

THE HISTORY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Rendered confidential service for Third Naval District.

Cooperated in American Library Association drive for better books.

Served well in Food and Fuel Conservation.

Performed countless individual acts of service to the Government, not recorded under any special classification.

Presented a united front of patriotic zeal in every community, which in itself was of incalculable value to the Nation.

Nearly 70,000 Scouts earned the Treasury Department Medal in the Liberty Loan drives. Almost half that number qualified for bars in addition; 23,111 achievement buttons, 13,231 ace medals, 40,000 bronze palms, 2,516 silver palms, 416 gold palms were awarded for W.S.S. sales.

And they have adopted the "Peace Cry"—The War is Over, But Our Work Is Not.

*F.L. Treat*  
4A4  
**SERVICE RECORD**

in the

**FIRST WORLD WAR**

Based upon reports in  
**SCOUTING Magazine**  
and Annual Reports  
of the Boy Scouts of  
America for the war  
years

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With a Reprint of Chap-  
ter VI of the "History  
of the Boy Scouts of  
America"

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**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

2 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

## CHRONOLOGY

### 1914

- August 15—(SCOUTING Magazine) Statement by the Chief Scout Executive, upon the outbreak of war in Europe, that Scouts "will do their duty patriotically and efficiently. Their humane service already begins."
- September—Plan set up for Scouts to help local relief committees assist war refugees upon arrival, serving as guides and giving information where possible.
- November—B.S.A. published a "War" number of BOYS' LIFE in answer to the demand of boys for "something about the war," and to bring home to its readers the horror of war.

### 1915

- September—New York Sun investigation proved non-military claims of the Scout Movement, both in U. S. and Europe.
- October—The Executive Board of the National Council passed a resolution "that it would be inappropriate for the Boy Scouts of America to take any official action with reference to any question of policy for the United States Government," in regard to national preparedness. The resolution pointed out that the Scout Movement is non-military, but is a strong force for preparedness in the developing of boy character and training for service in emergencies. (SCOUTING, Oct. 15, 1915, p. 1.)
- December—Former President Theodore Roosevelt hailed the Scout Movement as "distinctively an asset to our country" in preparing boys to serve in any emergency.

## 1916

SCOUTING Magazine, in a series of articles beginning April 15, shed considerable light on the nationally-discussed topic of compulsory military training for boys, and showed support for the Scout Movement's view that military training for boys in their early teens "is not preparedness at all."

June 15—Boy Scouts of America granted a Federal charter.

July 1—Under the heading, "What Will the Boy Scouts Do in Case of War?" in SCOUTING for July 1, 1916, the Chief Scout Executive advised against unwise action due to overenthusiasm and offered constructive suggestions for practical service by Scouts should the United States become involved in war with Mexico.

## 1917

February 15—(SCOUTING Magazine) Statement on behalf of the National Council, of what the Scout Movement was prepared to do in case of war with Germany.

March 28—Emergency Circular No. 1 issued demonstrating a plan of Scout mobilization.

April 6—United States entered war against Germany.

April 9—Executive Board of the National Council committed the Boy Scouts of America to definite war service by resolution.

April 10—First War Emergency Service—Scouts of Chester, Pa., mobilized for relief work following disastrous explosion at Eddystone, Pa.

April 13—Emergency Circular issued to all Scout Officials urging adoption of a nationwide food campaign behind the slogan "Every Scout to Feed a Soldier."

April 19—"Wake Up, America!" demonstration in New York City, 7,000 Boy Scouts marching with rakes and hoes.

May 19—President Wilson called on Boy Scouts of America to aid in Liberty Loan drive.

June 11-14—Scouts took part in first Liberty Loan drive.

Oct. 20-25—Second Liberty Loan campaign by Boy Scouts.

## 1918

Feb. 8-12—Boy Scout Anniversary Week. Special War Service Projects; National Scout Campaign for Men (100,000) and money (\$600,000 for field work) launched.

April 25—President Wilson called on Boy Scouts to make a census of all black walnut trees in U. S.

April 27-May 4—Third Liberty Loan drive by Boy Scouts.

Sept. 12—War Department called on Scouts to save fruit pits and nut shells for gas masks.

Sept. 28-Oct. 19—Fourth Liberty Loan drive by Boy Scouts.

October—Scouts served in munition plant explosion disaster at South Amboy, N. J.

Nov. 11—War ended; war relief and food production services, and War Savings Stamp and Liberty Loan campaigns continued.

Nov. 11-18—Boy Scouts of America joined with other boys' organizations in "Victory Boys" division of the United War Work Campaign Week.

Dec. 16-23—Scouts played important part in Red Cross Christmas Roll Call.

Dec. 21—Army issued notice to returning officers and men, pointing to opportunity to serve as Boy Scout leaders.

## 1919

May 3-10—Victory Liberty Loan drive by Boy Scouts.

## MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY—

1914-1919

End of Year	Scouts	Scouters	Total	Cumulative Since 1910
1914....	101,881	25,804	127,685	275,304
1915....	143,782	38,521	182,303	409,662
1916....	190,838	54,345	245,183	571,649
1917....	281,044	82,793	363,837	812,586
1918....	332,269	86,737	419,006	1,065,495
1919....	360,069	101,991	462,060	1,325,878

The first few weeks after America's entry into the war brought a rapid increase in boy membership. SCOUTING for May 15, 1917, reported that over 1,000 new registrations were being received daily.

## SERVICE

In the February 15, 1917, issue of SCOUTING were listed many of the service opportunities possible for Scouts in event of war. It was urged that Local Councils work out and practice plans of mobilization.

### Nature of the War Program

In order that there might be no misunderstanding or undue apprehension on the part of the public or the parents of the boys as to the nature of our war program, the following carefully prepared statement was issued in April by the National Office for the use of Local Councils and Troops:

"In this hour of our country's need, we Scouts and Scout officials who have had the benefit of the training of the program of the Boy Scouts of America have come in this way to pledge to you and through you to the citizens of our city our loyalty and hearty support in any emergency which may arise requiring more than the normal resources of the city government.

"Because of the Scout training we are prepared to do many things of practical value. We are not soldiers but are trained for civic service. We are able to render first aid to the injured, to do signaling and serve as messengers. Some of us have bicycles, motorcycles, automobiles, motor boats, sail boats, trek carts, tents and other equipment which are at your service and the service of our country.

"We are but part of the Legion of Service of our country known as the Boy Scouts of America, numbering over 250,000 men and boys, each pledged on his honor to do his duty to his God and his country and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. Throughout the whole country our members are mobilizing in this way as a practical demonstration not only of our good will and loyalty and our desire to do our duty to our country, but as an evidence that there is actually a resource available for service, should an emergency develop requiring service of the character for which the Boy Scouts have been training."

—History of the Boy Scouts of America, pages 101-102.



### **Action by the Executive Board**

The Executive Board of the National Council at the meeting held April 9, 1917, committed the Boy Scouts of America to definite war service by the following resolution:

"Whereas, Congress has declared that a state of war exists between this country and Germany, and

"Whereas, Each member of the Boy Scouts of America is definitely obligated by the Scout Oath to do his duty to his country, and

"Whereas, The combined strength of the Boy Scouts of America, now including 210,000 boys and 58,000 men, forms a potential asset to the country for cooperative effort; be it

"Resolved, That every officer and member of the Boy Scouts of America be urged, in addition to the service they will render the Police and civic authorities in their home cities, to definitely assist in the development of the plans which the National Council has made with the following organizations:

"First, The Department of Agriculture and Council of National Defense. To cooperate in the extension, and development of home gardens, under the slogan, 'Every Scout to Feed a Soldier.'

"Second, The American National Red Cross. To cooperate with the Red Cross through its local chapters in meeting their responsibilities occasioned by the state of war.

"Third, The Navy Department. To cooperate with the Navy Department in organizing an Emergency Coast Patrol along the Sea Coast towns."

### **Emergency Service**

#### **Mexican Crisis, 1916**

When it appeared in the summer of 1916 that the United States might go to war with Mexico, the Chief Scout Executive called upon Scouts to prepare themselves for any emergency and through Local Councils, to offer their services to the Red Cross and local civic authorities. Scouts in communities near the border were asked to stand ready to cooperate with possible overtaxed authorities in guarding water supplies, telegraph lines and other important property.

### **Mobilization Plans**

Scout units and Local Councils all over the country prepared, practiced and perfected mobilization plans to face any local emergency.

