

The N.C.W.C. World War Records

"THE traditional patriotism of our Catholic people has been amply demonstrated in the day of their country's trial. And we look with pride upon the record which proves, as no mere protestation could prove, the devotion of American Catholics to the cause of American freedom."

—From the 1919 Pastoral Letter
of the Archbishops and Bishops
of the American Hierarchy.

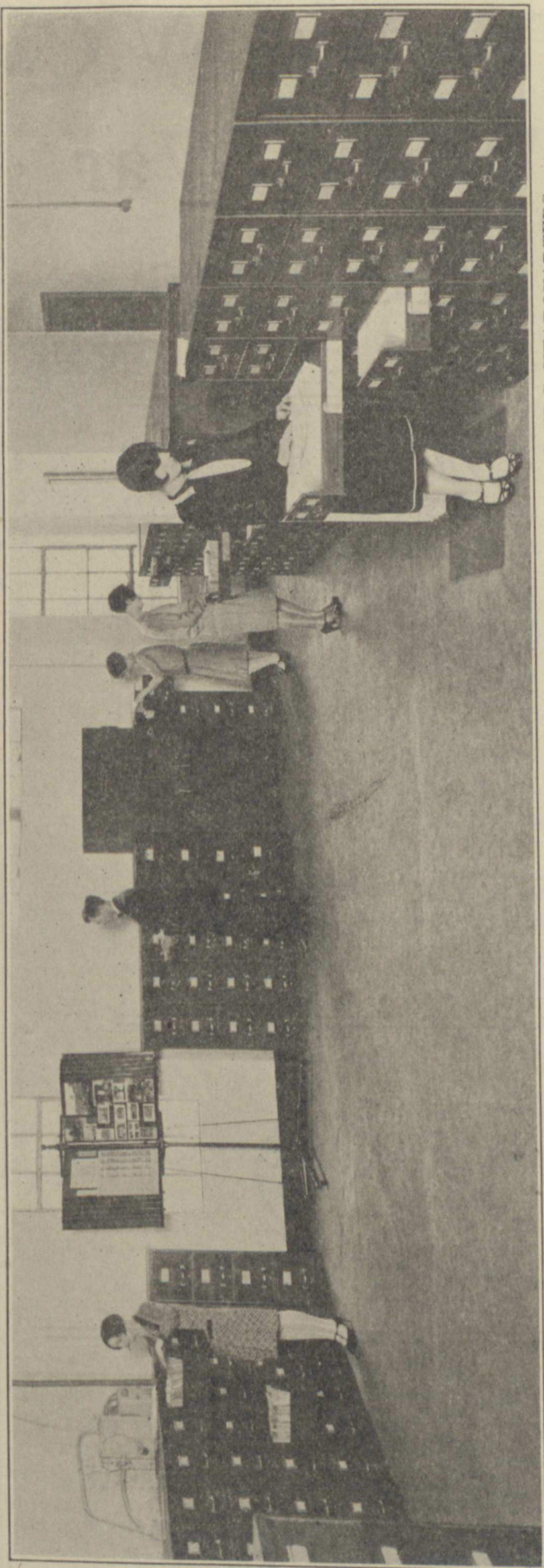


BUREAU OF HISTORICAL RECORDS

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

Washington, D. C.



A SECTION OF THE FILES IN THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED FIRE-PROOF VAULT AT N. C. W. C. HEADQUARTERS

In this central depository are housed the records of Catholic participation in the World War. The names and service records of some 800,000 Catholic soldiers, sailors and marines are a part of the N. C. W. C. historical collection. This total, while representative, is being added to daily through the cooperation of local Catholic organizations and individuals with the N. C. W. C. Historical Records Bureau.

ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS

In the Collection of Catholic World War Records

PARISH War Records are the main source of the central and permanent collection, maintained by the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

All parishes have not developed Honor Rolls. The N. C. W. C. may have wholly inadequate war records for your community. Ask the N. C. W. C. about your local Catholic war records.

