

## MILITARY COLLECTION

### XI. WORLD WAR I PAPERS, 1903-1933, COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

#### II. NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

Soon after the United States entered the Great War in the spring of 1917, the Council of National Defense urged each state to organize a council to facilitate its work at the local level. The national council was established in August 1916 to coordinate resources and industry for national defense, to improve civilian morale, and to anticipate postwar reconstruction issues. A conference was held on May 2 in Washington, D.C., to facilitate the organization of state councils, to which Joseph Hyde Pratt, state geologist, was appointed to represent North Carolina. After reading Pratt's report of the conference, Governor Bickett appointed an executive committee of the state council and called for an organizational meeting in Raleigh on May 31. The committee consisted of J. Bryan Grimes, D. H. Hill, George Howe, W. S. Lee, R. N. Page, Joseph Hyde Pratt, Mrs. James Eugene Reilley, F. E. Seeley, James Sprunt, C. C. Taylor, and George W. Watts. At the initial meeting, Hill was appointed chairman; B. R. Lacy, state treasurer, was named treasurer; and W. S. Wilson, legislative reference librarian, was selected as secretary of the state council. The executive committee organized sixteen state-level committees and identified potential chairmen for councils in all one hundred counties.

For the entire duration in which the United States was militarily involved in the war, the North Carolina General Assembly was not in session. Therefore, the state Council of Defense was unable to receive governmental appropriations and had to rely upon private donations to function. None of the council members, either at the state or local level, received any financial compensation for their services.

The state office acted as a clearinghouse for information received from the Council of National Defense. One of the first statewide initiatives was the organization of a speakers' bureau to inform the populace of the causes of the war and the reasons for American involvement. Other speakers urged soldiers to take advantage of the offer of government insurance or intervened with deserters, urging them to return to the ranks to avoid prosecution. The council investigated the loyalty of applicants for positions in government agencies or service organizations, and encouraged college students to volunteer for community work efforts. After the erection of training camps in the state, the council formed a War Camp Community Service division to provide entertainment, recreational opportunities, and moral guidance for the trainees. In the fall of 1918, the council reviewed applications for building permits seeking exception to the nationwide prohibition of nonessential construction.

However, the bulk of the real work of the Council of Defense was performed at the local level. Each county chairman was to appoint six members to his council, to organize committees that mirrored the state blueprint, and to create township and community councils. A Soldiers' Business Aid Committee was erected in each county to help soldiers deal with legal matters, such as the writing of wills. Local committeemen provided encouragement and assistance to soldiers' families, and interviewed individuals of doubtful loyalty to caution them against seditious activities. They also compiled reports concerning property owned by aliens in their county. The county boards helped to organize the various fund-raising drives, including Liberty Loans, thrift

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stamps, the Fosdick Fund, and American Red Cross campaigns. They assisted local exemption boards to compile lists of draft-age men, and organized the reserve militia or home guard in their county. Some of the more prescient county chairmen took an active role in the preservation of their council's records, which they donated after the war to the Historical Commission.

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<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
	<b>[1-3] General Correspondence, 1917-1921, n.d.:</b> files of W. S. Wilson, secretary, and D. H. Hill, chairman.
<b>1</b>	May 1917 – January 1918
<b>2</b>	February – August 1918
<b>3</b>	September 1918 – 1921, n.d.
	<b>[4-5] Papers of Col. Joseph Hyde Pratt</b> , a member of the Executive Board of the North Carolina Council of Defense (until called to active military service) and state representative to the National Defense Conference in Washington, D.C., May 2-3, 1917. In 1929, he began arranging the papers of the state council for the preparation of a history of its wartime activities, which he completed in 1933 [see Box 18].
<b>4</b>	Correspondence, 1917, 1919-1920, 1928-1930, 1933. National Defense Conference, May 2-3, 1917 Transcript of proceedings Preliminary memoranda for conference and handouts, including list of conference attendees and organizational plans for state councils in New York and New Hampshire Report of conference, Joseph Hyde Pratt to Governor Bickett Report on organization and activities of state councils of defense, June 18, 1917 (typescript) “Report of Valuable Materials for Rapid Highway and Railroad Construction Behind the Front,” by Joseph Hyde Pratt and W. S. Fallis (typescript) Sketches of Pratt War Eagle Series: twelve editorials by Richard H. Edmonds, editor of the Manufacturers Record Publishing Company of Baltimore, printed as small posters, 1918
<b>5</b>	Newspaper clippings, 1917-1919, 1928

