



THE ALABAMA WAR CHEST

What It Is

Why It's Needed

What It Does

Headquarters:

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

THE ALABAMA WAR CHEST

World-wide war has brought unparalleled distress and suffering to millions of inhabitants of Allied nations. Building of a great army and navy in our own country has also called into existence urgently needed agencies to promote the welfare of our own fighting men.

Stirred by the misery and destitution among peoples of subjugated nations and those who fight so valiantly with us today to win the Victory, many groups have been organized nationally to raise relief funds. Other groups are providing recreational facilities and many other services for our own boys in the service.

All these legitimate war service agencies are doing praiseworthy work. But operating as unrelated agencies, each has presented its own appeal for public support. Some agencies, whose campaigns have been best organized or which have had the benefit of the best leadership, have raised in our state considerably more than their goal. Other agencies, not so well organized but equally deserving of support, have not been so successful. And the rapid succession of appeals has tended to exhaust the available leadership, which becomes weary and depleted through repeated campaigns for public funds. Yet appeals that come later into the field may be altogether as worthy and urgent as previous appeals to which leaders, taxed with many war tasks and personal business problems, had already devoted their time and effort.

Recognizing this situation, Governor Frank Dixon on May 27th called a meeting in Montgomery of representative citizens from every county. He proposed the organization of an ALABAMA WAR CHEST which would undertake to raise, through one state-wide annual appeal to citizens in every county, a fund for all war service agencies deserving of support and asking to participate.

Unanimous approval of the ALABAMA WAR CHEST plan was voted by those present. A Constitution and By-Laws were prepared. Officers and members of an Executive Committee were elected to plan and direct the state-wide appeal. A Budget and Quota Committee was named to examine the aims and activities of war service agencies that wished to participate, decide how much each agency should be allotted, set up the total budget, then allocate to each county its proper share.

The Budget and Quota Committee invited applications from all legitimate war service agencies. It critically examined their activities and national

quotas, determined Alabama's proper share, then how much each agency should receive. Provision was made in the total budget of \$589,500 for a contingency fund to care for any war service agency that might apply later for admission to the Alabama War Chest.

Allocation of county quotas was fixed after consideration of six economic factors, including total bank deposits in each county, number of automobiles, assessed values, farm and non-farm population, white and colored population, and total population. Because of density of population, increased activities due to war expenditures and other factors that should make money raising easier, quotas of the larger counties were set substantially higher relatively than those of rural counties. It was decided that all counties raising their quotas will retain 8% of the amount raised in the county. Counties over-subscribing their quotas will retain the surplus, which may be expended for any war purpose under the direction of the County Chairman, subject to approval of the War Chest Executive Committee, or may be earmarked for the county and credited to the county's next year quota.

To afford every Alabamian the opportunity to do his part, Alabama was divided into 13 districts, each in charge of a District Chairman, responsible for a certain number of adjacent counties. County Chairmen, key men of the campaign, were named to head appeals in each county.

Budget Allotments

ALABAMA WAR CHEST

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| United Service Organizations, Inc..... | \$272,000 |
| British War Relief Society, Inc..... | 25,000 |
| Greek War Relief Association, Inc..... | 25,000 |
| Russian War Relief, Inc..... | 35,000 |
| United China Relief, Inc..... | 60,000 |
| War Prisoners' Aid Committee, YMCA..... | 10,000* |
| Polish American Council..... | 20,000 |
| Queen Wilhelmina Fund, Inc..... | 5,000 |
| Campaign Expenses..... | 15,000 |
| Administrative Expenses for one year..... | 15,000 |
| To be retained for local purposes for each county making its goal..... | 50,000 |
| Contingency Fund..... | 57,500 |
| | \$589,500 |

*Deduct any collections in Alabama in excess of \$2,500. The foregoing budget allotments have been accepted by each of the war service agencies.

WHAT EACH AGENCY IS DOING

United Service Organizations—USO

USO was formed at the urgent request of the Army and Navy Departments to provide recreation centers, entertainment, religious services, personal and home-like surroundings, club houses and rooms, canteens at important transfer stations and metropolitan centers, in areas and communities surrounding camps, training stations, defense areas and at transportation centers in our larger cities. It has established over 900 such club houses and centers in the United States, and in offshore bases such as Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Panama, etc., where men in uniform, while off duty, can meet, write, relax. USO goes where the soldiers and sailors and marines go;—USO staff men were captured when Bataan fell. It is "Home Away From Home" for the millions of men in the service of our nation.

