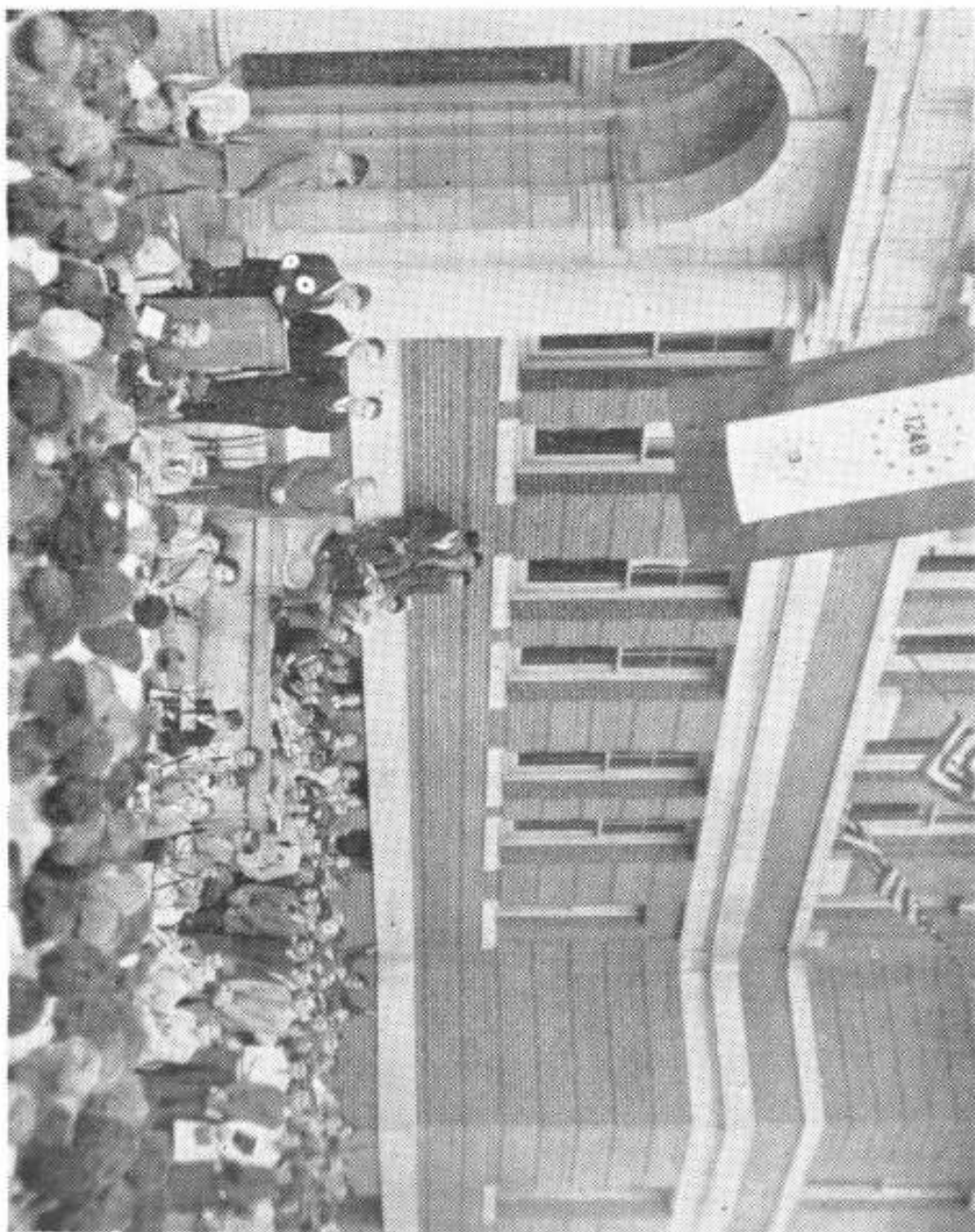


World War II History  
Of  
Manchester, Connecticut

ARCHIE KILPATRICK





DEDICATION OF MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE FLAG  
(ALL PICTURES IN THIS BOOK ARE *HERALD* PHOTOGRAPHS)

# World War II History Of Manchester, Connecticut

By  
ARCHIE KILPATRICK

ILLUSTRATED



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DEDICATED  
TO THE  
MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
OF THIS TOWN  
WHO SO COURAGEOUSLY SUPPORTED  
THEIR MEN IN ARMS  
IN THE  
WINNING OF THE WAR  
WITH  
GERMANY AND JAPAN  
1940-1946

## FOREWORD

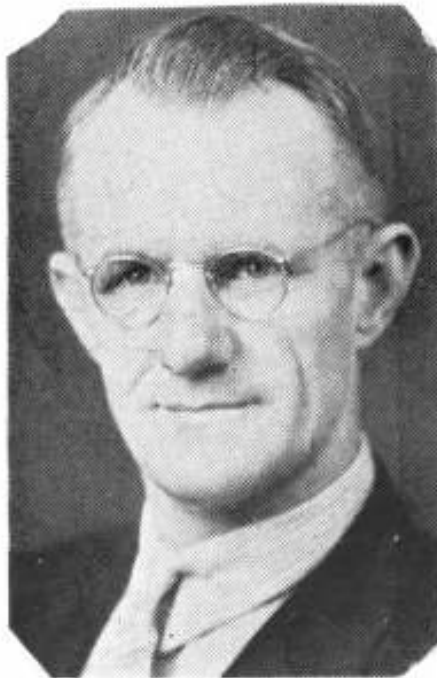
Manchester, due to its proximity to the vitally important war industries areas during the wars between the United States, Germany and Japan, was forced by the dangers of sabotage and possible aerial attacks to form protective home defense organizations from the start of the conflicts.

This book is intended to cover in a general way the activities of the Manchester "home front," showing what the folks at home did in their spare time to back up the more than 4,000 men-at-arms on the war fronts and at sea.

Manchester has an enviable record of service in all of the wars in which our country has participated, from early Colonial days until the present. The blood of Manchester's young men flowed on all battlefields and in Naval action from the very beginning of our Nation, and the home folks ever maintained that record of defense in honor of the large percentage of their sons and daughters who participated in the Nation's wars.

More detailed accounts probably will be written about the war history of this town in the succeeding years but the picture is always more distinct and clear if the story is told as closely as possible to the actual occurrence of the events. It is with the intent to capture these first impressions of the events of the period of the wars with Germany and Japan, from 1940 through 1945, that this book has been written.

Archie Kilpatrick



ARCHIE KILPATRICK

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The author of this book, Archie Kilpatrick, a member of the editorial staff of the *Manchester Evening Herald*, was born in Glasgow, Scotland and came to this country at the age of six months on one of the early immigrant liners. Shortly before his parents sailed for America, his mother died and after the funeral services his father gave his red-headed babe over to the care of other immigrant women aboard ship while he stoked the furnaces of the liner to help pay for their passage.

Born under such auspicious conditions, and arriving in the Land of Freedom during the financial panic of 1893, the baby was given over to relatives living in New Hampshire where he lived and grew strong and healthy in the Granite Hills until at the age of 15 he decided to see the world, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps.

For the next four years he served with honor in the Philippines and in Cuba and the United States and on ships at sea and was discharged from service in 1912. For the next eight years he served in the Navy Department at Portsmouth, N. H., as an intelligence operative during World War I.

His newspaper career began in 1922 when he wrote many feature articles for Boston, Manchester, N. H., Lewiston, Maine and other New England newspapers, later accepting the office of News Bureau Manager of the *New Bedford* (Mass.) *Times* on Cape Cod. He came to the *Manchester* (Conn.) *Herald* in 1929 and remains a member of that newspaper's editorial staff.

Besides his work as court, municipal and general news reporter for the *Herald*, he is also staff photographer of this newspaper.

During World War II, as he was too old for regular service, he joined the Connecticut State Guard and in 1941 was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion Headquarters, Hartford Armory, Hartford. He was promoted to Captain in 1943 and advanced to Plans and Training Officer of that battalion. He accepted inactive status in 1945 after three and one-half years service.

He is married and the father of three sons, all of whom have seen regular service, two in World War II.

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## CHAPTER I

### MANCHESTER PREPARES FOR A NEW WAR

The residents of Manchester failed to realize the deeper significance of the sneak attack upon our Naval establishment at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. For the first few days after the major portion of our Pacific Fleet had been put out of commission, the average Manchester residents, in common with millions throughout the country, felt that war had to be conducted, as usual, in the time-honored traditional manner of official declaration, withdrawal of our diplomatic emissaries from the offending country, then as a matter of custom each nation would square away at the other and begin warring actions.

But Pearl Harbor quickly wiped this idea of making war along regular channels out of our minds.

#### *Residents Are Stunned*

Although the utter seriousness of the situation at Pearl Harbor after the attack was not revealed in its entirety to us, there was sufficient undercurrent of knowledge of the devastation wrought by the carrier-based Jap bombers to stun the most even-tempered citizen of the United States of America—and Manchester.

For months before Pearl Harbor, the minds of our citizens were geared to war on the continent of Europe and the unsuspected attack on our outer Naval establishment, while the conference of United States and Japanese diplomats was in session in Washington, left us momentarily stunned. It was a one-two punch, with the first punch coming from an unexpected quarter.

Two days after the attack the Congress acted. By a vote of 82 to 0 in the Senate and 388 to 1 (Jeanette Rankin, (R) Montana, dissenting) we were officially at war with Japan. President Roosevelt,

on December 9, in a world-wide broadcast, said that "the sudden criminal attacks perpetrated by the Japanese in the Pacific, provide the climax of a decade of international immorality. Powerful and resourceful gangsters have banded together to make war upon the whole human race. Their challenge has now been flung at the United States of America. The Japanese have treacherously violated the long-standing peace between us. Many American soldiers and sailors have been killed by enemy action. American ships have been sunk; American airplanes have been destroyed."

### *President A Prophet*

"We are now in the midst of war, not for conquest, not for vengeance but for a world in which this nation, and all that this nation represents, will be safe for our children. We expect to eliminate the danger from Japan, but it would serve us ill if we accomplished that and found the rest of the world was dominated by Hitler and Mussolini. So we are going to win the war and we are going to win the peace that follows."

How prophetic the first part of that last sentence by President Roosevelt was. We have now won the war—the war of Europe and the war of the Pacific—and we have made an estimable beginning in the prevention of all future wars.

As the President's message coursed through the nation by every conceivable means of transmission, Manchester residents, in common with the rest of the country, began to take on something of war-time severity. We had been stung into action. Once before, on February 15, 1898, our people were shocked when the U.S.S. Maine was blown up in Havana harbor.

### *Set for a Long War*

Under a program which had already been initiated, the United States was already on December 7, 1941, producing the sinews of war for our ally-to-be, Great Britain. Many of our plants were rushed with war orders. The manpower of the Nation was already being mobilized under the Selective Service Act, registration for

which had been completed 14 months before the Japs attacked in the Pacific. The die was now set for a long war with adversaries on both the East and West fronts of the universe.

On October 14, 1940, a committee of 28 residents was appointed to arrange for the various sub-committees for the civilian defense. George H. Waddell was appointed general chairman. On July 7, 1941 chairmen of the 17 sub-committees of the Manchester Civilian Defense were named and one of the first steps taken was the launching of a scrap aluminum and metals drive. Successively, came the formation of an Air Raid Precautions Committee, appointment of a medical board and establishment of emergency hospitals and the formation of other related ARP committees.

Within the space of a few weeks, First Aid classes, Air Raid Wardens and Nurses' Aid schools were organized and the local organization was stepped up. All social and fraternal groups cancelled their customary observances and every action in the life of the town was centered primarily upon the one point—preparation for the home defense.

### *State Guard Organized*

Two companies of the State Guard had been organized here immediately after the departure of the National Guard units, Company K and the Anti-Tank Company, with other component parts of the 43rd Division for training at Camp Blanding, Florida, in the spring of 1941. These units were under the command of former local servicemen. Company G was commanded by Captain John L. Jenney, who later saw three years of Federal service, and Company H under command of Captain William Leggett. Captain Leggett was succeeded to the command of Company H by Captain David McCollum.

The two local State Guard units were called out for emergency duty to guard strategic installations in the East Hartford area on December 7, 1941 and remained on duty for over two weeks until the emergency subsided.

First Aid classes were held in the Howell Cheney Tech School and Nurses' Aid classes were held under the supervision of Mrs. Ann

Spencer and committees were set up from the Manchester Red Cross dealing with various phases of the war effort.

An Air Raid Warning Center was organized in the basement of the Municipal building and a 150-man Air Raid Warning Post was established in Bolton Center, supplied by personnel from the schools of Manchester and the Legion.

### *Frequent Drills Held*

As sector wardens were trained they were assigned to duties in the various sub-sectors in town and frequent drills were held, using the local siren alarm system for warning to train the personnel in the duties of protectors of the local community during an emergency. That the emergency never came, was not then regarded as an impossibility, but at least the local organization, numbering about 1,200 persons, all geared for any eventuality, were ready for their vital duty.

Mapping and zoning of the various precincts and sectors of the town, divided thus for protection, was in charge of Laberge Geer, Cheney Brothers engineer; Public Utilities dispositions were in charge of Parker Soren; communications under Herman Goodstine; Auxiliary Police under the Chief of Police Samuel G. Gordon; Auxiliary Firemen under the direction of Chief Albert Foy; demolitions under William Knofla; decontamination under Dr. Forbes B. Bushnell; Red Cross under Dr. Robert Knapp; sewing and bandage making under Miss Betty Olmstead; emergency feeding and housing, Mrs. William Bray; auxiliary activities, Mrs. Charles House; committee on Unity and Amity, Dr. Watson Woodruff; Salvage Committee, Hayden Griswold; Land Army, Mrs. Joseph Pero; Defense Training, John Echmalian.

By the end of 1943 the local emergency organization was working smoothly. The people of Manchester were rallying spiritually and physically in the defense of the homeland. Purchase of War Bonds and support of the Red Cross drives were steadily being maintained and every day brought the news which home-townners feared the most—that our sons were paying the stiff price for freedom on all fronts.

## CHAPTER II

### NATIONAL AND STATE GUARD UNITS

The Governor of Connecticut, anticipating that sooner or later the National Guard of Connecticut would be inducted into federal service, issued an Executive order on August 17, 1940 creating an interim or substitute military force to supplement the state's law enforcement and protective agencies. The force created under the Governor's order was to be known as the "Connecticut State Guard."

On January 24, 1940 the orders came from the War Department for federalization or induction of the National Guard into the regular Army at their armories and to remain on a standby basis preparatory for training in the South. Staff and company officers strengthened their units by the enlistment of additional Manchester men preparatory to moving into the war as complete local units.

#### *Manchester's Units In War*

The Manchester units in the war, the only complete local military organizations to serve, were Company K and the Anti-Tank Company of the 169th Regiment, 43rd Division. Company K was under command of Captain William Naylor and the Anti-Tank Company under Captain Raymond Hagedorn. All of these men were regularly enlisted in the Army "for the duration."

Early in March, 1941, all of the former Connecticut National Guard units entrained for Camp Blanding, Florida, for combat training. But even as they left the State, the newly formed Connecticut State Guard, formed under Executive order six months before, took over the protective duties of the state.

The new protective force under the original executive order, was



to be composed of officers and personnel of the First and Second Companies, Governor's Foot Guard. Around this original force other battalion units were formed in the state and during the war many reserve State Guard units were formed and assigned to the staffs of the existing State Guard battalion units for training.

### *Gen. De Lacour In Command*

The commander of the Connecticut State Guard was the Adjutant General, Major General Reginald B. DeLacour and the former commander of the 169th Regiment, CNG, Colonel Joseph Nolan, an old 26th "Yankee Division" veteran of World War I, was assigned Chief of Staff. Colonel Nolan had been prevented by physical disability to retain his command of the 169th at that unit's entry into regular service.

Headquarters of the Connecticut State Guard was in the State Armory, Hartford, with the Commanding General, Chief of Staff and Brigade Staff, the 1st, 2nd, 10th, Troop A (motorized) and Band based there. Other battalion units were located as follows: 3rd, Waterbury; 4th, Norwich; 5th and 6th, New Haven; 7th, Bridgeport; 8th, Stamford; 9th, Middletown.

### *Early Company Officers*

Manchester's two units were the Legion sponsored Company G, and the VFW sponsored Company H of the 2nd Battalion, Colonel William J. Maxwell, commanding, Hartford. The first commander of the Legion Company G was Captain John L. Jenney, past Commander of the Legion and an Army Reserve Officer, and veteran of World War I. The first Commander of Company H was Captain William Leggett who was succeeded in command of Company H by Captain David McCollum.

### *Sent to East Hartford*

Both of the local companies of the State Guard had been formed and were in process of training, having taken over the company



quarters in the State Armory, when on December 7, 1941 both units were called to active duty for the protection of vital installations in the East Hartford area. The units remained on duty two weeks, returning after the emergency to their home stations.

This initial adventure in the military was of great value in strengthening and training the two local companies in Manchester. While it was a statutory requirement of the Governor that he should provide an adequate military force to protect the people and vital installations of the state, membership in the so-called "Home Guards" was not at all popular at first. Even the few former veterans who had served in World War I who had enlisted at the start, quickly lost interest and the ranks had to be filled with untried youths, many unable to pass the rigid physical examinations of the regular services. Others, anticipating quick calls by the Selective Service, chose to gain preliminary training under the former World War I—veterans now—officers of the State Guard.

#### *Copied British "Home Guards"*

After the formation of the State Guard, regular Army officers were assigned to the Brigade for instruction and liason and provisions were made by the War Department to have officers of the Connecticut State Guard and other New England State Guard units attend schools for officers at the First Service Command School, Sturbridge, Mass. The latter school, beginning early in the spring and closing in the late fall, was conducted for two years, during 1942 and 1943 and nearly all officers from Connecticut as well as other New England states, attended.

Due to the anticipated possible invasion of the East Coast of the United States, of which Connecticut had a considerable shoreline, and also the long-range possibility of invasion by air, the State Guard at the outset received training similar to that given the Home Guards in England. Officers of the British Home Guard, cooperating with specially trained officers of the Army, put the officers of the Connecticut and other New England states units through the drill schedules and training programs which, in the opinion of the War

Department, would best fit the emergency state's troops as temporary buffers against any kind of invading forces.

### *Stiff Military Training*

The courses at Sturbridge, Mass., during the emergency years of 1942 and 1943 were stiff, giving some of the elderly officers, from the Adjutant General down, a real taste of military training of high order. Coupled with the "hit and run" methods of repelling the invaders, was a special course in demolitions. Officers selecting this course received complete training in the handling of weapons of all kinds, light and heavy demolition charges, use of road blocks, "fougasse" or gasoline demolition charges and training in the construction of a variety of "booby traps" devised by the instructors or by the students.

Upon graduating from any of the three courses held at the First Service Command School at Sturbridge, each State Guard officer or non-commissioned officer was awarded a War Department certificate, attesting to his having completed the required course of training for the defense of the Zone of the Interior.

Nearly all of the past and present officers of the local State Guard units attended the First Service Command schools of 1942 and 1943 and also similar training schools held at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, in 1944 and 1945. In each of the above years the training was along lines selected by the War Department, considered to be the best suited for state troops of that current year.

### *Held Summer Training*

Meanwhile, the Guards carried out summer training at CCC Camps as the state was unable to use the Military Reservation at Niantic, then occupied by the War Department, as a training base for Army Military Police units. The Manchester Companies held training at night in the outlying sections and many week-end training periods at a camp in Vernon. Several field exhibitions were held in Manchester, one on the Old Golf lots.

After the War Department turned the Military Reservation at

Niantic back to the state, summer encampments of the State Guard, similar to those formerly held by the National Guard, were held. Each summer, from early July until September 1, encampments of State Guardsmen—two battalions and special troops to each camp period—trained there for periods of from one week to ten days. Close and extended order drill, strategic problems, mob control, rifle marksmanship and tactics involved in the defense of the zone of the interior were the chief subjects of training.

When dangers from sea and air invasion diminished, the need of training to repel possible invasion ended, and Guards received training in the tactics involved in the protection of life and property during catastrophies or domestic disturbances.

Due to the type of service, State Guard personnel was entitled to ask and receive his discharge at any time, or for any reason. Thus the status of the State Guard was constantly changing. New faces were seen each weekly drill night. The rapid turnover in personnel created a difficult situation for Company officers in that one week these officers might have a full compliment of officers and 50 men, the next drill night a dozen or more men would be missing for one reason or another.

### *Helped In Promotions*

The regular armed forces took their share of the personnel of the State Guard units in Manchester, as elsewhere, and many of those who received their initial military training in "the Guards" went on to reach well deserved promotions in the branch in which they later served.

The Manchester units of the State Guard are still active today—Sept. 1946—and drills are held each week at the state armory. It is expected that the State Guard will soon be immobilized.

### *List of State Guard Officers*

Following is a list of the Manchester State Guard officers who served during the war in the State Units: Major Herbert Bissell, Executive officer, 2nd Battalion, Hartford; Captain Archie Kilpatrick,

Plans and Training Officer 2nd Battalion, Hartford; Captain John L. Jenney, Commanding Co. G, 2nd Battalion; Captain William Leggett, Commanding Co. H; Captain David McCollum, Commanding Co. H; Captain Frank Schiebel, Commanding Company G; Captain Chesterfield Pirie, Commanding Co. H; Captain Edgar Miller, Commanding Co. H.

1st Lieut. Felix McEvitt, Co. G; 1st Lieut. William F. Taggart, Co. G; 1st Lieut. Joseph L. LaBelle, Co. G; 1st Lieut. Gardiner S. Rawson, Co. D, 1st Battalion; 1st Lieut. Danny Shea, Adjutant, 2nd Battalion, Hartford; 2nd Lieut. Erlin A. Jensen, Co. G; 2nd Lieut. B. O. Jacobucci, Co. H; 2nd Lieut. Sol Lavitt, Co. H; 2nd Lieut. Harry Mathiason, Co. H.

By Statute, the State Guard force will remain active until superceded by another National Guard force. When such a force is organized, many of the officers of the State Guard of Connecticut of 1940-1946 will receive honorable discharges, retaining in their memory a long period of service in which there was little color or opportunity to make any headlines or gain special recognition for service.

## CHAPTER III

### SELECTIVE SERVICE

Modern warfare demands an equalization of the national military and naval burden, especially under a democratic form of government. During World War II Congress became convinced, after a soul-searching study, that the United States could not be assured of an adequate and properly trained manpower for national defense unless a selective training and service principle was written into the nation's laws.

The recognition of the principle of equally bearing the burden was accepted by our patriots before the Revolutionary War. Without recourse to conscription, Colonial Patriots, stirred by encroachments upon their civil rights, fought and won their independence after years of bitter warfare with a willingness, even eagerness, that was matched only by their vision and hope for a true Democracy.

How far we may have strayed from the original principles will only be known to future generations, but the ideals of those first volunteers in the defense of Liberty and equal rights for all, have been borne through many critical periods in the history of this Nation.

#### *Conscription Ineffective*

During the war between the States, the drain on manpower by the sparsely populated South, and the more highly industrialized and populated North, brought out forms of conscription which, sad to state, did not reflect honor upon those officials or principals concerned during the latter years of the war.

History reveals that at the beginning of the Civil War the troops on both sides were voluntarily enlisted, but the South first, and the North later, put in force conscription acts. Based on an average of



three years of war, the North furnished about 45 per cent of her military population and the South not less than 90 per cent for that term of service.

Even so, the South was numerically, as also in other respects, far weaker and rarely, after 1862, opposed equal numbers of Union troops.

The short-lived Spanish American War, due to the intense public animosity that was generated from coast to coast and from border to border, in the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor, brought forth such a flood of volunteers that the war was won in short space of time, with the exceedingly valuable assistance of the Navy, without any form of conscription. Regular troops were used in the major engagements in Cuba as well as selected volunteer units, but the major part of the Volunteer Army did not see active combat.

### *Patriots In Defense*

A non-aggressive, non-militant nation such as the United States, from its first settlement, depended upon the faith of the Fathers, the virility and strength of its young men and the zeal and love of its women, all in combination to form a perfect front in time of danger or strife.

But the modern modes of warfare, the multiplicity of weapons and the area covered by fighting forces in recent years, demanded that a more selective form of service be adopted.

National leaders viewed the proposed conscription act in the same light on a plane similar to his service in civil life on volunteer jury service, the voluntary bearing of the tax burden and the acceptance of other responsibilities of government. All of these duties were for the common good and it was the belief of those planning a suitable conscription act in World War II that the individual must surrender a portion of his independence of decision in respect to the extent to which he could bear these burdens of responsibility and of citizenship.

That, they observed, was part of the price he must pay for the privilege of living in a free and untrammelled America.

The Selective Service and Training Act of September 14, 1940 was the first peace-time compulsory military training act in the history



of the United States. The act was signed by the President on September 16, 1940, nearly fifteen months before Pearl Harbor.

### *Provisions of the Act*

In its original form it made all male citizens and all male declarant aliens residing in the United States, with few exceptions, who were between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six, liable for military training. It provided, however, that not more than 900,000 men inducted under it should be in training at any one time and limited the training period to one year.

Numerous changes were made in the limitations. Amendments to the act which were adopted December 20, required every male citizen and every other male person residing in the United States, with few exceptions, to register if they were between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five.

Those who were between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were eligible for military service but at no time were men taken by Selective Service who were over thirty-eight years of age, except in very rare instances.

The first Selective Service registration was held October 16, 1940, and approximately 17,000,000 males registered. The first national lottery to determine the order of call of registrants was held October 29, 1941.

### *Registration Data*

Subsequent registrations were held as follows:

Second: July 1, 1941, for men who had become twenty-one years of age after the first registration of October 16, 1940.

Third: February 16, 1942, for men twenty and forty-five years of age who had not registered previously.

Fourth: April 27, 1942, for men between forty-five and sixty-five years.

Fifth: June 30, 1942, for men who had attained the eighteenth or nineteenth anniversary of the day of their birth on or before June 30, 1942, provided they were already registered.

Sixth: December 11, to December 31, 1942, for men who became eighteen after June 30, 1941.

Since the sixth registration men are required to register with their local boards on the day they attained their eighteenth birthday.

The Selective Service and Training Act of 1940 provides that the Act—with the exception of the provisions relating to re-employment rights of veterans—shall become inoperative and cease to apply on and after May 15, 1946, or the date of the termination of hostilities in the present war, or on such earlier date as may be specified in a concurrent resolution of the two Houses of Congress for that purpose, except as to offenses committed prior to such date, unless this Act is continued in effect by the Congress.

According to the records there were 5,509,056 men between the ages of eighteen to twenty-five registered; 1,750,541 between the ages of eighteen to twenty-five rejected for military service; 234,207 excused from military service because of agricultural pursuits; 104,483 deferments, those employed in occupational support of the war in national health, safety or interest (Class II-A); and 58,878 deferred by reason of hardship, public officials, aliens, ministers and divinity students, conscientious objectors, etc., and 147,431 unclassified.

### *The Manchester Board*

Governor Raymond E. Baldwin appointed the original three members of the Manchester Selective Service Board early in October, 1941. The three members were Judge William S. Hyde, Ronald H. Ferguson and Col. William C. Cheney. At a later date the board was completed with the addition of Arthur E. McCann and Henry A. Mutrie. The board held its first organization meeting in the office of Judge Hyde on October 15, 1941, and the following officers were elected: Chairman, Judge Hyde; secretary, Ronald H. Ferguson.

Colonel Cheney died on March 2, 1941 and on May 16, 1941 Harold T. Keating was appointed to the board.

Permission had been sought shortly after the first registration to use the Civil Service examining room in the post office as the Selective Service headquarters and the first person to be engaged for the local headquarters staff was Mrs. Clara Turkington Wallett.

*Office Personnel*

Mrs. Wallett was engaged as chief clerk on October 30, 1940, which position she still retains on the staff.

Other personnel of the office:

Mrs. Marion Modean, November 18, 1940, separated March 14, 1943.

Mrs. Veronica Arsenault, March 1, 1942, separated January 20, 1943.

Mrs. Katherine Varney, May 4, 1942 (still active as assistant to the chief clerk). Mrs. Varney was first engaged for special work and upon the separation of Mrs. Modean, assumed her position on the staff.

Mrs. Joyce Canade, March 16, 1942, separated May 10, 1943.

*First To Be Inducted*

The first two local men to enter the service through the Selective Service were two volunteers for induction, Stanley Walter Majewski, Jr., of 37 Kerry Street and Thomas W. Wippert of 104 Glenwood Street. They left for service on November 18, 1940. Both of these initial inductees saw plenty of service and are now returned to civilian life.

The second group of inductees left for service on January 14, 1941, a group of ten men. According to an unofficial estimate of Chief Clerk Clara Wallett, more than one-half of those that were inducted from Manchester have been discharged and have reported, as per regulations, at the local office as of May 1, 1946.

All of the original ten men who left from the Selective Service office for duty on January 1941 have been returned to civilian life except one member of that group, John Austin McKenna, Jr., who won a commission later and is now carried on the list of the Officer's Reserve Corps.

During the six years that the Selective Service office has been in operation, approximately 9,500 men have been registered and filed. Manchester had no definite conscientious objectors, as such.

At this time it is impossible to state how many Manchester men

were inducted into service due to the large number of acceptances of pre-aged selectees for whom no file was maintained in the local office, acceptance of registrants in the United States Maritime Service; transfers from other boards due to local residence, and other factors which made it actually impossible to arrive at a conclusive total number of selectees.

One father-and-son combination entered the service through the local Selective Service Board, Cyrus J. Blanchard, Sr., of 235 Center Street, a veteran of World War I and Cyrus J. Blanchard, Jr. Both were listed for induction on September 28, 1942.

The office will continue to function under the Selective Service and Training Act of September 14, 1940, until discontinued by Act of Congress.

The members of the local Selective Service board received special recognition for their valuable services of voluntary nature in January, 1946, when special medals and citations were given the board members at a ceremonial in the State Armory, Hartford, Conn.

In accordance with the Act of September 14, 1940, all returning inductees and volunteers are required to report at the Selective Service headquarters at the completion of their service.

## CHAPTER IV

### CIVILIAN DEFENSE (No. 1)

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, with enemies on all of our coasts, the need for protection of the Zone of the Interior became a vital necessity. Under authorization of the office of emergency management, Defense Councils were set up in cities and towns throughout the land from which sprung a network of vital installations designed to combat any attempt at invasion by land, sea or air.

#### *Local Defense Council*

In common with the rest of the country, Manchester organized its Defense Council on October 14, 1940 and was officially approved by the Board of Selectmen on that date. The list of members as submitted to Governor Baldwin, was as follows:

David Chambers, chairman of the Board of Selectmen; Samuel G. Gordon, Chief of Police; Albert Foy, Chief, Manchester (South) Fire Department; Leroy Griswold, Chief, Manchester (North) Fire Department; Dr. D. C. Y. Moore, chairman, Board of Health and Manchester Medical Examiner; Henry Mallory, vice president, Cheney Brothers; Jay E. Rand, superintendent, Orford Soap Company; Leon A. Thorp, Advertising Manager, Manchester Evening Herald; Jack Sanson, Manager, Warner Brothers State Theatre; Mrs. George W. Cheney, Miss Elisabeth Bennet, principal, Barnard school; Elmer Weden, manager, J. W. Hale Company; Rev. James P. Timmins, pastor, St. Bridget's church; Rev. Earl E. Story, pastor, South Methodist church; Thomas J. Quish, postmaster; Dr. Robert P. Knapp, Red Cross; E. J. McCabe, Manchester Chamber of Commerce; Frank Reiley, president, Local 63 TWUA, CIO; Arthur H. Illing, Superintendent of Schools; Lillian S. Bowers, chairman,



Library Committee; Frank Valluzzi, commander, Anderson-Shea Post, VFW; Donald Hemingway, president, Army and Navy Club; Albert Lindsay, commander, Mons-Ypres Post; British War Veterans; Edward Copeland, commander, Disabled American Veterans; Albert Anderson, commander, Ward Cheney Camp, USWV; Hayden L. Griswold, John F. Pickles and Clyde G. Beckwith, YDVA.

### *Air Raid Precautions*

The principal stem of the War or Defense Council was the Air Raid Precautions committee, which included an organization to be set up for zone of the interior defense under Chairman Henry R. Mallory of the Air Raid Precautions committee.

In a letter to the Manchester Defense Council dated November 5, 1941, Mr. Mallory said:

"On behalf of the Air Raid Precautions committee, I am submitting herewith a report of progress made to date on air raid precautions.

"In speaking for the committee, I wish to emphasize that the work accomplished has been done in the finest spirit of cooperation that it is possible to imagine. The attitude of the Defense Council has been most helpful and we have found that, wherever possible, they were glad to lend us their assistance."

In this letter to the Defense Council, Chairman Mallory outlined the organization plans for the Air Raid Precautions setup.

### *Real Army Organization*

The type of organization developed by Chairman Mallory, his letter stated, was typical of the Army organization of "Line and Staff." In the case of the Manchester organization the "Staff" consisted of the Air Raid Precautions committee by which plans were prepared and methods of operation established and schools for training of personnel devised. The "Line" consisted of the Chief Air Raid Warden of Manchester to whom report the Precinct Wardens in each zone and the selected Industrial Wardens.

A plan of the organization setup included the following officials,



operating directly under Mr. Mallory as chairman: Zones and maps, Laberge H. Geer. Mr. Geer prepared special maps for the town of Manchester in which he made a division of the town into 13 zones, or precincts, of each precinct, a further sub-division was made into four sectors, each sector representing a population area of 500 people.

Jay E. Rand was named director of the Air Raid Warden training. Mr. Rand had made a close study of Air Raid Warden schools and also had been in close touch with the State Defense Council, and as a result initiated schools for Air Raid Wardens which began on November 17, 1941 in the High School auditorium.

It may be said at this point, that at the time of organization of the Manchester Defense Council and its subsidiary, the Air Raid Precautions committee, few persons knew of the methods then in operation for three years in Britain and the defense setups in this country, were, for the most part, later modeled after the British plans.

### *Night and Day Duty*

The initial group of Precinct Wardens selected by Chief Air Raid Warden Thomas Weir was enlarged to include over 200 sector wardens and deputies for night and day duty in event of emergency. It was Mr. Rand's duty to arrange schools for training this increasingly large number of personnel, and in this connection series of schools of several weeks duration, one night each week, were held for training of air raid personnel.

A special school for industrial air raid wardens was held at Trinity College, Hartford and those who took this course were: Mr. Rand and a good representation of the wardens assigned to duties in the local industrial plants.