### **Guarding Coastlines**

Upon America's entry into the war Scouts living near sea-coasts were organized to cooperate with Naval authorities in protecting the coastlines. Scouts served as messengers and orderlies at navy yards; radio stations, and lighthouses and acted as lookouts, thereby releasing hundreds of navy men for other service. These Scouts collected information in regard to hospitals, ambulances, doctors and boats available, and explored conditions of roads.

Except for some who served as day messengers and orderlies, only Scouts fifteen or older were accepted. Service was entirely voluntary, and approval of parent and school authority and recommendation of Scoutmaster were required. Scouts worked in shifts of one to two weeks duration at a time.

Scouts on duty, reported movements of all ships, noted suspicious actions of small craft and sent and received messages by flag or lights, day or night. (SCOUTING, April 15, 1917, page 11; History of B.S.A., page 119; Annual Report, 1918, p. 23.)

### **Locating Unlawful Radio Stations**

This work was done in cooperation with Naval authorities. Scouts were generally useful in bringing to the attention of authorities information of such character as might warrant investigation.

### **Life Saving Stations**

Scouts in some places organized and operated life saving stations and beach watch towers under Red Cross auspices.

### **Guards at Flying Field**

Eight Dayton Scouts served as guards at McCook Army Flying Field (SCOUTING, Oct. 24, 1918).

### **Service in Disasters Resulting from Sabotage and Defense Activity**

On April 10, 1917, Scouts of Chester, Pa., were mobilized for emergency work immediately following a serious explosion. On the Saturday before the Scouts had offered their

services to their country through the Mayor of the city, and they were prepared. Under direction of local authorities they had charge of traffic, carried and set up cots, rendered first aid, made bandages, carried messages, delivered telegrams to relatives, guarded property, etc., until soldiers arrived to take over the work of relief.

From this time on—four days after the declaration of war—Scouts throughout the country stood ready to serve and did serve in the numerous local disasters which resulted from the war. (SCOUTING, April 15, 1917, page 12.)

Similar service was rendered by New Jersey Scouts in the munitions plant explosion at South Amboy in October, 1918. (SCOUTING, Oct. 24, 1918, page 15.)

#### **Assistance in Influenza Epidemic**

Scouts were called upon for arduous emergency service in the influenza epidemic of 1918. Their work consisted of:

- Helping transportation committees check up automobiles.
- Orderly service in hospitals.
- Helping on ambulances.
- Relieving telephone operators.
- Messenger service.
- Offering their headquarters as emergency hospitals.

In Richmond, Va., Scouts secured, equipped and manned several ambulances night and day during epidemic.

(History of B.S.A., pages 126-7; SCOUTING, Oct. 24, 1918, p. 5; Nov. 14, p. 5.)

#### **Conservation**

##### **Black Walnut Census**

At the request of President Wilson, Boy Scouts conducted a nationwide census of the entire black walnut growth of the country, this timber being essential for war uses. Scouts reported 20,758,660 feet (5,200 carloads) of black walnut tree to the Forest Service, obtaining names of owners, sizes of trees and prices at which they could be purchased. (History of B.S.A., pages 124-6; SCOUTING, May 15, 1918; Aug. 15, p. 3; Sept. 19, p. 6.)

##### **Planting Black Walnut**

Scouts projected the planting of black walnut to help make up for the war consumption. (SCOUTING, Nov. 7, 1918, p. 5; Nov. 28, p. 12.)

#### **Collection of Peach Pits and Nut Shells**

Boy Scouts aided the War Department by saving and systematically collecting 100 carloads of fruit pits and nut shells needed in the manufacture of gas masks. (History of B.S.A., p. 126; SCOUTING, Oct. 3, 1918, p. 5; Oct. 31, pages 4-5.)

#### **Saving Coal**

Scouts aided the Federal Bureau of Mines effort to be sparing in the use of coal in order to avoid a shortage. (SCOUTING, Jan. 1, 1918, p. 3; Feb. 1, p. 12.)

#### **Food Growing and Conservation**

##### **"Every Scout to Feed a Soldier"**

Under this slogan, on April 13, 1917, the Boy Scouts of America launched a great nation-wide drive to help overcome the food shortage, in cooperation with the Council of National Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and Herbert Hoover, Chairman of the National Food Commission. Food grown in Scout gardens and farms was used in home consumption, sold in the market and given to the poor.

(CABLEGRAM)

April 16, 1917

Hoover (Mr. Herbert C. Hoover)  
"Crevoek"  
London, England

Two hundred fifty thousand Boy Scouts of America tender services as your aides as producers and conservers of food as service to our country.

JAMES E. WEST

(CABLEGRAM)

April 19, 1917

James West  
Boy Scouts of America  
New York

The prime service of our country in this war is ships and food, and we can here display the true American ability at great efforts. In order to provide the food necessary we must from this moment eliminate all waste and stimulate food production at every point. We must send to our allies more wheat, corn, beans, meat, bacon

and lard than we have ever sent before if their men are to fight and their women and children to live; and our people must economize and eat other things. Among these foodstuffs could not the Scouts take as their own province the stimulation of bean production, for there is not only a great shortage in Europe and at home, but they are the best of foods. Let them help make America able to export ten times as many beans as she ever exported before. To do this let the Boy Scouts see to it that beans are planted everywhere so that the biggest bean crop ever known shall be the war contribution of the Boy Scouts to America and her allies.

HERBERT HOOVER

April 20, 1917

My dear Mr. West:

Through you I cordially endorse what Mr. Hoover has said about the Scouts. Mr. Hoover is quite right in saying that the service to our country should be partly in supplying ships and food, although of course, it is even more important that we should send our soldiers to the firing line, and it is only thus that we can display the true American spirit. We should eliminate all waste and stimulate food production at every point. I think Mr. Hoover's suggestion that the Scouts should take as their own province the stimulation of bean production is particularly good. Let each Scout start a garden and thereby help to feed the soldiers.

With all good wishes,

Faithfully yours,  
(Signed) THEODORE ROOSEVELT

April 28, 1917

My dear Mr. Hoover:

We appreciate very much your cablegram. Immediately upon its receipt, activities were inaugurated to put into effect your suggestion. In New York City the Hippodrome was secured by telephone and a mass meeting of New York City Boy Scouts held on Saturday morning, within forty hours after your cablegram was received.

Before midnight letters were in the mails to our entire organization throughout the country as per copy herewith.

A special bulletin was prepared as per copy herewith.

Demonstrations have been arranged in many of our cities to have boys with hoes and rakes take part in efforts to impress upon the people the seriousness of the food situation. Because of the mobility of our organization, that is, because we have direct representatives of the National Office in practically every city, town and village of the United States, we are able to get quick response.

I am sincerely hopeful that you will be with us soon and that with the added inspiration of your leadership we can do even more. I am enclosing copy of a letter from Mr. Rosenwald, indicating his keen interest in what we are doing and suggesting that you want to see me when you arrive. I should be very glad to see you here or in Washington. If I knew what time you could come, I would try to meet you at the boat with a group of Scouts. Please cable us any information you can on this subject.

We want the 283,000 and more members of the Boy Scouts of America to be of practical help to you in every way within our power. You may depend upon us to serve you promptly and effectively.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) JAMES E. WEST  
*Chief Scout Executive*

Altogether, over 12,000 Scout war gardens and war farms were reported. In some cases as many as 200 and 300 acres were under cultivation by groups of Scouts. (SCOUTING, April 15, 1917, pages 1-5; April 25, entire issue; subsequent issues; History of B.S.A., pages 121-3; Annual Report (1918) p. 24.)

### **Food Conservation Campaign**

Scouts backed the national campaign by:

Securing pledges of householders to cooperate.  
Assisting in tabulation and checking of results.

Personally cooperating by conservative eating of wheat, sugar and other scarce foodstuffs.

Distributing food conservation literature.



Canning foods themselves (SCOUTING, Aug. 15, 1918, p. 12).

Collecting wild plants and scrap foods for live stock and pets. (History of B.S.A., pages 123-4; SCOUTING, Aug. 1, 1917; Feb. 15, 1918, p. 9; Nov. 7, p. 6.)

### Fishing

Scouts, where possible, caught fish for sale, canning and home consumption to help relieve food shortage. (SCOUTING, May 15, 1918, p. 6.)

