

The Home Defense League

After the Spanish-American War, the federal government realized that by nationalizing the National Guard of a state, that state was left without a local force to keep order. In an era of strikes and anarchism, this was a serious shortcoming. The Dick Act of 1903 reorganized the state militia (National Guard) into a formal military organization along Army lines and authorized a reserve militia that was less rigorously defined.

In the late spring of 1917, Madison formed its own organization, known colloquially as the Home Guard, to train men for defense work.

Madison Home Defense League

Its Progress and Activities



The Home Defense League is doing a great deal more for Madison than merely to prepare armed forces and auxiliaries for home guard duty. Out of the movement is coming a new community spirit, a welding and fusing of interests which has untold possibilities.

In a recent interview, touching upon the work of the farm committee of the League, Mayor Otto Ross has indicated how this new spirit is being developed through the arousing of individuals to a sense of their responsibility to the rest of the social group.

"Even at the risk of being called a pessimist I reiterate that the war situation justifies every precautionary measure which can be taken. This country is confronted with a tremendous task and that fact will become more evident day by day. There will be an immense drain on our resources and extraordinary demands on our means of transportation with the inevitable result of putting food and fuel at very high prices and making them so scarce at times in many localities as to create actual want.

"If communities such as Madison will turn in and produce a reserve of food stuffs it will go a long way toward relieving the general situation. This country will have to feed a good proportion of the world, and there will be a demand from abroad for every pound of product we have the labor to cultivate and harvest. What we produce locally will be doubly valuable in that it will give us the necessities at a reasonable cost and will release an equal amount for use elsewhere, and moreover, will relieve the national government from just that much responsibility at home.

Are You Between 21 and 30?

If So This Should Interest You!

Our Country is about to choose 500,000 able-bodied men to form the National Army. 100,000 of these men will be Non-Commissioned Officers, 62,500 Corporals, 30,000 Sergeants, 7,000 Quartermaster Sergeants, 3,000 First Sergeants.

Which do you prefer? To be one of the 100,000 Non-Commissioned Officers or one of the 400,000 Privates?

If you want to be a Non-Commissioned Officer let us help you!

The Home Defense League is anxious to help you in every way it possibly can. We want you to join! We will give you all the instruction we are capable of giving, and in addition we are going to provide competent instructors in Signalling, Red Cross Work, Etc.

Write to Sergeant Gladwin or come to the Armory in Green & Pierson's Hall any night of the week and let us know what branch of the service particularly interests you and we will help you to get there!

The League's Roster.

Membership of the various committees of the League as constituted at present, is as follows:

Executive committee: President, Judge A. P. Skinner; secretary, J. H. Talmadge; treasurer, Edward J. O'Donnell, Jr.; Mayor Otto Ross, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hallett Lovell, Jr., H. S. Gladwin, Frank A. Cook, and Curroll B. Merritt.

Finance committee: Chairman, F. Hallett Lovell, Jr.; Secretary, S. Marsh

Rogers, Jr., W. O.; Hamilton, R. G.; Stoddard, W. O.; Brannick, C.; McEwan, F.; Danlher, J. J.; Candela, J.

Squad 2—Corporal, Rafter, F. X.; Cook, E. W.; Greco, J. V.; Gee, A. B.; Ely, D. S.; Griswold, C.; Brodie, W.; Day, J.

Squad 3—Corporal, Ludlow, W. O.; Downs, H.; Palmer, P.; Parkhurst, R. M.; Marinaccio, F. E.; Schenck, W. E.; Dunn, D.; Cook, F. L.

Second Platoon, Sergeant, Decker, A. M.

Squad 1—Corporal, Gillis, A.; Cavanaugh, J. B.; Cavanaugh, W. B.; Davidson, G.; Doran, P. V.; Simpson, A. H.; Sampson, R.; Palmer, L.

Squad 2—Corporal, Ferriss, F.; DeHart, J. W.; Crane, A.; Crane, H.; Cronham, E. H.; Blazier, E.; Dennett, J. P.; Sharp, R.

Squad 3—Corporal, Kennedy, H.; Waters, E.; Ebel, E.; Minier, C. A.; Mackay, A.; Lilly, R.; Dennett, R. C.; Davis, S. W.

Third Platoon—Sergeant, Smythe, J. P.

Squad 1—Corporal, Caldwell, A.; Hines, S. S.; Walker, J.; Turner, E.; Brown, M.; Burroughs, E. A.; Brown, J. M.; Miller, W.

Squad 2—Corporal, Couch, R.; Branch, G. W.; Rhue, C.; Defriest, C.; Battle, E.; Kyse, J.; Dillard, C. M.; White, J.

Squad 3—Corporal, Milton, H.; Hill, A.; Hill, E.; Hill, N.; Burroughs, Abel; Burroughs, A.; Burroughs, B.; Ford, J. R.

Sergeant Hoban, E. F., guide to First Platoon.

Sergeant Tompkins, W. L., guide to Second Platoon.

Corporal Vidito, O., guide to Third Platoon.

Sergeant Mills, W., left guide to B Company.

MEN WHO HAVE COME BACK CONDUCT SERVICES IN CHAPEL

Last Sunday evening three speakers, Messrs. Robinson, Day and Stewart from the famous Jerry McAuley Mission, in New York, conducted the services in the Webb Memorial Chapel and related the humanly pathetic but inspiring stories of their lives.

All three of the men at one time had been habitual drunkards, whis-

The full text of this article can be read at the Madison Public Library on page 6 of:

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In July, 1917, the federal government nationalized the National Guard leaving the states with no authorized militia. In Madison, the Home Guard was tapped to take their place.

**DEFENSE LEAGUE TO TAKE
PLACE OF NATIONAL GUARD**

Mayor Ross appeared before the members of the Home Guard assembled at the armory Monday evening and stated that he had a communication from Adjutant General Barber stating that between ten and twelve thousand men will be needed to replace the New Jersey National Guard when it is called into service about July 15. It is the plan to have these men volunteer, but if a sufficient number does not do so, then an emergency act may be passed by which they can be drafted.

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