



OLD HICKORY AMERICAN RED CROSS

In the middle of July, 1940, a Red Cross sewing unit was formed in Old Hickory. With the gracious cooperation of the Girls Club - work rooms were set up in that building.

This group of women sew three days a week, making clothes, hospital garments, and baby layettes for the British civilization population.

Up to March 1st, 1941, 1084 garments have been shipped from Old Hickory. 174 women have volunteered for service. 134 sweaters have been knit at home or are in the process of being made.

In September, a surgical dressing work room was opened in Nashville to make bandages and dressings for British War Relief. With the increase in war needs as a part of our National Defense Program, the Red Cross was asked if it would make 90% of the surgical dressings needed for the United States Army (the regular manufacturers of such

could supply only 10%). With this added quota, many more bandage rooms had to be opened, and Old Hickory had the privilege of having the first one set up in Davidson County outside of Nashville.



*Mrs. J.L. Parrish,
head of all local Red
Cross activities.*

A regional training course, with an instructor from Washington, was held in Nashville to teach volunteers how to make dressings according to U.S. Army specifications. The following Old Hickory women took that course and qualified as instructors: Mesdames J.L. Parrish, Prescott Van Horn, R.E. Johnson, C.P. Ferguson, Uliss Shropshire, Frank Ernst, and Cantwell Clark.

Since starting work February 24th the surgical dressing room in Old Hickory has registered 59 volunteers, and 2956 dressings have been made and packed. The Golf Club officials have materially aided in the execution of this bandage work by allowing the workers to use one of the rooms in the club house.



Cellophane Knitters:
 Left to right, standing:
 Olivia Caskey, Idalia Hargrove, Frances Nix, Mable Summar, Jimmie Watson, Blanche Huddleston, Opal Jones, Margaret Lewis.
 Seated: Rosabel Follis, Hallie Smith, Bessie Wooten, Billie Brown, and Flossie Corbin.



You can leave the children at the Nursery at the Library Mrs Latimer and Mrs. McCombs here are giving the children regular kindergarten instruction



Children at home are no excuse for your absence. The Girl Scouts will keep them in your home if you contact the Scout leaders. Phyllis McCrone here entertain little Willie Allen.



Aleda Gregory and Wilma Blanton

Aleda Gregory and Wilma Blanton are the first of our girls to become Nurses' Aides under the Red Cross Civilian Defense program. The course consists of 80 hours of classes at a hospital and a minimum total of 150 hours in hospital wards, after which the Nurses' Aides may be called upon to do additional work at any time they have available from their jobs.

Aleda and Wilma are now putting in their hours in the wards at St. Thomas Hospital on Saturday and Sunday mornings, assisting and relieving the regular nurses.

We all know that one of the most urgent needs in the war effort is for trained nurses, and any woman who becomes a Nurses' Aide is helping the release more graduate nurses for duty where they are so badly needed. These classes will be starting from time to time and information may be obtained by calling the Red Cross Chapter House in Nashville. If it is possible for you to take this training and become a Nurses' Aide you will be helping in one of the best ways to win the war.

Rayon Yarns - August 1942

SO YOU CAN'T AFFORD WAR BONDS—



M i g h t y I n v e s t m e n t

Having the rosy rotundity of a well-to-do banker and the cash in hand to enforce his authoritative dignity, young Alton Ray Jenkins, 19 months old son of Eunice Jenkins, Rayon Plant 1 doffer, purchases a fifty-dollar War Bond at Sullivans with the odd cents saved from Dad's paychecks since Pearl Harbor. If little folks can do it, why can't we?



Our Waste Finds New Use

Out of curiosity, we wondered why Hobert (Hobby) Jones was saving all those cotton inner-linings from the paraffin sacks he handles as a part of his job as a Cellophane Coating Utility Operator. So we asked him and here's his reply: "After accumulating a number of empty sacks, permission is obtained to take them home. There they are turned over to a Ladies' Auxiliary of the Millersville Nazarene Church. The sacks are then washed and cut into bandages. These bandages are sterilized and shipped to England for use by the British war refugees." Thus, we have another case in which American ingenuity contributes to the Defense of Democracy.



