November 2016

Rotary International, with more than 1.2 million members in 34,000 clubs worldwide, is a volunteer organization of business and professional men and women who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world through charitable endeavors. It was founded in 1905 by Paul Harris, an attorney, in Chicago.

While there are 2 different options for Rotary Clubs today, Original Format or E-Club they both have at their core the same values and the only significant difference is the weekly meeting requirement. The original format meet for Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner once a week while the E Clubs meet on-line and have the requirement of basic internet skills. The Winchester Club is an Original Format club and meets every Thursday for a luncheon meeting at the Parish of the Epiphany on Church Street.

The War began in Europe when England declared war on Germany on August 1, 1939. The United States involvement came with a declaration of War against Japan on December 8, 1941 and a similar declaration against Germany on December 11, 1941. The end on both fronts came to end on V.E. Day, May 8, 1945 and V.J. Day August 15, 1945.

Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Winchester continued their efforts to provide community service on the home front and afforded some sense of normalcy in the daily routine of their home towns.

At the same time, whenever possible both R.I. and the Winchester Club assisted in the international arena through the distribution of funds, accepting fleeing refugees for the duration and maintaining contact with the Clubs in war torn areas.

Jack Kean, Rotary Club of Winchester

Recognition:

*The Rotary Global History Fellowship in particular, Basil Lewis, Steve Hellersperk and Fred Carvin.

*The Rotarian Magazine

*The Winchester Star

*The Winchester Public Library

*Special thanks to the Winchester Cooperative Bank and Mark Fisher for providing printing services.
WW II Time Line - Rotary International

1930's:

World War II began on the first of September 1939. It included conflicts in Europe, Pacific, Atlantic, South-East Asia, China, Middle East, Mediterranean, North Africa and Horn of Africa, briefly North and South America.

On August 1, 1939 there were 4,976 Clubs with a membership of 209,700.

Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain and Czechoslovakia closed Rotary clubs during the 1930's.

See attached: The Onset of War Closed Clubs in the 1930's and 1940's" (pages 8-9)

1940:

Only once since 1905, did Rotary International clarify its position with regards to political movements and that was in 1940 in reaction to the onset of World War II.

“Where freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights do not exist, Rotary cannot live nor its ideals prevail.”

During WWII, most Rotary clubs in Europe and those in the Philippines and Japan were forced to disband. Japan shut down Rotary clubs in the spring of 1941.

Despite the risks, many continued to meet informally and following the war’s end, Rotary members joined together to rebuild their clubs and their countries. "We persevere in tough times."

There were a few cases of Rotarians who were accused of collaborating with the Germans were not permitted to rejoin their Rotary Clubs.

See Attached: "T.C. Thomsen" (pages 10-11)

162 clubs were lost by being disbanded or outlawed.

1940-International Convention - Havana, Cuba June 9-14, 1940 (3,713 in attendance)

The war-time blitz of Britain proved costly to Rotary as it did to the nation as a whole. London, unsurprisingly suffered the most. On one night, for example, the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Rotary Club of Chelsea lost their lives.

Ches Perry’s successor as RI secretary, Philip Lovejoy, paid a visit to Britain in 1943 and recorded the following observations which summed up British Rotary during the Second World War: “Every Rotarian, every person in Britain, lives and works under tension…overworked, blitzed, rationed, how does the British Rotarian let down? Quite right. He goes to Rotary…He finds refreshment in the good fellowship, the conversation, the discussion of Rotary’s enduring and universal principles, the talks by beekeepers, ornithologists, statesmen and world travellers. Never has he appreciated Rotary more.”

See attached: "British Rotary 1939-45 –‘otherwise engaged in International Service" (pages 12-13)
1941:

"The Rotary Relief Committee, headquartered in Chicago, received donations from Rotarians representing 18 different countries. One can hardly overestimate the good which is being done for sufferers in the war stricken nations by reason of these contributions. The work will be carried on vigorously and to the full extent permitted by accretions to the fund."

132 clubs were lost by being disbanded or outlawed.

1941-International Convention - Denver, CO, USA June 15-20, 1941 (8,942 in attendance)

1942:

The Tournament of Roses Parade started in 1890. Rotary has entered a float in the Rose Parade every year since 1980. Floats were also entered in 1927, 1942, 1946 and 1966 by R.I..

In 1942 the theme of the Tournament of Roses was "The Americas" and the Rotary float was in Division V. Because of the outbreak of World War II, the parade was not held that year. This was the only time that the parade was cancelled. The Rose Bowl game was held at Duke for fear of a west coast attack. (Oregon defeated Duke 20-16)

Honor Roll Inscription:

"Here but for cancellation of the event as a military precaution following Japan's treacherous war, would have been the order of the 53rd annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade, depicting "The Americas in Flowers". It is printed here in memory of what might have been: as sort of Roll of Honor in the Tournament for Victory."

(Rotary International's float was in Division 5)
During and after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting international understanding. A Rotary conference held in London in 1942 planted the seeds for the development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and numerous Rotarians have served as consultants to the United Nations.

The last meeting of Rotary Club of Manila, the Philippines was held on the island of Corregidor on May 6, 1942, to induct Gen. Douglas MacArthur as an honorary member. Seven Rotarians conferred honorary membership on General Douglas MacArthur, in a dark tunnel amongst wounded soldiers, prior to the fall of Corregidor.

125 clubs were lost by being disbanded or outlawed.
8 clubs were lost due to "Other than war conditions"

1942-International Convention - Toronto, ON, Canada June 21-25 (6,599 in attendance)

1943:

International Convention - St. Louis, MO, USA May 17-20 (3,851 in attendance)

1944:

International Convention - Chicago, IL, USA May 18-22 (403 in attendance)

The Rotarian magazine, on more than one occasion, presented stories of Rotarians thousands of miles from home who displayed Rotary road signs with days and times of meetings to remind them of home. One such story appeared in article from the June 1944 edition, page 6. A Rotarian from Panama City, Florida, Captain Benton W. Decker, USN, sent home requesting a sign be sent and he proudly tacked it to a palm tree in the Solomon Islands 10,000 miles from home. As the article stated "few things bring home nearer than the warming site of that cogged wheel of royal blue and gold"

In another issue, February, 1945, page 6, Major P. Mims Rogers, a former lawyer of Florence, Alabama and Lt. D.L. Mulford, an ex-newspaper man from Montclair, N.J. missed their Rotary Clubs so they started one - on Leyte, in the Philippines - not an official one - but strong in the Rotary spirit.
Rotary Transplanted

Not so many Fridays ago this man was eating lunch with Roy, Jim, "V.V.," and all the rest of his fellow Rotarians in Panama City, Florida... where he was captain of the port. Today he's a long way from home. About 10,000 miles. That palm tree he is leaning on—he being Captain Benton W. Decker, of the U. S. Navy—is not in Florida; it's in the Solomon Islands! Then how did the Rotary road sign get there? The Captain wrote home for it, spiked it up himself, puckishly calls it "a sign of the times" in his island outpost. Home, 'tis said, is where the heart is... but for Rotarians few things bring it nearer than the warming sight of that cogged wheel of royal blue and gold.
Rotary on Leyte

Irrepressible Major P. Mims Rogers, a former lawyer of Florence, Alabama, and Lieutenant D. L. Mulford, an ex-newspaperman from Montclair, New Jersey, missed their Rotary Clubs. So they started one—not an official one, to be sure, but strong on Rotary spirit. Their first Community Service project was to drain the fox hole, here pictured.
1945:

In 1945 there were roughly 225,000 members in 5,196 clubs covered by 140 districts. About 4,200 of these clubs were located in the Western Hemisphere.