Parish World War service lists can be developed and many supplemented by study and check with Community records. Additional names of Catholics are invariably found when so checked.

Insist that the N. C. W. C. has record of the Catholic war dead from your community. Make certain that Catholic men from your community honored by decorations or citations are properly noted in the N. C. W. C. collection.

Promote the interest of Catholics in your local war memorials and war records commissions.

Advise the N. C. W. C. of publications of town, county or state that mention World War Service.

There are thousands of competent and interested Catholics, who would be especially devoted to this particular work among the Gold Star Mothers, veteran organizations and auxiliaries of veteran groups.

Local committees on war records should be working groups, determined to identify and preserve the war record of their fellow Catholics.

Records submitted by individuals, societies and committees are accepted, if the cases are certified as Catholics.

Frequently the American Catholic has occasion to refer to the citizenship record of his co-religionists.

The Catholic war record is not maintained in governmental data. It depends upon local study and scouting of records by interested Catholic citizens.

That record invites your active interest.

THE CATHOLIC RECORD OF WORLD WAR SERVICE

THE N. C. W. C. Bureau of Historical Records is the central depository for all data that would present the documentary account of Catholic aspiration and sacrifice during the participation of the United States in the World War.

War, as a national emergency, tests civic values and the solidarity of peoples. Records of war efforts are forceful proofs of devotion to country.

The contribution of American Catholics to the glory of American arms throughout the annals of our country's history is in itself a record of, and a standard in, the fulfillment of patriotic duty. This record is a treasured fact that gives no comfort to those who question the civic allegiance and devoted patriotism of Catholic citizens of the United States.

Years after each war, however, Catholics have found, despite their unswerving loyalty, that belittling propaganda invariably springs up. Lack of foresight and neglect in maintaining convenient sources of specific information have in the past prevented Catholics from promptly presenting the facts of actual performance to eliminate the slur. As a result, doubt, question and suspicion have been permitted to dull the edge of truth.

Archival Center Established

Through the N. C. W. C. Bureau of Historical Records, provision has been made for the collection, arrangement and permanent preservation of the facts of Catholic aspiration and sacrifice during the World War. This plan is an entirely adequate one provided the condition on which it rests is fulfilled: this is, that parishes, groups and individuals in the various dioceses of the country have sufficient interest, pride and gratitude to establish all the facts with reference to the services given by their fellow Catholics in their own communities.

The Government of the United States made no provision to record the religious affiliation of the military and naval personnel during the World War and does not now maintain the item of fact. The Catholic record, therefore, depends upon the local study and scouting of facts by interested Catholic citizens and the forwarding of all such collected data to the N. C. W. C.'s archival center for development by the Historical Records Bureau of the Conference.

City, county and state historical societies and commissions are everywhere collecting and presenting facts of local World War work. These are mainly the sources from which Catholics must obtain well substantiated items of Catholic participation. They offer, too, an opportunity to see to it that Catholic effort receives proper account.

Records Collection Incomplete

More than 800,000 records of Catholic soldiers, sailors and marines have already been collected by the N. C. W. C. Bureau of Historical Records. There is, however, a total lack of data from some towns and cities. Investigating committees of Catholic societies are finding that the available data at hand, from certain localities, are strikingly incomplete and are of the opinion that they can be improved in volume from one-third to nearly one-half.

As Catholics, we are aware and sensitively appreciative of the role that our co-religionists played in America's part in the world conflict during the momentous days of 1917 and 1918. We should, however, have the tested record to show; not partial data which might in later years be taken as complete but the full and thorough story of how American Catholics responded to their country's call to arms during that crisis. If we fail to establish full and authentic records of our civic and religious activities during that time, if we fail to record all the noble impulses that animated the hearts of Catholics and helped to augment the nation's sum total of service to humanity, we rob the Catholic body of the future of inspiration and example beyond one's ability to evaluate.

