

World War I in the Edmonds Area

by Phylis Jorgenson

Note: In researching this article the author extensively consulted the Edmonds Tribune from the World War I period.

The words and expressions used here are those of the articles or advertising from this newspaper.

When President Woodrow WILSON declared that the United States would enter World War I on April 6, 1917, the Edmonds area felt the impact. Patriotic meetings were held and the Home Guard Association was formed to produce a few guidelines for the average citizen to help the war effort.

Home gardening was encouraged. Every acre of arable land was made to produce food for the nation. Vegetables were planted in every vacant lot. Bigger gardens were cultivated. A good gardener was a good patriot. The citizens of Washington State were told to support the boys at the front by turning out the needed equipment and supplies; this was best done by increasing production of food. More potatoes, carrots, beets and other vegetables were raised. Potatoes on the dinner table saved wheat for the soldiers.

There were even rules for a garden contest. Edmonds Hardware Company invited people to come in to find just the right tools needed to prepare a garden. "Good garden tools make good gardeners," said their newspaper advertisement. Gardening went hand in hand with the development that had already begun in the area. The Puget Mill Company was clearing land for Alderwood Manor. Houses were being built, chickens raised and filbert trees planted.

Meanwhile, what the people could not produce, they were urged to conserve. One of the national slogans was "Thrift will win the war." President Wilson encouraged people to "Speak, Act and Work Together." In other words, everyone was to make sacrifices. Washington Coast Utilities encouraged people to use electricity in order to save tons of coal. Merchandise would be scarce but the merchant would supply the community with the necessities of life. The Edmonds Trading Company advertised it could get higher prices but due to the war effort people were urged to consider the scarcity of raw material and the great congestion in transportation which added to the difficulty of manufacturing in quantities sufficient to meet the demand.

The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) was established 6 months after the start of the war. A YWCA was a place for young girls to learn social skills and prepare for work. Located near cantonments, barracks, and Navy facilities, it was a recreation center and a place to take homemaking classes as well as a place for working girls to stay. The 'Y' also helped immigrant soldiers get established through language classes. Colored girls had the same problems as white girls so special clubs were set up to help them.

The Red Cross continued their work through the war. Special "write a soldier a letter days" were held to boost morale. Boys wanted news from home. Edmonds Knitting Club held regular meetings to encourage knitting of socks and mittens. "Every time you knit yourself a sweater you are taking socks away from a soldier."

A service flag with 67 stars was presented to Edmonds in November 1918 to represent 67 boys from here: 3 gold stars for those who died, 4 silver stars for the wounded.

Following is a list of 82 names found in the Edmonds Review from 27 April 1917 through November 22, 1918.

ACKERMAN	George	Army	22-Feb-18
ANDERSON	Harold	Army	5-Oct-17
ANDERSON	Lorne B.	Engr. Corp.	15 Mar 1918, 29 Mar 1918, 5 Apr 1918
ANDERSON	Lt. Otto D.	Army	27 Apr 1917, 17 Aug 1917, 22 Feb 1918, 5 Apr 1918, 7 Jun 1918, 27 Sep 1918, 4 Oct 1918
ARP	Alpha	civil service-Steno/D.C.	22-Feb-18
ARROWOOD	Alton	Army	28 Jun 1918, 20 Sep 1918, 4 Oct 1918
ARROWOOD	Charles	Army	19 Jul 1918, 25 Oct 1918
BACON	Walter,	Army	5 Oct 1917, 5 Apr 1918
BAKER	William,	Army	23-Aug-18
BARTLETT	Eben	Aviation Corp Army	19 Jul 1918, 16 Aug 1918, 9 Nov 1918
BASSETT	Hale	Army	19-Jul-18
BEESON	Wayne	Navy	8-Jun-17
BIGELOW	Ernest	Returned home	22-Nov-18
BJORNSON	Fred	Army	26-Jul-18
BOSHORT	John	Army bugler	21 Jun 1918, 4 Oct 1918, 9 Nov 1918
BOSHORT	Charles	Army	19-Jul-18
BRACKET	Jr, William	Army	19-Jul-18
BURBANK	Richard	Pullman	25 Oct 1918, died 9 Nov 1918
CARY	Miles	Hosp. Corp	27 Apr 1917, 9 Nov 1918
CHASE	Luther	Navy	22-Jun-17
CURRIE	Chas. A.	Army	5-Jul-18
DALE	Geo.	Army	22-Feb-18
DeWOLF	Maurice	Army	22-Feb-18
DOTY	Dan	Army	6 Sep 1918, 4 Oct 1918
DURANT	Dr.	Army	6-Jul-17
ELLINGTON	Lawrence	Navy	22-Feb-18
ELLINGTON	Osborne	Calif.	5-Apr-18
ELLINGTON	Steve	U.S. Aviator Corp	15 Feb 1918, 29 Mar 1918
FREISE	Frank	Army	5-Apr-18
HITCHCOCK	Allen	Army Engr	11 Jan 1918, 25 Jan 1918, 29 Mar 1918, 5 Apr 1918, 19 Apr 1918, 27 Sept 1918
HITCHCOCK	Roy	Army Engr	3 Aug 1917, 25 Jan 1918, 5 Apr 1918
HUNTER	Gordon	training in Fla.	22-Feb-18
JONES	Delbert	Aviation	22-Feb-18
JONES	Dr. E. N.	Army	23-Aug-18
KENNEDY	Angus	Marines	19-Apr-18
KINGDON	Frank	Army	3-May-18
LaFAVE	Roy S.	Army	20-Sep-18