## Financing the Defense Program

### Liberty Loans

The greatest effort of Scouts in the war was the selling of subscriptions to the five Liberty Loans. By systematically canvassing homes, offices, stores and industrial establishments in each drive, Scouts secured 2,350,977 subscriptions totaling \$354,859,262 (\$936 per boy), in spite of the fact that in all but the last two campaigns Scouts were restricted to the last days of the drive in order not to interfere with the work of the adult canvassers. They were followers of the slogan, "Gleaners after the Reapers." For their effort the Boy Scouts won high praise from President Wilson, the Secretary of the Treasury and the general public.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 22, 1917

My dear Mr. Livingstone:

Thank you for your letter of the 21st of June. One of the most gratifying things connected with the successful flotation of the Liberty Loan was the highly effective and commendable work of the Boy Scouts and I hope you will find it possible to convey to them an expression of my hearty appreciation of and thanks for the patriotic service which they one and all rendered. My thanks also go to the scout masters who directed and assisted the boys.

Cordially and sincerely yours,  
(Signed) WOODROW WILSON

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1918

My dear Mr. Livingstone:

During the past eighteen months the Boy Scouts of America have rendered a splendid service to the nation by their untiring and effective efforts to aid the Government in its war-winning program, and no less by their spirit of patriotic devotion which they have manifested throughout the war.

I take this opportunity to ask you to convey to the members of your great organization our hearty appreciation and gratitude for the remarkable contribution made by them to the successful prosecution of the four Liberty Loan campaigns and their generous cooperation with the War Savings Campaign.

The war is won, but the need for money is as great, if not greater than ever at this moment. The Treasury Department requests that the Boy Scouts continue their campaign promoting the sale of War Savings Stamps during the remaining weeks of this year. It is the further desire of the Treasury Department that the Scouts maintain in the future an attitude of constant readiness for further service. This I am sure will be the case. I would be glad, toward this end, however, if you would send them a copy of this letter together with a letter of instruction from your own organization.

With cordial wishes for the success of your boys in this final effort for 1918, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. G. McAdoo

In recognition of his participation, the Treasury Department awarded a bronze War Emblem to each Scout who sold bonds to ten or more people in one drive, and a bar for the same service in each subsequent drive. Nearly 70,000 Scouts earned the Emblem. (History of B.S.A., pages 106-116; Annual Report (1918), pages 25-30; (1919), pages 34-38; SCOUTING, June 1, 1917 (details of organizations) et seq.; Oct. 1, p. 2 ("How to Go About It.")



## War Savings Stamps

Scouts made 2,189,417 sales of War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps totaling more than \$52,000,000. The Scouts secured subscriptions while money was collected and delivered through Post Offices. The Government awarded 15,113 Achievement Buttons to Scouts who made sales to 25 different persons; 7,068 Ace Medals to Scouts whose sales to 25 persons totaled \$250; 18,146 bronze palms; 1,442 silver palms (for selling \$1,000 worth) and 188 gold palms (\$5,000 worth). (History of B.S.A., pages 116-9; Annual Report (1918), p. 30; (1919), pages 38-41; SCOUTING, Feb. 1, 1918, p. 9, et seq.; especially Oct. 17, Dec. 5.)

## United War Work Campaign

Scouts participated on a nation-wide scale in the "Victory Boys" division of the United War Work campaign to earn and give money to the \$170,500,000 fund for war use by Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Salvation Army, etc. The objective was for every "Victory Boy" to earn and give at least \$5.00. The slogan of the Victory Boys' campaign was: "A Million Boys Behind a Million Fighters." (SCOUTING, Oct. 31, p. 1; Nov. 7, p. 1.)

## Assisting in General War Relief

### Helping the Red Cross and Other Relief Agencies

From the start of the war, Scouts individually and collectively were instrumental in raising money and collecting food and clothing to contribute to the Red Cross Fund for war relief work, and similar funds of other agencies. The policy of the Boy Scouts of America, announced in SCOUTING (November 15, 1914) was to leave it to the individual judgment of local Scout officials and Scouts as to just how and to what extent they should cooperate with these efforts.

Services by Scouts included:

- Contributing money personally.

- Raising funds by work, benefit shows, etc.

- Collecting clothing, hospital supply and food contributions.

- Helping in Red Cross Seal Campaign, acting as messengers, distributing literature and tacking up signs.

- Rolling bandages and making surgical dressings for Red Cross, packing and shipping same.

- Collecting and making canes and crutches for disabled soldiers.

- Acting as ambulance orderlies.

- Distributing notices.

- Carrying messages on foot, bicycle, horseback, etc.

- Assisting Red Cross food committees by collecting information as to supplies; collecting, preparing and serving food and refreshments to sick and wounded soldiers.

- Assisting Red Cross first aid committees in preparation of quarters, as aides in first aid work and at dispensaries.

- Acting with information committees as guides, orderlies and collectors of information.

- Helping Red Cross survey emergency relief resources of community.

- Collecting tinfoil to sell.

(History of Boy Scouts of America, pp 127-8; SCOUTING, May 1, 1917, p. 10; Nov. 14, 1918, p. 1.)

## Other Services

### Government Dispatch Bearers

At the request of President Wilson, Boy Scouts served as Government Dispatch Bearers in carrying to the homes of their communities pamphlets on the war prepared by the Committee on Public Information. They distributed over 30,000,000 pieces of Government literature. (History of B.S.A., pp 128-130; SCOUTING, Dec. 15, 1917, et seq.; Annual Report, 1918, p. 31.)

### Aiding Incoming War Refugees

As refugees began to arrive from Europe in 1914, Scouts voluntarily cooperated with the Relief Committees in New York and Boston, acting as guides, giving information to refugees and helping them obtain hotel accommodations. Scouts facilitated the work of the Relief Committees in many ways. An average of eight Scouts met each ship arriving in New York. (SCOUTING, Sept. 15, 1914, p. 5; Oct. 1, p. 5.)

### Miscellaneous

- Collecting and giving or sending used magazines to soldiers and sailors.

Aiding in War Camp Community Recreation Fund drive.  
(SCOUTING, Nov. 15, page 8.)

Nation-wide drive in cooperation with the American Library Association to collect good books for soldiers.

Clerical work for draft exemption boards.

Assisting in public gatherings and parades.

Promoting SAFETY FIRST in view of increasing number of accidents.

## LEADERSHIP

Recruiting of Scouters for service in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps., simultaneously with a tremendous increase in boy membership, threatened a shortage of leadership. Intensive efforts were launched to secure and train new material—men who were too old for military service or unable to pass the exacting physical examination.

The first week of October, 1917, was set apart for a Scoutmaster recruiting campaign. One method used was to set up, with police permits, decorated recruiting booths or tents in prominent public places; another was the use of window displays.

A plan later adopted was organization of a Scout Leaders' Reserve Corps, recruiting eligible men prepared to take places of regular Scoutmasters called for military service in the future. A campaign was launched in Boy Scout Week, 1918, to obtain 100,000 men for this Corps.

The number of registered Scouters increased from 82,793 at the end of 1917 to 86,737 at the close of 1918, and to 101,991 at the close of 1919.

The Boy Scouts of America made no claim for exemption from military service of its professional or volunteer personnel.

(SCOUTING, May 15, 1917, p. 7; Aug. 1, pp. 3, 11; Sept. 1, p. 9; Jan. 1, p. 2; Jan. 15, pp. 1-4, 9; Sept. 19, p. 13.)

## CRUSADING FOR DEMOCRACY AND THE AMERICAN WAY

### Participation and Service in Public Demonstrations

Scouts took a leading part in the many parades and other public demonstrations which took place in communities throughout the nation on such patriotic days as Independence Day and Flag Day. In addition to participating in the programs, Scouts were extremely useful as messengers, guides, also ushers, first aid teams, and assisted police in controlling crowds. (SCOUTING, June 1, 1916.)

### Preparedness Parades

Regarding Scout participation in "Preparedness Parades," the Chief Scout Executive said in 1916, "As you know, the Boy Scouts of America is distinctively patriotic. It places emphasis upon service to the community . . . and particularly in connection with a patriotic demonstration, it is appropriate and desirable for the Scouts to make themselves useful and not merely ornamental." (SCOUTING, June 1, 1916, p. 13.)

### More Comments of the Nation's Leaders

"These boys are imbued with the spirit of patriotic service and have demonstrated their willingness to do difficult tasks and to sacrifice their own pleasure and comfort to render patriotic service."—F. A. Vanderlip, Chairman, National War-Savings Committee.

"The members of the Boy Scouts of America have in their help to the War Department lived up to their reputation for loyal and effective service in a manner which has won them the respect and admiration of the Nation."—Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War.

"These chivalric young crusaders who have rendered such patriotic service in this war convince us that the America of the future will be worthy of the America of the Fathers."—Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy.

