PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST YEAR
IN WORLD WAR II

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PENNSYLVANIA has an unusual record of accomplishment in the several wars in which the nation of which it is a part has engaged. In all wartime activities the state has been in the forefront. It is not necessary here to review details; suffice it to say that the pattern of the influence of the commonwealth has varied little. In every conflict Pennsylvania has furnished an unusual number of important leaders in the armed services as well as a large percentage of those bearing arms in the ranks and on the sea. Its transportation facilities and its ability to furnish weapons, munitions, and the other necessities of war have been a tower of strength. Its financial leadership and its contribution of funds to war finance and relief have been significant.

In order to present a fairly accurate picture of Pennsylvania's part in the present war it is not necessary to wait until after the last battle is fought and students have had time to accumulate, review, and analyze various sources of information. Ever since January, 1942, when the State Council of Defense designated the Pennsylvania Historical Commission as the war-history agency for the commonwealth, the process of collecting and organizing the material from which to write the history of the state's wartime activities has been going on.

It was decided at the beginning of the project that a contemporary history of the war effort might be written with some degree of correctness and completeness. It was felt that such an account would be a valuable source of inspiration to the people of the state through increasing their awareness of the vital nature of their state's part in the war. It was agreed also that preparation of such a record would in itself constitute excellent source material to guide students of more detailed phases of the subject in later years. It soon became apparent further that the compila-
tion of current data would reveal gaps in information and indicate the need for attention to definite types of material which might otherwise be overlooked or only partially developed.

Accordingly there was instituted a weekly war-history summary, primarily as a news feature made available to the press through the Capitol News under the heading "The State at War." By late summer it became apparent that enough material was accumulating to make possible a more ambitious summary for the entire year. "Pennsylvania's First Year at War" was released to the newspapers in a six-page story on December 7, 1942. Preparation of an outline for an even more detailed account and concentration of effort to round out pertinent information resulted in a bulletin entitled Pennsylvania's First Year at War. This publication was the first of its kind to be produced by any of the several state commissions organized in the national drive to develop a war-history program.

The general pattern of Pennsylvania's present war effort is rather clear. The commission is confident that its bulletin includes the broad outlines and also considerable detail. It is quick to admit, however, that because of wartime restrictions on certain information it is impossible to give an entirely complete presentation. Once the war is at an end, it will not be too difficult a task to secure the now unavailable sources.

No Pennsylvanian has any reason to deprecate the importance of his commonwealth in the current war. The keystone state is playing a tremendously vital and varied role in the struggle of the democracies to overcome the enemy. The character of its contributions to ultimate victory is in general very much in line with that of its previous wartime experience. The state's tradition of leadership in battle is no less evident today than in the past. A review of the names of some of its present warriors reveals an amazing array of talent in key posts in military and naval operations. The top-ranking military man in the United States, General George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the United States Army, was born in Uniontown, Fayette County, December 31, 1880. A tactical genius of the first order, he had a distinguished record

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1 Pennsylvania's First Year at War, compiled by S. K. Stevens, Marvin W. Schlegel, and Joseph T. Kingston, Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Harrisburg (1943).
in the first World War. Reorganization of the General Staff brought into prominence three other Pennsylvania men: Lieutenant General Joseph McNarney, 48-year-old native of Emporium, Cameron County, as deputy chief of staff; Lieutenant General Henry "Hap" Arnold, of Gladwynne, Montgomery County, as head of the Army air force; and Lieutenant General Jacob Devers, of York, as head of the tank forces. In addition to the "Big Four" of the Army there are many other Pennsylvanians who are skilled in the science of modern warfare.

In the Navy's task of guarding the supply routes to Europe an important person is Admiral Harold Stark, native of Wilkes-Barre, who still has a summer home near Tunkhannock. It is interesting to note further that three sons of the Quaker state served on the Pearl Harbor investigating committee—Lieutenant General McNarney, previously mentioned; Justice Owen Roberts of the Supreme Court; and General Frank McCoy, retired. The last-named was a native of Lewistown, Mifflin County, to which place he had retired just prior to the outbreak of the war. He also presided at the recent military trial of German saboteurs.

Pennsylvania's contribution to the war effort in terms of manpower is by no means confined to top-ranking military and naval leaders. Her soldiers are serving on every battle front. One of the finest military units in the United States at the beginning of the war was the now-famous 28th Division, then commanded by Major General Edward Martin. It numbered over seventeen thousand officers and men, and its merit was recognized so highly that it was organized into training cadres placed in other units throughout the country to aid in whipping into form the vast army raised by selective service.

