



**Hamilton-Wenham State Guard, 15<sup>th</sup> Co.**, formed March 1939 began, with 59 men led by Capt. Harold A. Daley of Hamilton, with Standish Bradford of Hamilton and Albert W. Dodge of Wenham, as lieutenants. The unit later became part of the 24th Inf. Reg., at Salem. The Company's main mission was "to delay, harass and keep contact with any hostile force from within or without the confines of the towns of Hamilton and Wenham."

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

*History of ...*

## Hamilton During WW II

In 1939, Hamilton's small population of about 2,000 heard and read of battles waged by the Axis nations in Europe and the Japanese Empire in Asia. They seemed unstoppable.

Japan and China were at war. Czechoslovakia surrendered to Germany. As did Poland. In September, France and Great Britain entered the war against Germany. Later, Canada entered the war.

Town residents, who had been alive during WW I. 275 Hamilton men served in the military, during the "war to end all wars", still recalled the gruesome aspects of a recent war. Of these, 17 died, while in the service.

Just a year earlier, on Nov. 11, 1938, the country established "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'"

In 1939, many Hamilton veterans marched along Main Street, in a large Armistice Day parade. A. P. Gardner American Legion Post 194 led the way from the town hall to the military cemetery. It was a silent march. <sup>16</sup>

The town, in 1939, was still compensating veterans of "the war to end all wars." \$2,847 was paid for soldier relief and benefits. <sup>1</sup>

Add to this, Hamilton, in 1939, was slowly recovering from a decade-long national economic depression. The W. P. A. still employed 57 workers. The Federal Government paid \$38,410.64 for wages to the residents of Hamilton. <sup>1</sup>

In 1939, compliance with a request from the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth, Hamilton's selectmen authorized the forming of a State Guard reserve company. The unit consisted of men from Wenham and Hamilton. Capt. Harold A. Daley, of Hamilton, commanded a company of 61 men. <sup>3</sup> All were volunteers and received no pay. The town covered training expenses.



**During WW I**, 275 Hamilton men served in military, during WW I. Of these, 17 died.

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

In May 1939, the State conducted its first air raid warden's school in Boston. Two Hamilton air raid wardens attended and received certificates entitling them to act as instructors in their communities.<sup>3</sup>

Following what was being done in Britain, Essex County held, starting in 1939, scheduled blackouts, allowing people to be prepared. Later, the blackouts were unscheduled.

Hamilton's American Legion Post 194, formed in 1919, had about 40 members, in 1939. They met in a couple of rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Hamilton Hardware Store, at the depot.<sup>16</sup>

To register all veterans living in Hamilton and the names of veterans buried in the cemetery, the town, in 1937, began a Works Progress Administration (W. P. A.) program.<sup>7</sup>

### 1940: First Peacetime Military Draft

Europe, in 1940, was at war, again.

Germany invaded Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. At Dunkirk, French and British forces were driven out of Europe. Paris fell to Germany, in June. Italy and Japan joined the war as an ally of Germany.

The United States remained neutral.

On May 20, 1940 President Roosevelt established the Division of State and Local Cooperation, Advisory Commission. It coordinated federal, state and local defense programs, for the protection of civilians during possible air raids and other likely war-related emergencies.

Three months later, on Aug. 23, 1940, Gov.



At a national lottery, in Washington, paper slips, with numbers 1 to 7,836, were put into small celluloid capsules. The drawn capsules established order of draft for men assigned each number.

Leverett Saltonstall established the Committee of Public Safety (CPS) for Massachusetts. The CPS organized and supervised local committees consisting of town officials and the American Legion, civic and labor organizations.

The Governor called for people to remain calm and not to create any hysteria. Hamilton remained very calm. There was no response to either the President's or the Governor's call for defense programs. In the town's 1941 Annual

Report, the Hamilton's CPS acknowledged that, "Up until about 6 months ago, there was hardly a plan for civilian defense."

Also in 1940, the federal government mobilized the National Guard, for 12 months in anticipation of American entry into WWII. In August, more than 400,000 National Guardsmen were assigned to Army units, thereby doubling the size of the Army.

Most Massachusetts' guardsmen went to either:

*26th Infantry Div. (Yankee Div.)*, Boston, with camps at Framingham, Westfield, and Boxford; New Haven and Niantic, CT; and Quonset Point, RI, or 241<sup>st</sup> Coast Artillery, which moved from Ft. Andrews, Boston to Ft. Dawes, on Deer Island.

A major development in 1940 was the enactment in September of the Selective Training and Service Act. The first peacetime draft, it required all men, 21 to 36, to register, on Oct. 16, for military service, at a local Selective Service Board (SSB). There were 292 men in this age range in Hamilton.<sup>13</sup>

The Selective Service program had 6 steps:

- 1) Men registered at their local board,
- 2) The local board sent the registrants a questionnaire to collect basic information necessary for an initial classification. Typically, registrants were classified I-A. Completed registration forms went to the ✓ SSB.
- 3) To each card, the SSB assigned a registration number, from 1 to 7,836,
- 4) The federal SSB held lotteries to choose possible inductees,
- 5) The SSB notified registrants selected in the lottery to report for a physical, mental, and moral evaluation at a Military Entrance Processing Station.
- 6) The board notified each registrant of his classification, and also steps he could take if he felt he had been improperly classified. Registrants had 10 days to appeal their classification.
- 7) Registrants reported to their regional induction center.

Massachusetts established local boards covering 30,000 men, in each city, county or region. Hamilton was in SSB 55, which included Danvers, Topsfield, Middleton and Wenham. Each town had a member on the Board, which met in Danvers. Finlay MacDonald of Hamilton was a board member. Frank Gray of Wenham was the chairman.<sup>9</sup>

Hamilton's local SSB quickly began registering eligible men. The selectmen appointed the Board's 5 members, who met at the town hall. The town clerk, George G. Haraden, ran meetings. A. P. Gardner American Legion Post 194 helped in recording selective service records.



The Board used a double-sided draft registration card. On one side, the Board entered the registrant's name, age, address, place of birth, country of citizenship, telephone number, name of person who would always know his address, his relationship to the latter, the address of the latter, employer's name, and place of employment or business. On the back were the registrant's height, weight, race, complexion, color of eyes and hair, as well as other identifying characteristics. Each card had a Draft Serial Number, on upper left corner of the topside.

The Board gave a wallet-size card to each registrant, as proof they had registered; the registrants were to keep it, known as a draft card, with them at all times. Restaurants and taverns began asking to see the card, when men ordered alcoholic drinks. At the time, Massachusetts restricted alcohol to men 21 and older.

The Board sent a questionnaire to each man drafted to determine his eligibility. There were four classes, of which there were 52 subclasses:

Class 1, available for induction into the military (*men classified 1-A, fit for service, were in line to be called up and sent to an induction center*); Class 2, deferred because civilian job; Class 3, deferred because dependents relied on them; and Class 4, deferred because prohibited by law, e.g., governors, sitting judges. Men classified as 4-F deferred due to physical or mental health or because they were in prison, a mental hospital, or otherwise incarcerated.

The Selective Training and Service Act excluded conscientious objectors (*4-E*), men who claimed they could not fight due to their religious beliefs and convictions. These individuals still entered the military, but were assigned non-combat duties.

The SSB notified all men, by mail, of their eligibility classification.

On Oct. 30, 1940, the federal War Department began a program to increase the armed forces, by inducting 30,000, from Nov. 18, to Dec. 1. The Department held a national lottery, in Washington. Paper slips, with the numbers 1 through about 8,000, were put into small celluloid capsules. There were 8 rounds of drawings, each for a thousand names.