"I consider your War Savings campaign a revelation in the efficiency of organized and disciplined boy power."—R. W. Emerson, Chief, Division of Publications, War Loan Organization, U. S. Treasury Department.

## DURING THE WORLD WAR

(A Reprint of Chapter VI of the  
"History of the Boy Scouts of America")

There is no more thrilling chapter in the records of America's participation in the World War than that of the Boy Scouts of America.

### Nature of War Program

In order that there might be no misunderstanding or undue apprehension on the part of the public or the parents of the boys as to the nature of our war program, the following carefully prepared statement was issued by the National Office for the use of Local Councils and Troops.

"In this hour of our country's need, we Scouts and Scout officials who have had the benefit of the training of the program of the Boy Scouts of America have come in this way to pledge to you and through you to the citizens of our city our loyalty and hearty support in any emergency which may arise requiring more than the normal resources of the city government.

"Because of the Scout training we are prepared to do many things of practical value. We are not soldiers but are trained for civic service. We are able to render first aid to the injured, to do signaling and serve as messengers. Some of us have bicycles, motorcycles, automobiles, motor boats, sail boats, trek carts, tents and other equipment which are at your service and the service of our country.



"We are but part of the Legion of Service of our country known as the Boy Scouts of America, numbering over 250,000 men and boys, each pledged on his honor to do his duty to his God and his country and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. Throughout the whole country our members are mobilizing in this way as a practical demonstration not only of our good will and loyalty and our desire to do our duty to our country, but as an evidence that there is actually a resource available for service, should an emergency develop requiring service of the character for which the Boy Scouts have been training."

At the time War was declared, there were approximately 300,000 boys uniformed and equipped capable of mobilization and trained for emergency. The plan of Scout participation in the event of War had been carefully developed by Mr. Colin H. Livingstone, President of the Boy Scouts of America, Dr. West, Chief Scout Executive and other Scout Leaders, in cooperation with officials in Washington.

### Opportunity to Help

At no time in all the world's history had boys had such an opportunity to help their country. Never before had boys been asked by their government to do such things as were the Boy Scouts of America. It was an extraordinary demonstration of the effectiveness of the services of organized boyhood.

The Boy Scout was trained for certain service. His place was at home or near it. His function was to do a boy's work under a mature man's supervision. "Every Scout to feed a Soldier" was the first slogan of the Boy Scouts of America in the World War. The following is taken from SCOUTING, April 15, 1917, as an outline of what Scouts could do:



J. C. Leyendecker's Famous Liberty Loan Poster presented to Government by Saturday Evening Post.



"The seriousness of the present situation—the United States having declared that a state of war exists between this country and the Government of Germany—is not the lack of national resources, but the lack of an adequate system for utilizing them.

"We have men, money, materials. Misplacement is the menace.

"The Boy Scout is trained for certain service. Efficiency consists in giving him immediate opportunity for performing that service.

"His place is at home—or near it. His function is to do a boy's work under a mature man's supervision.

"'Every Scout to Feed a Soldier' is the slogan of the Boy Scouts of America. A Scout with a hoe may equal a man with a gun.

"He may protect his home by watching the coast—if he lives near it. He may do other things, many of which are suggested herein.

"The Scout Official's job is to study the suggestions in this issue, apply them to local conditions and immediately mobilize the patriotism of his Scouts in concerted action.

"Help each one of your Scouts actually to do his duty to his Country, as he has pledged himself to do.

"Prevent anxiety on the part of parents and in the community by making it clear that no Scout official has authority to require any service of a Scout without the consent of his parents or guardian, other than that which is definitely stated in the Official Handbook."

## Enrollment Rapid

Owing to the great popular support of Scouting, boys enrolled sometimes at the rate of a thousand a day in order to have an opportunity through the Boy Scouts of America to be of service to their country. As a matter of fact they were, at the outbreak of the War, the

Nation's largest uniformed body. They had more than twice the numerical strength of the standing army of the United States, nearly twice that of the National Guard, four times the numerical strength of the United States Navy, and eleven times that of the United States Marine Corps.

## Action By the Executive Board

The Executive Board of the National Council at the meeting held April 9, 1917, committed the Boy Scouts of America to definite war service by the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, Congress has declared that a state of war exists between this country and Germany, and

"WHEREAS, Each member of the Boy Scouts of America is definitely obligated by the Scout Oath to do his duty to his country, and

"WHEREAS, The combined strength of the Boy Scouts of America, now including 210,000 boys and 58,000 men, forms a potential asset to the country for cooperative effort; be it

"RESOLVED, That every officer and member of the Boy Scouts of America be urged, in addition to the service they will render the Police and civic authorities in their home cities, to definitely assist in the development of the plans which the National Council has made with the following organizations:

"First, The Department of Agriculture and Council of National Defense. To cooperate in the extension, and development of home gardens, under the slogan, 'Every Scout to Feed a Soldier'.

"Second, The American National Red Cross. To cooperate with the Red Cross through its local chapters in meeting their responsibilities occasioned by the state of war.

"Third, The Navy Department. To cooperate with the Navy Department in organizing an Emergency Coast Patrol along the Sea Coast Towns."

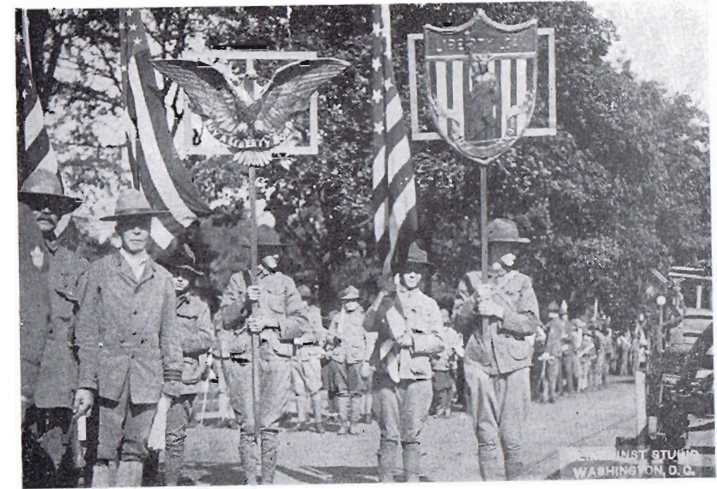
## Liberty Loans

One of the most exciting tasks given the Scouts, was for them to sell Liberty Bonds after the regular canvassers had covered the field. They literally were to be gleaners after the reapers. Their achievements exceeded all expectations.

In the five Liberty Loans, the Boy Scouts secured subscriptions for a total of \$354,859,262 worth of Bonds, averaging \$936 per boy.

## First Liberty Loan

The way in which the Boy Scout Movement began its nation-wide work for the Liberty Loan is interesting. When the Committee of Bankers in the Second Federal Reserve District began its work for the sale of the Bonds, those who were directing the campaign sought connections with the various organizations which might help. One among the many that were communicated with, was the Boy Scouts to which the common question was put as to how that organization could assist. However, the leaders at the National Office took the matter very seriously, assembled quickly a conference of Scout workers. They communicated by telegraph and telephone with the Scout officials in many centers, and on the morning of the 2nd day presented a plan which provided for the largest single effort ever undertaken by the Boy Scout Movement in this or any other country. A study of existing literature on the Liberty Loan was made by the Boy Scout leaders, and copy was developed for a 12½ x 19 inch circular which was submitted in proof form to the representatives of the Bankers' Committee, and to an official of the Treasury Department. These men gave enthusiastic approval of it. On the next day the Chief Scout Executive went to Washington where he conferred with Mr. Colin H. Livingstone, then president of the Boy Scouts of America, and had a conference with Treasury Department officials, finding there the same enthusiasm over the plan



Washington Scouts help Liberty Loan.

for the Boy Scout campaign. The matter was taken up with the public printer, through the representative of the Secretary of the Treasury, and before night arrangements were completed for printing ten million copies of the circular in the Government Printing Office. The size of the job can hardly be realized by the layman. It was the largest job of printing ever handled by the Government Printing Office. The next largest is said to have been the "draft registration cards," but these were only about 4 x 6 inches, whereas the Scout circular as indicated was 12½ x 19, printed on both sides and in two colors. The presses got them out at the rate of one million copies a day. To make this possible it was necessary to cast forty separate sets of electrotypes. This was done, and the plates went to the press Saturday morning, although much time was naturally required for make-ready and the circulars had to be dried and printed on both sides. 500,000 of them were completed that day and the rest were turned out at the rate of one million a day, or 40,000 an hour.

