

THE CHILDREN'S ARMY

They have collected five-sixths of all scrap aluminum.

They have collected 10,000,000 books for the armed forces.

They have financed 35 day nurseries and 4 convalescent homes for English children.

They are growing Victory Gardens by the thousands, are helping farmers during harvest time.

They have sold millions of dollars worth of War Bonds and Stamps.

"They" are America's young people --- the Children's Army. City kids, country kids. Of all races, ancestries and economic levels.

They are fighting to win the battle of the home front.

They are training to take their places in the armed forces.

They are preparing to rebuild the post-war world.

But --- they need reinforcements. All young people are not yet engaged in war activity.

You of the motion picture industry can channel the energy and patriotism of our youngsters into useful war work.

They are your most devoted fans. They will take their cue from what they see on the screen.

Tell them what needs to be done ... why it must be done ... how it can be done.

The accompanying fact sheet will supply you with a comprehensive survey of how the Children's Army has been fighting the battle of the home front.

Office of War Information

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
BUREAU OF MOTION PICTURES
HOLLYWOOD OFFICE

NOTE: The following information is being sent to you as a supplement to the War Information Manual. Its purpose is to give further amplification to the Government's war program, and to provide material for short subjects and feature pictures. If more detailed information on the subject is desired, it will be furnished to you, on request, by the Office of War Information. Should you wish to use this material in your short subject or feature program, kindly communicate with this office in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

THE CHILDREN'S ARMY

THE PROBLEM: ENLISTING EVERY BOY AND GIRL IN THE WAR EFFORT

President Roosevelt has said: "Every single man, woman and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking in our American history."

Today America needs the help of every boy and girl in order to win the battle of the home front, for victory on the battle front will be determined, to a large extent, by how vigorously we prosecute the war at home.

Our job is to enlist America's youth in the war effort. It is a job that can best be accomplished by motion pictures, which wield an incalculable influence on school-age youngsters. Today that influence can - and should - provide the impetus to encourage all young people to enroll in some kind of war activity.

Young people want to contribute their time, strength and

enthusiasm to the cause. The evidence is to be found in their splendid achievements to date. This is the kind of initiative they have shown:

Last spring a group of Burley, Idaho, school boys rebuilt an old truck in their shop class, took it out and hauled in 15 tons of old automobile bodies - precious scrap.

School children in Stephens County, Oklahoma, collected 700 tons of scrap in three weeks.

Four Negro boys of Louisburg, North Carolina, dove time and time to the muddy bottom of the Tar River and brought up 900 pounds of old tires.

When it comes to imagination, stamina and high-pressure salesmanship, America's youngsters have the older folks licked a dozen ways. The country has good reason to count on them.

But there are still thousands of tasks for them to perform. The need for their services will grow as the war continues. Motion pictures can tell them what needs to be done, and how their willingness and enthusiasm can be transformed into concrete results that will speed victory.

DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY OR AXIS SLAVERY

The contrast between our program of youth mobilization and the Axis system of regimentation and enslavement tells the story of what this war is about -- of what we are fighting for and against.

The boys and girls of America were born in a peaceful nation. They have been taught that man's progress is measured not by his armed

might but by his ability to get along with his neighbors ... not by his conquests but by his success in expanding the frontiers of decency, enlightenment and justice.

"It is true", said Vice President Wallace, "that American youth hates war with a holy hatred."

But the Axis has declared war on the youth of America, the inheritors of the American way of life. Theirs is the real stake in victory. And whatever they do to help smash the Axis will at the same time help to smash the chains that hold millions of other young people in slavery throughout Europe.

The Axis makes use of children, too. Not on a voluntary basis, to be sure, for nothing in Axis countries is done on a voluntary basis.

The Axis operates on the theory that in order to control the future it is necessary to capture and manipulate the oncoming generation. Children, from the Axis standpoint, are weapons of war and of conquest.

The Axis wants children. Hundreds of children to be made into arrogant masters. Millions of children to be made into labor slaves. Young boys to be soldiers. Young girls to bear soldiers. Teen-agers to settle the new frontiers. Boy and girl spies and saboteurs. Children as propagandists. Children as hostages to keep conquered peoples in subjugation.

The Nazi conquest of Europe gives us an awesome and heart-rending picture of smashed educational systems, mass movements of children from one country to another, wholesale enslavements, and worst of all,

widespread starvation and extermination among populations most despised by the Nazis.

Russians, Poles, Yugoslavs and Greeks are inferior peoples, say the Nazis. Their children have been systematically starved to death. Czech, French, Belgian, Dutch, Danish and Norwegian children have been taken from their homes and transported to Germany to work at forced labor. Everywhere the Nazi system of education has been imposed. Nowhere is the light of truth allowed to penetrate.

