



World War I Poster Encouraging Purchase of Liberty Bonds.

Library of Congress

# \*Arlington and the First World War

BY MARK BENBOW

The United States entered the First World War officially on April 6, 1917, after two plus years of fighting had already killed millions of soldiers and civilians, mostly in Europe but also in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Millions more would die before fighting officially ceased on November 11, 1918, including 116,000 Americans. Arlington County was then Alexandria County, a small, rural southern community with a population of about 12,000. The county's wartime experiences were in some respects typical of small communities around the country, but Arlington's<sup>1</sup> proximity to, and relationship with, Washington, DC, inevitably shaped how the war affected this northern Virginian community. To muster the material, people, and resources necessary to conduct the war the US government intervened in the economy and the everyday lives of Americans to an extent not seen since the Civil War (1861-1865). The cost of the war was paid for by Liberty Bonds and the new income tax. Food was voluntarily rationed, industries were organized for war production, dissent was suppressed, and there was a draft for the first time since 1865. All of these affected Arlington, some to a greater degree than others.

Arlington's population was about 74% white, and the rest African-American. Only about 6% had at least one immigrant parent. Only 5% were themselves immigrants, far lower than the national average of 14.7.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, the places where Arlington's immigrant population came from differed from the national trends. Between 1890 and the start of the war in Europe in 1914 there was an enormous wave of migrants to the US from Eastern and Southern Europe. Arlington's largest immigrant groups came from England (132), Germany (123), Ireland (77), and Canada (60). Arlingtonians who came from Russia (45) were the only group that matched the national trend. The small population was also very rural. The 1910 census counted any settlement with 2,500 or more people as "urban" but even with this low hurdle to clear, the county was still ranked as one hundred percent rural. The neighborhoods that did exist: Ballston, Nauck, Rosslyn, Glen Carlyn, Halls Hill, Queen City, Cherrydale, etc., were still small settlements among farmland.<sup>3</sup>

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\*This article is written in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US entry into World War I in 1917.

Preparing for a possible war, in late 1916 the Army began to prepare for a draft. President Woodrow Wilson hoped to rely solely on volunteers, but it quickly became clear that this would be insufficient. The Selective Service Act of 1917 required that all men between the ages of 21 and 31 register for service.<sup>4</sup> Unlike in the Civil War, men could not buy their way out of service or hire a substitute. There were exemptions, including for religious reasons or family hardship. To avoid the appearance that the draft was a command coming down from Washington, local draft boards were appointed so that men would be called to service by their friends and neighbors. There were three registration days when all eligible men who were citizens of the United States were required to register. The first was on June 5, 1917.<sup>5</sup> Draft registration stations were open from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm at polling places and Registration Day was turned into a public holiday celebrating patriotism. Churches held services, Boy Scouts escorted men to their polling place, and many employers cancelled work to allow their employees to register. In Arlington, there were three registration spots, one for each polling district—Jefferson, Arlington, and Washington. Turnout was good: 1085 Arlington men registered of which only 377 did not claim an exemption, 34.75% of the total. Claiming an exemption was common and Arlington's percentage was only slightly above the average for Virginia as a whole, where 36.2 percent did not claim to be exempted. A total of 2,488 men registered in the county by the end of the war.<sup>6</sup>

Each state and territory was issued a quota adjusted to credit for volunteers. Each quota was subdivided among the different communities. Virginia determined that Arlington's quota of men to be drafted was 153. Each county established a board to oversee the process with the sheriff, the county clerk, and a member of the Board of Health. For Arlington that was Sheriff H.B. Fields, Clerk George H. Rucker, and Doctor R. Yates. The county's draft board called 612 men to be examined. Of these, 84 failed to appear, a number within the normal range of no-shows.<sup>7</sup> Of those that did appear, 387 were accepted for service, and 141 were rejected, often for failing the physical. That number was also not unusual. About one third of men who took the physical exam failed. A total of 309 Arlington men requested an exemption, most commonly because their families were dependent on them. Of these, 264 were granted. Once they passed the physical each man was assigned a number based on when they registered. The first man was assigned number 1, the second was number 2, and so forth. On July 20, 1917, Secretary of War Newton Baker stepped up to a glass bowl filled with black capsules, each containing a slip of paper with a number between 1 and 10,500 (the most men registered in any one jurisdiction.) The blindfolded Baker reached in and pulled out the capsule containing number 258. That meant the 258<sup>th</sup> man in each jurisdiction to have registered

and who passed the physical exam would receive a pink postcard telling him where and when to report for duty in the US Army. He had one week to file for an exemption. The numbers were pulled one by one for seventeen hours, until all 10,500 had been chosen.<sup>8</sup>