The following formal letter was received from the White House dated May 19, 1917:



"It will be most gratifying to me as Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America to have the Boy Scouts, their Scoutmasters and leaders throughout the United States lend their aid to the Secretary of the Treasury in distributing applications and securing popular subscriptions to the Liberty Loan. This will give every Scout a wonderful opportunity to do his share for his country under the slogan 'Every Scout to Save a Soldier.'"

"I feel sure this request will find a unanimous and enthusiastic response from Boy Scouts everywhere."

The plan called for a nation-wide campaign from June 11th to 14th. The Scouts visited 10,000,000 different homes to secure subscriptions for the Liberty Bonds. If any one asked you to raise one million dollars in four days solely through the efforts of boys between the ages of twelve and seventeen, your answer would probably be "It can't be done." And yet more than \$23,238,250 were raised by the Boy Scouts under exactly those conditions. Very deliberately the Scouts were handicapped in their work by the fact that they were not allowed to open their campaign until after the field had been thoroughly covered by adult canvassers. The slogan was "Gleaners after the Reapers." One of the significant results of the Scouts' participation in this First Liberty Loan campaign was the awakening on the part of the men of the Nation to the potential power of boys through organized effort. In recognition of their participation the Treasury Department presented bronze War Emblems to Boy Scouts. The War Emblems which were in the form of medals and bars were given to those who sold Bonds to ten people in any of the Liberty Loan Campaigns. There were 8,499 Medals earned by Boy Scouts in the first Campaign.

### Second Liberty Loan

In connection with the Second Liberty Loan, President Wilson wrote from the White House under date of September 20, 1917:



Concord, Mass. Liberty Loan Cart.

"Another opportunity has developed for the members of the Boy Scouts of America to help our country. The Second Liberty Loan Bond issue must be subscribed for in such a way as to show the firm resolution of our people in the present war."

"The gratifying achievement of Boy Scouts with the aid of their Scoutmasters and leaders throughout the United States in securing over \$22,000,000 subscriptions to the First Liberty Loan will serve, I hope, to make their work even more effective in the new effort."

"My earnest wish is that every Scout leader give every Boy Scout an opportunity to take a definite part in this practical method of giving expression to his Scout obligation of service to our country."

In the Second Liberty Loan the Boy Scouts secured subscriptions for \$102,084,100 worth of Bonds from 532,850 persons. 22,408 Emblems and 3,678 Bars were distributed to Scouts. Scouts who qualified for Medals in the first Loan received Bars for the Second. President

Wilson offered a flag to the leading Troop in each State. Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo gave an emblem to the city with the highest record. President Livingstone presented a gold medal to the Scout with the highest number of subscriptions and silver and bronze medals to others.

The Government printed five million copies of a specially written primer or manual of Bond Salesmanship developed especially to help Boy Scouts. Ten million copies of a special circular with application blank attached were also printed by the Government Printing Office.

The Boy Scouts did not solicit aimlessly but made a systematic canvass of homes, offices, stores and industrial establishments. Everywhere from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the furthest hamlet in northern Maine to the towns in Hawaii, in little unheard of mountain habitations and great metropolitan cities, Scouts studied their manuals and set out to sell Bonds. As before, the Boy Scouts were restricted to the last days of the drive in order not to interfere with the efforts of the adult canvassers. Theirs was the "final clean-up." They gleaned effectively. A series of camps were set up in public parks and squares, with buglers to call attention to the poster display. Parades were held with placards urging the purchase of bonds. A special cartoon was made for the Scouts for display in windows, on the windshield of automobiles and in other conspicuous places.

And yet with all their activities school work did not stop and regular Scouting in the Troop continued. One dollar out of every forty-six, and one application signed out of every eighteen was the record of the Scouts.

Following is a list of Troops that received the President's Flag in the Second Liberty Loan:

State	City	Troop No.
Alabama	Birmingham	44
Arizona	Globe	2

State	City	Troop No.
Arkansas	Osceola	2
California	Oakland	21
Colorado	Denver	47
Connecticut	Norwich	11
Delaware	Milford	2
District of Columbia	Washington	69
Florida	St. Petersburg	1
Georgia	Columbus	2
Idaho	Lewiston	1
Illinois	Granite City	1
Indiana	Terre Haute	10
Iowa	Red Oak	1
Kansas	Independence	2
Kentucky	Covington	4
Louisiana	New Orleans	17
Maine	Andover	2
Maryland	Baltimore	147
Massachusetts	Springfield	9
Michigan	Detroit	7
Minnesota	St. Paul	76
Mississippi	Laurel	1
Missouri	St. Louis	22
Montana	Billings	2
Nebraska	Omaha	5
Nevada	Reno	1
New Hampshire	Dover	3
New Jersey	Newark	18
New Mexico	Hurley	1
New York	Brooklyn	139
North Carolina	Leaksville	2
North Dakota	Fargo	1
Ohio	Cleveland	56
Oklahoma	Henryetta	1
Oregon	Portland	44
Pennsylvania	Vandergrift	3
Rhode Island	Providence	17
South Carolina	Whitmere	1
South Dakota	Mitchell	2
Tennessee	Memphis	22
Texas	Waco	12
Utah	Salt Lake City	51
Vermont	Springfield	2
Virginia	Staunton	1
Washington	Hoquiam	2
West Virginia	Huntington	5
Wisconsin	Kenosha	2
Wyoming	Buffalo	3
Hawaii	Honolulu	8



### Third Liberty Loan

The Third Liberty Loan administration published a special cartoon featuring the Boy Scouts as "gleaners after the reapers." During this campaign the dates April 27th to May 4th were assigned to the Boy Scouts after the regular campaign had been conducted, as usual. Before this period the Scouts helped other organizations in every way but conducted no subscription work of their own. People were urged not to hold their subscriptions for Scouts merely for the purpose of giving them credit. Their main service was to induce people to take out additional amounts and to urge those who had been overlooked. 410,000 men and boys belonged to the Boy Scouts of America at this time and it is believed that 410,000 took part in the campaign.

In the Third Liberty Loan the total amount secured by Scouts was \$205,407,700 in 1,341,830 subscriptions. Medals were presented by the Treasury Department as in previous years. A sixteen-page manual was again made available. In this Loan 23,427 Scouts won the Treasury Department Medal and 11,806 received bronze bars—a total of 35,233 awards.

Following is a list of Troops that received the President's Flag in the Third Liberty Loan:

State	City	Troop No.
Alabama	Birmingham	3
Arizona	Copper Hill	1
Arkansas	Wilson	1
California	Santa Ana	6
Connecticut	Waterbury	32
District of Columbia	Washington	20
Florida	Miami	4
Georgia	Savannah	8
Idaho	Boise	7
Indiana	Rockport	1
Iowa	Zwingle	1
Kansas	Great Bend	1
Kentucky	Covington	10
Ohio	Cleveland	2
Louisiana	New Orleans	5
Maine	Brunswick	1



Manhattan, N. Y. Liberty Loan Truck.

State	City	Troop No.
Massachusetts	Lynn	1
Michigan	Marshall	5
Minnesota	St. Paul	2
Mississippi	Cleveland	1
Missouri	St. Louis	17
Montana	Livingstone	1
Nebraska	Merna	1
Nevada	Carson City	1
New Hampshire	Plymouth	1
New Jersey	Newark	22
New York	Brooklyn (Sea Gate)	147
North Carolina	Wilmington	13
North Dakota	La Moure	1
Oklahoma	Lenapeh	1
Oregon	Wallowa	1
Pennsylvania	Johnsonburg	2
Rhode Island	Pawtucket	14
South Carolina	Inman	1
South Dakota	Watertown	1
Tennessee	Knoxville	4
Texas	Austin	8
Utah	Tooele	1
Vermont	Brattleboro	3
Virginia	Winchester	1
Washington	Spokane	12
Wisconsin	Milwaukee	71
Wyoming	Rock Springs	1
West Virginia	Raleigh	1
Hawaii	Honolulu	1

### Fourth and Fifth Liberty Loans

By the time of the Fourth Liberty Loan the Scout membership had increased to 452,000 boys and men, who pledged 100% unqualified and energetic support of the Government. In this Loan in such communities as the local Liberty Loan Committees felt desirable, Boy Scouts were not held back until the last period but were released for service whenever local officials felt it was desirable. The results more than justified this change of plan.

