

Tucson Women Lend Aid To War Effort in Community

Many Individuals and Organizations Plan to Offer Services in Variety of Civilian Defense And Other Programs

The country is at war, and Tucson women, recovering from the first stunned surprise of Sunday, are rising to their new wartime responsibilities as women of Great Britain, of Russia, and of China have risen before them.

Three hundred women who have not been previously engaged in Red Cross work here poured into the Red Cross office Monday to see what they "could do to help." Yesterday calls were received by the Bundles for Britain office all day inquiring about the new "Bundles for Blue Jackets" program.

Local women's clubs are already changing their programs to place more emphasis on community and general service. One organization—the W.C.T.U.—cancelled its tea, set for Wednesday, and announced that the entire meeting would be devoted to study and the scheduled program, rather than to a party.

One of the women's organizations to receive immediate instructions from its national headquarters as to change of policy was the Tucson chapter of Hadassah. Hadassah is an organization of women which devotes itself to furthering the Zionist movement (settlement of Jewish refugees in Palestine) and to many practical philanthropic efforts, particularly in the Palestine area.

Dr. Henry Rubinstein, president of the Tucson chapter, received a telegram yesterday morning from the Pacific coast regional Hadassah office giving these instructions: "Realize your Hadassah chapter is an all-out American victory program immediately. Constitute an American affairs unit in all details offer the chapter's services to local government heads, U.S.O., civilian defense, Red Cross work must be assisted. Hadassah work unchanged."

Red Cross to Train

According to the plan sent out by Mayor LaGuardia of the Civilian Defense Council, and emphasized by Chairman Norman H. Davis of the American Red Cross, the duty of the Red Cross is to train civilian defense workers. These activities will later be coordinated by Mayor LaGuardia's group. The other major duty of the Red Cross in connection with civilian defense is to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical aid, and means of rehabilitation in case of war disaster.

The first duty—that of education—is what immediately concerns the Tucson Red Cross chapter now.

To all women coming into the Red Cross office for advice, officials here said, "Take the first aid course first." The Red Cross considers this course basic, and of use in almost all phases of civilian defense. Women who eventually drive trucks or ambulances, who do canteen work, who aid in any type of emergency, will all find this course useful. In fact, women in everyday life will find it useful, Red Cross officers declare.

Fortunately, the Red Cross, and many other organizations, have already established training and service programs which are already in full operation and only need expansion now.

For instance, hundreds of Tucson women have been making surgical dressings for the Red Cross during the past year. These dressings have gone to the U. S. Army and Navy. It is expected that the need will be greatly increased, and that not only Tucson's quota but also that expected from smaller cities in Arizona will go up. Tucson is one of only two cities in the state which have done surgical dressing work, and therefore Tucson women will probably be needed as instructors in neighboring cities beginning the making of surgical dressings.

Knitting and sewing quotas, like those for surgical dressings, are expected to go up rapidly, as more and more supplies are needed in government hospitals.

Women who have already had the Red Cross's first aid course will be encouraged to go ahead and train for the motor corps and for other divisions of the Red Cross's volunteer services. Women who are working many hours for the

Red Cross, particularly with the motor corps and similar units that should be easily identifiable, will be encouraged to wear Red Cross uniforms.

Two new types of training which will be begun immediately by the Red Cross are the course for canteen workers, and the course for nurses' aides. The course for nurses' aides is considered of particular importance nationally as well as locally, since a war emergency always creates a shortage of nurses. These aides will be trained through the cooperation of St. Mary's and the county hospital.

Y.W.C.A.

A Tucson organization which was among the first to change its program to fit the national emergency was the Y.W.C.A. Through its Young Women's Defense League, organized last year, it has provided dances and other entertainment for men at the air base here. The league has called a special emergency meeting for tonight to consider its future activities.

Green Guards, first new organization to be formed here as a direct result of the emergency, began training in first aid, military drill, and other activities last year. It is continuing with its program, and is holding target practice this morning. M. Dashiell Bronson, organizer of the group, has announced.

The Girl Scouts, another group which began preparations some months ago, has received no new instructions this week from national headquarters, but already has in operation the two new defense features of the Girl Scout program. These are a Girl Scout service bureau, and a plan to train "senior service Scouts."

The service bureau is a listing of all girls who will volunteer to relieve their mothers of household duties so as to free them for work with the Red Cross and similar agencies, and who will undertake all other duties which they are capable of doing. The senior service Scouts are girls old enough to take first aid and nutrition courses, to do recreational work with children, and to perform similar community services.

There are only four senior Girl Scout troops in Tucson, and one of these is at the Deaf and Blind school, so that the number of girls available for work as service Scouts is limited. However, they have all recently begun community service work, rather than regular Scout activities, in order to prepare for service Scout rating. Miss Mina Heesman, director, has announced.

All Assist

The long established clubs, like the Tucson Woman's club, have as yet had no chance to consider any great change in program, and probably will not do so, since all of them are now devoting much time to community service. The Tucson Woman's club began a national defense study group this past fall, and its members are working with many welfare groups in the community.

The American Legion auxiliary plans to cooperate with local defense groups, as it has in all social service work here. Members expect that definite plans will be made at the Legion and Legion auxiliary conference in Phoenix next week-end.

Most clubs are maintaining a balance, and are not cancelling regular social activities. Plans for special Christmas celebrations and parties are continuing both among club and among individuals.