Barkers for Britain

"Mack" McCorkle, Finishing Area, buys a "Barkers for Britain" tag from Frances Glascock, daughter of Leland Glascock. Mildred Marlin, right, watches for a prospective donor.

The "Barkers for Britain" tags are being sold by Kennel Clubs throughout the country, with the proceeds from the sales going to aid your English cousins through the Bundles for Britain Club. The tag, as pictured, sells for 50 cents, and has a ring for attaching to a dog collar. Mr. J.E. Glover, Cellophane Lab employee and Chairman of the "Barkers for Britain" tag sales, has a supply of these tags. Buy a tag, whether you have a dog or not, and aid the bombed hospitals in London. The wounded and the sick really need your help.

Cellophane Flashes - July 1941



Pennies Pile Up

The Third War Loan Drive came at just the right time for these little folks. Yes, 3,750 pennies are piled up on the dining room table. Pennies for Bonds, that's the story in three words. Wayne and Ray Fennell, children of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Fennell, are shown counting and wrapping the pennies they have saved, preparatory to buying a bond apiece. Most of the pennies were given to them by their father who works in our Coating Area (Cellophane). Each time he receives pennies in change in the cafeteria, they are turned over to Wayne and Ray. Some were accumulated after purchases were made at various stores and lunches bought at school. *Cellophane Flashes- October 1943*



Our Civilian Defense Program

The shots that rang out at Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7th - the shots that were in reality heard "round the world" served to crystallize American sentiment and arouse American patriotism as nothing else could. As a result of that outrage and the declaration of war that followed, our Government expects all of us to increase our efforts, not only to a maximum, but beyond.

Those of us who are far removed from the battle front, the roar of bursting shells, and even the production of materials essential to the "boys behind the guns" have been given an opportunity to do our part here at home. The Civilian Defense Corps is being organized throughout the entire country. Our local organization will follow strictly the set up for the National Civilian Defense Corps as well as that of Davidson County.

Our community has been canvassed for volunteers and the response has been more than gratifying. These volunteers will be classified according to their best qualifications and assigned to the various services of the Civilian Defense Corps.

Some 800 to 1,000 people from Old Hickory and the surrounding communities will be enrolled in order to complete the organization of the above program. While some may feel such a program is too extensive in scope for our community, we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that this nation is at war and we owe it to our country to preserve our homes and property, the property of our employers, as well as the lives of the citizens of our community. "REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR"



Tom Plummer, local Civilian Defense Coordinator briefly addresses the audience.



Capt. Jesse Vaghn, of the Nashville Fire Dept.



The heads of all phases of local Civilian Defense works were seated on the stage. The Old Hickory Band furnished patriotic music for the rally.

In order that they qualify it is necessary that everyone taking part have a certain amount of training and instructions in the functions and duties of the many services, a brief description of which is given herein:

Drivers Corps: Persons willing to offer their cars as well as their own time will be enrolled in this service and will be instructed in driving during black-outs and under other air raid conditions.

Messenger Corps: A reliable and efficient messengers group is vital to organizations for civilian Defense. Other communications under certain conditions may break down, but the messengers will somehow get through.

Rescue Squads: Air attacks provide special problems. Rescue squads must be organized to supplement other organizations, to rescue persons trapped in debris, and to shut off broken water and electric lines as well as do minor demolition work and render First Aid.

Auxiliary Police: This service supplements the regular police in enforcement of black-outs, guarding of bridges and factories, direction of traffic, prevention of looting, and other police functions.

Bomb Squads: This work requires an unusual degree of knowledge, skill, and

devotion and usually falls to a small group of picked men who have been carefully trained for this dangerous work.

