



HOMEFRONT: FORT WORTH

Fort Worth was an attractive location for the Army's military camp for a number of reasons: foremost was the thriving industry still enjoyed today, which was made possible by the availability of transportation via the railroad, plentiful fuel from Texas oil, and water from Lake Worth. Fort Worth was uniquely positioned regarding food supply as well, with its stockyards and associated meat-packing plants, multiple cold-storage facilities for produce, and mills and granaries. Finally, Fort Worth also had numerous manufacturing firms.

Fort Worth businesses were eager to see the soldiers from Camp Bowie, as demonstrated by numerous advertisements in local newspapers. Simultaneously, however, Fort Worth's industries and civil services lost many employees to the war effort.

HOME HOSPITALITY

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Spirit of

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN

We place at your command a most complete stock and large assortment of sizes of

MILITARY UNIFORMS AND ACCESSORIES

Featuring every article that an officer or enlisted man could want for his comfort or pleasure; coupled with our expert, courteous salesmen will make your buying a pleasure at

The Army Man's Store

Officers' O. D. Uniforms
Noncommissioned or Small Item Stock

Army Tackles
W. S. G.

Stetson Army Hats

Knack Uniforms

Khaki Shirts
O. D. Shirts
Regulation Caps
Regulation Shoes
Canvas Leggings
Leather Gaiters
Wolf Skin

Shawl Patterns
Trousers Articles
Waist Bands
Cane Leashes
Ties

Clubbing Belts
Worked Belts
Trench Belts
Canteen Belts
Army Messals

Officer's Coats
Officer's Shoes
Officer's Hats
Officer's Bags
Officer's Cases
Officer's Trunks
Officer's Suits
Officer's Uniforms
Officer's Accessories

And all other details for army wear.

WASHER BROS. B
LEON GROSS, President.

A) Fort Worth Star-Telegram, August 5, 1917, p. 25

B) Washer Bros., Fort Worth Star-Telegram, September 16, 1917, p. 14

C) "A city surveyor requests a leave of absence while he is at Officer's training camp." Fort Worth Library Archives, City of Fort Worth Records

D) The Spirit of War Camp Community Service, United War Work Campaign/Heywood Strasser & Voigt Litho. Co., N.Y., 1918. Library of Congress

W. D. DAVIS, Mayor

J. C. LORD, Commissioner of Water Works
SELWYN SMITH, Commissioner of Parks
ALBERT TAMMERSLEY, Auditor & Controller

CITY OF FORT WORTH

OFFICE OF CITY SECRETARY
H. A. LAWRENCE, CITY SECRETARY
HUBB L. CALKINS, JR., ASST. CITY SECY.

PORT WORTH, TEXAS, Aug. 21st, 1917.

Hon. Mayor and Board of Commissioners
City of Fort Worth.

Gentlemen: I have been notified to report at Leon Springs on the 24th inst; for enrollment in the Officer's training camp and would respectfully ask for a leave of absence for a period of three months or until I am discharged from said camp.

I have been in the service of the City for the past eight years and being a man of family, it would be a satisfaction to me to know that my position was open to me in the event I fail to secure a Commission.

Thanking you very kindly, I am,

Yours very respectfully,

Charles J. Jones

Instrumentman-Engineering Department

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1917. FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

OUR INVITATION To Soldiers and Friends

You are cordially invited to visit our store and look over our many beautiful and useful things in Home Furnishings. Be sure to see our 43 display rooms furnished as they should be in the home.

OUR WELCOME To Soldiers and Friends

Make engagements to meet your friends here—it's a pleasant place for a social meeting—plenty of chairs to rest in and you are welcome to spend as much time as you like. Wait here for cars—they pass our front door.

ELLISON FURNITURE & CARPET COMPANY
CORNER WEST SEVENTH AND THROCKMORTON STREETS



Are You Ready for the Fourth Liberty Loan?

