HOLLING

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OUR CLASS AND PEACE

It has come. Finally, after four bitter years, peace. It seems almost ominous that this horrible conflict should have started with our freshmen admission cards and ended with our diplomas. It seems like some horrible, predestined nightmare whose purpose it was to show to us, the next generation of voters, to what end ignorance and bigotry can lead, and to impress upon us the need for an educated, broad-minded people to set this world back on its feet. Toward this realization our four years of high school have advanced us.

With the war going on, modern history was no longer just another subject to be passed; it was a course to be mastered so that we might, in time, comprehend the underlying causes that threw the world into chaos. More important than this, we began to think for ourselves how to prevent such a situation from ever arising again.

Economics was no more only the law of diminishing returns, but the problem of national debt and jobs for returning servicemen and women. Even our physical training was revised and commando training instituted so that in future years a healthy, better-equipped people would solve the puzzles of our world.

In addition to the prescribed curriculum, extra-curricular activities also sought a lasting peace as their goal. The Council of Nations was no mere conglomeration of students, but a group of adult-minded persons who came together to discuss current problems. Even the carnivals taught us: from them we learned teamwork. Despite the fact that every group was a unit in its own booth, each felt itself part of a whole, part of an organization working to bring Johnny home once more. That these carnivals succeeded is in itself a sign that we too were succeeding in our attempt to shorten the war years.

We learned also that peace will not come of itself. We learned this by the penny-pinching for our war stamps each week. We learned it from the Patriotic Pen Club, from the DOMINOS and DOMES sent overseas, from the pennant selling, and spring play profits that went to the War Fund. All these and more. But all the time, we were sacrificing some of our pleasures, giving some part of ourselves so that in the end we saw the necessity of working hard to preserve the peace.

Not forgetting our past, we must look to the future. We must be able to visualize our position, realize our responsibility and be prepared to take up our duties as citizens. The post-war world will not be an easy one. The problems of peace will be great, and we shall be called upon many times to prove our mettle. Let us then look upon high school as the training ground and let us go forward into this world, this "one world," and prove that for us the four years between January 1942 and January 1946, were not in vain.



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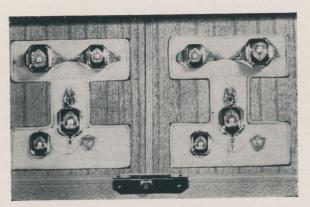
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