Of course, there was a long-established military presence in the county. Most of the Civil War forts built between 1861 and 1865 were abandoned once the fighting had ended, but Fort Myer, originally Fort Whipple, remained. Home to US Army cavalry, troops there had been sent into DC to restore order during riots as recently as March 1913

when mobs of angry men had attacked a woman's suffrage parade. Orville Wright had demonstrated a Wright aircraft for purchase by the Army in 1908 and 1909. During the First World War, it became an important training facility to prepare new officers for their duties. For example, in October 1917 seventy-five veteran French soldiers arrived

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at Fort Myer to teach American officers trench warfare.<sup>9</sup> The US military had not fought an extended trench warfare campaign since Petersburg in 1864-1865. Experience fighting in the Philippines, along the Mexican Border, or in Indian Wars on the Great Plains did not prepare the Army or Marines for fighting in the extensive trench systems of northern France. The Americans would have to learn quickly to avoid repeating the slaughter endured by the Allied armies between 1914 and 1917.

In addition, the number of men at the base increased beyond the base's ability to handle them, and with more troops moving into the area than Fort Myer could hold, a new spot had to be found. The then unused St. Asaph racetrack became an extension of Fort Myer. In the early twentieth century, St. Asaph's racetrack was one of the most popular gambling spots in the region. Commonwealth's Attorney Crandall Mackey worked for years before he succeeded in having it closed as part of his ongoing anti-vice campaign for the county. In 1917 as open space was needed for the soldiers flooding into the area, the former racetrack was quickly turned into St. Asaph Military Camp, housing among other units the Twelfth Field Artillery. Men stationed at St. Asaph, like those at Fort Meyer, had regular interaction with locals. Military bands played concerts for the public and marched in patriotic parades. They went into Alexandria and

DC to sightsee. Local families often took in servicemen away from home to serve them a home-cooked meal and to entertain them for an evening. Because both the military and the community were segregated, local African-American families took in soldiers from the segregated “Colored” units for a meal and an evening away from camp. In June 1917, former Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, a skilled speaker on the Chautauqua circuit, delivered a speech at St. Asaph as part of a religious tent meeting organized by the Young Men’s Christian Association. Local residents were also invited to attend.<sup>10</sup>

Not all interactions with the flood of soldiers coming into Arlington went smoothly. In August 1917, the *Alexandria Gazette* reported that a race riot was barely averted when several white soldiers from the St. Asaph camp began harassing an African-American man on the street. The man fought back and soon soldiers were coming into Alexandria looking for black men and attacking several. Local police ordered the men to return to their camp before fighting could spread. Race riots were a threat during the period, as several violent outbreaks occurred during the war and immediately after as gangs of white men went on rampages attacking African-Americans. The worst was probably East St. Louis in July 1917 where over 100 blacks were killed and thousands left homeless.<sup>11</sup>

In Arlington County, civilian-military relations were more peaceful, although in early 1918 two soldiers from the Army camp in Glenburnie, Maryland and a young woman hired John Werres, a jitney (taxi) driver from DC. When the soldiers told Werres that they were deserting he refused to drive further and told them he was returning to Washington. The men beat the driver to death with near-beer bottles and an iron bar. They stole his vehicle, dumped his body in woods in Bon Air, and took off for Texas. They were arrested by military authorities in Richmond and sent back to Arlington for trial. Prosecuted by Commonwealth Attorney Frank Ball they were all found guilty of First Degree Murder. One soldier was sentenced to life imprisonment, the other to death in the electric chair. The latter’s sentence was commuted to life in prison. The young woman, whose husband was serving in France, died a few months after the trial, although no cause of death was mentioned.<sup>12</sup>