The capsules were drawn from a large glass bowl to establish a draft order. Secretary of War Henry Stimson selected the first capsule. President Franklin Roosevelt an-

nounced the number, 158. (*In the country, 6,175 men had this number.*)<sup>11</sup>

The induction letter named the branch of service a man was being sent and gave the date, time, and place to complete his paperwork and undergo a final physical.

The War Department established inductee quotas for all Selective Service Districts. The quotas were based on the number of eligible men, not the district's total population, and also took into account the number of men from the district already serving.<sup>9</sup>

An inductee could be assigned to any of the military services. Inductees were to serve for one year of limited duty, in the Western Hemisphere, and, then, be in a reserve unit for 10 years or until they reached the age of 45.<sup>11</sup>

Volunteers, men who wished to take their service at once, not waiting to be drafted, met the first quota for Board 55.<sup>9</sup> Volunteers took physicals, performed by Selective Service physicians. Board physicians were all from Danvers.

During the five registrations, 4,000 men from SSB 55 registered and about 2,100 sent into service.<sup>9</sup>

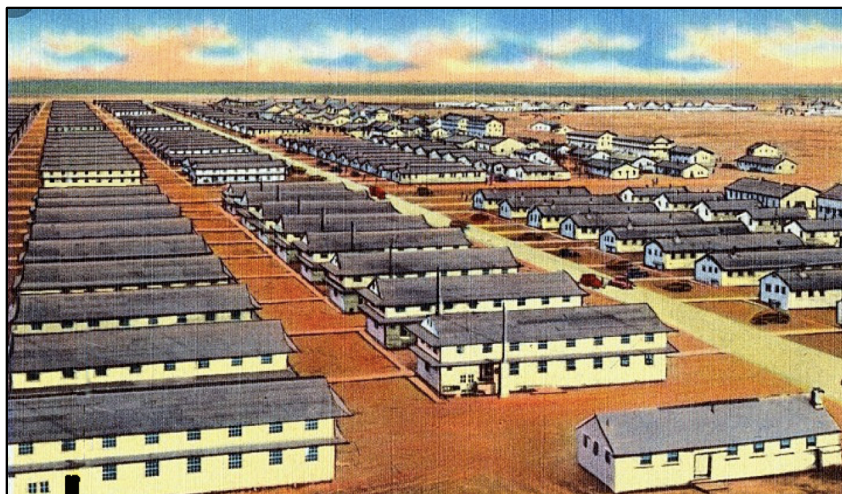
From all the states, 18,633 were inducted, in 1940.

Fort Devens was the reception center for all New England inductees. Three Army divisions trained at Fort Devens, during WW II: 1<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup>.<sup>21</sup>

In preparation for the mobilization, more than 1,200 wooden buildings, including two 1,200-bed hospitals, had recently been constructed.<sup>21</sup>

Civilian defense programs related to the possibility for war began on May 20, 1940. President Roosevelt established the office of Civilian Defense. Three months later, on Aug. 23, Governor Saltonstall created the Committee of Public Safety for Massachusetts.

The name "Committee of Public Safety" has his-



**Barracks at Camp Devens.** More than 1,200 wooden buildings were built for WWII.

Photo, postcard, 1941

torical significance in Massachusetts. In the War for Independence, the Committee of Public Safety was instrumental in forming the first Continental Congress. In 1917, Massachusetts revived the Committee of Public Safety.

Hamilton's efforts related to the war in Europe began in July 1940. The Red Cross opened a surgical dressings room the Hamilton High School. Volunteers made rolls of bandages and other nursing supplies to be shipped to Allied nations. When classes began in September, the room moved to the Community House. On average, there were 28 daily workers.<sup>9</sup>

Seeing that German bombers were attacking England, the American army, early in 1940, began plans for air defense that would involve the civilian population. American Legion Posts were to man aircraft observation posts around manufacturing plants in New England.<sup>9</sup>

The observation posts had no connection with civilian defense programs. Orders came to a chief observer from the War Department. Each post, through its Legion's veterans, manned and carried out army orders.<sup>9</sup> Originally, only the Hamilton Legion, Augustus Peabody Gardner Post 194, controlled the local area.<sup>9</sup> Frank E. Withee, of Post 194, was the first chief observer for establishing posts in the area.<sup>9</sup>

On Oct. 6, 1940, Hamilton's Legion Commander, J. Russell Crosby, and Wenham's Legion Vice-Commander, Arthur Landers met to join the two posts in the aircraft spotters program. They established posts in both Hamilton and Wenham.<sup>9</sup> To assist observers, there was a Plane Spotters Guide that had more than 200 pages of airplane silhouettes.

In November, heightened anxiety arose among those serving in the local aircraft spotting service and the air raid committee. Germany began nighttime aer-

ial bombing of cities in England.

As was begun the year before, Hamilton held, on Nov. 1, 1940, an Armistice Day parade and service at the cemetery.<sup>16</sup> This was the last until after the war.

### 1941: Preparations for War

In January 1941, President Roosevelt suggested leasing or selling arms to Britain, saying the best defense of Great Britain is the best defense of the United States.

At the start of 1941, there were some encouraging developments in Hamilton.

- ☺ Unemployment rolls declined, due to improving business conditions.
- ☺ The recession was waning.
- ☺ A number of unemployed received jobs at private businesses.
- ☺ Public Welfare was expected to decline for the second straight year.
- ☺ Tax rates also were expected to decline for the sixth consecutive year.
- ☺ However, the threat of the country being in another world war continued to increase.

In the country, by Jan. 1, 1941, nearly 16 million men, between 21 and 36, had registered for military service. All drafted were required to serve at least one year, in the armed forces.

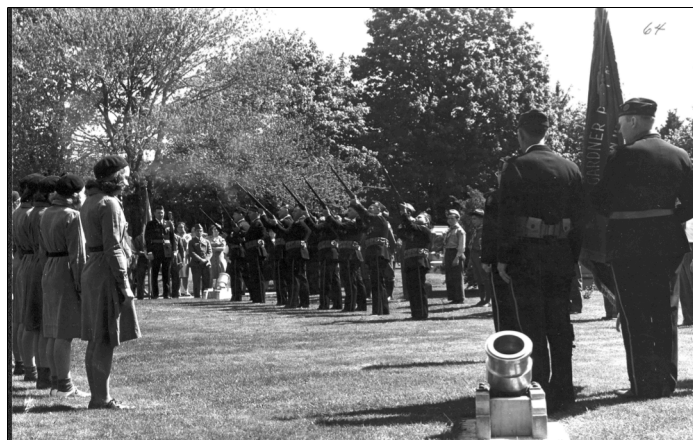
Draft quotas, small at first, increased as the government stepped up the program throughout 1941.

Early in 1941, the Myopia Hunt Club sold its 14-ac. horse-schooling field, at Main Street and Asbury, to the town for developing a playground and recreation fields.<sup>3, 15</sup> A plan for developing the 14.2 ac. included making a tennis court, a baseball diamond, a softball diamond, a playground and an ice skating rink



**Red Cross** had a surgical dressings room at the Hamilton High School. Volunteers made rolls of bandages and other nursing supplies to be shipped to Allied nations.

