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ABSTRACT

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It is the purpose of this study to research civilian activities on the homefront during World War II in order to determine to what extent the lives of ordinary citizens were changed by the war and how they handled the new demands put on them.

This study is essentially confined to one county--Wake County, N. C.--and the majority of the materials used are located in the World War II division of the Military Collection of the North Carolina State Archives. Contemporary newspapers were a major source, supplemented by books, pamphlets and reports.

Although the changes in civilian lives were as drastic as those in the military, citizens handled the changes well and completed most of their tasks successfully.

HOMEFRONT ACTIVITIES IN WAKE COUNTY
DURING WORLD WAR II

by

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A Thesis Submitted to
the Faculty of the Graduate School at
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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

On September 1, 1939 the armies of Nazi Germany rolled across the borders of Poland in Hitler's quest for more "Lebensraum"--living space--for the German people. By September 3, France and Britain, having guaranteed to come to Poland's aid in case of attack, were drawn into the war as well. The Poles, in the words of historian B. H. Liddell Hart, "...still pinned their trust to the value of a large mass of horsed cavalry, and cherished a pathetic belief in the possibility of carrying out cavalry charges."¹ They were defeated before the month was out. The French, too, proved to be no match for the German "blitzkrieg" and Paris fell in June 1940. The British fought valiantly, and alone, until June 1941 when Hitler disavowed his own non-aggression pact and turned his invading forces to the east toward Russia.

In the United States there was a strong desire to remain neutral; however, this neutrality diminished somewhat as Congress amidst a fierce argument enacted a Lend-Lease program which guaranteed Britain supplies. The introduction of Lend-Lease meant that American industries, whose output had been sorely reduced by the depression, were operating on ever-increasing schedules improving the arsenal at home.

Although the citizens of the United States had a strong desire to stay out of the war, they also had a very real fear that they would not be able to do so. In 1939 Congress enacted the first peacetime draft in the nation's history. On December 7, 1941 Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor making the Americans' two-year-old fears a reality. America

joined the war on the side of Britain and Russia against Germany, Japan, and Italy.

That aspect of any war which is most heralded is the one which deals with the gallant deeds of heroic young men who defend their country's honor on the fighting fronts. But there is yet another aspect of war which is often forgotten and usually ignored, one which is as vital to the outcome of the conflict as is the other. This is a study of that aspect of war--the homefront--specifically those activities in Wake County, North Carolina during the Second World War. It is an attempt to view those sacrifices which were made by the thousands of men, women, and children who remained at home between December 7, 1941 and August 14, 1945. Life for them changed as surely if not as drastically as it did for the men and women who found themselves in the service, and their sacrifices and devotion to the cause were no less important.

World War II was a total war. It touched the lives of all Americans in one way or another. For this reason a similar study could conceivably be done on any locale in the country; however, there are certain things which make Wake County a more likely subject than certain other areas of North Carolina. Raleigh, the county seat, also serves as the state capital. The directors of the state agencies were based in Raleigh and their records have been preserved. This is especially true of the Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources. This agency was set up during the war and its purpose was to encourage groups and individuals to preserve all types of war records. Because the director was located in Raleigh, special attention was paid to the collection of records in Wake County. As a result the Wake County files which are part

of the Military Collection in the North Carolina State Archives are the most extensive of any of the North Carolina counties.

A. A. Hoehling, in his book Homefront, U.S.A., states:

The Home Front has ever been a complex of comings and goings, of fevered activity, confusion, giddiness, apprehension, sorrow and sometimes, of apathy as well. In the long history of America's many wars, it has never been as readily definable as the battlefield.²

Home front activities were extensive and could include anything from the functioning of the draft board to industrial production. This work cannot possibly deal with their every aspect. Instead it attempts to show how the war affected the life of the ordinary citizen, the housewife, the businessman, the school child, and what each of them did in his or her own way to contribute to the war effort. Civilian defense, rationing, salvaging, and financing the war required certain adjustments by every citizen and group in this country. Although most of the programs to be discussed concerned all citizens of the United States, this is a study of how the people of one county coped with them--the methods they used, their successes and occasionally their failures.

Footnotes--Chapter I

1. B. H. Liddell Hart. History of the Second World War, 2 vols. (New York: Capricorn Books, 1971), 1:20.

2. A. A. Hoehling. Home Front, U.S.A. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, Inc., 1966), p. 1.

CHAPTER II. CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Even though it never became necessary for Americans to defend their country against an actual invasion, the governments--federal, state, and local--made sure that the citizens of the United States were well prepared. Efforts for civilian defense were begun in this country several months before Pearl Harbor. In August 1940 a Council of National Defense was established to aid industries in the transition to war production after the enactment of Lend-Lease. This agency worked to coordinate federal, state, and local efforts in this area. On May 20, 1941 the agency was reorganized. Its name was changed to the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD), and its focus changed as well. It became a coordinating agency whose major responsibility was "...to tie together the defense activities of the states, the local and federal governments, especially in the protection of life and property against attack."¹ A bulletin published in December 1942 by the North Carolina OCD states that although we were not yet at war at the time of the office's establishment, President Roosevelt "...clearly contemplated that war was inevitable."² He stated the objects of Civilian Defense as: "1. To provide adequate protection for the civilian population. 2. To facilitate constructive civilian participation in the war program. 3. To sustain national morale."³ At that time North Carolina already had a Council of National Defense which was established in November 1940 along the lines of the federal program; however, it too was reorganized in June 1941 so that the emphasis changed from industrial output to actual

defense programs.⁴ Although beginning in July 1941 each county, according to state directive, set up its own defense councils⁵ the state and federal offices established most of the policies. According to a publication of the Wake County office,

The purpose of the county defense council is to serve as an advisory agency, a clearing house and a sounding board of public opinion for all defense work in the county. It does not undertake to establish facilities or administer defense measures, except where there are no existing agencies equipped to do so. It strives to use existing resources, supplemented by volunteers, trained in many phases of civilian activity. Where there is a need for a new community service in the national, state, and county defense programs, it established such a service.⁶

Still, had it not been for local defense councils there would have been no Office of Civilian Defense because this agency depended almost totally on volunteers and they could best be recruited on the local level.

Though the civilian defense organizations were established by the summer of 1941 the average citizen was not yet involved. In September, almost three months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Wake County established a filter station to warn against air raids.⁷ Then in November Governor J. Melville Broughton, in compliance with the President's wishes, proclaimed the week of the eleventh through the sixteenth as Civilian Defense Week and urged each citizen to become better informed on the subject.⁸ When the Japanese planes struck on December 7, the people of North Carolina had at least been introduced to the subject of Civilian Defense; however, there was still a great deal to be done.

Wake County began almost immediately to mobilize its civilian forces for the war. December 15 was designated by the OCD as the day for Raleigh citizens to register for civilian defense work. Newspapers and

radios urged people to do their part. WPTF radio announced, "All Raleigh citizens from all walks of life, all shades of political opinion, all classes and grades will have the opportunity to register tomorrow for civilian volunteer defense."⁹ The News and Observer carried an article entitled "You have a spot in the war machine," which informed people that:

The United States today is fighting a new kind of war. For the first time in history it is fighting a war that strikes beyond the front lines of battle to the homes and industries of civilians.

It is fighting a total war--a war that invests every man and woman, civilian or military, with the opportunity to fight for 'liberty under God.'¹⁰

Each citizen was urged to register his abilities, experiences and desires to do his part in the war.¹¹ The response was good, with 4,568 people registering.¹² In his Christmas message Governor Broughton commended the people of North Carolina for their participation.

Our Civilian Defense organization ranks with the best in the nation, and the manner in which our people have registered for civilian duties and have rallied to the aid of such organizations as the Red Cross, the United Service Organization, and the Old North State Fund has stirred the pride of all who love our state.¹³

By the following year North Carolina ranked first in volunteer enrollment in the fourth Civilian Defense region, including seven southeastern states. At that time Wake County had 5,728 volunteers registered.¹⁴

The majority of Civilian Defense personnel were volunteers and were required to go through training courses. These courses were often quite specific, such as one to instruct volunteers on the dangers of unexploded and delayed action bombs¹⁵ or one to teach workers about the treatment of war gas casualties.¹⁶ Volunteers were provided with

manuals on everything from fire fighting to handling animals under war-time conditions.¹⁷ They were awarded service bars on the same basis that soldiers and sailors received them, for 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, or 5000 hours of service. The time was counted from July 1, 1941 when the councils were established.¹⁸ Even though the service was voluntary, it was considered extremely important and was taken seriously by those involved.

Each citizen was urged to do his part in defending America on the homefront. What Can I Do was a booklet published by the Office of Civilian Defense and it listed several things citizens could do to aid the war effort. The state office published a paper originally called the War Bulletin but eventually renamed the Home Front.¹⁹ There was also a radio program called "Hasten the Day" which recounted the civilian defense activities of the fictional Tucker family.²⁰ The main emphasis for citizens was put on urging them to strive for V-homes. V-homes followed instructions of air raid wardens, conserved, salvaged, refused to spread rumors that might prove harmful to the cause, and bought bonds and stamps regularly. Those which complied were issued stickers stating that they were V-homes.²¹ People were constantly reminded of the importance of these measures through the news media. They were also encouraged to keep their homes in repair and to remain in good health because these things too aided the war effort.²² Citizens were asked to do something extra to guard against emergencies. For instance, people who owned panel trucks were asked to volunteer them for use as ambulances in case of emergency.²³ But mainly, the average citizen was requested to do the "little things" like being informed and maintaining his home and health.

With Pearl Harbor fresh in the minds of North Carolinians, one of the first concerns of the OCD was to prepare the state for air raids. In January 1942 a whistle was mounted on the capitol dome.²⁴ After a few tests it was apparent that the one whistle was not adequate. In April six other whistles were installed throughout the city.²⁵ There was a practice blackout on April 24 and the Raleigh Times reported it a success.²⁶ Still it was determined that the whistles were not sufficient, and in September nine new air raid sirens were purchased by the city.²⁷ The warning system consisted of a quavering blackout signal and a steady blast for the all-clear. Citizens were instructed what to do in case of a raid and businessmen were required to turn out their store lights at closing time. Eventually an air raid switch was installed outside of stores so that the civil defense wardens could cut the lights off.²⁸ Residents learned that they must get inside if at home. Traffic was to stop immediately and windows had to be blackened so that light was invisible from the outside. Wardens were even warned not to smoke outdoors.²⁹ The first statewide blackout was held September 29 and Raleigh did fairly well. At least one man who failed to obey the blackout rules discovered that the defense council meant business when he was fined \$50 and court costs.³⁰ And, as the people discovered in November, if the citizens were not perfect, the system itself was not infallible either. On November 7, just as the American invasion of Africa was being announced on the radio, one of the sirens went off. The News and Observer reported, "Air raid wardens jumped to their posts, traffic was stopped and houses were blacked out completely."³¹ It happened that it was an unplanned false alarm but officials were pleased that the residents had acted so efficiently.