A survey of possible air-raid shelters was conducted by E. L. G. Hohenthal, sub-chairman of this phase of the work. Shelters were obtained and properly marked by signs reading "Air-Raid Shelter," placed in close proximity to the selected place of safety. Such shelters were selected in basements of buildings of durable construction likely to sustain the effects of bombing better than wooden or more flimsy structures.

In this connection a plan was developed for caring for the school children if an attack had come during school hours.

### *Form Demolition Squads*

William Knofla, chairman of Demolition and Rescue, organized demolition squads to remove walls and other structures which might be found in unsafe condition after an air raid or fire caused from incendiary bombing. This work required special equipment and tools to remove heavy timbers to uncover with all possible speed, persons likely to be trapped under fallen buildings or debris.

Communications, which as in other military and naval phases of the war, was as important in the defense of the interior. Herman Goodstine was chosen chairman of this sub-division of Communications and Alarms. He had made a study of the possible methods of communication between the Hartford Control Center and the Manchester Report Center and also between each Warden's post and the local Report Center. Communications were to be carried by telephone, short-wave radio and runners.

### *Short Wave Radio*

Mr. Goodstine was successful in having installed short-wave radio sets in the Manchester Report Center, located in the basement of the Municipal Building and secured operators so that communication between the principal precincts could be maintained through a motor vehicle short-wave system with the Report Center, should the usual methods of communication be destroyed or temporarily displaced. This was one of the first radio set-ups in the nation to be approved for operation under security regulations.

Dr. Forbes F. Bushnell, chairman of the De-contamination sub-division of the committee, made studies of the various procedures to follow in the event that areas became contaminated by gas attack. Residents were also advised by air raid wardens what methods to follow or employ in event of gas attack and de-contamination squads were set up to eliminate the hazards which might cause gas burns or other injuries in gas contaminated areas.



LT. ARTHUR H. KEENEY, JR.



GOV. RAYMOND E. BALDWIN



PVT. DAVID R. JACK



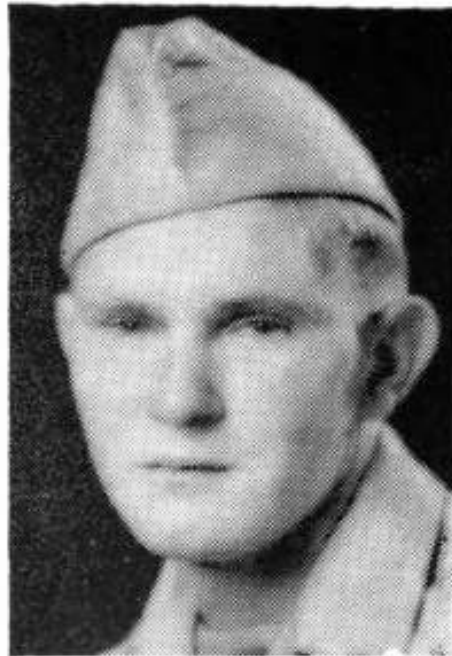
WALTER F. BRANDT



PFC. JOHN J. NOWAK



SGT. ROBERT HAMILTON



PVT. PETER GOCHEE



LT. WILLIAM L. ANDERSON



PVT. ERNEST E. BARTLEY





**PVT. RAYMOND LaGACE**



**PVT. WALTER LISS**



**S/S ROGER HERRICK**



**S/S WESLEY W. McMULLEN**



*Trained First Aiders*

For years Dr. Robert P. Knapp, former chairman of the Manchester Chapter, American Red Cross, had carried on educational work in the field of medicine and first aid and trained many first aid workers in Manchester, and although much had been accomplished earlier in this connection, the need for a larger number of trained first aiders was apparent. Dr. Knapp was the logical person to head up this sub-division.

The initial call was for training 500 first aiders and classes were held in many places about town, clubs, fraternities, churches and like groups cooperating. Advanced trainees were certified as instructors and allotted to special classes under a persistent schedule of almost every night in the week.

Dr. Knapp also made plans to cooperate with other towns and cities in the Hartford county area to send emergency help in case any locality was afflicted, needing medical or first aid assistance. He also made arrangements to establish emergency hospitals to care for the injured in all parts of town.

The late Jack Dwyer was commissioned to secure ambulance units for the transportation of injured in case of attack and he secured a fine group of cars, ambulances and trucks to remain on call. Fortunately, none were ever used in this connection. One of the features of this division was the formation of a group of uniformed girls, The Ambulance Transportation Corps, under command of Major Alice Madden, which group worked effectively under their officers.

*Planned Emergency Shelters*

The feeding and housing of residents of a bombed town was the duty of a large group of women under the direction of Mrs. William Bray, Jr. These women, under Mrs. Bray, made a complete survey of homes in town where emergency shelter could be obtained in event of bombing and where meals might be obtained in the emergency.

Co-ordination of all Public Utilities personnel, which included repair crews, installation crews, inspectors and technicians was made under the direction of Parker Soren. His duties consisted of main-

taining contact in event of an attack, between heads of water, sewer, gas, telephone, divisions and to keep the committee posted on the manner in which the public utilities wished to function in the event of an extreme emergency.

Mrs. Thomas Martyn was in charge of registration and maintenance of records of the committee.

The specific duties of Thomas Weir, Chief Air Raid Warden, as a member of the Air Raid Precautions Committee, was officer in charge of all Air Raid Wardens in town, to collaborate and cooperate with the Police, Fire Departments, Public Utilities companies and to report to each whenever help was needed in event of air attack.

The orders of the Chief Air Raid Warden were disseminated to the personnel of the committee by various methods of dispatch through the Report Center and under his orders all sub-divisions of the committee were to be called into action in emergency, for suppression of fires, rescue of injured, first aid care, ambulance, housing and feeding, decontamination and allied needs.

### *Precinct Wardens*

Under date of November 5, 1941, the following Precinct and Industrial Wardens were appointed: Precinct Wardens: No. 1, Thomas Faulkner; No. 2, Harold Dougan; No. 3, Elmer Anderson; No. 4, Thomas Holden; No. 5, Albert Howland; No. 6, Paul Cervini; No. 7, Charles S. Burr; No. 8, Knight Ferris; No. 9, John Falkowski; No. 10, General Sherwood Cheney; No. 11, Joseph Canade; No. 12, Hayden Griswold; No. 13, Ray E. Cooper.

Industrial Wardens: Cheney Brothers, Raymond Goslee; Independent Cloak Co., Joseph Bell, Harry Ross; Orford Soap Co., George Snow; Carlyle-Johnson Co., Scott H. Simon; Rogers Paper Co., E. J. Sweeney; Case Bros. Co., Monroe Morris.

Changes were made in the list of Precinct Wardens during the period of the emergency due to Selective Service calls, removals from town or for other reasons.

## CHAPTER V

### CIVILIAN DEFENSE (No. 2)

The bombing of cities in the last war was part of a plan for "total war." This trend of warfare new to the world in the last war, had been accepted when the might of the German Luftwaffe swept over Great Britain to bomb and destroy large populated centers, kill scores of thousands of men, women and children and cause irreparable loss to industry needed for the conduct of the war, and residential areas.

For the most part cities were bombed because they were industrial centers and because they were the centers of population and were also political centers.

Industrial centers were bombed because they provided the enemy's armies with the means of waging war, tanks, machine guns, automobiles, trucks, and radios. As most factories were located near cities, the larger cities of Britain felt the weight of the Nazi bombs to a greater extent than did the rural areas.

#### *Wipe Out Production*

In the eyes of the enemy under the "total war" plan, the man in the factory became a fighter, just as much as the soldier on the fighting line, and it was with the intent to wipe out all production that the enemy wreaked such havoc on industrial cities in Britain.

Long before the Air Raid Precautions group took form in Manchester to forestall or prepare for any possible attacks on industrial establishments, so vitally located in or near this town. Parts of London had been reduced to piles of blasted brick, stone and mortar and thousands of men, women and children had died in the nightly air raids.

It was the natural thing to do, therefore, when the United States

East Coast became a danger point for possible invasion, that a protective organization should be set up along lines which had been adopted under fire in England and in other cities of Great Britain, especially in the London area.

The town of Coventry, England was a striking example of the industrial target. The pulverization of Coventry has become a by-word for complete destruction from the air. Near Coventry was located the famous Austin Motor Works, which not only produced automotive parts for the British government but also produced airplane engines and parts. Being such an important link in the production of war machines, it is easy to see why Germany destroyed it utterly.

### *Tried To Destroy Port*

The German aerial attacks on Liverpool were similar in effect. The attacks on Liverpool attempted to destroy the port as such and also, the manufactured war materials in transit from the United States to Britain. The attacks on London and Rotterdam, conversely, were mainly for moral effect—attacks on large political and industrial centers, perhaps a combination of both.

During the bombing of Britain we soon became conscious of two types of bombing—high explosive and incendiary bombs. Incendiary bombs were small, averaging from two to four and one-half pounds each in weight and the high explosive bombs from one hundred pounds each or more. As the war went on bombs increased in weight, some of the latter ones weighing upwards of ten tons each. These were dropped on Germany by the RAF and AAF.

In copying the program designed to combat the expected aerial attacks on our East Coast cities, if the war had gone against us, standard procedures were set up and officers of the British Air Raid Protective groups came to the United States and trained key officials selected by the Office of Civilian Defense, Washington. These first groups trained in the manner of defense perfected in Britain, in turn established schools for training Regional Air Raid Wardens and Chief Air Raid Wardens to better launch the system throughout the country.

*Built Around Control Center*

The Key to the successful operation of the Civilian Defense organizations as set up in the United States was the Control Center, composed of a group of workers, each of which had a special function to perform. To be effective, these groups operated in co-ordination through the exercise of the command of a single person, much the same as an army operates. Therefore, as set up, the Civilian Defense organization operating during the period of the emergency in Manchester, like the armies which fought the battles at the fronts, was much the same as the military organizations engaged in other theaters.

A means was needed to provide the local CD Commander with full and complete information of what was happening at widely scattered points, and a system of communication was established first. The Manchester Control Center was located in the basement of the Municipal Building, centrally located. Through this Center provision was made for the receipt of air raid warning messages from the air raid warning district center and the transmittal of such messages to the proper recipients, issuance of signal for sounding air raid alarms, reports from wardens, dispatch of operating units in emergency and the means for collection and dissemination of information essential to the operation of the civilian protection services under emergency conditions.

*Manchester's Set-Up*

Under the approved setup, Henry R. Mallory was named chairman of the Air Raid Precautions committee who selected Thomas Weir as Chief Air Raid Warden. From this beginning branched out a Control Center group, which in the early days of the system here, included the following officials and operatives:

Chief Air Raid Warden, Thomas Weir; Regional Air Raid Warden, Raymond Cooper; Deputy Air Raid Warden, Charles S. Burr; Control Center Supervisor, Robert Hathaway; Control Center Secretary, Mrs. Gladys K. Gilmore; Fire Departments, Herbert McKinney; Police, Samuel G. Gordon; Ambulances, T. P. Holloran; Utilities,



Parker Soren; Demolition, Harry Kitching; Decontamination, Dr. F. F. Bushnell; Radio, E. L. G. Hohenthal and Mrs. Emma Veen, Stuart Lynne; Control Center Operators, Raymond Grimason, James Duffy, Lillian Reymander, Jennie Reymander, Elizabeth Lupien, Etta Wilson, Ruth Runde, Mrs. Mary Kester, Marion Weir, Alma Andrulot, Mrs. Marion Spade, Louise Johnson, Mrs. Betty Cooper; Messengers, Marshall Davis, Charles Young, Grant Sloane, Elden Piper, Donald Marsh, William Strain, William Nemeroff, Robert Stavnitsky and Roy Stratton.

During the two years of operation the local signal post or terminal leading directly to the district warning center, was located in the police station and it was the duty of the officer on duty there to flash the prescribed signal, and turn on the air raid sirens which had been located at North Manchester, Manchester Green, Center and Olcott Streets and on the Recreation building, School Street.

A very important group, known as "home dispatchers," performed yeoman service with the local CD setup during the period of emergency. The duties of these twenty-six women all located in their own homes, was to call the key personnel of the CD organization at the air raid alarm.

### *Alerted Entire Organization*

Although not publicized, due to military restrictions, these women performed valuable service in alerting the entire Civilian Defense organization here, and aided immeasurably in the overall performance of the emergency services.

Once the signal was relayed to certain key persons in this "home dispatchers" organization, a complete coverage of all CD personnel was made through this warning group.

Early in the setup of the CD Control Center, efforts were directed to organize and operate short-wave communication to be used primarily in the event of complete breakdown of the regular lines of telephonic communication.

The master short-wave set was located in conjunction, with and close by, the Control Center. Upon alerting the services, all established stations on the short-wave setup were also alerted. The short-



wave organization consisted of sets located in all of the fire stations and several specially selected locations besides three home stations. Three cars were also radio-equipped. Unknown to many CD personnel, a short-wave equipped radio car was constantly on a standby basis outside the Municipal Building Control Center during practice raids, prepared to go to any given point, or to patrol the town on call, in event of a breakdown in telephonic communications.

The first progressive move of the Air Raid Precautions Committee was to institute a quick and effective means of training of the precinct and sector wardens and other air raid personnel. As Manchester was divided into areas of protection, based by mapping on equally divided areas of population, and not by blocks of streets, a uniform system of operation within each area was decided upon.

### *Get Special Lectures*

The program of training involved the use of the high school hall several times each week with special speakers, from State and Federal protective agencies, veterans of the London "blitz," movies of "Britain at War" and special films descriptive of the manner of handling incendiary bombs, operation of wardens and auxiliary police in blackouts and air raids.

The course for wardens was of seven weeks duration. After assignment to sectors, wardens were required to call at the homes of the residents in their sector, to obtain certain information regarding measures occupants had taken for extinguishing fires in attics, such as depositing pails of sand, proper shielding of windows for lighting within during air raids, and other necessary measures for safety in any emergency.

Householders conformed to the instructions of the wardens or their deputies generally in satisfactory manner, and only a few disturbing instances of neglect or disobedience were reported.

## CHAPTER VI

### CIVILIAN DEFENSE (No. 3)

In the beginning of the Civilian Defense Program, instituted by the United States Citizens Defense Corps in Manchester, the responsibility of training an auxiliary force intensively, and on short notice in the midst of the mighty war production in this highly industrialized area, seemed a monumental task.

There were those that asked "Why is this all necessary?" "Does the Army expect our towns and cities to be bombed and attacked?" Their answers were forthcoming in the statement from the military that such attacks were not contemplated tonight, tomorrow or possibly the day after tomorrow but it was emphasized that this specialized and highly technical training which was to be given in view of the unsettled and undetermined state of affairs in Europe and in the Pacific and was a long range buffer against an eventuality.

#### *Civilians Were In Danger*

There was a time, these officials pointed out, when the civilian population did not have very much to worry about in time of war, insofar as their own safety was concerned. Cities were not generally exposed to attack. Forts along the coast then afforded sufficient protection. But all that had changed in the passing years. A new and terrible technique had come into force.

Ships were built larger, the range of guns increased and with the advancement of aviation, there no longer was any such thing as "localizing" war. When cities were attacked, men, women, and children—non-combatants—were cruelly exposed.

Even in the early stages of the past European War, planes were being delivered to England over the long water route in about eight

hours. If that could be done one way, officials argued, it could be done the other way. So the comfort of distance, once held promising for residents of the eastern part of the United States, existed no longer. Hence, the inauguration of a defensive zone of the interior force—Civilian Defense.

### *All To Work Together*

As in the case of public health, the people of the country—neighbors and friends or even backyard enemies—had delegated to themselves a mighty job of preparing for any eventuality. All were to bind themselves together, even as they had done for years in the sorrow and misery of bombed London, to make this country as safe as possible against invasion or air attack.

It was a new idea and program for the civilian population. Never before in modern times had our people been faced with the dangers imminent at any hour of the night and day, and now that all is past and the dangers gone, little did we know then how very close we actually came to attack of the most damaging and destructive kind.

At the start it was evident that a training program designed to reach every possible civilian, whether night or day worker, housewife, school student, industrial or business executive had to be initiated.

It was made clear by those trained to this type of defensive force, that utter confusion would soon result, when and if the Civilian Defense was called into action, if uniform standards of training were not used and untried methods of operation relied upon. All participating units of the CD had special and technical duties to perform and when members of any group reported for action in an emergency he at once lost all identity with his civilian status or identification and became a member in status of the Civilian Defense Organization and subject to call and orders of his superiors, even as members of the armed forces.

### *English Veterans Lectured*

Trained observers and veterans of the London “blitz” early em-

phasized this demand for complete co-operation of the public in time of danger and reliance upon those in authority, even though at times good judgment might deem the action taken inadvisable.

The Manchester CD organization was begun in a spirit of friendly co-operation and even though the peak of war work was just around the corner, no acute hindrances were noted in this connection. It was all new and most took it as a "game" to play, and they played willingly, donating much precious leisure time towards a better trained force.

The lessons gained by this enforced program of defensive preparedness should underlie this generation for years to come, yet it is characteristic of the American to rise to a danger and soon forget its benefits of preparedness.

It was certainly an unexpected condition of affairs that would place a whole town of 30,000 or more on an emergency standby basis, involving thousands of its people in nightly defense measures against theoretical air raids, while yet no plane of enemy marking had been seen. Yet they drilled by day and by night, in accordance with pre-arranged schedule, going through their paces the better to protect the others.

### *Learned To Take Orders*

Neighbors found that they could take and obey orders from their back-yard friends for the good of all. Men, women and children found that they could learn the once distasteful tricks and manipulations of first aid. Contractors and builders were thinking at the time in terms of how to extricate people from beneath fallen timbers; firemen were learning new ways of fighting ordinary fires and the new and fiercer fires generated by the war-time chemicals. Even the lowly housewife was looking about her, studying her home with the view to render possible aid to those who might become injured or might be in need of rest and food.

Some were more enthusiastic than others, who, while not just "going along for the ride" took advanced courses in whatever specialized branch they were connected with, to reach a position of leader,

instructor or director of a vital branch of the unit in which they specialized.

CD operatives contested against one another for speed, accuracy and perfection in practice operations. This spirit was due in great measure to the personal force instilled in the operatives by the leaders who devoted much time and energy into welding together, under trying circumstances, the "team work" so necessary to success.

It was not all smooth sailing at any stage of the CD operations. Leaders and operatives alike, used the time-tried trial and error method and in conformity profited by previous mistakes of error or judgment.

### *Confusion At Times*

There was confusion at times, especially in connection with the changing types of warning signals, and erroneous diagnosis by operatives of prearranged incidents, but in general, advancement was positive and reassuring to those in command.

Specifically, the duties of the wardens, the key or basis operative in any given populated area prescribed as a sector or populated subdivision of Manchester, were those of a co-ordinating helper, around whom a small group of assistants worked in emergency. Each unit functioned as a distinct unit of the parent CD body and judgment and application were as much a part of that operative's duty as were he the director of a big corporation.

The duties of the warden ranged from warning householders concerning their own safety measures, inspection of homes for air raid precautionary acts, reporting to the Control Center fires, chemical gas saturation, instituting first aid and setting an example to others by exhibited coolness and efficiency under fire.

Co-operating with the wardens were auxiliary police, first aiders, messengers, and on call, units of staff corps de-contamination squads, ambulance corps, rescue units, utility repairmen, firemen, demolition or clearance crews. In each incident the warden of the sector was the deciding official, even as he would have been had the incidents been as real as were those of the British "blitz."



*Mode of Procedure*

Once reported to the Control Center in a trial "blitz" the local wardens responded throughout, as previously trained, giving the necessary information asked of them and calling upon the Control Center for any service which, in his estimation, the situation demanded, whether it was simulated bomb damage to streets, bomb damage to buildings or to homes, fires of any type (incendiary or natural), injury to persons or heavy loss of life.

During the entire period of the Civilian Defense emergency, numerous drills with incidents were held and leaders devised incidents as near to the types reported from actually bombed areas as possible. The ARP group responded to their drills and at postdrill corrective meetings mistakes and errors in judgment were pointed out, all tending to improve and intensify the CD services.

Due to the restricted and confidential nature of the CD operations, the general public was left pretty much in the dark as to operations and many times residents were puzzled, and not a little amused, over CD incidents as planned and executed.

The public was impeded and disturbed at times, also, over emergency unannounced blackouts, air raid drills and the many changes in air raid warning signals. Nevertheless, Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public of 1941-1945, went along with the show, doing their bit in the usual American way.



## CHAPTER VII

### AIRPLANE SPOTTING

In the Fall of 1940 the American Legion was requested by the War Department to set up Aircraft Warning Posts all along the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines. The Dilworth-Cornell Post No. 102, of Manchester was asked to set up the location and organization of three posts. The War Department furnished a map designating the approximate location of each; one in the vicinity of Nigger Hill in Bolton, one at John Tom Hill in Glastonbury, and the third at Marlborough Lake, in Marlborough. Each post had to be located on high ground with long range visibility and at a place where telephone service was available. This made the selection extremely difficult as many desirable high places were located away from existing telephone facilities. Three places were finally approved by the War Department. One at the Ansaldi residence on Nigger Hill, another at the fire lookout on John Tom Hill, and the third at the residence of F. A. Vergason in Marlborough.

The Post in Marlborough was manned by members of the Fire Department in that town, under the leadership of Mr. Vergason.

In Glastonbury the Post was organized by Clifford Cheney, and most of the personnel were Legionnaires employed at Cheney Brothers.

#### *Station In Bolton*

In Bolton, Mr. and Mrs. Keeney Hutchinson secured volunteers from that town, supplemented by members of the Legion and Legion Auxiliary. Meetings were held at the Legion Home where Army officers outlined the procedure of reporting and stressed the importance of the organization.

The procedure as explained by them was as follows: two observers were to be on duty at all times. Immediately on seeing or hearing a plane or planes, the observers were to determine as near as possible the direction of the plane or planes from the observation post, the number, direction in which they were heading, and the approximate distance from the Post. The observer then called the telephone operator immediately and said—"Army Flash, Manchester 2-0020." This call went directly to Mitchell Field where the Filter Room was located.

Here the Filter Room operator responded by "Army go ahead, please." The observer then gave the information in order—1, 2, 3, 4 or more, indicating the number of planes, single, bi, or multi—indicating the type of plane by the number of motors; low, medium or high—indicating the altitude of the flight, seen or heard, to indicate whether the observer had seen or merely heard the flight—Freeman 34, the Post Code number, direction of the flight from the O.P., approximate distance in miles from the O.P. and last, the direction in which the flight was moving.

In January of 1941 the Army asked that all Posts be activated for a test period of one week in order that all posts should be thoroughly familiarized with procedure. We were again activated in October of 1941 but at that time the Post in Glastonbury was eliminated.

### *Ordered To Man Post*

On December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor, Elmer A. Weden, the Chief Observer was notified at 12:50 noon, to man the two Posts immediately, and at 1:10 both Posts were manned by two trained observers. The Marlborough Post was partially manned during the next few weeks, and was later discontinued, due to lack of personnel to keep the Post going. The Bolton Post, however, had the enviable record of being one of the very few in Connecticut that was completely manned from 1:10 P.M. on December 8, until discontinued by the Army. Not once during the day or night from December 8, 1941 to May 28, 1943, was the Post left without proper coverage.

Shortly after activating the Post in Bolton, it was realized that the

location at the Ansaldi farm on Nigger Hill was not the best location possible. The fact that it was on the main road with so much truck traffic made it difficult to hear planes, and the visibility from the east was poor. Permission was secured to move the Post to the Community House in Bolton, approximately one mile south of its original location. The Post was operated here for a month. Officials then secured permission from Edward McKnight, who owned the small house located at the Green at the Center, and used by the Chamber of Commerce to use this building.

This house was moved to Bolton Center and set up on land owned by Elmer Swanson. This proved to be the ideal location as it gave an unrestricted view for a considerable distance in all directions. Later, Harry Boutell donated the services of his carpenters and lumber was donated by the Manchester Lumber Co., W. G. Glenney Lumber Co., and G. E. Willis and Son to erect a tower over the house. On Christmas Day the members of the Temple of Beth Sholom congregation took over the Post, and through them, sufficient money was raised to purchase and erect a listening device, which aided considerably in detecting planes.

On moving to the new location, officials were asked to act as the Report Center for Bolton, and in case of an Air Raid to alert the Chief Air Raid Warden and his assistants in Bolton.

### *Those Who Manned Post*

The matter of manning the Post was a difficult one. Each shift was of three hours' duration and required two observers on each shift. This necessitated a crew of 112 observers. An appeal was sent out to the various organizations for volunteers, and the following organizations responded:

High school students, High school faculty, Spanish War Veterans' Auxiliary, Grange, Knights of Columbus, Mothers' Club, Cosmopolitan Club, Women of Bolton, Men of Bolton, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary.

Each group was assigned a particular day in the week and it was the responsibility of that group leader to see that the Post was properly covered.

Mrs. Keeney Hutchinson supervised the arrangement of both the men and women from Bolton.

Mrs. R. K. Anderson, Cosmopolitan Club.

Mrs. R. L. Lathrop, Mothers' Club.

Mrs. Beatrice Manning, Grange and Spanish War Veterans Auxiliary.

Mrs. Harold Belcher, American Legion Auxiliary.

The Post officers were: Elmer A. Weden, Chief Observer; Charles Wigren, Assistant Chief Observer, Officer of Day, Monday; Hans Engel, Tuesday; Edward Quish, Wednesday; Harry Boutel, Thursday; Harry Kitching, Friday; Mrs. Keeney Hutchinson, Saturday; Dr. George A. Cailloutte, Sunday.

An organization was later founded with the following officers: President, William Hand; secretary, Mrs. Harry Kitching; treasurer, Mrs. Irene King; personnel officer, Mrs. Harold Suits; recognition officer, A. Hyatt Sutliffe; Chief Observer, Elmer A. Weden.

On completion of the organization, we were asked to designate one member as Recognition Officer, to be sent to Boston for a week's training. A. Hyatt Sutliffe, a teacher in the Hollister school, was allowed a leave of absence for a week by the School Board in order to attend. The classes were held for six full days in Boston and Mr. Sutliffe was graduated as one of the top Recognition Officers. Upon his return, he conducted a class of over 100 observers for eight lessons. On satisfactorily passing the examination at the end of the course, each observer was given a certificate and an Aircraft Warning Observer's button. The Colonel commanding the New England area was present at a dinner at the Sheridan Hotel. He presented the wings and certificates to the graduates.

Mr. Sutliffe, because of his professional experience, was later designated to teach aircraft recognition to the State Police.

### *Police Department Helped*

From the beginning it was necessary to have some means of transportation to get the observers to and from Bolton. A number of patriotic women volunteered, and for approximately two months braved the elements to get the observers out in time. With the diffi-



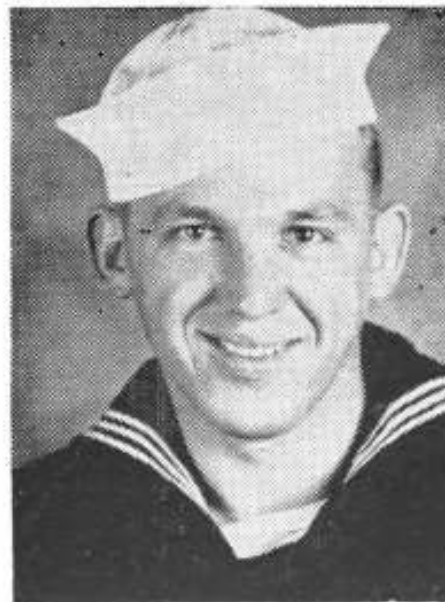
**SEA. DONALD MADDEN**



**SGT. ERIC H. GOTHBERG**

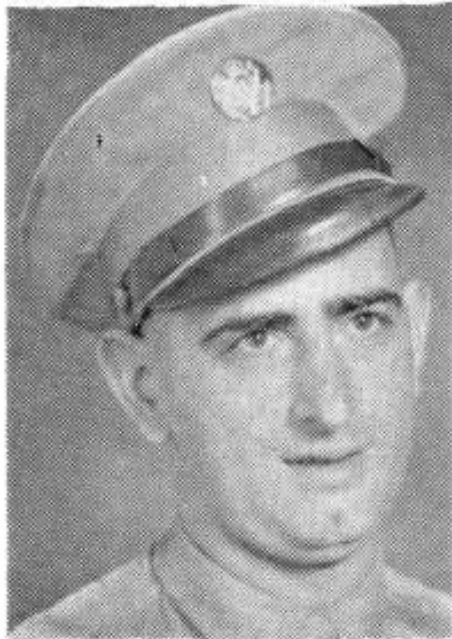


**CPL. THOMAS GLEASON**

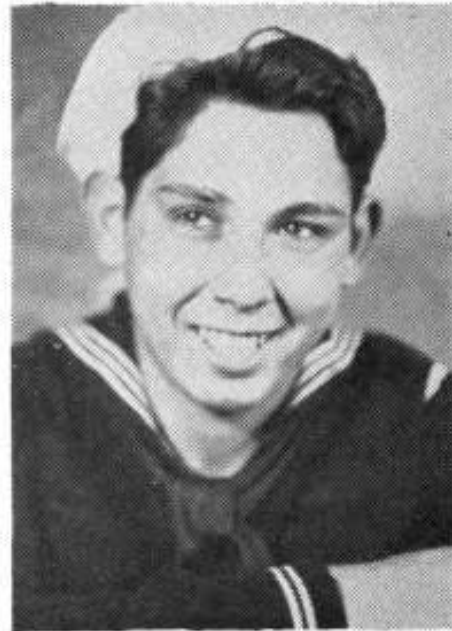


**AMM 2/c BRUNO C. MANKUS**





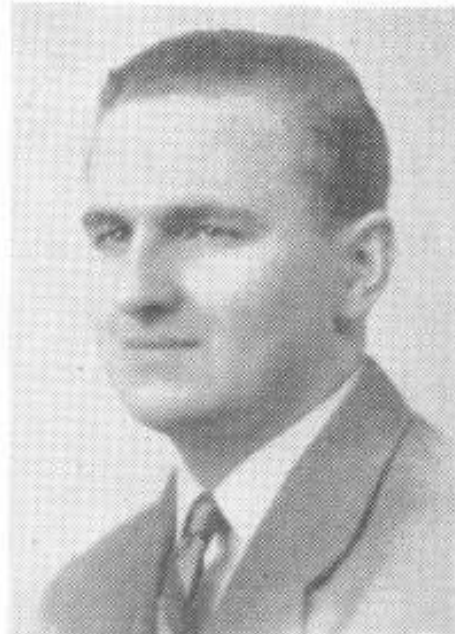
PVT. PAUL D. BOTTICELLO



SEA. ARTHUR MILLER



SEA. OLIN F. BEEBE



PVT. FRANCIS J. KIRKA





CORP. GREGORY MONACO



PFC. WILLIAM HENRY



GM 1/c MARIO QUEY



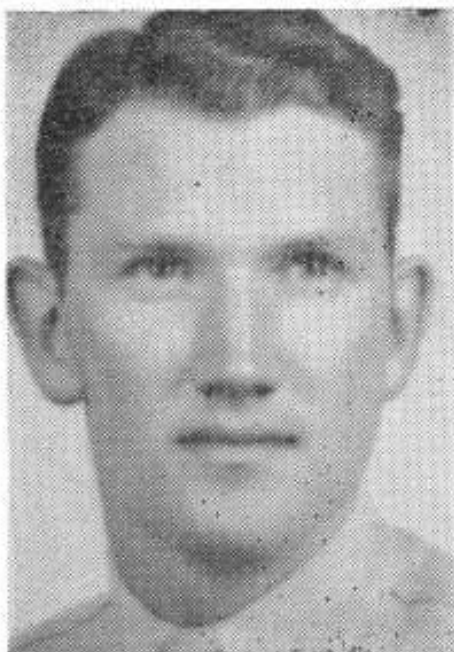
PFC. ALFRED NEWELL



CORP. ROCCO C. TOCE



PVT. ROBERT J. HALL



SGT. DOUGLAS TURKINGTON



LT. ROBERT LUCEY



**S/S JAMES F. CIVIELLO**



**EVERETT E. BROWN**



**THOMAS PATRICCA**



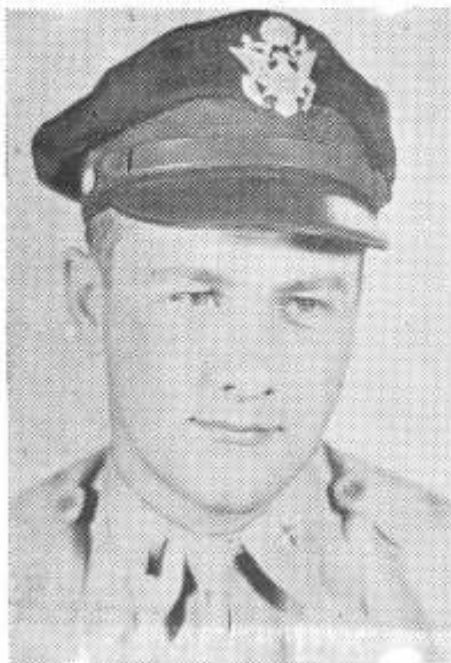
**S/S PAT SERRATORE**



LT. WILLIAM MILLER



CADET ORVILLE H. WHITNEY



LT. JOHN S. WILSON



PFC. NORMAN A. MOSHER





SGT. KENYON G. HILLS



LT. JOHN C. MORIARTY



ARM 2/c GEORGE E. BRIGGS



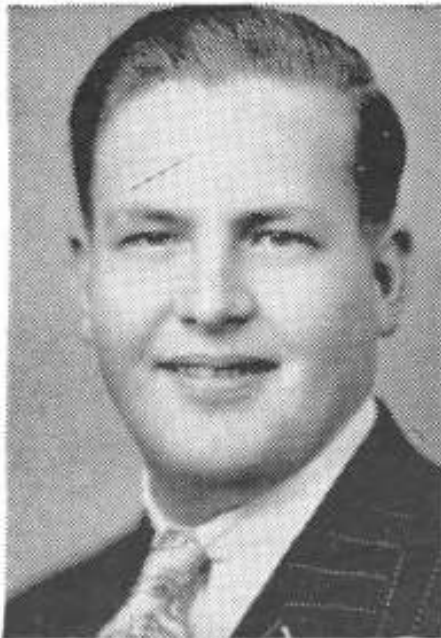
GM 1/c JOSEPH A. STAUM



**FO GEORGE R. EGGLESTON**



**LT. HERBERT R. GILMAN**



**WALTER J. ADAMY**



**LT. MICHAEL HABERNERN**



culty of securing gas and tires, it was felt that some other means of transportation was needed. Chief Samuel G. Gordon of our Police Department then volunteered the use of one of the police cruisers. This solved the transportation problem and to a great extent was responsible for the post being properly covered at all times.

