



YEAR OF THE CITY 1942
 These sets of pictures recall a rare time in the Big Apple, when it held air raid drills, complete with loud screeching sirens, traffic halted, people scampering out of stores, buses, streetcars, automobiles and trucks, and headed for the underground. Only the first & last pictures represent New York as it is still in normal mode.





Deserted for a while, then the shout of "All Clear!" and, back to the old routine. The big city without hysteria and panic before and after the sirens.

PUBLIC MORALE AND OWI



Paul V. McNutt

Former governor of Indiana, Director of Defense, Health and Welfare Services (1941-43), and chairman of the War Manpower Commission (1942-43) which had less power than the WPB.

Native Americans served with distinction. The Navajo Tribal Council called a special pow wow in early 1942. Over 50,000 Indians responded. Six nations--Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Cayugas, Onondagas, Tuscarora declared war on the Axis Powers; later, were joined by the descendants of the Chippewas and the Siouxs. On Dec 7, 1941, there were only 5,000 Native Americans in uniform. By 1945, there were 44,500, including the Navajo Code Talkers. The number of enlisted Indian warriors went from 7,500 in summer of 1942 to around 22,000 at the beginning of 1945. The story of the Navajo Code Talkers remained classified until 1968. Around 300 Native Americans were caught in the fall of Bataan and Corregidor.

"War touches every individual. Newspapers and broadcasting stations must be as active behind the war effort as machines or manufactures. No one can remain aloof." *OWI*, 1942

That became a job of the agency created on June 13, 1942, the OWI, the Office of War Information, which superseded the OFF. The consciousness of public morale was a big deal in WW II. It was led by Elmer Davis, divided into a domestic (with 7 deputies) and an overseas operation. He gave a report by radio every week. Each operation was subject to the approval of the Board of War Information which met daily. It included Davis, MacLeish, Robert Sherwood (a renowned playwright), Milton Eisenhower, the younger brother of Dwight, and Gardner Cowles, Jr., publisher of *Look* magazine, two Iowa newspapers and a radio station. OWI did not have any official mandate from the State Department or Congress to define the purpose of the war in specific terms. However, Davis repeated often, that his department was not a press agency for F.D.R. His job was to inform and give an understanding of what the war was about without giving aid to the enemy.

Conflicts arose over the years of its existence. Davis later felt obliged to disclose more of the true horrors of war, such as adolescent misbehavior or casualty rates. MacLeish wanted less escapist films and showing of more American failures. But, it was a give and take matter.

OWI trusted the Bureau of Motion Pictures (BMP), run from Washington DC, headed by Lowell Mellett, to supervise the production of government short films. But, they were not in charge of censorship. A 39-year old publisher of the *St. Petersburg Times* was in charge of OWI's setup in Hollywood, with an office at Hollywood and Vine. He was a so-called cheering section coach for BMP. No power to force. No power to censor. No power to penalize. Just intended to facilitate the talents of the Hollywood studios in coordinating better government information activities in winning the war by utilizing feature films--as opposed to shorties.