Service Value Recognized

An astoundingly large number of demands for exact and carefully documented facts are made upon the N. C. W. C. Bureau's present assemblage of data. These demands spring from all sections of the country and from greatly different types of inquirers, non-Catholics as well as Catholics. In view of this it is certain that Catholic war records are of immediate interest and that their future value will be great.

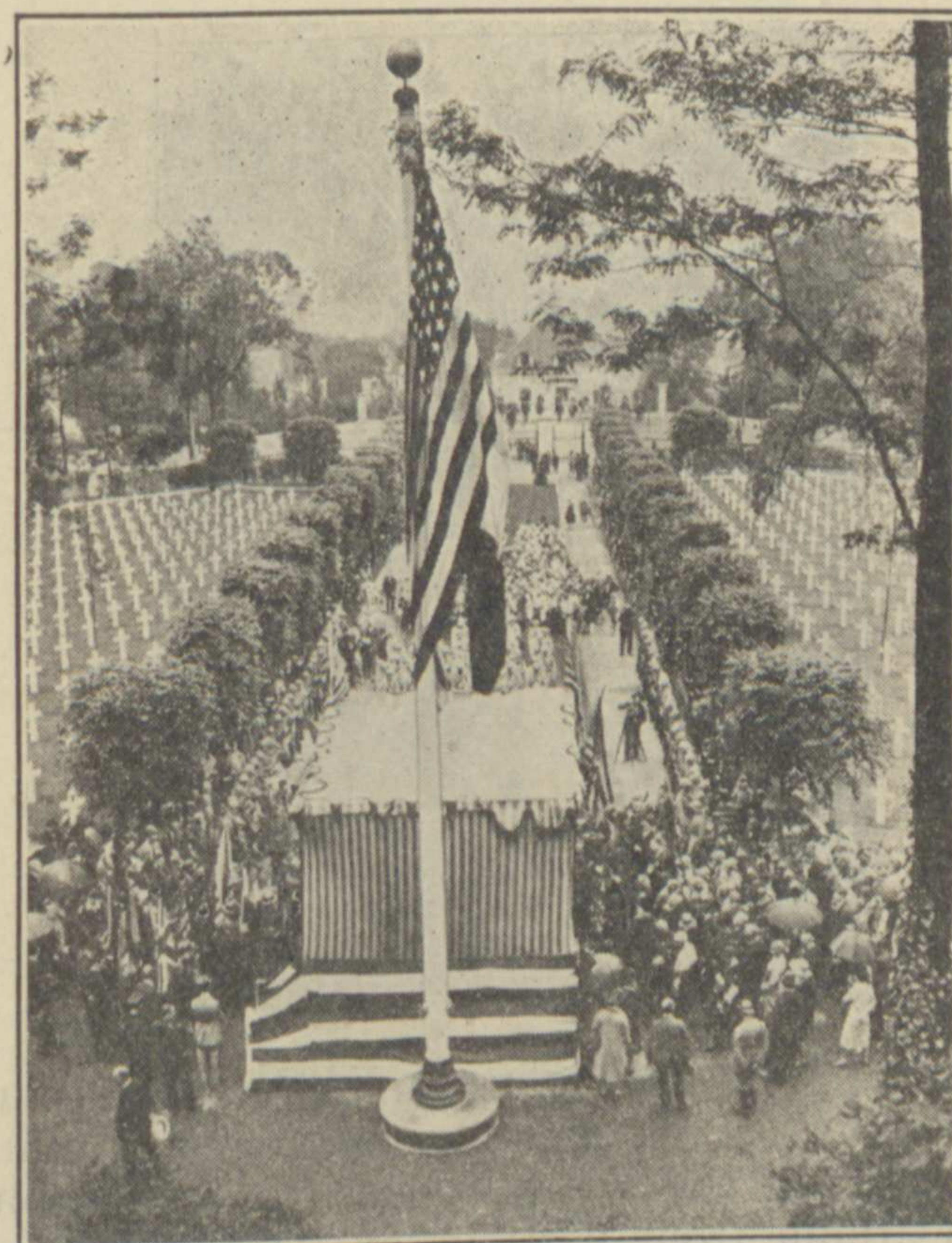
The completion and thoroughness of the Catholic World War record rest with no single office or group. The task invites the attention of all who can influence and assist the development of the complete record.

