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Outline Plan To Utilize Club Properties In War Effort

By HERB GRAFFIS

Appoint Franklin L. Miller to inform War Department how golf club facilities and personnel can be of most service to National defense.

FRANKLIN L. Miller, prominent in Cleveland district golf circles, and an officer in the U. S. Army in the first World War, has been appointed Expert Consultant to the Secretary of War. Miller's duties have to do with acquiring information to enable the War Department to make use of golf club facilities and personnel in connection with civilian defense and military matters.

Conferences on possible utilization of golf club properties and the education of golf club members to serve in defense work have progressed toward formulation of an outline of a plan. Preliminary work of surveying golf's available resources is well advanced. The survey even in its present incomplete form indicates that golf may contribute a hitherto unregarded and highly valuable and unique service of sport to national defense.

Must Continue On Sound Basis

The conferences also have revealed substantial reasons, in addition to the physical fitness and mental balance factors, for maintaining golf club operations on a sound basis.

Prior to the War Department's interest in the Miller original brief on possible

functions of golf clubs in war-time, thought of golf facilities for war use generally was restricted to consideration of fairways as plane fields. GOLFDOM contained reports of suggestions concerning such use being submitted to the War Department. British experience has reminded that fairways also might possibly provide landing areas for enemy planes, hence there have been installed some ingenious trapping arrangements of a character not designed to catch stray golf shots.

Plan Devised Over Year Ago

An outline of the work that might be accomplished by golf clubs in civilian and national defense was first presented to the War Department by Miller, Jan. 29, 1941. Some high spots of the plan originally set forth by Miller:

First: Approximately 820 golf clubs are members of the USGA. In addition, there are perhaps 2400 other private golf clubs which would undoubtedly actively participate in an organization directed solely for home and national defense. These clubs have an estimated average membership of 200 men, and there is an equal number of women and girls who are

If you want to see a very effective mailing enclosure for golf clubs, send a stamped return envelope to A. C. Staff, gen. mgr., Golden Valley GC, 640 Northwestern Bank Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn., and ask him to send you a copy of the "Uncle Sam Says Keep Yourself Physically Fit" folder.

The club and its members are giving this folder wide circulation by sticking it in with their letters.

either golfers or are members of families at the head of which are golf club members.

In addition, there are several hundred thousand golfers playing upon 1921 public, semi-public and fee courses. Here also is a group of men and women of potentially two million who might well be organized under the same banner.

Second: It will make these people actively conscious of the need of defense measures; will make them think about defense, talk about defense and do something concrete about defense. It will create a receptivity which will be the basis for a fine morale.

Third: There is this sheer number of men and women ready and available for training in various ways for active defense work in the national interest.

Fourth: In the large majority, the members of these clubs are beyond the age of service in the regular establishments.

Fifth: Most of these men and women want to be, and should be, connected with active phases of defense in a personal, physical way.

Sixth: These men and women represent in some degree every business and profession and should be organized to use their special qualifications, training and ability to further and improve nation-wide preparedness.

Seventh: They are men and women who can and should contribute directly in time and money to the expense of national defense.

Eighth: Most of them are physically able to participate in various kinds of defense measures.

Clubs Located Strategically

From the standpoint of the real properties of these clubs, there can be listed these advantages:

(a) Golf-club properties and golf courses generally encircle the centers of population and industrial activity. Therefore, they are strategically situated to deal with external or internal defense.

(b) They are located, as a rule, on terrain well-adapted for fortifications and camouflage.

(c) Lying near cities and towns, golf courses and buildings could be used for places of assembly, for hospitalization, for evacuation concentrations, for recreational activities and other needs that develop in handling mass populations under emergency or war conditions.

(d) Golf clubs have motorized traction equipment and trained crews, and often, independent water supplies.

With these positive facts in mind, a way should be found to use the stored-up energy of this man-and-woman-and-money power. Organization work should be conducted with a view to training these thousands of men and women in various defense and emergency activities, such as: first aid, ambulance service, fire wardens, air-raid wardens, policing, traffic control, bomb protection, military intelligence, transportation, civilian evacuation, information.

And, as equipment becomes available and the need may arise, these additional functions under direction of the War Department: anti-aircraft batteries, machine-gun companies, mobile artillery batteries, armored-car groups.

The organization of these golf clubs into defense groups frequently would have little conflict with city or town organizations because clubs are often outside corporate limits; therefore, they offer an extension of service groups otherwise left largely unorganized.

Defense Bonds and Stamps

Are Remote Control Prizes

THE third annual Remote Control national handicap tournament will be played June 13 this year. Approximately \$6,000 in defense bonds and stamps will be given as prizes to contestants invited by agents of the six insurance companies comprising the North America companies group.

This year additional prizes of government bonds will be given to pros whose courses have the largest fields among the many clubs at which this event will be played. Last year 9983 players played on 1042 courses in the event.

Players in the Remote Control tourney again will be grouped in classes by sex handicaps and lengths of courses played

Golfdom