Of course, other vices were often associated with the presence of military camps, particularly prostitution and drinking. During the Civil War Washington, DC was particularly noted as being full of brothels and saloons. Determined to avoid a repetition, the Wilson administration and most state governments worked to eliminate most of the worst of the opportunities for soldiers to give in to such temptations. Red light zones around the country were closed and the Temperance Movement was gaining strength as part of the campaign to keep soldiers “pure.” Rosslyn and Jackson City’s red light

districts had been closed a decade before the war even began through the efforts of Commonwealth Attorney Crandall Mackey. Virginia and DC were both officially dry: Virginia after a state referendum had gone dry in the autumn of 1916, and the District went dry on October 31, 1917 by Congressional order. Red light districts in DC had already been closed. All “disorderly houses” or places serving alcohol within five miles of any US military facility, which would have included Fort Myer and the Navy Yard, were shuttered. To suppress prostitution the 1918 Chamberlain-Kahn Act allowed officials to intern women suspected of having a venereal disease.<sup>13</sup>

This is not to suggest that no soldier even managed to find some illegal alcohol or a willing prostitute, but it was far more difficult than before, and local officials kept an eye open to prevent violations of the law. The Bureau of Investigation (it was not the Federal Bureau of Investigation until the 1930s) regularly received reports of suspicious activity in the DC area to investigate. One night in July 1917 BI investigators investigated a complaint that cars were always parked along a military road through what is now part of Arlington Cemetery. They “saw about a dozen or more automobiles parked with the side curtains drawn, and in some cases the lights were extinguished.” They roused several couples in disheveled clothing, telling them to leave. In one case, they questioned the couple. Both the man and the woman claimed that no money had changed hands, but the man offered the agent \$5.00 to let them go. Instead, the agents took the couple into temporary custody until their names and places of employment could be verified. The report concluded, “The writer believes that some action should be taken in cases of this kind as it seems to be a frequent occurrence for Washington joy riders to use this particular road for such purposes.” Similar reports about cars parking along what is now South Arlington Ridge Road found that area was also popular for couples to go for privacy.<sup>14</sup>

Racial issues also played a role in Arlington. Jim Crow was at its height in the early twentieth century. The US Army was segregated with units separated by race. Believing that black men were cowardly and made poor soldiers, the Army used most “colored” units for menial labor. There were few black officers, and many African-American units that did see combat were those given to the French Army, including the 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, the famous “Harlem Hellfighters.” In 1918, a French liaison officer even sent a memo to the French Military warning them that the Americans were worried that the French were treating black American soldiers as equals, and asking that they follow the same Jim Crow practices as did the US. The French Army for the most part ignored the request. They were used to black troops from their African colonies who performed well in combat. As far as most of the French military was concerned, skin color was less important than the ability to kill German soldiers.<sup>15</sup>

Arlington was just as segregated as the rest of Virginia. African-American residents were mostly separated into a few specific neighborhoods and schools and public places were divided by race. The local African-American community worked to make sure that black soldiers stationed in the area were well treated, welcoming them into their churches and homes. Nonetheless, Arlington saw some of the same reaction against black servicemen as was seen elsewhere in the country. The *Alexandria Gazette*, the local paper for the county as well as Alexandria City, was fond of repeating stories of rapes and other violent crimes committed around the United States by black soldiers, but did not print the same types of stories involving white troops unless it was local.

On October 23, 1917, Arlington residents held a mass meeting at the Court House to express opposition to the presence of African-American soldiers as guards at the highway and 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridges, as well as to reports that black soldiers would be stationed at Fort Myer. Those at the meeting passed a resolution that read:

First. That it is the opinion of citizens of this County in mass meeting assembled, that there is grave danger to the peace of the community and to the life of its citizens if negro sentinels and guards are placed at such important places where so much discretion is required as at the various entrances to the County; and that the assembling large bodies of negro troops in the County would tend to disorder in our midst; and Second. That the Secretary of War be requested to order that negro troops be no longer used as sentinels or guards in this County and that masses of negro (sic) troops be not assembled in this County for any purpose....<sup>16</sup>

The resolution specifically mentioned an incident a few days before in DC when an African-American soldier on guard duty shot and killed an elderly carpenter going to work when he attempted to enter Camp Ordway (later Camp Meigs), a DC National Guard camp at Florida Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE. The carpenter, who was hard of hearing, may not have heard the soldier's command to halt or the guard's instructions that workers had to enter at the main gate. Four hundred carpenters working at the camp immediately quit work and demanded that all black sentries be removed. American Federation of Labor President Samuel Gompers met with Secretary of War Baker and denounced the shooting as well. The next day Secretary Baker removed the African-American troops as guards at the camp, and the soldier who shot the carpenter was court-martialed and sentenced to three years of hard labor.<sup>17</sup>