SUMMARY OF WORLD WAR PERSONNEL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

STATES	TOTAL IN SERVICE	ARMY	NAVY	MARINES	STATES' WAR TIME POPULATION
Alabama.....	83,865	78,459	4,814	592	2,315,715
Arizona.....	12,437	10,580	1,574	283	314,106
Arkansas.....	70,102	64,993	4,657	452	1,724,740
California.....	159,395	128,647	26,774	3,974	3,264,736
Colorado.....	42,727	36,155	5,130	1,442	917,906
Connecticut.....	66,620	54,257	11,884	479	1,339,552
Delaware.....	9,121	7,956	1,041	124	219,808
Dist. of Columbia	26,909	20,235	5,670	1,004	421,116
Florida.....	41,680	36,105	5,334	241	935,120
Georgia.....	102,790	93,559	8,059	1,172	2,851,534
Idaho.....	21,983	19,030	2,100	853	415,447
Illinois.....	320,450	275,084	38,393	6,973	6,354,462
Indiana.....	132,140	118,098	12,253	1,789	2,894,930
Iowa.....	113,467	101,812	10,597	1,058	2,376,326
Kansas.....	80,940	71,640	8,081	1,219	1,757,159
Kentucky.....	93,766	84,172	8,430	1,164	2,397,049
Louisiana.....	75,955	67,837	7,131	987	1,776,551
Maine.....	32,342	26,987	5,239	116	764,051
Maryland.....	61,192	51,132	8,791	1,269	1,425,818
Massachusetts....	193,806	146,627	44,385	2,794	3,777,275
Michigan.....	162,478	142,975	16,453	3,050	3,535,808
Minnesota.....	118,137	104,416	10,863	2,858	2,339,008
Mississippi.....	62,138	56,789	4,791	558	1,791,622
Missouri.....	160,716	133,986	17,862	3,868	3,386,948
Montana.....	39,545	35,282	2,663	1,600	522,185
Nebraska.....	56,858	50,119	6,138	601	1,280,279
Nevada.....	5,384	5,005	257	122	78,098
New Hampshire..	18,560	15,875	2,513	172	441,150
New Jersey.....	142,024	115,954	23,826	2,244	3,060,301
New Mexico.....	14,280	12,702	1,516	62	355,243
New York.....	484,300	399,643	75,856	8,801	10,188,754
North Carolina...	86,014	78,269	7,124	621	2,504,608
North Dakota...	27,389	25,343	1,692	354	636,084
Ohio.....	238,099	214,786	16,908	6,405	5,606,080
Oklahoma.....	90,293	82,703	6,955	635	1,970,941
Oregon.....	42,778	34,700	6,588	1,490	766,297
Pennsylvania....	356,469	312,525	37,571	6,373	8,557,027
Rhode Island....	27,460	20,038	7,264	158	594,850
South Carolina...	62,591	57,188	5,127	276	1,657,717
South Dakota....	31,809	29,564	1,976	269	628,410
Tennessee.....	89,374	81,563	6,184	1,627	2,314,230
Texas.....	191,190	169,776	18,217	3,197	4,544,770
Utah.....	21,216	18,376	1,955	885	437,647
Vermont.....	13,773	12,097	1,603	73	352,974
Virginia.....	90,040	77,146	11,854	1,040	2,270,934
Washington.....	65,889	51,510	11,887	2,492	1,323,459
West Virginia....	57,765	53,731	3,203	831	1,426,221
Wisconsin.....	119,501	104,696	13,391	1,414	2,585,992
Wyoming.....	12,232	11,351	668	213	186,917
TOTAL.....	4,629,989	4,006,473	543,242	80,274	103,587,955
Alaska.....	2,049	1,954	95	.....	.....
Canal Zone.....	332	332	.....	.....	.....
Guam.....	248	.....	248	.....	.....
Hawaii.....	9,487	9,106	381	.....	.....
Philippine Is....	26,331	21,546	4,785	.....	.....
Porto Rico.....	18,108	17,690	418	.....	.....
Samoa.....	90	.....	90	.....	.....
Virgin Islands...	55	.....	55	.....	.....
No Residence....	664	.....	664	.....	.....
Others.....	1,758	.....	1,758	.....	.....
Territories.....	29	.....	.....	29	.....
TOTAL.....	59,151	50,628	8,494	29	.....
GRAND TOTALS.	4,689,140	4,057,101	551,736	80,303	.....