There were many outlawed clubs that survived underground. In Nazi Germany, Japan and Italy the Rotary members met in covert settings and concealed their true purpose, to further the ideals of Rotary. They used many surreptitious means to meet such as becoming ski or bridge clubs, even sporting organizations. A stealthy network was devised to provide sustenance and other humanitarian aid to those in need.

Rotarian Magazine September 1945:

To ‘Ike.’ When General Dwight D. Eisenhower (also see article page 16) relinquished his command of the Allied Forces in the European theater, Tom Benson, President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, sent him this wire:

On your relinquishing the supreme command of the successful Allied armies and when so many American friends are departing from our shores, I have the honor to send you on behalf of the 515 Rotary Clubs in Great Britain expression of our warm appreciation of your unparalleled services and the genius you have displayed in furthering Anglo-American coöperation, understanding, and goodwill. We shall value your continuing efforts in cementing this great work.

International Convention - Chicago IL, USA May 31, June 5, 12, (19,141 in attendance)
1947:

In 1947 the number of clubs was 6,172 with 245,000 members and 172 Districts. With the exception of Japan, Austria and Germany Rotary was found in the rest of the world. Some of those countries readmitted to Rotary International included Italy, France, Czechoslovakia, Philippines, Finland and parts of China.

The Hall of Honor. The RI Hall of Honor, dedicated in 1990, occupies the atrium area of floors 18 and 17. On this floor, exhibits include a bust of Paul Harris (in front of the window), made by a Japanese Rotarian sculptor when Paul visited that country in 1935. During World War II, the Japanese government confiscated the sculptor's collection for recycling into war materials, but the sculptor hid two busts: Paul's and Charles Lindberg's. The original is kept by Rotarians in Paul's boyhood home, Wallingford, Vermont.

During the war Rotarians continued to serve their communities and the world at large. Always in the forefront of Rotary thinking was the post war world. The world must embrace the Rotary ideal of "service above self". Humanity must become more "humane". Do unto others is not just a catch phrase. Post-War Rotary was invited to participate as a consultant to the U.S. in the discussions and formation of the United Nations. Knowing Rotary's commitment to its ideals Edward R. Settinius, Secretary of State under Roosevelt and Truman, said that their inclusion was out of respect and recognition of Rotary's continuing interest in world understanding and peace. The representatives of Rotary were contributors to the Charter and more specifically the provisions dealing with the Economic and Social Council.
The Onset of War Closed Clubs in the 1930s and 1940s

(Reprinted from Rotary Global History Fellowship site)

In the same way as the Board of Directors of Rotary international issues charters, so it can revoke or cancel charters where for specific reasons, any club does not, or cannot, operate within the accepted rules and style of a Rotary Club. Most frequently this has occurred in countries where a totalitarian regime has forbidden meetings of Rotary and similar clubs.

Thus, "in July 1936 almost immediately after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, the Rotary Clubs in that country ceased to operate" (Board minutes January 1940). At first, the Board of Directors did nothing directly about this but at their meeting in mid-July 1936 the Board recorded, that, "It appears that there are or may be occasions when the board would be fully justified in canceling the charter of a club in the ENAEM region. Such cancellations should be made, of course, with the same due deliberation that has always characterized the procedure of the board in such instances." At this meeting, the members of the board resident in the region were authorized to act in canceling club charters, subject to a unanimous vote of those members.

In practice, RI ceased to maintain contact with the 28 Spanish clubs although still counting them among their total of clubs in the world. However, following a report in June 1939 by RI President Maurice Duperrey, 1937-38, the cancellation of Spanish charters was agreed to, and by a decision of the full board in January 1940, effective immediately, the 2 in the Canaries and 24 in Spain, and the Tetuan club in Spanish Morocco had their membership officially terminated. At the same time, the general "secretary was released from any further obligation to obtain the charters issued to these clubs".

It was also possible for clubs to resign from Rotary International upon the return of their certificate of membership to the General Secretary of RI. In Germany, the National Socialist Party (the Nazi party) decreed that membership of the party was not compatible with membership of a Rotary club, and by December 31, 1937, party members had to withdraw from Rotary. As a result, all the clubs in Germany and in Danzig resigned and officially disbanded, except for four; Gorlitz, Liegnitz, Heilbronn and Garmisch, none of which returned their charters. Although they did not actually exist, they remained nominally on the records of RI. By contrast, a similar situation occurred in Austria following the country's occupation by Germany in 1938, where four clubs failed to surrender their charters. These were Innsbruck, Vienna, Villach and Wiener-Neustadt. However, a Board meeting in June 1938 terminated their membership anyway!

In January 1940, the Board officially terminated the membership of the 39 clubs in Czechoslovakia. Some clubs had effectively ceased to exist after September 1938, and after the occupation of Bohemia and Moravia in March 1939, all the others closed. The Board recognized this at their meeting in June 1939.

The pattern was continually repeated elsewhere, as the German war machine rolled across Europe. In January 1941, the Board recognized the dissolution of the clubs in Estonia (3), Latvia (2), Lithuania (2), Poland (10), Luxembourg (1), Norway and the Netherlands (34). It also meant writing off various payments for goods supplied or per capita taxes due from these closed clubs. In June 1941 following a law passed that country in January 1941, the seven clubs in Bulgaria had their charters cancelled and one year later those in Belgium, Yugoslavia, Greece, Belgium and Romania followed suit. The effect of all these closures led to some districts being removed from the list and the boundaries of others withdrawn.
It was not just the Germans who were repressing Rotary. In Italy the Fascist government of Mussolini also took action against Rotary and in January 1939, the Board accepted that District 46, covering Italy, no longer had any active clubs in it and consequently the number was voided.

Next to go was Hungary where most clubs had already closed by the outbreak of the war but three, Budapest, Pecs and Szeged, had continued to meet. Towards the end of 1941, Szeged stopped functioning, Budapest decided to suspend activities for a year and in view of the situation, the District Governor had resigned his office. By a meeting in June 1942, the Board accepted the position and District 82 and the clubs in it were struck off the list.

While this was going on in Europe, there were problems for Rotary in the Far East. Even before Pearl Harbor, Japanese activities in China had led to "the advisory committees in Districts 70, 71 and 72 (Japan and the Rotary clubs of Dairen, Pusan, Harbin., Heijyo, Keijo, Mukden and Taikyu) making formal announcements of the disbandment of the Rotary Clubs in the territory comprising these districts." (Board minutes January 1941). Of the 48 clubs involved, 31 returned their charters and the remaining 17 were reported to be either lost or destroyed. The Board "with deep regret" deleted the three districts and their constituent clubs from the lists. Some Japanese clubs did continue informal meetings throughout the war years.

As happened in Europe with German occupation, the advance of the Japanese armies led to a Board meeting in January 1944 at which the members recognized the position in the Far East. Three more districts, 79, 80 and 81, no longer had any functioning clubs and "that there was no prospect of their reorganizing or resuming activity in the near future." (Board minutes). As a result, the Board terminated the membership of clubs in Borneo, Celebes, Java, Sumatra, the Federated Malay States, Sarawak, the Straits Settlements, Thailand, and The Philippines. Additionally the Board recognized that because of Japanese occupation, four clubs in Burma and a further sixteen in China were no longer able to function as well as ones in Hong Kong and Guam. All were to be deleted from lists of Rotary International clubs. As before, this also meant writing off various payments for goods supplied or per capita taxes due from these closed clubs.

