



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**NASHVILLE DEFENSE PROGRAM
CITIZENS DEFENSE CORPS & CITIZENS SERVICE
CORPS
1941-1943
RECORD GROUP 316**

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MICROFILM ONLY

INTRODUCTION

Record Group 316, Nashville Defense Program, Citizens Defense Corps & Citizens Service Corps spans the years 1941-1943. The material was transferred at some point to the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) ostensibly from the Adjutant General's Office. The condition of the material is fair. Minimal surface cleaning was required to remove dust and grime. This record group measures nine linear feet and consists of card files measuring 5 x 8 inches. The original card file order was followed as closely as possible. The cards within each file are arranged alphabetically. This card file represents how the city of Nashville, Tennessee, organized its citizens into volunteer groups to support the war effort during World War II. The Citizens Service Corps was an official arm of the Nashville Defense Council which was organized on the federal, state, and local level. The information found on each card is very limited but may have some value to genealogists. Researchers will have to search each card file in order to find an individual name, if that is the goal, due to the original order of the cards. There are no other materials of record found in this record group to explain or support the purpose of the cards. Similar information on this subject can be found in *Inventory of Civilian Organizations Participating in the Nashville Defense Program*, TSLA call number HS 17 .w34, that was published by the War Services Project in 1942. Other background materials can be found in Record Group 317, State Planning Board, TN Defense Council Records, 1940-1945. See also the Thomas Perkins Henderson Papers, 1795-1960, MSS. Sc. No. 68-280; 89-012.

These materials have been microfilmed. The original materials have been transferred to the Nashville Metropolitan Archives in Nashville, Tennessee. There are no restrictions on the use of these materials.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Record Group 316, Nashville Defense Program, Citizens Defense Corps & Citizens Service Corps, 1941-1943, consists of Volunteer Enrollment Cards (VEC) that were created by an organization in Nashville, Tennessee, called the Nashville Defense Program. These records reflect an effort to organize the civilian population as volunteers in the Civilian Defense Corps or the Civilian Service Corps to help support the war effort during World War II. It is believed that these records were transferred to the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) from the Adjutant General's Office.

The original order for this collection was retained based on the bundles of VEC cards as they were found tied with string. Local Defense Programs, such as the Nashville Defense Program, were created with direction from the U. S. Office of Civil Defense. Communities across the nation were advised to form a local volunteer office where citizens could offer their skills and services to the local war effort.

The VEC cards in this record group reflect the divisions of the Civilian Defense Corps and the Civilian Service Corps. The VEC file is divided into 157 defense positions and 33 service positions. The Civilian Defense Corps divided the city into wards and districts. The Defense Corps jobs are designated in the container list by the letter D and a number. The Citizens Service Corps positions are designated by the letter S and a number. The Citizens Service Corps was not divided by wards and districts. The citizen's names are arranged alphabetically within each of the positions. The first card file, "Organizations" is uniquely arranged first by club name and then alphabetically. Each card may contain the individual's name, street address, and a work category that they volunteered to do. The largest categories of service according to the VEC files are Air Raid Wardens, Auxiliary Firemen, Auxiliary Police, and Fire Watchers, however, many smaller service categories are represented.

There are no supporting documents in this record group to describe or explain the objectives of the organization that created the VEC file. A description of how civilian defense volunteer offices were organized can be found in a manual entitled, *A Civilian Defense Volunteer Office, An Official Arm of the Local Defense Council* published by the U. S. Office of Civil Defense, 1942. See Record Group 317, State Planning Board, TN Defense Council Records, 1940-1945, for a more complete description of the Local Defense Council and its responsibilities. The Local Defense Council had the power to decide who should be admitted to the service corps. Candidates qualified by completing a prescribed training course, completing a prescribed period of apprenticeship, or completing fifty hours of work for which no specific training course was required. The Citizens Service Corps and the Citizens Defense Corps fell under the direction of the Local Defense Council. The Citizens Defense Corps responsibility was focused on protection against enemy air attack. The Citizens Service Corps was an arm of the Citizens Defense Corps. The VEC cards in this collection represent the volunteers enrolled in both corps. The Citizens Service Corps is described in the *Handbook for the*

United States Citizens Service Corps, found in Record Group 317, as “an army of unpaid civilian workers, mobilized to do the many civilian war jobs that must be done to keep the home front strong.” The Citizens Service Corps responsibilities focused on other domestic needs. All persons were eligible for membership.

Since this is a record of Nashville and not a state record, the materials were microfilmed and the originals transferred to the Nashville Metropolitan Archives.

CHRONOLOGY

1940—Governor Prentice Cooper organized the State Advisory Committee on Preparedness, later named the State Defense Council.

1941—War Services Project replaces most programs administered by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

ca. 1941—State War Services Council appointed by governor and asked to act as a coordinating body to promote war programs and other programs of state-wide interest. The term “War Services” was used by the WPA with the onset of WWII. WPA began to focus on issues related to national defense, and by 1941 the entire effort shifted to war preparation.

1942—Will R. Mainer appointed State Coordinator of Civilian Defense.

1. Protective Services was organized locally as the Citizens Defense Corps.
2. Community Services was organized locally as Citizens Service Corps.