Our post was very fortunate in having the full co-operation of the Manchester town officials and Civilian Defense Organization. George Waddell, our town manager and head of the Civilian Defense Organization, put all town facilities at our disposal.

In May of 1944 we were notified that it was no longer necessary to cover the post for twenty-four hours a day, but that our organization must be kept intact. Until October, 1944, we manned the post each Wednesday from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. In October, 1944, we were advised that the possibilities of an attack on the Atlantic seaboard were improbable and our services were no longer required.

In all over 300 residents of Manchester and Bolton served as observers during the 34 months our post was in operation. To them belongs the credit for our excellent record during those trying months. Manchester and Bolton may well be proud of a job well done.

## CHAPTER VIII

### AUXILIARY FIREMEN

The danger of possible bombing by enemy planes, swift invasion by "fifth columnists" or saboteurs, or a combination of both, passed with our victory. But back in the summer of 1941 these dangers were imminent. They were real threats.

The real danger then was fire, whether started by incendiary bombs or resulting from heavy bombings, and it became apparent then that some kind of force had to be organized to combat any possible danger.

Fortunately, no bombing planes swept over our closely guarded factories. No bomb craters were blasted in our streets. None of our business blocks or homes showed gaping walls from midnight blasting. Yet how close we came to it has now been revealed by the War Department.

#### *Auxiliary Fire Fighters*

Realizing that our greatest danger—our greatest public enemy in this expected battle on the home front would be fire—fire created by bombings, saboteurs, fifth-columnists, Chief Al Foy of the South Manchester Fire Department and Chief Roy Griswold of the Manchester Fire Department set about early to train an adequate auxiliary fire-fighting force to combat the effects of expected raids or infiltrations.

In July, 1941 several local firemen were sent to an Air Raid Wardens school in New Haven and Hartford to gain the first elements of training in this connection. These New Haven and Hartford schools were the first set up for training of qualified instructors and as many valuable lessons had been learned from the heavy bomb-

ings of London, instructors from Britain came to this country to set up a school of instruction based on this vital experience.

After attending these first schools of instruction, the local representatives of the fire departments went ahead with organizing the local fire departments in accordance with lessons learned under actual war conditions.

### *Extra Equipment*

The South Manchester Fire Department first purchased extra fire hose, a 1,250-watt lighting plant and generator, crash helmets, stirrup pumps, an extra pump tank extinguisher and ordered a new 750-gallon per minute American LaFrance pump, equipped with a 100-gallon booster tank which was delivered in 1942.

Under the direction of Chief Albert B. Foy of the South department, the regular men in the department built a portable building eight feet square and eight feet in height, which was used to instruct firemen, Air Raid Wardens and all Civilian Defense units in the handling of, and extinguishing of incendiary bombs.

Practice bombs, made for this purpose, which simulated fire and smoke confined in a small space, gave these CD experts a chance to practice extinguishing the bombs under actual conditions. This course gave the firemen and other CD wardens a chance to prove that bombs could be handled very easily if the actual fear of them was removed.

### *Actual Demonstration*

The actual demonstrations were under the direction of the regular firemen, using the new 1,250-watt lighting plant at different locations in town so that the demonstrations could easily be seen by other residents, especially women.

The test house was also used on several occasions by CD of other neighboring towns to teach their CD personnel.

A survey was made by the fire department of all the phones of volunteer firemen, at their homes or business, and a schedule was set up by the department, showing the available time that these vol-

unteers had at their disposal. Some worked the "swing shift," others at regular days hours, and these names were checked off according to their available hours.

It was essential that a complete organization be maintained even under those burdensome war conditions, or else the entire plan would fail. Facilities were prepared for housing the auxiliary or supplementary firemen during emergency "blackouts."

### *Filled By Volunteers*

The war drain took twenty-five regular men of the South Manchester department into service and their places were filled during the emergency by volunteers.

When the auxiliary fire fighters were ready for action, a central communications or dispatch system had to be set up in headquarters on Spruce street, linked with the other three companies. Attention had to be paid to all regular fires during any fire drill, and the chart or planning board used at the central fire headquarters located all equipment sent out on "incidents" for simulated fires, bombings, etc. Contact with other stations was maintained and it was possible at all times to know what equipment was in service, and at what location, and when it returned to the station.

The control board maintained at the fire department headquarters was simple in operation, planned purposely so to be, so that even the least trained of the auxiliary force could understand and assist in the CD operations.

Linked with the fire department headquarters was radio communications systems, which, while planned to operate in an emergency, when all or part of the regular communication lines were supposedly out of commission, it was once used exclusively during a practice air raid and performed well, a bit slower, perhaps, than the regular telephonic system of communication.

### *Had Short Wave Set*

The short-wave set in the fire stations were linked with the short-wave dispatching sets at the Control Center in the Municipal Building

and one car, equipped with short-wave set, was assigned to a roaming mission during these practice raids.

Regular volunteer firemen manned the skeleton staff of the fire department headquarters "nerve center" and a mutual aid system was set up, linked with other fire departments in the Hartford area. In the event of possible destruction of the bridges across the Connecticut, and the damaging of the East Hartford defense plants, the Manchester fire departments would have responded to the call for aid at these places, also to maintain a system of control in an area within a thirty-mile radius of Manchester, east of the river.

Through this outside system of communication for warning, mobile units could be sent to any section or area within a short time, speed being the essence in these instances. In fact, all factors in the fighting of war-originated fires had to do with quick communication—speed in arriving at the scene of the fire—and a well-trained organization in all features of fire fighting.

Recruiting of the auxiliary fire fighting force was begun in March, 1942 when 126 men signed up. The first classes in emergency fire fighting were held in selected spots, five classes each week. The average schedule was as follows: Monday from 9 A.M. until 2 P.M.; 2 P.M. until 6:30 P.M.; Tuesdays from 6:30 P.M. on and Wednesdays at the same hours.

### *Courses of Training*

In groups of about twenty men to a class (and attendance was carefully checked at classes) these men drilled and had their courses of training with the regular fire trucks, ladders and equipment until the equipment loaned by the government arrived. These courses were extensive, registration, first aid, under qualified CD instructors, war gases, handling of gas masks, and actual training and handling of tear and several other types of chemical gases. All operatives were photographed and fingerprinted.

On May 8, 1942, these auxiliary firemen took part in their first practice Air Raid test, responding to the fire call from the control center through the fire control dispatch system, with men, apparatus and other equipment as if it was a real air raid attack. Much had



been done in less than a year; much had to be done. We were facing a severe and extremely serious situation.

The South Manchester Fire Department received a large amount of fire fighting equipment, loaned by the government. It included one front-mount pump, three skid pumps, four trailers, together with all the fire fighting equipment, 3,200 feet of two and one-half inch hose, and 1,600 feet of one and one-half inch hose, steel helmets, coats, gas masks, ladders, pails, adapters and fittings to make up a complete fire fighting truck.

All of the skid pumps were of 500-gallon capacity and were mounted on three and one-half-ton trucks furnished by the town. Bodies of the trucks were made of lumber salvaged from the hurricane stocks sawed in 1938, and plywood. Pumps and equipment were mounted and spray-painted a bright red. Doors of the trucks were lettered "CD Auxiliary Fire Service." Specifications for construction and installation of the skid pumps were furnished by the government.

#### *Had To Remodel House*

The skid pumps and trucks were housed at several of the local fire stations, available to communications and heat. It was necessary to remodel No. 2 House, S.M.F.D., at a cost of about \$1,000 to house one truck and trailer. Trailers were hauled by highway trucks furnished by the town and two additional trucks furnished by Cheney Brothers.

The Auxiliary firemen continued to hold drills with their own equipment until the summer of 1944 and were assigned to serve at the various fire houses. Some of the regular men and auxiliary members of the departments, in cooperation with the State Defense Council, went to Hebron late in the war and furnished fire protection during the conduct of an experiment conducted by the Army Engineers from Boston. The local fireman combatted the flames from several types of bombs, "molotov cocktails," oil bombs, fragmentation bombs, incendiary bombs and flame throwers.

A small building, furnished by the State, was used for the demonstration so that the experiment could be made under actual conditions.

Due to the good work of the local fire departments, the demonstration cottage was not damaged, and several other vital tests were made, under the supervision of the Army and witnessed by Army personnel, State Police and Fire Chiefs from all parts of the State.

### *North End Department*

Chief Roy Griswold of the North End Fire department followed the same pattern of training as Chief Albert Foy, receiving from federal sources similar supplies for setting up special auxiliary fire-fighting units.

The Manchester department was given a trailer truck and one skid pump and town trucks to transport it during the operations of the auxiliary services.

Chief Griswold lost twelve men of his regulars to the service and he trained an auxiliary force of twenty-five men during the war in all phases of fire fighting, similar to the South Manchester courses, with classes on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings. During the war the Manchester department maintained its service with eighty-five regular and auxiliary firemen and the South Manchester department, losing twenty-five of the regulars to the service, went through the emergency period with 155 regulars and auxiliaries.

The emergency has long since passed but the lessons learned by the town auxiliary firemen, composed of plant, store and office workers and assorted tradespeople have not been forgotten. It was a show of typical American teamwork and in spite of the long hours of training when rest and relaxation was at a wartime premium, Manchester firemen were ready for any emergency, which luckily did not occur.

## CHAPTER IX

### AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION UNIT

The outstanding example of voluntary helpfulness of an organization during the war was demonstrated by a group of young women, keen for any activity that would foster the war effort.

The beginning of the Ambulance Transportation Unit—familiarly known as the ATU—was inauspicious. Early in the war a group of girls were taking first aid courses in the East Side Recreation Building. It was the night of the first Manchester trial blackout. Volunteers were called from the group to fill in the skeleton CD organization.

The first blackout proved very unsuccessful. This initial failure so stirred the group of twenty girls that they decided to do something about it. The girls concluded that if a real disaster was to strike town, there would be confusion and possibly needless loss of life unless some kind of organization, including in its membership qualified female first aiders, motor vehicle drivers and technicians were to be formed.

#### *Formation of ATU*

From that moment the plan for forming a group of young women, trained for any duty in connection with the Civilian Defense grew and within a few weeks an outline of the plan of this unique organization, based upon similar groups that performed real service for Britain, was presented.

The plan called for the use of the members of the unit in Civilian Defense as ambulance or truck drivers, first-aiders, dispatchers, of medical supplies, stretchers, blankets, food, etc., and essentially to be ready for service at any moment of the day or night.

It was decided that meetings of the ATU group would be held every Monday night. Headquarters were found at first on Bissell Street, near Main Street, later moved to Center Street and at the close of the group activity, the station was located in the Sports Center on Wells Street.

The objectives of the group were two-fold: Service and Social—with the accent on the former. The unit was organized in semi-military form, the girls choosing as their Commanding officer, Alice Madden, who received the military commissioned status of Major. Other unit officers were Captain Florence Johnson and Captain Phyllis Barrett. Captain Barrett assumed command of Company B and Captain Johnson as commander of Company A, Lieut. Irene Buysse, Lieut. Marjory Cushman, Lieut. Marion Horvath and Lieut. Ruth Matchett. Elizabeth Pavelack was First Sergeant of the unit.

### *Local Aid Given*

Local business men responded quickly to the idea of forming an organization of this kind and assistance was forthcoming at once. Some of the girls could speak Polish, others Italian and these accomplishments brought about their assignment to stations in areas during blackouts and air-raids where the residents were predominantly of these nationalities.

Members of the ATU were on duty at all times in the headquarters. Night duties were also added to the daytime duty besides the regular attendance on Monday nights. The principal consideration of the officers was to place each girl in the duty station to which she was best suited. Improvements in the organization were discussed and acted upon the next meeting. The ATU, under able leadership, was going places as a vital, helpful compact unit.

One of the salient features of the new organization was that the fact the group acted as a team to function at its best. There was no individual license within the ranks of the ATU, nor would the officers submit to any phase of individualism in the operation of the organization.

The first hurdle of the ATU was to secure uniforms in a world

then tightened by military demands. However they did it—and throughout its life as a war aid, the ATU membership totaled sixty-seven. The girls also bought first aid equipment, which consisted of a brown leather bag filled with the necessities for use in first aid. This equipment the girls carried at all times, at work or in leisure hours.

### *Unit Self-Supporting*

Best of all, and of greater credit to them, was the fact that they were not only self-supporting as an organization, but they went far out of their chosen field of endeavor to be helpful and all that they ~~did~~ was done in a really fine spirit of enthusiastic endeavor.

They raised money for many drives, War Bond Sales, Red Cross drives, Community and USO drives, poppy sales, United Nations drives. They conducted the first military retreat ceremony by women ever held in Manchester in Center Park; they manned booths in drives; sponsored dances for the soldiers stationed in the Manchester area; they worked with the State Guard and participated as a marching military unit in various local parades.

To secure funds with which to better equip themselves, the ATU conducted food sales, rummage sales, sold tickets on War Bonds and were recipients of donations from citizens who were proud of the organization and its accomplishments.

The ATU was well drilled under the leadership of the late John Dwyer, former sports editor of The Herald and a former service man. The girls became very proficient in the old infantry drill manual and it was fine to see the organization of natty, brown, uniformed girls of Manchester marching in the Memorial Day, Armistice Day or special parades. They were so well drilled that the officers received a number of invitations to take part in parades in other towns and cities.

But their principal effort was directed, as it was first intended, in assisting the Civilian Defense organization as first aiders and ambulance transportation unit drivers. In this phase, as in other lines they became almost perfect in their service.



*Manned Forty-nine Vehicles*

The response of store and business heads to the appeal of the ATU for ambulances was inspiring. Altogether, the unit had about forty-nine vehicles. The ambulances were scattered at different, designated posts during an air raid, each girl assigned to a specific duty. One girl was at a phone taking emergency messages. Upon receiving the message, the note was rushed to a waiting ambulance which was routed to the scene of a casualty. Carbon copies of each message were kept so that the dispatcher knew at all times where each ambulance was located.

The CD sectors and the precincts were mapped in the headquarters and each girl knew the town streets perfectly, day or night. They were adept at re-routing ambulances to any desired location in event of simulated pavement bomb damage or the closing off of a street for any reason.

The girls learned the Morse code and initiated a code system of their own to speed up the operation of the unit in emergency. Two of the girls operated short-wave sets. The equipment of the unit consisted of 150 stretchers and the same number of blankets. They operated under their own designed flag and emblem and received authorization from the government.

*Joined the Services*

The thrill of serving, even in this local instance, became so great to several of the girls that eight of the unit members joined the regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps, Reserve units or Cadet Nurse Corps. Those who entered the service from the ATU were:

Dorothy Binono, United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

Bertha Shaw, United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

Barbara Brennan, WAVES.

Mae Sloan, WAVES (deceased).

Elizabeth Klein, WACS.

Valette Turner, WACS.

Mae Ferris, Cadet Nurse.

Joan Fontana, Cadet Nurse.

Some of the special stations of the ATU during CD blackouts and air raids were at the ATU headquarters, Army and Navy Club, Hollister street school, YMCA, Legion Home, Cheney Brothers Medical, Quish Funeral Home and the CD Control Center. Only during a blackout did they report to the above places; at other times they reported at their headquarters and undertook their duties from these points. But someone was always on duty at headquarters.

What a group of patriotic girls could do when geared for emergency was demonstrated by the Ambulance Transportation Unit. Much of the good they did, due to the bedlam of war activity, escaped public notice. There was nothing these girls, dressed in slacks, would not attempt to do. They scoured the back lots for old iron and helped to sort their collections for the war drive. They helped to cheer the boys of the regular Army at dances in the Legion Home or the state armory in chic uniforms, neatly pressed and attractive.

### *Featured At Parades*

They were the sensation of any parade and yet in the middle of the night, when the sirens roared, they gave the lie to the saying that it takes hours for a woman to get out of bed and dressed for anything. One of their proudest accomplishments is rated almost impossible, even for boys to equal. On one occasion all members of the unit had reached their stations ready for service in eleven minutes!

Ninety per cent of the unit members received first aid training and fifty per cent took the advanced course. For two years the ATU girls were on a twenty-four hour emergency basis. ATU girls rode every ambulance that went out on orders from the Control Center.

For fourteen months they manned a Bond Sales booth in the lobby of the State theater. During the "Women in the War" week, the girls of the ATU set their goal for \$25,000 worth of bonds. They tallied \$46,000 worth.

No wonder the ATU slogan was "On to Victory." They were well in the forefront of all local organizations in making that goal possible.

*Members of the Unit*

Following are the members of the Ambulance Transportation Unit:

Helen Accornero, Gilda Accornero, Marion Akrigg, Alice Backus, Alice Barlow, Aline Barrett, Phyllis Barrett, Grace Benson, Dorothy Bonino, Barbara Brennan, Norma Brock, Lois Brock, Irene Buysse, Eris Carlson, Dorothy Carrol, Mae Carrigan, Clara Charles, Lucille Conran, Kathryn Crossen, Marjorie Cushman, Alice Darling, Elizabeth Desimone, Marie Dewart, Hannah Donahue, Barbara Donnelly.

Also Fannie Eccellente, Rena Falcetta, Priscilla Ferris, Mary Ferris, Joan Fontana, Helen Hayes, Helen Haberern, Dorothy Horvath, Marion Horvath, Florence Johnson, Florence Kane, Elizabeth Klein, Bertha Kleinschmidt, Alice Kupchunos, Anna Kutz, Ruth LaFond, Ruth Lamprecht, Jessie Little, Elizabeth Machie, Alice Madden, Lorraine Miller, Grace Murray, Bernice Merenino, Pauline Merenino, Ruth Matchett, Ruth McAllister, Margaret Morrison, Kathryn Olson, Esther Panciera, Bessie Peperitis, Dorothy Plitt, Mildred Piercy, Bertha Shaw, Mae Sloan, Bernice Schuetz, Bernice Bycholsky, Dorothy Tedford, Vallette Turner, Ruth Tyrell, Elizabeth Vennard and Lucy Waddell.

## CHAPTER X

### RED CROSS (No. 1)

One of the most important links between the man in service and his home during the past war was the American Red Cross. Of the many departments which touched nearly every individual not in service, the Home Service section of the Manchester Chapter, ARC, was the most vital.

The stress and strain of war builds up terrific emotions and realizing the many ways in which the agonies of war were to be combatted, the Directors of the American Red Cross early set up a guide of operation.

#### *History of Red Cross*

The American Red Cross was incorporated by act of Congress on June 6, 1900, and re-incorporated on January 5, 1905, to carry out the Treaty of Geneva and to "furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war . . . to act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States, a system of National and International relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, of America and their Army and Navy . . . to continue and carry on in fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same."

The story of the activities of the National Red Cross is too well known to repeat. Suffice to say that the Manchester Chapter, chartered in 1917, has maintained true effectiveness during the past 28 years and is still carrying on.

When the World War II began, Dr. Robert P. Knapp was chairman of the Manchester Chapter, ARC. He resigned early in 1942 due to the pressure of his other duties. He was succeeded by Benjamin Cheney, who, when called to service, was succeeded by Dr. Eugene M. Davis in October, 1942. Dr. Knapp remained as vice chairman.

At this time, Miss Laura C. House was serving as secretary and treasurer. Previous to his appointment as chairman of the chapter, Dr. Davis had served as chairman of Volunteer Special Services and upon his advancement to chairman, Mrs. P. L. Davis was appointed to succeed Dr. Davis as chairman of V.S.S.

### *Volunteer Nurse Corps*

As the war needs grew, Miss Anna C. Sampson was appointed chairman of the Volunteer Nurses' Aide committee in December, 1942. Previous to this, Dr. Knapp served as chairman of this division. Miss Sampson has continued in this capacity to the present time.

Miss Sampson has performed a fine piece of volunteer work for the Red Cross and has given unstintingly of her time and effort to produce the best kind of an emergency nursing organization possible. It was a job that demanded thorough organization and endless detail work. Miss Sampson was ably assisted in the production of Nurses' Aides by Mrs. Anna Spencer, R.N. Mrs. Spencer has trained classes of Aides, numbering 185 women.

The administration of the Red Cross office has changed many times. Mrs. Elizabeth Ladd served as office clerk until May, 1942. Mrs. Marjorie Eldridge acted as Executive Secretary from May, 1942, until January, 1943, when she resigned.

Mrs. Winthrop A. Reed, who had been acting secretary from January, 1943 to April, 1943, was then appointed Executive Secretary.

The first staff assistance class and first Motor Corps classes were organized in April, 1943. Mrs. Joseph Skinner was chairman of the Motor Corps. Mrs. Lewis Caldwell was appointed chairman of Staff Assistance Corps in May, 1943 and she served until September, 1944 when she was succeeded by Mrs. Irving L. Bayer.

Mrs. P. Lloyd Davis resigned as Chairman of Volunteer Special



Services in September, 1943 and was succeeded by Mrs. Henry R. Mallory.

### *Administrative Staff*

The administrative body of the Manchester Chapter has remained constant through 1943 up to and including 1945. They were: Dr. Eugene Davis, Chairman; Dr. Robert P. Knapp, vice-chairman; Miss Dorothy Dowd, treasurer and Mrs. H. B. DeWolfe, secretary.

In May, 1944, the Home Service Corps was started with Mrs. James Kirkpatrick acting as chairman. Miss Emily Cheney continued as chairman of Home Service Committee and Miss Jessie M. Reynolds continued as Home Service Secretary.

Mrs. Allan R. Richardson was appointed the first Prisoner of War Representative in 1944 and she served until April, 1945 when Mrs. Charles P. Mitchell took over these important duties.

The first issue of "Highlights," the Manchester Chapter publication, was put out in July 1944. The second issue was released in October under the capable editorship of Miss Helen Estes.

The Manchester Chapter took part in its first disaster—the Hartford Circus fire—in July, 1944. Staff assistants, Nurses Aides, First Aiders and Motor Corps were hastily summoned for service. The Nurses Aides were used in the Hartford hospitals and gave a total of 275 hours of service. Home Service was also called upon to give health welfare reports to worried servicemen. Every local disaster victim was contacted and offered whatever aid that could be possibly given.

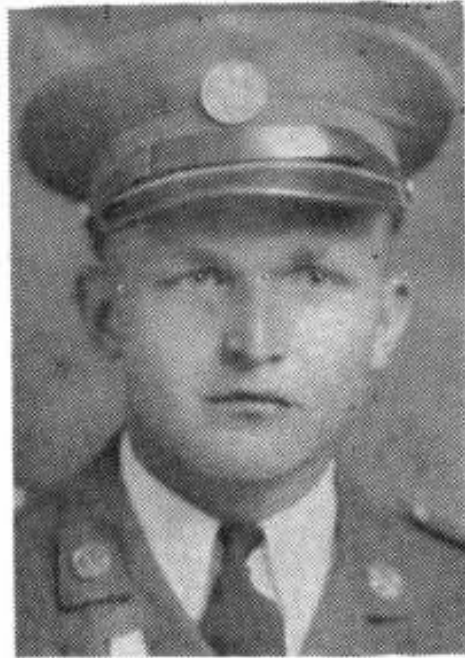
### *Alerted For Hurricane*

Again, in 1944, the Chapter was alerted during the hurricane, in September. Although no assistance was demanded, everything was in readiness for any emergency. The Chapter office remained open until 2 A.M. when the local storm danger abated.

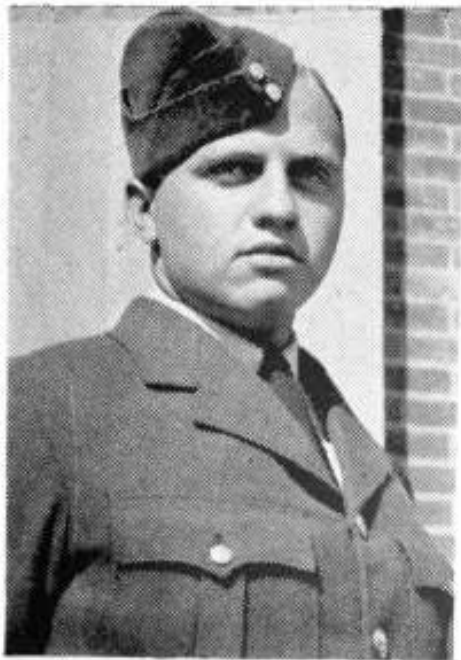
War Fund drives were conducted from 1942 to 1945 inclusive. A grand total of \$137,664.52 was collected in these three drives. In the campaign of 1943, James Blair, chairman, a fund of \$36,601.70 was



**LT. WILLIAM C. HALL**



**SGT. MICHAEL KOKOCH**



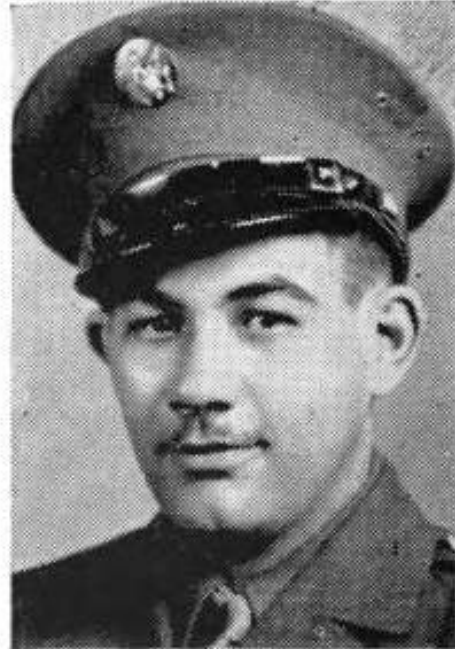
**SGT. CLIFFORD McKINNEY**



**CPL. ALEXANDER GURSKI**



**LT. EDWARD HARABURDA**



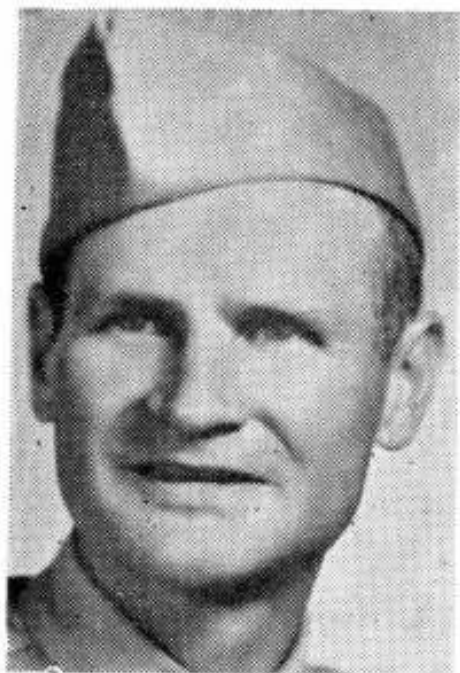
**PVT. WILLIAM W. CHAMBERLAIN**



**SGT. JOSEPH LENNON**



**PVT. ALTON HARE**



PFC. EDMUND LEBER



S/S ERNEST SQUATRITO



ENS. VINCENT F. DIANA



PFC. OSCAR GEANETTE





LT. GORDEON E. THRALL



FRED COLLINGS JR.



CPL. JOSEPH A. DOHERTY



PFC. WILLIAM T. ANDERSON





**PVT. HENRY BENSCHÉ**



**PFC. V. J. SKONESKIE**



**SEA. ERNEST BERGGREN**



**PFC. ROBERT C. CLAUGHSEY**



LT. JOHN E. WINZLER



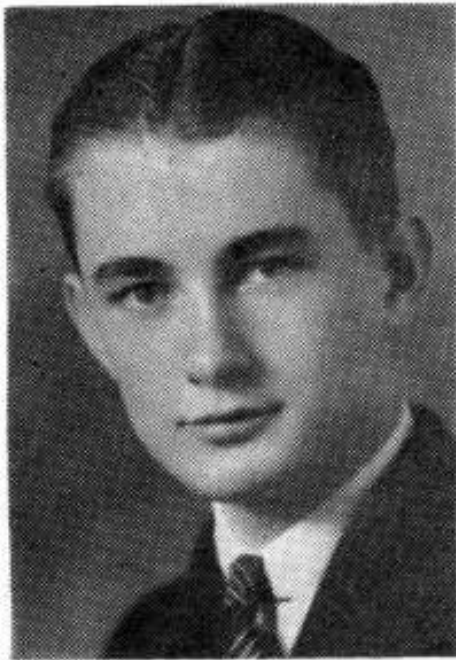
AMM 1/c DONALD L. CROSS



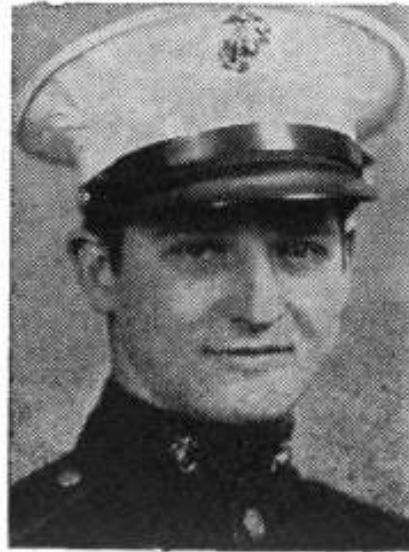
SC 3/c LOUIS H. WOLGER



SEA. THOMAS C. COLLINS



SGT. GEORGE THIEMAN



SGT. EDWARD A. PLOCHARCZYK



LT. GEORGE H. RICH



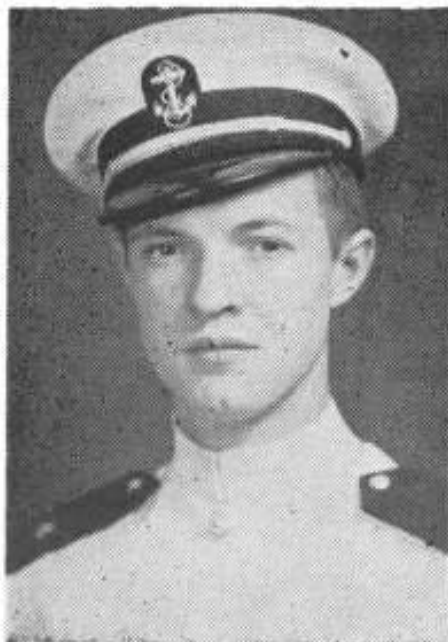
SGT. WILLIAM GROOT



**AMM2/c ALVIN P. HARROW**



**PVT. JOHN GOZDZ**



**CADET ANDREW K. HUTCHINSON**



**LT. JESSE J. STEVENS**



raised. The drive of 1944, Herbert B. House, chairman, netted \$53,140.20. The 1945 drive, led by Herbert B. House and Jacob F. Miller, co-chairmen, secured a total of \$47,922.62.

A large percentage of this money was sent to the National Red Cross Headquarters to be used in Red Cross work among the servicemen at the fronts and in this country.

### *Prisoners of War*

Mrs. Allan Richardson was the first chairman of the Prisoner-of-War program. While she was chairman she held next-of-kin meetings, in which relatives of American prisoners got acquainted.

Members attending these meetings read letters from their sons held in enemy prison camps and in this manner received a measure of consolation.

Mrs. Charles P. Mitchell succeeded Mrs. Richardson as the latter had moved from town. Mrs. Mitchell continued the fine work begun by Mrs. Richardson and had the satisfaction of meeting many of the Manchester Prisoners of War upon their return from Europe. Most of these men returned to the Red Cross office and paid the organization a fine tribute for the work done for them by the international Red Cross while interned in Germany.

### *Home Service Corps*

The Home Service Corps, one of the most important departments of the Manchester Chapter, ARC, maintained the fine record which it set out to accomplish at the outset of the war. As most everyone in town knows, Miss Jessie M. Reynolds R.N., has been in charge of Home Service work for the local chapter for more than 25 years, completing the quarter-century span in February, 1945.

During the war the Home Service activity increased so much that a Home Service Corps was formed in May of 1944. Mrs. James Kirkpatrick was appointed chairman of the Corps and Miss Emily Cheney was appointed chairman of the Home Service Committee in 1943. Miss Reynolds remained as Home Service Secretary.



From twelve cases handled during the month of July, 1942, the Home Service activity rose to a peak of 148 cases in July, 1944. During the period from July 1, 1942 to July 31, 1945, a total of 3,241 cases were handled. A corps of 12 workers processed these cases.

### *Blood Donor Service*

Donation of blood for processing into blood plasma was one of the vital activities of the chapter during the war. A total of 3,120 pints of blood was collected in Manchester from June 1943 through March, 1945, when donations ceased on order from the National ARC.

Blood donor service was started in Manchester in January, 1943. Mrs. Henry Huggins was chairman and her assistant was Mrs. Merrill Adams. In the beginning the Mobile Blood unit did not come to Manchester. One trip of the unit was made to Manchester in September, 1942 and in the following November the unit came to the YMCA and 121 persons volunteered. Regular visitations began in January, 1943 and during the first six months Mrs. Huggins made many trips to Hartford taking donors to the Hartford Blood Donor unit headquarters. The Mobile unit started coming out to Manchester in June, 1943.

Later, Mrs. Huggins was assisted by Mrs. Jane Swanson and Mrs. Louis Custer and during the year 1944, Mrs. Custer assisted Mrs. Huggins as co-chairman.

Cheney Hall was used at first for the visits of the Mobile unit, then St. Mary's Parish house and at the close the unit visited the South Methodist church.

## CHAPTER XI

### RED CROSS (No.2)

For the four war years, Manchester women, tired with their day of toil at home or in war plants, busied themselves in what few spare moments they had, producing garments, layettes, and hundreds of thousands of surgical dressings for the Red Cross.

These were prime requisites and the Manchester Red Cross chapter personnel performed a remarkable feat in maintaining a steady flow of the necessary supplies to the National division, to be shipped to the war fronts.

Of all of the twenty odd divisions of the Red Cross here, none was less colorful to the individuals participating, than the production department. It was strictly home or assembly work and provided a large number of women with an avenue of assistance when they would not have otherwise been able to help.

#### *Homeland Team Work*

It was just another example of the team-work necessary to the winning of a war. Those tired and busy women, with their own cares of family and friends in service, gave of their scanty time at home or in weekly assembly to carry the idealism of the Red Cross to our men at arms and to the less fortunate in other lands.

Their accomplishment is worthy of citation, yet in the main they worked for no plaudits, sensing that the combined efforts of the team would accomplish the desired end. And the record of the chapter division of Production bears this out.

Miss Elizabeth Olmstead was chairman of production until February 1943, when Mrs. William Mounce was appointed. Miss Hazel

Trotter took over in May 1943, and Mrs. T. Edward Brosnan, assumed charge in November 1944.