At the same meeting in January 1944, it was also accepted that all the clubs in that part of France, which had been occupied by the Germans, as opposed to that part which had been under Vichy control, were no longer operative. The board listed 47 such clubs.

There is one curious omission from these lists of wartime closures. The Germans also occupied the Channel Islands and the clubs there, which were visited by Paul Harris in 1937, were unable to continue meetings until the Germans left the islands.

They were the only clubs in RIBI so affected.

**ENAEM: European, North African and Eastern Mediterranean Region of Rotary international**

*Basil Lewis* Rotary Global History 16 March 2003
Updated for Jersey, February 2009
T. C. THOMSEN

T. C. THOMSEN was a Danish Rotarian, President of the Copenhagen Club 1924/5. He was an engineer working mainly in the water supply industry.

In 1925/6 he served as a member of the Board of RI which involved travelling to the United States.

While in Los Angeles, he accompanied Paul Harris on a tour of the area as well as joining Paul at the cinema to see ‘Making of pictures’ with Colleen Moore and Blanche Sweet.

In 1927 at the Ostend Convention, Thomsen made one of the keynote speeches on the subject “What Can Rotary Do For Europe”.

In the reports of the Convention, he was described as a member of the Aarhus Club and given the classification of ‘Cream and Oil Separator’.

In 1929 he bought out the old established water treatment company of Kruger and managed it until 1934.

Despite this post, he still found time for Rotary.

When Fred Warren Teele resigned as Special Commissioner in Europe in 1928, Thomsen took over both this post and responsibility for the Zurich office. Initially he was given a 3 year contract.

Thomsen was a multi-linguist, a very useful attribute in this post. Although he travelled extensively throughout Europe, it was his work in Germany for which he is best known.

His first club, and indeed the first in Germany, was in Hamburg where a distinguished group of Germans formed an inaugural club in 1927.

A year later he met Paul Harris again and briefed him on Rotary’s progress in Europe before they went to a meeting of the Hamburg Club.

Harris recorded it thus:-

“...In one particular respect my experience may be of benefit to future visitors to German Clubs. Neither in Cologne nor in Hamburg was I called upon by the chairman to speak as had been the practice elsewhere. The natural result was that I did not speak until it had become in other ways manifest that I was expected to do so. In Hamburg “T. C.” astounded me somewhat by seizing the gavel, calling the meeting to order, and making a brief address on matters of current interest to German Rotarians, after which, by various signs and exclamations, he indicated to me that it would be quite in order for me to do likewise.

I could not, however, readily overcome my reluctance in becoming my own announcer until convinced. It must be then or never, whereupon I arose and, I am quite certain, said just the wrong thing.”

After this success, Thomsen was instrumental in founding further clubs, among them Frankfurt, Kohn, Munich, Dresden, Stuttgart and Berlin.
All these clubs were closed down when Germany went to war.

After the war, Thomsen, back in Denmark, but did not rejoin his club.

Thomsen also served on the 1931 Rotary convention committee

Amended 13 February 2013

Thomsen was excluded from the Copenhagen club after the war when Rotary resumed in 1946. He tried to rejoin Rotary at various times up to 1960 but was unable to do so. It was said that, during the occupation of Denmark by the Germans, he had either done business with the Germans or acted in their interest. Although the Danes looked into such cases to see if anyone could be brought before a court for acting against Danish interests, we have not found any such case involving Thomsen. Indeed, in one document, a secret service officer supported Thomsen saying “that most likely he had done nothing wrong.” However, a British government agency disputed this and Thomsen remained a non-Rotarian.

There are several items in the Danish Rotary Archives about Thomsen and the research is on-going.

Researched by Frank Garbelmann, Torben Svendsen, RGHF senior historian Wolfgang Ziegler and RGHF senior historian Basil Lewis

Approved by RGHF VP of History Calum Thomson
Britain declared war on Nazi Germany on September 3rd 1939. By September 13th, the President of RIBI had written to every club urging them to “carry on”. W.W. Blair-Fish, former Secretary of RIBI and current editor of *The Rotary Wheel* wrote in the publication: “Let us resolve consciously to serve in this war as much for the sake of all that we know to be decent in Germany as in ourselves. Let us maintain and spread through war our Rotary principle of world fellowship and world law as the only means to peace. Let us stand for a peace of unrevengeful justice and of fellowship re-established. Rotarians and the spirit of Rotary are, and will be, needed more than ever.”

Rotary International, in contrast, was unwilling to condemn Nazi Germany and issued a hopeful call for international peace. Indeed, RI secretary, Chesley R. Perry would later on, refuse to publish an appeal to American Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Preston for more help for Britain. Despite this snub, funds poured into Britain from both the USA and Canada.

Nine members of the RIBI Secretariat were called up to war service with their positions guaranteed by the RIBI General Council. One of the RIBI staff, Harold Hunt, lost his life in 1943.

Another Rotary casualty was Captain E. C. Kennedy (the father of the famous broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy), commander a former P & O liner that was requisitioned in August 1939 by the War Office, the ‘Rawalpindi’ which was sunk near Iceland on the 23rd of November 1940. Kennedy, a member of the High Wycombe Club had rejoined the Royal Navy at the initiation of hostilities. This club had been visited four years previous by Rotary’s founder and it was a personal friend of Paul Harris – Rev. Wilfred Float – who conducted Kennedy’s memorial service.

RIBI’s patron of 10 years, the Duke of Kent, was also killed in a flying accident - a man who attended (more than his position obliged him to) many RIBI conferences and club meetings.

The war-time blitz of Britain proved costly to Rotary as it did to the nation as a whole. London, unsurprisingly suffered the most. On one night, for example, the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Rotary Club of Chelsea lost their lives.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth found that, in June 1941, it had no place to meet due to the bombing. The Club would settle in the old sports pavilion of Plymouth College. The London Rotary Club of West Norwood would find itself bombed out of no fewer than 8 places in just two years. This club may appear to be jinxed but it proudly topped the District’s attendance records!

Thus, the Rotary Clubs of Britain met in exceptional circumstances and created a special fellowship despite the uncertain and uncomfortable environment of War. The ‘lazier’ Clubs (those who met less frequently –usually fortnightly), adopted the more orthodox weekly meeting schedule. This request had been made on numerous occasions by the General Council and been previously ignored.
Many clubs had initially stopped recruiting new members though this was quickly criticized by the General Council of RIBI and though 7 clubs disbanded during the war (including the Jersey and Guernsey Rotary Clubs), 88 clubs increased their membership. Due to war service, approximately 750 Rotarians were transferred to honorary membership and their classifications kept open for the duration of the hostilities. By the end of the war, RIBI had, miraculously, extended the movement. 19 new clubs were formed during the long, dark days between 1939 and 1943, 13 new clubs had appeared in 1944 with another 24 club charters issued in 1945.

Early fears as to the future of club meetings were quashed. The Government had let it be known that it disapproved of ‘public banquets’. Rotary fellowship could provide a great public benefit and the Government was more than happy to see the continuance of the club meeting with ‘modest meals’. Alas, the modest meal continues to this day to be served at most of RIBI’s clubs! Food was, of course, scarce. To highlight this point, a merchant navy crew brought back from the Rotary Club of Halifax, Nova Scotia two cases of grapefruit which were auctioned for the Red Cross raising a whopping £727.

Elections to the various offices of RIBI were suspended until 1942 – to celebrate Ches Perry’s retirement - David Shelley Nicholl flippantly suggests. Other early decisions issued in a statement entitled “administration in the emergency” included the waiving of Club attendance records.