The following letter was addressed by President Wilson to Colin H. Livingstone on August 23, 1918:

"The active service of every Scout and official enrolled as a member of the Boy Scouts of America is depended upon to help make the Fourth Liberty Loan a success. The fact that Scouts secured 1,322,649 subscriptions, representing \$203,169,000 in the previous campaigns is a convincing testimonial to the value of organized boyhood for the kind of patriotic service that is worth while. I am informed the Boy Scouts rendered other valuable service throughout the country to the local Liberty Loan Committees.

"I beg every member of the Boy Scouts of America to realize that the service rendered by the boys had been greatly appreciated by the whole Nation and that not only the officials of the Treasury and of the various Liberty Loan Committees are looking to them for effective work in the Fourth Campaign, but that the whole country, which is already proud of them, expects it. There is no better way in which they can show their desire to help win the war.

"Will you not be kind enough to arrange at the earliest possible time, in accordance with the plans of the Treasury Department, to have the Boy Scouts of America work out through their local leaders in cooperation with the local Liberty Loan Committees the necessary details for effective service?"



Oil City, Pa. Liberty Loan Tent.

Appreciation on behalf of the Boy Scouts was also expressed by Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, in a letter dated December 2, 1918:

"During the past eighteen months the Boy Scouts of America have rendered a splendid service to the nation by their untiring and effective efforts to aid the Government in its war-winning program, and no less by their spirit of patriotic devotion which they have manifested throughout the war.

"I take this opportunity to ask you to convey to the members of your great organization our hearty appreciation and gratitude for the remarkable contribution made by them to the successful prosecution of the four Liberty Loan campaigns and their generous cooperation with the War Savings Campaign.

"The war is won, but the need for money is as great, if not greater than ever at this moment. The Treasury Department requests that the Boy Scouts continue their campaign promoting the sale of War Savings Stamps during the remaining weeks of this year. It is the further desire of the Treasury Department that the Scouts maintain in the future an attitude



of constant readiness for further service. This I am sure will be the case. I would be glad, toward this end, however, if you would send them a copy of this letter together with a letter of instruction from your own organization.

"With cordial wishes for the success of your boys in this final effort for 1918, I am,

Very truly yours,  
(signed) W. G. McAdoo"

The Fifth Liberty Loan known as the Victory Loan took place after the Armistice, in 1919. The Treasury Department again called for cooperation from the Boy Scouts of America, which by that time had a membership of 470,989. The following letter was sent to President Livingstone by Carter Glass, Secretary of the Treasury:

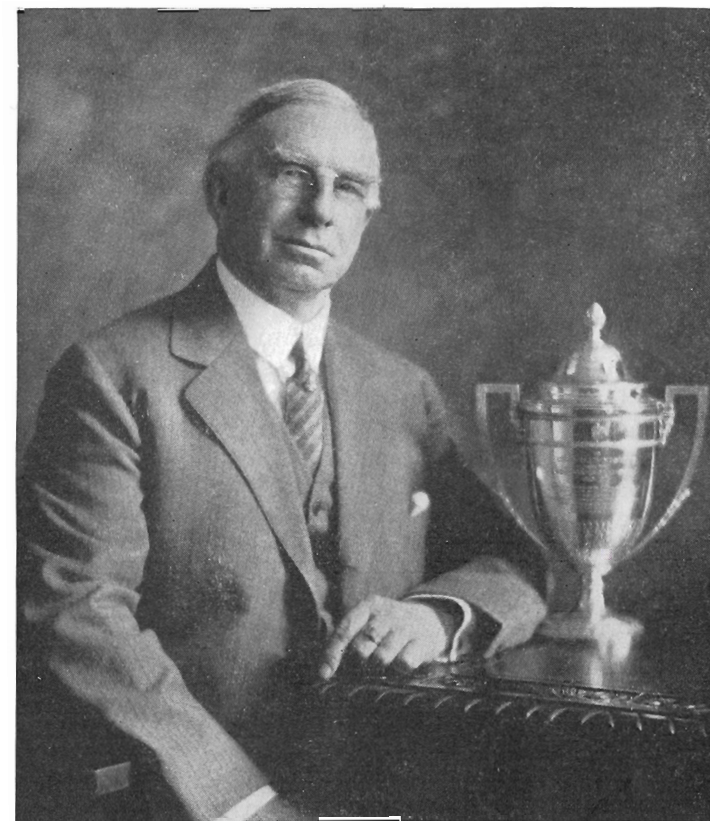
"On behalf of the Treasury Department I take pleasure in urging the Boy Scouts of America to participate in the Victory Loan Campaign and am confident that your finely efficient and loyal organization, which has so splendidly served the nation in previous campaigns, will again come to our aid in prosecuting this new and important work."

The Chief Scout Executive then sent out a call to every Scout Council for participation, indicating that local Committees should determine the service that should be rendered by Scouts and the dates during which they should actively engage in the campaign. Throughout most of the country they still served as "gleaners after the reapers", whose special responsibility was to secure subscriptions which for one reason or another had been overlooked.

At the end of this chapter appears a summary of the Scout record in the Liberty Loan campaigns.

## War Savings Stamps

Another important feature of the Government's campaign for raising money was the War Savings Stamps,



Colin H. Livingstone—President of the Boy Scouts of America (1910-1925) with Loving Cup presented by his Executive Board Colleagues. (See Page 312 for Inscription.)

and in this the Scouts cooperated as effectively as they did in the Liberty Loans. In calling on the Boy Scouts of America for cooperation in selling War Savings Stamps, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo wrote:

"Your splendid work in the Liberty Loan campaigns proved that the Government can count on you and your organization. Knowing that you are always ready to serve your country, and realizing how widely War Savings Stamps may be sold through your efforts, I

take pleasure in presenting you another opportunity."

The Scouts canvassed every city and town and rural community in the sale of Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps under the Government plan. The Scouts sold the Stamps, while the money was collected and the Stamps delivered through the Post Office Department. Specially printed franked red postcards were devised by the Treasury and Post Office Departments to identify the Scouts' sales. Achievement Buttons were presented to Scouts who made sales to twenty-five different individuals. When the Scout succeeded in taking orders for a total of \$250.00 in stamps from twenty-five or more individuals he received an "Ace Medal." This was an adaptation of the French Government's Award to Aviators. For each additional \$100 worth of orders the Ace Scouts received a bronze palm to be fastened to the ribbon of his medal. To the Scout in each state who during 1918 won the greatest number of War Savings Palms, President Wilson wrote a personal letter of thanks. Record Troops in each State received a United States Flag presented by the wives of the members of the President's Cabinet.

Perhaps no single service that the Scouts were called upon to render created more genuine enthusiasm than their War Savings Stamps campaign. The Ace Medals were considered among the highest honor the Scout could earn, and since all Scouts had an opportunity to qualify for them, these awards were thoroughly in keeping with the spirit of Scouting. Five million special postcards were printed and they thought these cards would last a long time. Such was the enthusiasm that the supply was almost immediately exhausted. Amazing results were attained. The Government awarded over 15,113 Achievement Buttons and more than 7,068 Ace Medals. The Ace Medalists also earned 18,146 bronze palms and 1,442 silver palms (for selling \$1,000 worth) and 188 gold palms (for selling an additional \$5,000 worth).

A letter to Scout workers from James E. West, Chief

Scout Executive, dated November 27, 1917 read in part as follows:

"We have gone 'over the top' with something to spare. \$101,043,950 representing 525,527 subscriptions has been definitely reported through the Scout campaign. This, however, does not include all of our results because in many cases we find Scout officials did not submit any reports because they have assumed that we were only interested in having definite reports where boys sold ten or more bonds and were entitled to War Service Emblems. If these are the facts in your city, please send in supplemental reports at once.

"The Treasury Department officials are most appreciative and commend very highly the work of the Boy Scouts. Already they have notified us that they will expect our cooperation for the 3rd Liberty Loan which will probably not come until after the first of February and perhaps even later. Meanwhile, however, the Treasury Department is very anxious to have the cooperation of the Boy Scouts of America through the National Council in a plan to give the widest publicity possible to the War Savings Certificate scheme of raising two billions of dollars."

### Emergency Coast Service

Another way in which Scouts fulfilled their obligation of duty to the country was in cooperation with the Naval authorities in the protection of our coast. No Scout was permitted to participate in this service except on the basis of voluntary application with the approval of his parent or guardian, and of his school authorities as well as the recommendation of his Scoutmaster. Only Scouts fifteen years of age and over were accepted. Scouts under fifteen were permitted to assist at certain headquarters and stations as messengers and such other work as would not necessitate their being away from home overnight. No Boy Scout in the Boy



Scout emergency service obligated himself in any way to enlist in any branch of the military service.