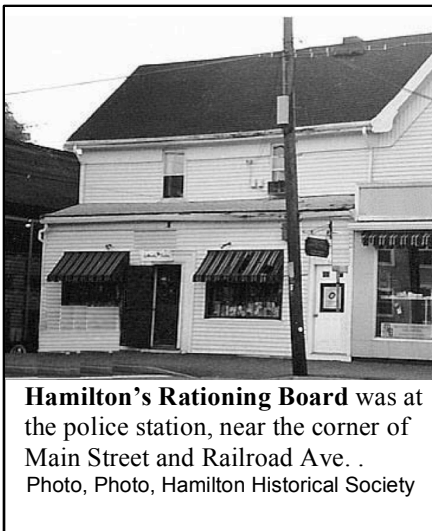
Photo Hamilton Historical Society



**Hamilton held**, Nov. 1, 1940, an Armistice Day service at the cemetery, the last until after the war.

Photo Hamilton Historical Society





**Hamilton's Rationing Board** was at the police station, near the corner of Main Street and Railroad Ave. .  
Photo, Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

Also early in 1941, a rationing Board opened, at the police station on Main Street, across the from the railroad depot.

<sup>4</sup> This gave the towns people a centrally located office where they could get their rationing books and stamps.

Sugar was the initial item rationed.

Soon added were fats, butter, meat, canned goods, shoes and coffee. With butter in very short supply, shoppers bought margarine. It was white, but came with a yellow dye, which was blended with it to look a little like butter.

Rationing also included auto gasoline (3 gal./week) and fuel oil for houses. Workers at defense plants, which were open 24/7, received extra gas allowances from the rationing board. "Share your car" was the slogan for these workers, at defense plants in Ipswich, Beverly, Danvers, Salem and Peabody.

The speed limit was reduced to 30 miles an hour and by December the Governor requested that Sunday driving be abandoned. <sup>12</sup>

As usual, in May, there was a high school graduation ceremony. It was the last until 1946.

Nationally, civilian programs anticipating a possible world war began in May 1941, when the Office of Civilian Defense, a federal emergency war agency, began. It coordinated state and federal measures for citizen protection, in case of a war.

Hamilton created a Public Safety Committee (PSC). In 1940, Governor Saltonstall requested every town establish such a committee. It included town officials, the American Legion, civic and labor members. The PSC was told to remain calm, not to create any hysteria, and to await further orders.

Many issues required public education: problems of street traffic, nighttime blackouts, air raid warnings, medical services, and materials salvaging. <sup>3</sup>

In May 1941, the State conducted its first Air Raid Warden's school in Boston. George G. Haraden was one of two of Hamilton residents that attended the course and received certificates, allowing them to be instructors. <sup>3</sup>

With so many residents in the armed services, the town's supply of manpower was greatly reduced. The

duties of covering various jobs in the civilian protection system fell on a smaller group of citizens, often women power.

Nationally, U.S. Rep. Edith Norse Rogers of Massachusetts introduced a bill for the creation of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, in May 1941. However, it did not pass.

In May 1941, Governor Saltonstall approved the establishment of the Massachusetts Women Defense Corps (MWDC). Its function was to assist in five areas: Medical, Transportation, Communications, Canteen, and Air Raid Protection/Warden Services. The MWDC worked with the Massachusetts State Guard, the United States Army, state agencies, and local communities. The Hamilton and Wenham Women's Defense Corps was in Region IV.

In June, a critical materials salvaging program began. Hamilton conducted an aluminum collection drive that made an excellent showing. <sup>3</sup>

The Red Cross began holding training courses in establishing canteen and mobile units. These were held at the Community Center.

Another development in June was organizing a Medical Division by the Massachusetts Committee of Public Safety. Formed for the care of injured civilians, it was a joint effort of Hamilton and Wenham, in region IV. The first task was providing first aid classes. <sup>9</sup>

The nursing force, at that time, in the two towns was small: 8 registered nurses, 2 public health nurses, 3 practical nurses, in addition to 29, who had completed Red Cross home nursing, and the 143, who had completed first-aid training. <sup>9</sup>

Not having an ambulance, the two towns relied on cars specially converted, by Division members, for transport of the injured. <sup>9</sup>

On Jun 19, 22 seniors graduated <sup>3</sup> Of the 9 boys that graduated, 7 served in the military.

Joseph M. Baker, Robert W. Child, Ernest B. Day, Richard J. O'Leary, Charles E. Perkins, Dexter S. Gilchrist, Walter B. Maxwell, Merrill J. Smallwood, Jr., and Fred R. Wilson. <sup>3</sup>

Later in June, Germany invaded Russia.

On Jul.1, Hamilton had its second draft registration. It was for those who had become 21, since Oct. 16 1940, and for men from 20 to 44, who had not previously registered.

A month later, August, the Federal government extended duty for inductees from 12 to 30 months, with the possibility of more time for national defense. Conscription remained limited to 900,000 men at any given time.



**Lt. Florence Stobbart**, Army Nurse  
Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

In September, Congress passed the Selective Service and Training Act, the country's first peacetime draft. Men 5-ft. tall and more, weighed more than 104 lbs., had correctable vision and at least half their teeth were draft able.

Prior to the start of the school year, Florence L. Stobbart, the School Nurse, took a leave of absence to join the Army Nurse Corps, as a lieutenant.<sup>3</sup> She became the School Nurse in 1928.<sup>22</sup> (Note

*other Hamilton women known to have been in the Army Nurse Corps were: Nancy Cochrane and Dorothy M. Thompson.)*

On November 23, Hamilton had a Special Town Meeting. There were 22 articles, 7 of which dealt with accepting new streets.<sup>3</sup>

Two weeks later, at 12:55 p. m. (EST) on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, hundreds of Japanese warplanes, launched from aircraft carriers, attacked the American navy fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on Germany, Italy and Japan. On Dec. 11, Germany declared war on the United States.

Draft calls for military service resumed in December and the length of service was extended through the duration of fighting.

Hamilton created a Public Safety Committee (PSC).<sup>2</sup> In 1940, Governor Saltonstall requested every town establish such a committee. It included town officials, the American Legion, civic and labor members. The Committee was told to remain calm, not to create any hysteria, and to await further orders.

Nationally, civilian programs anticipating a possible world war began in May 1941, when the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD), a federal emergency war agency, began. It coordinated state and federal measures for citizen protection, in case of a war.

The Public Safety Committee reported that, Up until about 6 months ago, there was hardly a plan for civilian defense." From then, Hamilton developed and initiated a complete plan.<sup>3</sup>

Headquartered in the town hall, the PSC supervised local defense services, including: air raid war-

dens, airplane spotters, and rationing and materials salvage.<sup>3</sup>

To facilitate the work, the PSC, formed a small executive committee. It met frequently and its recommendations were ratified by the PSC.<sup>3</sup>

One of the first actions was to divide the town into five districts. Fortunately, a recent W. P. A. project completed a survey map of the town. It showed every building, number of residents occupied, and emergency supplies of water, hydrants, and other important information for each district. The PSC assigned a Deputy Warden to each district.<sup>3</sup>

In June, a critical materials salvaging program began. Hamilton conducted an aluminum collection drive that made an excellent showing.<sup>3</sup>

Early in November, the Wenham and Hamilton CDC started, at the high school, an air raid warden's school. Also involved were the CDC of Essex and Topsfield. The first two sessions were on Dec. 7: attendance was 100 each night. After the Pearl Harbor bombing, attendance was over 350 for the remaining 7 sessions. About 100 passed the examination.<sup>3</sup>

A leader in this program was George Gibney Haraden, the Town Clerk, who was an instructor. Many teachers became air raid wardens.<sup>3</sup> Further, both the fire and police departments held air raid warden classes, for their members.<sup>3</sup>

Initially, Hamilton had its own Air Raid Wardens. The headquarters was in the American Legion office at the depot, as was the report center.<sup>3</sup>

The volunteer Air Raid Wardens (ARW) came under the police jurisdiction. When surprise practice air raid alerts took place, blackout rules were enforced, with no lights allowed or only those behind blackout window curtains.<sup>9</sup>

The telephone exchange on Railroad Ave. connected the ARW with the report center, when CPX were held. Then, the Center called response groups.

