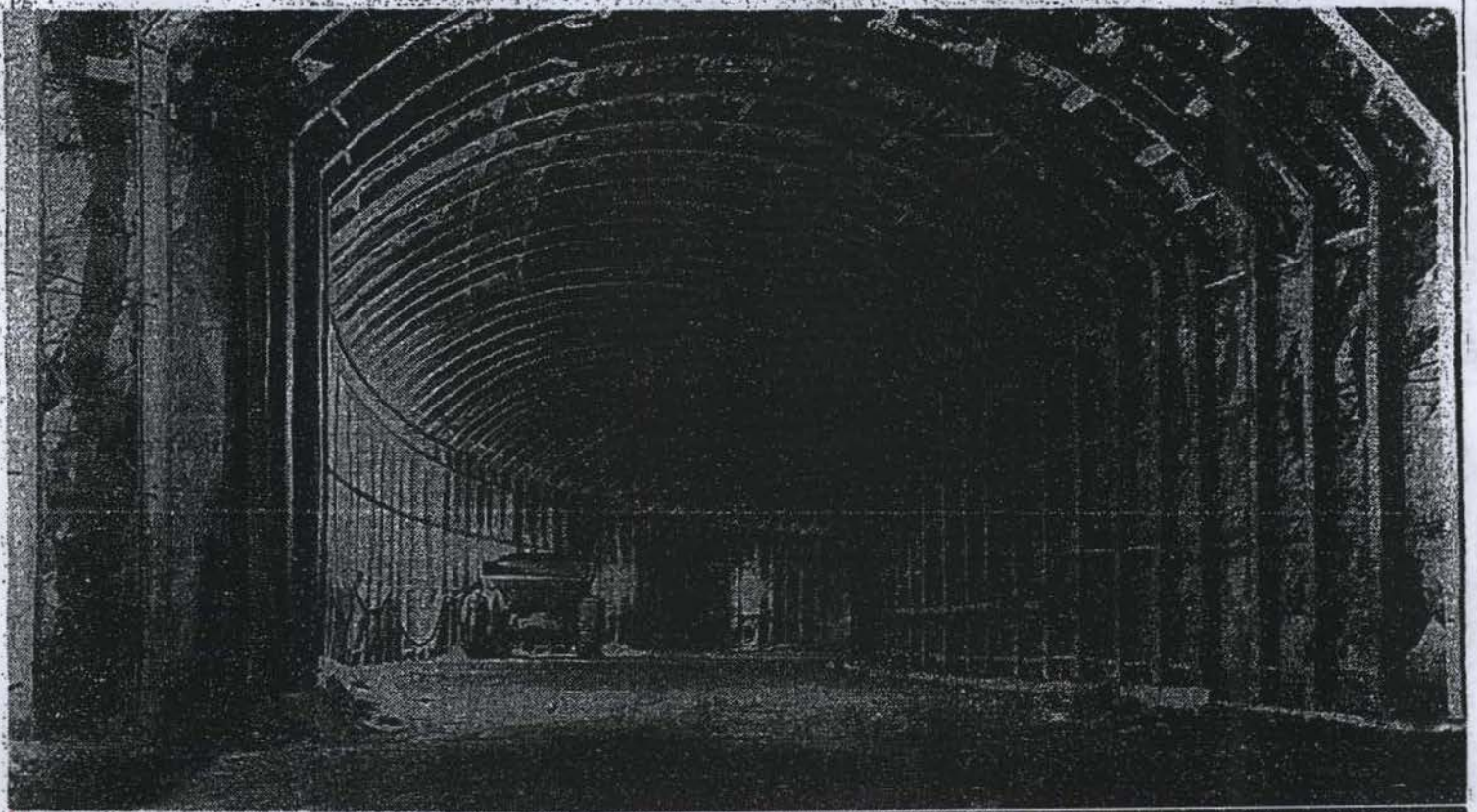


# Buried Pentagon Is Revealed As 3-Story Building Inside Hill

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pg. 1



TUNNEL IN THE INTERIOR OF HOLLOWED-OUT RAVEN ROCK MOUNTAIN AT FORT RITCHIE

## 35-Million-Dollar Project

# Buried Pentagon Is Revealed As 3-Story Building Inside Hill

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The Army yesterday—perhaps by inadvertence—took some of the wraps off the heretofore top secret "Underground Pentagon" in the Maryland mountains, 65 miles north of Washington.

Officials released a photograph of the interior of hollowed-out Raven Rock Mountain at Fort Ritchie, Md., where an alternate global communications center is being constructed for use in case present Army, Navy and Air Force facilities here are knocked out by atomic attack.

At the same time, they made public the first official description of the project, giving new details about the hush-hush development. Release of the picture and data came not from Department of Defense public information officers—which have confined themselves to a few one-paragraph announcements and "can't talk about it" warnings—but from a history book just off the press.

It is called "A Historical Sum-

and improvements at Vint Hill Farms and Arlington Hall, Va., and La Plata, Md.

Describing the "Ritchie Project," the book disclosed that the over-all cost will be 35 million dollars. Telling of construction problems at Raven Rock, it declared:

"Here, one half million cubic yards of the hardest rock on the East Coast was blasted out and hauled away in ten months. In the hole created, a three-story building is being erected.

"This building stands behind two heavy steel blast doors that close the tunnel openings during an alert. Special means are provided for ventilation, gas and biological agent filtering, emergency power and reserve water supply."

Major features of the project, it was said, are:

"(a) A communications center designed to resist atomic attack. This is located inside Raven Rock Mountain, about five miles east of Fort Ritchie. It has been dubbed the 'Underground Pentagon.'

"(b) Conversion of Fort Ritchie to house the personnel connected with operation of the 'Project.'

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warnings—but from a history book just off the press.

It is called "A Historical Summary of the Work of the Corps of Engineers in Washington, D. C., and Vicinity, 1852-1952," and was prepared by the Washington Engineer District. Elsewhere in the volume is described the build-up in the primary military communications facilities since Korea, telling of the construction of new radio stations at Woodbridge, Va., Andrews Air Base, Pigeon House, Brandywine and Silver Hill, Md.,

connected with operation of the 'Project.'

"(c) A transmitter station at Greencastle, Pa.

"(d) A receiver station at Sharpsburg, Md.

"(e) Five micro-wave stations that tie the 'Ritchie Project' into the signal facilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force already constructed in the Washington area."

No mention is made in the history of the fact that much more costly housing facilities were contracted for and started at Fort Ritchie for use in an emergency and then canceled by Department of Defense orders. Top Pentagon officials feared the standby quarters, recreational facilities and clubs planned would become a weekend haven for military brass.

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