As C.R. Hewitt, points out, the clubs would address the economic and social problems of wartime. Clubs were quick to react positively to the conflict; clothing for evacuated children supplied, clubs for the Forces set up, Citizens Advice Bureaux established and hospitals given as much help as Rotarians could muster. By June 1941, British Clubs had supplied 8 military ambulances and 3 mobile x-ray units and a year later would play a pivotal role in both War Weapons Week and Warships Week a year later.

As we know, the Rotary movement would play a key role in post-war reconstruction. RIBI played their part – most visibly in sowing the seeds for UNESCO at that famous London meeting. From an early stage, RIBI officials would meet with Arthur Greenwood, Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee of the War Cabinet to discuss post-war reconstruction. Greenwood would also write the preface for the RIBI pamphlet entitled ‘Reconstruction’.

Perry’s successor as RI secretary, Philip Lovejoy, paid a visit to Britain in 1943 and recorded the following observations which sum up British Rotary during the Second World War: “Every Rotarian, every person in Britain, lives and works under tension…overworked, blitzed, rationed, how does the British Rotarian let down? Quite right. He goes to Rotary…He finds refreshment in the good fellowship, the conversation, the discussion of Rotary’s enduring and universal principles, the talks by beekeepers, ornithologists, statesmen and world travellers. Never has he appreciated Rotary more.”

Rotary Global History senior historian Calum Thompson. (vice chair of RGHF)
WW II Time Line Rotary Club of Winchester

The material contained herein was taken primarily from "Rotary Notes" a weekly column published in the Winchester Star and from additional Star articles. (collated by Jack Kean, Rotary Club of Winchester)

1939:

**June ('39)** - Appeal from oversea Rotarians and past Rotarians for assistance in emigrating to the US. All such requests will be handled through International headquarters in Chicago.

**September ('39)** - There will be interruptions in the ability of Rotary to function in war-stricken areas. The work of Rotary will be carried on through the efforts of Rotarians in other parts of the world.

**October ('39)** - The International convention will go on in Rio de Janiero as planned. Four of the recently admitted clubs are from South America.

**November ('39)** - The Rotary club of Paris, France will continue on but the meetings will consist of a simple one-course meal. The club bulletin will be published bi-monthly instead of weekly.

1940:

**January ('40)** - Assistance sought from Rotarians world-wide for aid to the war torn areas of Finland and Poland.

**February ('40)** - Due to world conflicts Rotary International has decided to postpone convention scheduled for Rio until 1942 and this year's convention will instead be held in Havana, Cuba. Toronto, site of the 1941 convention has also asked for a postponement.

**March ('40)** - Mr. Roland Sharpe of the Christian Science Monitor was a speaker this month. The first of many over the following years to discuss the world war. He was an expert on international developments. His words were "Make no doubt about it. It will be a fight to the death."

**May ('40)** - Rotary luncheons have long included singing as a way to develop fellowship. This month saw the inclusion of "God Bless America" as regular staple in each week's selection. Much like what Major League baseball does today.
June ('40) - It was reported that at the Havana convention $50,000.00 in surplus funds was appropriated for use in war torn areas of the world. A provision was made for raising another fund devoted to the same end.

November ('40) - It became the practice in town to stage a farewell gathering for the local men departing for the service. This was done jointly with Stoneham. There were speeches and presentations. Rotary was always a large part of this effort and the Rotary Club presented each draftee with a carton of cigarettes. The mother's of draftees were presented bouquets of flowers from the American Legion. George Carter, President of Rotary made the presentation and the ceremonies were conducted by Rotarian W. Allan Wilde, Past-Commander of Winchester Post 97, American Legion.

December ('40) - District Governor Francis addressed the club and told of the considerable material losses to the Rotary organization as a result of the suppression of clubs in those countries under dictatorship. This includes all of Europe, except Great Britain and Japan. While suppressed the spirit of Rotary remains vibrant in those areas and Rotary is expanding in other areas of the world. The clubs in this Rotary District have shown their charity in a world where half the population is involved in conflict.

1941:

January ('41) - International service among the 5062 active clubs has blossomed as never before. Sister city efforts have increased such as the ones between Cambridge, England and Cambridge in Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Ohio. The fellowship includes exchanging correspondence, phonograph records of member's voices, motion pictures of club meetings and so on. On Cambridge days telegrams are exchanged at the lunch hour. Rotary continues to foster international understanding.

Short wave radio station WRUL (for World Radio University Listeners) was used to send New Year's greetings from Winchester Rotary President George Carter to E.N. Knowles president of the Winchester, Hants, England Rotary Club. Carter also conferred an honorary membership on President Knowles in the Winchester, MA club during the broadcast. As a result of this broadcast arrangements are being made for war refugee children from Dover, England now living in Dover, MA to communicate with their families through this media.

The Winchester Rotary was privileged to entertain some English children who are being housed in Winchester during the war. They took part in the broadcast over WRUL. The children have adapted well in spite of their heartaches. At the luncheon they sang patriotic English songs. There were a few tears shed by the assembled Rotarians and extended wishes for an early return home to the children. ****The Rotarian magazine reported in the March 1941 edition, page 49, that "Winchester, Mass., entertained 13 refugees from Britain, and is raising funds for a rolling kitchen for Winchester, England.

The Winchester, England club reciprocated with an Honorary Membership being conferred on local President, George R. Carter.
Text of a Letter from Winchester England Club:

Barclay's Bank Chambers
96 High Street
Winchester, England
9th January, 1941

My Dear President,

It was extremely nice of you to take the opportunity, at the recent radio contact between our two cities to confer upon me the distinction of becoming an Honorary Member of your club.

All Rotarians of the Winchester, England Club greatly appreciated this gesture and it is their wish that I offer to you the reciprocity of making yourself an Honorary Member of our Club. It would seem unlikely that we shall either of us have an opportunity of coming into personal contact during this present Rotary year, but I sincerely hope that in years to come I may have the pleasure of visiting your great country.

Some of the members of your club may remember the contact which they made in October 1939 with one of our members, Rotarian the Rev. R. Sirhowy Jones, when he visited your community and preached in the First Congregational Church, and I believe in others. He has very happy memories of his visit.

We are going through very hard and terrible times and the wrecking of some of our old historical buildings touches us very deeply, but the bearing of the people is simply marvelous. We, in this country, do feel that the two great English speaking communities are together in spirit in this great struggle for the survival of all we hold both dear and while we have little doubt as to the final victory being with us, it is going to call for a gigantic effort and terrible sacrifices. There are some who feel that in so high a cause the two great English speaking Democracies should be fighting side by side, but however this may be, I can assure you that we in this Country do all fully appreciate the tremendous material aid when you are giving to us, and without which victory might be long postponed.

Yours very sincerely in Rotary,
D.W. Knowles, President

March ('41) - The first 2 members of the local club are inducted into the service. John Roosevelt, son of FDR and the manager of Filene's and Harry Benson were assigned to the Navy.

See Addendum: John Aspinwall Roosevelt

Since all clubs are losing members to the war effort a concerted membership drive is suggested.

Rotary is instrumental in providing the lift for civic responsibility.

December ('41)- The meetings are filled with patriotic songs as war is declared on the Axis powers, Germany and Italy.

A Mrs. Stangroom from Birmingham, England who left home to emigrate here about a month ago was a guest speaker. She related some of her experiences of living in the bombed area of Birmingham. She is in town under the auspices of the Baptist Missionary Committee and will tell her full story in the chapel of First Baptist Church.
1942:

January ('42) - This month was the first discussion of purchasing War Bonds and Stamps to help with the War effort. Every member was urged "to put the shoulder to the wheel" to help finance their country in this time of great peril.