Christmas 1942 brought more adjustments as outdoor lights were prohibited. Because red lights are the least conspicuous to aerial observers,³² the street lights were converted into large red candles by covering them with a cellu-glass material.³³ There were no practice blackouts during Christmas due to large crowds.

In 1943 the air raid warning system was made more complex. Instead of a simple quavering blackout warning and a steady all-clear, the system now consisted of four warnings. The first blast was the "blue" warning, a steady sound which meant that planes were approaching. With this warning people were required to turn out their lights unless they were exempted. (War industries, hospitals and other vital establishments could apply for an exempt status.) Cars could continue on their way, workers could remain at the job, and the civilian defense organization mobilized. The second warning, a quavering "red" signal, meant that bombing was expected. Lights were to remain off, traffic must stop, and people should take cover. Following the "red" signal was another "blue" which signaled that planes were gone but might return. People could resume activities or driving but the blackout continued and the civilian defense workers remained mobilized. The "white" all-clear was to be given over the radio. Citizens were also informed, however, that if the planes were already close when spotted, the initial "blue" signal would be skipped and the first signal heard would be the "red."³⁴ Considering the fact that the previous system had consisted of two blasts, it is no wonder that many people found the new series a bit confusing, even though the news media tried to see to it that the public was informed.

On February 23 a practice warning was held using the new system. It was fortunate indeed that there was not an actual attack because the majority of Raleigh's citizens turned their lights back on during the "red" signal when the enemy planes would have been bombing.³⁵ Eventually people learned the new system and the practices for the rest of 1943 were a good deal more successful than the first. Practice blackouts were required at least once in each 90-day period. This continued until September 1944 when North Carolina, along with some other states in its region, was exempted from further practice due to the state of preparedness of its citizens.³⁶

The state and federal Offices of Civilian Defense drastically reduced their staffs in June 1944, but local offices were requested to remain on the job for the duration.³⁷ The Wake County Council continued to fight the war on the homefront until the defeat of Japan in August 1945.

Footnotes--Chapter II

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2. "Civilian Defense in North Carolina" (Raleigh, N. C., 31 December 1942), p. 1.
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4. Ibid., p. 2.
5. The News and Observer, 16 August 1943. Civilian Defense Scrapbook #39, Military Collection, North Carolina State Archives. Scrapbooks hereafter cited by number.
6. "Wake County Defense Council." (Raleigh, N. C., 1 March 1942).
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17. There are a number of these manuals included in the Military Collection of the North Carolina State Archives.
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25. Ibid., 22 April 1942, #4.
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28. Times, 18 March 1942. #3.
29. News and Observer, 24 September 1942. #9.
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31. News and Observer, 8 November 1942. #14.
32. Times, 7 December 1942. #17.
33. News and Observer, 3 December 1942. #17.
34. Ibid., 21 February 1943, #24.
35. Ibid., 24 February 1943, #24.
36. "Home Front." August-September 1944, vol. II, no. 1. Military Collection, North Carolina State Archives.
37. David Leroy Corbitt, ed. Public Addresses, Letters, and Papers of Joseph Melville Broughton, Governor of North Carolina, 1941-1945. (Raleigh: Council of State, 1950), pp. 491-492.

CHAPTER III. RATIONING AND SALVAGING

The only thing wartime America seemed to have an abundance of was shortages. By the end of the war the list of items which were either rationed or salvaged had become quite extensive. Ration stamps were a way of life and no one was surprised to learn that the product he wished to buy was out of stock. The war meant sacrifice in many ways.

In the beginning rationing and salvaging were under the auspices of the Office of Civilian Defense. The deadline established by the federal government for setting up local rationing boards was January 5, 1942.¹ On January 27 tires became the first commodity to be rationed.² Three days later, on January 30, the Office of Price Administration was established.³ It took over rationing and price controls and continued to direct these activities for the duration.

The war brought on four types of shortages. In the first case the supply was simply cut off by the war. This was true of rubber, as 97% of the crude rubber supply was lost when the Japanese took over the southwest Pacific. Thus tires were the first item to be rationed. Secondly, the loss of ships, either through sinkings or conversion to military use, meant that certain commodities could not be transported in as large a quantity as before the war. This was true of sugar, coffee, gasoline, and fuel oil. The third type of shortage occurred when the government simply stopped or drastically reduced production. This was the case with cars, typewriters, and bicycles as steel was converted to military use. The fourth cause of shortages was the increased buying power of the

general public. The war created jobs, the jobs brought in money, and the people spent that money. Since production of civilian goods was down, the supply did not meet the demand.⁴

To offset these shortages two types of rationing were instituted. Nonselective rationing was used for those shortages which were not acute. This meant simply that things like sugar were divided fairly throughout the population. For those commodities which were terribly scarce, however, there was selective rationing. Select groups or individuals with special needs were given those articles, such as cars, which were no longer manufactured or larger quantities of gasoline, which was in short supply.⁵

The year 1942 brought in a progression of these transportation rationing measures. Tires were quickly followed by automobiles, which joined the rationing list on February 2. On February 7 the last automobile rolled off the assembly line. It carried black "victory trim," i.e., no chrome, as that metal had already been designated for war use.⁶ Gasoline was added on May 15, climaxing the transportation problems.⁷ In actuality it was not these items which were rationed, but mileage. This was a combination of selective and nonselective rationing. The number of miles a person must drive each month determined what type of certificate or coupon he received. (Tires and cars required certificates while gas was purchased with coupons.)⁸ Those people whose businesses required a total gas mileage of 240 miles per month or less received "A" coupons or certificates. Drivers of 560 miles or less were entitled to "B" classification, and "C" eligibility meant that a person had to drive 561 to 1020 miles per month.⁹ This determined how much gas and what type of

tires they could receive. Very few people could get new tires but some were entitled to better grade recaps. In order to receive the ration coupons, one had to certify that he had no more than five tires in his possession (all others had to be turned in), would not exceed the 35-mile-per-hour speed limit, and would keep his tires in repair.¹⁰

Holders of "B" and "C" certificates had to have their tires inspected every 60 days and "A" holders every four months.

The latter part of 1942 was spent trying to find ways to make the best of this situation. In July a canvas was made of the Raleigh area to try and establish a share-the-ride program. Citizens were urged to car pool in an effort to save tires and gas.¹¹ On August 11 the city decided that it could conserve gasoline by cutting off traffic lights at certain times of the day and thereby eliminate stopping and starting. This proved to cause more problems than it solved and on August 16 the lights were turned back on.¹² Although this measure did not prove successful, the Office of Price Administration and the Office of Defense Transportation instituted a number of changes which did succeed. The end of August brought disappointment to racing fans as auto racing was banned by the ODT.¹³ With Labor Day came the first of many appeals to citizens throughout the war urging them to remain at home on holidays.¹⁴ Transportation problems could not entirely be solved by taking buses or trains because of overcrowding due to military transport and increased civilian usage. School children who lived within two miles of school were no longer provided with bus service.¹⁵ And cabs were forbidden to cruise the streets, operate outside a certain limit, engage in delivery service, or take passengers on sight-seeing tours.¹⁶ The "victory speed limit" was 35 miles per hour instead of the customary 60 and in November the OPA

announced that speeders were in danger of losing their gas rations. Previously violators were denied tires.¹⁷ The City of Raleigh did its part to conserve by asking officials to cut the mileage of city vehicles by 40%¹⁸ and garbage pickup was limited to two trips a week.¹⁹ Shoppers were forced to carry many of their own packages because of a ban on special delivery service. Regular delivery service was limited to one trip made to a given destination per day.²⁰ By the end of 1942 the average citizen could no longer jump in his car and travel anywhere he wished. Gas and tire rations had to go a long way.

The war brought on many changes around the house and office as well. Other products which began to be rationed during 1942 included sugar (May 5), coffee (November 29), typewriters (April 20), bicycles (May 15), rubber footwear (September 29), and fuel oil (October 1).²¹ Each citizen was issued a book of ration stamps which contained alphabet letters. Prior to being rationed, a product was "frozen" for several days which meant that the item could not be sold. This was supposed to prevent a rush to buy the product. Coffee was frozen from November 21 to November 28. On the 29th it could be purchased with coupon no. 27, which was previously used for sugar. Coffee rations were issued only to people 14 years old or older.²² Before stamps were issued to consumers for any product, the citizen had to declare the amount of the product he had on hand. In the case of sugar, some people saw the rationing coming and stored enough in their attics to last the duration. If officials knew this, the people were not issued sugar coupons.²³ The stamps necessary to purchase different items changed periodically during the war. Papers carried ration guides which said "sugar stamp no. 10 good

for 3 lbs. until January 31, 1943," or "coffee--no. 27 in book 1 good for 1 lb. until January 3."²⁴ For four years these guides were an important part of the lives of North Carolinians.

Beginning in November there were rumblings that meat would soon be rationed due to the fact that the armed forces needed large quantities of red meat. Beef and pork lovers probably took little comfort in the knowledge that fish, poultry, liver, brains and feet (pig, beef, and lamb) were not affected by the order.²⁵ Adults were to be limited to two and one-half pounds per week and children to one and one-half. The Citizen Service Corp (a branch of CD whose job it was to inform citizens about war programs) began canvassing neighborhoods in November and December to prepare Raleighites for the coming of meat rationing.²⁶ Consumers were in for another shock when they learned that liquor supplies were low and rationing was imminent. The News and Observer reported that Wake County A.B.C. stores were crowded and 14,000 residents registered for liquor rations.²⁷ Along with fuel oil rationing came an appeal for people to convert their oil heaters to coal or face a cold winter.²⁸ New heating stoves were almost impossible to get.²⁹ Typewriters were in great demand by the military and disappeared from the store shelves. State agencies were asked to turn surplusses over to the Federal government.³⁰

Although everyone was constantly reminded that these sacrifices were his contribution to the war, not everyone accepted them happily. There were those who felt that sugar rationing was a true hardship, and avid coffee drinkers often felt that asking them to limit their supply to one cup a day was just too much. The "hoarder" became public

enemy number one and a Raleigh journalist voiced his distaste over the situation:

Human nature is queer, which explains most of the need for rationing. There's always a few amongst us that get panicky over shortages and can't stand the thought of sharing alike. So, they've been going around gathering up coffee here and there when they should of been collecting scrap metal.³¹

Another program instituted in the first year of war by the OPA, and related to rationing, was the establishment of ceiling prices. This was directed at keeping down the cost of the war and the cost of living. The first ceilings were established for clothing, furnishings, and most food. Soon afterward regulations were also established for services such as laundry, dry cleaning, and shoe repair.³² Storekeepers were instructed to post prices and citizens were urged not to pay more than ceiling prices for goods.³³

On January 1, 1943 the News and Observer printed "the A-Z of Rations." It was an alphabetical list of those products which had already "gone to war," as people sometimes phrased it. These were the products:

