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PRE-INDUCTION MEETING
Chamber of Commerce
January 26, 1945

The regular meeting of the Pre-Induction Committee to give useful information to inductees was held at the Chamber of Commerce, with Mr. O. E. Palmateer, Chairman, presiding. Speakers present were:

O. E. Palmateer	Chairman
Lt. Clevenger	Induction Station, Portland
W. B. Baillie	U. S. Employment Service
Milton Coe	Vocational Education
Ray Bassett	Legal Aid
Miss Orpha Dasch	Red Cross
Sgt. Herman Doney	U. S. Marines
Lt. DiRe'	WAC
J. Fuhrer	Marion County Coordinator

Mr. Palmateer explained the purpose of the meeting, stating that it was held under the direction of the Marion County Defense Council. Mr. Sid King, of the Secretary of State's office then presented the Army film, "Introduction to the Army".

Mr. Palmateer then gave a brief resume of what the men might expect to have happen to them at the Induction Station, giving the length of time between physical examinations and actual calling to duty.

Miss Dasch explained the part that Red Cross plays as far as the serviceman and his family are concerned. She explained that they act as a go-between for the man and his family at home. Problems in everyday life become aggravated when a member of the family is in the service. She also spoke of the necessity of taking the correct certified copies of birth, marriage certificates, copies of divorce decrees. She spoke of parents also being allowed allotments in some cases. She advised the men to make applications for allowances as soon as possible after entering the service. She spoke of the necessity of verification of an emergency, if one arises, at which time help may be obtained from the Red Cross Field Director and the local Chapter. Field Directors are present at all military installations. She explained the various fields of service of the Home Service Department.

QUESTION: I have a son in a foreign land and have not heard from him for several months. Do you try to contact him?

They get many such requests at the Red Cross. If you have not heard from your son for over three months, we will begin inquiries. We will write to the Field Director in his camp.

Mr. Bassett stated it was difficult to give more than a birds-eye view of the legal aspects. He told them what copies of records to take with them and told where to get each one. He stressed the importance of buying government insurance. He warned any of the men who might marry after entering the service to change their beneficiary as many times a hardship is worked on the wife by this not being done. It is a good policy to send a copy of the blank which was used in applying for insurance home to the wife or mother as substantiating evidence. Records sometimes become lost in the War Department. He told of cases where this was a very important factor. The men may name one beneficiary or may also name an alternate. If the beneficiary dies, the remaining money reverts back to the serviceman's estate. He advised the men to write home if they are ill or hurt and hospitalized. This information may be useful

later in filing a claim. He then spoke of the value of having a power-of-attorney and having a will prepared at home where you and the witnesses are known. He advised them to go to their bank officers for aid.

QUESTION: If the beneficiary should be a minor, should a guardian be appointed?

That child is not capable of managing the money. You should name some other person to receive that money as trustee for the child, but be sure to select someone in whom you have confidence.

QUESTION: If property is in the name of self and wife, should I make a will?

Yes. There might be circumstances arise where the wife might have to sell or mortgage the property. It will do no harm. There may be things come up which will require this protection.

QUESTION: If the real estate is jointly owned, then the wife can sell their property if he has a power-of-attorney?

Yes.

Mr. Fuhrer mentioned that the power-of-attorney should be on record. Then copies can be secured as needed. Mr. Bassett said yes, that the original might become lost or destroyed.

QUESTION: Where does one record a power-of-attorney?

At the Marion County Court House. It can be recorded in each county where there will be business to transact.

Mr. Bassett went on to explain briefly that the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act protects the rights of servicemen and their families against certain proceedings.

QUESTION: While I am gone, will my wife have to make full payments on our home?

Yes. But if you are buying a home on payments, you should see the holder of the mortgage or contract and make arrangements so that she can make the payments more easily.

Mr. Bassett also advised the men to see their insurance agents relative to their private insurance.

QUESTION: Can the county foreclose on a serviceman's property for non-payment of taxes while he is gone?

Mr. Bassett did not think that the county would go that far.

QUESTION: Is there any place where we can obtain statements of salary for completing our income tax return?

Yes, from your employer. The employer must furnish it before January 30th. Go to him and he will probably give it to you. There is a \$1500 exemption allowed servicemen in addition to other exemptions. If you are outside the United States, you may let it go until your return, but if you are in the United States, you must make a return.

QUESTION: Is a photostatic copy of a certificate sufficient:

No. It must be certified.

A man in the audience commented that it all seemed like a lot of trouble.

QUESTION: How about getting a birth certificate if there is none on file?

You can obtain a delayed certificate. Some of the papers which will support such a certificate are voters registration, insurance papers, school records, etc.

