

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY OCTOBER 12



One of the "igloos" where the TNT was stored at the West Virginia Ordnance Plant near Point Pleasant.
Courtesy of the *Point Pleasant Register*

A flag-raising ceremony signaling the start of production at the West Virginia Ordnance Works near Point Pleasant was held on October 12, 1942.

CSO: SS.8.8, SS.8.9, SS.8.25, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (*Point Pleasant Daily Register* October 13, 1942)

1. Colonel A.W. Ford cites the project as a rapid transformation from _____ industry to _____ industry.
2. Who donated the flag that was used at the ceremony?

Think Critically: West Virginia's roots in *this* industry provided the foundation to build upon its chemical industry infrastructure which aided in the war effort. Describe in your own words, how the American effort on the home front aided the war effort. What were significant aspects of the economic and industrial growth experienced by West Virginia during World War II. What other industries in West Virginia aided the war effort?

Point Pleasant Register

Daily Leased Wire Service of The Associated Press

POINT PLEASANT (W. VA.) REGISTER, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1942

Flag-Raising Signals Start Of Operation At TNT Plant Here

Less than six months after sod was broken for the \$65,000,000 West Virginia Ordnance Works, a flag was raised yesterday, signalling the start of production at the plant which sprawls over 9,000 acres of Ohio Valley bottomland.

The commanding officer, Colonel A. W. Ford, speaking at a brief semi-public ceremony, described the flag ceremony as being symbolic of the union of the battle of production and the fight on world fronts.

"This area has been transformed in a few brief months

from agricultural industry into chemical industry, and is now an important part of America's great production front," he said.

A word of praise for the workmen, some 1,000 of whom witnessed the ceremony, came from Lieutenant Carroll Shanks of the U. S. Engineers, who said that with less manpower than had been used in any similar plant thus far built, "the job went forward with no great delays."

R. E. McCurdy, resident manager for the construction contractor, the E. B. Badger

& Sons Co. of Boston, said that "all workers, regardless of affiliations among the several companies engaged in the construction, have felt as though they were fellow employes working for one boss—the United State Government."

The flag was one taken from the coffin of a Point Pleasant soldier killed in action last Summer and now buried in Arlington National Cemetery—Private Clifford M. Quessenberry. It was donated by his mother, Mrs. V. E. Quessenberry, herself an employe at the plant.