Air Raid Wardens: The Air Raid Wardens are to many people the personal representatives of Civilian Defense and usually function as part of the police force and with its help.

Auxiliary Firemen: Since fire is one of the greatest threats in an air attack, augmentation of the regular fire-fighting forces is necessary. Their duties are similar to those of the regular fire fighting forces.

Demolition and Clearance Crews - After air raids, streets may be filled with rubbish and the streets may be blocked by bomb craters. Crews of enrolled volunteers, aiding existing clearance forces, remove and repair the damage.

Decontamination Squads: The possibility that gas may be used in an air attack makes a Decontamination Squad necessary.

Emergency Food and Housing Corps: Food and shelter must be provided for those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by disaster.

Medical Corps - The emergency care of the injured in an air raid, or any other disaster, will be the responsibility of Emergency Responsibility of Emergency Medical Field Units and First Aid posts.

Nurses Aides Corps: Volunteer Nurses' Aides are intended to assist the nurse so that she may be able to serve a greater number of people in the Hospital, at the Emergency Medical Field Units, and the First Aid Posts.

Cellophane Flashes - February 1942

Wounded on Saipan, Pfc. John J. Wilson is an old hand at invasions. At Saipan he stormed the beaches with the assault troops for the third time and it was there that he was wounded, having come safely through the other two. He is now recovering at a hospital somewhere in the Pacific.

The following letter received by his father, John H. Wilson of No. w Spinning, tells how a Marine of the assault troops feels about being under fire:

"You know, the first time it wasn't bad, just a little machine gun and rifle fire. That isn't bad if you don't get hit. A lot of guys got killed but I still didn't realize the fact that war was hell until it was over with. ...I was scared the first time, but not so much until machine gun bullets started to bounce off the ramp, and a couple slugs got through the side and got a couple boys. It took quite a time to get to the beach. We had to wade a good way under machine gun fire. That was no fun, dodging bullets with full equipment. ...While wading to shore, I heard an explosion. I looked back to see a boat blown to bits. It was an awful sight.....

Anyhow I managed to get through without a scratch, just a little hungry...

"This time it was worse. While going in we had a lot of support of different gun fire. The Nips didn't open up until we got to a coral reef. This time we fooled them. We didn't have to wade or swim. We kept coming at them. Getting on the beach wasn't much trouble. A funny thing, you know, you first worry about getting on the beach, then you worry about getting off. We didn't meet so much opposition. A few snipers.... We moved inland about 500 yards. Then Mr. Hedduly sent me back in charge of a detail of men to get ammunition. While we were back there, the Japs started shelling the beach. And I'll tell you, artillery and mortars will drive a guy crazy. It's the whine of the shell that gets you. I could never explain how one feels. As I



LETTER FROM A SOLDIER

have said before, only the Joe next to you really understands."

Pvt. Wilson had worked in Plant 1 Textile for a time before going in Service. He enlisted in the Marines at the age of 17.

V
M
A
I
L
V-Mail always goes by air. The impression that some of us have gotten recently of the speed that regular mail has been received from overseas is not to be construed as indicating any speed of regular mail sent from here abroad. On homefront bound planes regular mail has often been used for ballast-thus comes quickly.

On planes bound for the war fronts, cargo space is claimed first by V-mail plus the necessary articles of war, while regular Air-Mail may be forwarded by ship or held for a considerable time. As more military personnel is transferred from time to time overseas stations, airmail will be given second priority whereas V-Mail will always be on the first plane out - and this is with a three cent stamp. Incidentally, V-Mail is

Confidential in every sense. V-Mail is just the right size, too. What should we write?

First, lets spare our service men home-front worries and the really small hardships of Civilian life. IN other words, lets write them a letter they can read in a fox-hole; tell them about family projects; how it is planning on his return. Tell him about his friends, your friends, the next door neighbor, the community as a whole. All this can be written on V-Mail. If you can't tell him all the news today, write him again tomorrow or the next day, and by the use of V-Mail we can be certain that we are using the best possible method of keeping in touch with our boys overseas. Moreover, we are conserving vital cargo space in the ships and planes.