LARSEN	Julius	Bremerton	5-Apr-18
LARSON	P. J.	Bremerton ship fitter	29-Mar-18
LESTER	Albert P.	Marine	23-Nov-17
LOWE	Thad	Ministry	22-Feb-18
LYDELL	Clark	Engr Corp	25 Jan 1918, 5 Apr 1918
MALONE	Capt. C. A.	Ore. Coast Aux.	15-Feb-18
MARINO	John	Army	5 Oct 1917, 5 Apr 1918
MARKHAM	Lindsay	rescued from Tusconia	22-Feb-18
MARSHALL	Jesse G.	(d. France)	4-Jan-18
McCOY	Sgt.	Astoria	27-Sep-18
McDONALD	Ronald	Army	19 Apr 1918, 25 Oct 1918
McELROY	Frank	Army	6 Sept 1918, 11 Oct 1918
McELROY	Theron	Army	19-Jul-18
McQUEEN	Harold	Army	5-Oct-17
MITCHELL	Ray	Navy	21 Jun 1918, 9 Nov 1918
MONTGOMERY		Army	21-Jun-18
MULLENS	R. O.	Navy	9-Nov-18
OAKE	Raymond	Army	5 Oct 1917, 5 Apr 1918, 15 Nov 1918
OAKS	Dick	Army	19-Jul-18
OTTO	Joe	Navy Bremerton	21-Jun-18
OTTO	Paul	Army	31 Aug 1917, 22 Feb 1918, 5 Apr 1918, 3 May 1918
OTTO	Samuel	Army	11-Jan-18
PARKER	Frank	Army	23 Nov 1917, 22 Feb 1918, 5 Apr 1918
PEDERSEN	Eugene	Army	2-Sep-17
PIKE	Wendell	Army	22-Feb-18
PROCTOR	Fay	Army	5 Oct 1917, 5 Apr 1918, 4 Oct 1918
ROSENQUIST	Oscar	Army	9-Aug-18
RULE	John	Army	15-Mar-18
RYNEARSON	Roy	Army	21 Jun 1918, 4 Oct 1918
SABIN	Alfred	Navy	21-Dec-17
SALTY	Charles	Army	19-Jul-18
SHRIEBER	Carl	Marine	5 Apr 1918, 24 May 1918, 4 Oct 1918
SORENSEN	Otto	ROTC at UW	25-Oct-18
SPARKS	Capt. L. D.	Army	16-Nov-17
STEVENS	Ralph	Army	18-Oct-18
STEWARD	Sgt. SS	Army	27-Sep-18
STRONG	Lloyd	Navy	22-Mar-18

VICTOR	Hansen	died at Camp Fremont	25-Oct-18
VILLAGER	Harold	Army	19-Jul-18
WALLER	Virgil	Navy	27 Apr 1817
WHERRY	Mr.	War service at Pullman	16-Aug-18
WHITE	Bernard	Service	22-Feb-18
WICKLUND	Clayton	(wounded)	28 Jun 1918, 13 Sep 1918, 4 Oct 1918
WILIAMS	Ralph	Army	30-Aug-18
WILSTED	T. T.	Army	25-Oct-18
WILT	Dr.		2-Aug-18
YOUNG	Lou C.	Army	19 Jul 1918, 6 Sep 1918, 4 Oct 1918

Not everyone responded to the draft. Following is a list of those who failed to report in Snohomish as reported in the Edmonds Review 26 Apr 1918.

Jonas DANIELSON, Seattle
 Adrian Lew LaLONDE, Seattle
 Albert CORMEAR, Stillwater
 Geo. W. HART, Tacoma
 James O'DONNELL, Port Ludlow
 Earl Oliver STEPHENSON, Monroe
 Andrew BERG, Duluth, MN
 Leslie H. LEGARY, Auburn
 Philip BOB, Marysville
 John Sailor BECKSTROM, Edmonds
 Cleveland McNIELL, Monroe