



'We Need Something Like Finland's Civil Guard,' Says Veteran Gen. Winship

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By EVELYN PEYTON GORDON

Maj. Gen. Blanton Winship looked down at the small red book he carried.

"We ought to have something like Finland's civil guard," he said. "That's what did such fine work during the Russian invasion. That is, up to the time Russia moved in her heavy artillery."



Gen. Winship

The little red book was "North to the Snow," a story of the invasion of Finland by Russia several years ago.

"Old Mannerheim is quite a soldier. It was he who organized that civil guard. I am trying to do the same thing in this country and in this whole hemisphere," continued the distinguished man whose career reads like a history book. Still handsome and erect at the age of 73, this native of Macon, Ga., has returned to active Army service from which he was retired a decade ago.

Gen. Winship waxes eloquent when he speaks of his idea. "Now that our regular Army is going out and our National Guard, this country could do lots worse than organize every other man in the country for service in case of invasion. Every tiny village should be prepared.

CAN DO MANY THINGS

"There are endless things older men can do. Think of the men who handle guns well! You know men who can sit in a duck-blind all day waiting for a canvasback to fly over. Why can't those men, who know every creek and cove like Indians, be assigned to a spot from which they can shoot if and when the tocsin sounds?"

Already the General has talked publicly of his project down in Macon. There he found many men who had served with him in the last war. All good shots. All too old for active service. And even the boys too young for the Army can play a part in the civilian defense of their nation, he said.

As young as 14, he continued, they can be trained to blockade roads; Boy Scouts, who know the woods near their home towns, can be assigned to watch the woodland paths; men with one eye are often still good shots; men with one leg can still shoot from an ambush.

Country club golf courses could be mapped out and bunkers used for ambush. Enemy planes could easily land on golf links. Every man who is not actually in the armed services can be used.

Gen. Winship's idea is for a vast nationwide organization; a static group in which every man knows his post and can assume it the moment the signal comes. If one

state is invaded and can't hold, men from the next state or county or township or city can go to the aid of the other.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VET

Gen. Winship started his military career at the time of the Spanish-American War. He's been straight thru the Army grades from a first lieutenant with the U. S. Army in the Philippine Insurrection to Army Judge Advocate General. In 1906 he was in Cuba as assistant Secretary of State and Justice during our occupation of that country; in 1912 he was at Vera Cruz with Gen. Funston; in 1917 he was in France, where he remained until 1923, and in 1927 was Military Aide to President Coolidge. He was legal adviser to Henry L. Stimson when the latter was Governor General of the Philippines, and President Roosevelt appointed him Governor General of Puerto Rico. Now he's back in the Army.

"Don't tell me that even one-legged men can't aid civilian defense. If they can bring down a dove at every shot, they're good enough to help their country. And many of them want to and are only waiting for the chance to be organized for successful parts in the home battle."