On Dec. 8, 1941, the separate Hamilton and Wenham aircraft observation posts were combined. The roof on the 4-story Hamilton High School became the post for both towns.<sup>9</sup>

The observation post provided 24/7 monitoring for enemy aircraft. The United States Army supervised the A. P. Gardner American Legion Post. The PSC furnished equipment.

A minimum of 112 people a week served. Legionnaires, supported by local residents, devoted many hours to the service. Adeline Cole said women took day shifts and men the night periods, though sometimes husband and wife would take a night shift together.<sup>9</sup>



Spotters, being in the open tower, endured all aspects of the weather. During winter and fall months, fur coats, heavy sweaters were available; the Wenham Village Improvement Society supplied hot coffee nightly. Camper stoves provided some warmth. During spring and summer months, flying insects were a constant bother.

In December, a medical center was established, in the Christ Church vestry, to store medical supplies. Center members assembled there, at all air raid warnings to direct ambulances and first aid helpers to disaster locations, and to bring back those with injuries, who did not require hospitalization. Also assisting with any injured was the Hamilton-Wenham branch of the American Red Cross.<sup>9</sup>

### H-W Civilian Defense Committee

Operations	Staff #
Administrative	21
Report Center	75
Protection	
Air Raid Wardens	119
Auxiliary Police	18
Auxiliary- Firemen	8
Road Repair Crews	5
Medical Division	
First Aid Parties	15
Medical First Aid	15
Ambulance Drivers	6
Evacuation	2
Salvage	40
Total staff	324

The civil defense efforts became more organized in December. At the Annual Town Meeting, Hamilton made the PSC a Hamilton Civilian Defense Committee (CDC), subject to the rules and regulations of both the State and Federal defense committees.<sup>3</sup>

The Hamilton's CDC included 13 sectors: Local administration; Report center; Protection; Air raid wardens; Auxiliary police; Auxiliary firemen; Road repair; Medical; First aid; Medical first aid post; Ambulance drivers; Evacuation; and salvage. More than 400 Hamilton residents participated in the Public Safety projects.

The CDC also supervised special fire protection and "war service" functions, such as childcare, health, housing, and transportation. It also created the Civil Air Patrol.<sup>9</sup> More than 400 residents participated with the CDC.

In March, the local Defense Committee became the Town Defense Committee on Public Safety, subject to the powers, rules and regulations of both the

Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety and the Federal Office of Civilian Defense.<sup>4</sup>

Voters approved, at the meeting, \$1,700 to purchase equipment, uniforms and supplies for auxiliary fire and police departments, air-raid wardens, first aid rescue squads and other defense units. The funds also were for training residents in first aid and other defense matters.<sup>4</sup>

Massachusetts had its first statewide blackout air raid test during the Christmas season of 1942. Announced in advance, Hamilton was "complimented by the Army officials in this area to the thoroughness of the dim-out."<sup>3</sup>

Leland D. Thompson, Hamilton's police chief, supervised planning and supervision of blackouts. An auxiliary police force of 25 men assisted the CDC, during blackouts. The men wore armbands and carried whistles, flashlights and nightsticks.<sup>4</sup>

Realizing expenses and manpower involved with civil defense would be very large, Hamilton and Wenham formed a joint CDC Report Center. The Report Center, at the town hall, notified residents of impending danger and alert civilian defense workers.<sup>3</sup>

The two towns also realized that they needed a State Guard unit for protecting the towns. Late in December 1941, Albert W. Dodge of Wenham met with two representatives of Hamilton, Standish Bradford and Harold A. Daley, and made plans for the organization of a State Guard Unit.<sup>14</sup>

The Massachusetts State Guard was an unpaid militia. By Executive Order, towns organized a State Guard Unit, with all expenses to be borne locally.<sup>14</sup>

### 1942 Rapid Transition to Wartime

After Pearl Harbor, Congress extended the draft registration to age 38, removed the overseas prohibition and increased service to the duration of the war plus 6 months. Volunteering was terminated, in place of draftees.

At the start of 1942, more than 200 town residents were in the military. The national census reported the town's total population, all ages and both sexes, was slightly above 2,000.<sup>3</sup>

This small group of people, according to the selectmen, in 1942 Annual Town Report, needed "far more information and education for the problems of traffic, the preparations for blackouts, and for the many other problems, which are ahead.

An early side effect of the war was there fewer volunteer firemen. Fortunately, alarms were moderate: 30 in '42. A shortage of teachers resulted in the consolidation of classes.<sup>4</sup> There were few workers for the cemetery.<sup>4</sup> Rationing began on Jan. 5, 1942,

when the selectmen appointed a Tire Rationing Board. The Japanese invasion of the East Indies cut off the supply of natural rubber. All residents had to register the number of tires they owned, with their serial numbers. Only one spare tire was allowed each car. Other tires had to be brought to the Board.<sup>4</sup>

The Board issued certificates for new tires only for vehicles essential for public health and safety (*medical, fire, police, garbage, and mail services*), essential trucking (*food, ice, fuel*), and public transportation. Recapping tires was only allowed to the essential vehicles, and occasionally for taxis and defense workers, who shared rides.<sup>4</sup> A fire alarm whistle was added to the siren on the town hall. With the Fire Alarm whistle on the Willow Street firehouse, warnings were heard throughout the town.<sup>4</sup>

The federal Office of Price Administration (*OPA*) began rationing many products. Local Ration Boards issued ration books: Hamilton's Board was at the police station. The ration books had removable stamps for buying rationed items, including sugar, meat, cooking oil and canned goods. A person could not buy a rationed item without also giving the grocer the appropriate stamp.

Purchase of rationed foods required either red or blue points: red for meat, fish and dairy; blue for canned and bottled foods. Each person received 64 red pts./mon., and 48 blue pts./mon. The OPA varied points needed for goods based on availability and demand. Also rationed were coffee, cheese, and dried and processed foods.

The Control of Food & Commodities Committee (*the ration board*) issued various ration coupons. The local board was the least popular place to serve. Denial (*or limiting*) of coupons to friends and neighbors caused arguments.



Victory garden were in the yards of many homes.  
Photo, Unknown

A very successful program during WWII, begun in 1942, was planting Victory Gardens. Hundreds of homes had yards with small areas for growing vegetables.

The H-W Public Safety Committee, led by Elbridge Anderson, of Wenham, and Frank Trussell, of Hamilton, was involved in food production, conservation and canning.<sup>9</sup> The

Hamilton-Wenham Victory Garden Committee provided information about creating and maintaining a garden and canning the crops.

Soon after Pearl Harbor, the Hamilton and Wenham Garden Club began hosting a series of meetings to instruct people on how to grow and preserve of food.<sup>9</sup>

The North Shore Garden Club brought vegetables to a cannery, at Brooksby Farm in Peabody. A motor corps collected surplus vegetables from many Victory Gardens. Thousands of jars of canned vegetables and soups were distributed to local hospitals.<sup>2</sup>

Following up on the successful aluminum collection drive in 1941, Hamilton's Public Safety Committee established, in 1942, a War Production Board, which included the A. P. Gardner Post, American Legion and other organizations. In its first year, the Board collected 84 tons of material.<sup>4</sup>

Many other materials began to be salvaged, including paper, newspapers and magazines. Salvaged paper allowed the manufacture of dehydrated food that had paper packaging (*K rations*) replacing food in metal cans (*C rations*).