WORLD WAR DEATH CASUALTIES UNITED STATES FORCES

<i>Navy—</i>	
Killed in action, Died of wounds.....	1,673
Died of diseases, Died of an accident.....	5,871
<i>Marine Corps—</i>	
Killed in action, Died of wounds.....	2,475
Died of diseases, Died of accident.....	308
<i>Army—</i>	
Killed in action, Died of wounds.....	50,510
(including deaths at sea and in Siberia)	
Died of disease, Died of accident.....	69,446
Total American World War Deaths dur-	
ing the hostilities.....	130,265



A Memorial Day Service in the Suresnes American Cemetery, France

THE CATHOLIC QUOTA

Total population of United States July 1, 1918. U. S. Bureau of Census.....	103,582,955
Total Catholic population in United States from official Catholic Directory for the year 1919 (Figures prepared in 1918).....	17,549,324
Percent of U. S. population, Catholic, in 1918.....	16.94%
Number of troops, suggested by Catholic percentage of population as quota or representative number for the Catholic population.....	784,320

A FEW FACTS FROM THE CATHOLIC COLLECTION

THERE are 802,413 records of Catholic men and women who served in the military and naval establishments of the United States during the period of the World War, available in the Bureau of Historical Records, N. C. W. C. (March 15, 1929.)

To date there is mention of 5,624 Catholic dead of the A. E. F., who have been returned to the United States or to other countries for permanent interment at the request of relatives. Among the eight American Cemeteries in Europe, 4,969 graves have been identified as Catholics. Graves of the Catholic dead are blessed through the courtesy of the N. C. W. C.



Naval records list John Eopolucci, Boatswain's Mate 1-cl. U. S. N. as "The first enlisted man to lose his life in the World War." John Eopolucci was a Catholic from Washington, D. C. He was a member of the armed guard on the steamship Aztec, and was lost, when it was torpedoed by the enemy on April 1, 1917. A brother, Wm. A. Eopolucci, made the supreme sacrifice in the Argonne Offensive with the 312th Machine Gun Battalion, 79th Division.

The first battle wound recorded by the United States Army was on July 14, 1917, suffered by Lieut. Louis J. Genella, Medical Corps, U. S. A. Lieut. Genella is identified as a Catholic by the National Council of Catholic Women of New Orleans, La.

The first American officer killed overseas was Lieut. William T. Fitzsimons, Medical Corps, U. S. A., a Catholic of Kansas City, Mo. Lieut Fitzsimons and three enlisted men were killed Sept. 4,

1917, when the enemy raided a hospital near Dannes-Camiers, France. The Fitzsimons U. S. General Hospital at Denver, Colorado, is named in his honor.

The first American death casualties on the lines were suffered by the 16th Infantry, First Division, Nov. 3, 1917. Of these first three killed, Private Thomas F. Enright, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was a Catholic. Pvt. Merle D. Hay and Corp. James T. Gresham were the other American heroes who died with Pvt. Enright.

The first shell fired into enemy positions was from Battery C, 6th Field Artillery, First Division. This shell was fired about 6:05 A. M., October 23, 1917. The lanyard of the gun was pulled by Sgt. Alex. L. Arch, a member of St. Stephen's Parish, South Bend, Ind. The distinction of firing the first shell is officially accorded to Battery C. In reunions of First Division men, Sergt. Arch is the man honored for firing this initial shot into enemy positions.