From May, 1942 to July, 1945, a total of 3,841 knitted garments were made; 8,176 garments sewn; 2,718 kit bags were completed; 18 layettes were made and 12 Nurses' Aides uniforms completed. Mrs. T. Edward Brosnan was chairman for Surgical Dressings from September 1, 1942 through December, 1944 during which time 501,400 dressings were made, a record number.

### *Nurses Aides*

The first class of Nurses' Aides was certified in March, 1942 and since that date, through July, 1945, a total of 40,408 hours and 26 minutes nursing time has been given by 185 Aides.

### *Camp and Hospital Committee*

Mrs. Philip Cheney headed the Camp and Hospital committee in 1943. While the Army was stationed in Manchester, much aid was given to add to their comfort, supplying furniture and materials to make their barracks more comfortable. Gardens were planted at Bradley Field; books, records, and playing cards were collected and distributed to the barracks and entertainment was provided for the blind soldiers in training at Avon Old Farms Army Convalescent Hospital. The newest projects were sending overseas recreation chests and sending birthday gifts to returned wounded servicemen on their birthdays.

Mrs. Cheney also obtained stoves, baby carriages, sewing machines and other articles wanted by wives of soldiers and sailors living in Manchester. Mrs. Cheney deserves great credit for a job well done.

### *Nurse Recruitment*

The Red Cross chapter aided the Army and Navy in Nurse Recruitment. Mrs. Paul Myhaver was appointed chairman of Nurse Recruitment in 1943 and after her resignation this post was taken over by Mrs. Doris Swallow. The last chairman was Mrs. Leland Spalding.

*First Aid*

Mrs. Frank D'Amico, the first First Aid chairman, was succeeded by York Strangfeld in December 1944. One of the principal duties of the Aiders was in assisting the operatives in the Blood Bank throughout its service here. Since 1942 there were 1,999 persons given First Aid Certificates from the chapter.

*Nutrition*

Mrs. Joseph Hammond has been chairman of the Nutrition Committee since 1942 and she was succeeded by Miss Hannah Jensen in June, 1943. Miss Marjorie Burr was the last co-chairman.

The Nutritionists have presented lectures on timely topics pertaining to Nutrition and have also helped in sponsoring the Information booth at the Manchester Gas Company, providing information on canning, gardening and testing pressure cooker gauges. The committee also had a pressure cooker for rent. The committee issued 195 certificates for graduates of Nutrition classes.

*Home Nursing*

The Home Nursing division of the chapter has had four chairmen in the war years. Mrs. Betty McIllduff was chairman until June 1943, when Mrs. John Donovan took over. Mrs. Eramano Garavento succeeded Mrs. Donovan in December 1944, who later resigned and Mrs. Richard Quilitch was appointed. A total of 273 Home Nursing certificates were issued to persons satisfactorily completing the course.

*Canteen Corps*

Mrs. Fred S. Olmstead was appointed chairman of the Canteen Corps in March, 1943 and immediately began organizing the Corps. She was succeeded by A. L. Post. Mrs. Margaret Dover served as co-chairman during 1943 and Miss Virginia Nelson was appointed co-chairman in February, 1944. The group included sixteen Canteen Workers and thirty-two Canteen Aides and gave 1,699 hours of service. They also served at the Blood Bank.

### *Staff Assistance Corps*

The Staff Assistance Corps was started in April, 1943. Mrs. Ruth Caldwell was appointed chairman and held that office until September, 1944. She was succeeded by Mrs. Irving Bayer, a member of the first class of assistants trained.

From April, 1943 through July, 1945, a total of 3,949 hours of service has been given by fifty-two workers.

### *Motor Corps*

Mrs. Helen Page Skinner was appointed chairman of the Motor Corps in May, 1943. From that time, through July, 1945, twenty members have driven 12,825 miles in Red Cross service and have donated 2,523 hours of service.

### *Life Saving and Water Safety*

William Sacharek was chairman of Life Saving, Water Safety and Accident Prevention division during the entire war period. Three hundred and ninety-five senior and junior Life Saving Certificates have been awarded.

### *Disaster*

Leon Thorp acted as chairman of the Disaster committee since it was initiated. He was the official who organized the different Corps during the circus disaster in Hartford, saw that buses were ready to take the Nurses' Aides to Hartford before they had reported at the local Chapter office. He was assisted by a fine committee.

### *Publicity*

Mrs. Richard Alton was chairman of publicity from February 1943 and was succeeded by Mrs. Walter Bryant in April, 1943. Both of these women did a wonderful job writing chapter press releases.

The Manchester Chapter, American Red Cross, has always had



peace-time activities since organization and the future will see such activities as home nursing, nutrition instruction, with First Aid, water safety and accident prevention at the top of the list.

Officials of the chapter see ten years of active Home Service in aiding the homes broken up by the war, with war wounded returning home incapacitated for former work and many problems which only the Red Cross can solve which result from war and its effect on mankind.

Manchester has sent a fine delegation of workers into the worldwide field of humanitarian endeavor. These self-sacrificing persons have served from the battlefronts of Europe around the world to the steaming jungles of the South Pacific.

Following is a list of Manchester residents who served the Red Cross in the field: Eldred J. McCabe, E. Gerry Tracy, Frank Quinlan, Marcella Kelley, Gioconda Balliano, Ernestine Montie, and Nancy Richardson. Tom Stowe, formerly of Manchester, went into Red Cross work as a Field Director with the Marines early in the war. He is now director of Red Cross publicity in Washington, D. C.

## CHAPTER XII

### WAR RELIEF GROUPS

Manchester's population is made up of many nationalities. In the early days of the present century, immigrants heard of the silk and paper mills of Manchester where working conditions were good and the American dollar seemed to go farther than the English equivalent in shillings.

The same was true of natives of Sweden, France, Ireland and Italy and later of Poland and the Slavic lands in Europe. A few came from Switzerland but the bulk of the natives of Manchester in the early days were Irish, Swedish, English and Italian.

As the years passed the scions of these immigrants banded together into organizations of social distinction in order to preserve the cherished memories of their homeland. In some instances small societies were formed, among those who came from a certain city or town of the old country.

#### *To Help Motherlands*

Therefore, it was with a deep feeling of yearning and love for their friends and relatives in stricken Europe, that these former residents of the Continent banded together during the past war to alleviate in any manner that they could, under the restrictions which existed, much suffering and want.

Each group performed willing tasks and contributed much time and money towards this end. In the early part of the war, when Finland was fighting Russia, friends of the Finns initiated a program to aid the people of the northern European land and to provide what was in their means to alleviate suffering.

These local agencies for relief of the peoples of Europe registered

with, and joined, the National associations for relief of selected countries and through these central channels, money, food, clothing, and toys were contributed, and maternity clothing was made and packed and sent overseas to many lands.

### *British War Relief*

One of the most active groups in this respect was the Manchester Unit of the British War Relief Society and its membership embraced personnel representing many of those first families who came over to work in the silk mills.

The Manchester Unit began early to render what aid they could provide for the parent organization and during the entire war there was no change in the officers and directors of this useful organization. Mrs. Frederick Parker was president and general chairman; Miss Emily Hopkinson, R.N., vice-chairman and secretary and Fred Baker, treasurer.

### *Names of Leaders*

The chairman of the various active sub-groups were: Mrs. George Potterton, Mrs. Albert Lindsay, Mrs. Thomas Conn, Mrs. David McConkey and Mrs. James Munsie, Sr. Much of the success of this relief enterprise was due to the continuous and persistent efforts of these leaders.

This unit performed a remarkable amount of work, often after busy hours of war plant or home work. When the work was started in 1940 the women of the unit met at the workrooms in the basement of the British-American Club on Maple street five days a week and shipments were made every day.

Throughout the years, by truck, by mail and by express, a total of 4,968 pounds of clothing, valued at \$123,687.20 was sent to New York for transshipment to Britain. In this total was included 13,006 pounds of knitted articles but during the latter part of the war no wool for knitting was received by the unit.

In several instances friends of those in Britain made upwards of one hundred knit articles each in their homes, and had there been wool

through the entire war for this purpose, the total amount sent from Manchester would have been greatly increased.

### *Things Not Included*

It is interesting to note that toys, books and layettes and many other items not regarded basically as relief items, were not included in the above list. Several local churches and some organizations outside the unit held raffles, bingo games, made toys and donated money to the general cause. Cash donations, alone, in the five-year period amounted to \$5,700, about a thousand dollars each year.

Through the fine work done by the Mons-Ypres Post, British War Veterans and Auxiliary, a fine Mobile Canteen was purchased and sent to Manchester, England "as a gift of the British people of Manchester, Connecticut."

The committee has received a number of pictures of this mobile truck-canteen in action and a letter, received in July, 1945, stated that the canteen had been moved to London to service ambulance trains passing through London enroute to British hospitals, where American GI's and British Tommies were hospitalized.

The mobile canteen is now located at the RAF airfield at Membury where it is filling a vital need. The men at this field are five miles from the nearest refreshment stand and the local gift to Britain, on the date of the letter, was filling an essential service.

During its long service, the Manchester-bought canteen visited 7,460 different sites, traveled 31,270 miles and made 245,876 services.

### *Marker On Canteen*

The canteen bears the marker which read, "From Manchester, Connecticut to Manchester, England."

The Manchester unit of the BWRS received valuable aid from the British-American Club through the use of this clubhouse and appointments; the Mons-Ypres Post, British War Veterans and Auxiliary and a large number of individuals through whose co-operation and help this excellent and extensive relief program was made possible.

Proportionate efforts for the relief of other nationalities were made by the French War Relief under the guidance of a group of women under the leadership of Mrs. Allan Richardson and Mrs. Leontin Heatley; the Dutch War Relief under the chairmanship of Mrs. Peter Schipper and Mrs. P. O. Postman; the Polish War Relief under the leadership of Rev. S. J. Szczepkowski and the Jewish War Relief under the guidance of Rev. Berthold Woythaler.

#### *All Churches Assisted*

Many local churches initiated clothing collections and rendered relief through the established private agencies which had long been organized. When refugee children from England were being sent to the United States from bomb-scarred London and other big industrial centers during the blitz, several local families offered to take children of English parents into their homes for the duration, but no child actually came to Manchester. Aid was given by public spirited people to support children sent to this country, however.

The Lady Roberts Lodge, Daughters of St. George, offered to care for two children and the members of this fraternity rendered valuable aid to the Canadian Red Cross at headquarters in Hartford. Descendents of Greek, Dutch, Polish, French, Italian, Russian, Chinese and Jewish parents freely aided the agencies for these countries, relief in Hartford and elsewhere.

The climax of the forty-two months of war relief effort was culminated in the country-wide drive for old clothing, Manchester receiving National recognition for the speedy and excellent response to this campaign.



## CHAPTER XIII

### MANCHESTER SCHOOLS (No. 1)

During the war all Manchester schools carried on their regular work of training young people to take their future part as intelligent, responsible citizens of a democracy and added many direct and indirect contributions to the war effort.

In other lands, overrun by the invading enemy, the prevailing systems of education either became non-existent or were rendered ineffective in general. From 1941 to 1945 the combined elementary and High school census decreased each year, from 1941 through to 1944, the three heaviest war years affecting the schools. The census of these schools for the years 1941 through 1945, was as follows: 1941, 4334; 1942, 4287, a loss of forty-seven pupils; 1943, 4314, a loss of twenty pupils below the 1941 registration.

#### *First Gain In Census*

The first gain over the 1941 census was shown in September of 1944 when an increase of 228 additional pupils was shown. A slight gain over 1944 was shown in the Sept. 1945 registration figure of 4594 in all local schools.

The overall increase in school census from 1941 to 1945 resulted in crowded conditions in the local schools and caused the opening of more rooms in the schools affected. The Community House at the Federal Silver Lane Settlement was opened and used as a first grade schoolroom and many pupils, unable to attend schools nearby their homes, were forced to attend school elsewhere.

The many new housing developments completed, at considerable distance from any school, caused difficulties of pupil transportation and in one instance at the Washington School on Cedar Street, this school had to resort to double sessions.

*Teachers Enter Service*

The war drained many of the members of the High and elementary school's faculty and teaching staffs. The High school lost to the service branches, teachers Edward Lynch, Nathan Gatchell, Anthony Alibrio, Jesse Stevens, Charles Hurlburt, Mrs. Gertrude Oberempt Hitchcock, and Wilmot Reed; Anthony Gryk left from the elementary schools; Dr. Alfred B. Sundquist, school physician entered the Army and auxiliary services took Marcella Kelly, (Red Cross), and Hyatt Sutcliffe went to the local Ration Board as Administrator on leave of absence.

Olga Kwash, Herbert Millbury, Clarence Eichman and Clarence Gardner entered war industries.

Due to the war-time daylight saving, elementary schools opened later in the morning to prevent pupils going to school in the dark and the High school was placed on a one-session basis in order to release students for after-school work, due to the lack of manpower during the war years.

Term school vacations were also cut shorter to permit release of students earlier in June to enter employment to assist in the alleviation of manpower shortage.

Many things common to the administration of schools before the war, worked to great disadvantage during the war. One of these hurdles was the restriction in motor transportation.

As a result of reductions in transportation facilities by the Office of Defense Transportation, bus transportation in Manchester was allowed only for pupils living more than one and one-half miles from school, or from a bus line. This restriction also curtailed High school extra-curricular activities to a great extent.

*Hold Air Raid Drills*

The schools of Manchester co-operated with the Manchester War Council's plans for civilian defense in every way possible. Regular air-raid drills were held in all schools. All glass in corridor doors was made shatter-proof and first-aid courses were held in all schools. Male students and teachers helped man the airplane spotting center

at Bolton and fire-fighting instruction was given students of the High school by the fire departments.

War stamps and Victory bonds were sold in all of the schools. During 1943-44 a total of \$55,408.08 of War Stamps were sold in the schools and in 1944-45 this amount was increased to \$61,688.32.

Members of the faculty and students assisted the Red Cross, participated in waste paper collections, old clothes, scrap metals and milkweed pod collections to further the war effort. Victory garden campaigns were organized within the schools and during the growing seasons were inspected and the fruits of the students' labors were demonstrated in school exhibits.

The school system of Manchester, in common with other schools in the state, were affected by war shortages of one kind and another. The central heating plant of the schools in Educational Square, which supplies heat for the Franklin Junior High, Recreation Building, Barnard grammar, Trade school and the main High school building was forced to change over from oil to coal when the shortage of fuel oil became acute.

A changeover from coal to oil was also made at the Manchester Green school. Despite the shortages and the extra work imposed on the school custodians, no work was curtailed and all school rooms were maintained at proper temperatures.

### *Helped In War Effort*

The teaching staff contributed to the war effort through the Teacher's Council. They assisted in the very important work of rationing registrations and making out ration books, and served the War Council in various occupations of emergency nature such as (a) airplane spotters at the Bolton Center tower, (b) volunteer Red Cross work, (c) solicitation of membership for blood donors and (d) sponsored and aided in the Victory garden campaign. The teachers also bought their full share of War Bonds.

The teacher shortage was one of the many hindrances to smooth operation of the school system during the war. Many retired teachers came back to duty to aid in the emergency. Due to the transportation difficulty, many schoolrooms were crowded and

schools were forced to set up improvised lunch rooms in basements or extra rooms.

### *Elementary Schools*

The subject matter in courses in the elementary schools was related to the war with special emphasis being placed on current events and geography with a bearing on the contrast between the United States and the war-torn countries at war. Due to the shortage of foods, nutritional studies were emphasized and first aid subjects were taught in all schools.

At assemblies patriotic themes were stressed by the teachers and children were urged to save their money to purchase War Stamps. Most schools flew the U. S. Treasury Minute Man Flag, denoting ninety per cent buying of War Stamps.

Red Cross moving pictures were shown in schools and the Junior Red Cross groups were active in such endeavors as knitting Afgans, filling recreation and toilet boxes for soldiers and children overseas, making holiday favors and sending games and scrapbooks and collecting records and books for soldiers' hospitals.

### *Helped Produce Food*

Besides the growing of produce in Victory gardens, children of the schools conducted exhibits of produce and canned vegetables and special clubs were organized to assist war-working parents in after school care of children. Other school activities of the war period were airplane making, ceramics, dramatics and sports.

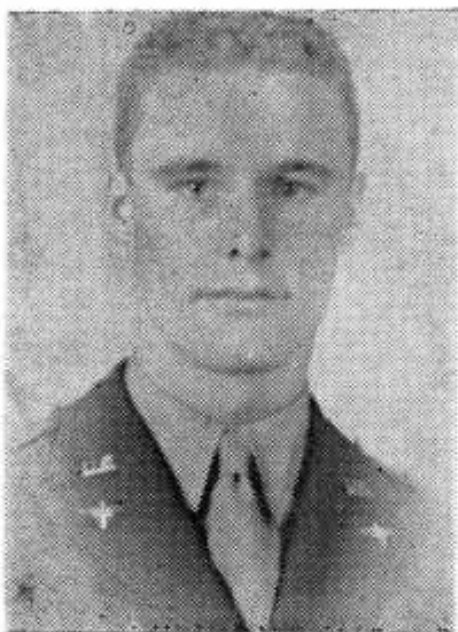
### *Kept Up Averages*

Despite many difficulties, the elementary school system was maintained closely to schedule. Difficulties over which the school administration had no control were borne by the parents and children alike in a manner fitting Americans and while the rapidly changing picture of war in Europe and in the South Pacific had a disturbing effect on

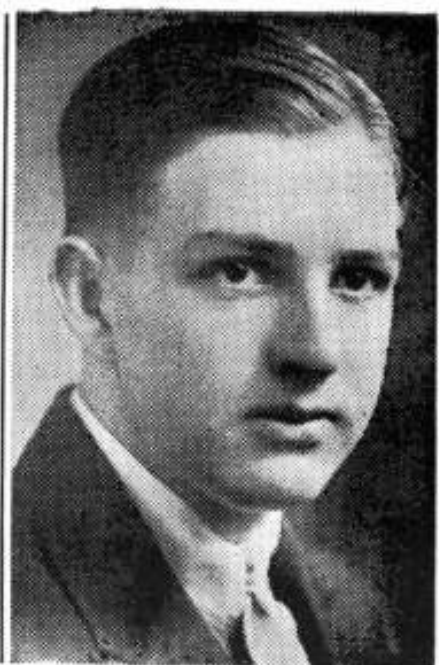
the minds of the pupils, general averages of students were maintained throughout the school years.

It is certain that those students who spent the four war years in classrooms in Manchester will remember all of their lives the many war activities of curricular and extra-curricular nature which they experienced in gaining their elementary education.





**LT. ARTHUR LAWRENCE**



**CPL. ARTHUR DAVIS**



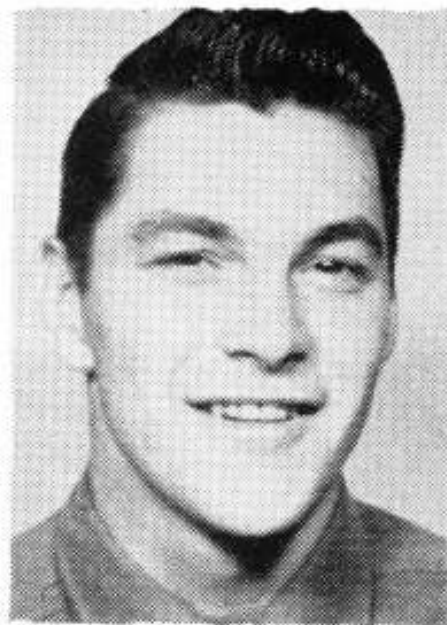
**CPL. LESTER O. KEENEY**



**PVT. JOHN BRENNAN**



PFC. PETER W. STAMLER



PFC. JOHN LEE



PFC. JOHN DIRGO



LT. JOSEPH FITZGERALD



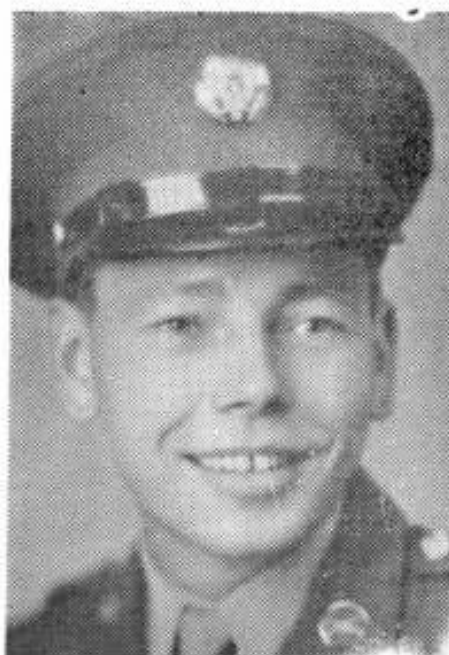
PFC. ALBIN PESCIK



SGT. FRANCIS W. BLOW



CAPT. GORDON T. WELLS



PVT. EDWARD C. JAGLINSKI



PVT. NELSON E. DARROW



PFC. DUILIO FALCETTA



PVT. EDWARD J. OLCAVAGE



DONALD CHAPMAN

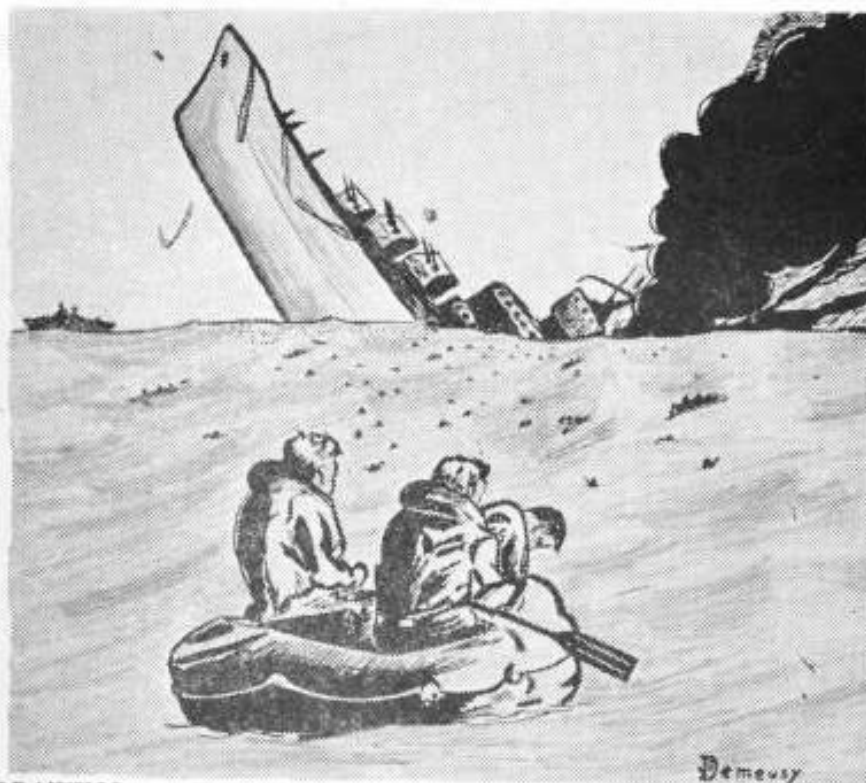




PFC. ANGELO ZITO

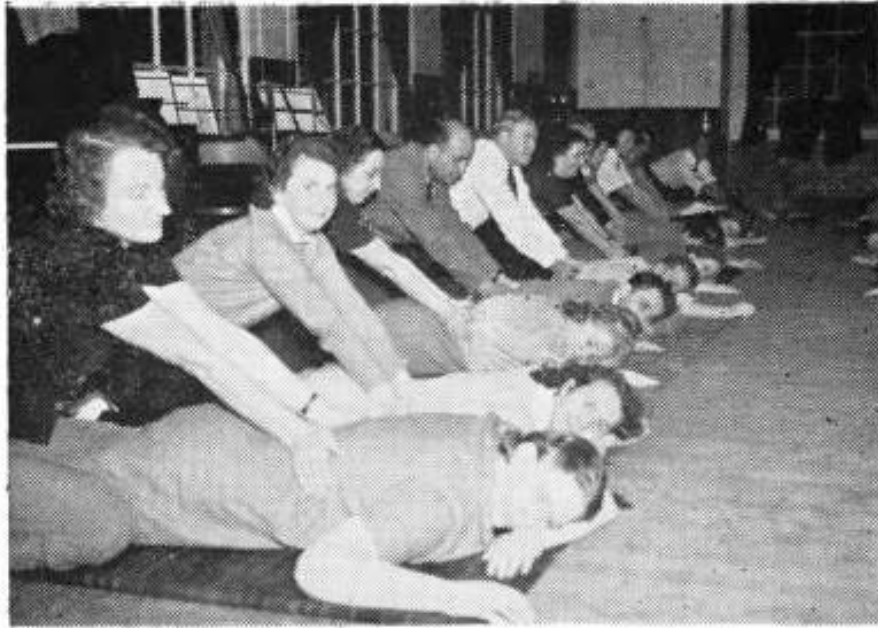


LT. RICHARD A. Le BARRON



DRAWING — SEAMAN JAMES FITZGERALD RESCUES LT. WANG  
U.S.N. IN SOUTH PACIFIC

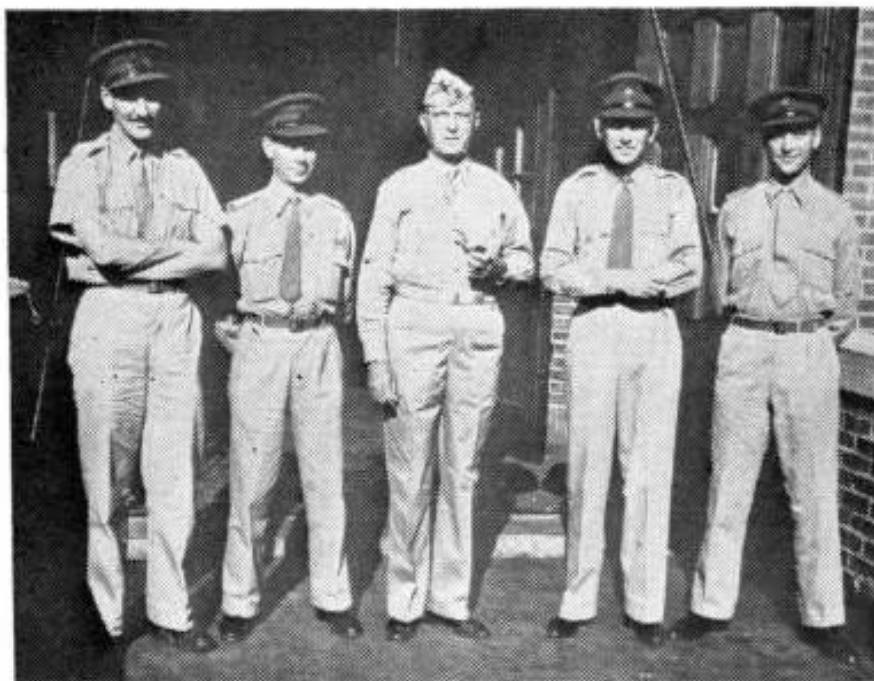




CD FIRST AID TRAINING CLASS



WELL KNOWN FATHERS AND SONS



BRITISH AA OFFICERS VISIT 79TH AA



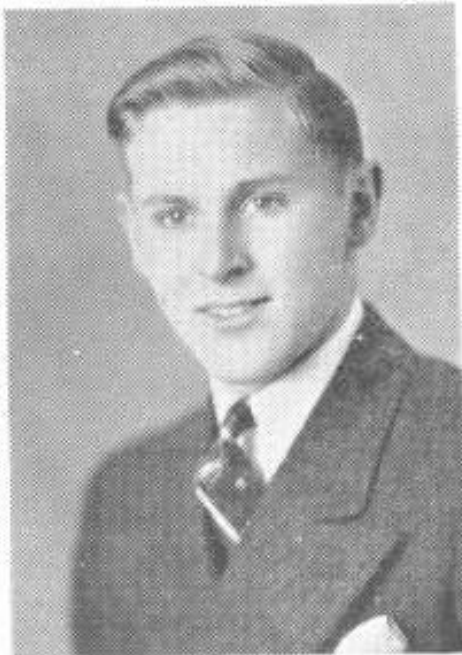
MAYOR CHAMBERS, WILLIAM RUBINOW BUY FIRST WAR BONDS



PFC. ERROL BURTON



PVT. STANLEY KULPINSKY



WILLIAM ANDERSON



PFC. CORNELL C. RUSHWORTH

## CHAPTER XIV

### MANCHESTER SCHOOLS (No. 2)

Manchester High school maintained a full program of curricular and extra-curricular activities throughout the war, and took active part in the national and community war effort. Obstacles imposed by war conditions—loss of students and teachers to the armed forces, transportation difficulties, and shortage of equipment were met by extra effort, substitution and improvisation.

Faculty and students were constantly conscious of the war and its manifold implications and were eager to contribute to its needs. A temporary attitude, observable in the older students, that school work was futile in the face of impending military service, was soon replaced by the realization that better school preparation meant a better opportunity for advancement in service and provided an opportunity for getting the best out of this service.

#### *Came Back On Visits*

A gratifying tribute to the place that the High school held in the affection of its graduates was the almost daily presence of servicemen visiting the school, even after all their own schoolmates had gone.

The curriculum of the High school was altered in several instances with new emphasis, necessitated by the war, placed on regular courses.

Among the courses altered or infused with matter directly or indirectly related with the war effort, were the Art department, Commercial, English, Home Economics, Modern language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Mechanical Drawing, Physical Education, Sewing departments.

*First In the State*

A course in Aeronautics, including studies of airplane motors, navigation and meteorology, was added to the curriculum and the Manchester High school was the first school in the State to offer this course.

In the Commercial department, subject matter was given bearing upon entrance examinations for Civil Service jobs and words were taught in the shorthand course most used in the Army and Navy. From this department students performed extra work, such as addressing envelopes for the Ration Board and typing out War Bonds sold at the school.

*War Time Studies*

New texts, bearing upon war, were studied in the English department. These were "Youth Goes to War," a description of all branches of the armed services and of jobs and service in community at war; "Thus Be It Ever," a collection of articles, stories, essays, poetry and speeches designed to strengthen democratic ideals and "Meet the American," a collection of stories, essays and verse designed to teach belief in the "American Way."

A new course in Automotive mechanics was added to the curriculum, using both textbooks and laboratory study. This course taught basic physics and electronics and every part of the automobile came under the spotlight, giving the student an insight of what to look for in case of minor or major trouble.

*Taught To Use Tools*

Students were taught tools, and how to use them and a pre-induction course in radio was given for one year.

The Art department was primarily related to the war in many ways, camouflage in theory and practice, being the most marked study in this connection. Students made posters for War Bond drives, and Victory Garden projects and window displays for Victory Garden projects and signs for use of the Army personnel at the Armory.



*Made Christmas Cards*

In a more sedate manner the classes made V-mail Christmas cards and painted murals representing world-wide understanding of different races, lettered school Honor Rolls, constructed backgrounds for War-time assembly programs. Art Club members bought War Stamps regularly in place of paying regular dues.

In the Home Economics classes, a study of basic foods was made with the nutritional unit emphasized. The causes of malnutrition were studied and meal planning with consideration of the use of substitutes was followed. The use of the ration points with relation to nutritional food values was also studied.

In the sewing classes synthetic fabrics were studied and students were taught how to preserve clothing and make over old clothes into wearables for younger persons. A Red Cross course in Home Nursing was given in these classes.

*Value of Languages*

The value of foreign languages was taught in relation to the war in the modern language department and letters from graduates were read expressing appreciation at being able to act as interpreters in France on the basis of their High School French training. The emphasis was placed on understanding the people of the countries of which language was studied and a new emphasis was also placed on the language of the Latin American countries.

Through the knowledge of the language and habits of the various countries studied during the war, students obtained a deeper knowledge of their needs and classes aided in the collection of funds for the needy in these countries.

*Higher Mathematics*

The problems of war called for more emphasis on higher mathematics used in aviation and navigation with special stress on accuracy. Members of the mathematics classes obtained aid from the faculty in preparation for tests for commissions in the Army, Navy and Marines.

The war in general gave impetus to science studies with basic science being maintained in the curriculum in preference to "pre-induction physics" on recommendation of the War Department.

The meaning of war-time collective adherence to price controls, rationing, and other features of economic stability were studied in the Social Science classes during the war with glimpses of current events given extra time in class. Post-war problems were also given a place in these classes.

### *Problems of Nations*

Out-of-class subjects covered in this department were assemblies where moving pictures were shown on the Far East and South American understandings; radio broadcasts in co-operation with other schools discussing current problems, participation in inter-school conferences on the United Nations, the Bretton Woods Agreement and Intercultural Relations and students from this division were contestants in an examination covering problems of the United Nations.

New ways of construction were taught in the mechanical drawing classes and subjects on post-war planning, engineering and reconstruction of buildings and plants in war-torn countries were studied.

### *Physical Education*

Physical education was one of the principal aims of the high school during the war, due to the adverse reports on physical condition of the draftees, coming from the State Induction Centers. Classes for boys nearing the induction age were increased to five periods a week and emphasis on the type of training exercises used in the armed forces was given. The importance of "life insurance" swimming was stressed. A first aid course was added to the Girls' Physical Education class.

As an adjunct to the regular curriculum, the High School library was provided with a collection of material on war and post-war problems including fiction and non-fiction dealing with the war. The library shelves were filled with maps and charts, bulletins and descriptive information on Victory gardening, and official releases on the armed forces' requirements.

*Extra Curricular Activities*

No extra curricular activities were eliminated by the difficulties presented by lack of transportation and the number of students doing out-of-school work. Inter-school activities were somewhat reduced; the number of state-wide conferences were lessened as war activities replaced many former social events in the regular schedule. Some of the activities carried on had to get along with reduced manpower.

Assemblies of the school were held regularly with the principal motive of dispensing complete war information and to build morale. Moving pictures of the War in the Pacific, and captured German films were shown and films showing the advancement of science of D-day were shown. The part played by Art in the war was also stressed at these assemblies.

*War Report Issued*

In April, 1942, a report of Manchester High school's part in the war to that date was taken, showing participation of the student body in the Civilian Defense organizations, Red Cross services, Manchester factories in war work, war contributions by Manchester families and the compilation of local men in services.

The year 1945 was a significant year in the war history of the High school. The assemblies were closely connected with the part that the school was playing, and had played, in the war. The progress of the major campaigns of the war was shown by stage-filling maps and the experiences of graduates in all branches of the service were read to the assembly. The official Gold Star list of the school was also read.