- A. Auto, alcohol, aluminum
- B. Bicycles limited, belts narrowed, bobby pins and bristles for household brushes are war materials
- C. Chocolate, coffee, cream rationed, copper production cut, cellophane restricted to essential needs, no clocks being made, less chlorine, cameras scarce
- D. Dye and dog foods reduced, dentist's drills limited to a few standardized sizes
- E. Electrical appliances war materials--refrigerators, phonographs, etc.
- F. Feathers, fishing tackle, flash bulbs essential use, no flaps on pockets, no metal on furniture
- G. Gas, golf supplies (rubber for balls, metal for clubs)
- H. Housing construction limited to maintenance and repair, hems limited to two inches, hose
- I. Iron production cut, ice cream curtailed
- J. Jars standardized, jute (fiber that makes string tough, available for few civilians)
- K. Knives restricted, kapok used for life preservers instead of mattress stuffing

- L. Lawn mowers restricted, lamps reflect copper shortage, lingerie minus frills
- M. Mattresses, matches, myrrh rationed, metal, meat
- N. Nylon not for hose, notions--pins, hooks--curtailed
- O. Oil, olive drabs not for civilians, unnecessary optical goods eliminated
- P. Printed fabrics limited, paints minus quick dry and gloss, plastic for WP only
- R. Rubber production cut, wool for rugs limited, roller skates out, razor and blades restricted
- S. Silk, sugar, shellac, sauerkraut, skirts limited in width, shoes less frivolous
- T. Tin, typewriters, fewer toys
- U. Utensils curtailed, umbrellas made of simpler, more practical materials
- V. Vacuum bottles limited, vanity cases and venetian blinds not made of metal
- W. Wool textures and quantities changed, wallpaper under restriction, watches vanishing
- X. Xylophones limited
- Y. Yachts sailing for Navy, yarn under wool regulations
- Z. Zippers restricted, zoot suits gone³⁴

Before the year was out the list was expanded.

A new rationing system for food was instituted in 1943 with the introduction of group or point rationing. This meant simply that instead of having coupons for each separate commodity, a buyer was given a certain number of stamps with which to buy all kinds of meat, for instance. The consumer then spent those stamps in any manner he saw fit. There was a low point value on meats which were more plentiful and a high point value on really scarce meats.³⁵ Coffee, sugar, and gasoline remained under the old system.³⁶

Citizens had been warned in 1942 that they would face a drastic curtailment of civilian goods in 1943³⁷ and they soon learned that it had not been a false promise. Raleigh became the first city in the nation to enforce the OPA's ban on pleasure driving in an effort to stretch the ever-decreasing gas supplies.³⁸ The new rule said simply that citizens could not use their cars for recreational purposes. Officials

kept a check around places of amusement. Owners of cars found parked in these areas returned to find a notice on the car instructing them to report to their ration boards. Those who could not offer a good excuse for the violation were in danger of losing their gas rations.³⁹ Destinations which were considered pleasure driving violations included movies, road houses, night clubs, civic clubs, fraternal organizations, P.T.A., book clubs, bridge clubs, sewing circles, and eating places (unless there was no other means of eating available).⁴⁰ Hunting trips, too, were banned because, according to an Office of War Information report, the amount of game caught could not justify the amount of gas used.⁴¹ Clubwomen were allowed to drive to meetings only if those meetings were directed solely to war activity.⁴² Taking a taxi was not an alternative because cab drivers faced a reduction in allotment if they knowingly transported people to places of amusement.⁴³ The OPA did rule in April that wedding parties could use taxis to get to weddings. Going to weddings, said the OPA, did not constitute pleasure driving.⁴⁴ The Office of Civilian Defense asked the Civilian Service Corps (a branch of OCD whose purpose it was to inform citizens of war programs) to organize car sharing clubs in those towns which had more than 10,000 people.⁴⁵ Accordingly in Raleigh a ride board was set up downtown. The Legislature did its part by making the 35-mile-per-hour speed limit official.⁴⁶ Even though OPA had ordered the reduction in the fall of 1942, only the Legislature could actually change the law. Before setting out on the road, a driver had to consider whether or not his destination was legal and how long it would take him to get there at 35 miles per hour, as well as how far his gas rations would go. This take-off on a well known

song appeared in The Raleigh Times under the title "Going Places?" and it probably expressed the feelings of most Wake County citizens:

Take me out to the ball game (to watch the 4-F's play the 3-A's)
 Take me out to the fair (called off this year)
 Buy me some peanuts and crackerjacks (if I don't have to surrender points)
 I don't care if I never get back (and you probably won't because the ODT says bus and street car service to amusement parks will be permissible this summer only if such service can be provided without interfering with the transportation needs of war workers)⁴⁷

Meat rationing became a reality in 1943 (March 29) as did rationing of processed foods (March 1) and shoes (February 9).⁴⁸ To offset the scarcity of foods, government officials encouraged people to grow their own "victory gardens." Citizens of Raleigh who owned vacant lots were asked to allow people to plant gardens on them.⁴⁹ Nutrition courses were offered by the Red Cross and the Civilian Service Corps in an effort to teach people how to make the best of the situation. The National Live Stock and Meat Board put out a little pamphlet of recipes for such items as heart, liver, kidney, tongue and brains.⁵⁰ Wake County restaurants stopped serving rationed meats on Fridays⁵¹ and people were urged to buy dehydrated foods instead of the scarce canned goods.⁵² People learned to do without butter, which became more and more difficult to get, and new scarcities occurred from time to time such as the short supply of rice, corn, and grits that was announced in the fall.⁵³ There was one bit of good news in 1943: coffee was removed from rationing in July.

Clothes buyers also had problems. Styles were forced to conform to the war. One fad of pre-war days was the "zoot suit." This consisted of a jacket that hung almost to the knees, with sleeves that appeared to be several sizes too big and pants which were equally baggy except that they were tight at the ankles. Restrictions on the width of cloth used meant

that the zoot suit had to "go to war."⁵⁴ Vests, patch pockets and cuffs were out as were double breasted jackets.⁵⁵ One of the new men's fashions for 1943 was a "ration suit." The ad described it as having "isinglass pockets sewed inside to permit the well dressed American to carry wartime identification papers and ration cards without causing bagginess and wrinkles in his clothing."⁵⁶ Shoes could only be purchased with ration stamps and then only one pair at a time.⁵⁷ As the war progressed and shortages of everything became more acute, shop owners throughout the country developed a one-line reply to inquiries about scarce products: "Don't you know there's a war going on?"⁵⁸

Manpower was another area where shortages existed due to the exodus of young men to the military. People were forced to pay cash for gas because charging or using credit cards meant more bookkeeping, which in turn required more work hours.⁵⁹ Honor grade prisoners from Central Prison were sent to defense welding courses at State College. Once they had completed the course, they were paroled and placed in defense plants. This was the first program of its kind in the country.⁶⁰ Farm help was especially needed and there were ads in the papers requesting people to spend their summers working on farms in Wake County.⁶¹ Governor Broughton urged each citizen to do what he could and, to prove that he was willing to do his part, he and his wife spent their afternoons at McCuller's experiment station picking cotton.⁶² Another result of the manpower shortage was the introduction of hundreds of women into the civilian work force.

In the first part of 1943 there were 292 commodities regulated in some way by the OPA.⁶³ With all the shortages and regulations came

blackmarketing. Raleigh and Wake County businesses and civic clubs got together to fight inflation and blackmarketing. They canvassed neighborhoods getting people to sign pledges that they would pay no more than ceiling prices for goods and would not accept merchandize without giving up stamps.⁶⁴ Using other people's stamps to buy products for oneself was considered blackmarketing too, even if the owner had willingly given up the stamps.⁶⁵ Many people were involved in activities the OPA considered illegal in one way or another, ranging from the use of non-coffee drinkers' stamps to increase one's own supply to something more serious such as submitting false inventory reports.⁶⁶ Theodore S. Johnson, State Director of OPA, commented on these activities:

If the rank and file of the state's citizenship 'would only use the same devilish ingenuity' in finding ways to aid the government in making a success of the rationing program, as it does in finding ways to circumvent the purposes of the program, then the entire effort would be an easy success...⁶⁷

Nineteen forty-four brought a few improvements in some areas and more critical shortages in others. It also brought about another change in the rationing system. Red and blue stamps used in the point rationing for meat and other food were each given a 10-point value. A buyer received change in red and blue tokens worth one point each. This was done in an effort to simplify the system for everyone.⁶⁸

The transportation problem was one of those which became more acute. The Raleigh Times reported that tire supplies were still critical.⁶⁹ The Office of Defense Transportation requested that groups not hold conventions which would take valuable transportation space from military personnel.⁷⁰ With the invasion of Normandy the appeals for people to stay home during the summer were more urgent than ever since the mass transit

systems were needed to transport casualties being sent to hospitals in the States.⁷¹ Bicycles were removed from regulation in September, but not because there was no longer a shortage; so few were on hand and so few were being manufactured that it made no sense to try to ration them.⁷² The only persons who got a bit of an increase in gas rations were those who had victory gardens of 1500 square feet; however, gardeners were required to share rides to their gardens if possible.⁷³

The food situation was not much better as pork and beef were reported in unusually short supply.⁷⁴ Butter, which was already expensive, not to mention scarce, cost consumers an additional four ration points in 1944.⁷⁵ Some shoes continued to be rationed but restrictions were lifted on the nonleather variety made with rubber soles.⁷⁶ These were known as play shoes and they did not use much critical material.

There was one important development involving the manpower shortage in 1944. In September Governor Broughton issued a "work or fight" proclamation which stated that any male between the ages of 18 and 55 who was physically able to work but was not doing so was guilty of a misdemeanor. A man had either to get a defense job or join the service. The Raleigh Chamber of Commerce immediately formulated plans to seek out loafers in the Raleigh area.⁷⁷

In 1945 North Carolina's war activities came under the leadership of a new Governor--R. Gregg Cherry. There was a new sense of optimism due to Allied successes on the fighting fronts; yet the shortages continued. In fact, a German counter-offensive was causing more acute shortages of everything as additional supplies were being sent to the fighting fronts.⁷⁸ Cigarettes, which had never been abundant during the

war, were in danger of being rationed.⁷⁹ Electrical power was so fully committed to industrial use that a brown-out order was instituted to prohibit wasting it. Outdoor advertising, promotional lighting, and marquees in excess of 60 watts were illegal.⁸⁰ Coal, too, was being stretched to the limit.⁸¹ Gracie Allen, a well-known comedienne, had a column which appeared in the Raleigh Times and one of the things she commented on was the meat situation.

It's positively frightening the way pigs have wasted away. They haven't got hams any more or bacon or chops or even salt pork on them. I would be exaggerating to say they're on their last legs because there aren't any pork legs; all that is left on them is feet. At least that's all I can ever find at my butcher shop.⁸²

The fall of Germany in May brought only minimal relief; however, the defeat of Japan meant a return to normalcy. Soon after V-J Day gas rationing was a thing of the past.⁸³ By November everything had been taken off the ration list except sugar.⁸⁴

Salvaging of materials critical to the war effort such as grease, paper, and metal, was another important means of fighting shortages during the war. People were urged to "get into the scrap" and a plan for scrap collection was put into effect in July, 1942.⁸⁵ "Salvage gives everyone a chance to contribute to the war effort," said Governor Broughton. "Not everyone can fight and not everyone can work in civilian defense, but everyone can help salvage the odds and ends needed to keep the war plants booming."⁸⁶ Salvaging was under the auspices of the Office of Civilian Defense, and the North Carolina Salvage Committee published a leaflet entitled Tar Heel Scrapper. It encouraged North Carolinians to salvage and instructed them on how to do so.

