

How Is Golf Making Out?

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GOLFING greats were gathered at Miami, waiting the start of the 1941-42 winter tour when word came crackling through the ether that Jap bombs had on the fateful afternoon of December 7th, rained death and destruction on Pearl Harbor. The immediate reaction was, of course, that golf would have to close up shop for the duration. Visions came to mind of some British courses, familiar to every golfer, plowed up or bombed. First opinions pointed to golf fading out of the picture until the last shell had been fired.

But now eight months have gone by since that memorable afternoon and the trend has been in the opposite direction. No sport has played a more forceful or effective part in the war effort. And almost 3,000,000 Americans have found that golf has an important role in wartime.

Of course, there's no denying that golf has had to take it on the chin—not once but many times. But each time it has come up smiling with a new solution for its ills. Gas rationing proved the bitterest dose of medicine. Many courses are all but inaccessible to reach by anything but the automobile. But now golfers are

working on a share-your-auto plan by which means golfers are conveyed to the course by fours and fives instead of twos and threes. I would hesitate to say how much gas and rubber has been conserved via this plan but the amount is very considerable. Where trains can furnish the transportation, they are being used extensively. Even the horse and buggy has been brought out of hiding for the first time since World War days.

The shortage of steel and rubber has not yet appreciably cut down on the equipment available because of made-up stocks. There has been a reduction of waste. When there's a water carry ahead, the golfing duffer will think twice before gambling on an all-out bid to carry the deep ahead. Instead, he will play it safe and usually wind up with a lower score.

Naturally, with the nation deeply immersed in war work, there aren't anywhere near as many week-day golfers as in other years. Strangely enough, this has affected women more than men because so many ladies are busy working for the Red Cross, the USO and other highly vital war relief organizations. Many professionals,

Shown below is the recently renovated golf shop at the Kanawha CC, Charleston, W. Va., where John DeVries is pro. Neatness, plenty of light, and displays that put the merchandise within easy reach of prospective customers, make DeVries' shop one of the best appointed in the Mountain state. Note, too, the bulletin board, and metal lounge chairs where members may while away a few minutes in a congenial, 'buying' atmosphere.



too, have deserted the lesson tee temporarily during week days to go to work in defense plants.

The slack in caddies has been taken up in part as in 1917-8 by the Sunday bag. Many golfers now carry their own clubs in a light bag. They only carry five to eight clubs rather than the fourteen or more. The mention of caddies brings to mind one method of raising money for war relief which was used during the first war and which hasn't as yet been adopted during the current world strife. That is the auctioning off of caddie rights for famous golfers to club members. You'd be surprised at the money paid by wealthy members in 1918 to gain the right of acting as honorary caddie for a Jones or a Ouimet or a Evans or a Hagen.

Contribution To War Relief

This brings us down to a really large part golf has played in the war role—the raising of money for war relief efforts. By the end of the summer, it is conservatively figured that golf will have raised over a million dollars for such purposes. Last year before war was declared, the PGA alone raised over \$75,000 for the USO and other war charities. This year we expect to triple that amount at the very least. The whole take from the Ryder Cup matches at Detroit on July 18-19 was turned over to Red Cross. Those two days, too, were earmarked as PGA War Relief days and every member of the PGA—over 2,100 strong—played in some exhibition match or tournaments, the total proceeds of which went to relief.

The PGA is not carrying on alone. The USGA handed over some \$25,000 in June with many more dollars to follow. The 25-cent bunkers are now all over the country—bunkers that cost you 25 cents for the USO if you land in them. And these are only a few of the methods by which money is being lifted into the coffers of war relief.

Then, too, the presence of Sam Snead in the Navy and Vic Ghezzi, Bud Ward, Ed Oliver, James Turnesa and many other leading golfers in the Army has needed the interest of many soldiers and sailors who previously had the erroneous impression that golf was only a rich man's luxury. Exhibitions in many far-scattered Army camps by leading professionals has helped, too. Altogether, golf should have many new followers when peace has come again to America and to the world.

Pro Letter Urges Club Buying To Free Used Clubs for USO

PROS in the Detroit District are circulating their members with a letter keynoted for contributions of used clubs for distribution by the USO to men in the army and navy training camps.

The letter was prepared by the Detroit office of the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. It sets forth a sound and appealing sales slant, inasmuch as the pro and the member share in passing along something to the soldiers and sailors when new golf equipment is purchased under the plan presented in the letter.

The letter reads:

Dear Member:

I have been commissioned—by the USO as a Procurement Officer to obtain all of the used golf clubs and bags available for the use of our boys in the training camps. At many of these camps, driving ranges have been provided but the full benefit of them for purposes of relaxation, recreation and morale building is stymied by a lack of playing equipment.

Now here is my suggestion. You certainly can make no mistake in purchasing a new set of clubs and a new bag at this time. You know you will get more genuine pleasure out of the game if you have up-to-the-minute playing equipment, and since the manufacture of golf clubs is "out" for the duration, the time is definitely limited when new clubs will be available.

I know you will want to help our boys in the service—if you can do that and help yourself at the same time, it's a pretty good deal, isn't it? I will accept your present clubs and bag as a trade-in on a new outfit that you will be proud to own—I will make as liberal allowance as I can—I can't make too much because I'm going to turn these used clubs over to the USO gratis.

If you prefer to donate the used set, I'm not going to object but I'll stand my share in the contribution by giving you a 10% discount on the new outfit if the deal is made within the next 30 days. Our boys in the service won't get much good out of the clubs next winter!

What do you say? Do you want to talk it over? Okay—come into the shop as soon as you can—my time is your time.

Yours for VICTORY