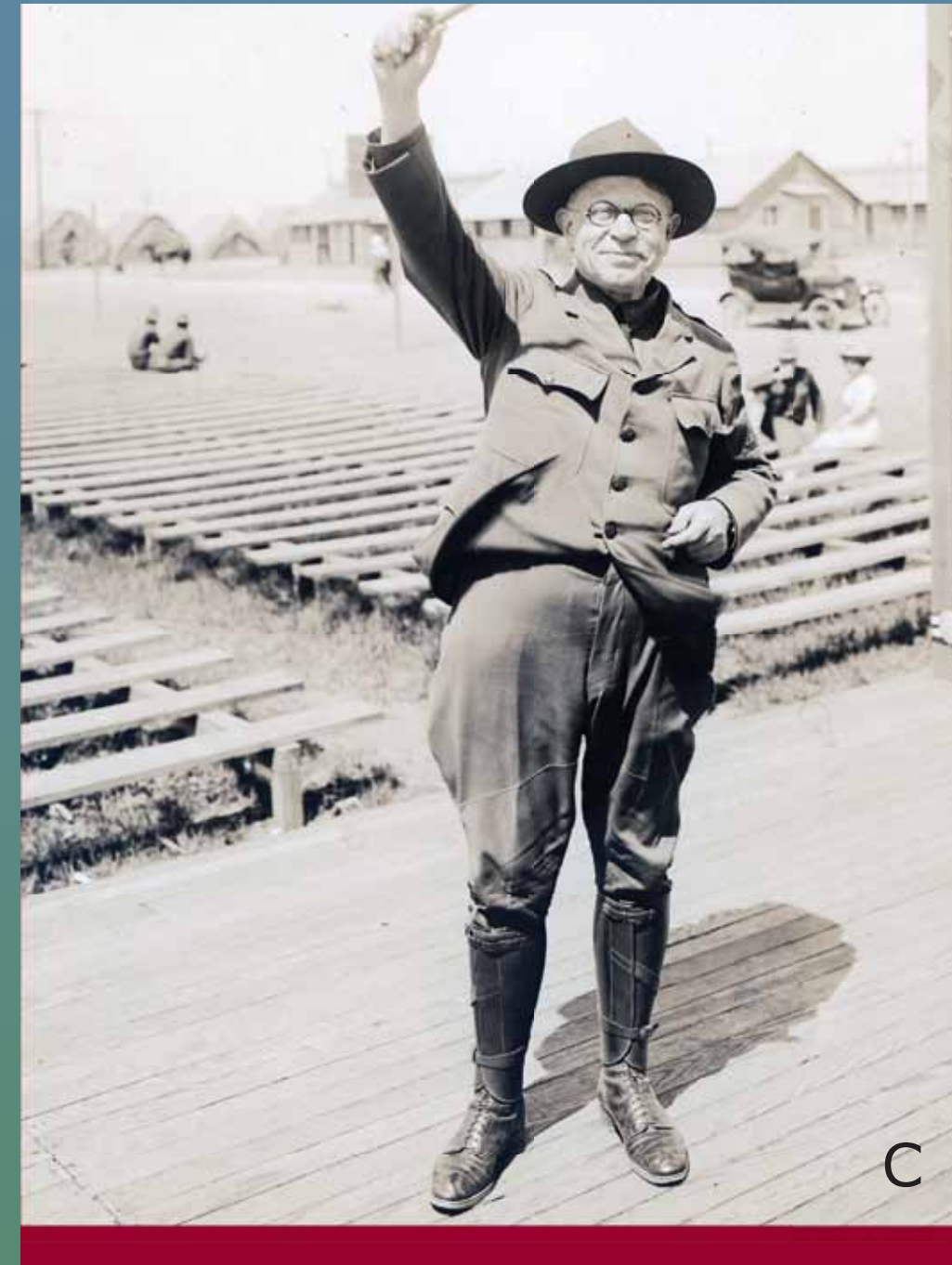


THE GERMAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

German Americans in Fort Worth had a variety of experiences during the Great War. Because the United States was fighting against Germany, some German Americans were regarded with suspicion, while others carried on in their normal manner. A history of Saint Paul Lutheran Church reveals that although the church had offered services in both English and German languages since 1897, during the war years the congregation felt pressure to only use English.

Margarete Sargent, German-born professor of Modern Languages at TCU, also volunteered with the war effort to provide many services. She offered French language instruction to soldiers at Camp Bowie, participated in food conservation education, knitted for the Red Cross, and hosted soldiers in her home. Despite this, Sargent was later accused of being a German spy and of being "interned" under the enemy alien act. In reality, she had moved to attend Columbia University, where she was working on a master's degree in philosophy. Rumors followed Sargent to New York City, so she wrote a letter-to-the-editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram laying out the facts and stating, "my patriotism is not spelled paytriotism."

In contrast, German American composer, conductor, and violinist Carl Venth appears to have navigated the troubled years of the Great War unscathed. Like Sargent, Venth was a German-born professor. He came to teach at Fort Worth's Texas Woman's College (now Texas Wesleyan College) in 1914, and in March of 1918 Venth was appointed by the Commission on Training Camp Activities to lead the Army's 36th Division Band.