Cellophane Flashes - August 1943



Unidentified Employees of Rayon Waste Inspection

Final Responsibility

Today textiles are playing an important part in every phase of the war effort. They are fighting in the air, on the land and at sea. Without the men and women in American textiles factories no battles would be won, no planes downed nor Axis tanks stopped.

The textile industry contributes to the war from the time a man is inducted into the Army. The clothes for a soldier during one year cost \$164.09. This means that the Army needs 122 yards of cotton cloth and 29 yards of woolen cloth for every soldier's first year in the service. Multiply these figures by six million, our Army's present size, and you get some idea of the Army's basic needs for textiles.

All the planes, tanks, guns and mechanical equipment begin with textiles. Every plan is drawn on the finest cotton tracing cloth before being transferred to blueprints. Parachutes are made from textiles. Canvas is used in vast quantities wherever we have forces stationed.

we, here at Old Hickory, are doing our part of the job. In our Inspection department every day hundreds of pounds of Du pont yarn are packed ready to go into fabrics for vital war materials.

Without the combined efforts of every person on the plant, we could not contribute as we do to the essential needs of service men and civilians, as well.

Beginning with the Maintenance Department and continuing

through every area and department rests the responsibility for our production. Without spinners, we would have no yarn to wind, without winder operators, there would be no cones. Skeins from the reels must be gotten to the Inspection Room each day.

In the Inspection Room is the final operation performed. These people here have the last responsibility for the finished product. Here, these girls work faithfully, giving their all to the job. They work eight hours a day and longer when it is necessary.

thus we can see that the workers in our plant are contributing a very necessary and important service to our nation-at-war and each one in whatever department he works, can be proud of his part in production.

Major General Edmund B. Gregory, Quartermaster General of the Army, says, "Textile workers have proved themselves to be war workers in the finest sense. They are producing goods for the victory effort that are just as essential to the fighting efficiency of our Army as thousands of other workers making airplanes, guns and ammunition." This realization of our necessity should make us want to be on the job every day, proud to do our share in the tremendous task of bringing peace and safety to a chaotic world. *Rayon Yarns - December 1942*



Lillie C. Keith



Frances E. Norton



Ida C. Holloway



Jessie B. Eaton



Tina N. Adams

New Hands Keep Them Turning - Girl Oilers

On March 4, 1943, a rather drastic change was made in the personnel of the Lubrication Department, for on this date the first of the girl oilers began work in Plant 1 Spinning. This change, made necessary by the shortage of manpower due to the war, has been very satisfactory.

When we think of oiling spinning machines, three piston pumps, gears and compensators we usually think of it as a man's job, but it's all in the day's work to the girl oilers. In 2B Spinning Room Jessie B. Eaton and Frances Norton carry on just as efficiently as any man, while in Plant 1 Spinning Lillie M. Keith, Jessie M. Hunter, Tina M. Adams and Elizabeth Robertson are doing the same type work.

Since the first girl started work on March 4, we have had a total of nine to come to the department. Just recently Ida C. Holloway, whose first job was oiling in Plant 1, has been transferred to the Electrical Department, while Nettie C. Butler from 1D Spinning was sent to the Bucket Shop.

It was my privilege recently to watch the girls perform some of their tasks and, judging by the calm, efficient way in which they went about their work, it would seem that they had always worked in these unfamiliar surroundings with the constant hum of machinery in their ears.

I learned by talking with them that their general schedule is carried out in this manner. First thing each morning, they get their flashlights and check the entire section of the room assigned to them. This is called "high-spotting" the section and enables them to tell if any machine is dangerously low on oil and should be oiled before the schedule time. On this "high spot" trip they also carry rags to wipe up any oil that may be on the floor.