At the same time German children have been sent into all conquered countries to "Germanize" the native youngsters and to serve the occupation authorities as spies. Eventually they will be the rulers of those countries, will be the masters of the slave populations -- unless the Axis is crushed.

The Japanese pattern of conquest closely parallels that of the Nazis. The Japanese fascist educational regime in Korea is precisely what may be expected in the rest of the "Co-Prosperity Sphere". Only one per cent of Korean children may attend high school. All education is based on Japanese ideology. Korean youngsters are taught from infancy that their single object in life is to serve their Japanese masters.

This same master-slave system has already been introduced into the Philippines, Burma, Malaya, and conquered China. The children of conquered Asia look forward to a future of unrelenting toil, hardship and tyranny -- unless the Axis is crushed.

America cannot remain an island of freedom in a slave world. Our children will become part of the slave world -- unless the Axis is

crushed. Theirs is the real stake in victory.

AMERICA'S YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AT WAR

America's Children's Army is too young to fight. It is not too young to know that everything to be hoped for in the future depends on our winning.

They are making tremendous contributions to the war effort through their local and national organizations. They understand the importance of the work they are doing. That understanding has given them a new sense of pride, dignity and self-assurance. It has helped develop a solemn appreciation of the reasons why their fathers and brothers are fighting.

Here is what a few of the hundreds of youth organizations are doing to help win the war:

Boy Scouts

1. Are collecting salvage material of all kinds. Collected 5/6 of all scrap aluminum. Collected 10,000,000 books for the armed forces.
2. Are growing Victory gardens.
3. Are making model airplanes for use by the military services.
4. Are assisting in U.S.O. activities.
5. Are making housing and traffic surveys in certain sections of the country.
6. Sea Scouts are assisting the Coast Guard in patrol work.

Girl Scouts

1. Are studying first aid.
2. Are learning to assist local officials in the event of an air raid.
3. Are making armbands and bandages for the Office of Civilian Defense.
4. Are doing home tasks to release mothers for defense work.

Junior Red Cross

1. The 15,000,000 members are maintaining a steady production of articles for the armed forces, such as stretchers, canes, writing boards, book wagons, games, sweaters and other articles of clothing.
2. Are helping the children of foreign countries; have financed 35 day nurseries and 4 convalescent homes for English children; have sent 7500 pairs of shoes to Russian children.
3. Are promoting attendance in first aid classes.
4. Have formed a bicycle corps to aid the Red Cross Motor Corps.
5. Are studying nutrition courses and helping in war canteens.

Junior Auxiliary of the American Women's Voluntary Services

1. Members are studying first aid, fingerprinting, military drill.
2. Are helping to serve in canteens established by the senior organization.
3. Are acting as aides and messengers for the senior motor corps.
4. Are selling war stamps and bonds at A.W.V.S. booths.
5. Are making war posters.

4-H Clubs

1. Are teaching all club members health-improvement and nutrition.
2. Are providing all members with economic information on money management, prices, rationing.
3. Have organized "Don't Waste -- Save for Victory" campaigns; are distributing surplus crops to needy families.
4. Are assisting in organizing young farm people to help out on labor shortages.
5. Are training older boys in operation and repair of farm machinery.
6. Are increasing production of foods which are most needed in the war effort.

Y.M.C.A.

1. Has instituted a nation-wide program of physical fitness.
2. Is teaching more boys swimming and life-saving; is operating first aid classes.

3. Is conducting salvage campaigns and selling war bonds and stamps.
4. Is building model airplanes and other articles for use by the armed forces.
5. Has organized a program of education (including speakers, motion pictures, etc.) to supply a fuller understanding of the war.

SCHOOLS AT WAR

Since the beginning of the war, schools have undertaken one war activity after another. Now all these functions are to be coordinated a nation-wide mobilization to be known as the Schools at War Program. It is being sponsored by the Treasury Department and the U. S. Office of Education.

The Schools at War Program will emphasize the three broad responsibilities that fall on citizens in wartime:

1. SAVE money to buy War Savings Stamps and Bonds regularly.
2. SERVE your school, community and nation by --

Training in first aid, accident prevention, nutrition, canteen service, lifesaving, marksmanship, aviation, radio, telegraphy, mechanics, auxiliary police and fire-fighting duty, plane spotting, etc.

Making airplane models, clothes, surgical dressings, posters and signs, Stamp booths and display booths, etc.

Volunteering for Junior Red Cross, USO, Civilian Defense, messenger and clerical duties, farm work, Child Care Centers to help working mothers, etc.