Paper was one item in great demand and short supply during the war. It was needed by the military for such things as wrappings, fibre tubes, and blueprints.⁸⁷ Newspaper was collected for recycling, the collections occurring in Wake County once every month or six weeks. Citizens placed their papers on the curb where they were picked up.⁸⁸ Occasionally there were state-wide drives. Wake County did well at times, as in August 1945 when 120,000 pounds were collected,⁸⁹ and not so well at other times. In August 1944, for instance, the goal for Wake County was ten pounds per person. They collected only 1.8 pounds per person.⁹⁰ Citizens were sometimes asked to bring their own containers when shopping, due to a scarcity of paper bags,⁹¹ and newspapers left out ads from time to time in order to conserve.⁹² Citizens were warned as early as 1944 that there would be no extra newsprint allotted for V-Day editions of papers.⁹³

Fats were another thing people were urged to conserve. In a pamphlet put out by the Department of Agriculture women were asked to save drippings from broiling, grease that rose to the top of stews and that was left from baking, solid fats from meat, and used lard and shortening.⁹⁴ An article entitled "How much is a pound of fat?" informed citizens:

It's the firing of four 37 millimeter anti-aircraft shells when Nazi planes fly over North Africa. It's 1 3/10 pounds of cordite which sends a shell screaming toward an invasion objective. It's a half-pound of dynamite to blow up a bridge to hamper the enemy. It's three cellophane bags to protect the gas masks our soldiers carry. It's ten rounds from a 50-calibre airplane cannon pointed at a Jap.⁹⁵

It took only a tablespoonful of fat a day to collect one pound per month.⁹⁶ One of the incentives used during the war to encourage fat collection was to give citizens two free red ration points (used for meats) for every pound of fat turned in.⁹⁷

Metal was especially needed during the war and there were many scrap metal drives. One of the main objectives in this area was the collection of tin cans. Officials estimated that 36 tin cans were thrown out by the average family each month. This added up to 1,250 tons of tin and 123,750 tons of No. 2 steel each month.⁹⁸ People were asked to wash cans, cut out their ends and place them inside, and then flatten the cans.⁹⁹ They were collected in the same manner as paper. At times there were large drives such as the one in April, 1944 when people were asked to collect tin cans for Hitler's birthday.¹⁰⁰ Aside from tin cans people were asked to donate anything made of metal. The Raleigh Times informed its readers that one washing machine equalled 21 incendiary bombs, one refrigerator made eight 50-calibre machine guns and one pursuit plane was gained from salvaging 7700 aluminum pots and pans.¹⁰¹ Toothpaste tubes contained tin and so, in order to get a new tube, consumers had to turn in the old one.¹⁰² Receptacles were placed downtown and in schools to collect tin foil and keys which were used to make gun barrels.¹⁰³ License plates were replaced by tiny metal tags in 1942.¹⁰⁴ And one of the major projects of the City of Raleigh was to remove old street car rails and donate them to the metal drive.¹⁰⁵ The first shipment of rails, totalling 53 tons, was loaded on the Norfolk and Southern Railroad on November 24, 1942.¹⁰⁶ Newspapers encouraged people to do their small part by carrying stories of such sacrifices as the woman who gave up the iron pots used by the slaves of her great-great grandfather to make soap or the doctor who had his metal garage dismantled and donated to a scrap drive;¹⁰⁷ however, when it was suggested that the revolutionary war cannon at the Capitol be turned over, there was a cry of outrage and the

project was abandoned.¹⁰⁸ A city could only be asked to sacrifice so much.

There were other assorted items which people were urged to save from time to time. Rubber, of course, was in very short supply. People were asked to donate anything from rubber bands to old boots. Copper, too, was scarce and in 1943 there was a drive to get people to put their pennies back in circulation. Raleighites turned in 38,388 copper coins in that effort.¹⁰⁹ Collection depots were set up for hosiery which was used to make powder bags and thread and women were asked to turn in their nylon and silk hose once they were worn out.¹¹⁰ Matches were another object of the Salvage Committee as many of them had to go to soldiers. It was estimated that Americans used 500 billion matches a year. This required 70-80 million board feet of lumber and 500 tons of steel to manufacture the tiny staples in the match books.¹¹¹

School children, housewives, and merchants all did their part by donating, or in the case of businesses, allowing receptacles to be placed in their stores. Raleigh theatres sometimes made the price of admission a certain amount of a critical substance such as one piece of rubber¹¹² or one pound of scrap metal.¹¹³ Housewives diligently collected fats and tin cans and school children busied themselves working for scrap drives. Governor Cherry, in a post-war speech, commended North Carolinians for their sacrifices during the war.

The shortage of gas and automobiles hurt us terribly at first. But then we started riding with each other, became acquainted, one with another, and learned to know and appreciate the other fellow's joy and sorrows, his ideas and aspirations. This was cooperative democracy at its best. We learned to make a pair of shoes do us for about a year after what was once known as the 'worn-out' stage had passed. Tires were recapped, and recapped again and were made to last four or five times their usefulness

in what we once called the 'good old days.' We made our old stoves, radios, and refrigerators last somehow. The car we used to trade every year or two did surprisingly well after five or six years' use. Instead of going on distant vacations, we learned to make ourselves happy puttering about the house, making our home more livable and more beautiful. In short, home life was strengthened.¹¹⁴

To those who lived through the war, rationing and salvaging was a way of life and a necessity; but to one who was not there and did not experience the rules and regulations first-hand, it seems amazing that people did not either starve to death, freeze to death, or die of exposure on some lonely road after the car had run as far as it could on its meager gas rations. In recent years we have been asked to sacrifice in order to conserve energy here or gas there, but not since World War II have so many Americans been deprived of so much for so long.

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45. News and Observer, 2 January 1943, #15.
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CHAPTER IV. FINANCING WAR PROGRAMS

Wars are expensive and financing one is a major undertaking. During the Second World War there were constant appeals to citizens to donate money to one cause or another. Two major projects, however, were the attempts to sell war bonds to finance the war and campaigns to raise money for the United War Fund, which supported a number of important causes such as the United Service Organization and civilian relief for war-torn countries.

One means of supporting the war was through taxes and while most Americans paid no taxes in 1939, almost all did by 1943.¹ Still, taxes covered only 46% of the cost of the war.² The remainder had to be borrowed from citizens and banks. This was done by selling war bonds. Series E bonds, intended for the general public, came in different denominations from \$25 to \$1,000. School children were urged to buy stamps which were less expensive. They pasted these in books and eventually turned them in for bonds. People were reminded daily in one way or another to buy bonds and stamps.

Although citizens were encouraged to buy bonds anytime, there were seven war loans and one victory loan during and immediately after the war. These were national campaigns and each state, county, and town had its own quota to meet. Bonds were sold by banks but also by theatres, civic clubs, and other volunteers. Governor Cherry had this to say to those who sold bonds:

In many ways a War Bond Drive is one of the most difficult responsibilities a civilian group can undertake. It means that

you must ask your friends and neighbors to assume new obligations at a time when many of them think, and sometimes rightly, that they are already carrying a considerable burden. When they saw you coming, the people of your community knew that they would be asked to give up--not waste fat or old newspapers or a length of wornout garden hose--but hard cash.³

The citizens of Wake County never let the government down when it came to giving up that hard cash. Both North Carolina and Wake County exceeded their goals in every war loan. The most successful campaign in the county was the Seventh War Loan of June 1945. In this effort the residents of Wake County raised \$12,513,573.25, which was more than \$6,000,000 above the \$5,730,000 quota.⁴ The Victory Loan took place in the fall of 1945 when the war had ended; but the county still surpassed its \$900,000 goal by approximately \$100,000.⁵ The total county quota for all loans was an estimated \$32,000,000 and Wake County residents exceeded this by approximately \$20,000,000.⁶

Throughout the war there were many ingenious plans devised by county, state and federal officials to sell bonds. One of the most successful means of selling was to use movie stars to promote them. The motion picture industry was in charge of the First Loan and stars such as Jane Wyman, Jinx Falkenberg, and John Payne travelled to Raleigh to encourage citizens to buy.⁷ Frequently live shows and movies were dedicated to raising bonds. "Strike Up the Bonds" was the name of one of many shows starring service men from nearby camps.⁸ The nationally famous "Truth or Consequences" radio program was broadcast from Memorial Auditorium for the purpose of promoting sales.⁹ Wake County movie theatres had bond days periodically, when the price of admission was a bond purchase

receipt.¹⁰ At times days were set aside when people were urged to buy bonds in honor of special groups or events such as battles (Salerno Day),¹¹ soldiers (American Heroes Day),¹² and civilians (Women at Work Day).¹³ On Salerno Day, for instance, citizens were urged to "Fire all the war bond shells you can."¹⁴ Civic clubs had projects to aid the selling of war bonds. The Women's Division of the War Savings Committee set up a war bond booth at Boylan-Pearce Department Store and the S&W Cafeteria in Raleigh and different organizations took turns manning the booths throughout the war.¹⁵ The same group of women sponsored a project in April, 1943 called "Buy a Bond for Hitler's Birthday," in an effort to raise the \$300,000 needed to purchase a Flying Fortress aircraft.¹⁶ Auctions were held occasionally with articles going to the highest bond bidder. A life termer from Central Prison did his part in one of these auctions by donating for sale a baby bed he had made.¹⁷ Among the other measures used were selling Easter corsages made of war stamps,¹⁸ offering bond buyers free rides around the Wake County Court House in a jeep,¹⁹ including the purchaser's name on a roster which was microfilmed and placed inside a B-25 bomber,²⁰ and displaying a Japanese submarine captured at Pearl Harbor. In this last effort people were invited to

See with your own eyes the Jap submarine captured in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor! 80,000 pounds of Jap treachery on exhibition! See, through cut out panels, what few ever see-- the secret equipment inside a sub that brings murder and tragedy to the high seas.²¹

Five thousand Wake County residents paid a total of \$11,625 in bonds to see it.²²

Although it was often done in conjunction with amusement-oriented activities, bond selling was serious business and the citizens were reminded of that too. At the dedication of the Wake County War Loan

Headquarters in May, 1945 when victory in Europe was imminent, Governor Cherry reminded citizens of the continued need to buy bonds. Parts of this speech are indicative of the serious side of the war bond appeals. Governor Cherry informed his audience that victory in Europe was inevitable but the war with Japan was not over yet. And, he said, even though victory would come eventually each bond bought valuable time. It shortened the war by seconds, minutes, or hours and those who did not buy stamps and bonds were responsible for lengthening the war which resulted in the deaths of young Americans. He continued,

You can never be caught or blamed personally for those extra, needless deaths or wounds. You are not a murderer, except in your own soul perhaps.