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<b>5 (cont.)</b>	Miscellaneous: includes six flyers published by the Special Committee on National Defense of the American Railway Association, 1917; two booklets issued by the Council of National Defense listing membership of various committees, 1917; booklet, "Manual of Home Service," issued by the American Red Cross, 1917; President Wilson's war message to Congress, 1917, printed by the Committee on Public Information; address by Secretary of the Treasury W. G. McAdoo re. the Liberty Loan, 1917; address by Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane, "Why Do We Fight Germany?", 1917; typescript, "The Daylight Saving Plan as a War Measure," n.d.; list of North Carolina theaters and their owners, n.d.; and poster, "Volunteers Wanted for Farm Work," n.d. [removed and filed in Poster Collection]
<b>[6-17]</b>	<b>Subject Files:</b> correspondence of D. H. Hill, chairman, W. S. Wilson, secretary, and files deposited with the Historical Commission after the war by chairmen of several county councils; arranged alphabetically by topic.
<b>6</b>	Absent voters' law Agriculture: includes correspondence re. proposed dog control law in North Carolina Agriculture, U.S. Department of: includes issues of departmental publications, including <i>Monthly Crop Report</i> (October 1917, February 1918); <i>Seed Reporter</i> (July 6, December 7, 1918); and <i>Weekly News Letter</i> (August 15, 22, 29, September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14, 21, 28 (and supplement), December 5, 12, 19, 26, 1917, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, November 27, 1918, and March 19, 1919 Aliens and alien property: includes list of enemy aliens discharged from Camp Greene, March 1918, and reports of alien-owned property in North Carolina counties, May-July 1918

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- 6 (cont.)** Allotments and insurance for soldiers: correspondence  
with soldiers' dependents seeking allowances for their support  
from the soldiers' pay  
American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief  
American Defense Society: publications  
American Red Cross:  
Correspondence, 1917-1918: includes files of Robert  
Hairston, chairman, Reidsville Chapter
- 7** American Red Cross (cont.):  
Correspondence, 1919, n.d.  
Publications: includes two issues of *Red Cross*  
*Briefs* (February 21, 1919, and December 25, 1920) and  
fifteen issues of *The Red Cross Bulletin* (September 25,  
October 29, November 13, December 10, 17, 24, 1917,  
January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, 1918, and  
February 24, 1919)  
Antityphoid campaign  
Army boots and shoes  
Boys' Working Reserve, U.S.: includes three issues of *Boy*  
*Power* (November 15, December 15, 1917, January 15, 1919), the  
official bulletin of the organization, and two informational  
pamphlets  
Chamber of Commerce of the United States: contains  
bulletins issued by the chamber  
Committee on Conservation and Economy  
Committee on Coordination  
Committee on Employment  
Committee on Health and Sanitation  
Committee on Industrial Survey  
Committee on Military Affairs  
Committee on Public Information (national): includes  
fourteen issues of *Official Bulletin*, (May 11, 17, 28, July 25,  
August 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 1917, June 28, 29, July 22, 1918),  
published by the committee  
Committee on Publicity  
Committee on Research  
Committee on State Protection

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- 7 (cont.)**      Committee on Transportation  
                    Committee on War Economy in Retail Deliveries
- 8**                Community councils  
                    Community singing  
                    Conference Committee on National Preparedness  
                    Deserters: includes lists and descriptions of deserters  
                                    from North Carolina  
                    Draft [*see also* Registration]  
                    Exemption Board  
                    Fairs
- 9**                Finance:  
                            correspondence, 1917-1921, n.d.  
                            check stubs and bank statements, 1917-1920  
                            ledger, 1917-1920  
                            miscellaneous, 1918-1920, n.d.
- 10**              Food Administration:  
                            correspondence, 1917-1918, n.d.  
                            publications  
                    Fosdick Training Camp Fund [*see also* War Camp Community  
                            Service]  
                    "Four Minute Men" (speakers' bureau) [*see also* Speakers  
                            and Speakers' Bureau]  
                    Franking privilege for state councils  
                    "Free Milk for France": includes program for song recital  
                            in Raleigh by Vernon Williams, and poster  
                    French visitors, January 1918  
                    Fuel Administration  
                    Governor's appeals and proclamations  
                    Historical records  
                    Home defense leagues  
                    Home Guard  
                    Housing  
                    Interior, U.S. Department of  
                    Internal conditions: includes correspondence and reports  
                            re. alleged seditious activities in North Carolina, and a report of  
                            prosecutions under Selective Service  
                            and Espionage Acts in the Eastern District of North

