

Came 1939 and again the rumble of war resounded through the land, this time much louder and more terrifying than ever before. Soon after the outbreak of war in Europe Selective Service became effective (1940) and Shelbina's young men began to answer the call to service. The first call came in 1940 and the first young man from Shelbina to be drafted was Lathrop Connely, Jr. He entered the service on November 28, 1940 and was killed in a motor accident in England on October 23, 1942, being buried in the American National Cemetery at Brookwood, England.

Then came Pearl Harbor and again several boys were there. Ray Mayfield and Victor Sparks were on the Battleship Oklahoma when it was sunk and Edward Lafon was at Hickam Field when it was bombed that morning of December 7, 1941.

From the beginning of the war young men left for various centers of induction and from there to camps to begin life in the armed forces of our country. Many went in by way of Selective Service and many by way of enlistment. Shelbina saw two of her ministers leave as chaplains, Rev. Francis L. Kelly, pastor of the First Baptist Church, and Rev. Thomas Brett, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church. A number of young women also reported for various branches of service. Included were Virginia Ann Bailey, Hazel Hawkins and Kate Swift in the Army Nursing Corps; Mildred Allison, Billie Jean Magruder and Doris Forman Million to the WAVES; Gladys Lucille Patterson to the Marine Corps; while Mary Bourn, Allie Haden, Helen Rash, Myda Noble and Ruth Belle Simpson joined the WAACS.

Rationing was necessary during World War II. Sugar, coffee, automobiles, gasoline, tires, meat, canned goods and shoes were among the items rationed. A ration board was set up in Shelbina as in every county, and received applications for items where necessary. Ration books were issued to each person and stamps used at the time of purchase of rationed articles. Price ceilings were placed on commodities and prices remained stable. Many items other than those rationed were scarce, and only available at times. Lines formed in grocery stores when word went out that soap powders, bananas, jello, marshmallows, pineapple, cigarettes and other scarce items were to be sold. Ladies' hose were practically unobtainable and this was a source of serious concern to most women.

Women's styles were unchanged for the duration of the war, as were models of automobiles. Much was whispered about the "black market" in automobiles when both new and used cars were delivered by rumored parties for much higher prices than the government had set.

War bonds were sold and the payroll saving plan was used by many firms. By this plan a payment on a war bond was deducted from each pay check. The Red Cross was very active. Local Home Nursing and First Aid classes were taught in the basement of the Public Library by volunteer nurses and doctors. The United Service Organization was occupied with providing entertainment for service men wherever they were.

The Home Front was busy doing its share. Paper, aluminum, rubber, tin and other items were scrupulously saved and sent to centers of collection. Books for army and navy camps were collected at the Public Library and sent on to join other collections. The demand for electricity exceeded the supply and "brown outs" and "black outs" were not uncommon. Citizens were urged to conserve current as much as possible. Daylight saving time was universal for the duration, and in this farming area was a source of vexation to many.

Those were anxious days. News came quickly with modern communication, and families of service men followed their boys scattered far and wide over the world. Islands, very obscure

and unfamiliar became the center of interest when news came that some Shelbina boy was stationed there. The world became a very small place as our boys continued to sail from both coasts to fight the war to end tyranny and despotism.

Several Shelbina boys received Purple Hearts. They were Ernest Gosney, Jack Holmes, Milton Florence, Enoch McSorley, Carl Rash, Robert A. Ratliff, Richard Sherwood and Walter Speyers, as well as each of the ones who were killed in action.

Carl Rash and James T. Bower were Shelbina boys who received the Silver Star for bravery. This is the third highest honor which can be bestowed upon a service man. Bronze Stars were awarded to James T. Bower, Ben Dobyns, Robert W. Gullick, Paul Hayes, Jack Holmes, Wayne Magruder, Carl Rash, John Notley Rash, Al Sharp, Walter Speyers and Lynn Tanner. Legion of Merit awards went to Robert Freeman and Edward Lafon. Every effort has been made to obtain correct information about these awards. If anyone has been omitted it is because information was not available.

After four long years of strife, the war in Europe finally ended and victory was celebrated on May 8, 1945, V E Day. Three months later the Japanese government surrendered and V J Day was recorded on August 15, 1945. There was much rejoicing. There was a sad note when it was realized how many Shelbina boys would not come home.

Gold Stars in various homes reminded that those below with Shelbina addresses had given their all to their country:

Darrell M. Anderson, killed in action in Luxembourg, Dec. 24, 1944.

Jack P. Blanton whose bomber was shot down over France, June 2, 1944.

Roy Lee Caldwell killed in a plane crash in line of duty at Pensacola, Fla., Sept. 19, 1945.

Lathrop R. Connely, Jr. killed in motor accident in line of duty in England, Oct. 23, 1942.

Prince J. Dimmitt died of wounds at Waldorf, Germany, July 19, 1945.

Jimmy Ray Heathman reported missing on a bomber mission to Germany March 17, 1945, declared dead a year later.

Richard M. Jones died of wounds in Belgium, Dec. 30, 1944.

Paul Joseph Kinney killed in action on Okinawa in May 1945.

Robert Andrew Ratliff killed in action April 30, 1943 in Southwest Pacific.

Lyle W. Robinson killed in a plane crash at El Paso, Tex., July 28, 1943.

John Wesley Thomas killed in train wreck at Warden, Wash., Aug. 4, 1943.

Clifford E. Todd killed in action on a bombing mission over Augsburg, Germany, Feb. 27, 1945.

A memorial service for the war dead was held in Shelbyville on June 8, 1947. Photographs were placed in a permanent case in the courthouse corridor to honor the war dead of the county.

The majority of boys who had left jobs to enter service, found those jobs waiting for them on their return. The GI Bill of Rights brought many benefits to the veterans and a great many entered or re-entered college under this act.

A great wave of prosperity seemed to sweep over Shelbina with the remainder of the country. When price ceilings were removed prices began to spiral upward and now 12 years later, the trend is still upward. Wages, particularly for labor, rose rapidly. Stores became well stocked and big business was done in most commodities, especially in electrical appliances, new cars, building and remodeling, and other items that had been unavailable.