The last American officer killed before the Armistice was Lieut. Chaplain William F. Davitt. Fr. Davitt was from the diocese of Springfield, Mass.

The memorial in the Arlington National Cemetery to the twenty-three commissioned Army Chaplains who made the supreme sacrifice, between the dates of April 6, 1917 and Nov. 11, 1918, honors six Catholic priests. Several other Catholic priests found their cause of death in the World War, dying shortly after November 11th, while in the service, or as result of wounds received or while on retired status.

The first American decoration awarded was received by Lieut. William D. Meyering of the 23rd Infantry, a Catholic from Chicago, Ill. The Distinguished Service Cross was presented Memorial Day, 1918, at General Headquarters, A. E. F., by the Commander-in-Chief.

The only man to receive all three American decorations for acts executed during the period of the World War was Colonel William J. Donovan, a prominent Catholic of Buffalo, N. Y.

Authenticated accounts of extraordinary heroism are provided weekly to the Catholic Press through the Feature Service of the N. C. W. C. Press Department, under the following head:



SOME TYPICAL EXAMPLES

of Successful Records Collection Work

MISS T. B. MacFadden, a business woman of Bayonne, New Jersey, volunteered to complete the Catholic war data for her city. At the time the work was taken over, 1,104 World War service records of Catholics from Bayonne were available in the central collection. There was mention of forty-six Catholics having made the supreme sacrifice. Five of the eight parishes had presented some data.

The first step taken in Miss MacFadden's work was to obtain a list of all World War service men and women from Bayonne. A copy of the Catholic records already assembled was then supplied by the Bureau of Historical Records. Thus equipped, Miss MacFadden arranged for representatives of the various parishes and parish groups to meet with her and study the records for additional Catholics appearing in the city data. To date 1768 new records have been traced out giving the present total of 2872.

The forty-six Gold Star records for the Catholics have been increased to sixty-six out of a total of ninety-six wartime deaths among the service personnel from Bayonne. It is found that several of these newly acquired death casualty records are of soldiers buried in the cemeteries overseas. Several citations and honor awards were also found to the credit of men not heretofore reported to the Catholic collection of war data.

The Catholic Women's Club of Janesville, Wisconsin, recently increased the Catholic war records of Rock County, Wisconsin, by 81, over the previous reports of the parishes within that county. Mrs. Ralph Kamp and Miss Marie Murphy executed the work in behalf of the Club. The available parish lists were studied in connection with the public records in the county.

Members of the A. O. H. of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, have added 184 service records to the war service list of Catholics from their city. The work has now extended to embrace all of Schuylkill County through the County Board of the A. O. H. James H. Rattigan of Pottsville stated "Our own people were the most surprised to learn that so many of their fellow Catholics had entered the military service of our country."

The aid of the local K. of C. Council was enlisted in the endeavor. A corps of typists from St. Patrick's High School assisted in preparing the final report.

METHOD - SUGGESTIONS

THE essence of the record programme is indicating Catholics on the local lists of service people, supplementary to those already available.

Some communities have well worked compilations. The names of all men who served the colors during the World War are there presented. In such communities the work is solely that of ascertaining who were Catholics and presenting the findings to the central collection.

Different methods of collecting Catholic World War data are successfully employed in various communities, where special histories have not been compiled. These depend entirely upon the difficulties encountered—the extent to which the work has been previously developed, and the size of the Catholic group interested in the undertaking.

Effective organization work has been established through some Diocesan Councils of the National Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of Catholic Men. Where the records of an entire diocese are to be collected, a Diocesan Chairman is usually appointed to supervise the Historical Records work. The Chairman maintains close contact with the local committees, and with the Bureau of Historical Records, N. C. W. C.

Unnecessary Effort Avoided

All available data is secured from the N. C. W. C., to avoid unnecessary effort. The problem is studied. The work is divided into local committees. County Chairmen and City Chairmen, are usually designated.