The War Production Board began a Paper Troopers program, to involve children in the defense effort. Participants earned arm patches and certificates.<sup>4</sup> Boy Scouts and schools organized paper drives.

All through the year, the town collected tin cans, silk stockings, paper and waste fats. More than 3 tons of paper was collected in November.<sup>4</sup>

Also in 1942, the town offered to the United States Army, for war materials, the 4 mortars and 3 guns and carriages from the Soldiers' Green next to the Congregational Church.<sup>4</sup> The government did not accept them.

Hamilton Girl Scouts conducted a very successful collection of food fats, essential to making explosives. They also collected more than 1,200 pounds of clothing, which were sorted and tagged for delivery to the federal government.<sup>5</sup>

In anticipation of fuel oil rationing, a survey was made of homes using fuel oil for heating. Whenever possible, coal burning was substituted.<sup>4</sup> Fuel rationing was enacted in October.<sup>12</sup>

Defense Bonds, in 1941, became War Bonds<sup>9</sup> following the Pearl Harbor attack. The 1942 Town Report asked residents, as much as possible, to buy, with their extra earnings, Defense Bonds, thereby helping their country, and as a further means of protection against the depression, which is sure to come after the war."<sup>4</sup> All new car manufacturing ceased in February 1942.

A second registration, on Feb.16, was for men, 20 and 44, who had not, as yet, registered.





**Honor Roll**, erected 1942, had names of 282 Hamilton men serving in the military and the that 4 men had died.

Photo, Hamilton Historical Society Photo,

Also in February, Hamilton began Civilian Practice Exercises (CPX) that simulated conditions likely to occur if the war reached the country. It was quickly determined that the air raid warning system was not heard by everyone.

The initial CPX also showed a need for better coordination. An auxiliary police force of 25 men began assisting the Civilian Defense Committee during blackouts. They had armbands, whistles, flashlights and nightsticks.<sup>4</sup>

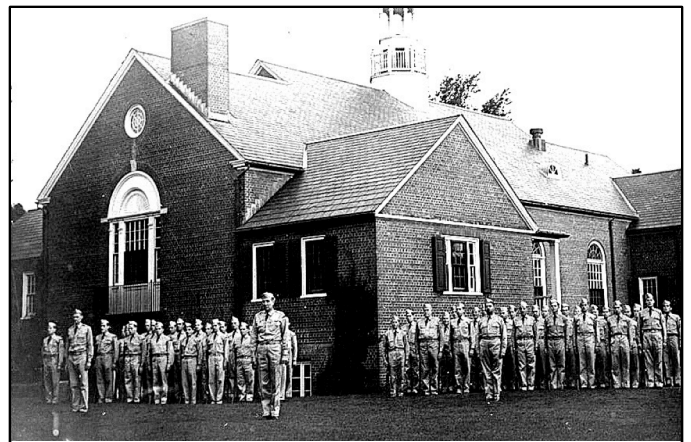
Some men, not yet inducted into the military, volunteered for service in the Massachusetts State Guard. On Feb. 1, Hamilton and Wenham men met at the Community House to learn about duties and requirements of the State Guard.<sup>14</sup>

In March, a guard company started out with a group of 59 men under the leadership of Capt. Harold A. Daley with Standish Bradford and Albert W. Dodge as lieutenants. The unit met Tuesday evenings in the billiard room of the Community House



**Post office**, at Harold Daley's store on Main Street, kept busy handling the many V-mail letters sent to local military service members.

Photo, Photo, Hamilton Historical Society



**Hamilton and Wenham** State Guard unit, formed in 1942. 59 men under the leadership of Capt. Harold A. Daley with Standish Bradford and Albert W. Dodge as lieutenants met at Community Center Photo, Hamilton Hist. Society

and Sunday mornings for maneuvers at the Myopia horse-training field on Main Street.<sup>14</sup>

The Hamilton & Wenham Company of the Massachusetts State Guard began with 59 men. Commanding the unit were Capt. Harold A. Daley of Hamilton, with Standish Bradford of Hamilton and Albert W. Dodge of Wenham, as lieutenants.

The Company's main mission was "to delay, harass and keep contact with any hostile force from within or without the confines of the towns of Hamilton and Wenham."<sup>14</sup>

Initially, equipment consisted of a single summer class-A uniform per man and shotguns for arms. Later Federal aid helped in equipping the men with rifles, field packs, field uniforms, gas masks, boots, and other necessary equipment.<sup>14</sup>

The various defense programs changed many ways of life for civilians. A program introduced in 1942 made a major change.

To conserve fuel, Congress established year-round Daylight Saving Time. On Feb. 9, clocks were set ahead an hour, for the duration of the war. Hamilton conformed.

With the time shift, the School Committee decided to begin classes a half hour later. This eliminated students leaving their homes before daylight, in order to get their school bus.

Hamilton was not totally without young men. March 1942 to June 1942, three batteries of the 101st artillery, of the Ohio National Guard, occupied the town hall.<sup>9</sup> The auditorium was the barracks for the soldiers, with officers sleeping on the balcony. A mess hall was in the basement. The garage area behind the town hall was the motor pool for the company's trucks, jeeps and howitzers. Each morning, the flag at the front of the town hall was raised with full-military honors, including bugle.<sup>17</sup>



**Roof of Hamilton High School** was the aircraft observation post for Hamilton and Wenham. Photo, Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

The call to arms continued. There were three Selective Service registrations in 1942: Apr. 27, for men 45-64, not liable for military service; Jun. 30, for men 18-20; and Dec. 10-31 for men who reached 18 since the previous registration. All registered with the local town clerk.

During the first 5 registrations, 4,000 men from the 5 towns registered and about 2,100 entered (*inducted and volunteered*) military service.

Joining the draft board rolls in 1942 were 9 boys who graduated from high school: Ralph James Armstrong (*class president*), John Joseph Cullity, John Wesley Dolliver, Walter Scott Perkins, Donald Leroy Sanford, \*Henry Carney Jackson, Jr., Robert William Marks, Robert Gordon Martin, Jr., John James Wallace.<sup>4</sup> All were later drafted and served in the military.

In May, the town erected, in front of the town hall, a temporary honor roll of Hamilton men serving in the military. It had 339 names.<sup>4, 6</sup>

As the months of the war lengthened and men were more and more leaving home and jobs for service, it became increasingly evident that women would be asked to take men's places in civilian life, and perform services for which they had no training.

Women were not being drafted, however, to enable women to serve in non-combat military duties, the Federal government established the WAAC on May 15, 1942. Over 35,000 women from all over the country applied.

Women, during WWI, worked overseas with the Army under contract and as volunteers as communications specialists and dietitians. These women served without benefit of official status. They obtained their food and quarters, and they received no legal protection or medical care. They were not entitled to the disability benefits or pensions available to U.S. military veterans.

Rogers was determined that if women were to serve again with the Army in a war-time theater they would receive the same legal protection and benefits as their male counterparts.

WAAC candidates had to be between 21 and 45, have no dependents, at least 5-ft., and weigh at least 100 lbs. 35,000 women, from all over the country, applied for the less than 1,000 positions first available.

Fort Devens, MA, was one of 3 WAAC training centers.

By October 1942, 27 WAAC companies were active at aircraft warning stations along the east coast. *Waacs (not called soldiers)* worked as file clerks, typists, stenographers, or motor pool drivers.

