

MINUTEMEN

TODAY, as in 1776, the home front is as vital as the battle front. Here are typical men, women, and children who are proving that the spirit of '76 is blazing again in '42.

● When Robert E. Faust, of Hayti, Mo., joined up to become an aerial gunner in the Navy Air Service, he sold his mules and his crops. With the proceeds bought \$2,900 worth of Defense Bonds. The only question he asked was: "How many .50-caliber machine-gun bullets will that buy?"

● Mrs. Eleanor Macrina, mother of a boy of nine, works on the assembly line of a New Jersey plant, turning out radio receivers for tanks. Although she had no mechanical training, she worked out a process for turning out the product with less work and less materials. Engineers okayed her plans, and today, thanks to Mrs. Macrina, tank receivers are coming off the line faster, better, and more economically.

● Erwin Brink was working in a Milwaukee, Wis., factory when defense orders began to pour in. Learning that the company was hard pressed to find subcontractors to make parts for a complicated electrical switch, Brink quit his job, began experimenting, and succeeded in producing the parts. Today he makes them on subcontract in his own home, which is becoming famous as a "one-man factory."

● Citizens of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, are out to up farm production. Six leading farmers of the community are taking a census of near-by townships to determine where there are labor shortages and what farm machinery is available. A group of "minutemen" have promised to "drop whatever they are doing to help a farmer whose crops need harvesting."

● Who says knitting isn't a he-man profession? James B. Griffith, 80, of Detroit, has already turned out 50 sweaters for the Red Cross. He's a retired lumberjack.

● Members of an antiaircraft battery stationed near a New York public school recently received this letter:

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"We boys and girls of the Sixth Grade respect you as the Defenders of America. To show our gratitude we have collected money and have purchased a carton of cigarettes. We have also collected some magazines to supply you with reading matter. We hope you will get some pleasure from these things. . . ."

First Sgt. Ernest E. Racenet replied: "As the Defenders of America we are going to do our best to make this country safe for Young America. . . . As long as Young Americans have faith in the United States Army they can be doubly sure that the Army will not fail them." The children hung the sergeant's letter in their classroom and bought another carton of cigarettes.

- Mrs. Ella Sobel, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was disturbed when she noticed people dropping out of a long line for Defense Bonds at a post office. So she wrote to the Treasury Department and secured a badge making her an Official Defense Sales Agent. Then she went out and started selling stamps and bonds from door to door. In three months she sold \$185,000; her record for a single day is \$23,500. The postmaster had to assign two men to handle her transactions.

- When George C. Hopkins, who won a \$50 bet last fall by jumping out of a plane and landing on Devil's Tower in Wyoming, tried to enlist in the Army, he was rejected because he had knocked out most of his teeth in parachute jumps. But Hopkins is used to long chances. He went to Washington and convinced the War Department that it ought to "waive on his lack of teeth." Now he's in the Army as a parachute instructor.

- A suggestion from Mathew Westphal, a Bloomfield, N. J., worker, made it possible to substitute manufacture by machine instead of by hand for gun-sight lamps for aiming big guns, thus stepping up production 2,000 per cent.

- In Milwaukee, Wis., 15 schoolboys are turning out machine tools vital for armament manufacture. Under a unique plan, the Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School has taken a subcontract to produce precision parts which must be accurate within one-half of one-thousandth of an inch, or one-fourth the thickness of a human hair.

- Thirty-five school children in High-

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land Park, N. J., members of a "Save Rubber Club," have promised to do their bit in school work by going easy on their erasers.

• When burglars looted the safe of the Red Cross War Fund chairman in Claremont, N. H., they took all his personal belongings. But they left untouched the envelope containing the day's receipts for the War Fund.

• The Navy didn't release his name, but here is the application for enlistment turned in by one Cape Codder: "Because of the emergency, I have no intention of dickering for special duty, rating, or station. If the Navy orders me to shell the Japs, the Japs will be thoroughly shelled; if I'm detailed to burn garbage at the Charleston Navy Yard, the garbage will be d— well burned."

ARTHUR LANSING



Do you know some person, or group of persons, doing an unusual bit to win the war? If so, write and tell us about it briefly. Be sure your contribution is accompanied by proof of its authenticity. For each item published we will pay \$5. No contributions will be returned. Address Minutemen, The American Magazine, 250 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

PATHFINDER

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Education

What Pupils Can Do

Sixth grade pupils in a Virginia school wrote a letter to General Eisenhower asking advice on how they could help win the war. He suggested they:

A. Request the teacher to have the whole class repeat in unison the pledge to the flag every Monday morning.

B. Immediately after the pledge to the flag say a short prayer for the safety and welfare of the fighting men of the United Nations.

C. Outside of school hours find a job at home or working for someone else so as to buy war savings stamps.

D. Have the teacher remind them that they should buy all the war bonds possible.

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E. Write every friend in the armed forces at least once a month and assure that friend that everyone at home is working and sacrificing all the time in order to help him win this war in the shortest possible time.

F. Study the history of the United States from its very beginnings to appreciate thoroughly the privileges and rights in our country so we would always be ready to meet our obligations to our country whether in war or in peace.

OPA Curriculum

Through regular classes and assemblies, OPA is enlisting the aid of school students in creating a community-wide understanding of what it is doing.

Pupils are encouraged to discuss with their parents what they have learned at school about the local price program.

In one advanced home economics class at a San Diego, Calif., high school, 20 girls teamed up and helped the local board check prices. After studying price lists and various cuts of meat, the girls were assigned as regular OPA volunteers.