1943—WPA was eliminated due to increased jobs in the private sector.

1945—The State Defense Council was terminated and replaced with the Division of Community Services in the State Planning Commission.

The War Services Council became the Tennessee Community Services Council.

CONTAINER LIST

VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT CARDS

MICROFILM ROLL #1

BOX 1

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Organizations
2. Staff—D-1
3. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-1
4. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-2
5. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-3
6. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-4
7. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-5
8. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-6
9. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-7
10. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-8
11. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-9
12. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-10
13. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-11
14. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-12
15. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-13
16. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-14
17. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-15
18. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-16
19. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-17
20. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-18
21. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-19
22. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-20
23. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-21
24. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-22
25. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-23
26. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-24
27. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-25

BOX 2

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-26
2. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, Ward-27
3. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-1, Missing Documents
4. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-2
5. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-3
6. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-4
7. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-5, Missing Documents
8. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-6
9. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-7
10. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-8
11. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-9, Missing Documents
12. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-10
13. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-11
14. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-12
15. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-13
16. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, District-14
17. Air Raid Wardens-D-2, N.C. & St. L. Railroad
18. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-1
19. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-2
20. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-3
21. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-4, Missing Documents
22. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-5, Missing Documents
23. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-6, Missing Documents
24. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-7, Missing Documents
25. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-8, Missing Documents
26. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-9
27. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-10, Missing Documents
28. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-11, Missing Documents
29. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-12

MICROFILM ROLL #2

30. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-13
31. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-14
32. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-15, Missing Documents
33. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-16
34. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-17
35. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-18
36. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-19
37. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-20
38. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-21

39. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-22
40. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-23
41. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-24
42. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-25
43. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-26
44. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, Ward-27
45. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-1, Missing Documents
46. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-2, Missing Documents
47. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-3
48. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-4
49. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-5
50. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-6
51. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-7
52. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-8
53. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-9
54. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-10
55. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-11
56. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-12
57. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-13, Missing Documents

BOX 3

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, District-14, Missing Documents
2. Auxiliary Firemen-D-3, TVA
3. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-1
4. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-2
5. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-3
6. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-4, Missing Documents
7. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-5, Missing Documents
8. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-6, Missing Documents
9. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-7
10. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-8
11. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-9
12. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-10
13. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-11
14. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-12
15. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-13
16. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-14
17. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-15
18. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-16

19. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-17
20. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-18
21. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-19
22. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-20
23. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-21
24. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-22
25. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-23
26. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-24
27. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-25
28. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-26
29. Auxiliary Police-D-4, Ward-27
30. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-1, Missing Documents
31. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-2, Repair Squad
32. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-3
33. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-4
34. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-5
35. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-6
36. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-7
37. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-8, Missing Documents
38. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-9, Missing Documents
39. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-10
40. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-11
41. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-12
42. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-13
43. Auxiliary Police-D-4, District-14, Missing Documents
44. Decontamination-D-5
45. D-6 Missing
46. R. C. Motor Corps Drivers-D-7,
47. Emergency Food and Housing-D-8, Missing Documents
48. Emergency Medical Corps-D-9
49. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-2
50. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-4
51. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-6
52. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-7
53. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-8
54. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-10
55. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-11
56. Fire Watchers-D-10, District-13
57. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-2
58. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-5
59. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-6
60. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-7

61. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-10
62. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-11
63. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-20
64. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-21
65. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-23
66. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-24
67. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-25
68. Fire Watchers-D-10, Ward-26
69. Fire Watchers-D-10, Belle Meade
70. Messengers-D-11
71. Nurses' Aides, Red Cross-D-12

BOX 4

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Rescue Squad-D-13
2. Utility Repair-D-15, Missing Documents
3. Executive Committee, C.D.V.O.
4. Child Care-S-1
5. Consumer-S-2

MICROFILM ROLL #3

6. Family Security-S-3
7. Travelers Aid-S-3
8. Red Cross Gray Ladies-S-3
9. Red Cross Staff Assistants-S-3

BOX 5

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Health and Hospitals-S-4
2. Housing-S-5
3. Information-S-6
4. Library-S-7
5. Block Leaders-S-8
6. Nutrition-S-9

MICROFILM ROLL #4

BOX 6

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Red Cross Canteen-S-9
2. Recreation and Youth-S-10
3. Girl Reserves-S-10
4. Girl Scouts-S-10
5. S-11, No Documents
6. School and Education-S-12
7. Teachers Employed-S-12
8. War Bonds and Stamps-S-13
9. Other Services-S-14

BOX 7

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Surgical Dressings-S-14
2. Sewing-S-14

MICROFILM ROLL #5

3. Knitting-S-14

BOX 8

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Employed (Clerical)-S-15
2. Clerical-S15
Abernathy through Pigue

MICROFILM ROLL #6

BOX 9

FOLDER—DESCRIPTION—FILE CODE:

1. Clerical-S15, continued
Pike through Zimmerman
2. Instructor-S-16
3. Typist-S-17
4. Typist Employed-S-17
5. Others-S-18
6. Organization Executives-S-19