About four-fifths of Pennsylvania's armed strength was gathered through selective service, foundations for which were laid as early as September, 1940, even prior to the adoption of the national system. Within nine days after the passage of the Selective Service Act by Congress the state had its machinery in full operation under Dr. William Mather Lewis, president of Lafayette College. So efficiently has the Pennsylvania system functioned that national officials have given it unstinted and frequent praise. On the selective-service boards throughout the state are nearly nine thousand men and women, only a fifth of
whom are paid employees. This service is only a part of what is a remarkable record of civilian war effort.

That Pennsylvania has thus far furnished to the Army a high grade of men is attested by the fact that forty-six per cent of her selectees have been rated as having superior intelligence. Only three-tenths of one per cent have ever been reported as delinquent by their local boards, and a third of these were cleared. Despite the number of religious sects in the state professing sincerely to abhor war and all its works, only six-hundredths of one per cent have registered as conscientious objectors. Pennsylvania has been third among the states in percentage of volunteers and has led the nation in volunteer recruits for the Marine Corps, founded in Philadelphia. About one of every ten men wearing an Army or a Navy uniform in the present war is a Pennsylvanian.

In modern conflict the organization of the home front is as important as that of the war front. The Pennsylvania State Council of Defense is, according to Frank Bane, director of the National Council of State Government, “the finest in the United States.” The commonwealth’s home defense was established by proclamation of Governor Arthur H. James on April 7, 1941. President Arnaud C. Marts of Bucknell University was selected to direct its operations and Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton to act as secretary. There were by the end of 1942 over eleven hundred county and local defense councils in the state in addition to two district councils representing metropolitan Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. In cooperation with the American Legion an elaborate air-raid spotting system was worked out quickly. An equally elaborate air-raid precautionary service was developed. Within a year an extensive training program to familiarize men and women with the duties incident to successful operation of civilian defense against air raids and consequent disasters was well organized. Now at the flash of a warning signal some six hundred thousand civilians spring into action. As various new needs arose, committees were formed to promote morale, to plant victory gardens, to care for children of working mothers, to mobilize public opinion behind various war drives, and to collect scrap. The complex and detailed work of the State Council of Defense will find a very important place in the final history of the war.

Modern wars could not be fought without great mobilization of manpower in the field of industrial production. Now as in the past Pennsylvania has proved herself indispensable to the war effort. Immediately after President Roosevelt's proclamation on May 27, 1941, of a state of national emergency Governor James pledged that even as America was to be a world arsenal for democracy, Pennsylvania would become an "arsenal of America." The response of industry was immediate and remarkable. By July, 1941, estimates the Department of Commerce, 20.73 per cent of the annual industrial production of the state was for defense. The commonwealth had $1,231,765,035 in defense contracts. Another $75,418,977 was placed with Pennsylvania contractors for work outside the state. Orders for ships and boats to be built in Pennsylvania amounted to $795,102,700. Heavy demands for steel, munitions, and equipment poured in. Only seventeen counties, all nonindustrial, were without sizable defense orders.3

Just before and after Pearl Harbor production moved ahead rapidly. By January, 1942, Pennsylvania, surpassed only by California and New York, possessed the third largest dollar volume of war contracts in the nation. By July, however, largely as a result of huge orders for aircraft and automotive equipment placed in the chief production centers, she had slipped back to sixth place in Army, Navy, Maritime Commission, Treasury, and British Empire war-facility contracts. Her share in such contracts amounted to $4,961,015,000, though the percentage of the national total was but 5.8 per cent as contrasted with 9.6 per cent of production of manufactures. Shipbuilding still accounted for the largest war orders.4

But Pennsylvania's industrial contribution to the war effort cannot be measured solely in terms of war contracts. Perhaps the state's greatest assistance has been in supplying the country with the materials necessary to fulfill the contracts of other states. About thirty-one per cent of the nation's steel is produced in Pennsylvania with some twenty-three per cent of it in the Pittsburgh area alone, where nearly twenty million tons of steel for

direct and indirect war needs was produced in 1942. Pennsylvania was likewise important in producing aluminum, coal, cement, and oil. Production of bituminous coal, essential to war mills, was up thirteen per cent to some 137,716,000 tons in 1942. Pennsylvania-grade crude oil is the world's best base for lubricants and therefore is vitally important in war. In 1942 production was up to about eighteen million barrels, of which about fifty per cent went for war purposes in the form of various petroleum products. Lubricants were devoted almost totally to war needs.

Pennsylvania has been noteworthy also for the variety of its production. There are few states which have put out so many different types of equipment and supplies needed by the war machine. Lacking great concentrations of automotive or aircraft plants, the state has had a less spectacular but no less significant role than that of Michigan or California, for instance. Many of the instruments, gauges, and multitudinous other devices which the government has had to secure for assembly centers have been made in Pennsylvania and shipped elsewhere for final use. Tanks have been built at Berwick, locomotives by the Baldwin works in Philadelphia, electrical equipment and devices by Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, and great turbines by General Electric at Erie. All over the state in small shops as well as large have men and women put their shoulders to the wheel of production. Information in detail as to what they are making will need to wait for the most part until the end of the conflict.