There were additional signs of US military presence in Arlington beside servicemen. One major part of Arlington's role in the war was also one

of the county's most prominent landmarks for several decades, the Navy radio towers at Fort Myer known as "The Three Sisters." Built in 1911-1913, the three towers, one of which was 600 feet tall, and the others 450 feet, allowed the Navy to broadcast as far away as Paris. Part of a network with stations in Hawaii and the Canal Zone, the towers allowed the Navy to communicate with US Navy ships around the world. When President Wilson signed the Declaration of War on Germany passed by Congress on April 6, 1917, a Navy officer in the executive office signaled an assistant in the nearby State, War, and Navy Building (now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.) The assistant notified the radio station, which broadcast the news that the United States was now at war.<sup>18</sup>

Militaries have always found roles for women in wartime. "Camp followers' are now remembered as prostitutes, but most were wives, sisters, sweethearts, and others who acted as cooks, nurses, medics, laundresses, and sometimes joined in combat. Such roles were professionalized before 1917 and in the First World War women joined as nurses, telephone operators for the Army ("Hello Girls"), ambulance drivers, and could join the Navy as Yeomanette, officially "Yeoman (F)." Many of the Yeomanette came from the DC area for the simple reason that this area was where the Navy most needed the clerical skills most of the women would fulfill.<sup>19</sup> One such Yeomanette was Glen Carlyn resident Julia K. Rhinehart. A government clerk before the war, Rhinehart joined in August 1918. The Navy had scrambled to incorporate women, including designing an appropriate new uniform, and borrowing women nurses to conduct the physical examinations. Most of the Yeomanette were in their late teens and early twenties, although Rhinehart was thirty-seven. There was no housing available in Navy quarters, so they gave women a \$2.00 a day housing allowance to find a place to live. They often worked as clerks, but also as radio operators, chemists, camouflage designers, and some assembled torpedoes. A few, including Rhinehart, were assigned to a small tugboat working on the Potomac, the USS *Triton*, which pushed barges loaded with material for making explosives to the Naval Proving Grounds and Powder Factory. All the Yeomanette were assigned to a ship, although most never set foot on the vessel to which they were assigned, so it is unknown if Rhinehart ever boarded the *Triton*.<sup>20</sup>

For civilians there were numerous opportunities to show support for the war in ways both concrete and symbolic. One such way to show support was financial. The war required new ways to finance the military. Much of the war was paid for by the sale of savings bonds. Known as Liberty Loans or Liberty Bonds, there were two bond issues in 1917, two in 1918, followed by a "Victory Loan" in 1919. The bonds raised about twenty-four billion dollars,

covering slightly more than half of the total cost of the war, approximately thirty-three billion (for comparison, total federal expenditures in 1913 were about 970 million.)<sup>21</sup> The initial bond issues, which paid returns of 3.5% and 3% respectively, suffered from poor sales. Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo reacted by increasing the rate of return to over 4%, and by organizing a sales campaign unlike anything seen in the country before. Rallies were held all over the nation--some of them with Hollywood stars attracted hundreds of thousands of people. The official government propaganda agency, The Committee for Public Information, issued posters, songs, articles, cartoons, movies, and did everything it could to encourage Americans to buy a bond to defeat the Kaiser. Companies competed to see whose employees would buy the most bonds. Public speakers, known as Four Minute Men, exhorted crowds at public events to buy bonds. Captured German equipment was put on display and Allied war heroes came to give speeches. The campaign and the increased rate of return, worked as bond sales increased.<sup>22</sup>

As the national capital, Washington was the site for a constant series of bond rallies. No doubt, many Arlington residents attended these. However, there were similar campaigns in northern Virginia. The first Liberty Loan went on sale in late April 1917. This initial campaign focused on selling bonds in large cities<sup>23</sup> so it began slowly in Arlington and Alexandria. Local banks advertised that they had bonds for sale but there were no large rallies or parades. Disappointed by the initial tepid response, in mid-May McAdoo pushed for an advertising campaign to appeal to America's patriotism. The week of May 21 the campaign began. In Arlington and Alexandria, it began very slowly. On May 30, a local committee organized to encourage the bond's sales, and the initial committee formed only for Alexandria City, not for the county. When the campaign ended on June 14, Alexandria residents had purchased \$368,300 worth of bonds. Many of the over 900 individuals who purchased bonds saw their names listed in the Gazette as a recognition of their patriotism. No doubt, some of those 900 bond buyers were from Arlington, but the county received little attention during this first effort. That would change in the next campaign later in 1917 as the efforts to sell bonds became more elaborate.<sup>24</sup>