*Special Assemblies*

One special assembly was held on the Far East and one on Latin America and at one rally a talk was given by Major Nathan B. Gatchell, teacher on leave from the school staff. At other assemblies a War Stamp Rally was held and in another instance the service flag

of the school was dedicated on the front lawn at the main entrance with impressive services.

Special observances were those in tribute to President Franklin D. Roosevelt at his death, the observance of V-E day, the presentation of the U. S. Treasury Minute Man flags by Mrs. Raymond E. Baldwin, wife of the governor and the Memorial Day dedication of individual flags for graduates who lost their lives in service.

### *Student Council Activities*

Activities of the Student Council included the sponsorship of the sale of War Stamps and Bonds totaling \$12,697.78 in 1944-45, purchase of an amphibious tank, a field ambulance and mine detector besides participation in War Bond drives, old clothes drives and the collection of milk-weed pods for floss for flyers' life-jackets.

The Council exerted much effort and devoted an extensive amount of time to preparation of remembrance cards and holiday gifts to their former friends in the services. Graduates received Christmas gifts and cards in many out-of-the-way places, at sea and on land, from the High School Student Council and gifts were also bought and presented to the soldiers of the Anti-Aircraft batteries stationed in Manchester for over two years.

Although absent in body, the former grads of the Manchester High school received much inspiration and home-town uplift from receiving the various programs of High school activities, issues of the High School World and graduation programs.

## CHAPTER XV

### MANCHESTER SCHOOLS (No. 3)

One of the hardest things for the students of Manchester High school to bear during the war was the loss of many of the star players from Red and White teams as the boys entered the armed services. These pilferings of the first team players, especially during 1943 and 1944, found openings for players who in ordinary years would have had little chance to display their wares on basketball court, track, diamond, tank, soccer field or gridiron.

Transportation restrictions affected out of town games and parents and fans, who usually accompanied the teams to their games away from home, were forced to wait at home. Equipment for the High school teams was hard to obtain as the majority of sports equipment was being sent to the teams in the armed forces.

#### *Made Special Record*

Despite all these hindrances, a full sports program was offered and the following titles were won by High teams during the war years:

Track: Won C.C.I.L. title in 1942-43-44. Won State title in 1944.

Cross Country: Won C.C.I.L. title in 1942-43-44. Won State title in 1943-44.

Basketball: Won C.C.I.L. in 1942; placed second in 1943; tied for title in 1945. Qualified for State Tournament in 1942 and 1945.

Baseball: Tied for second place in C.C.I.L. in 1942; third place in 1943 and 1944.

Football: Won C.C.I.L. title in 1943; third in 1944.

Swimming: Won second place in C.C.I.L. in 1942.

Due to the newsprint shortage, the High School World, news-week edition of High school news, was cut from its eight-column



space to six columns. The High School World, though limited in amount of space, gave publicity to all war activities of the school.

The Sock and Buskin Drama Club was limited in the selection of plays during the war, due to the lack of boys. The cost of play production had also increased and outside work restricted the time members could devote to rehearsals. Transportation restrictions also affected this department of the school's extra-curricular activities, preventing the members of the club from seeing plays at other schools; from attending Drama Festivals and from taking part in city radio programs.

#### *Held Benefit Performance*

The club, however, gave a benefit performance for the Red Cross, contributed a program for the Bradley Field hospital and gave programs for local churches and clubs. Proceeds from a three-act play was given towards the purchase of a car for the Manchester Canteen Corps.

Girl activities were decreased during the war due to the large number of girls working part-time in business or industry. The State conferences were discontinued due to transportation restrictions and in lieu of other work, the female members of the student body, especially the Girl Reserves, (High School Y.W.C.A.) rolled bandages, volunteered for hospital work, assisted in the work of the Ration Board and Civilian Defense.

#### *Boys In Uniform*

The annual preparation of the Somanhis, (High school year-book), struck a snag for various reasons. For the first time during the war, the pictures of graduates showed many of the boys in uniform. The actual work on the yearbook was hampered by lack of student help, due to war jobs, and the cost of engraving and lack of engraving metals held the illustrations of the book to a minimum. The paper was poorer in quality and reduced in amount. Printing costs were also advanced.

Despite the many obstructions and restrictions, the 1945 year-book was printed and was comparable in many ways with other year-books.

The school choir and orchestra were affected by the loss of mem-

bers going into the services and taking war jobs. These organizations, reduced in numbers, participated in war assemblies and played morale building patriotic music at all times. In spite of the war the leaders contributed this vital uplift to school life.

Some of the best members of the school band left for service and a shortage of instruments and uniforms kept the band at its lowest ebb in years. The band, however, responded to the call for attendance at outdoor assemblies, benefit performances and participation in holiday parades.

#### *Junior Red Cross*

The Junior Red Cross had a one hundred percent membership during the war and members sewed and knitted for the war services, made overseas bags, utility bags, slippers for patients in service hospitals and stuffed toys for children in the occupied lands abroad. Many articles made by the J.R.C. were sent to the Bradley Field hospital.

Membership of the Hi-Y (Manchester High Y.M.C.A.) was cut by the war and the regular club visitations were ruled out by the war. Fewer inter-club games were held yet a high morale was evidenced in the Hi-Y assemblies.

Current events activities were at peak of interest due to the rapidly changing conditions resulting from the war. Discussions and debates were held and the club heard prominent speakers from outside Manchester on Red Cross and similar interests.

Summing up, the general picture of the schools of Manchester during the war was one of limitations on every hand, scarcity of teachers, due to inroads made on the staffs by the services, lack of transportation to carry on the usual extra-curricular activities, employment of many of the student body after school hours in industry and business, and Civilian Defense jobs, and a general lack in all departments of the usual adherence to schedules of peace-time years.

In spite of all these restrictions and limitations, the general schedule of the schools was maintained and in several instances, showing the zeal of the students to fit themselves for better positions in service branches as evidenced by the devotion to the ideals of educational training offered them during the war years.

## CHAPTER XVI

### HOWELL CHENEY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The war-time accomplishment of the faculty of the Howell Cheney Technical School, formerly the Manchester State Trade School, has merited the acclaim of state heads of education and officials and directors of many war plants in this area for the valuable technical aid given at a critical period of war-time technical and machine unpreparedness.

When the war began, war plants were already humming with industry and workers were hired without regard for their technical ability. Production schedules had to be initiated and maintained and there was no time to train men in the intricacies of vocational knowledge. The salesman from a local store was shown an automatic lathe and told to go to work; a waitress was ushered up to a multiple drill press, given a few elementary lessons in operation and assigned to the production line.

#### *Costly To Industry*

This hit-or-miss plan was, of course, costly to industry in general, yet there was a war on and a strict time limit was placed on war contracts. "Forget the scrap—keep the stock rolling," became a more or less accepted slogan of war production.

In an effort to disseminate as much technical knowledge as possible to those workers who were willing to spare part of their off-work time, and in an effort to produce trained leaders in various types of war industry, the Howell Cheney Technical School, from 1940 to 1945 trained a total of 3,264 workers in various vocational capacities such as textiles, machine, welding, power machine, blueprint reading, carpentry and radio.

The director of the Howell Cheney Technical School, John G. Echmalian, early in the war received distress calls from various industries to prepare special evening courses for the purpose of teaching more workers the fundamentals of technical skills and to prepare them for positions of leadership in these industries, so filled with non-skilled workers.

### *Night Courses Started*

With the approval of the State Board of Education, machine courses were started at night in the Technical School on School street, the first course on April 1, 1940 with five instructors and a total number of 423 enrollees. The course consisted of two hundred hours of supplementary training in machine work. This first class closed on June 30, 1943. The second class was started on October 14, 1940 with a total number of 438 enrollees and closed on April 30, 1945.

The school was a busy place during wartime. Courses were of eight hours length and there were three shifts of eight hours length—continuous operation of twenty-four hours each day for years.

A special course in power-machine operation, which was begun on June 1, 1940 with one instructor, had an enrollment of fifty-three students and closed on September 30, 1940.

A blueprint reading course, which was started on October 15, 1941 attracted an enrollment of 152 students. This course closed on January 28, 1944.

### *Special Textile Training*

The largest enrollment in special textile training classes, conducted in Cheney Brothers, was begun on January 6, 1941 and closed on March 15, 1945. During this extended period of instruction a record enrollment of 1,615 trainees was listed and instruction was given by a total of thirty-five instructors.

Instruction was given in the manufacture of Nylon fabrics for parachute shroud lines and pack parachute construction. Nylon was woven for regular parachutes also.

A call for aid was received from the officials of the Ponemah Mills at Taftville to train weavers for the making of special types of cotton textiles used in balloon cloth, life-raft cloth, service handkerchiefs and rayon cloth for parachutes. A class was started in the Taftville Mills on December 1, 1941 and continued for a year, closing on December 31, 1942. A total of 381 operatives were trained in this type of weaving, using nine instructors.

### *Other Classes Started*

When the Bigelow-Sanford Company of Thompsonville, carpet manufacturers, changed over their entire plant to war production, classes in machine and welding were inaugurated under the supervision of the Howell Cheney Technical School. The first machine class was started on February 28, 1941 with four instructors and the welding class was begun on October 1, 1942 and continued through January 15, 1944. In these classes instruction was given in the manufacture of gun mounts, submarine conning towers, machine-gun mounts and welding of all descriptions.

Later, in September 1942, a small class was started in the Baltic Mills for the instruction of textile operatives in the manufacture of special yarns and fabrics to be used in the manufacture of balloon cloth for Great Britain.

During 1943 and 1944 job finding classes were formed in Somersville, Ellington, Enfield, East Hartford and at the Russell Manufacturing Company, in Middletown. At the latter plant textile operatives were trained for foreman with thirty-five workers completing the course.

The list of the instructors certified by the Howell Cheney Technical school and assigned to duties during the emergency training program, follows:

### *Baltic Mills*

Germaine Nadeau.

### *Cheney Brothers*

Marjorie Abbott, Florence Armstrong, Osta Aspinall, Sonya



Bargetzi, Ruth H. Barrette, Herman Bassett, Herbert Benson, Florence Fish, Helen D. Flavell, Jennie M. Fletcher, Emma M. Gagnon, Martha Hadden, John Hildebrand, Earl B. Hofford, Eleanor D. Hultgren, Ann G. Jackson, Elizabeth Jesanis.

Emil Johnson, Lois H. Joyner, Beatrice M. Juul, Stella E. Kaminski, Elsie Keeney, Emma G. King, Kermit Kroll, Gladys Kornsa, Mazie Malley, Alice McCavanaugh, Archie McCollum, Francis A. Mordavsky, Dorothy Nichols, Marguerite Nicola, Minnie P. Noren, Carl A. Peterson, Elsie I. Ryan, Helen Sadrosinski, Dorothea Sitzy, Ellen J. Swanson, Jacob Szucanszky, Richard E. Wright, Anna Zanolungo, Agnes L. Shauger.

*Cheney Tech School*

George H. Burkhardt, Frank J. Crowley, Harry L. Gustafson, William J. Hanna, Albert L. Haynes, Joseph Kean, Howard D. Phillips, Albert J. Roth, Ruth A. Ryan, Walter E. Schroeber, Phyllis O. Skrabac, Doris M. Sinnamon, Paul J. Volquardsen.

*Taftville*

Joachim Caron, Robert E. Cooper, Bernard Coyle, Elizabeth Dickerman, Fred Knowles, Bert Oliver, Albert J. Robidoux, Claire St. Marie, Gertrude Seifart, Ann Vetter.

*Thompsonville*

Myrtle Durisko, Benjamin Higginbottom, Norman D. Landry, Wanda E. Parvelac, David Perkins, Leon F. Salley, Fred E. Tilden.

*East Hartford*

Forrest Howell.

## CHAPTER XVII

### WARTIME RATIONING (No. 1)

Rationing of a variety of commodities and articles deemed necessary for the benefit of all the people, and establishment of price ceilings on selected scarce goods, articles, and apartment rentals was a new feature for the people of this country and Manchester during the past wars.

Scarcely five months after the attack on Pearl Harbor installations by the Japanese, a governmental agency known as the Office of Price Administration was organized and set in motion. Having to do with the civilian aspect of war-time controls, and in May, 1942, the local War, Price and Ration Board of the Office of Price Administration was organized and set in motion.

#### *First Local Officials*

Rev. Thorsten A. Gustafson, pastor of the Emanuel Lutheran church was named the chairman of the local Ration Board and Eric Modean was selected as office manager. Rationing of foods and scarce commodities was new to this country, although a system similar in effect had been in force in Great Britain for several years.

Registration of residents was held by districts, and from these initial registrations ration books for food and other commodities, such as gasoline and fuel oil, were issued. As the war progressed, many scarce items were placed under ration restrictions, including tires, tubes, automobiles, bicycles, shoes, rubber goods and other items which became limited in quantity as the war progressed.

As in all revolutionary innovations of restrictive nature, chief of which was the rationing of many life essentials during the war, the officials entrusted to this duty had no precedents on which to base their actions.

*First Manager's Story*

In this connection, Eric Modean, first office manager of the local office of the War Price and Ration Board of Manchester has this to say :

"I can say that those ten months from May 1942 to March 1943, were the most hectic in my life, a truly unforgettable experience. I still remember how desolate and helpless Mrs. McVeigh and I felt the day we were dumped into the basement of the Lincoln school and told to go to work. Having had no experience with rationing before, or any precedents to go by at all, we simply had to start from scratch. Every decision we made, of course, set a precedent. At first we had only gasoline and sugar to ration, but then came along in rapid succession, tires, oil, cars, bicycles, rubber boots, foodstuffs and lots of other things.

"It was a dour outlook and one not likely to reduce possible insomnia of the office force due to the increasing number of restrictions placed on otherwise free-minded individuals to act. But the first untried office force worked hand in hand with the office supervisor during the first year of the board's existence.

"It was a monumental job," continued Modean in his recital of the early difficulties of the untried rationing plan, "but the task was made pleasant by the fact that the personnel connected with rationing was tops. I don't know what kind of a mess there would have been without Mrs. McVeigh's valuable services, or those of Betty Erickson, Marjorie Nocker, Mrs. Finnegan and Mrs. Snow. Somehow, it was a staff that worked together mighty well—and they did a grand job."

*Many Volunteer Workers*

The untried ration board, composed of individuals of the town were assigned the difficult task to follow the OPA instructions as closely to the letter as was intended in the official directives. They received generous support from the men and women members of the Ration Board, who themselves put in many long hours of labor, without pay of course, so that the office would succeed in its purpose.

The Manchester office force, as many throughout the state, no doubt were given much verbal abuse by the large number of restricted patrons, but the local office built up a reputation for square, honest dealing that was second to none in the state.

From the lips of many it was stated that the local officials were too strict, no doubt, but rationing, by its very nature, was a type of restriction in which officials had to hew to the straight and narrow line to succeed at all.

"We made mistakes and we blundered," said Modean, "but we ran the office with absolute honesty and fairness at all times." It made no difference who or what you were—all got the same treatment."

Such was the most despised office of the war—Rationing.

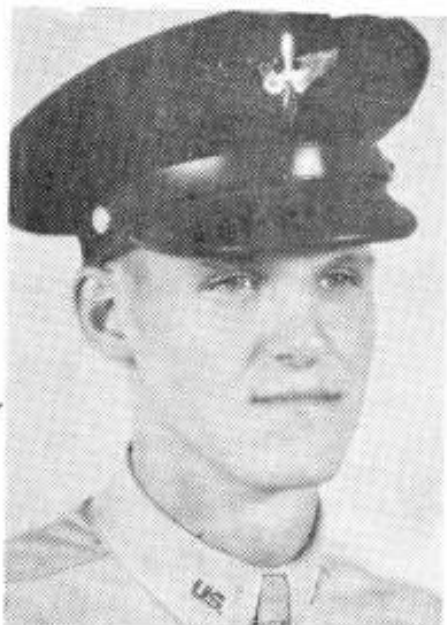
But not all individuals were crabbers or prone to circulate stories of falsehoods concerning the actions of the ration board office. There were countless ones who helped out the tired officials by word or deed.

### *Sympathetic and Helpful*

"I think that all of us who were connected with rationing during its early days shall be eternally grateful to those citizens, who, realizing that we were in a tough spot, were sympathetic, co-operative and cheerful in their dealings with us," continued Modean. "A kind word or smile was manna to our souls. One such attitude in a day was enough to lighten the entire burden of hundreds who cursed and browbeat us and accused us of all manners of horrible things."

Those were busy days for the tired crew of the ration board office and at times the police were called in to do traffic duty outside the ration board office, the crush of applicants was that heavy.

"Vivid, too, are the many days that we couldn't go out to lunch because the office was so packed with people that we simply couldn't force our way out," Modean remembers. "And the many times in the late afternoon when quitting time arrived, that we had to call police to do traffic duty and keep people from entering so we could finish up and go home. And the phone calls at my home at all hours, midnight. . . 2 A.M. and 5 and 6 A.M. It was like living in a goldfish bowl."



1ST SGT. GEORGE J. ERICKSON



SGT. DONALD KING

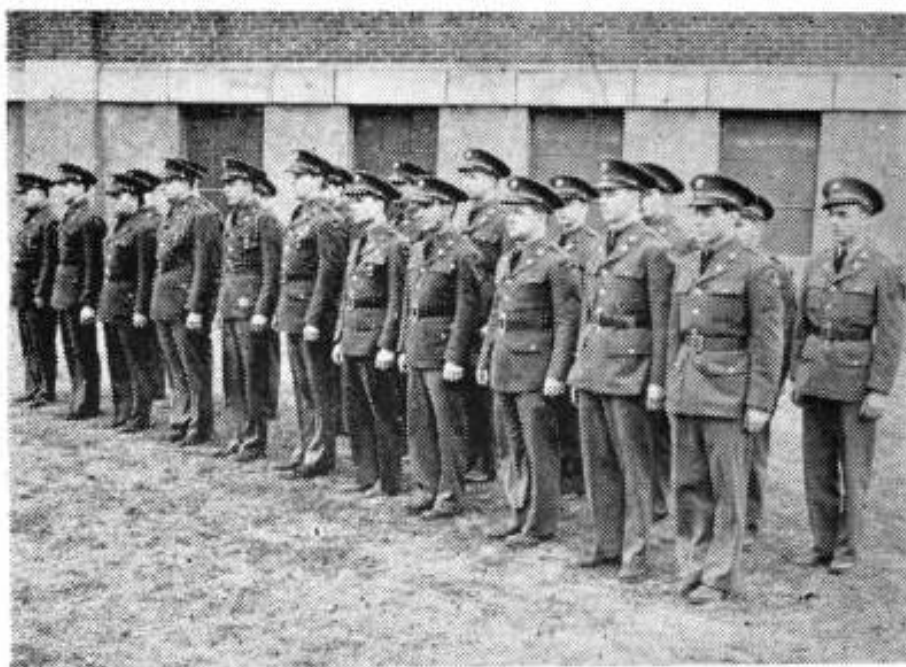


PFC. THOMAS D. SULLIVAN



PVT. JOSEPH SEBULA





ANTI-TANK CO. NONCOMS



CO. K, 169TH REGT. NOMCOMS



**AIRPLANE OBSERVERS ON DUTY IN BOLTON**



WEST SIDE KIDS COLLECT BIG PILE OF METAL SCRAP



79TH AA REGIMENT IN NAVY DAY PARADE



**RALPH JOHNSON "FIRST" TO REGISTER FOR THE DRAFT**



**ONE OF SEVERAL MILITARY WEDDINGS**

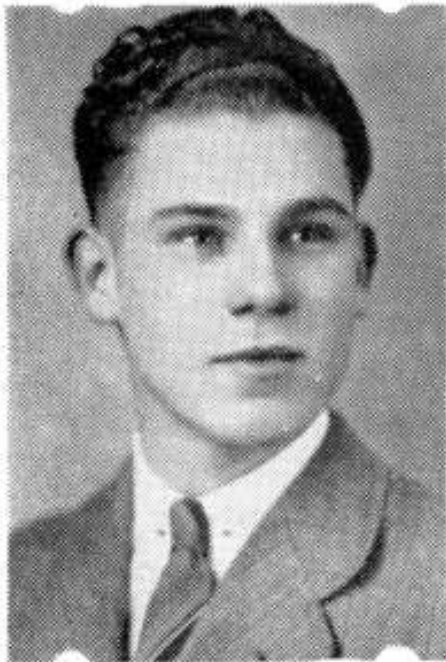


**BATTALION OF JEEPS IN NAVY DAY PARADE**



**DEDICATION OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN SERVICE FLAG**





SGT. JOHN PEROTTI



SGT. RUDOLPH NELSON



SGT. HUGH FARRINGTON



F 1/c CHARLES W. HERITAGE



JUNIOR OFFICERS, ANTI-TANK CO. 169TH REGT.



JUNIOR OFFICERS, CO. K, 169TH REGT.

*Others Deserve Praise*

Deserved credit has been given by Mr. Modean, the first office manager, to A. Hyatt Sutcliffe, who succeeded Mr. Modean to that office and Mrs. Vera Gunas, the last office supervisor; to those who volunteered their services to the board, to the faculty of the Manchester High and local schools, and the Selectmen and George H. Waddell, town treasurer.

Theirs was a distinct contribution to the cause which, without this service, would have resulted in demoralization and perhaps the breakdown of the federal emergency system in Manchester.

Many of the duties of the office were by nature very intricate and time-consuming, especially those of ration book registration and fuel oil registration, which were handled by the faculty of the local schools, assisted by other groups. The speedy and satisfactory manner in which these broad-gauge features of rationing were carried out, aided immeasurably in the successful service of the office in Manchester.

As war production crowded out less important civilian items of manufacture, these were added to the growing list of rationed commodities.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### WARTIME RATIONING (No. 2)

When it was announced by Chester Bowles, Administrator of the Office of Price Administration, that automobile tires would go off the ration control lists of the OPA on December 31, 1945, this act released all but one of the commodities over which the Office of Price Administration held control for four war years. After December 31 only sugar remained on the ration list.

Rationing of rubber, food and other scarce commodities, an innovation to the previously unrestricted peoples of the United States, began on January 5, 1942 throughout the Nation. The reason, obviously, was the control by the Japanese of the principal source of latex, or raw rubber, on the Malay Peninsula and other rubber producing areas in the South Pacific, and the expected drain on other commodities by the combat services.

#### *Had To Take Strict Measures*

Caught with a short stock-pile of latex on hand, and facing a war on two fronts, extreme measures had to be taken. So immediately after the first of the year, 1942, the people of this land faced their first war-time restriction.

Sugar still remains rationed, and all other of the previously rationed commodities are now off the lists, which originally included tires, automobiles, typewriters, gasoline (in the East), bicycles, rubber footwear, fuel oil, coffee, heating stoves (East), shoes, processed foods and meats and fats.

#### *Tires Led the List*

It will be noted from the period list of rationed commodities that

tires led the list in point of time rationed, with four years, lacking five days. Next in point of time, comes automobiles with three years and eight months of rationing. Sugar has been on the nation's ration list nearly four years and a half and still remains the only commodity rationed.

Other long-term rationed articles were gasoline, rubber footwear, and heating stoves (East). The shortest period of all rationed commodity was coffee, which remained on for one year and eight months.

In wartime, shortages naturally are created and essential imports are reduced or cut off altogether. Factories that made peacetime goods had to convert to wartime materials. Food and fibre, once in plentiful supply, had to be shared with our fighting men and our Allies. As war production went up—civilian goods diminished in quantity.

### *Had To Supply Soldiers*

We had to stop making cars, radios, refrigerators, washing machines in order to make tanks, guns and planes. We had to make more shoes, tires, trucks, produce more meat, dairy products and canned goods, produce more oil, refine more gasoline to supply our military as well as our civilian needs.

For example, in 1944, the highpoint war period, civilians had 84 per cent of the nation's butter and military and other uses consumed 16 per cent; sugar, civilians, 82 per cent, military, 18 per cent; meat, civilians 76 per cent, military 24 per cent; gasoline, civilians 61 per cent, military, 39 per cent; cheese, civilians, 61 per cent, military, 39 percent; canned goods, civilians, 59 per cent, military 41 per cent; and leather, civilians, 58 per cent and military, 42 per cent.

### *Start Buying Runs*

As military needs were cutting deeply into supplies available for civilians and as employment was increasing, giving civilians more money to spend for less of the available commodities, it was apparent that many would be unable to get their fair share of the produce



available, creating buying "runs," hoarding and resulting in aggravated shortages. Thus, when it was apparent that people with the most money and the most shopping time would get the best and most, Rationing became a necessity.

Congress acted to protect the people—every citizen alike—providing the mechanism for fair sharing of essential goods and to make sure that, first, we could meet the war-essential needs when there were not supplies enough for all, and second, to promote all out production by provisions of the Second War Powers Act.

### *Over 119,000 Volunteers*

Throughout the country 119,788 volunteers made up the War Price and Rationing boards aided by 35,448 paid employees. There were 93 District offices, eight Regional offices and above all was the National office headed by the Administrator. There were 5,578 Ration Boards throughout the country and personnel from which workers were drawn from ordinary civilian pursuits in Connecticut listed 179 farmers, 31 doctors, 44 lawyers, 43 insurance men, 961 merchants, eight dentists, ten plumbers, 47 nurses, 533 housewives, 53 engineers, 11 electricians, 25 clergymen, 237 factory workers, 15 carpenters, 179 teachers and others.

Now that rationing (except sugar) is a thing of the past, it may be well to view in retrospect some of the good that price maintenance, a less spectacular phase of the local board's duties, has done. The price job that the local board did in Manchester, as did other boards in the State, is probably the most important that has been done in the whole program, the state OPA office believes.

As one State official of the OPA said, "I think it is interesting to look back at the last war and see the way in which inflation decimated the buying power of the dollar and ruined so many of our businessmen and farmers, while it caused such serious hardship to all of our workers.

### *Held Price Line Well*

"In this war we have held the price line pretty well in spite of the

pressures infinitely stronger than those of World War I. The cost of living had increased 108 percent in World War I and it has been held to 33 per cent in this war. Since May, 1942, when the General Maximum Price Regulation became effective, prices have risen only 11 per cent and since May, 1943, when retail price control became effective, it has risen only three per cent."

The OPA credits the American public for its general observance of regulations and co-operation throughout the emergency, permitting the effective application of legal restrictions to the end that there might be sufficient supplies to meet the demands of the citizens.

### *Get Over the Crisis*

"I hope that this co-operation will continue," adds the OPA official, "because if it does, I think we can get through the present critical period to a time when production will be full enough to meet the demands that all of our citizens will make for all kinds of production."

"Until such a time as trade competition can again take over, officials believe, and while scarcities still exist, Price Control is protecting the people from inflation. A very definite part in price control has been taken by the price panels of the local boards. These price panels, which includes the local panel, have helped merchants to keep their stores in compliance and have acted to help consumers who may have felt that they had been overcharged. The work of the local price panel has been one of the most important factors in "holding the line" as successfully as the Administration has throughout the war.

### *Still Serves Its Town*

Residents of Manchester should be reminded that the Ration Board still continues to serve the people, even though the war is over and the boys are coming home, especially in the matter of prices.

The full and detailed survey of the operations of the Office of Price Administration cannot be included in a book of this length, but it is of sufficient interest to point out for the record the excellent

job done by this group of friends and neighbors, working conjunctively with the authority of the government, to the end that we could win a war and at the same time make conditions as bearable at home as was possible under the war time restrictions.

#### *Ration Board Personnel*

Following is the official list of Manchester's War Price and Rationing Board personnel from its beginning to date:

Chairman, Rev. Thorsten A. Gustafson, March 2, 1942, terminated, December 15, 1943; vice chairman, Fred T. Blish, Jr., March 2, 1942, terminated, August 25, 1942; Harold Olds, tire panel, autos, bicycles, March 2, 1942; Matthew Paton, tire panel, March 2, 1942; Marion N. Tinker, food panel, March 2, 1942, terminated February 3, 1943.

#### *Changes And Additions*

Vice-chairman Edson M. Bailey, August 5, 1942; Frank Reilly, gasoline, August 5, 1942; Marion Rowe, food, prices and shoes, August 5, 1942; Harold A. Turkington, gasoline, August 5, 1942; Henry E. Smith, prices, tires and bicycles, August 5, 1942; Charles W. Holman, fuel oil, rubber boots, stoves, Sept. 11, 1942.

Austin Cheney, fuel oil, stoves and rubber boots, Sept. 11, 1942, terminated, June 1, 1943; Marie F. Finnegan, food panel, Sept. 11, 1942, terminated, Dec. 15, 1942 to join the office staff; Frank E. Hyde, gasoline panel, autos, Sept. 11, 1942; H. Olin Grant, Feb. 11, 1943, terminated, March 16, 1943 (formerly on County Board); Robert Pratt, prices, food and shoes, Feb. 11, 1943; Menno Lutke, gasoline and tires, Feb. 11, 1943; Beatrice Manning, prices, Feb. 11, 1943; Richard Martin, fuel oil, boots and stoves, Feb. 11, 1943; Elmer Weden, prices.

Rev. W. Ralph Ward succeeded Rev. Thorsten A. Gustafson as chairman of the local board on Dec. 15, 1943.

#### *Original Location*

The original location of the Ration Board was in the East Side

Recreation Building on School Street. This location was later found inadequate and the office was moved to the basement of the Lincoln Street school, where it was located for about two years and during the extreme period of the war-time emergency. On October 1, 1944 the office was moved to the State Armory, where it is located at the present time.

The Ration Board has had three managers, Erik Modean, who entered upon duty as the first manager on May 11, 1942 and terminated on March 15, 1943, when he was succeeded by A. Hyatt Sutcliffe, on leave of absence from the faculty of the High school. Mr. Sutcliffe entered upon duty on March 18, 1943 and terminated on August 11, 1945. The third manager is Mrs. Vera Gunas, who entered duty on August 11, 1945. Mrs. Gunas was formerly an office clerk from March 4, 1943.

### *Office Personnel*

Ration Board office personnel from the beginning of rationing and their periods of service follows: Christine S. McVeigh, May 11, 1942 to February 20, 1943; Betty L. Erickson, June 13, 1942 to February 5, 1944; Marjory I. Knocker, October 1, 1942 to June 22, 1944; Marie E. Finnegan, December 16, 1942 to December 17, 1943; Hazel I. Snow, June 1, 1943 to September 30, 1945 (part time March 19, 1943 to May 31, 1943); Lillian J. White, June 21, 1943; Helen L. Eastwood, January 10, 1944 to September 4, 1945; Marcella Obert, March 8, 1944 to December 9, 1944.

Betty Falcone, April 10, 1944 to May 15, 1945; Margie E. Hollister, July 12, 1944 to September 30, 1945; Elizabeth M. Shea, December 11, 1944; Mary E. Parker, August 13, 1945 to September 30, 1945; Arleen N. Paulman, October 1, 1945; Helen A. Spencer, October 1, 1945 to October 19, 1945; Elsie I. Lanz, October 22, 1945; Elsie I. Lanz, October 22, 1945.

The most faithful volunteer worker credited to the local board is Mrs. Jane Eccles of 342 Center Street who gave between 2,200 and 2,400 hours to the Ration Board service.

### Articles Rationed During the War and Duration of the Restriction

Commodity	Rationing Began	Rationing Ended
Tires	January 5, 1942	December 31, 1945
Automobiles	February 2, 1942	October 30, 1945
Typewriters	March 13, 1942	April 22, 1944
Sugar	April 28, 1942	(Active)
Gasoline (in East)	May 12, 1942	August 15, 1945
Bicycles	May 15, 1942	September 23, 1944
Rubber Footwear	September 29, 1942	September 5, 1945
Fuel Oil	October 22, 1942	August 15, 1945
Coffee	November 21, 1942	July 29, 1943
Heating Stoves (East)	December 19, 1942	August 15, 1945
Shoes	February 7, 1943	October 31, 1945
Processed Foods	March 1, 1943	August 15, 1945
Meats and Fats	March 29, 1943	November 24, 1945



## CHAPTER XIX

### WAR BOND SALES

In the early months following the Declaration of War on December 8, 1941, the Government of the United States was faced with the necessity of determining how the war was to be financed, whether by direct taxation against the present generation, or by the issue and sale of securities which would mature in the future, to be met and paid after the war was ended.

The decision was made in favor of both methods. Taxes against income were increased and the first War Bond drive was launched. The now familiar "E" Bond was then, as now, prominent in the securities offered to the public. It was first known as an United States Defense Bond and still later as the United States Bond. This bond has been emphasized in each of the drives as the one bond suitable for all classes of investors.

Harold C. Alford, treasurer of the Manchester Trust Company, was appointed by the State Headquarters to direct the sale of bonds in Manchester and surrounding towns and a small committee met at the office of the bank to discuss and formulate plans.

The sale of bonds was opened at a mass meeting held in Center Park, featured by a speaking program and entertainment. A booth was located adjacent to the band stand where bonds were sold for cash. Sales were also held on the stage of the State Theater frequently during the drive. The public of Manchester was quick to respond to the appeals.

During the first three bond drives, bonds were purchased freely by everyone and Manchester met and exceeded all quotas as assigned. No actual sales were made through a house-to-house canvass. Volunteer Air Raid Wardens and High School pupils called at each

home distributing and collecting pledge cards which were later redeemed by the pledgers at the bank and post office.

During these drives, rallies were held at Depot Square and at the North End playgrounds, also on Main Street in front of the bank and a combined bond sale and demonstration of the working of the Manchester Defense Council was held at the Old Golf lots. During all of the above rallies, bonds were sold on the spot from trucks and beach wagons loaned by the townspeople and manned by cashiers and typists recruited from local men and women, willing and eager to give of their time and effort in the promotion of the bond sales.

However, the cost of the war was mounting rapidly far beyond expectations and at the opening of the Fourth War Bond Drive, quotas were largely increased, and it was evident that even more intense methods of promotion would be necessary if Manchester was to respond fully to the emergency.

It was at this point that Chairman Alvord was mightily cheered by an offer of assistance from the women of Manchester.

Led by Mrs. John P. Cheney, Jr., their record of unselfish achievement is now history. Hundreds of Manchester women from every walk of life or station, banded together to scour the town during the last five War Bond drives—on foot and by automobile—through rain and snow they risked their health, times without number, to be very sure that no citizen of the community could say that they did not have the opportunity to buy bonds, but gave all an equal opportunity to add their bit to the tremendous local effort of financing the war. Through the work of this committee over \$750,000 in bonds were sold.

During the Victory Loan, in place of the house-to-house canvass, 150 women spent hours at telephones taking orders for bonds which were issued at the bank and delivered by volunteers from this same ladies' organization.