It was announced that 36 Rotarians, members or former members of Rotary Clubs in other countries and temporary refugees in the United States in New York had formed an association called "Overseas Rotary Fellowship". Eight countries were represented at the first meeting held on January 7, 1942. This attests to the endurance of the Rotary spirit.

Rotary International requests that all clubs feature a meeting devoted to the interests of China. The event will be referred to as "China Day". The world can admire China's prolonged and heroic resistance against their aggressor's, Japan. The local club will respond with a speaker on the topic at the next meeting.

February ('42)- The club received and displayed a banner from the Rotary Club of Winchester, England. This will serve as an inspiration for the club to become more involved in the fight for democracy and freedom.

Mr. Lee an American citizen of Chinese descent spoke on the current conditions in China. James Quinn, Chairman of the International Service Committee arranged for Mr. Lee's presence.

During this month the club discussed the objectives of Rotary and how the efforts of Rotarians will help restore the privileges of free people.

March ('42) - Member W. Allan Wilde, also chairman of the Selective Service Board, discussed civilian preparedness and the possibility of blackouts in the coming months. He talked about the patriotism of the young men of the country and the devices some young men used to avoid the service.

The observance of "China Day" elicited a response from the Rotary Club of Chunking, China and its president, Peter Kiang. He expressed thanks for the encouragement that was displayed by the "China Day" event in the US and Canada.

Mrs. Irving Bracket, wife of Lt. Irving Brackett, was the guest speaker. Mrs. Brackett who was with her husband at Pearl Harbor during the attack spoke of her experiences ion that fateful day and the days that followed. It was a story of universal and impenetrable apathy in the face of repeated warnings of impending danger. It was a rout but there many heroic acts on the part of Americans. The highly organized opposition of Japan, Germany, and Italy has" left no stone unturned to carry us back to barbarism."

April ('42) - A donation was made to the Red Cross Canteen and all boys in the service were invited to be guests of the club for the weekly luncheon going forward.

May ('42)- The club was well represented at the departure ceremonies for a large group of selective service men on Friday, May 29.
**June ('42)** - The club received a letter from member Harry Benson from the fleet post office, San Francisco. Harry has visited a Rotary club out there but carefully avoids mentioning the name.

Ralph Bonnell is promoting the collection of scrap rubber which he hopes will help in giving Hitler and Company the bounce.

W. Allan Wilde reminds the membership that draftees are leaving in greater numbers and in shorter intervals. Rotary will be there to send them off. Another large group will leave on June 27th.

President Mal, Malcolm Bennet gave a brief description at the recent war maneuvers in Newbury, Mass.

On July 2 the speaker will Mr. Paul Sampson who will talk about Food in the War Effort.

**July ('42)** - Member Charlie Murphy of Murphy and Reardon Texaco dealers has enlisted in the Army Ordinance Corp and will leave shortly. The club directors have given him an Honorary membership that will carry him through the war period. Charlie was also the club Sergeant-at-Arms.

W. Allan Wilde says that the quota for the district for August is 151 men. They will receive a hearty farewell upon their departure.

General Douglas MacArthur has accepted honorary membership in the Melbourne, Australia Rotary Club. Member Harry Bigelow spoke about gas rationing at a Thursday luncheon.

**August ('42)** - The part Winchester Rotarians are playing in the Town's civilian defense is interesting. The following list is compiled from our defense chart:

John Cassidy and William H. Rogers, Committee of 100

Dr. Richard W. Sheehy, Deputy Public Safety Committee

George W. Franklin, Secretary Committee of 100

W. Allan Wilde, Protection

Dr. Angelo Maietta, Dr. Richard Sheehy, William H. Hevey, Medical

Ralph H. Bonnell, Parker Holbrook, George T. Davidson, Public Service

Rev. Paul H. Chapman, Health and Social Service

Malcolm D. Bennett, Forrest R. Cook, Supplies

James J. Quinn, Education

George R. Carter, T. Price Wilson, Public Relations

William N. Beggs, Men's School Committee

Thomas Quigley Jr., Demolition Squad

James A. Cullen, Conservation

"Committee of 100" established to make emergency preparations and advise on their implementation.

The club has extended an invitation to young men interested in the Naval Aviation to attend a September meeting where the speaker will be an officer from that branch of the Navy.

**September ('42)** - At the Naval Aviation presentation several young men from WHS were present. The talk was accompanied by a motion picture depicting training exercises and maneuvers.
Member Dr. Angelo Maietta has been called to active duty and has been placed on the Honorary Member list.

**October ('42)** - The J.H. Winn Company on Washington Street has received the Army and Navy E Flag for excellence in production work for the military. Ernie Dade, President of JH Winn is a Winchester Rotarian.

Gift Boxes were sent to club members in the service:

**Dr. Angelo Maietta, John Roosevelt (son of FDR), Charlie Murphy and Dr. Harry Benson.**

**November ('42)** - Continuing with speakers who broaden and expand the members knowledge of the war the club had Professor John Ray from MIT who spoke on Hitler.

Another speaker was Harry Pearson of the Seaman's Club of Boston who spoke about The Water Front in Time of War.

**December ('42)** - Lt. Angelo Maietta home on leave attended done of the lunches. He is stationed at Camp Stuart, Georgia.

The Winchester Committee for Russian War Relief sent a letter requesting help from Rotary.

Going forward the club will underwrite the cost of the Red Cross Canteen for the boys leaving for service.

Professor Max Grossman of the Boston Post spoke about the do's and don'ts when writing to our service men.

District Governor Walter reported that over 400 Service men will receive a Christmas remembrance from rotary International.

"Rotary is based not upon creed but upon deed"

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**1943:**

**January ('43)** - The club announced that as a gas conservation measure the weekly meetings would be held at the Unitarian Church.

Mr. H.L. Baldwin, Publicity Manager of the B & M Railroad spoke of the uptick in ridership out of North Station due to the transporting of service men and the problem of car inventory since a lot of the coaches in troop trains were not being returned to the B & M and were ending up all over the country. Also the training of new employees to replace those lost to the war effort will affect the quality of service for a while.

The local club will join other clubs in providing films to the Coast Guard stations in the area.

The Rotary Clubs in the area are sponsoring a blood drive for the Red Cross.

George Rockwell of the United Carr Fastening Company spoke about his trip to England. His observations gave a different perspective on the situation. He said that Rotary clubs do a great deal to foster international understanding. He carried greetings from Boy Scouts in Cambridge, Mass. to scouts in Cambridge, England. He
talked about how the English have adapted to the situation and the destruction that is evident everywhere. Every block has damage and his overall impression was that it included about 10% of each neighborhood. The trains are regular in schedule and are fast. He talked of the thrill he had in flying in a Lancaster bomber and visiting the factory.

Every member of the club received 4 - 1 cent post cards that were addressed to the four members in the service. They place personal messages on them and then they were collected and mailed.

**February ('43)-** Continuing the practice of having G.I.'s home on leave as guests at the weekly Rotary luncheon Pvt. David Carney who was on leave from active duty on Guadalcanal visited the club. He told of his experiences in the embattled Solomon Islands. Including the destruction of 15 out 16 Japanese bombers in 15 minutes. This was happening at Rotary Clubs all over the United States and even the Rotarian magazine published a cartoon on the subject in the June 1945 edition. It depicts a Rotarian holding the arm of a young GI and telling another gentleman Kiwanis can have him on next Thursday. The Rotary Club has him today.
March ('43) - An Auction was planned to raise money to purchase a "Bomber". The bomber will be officially named "Town of Winchester, Mass.". In order to make the purchase and have the bomber named after the town $175,000.00 worth of War Bonds must be sold at the auction. The Auction will be held on April 13th at the Winchester Theater.