"When you give to the USO you give to someone you know" is the slogan of the USO.

British War Relief

In Britain, armies of homeless families, and many women and children left without husbands and fathers—their property destroyed by Hitler's bombers—need help desperately. British War Relief needs food and clothing, ambulances, field kitchens for feeding the bombed-out refugees; it needs medical and surgical supplies. Your gift will aid brave people to whose very doorsteps war has come, with all its terror, danger, suffering and tragedy.

Greek Relief Association, Inc.

Tiny Greece won the world's admiration by her stubborn fight against invading armies. Today her people are starving. War Chest gifts will save lives by speeding food and medicines to the famine-haunted Greeks; friend and foe alike have given promises of safe-conduct for relief ships bound for Greek ports. The entire population of Greece is existing on the verge of starvation. This association charters ships which deliver cargoes of food and medical supplies regularly to ports of Greece. These are distributed through soup kitchens and feeding stations by the International Red Cross Committee (Swiss). Over one-half million people in Athens and Piraeus alone, depend on these kitchens and stations to furnish once a day a plate of soup and a piece of bread. When no Mercy Ships arrive, they cease operating. During certain cold periods when

no food was available for distribution, the death rate normally 40 a day before war—was well over 1,000 a day.

Russian War Relief

No nation has fought more doggedly and courageously to defeat the battling hordes of our enemies than Russia! Close behind the lines skilled Russian surgeons have toiled to save the lives of wounded men—men who have so bravely faced their enemies and ours. In Russia there is no shortage of courage or of skill; there is a pitiful shortage of drugs and surgical instruments. Russian War Relief has sent medicines and equipment—will send more to save thousands of lives of fighting men, if gifts are adequate.

United China Relief

Military experts say: "Without China's help in this war our country would be in grave danger of defeat." United China Relief sends food and medicines to areas in China where famine and disease are threatening to do what the Japanese invader could not do—conquer a gallant and freedom-loving people. The sole purpose is to raise funds to supply medicines, food, clothing and shelter for the sick and wounded in the wake of the war in China. Gifts will help establish hospitals, care for war orphans, furnish seed for China's fields, aid her people to work—and fight—for victory on the far Western Front of the Pacific War!

War Prisoners' Aid Committee, YMCA

Already many of our nations' fighting men are prisoners of war,—held in enemy concentration camps. Through the International YMCA many services of recreation, education, social activities, and the meeting of many personal needs—the helping hand of fellow Americans is extended to those men of ours who, except for the work of the War Prisoners' Aid Committee, would find life even more difficult. The least we can do is to say to them through this Prisoner of War Work that we have not forgotten and that we will help them keep up their courage and their spirit until Victory is won and they are once again free men.

Queen Wilhelmina Fund, Inc.

The Nazis overran Holland. Two years ago Hitler's brutal forces struck without warning. The Dutch people defended their country magnificently

in the face of overwhelming odds. There was no stopping the mechanized Hitler hordes then. Courage alone was not enough. The Netherlands people have been unusually modest in their appeal for refugee aid. This fund aided, over two years, many refugees from Holland, and now is faced with the added problem of refugees from the Netherlands East Indies and the Far East who have been, and will be arriving in Australia, British India and America. They include many of the families—wives and children—of the fighting forces of the Royal Dutch Army, Navy and Air forces and the Dutch Merchant Sailors, whose fleet has been in active service of the United Nations. Most of these men who today man these ships, have no knowledge as to the whereabouts or welfare of their families.

Polish American Council

First to take a stand against aggressor nations, war torn Poland has paid a bitter price for her valiant effort to defend the homeland. Yet the cruel punishments of their oppressors have failed to stop the Polish people from continual sabotage of Nazi supplies. Today, 200,000 Polish prisoners of war in German camps are cold, ragged and starving; 15,000 Polish soldiers interned in Switzerland are dependent in part for outside aid; 30,000 Polish refugees and internees in occupied France are in need of bare necessities; 2,000,000 Polish exiles in Russia lack clothing, food, medicines and shelter. To aid these the Polish-American Council was organized. It sends standard food packages to Polish prisoners; clothing and supplies to Polish refugees; contributes to relief of the terrible human suffering in Poland which has followed its invasion.

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Budget and Quota Committee

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