

The 1940's



The seminal event of the 20th Century, World War II, overshadowed much of the decade of the 40's, and it had an enduring effect on Blair and its students. There were, however, other aspects of high school life that went on in a somewhat normal way at the school. The expansion of the school continued as the decade began with the opening of "B" Building, and in 1947 the War Memorial Stadium was dedicated, giving Blair the finest football facility in the County.

The war, however, was the overriding memory of the decade. Blair students, like those all over the country, listened in their classrooms on December 8, 1941, as President Roosevelt declared war. Immediately, Blair teachers and students began committing to help-

ing the war effort. Groups of Blair students enlisted in the armed forces, as did a great number of the teachers. Dozens of these brave men would not return, and a memorial to them was established in a part of the library in what was later known as the Senior Corner.

Those who stayed at home did their part for the war effort, too. Some students went to other parts of the area to help farmers with harvesting crops, and several seniors taught sophomore classes. Due to the rationing of many materials, including paper and ink, the school wasn't able to produce the

Silver Chips and the *Silverlogue* in the usual manner. Not wanting to have even a brief break in these cornerstones of Blair life, the students produced a mimeographed version of the *Silver Chips* and a hand copied version



of the *Silverlogue*. Although the school was only about 10 years old, the students were dedicated to keeping these traditions alive.

Blair's overall efforts to support the country earned national attention, and the school was featured on the cover of Life Magazine, which did a feature story on Blair's Victory Corps. Roosevelt Administration officials visited the school and held it up as an example to others around the country.

Despite the war's impact, Blair's students and faculty made every attempt to keep daily life as normal as possible. Blair's tradition of service to school and country was grounded in the 40's but continues today.



400 HUNDRED STUDENT DALL AT MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL IN SILVER SPRING, MD. GIRLS WEAR VICTORY CORPS UNIFORM BY MISS GREY AND WHITE HARRIS

VICTORY CORPS

U. S. high schools train students for specific roles in war effort

This fall the War Relocation Commission requested 117 U. S. high schools to organize their students into Victory Corps to "give them the opportunity to take a definite place in the national war effort through a voluntary residential plan." The idea and following pages are pictures of the Victory Corps at Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, Md., which was one of the first schools to mobilize students on a military basis. According to E. H. Commissioner of Education John W. Stuchlik, it is also one of the best. The student body is organized into one battalion, divided into companies, platoons and squads. Corps members spend an hour a day in military drill on school and Saturdays. The curriculum includes intensive courses for boys and girls in metal work, mechanical drawing, airplane drawing and drafting. At least daily, 800 women trainees work in factories, stores, restaurants and on farms. Other students act as school janitors, bus and coach, run rotary clubs, collect scrap, have first aid. War-time graduates, each Victory Corps member will be prepared to make a specific contribution toward winning the war.

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