The second Liberty Loan campaign began in October 1917. The highlight was Bond Day, October 24. Alexandria City held a parade down King Street. The day was rainy, windy, and cold with temperatures in the mid-40s. Nonetheless, "thousands" turned out to cheer the marchers followed by speeches from members of Congress including Charles Creighton Carlin, who represented Virginia's eighth District, which incorporated Arlington. Local Boy Scouts led the parade joined by cavalry from Fort Myer. Arlington residents participated. A group of the county's schoolkids marched, including a group from Mount Vernon

school in Del Ray carrying a banner reading, "Our class pin is a Liberty Bond Button." Eighteen students from one class pooled their funds to buy a bond.<sup>25</sup> The rally illustrates the typical relationship between the county and Alexandria City. The more populous city overshadowed the county, but Arlingtonians were starting to participate in ways that are more viable.

The Third Liberty Bond campaign began April 5, 1918 and lasted through May 4. It offered 4.1 billion dollars in bonds at 4.15% interest. As with the previous campaigns,

communities organized rallies and parades. There was a new feature as well. Communities that met or exceeded their quota for bond sales received a 36" x 54 "Honor Flag." The flag was white with three vertical stripes (for the Third Loan). Communities that exceeded their quota received a flag with extra stars. Arlington County and Alexandria City were lumped together as one unit, but each

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received their own quota. The county's quota was set at \$20,000. Because bonds were sold through banks, and there was only one bank in Arlington, the Arlington Trust Company, the county's quota was set somewhat low. Determined to sell more than their quota, county officials organized a committee under E. Wade Ball. Each of the three Arlington voting districts had its own subcommittee, and members went door to door throughout the county to encourage people to buy bonds.<sup>26</sup> On April 29, there was a joint city-county parade in Potomac. Boy Scouts from the county marched to music from Quantico's Marine Band. The county's Jefferson District Red Cross sent a delegation, joined by the teachers from Mount Vernon School. The parade ended with a rally at the school.<sup>27</sup> The campaign was a success. Arlington residents purchased \$71,600 worth of bonds, well over three times the quota of \$20,000. Because there was only the one bank in the county, not all of the bonds were sold there. Of the \$71,000 worth of bonds sold, \$44,350 was sold in the county and the remainder to county residents through agencies in DC. Both the county and the city received their honor flags.<sup>28</sup>

The fourth and last of the Liberty Loan campaigns began September 28, 1918. The quota for Alexandria City was \$621,300, and for the county it was set at \$300,000. The Spanish Flu epidemic was ongoing at that time, which

severely hampered the ability to hold public rallies as city health officials banned large public gatherings. Bond salesmen in Alexandria went door to door to sell bonds and the *Alexandria Gazette* carried multiple advertisements from banks and businesses promoting them. Despite this, the *Gazette* reported that the city sold more than its quota, but did not mention sales in the county.<sup>29</sup>

The great influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 was one of the worst such disease outbreaks in modern history, killing up to 100 million people, several times more than died in the First World War. The virulence of the disease caught people by surprise. On September 28, 1918, even as the flu raced through northern Virginia, the *Gazette* quoted a local doctor as saying that “he sees no difference in the so-called Spanish grippie now prevailing than in the grippie of past years.” It was clear already however, that this was a much different strain of the disease. On October 1, Arlington closed six schools to stem the flow of those getting ill: Fort Myer Heights, Clarendon, Barcroft, Columbia Pike, Ballston, and Cherrydale. On October 3 there were fifty new cases reported for just that single day in the county, a record high. It even delayed the trial of the last of the defendants in the Werres murder case. Schools and public places began to reopen in early November as the epidemic subsided. When it was over, fifty-four Arlingtonians had died from the flu in the 1918 outbreak, compared to only four the year before, and eleven the year after.<sup>30</sup>