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<b>10 (cont.)</b>	Carolina, 1917-1918 [ <i>see also</i> Sedition]
<b>11</b>	Labor Labor, U.S. Department of: contains press releases, bulletins, and publications, including nine issues of <i>U.S. Employment Service Bulletin</i> (July 16, 23, September 10, 17, November 19, December 10, 31, 1918, January 24, 31, 1919) League to Enforce Peace: includes three issues of The League Bulletin (October 5, December 21, 1918, January 11, 1919), and pamphlets of two speeches by William Howard Taft: "The Menace of a Premature Peace" and "The Obligations of Victory" Legal Committee Liberty Loans correspondence, 1917-1919, n.d. publications miscellaneous
<b>12</b>	Library War Council Livestock and livestock conservation campaign: concerns nationwide effort to protect livestock from destruction by passing trains, 1918-1919 Mailing lists Memorials [ <i>see also</i> County Councils: New Hanover County] Miscellaneous: includes various publications, drafts of speeches, legislative acts, and newspaper clippings National Economic League Naval Reserve: pamphlets Negroes Nurses and nurses' campaign Organization and administration of council: annual report, May 30, 1918 circular letters
<b>13</b>	Organization and administration of council (cont.): meetings: correspondence concerning minutes organization of

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<b><u>Box No.</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>
<b>13 (cont.)</b>	personalities: personal correspondence with members of executive committee press releases Organizations, miscellaneous: wartime publications issued by various organizations, including Academy of Political Science, America's Allies Cooperative Committee, American Civic Association, American Electric Railway Association, American Huguenot Committee, American Library Association, American Railway Association, Army League of the United States, Boy Scouts of America, International Lyceum Association, Investment Bankers Association of America, National Committee of Patriotic Societies, National Emergency Food Garden Committee, National Industrial Council (National Council for Industrial Defense), National Security League, National Single Tax League, Navy League of the United States, Public Education Association of the City of New York, Universal Society of Social Improvement, and several anti-suffragist groups Patriotic Education Society: news releases Photographs of Council of Defense members: Ballenger, T. T., Polk County (2) Carpenter, J. A., Anson County (2) Cranford, C. C., Randolph County (2) Currie, John Arch, Hoke County Dunn, Raymond C., Halifax County (2) Howe, George, State Council (2) Johnson, E. R., Currituck County (2) Lee, W. S., State Council (2) McCormick, J. G., New Hanover County (2) Manning, W. C., Martin County (2) Page, Robert N., State Council (2) Reilley, Laura Holmes, State Council (2) Sprunt, James, State Council (2) Stacy, H. E., Robeson County (2) Taylor, C. C., State Council (2) Tillett, D. H., Camden County (3) Waters, Rudolph, Wilkes County (2) Watts, George W., State Council (2)

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<b>13 (cont.)</b>	Wood, Frank, Chowan County Mill workers at L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Company (Oneida Cotton Mills), Graham, standing on back of truck with banner, "We Have Bought Liberty Bonds Have You?" (3)
<b>14</b>	Photographs of Council of Defense members: correspondence concerning, 1918-1919 Public Health Service, U.S.: contains publications re. control of venereal disease Public Service Reserve, U.S.: correspondence with T. L. Bland of Rocky Mount, state director, 1917-1918 Publications: miscellaneous Registration: includes correspondence, 1917-1918; published regulations and manuals; and forms to be used by local draft boards [ <i>see also</i> Draft] Salvation Army Home Service Fund: contains list of county chairpersons, n.d. Saving waste School Garden Army Sedition [ <i>see also</i> Internal conditions] Ship building Skilled workmen "Smileage" Campaign: correspondence of Joseph B. Ramsey, Nash County, 1917-1918 Soldiers' Business Aid Committee organization of county files, Alamance-Durham
<b>15</b>	Soldiers' Business Aid Committee (cont.): county files, Forsyth-Yadkin Soldiers' families: correspondence with, 1917-1919
<b>16</b>	Speakers and Speaker's Bureau [ <i>see also</i> "Four Minute Men"; Liberty Loan Campaigns, Speakers' Bureau] State organizations for war work State Reconstruction Commission

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Student Army Training Corps  
Thrift stamps  
Tobacco warehouses, nonopening of (October 1918)