It may not be your son, or your brother, or your husband who has to pay. But it will be someone's fine boy--and he would not have had to--if the war had ended the day before.²³

This type of appeal, along with the ones previously mentioned, helped to make war bond sales in Wake County a great success.

The United War Fund was another cause to which wartime Americans were asked to contribute. In August of 1942 the Raleigh and Wake County fund was established when a number of agencies joined their national and local appeals in one campaign directed by the Raleigh Community Chest.²⁴ However in most areas of the country the U.S.O. and certain civilian relief agencies attempted to raise funds on their own in the first year of war.

It became obvious by the end of 1942 that if all of the American people were going to be given an opportunity to support the work of these important agencies and if a great deal of frustration and wasted effort in fund raising was to be avoided, a united and efficient money raising job would have to be done.²⁵

So in January, 1943 the National United War Fund was established, followed closely by a comparable state board. The latter was located in Winston-Salem until January 1943 when it moved to Raleigh.²⁶

The purpose of the United War Fund was to raise money for organizations which were operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, no substantial part of which devoted to carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.²⁷ The member agencies to which these funds were directed varied somewhat from year to year. Those included in the 1943 campaign, which were typical of those involved throughout, were U.S.O., United Seamen's Service, War Prisoners Aid, Inc., Refugee Relief Trustees, U. S. Committee for Care of European Children, Belgian War Relief, British War Relief, French Relief Fund, Friends of Luxembourg, Greek War Relief Association, Polish War Relief, Queen Wilhelmina Fund, Russian War Relief, United China Relief, United Czechoslovak Relief, and United Yugoslav Relief.²⁸ In addition, local campaigns sometimes designated a portion of their funds to their own agencies.²⁹ Part of the Wake County money raised in 1942, for example, went to the Community Chest which included agencies such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, the mental hygiene clinic, etc.³⁰

In Wake County fund raising techniques involved allotting quotas for the employees of firms such as chain stores.³¹ The First United War Fund campaign was the county's most successful. This may have been due to the fact that the appeals for money had not yet become an old story. At any rate, in the first campaign Wake County exceeded the \$114,672.13 goal by more than \$28,000, the only time it did so.³² In the other

campaigns the county never quite reached its goal as the following chart explains:

	Quota	Achieved	% Achieved
43-44 campaign	\$93,093	\$87,145	93.5
44-45 campaign	\$78,383	\$65,000	82.9
45-46 campaign	\$65,000	\$54,472	80.3

Unlike bonds, which were an investment, money given to the War Fund was a contribution, which probably explains in part why these campaigns were not as successful. Neither were the propaganda and appeals as extensive for the War Fund. Yet, even if the county fell short, North Carolina raised \$4,000,000 for national causes and another \$3,000,000 for local programs. "Only fifteen states in the Union gave more than did North Carolina, although many were better able to afford it."³³

Footnotes--Chapter IV

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6. This is an estimated total based on the reports of each individual campaign that appeared in the following papers: Times, 23 December 1942; 28 September 1943; 29 July 1944; 18 December 1944; 2 July 1945; News and Observer, 14 May 1943; 3 March 1944; and 8 December 1945.

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CHAPTER V. SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The war had a definite effect on schools and colleges throughout the country. The departure of thousands of students and teachers to the military meant that many adjustments had to be made. Courses often had to be adapted to meet war needs and schedules had to be adjusted to facilitate rapid training. A magazine published by the North Carolina Education Association commented on this need for specialized training:

...the 16 - and - 17 year olds now sitting behind desks are slated, almost all of them, to go directly into the Armed Forces when they reach the age of 18. By the time these boys are 19 or 20 many of them will be meeting the Japanese with rifle and bayonet or facing the ferocity of German panzer divisions. This is an extreme change which puts new and high priorities on what the schools must do in the relatively short time that their students will be with them.¹

The educational policies committee of the National Education Association in Washington, D. C. studied the educational needs of the nation in war-time and issued statements concerning their findings.² Wake County schools and colleges, like those throughout the country, did their best to promote programs and policies which best facilitated the war effort.

One of the major problems which arose during the war was an acute teacher shortage. Many were drafted or joined the service and still others took better paying jobs in defense plants.³ The North Carolina General Assembly made a number of educational improvements during the war in an effort to solve this problem. Pay was equalized for white and Negro teachers, a retirement program was begun, and teachers received in 1943 the largest increase in salary ever appropriated in one year.⁴

The United States created a "Schools At War" program which began on September 25, 1942 in learning institutions throughout the country. The objects of the program were set forth as follows:

The Schools At War program is planned around the three commands to the civilian army fighting on the home front: Save! Serve! Conserve! The first is interpreted to mean saving money for War Bonds and Stamps.

The second command 'Serve!' includes all kinds of personal service such as those of Red Cross, Civilian Defense, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts.

The third 'Conserve!' means not only 'getting in the scrap' but means doing without the purchase of non-essentials so that money will be saved for Bonds and Stamps.⁵

Within the schools a "Victory Corps" was also established. Its objectives were to train youth for war service that would come after school and active participation in community war efforts while still in school. All children were eligible as long as they participated in at least one wartime activity.⁶ One such wartime activity involved building model planes for use by the military as teaching aids.⁷ Others were participation in Junior Red Cross, scrap drives, etc.

New courses appeared in the schools during the war and the emphasis changed somewhat in regard to what students should learn. In the elementary grades teachers were told that those things which children should be taught to prepare them to live in a world at war were obedience, math, reading, global geography, history, and physical education.⁸ The high school curriculum was also adjusted to meet the needs of the military and defense work. Typical courses for a Victory Corps program were pre-flight aeronautics, refresher math, geography for the air age, first aid, home nursing, auto mechanics, mechanical drawing, blueprint reading,

physical education, wartime citizenship, and wartime chemistry.⁹ Physical education, science, and math were especially stressed. According to Clyde Erwin, State Superintendent of Public Schools during the war, the schools had to "...step up teaching of trigonometry to prepare them for trigger-nometry."¹⁰ The schools also offered courses for those who would be in the civilian work force. Broughton High School in Raleigh, for instance, taught "wartime typing" and "nutrition in the war effort."¹¹

School children were expected to become involved in the same sort of war activities in which their parents engaged. Beginning in October 1942 the school children of America collected all kinds of scrap.¹² Various school scrap projects were held throughout the war. And when it came to buying and selling bonds, the school children of North Carolina excelled. Between 1943 and 1946 they bought \$43,790,772 in bonds and stamps, an achievement which won them a "liberty brick" taken from Independence Hall in Philadelphia which was being repaired.¹³ Wake County school children contributed their fair share in this effort.

Students aided the civilian defense program by participating in the Victory Quiz which was broadcast over the radio each week. The students were asked questions from the Civilian Defense booklet What Can I Do and also questions on current events.¹⁴ Typical questions were "If you have a worn out copper teakettle, one roller skate, and a rusty bedspring in your attic, what's the best possible thing you can do with them?" Or, "When a boy or girl is sixteen what office can they register with during present times to help our country?"¹⁵ In this way the students helped inform others about war programs. The children even did their share in combating the manpower shortage. During the fall of 1943 school hours

were shortened for six weeks so students could work on Wake County farms. Rural schools operated from 8:00 to 12:30.¹⁶ The Raleigh Times reported that prior to September 30, 1943 Wake County school children had picked 1,685,464 pounds of cotton or more than 10% of the county's estimated crop.¹⁷

Another activity that school children were encouraged to engage in was compiling scrapbooks containing materials on any aspect of wartime America that interested them. There was a specific scrapbook issued for the Schools At War program by the War Saving Staff of the U. S. Treasury Department and the U. S. Office of Education and its wartime commission. The inside cover gave this explanation of school activities:

We hereinwith submit a bird's eye view report of our Schools At War Program. It includes factual and pictorial accounts of our War Savings program and other outstanding war activities. It is tangible proof of the resourcefulness, skills, activities and the will to win of every student, teacher, and parent enlisted in our Schools At War Program.¹⁸

Besides the Schools At War scrapbooks, Wake County school children also compiled scrapbooks on subjects that interested them. Those in the Military Collection of the North Carolina State Archives contain such titles as "Keeping America Well," "United We Stand," and "This Is the Army."¹⁹ Usually these contained pictures of jeeps or soldiers cut from magazines, and they supposedly encouraged the students to develop pride in the achievements of Americans.

Colleges and universities also had problems and responsibilities during the war. Between 1939 and 1944 there was a 44% decrease in college enrollment.²⁰ This was due to the fact that most young men went directly to the armed services from high school. Various means were used to accelerate academic programs. North Carolina State College began such

a policy in the summer of 1941, allowing young men to complete their studies in three years instead of four.²¹ Other schools instituted similar programs during the war. The Wake Forest Bulletin for 1942 stated:

The program of the college has been adapted to the conditions of the national emergency, and has been carefully planned...to meet adequately the requirements of all students, especially of those who must make radical adjustments in their plans and proceed as rapidly as possible with their college education...²²

There was also an accelerated program for high school students, allowing them to enter college before high school graduation. This plan was adopted by 40 white and Negro colleges in North Carolina. In order to qualify, a student had to complete 12 high school units, be in the upper one-third of his class, be 16 years old, have a recommendation from his principal that he was sufficiently mature for such a program, and have test scores ranked above the lowest 40% of freshmen.²³ The enrollment problems at N. C. State and Wake Forest were also eased somewhat by the establishment of army training programs on their campuses. There was an Army Finance School at Wake Forest and an Army Air Force College Training Detachment at State. In addition to these programs, the Baptist State Convention aided Wake Forest by admitting women for the first time.²⁴

College curricula, like those of high schools, shifted the emphasis to war-related courses. Wake Forest offered "Mathematical Fundamentals in Military Training," "American Background of World War II," "Defense Production Management," and "The Economics of Total Warfare."²⁵ Shaw's curriculum included a Management War Training Program.²⁶ N. C. State offered, beside its customary engineering programs, a number of defense plant courses. These included instruction in aircraft sheet metal work,

welding, machine shop²⁷ and aircraft inspection.²⁸ Women were especially urged to take these courses because they were vitally needed in the defense plants.