The military's activation of so many men and women had, according to the Superintendent of Schools, had a bad psychological effect on high school students. Students expected that the future held only a job in the armed forces or a defense plant. To assist graduates in finding jobs, the town created a placement bureau at the high school. In 1942, it found jobs for 19 boys and 20 girls.<sup>4</sup>

School personnel were very active with the town's defense efforts. Many were air raid wardens, helped man aircraft observer posts and worked at the Public Safety Report Center. They also managed three major rationing programs (*sugar, gasoline, and fuel oil*).

The federal government began a Victory Corps in high schools, on Sep. 2. The program prepared secondary school students for possible military service. Participation was voluntary.

Hamilton had a Victory Corps in late in 1942,<sup>5</sup> Students, boys and girls, did physical training and learned about the various technologies essential to military operations, such as communication, transportation, aircraft building and ship repair.

In May, a national speed limit of 35 miles per hour was imposed to save fuel. (*Not a problem for Hamilton, where the speed limit already was 25 mph.*) Also, that month, gasoline rationing began. At the time, the town had 9 gas stations. Often gasoline was not available at any. Word quickly spread, when a station had gasoline.

Home heating oil also became scarce. During the summer of '42, the town surveyed all homes using fuel oil for heating. Whenever possible, coal burning was substituted. Insulation and storm windows were added to conserve heat; fireplaces redesigned; wood stoves replaced coal stoves.<sup>12</sup>





Flag with a gold star hung in homes, which a relative died while serving in the conflict

With Hamilton and Wenham having duplicate defense efforts, the towns joined them on Aug. 1. Dr. George E. Sullivan provided a large section of his animal hospital on Willow Street to be the communications center for District A, Region 4, Control Area 3, and was open 24/7. <sup>4</sup>

In November, nearing a year into WWII, the military faced a major problem: there were not enough recruits. Of

the 20 million men that registered for the draft, half were rejected for health reasons or they were illiterate. The pool of eligible men had to be increased. On Nov. 11, Congress lowered the draft's starting age to 18 and raised the limit to 37. As the saying went, at the time, many young men were now, "Old enough to fight, but not old enough to vote."

The eligibility change came at a disconcerting time. Families were learning of members in the military being wounded, captured or killed. Many homes, with a family member serving in the military had, in a front window, a small flag with a white field, a red border and a blue star. Later, some homes had a flag with a gold star: they had lost a relative serving in the conflict.

The widespread involvement of Hamilton in war-related efforts added to the town's expenses: rationing board (\$133), observation post (\$400) and installation of an air raid warning system (\$685). <sup>3</sup>

However, Hamilton's overall government expenses declined 8% to \$235,000, in 1942. At the end of 1942, unexpended balances of appropriations amounted to \$12,384, plus there was an excess in estimated receipts of \$8,124, resulting in a net increase in the Excess and Deficiency account of \$20,508, bringing the balance, at year's end, to \$46,537. This was the largest in the history of the town. <sup>4</sup>

Contributing to the unexpended balances of appropriations were the postponing of long-planned improvements, such as roads, sidewalks and the extension of the water system. Further, a contract for the purchase of a fire truck was cancelled. <sup>4</sup>

The Highway Department was unable to purchase asphalt for street resurfacing. Other material available was of poor quality and was not purchased. <sup>4</sup>

## 1943, Promising Events

For Hamilton, 1943 was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town's formation. A very limited ceremony was held. The town published a booklet, *Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Hamilton, Massachusetts 1793-1943*.

In March, the Federal government notified the selectmen that W.P.A. programs would be discontinued in April. Hamilton had very few residents remaining on the W.P.A. rolls. Those affected either obtained private enterprise or defense work. <sup>5</sup>

The town government, early in 1943, purchased war damage insurance on all town property, so that in the event of any disaster due to the war, town property would be fully covered. <sup>4</sup>

The Fourth Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) Training Center opened in April 1943 at Fort Devens. Three months later, the WAAC became the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

In order to increase the number of men available for combat, the WAC began training women to serve as switchboard operators, clerk/typists, mechanics and food preparation and armory.

On June 15, 10 boys graduated high school. (*Stanley E. Allen, Jr.; Donald Harold Child; Robert Henry Chittick, 3<sup>rd</sup>; John Haraden Day; Donald Scott Duclow, president; Roger Dean Fowler; Robert Arthur McRae; Roger Willard Martin; Sidney B. Meyer; and Paul Joseph Pooler.*) All but three would serve in the military. <sup>5</sup> One, Sidney B. Meyer, just a year later, 1944, was killed in action. <sup>19</sup> Nationwide, the military inducted, in 1943, 3,324,000.

The School System's Victory Corps sponsored a Christmas package drive for men in the military. Pupils and faculty prepared and sent over 100 Christmas packages to every Hamilton boy, beginning with the class of 1936. The Corps also purchased a Minute Man flag, which flew every month that the high school had a 90% participation in war savings stamp sales. <sup>5</sup>

Also in June, as part of the federal government's of providing towns with fire equipment for use should there be war damage, Hamilton received a 500-gpm pump trailer, with 1,200 feet of hose and all other essential equipment attached. <sup>5</sup>

Beginning in the summer of 1943. The Community House weekly showed movies on a large screen on the back of the stage from a projection room on the balcony. The Movie Night program, which continued until 1947, showed, 218 movies. More than 30,000 people attended. <sup>12, 15</sup>



#### **Dogfaces, Hamilton WWII veterans**

Back row standing, left to right – 1. ?, 2. Norbert White, 3. Charles Jones, 4. Robert Clarke, 5. ?, 6. ?, 7. Raymond A. Whipple, 8. Donald G. Trussell, 9. Frederick Sillars, 10. Samuel Tyack 11. Dwight Brooks, 12. Leverett H. Campbell 13. ?, 14. ?, 15. Alfred N. McRae;  
 Second row, left to right – 1. Robert Roberts, 2. ?, 3. ?, 4. ?, 5. ?, 6. ?, 7. Lt. H. Thomas Todd, 8. Capt. Harold A. Daley, 9. Lt. Henry C. Phippen, 10. Burt Roy, 11. Robert G. Chittick, 12. Paul Dizon, 13. ?, 14. ?, 15. Lawrence Stone ;  
 Third row, left to right - 1. Orman Richards, 2-2. ?, 3. ?, 4. ?, 5. ?, 6. ?, 7. ?, 8. ?, 9. ?, 10. Harry Weston, 11. ?, 12. ?, 13. ?, 14. ?, 15. Theodore Maione, 16. Elmer N. Smith, 17. Gordon C. Davis;  
 Front row, left to right – 1. Stanley Freeman, 2. E. Preble Motley, 3. Howard Perkins, dog, 4. Arthur Bradley, 5. Jim(?) F McKenzie, 6. Harold Child, 7. Myron Clark, 8. SS Peabody, 9. ?, 10. ?.

Photo, Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

With the school year to begin in September, the school board faced many challenges, due directly or indirectly to wartime conditions. Of particular concern was the shortage of teachers. Several were hired, who had little or no experience.<sup>5</sup>

The War Department continued its draft program. It held a 7<sup>th</sup> registration from Nov. 16 to Dec. 31, for American men living abroad, aged 18-44. Also, draft boards continued to register and process those men not in the service.

Not experiencing a slow down was Hamilton's post office, at Harold Daley's store on Main Street. It was kept busy handling the many letters being sent to local military service members.

