

# Homefront Highlights

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## Lieutenant-Commander Murphy and Captain O'Brien Die in Service

Two gold stars have been added to the Honor Roll of the Boston School Department before the names of Lieut.-Commander John T. Murphy and Capt. John J. O'Brien, whose deaths in service were recently reported. Lieut.-Commander Murphy died in New Guinea and Captain O'Brien was killed in France. Previously reported dead were Major Daniel J. Hogan, Dennis J. Hurley, Navy, Major Albert J. Kelley, and Henry W. Krapohl, Navy.

Both men were permanently appointed intermediate school teachers, whose fine characters, friendly manners, and high professional standards were tributes from all who knew them.



Lieut.-Commander John T. Murphy

Superintendent Arthur L. Gould said of them: "We are saddened by the loss of these fine young men whose youthful zeal, vigor, and high idealism promised outstanding contributions to our school system and to the youth of our city. Their service in the Boston School Department was brief but impressive, as both were highly regarded for their teaching ability, their characters, and their salutary influence on youth. As teachers they strove to impress on their students the highest ideals of American citizenship. As officers in the armed forces, they confirmed their belief in these ideals with their lives. No higher lesson could they teach; no greater example give. This must be our great consolation and the consolation of their families to whom we extend deepest sympathy."

Chairman Patrick J. Foley, speaking on behalf of the School Committee, said: "Our hearts go out in sincere sympathy to the parents and to the families of these young men who died for the American ideals they cherished. By their lives they enriched all who knew them: their friends, their associates, their pupils. By their deaths they have brightened the promise of a new world of freedom. Their deep faith in our American ideals, ennobled and immortalized by their great sacrifices, will be an eternal inspiration to members of the School Department as teachers and as Americans."

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Captain John J. O'Brien, U. S. A.

## School Enrollment 99,311, for October

Enrollment in all Boston public schools had reached 99,311 as of October 1, according to a report released by the office of the Superintendent early in October. Although this figure indicates a drop of 2,009 from the 1943 total of 101,321, it represents the smallest decrease since 1937, during twelve successive years of falling enrollments.

The largest decrease in enrollments occurred in elementary and intermediate schools, where registrations were 2,452 below the 1943 total. High schools showed a loss of 288 and special schools, nine. Kindergarten enrollments, however, increased by 785 and Teachers College registered 65 more than last year.

In conformity with decreasing enrollments, five school buildings were closed. They are the Blackinton, John Paul Jones and Plummer in East Boston; the Capen in South Boston; and the Hancock in the North End.

The following promotions and transfers of principals and heads of departments were announced with the opening of school:

Frederick A. Dunfee, Dwight District, to Dwight-Everett District; Mary A. Haverty, Henry L. Pierce District, to Bennett District; Martha A. Norton, Warren District, to William E. Endicott District; and Mary R. Quinn, Hyde District, to Henry L. Pierce District.

Henry P. McLaughlin, head of the Mathematics Department at the

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## Strayer Report Recommends Administrative Reorganization

Changes in the administrative organization of the Boston School Department and in the method of choosing members of the School Committee were recommended in the first section of the report of the Boston School Survey Committee, released on Sunday, October 15, by the Finance Commission. The report, which is the result of a six-month study by Dr. George D. Strayer and a staff of 26 educational authorities, comprises 1,700 mimeographed pages in eight sections. The seven remaining sections will be released periodically.

## Tribute to Archbishop Cushing by School Board

The following preamble and resolution, offered by Dr. Patrick J. Foley on the occasion of the appointment of his Excellency, Most Reverend Richard J. Cushing, was adopted unanimously by the School Committee at the meeting of October 5:

WHEREAS, Our Holy Father has called the Right Reverend Richard J. Cushing, temporary Administrator of the Diocese of Boston, to assume the arduous duties of Ordinary of the Boston Diocese, and has elevated him to the rank of Archbishop, we, the members of the Boston School Committee in meeting assembled, ever mindful of the love and esteem in which the children of our school system hold this truly great Prelate, offer the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Boston School Committee, rejoice with the countless other members of the City and Commonwealth at the extreme good fortune of the people of this diocese in receiving one of our own as our Spiritual Leader. The new shepherd of our flock is richly endowed both with innate and acquired talents that will cause his administration to reflect glory not only upon himself but upon his Church whose representative he is and upon his native city. Fearless, courageous, brilliant in mind

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The initial recommendation of the survey group, namely, that selection of School Committee members by popular election be abandoned, aroused a storm of controversy, centering about the alternate proposal that School Committee members be appointed by the Mayor from a list of eligibles nominated by a committee of citizens. Such a method was characterized by its critics as "undemocratic," "a denial to the people of Boston of their right to vote," "Fascist," and "totalitarian."

The proposal is as follows: "that two eligibles be named for each vacancy (on the School Committee) by a committee of citizens of the City and the Commonwealth. It is suggested that this committee could well be composed of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts and the Presidents of the following organizations: The Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Home and School Association, the Boston Federation of Labor, the League of Women Voters, Boston College, Boston University, Harvard University, and Simmons College. . . . The statute should provide for appointment to the School Committee from such a list of eligibles by the Mayor of the City of Boston. Appointees would serve for two years, and then their appointment for the remainder of the six-year term would be subject to confirmation or rejection by the electors of the City of Boston."

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## New Promotional Lists to be Established Teachers on War Leave Eligible for Rating

Many regularly appointed teachers on military leave are eligible for rating, according to the current circular of the Board of Superintendents concerning promotional rated lists. All such teachers who desire to be rated this year should make application at once to the Board of Examiners, 15 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., to establish eligibility.

The circular further states: "Time spent in the armed services will count as continuous teaching experience. Due allowance will be made for adjustment of credits in favor of the candidate when absence in the armed forces results in loss of opportunity to earn credit. Any teacher in the armed forces unable to give the required teaching demonstration because of absence from the country, etc., may complete his rating at any time during the life of the list."

New rated lists are to be established as follows:

1. Head Master, Latin, Day High and Clerical Schools.
  2. Head of Department, High School.
    - (a) Commercial Branches.
    - (b) Modern Foreign Languages.
    - (c) Drafting—Boston Technical High School.
  3. Sub-Master, Elementary and Intermediate Schools.
  4. Vice-Principal, Elementary and Intermediate Schools.
  5. Vice-Principal, Special Classes.
- These rated lists will supersede the present lists which will expire June 30, 1945. They will remain in effect (unless otherwise ordered) until June 30, 1948.