

What National Defense Day means to your Country, your Home and Yourself

National Defense Day Friday, September 12th

THE Defense test is an explanation and try out of plans proposed for our national defense with added patriotic ceremonies. Its primary purpose is to enable our people to see for themselves and to understand the initial steps necessary to muster our man-power for national defense. Some of the initial steps in mustering our man-power is the filling in full strength the various units of the army of the United States and the steps necessary to provide for their supply, shelter, payment, training, medical care and attention

The Defense Test is necessary because in past emergencies, from the time of our colonial wars, up to the beginning of the World War, we have had no adequate plans for maintaining troops through an emergency. We have hitherto been forced to rely upon hastily created bodies and there have resulted delay, confusion, duplication of effort, extravagance and unnecessary loss of life. Every generation has paid and the present and future generations must still continue to pay the price of this past lack of foresight and preparation. The present system contemplates that as much of this preparation as possible be made during times of peace and not at a time when our national security may be at stake.

No foreign nation could possibly misunderstand the Defense Test or be concerned in any way unless it were regarding our wealth with covetous eyes. Foreign governments are thoroughly familiar with our laws and our policy contemplates the use of our forces only for national defense.

We have proven to the world time after time that we desire no territory, that we desire no indemnities and that we are prepared to fight only in self defense. After the Spanish-American war we set Cuba free, accepted the territory of Porto Rico only because the inhabitants so desired, and instead of demanding indemnities from Spain we actually paid her twenty million dollars for the Philippines, and we are prepared to free these islands as soon as they are capable of self-government. We have accepted indignities in the past which would have been considered by other nations as justifiable causes for war. After the World War, we refused to accept any indemnities or reparations. We have definitely established the policy of non-aggression which all nations know and recognize. And we shall always continue this national policy.

The Defense Test is not militaristic. It is the direct opposite. Militarism exists when the army dominates and controls the government. In our country the army is of the people, is controlled by the people, and exists only for the purposes outlined in the Constitution—to suppress insurrection and repel invasion. Militarism pre-supposes a large standing army. In our country we depend on a citizen army. The Regular Army, numbering only about one soldier per thousand of population, forms the smallest of the three components of the Army of the United States. The others, the National Guard and Organized Reserves, are made up of highly patriotic citizens engaged in civil occupations and devoting only a small portion of their spare time to military training. Thus we have a thoroughly democratic and thoroughly American army which is directly opposed to everything militaristic. There is nothing in the Defense Test which by the wildest flight of imagination can be considered militaristic.

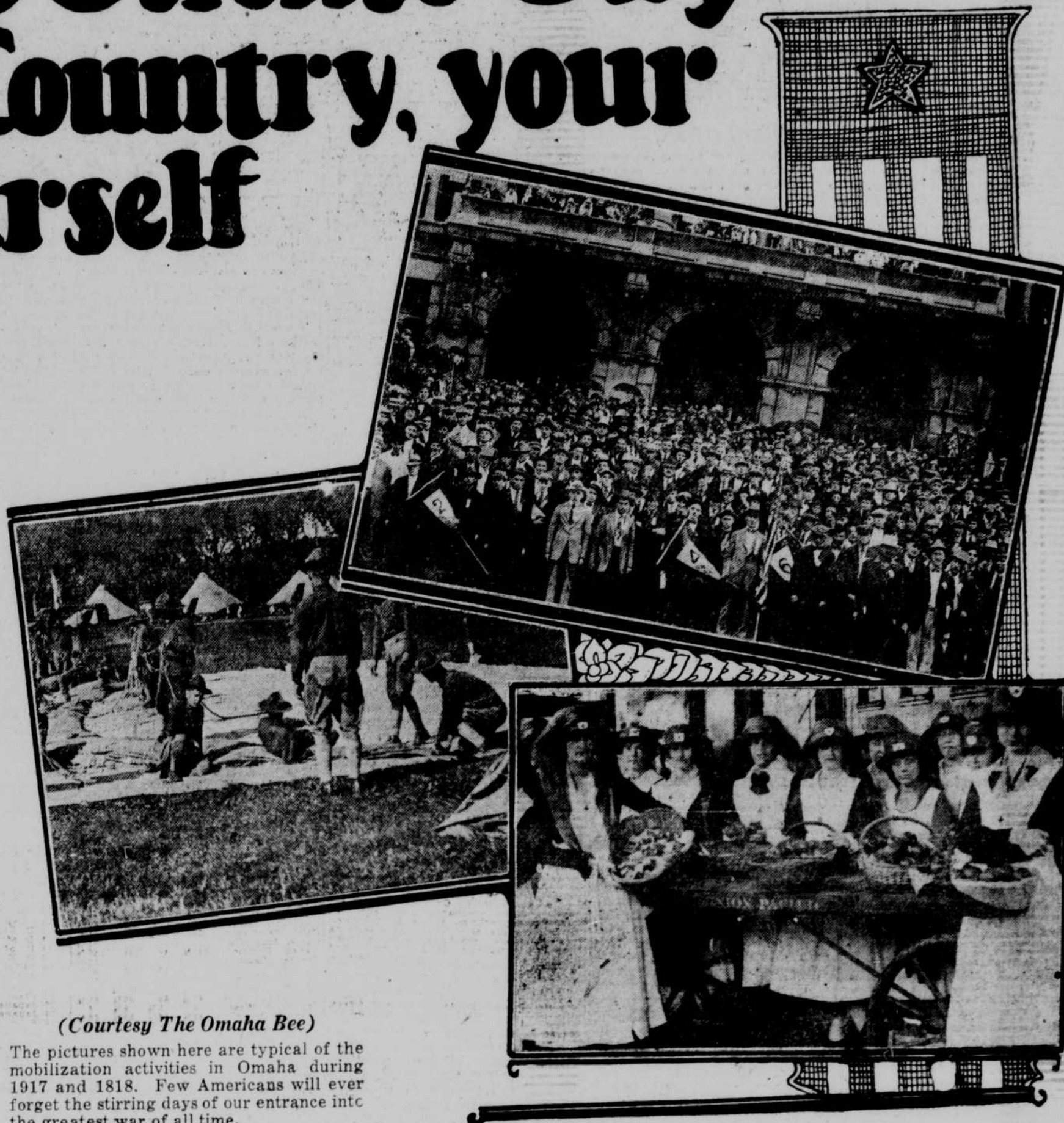
The Defense Test is in harmony with all movements for world peace and is expressly designed to insure peace to considerable portion of the world, at least, to insure peace to the United States of America. It is not in conflict with the principles of The Hague Tribunal, the League of Nations, the World Court or any other peace plan and unless a person or society can absolutely insure our country against the possibility of our having to defend ourselves, our territory, and our wealth, he, she or they have no right to oppose the National Defense Test which our Government experts have decided is necessary to insure the efficient working of our National Defense Act. There exists in the world today no power higher than our own power of self-defense to insure us against the possibility of aggression. If other nations will follow our example and reorganize their armies for defense only, along the lines of our own National Defense Act, there will never be another war and world peace will indeed be accomplished.