There was a new mail system called V-mail. Letters, written on special 7 by 9-in. sheets, went to a distribution center to be reviewed by mail sensors and, then photographed and forwarded on microfilm. At the destination, the negatives were enlarged to printed sheets for distribution to the servicemen and women. Mail to those in military service had Army Post Office (APO) numbers to keep the location secret from spies.<sup>4</sup>

Also drawing many young people to Daley's store was the new steel penny. Daley's had a large selection of penny candy. In place of the copper penny, the Treasury Dept. introduced a zinc-plated steel penny. Copper was a scarce war material.

The number of civil defense workers declined with the greatly reduced danger of the country being attacked. Part-time duty replaced full-time at the aircraft observer post. Further, one of the Deputy Wardens and a local merchant agreed to receive warning calls: 8 residents, who had been on duty at the Report Center, were relieved.<sup>5</sup> The Center remained manned 24/7. However, with the suspension of blackout regulations, the reduced staff was relieved of some tasks.

The town's salvage programs continued. A paper collection, in November, collected more than 3 tons.<sup>5</sup> Also, more than 1,200 pounds of clothing was collected, weighed, sorted and tagged for delivery to the government.<sup>5</sup>

Many households continued to participate in fat salvage. People brought wide-mouth cans, containing hardened fat, to butchers and local meat stores. They received 4¢/lb. The government also gave 2 ration points/lb. The federal Agriculture Department, after the war ended, said it received 670 million pounds of fat.<sup>5</sup>

The various defense program reductions allowed Hamilton, in 1943, to again reduce its budget (12%). Expenses related to the war were: rationing board, \$1,345; civilian defense, \$1,442; war damage insurance, \$242; and an honor roll, \$300; for a total of \$3,530.<sup>5</sup>



## 1944, Hope for Victory

A steady flow of positive war news began in January, when the allies landed at Anzio, Italy. In February, the allies began massive bombing raids in Germany. In May, Germany surrendered in the Crimea.

At the March Annual Town Meeting, voters approved a Post War Planning Committee to recommend projects to be done following the war's end. From the lists, the Committee hoped the town would be able to provide more employment.<sup>6</sup>

Jun.6, "D Day," allied forces invaded France, at Normandy.

The Committee on Public Safety reported that the victories caused many people to think that the European struggle would soon be concluded. "Just a question of time before Germany is faced with a military collapse. The CPC also said the threat of the country being attacked had practically disappeared."<sup>6</sup>

Most civilian defense activities were suspended.<sup>6</sup> At its peak, more than 200 residents were identified with civilian defense.<sup>9</sup> From its start in 1941, to its halt in 1944, 10 people served as aircraft spotters for more than 200 hours:<sup>9</sup> 26 put in more than 100 hours each.<sup>9</sup>

During the 5 years of WWII, more than 500 Hamilton residents, including school children to seniors, were involved with either active military service or homeland defense.

One of the Army's top generals leading the war in Europe, Gen. George S. Patton, was a Hamilton resident. In 1927, he and his wife, Beatrice A., acquired the Josiah Buckman property on Asbury Street. In 1942, when the General left for North Africa, Beatrice A. Patton moved to the home in Hamilton.<sup>18, 19</sup>

Later in 1942, when Maj. Gen. Patton was in North Africa as Commanding Officer of U.S. II Corps, fighting the German army. Beatrice A. Patton moved to the family home in Hamilton.<sup>18, 19</sup>

At the time, there were 282 Hamilton men serving in the military. The town updated the honor roll, in front of the town hall. The roll showed that 4 men had died. (*George von L. Meyer, Jr., Lt. jg., U.S. Navy; Charles S. Barrell, Jr., a pilot in the Canadian Air Force; John L. Smith, Pvt., U.S. Army; and Sydney B. Meyer, Pvt. Army.*)<sup>6</sup>

Subsequently in 1944, two more died: Richard Talbot, May 11; and Peter E. Miller, in September.<sup>6</sup>

Also dying, in Hamilton, was the Town Clerk and Treasurer, George G. Harden. Only 39, he also was a member of the local state guard unit.<sup>6</sup>

At the March Annual Town Meeting, voters approved a 5.6% increase from 1943 appropriations.

War related items were: rationing board (\$1,125) and civilian defense (\$790).<sup>6</sup>

In 1944, during a State Guard reorganization, the Hamilton/Wenham unit became the 58th Company, attached to the Adjutant-General's office in Boston. Still later, in 1944, the Company transferred to the 24th Infantry at Salem, as the "15th Company."<sup>14</sup>

In December 1944, the MWDC's name was changed to the Massachusetts Women's Corps. Duty was no longer restricted to Massachusetts.

## 1945, War Ended

The selectmen, in January 1945, as directed by the state, conducted a town census, which showed there were 2,387 residents,<sup>7</sup> about 350 more than 1940.

The honor roll, in front of the town hall, had the names of 339 men and women, who served in the military: 14% of the total population.<sup>8</sup>

With further indications of the war ending soon, civilian defense activities were reduced or suspended.

The federal government removed many commodities from the rationing and closed the local rationing office on Main Street.

Hamilton, in 1945, spent about \$1,400 on war-related programs.<sup>7</sup>

In April, a few more names were added to the honor roll.<sup>7</sup>

The country was shocked on Apr. 12, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt died. All business establishments and public buildings in Hamilton closed. Flags on public buildings were lowered to half-mast, where they remained for 30 days.<sup>7</sup>

Also in April, it was learned that another Hamilton service man died: Tech. Sgt. Bernard P. Greeley died on Mar. 14.<sup>7</sup>



**Gen. George S. Patton** was guest of honor at a celebration at the Hamilton Junior High School. He, reportedly, shook the hand of more than 3,000 people.

Photo, Photo, Hamilton Historical Society

May brought good news: Germany surrendered, on the 7<sup>th</sup>, ending hostilities in Europe. But, the war was far from over. It continued in the Pacific.

Again in 1945, there was a very limited high school graduation ceremony. In May, 7 boys graduated, <sup>7</sup> one of whom, Allan A. Campbell, later served in the military.

Aware that General Patton would be coming back, in June, to America, the selectmen appointed a committee to arrange for a welcoming reception. <sup>7</sup>

Prior to his return, the 15<sup>th</sup> Co. of the State Guard disbanded on Jun. 15, 1945. From its ranks, 36 men had entered active military duty. At the end, 15<sup>th</sup> Co. had 52 members. <sup>14</sup>

On Jun. 24, 1945, General George S. Patton flew to Boston for a war bond drive appearance and parade. The next day, he was the guest of honor at a celebration at the Hamilton Junior High School, on Linden Street, where the General reportedly shook the hand of more than 3,000 people. <sup>4</sup> This was his last time in Hamilton.