Pennsylvania has always taken a leading part in financing wars. The names of Robert Morris, Haymn Solomon, Stephen Girard, Jay Cooke, and many other Pennsylvania financiers are prominent. The state is still a "treasury of democracy." A Pennsylvanian who prefers at least for the present to remain unknown was chiefly responsible for originating the defense-bond and savings-stamp campaign in the present war. And Pennsylvania people have been backing the government creditably. From September, 1941, to September, 1942, sales of series E war-savings bonds within the state totaled $370,331,000, and during the same period series F and G bonds sold amounted to $287,818,000. In October and November, 1942, sales of bonds and stamps in the state were over the established quota. By November 1, 1942, 1,765,000 Pennsylvanians were enrolled in ten-per-cent payroll-deduction plans, and according to the Treasury Department the state leads the nation
in this respect. About eighty per cent of the men and women working in war plants are putting ten per cent of their earnings into war savings. The December victory loan was oversubscribed in Pennsylvania. While full and accurate figures on contributions to various war-service and relief organizations are not available, those at hand indicate gifts made since the war began of over ten million dollars to principal agencies such as the Red Cross and the USO. Judging from past tax figures, the state's citizenry will pay around a billion dollars in income-tax payments and probably more in other federal taxes for 1942. The state will rank well toward the top in its total wartime taxes.

By the end of 1942 about eight out of ten persons in Pennsylvania gainfully employed in industry were helping to speed war production. There were approximately four million war workers, mostly in mills and factories. The increase in employment was very marked in the national-defense stages of the war effort. In 1940-41 it was over three hundred thousand and in 1941-42 slightly more. During 1942 it has been much less, but total employment has reached over four million as against three and a quarter million in 1940. The percentage of employed people as related to the total number of employables rose from 80.8 per cent in 1940 to 89.7 per cent in 1941; in 1942 it reached 91.6 per cent. Thus unemployment declined from 19.2 per cent in 1940 to 10.3 per cent in 1942 and to 8.4 per cent by September, 1942. Relief rolls of the State Department of Public Assistance dropped to the lowest levels since state contributions to relief were instituted. The WPA announced at the end of 1942 that unemployment had reached such a low level as to justify the termination of its program. It is important to note, however, that the peak of employment may have been reached in 1942; by the end of the year business analysts were reporting a tendency toward unemployment in many parts of the state and in several major industries. The so-called heavy industries such as steel were still expanding, but textiles and many others were suffering slumps.

As a result of war there have been changes in the state's labor forces. The pressing need for workers has caused amazing instances of reéducation and adaptation to wartime tasks of older

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8 Facts relative to labor were gathered by Arthur H. Reede, Department of Economics, Pennsylvania State College.
workers and even those physically handicapped. Too, many youths have left school in order to do war work and fill gaps in the production lines. But Pennsylvania has been slower than other states to make use of women in industry. From April, 1941, to April, 1942, the employers of the state added but 15,000 women to their personnel, increasing their labor supply in this field by only 6.1 per cent as compared with 10.1 for the nation. Late in 1942, however, as the draft took more and more men out of overalls and put them into uniforms, the percentage was increasing.

By the end of 1942 the average worker in Pennsylvania was working a little longer than usual at considerably better wages than ever before in history. In war plants the work week had lengthened to an average of forty-three hours. Pay rolls reached undreamed-of proportions. Their November average of $45,500,000 a week represented an increase of twenty-eight per cent over the preceding year. Hourly earnings were up about eleven per cent and weekly earnings a little more. Since the beginning of defense production in 1940 pay rolls in Pennsylvania have expanded in terms of total wages paid out to workers by a hundred and nine per cent as contrasted with an increase in employment of thirty-six per cent. Relations of labor and capital are better under war conditions than under peace, and the state has an excellent record with less time lost by industrial disputes in 1942 than any other state.

“Food will win the war” is one of the most meaningful slogans of the present conflict. While Pennsylvania is often thought of primarily in connection with her mills and her mines, the state is an important food producer, especially of dairy products, livestock, poultry, fruits, and vegetables, which are of the utmost importance to the nation’s war program. In most categories the people of Pennsylvania raise less than they consume; the more is produced, the more there is left of the nation’s supply for the armed services and for lend lease. Despite a severe farm-labor shortage which ranged from fifteen per cent of the year-round farm help to forty per cent of the seasonal labor necessary in harvesting, the farmers of the state did a magnificent job in 1942. Relatively little land went out of production, and there was much less loss of crops than many expected. Partly because of a favorable growing season amounts of most foodstuffs were greater than usual, and they would have been much more so had
abundant labor been available. Temporary relief was afforded through employment of women and children, but the work was done mainly by farmers working longer hours and farm women and children helping more than ordinarily.