Housekeeping, which is checked daily, is an important item. The girls ride along on little buggies and, using clean rags, they mop up all grease on PIVs, compensators and motors as they roll along from one machine to the other. They also check the floor for oil and wipe the oil out of the drip pans under the end gear. The dirty rags are disposed of by putting them in a barrel especially designed for this purpose.

Perhaps the most difficult of all the job is "shooting pump heads." This is done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and is considered the hardest trick in the bag to learn. The girls, however, after a little practice, handle it quite nicely. Other jobs are oiling pump gears, checking and oiling chain housing, checking and oiling PIV's and compensators, filling lubricator bottles, oiling lubricator ratchets and plungers, oiling drive motors and filling grease guns.

The girls wear overalls while at work for theirs is a rather dirty job. At the end of the day, however, they have a chance to take a shower and change into something neat and clean, for modern, up-to-date showers have been installed for the girls to use. Seeing them pass out the gate at 4:30, all scrubbed and lipsticked, one would never know that they had just finished a man-sized day's work under the same working conditions that the men have and yet managed to emerge with that feminine charm intact. Our hats are off to these girls who fill men's jobs so efficiently and who don't hesitate at the sign of a little dirt and grease. This is the type of women who will set their shoulders to the wheel and keep things going for the duration.

Rayon Yarns - June- 1943



Machine Cleaning-Louise Maynard



Wringer Crew: Margaret Taylor, Hester Rollins, Ida B. Stone



Supply Girls - Classic McCormick, Nettie Herrington

New Hands Keep Them Turning - Girl Oilers

Would events of the past weeks and months have made Americans stop and think! Will there be enough men to fill all the extra jobs created by our national war program? The answer is no, and thousands of women have been taken into industry. Women are not only taking more and more jobs in the types of work they held in peace times but are entering what have been in the past forbidden fields for women. We are seeing changes of this sort right here in our plant every day.

Out in 2-B Textile Area, I inquired about how many girls they had doing boys' work and was very surprised to learn that they now have only 20 boys in the whole area. Compare this small number of boys with 190 girls and you will see how completely the girls have taken over in 2-B. I was told, too, that the girls are proving very satisfactory on all the jobs they are doing. Right now all the jobs in the area are being done by girls except "picking up" cones. Girls are tracking, cleaning machines, sweeping floors, and changing oil on winding machines. True, they get a little dirty sometimes on these types of jobs but they take all that cheerfully and are not in the least disturbed by it. Instead of the familiar uniform the girls wear slacks, which, if we do say so, look very nice indeed.

The girls on the wringers out in Plant 1 and 2-B Spinning Rooms are proving still further that this is no longer a man's world. There are ten girls in 2-B now and they work three shifts just as the men do. Plant 1 has eight girls on wringers, working two shifts, and from what they have to

say about their job, it seems that they feel as though they have been missing something all these years by not having worked there all the time. As I stood watching them sitting there in their new red chairs I must admit that it didn't look too difficult.

Plant 1 Textile and 2-A Reeling Room also have girls who are replacing boys. The work in Plant 1 Textile is of course very similar to that in 2-B Textile, but in 2-A Reeling Room we watched with interest girls pushing "trojan horses" of rayon skeins into the Inspection Room nearby.

Girls from the office, too, are found in many strange places on the plant-we now have three girls at the Power Office and two at Maintenance. Girls with a big bunch of checks going back through the plant to "pay off" are now a familiar sight. This, too, has long been considered a man's job.

Most unusual of all the jobs that women now hold on the plant is that of our new woman photographer for Rayon Yarns. So far as we know, this is the first time we have had a professional woman photographer on the plant and the Yarns is justly proud to have her on our staff.

From the above account you will see that we are just now beginning to learn how best to develop and use the occupational skill of women in industry. Of course, it's too early yet to say just what the outcome of this vast change will be, but personally, we think the women realize that they are soldiers of production and are willing to give "Their Best - No Less - for Victory."