The Rotary Club was charged with collecting the items to be auctioned. Dr. John McLean was Chairman for this effort.

"Speed" Riggs, famous auctioneer of the American Tobacco Company will come to Winchester to personally conduct the auction.

More than 100 items gathered by the Rotary Club will be offered. The items will be sold to the highest bidder with all bids received in multiples of $18.75, $37.50, etc., these being the prices of $25 and $50 War Bonds. The purchasers will really not spend a cent for it was explained if a high bidder at $18.75 was high on an article being auctioned, by payment of $18.75 the bidder not only received the item on which he bid but a $25.00 United States War Bond in addition. The same would be true of a bidder who bid $500 for an article. He would receive the article and $500 worth of War Bonds also. In other words, no one at the auction will actually spend a cent to get any of the valuable 100 and more things which will be auctioned for each bidder will receive in War Bonds the entire amount which he bids.

April ('43) -

Auction -

Only 874 persons (the seating capacity of the Winchester Theater) will be admitted to the auction and all seats will be reserved. Plus there are 5 Door Prizes - a $250.00 War Bond and 4 $100.00 War Bonds. The winner must be present to win the door prizes.

Rotary announced that the hard-to-get articles would start a run on any store that might happen to have them for sale.

Partial List Of Auction Items:

36 Pairs Nylon Stockings
Live Pig
Year's Subscription to Herald
$25 Worth of Groceries
2 pre-war Automobile Tires
60 lbs of Cheese
$50. Men's Suit
Combination Victrola and Radio
Enough Paint to Paint a House
Case of Canned Goods
Bag of Fertilizer
$20 Toilet Seat
100 Gallons Gasoline
2 Tons of Coal
$50 Worth of Dairy Products Delivered
Stocking Machine
100 Gallons Fuel Oil
$10 Worth of Cleaning Work
$6 Pair of Shoes
3 - 12 Ride Tickets on the B&M (Winchester-Boston)
32 Lbs Butter - Safe Deposit Box
Table Garden
$15 Mahogany Salad Bowl
Coffee Maker
2 - $25 Woman's Dress
8 free days of playing time at Winchester Country Club
$10 Worth of Drug Store Merchandise
Elgin Watch - Set of Matched Woods
Electric Lamp
Six Portraits
Case of Grapefruit and Oranges
Pedigreed Cocker Spaniel
Bags of Potatoes and Onions
War Mementos
9 Months of Free Medical Treatment
7 Cubic Foot Refrigerator
Safe Deposit Box

When the audience arrived they found St. Mary's crack band in the orchestra pit, furnishing snappy music for the affair and the stage literally filled with more than 100 articles to be auctioned. The prizes were all collected by a hustling group of Rotarians, headed by Ralph Bonnell as chairman, Harry Bigelow as co-chairman and including Samuel McNeiley, George Hayden and Nicholas Fitzgerald. It is safe to wager that no prize collecting committee ever assembled a more complete nor more valuable collection of articles than the Rotary provided for the War Bond Auction. Dr. John McLean, the Rotary president has every reason to be proud of the efforts of his members and his hustling committee.

Auction Nets Over A Million

The refrigerator brought a $16,000 War Bond purchase by an anonymous bidder who announced that he had handed the refrigerator over to the Home For Aged People. A 16 pound Ham was knocked down $5,000 in Bonds and the $50 order from Whiting's Milk delivered to a Winchester home brought spirited bidding and another $5,000 Bond sale. But this was small bidding as Town Treasurer James C. McCormick announced to cheers that the Town had purchased $100,000 in War Bonds at the busy desks in the theater lobby and at the same time it was announced that an anonymous subscriber had purchased a similar amount. The Winchester banks further swelled the sales at the auction when it was announced that they had purchased a total of $575,000 in War Bonds.

The banner attraction of the night was the bidding on the 100 gallons of Socony gasoline and before the bidding was finished the audience was gasping as Roland JH. Boutwell had paid $325 per gallon of the precious fluid or a total bid of $32,500. A short time later Mrs. Boutwell bid $10,000 for the 32 pounds of butter. She immediately returned 16 pounds on the condition that it sell for $500 per pound. In 2 minutes that task was completed.

The 32 pairs of women's nylons which were auctioned two pairs at a time with each 2 pairs bringing between $5,000 and $9,000. The 2 women's dresses sold for $1,500 and $2,100 respectively. A 1 pound box of candy brought $25.
This is a quote from "Speed" Riggs after the auction: "I've conducted a lot of War Bond auctions since Pearl Harbor but I can tell you that I have never seen anything like this in as small an audience. The Patriotism of Winchester people must be very high and your town should be very proud of the fact that they have aided the war effort by the purchase of nearly a million and a half dollars in one evening. I shall take great pleasure in telling of Winchester to other audiences that I face in the future in various parts of the country"

Post Auction Stories:

One Rotarian thought he had paid a handsome sum for a doll but instead purchased a book on Psychology. Another member thought he had purchased 2 Pairs of nylons only to find out they were all gone. Ralph Bonnell promised that they would be delivered and suggested that Police Chief Rogers meet the messenger at the town line and take charge of delivering them.

The club heard a presentation by Francis Felt of the E.B. Badger & Sons Co. which is owned by Winchester resident Erastus Badger. He spoke the Badger company's work in the field of water purification and conversion for the military but he was restricted from giving away any secrets of the process.

John Campbell spoke of his war experiences in the Pacific. He told of a miraculous landing on an island near an abandoned Plantation and of friendly natives who used a war canoe to take them at night to nearby island where English missionaries arranged for them to be air lifted out. He said how not all Japanese soldiers want to die explaining that some of them parachuted out of their planes in hopes of surviving. John witnessed the sinking of the Yorktown. He was saved by going over the side before it sunk.

The Rotary Club donated $12.50 for an American flag to be presented to the newly formed Air Scouts Troop.

May ('43)- At the urging of member Ralph Bonnell the club voted to give its full support to the War Bond effort. Winchester, Mass. will be paired with Winchester, Virginia, in effort to get both towns over the top. A group from here will prepare a Bean Supper in Virginia and a group from Virginia will prepare a Southern BBQ here.


June ('43)- The club welcomed 3 service men as visitors to lunch. One Phil Gallagher is another Rotarian currently in the service, the others being Hall Gamage and Dick Adams. Dick Adams also spoke of his experiences.

Member Lt. Harry Benson was home after spending many months at sea had many stories to relate.
August ('43)- PFC Paul Butterfield a local boy who had just returned from Italy spoke about his experiences at the front in Africa, Sicily and Italy. He is on medical leave owing to three wounds he suffered.

September ('43)- Jim Cullen sold 18 war Bonds at one meeting this month. It is doubted if Hitler himself could have resisted buying at least one.

It was announced that the Club had purchased a $50 War Bond at the Army Cavalcade in the name of the Winchester Rotary Educational Fund.

October ('43)- Captain William Whorf, USMC son of Mrs. Clarence Whorf of 2 Central Green, was the guest speaker at a regular meeting. He was a member of the original landing party at Guadalcanal. He vividly portrayed the life and actual combat on Guadalcanal interspersed with amusing incidents and details.