Payroll deductions were at the close a major part in the sale of bonds and so-called Minute Man flags were distributed and proudly displayed by most factories and larger organizations, showing that at least ninety per cent of employees were permitting ten per cent of their wages to be used for War Bond purchase. Much credit is due those leaders among the employees and managements of these organ-

izations who were instrumental in stimulating thrift and patriotism, to the end that such a splendid record could be achieved.

The Sixth War Bond Drive was held in mid-winter and nearly 150 householders in Manchester volunteered the use of their homes for the sale of bonds and many others offered to do the same after all stations had been accepted.

At the opening of the Seventh War Bond Drive all communities in the state were well organized and Manchester was no exception. Under the leadership of Lieut. Col. Russell B. Hathaway, assistant treasurer of the Manchester Trust Company, the retail merchants in Manchester added their efforts to the other activities and through their assistance in this drive, over \$150,000 in Bonds were sold.

#### *School Children Active*

The pupils in the local schools were particularly active in the sale of bonds and stamps throughout the war and under the leadership of their teachers, supervisors and principals, accumulated an enviable record among the schools of the state.

The local libraries were headquarters for the sale of bonds and booths were maintained in several of the local stores, also the post office, the Manchester Building and Loan Association and both Warner Brothers theaters. Manager Jack Sanson of the State Theater was especially helpful during all of the drives.

No record of this kind would be complete without the grateful recognition directed to those who received none of the glory, but who unselfishly performed all of the tedious but extremely necessary detail work incident to the War Bond drives. Those were the hundreds of clerks, cashiers, publicity writers and typists who gave many hours of their personal time to help make the drives a success.

Credit should go, also, to those that loaned trucks and cars and those that drove them. An individual count of those Manchester people would total more than 2,000 patriotic persons who gave their best efforts in the local financing of the greatest war in history, with no thought of any pay, or reward of any kind, except to help in maintaining Manchester's grand record of backing the government in time of need. It was a remarkable achievement, further evidence

of the effectiveness of the democratic way of life, and every citizen of the community should proudly share in this all-time estimable record of war financing.

*Record of Bond Sales*

Following is the official record of Manchester's purchases of War Bonds during the war with Germany and Japan:

First War Bond Sale .....	\$ 1,707,000
Second War Bond Sale .....	1,879,000
Third War Bond Sale .....	1,733,000
Fourth War Bond Sale .....	2,970,000
Fifth War Bond Sale .....	2,735,000
Sixth War Bond Sale .....	2,828,000
Seventh War Bond Sale .....	3,846,000
Eighth War Bond Sale .....	3,647,000
	<hr/>
	\$21,345,000

About one-fifth of the total War Bonds sold were of the individual "E" classification, amounting to \$4,961,000 for all campaigns.

## CHAPTER XX

### THE TOWN'S HEALTH IN WARTIME

The war-time health of Manchester people was excellent, Dr. D. C. Y. Moore, town health officer, stated recently. And in spite of the lack of physicians, due to the service calls, adequate medical service was provided at great mental and physical burden to the remaining practitioners.

The work of the physicians was lightened during the war by the use of the wonder drugs and compounds, penicillin, the sulfa compounds and other improved medicines. The future looms even brighter, Dr. Moore declares, with the utilization soon of other new medical discoveries, including the most promising of a large group—streptomycin—regarded by the medical profession as an advance on penicillin, the wonder drug.

#### *Physicians Overworked*

The war years found the few older physicians worked far beyond their normal strength and abilities and this undue strain, Dr. Moore stated, resulted in forced leave of absence from duty at times so that mind and body might recover sufficiently and that they might return again to duty to carry on the extremely heavy burden of practice.

"Manchester physicians were driven to their very limits of endurance during the war," said Dr. Moore. "This heavy, constant strain forced them to seek relief oftener than in normal times. Despite the lack of adequate medical service, none with serious illnesses were slighted, though it was not always possible for a patient to obtain the services of his own physician when ill."

Common sense and the ability to fall back upon home remedies for minor ailments became a practice in town during the war, Dr.



Moore stated, and this action by many was of much assistance to the overworked doctors.

Local physicians cared for the usual types of seasonal illnesses, but none attained epidemic status. There were a number of war-strain affections, such as a type of nervous ailment which physicians called "occupational neurosis," derived by the patient from his physical condition, his inadaptability to war work, excessive mental strain or a combination of conditions. There were also many various forms of skin diseases resulting from working conditions in the war plants.

### *Epidemic Control Plans*

The state medical authorities made plans to combat any epidemic which might have occurred during the war years and emergency hospitals were planned for at the Mansfield State Training School and the Veterans' Home at Rocky Hill. Emergency medical groups were in readiness, including physicians, nursing staffs and attendants, for the demand which, fortunately, did not come during the war years. In this connection there were plenty of supplies available, secured through the Red Cross and other agencies, and plans for rapid action and control of any disease epidemic were efficiently and carefully set up.

Scarcity of certain foods did not have any serious bearing upon the health of the townspeople, Dr. Moore stated, residents apparently maintaining their health even better in spite of the war scarcities, than in peace-time when all kinds of commodities, foods and drink were available in unlimited quantities. Fortunately, residents were able to obtain plenty of protein bearing foods, milk, eggs and garden produce.

Dr. Moore complimented the Memorial Hospital staff of physicians and surgeons, Superintendent William P. Slover, the nursing staff and auxiliary staffs for the excellent team work displayed during the war which kept the town's health on an even keel. There were few weeks during the entire war period that the facilities of the hospital were not taxed to the limit, but under the efficient management and operation of the entire staff, the war emergency period was passed in a satisfactory manner.

*Post-War Plans*

The war years were trying ones and the post-war years will also reveal many war-time deficiencies developing as the years pass, according to Dr. Moore. Servicemen will need medical attention for war wounds and ills developing from their rugged service, and in some instances, privations of the war. New methods and processes of treatment for various war wounds and affections and new serums, toxins and drugs will aid immeasurably in these instances.

The greatest medical development expected in this state in the post-war years, Dr. Moore believes, will be the establishment of clinics for observation and treatment of cancer and polio. Plans for the establishment of cancer and polio clinics were halted by the war but are due to be revitalized during the next decade in an effort to stamp out the destructive effects of the two worst enemies of the human race—cancer and infantile paralysis.

## CHAPTER XXI

### THE TOWN'S RETAIL BUSINESS PROBLEMS

The wartime trials and tribulations of Manchester's retail outlet managers or owners were many and varied. No group in constant contact with the public in wartime ever received the opposites of blame and acclaim, depending upon the attitude of the particular retail patron, as did the retail operatives of this and other Connecticut towns from early 1942 until late 1945.

The retail operatives of that period learned more of human nature, and the element of the human mind encompassed by an emergency, than any other public-dealing group.

Hedged in by the strict OPA rulings of the War Price and Rationing Bureaus, retailers of Manchester, were forced to do business with depleted stocks, many scarce items and many of them highly restricted with a goods-hungry, money-laden public clamoring persistently for service.

#### *Problems of Retailers*

It was a trying problem for all, but chiefly for those independent dealers who knew that their treatment of the public meant holding what war patronage they had gained during the war—or losing that and more. There was a constant physical and mental strain for them in the war years.

No one who knew intimately the throes and griefs of the average retailer, especially in the meat and grocery lines, would have been willing to change places with him during the period of wartime rationing. There were multiple problems to solve, enough to produce gray hair at the temples of the most serene.

There were untold hours of enforced work brought about directly



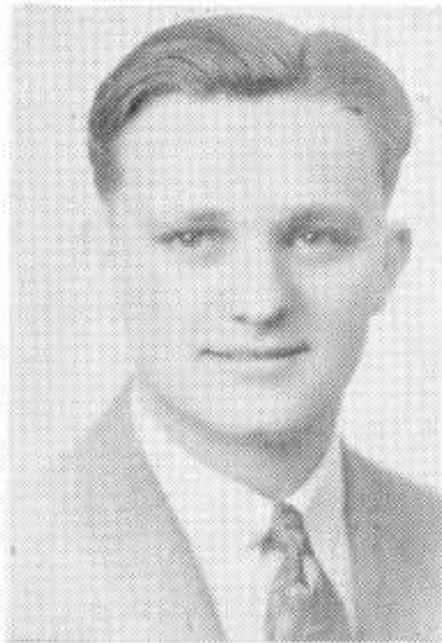
CO. K AND ANTI-TANK COMPANIES LEAVE TOWN FOR THE WAR



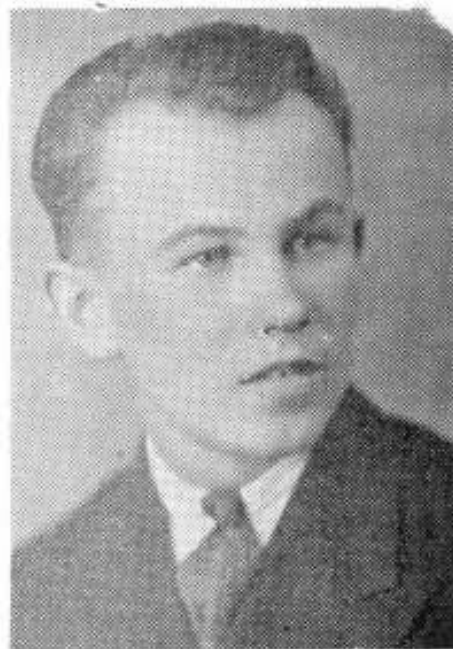
PVT. FRANK J. MANSFIELD



PFC. ARTHUR L. BENOIT

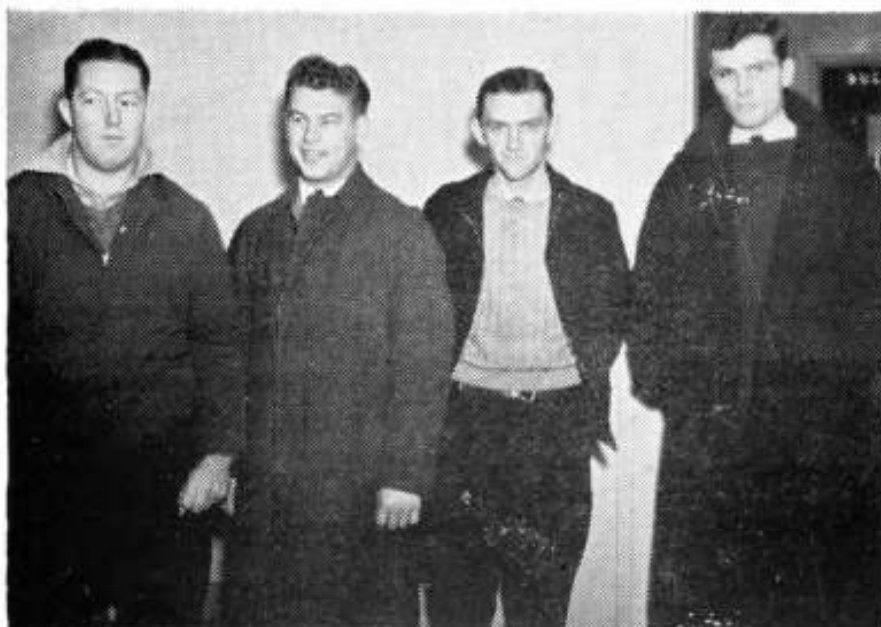


PFC. FRED H. MILLER

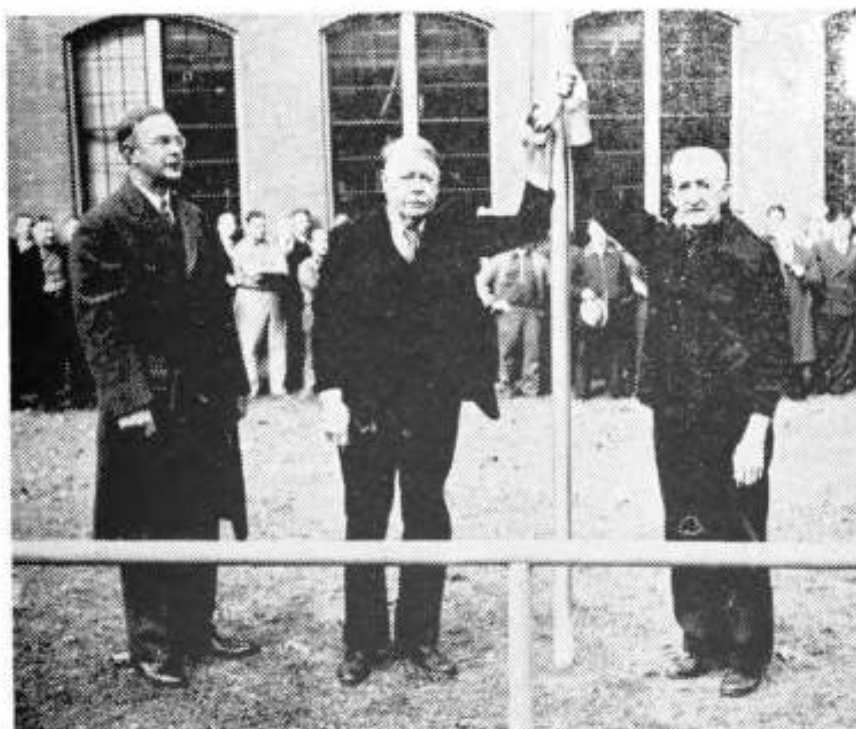


SEA. ALBERT BUSKY





**THE FIRST DRAFTEES TO ENTER SERVICE—MANCHESTER'S FIRST  
DRAFT CALL—HORACE W. CHAMBERS, STANLEY W. MAJEWSKI,  
THOMAS W. WIPPERT AND MICHEAL H. SCHUETZ**



**CHENEY MACHINE SHOP OLD TIMERS RAISE SERVICE FLAG**



**LT. EDWARD HARABURDA RECEIVING AIR MEDAL — LATER  
KILLED IN ACTION**

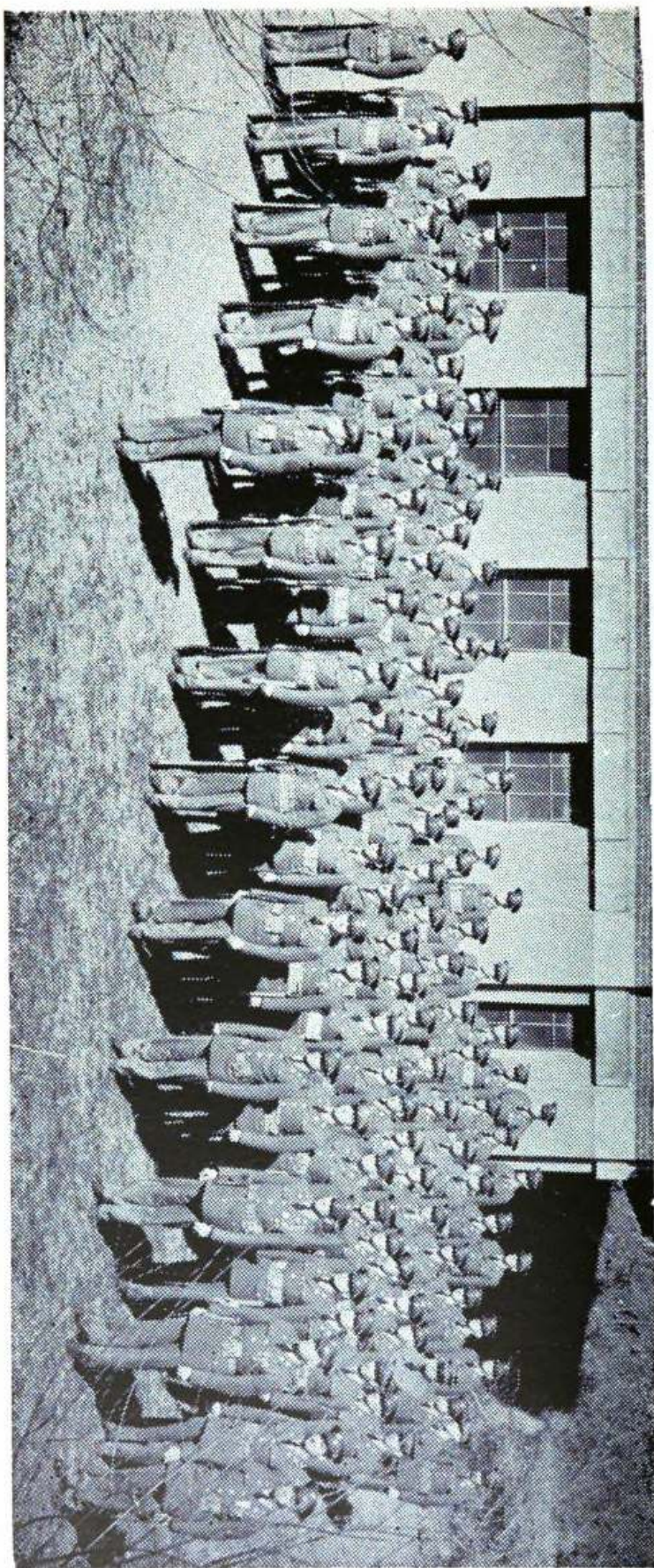


**BRITISH PURCHASING COMMISSION VISITS PIONEER  
PARACHUTE CO.**



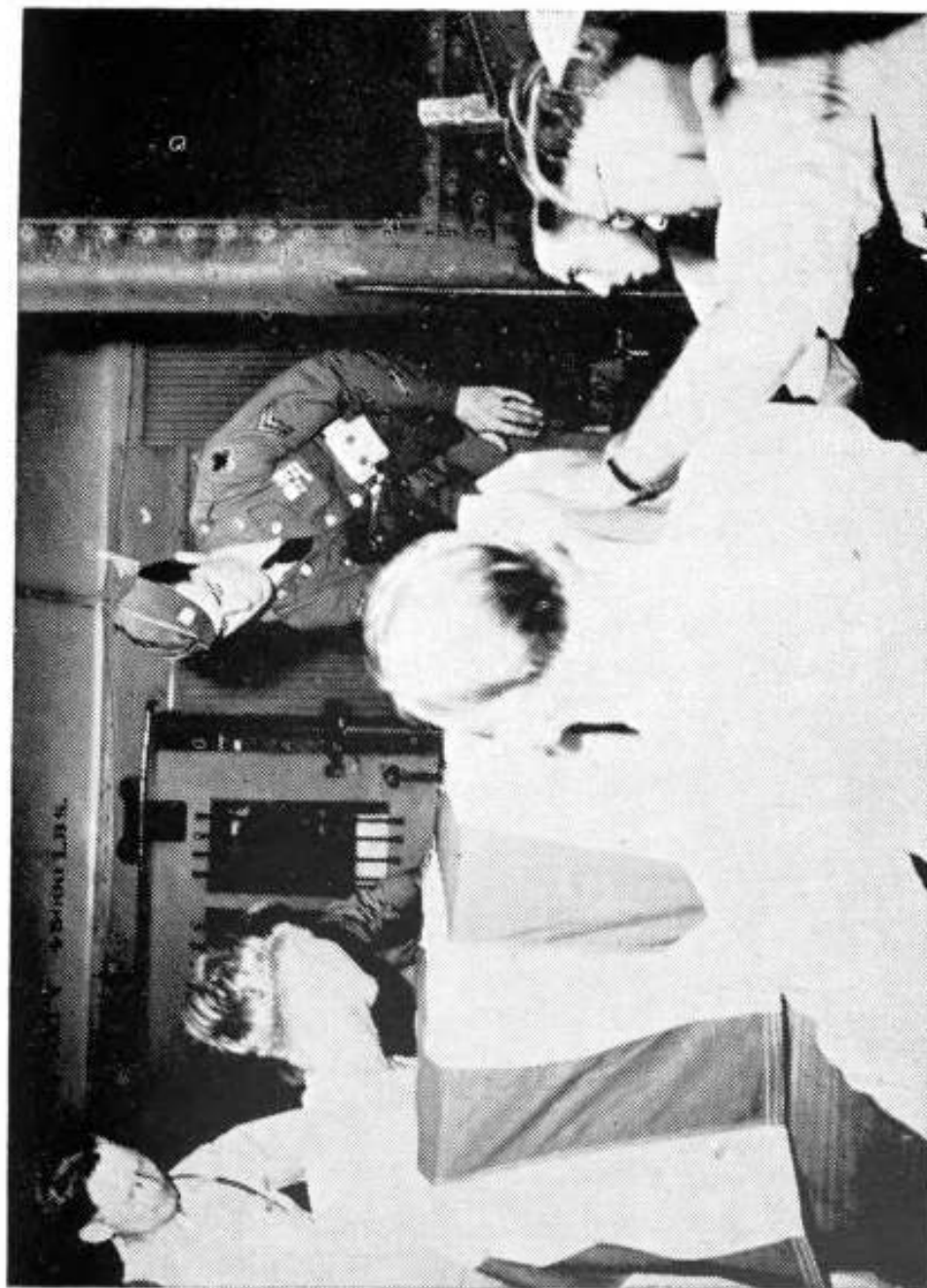
GROUP OF DRAFTEES: FIFTH CALL, INCLUDING: OTTO L. COOK,  
STEVEN C. SAPIENZA, STANLEY OLBRIAS JR., JOHN J. O'BRIEN,  
HERMAN J. HECK, JOSEPH S. BODZIOCH, FREDERICK CRANS-  
TON, JOHN VESSELLA, WALTER P. PIESCICK, WILLIAM E. FISH,  
WILLIAM S. MCBURNEY, VINCENT V. ZABLESKOS, EDWARD K.  
HUTCHINSON AND CHARLES S. DILLON





COMPANY K, 169TH REGT., 43RD DIVISION AS THE UNIT LEFT  
FOR CAMP BLANDING, FLA., MARCH 1940

### FIRST MANCHESTER HERO COMES HOME



Corporal Alexander Gurski of 110 Congress Street was killed while in training at Camp Shelby, Miss., on July 13, 1942. His was the first body to be shipped home for burial in World War II.

Photo shows the body of Corporal Gurski arriving at the Manchester depot for burial. Assisting in the unloading of the flag-draped casket is Corporal Ferdinand L. Lucas, buddy of the deceased soldier.





GROUP OF DRAFTTEES: SECOND CALL, INCLUDING: JOHN A. MCKENNA, JR., EDWARD G. LYNCH, EINAR G. SOLOMONSON, LOUIS P. PONTICELLI, FRANCIS H. LEWIS, FRANK C. KEBART JR., JOSEPH F. WALL JR., AUSTIN A. WEIMAN, WALTER M. FERRIS AND ERNEST F. KISSMAN

from rationing. There were new regulations to read and apply. There were constant worries over salespeople—and how to obtain them.

The general public knew but little of the extra hours that store managers and owners devoted to compliance with regulations. It was a constant physical and mental strain. If the average citizen was happy when rationing ceased, imagine what this lifting of restrictions meant to the retailers of the towns, cities and the Nation!

Each day that a commodity was “freed” from controls—that was a joyous date to be marked. With each succeeding restriction elimination came less work, less physical and mental strain and less after-hours pouring over the books.

Retailers faced a discouraging market early in 1942 with unlimited opportunities for sales of common, usable stocks only to turn away repeatedly, unnumbered customers, with ready cash, willing to pay even bonus prices for sorely needed goods.

### *Limited Commodities*

It would be impossible to name the large assortment of war-scarce goods and commodities. Nearly all of the goods in retail trade were either limited or unobtainable at certain periods of the war, but principally those from the householder's point of view were coal, fuels, home construction materials, furniture of better types and grades, home furnishings, clothing for men, women and children, electrical accessories, washing machines, rubber goods, meats and many foods.

Of the rationed articles the meats, canned foods, fish, condiments, coffee and sugar were unobtainable at times and limited much of the time. Dairy products were in heavy demand, as well as soaps, soap powder and any product containing wartime essentials, fats or oils. The supply was constantly short.

While not affecting all people, dealers found the shortage of cigarettes during 1943-44 troublesome. Proprietors found it difficult to distribute equally among their customers, the trickle of cigarettes and cigars that came through the distributing agencies.

In general there was a steady supply of garden produce, vegetables,

and fruits and there was a good supply of frozen foods in season. Fresh fish was plentiful and many species of fish which had previously not enjoyed popularity in normal times, were found in quantity during the emergency, allaying to a great extent the shortage of meats.

### *Textile Scarcities*

The conversion of most of the textile mills to war work reduced the supply of household linens of all kinds and such items as sheets, pillowslips, cotton dress goods, men's underwear, girdles, and notions were almost unobtainable during a major part of the war period. Linens were also unobtainable. After the close of the war, when there was a heavy drain on the small supply of men's suitings, good men's suits were hard to obtain.

The department stores, which carried the greatest assortment of varied household accessories in peace time, had to fill in the vacant spaces in their stores with substitutes to satisfy the demand. This was true especially in toys. Federal priorities on metals caused an influx of substitute wooden toys and other articles of wood and in substitution for metal. Most of the toys made during the war period, 1941-45, were constructed of wood.

Many articles usually carried in the lists of drug stores, specialty stores and newsstands were limited in quantity. Due to the service drains on stocks, supplies of cameras and accessories, films, papers, chemicals and electrical accessories were at a low ebb. High grade cameras and fast film and certain selected photographic supplies were out of the markets practically during the entire war.

Dealers in heavy ranges of any type, electric, gas or solid fuels, were out of stock due to the metals priority for war uses. Accessories in these lines were affected also, dealers maintaining but the barest of parts necessary for repairs to existing equipment. All types of gas and electric household accessories were cut out of the market for the duration and only recently have these items begun to come back into trade.

### *Hardware Stocks*

Many items in the hardware line were out of stock or limited, es-

pecially in the solid metals. Fortunately for the Victory gardeners there was a fair supply of ordinary gardening tools.

Confectionary stores, drug stores and department stores stocking candy or engaged in the manufacture of sweets, were caught in the world-wide low in the sugar market and candy manufacturing was at its lowest point in a quarter century. Nearly every item that went into the manufacture of candy of good quality, sugar, glucose, oils, butter and flavoring extracts, was on limited basis.

The shortage of newsprint paper reduced the size of newspapers, magazines and other periodicals and a large number of magazines suspended for the duration.

Sheet music and recordings and a few types of musical instruments were available in fair quantity, thereby adding something to the morale of a home population restricted to limited home activities as a wartime diversion.

The heavy tax on jewelry and non-essential personal adornments, cosmetics and beauty aids did not deter those with war plant money from buying, and milady could obtain almost any variety of personal accessory she chose, provided she had the cash—and she generally did.

### *Restaurant Supplies*

While the local restaurants were restricted in the preparation of their meals at times, there was always ample food during the war.

None went hungry unless their taste for food ran too heavy on the meatside, for steaks or choice cuts. Even these could be purchased almost any time, provided one was willing to pay the "black market" prices elsewhere. But we hasten to say that Manchester had no complaints of "black market" operations.

Federal limitations restricted the quantity of dairy products sold, butter, heavy cream, ice cream and cheese. There was a good supply of milk of all grades during the war.

Tavern and package store trade apparently was little diminished from war effect but for a short time there was a scarcity of the better quality of imported whiskies and some types of domestic liquors. Wine was plentiful throughout.

*Auto Dealers Dilemma*

Automobile agencies which withstood the long wartime period with prospects for the post-war revival of the trade, reverted to the sale of used cars, conducted shops for the mounting repairs on old cars and hung on with all of their major income of other years closed to them for the emergency period.

Dealers in automobile accessories maintained the limit of such stocks available to them for the repair of the aging cars which performed so nobly, transporting war workers to work and home, and for repairs to trucks, construction machinery and similar motive equipment. Many types of structural innovations had to be devised to supplant repairs to heavy automotive equipment where repair units were not available.

The war of 1941-45 is now history. Throughout the war period nerves were tensed on many occasions and there was continual regimentation and displeasure over the most common of domestic procedures—that of buying to survive. Rationing, lack of transportation, and acute shortages of many things are now nearly past.

Throughout it all, tempers were kept pretty much under control in spite of the long queues at grocery store cash registers and before the vacant meat display cases.

There was a big job—the biggest in history—to be done. Manchester and America teamed up as a unit to complete it.



## CHAPTER XXII

### WARTIME BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Manchester's wartime building construction set a record which few, if any towns of like size and population, equaled in the state in the same period.

Taking the town's official years, from August 15 to August 14 of the following year and compiling the official town figures on all types of construction, the total for the years 1942 through August 15, 1945 was \$7,044,581 of all types of construction.

By years the totals of construction of all types were as follows: 1942, \$2,568,032; 1943, \$2,328,250; 1944, \$1,388,605; 1945, \$719,964.

#### *Peak Year Was 1942*

It can be seen that the peak year of construction was the year 1942, or year ending August 15, 1942, which included part of 1941 from August 16 to the end of the fiscal year on August 15, 1942.

Likewise, the increasing demand for homes to house war workers after Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into war in two hemispheres, resulted in the peak construction of 510 single-family homes in Manchester in the fiscal year, ending August 15, 1942. The value of these 510 homes was \$2,360,375, the largest single construction expenditure listed in the war years period.

In the year ending August 15, 1943, 448 single-family homes were built for a total of \$2,221,830, slightly below the cost of residential home construction of the previous year. A drop of more than 50 per cent in this type of home construction is noted for the year ending August 15, 1944, with but 162 single-family homes built at an estimated total cost of \$742,650. Only 17 permits were issued

by the building inspector for the year ending August 15, 1945, and the cost of those was but a fraction of the totals of the other war years, or \$124,509.

Despite the increased construction from 1942 through 1945, lack of housing persisted and there was a growing scarcity of all types of building materials with rigid priorities enforced, limiting construction to OPA and FHA approved developments intended exclusively for war workers.

Priorities on materials to be used in the alteration of certain types of homes, where such dwellings altered would provide additional living quarters for the incoming war workers, was obtainable in the majority of instances which resulted in the listing for 1942 of \$136,156 in alteration or additions permits. This figure was also the highest of the 4-year period.

#### *Multiple Apartment Groups*

Permits for alterations and additions for the year ending August 11, 1943 fell off 57 per cent to \$78,400 but during the year 1943 increased to \$91,660 and by August of 1945 the cost of all alterations and additions to local buildings topped 1942 by slightly more than \$2,000 for a total for that year of \$138,279.

Besides the heavy totals for one-family homes in 1942 and 1943, builders were able through the various regulative branches of the government to launch twelve multiple-apartment dwelling group construction programs in the two latter years of the war. In 1944 about one-half of the total for that year or \$1,388,605 was taken up in apartment construction to cost an estimated \$505,000. Several permits for apartment house construction will be listed in the report of the building inspector for the year ending August 15, 1946.

A considerable portion of the wartime residential building construction of 1942 never reached the official town records. Federal housing authorities visited Manchester at various times surveying for an acceptable site for the location of a Federal housing tract, and late in 1941 secured options on land off West Center Street, between West Center Street and Hartford Road.

*Federal Housing Projects*

After completion of the necessary details, the property was purchased and the contract let for construction of 125 permanent homes to provide 200 separate housing units at a cost of \$650,607. When it became apparent that this number of permanent structures would not be sufficient, the Federal Housing authorities planned for the construction of 175 small demountable homes to cost \$468,438.

All of this construction was carried out independent of the local building or zoning authorities, no permits being obtained before construction was begun. All of the work in connection with the projects was carried out under government supervision and contracts were federally approved.

*Opposition Developed*

Considerable opposition developed locally among the builders against the government coming into Manchester and conducting its own building program and steps were taken to inform the government that there were sufficient finances and adequate construction facilities in town to erect enough residential housing without recourse to the federal government. However, after considerable delays due to construction difficulties, the entire project of federal housing was completed, mostly during the fiscal town year of 1942.

*Town Aids Government*

Municipally, the town has had very little to do with the federal developments except for co-operation in the installation of utilities on a federal contractual basis and the acceptance of the streets in the developments on an equal basis of other town streets. In lieu of taxes the government has paid aggregate sums each year to the town treasurer as its proportion of the recognized burden upon the taxpayers, incurred by the federal wartime invasion to house war workers.

If the total cost of these two developments, Oxford Village, the permanent part of the development and Silver Lane Homes, the de-

mountable or portable structures, amounting to \$1,118,045 it would bring the total of construction of residential one-family construction for 1942 to \$3,478,418 and would have increased the over-all construction in Manchester for the four-year period to \$8,162,626. However, none of the cost of the federal construction program of 1941-43 is listed in the official town construction records and such data as is obtainable is secured through the Board of Assessors, whose valuation of the properties named is very close to the actual figures.

#### *Utilities Companies Aided*

As a sidelight to the entire building program, it is to the credit of the town's two water systems, one town-owned and the other privately owned, that they co-operated effectively with the Selectmen, building contractors and developers in supplying water to the many areas for residential use. The same credit should be given to the gas and electric utility companies for their co-operation, often under severe handicaps, due to shortages and waits for vital materials.

During 1945, Cheney Brothers obtained a permit for the first Cheney Brothers' plant unit planned in many years, the concrete, brick and steel plant now in process of construction west of the Velvet Mill between Pine, Elm and Hall Court. This plant, listed in the building department records as a factory unit, is to cost \$400,000 and will serve, when completed, as a central production unit of the company for the purpose of economy in manufacturing operations.

A humorous sidelight in items of building operations during the war years is portrayed in the number of applications for "chicken coops" during the period of wartime rationing.

#### *Residents Raise Poultry*

To supplement the meager meat supply of the period, a total of 161 permits for construction of small chicken coops to house small flocks of poultry were granted to local residents by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

During the entire war period the peace-time construction of gasoline stations dropped to two such applications for a total of \$6,300 due to the rationing and wartime shortage of gasoline.

The official chart and the cost of residential units in the first years of the war, clearly shows the demand for a quantity of new residential construction, rather than expensive units. During the first three years of the war the estimated unit cost of residential construction was from \$5,500 to \$8,000 per unit. Since the close of the war, an increasing number of permits have been granted for larger and more staple and pretentious homes, varying in cost from \$9,000 to \$34,000.



## CHAPTER XXIII

### INDUSTRIES IN WARTIME (No. 1)

With but few exceptions Manchester's industries were geared for war production shortly after Pearl Harbor. A tremendous amount of war equipment, manufactured under contract with the Army, Navy and some special federal departments, has gone out from Manchester to take its place in the front lines, on board ships at sea and in the air.

A large number of the products of Manchester hands and minds, by reason of military security, were never revealed to the very workers who fashioned them. Since the close of the war and the identity and purpose of some of Manchester's war-time products have been revealed to have played an important part in the defeat of our enemies.