Besides the fear of the flu, an anti-German panic also swept the United States, and Arlington was as prone to the panic as the rest of the nation. DC high schools, which many Arlington students attended, stopped teaching German. German music was banned, and just hearing someone speaking German in public was enough to start rumors. In August 1917, a story spread that a German spy had been caught and shot after having injected poison into horses at St. Alsph. The camp commander denied the rumor.<sup>31</sup> Federal agents investigated reports of German spies, saboteurs, and American sympathizers in Arlington. Two men investigated for speaking German proved to be Swiss citizens. One Ballston man living under a false name in DC was discovered to have blueprints in his rented room. It turned out he was a widower apparently trying to hide a renewed relationship with an old sweetheart from his late wife’s family and the blueprints were for his job as an architect.<sup>32</sup> Despite the futility of these investigations, the rumors were not all based on fantasy. German agents, for example, infected horses and mules being shipped to the Allies with glanders and anthrax. Dr. Anton Dilger, the physician responsible for this campaign was from Front Royal and set up his laboratory in Chevy Chase, although there is no evidence that he or his accomplices tried to infect the horses at St. Asaph.<sup>33</sup>

There were other signs of the war in Arlington that were common thought the country. The passage of the Food and Fuel Control Act (The Lever

Act) in August 1917 created two new government agencies, the United States Food Administration and the United States Fuel Administration. They were designed to reduce waste of resources needed for the war effort. The Fuel Administration regulated the coal industry and encouraged citizens to save fuel through such promotions as encouraging “heatless Mondays.” The Food Administration asked people to forego meat once a week, and to practice two “wheatless” days a week. Special cookbooks showed people how to cook without items such as sugar. Efforts were voluntary for most items, compared to the required rationing of the Second World War, although sugar was rationed. While the rationing was voluntary, public pressure and propaganda campaigns made it difficult to those who did not wish to give up meat or wheat. Restaurants and grocers also cooperated in following the guidelines.<sup>34</sup>

When the war was over conditions gradually returned to normal. A “Victory Loan” campaign in 1919 was the last of the bond drives. Food and fuel restrictions were lifted. The draft ended. The economy suffered through a short, sharp depression as government war material contracts were cancelled just as the soldiers, Marines, and sailors returned home. In 1920, Prohibition became the law of the land after the ratification of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, and women nationwide gained the right to vote with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. Virginia ratified the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in January 1918, but rejected the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Thirteen Arlingtonians died in the war. The details about their service and their deaths are covered in an article in the 2014 edition of the *Arlington Historical Magazine*.<sup>35</sup> They were honored in 1931 by a war memorial sponsored by the American Legion’s Arlington Post No. 139 and placed at the old Clarendon Circle. A bronze plaque lists their names. Following the Jim Crow laws of the times, the names of the two African-American men who died were placed separately from the others at the bottom of the list. By 1940, it had become a traffic hazard and was moved to the old Court House. It was moved to its present location, back in Clarendon, in 1986. Names of men killed in wars after the First World War have been added to the memorial since.

There are other memorials to the war in Arlington. Of course, Arlington National Cemetery has memorials, and nine of the Arlington men who died in the war are buried there. John Lyon VFW Post 3150 in Arlington, Virginia is named after John Lyon (1893-1918). Lyon was killed in combat on October 15, 1918 while trying to rescue a wounded fellow officer who was under German machine gun fire. Lyon was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. There is a separate memorial honoring him and four other Arlington men from the Cherrydale area who died in the war. It was placed in Cherrydale by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1925

but is now at 3710 Lee Highway, near the corner of N. Nelson Street. Finally, Pershing Drive in Arlington was named after the General of the Armies John Joseph “Black Jack” Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in the war.

The war has been largely forgotten in the United States, overshadowed by the Second World War. Of the four major wars the United States fought in the twentieth century, only the First World War is not remembered by a national monument on the National Mall. However, the war played an important role in the development of the United States as a world power. When the war ended, the United States was perhaps the largest remaining major world power.<sup>36</sup> Efforts to control production of war materials and to organize American manpower and resources were often ineffective in 1917 and 1918, but the lessons learned were put to use from 1939-1945, making management of that conflict much more effective. Locally Arlington’s population grew during the war, from 12,000 to 20,000 as the war effort drew people to the Washington area to work. The growth of suburbs in the county, which began in earnest the decade before the war, accelerated as new housing developments and new neighborhoods spread across the county. Of course, for those men and women of Arlington who served in the war, and for their families, the war had a lasting effect, not just for those who knew and loved the men who died, but also for those who served and came home.

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### *About the Author*

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### *Endnotes*

<sup>1</sup> To avoid confusion I will refer to the county by its modern name, Arlington. Alexandria will refer to the city.

