

AIRFIELDS WHILE YOU WAIT

Turning any ~~square~~ flat space into an airfield in a matter of hours, the new-type square mesh track comes more and more into its own as wartime demand for aerodromes increases. Thousand-yard runways, fifty feet wide, have been laid in as little as fifteen hours. Only semi-skilled labour is required. In this way, good landing-runs are provided in less than 24 hours after a new field has been taken over.

For the pilots, the track ~~removes~~ ^{takes away} the danger of manoeuvring ~~aircraft~~ on mud and soft surface.

At first glance the manufacture of runway-track looks as if a cotton mill had fantastically taken to weaving metal. Hard-drawn steel wire with a tensile strength of 40 tons to the square inch is the raw material. To form the mesh, cross lengths of the wire are threaded between the ~~lengths~~ ^{others}, and electrically welded at every intersection.

The finished ~~track~~ ^{track} comes off in a continuous roll and is cut to convenient lengths of 75 feet. To prevent damage to aircraft-tyres the ends of each length are bent over. That's the last process, and the rolls are ready for despatch. At this factory alone, many miles of track are turned out every week.

Whole shiploads are to be seen at the docks, destined for Italy and perhaps places much nearer, to give the army full aircover on the second front.... The clips, of course, have to go with the track. Providing good airfields in shortest possible time, square mesh track will play an indispensable part in the coming overthrow of Nazi Germany.