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<b>16 (cont.)</b>	Treasury Department, U.S.: bulletins and pamphlets issued by United War Work Campaign Vocational education Volunteer college workers: includes lists of female student volunteers at Converse College, Flora MacDonald College, Greensboro College for Women, Lenoir College, Meredith College, Peace Institute, St. Mary's School, and State Normal and Industrial College, and reports of the activities they performed in 1918 War Camp Community Service: includes correspondence, 1917-1918; publications; typescript of "For Liberty and the Rights of Men," a "pageant scene" by Elizabeth B. Grimball; typescript of an untitled short story by Anna Forbes Liddell; and issue of <i>Charity and Children</i> (May 9, 1918) [ <i>see also</i> Fosdick Training Camp Fund] War Department, U.S.: contains publications, including those of the Commission on Training Camp Activities War Industries Board: circulars and forms
<b>17</b>	War Industries Board (cont.): nonwar construction: correspondence re. applications for exemption from restrictions upon nonessential construction projects, 1918 [ <i>see also</i> Correspondence, Box 3] War Savings Committee: correspondence with F. H. Fries, director of state executive committee, 1917-1918, n.d. Women's Committee: includes correspondence and reports of Laura Holmes Reilley, chairperson of the state Women's Committee, 1917-1919, n.d.; pamphlets; and two issues of <i>Women's Work and War</i> (February, March 1918) Young Men's Christian Association: contains correspondence, 1917-1918; miscellaneous publications, including "Hut Hymns"; <i>Summary Report of the Y.M.C.A. in the Army of Occupation for Six</i>

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<b>17 (cont.)</b>	<i>Months</i> (1919); issue of <i>The Soldiers' and Sailors' Bulletin</i> (December 1919); and issue of <i>Association News</i> (January-February 1921); and unused coupon book for payment of French luxury tax
<b>18</b>	<b>History of the North Carolina Council of Defense:</b> three typescript volumes in spring binders and a folder of notes, prepared by Joseph Hyde Pratt, 1933
<b>[19-22] County Councils:</b>	
<b>19</b>	Organization of Form letters to, 1917-1918, n.d. County files, Alamance – Davie
<b>20</b>	County files, Duplin – Lenoir (Lenoir includes the correspondence files of C. F. Harvey, chairman of the county council, 1917-1919, n.d.)
<b>21</b>	County files, Lincoln – Pasquotank (Nash contains the correspondence files of Joseph B. Ramsey, chairman of the county council, 1917-1919, n.d., including several letters of acceptance of membership in the 54th Co., N.C. Reserve Militia (Nash County Home Guard), December 1917; New Hanover includes the correspondence files of J. G. McCormick, chairman of the county council, 1917-1919; and Orange includes typescript history of the county council)
<b>22</b>	County files, Pender – Yancey (Randolph includes four photographs of Co. K, 3rd N.C. Regt., leaving Asheboro, September 1, 1917; Rockingham contains correspondence files of Robert Hairston, chairman of the county council, 1917-1918, including list of men selected for home guard, October 1917; Yancey includes list of men from the county in U.S. Army prior to June 30, 1917)

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<b>[23-25] Council of National Defense:</b>	
<b>23</b>	Commercial Economy Board, 1917-1918, n.d. Community councils: circulars, 1918-1919 Field Division: Bulletins, Nos. 1-25, 1918-1919 (broken series) Circulars, Nos. 3-64, 1918-1919 (broken series) General Letters, Nos. 1-71, 1918-1919 (broken series) Memoranda, 1918-1919 State Councils Section: Bulletins, Nos. 3-100, 1917-1918 (broken series)
<b>24</b>	State Councils Section (cont.): Bulletins, Nos. 101-116, 130, 1918 (broken series) General Letters, Nos. 1-164A, 1917-1918 (broken series)
<b>24 (cont.)</b>	Information Circulars, Nos. 1-59, unnumbered, 1917-1918 (broken series) Woman's Committee, 1917-1918 (includes pamphlet, "Woman in the War: A Bibliography," by Marion R. Nims, 1918; and three issues of <i>News Letter of the Woman's Committee Council of National Defense</i> , February 15, April 1, 15, 1918)
<b>25</b>	Miscellaneous: Correspondence, 1917-1919, n.d. Press releases, 1917-1919, n.d. Publications: includes first and third annual reports of the national council, 1917, 1919
<b>[26-30] Other States' Councils of Defense</b> (or Committees of Public Safety): publications, press releases, and correspondence:	
<b>26</b>	Alabama - Illinois
<b>27</b>	Illinois (cont.) – Michigan

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28 Minnesota – New Mexico

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29 New York - Pennsylvania

30 South Carolina - Wisconsin

31 **Posters.** Includes small posters printed by the U.S. Department of Labor and miscellaneous items [at least sixteen items removed for filing in Poster Collection, date unknown]

**[32-33] Soldiers' Record Cards:** alphabetical notecards of North Carolina soldiers who died in service, compiled by the state council to enable it to send sympathy letters to the soldiers' families. Includes name and rank of soldier, and name and hometown of next of kin.

32 A - L

33 M - Y