

BETHLEHEMITES ENROLLING FOR SERVICE TODAY

April 27 1942
Over 5,500 of Community's
Older Men Being Registered
by Local Boards.

FIELD ADVISER ARRIVES

Upwards of 5,500 Bethlehem men, 45 to 65 years, registered today under Selective Service with Bethlehem's three local boards for whatever duties the United States Government may assign them in the prosecution of the war.

They went to the several registration places already assured by Washington that they will not be called for military service.

In some of the registration places, Franklin and Nitschmann Schools especially, individual tables were arranged at convenient intervals for the accommodation of registrants. Behind each table sat a registrar to fill out the cards as the registrant, seated on the opposite side, supplied the information in answer to questions.

The orderly arrangement facilitated the process and at the same time permitted complete privacy for each individual.

In some of the registration places, long tables were used providing space for from two to a dozen registrants at a time.

Schools were closed as teachers served as the volunteer registrars. Flags were displayed in many places, taprooms were closed, and a semi-holiday atmosphere prevailed.

Field Adviser Here

Edgar H. Maitland, one of four field advisers sent into Pennsylvania from Washington, D. C., is stationed at the headquarters of Bethlehem Draft Board No. 2, in Bethlehem Trust Building. Other advisers were sent to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Altoona.

Maitland will assist clerks if called from boards in Northampton and Lehigh Counties. He will remain on duty until 9 p. m. in the case any boards are short of materials or need advice. He arrived Saturday.

Men in all walks of life rubbed

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shoulders today in the various registration centers. Bankers and businessmen, municipal and corporation executives, skilled mechanics, some at present engaged in national defense work, others on the retired list, the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker, all within the designated age brackets, lost no time in complying with the request of the American government.

Local District No. 1

Men of many nationalities appeared to register, especially so on the South Side, where seven places are being used. Including American whites and Negroes, there were Polish, Russian, Rumanians, Slovaks, Windish, Italians, Irish, Croatians, Spaniards, Portuguese, Ukrainians, Greeks and East Indians, and there is a possibility that other races were also among the registrants, all satisfied to do their bit for the democracy.

Principals and teachers of the public schools of the South Side, got an early start. At 6:30 a. m. the principals called at the headquarters of Local Draft Board No. 1, in the South Side municipal building, obtained the day's supplies, and left for their respective registration centers in ample time for the opening of the doors at 7 a. m. Leo F. Prendergast, chairman of Board No. 1, served as chief registrar.

During the early morning hours quite a number of the registrants called at the various centers accompanied by interpreters, due to the fact that it was more convenient for them to answer the questions as propounded, through the medium of a linguist.

Announcement was made that eligibles confined to a hospital, had a bedside chat with a registrar, stationed at the institution, and registrars also, visited persons ill at their home and obtained the necessary information and the signature of the registrant.

The registrars, all of whom volunteered their services worked in three shifts. The first contingent worked from 7 a. m. to noon; the second from noon until 4 p. m., and the last group from 4 to 8 p. m.

While the appointed time for the registering of all eligibles was set at 7 a. m. today, many of those who familiarized themselves with information regarding the registration, had the task completed during the preceding thirty-six hours.

On Saturday about 1:30 p. m. the early birds arrived at the headquarters of Board No. 1, and for the succeeding four hours there was a constant flow of men between 45 and 65 of age.

Bethlehemites Enrolling

On Sunday, from 9 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. registrations continued at the office, and the number registered was in excess of one hundred.

Among the first to register were Mayor Robert Pfeifle, and Daniel L. McCarthy, city solicitor. The former has a holiday planned and wanted to sign his name on the dotted line before he left Bethlehem. Mr. McCarthy is the government appeal agent for Board No. 1.

Local District No. 2

Approximately 1400 are expected to register at the three registration places set up by the No. 2 Board. There are more than 150 clerks assigned to "cover" the registration places—Penn, Franklin and Lafayette Schools—working in three shifts.

Local District No. 3

The approximately 1,300 men expected to register with Local Board No. 3, which covers the west side of the city, were being handled in a steady stream throughout the day at the one and only registration center, the auditorium of Nitschmann Junior High School.

Teachers here were also doing an efficient job under the guiding direction of E. R. Drown, chief clerk. Temporary Local Board offices were established just off the auditorium.

The registration was the largest since the first R-Day in October, 1940.

Late this afternoon Franklin Cole, chairman of Board No. 3, registered his two colleagues, Stanley K. Weaver, secretary, and R. Fred Stahl, as well as Chief Clerk Drown and Appeal Agent John Diefenderfer.

Rural Districts

Registration of men in the outlying districts was reported as comparatively light by the selective service boards in Bangor, Nazareth and Northampton. These too will remain open until nine o'clock this evening.

Chief Clerks of the boards said that since most of the man-power expected to register in the rural areas is engaged in industry or in agricultural it was but naturally that the rush hours for this registration day will not come until late this afternoon.

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