



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

**STATE PLANNING BOARD
TENNESSEE DEFENSE COUNCIL RECORDS
1940-1945
RECORD GROUP 318**

Processed by:

Ted Guillaum
Archival Technical Services

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MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

Record Group 318, State Planning Board, Tennessee Defense Council Records, span the years of 1940 through 1943. The scrapbook material was probably transferred at some point to the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) from the State Planning Board. The minute book was found in the TSLA Library Special Collections section and transferred to the Archives Section in 2004. The condition of the material is good. The six books in this record group measures about one cubic foot. Original order was maintained. The books were placed in acid free boxes for permanent storage.

The State Advisory Committee on Preparedness was organized by Governor Prentice Cooper on May 22, 1940. This organization became the State Defense Council on July 21, 1941. The purpose of the council was to cooperate with the Federal Government in its National Defense Program prior to and during World War II.

The six books are arranged chronologically. The scrapbooks contain correspondence, meeting agendas, Civil Defense materials, handbooks, manuals, newspaper clippings, and five photographs. This record group gives very good insight on how the state organized its citizens and resources during World War II. Related materials can be found in Record Group 316, Nashville Defense Program, Citizens Defense Corps & Citizens Service Corps, 1941-1943; a bound volume titled the *Inventory of Civilian Organizations Participating in the Memphis Defense Program*; and another bound volume titled the *Inventory of Civilian Organizations Participating in the Nashville Defense Program*. Additional information on the State Defense Council and the Civilian Service Corps can also be found in the Thomas Perkins Henderson Papers, 1795-1960, MSS ac. No. 68-280; 89-012. All documents have been microfilmed and the originals have been retained in acid free materials. There are no restrictions on the use of these materials.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Record Group 318, State Planning Board, Tennessee Defense Council Records, 1940-1945, contains documents related to the organization of Tennessee's efforts to involve its citizens in preparing for World War II and to cooperate with the Federal Government's defense programs.

Specifically, this record group contains one book of minutes and five scrapbooks of the State Advisory Committee on Preparedness for Tennessee later named the Tennessee State Defense Council. The minute book of the Tennessee State Defense Council begins with the State Advisory Committee on Preparedness for Tennessee on May 25, 1940. The name was changed to the State Defense Council on July 21, 1941. The members of this council were appointed by Governor Prentice Cooper. The minutes in this book end with the meeting on February 3, 1942. According to the *Tennessee Blue Book* of 1945-1946, the State Defense Council was terminated on June 30, 1945. The location of the remaining minute book or books is not known.

The scrapbooks were created by the State Coordinator of Civilian Defense. The 1942 scrapbook in Box 2 contains the correspondence, handbooks, manuals, memorabilia, and newspaper clippings pertaining to the organization of the Citizens Service Corps. The 1943 scrapbook in Box 3 contains information related to the organization of the Junior Civilian Service Corps for children under the age of 16. The 1944 scrapbook in Box 4 contains information related to the 4th War Loan Drive. The 1945 scrapbook in Box 5 contains information related to the "Win the War" initiative that began on February 25, 1945. The 1945 scrapbook in Box 6 contains information related to the United Nations Clothing Collection for people in need living in the allied countries.

The State Defense Council was an emergency wartime agency. Governor Prentice Cooper's stated purpose for the council was to cooperate with the Federal Government in its National Defense Program. After the State Defense Council was abolished at the end of the war their work was incorporated into the new Division of Community Services under the State Planning Commission to develop a new program of social planning on both the state and local level. The Tennessee Defense Council operated under the direction of the United States Office of Civilian Defense and guided the development of local Civilian Defense Councils. The objective of the Defense Council was to recruit and organize civilian volunteers either in protection programs or in the many domestic programs that gave service of all types to citizens. It referred individuals to training courses most suitable for their abilities, or directly to volunteer jobs. Manuals and handbooks were published by the United States Office of Civil Defense to give guidance and assistance to state and local leaders to organize volunteer offices under the direction of the local defense councils. The local defense councils were charged with the responsibility of discovering the community needs for volunteer services in such areas as Auxiliary Firemen, Rescue Squads, Auxiliary Police, Bomb Squads, Fire Watchers,

Feeding & Housing, Emergency Medical Personnel, Nurses' Aides, Road Repair Crews, Decontamination Squads, Messengers, and Drivers Corps. They were also charged with maintaining good standards of service and keeping the public informed.

This record group is very useful for understanding how the State of Tennessee, along with the federal government, organized a system of civilian defense during World War II.

CONTAINER LIST

MICROFILM ROLL #1

BOX 1

Minute Book—Tennessee State Defense Council, 1940-1942.

BOX 2

Scrap Book--State Planning Board, World War II, 1942.

BOX 3

Scrap Book--State Planning Board, World War II, 1943.

BOX 4

Scrap Book--State Planning Board, World War II, 1944.

BOX 5

Scrap Book--State Planning Board, World War II, 1945.

BOX 6

Scrap Book--State Planning Board, World War II, 1945.