#### *Worked On Atomic Bomb*

For example, one local plant was engaged for many months in the manufacture of an intricate device of which the officials of the company themselves did not know its ultimate use. It was later revealed to have been an integral part of the now-famous atomic bomb, which more than anything else, forced the surrender of Japan.

Nearly every local plant had a part in winning the war. Perhaps the major share in this respect was borne by the Pioneer Parachute Company, a subsidiary of Cheney Brothers and Cheney Brothers' Company. The former plant, organized about ten years ago, developed and manufactured parachutes for all the service air branches.

#### *Cheney Brothers*

This company has maintained its record of supplying the nation

with essential products in four wars. During the Civil War the Company made the first practical repeating rifle, the Spencer rifle, which had been tested and proved in actual warfare.

The Spencer rifle was the first repeating rifle, and was invented by Christopher Miner Spencer of Manchester. In 1849, at the age of sixteen, young Spencer went to work in Cheney Brothers' Mills. He had earlier completed an apprenticeship as a machinist in the shop of Samuel Loomis and had also studied in Wilbraham Academy. Between 1849 and 1856 Spencer had worked in a number of shops in New England and New York.

In 1856 he returned to Manchester and became superintendent of Cheney Brothers' Machine Shop and it was about that time that his repeating rifle was invented. A patent was secured in March, 1860, and soon after the outbreak of the war the manufacture of the Spencer repeating rifle was begun in a plant in Boston. The company was largely financed by Cheney Brothers. The weapon had been tested and proved successful and contracts were secured for production of the rifle up to the capacity of the plant.

#### *Had Many Inventions*

Spencer was not alone famous for his invention and production of the Spencer repeating rifle, but he also, while employed in Cheney Brothers, invented a silk-spooling machine which later proved invaluable in the manufacture of cotton and linen thread. He also until his death, in 1922, at Hartford at the age of 89 years.

Spencer's greatest invention, the automatic screw machine, was manufactured in Hartford by Billings and Spencer and other firms. He was actively interested in the field of machinery and mechanics until his death, in 1922, at Hartford at the age of 89 years.

Cheney Brothers produced for the Civil War and gave many of its officials and workers to the Northern cause. The same was true in the brief Spanish-American War in 1898, and in World War I in 1917-18 and the war just closed.

#### *Variety of Products*

More than 75 per cent of the plant facilities over the past four

years were devoted to war work. Even the president of the company, Ward Cheney, accepted a commission in the Navy and served with distinction. More than 2,000 workers were engaged in the various manufacturing processes.

As the war advanced Cheney Brothers found their equipment used more and more for war products. The chief products made by the company for military use were:

- Nylon parachute cloth—Army and Navy.
- Silk cartridge bag cloth—Navy.
- Aerial delivery cloth—Army and Navy.
- Tow target cloth—Army and Navy.
- Wire bearing acetate cloth—Navy.
- Nylon mosquito netting—Army.
- Nylon tent fabric—Army.
- Nylon screening fabric—Army.
- Alpaca and wool-pile fabrics—Army and Navy.
- Nylon cloth to be coated for insulation.
- Silk yarns for insulating.

The company also made flare, aerial delivery and fragmentation bomb chutes, Army and Navy cravats, and aerial tow targets.

### *Employees In Service*

The Manchester plant sent 228 of its employees to the various services and 29 went from the New York office during the war, for a grand total of 257 employees in uniform.

The Company won five Army-Navy "E" awards, two U. S. Treasury awards for war-bond payroll deductions and one safety citation.

Due to the shortage of manpower during the war, many women, homemakers and not a few former Cheney Brothers' workers, who had earlier retired from active work, returned to looms, frames or benches to aid in the company's war work.

An industry that was world famous during the years of peace prior to the war, Cheney Brothers, which was converted almost 100 per cent to a war industry after Pearl Harbor, has once more been transferred back to civilian production.

During the war, Cheney Brothers had a record for which every one connected with it takes great pride. The men and women of the plant were awarded the Army-Navy "E" five times for their outstanding achievement in production. In addition to this the government gave the company its highest quality control rating, which meant that Cheney Brothers were permitted the operation of the company's own inspection systems.

### *Globe-Girdling Cloth*

Over 62,000,000 yards of cloth were manufactured for the government during the war, which amount of yardage is more than enough to encircle the globe at the equator. Beside the production of cloth, the company manufactured over 1,000,000 pounds of yarns and threads and over 45,000,000 yards of braided cord. Special departments were also set up by Cheney Brothers for the manufacture of flare parachutes, pilot 'chutes, fragmentation bomb 'chutes and aerial delivery 'chutes, most of which were made of rayon fabrics. Over 508,000 parachutes of this nature were manufactured. These 'chutes were in addition to the life saving and paratroop 'chutes made by Cheney Brothers' subsidiary, Pioneer Parachute Company, Inc.

As for the machine shop, which was formerly used for repairs and maintenance work and the building of special machinery primarily for the aircraft industry, this department also worked on allotted war contracts.

### *Research Work*

Cheney Brothers also did a great deal of research and development work, and one item that particularly stands out was a valuable research problem done in conjunction with the U. S. Navy. This resulted in the large scale manufacture of thousands of radar anti-aircraft tow targets.

Besides winning the coveted Army-Navy "E" award five times, the government signaled out various individuals in Cheney Brothers' organization and they were cited for their aid in research work and for their help on War Production Board committees, and industry committees.

Naturally, during the war period, a large volume of production was the result and the employment increased rapidly. However, it is anticipated that a 20 per cent increase in employment will still be necessary when the present modernization program is completed. This increase will be necessary to meet the proposed production schedule.

### *Confident of the Future*

Cheney Brothers are confident of the future, feeling that the heritage of a great name is theirs, a name famous for quality textiles all over the world. Their reputation is backed by a century of tradition and experience and skilled craftsmen have helped keep the standard high.

The modernization of the mill had its start in the years prior to the war and was well under way when war was declared. This was later revised to tie in with post-war market trends and the Company has made an extensive study along these lines. This program will give Cheney Brothers a thoroughly up-to-date equipment with every facility to perform all operations from start to finish in the manufacture of quality textiles.

Before modernizing, three boiler plants were operated. Now one central steam boiler plant, a modern, efficient boiler plant capable of supplying steam to the entire chain of mills, supplies the steam at a considerably lower cost.

### *Consolidating Departments*

This same principle of centralization is also being applied to the reorganization of the mill units. The new Printing, Steaming and Finishing Building is nearly completed. The Yarn Dyeing, Preparation and Piece Dyeing Departments have already been moved into the modern Dyehouse adjacent to the new Printing, Steaming and Finishing Building. Just as soon as the machinery from the Printing, Steaming and Finishing Department is moved into the new building, the old Piece Dyeing, Printing and Finishing Mill will be demolished and the obsolete machinery scrapped. Much of this old machinery has been discarded now and new installed.

A great advantage will be gained by these changes. The building



area will be reduced and modern machinery will give a smooth flow of operation, the cost of production cut and the productive capacity unchanged.

Throughout the years Cheney Brothers have been famous for their jacquard fabrics which makes all the more significant the plans formulated for this department. Some of the better jacquard looms have already been moved into the newly remodeled No. 1 Weaving Mill, which is now an up-to-date jacquard weaving unit. The very latest type automatic looms have been installed and are now ready to operate. The installation of other new equipment, including a modern monorail handling equipment for heavy beams, will improve working conditions and also insure strictly competitive costs.

#### *New Looms*

No. 2 Weaving Mill, which now becomes a box-loom weaving department for fancy broad goods weaving, has had new and carefully selected looms installed and some of them are already in operation.

It is planned to improve No. 3 Weaving Mill and this includes the latest type of humidification and control. A complete new layout of the latest Crompton and Knowles automatic looms are on order for No. 3 Mill and soon will be installed; also the single shuttle high-speed looms which are now in another location. Other new equipment for this mill includes the latest high-speed warping, sizing and automatic quilling machinery.

By virtue of new equipment and complete re-arrangement, the Yarn Mill is now in a position to produce high quality spun nylon yarns, spun yarns of nylon, staple mixed with wool, and other fibres, spun yarns from rayon staple or mixtures of fibres, fine-size worsted yarns and electrical insulating yarns as well as machine sewing threads of filament nylon. The latest superdraft equipment and latest type spinning frames have been made and this equipment is now producing in volume.

#### *Velvet Mill Changes*

The Velvet Finishing Department has also been completely rear-

ranged to facilitate the flow of production and new finishing machinery has been installed in the Velvet Mill. Plans also provide for important alterations to the velvet looms to increase their efficiency.

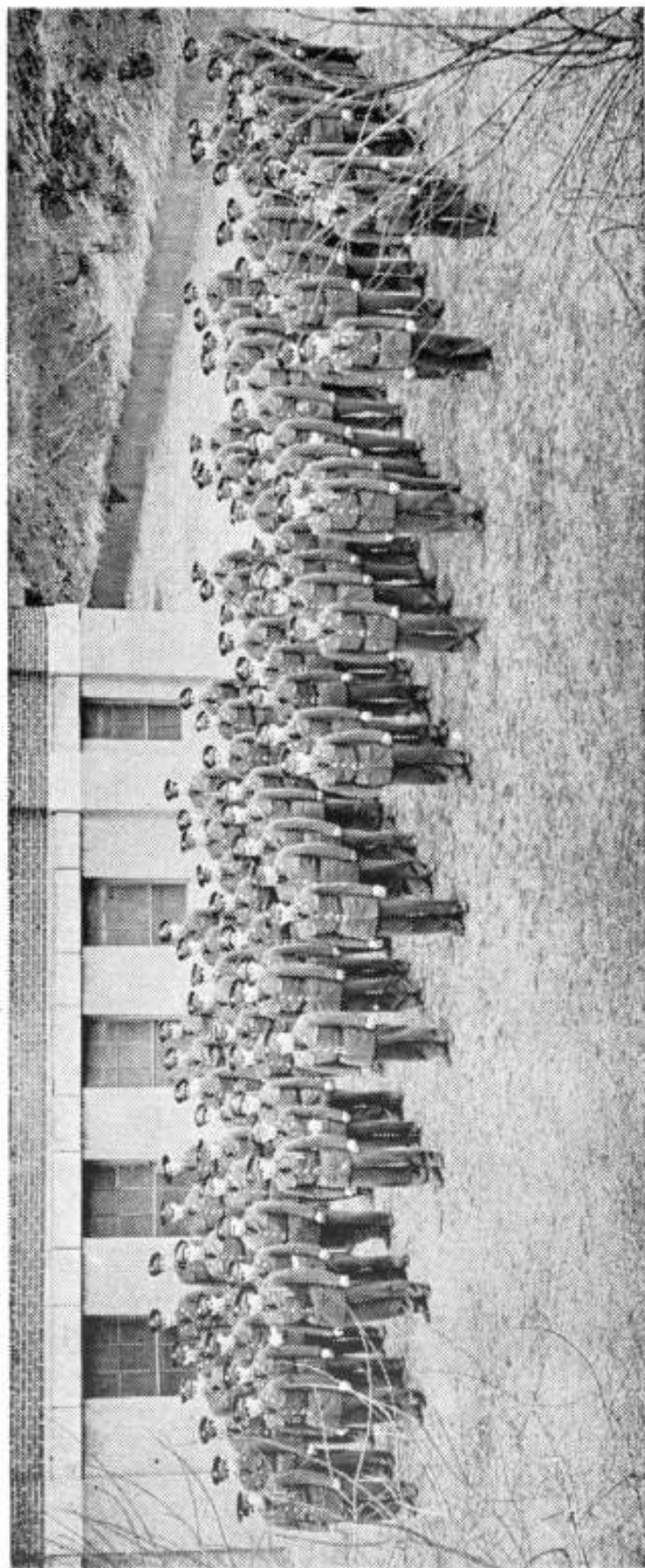
The keynote of the Research and Development Departments is modernization and this has always played an important part in the operation of Cheney Brothers' Mills. Early in the war the Mechanical and Physical Laboratories were expanded and enlarged and this means that they are fully equipped to handle the newest developments in the science of textile chemistry and technology.

During all the planning and investigation of the latest and most modern machinery, market surveys were made in order to determine the most marketable products and the best types for the company to produce. Before the war, the high cost of silk, put many of the products in the luxury class and the manufacturers and sale of many of these items were comparatively small. The company is opening up entirely new markets and is reducing the number of items in various sales lines and selling in larger volume. The main Sales Office of the company is located in attractive offices in the Empire State Building in New York City and the Upholstery and Decorating Office is located at 509 Madison Avenue, New York City.

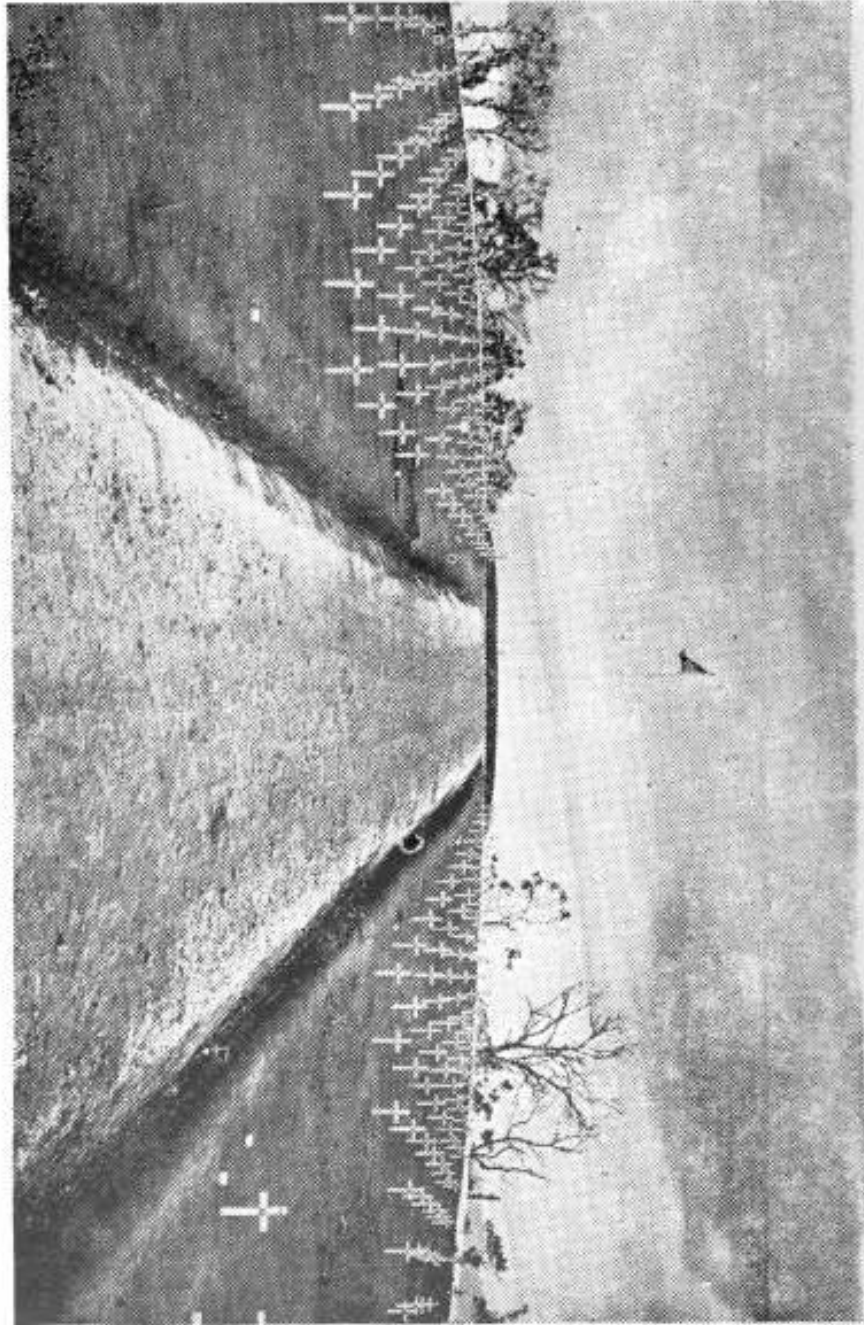
### *Unstable Price*

The price of silk has never been a stable one and fortunes have been made and lost through speculation in the raw silk market, and it was not uncommon for a manufacturer in the silk industry to see a fluctuation of several dollars a pound while the raw silk he had purchased was in the process of manufacture, and he, of course took a corresponding loss or profit.

Cheney Brothers feel that silk at the present high prices cannot be used in volume. Today raw silk can be imported for about \$10 a pound. Once it is received, it must be tested, prepared, soaked, wound, thrown, prepared for warping and quilling, then woven and dyed. Such a fabric would cost about \$4 a yard. A comparable fabric made of viscose rayon yarn, purchased at 88c a pound on cones, ready for warping and quilling, would when woven and dyed cost about 60c a yard. Only for special purposes would the difference in the two fabrics be worth the difference in cost.



ANTI-TANK COMPANY, 169TH REGT., 43RD DIVISION BEFORE  
DEPARTURE FOR CAMP BLANDING, FLA., MARCH, 1940



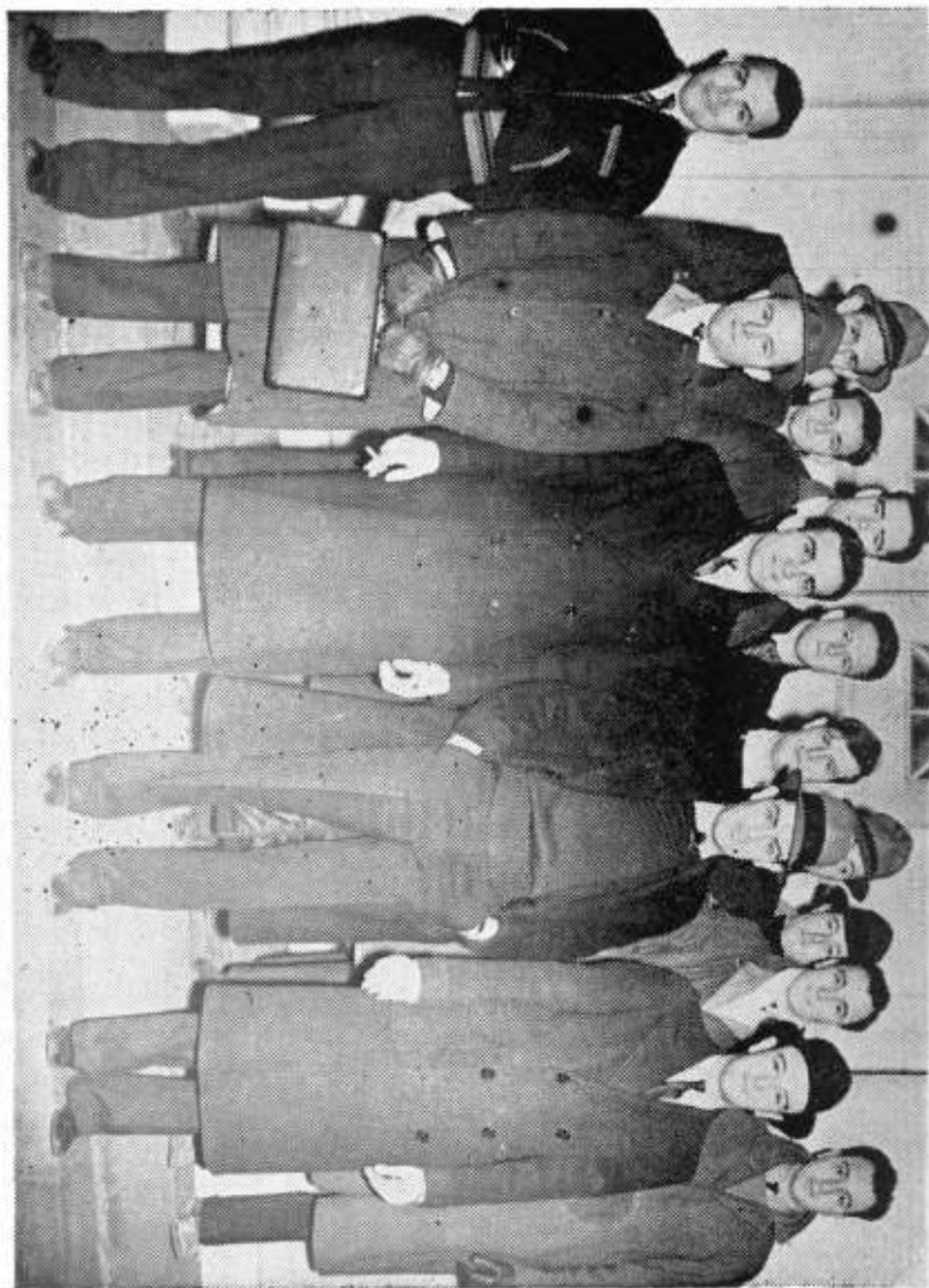
MUNDA BATTLEFIELD CEMETERY, SOUTH PACIFIC





GROUP OF DRAFTEES: SEVENTH CALL, INCLUDING: ANDREW BINOCK, WILLIAM H. PRENTICE, JR., HOLDSWORTH H. SHARP, KENNETH W. MORRISON, FRANK M. HARABURDA, WILBUR B. DOWD, EARL W. SMITH, FRANK J. TRAYGIS, ALTON N. COWLES, ARNOLD S. CLARKE, HERMAN R. LAMPRECHT, STANLEY B. LISS, JOSEPH M. LEAVITT, JOSEPH D'ITALIA, HENRY E. BROOKS, GEORGE M. BINOCK, FRANCIS G. BROGAN, CHARLES C. NOBBS, THEODORE NELSON, JR., SIDNEY B. TOBER AND GAYLORD J. ALEMAN





GROUP OF DRAFTES: THIRD CALL, INCLUDING: WILLIAM R. DONNELLY, HAROLD W. ELLS, PETER P. UZUPES, ROBERT E. LERCH, JOSEPH YAWORSKI, JR., ANGELO M. DIMINICO, WILLIAM J. GORDON, ALBERT R. CADIEUX, EDWARD B. SEGAR, ECTOR L. GIOVANNINI, RAYMOND A. DELLA FERA, ROBERT E. HOLMES, DONLON O. HURTUBISE, JOHN B. MORAN, JR., AND HENRY J. PONTICELLI

It is estimated that 13,000,000 pounds of cotton, rayon, nylon, worsted, and mohair, were used by the company during the war and only 1,450,000 pounds of raw silk. At present, no raw silk is being used for fabrics and only a small quantity of electrical insulating material is being made from silk. In the event that the price of raw silk should become stabilized at a reasonable figure and the quality and grading of raw silk be kept under control, silk will probably be used for special purposes and special quality fabrics. Today Cheney Brothers are not dependent upon the use of raw silk and they are in a position to produce beautiful fabrics from the many materials that are available.

### *Products Adapted*

Products of the war have resulted in new civilian uses. The same parachute cloth once used in making thousands of parachutes for the Air Force is now used for underwear, raincoats and coated fabrics. Nylon marquisette used for mosquito bars and head nets in the South Pacific, is used for curtains and so it goes with other war products, which with slight changes have been converted to civilian use.

The company is bending every effort to complete the plant layout moves as soon as possible, while operating on two shifts in most departments. They have also been handicapped by lack of raw materials, particularly cotton, nylon and rayon.

It is the hope of the company to add additional employees as fast as production can be built up.

Cheney Brothers has recently negotiated with its union, Local 63, Textile Workers Union of America, and adjusted wages in line with the rest of the textile industry. The union recommended that a pension plan be put into effect, which was done, and to this both employees and the company contribute. When it is considered that there are over 475 employees with over 30 years of service and 33 employees with over 50 years of service the true significance of this pension plan can be understood.

### *War Spirit*

The spirit of the employees during the war and the great pride

they took in their work was magnificent. Not content with winning the Army-Navy "E" five times, these employees purchased bonds up to a total value of \$1,610,608. Over 90 per cent of the payroll was allotted to the purchase of bonds, with the result that the company continually flew the Treasury flag with the "T" award.

Cheney Brothers has striven to provide the very finest working conditions, the best machinery and equipment, and the employees have been furnished with the best possible tools for their work. Labor and management have shown a fine spirit of co-operation, a continuation of that which existed during the war and with all endeavoring to operate at maximum efficiency, the company looks forward to being in the strongest competitive position possible.

#### *Pioneer Parachute Co.*

From 35 employees at work in the Pioneer Parachute Plant on Forest Street in 1939 to well over 1,000 at the peak of production in the winter of 1943, is the record of this company, founded here less than a decade ago by J. Floyd Smith of Los Angeles, inventor of the free-type parachute and former test pilot for the Glenn L. Martin Company, and officials of Cheney Brothers.

Making life-saving parachutes was the prime objective of the Pioneer Company when formed here and in furtherance of their product the company developed the test tower for research and advancement of parachute design. The research department of the company is responsible for the major improvements in parachute design.

During the war the company made large quantities of fragmentation bomb 'chutes and tow target chutes for anti-aircraft target practice for both ships and airplanes.

#### *Asked No Royalties*

The Pioneer Company's developments and improvements in 'chute design were turned over to the government to further the war effort, at no cost. This procedure permitted factories to manufacture 'chutes for the Army and Navy that were designed and patented by Pioneer, royalty free for the duration.

One of the reasons why Pioneer became the most important factor in the parachute manufacturing industry in the country was because of the quality of the personnel employed. Pioneer was composed of people with prime experience in the construction of the essential elements which went into parachute manufacture, creating an exclusive and valuable set up for our government.

The technical fabric research of Cheney Brothers and intensive research of parachute design by Pioneer, made the two firms into a powerful factor for the winning of the war, a condition enjoyed by no other firms. Everything from the weaving of the material to be used in the parachute, down to the finished 'chute, was created practically under one roof.

Before the war Pioneer played an important part in the pre-war training program, initiating a parachute purchasing plan by which small flying schools could purchase parachutes and continue to function in the interests, ultimately, of the country's long range flying program.

### *Supplied Our Allies*

Before the war, the company also, sold parachutes to the foreign governments and during lend-lease Pioneer supplied 'chutes for life-saving and paratrooping to all Allied Governments.

The first jump in a Pioneer parachute was made on Sept. 6, 1940, by a student pilot, Rockwell Hamond at Roosevelt Field, Mineola, L. I., New York. He became Pioneer's first Caterpillar Club member. Since then thousands of lives have been saved, especially during the war. Many Manchester lives were saved by emergency jumps in Pioneer 'chutes made and inspected by their parents, relatives and friends.

The first live jump in a nylon 'chute was made at Brainard Field, Hartford, in the summer of 1942 and proved to the world that Cheney Brothers and Pioneer parachutes developed nylon to be stronger and lighter than silk and thus made the United States independent of Japanese silk.

Pioneer has produced since 1939 a total of 325,000 parachutes for all services.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### INDUSTRIES IN WARTIME (No. 2)

#### *Rogers Corporation*

No matter where the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, or Marines penetrated during the war, the products of the Rogers' Corporation of Manchester, in all probability, went along and did their share in helping to conquer the enemy. Primarily, Rogers' Corporation manufactured high-grade insulation materials for electrical installations, but as the war progressed this concern developed new materials, which in turn were found to lend themselves to new applications and new uses.

The importance of insulating material may be visualized more readily when one realizes that every war plant, large or small; every Army and Navy post or establishment; every building and all means of transportation use electricity in one form or another and consequently need insulation materials such as are made by Rogers. In addition, insulation is used in huge quantities by radio, radar, telephones and other forms of communications, giving the Rogers' Corporation a tremendous field for its products.

As the war progressed and the demands for new products and new uses for old products increased, Rogers met the challenge and developed a type of specially compounded boards with a wide variety of uses. These new materials are used for knife handles, wastebaskets, automobile license plates, containers, and inner soles for civilian shoes. Rogers has produced millions of packing list protector plates, an item almost universally required as a protector for the packing lists used on overseas shipments. These, and hundreds of other uses for Rogers products, were developed under the stress of war time conditions. It is the proud boast of Rogers'



executives and employees that production schedules were met or beaten.

In addition to the insulating materials and the specially compounded boards, Rogers also manufactures high strength, thermo-setting plastics by the beater process. These plastics were used by other manufacturers in the making of handles for Army mess-kit knives, canteen caps, and handles for commando knives and machetes. They were used in the making of field telephone sets, Army and Navy cafeteria trays, shell fuse boosters, practice bayonets, bombsight parts, airplane instruments and parts, and other equally vital war products.

In making these and many other products out of Rogers' plastic, untold tons of much-needed metal were saved.

The successful conclusion of the war has not lessened the demand for Rogers' insulating material. The millions of electrical home products, automobiles and radios, and the machinery to make them, all will need electrical insulation. The wartime uses of Rogers' specially compounded boards point to many civilian products that can be made to advantage from these same materials.

In the field of plastics, the Rogers' Company has already played a leading role and is confidently expected to maintain such leadership in the post-war world. Such items as screw thread closures for food containers, lampshades spiders and rings, trunk trays and containers of all types, toys and a variety of other civilian products have already been produced with Rogers' materials. The present plans of the company call for exploration and development of these and many other uses.

#### *P & W Plant "J," Buckland*

The local satellite, Plant J of Pratt & Whitney, U.A.C., as in the case of the other plants in Southington, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and Willimantic, were organized as departments, or parts of departments, of the East Hartford Plant.

Instead of increasing or enlarging the facilities in the Buckland Plant, as elsewhere, the company simply occupied additional space for production.

The departments transferred to the Buckland plant made rocker arms, adjusting screws, tappet guides and miscellaneous pipes, some of which were very small. The Pratt & Whitney Cutter Salvage Department did most of its work at Buckland, restoring old tools, most of which were used in other plants, and made them usable again.

In addition to full departments, many accessory departments employed personnel at Plant J, including timekeeping, Master Crib, Materials Division, Inspection, Gauge Standards and others.

According to officials of the company, the departments at Plant J, Buckland, were just as essential as any at the East Hartford Plant as no P. & W. engine could be completed without the parts made at Plant J. Employees of Plant J furnished essential parts for scores of thousands of Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines during the war.

#### *Independent Coat Company*

The Independent Coat Company of Pine Street began its war work in February, 1942 and produced in the three war years a variety of contract work for the Army and Navy. Among the more important items manufactured by this company were Navy Nurses' 'blue overcoats; Army GI coats with parkas and alpaca lining, parachute packs for the Navy, jungle hammocks for the Army, battle trousers for war aid to England and Lend-Lease, insect field bars, nurses' jackets of tropical worsted, Army mackinaw and flying jackets for the Army Air Forces.

The company made and sold to the Army a total of 73,000 jungle hammocks to be supplied to the invasion forces.

At the peak of the war production 981 people were working at Independent Coat and the company found the problem difficult at times of supplying transportation for its employees living in Windsor Locks, Thompsonville, New Britain and East Windsor Hill and adjacent settlements. Busses and private cars were used by the management to bring the employees to Manchester daily.

During the war fifty-nine of the company workers entered service, company records revealed.

#### *Colonial Board Company*

Ten per cent of the board product of the Colonial Board Company

was sent to the service branches for processing use. This material was formerly sold for book covers.

### *Folding Boxes, Incorporated*

One of the town's newer concerns made folding paper boxes for the Quartermaster Corps and for prime and sub-contractors for the packaging of the following materials for use by the Army and Navy: Aircraft motor parts, dehydrated foods, electrical supplies, medical supplies, including battle dressings, dental table covers, iodine swabs, tooth brushes, Army blankets, firing pins, machine-gun parts, matches, paper drinking cups, small tools, recreation supplies and sporting goods, and shaving supplies.

Twenty-nine of the former employees of the company entered the service, seventeen in the Army, nine in the Navy, one in the Marines, one in the Sea Bees and one in the Cadet Nurses' Corps.

### *Case Brothers*

Officials of the Case Brothers estimated that sixty-five per cent of the plant production was for the war. The company manufactured index press board for filing cabinets and the company's AIA priority rating for stock indicates that their processed products went to the Army and Navy outlets.

### *Gammons-Hoaglund Company*

As before the war, this company manufactured reamers used in most war industries where radios and airplanes are made. The company also made machine and paper pin reamers.

### *Carlyle-Johnson Company*

Carlyle-Johnson Company made friction clutches used in transmissions in many sorts of machines and in elevator mechanisms of anti-aircraft guns. This company also held a top priority rating of AIA, indicating the importance of the work done.

*Lydall and Foulds Company*

The Lydall and Foulds Company made paper used in the manufacture of boxes for trans-shipment of war produce and some of this material went to firms making gaskets for airplane engines. One-third of the company production went into shoe counters for other nations under lend-lease.

*Orford Soap Company*

The principal product of the Orford Soap Company—Bon Ami—was used during the war in the field of precision machine manufacture but the local company was not, in the actual sense, engaged in war work as no changes to the plant were made during the emergency.

*Norton Electric Instrument Company*

During the early part of the war magnetic mines were causing damage to many of our steel ships. To minimize the danger, special devices were used, incorporating instruments made by the Norton Electrical Instrument Company. Later, the mass production of vessels, needed for transportation and combat service, required thousands of Norton Ammeters and Volt-meters. Multiple range Ohmmeters were a part of the equipment on the larger ships. By their use it was possible to check quickly any wiring trouble which developed.

Norton instruments were a part of the equipment of the electric furnaces which produced alloy steel of sufficient uniform toughness to be used in making guns. Norton instruments were also used to regulate the current through salt baths in which the gun barrels were tempered or hardened.

This company's instruments were used thousands of times each day on production lines to check the regulators between the generators and storage batteries of Army trucks and passengers cars. These instruments remained accurate in spite of heavy usage and were constructed to cause a minimum amount of strain on overworked operators.

Unusual equipment was furnished atomic bomb laboratories. One shipment was sent from the Norton plant by special messenger to be delivered by Air Express to Oak Ridge, Tennessee. These devices were completed within two days after the order was received. Special instruments were developed for radar and electronic laboratories, most of which went to our Allies.

All of the orders received by the company were by telephone and were on a special "rush" basis. During the early part of the war, when the Atlantic Coastline was blockaded by Nazi subs lying off shore in wait for our coastwise ships and other vessels plying along the coast without convoy, the company received many rush orders for instruments.

One time an order was phoned in and a plane was sent from the South to pick up the instruments ordered, so vitally needed were they at that time.

The Norton management is proud of the manner in which its employees worked to build a reputation for the manufacture of these delicate electrical products. The company made more instruments during the war than during the entire half-century of company history. During the peak period of war production, forty-seven men and women were employed at Norton's.



## CHAPTER XXV

### CHURCHES IN WARTIME (No. 1)

Throughout the long years of the war the Manchester churches and religious groups maintained spiritual contacts with their men in service.

Chaplains on duty with the various service branches have reported that this bond of fellowship from the home church to the front lines was exceedingly appreciated by those who bore the brunt of battle.