3. CONSERVE materials, services and money by --

Collecting scrap rubber, paper, copper, tin, iron, steel and other waste materials for war production; selling it to buy War Stamps.

Repairing old clothes, shoes, athletic equipment, furniture, household appliances, etc.

Wasting nothing by canning fruits and vegetables, using left-overs, collecting and selling fat drippings to the butcher, saving on supplies, etc.

Buying wisely by making a budget for spending and saving, buying only what is actually needed.

There will be awards:

1. A Certificate of Service will be granted to each school that enrolls in the Schools at War Program and makes a report to the Government on its war activities record.
2. To every state and territory where the schools enroll in the Schools at War Program and hold a state exhibit, the Treasury Department will present a tangible symbol of the freedom we are fighting to preserve. This symbol will be an original foundation stone from historic Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Each of these weathered stones will be mounted in a display case against a bas-relief of Independence Hall.

GOVERNMENT TRAINING - FOR WAR AND PEACE

Embracing all phases of the war, the Government's youth training is aimed likewise at developing skills that will further the progress of the country in the peace to come. New opportunities are open to young people that will improve their standard of living and promote the kind of enlightened economic democracy that is implicit in the Four Freedoms.

Here, specifically, is what the Government is doing to train our young people to help win the war and to rebuild the post-war world:

Office of Education - Federal Security Agency

1. Has instituted a program of vocational training in secondary schools throughout the country. The training includes dozens of different types of mechanical crafts.
2. Has fostered changes in curriculum to include new concepts in geography, the latest developments in physics, chemistry and engineering.
3. Has set up specialized courses in home making and home nursing.
4. Has established courses in specialized farming and farm mechanics.
5. Has sponsored pre-aviation courses in high schools.
6. Has sent out specifications for the making of 500,000 model airplanes for the Army and Navy.
7. Has cooperated with the OGD in supplying instructions for the planting of Victory gardens.

Children's Bureau - Department of Labor

1. Has established rules to safeguard the young and inexperienced worker in war industries.
2. Is supervising, to a large extent, the recruiting of teen-age youth to do summer work on farms.
3. Is guarding against the employment in industry of girls under 18.
4. Is keeping a complete statistical record of the amount and kinds of work being done by young people.

National Youth Administration

1. Is training and finding jobs for unemployed young people through the nation-wide War Production Training Program.
2. Has established an interstate transfer plan, whereby young people who have been trained in the NYA centers may be transferred wherever they are needed.

3. Is operating a student work plan, providing part-time employment in war industries.

National Aeronautic Association

1. Is sponsoring the Junior Air Reserve, providing basic flying training to boys of high-school age.
2. Has established an extensive course of correspondence instruction in aviation known as the Air Youth Program.

Office of Civilian Defense

1. Is organizing youngsters all over the country to serve as messengers for air raid committees, defense councils and other war agencies.
2. Is sponsoring - through youth organizations - the collection of salvage materials, books, magazines, phonograph records, etc.
3. Has enrolled young people as junior air raid wardens, airplane spotters and fire watchers.

In addition to the activities listed above, Government agencies are enlisting young people to assist in safety campaigns, to act as supervisors of playgrounds, to help in distributing information on conservation, price ceilings, rationing, etc. Their voluntary aid in selling War Bonds and Stamps has been accorded the highest praise by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. The Children's Army is on the march!

DRAMATIZING THE CHILDREN'S ARMY

In order to win the battle of the home front we must enroll every youngster in the Children's Army. Emphasis in motion pictures on the splendid contribution of young people to the war effort will help immeasurably in reaching that goal. At the same time, when we ask young folks to volunteer their services to the cause, we owe it to them to

answer the questions: What are we fighting for? Whom and what are we fighting against? What is to be gained by victory or lost by defeat? It is our job to interpret the war to them honestly and wisely.

The war is not a game, nor is it a glorious adventure. The quicker we dispel such ideas - particularly from youthful minds - the less likelihood there will be of widespread bitterness and disillusionment during the post-war readjustment. Too, we must show the war in its proper perspective. It is unwise to encourage children to leave school for a job in a war production industry. Education for tomorrow is more important right now than at any time in our history. There is plenty of work to be done in the home and the community. Let the factory job wait until after graduation.

Also to be avoided is the mistake of showing young people organizing to track down spies, fifth-columnists, saboteurs, or enemy invaders. This job belongs to the F.B.I. and the Army.

American youngsters, the most devoted of film fans, strive to emulate their youthful screen idols. Hence juvenile characters, shown taking an active, constructive part in the war effort, will provide an inspiration and an example to every kid in the country. The battle of the home front is the juvenile story of today.