Mr. Baillie mentioned the fact that the need for birth certificates for soldiers is unusual.

QUESTION: In the case of step-children, does the same procedure follow?

Yes.

QUESTION: Can an average buck private afford \$10,000 in insurance?

Yes. It will cost between six and seven dollars a month in his particular case.

The amount of money deducted from a serviceman's pay for dependents was then explained.

Mr. Baillie stated that a man's first interest is his own life, his second is the welfare of his family and the third is his ultimate security when he gets back. More men are coming back now than are going out. There are 100 men a month returning to this area. There has been a USES since before the first World War. A man can get back his old job if he is still able and the job is still there. He spoke of us having a very generous and benevolent government, but no one owes you a living when you come out. You must ask for help and you must cooperate. Most of the men will come back in better physical shape than when they went in. Men coming back will understand their rights, duties, and privileges. In each of their offices there are men to act as counselors and advisors in your interest. They work to adjust men to civilian life. He spoke then of the wage credits being frozen for the time the men are in service.

Mr. Coe said that the Vocational Education department deals with civilians. Their service is not as well known as they wish. Some of the men may be found to be disabled when they take their physical examinations. In that case, they will be eligible for state rehabilitation service. They should apply to their department for aid.

Lt. DiRe' told them that life in the Army is not at all bad. She spoke of the great need for nurses and women in the hospitals. She asked them to be nurses' aides or take home nursing courses, if the other services are impossible--she was speaking to the wives of the men being inducted. All of the benefits of the GI Bill or Rights apply to women in service, as well as to the men. Do think it over if your sister or your wife wants to enlist.

Sgt. Doney is accepting enlistments for women Marines. They are now sending them to off-shore stations such as Honolulu and Guoa. Since this has gone into effect there are more responding.

Lt. Clevenger thought the men must be confused by all of this information. He then told of some of the problems that come up in the Army. He said that it is not as bad as it sounds. He warned the men that if they don't trust their wives, they are not to give them powers-of-attorney. There are cases on record where a man had given his wife a power-of-attorney and she sold him out. He advised the men to see a lawyer. He mentioned the question which had been asked regarding a man affording life insurance. He said that no man going into service with any dependents whatever can afford to be without insurance. There is no insurance in the world as good or cheap. The men are starting to build an estate. Keep up your private insurance even if it has a war risk clause. The principal will be paid back even if you are killed. He told the men to make application for allowances within 15 days. The first month's allowance is given free if an application has been made.

He stressed the importance of not celebrating before taking the physical examination, but to be in the best possible condition. When taking the tests, he urged the men to tell the truth. Try to fit in the best you can. The Army classification system is the best in the world. They will try to give you the job you can do best. They want you to be happy in what you do. There are churches and chaplains for all denominations. He advised the families to write to the men in service as they like to hear from their people. Keep the letters cheerful and happy and write often. He also advised the men to write home.

Lt. Clevenger referred to the man who had asked regarding his son from whom he had not heard for some time. He told him that he would have heard if there was something wrong. He again stressed the fact that the letters should be kept happy and they should write often.

In telling how to get along in the Army, Lt. Clevenger said to do what they were told to do. There is a lot of fun, work and satisfaction. He warned the men not to be the last one to get up in the morning. You may not be the first one, but don't be the last one. Be sure your shoes are not the worst looking ones in the barracks. Don't be the last one out. Don't be the last one.

You should have some stripes soon. He then told them to keep on the right side of the various Sergeants.

It is not an easy job that the relatives and friends have. They have just as much a job as the men in the fighting fronts. There is no serving in the war as hard as waiting. This war will call forth every bit of strength and courage you have. It is the biggest job we have ever had. On each one of you depends the answer.

Mr. Bassett brought out the point that in making a power-of-attorney it is not necessary for the serviceman to appoint his wife.

Mr. Fuhrer said he thought all of the important facts had been pretty well covered, expressing the wish that when he entered service in the first World War there had been such instructions given to him. He advised the men not to drop their insurance.

QUESTION: Do the premiums stay at the same rate after the war?

No, but you have five years in which to convert the policy. The premiums

will be higher but will still be cheaper than any other insurance. Mr. Palmateer told the men that something may have happened to them so that they would not be eligible for private insurance.

He advised them to look over their discharge papers carefully and not to accept and sign them unless they are correct. Premiums on insurance are waived if you are totally disabled.

Lt. Clevenger advised the men that if they are sick or injured to see their First Sergeant and get on the sick books. This should be a matter of record. They will receive the best of medical and dental care.

QUESTION: What reception center will I be sent to?

Fort Lewis if in the Army, and Farragut if in the Navy.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 P.M.