College students realized that their college years must somehow be different from those of the students who preceded them. A St. Mary's student commented on this difference:

Although we work busily within these sheltered walls, we cannot dim the realization of what is going on around us. Five years ago any one of us would have been aghast at the thought of being limited to the purchase of three pairs of shoes a year. We expected college to be an education highly diversified with fraternities, dances, good football, debuts, and long trips during vacation.... Our fraternities turned out to be Army, Navy or Marines, and our dates were no longer college boys faced with the formidable task of acquiring a B.A. degree, but rather with a formidable object--death.²⁹

Their time was spent collecting scrap and buying bonds instead of swallowing gold fish or holding dance marathons. The following contributions by area students were typical of the many that took place throughout the war. Early in the war students of St. Augustine's outlined a program to acquaint the community with the problems of national defense and develop high morale.³⁰ They also operated a volunteer first aid detachment.³¹ Meredith sophomores donated their annual party money to the Wake County Defense Council.³² And State did its part for soldiers and civilians by publishing a bulletin for those who wished to raise victory gardens³³ and collecting money to send cigarettes to the men stationed on Guadalcanal.³⁴

All of the actions by school authorities and all of the contributions made by students were taken with the idea that they were important steps toward victory. Superintendent Erwin commented on the importance of

these actions: "In the total war which America faces today, victory when it comes may be said to have been won upon the campuses and playgrounds of American educational institutions."³⁵

Footnotes--Chapter V

1. "What the Army Expects from the Schools," North Carolina Education, X (September 1943), p. 5.
2. "What Schools Should Teach in Wartime," North Carolina Public School Bulletin, VII (February 1943), p. 14.
3. News and Observer, 28 December 1942, #9.
4. Lemmon, pp. 38-39.
5. "Schools at War Must Save Serve Conserve," North Carolina Public School Bulletin, VII (October 1942), p. 5.
6. I. L. Kandel. The Impact of War Upon American Education. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1948), pp. 91-92.
7. "High School Boys Building Model Planes," North Carolina Public School Bulletin, VII (March 1943), p. 7.
8. Wartime Handbook for Education. (Washington: National Education Association of the United States, 1943), pp. 6-7.
9. Times, 17 March 1943, #26.
10. News and Observer, 22 December 1942, #19.
11. Times, 31 January 1943, #22.
12. "Schools Children to Collect Scrap," North Carolina Public School Bulletin, VII (October 1942), p. 7.
13. "School Bond Sales Revealed," North Carolina Public School Bulletin, XI (September 1946), p. 7.
14. Times, 6 April 1943, #28.
15. Lemmon, pp. 32-33.
16. News and Observer, 15 August 1943, #42.
17. Times, 5 October 1943, #28.
18. There are a number of these Schools At War scrapbooks in the Military Collection of the North Carolina State Archives.
19. The collection of these scrapbooks is primarily from Barbee School in Raleigh and is located in the Archives.

20. "Enrollment Affected by the War," North Carolina Public School Bulletin, IX (September 1944), p. 4.
21. News and Observer, 19 August 1945.
22. "Forward," Bulletin of Wake Forest College, XXXVII (April 1942), p. 3.
23. Times, 18 December 1942, #18.
24. News and Observer, 15 November 1942, #14.
25. Bulletin of Wake Forest College, XXXVII (April 1942).
26. News and Observer, 31 January 1943, #22.
27. Ibid, 17 January 1942, #14.
28. Ibid, 11 January 1943, #20.
29. Michelle Telfair, "Saint Mary's Today," Saint Mary's Bulletin 33 (December 1943), p. 2.
30. Times, 23 December 1941, #1.
31. News and Observer, 7 January 1943, #22.
32. Times, 18 March 1942, #3.
33. News and Observer, 4 January 1943, #19.
34. Times, 5 December 1942, #17.
35. News and Observer, 14 November 1942, #14.

CHAPTER VI. SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIC CLUBS, AND CHURCHES

Scrap drives, bond sales, services for military personnel and other such projects depended on organized groups to make them successful. The Office of Civilian Defense recruited many volunteers to help with these projects. But a number of other organizations--already in existence when the war began or organized soon afterward--threw their support wholeheartedly into the war effort. Such groups as the United Service Organization (U.S.O.), the Red Cross, civic clubs, and churches contributed valuable time and effort to seeing that war programs were a success. The U.S.O. and the Red Cross both depended heavily on civilian volunteers, but their work was basically directed toward servicemen. Both had extremely active chapters in Raleigh.

The U.S.O. operated due to the combined efforts of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the National Catholic Community Service, the National Jewish Welfare Board, the Salvation Army and the National Travelers Aid Association.¹ Its purpose was to provide recreational facilities for servicemen stationed throughout the world. U.S.O. clubs entertained, fed, and housed soldiers and provided them with paper and recorders with which to keep in touch with their families. The clubs offered soldiers a chance to try to forget the war and their military duties and relax during their time off. Those units located overseas attempted to provide a link with the people back home. One of the projects of the Raleigh U.S.O. involved preparing ten kits to be used by overseas units for North Carolina night. The kits

contained an artificial dogwood blossom, a small flag, newspapers, and magazines from the state.²

Because of the large number of servicemen stationed in North Carolina, there were 103 U.S.O. units in 47 communities throughout the state.³ Raleigh's units served men from Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, Camp Butner near Durham, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro. The main U.S.O. club in Raleigh was located on Edenton Street. It began operation on June 21, 1942.⁴ There were branches at the Y.M.C.A., the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, N. C. State, and several churches in the city.⁵ A second club, for blacks, opened on August 9, 1943 at the Masonic Temple on Blount Street. Eventually a new building opened on Bloodworth Street June 6, 1944.⁶ Wake Forest also had its own U.S.O. club.⁷

A major activity of these clubs was to provide girls and hostesses for dances. Very often newspapers carried small articles headed "Attention U.S.O. Girls," which provided a number to call if they wished to attend a dance for servicemen. The Edenton Street U.S.O. registered 200 girls for this purpose. They attended dances at all three military bases as well as the Raleigh Durham Airport, Wake Forest College, N. C. State College, and Memorial Auditorium.⁸ Over a 35-month period this club conducted over 1,000 dances.⁹

Other entertainment in the clubs varied from planned activities to on-the-spot improvisation by the people attending at the time. The Raleigh Times reported one evening's entertainment as consisting of a violinist from Meredith College and six British soldiers singing "God Save the King."¹⁰ On another occasion inmates from Central Prison

provided the entertainment.¹¹ Essentially the clubs provided soldiers with a place to relax, get refreshments, write letters, or read.

Another important function of the U.S.O. was to find housing for visiting soldiers. There was a serious housing problem during the war, even for those who only needed temporary lodging. With the help of the citizens of Raleigh, thousands of service people were provided a place to stay. The papers carried articles asking people to open their homes to service men. The Edenton Street U.S.O. provided 50 beds in the basement of Memorial Auditorium for those weekends when beds were short.¹² Churches also provided beds for visiting servicemen. Over the almost four years that the Edenton Street unit operated, it housed 56,682 men and women.¹³

Other activities directed by the U.S.O. included adjusting transportation problems, locating missing persons, and counselling.¹⁴ The Edenton Street unit closed May 1, 1945.¹⁵ The Bloodworth Street club, however, continued operation until April 1, 1946. During its operation it served 143,206 black servicemen and women.¹⁶

The Red Cross also depended heavily on volunteers. Its programs were designed to aid both civilians and the military. Among the duties of the American National Red Cross were collecting plasma, recruiting nurses, and providing materials for medical use such as surgical dressings. It also provided services for military men and their families as well as for European refugees. Each state and county had quotas of certain articles, such as clothes or surgical dressings, to make.

There was not a major blood donation center within 75 miles of Raleigh; therefore, collecting plasma was not one of the responsibilities of the Wake County chapter.¹⁷ Otherwise, the county Red Cross had the

same responsibilities as the national organization. War-related Red Cross activities in Wake County began before America entered the war. In May 1940 the Red Cross began its war production program with the making of warm clothes for European refugees.¹⁸ By October 1941 the chapter was filling emergency kits for British women to use during air raids.¹⁹ By the time the United States entered the war, some volunteers already had experience in Red Cross activities. By the end of 1942 there were 22 units operating in the county with a total of 1800 volunteers.²⁰

One of the major jobs of the Red Cross was to meet the medical and personal needs of the military. The Red Cross was responsible for producing 90% of all surgical dressings used by the armed forces.²¹ The surgical dressing room in Wake County opened October 15, 1942. Between that date and June 1, 1943, the peak period for surgical dressings, local citizens produced 182,080.²² Residents were also asked to help fill kit bags for soldiers. These kits cost \$1 to equip and they contained cigarettes, soap, writing paper, books, razor blades, sewing kits, and other miscellaneous articles.²³ In one year the Wake County Chapter filled 3,984 of these kits.²⁴ In addition, women who knew how to knit spent a great deal of time making such articles as gloves, mufflers, rifle mitts, scarves and sweaters. In 1943 and 1944 Wake County women made 1,593 articles and spent a total of 48,104 hours working in the knitting rooms.²⁵

The Wake County Red Cross also furnished services for those men stationed in the area. It provided a number of articles for military hospitals such as hospital sheets, laprobes, fracture pillows, and pajamas.²⁶ Local women formed a Gray Lady Corps in March 1945 to serve

in the hospital at Camp Butner. Gray Ladies did such things for soldiers as reading or writing letters for them.²⁷ This was done despite the fact that Butner was about forty miles away and the ladies had to provide their own transportation at a time when tires and gas shortages were critical.²⁸

A number of Red Cross programs were directed at aiding the people on the home front as well. Among these were training nurses' aids for the disaster preparedness programs, teaching first aid classes and home nursing.²⁹ There were ten sewing rooms maintained throughout the county in such places as Raleigh, Cary, Zebulon, and Wake Forest. The women who worked in these rooms produced clothing for the needy of Wake County as well as for refugees and hospitals. In 1944-1945 approximately 150 women produced 17,303 sewed garments.³⁰ Children contributed to the program through the Junior Red Cross. Students who belonged to this organization made scrap books, lap boards, game boards, bridge tallies, joke books and other things for Army and Navy hospitals. They also collected ash trays and coat hangers for soldiers.³¹ The Red Cross program in Wake County was a success because all types of people were willing to give unselfishly of their time.

Among those groups who were essential in keeping not only the U.S.O. and Red Cross programs operational, but a number of other war programs as well, were civic clubs and churches. All types of clubs--men's, women's and children's--participated in a number of projects throughout the war. And churches often provided recreational and housing facilities for soldiers as well as providing a vital service in attempting to maintain morale and spiritual well-being in what was a time of uncertainty and sorrow for many.

There were a number of children's organizations which provided war-related services during the war. One such club was called Junior Commandos. These children were issued red arm bands and their jobs involved collecting scrap and buying bonds.³² Boy and Girl Scouts also did their part to help in scrap and bond drives. The Boy Scouts maintained a salvage center where they collected such things as waste fats.³³ A Girl Scout project involved collecting a "victory fund." Each Scout was asked to buy at least one war stamp. After the war the bonds were to be used to help needy children throughout the world.³⁴ Special projects by Scouts involved things like collecting phonograph records for use by servicemen³⁵ or making bags for hunters or travelers to deposit cigarette butts in. On one side of these bags was a warning for citizens to remember that timber was essential to the war. On the other side was the statement, "A Girl Scout made this bag as a contribution toward winning the war."³⁶ Scouting organizations also aided the Office of Civilian Defense by distributing pamphlets for the Civilian Service Corps.³⁷ A number of youth organizations, such as Campfire Girls, B'nai B'rith, Y.M.C.A., and Y.W.C.A., joined with Scouts in the fall of 1942 to promote the V-Home program, discussed in a previous chapter, which was also directed by the O.C.D.³⁸

Adult civic clubs did the same sort of things on a larger scale. They frequently engaged in bond and scrap drives and worked with the U.S.O. and Red Cross. The American Legion, for instance, helped the U.S.O. to place service men in homes.³⁹ Several women's organizations took turns serving as hostesses for the U.S.O. dances and both men and women's clubs manned the bond booths located in the city.