The work of the local committee is of necessity sub-divided into working groups concentrating on certain phases, such as: World War Memorials, Public Records, Veteran Organizations, and Library.

The organization of the work of the World War Memorials committee, which is perhaps the most important, depends on the size of the territory, and where necessary is sub-divided into parish, town, ward, or precinct groups. The details are so arranged that one or more workers may check all Catholic honor roll tablets or lists located in the parish, and the municipal or community memorials—against the names already recorded and available from the N. C. W. C. Names of prominent Catholics not appearing on the Catholic record are added. Names of likely Catholics are noted for verification.

In like manner the Public Records Committee studies the published State and County World War Rosters available in the local library. Workers are detailed to visit the City or Town Clerk for examination of records such as listed on page 12, under "Public Records."

With the aid of some Catholic members of the local veteran posts, the roster of the organization is scouted for names of Catholics. The veteran Post Historians' records, and those of the Graves Registration Officer prove of valuable help in identifying Catholic World War dead. As far as possible, the membership of this Veteran Organizations Committee is composed of veterans or members of the auxiliaries.

The Library Committee divides its work so that one group examines the available histories and directories containing useful information, and makes note of any likely Catholic data. A most valuable source of contemporary material is found in the war-time files of the local newspapers. If not available in the public libraries, or in the local historical society, they are found in the publisher's office. A list of the important items studied therein appears on page 13, under "Newspapers."

Sources of World War Records is a working guide for all groups or individuals interested in the compilation of Catholic World War data.

SOURCES OF WORLD WAR RECORDS

Memorials

Catholic—

Church Honor Roll Tablets, Parish Societies—Honor Rolls.

Local Catholic Schools—Honor Rolls.

World War Honor Roll of local Catholic Societies.

Parish Histories (published since the World War).

Programs of Religious Memorial Services.

Municipal—

County, City, Town, Ward or Precinct Tablets or Monuments.

Public Grammar or High School World War Honor Rolls and Memorials.

Community Centre Honor Roll Tablets.

Public Records

State and County—

Service Rosters.

Gold Star Rosters.

City and Town—

World War Honor Rolls and Gold Star Lists.

Local Draft Board Lists.

City or Town Clerk's List of World War Veterans, to whom Service Buttons, Certificates or other public recognition was given.

City or Town Clerk Vital Records—for Deaths of Veterans of World War.

City (or County) List of Polls, 1917-1920, which designate men in military service.

City or Town Clerk's Record of streets, squares, parks, playgrounds, public halls or buildings named in honor of World War Veterans.

Posts of Veteran groups named in honor of heroes.

Veteran Organization Records—

Roster of World War Veteran Organizations.

Graves Registration List of Veteran Organizations.

Local Veteran Post Historian's Records.

Memorial Day, Armistice Day, or Special Souvenir Programs.

Directories

Local—City and Suburban—

1917-1920, designate men in military service.

They have substantial value in proving cases and some give date of death.

Histories

General and Local—

Division or Regimental Histories of the World War usually contain complete rosters and list of dead.

Town, City, County or State Histories published since the World War.

Historical Society publications relating to the World War.

Newspapers

Daily and Weekly—

1917-1922, contain valuable contemporary accounts of local men, viz:

Enlistments in the service of U. S. and foreign forces.

Local Draft Board Lists.

Casualty Lists.—Cited or Decorated.

Memorial Services for deceased veterans.

Return of Bodies from Overseas, 1918-1921.

Death Column Notices of funerals from Catholic Churches.

Anniversary Requiem Masses for soldier dead.

Mention of diaries or souvenirs of World War.

Activities of local Catholic Societies.

Unveiling of Church Service Flags.

Welcome Home Celebrations.

Work of local Catholic Men and Women, on Draft Boards, Red Cross, Liberty Loans, W.S.S., War Libraries, Food and Fuel Conservation.

Special anniversary editions on Armistice Day, Memorial Day, etc.