The majority of the men from this town were God-fearing and were members of some church or religious group in Manchester. Many of them were active in the young people's groups of the various churches and took part in the affairs held under the auspices of these societies and all were conscious, as were their forebears before them, of the need for spiritual guidance and adherence to righteous living to become worthy citizens.

#### *Church Ties Broken*

Then came the war and those gentle ties were abruptly broken off and they were thrown into a maelstrom of training and shuffling to and fro in the service, down to the days of transport and placement in battle array in the front lines or at grips with a vicious enemy in the air or on the high seas.

The changes were so violent, and these boys were left so much to themselves in a strange world, that the contacts that were begun, and the current of familiar words and gifts that sped to them over land and seas from the local churches, was a source of great inspiration to them.

All of the local churches maintained contacts with their

members or parishioners in various ways, by group letters, cards on special occasions, gifts, booklets, church periodicals and church literature and by various methods, kept the boys informed of the doings at home.

Church service flags and Rolls of Honor were hung in all churches and accurate lists of addresses of boys were kept by special committees.

### *Thankful for Aid*

It is a source of gratification to the members of the local churches, those who perfoemed so well in keeping the spirit of the home-town church alive in the correspondence sent out, that the first thought of those on returning was to go to church their first Sunday home to express their thanks for the simple but tangible channelling of the church spirit to the outward places of warfare.

Following is a complete list of the accomplishments of the local churches and the manner of maintaining contacts with members during the war; contributed by chairmen of these special committees.

### *Center Congregational Church*

"The Center Church Honor Roll carried the names of 262 men and women in the war and there are ten gold stars indicating the supreme sacrifice of those we loved.

"Several Memorial services have been held for our loved ones who have died in service.

"On May 6, 1945, a Communion with the Absent was observed. Rev. Simpson sent letters to each man and woman in uniform and also a letter to each family represented. Those in the service were requested to attend Communion, if possible, on that Sunday, at the same time their families were attending the service in Center Church. A very appropriate service was held, during which the pastor read the names of these members on the Honor Roll, while the congregation offered silent prayer and afterward partook of Holy Communion.

### *Church Booklets Sent*

"One of the most appropriate and appreciated services rendered by

the committee was a booklet containing the names and military addresses of Center Church members. Many who have been absent for a long time were glad to learn of the whereabouts of their friends.

"Sermons preached by Rev. Simpson were printed and mailed out, as well as other literature and magazines. Letters from the pastor and letters containing current news items of church and town interest, written by members of this committee, were sent out almost monthly.

"A scrap book of newspaper clippings and other interesting material is in preparation by the Quadrant Young People.

"Congratulatory messages of many kinds and sympathy notes and personal assistance were extended whenever the occasion arose."

#### *Concordia Lutheran Church*

"Each member of the Concordia Lutheran church, upon entering the service, was presented with a New Testament and Service Book. Our members constantly kept in touch with our service people by mail and Sunday service programs were sent to them regularly, also, church periodicals and other church literature were mailed them wherever they were stationed.

"We made special effort to remember our boys and girls on their birthdays and the church sent a number of well-filled packages to them four times each year of the war.

#### *Four Died In Service*

"The Service Flag of Concordia has 65 stars and 45 of these served overseas. Five made the supreme sacrifice and gold stars in their memory adorn our church flag. Memorial services were held for each one of those who died.

#### *Covenant-Congregational Church*

Rev. S. E. Green, the former pastor of this church volunteered for Army service as a chaplain early in the war. As one of Manchester's smaller churches, Covenant gave three members to the Army, one to the Air Forces, two to the Navy and one to the Army Nurse Corps.

The church has co-operated each year with the Red Cross in their drives by receiving offerings for the Red Cross fund in the church services.

The church members co-operated in the clothing drive of 1943 and participated, also, in the National Clothing Campaign of April 8, 1945. A committee of the church contacted church personnel regularly by letter and gifts and remembrances were sent to them at their place of duty.

Two of the ladies of the church assisted in Red Cross work carried on through the Center Congregational church and seven members were employed in full-time war relief work.

#### *Emanuel Lutheran Church*

"A Service Commission was organized in Emanuel Lutheran Church to keep check on members of the church as they entered the armed service. Members of this committee also kept constantly in touch with our loved ones through the medium of letters, sending of gifts, and other remembrances and assisted in every way possible to aid those coming out of service.

A "Service Night" was held Sunday, September 11, 1945, when Chaplain Arthur Johnson of the Springfield Naval Hospital was the guest speaker. A collection was taken to send Christmas gifts to all of our service folk.

"A copy of the Church Letter has been sent to our boys every month informing them of the hometown church activities.

"A V-J Service of Thanksgiving for Peace was held in this church on Wednesday evening, August 15.

"The church roll bears 120 blue stars and two gold stars for men in service. Two of our members lost their lives in service for their country. Ernest A. Berggren lost his life in the hurricane of September 14, 1944 while performing duty aboard a Coast Guard cutter off Cape Hatteras while rescuing a stricken ship. Eric Gothberg was killed in action on Okinawa, Japan.

"The members of the Church Service Committee who performed so well during the year were: Ernest Kjellson, Evan Nyquist, Florence Johnson, Earl Anderson, Ruth Kjellson and Edith Johnson."

*South Methodist Church*

"Young men and women in large numbers from the membership of South Methodist Church were participants in World War II. More than a score of them were in service previous to Pearl Harbor, the balance entering as volunteers and through the channels of selective service in the months that followed December, 1941. These young people served on all battle fronts of the world, and four gave their lives.

"On the home front, South Methodist Church made its largest contribution to the lives of people by maintaining its regular schedule of religious services and parish visitation which brought to all of our people the values of Christian faith and hope which were our strongest supports through the darkest days to the day of Victory. The well attended services of worship, the scores of people who alone, or with members of the immediate family, came into the church during the week for prayer and communion, bore witness to the vital spiritual help which people gain from religion in time of war.

*Church File Maintained*

"The church made every effort to keep in touch with all of those who entered the armed forces. A file was maintained on the latest address of every person. Those entering the service were visited by the minister and others and were sent into the armed forces with the prayers and assurances of remembrance of those who were remaining behind. The scores of letters in the minister's file attests to the personal communications which were sent. In addition, the young people of South Church mailed each month to those in the armed forces, a news sheet entitled, "The Password," a title chosen by a Seabee in the South Pacific.

"This news sheet carried facts about those in service, their new addresses and matters of interest, statements on the program of the church and other news of interest. Christmas gifts were mailed each year to all those in the service.

"On the home front South Church made every effort to enter into community life in such fashion as to meet the needs of our rapidly



growing community as well as those in the service. South Church became an air raid shelter and was used in that capacity during all of the period in which air raid experiments were conducted. The church building was used for many months for Red Cross production, and when that was moved to Center Congregational Church a large number of South Church women continued their services from that place. The Nurses' Aides held nearly all of their graduating exercises in the chapel of South Church, where on each occasion a simple, beautiful and very impressive service was planned by Miss Sampson. The minister of South Church participated in nearly all of these services.

### *Church Scene of Activity*

"During the last year of the war the Red Cross Blood Bank took over the facilities of South Church. The kitchen, scout room, and banquet hall were used for this purpose. Next of kin meetings for those who were prisoners of war were held in South Church on several occasions, and at the close of the war with Japan the community-wide service of Thanksgiving, conducted by the Manchester Ministerial Association, was held in South Church.

"The various organizations of the church such as the Women's Society of Christian Service, the Men's Friendship Club, the Married Couples Club and the Youth Fellowship groups and departments of the church school each contributed to matter of relief and aid in connection with the war effort.

"Kit-bags were donated, refugee children were supported, the Red Cross Camp Service Committee received contributions, and many other agencies received help. Each year during the Red Cross Finance Drive an all Red Cross Benefit was held in South Church, the entire proceeds being donated to the Red Cross. Many young people of the land army from Florida and Pennsylvania worshipped in South Church and were entertained in week night activities by the Youth Fellowships.

"It should be noted that all of this was in addition to the church's support of its own agencies for relief and reconstruction. Through these, South Church supported the Overseas Relief, the Chaplain's

Fund, and gave generously to the \$25,000,000 fund raised in 1944 by the "The Crusade for Christ" of the Methodist Church.

### *Memorial Service*

"Perhaps the outstanding religious service held in South Church during the war was a service of memory and remembrance held on the Sunday before Armistice Day of 1944 when followed a service of prayer and music, the music sung by the South Church choir under the direction of George G. Ashton, minister of music, and sermon by the minister, Rev. W. Ralph Ward, Jr., two gold candles and 183 white candles were lighted on a cross in the chancel of the church in remembrance of those who from South Church were in the armed forces. Representatives of all patriotic organizations of Manchester attended that service, as well as the veterans of South Church from World War I, and the families of persons then in service. The impressive and deeply spiritual nature of that service will be long remembered.

"The service record of the South Methodist Church follows: Army 108; Navy 54; Marines 16; WACS, two; Army Nurse Corps, one; Red Cross, one. There are 203 stars on the church service flag at present.

"Four of the South Church members paid the supreme price for war."

## CHAPTER XXVI

### CHURCHES IN WARTIME (No. 2)

#### *St. James Church*

With a congregation of 6,000, St. James Church gave 853 of its members to the service and nearly one-third of the total number of men who made the supreme sacrifice in this past war, were from this parish.

Rev. William J. Dunn is pastor of St. James Church and he is assisted by Rev. Edmund Barrett and Rev. Frederick McLean, regular assistants and on week ends and Holy Days Rev. Thomas Stack of Hartford assists in the offices of the church.

#### *Town's Largest Parish*

Throughout the long war the spiritual offerings of the members of this town's largest parish were directed by the ministering priests to God to care for their bodies in action and their souls in death. Hardly an hour passed in the war years but what prayers were offered by the priests of this large congregation for men and women of the parish in service in distant lands, on the sea and in the air.

During the war provision was made by the pastor for two extra masses each Sunday to accommodate war plant workers.

The church, exclusive of its parishioners, has purchased more than \$25,000 in War Bonds and also contributed to all local drives.

On VE Day a mass of Thanksgiving was sung in the morning of that day with benediction at evening and on VJ Day, the reverse was true, benediction in the evening and mass the next morning.

The service flag of the church increased in number of ministrants in service from a few men in 1941 to 853 on VE Day and the Gold Star list numbers thirty-three as of that date.

*St. Mary's Episcopal Church*

In World War II St. Mary's Church acquired an interesting distinction. Although there are other parishes in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut with a greater total membership, the local parish had more of its members in the armed forces than any other single Episcopal church unit in the state. The 309 persons, consisting of 294 men and fifteen women, who entered the services from St. Mary's represented 19.8 per cent (or nearly one-fifth) of the Communicant strength of the local parish (1555). A late check shows 318 in service from St. Mary's Church, with nine deaths.

Nine members of St. Mary's Church died in their country's service. They are remembered in the prayers of the congregation regularly, being represented by the nine gold stars embroidered on the service flag which hangs in the nave as an aid to such prayers.

*Establish Veterans' Fund*

In the spring of 1945, with final victory near at hand, the people of St. Mary's sought a practical way to give thanks to Almighty God and likewise show their gratitude towards those members who had risked their lives to protect us. They decided to establish the St. Mary's Veterans' Fund, which is a loan fund for veterans who are members of the parish. Contributions to the fund have been made by the gift of both War Bonds and cash. The Veterans' Fund is a Thank Offering on the part of the people of St. Mary's. Any veteran who is a member of the parish may apply to the Rector of St. Mary's in time of need and be granted a loan from this fund if his need is shown to be valid. He will be charged no interest, and there is no stated time limit on such loans. So, while giving thanks to God for the end of hostilities, the people of the parish are, now and in the future, expressing their appreciation to their service men and women in a realistic and practical way.

For these veterans know now that, whenever in the future the "going is hard," their church will stand behind them through the St. Mary's Veterans' Fund.

In November of 1943 a group of people began to assemble every

Wednesday noon in the nave of the church for intercessory prayer on behalf of their relatives and friends in the armed forces. This "service of intercession," conducted each week by one of the clergy of the parish, became a regular service.

In 1943 the facilities of the parish house were set aside for the use of the Red Cross Blood Bank, which continued to make regular visits until April of 1944, when it was moved to another location.

### *Service Club*

Shortly after the beginning of the war a group of relatives and friends of parishioners in the armed forces organized the St. Mary's Service Club. The organization continued throughout the war under the leadership of Mrs. Catherine Smythe. Their principal function was to maintain the contact between the parish and its members who had gone to war. Special attention was given by the Service Club members to Christmas packages for servicemen. In the "peak" year of 1944, about 275 of these packages were mailed before Christmas to parishioners in the service at a cost of \$330. The Service Club also did work for the American Red Cross.

In 1941 about twelve members of the Woman's Auxiliary in St. Mary's organized a Red Cross sewing group to meet weekly in the parish house. Others came in to help. A St. Mary's Group collected about 10,000 pounds of used clothing for the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Administration in October of 1944.

St. Mary's Church was kept open and at a comfortable temperature practically every day throughout the war. Many people came in for private prayer or meditation. Special services of note were held on the days of the invasion of Europe, victory over Germany, and victory over Japan.

### *St. Bridget's Church*

The parish of St. Bridget's Catholic Church did its full share in the winning of the war. Members of this church served in all branches of the armed services and in addition one priest of the church, Rev. Francis P. Breen, offered his services as an Army chaplain and was accepted for service.



Of a total of 380 parish members in the service, six made the supreme sacrifice and prayers are continually being offered for the repose of their souls.

Prayers for Peace were included in all of the masses said during the war and a high mass was celebrated monthly for the welfare of those in the service. A Requiem High Mass was celebrated for all of the men of the parish who were killed in action.

The Novena exercises, held every Monday night, were offered up for the safe return of those in the service and a High Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated on both V-E and V-J Days. Numerous prayers were offered in all societies and their activities for the welfare of those in the service.

The Red Cross Nursing courses were held in the church basement.

### *Second Congregational*

A committee of seven members from the Second Congregational Church undertook to keep in touch with the members of the church serving in the armed forces. Boxes were prepared and sent overseas and to men and women in the States, Christmas boxes were sent; birthday cards, church publications and personal mail were sent.

The names, addresses and birthday dates were published in the church calendar, corrected weekly, so that the church members could write to the boys and girls in service.

Mrs. Millard Park of Woodbridge Street was chairman of this committee. It was well organized and carried out its work satisfactorily. The work of the committee was financed by gifts from the various church organizations and from individuals.

Special church-sponsored activities included Red Cross First Aid courses, promotion of War Fund Drives, annual gifts to the Red Cross, organization of a Canteen Unit, and units supplied for the clothing collection.

Special church observances included three special services for intercession, two memorial services for members killed in action, Sergeant Rudolph Nelson and Pfc. William Chamberlain, and three Victory and Peace Services.

A total of 118 members of the church were called to the services.

Of this number sixteen were officers. Eleven members of the parish received the Purple Heart Medal for suffering wounds in action.

### *Church of the Nazarene*

The war activities of the Church of the Nazarene have not been numerous nor of great volume, but her contribution can be measured by her devotion to the simple task of ministering in spiritual needs. Scarcely a meeting has passed that prayer was not made for those of the armed forces.

The Service Flag of the church of thirty blue stars and one gold star and the church Roll of Honor, both served to remind the worshippers to pray for the absent ones.

However, the church as a whole was not without its practical aid to the war effort, for at the outbreak of the conflict a Red Cross Aid Class was formed and over twenty members took the course. Still others volunteered for civilian defense, and the church building was offered in readiness for whatever emergency might arise.

The church letter to those in the service, written by the pastor, and with the aid of the Nazarene Young People's Society, was also a frequent reminder that the home church had not forgotten. Every three months the mail bag was opened and news from the fronts was presented in the N.Y.P.S. meeting. The N.Y.P.S. did its further part in sending Christmas boxes and occasional letters and cards to the men of the church.

The Church of the Nazarene does not feel that her work has ended with the cessation of hostilities but plans in every way to keep the "welcome mat" out to all who need her help, and in particular to the servicemen. The commission of the church, says the pastor, Rev. James A. Young, is "service to God and Man."

### *Zion Lutheran*

Zion Lutheran Church has the names of 41 servicemen on its roll of honor. The first honor roll, attractively framed and displaying the emblem of the International Walther League Organization, was presented to the church by the Ladies' Aid Society. A

larger roll of honor, made of fine walnut wood to provide for the growing list of servicemen, was donated by the Sunday School.

Consistent effort was made by the local congregation in co-operation with more than 5,000 other congregations, 4,000 pastors to provide for the spiritual and social welfare of men and women in the service under the general guidance of the Army and Navy Commission of the church at large.

Records show that 1,800 gave their lives in service, 235 chaplains were on duty. The Missouri Synod maintained a detailed mailing list of all of its members in service, one of the most up-to-date in the country, mailed publications to service people and a large staff of volunteer workers kept the service addresses in proper order.

Zion Lutheran contributed for each Army and Navy Day an offering to help carry on the work among its members in service as well as those in hospitals or elsewhere needing spiritual or friendly aid.

Special VE-Day and VJ-Day services were held and Sundays as days of prayer designated by President Truman were so observed by the congregation. A special service of recognition was held in July, when parents and wives of those in the service received Recognition of Service Certificates from the congregation.

Letters and periodicals were sent to men in the service with enclosed devotional booklets which were the gift of the Young People's Society. Greetings for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter were sent.

The Ladies' Aid secured \$450 for the church's (Synod) \$5,000,000 Peace Thank Offering which was oversubscribed.

Two of Zion's men received Purple Heart medals for wounds suffered in service and one member of the congregation has been in the Navy twenty-five years.

An attractive blue neon bordered church bulletin board was given by the parents of two sons in service. One of the mothers of the congregation has five sons in service, two of whom are confirmed members of the church.

### *The Salvation Army*

The Salvation Army of Manchester has thirty-eight members in

the Armed Forces. Two of these were women, one in the WAC's and the other in charge of one of the Army's famous Red Shield huts in the Hawaiian Islands.

All members were sent boxes periodically by the departments of the local corps.

Fourteen of the men were bandsmen. These and the other members were written to continually by the bandsmen and bandswomen not called to the service.

One of the bandsmen stationed in the South Pacific for three years made a special request for his cornet and some music that he might play in the Chapel Services. This request was granted, and he received the same in good condition.

One of the interesting observations is that not one of the members of the Army in Manchester, either in the first World War or this present conflict, were wounded or killed. However, several did receive meritorious recognition and special Citations.

#### *St. John's Polish National Catholic Church*

Although St. John's Parish is one of the town's smallest, and its parishioners of the poorest class of people, yet its members have tried to do their full share in the war effort of the four war years and to combat, in every way possible in the fight against totalitarian-advance, even since 1939 to the present.

Being descendants of the Polish Nation, these people tried to do all they could for their brethren overseas when Poland was over-run by the hated Nazis, laying waste to that once happy land.

In 1941, when war was declared on the Axis partners, the members of St. John's Parish were buying war bonds to support the war—and have rallied to their adopted nation's cause since. Some put all of their life savings into bonds and being intensely patriotic, have refrained from disposing of them since, even though in some instances they have been in dire need of money.

#### *Responded To Calls*

Members gave generously to the Community War Fund and to the Red Cross drives.

When a campaign was begun to collect old clothes for the destitute of their homeland and other European countries, every member gave what they could spare.

Throughout the war, St. John's Church conducted special services every first Sunday of the month at 8.30 A.M. A Requiem Mass was usually said for the souls of deceased veterans and a High Mass was usually dedicated to the living and fighting heroes of the war.

Whenever a call was issued from the White House for special prayers, this church responded with all members participating.

Special services were also held on V-E and V-J Days.

Although the parish was small, sixty young people served in the armed forces in the different branches. The Honor Roll includes twenty-eight in the Army; twenty-six in the Navy; four in the Marines; one in the WAC's.

Four of these have given their lives for Democracy and President Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms."

#### *North Methodist Church*

Owing to the removal of Dr. Earl H. Ferguson as pastor of the North Methodist Church on February 1, 1945, the records of the service folk of our church is probably not fully complete nor strictly accurate, but we have had about eighty-four people connected in some way with our church who have served their country during the war.

Nearly every branch of the service has been represented by one of our boys and girls, one WAVE, one WAC, one Cadet Nurse, and four Marines, the rest being divided among the Army, the Navy, the Army and Navy Air Forces sharing about equally and approximately twice that total in the Army proper. A few of these whose people are members of our church are associated with other churches but have been remembered just the same, and parents of some have moved to other towns and states. These, now that the war is over and it is so difficult to keep in touch with them, will be dropped from our mailing list.

During the early days of the war when many were leaving for the service and most of the war workers were working Sundays as



well as week days, Dr. Ferguson inaugurated special evening communion services, which were continued until many of the workers became too weary to take advantage of them. Our pastor himself, to help out the war effort, finally took a part time position and so some of the members of our Women's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. LaVerne Holmes, Mrs. Charles Hill, Mrs. Howard Chapman, Mrs. Arthur Starkweather, Mrs. Ralph Persson, Mrs. Wells Wetherell, Mrs. James Sloan and Mrs. Griswold Chappell, took over the task of addressing the pamphlets which the church was sending to its people in the service, checking often with parents or relatives for changes of address. They are still doing this work and will continue to do so for those still in the armed forces.

Some of our women did Red Cross work and others took war jobs in defense plants and stores. At Christmas time 1944 our W.S.C.S., assisted by donations from some of the other church organizations, sent out about seventy-five fruit cakes, which were bought by Mrs. Jonathan Law and packed and addressed by her with the aid of our pastor's wife, Mrs. Earl H. Ferguson and Mrs. Leonard Burt.

Many of these went overseas and the rest to all parts of this country. Most of the cakes arrived in fine condition and were much enjoyed by the recipients. Our ladies also donated liberally to the National Clothing Campaign as well as helping to sort and pack. Like all Methodist churches we have participated in "The Crusade for Christ" and have helped in Red Cross and other relief work.

V-J Day arriving while our new pastor, Rev. James M. Gage, was on his vacation, we held no special Victory service, but in every service held in our church during these trying times, prayers have been offered for all our loved ones serving their country.

It grieves us that there are three gold star names on our honor roll, Orville H. Whitney, Errol Burton and Gordon Wells, and that Kenyon Hills, long reported missing in action is reported dead.

## OUR HONORED DEAD WORLD WAR II

"These Dead Shall Not Have Died in Vain."—Abraham Lincoln.

### A

Pfc. Walter Adamy, Army, killed in action, Germany, Feb. 22, 1945  
Lieut. William Anderson, Army, lost in action, South Pacific, Sept.  
13, 1943  
Pfc. William T. Anderson, Army, killed in action, Luxembourg,  
Jan. 1, 1945

### B

Pvt. Walter F. Brandt, Army, died in Manchester, July 5, 1943  
Pfc. John J. Brennan, Army, killed in action, Italy, Sept. 16, 1943  
Sea. Albert J. Busky, Navy, lost in battle of Coral Sea, South Pacific  
Pfc. Everett E. Brown, Army, died in Italy, Dec. 6, 1943  
Sea. 1-c Olin F. Beebe, Navy, lost in action, South Pacific, Nov.  
19, 1943  
Pvt. Ernest Bartley, Army, killed in action, France, July 31, 1944  
GM 3-c Ernest Berggren, Coast Guard, lost at sea in hurricane,  
Atlantic Coast, Sept. 14, 1944  
Pvt. Henry J. Bensch, Army, killed in action, France, Sept. 19, 1944  
Pfc. Errol Burton, Army, killed in action, France, March 13, 1945  
Sgt. Francis W. Blow, USMC, killed in motor accident, Newburn,  
N. C., April 8, 1945  
Pvt. Paul Botticelli, Army, killed in action, France, July 31, 1944  
Pfc. Arthur L. Benoit, Army, declared officially dead, Sept., 1945—  
previously missing in action  
ARM 2-c George E. Briggs, Navy, reported officially dead, Nov.  
1945—previously reported missing in action

C

- Sgt. Frederick Collings, Jr., Army, killed in plane crash, Newport News, Va., Sept. 9, 1943  
 Sea. Thomas C. Collins, Merchant Marine, lost in torpedoing of his ship, Gulf of Mexico, May 12, 1942  
 Pfc. Robert Claughsey, Army, died in motor accident, Hawaii, Oct. 14, 1944  
 Staff Sgt. James F. Civiello, Army, killed in action, Germany, March 18, 1945  
 Pvt. William Chamberlain, Army, killed in action, Germany, March 21, 1945  
 AMM 1-c Donald M. Cross, Navy, lost in Naval action, South Pacific, March, 1945  
 Sgt. Donald Chapman, Army, killed in action, China, April 28, 1945

D

- Lieut. Arthur B. Davis, USMC, died in San Diego, Cal., Aug. 22, 1942  
 Ens. Vincent F. Diana, Navy, lost at sea, South Pacific, June 28, 1944  
 Cpl. Joseph A. Doherty, Army, killed in action, Italy, Nov. 1944  
 Pvt. Nelson E. Darrow, Army, killed in action, Germany, Dec. 13, 1944  
 Pfc. John Dirgo, Jr., Army, killed in action, Germany, March 20, 1945

E

- F. O. George P. Eggleston, Army, killed in plane crash, Germany, Dec. 29, 1945

F

- Sgt. Hugh Farrington, Army, killed at Munda, New Georgia, July 16, 1943  
 Pvt. Duilio Falcetta, Army, died of wounds, Luzon, Philippines, Jan. 21, 1945

Lieut. Joseph R. Fitzgerald, Army, killed in action, France, July 12, 1944

## G

Lieut. Herbert R. Gilman, Army, killed in action, Italy, Jan. 31, 1944

Cpl. Alexander Gurski, Army, killed, in Army maneuvers, Camp Shelby, Miss., July 13, 1942

Pvt. John Gozdz, Canadian Army, killed in action, Italy, Dec. 25, 1943

Pfc. Oscar Geanette, USMC, killed in action, Pelileu Island, South Pacific, Sept., 1944

Staff Sgt. William E. Groot, Army, reported officially dead, Aug. 1944—previously reported missing in action, North Africa, August, 1943

Cpl. Thomas Gleason, USMC, died in Portsmouth Naval Hospital, March 6, 1945

Pvt. Peter F. Gochee, Army, died of wounds, Germany, Feb. 6, 1945

Sgt. Eric H. Gothberg, Army, killed in action, Okinawa, Japan, April 30, 1945

## H

Pvt. William Henry, Army, killed in action, Munda Campaign, South Pacific, Aug. 15, 1943

Lieut. William C. Hall, Army, killed in action, France, July 6, 1944

Staff Sgt. Robert Hamilton, Army, killed in action, Italy, Sept. 24, 1944

F 1-c Charles W. Heritage, Navy, died of wounds, Leyte, Philippines, 1944

Pvt. Alton R. Hare, Army, killed in action, France, Nov. 9, 1944

Staff Sgt. Roger Herrick, Army, killed in action, Italy, Feb. 24, 1945

Pvt. Robert J. Hall, Army, killed in action, Germany, April 6, 1945

Pvt. John M. Haggart, Jr., Army, killed in action, Germany, April, 1945

Lieut. Michael Haberern, Army, reported officially dead, Oct. 10, 1945—reported missing in action, Sept. 12, 1943

Staff Sgt. Kenyon G. Hills, Army, officially declared dead, Nov. 1945—previously reported missing in action  
 Lieut. Edward F. Haraburda, Army, reported officially dead, Dec. 6, 1945—previously reported missing in action, Germany  
 AMM 2-c Alvin P. Harrow, Navy, killed in action, South Pacific, July 17, 1943

J

Pvt. David R. Jack, Army, died at Fort Devens, Mass., July 15, 1942  
 Pfc. Edward C. Jaglinski, Army, died of wounds received in action, Italy, Dec. 9, 1943

K

Lieut. Arthur H. Keeney, Jr., USN, reported missing aboard Submarine USS *Logarto* in Java Sea, May 4, 1945. Presumed dead June 12, 1946  
 Sgt. Michael Kokoch, Army, killed in action, Munda Campaign, South Pacific, July 15, 1943  
 Sgt. Donald King, Army, died in Manchester, Nov. 11, 1943  
 Pvt. Francis J. Kirka, Army, killed in action, Cebu, Philippines, March 31, 1945  
 Pvt. Stanley Kulpinski, Army, killed in action, Germany, March 20, 1945  
 Pfc. Lester O. Keeney, Army, killed in action, Luzon, Philippines, Jan. 20, 1945

L

Lieut. Arthur Lawrence, Army, killed in plane crash, Hawaii, Nov., 1943  
 Pvt. Raymond LaGace, Army, killed in action, Italy, May 23, 1944  
 Pfc. Edmund F. Leber, Jr., Army, killed in fall of wall, France, July 10, 1944  
 Lieut. Robert W. Lucey, Army, died in fall from window in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 14, 1944



- Pfc. John R. Lee, Army, killed in action, Germany, March 6, 1945  
Pfc. Walter B. Liss, USMC, killed in action, Iwo Jima, Feb. 19, 1945  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Lennon, Jr., Army, killed in action, Ie Shima, Japan, April 21, 1945  
Lieut. Richard A. Le Barron, Army, missing in action, March 26, 1945. Presumed dead, April 1, 1946

## M

- Ap. Sea. Arthur E. Miller, Navy, lost in Naval action, Aug. 2, 1942, in Solomons  
Pfc. Norman A. Mosher, Army, killed in action, Biak Island, South Pacific, June 16, 1944  
Lieut. William M. Miller, Army, killed in plane crash, Hawaiian Islands, Sept., 1942  
Pvt. Frank J. Mansfield, USMC, accidentally killed in training, Samoa, Jan. 14, 1943  
Sea. Donald Madden, Navy, lost in action, South Pacific, Jan. 1, 1943  
Pvt. Gregory Monaco, Army, killed in action, France, Nov. 25, 1944  
Pfc. Frederick H. Miller, Jr., Army, killed in action, Germany, Feb. 16, 1945  
Pfc. John J. Mitchell, Army, died of wounds received in action, Leyte, Philippines, Dec. 14, 1944  
AMM 2-c Bruno C. Mankus, Navy, lost in action, South Pacific, May 1, 1944  
Lieut. John C. Moriarty, Army, killed in action, Germany, April 8, 1945

## Mc

- Sgt. Clifford M. McKinney, killed in action, Germany, Jan. 11, 1944  
Staff Sgt. Wesley McMullen, Army, officially reported dead, Sept., 1945—reported missing in action 1944

## N

- Sgt. Rudolph W. Nelson, Jr., Army, killed in action, Germany, Oct. 14, 1944

*MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT*

147

Pvt. Alfred Newell, Jr., Army, killed in action, Italy, Oct., 1943

Pfc. John I. Nowak, Army, killed in plane crash, Barksdale Field,  
La., Oct. 24, 1944

O

Pvt. Edward J. Olcavage, Army, killed in action, Belgium, Jan. 1,  
1945

P

Sgt. John Perotti, Army, killed in Munda Campaign, South Pacific,  
July 31, 1943

Pvt. Thomas J. Patricca, Army, killed in action, France, July 6, 1944

Pfc. Albin J. Pescik, Army, killed in action, Germany, Nov. 17, 1944

Sgt. Edward S. Plocharczyk, USMC, killed in action, Guam, 1945

Q

GM 1-c Marion Quey, Navy, lost in action, Manila Bay, May 19, 1942

R

Pfc. Cornell C. Rushworth, Army, killed in action, Luxembourg,  
Dec. 24, 1944

Pfc. William Roberts, Army, killed in action, Okinawa, Japan,  
April 22, 1945

S

Staff Sgt. Ernest Squatrito, Army, killed in action, Munda Cam-  
paign, South Pacific, July 15, 1943

Staff Sgt. Patrick Serratore, Army, killed in action, central Pacific,  
Dec. 27, 1943

Pfc. Peter W. Stamler, Army, killed in action, Italy, Feb. 16, 1944

Pvt. Joseph Sebula, Army, killed in action, Belgium, Sept. 6, 1944

GM 1-c Joseph A. Staum, Navy, killed in action, South Pacific,  
April 1, 1945

Pfc. Victor Skoneski, USMC, killed in action, Iwo Jima, Pacific,  
March 9, 1945

Lieut. Jesse L. Stevens, Army, killed in motor accident, Camp Living-  
stone, La., Sept. 27, 1945

## T

Lieut. Gordon E. Thrall, Army, killed in plane crash, Florida, July  
16, 1944

Pvt. Rocco C. Toce, Army, killed in action, France, Nov. 18, 1944

Pfc. W. Stark Taylor, Army, killed in action, Germany, Dec. 16, 1944

Sgt. Douglas J. Turkington, Army, killed in action, Germany, April  
18, 1945

## W

Lieut. John E. Winzler, USMC, killed in action, Iwo Jima, Pacific,  
March 3, 1945

SC 3-c Louis H. Wolger, Navy, lost in action, South Pacific, June,  
1943

Cadet Orville H. Whitney, Army, killed in plane crash, Enid Army  
Air Base, Enid, Okla., Aug. 20, 1943

Lieut. John G. Wilson, Army, killed in plane crash, Selman Field,  
Monroe, La., June 28, 1944

Captain Gordon T. Wells, Army, killed in action, Germany, March  
12, 1945

## Z

Pfc. Angelo Zito, Army, killed in action, Germany, March, 1945

WORLD WAR II  
HISTORY  
OF MANCHESTER,  
CONNECTICUT

By  
ARCHIE KILPATRICK

Due to Manchester, Connecticut's proximity to many important war industry areas, its home defense organizations were vitally important during World War II. These organizations and their activities are the essence of Mr. Kilpatrick's book **WORLD WAR II, HISTORY OF MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT**.

Manchester, Connecticut, has an enviable record of service in all the wars in which our country has participated, from early Colonial days until the present.

Mr. Kilpatrick has intended that his book cover the activities of the Manchester "home front" workers, which activities he has compiled in the following sequence: Manchester Prepares for a New War, National and State Guard Units, Selective Service, Civilian Defense, Airplane Spotting, Auxiliary Firemen, Ambulance Unit, Red Cross, War Relief Groups, Manchester Schools, Cheney Technical School, Wartime Rationing, Bond Sales, Town's Health, Wartime Construction, Industries in Wartime, and Churches In Wartime.

The author, a member of the editorial staff of the **MANCHESTER EVENING HERALD** saw service in World War I as a naval intelligence operative. During World War II, due to age and thus ineligible for regular service, he served as an officer in the Connecticut State Guard for three and one-half years.

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# World War II History Of Manchester, Connecticut

ARCHIE KILPATRICK



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