<sup>2</sup> *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910: Statistics for Virginia*, (Washington, 1913), Table L, 590.; <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/immigrant-population-over-time> (Accessed May 16, 2017),

<sup>3</sup> *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910: Statistics for Virginia*, Table L, 590.

<sup>4</sup> The age range for registration was expanded to ages 18 to 45 in 1918.

<sup>5</sup> The second registration on June 5, 1918 was for those who had turned 21 after June 5, 1917. A supplemental registration was held on August 24, 1918 for those who turned 1 after June 5, 1918. The third official

registration day was on September 12 1918. It covered those now eligible when the draft eligible ages were expanded to 18 to 45.

<sup>6</sup> Meirion and Susie Harries, *The Last Days of Innocence: America at War, 1917-1918*, (New York: Random House, 1997), 94.; Report of the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the Year Ending December 31, 1918 (Richmond, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1919), 4,6,12.

<sup>7</sup> Some of these who did not report were simply evading the draft. Others had already enlisted, and some were foreign nationals who were not eligible to be drafted.

<sup>8</sup> David Woodward, *The America Army in the First World War*, (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 50-51.; Harries, 95-97.

<sup>9</sup> "Will Instruct Students" *The Alexandria Gazette* (October 18, 1917), 3.

<sup>10</sup> Mr. Byran's Speech: *The Alexandria Gazette* (June 22, 1917), 1.

<sup>11</sup> "Almost a Riot in Town" *The Alexandria Gazette* (August 13, 1917), 1.

<sup>12</sup> "Three Face Murder Charge" *The Washington Post* (May 23, 1918), 24.; "Killed By Two Soldiers" *The Washington Post* (May 18, 1918), 1.; "Given Life Term" *The Alexandria Gazette* (December 10, 1918), 1.; "Werres was Murdered" *The Alexandria Gazette* (May 18, 1918), 1.

<sup>13</sup> Mara Laura Keire, *For Business and Pleasure: Red-Light Districts and the Regulation of Vice in the United States, 1890-1933* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 2010) 105.

<sup>14</sup> J.E. Elliott "Conditions on Military Road, Roslyn, VA" 16 July 1917, RG 65.2.2 'Old German Files' NARA.

<sup>15</sup> Richard Slotkin, *Lost Battalions: The Great War and the Crisis of American Nationality* (New York: Henry Holt, 2005), 6-7, 133-137, 253-255.

<sup>16</sup> "Object to the Guards" *Alexandria Gazette*, (October 26, 1917), 2. The press did not record Secretary Baker's response, but the lack of any further complaints suggest that the military used only white guards after October 1917.

<sup>17</sup> "Carpenters Leave Work as Result of Shooting" *The Washington Times* (October 12, 1917), 1,7.; "Camp Carpenter Killed by Colored Sentry at Ordway" *The Evening Star* (October 12, 1917), 1. ; "Colored Guards are Removed" *The Evening Star* (October 13, 1917), 1.; "Army Slayer Gets 3 Years; Court Scored" *The Washington Herald* (December 26, 1917), 1.

<sup>18</sup> Cornelia Bruere. Rose, *Arlington County Virginia: A History* (Arlington Historical Society: Arlington, VA, 1976), 164.

<sup>19</sup> They also worked at naval bases as far away as Hawaii.

<sup>20</sup> In 1930 Julia Rhinehart married William Powell. They lived in the Ball-Sellers House, part of which is the county's oldest surviving house, built in the 1740s.; Martha Beggs Orth, "Julia Rhinehart Powell: A Forerunner for Women in the Military" *The Arlington Historical Magazine* (2000), 17-19.; For a detailed history of the Yeoman (F) see Jean Ebbert and Marie-Beth Hall, *The First, The Few, The Forgotten: Navy and Marine Corps Women in World War I* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2002).

<sup>21</sup> Hugh Rockoff "Until It's Over, Over There: The U.S. Economy in World War I" National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper 10580 (2004), Table 3.; "Liberty Loan" Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty\\_bond#cite\\_note-16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty_bond#cite_note-16) (Accessed May 19, 2017).

<sup>22</sup> Harries, 177.; Robert H. Ferrell, *Woodrow Wilson and World War I, 1917-1921* (New York: Harper and Row, 1985), 86-87. Most bond sales still went to large investors, attracted to the tax benefits.

<sup>23</sup> Sung Won Kang and Hugh Rockoff, "Capitalizing Patriotism: The Liberty Loans of World War I" *Financial History Review* 22:1 (2015), 47.