Civic organizations were particularly helpful in aiding people to plant and maintain victory gardens. The Raleigh Garden Club established a victory garden center at a hardware store downtown⁴⁰ and members from this club and the Men's Horticulture Club of Raleigh served as advisors to those planting gardens for the first time.⁴¹ Other civic groups organized surveys to discover empty lots that might be used for gardens and to locate workmen with mules and plows to help establish gardens.⁴²

Typical of other special projects by clubs were the efforts of the Raleigh Merchants Bureau to raise money for cigarettes for servicemen⁴³ and the War Dads project to build shelters for hitch-hiking soldiers on each of the four main highways leading from Raleigh.⁴⁴ The Raleigh Woman's Club attempted to do something about two major social problems which often arise during times of war by launching campaigns to inform citizens about V.D.⁴⁵ and prostitution.⁴⁶

Churches did their part in the war effort by opening their doors to servicemen and civilians alike. At least six Raleigh churches had recreational facilities for soldiers⁴⁷ and eight aided the U.S.O. in housing them.⁴⁸ First Presbyterian alone provided sleeping space for 30 men by remodeling a warehouse at the rear of the church.⁴⁹ Some congregations fed visiting soldiers as well. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh gave tickets to the first 25 servicemen in the church each Sunday, entitling them to free meals following the service.⁵⁰ And a number of churches remembered their own members in the military in various ways, such as sending cards or packages.⁵¹

For those at home the churches offered something that perhaps no one else could give quite as well--reassurance and hope. There were many

special days of prayer throughout the war. "Compassion Day" was observed on May 2, 1943, a "day of compassion for the persecuted Jews of Hitler's Europe."⁵² Christ Church observed special prayers each day beginning at 12:15 for men and women in the service.⁵³ On June 6, 1944--D-Day--Mayor Graham Andrews of Raleigh asked the churches to ring their bells for two minutes every hour to remind people to go and pray for the success of the Allied armies invading the Normandy shore.⁵⁴ Like collecting scrap or selling bonds, these hours of prayer, too, gave American citizens the feeling that they were contributing to the effort in some small way.

Footnotes--Chapter VI

1. Conover, p. 2.
2. Times, 1 December 1944, Box 85.
3. Lemmon, p. 33.
4. Samuel K. Cissel, Director. "Historical Record of U.S.O. Club, 7 East Edenton Street" (Raleigh, 24 April 1945), p. 1. Military Collection, North Carolina State Archives.
5. News and Observer, 4 December 1942, #17.
6. Harold M. Holmes, Director. "Closing Narrative Report of U.S.O. Club, 600 S. Bloodworth Street" (Raleigh, April 1946), p. 1. Military Collection, North Carolina State Archives.
7. News and Observer, 24 September 1943, #42.
8. Cissel, p. 4.
9. Ibid, p. 11.
10. Times, 3 November 1942, #14.
11. Ibid, 2 October 1942, #14.
12. Cissel, p. 12.
13. Ibid, p. 1.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Holmes, p. 1.
17. Annual Report of the American National Red Cross (Washington: American National Red Cross, 1942), p. 84.
18. "Annual Report of Wake County Chapter of the American Red Cross" (Raleigh: Wake County Red Cross Headquarters, 1940-45), 1940-41. At Wake County Red Cross Headquarters, Raleigh.
19. "Chapter Minutes of the Wake County Chapter of the Red Cross" (Raleigh: Wake County Red Cross Headquarters, 1940-45), 22 October 1941. At Wake County Red Cross Headquarters, Raleigh.
20. News and Observer, 18 November 1942, #15.

21. "Annual Report of Wake County Red Cross," 8 August 1943.
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23. News and Observer, 11 November 1942, #14.
24. "Annual Report of Wake County Red Cross," 25 May 1945.
25. Ibid, 1943-44.
26. Ibid, 25 May 1945.
27. Ibid.
28. "Chapter Minutes of Wake County Red Cross," 18 May 1945.
29. News and Observer, 28 February 1944, #52.
30. "Annual Report of Wake County Red Cross," 25 May 1945.
31. Ibid.
32. Times, 13 October 1942, #12.
33. News and Observer, 6 March 1943, #25.
34. Times, 17 November 1942, #15.
35. News and Observer, 30 July 1942, #5.
36. Times, 18 November 1942, #5.
37. Ibid, 3 February 1943, #22.
38. News and Observer, 9 November 1942, #16.
39. Ibid, 5 January 1943, #20.
40. Ibid, 24 May 1943, #32.
41. News and Observer, 4 March 1943; also 10 March 1943, #25.
42. Times, 5 February 1943, #22.
43. News and Observer, 27 May 1943, #32.
44. Times, 7 November 1944, Box 85.
45. Ibid, 10 December 1942, #17.
46. News and Observer, 19 November 1942, #15.

47. Ibid, 4 December 1942, #17.

48. Cissel, p. 4.

49. Times, 19 December 1942, #18.

50. A variety of activities by churches are found in the church bulletins included in the Military Collection.

51. Ibid.

52. News and Observer, 1 May 1943, #30.

53. Ibid, 1 March 1943, #24.

54. Ibid, 2 May 1944, Box 85.

CHAPTER VII. PROPAGANDA

Throughout World War II restrictions upon civil liberty were measured against those imposed in 1917 and 1918. Civil libertarians were haunted by memories of raids on the headquarters of radical groups, mobs forcing immigrants to kiss the flag, 100 percent Americans prying into their neighbor's opinions, and Fourth of July celebrations that included the burning of German language books.¹

Such curtailment of civil liberties and censorship was never reached during World War II. Except for the unfortunate relocation of Japanese-Americans, citizens of the United States enjoyed unprecedented freedom in a wartime society. But this fact did not preclude the rise of a well organized system of propaganda. News agencies did what they felt was necessary to promote the essential war program, and propaganda in the Second World War became something of an art.

One important role the propagandists undertook was to keep morale high. This was not always easy.

...Civilians many times were frustrated; they did not see how they could contribute to the war; they had to sit at home when they would have preferred action; they waited weeks and months for letters from loved ones; they did without goods when black marketers had plenty. It was therefore important to help civilians realize that every action of theirs was either helpful or detrimental in winning the war. Posters, radio programs, speeches, propaganda of all sorts, were directed toward civilians to keep their morale high, to insure that they were not careless and thus detrimental to the cause, and to encourage them to work as hard as possible to defeat the Axis powers.²

Newspapers carried humorous sidelights of life in wartime along with grim reminders of the other side of war. The News and Observer ran a little poem which was written during the First World War. The original title was "U. O. Hoover" but it was printed in the paper under the title "Cheer Up."

My Tuesdays are meatless,
 My Wednesdays are wheatless,
 I am getting more eatless each day.
 My home it is heatless,
 My bed it is sheetless,
 They're all sent to the Y.M.C.A.
 My club rooms are treatless,
 My coffee is sweet-less,
 Each day I grow poorer and wiser.
 My stockings are feetless,
 My trousers are seatless,
 My God, but I do hate the Kaiser.³

Whether or not this poem about life in 1917 served to cheer anyone up is uncertain, but except for the culprit mentioned in the last line, the situation was the same in 1943. Such attempts as this, to make those at home laugh at and make the best of situations that could not be changed and indeed must exist if the war was to be won, were an important part of the propaganda scheme.

The other goal of the propagandists might seem to be at odds with the first, for while all news media felt that good morale was important, they were equally convinced that the people should never be too far removed from the war. The American situation in the war was unique.

As one rueful American put it..., Europe had been occupied, Russia and China invaded, Britain bombed; only the United States among the great powers was 'fighting this war on imagination alone.⁴

Although many American families were painfully conscious of the war due to the empty place where father, brother or son used to sit, it was still true that in many ways the war was being fought in the imaginations of the people. The news media and governments went to great lengths to remind citizens that their country was at war and they must do their part.

One very simple way in which people were daily reminded of the war was through the vocabulary. If something was not preceded by the term "victory," it was most likely due to an oversight. Citizens raised "victory gardens." They drove the 35-mile-per-hour "victory speed limit." At times grocery stores advertised "victory food specials."⁵ Families wrote their loved ones in the service on one-sheet letters which folded into their own envelopes called "v-mail." And when actor John Payne arrived in Raleigh in September, 1942, he was wearing a "victory suit" which had no lapels.⁶ Agencies requested "victory volunteers" and for two years Americans even paid a "victory tax" on personal income-- 5% in 1942 and 3% in 1943.⁷ People saw v's on everything from the stickers in their V-home windows to the butter pats in their restaurant.⁸ "War" was not used as often probably because psychologically victory was a much better term, but citizens did buy war bonds and stamps (also called victory bonds at times) and the whole country operated on "war time" from February 9, 1942 to September 29, 1945.⁹ Today this is known as daylight saving time.

Naturally the best way to reach people was through the news media. Radio and newspapers touched millions of people's lives each day and for four years the war was the major topic of discussion for both of these media. People continued to gather around the radio in the evening to listen to their favorite programs. Comedy-variety shows were as popular as always, but the themes of such shows often revolved around the war. According to Norman Corwin, a radio newsman whose article on wartime radio appears in the book While You Were Gone,

Comedy shows were not all buffoonery and high jinks during the darkest days of war. Comedians gave curtain talks of their programs that were often eloquent and sincere. They discussed war subjects allocated by the Office of War Information, and spoke in their own or someone else's words, and what they said made good sense.

...

Imagination and resourcefulness went into the integration of war "messages" on the better comedy programs. Perhaps the outstanding example was that of "Fibber McGee and Molly." Its writer...managed to write entire programs on subjects ranging from the black market to the recruiting of Nurses' Aides.¹⁰

Corwin goes on to say that while comedy programs had their place, they could not be expected to keep citizens informed on all war issues. Other types of programs were needed for that.

Raleigh's two radio stations--WPTF and WRAL--aided the war effort by carrying such programs. "42 Keys to Victory," for instance, was a 15-minute sketch about the typewriter shortage and what citizens could do to ease it.¹¹ As already discussed in a previous chapter, the "Victory Quiz" educated residents about civilian defense and current events. Other programs dealt with a variety of war-related topics. In one week the program schedule for WPTF included the following programs: "Commando May," "This Is the Army Hour," "Uncle Sam," "Victory Farmers on Parade," "Victory News," "War Telescope," "The People's War," "Salute from Camp Butner," "Victory Tune Time," "Songs of the Allies," "For This We Fight," and "Words at War."¹² During a typical week at WRAL Wake County residents could listen to these programs: "This Is Fort Dix," "Beyond Victory," "Army-Navy Houseparty," "Navy Bulletin Board," "Army Air Forces," "This Is Our Enemy," "Soldiers With Wings," and "For Victory."¹³

Newspapers, too, made adjustments to the war. They

...cut their newsprint quota 30 per cent; they sacrificed millions of lines of advertising in order to give the news; they played an important part in the war drives--for bonds, for scrap, for fats, for paper, for what-not--allotting millions of dollars' worth of space for these purposes without cost to the government.¹⁴

And they kept the war vivid in the imaginations of the American people.