Jim Scott, George Hayden and Vin Ambrose, a committee of three, without portfolio or funds were charged with coming up with Christmas boxes to be sent to the 5 Rotarians now serving in the armed forces.

A subscription to Reader's Digest was ordered for each of those serving.

1944:

January ('44)- The club watched a film of the Fore River shipyard of Bethlehem Steel. It showed the stupendous task that has been accomplished in building all types of ships. The film showed in graphic detail the planning necessary to maintain this peak production.

February ('44)- Harry Benson, USNR and Phil Gallagher home on short leaves attended a luncheon.

The Blood Donor Center at 8 Thompson Street thanked Rotary for promoting interest in the service. Rotary sponsored many ads for the Red Cross in the Winchester Star. The club has sent in just over 388 donors in the 1943, an average of 65 per month. In January over 200 were recruited. The goal for 1944 is 1300 donors. The local club underwrote the cost of some Red Cross ads in the Winchester Star.

March ('44)- The Rotary Club donated $12.50 for the purchase of a flag for the new scout troop, Air Scouts.

April ('44) - The club heard a talk presented by Mr. Francis Felt of the E.B. Badger Company. Erastus Badger, owner of the company is a Winchester resident. The talk, as far as military permit allowed, told of the water purification and conversion apparatus for the armed forces.
May ('44)- Ralph Bonnell spoke about the upcoming War Bond drive and the Winchester had been paired with Winchester, Virginia in the hopes of putting both communities over the top. A delegation from Virginia will put on a southern barbecue here and a similar delegation from here will go to Virginia to conduct a bean supper.

July ('44) - The club received a letter from Rotarian Angelo Maietta that told of his landing on D-Day. He spoke of the sea sickness he experienced during the channel crossing but how quickly he recovered as they approached the beach. The Americans were under heavy fire and the mortar fire was deadly. The beach was raked with machine gun fire. Landing craft were destroyed and far too many of our boys were killed he said. They stayed on the beach for 12 hours. He thought his time had come. If he had to die he wanted to die doing his duty to the end, with his wife's name on his lips and his children in his heart. Thank God he was spared. Although an anti-aircraft unit they were employed to knock out pill boxes, observation posts and to keep the beach exits open for the infantry. The French people he encountered seemed bewildered or did not know the invasion had taken place. Towns were torn asunder, literally blasted to bits. With the 200 francs ($4) they were given prior to D-Day they purchased eggs. The eggs supplemented the K Rations. He said he was glad to see reading the Winchester Star, that the Rotary Club is still active in securing blood donors. Blood plasma is a life saving measure on the battlefield, almost miraculous. He is looking forward to the day he can return home.

August ('44)- Pfc. Paul Butterworth, a Winchester boy, who just returned from the battle front in Italy was a guest speaker. He received great honors for his bravery under fire and he told of his exploits at the front. Pfc. Butterworth a veteran of 22 months service participated in the fighting as a member of a medical unit in Africa, Italy and Sicily. Paul was at the Anzio beachhead. He was wounded three times, seriously in two instances and he is now on medical furlough before returning to duty.

October ('44) - A new innovation at the weekly meetings was unveiled. A War Bond will be awarded to one of the Rotarian's present. The first winner was Tax Collector Nathaniel M. Nichols, a Charter Member of the club.

November ('44)- George B. Hayden, Charles E. Howe and Glen Browning were November winners of a War Bond.

19 members went to the Boston Blood Bank.

December ('44)- War Bond Winners for December included Ralph Bonnell, James Cullen, Fred Chamberlain and Bob Gray of the Melrose club.
1945:

January ('45)- Parker Holbrook, Ernie Dade, A. Allen Kimball and Dr. Harry L. Mueller were War Bond winners.

Appeal for blood donors was made to kick off the new year.

N.E. Tel and Tel representative Joe Murphy, a Medford Rotarian made an interesting presentation on the telephone under war time conditions.

February ('45) - Frank Murphy was a war time bond winner drawn by Sgt. Kelley of Wilmington.

March ('45)- A visiting Rotarian from Woburn, Walter Wilcox, was called upon to pick the War Bond winner's name. He asked if it was all right if he picked his own and he proceeded to do just that. Selectman Ralph Bonnell and W. Allan Wilde were also War Bond winners.

The club was informed that due to food shortages the Club luncheons would be on short rations for the foreseeable future.

April ('45)- Al Folsom was a War Bond winner as was Glenn Browning.

Club member Lt. John Volpe gave an interesting talk about the history and duties of the Seabees. Lt. Volpe is stationed with a Seabee unit.

Lt. Evelyn Whittlow, USA, Nursing Corps, sister of Mrs. Erskine H. Kelley of Forest Street was a guest speaker. She was held as a Japanese prisoner of war for three years in Manila being liberated after MacArthur's entrance. She gave a thrilling account of her adventures.

May ('45)- Dr. Sanford Moses, Ralph Bonnell, Nate Nichols and guest Bert Wisebaum were War Bond winners. Mr. Wisebaum donated his bond to the Scout Cub Pack sponsored by the Winchester club.

Francis Felt of the E. B. Badger Company returned for another talk about the inventions being turned out for the armed forces.

Judge Brooks of Medford gave an interesting summary of the proposed laws for compulsory military training.

Ralph Bonnell announced that Rotary members have contributed 90 pints of blood to the blood bank.

Dr. Angelo Maietta recently returned from the European front gave an account of some of his experiences and the hope is he will continue his presentation in the future.
Winchester's reaction to V-E Day was one of relief rather than hilarity, nothing in the way of a boisterous celebration being apparent. Nothing at all comparable to the victory announcement was received in large cities took place here, and there was nothing like the impromptu celebration staged on Armistice Day in 1918.

Soon after President Harry Truman delivered his sober announcement of the German surrender, with its note of the need for future work and prayer's to build a just and lasting peace, the town's church bells and that in the town hall belfry pealed forth, while the Civilian Defense sirens blared for several minutes. Not long afterward the school children dismissed for the day, came trooping through the center and store commenced to close. Filene's, Woolworth's, Brigham's, Fred Mitchell's. By mid-forenoon the chain provision stores were closing and the drug stores were announcing afternoon closings. Some local restaurants closed by early afternoon and by mid-afternoon the center was a deserted village.

In accordance with the sober note of the entire day Winchester as a whole went to its churches to observe V.E. Day. Churches throughout the town were open all day for prayer and meditation and many went to them alone or in groups to offer their own personal thanksgiving for at least partial peace.

Rev. Dwight W. Hadley, rector of the Church of the Epiphany conducted services there at 10:15 in the morning and 7:45 Tuesday evening, the second being held in conjunction with Episcopal Churches throughout the country. The evening service of dedication and thanksgiving had the full choir and the church was filled.

Many parishioners went to the Immaculate Conception Church to pray during the day and in the evening Rev. Fr. J. Joyce Kierce led a large congregation in the Rosary.

At the First Baptist Church there was a special service of Thanksgiving Prayer and Dedication at 8 o'clock with the pastor, Rev. Walter Lee Bailey officiating assisted by the full choir. The church was open all day and there was organ music at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Unitarian Church had a largely attended service of Prayer and Meditation in the evening with organ music. The minister, Rev. Paul Harmon Chapman, was assisted by Mr. Theodore C. Browne, chairman of the church standing committee.

The First Congregational Church was open all day, and it was reported that a number from out-of-town availed themselves of the opportunity to enter for prayer and meditation. There was organ music at 11 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon by the church organist, J. Albert Wilson, and Miss Frances Randall. and at 7 in the evening Kenneth Moffat played an organ program. The Pastor Howard J. Chidley, conducted services of worship at 12 noon, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., the evening service being with full choir. Several hundred persons attended.