The duties of these Scouts under the direction of Naval authorities were to maintain a vigilant lookout at visual stations and lighthouses along the coast, to act as messengers and orderlies in navy yards and navy headquarters, and in general to perform duties useful and helpful in the national emergency. They worked in shifts for limited periods of one or two weeks' duration at one time so as not to interfere too much with their school work. They were assigned duties within reasonable distances of their homes.

While on duty, Scouts reported the movements of all ships, making note of the type and external characteristics. For example, "All Black, Single Funnel, Red Band, White Diamond," etc., also the direction and what flag she was flying. They reported suspicious actions of all small craft. They sent and received messages by flag during the day and by lights at night, using the International Morse Code. This is where the Scout Requirements proved very useful. A boy had to be mentally awake and on the job sixty minutes each hour while on duty, because the work was so important that any carelessness on the part of an individual might bring serious reproach upon the whole organization. Special sheets were printed giving a check list of various items of information and instruction.

The Scouts in the Home Defense made a careful survey of the actual conditions in definitely prescribed territory, so that there might be available information concerning the resources of the community in case of disaster, including a list of houses suitable for hospital purposes, names of doctors, information about all automobiles, motorboats, roads and bridges which might be of service.

In the early days of the War, Boy Scouts cooperated in some of the Naval districts in locating unlawful wireless stations and bringing to the attention of the Naval authorities other information of such character as might warrant investigation.



### War Gardens

The Boy Scouts also aided the nation in the Food Crusade. "Every Scout to Feed a Soldier" was the slogan. Chronologically this was the first campaign they undertook. The resolution of the Executive Board placed the extension and development of War Gardens at the head of the list of definite services which Scouts were to give to their country in the War. The basis for participation was outlined in a cablegram from the Chief Scout Executive to Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, whom President Wilson had named as Chairman of the National Food Commission. This cablegram was dated April 16, 1917 and read as follows:

"250,000 Boy Scouts of America tender services as your aides as producers and conservers of food as service to our country."

In response to this cablegram, Mr. Hoover cabled the Chief Scout Executive from London as follows:

"The prime service of our Country in this War is ships and food, and we can here display the true American ability at great efforts. In order to provide the food necessary, we must from this moment eliminate all waste and stimulate food production at every point. We must send to our Allies more wheat, corn, beans, meat, bacon and lard than we have ever sent before, if their men are to fight and their women and children to live; and our people

must economize and eat other things. Among these foodstuffs could not the Scouts take as their own province the stimulation of bean production, for there is not only a great shortage at Europe and at home, but they are the best of foods. Let them help make America able to export ten times as many beans as she ever exported before. To do this, let the Boy Scouts see to it that beans are planted everywhere, so that the biggest bean crop ever known shall be the war contribution of the Boy Scouts to America and her Allies."

The members of the Executive Board themselves set an example by placing their own lands under cultivation for the production of food. President Livingstone, having no back yard, plowed up his big front lawn of his beautiful home in Washington for a vegetable garden. George D. Pratt, Treasurer, raised food crops on his large estate. Daniel Carter Beard, National Scout Commissioner, planted vegetable gardens on his property in Flushing and at his country place in Connecticut. Other members of the Board took similar action. Scouts were able to report in response to Mr. Hoover's cablegram that over 12,000 War Gardens had been started. In some cases as many as 200 and 300 acres were under cultivation by groups of Scouts.

In recognition of the value of Scout gardens, the National Council issued War Service emblems to all Scouts who participated in the campaign for increased food production, including awards to individual Scouts, to Troops and to the Scouts who stood at the head of the list for the whole United States for the number of gardens started and successfully conducted, to the Troop standing at the head of the list, and to the Local Council at the head of the list. The Department of Agriculture officials cooperated in the preparation of a circular appeal and a special issue of SCOUTING devoted to the food production program of which 100,000 copies were made available.

The following letter was addressed to the Boy Scouts of America from the offices of the United States Food



Enthusiastic Scout Farmers.

Administration by Herbert Hoover, under date of March 8, 1918:

"We must grow, harvest and conserve food as we have never dreamed of doing before, if we are to have food to ship to the Allies, and food they must have to be successful in the present struggle.

"I have been particularly pleased with the keen interest which you have displayed in the work of the Food Administration, and gratified by the assistance which you have rendered our Nation during the past season in many ways as aides.

"As such, I appeal to you to again exert all your brain and muscle power to eliminate waste and to stimulate food production throughout the length and breadth of the land."

## Food Campaign

One of the hardest campaigns in which the Boy Scouts took part, was that conducted under Mr. Hoover's leadership for enrolling the women of the country in the food administration, asking that all rearrange their household methods of living. The Boy Scouts



were asked to assist in tabulating and checking up all the homes in their community and to secure a pledge at each house and induce the householder to exhibit a window card indicating they were following the Administration Program. This was a difficult service but it was performed cheerfully. Twenty-two million families was the field that awaited the Scouts. Many human interest stories are told of that campaign. The Boy Scouts pledged themselves to eat cornmeal mush and corn muffins to save wheat, to eat fish and fowl to save meat, to save sugar by cutting down on candy and to follow the "gospel of the clean plate." Alabama Boy Scouts handled the food conservation campaign of the entire week in eight hours for which they won special recognition from Mr. Hoover. Scouts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, persuaded boys at Hallowe'en not to throw corn against the windows as a conservation measure. A Scout in Marion, Indiana, himself canned the produce of his summer's war garden. Scouts at Gouverneur, New York, raised and harvested 350 bushels of potatoes and marketed them at low prices. The Boy Scouts in East Potomac Park near Washington harvested a corn crop on a 300 acre farm and sold it. And so the story goes.

### Black Walnut Census

At the request of President Wilson, the Boy Scouts of America conducted a census classification of the entire black walnut growth of the country. This was one of the most essential timbers for war purposes, since it was needed for airplane propellers and gun stocks. So valuable was it that it was called the "Liberty Tree." Special information sheets and report blanks were printed at the Government Printing Office and circulated to Scouts. The Forest Service informed the National Office that the average number of reports received daily was thirty-five. A total of about 20,758,660 feet of black walnut timber was reported, some 5,200 carloads.



Plowing the White House Park for a War Garden.

"Get every available black walnut tree to market" said the forest specialists. To accomplish the task of making this census, would have cost the Government several million dollars but the organized boyhood of the Nation gladly did it promptly and efficiently as a part of their service to their country. A special tag was used by Scouts in some sections to identify the trees.

The following letter, dated November 26, 1918, was received by the Chief Scout Executive from Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, in appreciation of the work done by the Boy Scouts in the black walnut census:

"Now that hostilities have ceased, I am glad to advise that it is unnecessary to continue the black walnut census and the work of collecting carbon material for the manufacture of gas masks, and I request that you so advise the members of your organization.

"I am advised that the Boy Scouts of America, up to November 15th, had reported to the War Department a total of approximately 20,-



758,660 board feet of black walnut lumber which they had located, which amounts to about 5,200 carloads.

"I am further advised that in addition to the innumerable lots, large and small, of fruit stones and other carbon materials which the smaller Scout centers collected and which cannot be tabulated by itself, the larger Scout centers have turned in 100 carloads, enough to make over half a million masks.

"This is a splendid achievement for these lands and speaks volumes for the training that the Boy Scouts of America is giving to the up-growing citizenry of our country.

"The members of the Boy Scouts of America have, in their help to the War Department, lived up to their reputation for loyal and effective service in a manner which has won them the respect and admiration of the Nation. They have nobly worked at the front 'over here' as well as 'over there' for liberty and justice.

"In order that the members of your organization may be informed as to the discontinuance of these two campaigns and of our heartfelt thanks for what they have done, I would appreciate your sending them a copy of this letter with a letter of instructions from your own organization.

### Gas Defense

The Boy Scouts took an effective part in the War Department plant to save peach pits and nut shells for use in the manufacture of gas masks. No other organization was so well trained to perform a service of this nature. The Boy Scouts organized to do this and visited every family at the request of the War Department. The Scouts collected 100 carloads of fruit pits.

