

# War Dead Paid Tribute In Hartford

## Armistice Day Marked Solemnly in Citywide Ceremonies

Hartford's third wartime Armistice Day was commemorated solemnly on Saturday by church services, public programs and veterans' group observances, at which speakers called upon civilians to insure a lasting peace so that the dead of World Wars I and II will not have died in vain.

The principal public observance, minus parades and fanfare, was held under the sponsorship of the Armistice Day Committee of the City of Hartford at Bushnell Memorial. An exhibition drill on the State Capitol grounds by the Connecticut Nautical Cadets was the only display of the day. War plants remained in operation as they have during the last two years' Armistice Day anniversaries.

About 100 persons attended the special armistice day service at Christ Church Cathedral held for the dead of both wars and their families.

Before the Bushnell ceremony, the Armistice Day Committee decorated the memorial plaque at Colt Park erected to the memory of 211 Hartford men and women who gave their lives in the First World War, and the plaques there dedicated to the Gold Star Mothers and the Unknown Soldier.

Two broadcasts, one sponsored by the Connecticut War Council and the University of Connecticut, and the other by Connecticut Department of the American Legion, represented the Armistice Day messages of service men of this war and veterans of the last.

### Enforced Peace Urged.

William A. Purtell, president of Billings and Spencer Company, and a veteran of World War I, speaking at the memorial services sponsored by the Armistice Day Committee of Hartford, warned that this nation must never again be caught unprepared, regardless of the cost.

Speaking to about 400 veterans, servicemen, Gold Star Mothers and civilians in the Colonial Room of Bushnell Memorial, Mr. Purtell criticized the indifference, selfishness and pacifism of the American people during the 26 years that separated the two wars.

"We can not truthfully say, to the dead of World War II, 'you have not died in vain, you died to end all wars,' if we fail to make ourselves strong enough to enforce a peace and if we do not participate intelligently in world affairs," he asserted.

Charging that the people's failure to see that the hard won peace of 1918 was secured, was almost a betrayal, Mr. Purtell declared that the time has passed when we can build a fence around ourselves and

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## Speakers At Armistice Day Observance

## War Dead

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remain aloof from the rest of the world.

"I believe that the American people realize that we must form an association of nations, backed with

collective power to enforce peace," he said, and pointed out that "we must make our feelings known in Washington."

Interest in World Affairs.

"We must, as individuals, show as much interest in world affairs as we do in local, state and national problems, and we must make positive that no other generation

becomes involved in war," he concluded.

Offering prayers for a speedy victory and a lasting peace at the ceremony were Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, curate of St. Justin's Church, Dr. J. Melvin Prior of Central Baptist Church and Rev. Robert A. Moody, of Shiloh Baptist Church.

Alfred H. Schaefer, president of

the Armistice Day Committee and Alderman Peter L. Stewart, representing the City of Hartford, welcomed those present.

The advancement and retirement of colors was under the direction of Raymond J. White, treasurer of the committee. More than a dozen veterans organizations were represented.



Calling upon all American citizens to make positive that this is the last war, by preparedness and knowledge of world affairs, at the principal public Armistice Day observance in the city is William A. Purtell, president of the Billings and Spencer Company and a veteran of World War I. Other speakers at the observance at Bushnell Memorial, sponsored by the Armistice Day Committee, are left to right, Dr. J. Melvin Prior, of the Central Baptist Church; Alderman Peter L. Stewart; Alfred H. Schaefer, president of the Armistice Day Committee, and Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, curate of St. Justin's Church. Shown in the background are banners bearing the names of 211 Hartford men and women who were killed in the First World War. (Courant Photo.)

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