A) St. Paul Lutheran Church, where the congregation was intimidated into ceasing German language services, undated. Courtesy of the Fort Worth Library Genealogy, Local History and Archives Unit, St. Paul Lutheran Church Records

B) Margarete Sargent, educator who was slandered due to German heritage, *The Horned Frog*, Texas Christian University, 1913, p. 37

C) Carl Venth, conductor of the 36th Division Band, undated. Courtesy of the Fort Worth Library Genealogy, Local History and Archives Unit, Historic Photograph Collection



MARGARETE L. SARGENT

Dresden. Principal of German Department in Public Schools, Pomeroy, Ohio, 1887-'93; Professor Modern Languages, Fort Worth University, 1905-'11; Professor of Modern Languages, Texas Christian University,

MARGARET L. SARGENT, C. V. P. C.

Professor of Modern Languages

Margaret Louise Sargent was born in Rostock, Mecklenburg, Germany. She was educated in Breitedtsche Teichterschule, Postock; Graduate Selecta, Magdeburg; French Seminary, Riviera; Saechsisches Lehrer Seminar, Dresden.

With this careful preparation, Mrs. Sargent joyously and effectively performs her task as educator. She was Principal of German Department in Public Schools, Pomeroy, Ohio, 1887-'93; Professor Modern Languages of Fort Worth University, 1905-'11; Professor of German and French, Texas Christian University, 1912.

Mrs. Sargent has traveled extensively in America, and has been abroad a number of times, visiting Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, England, Scotland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

She has taken parties abroad, the last one from Fort Worth in 1910. Her lectures on Educational Topics, delivered to clubs and colleges have been highly instructive in character.

HELL'S HALF ACRE

The area once known as Hell's Half Acre became notorious for its saloons and prostitution in the 1870s and 1880s. A continual problem for Fort Worth, it was also seen as a solution. In 1915, former Texas State Comptroller W. P. Lane stated that "there were 131 liquor dives in Fort Worth, and that's enough. If we are going to have them at all, let's have them down on Main and Houston and Commerce streets, where they will be under the constant surveillance of the splendid police force of this city."



Two years later, the area almost caused Fort Worth to lose Camp Bowie. Federal law prohibited sales of intoxicating liquors to soldiers, or within five miles of a military camp. On July 27, 1917, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported in a front-page story that "Military police will begin to patrol Fort Worth streets for the first time." The military police were to have jurisdiction over soldiers only, and would "assist the police in checking vices which may crop out and in making arrests in bootlegging cases." Saloons were prohibited from selling alcohol to men in uniform, and soldiers were required to wear their uniforms.

A Slanderous Lie

Dr. A. J. Barton, superintendent of the Texas Anti-Saloon League, recently delivered an address at Texarkana, a report of which we find in the Daily Texarkanian. Dr. Barton is quoted as having used the following language:

"In Fort Worth it requires large numbers of automobiles from the army camps to transport drunken soldiers from the city jail where they have been locked up each night on account of intoxication. This is a disgrace to a civilized community, and to the nation, and should be stopped at once."

We have no means of knowing whether or not Dr. Barton made that statement. But it was published in a reputable newspaper and we have seen no denial of it from Dr. Barton. Whether Dr. Barton made it or not, and no matter in what manner or from what source it originated the statement is a lie and a slander. We know of no milder language which would adequately describe it, and in defense of the fair name of Fort Worth, in defense of the local authorities charged with enforcing the laws, in defense of the officers of Camp Bowie and above all, in defense of the boys who are to carry our standard into France and face death in the cause of the nation, we brand the statement for just what it is. We agree with Dr. Barton that if such a state of affairs existed it would be a disgrace to this community. It is because the statement seeks to fix upon Fort Worth a disgrace which is unmerited that we take notice of it in this manner.

What are the facts? The records of the police department and of Camp Bowie will show that the average number of intoxicated soldiers per night for any given week since the camp was established here will not total four. AND THERE ARE MORE THAN 24,000 SOLDIERS STATIONED AT FORT WORTH. That means that the average of drunkenness among the soldiers will not reach one in 6,000. We are not boasting about that. For even that low average means that so far the authorities have not been able to stamp out bootlegging altogether. The authorities are vigilant, however, and are making every effort to stop bootlegging. Closing the saloons will not stop it, but on the contrary might easily further embarrass the officers by increasing the occasion of bootlegging. But aside from all that, the big, outstanding fact is that the drunkenness among the soldiers of Fort Worth is so slight, comparatively speaking, as to be almost negligible. WE VENTURE THE ASSERTION THAT THERE IS NOT A DRY CITY, WITH AN ADULT MALE POPULATION OF 24,000, IN THE LAND THAT WILL SHOW SUCH A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF DRUNKENNESS.