A special service of Thanksgiving was held at 8 o'clock at the First Church of Christ Scientist, conducted by the first reader Mr. Ernest J. Wright. The church was filled and there was congregational singing as well as organ music.

Many visited St. Mary's Church through the day and in the evening the church being open until 9 p.m. The Pastor, Rev. John P. O'Riordan, chanted the Te Deum, as a Service of Thanksgiving for Victory at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and again at 7:30 in the evening, there being large congregations.

The Second Congregational Church was well filled at the service of Thanksgiving conducted at 8 o'clock in the evening with the full choir and organ music. The pastor, Rev. Harris E. Heverly, was
assisted in conducting the service by Dr. Ralph Becker, professor on the faculty of the Boston University Theological Seminary.

**June ('45)**- Paul Holbrook was a bond winner along with Don Lewis, William E. Priest and Frank Murphy.

Two Winchester service men home form three years abroad were introduced by President Harry Bigelow - Captain Ed Woodbury and TSgt. Robert Harris.

Luncheon guest during the month included Major Alex Smith and his 16 assistants from the "Bond Cavalcade" parked on Main Street. Mr. Maurice Bird chairman of the local War Bond Committee was a guest speaker.

**July ('45)**- War Bond winners were Rice Wilson, Bill Beggs and Don Lewis.

Ken Batten recently retired from the Navy was a guest of the club for lunch.

**August ('45)**- Ralph Purrington, Nate Nichols and Harry Bigelow were War Bond winners.

Ralph Bonnell will be presenting billfolds to navy personnel who celebrated their birthdays while on the way home from overseas. The presentation will be made at the Navy Yard to an assigned ship. Other charitable organizations are involved with other vessels.

**September ('45)**- Sam McNeilly, Sanford Moses, Jim Cullen and Allen Kimball were bond winners. For Kimball it was his 3d time.

One of the speakers this month was Lt. James Halwartz, an Army Engineer and a member of the Winchester Water Department, home on a 30 day furlough who spoke of his war time experiences.

**October ('45)**- Bob Norris, Leslie Scott and George Hayden were the bond winners for the month.

Lt. Pauline D'Ambrosio of Salem St. in Winchester an Army Nurse, spoke to the membership about her 4 years in Australia and the Philippines.

Lt. James Reilly was a guest speaker in October. He told of his 3 years in the Pacific which included the story of how he was on a ship 1500 yards from the USS Liscombe Bay which was sunk on November 24, 1943. A member of that crew was Lt. Cmdr Dick MacAdams of Kenilworth Road, a former Selectman, who lost his life in the torpedo attack that caused the catastrophic incident. Lt. Cmdr MacAdams was serving as the Chief Engineer on the ship. The Liscombe Bay was part of the force taking part in the invasion of the Gilbert Islands when the ship was sunk.
November ('45)- The War Bond winners were Aram Mouradian, Harry Bigelow and Dr. Angelo Maietta.

December ('45)- There were 5 winners of War Bonds in December: Don Simonds, Charlie Murphy, Ernest Dade, Don Knapp of the Stoneham Rotary and Ralph Purrington.

1946:

January ('46)- Luncheon guest Major Jimmy Wakefield, Assistant Winchester Town Engineer, was home after spending 42 months in the Engineer Corps.

Also a guest in January was Pfc. Frank Cassidy home from the Pacific theater.

A discussion was held about a Rotary gift for returning service men.

War Bond Winners were Gus Hakanson, "Angie" Maietta, and Dick Sheehy.

February ('46) - War Bond winners this month included in Ambrose and Jack Cassidy, who won twice.

March ('46)- March winners were Nick Fitzgerald, Don Simmonds, Jim McGrath from the Woburn Rotary Club and Glenn Browning.

April ('46) - Charlie Murphy, John Ward of the Medford Rotary Club, Gene Pollard and Ben Brennan were the War Bond winners.

May ('46) - Colonel Alexander Standish was a guest for lunch.

The War Bond winners were Glenn Browning (4th time), Forbes Norris and Ralph Purrington.

June ('46)- War Bond winners were Gordon Bird, Ralph Purrington (4th time) and Charlie Murphy.

July ('46)- This was the last month that War Bonds were drawn for. The winners were Harry Ainsworth of the Wilmington Rotary Club and A. Allen Kimball.

**** At the end of World War II, January 3, 1946, the last proceeds from the Victory War Bond campaign were deposited into the U.S. Treasury. More than 85 million Americans — half the population — purchased bonds totaling $185.7 billion. Those incredible results, due to the mass selling efforts of helping to finance the war, have never since been matched.
The following letter from Capt. Angelo Maietta will be of interest to his many Winchester friends:

Somewhere in France
June 30, 1944

Thought I'd drop a line saying hello to the "boys" of our Rotary Club. I trust that this letter finds the members in excellent health. I'm feeling fine—"as fit as a fiddle." Lost a little weight though. I'm down to 150 lbs.

I landed in France on D-day, June 6 at 9:30 a.m. Of all the landings made that day, the one on our beach was the most difficult. The Germans had excellently prepared defensive positions and employed them in a masterful fashion. During the Channel crossing I had been seasick, but I quickly improved when we came close to the beach. The Germans saw to that! We were met by 88mm. fragmentation shell fire which caused a great deal of havoc. Their mortar fire was deadly. It caused many casualties. Then they would shift to machine gun fire, with which the beach was raked. Landing crafts were demolished, vehicles were destroyed and many, far too many, of our boys were killed and many more were wounded.
For 12 hours, the length of time my battalion remained on the beach, I was very busy caring for the wounded oftentimes just by instinct. I had no time to think of anything. Things were at a very crucial point. Mortar shells and 88's were shrieking and bursting all around. I thought my time had come. I made up my mind that if I had to die, I would die like an American doing my duty to the end, and with my wife's name on my lips and with her and my children in my heart and mind. Thank God, I was spared.

My battalion distinguished itself with many heroic deeds. For the first time under fire, our men conducted themselves like seasoned fighters. Though we are an antiaircraft unit, our guns were employed to knock out pill boxes, observation posts and to keep the beach exits open for the infantry to pass through to the hills.

The German soldier is well disciplined. He is smart and is a tough fighter. He knows all the tricks and does not hesitate to employ them. His equipment, in many instances, is of an excellent quality.
For the first few days, most of the natives appeared stupefied as if they were bewildered or did not believe that the invasion had taken place. Perhaps they were thinking of their towns and villages which, during the process of liberation, would be ravaged anew by the war. I passed through villages and cities that were simply torn asunder, literally blasted to bits—ghost towns that physically, for the present, were no more than a spot on the map.

We rapidly became friends with the French. With the 200 francs ($4)
each one of us received prior to D-day, we purchased eggs. Many a Yank has a difficult time saying, “Bonjour, madame, avez vous des oeufs?” And many a French lady smiles and says, “Oui, monsieur.” These eggs supplement our K rations, which after a while, become rather tiresome.

I’m glad to learn through the Star that the club still is active in securing blood donors. You have no idea what a life saving measure blood plasma is in the battlefield. It’s effect is almost miraculous. Keep up your great work in this field. It is a most worthwhile American and Christian project.

I am eagerly looking forward to the day when I shall return home for good. I hope that God, in His Infinite Mercy, continues to spare me, so that again I can be with my dear family and my friends. In the meantime, till we meet again. “bon chance.”

Rotarily yours,
Capt. Angelo J. Maietta.
M. C. Surgeon