J u n i o r C o m m a n d o s



Kenneth Shropshire, (son of Mr. and Mrs. Uliss Shropshire, 1001 Clarke Street) and Lamar Shipman (son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Shipman, 1406 Lawrence Street) unload a varied assortment at the collection center.

Young America, moving swiftly to insure its stake in the future, has mobilized an army of 30,000,000 school children and sent Scrap Salvage Patrols charging through homes and barns, garrets and cellars, farms and fields.

"I know they will do their part," said President Roosevelt.

Anxious to assume a larger portion of the war burden, the youth of the nation promised not to let the President down and many, many boys and girls even before October 5 - inauguration day in the intensive two-weeks drive - had already begun to scout out and collect waste materials.

Their youthful patriotism and enthusiasm led salvage officials to forecast that October 5 would be the biggest scrap collection day since the bombing of Pearl Harbor made "salvage" a byword of the nation.

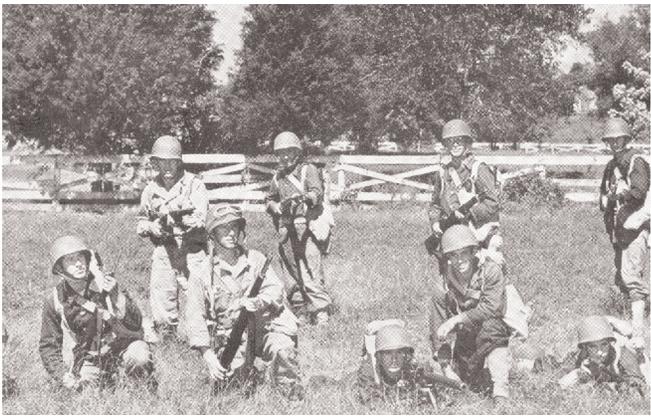
Several weeks before the National Youth Army began its offensive, Old Hickory's "Junior Commandos," organized from the ranks of the Boy Scouts and other youth organizations, made a demand on the citizenry in no uncertain terms. They wanted "every bit of scrap of any kind on the premises" of neighborhood homes.

Wearing arm bands marked "J.C.," they canvassed homes in Old Hickory with tireless zeal.

The Old Hickory scrap drive was sponsored by the local post of the American Legion.



Guarding the river and bridge to Old Hickory, P.F.C. Herbert Schmidt (Menno, S.D.), with the aid of Pvt. Chester Slovik (Minneapolis, Minn.), Pvt. John V. Sheehan (Caledonia, Minn.), and P.F.C. Eugene Romanyshyn (Snow, S.D.), halts a couple of "Red" Army jeeps.



Members of the Tennessee Maneuvers located in Old Hickory

Tennessee Maneuvers

From the summer of 1941 until January 1945, twenty-eight military divisions and many detached units and corps trained in twenty-one counties in Middle Tennessee. Old Hickory was involved in these exercises. The Tennessee Maneuvers spanned the fight of General Patton's Second Armored Division along the Duck River to the final "battle" in the state by the Twentieth Armored Division. For the major portion of the maneuvers, field headquarters were at Cumberland University in Lebanon. The area became known officially as "somewhere in Tennessee", and APO 402 was set up in Nashville.

The training was grueling, with problems of varying difficulty to be solved by the Red Army and the Blue Army. The Cumberland River doubled for the Rhine for assaults and crossings.

Small towns were to be taken by house to house fighting. During drizzly, cold winters, soldiers ate wet rations and looked for barns and even pigpens for warm sleeping places. And even though dummy ammunition was used, 268 men lost their lives, sixty-two in vehicular accidents. The lesson learned through these deaths would save other lives in real combat.

It is estimated that 800,000 servicemen and women passed through training in the Tennessee Maneuvers. The impact of hundreds of thousands of soldiers and heavy equipment on the small towns and countryside was substantial. Claims by civilians for damages numbered 29,319, amounting to \$2,619,603. Counties and municipalities asked for another \$2,000,000.

Tennessee Historical Quarterly - Spring 2004