We are not concerned with Dr. Barton's campaign to have the national government close the saloons in Fort Worth. But we are concerned with the reputation of Fort Worth and the reputation of the men at Camp Bowie. We cannot sit silently by and permit slanders of this character to be circulated throughout the state and see the slanderers go unrebuked. Nor do we believe that honest prohibitionists in Fort Worth or elsewhere will countenance a fancied furtherance of their cause through slander. If the gathering which is to assemble here on Nov. 1 is to raise its demand for the closing of the saloons in army camp cities on such statements as that attributed to Dr. Barton by the Texarkanian, then it is doomed to fall of its purpose, for the authorities at Washington have access to the official records of conditions here and cannot be led astray by artificially manufactured public clamor.

"When I left the comptroller's office a few days ago," he said, "there were 181 liquor dives in Fort Worth, and that's enough. If we are going to have them at all, let's have them down on Main and Houston and Commerce streets, where they will be under the constant surveillance of the splendid police force of this city."

- A) Fort Worth Star-Telegram, October 26, 1917, p. 10
- B) Fort Worth Star-Telegram, November 22, 1917, p. 1
- C) Fort Worth Star-Telegram, September 9, 1917, p. 12
- D) Fort Worth Star-Telegram, March 16, 1915, p. 2
- E) Title: Liquor stores. Bar with liquor bottles II - Creator: Horydczak, Theodor. Undated. Library of Congress

11 GET MONTH EACH FOR SALES TO SOLDIERS

Eleven men who pleaded guilty before Acting Judge W. E. Smith in Federal court Thursday to selling liquor to soldiers were sentenced to thirty days in jail each. The sentences were dated to begin Oct. 24, so that the sentence really gives them but one more day to serve.

These light sentences were given, Judge Smith explained, because in each case the defendant had spent from four to ten weeks in jail already, and because all declared it was their first violation of this law.

"These sentences are light," he declared, "because some of you seem to have been ignorant of the law and because you say this is your first offense. But this law must be enforced and the officers of the United States are going to enforce it."

"Every man in uniform must and will be protected and if any of you are brought back here on the same sentence, I warn you, the penalty will be very severe."

"We must have the full strength of every man in the prosecutions of this war and every citizen should see that this law is not violated. The government considers this of great importance."

The maximum penalty for violation of this law is not more than a year in the Federal penitentiary or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both. Three others offered to enter pleas of guilty but they were refused by Judge Smith because their statements of facts, if true, would not warrant conviction. They were passed for trial. A similar charge against George Spencer, negro, was dismissed because he already has been drafted and now is in service.

Seventeen pleas of guilty were entered.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

CIVILIAN WHO THREW BEER TO SOLDIERS NABBED BY POLICE

Two soldiers in uniform and a civilian were arrested Saturday night by military police after they saw the civilian throw two bottles of beer to the soldiers over a fence in the rear of a saloon at Fourteenth and Main streets.

The soldiers admitted to police that they gave the man money with which to purchase the beer. They later were released. The man is held for Federal investigation.

Another soldier walked into a crowded saloon, reached over the heads of a line of patrons three deep in front of the bar, threw a nickel on the polished surface and called for a glass of beer. The bartender was about to serve the drink when he noticed the soldier's hat.