In preparation for the return of Hamilton's many other veterans, the selectmen appointed a committee to provide and arrange for a suitable welcoming home reception. <sup>7</sup>

On Aug. 14, townspeople learned Japan had surrendered. Joy filled the town. On Railroad Ave., Teddy Maione moved the jukebox outside of his tavern: there was dancing on the street. <sup>17</sup>

Soon after, all forms of rationing ended in the United States. The Ration Board closed in September. <sup>9</sup>

In December, town government began investigating the many needs postponed during the war. The selectman sold all surplus personal property acquired in connection with the W.P.A., O.P.A., Civilian Defense, and other wartime agencies. <sup>7</sup>

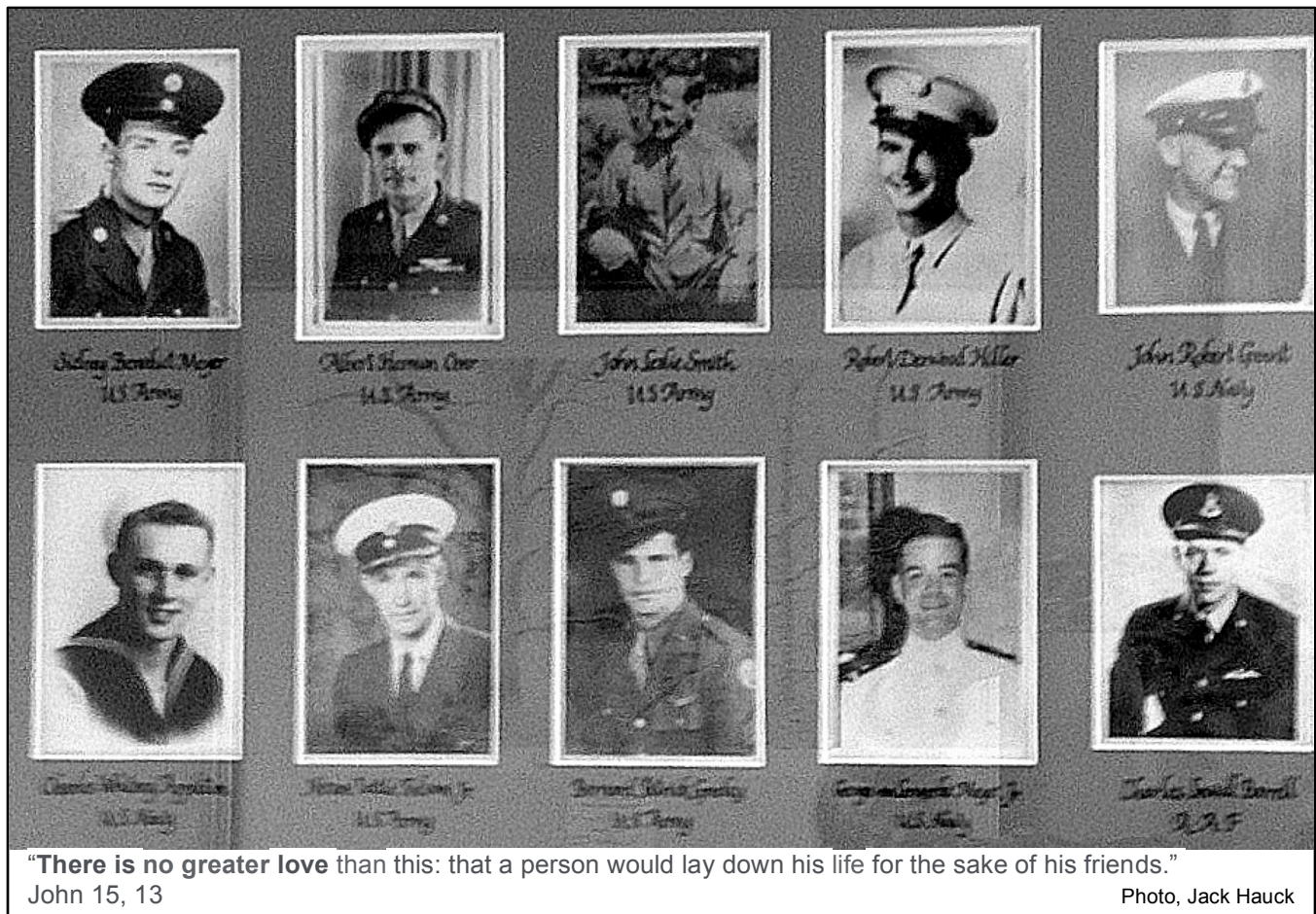
At the December annual town meeting, the town created a Veterans' Rehabilitation and Re-Employment Committee, for recording discharges of those who were inducted from Hamilton, and those who were inducted elsewhere, but had a Hamilton residence, when discharged. Veterans brought their discharge papers to the town clerk.



**1946 reception banquet, Hamilton town hall**

Head table, left to right – Kelleher, Marie, ?, ?, Lucey, Fr., ?, McLaughlin, Fr., Callahan, Ed., ?, Johnson, Dick, ?, Dewitt, Ned, Haley, Chuck, ?; Left table, left side, left to right, – Thompson, LeLand, Poole, Bill, ?, Poole, Lionel, Poole, Jennie, ?, ?, ?, ?; Left table, right side, left to right, – Hugh Mullins, ?, Joe Balk, Mike McGrath, Bob Marks, Tom Mullins, Bill Wallace, Vinny McParland, Paul Wallace, John Turner, Tom Mullins, Walt McGrath; David Greeley, Donald Greeley, Richard Greeley, Robert Greeley, ?, ?, George Harrigan, Bob Tobyne, Larry Tobyne, ?, ?, ?, ?; Dave Kinsella, Babe Campbell, ? Sargent, Vin Sargent, Dan Child, Ray St. Germain, ?, Bernie Cullen, Sam Malone, Thomas Walsh, Bob MacDonald, Ed Kavanaugh, ?; Table right, left side, left to right - Pete Colontoni, ?, ?, Herb Tobyne, ?, Omer Pairier; Table right, right side, left to right - Tony Maione, Jimmy Stelline, ?, Ed Liscomb, ?, Frank Sargent, ? Ginty, ?. Standing, front of left wall - Warren D. Bennett, ?, ?, Harold B. McDonald, ?, Francis Moynihan, Larry Stone, San Conary. Photo, Hamilton Historical So-





By the end of the war, nationally over 45 million men between the ages of 18 and 64 had registered. Of the 15 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII, about 66% were inducted: 10,110,104. At year's end, the Hamilton American Legion, Post 194, remained stationed at the Community House.

Throughout the war, Edward A. DeWitt, John H. Perkins and Lawrence R. Stone were the Selectmen and Francis H. Whipple, the Town Clerk.

Very likely, one of the 1946 New Year's Eve wishes was to get new tires for the family car. On Dec. 31, rationing of tire and rubber goods ended.

### 1946, Welcome Home GIs

At the 1946 Hamilton Annual Town Meeting, voters appropriated \$2,000 for a welcome home reception for those returning from military service. It was held on Saturday, Aug. 17. All businesses were closed from 1 to 5 p.m.<sup>8</sup>

At a reception in the town hall auditorium, veterans received a replica of the bronze medal the town presented to the returning veterans of World War I. The nearest of kin of the 11 servicemen, who gave their lives, received a gold medal.<sup>8</sup>

The dead were: Charles W. Appleton, Ships Cook 3c, Navy; Charles S. Barrell, Pilot, Officer R. A. F.; Hiram T. Folsom, Jr., Pvt., Army; John R. Grant,

Chief Gunners Mate, Navy; Bernard P. Greeley, Tech. Sgt., Army; Albert Herman, Staff Sgt., Army; Robert D. Hiller, Sgt., Army; George v. L. Meyer, Jr., Lt. jg., Navy; Sidney B. Meyer, Pvt., Army; George S. Patton, Jr. General, Army; John L. Smith, Pvt., Army. (In 1945, the town placed a plaque in the town hall meeting room, with the names of those, "who gave their lives for their country.")

Hamilton established, in 1946, a department for providing information, advice and assistance to veterans of WWII or other veterans." Francis H. Whipple was the first Veterans Agent and Service Director.<sup>8</sup>

Veterans' Services, in 1947, initiated a program, at the town hall, for recording the many Hamilton veterans' discharges. Members of American Legion Post 194 greatly helped gather the information.

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