The two major newspapers in the Wake County area were The Raleigh Times and The News and Observer. No one ever picked up either of these papers between December 1941 and August 1945 without finding some war news on the front page. Inside were various other reminders of the war. Issue after issue was filled with pictures of young men, the caption reading "In Service," or "Killed," or "Wounded." Week after week the casualty lists appeared with the news of North Carolina men injured or captured. Even though this was not propoganda in the usual sense of the word, the lists were certainly a grim reminder to try a little harder on the homefront. The News and Observer carried two other columns that were direct results of the war. "Here's News from Home to Tar Heels in Service" was just what it said, a capsule of North Carolina news to be sent to servicemen. The other was a piece called "Be An American--First" which commented on different aspects of the homefront. But in both newspapers the regular columnists were usually writing about wartime society. Syndicated columnists like Ernie Pyle kept people informed of what was happening with American forces overseas.

Cartoonists did their part in the war too. Political cartoons were often aimed at raising citizens' war consciences. One which appeared in The News and Observer showed Washington at Valley Forge saying, "Don't you think that I, too, would like to return to the comforts of Mt. Vernon?"¹⁵ Another portrayed a man leaving a plant labelled "War Production Walkouts." The caption read "Right Up Hitler's Alley."¹⁶

Not even comic strips were untouched by war. During the first week of April 1944 the "Mickey Mouse" cartoon which appeared in The Raleigh Times had Mickey trying to save the royal children of a European nation from Nazis.¹⁷ Contemporary favorites such as Barney Google, Snuffy Smith and Dick Tracy joined the military.¹⁸ And, according to sportswriter Paul Gallico,

Superman took his army physical and was rejected as a 4F when his X-ray eyes unfortunately read the chart in the next room instead of the one he was suppose to read, and Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito all breathed easier.¹⁹

Fillers--the bits of trivia that papers use to take up extra space--also became war oriented. A typical filler today may tell the reader the population of some obscure African country or when to expect the next solar eclipse. Fillers during the war said things like "Everytime an American paratrooper jumps, \$850 worth of equipment floats to earth,"²⁰ or "Any time now der Fuehrer may be called on for his tuition fee at the School of Hard Knocks."²¹ Still others reminded folks to buy bonds²² or salvage.²³ Even if a person avoided the headline stories on the war, he could not get through the paper without being reminded of it in some manner.

Advertisers joined in the effort and almost every ad that appeared in the paper made reference to the war in one way or another. Many of them reminded citizens of their responsibilities as well as advertising a product. An advertisement for Budweiser beer, for example, showed cowboys urging people to "Stake Your Claim now with War Bonds."²⁴ Carolina Power and Light ran many ads in both papers. For a while it presented a series called "Busts from the Hall of Shame." One typical ad from this

series portrayed a Japanese soldier saying "Japan is Assured Final Victory...says 'Razor Brains Tojo.'"²⁵ It went on to encourage people not to waste power. Even Santa Claus did his part by assuring citizens that he was safe from enemy forces.

The war can't stop me. Ten million evil elves like Hitler can't scare me. Hirohito's yellow beetles can't even see me. Neither bombs nor bullets, stukas nor zeros can hit nor catch me.

The ad concluded by saying that Santa can get messages through the classified ads of The Raleigh Times.²⁶

Perhaps the most striking propaganda that appeared in the papers was the persistent appeal for war bonds. As stated previously, selling bonds was serious business. "Altogether advertising space and time estimated to be worth \$400,000,000 was donated [nationally] to war bond campaigns alone, and the number of individual ads ran into the millions."²⁷ Playing on one's sympathy was a favorite way of selling bonds. One such ad portrayed a weary soldier with the caption "Remember me? I was at Bataan."²⁸ Soon after Roosevelt's death an ad appeared showing a casualty list such as the ones that quite often appeared in the paper. But on this list, entered with the other names, was "Roosevelt, Franklin D." The reader was assured that the President was a war casualty as certainly as the others and citizens must continue to buy bonds to put an end to the deaths.²⁹ Scare tactics were another means of selling. "Fascism Means Slavery, Fight It,"³⁰ was one such ad. Another involved a composite picture of a man with Hitler's hair and mustache, Hirohito's eyes, and Mussolini's chin. The ad insisted that this gruesome picture "should inspire every soldier to fight harder, every civilian to buy more bonds...!"³¹ Scare tactics were especially used after Allied victories

so that citizens would not become over-confident. The fall of Italy came during the 3rd War Loan and an ad asked "Will the fall of Italy mean a homefront defeat?" The message informed readers that any let up could mean victory for Germany and Japan.³² The propagandists were not above making people feel guilty either. One such effort showed a man asleep on a sofa.

'Are you comfortable, brother?' asked the headline. And then the text went on to say, "That's good, brother. Just sleep right through this war. Let some other guy do your share! What's it to you that a kid just got bumped off in the Solomons...because you couldn't be bothered with scrap collection? Sure, you out-smarted the ration board on gas all right...and kept a certain Army plane in Africa out of the air. You're exhausted thinking up reasons why not to buy War Bonds...while thousands of American boys are going without food and sleep to protect your hide. Come on, get up off that fat can of yours...stop riding and start pushing! If this doesn't apply to you, tear it out and send it to someone it does.'³³

A simple statement like, "When you go home tonight think of a boy who never will,"³⁴ was an effective way of reminding people that their sacrifices were relatively small. Another more involved appeal came in the form of a quote from John Steinbeck:

I have seen the hospitals with the mauled men, the legless and blind, the fingerless hands and the burned faces--all the destruction that steel and fire can do to a man's body and mind. In God's name, what is it for except to get this horrible thing over with as quickly and as thoroughly as possible.? And if this is true, it should not be a matter of "Who will lend his money?" but 'Who dares not to?'³⁵

Guilt tactics were used in still another way, urging people not to cash their bonds because this took money out of the war effort. One ad for this cause said, "Tell Steve you cashed your war bonds. He got his new legs today."³⁶

One did not even need a vivid imagination to fight the war in his mind. The propagandists never let anyone become too far removed. They

attempted to maintain morale by demonstrating that people's sacrifices were important and worthwhile, but they did insist that the sacrifices be made.

1. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 406.

2. *Ibid.*, 44, 410.

3. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 411.

4. *Ibid.*, 44 (September 1953), 48.

5. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

6. *Ibid.*, 44 (September 1953), 48.

7. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

8. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

9. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

10. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

11. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

12. *Ibid.*, 44, 410.

13. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

14. *Ibid.*, 44 (September 1953), 48.

15. *Ibid.*, 44, 410.

16. *Ibid.*, 44, 410.

17. *Ibid.*, 44 (September 1953), 48.

18. *Ibid.*, 44 (September 1953), 48.

19. *Annals of the Entomological Society*, 44 (1953), 48.

Footnotes--Chapter VII

1. Polenberg, p. 37.
2. Lemmon, pp. 34-35.
3. News and Observer, 14 March 1943, #26.
4. Blum, p. 16.
5. News and Observer, 7 December 1942, #17.
6. Ibid, 12 September 1942, #9.
7. Paul Studenski and Herman E. Krooss. Financial History of the United States (New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc., 1952), p. 448.
8. Times, 25 August 1942, #7.
9. R. Gregg Cherry, "Proclamation Ending War Time" (29 September 1945). Governors' Papers Collection, North Carolina State Archives.
10. Jack Goodman. While You Were Gone (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1946), p. 380.
11. News and Observer, 30 September 1942, #8.
12. "Program Schedule of WPTF Radio," 18-24 July 1943. Military Collection, North Carolina State Archives.
13. "Program Schedule of WRAL Radio," 1-7 August 1943. Military Collection, North Carolina State Archives.
14. Goodman, p. 355.
15. News and Observer, 22 February 1944, Box 82.
16. Times, 12 February 1944, Box 82.
17. Ibid, 7 April 1944.
18. Goodman, p. 505.
19. Ibid, p. 30.
20. Times, 12 September 1944.
21. Ibid, 5 December 1942, #17.
22. News and Observer, 22 November 1942, #15.

23. Times, 1 September 1942, #8.
24. Ibid, 5 April 1944, Box 85.
25. News and Observer, 29 June 1943, #35.
26. Times, 23 December 1942, #19.
27. Goodman, p. 437.
28. Times, 21 April 1943, #28.
29. News and Observer, 10 June 1945.
30. Times, 19 April 1943, #29.
31. News and Observer, 31 December 1942, #19.
32. Times, 9 September 1943, #40.
33. Goodman, p. 438.
34. Times, 26 January 1944, #50.
35. News and Observer, 13 October 1943, #43.
36. Ibid, 27 January 1944, #50.

CHAPTER VIII. CONCLUSION

The war officially ended on September 2, 1945 with the signing of the Japanese surrender on board the U.S.S. Missouri. Slowly but surely the wartime measures began to disappear--the rationing, the salvaging, the constant appeals for money. The major objective for Americans was no longer Tokyo or Berlin but returning to a more prosperous civilian life. But just as surely as they could look forward to the future with hope, they could look back on the past with pride, for the war had been fought well on all fronts, military and civilian.

In North Carolina Governor Cherry commended his fellow citizens for a job well done:

To those who have remained at home, I extend a full and merited appreciation for the loyalty, patience and willingness to labor, produce and bear with little complaint the inconveniencies of our wartime economy.¹

Life in the early 1940's required a great deal of adjustment and sacrifice. New demands were made on citizens from week to week, but the residents of Wake County took them in stride and successfully accomplished most of the tasks put before them. They prepared themselves for defense; they conserved and salvaged; they answered the appeals for money, belongings, and time; and they worked to be a supportive force in spirit as well as in body. The plans and campaigns were not always perfect. Few ever are. But the occasional failures or setbacks do not compare to the effort and enthusiasm that most citizens extended toward war programs. Naturally they did not cry for joy when they learned that they were limited to three gallons of gas or 2 1/2 pounds of meat per week; but as

Governor Cherry said, they accepted it with a minimum of complaint. From time to time they needed to be reminded of their responsibilities but most citizens of Wake County, like those of the rest of North Carolina and the other 47 states of the Union realized that their duties at home were no less important to the war effort than those of their sons and daughters in the military. In the words of historian Allan Nevins, Americans "...had always risen to meet their greatest crises, and in this time of unexampled want, woe, and confusion the world over, they [answered] the challenge again.²

Footnotes--Chapter VIII

1. R. Gregg Cherry, "Proclamation Following Surrender of Japan," 14 August 1945, Governors' Papers Collection, North Carolina State Archives.

2. Goodman, p. 2.

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