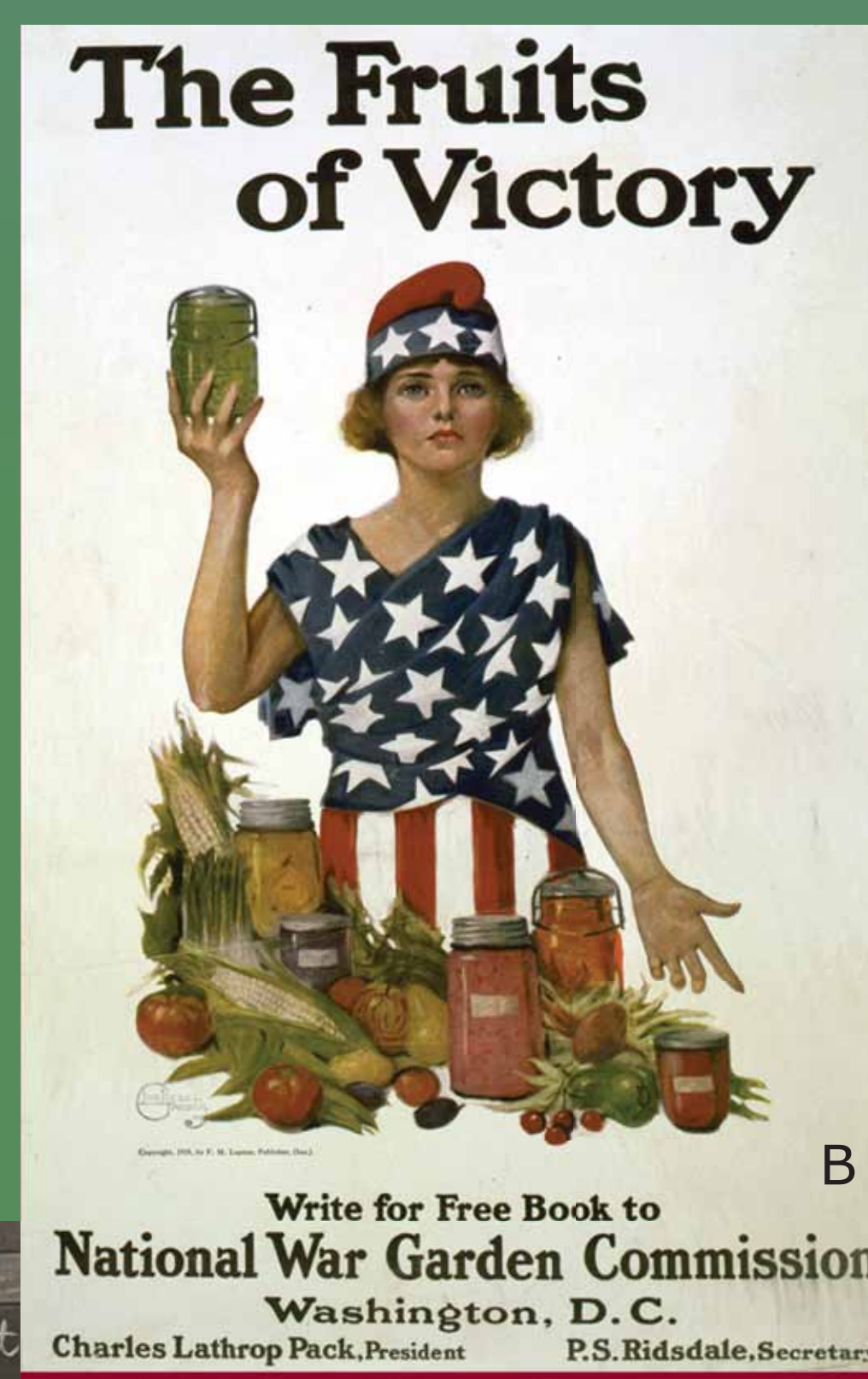
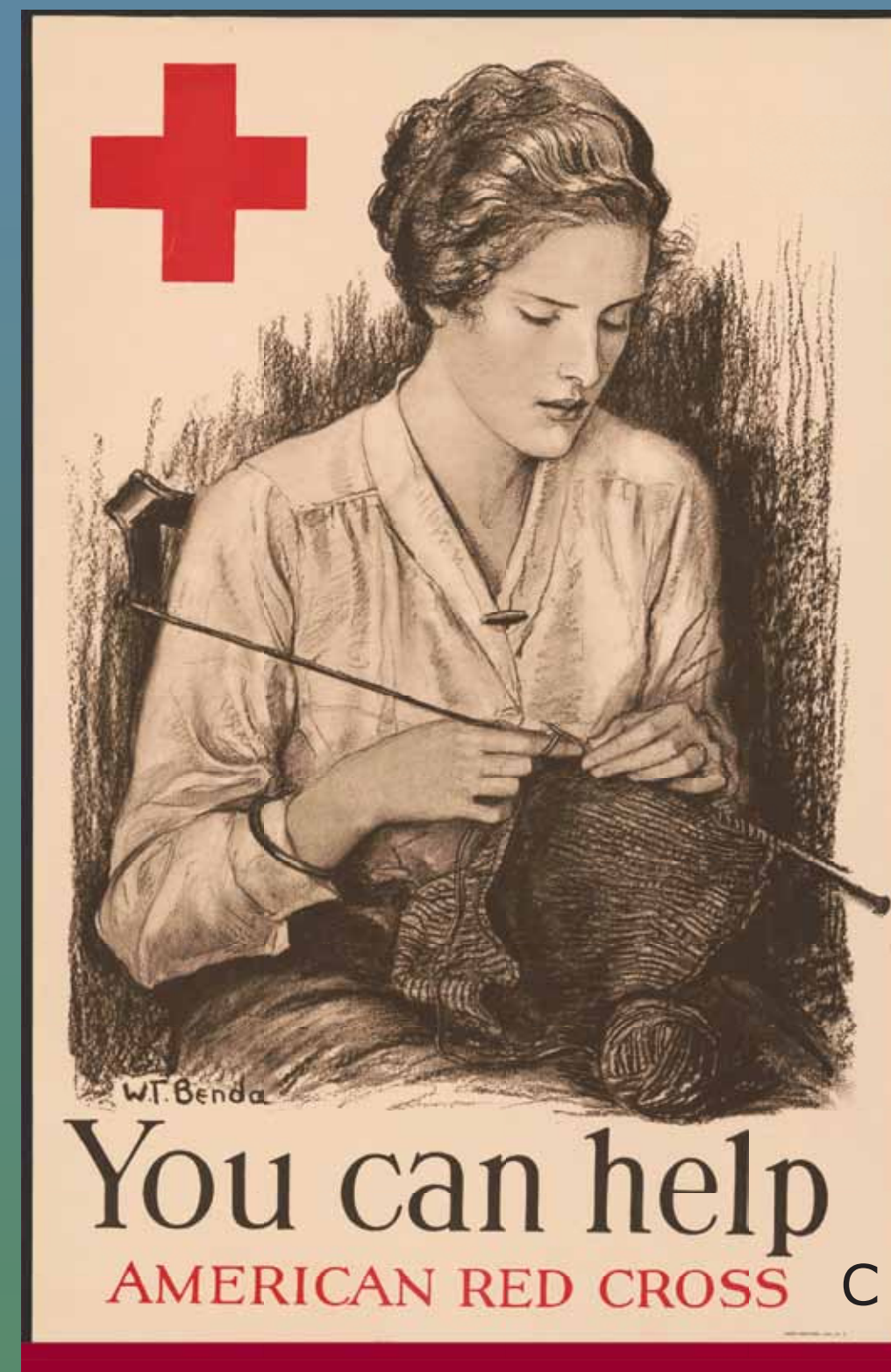
"Stand back there and let me see you," said the bartender. The soldier stood back, and when his uniform was seen there was a general scramble for exits by pedestrians, who feared arrest for being in a saloon in the presence of a soldier.

