

Indiana's War History

Indiana at War: Civilian Directory, Volume IV in the series *Indiana in World War II*, will be published by the Indiana War History Commission in June. Volume II in the series, *Letters from Fighting Hoosiers*, and the Gold Star Honor Rolls for several Indiana counties, all parts of Volume I, have already been published. Volume III, "The Hoosier Training Ground," a history of Army and Navy training centers and military installations within the state during the war years, is now being prepared.

Indiana at War is a book of 1330 pages which makes an effort to describe every civilian governmental agency and volunteer organization which contributed in any way to the war effort within the state and to list by name, position, and dates of service as many of the civilians who participated in this effort as the preserved records permit. More than 30,000 Hoosiers and some 300 of the organizations in which they served are listed. The bulk of the book is devoted to the civilian defense organizations, the price control and rationing boards, the selective service system, and the war bond sales organization, each of which is carried to the level of the local community with complete rosters of civilian personnel. The book also treats, as fully as possible, all federal, state, and local governmental agencies and officials who were involved in the war effort, volunteer service agencies such as USO and Red Cross, educational institutions which trained military personnel and war workers, and the wartime contributions of patriotic societies, youth organizations, professional associations, business groups, labor unions, agricultural interests, and religious, social, and civic organizations. For sixty-six of these agencies and groups, the organizational analysis and personnel listing is carried to the city or county level. The book therefore not only pictures the war effort of the state as a whole, but contains the material for a fairly complete survey of the wartime activities of every Hoosier community.

The *Directory* is divided into twelve parts, with an introduction by Governor Schricker, nineteen maps and charts, and three indices. A dozen people were engaged at one time or another during a period of six years in the gigantic task of collecting, classifying, and compiling data, and assembling,

writing, and checking the final copy. The search for material extended into every county of Indiana and as far abroad as St. Louis, Chicago, Cleveland and Washington. In spite of the bulk of the book, less than half the collected information was included within its pages. The remainder is retained in the files of the War History Commission.

Although historians and genealogists have been interested since the beginning of American history in preserving careful records of individual participation in the armed forces during time of war, this is the first volume which has made an effort to render a similar service for civilian participation. The book would therefore be valuable for its unique character alone. It has other virtues, however. Although the narrative portions of the book are necessarily limited in scope, they provide the essential facts in the history of the origin, development, and wartime contributions of each of the agencies and organizations listed. Taken together, these brief descriptions provide an over-all blueprint for the pattern of civilian wartime mobilization which could be drawn in no other way. It is not suggested that this blueprint could be applied without modification to any future crisis, but it is certainly evident that it will serve as a valuable reference source for civilian defense workers and state planners henceforward. The size of the book is in itself an impressive reminder of the innumerable and complex links by which a civilian population is connected with a total war.

So important is this work regarded by the state government that the bulk of the first printing is to be distributed to libraries, governmental offices, and civilian defense councils. A limited number of copies will be available for purchase from the Bloomington office of the War History Commission at ten dollars a copy.