### Assistance in Influenza Epidemic

In the Autumn of 1918 there broke out an influenza epidemic. In some places it struck like a bolt from the



Long Island Scout War Garden.

clear skies. The disease spread like wild fire and sometimes whole communities were completely paralyzed. In this emergency the Scouts worked untiringly. They were assigned to relief committees, to help transportation committees to check up automobiles, to assist the Board of Health, to serve as orderlies in hospitals, to help on ambulances and to relieve telephone operators in some cases. In some communities the Troops offered their headquarters as emergency hospitals and assigned their members as messengers, three or four to each hospital, in three shifts for periods of three to four hours each.

In Richmond, Virginia, the Scouts secured, equipped and manned several ambulances for emergency hospital influenza service. The ambulances were busy every minute, night and day, on their errand of mercy.

### Assistance to Red Cross

The Boy Scouts gave their services to the Red Cross in their financial campaigns, and in the actual work conducted in the different communities. They rolled

bandages, helped at Red Cross stations and in every way gave steady and valuable assistance.

With the cooperation of Dr. Ernest P. Bicknell, Director General of the American Red Cross and a member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, plans were worked out with the Chief Scout Executive, for the cooperation of Scouts on an organized basis with the Red Cross. Because of their first-aid training and life saving experience, it was particularly appropriate that Boy Scouts should work with the Red Cross. They assisted the Red Cross on surgical dressing committees, motor committees, by acting as orderlies in motor ambulances, distributing notices, carrying communications on bicycles and motorcycles, horseback and on foot, and fulfilling other duties. They assisted committees on foods by collecting information as to supplies, preparing quarters for this service and assisted in collecting, preparing and serving food and refreshments to sick and wounded soldiers. They assisted first-aid committees in the preparation of quarters, as aides in first-aid work and as assistants at dispensaries. They acted with information committees as guides, orderlies, collectors of information as to public or private hospitals available, buildings available in case of emergency, location of public telephones. Of course, not all the boys in any one community did all of these things. Local Chapters made use of Scout Troops in various capacities.

### Government Aides

The Boy Scouts helped with the War as Government "Dispatch Bearers." They were repeatedly called upon to do active service in distributing information that the Government wished to get directly to the people. Washington officials announced that they reached at least ten million people through each of their Boy Scout distribution campaigns. For example, the following letter from the Committee on Public Information and from



Michigan Scouts Help Red Cross.

President Wilson was received under date of December 3, 1917:

"I desire to entrust the Boy Scouts of America with a new and important commission, to make them the Government Dispatch Bearers, in carrying to the homes of their community the pamphlets on the War prepared by the Committee on Public Information. The excellent service performed by the Boy Scouts in the past encourages me to believe that this new task will be cheerfully and faithfully discharged."

The Committee on Public Information called on the Boy Scouts of America frequently to carry directly to the people matters of nation-wide interest. The initial service was a house to house distribution of five million copies of a specially printed Boy Scout edition of President Wilson's Flag Day address as given at Independence Hall on June 1, 1917. The task of each Scout was to find influential persons in his own community who would make wide use of this publication. Chairman George Creel of the Committee on Public Information wrote in this connection:



"In this task they are the direct representatives of the Committee on Public Information which was created at the very beginning of the War that there might be some agency to keep the public informed about the War and its causes and progress."

In order to inaugurate this work in a business-like and definite manner, the Government provided each Scout with a special identification card. Again and again Scouts were called upon to perform a similar service. Scouts also served as aides to the "Four Minute Men", those representative citizens who presented the issues of the War in various public meeting places.

### Reconstruction Program

After the War was ended, the Boy Scouts carried on under the slogan, "The War is ended but our work is not." At this time the Chief Scout Executive, James E. West, issued this announcement of the part of Scouting in reconstruction work:

"As I understand Scouting and as it has been understood in this country the Scouting Program is the best reconstruction program I have ever known of. The country over, our average number of registered Scouts equals not quite 5% of the available boys of Scout age. If less than 400,000 registered Scouts can serve and produce results, what might the National Government expect with a million boys on their toes awaiting its commands!"

### Proclamation of President Wilson

In appreciation of the work of the Boy Scouts during the War, the following Proclamation was issued by President Wilson, expressing appreciation of what had been accomplished, and proclaiming Boy Scout Week throughout the United States for the purpose of strengthening the work of the Boy Scouts of America:



Scout Locates Liberty Bond Posters.



## **"By the President of the United States A Proclamation**

"THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA have rendered notable service to the Nation during the World War. They have done effective work in the Liberty Loan and War Savings campaigns, in discovering and reporting upon the black walnut supply, in cooperating with the Red Cross and other war work agencies, in acting as dispatch bearers for the Committee on Public Information, and in other important fields. The Boy Scouts have not only demonstrated their worth to the Nation, but have also materially contributed to a deeper appreciation by the American people, of the higher conception of patriotism and good citizenship.

"THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT should not only be preserved, but strengthened. It deserves the support of all public-spirited citizens. The available means for the Boy Scout Movement have thus far sufficed for the organization and training of only a small proportion of the boys of the country. There are approximately 10,000,000 boys in the United States between the ages of twelve and twenty-one. Of these only 375,000 are enrolled as members of the Boy Scouts of America.

"AMERICA cannot acquit herself commensurately with her power and influence, in the great period now facing her and the world, unless the boys of America are given better opportunities than heretofore to prepare themselves for the responsibilities of citizenship.

"EVERY nation depends for its future upon the proper training and development of its youth. The American boy must have the best training and discipline our great democracy can provide, if America is to maintain her ideals, her standards and her influence in the world.

"THE plan, therefore, for a Boy Scout Week, during which a universal appeal will be made

to all Americans to supply the means to put the Boy Scouts of America in a position to carry forward effectively and continuously the splendid work they are doing for the youth of America, should have the unreserved support of the Nation.

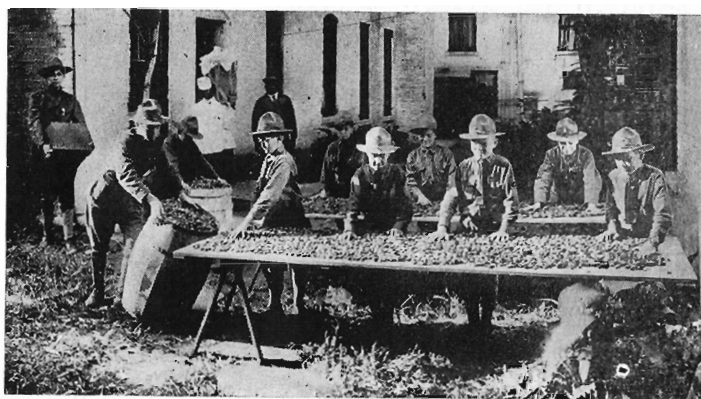
"THEREFORE, I, WOODROW WILSON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, do hereby recommend that the period beginning Sunday, June 8th, to Flag Day, June 14th, be observed as Boy Scout Week throughout the United States for the purpose of strengthening the work of the Boy Scouts of America.

"I EARNESTLY recommend that, in every community, a Citizens' Committee under the leadership of a National Citizens' Committee, be organized to cooperate in carrying out a program for a definite recognition of the effective services rendered by the Boy Scouts of America; for a survey of the facts relating to the boyhood of each community, in order that with the cooperation of churches, schools and other organizations definitely engaged in work for boys, adequate provision may be made for extending the Boy Scout program to a larger proportion of American boyhood.

"THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT offers unusual opportunity for volunteer service. It needs men to act as committeemen and as leaders of groups of boys. I hope that all who can, will enlist for such personal service, enroll as associate members, and give all possible financial assistance to this worthy organization of American boyhood. Anything that is done to increase the effectiveness of the Boy Scouts of America will be a genuine contribution to the welfare of the Nation.

*"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.*

"DONE this first day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and nine-



Drying Peach Pits for Gas Masks.



East Rutherford, N. J., Scouts Gather Peach Pits.

teen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and forty-third.

(signed) WOODROW WILSON.

"By the President:

ROBERT LANSING, Secretary of State."



Lowell, Mass. Scout on the Job.

## Summary of War Service Records

In the five Liberty Loans they sold 2,350,977 subscriptions, amounting to \$354,859,262. (\$936 per boy). Subscriptions not reported bring total to at least \$400,000,000.

War Savings Stamps—raised a total of more than \$52,000,000 in 2,189,417 sales.

Standing Walnut Trees located: 20,758,660 board feet (5,200 carloads.)

Fruit pits collected for gas masks: over 100 carloads.

War gardens and war farms conducted by Scouts throughout the country: 12,000.

Distributed over 30,000,000 pieces of Government literature.

Rendered invaluable services for the Red Cross, the United War Work Committee, and other National organizations serving the Government.