"Send a man down here right away, there is a soldier drinking a bottle of beer in a saloon," exclaimed an excited voice over the telephone at military police headquarters. Police responded to the call on lower Main street and found not one, but several soldiers lined up at the "bar" drinking "beer." But the bar was not a bar, and the beer was not beer. It was non-intoxicating beer being served in a place designed as a saloon, bar and all, for the benefit of soldiers.

WOMEN AS WARRIORS AT HOME

Women in Fort Worth made significant contributions to the war effort. A local woman writing to the editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram stated, "Slackers and flappers of whatever order should be branded." Organization came easily to Fort Worth's robust network of women's clubs, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the YWCA. Like women across the country, they sold war bonds to fund the military and volunteered with the Red Cross to provide hospital supplies. Due to the Army's selection of Fort Worth for the location of Camp Bowie, local women provided entertainment and social interaction for the soldiers and hosted visiting family members.

Fort Worth women also helped feed a hungry nation and its soldiers. Women were encouraged to raise whatever crops they had space for. Classes were held to train women on how to preserve food by canning it, and how to eliminate wasted food due to improper preparation or storage. The Red Cross held a class in dietetics to train "Kitchen chemists" so that "every little calorie was right in its proper place according to the law of science." Because wheat was vital to the war effort, women were taught how to augment wheat flour with alternatives such as cotton seed or peanut flours in their household baking.



A) Mina Van Winkle, head of the Lecture Bureau of the US Food Administration, explains Victory gardening and food processing to support the war effort. Date Created/Published: between 1917 and 1918. LOT 12358-16. Library of Congress

B) The fruits of victory / Leonebel Jacobs, F.M. Lupton, Publisher, Inc., c.1918 POS - US .J33, no. 1. Library of Congress

C) You can help - American Red Cross Creator(s): Benda, Wladyslaw T. Date Created/Published: 1918. Library of Congress