In line with the national trend Pennsylvania's 1942 harvest was about twelve per cent above the previous peak of 1937 and some fourteen per cent over the 1941 total. Production of milk increased slightly and that of poultry and eggs considerably. While harvesting difficulties reduced the crop possibilities, the acreage of truck crops was larger in 1942 than in 1941. Of especial value was the good work of the 4-H clubs and the Future Farmers, organizations of rural boys and girls, which vigorously participated in the production of foodstuffs.

There is marked difference of opinion as to the economic effects of the war on the agrarian. Best sources of information agree, however, that despite increased production costs the average Pennsylvania farmer was as a result of price advances a little better off in 1942 than previously. Cash farm income in the state in the first nine months of 1942 was twenty-seven per cent above that in the first nine months of 1941. Living expenses and supply costs were up about ten per cent, and general production costs rose so high that the advantage of higher prices was very nearly wiped out. Federal and state reports indicate, nevertheless, that average net farm income was somewhat greater than that of 1941 and that more farmers were paying debts and making needed farm improvements than in preceding years. Toward the end of the 1942 harvest the specter of increasing labor shortage hung over the farms of the commonwealth and cast an ominous shadow.

Throughout the state, high schools, colleges, and universities came to play a part in the war effort such as had never been known before. The nature of their contribution is too varied for more than passing mention in a brief discussion. Outstanding has been the training of men and women for the tasks of war. The course of study of the typical Pennsylvania school has been literally revolutionized, and many old-line subjects have been streamlined and adapted to war needs. Social-studies teachers are aiding students to understand war issues and expanding their knowledge of geography and of the government and the economy of our allies and neighbors.
Model airplanes have been built by the thousands, and science teachers have stressed war problems and aided in the development of air-mindedness and understanding of aircraft construction and operation. Preinduction courses to ground boys and girls too for specialized tasks of military and civilian war service have become characteristic of nearly every school. Preflight training is preparing an army of young potential warriors of the air. Physical education now has a new importance. Agricultural instruction in rural areas includes care and repair of precious farm machinery as well as methods of increasing production. By the end of 1942 the newly organized Victory Corps was well under way in every section of the state; thousand of high-school students pledged to the war effort and community service represented an unprecedented mobilization of the youth of Pennsylvania.

The adaptation of the state to the requirements of the stupendous national war-production program was facilitated immeasurably by the various training projects sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction and the various colleges and universities to fit people for war work. When national plans went into operation in July, 1940, Pennsylvania already had some 4,000 men enrolled in its own state program. Under federal aid the enrollment expanded to 43,000 after Pearl Harbor, and in 1942 some 350,000 persons were trained or retrained to meet war-production needs. About half of them were in preemployment training, and the remainder were improving or revising skills. This phase of the program was conducted through the Department of Public Instruction.

Another government-supported program in engineering, science, and management was carried out by the Pennsylvania State College in cooperation with many other colleges and universities of the state. About 85,000 students, 50,000 in the Pennsylvania State College extension services alone, have been enrolled in courses in these subjects. The program has operated in 178 towns and cities of the state and at times has led the entire nation in its enrollment. Among all states Pennsylvania ranks third in the total number of persons trained for war production and first in the total number prepared for machine-tool trades, especially vital in war. Nearly half a million men and women were prepared for places in the production line by the schools and colleges of
Pennsylvania during the period before and the year after Pearl Harbor.

It may be said that there are innumerable other ways in which Pennsylvania contributes to the war effort. Nothing has been said, for example, of the number of men and women of the state who are serving with distinction in various types of government service. Much could be written of the work of several departments of the state government and especially of the many ways in which that government assumed early leadership in organizing certain phases of the war program in so far as they touched the state. Pennsylvania has many "firsts" and many successes, such as, for example, the early organization of the Reserve Defense Corps created in 1941 and on duty immediately after December 7, 1941. Only three other states were similarly prepared, and, according to the War Department, none had a corps so well and fully equipped. Then there is the Pennsylvania unit of the vitally important Civil Air Patrol, the story of which must be left until after the war, though it may be noted now that several hundred Pennsylvania civilian pilots have watched for and aided in the sinking of enemy submarines and performed other equally vital services. It is sufficient to say that Pennsylvania was in every sense of the word a key state in the first year of the present war and that there is no reason to feel that its importance is diminishing in 1943.\textsuperscript{6}

\textsuperscript{6}A fuller treatment of the various subjects touched upon in this article may be found in the commission bulletin entitled \textit{Pennsylvania's First Year at War}, which includes references to special sources of information.