This Message Made Possible By the Following Patriotic Citizens of Omaha:

Nelson C. Pratt
Nicholas Oil Corp.
"Business Is Good, Thank You"
Mayor Jas. C. Dahlman
Tagg Bros. & Moorhead
Live Stock Commission
O. H. Barmettler, Pres.
Iten Biscuit Co.
Carpenter Paper Co.

Frank Johnson
Omaha Printing Co.
Ford Transfer & Storage Co.
R. A. Ford, Mgr.
M. E. Smith & Co.
Guarantee Fund Life Association
Conant, Henshaw and Sanford
Hotels

V. A. Johnson
T. G. Northwall Co.
Ideal Cement Stone Co.
Paxton Billard Parlors
Wranick Bros., Prop.
Nebraska Army Store
G. R. Kinney Co.
"The Family Shoe Store"



(Courtesy The Omaha Bee)

The pictures shown here are typical of the mobilization activities in Omaha during 1917 and 1918. Few Americans will ever forget the stirring days of our entrance into the greatest war of all time.

The Defense Test is in exact accord with these ideals and traditions—American ideals are "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness". Our forefathers recognized that these ideals could only be secured through "union, order and common defense". These ideals must live if the nation is to live, and the Defense Test is designed to perpetuate these ideals. As to traditions, the Defense Test will be very similar to the time-honored "muster day" under the Act of 1792. Under this Act all free, male citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 were required to register and to report, when directed, at the point of muster. In some localities, the entire population participated in "Muster Day" assembling picnic fashion to witness the ceremonies and exercises. In view of our history, can the Defense Test be said to be not in accord with American ideals and traditions?

Your Country Desires Your Co-operation

If you believe in reasonable measures of preparedness, if you believe that the only real insurance for permanent peace is to enlist the co-operation of all citizens in the part they will play in national defense; if you place peace and love of country, home and family above self, then express your approval of what in the last analysis is a guarantee of peace and protection, by filling out the attached enrollment blank and mailing it to the National Defense Test Committee, 15th and Dodge, Army Building, Omaha, Nebraska.

Fill Out and Mail
the Enrollment Card



Enrollment for National Defense and Preparedness

Omaha, Nebraska. _____ Date _____, 1924

I, the undersigned, am willing to serve in any capacity that I may be able to fill in connection with the celebration of St. Mihiel day (National Defense Test) on September 12, 1924. Such service to be rendered without cost to the government, and will not obligate me in any way to join any branch of the military establishment of the United States.

I wish to be assigned to _____

Military unit, welfare or other organization.

Signed _____ St. and No. _____

Instructions: Fill in blanks, sign and mail to National Defense Committee, Army Bldg. An assignment card will be mailed you showing the unit to which you are assigned and with which you will march on Defense Day. Time and place of assembly will be announced in daily papers.