<sup>24</sup> "News of the Day" *The Alexandria Gazette* (May 21, 1917), 3.; "To Sell Liberty Bonds" *The Alexandria Gazette* (May 30, 1917), 1.; "Liberty Bond Subscriptions in This City" *The Alexandria Gazette* (June 15, 1917), 1.

<sup>25</sup> "Citizens Asked to Join in Tomorrow's Parade" *The Alexandria Gazette*, (October 23, 1917), 1.; "Alexandria Holds Loan Celebration: Aswell and Carlin Talk at Mass Meeting After Parade." *The Washington Post* (October

25, 1917), 8.; Carlin also published the *Alexandria Gazette*.; “Liberty Loan Parade a Credit to Alexandria” *The Alexandria Gazette* (April 25, 1917), 1. Del Rey was part of Arlington County until 1929 when it was annexed by Alexandria City.

<sup>26</sup> “Noted Speakers to Address Liberty Bond Meeting to Be Held Saturday Night” *The Alexandria Gazette* (April 10, 1918), 1.; “Alexandrians are Buying Liberty Bonds in Spite of the Cold Wintery Weather” *The Alexandria Gazette* (April 12, 1918), 1.; “Alexandria’s Liberty Loan Honor Role Continues to Grow Steady Each Day” *The Alexandria Gazette* (April 16, 1918), 1.

<sup>27</sup> The town of Potomac was part of the county until annexed by Alexandria in 1929., “Patriotic Demonstration at Del Ray Includes Parade and Stirring Speeches” *The Alexandria Gazette* (April 30, 1918), 1.

<sup>28</sup> The eventual fate of the flag is unknown. ;”Alexandria City and Suburbs” *The Alexandria Gazette* (May 11, 1918), 1.

<sup>29</sup> “Auspicious Start” *The Alexandria Gazette* (September 30, 1918), 1.; “May Canvas Sunday” *The Alexandria Gazette* (October 8, 1918), 1.; “City News in Brief” *The Alexandria Gazette* (October 8, 1918), 1.

<sup>30</sup> “Spanish Influenza” *The Alexandria Gazette* (September 28, 1918), 2.; “1,000 Flu Cases in Suburban Towns” *The Washington Times* (October 5, 1918), 13.; “Plague Closes 6 Schools in Virginia” *The Washington Times* (October 1, 1918), 1.; “Alexandria Lists 2,000 Grip Cases” *The Washington Times* (October 4, 1918), 2.; This figures are for the fiscal year, which ran from October 1 through September 30. So the 1918 figures begin October 1, 1917 and ended September 30, 1918. Thus the pandemic figures are divided between fiscal years 1918 and 1919. *Annual Report Of The State Board of Health And The State Health Commissioner To The Governor Of Virginia For the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1917* (Richmond: Superintendent of Public Printing, 1917 ), 104.; *Annual Report Of The State Board of Health And The State Health Commissioner To The Governor Of Virginia For the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1918* (Richmond: Superintendent of Public Printing, 1919), 159.; *Annual Report Of The State Board of Health And The State Health Commissioner To The Governor Of Virginia For the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1919* (Richmond: Superintendent of Public Printing, 1919), 204.

<sup>31</sup> “Report is Denied” *The Alexandria Gazette* (August 9, 1917), 1.

<sup>32</sup> For more details see Mark E. Benbow “Spies and Slackers: The Bureau of Investigation’s Search for Enemy Aliens and Draft Dodgers in Alexandria County, 1917-1919” *The Arlington Historical Magazine* (October 2016).

<sup>33</sup> Robert Koenig, *The Fourth Horseman: One Man’s Secret Campaign to Fight the Great War in America*. The fact that Dilger worked in the DC area does add an interesting note to the rumor from St. Asaph. By August 1917 Dilger had fled for Mexico and his biological warfare efforts had apparently halted.

<sup>34</sup> Harries, 155-163.

<sup>35</sup> Annette Benbow “Those Who Gave Their Lives: Arlington’s Fallen Sons in World War I” *The Arlington Historical Magazine* (2014), 23-44.

<sup>36</sup> Germany was defeated, Russia was in Civil War, France had suffered terrible losses, the Ottoman and Austria-Hungarian Empires were gone, and Japan was still a regional power. Britain remained strong with the world’s largest navy, but was exhausted and nearly bankrupt.