War time issues of local High School or Academy Bulletins.

All publications of local Catholic organizations.

FACTS ABOUT THE N. C. W. C.

THE National Catholic Welfare Conference was organized in September, 1919.

It succeeded the National Catholic War Council, officially recognized agency of the Catholic body of the United States during the World War.

The great contribution of the Catholics of the United States during this crisis evoked the praise of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV.

Convinced of the need of a similar peace-time agency, the Bishops of the United States decided to continue the work of the emergency organization.

Ninety-two of the then one hundred and one Ordinaries of the country were present at the 1919 meeting, at which this action was taken.

The permanent, peace-time organization was called the "National Catholic Welfare Council," afterwards changed to "Conference."

The Conference is popularly known by the initial letters of the four words comprising its title—"N. C. W. C."

The N. C. W. C. is incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

It has for its incorporated purposes "unifying, coordinating and organizing the Catholic people of the United States in works of education, social welfare, immigrant aid and other activities."

It comprises the following six departments—EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PRESS, SOCIAL ACTION, LEGAL, and LAY ORGANIZATIONS.

The Lay Organizations Department has two co-ordinate branches.

These are the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC MEN and the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN.

The Conference is conducted by an Administrative Committee composed of seven Archbishops and Bishops.

These are elected annually at the general meeting of the Bishops of the United States, held at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C.

Each department of the N. C. W. C. is administered by an Episcopal Chairman.

The chief executive officer of the Administrative Committee is the General Secretary of the Conference.

Through the General Secretary, each Episcopal Chairman is kept in touch with the entire work of the Conference.

The Administrative Bishops of the Conference report annually upon their work to the Holy See.

Annually at the general meeting of the Bishops, detailed reports are submitted by the Administra-

tive Bishops of the Conference and authorization secured for the work of the coming year.

The activities of the Conference, except those of the Lay Organizations Department, are financed through the voluntary contributions of the Bishops.

No official action is taken by any N. C. W. C. department without authorization of its Episcopal Chairman.

No official action is taken in the name of the whole Conference without authorization and approval of the Administrative Committee.

The N. C. W. C. is a common agency acting under the authority of the Bishops to promote the welfare of the Catholics of the country.

It works to promote and protect the interests of the diocese, the parish, the organization and the individual.

It is not the policy of the N. C. W. C. to create new organizations.

It helps, unifies, and leaves to their own fields those that already exist.

It seeks through the resources of the Conference to make these organizations more effective in their own localities.

It aims to defend and to advance the welfare both of the Catholic Church and of our beloved Country.

It seeks to inform the life of America of right fundamental principles of religion and morality.

It aims to show forth and to increase the great contribution of the Catholic body to the civic, social and economic life of the nation.

The N. C. W. C. cooperates in furthering the aims of all approved movements in the interests of the Church and society at large.

It participates, through Catholic representation, in national and international movements involving moral questions.

It secures, keeps and distributes information concerning matters that are of common concern to Catholics throughout the country.

It is a central clearing house of information regarding activities of Catholic men and women.

All that are helped—the dioceses and all within the dioceses—may play their part in promoting the good work and in maintaining the common agency, the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

THE N. C. W. C. BULLETIN, official organ of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and of the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, records monthly our common work, our common needs and opportunities. Its special articles are helpful to every Catholic organization and individual. Subscription price \$1.00 per year; outside the United States \$1.25 per year.

COMPLETE THE CATHOLIC RECORDS

COOPERATION on the part of Catholic groups with the Bureau of Historical Records, N. C. W. C., can develop complete data on the war record.

Active interest for and work in behalf of thorough local war records of Catholics will show the generous contributions to war service; make possible the complete registry of graves of Catholics in the national cemeteries overseas; allow a compilation of official orders bestowing decorations upon Catholics for gallant deeds in action, and meritorious work to the glory of American arms.

The time and energy devoted to it is certain to benefit the Church locally and nationally not only in this generation, but in all that are to come.
